

2015 Big Ten Championships Quotes

Fred Hartville, Illinois
Vault Champion

Q: What does it mean for you to be Big Ten Champion for vault?

A: It means a lot. The Big Ten is such a stacked conference. Just to come out of this being conference champion is amazing to me. Not many people get this chance with such a stacked field.

Q: How was this whole Big Ten Championship experience for you?

A: As a team, it really came together for us. Today to end off with 3 Big Ten Champs, I think is very successful as a whole.

Jordan Valdez, Illinois
Parallel Bars Champion

Q: What was it like to win this weekend and what does it mean to you?

A: It was really exciting. I knew I had to put on pretty much one of the best routines I've done for the whole season. Just kind of let the routine do itself. Being a fifth year, it means a lot to me. I've gotten really close. Last year, I took second on parallel bars and second on high bars, so this year finally getting it in my last chance. The last routine I did this weekend, it really meant a lot to me.

Q: What was it like looking out in the crowd and seeing that huge Illinois crowd?

A: I love it. Pretty much, our fans are our family for the most part. So anytime that they can, they come out in force. A lot of them plan to only come out for Big Tens and NCAAs rather than the smaller meets. So whenever we have them, they're loud, they're rowdy, they get involved and it brings our comfort level way up. It makes us comfortable and it makes us confident.

C.J. Maestas, Illinois
Floor Champion

Q: What does this win mean to you?

A: It's indescribable. It's exciting going out there and just doing my job. It's nice to come out with a win, a little upset with team finals, but you know, a win is a win. So that was fun.

Q: How was the environment this weekend?

A: The environment's awesome. Penn State really hosts a great competition and they have plenty of support from fans.

Nick Hunter, Michigan
Parallel Bars Champion

Q: How does it feel to win?

A: Absolutely ecstatic. Actually warming up, someone mentioned Michigan won the last 3 or 4 parallel bar titles and the two people that won previously were Sam [Mikulak] and Syque [Casear] which are two people I have a tremendous amount of respect for so really got amped up and wanted to bring it back to Michigan this weekend.

Ellis Mannon, Minnesota
Pommel Horse Champion

Q: How did it feel to get the win in such of such a large Minnesota contingent?

A: Our parents, friends and girlfriends are really good about traveling to as many meets as they can so we had some great support. We had a great day today. There were a lot of talented guys out there but we will bring some hardware back to Minnesota so it was a great experience. I threw the hardest routine I could and managed to get it done.

Q: How was this year's win different than last year's win?

A: Last year, I didn't have the expectation. I hadn't won so I went into the finals and there was no pressure on me. This year, I felt like there was a lot of pressure so that made it that much harder but I made it through.

Alex Johnson, Ohio State
High Bar Champion

"My team and coaches have been pushing me for three years now – this championship is just as much theirs as it is mine," Johnson said. "It's a great feeling to be on top of the podium at a Big Ten meet and to bring the title back to Columbus."

Trevor Howard, Penn State
Rings Champion

Q: How do you feel about being Big Ten Champion for rings?

A: It is awesome. I couldn't ask for anything more. Having my team behind me gave me that extra push to get through event even though I was tired today. Knowing that there are so many others that would want to be in my shoes, coming out and winning was awesome.

Q: How do you feel about how you guys competed tonight?

A: For me personally, I was tired. I did five events last night and four events tonight. I was fatigued but it is always a pleasure going out there. You just have to push through it and give the best routine you can. With NCCAs being a two-day event, it was nice practice. You just have to learn how to push through.

Q: How was the environment this weekend?

A: It was a tremendous crowd, a lot of energy. We had a lot of fans from home and whenever you're competing with team it's an amazing experience, and it was fantastic.