



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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NCBWA Board of Directors

2024 NCBWA STOPPER OF THE YEAR PRESEASON WATCH LIST REVEALED

DALLAS, Texas (NCBWA) – Seventy-three players have been named to the initial Watch List for the 19th 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 Wednesday. The institution or conference sports information directors submitted nominees.

This year's watch list includes three 2023 Stopper of the Year finalists and 11 preseason NCBWA All-America selections. The first-teamers include Brandon Neely (Florida), Tyson Neighbors (Kansas State), Fran Oschell III (Duke) and James Tallon (Duke). Neely, a finalist last season, registered 13 saves for the Gators with 72 strikeouts and 22 walks in 55.1 innings pitched with a 3.58 ERA. K-State's Neighbors, also a finalist in 2023, boasted 11 saves, a 5-1 record, 85 strikeouts and a 1.85 ERA in 48.2 innings last season. Tallon collected finalist recognition with 12 saves, 54 strikeouts and 11 walks and a 1.64 ERA in just 33.0 innings for the Blue Devils in 2023. Blue Devil teammate Oschell III notched a 6-0 record with 66 strikeouts on just 18 walks and a 0.69 ERA in 39.1 innings tossed.

Additional preseason NCBWA All-Americans on this year's list include Ben Abeltd (TCU, third team), Austin Anderson (Oregon, second team), Micah Ashman (Utah, third team), Hudson Barrett (UC Santa Barbara, second team), Chris Lotito (Jacksonville, third team), Noah Manning (Troy, third team) and Joshua Romero (CSUN, second team).

The Southeastern Conference led the way with the most representatives with 12 players finding their names on the watch list. The Atlantic Coast Conference followed with 10, while the Big 12 and Big Ten each had six and the Pac-12 had five.

Of the initial 73 members, 12 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 16 different leagues.

Texas hurler J. Brent Cox won the inaugural Stopper of the Year Award in 2005, with Don Czyn 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, Arkansas' Kevin Kopps in 2021 and Texas State's Tristan Stivors in 2022. Oral Roberts closer Cade Denton collected the honor in 2023.

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 --

2024 NCBWA Preseason Stopper of the Year Watch List (as of 2.14.24)

RELIEF PITCHERS (73)

Player	School	Class	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Ben Abeldt (3)	TCU	So.	3.60	3-4	32	1	0	2	55.0	49	34	22	24	71
Austin Anderson (2)	Oregon	Sr.	0.66	4-0	23	0	0	0	27.1	10	2	2	25	39
Evan Aschenbeck	Texas A&M	Sr.	3.46	8-1	26	0	0	3	65.0	59	27	25	20	75
Micah Ashman (3)	Utah	Jr.	3.63	1-3	23	0	0	9	34.2	33	19	14	5	38
Hudson Barrett (2)	UC Santa Barbara	So.	1.92	5-1	21	4	0	6	61.0	42	14	13	32	82
Ethan Bates	Louisiana Tech	Sr.	3.16	4-2	20	0	0	10	37.0	27	13	13	13	46
Danny Beal	East Carolina	Sr.	2.70	6-2	31	0	0	3	53.1	38	16	16	12	65
Chris Beilenson	Duke	Gr.	3.86	6-3	39	0	0	0	60.2	56	33	26	21	78
Hayden Berg	Western Michigan	Sr.	4.47	1-3	20	1	0	4	52.1	45	31	26	20	48
Ryan Bilka	Wagner	So.	4.57	4-2	20	2	0	2	41.1	61	24	21	13	28
Radek Birkholz	Notre Dame	Jr.	4.91	2-3	18	4	0	1	44.0	39	29	24	18	35
Mason Burns	Western Kentucky	Sr.	2.95	6-2	23	4	0	4	55.0	44	20	18	20	66
Will Cannon	Auburn	Jr.	4.41	3-2	23	3	0	5	49.0	54	27	24	28	44
Nick Clayton	Clemson	Sr.	3.17	8-0	24	0	0	0	48.1	35	17	17	27	53
Aaron Combs	Tennessee	R-Jr.	3.00	4-0	26	0	0	0	21.0	14	7	7	7	39
Jake Cubbler	USC Upstate	R-Jr.	1.51	4-0	23	1	0	6	41.2	29	11	7	19	37
Liam Dabagian	Elon	Gr.	3.16	5-1	24	0	0	2	42.2	44	18	15	12	27
Chandler David	Sam Houston	Sr.	2.34	6-0	30	0	0	2	57.2	46	22	15	20	73
Alton Davis II	Alabama	So.	5.35	1-2	25	0	0	8	33.2	34	20	20	12	32
Brandon Decker	Oakland	Sr.	4.39	8-3	25	0	0	5	69.2	67	38	34	36	71
Josh Emanuels	Washington	R-Jr.	4.68	3-2	28	0	0	6	42.1	41	24	22	14	47
Garrett Ferguson	Missouri State	So.	1.88	3-1	21	0	0	6	28.2	15	6	6	16	27
Bennett Flynn	Notre Dame (Davidson)	Gr.	3.36	5-1	20	4	0	4	56.1	40	26	21	35	82
Reed Garris	Clemson	Jr.	2.12	4-0	27	0	0	0	29.2	19	8	7	13	39
Ben Gorski	Rutgers	Sr.	3.40	1-3	25	0	0	8	39.2	26	15	15	25	46
Chase Grillo	Washington State	R-Sr.	9.16	1-2	24	0	0	6	18.2	25	19	19	11	31
Gavin Guidry	LSU	So.	3.77	3-0	23	1	0	3	28.2	23	18	12	12	42
Blake Hammond	Santa Clara	Jr.	2.53	6-1	19	0	0	1	46.1	34	20	13	28	65
Nate Hardman	Notre Dame (Evansville)	Gr.	5.21	2-1	30	0	0	10	38.0	33	24	22	19	52
Cole Heath	Western Kentucky	R-Jr.	5.26	2-0	15	1	0	2	25.2	25	22	15	12	18
Carson Ozmer	Penn	Sr.	1.83	2-2	25	0	0	6	34.1	24	10	7	8	35
Leo Harris	UAB	Gr.	3.74	1-1	21	2	0	1	33.2	29	14	14	21	33
Sam Hart	Iowa (Indian Hills CC)	Jr.	1.19	1-1	20	1	0	13	22.2	9	5	3	12	37
Justin Honeycutt	UNC Asheville	Sr.	4.67	4-2	17	6	0	1	61.2	56	36	32	26	33
Johnny Hummel	Kentucky (Erskine)	Gr.	1.35	3-2	23	0	0	7	33.1	14	8	5	15	63
Ryan Kraft	Indiana	Jr.	2.48	6-1	21	2	0	5	61.2	58	23	17	22	51
Kyle Kramer	UCF	R-Sr.	3.96	6-2	27	0	0	8	38.2	27	18	17	16	60
Ethan Lanthier	Kansas (St. Cloud State)	Jr.	4.84	1-2	14	4	0	1	35.1	29	19	19	22	44
Carson Lore	Samford (Delgado CC)	Jr.	3.94	6-3	16	14	6	0	80.0	78	47	35	13	80
Chris Lotito (3)	Jacksonville	r-Jr.	3.65	1-1	25	0	0	14	24.2	19	11	10	13	37
Carter Lovasz	William & Mary	Jr.	2.96	5-1	19	2	0	7	54.2	45	20	18	15	54
Josh Mallitz#	Ole Miss	Jr.	1.45	1-0	17	0	0	2	31.0	19	6	5	12	48
Noah Manning (3)	Troy	Sr.	3.74	3-3	34	1	0	11	45.2	53	28	19	16	41
Izaak Martinez	UC San Diego	R-Jr.	2.84	6-1	24	1	0	9	57.0	45	22	18	16	63
Justin Murray	Houston	Sr.	3.07	5-0	25	0	0	10	41.0	39	14	14	10	49
Brandon Neely* (1)	Florida	Jr.	3.58	2-3	34	0	0	13	55.1	46	26	22	22	72
Tyson Neighbors* (1)	Kansas State	Jr.	1.85	5-1	25	0	0	11	48.2	22	11	10	16	86
Fran Oschell III (1)	Duke	Jr.	0.69	6-0	22	0	0	0	39.1	18	4	3	18	66
Dalton Pence	North Carolina	R-So.	3.33	4-3	27	5	0	2	48.2	40	21	18	19	50
Sam Portnoy	Rutgers	R-Jr.	3.69	3-0	20	0	0	1	31.2	23	15	13	14	28
Matt Poston	North Carolina	Sr.	1.90	3-3	31	0	0	5	42.2	21	10	9	23	49
Easton Rakers	Lindenwood	So.	3.31	2-2	20	0	0	2	32.2	33	18	12	13	30
Jackson Reid	Western Carolina (Lenoir-Rhyne)	Gr.	4.33	6-1	13	13	0	0	60.1	71	39	29	33	62
Zane Robbins	Eastern Illinois	Gr.	1.57	4-1	27	0	0	7	34.1	21	9	6	20	50
Joshua Romero (2)	CSUN	Sr.	3.29	0-2	23	0	0	13	27.1	22	12	10	11	31
Rashad Ruff	UCLA (Coppin State)	Gr.	3.82	2-2	24	0	0	5	33.0	34	18	14	14	41
Caleb Rutledge	SFA	R-Jr.	8.58	2-1	17	2	0	0	28.1	37	27	27	16	26
Cam Schuelke	Mississippi State (Col. Central Fl.)	Jr.	2.09	9-1	32	0	0	8	60.1	34	14	14	16	86
Tanner Smith	Presbyterian	Sr.	4.34	1-4	27	1	0	8	37.1	31	20	18	16	53
Nate Snead	Tennessee (Wichita State)	So.	3.16	1-2	24	1	0	3	42.2	37	18	15	17	53
August Souza	Santa Clara	Sr.	1.85	1-2	13	1	0	5	34.0	21	10	7	11	31
Jared Spencer	Indiana State	Jr.	3.86	3-2	25	0	0	7	37.1	27	16	16	20	51
Eli Sundquist	Utah Valley (South Dakota St.)	Sr.	4.45	1-1	17	0	0	1	28.1	16	16	14	27	47
Tommy Szczepanski	Michigan St. (Virginia Tech)	So.	9.00	0-0	6	1	0	0	6.0	5	6	6	8	10
James Tallon* (1)	Duke	So.	1.64	1-1	23	0	0	12	33.0	22	12	6	11	54

Eli Trop	Penn	Sr.	2.37	4-0	17	0	0	1	19.0	6	5	5	12	36
Chris Veach	South Carolina	Sr.	3.46	2-1	20	0	0	6	26.0	15	11	10	15	32
Najer Victor	UCF	Sr.	2.88	3-1	23	1	0	1	34.1	27	15	11	13	50
Zach Voelker	Iowa	R-Jr.	6.18	4-1	15	2	0	1	43.2	45	30	30	22	32
Nathan Ward	Grand Canyon	Sr.	0.72	1-0	14	0	0	3	25.0	13	2	2	19	33
Ryan White	Western Carolina	Gr.	4.33	6-1	13	13	0	0	60.1	71	39	29	33	62
Parker Whittle	Winthrop	Sr.	6.70	8-2	27	1	0	1	43.0	48	32	32	20	44
Gage Wood	Arkansas	So.	4.80	2-0	23	0	0	5	30.0	21	17	16	23	42

* = 2023 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 2022

^ = stats from junior college