

Gymnasts of the Week – Feb. 20-26, 2012

Awards are given by conference offices

Big Ten Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Sarah Miller, Ohio State

- Earned three top-two finishes, winning two event titles against No. 10 Penn State
- Finished first on the balance beam (9.900) and the vault (9.875), and tied for second in the floor exercise (9.900)
- Led the 11th-ranked Buckeyes to a win over the Nittany Lions
- Earns her first Big Ten Gymnast of the Week award

Freshman of the Week

Sachi Sugiyama, Michigan

- Earned three top-four finishes against No. 2 Oklahoma and Texas Woman's University
 - Finished second in the all-around with a season-high score of 39.250
 - Tied for third on the vault (9.900), tied for fourth in the floor exercise (9.850) and tied for sixth on bars (9.825)
 - Wins her first weekly Big Ten award
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Big 12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Mary Burke, Missouri

Setting a personal all-around record with a 39.475 score, Burke captured the title Friday as the Tigers rolled Bowling Green 196.250-193.825. Burke earned a share of the vault and bars titles after recording a 9.875 on both apparatuses. She notched a 9.825 to place second on beam and boasted a 9.900 on floor earning second. The senior ranks 13th in the nation in the all-around competition, and is also tied for 20th on vault and 26th on the uneven bars.

Specialist of the Week

Megan Ferguson, Oklahoma

Ferguson led the Sooners to their fifth team score of 197.000 or better this year, making them the only team in the NCAA to do so. The Olathe, Kan.-native took home the top spot in each event she competed. Posting a career-high 9.975 on beam, Ferguson became the first gymnast in the country this season to reach the mark on the apparatus. She went on to claim the bars title with a season-high-tying 9.925 and floor title with a 9.925. Ferguson has registered a 9.9 or higher 15 times this season, including 12 of her last 15 routines. She currently is the top-ranked gymnast in the nation on beam, second on floor and third on bars. The senior leads the Big 12 in all three events.

Newcomer of the Week

Rachel Updike, Missouri

Updike matched her career-high score on beam and floor Friday evening to take top honors in both events. The freshman tabbed a 9.850 on beam and a 9.925 on floor en route to her individual wins. In the nation, she ranks 29th on vault, 44th on beam and 36th on the floor exercise. Updike's seven weekly honors surpasses former Tiger Sarah Shire (six) for the most weekly accolades received by an MU gymnast.

East Atlantic Gymnastics League

Gymnast of the Week

Ali Carr, New Hampshire

The senior co-captain was instrumental in the Wildcats' season-high 195.75 points in an upset victory against No. 23 West Virginia last Saturday night at Lundholm Gymnasium. Carr began the meet by recording the Wildcats' top finish on vault, where she hit for a 9.825 to tie for fourth place. The Chelmsford, Mass., native then scored a 9.9 on uneven bars, where she placed second and helped guide UNH to 49.1 points, its highest bar score of the season. She capped her night by establishing a first-place 9.9 on balance beam to headline a team tally of 48.925, matching UNH's top beam score of the year.

Specialist of the Week

Rachel Fincham, North Carolina State

Fincham tied a career-high with a 9.9 on bars to lead the Wolfpack to a new season-high of 49.225 in the event. The Wolfpack junior claimed first place on bars, while collecting second place finishes on beam and floor. Fincham, from Gambrells, Md., scored a 9.875 on beam and a 9.825 on floor both of which were good for second place honors. On floor, Fincham performed her first routine of the season and also recorded a new career-high.

Rookie of the Week

Lane Jarred, North Carolina State

Lane Jarred followed up a great performance on beam in last week's meet with another stellar performance scoring a 9.875, good for second in the event. Jarred also competed on floor posting a score of 9.775.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division I

Gymnast of the Week

Kacy Catanzaro, Towson University

Catanzaro led Towson University to its second-highest team score of the season (193.925) as the Tigers took third place in a quad meet at No. 19 North Carolina State. She led the Tigers to their top road score of the year by posting a career-high 39.25 all-around score. While posting the eighth-highest all-around score in program history, she finished third in the meet. Catanzaro also established a career high with a 9.90 vault score as she finished second. She tied for fifth place on the uneven parallel bars with a 9.80 score and matched her career-high with a 9.825 score on the balance beam as she tied for fourth place. She also finished 13th on the floor exercise with a 9.725 score. It marked the third time in the last four meets that she earned an all-around score of 39.00 or higher.

Rookie of the Week

Maggie Lundeen, College of William & Mary

Lundeen established career highs on both the uneven parallel bars (9.725) and the floor exercise (9.800). She helped the team earn its best overall score of the season (192.400). Lundeen also helped William & Mary earn a season-high on bars (48.725), which was the eighth-best score in school history in the event. The squad also earned a season-high 48.650 on the floor.

Specialist of the Week

Laura DiPaolo, University of Pennsylvania

DiPaolo placed third on the vault at the Ivy Classic. She was instrumental in helping Penn win the Ivy Classic for the second year in a row. In the ECAC, she is ranked sixth on the vault.

Coaches' Choice

Britney Russell, Towson University

Competing on three events for the first time since January 22, Russell helped the Tigers post their second-highest score of the season. Bothered by back spasms, she had not competed on the floor exercise since January 22. In her first meet back, she finished 11th with a 9.75. She also matched her career high on the vault, finishing 15th with a 9.75. On the balance beam, she posted a career-high 9.775 to take seventh place.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division II

Gymnast of the Week

Monica Mesalles Sallares, University of Bridgeport

Mesalles Sallares recorded a record-setting performance on Saturday night at the Division I-dominated Rutgers University Quadrangular, which featured the host Scarlet Knights, Eastern Michigan and Air Force. She led the Purple Knights to first place in the team standings with a 193.875 score, taking home the all-around competition for the third straight week with a 39.25 combined score. She earned two first-place finishes on the vault (9.9) and floor exercise (9.925), establishing a UB record in the latter event. She also tied for second on the balance beam (9.8) and was 11th on the uneven parallel bars (9.625). This is the third time this season that she has earned the gymnast of the week award.

Specialist of the Week

Kaley LaFleur, West Chester University,

LaFleur had another amazing meet for the Golden Rams. She hit her career best mark on the balance beam with a first-place finish of 9.85, leading WCU to setting the team record in the event. She also was second in the floor exercise (9.575) and eighth on the vault (9.375). WCU (189.15) defeated Ursinus (187.2), Rhode Island College (173.975) and Wilson (161.525) on Friday night.

Rookie of the Week

Stephanie Schuler, West Chester Univ.

For the second straight week, Schuler is the rookie of the week. She claimed first place in the all-around (38.050) and on the vault (9.7). She also posted solid finishes on the bars (third, 9.425), balance beam (fourth, 9.5) and floor exercise (sixth, 9.425).

Coaches' Pick of the Week

Alli Aquila, West Chester Univ.

Aquila performed in an outstanding fashion on Senior Day in her final home appearance at Sturzebecker Hall. She placed first on the bars with a career-best score of 9.55. She also was third on both the vault and floor exercise with identical 9.55 scores. She has been an amazing competitor for West Chester the last four years.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division III

Gymnast of the Week

Elizabeth Levy, College at Brockport

Elizabeth helped Brockport narrowly beat Cortland by .8 in a rivalry meet, 189.525 to 188.725. She placed second in the bars competition. The Golden Eagles scored the second-best total points mark in school history to upset the No. 1-ranked Red Dragons on Saturday.

Rookie of the Week

Meagan Phelan, SUNY Cortland

Meagan posted a career-best 9.575 in winning her only event she entered against in-state rival Brockport.

Specialist of the Week**Taylor Wierzba, College at Brockport**

Taylor scored a season high on the beam and tied her season high in the floor exercise. It was a competitive meet as Brockport and Cortland both recorded season high team scores.

Coaches' Choice**Caitlin Elliott, Rhode Island College,**

Against West Chester, Ursinus and Wilson, Caitlin scored her highest beam score of the season at 9.0 and second-highest on the vault at 9.15. She has returned to RIC's beam lineup after recovering from a significant foot injury last season.

Mid American Conference

Gymnast of the Week**Lauren Bledsoe, Western Michigan**

Lauren Bledsoe recorded scores of 9.900 on vault and floor exercise, placing first in each and tallied a 9.725 on the uneven bars, taking third. Bledsoe's 9.900 on vault tied the second-highest score in school history, and helped WMU break the school team vault record, as WMU totaled a 49.175 in the event. Bledsoe's 9.900 on floor exercise tied the third highest score in program history. Both of her 9.900's were career and team season highs. Western Michigan defeated Ball State, 194.225 to 191.600, to improve to 7-1 overall and 4-1 in the MAC.

Co-Specialists of the Week**Tori Garcia, Central Michigan**

Central Michigan freshman Tori Garcia revamped her vault routine this week and it paid dividends Sunday as she went out and scored a career-best 9.800 to help the Chippewas claim their second-straight Mid-American Conference regular season title. Garcia's previous best mark was a 9.675 at Eastern Michigan on Feb. 3, but the freshman blew it away with her performance Sunday, finishing third in the event behind teammates Meaghan McWhorter and Kristin Teubner who each scored 9.825.

Hannah Brooks, Western Michigan

Hannah Brooks recorded a career-best 9.850 on vault, finishing fourth, and helping Western Michigan break the school team vault record with a 49.175. She also finished runner-up on balance beam with a 9.650. Western Michigan defeated Ball State, 194.225 to 191.600, to improve to 7-1 overall and 4-1 in the MAC.

Midwest Independent Conference

All-Arounder of the Week**Megan Fosnow, Southeast Missouri State**

Fosnow was tabbed the Midwest Independent Conference's Gymnast of the Week after recording a career-high 38.975 in the all-around to lead the Redhawks to a 194.375-193.650 dual victory over Illinois State last Friday. The sophomore scored 9.725 or better on all four events against the Red Birds, topping out at a season-high tying 9.800 on bars.

Specialist of the Week

Kimberly Randall, Illinois-Chicago

Randall posted a 9.850 on the vault to lead the Flames, along with junior Chantel Turk (Hazelcrest, Ill./Gym Kinetics), who posted the same score. UIC defeated Illinois on the event in a 48.950-48.900 outcome.

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

Gymnast of the Week

Katie Yamamura, UC Davis

UC Davis junior Katie Yamamura (Palo Alto, CA) claimed two event titles, plus the all-around (39.050), in the dual win at Seattle-Pacific. She surpassed 39 all-around for the third time this year, backed by a career-high bars routine (9.85), and her second title of the night on vault (9.775). Yamamura added third-place floor (9.75) and beam (9.675) routines.

Pac-12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Vanessa Zamarripa, UCLA

Junior Vanessa Zamarripa helped lead UCLA to the highest team score in the country this year, scoring a 198.050 against Arizona State. The O'Fallon, Ill., native won the all-around, scoring a team season-high 39.625. Zamarripa also recorded season-high scores of 9.925 scores on the beam and floor, placing first and third, respectively.

Special Performance of the Week

Kyndal Robarts, Utah

Kyndal Robarts had the best performance of her career on vault, scoring a 9.975, including a 10.0 from one judge. The senior from San Marcos, Texas, scored a 9.875 on the beam to tie for first place. Robarts, who has returned after suffering a season-ending knee injury a year ago, also tied for first on the balance beam with her 9.875.

Southeastern Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Kytra Hunter, Florida

Hunter won the all-around, vault and floor titles in a win over No. 3 Georgia last week. She led the nation's all-around competitors when she posted the Gators' season-best all-around total of 39.675 to take her fourth all-around win of the season. Her AA total shares the nation's third highest total of 2012. Hunter also equaled her collegiate vault best of 9.95 to take her third vault title of the season. She also turned in a 9.95 to take her fifth title in her seventh floor appearance.

Freshman of the Week

Rheagan Courville, LSU

Courville won her third all-around title of the season as she scored a 39.450 against third-ranked Alabama, beating Gerialen Stack-Eaton's 39.400. Courville posted second-place finishes on vault

and floor with 9.90's, giving her 12 scores of 9.90 or higher this season. Her 9.825 scores on bars and beam were the second-highest in each event for LSU against the Crimson Tide.

Western Athletic Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Moriah Martin, Denver

Martin, a sophomore from Lake Mary, Fla. (Lake Mary HS) tallied a career-high 39.425 in the all-around in the Pioneers victory over Sacramento State on Saturday. Martin won the vault and floor titles as well, recording 9.900 in both events. The sophomore added a 9.875 on bars and a 9.750 on beam.

Specialist of the Week

Louise Mercer, Denver

Mercer, a senior from Nottingham, England (The Becket School) inked her name into the DU record books on Saturday, tying 2009 DU graduate and Venezuelan Olympian Jessica Lopez for the third-best bars score in school history with a 9.975. Mercer's bars performance earned her a second-consecutive title in the event.

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Specialist

Siri Wischmann, UW-Whitewater

Wischmann recorded two personal highs in a dual meet against Gustavus Adolphus College (Minn.) on Feb. 25. She posted a 9.5 on the balance beam (first place), a 9.525 on the vault (second place) and a 9.4 on the floor exercise (sixth place). Wischmann has been a huge part of UW-Whitewater's success this year. She has been suffering from a wrist injury that has limited her training, but she continues to push forward for the team and has done so on three events all season.

All-Around

Danielle Schulzetenberg, UW-Eau Claire

Schulzetenberg won three events and took first in the all-around competition as the Blugolds defeated UW-Oshkosh 183.000-178.575. She recorded season-best marks in the all-around, floor exercise, uneven bars and balance beam. Schulzetenberg was first in the all-around with a score of 36.750 and had a 9.600 in the floor exercise. On the balance beam, she recorded a 9.575 and finished with a 9.325 on the vault. She also had a season-high 8.250 on the uneven bars as she took ninth place.