



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

(May 28, 2001)

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NCBWA ANNOUNCES DIVISION III REGIONAL PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

CHICAGO – The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) announced its second annual NCAA Division III Regional Players of the Year on Monday:

NEW ENGLAND REGION

Eric Swedberg, OF, Worcester State College

Junior, Gardner, Mass.

Batted .462 with 44 runs scored, 12 doubles, three triples, 14 home runs and 70 RBI

NEW YORK REGION

Scott Allen, C, Ithaca College

Senior, Fayetteville, N.Y. (Fayetteville-Manlius)

Batted .407 with five home runs and 37 RBI. Named Empire Eight Conference “Player of the Year” and was selected to the all-tournament team at the NCAA Division III New York Regional.

MID-ATLANTIC REGION

Craig Conway, 3B, Montclair State University

Senior, Mountainside, N.J. (Livingston)

Batted .436 with 47 RBI and named New Jersey Conference “Player of the Year” and New Jersey Collegiate Baseball Association “NCAA Division II/III Player of the year.”

SOUTH REGION

Ryan Donegan, P, Emory University

Senior, Richboro, Pa.

Went 11-1 (tied for third-best in NCAA Division III) with a 1.11 ERA (ranked third nationally) and 89 strikeouts in 97.0 innings pitched.

MIDEAST REGION

Matt DeSalvo, P, Marietta College

Junior, New Castle, Pa.

Went 15-1 with a 1.58 ERA and eight complete games in 15 starts. Allowed just 50 hits and struck out 179 batters in 102.1 IP, and opponents batted just .140 against him. Named the Ohio Athletic Conference “Pitcher of the Year” and struck out an NCAA Division III Baseball Championship-record 19 batters in a 1-0 win over Salisbury State University on May 25 in the first round of the national championship.

CENTRAL REGION

Matt Thede, C, Wartburg College

Senior, Reinbeck, Iowa

Batting .452 (entering the NCAA Division III Central Regional championship) with 46 runs scored, 17 doubles, 11 home runs, two triples, 56 RBI, an .852 slugging percentage and on a .516 on-base percentage. He had a 17-game hitting streak in 2001 and threw out 16-of-39 would-be base stealers. Named Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference “most valuable player” award for the second-straight year, named first-team all-conference for the third-straight year and won his second-straight batting triple crown.

MIDWEST REGION

Brad O'Connell, 2B, Wisconsin-Stout

Senior, Elk Mound, Wis.

Batted .524 and led the NCAA Division III in batting average most of the season. Also hit 12 home runs with 42 RBI and a .934 slugging percentage from the leadoff spot in the batting order. O'Connell started the 2001 season with an eight-game hitting streak and extended that to 37 games, hitting safely in the first 29 games of the season. Named Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Association "position player of the year."

WEST REGION

Kevin Webster, C, Texas Lutheran University

Senior, New Caney, Texas (New Caney/Southwest Texas State)

Batted .491 with 40 runs scored, 12 doubles, one triple, 11 home runs, 49 RBI, a .911 slugging percentage and a .562 on-base percentage. Won the American Southwest Conference "triple crown" and threw out six of 10 would-be base stealers. Signed a minor league contract with the Baltimore Orioles on May 25, 2001.

For more information on these awards please contact NCBWA President Russell Anderson (rdanderson@c-usa.org) or Steve Marovich, NCBWA Division III Coordinator and Sports Information Director, Carthage College (stevich@concentric.net).

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