

As her teammates watch on in the last five-team meet of the regular season, senior Lauren Jackson holds her balance during a scale on the beam. The Tribe came up third with a score of 190.100 in the meet.

Posing on the floor before a tumbling pass, sophomore Karla Bercaw smiles for the judges at the final meet of the season. Bercaw also competed on the vault and scored a 9.70 for both of her runs.



Arching her body in a back-handspring, senior Becca Bacharach launches herself from the springboard onto the table vault. Later on the beam, Bacharach posted a 9.525.



team full of AWARDED

gymnasts post season-high scores

Throughout the season, the women's gymnastics team made improvements which became apparent through more than just scores. Though they started off the season with a sixth place finish at the Lindsey Ferris Invitational, in the meets that followed, they continued to improve their season and career high scores as both a team and individually.

An example of their winning improvements were the many awards given to the Tribe gymnasts. The Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference awarded sophomore Dina McNaughton the Gymnast of the Week award in late January after competing at Rutgers. The ECAC also recognized freshman Kristin Milardo as Rookie of the Week in February and March, eventually naming her Rookie of the Year. Even in Milardo's first collegiate meets she stood out, winning third place in All-Around at Penn State and first in All-Around against Towson.

Senior Lauren Jackson was recognized with an ECAC Co-Coaches Choice Award, especially after her career-high score of a 9.650 on the floor exercise in the meet against Kentucky. Another factor contributing to Jackson's award was her choice to step up and compete in the vault event. Jackson had only trained for the floor and beam because of injury, but was able to post a solid 9.475 after only two practices on vault. Another high-scoring senior was Rebecca Bacharach, who was selected team

captain in the 2008 season and consistently gave solid performances on floor.

At the meet held in Washington, D.C. against George Washington University, the team posted its highest team score of the season, a 190.400. McNaughton amply contributed on beam by equalling her season-high score of 9.725. Similarly, senior Sarah Jacobson earned a season-high of 9.625 on vault. Milardo, as the only gymnast to compete in the all-around, placed third in that category.

Besides the many practices that led to their success, the team was able to find ample bonding time. At the start of the season, they raised about \$1,500 for the Central Virginia Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation by participating in the Walk to Cure Diabetes in Richmond. The effort was led by junior Stephanie Bevan. A dozen away meets allowed the team to bond on the road too, despite broken-down buses. "We have a great group of girls, ... so being stuck at 7-11 actually made for a really fun time," senior Monica Goldblatt said.

In and out of the gymnasium, the women's gymnastics team made great strides and finished the season tied with Cornell for third place in the USA Gymnastics Nationals. Their many individual records and awards set them up for success in the next season.

>Liz Hanson

team

Front Row: Allison Leich, Dina McNaughton, Taryn Saunders, Ryann Tewell, Karla Bercaw, Annie Mix, Sarah Jacobson, Stephanie Bevan. Back Row: Megan Vincent, Allie Wheeler, Jennifer Stack, Ashley Lugo, Kristin Milardo, Melissa Cream, Lauren Jackson, Monica Goldblatt, Alison Medeiros, Becca Bacharach. Not Pictured: Head Coach Mary Lewis, Assistant Coach Jamie Weinfeldt.



<SCOREBOARD>

W&M 6TH OF 6 > LINDSEY FERRIS INVITATIONAL W&M 3RD OF 4 > RUTGERS W&M 3RD OF 4 > SWEETHEART INVITATIONAL
W&M 3RD OF 5 > TOWSON W&M 4TH OF 7 > ECAC CHAMPIONSHIP W&M 3RD OF 9 > USAG COLLEGIATE NATIONALS

W&M 2ND OF 2 > GWU W&M 5TH OF 5 > KENTUCKY W&M 1ST OF 2 > TOWSON W&M 1ST OF 2 > BRIDGEPORT