



## *Today's Scholar-Athletes - Tomorrow's Leaders*

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## **Bucknell Claims Three Patriot League Baseball Post-Season Awards**

*Lehigh's Novalis Wins Player Of The Year Honors; The Bison Land Eight Players On The All-Star Squad*

CENTER VALLEY, Pa. – After posting one of the best single-season turnarounds in League history, the Bucknell Bison were rewarded with three of the major Patriot League post-season baseball awards. Head coach **Gene Depew** was honored by his peers as the Coach of the Year, while junior hurler **Kevin Miller** (Rochester, N.Y.) and freshman closer **Phil Futrick** (Shillington, Pa.) were tabbed the Pitcher and Rookie of the Year, respectively. The final major award went to Lehigh junior third baseman **Jesse Novalis** (Florham Park, N.J.), who was the Player of the Year.

The regular-season champion Bison placed a League-best eight student-athletes on the All-League teams, including five on the second-team, while regular-season runner-up Navy lays claim to seven all-stars, including a PL-high four on the first-team.

Novalis is the first Mountain Hawk to garner Patriot League Player of the Year honors. The junior third baseman is among the League leaders in nearly every offensive category, including batting average (.331), hits (44), runs scored (30), doubles (11) and on-base percentage (.444). Novalis leads the Patriot League in home runs (9), runs batted in (34), slugging percentage (.632), walks (25) and total bases (84). The April 21 Player of the Week makes the move to first-team All-League after a second-team berth a year ago.

In three seasons, Novalis broke the Lehigh career home run record with 23 bombs, which places him in a second-place tie in League history. The junior needs three homers to tie former Army standout **Mike Scioletti** for first on the PL all-time list. Novalis' nine fence-clearing shots this season place him in an eighth-place tie on the PL single-season chart.

Miller becomes the third Bucknell hurler to win the League's Pitcher of the Year award, joining **Mike Tomko** (1996) and **Mike Anders** (1998). Miller leads a Bison pitching staff, which leads the League with a 3.87 team earned run average. The junior is a perfect 7-0 on the season with a 2.26 ERA. His seven victories lead the League, while his ERA is second in the PL and tied for 41st in the NCAA statistics. He is also tied for second with 42 strikeouts during the regular-season.

Against League foes, Miller posted a 5-0 mark with a 2.25 earned run average, which was fifth in the PL. His .228 opponent's batting average was fifth in the League, while his 8.44 strikeouts per nine innings was tied for third.

Futrick is the second pitcher in as many years to win the Rookie of the Year award (Lehigh's **Jack Muscalus**). Futrick broke the Patriot League single-season saves record with 11 stops during the regular-season, which is tied for fifth in the NCAA stats. The freshman owns a 2.57 earned run average with 14 strikeouts in 14 appearances. Futrick is holding opponents to a team-best .167 batting average. He earned Rookie of the Week honors twice this season.

Depew claims his third Coach of the Year award after leading the Bison to the regular-season title with a 15-5 League record after a fifth-place finish with a 6-14 mark a year ago. In his 22nd season at the helm, Depew led Bucknell to a 25-13 overall record, including a 12-4 mark at home during the regular-season. The Bison have the League's best pitching staff with a 3.87 team earned run average.

In addition to Miller and Futrick, Bucknell also placed junior shortstop **Ben Stoll** (Swampscott, Mass.) on the All-League first-team. Stoll was tied for first in the League with a .366 batting average. He belted out 41 hits, including eight doubles, to go along with his 23 runs scored, 12 RBI and 13 stolen bases.

Navy landed a League-best four student-athletes on the first-team, including starting pitcher **Rich McDevitt** (Albany, N.Y.), designated hitter **Matt Foster** (Ventura, Calif.) and outfielders **Craig Candeto** (Orange City, Fla.) and **Pete Curnow** (Morristown, N.J.).

McDevitt moves up to the first-team after a second-team selection in 2002. Despite his 4-5 overall record, the senior is fifth in the League with a 2.59 earned run average. In League play, McDevitt has been even tougher with a League-leading 1.02 earned run average to go along with a 3-2 mark.

Foster owns a .321 average against League opponents, which is ninth in the Patriot League. Six of the senior's 17 hits in PL action have gone for extra bases, including four doubles. Candeto is the squad's leading hitter with a .351 mark. The junior ripped 13 doubles heading into Wednesday's meeting with UMBC, which leads the League. Curnow has been solid during League play with a .359 average. The sophomore swiped 10 of his 18 bases against League foes.

Army and Lafayette placed two players each on the first-team. The Black Knight sophomores **Schuyler Williamson** (Pensacola, Fla.) and **Walker Gorham** (Wilmington, N.C.) earned a spot on their first post-season squad after solid seasons. Williamson, a catcher, notched a .311 batting average during League play, while Gorham, a first baseman, was Army's second-best hitter with a .303 overall mark.

The Leopard first-team selections were juniors **Adam Rosenberg** (Ocean Grove, N.J.) and **Jeff Rodgers** (Phoenix, Md.). Rosenberg makes his second-straight all-star team after hitting .358 with 30 runs scored and 23 runs batted in. The outfielder was among the League leaders with four home runs and 11 stolen bases. Rodgers is tied for first in the League with a .366 batting average. The second baseman is also third in the PL with a .453 on-base percentage.

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Bucknell dominated the All-League second-team with five selections. Senior starter **Zach Allen** (Port Royal, Pa.) and juniors **Sam Moss** (Fresno, Calif.) and **Brian Hirschberg** (Glen Rock, N.J.) headline the list of Bison honorees. Allen is 6-2 on the year with a League-leading 1.90 earned run average. He held opponents to a PL-best .207 batting average, while averaging 7.17 strikeouts per nine innings.

Moss broke the Patriot League single-season record with 16 sacrifice hits. The second baseman recorded a .333 batting average during League play. Hirschberg leads the League and is tied for fourth nationally in triples with six. The outfielder is also among the PL leaders in home runs (5), runs batted in (25), total bases (64) and slugging percentage (.577).

Joining Allen, Moss and Hirschberg on the second-team for the Bison are sophomore catcher **Phil Bunting** (Bellaire, Texas) and freshman outfielder **Kyle Walter** (Mifflinburg, Pa.). In 29 starts, Bunting accumulated 15 hits to go along with 12 runs scored and 15 RBI, while Walter collected a .324 batting average. Walter, who was the April 21 Rookie of the Week, crossed the plate 25 times and drove in 21 runs.

Navy gained three spots on the second-team, led by junior pitcher **Andy Froistad** (St. Paul, Minn.), senior first baseman **Rusty Hearn** (Lake Wales, Fla.) and sophomore second baseman **Matt Lukevics** (Tampa, Fla.). Froistad makes his second-straight All-League appearance (first-team in 2002) after holding League opponents to a .195 average en route to a 1.41 ERA. The junior is averaging 8.44 strikeouts per nine innings, while allowing 2.25 walks against PL foes. Hearn accounted for 33 runs heading into Wednesday's game versus UMBC via 13 runs scored and 20 RBI, while Lukevics owns a .299 average with 24 runs scored and 22 RBI.

Army garnered two second-team honorees with the selection of senior outfielder **Josh Holden** (Hudson, Ohio) and freshman reliever **Dan Pluff** (Maplewood, Minn.). Holden, a first-team recipient in 2002, leads the League and is tied for 12th in the NCAA statistics with 26 stolen bases. The senior, who is Army's top hitter with a .312 average, also leads the PL with 33 runs scored. Pluff made 20 appearances out of the bullpen with three saves. His 4.18 earned run average is third on the squad.

Two-time all-star selection **Jason Boyd** (Littlestown, Pa.) and **Adam Bucci** (Trumbull, Conn.) were the second-team recipients for Lafayette. Boyd is among the League leaders in runs scored (26), RBI (28) and doubles (11), while Bucci is fifth in the PL with a .349 batting average.

The final two selections on the second-team All-League squad are Lehigh junior shortstop **Eric Hoffman** (Malvern, Pa.) and Holy Cross sophomore catcher **Mike Marron** (Huntingdon Valley, Pa.). Hoffman is third in the League with a .360 average, while Marron pounded out 25 hits in 34 contests.

The Patriot League, which was founded on the principles of admitting athletes who are academically representative of their class, is in its second decade of academic and athletic excellence. Participation in athletics at Patriot League institutions is viewed as an important component of the undergraduate experience. The Patriot League, which began as a successful Division I-AA football conference in 1986 and became an all-sport conference in 1990, includes American, Army, Bucknell, Colgate, Holy Cross, Lafayette, Lehigh and Navy as full members and six associate members. These institutions are among the oldest and most prestigious in the nation and their alumni that have played leadership roles in the shaping of our country. In the most recent NCAA Graduation Rate Report of student-athletes, the Patriot League ranked FIRST among NCAA Division I conferences.

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## 2003 Baseball All-Patriot League Teams

### *ALL-LEAGUE FIRST TEAM*

<u>Player, School</u>	<u>Cl.</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Hometown/High School</u>	<u>Previous Honors</u>
Kevin Miller, Bucknell	Jr.	SP	Rochester, N.Y./Greece Olympia	
Rich McDevitt, Navy	Sr.	SP	Albany, N.Y./Christian Brothers Academy	'02 2nd
Phil Futrick, Bucknell	Fr.	RP	Shillington, Pa./Governor Mifflin	
Schuyler Williamson, Army	So.	C	Pensacola, Fla./Pensacola Catholic	
Walker Gorham, Army	So.	1B	Wilmington, N.C./E.A. Laney	
Jeff Rodgers, Lafayette	Jr.	2B	Phoenix, Md./Loyola Blakefield	
Ben Stoll, Bucknell	Jr.	SS	Swampscott, Mass./Swampscott	
Jesse Novalis, Lehigh	Jr.	3B	Florham Park, N.J./Hanover Park	'02 2nd
Adam Rosenberg, Lafayette	Jr.	OF	Ocean Grove, N.J./Neptune	'01 2nd
Craig Candeto, Navy	Jr.	OF	Orange City, Fla./DeLand	
Pete Curnow, Navy	So.	OF	Morristown, N.J./Morristown	'02 2nd
Matt Foster, Navy	Sr.	DH	Ventura, Calif./Buena	'01 1st

### *ALL-LEAGUE SECOND TEAM*

Zach Allen, Bucknell	Sr.	SP	Port Royal, Pa./Juniata	
Andy Froistad, Navy	Jr.	SP	St. Paul, Minn./North	'02 1st
Dan Pluff, Army	Fr.	RP	Maplewood, Minn./North St. Paul	
Phil Bunting, Bucknell	So.	C	Bellaire, Texas/Bellaire	
Mike Marron, Holy Cross	So.	C	Huntingdon Valley, Pa./Mercersburg Academy	
Rusty Hearn, Navy	Sr.	1B	Lake Wales, Fla./Lake Wales	
Sam Moss, Bucknell	Jr.	2B	Fresno, Calif./San Joaquin Memorial	
Matt Lukevics, Navy	So.	2B	Tampa, Fla./Jesuit	
Eric Hoffman, Lehigh	Jr.	SS	Malvern, Pa./Haverford	
Jason Boyd, Lafayette	Jr.	3B	Littlestown, Pa./Littlestown	'02 2nd
Josh Holden, Army	Sr.	OF	Hudson, Ohio/Hudson	'02 1st
Brian Hirschberg, Bucknell	Jr.	OF	Glen Rock, N.J./Glen Rock	
Kyle Walter, Bucknell	Fr.	OF	Mifflinburg, Pa./Mifflinburg Area	
Adam Bucci, Lafayette	So.	DH	Trumbull, Conn./St. Luke's	'02 1st

**Player of the Year:** Jesse Novalis, Lehigh, Jr., 3B

**Pitcher of the Year:** Kevin Miller, Bucknell, Jr., SP

**Rookie of the Year:** Phil Futrick, Bucknell, Fr., RP

**Coach of the Year:** Gene Depew, Bucknell (third award - 1993 & 1996)