

Gymnasts of the Week – Jan. 26-Feb. 1, 2015

Awards are given by conference offices

Big Ten Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Nicole Artz, Michigan

- Claimed the all-around title with a score of 39.600 in No. 5 Michigan's dual meet win over No. 7 Nebraska
- Placed first on the floor (9.975), second on the vault (9.900) and bars (9.875), and third on the beam (9.850)
- Set career highs on the vault, floor exercise and all-around

Event Specialist of the Week

Abbie Epperson, Maryland

- Placed first on the bars with a score of 9.900 and tied for first on the vault with a mark of 9.850 in Maryland's dual meet against Iowa
- Her score on the bars was a career-high mark and ties for the 10th best score in school history

Freshman of the Week

Brianna Brown, Michigan

- Recorded an all-around score of 39.450 in No. 5 Michigan's dual meet victory over No. 7 Nebraska
- Placed first on the bars (9.900) and third on the floor (9.900)
- Set career-best marks on the bars, floor exercise and all-around

Big 12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Kara Lovan, Oklahoma

Lovan captured Gymnast of the Week honors after posting four scores of 9.9 or better in Oklahoma's wins last weekend. The sophomore captured a new career-high of 9.925 against Denver on balance beam to win the event title and added a 9.875 on beam at the Metroplex Challenge to finish in a tie for second. Lovan also tied for Oklahoma's team-high on vault in the lead-off position at Metroplex with a season-high 9.9. A native of Des Moines, Iowa, Lovan posted two scores of 9.9 on floor in OU's two meets, finishing in a tie for third in both contests. She is now ranked No. 12 in the country on both beam and floor exercise and has boosted OU to No. 1 team rankings nationally on both events. Lovan has also earned or tied her career-highs on beam and floor in the last two weeks of competition.

Specialist of the Week

Haley Sorensen, Oklahoma

A senior staple in OU's beam lineup, Sorensen earned back-to-back career-highs on balance beam in OU's two meets last weekend. Sorensen posted a 9.875 against Denver before shattering that mark with a 9.9 at the Metroplex Challenge. A native of The Woodlands, Texas, Sorensen's mark of 9.9 tied for the beam title at Metroplex, the first event title of her career. Sorensen aided Oklahoma to back-to-back beam scores of 49.400 in both victories last weekend and a No. 1 team ranking overall this week on balance beam.

Newcomer of the Week

Brenna Dowell, Oklahoma

Dowell continued her super freshman campaign this week with four routines of 9.9-plus last weekend. She earned a new career-high with a 9.9 on vault against Denver, tying for second overall on the event before following up with the floor title at Denver with a meet-high 9.95. The Odessa, Mo., native followed up by finishing in a tie for second on bars (9.9) and floor (9.9) at the Metroplex Challenge. Dowell also contributed to OU's season-high 49.500 on floor to seal the win in the final rotation and is ranked No. 5 in the nation on uneven bars and tied for 20th on floor.

East Atlantic Gymnastics League

Gymnast of the Week

Michaela Woodford, N.C. State

Woodford, a junior from Gainesville, Fla., earned three top-three finishes in the Wolfpack's recent meet. She won the all-around competition with a score of 39.175, finished second on beam with a 9.850 and tied for third with Jarred on floor with a score of 9.825. Her all-around and beam scores marked career highs, as she also scored a 9.800 on vault and 9.700 on bars in Saturday's meet.

Specialist of the Week

Sarah Peterson, North Carolina

In the Tar Heels' second quad meet of the season, Peterson competed in two events and placed in the top-five for both. Assisting UNC to second place finish in the meet, Peterson notched a 9.875 on vault, tying for second place. She was awarded a season-high score of 9.775 on the balance beam, tying for fifth place.

Rookie of the Week

Morgan Lane, North Carolina

On Sat, Jan. 31, Lane tied for second in the all-around with a score of 39.125. She placed in the top-six in three out of the four rotations: beam, bars and floor. On bars, Lane scored a 9.725, tying for sixth place. Lane earned a 9.875 on beam, earning the highest score among all competitors. On floor, she tied for third, notching a score of 9.825.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division I

Gymnast of the Week

Brittany Stover, William & Mary

Stover tied for a pair of second place finishes in the all-around with a 39.125 mark and on vault with a score of 9.875. She also tied for the team's top score on floor (9.800) and bars (9.725). On beam, Stover posted the team's second-best mark with a score of 9.725. Her score on all-around and vault tied for the third-best score in school history.

Co-Rookies of the Week

Claire Ryan, Brown

Ryan earned personal bests on both bars (9.65) and beams (9.725) in a tight competition at Rutgers last weekend. The rookie helped the Bears earn the top score in the ECAC for the week and a season-high 192.875.

Megan Finck, Pennsylvania

Finck set her career-high score on floor exercise with a score of 9.8 to finish third in the event. Finck also posted another career-high on the uneven bars with a score of 9.575 and just missed her career-high by .025 on vault after earning a 9.550.

Specialist of the Week

Sara Schupp, Cornell

Schupp hit her all-time best score of 9.8 on vault to tie for first in a quad meet at the University of Pennsylvania. Her score helped Cornell to the highest score of the season and to a victory in the vaulting event.

Co-Coaches' Choice

Kaitlyn Reszkowski, Pennsylvania

Reszkowski led off on the floor exercise, scoring a career-high 9.775 to help Pennsylvania post a season-high 48.525 mark. The senior helped garner a team win over West Chester, Cornell and Ursinus after being limited to workouts due to a second knee surgery.

Allison Bushman, Yale

Bushman was cleared for practice after suffering from a recent concussion. The freshman posted scores in bars (9.625), floor (9.525) and vault (9.45) to help Yale achieve its season-high team score.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division II

Gymnast of the Week

Sasha Tsikhanovich, Bridgeport

Tsikhanovich captured the all-around to earn three first place finishes at the first annual Don Tony Memorial meet. The senior placed first on beam (9.9), floor (9.85) and all-around (38.9). Tsikhanovich is currently ranked 13th in the country and first in the ECAC, amongst all divisions.

Rookie of the Week

Alexandra Avendano, Southern Connecticut State

Avendano tied for the Owls' top score on the beam with a 9.65. The rookie also recorded a 9.6 on floor exercise and tallied a 9.575 mark on vault.

Specialist of the Week

Brianna Comport, Bridgeport

Comport placed second on both beam and floor exercise last week. The sophomore specialist scored 9.8 on both events and was second behind one of the Northeast's top competitors, Sasha Tsikhanovich.

Coaches' Choice

Selena Swanger, West Chester

Swanger had her career-best meet, hitting above the 38 mark for the first time in the all-around. She went 4-for-4 and helped her team break both its team all-around record and vault record. Swanger was fifth in vault and tied for fourth on beam with 9.7 marks on both events.

Kim Stewart, Bridgeport

Stewart scored a 9.9 for one of the best vaults of her career, sticking the vault under pressure to help set their highest team score of the season. The sophomore from Cape Cod took first in the event, which also marked a personal-best, while also helping the Purple Knights achieve their highest vault total of 48.45.

Mid American Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Halle Moraw, Central Michigan

The senior gymnast led the Chippewas on Friday, January 31 at the Illinois/Michigan Classic to a second place finish (194.000). Moraw placed in the top three in three rotations. Recording a new personal best on vault, Moraw finished first with a score of 9.875. The senior's athleticism showed again as she placed on top on floor scoring 9.875. She placed third on beam (9.750), only 0.125 behind first.

Specialist of the Week

Rachel Stypinski, Kent State

Freshman Rachel Stypinski reset her two career-highs from the previous weekend on balance beam and the floor exercise. The Boyertown, Pa. native, set both new career-highs on Friday, January 30th as Kent State defeated Pittsburgh 195.750-191.175 in the Golden Flashes Beauty and the Beast event. Stypinski came away with two individual victories, as she took first on the beam and floor with scores of 9.900 on both events.

Midwest Independent Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Valeri Ingui, Lindenwood

Ingui scored a 38.925 in the all-around at the meet, the fourth-highest all-around score in school history. She also became the first Lindenwood gymnasts to have two meets in her career with all-around scores of 38.900 or higher. Ingui was the runner-up on the beam with a 9.800, and tied for fourth on the bars with a 9.800. She also scored a 9.725 on the floor and a 9.600 on the vault.

Specialist of the Week

Courtney Heise, Lindenwood

Heise became the Lindenwood gymnasts in program history to record two scores of 9.850 or higher in the same competition. She scored a 9.850 in both the vault and the bars, and led Lindenwood in both of those events. Her vault score was the second-best in school history, and her bars mark was the fourth-best at Lindenwood.

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

Gymnast of the Week

M'rcy Matsunami, Alaska-Anchorage

University of Alaska-Anchorage junior M'rcy Matsunami (Omaha, NE) tied the fourth-best all-around in school history with a career-high and first-place 38.900, as the Seawolves won for the first time in 26 meetings at Seattle Pacific (Jan. 30), and for just the second-time ever vs. the Falcons. Matsunami shared the vault title (9.775), won the uneven bars outright (9.75), and had two other top-five routines on beam (9.675) and floor (9.700). Matsunami was also named MPSF Gymnast of the week on Jan. 13.

Specialist and Newcomer of the Week

Emily Rambergof, Alaska-Anchorage

University of Alaska-Anchorage freshman Emily Ramberg (Forest Lake, MN) tied the fourth-highest mark in Seawolves' balance beam history (9.825), as she won the event title at Seattle Pacific (Jan. 30). UAA totaled 48.575 on beam, tying the program record for the event (Feb. 7, 2004). She also scored 9.525 on vault to help UAA earn its first-ever dual victory at SPU in 26

tries. This is Ramberg's first career MPSF honor. She is also the first-ever UAA Gymnast to earn a newcomer or specialist award, and the first-ever MPSF Gymnast to win two awards in one week.

Mountain Rim Gymnastics Championship

Gymnast of the Week

Sarah Landes, Utah State

Landes earned her first MRGC Gymnast of the Week title after leading Utah State with a season-high 39.225 in the all-around and capturing the individual title. Landes recorded runner-up finishes on vault (9.850) and floor (9.800), while also tying for third on bars (9.800) and tying for seventh on beam (9.775) as the Aggies finished second as a team to Boise State, 195.975-194.275.

Specialist of the Week

Ciera Perkins, Boise State

Perkins leaped into the Bronco record books on Friday night after scoring a 10.0 on vault, helping the Broncos (195.975) to victory over host Utah State (194.275) and UC Davis (193.550). The Las Vegas native grabbed the individual title in the meet while recording only the fourth perfect score on any apparatus in school history.

Pac-12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Georgia Dabritz, Utah

Utah senior Georgia Dabritz earned gymnast of the week honors for the second time this season after her performance in the Utes' victory over Arizona on Jan. 31. Dabritz opened the meet with a perfect 10.0 on the bars and won three events and the all-around to lead the team. Her 39.70 all-around score is tied for the eighth best in Utah history. Dabritz is also the No. 1 all-arounder in the nation for the third week in a row this week.

Specialist of the Week

Peng-Peng Lee, UCLA

Lee's near-perfect marks led UCLA to a season-high total of 196.800 in the Bruins' win over No. 21 California. Her uneven bars score included a perfect 10 from one of the two judges and helped the Bruins earn a season-high team score of 49.375 on the event. On balance beam, she anchored the event and led the team to a score of 49.2, an over one-point improvement over last week's mark. Lee's 9.95s established new career-highs. She has scored 9.9 or higher on three of four bars routines this season.

Freshman/Newcomer of the Week

Toni-Ann Williams, California

The Randallstown, Md., product made Golden Bear history this weekend by posting Cal's first-ever 9.975 on vault and set a new program-record for the event. She bested her nearest competition by one-tenth of a point to win vault, and added a second title by posting a 38.900 all-around effort. Williams was runner-up on floor with a 9.90.

Southeastern Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Kytra Hunter, Florida

Hunter used the nation's second-highest all-around total of 2015 – and the leading mark among SEC gymnasts – to claim her fourth consecutive title of 2015 Friday versus No. 11 Georgia. Her 39.675 give her career win No. 16, which ties her for sixth all-time among the Gators. Season-high marks of 9.975 for the second consecutive week gave Hunter the vault title and a share of the floor win. The three event wins versus Georgia brings her career total to 68, moving her to fourth all-time among the Gators. The floor win was the 26th of her career and she is now three away from tying Florida's career floor winner Melissa Miller, who set the record in 1989. Her winning floor mark of 9.975 equals the nation's high floor mark of 2015 and she is the only gymnast to turn in the mark in multiple floor performances. The vault win is No. 19, as she already leads Gator gymnasts all-time in vault victories.

Specialist of the Week

Brandie Jay, Georgia

Jay registered a pair of 9.925s and a 9.9 to help Georgia score a 196.950 on the road against No. 3 Florida. Her routines all placed in the top three, including a second place finish on vault with a 9.925. She also tied her season high on bars with a 9.9 to tie for third and equaled her season-best on floor with a 9.925 to tie for third.

Freshman of the Week

Kennedy Baker, Florida

Baker posted three collegiate best event marks, which led to a collegiate-best all-around total of 39.55 to take second in the Jan. 30 dual versus Georgia. That total is the highest posted among the nation's freshmen and shares the nation's 10th highest total of 2015. Baker used a national high floor mark of 9.975 to share her first floor event title with teammate Kytra Hunter. It is the highest floor mark ever posted by a Gator freshman. She opened Florida balance beam set with a collegiate- and Gator season-best 9.925 to take second on the event. Baker also raised her uneven bars best to 9.85.

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Specialist

Liz Stubbs, UW-Eau Claire

Stubbs won two events as the Blugolds lost at three-time defending national champion UW-Whitewater 189.600-183.950 on Jan. 31. She won the balance beam and floor exercise earning scores of 9.575 and 9.650, respectively. On the vault, Stubbs placed ninth with a score of 9.300.

All-Around

Krystal Walker, UW-Oshkosh

Walker surpassed her season-best all-around score by nearly two points during UW-Oshkosh's participation at the Rutgers University (N.J.) Quadrangular on Jan. 31. Walker finished fourth in the all-around competition with 38.175 points. Her score included 9.65 points in the floor exercise and 9.625 on the balance beam. Lisa Burt of Michigan State University won the all-around title with 38.60 points. Michigan State University captured the team title with 194.95 points. Rutgers University finished second with 194.35 points, while Brown University (R.I.) placed third with 192.875 and UW-Oshkosh fourth with 188.325. All three teams that finished ahead of UW-Oshkosh were NCAA Division I members.

