



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL
WRITERS ASSOCIATION
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Aaron Fitt collects the 2017 NCBWA/Wilbur Snynn Award

GRAND FORKS, N.D. – Aaron Fitt of D1Baseball.com has been one of the driving forces behind collegiate baseball's transition to the digital age and for those efforts, he was named the 43rd recipient of the prestigious **2017 Wilbur Snynn Award** presented annually by the **National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association** for outstanding contributions to college baseball.

Fitt immediately parlayed his 2004 journalism degree from the University of North Carolina into a career covering the sport of baseball. His first job out of Chapel Hill was at *Baseball America* and he became the organization's lead national writer for college baseball by 2006. During his 10 years at BA, Fitt became an expert on recruiting and the Major League Baseball Draft and took that knowledge with him as he transitioned into his current role as a national writer and editor for D1Baseball.com.

"This is quite a surprise and honor, especially because this award has been won by so many people I admire and respect in this business," said Fitt. "I want to thank the people who showed me the ropes over the course of my career. Three of my predecessors at Baseball America, Allan Simpson, Jim Callis and John Manuel, won this honor, and without those guys I would have never gotten the opportunity to write about college baseball for a living.

"I couldn't ask for better partners than my colleagues at D1Baseball.com — Kyle Peterson, Kendall Rogers, and Jeremy and Cynthia Mills. They have all worked tirelessly for the good of college baseball, and I am very proud of what we have built together. College baseball is booming, and I'm looking forward to covering the continued growth of our sport for years to come."

Fitt's dedication to the sport of college baseball has been seen throughout his career that has included stints in North Carolina and California. His latest venture at D1Baseball.com relaunched the website into the premier national publication devoted entirely to the sport.

He helped pave the way for the sport to take on the challenges of the digital age through the advent of daily online coverage, blogs, podcasts and numerous distributions through various social media channels.

Since his career began at BA, Fitt has covered the sport comprehensively from coast-to-coast, bringing enhanced publicity to the smaller programs, while also boosting the profiles of the power conference teams.

Fitt has focused his efforts on a number of hot-topic issues in the sport, such as the complexities and ramifications of the NCAA's "no agent" rule, the impact of changes to equipment and scholarship rules, while also humanizing the sport by telling stories of perseverance and courage on and off the field.

"Aaron Fitt is a dynamic journalist, who has been instrumental in expanding the coverage of college baseball on several new platforms over the last decade-plus," said NCBWA President Ryan Powell. "For a young man to have already made the impact he has on the sport of college baseball is impressive and we are thrilled that his peers and fellow Wilbur Snynn Award winners found him to be a deserving recipient of this accolade."

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Fitt joins a distinguished group of past Wilbur Snynn Award winners, national journalists and college administrators as the 2017 winner. The plaque memorializes longtime Ohio State sports information director and NCBWA founder, the late Wilbur (Bill) Snynn. Snynn was a noted contributor to the writers' organization, which was initiated in 1962, as well as an officer in the group. The NCBWA/Wilbur Snynn Award yearly honors a professional for contributions to the sport of college baseball. Voting is conducted by a panel of previous winners, who include past NCAA College World Series directors, College Sports Information Directors of America Hall of Fame members, decorated media members, and others.

Past Wilbur Snynn Award Winners

1975	Wilbur Snynn, Ohio State
1976	Bill Esposito, St. John's
1977	Phil Langan, Cornell
1978	John Geis, Southern Conference
1979	Hank Schomber, Georgia Southern
1980	Bob Culp, Western Michigan
1981	Lou Pavlovich, Sr., Collegiate Baseball
1982	Tom Price, South Carolina
1983	Bob Bradley, Clemson
1984	Robert Williams, Omaha World-Herald
1985	Jerry Miles, NCAA
1986	Larry Keefe, Seton Hall
1987	Tom Rowen, San Jose Mercury-News
1988	Fred Gerardi, KESY Radio, Omaha
1989	Jim Wright, NCAA
1990	Steve Weller, SIU-Edwardsville
1991	Bill Little, University of Texas
1992	Kirk Bohls, Austin American-Statesman
1993	Bo Carter, Southwest Conference
1994	Lou Pavlovich, Jr., Collegiate Baseball
1995	Steve Pivovar, Omaha World-Herald
1996	Gary Johnson, NCAA
1997	Dave Wohlhueter, Cornell
1998	Allan Simpson, Baseball America
1999	Alan Cannon, Texas A&M University
2000	Jim Callis, Baseball America
2001	Dick Case, USA Baseball
2002	Russ Anderson, Conference USA
2003	John Manuel, Baseball America
2004	Dana Heiss Grodin, USA TODAY Sports Weekly
2005	Dennis Poppe, NCAA
2006	Mike Montoro, Southern Miss
2007	Barry Allen, Alabama
2008	Mike Patrick, ESPN
2009	Al Chase, Honolulu Star-Bulletin
2010	Lou Spry, NCAA
2011	Jeremy Mills, ESPN/D1Baseball.com
2012	Eric Olson, Associated Press
2013	J.D. Hamilton, NCAA
2014	John Sullivan, Rice
2015	David Feaster, Dick Howser Trophy
2016	Ralph Zobell, BYU
2017	Aaron Fitt, D1Baseball.com/Baseball America