



# COLLEGE GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION BIG TEN CONFERENCE

WEEKLY REPORT  
WEEK ENDING Feb. 9, 2009  
By Jerry Wright



## UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Six members of the University of Michigan advanced to the 2009 Winter Cup Challenge finals on Thursday (Feb. 5) at the Las Vegas Sports Center.

Chris Cameron paced the Wolverines, ending the preliminary round in sixth place to advance to the finals on Saturday (Feb. 7).



Paul Woodward, Ralph Rosso, Philip Goldberg, Mel Santander, and Thomas Kelley also advanced to the finals.

Cameron finished in ninth in the all-around with an 84.850 total, powered by a third-place 14.90 on rings and a fourth-place 14.750 on parallel bars.

Santander and Woodward registered season highs on pommel horse, earning 14.75 (t-2nd) and 14.40 (6th), respectively.

Ryan McCarthy posted 13.10 on pommel horse, 11.30 on parallel bars and 11.95 on horizontal bar during the preliminary round but did not qualify for the finals.

Coach Kurt Golder reports that Joe Catrambone broke his ankle back in High School and it hasn't been right since. Consequently, he had surgery on it this fall, but was able to return to action this past weekend.

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Chris Cameron of the University of Michigan earned a roster spot on the U.S. Men's Senior National Team on Saturday night (Feb. 7, after claiming ninth in the all-around with a two-day 171.10 score during the Winter Cup Challenge at the Las Vegas Sports Center. Cameron finished fourth overall on rings (29.80) and parallel bars (29.60) and placed seventh on floor exercise (29.45). Cameron will hold a place on the team at least until the 2009 Visa Championships this August.

Thomas Kelley placed 13th in the all-

around with a 169.0 weekend total, powered by a 29.05 on horizontal bar to tie for sixth. Kelley recorded 27.54 on floor, 25.70 on pommel horse, 28.35 on rings, 30.80 on vault and 27.65 on parallel bars.

On PH Mel Santander grabbed fifth with a 28.85 while Paul Woodward ranked seventh with a 28.40.

Phillip Goldberg registered 29.85 on SR to seize third place overall. Goldberg's 15.30 during the Winter Cup finals currently stands as the top U-M score on the event in the 2009 campaign.

## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Paul Ruggeri led the Illinois contingent during preliminary competition at the 2009 Winter Cup competition in Las Vegas on Thursday, Feb. 5. Ruggeri was the highest Illini finisher in the performance. Other Illini qualifiers for the final session were freshman Tyler Mizoguchi plus Daniel Ribeiro and Roger Pasek.

In the first qualifying session of the day, Ruggeri, the reigning NCAA High Bar National Champion, showed the crowd his best high bar routine this season, scoring a 15.35 for a first place finish, ahead of 2008 Olympic Bronze Medalists Jonathon Horton and Joey



Hagerty. The Manlius, N.Y., native also tied for a third place finish on vault (16.00) and finished t-11th on parallel bars (14.30).

Mizoguchi had one of the top performances of any freshman collegiate gymnast at the meet, placing tied for 17th in the all-around competition. In the combined standings, Mizoguchi scored a 14.30 on floor to tie for 14th and tied for 13th on parallel bars with a 14.20. The Illini freshman finished 25th in the final 42 standings with 49 points.

In the combined results from the qualifying sessions, Ribeiro scored a fifth place finish on pommel horse (14.500) and an eighth place finish on floor (14.700). Meanwhile, Pasek earned his spot in the final rankings with a

fourth place finish on floor (14.950).

Other Illini top performances on the night included Brian Liscovitz's 13th place finish on parallel bars in his first competition of the season and Chris Lung's 19th place finish on vault. Neither advanced to the final session.

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Illinois sophomore Paul Ruggeri captured the gold medal on high bar at the 2009 Winter Cup Challenge. Ruggeri, the reigning NCAA high bar champion, had a combined score from the two days of competition of 30.50 on the event, edging out Olympian Joey Hagerty (30.45) for the national title. In other Illini news, Daniel Ribeiro finished runner-up on pommel horse with a combined score of 30.000.

Ruggeri, originally scheduled to compete in the all-around competition was forced to withdraw from three events after suffering an injury on the first day of competition. The Manlius, N.Y., native also placed 18th on parallel bars with a combined score of 27.40.

The Illini had tremendous success on floor as Ribeiro came in eighth place on floor after posting a score of 14.70 on both days of competition for a total of 29.40, just behind another Illini Roger Pasek who placed sixth on floor with a two-day total of 29.40.

"Daniel had an outstanding second day of competition with a 15.500 on pommel horse," Hayasaki reported. Roger had one of the best performances of his career as he hit all six of his routines at Winter Cup."

In the all-around competition freshmen Tyler Mizoguchi and C.J. Padera came in 24th and 27th place, respectively. Mizoguchi saw his highest finish of the competition on floor as he tallied a combined score of 29.00 for a 13th place finish. Padera's highest scoring event came on pommel horse as the Winfield, Ill., native posted a score of 27.65 after two days of competition, for 16th place.

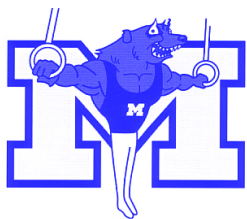
## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

University of Minnesota student-athlete Kit Beikmann(14.65) advanced to Saturday's finals with a solid showing on the pommel horse during preliminary competition at the 2009 Winter Cup competition in Las Vegas on Thursday, Feb. 5.

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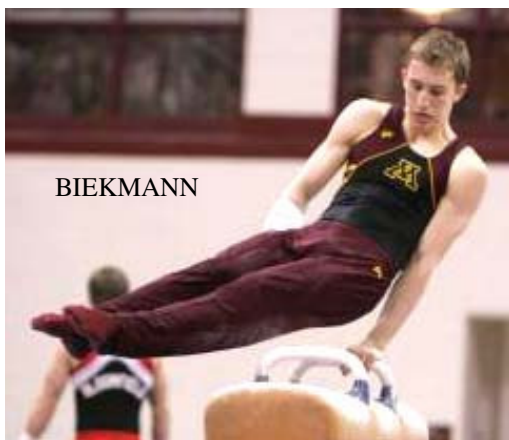
Former University of Minnesota gymnast Guillermo Alvarez and current Gopher Kit Beikmann each wrapped up competition at the Winter Cup Saturday night in Las Vegas.

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Alvarez re-qualified for a position on the U.S. Senior National Team. Guillermo Alvarez posted an 88.85 tonight combined with his Day 1 total of 85.65 for a two day total of 174.50 which was good for 4th place overall.

Meanwhile, Beikmann finished posted a top-three finish on the pommel horse. He posted a 14.45 Saturday night to go along with his 14.65 from Thursday. Beikmann's total of 29.00 was good enough to take third place in



BEIKMANN

this prestigious meet.

**OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

Jake Bateman and freshman Philip Onorato of the Ohio State finished in seventh and ninth place, respectively, at the first of two qualifying sessions at the 2009 Winter Cup Challenge Thursday. In all, seven members of Scarlet and Gray squad competed at the qualifier.

Competing in the all-around, Bateman scored an 84.7, including five Top 10 finishes



BATEMAN

while Onorato recorded an 83.70 with the help of a second-place finish on vault, tying Illinois sophomore Paul Ruggeri with a 16.0.

Brandon Wynn finished 12th in the all-around with an 82.65. In his final two Top 10 finishes, Bateman scored a 14.00 (ninth) on parallel bars and a 14.30 (sixth) on high bar.

Bateman scored a 14.30 to tie for sixth on floor while Onorato posted a 14.20 to tie for ninth. In the second rotation, redshirt-

freshman Steven Spencer showed his prowess on pommel horse, tallying a season-best 14.75 to place second on the event.

Wynn showed his strength on rings, posting a 14.70 to end the competition in fourth. In addition, Bateman had a 14.65 to tie for fifth while Onorato scored a 16.50 for ninth (tied) in the third rotation. Overall, the Buckeyes had a strong performance on vault.

Behind Onorato's second-place finish on the event, Ohio State had Bateman finish fourth with a 15.70, Pejman Ebrahimi placed sixth with a 15.45 and Wynn tied for eighth with a 15.35. Eddie Hay and Tai Lee also competed at the event for the Buckeyes.

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Ohio State's Jake Bateman concluded the 2009 Winter Cup Challenge in 14th with a two-day total of 168.3 Saturday.

Brandon Wynn placed 26th (139.85) while Philip Onorato, ended the competition in 28th (138.1).

Onorato, who entered Saturday ranked 15th with 68 points, competed on only four events at the second day of the challenge. His best tally of the night came with a 14.4 on rings at the finals.

Wynn also competed on just four events Saturday. After recording an 82.65 for 12th in the all-around on the first night, he had three great performances at the finals, including a 14.85 on rings, 15.2 on vault and 14.00 on parallel bars.

Steven Spencer advanced to the finals after capturing second place on pommel horse with a 14.75 at the qualifier. Spencer, however, received only 13.50 in the finals.

**PENN STATE UNIVERSITY**

Freshman Miguel Pineda competed in the Winter Cup preliminaries on Thursday night, earning a 19th place, Session II finish in the all-around with a six-event total of 77.15.

His top performance came in the still rings, as he tied for seventh with a score of 14.200.

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Penn State did not have anyone place in the top ten in the individual event finals.

**UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**

Despite seven athletes missing from the lineup due to the Winter Cup Challenge in Las Vegas, Nev., The University of Michigan captured all six event titles en route to a 340.050-324.200 victory over UIC on Saturday night (Feb. 7) at Cliff Keen Arena.

Joe Catrambone, David Chan, Ben Baldus-Strauss, freshmen Syque Caesar, and Devan

Cote, and Andrew Vance, all earned event titles during the competition.

In Olympic order, the Maize and Blue started the meet on floor exercise. Paced by Caesar's night-best score of 14.50.

The teams swapped events for the second rotation, with U-M earning a 53.50 on pommel horse and UIC posting a 53.85 on floor to give Michigan a 109.95-105.55 advantage. Baldus-Strauss earned his first event title of his career, registering an event-best 13.65 on pommel horse.

Michigan headed to the still rings for the third rotation, while UIC performed on vault. Vance registered a new career high as well as the evening's top score with a 14.55. Torrance Laury posted a career-high 14.20 on the apparatus for the second-best score of the competition.

With a strong 60.45 performance on vault in the fourth rotation, the Wolverines padded their lead 226.65-218.20. The Maize and Blue walked away with its first vault title of the 2009 campaign thanks to scores of 15.25 from both Caesar and Baldus-Strauss.

In the fifth rotation, Michigan moved to parallel bars and UIC advanced to horizontal bar. The Wolverines garnered a 56.65, while the Flames posted a 51.85, giving U-M a substantial 13.25 point lead, 283.30-270.05. Cote and Chan both registered a 14.30 to share the event crown.

Catrambone's contest-high 14.55 on high bar helped finish Michigan's win with a final score of 340.05-324.20.



CATRAMBONE

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