

Gymnasts of the Week – Jan. 19-25, 2015

Awards are given by conference offices

Big Ten Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Lindsay Mable, Minnesota

- Won the all-around with a score of 39.575 in Minnesota's dual meet win over No. 21 Michigan State
- Placed first on the floor (9.925), beam (9.925) and vault (9.900), and scored a 9.825 on the bars
- Her score of 9.925 on the floor and beam were both season-high marks

Event Specialist of the Week

Ashley Lambert, Nebraska

- Scored a 10.00 on the vault in No. 7 Nebraska's quad meet at Rutgers
- Became Nebraska's first gymnast to post a perfect 10.00 in back-to-back weeks on an event

Freshman of the Week

Briannah Tsang, Penn State

- Claimed the all-around title with a score of 39.500 in No. 9 Penn State's win over Maryland
- Placed first on the beam (9.950) and floor (9.875) and second on the bars (9.850)
- Set career highs on the all-around, floor and bars

Big 12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Kara Lovan, Oklahoma

Lovan recorded a career-high score of 9.925 on floor exercise to finish second in OU's win over Texas Women's University and Southeast Missouri State, trailing only teammate Brenna Dowell. She led off OU's vault rotation with a 9.875, a season-high, and added a season-high 9.875 on balance beam to tie for second overall on the event. The combined performance aided OU to a 197.850 win, the best score in the nation so far this season.

Specialist of the Week

McKenzie Wofford, Oklahoma

Wofford continued her run as one of the top competitors in the nation on uneven bars this season, hitting a 9.95 to mark a season-high score. She tied for second on the event in OU's win, trailing only teammate Brenna Dowell's perfect 10.0, and helped Oklahoma to a program-record 49.625 on the uneven bars in its victory. She is currently tied for fifth nationally on the event as an individual and has not scored lower than a 9.875 on bars this season.

Freshman of the Week

Brenna Dowell, Oklahoma

Dowell became the first true freshman in Oklahoma gymnastics history to earn a 10.0 on any event with a perfect score on uneven bars. She is the first gymnast in the NCAA to post a 10.0 on uneven bars in 2015 and only NCAA gymnast to earn a perfect 10.0 on any event other than vault. Dowell anchored OU to a team score of 49.625 on bars, a new program record and added new career-high score on floor exercise (9.975) and vault (9.875).

East Atlantic Gymnastics League

Gymnast of the Week

Brittini Watkins, North Carolina State

Junior Brittini Watkins of NC State (Albany, N.Y.) earned the EAGL Gymnast of the Week honor for Week Three of the 2015 season after helping the Wolfpack earn the top-score in EAGL this season (196.125) with her all-around performance. Watkins finished first on vault (9.925), beam (9.850), floor (9.900) and in the all-around competition (39.525). She also finished third on bars (9.850) to help lead NC State to its road win.

Specialist of the Week

Lane Jarred, North Carolina State

Senior Lane Jarred of NC State (Lawrenceville, NJ) was honored as EAGL Specialist of the Week on January 27th. Jarred tied for first on beam to help the team finish with a score of 49.200, which marks the highest beam score the team has posted since 1999 at the EAGL Championship. She also finished third on vault (9.800), tied with teammate Amanda Fillard, and earned a 9.800 on floor in NC State's win over Texas Women's.

Rookie of the Week

Morgan Lane, North Carolina

For the second week in a row, Lane won the all-around competition, tallying a season best 39.250. Lane was in the top two in three out of the four rotations: vault, beam and floor. She placed first on beam (9.875), tied for first on floor (9.825), and tied for second on vault (9.775). On bars, Lane recorded a 9.775, which tied for seventh among all competitors. Lane's scores on vault and beam represent season bests.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division I

Co-Gymnasts of the Week

Caroline Morant, Brown

Morant was solid on all four events and led her team to a season-high 192.375 in its season opener. She helped the Bears defeat six-time USA Gymnastics Collegiate National Champion, Bridgeport, for the first time in six years. The sophomore won the all-around (38.875) and beam (9.8) titles, while placing second on vault (9.7), third on bars (9.675) and fourth on floor (9.7).

Brittany Stover, College of William & Mary

Stover captured the vault title with a 9.875 mark, which tied for the third-best score in school history. The junior also earned a fourth-place finish in all-around (38.8) while also receiving the Tribe's top scores on beam (9.725) and floor (9.750).

Rookie of the Week

Anna Merkurjev, Yale

Merkurjev competed in the all-around in her second consecutive meet as Yale's only freshman in the line up. The rookie won vault (9.7) and took second in the all-around with an outstanding 38.225.

Specialist of the Week

Courtney Spitzer, Cornell

Spitzer recorded the highest score in the ECAC on beam for the second week in a row, posting a 9.8 mark. She also captured gold against SUNY Cortland with a personal-best 9.7 score on bars.

Coaches' Choice

Morgan Venuti, Penn

Venuti wasn't able to practice and prepare herself on bars this year due to a thumb injury, but has been able to push through workouts on vault and floor. The junior answered the call to the line up and was able to hit her bar set without hesitation, posting a 9.775 to finish second in the event. Venuti helped Penn garner a team event high of 48.550 and an overall season-high of 193.150.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division II

Co-Gymnasts of the Week

Sasha Tsikhanovich, Bridgeport

Tsikhanovich was impressive this weekend with a consistently strong performance in the all-around, receiving a 10.0 from one judge on the floor and setting a new school record of 9.975.

Majesta Valentine, West Chester

Valentine posted a season-high score on the vault as well as on the floor, competing against some tough Division I competition last week. She placed fifth on the vault (9.725), seventh on the balance beam (9.750) and was fifth all-around (38.350).

Rookie of the Week

Madison Brent, West Chester

Brent started off the Rams' floor line up with a strong 9.675. The rookie has been solid all year on the floor exercise for West Chester.

Specialist of the Week

Caitlin Perry, Bridgeport

Perry is coming off hip surgery this year and is off to a great start. The senior received a score of 9.9 from one of the floor officials this weekend, averaging a 9.875.

Coaches' Choice

Jenny Kaufman, Southern Connecticut State

Kaufman hit two strong events for the Owls last week in the floor and vault. Fighting back from a recent back injury, Kaufman recorded a 9.65 score on the floor and a 9.625 on the vault.

Mid American Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Anna Willette, Eastern Michigan

Eastern Michigan University senior gymnast Anna Willette led Eastern Michigan University gymnastics team to its highest team score in 11 years, tallying season highs in every rotation en route to her team earning a 195.250-192.425 victory over the Bowling Green State University Falcons in a Mid-American Conference dual, Jan. 24, at the Convocation Center. One week after completing her first all-around performance with a 39.000, Willette improved on the mark by using four new season bests to record an all-around score of 39.175, becoming just the fifth Eagle in program history to reach that mark. She finished runner-up on vault with a 9.825, tied for the bars title and took third on beam with scores of 9.775, while also earning a career-best 9.800 on floor to place second in the event. The last time EMU broke the 195-point barrier was at the end of the 2004 campaign; the Eagles tallied a 195.550 at the Mid-American Conference Championship, March 19, 2004.

Specialist of the Week

Rachel Stypinski, Kent State

Freshman Rachel Stypinski scored two career-highs in her home debut for the Golden Flashes on Friday, January 23rd as Kent State defeated the Western Michigan Broncos 194.900 to 193.325 to pick up win number one on the season, 1-3 overall and 1-1 in the MAC. Stypinski's career bests came on the balance beam and the floor exercise as she led Kent State and won both events on Friday. The Boyertown, Pa. native, scored a 9.875 on both the beam and the floor.

Midwest Independent Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Alyssa Tucker, Southeast Missouri State

On Friday, Tucker set a career-high with a 39.125 overall score in claiming the all-around title at No. 1 Oklahoma's tri-meet that also included Texas Woman's. In front of a record 3,923 gymnastics fans at the Lloyd Noble Center on Friday, Tucker set career-highs with scores of 9.800 on floor exercise and vault. She matched her season-high on uneven bars with a 9.775 for the second straight week and scored 9.750 on balance beam.

Specialist of the Week

Courtney Cochefski, Texas Woman's

Cochefski has posted a 9.750 or higher in all three meets this season including a 9.900 in the home opener against NC State on Sunday, Jan. 25. She scored a 9.750 at #1 Oklahoma's tri-meet on Friday, Jan. 23 before winning the event title on Sunday against the Wolfpack. Cochefski also posted a 9.800 in the season opener at Centenary on Jan. 10th.

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

Gymnast of the Week

Maddie Herr, San Jose State

San Jose State junior Maddie Herr (Lititz, PA) had a career day in a quad meet at No. 17 California, with No. 15 Denver and No. 28 Arizona State (Jan. 25). Herr finished third all-round with a career-best 39.175, her first-ever score above 39.000. Herr tied for first on bars with a season-best 9.825, and finished third on the beam with a season-best 9.800. She added a 9.775 on vault on floor to round out her scoring. The Spartans placed ahead of the Sun Devils in the meet with a 194.200 total. Herr was named newcomer of the week on Jan. 20.

Specialist of the Week

Lauren Rice, Sacramento State

Sacramento State freshman Lauren Rice (Henderson, NV) earned her first collegiate all-around victory after scoring a career-high 39.050 in the Hornets' win over UC Davis (Jan. 23). The true freshman opened the meet with a 9.75 on vault where she tied for third. She shared the title on bars with a career-high 9.850. Rice added a 9.625 on beam and ended the meet with 9.825 on floor to place third. This is the second newcomer award for Rice (Jan. 13).

Newcomer of the Week

Annie Juarez, Sacramento State

Sacramento State freshman Annie Juarez (Westfield, IN) scored a career-high 9.875 to finish first on floor and help Sacramento State to a season-high 194.925 against UC Davis. The true

freshman also scored 9.750 on vault which tied her for third. This is Juarez's third career MPSF weekly award in her first four weeks in collegiate gymnastics

Mountain Rim Gymnastics Championship

Gymnast of the Week

Nina McGee, Denver

McGee posted a 39.350 all-around tally during the Pioneers' upset win over then-ranked No. 10 Georgia in Magness Arena on Monday, January 19, on the way to her third straight title. In each of DU's first three meets this year, McGee won the all-around and three individual event titles--including the vault (9.875), beam (9.825) and floor (9.925) titles at the January 19 meet. McGee added a 39.000 final score at Sunday's quad meet at California, which included a 9.900 on floor, earning her a second-place finish on the event. She finished just off the all-around podium in fourth.

Specialist of the Week

Ciera Perkins, Boise State

Perkins scored a 9.925 on vault to claim the individual title, helping the Broncos to a 196.725-195.750 victory against Southern Utah. The senior also recorded a second-place finish on bars with a 9.850 and competed on floor, earning a 9.625.

Pac-12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Samantha Peszek, UCLA

Peszek totaled six first-place showings and scored 9.875 or higher on every routine, including a 9.975 on bars and a pair of 9.95s on beam. In UCLA's first meet of the week against Arizona on Monday, she placed first on every event in which she competed, winning vault (9.875), bars (9.975) and beam (9.95). At Utah, in a battle between the top two all-arounders in the country, she defeated top-ranked Georgia Dabritz with a season-high score of 39.625 and won bars (9.9) and beam (9.95). Peszek placed second on the other two events with a 9.9 on vault and 9.875 on floor.

Specialist of the Week

Corrie Lothrop, Utah

Utah senior Corrie Lothrop earned Specialist of the Week honors for her performance in the Utes' meet against UCLA on Jan. 23. Lothrop tied for first on bars, came in second on floor, and helped put the meet away for the No. 5 Utes with a clutch beam routine. Lothrop scored season-highs on all three events in which she competed.

Freshman/Newcomer of the Week

Toni-Ann Williams, California

In Cal's quad meet home opener against No. 15 Denver, Arizona State and San Jose State, the freshman prodigy scored top honors in vault (9.925), bars (9.825), floor (9.95), and all-around (39.475). Her all-around total matched the fifth-highest all-around score in program history, tying My-Lann Dodd's score set in March 2003. Williams' career-high and program-record 9.95 on floor was just one of 5 9.95's logged on the event in California's history.

Southeastern Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Rheagan Courville, LSU

Courville recorded the highest all-around total in the nation with a 39.625 to lead LSU to a season-high 197.350 and victory over Missouri. She also won the vault and bars titles with a 9.95 in each event. Courville added a 9.875 on beam to place third, and she scored a 9.85 on floor to help LSU tally a 49.500 that ranks as the highest floor total of the week and second-highest in the nation. Her all-around title is the 22nd of her career, tying her with Ashleigh Clare-Kearney for second place in LSU career all-around titles. Courville's vault title is the 24th of her career, which moves her into sole possession of third place for most vault titles in LSU annals. Courville now has 78 career individual titles, a figure that ranks fourth in LSU history.

Specialist of the Week

Kaitlyn Clark, Alabama

Clark won her second vault title in three meets with a career-best 9.975 to help push Alabama to a season-best 49.500, and solidifying the Tide's position as the league's best vault team. She also posted the Tide's top score on the floor exercise, the event where Alabama is ranked No. 1 in the SEC and in the nation. Clark helped lead Alabama to an upset over No. 1 ranked Florida, propelling Alabama to a 197.4 team score, making Alabama the highest scoring team in the SEC and the second highest scoring team in the nation.

Freshman of the Week

Paige Zaziski, Arkansas

Zaziski finished third in the all-around with a score of 38.325 in Arkansas' meet at Auburn. She scored a career-best 9.800 on the beam, leading the Razorbacks in posting a season-best 48.825 in the event in the final rotation. Zaziski also led the team on the uneven bars as she tied his career best of 9.850, placing her in a tie for 24th place nationally in the event.

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Specialist

Brooke Hiestand, Winona State University

Hiestand scored a personal career best 9.675 on the floor exercise to lead the Warriors' strong effort in the final rotation to come from behind to beat UW-Eau Claire 182.875-181.975 in Winona on Jan. 23. Hiestand's score on the floor was the best score of the night from either team, while also posting a strong 9.300 on the vault.

All-Around

Katie Fiorilli, UW-Whitewater

Fiorilli led UW-Whitewater to the third-highest team total in program history in a 191.600-185.675 win over Hamline University (Minn.) on Jan. 24, finishing second in the all-around. She tied for second on the vault with a score of 9.7 to help the Warhawks to a school record 48.175 event total. Fiorilli added a 9.575 on the uneven bars for fourth, was fifth on the balance beam with a score of 9.45 and finished sixth on the floor with a score of 9.425 for a total of 38.150 in the all-around. Fiorilli has posted an all-around total over 37.000 in 10 consecutive meets dating back to last season. Her 38.150 against the Pipers was her second consecutive all-around total over 38 of the season.

