# National Collegiate Baseball Writers

## THE NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS NEWSLETTER

# LINE DRIVES

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### **NCBWA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** by Chuck Dunlap

As the college football bowl season approaches and basketball begins to swing into full gear, that can only mean one thing - another college baseball season is just a few short weeks away. The NCBWA released earlier this week its 2010 Pro-Line Preseason All-American Team, Special thanks to Russ Anderson, Bo Carter and fellow NCBWA board members who made this annual endeavor possible, which is now 10 years strong. Also, look for the NCWBA Preseason Poll to be released in early January.

Congratulations to Al Chase for being the 35th recipient of the Wilbur Snypp Award, presented annually by the NCBWA for outstanding contributions to college baseball. Chase introduced the first NCBWA poll in the 1970s and early 1980s. He covered the 1980 NCAA College World Series, many conference tournaments and mainland series along with covering college baseball in Hawaii for 30 years. He is a great friend of the NCBWA and retired from the Honolulu Star-Bulletin in 2007 after being a sports writer for 39 years. It is a very well deserved honor for Mr. Chase.

Something to keep an eye on in January is an override vote coming at the NCAA Convention to reduce the number of weeks of the college baseball season, recently extended to 14 weeks for the 2010 season, back to 13 weeks in future seasons. An override would obviously mean one less week to get all of the NCAA-allowed 56 regular season games in before conference tournaments begin in late May.

Another hot-button issue is, of course, the composite bat discussion. From the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee, the NCAA Baseball Research Panel and the bat manufacturers, there will be much more to come on that topic in the coming months.

One phrase I always enjoy hearing this time of year is "college baseball television selections". As television exposure continues to increase each year for our sport, it will be interesting to see how many conferences take advantage of the new NCAA rule in 2010 that allows the experimentation of a 'pitch clock' in an effort to speed up the game. The SEC Baseball Tournament will use the pitch clock in 2010, but not the regular season, at least for now. I can tell you from my conversations with various television networks they certainly prefer a faster game and a solid three hour window versus a game that lasts, say, three and a half hours. Many would argue the assurance that softball games are played in two-hours or less has been a major impact on their recent increase in television attraction, ratings and exposure.

I will also be personally curious to continue to follow the annual conversation of Major League Baseball Draft issues, such as when the draft takes place and when a drafted student-athlete must make the decision on whether to enroll in school or turn pro. I'm sure like most, the mere mention of such issues as above serves as more excitement knowing a new season is just around the corner.

Best wishes to you and yours for a safe and joyous Holiday Season and of course, a Happy New Year. The NCBWA looks forward to continuing to grow our numbers, serve our membership and continue our message about the wonderful game of collegiate baseball.

See you all in 2010......



#### STRASBURG GIVES BACK TO SAN DIEGO STATE BASEBALL

Stephen Strasburg, the 2009 national player of the year and first selection in the 2009 Major League Baseball draft by the Washington Nationals, has made a \$141,000 contribution to San Diego State Athletics to benefit the baseball program.

Strasburg's commitment will allow SDSU to upgrade the surface of Tony Gwynn Stadium. New synthetic turf will replace the grass skirting from dugouts to baselines. In addition, the gift will aid the operation of the Aztec baseball program.

"SDSU baseball and the university have meant so much for my development" Strasburg said. "As a student-athlete, I knew that it takes more than just coaching and good players to be successful.

From academic advisors to athletic trainers to the donors of the program - it takes all to make a successful program. I am proud to become part of the base of donors that want this program to succeed. As I have stated

before. I am an Aztec for life."

A two-time consensus All-American and conference pitcher of the year as well as an Olympic bronze medalist with the U.S. national team in Beijing, Strasburg ended his SDSU career in 2009 with a season for the ages. He compiled a 13-1 record with a 1.32 earned run average along with 195 strikeouts in 109 innings as he helped the Aztecs to a 41-23 record and their first NCAA Regional appearance since 1991. He finished the season as the national leader in strikeouts and ERA, setting school and conference game, season and career records in those categories.

He was named National Player of the Year by both Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball as well as National Pitcher of the Year by the College Baseball Foundation. He capped off his SDSU career by winning both the Dick Howser Trophy and Golden Spikes Award as the nation's top collegiate player.



#### **18U NATIONAL TEAM ENDS UNBEATEN, EARNS GOLD MEDAL AT PAN AMS**

Jameson Taillon compiled a record 16 strikeouts and the USA Baseball 18U National Team broke open a scoreless game with a six-run seventh inning in a 6-1 victory against Cuba to claim the gold medal of the IX COPABE "AAA" Pan American Junior Championships at Daniel Canonico Stadium.

The gold was the first for Team USA in the Pan Ams at the 18U level and came against a country that had won the last seven Pam Am championships. The Americans defeated Cuba (6-2) twice during the nine-day event to finish as the tournament's lone unbeaten team with an 8-0 mark.

"I am very proud of this team," 18U National Team Head Coach Garye LaFevers said. "Sometimes we might have struggled but each time we knew we had each other's backs. With this group, it was all about the team. That's what the coaches preached to the players from Day 1. These guys came together to make a great team. It never mattered to them who got the pat

Several USA players were honored with tournament awards. From statistics based on qualifying round action, Nick Castellanos was cited for the most runs scored (12), Nicholas Delmonico for most doubles (4) and Harper for fielding percentage as a catcher (1.000%). Bryce Harper was named as catcher on the All-Tournament Team and was joined by Manny Machado at shortstop and Brian Ragira in the outfield.

The 18U National Team's gold medal continues an impressive string of success for USA Baseball programs this summer. The USAB National Team claimed the title in the World Baseball Challenge in Prince George, British Columbia. The 16U National Team earned the gold medal at the IBAF "AA" (16U) World Youth Championships in Taichung, Taiwan. Team USA also garnered the crown in the IBAF World Cup, which concluded play in late September in Nettuno, Italy.

### **18U MEDAL RESULTS Gold Medal Game** USA 6, Cuba 1

**Bronze Medal Game** Venezuela 8, Panama 2

### Final Standings (Record)

- 1. USA (8-0)
- 2. Cuba (6-2)
- 3. Venezuela (5-3)
- Panama (3-5) 4. Aruba (3-4)
- 6. Colombia (1-6)
- Argentina (0-6)

## TEXAS TECH ANNOUNCES THE CREATION OF BROOKS WALLACE CLASSIC

The Texas Tech Department of Athletics along with head baseball coach Dan Spencer announced the creation of the Brooks Wallace Memorial Classic, an annual college baseball tournament that will be held at Dan Law Field beginning in 2010.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our program as we get to honor the memory of a really great person and baseball player in Brooks Wallace," said Spencer. "The College Baseball Foundation has made him a national figure in our sport in terms of the Wallace Award and we felt that it was time for our program to do something to honor his memory. Brooks was a Red Raider and we are very proud of that."

The 2010 Brooks Wallace Memorial Classic will feature Bethune-Cookman of the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference and Washington State of the Pac-10, alongside host Texas Tech. The four day round-robin event begins on Thursday, Feb. 25 and will conclude on Sunday, Feb. 28. The tournament will be hosted at Dan Law Field and ticket information will be announced later this fall.

# 2010 DIVISION II PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAMS

- \* 2009 NCBWA All-America First Team
- # 2009 NCBWA All-America Second Team
- + 2009 NCBWA All-America Third Team
- & 2009 NCBWA All-America Honorable Mention

#### **FIRST TEAM**

C	T.J. Nichols	Sr.	Indiana (Pa.)
1B	Kenny Burkhead	Sr.	Emporia State
2B	Jason Morriss	Sr.	Angelo State
3B	Matt Bauer	Sr.	Southwest Minnesota State
SS	Jesus Arzaga	Sr.	Regis
OF	*Kevin Becker	Sr.	Mesa State
OF	+Sam DiMatteo	Sr.	California (Pa.)
OF	&J.J. Putt	Sr.	Regis
DH	*Travis Howard	Sr.	USC Aiken
Utility	+Will Gowdy	Sr.	Ouachita Baptist
SP	Keith Couch	Jr.	Adelphi
SP	*Gabriel Duran	Jr.	Dowling
SP	&Ajay Meyer	Sr.	Ashland
SP	&Max Russell	Jr.	Florida Southern
SP	*Dan Wright	Sr.	Lynn
RP	Tim Dupuis	Sr.	Assumption
RP	Trevor Leach	Jr.	Southern Indiana

#### **SECOND TEAM**

C	Pat Trettel	Sr.	Seton Hill
1B	+Keith Towne	Sr.	Angelo State
2B	Seth Fox	Sr.	Upper Iowa
3B	Blake Cover	Sr.	Nebraska-Kearney
SS	Vance Albitz	Sr.	UC San Diego
0F	Nate Baumann	Jr.	Augustana (S.D.)
0F	Sean Harrell	Sr.	Georgia College & State U.
0F	Derek Migrants	Sr.	Assumption
DH	&Jason Carr	Sr.	Mesa State
Utility	&Tyler Choate	Sr.	Southern Indiana
SP	&Logan Birr	So.	St. Cloud State
SP	Vince Lloyd	Sr.	Slippery Rock
SP	Ben Minard	Sr.	Ashland
SP	Matt Rossman	Sr.	UC San Diego
SP	&Tim Shibuya	Jr.	UC San Diego.
RP	&Martin Dewald	Sr.	Georgia College & State U
RP	Daniel Tillman	Jr.	Florida Southern

#### THIRD TEAM

C	Zach Maggard	Jr.	Florida Southern
1B	&Andrew Kinney	Sr.	Southwest Minnesota State
2B	Billy Messer	Sr.	Slippery Rock
3B	&Jacob Petkac	Sr.	Ashland
SS	Nick Spisak	Sr.	West Chester
0F	Isaac Garcia	Sr.	Angelo State
0F	Jesse Lancaster	Sr.	Mount Olive
0F	Jacob Oswalt	Sr.	Slippery Rock
0F	Brayan Valencia	Sr.	Nova Southeastern
DH	#Chris Adamson	Sr.	Angelo State
Utility	Brenden Furrow	Sr.	Concordia-St. Paul
SP	David Deminsky	Sr.	St. Cloud State
SP	Jeremy Gigliotti	Sr.	East Stroudsburg
SP	Ben Graham	Sr.	Emporia State
SP	Colby Killian	Sr.	Emporia State
SP	Joe Scumaci	Sr.	Lewis
RP	Jeffrey Asby	Sr.	Angelo State
RP	Craig Blair	So.	Angelo State
RP	Bret Severtson	Sr.	Augustana (S.D.)

#### **HONORABLE MENTION**

C: Bob Stumpo, Sr., West Chester; Marcos Torres, Sr., Felician. 1B: Ryan Geffert, So., Southern Connecticut State; Ryan McCrory, Sr., Alabama-Huntsville; Ben Minard, Sr., Ashland; Kyle Orensky, Sr., West Chester. 2B: Ryan McCormick, Jr., Millersville; Chase Presley, So., Harding; Mickey Zudonyi, Jr., Felician. 3B: None. SS: Paul Bingham, Sr., Indiana (Pa.); Wade Kirkland, Jr., Florida Southern. OF: T.J. Greig, Sr., Molloy; Cody Kulp, So., Shippensburg; Tom Longoni, Sr., Upper Iowa; Greg Pron, Jr., West Florida. DH: Mike Walczak, Sr., Rockhurst. Utility: Derek Kline, Sr., Millersville; Lucas Wilsing, Sr., Upper Iowa. P: Colby Betz, Sr., Indiana (Pa.); Brodie Brumley, Sr., Harding; Kyle Cline, So., Harding; Kevin Johnson, Sr., West Florida; Tommy Kahnle, Lynn; Patrick Lenton, Sr., Minnesota State; Jared Loschen, Sr., Nebraska-Kearney; &Phil Messerian, Sr., Felician; Adam Schrader, Sr., Southwest Minnesota State; Steven Stewart, Sr., Molloy.

Brooks Wallace was a former Texas Tech player and assistant coach and a slick-fielding shortstop at Tech from 1977-80. A four-year starter, he was named All-Southwest Conference and All-District VII his senior year. He led the Red Raiders to their first appearance in the Southwest Conference Tournament in 1980.

After playing two years in the Texas Rangers organization, he returned to Texas Tech and served as a graduate assistant and later as an assistant coach. In the summer of 1984, he was diagnosed with cancer and fought the disease courageously until his death on March 24, 1985, at age 27. The Plano, Texas, native was married to the former Sandy Arnold and they had one daughter, Lindsay Ryan.

# TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE FOR 2010 BIG TEN-BIG EAST BASEBALL CHALLENGE

Tickets for the second Big Ten-BIG EAST Baseball Challenge, hosted by the St. Petersburg/Clearwater Sports Commission, are now available online at **www.BigTenBIG-EASTChallenge.com**. The Challenge will take place February 26-28, 2010 at various current and former big league facilites. Those interested in purchasing tickets via phone can call 410-472-3500.

An all-tournament pass, which provides access to all 30 games of the Challenge, can be purchased for \$25. Individual day passes are available for \$10 and individual venue passes for Bright House Field and Dunedin Stadium are available for \$5. An individual day pass will admit one spectator to any game on a given day at Progress Energy Park, the Raymond A. Naimoli Complex and Jack Russell Stadium. An individual venue pass will admit one spectator to any game on a given day at Bright House Field or Dunedin Stadium.

All 10 of the Big Ten's baseball-playing institutions will once again compete in the 2010 Challenge, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Northwestern, Ohio State, Penn State and Purdue. The BIG EAST will send 10 teams to the 2010 event, as Louisville, Rutgers and Villanova will make their first appearances and will be joined by seven squads making a return trip — Cincinnati, Connecticut, Notre Dame, St. John's, Seton Hall, USF and West Virginia.

Games will be played daily in St. Petersburg at the Raymond A. Naimoli Complex, the former spring training practice facility of the Tampa Bay Rays, and Al Lang Stadium, the Rays' former spring training game site.

Games in Clearwater will take place at Jack Russell Stadium, once the spring home of the Philadelphia Phillies. The Challenge will also feature nightly doubleheaders at Dunedin Stadium, spring home of the Toronto Blue Jays and Bright House Field, spring home of the World Champion Philadelphia Phillies.

There will be 10 games each day pitting Big Ten teams against BIG EAST representatives. Games are scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. Feb. 26 and Feb. 27 and run into the evening both days. Game son Feb. 27 are also slated to start at 10 a.m., but will conclude in the afternoon.

# FUND ESTABLISHED TO HONOR LONG-TIME GUILFORD COLLEGE COACH

Alumni and friends have made gifts and pledges totaling nearly \$290,000 to establish a fund honoring retired Guilford College coach Stuart T. Maynard.

Gifts will support a planned batting center for McBane Field on campus, which is the home field for the baseball

team. Maynard, now 91, coached the baseball team from 1952-84 and holds the record for most baseball coaching wins at the college.

"The man so many of us refer to as 'The Rock' was a teacher, coach, mentor and friend for generations of Guilford students," said Randy Doss '82, the college's vice president of enrollment, who played baseball for Maynard as a college student. "This fund means that his legacy will continue to impact Guilford student-athletes in the years to come."

Maynard, who graduated from Guilford in 1943, was captain of the football and baseball teams. In 1951, the college hired him to be director of physical education and head coach of the football and baseball teams. He coached football for five seasons and baseball for 33 seasons until his retirement in 1984.

Under Maynard, the baseball team was 436-394-4 and earned trips to the NAIA Baseball World Series in 1966 and 1976. Maynard won the Professional Baseball Scouting Association's Coach of the Year Award in 1976 and the NAIA National Coach of the Year Award in 1966. He is a member of the NAIA Baseball Hall of Fame and the Guilford College Athletic Hall of Fame.

A native of Harnett County, N.C., Maynard served two years in the U.S. Navy and then took a job as football coach at Williamston (N.C.) High School. His team won the 1950 state championship.

Maynard received the Alumni Excellence Award from Guilford in 1982, and the college honored the legendary coach by installing a commemorative rock between McBane Field and the Armfield Athletic Center in 2009.

Maynard resides in Greensboro with his wife, Ruth, who is a 1943 graduate of the college. They have five children.

For information about contributing to the Stuart T. Maynard '43 Fund for Athletics, contact Jerry W. Harrelson '72, director of alumni relations, at 336-316-2333 or *jharrels@guilford.edu*.

#### **VANDERBILT VISITS ORIENT**

Vanderbilt's baseball team enjoyed a unique opportunity by touring part of the Orient and playing four exhibition games in Japan in November.

Due to a generous gift by VU alum Bill Kaye, the Commodores traveled to the Orient during the Thanksgiving holidays and faced four of the top university baseball teams in Japan.

Kaye made a significant donation in the spring that funded the trip.

"This was an occasion to make a powerful statement that Vanderbilt is moving ahead and that the program is continuing to develop and continuing to offer expanded opportunities," said Kaye. "This was a chance to combine the educational and cultural opportunities in seeing a part of the world that most of these kids probably would not have seen as well as the opportunity to test their baseball skills against some of the best players in Japan."

The players, coaches, staff and administrators traveled to Japan on Nov. 21 and returned eight days later. During that time Vanderbilt played Hosei University, Aoyama Gakuin University, Meiji University and Waseda University.

The Commodores spent their off days touring historical and popular areas of Japan and will conclude the trip with two days in Hong Kong. The team will have the opportunity to tour Hong Kong by boat and dine at the world-famous China Club among other activities.

# 2010 NCAA POSTSEASON DATES

#### Division I

#### Regionals

June 4-7, 2010

To be determined (on- and off-campus sites)

#### **Super Regionals**

June 11-14, 2010
To be determined (on- and off-campus sites)

#### **College World Series**

June 19-29/30, 2010
Omaha's Johnny Rosenblatt Stadium
Omaha, Neb.
Creighton University, host

# Division II

#### Regionals

May 13-16, 2010
To be determined (on- and off-campus sites)

#### Finals

May 22-29, 2010
USA Baseball National Training Complex
Cary, North Carolina
Mount Olive College
and town of Cary, N.C, hosts

#### Division III Regionals

May 19-23, 2010

To be determined (on- campus sites)

#### **Finals**

May 28-June 1, 2010 Fox Cities Stadium Appleton, Wisconsin Lawrence University and the Fox Cities of Wisconsin Convention and Visitors Bureau, hosts

# WISCONSIN-WHITEWATER FACILITY NAMED FOR LONG-TIME COACH

James B. Miller Stadium is the new name of the baseball facility at the University of Wisconsin-White-water after the UW System Board of Regents approved the naming during the fall.

Miller served as head baseball coach for 17 years and retired as coach in 2003 after setting a school-record 416 victories. He never had a losing season during his coaching career at Whitewater and remains with the department, beginning his 41st year.

He is a three-time Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association College Coach of the Year and a three-time Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Coach of the Year.

Miller led the Warhawks to seven NCAA Division III play-off appearances, in 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993, 2000, 2001 and 2003. He also captured three Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Association championships in 2000, 2001, and 2003 and made four National Collegiate Athletic Association regional appearances in 1990, 1991, 1993, and 1996.

Miller coached one Position Player of the Year and two Pitchers of the Year since the WIAC established the awards in 1997. In his 17 seasons at Whitewater, Miller also reached 12 All-Americans.

He was inducted into the Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2003 and the UW-Whitewater Athletic Hall of Fame in 2007.

Miller Stadium will be the exclusive site for Warhawk baseball and includes Prucha Field. The stadium is located in the Kachel Family Sports Complex.

A formal dedication ceremony of Miller Stadium is planned for spring 2010.

retirement following the 2010 season. Former LSU head coach Raymond "Smoke" Laval will take over at North Florida in 2011.

- Jon Mikrut is the new assistant coach at Northwestern.
- Mitch Gaspard was hired as the head coach at Alabama following the retirement of Jim Wells.
  - Scott Virgulak was named head coach at Rhode Island College.
- UT Arlington head coach Darin Thomas received a two-year contract extension through the 2012-13 year.
- Sacramento State associate head coach **Reggie Christiansen** will move to the top spot following the 2010 season when head John Smith will step down.
- **Tim Esmay** was named interim head coach at Arizona State following the resignation of **Pat Murphy**.

### 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 (national 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 **Russ Anderson**, NCBWA Associate Executive Director, c/o Conference USA, 5201 No. O'Connor Blvd., Suite 300, Irving, TX 75309.

### 1977 WILBUR SNYPP AWARD RECIPIENT PHIL LANGAN DIES

Phil Langan, the 1977 recipient of the Wilbur Snypp Award from the NCBWA, died in late November after suffering a heart attack.

COSIDA has named its Graduate Internship Grant in memory of the late Phil Langan, who served the organization as secretary-treasurer and Digest Editor from 1972-77.

CoSIDA past-president Dick Page, who worked with Langan on the Board, said, "My experiences with Phil as secretary-treasurer left nothing to be desired. His quick responses to my requests were very professional and appreciated. I was disappointed when a person of his ability decided to leave our profession, but knew that our loss was someone else's gain."

Langan was a one-man CoSIDA gang back in 1972 when he not only held the secretary-treasurer position, but he also wrote the Digest, the organization's newsletter; and spear-headed the annual workshop.

Langan, who was inducted into the CoSIDA Veterans Hall of Fame this past summer in San Antonio, was the SID at Ithaca College, Princeton and Brown, and served as a athletic department development officer and community relations director at Cornell. He left his SID position at Brown to become a vice president with both the Hartford Whalers and the Pittsburgh Penguins.

After leaving the NHL in 1996, Langan operated a successful sports public relations consulting business, doing what he loved to do—helping others and especially the young people who wanted to enter the sports PR business.

#### **COACHING NEWS & NOTES**

- **Mike Clement**, former assistant at UT Arlington, was named assistant coach at Texas A&M.
  - · North Florida head coach Dusty Rhodes announced his

NCBWA 2009-10 OFFICERS					
President	Chuck Dunlap	Southeastern Conference	205-458-3010	cdunlap@sec.org	
1st Vice President	Julie St. Cyr	Big West Conference	949-261-2525	jstcyr@bigwest.org	
2nd Vice President	Tami Cutler	Wichita State	316-978-5559	tcutler@goshockers.com	
3rd Vice President	Ryan Bomerger	Liberty	434-582-2292	rbomberger@liberty.edu	
Executive Director	Bo Carter	National Football Foundation	940-898-2185	bcarter@footballfoundation.com	
<b>Associate Executive Director</b>	Russ Anderson	Conference USA	214-774-1351	rdanderson@c-usa.org	
<b>Assistant Executive Director</b>	Mike Montoro	West Virginia	304-293-2821	mike.montoro@mail.wvu.edu	
Division II Coordinator	Bob McComas	Slippery Rock	724-738-2777	robert.mccomas@sru.edu	
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For more information contact NCBWA Associate Executive Director Russell Anderson (214-774-1351, rdanderson@c-usa.org).



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www.ncbwa.com

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