



COLLEGE GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION BIG TEN CONFERENCE

WEEKLY REPORT
WEEK ENDING March 23, 2009
By Jerry Wright



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The University of Michigan claimed a 357.60-349.70 victory over rival Ohio State on Saturday night (March 21) at St. John Arena. As a squad, the Wolverines earned season bests on four of six events -- floor exercise, pommel horse, vault and parallel bars -- en route to their highest overall team score of the season.

Chris Cameron grabbed multiple event crowns for the second time this season, garnering top marks on pommel horse (15.00) and parallel bars (14.75), to claim his fourth all-around title of the year. Thomas Kel-



CAMERON

ley received his fifth event title of the season on floor exercise with a season-best 15.20.

In the final meet before the Wolverines host the Big Ten Championships, eight gymnasts either tied or increased 13 personal season or career highs, including Ralph Rosso's 15.75 on vault to tie a personal career-best and a U-M team season-best.

Paced by Kelley's title-winning performance, the Maize and Blue compiled a 60.00 on floor exercise, its highest mark of the 2009 campaign. Scott Bregman matched his season-best score with a 14.85.

The Wolverines earned a season-high 59.30 on the pommel horse -- an event on which they had recently struggled -- with Cameron's 15.00, David Chan at 14.85 and Santander at 14.75.

On the still rings, Phil Goldberg obtained the Maize and Blue's highest score with a 15.20, while Joe Catrambone chipped in a season-high 14.80.

All six Michigan vault performers registered a score of 15.00 or higher on the event en route to the team's season-best mark of 62.60. Santander earned another season high with a 15.60, and Rosso tied his career high of 15.75 to keep the Wolverines ahead of the Buckeyes.

U-M struggled slightly on the parallel bars, amassing a 57.25. In addition to Cameron's mark on the apparatus, Santander collected

his best score of the year with a 14.45.

The team's 58.65 on horizontal bar marked the last team high in the competition. Season-best scores came from Catrambone and Cameron, who registered a 15.10 and 14.45, respectively, while redshirt freshman Devan Cote tallied a 14.60 to set a career high.

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Penn State didn't get the win on Saturday night versus No. 1-ranked Oklahoma in Norman, Okla. but it gained a wealth of confidence and momentum as the postseason nears, recording season high scores in four of six events on its way to its top team score of the year, a 356.30. The defending national champion Sooners used the motivation of Senior Night and their McCasland Fieldhouse home gym advantage to the fullest, posting an astronomical 366.85.

While the Nittany Lions did not top Oklahoma in any event, they did establish season best scores in the floor exercise (60.45), still rings (59.40), vault (63.35), and high bar (59.80). Penn State's pommel horse (55.65) and parallel bars (57.65) totals were also above its season average.

While last week's home meet versus Cal was technically Penn State's Senior Night, the senior trio of Casey Sandy Josh Borrromeo and Shaun Antonio shined in their final regular season meet in the blue and white. Sandy won his seventh pommel horse title of the year, scoring a 15.15, and registered season best scores in the floor exercise (15.15) and still rings (14.85). Borrromeo not only broke



SANDY

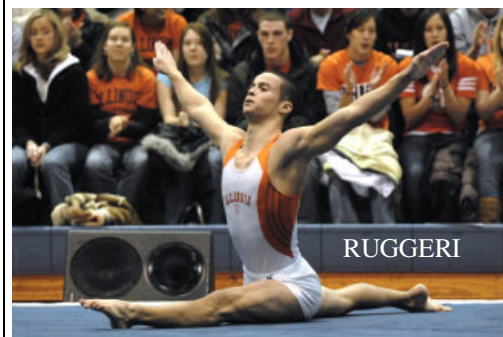
his career best score in the still rings, a 15.25, but he set the team high for the season in the event. Antonio continued to come through for his team when needed the most, establishing new career highs with superb efforts in the floor exercise (15.35) and high bar (15.05).

Noam Shaham contributed standout performances, scoring career highs in three

events, the vault (15.95), parallel bars (14.50), and high bar (15.05). Nick Virbitsky also had a career effort, earning a score of 15.90 in the vault.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Illinois defeated the Minnesota Golden Gophers Saturday evening 353.60-347.70 at the Sports Pavilion in Minneapolis, Minn. Paul Ruggeri placed first in the all-around competition with a score of 86.95, while Luke



RUGGERI

Stannard took first on pommel horse and Tyler Williamson won the individual event title on rings. With this win over the Gophers, the Illini completed the dual-meet sweep of conference opponents this season.

"It feels very good to go undefeated in conference duals," Illinois head coach Yoshi Hayasaki said. "It's been awhile since we've had a Big Ten season like this and it's a tribute to the guys who have worked hard all season and competed as hard as they can each week-end. We look to carry the success from the regular season into the Big Ten and NCAA Championships."

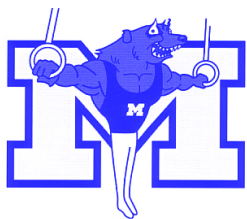
In the first rotation, Luke Stannard recorded a 15.10 on pommel horse to take the event crown and lead the Illini to a team total of 57.55. Daniel Ribeiro and Chris Lung came in second and third place, respectively, posting scores of 14.65 and 14.20 on pommel horse.

On floor, the Fighting Illini posted a team record score of 60.55, led by Roger Pasek's second place finish with a score of 15.25. Ruggeri scored a 15.20 to take third on floor.

In the third rotation, the Illini had a spectacular showing on vault posting an impressive team score of 62.55. Pasek and Ruggeri paced the Orange and Blue on the event, tying for second place with Minnesota's DJ Repp, with all three gymnasts scoring a 15.80.

Tyler Williamson tied his season-high of 14.95 on rings to take the individual title.

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Freshman Anthony Sacramento tied for second place on rings with a score of 14.65.

In the fifth rotation, freshman Austin Phillips tied his career-high 14.55 on high bar for a second place finish, while Ruggeri took third with a score of 14.50.

Rounding out the night on parallel bars, the Illini scored a 57.80 as a team. Individually, Ruggeri scored a 14.65 for second place. Brian Liscovitz came in third with a score of 14.55.

As a team, the Illini edged out the Gophers on five events with the Orange and Blue posting team scores of 60.55 on floor, 57.55 on pommel horse, 58.05 on rings, 57.10 on parallel bars and 57.80 on high bar. The Gophers topped Illinois on vault, 63.05-62.55.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Minnesota had a rough night on the pommel horse and the parallel bars Saturday at the Sports Pavilion. Combined with a solid effort from visiting Illinois, the end result was a 353.600-347.700 loss to the Fighting Illini for the Golden Gophers on Senior Night.

Minnesota opened the meet strong with its second-best night of the season on the floor exercise. The Gophers' Adam Reichow won the event with a 15.450, leading the Gophers to a 59.850 team score. But on the second

rotation of the night, Minnesota had a number of falls on the pommel horse. The Gophers tallied a score of 54.800, nearly four points lower than their



total from last week's competition.

Meanwhile, Illinois put up a total of 118.100 in its first two rotations. Minnesota's score of 114.650 after floor exercise and pommel horse left the Gophers facing an uphill climb for the remainder of the night.

Minnesota rebounded a bit in the middle of

the meet. The Gophers put up their second best score of the season on the still rings, tallying a 57.200. Eddie Campbell led the way for Minnesota on the rings with a second-place score of 14.650. The Gophers' vault score of 63.050 matched their season-best mark. Reichow (15.900) and DJ Repp (15.800) took the top two spots on the vault.

But Illinois had solid performances on the rings and vault as well. The Illini maintained their advantage after the fourth rotation, holding nearly a four-point lead, 238.700-234.900.

Minnesota struggled on the parallel bars, which can often be a strong event for the squad. The 55.450 score posted by the Gophers matched a season-low. Freshman Russell Dabritz was a bright spot on the apparatus, winning the event for the night with a 14.700 score. Minnesota rebounded with its second-best score of the season on the high bar, a 57.350 performance. Colin McGuire took the top individual score of the night on the bar with a 14.650.

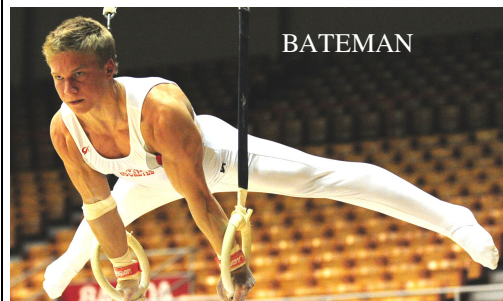
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

A crowd of 500-plus watched six members of the Ohio State men's gymnastics team set career highs Saturday night in St. John Arena as the squad celebrated senior night with a team total of 349.70. The Buckeyes tallied program-high marks on rings (61.25) and high bar (60.15) but ultimately dropped its conference match vs. Michigan who posted a 357.60.

Top performances came from Jake Bateman, notching a career and program-high 15.30 on high bar and Brandon Wynn, accomplishing the same feat on rings with a 16.10. Wynn's mark is a best by an NCAA competitor this season. No Division I NCAA gymnast has produced a mark above a 16.00 in 2009.

Bateman, who scored a season-high and second-place 88.65 in the all-around, was joined by his four teammates in the high bar effort, as all Buckeye competitors hit career marks on the apparatus, including Tai Lee with a 15.10 and Justin Myers with a 15.00.

Ohio State started strong on floor, scoring a 59.40. Bateman led the scoring with a second-place 15.15 and was followed by Eddie Hay with a 14.95 for fourth and Myers with a 14.70 in seventh. The Wolverines won the event, edging the Buckeyes with a floor total of 60.00. On pommel horse, freshman Ty Echard continued his stellar rookie season with a team-best 14.00. Bateman (13.50) and Andy Saurber (13.25) added the squads sec-



ond and third highest scores. Michigan, led by Chris Cameron with a 15.00, outscored Ohio State, 59.30-53.75.

In the third rotation, the Buckeyes made up some ground, winning rings with a program-best 61.25 over the Wolverine's 59.80. Following Wynn's first-place effort, Bateman joined in with a second-place 15.40 and Shachar Tal made it a sweep with a 15.20, just .05 shy of his career high. Ohio State carried its momentum into its vaulting, notching the Top 3 marks on its second-consecutive event. Pejman Ebrahimi took first with a 15.90, Myers notched a career-high 15.80 for second and Bateman tied for third with a 15.75, for an Ohio State vault total of 62.45.

Steven Spencer set a career high on parallel bars to lead the Buckeyes with a fifth-place 13.70 but the squad dropped the event to the Wolverines, 57.25-52.70. Ohio State bounced back in the final rotation, winning high bar, 60.15-58.65, as all five gymnasts competing earned career-bests. Behind Bateman's first-place mark tied for second and Myers placed fourth. Wynn added a 14.75 for fifth while classmate Sean Regan had a 14.55. Regan also had career highs on floor (14.50) and rings (14.30).