

**MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE**

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2006 All-MAC/Specialty Award Baseball Release  
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**BASEBALL**

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## MAC Announces Baseball Postseason Awards

KENT, Ohio - Kent State junior **Emmanuel Burris**, the 2006 MAC Player of the Year, and Eastern Michigan's **Jeff Fischer**, this year's Mid-American Conference Pitcher of the Year, highlight the 30-player all-conference squad that was announced today by the league office in conjunction with the MAC Tournament. In addition, Western Michigan pitcher **Ethan Hollingsworth** was named the MAC's Freshman of the Year, while KSU's skipper **Scott Stricklin** was chosen as Coach of the Year. The league's 12 head coaches conducted the voting for the 15-member first and 15-member second All-MAC teams.

Burris paced the Golden Flashes to a regular season conference title and the No. 1 seed in the MAC Tournament. The junior shortstop led the league in runs scored (67) and stolen bases (38), finished third in on-base percentage (.465), fourth in batting (.375), and second in hits (81). Burriss ranks fifth in the nation in stolen bases and sixth in runs scored. He has been nearly automatic on the base paths this season and is the KSU career leader in stolen bases. He has converted on 68 of his last 74 attempts and is 88-of-100 on career stolen base attempts for an .880 percentage. It's the first time that a Kent State player has won MAC Player of the Year since John VanBenschoten took home the honors in 2001.

Fischer posted a 9-3 record for Eastern Michigan and finished fifth in the league in strikeouts (98). The sophomore made 16 appearances and 11 starts on the year, recording four complete games. He limited opposing hitters to a .223 batting average on the season and finished first in the league with a 1.95 ERA. In MAC games only, Fischer posted a 6-1 record, including three complete games. He limited opposing league batters to a .204 average and posted a league leading ERA of 1.88.

Kent State head coach Scott Stricklin picked up MAC Coach of the Year honors for the first time in his career after leading the Golden Flashes to a 35-17 (19-6 MAC) record. Stricklin guided KSU to a MAC regular season title and a No. 1 seed in the MAC Tournament. It's the first time a Kent State head coach has won the award since Rick Rembielak received the honor in 2003.

Hollingsworth became the second player from Western Michigan to win Freshman of the Year honors, since Ryan Kochen received recognition 1998. The Joliet, Ill. native posted a league best 9-3 record and recorded a 3.86 ERA on the season. He has earned the best mark out of any freshman pitcher since 1970 at Western Michigan, which was the first year freshmen became eligible to compete.

Eight schools were represented on the first-team, led by Kent State's six selections. Named to the team from the Golden Flashes were Burris, **Drew Saylor** (2B, Sr.), **Andrew Davis** (3B, Jr.), **Todd Balduf** (C, Sr.), **Kurt Eichorn** (OF, Sr.) and **Chad Wagler** (SP, Sr.). Ball State's **Brad Miller** (1B, Sr.), Central Michigan's **Bryan Mitzel** (OF, Jr.) and **Ben Humphrey** (Util, Jr.), Miami's **John Ely** (SP, So.), Ohio's **Anthony Gressick** (DH, Sr.), NIU's **Brian Toner** (OF, Sr.) and **Matt German** (RP, Jr.) and Western Michigan's **Dan O'Brien** (SP, Jr.) also received first-team recognition.

Akron's **Kurt Davidson** (C, So.) and **Ross Liersemann** (SP, Sr.) represented the Zips on the All-MAC second team. Ball State's **Justin Rogers** (OF, So.), Buffalo's **James Kingsley** (1B, Sr.) and Ohio's **Willie Walker** (OF, Jr.) were also named to the team. Bowling Green's **Eric Lawson** (2B, Jr.) and **Alan Brech** (SP, Jr.), Central Michigan's **Troy Moratti** (3B, Sr.) and **Josh Collmenter** (SP, So.), Toledo's **Jason Watson** (SS, Sr.) and **Drew Hoisington** (OF, So.) garnered second-team honors, while Western Michigan's **Nathan Marquardt** (DH, So.) rounded out this year's selections.

Complete list of honorees on page 2.

# 2006 Baseball Postseason Awards

## All-MAC First Team

Pos.	Name	School	Class	Hometown
1B	Brad Miller	Ball State	Sr.	Muncie, Ind.
2B	Drew Saylor	Kent State	Sr.	Wadsworth, Ohio
SS	Emmanuel Burriss	Kent State	Jr.	Washington, D.C.
3B	Andrew Davis	Kent State	Jr.	Chillicothe, Ohio
C	Todd Balduf	Kent State	Sr.	Dublin, Ohio
OF	Bryan Mitzel	Central Michigan	Jr.	Midland, Mich.
OF	Kurt Eichorn #	Kent State	Sr.	Lexington, Ohio
OF	Brian Toner	Northern Illinois	Sr.	Alsip, Ill.
SP	Jeff Fischer	Eastern Michigan	So.	Farmington, Mich.
SP	Chad Wagler	Kent State	Sr.	Hartville, Ohio
SP	John Ely #	Miami	So.	Homewood, Ill.
SP	Dan O'Brien	Western Michigan	Jr.	Chicago, Ill.
SP	Ethan Hollingsworth	Western Michigan	Fr.	Joliet, Ill.
RP	Matt German	Northern Illinois	Jr.	Aurora, Ill.
DH	Anthony Gressick @	Ohio	Sr.	Lancaster, Ohio
Util	Ben Humphrey	Central Michigan	Jr.	West Chester, Ohio

## All-MAC Second Team

Pos.	Name	School	Class	Hometown
1B	James Kingsley	Buffalo	Sr.	Medina, N.Y.
2B	Eric Lawson	Bowling Green	Jr.	Milford, Ohio
SS	Jason Watson	Toledo	Sr.	Sturgis, Mich.
3B	Troy Moratti #	Central Michigan	Sr.	Parchment, Mich.
C	Kurt Davidson	Akron	So.	North Canton, Ohio
OF	Justin Rogers	Ball State	So.	St. Paris, Ohio
OF	Willie Walker	Ohio	Jr.	Marysville, Ohio
OF	Drew Hoisington	Toledo	So.	Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
SP	Ross Liersemann	Akron	Sr.	Mansfield, Ohio
SP	Alan Brech @	Bowling Green	Jr.	Harrison, Ohio
SP	Graham Taylor #	Miami	Sr.	Villa Hills, Ky.
SP	Josh Collmenter #	Central Michigan	So.	Homer, Mich.
RP	Matt Long	Miami	Sr.	Granville, Ohio
DH	Nathan Marquardt	Western Michigan	So.	Midland, Mich.

\*At-Large Selection

@ 2005 All-MAC First Team selection

# 2005 All-MAC Second Team selection

### Player of the Year

Emmanuel Burriss, SS, Kent State

### Pitcher of the Year

Jeff Fischer, Eastern Michigan

### Freshman of the Year

Ethan Hollingsworth, RHP, Western Michigan

### Coach of the Year

Scott Stricklin, Kent State