

# IOWA HAWKEYES

University of Iowa Athletic Communications – Madison Petersen Gymnastics Contact



## WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS WEEKLY RELEASE

Feb. 8, 2017

### 2017 SCHEDULE

1/8	at Northern Illinois	2nd, 194.200
<b>1/13</b>	<b>vs. Michigan State*</b>	<b>W, 195.475-193.875</b>
<b>1/15</b>	<b>vs. California-Berkeley</b>	<b>L, 195.500-194.400</b>
1/21	at Ohio State *	W, 196.175-195.525
<b>1/29</b>	<b>vs. Maryland *</b>	<b>W, 195.975-193.800</b>
2/5	at Nebraska*	L, 196.825-195.725
<b>2/11</b>	<b>vs. Illinois*, UIC</b>	<b>4 p.m.</b>
2/17	at George Washington	6 p.m.
2/19	at LSU	2:30 p.m.
2/24	at BYU	8 p.m.
<b>3/4</b>	<b>vs. Iowa State*</b>	<b>11 a.m.</b>
<b>3/11</b>	<b>Big Five Meet*</b>	<b>3 p.m.</b>
3/18	Big Ten Championships	TBA
4/1	NCAA Regional Championships	TBA
4/14-4/17	NCAA Championships	TBA

All times are Central and subject to change -- Home events in BOLD

# - Exhibition Event \* - Conference Event



IOWA  
HAWKEYES

vs. Illinois, UIC \_\_\_\_\_ Feb. 11  
Time \_\_\_\_\_ 4 p.m. (CT)  
Location \_\_\_\_\_ Iowa City, Iowa  
Venue \_\_\_\_\_ Carver-Hawkeye Arena  
  
Live Stream \_\_\_\_\_ Hawkeye All-Access  
Twitter \_\_\_\_\_ @IowaGymnastics  
Snapchat \_\_\_\_\_ @IowaGymnastics



UIC  
FLAMES

### THIS WEEK

The No. 22 University of Iowa women's gymnastics team hosts No. 21 Illinois-Champaign and Illinois-Chicago inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Saturday at 4:00 p.m. (CT). Doors are set to open at 3:00 p.m.

### MEET COVERAGE

- Fans can find meet highlights on Twitter at @IowaGymnastics.
- Links to live stats are available on the women's gymnastics schedule page at hawkeyesports.com.

### PROMOTIONS

- Saturday is Iowa's annual Pink Meet to promote Breast Cancer Awareness. The first 250 fans will receive a free pink Iowa gymnastics t-shirt. Fans are encouraged to wear pink.
- The hour before every home meet this season will be Hot Dog Happy Hour -- purchase hot dogs for only \$1 (beginning at 3 p.m. on Saturday).
- Kids Zone will be available for young Hawkeye fans prior to the meet and will include tattoos, trivia questions, and building snowflakes.
- A few lucky fans will be selected for the "Best Seat in the House" with floor seats.

### IN THE RANKINGS

Iowa is ranked No. 22 nationally with a 195.325 scoring average. The GymHawks rank 19th nationally as a team on beam (48.783 scoring average), 20th on bars (48.833), 21st on floor (48.929), and 27th on vault (48.779).

Individually, freshman Charlotte Sullivan ranks 73rd nationally in the all-around (38.750), while senior Mollie Drenth ranks 79th (38.725). For single events, junior Melissa Zurawski ranks 20th on uneven bars (9.863), senior Lexi Mura ranks 43rd on beam (9.833), and freshman Clair Kaji ranks 94th (9.783) on beam. Kaji also ranks 59th (9.842) and Zurawski ranks 63rd (9.837) on floor, while Drenth ranks 96th on vault (9.796). There are over 620 gymnasts ranked individually on each event.

### SCOUTING THE FIGHTING ILLINI

- Illinois defeated Minnesota (196.025-193.375) on Feb. 4 inside Huff Hall.
- The Fighting Illini rank 21st nationally and first in the Big Ten Conference with an average score of 195.410.
- Illinois owns a 6-2 record this season, with a 3-1 record in Big Ten action.
- Individually, the Fighting Illini have one student-athlete ranked in the top 25. Sophomore Lizzy Leduc is ranked tenth in the all-around (39.400 average score), fifth on beam (9.890) and 20th on floor (9.875).
- Illinois is led by head coach Kim Laundrus, who is in her sixth season.

### SCOUTING THE UIC FLAMES

- UIC fell to Eastern Michigan (194.550-193.325) on Feb. 5 inside the UIC Pavilion.
- The Flames are ranked 56th nationally with an average score of 192.256 this season.
- UIC owns a 1-8 record so far this season.
- Sophomore Mikaila Northern leads UIC in the national all-around rankings at 84th with a 38.680 average.
- The Flames are led by head coaches Peter and Mary Jansson, who are in their 26th season.

### 2017 ROSTER

Savannah Borman	Sr.	Chesapeake, Va.
Misty-Jade Carlson	So.	Portland, Ore.
Nicole Chow	So.	Port Coquitlam, B.C.
Mollie Drenth	Sr.	Riverview, Fla.
Ashleigh Edlin	Sr.	Woodlawn, Tenn.
Breanna Fizke	Fr.	West Allis, Wis.
Sydney Hogan	So.	Waterloo, Iowa
Clair Kaji	Fr.	Vancouver, Can.
Annie Kustoff	Fr.	San Antonio, Texas
Gina Leal	Fr.	Glastonbury, Conn.
Angel Metcalf	Sr.	Swansboro, N.C.
Lexi Mura	Sr.	Caseyville, Ill.
Maria Ortiz	So.	Fort Myers, Fla.
Rose Piorkowski	So.	Panama City, Fla.
Jori Robertson	Jr.	Iowa City, Iowa
Lanie Snyder	Jr.	Omaha, Neb.
Charlotte Sullivan	Fr.	Christchurch, N. Z.
Tessa Walsh	So.	Naperville, Ill.
Nikki Youd	Jr.	Panama City, Fla.
Melissa Zurawski	Jr.	Darien, Ill.

### FOLLOW THE HAWKEYES

Live Stats: [hawkeyesports.com](http://hawkeyesports.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/iowagymnastics](https://facebook.com/iowagymnastics)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/iowagymnastics](https://twitter.com/iowagymnastics)  
Instagram: [instagram.com/iowagymnastics](https://instagram.com/iowagymnastics)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/iowagymnastics](https://youtube.com/iowagymnastics)

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### BIG TEN STANDINGS

Team	Overall W-L-T	Big Ten W-L-T	Pct.
Illinois	6-2-0	3-1-0	.750
Michigan	5-2-0	3-1-0	.714
Minnesota	5-2-0	3-1-0	.714
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>5-3-0</b>	<b>3-1-0</b>	<b>.625</b>
Nebraska	4-3-0	3-1-0	.571
Ohio State	5-2-0	2-2-0	.714
Penn State	5-2-0	2-2-0	.714
Rutgers	8-5-0	1-3-0	.615
Michigan State	3-4-0	0-4-0	.429
Maryland	1-6-0	0-4-0	.143

(As of Feb. 8)

### ROAD TO NATIONALS RANKINGS

Rank	Team Name	Average
1	Oklahoma	197.760
<b>2</b>	<b>LSU</b>	<b>197.555</b>
3	Florida	197.430
4	Utah	196.950
5	UCLA	196.750
6	Alabama	196.671
<b>7</b>	<b>Michigan</b>	<b>196.400</b>
8	Boise State	196.238
9	Georgia	196.179
10	Kentucky	196.054
11	Oregon State	195.950
12	Denver	195.900
13	Missouri	195.883
14	George Washington	195.865
<b>15</b>	<b>California</b>	<b>195.785</b>
16	Auburn	195.717
17	Washington	195.656
18	Ohio State	195.585
<b>19</b>	<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>195.565</b>
20	Southern Utah	195.425
<b>21</b>	<b>Illinois</b>	<b>195.410</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Iowa</b>	<b>195.325</b>
23	Arkansas	195.305
24	West Virginia	195.215
25	Iowa State	194.938

(As of Feb. 8)

- 2017 opponents in bold

### LAST TIME OUT

- Iowa fell to No. 20 Nebraska, 196.825-195.725 in Lincoln, Nebraska, on Feb. 5.
- Iowa registered its season high on floor with a 49.125. Junior Lanie Snyder and freshman Clair Kaji led Iowa in the event with scores of 9.850 to tie for fourth overall.
- Senior Mollie Drenth took fourth in the all-around with a score of 39.175.
- Sophomore Rose Piorkowski and Drenth posted scores of 9.825 to tie for third overall on vault.
- Senior Lexi Mura led the Hawkeyes on beam with a 9.825 to finish in third-place.
- Junior Melissa Zurawski registered the highest score for the Hawkeyes on uneven bars with a 9.850 to finish fourth overall.

### HAWKEYES DEFEAT THE FIGHTING TURTLES

- Iowa beat Big Ten foe Maryland, 195.975-193.800, inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Jan. 29 for its third consecutive conference win.
- Freshman Charlotte Sullivan won the all-around with a score of 38.775.
- Senior Mollie Drenth took the title on vault with a season-best 9.875.
- Sullivan, senior Angel Metcalf, and junior Melissa Zurawski all registered career highs on uneven bars with scores of 9.925 to tie for the win. The trio tied the third highest record on uneven bars in Iowa history.
- Metcalf finished first overall on beam with a score of 9.825.
- Freshman Clair Kaji earned her third title of the season on floor with a 9.900. This tied her season high.

### ZURAWSKI NAMED BIG GYMNAST OF THE WEEK

Melissa Zurawski was named Big Ten Co-Gymnast of the Week after her performance against Maryland on Jan. 29 inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Zurawski received this honor with Nicole Artz of Michigan. This is Iowa's first Gymnast of the Week honor since Rebecca Simbhudas earned the title on Feb. 1, 2010.

Zurawski led the GymHawks in a 195.975-193.800 win over Maryland. The junior earned first or runner-up in every event she competed in. The Darien, Illinois, native won her second event title of the season on uneven bars with a career-high 9.925 to tie the third best score in Iowa history. She set another career high on vault with a 9.850 to place second overall. Zurawski earned an additional runner-up title on floor with a score of 9.875, which tied her career high in the event for the fourth time this season.

### DOWN GOES NO. 18

- Iowa defeated No. 18 Ohio State, 196.175-195.525, on Jan. 21 in Columbus, Ohio, for its second conference win.
- The team registered high scores on uneven bars (49.050) and beam (49.375) and tied their season high on floor (49.050).
- Senior Mollie Drenth took first in the all-around with a season best 39.350.
- Drenth also took the title on beam with a score of 9.925 to tie her career best.
- Freshman Clair Kaji earned her second floor title of the year with a season high of 9.900. She received Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors for her accomplishments.
- Junior Melissa Zurawski received first-place honors on uneven bars with a score of 9.875.
- Freshman Charlotte Sullivan brought home the title on vault with a season best 9.800.

### KAJI TAKES BIG TEN FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK HONORS

Freshman Clair Kaji earned Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors after winning her second floor title of the year with a season-best 9.900 against Ohio State in Columbus, Ohio, on Jan. 21.

The Vancouver, Canada, native placed fourth overall on beam with a season best score of 9.875. She also recorded a 9.750 on uneven bars in the competition.

Kaji comes to Iowa from a successful career on the Canadian national team. She took first on beam and in the all-around at the B.C. Provincial Championships in 2014, and then returned in 2015 to take first in the all-around again. In 2014, Kaji also won on vault and placed second on beam at the Western Canadian Championships. She highlighted her career by taking sixth in the all-around at the 2015 Canada Winter Games to help her team take home the bronze medal.



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### SPARTANS FALL TO HAWKEYES

- Iowa notched its first conference win of the season against Michigan State, 195.475-193.875, on Jan. 13 inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena.
- In the all-around, freshman Charlotte Sullivan finished at the top of the podium with a 39.050 for the first all-around win of her collegiate career.
- Senior Mollie Drenth and sophomore Rose Piorkowski tied for first on vault with scores of 9.850.
- Senior Angel Metcalf and freshman Clair Kaji tied for the win on beam, as both tallied scores of 9.850.

### SULLIVAN EARNS BIG TEN FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK

Freshman Charlotte Sullivan earned Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors after taking home second in the all-around (38.900) in her Hawkeye debut in the quad meet against Northern Illinois, Western Michigan, and Lindenwood in Dekalb, Illinois, on Jan. 8.

The New Zealand native placed third on vault with a score of 9.750. She went on to record a 9.775 on beam, a 9.700 on uneven bars, and a 9.675 on floor.

The freshman comes to Iowa after a successful career on the New Zealand national team. Sullivan won the New Zealand Nationals in 2014, 2013, 2012, 2010, and 2007. She also won a bronze medal on beam at the World Cup Event in Portugal in 2015.

### DRENTH, METCALF NAMED TO BIG WATCH LIST

Seniors Mollie Drenth and Angel Metcalf were named to the 2017 Big Ten Gymnasts to Watch List for the second consecutive year on Dec. 15.

Metcalf, who has been featured on the Big Ten Watch List for three consecutive years, took part in all 14 meets during the 2016 season and competed in the all-around in 13 meets. At the Big Ten Championships, she took 12th on beam (9.825), 20th on uneven bars (9.825), and finished ninth in the all-around (39.225) to be named to the All-Big Ten Championship Team for the second year in a row. She ended the season at her third NCAA Regionals with a fourth-place finish on bars (9.900) and tenth-place result in the all-around (38.650) to be selected to the All-Championship Team.

Drenth competed in every meet in the all-around during the 2016 season and owns Iowa's individual season best on vault (9.950 at No. 13 Denver, Feb. 27), beam (9.925 at Iowa State, March 4), and in the all-around (39.475 vs. No. 14 Nebraska, Feb. 6). The senior earned a runner-up finish on vault (9.925) and placed 20th on uneven bars (9.825) at the Big Ten Championships to be named to the All-Big Ten Championship Team. At the NCAA Regionals, she finished seventh on vault (9.825), fourth on uneven bars (9.900), 13th on floor (9.825), third in the all-around (39.450) and was the beam champion with a 9.900 to make the All-Championship team and qualify for the NCAA Championships as an individual. She finished the season with a third-place finish (9.9125) at the NCAA Championships and All-American honors.

### HAWKEYE NEWCOMERS

The Hawkeyes welcome five new freshmen -- Charlotte Sullivan, Clair Kaji, Breanna Fitzke, Gina Leal, and Annie Kustoff-- to the 2017 squad.

Sullivan is from Christchurch, New Zealand, and is a five-time New Zealand Nationals Champion. She also won a bronze medal on beam at the World Cup in Portugal (2015).

Kaji is from Vancouver, Canada. She is a four-time Canadian Championship qualifier and a four-time Elite Canada competitor. In 2015, she placed sixth in the all-around at the Canada Winter Games to help her team take home the bronze.

Fitzke is from West Allis, Wisconsin. She is a three-time regional qualifier and a two-time state qualifier. Fitzke finished fifth in the state on floor in 2014 and fourth in 2015.

Leal is from Glastonbury, Connecticut. In 2012, she was the state champion on vault and bars and runner-up on floor and in the all-around, was the regional champion on vault and bars, and won vault at the Western National Championship.

Kustoff is from San Antonio, Texas. In 2014, she placed first on bars and second in the all-around at state competition, won bars at regionals, and was the champion on beam and runner-up on bars at the Western National Championship.

### SEASON TICKETS

For more ticket information, please visit [hawkeyesports.com](http://hawkeyesports.com) or contact the UI Athletics Ticket Office at 1-800 IA-HAWKS. Season tickets are currently on sale for \$42. Fans who purchased season tickets will gain admission to six home competitions inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena, against Michigan State, California-Berkeley, Maryland, Iowa State, Illinois and UIC and the home finale of the Big Five Meet. Youth (18 and younger) and UI students are admitted free to all home matches.

### SEASON TICKET HOLDER PROMOTION

Iowa women's gymnastics season ticket holders who missed their sweatshirt pick up at the first three home meets can still get their sweatshirts. Sweatshirts can be picked up at the marketing table on the east concourse on Saturday. Fans can also stop by the marketing office at Carver-Hawkeye Arena during business hours (Monday-Friday) to get their sweatshirt. If you are unable to do so, please contact Kelsey Laverdiere at [kelsey-leverdiere@uiowa.edu](mailto:kelsey-leverdiere@uiowa.edu).

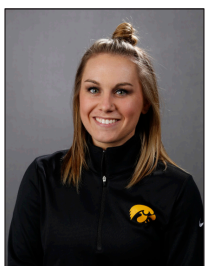
### UP NEXT

The GymHawks travel to No. 14 George Washington, in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 17 to compete against George Washington, Pittsburgh, Maryland, and William & Mary. The meet is set to begin at 6:00 p.m. (CT) inside the Smith Center.



# University of Iowa Women's Gymnastics

## 2017 ROSTER



Savannah Borman  
Sr.  
Chesapeake, Va.



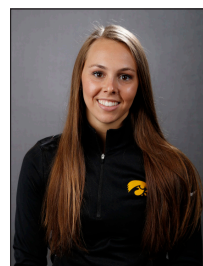
Misty-Jade Carlson  
So.  
Portland, Ore.



Nicole Chow  
So.  
Port Coquitlam,  
B.C.



Mollie Drenth  
Sr.  
Riverview, Fla.



Ashleigh Edlin  
Sr.  
Woodlawn, Tenn.



Breanna Fitzke  
Fr.  
West Allis, Wis.



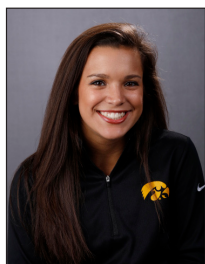
Sydney Hogan  
Fr.  
Waterloo, Iowa



Clair Kaji  
Fr.  
Vancouver, Can.



Annie Kustoff  
Fr.  
San Antonio, Tex.



Gina Leal  
Fr.  
Glastonbury, Conn.



Angel Metcalf  
Sr.  
Swansboro, N.C.



Lexi Mura  
Sr.  
Caseville, Ill.



Maria Ortiz  
So.  
Fort Myers, Fla.



Rose Piorkowski  
So.  
Panama City, Fla.



Jori Robertson  
Jr.  
Iowa City, Iowa



Lanie Snyder  
Jr.  
Omaha, Neb.



Charlotte Sullivan  
Fr.  
Christchurch, N.Z.



Tessa Walsh  
So.  
Naperville, Ill.



Nikki Youd  
Jr.  
Panama City, Fla.



Melissa Zurawski  
So.  
Darien, Ill.



Larissa Libby  
Head Coach  
13th Season



Vince Smurro  
Assistant Coach  
1st Season



Jennifer Green  
Assistant Coach  
2nd Season