

Gymnasts of the Week – Jan. 25-31, 2010

Big Ten Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Rebecca Simbhudas, Iowa

Jr., Markham, Ontario/Marksville Secondary

Simbhudas wins the second Gymnast of the Week honor of her career and her first of the 2010 season. The Hawkeye junior finished first or tied for first in each event of the Hawkeyes' meet against Illinois on Friday night. Simbhudas placed first in the all-around (39.400) and on vault (9.850), then tied for the top on the uneven bars (9.850), balance beam (9.875) and in floor exercise (9.825).

Freshman of the Week

Natalie Beilstein, Michigan

Butler, Pa./Knoch

Beilstein wins her third Freshman of the Week award, and second in a row, following three top-three finishes as Michigan took first at the Iowa State triangular on Friday with a team score of 196.000. The freshman finished first in floor exercise with a score of 9.900, then finished second in the vault with a 9.850. Beilstein made her collegiate debut on the balance beam, where she finished third with a 9.825.

Big 12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Michelle Browning, Iowa State, So., Houston Texas

Browning picked up the first weekly award for Iowa State, as she set a career high in all-around competition with a score of 39.200 against Brigham Young and Michigan. The sophomore finished second in the floor exercise (9.875). She currently ranks as the 24th all-arounder in the country.

Specialist of the Week

Kylie Stone, Nebraska, Sr., Calgary, Alberta

Stone captured a first place title on bars with a 9.825 mark, her second crown in the event this season. She also posted a score of 9.75 on the vault. The senior helped the Huskers to a 194.70 victory against Missouri. Stone currently ranks fourth on vault and fifth on bars in the Big 12.

East Atlantic Gymnastics League

Gymnast of the Week

Jess Panza – North Carolina State

Panza won the all-around at the Metroplex Challenge that included No. 2 Oklahoma. Panza's 39.200 score was a career-high and just the fourth time she ever competed in the all-around. She had a career-high on bars with a 9.825. In addition, the native of New York, N.Y. notched a 9.825 on vault, 9.8 on floor and a 9.75 on beam. Panza ranks fifth in EAGL on bars and beam and is fifth in the all-around.

Specialist of the Week

Brooke Barr – North Carolina State

Barr, from Harrisburg, Pa., earned a pair of 9.90 scores against No. 2 Oklahoma at the Metroplex Challenge. She set a career-high with a 9.9 on floor and tied her career-best with the 9.9 on vault. She leads EAGL in scoring average on vault and floor.

Rookie of the Week

Kesley Cofsky – Maryland

In the Terps' home meet against No. 16 Denver, West Virginia and Rutgers, Cofsky tied for second in the floor exercise with her career-high score of 9.825 and was fourth in the all-around with her total of 38.350. Cofsky also finished in the top ten on the vault with a 9.725 and on the uneven bars with a 9.700.

Eastern College Athletic Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Brigitte Kivisto- Yale University - Senior, Boca Raton, Fla.

Senior captain Brigitte Kivisto had an outstanding performance culminating with two career highs in competition this past weekend with Penn. She had a career high on Floor Exercise with a 9.850 (first place finish) and an all around score of 38.875 (first place finish). Kivisto also finished in first place on uneven bars, leading her team to a successful win over Penn with a score of 187.775 to Penn's 179.60.

Rookie of the Week

Tara Feld-Yale University - Freshman, Buffalo Grove, Ill.

Feld not only won the vaulting event with a personal best of 9.850, but also set a Yale school record for the vaulting event in her third collegiate competition. She placed third in the All-Around with a 37.425 and she placed second on bars with a 9.525.

Specialist of the Week

Melanie Standridge- Cornell University - Sophomore, West Chester, Pa.

Standridge had the best beam routine of her career at Cornell, garnering a 9.9 from one of the judges, and a 9.8 from the other, to help lead the Big Red to a season high team total and a victory over local rival Cortland State. Her 9.85 was the highest score on any event among specialists in the ECAC this week.

Coach's Choice

Melissa Cream-College of William & Mary - Junior, West Windsor, N.J.

Cream came out strong for the Tribe on Saturday afternoon. This past weekend marked the first time in her collegiate career that Cream competed in the All-Around after another teammate was sidelined due to injury. Leading off on the vault, Cream posted a 9.425 for the Tribe and also notched one of the team's highest scores on the event, placing eighth overall, despite having not trained vault in almost two years. Cream also posted the second highest score for the Tribe on Bars (9.55) and third highest on beam (9.525). She also placed third and seventh overall, on those events, respectively. Cream's 37.45 helped the Tribe's team total go up by exactly three points since their last outing. Cream stepped up in a big way and will continue to compete as an All-Arounder for the Tribe, proving to be one of WM's rocks as she comes into her own as a junior.

Mid American Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Christine Abou-Mitri, Kent State, Jr., Broadview Heights, Ohio/Brecksville-Broadview Heights

Christine Abou-Mitri eclipsed the 39-mark in the all-around for the second week. She had a combined total of 39.175, the second-best total in the MAC this season (.025 behind classmate Christina Lenny). She also claimed the floor and beam titles, matching a career-high of 9.850 on floor. Her 9.825 on bars was second only to teammate Erin Rothrock's 9.925 and helped Kent State record one of the best scores on bar totals in the country this weekend (only behind the top seven teams in the country). Kent State easily dispatched of George Washington Fri. (Jan. 29) 193.950-188.600.

Specialist of the Week

Erin Rothrock, Kent State, So., York, Pa./York Catholic

This past weekend, Rothrock recorded the best bar score in the conference since former Kent State Gymnast Kristin Peters completed a 9.925 routine during the 2007 season. Rothrock easily leads the conference, is fourth in the central region and 15th in the nation with an average of 9.850 on bars this season.

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

Gymnast of the Week

Jenna Dudley (Lynden, WA) – Air Force

Dudley had two outstanding MPSF dual meets last week, recording a top-five performance on nearly every event over the two outings. As the last gymnast against Alaska, she turned in a top score of 9.725 on floor to clinch a narrow win for the Falcons. Against UCD, Dudley posted a career-high to win another floor title (9.775), while nailing 2010-bests on beam and all-around. She was also second all-around (38.425) and third on vault (9.55).

Pac-10 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Mandi Rodriguez – Oregon State

Rodriguez, a senior from Baldwin Park, Calif., won the all-around title with a score of 39.475 as the Beavers defeated then-No. 5 Stanford, 196.225-195.775, to improve to 7-0 on the season. The two-time vault All-American and reigning Pac-10 Gymnast of the Year, Rodriguez nailed her vault to earn a share of the individual title with a 9.9. She also took first on the floor with a 9.9.

Specialist of the Week

Brittani McCullough – UCLA

McCullough, a native of Corona, Calif., helped UCLA achieve a season-high mark of 49.35 on the vault as the Bruins defeated Arizona State, 196.55-193.475. McCullough scored a season-high 9.925 with a stuck Yurchenko layout full vault to claim her first individual victory of the season.

Southeastern Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Allyson Sandusky – Auburn - Sophomore • 5-5 • Brookeville, Md.

Sandusky is coming off her best meet of the season in Auburn's landmark victory over No. 8 Georgia, as she eclipsed the 9.8 mark in all-three of her events in leading the Tigers to the upset win. On vault, she tied for the meet title with a 9.85, and has scored a 9.85 on vault in the past three meets... On bars, she hit a 9.8 and followed on beam with a 9.825.

Freshman of the Week

Ashanée Dickerson – Florida - 5-5 • Jacksonville, Fla.

Among the top three in four of the five events versus No. 13 LSU last Friday...posted collegiate-best floor score of 9.925 to share the evening's title with teammate Maranda Smith...runner-up to the nation's top-ranked all-around (Susan Jackson of LSU) with her second-highest total of the season (39.450). Matched collegiate-best vault (9.925) to take second...also shared third in beam competition at 9.775. Dickerson leads UF with seven event titles, which is the most by a Gator freshman since former All-American Melissa Miller turned in six through her first four meets in 1986.

Western Athletic Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Elise Wheeler – Southern Utah

Wheeler, a senior from San Diego, Calif. (Madison HS) continued her streak of all-around titles this season, claiming her third and fourth consecutive titles of the season this past week. Wheeler scored a 39.200 at Sacramento State and a season-high 39.275 at San Jose State. Wheeler also added individual titles on floor (9.800) and bars (9.850) at Sacramento State, and on floor (9.825) at San Jose State.

Co-Specialists of the Week

Hailey Gaspar – Boise State

Gaspar, a freshman from Los Alamitos, Calif. (Cypress HS) captured the vault title with a 9.900 in only her second career collegiate meet. Gaspar's 9.900 won her the vault title by .075 over the second-place finisher. She also tied for second on floor with a 9.750.

Melissa Johnson – Southern Utah

Johnson, a senior from St. Charles, Ill. (St. Charles East HS) continued her streak of consecutive vault titles as she scored a 9.900 on the apparatus at both Sacramento State and San Jose State. The marks tie her career high on the event and are tied for the sixth-best in SUU team history. She also scored season-highs of 9.775 on bars and matched a career-best 9.825 on beam at Sacramento State.

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Specialist

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

In a 173.725-169.750 win over Gustavus Adolphus College (Minn.) on Jan. 29, DeLara won the balance beam (9.50) and the floor exercise (9.675), while finishing runner up on the vault (9.30).

All-Around

Stacie Jenkins, Junior (Peoria, Ariz.), of UW-Oshkosh

Jenkins recorded a pair of top two finishes in the all-around competition at meets hosted by

Winona State University (Minn.) on Jan. 26 and NCAA Division I Illinois State University on Jan. 30. In UW-Oshkosh's 176.725-175.700 dual loss to Winona State University, Jenkins compiled a winning score of 36.34 points in the all-around competition. Her individual events were highlighted by first-place scores of 9.30 on the balance beam and 9.10 in the floor exercise. At Illinois State University, UW-Oshkosh placed third in a triangular hosted by the Redbirds with 179.45 points. Illinois State University won the meet with 192.60 points, while Winona State University finished second with 180.00. Jenkins placed second in the all-around competition with a score of 36.60. Erica Schick of Illinois State University took the top listing with a score of 38.175. The triangular also featured Jenkins placing fifth in the floor exercise with a score of 9.475 and eighth on the uneven bars with a figure of 9.025.