As usual any of 4 or 5 teams could be considered as able to capture the 2014 NCAA Division 1 National Team Championship. Defending champion Michigan, Oklahoma, Illinois, Stanford and Penn State figure into this mix.

Recently it has proven impossible for a team to repeat at National Champions. In 2002 and 2003 Oklahoma did it and again in 2005 and 2006 OU repeated, but since then no team has won two titles in a row. Michigan would like to change this.

NOTE: Generally, the gymnasts listed in the following placed in the top 8 either in their Conference Championships or at the NCAA Nationals.

1. UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The U. of Michigan stands as good a chance to win in 2014 as any team. With the return of 5-time individual event champ (including 2 All Around titles), Sam Mikulak, they have one of the top gymnasts in the World. Mikulak is also the current NCAA scoring record holder for the Parallel Bars and is the odds on favorite for the Nissen-Emery Award.

In addition they also return Adrian de los Angeles who placed 2nd in the AA in 2013 and Syque Caesar (granted medical waiver).


Syque Caesar-1st PB, 5th HB-Big Ten, 4th FX, 3rd HB-NCAA.
Losses: Rohan Sebastian-4th FX-NCAA; 6th SR-Big Ten; This single loss from a championship team will leave Michigan very strong.
Frosh: Jonathan Chin (CA), Tristian Perez-Rivera (Puerto Rico), Anthony Stefanelli (NY).

2. UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

OU had amazing success with freshmen and walk-ons in 2013 and this bodes well for 2014; especially with their minimal losses.
Losses: Troy Nitzky-2nd PH, 8th SR-MPSF; Chris Stehl-3rd SR-MPSF, 4th SR-NCAA.
Frosh: Allan Bower (AZ), Lee Grogan (AR), Theo Viet Hoang (Berlin, Germany), Alex Powarzynski (CA), Reese Rickett (TX), Colin Van Wicklen (TX).

3. UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

With the return of sensational C.J. Maestas, NCAA Champion in the Rings and runner-up in the AA in 2012 (out with injury in 2013), the Illini will be stronger at the top, but heavy graduation losses may affect the team’s depth.

Pre-Season Coaches Poll:
1. Michigan
2. Oklahoma
3. Stanford
4. Ohio State
5. Penn State
6. Illinois
7. California
8. Iowa
9. Minnesota
10. Nebraska
11. Air Force
12. Temple
13. William/Mary
14. Navy
15. Army
16. Illinois-Chicago
16. Springfield
Maestas), Cameron Rogers-5th PB-Big Ten; Alex Varga-4th FX-Big Ten (potential Nissen-Emery nominee); Mike Wilner-5th SR-NCAA, 2nd SR-Big Ten.
Lost: Yoshi Mori-4th AA-Big Ten, Austin Phillips-2nd HB-NCAA; Vince Smurro-10th FX-NCAA, 6th FX-Big Ten.
Frosh: Chandler Eggleston (NC), Matt Foster (IL), Tom Gibbs (England), Taylor Smith (IN).

4. STANFORD UNIVERSITY
Serious graduation losses, especially the outstanding Eddie Penev. Stanford will need for their freshmen to mature quickly.
Lost: Eddie Penev-1st AA, 3rd V, 4th PB, 2nd HB-MPSF, 2nd FX, 7th V, 3rd AA-NCAA (Nissen-Emery Award Winner); Gabriel Alvarado-4th PH-MPSF; Cameron Foreman-1st PB-MPSF, 10th PB, 7th HB-NCAA; John Martin-3rd PH-MPSF, 3rd PH, 10th HB-NCAA; Jordan Nolf-8th FX-MPSF.
Frosh: Cameron Backes-CT, Jordan DeClerk-IL, Andrew McCabe-IL, Andrew Misiolek, MI, Akash Modi, NJ, Taylor Seaton, TX, Drew Willoughby, CA.

5. PENN STATE UNIVERSITY
After a fairly disappointing 2013 post-season Penn State will virtually have to rebuild. They do have the outstanding Trevor Howard to help with the process plus an exceptional pommel horse team.
Returning: Howard-4th FX, 5th SR, 4th V-Big Ten, 1st FX, 9th V, 9th PB-NCAA; Was-af Burber-did not have a great post season in 2013 but is very talented; Adrian Evans-3rd PB-Big Ten, 5th PH-NCAA; Matt Fellemann-4th HB-Big Ten, 4th HB-NCAA; Craig Hernandez-1st PH-Big Ten. Burber and Evans possible Nissen-Emery nominees.
Lost: Felix Aronovich-5th AA-Big Ten, 5th HB-NCAA; Mackenzie Dow-5th PH-Big Ten; Parker Raque-8th SR-Big Ten, 6th SR-NCAA; Scott Rosenthal-3rd SR-NCAA.
Frosh: Huge freshman class: Joe Boyle (NJ), Franz Card (?), Leroy Clark (NJ), Dominic DiFulvio (NY), Brian Manning (MA), Christian McSwain (NC), Jeremy Munn (ME), Justin Valentim (NJ), Blake Young (NC).

6. OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
Although suffering a disappointing 2013 post season, this observer picks this team to be a surprise team of 2014. With only two graduation losses from their 9th place team of 2013 this team may be ready to really produce.
Returning: Danny Steiner-2nd FX-Big Ten, 7th FX-NCAA; Larry Mayer-8th V-Big Ten; Drew Moling-8th PB-Big Ten; Michael Newburger-1st PH-NCAA (possible Nissen-Emery nominee); Jeff Treleaven-5th V-NCAA.
Losses: John Laing-6th PH-Big Ten.
Frosh: Jake Dastrup (UT), Logan Melander (WA), Sean Melton (FL), Andrew Rickly (OH), Bryce Simpson (VA).

7. UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
UM enjoyed a great 2013 Conference Championship meet, but faltered a bit at Nationals. This is a young team that shows great promise for the future. With minimal losses, great potential to make the super six in 2014.
Returning: Ellis Mannion-2nd PH-Big Ten, 2nd PH-NCAA; Jack Metcalf-7th SR-Big Ten; Matt Frey-6th PB-Big Ten; Steve Jaciuik-3rd HB-Big Ten; Daniel DiBenedetto-6th HB-Big Ten.
Losses: Adam LaFleur, Harris Coleman -7th PH-Big Ten;
Frosh: Zach Liebler (MN), M i t c h e l l Soukup (TX).

8. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
Faced with a serious threat of elimination as a varsity sport and the resignation of their head coach just prior to Nationals the Golden Bears, nevertheless, can look forward to an exciting 2014 due to having a young team, with a year under their belts, and a new head coach (Brett McClure).
The return of Donothan Bailey, after being out last season, will add a strong dimension to
this young team.

Returning: Bailey (possible Nissen-Emery nominee); Jeffrey Langenstein-4th FX-MPSF (possible Nissen-Emery nominee); Takahiro Ka-wada-7th PH-MPSF, 8th PH-NCAA; Matthew Del Junco-8th PH-MPSF; Kevin Ko-4th H B - M P S F; Ryan Patterson-6th H B - MPSF; T. J. Bzoskie-5th H B - MPSF; Jonathan Liu-4th PB-NCAA, Christian Monteclaro-5th V-MPSF.

Losses: Steven Lacombe-2nd SR-MPSF, 4th V-MPSF;
Frosh: Jonathan Bobrovitch, Nicholas Del Junco, Michael Diliberto and Adam Young (all CA).

9. UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

Without a doubt the surprise team of 2013 was the U. of Iowa with their 5th place finish at Nationals. With this said it is almost foolish to suggest that they may finish as low at 9th in 2014, especially with the return of Matt McGrath (possible Nissen-Emery nominee). Nevertheless all of the teams picked to finish above them also have outstanding credentials and Iowa did have some heavy graduation losses.

Returning: Matt Loochtan-7th FX, 6th V-Big Ten; Cyrus Dobre-Mofid-4th PB-Big Ten; Mitchell Landau-8th HB-Big Ten; William Albert-10th SR-NCAA.

Losses: Javier Balboa-3rd AA, 1st SR-Big Ten, 8th SR-NCAA; Anton Gryshayev-4th SR-Big Ten, 7th SR-NCAA; Broderick Shemanski-6th AA, 7th HB-Big Ten.
Frosh: Andrew Bottor (CA), Caleb Fischle-Faulk (CA), Cory Patterson (?), David Spanier (?), Mark Springett (MA), Zach Wendland (KS).

10. UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Once again, the Cornhuskers, as with other teams, appears to be in a position to improve on their past several seasons. With no significant losses and with several talented returnees the prospects are looking up.

Returning: Wyatt Aycock-8th AA-Big Ten (possible Nissen-Emery nominee); Grant Perdue-8th FX, 3rd V-Big Ten; Sam Chamberlain-3rd PB-Big Ten; Louis Klein-2nd HB-Big Ten. C.J. Schaaf and Eric Schryver will also contribute greatly.

Losses: Wyatt Baier and Gabriel Sanchez.
Frosh: Antonio Castro (FL), Travis Gollott (CA), Andrew Klump (MN), Brenon Gollott (IL).

11. AIR FORCE ACADEMY

After winning its 4th straight USAG Collegiate Nationals the Falcons suffered a bit of a let-down at Div. 1 Nationals. After scoring a season high of 431.25 AF could only score 417.90 at the Div. 1 qualifier. It is still remarkable that an Academy team could advance to the qualifier three years in a row.

With minimal graduation losses AF should be back again strong in 2014.

Returning: Nick Gaudlhip-4th FX, 8th PB-MPSF, 8th PB, 1st HB-USAG; Gared Chapman-3rd SR-MPSF, 3rd FX, 3rd SR, 8th V-USAG; Jon Spiro-6th SR-MPSF, 2nd SR-USAG; Tyler Huebner-7th SR-MPSF; Mac Ritchie-2nd HB-USAG; Dan Zaiser-7th V-MPSF; Denis Aurelis-5th FX-USAG; Nick Owen-1st PH-USAG; Greg Chaput-7th PH, 6th PB-USAG.

Losses: Tory Brown-6th FX, 6th PB-MPSF, 2nd V-USAG. Also James Okamoto and Alex Jessop.

Frosh: Chase Cannon-TN, Aaron Nubine-OK, Bradford Ruppert, Christopher Stevenson-IN, Timothy Wang-CA.

12. COLLEGE OF WILLIAM/ MARY

Missing an automatic trip to the Div. 1 National Qualifier by a mere 1.20 in 2013 the Tribe will be looking to change that in 2014. Always best at the end of the season W&M has serious talent returning and should be even stronger in 2014. Possible ECAC title.


Losses: minimal.
Frosh: Jimmy Guiliano (CT), Rob Meyer (TN), Aria Sabbagh (MO), Mat Turnansky (AZ).

13. TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Temple had a miracle finish in 2013 to capture the ECAC Team title and advance to the National Qualifier. This season could prove to be a bit more...
Hodges-3rd AA, 5th PB, 1st HB-ECAC;
Guides-7th AA, 8th PH, 5th SR, 6th V-ECAC; Bryan Pusateri-5th FX-ECAC; Lukasz Adamczyk-2nd PH-ECAC; Trent Jarrett-8th SR-ECAC.
Losses: Dan Zerbel-2nd PB-ECAC.
Frosh: Christopher Avvisati (IL), Alexander Dumstorf (KY), Brandon Jones (OH), Keith Kohn (IL), Joseph Mauk (IL), Pratik Patel (IL), Christopher Patton (IL), Christopher Root (GA), Joshua Soto (IL), Jacob Thurburre (TN).

16. U. S. NAVAL ACADEMY
Navy has also struggled the past few seasons with having a small inexperienced squad. This picture changed in 2013; although ’13 was not a great year, the very young team gained tremendous experience and even produced some high place winners in important competitions. 2014 will be a better year.
Returning: Chris Junghans-6th AA, 6th PH, 5th HB-ECAC, 3rd AA, 5th PH, 7th SR-USAG (possible Nissen-Emery nominee), 12th AA-NCAA; Joshua Steves-2nd V-ECAC; Thomas Goodell-3rd HB-ECAC, 8th SR, 5th HB-USAG; Andrew Potts-5th PH, 4th HB-USAG; Mitchell Larios-3rd PB-USAG.
Losses:
None.
Frosh: John Aiken (TX), Christopher Arion (TX), Evan Jones (MA), Wyatt Lapointe (PA), Wayne Saya (NH), Jonny Tang (PA).

15. UNIV. OF ILLINOIS-CHICAGO
UIC has struggled a bit as of late with a 3rd place ECAC finish in 2013, but could be more experienced in ’14, led by Joseph Hodges and Jason Guides. Huge freshman class.
Returning:

14. U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY
After several tough seasons 2014 looks to be a bit brighter for the Black Knights. With Jesse Glenn fully recovered from injury and with Kip Webber returning that spells good things for Army. With some help from their strong freshman class Army could contend for the top 12. Possible ECAC threat.
Returning: Jesse Glenn-1st AA in first three meets in 2013 including 1st in the West Point Open, but was later out for the season with an injury. Kip Webber-1st AA, 3rd FX, 3rd SR-ECAC (possible Nissen-Emery nominee); Ian Howard-6th FX-ECAC; Mike Tserkovnyuk-7th PH-ECAC; Jeremy Cahill-2nd HB-ECAC; Michael York-5th HB-ECAC.
Losses: Garrek Hojancz-1st PH-ECAC, 10th PH-NCAA; Ikaika Jakub-3rd V-ECAC.
Frosh: Jacob Davies (TX), Leo Genders (OH), Josh Glenn (CA), Sam Kusnitz (NC), Zachary Mancini (CA), Joe Pitts (OH).

JUNGHANS

POW

Results of my predictions for 2013:
Picked Michigan for first-placed 1st
Picked Stanford for 2nd-placed 3rd
Picked Illinois for 3rd-placed 6th
Picked Oklahoma for 4th-placed 2nd
Picked Penn State for 5th-placed 4th
Picked California for 6th-placed 7th
Picked Ohio State for 6th-placed 9th
Picked Minnesota for 8th-placed 8th
Picked Nebraska for 9th-placed 11th
Picked Iowa for 10th-placed 5th*
Picked Air Force for 11th-placed 10th
Picked Temple for 12th-placed 12th
Picked Ill-Chicago for 12th-placed 15th
Picked Wm/Mary for 14th-placed 13th
Picked Army for 15th-placed 14th
Picked Springfield for 16th-placed 17th
Picked Navy for 17th-placed 16th

CLUB REPORTS:

NISSEN-EMERY AWARD
In this observer’s opinion this could possibly be the most obvious N-E choice of all time. Michigan’s Sam Mikulak not only is an Olympian (placed 5th in Vault), he is also a 5-time NCAA event champion.
Potential Nissen-Emery Candidates:
Daniel Potemski-College of Wm/Mary
Landon Funiculo-College of Wm/Mary
Michael Newburger-Ohio State University
Wasaf Burbar-Penn State University
Adrian Evans-Penn State University
Ryan Ponce-Springfield College
Cale Robinson–Stanford University
Chris Turner-Stanford University
Jeffrey Langenstein-U. of California
Donothan Bailey-U. of California
Alex Varga-U. of Illinois
Matt McGrath-U. of Iowa
Sam Mikulak-U. of Michigan
Wyatt Aycouk-U. of Nebraska
Presten Ellsworth-U. of Oklahoma
Raymond White-U. of Oklahoma
Kip Webber-U.S. Military Academy
Chris Junghans-U.S. Naval Academy

Picked Nebraska for 8th
Picked Ohio State for 6th
Picked Penn State for 5th
Picked California for 4th
Picked Illinois for 3rd
Picked Stanford for 2nd
Picked Michigan for first

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

In June of 1993, ASU gave the ax to its traditionally highly successful men’s gymnastics program. In 1994, the ASU Sun Devil Gymnastics Team competed its first year as a non-funded team and ended the year by winning the USA Collegiate National Championships with 10 All-Americans and one individual National Champion. Now beginning their 20th year as a University non-funded “club” team, the team continues to grow in stature among its peers around the country.

In the last 20 years Head Coach Scott Barclay has led the Sun Devils as their Head Coach to an astounding 16 USAG Collegiate National Team Titles. The team boasts 25 members strong, which is the highest number they have had in 20 years.

Returning: Mykie Ramirez, Riley Barclay-3rd FX-USAG, Brian Malone, Hans Degnan and Lee Wilkerson -2-AA, 7-PB, 7-HB-USA.G.

Frosh: Jeffrey Andony (CO), Joseph Bartholomew (AZ), Samuel Brunner (CO), Mato Ty Loughridge-Elizabeth (CO), Vincent (Chas) Van De Motter (GA), Joseph Nicholas (Niko) Vlastos-Millstop (IL). Report by Scott Barclay.

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

The Huskies from Washington are much improved over last years 6 man squad. A strong recruiting year has brought 5 new gymnasts to the team and with only one loss, (graduate/exchange student Jakob Bochmann moving back to Germany) they have added depth and talent to this years' team.

Freshman Justin Rowen, leads a group of 5 freshman. Justin's strong events (FX,Y, HB) will help the team tremendously. In a couple years Brandon Waller will be a strong all around for Wash. Max Soifer has good pommels and floor. Wyatt and Daniel Zmrzel, are cousins who trained at the same gym. Both are a little bit banged up but are in the process of getting healthy for the coming season. A late season recruit, Aaron Moss joined the team as a very good all arounder. Aaron swings high bar extremely well. Watch out for Aaron as the team’s dark-horse all around.

Returning and leading the team is Peter Moser. Peter is a great tumbler and looks to do high level routines on floor. Greg Steward returns for his final year and as captain of the team. Greg will compete on FX, V, PB and HB. Other returners are Layton Oka, and Franklin Stutevos (had shoulder surgery over the summer) and most improved freshman from last year, Cory Tsai.

Washington looks to be much improved and added depth will give them the ability to break the 400 barrier this season. Report by Mark Russo.

CALENDAR OF MAJOR EVENTS

Jan. 11 Rocky Mt. Open @ Air Force
Jan. 11 Calif. vs. Stanford @ California
Jan.18 Windy City Inv. @ III-Chicago
Jan. 17/18 West Point Open @ Army
Jan. 25 U. Mich. vs. Stanford @ Stanford
Jan. 25 Ohio St. vs. Illinois @ Illinois
Jan. 25 Navy Open @ Navy
Feb. 1 Ohio St. vs. Michigan @ Michigan
Feb. 8 III-Chicago vs. Wm/Mary @ Brockport
Feb. 8 Stanford vs. Oklahoma @ Oklahoma
Feb. 8 Penn St. vs. Temple @ Penn St.
Feb. 9 Springfield vs. William/M @ Spfld.
Feb. 14 Air Force vs. Army @ Army
Feb. 14 Calif. vs. Ohio St. @ Ohio St.
Feb. 15 Illinois vs. Penn State @ Penn St.
Feb. 15 Metroplex Open @ Ft. Worth
Feb. 20 Winter Cup @ Las Vegas
Feb. 23 New England Champ. @ Spfld.
Feb. 28 III-Chicago vs. Air Force @ Air Force
Mar. 1 Ohio St. Invitational @ Ohio St.
Mar. 7 U. Mich. vs. Puerto Rico @ San Juan
Mar. 8 Stanford Invitational @ Stanford
Mar. 8 Iowa vs. Minnesota @ Minnesota
Mar. 9 Temple vs. Wm/Army @ Wm/M
Mar. 15 Minnesota vs. Neb. @ Nebraska
Mar. 15 U. Mich. vs. Penn St. @ Michigan
Mar. 15 Illinois vs. Nebraska @ Nebraska
Mar. 15 Iowa vs. Nebraska @ Nebraska
Mar. 21/22 USAG Nationals @ Navy
Mar. 28/29 Big Ten Champ. @ Nebraska
Mar. 28/29 ECAC Champ. @ Navy
Mar. 29 MPSF Champ @ Oklahoma
April 9 CGA Awards Banquet @ Michigan
April 10-12 NCAA Nationals @ Michigan