



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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NINTH ANNUAL NCBWA PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM FEATURES NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL STANDOUTS

STARKVILLE, Miss. – 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 squad 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 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.

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Rounding out the multi-talent-blessed top squad are Southland Conference Player of the Year OF Michael Rockett (.360-10 HR-68 RBI) of UT-San Antonio, 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 23rd 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

Pos.	Name, School	Class	BA	G	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBI
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, UT-San Antonio	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

Name, School	Cl.	ERA	W-L	G	IP	H	BB	SO
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

Pos.	Name, School	Class	BA	G	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBI
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

Name, School	Cl.	ERA	W-L	G	IP	H	BB	SO
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

Pos.	Name, School	Class	BA	G	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBI
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

Pitching: 1-2 record, 4.66 ERA, 14 G, 0 GS, 0 CG, 0 SHO, 19.1 IP, 23 H, 10 R, 10 ER, 4 BB, 21 SO, 5 SV

Pitchers

Name, School	Cl.	ERA	W-L	G	IP	H	BB	SO
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 Calhoon, UT-San Antonio	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

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