



## **NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION**

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### **NCBWA Announces Preseason Stopper of the Year Watch List**

**GAINESVILLE, Fla.** (NCBWA) --- Seventy players have been named to the initial Watch List for the 12th annual National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Stopper of the Year Award, given to the top relief pitcher in NCAA Division I baseball, the association announced Monday.

Missouri State junior **Bryan Young**, one of the five finalists for the 2015 Stopper of the Year Award, as well as George Washington junior **Eddie Muhl**, who tied for the national lead in saves last season, headline this year's list of preseason nominees. Young was a 2015 NCBWA first-team All-American after posting a single-season school-record 16 saves, a perfect 7-0 record and a 1.30 ERA in 41.2 innings as the Bears advanced to Super Regionals, while Muhl set an Atlantic 10 Conference single-season record with 17 saves and had a 2.13 ERA for the Colonials.

Fifteen of the players on the Watch List notched double-digit saves last season, while a total of 10 individuals also earned NCBWA Preseason All-America honors: **Nolan Blackwood** (Memphis), **Zack Burdi** (Louisville), **Bryan Garcia** (Miami), **Thomas Hackimer** (St. John's), **Zach Jackson** (Arkansas), **Dylan Moore** (Louisiana), **Stephen Nogosek** (Oregon), **Conner O'Neil** (CSUN), **Wyatt Short** (Ole Miss) and Young.

The Atlantic Coast Conference led the way with 10 players on this year's Watch List, while the Big Ten and Pacific-12 each had eight honorees and the Southeastern Conferences had seven. The Big South, Colonial and Sun Belt each had four and a total of 18 different conferences were represented.

Nominations for the NCBWA Stopper of the Year Award were made by baseball sports information/media relations contacts. The 2016 Stopper of the Year Watch List will be updated with a midseason release on Wednesday, April 27, including the national saves leaders. At the conclusion of the regular season, the Division I national saves leader and four other relief pitching standouts will be selected as finalists and released Wednesday, June 8, prior to start of NCAA Super Regional competition.

The NCBWA's All-America Committee will select the winner, with this year's recipient to be announced at the 2016 College World Series.

Texas hurler J. Brent Cox won the inaugural Stopper of the Year Award in 2005, with Don Czyz of Kansas claiming the honor in 2006 and Luke Prihoda of Sam Houston State winning it in 2007. Georgia's Joshua Fields topped the field in 2008, San Diego State's Addison Reed grabbed the honor in 2009 and Texas' Chance Ruffin earned the honor in 2010. The Longhorns' Corey Knebel won in 2011, with Southeastern Louisiana's Stefan

Lopez picking up the honor in 2012. UCLA's Berg was crowned the winner in 2013, Louisville's Nick Burdi took home the 2014 honor and Berg became the award's first two-time winner in 2015.

The NCBWA, founded in 1962, presents the Dick Howser Trophy to the nation's top player. It also selects All-America Teams for all Divisions, a Division I Freshman All-American team, Division I and III Players of the Week, Division I District Players of the Year and Division III Players of the Year.

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**2016 NCBWA Preseason Stopper of the Year Watch List**

<b>Pitcher</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Class</b>	<b>Conference</b>
Jack Anderson	Penn State	Sr.	Big Ten
Adam Atkins	Louisiana Tech	Sr.	Conference USA
Brad Bass	Notre Dame	So.	Atlantic Coast
Nick Blackburn	Illinois	Sr.	Big Ten
Nolan Blackwood	Memphis	Jr.	The American
Tim Borst	Fresno State	Sr.	Mountain West
Ben Bowden	Vanderbilt	Jr.	Southeastern
Daniel Bridgeman	Radford	Sr.	Big South
Chris Brown	Georgia Southern	Sr.	Sun Belt
Zack Burdi	Louisville	Jr.	Atlantic Coast
Thomas Burrows	Alabama	Jr.	Southeastern
Kyano Cummings	Siena	Sr.	Metro Atlantic Athletic
Tommy DeJuneas	NC State	So.	Atlantic Coast
Justin Dunn	Boston College	Jr.	Atlantic Coast
Mark Ecker	Texas A&M	Jr.	Southeastern
Taylor Edens	VMI	Sr.	Southern
David Ellingson	Georgetown	Jr.	Big East
Mike Fitzgerald	Northeastern	R-Jr.	Colonial
Tucker Forbes	UCLA	R-Jr.	Pacific-12
Robert Galligan	Maryland	Sr.	Big Ten
Bryan Garcia	Miami (FL)	Jr.	Atlantic Coast
David Gerber	Creighton	Jr.	Big East
Jared Gesell	UNC Wilmington	Sr.	Colonial
Joe Goodman	High Point	R-Sr.	Big South
Devin Gould	Longwood	Jr.	Big South
Sean Guenther	Notre Dame	So.	Atlantic Coast
Thomas Hackimer	St. John's	Sr.	Big East
Ryan Hendrix	Texas A&M	Jr.	Southeastern
Cole Hallum	Campbell	Sr.	Big South
Ian Hamilton	Washington State	Jr.	Pacific-12
John Hayes	Wichita State	Sr.	Missouri Valley
Mitch Hickey	Oregon State	So.	Pacific-12
Chad Hockin	Cal State Fullerton	Jr.	Big West
Marc Huberman	USC	Sr.	Pacific-12
Joe Ingle	East Carolina	So.	The American
Zach Jackson	Arkansas	Jr.	Southeastern
Jordan Jess	Minnesota	R-Sr.	Big Ten

Spencer Jones	Washington	Sr.	Pacific-12
Jake Kelzer	Indiana	R-Jr.	Big Ten
Matthew Kinney	Florida State	R-Sr.	Atlantic Coast
Collin Kober	McNeese State	Jr.	Southland
Sterling Koerner	FGCU	Jr.	Atlantic Sun
Thomas Lowery	UAB	Jr.	Conference USA
Carter Love	College of Charleston	So.	Colonial
Erik Martinez	California	So.	Pacific-12
Aaron McGarity	Virginia Tech	Jr.	Atlantic Coast
Evan McMahan	Nevada	Jr.	Mountain West
Joe Mockbee	Michigan State	Jr.	Big Ten
Dylan Moore	Louisiana	So.	Sun Belt
Eddie Muhl	George Washington	Jr.	Atlantic 10
Stephen Nogosek	Oregon	Jr.	Pacific-12
Corbin Olmstead	UNF	Sr.	Atlantic Sun
Conner O'Neil	CSUN	Jr.	Big West
Glenn Otto	Rice	So.	Conference USA
Ty Provencher	Long Beach State	R-Sr.	Big West
Troy Rallings	Washington	Sr.	Pacific-12
Patrick Ruotolo	UConn	Jr.	The American
Zac Ryan	Georgia Tech	Jr.	Atlantic Coast
Ryan Selmer	Maryland	So.	Big Ten
Wyatt Short	Ole Miss	Jr.	Southeastern
Jesse Stallings	LSU	So.	Southeastern
Will Stillman	Wofford	Sr.	Southern
Jake Stolley	Northwestern	Sr.	Colonial
Ryan Thomas	Marist	Jr.	Metro Atlantic Athletic
Luke Vandermaten	Iowa	Sr.	Big Ten
Tyler Warmoth	Florida State	R-Sr.	Atlantic Coast
Wayne Wages	Georgia State	Sr.	Sun Belt
Keenan Wingfield	Little Rock	Jr.	Sun Belt
Bryan Young	Missouri State	Jr.	Missouri Valley
Dylan Zarosky	Houston Baptist	Sr.	Southland

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