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SANTA CLARA'S DIERKS AND PEPPERDINE'S ESTRADA SHARE WCC PLAYER OF THE YEAR HONORS; WAVES' RAMIREZ NAMED PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Santa Clara's Scott Dierks and Pepperdine's Kevin Estrada were named the WCC Co-Players of the Year, while Pepperdine senior Greg Ramirez earned Pitcher of the Year honors. Dierks' honor is the first for a Bronco since Mike Frank was named the WCC Player of the Year in 1997, while Estrada is the third Wave in the last four years to earn the league's top honor. Ramirez becomes the third Pepperdine pitcher in the last five seasons to be tabbed as the WCC Pitcher of the Year.

As Santa Clara's leadoff hitter, Dierks posted outstanding offensive numbers and helped lead the Broncos to a 21-9 conference record. The Los Gatos, CA, native led the WCC with a .394 batting average and 18 homeruns. Against WCC competition, the senior continued his offensive explosion, pacing the circuit in batting average (.425), hits (51), HR (14), RBI (34), and total bases (104).

After missing the 2002 season due to injury, Estrada bounced back to have a stellar senior campaign. The El Segundo, CA, native stole a conference-high 31 stolen bases, the most by a Wave since 1995. He batted .335 with a team-high 83 hits to lead the Waves to the Coast Division crown.

On the mound, Ramirez dominated opposing lineups, holding WCC opponents to a .241 batting average while striking out a conference-high 71 WCC batters in 83.1 innings. The Oxnard, CA, native posted a league-high nine conference wins while throwing four complete games and registering an ERA of 2.70.

Saint Mary's standout Bryan Byrne was named the Freshman of the Year. Byrne is the first Gael to win the honor since Matt Laiolo did so in 1986. The Danville, CA, native led all WCC freshmen with a .366 batting average in conference play and finished the season third among WCC batters with a .358 overall average.

Pepperdine Head Coach Frank Sanchez won his second WCC Coach of the Year award after guiding the Waves their fifth straight appearance in the WCC Championship Series. Sanchez also won the honor in 1999.

-WCC-

ALL-WEST COAST CONFERENCE

2003 BASEBALL TEAM

CO-PLAYERS OF THE YEAR:

Scott Dierks, Santa Clara
Kevin Estrada, Pepperdine

PITCHER OF THE YEAR:

Greg Ramirez, Pepperdine

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR:

Bryan Byrne, Saint Mary's

COACH OF THE YEAR:

Frank Sanchez, Pepperdine

FIRST TEAM	SCHOOL	POS	YR	HOMETOWN
Jacob Barrack	Pepperdine	P	JR	Vista, CA
Joe Diefenderfer#	Santa Clara	P	SR	San Luis Obispo, CA
Greg Ramirez#	Pepperdine	P	SR	Oxnard, CA
Jon Higashi#	Loyola Marymount	C	JR	Canoga Park, CA
Gordon Corder	Gonzaga	1B	JR	Tacoma, WA
David Uribes	Pepperdine	2B	FR	West Covina, CA
Bryan Byrne	Saint Mary's	3B	FR	Danville, CA
Kevin Estrada	Pepperdine	SS	SR	El Segundo, CA
Scott Dierks#	Santa Clara	OF	SR	Los Gatos, CA
Josh Hansen	San Diego	OF	JR	Irvine, CA
Joey Prast	San Diego	OF	JR	Poway, CA
Tony Perez	San Diego	UT	SR	Chula Vista, CA
Ryan Sittauer	San Francisco	DH	SR	Lynnwood, WA

#Times an All-WCC First Team Pick

#Unanimous choice

SECOND TEAM

Kevin Annis	San Francisco	P	SR	Reno, NV
Eric Dworkis	Gonzaga	P	SO	Bellevue, WA
Patrick Overholt	Santa Clara	P	FR	Sandy, UT
Sam Hess	Gonzaga	C	SR	Colbert, WA
Chris Kelly	Pepperdine	1B	JR	Las Vegas, NV
A.J. LaBarbera	Santa Clara	2B	SR	Whittier, CA
Jonathan Oller	Loyola Marymount	3B	SO	Tarzana, CA
Armand Gaerlan	San Francisco	SS	JR	Fremont, CA
Kory Casto	Portland	OF	JR	Aurora, OR
Brandon Daguio	Pepperdine	OF	FR	Fountain Valley, CA
Jack Headley•	Santa Clara	OF	SR	Gilroy, CA
Danny Evans	Gonzaga	UT	SR	Glendale, AZ
Josh Whitesell	Loyola Marymount	DH	JR	Rialto, CA

HONORABLE MENTION

GONZAGA: Jeff Culpepper, John Gonzalez, David Johnson, Eric Rodland
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT: Joe Frazee, Billy Lockin
PEPPERDINE: Ty Harper, Patrick Rooney
SAINT MARY'S: Eric Bowden, Nick Conte, Tim Spooner
SAN DIEGO: Freddy Sandoval
SAN FRANCISCO: Ryan Hanson, Joe Jacobitz, Derek Tate