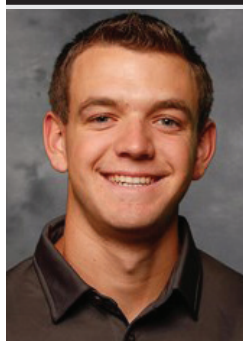


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ST. PAUL, Minn. - The 2018 D2CCA NCAA Division II Baseball All-Central Region First and Second Teams have been announced as voted upon by College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) from the region. The Central Region consists of 40 baseball teams from the Northern Sun (15 teams), Mid-America (13 teams) and Great American (12 teams) conferences. In all, 17 teams were represented with nine teams gaining multiple selections.

The teams are headlined by the University of Nebraska at Kearney's **Alex Achtermann** as the Central Region Player of the Year and Concordia University, St. Paul's **Gus Varland** as the Central Region Pitcher of the Year.

Each of the 16 D2CCA All-Central Region First Team selections will now be listed on the D2CCA Baseball All-America ballot, which will be voted on by the CoSIDA Division II membership with the announcement of those All-American teams expected Friday, May 25.



ALEX ACHTERMANN
Nebraska-Kearney Lopers
3B/RF/RHP | 6-2 | 190 | Jr.
Denver, Colo.

CENTRAL REGION PLAYER OF THE YEAR
.413/.481/.714 (1.195 OPS)
85-206, 56 R, 57 RBI
13 2B, 2 3B, 15 HR, 3-4 SB
6-1, 4.45 ERA, 1.48 WHIP, 62.2 IP, 55 K

Alex Achtermann is a dynamic two-way player who provided value to the Lopers across the diamond, making 18 starts at the hot corner, 17 in right field, 11 on the mound (eight of those at P/DH) and six more at first base.

The Mid-America Athletics Association Player of the Year was the Central Region leader with 147 total bases (12th most in DII baseball). He also ranked second in the region and led the MIAA in average (.413), home runs (15) and slugging percentage (.714) while his 85 hits were second in the league and region (11th DII).

Additionally, Achtermann was third in the MIAA and fifth in the region with 57 RBIs, fourth in the league and fifth in the region in on base percentage (.481) and fourth in the league and sixth in the region in runs (56). He had a 30-game reached base streak, 19-game hitting streak and ended his season on a 12-game hit streak. He also had 27 multi-hit games and 18 multi-RBI games on the year.

On the mound, Achtermann was 6-1 with a 4.45 ERA over 11 starts, striking out 55 in 62.2 innings.

His high level of play across multiple positions and as a two-way star led the Lopers to doubling its overall wins total with a 28-24 overall record, while UNK also tripled its league wins total with a 21-15 MIAA record to earn the fifth seed in the MIAA Tournament. The Lopers concluded its modern history (1961-2018) with 1,205 wins.

The 2018 team features twice the amount of repeat all-region performers led by three-time all-region pitcher **Dalton Roach** of Minnesota State. Roach was a second team pick as a freshman in 2015 before a first team selection last year. He becomes a two-time second team selection as a senior in 2018. The reigning D2CCA Division II Pitcher of the Year, Augustana's **Jacob Blank** is the only repeat selection to the first team. After earning second team honors last year, Henderson State pitcher **Bryant Haralson** earned second team honors for his senior campaign. Northern State outfielder **Jack Schmidt** was a second team all-region selection as a sophomore in 2016, graduating to first team honors in 2018 as a senior. Oklahoma Baptist catcher **Juan Gonzalez** and Nebraska-Kearney designated hitter **Dallas Schramm** each repeat as second team all-region players in their junior and senior seasons.

Of the 33 student-athletes to earn All-Central Region honors, 22 are seniors (up seven from 2017) with 10 juniors while the only sophomore is first team first baseman **Reed Hjellev** of Minnesota Crookston, the NSIC's Player of the Year.

Arkansas-Monticello led the way with four all-region selections with one first team selection and three named to the second team. Four other teams had three selections with Augustana standing out with two of its three players making the first team. Nebraska-Kearney had one first team selection, the Central Region Player of the Year (Achtermann) along with a pair on the second team while Pittsburg State and Oklahoma Baptist each had three second team choices. Of the four teams with two players to make All-Central Region, Emporia State and Southern Arkansas each had two first team performers, Northwest Missouri State and Henderson State each had a first and a second team player and St. Cloud State had a pair of second team selections.

Breaking down the conferences, the GAC led the way with 14 total selections which were shared between six of its league members and had seven first team members. The MIAA came in with 10 total all-region choices (four first team) with four of its 12 member schools represented while the NSIC had six of its 15 schools earn a spot with five first team picks among its nine players voted all-region.

- The complete All-Central Region First and Second Teams are listed on page 2 -

GUS VARLAND
Concordia-St. Paul Golden Bears
RHP | 6-1 | 190 | Jr.
Maplewood, Minn.

CENTRAL REGION PITCHER OF THE YEAR
7-1, 1.04 ERA, 0.81 WHIP
60.1 IP, 79 K, 15 BB, .163 opp avg
5.3 K-BB, 11.8 K/9, 2.2 BB/9



Gus Varland, the NSIC Pitcher of the Year, finishes his season with a 1.04 earned run average, ranking second in the country and leading the Central Region. His region-leading 0.81 WHIP and 5.07 hits allowed per 9 innings also rank third and fifth in the nation, respectively. His 11.8 strikeout per 9 inning rate also ranks third in the region, second in the NSIC and 25th nationally.

Concordia's weekend number one starter, Varland held opposing lineups to four hits or less in seven of his nine starts, didn't allow more than seven in any game on the year and never allowed more hits than innings in his nine starts. Further, he struck out at least nine batters in seven of his nine starts with eight of his nine starts coming in 7-inning contests, eclipsing 100 pitches just twice on the year.

He pitched a pair of 1-hitters and a 2-hitter, coming one out away from his second career no-hitter in a shutout over U-Mary.

For the second time in three years, he pitched into the ninth inning of a second round NSIC Tournament game that helped propel the Golden Bears to the NSIC Tournament championship game and is a two-time NSIC All-Tournament pick.

He anchored a Concordia staff that ranked seventh in Division II and second in the Central Region in ERA (3.43), ninth in DII and second in the region in hits allowed (8.05) and fourth in the region (10th DII) in strikeouts (10.1/9).



2018 D2CCA BASEBALL ALL-CENTRAL REGION TEAMS

Josh Deer | Central Region Coordinator & National Vice-Chair, D2CCA Baseball
Asst. AD / Communications, Concordia-St. Paul | Office: 651.641.8893 | jdeer@csp.edu

2018 D2CCA BASEBALL CENTRAL REGION PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Alex Achtermann, University of Nebraska at Kearney (3B/RF/RHP, 6-2, 190, Jr., Denver, Colo.)

2018 D2CCA BASEBALL CENTRAL REGION PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Gus Varland, Concordia University, St. Paul (RHP, 6-1, 190, Jr., Maplewood, Minn.)

2018 D2CCA BASEBALL CENTRAL REGION FIRST TEAM

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	YR	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	GP-S	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	HBP	SO	SB-A	FLD%
C	Hudson Bilodeau	NW Missouri State	Sr.	.394	.464	.589	1.053	49-45	180	34	71	16	2	5	32	22	3	26	2-4	.983
1B	Reed Hjelle	Minnesota Crookston	So.	.436	.509	.762	1.272	51-51	181	38	79	19	5	10	50	25	4	28	6-6	.987
2B	Andres Rios	Arkansas-Monticello	Sr.	.354	.427	.578	1.005	49-49	192	52	68	14	1	9	52	18	8	19	1-2	.954
3B	Jacob Richardson	Southern Arkansas	Sr.	.357	.436	.614	1.049	53-53	207	51	74	18	1	11	66	21	10	28	3-4	.887
SS	Alex Pimentel	SW Oklahoma State	Jr.	.411	.467	.668	1.136	48-48	190	44	78	16	3	9	54	13	9	15	7-11	.936
OF	Bryce Fischer	Emporia State	Sr.	.404	.517	.690	1.207	55-55	203	61	82	17	1	13	65	45	7	39	11-13	1.000
OF	Jake Gozzo	Oklahoma Baptist	Jr.	.344	.413	.669	1.081	46-46	163	44	56	11	3	12	45	18	4	56	3-4	.976
OF	Jack Schmidt #	Northern State	Sr.	.394	.441	.669	1.110	42-42	160	40	63	20	0	8	46	12	4	21	0-0	.975
DH	Lucas Wylie	Augustana	Jr.	.396	.483	.760	1.243	37-29	96	22	38	8	0	9	31	11	8	28	5-7	.982
UT	Grant Guest	Harding	Sr.	.340	.408	.485	.893	47-47	194	46	66	13	0	5	36	15	8	8	13-18	.937
UT/P	Alex Achtermann *	Nebraska-Kearney	Jr.	.413	.481	.714	1.195	52-52	206	56	85	13	2	15	57	28	1	34	3-4	.916

P	NAME	SCHOOL	YR	W-L	S	ERA	WHIP	APP	GS	CG	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	OAV	SLG	K/9	BB/9
SP	Jacob Blank #	Augustana	Sr.	8-0	0	1.99	0.86	12	12	3	2	67.2	48	20	15	10	86	.198	.280	11.4	1.3
SP	Seth Holman	Emporia State	Sr.	8-3	1	3.39	1.15	19	16	3	0	109.0	111	50	41	14	117	.267	.397	9.7	1.2
SP	Gus Varland *	Concordia-St. Paul	Jr.	7-1	0	1.04	0.81	10	9	3	2	60.1	34	13	7	15	79	.163	.212	11.8	2.2
SP	Hunter Vasquez	Southern Arkansas	Sr.	6-4	0	2.57	1.21	15	15	4	1	91.0	82	38	26	28	101	.230	.364	10.0	2.8
RP	Taylor Langston	Henderson State	Jr.	2-2	9	1.63	0.72	19	0	0	0	27.2	18	5	5	2	31	.184	.265	10.1	0.7
UT/P	Alex Achtermann *	Nebraska-Kearney	Jr.	6-1	0	4.45	1.48	11	11	0	0	62.2	71	38	31	22	55	.284	.436	7.9	3.2

2018 D2CCA BASEBALL CENTRAL REGION SECOND TEAM

POS	NAME	SCHOOL	YR	AVG	OBP	SLG	OPS	GP-S	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	HBP	SO	SB-A	FLD%
C	Juan Gonzalez #	Oklahoma Baptist	Sr.	.352	.442	.545	.987	47-47	165	40	58	11	0	7	33	25	4	38	7-11	.988
C	Bo Schmitz	St. Cloud State	Jr.	.329	.422	.573	.994	50-49	185	48	59	13	2	10	47	33	2	21	6-8	.988
1B	Sean Wagner	Arkansas-Monticello	Sr.	.356	.415	.595	1.010	49-49	205	51	73	14	1	11	61	21	1	30	2-3	.992
2B	Dallas Reed	Pittsburg State	Sr.	.358	.450	.488	.938	44-44	162	38	58	12	0	3	36	21	7	15	5-5	.949
3B	Zane Gelpman	Oklahoma Baptist	Sr.	.337	.399	.701	1.100	48-48	187	49	63	13	2	17	55	18	4	28	2-2	.939
SS	Colton Pogue	Pittsburg State	Sr.	.396	.492	.627	1.120	52-52	212	62	84	18	2	9	39	29	13	33	8-13	.926
OF	Brett Berghammer	Oklahoma Baptist	Sr.	.385	.463	.529	.993	48-48	187	49	72	14	2	3	37	27	2	20	8-10	1.000
OF	Brandon Hernandez	Nebraska-Kearney	Jr.	.383	.425	.563	.988	52-52	240	50	92	27	2	4	46	18	1	21	12-13	.958
OF	Brian Ray	Arkansas-Monticello	Sr.	.316	.472	.592	1.064	49-49	174	55	55	11	2	11	43	49	6	39	3-5	.981
DH	Dallas Schramm #	Nebraska-Kearney	Sr.	.318	.391	.581	.972	51-51	217	50	69	16	1	13	65	25	3	35	0-1	.980
UT	Brady Weiss	Arkansas-Monticello	Sr.	.291	.402	.547	.948	49-49	203	56	59	13	0	13	51	34	5	32	3-4	.990
UT/P	Cody White	Pittsburg State	Sr.	.319	.372	.482	.854	45-45	166	29	53	9	0	6	37	14	1	30	6-10	.940

P	NAME	SCHOOL	YR	W-L	S	ERA	WHIP	APP	GS	CG	SHO	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	OAV	SLG	K/9	BB/9
SP	Dominic Austing	St. Cloud State	Jr.	6-1	0	1.93	0.94	12	12	3	1	70.0	58	16	15	8	64	.226	.284	8.2	1.0
SP	Bryant Haralson #	Henderson State	Sr.	9-3	0	3.85	1.09	14	14	6	2	105.1	97	58	45	18	100	.241	.392	8.5	1.5
SP	Tyler Mitzel	Augustana	Sr.	9-0	0	1.88	1.06	11	8	2	2	52.2	44	12	11	12	47	.243	.298	8.0	2.1
SP	Dalton Roach ^	Minnesota State	Sr.	8-2	0	3.30	1.01	11	10	4	1	71.0	57	28	26	15	86	.214	.383	10.9	1.9
RP	Trevor Dudar	NW Missouri State	Jr.	3-0	14	2.25	1.13	27	0	0	0	32.0	24	9	8	12	31	.209	.304	8.7	3.4
UT/P	Cody White	Pittsburg State	Sr.	2-1	11	2.74	1.52	18	0	0	0	23.0	23	10	7	12	31	.247	.355	12.1	4.7

* - D2CCA Region Pitcher/Player of the Year || ^ - Three-time D2CCA All-Region || # - Two-time D2CCA All-Region

The Division II Conference Commissioners Association All-America and All-Region Baseball Teams are sponsored by the Division II Conference Commissioners Association (D2CCA). The teams are voted on by the members of D2SIDA, NCAA Division II Sports Information Directors Association.

The Division II Conference Commissioners Association encourages and promotes Division II athletics and high standards of sportsmanship as important elements of higher education. The CCA is a key communications link among the conferences as they discuss views, policies and regulations that impact Division II intercollegiate athletics and works closely with the NCAA as a communications channel to NCAA Division II member colleges and universities.