



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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12TH ANNUAL NCBWA PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAM ONE OF YOUNGEST, DEEPEST GROUPS OVERALL

WICHITA, Kan. – One of the youngest groups in the decade-plus history of selections, the 12th annual National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association preseason All-America team has a strong element of 2011 NCAA World Series returnees and loads of exceptional 2012 season sophomores and juniors.

After back-to-back NCAA titles for South Carolina and numerous defections to the professional ranks in '11, the 2012 projected team may be a mini-view of the NCAA World Series next June.

The defending champ Gamecocks landed pitcher Matt Price, who led the nation with 20 saves and kept USC in the running throughout the CWS with clutch relief appearances, on the first unit, along with starting ace Michael Roth (14-3, 1.06 earned run average, 112 strikeouts in a workhorse 145 innings pitched. Also off of Ray Tanner's title crew is 1B Christian Walker, a second team selection, after posting a .358 batting average with 10 home runs and 62 RBIs.

First team All-America catcher Mike Zunino of Florida brings back NCAA team runner-up credentials and 2011 Southeastern Conference Player of the Year statistics – 19 homers, 67 RBIs and a .371 average. Teammates first squad utility player Brian Johnson (8-3 pitching record, .307-5-29), relief standout Austin Maddox (3-0, 0.67 ERA, 5 saves) and DH Preston Tucker (.308-15-74) – the latter two second team – graced the A-A rosters.

In consultation with individual schools' media relations offices, the NCBWA All-America committee for pre-2012 listed both the Gamecocks' Price and Virginia's Branden Kline as starting pitchers, where they are projected by their coaching staffs in '12.

In addition to the USC and UF returnees from the World Series, many other young standouts with 2011 postseason credentials were honored.

Standouts from other Series participants California, North Carolina, Texas, Texas A&M, and Virginia are throughout the dream team compilations.

Cal CWS vets 2B Tony Renda and pitcher Justin Jones joined North Carolina 3B Colin Moran. Texas pitcher Cory Knebel (2011 NCBWA Stopper of the Year and Freshman Pitcher of the Year) and 3B Erich Weiss, Texas A&M OF Tyler Naquin and pitcher Ross Stripling, and UVa's Kline, as well known collegians on the pre-2012 squads.

Others of note were NCBWA Freshman Hitter of the Year OF Daniel Aldrich (.347-22 HR-73 RBI) of College of Charleston and national 2011 home run leader OF Victor Roache (30 dingers) of Georgia Southern and undefeated pitcher Tyler Ray (12-0) of Troy on a multi-talented group of student-athletes. LJ Mazzilli, whose father Lee Mazzilli had a long playing career and managed in the Major Leagues, of NCAA-contending Connecticut was the first team second sacker.

The combined winning percentage of .795 (58-15 composite) among the first unit pitcher compares favorably with the marks of the pre-2010 squad (67-12) and the pre-2011 NCBWA standouts (74-11). There were 15 freshmen, sophomores or juniors from the 2011 season who were either Players, Hitters or Pitchers of the Year in their respective conferences.

The 12th annual NCBWA preseason All-America group also had representatives of 19 different conferences and 37 schools from the NCAA Division I ranks. The eight starting or relief pitchers on the first squad each had earned run averages of 2.40 or less.

Most of these preseason standouts will be nominated for the 26th annual Dick Howser Trophy, presented by Easton Foundations and the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Area Chamber of Commerce and voted upon by the NCBWA membership. The Howser Trophy will be awarded in Omaha, Neb., in June 2012, after an extensive nomination and national balloting process.

2012 Preseason NCBWA All-America Teams

First Team

Player	School	Class	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB/SBA
1B Adam Brett Walker	Jacksonville	Jr.	.409	61	242	65	99	23	2	13	75	35	63	14/14
2B LJ Mazzilli	Connecticut	Jr.	.338	65	275	48	93	23	5	3	32	21	28	11/21
3B Stephen Piscotty	Stanford	Jr.	.364	57	225	35	82	13	1	3	40	17	27	2/5
SS Bo Cuthbertson	Southern Utah	Sr.	.432	51	192	51	83	20	7	5	47	27	33	15/18
OF Victor Roache	Georgia Southern	Jr.	.326	62	230	58	75	10	2	30	84	37	42	3/7
OF Daniel Aldrich	Coll. of Charleston	So.	.347	59	222	43	77	17	2	22	73	18	59	1/1
OF Tyler Naquin	Texas A&M	Jr.	.381	67	273	68	104	23	7	2	44	29	35	6/13
DH Brad Zebedis	Presbyterian	So.	.425	56	212	47	90	23	0	13	57	16	22	1/2

Player	School	Class	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB/SBA
UT Brian Johnson	Florida	Jr.	.307	61	192	26	59	11	2	5	29	21	36	2/2
<i>Pitching</i>			3.62	8-3	16	15	0	0	79.2	78	36	32	15	72

Pitcher	School	Class	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
SP Michael Roth	South Carolina	Sr.	1.06	14-3	21	20	1	0	145	108	36	17	41	112
SP Tyler Ray	Troy	Jr.	2.34	12-0	16	16	3	0	116.2	103	35	31	16	69
SP Ross Stripling	Texas A&M	Sr.	2.29	14-2	20	20	2	0	125.2	91	43	32	18	113
SP Branden Kline	Virginia	So.	1.88	4-1	32	0	0	18	43	30	12	9	22	56
SP Matt Price	South Carolina	So.	1.83	7-3	36	0	0	20	59	44	12	12	20	75
RP Tony Bryant	Oregon State	So.	1.52	3-2	28	0	0	12	47.1	39	9	8	11	40
RP Caleb Reed	Mississippi State	Sr.	1.55	1-2	29	0	0	12	64	51	14	11	23	66
RP Cory Knebel	Texas	So.	1.13	3-2	38	0	0	19	56.2	28	8	7	12	60

Second Team

Player	School	Class	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB/SBA
C Josh Elander	TCU	Jr.	.333	48	171	38	57	11	2	5	38	28	36	9/9
1B Christian Walker	South Carolina	Jr.	.358	69	271	64	97	21	1	10	62	36	30	4/7
2B Tony Renda	California	Jr.	.332	61	265	38	88	14	2	3	44	13	28	9/11
3B Colin Moran	North Carolina	So.	.335	67	248	46	83	20	2	9	71	47	33	2/4
SS Alex Mejia	Arizona	Jr.	.335	60	230	40	77	12	4	0	42	4	23	7/13
OF Kyle Wren	Georgia Tech	So.	.340	63	265	57	90	11	7	1	32	30	32	16/23
OF James Ramsey	Florida State	Jr.	.364	65	250	58	91	18	3	10	67	31	52	11/14
OF Landon Anderson	Dallas Baptist	Sr.	.356	62	250	72	89	13	7	7	58	22	23	21/24
DH Preston Tucker	Florida	Sr.	.308	72	286	55	88	23	0	15	74	28	29	5/8
UT Marco Gonzales	Gonzaga	So.	.291	36	110	20	32	10	0	0	14	17	19	1/1
<i>Pitching</i>			2.57	11-2	15	15	0	0	105	83	36	30	21	90

Pitcher	School	Class	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
SP Sean Tierney	James Madison	Sr.	3.43	10-1	18	8	1	0	63	62	30	24	25	47
SP Ty Blach	Creighton	Jr.	2.65	10-3	19	18	0	0	102	94	33	30	29	100
SP Kyle Kraus	Portland	Jr.	3.30	10-3	15	15	3	0	109	111	46	40	18	89
SP DJ Baxendale	Arkansas	Jr.	1.58	10-2	19	12	1	3	85.1	69	19	15	21	77
SP Buck Farmer	Georgia Tech	Jr.	2.82	11-3	16	16	2	0	108.1	95	47	34	31	106

RP John Neely	Texas Tech	Sr.	2.97	9-1	30	0	0	7	60.2	59	20	20	21	56
RP Austin Maddox	Florida	Jr.	0.67	3-0	21	0	0	5	27	20	3	2	3	21
RP Tyler Smith	Rider	Jr.	2.58	3-3	29	0	0	15	38.1	26	11	11	7	41

Third Team (Ties in Voting)

Player	School	Class	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	SO	SB/SBA
C Jeremy Schaffer	Tulane	Sr.	.338	57	210	45	71	23	2	6	37	39	28	0/0
1B Joey DiMichele	Arizona State	Jr.	.368	52	193	37	71	16	7	9	51	14	27	6/8
2B Devon Travis	Florida State	Jr.	.329	60	231	58	76	26	0	6	33	45	32	5/9
3B Erich Weiss	Texas	So.	.348	68	224	46	78	12	7	4	45	53	37	12/17
SS Deven Marrero	Arizona State	Jr.	.313	54	219	33	69	14	3	2	20	14	30	10/15
SS Tyler Hannah	Troy	Sr.	.370	62	235	62	87	27	2	7	53	38	27	6/10
OF Pablo Bermudez	FIU	Sr.	.373	58	233	63	87	16	2	5	37	51	49	17/26
OF Andrew Rash	Virginia Tech	Jr.	.335	51	191	49	64	17	0	18	53	18	50	4/7
OF Travis Jankowski	Stony Brook	Jr.	.355	54	186	39	66	7	3	2	38	20	22	30/34
OF Thomas Pope	UNC Wilmington	Sr.	.396	59	202	48	80	13	2	5	46	32	29	19/24
DH Zac Fisher	New Mexico State	Jr.	.398	52	171	35	68	15	0	8	56	18	27	0/1
UT Josh Dezse	Ohio State	So.	.332	53	193	30	64	11	2	4	42	27	47	0/1
<i>Pitching</i>			5.53	4-2	26	0	0	3	27.2	30	23	17	22	32
D.J. Hicks	UCF	Jr.	.351	61	228	42	80	11	0	14	66	35	49	1/2
<i>Pitching</i>			8.03	2-1	12	0	0	1	12.1	19	12	11	2	14

Pitcher	School	Class	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
SP Brady Rodgers	Arizona State	Jr.	2.75	9-4	15	15	1	0	98.1	88	38	30	9	87
SP Justin Jones	California	So.	2.93	9-6	20	14	3	0	119.2	113	48	39	31	81
SP Austin Kubitza	Rice	So.	2.34	6-5	15	15	1	0	100	95	38	26	24	102
SP Andrew Smith	Charlotte	Sr.	1.81	10-4	16	16	1	0	109.1	83	27	22	26	92
SP Justin Amlung	Louisville	Jr.	2.31	10-2	15	15	0	0	105	78	31	27	27	80
SP Karsten Whitson	Florida	So.	2.40	8-1	19	19	0	0	97.1	84	29	26	28	92
RP Jake Dyer	Georgia State	Sr.	1.67	3-0	24	0	0	8	32.1	33	6	6	7	23
RP Nitt Wittgren	Purdue	Jr.	3.18	2-3	29	1	0	12	51	47	22	18	10	55
RP Chris Overman	NC State	Jr.	2.39	6-3	30	0	0	7	49	38	17	13	7	45