

National Collegiate Baseball Writers Newsletter
(Volume 41, No. 7, Aug. 27, 2002)

The President's Message

NCBWA President Rob Carolla

Hello to everyone from the President's chair! As I sit down to write this, we're busy preparing for football, soccer, volleyball and all the other fall sports. I'm sure college baseball (not this strike-related nonsense!) may be the last thing on your mind – but I hope to put a few quick topics in front of each of you.

To begin, I would like to congratulate the 2002 Wilbur Snyppe Award winner – Russ Anderson of Conference USA. Russ has been a great friend and promoter of college baseball and the NCBWA and his work for the organization and its members has been invaluable. Thanks, Russ!

Speaking of Russ, I hope everyone has submitted his or her dues for membership in 2002-03. On that topic, I'm hoping one thing we can do during my tenure is increasing the membership among media representatives in the organization. The SID representation has always been very strong, and I hope that we can have as equally solid a group from the media sector. I'm asking each NCBWA member to recruit just ONE person from the media to join the organization in 2002-03. If each of you can recruit just ONE media member to join, it would be fantastic! I sincerely ask everyone to keep this in mind as we get closer to baseball season.

In addition, I would like to solicit any feedback regarding how we can help you in the upcoming year. The 2003 season will be here before you know it and I've already had several great ideas put forth on behalf of the NCBWA. Please keep them coming! You can contact me in any method possible – either by phone, e-mail or regular "snail" mail. No idea is too small, so don't be afraid to bring it to the attention of any NCBWA officers.

As always, thank you for your dedication and membership in the NCBWA. I look forward to working for you, your players, programs and the NCBWA this year. Best of luck during the fall!

Rob Carolla

NCBWA President

The BIG EAST Conference

Russ Anderson, USA BASEBALL Executive, Chosen 2002 NCBWA Wilbur Snyppe Award Winner

Russell Anderson, Conference USA Director of Media Relations, has been named as winner of the 2002 National Collegiate Baseball Writers Wilbur Snyppe Award.

Anderson has been promoting Conference USA Baseball since the league's inception in 1995 and prior to that served as the baseball contact for the Great Midwest Conference for two seasons. He has been an officer in the NCBWA for the past eight years, serving as Secretary/Treasurer of the organization during that entire period. In 2001, Anderson maintained dual roles with the NCBWA, serving as President of the organization. He has represented the NCBWA at every College World Series since 1998 and has been involved with NCAA Regionals and Super Regionals for each of the last six springs.

"Russ Anderson has been a great ambassador for college baseball", NCBWA President Rob Carolla said. "His assistance with the National College Baseball Writers Association has been invaluable. I'm sure I can speak for the membership in extending sincere thanks and congratulations!"

"Russ has done thousands of hours of work behind the scenes for NCBWA," said Bo Carter of the Big 12 Conference and NCBWA Executive Director. "He is extremely deserving of this award and has made a tremendous difference for the organization with his eight years of service as both President and Treasurer."

He is the 28th recipient of the annual award, which is presented in memory of longtime Ohio State Sports Information Director and NCBWA founder, the late Wilbur (Bill) Snyppe. Snyppe was a noted contributor to the writers' organization, which was initiated in 1962 (and celebrating its 40th year in 2001), as well as an officer in the group.

The NCBWA/Wilbur Snyppe Award yearly honors a professional for their contributions to the sport of collegiate baseball. Voting is done by a panel of previous winners, who include past NCAA World Series directors, College Sports Information Directors of America Hall of Fame members, decorated media members, and many others. Below is a list of all-time winners:

Past Wilbur Snyppe Award Winners

1975	Wilbur Snyppe, Ohio State
1976	Bill Esposito, St. John's
1977	Phil Langhan, Cornell
1978	John Geis, Southern Conference
1979	Hank Schomber, Georgia Southern
1980	Bob Culp, Western Michigan
1981	Lou Pavlovich, Sr., Collegiate Baseball
1982	Tom Price, South Carolina

1983	Bob Bradley, Clemson
1984	Robert Williams, Omaha World-Herald
1985	Jerry Miles, NCAA
1986	Larry Keefe, Seton Hall
1987	Tom Rowen, San Jose Mercury-News
1988	Fred Gerardi, KESY Radio, Omaha
1989	Jim Wright, NCAA
1990	Steve Weller, SIU-Edwardsville
1991	Bill Little, University of Texas
1992	Kirk Bohls, Austin American-Statesman
1993	Bo Carter, Southwest Conference
1994	Lou Pavlovich, Jr., Collegiate Baseball
1995	Steve Pivovar, Omaha World-Herald
1996	Gary Johnson, NCAA
1997	Dave Wohlhueter, Cornell
1998	Allen Simpson, Baseball America
1999	Alan Cannon, Texas A&M University
2000	Jim Callis, Baseball America
2001	Dick Case, USA Baseball
2002	Russell Anderson, Conference USA

NCBWA Elects 2002-03 Officers; Big East's Rob Carolla Named New President

The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) has released its list of 2002-03 officers today. These officers begin their duties immediately and will serve in these roles through the 2003 College World Series.

Rob Carolla, Director of Communications at the BIG EAST Conference, will serve as the organization's President during the upcoming year. Rob has served as an officer in the NCBWA for the past two years and has promoted Big East Baseball since 1997.

Jeff Hurd, Senior Associate Commissioner of the Western Athletic Conference and a two-year officer in the NCBWA, has been promoted to First Vice-President and is slated to serve as Carolla's successor.

The two new additions to the NCBWA officer list are certainly not strangers to the college baseball scene. Southern Miss Sports Information Director Mike Montoro has joined the organization and will serve as the Second Vice-President this season. Meanwhile, Ohio State Assistant Sports Information Director Todd Lamb will be the new Third Vice-President. Montoro has been an active promoter of college baseball during stints at Liberty, West Virginia and Virginia Tech prior to his arrival at USM in the fall of 2000.

Lamb is in his first year in Columbus, but worked around prominent college baseball programs at Clemson and Rice prior to joining the Buckeyes staff.

Two familiar faces to the NCBWA scene will also remain in active roles during the upcoming campaign, as Big 12 Conference Assistant Commissioner Bo Carter, who has served in virtually every capacity the NCBWA offers, will begin his fourth year as the NCBWA's Executive Director. Russell Anderson, Director of Media Relations at Conference USA and 2000-01 NCBWA President, begins his seventh year as the organization's Secretary/Treasurer.

Team USA Enjoys Solid Summer Tour; Wins at Haarlem, The Netherlands; 2nd at World Championship

The USA Baseball National Team scored five runs in the first inning and made it hold up as it hung on to beat The Netherlands 5-4 to capture the 2002 Haarlem (Netherlands) Baseball Week Championship on July 28. It was Team USA's 2nd straight title here in Haarlem, after also winning the tournament in 2000. Team USA tagged Dutch starter Jeroen Deken (0-1) for all five of their runs in the top of the first inning, as Deken (0-1) failed to record an out. The Americans batted around their lineup, collecting four hits and a walk while the Dutch also hit a batter and made an error. Reliever Dave Drayer come on to get out of the jam, but the damage amounted to an early 5-0 lead for American starter Kyle Sleeth (RHP, So, Wake Forest) and Team USA. The Netherlands then slowly began to get back into the game off the Wake Forest All-America as a second Dutch reliever - Erik Remmerswaal - kept Team USA at bay by working 6 1/3 innings of scoreless relief. The Dutch plated a pair in the bottom of the first when Hensley Meulens had a run-scoring single, and Sleeth walked a run in to immediately cut the margin back to 5-2. The Dutch chipped away with another run in the fifth, then made it 5-4 in the sixth, knocking Sleeth out of the game in favor of Huston Street (RHP, Fr, Texas), who struck out Railey Legito with the tying run at third base. From there, the Texas freshman and NCAA College World Series MVP allowed just one hit the rest of the way,

working the final 3.1 frames to record his third save. Sleeth went a total of 5.2 innings, and was touched for four runs (three earned) on five hits, improving to 6-0 on the summer with the victory. Carlos Quentin (OF, So, Stanford) went 3-for-5 with a double and an RBI, and was named the MVP of the game. Landon Powell (C, So, South Carolina) was named the tournament's most outstanding defensive player.

Cuban righty Orelvis Avila (1-0) threw a complete-game, seven-hit shutout to defeat the 2002 USA Baseball National Team 6-0 to give the Cubans the first ever FISU World University Baseball Championship title on Aug. 11 at Primo Nebiolo Stadium in Messina, Italy. Cuba posted an unbeaten 7-0 record to win the Gold Medal. It was Cuba's fourth consecutive shutout here in Italy, as their pitching staff allowed only four runs in the entire World Championship tournament. It was also the first time Team USA has been shutout this summer. The 2002 USA Baseball National Team earned a Silver Medal and finished the year with a 23-7 overall record after going 5-2 in Messina. The Cubans took an early 1-0 lead in the top of the second when Danny Miranda connected on a solo home run to left field off American starter Kyle Sleeth (RHP, So, Wake Forest). They scored two more runs in the third on a rbi-single to center field by Mario Vega, and when Sam Fuld's (OF, So, Stanford) throw to third base got by Aaron Hill (IF, So, LSU), Roiniel Varona scored all the way from first. Sleeth (7-1) lasted five innings in his shortest outing of the summer. The Wake Forest All-America surrendered four runs (two earned) on six hits, while walking one and fanning four, suffering his first loss of the entire year. Sleeth went 14-0 for the Deamon Deacons and was 7-0 for Team USA, prior to his start here in the World Championship game. Wes Littleton (RHP, So, CS Fullerton) relieved Sleeth in the sixth, and Cuba tallied two more times over the final four frames. Huston Street (RHP, Fr, Texas) came on to record the final two outs in the ninth. For complete coverage of the Team USA 2002 tours please go to www.usabaseball.com. The 2002 USA Baseball national team pitching staff broke the Team USA record for lowest total Team ERA by posting a 1.48 overall mark. The previous record was 1.56, set by the 2000 USA Baseball National Team.

2002 FISU WORLD UNIVERSITY BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS AWARDS: MVP Orelvis Avila – Cuba; Best Righthanded Pitcher Brad Sullivan – USA; Best Left Handed Pitcher Tsuyoshi Wada – Japan; Best Catcher Ren Min – China; Best First Baseman Michael Aubrey – USA; Best Second Baseman David Dallospedale – Italy; Best Third Baseman Kao Wei - Chinese Taipei; Best Shortstop Takashi Toritani – Japan; Best Leftfielder Shane Costa – USA; Best Centerfielder Jeong Ho Seo – Korea; Best Rightfielder Leslie Anderson – Cuba; Best Designated Hitter Pedro J. Rodriquez – Cuba;

FINAL STANDINGS: 1. Cuba 7-0; 2. United States 5-2; 3. Japan 5-2; 4. Chinese Taipei 3-4; 5. Korea 3-3; 6. Italy 3-3; 7. China 3-3; 8. Czech Republic 1-5; 9. Canada 1-4; 10. France 0-5.

Rice's Graham Named ABCA Western Regional Coach of Year

Rice coach Wayne Graham has been named the western regional coach of the year by the American Baseball Coaches Association, the second time the Owls coach has won the honor from his peers. "This is a significant honor since it comes from the ABCA," said Graham. "It is extremely gratifying when your fellow coaches recognize the accomplishments of your team." Graham led the Owls to their third appearance in the College World Series in 2002. Rice was 52-14 on the season, winning its sixth consecutive Western Athletic Conference championship. The '02 WAC coach of the year, Graham also won the ABCA's western regional coaching honor in 1997. He will receive the new award at the 2003 ABCA national convention on Jan. 2-5 in San Diego, Calif. Graham will enter his 12th season at Rice in 2003 with a 478-212 record at the school. Under his guidance, Rice has emerged as one of the top baseball programs in the nation on a yearly basis. In addition to the six straight WAC titles, Graham also led Rice to the final Southwest Conference tournament championship in 1996 and CWS appearances in '97 and '99. His leadership of the Rice baseball team led to the construction of Reckling Park in 2000, one of the showplace venues of college baseball.

Clemson's Leggett Adds Regional Coaching Honors

Clemson Head Baseball Coach Jack Leggett was named the 2002 Atlantic Region Coach-of-the-Year by the American Baseball Coaches' Association this past weekend. Leggett guided the Tigers to a tie for third place in the NCAA Tournament in 2002, tying for the highest finish in school history. The 2002 Tigers finished with a 54-17 record and multiple All-America selections, including unanimous National Player-of-the-Year Khalil Greene.

Under Leggett's tenure, Clemson has won 434 games in nine seasons, averaging over 48 wins per season. Only Florida State and Wichita State have won more games in the last nine years. He has also led Clemson to four College World Series appearances and has coached two National Players-of-the-Year (Kris Benson and Greene).

Jack Leggett also announced the addition of Bradley LeCroy to the coaching staff in late August. LeCroy will serve as the volunteer coach and will work with infielders and hitters. "We are excited about having Bradley LeCroy on our coaching staff," states Leggett. "He was an outstanding player and loved to be on the field when he was a player. Bradley understands what this program is all about and we are looking forward to what he brings to the team." LeCroy, no relation to former Tiger great and current Minnesota Twin Matthew LeCroy, earned four letters with the Tigers from 1997-00. He was a valuable utility player who hit .266 in 173 games and 395 at-bats. He was the everyday shortstop on the 1999 team that came one inning from making it to the College World Series. He was also a member of Clemson's 2000 College World Series team and a member of four NCAA Tournament teams as a Tiger. The Tigers had even more good news for the fall when standout first baseman Michael Johnson returned to school for 2003 activity after skipping a 2002 from the Major League Baseball draft.

College of Charleston Hires Solid Assistant

Stuart Lake, an assistant coach at South Carolina the past four seasons, has been named assistant coach at the College of Charleston, Cougar coach John Pawlowski announced on Aug. 20. Lake takes over the position vacated by Gregg Mucerino. Mucerino became the head coach at Loyola University New Orleans last week. Lake will serve as the Cougars' third base coach and hitting instructor. He will coach the outfielders and help Cougar assistant coach/recruiting coordinator Scott Foxhall with recruiting. "I'm very excited about joining the College of Charleston baseball program" said Lake, who helped the Gamecocks reach the championship game of the College World Series last season. "After meeting the faculty and staff and seeing the direction the baseball program is headed, it made my decision to join coach Pawlowski and his staff an easy one. Working the past four seasons for coach Ray Tanner has been a wonderful and a tremendous learning experience for me. The knowledge and experience I take from my years at South Carolina will help me throughout my coaching career.

"To attract a quality person and coach who has worked at a top 10 program will be a great fit for the College of Charleston" said Pawlowski, who led Charleston to a 36-22 mark last season. "We are certainly excited about the addition of Stuart Lake to our program. He brings a tremendous amount of experience and knowledge that will help us in our quest for excellence both on and off the field."

Many Milestones in Division I All-Time Standings in '02

The longest college baseball season in history in terms of days from Game 1 (Jan. 18) to the championship of the NCAA World Series (June 22: Texas over South Carolina 12-6) for a total of 156 days (22-plus weeks) ended with numerous milestones in Division I.

Southern California moved to within 45 all-time victories of joining the elite "1,000 Club" in terms of conference wins. Only Texas (1,170 victories in league play from 1915-02 in the Big 12 and Southwest Conferences) has reached this pinnacle.

Ohio State (2,032) of the Big Ten Conference, Oklahoma State (2,023) of the Big 12 and Louisville (2,014) of Conference USA became the 21st, 22nd and 23rd teams, respectively, to capture 2,000 wins overall among the 286 schools currently competing in DI diamond action. Northern Colorado is expected to join this soon-to-be 287-team circuit in 2003 baseball.

In the "1,5000 Circle" of all-time baseball triumphs, Stetson (1,536) of the Atlantic Sun Conference, Auburn (1,528) of the Southeastern Conference, Navy (1,515) of the Patriot League, Villanova (1,515) of the Big East, and Holy Cross (1,515) of Patriot League all became members,

Eight schools reached 1,000 all-time diamond victories in 2002, and they were Central Florida (1,029 in just 30 seasons), Northeastern (1,025), Marshall (1,015), Davidson (1,012), UL Lafayette (1,011), Lehigh (1,008), Morehead State (1,005), and Bucknell (1,001).

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. 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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