

# THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN

THE COACHES' SOURCE FOR AMATEUR BASEBALL

www.baseballcollegian.com

Issue 12 - June 1, 2026

## STOP! OBSERVATIONS FROM A SEASON WATCHING BASEBALL

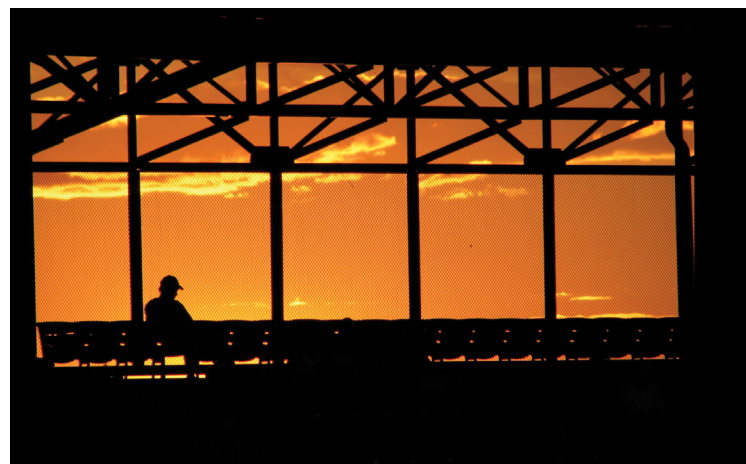
By MARK WOODWORTH  
EDITOR/THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN

After watching 79 live baseball games in the spring of 2026, here are some observations of things that just need to stop happening so much:

**Teams:** Stop letting the runner score from 3B in a first-and-third situation. Teams are trying to trick defenses to be distracted by the runner between first and second. Runs are too important - just let the runner go to second.

**Hitters:** Stop being surprised at two-strike off-speed pitches. This keeps happening, where hitters are way early on off-speed, like they are shocked that pitchers aren't going to groove a fastball for them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



## 2026 COLLEGE BASEBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!



Pearl River Community College in Mississippi celebrates winning the JUCO DII National Championship.

### NCAA Division I

World Series teams:  
#3 Georgia, #5 UNC, #6 Texas, #7 Alabama,  
#16 West Virginia, Oklahoma, Ole Miss, Troy

### NCAA Division II

Tampa (Fla.)

### NCAA Division III

Denison (Ohio)

### NAIA

Tennessee Wesleyan (Tenn.)

### Club Baseball D1

Florida Gulf Coast (Fla.)

### Club Baseball D2

SUNY Brockport (N.Y.)

### Club Baseball D3

John Carroll (Ohio)

### USCAA

Apprentice (Va.)

### NCCAA

Southwestern Christian (Okla.)

### JUCO DI

Johnson County (Kan.)

### JUCO DII

Pearl River (Miss.)

### JUCO DIII

SUNY Niagara (N.Y.)

### Cal CC

Santa Ana (Calif.)

### NW CC

Lower Columbia (Wash.)

Full coverage of all the Regionals, Super Regionals and World Series, will be featured in Issue 13: July in both print and online.

# The Baseball Collegian Player of the Year

## Semi-Finalists

### Position Players

Name	Position	School
Jarren Advincula	IF	Georgia Tech
Roch Cholowsky	IF	UCLA
Quinton Coats	IF	Cincinnati
Tague Davis	IF	Louisville
Landon Hairston	IF	Arizona State
Daniel Jackson	C	Georgia
Gavin Kelly	UT	West Virginia
Vahn Lackey	C	Georgia Tech
Brendan Lawson	IF	Florida
Tyson LeBlanc	IF	Kansas
Mulivai Levu	C	UCLA
Tanner Mally	OF	Western Michigan
Tre Phelps	IF	Georgia
Ace Reese	IF	Mississippi State
Kollin Ritchie	OF	Oklahoma State
Carson Tinney	C	Texas

The Baseball Collegian is proud to announce its semi-finalists for The Baseball Collegian Player of the Year.

The top player and top freshmen in each division will be named at the end of the season.



Tre Phelps - Georgia

### Pitchers

Name	College
Sam Cozart	Texas
Evan Dempsey	Florida Gulf Coast
Hunter Dietz	Arkansas
Mason Edwards	USC
Jackson Flora	UC Santa Barbara
Grant Govel	USC
Jaxon Jelkin	Kentucky
Aidan King	Florida
Chris Levonas	Wake Forest
Isaiah Magdaleno	Hawaii
Jake Marciano	Auburn
Wes Mendes	Florida State
Jack Radel	Notre Dame
Logan Reddemann	UCLA
Ruger Riojas	Texas
Tomas Valincius	Mississippi State
Dylan Volantis	Texas



Jackson Flora - UC Santa Barbara

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## From the Publisher

We love umpires.

We love them because they have committed their lives to being an integral part of the game they love. They have grinded through a million anonymous bad youth games to become high school varsity or college umpires with little fanfare, little celebration. Thank you.

However, something is going on that needs to be better.

In watching a full slate of Div. I regional baseball games, there are just too many ejections. While basketball gives technicals, and soccer gives yellow cards, baseball goes right to the ejection. On top of it, an ejection means you can't play in the *next* game either.

This is ridiculously punitive. While the intention of the rule is to deter the amount of ejections, it doesn't seem to solve how arbitrary some of these ejections are. One thing umpires can do better is have a little feel for the moment. These games and moments are incredibly emotional for players and coaches. For some, it's their last time playing baseball. For some coaches, their job and their livelihood are on the line. The impact for the umpire is none. The impact for the player or coach or team is huge.

So let's give warnings first, then change the legislation so they don't miss the next game, and let's have a little feel before throwing someone out.

*Mark A. Woodworth*

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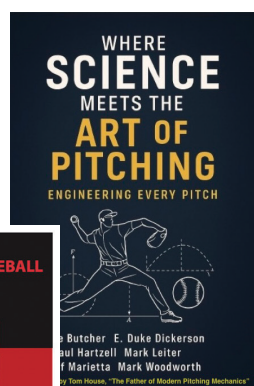
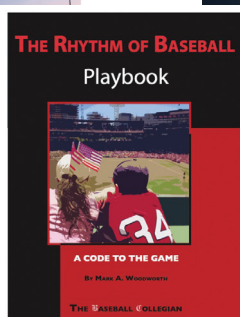
**THE BEST OF THE COLLEGIAN**  
The Coaches' Source for Amateur Baseball 2025 Special Issue

From the Pages of

**The Baseball Collegian**

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# STOP!

## OBSERVATIONS FROM A SEASON WATCHING BASEBALL

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**Third Basemen:** Stop throwing it to second base when throwing it around after a strikeout. The shortest, sharpest way is C to 3B to SS to 2B to 3B.

**Outfielders:** Stop drifting to fly balls. It works fine frequently, until they need that extra gear on balls, and they're used to the bad habit of drifting.

**Shortstops:** Stop giving up the hole in double-play depth. Yes, they need to be closer to the bag to get there if the ball is hit to second. However, a million balls are hit towards the hole that would be easy double plays, but they get through because of the fear of covering. Instead, position where you think the hitter will hit it, then move in - a lot. You'll still cover the highest probable area it will be hit, but also be inherently closer to the bag.

**Hitters:** Stop bunting for hits at the pitcher. Make it perfect or foul. Keep the angle of the bat aligned with a perfect bunt, and don't alter that ever, no matter where the pitch is.

**Middle Infielders:** Stop tagging runners at 2B from behind the bag. This surprisingly even happens in college at times, but apparently this needs to be taught more, because so many fielders think they can stand behind the runner and reach forward without the ball hitting the runner, and in the shortest amount of time.

**Cut-off men:** Stop going out so far. Generations of outfielders never learn how to throw well, because they are stunted by the old adage, "Hit the cutoff man." No, outfielders should throw as far as they can on a line. The cutoff man figures out what this is and positions accordingly. So many throws end up not needing a cutoff man, plus, it's quicker to make a relay this way.

**Pitchers:** Stop running away from popups. It's 2026 - can we stop having first and third basemen sprinting and making acrobatic catches, when adult male pitchers can't just move five feet and catch it?

**Infielders:** Stop dogging-it in between innings. Sure, if you play 162 games a year, this might work, but if you're playing only 20 games, you need more reps, so field them and throw them like you would in a game. That'll be 410 more quality reps than your competition (3 per inning x 7 innings x 20 games).

**Press Boxes and Coaches:** Stop blaring music so that no one can hear around the cage during BP or in the stands between innings, just so a couple of outfielders can hear the music at full blast.

**Coaches:** Stop talking to your team so long after games. Players are checked out after 2 minutes max after all the intensity and focus from the last 3-4 hours.

**Baseball People:** Stop worrying so much about stealing signs when it messes hitters up more than it helps them. Everyone assumes that knowing the pitch that is coming is an automatic ticket to greatness, but when guys know a curveball is coming, they tend to swing at any curveball regardless of where it is. Just watch BP curveball rounds. Plus, bench guys get it wrong all the time, and it's not their batting average affected. Hitters end up thinking about what is going to be called, instead of thinking about the cues from the ball. Everyone has pitch-com now, and hitters are crushing balls everywhere, so it must not be so crucial.

**Coaches:** Stop thinking there is salvation in tech when your hitters swing at bad pitches, and your pitchers can't throw strikes, and your fielders can't catch the ball. There are still a million pitchers that know their spin rate, but have 8.00 ERAs, and hitters who know their exit velo, but are hitting .190.

**Coaches:** Stop letting catchers have a knee-down with runners on, when it is athletically accurate to say that a catcher can't move to all the required positions to catch wayward pitches when the knee is locked down. How many pitches at the bottom of the zone can a catcher really steal for strikes to justify all these runners moving freely to extra bases?

**Pitchers:** Stop thinking you are a pitcher if you can't throw strikes. A pitch is not a pitch if it is not thrown for a strike.

**Parents:** Stop caring so much about five-minute senior day ceremonies instead of caring about your kid swinging at good pitches, throwing strikes, and catching the ball.

**Hitters:** Stop looking fastball and reacting to offspeed. Both speeds can't be covered. It only really works accidentally when hitters are unknowingly late on the fastball, but luckily the pitch was a curveball and they hit it well. This results in not really being able to hit the fastball consistently well. Instead, look for a speed, and take the other speeds (unless there are two strikes).

**Hitting Coaches:** Stop teaching to hit the outside pitch the other way when it has simply created a generation of hitters slowing their bat down (because that pitch has to be hit deeper). A million major league pulled or centerfield home runs are hit on pitches away. It's one thing to consciously see it deeper and swing hard to hit it oppo, it's another to slow your bat down to fit some theory.

**Players:** Stop remembering to bring everything to games (glove, hat, cleats, multiple bats, pine tar, sliding mitts, batting gloves) but not bringing: Good pitch selection; good feel for your release point; and good footwork in the field.

**Fielders:** Stop doing the ole move on tags. It makes sense - the receiver can just blame the thrower for a bad throw, but it doesn't help get the guy out. What the receiver should do on a tag play is field the ball like an infielder, then jump turn quickly to make the tag. Runners are safe 100% of the time on balls not caught.



**Pitchers:** Stop barely throwing off a mound instead of practicing your craft on a downhill plane. The mound is the place of work for pitches, yet they are obsessed with doing all of their throwing with weighted balls and on flat grounds. That's because they don't get negative feedback on poor control in those scenarios, unlike on the mound, which tells pitchers how off they are. The worry about too much stress doesn't hold up anecdotally, as gravity on a downhill mound aids in synchronizing the body, unlike on a flat ground. And according to Driveline, "Our best hypothesis for this would be a lack of movement efficiency on flat ground, athletes should be practicing to have their best movement on the mound, since that is where they compete. This, combined with the evidence that stress doesn't linearly decrease or increase with velocity, is the main reason why athletes would experience higher stress on flatground throws."

**Hitters and Coaches and Tournament Directors:** Stop thinking hitting in a cage and/or off a tee is a replacement for hitting on the field. The cage or tee serves a purpose for getting reps, but they don't give appropriate feedback on distance, direction and angle of batted balls. Hitting on the field humbles a lot of great cage hitters. Plus, hitting on the field requires fielders, which helps their defense.

**Coaches:** Stop recruiting and stop playing players simply on their BP power or their arm strength. Those easy-to-see skills don't necessarily apply in games. Instead, watch the games to see if the play has a feel for the game to apply those skills in games.

**Coaches:** Stop saying the sentences, "If he can just throw more strikes", or "If he can just make more contact." If that is a description of a player, then he has a long way to go.

**Pitchers and Catchers:** Stop covering your mouths obsessively on the mound. No one really can read lips.

**Outfielders:** Stop catching the ball with two hands when on the run. It throws off your balance and is the result of many drops.

**Bunters:** Stop trying to run before bunting the ball. The loss in precision is way more damaging than the speed out of the box. A precise, well-placed bunt gives you plenty of time.

**Coaches:** Stop *not* positioning your players. Good positioning is very impactful and directly leads to outs.

# NCAA DIVISION I

## Top Players in the Super Regionals

JUNE 5-8, 2026

#3 Georgia hosts #14 Mississippi State

**Georgia (49-12)**

C Daniel Jackson - .396, 29 HR

3B Trey Phelps - .370, 19 HR

P Caden Aoki - 9-1, 3.86 ERA

**Mississippi State (43-17)**

3B Ace Reese - .328, 22 HR

RF Jacob Parker - .340, 16 HR

P Tomas Valincius - 11-2, 2.99 ERA

#4 Auburn hosts Ole Miss

**Auburn (42-20)**

C Chase Fralick - .320, 20 HR

RF Ethan Bingaman - .325, 15 HR

P Alex Petrovic - 10-2, 3.19 ERA

**Ole Miss (39-210)**

3B Judd Uttermark - .308, 20 HR

RF Tristan Bissetta - .281, 22 HR

P Cade Townsend - 5-3, 3.94 ERA

#5 North Carolina hosts USC

**North Carolina (48-11-1)**

SS Jake Shaffner .362, 25 SB

2B Owen Hull - .372, 7 HR

P Caden Glauber - 10-0, 2.06 ERA

**USC (46-16)**

RF Jack Basseer - .349, 10 HR

CF Kevin Takeuchi - .311, 9 HR

P Mason Edwards - 9-0, 1.85

#6 Texas hosts #11 Oregon

**Texas (43-13)**

RF Aidan Robbins - .347, 23 HR

C Carson Tinney - .333, 21 HR

P Dylan Volantis - 9-1, 1.94 ERA

**Oregon (43-16)**

3B Drew Smith - .332, 15 HR

1B Brayden Jaksa - .320, 10 HR

P Will Sanford - 9-2, 3.66 ERA

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# NCAA DIVISION I

## Top Players in the Super Regionals

JUNE 5-8, 2026

#7 Alabama hosts St. John's

**Alabama (40-19)**

SS Justin Lebron - 16 HR, 40 SB

RF Brady Neal - .332, 10 HR

P Tyler Fay - 10-4, 4.70 ERA

**St. John's (36-24)**

C Adam Agresti - .290, 19 HR

1B Shaun McMillan - .318, 10 HR

P Liam O'Leary - 8-4, 3.25 ERA

#15 Kansas hosts Oklahoma

**Kansas (45-16)**

SS Tyson LeBlanc - .344, 24 HR

C Augusto Mungarietta - .294, 17 HR

P Dominic Voegelé - 6-3, 5.85 ERA

**Oklahoma (35-22)**

SS Jaxon Willits - .296, 6 HR

1B Deitan Lachance - .333, 14 HR

P Cameron Johnson - 5-1, 4.36

#16 West Virginia hosts Cal Poly

**West Virginia (43-15)**

C Gavin Kelly - .381, 16 HR

1B Armani Guzman - .308, 36 SB

P Maxx Yehl - 8-2, 2.12

**Cal Poly (39-22)**

C Ryan Tayman - .362, 18 HR

SS Nate Castellon - .328, 5 HR

P Griffin Naess - 8-4, 4.00

Troy hosts Little Rock

**Troy (36-30)**

C Jeremy Janicki - .349, 19 HR

SS Aaron Plasecki - .349, 9 HR

P Benjamin Stubb - 5-3, 5.06 ERA

**Little Rock (39-26)**

CF Kade Smith - .329, 5 HR

1B Angel Cano - .293, 12 H

P Brennan Westmoreland - 6-2, 3.12

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# NCAA DIVISION II

## Top Players in the World Series

CARY, N.C. MAY 29-JUNE 6, 2026

### **Bentley (Mass.) 44-15**

OF Jared Berardino - .373, 19 HR  
OF Nick Pappas - .399, 12 HR  
P Pat Heber - 10-0, 3.70

### **Point Loma Nazarene (Calif.) 49-11**

OF Tristan Moore - .388, 17 HR  
3B Josiah Rodriguez - .417, 7 HR  
P Derek Silva - 11-1, 3.41

### **Catawba (N.C.) 47-12**

1B Brandon Crabtree - .429, 18 HR  
P Casey Gouge - 9-1, 3.63  
RP Joe Burleyson - 12 Sv, 2.09

### **Tampa (Fla.) 46-8**

C Jhoander Irigoyen - .377 11 HR  
2B Brayden Woodburn - .375, 9 HR  
P B.J. Bailey - 13-0, 2.08

### **Central Missouri (Mo.) 39-15**

1B Chase Wilcox - .367, 5 HR  
P Sawyer Allen - 8-1, 2.08  
P Greyson Chappel - 2.34

### **Texas-Tyler (Texas) 48-12**

C Cole Ketzner - .348, 12 HR  
P Julio Garcia - 8-4, 3.18  
P Coleson Abel - 7-0, 2.32

### **Indianapolis (Ind.) 39-22**

OF **Austin Bode** - .404, 19 HR  
C Chase Mason - .332, 8 HR  
P Aidan Pearson - 9-3, 4.12

### **West Chester (Pa.) 44-10**

C Caleb Strawhecker - .359, 8 HR  
IF Austin Stalker - .344, 11 HR  
P **Julian Costa** - 12-2, 2.63

**Bold=Region Player/Pitcher of the Year**

# NCAA DIVISION III

## Top Players in the World Series

EASTLAKE, OHIO MAY 29-JUNE 4, 2026

### Adrian (Mich.) 37-12

3B Rolando Jimenez - .369  
C Gabe Jones - .324, 4 HR  
P Landon Kozlowski - 2.38, 4-1

### Endicott (Mass.) 40-11

OF Brenden Walsh, .305, 13 HR  
SS TJ Liponis - .374, 25 2B  
P **Brady Stuart** - 8-0, 1.41

### Baldwin-Wallace (Ohio) 36-10

OF **Dennis Ritlinger-Nirider** .451, 10 HR  
3B Sean Kolenich - .358, 6 HR  
DH Colin West - .339, 5 HR

### Johns Hopkins (Md.) 38-10

1B William Jaun - .389, 13 HR  
C Clay Hartje - .340, 16 HR  
P Dylan Zucker - 2.32

### Denison (Ohio) 45-1

OF **Jack Lutte** - .459, 12 HR  
OF Erik Sundgren - .377, 9 HR  
P Will Rettig - 11-0, 2.55

### Rowan (N.J.) 37-5

3B **Brayden Davis** - .411, 15 HR  
OF Damon Suriani - .381  
P Austin Kreyenhagen - 8-1, 3.66

### East Texas Baptist (Texas) 38-11

OF Connor Massimini - .336, 16 HR  
DH Carson Livesay - .354, 7 HR  
P Isaac Thornton - 9-2, 3.81,

### Salisbury (Md.) 37-9

3B Jackson Inman - .371, 13 HR  
OF Nathan Tondreault - .378, 10 HR  
P **Aidan Brinsfield** - 10-3, 2.61

**Bold=Region Player/Pitcher of the Year**

# Soul Throwers

## The Only Way You Will Learn

By Brooks Hall

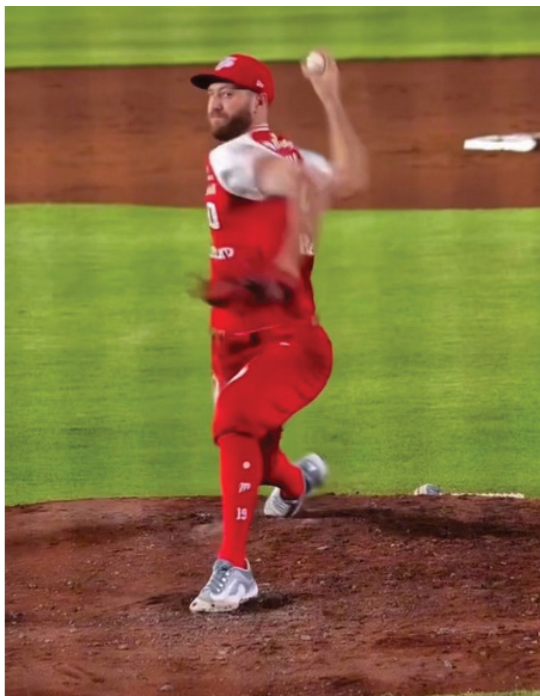
SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR/SOUL THROWERS



Every time you pitch is going to be a learning experience. You're going to always have to understand, why did that happen? Why did I give up three runs? Why did I give up a five-spot? Why was I behind everybody?

Was the game speeding up? Were you focused too much on hitting the corners? Were you not really reading swings, and just throwing whatever the catcher put down? You were just in a panic and just throwing it. You're always going to be learning.

So don't get discouraged or frustrated. Not everybody is going to be the best at pitching every time they pitch. It's unfortunate, but it's not going to happen. It's not that simple.



There's way more to it. You have to keep getting better, and trying. That's all you can do.

But you have to learn from your mistakes. If you can sit back, and learn and when that situation comes back – oh, I know this one – that's the only way you'll learn: By failing, and not letting it happen again.

**Each month at *The Baseball Collegian*, we highlight insights from 14-year pro pitcher Brooks Hall found on his Soul Throwers Instagram page.**

*"We take our own approach when it comes to finding the path for you. We start with a full body assessment and then determine your body's capacity. We find ways to go back to the basics and find a way to turn the brain off and just play. We have more of a holistic approach compared to the industry. Our favorite thing is to throw gas and win on the mound and mold players to do the same thing.*

*"We've helped hundreds of players gain velocity, get rid of anxiety, create confidence they never thought they would have, look at baseball in a different lens, and much, much more. We are trying to help people gain perspective on what they are trying to accomplish. We are just helping shape real humans that want to keep playing baseball." - SoulThrowers.com*

# INTERNATIONAL BASEBALL



EUROPEAN BASEBALL  
**WINTER MEETINGS**  
SOLINGEN | 2026

## Build It... and They Will Come

By **DUKE DICKERSON**  
SPECIAL TO THE **BASEBALL COLLEGIAN**

With growing international interest in baseball, the experienced leadership of the European Baseball Coaches Association, and the valued support of the American Baseball Coaches Association and the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association, Europe stands at a truly historic crossroads.

As entertainment, tourism, education, media, and economic opportunities connected to the game continue to expand globally, the opportunity exists for Europe to elevate its position within the international baseball community unlike ever before.

The foundation for meaningful progress has always existed within Europe — passion, dedicated coaches, committed administrators, talented athletes, proud communities, and a growing appreciation for the game itself. What is needed now is alignment, collaboration, and a shared commitment to building something greater together.

Shared ambition, vision, and mission transform partnerships into purpose-driven progress. The European Baseball Winter Meeting was created to help provide that platform — a place where ideas, relationships, education, leadership, and opportunity converge to accelerate the future of baseball throughout Germany and Europe.

And if Europe embraces this moment, the next great baseball growth story in the world can very well emerge from this continent.

As Babe Ruth once said, “The way a team plays as a whole determines its success.” From 6–8 November 2026, as the European baseball community gathers in the historic city of Solingen, Germany, there exists an opportunity to help shape the next chapter of international baseball development.

The investment required is small. The potential return — for players, coaches, organizations, communities, and the future of European baseball — may prove immeasurable for years and generations to come.

## Take the Free HS Baseball IQ Test!

# DISPATCHES

## Greenwich, Connecticut



On a lazy spring afternoon with nice northeast weather for a change, the scouts amble in as the players are warming up and playing catch in the outfield.



The field is tucked into a corner of the woods and it is quiet, save for the sounds from the lacrosse field through the woods. When THE PITCHER gets on a tiny portable mound in the bullpen, it seems like just another guy warming up, but on this day, the scouts are assembled, ready to watch the prized high school prospect. Rumours of 100 MPH have drawn them to watch this small private high school, Greenwich Country Day School, to see THE PITCHER, Bryce Hill.



A quick warmup, a quick senior day announcement, and THE PITCHER takes the mound. The 20+ scouts huddle behind home plate, a tiny space partially obscured by a wind-screen with three tiny holes for clear vision. With each pitch, the scouts raise their guns and the phones for video. Some take notes, some whisper quietly to each other, some just watch, dreaming of what this pitcher could be some day. Numbers flash - 95, 93, 91, and oooh, a 96.

The other team valiantly tries to make contact, but with little success. Errors are made, which is actually good for the scout to see how THE PITCHER handles adversity.



His team helps him with a few runs, but no one but a few parents seem to notice, as everyone is just waiting for THE PITCHER to take the mound again. A bunch of 93's, some 95's, some 91's. A decent slider. A bunch of strikes.

By the fourth inning, less video cameras and radar guns are being pointed. He comes back out for the fifth inning, and after his last pitch, his 72nd, the scouts grab their backpacks, nod goodbyes, and head out quietly down the left field line. Some are rushing back to the airport to go see another prospect in another state; Some are racing to a neighboring night game; Others are heading back home. The game continues.

THE PITCHER'S day is done: Five innings, two hits, no walks, 1 hit batter, 11 strikeouts. Little stress, little fanfare, business decisions - Pro Ball or Stanford - loom ahead for THE PITCHER and MLB scouting directors in distant cities. The game ends with a 3-0 senior-day win for the home team. A quiet day at the ballpark, yet so much quietly happening.



# American Legion Baseball

## Celebrating 100 Years

American Legion Baseball is a national institution, having thrived through a world war, several national tragedies, and times of great prosperity as well as great despair.

The league still stands behind the traditional values upon which it was founded in 1925. American Legion Baseball has taught hundreds of thousands of young Americans the importance of sportsmanship, good health and active citizenship. The program is also a promoter of equality, making teammates out of young athletes regardless of their income levels or social standings. American Legion Baseball has been, and continues to be, a stepping stone to manhood for millions of young men who have gone on to serve their country or community, raise families or play the sport at the highest level.

### A modest beginning

Community service has always been a core value of The American Legion. In 1925, this commitment was furthered to include a baseball program.

The league was first proposed at an American Legion state convention in Milbank, S.D., when Maj. John L. Griffith addressed the convention. Instead of a traditional speech, Griffith, who was also the collegiate commissioner of the Western Conference (now the Big Ten), spoke about the role athletics can play in the development of youth.

"The American Legion could well consider the advisability of assisting in the training of young Americans through our athletic games," Griffith said. Athletic competition teaches courage and respect, fostering their growth into active citizens, he explained.

The South Dakota convention agreed and passed a resolution urging the Legion to create an organized summer baseball league that started each June. National Commander James A. Drain backed the resolution, which passed that fall at the Legion's national convention in Omaha, Neb. The first program in the world to provide a national baseball tournament for teenagers, American Legion Baseball was born.

In 1926, posts in 15 states began to make Griffith's vision a reality. They organized and sponsored teams, drafted local schedules and conducted championship tourneys. Postseason tournaments at the state, sectional and regional levels culminated with a national championship. Only a few changes have been made to the format over the years. The tournament still has a similar setup: 64 teams play at eight regional sites, with eight teams going on to the World Series. The winning team receives a trip to Major League Baseball's World Series, a tradition dating back to 1926.

### A little help from their friends

The first American Legion Baseball World Series was held in Philadelphia in 1926. Yonkers, N.Y, Post 321 beat a team from Pocatello, Idaho, capping off what appeared to be a successful first season.

The Legion's Americanism director, Dan Sowers, worked to keep the league afloat. Early in 1928, Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis pledged a \$50,000 annual donation from Major League Baseball.

Like other institutions, Legion Baseball fell on tough times during the Great Depression. Legion Baseball soldiered on, even though some posts were forced to run teams on shoestring budgets. MLB resumed its funding in 1935, starting with a \$20,000 donation and continues today supporting the program with an annual grant.

### American Legion Baseball in the modern era

American Legion Baseball enjoys a reputation as one of the most successful and tradition-rich amateur athletic leagues. Today, the program registers teams in all 50 states plus Canada. Each year young people, ages 13 to 19, participate. Since its inception in 1925, the league has had millions of players, including countless who have gone on to play in college and professional baseball, with 82 inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Legion Baseball also has a reputation for serving the young people who play for it. In college scholarships, the league annually awards a total of \$25,000 - \$500 for a player selected from each department based upon leadership, character, scholarship and financial

need. Recently, the Legion passed a resolution allowing corporate sponsorship, in the hope of creating more financial aid for college. Diamond Sports currently funds \$25,000 in scholarships for the American Legion Baseball All-Academic Team. Eight players receive a \$2,500 scholarship and the "Captain" of the All Academic Team receives a \$5,000 scholarship.

In 1949, the national player of the year was first named through the arrangement of Robert Quinn, director of The National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum. Fittingly, winners receive a trip to the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., making them the only amateur athletes invited to the exhibit. The award is now named after George W. Rulon, who served as program coordinator from 1961 to 1987.

Three other recognition awards were established in the 1970s: the Dr. Irvin L. "Click" Cowger RBI Award, the Rawlings Big Stick Award and the Bob Feller pitching awards. All recognize strong performances in the regional and national tournaments.

Over the years, plenty of other major corporations have joined Gatorade in sponsoring Legion Baseball. In the 1940s, Ford Motor Co. dealers supplied uniforms for local teams. Diamond Sports signed on as the "Official Baseball of the American Legion World Series."

### **A prestigious pedigree**

Major League Baseball and American Legion Baseball don't have a formal partnership, but the two owe each other a tremendous debt of gratitude. MLB has sponsored Legion Baseball almost since its inception, and Legion Baseball has returned the favor, churning out major league prospects since the alumni base has been old enough to be scouted. The number of former Legion players who have gone on to the pros is far too large to chart. In all, 82 program graduates are in the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Naturally, Legion Baseball's alumni base includes some of the sport's most recognizable names. Yogi Berra played for Fred W. Stockham Post 245 in St. Louis and was once quoted as saying it was the most fun he ever had. Ted Williams suited up for a post in San Diego. Frank Robinson led his Oakland, Calif., team to the only back-to-back national championships in program history. Babe Ruth was too old to join when Legion Baseball started, but he spent the final years of his life promoting the program as its director of operations. Other prominent players include Justin Verlander, Ryne Sandberg, Roy Campanella, Dusty Baker, Albert Pujols, Greg Maddux and Chipper Jones.



**Berlin (Conn.) Legion celebrates winning the 2009 Northeast Regional title.**

Of all the notable former players, Legion Baseball had perhaps the greatest impact on former Cleveland Indians great Bob Feller. A self-described shy farm kid from rural Iowa, Feller cut his teeth playing for Variety Post 313. He says the experience taught him as much about life as it did baseball. Legion Baseball gave him an outlet to be discovered as a pitcher, but also gave him a chance to form lifelong friendships, learn to deal with let down in athletic competition, and become better prepared for the mental and emotional strain of fighting in a war.

The first Legion alumnus elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame, Feller wrote a column for *The American Legion Magazine* in June 1963, expressing his love and appreciation for the league after it honored him with a plaque in 1962.

"Truthfully, I feel I should have given a plaque to The American Legion rather than receiving one from it," Feller wrote. He penned the column free of charge and admitted that he never endorsed anything he didn't believe in during his career, even for large sums of money.

Baseball graduates have gone on to prominence in other career fields. Former Vice President Dick Cheney played for Post 2 in Casper, Wyo. Famed journalist and author Tom Brokaw played Legion ball in South Dakota, and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack was on a team in Pennsylvania.

In short, Legion Baseball graduates are proud contributors throughout our society and often are the most successful people in their respective career fields.

**SOURCE: *legion.org***

# Coach Mazzoni

## College Baseball Advisors Podcast

The Game Plan podcast is hosted by former Division I baseball coach Wayne Mazzoni as he delves deep into how to develop a five-tool player. The podcast is presented by CoachCast, part of the Fans First Sports Network.

The show features interviews with prominent college coaches, sports medicine experts and well-known sports figures. For 30 years, Mazzoni served as a college baseball coach including at Fairfield University, the College of the Holy Cross, and Sacred Heart University. Today, he is dedicated to helping high school athletes navigate the recruiting process. He is the author of six books and has spoken at more than 500 high schools.

Here are some of the decorated coaches who have appeared on his podcast **GAME PLAN: The College Baseball Advisors Podcast**.

May 22, 2026

Jim Carone, Head Coach, McDaniel

May 21, 2026

Brendan Eygabroat, Head Coach, UMass Boston

May 18, 2026

Adam Taraska, Head Coach, SUNY Purchase

May 14, 2026

Kristaps Aldins, Head Coach, Stevens Tech

May 11, 2026

Eric Cressey, Strength Coach, CSP/NY Yankees

May 7, 2026

Scott Brown, Associate Head Coach, Vanderbilt

May 3, 2026

Bobby Valentine, MLB Legend

Apr 28, 2026

Pete Maki, Pitching Coach, Minnesota Twins

Apr 6, 2026

Mike Kazlausky, Head Coach, Air Force Academy

Apr 2, 2026

Paul Mainieri, LSU, South Carolina, Notre Dame, Air Force

Mar 30, 2026

Matt Blake, Pitching Coach, New York Yankees

Mar 23, 2026

Justin Blood, Head Coach, Keene State

Mar 18, 2026

Jamie Pinzino, Pitching Coach, East Tennessee State



Mar 16, 2026

Dom Johnson, Pitching Coach

Mar 11, 2026

Bill Currier, Head Coach, Fairfield

Mar 10, 2026

Seth Kaplan, Head Coach, Westfield State

Mar 4, 2026

Eric Cirella, Head Coach, Salve Regina

Mar 2, 2026

Brian Casey, Head Coach, US Coast Guard Academy.

Feb 17, 2026

Dan Skirka, Head Coach, Murray State

Feb 8, 2026

Tracy Smith, Head Coach, Michigan

**Listen to the Podcast!**  
Interviews with top college coaches  
**College Baseball Advisors Podcast**

Feb 2, 2026  
Tyler LaTorre, Head Coach, Pepperdine  
Jan 26, 2026  
Rucker Taylor, Head Coach, Davidson  
Jan 21, 2026  
Chris Marx, Head Coach, Campbell  
Jan 14, 2026  
Robert Woodard, Head Coach, Charlotte  
Jan 7, 2026  
Jon Sjogren, Head Coach, Rollins  
Jan 2, 2026  
AJ Miller, Head Coach, Lafayette  
Dec 18, 2025  
John Muller, Head Coach, Union  
Dec 16, 2025  
Craig Hanson, Head Coach, Dickinson  
Dec 15, 2025  
Matt Midkiff, Head Coach, Swarthmore  
Dec 5, 2025  
Joey Hammond, Head Coach, High Point  
Nov 19, 2025  
Ty Blankmeyer, Assistant Coach, Vanderbilt  
Nov 13, 2025  
Mark Calvi, Head Coach, South Alabama  
Nov 11, 2025  
Jim Martin, Head Coach, Stony Brook  
Nov 6, 2025  
Jack Leggett, Former Head Coach, Clemson  
Nov 4, 2025  
Rob McCoy, Head Coach, William & Mary  
Oct 31, 2025  
Kermit Smith, Head Coach, Appalachian State  
Oct 27, 2025  
Steve Trimper, Head Coach, Stetson  
Oct 21, 2025  
Matt Burdette, Head Coach, Kenyon  
Oct 16, 2025  
Chris Pollard, Head Coach, Duke  
Oct 13, 2025  
Frank Holbrook, Head Coach, Brown

Oct 8, 2025  
Lance Ratchford, Head Coach, Marist  
Sep 18, 2025  
Matt Riser, Head Coach, Memphis  
Sep 9, 2025  
Rob Vaughn, Head Coach, Alabama  
Sep 3, 2025  
Jayson King, Head Coach, Dayton  
Aug 22, 2025  
John Szefc, Head Coach, Virginia Tech  
Aug 5, 2025  
Mike Gambino, Head Coach, Penn State  
Jul 25, 2025  
Nate Mulberg, Head Coach, Johns Hopkins  
Jul 9, 2025  
Brian Hamm, Head Coach, Yale  
Jun 24, 2025  
Chuck Ristano, Head Coach, United States Naval Academy  
Jun 16, 2025  
Todd Interdonato, Head Coach, Boston College  
Jun 9, 2025  
David Valesente, Head Coach, Ithaca College  
Jun 3, 2025  
Nick Derba, Head Coach, Maine  
May 5, 2025  
Joshua Parrow, Head Coach, Hudson Valley CC  
Apr 14, 2025  
Nick Barese, Head Coach, UMass Lowell  
Mar 17, 2025  
J.P. Pyne, Head Coach, Amherst College  
Jan 6, 2025  
Jerry Weinstein, Legendary Coach  
Aug 2, 2024  
Rob DiToma, Head Coach, South Florida  
Apr 2, 2024  
Scott Stricklin, Hitting Coach, Georgia Tech  
Feb 7, 2024  
Butch Thompson, Head Coach, Auburn

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By JOE ESPINOSA

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR/THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN THROWERS

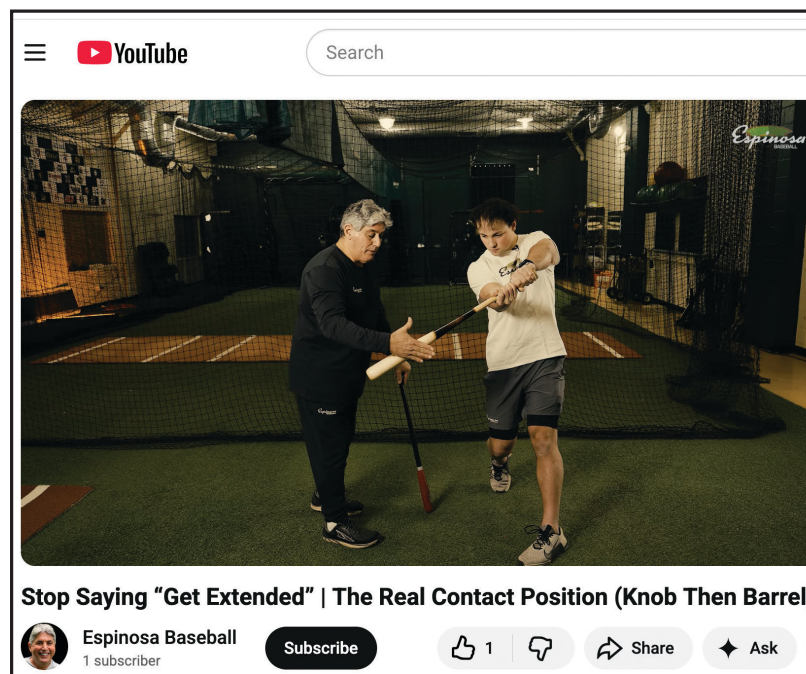
Joe Espinosa currently coaches infielders at Yale University, and has coached championship teams at Amherst College, and at Eastern Conn. State where they won a DIII National title with a 49-3 record. He has also coached thousands of players in private training over many decades.

In Part Three of a wide ranging interview (See Issues 10 & 11), he discusses how he switched his facility training model and the impact it can have for other training facilities.

**A private training center** is a different training center model.

The usual structure is individual lessons or six or 12 packs of lessons. And I did that for many, many years but I saw that kids would get out of it less than what they deserved. And as a business owner, I was always grinding out, grinding to the next lesson, grinding to the next six pack. Not that I try to think that way, but I had the rent to pay.

The big shift came when my friend came to me and he's in the car wash industry and he was doing the same thing, grinding out the single car. And when he went to the membership model and said, "I'm not going to have thousands of people at the car wash, but I'm going to have a group of people who really value this and will pay on a monthly basis and want to have their cars clean all the time. We're going to make this a great customer experience for them." And my head was going to explode to change my whole model.



Coach Espinosa's transformative videos and coaching trainings on foundational fundamentals can be found on his Youtube channel and his website, [espinosa-baseball.com](http://espinosa-baseball.com).

So I went to a year-round membership model instead of having thousands of kids come through in the off-season and then they go to their teams and I don't see them again until the next year. And now I have them. I take 25 in-person players – I have some online as well – but I have twenty five players maximum that I work with year round. And within that year, the first year, I saw the benefit of that financially as a business owner. It took me maybe to the end of the first year where I realized what a value it was to the players.


During the season, the parents videotape at-bats or pitching or fielding, And we use the On-Form video sharing system, which is a great product, by the way. And I can look at them and either do a video review and send it to them, or when we have the next lesson, we put it right up on the screen. And now the time that we spend is very productive because it's so focused.

So the model is you don't need 50 million people to sign up, you just need a core group. I think you can find with this model, the experience for the players is not even close to the old model. They have someone that they can go to when they're struggling or even when they're doing well. They have a friend that they can come to and help them through it with specific training.

It used to be all I could do was swing development. If I had your son for 10 lessons in the winter, I'm not getting much past that. Now I can do all the situational things, all the different parts of becoming a player. I can work on those. And this is profound, not only for the coach, but for the client, for the players. I love that so much.



## Topspin vs Backspin: Why “Hit the Top of the Ball” Doesn’t Make Sense



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# The Wisdom of Skip Bertman

## CHAPTER 5 - Part 1

### MOTIVATION

Coach Bertman inspired the LSU Tigers to many championships, including six Southeastern Conference titles in the 1990's and five NCAA national championships. One of Bertman's cornerstones is his belief in motivation.



### DEFINITION OF MOTIVATION

Motivation is a much-overused, much-maligned term and usually refers to pep rallies or sales rallies in business. Motivation is very, very real. Motivation is the fuel that enhances people's performance. Motivation comes from the Latin word "moto," to move. Even the decision to do nothing is based on motivation. And just as certain fuels burn with different levels of intensity, different kinds of motivation work for different situations and different people.

Let me show you what works for me and that with certain variations, could work for you as well. Here's a quick rundown of some specific motivational techniques I use. You've already seen a few, but I want to give you some more details so you can also use them.

I use custom-made videos, stories of real people and real events, some good demonstrations to make a point, a very large collection of quotes and motivational statements that I distribute regularly, our Successful Speakers Series, and even some individual activities for our players to use on their own.

### VIDEO AS A MOTIVATIONAL TOOL

One of the great motivators, I feel, is the use of video. All people, but especially young people, are zeroed in on video. They're used to watching YouTube, MTV, the TV screen and, of course, computer and iPhone screens. If you keep it short, it will really work. I usually use the time during the other team's batting practice before a game to show video. But it can be done anytime.

The videos are divided into four categories:

1. Baseball skills, stories of ballplayers, stories about the game itself.
2. General motivational videos. These are videos of all kinds of people being successful and people overcoming adversity.
3. Music videos. These are videos of our players, energetic pieces which let our players see themselves on the screen.
4. Educational videos. Videos which carry a great message such as anti-gambling, anti-tobacco or another good message.

But here is the key. You have to collect videos and portions of videos continually. Treat them like a reference library. Update your collection. Do more than just play the tape for your team. For example, prepare a short presentation to introduce the video, then another to drive home the point afterwards. Rehearse your pre-video talk and your wrap-up afterwards.

The world is full of great stories that are highly visual and effective for you and your team. I've created tapes and given them titles our players can relate to, such as "Defense Wins" or "Defense Wins Again," which are really copies of Major League baseball highlights, sometimes taken from videos bought in a store and sometimes taken right off post-game television highlights.

I also use movies like *Mission Impossible*, *Rocky*, *Braveheart* and many others, selecting short segments that I feel are meaningful for the players. Other videos include great moments in baseball like Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak or Roger Maris' 61st home run or other great moments. The videos are put together in a way that is powerful and always motivating to the team.

The most common of the video ideas is highlights of our players set to music. It's very important for our players to see themselves being successful on the screen. We use our own videographers at LSU, but we also use private companies in our community to shoot games and regularly edit the videos. These videos don't have to be professional TV quality, however. They can be done by a creative parent or booster, or even a student with a camera. What's important is to put some cheering, some music and other actions together to inspire your players. I feel certain your school has the facilities to create these videos, but even if it doesn't, you should be able to get a sponsor and still show these videos to your team. Be creative. It really works.

### **BONNIE BLAIR**

Another important item is general motivation — videos that involve things outside of baseball that make a great point like the importance of teamwork, or great Olympic moments such as speed skater Bonnie Blair, who was the first woman ever to win five Olympic gold medals.

### **BILLY MILLS**

Billy Mills had a dream of making the Olympic team but thought it was a long shot. Neither his obscurity nor disadvantaged childhood could keep him from being the first American ever to win the gold medal in the 10,000-meter run.

Some of this video comes right off of television. Great spots on TV — you could take it off and show it to your kids — a nice spot on a magazine show, ESPN's 30-for-30 or E:60 or some other show. A great source of inspirational motivational video can also come from the movies. Rent a movie from your local video store, record that inspirational part and work it around your team, and get the message out to your club. Keep in mind, as a teacher, that you have the option to use existing videos and even TV broadcasts to teach your players. Of course, you have to follow existing copyright laws, which usually means you can make a single copy for instructing your players. Naturally, you can't sell or mass produce copies.

### **THE NICKEL DEMONSTRATION**

Another technique I use is demonstrations. Demonstrations always make a point, a very vivid point, at just the right time.

Here is an example of a demonstration I used with the team just before a game:

You have 25 nickels to represent 25 guys on the team. They're easy to stack, aren't they? You can put them one on top of another and you can get all 25 to stack up straight — not much of a problem. We can stay together and we can be one. But if you have one guy bent out of shape, not in the system — some guy that's not with it — we can carry him for a while. Maybe we can carry two guys like that. But they can offer no foundation. If they're bent out of shape, there's no chance that we're going to be able to get on top of these guys and there's no chance that they can help any of us. If we try to put them in the middle and then try to stack some guys on those players who are bent out of shape and whose attitudes are different than the rest, that's not going to happen. You can't be bent out of shape — you have to be with the team. You have to remember the nickel demonstration.

### **WHERE DO YOU GET MOTIVATIONAL MATERIALS?**

I don't remember exactly where I got the information about that nickel demonstration, but I'm sure that I heard it on an audio program. They are really good. Check out any audio program about personal improvement, team building and management. Yes, they are expensive, but you can't put a price on personal improvement or what you can do for your people. You can listen to them when you exercise or when you are driving. You can listen to them whenever you have time. They'll really help you out.

I also use demonstrations that I learned from people I admire — from teachers, other coaches and businessmen. Learn all you can from those around you. They can teach you, and you, in turn, can teach your team. But demonstrations and symbols aren't the only powerful tool that you have. Don't ever underestimate the power of the spoken word. And, of course, one of the motivators that I use is a story.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

# The Wisdom of Skip Bertman

## CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

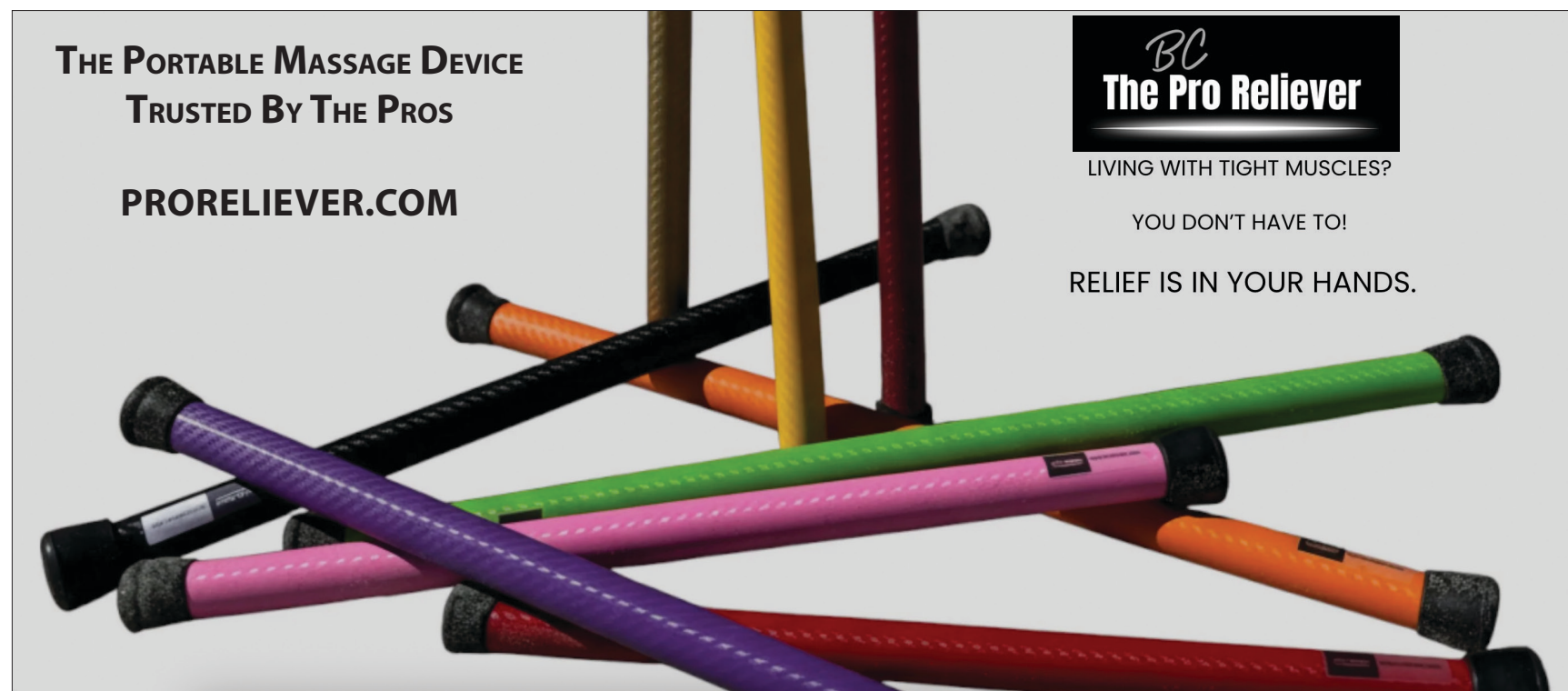
And stories are the best way to make a point that your team will remember. When people hear a story, their imaginations are set off, forming pictures in their minds. These pictures trigger emotions that cause your message to be imprinted, helping your players to remember the names and the point of your story. Usually, I start off the season with this one: Members of your team are likely to remember the story of one man who achieved what many thought was a barrier but what actually was just a mental barrier. Of course, the point of this story is that for you, and your team, there are no barriers.

### ROGER BANNISTER

May 6, 1954, Oxford, England: A tall, skinny 25-year-old medical student named Roger Bannister is going to try and run the mile under four minutes. For 100 years, nobody has been close to that time. The race begins, and Bannister jumps to 1:58.2 at the half. At 300 yards, he takes the lead all the way to the finish and he breaks the tape in a miraculous 3:59.4.

Now that he's done, he collapses and people rush out. They are worried about him because nobody thought this could be done. The crowd of 1,200 goes into pandemonium. But the dream-busters run out to measure the track – it must be too short. But it was an inch over one mile. Wind wasn't a factor. The record stands. The next week, he again runs a sub-four-minute mile, and two other guys do it. That year – from May 6 to December 31 – 13 guys across the United States and the world ran under four minutes. For 100 years nobody could do it. Then 13 people could do it all at once? It was a mental barrier. Now, more than 20,000 people have run under four minutes, including high school kids. The record is 3:44.3.

Once that barrier is broken, you realize the attitude changes. Lives change. You can accomplish and do anything. Our team has no barriers. You have no limits. You can get three hits today and get three homers. You can pitch and throw no-hit ball. You can make great defensive plays. Whatever you visualize, you can do today.



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# College Club Baseball

## 2026 Players of the Week

### Division I

	<u>Player of the Week</u>		<u>Pitcher of the Week</u>	
Week 22	Jaden Earle	Grand Canyon	Derek Steinbrenner	Wisc.-Lacrosse
Week 21	Preston Ocmand	LSU	Bryan Sfanos	Georgia
Week 20	Benjamin Welsh V	Maryland	Owen Walker	Cincinnati
Week 19	Quentin Anguay	Oregon St.	Jacob DiVincenzo	Oregon
Week 18	Austin Stroberg	UCLA	Giuliano Hernandez	Parker
Week 17	Leo Stein	Pitt	Jacob Iverson	Tennessee
Week 16	Ty Bristol	Nevada	Landon Ristau	Virginia
Week 15	Donovan Hunt	Florida	Cole Madsen	Nebraska
Week 14	Carter Hunt	Nebraska	Drew Meyer	Creighton
Week 13	Brayden Bowman	Appalachian St.	Herbie Mitchell	Colorado St.
Week 12	Ethan Casas-Wu	UC-Santa Barbara	Davis Lomenick	Georgia Tech
Week 11	Brock Bergey	Auburn	Brandon Warren	East Carolina
Week 9	Jake Hileman	Pitt	Matthew Bean	Pitt
Week 8	Michael Zordani	Wisconsin	Jimmy McFadden	Notre Dame
Week 7	Scott Hodinko	Penn State	Nate McKenna	Boise State
Week 6	Kelin Rasmussen	MSU-Mankato	Jake Nordean	MSU-Mankato
Week 5	Ryan Cramer	Cincinnati	Noah DeSaulniers	Iowa
Week 4	Nathan Nichols	Marquette	Jared Zerr	South Dakota St.
Week 3	Eli Gramenz	Utah	Jascob Hudepohl	Cincinnati
Week 2	Nate Venneri	Boise State	Nate McKenna	Boise State

### Division II

	<u>Player of the Week</u>		<u>Pitcher of the Week</u>	
Week 22	Caton Lodice	Col. St. Pueblo	Andrew Ishag	Minnesota
Week 21	Donnie Raymond	Stanford	Archer Fouts	Montana
Week 20	James Tate	Arkansas	Cole Bzdawka	UW-Milwaukee
Week 19	Skylor Wild	Colorado Mines	Ryan Jamison	Wisconsin
Week 18	Cole Judkins	Eastern Wash.	Donnie Raymond	Stanford
Week 17	Erich Poynter	Idaho	Teddy Gerkin	Georgetown
Week 16	Grant Smith	Eastern Michigan	Seth Kisner	Ball State
Week 15	Evan Puccio	Central Florida	Tate Nelson	Washington
Week 14	Caton Lodice	CSU-Pueblo	Aiden Roman	Santa Clara
Week 13	Donnie Raymond	Stanford		
Week 12	Anthony DiMillo	North Florida	Frank Contreras	CSU-Northridge
Week 11	Kaden Borst	Georgia	Connor Anderson	Santa Clara
Week 10	Scott Buckmaster	CSU-San Marcos	Julian Sais	CSU-San Marcos
Week 9	Noah Lippman	Indiana	Seth, Kisner	Ball State
Week 8	Will Matias	Marist	Constantine Cheung	Stony Brook
Week 7	Quentin Jehn	Wisconsin	Tate Slowiak	St. Thomas
Week 6	William Vandrey	George Mason	John David O'Hara	Denver
Week 5	Charles Williams	Ball State	Preston Sepe	Indiana
Week 4	Andrew Setter	Milwaukee	Cole Bzdawka	Milwaukee
Week 3	Chase Benson	Fordham	Chris Aucoin	UMass-Lowell
Week 2	Aaron Rupp	Akron	Zack Dezininski	Sacred Heart
Week 1	Jason Due	Marist	Patrick Mattia	Adelphi

### Division III

	<u>Player of the Week</u>		<u>Pitcher of the Week</u>	
Week 22	Ryan Mesko	Robert Morris	Morgan Rohweder	Winona St.
Week 21	Jack Kirwan	VCU	Tyler Wright	Youngstown
Week 20	Brandon Henderson	Cleveland St.	Andrew Kozlevcar	George Wash.
Week 19	Ryan Clarke	Charleston	Ben Ward	VSU
Week 18	Clayton Saftner	Charleston	Evan Wells	Maryville
Week 17	Troy Susnak	John Carroll	Hayden Dowler	Toldeo
Week 16	Griffen Jones	E. Tennessee St.	Jayger Brewer	E. Tennessee St.
Week 15	Will Stevens	E. Tennessee St.	Lillian Everette	E. Tennessee St.
Week 14	Brady Brazell	Robert Morris	Tristan Baron	Catholic
Week 13	Zach LaComb	Furman	Will Hemp	Wake Forest
Week 9	Matthew Riehle	Hillsdale	Jonathan Patten	Hillsdale
Week 8	Ben Ward	VCU	Jon Patten	Hillsdale
Week 7	Ben Ward	VCU	Michael Noonan	John Carroll
Week 6	Nate Scherer	Robert Morris	Nathan Lindner	Adrian
Week 5	Tyler Wright	Youngstown St.	Evan Wells	Maryville
Week 4	Dylan Casani	Sacred Heart	Braden Golden	Sacred Heart
Week 3	Kyle Witte	John Carroll	Tyler Wright	Youngstown St.
Week 2	Sam Schneider	UW-Stevens Pt.	Hayden Dowler	Toledo
Week 1	Cameron Bush	John Carroll	Brendan Laret	John Carroll

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**THE INTENT OF THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN PITCHING PROJECT** is to inform coaches and players and parents of some of the many theories on being a successful pitcher.

Most every concept has advocates with very strong opinions on either side of the argument. Too often, a theory is chosen based on popularity, conventional wisdom, or because someone famous does it that way, as opposed to one's own analysis. With so many contradicting theories, it is essential to have an understanding of all of the possible options before deciding which one to commit to.

These pitching theories are presented without judg-

ment, without confirmation bias, with no preconceptions, and without dogma or commercialism. In turn, the strong hope is that people are inspired to do the work to make up their own mind based on as much information as possible – and in turn, do what makes most sense to them.

Last month, the discussion was about how fast you should go in your pitching motion. This month, the discussion turns to pitch calling.

**Q. Which pitch is the correct pitch to throw at a certain time (Pitch calling/Pitch Sequencing)?**

**General Belief:**

• **Mixing it up** John Madden

By throwing inside and outside pitches you are disrupting a batter's balance. By throwing up and down you are changing their eye levels. By throwing hard and soft pitches, you are disrupting a batter's timing. If you mix all three of these things up, a batter will have a hard time hitting you. (yougoprobaseball.com)

**Other Philosophies:**

• **The pitch that a hitter is not timed for** Perry Husband

Effective Velocity (EV) is the study of pitch speed and how location changes the reaction time by forcing the hitter to hit the ball at a contact point that is different than they were ready for.

When a pitch at 90 MPH is inside or outside, the speed "Effectively" changes because the hitter has to hit the ball earlier or later as though the pitch gained or lost speed. So, in essence, the pitch location has caused the hitter to gain or lose reaction time.

For every 6 inches that the ball changes laterally, there is a little less than 3MPH gained or lost. EV is like time management – only for reaction time. Bottom line in an at bat, whoever understands how timing works will win most of the battles. (hittingisaguess.com)



• **Effective Velocity Elevation** Perry Husband

EV is made up of many smaller facets, that if taken one at a time, are easily understood. One of these elements is elevation. When a pitch is thrown down and inside at 88 MPH, followed by another pitch at the same speed, only higher but also inside, the elevated pitch will be faster. The pitch does not add speed really, it just goes to an area that forces the hitter to react sooner. So, “Effectively”, the elevated pitch gains speed or EV. (perryhusband.wordpress.com)

• **Effective Velocity** Perry Husband’s Tunnels

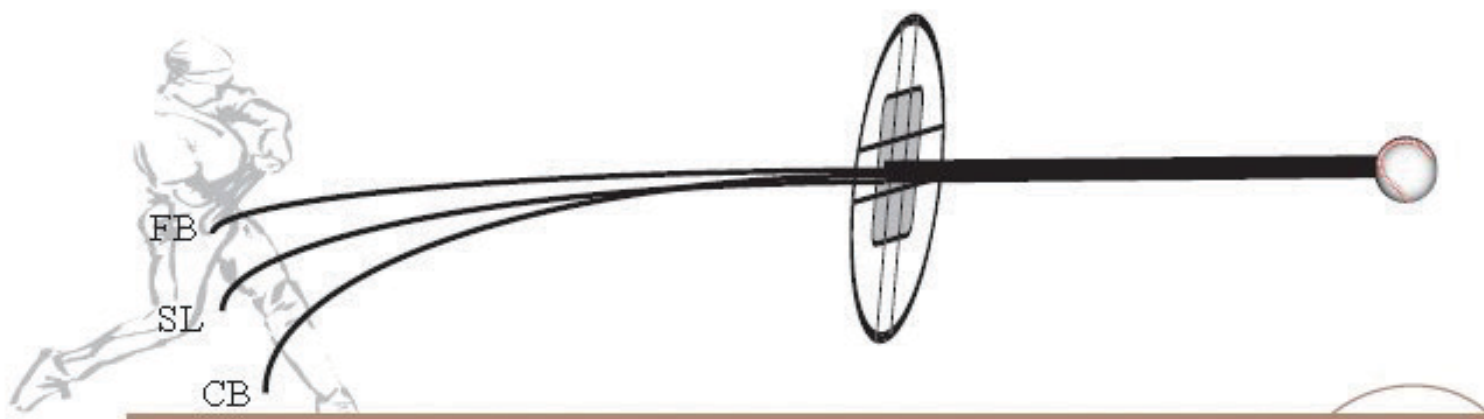
The idea behind pitch tunnels is to “hide” different pitch types by having them share the same trajectory — or tunnel — for the first 20 feet out of the hand. (hardballtimes.com) (sbnation.com)

• **Effective Velocity** Greg Maddux sequence

When asked if he had a particular pitch sequence that stood out, Maddux replied that he did have one three-pitch approach that stood out as especially effective against even the most advanced hitters, and the sequence was rooted in Effective Velocity. Maddux claimed that he would start with a change-up located up-and-in to the hitter, would follow it up with another change-up down and away, and finish high and inside with his fastball. The Effective Velocity of that particular sequence was approximately 83, 77, and then 94 mph, with a timing adjustment that made the fastball feel like Clemens-level heat after being lulled to sleep with the cambios. (baseballprospectus.com)

• **Strikeout sequences** Jon Roegele

While the results of this study may have been predictable to you, I have to say that I had not expected that the three pitch sequence filled with the same pitch type would be by far the most common, nor had I realized how much the slider had taken over the league compared to the curveball and changeup! (beyondtheboxscore.com)



# THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN

## National HS Baseball Poll

June 7, 2026

#	High School	State	Record
1	<b>Tomball</b>	Texas	43-1-1
2	<b>Venice</b>	Fla.	32-2
3	Trinity	Ky.	39-3
4	<b>Barbe</b>	La.	38-3
5	<b>Tampa Jesuit</b>	Fla.	28-6
6	<b>St. John Bosco</b>	Calif.	27-5
7	<b>Orange Lutheran</b>	Calif.	25-6
8	<b>Harvard-Westlake</b>	Calif.	26-6
9	<b>Keller</b>	Texas	40-4-2
10	<b>Pleasant Grove</b>	Texas	39-4
11	<b>Calallen</b>	Texas	38-3
12	<b>Stony Brook School</b>	N.Y.	22-3
13	<b>South Walton</b>	Fla.	30-4
14	Fairfield Prep	Conn.	26-1
15	<b>First Presbyterian</b>	Ga.	35-2
16	<b>Magnolia Heights</b>	Miss.	36-4-1
17	<b>Norco</b>	Calif.	28-5
18	<b>Malvern Prep</b>	Pa.	34-4
19	<b>Center Grove</b>	Ind.	25-1
20	<b>James Island</b>	S.C.	31-4
21	<b>Catholic</b>	La.	37-5
22	<b>Loganville</b>	Ga.	36-5
23	<b>Providence</b>	N.C.	32-2
24	<b>Bishop Gorman</b>	Nev.	33-6
25	<b>Stoneman Douglas</b>	Fla.	28-6
26	Delbarton	N.J.	29-3
27	<b>St. Laurence</b>	Ill.	33-3
28	Badin	Ohio	28-3-1
29	<b>Lakewood</b>	Ohio	27-1
30	<b>Dorman</b>	S.C.	30-4
31	<b>Brother Martin</b>	La.	35-7
32	<b>Cleveland</b>	N.M.	27-4
33	Bridgeport	W.V.	26-4
34	Lyman Hall	Conn.	25-1
35	<b>Etowah</b>	Ga.	32-7
36	<b>Aledo</b>	Texas	43-5
37	<b>Waxahachie</b>	Texas	37-5
38	<b>Buford</b>	Ga.	29-5-1
39	<b>Pope</b>	Ga.	37-4
40	<b>Omaha Westside</b>	Neb.	32-5
41	<b>Bishop Moore</b>	Fla.	30-3
42	<b>Paul VI</b>	Va.	28-6
43	<b>North Paulding</b>	Ga.	32-7
44	<b>Cathedral Catholic</b>	Calif.	26-6
45	<b>Canterbury School</b>	Fla.	26-5
46	Atlee	Va.	21-1
47	<b>Conley</b>	N.C.	23-3
48	<b>Siegel</b>	Tenn.	39-6
49	<b>Archbishop Moeller</b>	Ohio	25-6
50	<b>BC High</b>	Mass.	20-3



Photo by Jimmy Zanor

**Red = State Champs**

**Bold = Season Over**

### Teams by State:

Florida	6
Georgia	6
Texas	6
California	5
Louisiana	3
Ohio	3
Connecticut	2
North Carolina	2
South Carolina	2
Virginia	2
Illinois	1
Indiana	1
Kentucky	1
Massachusetts	1
Mississippi	1
Nebraska	1
Nevada	1
New Jersey	1
New Mexico	1
New York	1
Pennsylvania	1
Tennessee	1
West Virginia	1

# THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN Northern College Poll

May 26, 2026

#	College	State	Record	Conference
1	Nebraska	Neb.	42-15	Big Ten
2	Kansas	Kan.	42-16	Big 12
3	Cincinnati	Ohio	37-20	Big 12
4	Missouri State	Md.	34-18	C-USA
5	Purdue	Ind.	37-20	Big Ten
6	Boston College	Mass.	36-21	ACC
7	Michigan	Mich.	34-24	Big Ten
8	Iowa	Iowa	33-23	Big Ten
9	Pittsburgh	Pa.	33-24	ACC
10	Notre Dame	Ind.	31-22	ACC
11	SE Missouri State	Mo.	39-18	Ohio Valley
12	Kent State	Ohio	42-15	Mid-American
13	Miami (Ohio)	Ohio	38-17	Mid-American
14	Kansas State	Kan.	30-27	Big 12
15	Northern Illinois	Ill.	35-17	Mid-American
16	Minnesota	Minn.	30-23	Big Ten
17	Northeastern	Mass.	38-20	Colonial
18	Eastern Illinois	Ill.	33-21	Ohio Valley
19	Ohio State	Ohio	30-25	Big Ten
20	Utah Tech	Utah	35-24	Western Athletic
21	Yale	Conn.	30-13	Ivy
22	Utah	Utah	26-25	Big 12
23	St. Joseph's	Pa.	36-20	Atlantic 10
24	Creighton	Neb.	31-26	Big East
25	St. John's	N.Y.	33-24	Big East

Weather is such a huge factor in the overall success of college baseball teams. With all the travel, lack of outdoor practice, and 3/4 of the season on the road, there is such a huge competitive inequity for cold weather teams vs. warm weather teams. Comparing them is like comparing apples to oranges.

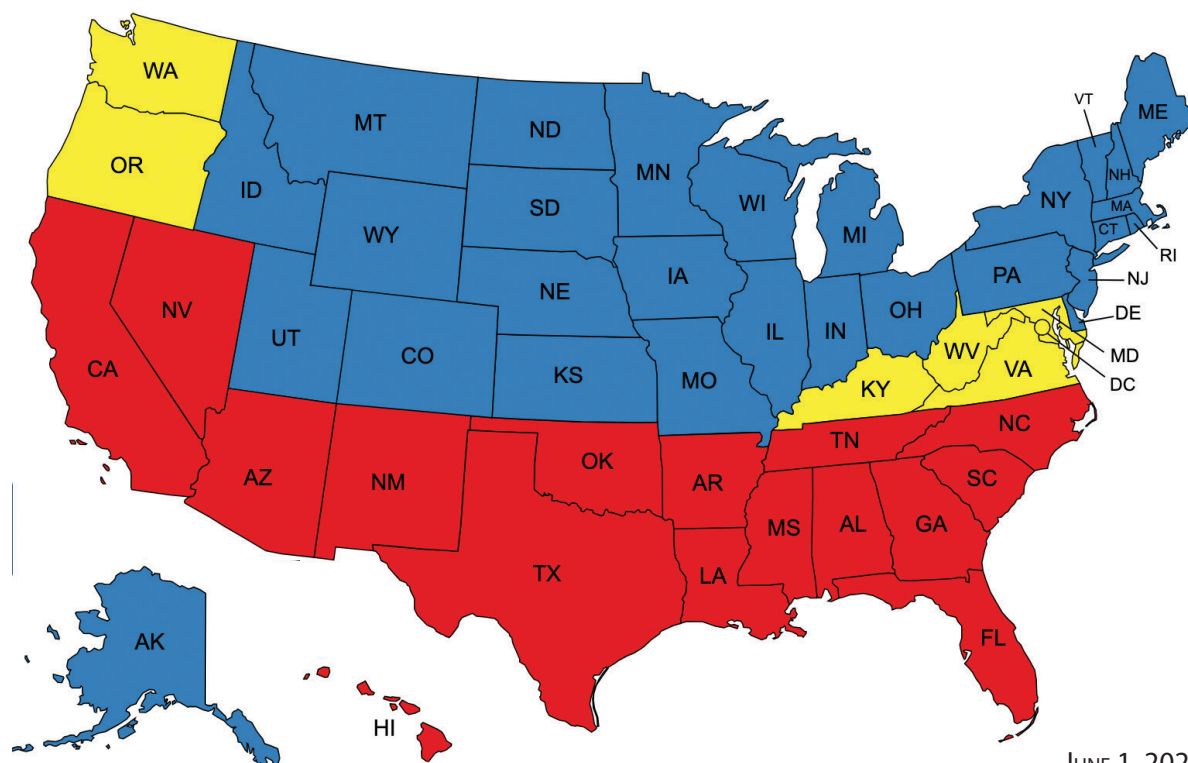
Maybe someday there will be a Northern College World Series for cold-weather teams only. But for now, here is *The Baseball Collegian's Northern College Baseball Poll* to celebrate just those teams from northern climates.

### Notes:

Win-loss percentage and strength of schedule are key factors.

Teams below .500 are not eligible for the poll.

Mild weather states (yellow on the map) are considered warm weather states.



### Teams by State:

Ohio	4
Illinois	2
Indiana	2
Kansas	2
Massachusetts	2
Nebraska	2
Pennsylvania	2
Utah	2
Connecticut	1
Iowa	1
Maryland	1
Michigan	1
Minnesota	1
Missouri	1
New York	1

# National Polls - College

## NCAA Division I

### Baseball Collegian Poll (6/1/26)

1	Georgia	49-12
2	UCLA	52-8
3	Georgia Tech	50-11
4	Texas	43-13
5	North Carolina	48-12
6	West Virginia	43-15
7	Southern California	47-16
8	Kansas	45-16
9	Mississippi State	43-17
10	Texas A&M	41-16
11	Oregon	43-16
12	Oregon State	45-14
13	Southern Mississippi	44-17
14	Jacksonville State	48-15
15	Nebraska	43-17
16	Auburn	42-20
17	Alabama	40-19
18	Florida State	40-19
19	Florida	41-21
20	California Baptist	44-15
21	Mississippi	39-21
22	Arkansas	41-22
23	Mercer	44-15
24	Arizona State	39-21
25	Liberty	43-21
26	Oklahoma State	39-22
27	Miami	39-20
28	UC Santa Barbara	40-20
29	Kent State	42-15
30	Cincinnati	38-22

**Receiving Votes:** Wake Forest, Texas-San Antonio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Louisiana, Campbell, Missouri State

## NCAA Division II

### Baseball Collegian Final Poll (6/5/26)

1	Tampa	49-8
2	West Chester	47-10
3	Texas-Tyler	50-14
4	Colorado Mesa	53-7
5	Francis Marion	46-14
6	North Greenville	49-12
7	Catawba	49-14
8	Pittsburg State	45-11
9	Point Loma Nazarene	50-13
10	Indianapolis	39-24
11	Grand Valley State	48-10
12	West Florida	43-16
13	Lenoir-Rhyne	38-13
14	North Georgia	42-16
15	Young Harris	41-18
16	Central Missouri	40-17
17	Rollins	36-16
18	Wingate	40-19
19	Seton Hill	42-11
20	Rogers State	40-15
21	Belmont Abbey	38-16
22	Angelo State	42-19
23	Cal State Monterey Bay	37-18
24	Augustana (SD)	45-16
25	St. Mary's (TX)	39-19
26	SC-Aiken	36-17
27	Bentley	44-17
28	Molloy	42-12
29	Lee	38-19
30	Emporia State	37-16

**Receiving votes:** West Alabama, North-west Missouri State, North Carolina-Pembroke, Lander, Cal St. San Marcos, Minnesota St.-Mankato, Millersville, Eckerd, Northwest Nazarene

## NCAA Division III

### Baseball Collegian Final Poll (6/4/26)

1	Denison	51-3
2	Endicott	44-14
3	East Texas Baptist	40-13
4	Lynchburg	40-9
5	Salve Regina	40-8
6	Rowan	38-7
7	Salisbury	37-11
8	Johns Hopkins	38-12
9	Shenandoah	37-12
10	Baldwin-Wallace	37-12
11	Adrian	40-14
12	Bethany Lutheran	35-8
13	Wisconsin-Whitewater	43-6
14	Claremont-Mudd-Scripps	35-15
15	Tufts	31-11
16	Montclair State	31-11
17	Russell Sage	37-8
18	Pomona-Pitzer	33-14
19	Chicago	30-15
20	Bridgewater, Virginia	35-15
21	Millikin	35-10
22	Piedmont	33-15
23	Washington, Missouri	30-13
24	Messiah	36-15
25	Kean	32-13
26	Mount Union	32-12
27	DeSales	34-14
28	Wittenberg	31-13
29	Southern Maine	32-12
30	Kalamazoo	33-13

**Receiving votes:** Wisconsin La Crosse, Bellhaven, SUNY Cortland, Transylvania, Whitworth, DePauw, Penn State-Harrisburg, Bethel

## NAIA

### Baseball Collegian Final Poll (6/1/26)

1	Tennessee Wesleyan	49-15
2	Taylor	49-7
3	Indiana-Southeast	44-16
4	Bellevue	48-6
5	Georgia Gwinnett	49-8
6	Lewis-Clark State	43-9
7	William Carey	41-18
8	Cumberlands KY	43-10
9	Johnson (TN)	38-14
10	Kansas Wesleyan	49-9
11	Doane	44-11
12	Mid-America Christian	35-12
13	Missouri Baptist	40-12
14	Southeastern	42-17
15	Texas Wesleyan	39-12
16	LSU-Shreveport	41-14
17	Milligan	41-15
18	Abraham Baldwin	35-14
19	British Columbia	35-15
20	Huntington	35-14
21	Louisiana Christian	37-14
22	Indiana Tech	43-17
23	Hope International	34-13
24	Concordia NE	36-18
25	Marian	34-18

**Receiving Votes:** Loyola, Ottawa, LSU-Alexandria, Freed-Hardeman, Oklahoma Wesleyan, Houston-Victoria, Indiana Wesleyan

## Northwest Community College NWAC

### Baseball Collegian Final Poll (6/1/26)

1	Lower Columbia	44-11
2	Lane	38-17
3	Linn-Benton	38-10
4	Everett	43-10
5	Spokane	38-13
6	Edmonds	39-13
7	Wenatchee Valley	32-20
8	Pierce	28-21
9	Umpqua	26-19
10	Columbia Basin	28-22

## Junior College

### NJCAA Div. 1

#### Baseball Collegian Final Poll (6/1/26)

1	Johnson County CC	67-3
2	Cloud County CC	50-7
3	Blinn	48-14
4	Gaston	54-5
5	Miami Dade	39-19
6	Chipola	45-12
7	LSU-Eunice	47-12
8	Wabash Valley	44-22
9	Iowa Western CC	46-11
10	Hartford	55-8
11	Florence-Darlington Tech	50-13
12	Midland	53-12
13	McLennan CC	46-13
14	College of Southern Nevada	37-12
15	Gulf Coast State	32-20
16	Walters State CC	53-13
17	Grayson	36-15
18	Cochise	46-15
19	John A. Logan	46-13
20	Georgia Highlands	45-15
21	Crowder	42-18
22	Shelton State CC	46-16
23	Seminole State	48-13
24	Weatherford	41-20
25	Salt Lake CC	39-18

**Receiving Votes:** Hutchinson, Northwest Florida State, Odessa

## Junior College

### NJCAA Div. 3

#### Baseball Collegian Final Poll (6/1/26)

1	SUNY Niagara	50-2
2	Rowan S. Jersey-Gloucester	54-6
3	Dallas Eastfield	40-12
4	Hudson Valley CC	35-4
5	Caldwell CC & Tech	23-17
6	Alexandria Tech & CC	27-15
7	Northern Essex CC	27-7
8	Brookdale CC	41-11
9	Century	46-10
10	Suffolk CC	40-13
11	Surry CC	37-12
12	Herkimer	34-6
13	Terra State CC	24-12
14	Monroe-Bronx	28-16
15	Oakton CC	34-28

**Receiving Votes:** Harper, Dallas-Richland, Riverland, Rowan S. Jersey-Cumberland

## Junior College

### NJCAA Div. 2

#### Baseball Collegian Final Poll (6/1/26)

1	Pearl River CC	50-11
2	South Mountain CC	52-18
3	Kellogg CC	49-7
4	East Central CC	48-15
5	Madison	45-12
6	Pasco-Hernando State	38-24
7	Brunswick CC	42-9
8	Parkland	40-17
9	Heartland CC	43-16
10	Jones College	41-18
11	Iowa Central CC	49-12
12	Southeastern CC	45-15
13	Kirkwood CC	45-10
14	Murray State	42-13
15	Lurleen B. Wallace CC	37-11
16	Lake-Sumter State	37-22
17	Northwest Mississippi CC	34-21
18	Frederick CC	37-15
19	Northern Oklahoma-Enid	42-22
20	Western Oklahoma State	42-19
21	South Arkansas	38-17
22	Macomb CC	37-16
23	Rock Valley	36-18
24	Monroe CC	38-10
25	Wake Tech	30-22

**Receiving Votes:** Cleveland CC

## California Community College

### Baseball Collegian Final Poll (6/1/26)

1	Santa Ana	44-7-1
2	Palomar	43-8
3	Feather River	37-16
4	Ohlone	40-10
5	West Valley	33-15-1
6	Santa Rosa	34-15
7	Fresno City	40-5
8	Riverside City	29-13
9	Citrus	33-13
10	Glendale	30-12-1
11	Allan Hancock	34-12
12	Santa Barbara City	29-18
13	Modesto	33-13
14	Folsom Lake	31-15
15	College of the Desert	32-8
16	Cypress	28-16
17	El Camino	33-9
18	San Joaquin Delta	28-13
19	Saddleback	27-19
20	Grossmont	27-17
21	Marin	27-15
22	Fullerton	26-23
23	LA Pierce	26-21
24	Hartnell	26-20
25	Mt. San Antonio	24-19

**The Baseball Collegian**  
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# THE BASEBALL COLLEGIAN

## You're Better Than You Think

*"You don't give yourself nearly enough credit. Think about how hard you try every single day."*

*-- Mel Robbins*

I misplaced my keys the other day and I spent time cursing myself for the stupidity of doing it.

But here's the thing, 99 times out of 100 I know exactly where my keys are. And if I'm going to criticize and be upset with myself when I misplace them, then why don't I celebrate the times I know where they are?



When I packed for a recent road trip, I forgot one thing and was ticked off at myself.

But I remembered 50 other things.

Why didn't I bask in the afterglow of remembering the 50?

Now, some mistakes are, of course, more serious than others. But my point is how often we overlook the good that we do to focus on the one thing wrong that we did.

Today, learn from mistakes you make, but also give yourself credit for all the things you do right. If you added those up, you might be surprised at how good you really are.

Win Your Day!  
Steve Gilbert

Contact MLB.com writer Steve Gilbert at [winyourday@gmail.com](mailto:winyourday@gmail.com) to sign up for his daily inspirational emails.

