



LINE DRIVES
THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS
NEWSLETTER
(Volume 46, No. 5, July 27, 2007)

The President's Message
By NCBWA President Shamus McKnight

Membership:

It is a privilege and an honor to be the NCBWA President for the upcoming year. College baseball is such a wonderful game and the work of the members of this organization play such a large part in promoting the sport across the country.

I want to thank the baseball SIDs in the Big 12 and across the country for the support while I was Vice President. They have been supportive and been a great sounding board for ideas in working to promote college baseball. We also have a wonderful group of officers and Board of Directors lined up for the 2007-08 year. Their enthusiasm and passion for the sport will only help this organization continue to grow over the next year.

Congratulations to all of our award winners, including our Pro-Line All-Americans, Luke Prihoda, who was chosen as the Stopper of the Year, and Dick Howser Trophy winner David Price of Vanderbilt. In having the opportunity to meet him at the Howser Trophy presentation in Omaha, he embodies all of the characteristics that make the Howser Trophy the highest honor a college baseball player can receive.

In looking ahead to the upcoming year, please do not hesitate to e-mail or call me at any time about NCBWA issues or ideas to help promote college baseball. My e-mail is smcknight@huskers.com.

Let's make 2007-08 the best year for NCBWA and college baseball, and with your help, we can do it!

Shamus McKnight
NCBWA President
University of Nebraska

Thank you Pro-Line Athletic!

The NCBWA would like to extend a collective thank you to Charlie Harris and the folks at Pro-Line Athletic for their great help as a sponsor once again this year. Pro-Line does a great job in providing plaques to our weekly National Players of the Week and Division I Pro-Line Athletic NCBWA All-American team members. We hope to extend some of the awards program to some of the Division II and III postseason award winners in 2008.

Oregon to Bring Back Baseball in 2009

Oregon will reinstate baseball as one of its intercollegiate programs following a 26-year absence, according to the school's Director of Athletics Pat Kilkenny.

Kilkenny said that his decision was based in part upon the financial future of the Ducks' department of athletics as well as a growing interest in the sport on a national level and among University of Oregon constituents and alumni.

He added that an aggressive timetable for bringing back baseball on an intercollegiate basis would include the hiring of a national caliber coaching staff no later than this fall, with Oregon to resume competition during the 2008-09 season.

Oregon had remained as the only school in the Pacific-10 Conference without a baseball program since it was one of four sports eliminated following the 1980-81 season due to financial considerations. The other sports that were dropped at that time were men's gymnastics as well as women's golf and soccer. Women's golf and soccer have since been reinstated and resumed competition in 1987 and 1996, respectively.

Team USA Having Success in Summer International Contests

Head coach Mike Weathers (Long Beach State) and his staff had Team USA off to a successful start as the squad tackles one of its most ambitious international schedules. Team USA also finished second in the Pan American Games to perennial power Cuba in a 3-1 setback. The three final additions to the '07 squad were RHP Joe Kelly (UC Riverside), LHP Mike Minor (Vanderbilt) and OF/1B Jeremy Hamilton (Wright State). Kelly was added to the 20-man roster after 2006 and '07 veteran 2B Jemile Weeks (Miami) could not play due to injury. Team leaders at the 18-game mark prior the finals of the Pan American Games (minimum 35 AB) were Vanderbilt 3B Pedro Alvarez (.375-2 HR-15 RBI) and Arizona State 1B Brett Wallace (.360-1 HR-14 RBI) along with pitchers (best ERA, min. 15 IP) Jacob Thompson (1-1, 0.00 ERA, 17 1/3 IP, 12 SO) of Virginia and Lance Lynn (2-0, 1.29 ERA, 21 IP, 22 SO) of Ole Miss.

Team USA 2007 Results, Schedule (17-7)

June 19 – W 9-1 Oil Boyd All Stars (Pittsfield, Mass)
June 20 – W 9-1 North Adams Steeplecasts, North Adams, Mass.
June 21 – W 5-0 Keene Swamp Bats, Keene, N.H.
June 22 – W 5-0 Vermont Mountaineers, Montpelier, Vt.
June 23 – L 4-3 Torrington Twisters, Torrington, Conn.
June 24 – W 5-4 Newport Gulls, Newport, R.I.
June 29 – W 7-0 Chinese Taipei, Burlington, N.C.
June 30 – W 6-4 Chinese Taipei, Burlington, N.C.
July 1 – W 13-2 Chinese Taipei, Cary, N.C.
July 2 – L 3-2 Chinese Taipei, Cary, N.C.
July 3 – W 5-1 Chinese Taipei, Knapolis, N.C.
July 4 – W 7-2 Japan, Durham, N.C.
July 5 – L 3-2 Japan, Knapolis, N.C.
July 6 – L 2-1 Japan, Durham, N.C.
July 7 – L 5-2 Japan, Durham, N.C.
July 8 – W 7-3 Japan, Durham, N.C.
July 15 – W 5-1 Dominican Republic, Rio de Janeiro, Pan American Games
July 16 – W 8-4 Nicaragua, Pan Am Games
July 18 – W 7-5 Brazil, Pan Am Games
July 18 – W 2-1 Mexico, Pan Am Games
July 20 – L 3-1 Cuba - Pan American Games Finals (silver medal)
July 22 – W 10-0 China, Mobile, Ala.
July 24 – W 4-1 China, Mobile, Ala.
July 25 – L 2-1 China, Birmingham, Ala.

Upcoming Schedule:

July 26	China	State Mutual Stadium	Rome, GA	7:00 pm
July 27	China	Knights Stadium	Fort Mill, SC	7:15 pm
July 28	The Netherlands	DBAP	Durham, NC	7:00 pm

July 29	The Netherlands	National Training Center	Cary, NC	11:00 am
July 29	The Netherlands	DBAP	Durham, NC	5:00 pm
Aug 2	Japan	Neptunus	Rotterdam	7:00 pm
Aug 3	Off Day			
Aug 4	The Netherlands	Neptunus	Rotterdam	7:00 pm
Aug 5	Chinese Taipei	Neptunus	Rotterdam	7:00 pm
Aug 6	Cuba	Neptunus	Rotterdam	2:00 pm
Aug 7	Japan	Neptunus	Rotterdam	7:00 pm
Aug 8	Off-Day			
Aug 9	The Netherlands	Neptunus	Rotterdam	7:00 pm
Aug 10	Chinese Taipei	Neptunus	Rotterdam	2:00 pm
Aug 11	Cuba	Neptunus	Rotterdam	2:00 pm
Aug 12	Finals (1 vs. 2)	Neptunus	Rotterdam	1:30 pm

Milestones

Mississippi State catcher Edward Easley captured the 2007 Johnny Bench Award...2007 Dick Howser Trophy recipient David Price of Vanderbilt nailed down the Golden Spikes Award as American amateur player of the year as well as the Brooks Wallace Award and Roger Clemens Award.

Coaching Carousel

New head coaches (partial list) for 2008 include John Sparks (Calvin), Greg Goff (Campbell), Kevin O'Sullivan (Florida), Turtle Thomas (Florida International), Nate Cocolin (Gannon), Marty Hunter (George Fox), Mike Lake (LaSalle), Jim Toman (Liberty), Terry Burrows (McNeese State), Jay Sorg (Morehead State), Ray Birmingham (New Mexico), Darin Hendrickson (Saint Louis), Todd Raleigh (Tennessee), Scott Malone (Texas A&M-Corpus Christi), Rick Sofield (USC Beaufort), Bobby Moranda (Western Carolina), Allen Osborne (Wingate), and Todd Interdonato (Wofford).

Mitch McLeod (partial list) resigned at North Dakota State while Dylan Putnam has left Oakland and Lew Kent finished his career at Radford. Others will be noted in future newsletters.

Minutes of 46th Annual NCBWA Meeting

Saturday, June 30, 2007 – 5-6 p.m. (PDT) – Marriott Marina Hotel, San Diego, Calif.

Meeting called to order at 5 p.m. by president Mex Carey and Bo Carter

Carey thanked Asst. Exec. Directors Russ Anderson and Mike Montoro for a great job in 2006-07 and the membership for support of NCBWA.

I. Update on past year's awards (All-America teams, All-District, Howser, etc.)

Divisions I and II All-America and Division III District Players of the Year met with great response and national coverage. The 2007 Dick Howser Trophy was featured as CSTV Coca Cola "Event of the Day" with almost two hours of coverage on June 16 on CSTV. CSTV.com also streamed the ceremony and has it in archives. NCBWA will collect stills and video for potential sponsors, and several possible sponsors were contacted and met in 2006-07 but without "takers" so far. Officers offered kudos to Bob McComas of Slippery Rock State and Steve Marovich of Carthage for extensive work in all-star teams, polls and national updates.

II. Dick Howser Trophy

Vanderbilt's David Price was 21st recipient and school's first men's national Player of the Year in any sport. David Feaster and the Howser Committee came through with their usual aplomb, and Feaster was the presenter at the Omaha Press Club. This was the first time the Omaha Press Club, which provided a full breakfast and outstanding presentation/news

conference area, was used after NCBWA member Adam Froemming in Omaha helped make arrangements. The committee and NCBWA hope to utilize the Omaha Press Club for many years to come because of downtown location, facilities and spirit of cooperation.

III. Status of CoSIDA Baseball Publications Contest

CoSIDA notified NCBWA in 2006 that it will handle the CoSIDA Baseball Publications Contest with existing members of the Publications Committee. In past years, NCBWA third vice president was responsible for this contest. NCBWA also will attempt with sponsor in the future to offer cash prizes previously given for first, second and third place media guides in each division of the contest.

IV. Division II-III Baseball Updates

McComas reported that polls and postseason honors went well. Some logistical problems associated with one of the final national DII polls were solved. Board and officers have encouraged and thanked McComas and Marovich for providing key information and polls and all-star voting procedures. McComas and others inquired about possibility of plaques or certificates for DII and DIII NCBWA All-America first teams.

V. National Polls (all divisions)

Continued good feedback has been received on all polls. There still is some confusion with the advent of new Rivals.com polls in 2006 and '07 for Division I, and Rivals was just bought out by YahooSports.com.

VI. All-Time All-America Teams (SPORTING NEWS), All-Time Records

Arizona State and other schools are seeking all-time All-America selections from THE SPORTING NEWS. These cannot be found on the TSN Web site, and anyone discovering old teams (the first was believed to be published by TSN in 1930 or '31) should email Bo Carter (bcarter@footballfoundaion.com), and he will try to assemble as many teams as possible.

VII. Treasurer's Report (Carter standing in for Russ Anderson)

Treasury is in good shape, and dues were taken at annual meeting for those wishing to pay. Dues have been raised to \$20 in keeping with national trends, and they are still \$20 less than two other major collegiate writers' organizations. Board member Tami Cutler volunteered to work with executive directors and board to encourage membership and to contact previous members who are unpaid, and Anderson will email timely notices for baseball contacts to print or distribute to all area media outlets in an attempt to encourage for media membership. Membership percentage among baseball contacts is excellent, and members are urged to notify board of any changes in contacts, addresses or emails.

VIII. Slate of Officers and Board for 2007-08 – elected by acclamation of meeting group

NCBWA 2007-08 OFFICERS

President:

Shamus McKnight, Nebraska	402-472-7772	smcknight@huskers.com
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1st Vice President

Joe Dier, Mississippi State	662-325-8040	jbdier@athletics.msstate.edu
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2nd Vice President:

Chuck Dunlap, Southeastern Conference	205-458-3010	cdunlap@sec.org
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3rd Vice President:

Julie St. Cyr, Big West Conference	949-261-2525	jstcyr@bigwest.org
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Executive Director:

Bo Carter, National Football Foundation	972-556-1000	bcarter@footballfoundation.com
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Associate Executive Director:

Russell Anderson, Conference USA	214-774-1351	rdanderson@c-usa.org
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Assistant Executive Director:

Mike Montoro, Southern Miss 601-266-5947 michael.montoro@usm.edu

Division II Coordinator:

Bob McComas, Slippery Rock 724-738-2777 robert.mccomas@sru.edu

Division III Coordinator:

Steve Marovich, Carthage College 262-551-5740 carthagesid@carthage.edu

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, Florida State, 850-644-1403 (jleturmy@mailier.fsu.edu); Kristie Le, ACC, 336-854-8787 (kle@theacc.org); Ryan Bomberger, Liberty, 434-582-2292 (rbomberger@liberty.edu)

Past President: Mex Carey, Georgetown, 202-687-2475 (mbc32@georgetown.edu)

IX. Adjourned – 5:50 p.m. (PDT)

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 (\$20), 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.

NCBWA 2007-08 OFFICERS

President:

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2nd Vice President:

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3rd Vice President:

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

2007 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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NAME _____

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FAX _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

MAKE CHECK (\$20) PAYABLE TO:

NCBWA - REMIT TO:

Russell Anderson

NCBWA Associate Executive Director

c/o Conference USA

5201 N. O'Connor Blvd., Suite 300

Irving, TX 75039