



LINE DRIVES
THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS NEWSLETTER
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The President's Message
By NCBWA President Shamus McKnight

Membership:

Although the football season is winding down and the Fall Classic has ended with a sweep by the Boston Red Sox, there really is no off-season in college baseball. Coaches are finalizing recruiting classes, players are wrapping up fall workouts or in the middle of conditioning and SIDs across the country are sending out their quick facts and working on their media guides for the coming season. Before you know it, the start of practice will occur on Feb. 1, and on Feb. 22, 2008, schools across the country will be back on the Road to Omaha.

Along those same lines, we are in the process of sending out nominations for the ninth annual NCBWA Pre-2008 All-America teams. This is a wonderful chance to promote your stars of '08 and the generate some "hot stove" talk about college baseball.

This issue of the newsletter also contains some key roster information about collegians playing for Team USA, recruiting, NCAA World Series schedule and format changes for 2008, and, best of all, the notification of Barry Allen as 33rd recipient of the coveted Wilbur Snyppe Award for contribution to college baseball. There could not be a worthier representative for this honor, not only for the work he puts in to promote baseball, but for the passion he brings to the sport. Congratulations to Barry!

We also are scheduled to receive some outstanding regional and national recognition at the Kentucky-Vanderbilt football game Saturday in Nashville, Tenn., as Dick Howser Trophy committee chair David Feaster and NCBWA representatives Russ Anderson and Bo Carter are on hand to make the on-campus presentation of the 2007 Dick Howser Trophy to Vanderbilt's David Price. Several of our first 20 winners of the Howser Trophy excelled in baseball in 2007, and 1994 recipient catcher Jason Varitek of Georgia Tech stood out again for the world champion Red Sox.

Please contact the All-America committee person assigned to your conferences and schools with nominees as soon as possible. There are hundreds of deserving pre-2008 All-America candidates as well as almost 30 returnees from the stellar 2007 postseason A-A squads. Let us know how we can assist you with NCBWA and college baseball matters, and thanks for reminding people in your area (all media members) about 2007-08 membership forms. We appreciate your help in identifying the top collegians for '08 All-America mention.

Shamus McKnight
NCBWA President
University of Nebraska

Alabama's Barry Allen Named 33rd Wilbur Snyppe Award Recipient

Barry Allen, assistant director for media relations at Alabama, is the winner of the 33rd annual Wilbur Snyppe Award, presented annually by the NCBWA for outstanding contributions to college baseball.

Allen begins his 24th year in the University of Alabama Athletics Media Relations Office and his 19th year as a full-time Assistant Director of Media Relations. Allen is responsible for the overall publicity plan for one of the SEC's most successful baseball programs. He oversees the day-to-day media operations for the nationally-ranked Crimson Tide baseball program and is

responsible for producing the Alabama Baseball Media Guide, game notes, updating statistics and updating the school's website. Allen also coordinates all interviews requests for head baseball coach Jim Wells, the Crimson Tide's assistant coaches and the student-athletes.

"Barry Allen is the heart and soul of college baseball," said NCBWA executive director Bo Carter. "There is no harder worker in the business, and his knowledge and love of the game can be seen at every level."

He has worked closely with the UA baseball program since the 1987 season, where he has worked more than 1,000 games. Allen has been associated with three College World Series teams (1996, 1997 and 1999), two SEC Championships (1996 and 2006) and six SEC Tournament Championships (1995, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2002 and 2003) during his baseball tenure. He has also worked 16 SEC Tournaments and 12 NCAA Regionals and served as the NCAA Regional Media Coordinator for the 1996 NCAA South II Regional, the 1997 NCAA South Regional, the 1999 NCAA Tuscaloosa Regional and Super Regional, the 2002 NCAA Tuscaloosa Regional and 2006 NCAA Tuscaloosa Regional and Super Regional.

"Barry is most deserving of this award, said NCBWA Associate Executive Director Russell Anderson. "He does an outstanding job of promoting not only Alabama Baseball, but the entire sport of college baseball."

In 2006, Allen teamed with Greg Seitz, the Media Relations Director at Jacksonville (Ala.) State University, to form the inaugural Alabama Baseball Media Day, sponsored by the Alabama Sportswriters Association. Allen and Seitz coordinated with all 17 Division I and Division II schools in the state of Alabama for a statewide baseball media day held at Regions Park in Hoover, Ala., site of the annual SEC Baseball Tournament. The head coach and two players from all 18 schools attended the one-day event, which also featured lunch and a keynote speaker for the highly successful event.

Allen has been associated with the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) since the 1998-99 school year, where he has served as Second Vice President (1999), First Vice President (2000) and President (2001). He currently serves on the NCBWA Board of Directors and works closely with the organization's preseason and post-season All-America teams as well as the Dick Howser Trophy, presented to the collegiate baseball player of the year.

"This is a great honor. I have a deep passion for college baseball and have developed some real friendships over the past 20 years in covering this great sport," Allen said. "The opportunity to work with many great coaches and student-athletes and to get to know each of them and their families has been very rewarding. It has also be an honor to be associated with the NCBWA and the great work this organization does to promote our national pastime. We have a great leadership in the NCBWA and a strong membership, too. I'd like thank everyone involved for allowing me to play a small role in this organization and to once again say how grateful I am to be recognized in this way."

Allen attended the University of Alabama, where he earned his bachelor's degree in telecommunication and film in 1989. As a student, he was part of the school's Media Relations Office, where he worked with the UA baseball team and track and field teams. He also worked as the public address announcer for the Alabama women's basketball and gymnastics and served as the official scorekeeper and public address announcer for the state high school basketball tournament, played annually at Memorial/Coleman Coliseum in Tuscaloosa. He was a part-time staffer at WNPT Radio in Tuscaloosa, where he hosted a high school football pregame and postgame scoreboard show and worked as play-by-play announcer for various American Legion baseball teams.

A native of Anniston, Ala., Allen attended Saks High School, where he served as head football manager and head baseball manager during his career. He was also the assistant sports editor for the school newspaper and yearbook.

Allen also is involved with several charitable organizations, including Children's Hospital, United Cerebral Palsy and the American Cancer Society.

Allen is married to the former Carla McLendon and the couple has two daughters, Elle (April 18, 2001) and Annie (April 9, 2003). Allen is an avid baseball fan and sports memorabilia collector. His travels have taken him to more than 300 professional and collegiate baseball stadiums over the last two decades. Allen also collects baseball and football Hall of Fame autographs, as well as Heisman Trophy winners.

The Alabama veteran follows a long line of illustrious persons in gaining the award, given in memory of longtime Ohio State Sports Information Director and NCBWA founder, the late Wilbur (Bill) Snyppe, since 1975. Snyppe was a noted contributor to the writers' organization, which was initiated in 1962 (and celebrating its 46th year in 2007), as well as an officer in the group. The NCBWA/Wilbur Snyppe Award annually honors a professional for contributions to the sport of collegiate baseball. Voting is done by a panel of previous winners, who include past NCAA World Series directors, College Sports Information Directors of America Hall of Fame members, decorated media members and others.

Previous Wilbur Snyppe Award Winners

1975	Wilbur Snyppe, Ohio State (D)
1976	Bill Esposito, State John's (D)
1977	Phil Langan, Cornell
1978	John Geis, Southern Conference
1979	Hank Schomber, Georgia +Southern
1980	Bob Culp, Western Michigan (D)
1981	Lou Pavlovich Sr., Collegiate Baseball
1982	Tom Price, South Carolina
1983	Bob Bradley, Clemson (D)
1984	Robert Williams, Omaha World-Herald
1985	Jerry Miles, NCAA
1986	Larry Keefe, Seton Hall (D)
1987	Tom Rowen, San Jose Mercury-News (D)
1988	Fred Gerardi, KESY Radio, Omaha
1989	Jim Wright, NCAA
1990	Steve Weller, SIU-Edwardsville
1991	Bill Little, University of Texas
1992	Kirk Bohls, Austin American-Statesman
1993	Bo Carter, Southwest Conference
1994	Lou Pavlovich Jr., Collegiate Baseball
1995	Steve Pivovar, Omaha World-Herald
1996	Gary Johnson, NCAA
1997	Dave Wohlhueter, Cornell
1998	Allan Simpson, Baseball America
1999	Alan Cannon, Texas A&M University
2000	Jim Callis, Baseball America
2001	Dick Case, USA Baseball (D)
2002	Russell Anderson, Conference USA
2003	John Manuel, Baseball America
2004	Dana Heiss Grodin, Sports Weekly
2005	Dennis Poppe, NCAA
2006	Mike Montoro, Southern Miss
2007	Barry Allen, Alabama

(D) – Deceased

Timetable Set for 9th Annual Pre-2008 NCBWA All-America Team

Conference offices have received nomination forms for the 2008 NCBWA Preseason All-America Team. NCBWA Board members will then collect the nominees from the conferences that they are responsible for (due Nov. 20) and assemble as a committee to choose the ninth annual team. The All-America squad will be released on Tuesday, Dec. 11. Here's a brief timeline: Nominations due: **Tue., Nov. 20**; Master List of Candidates Assembled: **Wed., Dec. 5**; Preseason Team Released: **Tue., Dec. 11**. Please contact any NCBWA Board member with questions, and conference nomination assignments are listed below. Thanks again for everyone's assistance in the nomination and announcement processes.

Please review and let me know if you see any major conflicts that would preclude you from being able to assist in this process.

Executive Director - Bo Carter, National Football Foundation (Big 12, Southland, MEAC, Ohio Valley)
FAX: 972/556-9032 - EMAIL: bcarter@footballfoundation.com

Assoc. Executive Dir. - Russell Anderson, Conference USA (C-USA, Mid-American, Summit, Independents)
FAX: 214/496-0055 - EMAIL: rdanderson@c-usa.org

President – Shamus McKnight, Nebraska (ACC, Atlantic Sun, Southern, Horizon League) FAX: 402/472-2005 EMAIL: smcknight@huskers.com

1st Vice-President – Joe Dier, Mississippi State (Big Ten, SEC, Sun Belt, SWAC) FAX: 662/325-2563
EMAIL: jbdier@athletics.msstate.edu

3rd Vice-President – Julie St.Cyr, Big West (Pac-10, WAC, Big West, West Coast) FAX: 949/261-2528
EMAIL: jstcyr@bigwest.org

At-Large Rep. – Tami Cutler, Wichita State (Missouri Valley, Mountain West, America East, Atlantic 10)
FAX: 316/978-3336 EMAIL: tcutler@goshockers.com

At-Large Rep. – Ryan Bomberger, Liberty (Big South, Colonial, Big East, Ivy, Patriot, Northeast)
FAX: 434/582-2076 EMAIL: rbomberger@liberty.edu

Rick Benner's *College Baseball* Available Online and in Bookstores

College Baseball, a seven-plus-years' research and love project by SABR Collegiate Baseball Committee chair Rick Benner, is on most newsstands and in bookstores now or available through www.Mcfarlandpub.com.

College baseball officially began on July 1, 1859, in a game between Williams and Amherst in western Massachusetts. In a high-scoring contest, Amherst defeated Williams 66–32. Within 10 years North Carolina, Villanova, Fordham, and Dartmouth, among others, had formed varsity baseball teams and featured intercollegiate contests, some of them lopsided victories against much weaker teams and tough losses to professional clubs. But with the advent of NCAA championship play, schools were assigned division status while bringing greater parity at all levels of collegiate baseball.

This work is the first to account for the complete history of each of the country's major, or Division I, baseball programs. Arranged alphabetically by school, entries include the team nickname and athletic logo; year-by-year listing of win-loss records and coaches; conference affiliations; major league alumni, complete with their birthplace, major league debut date and years played in college; other notables, such as major leaguers who attended the college or the program's players who achieved fame outside of baseball; and championships and other team and individual highlights.

Benner is the longtime chair of the Collegiate Baseball Committee, a research committee of the Society for American Baseball Research (SABR). He is also a member of the Historical Committee of the College Baseball Foundation, and a voting member for the College Baseball Hall of Fame. His research to determine which major league baseball players played at which college has contributed greatly to the advancement of interest in college baseball history. He has been contacted by media sources across the country for information, including ESPN and the National Baseball Hall of Fame. His book, *College Baseball: Essential Facts About All Division I Teams* was published by McFarland Publishing in 2007. Benner graduated from Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire, with a B.A. in Geography. He currently resides in Baldwin City, Kansas, and works as a paralegal for a major law firm in Kansas City, Mo. He has two daughters, Aubrey and Annike.

Benner's interest in college baseball history began when listening to a radio interview with Elden Auker, who stated that he had moved straight from Kansas State to the major leagues with the Detroit Tigers. Geography is the study of people and places, and the desire to learn which major league baseball players played at which college was a natural extension of this interest. In the process of contacting various colleges for a list of their players, he received a response

from a Sports Information Director indicating that similar work was being done by SABR. He contacted Cappy Gagnon, then-chair of the Collegiate Baseball Committee and received a printout of prior research. He then set off to verify the information, and in 2002, SABR called on him to lead this committee.

Team USA Having Success in Summer International Contests

Team USA Head Coach Mike Weathers (Long Beach State) guided his select squad to second place behind Cuba in Pan American Games in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The team later closed third in the Netherlands World Port Tourney at Rotterdam. Final team leaders for Team USA (minimum 100 AB over the 37-game campaign) were Vanderbilt 3B Pedro Alvarez (.315-7 HR-30 RBI) and Arizona State 1B Brett Wallace (.312-2 HR-26 RBI) along with pitchers (best ERA, min. 35 IP) Tyson Ross (4-1, 0.82 ERA, 42 2/3 IP, 39 SO) of California and Ryan Berry (2-1, 1.88 ERA, 38 1/3 IP, 26 SO) of Rice. Vanderbilt's Ryan Minor (5-2) led the squad in victories while Ole Miss' Cody Satterwhite had a team-high four saves in 14 appearances.

Team USA 2007 Results, Schedule (25-12)

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, Kannapolis, N.C.
July 4 – W 7-2 Japan, Durham, N.C.
July 5 – L 3-2 Japan, Kannapolis, 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.
July 26 – W 16-0 China, Rome, Ga.
July 28 – W 14-0 The Netherlands, Durham, N.C.
July 29 – W 2-1 The Netherlands, Cary, N.C.
July 29 – L 9-3 The Netherlands, Durham, N.C.
July 30 – W 6-0 Russia, Cary, N.C.
Aug. 2 – W 1-0 Japan, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, World Port Tourney
Aug. 4 – W 11-0 The Netherlands, Rotterdam
Aug. 5 – L 10-5 Chinese Taipei, Rotterdam
Aug. 6 – L 8-2 Cuba, Rotterdam
Aug. 7 – W 10-0 Japan, Rotterdam
Aug. 9 – W 10-2 The Netherlands, Rotterdam
Aug. 10 – L 1-0 Chinese Taipei, Rotterdam
Aug. 11 – L 5-1 Cuba, Rotterdam (3rd place)

NCAA DI World Series Changing Ticket Prices, Format

The 2008 College World Series will start on Saturday, June 14, with the first game of the CWS Finals beginning on Monday, June 23, under a new schedule announced by the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee. The new schedule has the MCWS concluding on Tuesday, June 24, or Wednesday, June 25.

"The Saturday start will allow participating teams an extra day to prepare for the Series, while providing flexibility during the Regional and Super Regional rounds in the event of weather delays," said Dennis Poppe, NCAA managing director for baseball and football. "The new schedule also provides more competitive equity for the teams playing in the series, especially for those advancing through the losers' brackets."

Under the new schedule, games will begin Saturday, June 14, with the "if necessary" game(s) being played Saturday, June 21. No games are scheduled to be played on Sunday, June 22.

"Each year, the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee continues to fine-tune the Series format in order to accommodate the changing needs of those involved," Poppe said. "In arriving at this new schedule, the committee balanced the interests of the coaches and student-athletes, ESPN and the sponsoring organization."

"We knew this change in schedule was a possibility, so it doesn't come as a complete surprise," said Jack Diesing Jr., president of CWS of Omaha Inc. "As the sponsoring organization, we're committed to making this new schedule work for both the fans and the student-athletes."

"We have adapted to schedule changes in the past and continue to set attendance records each year," Diesing said. "In 2006, when there were three 8 p.m. (CDT) games during the Series, we managed to set an attendance record of 310,609. This new schedule offers greater exposure for the event, the NCAA, the City of Omaha and college baseball, which is exciting for everyone involved."

Team autograph sessions, Fan Fest activities, the Opening Ceremonies celebration and fireworks will be held on Friday, June 13. "In addition, we're looking at possible ancillary events to be held on the weekend prior to the start of the MCWS Finals," Diesing said.

A price increase of \$1 per ticket will go into effect for the 2008 Series, according to Herb Hames, ticket chairman of College World Series of Omaha Inc. The last increase in ticket prices took place prior to the 2006 MCWS. General admission single tickets purchased at the Rosenblatt box office are \$10 each. General admission book of 10 tickets is \$70. Individual game tickets are \$19 for reserved seats and \$24 for box seats. CWS Finals tickets are \$26 for reserved seats and \$32 for box seats. Season tickets are \$220 for reserved seats and \$281 for box seats.

The 2008 series also will see the elimination of the single session doubleheader games. "In effect, we added two more sessions to the price of a season ticket," Hames explained. "If two 'if necessary' games are required on Saturday, June 21, those games will also be separate sessions."

Starting times for each session will be 1 and 6 p.m. (CDT) on days when two games are played and 6 p.m. on days when a single game is played, including all MCWS Finals games. All game times are subject to change.

College World Series of Omaha Inc. is a non-profit organization and the local organizing committee for the annual NCAA Division I Men's College World Series.

2008 MEN'S COLLEGE WORLD SERIES SCHEDULE

Saturday, June 14 –

Game 1 – 1 p.m. All Teams TBD

Game 2 – 6 p.m.

Sunday, June 15

Game 3 – 1 p.m.

Game 4 – 6 p.m.

Monday, June 16

Game 5 – 1 p.m. Loser Game 1 vs. Loser Game 2

Game 6 – 6 p.m. Winner Game 1 vs. Winner Game 2

Tuesday, June 17

Game 7 – 1 p.m. Loser Game 3 vs. Loser Game 4
Game 8 – 6 p.m. Winner Game 3 vs. Winner Game 4

Wednesday, June 18

Game 9 – 6 p.m. Winner Game 5 vs. Loser Game 6

Thursday, June 19

Game 10 – 6 p.m. Winner Game 7 vs. Loser Game 8

Friday, June 20

Game 11 – 1 p.m. Winner Game 6 vs. Winner Game 9
Game 12 – 6 p.m. Winner Game 8 vs. Winner Game 10

Saturday, June 21

Game 13 – 1 p.m. or *6 p.m. Winner Game 6 vs. Winner Game 11 (if necessary)
Game 14 – *6 p.m. Winner Game 8 vs. Winner Game 12
(if necessary)

* If only game played Saturday

Sunday, June 22 - No games scheduled

CWS FINALS - Monday, June 23 - Game 1 – 6 p.m. Bracket One Winner vs. Bracket Two Winner

Tuesday, June 24

Game 2 – 6 p.m. Bracket One Winner vs. Bracket Two Winner

Wednesday, June 25 (if necessary)

Game 3 – 6 p.m. Bracket One Winner vs. Bracket Two Winner
All times are CDT, and dates are subject to change.

Memphis to Receive Renovated Nat Buring Field With FedEx Donation

The University of Memphis and FedEx have teamed for the renovation of the Tigers' Nat Buring Field on campus.

"We have had an interest in upgrading our baseball facility for a number of years and now with FedEx's generous gift, this project will become a reality," Director of Athletics RC Johnson said.

On Aug. 9 FedEx CFO and executive vice president Alan B. Graf Jr. presented Johnson and The U of M with a check for \$3 million to be used in the renovation of Memphis' current baseball facility, Nat Buring Stadium.

"FedEx is proud to be involved with the Tigers' baseball stadium project, which is such an integral part of the Memphis community," Graf said. "We have hundreds of UofM alumni on the FedEx team, so our employees are looking forward to personally enjoying the renovated stadium."

The new baseball stadium will be the next of FedEx's sports marketing sponsorships which already include the FedExForum, FedEx Field in Washington, D.C., and the FedEx Orange Bowl in Miami, Fla.

This new facility comes as a part of Memphis' plans to update several athletic facilities that have included an upgrade to the men's basketball practice facility and a new softball stadium. The baseball stadium, which will be located on Park Avenue campus, will include new dugouts, dressing facilities, grandstands, press boxes, concession stands, and private suites.

The news of having direct access to the field from the locker room comes as a relief to coaches and baseball players who have currently been sharing dressing room space with the football team.

"Not only does it impact recruiting, but it's going to impact our current roster because player development is such a huge factor in the team you put on the field and facilities play a huge role in player development," said head baseball Coach Daron Schoenrock.

Collegiate Baseball Announces Top 2008 Recruiting Classes

For the second time in the last four years, LSU has been ranked No. 1 in *Collegiate Baseball* newspaper's annual rundown of NCAA Division I baseball recruiting classes.

This marks the 25th consecutive year that *Collegiate Baseball* has evaluated recruiting classes in this division which entered school in Aug. 2007.

Collegiate Baseball's 2007 Recruiting Results					
Rank	Team	Recruits	Frosh	JC	Other Tran.
1.	LSU	19	12	7	0
2.	Florida State	20	15	3	2
3.	Oregon State	16	12	2	2
4.	Notre Dame	14	13	0	1
5.	UCLA	11	10	1	0
6.	Cal. State Fullerton	16	8	7	1
7.	North Carolina	12	12	0	0
8.	Arizona State	17	10	5	2
9.	San Diego	18	15	1	2
10.	Texas	17	11	2	4
11.	Washington	16	14	2	1
12.	Auburn	14	13	0	1
13.	Virginia	16	14	1	1
14.	Oklahoma State	18	7	8	3
15.	Vanderbilt	13	12	0	1
16.	Georgia	14	8	4	2

17. Rice	12	10	2	0
18. South Carolina	13	11	2	0
19. Missouri	16	14	2	0
20. Miami, Fla.	8	5	3	0
21. Clemson	10	8	2	0
22. Stanford	13	13	0	0
23. Georgia Tech.	11	11	0	0
24. Arizona	9	7	2	0
25. Mississippi	17	11	6	0
26. Mississippi State	11	9	2	0
27. Florida	9	8	0	1
28. Louisville	20	14	4	2
29. U.C. Irvine	13	6	5	2
30. Tulane	16	8	5	3
31. Kentucky	15	9	5	1
32. Southern California	14	11	0	3
33. Arkansas	20	12	7	1
34. Wichita State	10	8	2	0
35. Oklahoma	18	8	7	3
36. Pepperdine	20	16	3	1
37. Alabama	14	8	6	0
38. U.C. Riverside	17	13	2	2

39. Baylor	11	8	3	0
40. Jacksonville (tie)	15	12	3	0
UCF	12	5	3	4
Other Top Recruiting Classes: TCU, USF, Tennessee, Arkansas State, UC Santa Barbara, Texas A&M, San Diego State, Long Beach State, Florida Atlantic, Southeastern Louisiana, Kansas, North Carolina State, Richmond, James Madison, UNLV, Nebraska, East Carolina, San Francisco, Michigan, California, Fresno State, Minnesota, Connecticut, Maine, Oral Roberts, Iowa, Seton Hall, Houston, Ohio State, Central Michigan, Cal State Northridge, Michigan State, Marshall, Samford, West Virginia, Western Kentucky, Coll. of Charleston, Stetson, Villanova, Texas Tech, Wake Forest, Southern Miss, Ohio, Louisiana-Lafayette, San Jose State, Nevada, Illinois State, Illinois, East Tennessee State, Southeast Missouri, Middle Tennessee State, Rutgers, Memphis, Miami (Ohio), UNC Greensboro, Lamar, Santa Clara, Southern, Western Illinois.				

U.S. International World Cup Team Named for Nov. 6-18 Meet in Chinese Taipei

USA Baseball has announced today the 24 players who will represent the United States at the 2007 International Baseball Federation (IBAF) World Cup in Chinese Taipei from Nov. 6-18, 2007.

The roster is made up of professional, non-25-man roster players of the 30 Major League-affiliated (MLB) organizations. This is the eighth time USA Baseball has utilized Major League-affiliated professional players for international competition, including the 1999 Pan Am Games, the 2000 Olympic Games, the 2001 World Cup, the 2003 Olympic Qualifier, the 2005 IBAF World Cup, and the 2006 COPABE Olympic Qualifying Tournament.

Among the 24 players selected by USA Baseball include Chicago White Sox (Triple-A Charlotte) pitcher Heath Phillips (Lake City, FL) and Toronto Blue Jays (Triple-A Syracuse) pitcher Lee Gronkiewicz (Justin, TX), both of whom also played for the 2006 squad that qualified for the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Sixteen countries will begin IBAF World Cup competition in two groups of eight teams, with the top four of each group advancing to quarterfinals after seven days of round-robin play. Joining the U.S. in Group A will be Chinese Taipei, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Panama, South Africa, and Spain. Group B features Australia, Canada, Cuba, Germany, Korea, Netherlands, Thailand, and Venezuela.

Team USA 2007 IBF World Roster

Name, Pos., B/T, Ht., Wt., Age, Hometown, College

--	Bryan Anderson	C	L/R	6-0	190	20	Thousand Oaks, Calif.	None
--	Brian Bixler	SS	R/R	6-1	195	25	Sandusky, Ohio	Eastern Michigan
--	Jerry Blevins	LHP	L/L	6-6	185	24	Swanton, Ohio	Dayton
--	Chris Booker	RHP	R/R	6-3	235	30	Monroeville, Ala.	None
--	Jay Bruce	OF	L/L	6-2	218	20	Houston, Texas	None
--	Tyler Colvin	OF	L/L	6-3	190	22	North Augusta, S.C.	Clemson
--	Brian Duensing	LHP	L/L	5-11	195	24	Omaha, Neb.	Nebraska
--	Lee Gronkiewicz	RHP	R/R	5-11	180	29	Justin, Texas	South Carolina
--	Michael Hollimon	IF	S/R	6-1	185	25	Dallas, Texas	Oral Roberts, Texas
--	Jason Jaramillo	C	S/R	6-0	200	25	Franksville, Wis.	Oklahoma State
--	Jeff Karstens	RHP	R/R	6-3	185	25	San Diego, Calif.	Texas Tech
--	Andy LaRoche	IF	R/R	6-1	225	24	Fort Scott, Kan.	Grayson Co. CC

--	Evan Longoria	IF	R/R	6-2	210	22	Downey, Calif.	Long Beach State
--	Neal Musser	LHP	L/L	6-1	235	27	Port St. Lucie, Fla.	None
--	Jayson Nix	IF	R/R	5-11	185	25	Midland, Texas	None
--	Josh Outman	LHP	L/L	6-1	180	23	St. Louis, Mo.	Central Missouri
--	Steve Pearce	IF	R/R	5-11	198	24	Lakeland, Fla.	South Carolina
--	Chris Perez	RHP	R/R	6-4	225	22	Holmes Beach, Fla.	Miami (Fla.)
--	Heath Phillips	LHP	L/L	6-3	205	25	Lake City, Fla.	Lake City, Fla., CC
--	Colby Rasmus	OF	L/L	6-2	195	21	Phenix City, Ala.	None
--	Steven Shell	RHP	R/R	6-5	190	24	El Reno, Okla.	None
--	Jeff Stevens	RHP	R/R	6-1	220	24	Martinez, Calif.	Pittsburgh
--	Dallas Trahern	RHP	R/R	6-3	190	22	Owasso, Okla.	None
--	Delwyn Young	OF	S/R	5-10	210	25	Hacienda Hts., CA	Santa Barbara CC

Milestones

George Horton left Cal State Fullerton to restart the Oregon baseball program (returning to play for the 2009 season) ... Dave Serrano replaced Horton at CSUF after coaching UC Irvine to the 2007 NCAA World Series ... Former USC Head Coach Mike Gillespie has taken over the UC Irvine program ... Eric Alvarez was named head coach at New Jersey City University ... T.J. Kohler is the new chief mentor at Lawrence ... Several other new mentors for 2008 are Turtle Thomas at Florida International, Terry Burrows at McNeese State, Joe Raccuia at Radford, Scott Malone at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, and Jay Sorg at Morehead State ... Northwestern State's Mitch Gaspard left his head coaching post to become an assistant to longtime Alabama mentor Jim Wells and was replaced by seven-year NSU assistant J.P. Davis ... Pete Egbert was named head coach at Misericordia ... Tim Corbin turned down head coaching overtures from Oregon and remained at Vanderbilt ... Mike Lauterhahn is new head coach at William Paterson University ... Mike Florak has resigned at Youngstown State ... TCU head coach Jim Schlossnagle had his contract extended through 2014 ... Mike Brown is the new head coach at Clarion (Pa.) ... Bob Marsh was named head baseball coach at Central Christian College in McPherson, Kan.

Baylor, Texas Vie in Fall Exhibition Under New NCAA Guidelines

Four Baylor Bears collected at least two hits each, and BU tallied 15 hits as a team in a 5-3 loss to Texas in an Oct. 14 fall exhibition at Dell Diamond. The game does not count in either team's 2008 record, but it does take the place of one of the teams' allowable 56 spring games.

"It was an opportunity to see some guys taking their first at bats in as game-like a situation as you can make it in the fall, and that was really good," Baylor head coach Steve Smith said. "We got to see a lot of pitchers, and most of them did fine. And we played defense well."

Baylor returns 19 letterwinners, including six position starters and eight pitchers, from a 2007 squad that went 36-27, reached the Big 12 Conference Championship title game and participated in the NCAA Houston Regional. The Bears are one of 15 Division I programs to have reached NCAA Regional play at least nine times in the last 10 years.

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.

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402-472-7772

smcknight@huskers.com

1st Vice President
Joe Dier, Mississippi State 662-325-8040
jbdier@athletics.msstate.edu

2nd Vice President:
Chuck Dunlap, Southeastern Conference 205-458-3010 cdunlap@sec.org

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Julie State Cyr, Big West Conference 949-261-2525 jstcyr@bigweStateorg

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Russell Anderson, Conference USA 214-774-1351 rdanderson@c-usa.org

Assistant Executive Director:
Mike Montoro, West Virginia 304-293-2821 mike.montoro@mail.wvu.edu

Division II Coordinator:
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