

BC student places first in climbing comp

By Carole Anne Martinez
Contributor

BC student Travis Gray placed first in expert at the Brevard stop of the Collegiate Climbing Series a week ago, with a final score of 17,000 points.

Climbers from six different colleges participated in the CCS at the Brevard Rock Gym. In addition to Gray's finish, BC student Bennett Anderson placed second in the intermediate competition.

Climbers from Chapel Hill, Appalachian State, Univ. of Tennessee Knoxville, Univ. of Tennessee, and Univ. of Tennessee Chattanooga all traveled to Brevard to participate.

The competitions are point based, the scale ranges from 100 to 4,000 points. If you successfully climb the route your first time you get the full point value, if you achieve it the second time you subtract 10 points. If you get it on the third try an additional 10 points are deducted, and after that no more points are taken

off. The final score is based off the players' top five climbs.

Gray, an Integrated Studies Major with both WLEE and graphic design, has been competing since age 14. Saturday was his first ever CCS win.

"I try not to think about it as a competition, but rather try to go in with an open mind and have fun because that's what climbing is all about," said Gray.

Saturday was Anderson's first climbing competition having only been involved in the sport for six months. Anderson is an Art Major with an emphasis in Sculpture, and a WLEE minor.

"My advice to beginners is to get shoes, some friends, a crash pad, explore the forest, and then go every Tuesday night to BC free climb night," says Anderson.

BC students climb free everyday Tuesday night at the Brevard Rock Gym from 4 p.m. until 9 p.m. Shoe rental is \$3. Crash pads are available to rent at the rec-room.

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If you're interested in joining the Brevard College Climbing Club there is a group on Facebook, or you can talk to Travis Gray or Jonathan Hyde.

Visit www.brevardrockgym.com for more updates on upcoming events and savings.

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Left: BC sophomore Travis Gray placed first in Saturday's expert field. It was his first ever CCS win.

Below: Students from six colleges gathered at Brevard Rock Gym to compete in the Brevard leg of the Collegiate Climbing Series.

