



**LINE DRIVES**  
**THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**(Volume 48, No. 1, Jan. 15, 2009)**

**The President's Message**  
**By NCBWA President Joe Dier**

Happy New Season!

It's been raining to beat the band in Starkville, Miss., of late, and in my water-logged way of thinking, that's probably a good thing. With more than 20 inches of rain in the past month, we're nearing a record for one of the wettest droughts ever. Of perhaps greater import, though, is the thought that each day of the wet stuff in December and January surely must translate into fewer tarp days at Dudy Noble Field and other baseball locales in the region when the 2009 college baseball season gets under way from coast to coast on February 20.

Another round of congratulations to '08 champ Fresno State and its title-clinching win over Georgia in the All-Bulldog championship series of the 2008 College World Series. The 2008 campaign was an intrigue-filled one, chocked full of memorable performances on the diamond. The coming season promises more of the same.

Congratulations are in order for ESPN broadcaster extraordinaire Mike Patrick. Last month Patrick, a fixture in the broadcast booth at the College World Series, was named the recipient of the 34th annual Wilbur Snyppe Award, presented annually by the NCBWA for outstanding contributions to college baseball. It's a good day when you can be tuned into one of Patrick's broadcasts. It's a better day when as an SID you get to work with him in Omaha, as he prepares for the broadcast of your team's game in the College World Series.

A tip of the cap also goes out to Sam Houston State Head Coach Mark Johnson, who earlier this month was honored by the American Baseball Coaches Association in San Diego as the recipient of the inaugural ABCA Ethics in Coaching Award. Johnson is nearing the 1,000-win milestone, having compiled a 953-484-3 record in 23 seasons as a collegiate head coach.

Kudos also to the athletes named to the preseason NCBWA All-America team, listed below in this newsletter, and to North Carolina, ranked atop the just-announced 2009 NCBWA Division I preseason poll. A new ranking will be released each week this season by the NCBWA's 30-member voting panel.

Thanks go to those that take the time to participate in the poll and to diligent work of Jeremy Mills for preparing weekly results updates for the voting panel and for tabulating the poll votes each week. We are appreciative also of those media outlets and media relations folks that use the poll in their notes and releases and in so doing help give added visibility to the NCBWA, now in its 48th year.

A reminder to all members that the NCBWA salutes top hitting and pitching performances in NCAA Divisions I, II and III each week throughout the season through the Pro-Line Athletics NCAA Hitter and Pitcher of the Week Awards. The awards will begin the first week of the season and are based on nominations submitted by our conference media relation directors. Be sure to send the name and pertinent information for your nominees to your conference baseball media contacts by noon each week, and the selection committee will be getting a memorandum out to DI independent teams with the nomination procedures as well.

Thanks in advance to all for continuing to share information and encourage membership - still just \$20 annually - in the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association. A membership form for new members and for membership renewals can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

It's almost time to pull the tarp and get the season started. Best wishes to all for a success-filled 2009 season.

Joe Dier, Mississippi State, NCBWA President

### **2009 NCBWA Preseason Poll**

The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association continues its tradition of NCAA Division I polls for the 12th year with its 2009 preseason predictions and weekly surveys. Weekly polls will continue from Feb. 23 through June 25 following the NCAA World Series in Omaha, Neb.

The poll voters come from 32 college baseball writers and related media persons from throughout the nation. After a preseason Top 35 listing, the remainder of the polls will feature a national Top 30.

North Carolina has received the No. 1 preseason nod for the first time in NCBWA history after coach Mike Fox's crew closed 54-14 and third in the final 2008 NCBWA survey. The Atlantic Coast Conference powerhouse was runnerup in both 2006 and '07 and has the potential to take all the marbles in 2009. Previous preseason No. 1 choices have been LSU (1998, 2001), Southern California (1999), Miami (Fla.) (2000), Stanford (2002), Texas (2003, 06), Cal State Fullerton (2005), Rice (2004, 07), and Arizona State (2008). Fresno State is defending NCAA champ after Oregon State won the baseball crown in Omaha in both 2006 and '07.

This week's poll has representation by 13 different conferences among the 302 baseball-playing schools in the 2009 NCAA Division I ranks. The polls of 2008 had teams from 17 different DI conferences rated at least one week. The preseason poll lists schools, and the remaining polls will consist of Top 30 choices. For more information or to join the NCBWA, please go to [www.ncbwa.com](http://www.ncbwa.com).

### **Rank-School-2008 Record-Final '08 Poll Place**

- 1 North Carolina Atlantic Coast 54-14 3
- 2 LSU Southeastern 49-19-1 6
- 3 Rice Conference USA 47-15 7
- 4 Texas A&M Big 12 46-19 14
- 5 Georgia SEC 45-25-1 2
- 6 Florida State ACC 54-14 8
- 7 Arizona State Pacific-10 49-13 9
- 8 Texas Big 12 39-22 21
- 9 Stanford Pac-10 41-24-2 4
- 10 Cal State Fullerton Big West 41-22 11
- 11 Louisville Big East 41-21 NR
- 12 Miami (Fla.) ACC 53-11 5
- 13 Georgia Tech ACC 41-21 26
- 14 Mississippi SEC 39-26 NR
- 15 UC Irvine Big West 42-18 10
- 16 Oklahoma State Big 12 44-18 17
- 17 Fresno State Western Athletic 47-31 1
- 18 San Diego West Coast 44-17 18
- 19 Baylor Big 12 32-26 NR
- 20 Missouri Big 12 39-21 19
- 21 Pepperdine WCC 38-21 NR
- 22 Coastal Carolina Big South 50-14 13
- 23 Kentucky SEC 44-19 23
- 24 Florida SEC 34-24 NR
- 25 UCLA Pac-10 33-27 NR
- 26 Clemson ACC 31-27-1 NR
- 27 East Carolina C-USA 42-21 NR
- 28 Oklahoma Big 12 36-26 NR
- 29 Arizona Pac-10 42-19 12
- 30 Michigan Big Ten 46-14 28
- 31 Oregon State Pac-10 28-24 NR
- 32 TCU Mountain West 44-19 NR
- 33 Southern California Pac-10 28-28 NR
- 34 Tulane C-USA 39-22-1 NR
- 35 Wichita State Missouri Valley 48-17 15

Others receiving votes (listed alphabetically): Alabama (35-28), Arkansas (34-24), Auburn (28-28), Bethune-Cookman (36-22), California (33-21-2), Charlotte (43-16), College of Charleston (39-20), Dallas Baptist (37-19), Elon (44-18), Houston (42-24), Lamar (35-23), Long Beach State (38-21), Missouri State (40-17), NC State (42-22), Nebraska (41-16), New Orleans (43-21), Notre Dame (33-21-1), Ohio State (30-26), Oral Roberts (48-14), Oregon (0-0), Sam Houston State (37-25), San Diego State (31-28), Santa Clara (33-22), South Carolina (40-23), Southern Miss (42-22), St. John's (42-16), Tennessee (27-29), UC Davis (35-24), UC Santa Barbara (35-21), UNC Wilmington (44-17), UTSA (39-19), Vanderbilt (41-22), Virginia (39-23).

By conference: Big 12 6, Pacific-10 6, Atlantic Coast 5, Southeastern 5, Conference USA 3, Big West 2, West Coast 2, Big East 1, Big South 1, Big Ten 1, Missouri Valley 1, Mountain West 1, Western Athletic 1.

### **2009 NCBWA 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Preseason All-America Team Designated**

While the Olympics and other international baseball events dominated much of the 2008 baseball scene, the ninth annual National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Pro-Line Athletic pre-2009 All-America team features many of the standouts from the various "dream" teams.

First team pitcher Stephen Strasburg of San Diego State was prominent on the mound staffs of both the U.S. Olympic team (composed mainly of top professional baseball stalwarts) as well as the U.S. National Team, which finished 24-0 and set a national team summer earned run average of 1.87.

Fresno State first baseman Alan Ahmady of both the Bulldogs' 2008 NCAA-winning edition and Team USA earned second team All-America laurels on teams loaded with the top projected collegiate talent for '09.

While pitching numbers reflect the depth and star power of 2009 college competition, all three units are composed of teams which could make runs at NCAA regional and national crowns.

There are 19 conferences and 43 different schools (most in the nine-year annals of NCBWA preseason All-America choices) represented among the selections by the NCBWA preseason All-America committee, and, as the coaches often say, the difference may be pitching.

Besides Olympian Strasburg (8-3, 1.57 ERA, 133 SO in 97-plus innings), standout returnee Chris Hernandez (11-0, 2.72 ERA, 117 SO in just over 112 frames) of Miami (Fla.)'s NCAA World Series entry and Alex White (13-3, 2.83 ERA) from North Carolina's 2008 CWS entry join Oklahoma State's Tyler Lyons (12-2, 3.31 ERA), Missouri State's Tim Clubb (11-0, 2.52 ERA) and Jacksonville State's (10-2, 3.87 ERA) as starters on the NCBWA initial "dream team."

Relief standouts A.J. Griffin (1.96 ERA, 14 saves) of San Diego and Eric Pettis (2.21 ERA, 17 saves) of UC Irvine compliment 2008 postseason NCBWA second team All-America closer Scott Bittle (7-1, 1.78 ERA, 8 saves) of Mississippi in a splendid first team bullpen.

The remainder of the NCBWA top unit is composed of several returning conference Players of the Year, youngsters who carried several teams to Omaha in '08 and a sound array of power hitters.

Indiana catcher Josh Phegley brings back a Big Ten Conference-topping .438 batting average along with 15 homers and 80 RBI in 61 contests. North Carolina 1B Dustin Ackley also sizzled with a .417 batting average (tops among Atlantic Coast Conference returnees for '09), 116 hits, 21 doubles, seven homers, 51 RBI, and 19 stolen bases in 25 attempts while batting in the leadoff spot (a rarity for first sackers on any level). 2B Brandon Sizemore of College of Charleston led all second basemen nationally in 2007 with 20 homers and 82 RBI and adds major wallop in the infield.

Shortstop belongs to Miami Hurricane Ryan Jackson with a .360 average and 50 RBI for the NCAA World Series qualifier while the first team third baseman is Louisville's Chris Dominguez with impressive .365-21 HR-75 RBI numbers from 2007.

Rounding out the multi-talent-blessed top squad are Southland Conference Player of the Year OF Michael Rockett (.360-10 HR-68 RBI) of UTSA, Arizona State OF Jason Kipnis (.371-14-73, 24 SB in 28 tries), Tennessee OF Kentrail Davis of 2008 Team USA, designated hitter Chad Cregar (.360-21-82) of Western Kentucky, and another Arizona State multi-purpose standout in utility player Mike Leake (11-3 as a pitcher, 3.49 ERA, .340 batting average).

Many of these preseason standouts will be nominated for the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Dick Howser Trophy, presented by the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Area chamber of Commerce and voted upon by the NCBWA membership. The Howser Trophy will be awarded on Saturday, June 13, 2009 prior to Game One of the NCAA World Series at Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, Neb.

## **2009 Preseason NCBWA All-America Team (2008 Stats)**

### **First Team**

<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Name, School</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>BA</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>2B-3B-HR</b>	<b>RBI</b>
C	Josh Phegley, Indiana	Jr.	.438	61	224	69	98	20-2-15	80
1B	Dustin Ackley, North Carolina	Jr.	.417	64	278	82	116	21-4-7	51
2B	Brandon Sizemore, C of Charleston	Sr.	.325	59	252	69	82	24-2-20	82
3B	Chris Dominguez, Louisville	Jr.	.365	62	249	68	91	13-2-21	75
SS	Ryan Jackson, Miami (Fla.)	Jr.	.360	63	242	49	87	19-1-4	50
OF	Michael Rockett, UTSA	Sr.	.360	57	247	60	89	25-5-10	68
OF	Jason Kipnis, Arizona State	Jr.	.371	62	237	76	88	16-6-14	73
OF	Kentrail Davis, Tennessee	So.	.330	54	204	45	68	7-3-13	44
DH	Chad Cregar, Western Kentucky	Sr.	.360	60	250	47	90	15-1-21	82
UT	Mike Leake, Arizona State	Jr.	.340	31	47	16	16	3-1-2	11

Pitching: 11-3 record, 3.49 ERA, 19 G, 16 GS, 2 CG, 1 SHO, 121.1 IP, 118 H, 61 R, 47 ER, 20 BB, 104 SO

### **Pitchers**

<b>Name, School</b>	<b>Cl.</b>	<b>ERA</b>	<b>W-L</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>IP</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>
SP Stephen Strasburg, San Diego State	Jr.	1.57	8-3	13	97.1	61	16	133
SP Tyler Lyons, Oklahoma State	Jr.	3.31	12-2	15	108.2	111	19	92
SP Ben Tootle, Jacksonville State	Jr.	3.87	10-2	15	86	87	29	79
SP Chris Hernandez, Miami (Fla.)	So.	2.72	11-0	18	112.2	92	18	117
SP Alex White, North Carolina	Jr.	2.83	13-3	20	101.2	78	42	113
SP Tim Clubb, Missouri State	Jr.	2.52	11-0	14	103.2	90	32	82
RP A.J. Griffin, San Diego	Jr.	1.96	1-1	29	14 SV	33	12	49
RP Scott Bittle, Mississippi	Sr.	1.78	7-1	27	8 SV	35	30	130
RP Eric Pettis, UC Irvine	Jr.	2.62	4-3	31	17 SV	37	20	50

### **Second Team**

<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Name, School</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>BA</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>2B-3B-HR</b>	<b>RBI</b>
C	Bryce Massanari, Georgia	Sr.	.325	70	252	39	82	12-1-11	65
1B	Alan Ahmady, Fresno State	Jr.	.382	77	285	59	110	17-1-13	92
2B	Jed Gyorko, West Virginia	So.	.409	56	232	62	95	17-3-8	63
3B	Bennett Davis, Elon	Sr.	.350	61	220	66	77	15-0-18	82
SS (tie)	Grant Green, Southern Calif.	Jr.	.390	50	205	46	80	15-5-9	46
SS	Josh Rutledge, Alabama	So.	.369	62	268	62	99	8-2-2	31
OF	Nate Lape, Marshall	Sr.	.388	59	214	62	83	17-0-17	63
OF	Matt den Dekker, Florida	Jr.	.333	55	213	55	71	9-2-8	48
OF	Cory Harrilchak, Elon	Sr.	.410	56	205	71	84	12-5-11	46
DH	Ben Carlson, Missouri State	Jr.	.379	57	237	57	92	11-1-17	67
UT	Brandon May, Alabama	Jr.	.365	63	252	60	92	18-0-9	50

### **Pitchers**

<b>Name, School</b>	<b>Cl.</b>	<b>ERA</b>	<b>W-L</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>IP</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>
SP Justin Marks, Louisville	Jr.	2.37	9-2	16	91	77	29	89
SP Shane Davis, Canisius	So.	2.42	12-1	13	89.1	89	24	47
SP Seth Maness, East Carolina	So.	3.57	9-2	16	98.1	99	20	81
SP Chris Fetter, Michigan	Sr.	2.47	10-2	16	94.2	71	28	82
SP Mike Minor, Vanderbilt	Jr.	4.28	7-3	15	103	99	28	101
SP Christian Bergman, UC Irvine	Jr.	1.94	5-2	25	60.1	59	16	37
RP Kyle Bellamy, Miami (Fla.)	Jr.	1.86	6-0	43	3 SV	40	13	75
RP Jimmy Gilheene, NC State	Jr.	1.12	2-0	21	10 SV	24	12	42
RP Nick Gaudi, Pepperdine	Sr.	2.68	5-1	29	15 SV	43	13	36

### **Third Team**

<b>Pos.</b>	<b>Name, School</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>BA</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>2B-3B-HR</b>	<b>RBI</b>
	C Griffin Benedict, Georgia Southern	Sr.	.355	57	217	60	77	17-2-12	65
1B	David Anderson, Coastal Carolina	Sr.	.333	61	252	52	84	17-1-20	59
2B	Ben Soignier, Louisiana-Monroe	Sr.	.394	57	236	83	93	21-2-16	46
3B	Stuart Tapley, Florida State	So.	.397	53	174	50	69	14-1-7	35
SS	Derek Dietrich, Georgia Tech	So.	.332	62	238	53	79	16-2-14	66
OF (tie)	Aaron Senne, Missouri	Jr.	.347	59	216	51	75	14-0-13	67
OF	Sonny Meade, The Citadel	Sr.	.393	56	229	49	90	16-0-5	46
OF	Brian Cavazos-Galvez, New Mexico	Sr.	.367	54	210	51	77	17-3-11	55
OF	Kyle Conley, Washington	Jr.	.337	54	181	49	61	13-2-19	57
DH	Ty Wright, Georgia Southern	Sr.	.398	50	196	63	78	22-1-17	52
UT (tie)	Blake Dean, LSU	Jr.	.353	67	269	62	95	18-3-20	73
UT	Rob Segedin, Tulane	So.	.322	62	233	37	75	18-1-6	59

### **Pitchers**

<b>Name, School</b>	<b>Cl.</b>	<b>ERA</b>	<b>W-L</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>IP</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>SO</b>
SP Scott Ruffin, Texas	So.	1.96	8-3	17	78	54	24	82
SP Ryan Berry, Rice	Jr.	3.63	8-5	17	104	103	31	86
SP Harvey, North Carolina	So.	2.79	7-2	19	67.2	52	47	80
SP Bibona, UC Irvine	Jr.	3.09	9-3	20	102.1	97	21	97
SP Tyler Lockwood, TCU	Jr.	2.75	7-2	17	104.2	97	15	71
SP Bryan Morgado, Tennessee	So.	4.59	5-5	14	80.1	70	37	104
RP Zach Calhoun, UTSA	Jr.	1.54	4-1	26	13 SV	41	35	54
RP Chase Dempsay, Houston	So.	2.53	8-3	33	11 SV	64	19	49
RP Jason Stoffel, Arizona	Jr.	3.00	4-2	34	13 SV	34	15	79

### **ESPN's Mike Patrick Tabbed 2008 NCBWA/Wilbur Snyppe Award Recipient**

Mike Patrick, whose solid play-by-play expertise has delighted millions of college baseball fans on ESPN at the NCAA World Series and other venues, is the 34th recipient of the Wilbur Snyppe Award, presented annually by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association for outstanding contributions to college baseball.

"To think that I would be recognized for doing something that I truly love, I am grateful beyond belief," Patrick said. "It is such an honor to be mentioned along with some of the outstanding professionals and media members that have worked hard and have dedicated themselves to the advancement of college baseball. I would like to thank the National Collegiate Baseball Writers' Association and the previous Wilbur Snyppe Award recipients for selecting me for this prestigious award."

"Mike Patrick and college baseball are a tremendous combination," said NCBWA executive director Bo Carter. "His enthusiasm and broadcast skills have taken the NCAA World Series to another level, and he has been a great proponent of baseball, as well as all college sports, through the worldwide stage of ESPN and its family of networks."

"Mike has been a real pro and great advocate for the game of college baseball," said NCBWA assistant executive director Mike Montoro. "He is a superb broadcaster in dealing with the coaches, student-athletes and support personnel and brings great enthusiasm and aplomb to each broadcast – especially in the College World Series."

Patrick, noted for his trademark broadcast opening "It's great to have you with us," has worked dozens of NCAA World Series contests and most of the best two-of-three championship round games from Omaha. He has been a television sports director/anchor in the Jacksonville, Fla., and Washington, D.C., areas, along with numerous assignments in televised sports for ESPN and Jefferson-Pilot Sports.

A veteran of four decades in the broadcast business, he has handled assignments for baseball, college football, men's and women's basketball, and NFL national telecasts and playoffs. He has added to his nationwide following as three-year play-by-play man for ESPN College Football Primetime with Todd

Blackledge and Holly Rowe. He serves as the animated voice for popular college baseball computer games NCAA Baseball MVP 06 and MVP 07. His association with the NCAA World Series dates back to 1995, and he also has ample experience in Atlantic Coast Conference regional broadcasts from the 1970s-2000s. He has provided coverage for Washington Redskins' preseason games and also worked for WUSA-TV and SportsNet Mid-Atlantic.

The Clarksburg, W.Va., native is a graduate of George Washington University, Patrick lives in Virginia with his wife Janet.

The ESPN legend joins an illustrious group of College Sports Information Directors of America Hall of Famers, noted national journalists and others in receiving the award. The plaque memorializes longtime Ohio State sports information director and NCBWA founder the late Wilbur (Bill) Snyppe. Snyppe was a noted contributor to the writers' organization, which was initiated in 1962 (and celebrating its 47th year in 2008), as well as an officer in the group. The NCBWA/Wilbur Snyppe Award yearly 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 officials, SIDs, award-winning media members, and college athletics administrators.

#### **Previous Wilbur Snyppe Award Winners**

1975	Wilbur Snyppe, Ohio State (D)
1976	Bill Esposito, St. 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 (D)
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
2008	Mike Patrick, ESPN

(D) – Deceased

## **2009 Major Rules Changes for College Baseball from the NCAA Rules Committee**

Rule 1-3-c- Add: "At the time of the pitch, the base coach must remain within the confines of the coaches' box with both feet. It is legal for the base coach to be positioned farther away from home plate than the boundaries of the coaches' box."

### **Major Rules Changes**

**Rule 1-3-c- Add: "At the time of the pitch, the base coach must remain within the confines of the coaches' box with both feet. It is legal for the base coach to be positioned farther away from home plate than the boundaries of the coaches' box."**

**PENALTY: Warning on the first offense; a further violation shall result in the coach being ejected.**

**Rule 1-12-b-PENALTY for a. and b:** "...cause an unusual reaction on the baseball shall be removed from the game. If detected **after the first pitch** the batter shall be declared..."

*\*\*Rationale: Clarifies when a batter should be called out for using an illegal bat.*

**Rule 1-14-g. It is required that base coaches wear a helmet. Play will not continue until compliance with this rule is met. It is recommended that the helmet meet NOCSAE \ standards.**

*\*\*Rationale: To enhance the safety of base coaches, who often are assisting runners and may not be directing their attention to the batter at the time of the pitch. Additionally, base coaches that are outside of the coaching area are in jeopardy of interfering with a live play.*

**Rule 3-6-d, A.R.1:** "An umpire first may warn any violator **or team** before ejecting the individual(s) from the game.

*\*\*Rationale: Clarification that a warning can be issued individually or for the entire team.*

### **Rule 3-6-d; and Appendix D:**

**A.R. 1, Sight and sound shall mean that the ejected person(s) cannot view the contest, cannot communicate with their team nor be where the umpires may hear them. It may still be possible for the ejected person(s) to be able to hear the sounds of the game; however, they must have left the confines of the playing field and the grandstands.**

**A.R. 3, The ejected individual is not allowed to return to the dugout, field or grandstands until the umpiring crew has been escorted to their dressing area by security or game management.**

**PENALTY: A minimum of a one game suspension, in addition to the post-game or post-participation ejection, will apply to any individual in violation of this rule.**

*\*\*Rationale: Assists game management and the umpires in identifying what the Committee defines as "sound" as well as defines where an ejected individual must go and sets penalties for violations of 3-6-d.*

**Rule 3-6-e: "... decision and seek its reversal."** **Coaches are not entitled to a second opinion simply because they dispute a call. [See Appendix E, (c) 1-7]**

**A.R.: After a request for an umpire conference has been granted, coaches are not allowed to continue to argue a call once the final decision has been made. If a call is reversed, coaches are entitled to an explanation.**

**PENALTY: Ejection.**

*\*\*Rationale: Clarification for Appendix E.*

**Rule 3-6-f, A.R. 2:** "If a coach leaves the dugout or their position to argue **a ball or strike call (including a checked swing)**, the coach may be ejected without warning."

*\*\*Rationale: Clarifies that no one should be allowed to argue a ball or strike call which includes a check swing.*

**Rule 3-6-k: "Jurisdiction on personal confrontations and conduct towards the officiating staff does not end until the umpires have left the parking lot."**

*\*\*Rationale: Clarifies when an official's jurisdiction ends with regard to the officiating crew.*

**Rule 5-2-f, A.R. 3: Televisions and any live broadcast (e.g., Internet streaming) shall be turned off in the dugout and clubhouse during a game.**

Revise the penalty for "f" to read: ...shall be removed from the stands **or shall receive a post participation ejection.**

*\*\*Rationale: Brings the regular-season code in line with all post-season play regulations.*

**Rule 5-16-b. Any threat of physical intimidation or harm to include pushing, shoving, bumping, kicking, spewing, spitting....**

*\*\*Rationale: that any type of spitting or spewing that is directed at an official will be cause for an additional suspension.*

**Rule 6-5-f: Each team shall be allowed three (3) offensive and (3) defensive conferences per game. If the game goes into extra innings, the team will receive one (1) extra offensive and one (1) extra defensive conference plus any unused conferences from the first nine innings.**

*\*\*Rationale: An attempt to improve pace of play.*

**Rule 7-7-e, p. 81:** "Hits the batter in the batter's box or hits the dirt or home plate and then hits the batter or the bat, **which is in the hand or hands of the batter**, while the batter is still in the batter's box; or . . ."

*\*\*Rationale: Clarifies that when the batter is still holding the bat, a ball should be ruled foul that rebounds from the ground and hits the batter while the batter is still in the batter's box.*

**Rule 8-6-b (1) (b):** "... return the ball to the base **and the fielder may tag the runner or the base.**"

*\*\*Rationale: Eliminates the ambiguity between 8-6-a and 8-6-b, both rule sections now allow the defensive player the same type of defensive response when playing on a runner.*

**Rule 9-4-b, A.R. 1:** "If after ...the coach goes to the plate umpire to announce a pitching change, the second trip is charged **(when the change is recorded on the official line-up card)**. If moved to a defensive position, the removed pitcher shall not return to pitch."

*\*\*Rationale: Clarifies when the second trip is officially charged.*

**Rule 9-4-d:** A trip to the mound, that may include a conference with the infielders ... **begins when the coach crosses the foul line** and shall be concluded when the ... "



*\*\*Rationale: Clarifies when a defensive conference begins.*

#### **Appendix B:**

**Section A-1-a:** Add: **Exception: In-stadium replays of swinging third strikes are allowed, if shown immediately and before the next batter of either team enters the batter's box.**

*\*\*Rationale: Clarifies the time frame that swinging third strikes may be shown on the video board.*

**Section A-3:** Add to the existing sentence, "Any instance in which an umpire has made a judgment call may be replayed only one time at regular speed **and must be replayed prior to the next batter (for either team).**"

*\*\*Rationale: Defines when a judgment call may be replayed and sets a definite time frame for the replay.*

**Appendix E: Add to F, Line 5:** Add: "Also some calls cannot be reversed without creating larger problems. Examples include a "catch/no catch" with multiple runners **or a ball that is ruled foul.**"

*\*\*Rationale: The addition defines that a ball that is ruled foul cannot be changed.*

### **2009 Preseason Collegiate Baseball Division I Poll**

LSU has been ranked No. 1 in Collegiate Baseball newspaper's Fabulous 40 pre-season NCAA Division I baseball poll. Not since Louisiana State put together a run of five national championships from 1991-2000 have the Tigers been this loaded with talent. LSU features five Louisville Slugger pre-season All-America choices from a team that finished fifth at the College World Series last season. The players include OF Blake Dean (.353, 20 HR, 18 2B, 73 RBI), SS D.J. LeMahieu (.337, 6 HR, 11 2B, 44 RBI), C Micah Gibbs (.322, 16 2B, 35 RBI), 2B Ryan Schimpf (.320, 12 HR, 18 2B, 54 RBI, 16 SB), OF Jared Mitchell (.297, 6 HR, 10 2B, 29 RBI, 16 SB).

#### **Rank School ('08 Final Record) Points**

1. LSU (49-19-1) 495
2. North Carolina (54-14) 494
3. Rice (47-15) 489
4. Georgia (45-25-1) 486
5. Stanford (41-24-2) 484
6. Arizona State (49-13) 482
7. Florida State (54-14) 479
8. Louisville (41-21) 476
9. Texas A&M (46-19) 473
10. Texas (39-22) 470
11. Mississippi (39-25) 467
12. Georgia Tech. (41-21) 465
13. Cal. State Fullerton (41-22) 462
14. Oklahoma State (44-18) 459
15. Baylor (32-26) 457
16. Fresno State (47-31) 456
17. San Diego (44-17) 453
18. Miami, Fla. (53-11) 451
19. Kentucky (44-19) 448
20. UC Irvine (42-18) 445
21. UCLA (33-27) 443
22. Missouri (39-21) 440

23. Pepperdine (38-21) 439
24. Southern California (28-28) 436
25. Florida (34-24) 435
26. Clemson (31-27-1) 432
27. Notre Dame (33-21-1) 430
28. Coastal Carolina (50-14) 428
29. Michigan (46-14) 425
30. UC Santa Barbara (35-21) 423
31. East Carolina (42-21) 422
32. Missouri State (40-17) 420
33. Southern Miss (42-22) 417
34. Tulane (39-22-1) 415
35. Arizona (42-19) 414
36. Wichita State (48-17) 410
37. TCU (44-19) 409
38. Oregon State (38-24) 406
39. California (33-21-2) 402
40. Alabama (35-28) 398

Other Teams Receiving Votes: Vanderbilt, South Carolina, Arkansas, Auburn, Long Beach State, Oregon, Virginia, NC State, Houston, Kent State, Santa Clara, UC Riverside, Oral Roberts, Nebraska, Kennesaw State, Ohio State, Oklahoma, San Diego State, Tennessee, Mississippi State, New Mexico, Jacksonville State, Elon, Western Kentucky, Dallas Baptist, Charlotte, USF, Florida, St. John's, Winthrop, Purdue, James Madison, Marshall, UCF, Washington, Washington State, Georgia Southern, Northwestern State, Lamar, Texas-San Antonio, Southern, Louisiana-Monroe, New Orleans, Hawai'i, San Jose State, San Francisco.

### **Florida State Honors Posey With On-Campus Howser Trophy Presentation** ***By Frank Longobardo, FSU Media Relations***

Florida State stalwart Buster Posey was honored at the FSU/UF football game on Nov. 29 for winning the 2008 Dick Howser Trophy.

While that weekend may have been the annual Florida-Florida State football game in a battle for Sunshine State supremacy, somebody not involved on the gridiron was recognized for his supremacy on the baseball field.

Posey received the 2008 Dick Howser Trophy, announced in Omaha last June, before the FSU-UF game.

David Feaster, Howser Committee chair and representative of the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, and the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association presented the Dick Howser Trophy named after the former Seminole player and coach. Jana Howser, one of Dick Howser's twin daughters, represented the Howser family and NCBWA at the weekend's events, which included a gala reception for Posey and his family.

Posey became the second Florida State player to win the award following J.D. Drew in 1997. "What a humbling award," Posey said. "Obviously, this being the Dick Howser Award makes it even more special for me - a Seminole."

The Dick Howser Award was just one of many awards that Posey was honored with in 2008. Posey also won the Brooks Wallace Award, the Golden Spikes Award, Collegiate Baseball, Baseball America and Rivals.com National Player of the Year kudos. He also received consensus All-America honors. Posey was the Johnny Bench Award winner as the top collegiate catcher in NCAA Division I along with the Rawlings Gold Glove Award as a stellar defensive catcher.

He finished the 2008 campaign with a .983 fielding percentage in 62 starts behind the plate and threw out 40.7 percent of potential base stealers and picked off six runners.

"You know that nobody will ever have a year or possibly three years of an impact on a club as Buster had on our guys," FSU head coach Mike Martin said.

Posey's accomplishments did not go unnoticed by the coaches of the Atlantic Coast Conference, as he became the fifth Seminole to be voted the ACC's Player of the Year. Drew, Marshall McDougall, John-Ford Griffin, and Tony Thomas, Jr. are the four other Florida State players to receive this honor.

### **Team USA Finalizes Head Coach Rick Jones' 2009 Staff**

USA Baseball has announced the remaining members of the 2009 USA Baseball National Team (Collegiate) coaching staff.

Joining head coach Rick Jones (Tulane) are assistant coaches Rob Cooper (Wright State), Mike Kennedy (Elon) and Dan McDonnell (Louisville). Cooper and Kennedy have both worked with Jones before, as a coach and player, respectively.

Rob Cooper is going into this fifth year as head coach of the Wright State Raiders, and he will serve as an assistant coach for the 2009 National Team. Coming off a runner-up finish in the Horizon League, the Cooper-led Raiders finished the season with a 30-23 record. Cooper was an assistant coach for the 2007 National Team as well while helping the U.S. win the silver medal at the Pan American Games in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil. He also coached with Jones at Tulane from 1997-98, serving as the team's hitting coach.

"Rob's experience both with Team USA and Rick Jones is invaluable," said Eric Campbell, general manager of the USA Baseball National Team. "We are extremely glad to have Coach Cooper back and the continuity he brings to our staff."

Elon's Mike Kennedy will be the pitching coach for the 2009 National Team. Kennedy is going into his 13th year as the head coach of the Phoenix, and he is the winningest coach in school history. Elon won the 2008 Southern Conference regular season and tournament titles, and it finished third at the NCAA Cary Regional. Before being named head coach, Kennedy served as Elon's pitching coach for four years. He also played catcher under Jones from 1988-89 at Elon, and later spent time in the minor leagues as a member of the Oakland A's organization.

"Mike shares a rich tradition with Coach Jones at Elon," Campbell said. "He has continued to take the Elon program to new levels, and his experience as a college and professional player will help our players prepare for their future transitions."

Dan McDonnell is head coach at Louisville, coming off a 41-21 campaign highlighted by the first conference tournament title in Louisville history. In 2007 McDonnell took the Cardinals to the NCAA World Series, the first trip in Louisville's history. His team tallied a program-record 47 wins and he was named the 2007 Rivals.com Coach of the Year.

The Team USA squad, managed by Texas A&M's Davey Johnson, has denoted its coaching staff with USA Baseball for the World Baseball Classic. The five coaches are pitching coach Marcel Lachemann, hitting coach Reggie Smith, and auxiliary coaches former MLB players Barry Larkin (Michigan), Bill Ripken, and Mike Schmidt (Ohio).

### **Bob Elliott Selects 2008 All-Canada Team from U.S. College Teams**

Famed international baseball writer Bob Elliott ([bobelliott49@gmail.com](mailto:bobelliott49@gmail.com)) again has selected his 2008 All-Canadian college baseball squad with the assistance of several media relations contacts, baseball writers and others with baseball interests both in the U.S. and abroad.

Kyle DeGrace of the Connors State Cowboys led the roughly 700 Canadians playing college ball south of the border. Toronto's DeGrace, who batted .404 with 16 homers with 56 RBI at Connors State to earn a berth on the 2008 Canadian Baseball Network All-Canadian College team. For the third time in four years Mike Gosse has made the All-Canadian team - this time as the leading vote getter.

The Oklahoma Sooners DH from Pitt Meadows, British Columbia, hit .368 with 23 doubles, eight homers and 52 RBI in 63 games. Gosse was a first team All-Canadian at third base in 2006 and repeated his 2005 first team selection as the DH. In both seasons with the New Mexico Junior College Thunderbirds. Gosse was the leading vote getter of the Canadians playing college ball at NCAA Division I, II and III, NAIA and junior colleges, according to the Bob Elliott's Canadian Baseball Network ([www.CanadianBaseballNetwork.com](http://www.CanadianBaseballNetwork.com)).

Calgary's Josh Vander Hey was top man behind the plate hitting .357 with 13 homers and 76 RBI for New Orleans. Mitch Delaney of La Salle, Ontario, won the first base honors hitting .380 with 13 home runs and 45 RBI at West Texas. Second base honors went to Kevin Mailloux of Windsor, Ont. after he hit .377 with 12 homers and 53 RBI.

Jamestown's Ben Cairns was selected at third base as the Nanaimo, B.C. resident hit .391 with nine homers and 39 RBI for the Jamestown Jimmies and Surrey, B.C.'s Terrance Dayleg won the shortstop job as he batted .347 with seven homers and 55 RBI at Western Kentucky.

The other outfielders were Calgary's Garrett Regan, who batted .418 with nine homers and 45 RBI for the Oklahoma City Stars to earn a spot in the outfield along with Toronto's Dustin Pennell of Ouachita Baptist with a .359 mark, 15 homers and 77 RBI.

The mound was crowded as three spots produced a pair of ties. Tying for All-Canadian honors were left-handers Shane Davis of Belmont, Ont., and J.R. Robinson of Surrey, B.C. Robinson was 10-1 with an 0.83 earned run average for New Mexico Junior College; Davis was 12-1 with a 2.42 ERA for Canisius.

David Francis of Mississauga, Ont., pitched for Walters State (Tenn.) and won the right-handed starting role going 13-1 with a 3.59 ERA. Andrew Albers of North Battleford, Saskatchewan, and Sheldon McDonald from Spruce Grove, Alta. tied for the top reliever. Albers was 7-4 with a 2.40 ERA and five saves at Kentucky while McDonald was 9-2 with a 2.86 mark and one save for Northeastern.

### **2008 All-Canadian Team**

<http://canadianbaseballnetwork.com/node/1769>

#### **First Team**

Pitchers - Left-hander (tie): Shane Davis, Belmont, Ont., Canisius; J.R. Robinson, Surrey, B.C., New Mexico Jr. College. Right-hander: David Francis, Mississauga, Ont., Walters State.

Reliever (tie): Andrew Albers, North Battleford, Sask., Kentucky, Sheldon McDonald, Spruce Grove, Alta., Northeastern

Catcher: Josh Vander Hey, Calgary, New Orleans

First base: Mitch Delaney, LaSalle, Ont., Western Texas

Second base: Kevin Mailloux, Windsor, Ont., Canisius

Third base: Ben Cairns, Nanaimo, B.C., Jamestown

Shortstop: Terrance Dayleg Surrey, B.C., Western Kentucky

Outfielders: Kyle DeGrace, Toronto, Connors State; Justin Pennell, Toronto, Ouachita Baptist; Garrett Regan, Calgary, Oklahoma City

DH: Mike Gosse, Pitt Meadows, B.C., Oklahoma

#### **Second Team**

Pitchers - Left-hander: Matt Tosoni, Whitby, Ont., St. John's. Right-hander: Matt McGovern, Gloucester, Ont., Monroe

Reliever: Thain Simon, Toronto, Santa Clara

Catcher: Joel-Anthony Del Grande, Scarbrough, Ont., Alcorn State

First base: Kevin Atkinson, junior, Surrey, B.C., New Mexico

Second base: Jean-Michel Rochon-Salvas, Longueuil, Que., Georgia State

Third base: Randy Schwartz, Kleinburg, Ont., High Point

Shortstop: David Narodowski, Vancouver, Vernon

Outfielders: Brad McElroy, London, Ont., Charlotte; Aaron Dunsmore, Calgary, Colby; Marcel Champagne, Bolton, Ont., Arizona State

DH: Curtis Stasiw, Thunder Bay, Ont., Minot State

#### **Third Team**

Pitchers - Left-hander: James Paxton, Ladner, B.C. Kentucky. Right-hander: Mathew Wilson, Toronto, Ont., Bucknell

Reliever: Luis Castillo, Burlington, Ont., Jefferson County

Catcher: Marc-Olivier Jodoin-Mimeault, St. Constant, Que., Georgia State

First base: Marshall MacDonald, Red Deer, Alta., Dayton

Second base: Justin Koch, Medicine Hat, Alta., William Woods College

Third base: Douglas Toro, Longueuil, Que., Lynn

Shortstop: David Cooper, Edmonton, Mount Olive

Outfield: George Agyapong-Mensah, Mississauga, Ont., Western Texas; Ryan LaPensee, Windsor, Ont., Wayne State; Shayne Wilson, White Rock, B.C., Iowa Western

DH: Bryan Stebbings, Vancouver, LSU-Shreveport

(Note: For eight years Elliott ran the SLAM! Canadian Baseball site, which shut down in Nov. 2007. The CanadianBaseballNetwork began in May of 2008 and any help with incoming Canadians or transfers would be appreciated....Thanks)

### **Texas A&M alumnus Davey Johnson, Derek Jeter Lead Team USA into 2009 WBC**

USA Baseball named Davey Johnson (baseball-basketball standout at Texas A&M) as manager and Derek Jeter as the first player on Team USA for the 2009 World Baseball Classic.

The announcement was part of an overall presentation at the Winter Meetings by WBCI, Major League Baseball (MLB), the MLB Players Association (MLBPA), and the International Baseball Federation (IBAF) to build excitement for the upcoming tournament in March.

Johnson was a bench coach for the U.S. in the 2006 World Baseball Classic, and he has also managed five other USA Baseball Professional Teams, most recently the 2008 U.S. Olympic Baseball Team that took home the bronze medal from the Beijing Olympics in August.

Jeter started for Team USA in the 2006 Classic earning 'All-World Team' honors at shortstop with a .455 tournament average. Team USA finished sixth in the inaugural tournament, with a 3-3 overall record. Jeter is entering his 15th season with the New York Yankees.

Team USA begins tournament play on March 5, 2009 at the Rogers Centre in Toronto, Canada as a member of Pool C. The U.S. will be joined in the first round by host Canada, Italy and Venezuela.

The World Baseball Classic is the premier international baseball tournament, sanctioned by the International Baseball Federation, and features the best players in the world competing for their home countries and territories. In March 2006, 486 players (235 of them from MLB organizations) representing 16 teams from across the globe competed in the inaugural event. More than 740,000 fans from 48 states and 15 countries attended games (16 of which sold out) and millions more watched on TV as Team Japan was crowned the first-ever World Baseball Classic champion. The inaugural tournament was broadcast by 48 media outlets in 10 languages to 205 countries and territories around the world. The upcoming World Baseball Classic will be played from March 5 - 23 and will again feature 16 of the greatest baseball-playing nations in the world. The tournament will be held every four years thereafter with plans in place to expand the participant field beginning in 2013.

### **Milestones**

2007 Dick Howser Trophy recipient David Price faced 1997 Howser Trophy recipient J.D. Drew when the Tampa Bay Rays edged Boston 3-1 in Game Seven of the 2008 AL Championship Series during a bases-loaded situation with two outs in the eighth inning. Price fanned Drew and became the youngest player at 23 ever to get a save in the decisive game of the playoffs...Former Kansas standout Ritchie Price has become the youngest current coach in Division I baseball at South Dakota State at 24. He is the son of successful Kansas mentor and 2008 USA Baseball assistant coach Ritch Price...North Alabama head coach Mike Lane retired after 25 seasons (1983-2007) and a school-record 908 victories...Former South Dakota State head coach Reggie Christiansen has accepted an assistant coach's post at Sacramento State...Mike Dudley has become assistant coach at Garden City (Kan.) Community College while Tommy Atkinson has assumed a new post as assistant at East Carolina...Missouri's Aaron Crow won the 2008 Roger Clemens Award for DI baseball's top pitcher...Dustin Pedroia of the AL Boston Red Sox in 2008 is the seventh Major League MVP from a Pacific-10 Conference school and the third from Arizona State. The list includes Sun Devils' stalwarts Reggie Jackson and seven-time winner Barry Bonds. The others with Pac-10 backgrounds are Jeff Kent and Jackie Jensen from California, Fred Lynn from USC, and Jackie Robinson from UCLA. Of note, National League MVP Ryne Sandberg of the Chicago Cubs originally signed with Washington State but opted to take a pro contract and never attended WSU...Missouri will play the Saint Louis Billikens on Apr. 1, 2009, at Busch Stadium in St. Louis. The game will start at 7:15 p.m. (CDT), and additional ticket information will be announced in the near future...Dave Dagostino, Jr. has been named the head coach at Union (N.Y.) College. He was a 1991-95 player for the school and returns to Union after working in athletics at West Virginia...Alabama played in Havana, Cuba, last week on a special baseball goodwill tour series and was accompanied by NCBWA board member and 2007 Wilbur Snyppe Award recipient Barry Allen...Former NCBWA All-America choice and Howser Trophy finalist Phil Nevin of Cal

State Fullerton and several MLB teams has been named manager of the independent league Orange County Flyers...UIC head coach Mike Dee had his contract extended through 2013...TCU head coach Jim Schlossnagle was one of 12 college head coaches selected to participate in a special meeting between MLB and NCAA baseball coaches during the Dec. 8-11 MLB Winter Meetings at Las Vegas...Chuck Pickard, 78, longtime college baseball expert and writer for The Sporting News, Baseball Digest, Pensacola News-Journal, and several North Texas and Oklahoma newspapers, died in Dec. 21, 2008, in Tyler, Texas...The Big Ten Conference and Greater Columbus Sports Commission will host the 2009 Big Ten baseball tournament at Huntington Park, the home of the AAA Columbus Clippers. The will mark the Big Ten's first neutral site baseball tournament since 1994.

### **Where Are They Now?**

The NCBWA features college baseball notables in "Where Are They Now?" updates on a number of coaches, student-athletes and programs. This issue's segment features additional Dick Howser Trophy winners of past years after presentation of the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Howser Trophy in 2008 at Omaha to Buster Posey. Some recent notables are J.D. Drew, Florida State, 1997, starting with several Major League teams; Jason Jennings, Baylor, 1999, recovering from arm surgery and hoping to regain his old MLB form in 2009; Mark Teixeira, Georgia Tech, 2000, just signed a long-term free agent contract with the New York Yankees; Mark Prior, Southern California, 2001, hitting the comeback trail with the San Diego Padres; Khalil Greene, Clemson, 2002, standout infielder that was just dealt to the St. Louis Cardinals.

### **2008 College Baseball Television Schedule Features Record Number of Games**

There were 212 total college baseball games televised (all-time record) in 2008 with all contests in the 2008 NCAA World Series carried on ESPN, ESPN2 or ESPNU.

### **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](http://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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**2009 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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