



## **NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION**

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*ncbwa.com*

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### ***NCBWA NAMES PRESEASON STOPPER OF THE YEAR WATCH LIST***

**Irvine, Calif.** (NCBWA) --- Forty players have been named to the initial watch list for the sixth annual National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Stopper of the Year Award, given to the top relief pitcher in NCAA Division I baseball, as announced by the association Thursday.

Last year's Stopper of the Year winner, Addison Reed of San Diego State, headlines the list of preseason nominees for the 2010 award. Reed recorded a nation-leading 20 saves in 20 opportunities last season, finished the year with a microscopic 0.65 earned run average and 38 strikeouts over his 27.2 innings of work. He allowed only seven walks, with two of those being intentional passes and his save total was a new San Diego State and Mountain West Conference season record.

Reed is joined by two of the five finalists for last season's award in LSU's Matty Ott and two-time finalist Eric Pettis of UC Irvine, both NCBWA first-team preseason All-Americans. Ott burst onto the national scene as a freshman in 2009, establishing an LSU school-record with 16 saves. He struck out 69 and walked just six in 50.1 innings of work. Pettis had a strong 2009 season where he had a 5-2 record with a 3.86 ERA and 17 saves, while striking out 37 batters in 42 innings. He walked just seven, while allowing 18 earned runs.

Among the other most notable nominees are the three relief pitching members of the NCBWA preseason All-American second team (Ryan Duke of Oklahoma, Chris Franklin of Southeastern Louisiana and Tyler Mizenko of Winthrop), along with all four members of the third team (Mitchell Lambson of Arizona State, Colin Bates of North Carolina, Collin Cargill of Southern Miss and Michael Schum of Wright State).

The Big 12 Conference led the way with five players named to the preseason watch list. The ACC, Conference USA and the SEC had four pitchers each on this year's watch list, while the Pacific-10 Conference is represented by three players.

Nominations for the NCBWA Stopper of the Year Award were made by baseball sports information/media relation contacts. The initial list will be updated with a mid-season release the week of April 19, including the national saves leaders. At the conclusion of the regular season, the Division I national saves leader and four other relief pitching standouts will be selected as finalists and released Wednesday, June 2, prior to start of NCAA regional tournament competition.

The NCBWA's All-America Committee then will select the winner, with this year's recipient to be announced on the opening day of the College World Series on June 19.

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, Luke Prihoda of Sam Houston State winning it in 2007, Georgia's Joshua Fields topping the field in 2008 and San Diego State's Addison Reed grabbing the honor last season.

The NCBWA, founded in 1962, presents the Dick Howser Trophy to the nation's top player. It also selects All-America Teams for all Divisions, a Division I Freshman All-American team, Division I and III Players of the Week, Division I District Players of the Year and Division III Players of the Year.

For more information on the NCBWA Stopper of the Year, contact Julie St. Cyr at the Big West Conference at 949-261-2525 or Russ Anderson at Conference USA at 214-774-1300.

### **2010 NCBWA STOPPER OF THE YEAR WATCH LIST**

<u>PITCHER</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YR</u>
Steve Arico	Virginia	Jr.
Chris Bassit	Akron	So.
Colin Bates	North Carolina	Jr.
Chad Bettis	Texas Tech	Sr.
Mike Bolsinger	Arkansas	Sr.
Collin Cargill	Southern Miss	Jr.
Andrew Chafin	Kent State	So.
Chase Dempsay	Houston	Jr.
Ryan Duke	Oklahoma	Jr.
Chris Enourato	West Virginia	Sr.
Nick Fleece	Texas A&M	Jr.
Chris Franklin	SE Louisiana	Sr.
Drew Gagnier	Oregon	Jr.
Tim Girdwood	Elon	Jr.
Cole Green	Texas	Jr.
Austin Hubbard	Auburn	Sr.
Mitchell Lambson	Arizona State	So.
Justin Malone	Georgia State	So.
Eric Marshall	TCU	Sr.
Cody Martin	Gonzaga	Jr.
Scott Matyas	Minnesota	Jr.
Randy McCurry	Oklahoma State	Jr.
Kevin McKague	Army	Jr.
Jarad Miller	Valparaiso	Jr.
Tyler Mizenko	Winthrop	So.
Kevin Moran	Boston College	Jr.
Jake Morgan	Mississippi	Jr.
Kevin Munson	James Madison	Jr.
Matty Ott	LSU	So.
Nick Pepitone	Tulane	Jr.
Eric Pettis	UC Irvine	Sr.
Mark Pope	Georgia Tech	So.
Nick Ramirez	Cal State Fullerton	So.
Addison Reed	San Diego State	So.
Kevin Rhoderick	Oregon State	Jr.
Michael Schum	Wright State	So.
Gabriel Shaw	Louisville	Jr.
Chad Sheppard	Northwestern State	So.
Seth Simmons	East Carolina	Jr.
Zach Varce	Portland	So.