

# Gymnasts of the Week – Feb. 22-28, 2010

Awards are given by conference offices

## Big Ten Conference

### Gymnast of the Week

#### **Kylee Botterman, Michigan - Jr., New Lenox, Ill./Lincoln-Way Central**

Botterman earns her first Big Ten Gymnast of the Week honor after winning the all-around title over the weekend in Michigan's dual meet win over Illinois. Botterman finished in the top two in each event and finished with a 39.675 all-around score, the third highest in the nation this year. The junior scored a perfect 10 on vault, the first Wolverine to do so in any event since 2004, and scored a 9.900 on bars in her first-place finishes. She also finished second on the balance beam (9.850) and floor exercise (9.925) to lead the Wolverines to a team total of 196.775.

### Freshman of the Week

#### **Brittnee Martinez, Michigan - Colorado Springs, Colo./Doherty**

Martinez wins her first Big Ten Freshman of the Week honor and becomes the second Wolverine freshman to win the weekly award. She earned three top-five finishes that included a fifth-place showing in the all-around with a score of 39.200 in Michigan's victory over Illinois. The freshman earned fourth-place finishes on vault and bars, earning a score of 9.825 on each apparatus. Martinez also finished with a 9.800 on floor exercise and a 9.750 on balance beam.

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## Big 12 Conference

### Gymnast of the Week

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

Shire set a career high and school record with a 39.725 score in the all-around, tying for first place. This marks the sixth all-around title of the season and 17th career crown for the senior. She also claimed first place on vault (9.900), bars (9.900) and beam (9.950), posting career highs on beam and floor. Her performance helped Missouri to a season-high 196.875 victory against Illinois State.

### Specialist of the Week

#### **Sara Stone, Oklahoma, So., Dallas, Texas**

Stone landed a perfect 10.0 on vault, becoming the first underclassman in the NCAA to accomplish the mark. Her title helped Oklahoma to its seventh straight victory over a top 25 opponent, defeating Michigan State 196.825 to 194.125. The sophomore posted the Sooners' 11th perfect score in program history and the first since 2008. Stone is currently tied for No. 17 nationally in the vault event.

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## East Atlantic Gymnastics League

### Gymnast of the Week

#### **Kara Wright – North Carolina**

Wright led the Tar Heels to a second place finish in a quad-meet at No. 6 Stanford and took second place in all-around competition, scoring a 39.025. Wright finished in a tie for third place on floor exercise after posting a 9.875 and in a tie for fourth place on vault with a score of 9.800. Wright also recorded a 9.750 on uneven bars and a 9.600 on balance beam.

### **Specialist of the Week**

#### **Helena Diodati – New Hampshire**

New Hampshire senior Helena Diodati tied for first on bars (9.80) and second on vault (9.825) in a dual meet against Maryland. In addition, she notched a 9.725 on beam. Diodati, a native of Scarborough, Maine, won the UNH Katie Baldwin Spirit Award, which is given at each home meet to UNH's top gymnast.

### **Rookie of the Week**

#### **Kesley Cofsky – Maryland**

In the Terps' meet at EAGL opponent New Hampshire on Saturday, Cofsky earned new career highs on bars and floor and finished in the top three on those events, as well as in vault. She helped lead the Terps to their highest floor team score of the year, 48.900 with her score of 9.850, which also put her at second in the event. On bars, she scored a 9.775, which put her in third. In the vault competition, Cofsky earned a score of 9.825, which tied her for second in the event.

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## **Eastern College Athletic Conference**

### **Co-Gymnasts of the Week**

#### **Alise McDonald-Towson University - Senior, Randallstown, Md.**

McDonald led the Tigers (13-2) to a season high score and win over George Washington in a dual meet. She helped the Tigers post a 193.450 score by taking second place in the all-around with a season high 38.75, barely losing to Leslie Delima of GW (38.775). McDonald also tied for first place on vault (9.775) and finished third on bars (9.60) as the Tigers swept the top three places. She earned a 9.65 on beam to finish seventh, and then clinched the win for the Tigers with a 9.725 on floor which earned her fifth place.

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

Kivisto won the Ivy League title in floor exercise, as well as the all-around title. She had an excellent competition, and has participated in every all-around competition this year. Kivisto posted a career high in the floor exercise, with a 9.875.

### **Rookie of the Week**

#### **Dana Bonincontri-University of Pennsylvania - Freshman, Bellevue, Wash.**

In only her second meet of the season Bonincontri became the Ivy Classic uneven bars champion. She competed on beam and floor for the first time this season and had the team's highest score on bars (9.675) and second highest on beam (9.700).

### **Specialist of the Week**

#### **Emily Santoro-Cornell University - Junior, Freehold, N.J.**

At the annual Ivy Classic Championship, Santoro tied with teammate Kerri Lavallee to win vault. Her personal best score of 9.85 on floor is the fourth highest floor score ever at Cornell, and helped the Big Red to a season high team event score of 48.65 and an overall season high team score of 192.55.

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## **Mid American Conference**

### **Gymnast of the Week**

#### **Katie Simon, Central Michigan, Sr., Bristol, Wis./Wetosha**

Senior Katie Simon put together her finest performance of the season in Sunday's win at Northern Illinois. Simon won the all-around with a season-high 39.350, only .025 shy of her career-best. Her score was the highest all-around mark in the conference over the weekend and currently is the second-best total posted by a MAC gymnast all year. The Bristol, Wis., native scored 9.850 or better in three of four events and was 9.775 or higher in all four. Simon's breakout included a first-place bars routine that scored 9.875, second-place scores of 9.850 on both vault and floor exercise and a 9.775 mark on beam that was good for fourth. She did not finish behind a Northern Illinois gymnast in any event.

#### **Specialist of the Week**

##### **Monica Eaton, Bowling Green, Fr., Kearney, Mo.**

Monica Eaton finished first on the uneven bars among 18 competitors with a score of 9.850, versus Western Michigan and Illinois-Chicago. Eaton's score was a career-best and the seventh-highest score in BGSU history on bars.

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## **Mountain Pacific Sports Federation**

#### **Gymnast of the Week**

##### **Jenna Dudley – Air Force**

Air Force sophomore Jenna Dudley (Lynden, WA) led her team to its best outing in over two years and second-best since '04, in a dual (191.725) at No. 18 Denver. She was second with a season-high all-around (38.825) and on floor with a career-high (9.775). Dudley was also fifth on bars (9.675) and sixth on beam (9.70) and vault (9.675).

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## **Pac-10 Conference**

#### **Gymnast of the Week**

##### **Allyse Ishino – Stanford**

Ishino, a senior from Santa Ana, Calif., earned her first-career collegiate all-around (29.425) victory during the Cardinal's (196.525) quad-meet win over North Carolina (192.975), Eastern Michigan (190.125) and California (188.825). Ishino won the individual title on bars (9.875) and beam (9.825), and recorded a personal best on the floor (9.875) to finish third. She also took third on the vault with a score of 9.85.

#### **Specialist of the Week**

##### **Vanessa Zamarripa – UCLA**

Zamarripa, a native of O'Fallon, Ill., recorded her first perfect 10 of the season and fourth of her career with a flawless Yurchenko layout full vault as the third-ranked Bruins (197.25) defeated Cal State Fullerton (191.75) and Utah State (188.7). For the season, she has scored a 9.9 or greater on 18 of her 29 routines across all apparatuses.

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## **Southeastern Conference**

#### **Co-Gymnasts of the Week**

##### **Courtney McCool – Georgia - Senior • 5-0 • Lees Summit, Mo.**

Courtney McCool won three event titles in Georgias victory over 10th-ranked LSU. She won her

sixth floor title with a season-high 9.950, and claimed her fourth beam title of the year with a 9.925. She won her second bars title with a 9.875. McCool maintained her No. 1 national ranking on floor with a 9.920 RQS. Her 9.919 average is also tops in the country.

**Morgan Dennis – Alabama - Senior • 5-4 • Westampton, N.J.**

Dennis led Alabama to the second highest road score in the country this season, winning the all-around with a 39.550. She also led Alabama to the nation's highest vault total of the season, tying her career best with a 9.975. Dennis scored matching 9.9s on the balance beam and floor exercise, winning both of those events as well. Dennis' beam score was a season high and matched her career best.

**Freshman of the Week**

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

Picked up her fifth all-around win of the season at Auburn (39.35). Since 1990, only one other Gator gymnast has turned in more all-around wins as a freshman (Corey Hartung, 6 in 2006). Also won the evening's floor exercise title at 9.875 – her fourth floor title of the season. Her 14 event titles leads the Gators this year and is the most since Corey Hartung collected 10 event titles through the first eight meets of her freshman season in 2006.

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## Western Athletic Conference

**Gymnast of the Week**

**Elise Wheeler – Southern Utah**

Wheeler, a senior from San Diego, Calif. (Madison HS) continued her streak of consecutive all-around titles this season by claiming her seventh with a school-record 39.550 against Boise State. Wheeler also captured individual titles on bars (9.875), beam (9.900) and floor (9.875) to bring her total to 22 titles on the season.

**Specialist of the Week**

**Hannah Redmon – Boise State**

Redmon, a junior from Sparks, Nevada (Reed HS) scored a season-high 9.925 on vault to win the only individual event for the Broncos at the Southern Utah dual. The title marks her 12<sup>th</sup> career win on vault and third this season.

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## Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference

**Specialist**

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

DeLara set a school record and captured first place on the balance beam in a 193.625-181.950 loss at NCAA Division II Texas Woman's University on Feb. 27. She broke her own record with a mark of 9.825. DeLara also tied for third on the floor exercise (9.700) and sixth on the vault (9.600).

**All-Around**

**Katie Thompson, Freshman (Kingsport, Tenn./Sullivan South), of UW-Whitewater**

In a 180.725-169.800 dual meet victory over Gustavus Adolphus College (Minn.) on Feb. 27, Thompson won three out of the five events. She took first place in the all-around (37.000), vault

(9.200) and balance beam (9.250), while finishing second on the uneven bars (9.250-personal best) and floor exercise (9.300).