



COLLEGE GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

CGA Weekly Report



March 18, 2012
Compiled by Jerry Wright

TEAM RANKINGS BY SEASON AVE.

Oklahoma	356.267
Stanford	354.233
Illinois	353.683
Penn State	352.667
Ohio State	347.450
Minnesota	346.567
Michigan	345.450
California	345.233
Nebraska	341.950
Temple	340.300
Air Force	337.967
Iowa	335.700
Ill-Chicago	334.433
Army	332.333
William/Mary	328.833
Navy	327.767
Arizona State*	325.550
Springfield	323.200
Brockport*	282.200
Washington*	257.467

*=club teams.

PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Penn State gave the 2,400-plus fans that packed Rec Hall on Saturday a night to remember, as the Nittany Lions established two program records and registered the nation's highest score in a decisive 359.300-347.900 victory over No. 6 Minnesota.

Penn State's team total surpassed the previous season high of 357.050 held by No. 1 Oklahoma by over two points and ranks third in the Nittany Lion record book (in the FIG scoring era). For the second time this year, Penn State broke the program record in the pommel horse (59.900) and still rings (62.400).

In the victory, which was Penn State's third straight over a Big Ten opponent, the Nittany Lions won all six events as a team, setting season highs in five of them. Penn State also captured individual titles in every event, led by junior Parker Raque, who placed first in the floor exercise (15.800) and vault (15.100).

Junior Felix Aronovich put on a phenomenal performance, claiming the all-around with a score of 89.400, easily topping his previous career high of 87.150. He posted career bests in three events (floor exercise, pommel horse, still rings) and earned a share of the parallel bars title en route to the nation's fourth-

highest all-around score this season. For his standout efforts, Aronovich was honored with the meet's Gene Wettstone Award.



ARONOVICH

Other Penn State event winners included freshman Craig Hernandez (pommel horse), junior Scott Rosenthal (still rings), and sophomore Wasef Burbar (high bar).

Penn State's first rotation was a harbinger of things to come, as all six floor exercise competitors either tied or set career high scores. Raque's winning score of 15.800 improved upon his previous personal best by .4 of a point. Junior Matt Chelberg (Athens, Ohio) tied for second place with a score of 15.100.

The Nittany Lions remained locked in throughout the next two rotations, following their floor exercise effort with back-to-back impressive performances in the pommel horse and still rings. Behind Hernandez's winning pommel horse score of 15.600, Aronovich placed second (15.100) and sophomore Preston Gall (14.800) took third.

Rosenthal secured his sixth still rings title of the season with a score of 15.900 and was followed in the standings by four teammates, senior Miguel Pineda (15.700), Raque (15.500), redshirt sophomore Nihir Kothari (15.300), and Aronovich (15.300).

Kothari was also key to Penn State's fortunes in the parallel bars, placing third with a score that surpassed his previous career best by .7 of a point (14.700). Senior Warren Yang shined in his penultimate home appearance, tying a career high in the high bar (14.800) to share second place with Aronovich.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

The third-ranked Fighting Illini captured a convincing 350.450-337.800 victory over No. 12 Iowa Saturday night at Carver Hawkeye Arena to close out the regular season. As a team, the Orange and Blue won all six events, while freshman C.J. Maestas took home three

event titles en route to his fourth all-around crown this season.

The Illini got off to a solid start on pommel horse, sweeping the top four spots. Junior Yoshi Mori led the Illinois effort with his fourth crown of the season and second on that apparatus with a 14.750, followed by sophomore Cole Smith (second; 14.450), senior C.J. Padera (third; 14.350) and Maestas (fourth; 14.300).

The Orange and Blue continued that success with a season-best floor performance (60.400), highlighted by Maestas' first title of the night with a 15.600. Juniors Mori and Vince Smurro tied for second with 14.950s, marking Smurro's season high, while Padera rounded out the top four with a season-best 14.900.

On vault, Maestas took home his second title of the evening and first on vault this year, tying sophomore Alex Varga with a 14.700. The win marked Varga's first crown this season and second in his career.

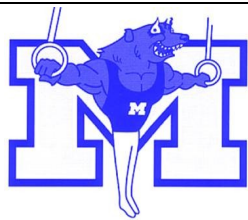


MAESTAS

The Illini had a solid night on rings as well, as Maestas hit for a 15.600 to collect his team-leading sixth rings title of 2012. Meanwhile, senior Anthony Sacramento took third with a 14.600. Senior Kyle Moe, junior Austin Phillips and freshman Mike Wilner tied for fourth (14.300).

Sophomore Jordan Valdez led the Illini on parallel bars, capturing his third title of the year with a season-high 15.150. Smurro finished second with a career-best 14.600, while Padera tied for fourth (14.450).

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The Illini ended the night by sweeping the top three spots on high bar. Phillips collected his second title of the season and first on that apparatus this year with a 14.600, followed by Padera, who took second with a 14.250. Valdez captured his second top-three finish of the night with a 14.200 to finish third.

In the all-around, C.J. Maestas took home his fourth crown of the night with an 86.700, matching his career-high single-meet title total. With the win, Maestas leads the team this season in both all-around (four) and overall (16) titles. Meanwhile, Mori finished second, shattering his season-high all-around score with an 85.550.

Redshirt senior Paul Ruggeri, who led the Illini with 15 titles prior to this meet, did not make the trip to Iowa and instead left for Cottbus, Germany Sunday morning to represent Team USA at the Cottbus World Cup, which takes place March 22-25.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The sixth-ranked Minnesota Gophers tallied a new season-high on Saturday against No. 4 Penn State. But Minnesota's 347.9 was not enough to get them past the Nittany Lions who put up a 359.3, the nation's highest score of the season so far.

The Gophers opened the meet on the pommel horse, an event they struggled on last weekend. They saw a great improvement from their last meet, going six for six on the event. They were led by John Scallon who scored a 14.3.

On their next event, the floor exercise, Harris Coleman tied for second with a 15.1. The score was a new season-high for Coleman.

The vault was not as sharp as it has been in recent competitions, but Minnesota was still able to get four good scores to earn them a team score of 58.8.

DJ Repp finished in second with a 14.9, and Adam LaFleur tied for third with a 14.8.

On the still rings Russell Dabritz tied his season-high score of 15.2. Dabritz also scored a 14.9 on the parallel bars, tying him for first on the event. It was Minnesota's only first

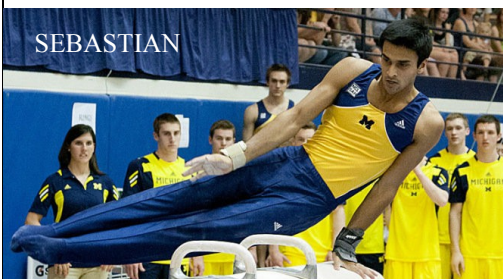


place finish of the evening.

Steve Jaciuk was the top scorer for the Gophers on the high bar. He posted a 14.7, which was a new career-high for the freshman. Dabritz finished behind him with a 14.6.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The No. 7-ranked University of Michigan men's gymnastics team (342.800) overwhelmed the No. 13 UIC Flames (325.450) on Saturday (March 17) in the final home meet of 2012 at Cliff Keen Arena, with junior Rohan Sebastian winning the all-around with a 84.05.



Michigan led off on floor, where freshman Stacey Ervin won the first individual title of his career as he nailed his backward pike skill, wowing the home contingent en route to scoring a career-best 15.25 on the exercise. Classmate Adrian de los Angeles aided in the 59.30 U-M team score with a 15.05 to mark the third straight meet he has eclipsed the 15 plateau on floor.

U-M took to pommel horse in the second rotation, where sophomore Matt Freeman paced the Wolverine effort with a 14.00, while classmate Dylan James matched the 14.00 to share third place.

Michigan elected to only enter five competitors on rings, an event that the Wolverines took the top four spots in. Alex Bubnov led the Michigan charge with a 14.50 for 1st place, while Sebastian took second with a 14.40. Sophomore Jordan Gaarenstroom chipped in a 14.05 to round out the top three finishers for the Wolverines.

The Wolverines moved to the vault competition in the fourth rotation, where Ervin took his second event title on the night with a 15.20. He was followed by de los Angeles in second with a 14.45 as the Wolverines took the top five spots.

On parallel bars, freshman Nick Hunter used a 14.40 to take a second place.

Michigan closed out the victory on high bar, where U-M claimed the top four spots in the event, as Michael Strathern won the event

with a 14.25.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

No. 9 Nebraska picked up a second place overall finish on Saturday night, tallying a team score of 341.550. The No. 1 Oklahoma Sooners finished in first with a mark of 352.400, while No. 11 Air Force came in third at 327.950.

Nebraska began the evening on still rings and the Huskers were paced by sophomore Donovan Arndt, who hit a season-best mark of 14.70. Redshirt freshman Robbie Kocks added his own personal-best of 14.25, while junior Wyatt Baier added a mark of 13.55.

The Huskers took to floor next, powering their way to a new season-high team mark of 59.250. Freshman Grant Perdue picked up a new personal-best of 15.20 to lead the Big Red, while senior Andreas Hofer added a 14.95 and sophomore Mark Ringle tacked on a 14.65.

The third rotation saw NU on pommel horse, where nationally-ranked sophomore Eric Schryver hit a team-leading score of 14.20. Sophomores Wyatt Aycock and C.J. Schaaf added respective marks of 14.10 and 13.25.



On high bar the Huskers were led by freshman Josh Ungar's mark of 14.50. Senior Will Eastman hit a 14.30 for the Big Red and freshman Connor Stillwell added a 13.95.

The Huskers moved to vault for their fifth rotation. Baier paced Nebraska, hitting a score of 14.90. Perdue added a mark of 14.70, while Aycock and Ungar each contributed a 14.40 for the Big Red.

Nebraska competed on parallel bars for their final rotation of the evening as Nationally-ranked Ringle led the way with a solid mark of 14.60, while Schryver tacked on a 14.20 and Aycock added a 14.05.

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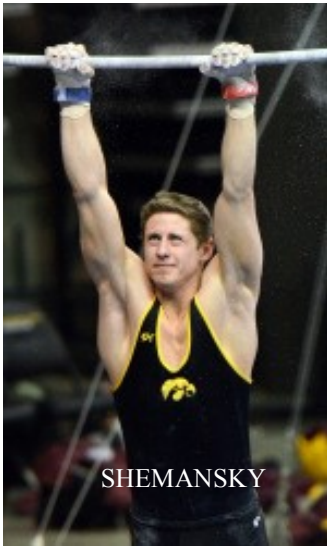
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

around in five meets this season.

No. 12 University of Iowa fell to third-rated Illinois, 350.450-337.800, Saturday evening inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena.

The Hawkeyes started the competition on floor exercise and they were led by junior Broderick Shemansky, who set a career best score on the event with a 14.500. Junior Matt McGrath (14.400), junior Anton Gryshayev (13.800) and sophomore Angelo Bronzino (13.600) also paced the Hawkeyes.

Junior Javier Balboa led Iowa on the pommel horse with a 14.050. Balboa, who has competed on all-around four times this sea-



son, didn't compete in any other event as the Monterrey, Mexico native is battling injuries. Shemansky (13.900), Gryshayev (13.750) and senior Adam Wilson (13.600) round out the other counting Iowa scores.

The Hawkeyes had two top-four finishes on rings as Gryshayev earned runner-up honors and McGrath placed fourth. Gryshayev scored a 14.850 to place second only to Illinois' C.J. Maestas. McGrath scored a 14.300 to place tied for fourth. Bronzino (14.000) and Shemansky (13.800) also paced Iowa on the event.

Gryshayev and McGrath also led the way on vault as each placed tied for third. Both had scores of 14.650 to led Iowa on event. Shemansky (14.400) placed fifth. Bronzino scored a 13.800 to round out the counting scores.

Freshman Mitchell Landau led the Hawkeyes on parallel bars, posting a 14.500 on the event to place third. Sophomore Jack McClay placed tied for fourth, scoring a career best mark of 14.450 on the event. McGrath (13.800) and Gryshayev (13.250) also paced Iowa on parallel bars.

Iowa finished the meet by setting a new season best team score on high bar, scoring a 55.750 to edge out its previous best mark. The Hawkeyes were led by Bronzino and sophomore Samuel Wright on the event, as each scored a 14.100 to place tied for fourth. The score tied a new career best mark for Bronzino, and set a new career best mark for Wright. Iowa was also led by freshman Brandon Field (13.850) and Landau (13.700) on the event.

Shemansky placed third on all-around, scoring an 80.750. Shemansky has competed all-