



# COLLEGE GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION BIG TEN CONFERENCE

WEEKLY REPORT  
WEEK ENDING March 16, 2009  
By Jerry Wright



**NOTE:** With three weeks to go until the Conference Championships the Big Ten shapes up to be a real barn-burner. Looking at best scores of the season alone, up to this time, it looks like this: 1. Illinois-357.85, 2. Michigan-354.20, 3. Penn St.-353.80, 4. Ohio State-353.15, 5. Minnesota-348.85, 6. Iowa-341.60.

## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Illinois topped the Michigan Wolverines 354.90-353.90 on Saturday, spoiling the Wolverines Senior Night at Cliff Keen Arena. The Illini won three individual event titles and were paced by the return of Paul Ruggeri who took first on vault and parallel bars. Daniel Ribeiro, ranked No. 1 in the nation on pommel horse, took the event crown for the third meet in a row.

Ruggeri, returning from an injury sustained at the Winter Cup Challenge (2/5) took second in the all-around competition, posting a score of 87.20. Ruggeri took first on vault with a score of 15.75 and parallel bars with a career-high score of 15.05.



Freshman C.J. Padera took second place on high bar with a score of 14.70 and Ross Bradley came in third, posting a score of 14.65.

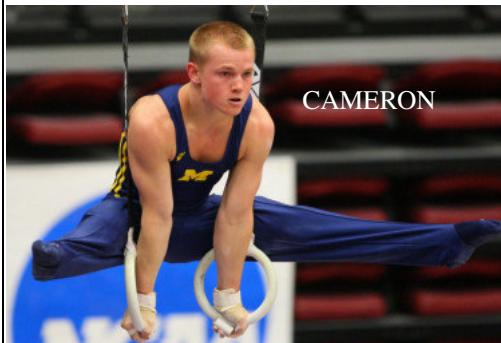
On floor, Luke Stannard posted a career-high score of 15.20 to take second place. Right behind him was Ruggeri who scored a 15.10 for third place.

Showing why they are the top ranked team in the nation on PH Ribeiro took the crown with a score of 15.30, while Stannard finished second with a score of 14.85.

Tyler Williamson took third on rings, with a score of 14.95. Williamson also tied for third place on vault posting a 15.60 on the event.

Rounding out the Illini's top-three finishes on the night was C.J. Padera's performance on parallel bars. He tied for second with a score of 14.90.

## UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN



The University of Michigan dropped a close decision to Illinois by a mere point, 354.90-353.90, during Senior Night on Saturday at Cliff Keen Arena.

Ben Baldus-Strauss and Mel Anton Santander earned individual event titles on floor exercise (15.25) and high bar (14.90), respectively, while Chris Cameron picked up his third all-around title of the season, totaling 88.45 during the competition.

Michigan took the initial lead, 59.55-58.10, over the Fighting Illini, thanks to a series of stellar performances on floor exercise. Baldus-Strauss led the pack with a career-high event title-winning 15.25, while Thomas Kelley registered a season-best 14.90.

The Wolverines faltered slightly on pommel horse in the second rotation, granting Illinois the opportunity to establish a 1.40-point advantage, 115.90-117.30. Michigan's highest scores came from David Chan and Cameron, who earned scores of 14.80 and 14.50, respectively.

Cameron and Phillip Goldberg earned a U-M team season-best 15.35 on still rings in the third rotation to help give U-M a total of 60.22 on the event.

The Wolverines had a season-best score on vault with a 62.35, pushing them ahead of the Orange and Blue, 238.45-238.05, in the fourth rotation. Chan led U-M with a 15.70. Ralph Rosso posted 15.40, Santander earned 15.50, Cameron registered 15.55 and Baldus-Strauss recorded 15.60 on vault to mark personal season bests.

Paced by Cameron's 14.90 on the parallel bars, the Maize and Blue stayed neck and neck with Illinois, trailing by a mere .20 points, 296.45-296.25, after the fifth rotation.

Other notable scores came from Paul Woodward who garnered a 14.70, and John Sawicki, who tabbed a career-best 14.10 on the event.

Although Santander earned the night's top high-bar score with a 14.90, the Maize and Blue could not collect enough points to move ahead of Illinois in the sixth rotation. Kelley garnered a 14.45, while Baldus-Strauss and Joe Catrambone each earned a 14.15 in the final rotation.

## PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Penn State recorded its highest score of the 2009 season but it was not enough to overtake the University of California and the Nittany Lions fell, 355.15-353.80, on Senior Night.

Penn State used a season-best score of 60.30 to win the floor exercise and posted a solid total of 57.35 to take the parallel bars. The Lions also set a season best mark in the pommel horse, scoring a 56.50, but were edged by Cal in the event (56.95).

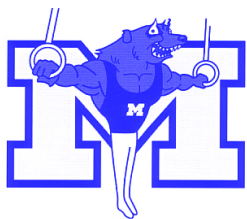
Casey Sandy performed on Senior Night in a manner befitting his standout career, winning the all-around with a season-high score of 90.30. The seven-time All-American was particularly dominant in the pommel horse, placing first with a career-high score of 15.65, .6 of a point higher than the second place finisher. Sandy, the reigning Big Ten and NCAA All-Around champion, also placed second in the vault, third in the parallel bars (tie, 14.50), fourth in the floor exercise (15.10) and rings (14.75), and seventh in the high bar (tie, 14.50). For his efforts, Sandy was honored



with the Gene Wettstone Award.

Josh Borromeo thrilled a large contingent that turned out to see him perform, posting a personal best score of 14.70 in the still rings. Shaun Antonio competed in four events with his top performance coming in the pommel

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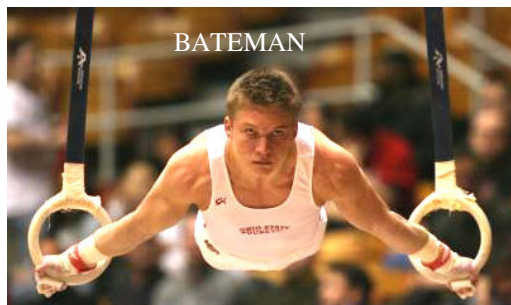
horse, where he placed fourth (14.25).

Harris won his third consecutive floor exercise title (15.20) while Yang placed second in the floor exercise (15.15) and the high bar (14.75). Freshman Miguel Pineda used a season high score of 14.50 to tie for third in the parallel bars.

### OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Ohio State set two team season highs on its way to a 2009-best team total of 353.15 Saturday night in Norman, Okla. Oklahoma tallied a 357.45 to win the dual meet.

Jake Bateman recorded a season-best 88.10 for third in the all-around while Brandon Wynn notched a career-high 87.65 to take fourth. OU's Chris Brooks won with a tally of 88.70.



The team recorded a season-high 59.70 on floor with Bateman posting a career-best 15.30. Also registering personal bests for Ohio State were Wynn with a 14.90 and freshman Philip Onorato with a 14.80.

Redshirt freshman Steven Spencer led the Buckeyes on pommel horse, scoring a career and meet-high 15.40 and helping the squad to a season-high 56.50 giving Ohio State the event win. Rookie Ty Echard added a 13.95 for third and senior Andy Saurber had a 13.90 to tie for fourth.

Ohio State showed off on rings, sweeping the Top 3 positions on the event winning rings, 60.85-59.70. Wynn and Bateman each recording their second-career high of the evening with a 15.50 and 15.40, respectively. The Buckeyes made a 1-2-3 sweep of the event with Onorato posting a 15.15 for third.

The Buckeyes had a solid night on vault, tallying a 61.60. Ohio State received high marks from Bateman, who registered a fourth-place 15.85 to tie his personal high, while Wynn scored a 15.65 and Justin Myers had a 15.15.

On parallel bars, the squad noted its second event season high with a 57.95. Shachar Tal led the Buckeyes for the second-consecutive week, scoring a season-best 14.75 to tie for

second. Bateman and Lee followed with a 14.55 and 14.45, respectively.

Wynn hit a 2009-best 14.10 on parallel bars and a 14.30 on high bar. With a pair of 14.15s, Bateman and Tai Lee added to the Buckeyes' event total of 56.55, its second-highest total of the year on the apparatus. Lee's 14.15 tied his season-best.

### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Minnesota scored a season-high 353.30 points and won three individual events as the Golden Gophers defeated Nebraska and Arizona State Sunday afternoon at the Devaney Center in Lincoln, Neb. Nebraska scored 349.40 to take second, while ASU placed third with 325.90.

The Gophers opened the meet on still rings and posted a respectable 57.15 behind a personal-best score of 14.75 by Thomas O'Brien. Freshman Russell Dabritz also turned in a solid score of 14.65, followed closely by Eddie Campbell's 14.30.

Cole Storer and Adam Reichow finished 1-2 on the FX event to lead the way, with Storer scoring 15.10. Reichow equaled his season best, at 15.00.

On pommel horse, UM posted their school record team score on the apparatus with a 58.65. Kit Beikmann again led the way with a score of 15.05 to win the event followed by Thomas O'Brien with a 15.00. Cole Storer and Aaron Fortunato also contributed to the Gopher's record setting performance with scores of 14.50 and 14.10, respectively.

The Gophers then rotated to the HB where they again set another school record with a season-high score of 58.55. Ali Aleiou got things started with a career-high score of 14.40 on a solid set that was followed up by freshmen Russell Dabritz, who earned a 14.25, and DJ Repp, who scored a 14.20. Colin McGuire, Aaron Fortunato and Cole Storer were even better, notching scores of 14.65, 14.85 and 14.65, respectively.

But despite the strong performances, the Gophers still trailed a much improved Nebraska squad, 235.85 to 234.00, with ASU a distant third with 211.700 points.

However, Minnesota made a big move on vault. Aleiou again got the Gophers off to a fast start with a career high score of 15.65 with a near perfect Yurchenko 1/1. The team score of 63.05 was achieved with a meet winning 15.95 score from Adam Reichow on a booming Yurchenko double full. Colin McGuire followed with a 15.80 on a solid Kasamatsu with a full twist and Andre Berry

with the same vault earned a score of 15.65.

Going into the sixth and final event, the Gophers pulled ahead of Nebraska by a score of 297.05 to 292.50. The Gophers finished the meet on parallel bars with a team score

of 56.25. Russell Dabritz posted the Gopher's highest score on the parallel bars with a score of 14.500. Andre Berry was again solid posting a score of 14.15 along with Thomas O'Brien with a 14.00.

### UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

The University of Iowa placed first in the quadrangle meet hosted by the U.S. Military Academy Saturday with a final score of 339.95. Springfield placed second with a 328.65, William & Mary took third with a 328.25 and the U.S. Military Academy rounded out the meet at fourth, with a 317.50.

Geoff Reins once again captured two first place wins on floor exercise (15.40) and vault (16.25). His score on floor exercise tied his season high and his finish on vault broke his past season record of 16.05.

Mike Jiang placed first on pommel horse with a 14.65 that also broke his own season best. Freshman Tayler Scharman grabbed another Hawkeye first place, earning a 13.85 on parallel bars. Reid Urbain tied for second on rings with a 14.75, coming close to his season best.

Iowa placed first in all but one event during the meet, in one of their best performances of the season.

