

PSU BEGAN THE 2006 SEASON WITH A WIN AT ARMY;
 ILLINOIS, IOWA, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA AND OSU
 OPEN THE YEAR AT THE WINDY INVITATIONAL

BIG TEN MEN'S GYMNASTICS CONTACT
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BIG TEN GYMNAST OF THE WEEK

Casey Sandy, Penn State
 Fr., Brampton, Ontario, Canada/Chinguacousy

Competing in his first meet at the collegiate level, Sandy led Penn State to a win over Army with an outstanding individual effort to earn Gymnast of the Week accolades. The former Canadian National team member won the all-around outright by posting a score of 52.650 and tied classmate Shaun Antonio for first place on the parallel bars (9.000). Sandy also claimed second on the pommel horse (9.000), tied for second on the vault (9.150) and the high bar (8.450), and earned a third-place finish in the floor exercise (8.700).

THIS WEEK IN THE BIG TEN

January

13 Temple at PENN STATE 7 p.m.
 14 ILLINOIS, IOWA, MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA, OHIO STATE 7 p.m.
 at Windy City Invitational [1]

[1] - Chicago, Ill.

LAST WEEK IN THE BIG TEN

January

7 PENN STATE def. Army, 206.650-199.150

BIG TEN TIDBITS

Big Ten Success: Last season, the Big Ten supplied four of the six teams that advanced to the NCAA Men's Gymnastics Team Championship finals, but it was the Oklahoma Sooners that took home the team title. Ohio State finished the team competition second, just .225 off Oklahoma's victorious total. Illinois placed third and Penn State came in fourth. Michigan rounded out the team competition finalists in sixth place.

All-American Returnees: A total of eight Big Ten standouts - Illinois' **Adam Pummer**, **Justin Spring** and **Tyler Yamauchi**, Iowa's **Michael Reavis**, Michigan's **Justin Laury**, Ohio State's **DJ Bucher** and **Ronald Ferris** and Penn State's **Santiago Lopez** - who earned All-America honors last season will return in 2006.

Return of the Champions: Three 2005 NCAA Champions will return this season in Illinois' **Justin Spring**, Iowa's **Michael Reavis** and Ohio State's **Ronald Ferris**. Last year, Spring became the first Illinois standout to win a national title on the parallel bars since David Zeddies in 1989. Reavis posted the top score on the vault to become the Hawkeyes' 12th national champion, while Ferris became the first Buckeye to capture a national title on the high bar after posting a score of 9.762.

Big Ten Owns the All-Around: Over the last five years, the national individual title in the all-around has gone to a Big Ten standout. Last year, Penn State's Luis Vargas was victorious in the all-around for the second consecutive year, becoming the first NCAA back-to-back all-around champion since Jamie Natalie from Ohio State in 2000-01. OSU's Raj Bhavsar also claimed the all-around national title in 2002.

2006 BIG TEN GYMNASTS OF THE WEEK

Jan. 11 Casey Sandy, Fr., Penn State

GYMINFO PRESEASON POLL

Team	First Place Votes
1. Oklahoma	5
2. ILLINOIS	4
OHIO STATE	5
4. California	
5. PENN STATE	
6. MICHIGAN	
Stanford	1
8. MINNESOTA	
9. IOWA	
10. Nebraska	
11. Army	
12. William & Mary	
13. Temple	
14. Illinois-Chicago	
15. Navy	

Other teams receiving votes: Air Force, Springfield, James Madison

2006 BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2006 Big Ten Men's Gymnastics Championships will be held on the campus of the University of Iowa on March 24-25.

Last year, Ohio State claimed its first Big Ten Men's Gymnastics title since 2002 and its 10th in school history. The Buckeyes posted a score of 225.350 points, while Illinois finished as the runner-up with 224.125 points. Michigan followed in third place with a score of 222.775, while Penn State (220.500), Iowa (219.800) and Minnesota (216.400) rounded out the top six spots.

Be sure to check out the Big Ten website for updated information.