

Gymnasts of the Week – Feb. 11-18, 2013

Awards are given by conference offices

Big Ten Conference

Co-Gymnasts of the Week

Alina Weinstein, Illinois

- Finished first in the all-around (39.600) and placed in the top three in every event in No. 21 Illinois' dual meet victory over Iowa last weekend
- Placed first on the vault (9.875), balance beam (9.875) and floor exercise (9.975) and third on bars (9.875)
- Her scores in the all-around and floor exercise are all-time Illini records

Joanna Sampson, Michigan

- Finished first in the all-around (39.600) and placed in the top six in every event in No. 3 Michigan's dual meet win over Penn State
- Placed first in the floor exercise (9.975), second on bars (9.925), tied for third on balance beam (9.850) and sixth on vault (9.850)
- Set career-high scores on the bars and floor exercise

Co-Event Specialists of the Week

Brittnee Martinez, Michigan

- Won the uneven bars (9.950) in No. 3 Michigan's dual meet victory over Penn State last weekend
- Also placed first on the balance beam (9.900)
- Set career-high scores in both events

Madison Merriam, Penn State

- Set a career high on the vault (9.950) en route to the event title in Penn State's meet against No. 3 Michigan last weekend
- Also tied for third in the floor exercise (9.900) and placed seventh on the bars (9.825)

Freshman of the Week

Lindsay Mable, Minnesota

- Finished second in the all-around (38.750) and placed second in three events to lead No. 11 Minnesota to a first-place finish at the Best of Minnesota Invitational last weekend
- Placed first in the floor exercise (9.925), second on vault (9.875) and tied for second on the balance beam (9.850)
- Set a personal-best score in the floor exercise

Big 12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Brie Olson, Oklahoma

Olson fought through illness to win the all-around title at the Perfect 10 Challenge with a 39.550. The senior earned season-high scores in three of the four events and tied her career highs on bars at 9.95 and beam at 9.9.

Specialist of the Week**Alaska Richardson, West Virginia**

Richardson had a career day at No. 18 Maryland, scoring a personal-best 9.925 on vault to win the event outright and helping the Mountaineers tally a season-best 49.225 on vault. The vault was her first 9.9-plus routine of the season. The senior defeated Terp junior Katy Dodds, who currently ranks No. 6 nationally. She also finished a team-best fifth on floor with a 9.85 mark.

Newcomer of the Week**Haley Scaman, Oklahoma**

Scaman won the Perfect 10 Challenge vault title with a 9.9, tying a career high for the freshman. She also totaled a score of 9.85 on bars in addition to a 9.875 on floor, an event in which she is the top-ranked freshman in the country and currently No. 8 overall.

East Atlantic Gymnastics League

Gymnast of the Week**Elizabeth Durkac, North Carolina**

After weeks of overcoming pain in her ankles to compete, Durkac finished first in the all-around in a six-team meet at NC State where the Tar Heels finished second with a score of 195.550.

Durkac scored a 39.275 in the all-around and her 9.90 performance on bars was a personal best. She also scored a 9.825 on floor exercise, a 9.825 on balance beam and a 9.700 on vault.

Specialist of the Week**Katy Dodds, Maryland**

Dodds continued to shine for the Terrapins in her three events Sunday. The junior's effort of 9.875 on vault was good enough for third in the meet. On bars, Dodds set a career high of 9.800, which also placed her third. Dodds completed the meet on floor and once again flourished. The Gaithersburg, Md., native tied a career high with a 9.950 to help the Terrapins tie a season high on floor.

Rookie of the Week

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division I

Gymnast of the Week**Kirsten Strausbaugh, Pennsylvania**

Senior Co-Captain Kirsten Strausbaugh scored the highest among all ECAC competitor this week and scored her season highs on vault with a 9.675, on beam with a 9.625, in the all-around 38.925 and scored her career high on floor to help team Penn score its season high 193.975.

Rookie of the Week**Brittany Stover, William & Mary**

Stover posted career highs on vault and floor at George Washington. She tied for the individual title on vault, recorded a career-high on bars (9.750) and all-around at N.C. State. Helped W&M post a season-high the eighth-best score in school history at N.C. State.

Specialist of the Week**Margaret Walch, Temple**

Taking the mat for the floor exercise on Sunday at the Towson Invitational, senior Margaret Walch demonstrated her best routine of the season, which helped her tie her career-best score of

9.775 in the event. Walch led all Temple gymnasts in the floor exercise, while tying two other gymnasts for fourth place overall in the competition.

Coaches' Choice

Tara Feld, Yale

Feld was an outstanding freshman all around gymnast and set a school record at Yale in vault that year with a 9.850. She then was unable to vault tumble or perform on bars due to torn ligament in her wrist. She had an operation to correct but was out of lineup on several events requiring use of her wrist. She has been gradually coming back to the level she was before surgery. This past weekend on her Senior Day she tied her school record in vault with a 9.850 and placed second in competition with Bridgeport. She also tied her career high in floor with a 9.85. She scored a 9.625 on beam. A very dedicated young woman and had the desire to overcome all her adversity to try regain her competitive edge.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division II

Gymnast of the Week

Lisette La Fex, Bridgeport

Junior Lisette La Fex helped the University of Bridgeport women's gymnastics team post season-high team scores in back-to-back outings last weekend, as the Purple Knights won the four-team Yale Bulldog Invitational on Saturday and topped Penn in a dual meet on Sunday. At Yale, she took second on the bars, was third on the beam and was fifth on the vault. At Penn, Lisette was second in the all-around winning the bars and taking third on the beam and fourth in the vault.

Rookie of the Week

Meghan Brannon, West Chester

Meghan tied her record she broke on the uneven bars earlier this season scoring a 9.775 on the bars and placing third on that event. Currently Meghan is ranked 5th in Division II on the uneven parallel bars with an average score of 9.642. Meghan also had her highest score of the season on vaulting.

Specialist of the Week

Lorraine Galow, Bridgeport

Graduate student Lorraine Galow continue to work her way back from injury that cost her most of the last two season as she was outstanding helping the University of Bridgeport women's gymnastics team post season-high team scores in back-to-back outings last weekend, as the Purple Knights won the four-team Yale Bulldog Invitational on Saturday and topped Penn in a dual meet on Sunday. Galow took second on the beam at Yale and was third at Penn. She also did a solid job on the bars in the two meets.

Coaches' Choice

Kaley LaFleur, West Chester

Kaley LaFleur competed as an all rounder for the second time since her sophomore year. An injury kept her out of the all around last year, but this year when we had some injuries on our uneven bar line-up Kaley got her grips back on and was ready to compete for her team. She went four for four and scored her career best all around score. She also tied her season best score on the vault.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division III

Gymnast of the Week

Sarah Nadrowski, Cortland

Nadrowski helped lead Cortland to its first ever win over visiting Southern Connecticut. She had a record breaking day with her all-around score of 38.75, eclipsing the 2004 mark set by standout Lindsey Marranca. Sarah successfully completed a new bar sequence that added .3 bonus to her routine, and competed a new 10 start value vault for the first time in her career. Her hard work and determination are a driving force for her team.

Rookie of the Week

Meghan Goyden, Cortland

Goyden had a great meet and solidified her position in Cortland's top two events of Vault and Floor Exercise. She earned season best performances on beam and floor and helped Cortland's first-ever defeat of Southern Connecticut in a home meet on Saturday, February 16.

Coaches' Choice

Katie Sampson, Ithaca

Katie Sampson scored her career high in the all-around to win that event in the Harriett Marranca Memorial Invitational. Katie's performance propelled the Bombers to victory in their narrow win over Brockport, Rhode Island and Wilson. Ithaca enjoyed a six point gain from last week and came within 0.125 of the schools uneven bar record set in 2008.

Mid American Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Caroline O'Brien, Western Michigan

The Western Michigan gymnastics team handed Ball State its first Mid-American Conference loss of the season, defeating the Cardinals on the road Friday, 194.200 to 193.275. Senior Caroline O'Brien tied the second highest score in program history on the uneven bars, placing first with a career-high 9.900. O'Brien was 17th in the nation on bar's in this past week's GymInfo rankings. O'Brien also had a big night on floor exercise and the balance beam, finishing third on floor with a 9.825 and fourth on beam with a 9.800.

Specialist of the Week

Jaelyn Olson, Northern Illinois

NIU freshman Jaelyn Olsen, the Huskies' top vaulter this season, unleashed arguably the best vault by a Northern Illinois gymnast in four years as her full twisting yurchenko scored a 9.875 from the judges at Iowa State. That tied as the seventh-highest scoring vault in school history and earned the best mark since NIU's Holly Reichard recorded a 9.875 on the event versus Eastern Michigan on Jan. 25, 2009. Olsen easily won the vault event at the meet as the second place score on vault was a 9.750.

Midwest Independent Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Taryn Vanderpool, Southeast Missouri State

Vanderpool won the all-around with a career-best score of 39.025 in last Friday's dual against Illinois State. Vanderpool won the uneven bars with a season-high 9.850 while placing second on both vault (career-high 9.775) and beam (9.725). Those event wins give her nine first-place finishes this season.

Specialist of the Week

Emma Garrett, Southeast Missouri State

Garrett posted a season-high 9.800 on floor to win the event against ISU and her season-best 9.775 vault score tied Vanderpool for second place. That performance marked the second-straight meet the Jacksonville, Fla., native scored 9.700 or higher in both of her events.

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

Gymnast of the Week

Katie Yamamura, UC Davis

UC Davis senior Katie Yamamura (Palo Alto, CA) captured wins on vault (9.800) and all-around (38.925) to boost a winning Aggie score of 194.300 in Friday's dual at Seattle Pacific. The team mark ranks sixth in school history. She also finished second on bars (9.800) and beam (9.725) in assembling her second highest all-around of the year.

Pac-12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Makayla Stambaugh, Oregon State

Stambaugh led then-No. 13 Oregon State to an upset over unbeaten and fourth-ranked UCLA, 196.725-196.075. The senior scored a career-high 39.550 in the all-around to claim first place. She is the first gymnast this season to beat UCLA's Vanessa Zamarripa in head-to-head competition. The Sacramento, Calif., native also tied career highs on vault (9.875) and floor (9.950). She placed third on the vault and earned another first-place victory on the floor. Stambaugh tied for first on bars with a 9.90 and earned sixth place on beam with a 9.825.

Specialist of the Week

Tory Wilson, Utah

An Albuquerque, N.M., native, Wilson was a two-event winner in Utah's tie against then-No. 23 Washington. Both teams scored a 195.975. Wilson is now 6-0 on the vault this season, scoring a 9.95 this week to place first. She is the first gymnast in Utah history to win six straight vault competitions. She also tallied the first balance beam title of her career scoring a 9.875.

Freshman/Newcomer of the Week

Allison Northey, Washington

Northey, a Husky freshman, competed in the all-around competition for the first time in her collegiate career, earning a 39.075 to place third overall as the Huskies tied then-No. 6 Utah for just the second time ever. Northey tied for second on both bars (9.80) and beam (9.85). The score of 9.85 on beam registered a new career high for the freshman. Her appearance on floor was the first of her collegiate career as she scored a 9.750.

Southeastern Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Ashley Sledge, Alabama

Senior Ashley Sledge scored season-best scores of 9.9 on the vault, uneven bars and floor exercise against Auburn, leading Alabama to a season-best 197.650, which was also the highest score in the nation last week. Her 9.9 on the floor exercise tied her career-high. Sledge's score on the floor helped push Alabama to a season-best 49.500 as a team. Her 9.9 on vault helped lead Alabama to a season-high 49.475.

Specialist of the Week

Sarie Morrison, LSU

Sarie Morrison won titles in two events in LSU's 196.825-195.625 victory over Arkansas. Morrison scored the first perfect 10.0 of her career on vault to win the title. She followed her perfect vault with a 9.90 on bars to win the event title for the third straight meet. Morrison is one of only three collegiate gymnasts with a 10 on vault this season and the only one from the SEC. She is only the fifth gymnast in school history to score a 10 on vault.

Freshman of the Week

Brittany Rogers, Georgia

Georgia freshman Brittany Rogers recorded two career-highs in the Gym Dogs' meet against No. 1 Florida. Rogers turned in a career-best 9.925 on the uneven bars to place third, and she posted her best beam score of the season with a 9.9 to tie for first. She also scored a 9.875 on vault. Rogers' performance on vault and bars helped the Gym Dogs score season-highs on both events.

Western Athletic Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Jamie Armijo, Southern Utah

Armijo, a sophomore from Chandler, Ariz. (Mountain Pointe HS), tallied a career high in the all-around with a 39.275 to claim the event title in a dual meet against Sacramento State. Armijo also captured the individual title on beam with a career-best 9.825. She recorded second place finishes on vault (9.825) and bars (9.850).

Specialist of the Week

Moriah Martin, Denver

Martin, a junior from Lake Mary, Fla. (Lake Mary HS), came up just short of a perfect 10, recording a 9.975 at Illinois-Chicago last week. The score tied a career high, matching her vault output against Ohio State on Feb. 4, 2011. Martin's vault was her 17th-career vault of 9.900 or higher, her fourth of the season and her third straight.

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Specialist

Kambria Blakely, Hamline

Blakely competed in two events during the week. In a dual meet against UW-Eau Claire on Feb. 11, she finished second in the vault (9.45) and the floor exercise (9.425). At the Best of Minnesota on Feb. 16, Blakely posted a 9.65 on the balance beam to tie for seventh overall (1st among NCAA Div. III competitors), a 9.575 on the vault which placed eighth overall (2nd among NCAA Div. III competitors) and a 9.65 on the floor exercise to place eighth overall (2nd among NCAA Div. III competitors).

All-Around

Courtney Benson, Hamline

Benson competed in two events during the week. In a dual meet against UW-Eau Claire on Feb. 11, she took first in the all-around with a 36.90. Her score included a second-place finish on the floor exercise (9.575), third-place finish in the vault (9.425), fourth-place finish in the balance beam (9.2) and ninth-place finish in the uneven bars (8.7). At the Best of Minnesota on Feb. 16, Benson posted a 38.20 to finish third overall (and first among NCAA Div. III competitors). She had scores of 9.675 in the floor exercise (first in Div. III), 9.65 in the balance beam (first place tie in Div. III), 9.325 in the vault (second in Div. III) and 9.55 in the vault (third place tie in Div. III).