



WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS

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Women's Gymnastics Travels To Gainesville For Friday Night Test

Flames face No. 3 Florida, NC State and Michigan State at 6 p.m.

Jan. 22, 2004

Chicago, Ill.- Seeking their first win of the young season, the UIC women's gymnastics team heads to Gainesville, Fla., today in preparation for their huge quadrangular bout with the University of Florida, North Carolina State and Michigan State at the Stephen C. O'Connell Center on Friday night at 6 p.m. CST.

The Flames (0-4) are coming off a strong performance in a 193.025-192.750 loss to Illinois on January 17th. UIC trailed by one-tenth of a point with only two routines left in the final rotation, but the Illini were able to muster up a strong effort on the balance beam to escape with the win.

Veronique Meunier won her first all-around title of the season last Saturday, taking the crown with a 38.525 overall tally. Jackie Jaworowicz and Alyson Cacciatore finished second and third, respectively, as all-arounders to give the Flames a sweep of the Top Three.

Jaworowicz gave the Flames their first individual event victory of the season on Saturday, taking the floor exercise with a 9.850.

This weekend, the Flames will need to improve on their 191.15 team average to make a splash in Gator country.

Florida (5-1) is currently ranked third in the nation in the latest GymInfo Coaches Poll, up five spots from their No. 8 ranking from a week ago. The Gators defeated SEC rival Louisiana State last Friday, using the school's fifth-highest final team score to take out the then-No. 16 Tigers, 197.10-195.30.

NC State (3-3) is fresh off a busy weekend, competing in two straight meets on Saturday and Sunday. The Wolfpack used a season-high 193.85 team score to beat James Madison in Pittsburgh. NC State followed that up with a third-place finish

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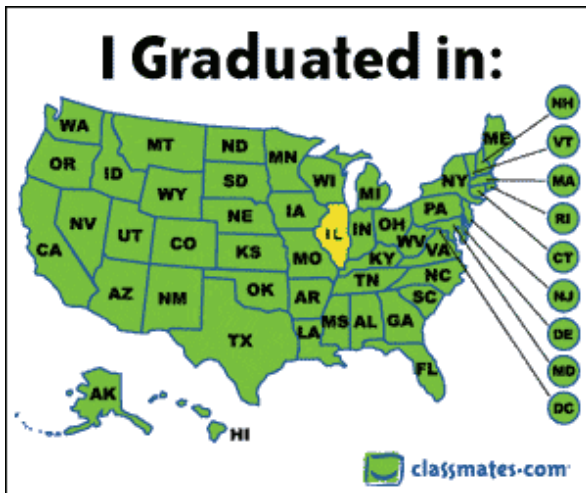


Veronique Meunier and the Flames are ready for a tough battle in Florida on Friday.

at a triangular meet in West Virginia.

The Spartans (2-3) enter Gainesville for the first of two meets this weekend. Michigan State will head off to Champaign, Ill., to face the Fighting Illini on Sunday. The Spartans last competed on January 18th, placing second between Central Michigan and Illinois State with a score of 193.025.

This will be the Flames' final road contest before they start a three-meet homestand, beginning January 31st against No. 6 Arizona at the UIC Physical Education Building at 7 p.m.



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