



Volume 44, No. 1: February 25, 2005

NCBWA President's Message

It's an exciting time of year with another college baseball season well underway, and I hope you're as happy as I am that it is finally here. There is much anticipation with the start of each season, and that is what makes it so much fun. I know for me personally, this marks the chance for me to get out of the office and enjoy the spring weather and the college campus scenery, while watching the best game ever invented – America's pastime - college baseball.

Just looking at the national polls and the preseason All-American teams, this should be another outstanding year from the start of the season until the eight teams arrive in Omaha to battle for the national championship at the College World Series in June.

During the winter months, the NCBWA board has been working very hard to come up with new ideas and awards to promote the game of college baseball. You should have received the release about the new "Stopper of the Year" award. The award is an outstanding way to honor relief pitchers who work hard as don't get the credit they deserve. We are working on some other ideas and will introduce those in the coming months. If you have ideas about a new award that should be introduced, please send your ideas to one of the board members.

The NCBWA would like to thank the Xanthus Higher Education Corporation for everything they do to promote the game of college baseball, especially their help with the Xanthus-Dick Howser Trophy. There is more about this further down in the newsletter.

A brief timeline in regards to the Xanthus-Dick Howser Trophy, the initial 2005 Xanthus-Dick Howser Trophy Watch List will be announced on April 28. The list will be reduced to 16 semifinalists on May 19 and the eight finalists will be released on June 9. The 2005 Xanthus-Dick Howser Trophy winner will be honored on June 17 in Omaha on the opening day of the College World Series. Long Beach State's Jered Weaver won the Xanthus-Dick Howser Trophy in 2004.

You should have been receiving the weekly NCBWA polls that are released each Monday. Theis poll, voted on by a panel of experts across the country, runs each week until a final poll is released after a national champion is crowned in Omaha. If you would, please use our poll in your notes and releases so that the name of our organization gets out and receives as much publicity as possible.

The Pro-Line Cap NCAA Division I Hitter and Pitcher of the Week Awards have begun as well. Please send your deserving candidates to NCBWA@hotmail.com. One of my duties is to coordinate the process, and I will make sure each nomination is carefully reviewed by our panel and that they are given full consideration for their weekly performance. There are many quality players out there that should be considered for this award, but aren't if you don't nominate them. The NCBWA is extremely happy to have this support from Pro-Line Cap Co. in sponsorship of the Hitter and Pitcher of the Week Awards. Pro-Line Cap will provide a plaque to each weekly winner, along with NCBWA hats to the SID at the winning school.

Several officers have worked on an updated version of the NCBWA Directory and are putting the finishes touches on it right now. This directory is an excellent source of information about college baseball that will aid not only the media but each SID throughout the season. The plan is to have an improved directory in your hands by the first week of March.

If you have comments or suggestions to help the organization, please feel free to contact any of the board members. Our passion is college baseball, and we are here to serve the membership. If there are other areas you want addressed in future newsletters, please forward those to me as well.

If you haven't renewed your membership for the upcoming year, please do so. Let all try to get more people involved with our organization. Get the information to your media and encourage them to join. This organization can't grow or gain respect if we don't increase our membership. As they say, an organization is only as strong as its members.

As always, thank you for your dedication to college baseball and membership in the NCBWA. Let's all have an enjoyable baseball season! So good luck to each team, SID and media member and hope everyone has a successful and error-free season.

Mike Montoro
2005 NCBWA President
Southern Miss

Xanthus, NCBWA, St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce Add New Elements to Xanthus Dick Howser Trophy

The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association, which works in conjunction with the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Chamber of Commerce in selecting the Dick Howser Trophy, is pleased to announce a couple of exciting changes to the award this spring.

Thanks to the support of Xanthus Higher Education, the award will now be known as the Xanthus-Dick Howser Trophy.

Xanthus Higher Education is a progressive, multi-faceted organization that endeavors to assist institutions of higher learning in all aspects of educational debt management, including assisting with student loan allocation and debt consolidation. This is accomplished through the development of strategic alliances and partnerships with selected organizations throughout the United States. Launched in 2002, Xanthus Higher Education is headquartered in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Xanthus' support of the Dick Howser Trophy will also provide for nearly \$75,000 worth of scholarships that will be given to Division I institutions. All 64 members of the Xanthus-Dick Howser Trophy Watch List that will be released in mid-April will receive a \$1,000 scholarship in their name to be given to the general scholarship fund at their school. Additionally, the winner of the Xanthus-Dick Howser Trophy will receive a \$10,000 check to be given in his name to that player's school.

"We are extremely excited to be involved with the Xanthus-Dick Howser Trophy and proud to honor the nation's top college baseball player," said Jim Zach, CEO of Xanthus. "At the same time, we want to reward the student part of these student-athletes and their Universities with support in the educational realm."

The initial 2005 Xanthus-Dick Howser Trophy Watch List will be announced on April 28. The list will be reduced to 16 semifinalists on May 19 and the eight finalists will be released on June 9. The 2005 Xanthus-Dick Howser Trophy winner will be honored on June 17 in Omaha on the opening day of the College World Series.

The Dick Howser Trophy was created in 1987, shortly after Howser's death. The trophy, given in memory of the Florida State University All-America shortstop and major league player and manager who died of brain cancer in 1987, is regarded as college baseball's most prestigious award. Criteria for consideration for the trophy include performance on the field, leadership, moral character and courage, qualities that were exemplified by Dick Howser's life. The 1987-98 winners were selected by the American Baseball Coaches Association. The membership of the NCBWA has selected the award for the past six years.

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; Rickey Weeks, Southern, 2003 and Jered Weaver, Long Beach State, 2004.

For more information on the Xanthus-Dick Howser Trophy, contact David Feaster of the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce at 727-388-1000 or Russell Anderson of Conference USA at 214-774-1351. Please also visit www.DickHowserTrophy.com or learn more about Xanthus at www.studentloansource.com.

NCBWA Stopper of Year Watch List Announced

Thirty players have been named to the initial watch list for the inaugural National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Stopper of the Year Award, the association announced Wednesday. The award will be given annually to the top relief pitcher in Division I.

Fifteen pitchers who make up the initial 2005 watch list were ranked among the nation's Top 50 at the end of the 2004 season. Cal-Irvine's Blair Erickson has the most saves of any pitcher on the watch list after finishing second in the nation with 17 saves behind South Carolina's Chad Blackwell, who finished the year with 20, three saves short of the NCAA season record. Santa Clara's Anthony Rea and College of Charleston's Brett Harker each had 13 saves a season ago, while Davidson's Jay Heafner had 11. A total of eight pitchers that appear on the 2005 watch list finished last season with 10 or more saves.

The 2005 watch list represents 15 conferences, led by three players from each of the Atlantic Coast, Atlantic 10, Big Ten, Pac-10 and Southern conferences. The Big 12, Big South, Conference-USA, Mid-American and Southeastern conferences each have two players representing their leagues, while the Big East, Big West, Missouri Valley, West Coast and Western Athletic conferences each have one player.

"Relief pitching is a component of the college game that is just as important as starting pitching, hitting or defense," Mike Montoro, NCBWA President, said when the creation of the award was announced. "It is an area that is often overlooked and underappreciated. Because of that, the NCBWA board believed that now was an appropriate time to initiate such an award. We are excited that this important part of the game is being recognized with a national award this season."

Nominations were made by each school's baseball sports information contact. A mid-season release, including the national saves leaders, will be updated during the week of April 18. At the end the regular season, the Division I leader in saves and four other relief pitching standouts will be selected as the award's first finalists. These finalists will be released on Wednesday, June 1, just prior to the beginning of NCAA regional play.

From the list of finalists, the NCBWA's All-America Committee will select a winner. The first annual winner will be announced on Wednesday, June 8, two days prior to the beginning of NCAA super regional action.

The NCBWA, founded in 1962, presents the Xanthus-Dick Howser Trophy to the nation's top player. It also selects a Division I All-America Team, Division I and III Players of the Week, Division I District Players of the Year and Division III Players of the Year.

The Initial 2005 NCBWA Stopper of the Year Award Watch List

| Player | Class | R/LHP | University |
|------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Byron Binda | Sr. | RHP | Coastal Carolina |
| Richard Boothe | Sr. | RHP | Eastern Kentucky |
| Steve Cogswell | Sr. | RHP | Georgia Southern |
| J. Brent Cox | Jr. | RHP | Texas |
| John Cronin | Sr. | RHP | Richmond |
| Joey Devine | Jr. | RHP | N.C. State |
| Blair Erickson | So. | RHP | UC-Irvine |
| Trey Fausnaugh | So. | RHP | Ohio State |
| Derek Feldkamp | Jr. | RHP | Michigan |
| John Gaub | So. | LHP | Minnesota |
| Brian Halford | Jr. | RHP | Louisville |
| Craig Hansen | Jr. | RHP | St. John's |
| Brett Harker | So. | RHP | College of Charleston |
| Jay Heafner | Jr. | RHP | Davidson |
| Brad Kilby | Sr. | LHP | San Jose State |
| Casey Lambert | So. | LHP | Virginia |
| Mick Lefort | Sr. | RHP | Rhode Island |
| Darren O'Day | Jr. | RHP | Florida |
| Brian Pellegrini | So. | RHP | St. Bonaventure |
| Anthony Rea | Sr. | RHP | Santa Clara |
| Kevin Rhodes | Jr. | RHP | East Carolina |
| Derek Roach | So. | LHP | Wichita State |
| Adam Simon | Jr. | RHP | UCLA |
| Derek Stanfield | Sr. | RHP | Akron |
| Will Startup | Jr. | LHP | Georgia |
| Matt Swanson | Sr. | RHP | California |
| Jon Wilson | Jr. | RHP | Winthrop |
| Robert Woodard | So. | RHP | North Carolina |
| Abe Woody | Jr. | RHP | Baylor |
| Zechry Zinicola | So. | RHP | Arizona State |

Pro-Line Cap Co. Teams With NCBWA for Players/Pitchers of Week

The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association is proud to announce a new partnership with Pro-Line Cap Co.

Since 2001, the NCBWA has named weekly Division I players of the week. In 2005, the honorees will now be known as the Pro-Line Cap Players of the Week. The NCBWA will select an outstanding hitter and pitcher each week from the players among the 284 baseball-playing schools in NCAA Division I.

The Pro-Line Cap Players of the Week will be announced each Tuesday throughout the 2005 season, beginning Feb. 8. "The NCBWA is excited and pleased to get the opportunity to work with a company such as Pro-Line Cap on the Division I Player of the Week award," said Bo Carter, executive director of NCBWA. "Just like our coaches and student-athletes in Division I, Pro-Line Cap takes a great deal of pride in performance and workmanship, and we are grateful for this new partnership."

The agreement provides for plaques to be presented to each winner for the first time, as well as other promotional consideration from Pro-Line Cap, based in Fort Worth, Texas. More information about Pro-Line is available at its online home, www.prolinecap.com.

"Pro-Line Cap is proud to be the presenting sponsor of the NCBWA's Division I Players of the Week this season," said Pro-Line sales and marketing manager Joel Taylor. "We value the relationships we have with some 100-plus schools in Division I and are pleased to be working with the NCBWA to help promote the college game and its best players on a weekly basis throughout the season."

CSTV Announces 2005 TV Schedule

CSTV's (www.CSTV.com) third season of NCAA baseball – NCAA Baseball on CSTV presented by Easton Sports, premieres Sunday, March 20, with 2004 NCAA runner-up and current #4 Texas visiting #8 Baylor. CSTV's schedule also features defending NCAA champion Cal-State Fullerton and fellow NCAA tournament participants Arizona, Stanford, Notre Dame, Long Beach State, Rice, UNLV, St. John's, Army and Missouri.

The NCAA Baseball on CSTV presented by Easton Sports schedule features seven teams in the Top 25: #3 Texas, #4 Cal-State Fullerton, #8 Baylor, #9 Arizona, #13 Stanford, #14 Rice and #22 Notre Dame. The schedule features colleges from the following conferences: Big 12, Pac-10, Mountain West, Big West, Big East, Conference USA, West Coast, WAC, Atlantic 10 and Patriot League. CSTV's on-air coverage of college baseball will extend to The One College Sports Show, the network's innovative studio show which covers college sports from every possible perspective.

In addition to CSTV's unparalleled on-air college baseball coverage, CSTV.com and its network of 180 official athletic sites of colleges and conferences will provide the deepest and broadest online coverage. CSTV.com's exclusive GameTracker Live feature will provide live statistics, scores and play-by-play for more than 1,700 baseball games, while the site's College Sports Pass subscription service will provide live video and audio of 500 games.

CSTV and Easton Sports will also have a live presence at the College World Series in Omaha, Neb. in June, furthering the network's comprehensive wire-to-wire coverage of college baseball from fall ball to the big prize.

The CSTV.com network includes the following colleges featured on the NCAA Baseball on CSTV presented by Easton Sports schedule: Army, Baylor, Lafayette, Iowa, Loyola Marymount, Missouri, Notre Dame, Rhode Island, St. John's, San Diego State, Stanford and UNLV.

"For the third straight year, CSTV will provide unsurpassed on-air and online coverage of college baseball," said Tim Perneti, senior vice president, programming and talent, CSTV. "Our NCAA Baseball on CSTV schedule features the most prominent college baseball programs and, in addition to our television schedule, fans can follow their favorite teams live, pitch-by-pitch through CSTV.com's GameTracker Live and College Sports Pass offerings."

NCAA Baseball on CSTV presented by Easton Sports (all times ET)

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------|
| Sunday, March 20 | Texas at Baylor | 2 p.m. |
| Wednesday, April 6 | Iowa at Nebraska | 7 p.m. |
| Wednesday, April 13 | Army at Lafayette | 7 p.m. |
| Wednesday, April 20 | Texas at Rice | 8 p.m. |
| Saturday, April 23 | Baylor at Nebraska | 8 p.m. |
| Sunday, May 1 | UNLV at San Diego State | 4:30 p.m. |
| Monday, May 2 | Rutgers at Lafayette | 7 p.m. |
| Saturday, May 7 | Missouri at Nebraska | 3 p.m. |
| Sunday, May 8 | Notre Dame at St. John's | 12 p.m. |
| Saturday, May 14 | Loyola Marymount at San Diego | 4 p.m. |
| Monday, May 16 | Rhode Island at Massachusetts | 7 p.m. |
| Friday, May 20 | Arizona at Stanford | 9 p.m. |
| Saturday, May 21 | Kansas State at Nebraska | 3 p.m. |
| Saturday, May 21 | Long Beach State at Cal-State Fullerton | 9 p.m. |
| Saturday, May 28 | Big Ten Baseball Championship | TBD |
| Sunday, May 29 | Conference USA Baseball Championship | 2 p.m. |

CSTV Networks is a multi-media company that consists of the first-ever 24-hour college sports television network, College Sports TV; the leading college sports online network, CSTV.com; and the first ever 24-hour college sports radio network, SIRIUS College Sports Radio. Through its numerous platforms, CSTV provides more live college sports games, events, news, information, analysis and broadband content, and reaches more college sports fans, than any other company.

College Sports TV, voted the No. 1 emerging cable network among operators in a 2003 Beta research study, televises regular season and championship event coverage from over 35 men's and women's sports across every major collegiate athletic conference, as well as many NCAA and NAIA Championships.

CSTV.com, the most-trafficked college sports Web site, and its network of 180 official athletic sites are the No. 1 online source for college sports broadband content, news, information, scores and analysis. SIRIUS College Sports Radio broadcasts a comprehensive package of college football and basketball games from teams representing 16 conferences, including the Big Ten, Big 12, BIG EAST, Pac-10 and SEC, in addition to Notre Dame.

CSTV was co-founded by President and CEO Brian Bedol, Chairman Steve Greenberg and Executive Vice President Chris Bevilacqua. Bedol and Greenberg co-founded Classic Sports Network, which they sold to ESPN. It is now ESPN Classic. Bevilacqua is a former senior executive with Nike Inc., where he headed the company's successful foray into the college market.

Davidson's Turgeon Named to Athletics Hall of Fame

Davidson College will induct four new members into its Athletics Hall of Fame in January, and these include baseball standout David A. Turgeon '87. All have made significant contributions to the college and its athletics program, and now their achievements are being enshrined in the school's Hall of Fame.

Turgeon, simply put, is one of Davidson's greatest hitters ever for the baseball squad. A three-time All-Southern Conference third baseman, he batted .366 for his career, fourth all-time in the Wildcat annals. He set numerous offensive records, including hits (227), home runs (38), RBIs (182), doubles (46) and total bases (397), all in an era before 50-plus-game seasons. His career home run and RBI totals are still atop the charts.

Turgeon followed up a fine rookie campaign with a superb sophomore season by batting .369 with eight long balls and 53 RBIs to help Davidson to its only first-place finish in the SoCon. After another terrific season as a junior in which he hit .356 with nine home runs and a team-high 53 RBIs, the four-season star exploded in his final year. He hit a .403 with a then-school-record 15 home runs (on a team that led the nation in home runs per game) and 49 RBIs. In addition to his third selection to the All-SoCon squad, he was named to the All-Atlantic Region second team. After being drafted by the New York Yankees in the 13th round, Turgeon enjoyed more than a decade as a professional player with stops in Taiwan and Mexico before returning to the states with the Baltimore Orioles AAA affiliate. Most of his pro experience, surprisingly, was as a pitcher. He now is the associate head baseball coach at the University of Connecticut.

ASU's Murphy Earns Three-Year Contract Extension

By Jeff Metcalfe, The Arizona Republic, Dec. 21, 2004

Arizona State baseball coach Pat Murphy will likely surpass Bobby Winkles in longevity thanks to a three-year contract extension.

The extension, expected to be approved by the Arizona Board of Regents at its Jan. 27-28 meeting, keeps Murphy, 46, at ASU through 2009. That would be 15 seasons, two more than Winkles, the first varsity coach from 1959-71. Jim Brock followed Winkles for 23 seasons until his death in 1994.

"I'm thankful the athletic department sees me as someone valuable enough to keep around, Murphy said. "I don't think I've done some great job in any way, shape or form. I'm a guy who is getting better. I'm not embarrassed about what I've done, but I'm still not satisfied. I want this to be the very best program in the country."

Salary details are unavailable until after the Regents' approval. Murphy's annual base pay is expected to remain at \$195,000. With shoe and bat contracts plus performance and academic bonuses, his total compensation is estimated at \$350,000. Hawai'i tried to hire Murphy in 2001 when he agreed to a five-year contract with ASU.

Murphy is 401-196-1 in 10 seasons at ASU, including a runner-up finish at the 1998 College World Series. The Sun Devils won 54 games in 2003, a high under Murphy, and followed up with a 41-18 record. Murphy has 719 Division I wins, including seven seasons at Notre Dame and he ranks 15th in winning percentage (.676) among active coaches.

2005 Preseason Coaches Polls (First Place Votes in Parentheses)

Atlantic Coast Conference

1. Miami (8)
2. North Carolina (3)
3. Georgia Tech
4. Florida State
5. Clemson
6. Virginia
7. N.C. State
8. Wake Forest
9. Maryland
10. (tie) Duke
Virginia Tech

Big West Conference

1. Cal State Fullerton (8)
2. Long Beach State
3. UC Irvine
4. Cal Poly
5. UC Santa Barbara
6. UC Riverside
7. Pacific
8. Cal State Northridge

Big 12 Conference

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

Conference USA

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

Pacific-10 Conference

1. Stanford (4)
2. Washington (2)
3. Arizona State (2)
4. Arizona (1)
5. USC
6. Oregon State
7. California
8. UCLA
9. Washington State

Southern Conference

1. [College of Charleston](#)
2. [The Citadel](#)
3. [UNC Greensboro](#)
4. [Georgia Southern](#)
5. [Elon](#)
6. [Western Carolina](#)
7. [East Tennessee State](#)
8. [Furman](#)
9. [Davidson](#)
10. [Wofford](#)
11. [Appalachian State](#)

West Coast Conference Preseason Poll

Place/School/(First Place Votes) Total Points

1. Loyola Marymount (3) 44
2. Pepperdine (3) 43
3. San Diego (2) 40
4. Santa Clara 32
5. Gonzaga 22
6. San Francisco 21
7. Saint Mary's 14
8. Portland 8

WEST DIVISION

1. Pepperdine
2. Santa Clara
3. San Francisco
4. Portland

COAST DIVISION

1. Loyola Marymount
2. San Diego
3. Gonzaga
4. Saint Mary's

Doug Ault, Second Texas Tech Alumnus to Play in Majors, Dies at 54

Doug Ault, 54, who was the second alumnus of Texas Tech to played in the Major Leagues after Chuck Harrison in the middle 1960s, died [December 27, 2004](#) in Tarpon Springs, Fla.

Ault, who hit two home runs in the first game in Toronto Blue Jays history in 1977, died at his home in Tarpon Springs, a few miles from the Blue Jays' spring training quarters in Dunedin, the team said. The club provided no further details about his death.

With a snowstorm in Toronto and a cold wind blowing off Lake Ontario, Ault homered twice in the Blue Jays' 9-4 victory over the Chicago White Sox on April 7, 1977. Before 44,649 chilled fans at Exhibition Stadium, Ault hit home runs off Ken Brett, the first a solo shot and the second a two-run homer. Ault, a first baseman, hit only 17 homers during his four years in the majors. His career average was .236 in 256 games. He was selected by Toronto in the 1976 expansion draft from the Texas Rangers and spent three seasons with the Blue Jays before retiring in 1980. Ault, who was born in Beaumont, Texas, before starring at Texas Tech and managed in Australian pro baseball, worked as a manager in the Jays' organization, handling teams at Class-A Dunedin, Kingston, and St. Catharines before managing the AAA Syracuse Chiefs.

International Baseball Federation Holds Key Meeting in Switzerland

The International Baseball Federation Executive Committee headed by Aldo Notari met at the Olympic Museum, in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Jan. 14-16, with the presence of 12 of its 14 members. The MLB USA Executive Vice President, Sandy Alderson and the Nippon Professional Baseball League Secretary General, Tazuo Hasegawa, were invited to attend this meeting.

The following were the main agreements during this meeting:

XXXVI Baseball World Cup--Having in account the circumstances from which Canada and the United States could not participate in the qualification tournament for America, and according to the Royal Dutch Baseball Federation and to the Dutch Organizing Committee, the number of participating teams in this competition has increased from 16 to 18. The two additional teams will be qualified through a tournament to be held as soon as possible. Canada, the United States, Italy, Nigeria, Czech Republic, and the second qualified team from the Oceania tournament will be invited to participate.

Olympic Qualification Tournament for Beijing 2008--The China team will be directly qualified as the Olympic Games host country. The tournament for America, which will directly qualify two teams, will be held in Cuba in 2006. Three zonal pre-qualification competitions corresponding to Central - North America, the Caribbean and South America, will

be held, in where four teams for each competition will have the right to participate in Cuba. The Asia Tournament, which will directly qualify one team, will be held in Chinese Taipei in 2006 or early 2007. The Asian Cup will be previously held as a pre-qualification tournament. The European tournament which will directly qualify one team will be held in Spain between July and August 2007. Previously, the European Championship, B pool on 2006 and A pool on 2007, will be held as pre-qualification competitions. Finally, a competition will be held at the end of 2007 or early 2008 in a place to be allocated in order to qualify the three left teams for Beijing 2008. The teams participating will be the third and fourth American tournament qualified teams, the second and third teams from the Asian and Europe tournaments, the Oceania champion, and the African champion.

Television and commercial rights--The Executive committee has approved to sign a contract for the commercial and television rights for the four qualification competition above mentioned with Sports Marketing Japan KK (HK) Ltd. The agreement has been signed by the IBAF President, Aldo Notari and the SMJ Executive Director, Kenneth K. Berger.

IBAF Awards--The following awards were announced: 2003 Youth Player of the Year, "Ike Ikuhara Award": Justin Bristow, USA; 2004 Youth Player of the Year, "Ike Ikuhara Award": Yadier Pedroso, Cuba; 2003 Coach of the Year, "Mizuno Award": Higinio Vélez, Cuba; 2004 Coach of the Year, "Mizuno Award": Frank Cruz, USA; 2003 Umpire of the Year, "SSK Award": Liang-Kuei Hsieh, Taipei; 2004 Umpire of the Year, "SSK Award": Don Gilbert, Canada; 2004 Corporate Executive of the Year: Motoshi Fujita, Japan, World Children's Baseball Foundation General Director; 2003 Executive of the Year: Frans Van Aalen, Holland; 2004 Executive of the Year: Panagiotis Mitsiopoulos, Greece.

Besides these, the Executive Committee introduced the following 2004 awards--2004 Woman Player of the Year: Laura Brenneman, USA; 2004 Male Player of the Year: Chris Oxspring, Australia. These awards will be given through the IBAF Ordinary Congress to be held this year in Lausanne. The next IBAF Executive Committee meeting will be held on Apr. 1-2, 2005, in Montreux, Switzerland.

Robbie Wine Era Begins at Penn State

An new era of Penn State baseball is underway with head coach Robbie Wine, and the fourth annual Dugout Club Media Luncheon will signal the start of the season when it is held at 12 p.m. on Feb. 10 in the Founder's Lounge of the Bryce Jordan Center.

Media representatives, Dugout Club members and the general public are welcome to attend the event, which will feature a lunch, and remarks from Wine and his players, as well as a question and answer session with the audience, the media and the coaches and players.

The Nittany Lions will open their season Feb. 19-20 at UNC-Charlotte.

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, 5201 N. O'Connor Blvd., Suite 300, Irving, TX 75063.

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2005 MEMBERSHIP FORM

----- **PLEASE CLIP AND MAIL** -----

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AFFILIATION _____

OFFICE ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

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MAKE CHECK (\$15) PAYABLE TO:

NCBWA

REMIT TO:

Russell Anderson

NCBWA Treasurer

c/o Conference USA

5201 No. O'Connor Blvd., Suite 300

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