



# COLLEGE GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION BIG TEN CONFERENCE

WEEKLY REPORT  
WEEK ENDING Dec. 15, 2008  
By Jerry Wright



## UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The No. 6-ranked University of Michigan men's gymnastics team held its annual Maize and Blue Intrasquad meet Saturday (Dec. 13) with the Blue team defeating the Maize squad 253.10-248.95 in Cliff Keen Arena.

Sophomore Chris Cameron of the Blue team highlighted the event, winning the AA with an 85.50. He finished in the top three in four of the six events and claimed top honors on the PH (14.80) and R (14.45).



CAMERON

In the first rotation the Maize was led on FX by last season's Big Ten Freshman of the Year, Thomas Kelley who received a 14.45 on the event.

The squads swapped events for the second rotation, with Ian Makowske of the Blue squad receiving the night's top score on the FX, earning a 14.60. Rookie Syque Caesar of Blue, garnered a 14.45, tying Kelley's mark for the evening's second-best FX routine.

The Blue team was led on V by Ralph Rosso's 15.15 on the apparatus. The Maize squad competed on the R's, with a 13.90 from Mel Santander leading the pack (Santander also finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the AA with 82.40).

The fourth rotation was highlighted by Kelley's 15.15 on the V, tying opponent Rosso for the night's top vault score. Cameron received a 14.45 on the R's, helping extend the Blue team's lead.

The Maize team took to the parallel bars for the fifth rotation, with Paul Woodward leading his squad with a 13.90 in the event. The Blue team competed on the HB, with Cameron posting his team's highest score of 13.80.

The intensity at Cliff Keen Arena picked up as the squads moved into the final rotation with each team in the race. Despite Ryan McCarthy's 14.10 on the high bar, he could

not pull the Maize team ahead. The Blue team's win was solidified after stellar performances from Cameron and Caesar on the PB's even though Rosso won the PB event with 14.15.

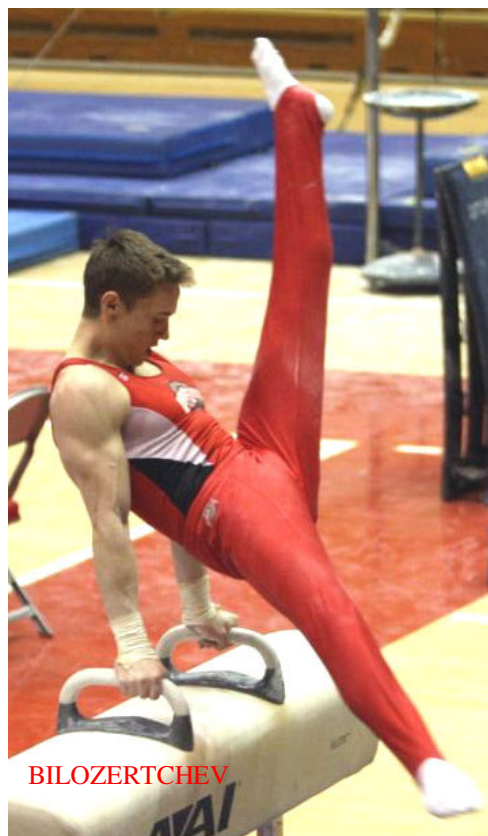
Although only the top three scores in each event were reported, an educated guess by this reporter places Michigan's team score at approximately 341.55.

## OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

In its first exhibition of the year, the Ohio State men's gymnastics team had 16 gymnasts perform at least one routine in front of judges and more than 50 fans at its Scarlet & Gray Intrasquad Dec. 12 in St. John Arena.

The active Buckeyes, which included seven freshmen, impressed head coach Miles Avery in their response to the competition-like atmosphere. "I am very pleased with the guys today," Avery, 12th-year Buckeye head coach, said. "We are definitely ahead of where we typically are as a squad in our routines at the first exhibition. It certainly shows the opportunity this team has to be a great gymnastics team this season."

True freshmen Alexy Bilozertchev, Ty



BILOZERTCHEV

Echard, Brandt Gomez, Philip Onorato, and Matt Rayl, all donned the Scarlet and Gray uniforms at the exhibition for the first time

with at least one rookie competing on all six events.

A team score and individual event winners names and scores were not available.

## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

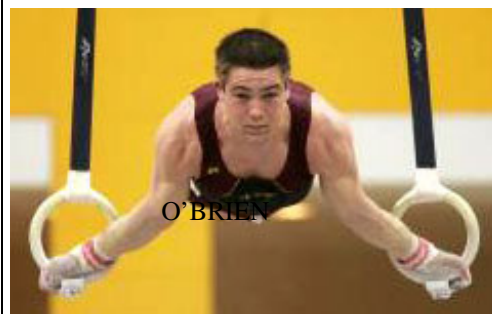
**Dec. 5, 2008:** The Gold Team defeated the Maroon Team at the first Maroon & Gold Intrasquad Friday afternoon by a score of 48-44. A Modified FIG scoring system was utilized in this, the first of two Maroon & Gold intrasquads. Counting the top 4 scores UM came up with a total team score of 340.40.

The Gold Team was led by freshman AA champion DJ Repp (V-15.8) from Albuquerque, NM. DJ had a great day and showed why UM is so excited about having him as a part of their program.

Both teams displayed strong routines throughout the course of the day and came away with the sense that this can certainly be the season this team has envisioned since last April. Coach Mike Burns indicates, "I have a really good feel about these guys. If they can keep the necessary focus over the next month with final exams and some time spent with family over the holidays, I really think they can achieve more than they thought possible, if they can keep their eye on the prize."

That prize will be realized in a little over four months when the Gophers host the 2009 NCAA Championships at the Sports Pavilion on the UM campus.

The Maroon Team was led by Thomas O'Brien with solid routines on R's (14.1), and PB's (14.3). This by far is the best Thomas

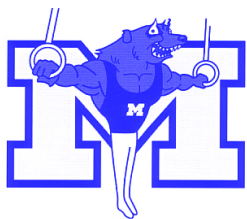


O'BRIEN

has looked since coming to Minnesota. Thomas will be a valuable asset to this team this year. Freshman Russell Dabritz also put up solid scores on PH, R, and PB's. Andre Berry continues to make great progress after having surgery on both shoulders last spring.

Aaron Fortunato (HB-14.1) and Adam Reichow provided solid support for the Maroon Team on several events and both con-

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tinue to show great potential. Colin McGuire and Cole Storer (FX-15.1) did the same for the Gold Team with their solid performances on FX and PH. Kit Beikmann placed 1st on the PH with 13.80.

### UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

**Dec. 7, 2008:** The Illinois men and women's gymnastics teams joined up to open their seasons with their annual Mixed Pairs Exhibition Sunday at Huff Hall. Each group of gymnasts performed their top events in front of more than 500 fans, combining the top three scores out of four routines to make up their team total. The group of Sarah Schmidi, Kyle Padera and C.J. Padera took home this year's Mixed Pairs title with a combined score of 29.9.

The teams of Marijka Botterman, Austin Phillips and Allison Buckley/ Chris Lung tied for second place with scores of 29.8. Of

ance on SR. I think that's a good indication for our team that we can count on our freshmen to replace what we lost from last year."

Other excellent routines were turned in by: Austin Phillips-HB, Chris Lung-PH & HB, Ross Bradley-HB, and Nick Strango-SR.

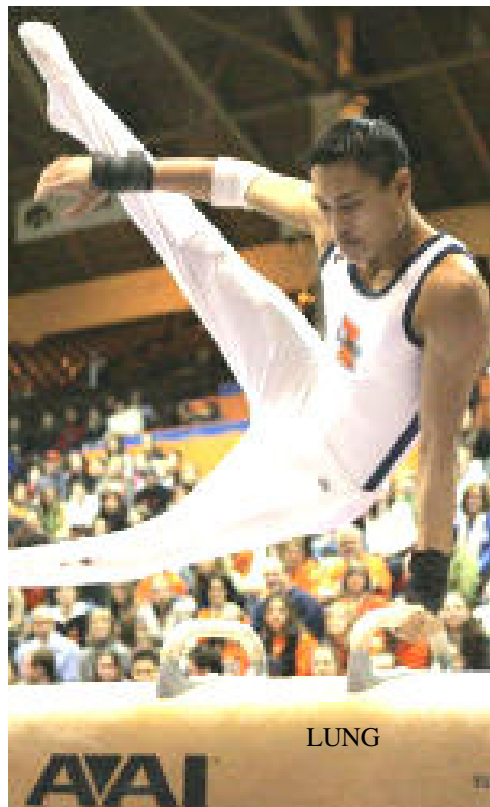
The format of the meet pitted celebrity judges from various Illinois varsity teams evaluating both the men and women using the women's 10-point scoring system in order to add scores systematically to determine the winning group.

Both squads begin the regular season on the road. The 16th ranked women kick things off on Friday, Jan. 9 in East Lansing, Mich., while the fourth ranked men head to the Windy City Invitational hosted by the University of Illinois-Chicago on Saturday, Jan. 17, in Chicago.

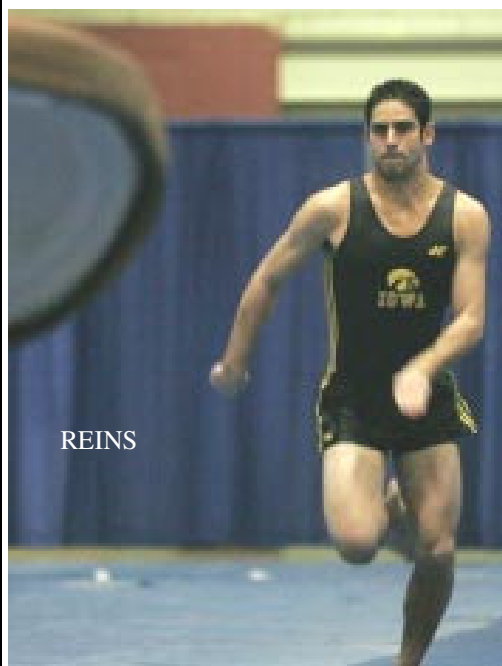
### UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

**Dec. 5, 2008:** In the University of Iowa's annual intrasquad, the Gold team defeated the Black team 165.10-163.00. Combining the best four scores, Iowa comes up with a theoretical team score of 326.00.

Leading the team in this early season outing was Geoff Reins with big scores of: FX-15.00 and Vault-16.00.



LUNG



REINS

course with celebrity judges the scores don't really mean anything, but the fact that an individual wins an event does mean something, especially when that individual is a freshman.

"I thought our freshmen stepped up for us tonight," head men's gymnastics coach Yoshi Hayasaki said. "C.J. Padera had a very nice PB routine, along with our other freshmen Austin Phillips, and Tyler Mizoguchi. Anthony Sacramento turned in a solid perform-

Other event winners were: Michael Jiang (PH)-14.10, Jonathan Buese (AA)-77.8, and (SR)-14.80, Tayler Scharman (PB)-14.20, and Zach Cazabon (HB)-13.90.