



2008 WCC/Rawlings All-Conference Baseball Team

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WCC ANNOUNCES ALL-CONFERENCE BASEBALL HONORS

Four different West Coast Conference programs shared in the All-Conference individual honors, with Pepperdine's Eric Thames and San Diego's Brian Matusz highlighting the honorees. Thames and Matusz were unanimous selections as WCC Player and Pitcher of the Year, respectively, while Santa Clara's Thain Simon was tabbed for Freshman of the Year honors, and San Francisco's Joey Railey took home the first-ever WCC Defensive Player of the Year award. San Diego skipper Rich Hill was named WCC Coach of the Year for the second straight season after leading the Toreros to the league's regular season crown.

Thames enjoyed one of the best offensive campaigns in WCC history, leading the conference in batting (.529), home runs (8), runs scored (25), on base percentage (.612), and slugging percentage (.956) during league play. The San Jose, CA native becomes the 13th Wave to take home the conference's top honor, and the first since Chad Tracy was named WCC Player of the Year following the 2005 season. Thames' 13 home runs on the year ties him for 10th place on the Pepperdine single-season list, while his eight triples ties him for second place in the Wave record book.

Matusz becomes the first Torero to be named Pitcher of the Year since Ricky Barrett received the accolade in 2002. The junior continued his assault on the record book, striking out a conference-high 122 batters on the year and moving into fourth place on the WCC's all-time strikeout list with 378. The Cave Creek, AZ native was nothing short of dominant during conference play, posting a 6-1 mark in seven starts and notching a miniscule 1.89 ERA during league action. Matusz fanned 67 batters in WCC play, while logging 52.1 innings to rank second in the conference.

Simon is the first Bronco since 2000 to be named as the WCC's top freshman. The El Dorado Hills, CA native made nine mound appearances in WCC play, posting a 2-2 record and recording a pair of saves, while brandishing a 2.85 ERA. Simon tied for second in the conference with nine victories on the year, and ranked fifth in the league with 71 strikeouts in 62.2 innings pitched. His 2.59 ERA ranked fourth in the WCC.

Hill was tabbed for Coach of the Year honors for the second straight season, and the third time in his career. Hill guided the Toreros to a 39-15 record, and the program's second straight WCC regular season title. USD put together a 16-game winning streak during the campaign, including 12 straight victories against league opponents.

Railey was named as the WCC's first-ever Defensive Player of the Year after playing a near perfect second base for the Dons. The senior committed just one error in 249 chances during the season, posting a .996 fielding percentage.

PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Eric Thames, Pepperdine
PITCHER OF THE YEAR: Brian Matusz, San Diego
FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR: Thain Simon, Santa Clara
COACH OF THE YEAR: Rich Hill, San Diego
DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR: Joey Railey, San Francisco

All-WCC Team	School	Pos	Yr	Hometown
Brady Fuerst [#]	Santa Clara	2B	JR	Atherton, Calif.
Nate Garcia [#]	Santa Clara	RHP	SO	San Jose, Calif.
Nick Gaudi	Pepperdine	RHP	SR	Lancaster, Calif.
Logan Gelbrich ^{**}	San Diego	C/OF	SR	Los Angeles, Calif.
AJ Griffin ^{**}	San Diego	RHP	SO	El Cajon, Calif.
Drew Heid	Gonzaga	OF	SO	Goldendale, Wash.
Riley Henricks	Portland	SS	FR	Mukilteo, Wash.
Ryan Heroy [#]	Pepperdine	1B	JR	Henderson, Nev.
Kyle Jensen [#]	Saint Mary's	OF	SO	Stockton, Calif.
Jon Karcich [#]	Santa Clara	SS	SO	Belmont, Calif.
Evan LeBlanc [#]	Santa Clara	OF	JR	Tucson, Ariz.
Matt Lujan	San Francisco	LHP	FR	Stockton, Calif.
Brian Matusz ^{**}	San Diego	LHP	JR	Cave Creek, Ariz.
James Meador [#]	San Diego	OF	SO	Ramona, Calif.
Tommy Medica ^{**}	Santa Clara	C	SO	San Jose, Calif.
Bryce Mendonca [#]	Pepperdine	3B	JR	San Leandro, Calif.
Kyle Morgan	San Francisco	OF	SR	Bakersfield, Calif.
Nathan Newman [#]	Pepperdine	RHP	JR	Houston, Tex.
Joey Railey [#]	San Francisco	2B	SR	Pittsburg, Calif.
Josh Romanski ^{**}	San Diego	LHP	JR	Corona, Calif.
Thain Simon	Santa Clara	RHP	FR	El Dorado Hills, Calif.
Angelo Songco ^{**}	LMU	OF	SO	Granada Hills, Calif.
Joel Staples	Saint Mary's	SS	JR	Ridgefield, Wash.
Eric Thames [#]	Pepperdine	OF	JR	San Jose, Calif.
Ryan Wheeler [#]	LMU	1B	SO	Torrance, Calif.

**Previous Times an All-WCC First Team Pick*

#Unanimous Selection

All-Freshman Team

Scott Alexander	Pepperdine	LHP	Windsor, Calif.
Connor Bernatz	San Francisco	OF	Newport Beach, Calif.
Kyle Blair	San Diego	RHP	Monte Sereno, Calif.
Matt Bywater	Pepperdine	LHP	Thousand Oaks, Calif.
Justin Fazio	Saint Mary's	UTL	Rocklin, Calif.
Riley Henricks	Portland	SS	Mukilteo, Wash.
Cody Martin	Gonzaga	RHP	Dos Palos, Calif.
Matt Lujan	San Francisco	LHP	Stockton, Calif.
Thain Simon	Santa Clara	RHP	El Dorado Hills, Calif.
Sammy Solis	San Diego	LHP	Litchfield Park, Ariz.

Honorable Mention

GON- Matt Fields, Cody Martin, Evan Wells; **LMU-** A.J. LaMonda; **PEP-** Matt Bywater, Chase d'Arnaud; **POR-** Danny Meier; **SMC-** Brian Hawkins; **USD-** Kevin Hansen, Kevin Muno, Jose Valerio; **USF-** Matt Baugh, Mitchell Bialosky; **SCU-** Ryan Conan, Nathan Faulkner, Matt Long, Mark Willinsky