



COLLEGE GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION BIG TEN CONFERENCE

CGA Weekly Report
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By Jerry Wright



OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Ohio State earned a huge Big Ten Conference win Saturday in St. John Arena, defeating No. 5 Penn State, 353.600-347.100, after earning event wins on pommel horse, rings, parallel bars and high bar.

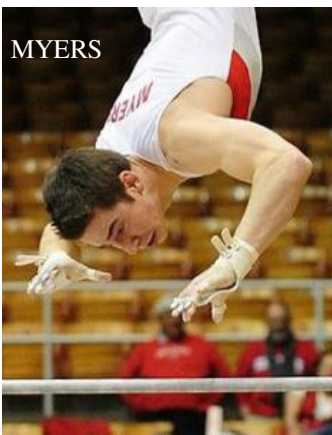
On floor, the Buckeyes tallied a 56.85 with Brandon Wynn hitting a team-best 14.4, Philip Onorato a 14.3 and Elliott Hardy a 14.1 but the Nittany Lions won the event with a 57.75.

Ty Echard led the charge on pommel horse, notching a career-best 15.55 for the event win. Matt Rayl followed in second with a 14.7 while freshman John Laing added a 14.3 as Ohio State won the rotation, 58.50-56.05.

Moving onto rings, the Buckeyes flexed their muscles, earning a 60.05 to beat PSU's 59.55. Wynn won rings with a 16.0, just .100 off from his career best. Tai Lee came in third with a 15.15 while Mike Behles tied for fifth with a 14.8.

OSU had a 62.30 on vault, but it was not enough to overcome the Nittany Lions' 62.50. Justin Myers led the Buckeyes with a second-place 15.8 and Behles tied for fourth with a 15.6.

Myers and Wynn went 1-2 on parallel bars with scores of 14.9 and 14.7, respectively, as



MYERS

Ohio State won the rotation, 57.20-55.70. Behles added a 13.85 and Lee a 13.75 on the event.

The Buckeyes closed out the meet with a 58.70 on high bar - well above Penn State's 55.55.

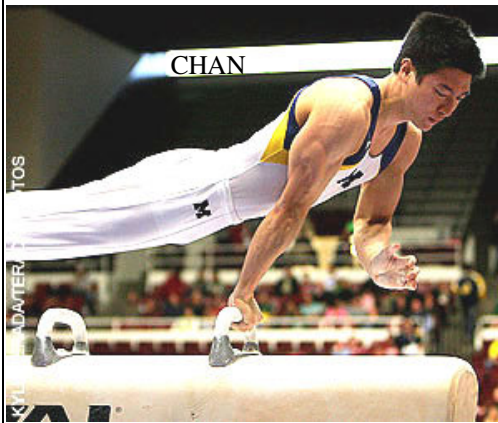
Myers and Lee tied for second with a pair of 14.85s while Sean Regan added a 14.55 and Blaize Monks a 14.45 for fifth and sixth, respectively.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The University of Michigan lost at defending NCAA champion Stanford, 361.400-352.150, on Saturday (Feb. 27) in Palo Alto, Calif. David Chan, Kent Caldwell and Chris Cameron led the Wolverines, recording two top-five finishes each.

Michigan started slowly on the pommel

horse until Chan took to the apparatus. His smooth and clean routine earned the co-captain a career-best 15.200 and second place.



CHAN

Adam Hamers added a season-high 14.750 to bring U-M's total on the event to 56.800.

The Wolverines picked up steam on the floor, where Caldwell stuck his double twisting double back to open his routine, earning a 15.150 and fourth place. Cameron posted his sixth score of 15.000 or better in a row with a 15.100, earning fifth place. Ben Baldus-Strauss posted a 15.000, in just his second performance on the event this season.

The third rotation moved Michigan to the vault, where the Wolverines posted a season-best 62.850 with help from Caldwell's nearly stuck effort (15.900) and Chan's trademark double front vault (15.700). After three events, the Wolverines trailed by a slim margin, 179.900-179.550.

On the rings, Michigan earned top-five placings from Phillip Goldberg and Cameron, who placed second and fifth, respectively. Yet, the Cardinal posted an incredible 64.250 on the vault in the fourth rotation to expand its lead over U-M to 244.200- 238.650.

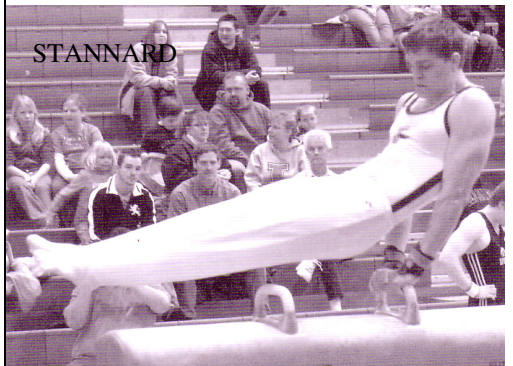
Ryan McCarthy took to the high bar after the Wolverines suffered three falls in a row on difficult catch-and-release moves. McCarthy started his routine off with a big full twisting Kovacs over the bar and finished the exercise by sticking his dismount for a 14.400. However, the Wolverines only posted a 56.800 on the event, allowing Stanford to go into the last rotation leading, 302.800-294.800.

U-M fought to the end, posting two top-five finishes in the last rotation, the parallel bars. Santander posted a team-best 14.550 and shared second place on the event, while Chan's 14.400 earned him a share of fifth place. Michigan's parallel bars total was

56.950.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

The No. 3 Illini men's gymnastics team improved to 9-0 on the season with a 351.300-337.200 victory at No. 12 UIC (2-11) Sunday afternoon in Chicago. Luke Stannard won his first two event titles of the year on floor exercise (15.000) and pommel horse with a season-high score of 15.200, while C.J. Padera



STANNARD

placed first on parallel bars (14.800) and high bar with a career-high score of 15.000.

Paul Ruggeri competed in only two events, but secured his second vault title of the season, tallying a score of 15.300 and Tyler Williamson led the Illini on rings with a second-place finish (14.750). Freshman Malcolm Brown placed seventh on pommel horse (13.850) in his collegiate debut, while Maxwell Portocarrero also made his first-career appearance for the Illini and posted a 13.150 on floor exercise and 12.000 on rings.

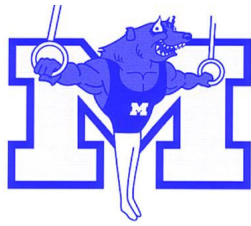
Dan Ribeiro competed on parallel bars for the first time this season and placed sixth (14.050) and also finished in second place on pommel horse (14.800) and third on vault (15.100).

Several Illini set new career highs on the day, including Kyle Moe on rings (6th; 14.250), freshman Yoshi Mori on pommel horse (3rd; 14.600) and parallel bars (2nd; 14.450), Devin Regan on high bar (8th; 13.500) and Chad Wiest on high bar (7th; 13.650).

As a team, the Illini won on all six events and recorded a season-best on pommel horse with a score of 58.800.

Tyler Mizoguchi did not compete in the meet.

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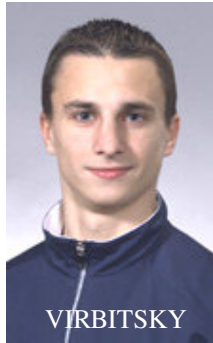


PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

Penn State had its three-meet regular season winning streak versus Ohio State snapped on Sunday afternoon when the Nittany Lions suffered a 353.600-347.100 setback to the Buckeyes at St. John Arena in Columbus. The dual meet loss was Penn State's third to a Big Ten opponent this season.

As a team, Penn State won the floor exercise and vault and established season highs in the still rings (59.550) and vault (62.500) while three Nittany Lions captured individual event titles but it was not enough to overcome an Ohio State season high score that was over six points higher than its previous best.

Freshman Nick Grant won his fourth floor exercise and vault titles of the season to pace Penn State. His vault score of 15.850 tied the Penn State season high owned by Noam Shaham. Nick Virbitsky contributed another strong performance, placing first in the high bar with a team season high and career best score of 15.050. He also placed second in the floor exercise (14.700) and third in the vault (15.650).



VIRBITSKY

A standout performance by freshman Parker Raque in the still rings also highlighted the meet for Penn State. He scored a 15.200 to place second in the event, finishing behind only OSU's Brandon Wynn, a member of the U.S. Men's Senior National Team. Raque's mark was .150 higher than the previous Penn State team high for the season.

For the second consecutive meet, Noam Shaham set a career high in the parallel bars, scoring a 14.700 versus the Buckeyes to finish in a tie for second. He also placed fourth in the high bar (14.650).

Freshman Felix Aronovich competed in the all-around for the first time in his career, compiling a team season high of 83.250. The former two-time Big Ten Freshman of the Week was helped by a season high score of 14.400 in the high bar.

Penn State got other key performances from freshman Mackenzie Dow (3rd, pommel horse) and Matt Greenfield (3rd, floor exercise).

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The University of Minnesota put up its best score in a road meet so far this season Satur-

day night at Oklahoma. But it wasn't enough for the No. 6 Golden Gophers to get by the No. 2-ranked Sooners. Oklahoma posted the highest score of any NCAA squad so far this season.

The Sooners' tally of 359.450 out-distanced Minnesota's total of 344.850. Also taking part in the meet was an all-star team for various club teams from Texas, which put together a total score of 310.650.

The first rotation saw Oklahoma on the floor exercise, while Minnesota began the night on the pommel horse. Meanwhile, the Gopher struggled on the horse. Russell Dabritz's score of 14.000 was the top effort for Minnesota, as OU led 63.000-55.000 after one rotation.

In the second rotation, the Gophers made up a little ground. Cole Storer scored a 15.450 to lead Minnesota on the floor exercise. Colin McGuire was right behind with a solid 15.350. As a team, the Gophers scored 59.150 on the floor.

The Gophers continued to pick up ground on the Sooners in the third rotation. Oklahoma was on the rings, while Minnesota hit the vault. The Gophers scored a solid 62.200 on the vault, paced by McGuire's score of 15.650. Thomas O'Brien (15.550), Aaron Fortunato (15.550) and Adam LaFleu (15.450). Midway through the meet, OU held a 179.800-176.350.

But that's as close as Minnesota would get. The Gophers put a score of 56.900 up on the still rings. O'Brien was the top scorer for Minnesota on the rings, with a 14.600.

The fifth rotation saw Minnesota on the high bar, while Oklahoma was on the parallel bars. Fortunato put up a 14.950 to lead the Gophers on the high bar. But no other Minnesota gym-



FORTUNATO

nast could muster a score better than 14.200.

The Gophers had some issues on the parallel bars. Only Russell Dabritz was able to break

the 14-point mark, tallying a 14.400. Minnesota scored just 55.250 on the P-bars.

NATIONAL TEAM SCORES FOR THE PAST WEEK:

STANFORD	361.40
OKLAHOMA	359.45
OHIO STATE	353.60
MICHIGAN	352.15
ILLINOIS	351.30
PENN STATE	347.10
MINNESOTA	344.85
ILL-CHICAGO	337.20
AIR FORCE	335.90
SPRINGFIELD	335.20
ARIZONA STATE	333.60
ARMY	331.85
TEXAS ALL-STAR	310.65