



2008 DIII

National Champions



Emory Wins National Title

(Nov. 22) – The Emory volleyball team capped off its story-book season Saturday evening with a 3-1 win over the University of La Verne in the title match of the NCAA Division III National Championship. The Eagles closed out their year with a 35-6 record following the 16-25, 25-21, 25-17, 25-22 win over the No. 4-ranked Leopards who finished out the campaign with a 27-3 won-lost ledger. The match was held at the Shirk Center on the Illinois Wesleyan campus in

Bloomington, Illinois. Emory hit .281 in the match (56-20—128) while La Verne posted a .224 attack average (47-19—125). Each team totaled 47 digs while the Eagles finished with a 7-5 edge in total blocks.

Emory had a number of players produce outstanding matches. Senior middle Dani Huffman led a balanced offensive attack with 13 kills while finishing the contest with a .360 hitting average (13-4—25) along with four blocks. Huffman reg-

istered four digs, perhaps none more important than one she came up with in the decisive fourth set that fell into the La Verne side of the court resulting in a kill and giving Emory a 21-20 lead. Sophomore Amelia McCall banged away to the tune of 12 kills while senior Maggie Baird and freshman Alexandra Wright each came up with 11 put-aways. Freshman setter Natalie Schonefeld dished out 47 assists and sophomore Kelsey Krzyston and freshman

Brannan O'Neill paced the defensive effort with 11 digs each.

Emory stumbled out of the gate in the first game, hitting just .115, while La Verne countered with an impressive mark of .345. However, in games two and three, the Eagles' offense got on track and hit .406 and .393, respectively, in surging to a 2-1 lead in the match. Holding a 19-18 margin in a hotly contested second game, the Eagles made the most of a pair of La Verne attack errors, along with a kill by Amelia McCall, to take a 22-18 advantage. The Leopards drew to within three points on a couple of

occasions, but a pair of McCall terminations helped Emory seal that set.

Emory used a pair of kills by both McCall and Huffman in bolting to an 8-2 lead in the third game. After the Leopards crept to within 11-9, a kill by Wright, combined with a pair of attack errors by La Verne and a service ace by Schonefeld boosted Emory's lead to 15-9. The Eagles eventually built a 22-13 cushion en route to taking a 2-1 edge in the match.

La Verne led during the early stages in game four before a kill by Wright knotted the set at 9-9. The teams battled back and forth and the game was tied on six occasions as the scored settled into an 18-18 deadlock. Eventually, the Leopards went up by a 22-21 count but Emory closed out the contest with a 4-0 run, the winning

point coming on a termination by Baird.

Dramatic win over Ohio Northern

(Nov. 21) In what most likely will be considered the greatest comeback in the sport of volleyball at Emory University, the Eagles rallied from a 2-0 deficit to post a 3-2 win over No. 8-ranked Ohio Northern in the semifinals of NCAA Division III National Championship on Friday evening. Emory advanced to the national title match Saturday evening against the University of La Verne following an im-

probable 27-29, 22-25, 25-15, 25-15, 15-12 win over the Polar Bears. The victory upped the Eagles' record to 34-6 and in the process established a school seasonal record for victories while Ohio Northern saw its 27-match winning streak snapped in closing out the year with a 34-5 slate. After seeing the Polar Bears escape with close victories in the

first two sets, the Eagles stormed back in the third game to notch a 25-15 victory, wiping out an early 5-3 deficit with a 10-3 run to go up by a 13-8 count. ONU eventually drew to within 16-13, but four straight kills by Alysse Meyer put the Eagles ahead, 20-13, and in control of that game.

In the fourth set, a couple of kills apiece

by sophomore Amelia McCall and freshman setter Natalie Schonefeld enabled the Eagles to jump out to a 6-1 margin. After three straight points by ONU, the Eagles rattled off six straight points to assume a 12-4 bulge. Holding a 16-11 cushion, terminations by sophomore Kelsey Krzyston, senior Dani Huffman and sophomore Amelia McCall upped the score to 19-11 and the Eagles went on to close out the game on the strength of freshman



Ohio Northern, Con'd

Alexandra Wright's kill.

Ohio Northern quickly regained the upper hand in the fifth and deciding game, using a kill by Liz Schelle to bolt to a 9-3 lead. Undaunted, Emory slowly battled back – using kills by Wright and Meyer to draw to within four points. Following a Polar Bear put-away, the Eagles chipped away with two unanswered points to cut the gap to 10-7. Ohio Northern countered with a kill by Renee Berry to keep ONU in front, 11-7, but Emory roared back with five straight points, four of those coming from two kills each by McCall and Huffman, to nudge ahead, 12-11. Ohio Northern tied the game following a kill by Berry, but the No. 2-ranked Emory squad closed out the match with three straight points, the final coming on a termination by McCall.



Amelia McCall high over block



Freshmen relax at Coach Hart's. Hodge is the queen of rock band.

www.go.emory.edu

NCAA DIII All-America Awards

Danielle Huffman — First Team All-America, All-South Region team
Alyse Meyer — First Team All-America, All-South Region Team
Natalie Schonefeld — Second Team All-America All-South Region Team, Region Freshman of the Year
Margaret Baird, All-South Region Team Honorable Mention

National Championship All-Tournament Team

Dani Huffman, Emory "Most Outstanding Player"
Alexandra Wright, Emory
Natalie Schonefeld, Emory
Christa Jones, U. of LaVerne
Brianna Gonzales, U. of LaVerne
Liz Schnelle, Ohio Northern
Erin Albert, Juniata



Victory!!

Strong 2009 Recruiting Class to Add Depth and Talent to Emory Team

Each year, Emory draws on the finest young women to complete its volleyball roster, and this year is no exception. Since 1996, 16 players have garnered 24 All-American berths. We expect that this year's recruiting class will add to that tally.

The young ladies coming to Emory in 2009 hail from various parts of the United States. Three are from Florida, two from California, and the rest from Texas, South Carolina, Michigan and Georgia.

We are very proud of their accomplishments in high school and know that they will add a variety of talent to our team on and off the court.

Emory Volleyball Camp Website:
www.evbcvolleyball.com

Jenny McDowell Named DIII National Volleyball Coach of the Year

The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) recognized Jenny McDowell for the Eagles' national championship season by naming her as the National Division III Coach of the Year.

Jenny recognized the team's partnership in this award: "This season was so special because of the seventeen young women who committed themselves completely to our journey of achieving a national championship."

Jenny notched her 400th career win on Nov. 7, when Emory defeated Brandeis University during the UAA Championships. Emory was ranked No. 1 nationally in the final Bison/AVCA Division III Poll, and the Eagles have been ranked among the nation's top 20 teams in every weekly poll since the early stages of 1996.

Emory Squad Works Hard to Increase Strength in the Spring

The team knows that winning does not come easy and has committed itself to working hard during the spring season in the weight room. Our mantra is that "Next Season Starts Now."

Steve Lewis, Emory's Strength and Conditioning Coach, is putting the team through their paces. "The off-season is the best and only time to focus com-



pletely on getting stronger. To that end, the team has made incredible improvements over the past 4 weeks. They

have come together even more as a team and have pushed each other to new levels. The next 3 week phase of training will continue emphasizing overall strength while incorporating more explosive power and athleticism in drills. I anticipate this Spring season to be our best ever!"

Georgia Female Collegiate Athlete of the Year

Emory University senior Dani Huffman was named the state of Georgia's Collegiate Female Athlete of the Year by Women's Intersport Network.

Huffman led the volleyball program to its first ever national crown and was named a First Team All-American by the AVCA and claimed first-team berths on the region and conference squads as well.

The mission of GA-WIN is to develop and promote public awareness for women's involvement and achievement in athletics.

