

2015 Collegiate National Tournament in Portland, Oregon

By Mary Parks

The University of Cincinnati Handball Club fielded a strong team at the 2015 Collegiate National Tournament in Portland, Oregon. With six members participating, Mary Parks, Leah Kirk, Blake Cauldwell, Sean Hughes, Travis Warrner, and Aaron Wurdack, the UC team achieved an outstanding ranking of 14th overall out of 31 teams. The men were ranked 14th and the women were ranked 12th. This was a monumental year over year improvement from 2014.

Sean Hughes and Aaron Wurdack played Doubles in the A bracket, advancing to the semi-finals. Blake Cauldwell and Travis Warrner were entered in the C Doubles bracket and made it to the second round. Mary Parks and Leah Kirk, who were the only Ladies Doubles team out of Cincinnati, bowed out in the first round of the A bracket.

In singles, 2 players were ranked in the top 50 for the Men and Women's divisions: Sean Hughes was ranked 43rd and Mary Parks was ranked 24th. Mary Parks started play in the Open/A Singles and finished playing in the B/C drop down division and lost in the semi-final round. Leah Kirk entered the C Singles and became our first National Champion for the University of Cincinnati. She was undefeated throughout the tournament in C Singles.

Aaron Wurdack and Sean Hughes both played in the A/B Singles and played very strongly through their first two placement games. Sean made the Semi-finals for the A Singles division and Aaron lost in the second round for the B Singles. Blake Cauldwell played in the B/C Singles and was undefeated through the first three matches before losing in the third round.

Travis Warrner was also in the B/C Singles and he too had a strong showing up to the quarterfinals.

We couldn't have been more proud of the way we played and represented the University of Cincinnati. Each and every player has made great improvements from last year to this year, and we hope that we are able to represent the University as well next year as we did this one.

The UC Handball team would like to thank the Cincinnati Handball community for the invaluable and unflagging support we have received this past year. Each and every person who made this trip possible for us, whether it was through donations, hiring us for the rent-a-worker, or assisting us in practice or at Waycross, contributed to our success. You have all played a vital role in shaping us into the Handball players we are today and it is greatly appreciated. We would also like to send a special thank you to the GCHA for their generosity and monetary support. You made this once in a lifetime opportunity possible for us, and we are extremely grateful.