



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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NCBWA ANNOUNCES PRESEASON STOPPER OF THE YEAR WATCH LIST

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (NCBWA) --- Fifty players have been named to the initial watch list for the 10th 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 on Tuesday.

UCLA junior **David Berg** and Mississippi State junior **Jonathan Holder** headline this year's list of preseason nominees. Berg was the recipient of the Stopper of the Year Award in 2013 after leading the nation with 24 saves, while guiding the Bruins to their first College World Series title. Berg made 51 appearances during his sophomore campaign, finishing the season with a 7-0 record and a 0.92 ERA with 78 strikeouts in 78.0 innings of work. Holder collected 21 saves and a 2-0 record with a 1.65 ERA in 34 games. The Gulfport, Miss., native finished his sophomore season with 90 strikeouts in 54.2 innings as the Bulldogs finished as the national runner-up.

A total of 17 student-athletes on the 2014 preseason watch list tallied at least 12 saves a season ago. Also joining Berg and Holder on the watch list is Louisville's **Nick Burdi**, who concluded the 2013 season with 16 saves and a 3-3 record with a 0.76 ERA in 35.2 innings of work. Berg, Burdi and Holder were all named preseason first team All-Americans in 2014 by the NCBWA.

Other notable nominees are members of the NCBWA preseason All-American second and third teams, including Ohio State's **Trace Dempsey**, Vanderbilt's **Brian Miller**, Mississippi State's **Ross Mitchell**, Rice's **Zech Lemond**, Sacramento State's **Sutter McLoughlin** and Campbell's **Ryan Thompson**.

The Southeastern Conference led the way with six players named to this year's watch list, while the Big 12 Conference, Big South Conference, Big Ten Conference, Conference USA and Pac 12 Conference all had four pitchers on the list.

Nominations for the NCBWA Stopper of the Year Award were made by baseball sports information/media relations contacts. The initial list will be updated with a mid-season release the week of April 21, 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 4, prior to start of NCAA Super Regional tournament competition.

The NCBWA's All-America Committee will select the winner, with this year's recipient to be announced during the 2014 College World Series.

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 and Luke Pridhoda of Sam Houston State winning it in 2007. Georgia's Joshua Fields topped the field in 2008, San Diego State's Addison Reed grabbed the honor in 2009 and Texas' Chance Ruffin earned the honor in 2010. Knebel won in 2011 with Southeastern Louisiana's Stefan Lopez picking up the honor in 2012. Berg of UCLA was crowned the winner in 2013.

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.

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2014 NCBWA Stopper of the Year Watch List

<u>Pitcher</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Yr.</u>
Kevin Alexander	Florida Atlantic	Sr.
Brad Applin	Rhode Island	So.
David Berg	UCLA	Jr.
Nick Burdi	Louisville	Jr.
Ryan Burr	Arizona State	So.
Garrett Cleavinger	Oregon	So.
Dylan Cole	Georgia	Sr.
Jacob Cronenworth	Michigan	So.
Terrance Dedrick	Auburn	Sr.
Trace Dempsey	Ohio State	Jr.
Jacob Dorris	Texas A&M-CC	Jr.
Trevor Dunlap	Washington	Sr.
Eric Eck	Wofford	Sr.
Matt Eckelman	Saint Louis	So.
Taylor Edens	VMI	So.
Riley Ferrell	TCU	So.
Ian Gibaut	Tulane	So.
Joe Goodman	High Point	Jr.
Ryan Halstead	Indiana	Sr.
Dylan Hecht	UCSB	So.
Jonathan Holder	Mississippi State	Jr.
Jason Jester	Texas A&M	Sr.
Mason Klotz	Southeastern Louisiana	So.
Dimitri Kourtis	Mercer	Jr.
Karch Kowalczyk	Valparaiso	Sr.
Craig LeJeune	George Washington	Sr.
Zech Lemond	Rice	Jr.
Seth Lucio	Tennessee Tech	Jr.
David Mahoney	Connecticut	R-Jr.
Jake Matthys	Kansas State	So.
Chris McCue	North Carolina	Jr.
Brendan McCurry	Oklahoma State	Sr.
Sutter McLoughlin	Sacramento State	So.
Brian Miller	Vanderbilt	Jr.
Ross Mitchell	Mississippi State	R-Jr.
Kevin Mooney	Maryland	So.
J.D. Moore	South Dakota State	Jr.
Corbin Olmstead	North Florida	So.
Lawrence Pardo	USF	Sr.
Ashton Perritt	Liberty	Jr.
Jordan Piche	Kansas	Sr.
Tyler Powell	Western Carolina	Jr.
Reed Reilly	Cal Poly	Jr.
Drew Reynolds	East Carolina	Sr.
Josh Roeder	Nebraska	Jr.

Jason Simms	Sam Houston State	Sr.
Travis Stout	Jacksonville State	Jr.
Ryan Thompson	Campbell	Sr.
Ian Tompkins	Western Kentucky	Jr.
Kevin Willman	Northern Colorado	Sr.

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