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ROCHESTER YELLOWJACKETS CAPTURE COLLEGE BOWL CHAMPIONSHIP

St. Paul, MN (April 27, 2008) – The University of Rochester captured the College Bowl National Championship today, defeating the University of New Mexico 405 to 230 in the final match. William Finan III, a freshman from Rochester, NY who averaged 40.71 points per game, was named to the tournament all-star team.

Rochester compiled a 14-1 record in the preliminary round-robin matches to advance to the playoffs, losing only to New Mexico 225-215. The Ohio State University, the University of Minnesota, and New Mexico joined the Yellowjackets as the other playoff teams.

College Bowl is a question and answer game of general knowledge and quick recall. It spotlights the fastest minds on campus as they excel on the playing field of knowledge. Game questions cover every conceivable topic, from history, literature, science, multiculturalism, religion and geography to current events, the arts, social sciences, sports and popular culture.

In the first rounds of the double-elimination playoffs, Rochester again fell to New Mexico 355-205. The Yellowjackets rebounded to edge Ohio State 285-270; setting up a match with defending national champion Minnesota.

Rochester scored first, but then Minnesota went on a run to lead 220-210 at the half. Rochester clawed their way back, pulling within five points of Minnesota with 3:08 remaining in the game. The Yellowjackets then put a 100-5 point run together to take the match 365-270, and advance to the finals.

Rochester needed to defeat New Mexico twice to become the national champs, and the team had lost to New Mexico in both previous encounters. The Yellowjackets jumped to an early lead, with the score 145-115 at the half. Rochester started the second half with a 60-0 run, but New Mexico pulled back to within 30 points, 240-210, with 2:48 left in the match. Eric Keihl, a senior Creative Writing major from Livonia, NY, sparked a 55-point surge that gave the game to Rochester 295-235, and forced New Mexico to face them again.

Finan's scoring gave Rochester the early lead in the next match, and the team built that lead to 220-110 at the half. New Mexico in the second half was never able to pull within 100 points of the Yellowjackets, and balanced scoring took Rochester to a 405-230 triumph.

This is the first time Rochester has won the national title. The Yellowjackets had previously finished second in 2005, third in 2003, and eighth in 2002.

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Finan and Keihl were joined on the Rochester team by Benjamin Seitelman, a freshman from Highland Park, IL; and Laura Nemeth, a sophomore from Fairport, NY majoring in Biology and German. Rebekah Greene, a graduate student in English from Albion, NY was team captain. The team was coached by Jack Schermeyer.

Rochester qualified for the College Bowl National Championship by winning a Regional qualifying tournament held at SUNY-Brockport on February 23-24, 2008. Fifteen Regional winners and a wild card team were invited to the National Championship Tournament.

Joining Finan on the All-Star team were Gordon Arsenoff of Washington University-Saint Louis, Jason Zuffranieri of New Mexico, Paul Baker of the University of Wisconsin, John Goff of Seton Hall University, Carlos Ross of Arizona State University, Matthew Luby of Ohio State, and Benjamin Cheney of Pomona College. Seton Hall's Christopher Vu received the Pat Moonen Sportsman Award.

The College Bowl National Championship is produced by the College Bowl Company in cooperation with the Association of College Unions International (ACUI), and was hosted in 2008 by Macalester College.

-- 30 --

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Full tournament results are available on-line at <http://www.collegebowl.com/nct08/results.asp>. Photos are available upon request from tfm@collegebowl.com.