



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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ncbwa.com

NCBWA ANNOUNCES 2023 DICK HOWSER TROPHY SEMIFINALISTS, PRESENTED BY THE GAME HEADWEAR

DALLAS (NCBWA) – The Dick Howser Trophy Committee, in conjunction with the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association and the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, has released the list of semifinalists for the **2023 Dick Howser Trophy presented by The Game Headwear**. The most prestigious award in college baseball is given to the top player based on two rounds of national voting.

Balloting was done by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association, in conjunction with the Dick Howser Trophy Committee and the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce.

This is the 36th year of the Dick Howser Trophy. The finalists will be announced on Thursday, June 8. The 2023 award will be presented at Charles Schwab Field in downtown Omaha, the home of the College World Series for the 11th year. The winner will be unveiled on MLB Network on Thursday, June 15, in the 9 a.m. (CDT) hour, before a Friday, June 16 press conference with the winner will be held at 10 a.m., the opening day just prior to the first game of the 76th NCAA College World Series.

This year's 60 candidates hail from 17 different conferences and 42 different schools. The Southeastern Conferences led with 12 semifinalists, followed by the Atlantic Coast with 11, Pac-12 with six, Big Ten with five, Big 12 and Sun Belt with four each, Conference USA with three, Big South, WAC, SWAC with two and America East, Southern, Summit and West Coast each with one representative. Wake Forest was represented with five semifinalists, LSU had three on the list and Arizona State, Arizona, Campbell, DBU, Florida, FGCU, Nebraska, Ole Miss, South Carolina, Stanford and Virginia each had two to lead the way. Every position on the diamond is represented, including 11 outfielders, 10 first basemen, nine starting pitchers, seven second and third basemen, six catchers, five shortstops, three designated hitters and one utility player. The nation's best relief pitcher in the nation will be named the NCBWA Stopper of the Year.

The Dick Howser Trophy, presented by The Game Headwear, given in memory of the former Florida State University All-America shortstop and major league player and manager, who died of brain cancer in 1987, is regarded by many as college baseball's most prestigious award. Criteria for consideration of the trophy include performance on the field, leadership, moral character and courage, qualities that were exemplified by Dick Howser's life.

A Florida native, Howser was twice an All-America shortstop at Florida State (1957-58), then coached the Seminoles in 1979, after a career as a major league player and coach. After one year in the college ranks, Howser returned to the majors to manage the New York Yankees and Kansas City Royals and won the World Series with the Royals in 1985. The baseball stadium on the Florida State campus is named for Howser.

"The Dick Howser Trophy was founded shortly after his death by a few friends of Dick's in the St. Petersburg Area who played, coached and worked with him," said David Feaster, chairman of the Howser Trophy Committee. "All knew him personally and were aware of him as a tremendous player, coach and friend. The award was initially awarded at the Governors Baseball Dinner held each spring in St. Petersburg to welcome Spring Training to Florida, and as time progressed, we moved the presentation to Omaha, the center of college baseball, during the World Series. I have been involved with the award for more than 30 years and have loved every minute of my involvement. I have had the opportunity to meet some great college players as well as some great young men. I am so proud of the character quality we have in our award, which makes it unique. I am also proud of our selection process by the NCBWA which is the most democratic of any award and provides a true national scope.

"The Dick Howser Trophy is 36 years old and continues to increase in prominence and the scope of its reach increases exponentially each year," added Feaster. "It is a true testimony to Dick Howser's ability as a player, coach and gentlemen. I am proud to be associated with it."

The winner's name is inscribed on the permanent trophy, a bronze bust of Howser displayed at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg - home of the Tampa Bay Rays. Both the winner and his school receive a special trophy to keep.

NCBWA membership includes writers, broadcasters and publicists. Designed to promote and publicize college baseball, it is the sport's only college media-related organization, founded in 1962.

The Howser Trophy was created in 1987, shortly after Howser's death. Previous winners of the Howser Trophy are Mike Fiore, Miami, 1987; Robin Ventura, Oklahoma State, 1988; Scott Bryant, Texas, 1989; Alex Fernandez, Miami-Dade Community College South, 1990; Frank Rodriguez, Howard College (Texas), 1991; Brooks Kieschnick, Texas, 1992 and 1993; Jason Varitek, Georgia Tech, 1994; Todd Helton, Tennessee, 1995; Kris Benson, Clemson, 1996; J. D. Drew, Florida State, 1997; Eddy Furniss, LSU, 1998; Jason Jennings, Baylor, 1999; Mark Teixeira, Georgia Tech, 2000; Mark Prior, P, USC, 2001, Khalil Greene, SS, Clemson, 2002; Rickey Weeks, 2B, Southern U., 2003; Jered Weaver, P, Long Beach State, 2004; Alex Gordon, 3B, Nebraska, 2005; Brad Lincoln, P/DH, Houston, 2006; David Price, P, Vanderbilt, 2007; Buster Posey, C, Florida State, 2008; Stephen Strasburg, P, San Diego State, 2009; Anthony Rendon, 3B, Rice, 2010; Taylor Jungmann, P, Texas, 2011; Mike Zunino, C, Florida, 2012; Kris Bryant, 3B, San Diego, 2013; A.J. Reed, P/1B, Kentucky, 2014; Andrew Benintendi, OF, Arkansas, 2015; Seth Beer, OF, Clemson, 2016, Brendan McKay, P/1B, Louisville, 2017, Brady Singer, SP, Florida, in 2018, Adley Rutschman, C, Oregon in 2019 and Kevin Kopps, RP, Arkansas in 2021 and Ivan Melendez, 1B, Texas in 2022.

2023 DICK HOWSER TROPHY SEMIFINALISTS

Pos. Name, School

Kemp Aldersman, OF, Ole Miss	Gavin Kash, 1B, Texas Tech
Max Anderson, 2B, Nebraska	Luke Keaschall, 2B, Arizona State
Bryce Arnold, SS, Campbell	Seth Keener, RP, Wake Forest
Jarrold Belbin, 2B, Campbell	Joe Kinker, DH, FGCU
Derek Bender, DH, Coastal Carolina	Nick Kurtz, 1B, Wake Forest
Jac Caglianone, 1B, Florida	Wyatt Langford, OF, Florida
Ryan Campos, C, Arizona State	Shane Lewis, OF, Troy
Charlie Condon, OF, Georgia	Carson Liggett, SP, Louisville
Jonah Cox, OF, Oral Roberts	Nick Loruso, 3B, Maryland
Jacob Cozart, C, NC State	Rhett Lowder, SP, Wake Forest
Dylan Crews, OF, LSU	Brice Matthews, SS, Nebraska
Chase Davis, OF, Arizona	Omar Melendez, SP, Alabama State
Tyler Davis, 1B, Sam Houston State	Cole Messina, C, South Carolina
Austin Deming, 3B, BYU	Braden Montgomery, OF, Stanford
Kevin Dubrulle, SS, Army-West Point	Yohandy Morales, 3B, Miami
Eddie Felix, 2B, FGCU	Ethan Petry, OF, South Carolina
Hunter Fitz-Gerald, 1B, Old Dominion	Alberto Rios, OF, Stanford
Ryan Galanie, 1B, Wofford	Roc Riggio, 2B, Oklahoma State
Jake Gelof, 3B, Virginia	Kiko Romero, 1B, Arizona
Lucas Gordon, SP, Texas	Nolan Schanuel, 1B, Florida Atlantic
Grant Jay, C, DBU	Matt Shaw, SS, Maryland
Tanner Hall, SP, Southern Miss	Paul Skenes, SP, LSU
Calvin Harris, C, Ole Miss	Kyle Teel, C, Virginia
Josh Hartle, SP, Wake Forest	Zach Thornton, SP, Grand Canyon
Ty Hill, SS, Jackson State	Payton Tolle, Utility, Wichita State
Hunter Hines, DH, Mississippi State	Brock Vradenburg, 1B, Michigan State
Jack Hurley, OF, Virginia Tech	Bryson Ware, 3B, Auburn
Jeremiah Jenkins, 1B, Maine	JJ Wetherholt, 2B, West Virginia
Justin Johnson, 2B, Wake Forest	Tommy White, 3B, LSU
Ryan Johnson, SP, DBU	Brock Wilken, 3B, Wake Forest