



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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NCBWA ANNOUNCES 2022 STOPPER OF THE YEAR PRESEASON WATCH LIST

DALLAS – Sixty-six players have been named to the initial watch list for the 17th 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 Thursday. Nominees were submitted by institution and conference publicity directors.

This year's impressive group is led by 11 preseason NCBWA All-America selections including first-teamers Nick Maldonado (Vanderbilt), Aaron Nixon (Texas) and Carson Palmquist (Miami, Fla.). Palmquist, a finalist for the award in 2021, led the way with 14 saves and a 2.22 ERA in 25 appearances for the Hurricanes. Nixon notched a 2.12 ERA with nine saves in 27 appearances for the Longhorns, while Maldonado crafted together nine saves and a 2.31 ERA in 28 showings for the Commodores.

Additional preseason NCBWA All-Americans on this year's list include Will Brian (Eastern Kentucky/third-team), TJ Brock (Ohio State/third-team), Kevin Davis (USC Upstate/second-team), Devereaux Harrison (Long Beach State/third-team), Marcus Johnson (Duke/second-team), Jacob King (UC Irvine/third-team), C.J. Mayhue (East Carolina/third-team), Jake Rappaport (NJIT/third-team), Jonah Ulane (Kansas/second-team) and Jacob Watters (West Virginia/third-team).

The Atlantic Coast Conference led the way with 11 players finding their names on the watch list. The Southeastern Conference followed with nine, while the Big Ten had seven on the list.

Of the initial 66 members, 18 were featured on last year's midseason watch list. In total, 19 conferences are represented on this list with at least two players coming from 13 different leagues.

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 David 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. Miami (Fla.)'s Bryan Garcia was honored as the 2016 recipient, followed by Louisville's Lincoln Henzman in 2017, Florida's Michael Byrne in 2018 and UCLA's Holden Powell in 2019. Arkansas' Kevin Kopps, the 2021 Dick Howser Trophy Award winner, was bestowed with the accolade in 2021.

The NCBWA, founded in 1962, presents the Dick Howser Trophy to the nation's top player and the Mike Martin National Coach of the Year to the nation's top coach. It also selects All-America Teams for all Divisions, a Division I Freshman All-America team, rookie hitter and pitcher of the year, Division I, II and III Dick Howser Trophy National Players and Pitchers of the Week and Division II and III National Players and Pitchers of the Year.

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2022 NCBWA Preseason Stopper of the Year Watch List (as of 2.17.22)

RELIEF PITCHERS (66)

Player	School	Class	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Eric Adler	Wake Forest	r-So.	2.00	1-3	17	0	0	6	18.0	14	9	4	15	24
Matt Bollenbacher	East Tennessee State	r-Jr.	2.45	1-0	13	0	0	6	25.2	25	7	7	6	22
Trey Braithwaite	West Virginia	r-Sr.	4.44	4-2	14	0	0	3	24.1	25	21	12	20	38
Will Brian-3	Eastern Kentucky	Sr.	2.48	2-1	25	0	0	10	32.2	26	9	9	10	48
TJ Brock-3	Ohio State	Sr.	2.08	0-1	19	0	0	9	21.2	15	5	5	16	33
Drayton Brown	Northwestern State	So.	1.96	2-3	17	0	0	6	41.1	23	9	9	14	46
Blake Burkhalter	Auburn	Jr.	1.71	1-0	17	0	0	0	21.0	14	5	4	16	30
Derrick Cherry	Houston	Jr.	2.85	2-3	19	0	0	5	41.0	36	24	13	21	44
Holden Christian	Arizona	Sr.	0.97	3-1	21	0	0	4	37.0	15	10	4	15	55
Stone Churby	Oregon	Jr.	3.00	0-0	10	0	0	4	12.0	11	5	4	3	18
Ty Cummings	Campbell	So.	3.88	2-2	21	0	0	0	46.1	47	23	20	15	39
Kevin Davis-2	USC Upstate	r-Sr.	1.57	1-1	22	0	0	11	28.2	15	5	5	20	42
Noah Dean	Old Dominion	So.	4.64	0-1	19	0	0	9	21.1	16	11	11	14	44
Drew Dominik	Evansville	Sr.	1.52	1-2	20	0	0	0	29.2	28	11	5	9	23
Connor Fenlong	Indiana State	r-So.	3.06	4-3	20	0	0	6	35.1	34	16	12	12	31
Graham Firoved	Virginia Tech	r-Jr.	3.48	3-0	21	0	0	3	20.2	16	10	8	17	36
Zach Franklin	Western Carolina	r-Jr.	4.96	7-4	18	3	0	2	45.1	46	36	25	21	48
Geoffrey Gilbert	Clemson	So.	2.23	3-6	28	0	0	3	44.1	43	17	11	15	52
Gage Gillian	North Carolina	Sr.	2.34	1-2	24	1	0	4	50.0	38	15	13	9	49
Ben Grable	Northwestern	So.	4.08	0-1	13	0	0	0	17.2	16	12	8	12	24
Landon Green	Alabama	r-Jr.	5.12	3-2	19	1	0	2	31.2	22	19	18	16	39
Liam Grubbs	James Madison	r-Jr.	4.42	1-0	12	0	0	4	18.1	13	10	9	9	21
Stephen Halstead	North Florida	Sr.	1-1	0-0	19	0	0	1	23.2	20	7	6	15	24
Sean Harney	Kentucky	Sr.	3.69	3/2	18	6	0	6	46.1	43	22	19	17	58
Payton Harris	Alabama State	Sr.	1.29	2-1	20	0	0	3	42.0	18	12	6	17	58
Devereaux Harrison-3	Long Beach State	So.	1.57	3-1	18	0	0	10	34.1	22	8	6	12	42
Brandon Johnson	Ole Miss	Sr.	4.70	1-0	18	0	0	1	23.0	24	13	12	10	28
Marcus Johnson-2	Duke	Jr.	3.05	5-3	30	0	0	7	56.0	40	22	19	12	59
Orion Kerkering	USF	r-So.	2.88	5-3	25	1	0	5	50.0	39	23	16	35	62
Jacob King-3	UC Irvine	So.	1.98	3-1	29	0	0	8	41.0	32	11	9	10	45
Jimmy Loper	Duke	Sr.	3.00	3-1	25	0	0	5	45.0	46	18	115	12	43
Nick Maldonado-1	Vanderbilt	Jr.	2.31	1-2	28	0	0	9	50.2	32	13	13	7	59
Nolan Manzer	Norfolk State	So.	0.73	1-1	14	0	0	1	24.2	10	12	2	8	29
C.J. Mayhue-3	East Carolina	r-So.	3.06	3-1	34	0	0	8	50.0	44	24	17	21	76
Trey McDaniel	Southern Illinois	Sr.	3.07	6-4	30	0	0	9	44.0	43	22	15	20	51
Chris McElvain	Vanderbilt	Jr.	4.34	5-1	22	1	0	2	45.2	39	22	22	27	58
Mason Mellott	Penn State	Gr.	4.60	2-1	17	0	0	4	31.1	32	20	16	18	33
Jakob Meyer	Evansville	Jr.	3.68	5-1	22	0	0	6	29.1	22	13	12	21	31
Cam Minacci	Wake Forest	So.	5.13	1-1	23	0	0	2	26.1	21	16	15	17	31
Dylan Nedved	Iowa	Sr.	4.19	4-1	20	0	0	9	34.1	29	16	16	11	31
Wyatt Nelson	North Dakota State	So.	3.09	2-2	23	0	0	7	35.0	29	13	12	17	22
Aaron Nixon-1	Texas	So.	2.12	4-3	27	0	0	9	34.0	26	8	8	10	35
Caden O'Brien	North Carolina	Sr.	5.20	3-1	21	2	0	3	36.1	36	22	21	15	38
Carson Palmquist-1*	Miami (Fla.)	So.	2.22	1-1	25	0	0	14	44.2	22	11	11	14	63
Jake Pecilunas	Towson	Gr.	4.15	4-3	31	0	0	3	30.1	28	16	14	11	27
Alex Perkins	Radford	Sr.	2.86	2-1	17	0	0	6	34.2	28	12	11	17	37
Jake Rappaport-2	NJIT	Sr.	3.71	8-2	28	0	0	11	51.0	48	22	21	14	35
Dalton Rhadans	Wofford	Sr.	2.59	6-0	24	0	0	7	59.0	50	19	17	20	62
Jared Rine	Kennesaw State	Jr.	2.25	2-3	17	0	0	5	40.0	29	13	10	13	32
Aaron Roberts	California	r-So.	2.31	1-1	12	2	0	0	11.2	9	6	3	10	18
Will Semb	Minnesota	So.	3.00	0-0	7	0	0	0	15.0	11	11	5	12	16
Caleb Seroski	New Orleans	So.	4.20	4-4	22	0	0	10	45.0	39	24	21	11	55
Noah Short	West Virginia	r-Jr.	2.51	0-0	25	0	0	0	28.2	23	11	8	11	38
Carson Skipper	Auburn	Sr.	4.25	2-2	19	0	0	2	29.2	29	16	14	9	37
Kolby Somers	Oregon	Sr.	3.08	2-2	20	0	0	11	26.1	14	9	9	14	37
Dale Stanavich	Rutgers	r-Jr.	3.13	1-0	17	0	0	5	23.0	24	12	8	9	30
Brandon Talley	Louisiana	Sr.	1.97	1-1	27	0	0	8	50.1	29	12	11	18	67
Jonah Ulane-2	Kansas	r-Sr.	1.44	3-0	22	0	0	11	25.0	11	5	4	18	29
Redmond Walsh	Tennessee	r-Sr.	2.52	5-1	28	0	0	5	39.1	36	17	11	10	40
Andrew Walters	Miami (Fla.)	r-So.	1.46	0-0	19	1	0	0	24.2	19	4	4	9	36
Jacob Watters-3	West Virginia	Jr.	3.33	4-1	29	1	0	4	17.0	15	11	10	32	53
Willie Weiss	Michigan	Sr.	2.63	4-2	21	1	0	5	27.1	17	9	8	13	40
Jaden Woods	Georgia	So.	4.58	4-1	17	4	0	1	53.0	33	27	27	24	53
Mitchell Verburg	Oregon State	r-Sr.	2.92	2-0	19	0	0	2	24.2	20	11	8	5	24
Chris Villaman	NC State	So.	4.35	5-2	18	7	1	2	60.0	45	30	29	16	71
Trey Ziegenbein	Missouri State	Sr.	3.77	8-2	29	0	0	0	57.1	53	30	24	22	56

* = 2021 Stopper of the Year Finalist

(1) = Preseason NCBWA All-America First-Team

(2) = Preseason NCBWA All-America Second-Team

(3) = Preseason NCBWA All-America Third-Team