



## **NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION**

*(February 17, 2021)*

*ncbwa.com*

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## **NCBWA DENOTES 21<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL 2021 NCAA DIVISION I PRESEASON ALL-AMERICA TEAMS**

**DALLAS** – After a season shortened by COVID-19 and no NCAA Championship activity in 2020, the 21<sup>st</sup> annual NCBWA Division I preseason All-America teams bring hope to student-athletes, coaches and fans awaiting the beginning of 2021 DI play Friday.

A two-time member of the NCBWA preseason dream team, Vanderbilt pitching ace Kumar Rocker returns from a 2019 season when he paced the Commodores to the latest NCAA title with a 12-5 record, 114 strikeouts in 99-plus innings and a first-ever NCAA Super Regional no-hitter against Duke.

After going 2-1 in 2020's abbreviated action with a 1.80 earned run average and 28 strikeouts in 15 innings of work, the junior righthander headlines a stellar first team mound staff among the All-America selections.

The five starting pitchers on the top unit posted an impressive 13-1 mark (.929 composite winning percentage), struck out 140 opposing hitters in 103 1/3 total innings (12.2 strikeouts every nine innings) and number besides Rocker team aces Jack Leiter of Vanderbilt, Jordan Wicks of Kansas State, Zach Pettway of UCLA and Connor Prielipp of Alabama.

The first team relief corps put up equally impressive numbers with 22 saves in just 29 appearances and a pair of 0.00 ERAs by Oklahoma's Jason Ruffcorn and Louisville's Michael Kirian. Baylor's Luke Boyd and Kirian each tallied six saves, while fellow standouts Tyler Grauer of Indiana State and Ruffcorn racked up five saves apiece.

In a shortened season played in primarily cooler temperatures, the first squad regulars, designated hitter and utility player had exceptional performances.

Outfielder John Rhodes of Kentucky batted .426 in 17 contests, while fellow gardener Grant Richardson sported a .424 hitting standard. Louisiana Tech slugger OF Parker Bates launched eight home runs with a whopping 28 RBI in 17 games to tie DH Wes Clarke of South Carolina and second team catcher Hunter Goodman of Memphis for top honors in that department. Playing in 18 encounters, Virginia 3B Zack Gelof added five home runs, while Florida OF Jud Fabian notched five homers and drove in 13 runs in 17 games among the first-teamers.

Utility player Davis Sharpe of Clemson hit a solid .311 in 13 tussles and was 1-1 in four mound starts with 20 strikeouts in 18-plus innings pitched to gain top squad honors in that multi-purpose category.

Previous NCBWA All-America teams from 1996-2020 also have featured the likes of 3B Kris Bryant of San Diego, P Stephen Strasburg of San Diego State, 1B Mark Teixeira of Georgia Tech, RHP Mark Prior of USC, SS-2B Rickie Weeks of Southern U., 3B Alex Gordon of Nebraska, P David Price of Vanderbilt, C Buster Posey of Florida State, C Mike Zunino of Florida, OF Andrew Benintendi of Arkansas, and 1B-P Brendan McKay of Louisville, among others.

All told, there are 18 different conferences represented, along with players with 11 conference championship teams from the completed 2019 campaign. There are 21 schools represented in 2019 NCAA Regionals and numerous preseason conference players and pitchers of the year on all three NCBWA teams.

Founded in 1962, the NCBWA is dedicated to the advancement of college baseball. Membership is open to writers, broadcasters and publicists of the sport. For more information about the NCBWA, visit the association's official website [www.ncbwa.com](http://www.ncbwa.com). The preseason All-America squads are considered the first step toward the eventual selection of the 2021 Dick Howser Trophy presented by the Game Headwear and voted upon for 24 seasons by members of the NCBWA.

## **2021 NCBWA Division I Preseason All-America Team**

### FIRST TEAM (2020 Statistics)

Pos.	Name, School, Class	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBIs	BB	SO	SB/SBA
C	Henry Davis, Louisville, So.	.372	14	43	11	16	5-0-3	13	8	4	1/1
1B	Maxwell Costes, Maryland, Jr.	.432	15	44	14	19	2-0-4	15	16	7	3/3
2B	Austin Schultz, Kentucky, Jr.	.393	16	61	20	24	5-1-5	20	8	12	5/6
SS	Cal Conley, Texas Tech, r-Fr.	.371	18	70	15	26	8-1-3	24	8	11	5/5
3B	Zack Gelof, Virginia, Jr.	.349	18	63	24	22	6-2-5	18	13	18	4/7
OF	Parker Bates, Louisiana Tech, Sr.	.422	17	64	20	27	4-1-8	28	11	9	2/4
OF	Jud Fabian, Florida, So.	.294	17	68	19	20	6-0-5	13	13	18	2/2
OF	Christian Franklin, Arkansas, Jr.	.381	16	63	21	24	4-1-3	11	10	14	3/4
OF	John Rhodes, Kentucky, So.	.426	17	61	11	26	10-1-1	19	2	5	1/4
OF	Grant Richardson, Indiana, So.	.424	14	59	21	25	3-2-5	17	4	16	1/1
DH	Wes Clarke, South Carolina, Jr.	.286	16	56	14	16	0-0-8	22	8	15	0/1
UT	Davis Sharpe, Clemson, So.	.311	13	45	6	14	2-0-4	10	8	14	½

1-1, 3.93ERA, 4G, 4GS, 0CG, 0SV, 18.1IP, 20H, 8R, 8ER, 4BB, 20K

Pos.	Name School, Year	W-L	ERA	APP	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	OPP BA
SP	Kumar Rocker, Vanderbilt, Jr.	2-1	1.80	3	3	0	0	0	15.0	6	5	3	8	28	.118
SP	Jack Leiter, Vanderbilt, Jr.	2-0	1.72	4	3	0	0/2	0	15.2	5	3	3	8	22	.098
SP	Jordan Wicks, Kansas State, So.	3-0	0.35	4	4	0	0	0	26.0	13	1	1	4	26	.151
SP	Zach Pettway, UCLA, Sr.	3-0	1.05	4	4	0	0/1	0	25.2	13	4	3	1	29	.141
SP	Connor Prielipp, Alabama, So.	3-0	0.00	4	4	0	0/2	0	21.0	5	0	0	6	35	.077
RP	Luke Boyd, Baylor, Sr.	1-0	0.82	9	0	0	0/1	6	11.0	7	1	1	1	16	.179
RP	Jason Ruffcorn, Oklahoma, r-Sr.	1-0	0.00	7	0	0	0/1	5	8.0	3	0	0	1	12	.115
RP	Tyler Grauer, Indiana State, r-Sr.	0-1	1.59	7	0	0	0/2	5	11.1	11	2	2	1	23	.239
RP	Michael Kirian, Louisville, Jr.	0-0	0.00	6	0	0	0/1	6	6.1	2	0	0	1	1	.095

### SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name, School, Class	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBIs	BB	SO	SB/SBA
C	Adrian Del Castillo, Miami, So. (3Y)	.358	16	53	13	19	2-1-2	15	11	8	1/1
C	Hunter Goodman, Memphis, So.	.357	17	70	14	25	3-0-8	31	5	16	2/4
1B	Tanner Craig, Evansville, Jr.	.345	16	58	10	20	3-0-7	19	13	20	0/0
2B	Brooks Carlson, Samford, Jr.	.500	15	50	18	25	4-0-3	19	20	4	0/1
SS	Drew Frederic, Troy, Sr.	.409	17	66	18	27	4-1-1	13	11	16	11/15
3B	Rankin Woley, Auburn, Gr.	.412	18	68	13	28	8-0-2	22	8	14	0/0
3B	Tim Elko, Ole Miss, Sr.	.354	14	48	12	17	4-1-3	15	2	13	3/3
OF	*Parker Chavers, Coastal Carolina, r-Jr.	.316	57	209	54	66	9-4-15	54	39	47	10/12
OF	Dylan Neuse, Texas Tech, Jr.	.355	19	76	22	27	5-1-1	12	12	12	12/12
OF	Tyler Kelder, St. Bonaventure, r-Jr.	.387	7	31	8	12	1-0-7	13	0	3	0/0
OF	Bryson Worrell, East Carolina, Jr.	.373	17	59	13	22	6-0-5	14	10	19	2/4
OF	Alex Carballo, Kennesaw State, r-Sr.	.323	17	62	20	20	5-0-4	21	16	12	2/4
DH	Wesley Faison, Texas State, Jr.	.352	17	54	14	19	1-0-6	15	9	7	1/2
UT	Drew Gilbert, Tennessee, So.	.350	15	40	15	14	3-0-1	8	7	6	2/2

OF/LHP, 1-0, 5.62ERA, 4G, 0GS, 0CG, 0SV, 8.0IP, 9H, 5R, 5ER, 2BB, 9K

\*-2019 Stats (did not play in 2020 for medical reasons)

Pos.	Name	School	W-L	ERA	APP	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	B/Avg.
SP	Ty Madden,	Texas, r-So.	3-0	1.80	4	4	1	0/1	0	25.0	18	7	5	4	26	.196
SP	Tommy Mace,	Florida, Jr.	3-0	1.67	4	4	0	0	0	27.0	21	5	5	5	26	.210
SP	Zach Torra,	UCSB, Jr.	3-0	0.36	4	4	0	0	0	25.1	11	1	1	9	39	.133
SP	Gunnar Hoglund,	Ole Miss, Jr.	3-0	1.16	4	4	0	0/1	0	23.1	18	5	3	4	37	.205
SP	Hunter Barco,	Florida, Fr.	2-0	1.40	5	4	0	0/1	0	19.1	11	3	3	6	26	.162
RP	Devin Fontenot,	LSU, Sr.	1-0	0.90	7	0	0	0	4	10.0	5	1	1	4	17	.143
RP	Stephen Schoch,	Virginia, Gr.	1-1	1.62	11	0	0	0/1	5	16.2	10	3	2	5	24	.167
RP	Kyle Mora,	UCLA, r-Sr.	0-0	0.96	11	0	0	0/3	0	9.1	7	3	1	3	15	.194
RP	Micah Dallas,	Texas Tech, So.	1-0	0.57	5	0	0	0	3	15.2	7	1	1	1	23	.132

### THIRD TEAM

Pos.	Name	School, Class	Avg.	G	AB	R	H	2B-3B-HR	RBIs	BB	SO	SB/SBA
C	Caleb Bartolero,	Troy, So.	.394	17	71	14	28	9-1-2	18	2	14	1/1
1B	Kyle Manzardo,	Washington State, Jr.	.435	16	62	21	27	7-0-3	14	6	12	0/1
2B	Zack Raabe,	Minnesota, Jr.	.463	17	67	16	31	7-0-1	10	7	7	0/3
SS	Matt McLain,	UCLA, Jr.	.397	13	58	15	23	4-0-3	19	4	13	1/1
3B	Cody Morissette,	Boston College, Jr.	.448	15	58	14	26	6-0-2	11	9	6	3/5
OF	Owen Diodati,	Alabama, So.	.309	17	55	13	17	3-1-5	22	13	13	1/1
OF	Chris Newell,	Virginia, So.	.407	18	59	21	24	5-1-4	20	13	21	8/8
OF	Tanner Tredaway,	Oklahoma, r-Jr.	.378	18	74	16	28	6-4-3	14	3	13	5/6
OF	Ben Anderson,	Georgia, Jr.	.414	18	58	24	24	6-1-0	13	15	11	5/8
DH	Elian Merejo,	Georgia State, Sr.	.407	16	59	18	24	6-0-5	13	15	14	5/5
UT	Alvin Melendez,	Fordham, Sr.-5th	.392	15	51	8	20	6-1-				
0	15	3	6	6/8OF/RHP, 1-0, 0.90ERA, 5G, 0CG, 0SHO, 1SV, 10.0IP, 6H, 1R, 1ER, 1BB, 13K								

Pos.	Name	School	W-L	ERA	APP	GS	CG	SHO	SV	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	B/Avg.
SP	Zach Torra,	UCSB, Jr.	3-0	0.36	4	4	0	0	0	25.1	11	1	1	9	39	.133
SP	Aaron Davenport,	Hawaii, So.	4-0	2.15	5	5	0	0	0	29.1	29	8	7	6	30	.266
SP	Brett Walker,	Oregon, Jr.	3-0	0.84	5	3	0	0	0	21.1	13	2	2	1	10	.176
SP	Cooper Stinson,	Duke, Jr.	3-0	0.42	4	4	0	0/2	0	21.2	16	1	1	4	24	.200
SP	Jackson Wolf,	West Virginia, Sr.	3-1	1.05	4	4	0	0/2	0	25.2	14	4	3	5	27	.157
SP	Jesse Bergin,	UCLA, So.	4-0	1.24	4	4	0	0/2	0	21.1	13	3	3	7	27	.173
RP	Jaden Hill,	LSU, Jr.	0-0	0.00	4	0	0	2	11.2	1	0	0	5	17	.028	
RP	Kyle Brennan,	Belmont, Jr.	5-0	1.45	9	0	0	0/1	3	18.2	14	6	3	4	23	.200
RP	Haylen Green,	TCU, r-Sr.	1-0	0.00	8	0	0	0/1	1	17.2	7	0	0	5	19	.121
RP	Caleb Wurster,	UConn, So.	1-0	1.29	8	0	0	0	2	7	7	1	1	2	8	.259