

# **Gymnasts of the Week – March 4-10, 2013**

**Awards are given by conference offices**

## **Big Ten Conference**

### **Co-Gymnasts of the Week**

#### **Joanna Sampson, Michigan**

- Posted top-10 finishes in all four of her events en route to the all-around crown (39.575) in No. 3 Michigan's quad meet win over No. 6 UCLA, Iowa State and California
- Tied for first in the floor exercise (9.950), second on bars (9.925), third on vault (9.925) and 10<sup>th</sup> on balance beam (9.775)
- Won the all-around title for the sixth time this season

#### **Jessie DeZiel, Nebraska**

- Posted five first-place finishes and two third-place efforts en route to a share of the all-around titles in No. 12 Nebraska's dual meet victory over Iowa (39.675) and quad meet against No. 14 Minnesota, No. 24 Arkansas and Centenary (39.475)
- Tied for first on vault (9.950), balance beam (9.875) and floor exercise (9.925) and third on bars (9.925) against the Hawkeyes
- Placed first on vault (9.950) and bars (9.925) and tied for third on balance beam (9.850) in the quad meet

### **Event Specialist of the Week**

#### **Janelle Giblin, Nebraska**

- Recorded just the second 10.0 score on bars nationally this season en route to the event title in No. 12 Nebraska's dual meet win over Iowa
- Also tied for first on the balance beam (9.875) and third on the vault (9.850) in the Huskers' victory over the Hawkeyes
- Her score on the bars was a career high

### **Freshman of the Week**

#### **Giana O'Connor, Illinois**

- Posted eight top-six finishes en route to second-place and third-place efforts in the all-around in No. 19 Illinois' dual meet win over Missouri (39.275) and tri-meet victory over Ball State and UIC (39.275)
- Placed third on the vault (9.800), bars (9.825) and floor exercise (9.850) and sixth on the balance beam (9.800) in the Illini's win over Missouri
- Placed first on the balance beam (9.850), third on bars (9.800), fourth on vault (9.775) and sixth in the floor exercise (9.850) against Ball State and UIC
- Recorded a career-high score in the all-around



## **Big 12 Conference**

### **Gymnast of the Week**

#### **Taylor Spears, Oklahoma**

Spears won her fifth all-around title of the year against No. 16 Arizona, posting a 39.600. The No. 3 all-rounder in the nation, Spears' performance was highlighted by a 9.95 on floor, tying a career high. The junior continued her strong performance on Sunday against No. 9 Stanford and

UNC, including scoring a 9.925 on beam to help her maintain the No. 1 individual beam national ranking.

#### **Specialist of the Week**

##### **Michelle Shealy, Iowa State**

Shealy won the beam title outright at both of Iowa State's meets this week behind 9.875 efforts, over beam workers from both No. 3 Michigan and No. 6 UCLA. At UCLA, Shealy posted a 9.900 effort on bars, a career high and the highest score by a Cyclone on any event this season. Shealy is currently ranked No. 25 nationally on beam.

#### **Newcomer of the Week**

##### **Maile'ana Kanewa, Oklahoma**

Kanewa stuck a career high 9.95 on vault to lead all gymnasts against No. 16 Arizona, winning her second vault title in her third meet back from wrist surgery. Kanewa followed up with a 9.9 on vault against No. 9 Stanford and UNC, tying for second place

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## **East Atlantic Gymnastics League**

#### **Gymnast of the Week**

##### **Luisa Leal, Rutgers**

Leal broke through in her fourth all-around meet of the season to set the program record of 39.500, topping her previous high of 39.375 achieved as a freshman Feb. 26, 2011. She finished at least tied for first in the meet in every event, setting career-highs on both the floor exercise (9.950) and the uneven bars (9.875). One of the judges gave Leal a perfect 10.000 mark for her floor routine.

#### **Specialist of the Week**

##### **Nefertiti Roy, George Washington**

Roy captured the floor exercise title in GW's dual meet against West Virginia on Sunday, scoring a career-high 9.95. The senior from Philadelphia, Pa., bested her previous career mark by .075, as the Colonials scored at least a 9.725 on all six routines in the event.

#### **Rookie of the Week**

##### **Lisa Soto, Pittsburgh**

Soto finished second on the vault with a 9.825, leading all Pitt scorers. On the balance beam, the freshman tied her personal best with a 9.80 and a third place finish. Soto rounded out her evening finishing fifth on the uneven bars with a 9.750. Soto's efforts against Michigan State followed up her best performance of the season, against North Carolina on March 2, when she earned the vault (9.875) and bars (9.825) titles and scored the fifth-highest score on the beam (9.80). All of Soto's three scores were career highs for the rookie.

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## **Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division I**

#### **Gymnast of the Week**

##### **Morgan Traina,**

Yale In an extremely high level competition with 26th ranked Maryland and 24th ranked Central Michigan, Traina had a career-High in the All-around. She also tied her career-high in Floor exercise. Traina has competed in the all-around in every meet during her freshman and sophomore year. She has been an outstanding leader for the Yale team during that time period. She placed in the top six in bars with these top ranked teams.

**Jessica Pritchard, William and Mary**

Pritchard competed a yurchenko layout full for the first time ever and scored a season-high 9.625 on vault. She equaled her season highs on floor and all-around. Pritchard tied for first on floor and placed third in all-around.

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

Stover recorded a personal-best in all-around (38.725) and equaled her career high on vault (9.825) where she Tied for second.

**Co-Specialists of the Week****Julia Meyer, Brown**

Meyer is the top ECAC Specialist this week with a 9.825 on beam. She hit her career-high on beam and nearly hit her season-high on bars (.025 away). Julia was poised as she lead her team, earning the top scores for the Bears on both of her events.

**Melanie Jorgensen, Cornell**

Jorgensen hit her best bars routine of the season at Southern Connecticut this weekend. Her 9.875 was the highest score awarded to any gymnast in any event in the ECAC this week, and led the Big Red to a season high 48.75 on bars. Jorgensen's's 9.5 on beam led Cornell on that event as well.

**Coaches' Choice****Stephanie Choo, Brown**

Choo has battled a heart condition all year, having to limit her practices and cutting her training back to one event. She has had to wear a heart monitor during practice and has done everything she can to contribute to the success of the team. Choo is very driven and humble. She hit her very first routine in competition this past weekend in a tightly-scored meet and earned a personal best 9.6 for the Bears. The entire team shared the excitement for her to succeed, knowing how much more it means after all she has been through.

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## **Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division II**

**Co-Gymnasts of the Week****Monica Mesalles Sallares, Bridgeport**

Sallares scored an impressive 9.900 on both the vault and the floor exercise as she helped the Purple Knights hold their own in a dual meet against the # 18 ranked nationally Division I Buckeyes. She tied for first place on the vault and took second in the floor exercise.

**Meghan Cole, Southern Connecticut**

Cole won the All-Around with a personal high score of 38.2 in the meet with Brown, Cornell and West Chester on Sunday. Finished fourth on the beam, seventh on the floor, and a ninth place finish on the vault.

**Rookie of the Week****Nicole Pruchnik, Southern Connecticut**

Pruchnik led the Owls on the beam with a third place overall. She also finished fifth on the floor and was sixth on the vault.

**Specialist of the Week****Melissa Doucette, Bridgeport**

Doucette continued her excellent first season for the Purple Knights as she posted a ninth place on the vault and an eighth in the floor exercise in a dual meet versus Division I #18th ranked Ohio State.

#### **Coaches' Choice**

##### **Caitlin Perry, Bridgeport**

Perry was impressive against a quality Division I opponent in Ohio State on Saturday, as she took seventh in the floor exercise.

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## **Mid American Conference**

#### **Gymnast of the Week**

##### **Brittany Petzold, Central Michigan**

Competing twice in the span of four days last week, Petzold won a total of four titles, including the all-around crown in CMU's win over Alaska Anchorage. Versus UAA on Thursday, Petzold totaled a 39.125 in the all-around, placing first in the uneven bars (9.850) and the floor exercise (9.850). Against Maryland and Yale, Petzold finished in second place in the all-around with a 39.225 total. She also won her second uneven bars title of the week and third consecutive, scoring a 9.850.

#### **Specialist of the Week**

##### **Lauren Bledsoe, Western Michigan**

Junior Lauren Bledsoe was named Mid-American Conference Specialist of the Week after placing first in two events this past Sunday in Western Michigan's victory over Northern Illinois. Bledsoe anchored the WMU vault team with a career-high 9.900, registering the second best score in school history. As a team, WMU also tied the second best vault total in program history with a 49.050. Bledsoe closed out the meet also anchoring the Broncos on the floor exercise, winning that competition with a 9.850. Western Michigan trailed NIU after three rotations, but came back to win the meet on floor, 194.825 to 193.675.

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## **Midwest Independent Conference**

#### **Gymnast of the Week**

##### **Megan Fosnow, Southeast Missouri State**

Fosnow tallied a season-high 39.025 in the all-around, winning the competition in last week's win over Texas Woman's. The junior shared the vault title with a score of 9.825 and took second on bars with a score of 9.800. In total, Fosnow scored 9.725 or higher on three of her four events to score above 39 in the all-around for the second time in her career.

#### **Specialist of the Week**

##### **Kristin Edwards, Texas Woman's**

Edwards captured two individual titles last week in two road meets at Southeast Missouri State and Lindenwood. The senior from St. Paul, Minn., tied for first on vault (9.825) and tied for second on floor (9.825) in the dual meet on Friday at SEMO. She then captured the floor title (9.825) in the dual meet on Sunday at Lindenwood. Edwards also recorded 9.700 on bars on Friday and 9.725 on vault on Sunday.

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## Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

### Gymnast of the Week

#### **Jessica Wallander, Air Force**

Air Force sophomore Jessica Wallander (Dallas, TX) collected career-bests 9.85 on vault and 9.80 on bars, as the Falcons totaled a Doug Day-era record 194.700 against No. 13 Denver. Her bars routine also led a team record on the event. Wallander added a 9.75 floor vs. DU, and previously had a 9.80 vault, 9.70 bars, and 9.725 floor vs. No. 17 Kent State over the weekend.

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## Pac-12 Conference

### Gymnast of the Week

#### **Makayla Stambaugh, Oregon State**

Stambaugh helped lead then-No. 10 Oregon State to a season-high score tallying a 197.275 en route to winning the Comfort Suites Invitational. Stambaugh earned three individual titles for the fifth week in a row. She claimed the all-around title with a new career-high of 39.600. She tallied a career-high on vault with a 9.925 which was good enough for second place. The senior scored another pair of 9.925's on bars and beam each claiming first place, with her floor score tallying another career-high. She rounded out her competition with a 9.825 on beam to tie for fourth overall. Stambaugh's all-around score ties for the ninth best score in OSU history.

### Specialist of the Week

#### **Alyssa Pritchett, UCLA**

Senior Alyssa Pritchett helped UCLA to a second place finish last weekend with a team score of 197.075. Pritchett scored a career-high 9.95 on floor to tie for first place with Michigan's Joanna Sampson, who ranks No. 1 in the nation on the event. This was Pritchett's first floor win of the season and her first ever 9.95 score. She averages a team-best 9.889 on floor and has not scored lower than a 9.85 all season. She currently ranks No. 16 in the nation on the event.

### Freshman/Newcomer of the Week

#### **Breanna Hughes, Utah**

Hughes stood up to the challenge in a road meet at then-No. 8 Georgia to go 2-for-2 on the night. The freshman scored a 9.8 on bars and tallied a season and career-high on beam with a 9.875. Her score on beam was good for second place overall. She has now gone 18-for-18 in routines this season without a fall.

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## Southeastern Conference

### Gymnast of the Week

#### **Ashley Priess, Alabama**

Priess clinched Alabama's win over LSU by winning the balance beam with a 9.95, a season-best for Priess and the Tide on the beam. It also tied Priess' career-best mark on that event. Priess also won the uneven bars, tying her career best of 9.925, which was the Tide's highest score on the uneven bars this season. Priess' scores propelled Alabama to its highest team total of the season, a 197.725, which is also the highest road score in the nation in 2013. The Tide's 197.725 was also the second highest score in the nation last week and the highest in the SEC.

### **Specialist of the Week**

#### **Lloimincia Hall, LSU**

For the second time this season Lloimincia Hall earned a perfect 10.0 on floor as she captured the event title and clinched LSU's season-high 197.500 with the final performance of the meet against Alabama. Hall is the first and only gymnast so far this season to score two 10.0's as she tallied a 10 on floor at Missouri on Feb. 8. She is the first LSU gymnast to score two 10's in one season since Ashleigh Clare-Kearney in 2008, and she is the first Tiger to post two 10's on floor in the same season since April Burkholder in 2004.

### **Freshman of the Week**

#### **Brittany Rogers, Georgia**

Georgia freshman Brittany Rogers turned in the highest all-around score by a Georgia freshman since Courtney Kupets in 2006 in leading lead the Gym Dogs to their best score of the season in a 197.650-196.975 win over Utah. Rogers scored a 39.575, including career-highs 9.95 on vault to tie for first and a 9.9 on floor. She also tied for the team-lead on the balance beam with a 9.875. Rogers' efforts helped the Gym Dogs score a season-high on floor exercise and their second-highest marks of the year on vault and beam.

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## **Western Athletic Conference**

### **Gymnast of the Week**

#### **Moriah Martin, Denver**

Martin, a junior from Lake Mary, Fla. (Lake Mary HS), led Denver to its fourth-best team score in program history with an all-around mark of 39.475 last Saturday. In addition to her third all-around title of the season, Martin earned the vault title with a 9.925, and added 9.850s on the other three events. The Pioneer entered Monday's action ranked No. 3 in the nation in vault RQS (9.920). She also ranks No. 27 in the all-around with a 39.190 RQS.

### **Specialist of the Week**

#### **Nina McGee, Denver**

McGee, a sophomore from Cincinnati, Ohio (Clark Montessori HS), turned in a career-high 9.975 on floor in Saturday's meet against Arizona State and Illinois State. The floor title was McGee's sixth of the season. McGee led the DU floor corps to a 49.450, the seventh-best team score in program history. The Pioneer sophomore also added a 9.925 on bars and a 9.850 on beam. As of Monday, McGee ranked No. 15 in the country on floor with a 9.895 RQS.