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2007 NCCAA National Tournament Day 3 Review

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NCCAA NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

NOV. 29-DEC. 1, 2007 | ST. PAUL, MINN.

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NCCAA NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT DAY 3 REVIEW

ST. PAUL, Minn. (Dec. 1, 2007) – Forget the phrase “Third time’s a charm.” It was “Fourth time’s a charm” in the case of Bethel College (Ind.), as the second-seeded Pilots upset top seed Indiana Wesleyan University in the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) championship match. Bethel, who had lost to the Wildcats three times previously throughout the 2007 season - and twice in the month of November – turned things around on Saturday with their 3-0 victory over IWU capping off an undefeated tournament record.

Stephanie Harwood – who was later named the NCCAA’s Most Outstanding Player in 2007 – turned in an impressive performance in the match, leading all players with 19 kills. Christie Odreman and Erica Bruxvoort were equally sharp, turning in 13- and 12-kill performances. Bruxvoort averaged 5.05 kills per game throughout the weekend to earn tournament MVP honors.

For the match, Bethel stayed consistent with a .201 attacking percentage. Ashley Pagel played a strong part in that stat, pacing the Pilots with 40 assists. Marcia Poliquin led BC’s defensive front with 24 digs.

IWU countered Bethel’s attack with Elisabeth Beam, who turned in a special performance of her own all weekend. Beam had a team-leading 14 kills and an astounding .545 attacking rate. Joining Beam was Jill Macmillan and Rebekah Reichard, who both contributed 10 kills in the loss. Christy Beam and Krystin Coleman had 22 and 22 assists in the Wildcats’ 6-2 offense.

The 2007 NCCAA championship is Bethel’s fourth in their history, with previous titles coming in 1993, 1994 and 1998.

Following the Pilots’ win, Bethel head coach Julia Reininga was announced as NCCAA Coach of the Year. Reininga, who finishes her seventh season at Bethel, is one win short of 200 victories in her career at 199-118.

Bethel earned their way to the championship match by defeating No. 4 Southwestern Assemblies of God University in a three-game sweep during semifinal play.

After they breezed through pool play, IWU’s road to the finale was longer as No. 3 The Master’s College gave all they had before the Wildcats took a decisive Game 5 in 18-16 fashion.

ALL-TOURNAMENT TEAM

Erica Bruxvoort, Bethel College (MVP)

Stephanie Harwood, Bethel College

Shannon Millen, Indiana Wesleyan University

Rebekah Reichard, Indiana Wesleyan University

Mallory Scott, Southwestern Assemblies of God University

Kelani Keoho, Southwestern Assemblies of God University

Rachel Releder, The Master’s College

Amanda Roleder, The Master’s College

Sarah Zeltman, Cedarville University

Laura Bicket, Northwestern College

Bia Santos, Palm Beach Atlantic University

Amber Smith, Bryan College