



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS
NEWSLETTER
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NCBWA President's Message
By Rob Carolla

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe, but baseball season is just about here. In fact, two schools will begin their seasons **THIS WEEK** as Arizona State travels to Hawaii-Hilo. Not a bad trip of course, especially one that most of us in the cold North would *love* to make this time of year! Best of luck to both schools and SIDs as they embark on the first pitch of the 2003 season.

As you've probably seen, the numerous preseason polls are being released on a regular basis. In addition to the latest NCBWA rankings, *Baseball America*, *Collegiate Baseball* and others have had preseason previews hit the newsstands while various conferences have come out with their respective predictions. A special thanks goes to Bob McComas of Slippery Rock and the various SIDs who are helping to coordinate the Division II poll this season. Your help is invaluable in promoting those teams and players and it is greatly appreciated.

In preparation for '03, your officers are currently working on an updated version of the NCBWA Directory. Our hope is to significantly expand the volume of information to make it an indispensable tool for college baseball and its media. For those of you who still owe us information, please send it over as soon as possible! The plan is to have an improved directory in your hands by sometime in mid to late February. If you have any suggestions for additions in the future, please feel free to let us know!

As with anything else regarding the NCBWA, please let myself or any other board member know if you have any suggestions or concerns. If there are other issues regarding college baseball that you would like me to address, please free to send an e-mail or give me a call.

As always, thank you for your dedication to college baseball and membership in the NCBWA. Let's all make a resolution to have an enjoyable baseball season! Good luck and safe travels to each and every team as well as the media who cover them during 2003.

Rob Carolla
NCBWA President
The BIG EAST Conference

It's Here: Arizona State Plays Hawai'i-Hilo Jan. 16-19

College baseball season unofficially starts Thursday with the annual Arizona State alumni game at 1 p.m. (MST). ASU left Tuesday for a six-game series at the University of Hawai'i-Hilo from Jan. 16-19. The game times at for the ASU-Hilo have been announced and follow.

Jan. 16: 6 p.m. at Wong Stadium (Hilo)
Jan. 17: 3 p.m. at Wong Stadium (Hilo) - DH
Jan. 18: 1 p.m. at Kona
Jan. 19: 10 a.m. at Kona - DH

Check Out the New, Improved Dick Howser Trophy Website

For more information on the national player of the year trophy and NCBWA's involvement with the prestigious Dick Howser Trophy, please access <http://www.dickhowsertrophy.com/abouttheaward.asp>.

2003 NCBWA Division I Baseball Preseason Poll

The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association continues its tradition of NCAA Division I polls for the sixth year with its 2003 preseason survey.

Weekly polls will continue through the Monday (June 23, 2003) following the NCAA World Series in Omaha, Neb.

The first poll of the 2003 season has representation by seven different conferences and top independents among the 284 baseball-playing schools in the NCAA Division I ranks.

Rank/School

1. Texas
2. Rice
3. Georgia Tech
4. Southern California
5. Stanford
6. Florida State
7. Houston
8. Cal State Fullerton
9. LSU
10. Arizona State
11. Wake Forest
12. Richmond
13. Notre Dame
14. Baylor
15. South Carolina
16. Long Beach State
17. Miami (Fla.)
18. Nebraska
19. South Alabama
20. Mississippi State
21. Stetson
22. Clemson
23. North Carolina
24. Central Florida
25. Ohio State
26. James Madison
27. SMS
28. Virginia Tech
29. Florida Atlantic
30. East Carolina
31. Auburn
32. Virginia Commonwealth
33. Wichita State
34. Southern
35. Kent State

2003 COLLEGIATE BASEBALL Division I Preseason Poll

<u>Rank School ('02 Final Record)</u>	<u>Points</u>	<u>Final '02 Rank</u>
1. Texas (57-15)	496	1
2. Florida State (60-14)	493	9
3. Southern California (37-24)	490	12
4. Rice (52-14)	489	7
5. Georgia Tech (52-16)	485	5
6. LSU (44-22)	484	11
7. Cal. State Fullerton (37-22)	479	28
8. South Carolina (57-18)	477	2

9. Stanford (47-18)	475	4
10. Houston (48-17)	470	10
11. Mississippi State (34-24-1)	468	NR
12. Arizona State (37-21)	464	26
13. Long Beach State (39-21)	462	27
14. Miami, Fla. (34-29)	458	17
15. Wake Forest (47-13-1)	457	14
16. Richmond (53-13)	456	13
17. Baylor (36-26)	450	NR
18. Clemson (54-18)	449	3
19. Notre Dame (50-18)	447	6
20. South Alabama (42-19)	445	25
21. Florida Atlantic (46-21)	440	15
22. Nebraska (47-21)	438	8
23. Tulane (36-27)	437	NR
24. SMS (43-21)	432	NR
25. California (29-27)	430	NR
26. Central Florida (41-22)	424	NR
27. Oklahoma (35-27)	423	NR
28. James Madison (44-16)	419	NR
29. Ohio State (38-20-1)	416	NR
30. Wichita State (47-17)	411	22
31. Kent State (37-22)	408	NR
32. Stetson (42-19)	405	NR
33. Georgia (32-29)	403	NR
34. North Carolina (43-21)	398	19
35. Texas Tech (42-20)	395	24
36. East Carolina (43-20-1)	392	NR
37. Southern (45-10)	390	NR
38. Florida International (41-20)	386	NR
39. Oklahoma State (37-21)	380	NR
40. Auburn (34-26)	379	NR

2003 BASEBALL AMERICA Division I Preseason Poll

Rank School ('02 Final Record)

1. *Georgia Tech (52-16)
2. *Rice (52-14)
3. *Stanford (47-18)
4. Florida State (60-14)
5. *Texas (57-15)
6. Southern California (37-24)
7. Wake Forest (47-13)
8. Arizona State (37-21)
9. Louisiana State (44-22)
10. Baylor (36-26)
11. Houston (48-17)
12. *Notre Dame (50-18)
13. Cal State Fullerton (37-22)
14. *South Carolina (57-18)
15. Richmond (53-13)
16. Long Beach State (39-21)
17. Mississippi State (34-24)
18. Stetson (42-19)
19. *Clemson (54-17)
20. *Nebraska (47-21)
21. Auburn (34-26)

22. North Carolina (43-21)
23. South Alabama (42-19)
24. Florida Atlantic (46-21)
25. Va. Commonwealth (38-27)
26. Tulane (36-27)
27. Southwest Mo. State (43-21)
28. James Madison (44-16)
29. Georgia (32-29)
30. Mississippi (37-19)
31. Miami (34-29)
32. California (29-27)
33. Oklahoma State (37-21)
34. Texas A&M (35-24)
35. Ohio State (38-20)
36. Texas Tech (42-20)
37. Alabama (51-15)
38. Oklahoma (35-27)
39. Central Florida (41-22)
40. South Florida (35-29)
41. Wichita State (47-17)
42. Georgia Southern (39-25)
43. Pepperdine (31-32)
44. Fla. International (41-20)
45. San Diego State (43-23)
46. Louisiana-Lafayette (39-23)
47. Washington (33-27)
48. San Jose State (45-17)
49. UC Irvine (33-26)
50. Kent State (37-22)

Inaugural NCBWA Division II Poll

1.	Kennesaw State (11)	746
2.	Cal State Chico (6)	738
3.	Columbus State (9)	683
4.	Central Missouri	680
5.	Abilene Christian (1)	647
6.	Tampa (1)	604
7.	Delta State	599
8.	North Florida	546
9.	Ashland	506
10.	Florida Southern	499
11.	U Mass-Lowell	420
12.	Southern Arkansas	399
13.	Georgia College & State	355
14.	Alabama-Huntsville	351
15.	Rollins	311
16.	Mesa State	300
17.	Dallas Baptist	277
	South Carolina-Aiken	277
19.	Central Oklahoma	273
20.	Southern Colorado	123
21.	Cal State-San Bernardino	121
22.	Valdosta State	107
23.	Mansfield	97
24.	Grand Canyon	93
25.	Northern Kentucky	83

Also receiving votes: Kutztown 82, Southeastern Oklahoma 68, Pittsburg State 65, Fort Hays State 53, North Alabama 50, Slippery Rock 49, Carson Newman 36, Shepherd 32, Bryant 30, Armstrong Atlantic 26, Saginaw Valley 25, Concordia, NY 24, SIU-Edwardsville 23, Saint Rose 12, Nebraska-Omaha 8, Franklin Pierce and Presbyterian 6 each, Rockhurst and Saint Leo 5 each, Incarnate Word and Southern Connecticut State 3 each, Belmont Abbey 2, Catawba 1 and Southwest State (MN) 1 each.

Preseason 2003 COLLEGIATE BASEBALL Louisville Slugger All-America Teams

First Team

LHP Justin Simmons, Texas (16-1, 2.52 ERA, 4 CG)
RHP Brad Sullivan, Houston (13-1, 1.82 ERA, 157 K, 49 BB)
RHP Tim Stauffer, Richmond (15-3, 1.54 ERA, 13 CG, 140 K, 34 BB)
RHP Kyle Sleeth, Wake Forest (14-0, 2.97 ERA, 113 K, 41 BB)
LHP Kyle Bakker, Georgia Tech. (13-2, 3.14 ERA, 115 K, 24 BB)
RHP Steven Herce, Rice (13-3, 2.79 ERA, 5 CG, 104 K, 23 BB)
Relief Huston Street, Texas (14 SV, 0.96 ERA, 49 K, 9 BB)
C Landon Powell, South Carolina (Great defense, .292, 17 2B, 12 HR, 53 RBI)
C Tony Richie, Florida State (Superb defense, .353, 17 2B, 13 HR, 75 RBI)
1B Vincent Sinisi, Rice (.428, 22 2B, 11 HR, 80 RBI)
2B Rickie Weeks, Southern (.495, 15 2B, 20 HR, 12 3B, 96 RBI, 10 SB)
3B Antoin Gray, Southern (.449, 18 2B, 19 HR, 77 RBI)
SS Stephen Drew, Florida State (.402, 15 2B, 16 HR, 54 RBI, 13 SB)
OF Ryan Goleski, Eastern Michigan (.381, 17 2B, 22 HR, 70 RBI)
OF Vito Chiaravalloti, Richmond (.357, 17 2B, 23 HR, 86 RBI)
OF Ryan McGraw, Coastal Carolina (.382, 10 2B, 5 HR, 43 RBI, 63 SB)
UT Michael Aubrey, Tulane (.316, 15 2B, 7 HR, 52 RBI, 8-1 pitching record, 4.45 ERA, 36 K, 18 BB)

Second Team

RHP Derek DeCarlo, Florida International
LHP Abe Alvarez, Long Beach State
RHP Bobby Sawicki, S.W. Texas State
LHP Matt Lynch, Florida State
RHP Philip Humber, Rice
RHP Justin Verlander, Old Dominion
Relief Chad Cordero, Cal. State Fullerton
C Chris Westervelt, Stetson
C Ryan Garko, Stanford
1B Michael Johnson, Clemson
2B Tim Moss, Texas
3B Jamie D'Antona, Wake Forest
SS David Reaver, Richmond
OF Dustin Majewski, Texas
OF Matt Murton, Georgia Tech.
OF Jeff Leise, Nebraska
UT Wes Whisler, UCLA

Third Team

LHP Jeremy Sowers, Vanderbilt
RHP Ryan Schroyer, Arizona State
RHP Jake Tompkins, Louisiana State
RHP Grant Johnson, Notre Dame
RHP Jeff Watchko, Georgia Tech.
RHP Wes Littleton, Cal. State Fullerton
LHP Paul Maholm, Mississippi State
RHP Matt Durkin, San Jose State
RHP Scooter Michael, N.C. Greensboro

RHP Jered Weaver, Long Beach State
 LHP Scott Lewis, Ohio State
 Relief Daniel Hodges, Florida State
 Relief James Russell, Villanova
 Relief David Aardsma, Rice
 Relief George Huguet, Miami (Fla.)
 C Jeremy West, Arizona State
 C David Castillo, Oral Roberts
 C Brady Burrill, Michigan State
 1B Kelly Hunt, Bowling Green State
 1B Bryan Zenchyk, Stetson
 1B Eddie Kim, James Madison
 1B Joey Metropoulos, Southern California
 2B Eric Patterson, Georgia Tech.
 3B Darryl Lawhorn, East Carolina
 3B Conor Jackson, California
 3B Lee Curtis, Coll. of Charleston
 3B Aaron Hill, Louisiana State
 3B Brian Snyder, Stetson
 3B Kevin Matuszek, Morehead State
 SS Brian Bixler, Eastern Michigan
 SS Anthony Lunetta, Southern California
 OF Shane Costa, Cal. State Fullerton
 OF Jeff Barry, Vermont
 OF Sam Fuld, Stanford
 OF Terry Trofholz, Texas Christian
 OF Cary Page, Morehead State

2003 BASEBALL AMERICA Preseason All-America Teams

First Team

	Player, College	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	Last Drafted
C	Landon Powell, South Carolina	B-R	6-3	225	Jr.	.292	274	49	12	53	2	Never drafted
1B	Wes Whisler, UCLA	L-L	6-5	227	So.	.328	177	33	18	46	2	Cubs '01 (42)
2B	Rickie Weeks, Southern	R-R	5-11	195	Jr.	.495	198	82	20	96	10	Never drafted
3B	Conor Jackson, California	R-R	6-3	190	Jr.	.382	220	43	16	61	7	Indians '00 (31)
SS	Stephen Drew, Florida State	L-R	6-1	185	So.	.402	204	64	16	54	13	Pirates '01 (11)
OF	Michael Aubrey, Tulane	L-L	6-0	175	Jr.	.316	209	40	7	52	6	Never drafted
OF	Anthony Gwynn, San Diego State	L-L	6-0	185	Jr.	.339	248	58	1	36	25	Braves '00 (33)
OF	Carlos Quentin, Stanford	R-R	6-2	215	Jr.	.303	241	55	12	54	11	Never drafted
DH	Matt Murton, Georgia Tech	R-R	6-1	214	Jr.	.344	250	62	10	58	20	Never drafted
	Player, College	B-T	Ht.	Wt.	Cl.	W-L	ERA	IP	H	BB	SO	Last Drafted
P	David Aardsma, Rice	R-R	6-5	190	Jr.	7-1	3.47	60	65	14	53	Never drafted
P	Kyle Bakker, Georgia Tech	L-L	6-9	255	Jr.	13-2	3.14	135	132	24	115	Phillies '00 (37)
P	Kyle Sleeth, Wake Forest	R-R	6-5	185	Jr.	14-0	2.97	118	115	41	113	Orioles '00 (18)
P	Tim Stauffer, Richmond	R-R	6-2	205	Jr.	15-3	1.54	146	110	34	140	Orioles '00 (36)
P	Brad Sullivan, Houston	R-R	6-1	190	Jr.	13-1	1.82	129	80	49	157	Never drafted

Second Team

C	Tony Richie, Florida State	R- R	6-1	215	Jr.	.353	249	59	13	75	1	White Sox '00 (5)
1B	Michael Johnson, Clemson	L- R	6-4	220	Sr.	.384	263	62	25	81	11	Padres '02 (2)
2B	Eric Patterson, Georgia Tech	L- R	5- 11	170	So.	.346	260	73	3	40	41	Rockies '01 (22)
3B	Lee Mitchell, Georgia	R- R	6-2	190	Jr.	.286	245	48	14	55	6	Never drafted
SS	Aaron Hill, Louisiana State	R- R	6-0	200	Jr.	.329	222	46	9	47	10	Angels '00 (7)
OF	Michael Bourn, Houston	L- R	5- 11	170	Jr.	.327	248	68	1	23	32	Astros '00 (19)
OF	Ben Harrison, Florida	R- R	6-3	190	Jr.	.342	161	42	8	38	6	Never drafted
OF	Jeremy Slayden, Georgia Tech	L- R	6-0	188	So.	.348	256	74	18	66	4	Padres '01 (20)
DH	Shane Costa, Cal State Fullerton	L- R	6-1	200	Jr.	.365	233	55	4	40	14	Devil Rays '00 (37)
P	Chad Cordero, Cal State Fullerton	R- R	6-1	195	Jr.	4-3	2.91	56	46	20	81	Padres '00 (26)
P	Wes Littleton, Cal State Fullerton	R- R	6-3	200	Jr.	9-4	2.40	131	116	34	86	Expos '00 (7)
P	Paul Maholm, Mississippi State	L- L	6-3	214	Jr.	10-3	3.43	102	103	33	77	Twins '00 (17)
P	David Purcey, Oklahoma	L- L	6-5	240	So.	5-4	3.35	75	77	44	84	Mariners '01 (20)
P	Jeremy Sowers, Vanderbilt	L- L	6-1	175	So.	6-5	4.37	101	104	31	85	Reds '01 (1)

Third Team

C	Javi Herrera, Tennessee	R- R	6- 2	195	Jr.	.200	60	10	12	4	0	0	7	1	Red Sox '00 (42)
1B	Vince Sinisi, Rice	L- L	6- 0	195	So.	.428	271	65	116	22	2	11	80	13	Never drafted
2B	Tim Moss, Texas	B- R	5- 11	177	Jr.	.371	302	73	112	16	7	1	39	40	Never drafted
3B	Jamie D'Antona, Wake Forest	R- R	6- 2	205	Jr.	.336	223	54	75	10	1	20	83	2	Never drafted
SS	Matt Macri, Notre Dame	R- R	6- 2	195	Fr.	.206	68	10	14	3	0	1	13	1	Twins '01 (17)
OF	Rod Allen, Arizona State	R- R	6- 1	199	Jr.	.278	209	46	58	15	2	6	50	14	Reds '00 (34)
OF	Sam Fuld, Stanford	L- L	5- 10	180	Jr.	.375	293	67	110	20	4	8	47	8	Never drafted
OF	Javon Moran, Auburn	R- R	5- 11	174	Jr.	.365	266	59	97	11	3	3	41	18	Never drafted
DH	Chad Corona, San Diego State	R- R	6- 3	208	Jr.	.323	201	38	65	13	2	9	34	0	Cubs '00 (16)
P	Scott Baker, Oklahoma State	R- R	6- 4	190	Jr.	6-3	3	4.23	13	0	77	75	23	47	Pirates '00 (36)
P	Matt Brown, California	R- R	6- 5	220	Jr.	5-3	3	3.70	21	6	73	77	23	55	Never drafted
P	Chris Ray, William & Mary	R- R	6- 3	190	Jr.	4-4	4	4.17	29	7	41	40	14	40	Never drafted
P	Anthony Reyes, Southern California	R- R	6- 2	215	Sr.	4-2	2	3.44	12	0	65	69	17	49	Tigers '02 (13)
P	Bob Zimmermann, SMS	R- R	6- 5	220	Jr.	2-3	3	4.02	17	6	47	53	24	41	Rockies '00 (14)

Notre Dame Selected to Win Big East Baseball Title; Irish's Sollmann Tabbed Preseason Player of the Year; Boston College's Lambert Picked for Preseason Pitching Award

The Notre Dame Fighting Irish have been selected by the league coaches as the preseason favorite to capture the 2003 BIG EAST Baseball Championship, it was announced. Irish junior second baseman Steve Sollmann was picked as the Preseason Player of the Year, while sophomore righthander Chris Lambert of Boston College was tabbed as the Preseason Pitcher of the Year. Coaches were not allowed to vote for their own teams or players.

Notre Dame is coming off a trip to the College World Series and its 14th straight 40-win season with a 50-18 record. The Irish garnered nine first-place and placed two players on the preseason All-BIG EAST team, led by Sollmann. He finished last season ranked among the league's top 10 in hits (77), runs (53) and triples (4). Sollmann also hit .362 with 47 RBI and was MVP of the South Bend Regional in the NCAA Championship. Pitcher Grant Johnson was the other Notre Dame representative named to the preseason team. Virginia Tech was picked second and collected one first-place vote. The Hokies shared the 2002 BIG EAST Regular Season Championship with Notre Dame. Tech will be led by a trio of Preseason All-BIG EAST picks. Infielders Spencer Harris and Marc Tugwell were both All-BIG EAST First Team members last season. Harris (.292, 5 HR, 40 RBI) and Tugwell (.342, 79 hits, 47 RBI) are joined by catcher Jed English (.312, 3 HR, 31 RBI) on the preseason squad.

Boston College had the other first place vote and was picked third. The Eagles will be led by Lambert who was named both the 2002 BIG EAST Pitcher and Rookie of the Year. The sophomore had a 9-3 record with a league-low 2.76 ERA in his first year. Joining Lambert on the preseason first team are infielder Jason Delaney, outfielder Drew Locke and designated hitter Vinnie Scavone.

Rutgers was fourth, followed by State John's and Seton Hall, respectively. The Scarlet Knights will be led by Jeff Frazier who hit .356 with 13 home runs, 54 RBI and had a .596 slugging percentage in 2002. The Pirates are represented on the preseason All-BIG EAST team by senior Casey Grimm. A member of the All-BIG EAST First Team in 2002, Grimm hit .363 with a .490 on-base percentage.

Connecticut, Pittsburgh and Villanova were seventh, eighth and ninth. Peter Soteropoulos will lead the Huskies after hitting .374 with 46 RBI. The Panthers will be led by senior pitcher P.J. Hiser (6-2, 3.01 ERA). The Wildcats placed pitcher James Russell and Chris Graziano on the preseason squad, after both earned second team honors last season. Russell was third in the nation with 15 saves, while Graziano's 38 stolen bases topped the league leaders.

Rounding out the selections were West Virginia and Georgetown. Senior Tim McCabe was chosen to the preseason All-BIG EAST team for the Mountaineers. Last season he hit .305 with 10 home runs and 32 RBI. The Hoyas will be led by sophomore Bill Quinn, a third team All-BIG EAST selection in 2002. A total of 15 players earned recognition on the Preseason All-BIG EAST Team. The 11 teams will play in one division and play a 26-game conference slate. The top four teams at the end of the regular season advance to the 2003 BIG EAST Championship, which will be held at Commerce Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater, N.J., on May 22-24. The winner of the league's tournament champion will receive an automatic bid to the NCAA Championship.

2003 Big East Baseball Preseason Predictions

ORDER OF FINISH

	Team (1st Place Votes)	Pts.	2002 Record
1.	Notre Dame (9)	98	50-18 (18-8 BIG EAST)
2.	Virginia Tech (1)	85	33-26 (18-8)
3.	Boston College (1)	80	30-25 (15-11)
4.	Rutgers	75	35-22 (15-11)
5.	State John's	58	29-23 (14-12)
6.	Seton Hall	55	25-28 (11-15)
7.	Connecticut	44	28-22 (13-12)
8.	Pittsburgh	42	36-16-1 (14-11)
9.	Villanova	29	30-23 (12-13)
10.	West Virginia	27	24-26 (9-16)
11.	Georgetown	12	9-47 (2-24)

PRESEASON PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Steve Sollmann, Notre Dame, Jr., 2B, 5-10, 190, Cincinnati, Ohio/State Xavier

PRESEASON PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Chris Lambert, Boston College, So., RHP, 6-0, 195, Manchester, N.H./Manchester Memorial

Preseason All-BIG EAST Team Key 2002 Statistics (All Games Played)

P - Chris Lambert, Boston College, So.** 9-3, 2.76 ERA, 78.1 IP, 87 SO, 5 CG, .216 Opp. Avg.

P - Grant Johnson, Notre Dame, So. 9-5, 3.46 ERA, 101.1 IP, 86 SO, 1 CG

P - James Russell, Villanova, Sr. 1-3, 2.33 ERA, 27 IP, 15 Saves, 35 SO, 8 BB

C - Jed English, Virginia Tech, Sr. .312, 37 R, 60 H, 14 2B, 3 HR, 31 RBI

IF - Jason Delaney, Boston College, So. .348, 32 R, 63 H, 15 2B, 27 RBI, .417 OBP

IF - Steve Sollmann, Notre Dame, Jr. .362, 53 R, 77 H, 4 3B, 47 RBI, .420 OBP

IF - Spencer Harris, Virginia Tech, Sr. .292, 39 R, 12 2B, 3 3B, 5 HR, 40 RBI, 10 SB

IF - Marc Tugwell, Virginia Tech, Sr. .342, 50 R, 79 H, 14 2B, 3 3B, 5 HR, 47 RBI, 12 SB

IF - Tim McCabe, West Virginia, Sr. .305, 37 R, 8 2B, 10 HR, 32 RBI, .520 Slug%

OF - Drew Locke, Boston College, So. .404, 34 R, 16 2B, 24 RBI, .455 OBP, .560 Slug%

OF - Jeff Frazier, Rutgers, So. .356, 45 R, 13 HR, 54 RBI, .439 OBP, .596 Slug%

OF - Casey Grimm, Seton Hall, Sr. .363, 25 R, 6 HR, 38 RBI, .490 OBP, .548 Slug%

OF - Chris Graziano, Villanova, Sr. .270, 38 R, 9 2B, 4 3B, 20 RBI, 38 SB

DH - Vinnie Scavone, Boston College, Sr. .287, 40 R, 10 2B, 10 HR, 42 RBI, .495 Slug%

U - Peter Soteropoulos, Connecticut, So. .374, 43 R, 71 H, 46 RBI, .463 OBP, .500 Slug%

** - unanimous selection; a tie created additional infield and outfield positions.

Collegiate Baseball Tabs Texas to Repeat as Big 12 Champ

To the surprise of very few and since the Longhorns return All-America pitchers Justin Simmons (16-1) and Huston Street (14 saves), Texas has been selected to capture the 2003 Big 12 Conference title in a survey of conference head coaches. The CB projected finish for the nation's third-highest composite Ratings Percentage Index league in 2002 follows.

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

Pitcher of the Year-Justin Simmons, Texas; **Players of the Year**-2B Tim Moss, Texas; OF Dustin Majewski, Texas

Astros Host Annual Houston Astros College Classic, Presented by Houston CHRONICLE

The Houston Astros will play host to some of the top teams in college baseball with the 2003 Astros College Classic, presented by the *Houston Chronicle*. Held in conjunction with Astros FanFest, the six-team tournament will feature nine games at Minute Maid Park from February 14-16, 2003. Tickets for the event went on sale December 10. Alabama, Baylor, Houston, Louisiana-Lafayette, Rice, and Texas A&M make up the field in the tournament's third year. Five of those teams - Alabama, Baylor, Houston, Louisiana-Lafayette, and Rice - advanced to the NCAA Championships last year, and Rice (No. 5), Houston (No. 10), and Alabama (No. 13) closed the 2002 season ranked in Baseball America's Top 25, with the Owls participating in the 2002 College World Series.

Astros FanFest also returns with family activities surrounding the Classic. The winter baseball carnival offers fans the opportunity to meet Astros players, play interactive baseball games, participate in baseball clinics, and watch some of the nation's best college baseball teams. FanFest will run Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 15-16 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and the purchase of a ticket for either day's baseball games will be good for admittance into FanFeState

Tickets for the Astros College Classic and the Astros FanFest will be available at the Minute Maid Park Box Office beginning Tuesday. Single ticket prices are \$30 for the entire tournament and \$12 for daily admission on Friday-Sunday. Children's tickets, for ages 4-14, are \$15 for the tournament and half-price (\$6) daily. Student tickets are also half-price (\$6) and are only available at the Box Office with a valid student ID. Special seating areas are available by contacting Astros Ticket Services at (713) 259-8500, while all other tickets will be General Admission and good for seating on the Main Concourse only. The Box Office is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are also available by telephone through toll-free number: (877) 9-ASTROS (877-927-8767), on the web at www.astros.com, or at any of the Astros' regular Houston-area outlets (Oshman's SuperSports/Sears Hardware).

2003 ASTROS COLLEGE CLASSIC SCHEDULE*

Fri., Feb. 14	UL Lafayette vs. Alabama	11 am
	Baylor vs. Houston	3 pm
	Texas A&M vs. Rice	7 pm
Sat., Feb. 15	ASTROS FANFEST	10 am - 6 pm
	Alabama vs. Houston	11 am
	Texas A&M vs. UL Lafayette	3 pm
	Baylor vs. Rice	7 pm
Sun., Feb. 16	ASTROS FANFEST	10 am-6 pm
	Alabama vs. Rice	11 am
	Baylor vs. UL Lafayette	3 pm
	Texas A&M vs. Houston	7 pm

*All times subject to change

New Boxed Set Available from USA BASEBALL

Upper Deck and USA Baseball have teamed up to compile a 32-card box set featuring the 2002 USA Baseball National Team, which includes several of the projected top picks in the upcoming 2003 MLB draft. Collectors will also have an opportunity to collect 2002 Team USA jersey cards and signatures from 27 USA Baseball alumni, including Jeff Francoeur, Joe Mauer and Mark Prior.

The 30-card regular set includes cards of each of the 23 members of the 2002 FISU World Championships silver-medal winning USA Baseball National Team, and offers cards from each of the four coaches, a team photo card, a medal stand action card, and a checklist. The 2002 USA Baseball National Team included such top college prospects as 2002 USA Baseball Athlete of the Year Michael Aubrey (Tulane), *Baseball America* Summer Player of the Year Brad Sullivan (Houston), 2002 College World Series MVP Huston Street (Texas), and Rickie Weeks (Southern), *Baseball America's* projected 2003 #1 Overall Draft Pick. "The 2002 USA Baseball National Team Box Set features the premier collegiate players in the country that represented the United States at international competitions throughout this past summer," said USA Baseball's Director, Marketing and Licensing David Perkins. "With a production run of only 10,000 sets, this presents a limited opportunity for collectors to obtain some of the first cards ever produced of these high-profile amateur players."

Some Quick Hits, Milestones

Some quick hits and milestones ahead for the 2003 season---only days away!

-Alabama begins its 110th season of intercollegiate play...Ohio State will be in its 120th baseball campaign...Duke starts its 110th year of varsity baseball...Elon is in its 105th season...Holy Cross participates in its 115th season...Brown begins its 140th year of baseball---second on the Division I baseball list behind Fordham with 144 seasons, including 2003.

-Interestingly, no DI team began baseball and played continuously for 100 seasons from 1904-2003. Celebrating their 100th campaigns of baseball in 2002 were Texas A&M and Washington.

-Probable milestone wins upcoming for 2003 are Fordham with a national-record 3,150 (Rams begin the year with 3,145 for the current high)...Washington State with 2,300 (needs 18), Clemson with 2,200 (needs 12), Minnesota with 2,100 (needs one), Princeton with 2,000 (needs 16), Oklahoma with 2,000 (needs 17), Notre Dame with 2,000 (needs 27), Northwestern with 1,500 (needs one), Long Island with 1,000 (needs

20), Dartmouth with 1,000 (needs 12), Loyola Marymount with 1,000 (needs 14), Butler with 1,000 (needs 11), Middle Tennessee with 1,000 (needs 15), and Austin Peay with 1,000 (needs 19).

Texas Dominates Central Texas Collegiate Awards

After helping the UT baseball team capture the 2002 National Championship, University of Texas Preseason All-Americans **Justin Simmons** (DeSoto, Texas/Duncanville), **Huston Street** (Austin, Texas/Westlake), and **Dustin Majewski** (Brenham, Texas/Brenham/Blinn College) will be honored as the top collegiate baseball players in Central Texas at the third-annual Round Rock Express Winter Baseball Banquet. The event, which will be emceed by Craig Way, the radio voice of the Longhorns, and have former Major Leaguer Tom House as its featured speaker, will be held at the United Heritage Center at The Dell Diamond on Saturday, Feb. 1.

While Simmons and Majewski were tabbed the 2002 Central Texas College Pitcher and Player of the Year, respectively, Street garnered Central Texas College Newcomer of the Year distinctions. Additionally, this trio will be recognized along with 13 high school players, four professional players and a local baseball legend (to be announced at a later date) from Central Texas at the upcoming banquet. Other Longhorns to be honored at this event include former pitcher Beau Hale in 2000 (Central Texas College Player of the Year) and current UT infielder Omar Quintanilla in 2001 (Central Texas College Co-Player of the Year).

Simmons, who was a finalist for the Dick Howser Trophy as well as the Rotary Smith Award in 2002 and was a first team All-America, posted a nation-best 16-1 overall record last season while boasting a 2.52 ERA and 80 strikeouts over 128.1 innings of work. Notably, Simmons, who was named the 2002 Big 12 Pitcher of the Year, also became the first UT pitcher to start a season with a 14-0 record since Jim Gideon and Richard Wortham each turned the trick in 1975.

Majewski, on the other hand, led the Big 12 with a .401 batting average to become the first UT player to hit over .400 for a season since Brian Cisarik (.429) in 1987. He also amassed 40 runs scored, 20 doubles, 10 home runs and 50 RBI during his junior campaign. A native of Brenham, Texas, Majewski, who hit a team-best .471 during postseason play and is returning for his senior year in 2003 after being drafted by the Boston Red Sox in last year's MLB Amateur Draft, was named a third-team All-American as a junior and was also selected as the Big 12 Tournament and Austin NCAA Regional Most Outstanding Player one year ago. Street, meanwhile, set UT freshman records for saves (14) and appearances (35) last season with marks that ranked fifth and 10th in those respective categories nationally. A third-team All-American and first team Freshman All-America, Street, who struck out 49 and walked only nine over 47 innings while boasting a 0.96 ERA after making a team-high 35 appearances, also tallied a College World Series (CWS) record four saves en route to earning the CWS Most Outstanding Player Award. Of note, with this honor, Street becomes the first player to be named to the Central Texas Preseason High School All-Star Team (2001) and then go on to earn recognition at this event at the college level. All proceeds from the banquet will go to the Round Rock Sertoma Club and their speech and hearing programs. For tickets, please contact Charlie Culpepper with the Sertoma Club at (512) 388-5295.

Record 285 Teams in NCAA Division I Baseball in 2003

NCAA Statistics and baseball guru (and a Wilbur Snyppe Award winner) Jim Wright has compiled a list of the record 285 Division I baseball teams for 2003 with affiliations.

Maryland

America East (7)

Albany (N.Y)
Binghamton
Hartford
Maine
Northeastern
Stony Brook
Vermont

North Carolina
North Carolina State
Virginia
Wake Forest

Atlantic Sun (12)

Atlantic Coast (9)

Clemson
Duke
Florida State
Georgia Tech

Belmont
Campbell
UCF
Fla. Atlantic
*Gardner-Webb
Georgia State
Jacksonville

Jacksonville State
Mercer
Samford
Stetson
Troy State

Atlantic 10 (12)

Dayton
Duquesne
Fordham
George Washington
La Salle
Massachusetts
Rhode Island
Richmond
State Bonaventure
State Joseph's
Temple
Xavier

Big East (11)

Boston College
Connecticut
Georgetown
Notre Dame
Pittsburgh
Rutgers
State John's (N.Y.)
Seton Hall
Villanova
Virginia Tech
West Virginia

Big South (8)

Charleston Southern
Coastal Carolina
Elon
High Point
Liberty
UNC Asheville
Radford
Winthrop

Big Ten (10)

Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Michigan
Michigan State
Minnesota
Northwestern
Ohio State
Penn State
Purdue

Big 12 (10)

Baylor
Kansas
Kansas State
Missouri

Nebraska
Oklahoma
Oklahoma State
Texas
Texas A&M
Texas Tech

Big West (8)

UC Irvine
UC Riverside
UC Santa Barbara
Cal Poly
Cal State Fullerton
Cal State Northridge
Long Beach State
Pacific (Calif)

Colonial (10)

Delaware
Drexel
George Mason
Hofstra
James Madison
UNC Wilmington
Old Dominion
Towson
Va. Commonwealth
William & Mary

Conference USA (12)

UAB
Charlotte
Cincinnati
East Carolina
Houston
Louisville
Memphis
State Louis
South Florida
Southern Mississippi
TCU
Tulane

Horizon (7)

Butler
Cleveland State
Detroit
Illinois-Chicago
Wis.-Milwaukee
Wright State
Youngstown State

Ivy (8)

Brown
Columbia
Cornell
Dartmouth
Harvard
Pennsylvania
Princeton

Yale

Metro Atlantic (10)

Canisius

Fairfield

Iona

LeMoyné

Manhattan

Marist

Niagara

Rider

St. Peter's

Siena

Mid-American (13)

Akron

Ball State

Bowling Green

Buffalo

Central Michigan

Eastern Michigan

Kent State

Marshall

Miami (Ohio)

Northern Illinois

Ohio

Toledo

Western Michigan

Mid-Continent (6)

Chicago State

Oakland

Oral Roberts

Southern Utah

Valparaiso

Western Illinois

Mid-Eastern (7)

Bethune-Cookman

Coppin State

Delaware State

Florida A&M

Md.-EaState Shore

Norfolk State

North Carolina A&T

Missouri Valley (9)

Bradley

Creighton

Evansville

Illinois State

Indiana State

Northern Iowa

Southern Ill.

SMS

Wichita State

Mountain West (6)

Air Force

Brigham Young

UNLV

New Mexico

San Diego State

Utah

Northeast (10)

Central Connecticut State

Fairleigh Dickinson

Long Island

UMBC

Monmouth

Mt. State Mary's

Quinnipiac

Sacred Heart

State Francis (N.Y.)

Wagner

Ohio Valley (8)

Austin Peay

Eastern Illinois

Eastern Kentucky

Morehead State

Murray State

Southeast Missouri

Tenn.-Martin

Tennessee Tech

Pacific-10 (9)

Arizona

Arizona State

California

Oregon State

Southern California

Stanford

UCLA

Washington

Washington State

Patriot (6)

Army

Bucknell (doubles!)

Holy Cross

Lafayette

Lehigh

Navy

Southeastern (12)

Alabama

Arkansas

Auburn

Florida

Georgia

Kentucky

LSU

Mississippi

Mississippi State

South Carolina

Tennessee
Vanderbilt

Southern (11)

Appalachian State
College of Charleston
Citadel
Davidson
East Tenn. State
Furman
Ga. Southern
UNC Greensboro
VMI
Western Caro.
Wofford

Southland (10)

Lamar
La.-Monroe
McNeese State
Nicholls State
Northwestern State
Sam Houston State
Southeastern La.
Southwest Tex. State
Texas-Arlington
Texas-San Antonio

Southwestern (10)

Alabama A&M
Alabama State
Alcorn State
Ark.-Pine Bluff
Grambling
Jackson State
Mississippi Val.
Prairie View
Southern U.
Texas Southern

Sun Belt (9)

Ark.-Little Rock
Arkansas State
Florida International

UL Lafayette
Middle Tenn. State

New Mexico State
New Orleans
South Ala.
Western Ky.

West Coast (8)

Gonzaga
Loyola Marymount
Pepperdine
Portland
State Mary's (Cal.)
San Diego
San Francisco
Santa Clara

Western Athletic (6)

Fresno State
Hawaii
Louisiana Tech
Nevada
Rice
San Jose State

Independents (11)

*Cal State Sacramento
Centenary (La.)
Hawaii-Hilo
*IUPU-Ft. Wayne
Miami (Fla.)
Morris Brown
New York Tech
Pace
*Savannah State
Texas-Pan American
*Texas A&M-Corpus Christi

No Longer Division I (2)

C.W. Post (to DII)
Howard (dropped sport)

New to Division I (4)

Gardner-Webb (from DII)
IUPU-Ft. Wayne (from DII)
Tex. A&M-Corpus Christi (from DI provisional)
Savannah State (from DII)

***New baseball conference member for 2003**

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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