



# COLLEGE GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION

## BIG TEN CONFERENCE

### CGA WEEKLY REPORT

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By Jerry Wright



#### UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The University of Michigan crushed the Iowa Hawkeyes, 352.450 to 340.000, on Saturday (Jan. 30) in Iowa City, Iowa, at Carver Hawkeye Arena. The Wolverines were led by event wins from Kent Caldwell, Chris Cameron and Thomas Kelley and Devan Cote. Kelley also claimed the all-around crown in his first appearance on all six events this sea-



son with a score of 85.900.

The Wolverines began the competition on the pommel horse, posting a 57.550 behind a sweep of the top three spots led by Cameron's winning total 14.95. David Chan and Mel Anton Santander finished second and third, respectively.

On the floor exercise, the Wolverines suffered early mistakes but rebounded with season-high scores from Ian Makowske and Cameron, who recorded 15.100 and 15.550 marks, respectively. Cameron's trademark flair sequence lifted him to his second floor title in as many weeks. Despite errors in three Michigan floor routines, the Wolverines moved ahead of the Hawkeyes, who had struggles of their own on the pommel horse.

U-M rebounded on the vault, recording three season-high scores from Caldwell, Ben Baldus-Strauss and Kelley. Caldwell won his first vault title of the season (15.800) with a near stick of the only Yurchenko half on, rudi off currently being performed in the Big Ten.

Cameron used his second season high on the evening (15.15) to take the still rings crown and lead another Michigan 1-2-3 sweep with Kelley close behind in second with a 15.000 and Phillip Goldberg rounding out the top three with a 14.650.

The Wolverines finally settled down in the fifth rotation, sticking five of six high bar dismounts and again taking all three of the top spots. Kelley soared through the air in three different release moves to take the high bar crown for the second consecutive week, while Ryan McCarthy shook off a fall in last week's dual against Penn State to record a 14.750 to open up a nearly 10-point lead.

In the final rotation, Cote started Michigan off with a career best (14.750) to win the event. Kelley and Cameron both added season highs to complete the fourth event sweep for the Wolverines and give Michigan a season-best total on the parallel bars (58.450).

#### UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Illinois returned to action Saturday afternoon (Jan. 30), downing Big Ten foe Ohio State 349.700-341.350. As a team, Illinois posted the top score in five of the six events, including rings, which the Buckeyes had ranked first in entering the meet. Individually, freshman Yoshi Mori led the team with first-place finishes in the all-around (87.400), parallel bars (14.450) and high bar (15.000).

"I was very impressed with Yoshi's performance today," associate head coach Justin Spring said. "He only had two weeks to train for the all-around and did a great job. I'm pretty happy overall with our performance, but it's early in the season and we still have a lot of work to do and mistakes to clean up."

Sophomore Tyler Mizoguchi finished in the top three in four different events, including floor (1st; 15.150), rings (2nd; 14.800), all-around (2nd; 86.300) and parallel bars (3rd; 14.150) and notched career-high scores on the floor, rings and all-around.

Junior Daniel Ribeiro won his second straight title on the pommel horse with a score of 15.450 and senior Brian Liscovitz posted a career best on the high bar (14.850) to finish in second place in the event.

#### OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Competing in its season home opener Ohio State fell, 341.350-349.700, to top-ranked Illinois Saturday at St. John Arena.

On floor, Brandon Wynn led Ohio State with a second-place a 15.050, just trailing Illinois' Tyler Mizoguchi's 15.150. The Buckeyes' event total was rounded out by Shachar Tal who scored a 14.650, Phil Onorato with a 14.200 and Justin Myers' 14.200. The team entered in an event total of 58.100.

Next up on pommel horse, Steven Spencer battled against Daniel Ribeiro the reigning NCAA pommel horse champion. Spencer placed second with a 14.450 while Ribeiro scored a 15.450. The Buckeyes struggled on pommel horse, finishing out the event with a team score of 53.850.

In the third rotation the Buckeyes traveled to rings. With only four members competing on the event, Ohio State needed a strong showing from all. Wynn won the event with a 15.850 and Mike Behles, competing for the



first time this season, notched a 14.300 to tie for fourth.

Moving on to vault, Ohio State boosted its event total to 63.750, 2.600 points above the team's showing at Windy City. The Buckeyes swept vault, placing first through fourth. Onorato led the pack scoring a 16.050, followed by Wynn with a 16.000, Behles a 15.900 and Myers a 15.800, all marking season bests on the event for the Buckeyes.

Tal led the Buckeyes on parallel bars with a 13.850 placing fourth. Rounding out the team score were Myers, Behles and Wynn. Myers and Behles tied for fifth and Wynn placed seventh. Ohio State finished the event with a 53.500 behind Illinois who scored a 55.750.

Finishing the meet on high bar, the Buckeyes once again had to count all four scores of those competing. Sean Regan led the Buckeyes with a season-best 14.150. Rounding out the team score of 55.050 were Myers, freshman Blaize Monks and Wynn.

Wynn, the only Buckeye competing in the all-around, placed third with an 85.650.

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MORI



### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The University of Minnesota men's gymnastics team had a goal for Saturday night's meet vs. Nebraska, Air Force and Calgary. The Gophers wanted to break 350.

That may have looked like a pretty lofty goal, considering Minnesota had scored 337.650 in its season-opening meet and 343.250 last week. But the Gophers rose to the challenge Saturday night, hitting season-high scores on the floor exercise, pommel horse, rings, vault and parallel bars. It all added up to a 350.550 score and a victory for Minnesota.

Aaron Fortunato put together the second-best all-around score in the Minnesota record books. He tallied an 85.950 to finish second.



The Gophers had numerous highlights Saturday night. Freshman Harris Coleman topped the 15-point plateau on the pommel horse. Perhaps the biggest cheers of the night were for Berry, who hit his vault and tallied Minnesota's first score of 16 or better this season.

"Andre Berry's vault was just exciting," Burns said. "A 16.200 is just a huge score. To hit that vault on his feet, which is a pretty tricky thing to do, it was exciting."

The aforementioned Coleman earned the Louis J. Cooke Outstanding Performance Award for the meet. Coleman tallied a 15.150 on the pommel horse, which is a big score, especially for a young gymnast.

Burns also credited Coleman for his performances on the floor, vault and high bar. The rookie turned in counting scores on the floor and high bar, in addition to winning the pommel horse.

Fortunato won the floor exercise with a tally of 15.200. Berry's score of 16.200 was tops on the vault. Along with Coleman's victory on the horse, Minnesota took top honors in three of the six events.

As for the team competition, the Gophers ran away with Saturday night's meet. Minnesota's 350.550 tally was more than eight points better than the final score of 342.400 for Nebraska. Air Force was third with a 329.800 score. Calgary, which was battling injuries and only suited four gymnasts, brought up the rear with a score of 302.050.

### PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Penn State used a youth movement to down William & Mary on Sunday afternoon (Jan.31) at Rec Hall, as 24 of the Nittany Lions' 36 routines were performed by freshmen in the 341.450-321.400 victory.

Penn State won all six events, both as a team and individually, but struggled with consistency. The Lions established a season high in the high bar (55.350) but posted a season low in the vault (60.100). Their team total in the pommel horse (54.600) was a full three points below its season high and their team score in the parallel bars (55.650) was just one-tenth above its season low.

Leading the way for Penn State and for the freshman class was Parker Raque, who claimed the first two titles of his career, winning at least a share of the floor exercise (14.900) and still rings (14.700). Raque set personal bests in both events en route to earning the Gene Wettstone Award, an honor presented each home meet to the most outstanding gymnast.



RAQUE

Freshman Mackenzie Dow secured his first career pommel horse title in the Nittany Lions' second consecutive home win, scoring a 14.100. He also claimed his third top three finish in the vault this season, placed second with a score of 15.400.

Nick Grant built on the fast start to his freshman season by taking the top spot in the vault, tying a personal high with a 15.800 effort. The vault title was his third of the season.

The reigning Big Ten Freshman of the Week, Felix Aronovich tied Raque for a share of his first career still rings title and finished in second in his signature event, the pommel horse (14.000).

Penn State's top veteran performances were contributed by senior Nick Virbitsky and Miguel Pineda who captured crowns in the

high bar and parallel bars, respectively. Virbitsky won the high bar with a team season high mark of 14.600 while Pineda secured his first parallel bars title of the year with a 14.050. Pineda also placed third in the still rings and the pommel horse.

Matt Greenfield also played a part in the win, placing second in the high bar and third in the floor exercise.

### UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

The University of Iowa men's gymnastics team fell to No. 2 Michigan Saturday at Carver Hawkeye Arena, 352.450-340.000.

To lead Iowa, Jonathan Buese placed second on vault with a team-best 15.750 and second in the all-around with a season-best 84.850.



BUESE

Ben Ketelsen led the Hawkeyes in floor exercise placing second with a team-best 15.100. Jacob Swafford scored a season-best 13.850 to lead the Hawkeyes in pommel horse. Joel Snyder recorded a season-best 14.050 on parallel bars.

"We expected a little bit more improvement today," Head Coach Tom Dunn said. "We had some major errors that we haven't had thus far, primarily on pommel horse. We just couldn't finish our routines and had weak dismounts on that event. That really took us out of it. I was pretty happy with how we did on floor; we beat Michigan in that event. Overall, except for pommel horse, everything wasn't too bad. With a couple of our gymnasts having a rough day, we couldn't expect to get our best score."