

## No. 21 Cyclone Gymnastics travel to Minnesota

Courtesy: Athletics Communications

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### THIS WEEK IN ISU GYMNASTICS

- > Iowa State vs. Minnesota
- > Sat., Jan. 26, 6 p.m. in Minneapolis, Minn.
- > Live Stats available at [cyclones.com](http://cyclones.com)
- > Live webcast at the Clone Zone

### Cyclone Notebook

- > Iowa State spends its second straight weekend on the road, traveling to face Minnesota on Saturday, Jan. 26, in Minneapolis. The meet has a 6 p.m. start time.
- > The Cyclones are in their 35th season of gymnastics. Iowa State holds a 394-423-4 all-time record and has made 12 NCAA Regional appearances in school history, including the last 11 seasons.
- > Iowa State returns 12 letterwinners from the 2007 team that went 15-8-1 and tied for second place in the NCAA Central Regional. The Cyclones will try to replace four letterwinners from last season, including eight-time All-American Janet Anson. The Cyclones have added three newcomers this season: Alexandra Grant, Jacquelyn Holmes and Jasmine Swyningan.
- > Iowa State has won 10 of its last 11 matchups with Minnesota, including 10 in a row from Feb. 2003 to Jan. 2007. The winning streak over the Gophers was snapped on March 4, 2007, when the Cyclones lost 195.350-195.325 in a three-team meet in Iowa City. Minnesota's score in that meet was their second highest all-around mark of the season.
- > Despite dropping its first two meets of the season, the Cyclones are ranked No. 21 in the latest GymInfo Poll. All four Big 12 teams are ranked in the top 25, led by Oklahoma at No. 7. Defending conference champion Nebraska is at No. 13 and Missouri is No. 14.
- > The Iowa State coaching staff is in its second season in Ames. Head coach Jay Ronayne guided the Cyclones to a second-place finish in the Central Region in his first season at the helm of the ISU program. Also in their second season are assistant coaches Jay Santos and TeShawne Jackson, and director of gymnastics operations Mary Ronayne. Eight-time All-American Janet Anson is in her first season as a volunteer assistant coach.
- > Subscribers to the Clone Zone will have access to web casts of all the home gymnastics meets and road meets at Minnesota and Nebraska. To subscribe to the Clone Zone, go to [cyclones.com](http://cyclones.com). Live stats will also be available during home meets at [cyclones.com](http://cyclones.com).

### A Closer Look at Minnesota

- > The Gophers won their opening meet of the season, beating New Hampshire 191.650-189.300 on Jan. 19, in Minneapolis.
- > Minnesota finished fifth at both the Big Ten Championship and the NCAA Regional Championship a season ago. The Gophers put together an 8-6 record in the regular season and an 11-14 mark.

> Minnesota's lineup has a mix of both experience and youth. Kendra Elm, Kristin Furukawa and Yuri Nagai are all true freshmen who saw their first collegiate action against New Hampshire, while redshirt freshman Jamie Bullock competed in two meets last season before undergoing surgery on her foot. Despite the youth, three seniors and three juniors have also competed for the Gophers this season.  
> Minnesota holds a 33-26 record in the all-time series with Iowa State.

#### Captain of the Ship

> Ashley Kent and Jasmine Thompson will serve as Iowa State captains for the 2008 season. Kent, a junior from Calgary, Alberta, was a regular on bars and beam in a freshman season that earned her the ISU Most Improved Gymnast Award. She missed most of the 2007 season after suffering a knee injury in the third meet of the year. Thompson, a junior from McDonald, Ohio, was a key contributor in all-around competition last year after redshirting her initial collegiate season. She earned the Mari-Rae Sopper Award Jan. 19, against Nebraska signifying the most outstanding and inspiring performance.

#### Fresh Faces

> The Cyclones return 12 letterwinners, but none of ISU's returners have competed for more than one full season at Iowa State. Ashley Kent competed as a freshman in 2006 and began competing in 2007 before ending the season with an injury just three meets into the campaign. Just three Cyclones have previous experience competing in the all-around.

#### Poll Position

> The Iowa State gymnastics team is 21st in the latest GymInfo Poll. All four Big 12 teams are ranked in the top 25, led by Oklahoma at No. 7. Florida is No. 1 in the rankings for the second consecutive week, while the defending national champion Georgia Bulldogs are ranked second.

#### You Look Familiar

> Eight-time All-American and two-time Big 12 Gymnast of the Year (2006, 2007), Janet Anson is on the Iowa State coaching staff this season, serving as the volunteer assistant coach. Anson was a two-time ISU Female Athlete of the Year (2004, 2006) and in 2007 claimed the American Award, which is given to the top Division I gymnast.

#### On Their Way to Ames

> Michelle Browning (Houston, Texas) and Celine Paulus (Yorba Linda, Calif.) will join the Cyclones for the 2008-09 academic year after signing National Letters of Intent last semester. Browning comes to ISU from Champion Gymnastics in Houston. An all-around gymnast, she finished second on bars and 15th on beam at the 2007 Level 10 Junior Olympic Nationals. Paulus finished 11th on bars at the JO Nationals before an injury on beam prevented her from completing the meet. Paulus added top 10 finishes in all five events at the regional championships.

#### A Look Back at 2007

> Coming off the first Super Six appearance in program history, the Iowa State gymnastics team experienced an up-and-down 2007 campaign. The graduation of five key seniors and a coaching change in the off-season made the season a time of transition. The highs included Janet Anson earning her eighth All-America honor in addition to her second Big 12 Gymnast of the Year Award, an accolade she shared with Nebraska's Emily Parsons. Freshman Megan Barnes also represented ISU well as Big 12 Newcomer of the Year. The Cyclones just missed competing at the NCAA Championships after tying Oklahoma in at the Regional meet. The Sooners advanced by two-tenths of a point when the sixth score for each team was added.