

Gymnasts of the Week – Feb. 15-21, 2010

Awards are given by conference offices

Big Ten Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Brandi Personett, Penn State - Sr., Katy, Texas/Cinco Rancho

Personett wins her 13th career Big Ten Gymnast of the Week award after leading Penn State in its win against in-state rival Pittsburgh over the weekend. The senior had four first-place finishes and a second-place showing as the Nittany Lions totaled 196.450 team points. Personett was tops in the all-around with a career-best mark of 39.600, which included her second 10.0 on vault this season, a 9.900 in floor exercise and a 9.875 on balance beam. She finished in a tie for second on the uneven bars with a 9.825 and claimed her fourth all-around title of the season.

Freshman of the Week

Sharaya Musser, Penn State - Colorado Springs, Colo./Pine Creek

Musser wins her first Big Ten Freshman of the Week honor after claiming her first career individual event title in Penn State's victory against Pittsburgh over the weekend. The freshman finished tied for first on the balance beam, matching teammate Brandi Personett's score of 9.875, for top honors. Musser also scored two second-place finishes, including a personal-best 9.925 effort on vault and a 9.825 on the parallel bars.

Big 12 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Sarah Shire, Missouri, Sr., Columbia, Mo.

Shire captured her fifth all-around title of the season with a career-high score of 39.625 against Oklahoma. The senior won first place on vault (9.925) with a season high and tied for the bars title (9.925). She also tallied marks of 9.900 on beam and 9.875 on floors. This marked the 15th all-around career win for Shire. She currently ranks ninth nationally in the all-around and is tied for sixth on beam.

Specialist of the Week

Natasha Kelley, Oklahoma, Fr., Katy, Texas

Kelley landed a career-high mark of 9.900 on vault, while scoring 9.850 on bars and beam. The freshman earned third-place finishes in each event and bested every Missouri opponent on every apparatus in which she competed. Her performance helped the Sooners to their highest road score of the season, defeating the Tigers 197.050 - 195.500. Kelley is ranked No. 10 in the nation on bars and tied No. 19 on beam.

East Atlantic Gymnastics League

Gymnast of the Week

Christine Nguyen – North Carolina

Nguyen tallied a 39.375 to capture her fourth all-around title of 2010 in a tri-meet with No. 25 NC State and No. 10 Nebraska on Saturday. Nguyen placed first on balance beam, helping the Tar Heels win the event. The senior tied a personal best on balance beam (9.925) and on uneven bars (9.850). Nguyen earned second place on vault (9.900) after completing a one and a half twisting vault. The Plano, Texas native broke 39.000 for the second time this season and recorded her highest all-around score of 2010.

Specialist of the Week

Chelsi Tabor – West Virginia

Tabor, a Beckley, W.Va., native, earned her honor after a strong performance at Penn State on Feb. 20 in which she tied for second place on vault with 9.825 points, and tied for third place on beam with a career-best 9.8 score. Tabor broke on to the vault national rankings yesterday and ranks 47th with a 9.81 regional qualifying score (RQS). The RQS is good enough for the No. 6 ranking in the southeast region and the No. 1 ranking in the EAGL. Additionally, Tabor paces the Mountaineer beam squad with a 9.735 average.

Rookie of the Week

Chelsea Goldschrafe – West Virginia

Goldschrafe's first career honor follows her season-best performance at Penn State. Down 0.2 points to the Nittany Lions at the onset of the final rotation, the Franklin Lakes, N.J., native did all she could to narrow the gap as she opened the Mountaineers' beam lineup with a career-best 9.85 score. Goldschrafe's steadying routine prompted 9.8 performances from the two Mountaineers that followed. Additionally, she scored 9.75 on floor, the meet's sixth-best score, and finished ninth overall.

Eastern College Athletic Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Megan Wooden, Towson University - Junior, Baltimore, Md.

Wooden led the Tigers (12-2) to a first place finish at the Shelli Calloway Memorial Invitational Meet by winning the all-around competition with a 38.35. Wooden finished second on floor exercise with a 9.75 score as she led the Tigers' decisive performance in the final rotation. She contributed to Towson's seasonal high 48.475 on floor as the Tigers edged Cornell for the championship, winning the title by 1.30 points. It was the sixth year in a row that Towson won its own Invitational.

Rookie of the Week

Emily Lutfey, Brown University - Freshman, Los Angeles, Calif.

Lutfey had a stellar performance this weekend in Alaska. She earned career highs on the bars and the beam, as well as in the all-around, which earned her first place in the meet. Her solid efforts led Brown to its season high in the team total.

Specialist of the Week

Julia Meyer, Brown University - Freshman, Granite City, Ill.

Meyer earned personal bests on both her events this weekend, leading Brown to its season high team total. She won her events and was solid for the Bears at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

Coach's Choice

Chelsea Lapent, Temple - Junior, Lafayette Hill, Pa.

Lapent has mainly competed floor and vault for the Owls for the last three seasons. Due to numerous injuries, the team did not have enough women for the bar line-up at the Towson Invitational. Lapent put a basic bar routine together to compete for the Owls. Lapent has been battling a wrist and ankle injury this season, but was still ready to step up and compete an event she had never competed before for the Owls. Although she only ended up exhibiting bars for the Owls, Lapent's attitude and hard work this week proved to be a high point in her career.

Mid American Conference

Gymnast of the Week

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

For junior Christine Abou-Mitri, it was a clean sweep with wins on every event and the all-around in one of her best meets of her Kent State career. Overcoming tough judging on vault all night, Christine Abou-Mitri tied KSU senior Brittanny Kopp and junior Christina Lenny with a 9.775. Moving on to bars, Abou-Mitri won again with a season-high of 9.850, tying sophomore teammate Erin Rothrock. On beam, Abou-Mitri won with a season and conference-best 9.850. She concluded the night with a career-high winning routine of 9.900, which ties the conference-best mark this season.

Co-Specialists of the Week

Bibiana Rodriguez, Ball State, Sr., San Juan, Puerto Rico/Maria Rein

Bibiana Rodriguez tied for second on the bars with a 9.750 mark en route to helping Ball State to a pair of wins over Illinois State and Texas Woman's in a three-way meet in Muncie, Ind., Sunday. Rodriguez is currently tied for 11th in the Central Regional on the bars.

Danielle Durbin, Kent State, Jr., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio/Eastern Michigan

You only get one chance to make a first impression, and what a first impression it was for Danielle Durbin. Competing for the first time for Kent State, she wowed the crowd with a 9.825 in the second position for the Golden Flashes on floor. It was the best routine at the time, but unfortunately for her, four gymnasts remained for KSU on the event. It took season bests by seniors Lydia Barrett (9.875) and Samantha Heydlauff (9.850) and a career-best from Abou-Mitri (9.900) to keep Durbin from an event win as Kent State went a season and MAC-best 49.200 on floor. Kent State (194.575) defeated MAC-foe Northern Illinois (192.775) and Rutgers (187.925) for its 16th-consecutive conference regular season meet win.

Mountain Pacific Sports Federation

Gymnast of the Week

Anissa Madrid – Seattle Pacific

Madrid (Seattle, WA) nailed 2010 team-highs in a pair of 38.400 all-arounds, with one second-place finish. She performed a team-high 9.75 balance beam for an individual title, as well as fifth-place bars (9.60) in a tri-meet at Air Force. In Denver, she posted a career-high vault (9.60) and a then season-high beam (9.725).

Pac-10 Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Vanessa Zamarripa – UCLA

For the second-consecutive week, Zamarripa earns Pac-10 Gymnast of the Week. The O'Fallon, Ill., native won the all-around (39.675), vault (9.925) and floor (9.95), and was second on bars (9.925) and beam (9.875) as the ninth-ranked Bruins upset then-No. 3 Oregon State, 197.375-196.325. The team score was the highest score in the last five years for UCLA. Zamarripa won her third-straight all-around competition, tying a career high in the all-around. For the season, she has scored a 9.9 or greater on 15 of her 26 routines across all apparatuses.

Specialist of the Week

Mandi Rodriguez – Oregon State

Rodriguez, a native of Baldwin, Calif., executed the best beam routine of her career, earning a career-high 9.9 to win the individual title, but the Beavers dropped their first match of the season, falling to ninth-ranked UCLA, 197.375.325. With Sunday's 9.9 on beam, Rodriguez owns career-highs of 9.9 or better on all four events.

Southeastern Conference

Gymnast of the Week

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

Picked up fourth all-around win of the season with Florida's season-best total of 39.625. That total was the highest turned in by a SEC competitor last weekend. It shares the fifth-highest all-around total in the nation this season. All-time among Florida competitors, it shares the 12th position and is the highest ever by a Gator freshman. Needed a 9.85 or above as UF's floor exercise anchor to guarantee Florida's first home dual meet win over perennial power Georgia in 20 years. Matched her collegiate-best of 9.925 to give Florida a 197.25-197.15 victory over UGA.

Freshman of the Week

Marissa King – Florida - 5-1 • Cambridge, England

Set or matched every collegiate-best mark to aid UF in its first home dual meet win over Georgia since 1990. She set her collegiate-best for the uneven bars to share that event title at 9.875. She equaled her top vault mark (9.875) for the second consecutive meet to share third overall. She also turned in a collegiate-best of 9.825 on beam and equaled her floor best of 9.85. These marks led to a collegiate-best all-around total of 39.425, which took second in the meet. That total was the second-highest (to Dickerson) for league freshmen last weekend. No. 16 in the latest national all-around rankings with her regional qualifying average of 39.070.

Western Athletic Conference

Gymnast of the Week

Elise Wheeler – Southern Utah

Wheeler, a senior from San Diego, Calif. (Madison HS) collected four individual titles at Utah State, scoring team-best marks on bars (9.875), beam (9.825), floor (9.875) and in the all-around (39.425). Wheeler's all-around title was the sixth consecutive title for the senior this season. The 39.425 ties her career best and ranks as the second-best mark in school history. Wheeler has now accumulated 18 individual titles this season.

Specialist of the Week

Melissa Johnson – Southern Utah

Johnson, a senior from St. Charles, Ill. (St. Charles East HS) continued her streak of consecutive vault titles by scoring a career-best 9.925 on vault at Utah State to collect her sixth-straight title on the event. The 9.925 is the second-best mark on the SUU record books.

Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

Specialist

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

Jenkins won the uneven bars, placed third in the floor exercise and finished fifth on the vault as UW-Oshkosh upset UW-Whitewater, 182.700-182.375, on Feb. 19 in Oshkosh. UW-Whitewater entered the meet ranked second in the NCGA's GymInfo rankings and UW-Oshkosh ninth. Jenkins posted a pair of season bests, totaling 9.50 points on the uneven bars and 9.55 in the floor exercise. She tallied 9.30 points on the vault. UW-Oshkosh's team score was its highest of the season.

All-Around

Mary Kate Young, Freshman (Lawrenceville, Ga./Collins), of UW-Whitewater

In a dual meet against UW-Oshkosh on Feb. 19, Young won the all-around with a score of 37.300. This marked the third straight meet that she surpassed 37 in the event. Young placed first on the floor exercise (9.600 - personal best), third on the uneven bars (9.375 - personal best), fifth on the vault (9.300) and fifth on the balance beam (9.075).