



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS NEWSLETTER

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Barry on Baseball

NCBWA President's Message by Barry Allen

The wait is finally over. The 2002 college baseball season has officially begun. While most of the schools do not open play until Feb. 1, 2002, there are some that have already opened their seasons entering the final week of January. The 2002 college baseball season promises to be one of the most exciting seasons in memory.

Can Miami make it three in a row at Rosenblatt Stadium? The defending champs return a number of key players and will play one of the nation's most demanding schedules. How will baseball at Alex Box Stadium differ now that legendary Skip Bertman is no longer in the first base dugout? New Tigers skipper Ray "Smoke" Laval opened practice on Saturday, Jan. 19, and is the favorite to win the SEC in a vote by the league's 12 head coaches. Can Nebraska claim its third straight 50-win season and turn Rosenblatt Stadium into another sea of red at the 2003 College World Series? Will Stanford journey back to America's heartland again this season, boasting another talented team under Mark Marquess? Who will be the eight teams to fight for the 2003 national championship in June? All of these questions will be answered over the course of the next 21 weeks as the college baseball season unfolds. It promises to be an exciting year.

Off the field, there is excitement, too. There will be a trip to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum this year as the annual CoSIDA convention will be held in Rochester, N.Y. The National Collegiate Baseball Writer's Association is making plans to sponsor the three-hour (Gilligan's Island fans fear not) tour from Rochester to Cooperstown. I urge each of you to join us for one of the greatest sports exhibits you will ever experience. More details will be provided in future NCBWA newsletters.

Our membership drive is up and we are hoping for even more numbers in the coming weeks, please encourages all media members and SIDs not on board to sign up soon.

The NCBWA is also compiling a complete listing of baseball press box phone numbers and television schedules for the 2002 college baseball season. If you would like to add your games or press box number, please contact Barry Allen (205-348-6084) or e-mail (ballen@ia.ua.edu). A complete list will be forwarded to all conference SIDs by the first week in February for your use this season.

Here's hoping for a successful year on and off the diamond.....

Barry Allen, President
NCBWA

North of the Border

Any Canadians at your school? A total of 543 played college ball in the United States in the spring of 2001. Bob Elliott, of the Toronto Sun and its new web site (slam.ca/SlamBaseballCanada/home.html), is looking for any transfers, new Canadians at your school for the 2002 season or nominees for the Player of Week honors. (E-mail: bob.elliott@tor.sunpub.com). Note: Bob Elliott has been one of the great promoters of college baseball in the Great White North and receives deepest appreciation from the NCBWA Board and all NCBWA members.

"We've Only Just Begun..."

Sonoma State and Hawai'i-Hilo opened the 2002 college baseball season with a twinbill on the early date of Tuesday, Jan. 15. SSU swept the doubleheader with 5-3 and 4-3 victories at Francis Wong Stadium. The UHH Vulcans took a quick lead on Nalei Soto's two-run home run in the first inning of game one. But following a run in the second, Sonoma State scored four runs in the fourth on five hits and one Vulcan error. Mike Richardson led the Cossacks with a 2-for-3 game. Aaron Parker and Brett Wedding held the Vulcans to three hits in the second game with eight strikeouts.

New Mexico State, Texas Tech Successful Continental U.S. Early Birds

New Mexico State under coaching legend Gary Ward and Texas Tech under fellow mainstay (No. 4 nationally in current wins among Division I baseball mentors) began the season with a 5-3 record in the first seven days of college baseball on the continental U.S. Hays guided the Red Raiders to a sweep of Brigham Young on Jan. 25-26 with a come-from-behind 6-5 win in the sandwich contest around 8-6 and 10-2 victories. The Aggies of Ward split with College of the Southwest before going 1-2 against Air Force—a fellow member of the Mountain West Conference along with BYU.

2002 Preseason Polls

Please watch for the pre-2002 and weekly NCBWA national polls, starting with contests through Feb. 4 and published each Monday night through the completion of the NCAA World Series (postseason poll will be on June 24).

Here are the 2002 major preseason surveys:

BASEBALL AMERICA TOP 25 (2002 Preseason)				USA TODAY BASEBALL WEEKLY/ESPN COACHES TOP 25 (Preseason)			
Rk.	Team	W-L	2001 Final Rank	Rk.	School	'01 REC.	PTS
1.	Stanford	51-17	2	1.	Stanford (33)	51-17	1011
2.	Clemson	41-22	17	2.	Miami (6)	53-12	925
3.	Miami	53-12	1	3.	USC (1)	45-19	885
4.	Southern California	45-19	4	4.	Florida State (1)	47-19	856
5.	Notre Dame	49-13	15	5.	Clemson	41-22	834
6.	Florida State	47-19	10	6.	LSU	44-22-1	809
7.	Louisiana State	44-22	9	7.	Tulane	56-13	794
8.	Nebraska	50-16	6	8.	Nebraska	50-16	671
9.	Texas	36-26	NR	9.	South Carolina	49-20	617
10.	Tulane	56-13	5	10.	Cal State Fullerton	48-18	543
11.	Rice	47-20	13	11.	Rice	47-20	531
12.	Wichita State	42-24	NR	12.	Texas	36-26	481
13.	Georgia Tech	41-20	NR	13.	Notre Dame	49-13-1	465
14.	South Carolina	49-20	12	14.	Oklahoma State	42-22	388
15.	Cal State Fullerton	48-18	3	15.	Wichita State	42-24	363
16.	Baylor	37-24	NR	16.	Baylor	37-24	359
17.	Mississippi State	39-24	19	17.	Arizona State	37-20-1	342
18.	Arizona State	37-20	22	18.	Mississippi	39-23-1	330
19.	North Carolina	31-26	NR	19.	Georgia Tech	41-20	323
20.	Mississippi	39-23	NR	20.	Mississippi State	39-24	271
21.	Wake Forest	44-18	18	21.	Wake Forest	44-18	261
22.	Cal State Northridge	34-22	NR	22.	Fresno State	41-25	258
23.	Oklahoma State	42-22	NR	23.	Florida	35-27	139
24.	Washington	29-23	NR	24.	Rutgers	42-17	121
25.	RUTGERS	42-17	25	25.	Tennessee	48-20	105

Others receiving votes: North Carolina (77), Texas Tech (59), East Carolina (54), Cal State Northridge (43), Ohio State (42), Georgia (38), Texas A&M (31), Alabama (28), Nevada (27), UCLA (24), Ball State (20), Stetson (19),

	Washington (18), California (18), Arizona (18), Long Beach State (17), Winthrop (15), Houston (14), Purdue (11), Central Florida (11), Oral Roberts (8), Pepperdine (7), San Diego (6), Virginia Tech (6), South Alabama (5), Brigham Young (4), Georgia Southern (4), San Diego State (4), Florida International (3), South Florida (3), Campbell (3), New Orleans (1), Southwest Missouri State (1), Illinois (1), Oklahoma (1), Coastal Carolina (1), Louisiana-Lafayette (1).
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Collegiate Baseball Top 40 Poll (Preseason)

Rk.	School ('01 Record)	Points	Prv.
1.	Stanford (51-17)	497	2
2.	Florida State (47-19)	495	9
3.	Tulane (56-13)	491	6
4.	Southern California (45-19)	489	5
5.	Louisiana State (44-22-1)	486	10
6.	Clemson (41-22)	484	13
7.	Miami, Fla. (53-12)	480	1
8.	South Carolina (49-20)	477	15
9.	Wichita State (42-24)	475	NR
10.	Oklahoma State (42-22)	472	NR
11.	Fresno State (41-25)	468	NR
12.	Rice (47-20)	466	16
13.	Nebraska (50-16)	462	7
14.	Mississippi (39-23-1)	459	NR
15.	Texas (36-26)	458	28
16.	Wake Forest (44-18)	456	18
17.	Cal-State Fullerton (48-18)	453	3
18.	Baylor (37-24)	451	22
19.	Notre Dame (49-13-1)	447	12
20.	Arizona State (37-20-1)	445	23
21.	Florida (35-27)	442	NR
22.	Georgia Tech (41-20)	441	27
23.	Mississippi State (39-24)	437	14
24.	Ohio State (43-18)	433	NR
25.	Rutgers (42-17)	430	25
26.	Texas Tech (43-20-1)	425	21
27.	Purdue (32-24)	423	NR
28.	Ball State (34-23)	420	NR
29.	East Carolina (47-13)	416	11

30.	Texas A&M (33-27)	413	NR
31.	Oral Roberts (48-13)	409	NR
32.	Georgia Southern (42-20)	407	NR
33.	Cal-State Northridge (34-22)	403	NR
34.	Louisiana-Lafayette (28-28)	399	NR
35.	Nevada (30-26)	395	NR
36.	Winthrop (48-16)	394	29
37.	Long Beach State (35-23)	390	NR
38.	California (34-25)	387	NR
39.	Stetson (43-17)	383	NR
40.	Central Florida (51-14)	382	17

Louisville Slugger/Collegiate Baseball Pre-2002 All-America Team is Coach's Dream

The 2002 Louisville Slugger pre-season All-America baseball teams, selected by "Collegiate Baseball" newspaper, features a who's who of NCAA Division I baseball players.

The preseason pick as National Player of The Year is RHP Bobby Brownlie of Rutgers. Many scouts feel he will be the first college player taken in next June's Free Agent Draft. Last season for the Scarlet Knights, the 6-foot-1, 195-pounder posted a 6-3 record, 2.36 ERA and fanned 86 batters with only 17 walks despite missing a month due to a broken thumb on his pitching hand.

During the summer, he recorded a 7-0 record for Team USA. In a team-high 53.6 innings, he allowed just 32 hits (30 of which were singles) while walking 11 and striking out 63. He led Team USA in wins, innings pitched and strikeouts. His ERA was a team-best 0.84.

The three All-American teams include (with partial statistics from last season for first team members):

FIRST TEAM

RHP Shane Komine, Nebraska (14-2, 3.35 ERA, 157 K, 36 BB)

RHP Bobby Brownlie, Rutgers (6-3, 2.36 ERA, 86 K, 17 BB)

RHP Jeremy Guthrie, Stanford (13-4, 2.82 ERA, 128 K, 41 BB)

RHP Mike Rogers, Oral Roberts (14-1, 2.37 ERA, 137 K, 46 BB) RHP Kiki Bengochea, Miami, Fla. (9-4, 4.10 ERA, 89 K, 38 BB) RHP Anthony Reyes, Southern Calif. (5-4, 3.72 ERA, 97 K, 25 BB)

Relief - Chad Cordero, Cal. St. Fullerton (14 SV, 1.83 ERA, 63 K, 12 BB)

C - Tyler Parker, Georgia Tech. (Outstanding defense, injured much of 2001 season)

1B - Ryan Barthelemy, Florida St. (.343, 22 2B, 14 HR, 72 RBI)

2B - Chris O'Riordan, Stanford (.359, 17 2B, 12 HR, 68 RBI)

SS - Drew Meyer, South Carolina (Great defense, .303, 12 2B, 7 HR, 37 RBI, 20 SB)

3B - Jeff Baker, Clemson (.369, 23 HR, 13 2B, 75 RBI)

OF - Steve Stanley, Notre Dame (.400, 14 2B, 1 HR, 32 RBI, 31 SB)

OF - Ricki Weeks, Southern (.422, 13 2B, 14 HR, 70 RBI, 28 SB)

OF - Rod Allen, Arizona St. (.389, 14 2B, 6 HR, 53 RBI)

OF - Jason Law, Monmouth (.436, 20 2B, 16 HR, 67 RBI)

Utility - Paul Henry, Ball St. (.400, 20 2B, 12 HR, 62 RBI, 8 SV as pitcher)

SECOND TEAM PRE-SEASON ALL-AMERICANS

RHP Steve Reba, Clemson

RHP Andy Dickinson, Illinois

LHP Lane Mestepey, Louisiana St.

RHP Sam Narron, East Carolina

RHP Ben Thurmond, Winthrop

RHP Pete Montrenes, Mississippi

RHP Bryan Bullington, Ball St.

Relief Dave Bush, Wake Forest

Relief Royce Ring, San Diego St.
C Jeremy Brown, Alabama
C Ryan Garko, Stanford
1B Nick Swisher, Ohio St.
2B Russ Adams, North Carolina
SS Javy Rodriguez, Miami (Fla.)
SS Victor Menocal, Georgia Tech.
3B Jamie D'Antona, Wake Forest
3B Kevin Howard, Miami (Fla.)
OF Carlos Quentin, Stanford
OF Burney Hutchinson, Mississippi
OF Matt Davis, Virginia Commonwealth
UT Michael Aubrey, Tulane

THIRD TEAM PRE-SEASON ALL-AMERICANS

RHP Steven White, Baylor
RHP Derric Merrell, Cal. St. Fullerton
LHP Matt Lynch, Florida St.
RHP Blair Varnes, Florida St.
LHP Ricky Barrett, San Diego
LHP Chris Leonard, Miami (Ohio)
RHP Brian Whitaker, N.C. Wilmington
RHP Jason Paul, Ball St.
RHP Bob Runyon, Fresno St.
Relief George Huguet, Miami (Fla.)
Relief Randy Corn, The Citadel
Relief J.D. Willcox, Stanford
C Scott Kosmicky, Md.-Baltimore County
C Alberto Concepcion, Southern California
C Danny Matienzo, Miami (Fla.)
1B Tim Arroyo, Cal. St. Northridge
1B Phil Pilewski, Toledo
1B Michael Johnson, Clemson
1B Mike Saunches, Illinois St.
2B Steve Sollman, Notre Dame
2B Nebasett Brown, Oklahoma St.
2B Gabe Lopez, San Jose St.
SS Omar Quintanilla, Texas
SS Eric Arnold, Rice
3B Scott Martin, Delaware St.
3B Brock Koman, Michigan
3B Nick Blankenship, Texas Tech.
3B Kainoa Obrey, Brigham Young
OF Val Majewski, Rutgers
OF Mark Pederson, Valparaiso
OF Chad Oliva, Jacksonville
OF Gregg Davies, Towson
OF Shane Costa, Cal. St. Fullerton

Pre-2000 BASEBALL AMERICA All-America Team

NCBWA members John Manuel, Jim Callis (2000 Wilbur Snyppe Award winner) have joined with the BASEBALL AMERICA college staff to choose the publications' preseason All-America team. The group includes:

2002 BASEBALL AMERICA PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAMS

As selected by major league scouting directors

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Player, College	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Last Drafted
C	Tyler Parker, Georgia Tech	R-R	6-3	212	Jr.	.327	52	13	17	5	0	1	16	3	Mets '99 (6)
1B	Larry Broadway, Duke	L-L	6-4	218	Jr.	.308	120	27	37	11	1	3	20	2	Never
2B	Russ Adams, North Carolina	L-R	6-1	170	Jr.	.331	239	52	79	13	2	1	41	28	Never
3B	Jeff Baker, Clemson	R-R	6-1	215	Jr.	.369	233	68	86	13	2	23	75	5	Indians '99 (4)
SS	Drew Meyer, South Carolina	L-R	5-11	183	Jr.	.303	274	54	83	12	2	7	37	20	Dodgers '99 (2)
OF	Michael Aubrey, Tulane	L-L	6-0	180	So.	.361	277	74	100	17	4	13	69	9	Never
OF	Carlos Quentin, Stanford	R-R	6-2	210	So.	.345	249	55	86	11	1	11	52	5	Never
OF	Brian Stavisky, Notre Dame	L-R	6-3	225	Jr.	.386	210	46	81	19	4	10	66	9	Cubs '01 (33)
DH	Jason Cooper, Stanford (of)	L-R	6-3	215	Jr.	.272	169	26	46	10	0	9	37	2	Phillies '99 (2)

Pos.						W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	
P	Kiki Bengochea, Miami	R-R	6-2	195	Jr.	9	4	4.10	18	0	108	106	38	89	Royals '99 (3)
P	Bob Brownlie, Rutgers	R-R	6-1	195	Jr.	6	3	2.36	14	0	84	65	17	86	Rockies '99 (26)
P	Jeff Francis, British Columbia	L-L	6-5	195	Jr.	12	3	0.92	15	0	98	55	15	118	Never
P	Jeremy Guthrie, Stanford	R-R	6-1	195	Jr.	13	4	2.82	20	0	134	123	41	128	Pirates '01 (3)
P	Anthony Reyes, Southern California	R-R	6-1	200	Jr.	5	4	3.72	19	0	109	111	25	97	Never

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Player, College	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Last Drafted
C	Alberto Concepcion, So. California	R-R	6-0	215	Jr.	.321	224	37	72	17	3	7	41	4	Padres '99 (2)
1B	Nick Swisher, Ohio State	B-L	6-0	200	Jr.	.322	174	60	56	16	0	15	56	2	Never
2B	Chris O'Riordan, Stanford	R-R	5-9	180	Sr.	.359	281	62	101	17	2	12	68	16	Never
3B	Kevin Howard, Miami	L-R	6-3	185	Jr.	.336	250	55	84	20	1	4	46	9	Padres '99 (22)
SS	Anthony Lunetta, So. California	R-R	5-9	185	Jr.	.305	239	48	73	18	2	5	38	12	Indians '99 (42)
OF	Matt Carson, BYU	R-R	6-2	195	Jr.	.335	227	56	76	6	5	18	70	8	Never
OF	Anthony Gwynn, San Diego State	L-L	6-0	165	So.	.318	179	48	56	8	4	0	23	19	Braves '00 (33)
OF	Jarrod Schmidt, Clemson	R-R	6-1	215	Jr.	.298	215	43	64	12	0	16	51	4	Marlins '99 (23)
DH	Richie Weeks, Southern (ss)	R-R	5-11	195	So.	.425	181	78	77	13	12	14	70	28	Never

Pos.						W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	
P	Bryan Bullington, Ball State	R-R	6-5	212	Jr.	9	4	3.50	18	0	108	106	19	119	Royals '99 (37)
P	David Bush, Wake Forest	R-R	6-1	210	Sr.	4	3	2.65	41	16	75	57	16	86	Devil Rays '01 (4)
P	Tim Cunningham, Stanford	L-L	6-3	175	Jr.	6	0	3.62	18	0	75	59	40	54	Dodgers '99 (22)

P	Shane Komine, Nebraska	R-R	5-8	160	Sr.	14	2	3.35	18	0	132	129	36	157	Cards '01 (19)
P	Joe Saunders, Virginia Tech	L-L	6-3	195	Jr.	9	3	3.48	17	0	116	121	40	87	Phillies '99 (5)

THIRD TEAM

Pos.	Player, College	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	AVG	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	SB	Last Drafted
C	Javi Herrera, Tennessee	R-R	6-2	195	So.	.296	213	32	63	14	1	7	45	2	Red Sox '00 (42)
1B	Val Majewski, Rutgers	L-L	6-2	200	Jr.	.378	225	63	85	24	3	8	54	9	Never
2B	Steve Sollmann, Notre Dame	R-R	5-10	180	So.	.362	221	52	80	9	2	5	36	23	Never
3B	Hunter Brown, Rice	R-R	6-2	190	Sr.	.335	260	46	87	25	2	7	44	5	Padres '01 (31)
SS	Javy Rodriguez, Miami	R-R	5-11	188	Sr.	.382	241	63	92	12	4	5	60	66	Yankees '98 (26)
OF	Sam Fuld, Stanford	L-L	5-10	180	So.	.357	227	56	81	15	2	0	37	11	Never
OF	Matt Murton, Georgia Tech	R-R	6-1	214	So.	.385	161	43	62	14	1	7	35	3	Never
OF	Jeremy Reed, Long Beach State	L-L	6-0	185	Jr.	.348	230	56	80	16	2	1	40	23	Never
DH	Matt Hopper, Nebraska (1b)	R-R	6-4	210	Jr.	.358	254	65	91	19	1	12	85	3	Giants '01 (36)
Pos.						W	L	ERA	G	SV	IP	H	BB	SO	
P	Ben Crockett, Harvard	R-R	6-3	195	Sr.	4	4	4.04	8	0	56	53	8	59	Red Sox '01 (10)
P	Mike Esposito, Arizona State	R-R	6-0	185	So.	5	2	4.06	16	0	69	66	24	63	Reds '99 (5)
P	Trevor Hutchinson, California	R-R	6-5	220	Sr.	6	7	3.85	17	1	115	141	28	91	Mets '01 (20)
P	Chris Leonard, Miami (Ohio)	L-L	6-0	195	Jr.	11	3	3.36	17	0	113	98	33	86	Never
P	Steven White, Baylor	R-R	6-4	195	Jr.	10	3	3.49	15	0	98	82	61	80	Never

Big East Looks to Fighting Irish as 2002 Repeaters

The Notre Dame Fighting Irish have been selected as the preseason favorite to capture the 2002 BIG EAST Baseball Championship by league head coaches. 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. 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.

ORDER OF FINISH

	Team (1st Place Votes)	Pts.	2001 Record
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; PRESEASON PITCHER OF THE YEAR: Bob Brownlie, Rutgers, Jr., RHP, 6-1, 195, Edison, N.J.

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 Sollmann, 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
U -	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.

Conference USA Chooses 2001 World Series Entry Tulane to Take '02 Race

Fresh off its appearance in the College World Series, Tulane University has been selected as the preseason favorite in the 2002 Conference USA poll, chosen by the league's 12 head coaches. Tulane sophomore outfielder/pitcher Michael Aubrey, the 2001 National Freshman of the Year who hit .361 with 17 doubles, 13 home runs and 69 RBI, is the Preseason Player of the Year. John Maine of Charlotte, who won a school-record 12 games, while breaking the Charlotte and Conference USA records for strikeouts in a season with 144, was selected as the league's preseason Pitcher of the Year.

2002 PRESEASON BASEBALL COACHES POLL

(As selected by C-USA's head coaches)

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

1. Tulane
2. Houston
3. East Carolina
4. South Florida
5. Memphis
6. Charlotte
7. TCU
8. Southern Miss
9. Louisville
10. Cincinnati
11. UAB
12. Saint Louis

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Michael Aubrey, Tulane (Sophomore, Outfielder/Pitcher)

PITCHER OF THE YEAR

John Maine, Charlotte (Junior, Righthander)

ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

P	John Maine	Jr.	Charlotte
P	Sam Narron	Jr.	East Carolina
P	Brad Sullivan	So.	Houston
RP	Will Brinson	Sr.	East Carolina
C	Chris Hamblen	Jr.	Cincinnati
IF	Hyung Cho	So.	Houston
IF	Anthony Giarratano	So.	Tulane
IF	Adam Haley	Jr.	Louisville
IF	James Jurries	Sr.	Tulane
IF	Myron Leslie	So.	South Florida
OF	Michael Bourn	So.	Houston
OF	Jeff Cook	Jr.	Southern Miss
OF	Jon Kaplan	Jr.	Tulane
UT	Michael Aubrey	So.	Tulane

Big Ten Looks for Ohio State Dominance

COLLEGIATE BASEBALL has tabbed Ohio State as the 2002 Big Ten Conference favorite while fellow 2001 Top 100 RBI finishers Purdue and Minnesota are the Nos. 2 and 3 choices, respectively. The magazine's look at this league's race follows.

Projected Big Ten Conference Finish

1. Ohio State
2. Purdue
3. Minnesota
4. Illinois
5. Michigan
6. Penn State
7. Northwestern
8. Michigan State
9. Iowa
10. Indiana

COLLEGIATE BASEBALL Projects Oklahoma State as 2002 Big 12 Conference Winner

In a preseason survey of Big 12 head coaches and regional observers, COLLEGIATE BASEBALL magazine projects Oklahoma State to win its first Big 12 baseball title this spring. Coach Tom Holliday's Cowboys are 210-105 with four NCAA Regional appearances and a 1999 trek to the College World Series since the league began diamond play while Nebraska was both the 2001 Big 12 champion and league representative in the 2001 NCAA tourney (eventually advancing to the World Series in nearby Omaha for the first time in history).

2002 Projected Big 12 Finish

1. Oklahoma State
2. Nebraska
3. Texas
4. Baylor
5. Texas Tech
6. Texas A&M
7. Oklahoma
8. Kansas State
9. Missouri
10. Kansas

Mid-Con Conference 2002 Coaches' Choices

Following is the Mid-Continent Conference pre-2002 coaches' survey:

[1. Oral Roberts 5 \(5\)](#)

[2. Valparaiso 10 \(1\)](#)

[3. Southern Utah 12](#)

[4. Oakland 19](#)

[5. Western Illinois 21](#)

[6. Chicago State 23](#)

[\(First place votes in \(\)...coaches were not allowed to vote for their own teams\)](#)

Mountain West Favorite: San Diego State

San Diego State received four first-place votes to headline the 2002 Mountain West Conference preseason baseball coaches poll, marking the third straight year SDSU has been tabbed the MWC favorite. San Diego State posted a 34-26 overall record last season, while finishing second in the MWC regular season at 19-11 and placing second at the MWC Championship. Despite winning the regular season and conference tournament titles a year ago, the Cougars (38-22, 21-8 MWC) placed second in this year's poll.

MWC Preseason Baseball Coaches Poll

<u>Pl.</u>	<u>Team (1st votes)</u>	<u>Points</u>
-------------------	--------------------------------	----------------------

- | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|
| 1. | San Diego State (4) | 24 |
|----|---------------------|----|

2.	BYU (2)	22
3.	Utah	14
4.	UNLV	12
5.	New Mexico	11
6.	Air Force	5

No. 1 National Pre-2002 Selection Stanford Atop Pacific-10 Conference Field

Stanford has been selected as the conference favorite in a preseason 2002 Pac-10 Coaches Poll, receiving seven of eight possible first-place votes. Stanford has won at least a share of either the Pac-10 title or previously the Pac-10 Southern Division title in four of the last five seasons and has finished either first or second in arguably the nation's best conference 19 times in the last 21 seasons. The Cardinal has earned a spot in the CWS field for each of the last three years and compiled three consecutive 50-win seasons, both for the first time in school history. This year's senior class is attempting to become the first group of Stanford players to reach Omaha for four consecutive seasons.

2002 PACIFIC-10 CONFERENCE BASEBALL COACHES PRESEASON POLL

SCHOOL(FIRST-PLACEVOTES) POINTS

1)	STANFORD(7)	63
2)	USC(2)	57
3)	ASU	49
4)	CALIFORNIA	41
5)	ARIZONA	34
6)	WASHINGTON	30
7)	OSU	21
8)	UCLA	20
9)	WASHINGTON STATE	9

SEC Coaches Select LSU

Southeastern Conference coaches have chosen LSU to capture the '02 title while Mississippi and Alabama received the other three first place ballots from the group. The 2002 season gets underway February 1 with the conference schedule set to begin the weekend of March 15. The 2002 SEC Tournament will be held May 22-26 at the Hoover Metropolitan Stadium in Birmingham, Ala. Below is a complete look at the coaches' vote:

Eastern Division

	Team	Pts.	'01 SEC Rec/Finish
1.	S. Carolina (10)	63	17-13/3rd
2.	Florida (2)	58	16-14/4th
3.	Tennessee	48	18-12/2nd
4.	Georgia	36	20-10/1st
5.	Vanderbilt	22	9-21/5th
6.	Kentucky	20	7-23/6th

Western Division

	Team	Pts.	'01 SEC Rec/Finish
1.	LSU (9)	69	18-12/1st
2.	Ole Miss (2)	54	17-13/t2nd
3.	Miss. State	45	17-13/t2nd
4.	Alabama (1)	37	15-15/t4th
5.	Auburn	32	15-15/t4th
6.	Arkansas	15	11-19/6th

SEC Champion: LSU (9); Ole Miss (2); Alabama (1); (First Place Votes in Parentheses)

Georgia Southern Tops Citadel in Southern Conference Picks

Georgia Southern has been selected to win the Southern Conference baseball regular season crown in voting by the league's head coaches and sports information directors. The Eagles, winners of the last two

regular season crowns, garnered all 10 available first place votes in both polls, making them a unanimous selection. Neither the coaches nor the SIDs were allowed to vote for their own team in the poll. The Eagles, 42-20 overall last year and the Southern Conference champion at 21-9, outdistanced second place The Citadel (38-24, 20-10 last year) in both preseason polls.

Coaches Poll (1st place votes)	Pts
1. Georgia Southern (10)	110
2. The Citadel (1)	95
3. Western Carolina	89
4. UNC Greensboro	85
5. Furman	73
6. College of Charleston	69
7. East Tennessee State	60
8. Davidson	41
9. Appalachian State	33
T-10. VMI	30
T-10. Wofford	30

SID Poll (1st place votes)	Pts
1. Georgia Southern (10)	110
2. The Citadel (1)	95
3. Western Carolina	89
4. UNC Greensboro	88
5. Furman	68
6. College of Charleston	67
7. East Tennessee State	61
8. Appalachian State	39
9. Davidson	36
10. Wofford	32
11. VMI	30

Southland Splits Vote for Preseason Team Favorites

Northwestern State University and the University of Texas at Arlington have been picked by the head coaches of the Southland Conference to battle for the 2002 regular-season title. The sports information directors of the league give the Demons an edge over the Mavs. SLC coaches had a tie in voting for the top spot.

Coaches (First place votes)	Points
1. Northwestern State (5)	76
Texas-Arlington (4)	76
3. Louisiana-Monroe	61
Southwest Texas (1)	61
5. Lamar	46
6. McNeese State	41
7. Texas-San Antonio	35
8. Nicholls State	26
9. Southeastern La.	15
10. Sam Houston State	13

Sports Information Directors

1. Northwestern State (7)	97
2. Texas-Arlington (2)	87
3. Louisiana-Monroe	80
4. Southwest Texas	65
5. Lamar	55
6. Texas-San Antonio (1)	52
7. McNeese State	46

8. Nicholls State	31
9. Sam Houston State	19
10. Southeastern La.	18

Sun Belt Experts Tab UL Lafayette as Preseason Champ

Louisiana's Ragin' Cajuns have been selected by the Sun Belt Conference baseball coaches to win the 2002 league title. UL Lafayette, 28-28 last season, will be on a mission in 2002 to return to the form that made the Ragin' Cajuns an NCAA College World Series participant two seasons ago. The Ragin' Cajuns received 73 points and five first-place votes in the 2002 Preseason Baseball Coaches Poll edging out 2001 Sun Belt Conference Tournament champion South Alabama (45-19 in 2001) with 71 points and two first-place votes. 2001 NCAA Super-regional participant Florida International (43-21) picked up the remaining two first-place votes and 66 points for third place in the poll.

2002 Sun Belt Conference

Baseball Preseason Poll (Coaches Poll)

<u>Rank, Team</u>	<u>Points (1st Place Votes)</u>
1. Louisiana-Lafayette	73 (5)
2. South Alabama	71 (2)
3. Florida International	66 (2)
4. Middle Tennessee	49
5. New Orleans	47
6. Arkansas-Little Rock	28
7. New Mexico State	26
Western Kentucky	26
9. Arkansas State	19

Rice Chosen for WAC Reign Again

For the sixth year in a row, Rice has been selected to win the 2002 Western Athletic Conference regular season baseball crown in a vote by the league's six head coaches. The coaches also voted on a preseason all-WAC team, and Rice led the way with four players making the team including the preseason player of the year, senior third baseman Hunter Brown. Rice received 25 points and five first place votes after a 47-20 season in 2001, the regular season WAC title and a trip to its seventh straight NCAA tournament. Fresno State earned 20 points to place second after a 41-25 season and its second straight trip to the NCAA postseason. Nevada placed third with 18 points followed by San Jose State with 13 points, Hawai'i with eight and WAC newcomer Louisiana Tech with six.

2002 WAC Baseball Coaches' Poll

Rk. Team 1 2 3 4 5 Total

1. Rice 5 - - - - 25
2. Fresno State - 5 - - - 20
3. Nevada 1 1 3 - - 18
4. San Jose State - - 3 2 - 13
5. Hawai'i - - - 3 2 8
6. Louisiana Tech - - - 1 4 6

Preseason All-WAC Team

OF Austin Davis, So., Rice; OF Chris Dickerson, Sr., Nevada; OF A.J. Porfirio, Sr., Rice; OF Tobey Riday-White, Sr. Fresno State; 1B Gregg Omori, Sr., Hawai'i; 2B Gabe Lopez, Sr., San Jose State; SS Jose Enrique Cruz, So., Rice; 3B Hunter Brown, Sr., Rice; C Adam Shorsher, Sr., San Jose State; UT Cullen Simmons, Sr., Louisiana Tech; DH Ben Fritz, Jr., Fresno State; SP Mateo Miramontes, So., Nevada; SP

Darrell Rasner, Jr., Nevada; SP Bob Runyon, Sr., Fresno State; RP Ben Fritz, Jr., Fresno State; Player of the Year - Hunter Brown, Sr., Rice; Pitcher of the Year - Bob Runyon, Sr., Fresno State

Prado Named Team USA Head Coach for 2002

Lelo Prado will serve as Head Coach of the 2002 USA Baseball National Team of collegiate all-stars that will play approximately 30 games on the USA Baseball Red, White and Blue Tour this summer, the organization announced today. Prado, the Head Coach at the University of Louisville, succeeds the University of Florida's Pat McMahon - who directed the 2001 squad to a 21-7-1 mark.

"Coach Prado has been a strong supporter of our National Team program in the past, and we look forward to having him as our head coach for the first time this summer," said Paul Seiler, USA Baseball Executive Director/CEO. "His leadership both on and off the field will certainly be beneficial to our young players, as we try to capture the first ever collegiate level World Championship."

Prado becomes the first ever coach from Conference USA to take over the USA National Team program, after serving two previous coaching stints with USA Baseball. The first came in 1997, when he was a coach at the USA National Team Trials in Tucson, Arizona. The second occurred three summers later in 2000, when he worked under head coach Mike Gillespie (USC) as an assistant for a Team USA squad that posted the program's all-time highest winning percentage for a summer (.900), with a 27-3-1 record. In June, USA Baseball will invite approximately 40 of the nation's top freshman and sophomore collegiate players to the USA Baseball National Team Trials in Tucson, Arizona. Prado and his coaching staff will select a team, then depart for the east coast to play a five-game series against the Japanese Collegiate All-Stars - the 31st annual meeting of the two countries. Team USA will then play approximately 10-15 additional games in July in various states on the USA Red, White and Blue Tour before traveling to the Honkbal Baseball Classic in Haarlem, The Netherlands in late July. Team USA's summer will climax at the first ever FISU World Baseball Championships in Sicily and Messina, Italy, August 1-11.

"This has been a lifelong coaching goal of mine, and there is no greater honor than representing the United States," said Prado. "I am truly thrilled to continue my relationship with USA Baseball, and look forward to an exciting summer."

Prado's Assistant Coaching and Support staff will be announced in the coming months, as will the complete USA Baseball National Team Schedule. Fans and Media can get updated information and follow the USA Baseball National Team this summer by logging on to www.usabaseball.com - the official website of USA Baseball.

HEAD COACH LELO PRADO - University of Louisville: Is entering his 7th season as head coach of Conference USA's Louisville Cardinals...Has compiled a 13-year, 436-301-2 career mark as a head coach at Division II Tampa and Louisville...Won back-to-back Division II National Championships as the head coach for the University of Tampa in 1992 & '93...Served as an Assistant Coach on the 2000 USA Baseball National Team that posted the program's highest winning percentage in history (.900), with a 27-3-1 overall record...Was also a trials Coach at the 1997 USA Baseball National Team Trials in Tucson, Arizona and served on the 1996 USA Baseball Olympic Team Selection Committee.

USA Baseball is the National Governing Body of amateur baseball in the United States and a member of the United States Olympic Committee. The organization selects and trains the USA Baseball Olympic Team, the USA Baseball National Team (Collegiate), the USA Baseball Junior National Team (18-under), and the USA Baseball Youth National Team (16-under) which participate in various international competitions each year.

Future Rev. Masters, Mississippi State Baseball Hero, to Address Preseason Banquet

Burke Masters, whose dramatic ninth inning grand slam at Dudy Noble Field helped power Mississippi State past Florida State and on to a berth in the 1990 College World Series, will be the featured speaker February 18 at the fifth annual "First Pitch - Meet the Team" banquet. The 6:30 p.m. (CST) event is expected to draw a standing room only crowd to the ballroom at MSU's Colvard Student Union Building.

Masters' two-out blast lifted MSU to an 11-8 win over the Seminoles in the first of three MSU-FSU meetings in the 1990 NCAA South II Regional in Starkville. Two days later State nipped FSU 4-3 to advance to Omaha, Neb., and a berth in the College World Series. Masters was chosen tournament MVP, earned All-SEC honors in 1989, was a two-time GTE-CoSIDA Academic All-America, and in 1990 became the first Mississippi State athlete to earn the prestigious H. Boyd McWhorter SEC Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award. Masters is in his final semester of seminary studies at University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Ill., and is on schedule for ordination into the priesthood in June, 2002.

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 launched 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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