

**National Collegiate Baseball Writers Newsletter**  
**(Volume 40, No. 8, Sept. 26, 2001)**

**Barry on Baseball**

**NCBWA President's Message by Barry Allen**

I write this in the wake of a national tragedy. Our country had been terrorized by ruthless people. Our freedoms have been invaded. Our "everyday" world as we know it came to an abrupt stop last week. Now our great country tries to heal and move on and we move on with our daily lives. I had the pleasure of meeting President George W. Bush and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice at the 2001 College World Series. President Bush is a great baseball man and even made mention of our organization during his visit to the Johnny Rosenblatt Stadium press box. Ms. Rice has ties to the city of Tuscaloosa, which I am proud to call home. Her grandfather and father both attended Stillman College, a mostly black college with an outstanding educational background. I respect their decisions to these tragic events and I wish them well. I pray for them daily and I urge you to do the same. I think of those men and women who serve our great country and I ask you to pray for them as they prepare to lead us in battle. I would also like to remember the firefighters, rescue workers and police officers that have made so many sacrifices to save New York and Washington, D.C. Some of their sacrifices resulted in the loss of their own lives. My grandfather, Joe Turner, was a fireman and I know without question he would have been right in the middle of trying to help and save others. To all of our firefighters, rescue workers and police officers serving our public, I pray for their safety and I urge you to do the same. May God Bless America!

Now to baseball, America's pastime, and the upcoming college baseball season that is so dear to each of us in this organization. We are expecting a tremendous year at the NCBWA. The interest in our game is growing by leaps and bounds and I urge each of you to become more and more involved with this organization and this sport. I'd personally like to thank Bo Carter, Russell Anderson, Charles Bloom, Kip Carlson, Rob Corolla and Ken Krsolovic for their time and support to this organization. I'd also like to welcome Jeff Hurd aboard as Third Vice President of the NCBWA. I look forward to working with Jeff and each of you this year.

We have some tremendous things planned for the 2002 season, including continuing our preseason All-America teams, National Players and Pitchers of the Week and a trip to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum that will coincide with our CoSIDA convention to Rochester, NY this summer. The NCBWA will serve as a sponsor for the trip to Cooperstown, a quaint little town in New York State that is loaded with baseball history. I encourage you all to attend this summer and join the NCBWA at the Hall of Fame.

Please keep the nominations coming for our All-America teams and I wish each of the best as fall baseball begins on your campus, or as you cover a specific team this season. If there is anything I can do to better serve you, please let me know. Also any suggestions to better our organization or college baseball, please feel free to call on any of us at the NCBWA.

Until pitchers and catchers report.....

Barry Allen, NCBWA President  
University of Alabama  
205-348-6084

**Congratulations, Jeff Hurd!**

Western Athletic Conference Associate Commissioner Jeff Hurd has been chosen as Third Vice President of NCBWA for the 2001-02 academic year. By the usual progression, he will become NBBWA President in 2004-05. Jeff also will be coordinating the publications' contest for the organization for 2002. Please feel free to contact him the WAC with any suggestions or "Good of the Order" thoughts by emailing [jhurd@wac.org](mailto:jhurd@wac.org) (ph: 303-799-9221). Thanks for your help, Jeff, and congrats!

**Nominations "To Go"**

Please note the nominations in this NCBWA Newsletter for the third annual 2002 NCBWA preseason All-America team. Thanks for noting deadlines and the release date in November, 2001, and send along your top choices for All-America in '02. From the first NCBWA postseason All-America groupings in 2001, there were 12 underclassmen potentially returning for the 2002 preseason squad among the first, second and third teams. Stay tuned, and thanks for your participation.

**NCBWA 2002 Preseason All-America Nomination Form**

For the third year in succession, the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association is compiling a preseason All-America team. This will feature first, second and third teams with each consisting of eight position players, a designated hitter, two starting pitchers and a relief pitcher. We are asking that you nominate a player(s) from your conference or school with credentials worthy of All-America recognition for 2002. Please return by fax or email the form below to the region/conference listed by each officer or All-America Committee member listed in the space below; nominations are due by Oct. 5, 2001, and the team will be released approximately Nov. 4-6, 2001. Thanks again for your help, and please contact Bo Carter (214-753-0102) with any questions.

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----- **CLIP AND MAIL or EMAIL** -----  
**NOMINATION FORM**

CONFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE INCLUDE KEY STATISTICS FROM 2001 FOR NOMINEES**  
**POSITION PLAYERS OR DH**  
**Name POS. CL. AVG. AB R H HR RBI**

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**PITCHERS**  
**CL. STARTER/RELIEF W-L ERA G IP H BB SO SAVES**

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**San Diego State Names Tony Gwynn Head Coach**

San Diego State University executive director of athletics and special assistant to the president Rick Bay has named Tony Gwynn as the University's new head baseball coach. The official announcement was made Sept. 20th in the newly-completed Aztec Athletics Center.

Gwynn, who was a basketball standout as well as a baseball player at San Diego State, will have a three-year contract with the University, beginning June 1, 2002. He will become just the fourth baseball coach in the history of the Aztec program, dating back to 1936.

Jim Dietz announced during the spring that he will retire after the upcoming season, his 31st as head baseball coach at the University. Dietz is a 2001 inductee into the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

"Tony Gwynn is one of San Diego State's most famous alumni and one of the city's true icons," said Bay. "The passion he carries for this University, and for the baseball program in particular, is obvious to all who know him. He has the abilities and the energy to be a successful head coach and the people skills to galvanize the community in an effort to take Aztec baseball to the highest level."

With the hiring of Gwynn, San Diego State has a baseball pedigree unique in college athletics. Gwynn will become the 17th former big leaguer to currently head up a college baseball program and easily the most recognizable.

### **Miami's Morris Adds Another Feather to Awards' "Cap"**

Miami (Fla.) baseball head coach Jim Morris has been named the 2001 National Coach of the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association. The National Coach of the Year honor is Morris' second this postseason, following Collegiate Baseball newspapers' announcement earlier this summer. The award marks the second time Morris has been honored as National Coach of the Year by the ABCA with a previous award coming after his first national title with the Hurricanes in 1999. Overall, Morris has been named National Coach of the Year five times since arriving at Miami in 1994. Prior to his 2001 and 1999 selections from the ABCA, Morris was the Coach of the Year by Collegiate Baseball in 1999 and 2001 and by Baseball America in 1994. The Hurricanes claimed their fourth National Championship in '01 following a 12-1 victory over the Stanford Cardinal in the College World Series title game. The National Championship was the second won by Miami in the last three seasons. Morris' 1999 club defeated rival Florida State 6-5 in the CWS title game for his first championship. The Hurricanes also claimed the College World Series championship under legendary head coach Ron Fraser in 1982 and 1985.

Miami finished the 2001 season riding a NCAA-high 17-game win streak, including a nine-game sweep during the postseason. The Hurricanes claimed the Coral Gables Regional championship with wins over Bucknell, Florida and Stetson. Miami then earned its seventh trip to the College World Series under Morris with a two-game sweep of Clemson in the Coral Gables Super Regional. The Hurricanes' 53-12 overall record in 2001 marked the most season wins (53) and winning percentage (.815) under Morris. Miami also led the nation in stolen bases (228) and relief pitcher appearances (223). A school-record 11 players were drafted off the 2001 squad to surpass the previous mark of 10 in 1996. Morris holds an all-time record of 1,028-404-2 (.716), including a 393-119-1 (.767) record at Miami. In Division I games only, Morris is 897-363-2 (.712).

### **Two Conference USA Coaches Among ABCA's Regional Elite**

East Carolina's Keith LeClair and Tulane's Rick Jones, who both led their teams to conference championships and top eight seeds in last spring's NCAA Tournament, have each been regional Coaches the Year by the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA). Jones, the South Region Coach of the Year, led the Green Wave to their first-ever College World Series appearance in 2001, winning 56 games, more than any other Division I baseball team. The hard-hitting Tulane squad won both the Conference USA regular season title and tournament championship before capturing the New Orleans Regional and New Orleans Super Regional, the latter a best-of-three series win over arch-rival LSU in front of three of the four largest crowds in NCAA baseball regional history. The Wave finished ranked as high as number five in the final polls (Baseball America) and saw four of their players receive All-America recognition, including C-USA Player of the Year Jake Gautreau, a first round draft pick of the San Diego Padres. Jones, who has won more than 70 percent of his games as a collegiate head coach, has twice been named Conference USA Coach of the Year (2001, 1998). Following the trip to the CWS, Jones received a contract extension that will keep him as skipper at Tulane for the next five years, with an option for two additional seasons.

The East Region Coach of the Year honors went to LeClair, who finished a landmark season for the ECU baseball program as it gets ready for play as a member of Conference USA this coming season. The Pirates stormed to their first-ever NCAA regional title before falling to Tennessee in the NCAA Super Regionals, just missing a trip to the 2001 College World Series. East Carolina finished with a 47-13 record and hosted the Regional and Super Regional tournaments. LeClair, who will enter his fifth season at ECU, is already the school's third-winningest coach and has guided the Pirates to 46 or more wins in each of the past three seasons. He was rewarded with a five-year contract in June. The prestigious honor is the second for LeClair, who also won the award in 1999. Both coaches will be formally honored with their awards at the ABCA National Convention in Orlando on January 4, 2002. The ABCA annually selects a regional coach of the year from each of eight regions. This year's other award recipients are John Szefc of Marist (Northeast Region), Mark Marquess of Stanford (West), Danny Price of Florida International and Clay Gould of Texas-Arlington (South Central, co-winners), Jim Morris of Miami (Atlantic), Paul Mainieri of Notre Dame (Mideast) and Dave Van Horn of Nebraska (Midwest).

### **New Assistant Coaches Dot Division I Landscape**

University of Alabama head baseball coach Jim Wells has announced the hiring of Danny Watkins as the Crimson Tide's new assistant baseball coach. Watkins replaces Mitch Gaspard, who left Alabama to become the head coach at Northwestern State University. "Danny is a good baseball man," Wells said. "I felt really comfortable with him. We needed someone who could recruit and evaluate talent and someone who we felt could help us on the field. Danny can do both of those things. He has been around successful programs and has head coaching experience. He has coached all phases of the game." Watkins joins the Alabama staff after spending the last two years as an area scout for the Houston Astros. Watkins' coverage area included Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and the Florida panhandle. His duties for the Crimson Tide includes working with the hitters and outfielders and recruiting. Prior to his stint with the Astros, Watkins served as an assistant coach at San Jacinto College from 1997-99. He helped the Gators to two back-to-back runner-up finishes in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) World Series in Grand Junction, Colo. The 1999 squad set numerous single-season batting records including average (.364), total hits (722), doubles (145), home runs (97) and on-base percentage (.461).

Josh Holliday, an All-Big 12 and All-Big Eight catcher-third baseman who paced Oklahoma State to a berth in the 1996 NCAA World Series, has been named assistant baseball coach at OSU. He replaces John Farrell, who accepted a position with the Cleveland Indians as director of player personnel last summer.

Chris Zavatsky has been hired as an assistant coach for the Loyola Marymount University baseball team. He joins the staff of head coach Frank Cruz, who has led the team to three West Coast Conference championships in his five years with

the program. Zavatsky spent last season with Santa Clara University as an assistant coach and serving primarily as the team's recruiting coordinator. The Broncos had one of their best seasons in recent memory, losing a tiebreaker to Gonzaga University to advance to the WCC baseball championships in 2001. Zavatsky will become the Lions' pitching coach and assist with the recruiting duties.

#### **Dan Potts Purveys Baseball Conditioning, New Training Methods**

Edmonds, Wash.-based baseball training and conditioning expert Dan Potts sends along information about helping college student-athletes become the "total package" with skills and special training methods. He has worked with virtually every level of student-athletes collegiately but has taken a special interest in baseball performance. He has a line of videotapes and Advanced Athlete Co. data. Contact addresses and numbers are: Dan Potts, %Advanced Athlete, 8010 212<sup>th</sup> St., SW, Edmonds, WA, 98026, ph: 206-232-7560; fax: 425-771-5911; email: [Advancedathlete@excite.com](mailto:Advancedathlete@excite.com).

#### **NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION**

Founded in 1962, the NCBWA is dedicated to the advancement of college baseball. Membership is open to writers, broadcasters and publicists of the sport. Members receive a membership card, directory, newsletter updates and official votes in the Howser Award Player of the Year, Regional Player of the Year and NCBWA All-America voting. The NCBWA also sponsors preseason All-American awards, publication and writing contests. Additionally, the organization will be launching a website this spring at [www.ncbwa.com](http://www.ncbwa.com). For membership, send annual dues (\$15.00), along with mailing address, phone, fax and e-mail address information to Russell Anderson, NCBWA Treasurer, c/o Conference USA, 35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 650, Chicago, IL 60601.

#### **NCBWA 2001-02 OFFICERS**

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**MAKE CHECK (\$15.00) PAYABLE TO:**

NCBWA

**REMIT TO:**

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