

Gymnasts of the Week – Jan. 10-12, 2014

Awards are given by conference offices

Big Ten Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Emily Wong, Nebraska

- Posted four top-five finishes en route to winning the all-around (39.425) in No. 10 Nebraska's dual meet victory over Northern Illinois (196.625-192.525)
- Placed first on the floor exercise (9.95), second on the beam (9.825) and third on the bars (9.85)

Event Specialist of the Week

Natalie Beilstein, Michigan

- Won the uneven bars with a score of 9.900 to help guide No. 7 Michigan to a tri-meet victory over Iowa State and Illinois State
- Placed fourth on the vault (9.800) and tied for fourth on the floor exercise (9.850)

Freshman of the Week

Nicole Artz, Michigan

- Tied for first on the beam (9.825) and placed second on the floor exercise (9.900) in her collegiate debut
- Helped No. 7 Michigan defeat Iowa State and Illinois State in a tri-meet

Big 12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Erica Brewer, Oklahoma

Erica Brewer was a key component of Oklahoma's victory over No. 8 Georgia in Norman, posting the highest home all-around score of her career (39.450) to take the all-around title. She also tops for OU on uneven bars, picking up a 9.925 in the anchor position to earn the event title, while her vault score of 9.85 tied her career-high. Brewer aided OU to a 197.700 team score, the highest season-opening score in program history.

Specialist of the Week

Rebecca Clark, Oklahoma

Clark tied for first on beam with a 9.925, which tied her career-high on the event. Her efforts helped the Sooners to a 49.375 on the event, the nation's highest score that weekend. She also posted a 9.875 on bars to finish fifth overall, aiding OU to a 49.350.

Newcomer of the Week

Chayse Capps, Oklahoma

Capps competed in an impressive three events in her first career collegiate meet, playing a crucial role in OU's 197.700 victory over Georgia. Her 9.875 on vault factored into the Sooners' 49.475 effort overall, and her 9.9 on floor was the team's second-highest score behind Scaman (9.95). She also competed on beam, earning a 9.75.

East Atlantic Gymnastics League

Gymnast of the Week

Brittini Watkins, NC State

Watkins, a native of Albany, N.Y., captured the all-around title with a score of 39.325 against UNC in her first meet competing as an all-arounder. In the season opener, Watkins finished first with a score of 9.875 on vault. In addition, the sophomore also claimed third on the balance beam (9.825), and tied for third on the uneven parallel bars (9.8) and floor exercise (9.825).

Co-Specialists of the Week

Lexi Cappalli, North Carolina

Cappalli earned scores of 9.775 on vault, 9.875 on bars, and 9.875 on floor to lead UNC in a conference win over NC State. In the home opener, Cappalli won both bars and floor individually, while placing third on vault. A three-event competitor, Cappalli assisted in tallying a team score of 194.075 over EAGL rival NC State - 193.95. UNC's team score was the second-best in the league this past weekend. For Cappalli, the scores on bars and floor were personal bests.

Katie O'Rourke, Pittsburgh

O'Rourke earned the honor after registering two outstanding performances in Pitt's win over Towson on Friday night in their season-opener. The specialist scored a meet-best 9.85 on the beam and followed it up with another 9.85 on the floor, which tied teammate Lindsay Offutt for first place. O'Rourke's beam score tied her career high.

April Baker, Rutgers

Baker picked up a pair of top-two finishes in her collegiate debut last Saturday in a win over New Hampshire. Baker started off with a 9.825 on vault to place tied for first. The freshman ended her day with a 9.825 on the floor exercise to earn second, previously picking up a 9.675 on balance beam. The scores helped RU pick up a 195.075 team score, the highest ever for the program in an opening meet.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division I

Gymnast of the Week

Brittany Stover, William & Mary

Brittany helped the Tribe post its best season-opening score in the last decade (190.725) in the win against Cortland. She won event titles on vault, bars, beam and the all-around & placed third on floor. Brittany's score of 38.975 in the all-around ranks tied for seventh all-time at William & Mary and her vault score nearly equaled her career high.

Rookie of the Week

Rebecca McAndrew, Temple

The Lindsey Ferris Invitational was the debut for freshman Rebecca McAndrew. A teammate went down with an ankle sprain and McAndrew stepped in for her on beam & floor. She replaced her teammate as anchor on floor. McAndrew stepped up to the challenge after seeing two of her teammates fall before her and scored a 9.425 which ended up being the highest score on that event by the Owls.

Co-Specialists of the Week

Brandy Stover, William & Mary

Brandy helped the Tribe post its best season-opening score in the last decade (190.725) in the win against Cortland. She placed second on beam, and was just 0.025 shy of tying for the event title.

Mackenzie Sato, Cornell

Sato's score of 9.525 was the second highest for her team on the event. Cornell placed second in a field of four teams at the Lindsey Ferris Invitational hosted by George Washington University.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division II

Gymnast of the Week

Nicole Pruchnik, Southern Connecticut

Pruchnik scored a 9.85 on the floor exercise, a 9.725 on the beam and a 9.55 on the vault to claim the top spot in all three events in the win over Bridgeport.

Rookie of the Week

Amber Hill, Bridgeport

Hill won the meet against SCSU and had a team-high finishing score in three of four events. Her all around was a 37.75 and she won uneven bars with a 9.625.

Specialist of the Week

Brianna Ecklof, Southern Connecticut

Finished second with a 9.75 on the floor and was fifth on the beam with a 9.525 in the win over Bridgeport.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division III

Gymnast of the Week

Lauren Pocius, Springfield

Pocius placed first on bars and floor, second on vault and third on beam as she started her season with consistent performances. Springfield won their season's first meet with a 177.075 to host Rhode Island's 165.075 on Jan. 11, 2014

Rookie of the Week

Alexis Stiefel, Springfield

Competing for the first time in two years and the first time as a collegiate gymnast, Stiefel stuck a solid beam routine to earn second place with the score of 9.2.

Specialist of the Week

Kristin Feliu, Springfield

Feliu started her season with a powerful front handspring front tuck vault to win the event with a 9.4.

Mid American Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Emily Heinz, Central Michigan

Heinz led Central Michigan to a victory over No. 24 Maryland with top two finishes on all three of her events. The senior took first on beam with a 9.800 and tied with fellow senior Brittany Petzold for first on floor with a 9.850. The team co-captain also tied for second on vault with a 9.775. Heinz's score on floor matched a career-high.

Specialist of the Week

Amanda Lievendag, Bowling Green

Amanda Lievendag tied her personal best with a 9.875 on the bars to tie for first in a meet against a pair of top 20 programs in #12 Oregon State and #19 Ohio State. In her other event on the day, Lievendag posted a 9.775 on vault, tying for fifth place among all competitors.

Midwest Independent Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Catherine Dion – Illinois-Chicago

The Gatineau, Quebec, Canada native led the Flames on three events to pick up a tie for first place on bars with a 9.800, a score of 9.775 on beam for third place and a career-best score of 9.800 to tie for fourth on floor. While scoring a 9.675 on vault, Dion was able to come away with a second-place finish in the all-around with a total of 39.050.

Specialist of the Week

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

Gymnast of the Week

Bekah Gher, San Jose State

San Jose State senior Bekah Gher (Surprise, AZ) accumulated her first career all-around title (38.850), .200 points ahead of the No. 2 gymnast, leading a 194.200 team score and upset road win over No. 25 Arizona State. She went 9.725 on vault and bars, 9.750 on beam and 9.650 on floor. Her consistent scores helped the Spartans to their first win over a ranked team since Feb. 27, 2009.

Specialist of the Week

Julia Greer, San Jose State

San Jose State senior Julia Greer (San Diego, CA) repeats this award from last week after playing a key role in the Spartans win at No. 25 Arizona State. Greer posted the beam and floor titles for the second-consecutive meet, scoring a 9.825 and a 9.850, respectively, and added a 9.625 on vault.

Newcomer of the Week

Lauren Glover, Seattle Pacific

Seattle Pacific freshman Lauren Glover (Fort Collins, CO) placed in the top-three in all three of her events during her collegiate debut. She was the vault runner-up (9.625), third on floor (9.725) and tied for third on beam (9.575). Those marks helped Seattle Pacific to its best season-opening score in eight years (190.750) and a dual-meet victory over Alaska Anchorage.

Pac-12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Olivia Courtney, UCLA

Senior Olivia Courtney won the vault and tied for first in the bars in a narrow loss to defending national champion Florida. She tied a career-high, scoring 9.975 in the vault and 9.90 on floor. The Fairfax, Va., native scored a 9.90 on the bars which gave her an average of 9.925 on her three events. Courtney was the only gymnast in the meet to score 9.9 or better on three routines, and is currently leading the Pac-12 with three scores of 9.9 or better. The then-No. 4 Bruins ultimately fell short to then-No. 1 Florida with a final score of 196.625 to 196.650.

Specialist of the Week

Georgia Dabritz, Utah

Utah junior Georgia Dabritz tied for first place in two events over the weekend, tallying a 9.90 on vault and a 9.95 on beam. Her bar routine potentially made the difference of the meet, as the two gymnasts immediately preceding her fell. The Newburyport, Mass., native also tallied a 9.875 on floor, which helped the Utes maintain a lead over then-No. 23 Boise State. Her 9.95 score on bars is tied for the best score in the country this week, and the team is tied for first in the latest national rankings.

Freshman/Newcomer of the Week

Angi Cipra, UCLA

Cipra, a Mesa, Ariz., native, took fifth in both the vault and floor in her first collegiate debut for the Bruins. She recorded a pair of 9.85's to contribute to the UCLA total of 196.625. The freshman tied for fifth on both of her routines to help the Bruins record meet-best team totals on vault and floor.

Southeastern Conference

Co-Gymnasts of the Week

Kim Jacob, Alabama

- Opened her senior season by leading Alabama to a win over Missouri in the only SEC match-up of the weekend with a team score of 197.150 – the highest opening-meet score in Alabama history.
- Won the all-around, tying her career-best score with a 39.525. Also won the uneven bars with a career-best 9.925 and the balance beam with 9.875.
- Her 9.925 on the uneven bars paced the Tide to a 49.475, its highest team score since Jan. 22, 2010 vs. Arkansas when the Tide also scored 49.475, and the No. 1 team score in the nation.
- Also won the balance beam against the Tigers, giving her three wins on the night, while finishing second with a 9.925 on the floor exercise to teammate Diandra Miller.
- Is ranked second in the nation in the all-around, third on the uneven bars, sixth on floor exercise and 11th on balance beam.

Kytra Hunter, Florida

- Collected two event titles at No. 4 UCLA on Saturday to help the Gators to a narrow 196.65-196.625 road victory. It was the first-regular season win for Florida in the Bruins' home arena.
- Won the all-around (39.375) and floor exercise (9.925) in the season opener at No. 4 UCLA.
- The all-around win is the 11th for Hunter and is the second season-opening all-around win for her.
- With the two event wins, Hunter becomes the 12th Gator all-time to collect 40 or more event wins during her Florida career.

Specialist of the Week

Sarie Morrison, LSU

- Dominated the two events in which she competed in the season-opener, posting identical 9.925s on vault and bars to guide the Tigers to a 197.200 – the nation's second-best score – in a

victory against Centenary.

- Earned the vault and bars titles for her performances, and it marks her eighth career vault title and 21st bars title.
- The 21 titles rank first in LSU history for career bars titles.
- Helped the Tigers record the best season-opening team total in program history.

Freshman of the Week

Katie Bailey, Alabama

- Opened her Alabama career by taking second in the all-around with a score of 39.325 in front of 12,971 fans, the largest crowd in which she has ever competed.
 - Is the highest-ranked freshman in the nation in the all-around, checking in at No. 9 overall.
 - Helped push Alabama to a 197.150, the highest opening-day mark in school history, in a win against SEC foe Missouri.
 - Was part of the Tide lineup that posted a 49.475 on the uneven bars, Alabama's highest score on that event since 2010 and the No. 1 total in the nation.
 - Finished in the top five on all four apparatus and was the top freshman finisher in three of four.
 - Finished ahead of all Missouri gymnasts on three apparatus and finished just one spot behind junior Tiger Rachel Updike on vault.
 - Is ranked 17th nationally in uneven bars.
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Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Specialist

Elizabeth Stubbs, UW-Eau Claire

Competing at the UW-Eau Claire Invitational on Jan. 11, where the Blugolds took second place, Stubbs won the floor exercise with a score of 9.700. The Blugolds were in last place coming into the final rotation but strong performances on the floor, where UW-Eau Claire scored a 47.100, helped the team finish in second place. On Jan. 5 at NCAA Division I Central Michigan University in the season-opener, Stubbs also had the highest mark for UW-Eau Claire in the floor exercise, taking fifth with a score of 9.725. She also had strong performances on the balance beam and vault in both meets.

All-Around

Brooke Baures, Winona State University

Baures had an outstanding start to her season, winning the all-around, while also taking home the title on the balance beam for the Warriors in a tri-meet against UW-Eau Claire and UW-Whitewater. She had an all-around total of 36.750, bringing home the title as the Warriors also claimed top team honors in the meet. Baures' beam score was a strong 9.575 to win that event, while also posting a 9.325 on the floor.