



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

Membership:

Opening day is finally here. Programs from coast to coast have been working toward this day since the start of the school year. All the work in fall drills, winter conditioning and preseason practice is finally realized across the country as they step onto the diamond to begin a new season. For fans, the start of the year is another sign that warmer weather is around the corner. Hope springs eternal for every club that dreams of spending late June in Omaha for the College World Series.

As the season begins, I also wanted to take time to thank the fellow officers for their work on the preseason All-America team and for Joe Dier for his work on the Stopper of the Year list. Those lists take quite a bit of time to compile, but in the end is worth it because it allows us the chance to honor some truly worthy student-athletes. As a reminder, we will begin naming the Pro-Line Athletic National Players of the Week next Monday. We want to thank Pro-Line Athletic for their continued support in sponsoring this award.

With the thank you's being said, we also just mailed out the 2008 NCBWA Membership Directories, and a special thanks to officers Julie St. Cyr, Russ Anderson and Mike Montoro for tremendous work and preparation of the directory.

Again, good luck to all, and "Play Ball: 2008 Style" Friday!

Shamus McKnight
NCBWA President

Longtime NCBWA President, Snyppe Award Winner Tom Price Dies

Tom Price, sports information director for 30 years at the University of South Carolina, passed away on Fri., Feb. 1, 2008, at the age of 81 in Columbia, S.C.

Price was affiliated with the University of South Carolina since 1962 and served in an emeritus capacity from 1992 to 2008. He was inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001.

Price graduated from South Carolina in 1951 with a degree in journalism and joined the athletic department in 1962 after 11 years in wire service journalism. He served as sports information director from 1962 to 1985 and as assistant athletics director/media relations until 1992. He continued to serve the athletic department until his passing in an emeritus capacity and as athletic department historian. Price also was the official scorer for the South Carolina baseball home games and served as analyst on the Gamecock Radio Network for road games.

Price was inducted into College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Hall of Fame in 1981. He received the CoSIDA Lifetime Achievement Award in 1992 and, in 1993, won the CoSIDA Arch Ward Award, presented annually to a CoSIDA member who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of college sports information and who by his or her activities, has brought dignity and prestige to the profession.

Price was a former president of the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association and received the Wilbur Snapp Award from the NCBWA in 1982 for promotion and service to college baseball. Price was also the author of several books on Carolina football, basketball, baseball, and other sports.

NCBWA Announces 2008 Stopper of the Year Watch List

Forty players have been named to the initial watch list for the fourth annual National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Stopper of the Year Award.

The award is given to the top relief pitcher in NCAA Division I baseball.

With all five of the finalists for the 2007 honor having concluded their collegiate careers, a wide-open race for this year's Stopper of the Year Award is anticipated. Sam Houston State relief ace Luke Prihoda, a 24th-round draft pick and signee of the Arizona Diamondbacks, claimed last year's award. Eight of the nominees were included in the 2008 NCBWA Preseason All-America Team announced by the organization in December.

Nineteen different conferences are represented on this year's talent-filled watch list, with the Pacific-10 Conference leading the way with five selections. The Big East and the Big 12 both have four pitchers each on this year's watch list while the Big Ten, SEC and the West Coast Conference are represented by three players each.

Nominations for the NCBWA Stopper of the Year Award were made by baseball sports information contacts. The initial list will be updated with a mid-season release the week of April 14, including national saves leaders. At the conclusion of the regular season, the Division I national saves leader and four other relief pitching standouts will be selected as finalists and released Wednesday, May 28, prior to the start of NCAA regional tournament competition.

The NCBWA's All-America Committee will then select the winner with this year's recipient to be announced Wednesday, June 4, before the opening of NCAA super regional play. Texas hurler J. Brent Cox won the inaugural Stopper of the Year Award in 2005, with Don Czyz of Kansas claiming the honor in 2006 and Luke Prihoda of Sam Houston State topping the field in 2007.

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

For additional information on the 2008 NCBWA Stopper of the Year Award, please contact Joe Dier at Mississippi State (662-325-8040).

2008 NCBWA STOPPER OF THE YEAR WATCH LIST

PITCHER	SCHOOL	CL.	HOMETOWN
Brian Alas	Richmond	Jr.	Port Washington, N.Y.
David Anderson	Coastal Carolina	So.	Lexington, S.C.
Jason Buursma	Bucknell	Sr.	Seattle, Wash.
Kyle Carr (LHP)	Minnesota	Jr.	Linton, N.D.
Nick Cassavechia	Baylor	Sr.	Dallas, Texas
Daniel Edwards	Kansas State	Sr.	Kingwood, Texas
Robbie Elsemiller	Stetson	Sr.	Okeechobee, Fla.
Tim Erickson (LHP)	Lamar	Sr.	Sour Lake, Texas
Danny Farquhar	UL-Lafayette	Jr.	Pembroke Pines, Fla.
Jordan Flasher	George Mason	Jr.	Manassas, Va.
Bryant George	Southern Illinois	So.	DuQuoin, Ill.
Kyle Gibson	Missouri	So.	Greenfield, Ind.
Matt Gorgen	California	Jr.	Clayton, Calif.
A.J. Griffin	San Diego	So.	El Cajon, Calif.
Jake Hale	Ohio State	Jr.	Albany, Ohio
James Hayes	Rider	So.	Sunrise, Fla.
Ross Humes (LHP)	Wash. State	Jr.	Federal Way, Wash.
Jason Jarvis	Arizona State	So.	Scottsdale, Ariz.
Matt Karl (LHP)	Connecticut	Jr.	Wallingford, Conn.
Joe Kelly	UC Riverside	So.	Corona, Calif.
Dan Kennedy	Georgetown	Sr.	West Orange, N.J.
Jeff Lockwood (LHP)	Tennessee	So.	Knoxville, Tenn.
Jeff Lombard	Santa Clara	Sr.	Woodinville, Wash.
Colin Lynch	St. John's	Jr.	Manchester, N.H.
Chris Manning	Belmont	Jr.	Nashville, Tenn.
Eryk McConnell	NC State	Sr.	Waynesville, N.C.
Drew O'Neil	Penn State	Jr.	Roswell, Ga.
Shawn Sanford	USF	So.	Cinnamison, N.J.
Cody Satterwhite	Ole Miss	Jr.	Jackson, Miss.
Daniel Schlereth (LHP)	Arizona	Jr.	Lone Tree, Colo.
Michael Seander	Duke	So.	Pawtucket, R.I.
Brian Shaw	Long Beach State	Sr.	Livermore, Calif.
Matt Shoemaker	Eastern Michigan	Jr.	Trenton, Mich.
David Slovak	Delaware	Sr.	Louisville, Ky.
Cole St. Clair (LHP)	Rice	Sr.	Santa Ana Calif.
Jason Stoffel	Arizona	So.	Agoura, Calif.
Kyle Thebeau	Texas A&M	Jr.	Corpus Christi, Texas
Pat Venditte (LHP/RHP)	Creighton	Sr.	Omaha, Neb.
Aaron Weatherford	Mississippi State	Jr.	Crystal Springs, Miss.
Mark Willinsky	Santa Clara	So.	Las Vegas, Nev.

Preseason BASEBALL AMERICA Top 25 Division I Poll for '08

Rk	School
1.	UCLA
2.	Arizona
3.	Vanderbilt
4.	Ole Miss
5.	North Carolina
6.	Missouri
7.	Oregon State

8. Michigan
9. Arizona State
10. Miami (Fla.)
11. San Diego
12. South Carolina
13. Long Beach State
14. Rice
15. Baylor
16. Texas
17. Virginia
18. Fresno State
19. Louisiana-Lafayette
20. Wichita State
- 21. Texas A&M**
22. Tulane
23. Clemson
24. East Carolina
25. Old Dominion

Preseason Black College Baseball Poll

February 11, 2008

http://blackcollegebaseball.com/POLLS/2008/021108_preseason.htm

COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY

1. Prairie View A&M (7 first place votes)
2. Bethune Cookman (9)
3. Southern University
4. North Carolina A&T (2)
5. Jackson State
6. Norfolk State
7. Savannah State
8. Mississippi Valley State
9. Alcorn State
10. Delaware State

NCBWA Preseason Division II Poll

Bob McCommas from Slippery Rock State and NCBWA board member is coordinating the NCBWA Division II baseball polls for the seventh consecutive year. The compilation by a panel of national polls will run through the week after the DII championship. The '08 preseason poll follows.

Rank School '07 Record (1st) Points Last Week

1	Tampa (Fla.)	53-10	11	275	--
2	Columbus State (Ga.)	51-19	--	229	--
3	Mesa State (Colo.)	49-14	--	225	--
4	Angelo State (Texas)	51-20	--	223	--
5	Franklin Pierce (N.H.)	49-11	--	218	--
6	Florida Southern	44-16	--	196	--
7	Central Missouri	51-12	--	192	--
8	Abilene Christian	47-13	--	169	--
9	Grand Valley State (Mich.)	45-9		163	--
	Tusculum (Tenn.)	50-14	--	163	--
11	Mount Olive (N.C.)	49-13	--	157	--
12	Georgia College & St	46-16	--	155	--

13 Delta State (Miss.)	45-16	--	143	--
14 West Chester (Pa.)	33-17	--	133	--
15 Southern Indiana	43-23	--	114	--
16 Ouachita Baptist (Ark.)	50-10	--	98	--
17 Nebraska-Omaha	37-24	--	96	--
18 Cal State Chico	47-15	--	88	--
19 UC San Diego	37-25	--	84	--
20 Minnesota State	45-10	--	62	--
21 Sonoma State (Calif.)	50-12	--	52	--
22 Slippery Rock (Pa.)	35-17	--	48	--
23 Cal State L.A.	45-17-1	--	43	--
24 SIU-Edwardsville	37-17	--	35	--
25 Kutztown (Pa.)	49-7	--	34	--

Others Receiving Votes: Emporia State (Kan.) 28, Francis Marion (S.C.) 26, Montevallo (Ala.) 21, Armstrong Atlantic State (Ga.) 17, Adelphi (N.Y.) 16, West Alabama 15, West Virginia State 14, Barry (Fla.) 9, Saint Edward's (Texas) 9, Ashland (Ohio) 7, Bryant (R.I.) 5, North Georgia 5, South Carolina-Aiken 3, Lynn (Fla.) 2, Massachusetts-Lowell 2, California (Pa.) 1.

NCBWA and NCBWA-D3Baseball Denote Preseason DIII Poll

The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association continues its tradition of NCAA polls with the inaugural NCBWA-D3baseball.com Preseason Division III Poll. Weekly polls will start on February 25 and continue through June 2, following the NCAA Division III Championship in Grand Chute, Wisconsin.

The poll voters come from 25 college baseball writers, sports information directors and related media persons from throughout the nation.

Cortland State has received the No. 1 preseason nod in the inaugural NCBWA-D3baseball.com Preseason Division III Poll. Cortland States returns an experienced pitching staff headed by George Jweid and a potent offense anchored by preseason All-American catcher Mike Zaccardo. Kean is the defending NCAA Division III champion and is No. 3 in the pre-2008 NCBWA survey.

Rank	School (first place votes)	Conference	2007 Record	Final 2007 Ranking
1	Cortland State (6)	SUNYAC	42-7	2
2	Chapman (2)	Independent	41-8	5
3	Kean (10)	NJAC	43-8	1
4	Wooster (5)	NCAC	42-7	10
5	Emory	UAA	43-10	26
6	Wisc.-Stevens Point	WIAC	34-17	3
7	Eastern Conn. State	Little East	38-12	8
8	Johns Hopkins	Centennial	38-11	12
9	Carthage (1)	CCIW	37-13	6
10	Marietta	OAC	32-17	7
11	Wisc.-Oshkosh	WIAC	35-12	13
12	Pacific Lutheran	NWC	35-9	9
13	St Thomas (Minn.) (1)	MIAC	30-11	17
14	College of New Jersey	NJAC	34-11	14
15	Wheaton (Mass.)	NEWMAC	34-13	11
16	Texas-Tyler	ASC	37-1	nr
17	Texas Lutheran	ASC	37-10-1	15
18	Augustana	CCIW	35-14	22
19	Illinois Wesleyan	CCIW	32-13	26
20	Otterbein	OAC	32-13	20
21	Ithaca	Empire 8	27-15	21
22	Luther	IIAC	31-11	16
23	Trinity (Conn)	NESCAC	30-8	19
24	Ferrum	USA South	27-18	18
25	Keene State	Little East	32-15	29

Others receiving votes and named on more than 1 ballot (listed alphabetically): Averett, DeSales, Edgewood, George Fox, Frostburg State, Gwynedd-Mercy, Hampden Sydney, Keystone, Manhattanville, McMurry, Methodist, Millsaps, Montclair State, Mount St. Joseph, Ohio Wesleyan, Oneonta State, Pomona-Pitzer, RPI, Rhodes, Rowan, St. John Fisher, St. Joseph (Maine), St. Olaf.

Major College Baseball Rules Changes for 2008

Rule 1-14-f, Jackets. The committee voted to: "...allow a jacket, which includes the team's official logo, in the coaching boxes if it is consistent with the team's uniform color and apparel. If both coaches opt to wear a jacket, the jackets must be uniform."

Rationale: The committee would like coaches to wear the official game jersey as the first preference. However, the committee understands that some coaches prefer to wear a jacket over the jersey and this alteration allows that, but places some restrictions on the type and requires that a team logo be on the apparel.

Rule 1-16-c, Eligible Players. Add to this rule: "During a game, no one except **eligible** players in uniform....shall occupy a team's dugout or **bullpen**."

Rationale: This alteration makes the rules book consistent with what has been a championship policy – and generally accepted practice – for years.

Rule 2, Ejections. The committee adjusted the penalty for pitchers that receive a post-game ejection.

It will read:

"If a pitcher receives a post-game ejection for unsportsmanlike actions, the pitcher will receive a four game suspension."

Rationale: This consistently punishes pitchers who commit an act worthy of an ejection after the game is completed. This rule only applies to post-game ejections.

Rule 4-1-a, Bat and Helmet Checks. The committee decided to take this duty out of the hands of the umpires. Coaches will be asked to certify that all bats and helmets are legal during the pre-game meeting.

Rationale: The committee's reasoning is two-fold. First, the committee does not believe having umpires enter both dugouts to check bats and helmets for legality starts the relationship in the right way between coaches and umpires.

Secondly, since all NCAA bats are certified, very few bats are deemed illegal. Additionally, teams do not always make all bats and helmets available to umpires during pre-game activities.

Coaches currently have the right to challenge a bat as illegal and they continue to have this right.

Rule 4-4-a, Pre-game Meeting. "The head coach, during the first game of a weekend series or any non-conference game, must attend the pre-game plate conference."

Rationale: To ensure the umpires are aware who the head coach is before a series and/or non-conference contest.

Rule 7-2, 7-2-c-(1), 7-2-(2)-a-b, Designated Hitter. The committee made several revisions to this rule:

Revise 7-2-c-(1) to read: "If the DH is not the pitcher and the DH or the pitcher is moved to a defensive position, this move may be made anytime."

Revise 7-2-(2)-(a) to read: "Upon his removal from the pitching position, he may be immediately inserted as the DH; the pitcher may not reenter the game in any other capacity."

Add A.R.: "At any time, before the pitcher's removal as the game pitcher, he may pinch run or pinch hit for only the DH and become the DH."

In 7-2-c-(2)-(b): Delete "while on defense." Insert, "At any time, 1) be moved..."

Highlight the last sentence of 7-2-c-(2)-(b): “There is no loss of the DH but the player may not reenter the contest in any other capacity.”

Revise 7-2-(5)-(b) to read: “The DH may be moved to a defensive position at any time.”

Rule 8-2-d-(2)-A.R., Hit By Pitch. Delete the wording: “makes no attempt to avoid the pitch” in this approved ruling.

Rationale: This eliminates a contradiction in the ruling in comparison with the actual rule. The committee did not alter any other wording in this section. The committee is emphasizing, through umpire instruction that the batter must attempt to avoid the pitch to be awarded first base.

Rule 8-3-g-(1)-(2), Ball In/Out of Play. Add to this section: “(3) The call is a delayed dead ball. Any attempt to advance beyond those that would be awarded is at the runner’s own risk.”

Rationale: Provides for clearer understanding of this rule.

8-6-b-(3), Appeals. Revise the second sentence to read: “In the case of multiple appeals, if the defense errs during its first appeal attempt or any base runner advances, the defense loses its right to appeal any runner at any base.”

Rationale: Clarifies what has been the standard practice in both the NCAA & Major League Baseball codes.

Rule 9-1-a-(1)-(c); 9-1-e; 9-1-e, A.R., Pitching. Alter this rule to add the phrase, “and placing the pivot foot on the ground behind the rubber” (appropriate to context below).

9-1-a-(1)-(c): “Disengage from the pitching rubber by stepping back off the rubber and placing the pivot foot on the ground behind the rubber before separating the hands (or stepping back with the free foot).”

9-1-e: “The pitcher, upon breaking contact with the pitcher’s rubber by stepping backward and placing the pivot foot on the ground behind the rubber becomes an infielder...”

9-1-e, A.R.: “To ‘step off’ the pitcher’s rubber, the pitcher must 1) step backward and place the pivot foot on the ground behind the rubber and 2)...”

Rationale: Clarifies when the pitching restrictions end (when the pivot foot makes contact with the ground behind the rubber).

Rule 9-4-d, Pitching Changes. Revise to read: “A trip to the mound, which may include a conference with the infielders, is concluded when a coach leaves the dirt circle or the pitcher begins his eight warm-up pitches.”

Rationale: The committee believes this will give umpires better guidance to improve the pace of the game without limiting the coaching opportunities.

Official Preseason Conference Polls

Conference USA Coaches Pre-2008 Honors

PREDICTED ORDER OF FINISH

Rank School (First Place Votes)-Pts.

1.	Rice (8)	80
2.	East Carolina (1)	61
3.	Southern Miss	57
4.	Tulane	52
5.	Houston	38

Note: Conference USA lists just Nos. 1-5 in its preseason coaches surveys.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Aaron Luna, Rice (Junior, Outfielder/Designated Hitter)

PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Ryan Berry, Rice (Sophomore, Righthander)

ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

P Ryan Berry, So., Rice
 P T.J. Hose, Sr., East Carolina
 P Shooter Hunt, Jr., Tulane
 RP Cole St.Clair, Sr., Rice
 C Adam Zornes, Sr., Rice
 IF Stephen Batts, Jr., East Carolina
 IF Jimmy Cesario, Jr., Houston
 IF Brian Dozier, Jr., Southern Miss
 IF Trey Sutton, Sr., Southern Miss
 IF Kiko Vasquez, Jr., UCF
 OF Tyson Auer, Sr., UCF
 OF K.K. Chalmers, Sr., Memphis
 OF Harrison Eldridge, Sr., East Carolina
 DH Aaron Luna, Jr., Rice

Southeastern Conference**Eastern Division****Team Pts. '07 SEC Rec/Finish**

- 1) Vanderbilt (7) 62 22-8 / 1st
- 2) S.Carolina (3) 58 17-13 / 2nd
- 3) Kentucky (1) 42 13-16-1 / 5th
- 4) Georgia (1) 38 11-19 / 6th
- 5) Florida 29 15-15 / 3rd
- 6) Tennessee 18 13-15 / 4th

Western Division**Team Pts. '07 SEC Rec/Finish**

- 1) Ole Miss (10) 65 16-14 / 3rd
 - 2) Mississippi State 47 15-13 / 2nd
 - 3) Arkansas (2) 39 18-12 / 1st
 - 4) Auburn 34 10-20 / 6th
 - 5) LSU 33 12-17-1 / 5th
 - 6) Alabama 29 15-15 / 4th
- () - First Place Votes
 SEC Champion: Vanderbilt (5); Ole Miss (4); South Carolina (3)

Big 12**Rank Team (First place votes) Points**

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Texas (8) | 80 |
| 2. Missouri (1) | 71 |
| 3. Baylor (1) | 65 |
| 4. Texas A&M | 60 |
| 5. Oklahoma State | 46 |
| 6. Nebraska | 36 |
| T7. Kansas State | 30 |
| T7. Oklahoma | 30 |
| 9. Kansas | 17 |
| 10. Texas Tech | 15 |

MEAC

Rank/Team	Points (First Place Votes)	MEAC	Overall
1. Bethune-Cookman	180 points (10)	16-1	33-27
2. Delaware State	127 points (3)	10-8	22-27
3. North Carolina A&T	124 points	11-7	28-31
4. Norfolk State	106 points	9-8	25-25
5. Florida A&M	88 points	11-7	16-36
6. Maryland Eastern Shore	46 points	5-13	10-45
7. Coppin State	29 points (1)	0-18	0-44

Patriot League

1. Navy (4 first-place votes)	43 points
2. Lafayette (4)	42
3. Army (2)	37
4. Bucknell (2)	29
5. Lehigh	17
6. Holy Cross	12

Big South

Rk Team (first-place votes) Points

1. Coastal Carolina (8)	128
2. VMI	97
3. Liberty	96
4. Winthrop	88
5. High Point	61
6. UNC Asheville	56
T-7. Charleston Southern	25
T-7. Radford	25

Southland Conference

EAST DIVISION

School (First place votes) Points

1. Lamar (7)	62
2. Southeastern Louisiana (5)	58
3. Northwestern State	42
4. McNeese State	39
5. Central Arkansas	30
6. Nicholls State	15

WEST DIVISION

School (First place votes) Points

1. UTSA (8)	63
2. Sam Houston State (2)	53
3. Texas State (2)	52
4. Stephen F. Austin	30
5. A&M-Corpus Christi	24
6. UT Arlington	20

Summit League

Rk Team (First place votes) Points

1. Oral Roberts (7)	49
2. Western Illinois	40
3. Centenary (1)	35
4. South Dakota State	31
5. Southern Utah	25
6. Oakland	21
7. North Dakota State	15
8. IPFW	8

Preseason All-Sun Belt Team and Selections

SP - Danny Farquhar, Louisiana
SP - Hunter Moody, Louisiana
RP - Mike Obradovich, Florida Atlantic
RP - Chris LaGrow, South Alabama
C - David Doss, South Alabama
1B - Rawley Bishop, Middle Tennessee
2B - Johnny Giavotella, New Orleans
SS - Terrence Dayleg, Western Kentucky
3B - T.J. Baxter, New Orleans
OF - Mike McKenna, Florida Atlantic
OF - Nolan Gisclair, Louisiana
OF - Clint Toomey, South Alabama
DH - Scott Hawkins, Louisiana
Preseason Player of the Year - Johnny Giavotella, New Orleans
Preseason Pitcher of the Year - Danny Farquhar, Louisiana

School	Points
Louisiana-Lafayette (11)	121
New Orleans	107
Troy	94
Florida Atlantic	81
Middle Tennessee	74
South Alabama	69
Western Kentucky	56
Louisiana-Monroe	45
Florida International	36
Arkansas State	28
UALR	15

Mountain West Conference & '08 Preseason Team

Rk Team (First place votes) Points

1. TCU (6)	60
2. BYU (3)	52
3. San Diego State	42
4. New Mexico	40
5. UNLV	26
6. Utah	23
7. Air Force	9

Pos. Name, Class Institution

C Michael Brenly, Jr., UNLV
1B Kasey Ko, Jr., BYU; Matt Vern, Jr., TCU
2B Sean McNaughton, So., BYU; Matt Hibbitts, Sr., New Mexico
3B Steve Parker, So., BYU
SS Bryan Kervin, Sr., TCU
OF Kent Walton, Jr., BYU
OF Brandon Glover, Sr., San Diego State
OF Clint Arnold, Sr., TCU
OF Corey Shimada, So., Utah
P Stephen Strasburg, So., San Diego State
P Bobby LaFromboise, Sr., New Mexico
UT/DH Nick Romero, Jr., San Diego State

USA Baseball's 75-Man Pre-2008 Golden Spikes Award Watch List (First Ever Preseason Selections)

Name Position School

Preston Guilmet RHP Arizona	Brendan Duffy OF Oral Roberts
Ike Davis OF Arizona State	Jorge Reyes RHP Oregon State
Petey Paramore C Arizona State	Mike Stutes RHP Oregon State
Brett Wallace 1B Arizona State	Drew O'Neil RHP Penn State
Logan Forsythe OF Arkansas	Brett Hunter RHP Pepperdine
Mike Bianucci OF Auburn	Josh Lindblom RHP Purdue
Beamer Weems SS Baylor	Cole St. Clair LHP Rice
David Cooper 1B California	Aaron Luna OF Rice
Tyson Ross RHP California	Ryan Berry RHP Rice
Kiko Vazquez 1B Central Florida	Brian Matusz LHP San Diego
Doug Hogan C Clemson	Josh Romanski LHP/OF San Diego
David Sappelt OF Coastal Carolina	AJ Griffin RHP San Diego
Pat Venditte LHP/RHP Creighton	James Darnell 3B South Carolina
Alex Buchholz SS Delaware	Justin Smoak 1B South Carolina
Christian Friedrich LHP Eastern Kentucky	Phil Disher C South Carolina
Mike McKenna OF Florida Atlantic	Cody Adams RHP Southern Illinois
Buster Posey C Florida State	Sean Ratliff LHP/OF Stanford
Jack Rye OF Florida State	Jordan Danks OF Texas
Tanner Scheppers RHP Fresno State	Kyle Russell OF Texas
Gordon Beckham SS Georgia	Preston Clark C Texas
Collin Cowgill OF Kentucky	Blake Stouffer 2B Texas A&M
Scott Green RHP Kentucky	Roger Kieschnick OF Texas Tech
Danny Farquhar RHP Louisiana Lafayette	Shooter Hunt RHP Tulane
Luke Burnett RHP Louisiana Tech	Scott Gorgen RHP UC Irvine
Jared Bradford RHP LSU	Brandon Crawford SS UCLA
Yonder Alonso 1B Miami	Pedro Alvarez 3B Vanderbilt
Jemile Weeks 2B Miami	Dominic de la Osa OF Vanderbilt
Zach Putnam RHP/OF/DH Michigan	Ryan Flaherty SS Vanderbilt
Lance Lynn RHP Mississippi	Derek Shunk SS Villanova
Cody Satterwhite RHP Mississippi	David Adams 2B Virginia
Brandon Turner 2B Mississippi State	Jacob Thompson RHP Virginia
Aaron Crow RHP Missouri	Allan Dykstra 1B Wake Forest
Mitch Harris RHP/OF Navy	Blake Murphy C Western Carolina
Eric Surkamp LHP NC State	Conor Gillaspie 3B Wichita State
Johnny Giavotella 2B New Orleans	Aaron Shafer RHP Wichita State
Dustin Ackley 1B/OF North Carolina	Rob Musgrave LHP Wichita State
Jordy Mercer RHP/SS Oklahoma State	Jeremy Hamilton 1B Wright State
Anthony Shawler RHP/1B Old Dominion	

Rivals.com Preseason 2008 All-America First Team

C Buster Posey (Florida State), Leesburg, Ga. (Lee County)
1B Yonder Alonso (Miami, Fla.), Coral Gables, Fla. (Coral Gables)
2B Blake Stouffer (Texas A&M), San Antonio, Texas (Alamo Heights)
SS Ryan Flaherty (Vanderbilt), Portland, Maine (Deering)
3B Pedro Alvarez (Vanderbilt), New York, N.Y. (Horace Mann)
OF Dominic de la Osa (Vanderbilt), Miami, Fla. (Archbishop Carroll)
OF Tommy Baldrige (Coastal Carolina), Fort Mill, S.C. (Fort Mill)
OF Kyle Russell (Texas), Tomball, Texas (Tomball)
DH Brett Wallace (Arizona State), Sonoma, Calif. (Justin-Siena)
UT Zach Putnam (Michigan), Ann Arbor, Mich. (Pioneer)
SP Jacob Thompson (Virginia), Danville, Va. (Tunstall)
SP Preston Guilmet (Arizona), Citrus Heights, Calif. (Oakmont)
SP Brian Matusz (San Diego), Cave Creek, Ariz. (St. Mary's)
SP Lance Lynn (Mississippi), Brownsburg, Ind. (Brownsburg)
RP Pat Venditte (Creighton), Omaha, Neb. (Central)
RP Cole St. Clair (Rice), Santa Ana, Calif. (Foothill)

Rivals.com All-America Second Team

C Petey Paramore (Arizona State), Allen, Texas (Allen)
1B Justin Smoak (South Carolina), Goose Creek, S.C. (Stratford)
2B Johnny Giavotella (New Orleans), Harahan, La. (Jesuit)
SS Beamer Weems (Baylor), Virginia Beach, Va. (Princess Anne)
3B James Darnell (South Carolina), Danville, Calif. (San Ramon Valley)
OF Jack Rye (Florida State), Irvine, Calif. (Woodbridge)
OF Aaron Luna (Rice), Southlake, Texas (Carroll)
OF Mike Bianucci (Auburn), Fairfax, Va. (Woodson)
DH Dustin Ackley (North Carolina), Walnut Cove, N.C. (North Forsyth)
UT Josh Romanski (San Diego), Corona, Calif. (Norco)
SP Scott Gorgen (UC Irvine), Concord, Calif. (Clayton Valley)
SP Anthony Shawler (Old Dominion), Chesapeake, Va. (Oscar Smith)
SP Tyson Ross (California), Oakland, Calif. (Bishop O'Dowd)
SP Aaron Crow (Missouri), Wakarusa, Kan. (Washburn Rural)
RP AJ Griffin (San Diego), El Cajon, Calif. (Grossmont)
RP Matt Gorgen (California), Concord, Calif. (Clayton Valley)

2008 Division I Head Coaches Who Played in the Majors

Research: Brian Hernandez, UTSA - Scott Bradley, Princeton; Terry Burrows, McNeese State; Sherman Corbett, UTSA; Wayne Graham, Rice; Tony Gwynn, San Diego State; Chad Kreuter, USC; Vance Law, BYU; John Pawlowski, College of Charleston; Steve Rodriguez, Pepperdine; Ed Sprague, Pacific; John Stuper, Yale; Tracy Woodson, Valparaiso; Robbie Wine, Penn State.

Milestones

Baseball is the oldest varsity sport at Ohio State and celebrates its 125th season in 2008...East Carolina's junior infielder Drew Schieber will wear ECU's honorary No. 23 jersey during the 2008 season, according to head coach Billy Godwin. The No. 23 jersey, worn by the late ECU head coach Keith LeClair throughout his coaching and playing career, became an honorary number for the Pirate baseball program in 2003. Schieber, a tri-captain for the 2008 Pirates, played in 55 games (45 starts), batted .301 with six home runs, 22 RBI, 33 runs scored, and swiped 11-of-15 bases a year ago. This season, the two-year letterman, is ECU's top utility man and could see action at anyone of four positions in the infield (catcher, second, shortstop and third).

Dave Yeast Resigns As NCAA Umpires Coordinator at End of '08

Dave Yeast, the NCAA national coordinator of baseball umpires since 1996, has resigned his position with the Association, effective immediately.

Yeast has decided to pursue other interests, which includes a return to umpiring.

"I am honored and humbled to have served the NCAA and college baseball for eleven years and appreciate the opportunity to grow our officiating program," Yeast said. "I look forward to its continued growth and will work to assure a smooth transition to the new national coordinator. More than anything I am proud to have helped umpires across the country reach their goals and improve the level of officiating in college baseball."

Prior to being named NCAA national coordinator of baseball, Yeast worked two NCAA College World Series and the baseball competition at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta as an umpire. In 1999, he was named International Baseball Federation Umpire of the Year. He helped the NCAA enhance its championship, overseeing the expansion from 48 to 96 officials when the College World Series grew from 48 to 64 teams in 1999. He was also instrumental in providing opportunities for first-time umpires to work the NCAA baseball championships, recommending 49 umpires work the College World Series and 149 umpires work the NCAA Regional round of the championship over the course of 11 years.

Yeast also helped the NCAA enhance its programs for officials in various sports. He assisted with implementing the NCAA's first rules testing program for sports officials and the first in-season officiating video bulletins. He was a key figure in implementing the NCAA's officiating

The NCAA Baseball Committee will soon begin the process of hiring Yeast's successor. It is anticipated that this individual will be identified prior to the conclusion of the 2008 Division I Baseball Championship. Yeast will continue to support the NCAA's umpire coordination needs as a consultant through the remainder of the 2008 baseball season.

Where Are They Now?

The NCBWA is starting an occasional feature in the newsletter with "Where Are They Now?" updates on a number of college coaches, student-athletes and programs. This issue's segment features the seven coaches who guided teams in the final season of Southwest Conference play in 1996. The updates include 1996 head coaching assignments and current status. They are Baylor – coach Steve Smith (still with the Bears); Houston – Raynor Noble (still head coach at UH); Rice – Wayne Graham (still at RU and guided the Owls to their first NCAA team championship in 2003); Texas – Cliff Gustafson (retired; admitted to the College Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006); Texas A&M – Mark Johnson (pushing the 1,000-win milestone and coaching at Sam Houston State); Texas Tech – Larry Hays (the Big 12 Conference's longest single school tenured coach for 22 seasons at TTU). Please send any "Where Are They Now?" updates for future issues to Bo Carter (bcarter@footballfoundation.com).

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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