

2009 – 2010

COLLEGE GYMNASTICS SEASON ABOUT TO GET UNDERWAY

The 2009 NCAA Gymnastics season finished up with Stanford University winning their first NCAA Team Title since 1994 and their fourth title overall when they defeated runner-up Michigan back on April 17, 2009 at the Sports Pavilion at the University of Minnesota.

"The strength of this team is depth," Stanford Head Coach Thom Glielmi said. "Some of the guys had some breaks or falls, but generally our top six guys can put together four solid routines and the difficulty is high. They knew that coming in, so there was never an issue of feeling they were out of it."

Going into the last event, Stanford was trailing the Golden Bears of Cal-Berkeley by 1.1 points but posted an impressive team score of 61.80 on the still rings to move into the top spot with a team total of 362.80.

The final results of the Team Finals were as follows:

Team Standings	FX	PH	SR	VT	PB	HB	Total
1. Stanford	61.300	58.450	61.800	63.250	59.300	58.700	362.800
2. Michigan	61.200	59.150	60.750	62.900	58.250	59.250	361.500
3. Oklahoma	62.750	57.750	59.950	64.050	58.250	58.450	361.200
4. California	60.250	59.700	60.650	63.150	59.050	58.350	361.150
5. Illinois	61.100	59.350	60.050	62.850	56.700	59.250	359.300
6. Ohio State	60.050	58.350	61.000	62.550	56.650	57.350	355.950

With these results in the book, the next version of NCAA Men's Gymnastics is about to get underway. The 2010 Season won't actually begin until January of 2010 but the hard work that will determine next year's team champs is already going on in every gym in the country.

Unfortunately, the collegiate ranks were decreased by one team this past spring when MIT dropped their men's gymnastics program. "This was another great loss to the NCAA program," said CGA president Mike Burns. "Every time we lose a program we get into a more dire situation. The product we put on the floor every April is amazing as evidenced by last year's NCAA Championships but we continue to see a decrease in the number of programs."

The question remains what can be done to stem the tide of the decrease of collegiate men's gymnastics programs. The MIGS Program has been trying to raise enough money over the past several years to help with this problem. USA Gymnastics is now seeing the importance of addressing this problem and has created the College Gymnastics Development Fund in conjunction with the CGA (College Gymnastics Association) and the NACGC –Women (National Association of Collegiate Gymnastics Coaches – Women). Stay tuned for more information on this fund as it could be a huge benefit for the future of Collegiate Gymnastics.

We are now in a time of tough economic news and everyone is feeling the pinch of hard times. Every athletic department in the nation is looking for ways to cut costs. Hopefully this won't mean cutting more men's gymnastics programs but it is a possibility that we need to be prepared for. In the past when it is announced that a program will be dropped it usually comes at the end of the competition season in the spring. Sometimes called the "Spring Slaughter", many individual athletes are put in a bind with little to no time to make plans for the following year.

If we want to see men's collegiate gymnastics be something that the next generation of coaches, athletes, and judges can enjoy and be a major part of then we really need to figure out a plan to be sure that each program that currently exists is in the best place possible to survive and thrive in the future. This means fundraising for endowed scholarship funds, increasing our memberships in our respective booster clubs, show an increase in attendance at home meets, be a big part of your athletic department by having your team partake in department-wide initiatives, and be proactive in solving this problem we now face. Best of luck to every college team out there in the upcoming season and please support the many college club programs that provide opportunities for many gymnasts who did not make it onto a varsity program. These programs are a vibrant and growing part of the college gymnastics scene and the folks involved need to be recognized at every opportunity.

**2009 NCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS WILL BE HELD AT
WEST POINT, NEW YORK**

APRIL 15 – 17, 2010