

OSU'S ITO AND PSU'S HELSBY SHARE WEEKLY ACCOLADES; BIG TEN ACTION RESUMES WITH OHIO STATE PLAYING HOST TO PENN STATE

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BIG TEN CO-GYMNASTS OF THE WEEK

Willie Ito, Ohio State

Jr., Huntington Beach, Calif./South Coast Gymnastics

Ito shares Gymnast of the Week accolades after placing in the top three in three events in a tri-meet against No. 1 Oklahoma and No. 7 California last weekend. Ito tied for first place on the high bar with a score of 9.600. He also earned third-place finishes on the pommel horse (8.950) and parallel bars (9.200). Ito holds the top spot in the GymInfo's national rankings with an average score of 9.633 on the high bar. The Huntington Beach, Calif., native earns his second career accolade as he was also honored on Feb. 1, 2006.

Derek Helsby, Penn State

So., Orlando, Fla./Lake Highland

Helsby captured the all-around title while leading No. 8 Penn State to an upset victory over No. 4 Stanford last weekend. He claimed the all-around with a score of 53.500, while also finishing first on the pommel horse (9.400). In addition, he placed second on the parallel bars (9.300) and third in the high bar event (9.350), tallying career-high scores in both events. Helsby claims his first weekly accolade.

2006 BIG TEN GYMNASTS OF THE WEEK

Jan. 11	Casey Sandy, Fr., Penn State
Jan. 18	Michael Reavis, Jr., Iowa
Jan. 25	Casey Sandy, Fr., Penn State
Feb. 1	Willie Ito, Jr., Ohio State
Feb. 8	Michael Reavis, Sr., Iowa
Feb. 15	Michael Reavis, Sr., Iowa
	Jake Lee, Jr., Minnesota
Feb. 22	Willie Ito, Jr., Ohio State
	Derek Helsby, So., Penn State

GYMINFO POLL - FEB. 20

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>TOTAL SEASON AVG.</u>
1. Oklahoma	214.917
2. OHIO STATE	213.633
3. Stanford	213.067
4. PENN STATE	210.983
5. ILLINOIS	210.667
6. MICHIGAN	209.217
7. IOWA	209.150
8. California	209.025
9. MINNESOTA	205.733
10. William & Mary	204.542
11. Army	204.467
12. Nebraska	203.608
13. Illinois-Chicago	200.733
14. Navy	200.692
15. Temple	198.500
16. Springfield	182.667
17. Air Force	178.933
18. James Madison	176.083

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.

THIS WEEK IN THE BIG TEN

February

25 No. 5 ILLINOIS at No. 13 UIC 7 p.m.

Pacific Coast Classic, Oakland, Calif. 7 p.m.
No. 7 IOWA, No. 9 MINNESOTA

No. 4 PENN STATE at No. 2 OHIO STATE 7 p.m.

LAST WEEK IN THE BIG TEN

February

18 Iowa Tri-Meet, Iowa City, Iowa

No. 3 ILLINOIS (211.850), No. 6 IOWA (209.600), No. 5 MICHIGAN (196.100)

No. 9 MINNESOTA
def. No. 10 Nebraska, 204.150-202.900

No. 8 PENN STATE
def. No. 4 Stanford, 216.800-216.750

BIG TEN TIDBITS

GymInfo Rankings: Ohio State is second in the latest GymInfo national rankings with a season total average of 213.633 The Buckeyes are followed by No. 4 Penn State (210.983) and No. 5 Illinois (210.667). Rounding out the top 10 are No. 6 Michigan (209.217), No. 7 Iowa (209.150) and No. 9 Minnesota (205.733).

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.