

ALL SIX SQUADS RANKED IN TOP 10
 OF THE GYMINFO PRESEASON COACHES POLL;
 ILLINOIS' HAAGENSEN PICKS UP WEEKLY LAURELS

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BIG TEN GYMNAST OF THE WEEK

Wes Haagensen, Illinois
 Jr., Belleville, Ill./Belleville West

Haagensen was named Big Ten Gymnast of the Week after capturing the all-around title and leading the Fighting Illini to a second-place showing at the Windy City Invitational last weekend. He scored a 52.700 in the all-around, while also placing first on the floor exercise (9.350). In addition, the Belleville, Ill., native finished fourth on parallel bars (9.300), fifth on vault (8.650) and tied for eighth on the pommel horse (8.550). Haagensen picks up his second career weekly laurel as he was also honored on March 1, 2006.

THIS WEEK IN THE BIG TEN

January

20 No. 6 ILLINOIS at No. 9 MINNESOTA 7 p.m.
 No. 7 IOWA at No. 8 MICHIGAN 6 p.m.

21 Penn State Quad Meet [1] 1 p.m.
 No. 12 Temple, JMU, No. 13 William & Mary,
 No. 5 PENN STATE

[1] - State College, Pa.

LAST WEEK IN THE BIG TEN

January

13 No. 5 PENN STATE
 def. Army, 214.200-192.650

Windy City Invitational, Chicago, Ill.

No. 8 MICHIGAN (212.750); No. 6 ILLINOIS (209.750); No. 3 OHIO STATE (209.500); No. 9 MINNESOTA (205.650); No. 7 IOWA (198.400); No. 11 Illinois-Chicago (196.150)

BIG TEN TIDBITS

GymInfo Rankings: Currently, all six Big Ten squads are ranked in the GymInfo Preseason Coaches Poll. Ohio State leads the Big Ten with a third-place showing while Penn State (5th), Illinois (6th), Iowa (7th), Michigan (8th), and Minnesota (9th) round out the top 10.

Big Ten Coaches' Preseason Poll: Penn State has been voted as the preseason favorite by the conference coaches. Ohio State, the reigning Big Ten Champion, was tabbed second, followed by Michigan, Illinois, Minnesota and Iowa. The conference coaches also selected a 12-member Preseason All-Big Ten team which included Illinois' Wesley Haagensen and Tyler Yamauchi, Iowa's Curtis Kleffman and Geoff Reins, Michigan's Justin Laury and Kent Caldwell, Minnesota's Jake Lee and Cole Storer, Ohio State's Jake Bateman and DJ Bucher and Penn State's Derek Helsby and Casey Sandy.

Big Ten Success: For five straight season, the Big Ten has sent six teams to the national championships. The last time the Big Ten accomplished this feat was in 1960, a year that marked the conclusion of seven straight years with six or more teams advancing to the NCAA Championships. That string of success included four national titles with Illinois claiming solo crowns in 1955 and 1956 and the Fighting Illini splitting the national title with conference-foe Michigan State in 1958.

2007 BIG TEN GYMNASTS OF THE WEEK

Jan. 18 Wes Haagensen, Jr., Illinois

GYMINFO PRESEASON POLL

TEAM (First-Place Votes)

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

2007 BIG TEN CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2007 Big Ten Men's Gymnastics Championships will be held on the campus of the University of Minnesota on March 30-31.



Last year, Ohio State claimed its second consecutive Big Ten Men's Gymnastics title and its 11th in school history. Five different teams held leads throughout the night, but it was the Buckeyes who found themselves in first place with a score of 215.625 when it mattered. Illinois finished in second with a score of 214.800, while Iowa (213.750) and Michigan (210.775) followed in third and fourth place, respectively. Penn State (210.250) finished in fifth place and Minnesota posted a sixth-place finish with a score of 205.400.

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