



COLLEGE GYMNASTICS ASSOCIATION BIG TEN CONFERENCE

CGA Weekly Report
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By Jerry Wright



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

With appearances from all eight graduating seniors, The University of Michigan cruised to its second straight season-best total -- and a school record -- in a 364.350-353.800 win over the Ohio State Buckeyes on Senior Night on Saturday (March 20) inside Cliff Keen Arena.

The Big Ten Network was on hand for the dual, which is scheduled to air next Saturday (March 27) at noon.

Six of eight seniors achieved career bests, highlighted by Mel Anton Santander who achieved career records on the pommel horse (15.350), still rings (14.550), parallel bars (15.350), high bar (15.250) and the all-around (90.650). Santander's all-around effort is a Michigan school record and earned him the all-around title, in addition to the parallel bars title. Chris Cameron and Thomas Kelley took



the top spot on the floor exercise and high bar, respectively.

The Wolverines started on the floor exercise, taking the top three spots with Cameron, Kent Caldwell and Ian Makowske. Cameron used his trademark Thomas oar work to earn a 15.450, receiving a huge ovation from those on hand in Cliff Keen Arena. Caldwell added a 15.100 in his final home appearance.

On PH Joe Levine, Santander and David Chan posted 14.350, 15.400 and 15.450, respectively. Cameron added a 15.300 to conclude Michigan's 60.700 effort, a season high

by more than a point.

On the rings, Santander posted his second career mark of the evening, a 14.550. Phillip Goldberg led the Wolverines with a 15.30.

Santander continued his career day, receiving a 9.750 execution score for a stuck double twisting vault, his final score, a 15.950, was just half-a-tenth away from his career best and good enough for third place. Caldwell tied his career mark, a 16.000, to claim second on the event.

Santander and Cameron came through again on PB's posting scores of 15.350 and 15.250, respectively.

In the last rotation, the Wolverines set their fifth season-best mark, posting a 60.600 on the high bar, boosting Michigan to a school-record total of 364.450. Santander closed the night with a career-high 15.250, giving him a 90.650 all-around total and first place. Kelley won the high bar with a 15.400, capping his 88.050 all-around effort to take second place behind Santander. Ryan McCarthy tied his career best, 15.150, to close his career in Cliff Keen.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

The University of Illinois sent its seniors out in style Saturday afternoon with a 362.250-343.550 defeat of UIC in the regular season finale at Huff Hall. Illinois set a new season-high team score for the third straight week and also set season bests on floor exercise (61.500) and high bar (60.700). Individually, the Illini claimed event titles on all six events and the all-around, highlighted by career highs from Chad Wiest, Paul Ruggeri and Tyler Mizoguchi.

"This has been our numerical task throughout the year," associate head coach Justin Spring said of the team score. "We had some great performances today and we did what we needed to do. I think this is a big motivator going into Big Tens because we've known we can do it, we just hadn't done it yet and I think the frustration was starting to build, so this was great. This was a boost of confidence and we've got two weeks to train heavily during spring break next week and then into the week before Big Tens. We're going to hit it hard and these guys got a taste of what it's like to be a big-numbered team and we're going to see how high we can push it, because we're even better than this."

In the first rotation of the day, Wiest posted a staggering 16.100 on floor exercise, which was a new career high and tied the top NCAA

score on the event this season. It is also a new school record under the FIG Open Ended "Code of Points" introduced in 2008 and was his second straight floor title and third overall.

Daniel Ribeiro picked up his fifth pommel horse title of the season with a score of 15.750 and also added his third-career vault title (15.800), while Mizoguchi tallied a new career best on rings (15.300) for his third title on the event this year.

Ruggeri closed out the night with his team- and career-best 14th and 15th event titles this season, including his third on parallel bars (15.100) and sixth on high bar (16.150). His score on high bar broke his own school record and NCAA-best score of 16.100 recorded twice this season. He also took top honors in the all-around with a season-best score of 90.100, which ranks second in school history.



Luke Stannard posted four top-three finishes on the day and tallied career highs on floor (2nd; 15.450), vault (3rd; 15.550) and high bar (3rd; 14.750) and also placed second on pommel horse (15.600) and C.J. Padera also earned career highs on parallel bars (15.000) and high bar (15.350).

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PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

For the second consecutive year, Penn State posted a season-high score in a dual meet with powerhouse Oklahoma but ultimately came up short in the final standings. On Saturday evening in Rec Hall, the eighth-ranked Nittany Lions scored a 354.450, a total that bested their previous season high by more than four points, but it was not enough to overtake the Sooners and their score of 359.250.

As a team, Penn State won the still rings and high bar and set season team event highs in the vault (63.200), parallel bars (57.800), and high bar (59.500). Individually, Miguel Pineda captured the still rings crown, recording a winning score of 14.950, and Matt G Freshman Nick Grant added to his string of impressive efforts in his rookie season, registering the highest vault score by a Penn State gymnast, a 16.050, since Casey Sandy earned a 16.100 on April 18, 2008.

Matt Albrecht who has not competed for two weeks while nursing a thumb injury, returned to the line-up and contributed several standout performances. He set career-highs in three events, the floor exercise (15.100), pommel horse (14.300), and parallel bars (14.550). Albrecht's best finish came in the parallel bars, placing third. Freshman Tony Beck also set career bests in three events, the still rings (14.550), parallel bars (14.450), and high bar (14.350).

Noam Shaham performed well in his final home appearance, earning a tie for second place in the still rings with a season-high score of 14.900. He also finished in fourth in the high bar with a season-best 14.700. Fellow senior Nick Virbitsky who was honored with the Gene Wettstone Award following the meet, had a solid evening, placing third in the high bar by tying a season high score of 15.050, and fourth in the floor exercise (15.200).



OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Ohio State saw three Buckeyes place first on individual events but eventually fell, 364.450-353.800, to Michigan Saturday night in Ann Arbor, Mich. The Buckeyes have now scored above a 350.000 in each of their last

four meets, including a season-high 354.900 against Oklahoma last Saturday in Columbus.

This conference meet will be televised on a tape-delayed basis at noon March 27 by the Big Ten Network.

Ty Echard had a night, scoring a career-best 15.7 on pommel horse to take first while



Brandon Wynn won rings with a 15.95, his sixth victory this season on the apparatus. Back in action after missing two meets, Philip Onorato made a big impression, winning vault and tying his personal best with a 16.05.

On floor, the Buckeyes were led by Wynn and Justin Myers with a 14.9 for fourth and 14.85 for fifth, respectively, as the team put up a 57.8 event total.

Ohio State went 1-2 on pommel horse with Steven Spencer earning a 15.5 for second, placing behind Echard's meet-high 15.7.

Ranked No. 1 on rings in the NCAA as a team, Ohio State edged Michigan, 59.6-59.55, for the event win. Wynn, the top-ranked gymnast on rings in the nation, remained undefeated on the apparatus, scoring a 15.95 while Mike Behles added a 15.0 for fourth.

The Scarlet and Gray turned in their second-best vault total this season, a 62.85, as Onorato tied his personal best with a 16.05. Wynn added a 15.95 to tie for third while freshman Blaize Monks hit a career-high 15.45 for seventh.

Wynn tied for third on parallel bars with a 14.75, Regan had a 14.45 for seventh, Myers had a 14.4 and Spencer tied his career high with a 14.1 as the team scored a season-best 57.7.

In the final rotation, Myers and Wynn tied for fifth on high bar with matching 14.5s. Regan added a 14.15 and Monks a 14.0 as OSU posted a 57.15.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

The University of Minnesota finally broke through on the road Saturday night. The

Golden Gophers put together their second-best score of the season and scored better than 350 away from the Sports Pavilion for the first time in the 2010 season, defeating Nebraska and Iowa at the Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln, Neb.

Minnesota scored a total of 352.150 to outdistance the host Huskers (350.550) and the Hawkeyes (345.700). Minnesota won three individual events and used its depth to outscore Nebraska and Iowa.

Gopher senior Cole Storer took top honors on the floor exercise, with a personal-best mark of 15.400. Meanwhile, senior Adam Reichow tied for the top spot on the vault, turning in a 16.000. Michael Paulus' mark of 14.650 on the parallel bars was also a personal record and tied for the top spot in the event.

The Gophers used a big advantage in their two best events, floor exercise and vault, to lead them to victory.

Minnesota scored a 61.150 on the floor, which was almost three full points better than Nebraska's total. The Gophers had four of the top six scores and didn't count a tally of less than 15.100, as Colin McGuire, Reichow and Andre Berry all turned in solid routines.

On the vault the Gophers' tally of 63.350 was almost a season-best. The Gophers once again had four of the top six scores on the apparatus. Along with Reichow's 16.000, Berry and McGuire each scored a 15.800, while Storer turned in a 15.750.

Aaron Fortunato led the way on the pommel horse for Minnesota with a 13.850 score. Minnesota had four of the top seven scores.



Russell Dabritz scored a 14.800 on the still rings to take third. Rings was the only event where Minnesota wasn't prominent at the top of the leaderboard.

Led by Paulus, the Golden Gophers put up three of the top six scores on the parallel bars. Thomas O'Brien (14.550) and Andre Berry

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(14.100) were also solid on the bars. On the high bar, Minnesota carded two of the top four scores. McGuire (15.000) and Fortunato (14.950) led the way for the Gophers on the bar.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

The University of Iowa fell Saturday night against Minnesota and Nebraska at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Team Standings- Minnesota 352.150, Nebraska 350.550 and Iowa 345.700.

With a 16.000 Matt McGrath tied for first on vault. Ben Ketelsen led Iowa for the second straight weekend on floor exercise, tying for second. (15.350)

Adam Wilson placed sixth to lead the way for the Black and Gold on pommel horse (13.500), Reid Urbain led Iowa on rings, tying for second (14.800).



McGRATH

NATIONAL TEAM SCORES FOR THE PAST WEEK

MICHIGAN	364.35
ILLINOIS	362.25
OKLAHOMA	359.25
PENN ST.	354.45
OHIO STATE	353.80
MINNESOTA	352.15
NEBRASKA	350.55
IOWA	345.70
ILL-CHICAGO	343.55
AIR FORCE	340.95
TEMPLE	336.20
WILLIAM/MARY	334.85
ARIZONA ST.	330.30
ARMY	321.55