

National Collegiate Baseball Writers Newsletter
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Barry on Baseball

NCBWA President's Message by Barry Allen

As Christmas time approaches and the year winds down, the NCBWA reflects on what has been a truly great year. The 2001 college baseball season was one of the most competitive in years. Miami (Fla.) won the Division I national championship on the field at Omaha's Johnny Rosenblatt Stadium. The Hurricanes national title came just eight days after President George W. Bush visited the CWS, marking the first time in history that a standing United State President had been to college baseball's big show.

This year promises to be even better in the eyes of the college baseball world. As the preseason All-America teams are selected and announced and the preseason polls are being calculated for the first time, the 2002 season looks to be a pitching heavy year in college baseball. Just look at our own NCBWA Preseason All-America team and the number of quality arms that return from last year.

When mid January rolls around all 300-plus college baseball teams will all have the same record and the quest begins for the magical trip to Omaha and the College World Series. It's hard to believe that season begins in less than three weeks for some warm weather teams. In closing, I'd like to take this time to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. And my Christmas wish is that we can all sip down a frosty Zesto (an Omaha tradition) come June.

Barry Allen, President
NCBWA

NCBWA Announces Third Annual Preseason All-America Team

National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association, celebrating its 40th year in existence, announced its third annual preseason All-America Division I baseball teams for the 2002 season on Nov. 7, 2001.

Despite the graduation and professional signings of such groups as 12 members of the post-2001 NCBWA first unit, the pre-'02 squads are representative of all areas and talent levels throughout the country. Stanford second baseman Chris O'Riordan heads the list of 2002 returnees on the first unit while Clemson third baseman Jeff Baker brings back post-2001 second team All-America credentials.

While a solid staff of pre-2002 pitchers graces the All-America projections, the first team's starters include a foursome with a combined record of 44-10 in 2001 and NCAA World Series participants Shane Komine of Nebraska and Stanford's Jeremy Guthrie. First-teamers Michael Rogers of Oral Roberts (14-1) and Komine (14-2) are NCAA DI leaders in returning individual victories.

The relief corps includes returning 2001 second team selection Dave Bush of Wake Forest with 16 saves and a 2.65 ERA along with sophomore standout George Huguet of defending national champion Miami (Fla.). Huguet was 1-0 with 14 saves in 44 appearances as a freshman in 2001 and had a 2.03 earned run average. Power hitters join these dominating pitchers on the third edition of the NCBWA pre-campaign All-America squads. Besides Clemson's Baker with 22 home runs (major college's highest returning round-tripper total) and 69 runs-batted-in on the first unit, Tigers' teammate 1B Michael Johnson blasted 18 home runs to net top unit laurels.

Miami shortstop Javy Rodriguez, freshman from a visit to the White House to celebrate the 2001 NCAA championship with head coach Jim Morris and former Yale righthander U.S. President George W. Bush, adds some of the most daunting statistics to the dream team. The returning senior stole a 2001-nation's best 66 bases while batting .388 with five homers and 51 RBI. First team catcher Jeremy Brown of Alabama batted .363 with no errors in 330 chances as a junior in '01.

The All-America outfield also includes a pair of standouts who captured Player of the Year honors in their respective conferences. Notre Dame's Steve Stanley, a junior in 2002, batted .400 with 31 stolen bases and 102 hits while leading the Fighting Irish to the brink of a NCAA World Series berth while netting Big East Player of the Year recognition. Towson OF Gregg Davies earned Player of the Year kudos in the America East Conference after hitting .399, smacking 15 homers, driving in 74 runs and notching Most Valuable Player honors in the America East postseason tourney. Conference USA standout Michael Aubrey of Tulane returns with equally-impressive credentials as the designated hitter-utility athlete on the first team. The 2001 National Freshman of the Year belted 13 homers with 69 RBI for the initial Green Wave entry in the NCAA World Series while going 3-1 as a pitcher. Two of his wins came in the NCAA tournament, and he also had a CWS appearance on the mound.

On the 72-man contingent, which includes both starting pitchers and relief men, there are 12 different conferences represented and players from 21 different states where their universities are located. In 2002 the NCBWA again will join forces with the Greater St. Petersburg (Fla.) Chamber of Commerce to select the national collegiate player of the year in presentation of the Dick Howser Trophy-emblematic of the collegian with standout athletics' ability as well as off-field character and service. Last year's Howser Trophy winner was consensus Player of the Year stalwart pitcher Mark Prior of Southern California.

2001 NCBWA PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Class	BA	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
1B	Michael Johnson, Clemson	Jr.	.321	218	58	70	18	54
2B	Chris O'Riordan, Stanford	Sr.	.379	232	53	88	10	63
3B	Jeff Baker, Clemson	Jr.	.369	233	66	86	23	69
SS	Javy Rodriguez, Miami (Fla.)	Sr.	.388	201	52	78	5	51
(66 SB)								
C	Jeremy Brown, Alabama	Jr.	.363	190	47	69	10	48
OF	Steve Stanley, Notre Dame	Jr.	.400	255	76	102	1	32
OF	Gregg Davies, Towson	Sr.	.399	218	57	87	15	74
OF	Carlos Quentin, Stanford	So.	.345	249	55	86	11	52
UT/ATH	Michael Aubrey, Tulane	So.	.361	277	74	100	13	69
	W-L	ERA	G	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
	3-1	5.15	17	71.2	75	33	46	1

Pitchers

Pos.	Name	School	Cl.	W-L	ERA	G	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
SP	Bobby Brownlie,	Rutgers	Jr.	6-3	2.36	14	84	65	17	86	0
SP	Jeremy Guthrie,	Stanford	Jr.	10-4	2.72	17	109.1	81	39	110	0
SP	Shane Komine,	Nebraska	Sr.	14-2	3.35	18	131.2	129	36	157	0
SP	Michael Rogers,	Oral Roberts	Sr.	14-1	2.37	18	121.1	99	46	137	1
RP	Dave Bush,	Wake Forest	Sr.	3-3	2.65	41	74	57	19	85	16
RP	George Huguet,	Miami (Fla.)	So.	1-0	2.08	44	44.1	35	13	34	14

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Class	BA	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
1B	Phil Pilewski, Toledo	Sr.	.433	171	42	74	13	57
2B	Steve Sollman, Notre Dame	So.	.373	201	49	75	5	34
3B	Nick Blankenship, Texas Tech	Sr.	.353	272	53	96	10	61
SS	Eric Arnold, Rice	Sr.	.325	252	50	82	15	65
C	Chad Oliva, Jacksonville	Sr.	.335	194	56	65	19	65
OF	Matt Davis, VCU	Sr.	(49SB).396	227	84	90	3	26
OF	Burney Hutchinson, Ole Miss	Sr.	.356	219	69	78	14	63
OF	Todd Leathers, Winthrop (30 2B)	Sr.	.392	189	58	74	10	53
UT/ATH	Matt Hopper, Nebraska	Jr.	.358	254	69	91	12	85

Pitchers

Pos.	Name	School	Cl.	W-L	ERA	G	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
SP	John Maine,	Charlotte	Sr.	12-6	3.82	20	134.1	113	54	144	0
SP	Steve Reba,	Clemson	Jr.	12-3	2.58	18	108	84	31	103	0
SP	Bob Runyon,	Fresno State	Sr.	10-1	3.54	20	127	134	22	93	0
SP	Ben Thurmond,	Winthrop	Jr.	9-1	2.24	12	87.2	73	26	81	1
RP	Andy Hutchings,	Charleston	So.	3-2	3.25	27	27.2	24	13	29	12
RP	Luke DeBold,	Miami (Fla.)	Sr.	2-1	1.74	44	57	47	7	67	4

THIRD TEAM

Pos.	Name, School	Class	BA	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
1B	Val Majewski, Rutgers	Sr.	.373	209	59	78	8	50
2B	Peter Summa, Holy Cross	Sr.	.368	155	38	57	6	44
3B	Brock Koman, Michigan	Jr.	.383	196	49	75	14	60

3B Joe Drapeau, Maine	Jr.	.333	186	47	62	12	51
SS Victor Menocal, Georgia Tech	Sr.	.381	268	71	102	4	51
C Chris Hamblen, Cincinnati	Jr.	.329	240	49	79	12	66
OF Bobby Kingsbury, Fordham	Jr.	.363	190	44	69	8	47
OF Len Elias, Bowling Green	Sr.	.397	204	62	81	13	58
OF Rickie Weeks, Southern U.	So.	.422	185	78	78	14	70
UT/ATH Jarrod Schmidt, Clemson	Jr.	.298	215	43	64	16	51
W-L	ERA	G	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
6-3	4.15	14	65	64	29	55	0

Pitchers

Pos.	Name	School	Cl.	W-L	ERA	G	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
SP	Lance Cormier,	Alabama	Sr.	9-5	2.30	17	110	109	29	73	1
SP	Andy Dickinson,	Illinois	Sr.	11-1	3.51	20	115.1	122	38	99	2
SP	Kyle Johnson,	St. Bonaventure	Jr.	7-2	1.88	13	72	60	18	57	1
SP	Sam Narron,	East Carolina	Jr.	12-1	2.78	14	94	85	16	63	0
RP	Jeffrey Carswell,	Georgia	Sr.	10-2	3.32	24	59.2	55	16	62	1
RP	Will Brinson,	East Carolina	Jr.	3-1	2.36	22	34.1	25	14	38	8

USA Baseball's 2001 World Cup

USA Baseball organized a 24-man roster of professional, non 40-man roster players of the 30 Major League Baseball organizations to form the team that competed at the 2001 World Cup in Chinese Taipei this past month. This is the third consecutive year that USA Baseball has utilized professional players for international competition, following the 1999 Pan Am Games and the 2000 Olympic Games.

The World Cup is the largest official international baseball event for the 2001 calendar year, and took place this Nov. 6-18. For media interested in the complete Team USA World Cup game scores, results and stats of the Taipei tournament, please log onto www.usabaseball.com. A total of 448 journalists from around the world was accredited to cover the Baseball World Cup, the most ever in the history of the competition.

Fourteen of the 24 players selected by Team USA participated in Major League Baseball's Arizona Fall League. The 2001 Team USA Baseball roster included:

Player	Pos	B/T	Current Org./Hometown/College
Bard, Josh	C	S/R	Cleveland Indians/Englewood, Col./Texas Tech
Borchard, Joe	OF	S/R	Chicago White Sox/Camarillo, Calif./Stanford
Broussard, Ben	IF	L/L	Cincinnati Reds/Sour Lake, Texas/McNeese State
Budzinski, Mark	OF	L/L	Cleveland Indians/Severna Park, Md./None
Bullinger, Kirk	RHP	R/R	Chicago White Sox/Gretna, La./U. of New Orleans
Capuano, Chris	LHP	L/L	Arizona Diamondbacks/W. Springfield, Mass./None
Cassidy, Scott	RHP	R/R	Toronto Blue Jays/Clay, N.Y./None
Crabtree, Robbie	RHP	R/R	San Francisco Giants/Anaheim, Calif./None
Crawford, Carl	OF	L/L	Tampa Bay Devil Rays/Houston, Texas/None
Deardorff, Jeff	OF	R/R	Milwaukee Brewers/Clermont, Fla./None
Enochs, Chris	RHP	R/R	Oakland Athletics/Newell, W.Va./None
Erickson, Matt	IF	L/R	Florida Marlins/Appleton, Wis./Arkansas
Huckaby, Ken	C	R/R	Arizona Diamondbacks/Chandler, Ariz./San Joaquin (Calif.) CC
Hudson, Orlando	IF	S/R	Toronto Blue Jays/Darlington, S.C./None
Johnson, Barry	RHP	R/R	New York Yankees/Denver, Colo./None
Malloy, Marty	IF	R/R	Cincinnati Reds/Trenton, Fla./None
Nance, Shane	LHP	L/L	Los Angeles Dodgers/Houston, Texas/Houston
Phillips, Jason	RHP	R/R	Cleveland Indians/Hughesville, Pa./
Shearn, Tom	RHP	R/R	Houston Astros/Columbus, Ohio/None
Snopek, Chris	IF	R/R	Chicago Cubs/Cynthiana, Ky./Mississippi

Sorensen, Zach	IF	S/R	Cleveland Indians/Mesquite, Nev./Wichita State
Stanford, Jason	LHP	L/L	Cleveland Indians/Lawrence, Kan./Charlotte
Vosberg, Ed	LHP	L/L	Philadelphia Phillies/Tucson, Ariz./None
Ward, Jeremy	RHP	R/R	Arizona Diamondbacks/Rocky Mount, N.C./None

Coaching Staff

Terry Francona	Manager	Cleveland Indians/Yardley, Pa./Arizona
Kirk Champion	Pitching Coach	Chicago White Sox/Fairview Heights, Ill./Southwest Missouri State
Brad Mills	Assistant Coach	Chicago Cubs/Visalia, Calif./Arizona
Mike Barnett	Hitting Coach	Arizona Diamondbacks/Knoxville, Tenn./None
Scott Johnson	Athletic Trainer	Chicago White Sox/Charlotte, N.C.

Baseball America Ranks the 2002 Recruits

Junior college talent always make a strong impact in baseball recruiting, but the freshman classes at Notre Dame and Stanford are so strong that they came out at the top of Baseball America's recruiting rankings without the help of juco talent. With four schools in the top dozen and both of the draft's unsigned first-round picks, the Southeastern Conference dominated the recruiting scene in 2001.

1. NOTRE DAME

Key Players: SS/RHP Matt Macri; RHP John Axford; RHP Grant Johnson; RHP Chris Niesel; RHP Martin Vergara. The Irish kept all of their signees, most importantly two-way talent Macri, a 17th-round pick (Twins). A first-round talent who fell because of his Notre Dame commitment, Macri replaces the lone departed starter from last year's lineup and should handle closer duties behind a pitching staff that will feature at least two freshmen in prominent roles. Righthanders Niesel, a key South Florida product, and Vergara, a New Jersey native stolen away from Rutgers, may have the inside track. Assistant Coach of the Year Brian O'Connor also brought in four other pitchers with significant upside.

2. STANFORD

Key Players: RHP Mark Jecmen; C Donny Lucy; 1B/OFs Chris Carter, Billy Paganetti; OF Danny Putnam. The Cardinal keeps bringing in talent in bunches, making for entertaining fall practices. Carter, Jecmen and Paganetti projected to be high drafts, but pro clubs respected (or is it feared?) their Stanford commitments. Paganetti has plus power on the mound as well, though his athleticism and Tommy John surgery in 2000 makes a future on the mound unlikely. The Cardinal already is loaded in the outfield, however. Righthanders Jecmen (6-foot-7) and Steve Papazian (6-foot-6) ooze projectability, but will join the Cardinal tradition of highly touted pitchers who hardly throw at all as freshmen.

3. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Key Players: LHP J.P. Howell; LHP/OF Matt Chico; 3B Joey Metropoulos.

The freshman class is small but heavy in impact talents. The Trojans may have lost Mark Prior and Rik Currier, but Chico and Howell will help keep their pitching staff among the nation's most talented. The two second-round picks join a loaded team, but Howell's polish and Chico's bat should earn them some playing time. Righthander Clay Wentworth, who helped St. Mary's (Texas) win the Division II College World Series, could figure into a deep rotation. Metropoulos, a 16th-round pick, moves 2001 regional hero Michael Moon to second base and should give USC a needed power bat.

4. CLEMSON

Key Players: RHP Tyler Lumsden; Cs Bart Hunton, Collin Mahoney; 2B David Slevin; SS Garrick Evans. The core players for assistant coach Tim Corbin's group all were drafted, led by fifth-rounder Lumsden, but Clemson's priority was at the plate. Lumsden's two future hulking batterymates include Hunton (6-foot-3, 230 pounds), a power plant who played linebacker and tight end in high school, and Mahoney (6-foot-3, 220). Slevin (an 11th-round pick) and Evans (23rd) could form the double-play combination for three years, starting now.

5. LSU

Key Players: RHP/IF Clayton Harris; C Jonathan Zeringue; 1B Jason Columbus; OFs Dustin Hahn, Jay Mattox. The Tigers lost some recruits they thought would come to Baton Rouge but that's probably a

good thing, considering assistant coach Turtle Thomas' class once numbered more than 20. The White Sox didn't sign Zeringue (third round) and Mattox (fourth), and Zeringue has a clear path to a starting role. Columbus led the nation's juco players with 21 homers last spring.

6. MIAMI (Fla.)

Key Players: RHP Ryan Dixon; LHP Brandon Camardese; SS Paco Figueroa; OFs Daniel Figueroa, Richard Giannotti. The defending national champions get the nation's leading basestealer back as senior shortstop Javy Rodriguez returns, but they have plenty of other needs to fill. Both Figueras (from Miami's Gulliver Prep, but unrelated) figure into the offense. Dixon, part of Seminole High's national high school champions, projected as a first-round pick before spring shoulder woes. Camardese was a seventh-rounder while Giannotti was a 20th-round pick.

7. VANDERBILT

Key Players: LHP Jeremy Sowers; RHP/1B Scott Shapiro. The Commodores have had top-rated recruiting classes before--notably 1998, featuring Mark Prior--but they haven't parlayed them into regional appearances lately. In Sowers, a first-rounder, and the big, projectable Shapiro (6-foot-5, 220 pounds), who actually ranked ahead of Sowers as a draft prospect entering 2001, they have two of the five best arms in the country. Both figure to be thrown into the SEC frying pan quickly.

8. UC IRVINE

Key Players: RHP Paul French; RHP/1B Brett Smith; C Chris Miller; 3B Steve Guthrie; OF Jordan Szabo. First-year coach John Savage needed volume, so he brought in 22 freshmen and 13 junior-college juniors. Everyone on the fall roster counts for the first-year Anteaters, who will jump back into Division I from scratch after the program died in the early 1990s. French, a third-round pick in 1998 out of high school, has had an injury-riddled career at Arizona State and Sacramento CC. Guthrie was one of the Cape Cod League's most consistent hitters last summer. Szabo brings great speed to center field.

9. GEORGIA TECH

Key Players: RHP Kevin Guyette; C Mike Nickeas; IF Eric Patterson; OF Jeremy Slayden. The Yellow Jackets lost plenty of talent to the draft, both from last year's team and from this class, which once numbered 16. And recruiting coordinator Mike Trapasso left to become the head coach at Hawaii. Still, coach Danny Hall has welcomed a deep crop of recruits. Nickeas, the leading hitter for Team USA's juniors in Cuba this summer, will take over behind the plate after Tyler Parker goes high in the 2002 draft. Patterson's older brother Corey had 3.7 million reasons not to play for the Yellow Jackets, but Eric should find playing time in the middle infield.

10. MISSISSIPPI

Key Players: RHPs Anthony Cupps, Alan Horne, Ben Lindsay; LHP Eric Fowler; OF Seth Smith. In his first year as head coach, Mike Bianco put the Rebels in contention for the SEC West Division title and earned a regional bid. For an encore, he landed first-round pick Horne, plus five other freshmen who were drafted. He also persuaded righthander Peter Montrenes, the team's leading winner in 2001 (10-4, 3.45), to return for his senior season, meaning Horne won't have to be a Friday starter as a freshman.

11. ARIZONA STATE

Key Players: RHP Josh Smith; C/IF Tuffy Gosewich; IFs Nick Cadena, Dustin Pedroia, Brett Berglund. Arizona State lost out on first-rounders Kris Honel and Mike Jones but kept Smith, a 20th-round selection. The Sun Devils seem to do better when identifying their kinds of players, though, such as Gosewich, whose older brother Chip was a Sun Devil, and Pedroia, a small (5-foot-8, 157 pounds), tough player.

12. ALABAMA

Key Players: RHPs Josh Baker, Eric Mennen; LHP Taylor Tankersley; 3B/OF Spencer Pennington. Baker, a fourth-round pick, joins high school All-American Tankersley to give the Crimson Tide a needed dose of young power arms. In all, Alabama features eight freshmen among the 18 pitchers on its roster. Pennington's mature body (6-foot-4, 215 pounds) and plus power potential should find a spot in the lineup soon.

--JOHN MANUEL, Baseball America

Miami Hurricanes Receive Legislative Proclamation from Florida

The 2001 NCAA champ Miami Hurricanes made a trip to the State Capitol in Tallahassee on Tuesday, Oct. 30, 2001, and were honored with a proclamation from Governor Jeb Bush, Treasurer Tom Gallagher and the rest of the State Cabinet of Florida. Accompanying Governor Bush and Treasurer Gallagher in honoring the 2001 College World Series Champions, were Secretary of State Katherine

Harris, Attorney General Bob Butterworth, Comptroller Robert F. Milligan, Commissioner Charles H. Bronson and Commissioner Charlie Crist. Making the trip for the Hurricanes were Athletic Director Paul Dee, 2001 National Coach of the Year Jim Morris and players Charlton Jimerson, the College World Series MVP, All-CWS pick Kevin Brown, Javy Rodriguez, Greg Lovelady, Kris Clute, Alex Prendes, Mike Rodriguez, and Mike DiRosa.

"We come to Tallahassee every year (to play Florida State)," said Morris. "But this time around I can relax a little and enjoy it. Receiving this proclamation from Governor Bush, Treasurer Gallagher and the state of Florida cabinet is quite an honor for this program that we will surely cherish. This team worked real hard last year and accomplished its goals set in the preseason. This honor is testimony to that."

The Hurricanes return several members from last season, including national steals leader and All-American Javy Rodriguez (SS), All-CWS Danny Matienzo (C), 2001 USA National Team member Kevin Howard (3B), USA National Team member Kiki Bengochea (RHP), 2001 Freshman All-American George Huguet (RHP), and 2002 All-America candidate Luke DeBold (RHP). Miami returns 19 players from the 2001 squad that ended the season on a national-best 17-game win streak, including all nine games in the postseason, while finishing 53-12 overall. Among the 19 players returning are nine position players and 10 pitchers. The squad will welcome at least 11 freshmen once the spring practice commences in Jan., 2002.

Last season under Morris, Collegiate Baseball and the ABCA's 2001 National Coach of the Year, the Hurricanes won their fourth all-time National Championship and second in the last three seasons. A school-best 11 players were drafted in the MLB First Year Players Draft, while two more signed free agent contracts. Rodriguez led the nation and smashed the school record with 66 stolen bases. Huguet, the closer, notched 14 saves to tie Robbie Morrison's 1996 school freshman record. DeBold, the primary set-up pitcher, recorded 67 strikeouts to just seven walks all season. Matienzo, the top returning power hitter, was named to the postseason All-Tournament teams at the Coral Gables Regional as well as in the College World Series.

Baseball America listed University of Miami head baseball coach Jim Morris at No. 12 on its list of top college head coaches all-time in the MLB Pre-Draft issue distributed to media during the recent College World Series. It was then inferred that the rate in which Morris recorded his then-893 career division I victories by the age of 49 could potentially lead to him becoming the all-time leader. That same week Morris' Hurricanes won four more games and celebrated their second National Championship in the last three seasons. According to Baseball America following the CWS, Morris may be moving up that list.

In his eight-season tenure at Miami no other program nor head coach has qualified for the College World Series as much as Morris and his Hurricanes. Miami, which has qualified for the NCAA Tournament a NCAA-record 29 consecutive years, has made it to Omaha in seven of the eight seasons Morris has coached in Coral Gables. Inside his seven trips to the CWS, Morris set a new NCAA record for guiding a program to the CWS in each of his first six years at UM. Morris had set the record in 1999 with his sixth straight trip. In addition, Morris has led a team to the NCAA Regionals for the last 17 years, eight at Miami and nine at Georgia Tech. Morris has directed the Hurricanes to a 393-119-1 (.767) mark since arriving in 1994. Including his 12 seasons at Georgia Tech (1982-93), Morris has forged a 897-363-2 (.712) division I record over 20 years. Overall, Morris has been the head coach at the collegiate level for 24 seasons, spending the first four at DeKalb (Ga.) CC from 1976-79, and has recorded a 1,028-404-2 (.718) mark.

Big East Selects 2002 Preseason Team, Coaches' Order of Finish

The Notre Dame Fighting Irish have been selected as the preseason favorite to capture the 2002 BIG EAST Baseball Championship by league head coaches, it was announced. Fighting Irish senior outfielder Steve Stanley was picked as the Preseason Player of the Year, while junior righthander Bob Brownlie of Rutgers was selected as the Preseason Pitcher of the Year. Coaches were not permitted to vote for their own teams or players.

Notre Dame returns several top players from a team that recorded its 13th straight 40-win season a year ago. Included on the squad is Stanley. He batted .400 with 102 hits a year ago while sharing BIG EAST Player of the Year honors. Steve Sollmann, the 2001 BIG EAST Rookie of the Year, is also back. The sophomore finished last season ranked among the league's top 10 in batting (.374), hits (74), steals (22), runs (49) and on-base percentage (.443). The Fighting Irish had eight first-place votes and are paced by three players on the preseason All-BIG EAST team - Stanley, Sollmann and infielder Andy Bushey.

Rutgers was second in the balloting and had two first-place votes. The Scarlet Knights are led by Brownlie, an All-BIG EAST First Team choice last season. He earned the honors for the second year in a row after recording six wins with a 2.36 ERA. Despite missing a month due to a broken thumb on his

pitching hand, Brownlie pitched a team-high 84 innings and allowed just 64 hits and 17 walks, while striking out 86.

Second-year member Virginia Tech garnered the other first-place vote and was picked third. Leading the lineup will be infielder Spencer Harris (.267, 2 HR, 22 RBI) and pitcher Joe Saunders, a nine-game winner in 2001. Both were picks to the preseason squad.

Seton Hall was chosen fourth, with St. John's and Boston College picked fifth and sixth. The Pirates, the 2001 BIG EAST Tournament champions, are led by senior lefty Isaac Pavlik, who had eight saves with 62 strikeouts a year ago. The Red Storm boast senior outfielder Charles Bilezikjian. The preseason All-BIG EAST choice hit .352 last year with 16 doubles and 36 runs batted in. BC has two players on the preseason squad, including 2001 All-BIG EAST First Team member Jeff Mackor.

Connecticut, West Virginia and Villanova followed at seventh, eighth and ninth. Junior Peter Soteropoulos leads the way for the Huskies after recording a team-best 39 RBI last year. Preseason All-BIG EAST choice Tim McCabe (.337, 11 doubles) is back for the Mountaineers, who will boast several new players. Junior Chris Graziano returns for the Wildcats. A member of the All-BIG EAST Third Team in 2001, he batted .357 with 37 stolen bases.

Pittsburgh and Georgetown round out the preseason selections. Senior Brad Rea was chosen to the preseason All-BIG EAST team for the Panthers. He batted .295 with a .572 slugging percentage in 2001. Georgetown looks to move up the conference standings behind senior first baseman Eric Sutton and junior second baseman Mike Green.

The Preseason All-BIG EAST Team was also selected with 14 players earning recognition. The 11 BIG EAST baseball teams will play in one division this season, facing a 26-game conference slate. The top four squads in the league will advance to the 2002 BIG EAST Championship, being held at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater, N.J., on May 22-26. The tournament champion receives the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Championship.

2002 BIG EAST Baseball Preseason Predictions

ORDER OF FINISH

Team (1st Place Votes)	Pts.	2000 Record (Conference)
1. Notre Dame (8)	98	49-13-1 (22-4 BIG EAST)
2. Rutgers (2)	92	42-17 (18-8)
3. Virginia Tech (1)	78	29-28-1 (14-11-1)
4. Seton Hall	69	34-23-1 (14-11-1)
5. St. John's	65	31-22 (13-13)
6. Boston College	54	29-22 (11-13)
7. Connecticut	46	26-25 (13-13)
8. West Virginia	34	27-26 (12-14)
9. Villanova	31	25-25-1 (10-16)
10. Pittsburgh	26	18-27 (6-18)
11. Georgetown	12	17-39 (7-19)

PRESEASON PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Steve Stanley, Notre Dame, Sr., OF, 5-7, 150, Upper Arlington, Ohio/Worthington Christian

PRESEASON PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Bob Brownlie, Rutgers, Jr., RHP, 6-1, 195, Edison, N.J./Edison

Preseason All-BIG EAST Team	Key 2001 Statistics (All Games Played)
P - Bobby Brownlie, Rutgers, Jr.**	6-3, 2.36 ERA, 84.0 IP, 86 SO, 7 CG, .212 Opp.Avg
P - Isaac Pavlik, Seton Hall, Sr.	3-2, 3.40 ERA, 8 Saves, 55.2 IP, 62 SO, 55 H
P - Joe Saunders, Virginia Tech, Jr.	9-3, 3.48 ERA, 5 CG, 116.1 IP, 87 SO
C - Jeff Mackor, Boston College, Sr.	.285, 49 H, 10 2B, 6 HR, 39 RBI, .997 Fielding Pct.
IF - Andy Bushey, Notre Dame, Sr.	.335, 71 H, 17 2B, 3 3B, 36 RBI, 34 R, 94 T. Bases
IF - Steve Sollman, Notre Dame, So.	.362, 80 H, 9 2B, 2 3B, 5 HR, 36 RBI, 52 R, 23 SB
IF - Spencer Harris, Virginia Tech, Jr.	.267, 51 H, 31 R, 10 2B, 2 HR, 22 RBI, 10 SB
IF - Tim McCabe, West Virginia, Jr.	.337, 61 H, 33 R, 11 2B, 10 HR, 38 RBI, .564 Slug%
OF - Steve Stanley, Notre Dame, Sr.**	.400, 102 H, 14 2B, 5 3B, 32 RBI, 31 SB
OF - Val Majewski, Rutgers, Jr.	.378, 85 H, 24 2B, 3 3B, 8 HR, 54 RBI, .618 Slug%
OF - Charles Bilezikjian, St. John's, Sr.	.352, 69 H, 50 R, 16 2B, 2 HR, 36 RBI, 26 SB
DH - Brad Rea, Pittsburgh, Sr.	.295, 49 H, 30 R, 10 2B, 12 HR, 49 RBI, .572 Slug%

DH - Mike Popowski, Rutgers, Sr. .335, 61 H, 27 R, 7 2B, 7 HR, 47 RBI
UT - Matt Lederhos, Boston College, Jr. .271, 29 H, 3 HR, 18 RBI / 3-3, 64.1 IP, 64 SO
** - unanimous selection
A tie created an additional designated hitter position.

Arizona State Moves 2002 Home Site Due to Packard Stadium Facelift

Due to a multi-million dollar renovation on Packard Stadium that is set to begin in February, the Arizona State University Sun Devil baseball team will have a new home for the 2002 season playing a majority of its home games at Hohokam Park in Mesa, Ariz. Currently scheduled to play 32 of its 35 home games at the 12,623-seat Park located at 1235 N. Center St. in Mesa, the Sun Devils will share the facility for the first two months of the season with the Chicago Cubs. Built in 1996 and open for the 1997 Spring Training season, Hohokam Park (pronounced Ho-Ho-COM) is the winter home of the Chicago Cubs Professional Baseball Team. Hohokam Park was designed by HOK Sport of Kansas City, Missouri, who also designed Baltimore's Oriole Park at Camden Yards, Cleveland's Jacobs Field and Coors Field in Denver. In addition to serving as the Spring Training home of the Chicago Cubs and the 2002 home of Arizona State baseball, Hohokam is also the home of the Arizona Fall League Mesa Solar Sox, the rookie level Mesa Cubs in the Arizona Rookie League and several other baseball tournaments and events.

"With our renovations to Packard Stadium, this is a wonderful opportunity for our baseball program, our fans and the University to spend a season at a facility as hospitable and as gracious as Hohokam Park. It will be a great and enjoyable experience to host our games in a major league atmosphere this Spring," said ASU Athletics Director Gene Smith. Packard Stadium, the home of ASU Baseball since the stadium's inaugural game on April 7, 1974 vs. USC, is scheduled to undergo a \$2 million renovation beginning during the 2002 season. Plans for the renovation include a new entrance and hall of fame, improved and state-of-the-art player facilities to include a clubhouse and lounge, several fan amenities and a enclosed press box. ASU will also be installing several monuments and memorials to honor the deep and great tradition of Sun Devil Baseball's historic legacy. ASU has played 1,004 official games at Packard Stadium while going 785-228-1. Hohokam Park is a spacious ballpark, with dimensions of 340 ft. to left field, 410 to center field, 350 to right field and 390 to each of the left and right field gaps. A batter's eye 80x40 is in play in center field and the outfield fence is 15 ft. high. Played on Dwight W. Patterson Field, Hohokam Park is one of the newer and nicest spring training facilities in the valley and features great concessions, numerous chair-back seats, ample parking, luxury boxes and a state-of-the-art press box. In addition, it is located only seven miles east of Packard Stadium with access provided on the 202 Highway and via University Drive to Mesa.

Clemson Alumnus Bill Spiers Retires from MLB

The Houston Astros announced today that infielder Bill Spiers has retired following 13 Major League seasons. Spiers, 35, hit .271 during his big league career, including 37 home runs and 388 RBI in 3,408 at-bats over 1,252 games. In six seasons with the Astros, Spiers hit .288 with 21 home runs and 199 RBI in 628 games. He hit over .300 twice in a Houston uniform, recording a .320 average in 1997 and a .301 mark in 2000. Spiers played every position except pitcher and catcher in the big leagues, spending the majority of his time at shortstop (446 games) and third base (441 games). Spiers appeared in only four games in 2001 because of back injuries, hitting .333 (1x3) with one walk in four pinch-hit plate appearances. He underwent surgery to remove a cyst and repair a ruptured disc in his lower back on May 16. The club placed Spiers on the 15-day DL on April 16 and transferred him to the 60-day DL on June 5. A letterman in both baseball and football at Clemson University, Spiers was inducted into his alma mater's Athletic Hall of Fame on Sept. 9, 1998. He was named to *The Sporting News* All-America Team as shortstop in 1987.

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 has a website at 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.

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