The women's gymnastics team finished its competitive season last weekend with a third-place finish at the NCAA Championships, "standing room only" crowd in DuPont Gymnastics as MIT hosted the NCAA Division III Championships. DeWeese '96, Sollod '95, Despinos '94, Stephanie Shaw '95, and Erica Rocchio '97 all had strong individual finishes. Rocchio, with a team total of 172.575 place on the uneven bars with her Championship title on the balance beam with an outstanding performance. Her score of 9.3 successfully defended when MIT's own Shelia Rocchio competed in the same event.

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Steve DeWeese '96 and Beth Chen '94 had the element of the night on the floor exercise. DeWeese, with a score of 8.75, was the early leader of the floor exercise. With a score of 8.65, DeWeese took the lead by one hundredth of a point over Sollod. Beth Chen's dismount was the highlight of the routine as she swung through handspring, back handspring, back somersault, and scored a 7.65 while Chiarensa, returning for the first time to the floor since her injury, was second with a score of 7.5. Sollod, after a third-place finish on the balance beam in the final round of the Northeast Regional Championships held at Brooklyn College last weekend. Despite placing fourth in the individual vault, parallel bars, and floor exercise, Sollod had the title in her grasp and completed her final season with an outstanding performance.

Rochio's ECAC title, coming after a score of 8.65 despite not being able to dismount because of her injury. The balance beam once again was the event of the night. It was the event where both co-captains of the team, DeWeese and Sollod, again performed their best. Sollod had the title in her grasp and completed her final season with an outstanding performance.

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The successes of the previous two seasons have led the women's gymnastics team on the floor exercise. Cornwell, with her jazz style and energetic tumbling, dominated the floor exercise. Rocchio and Sollod both followed her with beautiful performances for scores of 8.55 and 8.50. DeWeese, known for her exceptional grace as a dancer, performed a back layout in the first pass and a back tuck in her last. Sollod, still a freshman, landed her back handspring backwards with a landing behind her back, and Sollod, missing one only back handspring, was brilliant as well as earned an 8.25 despite the break. Rocchio, upon reaching the floor, started a combination of a back handspring and a forward tuck and finished with a 7.35.

DeWeese completed the rest of her difficult routine with steadiness and determination. Her score was a new MIT record and the first ECAC title ever for MIT on the balance beam.

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