MICHIGAN WINS 2ND CONSECUTIVE NCAA NATIONAL TEAM TITLE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The University of Michigan captured its sixth NCAA title in front of the home crowd on Friday (April 11) at Crisler Center, becoming the first U-M program to win back-to-back national championships in 44 years. The Wolverines scored 445.050 to win the meet, spearheaded by another all-around national crown from senior Sam Mikulak who tallied 91.10 to claim the win for the second consecutive year and for the third time in his career.

Michigan started on pommel horse in the first rotation, scoring a 75.10, its highest score of the season. Mikulak recorded a career-high score of 15.60 to lead the team. U-M also received strong performances by Nick Hunter and Matt Freeman who both notched 14.95 scores, earning them each a spot in the individual event finals.

On the still rings Paul Rizkalla Jr. led off with a solid 14.70, while Alex Bubnov and Mikulak each recorded scores of 14.75.

Mikulak, who has only had two scores below 15.00 on the vault all season, scored the highest overall mark in vault with a 15.30. Tristan Perez-Rivera also turned in a top-10 performance to qualify for the event finals.

On the parallel bars graduate student Syque Caesar scored a 15.20 to earn a place in the individual event finals. Mikulak contributed a massive 16.05.

In the fifth rotation, U-M relied on the grit of Caesar, who contributed a top-five finish, scored a 14.85 on the high bar. Despite starting his routine off with a fall, Mikulak recovered by executing an E-difficulty dismount to remain in the all-around lead by a little more than one tenth over Stanford's Akash Modi entering the final rotation.

In the final event, Michigan continued a season trend by turning in a dominant performance of 76.05 on floor exercise. Stacey Ervin hit his routine to tie for seventh overall in the event with a 15.30. Mikulak once again anchored the event, recording a 16.05, the top individual score of the night on floor to help seal an all-around title, as well as the team victory for the Wolverines.

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma capped another outstanding season, finishing national runner-up with a score of 441.650 at the NCAA Final in the Crisler Center on Friday.

Seven Sooners qualified to compete in the Individual Event Final where they will compete for a national title and All-America status Saturday. Kanji Oyama (floor), Colin Van Wicklen (floor, vault), Alec Robin (floor, vault), Michael Reid (pommel horse), Michael Squires (still rings), Danny Berardini (parallel bars, high bar) and Will Clement (high bar) finished in the top 10.

On parallel bars two-time All-American on the event Berardini recorded a score of 15.150 to pace the Sooners.

In an incredibly gutsy performance on high bar, Clement competed in the anchor spot after breaking his foot in warm-ups on Thursday. After hobbling on crutches since the break, Clement rose to the occasion, earning a 14.700. Berardini again led the way for the Sooners, earning a 14.750.

OU showed why they are ranked No. 1 in the country on floor exercise. A score of 76.100 cut Michigan's lead to 2.35 points after four of five Sooners scored above a 15.0. Kanji Oyama had a career high 15.550, Colin Van Wicklen scored 15.300, Alec Robin had 15.250, Presten Ellsworth scored 15.100 and Raymond White came in at 14.900.

But the Sooners followed up by scoring 73.850 on pommel horse, not enough to counter the Wolverines on parallel bars with a 75.950. Reid nailed his routine for a 15.600 good for the top score of the session - and White added another 14.900.

On still rings it was the reigning national champ, Squires, who topped all other rotations with a 15.700.

A great vault set finished out the competition for OU. Robin earned the second-best
score of the session with a 15.250 and Van Wicklen was right behind with a 15.2500. Ellsworth earned a 15.000 and White added a 14.950 for the Sooners.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Stanford placed third at the NCAA Championships Friday.

Akash Modi placed second in the all-around with an 89.200. He advanced to the individual events finals with a second-place finish on parallel bars (15.550) and a fourth-place result on pommel horse (15.200).

Stanford was led on vault by Sean Senters' 15.100. Taylor Seaton (14.950), Modi (14.850) and Kevin Baker (14.550) followed. Modi paced Stanford on parallel bars with a 15.550, followed by Knott (15.100) and Zaremski (15.100).

The Cardinal ran into adversity on high bar when the first two gymnasts scored below 14.000. Modi, Knott and Paul Hichwa helped get the team back on track with three consecutive scores of 14.500.

Stanford responded with its third-highest score this season on floor with a 74.150. Chapman, the team's highest scorer, followed by Levy (15.450) and Brandon Beckhardt (14.300) to move the Cardinal up to 3rd place.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Illinois gymnast C.J. Maestas earned All-America status in the all-around, and the Fighting Illini advanced six gymnasts to NCAA Event Finals, despite the disappointing fourth-place finish on Friday night at the NCAA Nationals.

Maestas placed fourth in the all-around competition with a 87.050, allowing him to garner All-America honors. This marks the second All-American accolade in the all-around for Maestas.

Six other Illini finished in the top 10 on various events, including Jordan Valdez who scored a 15.200 on high bar to tie for fifth. He will also compete on parallel bars. Maestas will compete on floor and rings, Chandler Eggleston on floor and vault, Logan Bradley and Chad Mason on pommel horse, and Mike Wilner on still rings.

On still rings C.J. Maestas set the bar high with a 15.300 for third place, followed by Mike Wilner, who scored a 15.000 to tie for fifth.

The Illini had a rough night on vault, but Chandler Eggleston had the high score for Illinois, tying for ninth with a 15.050.

On parallel bars Jordan Valdez leading the way as always with a 15.200 to tie for sixth.

The Illini were very successful on high bar as Valdez had another solid performance, matching his 15.200. Eggleston was the second-highest scoring Illinois gymnast with a 14.550 for 13th.

Maestas scored the highest for the Orange and Blue on floor exercise, setting a season high of 15.350 to tie for fifth. Eggleston was not far behind with a 15.300 in seventh.

The Orange and Blue ended on the pommel horse with Logan Bradley scoring a season high of 15.000 and tied with teammate Chad Mason for eighth.

OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Ohio State posted a 433.50 total team score to earn a fifth-place finish at the NCAA Team and All-Around Finals Friday night at the Crisler Center.

Freshman Sean Melton and Jake Martin also represented the Buckeyes in the all-around, scoring an 88.40 and 86.80 to place third and fifth, respectively.

Seven Buckeyes qualified for the individual events finals Saturday night. Michael Newburger will look to defend his national title on pommel horse after advancing to finals with a score of 15.25 for a sixth-place overall finish.

Drew Moling advanced to rings finals after scoring a 14.85 to finish 10th overall, while Melton and Jeff Treleaven advanced on vault, each scoring a 15.15 to tie for fifth-place.

Melton will also represent the Buckeyes on parallel bars and high bar after tallying a 15.25 and 14.80 for fifth and sixth-place finishes, respectively. Alex Johnson earned a 14.65 for 10th-place, freshman Andrew Rickly posted a 14.95 for fourth-place and Martin tallied a 15.15 to finish second.

Ohio State opened the meet on floor exercise, where Martin scored a 15.25.

The Buckeyes moved to pommel horse for the second rotation. Behind Newburger, Melton tallied a 14.75 to finish 18th.

The Scarlet and Gray next traveled to rings. Behind Moling, Melton posted a 14.55 and senior Will Jeffreys tallied a 14.50 to place 17th and 18th overall, respectively.

In the fifth rotation on parallel bars, Misha Koudinov earned a 14.95 to finish 14th.

Penn State earned a sixth-place finish in the NCAA team and all-around finals Saturday evening at Crisler Arena.

Craig Hernandez highlighted the evening with a third-place finish on the pommel horse. Posting a 15.300, he led PSU for the second consecutive night on the apparatus.

Trevor Howard and Torres led the Nittany Lions on the still rings with two top-10 performances. Howard finished tied for fifth with a 15.000, while Torres put up a 14.950 to place him in a three-way tie for seventh.

Torres closed out the team finals with one more top-10 performance. He recorded a 15.250 to put him in a three-way tie for 10th with Oklahoma's Alec Robin and Ohio State's Jake Martin. Robin and Martin won the NCAA tiebreaker to advance to tomorrow's
As the final competitor of the night for the Nittany Lions, Trevor Howard swung to a career-high score of 15.500 on the parallel bars to slot him third overall. Howard finished ninth overall on the all-around with a total score of 85.100.

TEAMS NOT ADVANCING TO FINALS

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Seven Golden Gophers advanced in individual events, but the team finished fourth in the second session of the NCAA national qualifier Thursday night.

Michigan (444.100), Ohio State (437.950) and Penn State (433.100) advanced to Friday's team final as the top three teams in the session. The Gophers finished with 429.550 points ahead of Nebraska (426.350) and Air Force (418.200).

All-arounder Ellis Mannon finished second with a score of 86.550 to advance to the all-around finals on Friday. Mannon earned his highest scores of the night on parallel bars (15.150) and pommel horse (15.050).

Zack Chase (still rings and vault) and Steve Jaciu (parallel bars and high bar) each advanced in two events, while freshman Zach Liebler (floor), Steffen Beck (pommel horse), Paul Montague, Jr. (pommel horse) and Matt Frey (parallel bars) also advanced in the individual competition. These six Gophers will join Mannon in competing Friday.

Minnesota began the meet on parallel bars where the team was led by Mannon (15.150), Jaciu (15.150) and Frey (15.100). Jaciu (14.850) also led Minnesota in third overall on high bar in the second rotation. Sam Wright picked up a 14.150 while Spencer Smith scored a season-high 14.000 on high bar as well.

Liebler (14.750) and Sean Bauer (14.700) led the Gophers on floor exercise in the third rotation.

Minnesota then scored its second-highest pommel horse score of the season with a 7.100 in the fourth rotation led by Mannon (15.050) in a tie for fifth overall and Beck (14.550). John Scallon and Montague both scored 14.300 for 15th overall, and Montague earned the final spot in Friday's competition on a tie-breaker (national qualifying average).

Bauer kicked things off on rings with a 14.000, followed by Chase with a 15.000 to tie for third place, and Montague with a 14.500. Sophomore Jack Metcalf scored a 14.650, and Jaciu wrapped up the fifth rotation with a 14.350.

Minnesota was in fourth heading into vault for the final rotation, but the Gophers could not overcome the deficit and finished in fourth overall. Bauer kicked off vault for the Gophers with a 14.500, followed by Frey (14.350) and Kern (14.550). Mannon earned a 14.400, and Chase capped off the night with a 15.000.

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA

Nebraska kicked off the 2014 NCAA Championships Thursday at the University of Michigan. The Huskers finished out their session with a team score of 426.350, placing them in fifth of six teams.

Grant Perdue started off the team on rings for Nebraska, earning a 13.70 for his routine. He was followed by Zach Hedval (14.40) and Wyatt Aycock (14.60), as well as redshirt freshman Austin Epperson (13.80). Robbie Kocks, NU’s only 2014 Big Ten medalist, rounded out the rotation, earning a 15.20 for his routine.

Perdue, a returning All-American on the vault event, led the Huskers with a strong 15.20 vault. Aycock (14.60), C.J. Schaaf (14.50) and Sam Chamberlain (14.45).

Eric Schryver and Louis Klein both earned a 14.20. Aycock led the parallel bar event, grabbing a 14.85 for his routine.

Ethan Lottman started out the high bar event, earning a 13.70 for his routine. Klein followed, grabbing a 14.60 for his routine. Schryver was able to break away from the slump for NU’s last score on the event, a 14.45.

Ungr managed to pull together the performance he’d been looking for all evening, earning a 14.40 for his floor exercise routine. He was followed by Aycock and junior Andrew House, who both earned 14.45s. Perdue, a former All-American on floor, rounded out the rotation with a score of 14.85.

House started off the team on pommel horse, earning a 13.55 for his routine. Aycock looked to improve the team’s last-rotation performance, as well as keep steady scores going toward his all-around total. The senior put forth a strong effort, grabbing a 14.70.

Lottman really bumped up the game for the team, earning a 15.30 for his routine. As the only all-around competitor for Nebraska, Wyatt Aycock came in first in the session’s all-around competition with a score of 86.950.

Aycock qualified into Friday's all-around finals, while five other athletes made it into the individual event qualifiers. Perdue qualified on both floor and vault, and Ethan Lottman qualified for the second year in a row on pommel horse. Kocks qualified on rings after tying for the top spot overall. Klein and Schryver both qualified on high bar.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

The University of Iowa took fourth place in their session of the NCAA Qualifier, Thursday at the Crisler Center in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Iowa began the day on rings and were led by all-around competitor, Jack Boyle. Boyle placed sixth in the event with a score of 14.850. Matt Loochtan placed seventh with a score of 14.800.

Cyrus Dobre-Mofid scored a 14.600 and tied for 12th on vault to lead the Hawkeyes. William Albert placed 18th with a score of 14.500.

Boyle helped improve his all-around status by tying for fourth on parallel bars with a score of 15.000. Alberhasky tied for 12th with a score of 14.600.

Freshman Cory Paterson led that Hawkeyes on high bar as he tied for ninth with a score of 14.300. Mitchell Landau took 12th with a score of 14.200, while Alberhasky tied for 13th with a score of 14.000.

Iowa’s strongest performance of the day came from Loochtan as he tied for runner-up on floor with a score of 15.350. All-American Matt McGrath tied for 12th in the event with a score of 15.000.

On the Hawkeyes final event, Doug Sullivan continued his success on pommel horse by tying for fourth with a score of 14.900. Sophomore Del Vecchio Orozco tied for 18th with a score of 13.900.

In the all-around competition, Boyle placed fifth with an overall score of 84.450.
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The California Golden Bears placed fifth at the NCAA Qualifiers on Thursday at the Crisler Center in Ann Arbor, Mich. with a score of 425.700.

The Bears opened on pommel horse. Kevin Wolting started Cal off well with a routine that earned a 14.300, while fellow Takahiro Kawada led the team with a score of 14.550. Bailey also posted a solid routine, garnering a score of 14.350.

Cal had a slower start than anticipated on the still rings, but Bailey led the way for the Golden Bears with a score of 14.750.

No one in the lineup scored lower than a 14.300 on vault, and the back end of Bailey, Ryan Patterson and Jeffrey Langenstein all had hit routines with scores of 14.550, 14.700 and 14.800, respectively.

Zemeir was the class of the parallel bars event for the Bears, posting a score of 15.000 to lead the team. Bailey was also key, anchoring the rotation with a 14.750 of his own.

On the high bar Zemeir started things off well with a 14.650, but two sub-13 scores cost California in their team total.

The Bears finished their session on a high note, however, as they turned in their highest scoring performance of the day on floor exercise. Bailey posted a 15.200, while Langenstein closed out the afternoon with a 15.050 to conclude their collegiate team competition careers. Cal nearly passed Iowa for fourth place, falling just .250 points behind the Hawkeyes.

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

Air Force scored a 418.200 to finish sixth in the evening session of the NCAA National Qualifier on Thursday, April 10, in Ann Arbor, Mich. The Falcons, making their fourth straight team appearance at the national meet, accounted for four top-10 finishes.

Nick Gaudlip picked up the Falcons’ best individual event finish of the night, as he tied for fourth on the high bar with a score of 14.800. Gaudlip was one of three Falcons to place within the top half of the field on that event, as freshman Tim Wang and Skyler Awisus tied for 11th (14.400) and 15th (14.250), respectively.

Wang, who finished fourth in the all-around with an 83.650, also paced the Falcons with a top-10 finish on the pommel horse, as he tallied his second-highest score of the season (15.000) to place seventh. Nick Owen joined Wang among the top half of the field on the pommel horse, tying for 17th following a score of 14.200.

Denis Aurelius and Gared Chapman accounted for another pair of top-10 finishes on the floor exercise and still rings, respectively. Aurelius reached the 15-point mark for the second time in three weeks, scoring a 15.150 to finish sixth on the floor, while Chapman tied for ninth on the rings behind a score of 14.700.

Chapman also paced the Falcon on the vault, tying for 15th with a score of 14.700 - his second-highest vault score of the season. Three other Air Force gymnast earned placements within the top half of the field including Tyler Huebner, who tied for 18th on the still rings with a score of 14.300.

Greg Chaput and Josh Ramos tied for 16th on the parallel bars with matching scores of 14.350.

Five AF gymnasts advanced to the 2nd round of competition: Tim Wang-AA, Denis Aurelius-FX, Gared Chapman-SR, Nick Gaudlip-HB and Josh Ramos-PB.

W&M posted its best team score of the afternoon on vault (72.1), as Courter placed third among all competitors in the session with a 15.15. Daniel Potemski also performed well and nearly advanced with a 14.65.

Both Funiciello (14.75) and Patterson (14.6) posted qualifying scores on parallel bars.

The College then moved to floor and was led by Courter’s mark of 14.9.

Keaton Ackerman posted the Tribe’s best score on pommel horse (14.2).

Funiciello placed second among all competitors in the session on rings with a 15.65.

COLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

William and Mary placed sixth in the first session of competition at the NCAA Championships hosted by the University of Michigan on Thursday afternoon.

Individually, Landon Funiciello advanced to the 2nd round of competition on rings and parallel bars, while Neal Courter and Sam Patterson qualified on vault and parallel bars, respectively. Funiciello is a two-time NCAA All-American on rings and placed second in the event last year, while Courter garnered NCAA All-America distinction on vault when he finished third as a freshman.

Prior to the first day of competition on Thursday, the NCAA recognized the nation’s top gymnasts and coaches and the Tribe was well represented. Funiciello was honored as a finalist for the Nissen Emery Award, while head coach Cliff Gauthier and assistant coach Pete Walker were chosen as the East Region Head Coach of the Year and East Region Assistant Coach of the Year, respectively.

W&M opened the meet on high bar as junior Michael Deitz recorded the team’s top score with a 13.95.

The College then moved to floor and was led by Courter’s mark of 14.9.

Keaton Ackerman posted the Tribe’s best score on pommel horse (14.2).

Funiciello placed second among all competitors in the session on rings with a 15.65.
2014 NCAA National Championships Individual Event Finals

**ALL AROUND**
1. Sam Mikulak, Michigan 91.100
2. Akash Modi, Stanford 89.200
3. Sean Melton, Ohio State 88.400
4. C.J. Maestas, Illinois 87.050
5. Jake Martin, Ohio State 86.800
6. Donothan Bailey, California 86.250
7. Kyle Zemeir, California 86.100
8. Wyatt Aycoc, Nebraska 85.500
9. Trevor Howard, Penn State 85.100

**FLOOR EXERCISE**
1. Alec Robin, Oklahoma 15.425
2. Chandler Eggleston, Illinois 15.400
3. C.J. Maestas, Illinois 15.150
4. Sam Mikulak, Michigan 15.125
5. Stacey Ervin, Michigan 15.100
6. Colin Van Wicklen, Oklahoma 15.025
8. Sean Senters, Stanford 14.950
9. Kanji Oyama, Oklahoma 14.875

**POMMEL HORSE**
1. Ellis Mannon, Minnesota 15.425
2. Michael Reid, Oklahoma 15.175
3. Akash Modi, Stanford 14.825
5. Craig Hernandez, Penn State 14.775
7. Donothan Bailey, California 14.650
8. Chad Mason, Illinois 14.100

**RINGS**
1. Michael Squires, Oklahoma 15.800
2. C.J. Maestas, Illinois 15.725
3. Ryan Ponce, Springfield 15.550
4. Landon Funiciello, William & Mary 15.450
5. Dennis Zaremski, Stanford 15.325
6. Mike Wilner, Illinois 15.100
7. Matt Loochtan, Iowa 14.925
8. Alexis Torres, Penn State 14.850
9. Trevor Howard, Penn State 14.800

**VAULT**
1. Alec Robin, Oklahoma 15.250
2. Chandler Eggleston, Illinois 15.225
3. Sean Senters, Stanford 15.100
4. Jeff Treleaven, Ohio State 14.975
5. Colin Van Wicklen, Oklahoma 14.950
6. Sean Melton, Ohio State 14.925
7. Tristan Perez-Rivera, Michigan 14.900
8. Sam Mikulak, Michigan 14.800
9. Zack Chase, Minnesota 14.775

**PARALLEL BARS**
1. Sam Mikulak, Michigan 15.875
2. Akash Modi, Stanford 15.600
3. Syque Caesar, Michigan 15.325
4. Danny Berardini, Oklahoma 15.300
5. Jordan Valdez, Illinois 15.100
6T. Trevor Howard, Penn State 15.050
6T. Sean Melton, Ohio State 15.050
8. Brian Knott, Stanford 15.000

**HORIZONTAL BAR**
1. Jordan Valdez, Illinois 15.525
2. Jake Martin, Ohio State 15.475
3. Sean Melton, Ohio State 15.225
4. William Clement, Oklahoma 15.050
5. Syque Caesar, Michigan 14.975
6. Alex Johnson, Ohio State 14.950
7. Mitchell Landau, Iowa 14.925
8. Danny Berardini, Oklahoma 14.650