



LINE DRIVES
THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL
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The President's Message
By NCBWA President Todd Lamb

Holiday Greetings to everyone! Did the holidays sneak up on you this year? Somehow, I was able to find time to write this before I start my holiday shopping. Of course, don't tell my wife.

We still have a while before the season starts. Thank goodness because as I write this, Columbus is getting between two and four inches of snow. Forgive me if I have a difficult time thinking about college baseball right now. I keep trying to remind myself I'll be traveling with our baseball team to Florida four times in February and March so my winter won't be quite as long.

By now you should have received the NCBWA Preseason All-America teams we announced Tuesday, Dec. 13. Congratulations to everyone who had a student-athlete named to one of our three teams. We released the preseason All-America teams early so SIDs have time to include them in media guide bios and media members can include the information in stories. The teams are included in this newsletter. I know I'm plugging away at our media guide this week and next before we head off to our bowl game against Notre Dame.

In the near future, we'll be sending out information about how to make nominations for the second annual NCBWA Stopper of the Year. Dave Fanucchi with USA Baseball will be heading up the award this year. If you have a strong candidate, look for the nomination information the first half of January.

As we prepare to usher in a new year, I encourage you to think about how we can make this organization stronger. If you have suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the board.

Have a Safe and Happy New Year!

Todd Lamb
NCBWA President
Ohio State Athletics Communications

Seventh Preseason NCBWA All-America Team For 2006 Highlights Returnees From 2005 NCAA Finalists Florida, Texas

The seventh annual preseason Division I All-America baseball team chosen by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association of America features five standouts from 2005 NCAA winner Texas and runnerup Florida.

The Gators' slugging first baseman Matt LaPorta with 26 homers and 79 RBI as a sophomore joins Longhorns' All-America OF Drew Stubbs and starting pitcher Kyle McCulloch off coach Augie Garrido's 56-16 national championship squad. UF's 2B Adam Davis graces the third team while Texas' soph RHP Adrian Alaniz is a third team starter after his 8-3 freshman campaign with a 2.67 ERA.

Sixteen different Division I conferences have representation on the preseason crew while the starting lineup sports a composite batting average of .362, 105 composite home runs and 491 RBI. Junior OF Shane Robinson of Florida State also returns as the only one of four finalists for the coveted Dick Howser Trophy,

presented by the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce and the NCBWA. Robinson batted .427 for coach Mike Martin's Seminoles as a sophomore in 2005 and was one of the runnersup to Dick Howser Trophy awardee 3B Alex Gordon of Nebraska last summer.

LaPorta paces all the returnees with 26 round-trippers while three starting pitchers on the first team each nailed down 12 victories in '05. SP Ian Kennedy of Southern California joined LaPorta and Robinson as three of the returnees from the NCBWA's '05 postseason All-America squad. Graduation and professional signings claimed 15 of the 18 standouts from the NCBWA first team, which was chosen in June 2005.

Nominations and watch lists for the selection of the 20th annual 2006 Dick Howser Trophy will be made public in spring 2006.

2006 NCWBA Preseason All-America Team

First Team

Pos. Name, School	Class	BA	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
1B Matt LaPorta, Florida	Jr.	.328	265	75	87	26	79
2B Chris Campbell, Coll. Of Charleston Jr.	Jr.	.379	269	64	102	15	87
3B Jared McGuire, Boston College	Jr.	.381	215	52	82	6	41
SS Josh Rodriguez, Rice	Jr.	.345	238	48	82	11	54
C Michael Ambort, Lamar	Jr.	.336	217	57	73	18	65
OF Brennan Boesch, California	Jr.	.369	198	33	73	7	33
OF Shane Robinson, Florida State	Jr.	.427	286	96	122	6	43
OF Drew Stubbs, Texas-32 SB	Jr.	.311	283	67	88	11	46
DH/ATH Joe Savery, Rice	So.	.382	204	49	78	5	43

Pitch: 8-5, 2.43 ERA, 19 G, 118.2 IP, 104 H, 37 BB, 129 SO, 1 SV

Pitchers

Pos. Name School	Cl.	W-L	ERA	G	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
SP Nick Hill, Army	Jr.	10-2	1.21	14	89	60	19	90	0
SP Max Scherzer, Missouri	Jr.	9-4	1.86	16	106.1	59	41	131	0
SP Dallas Buck, Oregon State	Jr.	11-1	1.93	15	107	77	42	114	0
SP Ian Kennedy, Southern California	Jr.	12-3	2.54	18	117	85	38	158	0
SP Kyle McCulloch, Texas	Jr.	12-4	2.92	26	138.2	137	45	99	0
RP Scott Reese, Creighton	Jr.	12-0	2.85	37	88.1	72	28	58	5
RP Daniel Best, Southern Miss	Sr.	3-0	0.46	30	39	32	7	37	11

Second Team

1B Adam Carr, Oklahoma State	Sr.	.336	235	54	79	22	86
2B Scott Sizemore, Va. Commonwealth Jr.	Jr.	.364	214	57	78	12	56
3B Wes Hodges, Georgia Tech	Jr.	.397	267	67	106	9	51
SS Mitch Hilligoss, Purdue	Jr.	.404	228	52	92	4	37
C Chad Tracy, Pepperdine	Jr.	.367	256	56	94	12	61
OF Jon Jay, Miami (Fla.)	Jr.	.408	211	50	86	1	52
OF Chad Huffman, TCU	Sr.	.353	241	54	85	12	53
OF Nathan Southard, Tulane	Sr.	.341	279	80	95	12	53
DH/ATH Sean Doolittle, Virginia	So.	.313	224	36	70	11	57

Pitching: 3-2, 1.64 ERA, 22 G, 49.1 IP, 31 H, 18 BB, 28 SO, 0 SV

DH/ATH Brian Pellegrini, St. Bonaventure Jr. .376 170 44 64 11 52

Pitching: 2-3, 1.98 ERA, 27 G, 41 IP, 34 H, 24 BB, 39 SO, 7 SV

Pitchers

Pos. Name School	Cl.	W-L	ERA	G	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
SP Johnny Dorn, Nebraska	So.	12-2	2.16	20	104	75	21	76	1
SP Joba Chamberlain, Nebraska	Jr.	10-2	2.81	18	118.2	91	33	130	0
SP Andrew Miller, North Carolina	Jr.	8-4	2.98	16	96.2	78	52	104	0
SP Jonah Nickerson, Oregon State	Jr.	9-2	2.13	18	110	88	29	114	0
SP Tim Lincecum, Washington	Jr.	8-6	3.11	16	104.1	62	71	131	0
RP Mark Melancon, Arizona	Jr.	5-4	2.58	34	66.1	52	21	69	11

RP Tyler Chambliss, Florida State	Jr.	7-3	2.06	39	52.1	36	23	75	15
RP Kevin Gunderson, Oregon State	Jr.	6-4	2.76	33	65.1	49	14	62	14

Third Team

1B Matt Rizzotti, Manhattan	So.	.416	173	53	72	9	57
2B Adam Davis, Florida	Jr.	.306	294	75	90	12	63
3B Jay Heafner, Davidson	Sr.	.448	203	51	91	11	58
(tie) 3B Brad Emaus, Tulane	So.	.321	262	71	80	13	56
SS Blake Davis, Cal State Fullerton	Jr.	.325	212	50	69	2	36
C Jeff Kunkel, Michigan	Sr.	.384	190	28	73	3	45
(tie) C J.P. Arencibia, Tennessee	So.	.322	283	54	91	14	71
OF Hunter Mense, Missouri	Jr.	.325	206	62	67	3	42
OF Anthony Wycklendt, Northwestern	Sr.	.311	193	37	60	10	52
OF Jeremy Jones, No Carolina A&T	Sr.	.402	204	53	82	4	46
DH/ATH Matt Wieters, Georgia Tech	So.	.366	227	53	83	10	68
Pitching: 3-3, 2.85 ERA, 26 G, 41 IP, 40 H, 20 BB, 32 SO, 6 SV							
DH/ATH Jon Willard, South Carolina	Jr.	.315	178	23	56	6	30
DH/ATH Justin Baum, Pacific	So.	.332	190	39	63	17	45

Pitchers

Pos. Name School	Cl.	W-L	ERA	G	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
SP John Ely, Miami (Ohio)	So.	10-2	2.87	16	103.1	94	20	108	0
SP James Adkins, Tennessee	So.	10-5	3.32	19	127.1	107	51	135	0
SP Adrian Alaniz, Texas	So.	8-3	2.67	23	108	93	39	94	0
SP Tim Bascom, UCF	Jr.	10-2	3.10	16	113.2	103	29	113	0
SP Jared Hughes, Long Beach State	Jr.	8-3	2.83	15	89	67	23	87	0
RP Brett Jensen, Nebraska	Sr.	3-5	1.96	33	46	36	9	46	16
RP Blair Erickson, UC Irvine	Jr.	1-2	1.80	28	35	16	22	52	10

U.S. Goes 5-0 in CONCEBE Qualifying Tourney

United States lefthander Bill Murphy (Diamondbacks/Phoenix, Ariz.) twirled six innings and limited Canada (3-2) to just one run on seven hits while striking out four, as the United States (5-0) posted a 5-2 victory on Nov. 19 at Maryvale Ballpark in Phoenix, Ariz., on the final day of the 2005 CONCEBE Regional Olympic Qualifying Tournament.

Team USA got off to a good start in the top of the first when Howie Kendrick (Angels/Callahan, Fla.) belted a solo homer off Canadian starter Mike Meyers. But Canada bounced back to tie the score in the second with three straight, two-out singles off Murphy, as Todd Betts drove home Jeremy Ware.

A different pair of Los Angeles Angels prospects gave Team USA a 2-1 lead in the fifth when Brandon Wood (Scottsdale, Ariz.) led off with a double down the left field line, advanced on a groundout and scored on a sacrifice fly by Jeff Mathis (Marianna, Fla.).

Meyers worked six innings while allowing two runs on three hits and was relieved by Eric Cyr. The Americans touched Cyr for a pair of insurance runs in the eighth, as Shane Victorino (Phillies/Las Vegas, Nev.) drove home Mathis with a double, and later scored on a sacrifice fly by Kendrick, making it 4-1.

Matt Smith (Yankees/Henderson, Nev./Oklahoma State) came on in relief of Murphy in the bottom of the seventh, and twirled two scoreless frames. Jim Miller (Rockies/Ft. Myers, Fla.) allowed a solo homer to Scott Thorman before nailing down the final three outs of the game.

"We did exactly what we came here to do – not just qualify, but sweep all five games," said Team USA manager Davey Johnson. "All week everybody on this team hustled, did all the little things, and played great defense. It was really a pleasure to manage this ball club."

United States first baseman Ryan Shealy (Rockies/Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.) was named the Most Valuable Player of the 2005 CONCEBE Regional Olympic Qualifying Tournament Sunday, by the selection committee. The Colorado Rockies prospect batted .500 (10-for-20) and was also named the leading hitter in the event. Three other Americans were named to the Tournament All-Star Team, including catcher Jeff Mathis, shortstop Brandon Wood and third baseman Brendan Harris (Nationals/Queensbury, N.Y.).

NOTES: Jarrod Saltalamacchia (Braves/W. Palm Beach, Fla.) led all players in the tournament in home runs (2). Brad Snyder (Indians/Bellevue, Ohio) led all players in runs scored (8). Howie Kendrick paced the tournament in RBI (7) and stolen bases (3).

Final Standings

*USA 5-0
*Canada 3-2
*Nicaragua 3-2
*Panama 2-3
#Mexico 2-3
#Guatemala 0-5

*Qualified for the 2006 COPABE Olympic Americas Tournament in Havana, Cuba

#Were eliminated

COLLEGIATE BASEBALL, BASEBALL AMERICA Rate 2006 Recruiting Classes - By Lou Pavlovich, Jr. for COLLEGIATE BASEBALL

South Carolina has been ranked No. 1 in *Collegiate Baseball* newspaper's 23rd annual rundown of NCAA Division I baseball recruiting classes. This marks the second time in the last three years that the Gamecocks have brought in the nation's top recruiting class orchestrated by recruiting coordinator Jim Toman.

"This could very well be our top class since we have been at South Carolina," said Toman. "It includes nine drafted players, two high school All-Americans, nine high school All-State recruits and six junior college All-State players. We had seven junior college players who were drafted previously as well as three high school recruits in James Darnell, Reese Havens and Justin Smoak who were considered possible top three round talents who also enrolled. "The class includes 23 athletes which breaks down to 13 high school players and 10 junior college athletes. Of those athletes, we brought in nine pitchers, five outfielders, six infielders and three catchers. Also of note is that 13 of the signees are from our home state of South Carolina, including the 2A, 3A and 4A Players of The Year in South Carolina. "We hope that this class can help get us back to the College World Series for the fourth time in five years." The headliners in South Carolina's 2005 recruiting class include:

*SS Reese Havens, Bishop England H.S. (Charleston, S.C.), an All-American who was picked in the 29th round by Colorado last June. *1B Justin Smoak, Stratford H.S. (Goose Creek, S.C.), an All-American who was picked in the 16th round by Oakland. *RHP Brandon Todd, Central Florida C.C., 38th round pick of Houston in 2004. *RHP Judd Norton, Manatee C.C., FL, 25th round pick of Atlanta in 2004. *OF Jon Bertschinger, Navarro C.C., TX, 34th round pick of Yankees in 2004. *OF Adam Crisp, Spartanburg Methodist College, SC, 38th round pick of Orioles in 2004. *C Trent Kline, St. Petersburg C.C., FL, 39th round pick of Montreal in 2003. *3B Rob Grinestaff, Okaloosa-Walton C.C., FL, 37th round pick of White Sox in 2004. *RHP Chris Munn, Manatee C.C., FL, 28th round pick of Mets in 2002. *LHP Will Atwood, Greenville H.S., SC, South Carolina's AAA Player of The Year. *RHP Mike Cisco, Wando H.S., SC (Mt. Pleasant, SC), All-State. *SS James Darnell, San Ramon Valley HS, CA, All-Conference. *OF Jon Ratledge, South Meck H.S. (Charlotte, NC), All-State. *OF Cheyne Hurst, St. Petersburg C.C., FL, All-State. The ratings by school: 1. South Carolina; 2. Arizona State; 3. Texas; 4. Vanderbilt; 5. LSU; 6. Tennessee; 7. Arizona; 8. Mississippi; 9. UCLA; 10. Florida; 11. Stanford; 12. Alabama; 13. Tulane; 14. Cal State Fullerton; 15. Miami (Fla.); 16. San Diego; 17. Mississippi State; 18. Virginia; 19. Fresno State; 20. Oklahoma State; 21. TCU; 22. Texas Tech; 23. Georgia Tech; 24. Clemson; 25. Florida State; 26. Wichita State; 27. Central Michigan; 28. Washington; 29. Rice; 30. Long Beach State; 31. North Carolina; 32. Georgia; 33. California; 34. North Carolina State; 35. Pepperdine; 36. Notre Dame; 37. Central Florida; 38. Baylor; 39. Michigan; 40. Arkansas.

Other Top Recruiting Classes: Nebraska, College of Charleston, Southern California, Texas A&M, Southern, Auburn, East Carolina, Kentucky, Oklahoma, Memphis, Houston, Ohio State, Oregon State, Penn State, Santa Clara, Georgia Southern, Missouri, Illinois, Wake Forest, Northern Illinois, North Carolina-Wilmington, Oral Roberts, Cincinnati, Lamar, Cal Poly SLO, Minnesota, UL Monroe, Stetson, Samford, Western Illinois, Cleveland St., Arkansas-Little Rock, Iowa, East Tennessee State, Louisville, Winthrop, Evansville, San Jose St., North Carolina-Greensboro, Washington State, UC Irvine, Missouri State.

BASEBALL AMERICA came in with a similarly-standout list of top recruiting classes, and the

results follow in a story by the famed Will Kimmey.

The Dandy Dozen: Top 12 Recruiting Classes - By Will Kimmey for BA - These are the nation's top 12 recruiting classes. For 2005 draft picks, the team and round are in parentheses. Asterisks denote junior college transfers.

1. VANDERBILT - Recruiting coordinator: Erik Bakich. Key recruits: Pedro Alvarez, 3b (Red Sox, 14); Nick Christiani, rhp; Ryan Flaherty, ss; Diallo Fon, of (Yankees, 49); Brett Jacobson, rhp (Diamondbacks, 11); Josh Zeid, rhp.

Alvarez, Fon, Flaherty, outfielder Kurt Lipton and transfer catchers Parker Hanks (UCLA) and Matt Meingasner (Broward, Fla., CC) should offer instant improvement to an offense that ranked 11th in runs scored among SEC teams and 202nd nationally. An influx of power arms should help maintain a staff that led the SEC in ERA and ranked 17th nationally.

2. ARIZONA STATE

Recruiting coordinator: Jay Sferra. Key recruits: Ike Davis, of/1b/lhp (Devil Rays, 19); Matt Hall, 2b/ss (Angels, 8); Preston Paramore, c (Mets, 22); Ryan Sontag, of; Jeff Urlaub, lhp (Devil Rays, 26); Brett Wallace, 3b (Blue Jays, 42).

Arizona State's second strong recruiting haul in as many years will cushion the loss of Travis Buck, Tuffy Gosewisch and Jeff Larish from the 2005 College World Series team. Davis, who led Chaparral High of Scottsdale, Ariz., to two top-10 final national rankings and was the MVP of the 2004 Aflac All-America game, could join Hall, Paramore and Wallace as lineup regulars as freshmen. Sontag was the Big 10 Conference freshman of the year at Michigan State a year ago.

3. TEXAS

Recruiting coordinator: Tommy Harmon. Key recruits: Jordan Danks, of (White Sox, 19); Joey Parigi, lhp/of; Kyle Russell, of; Brad Suttle, 3b (Angels, 21), Kyle Walker, lhp.

Texas filled needs of lefthanded pitching (signing seven lefties), infielders and catchers. It also added tremendous power to the outfield with first-round talents Danks and Russell. Transfers Chais Fuller (Sacramento City College) and Steve Clevenger (Southeastern Louisiana) will vie for the vacant shortstop position while two more newcomers Preston Pehrson (Jacksonville) and Brett Lewis (Texas-Arlington) look to fill the catching void.

4. SOUTH CAROLINA

Recruiting coordinator: Jim Toman. Key recruits: *Robbie Grinestaff, 3b; Reese Havens, ss (Rockies, 29); DeAngelo Mack, of; *Trent Kline, c; Justin Smoak, 1b (Athletics, 16).

Smoak, a high school teammate of 2005 freshman All-American Matt Wieters of Georgia Tech, and Havens are good friends who each won state titles as seniors and were among the top 50 prep prospects in the 2005 draft class. That duo along with Grinestaff should offer an immediate offensive upgrade. Lefty Alex Farotto (Greer, S.C.) should become a factor on a staff that lost three senior weekend starters.

5. UCLA

Recruiting coordinator: Pat Shine. Key recruits: Ryan Babineau, c (Brewers, 13); Brandon Crawford, ss; Cody Decker, 1B/DH; *David Huff, lhp (Phillies, 19); Tim Murphy, lhp/of (Angels 11).

Coming off a 15-41 season, the Bruins needed a large, talented class and got just that. Huff will slot into the weekend rotation while JC transfer Tyson Brummett and freshman lefties Andy Suiter and Robert Dickman should also contribute. Murphy will become a factor out of the bullpen and as the everyday right fielder. Babineau, Crawford and Decker should all join him as regulars in the lineup.

6. TENNESSEE

Recruiting coordinator: Rod Delmonico. Key recruits: Tony Delmonico, ss; *Deunte Heath, rhp (Angels, 23); Josh Lindblom, rhp (Astros, 3); *Ty Pryor, rhp; *Brian Van Kirk, of.

Last year's class wasn't large, but boasted two of the nation's best freshmen in J.P. Arencibia and James Adkins. This class could be better because of its power arms. Lindblom, the highest-drafted player to attend a Division I school, will join Heath and Pryor in fighting for rotation spots. Delmonico, the son of coach Rod Delmonico, makes for an even more interesting story. He'll graduate from high school early and should step right in at shortstop in a season when he normally would have been battling for position in the draft's first two rounds.

7. LOUISIANA STATE

Recruiting coordinator: Turtle Thomas. Key recruits: Jarred Bogany, of (Pirates, 15); Louis Coleman, rhp (Braves, 28); Robert Lara, c (Twins, 17); Jason Ogata, ss (Padres, 50); Derik Olvey, rhp.

The normally well-stocked Tigers might need a handful of fresh faces to step right in to key roles after

fielding a junior- and senior-dominated squad in 2005. Ogata, the best prep player in Oregon, intrigues with his power bat and could immediately fill the void at shortstop. Bogany's raw skill set reminds scouts of Torii Hunter because of his combination of speed and power in center field. Olvey, a Notre Dame transfer, brings a much-needed power arm to Baton Rouge.

8. VIRGINIA

Recruiting coordinator: Kevin McMullan. Key recruits: David Adams, inf. (Tigers, 21); David Caldwell, c; Jeremy Farrell, 3b (Rockies, 41); Shooter Hunt, rhp (Rangers, 34); Jacob Thompson, rhp.

Brian O'Connor enters his third season with his second strong class. Adams rated as Florida's No. 6 prospect last spring, but slipped in the draft because of his desire to attend college. Farrell stands 6-foot-4 with good power and baseball bloodlines (his father John is the Indians' farm director). Either player could replace Ryan Zimmerman at third base, with Adams capable of handling a middle-infield slot as well. Hunt and the 6-foot-6 Thompson both reach 90 mph with solid breaking balls.

9. STANFORD

Recruiting coordinator: Dean Stotz. Key recruits: Joey August, of; Jeremy Bleich, lhp; Jason Castro, c (Red Sox, 43); Brent Milleville, c (Angels, 39); Sean Ratliff, of/lhp; Austin Yount, of.

A commitment to Stanford tends to scare teams away from expending picks on a player, so that's not a vital measuring stick for a Cardinal class. Bleich and Ratliff helped USA Baseball's junior national team to a silver medal at the Pan Am games in September. Milleville rated as the draft's second-best prep catcher for his size and power bat. Yount is the nephew of former Brewers Hall of Famer Robin Yount.

10. AUBURN

Recruiting coordinator: Chris Finwood (now coach at Western Kentucky). Key recruits: Mike Bianucci, of/inf.; Justin Bristow, 3b/rhp (Royals, 22); Evan Crawford, lhp; Luke Greinke, ss/rhp; Bryan Woodall, rhp.

Draft status says little about this class, starting with Bristow, a potential second- or third-rounder who slipped because of signability. He and Greinke, the younger brother of Royals starter Zack, should slot into the left side of Auburn's infield immediately. Each also reaches 90 mph off the mound. Bianucci led the Clark Griffith League in home runs last summer. Crawford rated as Alabama's top prep pitcher.

11. MISSISSIPPI

Recruiting coordinator: Dan McDonnell. Key recruits: Phillip Irwin, rhp; Lance Lynn, rhp (Mariners, 6); *Craig Rodriguez, lhp; Cody Satterwhite, rhp (Indians, 37); *Garrett White, lhp.

Mississippi lost five pitchers who accounted for 77 percent of its innings a year ago and responded by signing a deep class of arms. Satterwhite attended Hillcrest Christian School in Byram, which also produced former Rebels Stephen Head and Seth Smith. He and Lynn both reach the mid-90s. Rodriguez, White and fellow JC transfer Matt Rozier, a righthander, will add a veteran influence on what looks to be a young staff.

12. SAN DIEGO

Recruiting coordinator: Eric Valenzuela. Key recruits: Scott Denault, rhp; Brian Matusz, lhp (Angels, 4); Ricardo Pecina, lhp; Josh Romanski, lhp (Padres, 15); *Anthony Siana, rhp.

All but one starter returns from 2005, so it makes sense that pitchers highlight San Diego's list of newcomers. Matusz is the highest draft pick to ever attend USD and second-highest pick to land on a Division I campus this fall. He and Romanski work in the low 90s and should contribute quickly. Pecina was an all-state performer as a San Diego prep while Siana earned all-California juco honors as a closer at Santa Ana JC.

Baseball Could Return to Olympics

By Barry M. Bloom / MLB.com

There's a chance that baseball could be reinstated as an Olympic sport in time for the 2012 Summer Games scheduled for London, a top ranking MLB official said on Oct. 25 before the White Sox played the Astros in Game 3 of the World Series at Minute Maid Park. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) voted this past July to drop baseball and women's softball. Baseball was ousted by a 54-50 vote, but baseball officials are hoping to push for another vote in February when the Winter Olympics are scheduled for Turin, Italy. Bob DuPuy, MLB's president and chief executive, attended a meeting of the International Baseball Federation (IBAF) this past weekend in Switzerland that included several voting members of the IOC and said he was pleased by the response.

"We presented the issues," DuPuy said. "This is not just about the U.S. or MLB. Baseball is the

national sport in 14 different countries and everyone wants a chance to continue to participate in the Olympics. I feel pretty good about getting back in." Baseball has been criticized in Olympic circles both for MLB's reluctance to interrupt its regular season to send the best players to Olympic competition and for the league's difficulty in instituting a drug testing system. At an IOC meeting in Singapore in July, IOC members voted on each summer Olympic sport, the first such review of the sports program. Top baseball officials say they were assured baseball would not be ousted. But the membership voted to drop the two sports, the first such action since polo was removed from the Games in 1936.

"[IOC president Jacques] Rogge assured us that there was no problem," said DuPuy, who attended that meeting with Sandy Alderson, then outgoing executive vice president of baseball operations, and John Moores, the majority owner of the Padres. "We were all shocked when the vote came down and I think Rogge was surprised as well." There are now 122 individual federations in baseball playing nations around the world as opposed to just 60 in 1990, and 16 of them will be represented in next year's World Baseball Classic, scheduled to be played in Japan, the U.S. and Puerto Rico from March 3-20. That tournament will be the first internationally to include Major League players.

To get baseball reinstated, more than one-third of the 115 IOC members would be required to submit a motion for a new vote. Half the members would need to agree to the motion and then a majority vote would reinstate the sport for 2012. If that does not happen, baseball can try again in four years to be returned to the program for 2016. Four years ago, the IOC allowed baseball and softball to maintain their active status through the 2008 games in Beijing, China.

The Chinese, who earn an automatic berth in the eight-team Olympic tournament because they are the host country, used that as the impetus to develop a professional league and national team for the first time since baseball was banned during the cultural revolution of the 1960s. The first qualifying tournament for the 2008 games is scheduled for next month in Phoenix where Texas A&M/Texas-San Antonio alumnus Davey Johnson will manage Team USA. Baseball is a relatively young Olympic sport. It joined the Games in 1984 in Los Angeles as a demonstration sport and earned medal status eight years later during the 1992 Games at Barcelona.

Since then, Cuba has won three of the four gold medals with the lone exception being a loss to Team USA in the championship game of the 2000 Summer Olympics at Sydney, Australia. That U.S. team, which included such current Major Leaguers as Houston's Roy Oswalt, Milwaukee's Ben Sheets and Washington's Brad Wilkerson, was the first to include Major League-affiliated players outside the 25-man rosters of each big league team. That team was managed by the Dodgers' Tommy Lasorda, the Hall of Fame skipper, who is now a special consultant to owners Frank and Jamie McCourt.

Almost since those 2000 Olympics, the IOC has been engaged with MLB about the future use of Major League players and has been threatening to drop the sport. IOC officials point to the fact that the NBA has sent players during its offseason to the Olympics since 1992 and the NHL has even taken a break in regular-season schedule to send its players to the recent Winter Olympics and will do so again to participate in Italy. Baseball supporters headed off a movement to dump the sport in 2002 when Rogge decided to drop a vote because of procedural issues. DuPuy said that sending Major Leaguers to the Olympics is not the only issue. "There's just not a real understanding among some of the IOC voters about baseball's standing in the world," DuPuy said. "But I'm optimistic. This is changing." **Barry M. Bloom** is a national reporter for MLB.com. This story was not subject to the approval of Major League Baseball or its clubs.

Buck Martinez to Manage World Baseball Classic Team, Lasorda Named Special Ambassador

Buck Martinez has been named the Field Manager for the United States team that will compete in the first ever World Baseball Classic in March, 2006. This will be Martinez's first managerial or coaching stint with USA Baseball.

"We are thrilled to have such a knowledgeable leader as Buck Martinez guiding our team into this exciting event next spring," said USA Baseball General Manager of Professional Baseball Operations Bob Watson. "His experience analyzing many of the Major League players that will be participating in the World Baseball Classic – both on the American roster and from the competing countries - should give him a great perspective."

Martinez managed the Toronto Blue Jays in 2001-02, but currently serves as analyst on ESPN's Wednesday night national telecasts of Major League Baseball. He previously worked for ESPN from 1992-2000, following a 17-year career as a Major League catcher. He also calls 60 games a season as analyst for the Baltimore Orioles on Comcast SportsNet.

For the past 10 years, Martinez has been involved in the Rookie Career Development Program, jointly sponsored by Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association. His radio experience as a color commentator for Telemedia Radio Network (1982-88) includes the World Series, the American League Championship Series and the All-Star Game. He has also served as post-game analyst for Telemedia's regular season Major League Baseball coverage.

During his Major League playing career, Martinez compiled a .225 career batting average with 58 home runs in 1,049 games with Toronto (1981-86), Milwaukee (1978-81) and Kansas City (1969-77).

USA Baseball also announced four members of its on-field coaching staff that will assist Martinez with the United States team competing in the first ever World Baseball Classic in March 2006. The coaches include:

Davey Johnson: Serving on his third consecutive professional USA Baseball coaching staff, following a pair of stints as the Team USA manager at both the 2005 IBAF World Cup, and the 2005 CONCEBE Regional Olympic Qualifying Tournament in Phoenix, AZ, where he led the Americans to a perfect 5-0 record. Johnson has a career record of 1,148-888 (.564) in 14 Major League seasons as a manager with the New York Mets (1984-90), Cincinnati Reds (1993-95), Baltimore Orioles (1996-97) and Los Angeles Dodgers (1999-2000). He was named the 1997 American League Manager of the Year after leading the Orioles to the A.L. East Division title. As a player, he collected three Gold Glove Awards and was a four-time All-Star second baseman over 13 seasons with the Orioles, Braves, Phillies, and Cubs.

Reggie Smith: Returns to USA Baseball for his third tour of duty. He was the hitting coach for both the 1999 USA Baseball Pan Am Team (Silver medal) in Winnipeg, Canada, and the 2000 USA Baseball Olympic Team (Gold medal) in Sydney, Australia. Smith played 17 seasons in the Major Leagues and was a seven-time All-Star with the Red Sox, Cardinals, Dodgers, and Giants.

Marcel Lachemann: Returns for his third stint with USA Baseball as well. He was the pitching coach for the 1999 USA Baseball Pan Am Team (Silver medal) in Winnipeg, Canada, and recently held the same position for the 2005 USA Baseball CONCEBE Regional Olympic Qualifying Team, under Johnson. He is currently a Special Assistant to the GM with the Colorado Rockies.

Ken Griffey Sr.: Currently a Special Consultant to the GM for the Cincinnati Reds. A lifetime .296 hitter over 19 Major League seasons with the Reds, Yankees, Braves & Mariners. He was a three-time All-Star and the MVP of the 1980 All-Star Game. This will be his first USA Baseball coaching experience.

THE WORLD BASEBALL CLASSIC

The World Baseball Classic, a 16-team tournament sanctioned by the International Baseball Federation (IBAF), will feature many of the best players in the world competing for their home countries and territories for the first time ever in March 2006. The 16 teams invited to participate in the event have been divided into four pools of four teams for the first round of play. They include: Pool A – China, Chinese Taipei, Japan, Korea; Pool B – Canada, Mexico, South Africa, United States; Pool C – Cuba, Netherlands, Panama, Puerto Rico; Pool D – Australia, Dominican Republic, Italy, Venezuela.

The four Round 1 pools are scheduled to be played in Tokyo, Japan; San Juan, Puerto Rico; Orlando, Fla.; Phoenix and Scottsdale, Ariz. Round 2 will feature two pools of four teams each and is scheduled to be played in San Juan, Puerto Rico and Anaheim, Calif. The Semi-Finals and Final will be played at PETCO Park in San Diego.

In addition to Martinez' hiring, Hall of Famer Tommy Lasorda, the two-time World Series-winning manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers and the manager of the Gold Medal-winning United States Team in the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, has been named an Ambassador at Large for the inaugural World Baseball Classic, World Baseball Classic Inc. announced. In his capacity as an Ambassador for the World Baseball Classic, Lasorda will serve as a spokesman to increase awareness of the tournament and will travel to participating countries and territories in an effort to help promote the event and grow the game of baseball internationally.

"Tommy Lasorda is a baseball icon and is the perfect person to serve as Ambassador for the World Baseball Classic," said Major League Baseball Commissioner Allan H. (Bud) Selig. "Tommy has assembled one of the most distinguished careers of anyone in the game, and his experiences in both Major League Baseball and international play will be great assets to the tournament."

"Who better than Tommy for this role in the inaugural Classic?" said MLBPA Executive Director Donald M. Fehr. "Tommy is as loved around the world as much as baseball is and we're simply delighted he will be bringing his enthusiasm and charm to this important aspect of the tournament."

Lasorda pitched in the Major Leagues with the Brooklyn Dodgers (1954-55) and the Kansas City Athletics (1956) before going on to a decorated career in the Dodgers organization. He managed Los Angeles to two World Championships (1981 and 1988) and eight division titles from 1976-1996. After being elected to the Hall of Fame in 1997, he led Team USA to its first Gold Medal in Olympic play in 2000. He currently serves the Dodgers as Special Advisor to the Chairman.

Phil Lowery's Longest Games: Part II

Here is a list of all college doubleheaders that have lasted either seven hours or more, or 25 innings or more, and a list of all college tripleheaders and quadrupleheaders in the NCAA and NAIA. None have yet been identified in either the NJCAA or in the NCCAA. If you know of any such events that have been omitted from these lists, please contact Phil Lowry at plowry1176@aol.com.

LONGEST DOUBLEHEADERS

7:33 and 30 innings – Clark Field, Lafayette, La. - 3/27/1971 – NCAA - SW Louisiana (now UL Lafayette) Ragin' Cajuns 6 McNeese State Cowboys 5 in 5:03, then McNeese State 13 Southwestern Louisiana 10 in 2:30 and 7 innings.

27 innings – Coleman Field, Corvallis, Ore. – 5/6/1972 – NCAA - Washington Huskies 2 Oregon State Beavers 1 in 4:38 and 20 innings, then Oregon State 7 Washington 1 in 1:45 and 7 innings – 250 fans.

29 innings – Thunderbird Park, Cedar City, Utah - 5/2/1981 – NAIA - Mesa State Mavericks 9 New Mexico Highlands Cowboys 8 in 20 innings, then Southern Utah State Thunderbirds 5 Mesa State 4.

27 innings – Keahi Lagoon Park, Honolulu, Hawai'i – 4/13/1990 – NAIA - Hawai'i Pacific Sea Warriors 6 College of Idaho (later Albertson) Coyotes 5 in 20 innings, then Hawai'i Pacific vs. Idaho in 7 innings. UNKNOWN FINAL SCORE, UNKNOWN TIME OF GAME

8:44 and 28 innings – Tiger Field, Clemson, S.C. - 4/21/1996 – NCAA - Georgia Southern Eagles 8 Clemson Tigers 6 in 2:57 and 10 innings, then Georgia Southern 9 Clemson 7 in 5:47 and 18 innings – 2,356 fans.

7:23 – Le Lacheur Park, Lowell, Mass. - 3/31/1999 – NCAA - SUNY-Albany Great Danes 15 Massachusetts-Lowell River Hawks 14 in 4:01 and 10 innings, then Albany 8 Massachusetts-Lowell 6 in 3:22 and 11 innings – 153 fans.

7:20 – Nettleton Stadium, Chico, Calif. - 5/11/2002 – NCAA - Cal State-San Bernardino Coyotes 13 Cal-Davis Aggies 12 in 4:10 and 10 innings, then Cal State-San Bernardino 11 Cal-Davis 9 in 3:10 – 213 fans.

7:50 and 29 innings – Pilot Stadium, Portland, Ore. - 4/6/2003 – NCAA - Gonzaga Bulldogs 9 Portland Pilots 6 in 4:37 and 16 innings, then Portland 4 Gonzaga 3 in 3:13 and 13 innings.

7:53 and 25 innings – Bond Field, Forest Grove, Ore. – 3/28/2004 – NCAA - Lewis and Clark Pioneers 8 Pacific Boxers 7 in 5:00 and 16 innings, then Pacific 11 Lewis and Clark 5 in 2:53 and 9 innings – 80 fans.

7:46 – Duvall-Rosier Field, Fairmont, W.V. – 3/22/2005 – NAIA at NCAA – Fairmont State Falcons 7 Seton Hill Griffins 6 in 5:45 and 17 innings, then Fairmont State 5 Seton Hill 2 in 2:01 and 7 innings – 56 fans.

9:01 – Nettleton Stadium, Chico, Calif. - 5/14/2005 – NCAA - Cal-San Diego Tritons 5 Chico State Wildcats 4 in 4:16 and 11 innings, then Cal-San Diego 7 Chico State 6 in 4:45 and 12 innings – 902 fans.

8:02 – Rickwood Field, Birmingham, Ala. – 5/22/2005 and 5/23/2005 – NCAA - Southern Jaguars 6 Prairie View A&M Panthers 0 in 2:37, then Southern 6 Prairie View A&M 5 in 5:25 and 15 innings, 0:30 gunfire delay bottom 15th, suspended after 5:15 and 14 ½ innings – 314 fans for first game, 187 fans for second game.

ALL TRIPLEHEADERS

5:53 and 22 innings - Old College Field, East Lansing, Mich. – 4/29/1961 – NCAA – Michigan Wolverines 5 Michigan State Spartans 1 in 1:35 and 7 innings, then Michigan 6 Michigan State 4 in 2:06 and 7 innings, then Michigan 4 Michigan State 3 in 2:12 and 8 innings.

9:10 and 27 innings – Don Provance Field and Glendale High School Field, Springfield, Mo. – 5/11/1996 – NAIA – rain delays, Benedictine Ravens 6 Missouri Valley Vikings 4 in 2:30 at Don Provance Field, then Benedictine 4 Evangel Crusaders 3 in 3:00 at Glendale Field, then Benedictine 5 Evangel 4 in 3:40.

6:42 and 22 innings – Bill Davis Stadium, Columbus, Ohio – 3/29/2002 and 3/30/2002 – NCAA – Ohio State Buckeyes 8 Northwestern Wildcats 5 in 2:28 and 9 innings, 0:30 rain delay top 2nd, suspended after 0:15 and 1 inning, completed next day, then Ohio State 6 Northwestern 5 in 2:00 and 7 innings, then Northwestern 11 Ohio State 8 in 2:29 and 7 innings – 1,455 fans.

5:48 and 21 innings – Bill Davis Stadium, Columbus, Ohio – 4/26/2002 and 4/27/2002 – NCAA – Purdue Boilermakers 10 Ohio State Buckeyes 7 in 2:23 and 7 innings, 2:05 rain delay bottom 4th, suspended after 0:57 and 2 1/2 innings, completed next day, then Ohio State 8 Purdue 0 in 2:11 and 7 innings, then Ohio State 3 Purdue 1 in 2:11 and 7 innings – 3,432 fans.

9:47 and 28 innings – Salem Memorial Stadium, Salem, Va. – 5/25/2003 – NCAA – Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets 10 North Carolina Tar Heels 6 in 2:59, then Georgia Tech 10 Florida State Seminoles 7 in 3:07, then Georgia Tech 6 North Carolina State Wolfpack 5 in 3:41 and 10 innings – 2090 fans.

27 innings – Florida Memorial Field, Hialeah, Fla. – 1/30/2004 - NCAA – Savannah State Tigers 8 Morris Brown Wolverines 4, then Florida Memorial Lions 8 Morris Brown 4, then Albany State Golden Rams 4 Morris Brown 2.

10:20 and 27 innings – Dan Law Field, Lubbock, Texas – 3/6/2004 – NCAA – Harvard Crimson 25 Air Force Falcons 20 in 3:57, then Texas Tech Red Raiders 18 Harvard 6 in 3:13, then Texas Tech 30 Harvard 8 in 3:10 – 2427 fans.

7:45 and 23 innings – Esposito Stadium, Miami Gardens, Fla. – 1/29/2005 – NAIA – Lee Flames 12 St. Thomas Bobcats 0 in 2:35, then St. Thomas 4 Lee 2 in 2:40 and 7 innings, then Lee 13 St. Thomas 0 in 2:30 and 7 innings.

6:45 and 22 innings – Ronken Field, Sioux Falls, S.D. – 3/26/2005 - NCAA – Augustana Vikings 3 Bemidji State Beavers 1 in 2:10 and 7 innings, then Augustana 5 Bemidji State 4 in 2:35 and 8 innings, then Augustana 4 Bemidji State 3 in 2:00 and 7 innings – 65 fans.

6:10 and 21 innings – Logger Field, Tacoma, Wash. – 4/4/2005 – NCAA – Puget Sound Loggers 4 Pacific Boxers 3 in 1:40 and 7 innings, then Pacific 6 Puget Sound 2 in 2:00 and 7 innings, then Pacific 7 Puget Sound 6 in 2:30 and 7 innings – 88 fans.

Clemson Adds Two Assistant Coaches

Clemson Head Baseball Coach Jack Leggett announced the addition of Russell Triplett and Denny Oughton to the staff on Tuesday. Triplett will serve as the volunteer coach, and will work with infielders and hitters. He replaces Bradley LeCroy, who after spending three seasons as Clemson's volunteer coach became an assistant coach at Western Carolina in July. Oughton will serve as the director of baseball operations, a newly-created position for the program.

"We are excited about having Russell Triplett on our coaching staff," stated Leggett. "He was an outstanding player and loved to be on the field when he was a player. Russell understands what this program is all about, and we are looking forward to what he brings to the team."

Triplett earned four letters with the Tigers from 2001-04. He was a two-time Second-Team All-ACC selection (2002-03) and a two-time team captain. In 222 career games, he hit .312 and had a solid .943 fielding percentage, mostly at shortstop. He was a valuable utility player on Clemson's 2002 College World Series team and was a part of four NCAA Tournament squads.

Triplett, 24, spent the summers of 2004 and 2005 playing minor league baseball. Last summer, he played for the Hagerstown Suns (A) and Binghamton Mets (AA) in the New York Mets' organization, where he hit a combined .286 with 15 doubles, four homers, and 25 RBIs in 61 games. A West Columbia, S.C., native, Triplett was born January 18, 1981.

"We are also excited to have Denny Oughton join us as well," said Leggett. "He is a very hard worker and has baseball knowledge to go along with his great organizational skills. Denny will help a great deal in the office and improve the program in many ways."

Oughton, 38, played shortstop and lettered twice at Pacific Lutheran in Tacoma, Wash., in 1993 and '94. Prior to his two years with the Lute program, he played two seasons at Pierce College in Tacoma. After his playing days, Oughton was an assistant coach at his high school alma mater, Rogers High School in Puyallup, Wash., for three seasons. He was later the head coach of Green River Community College in Auburn, Wash., and served as the head coach of the Athletes in Action Central America tour. A Puyallup native, Oughton was born March 28, 1967.

Famed Bob Bradley Scorebooks – Still on Sale...

To All Baseball SIDs (From Tim Bourret, Clemson): We have a new shipment of Bob Bradley Scorebooks in. All are bound in plastic and have a capacity of 80 games. All the money for the sale of these scorebooks goes to the Bob Bradley Scholarship fund at Clemson.

Just send me a check for \$20 per book made out to the Bob Bradley Scholarship Fund, and I will send them to you. Our address is PO Box 632, Clemson, SC 29633.

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 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, the Stopper of the Year Award, publication and writing contests. Additionally, the organization maintains a website at www.ncbwa.com. For membership, send annual dues (\$15), along with mailing address, phone, fax and e-mail address information to Russell Anderson, NCBWA Associate Executive Director, c/o Conference USA, 5201 No. O'Connor Blvd., Suite 300, Irving, TX 75309.

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