



COLLEGE GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION BIG TEN CONFERENCE CGA Weekly Report

Feb. 5, 2012

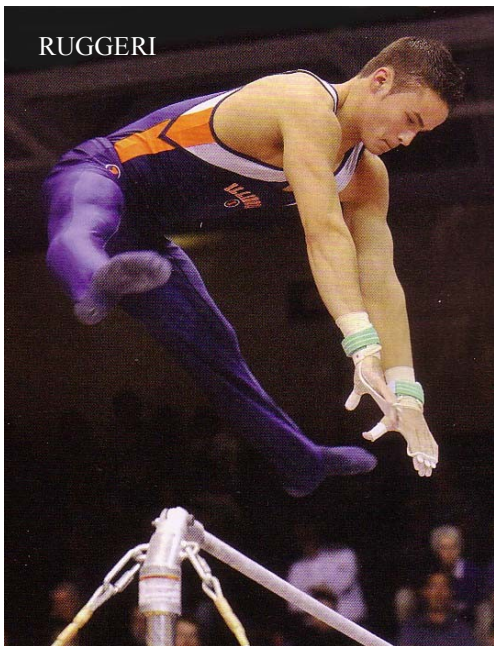
Compiled by Jerry Wright



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Three members of the second-ranked Fighting Illini men's gymnastics team advanced to Session III at the 2012 U.S. Winter Cup Challenge Thursday night at the Las Vegas Sports Center. Seniors Tyler Mizoguchi and Paul Ruggeri and freshman C. J. Maestas will each compete in the final round on Saturday for a chance to retain their spots on the U.S. men's senior national team. The competition will begin at 9:30 p.m. CT.

Ruggeri led the Illini gymnasts in the preliminary session with an 86.200 all-around score to rank seventh overall and fourth in National Team Points with 25. The Manlius, N.Y., native finished in the top four on three events with a season-high 14.700 on floor (fourth), 16.100 on vault (third) and 15.300 on high bar (third).



RUGGERI

Meanwhile, Maestas finished day one in first on rings (15.450) and eighth on pommel horse (13.850) to earn an 85.400 in the all-around (10th), ranking 13th in National Team Points with 14. Mizoguchi had a solid night as well, ranking 12th in the all-around (84.600) and 28th in National Team Points (2) with the ninth-highest score on parallel bars (14.650).

Illini volunteer assistant coach David Sender also advanced to the final round, ranking sixth in the all-around (86.350), first on vault (16.250) and third on rings (14.950), earning 20 National Team Points to rank fifth.

Fighting Illini redshirt senior Paul Ruggeri captured the bronze medal on floor and fin-

ished in the top four on three events to earn a spot on the U.S. senior national team for the fourth time in his career late Saturday night at the 2012 U.S. Winter Cup Challenge. Freshman C. J. Maestas was selected to the team by committee following a silver-medal finish on rings, while Ruggeri and Illinois volunteer assistant coach David Sender earned automatic spots based on the national team point system.

Ruggeri finished third on floor with a two-day combined total of 29.250 and just missed additional trips to the podium with fourth-place finishes on vault (32.300) and high bar (29.550). The seven-time All-American also finished seventh in the all-around with a combined 171.450, earning 52 national team points to secure his place on Team USA.

Meanwhile, Maestas captured silver on rings (30.000), tied for 10th on vault (31.300) and finished 12th in the all-around (168.900) to help him make the senior national team for the third time in his career. Illini senior Tyler Mizoguchi also competed in the Winter Cup finals, placing 10th on rings (28.550).

Sender, who joined the Illini this year as a volunteer assistant coach, made two trips to the podium, placing second on vault (32.400) and third on rings (29.950). Sender also took sixth on high bar (28.800) and in the all-around (173.550) and eighth on parallel bars (28.750) to secure 55 national team points and ensure his spot on the national team for the 11th time in his career and first since 2009.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

One current and two former members of the Ohio State men's gymnastics team advanced to the finals of the 2012 Winter Cup Thursday evening at the LV Center in Las Vegas, Nev. Brandon Wynn, a two-time rings national champion (2008-11), senior co-captain Ty Echard and Tai Lee (2007-10) all advanced to the finals set for 7:15 p.m. PST Saturday.

The three Buckeyes will have a chance to make one of eight spots available on the U.S. senior men's national team.

Wynn, who will look to make his third-consecutive U.S. national team, finished fourth in the all-around competition in the prelims with an 87.000. Wynn claimed Top 10 finishes on three events, including a second-place finish on rings (15.35), a sixth-place mark on parallel bars (14.95) and a seventh-place finish on high bar (14.400). Wynn also notched a 15.60 vault score to tie for 11th overall.

Echard, the only current Buckeye to participate in the Winter Cup, posted a 14.750 score on pommel horse to place fourth overall in the competition.



ECHARD

Lee, a 2007 First Team All-Big Ten selection, collected a 13.950 on high bar to tie for 12th overall, while claiming a 15.200 score on vault for 20th overall in the prelims.

Former Buckeye Brandon Wynn (2008-11), a two-time NCAA rings champion, was selected to the U.S. Senior Men's National Team following his performance in the finals at the 2012 Winter Cup Challenge Saturday. The two-time defending U.S. rings champion, Wynn notched a 175.000 two-day all-around total, including an 88.000 in the finals for third overall at the elite national event.

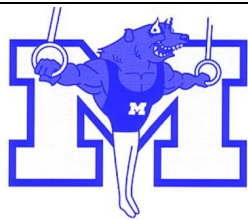
Wynn won the rings national title with a 30.950 two-day total, including a meet-high 15.600 in the finals.

Overall, along with his rings title, Wynn claimed three additional Top 10 marks, including a third-place finish on parallel bars (29.700) and two eighth-place finishes on vault (31.450) and high bar (28.700). The former Buckeye also claimed a 27.950 two-day total on floor exercise for 13th overall in the competition.

Also competing in the finals, were senior co-captain Ty Echard and former Buckeye Tai Lee (2007-10).

Echard, a two-time All-American, finished third overall on pommel horse with a 30.250 two-day total. The OSU captain posted the second-highest score in the finals on pommel horse with a 15.500.

Continued next page: See the MPSF report for Winter Cup individual event results.



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Three current members of the University of Michigan along with one future and one former Wolverine, were in action during day one of the 2012 Winter Cup Challenge on Thursday (Feb. 2), highlighted by freshman Adrian de los Angeles who led the way with a third-place finish on vault inside the Las Vegas Sports Center.

Sophomore Sam Mikulak placed fourth on high bar, fifth on parallel bars, and sixth on rings in session two of competition.

Another freshman, Stacey Ervin earned a ninth-place finish on vault, while former Wolverine and current administrative assistant Ian Makowske (2008-11) placed ninth on high bar.

Sitting in 13th place in the all-around is de los Angeles with a score of 84.45, which was aided by a career-high 16.10 on vault. Additionally, the freshman placed 11th on floor (14.30), 14th on pommel horse (13.55) and 17th on parallel bars (14.25) in his first major individual competition in Maize and Blue.

Mikulak, an Olympic hopeful who continues to work his way back from several nagging injuries forcing him out of the all-around competition, earned a 14.80 on high bar for fourth, a 15.25 on parallel bars for fifth, and 14.50 on rings for sixth to qualify for the finals in all three events.



MIKULAK

Ervin scored a career-best 15.70 on vault for ninth place to move to the event finals. Additionally, his night was highlighted by a 13.95 on the floor exercise, which placed him 17th in the star-studded competition.

Makowske competed in a pair of events, floor and high bar. In his signature event, he scored a 14.25 on high bar for a ninth-place finish, which advances him to the event finals.

Sophomore Sam Mikulak and freshman

Adrian de los Angeles of the University of Michigan earned spots on the United States National Team for their performances on day two of the Winter Cup Challenge Saturday (Feb. 5) at the Las Vegas Sports Center.

Mikulak earned his spot on the team after placing in the top 10 in three of his four events, led by a 15.10 on parallel bars, which was good enough for second place. The sophomore also tied for seventh on still rings (14.70) and scored a 13.95 on high bar for seventh.

Rookie de los Angeles placed 10th in the all-around, with a second-day score of 85.05. The freshman placed fifth on vault with a 15.75 and eighth on pommel horse (14.40) en route to earning one of three wild-card selections to the squad. Additionally, he placed 11th on parallel bars with a 14.35 tally.

Also in competition for U-M on day two was freshman Stacey Ervin, who led all Michigan competitors with a 14.55 on floor, which tied him for sixth place on the exercise. He followed up his solid performance on floor with a 15.45 on vault, which tied him for 13th place.

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Penn State men's gymnasts Parker Raque.) and Miguel Pineda advanced to the finals of the 2012 Winter Cup Challenge based on their performances in preliminary competition on Thursday evening at the LV Sports Center in Las Vegas, Nev.

Based on the points program implemented by USA Gymnastics, Raque placed 39th and 40th, respectively, each with nine points. The top 42 competitors advanced to the finals.

Raque recorded two top 10 performances, placing ninth (tie) in the still rings (14.150) and 10th (tie) (15.550) in the vault, en route to a score of 80.000 and a 13th-place finish in the session II all-around. Overall, the two-time junior All-American placed 27th in the all-around.

Pineda, Penn State's senior team captain, had the Nittany Lions' top showing in the preliminaries placing eighth in the still rings (14.250). He finished 23rd in the all-around among session II competitors and 41st overall.

Sophomore Wasef Burbar competed in five events, placing 20th in the high bar (12.550), the event he earned All-America honors in 2011, and the pommel horse (12.150).

Penn State's Parker Raque and Miguel Pineda concluded competition at the 2012 Winter Cup Challenge on Saturday night in

Las Vegas.

Based on combined scores from the preliminary and finals sessions, Raque placed 26th in the all-around (156.900) while Pineda finished in 28th (154.800).



RAQUE

In individual events, Raque's top showing came in the vault, finishing tied for 17th (31.000). Pineda's highest finish was in the still rings, placing 24th (26.400).

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

A strong showing on the pommel horse moved freshman Ellis Mannon into the final round of competition at the Winter Cup in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mannon and teammate DJ Repp qualified for the USAG sponsored meet, which selects gymnasts to the National Team. There were 84 competitors in this year's event.

Repp had a strong showing in the preliminary round. Despite it being his strongest meet of the season so far, he was unable to qualify for the second day of competition.

The high bar was his highest placing event, where he finished 29th with a score of 13.2. He also scored a 15.15 on the vault and finished in 30th place.

Mannon qualified for the final round by virtue of his third place finish on pommel horse. He scored a 14.9 with his performance.

Mannon, who received 18 points for his third place pommel horse routine, was 25th in the standings after the first day of performances. Repp did finish ahead of Mannon in the all-around, but did not receive any top 20 points on any of the events.



MANNON

Continued next page...

Ellis Mannon ended up with an outstanding showing at the Winter Cup Challenge this weekend in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The freshman moved up from 34th to 25th in the all-around standings after the final round of performances. His all-around score improved from a 77.85 to 80.30.

Although he didn't perform quite as well on the pommel horse, in the finals, as he did during the preliminary round, his 13.95 score landed him a fifth place finish on the pommel horse event.