



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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ncbwa.com

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NCBWA Board of Directors

***2025 NCBWA STOPPER OF THE YEAR
PRESEASON WATCH LIST ANNOUNCED***

DALLAS, Texas (NCBWA) – Seventy-six players have been named to the initial 2025 Watch List for the 20th 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.

TCU's Ben Abeldt, the lone finalist from 2024 and a 2025 NCBWA First-Team All-America selection, held a 1.83 earned run average with eight saves and a 3-0 record in 26 appearances. Thirteen preseason NCBWA All-America selections made the list. The first teamers include Abeldt (TCU), Brian Curley (Georgia), Stone Cushing (BYU), Matthew Matthijs (North Carolina) and Nate Snead (Tennessee). Cushing collected 10 saves in 34.1 innings pitched, while striking out 46 and walking just 25 in 29 appearances. Curley, who played at VCU in 2024, went 6-0 with a 2.87 ERA and three saves in 78.1 innings pitched. Matthijs, a junior at UNC, went 12-4 last season, allowing just 24 earned runs on 49 hits in 36 appearances. Snead registered six saves with a 10-2 record in 75.1 innings of work, allowing 26 earned runs on 71 hits and notching 61 strikeouts.

Second teamers include Kade Brown (Sacramento State), Reece Lawler (Illinois-Chicago), Ruger Riojas (Texas) and Cole Tryba (UC Santa Barbara). Third-team selections include David Boisvert (Duke), Christian Foutch (Arkansas), Ethan Norby (East Carolina) and Gavin Van Kempen (West Virginia).

The Southeastern Conference led the way with the most representatives with nine players. The Atlantic Coast Conference, Big 12 Conference and Mid-American Conference followed with six players each, while the American Athletic Conference and Sun Belt Conference each had five.

Of the initial 76 members, eight were featured on last year's midseason watch list. In total, 19 conferences are represented on this list, with at least two players coming from 13 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, Arkansas' Kevin Kopps in 2021, Texas State's Tristan Stivors in 2022 and Oral Roberts' Cade Denton in 2023. Texas A&M closer Evan Aschenbeck won the award in 2024.

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. A new award is being introduced this year, the Tony Gwynn Community Service Award, recognizing the college player who makes an impact on and off the field with their work in the community. 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 --

2025 NCBWA Preseason Stopper of the Year Watch List (as of 2.12.25)

RELIEF PITCHERS (77)

Player	School	Class	ERA	W-L	APP	GS	CG	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Ben Abeldt (1)	TCU	Jr.	1.83	3-0	26	1	0	8	44.1	29	10	9	16	54
Davis Aiken	College of Charleston	Sr.	4.02	0-0	30	0	0	11	31.1	23	15	14	8	21
Matt Alduino	Quinnipiac	Jr.	3.90	4-1	23	0	0	3	30.0	31	22	13	22	29
Cam Allen	Wright State	So.	4.97	1-1	16	0	0	3	25.1	26	15	14	11	29
John Armstrong	Auburn	Sr.	4.01	1-2	19	0	0	2	33.2	31	16	15	19	45
Max Bayles	Santa Clara	So.	3.40	4-2	21	3	0	5	42.1	32	19	16	16	50
Andrew Behnke	Tennessee	Jr.	3.54	3-1	23	0	0	0	28.0	23	11	11	9	39
Tucker Biven	Louisville	Jr.	3.82	4-2	24	0	0	5	35.1	39	16	15	10	40
David Boisvert (3)	Duke	Sr.	2.16	2-1	18	4	0	0	25.0	13	7	6	10	26
Luke Broderick^	Nebraska	Jr.	3.21	7-1	13	13	0	0	42.0	29	19	15	20	56
at Iowa Western CC														
Kade Brown (2)	Sacramento State	R-So.	3.72	3-3	22	0	0	8	38.2	27	19	16	18	54
Drew Buhr	Indiana	Gr.	3.31	2-2	21	0	0	1	49.0	42	19	18	17	48
Carson Byers	Miami (Ohio)	Jr.	3.97	6-1	23	0	0	2	59.0	44	29	26	40	73
Peyton Cariaco	Kent State	Sr.	3.15	5-3	25	0	0	5	40.0	39	15	14	13	29
Dominick Carbone	Coastal Carolina	So.	5.06	5-1	24	0	0	0	37.1	36	24	21	16	35
Dominic Castellano	UCF	Sr.	2.83	7-0	22	1	0	3	60.1	34	21	19	25	68
Brian Curley^ (1)	Georgia	Jr.	2.87	6-0	19	0	0	3	78.1	74	28	25	35	78
at VCU														
Stone Cushing (1)	BYU	Sr.	3.93	2-3	29	0	0	10	34.1	20	18	15	25	46
Spencer Dessart^	California	Jr.	6.84	2-5	14	12	0	0	51.1	55	40	39	31	33
at Washington														
Turner Doran	Western Michigan	Sr.	3.44	2-3	23	1	0	3	34.0	28	14	13	10	42
Jacob Dudan	NC State	So.	4.50	4-2	27	0	0	6	48.0	37	25	24	34	56
Tate Evans	Yale	Jr.	2.92	4-2	19	0	0	6	37.0	33	14	12	13	55
Jacob Faulkner	Princeton	Sr.	3.14	8-1	20	2	1	4	66.0	62	30	23	12	52
Christian Foutch (3)	Arkansas	Jr.	0.81	1-0	20	0	0	1	22.1	19	2	2	7	20
Luke Gainer	Omaha	Sr.	3.80	2-3	22	0	0	5	42.2	32	26	18	19	56
John Gillis	South Alabama	Gr.	7.20	2-0	9	2	0	0	15.0	21	12	12	6	14
Simon Gregersen^	Kentucky	Sr.	4.86	1-1	24	0	0	7	37.0	29	20	20	21	43
at Indiana State														
Miller Green	Vanderbilt	So.	3.16	2-4	20	0	0	3	31.1	26	17	11	9	34
Gavin Guidry	LSU	Jr.	2.59	2-0	22	0	0	4	24.1	14	8	7	18	36
Brock Hill	UAB	Sr.	6.51	0-2	22	0	0	4	27.2	27	22	20	17	25
Cal Higgins	WKU	Sr.	3.18	3-0	22	0	0	0	34.0	26	13	12	14	29
Casey Hintz	Arizona	Jr.	4.13	3-1	27	0	0	2	32.2	48	16	15	12	24
Robert Hogan	Kentucky	Sr.	3.10	1-0	24	0	0	1	40.2	25	17	14	21	42
Sean Hollister	Presbyterian	Sr.	2.79	2-3	26	4	0	3	42.0	45	23	13	17	43
Chase Hungate^	Mississippi State	Sr.	3.74	7-2	30	0	0	2	53.0	49	22	22	13	37
at Virginia														
Joe Husak	Illinois State	Sr.	3.96	5-3	24	1	0	7	50.0	56	28	22	15	35
Chase Ingram	UAB	Jr.	5.40	0-1	19	0	0	0	25.0	31	19	15	3	14
Landon Kruer	Navy	Sr.	3.75	1-3	19	0	0	9	36.0	24	15	15	24	33
Max Kuhle	James Madison	Jr.	4.13	5-4	21	8	0	1	61.0	54	32	28	31	67
Tommy Lamar	Lehigh	Jr.	5.82	0-2	16	0	0	9	21.2	26	17	14	17	18
Reece Lawler (2)	UIC	R-Sr.	3.12	2-1	28	0	0	12	34.2	32	13	12	12	38
Caden Leonard	Kent State	Sr.	3.20	1-1	20	0	0	0	19.2	25	8	7	9	24
Lucas Litteral	WKU	Jr.	4.31	4-3	21	0	0	2	31.1	31	15	12	12	41
Carter Lovasz	William & Mary	Sr.	3.12	1-5	18	1	0	7	43.1	37	23	15	13	57
Matthew Matthijs (1)	North Carolina	Jr.	3.72	12-4	36	0	0	0	58.0	49	29	24	18	36
Jacob Moore	Tulane	R-Jr.	3.00	5-3	26	0	0	6	42.0	34	19	14	10	45
Trevor Moore	Stanford	Jr.	6.00	3-1	28	1	0	1	57.0	71	43	38	24	57
Hayden Murphy	Auburn	Jr.	4.32	1-0	14	0	0	1	16.2	21	9	8	8	17
Austin Newton	USF	Jr.	5.19	0-1	14	1	0	0	17.1	17	10	10	5	18
Ethan Norby (3)	East Carolina	So.	3.79	4-0	20	10	0	2	59.1	54	33	25	25	63
Toran O'Harran	Stanford	Jr.	5.26	2-4	24	1	0	7	39.1	33	23	23	29	50
Will Parkinson	Columbia	Sr.	4.75	2-1	10	1	0	2	30.1	26	20	16	19	49
Erik Paulsen	Stony Brook	So.	3.21	2-1	15	1	0	6	42.0	44	19	15	10	24
Kyle Percival	North Carolina	Jr.	2.42	4-0	22	0	0	0	22.1	20	8	6	11	20
Garrett Peters	Wright State	Sr.	4.76	5-0	25	0	0	3	39.2	43	23	21	20	51
Owen Pierce	William & Mary	Jr.	3.77	0-1	18	4	0	5	43.0	37	21	18	21	43
Tony Pluta	Arizona	Jr.	3.07	2-1	25	0	0	2	29.1	23	11	10	2	21
Devin Pressley	Gardner-Webb	R-Jr.	6.99	4-2	22	0	0	6	28.1	27	22	22	17	40
Owen Proksch	Duke	Jr.	6.10	3-0	22	0	0	0	20.2	21	15	14	16	19
Walter Quinn	Grand Canyon	R-Jr.	2.22	3-3	22	0	0	1	44.2	41	17	11	16	34

Hunter Royal	Little Rock	Sr.	6.75	1-1	18	0	0	3	22.2	16	19	17	20	36
Ruger Riojas^ (2)	Texas	Jr.	3.25	10-3	26	1	0	7	69.1	68	29	25	18	75
at UTSA														
Andrew Rubayo	Quinnipiac	Jr.	4.86	2-1	15	2	0	1	33.1	44	19	18	6	10
Brayden Sanders	Memphis	Sr.	3.82	2-4	23	0	0	9	30.2	21	16	13	25	39
Dalton Smith^	Kansas	Jr.	2.19	3-1	18	1	0	3	24.2	16	7	6	16	27
at Kansas City Kansas CC														
Derrick Smith	NC State	Jr.	4.55	3-2	24	0	0	8	29.2	19	17	15	11	41
Nate Snead (1)	Tennessee	Jr.	3.11	10-2	29	1	0	6	75.1	71	28	26	26	61
Kris Sosnowski	UCF	R-Jr.	3.38	1-0	24	0	0	6	37.1	34	16	14	9	40
Anthony Steele	Penn State	Sr.	5.97	4-1	26	0	0	1	34.2	27	23	23	27	32
Jacob Tabor	Toledo	So.	3.35	4-0	26	0	0	6	37.2	34	18	14	18	39
Dylan Theut#	Louisiana	R-Sr.	0.00	2-0	7	0	0	0	13.0	3	1	0	6	12
Drew Titsworth	Clemson	So.	3.15	4-0	19	0	0	0	20.0	10	10	7	12	26
Cole Tryba (2)	UC Santa Barbara	So.	3.64	3-2	27	1	0	3	47.0	42	25	19	14	65
Gavin Van Kempen(3)	West Virginia	Jr.	3.14	7-1	13	5	0	0	28.1	20	10	10	14	35
Jaden Varner	Kent State	R-Jr.	1.42	1-0	9	0	0	0	6.1	3	1	1	4	8
Harrison Wilson	Winthrop	Jr.	8.44	0-0	3	1	0	0	5.1	6	5	5	3	11

* = 2024 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 2023

^ = stats from previous school