

Gymnasts of the Week – Feb. 24-March 2, 2014

Awards are given by conference offices

Big Ten Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Emily Wong, Nebraska

- Placed first in each event en route to winning the all-around (39.650) to help No. 7 Nebraska defeat No. 14 Oregon State and Arizona State
- Scored a 9.925 on vault, 9.925 on beam, 9.900 on bars and 9.900 on the floor exercise
- Score on the beam tied her career high

Event Specialist of the Week

Austin Sheppard, Michigan

- Won the vault with a score of 9.975 to help No. 8 Michigan defeat No. 23 Kent State and BYU
- Tied for second on the bars (9.850) and scored a 9.775 on the beam

Freshman of the Week

Emma Sibson, Penn State

- Tied for first on the vault with a score of 9.875 to help No. 18 Penn State defeat Bridgeport, Western Michigan and Yale
- Placed third on the beam with a score of 9.825

Big 12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Haley Scaman, Oklahoma

Scaman was on a roll again in Oklahoma's final February meet, capping her outstanding month by winning or tying for every event title in OU's meet vs. Illinois. Scaman tied teammate Chayse Capps for top honors on vault (9.925) and took home solo titles on bars (9.9) and floor exercise (9.975), aiding Oklahoma to a 197.250-195.850 victory over the Illini. Scaman won the floor title in all four of OU's meets this February while earning a 10.0 from at least one judge on three separate occasions. She has only posted one score below a 9.975 on the event in OU's last four meets.

Specialist of the Week

Lara Albright, Oklahoma

Recently shifted to the No. 5 spot in Oklahoma's floor lineup, Albright has continued to shine for Oklahoma as a FX specialist. A week after being forced to miss competition due to illness, Albright bounced back with ease to earn a 9.9 and finish second overall on the event. She has posted six consecutive scores of 9.9 or higher on floor. The effort propelled Albright onto the national scene this week as she appeared at 12th in the country on floor with an RQS of 9.905.

Newcomer of the Week

Chayse Capps, Oklahoma

Capps joined teammate Haley Scaman in a sweep of all four individual event titles in OU's victory over Illinois on Feb. 28. Capps tied with Scaman for the vault title (9.925) before capturing the beam title outright (9.9). Capps' effort on beam was particularly impressive as the true freshman anchored the event lineup for the first time this season, aiding Oklahoma to a 49.300 on the event. The beam title was her second this season, while her honors on vault gave her first title on that event in 2014.

East Atlantic Gymnastics League

Gymnast of the Week

Brittini Watkins, North Carolina State

Watkins finished first in three out of her four events on Friday and posted the top score in the all-around competition. She captured the title on vault with a career-best score of 9.925, marking the seventh time this season she has scored a 9.900 or better on an event. In addition, she claimed first on bars (9.850) and floor (9.875), while finishing with a 39.400 to stand atop the podium in the all-around.

Specialist of the Week

Jenna Williams, Rutgers

Williams scored a career-high 9.875 on balance beam to help the Scarlet Knights record a season-best 49.100 in the event. The mark was part of a total team score of 195.825, the best road number in program history.

Rookie of the Week

Claire Jones, Rutgers

Jones scored a career-high 9.875 on balance beam to help the Scarlet Knights record a season-best 49.100 in the event. The mark was part of a total team score of 195.825, the best road number in program history.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division I

Gymnast of the Week

Brittany Stover, William & Mary

Stover helped the Tribe earn their second-best score of the season (193.400) at a quad-meet hosted by N.C. State. She won the beam title with a 9.850, which ties for the 10th-best score in school history. Stover tied for second on vault with a 9.875, which ties for the third-best score in school history. Her impressive 9.875 vault score helped W&M post the sixth-best mark in school history in the event (48.675). Stover also tied for third in all-around with a 39.025, which ties for the fourth-best score in school history.

Rookie of the Week

Liv O'Connor, William & Mary

O'Connor helped the Tribe earn its second-best score of the season (193.400) at a quad-meet hosted by N.C. State. She tied for third in all-around with a career-high 39.025, which ties for the fourth-best score in school history. O'Connor also set career highs on vault (9.775), bars (9.725) and beam (9.775). Her vault score helped W&M post the sixth-best mark in school history in the event (48.675).

Specialist of the Week

Sara Schupp, Cornell

Schupp performed her career personal best on vault this past weekend, scoring a 9.775 on a 9.900 start value vault in Cornell's meet with Rutgers. Her score helped the Big Red to a season-high team score of 192.625.

Coaches' Choice

Larson Lasek, William & Mary

Lasek helped the Tribe earn its second-best score of the season (193.400) at a quad-meet hosted by N.C. State. She has battled back from an ankle injury suffered at the beginning of the season and returned to the lineup as an all-arounder earlier than expected due to a teammate's injury. Lasek earned a career-high on vault (9.800) and nearly matched her career-high in all-around. She also competed on beam and floor for the first time this season.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division II

Gymnast of the Week

Kamri Riles, Bridgeport

Bridgeport senior Kamri Riles had an outstanding afternoon in a quad-meet with Penn State, Western Michigan and Yale. Riles posted a 9.800 on the vault, a 9.700 on the bars and a 9.650 on the floor exercise.

Rookie of the Week

Rachel DiCarlo, Bridgeport

DiCarlo had a strong meet against Penn State, Western Michigan and Yale. She posted a 9.450 on the vault to go along with a 9.65 on the beam. On bars, she recorded a personal best with a 9.750.

Specialist of the Week

Cecilia Lorenzen, West Chester

Lorenzen was steady on the beam hit her routine and placed third on the event against Springfield College.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division III

Gymnast of the Week

Monica Durham, Ursinus

Durham had the best meet of her college career on Sunday, scoring an impressive 38.100. Not only was her all around score of a 38.100 a personal best, her bar score of 9.675 was also a career-high.

Rookie of the Week

Nicole Silva, Springfield

Silva continues to provide consistent performances for the Pride. This week, she scored a 9.450 on both the vault and floor exercise, good enough for a third-place tie in both events. Springfield lost to West Chester, but posted its highest team score of the season. Silva also performed an exhibition beam routine, scoring 9.575.

Specialist of the Week

Shilanna Gallo, Ithaca

Gallo recorded a career-high on bars, helping Ithaca score its season-high against Cortland.

Mid American Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Audry Merritt, Western Michigan

Western Michigan freshman Audry Merritt turned in another solid performance, helping the Broncos post two more victories, defeating Yale and Bridgeport in a quad meet at No. 18 Penn State Friday. Merritt competed in three events, scoring a 9.850 on vault, 9.775 on the uneven bars and 9.675 on floor exercise. Her vault score set a career high, while the bars score tied a personal best. Merritt's previous highest vault was a 9.775. All three of her scores were counted towards WMU's team score of 193.625, which was the Broncos' third highest of the season. Her vault and bars scores tied as team highs and she placed fourth and fifth in the meet, respectively. Her floor total was the second highest in WMU's lineup and placed her ninth.

Specialist of the Week

Jessica Leko, Ball State

A junior transfer student who is seeing competition the past 3 weeks for the first time in over 2 years. She scored a career high of 9.85 on beam, earning a 9.9 from one of the judges. She had a beautiful performance and was a contributing factor to the beam team scoring a season high of 48.85.

Midwest Independent Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Sami King, Illinois State

King placed first on the floor (9.850), bars (9.825) and vault (9.775) and took third place on beam (9.750) in her best all-round performance of the year. Last week, King did not compete in the all-around competition, but scored a career-best 9.925 to win the floor exercise and also won the balance beam competition by posting a 9.825 to tie her season-high and was awarded MIC Specialist of the Week honors.

Specialist of the Week

Kerensa Mitchell, Illinois-Chicago

The Nahaimo, British Columbia, Canada native collected a third-place finish after posting a career-best score of 9.825 on beam, where she received a 9.90 from one of the judges, to contribute to the Flames' season-high score of 48.750 on the event and ultimately their 194.100-193.950 win over the Cardinals. This was just the fifth time competing on the event for Mitchell this season and during her career, after sitting out last year due to injury.

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

Gymnast of the Week

Anna Shumaker, UC Davis

UC Davis senior Anna Shumaker (Alameda, CA) scored career-highs all-around (39.275) and on floor (9.925) in Friday's record-setting dual meet against Seattle Pacific. Her all-around, third in school history, helped the Aggies compile an MPSF record total 196.425. Her floor routine, tied for fourth in school history and the highest by any MPSF gymnast in any event this season, contributed toward a 49.425 — tying another UC Davis record and No. 2 in the MPSF all-time. Shumaker's 9.80 on uneven bars helped the Aggies compile a 49.225, surpassing a school record set in March of 1999, and ranking third in conference history.

Specialist of the Week

Julia Greer, San Jose State

San Jose State senior Julia Greer (San Diego, CA) tied for the title on floor with a season-high 9.900 against No. 25 Southern Utah. She helped lead her team to a season-best 49.200 on the apparatus. Greer also won her fourth beam title of the season with a 9.850, and added a 9.650 on vault. The Spartans earned a season-best 195.775, the third-highest team score in program history and fifth-highest in MPSF history. Greer owns an MPSF-High three specialist awards this year.

Newcomer of the Week

Tracie Villanueva, Seattle Pacific

Seattle Pacific freshman Tracie Villanueva (Kaneohe, HI) registered the highest Falcon uneven bars score of the season to help the team compile a school-record team score of 194.575 on Friday in a dual meet at UC Davis. Her 9.85 performance was a career-high and tied for third-place in the event. Seattle Pacific has won the last three MPSF Newcomer awards, and a high of four this year.

Mountain Rim Gymnastics Championship

Gymnast of the Week

Kelsey Morris, Boise State

Morris tallied the highest all-around score this season among MRGC schools with a career-high 39.500, the third-highest total in school history to earn Gymnast of the Week honors. Her finish included career highs on vault (9.850), bars (9.950) and beam (9.850) and was punctuated by a 9.850 on the floor exercise. Along with the all-around title, Morris also picked up an individual title on bars.

Specialist of the Week

Kelsey Black, Boise State

Black competed on three events for the Broncos, scoring a 9.900 on vault and bars to finish first and second on each event, respectively. Black finished her night with a 9.800 on floor to pick up her first Specialist of the Week award this season.

Pac-12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Olivia Courtney, UCLA

Courtney and the Bruins were able to record a UCLA season-high 197.5 in a win at Arizona. Senior Olivia Courtney won the all-around for the second straight meet, scoring a season-best 39.5. Courtney tied for first on vault with teammate Samantha Peszek and tied for second on floor. Her efforts on the floor routine helped lead the Bruins to the teams season-high 49.5. Additionally, Courtney tied for fourth on beam (9.85) and seventh on bars (9.825).

Specialist of the Week

Sam Peszek, UCLA

Senior Samantha Peszek scored 9.90 on all three events in which she competed to share the title on vault and bars and placing second on beam. The Indianapolis, Ind., native posted scores to help UCLA earn a season-high 197.5 on the road to take down Arizona. She is tied at 15th in the nation on bars with a season average is 9.90 on bars. So far this season Peszek has racked up nine 9.9 scores and nine individual victories over 14 routines.

Freshman/Newcomer of the Week

Seylnna Feliz-Terrazas, Arizona

Arizona freshman Selynna Felix-Terrazas has made big impact for the Wildcats in a season filled with injury with the upperclassmen. Felix-Terrazas, a Tuscon, Ariz., native, has been contributing all season long with numbers counting scored to team totals. This past meet, she scored a career and season-best 9.90 on bars to take first place against the Bruins.

Southeastern Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Jessie Jordan, LSU

Jessie Jordan shattered her career high in the all-around with a 39.600 to help LSU score the first 198 in program history. It marked Jordan's third all-around title of the season and the fifth of her career. Her all-around score also tied for the best in the conference in this week's meets. Jordan captured the vault title with a 9.925, her first vault crown of the season and only the second of her career. She also recorded a career-high 9.925 on floor to help LSU break the school record for highest floor total with a 49.700. Jordan added a 9.90 on bars as the Tigers finished with a 49.500, the sixth-highest bars total in LSU history.

Specialist of the Week

Lindsey Cheek, Georgia

Lindsey Cheek helped Georgia score a season-high 197.650 against Arkansas by placing first on vault, bars and beam, including career-highs on vault and beam. Cheek set a new career-high with a 9.975 on vault, then she scored a 9.95 on bars to tie for first. The Watkinsville, Ga., native was awarded 10s by two judges – one on vault and one on bars. Cheek added another first place finish on beam with a 9.95. Cheek, who now owns 15 individual event titles this season, is ranked third nationally on bars, fifth on beam and ninth on vault.

Freshman of the Week

Claire Boyce, Florida

Boyce has been a part of every Gator beam and floor lineup in 2014. At then No. 4 Alabama, Boyce upped her collegiate beam best to 9.925 to earn a share of the event title. It was her first collegiate event title. She also turned in a 9.85 on floor. It was her second consecutive meet with a collegiate-best on beam as she equaled her then best of 9.90 against LSU on Feb. 21.

Fourteen of her 16 routines this season have been scored 9.80 or above, including collegiate bests of 9.925 on beam and 9.875 on floor. In the Feb. 24 national rankings, Boyce held the No. T9 spot in beam – the only freshman among the nation's top 10 beam standings.