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Houston, we had a blast!

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The NCAA News

After five days of competition, and six national championships, the Division II National Championships Festival ended the same way it started – with a bang.

Student-athletes, parents, coaches, administrators and others spent the evening celebrating in style at the Festival's closing ceremonies, held last night at the Discovery Green Conservancy.

While the closing ceremonies were supposed to signal the end of competition, it didn't work out quite that way for the hundreds of student-athletes who played video games, tossed bean bags and held competitive games of volleyball on the park lawn.

After rocking out with the popular Houston pop band The Handsomes, attendees feasted on Great Texas State fair barbecue and made sure to get one last taste of Tex-Mex cuisine before dispersing throughout the country.

Although all-tournament teams were named during the competition, there were some informal awards presented during the closing ceremonies, namely from Saturday's night's karaoke competition at the Fan Festival. A group of parents from the Ferris State softball program was named "Most Supportive Group" for its rendition of the Johnny Cash classic "Ring of Fire."


In the "Best Vocalist" category, Ferris State golfer Missy Ward won for her version of "I Saw The Sign" while the Bulldogs' softball team won in the "Best Stage Performance" category for its interpretation of "I Will Survive." The Bloomsburg men's tennis team was honored for the best overall participation during the Festival's nightly activities.

New homeowners Krystal and Wilbert Paul were on hand to offer thanks to the student-athletes who helped build their house this week as part of the NCAA's partnership with Habitat for Humanity. The Pauls were one of 10 families to benefit from the build that took place throughout the week in Houston.

An impressive fireworks display framed the Houston skyline as the attendees filtered out of the park, signaling the end to a week of fun, games and national championships.

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