



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Women's Intercollegiate Athletics

Hometown News

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(for use as desired)

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GYMNASTICS TEAM OPENS WITH WIN AND TAKES TO ROAD --

(Minneapolis, Minn.) -- The University of Minnesota women's gymnastics team opened the 1989 season with a 178.40-173.25 dual win over visiting Winona State Jan. 8 and followed up by splitting a triangular at UCLA on Jan. 13.

UCLA, the third place finisher at last season's NCAA national meet, scored 187.40 in winning its own invitational, while Minnesota scored 177.40 and finished second. Cal-Santa Barbara finished third with a 170.80.

Head coach Katalin Deli was pleased with the team's efforts against Winona State.

"I felt very good about the meet," said Deli. "I knew the kids were ready. Conditioning-wise, they are ahead of where they were last year at this time, although they were nervous with the typical first-meet jitters."

Because it is still early in the season, Deli was not dissatisfied with the team's performance at UCLA. Early-season meets, said Deli, are vital in getting experience against top-level teams and serve largely for pinpointing a team's strengths and weaknesses in competition. It's the later season meet scores that become crucial in determining a team's regional standing.

WINONA STATE MEET HIGHLIGHTS

"CAREER BEST" NIGHT FOR ZOLKOWSKI -- Sophomore CATHY ZOLKOWSKI (NEENAH, WI) won the individual all-around competition with a career-high 36.65 score that included a career best vault of 9.50 and a balance beam score of 9.30 that tied a previous career best. Zolkowski's vault score tied for first while her beam and floor exercise score (9.15) were both tops in the meet. It was Zolkowski's first collegiate individual all-around win.

ROETHLISBERGER "OWNS" BARS -- Junior MARIE ROETHLISBERGER (AFTON, MN) finished second in the all-around (36.60) and tied her own school and Williams Arena record with a 9.85 on the uneven bars while finishing third on the vault (9.45).

IT WAS A MEET FOR "FIRSTS"-- Sophomore KATHY NESS (COON RAPIDS, MN) competed all-around for the first time in her career and scored 35.95, third in the meet. She finished second on the balance beam (9.15). Ness didn't compete on the bars last season because of an injured wrist...IKA LINDHOLM (WINNETKA, IL) made her Gopher debut in three events: the vault (9.00), balance beam (7.20), and floor exercise (7.45)...sophomore SARA ZIMMERMANN (ST. PAUL, MN) scored 8.70 on the vault in her first collegiate competition...freshman GENA PALM (OSSEO, MN) finished fifth in all-around competition (35.50) in her first meet as a Gopher and tied for first on the vault (9.50).

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UCLA MEET HIGHLIGHTS

ROETHLISBERGER OFF TO HOT START -- Junior Roethlisberger finished fourth in all-around competition with a team season high individual score of 37.65. She won both the uneven bars and balance beam events, with scores of 9.65 and 9.50, respectively. Roethlisberger is averaging 37.13 all-around after the two meets.

FRESHMAN PALM READY TO BLOOM -- Palm scored 9.40 to finish third overall on the floor exercise. She equaled her already solid all-around score of 35.80 from the season's first meet and is capable of even more, according to Deli.

MORE NOTES -- Redshirt sophomore LISA WITTWER (EAGAN, MN), still bothered by an ankle sprain, was limited to the uneven bars for the second straight meet but scored a personal season high 9.40, second on the team to Roethlisberger's 9.65...Zolkowski scored well on the vault (9.30) and floor exercise (9.20) for the second straight meet...Sophomore JULIE WINJE (MINOT, ND) competed for the first time this year after being bothered by ankle injuries. She scored 8.90 on the vault and 8.20 on the floor.

THE CALENDAR -- It doesn't get any easier for the Gophers as their next meet is a triangular against defending national champion Alabama and perennial national power Oklahoma at Tuscaloosa, Ala., on Jan. 27. Head coach Katalin Deli hopes the two-week layoff will enable nagging injuries to heal so the team can perform at full strength.

"MARIE NIGHT" SET FOR FEBRUARY 4 -- The Gophers will return home to face Big Ten foe Michigan in a dual meet at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 4, on an occasion being billed as "Marie Roethlisberger Night". On this special night, the University will honor Roethlisberger for being the first recipient of the NCAA Honda-Broderick award, which recognizes an individual for overcoming significant personal adversity or disability in their journey to success as a college athlete. Roethlisberger is hearing-impaired and has excelled in both the classroom and gymnastics.

February 4 is also "National Girls and Women in Sport Day".

TWO ROAD INVITES NEXT -- Minnesota won't have much time to unpack their suitcases in mid-February. The team travels to Corvallis, Ore., Feb. 10 for the Oregon State Invite and the following weekend touches down on the country's opposite end, in Gainesville, Fla., where it will compete in the Florida Invitational.

Other teams slated for the Shanicgo (Oregon State) Invitational are Oregon State, Stanford and Boise State. The Shands (Florida) Invitational has five other entrants besides Minnesota. They are: Florida, Michigan State, Maryland, Oklahoma and West Virginia.

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS SUMMARY -- 1988-89

RECORD:	Overall	2-1	Dual	1-0	Invitationals	1-1	Home	1-0	Away	1-1	
DATE	OPPONENT	SCORE	MINN	MN V	OPP V	MN UB	OPP UB	MN BB	OPP BB	MN FX	OPP FX
1/8	WINONA STATE	173.25	178.40	46.50	44.55	46.20	44.75	43.55	41.15	42.15	43.80
1/13	UCLA Inv.		177.40	45.95		44.25		42.85		44.35	
	UCLA	187.40			48.20		46.80		45.50		46.90
	Cal-S.Barb.	170.80			44.95		41.20		40.80		43.85
1/27	Alabama										
	OkTahoma										
2/4	MICHIGAN										
2/10	Shanico Inv.										
	Oregon St.										
	Stanford										
	Boise St.										
2/17	Shands Inv.										
	Florida										
	Maryland										
	Michigan State										
	Oklahoma										
	West Virginia										
2/26	OHIO STATE										
3/4	Wisconsin										
3/11	PITTSBURGH										
3/19-20	Big Tens										
4/1	Regionals										
4/14-15	Nationals										

Raw Average 177.15 177.90 46.23 45.90 45.23 44.25 43.20 42.48 43.25 44.85

Regional Qualifying Score*: National Qualifying Score:

*The Regional Qualifying Score equals the average of the best five team scores of the season, and must include two home and two away scores. Seven teams qualify for the regional.

	CHAT	LIND	NESS	NEWM	PALM	ROET	THOM	UMHO	WINJ	WITT	ZIMM	ZOLK
VAULT												
Season Best	--	9.00	9.05	--	9.50	9.45	--	--	8.90	--	8.70	9.50
Raw Average	--	8.98	8.98	-	9.43	9.45	--	--	8.90	--	8.70	9.40
BARS												
Season Best	--	--	9.25	8.75	9.05	9.85	--	--	--	9.40	--	8.70
Raw Average	--	--	8.78	8.53	8.80	9.75	--	--	--	9.35	--	8.53
BEAM												
Season Best	--	7.20	9.15	8.00	8.50	9.50	--	--	--	--	--	9.30
Raw Average	--	6.63	8.95	7.95	8.45	9.15	--	--	--	--	--	8.70
FLOOR												
Season Best	--	7.45	8.50	--	9.40	9.05	--	--	8.20	--	--	9.20
Raw Average	--	7.45	8.50	--	8.98	8.78	--	--	8.20	--	--	9.18
ALL-AROUND												
Season Best	--	--	35.95	--	35.80	37.65	--	--	--	--	--	36.65
Raw Average	--	--	35.20	--	35.65	37.13	--	--	--	--	--	35.78

Regional Average
National Average

Minnesota Women's Gymnastics Summary 2-2-2-2

TEAM HIGHS BY EVENT --

VAULT----- Gena Palm 9.50 vs. Winona State 1/8/89
 Cathy Zolkowski 9.50 vs. Winona State 1/8/89
 UNEVEN BARS----- Marie Roethlisberger 9.85# vs. Winona State 1/8/89
 BALANCE BEAM----- Marie Roethlisberger 9.50 at UCLA Inv. 1/13/89
 FLOOR EXERCISE----- Gena Palm 9.40 at UCLA Inv. 1/13/89
 ALL-AROUND----- Marie Roethlisberger 37.65 at UCLA Inv. 1/13/89

VAULT----- 46.50 vs. Winona State 1/8/89
 UNEVEN BARS----- 46.20 vs. Winona State 1/8/89
 BALANCE BEAM----- 43.55 vs. Winona State 1/8/89
 FLOOR EXERCISE----- 44.35 at UCLA Inv. 1/13/89
 ALL-AROUND----- 178.40 vs. Winona State 1/8/89

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 INDIVIDUAL RESULTS BY EVENT --

	CHAT	LIND	NESS	NEWM	PALM	ROET	THOM	UMHO	WINJ	WITT	ZIMM	ZOLK
VAULT												
Winona State	--	9.00	9.05	--	9.50	9.45	--	--	--	--	8.70	9.50
UCLA Inv.	--	8.95	8.90	--	9.35	9.45	--	--	8.90	--	--	9.30
Raw Average	--	8.98	8.98	--	9.43	9.45	--	--	8.90	--	8.70	9.40

Minnesota Women's Gymnastics Summary 3-3-3-3

	CHAT	LIND	NESS	NEWM	PALM	ROET	THOM	UMHO	WINJ	WITT	ZIMM	ZOLK
BARS												
Winona State	--	--	9.25	8.75	9.05	9.85	--	--	--	9.30	--	8.70
UCLA Inv.	--	--	8.30	8.30	8.55	9.65	--	--	--	9.40	--	8.35

Raw Average -- -- 8.78 8.53 8.80 9.75 -- -- -- 9.35 -- 8.53

BEAM												
Winona State	--	7.20	9.15	7.90	8.40	8.80	--	--	--	--	--	9.30
UCLA Inv.	--	6.05	8.75	8.00	8.50	9.50	--	--	--	--	--	8.10

Raw Average -- 6.63 8.95 7.95 8.45 9.15 -- -- -- -- -- 8.70

FLOOR												
Winona State	--	7.45	8.50	--	8.55	8.50	--	--	--	--	--	9.15
UCLA Inv.	--	--	8.50	--	9.40	9.05	--	--	8.20	--	--	9.20

Raw Average -- 7.45 8.50 -- 8.98 8.78 -- -- 8.20 -- -- 9.18

Minnesota Women's Gymnastics Summary 4-4-4-4

	CHAT	LIND	NESS	NEWM	PALM	ROET	THOM	UMHO	WINJ	WITT	ZIMM	ZOLK
ALL-AROUND												
Winona State	--	--	35.95	--	35.50	36.60	--	--	--	--	--	36.65
UCLA Inv.	--	--	34.45	--	35.80	37.65	--	--	--	--	--	34.90

Raw Average	--	--	35.20	--	35.65	37.13	--	--	--	--	--	35.78
National Average												
Regional Qualifying Scores -												
National Qualifying Scores -												

INDIVIDUAL BESTS BY EVENT THIS SEASON --

	V	UB	BB	FX	AA
CHATFIELD	--	--	--	--	--
LINDHOLM	9.00	--	7.20	7.45	--
NESS	9.05	9.25	9.15	8.50	35.95
NEWMAN	--	8.75	8.00	--	--
PALM	9.50	9.05	8.50	9.40	35.80
ROETHLISBERGER	9.45	9.85	9.50	9.05	37.65
THOMPSON	--	--	--	--	--
UMHOEFER	--	--	--	--	--
WINJE	8.90	--	--	8.20	--
WITWER	--	9.40	--	--	--
ZIMMERMANN	8.70	--	--	--	--
ZOLKOWSKI	9.50	8.70	9.30	9.20	36.65