



## **NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION**

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### **2014 NCBWA ALL-AMERICA FEATURES DIVISION I'S ELITE PLAYERS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – June 11, 2014

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DALLAS – The National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association 19<sup>th</sup> annual Division I All-America baseball squads (first, second and third teams) again features a cavalcade of the nation's elite players in 2014.

The balance in the talent on each of these three teams again indicates the close competition among 302 DI schools for the coveted eight places in the June 14-25 NCAA World Series starting Saturday at TD Ameritrade Park.

In fact, the All-America team is represented by 39 different teams and 17 conferences. There are 23 Division I circuit players or pitchers of the year on the three units, and 10 standouts who led their teams to NCAA Super Regionals and/or the '14 NCAA World Series.

Some of the more notable names among the group are Kentucky P-DH-1B A.J. Reed, who leads the nation with 23 home runs, added 70 RBIs, had a 12-2 pitching record, and was among the Southeastern Conference leaders in as many as nine statistical categories. He is a finalist for the 2014 Dick Howser Trophy as the NCAA Division I player of the year.

Fellow finalists Oregon State outfielder Michael Conforto (.345 average, seven home runs, 56 RBIs), LSU pitcher Aaron Nola (11-1 record, 1.47 earned run average, 134 strikeouts in 116-plus innings pitched), Kennesaw State catcher Max Pentecost (led all DI catchers in batting average at .418 and helped KSU advance to its first Super Regional), and Oregon State pitcher Ben Wetzler (12-1, 0.78 ERA, 78 strikeouts) were the top vote recipients in the last of two ballots cast by the NCBWA membership.

Some of the other stars from the first unit are Tennessee Tech OF Brandon Thomasson (22 homers), North Florida OF Drew Weeks (A-A and NCAA topping .430 batting average, Pentecost is second nationally in BA), and fellow starting pitchers Blake Fox (12-0) of Rice, Casey Bloomquist (12-2) of Cal Poly and Jace Fry (11-2), among others.

The five starting hurlers on the first squad were a combined 58-6, while the three relief aces, all candidates for Saturday's NCBWA Stopper of the Year, registered a composite 60 saves. Louisville's Nick Burdi and UC Irvine's Sam Moore from this group pitched their respective teams to 2014 CWS berths.

The 2014 All-America team announcement precedes the presentation of the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Dick Howser Trophy at a national news conference Saturday at 10 a.m. (CDT) at TD Ameritrade Park. The NCBWA also will denote the 2014 DI Coach of the Year and the NCBWA Stopper of the Year Awards at this conference and will honor longtime NCAA championships administrator and Di Baseball World Series media coordinator J.D. Hamilton with the coveted Wilbur Snypp Award for contributions to college baseball.

The winner's name is inscribed on the permanent trophy, a bronze bust of Howser permanently displayed at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, home of the 2008 American League champion, Tampa Bay Rays. Both the winner and his school receive a special trophy for keepsakes.

NCBWA membership includes writers, broadcasters and publicists. Designed to promote and publicize college baseball, it is the sport's only college media-related organization, founded in 1962.

The Howser Trophy was created in 1987, shortly after Howser's death. Previous winners of the Howser Trophy are Mike

Fiore, Miami, 1987; Robin Ventura, Oklahoma State, 1988; Scott Bryant, Texas, 1989; Alex Fernandez, Miami-Dade Community College South, 1990; Frank Rodriguez, Howard College (Texas), 1991; Brooks Kieschnick, Texas, 1992 and 1993; Jason Varitek, Georgia Tech, 1994; Todd Helton, Tennessee, 1995; Kris Benson, Clemson, 1996; J.D. Drew, Florida State, 1997; Eddy Furniss, LSU, 1998; Jason Jennings, Baylor, 1999; Mark Teixeira, Georgia Tech, 2000; Mark Prior, Southern California, 2001; Khalil Greene, Clemson, 2002; Rickey Weeks, Southern, 2003; Jered Weaver, Long Beach State, 2004; Alex Gordon, Nebraska, 2005; Brad Lincoln, Houston, 2006; David Price, Vanderbilt, 2007; Buster Posey, Florida State, 2008; Stephen Strasburg, San Diego State, 2009; Anthony Rendon, Rice, 2010, Taylor Jungmann, Texas, 2011, Mike Zunino, Florida, 2012 and Kris Bryant, San Diego, 2013.

**FIRST TEAM** *(Statistics Through June 11)*

Pos.	Name, School, Class	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBIs	BB	SO	SB/SBA
*C	Max Pentecost, Kennesaw State, Jr.	.418	63	263	59	110	23-2-9	58	30	26	17/19
*1B	Casey Gillaspie, Wichita State, Jr.	.389	59	211	50	82	15-1-15	50	58	28	8/8
*2B	Jace Conrad, UL Lafayette, Jr.	.364	68	264	63	96	20-3-9	65	18	27	22/26
3B	Daniel Miles, Tennessee Tech, Sr.	.380	58	237	67	90	17-1-11	54	39	21	5/7
SS	Trea Turner, NC State, Jr.	.321	54	215	65	69	12-3-8	36	37	25	26/30
*OF	Michael Conforto, Oregon State, Jr.	.345	59	203	52	70	16-2-7	56	55	38	4/8
*OF	Michael Katz, William & Mary, Jr.	.363	56	240	64	87	24-1-14	75	32	43	0/1
OF	Brandon Thomasson, Tennessee Tech, Sr.	.336	58	244	60	82	20-4-22	76	22	45	2/3
OF	Drew Weeks, North Florida, Jr.	.430	53	221	52	95	13-4-6	38	18	20	10/14
DH	Derek Gibson, Southeast Missouri State, Sr.	.403	57	226	42	91	12-4-6	70	16	19	9/10
*UT	A.J. Reed, Kentucky, Jr.	.336	62	223	60	75	18-1-23	73	49	48	0/1

12-2, 2.09 ERA, 16 APP, 16GS, 1CG, 0/1SHO, 112.0IP, 98H, 39R, 26ER, 29BB, 71K, .236 OPP BA

Pos.	Name School	W-L	ERA	APP	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	OPP BA
^SP	Aaron Nola, LSU, Jr.	11-1	1.47	16	16	2	1/6	0	116.1	69	19	19	27	134	.172
SP	Ben Wetzler, Oregon State, Sr.	12-1	0.78	14	13	4	2/2	0	104.0	49	12	9	31	83	.143
SP	Blake Fox, Rice, So.	12-0	1.46	15	15	0	0/4	0	104.2	88	17	17	27	69	.236
SP	Casey Bloomquist, Cal Poly, So.	12-2	1.56	16	14	2	1/1	1	98.0	87	21	17	20	74	.243
^SP	Jace Fry, Oregon State, Jr.	11-2	1.80	16	16	4	4/1	0	120.1	83	29	24	39	98	.196
RP	Brendan McCurry, Oklahoma State, Sr.	5-0	0.38	35	0	0	0/3	19	47.1	29	2	2	8	54	.178
RP	Nick Burdi, Louisville, Jr.	3-1	0.51	30	0	0	0/3	18	35.1	17	4	2	10	62	.133
RP	Sam Moore, UC Irvine, Jr.	0-3	1.88	31	0	0	0/3	23	43.0	35	10	9	10	38	.223

**SECOND TEAM**

Pos.	Name, School, Class	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBIs	BB	SO	SB/SBA
C	Kyle Schwarber, Indiana, Jr.	.358	59	232	66	83	16-6-14	48	44	30	10/13
*1B	Matt Tellor, Southeast Missouri State, Sr.	.386	57	233	60	90	18-0-15	71	30	26	2/4
*2B	Ryan Seiz, Liberty, Jr.	.351	59	231	55	81	16-2-12	43	28	52	0/1
3B	Dustin DeMuth, Indiana, Sr.	.374	57	211	40	79	16-1-5	40	20	40	4/9
SS	Dylan Bosheers, Tennessee Tech, Jr.	.368	59	234	66	86	14-1-11	56	27	32	8/12
*OF	DJ Stewart, Florida State, So.	.351	53	194	45	68	19-0-7	50	40	30	4/5
OF	Caleb Adams, UL Lafayette, Jr.	.381	67	223	67	85	18-7-11	42	46	60	7/13
*OF	Jeff Gardner, Louisville, Sr.	.321	63	234	37	75	20-2-9	68	22	42	2/3
OF	Chase Harris, New Mexico, Sr.	.377	58	247	46	93	11-5-8	63	17	27	13/20
DH	Bryan Soloman, Eastern Kentucky, Sr.	.344	54	209	39	72	12-1-14	55	12	35	1/3
^UT	Aaron Brown, Pepperdine, Jr.	.314	61	242	44	76	13-3-13	49	9	52	5/8

13-1, 1.95 ERA, 17 APP, 17GS, 1CG, 1/2 SHO, 115.2 IP, 84H, 29R, 25ER, 40BB, 104K, .212 OPP BA

Pos.	Name School	W-L	ERA	APP	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	OPP BA
SP	Brandon Finnegan, TCU, Jr.	9-3	2.12	16	16	1	0/4	0	97.2	70	24	23	27	129	.202
^SP	Nathan Kirby, Virginia, So.	9-2	1.73	16	16	1	1/2	0	104.0	65	25	20	25	104	.182
SP	Matt Imhoff, Cal Poly, Jr.	10-4	2.45	15	15	1	1/3	0	99.1	65	32	27	43	124	.195
SP	Kyle Funkhouser, Louisville, So.	13-2	1.73	17	17	0	0/4	0	114.1	79	29	22	59	117	.198
^SP	Joey DeNato, Indiana, Sr.	13-1	1.82	17	16	0	0/4	0	109.0	91	26	22	39	81	.236
^SP	Preston Morrison, TCU, Jr.	9-4	1.32	17	17	5	3/2	0	122.1	85	24	18	19	85	.197
RP	Michael Cederroth, San Diego State, Jr.	6-2	2.28	32	1	0	0/2	20	51.1	36	19	13	28	55	.205
RP	Jacob Lindgren, Mississippi State, Jr.	6-1	0.81	26	0	0	0/3	3	55.1	23	9	5	25	100	.124
RP	Joel Seddon, South Carolina, Jr.	3-2	1.66	27	1	0	0/5	14	48.2	37	10	9	12	59	.213

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**THIRD TEAM**

Pos.	Name, School, Class	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBIs	BB	SO	SB/SBA
C	Will Allen, Ole Miss, Sr.	.345	65	261	42	90	23-0-7	61	15	40	0/1
*1B	Connor Joe, San Diego, Jr.	.367	53	218	59	80	21-2-9	51	32	24	3/6
*2B	Mark Mathias, Cal Poly, So.	.386	58	210	48	81	14-1-2	39	23	18	12/16
3B	Scott Schaub, Jacksonville, Sr.	.407	47	172	23	70	7-3-1	47	24	19	9/10
SS	Michael Russell, North Carolina, Jr.	.339	60	230	43	78	20-2-4	32	29	27	13/18
OF	Auston Bousfield, Ole Miss, Jr.	.349	65	275	58	96	18-2-6	50	16	25	17/18
*OF	Casey Jones, Elon, Jr.	.418	53	196	42	82	20-4-7	53	36	40	11/14
OF	Bradley Zimmer, San Francisco, Jr.	.368	54	220	42	81	10-7-7	31	31	34	21/32
OF	Chase Raffield, Georgia State, Sr.	.356	56	205	44	73	19-0-14	59	27	29	7/10
DH	Blaise Salter, Michigan State, Jr.	.317	57	221	34	70	22-0-5	50	17	27	0/2
UT	Louie Lechich, San Diego, Sr.	.342	53	225	45	77	18-3-7	46	16	30	3/7

8-3, 2.51 ERA, 13 APP, 13 GS, 1 CG, 1/3 SHO, 82.1 IP, 82H, 25R, 23ER, 21BB, 50K, .265 OPP BA

Pos.	Name School	W-L	ERA	APP	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	B/Avg.
^SP	Kyle Freeland, Evansville, Jr.	10-2	1.90	14	14	2	1/2	0	99.2	79	29	21	13	128	.214
^SP	Michael Murray, Florida Gulf Coast, So.	13-1	1.85	15	15	2	1/2	0	107.0	92	30	22	14	79	.229
^SP	Andrew Morales, UC Irvine, Jr.	11-2	1.53	18	18	3	3/1	0	129.2	83	26	33	30	136	.182
^SP	Sam Street, Texas-Pan American, Sr.	12-2	1.81	15	15	11	1/0	0	129.1	104	33	26	25	91	.217
SP	Tyler Davis, Washington, Jr.	11-2	1.60	17	15	1	1/2	1	106.2	88	22	19	15	62	.232
SP	Thomas Eshelman, Cal State Fullerton, So.	8-3	1.89	16	16	5	2/1	0	123.2	100	32	26	8	99	.222
RP	Bryan Garcia, Miami, Fla., Fr.	7-4	1.75	31	0	0	0/1	15	51.1	40	12	10	19	56	.220
RP	Riley Ferrell, TCU, So.	2-1	0.68	29	0	0	0/5	15	39.2	16	4	3	13	64	.124
RP	Ryan Thompson, Campbell, Jr.	7-2	1.33	39	0	0	0	17	88.0	71	21	13	29	87	.219
RP	Ryan Williams, East Carolina, Sr.	11-3	1.81	32	0	0	0	7	99.2	88	27	20	11	76	.236

\*-Conference player of the year

^-Conference pitcher of the year

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