



COLLEGE GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION BIG TEN CONFERENCE

CGA Weekly Report
February 21, 2010
By Jerry Wright



TOM DUNN TO RETIRE FROM HIS POSITION AS HEAD MEN'S GYMNASTICS COACH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, AFTER THE 2010 SEASON!

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

The top-ranked Illini put together another solid performance Saturday night, defeating host No. 5 Penn State, 354.600-345.950. Illinois' previous high of 353.750 was recorded at the Windy City Invitational on Jan. 16 in the first meet of the season.

Paul Ruggeri led the way for the Illini with individual event titles in the all-around (87.800), parallel bars (15.550) and high bar (15.450), while his score on the parallel bars was a new career high and school record under the FIG Open Ended "Code of Points" introduced in 2008. He also placed second on floor exercise (15.350) and to place in a tie for fourth. He also finished in fifth in the vault (15.300) and high bar, equaling a career high (14.300).

Daniel Ribeiro won two event titles of his own on the night, including his fourth of the season on pommel horse with a season-high score of 15.800 and also added a first-place finish on vault (16.150), which he competed on for the first time in his collegiate career. His score in the event ranks second in school history.



"I was really impressed with Dan's performance tonight," Spring said. "He had been practicing vault on his own all season, so we threw him in there tonight and he stuck it."

C.J. Padera posted a pair of season-high scores on high bar (2nd; 14.700) and parallel bars (3rd; 14.900), in addition to a career-high 14.800 on floor, while Anthony Sacramento

placed second on rings with a season-high score of 14.800 and Tyler Mizoguchi finished in second place on vault with a career-best 16.000 and on parallel bars with a season-high score of 14.950.

Luke Stannard (PB; 14.550), Tyler Williamson (FX; 15.050) and Chad Wiest (PB; 14.450) each recorded career highs on the night as well, while Stannard also placed second on pommel horse (14.100) and third on floor with a season-high score of 15.100.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The No. 3-ranked University of Michigan men's gymnastics team fell to the No. 2-ranked Oklahoma Sooners, 354.450-354.000, on Saturday (Feb. 20) despite a sweep of the top four in the last rotation on the high bar inside Cliff Keen Arena. The Wolverines were led by event wins from Mel Anton Santander on the pommel horse and Thomas Kelley on the rings and high bar. Kelley also finished second in the all-around with a season best, 87.250. The Wolverines' Chris



Cameron competed in only two events.

The Wolverines began on the floor exercise where Syque Caesar started the night off with a bang, recording a career-best 15.150 and electrifying the crowd inside Cliff Keen. Kelley added a 14.850.

Phillip Goldberg was solid and steady as usual in the leadoff position on the pommel horse, giving the Wolverines a season-best 13.950. Santander put in a career-best effort that was nearly flawless for a 15.050 and the event title. After two events, the Wolverines trailed the Sooners, 115.950-117.800.

In rotation three, the Wolverines moved to the still rings where Kelley posted U-M's highest score, tying his career best with a 15.200. Goldberg added a 15.150 to lift Michigan to a 59.150 on the event. Kelley and Goldberg finished 1-2 for Michigan on the rings.

The Wolverines started to make up ground on vault in rotation four, posting a 62.550, a total that would have been Michigan's third best total a year ago, bringing Michigan within striking distance. Kent Caldwell his one-and-a-half twisting vault for a career-best 16.000 and second place on the event. Santander performed a clean double twisting vault (15.600) and received fifth place in his first appearance on the event this season.

However, the Wolverines could not keep the momentum going on the parallel bars, posting only a 55.900 in the fifth rotation. Kelley and Santander were Michigan's highest scorers with marks of 14.600 and 14.000, respectively.

In the final rotation, the Wolverines finally found their form with Kelley, Ryan McCarthy and Santander taking the top three spots on the high bar. Kelley amazed the crowd, capping off a near-perfect set with a stuck full twisting double layout dismount. McCarthy nailed his double flipping release move over the bar for a career-best 15.150, while Santander hit his second career best of the night on the high bar for a routine that had only six-tenths of point in deductions. The season-best total, 60.450, was too late and not enough to catch the Sooners.

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

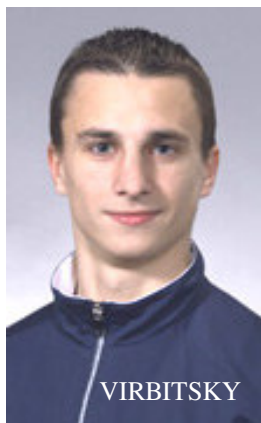
Penn State won one event as a team and two individually but could not keep pace with the depth and experience of Illinois and fell, 354.600-345.950, in a clash of Big Ten rivals on Saturday evening in Rec Hall.

While Penn State has relied on its solid freshman class for standout contributions thus far in 2010, the night belonged to the Nittany Lion veterans. Leading the way was Nick Virbitsky, who captured the floor exercise

Continued next page; See MPSF report for Pacific Coast Classic Results; See ECAC report for New England Champ. Results.



title with a personal and team season best score of 15.450. He also placed third in the high bar, again setting an individual and team season high, registering a 14.650. Miguel Pineda placed first in the still rings for the third time this season, posting a score of 14.900.



VIRBITSKY

As a team, Penn State claimed victory on the still rings, outscoring Illinois 58.550-56.250. However, inconsistency plagued the Nittany Lions again in the dual, as season high totals in the parallel bars (57.600) and high bar (57.400) were offset by a season low in the pommel horse (51.700).

Noam Shaham who has been hampered by an injury that has kept him out of recent meets, saw his most extensive action since the West Point Open on Jan. 15 and made an impact. He established a career high in the parallel bars, scoring a 14.650 to place fourth. Shaham also finished in fourth in the still rings (14.450), tying with freshman teammate Parker Raque.

Matt Albrecht who like Shaham has been slowed by injury of late, recorded a career best score of 15.050 in the floor exercise to place in a tie for fourth. He also finished in fifth in the vault (15.300) and high bar, equaling a career high (14.300).

Other key performances were turned in by freshmen Scott Rosenthal (third in still rings, 14.750) and Nick Grant (fourth in vault, 15.750), Matt Greenfield (fourth in high bar, 14.350), and redshirt freshman Philip Harris (fifth in parallel bars, 14.600).

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Despite posting the best event total on floor, pommel horse and high bar, Ohio State placed second at a quad-meet with a 346.600 late Sunday afternoon in Lincoln, Neb. Meet host and ninth-ranked Nebraska took first with a 348.250 while No. 11 UIC scored a 339.950 for third and No. 13 Air Force had a 332.700 for fourth in front of 650 fans in Devaney Center.

On floor, the Buckeyes posted a season-best 58.55 behind senior captain Justin Myers' 15.05, outscoring his previous career-high mark of 14.9 and claiming first. Mike Behles

continues to shrug off the so-called 'sophomore slump,' notching a career-high 14.5 while freshman Blaize Monks had a 14.7, another career high. Making his Buckeye debut was redshirt-freshman Elliott Hardy with a 13.25.

On PH Steven Spencer notched a season-high 15.1 to take first as the team hit its second season-best mark of the day with a 57.45 event score. Matt Rayl hit a career-high with a 14.45 and Ty Echard added a 14.250.

With just four up and four scoring on rings, Ohio State finished with a 54.75. Tai Lee and Philip Onorato tied for the team-best with a 14.65 while Behles added a 13.2 and Shachar Tal a 12.25. The squad was missing NCAA rings leader Bradon Wynn from its normal rings lineup.



LEE

But the Buckeyes bounced back with a 62.05 on vault, their second-best event total on the apparatus this year. Ohio State received 15.0 or better marks from five gymnasts with Onorato notching a 15.8 for second. Myers added a 15.75, his second season-high on the night, while Behles contributed a 15.45, Hardy a 15.05 and Lee a 15.0.

On parallel bars, the squad notched a 54.85 behind a pair of 13.9s from Myers and Spencer before shaking off the rotation and posting a season-best 58.95 on high bar. Lee added yet another career high for the Buckeyes with a 15.3. The 15.3 also ties the Ohio State program-record high bar score first hit by Jake Bateman (2006-09) in 2009. Sean Regan hit a career best himself with a 14.75 on the event as Myers added a 14.7 and Onorato a 14.05.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

The University of Iowa placed fourth out of six teams Saturday night at the Pacific Coast Classic in Oakland, CA. The Hawkeye team scored 331.050. Japan won the meet scoring 358.800.

Mike Jiang led Iowa pommel horse placing ninth (14.050) and parallel bars (13.550). Freshman Matt McGrath scored Iowa's high marks in floor exercise (14.500) and rings (14.500). Jon Buese finished in seventh in the all around (82.800).



JIANG

"We need to continue to improve our start values, but at the same time we need to work hard on reducing our execution errors," Head Coach Tom Dunn said. "The judges were very strict on execution in this competition and we need to learn from our experience this weekend. We have plenty to focus on and 2 weeks to make adjustments prior to our meet in Carver-Hawkeye Arena with Illinois March 7th."

NATIONAL TEAM SCORES FOR THE PAST WEEK.

Stanford	354.70
Illinois	354.60
Oklahoma	354.45
Michigan	354.00
California	349.45
Nebraska	348.25
Ohio State	346.60
Penn State	345.95
Ill-Chicago	339.95
Temple	334.70
Air Force	332.70
Springfield	331.30
Iowa	331.05
William/Mary	329.55
Army	325.65