



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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NCBWA ANNOUNCES FIFTH ANNUAL PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM

DENVER — The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association has chosen its fifth annual 2004 preseason All-America team, with three starting pitchers from defending NCAA champion Rice headlining a group of standouts representing 20 different Division I conferences.

Rice mainstays Jeff Niemann (17-0, 1.70 ERA last season), Wade Townsend (11-2, 2.20) and Phillip Humber (11-3, 3.30) have become the first trio of starting hurlers from the same squad to earn preseason first-team recognition from the writers' group.

The Owls trio is not alone in their multiple talents (Townsend had five saves out of the bullpen before taking on fulltime starters' duties for Coach Wayne Graham's 58-12 squad) on the first unit. Long Beach State right-hander Jared Weaver (13-3, 1.99 ERA, younger brother of the New York Yankees' Jeff Weaver) joins the other first-team starters, along with Jason Windsor (11-2, 1.98) of Cal State Fullerton as one of the most formidable group of selections in the brief history of preseason NCBWA All-America squads. Relief aces Steven Register (NCAA-high 16 saves in 2003) of Auburn and Huston Street (15 saves, Division I's lowest ERA at 1.33) of Texas team with North Carolina State's Joey Devine (13 saves) as the top closers.

Street is a repeat performer from the 2003 preseason and postseason NCBWA All-America components, while Register returns from the '03 postseason A-A team. Returning first team 1B Billy Becher of New Mexico State leads an outstanding group of hitters on the first team with 32 home runs last season. Becher's .420 batting average also tops the first-team squad—just ahead of returning All-American SS Dustin Pedroia of Arizona State with a .404 norm for the Pacific-10 Conference power.

The No. 1 position players and utility men/designated hitters combined for 103 home runs and 531 RBI last season while Big East Conference Player of the Year candidate Steve Sollman of Notre Dame returns with a .370 average. 3B Michael Griffin, a Baylor junior who also can play the outfield in a pinch, nabbed first team All-Big 12 Conference laurels with Street in '03.

Southland Conference All-America OF Jordan Foster of Lamar chimed in with a .417 average and 71 RBI, while Southern Cal catcher Jeff Clement (21 home runs as a freshman) and Stanford OF Sam Fuld (three-time participant in the NCAA World Series under Coach Mark Marquess) join LSU's 2003 CWS entrant Ryan Patterson and Ole Miss pitcher-utility star Stephen Head, solid members of the select squad from the Southeastern Conference.

Rice outfielder Austin Davis, of the school's first NCAA team champion in any sport, gives the Owls a team-high four preseason All-American selections, on the three units. Arizona State 1B Jeff Larish joins teammate Pedroia and Conference USA stalwarts OF Darryl Lawhorn of East Carolina and relief standout Austin Tubb of Southern Miss among some of the other key honorees. Princeton bullpen star Thomas Pauly (5-1, five saves, 0.92 ERA in 15 appearances) of the Ivy League and North Carolina State starters Mike Rogers and Vern Sterry (combined 22 victories) of the Atlantic Coast Conference are just a few of the chosen ones on the pre-2004 NCBWA second unit.

The SEC had the most preseason All-American selections with nine, while the Pac-10 had seven and the ACC and Big 12 each produced six.

An entire list of the preseason honorees follows:

2004 NCBWA Preseason All-America Teams

First Team

Position Players (With 2003 Stats)

Pos. Name, School	Class	BA	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
1B Billy Becher, New Mexico State	Sr.	.420	250	76	105	32	118
2B Steve Sollmann, Notre Dame-33	SB Jr.	.370	238	64	88	4	37
3B Michael Griffin, Baylor (also OF)	Jr.	.350	294	55	103	11	76
SS Dustin Pedroia, Arizona State	Jr.	.404	297	83	120	4	52
C Jeff Clement, Southern California	So.	.298	208	53	62	21	53
OF Jordan Foster, Lamar	Jr.	.417	230	54	96	7	71
OF Ryan Patterson, LSU	Jr.	.350	263	59	92	16	51
OF Sam Fuld, Stanford	Sr.	.331	248	68	82	2	29
UT/ATH Stephen Head, Ole Miss	So.	.337	208	31	70	6	44

Pitching: 4-1, 1.40 ERA, 30 G, 57.2 IP, 16 BB, 43 SO, 13 SV

Pitchers

Pos. Name School	Cl.	W-L	ERA	G	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
SP Jason Windsor, CS Fullerton	Sr.	11-2	1.98	23	95.1	76	22	75	0
SP Philip Humber, Rice	Sr.	11-3	3.30	18	128	102	39	138	0
SP Jeff Niemann, Rice	Jr.	17-0	1.70	22	137.1	96	35	156	1
SP Wade Townsend, Rice	Jr.	11-2	2.20	29	118.2	80	46	164	5
SP Jared Weaver, Long Beach State	Jr.	13-3	1.99	18	117.2	81	36	133	0
RP Steven Register, Auburn	Sr.	3-3	2.94	33	52	42	7	61	16
RP Joey Devine, N.C. State	So.	5-2	2.14	32	59	46	13	73	13
RP Huston Street, Texas	Jr.	8-1	1.33	40	74.1	48	13	69	15

Second Team

Position Players (With 2003 Stats)

Pos. Name, School	Class	BA	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
1B Jeff Larish, Arizona State	Jr.	.372	234	80	87	18	95
2B Kevin Melillo, South Carolina	Jr.	.317	227	59	72	12	47
3B Adam Fox, Ohio	Jr.	.366	238	51	87	14	61
SS Ryan Braun, Miami (Fla.)	So.	.364	242	61	88	17	76
C Landon Powell, South Carolina	Jr.	.339	245	46	83	10	61
OF Darryl Lawhorn, East Carolina	Jr.	.332	231	49	77	14	49
OF Austin Davis, Rice	Sr.	.344	262	63	90	6	63
OF Drew Moffitt, Wichita State	Sr.	.312	241	58	79	18	77
UT/ATH Joe Koshansky, Virginia	Sr.	.320	178	43	57	9	36

Pitching: 7-2, 2.31, 9 G, 58.1 IP, 43 H, 19 BB, 54 SO

Pitchers

Pos. Name School	Cl.	W-L	ERA	G	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
SP (tie) Brent Carter, Alabama	Jr.	10-5	3.30	19	122.2	56	19	105	0
SP Glen Perkins, Minnesota	So.	10-2	2.91	15	105.1	100	23	117	0
SP Chris Niesel, Notre Dame	Jr.	9-1	2.69	14	90.1	80	15	82	0
SP Mike Rogers, N.C. State	So.	11-3	2.83	15	111.1	110	31	101	0
SP Vern Sterry, N.C. State	Sr.	11-0	3.02	15	104.1	90	31	107	0
SP J.P. Howell, Texas	Jr.	10-2	2.52	21	114.1	97	43	105	0
SP Justin Orenduff, Va. Commonwealth Jr.	9-3	2.27	17	93	82	32	120	0	
RP Thomas Pauly, Princeton	Jr.	5-1	0.92	15	39	25	14	60	5
RP Austin Tubb, Southern Miss	Sr.	3-1	0.92	28	29.1	19	7	27	10

Third Team

Position Players (With 2003 Stats)

Pos. Name, School	Class	BA	AB	R	H	HR	RBI
1B C.J. Smith, Florida	Jr.	.337	202	53	68	17	64
1B (tie) Clay Harris, LSU	Jr.	.332	211	51	70	16	62
1B Jim Fasano, Richmond	Jr.	.353	204	35	72	14	63
2B Drew Anderson, Ohio State	Jr.	.307	208	46	64	12	34
3B Neil Sellers, Eastern Kentucky	Sr.	.407	231	66	94	17	85
3B (tie) Brett Carroll, Middle Tennessee Jr.	Jr.	.330	221	54	73	19	52
SS Stephen Drew, Florida State	Jr.	.327	263	83	86	11	59
SS (tie) Mike Rozema, St. John's	Sr.	.408	196	44	80	2	33
C Brad Willcutt, Southern Miss	Jr.	.325	249	52	81	12	61
OF (tie) Jeff Van Houten, Arizona	Jr.	.413	213	53	88	11	72
OF Ben Harrison, Florida	Sr.	.362	224	59	81	11	61
OF Jeff Fiorentino, Fla. Atlantic	Jr.	.386	233	71	89	15	49
OF Mark Jurich, Louisville	Sr.	.285	130	25	37	5	33
(2002 NCBWA All-America who missed 30 games due to broken wrist)							
OF Sam Steidl, Minnesota	Sr.	.367	237	45	87	0	33
OF Danny Putnam, Stanford	Jr.	.348	230	52	66	16	66
DH/ATH Curtis Ledbetter, Nebraska	Jr.	.348	187	42	65	13	54
(tie) UT/ATH Ryan Gordon, UNCG	Sr.	.416	231	50	96	5	50
Pitching: 4-2, 2.59 ERA, 12 G, 59 IP, 49 H, 21 BB, 55 SO, 0 SV							
UT/ATH Micah Owings, Ga. Tech	So.	.306	209	43	64	15	42
Pitching: 9-3, 3.99 ERA, 17 G, 88 IP, 84 H, 21 BB, 58 SO, 0 SV							

Pitchers

Pos. Name School	Cl.	W-L	ERA	G	IP	H	BB	SO	SV
SP Steven Carter, Coastal Carolina	Sr.	11-3	4.06	20	115.1	109	33	110	0
SP Randy Beam, Florida Atlantic	Sr.	13-2	2.39	17	101.2	74	17	83	0
SP J.D.Cockroft, Miami (Fla.)	Sr.	11-3	2.72	22	119	116	35	94	1
SP Quinton Robertson, Nebraska	Sr.	10-2	4.23	16	89.1	95	21	51	0
SP Scott Lewis, Ohio State	Jr.	9-1	1.61	13	83.2	48	24	127	0
SP Mark Romanczuk, Stanford	So.	12-2	4.01	23	112.1	97	55	80	2
SP Clayton Jerome, TCU	Sr.	9-4	2.34	16	111.2	86	25	106	0
(tie) SP Mike Pelfrey, Wichita State	So.	10-2	2.49	17	104.2	91	15	98	0
RP Zane Carlson, Baylor	Sr.	3-4	2.61	30	58.2	46	14	71	11
RP Chase Swing, Middle Tennessee	Jr.	2-4	3.68	27	51.1	34	20	53	11
(tie) RP Chris Noonan, Seton Hall	Sr.	3-2	2.61	33	58.2	46	33	65	9