



LINE DRIVES

THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS NEWSLETTER

(Volume 45, No. 6, September 13, 2006)

The President's Message

By Outgoing NCBWA President Todd Lamb

Membership:

A lot has happened since my last letter to you in May.

We had just named Don Czyz the NCBWA Stopper of the Year and then were headed to Omaha to present the Dick Howser Trophy. Brad Lincoln from Houston was this year's recipient and was certainly deserving of the honor. It was great to spend a few hours with him and his coach, Rayner Noble, and his SID, Jeff Conrad, at the Drover the night before the presentation. I spent three days in Omaha and got to see every team play one game. It was great to see the folks from Clemson and Rice, two of my former employers, there. I know both had hoped to better results, but they along with the other six schools are to be congratulated for great seasons.

Oregon State, the only team to make a return visit in Omaha from 2005, emerged victorious. They were loaded with talent, like the other teams in Omaha, but found a way to take two of three from North Carolina for the first national championship won by a true Northern team since my Buckeyes won in 1966. I exchanged email with Kip Carlson, the Beavers' baseball SID, shortly after they won to offer my congratulations and told him that while the schools in my part of the country were celebrating their accomplishment, they also knew the pressure to match their success would be turned up a notch.

We, too, must celebrate the accomplishments from the other divisions from last year. In Division II, Tampa's Lee Cruz was the NCBWA Player of the Year, while Emporia State's Gabe Medina was the NCBWA Pitcher of the Year. In Division III, the NCBWA honored the College of New Jersey's Gerard Haran as the Position Player of the Year, while Marietta's Mike Eisenberg was named the Pitcher of the Year. Marietta became just the second Division III program to claim four national titles when it beat Wheaton (Mass.) 7-2 on May 30. Tampa beat Chico State 3-2 in 10 innings to win the Division II national championship June 3. Congratulations to those team champions and individual award winners.

While we close out the 2006 season by marking the accomplishments of the team and individual winners, I also must say good-bye in this message. It was a pleasure to serve the membership of the NCBWA last year. I could not have done it without the help of Bo Carter and Russ Anderson. They made my job easy. Now I must turn over the proverbial gavel to Mex Carey at Georgetown. I have known him for years and he is a tremendous talent as an SID and I am certain he will provide outstanding leadership for the organization.

I hope to remain active in the organization and I encourage you to take an active role as well. Help build the membership and do not hesitate to offer a suggestion about how the group can improve the promotion of college baseball.

Sincerely,
Todd Lamb
2005-06 NCBWA President
The Ohio State University

The President's Message II

By Incoming NCBWA President Michael "Mex" Carey

Membership:

Words cannot express how excited I am to be given the opportunity to serve as the leader of the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association for the upcoming school year.

The last year has been a whirlwind for me. From 1999 to 2005, I was the Associate Director of Media Relations at St. John's University in New York. While at St. John's, I handled the day-to-day media relations for the baseball program there and through the urging of former BIG EAST Conference Director of Communications Rob Carolla, I became involved in the NCBWA in 2002.

I left St. John's following the 2004-05 academic year to take over as the Sports Information Director at Georgetown University in our nation's Capitol. And while I am not directly involved in baseball as a Hoya, it gave me the opportunity to immerse myself more in what I perceive to be the jewels of college sports – baseball – and to become more directly involved in the operations of the NCBWA.

My association with the NCBWA has been one of the most rewarding aspects of my 10 years in college athletics. And working with a sport I love, especially on the college level, has brought me a great deal of joy.

I would be remiss if I did not thank the board members of the NCBWA – good people like Rob Carolla, Russ Anderson, Bo Carter, Mike Montoro and Todd Lamb – for their faith in me.

The NCBWA provides a great service to the people who cover college baseball – the beat writers, the radio and television producers and talent and, more than anyone, the sports information directors who devote five months of their time over a schedule that includes at least 50 games and requires long hours and time away from home.

In assuming this role, I think that I bring a unique perspective to the position since I was an SID for one of the top programs in a region that does not necessarily live and die with the sport as in other regions. In recent years, however, as our sport has grown nationally, I have seen an increased interest in college baseball in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states.

It is because of this increased interest that I am even more excited to take over the presidency. College baseball has grown considerably in the last five years and a lot that growth is due to the hard work of the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association.

The awards committee of the organization has worked hard to enable college baseball teams, coaches and student-athletes receive the recognition they so richly deserve and my hope is that we will see that growth continue during the next year and beyond.

I am very much looking forward to this opportunity and I hope that I can return the trust that the membership has put in me with great leadership for the 2006-07 year.

Mike "Mex" Carey
2006-07 NCBWA President
Sports Information Director, Georgetown University

Beavers Bring First-Ever NCAA Baseball Title to Oregon State

By Gary Horowitz

Salem (Ore.) Statesman-Journal

The Oregon State Beavers were the most unlikely national champions, yet so deserving.

OSU scoffed at its underdog label and survived six elimination games at the College World Series to emerge as the last team standing.

A 3-2 victory June 26 against North Carolina in the championship series finale before a crowd of 18,565 at Rosenblatt Stadium gave the resilient Beavers their first national crown in baseball.

It didn't come easy. The Beavers (50-16) overcame an 11-1 loss to Miami in their CWS opener, dropped game one of the best-of-three championship series to North Carolina 4-3, and rallied from a five-run deficit in game two for a momentum-building 11-7 win.

That set up the title game with everything on the line and Jonah Nickerson on the hill for the Beavers.

"It's the best feeling in the world," said closer Kevin Gunderson, who retired Chad Flack on a fly ball to center fielder Tyler Graham with a runner on third for the final out in the title game.

"Losing that first game to Miami was obviously difficult, but we came out and did something that hasn't been done in a long time."

OSU became just the second team in the past 25 years to win the national championship after losing its CWS opener.

It was a disheartening loss for the Tar Heels (54-15), who also were seeking their first national diamond title. UNC gave up the winning run on a throwing error.

With runners on first and second and two outs in the bottom of the eighth inning, pinch hitter Ryan Gipson hit a routine grounder to second baseman Bryan Steed, whose errant throw to first baseman Tim Federowicz allowed Bill Rowe to score from second base.

"Our pitchers and our defenders battled so hard that whole game that I really feel like we deserved that win no matter how we got it," said Rowe, the Beavers' senior first baseman.

Steed came in as a defensive replacement in the fifth when starting second baseman Garrett Gore left for a pinch hitter.

The top of the eighth inning also was pivotal. Dallas Buck of the Beavers entered in relief of Eddie Kunz with runners on first and second and no outs. Jay Cox grounded out to first, sending the runners to second and third.

Buck intentionally walked Federowicz to load the bases, and struck out Seth Williams and Benji Johnson to get out of the jam. On a 1-2 pitch to Johnson, Josh Horton attempted to steal home. But Johnson swung at strike three before the sliding Johnson crossed the plate, and catcher Mitch Canham held on to the ball.

It was a gallant effort from Buck, who came back after pitching 6 1/3 innings in the third game of the championship round.

"It's the most I've ever wanted to pitch," said Buck, a junior right-hander who recorded his 13th win of the season. "If you can't muster up a couple pitches in that situation, you shouldn't be playing."

OSU went 51 1/3 consecutive innings of errorless ball before shortstop Darwin Barney's throwing error led to two unearned runs in the fifth off Nickerson, who was named the most outstanding player in the CWS.

Nickerson went 2-0 in the CWS, and gave up just two runs in 21 innings.

"I thought he showed unbelievable courage," coach Pat Casey said. That statement could apply to an OSU team that was determined to make amends for last year's two and out showing at the CWS in the Beavers' first appearance in Omaha since 1952.

"I didn't doubt this team once because of the fact that we came from behind all season," said junior left fielder Cole Gillespie, the Pac-10 player of the year. "Injuries, so much adversity, we had our backs to the wall the whole season."

Coaching Carousel

Here's a look at all of the coaching changes that have occurred in division I since the end of the 2005 season:

School	New Coach (Previous School/Job)	Former Coach (Reason)
Alabama A&M	Jay Martin (Alabama A&M football assistant)	Thomas Wesley (not renewed)
Birmingham-Southern	Vacant	Brian Shoop (to UAB)
Boston College	Mikio Aoki (BC assistant)	Pete Hughes (to Virginia Tech)
Cleveland State	Kevin Kocks (NAIA Spalding)	Jay Murphy (not renewed)
Coppin State	vacant	Guy Robertson (resigned)
Evansville	David Seifert (UE assistant)	Dave Schrage (Notre Dame)
Georgia State	Greg Frady (GSU assistant)	Mike Hurst (became GSU assistant athletic director)
Indiana State	Lindsay Meggs (Chico State)	Bob Warn (retired)
Grambling State	Barret Rey (Southern pitching coach)	James Randall (not renewed)
Jackson State	Omar Johnson (JSU assistant)	Mark Salter (not renewed)
Lipscomb	Jeff Forehand (NAIA Trevecca Nazarene)	Wynn Fletcher (resigned)
Louisiana State	Paul Mainieri (Notre Dame)	Smoke Laval (resigned)
Louisville	Dan McDonnell (Mississippi assistant)	Lelo Prado (to South Florida)
Marshall	Jeff Waggoner (North Carolina State assistant)	Dave Piepenbrink (took job outside of baseball)
Maryland-Eastern Shore	Will Gardner (Delaware State assistant)	Bobby Rodriguez (resigned)
Notre Dame	Dave Schrage (Evansville)	Paul Mainieri (to LSU)
Richmond	Mark McQueen (Virginia Commonwealth)	Ron Atkins (retiring after 2007 season)
Sam Houston State	Mark Johnson (former Texas A&M coach)	Chris Rupp (resigned)
South Florida	Lelo Prado (Louisville)	Eddie Cardieri (resigned)
Southern California	Chad Krueger (Rockies, high Class A)	Mike Gillespie (retired)
UAB	Brian Shoop (Birmingham-Southern)	Larry Giangrosso (retired)
Valparaiso	Tracy Woodson	Paul Twenge (resigned)
Virginia Tech	Pete Hughes (Boston College)	Chuck Hartman (retired)

Team USA Wins Gold

The USA Baseball National Team, coached by Vanderbilt's Tim Corbin, competed at the FISU World University Championships in Havana, Cuba in August 2006. They completed an undefeated run in the tournament and captured their second straight FISU World Championship with an 18-9 win over Chinese Taipei in the title game.

The National Team finished its summer campaign with a 28-2-1 mark. The .919 win percentage is the best ever by a USA Baseball collegiate team and the tournament win was the first ever for a USA Baseball National Team in Cuba.

Tennessee J.C.'s Arencibia was named the MVP of the tournament after a stellar display at the plate. He finished 14-for-34 (.412) with three doubles, two triples, four homers and a tournament best 23 RBI in the eight games.

NCBWA Names 2006-07 Officers

The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) released its list of 2006-07 officers, as approved recently by the organization's executive board. These officers begin their duties immediately and will serve in these roles through the 2007 College World Series.

Michael "Mex" Carey, Sports Information Director at Georgetown University, will serve as the organization's President during the upcoming year. Carey has served as an officer in the NCBWA for the past three years and has worked with college baseball since 1999, including a previous stint at St. John's, where he promoted two NCAA Regional teams, along with first round MLB draft pick Craig Hansen. This past year, Carey coordinated the Wilbur Snapp Award, given for outstanding contributions to college baseball, and served on the NCBWA Preseason and Postseason All-America committees.

Shamus McKnight, Assistant Sports Information Director at Nebraska and a two-year officer in the NCBWA, has been promoted to First Vice-President and is slated to serve as Carey's successor. Joe Dier, long-time baseball SID at Mississippi State has been elevated to Second Vice-President and Chuck Dunlap, Assistant Director of Media Relations and Baseball SID at the Southeastern Conference, and an NCBWA Board Member in recent years, has been named as Third Vice-President.

Bo Carter will continue his role as NCBWA Executive Director, working closely on organizational issues such as corporate sponsorships and the continuing relationship with the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and the Dick Howser Trophy. Veteran Secretary-Treasurer Russell Anderson, Assistant Commissioner of Conference USA, will begin his second year in the dual role of Associate Executive Director, where he will continue his roles in membership, finance and administration for the organization in addition to corporate sponsorship relations. Mike Montoro, Associate Athletic Director at Southern Miss, is in his second year as the Assistant Executive Director, overseeing a number of projects for the organization, including the annual NCBWA Directory and the Division I Players of the Week.

Three new appointments were made to the Board of Directors, where Tami Cutler of Wichita State, Jason Leturmy of the Atlantic Coast Conference and Julie St. Cyr of the Big West Conference join Barry Allen of Alabama and Kyle McRae of Stanford in supporting the NCBWA's efforts.

This past year marked the first for NCBWA Coordinators in Division II and Division III. A pair of long-time NCBWA contributors will continue these roles in the upcoming season, with Bob McComas of Slippery Rock serving as Division II Coordinator, while Steve Marovich of Carthage continues as D-III Coordinator. The gentlemen will coordinate weekly honors, postseason awards and other publicity efforts for these divisions.

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 and for the first-time this year Freshman All-American voting. The NCBWA also sponsors preseason All-American awards, publication and writing contests. Additionally, the organization has 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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NCBWA 2006-07 OFFICERS

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3rd Vice-President:

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Executive Director:

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Assistant Executive Director:

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Division III Coordinator:

Steve Marovich, Carthage College	262-551-5740	carthagesid@carthage.edu
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Board of Directors: Barry Allen, Alabama, 205-348-6084 (ballen@ia.ua.edu); Tami Cutler, Wichita State, 316-978-5559 (tcutler@goshockers.com); Jason Leturmy, Atlantic Coast Conference (336) 851-6062 (jleturmy@theacc.org), Kyle McRae, Stanford, 650-725-2959 (kyle.mcrae@leland.stanford.edu); Julie St. Cyr, Big West Conference, 949-261-2525 (jst.cyr@bigwest.org).

For more information contact NCBWA Associate Executive Director Russell Anderson (214-774-1351, rdanderson@c-usa.org).

2007 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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MAKE CHECK (\$15) PAYABLE TO:

NCBWA

REMIT TO:

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