



## **NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS** **NEWSLETTER**

*(Volume 43, No. 1, Feb. 10, 2004)*

### **NCBWA President's Message**

**By NCBWA President Jeff Hurd**

It may be a little cold and snowy from where you are reading this, but please be assured that the 2004 college baseball season is well under way.

First, let me congratulate a great friend of college baseball, John Manuel of BASEBALL AMERICA, for reception of the 2003 Wilbur Snyppe Award. John has devoted thousands of hours to college coverage, major issues in collegiate athletics and extensive research, and he is a faithful member of NCBWA.

If you are in the state of Hawai'i, you probably have some 20-25 college baseball games by now. The Aloha State seems to be one of the few to miss the precipitation this time of year (and they do have an occasional tropical shower there), but it is great to see the season get underway, read the early NCBWA polls, and think warmer thoughts of spring.

Incidentally, for the media relations contacts in our group, please check CoSIDA DIGEST, ably edited by North Alabama SID Jeff Hodges, for rules, deadlines and compilations of the annual CoSIDA/NCBWA publications' contests. There is competition for both media guides and programs/yearbooks, so jump in and send entries. With pending NCAA legislation, the future of media guides is a bit vague at this juncture, so enjoy the guides and contests while you can as NCAA action awaits in April, 2004.

Have a great year, and go to a college game soon !

Jeff Hurd - NCBWA President  
The Western Athletic Conference

### **NCBWA Preseason Poll**

The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association continues its tradition of NCAA Division I polls for the seventh year with its 2004 weekly surveys. Weekly polls will continue from Feb. 2-June 30, 2004, following the NCAA World Series in Omaha, Neb.

The initial poll of the 2004 season has representation by eight different conferences and top independents among the 287 baseball-playing schools in the NCAA Division I ranks.

#### **Rank/School (2003 Record)**

1. Rice (58-12)
2. LSU (45-22)
3. Stanford (51-18)
4. Georgia Tech (44-18)
5. Miami (Fla.) (45-17)
6. Texas (50-20)
7. Cal State Fullerton (50-16)
8. Long Beach State (41-20)
9. South Carolina (45-22)
10. Tulane (44-19)
11. Arizona State (54-14)
12. Wichita State (49-27)
13. Notre Dame (45-18)
14. Clemson (39-22)
15. Baylor (45-23)

16. Florida State (54-13)
17. North Carolina (42-23)
18. Washington (42-18)
19. Mississippi (35-27)
20. Arizona (35-23)
21. Nebraska (47-18)
22. North Carolina State (45-18)
23. Texas A&M (45-19)
24. Florida (37-21)
25. Florida Atlantic (47-16)
26. Ohio State (44-21)
27. UNLV (47-17)
28. UC Riverside (41-17)
29. Stetson (41-24)
30. Winthrop (35-22)
31. Southern Miss (47-16)
32. Virginia Commonwealth (46-13)
33. Mississippi State (42-20)
34. Southern (44-7)
35. Oklahoma State (34-24)

Also Receiving Votes: Auburn, Minnesota, Southern California, California, Alabama, Houston, Kansas, Rutgers, Texas-Arlington, Oklahoma, TCU, Pepperdine, Coastal Carolina, Richmond, New Orleans, Arkansas, Princeton, Vanderbilt, Illinois-Chicago, Tennessee, Missouri.

#### **John Manuel Chosen as 2003 Wilbur Snyppe Award Winner**

Because of his commitment to college baseball, John Manuel, one of the leading experts as a writer, radio commentator and television analyst, has been named as the winner of the 2003 National Collegiate Baseball Writers' Wilbur Snyppe Award. He is the third recipient to be honored from Baseball America, following Jim Callis (2000) and Allen Simpson (1998).

"John is one of the most dedicated baseball writers, especially on the college beat, in America," said NCBWA Executive Director Bo Carter. "He has won many national awards, and this is just another he can add to a well-stocked trophy case. John has been a great friend and adviser to NCBWA for many years as well." Manuel, 31, has worked at Baseball America in Durham, N.C., since 1996 and took over the college beat from former Wilbur Snyppe winner Callis in the summer of 1997. He has covered the last six College World Series for Baseball America magazine and has provided daily coverage of every game for the last five CWS on BaseballAmerica.com. He started writing his twice-weekly web column in April 1999. He also has done television work for ESPN, College Sports Television and Comcast Cable and this summer provided radio color commentary for Team USA's eight games in Durham. A North Carolina native and UNC alumnus, Manuel is married to Becky Kirkland and lives in Cary, N.C.

"I'm very humbled and honored to have won this award for doing a job I love," Manuel said. "College baseball is important to Baseball America magazine and BaseballAmerica.com, and I would not have been in position to be considered for the award if not for BA's commitment to the sport. That commitment is the main reason that three BA staffers have now won the Snyppe, and we intend to maintain that commitment with the help of players and coaches who shape the sport. Thank you."

Manuel is the 29th 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 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 others.

#### **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
2003	John Manuel, Baseball America

#### **Western Carolina's Raleigh Named North Carolina Baseball Coach of Year**

Western Carolina head baseball coach Todd Raleigh has been named 2003 College Coach of the Year by the North Carolina Baseball Coaches Association. The organization, made up of high school and college coaches as well as professional scouts, recognized Raleigh in late Dec., 2003.

"The committee was very impressed with what Todd has done at Western Carolina," said NCBCA Executive Director Ronald Vincent. "Western Carolina had a terrific spring and could have easily gone to the NCAA Super Regionals. Plus WCU had made great improvement over the past four years under Todd's leadership." Last season, Raleigh led Western Carolina to both the Southern Conference regular-season and tournament championships. The Cats posted a 43-21 record overall and were 22-8 in the SoCon. During their impressive run, Western claimed wins over Clemson, who was ranked 10th at the time, and swept Oklahoma State on the road. Western's 12-5 and 15-9 victories at Oklahoma State marked the first time since 1974 (29 years) that the Cowboys had lost consecutive games at home to a non-conference opponent, dropping a mid-week doubleheader to John Brown (4-21 and 4-5) on April 2, 1974. The last time the Cowboys lost a two-game series to a non-conference opponent at home on back-to-back days was 1954.

Western, after winning the 2003 Southern Conference Baseball Championship, earned an automatic bid to the NCAA Wilson Regional, hosted by North Carolina State. After going 15-38 and not qualifying for the SoCon tournament in his first season at Western, Raleigh has directed the Catamount program back to the top of the Southern Conference. In his second season, WCU finished third in the league (18-11) and improved to 30-26 overall, which was the biggest single-season turnaround in SoCon history (+14.5 wins over the previous season). In 2002, Western was 33-23 and was second in the SoCon with a 20-10 record. That season Raleigh was named Southern Conference Coach of the Year.

#### **Correction**

For the LA Dodgers' fans out here, here is a correction in the Dec., 2003, newsletter NCBWA All-America team copy. Jeff Weaver is now pitching with the Los Angeles Dodgers (traded from the New York Yankees).

### **Tulane Chosen Preseason Baseball Favorite, ECU'S Lawhorn Named Preseason Player of the Year; TCU'S Jerome Tabbed Preseason Pitcher of the Year**

Coming off of its sixth consecutive NCAA appearance and armed with 17 returning lettermen, Tulane has been selected as the preseason favorite in the 2004 Conference USA baseball poll, chosen by the league's 12 head coaches. East Carolina junior infielder/outfielder Darryl Lawhorn, who has hit 33 home runs in his first two collegiate seasons, is the Preseason C-USA Player of the Year. Clayton Jerome of TCU, who was named Conference USA Pitcher of the Year last season, was selected to repeat that honor this spring.

Tulane posted a 20-10 record in C-USA in 2003, finishing with an overall mark of 44-19, the second-highest win total in the league. The Green Wave are represented by three players on the preseason all-conference team. Sophomore LHP J.R. Crowell was the ace of a youthful Tulane pitching staff where freshman produced 30 of the club's 44 victories. Crowell was 8-1 with a 3.40 ERA, tossing two complete games and striking out 73 batters. Infielder Tommy Manzella earned a spot on the team as did Brian Bogusevic, who is a preseason all-league choice as an outfielder, but is also a valuable pitcher. Manzella hit .343 in 2003, tying for the team high with 20 doubles and ranking second on the club in RBI with 44. Bogusevic's freshman campaign included a .321 average with 10 doubles, four homers and 36 RBI at the plate and three wins and a 3.41 ERA in 34 innings pitched on the mound.

Defending regular season and tournament champion Southern Miss was chosen to finish second. After setting a C-USA record for conference wins (23) and a school record for overall victories (47), the Golden Eagles welcome back 17 letterwinners. Three of those returnees earned a place on the preseason all-C-USA squad. Closer Austin Tubb received All-American honors after posting 10 saves and a 1.45 ERA in 30 appearances last spring. Infielder Jarrett Hoffpauir and catcher/designated hitter Brad Willcutt also were named as all-league selections. Hoffpauir hit .307 with 13 doubles, 10 home runs and 53 RBI, while Willcutt smacked 20 doubles with 12 round-trippers and 61 RBI, while batting .321.

Houston, coming off its third trip to the NCAA Super Regionals in the last four years, was picked to finish third during the upcoming campaign. The Cougars return six starters and 18 letterwinners from a club that was one win away from Omaha last June. Junior RHP Garrett Mock represents Houston on the preseason team after posting five wins and 66 strikeouts in 15 starts last year.

USF, was picked to finish fourth, while East Carolina was tabbed fifth. The Bulls are represented on the all-league team by a pair of junior infielders, 3B Jeff Baisley (.355, 18 doubles, 46 RBI) and SS Myron Leslie (.338, 17 doubles and 16 stolen bases) and C Devin Ivany (team-leading .362 average, 18 doubles, 46 RBI). Lawhorn, who led ECU to their fifth consecutive NCAA appearance last while pacing the team in batting (.332), doubles (15), home runs (14) and RBI (49), is the lone Pirate on the preseason team.

TCU was chosen sixth, Louisville seventh and Charlotte eighth in the poll. TCU welcomes new head coach Jim Schlossnagle, a former Tulane assistant who led UNLV to the NCAA Tournament last year in just his second season in the desert. Louisville is hoping to return to the NCAA's as they did in 2002, with senior OF Mark Jurich, a preseason All-American, leading the way. Zachary Treadway, who tied for the league lead in conference wins with seven, is the ace of the 49ers pitching staff. Rounding out the preseason poll are Cincinnati, Memphis, UAB and Saint Louis.

### **2004 PRESEASON BASEBALL COACHES POLL**

#### **PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH**

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

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Darryl Lawhorn, East Carolina (Junior, Outfielder)

## PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Clayton Jerome, TCU (Senior, Righthander)

## Stanford Tops Pacific-10 2004 Prognostication

Defending Pac-10 champion Stanford was selected first in the coaches' Pacific-10 Conference preseason poll and was followed by Arizona State, Arizona, USC and Washington to round out the top five spots. The ASU Sun Devils enter the 2004 season ranked in the Top 10 nationally by *Collegiate Baseball* (No. 7) and in the ESPN/Sports Weekly coaches poll (#10). Stanford returns from its 2003 NCAA World Series runnerup slot to Rice while being ranked sixth in CB, sixth in BASEBALL AMERICA, fourth in SPORTS WEEKLY/ESPN, and third in the NCBWA pre-2004 survey. Following the top five in the poll were California, UCLA, Oregon State, and Washington State. Teams were awarded eight points for a first place vote, seven for a second place vote, etc.

	<b>School (First Place Votes)</b>	<b>Points</b>
1.	Stanford (7)	62
2.	Arizona State (1)	54
3.	Arizona (1)	47
4.	USC	46
5.	Washington	39
6.	California	29
7.	UCLA	21
8.	Oregon State	18
9.	Washington State	8

## Texas Repeat Selection for 2004 Big 12 Race

2002 NCAA champion Texas, also chosen by Big 12 baseball coaches in a 2003 preseason poll for top spot in the league, has been tabbed as the 2004 favorite for the Big 12 crown in balloting by the conference's head coaches.

UT drew the 2003 nod and advanced to the NCAA World Series after tying Texas A&M in final standings at 19-8 in loop play—just one game behind Big 12 winner Nebraska at 20-7—in one of the tightest races for first place in the first seven seasons of diamond activity in this league.

The 2004 Longhorns again received nine of the 10 first place votes (coaches were not allowed to vote for their own teams), and defending champ NU with 2003 Big 12 Coach of the Year Mike Anderson earned the other top nod for nine of its 64 points in the voting. Baylor, a six-consecutive-year competitor in the NCAA tournament and 2000 Big 12 titleist under coach Steve Smith, was second in '04 prognostication with 67 points after earning that same pre-2003 distinction. Texas garnered a tally of 81 as the choice of each mentor who was eligible to cast votes for the Longhorns.

<b>Rank/School (First Place Votes)</b>	<b>Points</b>
1. Texas (9)	81
2. Baylor	67
3. Nebraska (1)	64
4. Texas A&M	63
5. Oklahoma State	49
6. Oklahoma	37
7. Texas Tech	32
8. Kansas	27
9. Missouri	21
10. Kansas State	9

(Points compiled on a basis of nine for first, eight for second, seven for third, etc.)

### **South Alabama Selected to Rule 2004 Sun Belt**

Sun Belt coaches have predicted that South Alabama will win the 2004 Sun Belt regular season crown in the preseason coaches' poll. The Jaguars, 42-19 in 2003, earned 71 points and five first-place votes. Florida International was picked second with 66 points and a first-place vote, followed by UL Lafayette in third with 56 points and one first-place vote. Middle Tennessee, New Mexico State and Western Kentucky were selected fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively, separated by only six points. The Hilltoppers, who due to recent history may want to be the No. 6 seed going into the tournament, picked up the remaining two first-place votes after advancing to the 2003 tournament championship game against Middle Tennessee. New Orleans, Arkansas-Little Rock and Arkansas State round out the voting in seventh, eighth and ninth place. The 2004 Dodge Sun Belt Conference Baseball Tournament will be Wednesday-Saturday, May 26-29, at Stanky Field in Mobile, Ala.

**Preseason Poll --** South Alabama (71 pts. - 5 first-place votes; 2003 record: 42-19); Florida International (66 pts. - 1 first-place vote; 2003 record: 36-23)  
3. Louisiana-Lafayette (56 pts. - 1 first-place vote; 2003 record: 30-30)  
4. Middle Tennessee (49 pts.; 2003 record: 33-27)  
5. New Mexico State (48 pts.; 2003 record: 43-18)  
6. Western Kentucky (43 pts. - 2 first-place votes; 2003 record: 43-22)  
7. New Orleans (32 pts.; 2003 record: 23-32)  
8. Arkansas-Little Rock (21 pts.; 2003 record: 30-26)  
9. Arkansas State (19 pts.; 2003 record: 24-31)

### **Pepperdine WCC Choice in 2004**

Winners of five straight West Coast Conference (WCC) divisional titles, the Pepperdine baseball team has been tabbed by the conference's coaches to win a sixth divisional crown and capture the league's title in 2004, it was announced by the conference office. The Waves received seven first place votes and totaled 49 points to finish first in the voting ahead of defending WCC champion San Diego. The Toreros received one first place vote and tallied 39 points.

Santa Clara (36) finished third in the voting and was followed by Loyola Marymount (33), San Francisco (23), Gonzaga (22), Saint Mary's (13) and Portland (9). First-year head coach Steve Rodriguez, a former Pepperdine All-American and assistant coach at Pepperdine, welcomes back 24 letterwinners, including six starters from last year's team that posted a 36-25 record, captured the WCC's Coast Division and earned the program's 20th NCAA Championship appearance when it received an at-large bid to the Long Beach Regional. In addition to being tabbed this year's WCC favorite, Pepperdine is pre-season ranked No. 34 by *Baseball America*. Heading the list of returning players for the Waves are senior pitcher Jacob Barrack, sophomore infielder David Uribes and sophomore outfielder Brandon Daguio. Barrack and Uribes both earned first team All-WCC honors, while Daguio was a second team pick. Barrack started 16 games and registered a 9-3 record, 3.44 ERA and struck out 82 batters in 99.1 innings pitched. Uribes made an impressive collegiate debut, starting all 61 games and batting .330 with two home runs and 28 RBI. Daguio started 51 games and hit .305 with two home runs, 15 doubles and 32 RBI.

After playing in the WCC's Coast Division last year, the Waves will compete in the conference's West Division as the two divisions were realigned for 2004. The West Division will consist of Pepperdine, Portland, San Francisco and Santa Clara, while Gonzaga, Loyola Marymount, Saint Mary's and San Diego will comprise the Coast Division. The two division winners will play a best-of-three series May 28-30 to determine the WCC's automatic qualifier to the 64-team NCAA Tournament. The Waves have appeared in the league's championship series all five years of its existence.

### **2004 WCC BASEBALL COACHES PRESEASON POLL**

<b>Team</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>1. Pepperdine (7)</b>	<b>49</b>
2. San Diego (1)	39
3. Santa Clara	36
4. Loyola Marymount	33
5. San Francisco	23

6. Gonzaga	22
7. Saint Mary's	13
8. Portland	9

#### Continuing the Top 250: Nos. 101-200

Updating the all-time list of Division I baseball records after the first two installments, the following teams are Nos. 101-200 prior to the 2004 campaign:

101. Long Beach State	50	1,353-1,210-25	.528	598-434	.579
102. Memphis	54	1,347-946-14	.587	87-125	.410
102. Houston	57	1,347-988-15	.579	371-352	.513
<b>104. Iowa State</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>1,346-1,412-17</b>	<b>.488</b>	<b>479-694</b>	<b>.408</b>
105. New Mexico	86	1,341-1,256-10	.516	465-545	.460
106. East Carolina	52	1,340-693-8	.659	175-79	.689
107. Eastern Illinois	98	1,339-1,110-4	.547	96-58	.623
108. Sacramento State	45	1,331-1,019-19	.566	50-109	.314
108. Massachusetts	120	1,331-1,154-18	.536	63-45	.583
108. Georgetown	110	1,331-1,380-3	.491	98-268	.268
111. Birmingham-Southern	37	1,326-590-1	.692	88-30	.746
112. Cal State Northridge	44	1,325-1,007-19	.568	36-27	.571
113. Oral Roberts	37	1,324-693-4	.656	170-24	.876
114. Bowling Green	84	1,299-1,089-26	.544	454-500	.476
115. Northern Colorado	80	1,296-888-3	.593	92-63	.594
116. Brown	140	1,294-1,415-39	.478	309-396	.438
117. Cal State Fullerton	29	1,293-541-6	.705	381-158	.707
118. Western Michigan	56	1,290-934-13	.580	610-400	.604
119. Temple	75	1,284-995-31	.563	57-54	.514
119. Army	114	1,284-1,112-38	.536	49-49	.500
121. Connecticut	108	1,283-1,060-26	.546	205-206	.499
122. Old Dominion	71	1,277-957-13	.572	129-123	.512
123. UC Santa Barbara	54	1,228-1,178-16	.510	274-324	.458
124. Maryland	112	1,220-1,184-59	.507	313-485	.392
125. Kent State	76	1,215-975-10	.555	503-520	.492
<b>126. Texas Tech</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1,205-911-8</b>	<b>.569</b>	<b>378-431</b>	<b>.467</b>
127. Ball State	82	1,200-1,135-14	.514	343-380	.474
128. Detroit	63	1,193-1,032-2	.536	26-68	.277
129. Portland	79	1,192-1,208-9	.497	513-762	.402
130. The Citadel	50	1,188-776-3	.605	516-304	.629
131. Eastern Kentucky	60	1,186-953-9	.554	311-261	.544
132. Northwestern State	92	1,183-1,145-14	.508	422-436	.492
133. Florida International	30	1,181-631	.652	164-107	.605
134. Southern Mississippi	75	1,165-1,019-10	.533	127-88	.591
135. UNLV	37	1,158-887-5	.566	355-373	.488
136. SMS	39	1,145-653-1	.637	395-214	.649
137. Lamar	51	1,144-853	.573	393-278	.586
138. Nicholls State	44	1,143-922-9	.554	331-299	.525
138. Akron	104	1,143-1,121-19	.505	170-243	.412
140. UNC-Wilmington	47	1,140-825-7	.580	61-43	.587
141. Providence	76	1,133-858-13	.569	177-133	.571
142. Murray State	64	1,129-947-16	.544	304-279	.521
143. New Orleans	34	1,119-781-1	.589	204-165	.553
144. Boston College	94	1,113-862-21	.564	163-238	.406
145. Southeastern	53	1,110-1,077-12	.508	45-85	.346
146. Cincinnati	93	1,102-1,172-16	.485	121-167	.420
147. UL Monroe	52	1,101-1,000-9	.524	418-319	.567
148. South Florida	38	1,099-847-5	.565	209-187	.528
149. Northern Iowa	104	1,094-1,140-10	.490	304-360	.458
150. San Diego	46	1,093-1,032-21	.514	326-373	.466
151. Illinois-Chicago	55	1,091-1,049-8	.510	60-36	.625
151. Pacific (Calif.)	55	1,091-1,287-9	.459	385-582	.398
153. McNeese State	52	1,089-1,054-8	.508	289-307	.485

154. Toledo	79	1,086-1,159-20	.484	385-575	.401
155. Rider	61	1,085-822-14	.569	71-61	.538
156. Creighton	40	1,072-837-7	.562	249-261	.488
157. Mercer	57	1,065-992-5	.518	45-67	.402
158. UCF	31	1,060-665-10	.614	100-46	.685
159. Gonzaga	39	1,057-896-5	.541	630-619	.504
160. Northern Illinois	104	1,058-1,141-25	.481	103-194	.349
161. Jacksonville State	34	1,057-517	.671	50-106	.321
162. Northeastern	83	1,052-975-14	.519	176-134	.568
163. UL Lafayette	58	1,040-725-3	.589	328-217	.602
164. Marshall	93	1,037-1,125-9	.480	256-433	.372
165. Davidson	109	1,030-1,581-14	.394	292-446	.396
166. Bucknell	116	1,028-1,194-20	.463	62-40	.608
167. Lehigh	119	1,027-1,241-22	.453	44-56	.440
168. Butler	92	1,023-1,146-11	.472	57-45	.559
169. Morehead State	63	1,021-955	.517	307-266	.536
170. Middle Tennessee	40	1,018-780-6	.566	363-246	.596
170. Portland State	52	1,018-900	.531	205-269	.432
172. Loyola Marymount	36	1,012-1,013-3	.499	489-445	.524
173. Wyoming	59	1,009-1,057-4	.488	184-233	.441
174. James Madison	35	1,008-588-7	.632	56-47	.544
174. Austin Peay	64	1,008-1,107-12	.477	265-299	.470
176. Dartmouth	136	1,005-1,122-10	.472	456-444	.507
177. Tennessee Tech	56	997-1,030	.492	260-326	.444
178. Long Island	65	996-665-16	.600	57-59	.496
179. Coastal Carolina	29	984-579-1	.630	65-28	.699
180. Centenary	57	980-1,045-6	.484	14-16	.467
181. George Washington	56	979-874-11	.523	181-133	.576
182. Evansville	61	963-933-13	.508	135-139	.493
183. George Mason	36	953-765-9	.555	145-167	.465
184. Nevada	34	951-797-5	.544	556-515	.519
185. UC Riverside	30	942-685-3	.579	23-19	.548
186. Texas-Arlington	34	938-848-1	.525	315-277	.532
187. William & Mary	105	932-1,066-13	.466	210-397	.346
188. New Mexico State	42	919-1,079-3	.460	160-368	.303
189. Dayton	82	906-1,121-11	.447	51-61	.455
190. Jackson State	31	900-632-3	.587	183-67	.732
191. Arkansas State	55	898-1,172-8	.434	334-459	.421
192. Southeast Missouri	44	892-673-10	.570	193-107	.643
193. Belmont	49	889-658-1	.575	28-34	.452
194. Air Force	47	888-962-3	.480	170-427	.285
195. Wright State	33	882-741-8	.543	47-57	.452
196. Youngstown State	49	881-796-3	.525	136-198	.407
197. Appalachian State	49	880-830-5	.515	280-298	.484
197. Furman	63	880-1,105-13	.443	357-442	.447
199. Rhode Island	93	866-1,064-17	.449	54-58	.482
200. Manhattan	97	860-1,142-22	.430	60-66	.476

#### **A&M's Goertz, Staff Honored by ABCA, Turface for Groundskeeping Skills**

Texas A&M athletic field manager Leo Goertz was awarded the 2004 American Baseball Coaches Association/Turface Field Maintenance Award at the ABCA National Convention in San Antonio. "This is a nice honor for my staff and we appreciate the ABCA recognizing the work of the countless number of groundskeepers around the country," Goertz said. "The grounds crew at Texas A&M prides itself on giving the student-athlete the best surfaces on which to compete and practice. We appreciate the athletic department and coaches' dedication to the quality of the playing surfaces at Texas A&M."

Goertz and his four full-time assistants--assistant athletic field manager Craig Potts, Nick McKenna, Brad Pace and Matthew Bartek, and five student assistants--are in charge of maintaining all of the natural grass playing and practice surfaces used by the student-athletes at Texas A&M. Olsen Field, the home of Texas A&M baseball, has long been recognized as one of the top baseball surfaces in the country, at any level of competition.



In 1985 Goertz received the inaugural Diamond Dry Collegiate Baseball Groundskeeper Award and was honored by the Beam Clay Company in 1987. More recently, he and his staff earned the National Turf Softball Field of the Year Award in 1999 and the Soccer Field of the Year Award in 2000.

### **Cruz Named USA Baseball Head Coach, Howser Trophy Winner Weeks Finalist for Sullivan Award**

Pending final approval from the United States Olympic Committee, USA Baseball announced today that **Frank Cruz** of Loyola Marymount University will serve as head coach of the 2004 USA Baseball National Team that will represent the United States at the 2004 FISU World University Baseball Championships in Chinese Taipei, July 22-31. The 2004 USA Baseball National Team assistant coaching staff, trainer, and press officer will be announced at a later date. "Coach Cruz has been an integral part of our coaching staff in the past as an assistant, and we're very fortunate to be able to welcome him back as our head coach for the upcoming summer," said Steve Cohen, USA Baseball Director of National Teams. "Frank is highly respected in the collegiate coaching community and we appreciate him making this commitment again to USA Baseball."

This will be Cruz's second tour of duty with USA Baseball but his first as a head coach. Cruz served as an Assistant on the 2000 USA Baseball National Team that posted an overall record of 27-3-1 and captured a gold medal at the 2000 Haarlem Baseball Week Championships in The Netherlands. He becomes the first-ever USA Baseball National Team Head Coach to be affiliated with the West Coast Conference. "I am extremely humbled to be able to work with the finest athletes in the country," said Cruz. "Working for USA Baseball is a tremendous opportunity and a great honor. I look forward to being a part of a gold medal-winning team in the world championships and wearing the USA uniform."

In June, 2004, USA Baseball will invite 36 of the nation's top freshman and sophomore collegiate players to the USA Baseball National Team Trials. After the team is selected, Cruz will guide Team USA through their second summer of play at their new headquarters in the North Carolina Triangle Region. The 2004 USA Baseball National Team will play a pair of four-game series at Durham Bulls Athletic Park against two different international opponents (TBD). Team USA will also travel to Japan for their annual five-game series against the Japanese Collegiate All-Stars--the 33rd annual meeting of the two countries--and then return to the United States to play approximately 10 more domestic games before traveling to the FISU World University Championships.

On a related USA Baseball and NCBWA and Dick Howser Trophy subject, the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) has announced the names of 10 finalists for the 74th Annual AAU James E. Sullivan Memorial Award, which recognizes the top amateur athlete in the nation. 2003 Dick Howser Trophy and USA Baseball Golden Spikes Award winner Rickie Weeks of Southern University has made the Top 10 finalists list. Weeks is hoping to become just the second baseball player to make the Top 5 since Jim Abbott won the Sullivan back in 1987 (Mark Prior of USC also received the Sullivan Award and Howser Trophy in '02). The first round finalists are: John Fonseca (Karate); Paul Hamm (Gymnastics); LeBron James (Basketball); Barbara Lindquist (Triathlon); Steven Lopez (Taekwondo); Chellsie Memmel (Gymnastics); Apolo Anton Ohno (Speedskating); Michael Phelps (Swimming); Philippa "Phil" Raschker (Master Circuit - Track and Field); Diana Taurasi (Basketball); Rickie Weeks (Baseball); and Jason White (Football).

"This is one of our most diverse and talented group of nominees ever," said AAU President Bobby Dodd. "Ten different sports are represented among the finalists and I'm very proud to be able to say that each athlete is an exceptional role model to not only their respective sport but our country's youth as well." The AAU Sullivan Award recognizes athletes who have achieved athletic excellence, exhibit leadership, character, sportsmanship and the ideals of amateurism. It has been presented annually by the AAU since 1930 as a salute to founder and past president of the AAU, and a pioneer in amateur sports, James E. Sullivan. A 10-member AAU Sullivan Committee selected the 12 finalists after reviewing each of the athletes' qualifications from over 30 who were nominated. Ballots to select the top five and the 2003 winner were mailed to an 800-member voting body consisting of AAU Board of Directors, United States Olympic Committee (USOC) Board of Directors, Select Media, and New York Athletic Club Select Members. The top five finalists and the National recipient will be formally recognized and announced April 13th, 2004 at the New York Athletic Club in New York City.

### **Florida International Retires Mike Lowell's Number**

Former Florida International University and current Florida Marlins' third-baseman Mike Lowell will have his college number retired as part of the FIU baseball program's annual Diamond Dinner on Saturday, January 24. Lowell, who wore the number 15 at FIU, will become the third Golden Panther baseball player to have his number retired. "It is a great honor because FIU was a major stepping stone toward achieving my goals in academics as well as on the baseball field," Lowell said. "To have [FIU] recognize my achievements with the retiring of my number is very rewarding and very gratifying. This is a very special moment for me."

Danny Price, FIU's baseball coach, who coached Lowell between 1993 and 1995, said retiring a player's number is the highest honor a team can bestow on one of its own. Gerry Hunsicker, the Houston Astros' general manager will be the keynote speaker.

Hunsicker, who earned his master's degree in education from FIU in 1976, served as an assistant baseball coach at FIU from 1975-1978. Hunsicker is credited with turning the Astros into one of the most consistent teams in Major League Baseball, through careful player development in its farm system and strategic trades.

Price said the attendance of a great such as Hunsicker is a tribute to Lowell's persistence and dedication to honest work. That work led to a Lowell career .353-batting average, which is the fifth-best in school history. Lowell was also the Trans America Atlantic Conference's Student-Athlete of the Year in 1995, and earned CoSIDA Academic All-America honors in 1995.

### **Wake County Allocates \$4 Million for Team USA Cary, N.C., Complex**

The Wake County Board of Commissioners has approved funding for six projects to benefit organized sports and arts projects around the county, using \$4 million from its portion of Occupancy and Prepared Food/Beverage Tax proceeds over the next four years. **USA Baseball**, which relocated its national headquarters here, will receive a \$1 million portion of that funding to assist with the development of a four-field national training center in Cary, North Carolina. "USA Baseball is overwhelmed that the Wake County Government has decided to include our project in their funding," said Paul Seiler, Executive Director and CEO. "This money will be directly dedicated towards the building of a national training center that not only Wake County should be proud to have, but that people and USA Baseball players from all across America will be able to enjoy."

In June 2000, the Board of Commissioners and the Raleigh City Council entered into an Interlocal Agreement regarding the use of the Occupancy and Prepared Food/Beverage Tax. As part of the agreement, each jurisdiction receives \$1 million annually from the tax proceeds to use at its own discretion. In allocating its funding, the Commissioners focused on projects that were countywide in scope and considered those with a solid business plan for addressing ongoing operating expenses. "We welcome USA Baseball to Wake County and consider our investment a homerun," said Wake County Commissioners' Chair Ken Gardner. "Together, we'll attract visitors and boost our economy, provide recreation and training for citizens here and everywhere, and contribute to an All-American sport and the quality of life in our growing region." On December 12, 2003, the Board of Commissioners' Interlocal Committee received presentations from the applicants and asked questions about the proposals. On Friday, January 16, the Board's Interlocal Committee met again to discuss the proposals and made the funding recommendations.

### **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](http://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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## 2004 MEMBERSHIP FORM

----- PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL -----  
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### **MAKE CHECK (\$15) PAYABLE TO:**

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### **REMIT TO:**

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