



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS **NEWSLETTER**

(Volume 43, No. 4, May 19, 2004)

NCBWA President's Message

By Jeff Hurd

Jered Weaver (Long Beach State), Philip Humber and Wade Townsend (Rice), Brad McCann (Clemson), J.P. Howell (Texas), Trevor Lawhorn (East Carolina), Jed Lowrie (Stanford), P.J. Hiser (Pittsburgh), Stephen Head (Ole Miss), Dustin Pedroia (Arizona State), Billy Becher (New Mexico State), Jarrett Hoffpauir (Southern Miss)...

How about taking several of these Dick Howser Trophy semifinalists and creating a "super" all-star team of college standouts?

Sounds very tempting, but with NCAA Regionals just days away (selection Monday is May 31) and two more ballots due for the NCBWA All-America team, members of our organization can have a major impact on postseason teams and national honors. And, yes, we know the coaches and teammates of the aforementioned student-athletes probably would like several more games together before they hang up their spikes for the 2004 season.

My appeal is: VOTE! Not early and often as they used to say in Texas, but definitely plan on getting those votes ahead of deadlines for the Divisions I and III Regional Players of the Years, the All-America teams, and, ultimately, the Howser Trophy winner. There are tough decisions for all because of the level of college talent and team success in 2004, but I know our splendid membership will come through in its usual solid fashion.

Thanks for being part of the process and for giving college baseball possibly its best regional and national coverage in history this year.

Jeff Hurd

NCBWA President

Western Athletic Conference

NCBWA National Hitters, Pitchers of the Week

Division I--Apr. 13-Brad Corley, Mississippi State; Brian Bogusevic, Tulane. Apr. 20-(co) Todd Kimling, Eastern Michigan; Daniel Stovall, New Mexico; (co) Tim Layden, Duke; J.P. Howell, Texas. Apr. 27-(co) Richard Gionnotti, Miami (Fla.); Nic Crosta, Santa Clara; (co) Zack Zuercher, Rhode Island; Matt Campbell, South Carolina. May 4-(co) Kurt Suzuki, Cal State Fullerton; Brian Hall, Stanford; (co) Arik Hempy, South Carolina; Zac Cline, West Virginia. May 11-(co) Justin Holmes, Georgia; Lee McLean, UNC Wilmington; (co) Jered Weaver, Long Beach State; Tim Linceum, Washington.

Division III--Apr. 13-Rob Blackburn, Montclair State; Kyle Rensing, Blackburn (Ill.). Apr. 20-J.R. Estes, Bridgewater; Jeremy Hinderks, Concordia (Minn.). Apr. 27-Jeff Cote', SUNY-New Paltz; Tom O'Conner, Ithaca. May 4-Mike Cohan, DeSales; Julius Jenkins, College of New Jersey. May 11-Bryant Rogness, Gustavus Adolphus; Dale Koler, Baldwin-Wallace.

Reminder: Timetable for Dick Howser Trophy, NCBWA All-America Team Voting

Remaining Timeline

Fri., May 21	Deadline for Second Round of Voting
Thu., June 3	Final Ballot e-Mailed to Membership
Thu., June 10	Deadline for Final Round of Voting
Fri., June 11	Regional Players of the Year Announced
Tue., June 15	NCBWA All-American Teams Announced
Fri., June 18	Dick Howser Trophy Winner Announced in Omaha

The winner's name is inscribed on the permanent trophy, a bronze bust of Howser permanently displayed at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, home of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. Both the winner and his school receive a special trophy to keep.

The St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce has had over 100 years of community service since its founding in 1899. The organization has long been a vital force in the baseball affairs of the city, both in spring training and during the pursuit of a major league baseball franchise for the Tampa Bay area, and continues its solid role in the 21st Century.

NCBWA membership includes writers, broadcasters and publicists. Designed to promote and publicize college baseball, it is the sport's only college media-related organization, founded in 1962.

The Howser Trophy was created in 1987, shortly after Howser's death. 1987-98 winners were selected by the American Baseball Coaches Association. Previous winners of the Howser Trophy are Mike Fiore, Miami, 1987; Robin Ventura, Oklahoma State, 1988; Scott Bryant, Texas, 1989; Alex Fernandez, Miami-Dade Community College South, 1990; Frank Rodriguez, Howard College (Texas), 1991; Brooks Kieschnick, Texas, 1992 and 1993; Jason Varitek, Georgia Tech, 1994; Todd Helton, Tennessee, 1995; Kris Benson, Clemson, 1996; J.D. Drew, Florida State, 1997; Eddy Furniss, LSU, 1998; Jason Jennings, Baylor, 1999; and Mark Teixeira, Georgia Tech, 2000; Mark Prior, Southern California, 2001; Khalil Greene, Clemson, 2002; and Rickey Weeks, Southern, 2003.

For further information about the Howser Trophy, please contact: David Feaster, Chair, Dick Howser Trophy Committee, 1717 73rd Circle, NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33702, (727) 388-1000, website: www.DickHowserTrophy.com.

NCBWA Announces 2004 Howser Trophy Semifinalists

The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association, working in Association with the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, released the list of 30 semifinalists for the Dick Howser Trophy, given to the top player in collegiate baseball on May 13. The membership of the NCBWA will choose the Dick Howser Trophy based on three rounds of voting. The 2004 winner will be announced at the College World Series in Omaha on Friday, June 18 at 9:30 a.m. (CDT) at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, 10th and Dodge Sts., 101 Southtown Ave., Omaha, Neb., 68102.

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2004 DICK HOWSER TROPHY SEMIFINALISTS

SS Dustin Pedroia, Arizona State; RP Steven Register, Auburn; UT/ATH Conor Robertson, Birmingham-Southern; 3B Brad McCann, Clemson; UT/ATH Ryan Jones, East Carolina; 2B Trevor Lawhorn, East Carolina; P Justin Hoyman, Florida; OF Eddy Martinez-Estevé, Florida State; P Jered Weaver, Long Beach State; OF Jon Zeringue, LSU; 1B Billy Becher, New Mexico State; 3B Alex Gordon, Nebraska; C Chris Iannetta, North Carolina; P Spencer Grogan, Oklahoma State; 1B-P Stephen Head, Ole Miss; UT/ATH P.J. Hiser, Pittsburgh; P Philip Humber, Rice; P Wade Townsend, Rice; OF Jeff Frazier, Rutgers; C Landon Powell, South Carolina; OF Ryan Frith, Southern Miss; 2B Jarrett Hoffpauir, Southern Miss; 2B Jed Lowrie, Stanford; P J.P. Howell, Texas; SP Jason Meyer, Texas A&M; 1B Josh Brady, Texas Tech; P Matt Fox, UCF; 2B Warner Jones, Vanderbilt; UT/ATH Joe Koshansky, Virginia; OF Chris Rahl, William & Mary

True "Save" for Jacksonville Relief Man Roque (From the Florida TIMES-UNION) – Gene Frenette, Columnist

Jacksonville University relief pitcher Ashley Roque has three saves in the 2004 season, but none compare to his heroic rescue off the baseball field Tuesday night, Apr. 13. Roque came to the aid of St. Augustine Beach, Fla., resident Laura Beth Thompson about 6:45 p.m. when he pulled the 25-year-old woman out of her burning 2001 Acura after she lost control on Florida 206 and slammed into pine trees.

Roque, 21, said he was driving his truck behind Thompson about 65 mph, when he saw her swerve to avoid hitting a vehicle that pulled onto the two-lane road in front of her. Thompson's car hit the

shoulder, she lost control and it went flying over a ditch, Roque said, where it landed against pine trees and caught fire. His account was confirmed by Lt. Bill Leeper, a Florida Highway Patrol spokesman. Leeper was unsure about where another vehicle might have pulled onto the road at the scene about a mile west of the Crescent Beach bridge in St. Johns County. Roque said the driver who pulled in front of Thompson did stop to help him call 911 but left after Thompson had been rescued and before the Highway Patrol arrived.

"When I first got there and the fire was going up like it did, I did think about the car blowing up on me," Roque said. "I won't lie about that. But there was nobody else there. I had to. As quick as it was catching fire, I didn't know how close it was getting to the gas tank. I was scared going down there, but I only did what any normal human being would have done. "It wasn't a small fire at all," he said. "The trees caught on fire about three-quarters of the way up. The whole underside of her hood was in flames when I got there. I've never seen a car catch fire as quickly as that one did. When I got there, both the doors were smashed in. I walked to the driver's side and that window was smashed out. I took her by the armpits and pulled and she said, 'I can't get out! I can't get out!' But I got her through the window and put her on my shoulder as best I could.

"After that, I ran to the opposite side of the road and put her down in the ditch. I didn't know if she had suffered any back or neck injuries. In that situation, you're not supposed to move them, but with the fire, I felt I had to get her out of there." It turned out to be a good decision. Less than a minute after Roque moved Thompson to the other side of the road, he saw the front seats of her car go up in flames. Thompson was taken by ambulance to Flagler Hospital, where a nurse said Wednesday she was in intensive care in stable condition. The type and extent of her injuries were unavailable at that time. Leeper said no charges have been filed and alcohol was not involved in the accident. He credited Roque's quick action for avoiding a potential tragedy. "He probably saved her life because her vehicle was up against the trees, and she may not have realized how to get out of the vehicle," Leeper said. Roque, who was not injured, estimates that it took "three or four minutes" by the time he got out of his vehicle to pull Thompson from her car. He couldn't get to the vehicle quicker because of the fire and the car's awkward position.

Thompson's family was shaken by the accident but expressed appreciation for Roque's action. "We're eternally grateful," said her father, William. "And I plan to let [Roque] know that." Roque, a 2000 graduate of The Bolles School in Jacksonville (Chipper Jones' alma mater, among others), transferred to JU in 2002 after playing at the University of Maryland-Baltimore County, then undergoing surgery on his pitching arm. The 6-2 righthander started 0-3 with a 6.97 ERA this season. Roque, a junior, was going to visit his girlfriend in St. Augustine when the accident occurred. Thompson is a graduate of Flagler College and plans to be married this year.

Ohio State Retires Steve Arlin's No. 22 Baseball Jersey

Former Ohio State pitcher Steve Arlin, who helped lead the Buckeyes to back-to-back appearances at the College World Series in 1965 and 1966, had his No. 22 jersey retired between games of a doubleheader on Apr. 24 between Ohio State and Michigan at Bill Davis Stadium in Columbus, Ohio.

Arlin not only is considered the top pitcher in Ohio State baseball history, but he also is regarded as one of the greatest pitchers in the history of the College World Series. In the 1965, facing elimination against Washington State, Arlin struck out a CWS-record 20 batters in a 15-inning 1-0 victory by Ohio State. The next year, the Buckeyes won the NCAA championship with Arlin on the mound in five of the team's six games and twice beating top-seeded Southern California.

Arlin had a two-year record of 24-3 with the Buckeyes and held OSU marks for victories and strikeouts (294) until 1999. His .889 winning percentage is the best in school history. He led the nation in strikeouts as a sophomore with 165 and went 13-2 that year in leading the Buckeyes to a second-place finish at the 1965 College World Series. The next year he went 11-1 and helped Ohio State claim the championship.

The future Major Leaguer, who went on to pitch six seasons with the San Diego Padres, was a two-time First Team All-America and All-Big Ten selection and still holds two College World Series records. He was honored by being the Most Valuable Player at the College World Series in 1966 and is a member of the All-Time College World Series Team. Arlin, who now lives in San Diego, Calif., was in attendance for the retirement ceremony and accepted a framed jersey.

His baseball association began even before he was born as his grandfather, Harold Arlin, is credited with being the first play-by-play man for a Major League Baseball contest over KDKA Radio in Pittsburgh in 1921.

Price Contract Extended at Florida International

Florida International University Baseball Coach Danny Price has agreed to a five-year contract, Director of Athletics Rick Mello announced Apr. 22.

"This is something that has been in the works for a long time," said Mello. "This contract reflects a commitment by the University to the baseball program and specifically to Coach Price. "We feel fortunate to have a coach the likes of Danny Price. Not only has he enjoyed great success on the field, but he has also engaged the community, captivated his alumni and generated funds. He has dedicated himself to FIU. We all look forward to Danny Price finishing his coaching career at FIU."

Price, 52, owns a 978-514 (.655) career record over 25 seasons as the Golden Panthers head coach. He ranks among the top-20 in wins and winning percentage among all Division I active coaches and has more victories than any other head baseball coach in the Sun Belt Conference. He has guided eight FIU teams into NCAA Division I Regional play and his 2001 squad won the Notre Dame Regional and advanced to a Super-Regional appearance at Southern California. Since becoming the Golden Panthers head coach in 1980, at least one FIU player has signed a professional contract every year.

"I appreciate the vote of confidence shown in me by Rick Mello and the university administration," said Price. "I'm excited about the opportunity and pledge to continue working hard at building the baseball program at Florida International University."

A native of Rocky Mount, N.C., Price earned his bachelor's degree from FIU in 1974. He was a charter member of the FIU baseball team in 1973, setting a school record with 79 base hits that stood for six seasons. He was that season's team MVP and was voted co-captain of the following year's squad. Price is married to the former Linda Hechtman of Miami, has three children: Sandy, Kacey and Danny Marc and a granddaughter Taylor.

Circling the Bases

Miami (Fla.) mentor Jim Morris recently captured his 1,000th win as head coach of the Hurricanes over 23 seasons. He has maintained an average of 44 wins per year at the UM helm...Oklahoma's Larry Cochell became the 10th Division I diamond coach in history to reach 1,300 victories when he guided the Sooners to their 31st triumph in early May...He joined Florida State's Mike Martin, who became the ninth DI coach to hit the 1,300-win standard in Feb., 2004...Cochell is sixth on the Division I active coaches' wins' list with 1,303 triumphs through May 17, 2004, while Texas' Augie Garrido leads all active college taskmasters with 1,476 victories prior to May 21 encounters. Garrido also coached at San Francisco State, Cal Poly, Cal State Fullerton, and Illinois prior to taking the Longhorns' reins in 1997...Other milestone mentors for the 2004 season have been Mississippi State's Ron Polk with his 1,200th triumph in February and Illinois' Richard "Itchy" Jones with victory No. 1,200 in March...Stanford's Mark Marquess has 1,183 career "Ws" through games of May 16, 2004, and could hit the 1,200 mark with a great postseason run.

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1962, the NCBWA is dedicated to the advancement of college baseball. Membership is open to writers, broadcasters and publicists of the sport. Members receive a membership card, directory, newsletter updates and official votes in the Howser Award Player of the Year, Regional Player of the Year and NCBWA All-America voting. The NCBWA also sponsors preseason All-American awards, publication and writing contests. Additionally, the organization will be launching a website this spring at www.ncbwa.com. For membership, send annual dues (\$15.00), along with mailing address, phone, fax and e-mail address information to Russell Anderson, NCBWA Treasurer, c/o Conference USA, 35 East Wacker Drive, Suite 650, Chicago, IL 60601.

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