



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS **NEWSLETTER**

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The President's Message

By NCBWA President Rob Carolla

As the fall championship seasons wind down and basketball begins, the NCBWA returns once again with the latest baseball news. My conference is in full swing with regard to hoops, which only reminds me that baseball season will be here before you know it!

In preparation for '03, the NCBWA has released its preseason All-America teams. Why so early, you ask? To promote college baseball, of course! The board, on the recommendation of several members, decided a few years back to release the information early in order to allow for maximum exposure. Not only does this allow SIDs to include this information in media guides, but it also allows for publicity to several different avenues. The feeling is that this endeavor has been a success over the last few years, but we are always open to suggestions. As with anything else regarding the NCBWA, please let myself or any other board member know if you have any suggestions or concerns!

As I sat down to write this message, I had a tough time coming up with something topical for December. What other issues regarding college baseball concern you? Please send them along to me at rcarolla@bigeast.org and I'll be happy to address them in future newsletters. Even if it requires a little research on my part, I'd be happy to provide answers to any questions that concern SIDs or media who are loyal members of the NCBWA.

As always, thank you for your dedication and membership in the NCBWA. Best wishes for a happy holiday season!!

Rob Carolla

NCBWA President
The BIG EAST Conference

Oh, Canada...Bob Elliott's Annual 2002 All-Canuck Team

Note: Bob is still looking for transfers and freshmen and anyone else not on the Canadians In College master list, which is at (http://www.slam.ca/SlamBaseballCanada/college_canadians.html) for those who have time to check. Last year's netted about five guys, including two at Purdue. Thanks for you help as always.

Fourth Annual NCBWA Preseason All-America Team for 2003 Has Impressive Credentials

The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association has selected its fourth annual preseason All-America teams with a wide variety of NCAA World Series standouts, student-athletes from traditional powers and players representing 16 different Division I conferences for the 2003 campaign.

2002 World Series standouts relief pitcher Huston Street (Outstanding Player in the CWS) of Texas, Rice first baseman Vincent Sinisi, outfielder Sam Fuld of Stanford and Houston starting pitcher Brad Sullivan (National Summer Player of the Year) are among the featured first team members.

Southern University second baseman and 2002 NCAA batting leader (.495) Rickie Weeks returns after earning first team All-America laurels from the NCBWA on its 2002 postseason honors' squad. Richmond outfielder Vito Chiaravallotti is the leading home run producer on the 2003 preseason first unit with 23 while Conference USA stalwarts DH Darryl Lawhorn (.416-19 HR-64 RBI) of East Carolina and utility athlete Michael Aubrey (.315-7 HR-56 RBI, 8-1 pitching record) of Tulane join the solid group. Oral Roberts standout catch David Castillo also moves up from post-2002 NCBWA second team to first unit in the pre-2003 selections after smashing 14 homers and driving in 79 runs as a sophomore.

Street (four saves in four appearances in the NCAA World Series) and Simmons (2-0 in the CWS) had a hand in 34 of the 57 wins (57-15) by NCAA champion Texas last season while the starting pitchers on

the first team, including Houston's Brad Sullivan (nation-leading 157 strikeouts) and Wake Forest's Kyle Sleeth (14-0), combined for a 58-5 pitching mark in '02. Street and Villanova's James Russell, the initial unit relief aces, combined for 29 saves last season to rank among the top returnees nationally for 2003.

Sophomore shortstop Stephen Drew, the *Baseball America* 2002 Freshman of the Year with a .402 average, 16 homers and 54 RBI, teams with fellow Atlantic Coast Conference standout 3B Jamie D'Antona (.336-20 HR-83 RBI) for enviable infield numbers, while Eastern Michigan OF Ryan Goleski of the Mid-American Conference posted a .381 average with 22 dingers and 70 RBI.

Richmond joins Texas and Wake Forest as the only schools to place two players on first team. Outfielder Vito Chiaravalloti (23 HR, 86 RBI) joins pitcher Tim Stauffer (15-3, 1.64 ERA, 140 K) in representing the Spiders.

2002 Big East Conference Pitcher of the Year Chris Lambert (9-3, 2.76 ERA) of Boston College leads a star-studded second team along with Conference USA single season batting recordholder (.441) Terry Trofholz of TCU. Clemson first baseman Michael Johnson (25 home runs) is the top home run hitter on all three teams. UCLA's multi-talented Wes Whisler holds the second team utility athlete post after cracking 18 homers and going 5-2 as a pitcher in 2002.

Rice, Western Athletic Conference champ, also places a pair of pitchers on the second and third teams in Philip Humber (11-1) and Steven Herce (13-3), while Pacific-10 Conference stalwarts DH Joey Metropoulos of Southern California and Whisler of UCLA are two to watch. Cal State Fullerton starter Wes Littleton and relief ace Chad Cordero both grace the second team while Big Ten Conference mainstay pitchers Scott Lewis of Ohio State and Tim Day of Michigan State join Indiana 3B Vasili Spanos on the third squad.

2003 NCBWA Preseason All-America Team

1st Team Position Players

Pos. Name, School Class BA AB R H HR RBI

1B Vincent Sinisi, Rice So. .428 271 65 116 11 80
 2B Rickie Weeks, Southern U. Jr. .495 198 63 98 20 96
 3B Jamie D'Antona, Wake Forest Sr. .336 223 62 75 20 83
 SS Stephen Drew, Florida State So. .402 252 64 101 16 54
 C David Castillo, Oral Roberts Jr. .398 226 59 90 14 79
 OF Ryan Goleski, Eastern Michigan Jr. .381 218 62 83 22 70
 OF Vito Chiaravalloti, Richmond Sr. .366 238 69 85 23 86
 OF Sam Fuld, Stanford Jr. .372 274 61 102 6 43
 DH Darryl Lawhorn, East Carolina Jr. .416 250 56 104 19 64
 UT/ATH Michael Aubrey, Tulane Sr. .315 208 40 66 7 56
 Pitching: 8-1, 4.45 ERA, 10 GS, 60.2 IP, 58 H, 14 BB, 36 SO

1st Team Pitchers

Pos. Name School Cl. W-L ERA G IP H BB SO SV

SP Brad Sullivan, Houston Jr. 13-1 1.82 18 128.1 80 49 157 0
 SP Tim Stauffer, Richmond Jr. 15-3 1.54 20 146 110 34 140 0
 SP Justin Simmons, Texas Jr. 16-1 2.52 20 128.1 106 39 80 0
 SP Kyle Sleeth, Wake Forest Jr. 14-0 2.97 18 118.1 115 41 113 0
 RP Huston Street, Texas So. 4-1 0.95 35 47 24 9 49 14
 RP James Russell, Villanova Sr. 1-3 2.33 22 27 25 8 35 15

2nd Team Position Players

Pos. Name, School Class BA AB R H HR RBI

1B Michael Johnson, Clemson Sr. .384 263 62 101 25 81
 2B Steve Sollman, Notre Dame Jr. .362 213 53 77 2 47
 3B Conor Jackson, California Jr. .382 219 43 84 16 61
 (tie) Lee Curtis, Charleston Sr. .409 225 67 92 15 65
 SS Aaron Hill, LSU Jr. .329 222 46 73 9 47
 C Pat O'Brien, Kent State Sr. .335 230 62 77 17 56
 OF Carlos Quentin, Stanford Jr. .303 267 55 81 12 54
 OF Terry Trofholz, TCU Sr. .441 213 51 94 3 40
 OF Jeff Barry, Vermont Jr. .401 177 50 71 4 36

DH Joey Metropoulos, USC So. .352 224 51 79 13 65
 UT/ATH Wes Whisler, UCLA So. .328 211 33 69 18 46
 Pitching: 5-2, 4.06 ERA, 16 G, 84.1 IP, 94 H, 40 BB, 59 SO

2nd Team Pitchers

Pos.	Name	School	Cl.	W-L	ERA	G	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
SP	Chris Lambert,	Boston Coll.	So	9-3	2.76	17	78.1	75	24	87	0
SP	Wes Littleton,	CS Fullerton Jr	9-4	2.40	21	131.1	116	34	86	0	
SP	Matt Lynch,	Florida State Jr.	13-2	3.59	20	130.1	116	30	98	0	
SP	Kyle Bakker,	Georgia Tech Jr.	13-2	3.14	19	134.2	132	24	115	0	
(tie)	Philip Humber,	Rice So.	11-1	2.77	18	110.2	90	43	130	0	
RP	Chad Cordero,	CS Fullerton Jr	4-3	2.91	33	55.2	46	20	81	12	
RP	Ryan Schroyer,	Ariz. State Jr	4-1	2.37	28	60.2	50	35	75	8	

3rd Team Position Players

Pos.	Name	School	Class	BA	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
1B	Kelly Hunt,	Bowling Green Jr.		.407	214	69	86	22	84
2B	Tim Moss,	Texas Jr.-40	SB	.368	302	73	111	1	40
3B	Joe Drapeau,	Maine Jr.		.341	214	43	73	11	61
(tie)	Vasili Spanos,	Indiana Jr.		.385	174	50	67	16	65
SS	Brian Bixler,	Eastern Michigan Sr.		.320	231	60	74	13	47
C	Tony Richie,	Florida State Jr.		.353	246	59	87	13	75
OF	Andre Ethier,	Arizona State Jr.		.363	216	38	78	4	50
OF	Dustin Majewski,	Texas Sr.		.401	212	40	85	10	50
OF	Mark Jurich,	Louisville Jr.		.365	203	47	74	16	60
(tie)	Adam Bourassa,	Wake Forest Sr.-26	SB	.412	250	71	103	2	41
DH	Beau Hearod,	Alabama Sr.		.355	212	39	71	12	54
(tie)	Jeff Leise,	Nebraska Sr.		.371	294	69	109	12	51
UT/ATH	Mike Kelly,	Monmouth Jr.		.267	171	23	46	1	23
Pitching:	2-1, 0.53 ERA,	18 G, 17 IP, 17 H, 3 BB, 13 SO, 9 saves							
(tie)	Michael Scooter,	UNC Greensboro Jr., 12-1, 2.96 ERA, 27 G, 100.1 IP, 93 H, 21 BB, 86 SO, 3 SV							

3rd Team Pitchers

Pos.	Name	School	Cl.	W-L	ERA	G	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
SP	Tim Day,	Michigan State So.	11-3	3.21	16	81.1	84	13	60	0	
SP	Grant Johnson,	Notre Dame So.	9-5	3.46	18	101.1	94	44	86	0	
SP	Scott Lewis,	Ohio State So.	8-2	2.84	17	92	87	29	91	0	
SP	Steven Herce,	Rice Sr.	13-3	2.79	17	119.1	106	23	104	0	
(tie)	Tim Cunningham,	Stanford Sr.	10-3	4.26	20	112	108	47	67	0	
RP	Taylor Tankersley,	Alabama So.	8-5	2.62	25	68.2	55	20	65	7	
RP	Tyler Sullivan,	Bham-So. Sr	3-1	0.87	22	31	26	17	28	7	
(tie)	George Hugueta,	Miami-Fl Jr	7-4	4.50	31	50	52	12	45	8	
Ty	Kline,	Oregon State Sr.	6-1	3.68	22	51.1	49	14	29	2	

IOC Keeps Baseball as Olympic Sport for 2008

The International Olympic Committee rejected recommendations to cut three sports from the Olympic program in a world conference in Mexico City on Nov. 29.

The decision not to change the sports program for the 2008 Olympics was made obvious after 39 speeches by IOC members in the final meeting of this week's IOC Session in Mexico City. Not a single member spoke in favor of cutting any sports, at least for now.

Members say more thought and time need to be given to the process, most saying that any moves to cut sports from the program should take place following the Athens Games. In addition to the Nov. 29 vote keep the sports program intact, the IOC Session also chose to keep the status quo on the ban of member visits to cities bidding for the Games. By show of hands, only six of the nearly 120 members present favored restoration of the visits.

USA BASEBALL released the following statement after the ruling:

"USA Baseball would like to commend the lobbying efforts that took place on behalf of all of the sports and disciplines slated for exclusion" said USA Baseball Executive Director Paul Seiler. "In addition, we would like to thank the International Baseball Federation (IBAF), the United States Olympic Committee

(USOC), Major League Baseball (MLB) and the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA) for the critical work each performed on behalf of our sport."

"We're encouraged by the fact that the membership of the IOC showed such strong support for not changing the current Olympic Program," said USA Baseball President Mike Gaski. "What we hope this will do, is allow baseball and all of the sports in the Olympic Games to become an intricate part of the review process in the future."

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.

Wilbur Snynn Award Winner, Baseball Benefactor Dick Case Dies

USA Baseball announced today the death of former Executive Director Richard (Dick) W. Case, who has died at the age of 73. After a year long illness, Case passed away on Nov. 19, at his home in Hamilton, New Jersey.

The first Executive Director in the history of the organization, Dick's leadership began with his full-time hiring in 1978 and continued through his retirement from USA Baseball in 1996. "The natural reaction for those of us who knew Dick and know the Case family is to feel sorrowful," said Paul Seiler, Executive Director/CEO of USA Baseball. "But at the same time, this is a chance to celebrate a man who dedicated his entire life to youth sports, amateur baseball and the inclusion of our sport in the Olympic Games."

"Our organization and the constituents we serve, are better because of his involvement," added USA Baseball President Mike Gaski. "Dick touched countless lives both domestically and internationally on behalf of our sport, and I know he will be missed by all of those he came into contact with." Under Case's direction, USA Baseball assumed the role of National Governing Body within the United States Olympic Committee, in 1978. His early efforts and those of his staff were dedicated to the health of the sport at the grassroots level, as well as working towards the inclusion of baseball in the Olympic Games. His tireless work came to fruition when baseball was played for the first time, at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Since that time, the USA Baseball Olympic Team has captured two Gold Medals (1988 and 2000), one Silver Medal (1984), and one Bronze Medal (1996).

Funeral services were Nov. 23 at Saul's Funeral Home, Nottingham Way, Hamilton Square, N.J. In lieu of flowers, the Case family has asked that charitable contributions be made to any youth sport organization or program. "Richard will be missed both personally and professionally, and our sport was fortunate to have him on our team," continued Seiler. "Our heartfelt thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Case family at this difficult time." A native of Amsterdam, N.Y., Case is survived by his wife Barbara, daughters Pamela Fiore and Laurie Fowler, sons-in-law Michael Fiore and Gary Fowler and granddaughter Priscilla Anne Fowler.

Kenning, Crain head Third All-Canuck team

By BOB ELLIOTT -- SLAM!

Canadian Baseball Outfielder Ryan Kenning had so many RBIs, he almost reached triple digits. Closer Jesse Crain was so dominant he had a non-existent earned run average until his final outing of the season.

Kenning and Crain were the only unanimous selections on the third annual SLAM! Canadian Baseball All-Canadian College team. Kenning (senior, North Vancouver, BC), of the New Mexico State Aggies, and Crain (junior, Toronto, Ont.), of the Houston Cougars, were named on all 16 ballots by our crack panel, composed of three former major-league scouting directors, professional scouts, college coaches, amateur coaches and our in-season staff. Our voters went off the numbers and how each player performed for his respective team. They were told a player's status in the June draft should not be a deciding factor in the voting. After all, drafted players have their signing bonuses to keep them warm.

Our panel was asked to name a first, second and third place for each position and points were awarded on a 3-2-1 basis. Clark Andres (junior, San Clara, Man.), of the Mayville State Comets, named to the first team at the DH spot, was the only other player to garner double figures in the voting (13, first-place votes). Players get injured, players get homesick, some have bad years and some have good years. But the one constant in this our third team is first baseman Mike Galloway (junior, St. Thomas, Ont.), of the Miami of Ohio RedHawks, who was selected to the first team. Galloway made the 2001 first team at third base

when he played for the Central Michigan Chippewas. And in 2000 Galloway shared first base with Trent Kitsch (Kelowna, BC). And as Jackie Gleason, used to say, and away we go ... the best of the 551 Canadians playing south of the border:

First Team

Right-handed starter: Ryan Astle (senior, St. Albert, Alta.) of the Mary Marauders.

We had 29 right-handed pitchers on our ballot. Only two had zeros in the loss column, Tim Grant (sophomore, Vancouver, BC) of the Dartmouth Big Green, who went 2-0 in six starts and Astle. Only one had a zero at the start of his ERA column. Astle went 10-0 in 15 games with a minuscule 0.71 ERA. Astle pitched Mary to an 11-1 win over the Mayville State Comets in the opener of the NAIA, Region III tourney at Jack Brown Stadium in Jamestown, ND. Astle limited the Comets, who wound up reaching the NAIA World Series, to four hits, striking out four. Astle made 10 starts for Mary and pitched eight complete games, including three shutouts. In his six relief appearances he picked up four saves. In 68 2/3 innings, Astle struck out 70 and walked only 26.

Left-handed starter: Jeff Francis (junior, North Delta, BC), of the British Columbia Thunderbirds.

Francis edged Ryan Balan (senior, Whitby, Ont.) for top spot as a repeat all-Canadian team winner. Francis was voted to the NAIA all-region team, his second consecutive selection. He was 7-2 with a 1.93 ERA, fanning 101 in 74 2/3 innings. He pitched in 14 games, 13 starts and pitched three complete games. In the NAIA Region I playoff tournament at Simplot Stadium in Caldwell, Idaho, Francis only pitched two innings and 31 pitches. He started the opener and by the time he took the mound UBC was beating Western Baptist 8-0, so Francis was lifted as UBC won a giggler 19-3. Francis was needed to pitch a scoreless ninth as the T-Birds beat Concordia 9-7. Francis wasn't used a third straight day. He was selected ninth over-all in the June draft by the Colorado Rockies and was given a \$1.85 million US signing bonus.

Closer: Jesse Crain (junior, Toronto, Ont.), of the Houston Cougars, doubled as his team's shortstop and closer. Crain pitched 2 2/3 innings of relief as Houston lost 5-2 to the Texas Longhorns in the third and deciding game of the NCAA Super Series. The Longhorns went on to win the College World Series in Omaha, Neb. Against the Hook 'Em Horns, Crain, born in Toronto and attended high school in Boulder, Col., allowed four hits and one run -- the first run he allowed all spring. Crain gave up an RBI triple in the seventh to end his consecutive-inning scoreless streak at 35.2 innings -- the second longest in UH history. It was the only earned run the San Jacinto College transfer allowed he allowed in 36.2 innings. Crain was named to the Conference USA all-tournament team. He had a ERA of 0.23, a 4-0 record, picked up 10 saves and struck out 46 in 38 1/3 innings. The Minnesota Twins selected Crain in the second round and the Twins gave him a signing bonus of \$650,000.

Catcher: David Harriman (senior, Surrey, BC), of the Armstrong Atlantic Pirates.

Harriman set a school record and tied a Peach Belt Conference mark with his season-opening, 41-game, consecutive-game hit streak. After receiving honorable mention on the 2001 all-Canadian team, he was named to the American Baseball Coaches Association/NCAA Division II All-America first team. He also earned first-team PBC honors for a second straight year. Harriman hit .412 in 55 games with 13 doubles, two triples, 14 homers and 69 RBIs.

First base: Mike Galloway (junior, St. Thomas, Ont.), of the Miami (Ohio) RedHawks.

Galloway earned Mid-America Conference first-team honors after transferring from the Central Michigan Chippewas. At CMU he was named NCAA Louisville Slugger Freshman All-American and first-team selection. In 2002, Galloway led the conference with a .436 average at the end of the regular season. His versatility with the RedHawks led to his being named the MAC's top utility player. He started all 59 games for the RedHawks, 34 at first, 15 behind the plate, nine at third, and one as a designated hitter. Galloway also led the MAC in hits and runs scored. His final batting average of .422, after the MAC tourney, was the second-highest, single-season mark behind Chris Sexton's .429 average in 1993. Galloway's 94 hits, 161 total bases, 72 runs, and 63 RBI are also all the second-highest season totals at Miami. On a national level Galloway's .422 clip was tied for 22nd among all Division I players. He was drafted in the 14th round by the Toronto Blue Jays and signed.

Second base: Gamin Teague (senior, Brampton, Ont.), of the Grand Valley State Lakers.

Teague earned North Central region first-team honors leading the Great Lakes Conference with nine home runs. He was second in the conference with a .662 slugging percentage. Teague also led the Lakers with a .362 average. He also had 13 doubles, and 30 walks. His strong year helped Grand Valley State to its first NCAA Division II tournament appearance since 1994. Teague earned all-Canadian second-team honors in 2001.

Third base: Monte Scott (senior, Calgary, Alta.), of the Peru State Bobcats.

Scott was a two-way threat at third and on the mound for the Bobcats. Scott hit his 18th homer as Peru State beat the Doane Tigers 11-3 in the Region IV NAIA tourney in Fremont, Neb. Scott drove in four runs on the day. His efforts did not go without notice as he won Midlands Conference Player of the Year. Scott also earned first team All-Conference honors at third. Scott had an average of .373 with nine doubles, a triple, 18 homers and 56 RBIs.

Shortstop: Daniel Grant (sophomore, Thunder Bay, Ont.), of the Parkland Cobras.

Grant helped Parkland beat Frederick 6-3 to win the NJCAA Division II World Series and was named World Series MVP at USA Stadium in Millington, Tenn. Grant homered and drove in three runs as Parkland forced a deciding game by beating Frederick 7-3 in the final. Grant went 8-for-26 (.308) in the championship tournament. He was also named conference, region and Illinois Player of the Year as well as winning all-American honors. Grant hit .411 with 12 doubles, four triples, three homers and 45 RBIs, while stealing 15 bases.

Outfield: Ryan Kenning (senior, North Vancouver, BC), of the New Mexico State Aggies; Jean-Francois Dufour (freshman, Beauharnois, Que.), of Saint Rose Golden Knights; and Jon Bosnick (sophomore, New Westminster, BC), of the Garden City Broncbusters.

Kenning won all-America honors as he was selected to the first team by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association, while leading the nation with 96 runs batted in. He finished with a .319 average and 24 home runs, one shy of the NMSU record. He tied a school record with 42 extra-base hits. His 96 RBIs set a school and Sun Belt Conference record. Kenning also had a team-best .725 slugging percentage. He added 15 doubles and three triples. Kenning was also named District VIII Player of the Year by the NCBWA and was a semifinalist for both the Dick Howser Trophy and the Rotary Smith Award. Kenning won the NCAA Home Run Challenge in Omaha, Nebraska and was a 12th round draft pick of the Anaheim Angels.

Dufour won the Northeast-10 Conference Freshman of the Year honor. The NE-10's 12 head coaches conducted the voting. He was also chosen a first-team All-League pick. Dufour batted .356 and tied for the conference lead with 19 home runs and set a Saint Rose single-season record with 67 runs scored. His 69 hits and 57 RBIs were among the top five marks in school history. Dufour was also among the conference's top-10 players in hits, runs scored, RBI, slugging percentage (.722) and home runs.

Bosnick helped Garden City to the eastern NJCAA Sub Regional where the Broncbusters lost to the Hutchison Dragons. Bosnick hit .422 in 60 games with 17 doubles, three triples, 12 homers and 56 RBIs.

DH: Clark Andres (junior, San Clara, Man.), of the Mayville State Comets. Like Crain, Scott and others, Andres was a double-duty man. Besides being the Comets best pitcher, Andres was some kind of slugger as Mayville State reached the 46th Avista NAIA World Series at Harris Field in Lewiston, Idaho for the first time. Andres homered in Mayville State's 16-11 win over Ohio Dominican and pitched the win. On the season, he hit .357 with 13 doubles, two triples, 14 homers and 56 RBIs.

Second Team

Right-handed starter (tie): John Axford (freshman, Port Dover, Ont.), of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, and Brooks McNiven (junior, Vernon, BC), of the British Columbia Thunderbirds.

Axford made 12 starts for the Irish in his freshman year as Notre Dame went 50-18 to finish No. 6 in the final Baseball America rankings, the school's highest-ever ranking. Axford was 5-2 in 17 games -- 12 starts -- with a 3.95 ERA. He fanned 64 hitters in 70 2/3 innings. McNiven may have pitched in the shadow of first-rounder Jeff Francis, yet it was McNiven who led UBC in wins. McNiven went 10-1 in 14 games -- 12 starts -- with a 2.39 ERA, while fanning 66 in 86 2/3 innings.

Left-handed starter: Ryan Balan (senior, Whitby, Ont.) of the California-Pennsylvania Vulcans.

Balan earned Pennsylvania State Conference Player of the Year and was a first-team selection as a pitcher. When he wasn't hitting home runs, Balan was on the mound. Balan was 7-1 with a 0.91 ERA and 50 strikeouts in 59.1 innings pitched. He had six complete games. He held opponents to a conference-best .157 average. Balan is the first all-American from California since eventual Baltimore Orioles pitcher Rick Krivda. Balan signed as a free-agent with the Boston Red Sox.

Reliever: Jordy McNiven (freshman, Vernon, BC), of the British Columbia Thunderbirds. McNiven picked up four saves for the T-Birds, who went 33-19, not a bad way to break into the college ranks. McNiven, who joins his older brother Brooks on the second team, had a 1.65 ERA allowing 24 base runners in 16 1/3 innings, while striking out 22.

Catcher: George Kottaras (freshman, Markham, Ont.), of the Connors State Cowboys. Kottaras hit a lusty .420 with 21 doubles, two triples, 13 homers and 63 RBIs for Connors.

First base: Karl Amonite (sophomore, Woodslee, Ont.), of the Connors State Cowboys. The fences in Oklahoma were barely standing when Amonite was finished driving balls over and off the outfield walls. He hit .412 with 18 doubles, a triple, 17 homers and 71 RBIs.

Second base: Marc Chabot (sophomore, Kingston, Ont. -- Canada's first capital), of the Connors State Cowboys. If it looks like an all-Connors second team, that because it is -- up until this point as we move through the position players. Chabot hit .402 with eight doubles, two triples, three homers, 28 RBIs and a steady glove.

Third base: Geoff Zimmerman (junior, Moose Jaw, Sask.), of the Mayville State College Comets. Zimmerman ended the Connors infield domination hitting .360 for the Comets, who reached the 46th Avista NAIA World Series with a 34-13 record. Zimmerman had 15 doubles, 12 homers and 42 RBIs.

Shortstop: Jesse Crain (junior, Toronto, Ont.), of the Houston Cougars. You may have heard of Crain before, like about two screens back. Crain, transferred from San Jacinto, and took over the starting role. He hit .310 with 13 doubles, 11 homers and 47 RBIs.

Outfield: Glenn Jackson (freshman, Toronto, Ont.) of the Barton CC, Kansas, Cougars; Ryan Balan (senior, Whitby, Ont.) of the California-Pennsylvania Vulcans and Len Elias (senior, Mississauga, Ont.) of the Bowling Green Falcons. Jackson was named Tri-Freshman of the Year in the West division of the Jayhawk conference. Jackson was 40-for-41 in stolen base attempts to set a school record. His 10 triples broke the mark of seven set by Scott Moffitt in 1990. Jackson also hit .433 with five homers and 56 RBIs. Balan earned North Atlantic Region Position Player of the Year in a vote by the region's coaches. He hit .402 with 39 runs scored, 38 RBIs, eight doubles and 12 home runs for the PSAC Western Division champion Vulcans. Balan was fourth in the conference batting race and second in homers. He was 11-for-12 in stolen base attempts. He also makes our second team as the lefty starter. Elias, a first-team all-Canadian in 2001, re-wrote the Falcons record book in his final season. He became the all-time, leading hitter in school history with the 252nd hit of his career. Elias now has six career records at BGSU (at-bats, hits, runs scored, doubles, total bases and RBIs). Elias hit .343 with 15 doubles, two triples, 10 homers and 57 RBIs.

DH: Aaron Izaryk (freshman, Markham, Ont.) of the Maine Black Bears. Izaryk earned America East Conference first-team honors, was named to the conference All-Rookie team and shared the Louisville Slugger's freshman All-American team at the DH spot. Izaryk becomes the 15th All-American in Black Bear baseball history. Izaryk hit .367 with six doubles, a homer and 22 RBIs.

Third team

Right-handed starter (tie): Jim Ripley (sophomore, Pickering, Ont.), of the Connors State Cowboys, and Monte Scott (senior, Calgary, Alta.) of the Peru State Bobcats.

Ripley was an impressive 9-1 with a 3.35 ERA for Connors State, fanning 94, while walking only 19 in 56 1/3 inning. Scott won Midlands Conference Player of the Year for his 18 homers at third and for an 11-4 record with a 1.97 ERA, while fanning 66 in 76 1/3 innings.

Left-handed starter: Ryan Lupul (junior, Prince George, BC), of the Williams Penn Statemen. Lupul was 8-1 with a 2.36 ERA in nine starts, fanning 81 and walking only 18 in 61 innings.

Reliever: Ryan Harris (junior, Woodstock, NB) of the Maine Black Bears. Harris was 4-1 with two saves as Maine reached the NCAA regionals in Los Angeles. Harris had a 4.85 ERA.

Catcher (tie): Alain Picard (junior, St. Foy, Que.), of the Maine Black Bears and Darrick Jones (senior, Baldur, Man.), of the Graceland Yellow Jackets. Picard hit .340 with 20 doubles, six homers and 53 RBIs for Maine, America East champs. Jones batted .439 with 15 doubles, three triples, six homers and 45 RBIs for Graceland.

First baseman: Gary Moraes (senior, Surrey, BC), of the Louisiana-Shreveport State Pilots. Moraes hit .360 with 16 doubles, two triples, 13 homers and 70 RBIs.

Second base: Tim Hinchliffe (junior, London, Ont.), of the Ashland Eagles. Hinchliffe helped Ashland reach the 35th NCAA Division II championships in Montgomery, Ala. Hinchliffe hit .337 in 60 games with 10 doubles, a triple, four homers and 46 RBIs.

Third base (tie): Mike Gillies (senior, Port Moody, BC), of the Nevada-Reno Wolfpack, and Hyung Cho (sophomore, Scarborough, Ont.), of the Houston Cougars. Gillies, a second-team, all-Canadian, hit .344 with 13 doubles, nine homers and 49 RBIs. Cho batted .270 with five doubles, a triple, six homers and 28 RBIs.

Shortstop: Aaron Hornostaj (freshman, Waterloo, Ont.), of the Connors State Cowboys. Connors did place another member of its infield on the all-Canadian team. Hornostaj hit .403 with 10 doubles, one triple, four homers and 38 RBIs. Selected in the 34th round of the 2001 draft by the San Francisco Giants, Hornostaj signed with the Giants for a \$75,000 bonus.

Outfield: Danny Gibbons (junior, Toronto, Ont.), of the Central Michigan Chippewas; Matthew Stocco (freshman, Guelph, Ont.), of the Spartanburg Methodist Pioneers and Mark Zamojc (sophomore, Burlington, Ont.) of the British Columbia Thunderbirds. Gibbons, a first-team all-Canadian in 2001, was bothered by injury in 2001, but still managed to hit .341 with 11 doubles, two triples, seven homers and 39 RBIs. He was drafted in the 24th round and signed with the Oakland A's. Stocco hit .321 with 12 doubles, a triple, 11 homers and 48 RBIs. Zamojc led UBC in hitting, with a .328 mark. He had 11 doubles, a triple, seven homers and 52 RBIs.

DH: C Brad Reid (senior, Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.), of the Southeastern State Oklahoma Savage. Reid, a Central Michigan transfer, hit .340 with eight doubles, a triple, two homers and 36 RBIs.

And our Honorable Mention:

Right-handers: Brad Grieveson (sophomore, Creemore, Ont.), of the Southeastern State Oklahoma Savage and Devin Monds (freshman, Ottawa, Ont.), of the Northeastern Huskies.

Relievers: Igor Roiberg (sophomore, Toronto, Ont.), of the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers and Shane Sowden (senior, Moose Jaw, Sask.), of the Central Missouri State Mules.

Catcher: Jeff Crinklaw (sophomore, Cambridge, Ont.) of Ohlone.

First base: Rich Dean (senior, Langley, BC), of the Mayville State Comets.

Second base: Vince Ircandia (freshman, Calgary, Alta.), of the Niagara Purple Eagles and Ivan Naccarata (sophomore, Longueil, Que.), of the Chipola Indians.

Third base: Mike Coe (freshman, Lethbridge, Alta.), of the Northeastern Oklahoma A & M Norsemen and Russell Martin (sophomore, Montreal, Que.) Chipola Indians.

Shortstop: Craig Hern (junior, Bindloss, Alta.), of the Mayville State Comets.

Outfielders: Sean Camilleri (freshman, Coquitlam, BC), of the Harding Bison; Alan Cantwell (senior, Saint John, NB), of the Louisiana State Shreveport Pilots; Darryl Cormier (sophomore, Toronto, Ont.), of the Bacone Warriors; David Lamky (sophomore, Cambridge, Ont.), of the Northwood Timberwolves; Richard Leach (junior, Port Lambton, Ont.), of the Tiffin Dragons; Charlie MacFarlane (freshman, Lantzville, BC), of the Eastern Oklahoma State Mountaineers; Corey Stang (freshman, Surrey BC), of the Northeastern Oklahoma A & M Norsemen; Al Stephens, (junior, Ajax, Ont.), of the Troy State Trojans.

DH: Jake Toms (senior, Toronto, Ont.), of the Albany Great Danes.

A look back at the 2000 and 2001 All-Canadian teams can be found at slam.ca/SlamBaseballCanadaPlayer/01_allstars.html.

First Team

Right-handed starter (tie): Rich Harden (sophomore, Victoria, BC), of the Central Arizona Vaqueros, Jeremy Herauf (senior, Regina, Sask.), of the Winthrop Eagles and Jason Mandryk (junior, Langdon, Ont.), of the East Carolina Pirates.

Left-handed starter: Jeff Francis (sophomore, North Delta, BC), of the British Columbia Thunderbirds.

Catcher: B.J. Grenda (junior, Winfield, BC), of the Centenary Gents.

First base: Peter Babcock (senior St. Thomas, Ont.), of the Indianapolis Greyhounds.

Second baseman: John Cole (junior, Kanata, Ont.), of the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

Third baseman: Mike Galloway (sophomore, St. Thomas, Ont.), of the Central Michigan Chippewas.

Shortstop: Lee Delfino (junior, Pickering, Ont.), of the East Carolina Pirates.

Outfielders: Len Elias (junior, Mississauga, Ont.), of the Bowling Green Falcons; Jay Scott (junior, Burlington, Ont.), of the Saginaw Valley State Cardinal and Danny Gibbons (sophomore, Toronto, Ont.), of the North Central Texas Lions.

Closer: Dustin Bolton (freshman, Edmonton, Alta.), of the Southwestern Iowa Spartans.

Right-handed starter: Chris Howay (junior, New Westminster, BC), of the McNeese State Cowboys.

Left-handed starter: Jordan Gerk (junior, Kelowna, BC), of the Oral Roberts Golden Eagles and Tim Goheen (junior, Proton Station, Ont.), of the Saginaw Valley Cardinals.

Catcher: Paul Schlosser (junior, Medicine Hat, Alta.), of the Georgia State Panthers.

First base: Trent Kitsch (junior, Kelowna, BC), of the Las Vegas Runnin' Rebels and Mike Galloway (freshman, St. Thomas, Ont.), of the Central Michigan Chippewas.

Second base: Jess Bechard (senior, Brantford, Ont.), of the Kent State Golden Flashes.

Third base: Nom Siriveaw (sophomore, Vancouver, BC), of the Eastern Oklahoma Mountaineers.

Shortstop: Shayne Ridley (senior, Milton, Ont.), of the Ball State Cardinals.

Outfield: Ben Emond (senior, Farnham, Que.), of the Texas Longhorns; Jason Bay (senior, Trail, BC), of the Gonzaga Stags and Kyle Leon (sophomore, Guelph, Ont.), of Charleston Southern Buccaneers.

Designated hitter: Craig Munroe (senior, Thornhill, Ont.), of the Maryland Terps.

SLAM! Canadian Baseball 2002 All-Canadian Team Stats

First Team (First-team votes in brackets)

Pitchers

Name	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
RHP Astle (8)	0.71	10-0	15	9	8	3	4	68.2	42	13	7	26	70
LHP Francis (8)	1.93	7-2	14	13	3	1	1	74.2	47	24	16	16	101
RP Crain (16)	0.23	4-0	26	0	0	0	10	38.1	22	2	1	10	46

Position Players

Player	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
C Harriman (9)	.412	55-55	228	49	94	13	2	14	69
1B Galloway (9)	.422	59-59	223	72	94	16	3	15	63
2B Teague (9)	.362	45-45	141	41	51	13	1	9	37
3B Scott (9)	.373	50-50	161	38	60	9	1	18	56
SS Grant (7)	.411	62-62	185	60	76	12	4	3	45
OF Kenning (16)	.319	61-60	229	66	73	15	3	24	96
OF Dufour (8)	.356	50-49	194	67	69	15	0	19	57
OF Bosnick (5)	.422	60-60	180	57	76	17	3	12	56
DH Andres (13)	.357	45-45	143	37	51	13	2	14	56

Second Team

Pitchers

Name	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
RHP Axford (5)	3.95	5-2	17	12	0	0	0	70.2	59	45	31	59	64
RHP McNiven (1)	2.39	10-1	14	12	3	0	0	86.2	66	35	23	21	66
LHP Balan (7)	0.91	7-1	9	8	6	1	0	59.1	31	9	6	30	50
RP McNiven	1.65	0-2	17	0	0	0	4	16.1	8	9	3	16	22

Position Players

Player	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
C Kottaras (4)	.420	51-51	162	51	68	21	2	13	63
1B Amonite (7)	.412	51-51	170	61	70	18	1	17	71
2B Chabot (4)	.402	42-42	132	39	53	8	2	3	28
3B Zimmerman (3)	.360	49-49	161	53	58	15	0	12	42
SS Crain (4)	.310	64-64	258	51	80	13	0	11	47
OF Jackson (6)	.433	54-54	187	85	81	5	10	5	56
OF Balan (3)	.402	42-42	132	39	53	8	0	12	38
OF Elias (2)	.343	53-53	201	52	69	15	2	10	57
DH Izaryk (2)	.367	37-25	98	23	36	6	0	1	22

Third Team

Pitchers

Name	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
RHP Ripley (1)	3.35	9-1	13	12	0	0	0	56.1	50	27	21	19	94
RHP Scott	1.97	11-4	15	12	2	0	1	76.1	74	30	21	19	66
LHP Lupul (1)	2.36	8-1	11	9	6	2	1	61.0	46	23	16	18	81
RP Harris	4.85	4-1	18	0	0	0	2	29.2	25	21	16	21	17

Position Players

Player	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
C Jones (1)	.439	45-45	148	30	65	15	3	6	45
C Picard (1)	.340	52-52	188	46	64	20	0	6	53
1B Moraes	.360	64-64	211	55	76	16	2	13	70
2B Hinchliffe (2)	.337	60-60	187	45	63	10	1	4	46
3B Cho (4)	.270	63-63	241	33	65	5	1	6	28

3B Gillies	.344	54-54	215	52	74	13	0	9	49
SS Hornostaj (5)	.403	59-59	181	55	73	10	1	4	38
OF Gibbons (3)	.341	38-35	138	31	47	11	2	7	29
OF Stocco (3)	.321	58-57	190	52	61	12	1	11	48
OF Zamojc (1)	.328	52-51	204	47	67	11	1	7	52
DH Reid	.340	44-44	144	26	49	8	1	2	36

Honourable Mention

Pitchers

Name	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
RHP Grieveson (1)	1.85	9-6	17	14	8	2	0	92.2	81	34	19	22	67
RHP Monds	1.80	5-2	11	10	6	0	1	65.0	50	17	13	23	53
RP Roiberg	0.71	1-0	8	1	0	0	0	12.2	9	1	1	4	10
RP Sowden	4.30	3-0	16	0	0	0	1	29.1	30	15	14	13	19

Position Players

Player	AVG	GP-GS	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI
C Crinklaw	.346	45-43	185	42	64	10	0	12	55
1B Dean	.333	49-49	141	57	47	6	0	18	52
2B Ircandia	.341	45-45	176	30	60	8	2	3	27
3B Coe	.344	45-37	128	33	44	11	0	3	24
SS Hern	.353	46-46	153	47	54	11	3	6	36
SS Odamura	.345	48-48	165	50	57	6	2	5	31
OF Camilleri	.354	47-43	161	44	57	15	2	3	27
OF Cantwell	.373	52-48	169	57	63	17	4	2	37
OF Cormier (1)	.361	53-51	168	60	57	14	0	7	50
OF Lamky	.357	50-50	171	31	61	15	0	5	40
OF Leach	.380	47-43	150	32	57	11	1	2	27
OF MacFarlane	.342	51-50	193	41	66	14	0	6	42
OF Stang	.398	40-31	108	26	43	6	1	3	24
OF Stephens (1)	.278	45-40	133	25	37	4	1	2	18
DH Toms	.329	48-48	158	34	52	10	0	4	31

Sinacori Rejoins Arizona State as Assistant Coach

After four years as a pitching coach and rehabilitation pitching coordinator in the Chicago White Sox minor league system, Chris Sinacori has rejoined the Arizona State Baseball coaching staff for the 2003 season. Sinacori, who was ASU's pitching coach during the 1998 College World Series runnerup season, will serve as the pitching coach in 2003 for the Sun Devils.

"Chris Sinacori will be a great addition to our coaching staff," said ninth-year ASU head baseball coach Pat Murphy. "He was great with our players in 1998 when we played in the College World Series and after four years with the White Sox he will have a lot to add to our pitching staff."

Under Sinacori's guidance, the '98 ASU pitching staff posted a 41-23 record and came within one game of recording ASU's sixth national championship. Future professional players from that pitching staff included Chuck Crumpton, Aaron Kramer, Chad Pennington, Ryan Mills, Robby Milner, Phill Lowery, Richy Leon, Drew Friedberg, Dan Meier and Jay Gehrke.

Sinacori has spent the past four years with the White Sox in their minor league system. He mentored five current big league pitchers (Danny Wright, Jon Rauch, Matt Ginter, Rocky Biddle, Lorenzo Barcelo) and six first-round draft picks (Jason Stumm, Ginter, Brian West, Rob Purvis, Kris Honel, Royce Ring) as a coach with the White Sox. His 2001 (3.35 ERA) and 2002 (3.62) pitching staffs both finished second in the Arizona League. Last year he coached two of the top 10 pitchers in the league, with Brandon McCarthy and Daniel Haigwood finishing one and two in strikeouts.

"Chris Sinacori was a big part of our minor league instruction and an instrumental part of helping our younger pitchers develop. He is one heck of a pitching coach," said Chicago White Sox pitching coach Don Cooper.

Prior to his coaching stint with the Sun Devils in 1998, Sinacori spent seven years as a professional player with Los Angeles (1991-95), Toronto (1995), Florida (1996) and Arizona (1997) minor league

organizations. He was drafted in the 15th round of the 1991 free agent draft by the Dodgers. Sinacori played two years for the University of Tennessee and one year for Florida International. He was a two-time USA Today All-America at MacArthur High School in Levittown, N.Y., and earned the New York Diamond Award as the top prep player in the state of New York. He was also a member of the 1988 USA Baseball Junior Olympic team that won the gold medal in Australia. Sinacori graduated with a degree in liberal arts and sciences (psychology) from the University of Tennessee.

Alabama Announces 2003 Schedule

University of Alabama head coach Jim Wells released the 2003 baseball schedule earlier this month—one that includes two teams that played in the 2002 College World Series and five teams that advanced to NCAA Super Regional play last year. In all, Alabama will play 11 NCAA Tournament participants this season, including Louisiana-Lafayette (39-23), Houston (48-17), Rice (52-14), Southeast Missouri State (37-20), Georgia (32-29), Florida (46-19), LSU (44-22), Auburn (34-26), South Alabama (42-19), Arkansas (35-28) and South Carolina (57-18). "This is another very good schedule against some very good teams," Alabama head coach Jim Wells said. "We have a number of difficult non-conference games as well as the always demanding SEC schedule. The SEC had the No. 2 RPI in the nation last year and seven teams made the NCAA Tournament and two more could have. I am very excited about the Astros College Classic to open the season. We will play three quality teams in a major league baseball stadium (Minute Maid Park home of the Houston Astros). It will be three challenging games against three very good teams." Alabama will open the season Feb. 14-16, 2003, against UL Lafayette, Houston and Rice in the 2003 Astros College Classic in Houston. All three teams played in the NCAA Tournament last year, with Houston falling the national champion Texas Longhorns in the Super Regional, and Rice advancing to the College World Series for the third time under coach Wayne Graham. Those three teams were a combined 139-54 (.720) last season, and UH and Rice probably will be ranked in the Top Five in most 2003 preseason polls.

St. Joseph's Names Four to Hall of Fame, 2002 Standouts Honored

Jerry Benetatos, Scott Gilbert, Bob Polletti and Dave Thornton are the four latest inductees to the Saint Joseph's University Baseball Hall of Fame. Their induction is part of the team's annual Awards Dinner held tonight in the University's Flanigan Auditorium and brings the Hall's roster to 20 former players and coaches. Benetatos, a 1969 SJU grad, captured second team all-Middle Atlantic Conference honors as an infielder in 1968 and 1969. The Narberth, Pa., native (Lower Merion H.S.) batted .321 as a junior, leading the team in stolen bases, and upped his numbers to .368 as a senior, striking out just three times 99 at bats.

A power-hitting outfielder for the Hawk teams of the mid-1980s, Gilbert ranked as SJU's career leader in doubles (27), homers (18) and RBI (91) when he graduated in 1988. A .314 lifetime hitter, the Richboro, Pa. product (Council Rock H.S.) hit .353 with 11 doubles as a sophomore and .331 as a senior with team-highs of eight home runs, 32 RBI and a .432 on-base percentage. Thornton, a 24th round draft pick by the San Francisco Giants in 1979, went a combined 16-5 on the mound in his four Hawk seasons. A two-time All-East Coast Conference pick, he garnered first team honors as frosh, going 5-0 and second team as a senior after going 5-1 on the hill. His 16 victories were school record at the time and still rank third all-time. The Rahway, N.J. native (Union Catholic H.S.) was tabbed as the MVP of the Hawks' 1979 team. The final inductee, Polletti was the premier player of his era, starring when baseball returned to Saint Joseph's after World War II. A standout both at and behind the plate, he captained the team as both a junior and senior in 1948 and 1949.

The Hawks' 2002 award winners were also honored. Senior Pace Bradshaw (Darnestown, Md.) and junior Mike Walls were named co-Most Valuable Players. Seniors Justin Godusky (Macungie, Pa.) was recognized as the Hitter of the Year while senior Mike Minerva (West Roxbury, Mass.) and junior Bill McCollum (Medford, N.J.) notched Co-Pitchers of the Year laurels.

2000 USA Baseball Alumni Had Monster Year in 2002 Majors

Two years after the United States captured their first ever "official" Olympic gold medal in the sport of baseball, the alumni players that have played for USA Baseball in the past, arguably had their most memorable summer ever during the 2002 Major League Baseball season. When spring training camp broke back in April, a record 117 former USA Baseball players donned the uniform of a big league team. By the end of the season, that number had swelled to a total of 160 players who were performing their skills at the highest level. But several USA Baseball alums stood out above the rest, and helped make 2002 a year to remember for our organization.

Jason Jennings (Baylor) - a member of the 1997 & 98 USA Baseball National Teams and the winner of the 1999 Golden Spikes Award - became the first alum to ever capture National League Rookie of the Year honors. The last USA alum to grab the award in the American League was 1992 Team USA Olympian Nomar Garciaparra (Georgia Tech), in 1997. A pair of Angels made a huge splash in the post-season, as 1996 Team USA Olympian Troy Glaus (UCLA) was named World Series MVP after leading Anaheim to the title. That was only after Adam Kennedy (Cal State Northridge) - Team USA's second baseman at the 1999 Pan Am Games - blasted three home runs in the Angels' American League Championship Series clinching win over the Twins, as Kennedy grabbed the ALCS MVP Award. All told, 29 USA Baseball alumni participated in this year's memorable MLB post-season, while Glaus, Kennedy, Scott Spiezio (Illinois), and Tom Goodwin (Fresno State) made it all the way to the Fall Classic. Nine former USA Baseball players made this year's All-Star teams in their respective leagues. But it was a 1992 USA Junior National Team member that had the biggest season of them all. Alex Rodriguez posted numbers unheard of for a shortstop, finishing second in the American League MVP voting. The Texas Ranger connected on the most home runs ever by a shortstop, leading the Major Leagues with 57. He also topped the A.L. in RBI with 142.

Garciaparra led the A.L. in doubles with 56, and his 1992 Olympic teammate Jason Giambi (Long Beach State) finished among the league's Top 10 in all three triple crown categories, in his first year wearing Yankee pinstripes. On the mound, 1999 USA Pan Am teamer Mark Mulder (Michigan State) finished fourth in the league with 19 wins, and was also among the Top 10 in ERA and strikeouts. 1996 USA Olympian Billy Koch (Clemson) was second in the A.L. with 44 saves, while his Olympic teammate Jeff Weaver (Fresno State), topped the league with three shutouts. Over in the National League, 1993 USA Baseball National Team alum Todd Helton (Tennessee) put together another outstanding campaign. The Rockies first baseman was fourth in the circuit with a .329 batting average and drove in 109 runs. Pat Burrell (Miami, Fla.) - a star on the 1997 USA Baseball National Team - had a break out year by collecting 116 RBI, good for third in the league. He also ripped 37 home runs.

2000 USA Olympic Gold Medalist Brad Wilkerson (Florida) also emerged onto the scene in Montreal by finishing second in the league with eight triples, and second to Jennings in the N.L. Rookie of the Year race. Wilkerson's teammate in Sydney - Roy Oswalt - became the ace of the Astros staff by posting 19 wins with a 3.01 ERA and 208 strikeouts, all Top 5 numbers among pitchers in the N.L. Many younger former Team USA stars made headlines in their Major League rookie debuts. Those players included Mark Prior (six wins for the Cubs—Vanderbilt/Southern California), Kirk Saarloos (six wins for the Astros—Cal State Fullerton), Austin Kearns (led the Reds with a .315 batting average), Ben Diggins (Brewers), Devon Brazelton (Devil Rays—Middle Tennessee State), Justin Wayne (Marlins), Sean Burroughs (Padres), Casey Fossum (Red Sox—Texas A&M), Joe Borchard (White Sox—Stanford), Orlando Hudson (Blue Jays), Carl Crawford (Devil Rays), Josh Bard (Indians—Texas Tech), and Willie Bloomquist (Mariners).

And as USA Baseball gears up for another summer in 2003, and we continue to prepare young players for international competition, our goal remains the same: field the best players in the nation to give the United States the best chance to win gold medals. But the summer of 2002 proved that those players - once they finish competing against other countries while wearing the Red, White and Blue uniform - have learned to take that USA Baseball experience with them to the next level of their careers, and continue to shine in the Major Leagues.

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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