

Gymnasts of the Week – Jan. 3-10, 2010

Big Ten Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Brandi Personett, Penn State

Sr., Katy, Texas/Cinco Rancho

Personett opens the 2010 campaign as the Big Ten Gymnast of the Week and wins the award for the 10th time in her career. In a quadrangular meet in which Penn State finished second against Michigan State, West Virginia and Western Michigan on Friday, Personett finished first in the all-around with a score of 39.225 and won three individual event titles. The senior finished first in vault (9.900), balance beam (9.850) and floor exercise (9.900), and also finished with a 9.575 on bars.

Freshman of the Week

Natalie Beilstein, Michigan

Butler, Pa./Knoch

Beilstein claims the inaugural Big Ten Freshman of the Week award after winning two events in Saturday's triangular in which Michigan finished first over Iowa and Bowling Green. The freshman won the vault competition, beating out 17 other participants, with a score of 9.875. In the floor exercise, Beilstein totaled a 9.850 to top the field of 18 and help Michigan to a total team score of 194.875.

Big 12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Mary Burke, Missouri, So., Inverness, Ill.

Burke captured the first all-around title of her collegiate career with a score of 39.200 while leading No. 16 Missouri to a 194.725-190.650 win against No. 18 Ohio State over the weekend. She also won the bars (9.825) and floor (9.875) events. Burke posted a career high on the floor, while her all-around score matched a career high. She is tied for ninth nationally in the all-around and seventh on the floor.

Specialist of the Week

Jackie Flanery, Oklahoma, Sr., Plattsburg, Mo.

Flanery posted event wins on bars with a career-high 9.85 and floor with a 9.875, as the Sooners pulled an upset victory over No. 4 Florida in OU's season opener. The senior is tied nationally at No. 7 on the floor and No. 9 on the bars. Flanery led Oklahoma to its highest ranking in program history at No. 2 in the nation, according to rankings released Monday.

East Atlantic Gymnastics League

Gymnast of the Week

Amy Bieski – West Virginia

Bieski surpassed the 1,000-point plateau on Friday and earned fifth place all-around with a 38.275 score. The team captain's career point total now stands at 1,007.825. Bieski paced the Mountaineers in the season opener in two events, as she tied Johnson for fourth place (9.825) on floor and finished seventh on vault (9.75). She also finished seventh on bars (9.675).

Specialist of the Week

Naja Johnson – West Virginia

Johnson had a career outing at MSU, winning bars outright with a score of 9.85 and matching a high she previously set last year. Additionally, she tied Bieski for fourth place on floor.

Rookie of the Week

Kesley Cofsky – Maryland

Cofsky earned her highest score of the night on the vault, the Terrapins' strongest event of the evening. Her score of 9.750 contributed to the Terps' event score of 48.625, which currently lands them at No. 18 in vault in the country. On the uneven bars, Cofsky earned a score of 9.625, and on the balance beam she was given a 9.325. The Terrapins are currently ranked No. 25 in the country on the beam. Her 8.875 on her floor exercise rounded out her all-around score at 37.575, which puts her at No. 6 in the league in the all-around.

Mid American Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Kristine Garbarino, Western Michigan, Jr., Latham, N.Y./Shaker

Western Michigan junior Kristine Garbarino had two fantastic outings this past week as the Broncos competed in a quad meet at Michigan State and returned to the gym to defeat Ball State two days later. It was the first Mid-American Conference victory for the Broncos since Feb. 24, 2008. Competing as an all-rounder in both meets, Garbarino has posted the highest AA total (38.775) by a MAC gymnast this season. Western Michigan opened the season against No. 11 Penn State, No. 21 West Virginia and No. 24 Michigan State. Garbarino recorded Western Michigan's top score in three out of four events, vault (9.650), bars (9.725) and floor (9.825). Adding a 9.575 on the beam, her all-around total of 38.775 was good enough for third behind Brandi Personett of Penn State's 39.225 and Nicole Curler of Michigan State's 39.000. Garbarino showed she could hold her own against some heavy hitters as Personett is the reigning Big Ten Gymnast of the Year and was a first-team All-American on floor last year. Curler has earned Big Ten honors in each of her three seasons at Michigan State. Against Ball State, Garbarino took first in two events and finished in the top four in all four, also taking the all-around crown with a 38.550. She won the beam with a 9.600 and tied Ball State's Brittney Emmons for first on the floor with a 9.775. She placed third on the vault (9.600) and fourth on the bars (9.575).

Specialist of the Week

Ashley Guerra, Northern Illinois, So., Orland Park, Ill./Carl Sandburg

Ashley Guerra claimed a first and second place in her two events versus Wisconsin-La Crosse on Sunday. Guerra scored a 9.725 on the uneven bars to lead all competitors in the meet, while her 9.625 on beam was good for second place. She earned her top finishes ever on both events.

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

Gymnast of the Week

Katie Yamamura – UC Davis

UC Davis freshman **Katie Yamamura** (Palo Alto, CA) won the floor exercise (9.75) and finished second on the balance beam (9.600) and All-Around (38.575) in her collegiate debut. She added

a sixth place vault (9.700). The Aggies recorded a team score of 191.000 in their season opener, resulting in second place in a quad meet.

Pac-10 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Elyse Hopfner-Hibbs – UCLA

Hopfner-Hibbs, a sophomore from Toronto, Ont., won the all-around with a 39.375 as the fifth-ranked Bruins defeated No. 2 Utah, 196.6-192.125. In its first meet of the 2010 season, UCLA hit all 24 routines in competition and Hopfner-Hibbs recorded one of the team's scores of 9.9 or higher and three of UCLA's 15 scores of 9.8 or higher. The reigning Pac-10 Freshman of the Year, Hopfner-Hibbs won the floor exercise with a 9.925. Nationally, her score on the floor exercise tied for the highest score for opening weekend. She also tied for first on the balance beam with a score of 9.875.

Specialist of the Week

Britnie Jones – Arizona

Jones, of Phoenix, Ariz., tied for first on the balance beam for the No. 20 Wildcats in the season opener against No. 8 Arkansas. With a score of 9.85, Jones helped her team earn a total beam score of 48.075. For Jones, it was her first competition for two months as she was sidelined a stress fracture.

Southeastern Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Courtney McCool - Georgia

Senior • 5-0 • Lees Summitt, Mo.

- McCool posted a clutch 9.925 on floor in Georgia's final routine to lead the top-ranked Gym Dogs to a 195.150-195.050 win over seventh-ranked Stanford on Saturday. The Cardinal rallied late to take a late lead as Georgia was forced to count a 9.150 on floor. With only one routine left, Georgia needed a 9.825 to tie Stanford and McCool responded with the meets highest floor score to extend the Gym Dogs regular season winning streak to 13 meets.

- McCool is currently featured on the lead story on NCAAAsports.com for her heroics in the meet. (<http://www.ncaa.com/blog/200910d1/womensgymnastics/2010/01/back-in-the-routine.html>)

Freshman of the Week

Ashley Sledge - Alabama

5-4 • Fairview Heights, Ill.

- Freshman Ashley Sledge came away with a win on the uneven bars in the first SEC meet of the 2010 season, helping the Crimson Tide clinch the win over the No. 14 ranked Auburn Tigers.

- She is the league's top-ranked freshman on the uneven bars.

Western Athletic Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Thomasina Wallace – San Jose State

Wallace, a sophomore from Pomona, Calif. (Diamond Ranch HS) won the all-around title at the UC Davis quad meet Sunday with a 38.700. Wallace also won two individual titles in helping San Jose State to the team championship with a score of 191.800. Wallace won on bars with a 9.925, tying for the second-highest score on the event in SJSU history. She also tied for first on vault with a 9.825 and tied for second on beam with a 9.600.

Specialist of the Week**Lily Swann – San Jose State**

Swann, a junior from Austin, Texas (Westlake HS) helped the Spartans to the team title after finishing in a tie for first on the vault with a 9.825. She also placed fourth on beam with a 9.500 and sixth on floor with a mark of 9.575.

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Specialist***Naomi DeLara, Junior (Kahului, Hawaii/Maui), of UW-Stout***

DeLara was the only UW-Stout performer to crack into the top five places on any of the individual events as the Blue Devils dropped a dual meet to NCAA Division I Iowa State University on Jan. 8. DeLara was second on the balance beam with a score of 9.725 and tied for fifth on the floor exercise with a score of 9.475. In a season opening dual loss to Winona State University (Minn.) on Jan. 5, DeLara took first on the vault and the balance beam. She tied with Winona's Heather Rummelein on the vault (9.275) and took the balance beam (9.725) by more than a half point. DeLara finished second on the floor exercise (9.30).

All-Around***Meghan Hargens, Senior (Rosemount, Minn.), of UW-Stout***

In a season opening dual loss to Winona State University (Minn.) on Jan. 5, Hargens was second in the all-around and against NCAA Division I Iowa State University on Jan. 8, she finished third in the all-around. Against Winona, Hargens captured the uneven bars (9.40) and was second behind Rummelein in the all-around, with Rummelein tallying a 36.750 and Hargens a 36.125. Hargens was third on the floor exercise (9.175), fifth on the beam (8.950) and fifth on the vault (8.60). At Iowa State, Hargens was seventh on the vault (9.375), seventh on the bars (9.375), seventh on the beam (9.325) and seventh on the floor (9.375).