

Gymnasts of the Week – March 9-15, 2015

Awards are given by conference offices

Big Ten Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Nicole Artz, Michigan

- Won the all-around title with a score of 39.550 at Michigan's Big Five meet, guiding the Wolverines to the regular-season Big Ten Women's Gymnastics Championship
- Placed first on the vault (9.950) and beam (9.900) and scored a 9.850 on the floor exercise and bars
- Score on the vault was a career-high mark

Event Specialist of the Week

Mollie Drenth, Iowa

- Won the bars with a score of 9.925 in Iowa's Big Five meet versus Michigan, Minnesota, Penn State and Rutgers
- Placed first on the beam with a tally of 9.900
- Both scores were season-best marks

Freshman of the Week

Briannah Tsang, Penn State

- Tallied a score of 39.300 in the all-around in Penn State's Big Five meet against Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Rutgers
 - Collected a score of 9.900 on the vault and 9.825 on the floor
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Big 12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Alexa Goldberg, West Virginia

Sophomore Alexa Goldberg scored two career highs and earning two event wins in the Mountaineers' 196.075, first-place showing against Penn (193.175) and Cornell (191.3) on March 14, at the WVU Coliseum. Goldberg scored her seventh bars win of the season with a 9.9, her second straight 9.9+ mark on the event. She currently ranks No. 42 nationally, No. 6 in the Big 12, on the event with a 9.87 RQS. Goldberg continued her winning ways on beam, scoring a career-high 9.825 and tying for the event win. She ended the day with a career-best 9.875 showing on floor, good enough for third place.

Specialist of the Week

Melissa Idell, West Virginia

Junior Melissa Idell had a direct hand in the WVU gymnastics team scoring season highs on beam and floor in its 196.075, first-place showing against Penn (193.175) and Cornell (191.3) on March 14 at the WVU Coliseum. Idell tallied career highs on both events and took the individual wins. After a one-week absence from the beam lineup, she returned with a career-best 9.825 score and tied for the win; it was her first career beam win. She then matched her career-best floor score of 9.925 and won the event outright.

Newcomer of the Week

Natalie Brown, Oklahoma

Natalie Brown was one of Oklahoma's most clutch performers in its win over No. 5 Alabama in Tuscaloosa this past week. Making her first career appearance in the lineup in place of an injured teammate, Brown stepped into the floor lineup, anchoring Oklahoma with an incredible 9.925

routine to finish in a tie for second on the event. She added a 9.85 to anchor OU's beam rotation, which finished with a 49.475 on the night and played a key role in OU's final two events, boosting the Sooners to victory over the Crimson Tide.

East Atlantic Gymnastics League

Gymnast of the Week

Jillian Winstanley, George Washington

Winstanley won a pair of all-around titles, totaled three routines of 9.90 or better and added nine podium appearances in GW's final weekend of competition. On Sunday, she scored 9.90 on vault (3rd), balance beam (1st) and floor exercise (2nd), in addition to 9.85 on uneven bars (T-3rd) for a total score of 39.550. The score ties GW Athletic Hall of Famer Devin McCalla for the second-highest all-around total in program history.

Co-Specialists of the Week

Elena Corcoran, George Washington

Corcoran posted career-high marks on both the vault and floor exercise in her final collegiate home meet on Sunday. She scored 9.925 on vault in both meets this weekend in addition to scores of 9.775 (T-5th) and 9.875 (T-3rd) on floor exercise and 9.70 (T-8th) and 9.475 (T-10th) on balance beam.

Vicki Vesecky, Towson

Vesecky set a career-high 9.900 on bars at George Washington on Sunday to wrap up the regular season. Her score was high enough to tie for first-place in the event. She shared the first-place finish with Tiger freshman Tyra McKellar who earned a matching 9.900. In the Tigers' final home meet on Friday against George Washington, she earned a 9.775 on bars. Her score tied with McKellar for the third-place finish in the event.

Rookie of the Week

Cami Drouin-Allaire, George Washington

Drouin-Allaire earns her fifth weekly honor and third Rookie of the Week award after a standout final weekend. She tied the third-highest all-around score in program history with 39.475 at GW's Senior Meet. She also totaled three first-place finishes across the final two meets, highlighted by 9.95 on vault, the second time this season she has achieved that score, and 9.925 on floor exercise on Sunday.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division I

Gymnast of the Week

Brittany Stover, William & Mary

Stover set school records in both the all-around and vault against Bridgeport last weekend. En route to winning both events, Stover tallied scores of 39.500 and 9.950 respectively. The junior helped guide William & Mary to its fourth-highest score in school history, a 195.000.

Rookie of the Week

Megan Finck, Pennsylvania

Finck put together a career-high score on floor last week, finishing third in the event with a mark of 9.875. The freshman led all Penn scorers, helping the Red and Blue score a season-event high and third best score in program history with a 49.1. Her vault score of 9.625, also a career high, helped the Quakers post its second-highest event score of the season with a 48.350.

Specialist of the Week

Elana Molotski, Cornell

Molotski put together the best meet of her career as she scored personal bests and team seasonal-highs on both bars and Floor in Cornell's tri meet with West Virginia and Penn. Her third place finish on bars made her the only non-West Virginia gymnast to appear on the awards stand on any event.

Coaches' Choice

Katherine Lucas, Yale

In a career filled with injuries and setbacks, Lucas has put her whole heart and everything physically left in her to help her team this season. She returned her sophomore year after shoulder surgery to help Yale on vault and floor. She then dislocated her kneecap during her junior year and finally as a senior she has had one of Yale's strongest floor routines, tallying a career-high RQS of 9.64. She gave it all this week, but came up short, tearing her Achilles during her final floor pass.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division II

Gymnast of the Week

Sasha Tsikhanovich, Bridgeport

Tsikhanovich tied her own school record on floor last week, posting a score of 9.975. The senior also posted scores of 9.775 on beam, 38.9 on all-around, and 9.9 on bars.

Rookie of the Week

Alexandra Avendano, Southern Connecticut State

Avendano earned a personal-high score on the floor and her second best score of her career on the vault last week. The freshman registered a 9.750 on floor and a 9.600 on vault.

Specialist of the Week

Caitlin Perry, Bridgeport

Perry put together scores of 9.9 and 9.95 from the floor officials this weekend averaging a mark of 9.925. The team captain also scored a personal best of 9.8 on vault last weekend and is shaping up to championship form after hip surgery last summer.

Coaches' Choice

Melissa Prisco, West Chester

Despite a significant ankle injury that has kept her off of balance beam, Prisco compiled a score of 9.575 on vault over the weekend. With her squad depending on her on vault, the senior has shown a great attitude in persevering through injury this season.

Mid American Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Amanda Stepp, Northern Illinois

Amanda Stepp recorded a pair of 9.900s as she helped guide NIU to a school-record 195.800 in the Huskies' 195.800-195.525 victory over league rival Eastern Michigan. Stepp tied her career-high on the vault with a 9.900 on the vault as NIU's vault squad scored a 48.900, which ranks fourth all-time at NIU. It was the second-straight week the senior from Lapeer, Mich. posted a 9.900 on the vault, which is the fourth-highest in school history. Stepp also scored 9.900 on the

floor exercise to help lead NIU to a 49.225, the second-highest score in school history. A 9.850 on the balance beam rounds out Stepp's incredible afternoon in her final home meet.

Specialist of the Week

Rachel Stypinski, Kent State

Freshman Rachel Stypinski closed out the regular season with another great performance on beam and floor for Kent State. Despite the team coming up short at Bowling Green on Saturday, March 14th, 195.700-195.050, Stypinski won both the balance beam and the floor exercise. Stypinski turned in a 9.875 on beam and a 9.925 on floor.

Midwest Independent Conference

Co-Gymnasts of the Week

Gabrielle May, Illinois-Chicago

May set a new career-best all-around score (39.225) in Sunday's victory over Southeast Missouri to take first place overall. She placed first in every event on Sunday with the exception of beam, where she tied-for-third. The Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, native tied her career-high 9.875 on floor, tied her season-best on bars with a 9.825 and earned her second-highest beam score of the season with a 9.725.

Ashley White, Centenary

White garnered her fifth all-around title of the season in a tri-meet that included nationally-ranked Louisiana State University and the University of New Hampshire with a score of 38.70. The freshman followed with a career-high score of 39.025 two days later against UNH to finish second in all-around. In the meet against UNH, she tallied a career-high on bars with a 9.825, to finish tied for the event title, and tied her career marks on beam with a 9.725 and floor with a 9.80.

Specialist of the Week

Courtney Heise, Lindenwood

Last week at a quad meet at Oregon State, Heise recorded a score of 9.875, which tied for the second-highest mark in program history. Heise tied for first overall in the event with two Oregon State gymnasts and one gymnast from San Jose State. Heise's score was the highest this season for a Lindenwood gymnast on the bars, and helped Lindenwood pick up a big victory over NCAA Division II rival Seattle Pacific.

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

Gymnast of the Week

M'rcy Matsunami, Alaska-Anchorage

Alaska-Anchorage junior M'rcy Matsunami (Omaha, NE) turned in a school record all-around, accumulating 39.200 in last Monday's win over Air Force (Mar. 9). Her winning total included a UAA road record 9.900 on uneven bars and a career-high 9.825 on floor, helping the Seawolves break their school record overall score of 193.825. She is just the fifth MPSF Gymnast to post a 9.900 on bars since 2004. This is Matsunami's 2015 MPSF-High fourth weekly honor (Jan. 13, Feb. 3, Mar. 3, Mar. 17).

Specialist of the Week

Stephanie Stamates, UC Davis

UC Davis junior Stephanie Stamates (Alamo, CA) tied an 11-year-old school record on floor with a 9.950, one rotation after hitting a 9.800 on beam, in the dual win over No. 21 Washington (Mar. 13). The floor score, the highest by any MPSF gymnast since the 2004 conference meet, ranked T-3rd in school history. As a team, UC Davis went 49.075 on beam, breaking the 49-point barrier for just the third time in school history. The Aggies' 49.450 on floor set a program record and marked the MPSF's No. 2 all-time total (behind only SJSU's 49.550 at the 2004 MPSF Championships). The team's overall 196.900 set both school and MPSF records. Also Nominated: Kallie Randolph (UAA); Al Stych (AFA); Kayla Wonderly (SAC)...

Newcomer of the Week

Alexis Brown, UC Davis

UC Davis freshman Alexis Brown (Huntington Beach, CA) broke her own school all-around record by a freshman, scoring 39.250 in the dual win over No. 21 Washington (Mar. 13). She tallied 9.850 on vault, 9.800 on bars, 9.750 on beam and 9.850 on floor. The vault, bars and floor scores set or tied career-highs. Brown placed T-3rd all-around (39.350). UC Davis' 196.900 set a school and MPSF record for overall score. The team's 49.250 on vault set a school and conference record, the 49.125 on bars ranks 2nd all-time at UC Davis and 9th in the MPSF, the 49.075 beam ranks 3rd in the program and T-6th in the conference, while the 49.450 on floor set an Aggie record and become the No. 2 all-time score in the MPSF Almanac.

Mountain Rim Gymnastics Championship

Gymnast of the Week

Makenzie Johnson, BYU

Co-Specialist of the Week

Rachel Fielitz, Julia Ross and Maggie Laughlin, Denver

Fielitz and Ross each earned 9.900 on vault, Fielitz at Air Force on Monday, March 9, and Ross at Arizona on Saturday, March 14. Each won the event titles at those respective meets. Laughlin's 9.900 came on floor during the Arizona meet, where she finished tied for second in the final event standings.

Maddie Krentz, Boise State

The Cave Creek, Ariz., native recorded a 9.90 on vault at the tri-meet versus No. 21 Southern Utah and No. 19 California. Krentz captured a share of the individual vault title, tying with teammate Ciera Perkins. Krentz also scored a 9.825 on the uneven bars and a 9.80 on floor exercise, helping the Broncos to a team score of 196.225.

Ana Jaworski and Stacie Webb, Southern Utah

Jaworski scored a 9.900 on the balance beam and Webb scored 9.900 on floor exercise. Jaworski also had a career night on floor, scoring a 9.875. Webb finished her other two events with a 9.875 on beam and 9.775 on vault. Jaworski's performance also earned her SUU Athletics Player of the Week honors.

Pac-12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Madeline Gardiner, Oregon State

Oregon State sophomore Madeline Gardiner was voted Gymnast of the Week this week after leading the No. 12 Beavers to their second-highest team score of the season (197.075). Gardiner

won the all-around, tying her career-best score of 39.450 set just last week. Gardiner also posted a first place score of 9.850 on the beam and tied for third on the floor with a score of 9.925.

Specialist of the Week

Samantha Peszek, UCLA

UCLA senior Samantha Peszek earned Special Performance of the Week honors this week for her performance in the No. 7 Bruins' meet at No. 18 Arkansas. Peszek won vault and beam and placed third on bars to lead UCLA to a 197.175-195.900 victory. Peszek earned a perfect 10 from one of the two judges on beam and finished with a final score of 9.95. She also scored 9.925 on vault, her seventh consecutive score of 9.9 or higher on vault. On beam, she recorded her third victory and her fourth 9.95 score of the season. Peszek has been named Pac-12 Gymnast of the Week three times this season.

Freshman/Newcomer of the Week

Madison Cindric, Arizona

Arizona freshman Madison Cindric was named Freshman of the Week for her performance in the No. 17 Wildcats' meet with No. 14 Denver on Mar. 14. In her first collegiate performance on bars, Cindric scored a 9.925 and earned first place in the event. Cindric was called to rise to the occasion after senior all-around competitor Allie Flores sustained an injury last week during Arizona's meet at Texas Woman's. Cindric competed in the all-around competition for the first time in her career on Saturday and earned a 39.350 to take second place in the all-around. She also received a 9.825 on vault, 9.775 on beam and 9.825 on floor.

Southeastern Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Kytra Hunter, Florida

Hunter moves into tie for third on Florida's career chart with her 20th all-around win. It is her eighth all-around win of the season (advancing her collegiate season record total) and Friday's 39.675 gives her four totals which rank among the nation's top 10 of 2015. Her total Friday also was tops in the nation in last weekend's competition. Hunter was nearly perfect on floor, as her 9.975 mark equals her season high for the third time. It was her fifth win on the event this season. Hunter's floor win is her 27th, putting her one behind the school-record of floor wins set by Gator Hall of Fame member Melissa Miller (1986-89). She is the nation's top-ranked all-arounder in the latest GymInfo rankings and is the only gymnast to appear in among the top 25 in each of the four apparatus national rankings.

Co-Specialists of the Week

Bridget Sloan, Florida

The regular season finale brought the final 10.0 for All-American Sloan to complete her share of every Florida event record. Sloan, the defending NCAA uneven bars champion, is the first Gator to earn a 10.0 on each apparatus in the program's 43-year history. She is the seventh in the nation to complete a "GymSlam" and the first since Georgia's Courtney Kupets (2006-09). Sloan also topped the evening's vault standings at 9.95.

Lloimincia Hall, LSU

Hall earned a perfect 10.0 on floor to win the title in a tri-meet at Centenary with New Hampshire. It makes back-to-back weeks with a perfect 10 for Hall, and it is the seventh of her career on floor. She is one of only two gymnasts in the nation with a perfect 10 on floor this season, but Hall is the only one who has earned two 10s in the event. Her score helped LSU post the team's highest floor total on the road this season with a 49.575, the highest road floor score of any SEC team this season.

Freshman of the Week

Paige Zaziski, Arkansas

Zaziski set a career-best in the all-around (39.450), uneven bars (9.950) and floor exercise (9.825) vs. No. 8 UCLA. In the uneven bars, she tied the program record score and set the freshman record score after winning the uneven bars title for the fourth time in the last six meets. Zaziski's win in the all-around was her second title of her career.

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Specialist

All-Around