



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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ncbwa.com

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NCBWA Board of Directors

2023 NCBWA STOPPER OF THE YEAR PRESEASON WATCH LIST REVEALED

DALLAS, Texas (NCBWA) – Eighty-one players have been named to the initial Watch List for the 18th Annual National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association Stopper of the Year Award, given to the top relief pitcher in NCAA Division I Baseball, the association announced Thursday. Nominees were submitted by the institution or conference Sports Information Directors.

This year's impressive group is led by 12 preseason NCBWA All-America selections including first-teamers Peter Allegro (Portland), Cade Denton (Oral Roberts), William Privette (Charleston) and Andrew Walters (Miami, (Fla.)). Walters, a finalist for the 2022 award, collected 14 saves in 32.2 innings pitched, giving up just seven runs, six earned, on 13 hits with a 1.65 ERA. Privette, another 2022 finalist, notched a 0.91 ERA last season with a 3-1 record with 12 saves, six earned runs allowed and 80 strikeouts in 59.1 innings pitched. Denton finished with a 0.41 ERA for Oral Roberts, boasting six saves, 55 strikeouts, four runs and two earned in 0.41 innings pitched. Portland's Allegro went 4-2 with a 2.76 ERA, 13 saves and 49 strikeouts in 49.0 innings tossed.

Additional preseason NCBWA All-Americans on this year's list include Carter Benbrook (UC Santa Barbara, third team), Ryan Bruno (Stanford, second team), Kirby Connell (Tennessee, second team), Kiernan Higgans (Virginia Tech, third team), Sam Klein (Ball State, second team), Reid McLaughlin (BYU, second team), Thomas Schultz (Vanderbilt, third team) and Camden Sewell (Tennessee, third team).

The Southeastern Conference led the way with the most representatives with 17 players finding their names on the watch list. The Pac-12 Conference followed with nine, while the Atlantic Coast Conference had eight and the Big 12 Conference six.

Of the initial 81 members, 17 were featured on last year's midseason watch list. In total, 21 conferences are represented on this list with at least two players coming from 15 different leagues.

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 Prihoda 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. The Longhorns' Corey Knebel won in 2011, with Southeastern Louisiana's Stefan Lopez picking up the honor in 2012. UCLA's David Berg was crowned the winner in 2013, Louisville's Nick Burdi took home the 2014 honor, and Berg became the award's first two-time winner in 2015. Miami (Fla.)'s Bryan Garcia was honored as the 2016 recipient followed

the Cardinal's Lincoln Henzman in 2017, Florida's Michael Byrne in 2018, UCLA's Holden Powell in 2019 and Arkansas' Kevin Kopps in 2021. Texas State closer Tristan Stivors collected the honor in 2022.

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

-- NCBWA.com --

2023 NCBWA Preseason Stopper of the Year Watch List (as of 2.16.23)

RELIEF PITCHERS (81)

Player	School	Class	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Matt Ager	UC Santa Barbara	So.	3.55	2-0	24	0	0	5	38.0	26	15	15	23	42
Jordy Allard	Northeastern	Gr.	2.16	4-3	24	2	0	2	50.0	42	13	12	9	58
Peter Allegro (1)	Portland	Gr.	2.76	4-2	24	1	0	13	49.0	33	15	15	23	49
John Armstrong	Auburn	So.	4.26	1-0	19	0	0	0	19.0	20	13	9	11	21
Cade Austin	South Carolina	R-So.	3.17	5-2	27	2	0	2	54.0	52	25	19	19	55
John Bakke	Morehead State	Gr.	4.05	4-3	26	5	1	8	60.0	59	29	27	24	70
Christian Becerra	Cal	So.	3.68	2-0	20	0	0	1	28.0	27	15	12	14	28
Carter Benbrook# (3)	UC Santa Barbara	R-Jr.	3.02	7-1	25	0	0	5	53.2	52	23	18	19	62
Ryan Brown	Oregon State	R-So.	4.91	5-1	28	0	0	9	33.0	28	18	18	12	40
Ryan Bruno (2)	Stanford	Jr.	2.72	6-1	30	0	0	1	39.2	20	16	12	35	71
Cam Clark	Towson	Gr.	3.18	2-0	29	0	0	2	34.0	29	13	12	7	17
Jack Collins	Binghamton	Sr.	2.17	2-3	25	0	0	7	45.2	28	13	11	12	58
Kirby Connell (2)	Tennessee	Sr.	1.66	4-0	30	0	0	0	38.0	27	11	7	6	36
Blake Corsentino	Kansas State	Jr.	4.21	4-5	22	3	0	2	57.2	65	38	27	14	50
Sean Culkin	James Madison	R-Jr.	4.96	2-2	26	0	0	0	32.2	35	21	18	7	14
Brandon Decker	Oakland	Jr.	4.83	4-4	27	2	0	4	50.1	40	32	27	18	43
Cade Denton (1)	Oral Roberts	Jr.	0.41	4-0	24	0	0	6	43.2	23	4	2	11	55
Zach DeVito	Georgia	So.	4.01	4-1	19	0	0	9	24.2	19	11	11	13	40
Nate Dohm	Mississippi State	Jr.	5.71	4-3	15	3	1	2	41.0	32	29	26	26	56
Jack Dougherty	Ole Miss	Jr.	4.91	4-3	17	4	0	2	44.0	48	24	24	16	61
Jay Driver	Harvard	Jr.	1.91	1-1	15	0	0	4	28.1	20	8	6	13	45
Triston Dixon	Texas State	Sr.	2.93	8-0	27	1	0	0	58.1	50	24	19	14	56
German Fajardo	Kansas State	Jr.	3.91	4-2	16	6	0	2	46.0	34	25	20	29	64
Ben Ferrer	Oregon State	Jr.	1.72	4-0	24	1	0	3	62.2	38	15	12	14	78
Jack Findlay	Notre Dame	So.	2.17	6-2	20	8	0	4	49.2	34	14	12	16	54
Bennett Flynn	Davidson	Sr.	1.41	3-1	22	0	0	6	38.1	20	7	6	17	58
Kyle Greenler	Georiga	Sr.	2.92	4-2	24	0	0	4	40.0	30	18	13	14	38
Alex Goff	Samford	Sr.	4.06	5-2	22	0	0	3	37.2	36	29	17	20	30
Chase Grillo	Washington State	Jr.	4.55	2-3	30	0	0	3	31.2	33	19	16	15	50
Stephen Halstead	North Florida	Sr.	3.07	3-4	21	0	0	5	32.0	33	20	13	11	36
Nate Hardman	Evansville	Sr.	5.02	2-3	24	0	0	1	28.2	22	21	16	22	26
Jared Hart	Illinois State	Sr.	2.45	2-3	23	6	0	2	55.0	49	22	15	16	50
Kiernan Higgans (3)	Virginia Tech	Gr.	1.99	3-0	21	0	0	5	31.2	22	9	7	14	38
Ryan Higgins	Duke	So.	4.82	1-0	10	0	0	0	9.1	11	7	5	8	11
Carson Hobbs	Samford	Jr.	6.40	1-4	23	1	0	10	32.1	34	23	23	13	41
Max Huffling	Abilene Christian	Jr.	4.37	3-0	19	3	0	1	45.1	36	24	22	28	56
Chase Isbell	Auburn	Sr.	4.82	1-1	14	0	0	0	18.2	17	10	10	14	23
Luke Jewett	UCLA	So.	3.68	3-1	35	0	0	1	44.0	47	21	18	13	28
Will Johnston	Texas A&M	Jr.	3.25	3-1	23	2	0	4	36.0	33	15	13	18	49
Jacob King	UC Irvine	R-Jr.	5.51	1-1	24	0	0	4	22.2	26	18	14	12	29
Sam Klein (2)	Ball State	Jr.	3.18	4-3	23	0	0	11	34.0	21	13	12	21	47
Trevor Long	Arizona	Jr.	3.68	6-3	31	0	0	7	36.2	36	18	15	15	27
Nick Maldonado	Vanderbilt	Sr.	3.96	3-1	13	4	0	0	38.2	41	23	17	16	34
Alden Mathes	Richmond	R-Jr.	3.35	3-2	9	6	0	0	43.0	28	18	16	21	58
Reid McLaughlin (2)	BYU	Sr.	4.23	1-2	25	0	0	10	27.2	31	18	13	6	28
Nolan McLean	Oklahoma State	Jr.	4.97	2-1	23	0	0	5	25.1	20	17	14	13	39
Jakob Meyer	Evansville	Sr.	2.65	0-0	11	0	0	4	17.0	13	6	5	13	20
Jarrett Miller	Morehead State	Gr.	5.98	4-2	30	0	0	1	43.2	40	30	29	23	41
Kyle Miller	Southeast Missouri	Jr.	3.35	8-4	24	0	0	6	45.2	41	20	17	14	47
Simon Miller	UTSA	Jr.	3.75	4-3	18	0	0	1	36.0	24	18	15	21	47
Camden Minacci	Wake Forest	So.	2.18	2-4	30	0	0	6	45.1	34	17	11	18	59
Josh Molerus	Oregon	Sr.	3.96	4-2	24	0	0	5	36.1	30	16	16	9	52
Braden Montgomery	Stanford	So.	5.79	0-2	15	3	0	2	18.2	12	12	12	21	28
Mason Nichols	Ole Miss	So.	2.84	1-0	21	0	0	0	31.2	22	12	10	12	41
Aaron Nixon	Mississippi State	So.	5.04	1-3	26	0	0	5	30.1	24	18	17	25	38
Jack Pawloski	Massachusetts	Gr.	3.72	1-0	16	1	0	4	19.1	18	10	8	12	23
William Privette* (1)	Charleston	Jr.	0.91	3-1	25	0	0	12	59.1	31	14	6	15	80
Blake Purnell	Florida	R-So.	2.86	3-3	36	0	0	4	50.1	50	19	16	15	39
Nik Pry	North Carolina	Sr.	4.54	3-0	32	0	0	0	37.2	44	22	19	18	43
Dalton Rhadans	Georgia	Sr.	3.72	7-4	34	1	0	10	72.2	75	32	30	13	71
River Ridings	TCU	Jr.	6.95	2-3	21	0	0	10	22.0	29	20	17	17	22
Zane Robbins	Eastern Illinois	Sr.	4.43	1-1	22	0	0	11	20.1	19	10	10	15	35
Andrew Ronne	East Tennessee State	So.	2.97	5-0	18	0	0	0	33.1	33	22	20	18	33
Garrett Saylor	East Carolina	Sr.	5.01	6-3	39	2	0	5	79.0	69	47	44	23	108
Thomas Schultz (3)	Vanderbilt	Sr.	2.88	4-2	23	0	0	8	34.1	26	17	11	10	33

Camden Sewell (3)	Tennessee	Gr.	2.52	7-1	26	1	0	1	50.0	40	17	14	8	42
Daniel Shafer	UTSA	Jr.	3.29	3-1	16	0	0	5	27.1	13	10	10	13	38
Noah Short	West Virginia	Sr.	4.25	0-1	24	0	0	2	29.2	26	15	14	12	33
Jonah Smith	UAB	Gr.	2.93	1-1	21	0	0	1	27.2	26	10	9	11	24
Noah Stants^	Oakland	Sr.	2.64	4-4	11	8	2	0	47.2	26	17	14	33	77
Matthew Steidl	Southern Illinois	Sr.	3.45	7-4	30	1	0	6	75.2	77	34	29	31	91
Luke Stephens	Wofford	Sr.	2.50	2-1	25	0	0	1	39.2	31	14	11	8	44
Jett Thielke^	Belmont	Jr.	2.62	9-2	13	10	2	1	55.0	46	17	16	11	70
Jay Thompson	Georgia Southern	Sr.	3.91	7-4	37	0	0	6	76.0	71	37	33	23	63
Brady Tygart	Arkansas	So.	3.82	3-4	24	0	0	8	37.2	28	17	16	21	51
Crawford Wade	Wake Forest	Jr.	3.13	3-1	26	0	0	0	31.2	25	14	11	13	35
Andrew Walters* (1)	Miami (Fla.)	Jr.	1.65	0-1	24	0	0	14	32.2	13	7	6	6	62
Holden Wilder	Wofford	Jr.	2.08	8-0	23	0	0	0	30.1	23	10	7	14	27
Jay Woolfolk	Virginia	So.	2.87	3-0	28	0	0	0	37.2	31	17	12	20	55
Garrett Wright	TCU	Jr.	2.89	0-0	20	0	0	5	18.2	12	7	6	16	27
Jack Zalasky	Sacramento State	Sr.	3.21	3-4	25	0	0	11	47.2	42	20	17	11	53

* = 2022 Stopper of the Year Finalist

(1) = Preseason NCBWA All-America First-Team

(2) = Preseason NCBWA All-America Second-Team

(3) = Preseason NCBWA All-America Third-Team

= stats from 2021

^ = stats from junior college