

# IOWA HAWKEYES

University of Iowa Athletic Communications – Madison Petersen, Gymnastics Contact



## WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS WEEKLY RELEASE

March 8, 2017

### 2017 SCHEDULE

1/8	at Northern Illinois	2nd, 194.200
<b>1/13</b>	<b>Michigan State*</b>	<b>W, 195.475-193.875</b>
<b>1/15</b>	<b>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>Maryland *</b>	<b>W, 195.975-193.800</b>
2/5	at Nebraska*	L, 196.825-195.725
<b>2/11</b>	<b>Illinois*, UIC</b>	<b>1st, 196.475</b>
2/17	at George Washington	1st, 196.400
2/19	at LSU	3rd, 194.200
2/24	at BYU	W, 196.550-196.425
<b>3/4</b>	<b>Iowa State*</b>	<b>W, 196.725-195.300</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

Big Five Meet \_\_\_\_\_ March 11  
Time \_\_\_\_\_ 3 p.m. (CT)  
Location \_\_\_\_\_ Iowa City, Iowa  
Venue \_\_\_\_\_ Carver-Hawkeye Arena  
  
Twitter \_\_\_\_\_ @IowaGymnastics  
Live Stats \_\_\_\_\_ hawkeyesports.com

**BIG**

**BIG FIVE  
MEET**

### THIS WEEK

The No. 16 University of Iowa women's gymnastics team hosts the Big Five Meet on Saturday at 3 p.m. (CT) inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena against Penn State, Michigan, Rutgers, and Minnesota. Doors open at 2 p.m.

### MEET COVERAGE

- Fans can find meet highlights on Twitter @IowaGymnastics.
- Links to live stats are available on the women's gymnastics schedule page at [hawkeyesports.com](http://hawkeyesports.com).
- The meet will be live streamed on btn.com.
- The meet will air delayed on Big Ten Network on Sunday at 2 p.m. (CT).

### PROMOTIONS

- The hour before every home meet this season will be Hot Dog Happy Hour -- fans can purchase hot dogs for only \$1 (beginning at 2 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 16th nationally with a regional qualifying score (RQS) of 196.315. As a team, the GymHawks rank 16th nationally on beam (49.175), 17th on floor (49.160), 19th on bars (49.070), and 24th on vault (48.955).

Individually, senior Mollie Drenth ranks 21st nationally in the all-around (39.245), while freshman Charlotte Sullivan ranks 69th (38.750). For single events, senior Angel Metcalf ranks 37th on uneven bars (9.870) and 50th on beam (9.860). Junior Melissa Zurawski ranks 38th on floor (9.875) and 44th on bars (9.865). Freshman Clair Kaji ties Zurawski for 38th on floor (9.875) and ranks 80th on beam (9.835). Drenth ranks 56th on beam (9.850), 89th on vault (9.815), and 92nd on floor (9.835). Sophomore Rose Piorkowski ties Drenth for 89th on vault (9.815). Junior Lanie Snyder ranks 59th on floor (9.860), while freshman Charlotte Sullivan ranks 90th on bars (9.835).

### IN THE CONFERENCE

Iowa is tied for first in the Big Ten Conference with Nebraska and Michigan. The Hawkeyes hold an overall record of 12-5-0 and a conference mark of 4-1-0.

The Hawkeyes rank third in the conference on bars (49.070 RQS) and beam (49.175) and fourth in the conference on vault (48.955 RQS) and floor (49.180).

Four GymHawks are ranked in the top ten in the conference. Senior Mollie Drenth ranks second in the all-around (39.245 RQS) and is tied for tenth on beam (9.855). Senior Angel Metcalf is tied for fourth on bars (9.870) and seventh on beam (9.860). Junior Melissa Zurawski is also ranked fourth on bars (9.870) and ranks sixth on floor (9.875). Freshman Clair Kaji is tied with Zurawski for sixth on floor (9.875) in the conference.

### LAST TIME OUT

- Iowa defeated Iowa State, 196.725-195.300, on March 4 inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena. This marks the

### 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)

[hawkeyesports.com](http://hawkeyesports.com)



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### BIG TEN STANDINGS

Team	Overall W-L-T	Big Ten W-L-T	Pct.
Nebraska	13-3-0	4-1-0	.800
Michigan	8-3-0	4-1-0	.800
<b>Iowa</b>	<b>12-5-0</b>	<b>4-1-0</b>	<b>.800</b>
Illinois	13-4-1	3-2-0	.600
Minnesota	9-4-0	3-2-0	.600
Ohio State	7-4-0	3-2-0	.600
Penn State	9-6-0	2-3-0	.400
Rutgers	10-11-0	1-4-0	.200
Maryland	15-11-0	1-4-0	.200
Michigan State	6-8-0	0-5-0	.000

### ROAD TO NATIONALS RANKINGS

Rank	Team Name	RQS
1	Oklahoma	197.990
<b>2</b>	<b>LSU</b>	<b>197.775</b>
3	Florida	197.495
4	UCLA	197.445
5	Utah	197.335
6	Alabama	197.285
7	Georgia	196.930
8	Denver	196.910
9	Oregon State	196.750
10	Boise State	196.700
<b>11</b>	<b>Michigan</b>	<b>195.595</b>
12	Kentucky	196.535
<b>13</b>	<b>Nebraska</b>	<b>196.450</b>
14	Washington	196.355
15	Missouri	196.325
<b>16</b>	<b>Iowa</b>	<b>196.315</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>California</b>	<b>196.250</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>George Washington</b>	<b>196.215</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>Illinois-Champaign</b>	<b>196.135</b>
20	Auburn	196.090
21	Southern Utah	196.030
22	West Virginia	195.840
23	Utah State	195.830
<b>24</b>	<b>Ohio State</b>	<b>195.815</b>
25	Eastern Michigan	195.805

- 2017 opponents in bold

Hawkeyes' season-high.

- Iowa registered their season-high score on floor with a 49.525.
- Senior Mollie Drenth tied for the all-around title with a season-high 39.350.
- Drenth tied for the win on vault with a season-high 9.875.
- Senior Angel Metcalf finished at the top of the podium on bars with a 9.900.
- Drenth, Metcalf, and freshman Clair Kaji tied for first on beam with scores of 9.850.
- Junior Lanie Snyder took the title on floor with a career-high 9.950.

### SCOUTING THE NITTANY LIONS

- Penn State finished first, with a score of 196.200, in a quad meet against Bridgeport, Pennsylvania, and West Chester last Sunday.
- The Nittany Lions are ranked No. 36 nationally with a RQS of 195.020.
- Penn State is ranked 25th nationally on bars (49.030 RQS), 28th on beam (48.855), 47th on vault (48.635), and 49th on floor (48.800).
- The Nittany Lions own a 9-6 overall record so far this season, with a 2-3 mark in conference action.
- Individually, Penn State has three student-athletes ranked in the top 25 nationally. Sabrina Garcia ranks 19th on vault (9.822 RQS), Briannah Tsang ranks 23rd in the all-around (39.210), and Nicole Medvitz ranks 25th on beam (9.890).
- Penn State is led by interim co-head coaches Josh Nilson and Kero Molinaro. Nilson is in his first season, while Molinaro is in her third with the Nittany Lions.

### SCOUTING THE WOLVERINES

- Michigan fell to Oklahoma, 197.575-197.525, on March 4 at the Crisler Center.
- The Wolverines are ranked No. 11 nationally with a RQS of 197.595.
- Michigan is ranked seventh on vault (49.215 RQS), beam (49.285), and floor (49.330), and 29th on bars (48.960).
- The Wolverines own an 8-3 overall record with a 4-1 mark in conference action.
- Individually, the Wolverines have four student-athletes ranked in the top 25 nationally. Nicole Artz ranks seventh on floor (9.935), Paige Zaziski ranks 15th on bars (9.890), Emma McLean ranks 18th on vault (9.885), and Olivia Karas ranks 21st on vault (9.875).
- Michigan is led by head coach Bev Plocki, who is in her 27th season.

### SCOUTING THE SCARLET KNIGHTS

- Rutgers fell to Central Michigan, 196.375-194.975, on March 5.
- Rutgers is ranked No. 46 nationally with a RQS of 194.370.
- The Scarlet Knights are ranked 39th on beam (48.685 RQS), 46th on floor (48.845), 49th on vault (48.615), and 57th on bars (48.395).
- The Scarlet Knights own a 10-11 overall record so far this season, with a 1-4 mark in conference action.
- Rutgers is led by head coach Louis Levine, who is in his 6th season.

### SCOUTING THE GOLDEN GOPHERS

- Minnesota defeated BYU, 196.050-195.000, on March 4 inside the Sport Pavilion.
- The Golden Gophers are ranked No. 34 nationally with a RQS of 195.160.
- Minnesota is ranked 15th on floor (49.180 RQS), 25th on vault (48.930), 31st on beam (48.825), and 55th on bars (48.475).
- The Golden Gophers own an 9-4 overall record, with a 3-2 mark in conference action.
- Minnesota is ranked 15th on floor (49.180 RQS), 31st on beam (48.825), 49th on vault (48.615), and 55th on bars (48.475).
- The Golden Gophers are led by head coach Jenny Hansen, who is in her third season.

### BIG WINS THIS SEASON

Iowa defeated three top-25 ranked teams in their 11 wins this season. The Hawkeyes began by upsetting No. 18 Ohio State, 196.175-195.525, on the road on Jan. 21. On Feb. 11, they defeated No. 21 Illinois with a score of 196.475 in a tri-meet inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena. Lastly, they defeated No. 20 George Washington in a field of five teams with a score of 196.400 in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 17.



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### **KAJI EARNS BIG FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK HONORS FOR A SECOND TIME**

Freshman Clair Kaji earned Big Ten Freshman of the Week honors on March 6. This is Kaji's second weekly honor. The freshman last received the award on Jan. 23.

Kaji earned her second beam title of the year with a score of 9.850 against Iowa State in Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Saturday. She also finished runner-up on floor with a season-high 9.925. This tied the third-best floor routine score in Iowa history.

The Vancouver, Canada, native has earned six titles this season. She took first on floor against California (9.825), Ohio State (9.900), and Maryland (9.900). Kaji also earned titles on bars at Northern Illinois (9.875) and on beam against Michigan State (9.850).

### **ZURAWSKI NAMED FEBRUARY STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH**

Junior Melissa Zurawski, a health and human physiology major, was named to student-athlete of the month for February. This honor, voted on by her peers, recognizes a student-athlete who has excelled not only in their sport, but in the classroom as well.

Zurawski earned Big Ten Gymnast of the Week honors on Jan. 30 after Iowa defeated Maryland. Zurawski holds the team's season high on uneven bars with a 9.925, which tied the third-best in program history.

### **SULLIVAN EARNS SECOND BIG FRESHMAN OF THE WEEK HONOR**

Charlotte Sullivan was named Big Ten Freshman of the Week on Feb. 13. This was Sullivan's second weekly honor. The freshman last received the award on Jan. 9.

Sullivan earned her second uneven bars title of the year with a score of 9.850 against No. 21 Illinois and UIC inside Carver-Hawkeye Arena on Feb. 10. She also finished runner-up on beam with a career-high 9.875.

The Christchurch, New Zealand, native has earned six event titles this season. She took first in the all-around against Michigan State (39.050), California (38.275), and Maryland (38.775). Sullivan also earned titles on vault against Ohio State (9.800) and on uneven bars against Maryland (9.925). Her career-best 9.925 on bars tied the third-best score in Iowa history.

### **ZURAWSKI NAMED BIG GYMNAST OF THE WEEK**

Junior Melissa Zurawski was named Big Ten Co-Gymnast of the Week after her performance against Maryland. 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.

The junior earned first or runner-up in every event she competed in. The Darien, Illinois, native earned 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. She earned an additional runner-up title on floor with a score of 9.875.

The junior has earned two other event titles so far this season. She took the event title on floor with a score of 9.875 at Iowa's season opener at Northern Illinois. She also won on uneven bars against No. 18 Ohio State on Jan. 21.

### **SULLIVAN NAMED JANUARY STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE MONTH**

Freshman Charlotte Sullivan was named the student-athlete of the month for January. This honor, voted on by her peers, recognizes a student-athlete who has excelled not only in their sport, but in the classroom as well.

Sullivan earned five event titles through the team's first five meets and was named Big Ten Freshman of the Week for her runner-up finish in the Northern Illinois Quad Meet on Jan. 8. Sullivan also tied the third-best score in Iowa history on uneven bars with a score of 9.925 to win the event against Maryland on Jan. 29.

### **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.

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 10th-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) on beam at the NCAA Championships and earned 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.



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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.

### UP NEXT

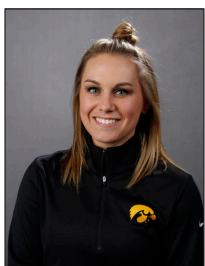
The GymHawks return to action at the 2017 Women's Gymnastics Championships, which will be held at the Rutgers Athletic Center in Piscataway, New Jersey, on March 18. The Big Five meet determines seeding for the Big Ten Championships. There will be two sessions at the Big Ten Championships, with one at 11 a.m. (CT) and one at 4 p.m. The top three teams at each Big Five meet qualify for the 4 p.m. session, while the other two teams will compete at 11 a.m. Both sessions will be broadcast live by the Big Ten Network and streamed through BTN2Go.





# University of Iowa Women's Gymnastics

## 2017 ROSTER



Savannah Borman  
Sr.  
Chesapeake, Va.



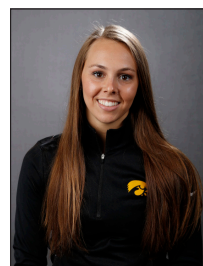
Misty-Jade Carlson  
So.  
Portland, Ore.



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