

Gymnasts of the Week – Jan. 11-17, 2016

Awards are given by conference offices

Big Ten Conference

Co-Gymnast and Freshman of the Week

Olivia Karas, Michigan

- Claimed the all-around title with a score of 39.425 in Michigan's dual meet win over Ohio State
- Tied for first place in the vault competition with a score of 9.875 Helped lead Michigan to a score of 196.950

Co-Gymnast of the Week

Lindsay Mable, Minnesota

- Won all four events and the all-around title en route to a score of 39.400
- Scored a 9.800 or higher in every event, including a 9.900 in the floor exercise

Event Specialist of the Week

Talia Chiarelli, Michigan

- Tied for first on the beam (9.950) and placed second on the vault (9.850) in the Wolverines' dual meet win over Ohio State
 - One of two gymnasts nationally to score a 9.950 on the beam this season
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Big 12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Keeley Kmiecik, Oklahoma

Kmiecik secured two all-around titles this past week with scores of 39.425 and 39.400 in two wins for the Sooners. The 39.425 matches the highest score recorded from a Big 12 competitor this season. Against No. 11 Cal and TWU, she tied for third on vault (9.850), placed fourth on bars (9.875), tied for second on beam (9.875) and took fifth on floor (9.825) en route to the overall victory. In the final rotation at No. 16 Arkansas, Kmiecik led off on beam with a season-high 9.900, good for a second-place finish. The senior from Naperville, Illinois also recorded finishes of tied for fourth on bars (9.850), fifth on floor (9.800) and sixth on vault (9.850). She is currently ranked No. 7 nationally in the all-around (39.358 average), is tied for 12th on balance beam (9.867) and is tied for 21st on vault (9.858). Additionally, Kmiecik's efforts aided OU to a move to No. 2 in the national team rankings.

Specialist of the Week

McKenzie Wofford, Oklahoma

Wofford repeats as the Event Specialist of the Week after once again anchoring OU's bar lineup in both meets of the weekend. She posted a 9.925 on Friday against No. 11 Cal and TWU, and a 9.900 on Sunday at No. 16 Arkansas, tying for the event title in both meets. The junior from McKinney, Texas currently sits in a tie for first nationally on bars with a season average of 9.925, while helping the Sooners to their position as the No. 2 team in the country.

Newcomer of the Week

Kirah Koshinski, West Virginia

Koshinski grabbed her second Newcomer of the Week award in as many attempts after putting forth a strong effort in her WVU Coliseum debut, setting a career best on vault and matching her career mark on beam. She paced the Mountaineers on vault and beam for the second straight week and earned her second-consecutive vault win with a career-high 9.900. Her 9.800 on beam

was good for a tie for fifth place. The freshman from Berwick, Pennsylvania finished her day with a 9.725 mark on floor, good for seventh place.

East Atlantic Gymnastics League

Gymnast of the Week

Casey Lauter - New Hampshire

Lauter, who is ranked first in the league and tied for second nationally on balance beam (9.900 average), scored a career-high 9.950 to win the beam title at West Virginia University on Jan. 17, and she shared the beam championship by tallying a 9.875 in the Wildcats' home victory over Yale on Jan. 14. The sophomore also placed second in all-around in both meets with a 39.075 at WVU and a 39.000 versus Yale; she is ranked third in EAGL with an average AA score of 39.092. Led by Lauter, who earns her first EAGL honor since capturing the Rookie of the Week award Feb. 18, 2015, UNH boasts the nation's third-ranked beam average (49.258), behind only No. 1 Florida (49.438) and No. 2 Oklahoma (49.267).

Specialist of the Week

Danielle Mulligan - New Hampshire

Mulligan has registered New Hampshire's top score on uneven bars in all three meets this season, including a 9.875 (first place) against Yale and a 9.850 (third) at West Virginia last week. The freshman, who scored a personal-best 9.900 in her collegiate debut Jan. 9 at the Little Boston Invitational, is ranked second in EAGL with an average bar mark of 9.875.

Rookie of the Week

Daneille Doolin - New Hampshire

Doolin is the Rookie of the Week for the first time in her career on the heels of a pair of terrific performances on floor exercise. On Thursday she tallied a personal-best 9.850 to share the floor championship against Yale, and she led the Wildcats' floor lineup with another 9.850 to tie for second place at WVU. The freshman set four career-high scores and equaled another en route to a first-place 39.025 on Jan. 14, and she followed up with a personal-best 39.050 all-around for third place Jan. 17.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division I

Gymnast of the Week

Malia Mackey – Cornell

In her first meet for the Big Red, Mackey finished first on vault in the ECAC and won the event at the Lindsey Ferris Invitational, competing against teams from George Washington, North Carolina, Temple, and Penn. Her 9.875 score is the highest across all events in the ECAC, and helped lead No. 36 Cornell to school-record 194.025. Malia also scored a 9.675 to earn a ninth-place finish on beam.

Rookie of the Week

Lyanda Dudley – Cornell

In her first collegiate meet, Dudley had the highest score in the ECAC for the week on floor at 9.8. Additionally, her all-around score of 38.85 marked the second-highest score in Cornell gymnastics history. All of her scores counted towards the team-record high of 194.025, earning Cornell the number 36 ranking in the nation.

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Coaches' Choice**Anella Anderson – Yale**

Anella recorded a 9.575 on beam and also scored a career-high 9.675 on bars, with both of those scores counting in Yale's team score. The junior has battled back into the Bulldog lineup since breaking her foot late in the fall, and was only just cleared to return to practice at the beginning of January.

Eastern College Athletic Conference – Division II

Gymnast of the Week**Majesta Valentine – West Chester**

Valentine helped West Chester notch two meet wins last week, and claimed the all-around title with a score of 38.9 in the Rams' meet against Rhode Island College. The junior also scored a 9.825 on balance beam to claim top spot and help West Chester set a team record in the event. Valentine also posted the meet's high score on floor exercise with a mark of 9.8.

Rookie of the Week**Tiffany Elliott – Southern Connecticut State**

After missing all of last season due to a back injury, Elliott turned in a solid performance for the Owls in her first collegiate competition. In a four-team meet that featured Brown, Springfield and Ithaca, Elliott recorded scores of 9.5 on vault, 9.2 on floor exercise and an 8.8 bars score.

Specialist of the Week**Kimberly Stewart – Bridgeport**

Stewart posted a pair of scores of 9.8 for the Purple Knights in their meet at Lindenwood University last weekend. The sophomore posted a 9.8 on the bars and also earned a 9.825 on the vault, as the captain helped Bridgeport collect a total team score of 194.15 and a third-place finish.

Coaches' Choice**Lindsay Knapp – West Chester**

Knapp took first place in the floor exercise (9.675) in the Rams' meet against SUNY Cortland last week. The senior also finished second and notched a career-high 9.775 on the balance beam in West Chester's meet against Rhode Island College, as the Rams went 2-0 on the week. Knapp has fought back from concussion and illness problems to feature in West Chester's competitive squad.

Mid American Conference

Gymnast of the Week**Denasiha Christian, Ball State**

Denasiha Christian, a senior gymnast and 2014 Mid American Conference Floor Champion showcased her skills by earning first place in 3 out of 4 events. Christian placed 1st on vault with a score of 9.8, and 1st on beam and floor with scores of 9.825. Christian was named a member of

the 2014 All-MAC Second Team as well as a member of the All-Mac Tournament Team that same year. Ball State nominates Christian for her performances against Towson University and her persistence to fight for the leaderboard.

Specialist of the Week

Taylor Bolender, Central Michigan

Scored a season-high 9.9 on floor to win the event against BYU. The event victory helped the Chippewas win the meet.

Midwest Independent Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Ashley Thomas - Southeast Missouri State

Thomas followed up her week one performance by setting new season-highs in the all-around (38.775), vault (9.625) and beam (9.750) categories. She placed first out of seven gymnasts in the all-around and finished in a tie for third on the beam. This is also the second-straight week that her all-around score was the best in the conference.

Co-Specialists of the Week

Katey Oswalt – Lindenwood

Oswalt tied for first out of 30 gymnasts at last week's Lindenwood Five-Team competition. She scored a 9.850 on the beam, her first collegiate score above a 9.800. That mark tied her for first place with a gymnasts from No. 12 Oregon State.

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

Gymnast of the Week

Kalliah McCartney - Sacramento State

Sacramento State senior Kalliah McCartney (Vancouver, WA) totaled 39.075 to win her first all-around title since 2014, in the dual meet win at San Jose State (Jan. 15). McCartney placed first on beam (9.850), second on floor (9.875) and third on vault (9.800), leading the Hornets to their MPSF season-high total of 194.900.

Specialist of the Week

Katy Nagakiof - UC Davis

UC Davis junior Katy Nogaki (Orange, CA) tied for second on balance beam (9.800), helping the Aggies post 49.025 in the event — just the fifth time above 49 in program history — and a 194.325 overall during the home opener with Boise State and Seattle Pacific (Jan. 15). She added a team-high 9.750 on vault, good for fifth in the meet.

Newcomer of the Week

Lauren Schmeissof - Sacramento State

Sacramento State freshman Lauren Schmeiss (Gig Harbor, WA) placed third on floor (9.800) and fourth on vault (9.775) in the team's dual meet win at San Jose State (Jan. 15). Her scores both contributed to an MPSF season-high team total of 194.900.

Mountain Rim Gymnastics Championship

Gymnast of the Week

Krystine Jacobsen - Boise State

Jacobsen ended Friday night with a 39.125, highlighted by her 9.875 on bars that secured the win for the Broncos (195.700) over UC Davis (194.325) and Seattle Pacific (189.900). The Virginia Beach, Va., native earned a 9.775 on beam, a 9.825 on floor and a 9.65 on vault to secure the all-around title.

Co-Specialists of the Week

Sandra Collantes - Boise State

Collantes won on floor thanks to a sensational routine that earned her a 9.90 – a career high. The native of Lima, Peru also contributed to Boise State's scores on vault and uneven bars, recording a 9.75 and a 9.725, respectively.

Madyson Blake - Southern Utah

Blake matched Collantes' 9.900 on floor, marking a career high for the sophomore. Blake also appeared on vault for the Thunderbirds, scoring a 9.800 as SUU fell at home to the University of Utah, 196.725-195.600.

Pac-12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Elizabeth Price – Stanford

Stanford sophomore Elizabeth Price earned Gymnast of the Week honors for the second week in a row after her performance in the Cardinal's win on the road at No. 10 Georgia on Jan. 18. Price won the all-around for the second consecutive week, posting top-four finishes in three individual events. She scored Stanford's highest score on the vault, bars, and floor to help the Cardinal pull off an upset victory on the road. Price's strong performance on bars was critical as the gymnast before her had fallen and Price's score helped Stanford salvage a strong start to the meet. She was the only Stanford gymnast to score above 9.750 on floor and provided a much-needed big score in the event to keep pace with Georgia.

Specialist of the Week

Breanna Hughes – Utah

Utah senior Breanna Hughes earned Specialist of the Week honors for her performance in the Red Rocks' win over No. 24 Southern Utah. This is Hughes's first Pac-12 weekly honor since she was named Freshman/Newcomer of the Week in March of 2013. Hughes scored career highs on all three events in which she competed, leading Utah to a season-high 196.725 score and a road win over Southern Utah. In the process, Hughes placed first on both the vault on the bars, and placed second on the floor. Her 9.925 bar score led the team, which is currently ranked first in the nation in average team bar score.

Freshman/Newcomer of the Week

Katelyn Ohashi – UCLA

UCLA freshman Katelyn Ohashi earned Freshman/Newcomer of the Week honors for her performance in the Bruins' hard-fought loss at No. 1 Florida. Ohashi scored a 9.9 on bars to place third at Florida and help UCLA score a season-best 49.35 on bars and 196.925 overall. She also contributed a 9.8 on beam, receiving a 9.9 from one judge, and a 9.825 on floor to help UCLA win floor at the road meet. Ohashi has competed in seven of eight routines so far this season, the most of anyone on the team.

Southeastern Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Bridget Sloan – Florida

Sloan used the nation's top all-around total of the 2016 season to win the event title versus UCLA. The meet was the nation's top dual meet of the weekend as No. 3 Florida defeated No. 5 UCLA. Sloan's total of 39.65 gave her the second consecutive all-around title of the season and it was the 20th of her career. She shares the nation's top spot in the all-around (season average 39.575). Sloan is also tied for first in the uneven bars rankings. Her winning bars mark of 9.975 versus UCLA is the nation's top score for the event of 2016. She also tied for second versus UCLA in beam (9.925) and floor (9.90). Sloan is ranked in the top 20 of each of the five events nationally.

Specialist of the Week

Britney Ward – Missouri

Ward claimed two event titles and notched two career bests as the Mizzou gymnastics team scored a season-best 196.050 in its dual at Alabama on Jan. 15. Ward opened her night with a personal-best 9.925 on vault to claim her second title on the event in as many weeks. The freshman then tallied a 9.900 on beam, also a career high, which was good enough for her second title of the meet and her second on the event this season. Three meets into her freshman campaign, Ward has won four event titles, two each on vault and beam.

Freshman of the Week

Alicia Boren – Florida

Boren had an all-around debut total of 39.575 versus UCLA and shared second overall with teammate Kennedy Baker. The total also equaled the highest ever for a Gator making first all-around appearance. Versus UCLA, Boren also tied for second on floor (9.90), and shared third in vault (9.9) and bars (9.90). In the Jan. 18 national rankings, Boren is No. T-1 all-around (39.575), No. T3 bars (9.9), No. T7 beam (9.887) and No. 22 floor (9.875).

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Specialist

Franchesca Hutton, UW-Whitewater

Hutton won the balance beam for the second straight meet to help the Warhawks win the four-team Brooke Baures "Smile On" Invitational at Winona State University (Minn.) on Jan. 15. Her score of 9.675 in the event tied for the No. 22 mark in program history and was a tenth of a point improvement from her winning performance at Hamline University (Minn.) on Jan. 10. Hutton also placed 12th in the floor exercise at Winona State with a 9.175. Her performance on Jan. 15, helped UW-Whitewater total 187.325 points, three higher than runner-up Winona State.

All-Around

Alex Kopp, Gustavus Adolphus

Kopp placed first out of nine all-around competitors to win the first annual Brooke Baures Memorial "Smile On" Invitational against host Winona State, UW-Whitewater and UW-Stout on Jan. 15. She placed first with a career high 37.350. To earn that all-around total, Kopp had season-high scores in all four events; 9.500 on vault, 9.100 on uneven bars, 9.400 on balance beam and 9.350 on floor exercise. She was awarded team MVP and led the Gusties to the highest team score of the year and the best start Gustavus has seen in over 10 seasons.

