

The History of College Baseball Since 1945

by

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## PREFACE

The major reason for writing a thesis entitled The History of College Baseball Since 1945 is to explain the forces that have led the college game to become as popular as it is today. Collegiate Baseball newspaper began an attendance survey in 1979 as a means to measure the popularity of college baseball. At the end of the 1979 college season, sports information directors sent in attendance figures to the Tucson, Arizona based newspaper. The results showed 5,200,000 people attended Division I, II, III and junior college baseball in 1979. Every succeeding year the same procedure has taken place, with the 1990 results showing an increase to 14,500,000 million spectators.

Another demonstration of the increase in popularity of college baseball is the television exposure it receives. The Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN) began coverage of college baseball in 1980, with the initial telecast featuring Hawaii facing Miami of Florida at the Hurricane's field in Coral Gables. Increases in viewer ratings have led ESPN to expand its coverage to the point that it now televises a number of games throughout the season as well as every College World Series contest except one

first round game and the championship game. (CBS has paid \$500,000 for the rights to the championship game of the College World Series that is played in Omaha, Nebraska). By adding television revenue to the ticket receipts from the eight regional tournaments plus the College World Series, the Division I teams that participated in the 1990 NCAA tournaments share in an approximately \$2,000,000 fund.

Yet another measure of popularity in college baseball is the number of current major leaguers who chose to attend college prior to joining professional baseball. The late 1960's and early 1970's began to produce college stars such as Reggie Jackson (Arizona State), Sal Bando (Arizona State), Tom Seaver (University of Southern California), Dave Winfield (Minnesota), Jack Morris (Brigham Young), Steve Garvey (Michigan State), and Bob Welch (Eastern Michigan). The 1980's have provided even more proof that colleges are where talent is now being developed. Among current major leaguers who attended college are Barry Larkin (Michigan), Roger Clemens (Texas), Will Clark (Mississippi State), Bo Jackson (Auburn), Barry Bonds (Arizona State), Chris Sabo (Michigan), Bobby Thigpen (Mississippi State), Matt Williams (University of Nevada at Las Vegas), Tony Gwynn (San Diego State), Jim Abbott (Michigan), Joe Magrane (Arizona), Ben McDonald (Louisiana State University), Scott Erickson (Arizona), Mark McGuire (University of Southern California), Kevin McReynolds

(Arkansas), Robin Ventura (Oklahoma State), Frank Thomas (Auburn) and Kirby Puckett (Bradley).

A complete cycle has taken place in professional baseball concerning the use of college players. The major leagues in the 1920s possessed many college stars, including future Hall of Fame members Lou Gehrig (Columbia), Mickey Cochrane (Boston University), Christy Mathewson (Bucknell), George Sisler (Michigan), and Eddie Collins (Columbia). There were no minor league systems from which to select players, so the major league owners, especially Connie Mack of the Philadelphia Athletics, signed "college boys"; unfortunately for every success story there were many times the number who failed at making the transition to professional baseball. In the late 1920's, Branch Rickey, former University of Michigan coach and then Vice President and General Manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, permanently altered baseball by creating a "farm" system. Instead of signing a "college boy" to a contract in hopes he could play at the major league level, each professional team developed its own feeder system where it could train young players. Most of these players would sign professional contracts directly out of high school, if not sooner. The younger player could then spend many years developing in the farm system. This is not to say that there were no prominent college players in professional baseball from 1930 to 1970, or high school players who are major

league stars today; however, the trend for the 1990s is definitely for players to attend college before entering professional baseball.

Rickey's system successfully continued from the late 1920's and early 1930's until the mid 1960's when changes began to occur. Dwindling minor league attendance and the lack of financial support from the major league teams led professional teams slowly to begin to drop a number of minor league franchises. In the years 1930-1960 each major league team had ten to twelve minor league farm teams, but by 1970 the average number of teams was down to six. With less talent from which to select in the minor leagues, major leagues began to revert to the practices of the 1920s by directing their efforts towards the college baseball player. The amateur baseball draft, which was established in 1965, shows the turnaround which has taken place. In 1965, seven of the top 25 players drafted in the first round were college players, with the remaining being high school players. No college players were selected in the first round of 1967 draft. The 1984 draft saw as many as eighteen college players taken from the 25 selected in the first round. In the 1971 draft only 363 college players, or 39%, were selected from a total of 932 eligible. The 1990 draft resulted in 865, or 58%, college players being selected out of a total of 1480. The 1989 World Champion Oakland Athletics selected 42 college

players out of their 54 picks while the St. Louis Cardinals picked 52 out of 61. Another interesting statistic reveals that in 1938 only 11.6 percent of active major leaguers had attended college; by 1961, the figure was at 50%, and, by 1985, the figure had jumped to 75%.

The increase in popularity of college baseball has essentially taken place over the past twenty five years and will be the focus of the chapters in this thesis. Media contributors, ESPN, Collegiate Baseball newspaper, the College World Series, the United States Baseball Federation (USBF), the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA), and the top programs and coaches themselves are the major reasons for the increase in popularity of college baseball. The final chapter will consist of issues concerning the college game today that need to be addressed.

## Chapter I

### The Organization of the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) and The College World Series

1945

In the history of college baseball June 30, 1945 was a significant landmark with the founding of the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA). With more than five thousand members, the ABCA has come far since its inception. Three prominent college coaches, Clint Evans (California at Berkeley), Joe Bedenk (Penn State) and Everett "Eppy" Barnes (Colgate), deserve most of the credit for the organization of the ABCA. As early as 1938, Evans began taking his California teams on cross-country trips to compete with schools around the nation. During these trips Evans and his fellow coaches discussed the idea of organizing. College football and basketball had had their own organizations for years, and Evans felt it was time for baseball to follow suit.

World War II, along with the depression, had taken its toll on college baseball; a 1945 survey indicated that only 242 institutions out of 682 sponsored baseball as part of their athletic programs. Just twenty years earlier, in 1925,



over 400 institutions sponsored baseball as part of their programs. With football increasing in popularity, Evans, Bedenk and Barnes decided to take some action.

A survey of college baseball coaches, conducted by Bedenk and Barnes, revealed that most of them were ready to unite. Bedenk and Barnes convinced William Reid, Athletic Director at Colgate, and Neil Fleming, graduate manager of Penn State, to underwrite the expenses of a national meeting. Twenty-five coaches, a number of sportswriters, athletic directors and Branch Rickey, President of the Brooklyn Dodgers, attended the June 29, 1945 meeting. Barnes was elected President, Bedenk a member of the Executive Committee, and Evans the first Vice-President (Appropriately all three men were elected to the ABCA Hall of Fame in its initial year 1966).(1)

With only twenty seven charter members, the organization faced a challenge in 1945. Lofty objectives, such as establishing a College World Series, attempting to organize a team that would eventually play in the Olympic games, establishing a publication that devoted itself to college baseball, and attempting to develop an agreement with professional baseball on the signing of amateur players, were enormous tasks. The organization has done quite well as all of their original objectives have been met. The College World Series began play in 1947, the Pan-American games included

baseball in 1951, Collegiate Baseball Magazine became the voice of college baseball in 1958, and, finally, in 1965, the amateur baseball draft was established. As college baseball grew on college campuses so did the membership of the ABCA. By 1961 over 700 institutions offered baseball as a college sport, with over 900 participating in 1990. Membership in the ABCA went from its original 27 to 450 by 1961 and, as previously mentioned, to over 5,000 in 1991.

The increase in membership brought new ideas that the organization quickly adopted. Four new goals were established: 1) select an annual All-American college baseball team; 2) select a college Coach of the year; 3) begin research on the equipment used in the game such as bats, balls, and bases; and 4) publicize the rules of the college baseball game. All four were met by 1965.

Through the years many other accomplishments have provided the ABCA with benefits. Among these are the selection of All American teams at the High School, NCAA Division I, II, III and Junior college levels, selection of coaches of the year at all levels of baseball, and the annual coaches' convention at which these coaches are honored. The coaches' convention, completely conducted by the ABCA, is the organization's highlight of the baseball season. Coaches from all over the country meet to discuss the game, and clinics are run for three days, during which the top baseball coaches in the

nation provide information regarding their success. Also available are the latest baseball products which are displayed throughout the clinic.

Most of the funds needed to run the daily operations of the ABCA are generated from the coaches' convention. Annual dues, plus convention dollars, account for 75% of ABCA funds. A Board of Trustees, Executive Committee, and officers constitute the governing body for the ABCA.

In order to keep its members updated as to current events, the ABCA publishes a newsletter called "Covering All Bases" Included in the newsletter are rules changes, awards notification, convention news and other items of interest to its members. The ABCA also provides a "Coaching Digest" where coaches from around the nation provide information that their colleagues can use to their advantage. This digest is a great way for the coaches to expand their knowledge of the game without spending a great amount of money.

Still another publication of the ABCA is the annual Baseball Market Place, the official directory of the ABCA which includes addresses and telephone numbers of all its current members. First published in 1989, the book also contains sections on all youth and amateur baseball, professional baseball, a buyers' guide, the media, and many articles on college baseball. The Baseball Market Place is truly a reference book that enables members of the ABCA to

perform their jobs more effectively.

1946

The first annual meeting of the ABCA took place on January 7, 1946 in New York City with discussion centering on the possibility of a national championship playoff. Instead of attempting to organize a national championship playoff in 1946, ABCA members decided to promote a collegiate all-star game at Fenway Park in Boston, Massachusetts. The all-star game would provide ABCA officials with experience leading to a national playoff that would eventually be called the College World Series. Twenty-two players (representing the East and Midwest regions) were selected for each team. Each participating institution was expected to finance all expenses that might occur involving the individuals participation in the game. Jack Barry (Holy Cross) coached the Eastern all-stars to a 6-2 win over Ray Fisher (Michigan) and the Midwestern squad. The well played game, with only one error committed by each squad, was not a financial success as only \$484 of total receipts were received. Fortunately Tom Yawkey, President of the Boston Red Sox, completely absorbed the game costs, including baseballs and umpires, salaries for umpires and field maintenance

employees.

Even though the all-star game of 1946 was not a financial success, ABCA members elected to continue their quest for a national championship by laying plans for a "World Series" to take place in June 1947. ABCA members, led by new President Clint Evans (California) and tournament chairman Frank McCormick (Minnesota), divided the nation into eight districts, four in the west and four in the east. Winners of the four districts would meet in playoffs to determine the College World Series participants.

1947

Yale and New York University made the Eastern finals defeating Clemson and Illinois respectively. Yale then defeated New York University 5-4 to represent the Eastern half of the United States in the first College World Series. California won the Western playoffs, defeating Texas 3-2. Texas previously had defeated Oklahoma in the district playoffs while California had won over Denver University.

The first College World Series was held at Hyames Field on the campus of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. During the initial World Series the two teams, California and Yale, participated in a best two-out-of-three

series. The Western representative, California, defeated Yale in two straight games by scores of 17-4 and 8-7 respectively. The first game was played in front of 2,000 fans and was closer than the final score indicated, as California scored 11 runs in the top of the ninth. Leading only 6-4, the Bears sent fourteen batters to the plate, breaking the game open. Relief pitcher Dick Lerner received credit for the victory as he entered the contest in the first inning and finished the game allowing only 4 hits. Lerner had relieved ace pitcher Nino Barnise, who had thrown a shutout in his previous start versus Denver in the regional tournament. Pacific Coast conference batting champion Johnny Fiscalini led the Bear offense, hammering out four singles.

Another relief pitcher, Virg Butler, got credit for the championship game victory as he relieved freshman Jackie Jenson in the fifth inning. Jenson would go on to have a twelve year professional baseball career as an outfielder and also served as head coach for California from 1974-77. Yale had scored four times off Jenson in the fifth and once off Butler in the sixth to tie the score at 7-7. Singles by John Ramos and Lyle Palmer set up a first and third double steal attempt that saw the Yale catcher throw the ball into centerfield allowing the Bears to take the lead. Palmer led the California offense with three hits. Butler did not allow any more runs as California won the first College World

Series 8-7 as 3,000 spectators looked on.

California coach Clint Evans was extremely happy with the outcome, boasting, "I sure am proud of a battling bunch of men. They don't give up."(2) The championship was a fitting conclusion to Evans' efforts as one of the organizers of the College World Series. Cliff McClain, a member of the 1947 team, commented: "There was a special feeling on the team, we wanted to win it for Clint. He'd worked too hard to get the tournament established. There was a great sense of pride for him and ourselves in being the first to win it."(3)

The 1947 NCAA champion California Bears held a forty year anniversary in 1987 at Evans Diamond in Berkeley, California. Fifteen members of the first NCAA baseball championship squad were on hand for the celebration. Pitcher Dick Lerner commented on his experiences: "College baseball meant so much to me, I'm trying to give a little back by helping out the baseball program at Cal State-Fullerton, where I live."(4) Infielder Glen Dufour added: "College baseball has to be better now than when we played. We played 30 games, now they play more than 60. The players are bigger and faster. They get better coaching before they enter college. But we had a very good team."(5)

Despite the lop-sided margin of the first contest, both games were well played. However, the financial status of the series was of concern to the ABCA, as only 5,000 people

attended the two games. Each participating institution had to cover the expenses they had accumulated throughout the series. Western Michigan University donated \$600 to help offset those expenses, with major league baseball also contributing by donating umpires for the games. A number of professional baseball scouts attended the series, along with the Commissioner of professional baseball A.B. "Happy" Chandler.

ABCA officials felt that the lack of a local team playing in the series and the threat of rain contributed to the small number of fans that attended the games. With those thoughts in mind, the ABCA once again recommended to the NCAA that Western Michigan University host the College World Series in 1948. The NCAA accepted the recommendation and Western Michigan made plans to host the 1948 series.

#### 1948

Following the 1947 College World Series (in which his team lost two straight 17-4 and 8-7 to the University of California) Yale coach Ethan Allen predicted: "I'll be back-to win the title." (6) Allen did lead the Bulldogs back to the



College World Series, this time against another powerful team from California, The University of Southern California (USC). NCAA baseball chairman John Kobs of Michigan State College, who saw the 37-12 Trojans play in the Western playoffs in Denver, Colorado, commented: "Southern California's baseball team is the greatest college team I ever looked at." (7) Coach Sam Barry of USC made no predictions as he commented on the upcoming series: "You can't tell what'll happen in a college ball game. We've got a good team, and it'll take a good team to beat us." (8) The Trojans had won eighteen straight games and were led by pitcher Wally Hood (20-2) and slugger Hank Workman, who had eight hits in twelve at bats in the Western playoffs, including four home runs. Yale was led by pitcher Frank Quinn, shortstop Art Moher and first baseman George Bush.

Prior to the first game Allen surprised everyone by announcing that Jim Duffus would pitch the first game instead of Quinn. He felt that if he pitched Quinn against Workman it would be a waste of his best pitcher. In front of 2,500 fans the gamble almost paid off as Duffus held the slugging Trojans scoreless until the top of the ninth inning. Workman also pitched outstanding ball allowing only one unearned run, and Yale took a 1-0 lead going into the ninth inning. Three singles, two errors, and a sacrifice fly provided USC with a three run lead going into the bottom of the ninth. Yale,

however, would not quit. Bob Rosenweig singled, Dick Matthews walked, and Art Fitzgerald had another single loading the bases with nobody out. Allen sent pinch hitter Jerry Breen to the plate, and he hit a hard ground ball back to Hood who threw home to force out Rosenweig. Catcher Bob Zuber then threw to first to force Breen for out number two, and first baseman Hank Cedillos fired to third to nail Matthews, who had rounded the bag, for the third out. A sensational triple play had ended the first game of the 1948 College World Series.

The following day 3,000 fans turned out at Hyames Field to watch the 1948 College World Series finals. In the first contest, Yale pitcher Frank Quinn scattered eight hits while his teammates played errorless baseball as Yale defeated USC 8-3. Shortstop Art Moyer had three hits and USC contributed six errors as Yale scored six runs in the first five innings.

In the championship game senior pitcher Dick Bishop of USC, who had not pitched an inning of playoff action, ended his career on a positive note, allowing ten hits in a 9-2 victory. Four Yale pitchers also had allowed ten hits; however, they walked eight more batters which led to five USC runs in the first two innings. Art Mazmanian led USC with three hits while Yale third baseman Dick Matthews paced their offense with a home run in the fourth inning.

Following the game, professional scouts made attempts to

sign a number of USC and Yale players to professional baseball contracts. The most sought after players were pitchers Hood of USC and Quinn of Yale. Despite not getting a hit in the three games, USC's hard hitting Workman also was in demand.

Senior first baseman and captain George Bush of Yale, who made a few outstanding defensive plays, was also approached. As a junior, the future President of the United States had played on the 1947 Yale team as a first baseman with a batting average of .239. He improved his senior year (.264) leading Yale to an eleven game winning streak en route to an 18-4 regular season record. Bush also had six doubles, two triples, one home run, and fourteen runs batted in. Defensively, he committed only two errors and ended with a fine fielding percentage of .990. In a sports review of 1948 the Kalamazoo Gazette stated: "Even in defeat, Yale's losers laid claim to the best individual player of the tournament in George Bush, a sensational first sacker." (9) Some years later the President commented on his 0-7, 1947 College World Series performance, "It's taken me thirty-six years to live it down." (10) Lou Pavlovich Jr. of Collegiate Baseball interviewed then-Vice President Bush about his College World Series experience and Bush commented: "The fact that we, Yale University, which sometimes is treated like Rodney Dangerfield in the way that it doesn't get much respect,

defeated the best teams in the East and came to the finals of the national championship. More than any one thing, we had won against some darn good competition all through the Midwest and all across the East and South. It was more of us, Yale, representing our school in the finals. I remember this most about our team rather than any single situation which happened at the College World Series."(11)

Unfortunately, ticket sales did not increase and financial losses once again were incurred. Only 5,500 people attended the three games, leaving both schools responsible for their own expenses.

1949

Changes had to be made in order for the College World Series to continue. Wichita, Kansas, Denver, Colorado and Kalamazoo, Michigan, were the only three locations to apply for the 1949 College World Series. National Chairman John Kobs of Michigan State College, who had attended the 1948 playoffs in Denver, reported that crowds of under 1,000 had attended the games there which eliminated that site. Since Kalamazoo already had two attempts to solve the financial problems of the College World Series, the ABCA decided to

move the games to Wichita. Another change that the NCAA and ABCA felt would help was to double the number of participating teams to four. The changes failed to work, as the four schools (Wake Forest, St. Johns, Southern California and champion Texas) all lost money during their quest for the national title. Six games were played, with the average attendance being less than 500 fans per game.

On the playing field the Texas Longhorns went unbeaten, defeating Wake Forest 10-3 in the championship game. Led by the hitting of Tom Hamilton and Jim Shamblin the Longhorns outscored their opponents 25-5 in their three victories. Hamilton hit .500 in the World Series, with three home runs and six runs batted in while Shamblin contributed a .400 batting average, one home run and five runs batted in. In the championship game alone, Shamblin had five hits, which remains a College World Series record (tied with eight others). As a team Texas had a .351 batting average with four doubles, two triples and two home runs.

Nineteen forty-nine also was the first year that the ABCA selected an All-America team. National Champion Texas and runner-up Wake Forest led the 1949 squad by placing two players from each of their schools, pitcher Murray Wall and first baseman Tom Hamilton of Texas along with second baseman Charles Teague and third baseman Gene Hooks of Wake Forest. Teague was the first winner of the College World Series Most

Valuable Player award as he hit .545 and did not commit an error in the field.

The 1940s were a truly a great decade for college baseball. With the establishment of the ABCA and the College World Series, college baseball was beginning to grow as never before.

## Footnotes

1. Scholastic Coach magazine, list of ABCA Hall-of-Fame Members, November, 1989, p. A-15.
2. Hagan, Jerry, Kalamazoo Gazette, June 29, 1947.
3. Frezzell, Pat, Berkeley Tribune, May, 1987.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Hagan, Jerry, Kalamazoo Gazette, June 29, 1947.
7. Hagan, Jerry, Kalamazoo Gazette, June 25, 1948.
8. Ibid, p. 26.
9. Kalamazoo Gazette, January, 2, 1949.
10. Bartimole, John, 1985 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship, program, 1985, p. 11.
11. Pavlovich, Lou Jr., 1991 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship, program, 1991, p. 8.

Chapter II  
Omaha, Nebraska becomes  
the Site of the College World Series

1950

In 1950 the College World Series moved to its third site in three years: Omaha, Nebraska. Eventually the series had tremendous success in that Midwestern city, primarily because of a strong merchant support group and the willingness of host universities Nebraska, Omaha, and Creighton to assume some of the financial burdens in order to allow the move to Omaha. The merchant support group organized to form College World Series Incorporated (CWS Inc.) which provided monetary assistance to the series.

An eight team double elimination format was established, and it remained in effect until 1987. The Texas Longhorns repeated as national champions. The 1950 series saw another first when Texas chartered a Braniff Airlines DC 3 for its transportation to Omaha. This was the first of twenty-three trips to Omaha by Texas, making the Longhorns the most traveled and popular team to play there. Still the Longhorns did not breeze through the eight team field. They lost their first game to Rutgers 4-2.



Battling back through the losers' bracket, Texas beat Colorado A&M 3-1 and Tufts University 7-0. In the victory over Tufts, Jim Ehrler pitched a no-hitter while Gus Hrcncir had five runs batted in on three hits. It was the first no-hitter in the short history of the College World Series. Ehrler fanned fourteen Tufts batters while walking five. "I never got in trouble," Ehrler said. "I don't remember anything close to being a hit. We didn't play many night games back then and I definitely think it gave me an edge."(1) Tufts outfielder John Lowe flied out to centerfield to end the game. This was the only ball Tufts had hit out of the infield the entire game! "I just remember walking off the field and thinking, 'What a relief.' I just thanked the Good Lord. That no-hitter is something I'm pretty proud of. I guess I'm most proud of it because no one can ever duplicate the first one."(2)

Two more victories, 12-1 over Washington State and 15-9 over Rutgers, provided Texas with the opportunity to repeat as national champions. Ehrler, once again was the difference as he hurled seven shutout innings in the 3-0 victory over Washington State.

With teams from all over the country participating, the people of Omaha provided previously unknown levels of support for the series, and all eight teams received partial payments for their expenses. Attendance for the ten session series was

17,805 for an average of 1,781 per session (during the first three rounds a session consists of two games). Although no additional profits were earned by the NCAA or CWS Inc., progress had been made and the future of the series at Omaha appeared secure.

The 1950 ABCA All-American team once again featured Texas pitcher Murray Wall and Wake Forest second baseman Charles Teague. Representing Ohio State University was first baseman Fred Taylor( who later would coach basketball at Ohio State for a number of years).

#### 1951

In 1951, the College World Series again brought eight teams from across the nation to Omaha. All went home financially happy as their total expenses were covered for the first time. Attendance had increased by over 10,000 to 27,789, which led to a net deficit of only \$3,896. CWS Inc. absorbed the losses, securing the series for the city of Omaha, Nebraska.

On the playing field, Oklahoma went undefeated in the College World Series, 4-0, defeating Tennessee 3-2 in the final game. Pitching ace Jack Shirley scattered five hits in leading the Sooners to the championship game victory. Despite

two pitching victories, Shirley was not selected as the College World Series Most Valuable Player; Tennessee utility player Sid Hatfield earned that honor. The Volunteers had used only three pitchers during the regular season-- John Huffstetler, Billy Joe O'Kain and Billy Joe Bowman. When forced to play six games in five days coach S.W. "Cy" Anderson called on Hatfield; who responded by hurling a, 2-0 whitewash of Springfield and then throwing seven innings in the championship game against Oklahoma. When not pitching, Hatfield played first base during the entire series. Oklahoma finished the season with a 19-9 record while runner-up Tennessee ended at 20-3.

Ray Van Cleef of Rutgers repeated his 1950 selection on the ABCA All-American team as an outfielder. Future shortstop of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Dick Groat of Duke, also was selected to the 1951 ABCA squad.

## 1952

Nineteen fifty two marked the first year of the College World Series in which income exceeded expenses. With attendance increasing to 38,731 both the NCAA and CWS Inc. received profits sharing net receipts of \$5,229.

On the playing field, Holy Cross became the first Eastern

team to win the series. The Crusaders lost their second game of the tournament, 1-0 to Missouri, despite pitcher Jackie Lonergan's one-hitter. Missouri scored its lone run on two errors, one by Jack Concannon, who had not committed an error in his last 80 chances. Their only hit came in the eighth inning.

Ronnie Perry got Holy Cross back on the winning track when he pitched a complete game 2-1 victory over Texas. Tournament MVP Jim O'Neill followed Perry's victory with his second of the tournament, scattering eight hits in a 15-3 victory over Western Michigan. It was then Lonergan's turn, and he responded with a complete game seven-hitter over Penn State. Outfielder Johnny Turco had five hits, scored three runs, and drove in two more to pace the Holy Cross offense.

Despite winning three straight games and four over all, Holy Cross still had to defeat the unbeaten Missouri Tigers twice to claim the 1952 national championship. Perry sent the Crusaders into the final game by pitching a complete game seven-hitter in a 7-3 victory. O'Neill then won his third game of the tournament throwing yet another complete game in the 8-4 championship game victory. Holy Cross pitchers Perry, Lonergan and O'Neill had combined to throw seven complete games in six days while winning six of the seven games. The six Holy Cross victories and seven complete games are still College World Series records. Crusader pitchers were not the

only iron men to perform in the 1952 series; only eleven out of the fifteen traveling squad members were selected to play by coach Jack Berry. Holy Cross finished the season with an overall record of 21-3.

O'Neill was selected as a first team All-American by the ABCA. Runner-up Missouri placed pitcher Don Boenker and outfielder Junior Wren on the same squad. Also honored were future major league stars Harvey Kuenn of the University of Wisconsin (Detroit Tigers), and Dick Groat of Duke University (Pittsburgh Pirates), who also earned 1951 honors.

#### 1953

The University of Michigan won its first of two national championships in 1953 by defeating Texas 7-5 in the title game. Legendary coaches Ray Fisher of Michigan (637 victories in 38 years) and Bibb Falk (478 victories in 25 years) met three times during the series. Three complete game victories from pitchers Marvin Wisniewski, Jack Corbett and Jack Ritter got the Wolverines off to a 3-0 series mark. The last win was a 12-5 defeat of Texas which the Longhorns countered with a 6-4 win of their own the following day. The championship game saw Michigan jump out to an early lead only to have Texas pull within one run, 5-4, in the seventh inning. Three

consecutive Longhorn errors provided the Wolverines with a 7-4 lead going into the ninth inning. However, Texas scored one run and loaded the bases with one out, forcing Fisher to make a decision. He brought in Ritter who promptly delivered the title to the Wolverines by striking out the first hitter and retiring the last man on a ground out. J.L. Smith of Texas won the Most Valuable Player award as he recorded two saves and pitched in five of the six Longhorn games.

Attendance fell to 31,990 leading to a net deficit of \$2,821 which CWS Inc. absorbed. This small deficit was of little concern for ABCA board members and assured the city of Omaha that it would keep the College World Series.

The 1953 ABCA All-American team featured pitcher Paul Giel of Minnesota and outfielder Mickey Sullivan of Baylor. Giel would later become the athletic director at Minnesota while Sullivan has been the head baseball coach at Baylor since 1978.

#### 1954

In June, 1954 the Missouri Tigers won their only national championship, winning five games while losing only once. Coach Hi Simmons' Tigers relied on extra base hit power (9

doubles, 7 triples and 4 home runs) and fine pitching (5 complete games and an earned run average of 2.04) to win the College World Series.

The 1954 series got off to a unusual start as a pitcher, Carl Thomas of Arizona, established world series records for hitting. In a 12-1 victory over Oregon, Thomas set a record for runs batted in, seven, and tied the mark for home runs, with two. He also pitched a complete game four-hitter. Thomas's hitting feats remain records today, and he comments: "Quite frankly, I am surprised I still have the record. With all the great hitters that have played in the College World Series and with the advent of the aluminum bat, it is difficult to believe the record has not been broken. It was just a matter of circumstances. A lot of those great college hitters probably did not have the chance to come up with so many men on base like I did that game." (3) Thomas, at 6'6" and 240 pounds, was a menacing figure at the plate. Asked why he only batted on the days he pitched, he replied: "I was a good hitter, but Frank Sancet was a traditionalist. The pitcher, even if he was a good hitter, batted ninth in the order. If I was not pitching, I rarely got to bat in the game. My job was to pitch. Anything I produced with my bat was considered by coach Sancet to be a bonus. That did not bother me. He was a great coach, a terrific guy. I had the utmost respect for him." (4) The victory over Oregon turned

out to be Arizona's only win of the tournament.

Following a second round loss to Rollins 4-1, Missouri was forced into the losers' bracket having to win four straight games. Lefthanded sophomore Ed Cook got the Tigers headed in the right direction by pitching a five-hitter over Massachusetts 8-1. Norm Stewart continued to keep the season alive for Missouri, pitching a complete game seven hitter versus Oklahoma State 7-3. Facing the Michigan State Spartans, Simmons chose Sophomore Emil Kammer to do the pitching. Kammer had beaten Lafayette 5-3 in the opening round of the tournament and also had driven in two runs with a triple. Once again, not only did Kammer pitch a fine game, an eight-hit complete game effort, but he also drove in the winning run in the bottom of the ninth with a single to left. Buddy Cox walked to lead off the inning and that brought up Lee Wynn to attempt a sacrifice bunt. Wynn failed in his bunt attempt however after he swung and missed at strike three, the high fastball went over the head of Michigan State catcher Tom Yewcic. Cox was able to go all the way to third as Yewcic had difficulty finding the passed ball. On the next pitch Kammer delivered his game winning hit.

In the championship game Missouri got a rematch with the Rollins Tars, the only team to defeat the Tigers. Ed Cook once again led the Tigers to victory by hurling a six-hitter, which was his second complete game victory of the series.



Cox, who had a .412 batting average during the season, was the offensive catalyst when he slugged a two-run home run in the second inning to provide the Tigers with a lead that Cook would never relinquish. Immediately following the game first baseman Bob Schoonmaker of Missouri was furnished with a police escort so he could catch a plane to New York to attend his wedding. Schoonmaker dressed quickly and came back on the field only to see his teammates in a wild celebration. He took a nearby microphone and announced to the crowd: "I've got to get to New York. I think I'm supposed to get married."(5)

Following the championship game, Coach Simmons was asked how the 1954 title team compared to his 1952 national runner-up squad. "This team went all the way, and the other didn't," he said, "but that's not all there is to it. This team had slightly better hitting-and the hitting carried our sophomoric pitching staff right through."(6)

Twenty five thousand fans came out to see the series in Omaha, which cost the NCAA and CWS Inc. each \$2500 in net losses. National Champion Missouri placed outfielder Jerald Schoonmaker (Bob's brother) on the 1954 All-American team that was represented by ten different teams vying for the ten spots.

Nineteen fifty-four also marked the year of the first agreement between the ABCA and major league baseball. For

more than one hundred years college and professional baseball leaders have been competing for the same athletes. As long as that struggle continues, disagreements between the two sides will exist. One of the first objectives of the newly formed ABCA was to "develop a mutual satisfactory agreement with professional baseball relative to the signing of college players."(1) In those days professional scouts could sign a player during any time of the year. There was no amateur draft, which left all players as free agents throughout the year. College players often would sign professional contracts following their freshman or sophomore years, leaving the college coach with the prospect of recruiting a new team almost each year. As the ABCA grew, the need for a specific signing period became urgent. An agreement was reached on July 1, 1954 that stated a major league club could negotiate during the freshman year of a player's college career. However, once he began his sophomore year a professional team could not approach him again until he turned twenty-one years of age or graduated from college. Exceptions could be made for financial hardship cases or for students who were expelled for academic reasons. The problem with the agreement was that the minor leagues still raided the college ranks at all times of the year, often leaving the coach and team with much less talent than they had anticipated. In 1956, the restriction was withdrawn from the

major league rules placing the ABCA in the same position they were in years before. Once again college players could be persuaded to leave school at any time during the year leaving the colleges wondering who would represent them from year to year.

Following World War II, amateur baseball saw its largest growth period as Little League Baseball, Pony Baseball, American Legion Baseball, and the American Amateur Baseball Congress (AABC) were created. However, there was no governing organization to settle disputes or to expand play beyond the United States. Most of the disputes centered around the inconsistencies between organizations. Each program had its own eligibility rules, and none of the groups volunteered to formulate consistent rules and regulations. Disputes became so commonplace in 1954 that Major League Baseball Commissioner Ford Frick encouraged the formation of an organization to assist the growth of amateur baseball. The new organization, formed in 1955, was called the National Committee for Amateur Baseball (NCAB).

Many college coaches were optimistic that the organization would mean the beginning of international competition. The two coaches who took an active role in making this a reality were William "Dutch" Fehring of Stanford and Rod Dedeaux of the University of Southern California. They had seen teams begin to play internationally as far back as 1951 when Wake

Forest University sent its team to represent the United States in the Pan American games. Led by Fehring and Dedeaux the United States selected an all-star team in 1954 that consisted of collegiate and armed forces players to participate in the Pan American games in Mexico City. Finally, in the 1956 Olympics at Melbourne, Australia the United States was represented by an armed services team that performed in a one game exhibition event. New sports, however, were not what the Olympic committee wanted and 1960 saw no baseball played at the Olympics. The dreams of Fehring and Dedeaux of college baseball players performing in the Olympics were still years away from reality. The NCAB had little influence on international baseball and, in fact, failed to settle most of their in-house disputes.

#### 1955

At the College World Series the Deamon Deacons of Wake Forest climaxed years of rebuilding by winning their only national championship. Rock bottom can be the words used to describe how the program had become in the early 1940s as the Deamon Deacons won only 8 games in 1940 and 9 in 1941. Despite four different coaches in the decade of the 1940s the program slowly began to turn around as Wake Forest head coach

Taylor Sanford guided them to a 32-4 season in 1949. Not only did Wake Forest win 30 games for the first time, but also they went all the way to the College World Series final game before bowing to Texas 10-3. Current (1991) athletic director Gene Hooks was an All-American third baseman on that 1949 team as was his teammate and outfielder Charlie Teague.

The turn of the decade saw no changes in the rising Wake Forest program as they finished at 31-6 in 1950. Following a 16-7 season in 1951, Sanford and his Deamon Deacons were selected to represent the United States in the Pan American games in Mexico. Wake Forest represented the United States quite well. They finished second to Cuba ending with a fine record of 5-2. Solid seasons followed with records of 21-4 in 1952, 34-4 in 1953 and 34-4 in 1954.

Nineteen fifty five saw the Deamon Deacons win the Atlantic Coast Conference championship with an 11-3 record, and they entered post-season play with a 20-5 overall mark. Two out of three playoff victories over West Virginia and a two game sweep of 1954 national runner-up Rollins sent Wake Forest on to Omaha and the College World Series.

Sophomore right handed pitcher Jack McGinley got the Deamon Deacons off to a good start by throwing a four hit shutout in a 1-0 victory over Colgate. Lefthanded pitcher Larry Bossidy of Colgate allowed only two hits as pitching dominated the first round game. In the 8th inning a walk to

Wake Forest lead-off hitter Bob Waggoner, a .129 hitter during the season, a sacrifice bunt by McGinley, and a single from centerfielder Luke McKeal provided the only run of the game.

Victory in game two came quite easier for Wake Forest as it pounded Colorado State 10-0. This time the shutout and four hitter was hurled by Lowell (Lefty) Davis, the ace of the staff, who won his tenth game of the season against just one defeat. Davis' shutout was his only appearance of the tournament as he was attending summer school classes. Davis flew to Omaha the day before he pitched and flew back the day after as to avoid more lost class time.

Only two teams remained unbeaten in the 1955 College World Series, Western Michigan and Wake Forest. Western settled that issue with a 9-0 victory, scoring early and often. The two teams met again the next day with the Deamon Deacons winning 10-7. McGinley, with relief help from Bill Walsh, got credit for the victory despite yielding ten walks. Sophomore John Stokoe threw the third Wake Forest shutout of the series in a 2-0 semi-final win over Oklahoma A&M, setting up the third meeting between Wake Forest and Western Michigan.

In the championship game McGinley, this time in relief of Walsh, got credit for his third victory of the tournament as Wake Forest defeated Western Michigan 7-6. The Deamon Deacons

had gone 9-2 in post-season play to finish the year with a 29-7 record and the national championship. "I think the key thing was the way our pitchers came through in the playoffs," shortstop Harold Moore said. "John Stokoe hadn't pitched much all year, but he shut out Oklahoma A&M. And McGinley won five games in all." (7) Following the game head coach Jack Sanford was so elated with the victory he made predictions for the 1956 season: "I'm going to coach at Wake Forest next year," he said, "and we're going to win the National Championship. We will have every player back that has started the last two games plus several promising freshman." (8) Sanford's prediction failed to come true as the Deacons failed to make the NCAA tournament as Duke won the Atlantic Coast Conference championship.

On the financial front, the greatest losses in College World Series history occurred. Because of rainouts and cold weather only 21,843 fans attended as CWS Inc. absorbed losses worth \$9,293 while the NCAA lost \$2,400.

World Series participant Oklahoma A&M, now called Oklahoma State, led the ABCA All-American team with two selections, pitcher and 1955 College World Series Most Valuable Player Tom Borland and outfielder Ronnie Bennett. Western Michigan outfielder Bill Lajoie also was selected on the squad. Lajoie later served as General Manager of the Detroit Tigers

and currently (1991) is an special assignment scout for the Atlanta Braves.

1956

The 1956 collegiate season was highlighted by the Minnesota Gophers as they won their first of three NCAA baseball championships in eight years. Coach Dick "Chief" Siebert led the Gophers to only their third Big Ten title in fifty years of competition. Under Siebert, Minnesota would win ten more Big Ten titles while emerging as a national powerhouse. Following the Big Ten season, the Gophers won two out of three playoff games from Notre Dame and swept Ohio University to advance to Omaha and the College World Series.

Four straight victories in Omaha, 4-0 over Wyoming, 3-1 over Arizona, 13-5 over Mississippi and 8-3 over Bradley left the Gophers as the only unbeaten team, placing Arizona in the position of having to defeat Minnesota twice. In the victory over Mississippi, shortstop Jerry Kindall hit for the cycle (single, double, triple, and home run) marking the only time that has occurred in series history. The Arizona Wildcats defeated the Gophers 10-4 to set up the winner-take-all championship game.

Nineteen fifty six College World Series' Most Valuable Player Jerry Thomas pitched a six-hitter as Minnesota bombed



Arizona 12-1. Thomas finished the series with an earned run average of 0.50, which remains a College World Series record. Thomas had gone 12-2 on the season, and he, along with fellow pitchers Ron Craven (8-4) and Rod Oistad (8-1), led the Gophers to an overall record of 33-9 and the national title.

Joining Thomas on the ABCA All-American team was teammate Kindall, who would later serve as an assistant coach under Siebert at Minnesota, 1968-1972. Ironically, the team Minnesota defeated in the 1956 College World Series, Arizona, would hire Kindall as their head coach in 1973, where he remains today in 1991, and he would lead them to three national championships of their own. Kindall is the only person to have played and coached for a national championship. "The thrill of playing was so long ago-35 years-so I don't remember too much," Kindall said. "But the thrill of coaching the final game, I remember each final out very vividly. I think coaching was better, just because there were more people involved. It was more vicarious. Winning in 1956, it was more personal." (9) Kindall had an outstanding year for the Gophers, hitting 18 home runs and compiling a .381 batting average.

With 29,940 fans attending the 1956 College World Series losses financial losses were minimal as CWS Inc. absorbed \$1,221 and the NCAA only \$231. This was to be the last year to date that the NCAA would have to absorb any financial

losses from the College World Series in Omaha.

1957

The California Bears, led by coach George Wolfman, won their second national championship, taking five straight games in Omaha. Pitching and defense, essentials in winning baseball, were the keys for California. Bear pitchers threw three shutouts and allowed only three earned runs in 45 innings for an earned run average of 0.60, which remains a College World Series record. The shutouts were pitched by Doug Weiss, 4-0 over Northern Colorado, Kim Elliot 8-0 over Penn State and, George Sterling 1-0 in the championship game, also versus Penn State. Sterling also drove in the only run in the title game with a triple. Defensively the Bears committed only seven errors while making five double plays.

National Champion California pitcher Doug Weiss made the ABCA first team All-American squad as did Florida State's shortstop Dick Howser, who would later play professional baseball from 1961-1968 for the Kansas City Royals, Cleveland Indians, and New York Yankees. Following his playing days Howser managed in the major leagues, 1978 and 1980 with the Yankees, 1981-1986 with the Royals and was the head coach of Florida State in 1979, leading the Seminoles to a 43-17

season. Nineteen fifty seven was also the first year that the ABCA began to select a second team All-American squad.

1958

The first attempt to organize media coverage of college baseball was made by then Arizona baseball coach J.F. (Pop) McKale. McKale felt that the small, close-knit American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA), along with college baseball, needed some publicity in order to continue their growth. He approached The Sporting News in hopes of persuading the "Bible of baseball" to offer collegiate, as well as major league, coverage. However, The Sporting News turned McKale down, stating that the college game was not important enough to consider writing about on a regular basis.

Following McKale's efforts were those of the founding father of Collegiate Baseball Digest, Abe Chanin. Chanin worked at the Arizona Daily Star and, along with Lou Pavlovich, Sr., convinced Coca-Cola to help sponsor Collegiate Baseball Digest. The two men compiled the first issue of Collegiate Baseball Digest in January, 1958, with its sole purpose being the promotion of college baseball. Collegiate Baseball Digest was then, and remains today, the

official voice of the ABCA. Some of the coaches on the original editorial board were: chairman Pop McKale, Arizona; Ethan Allen, Yale; Everett Barnes, Colgate; Rod Dedeaux, University of Southern California and John Kobs, Michigan State.

Collegiate Baseball Digest published twelve issues in 1958. It encompassed all phases of the game, and, over the years, included articles in March, 1959 that dealt with segregation of baseball and January 1959 on the celebration of 100 years of college baseball. That same year was also the year the word "Digest" was dropped and the paper become known as Collegiate Baseball.

In 1958, the ABCA went on an aggressive campaign aimed at showcasing the advantages of college baseball. A survey conducted by the ABCA revealed that only 5% of college players who signed professional contracts reached the major leagues. It also showed that 75% of the freshman and sophomores who signed professional contracts before or during college never returned to obtain a degree. In addition, if the college player did not sign a major league bonus contract, the odds against playing in the major leagues were fifty to one. This survey, and the ensuing propaganda campaign, led major league officials to form a new committee that would begin joint meetings with the ABCA.

The ABCA asked for a number of items to be considered by

Major League Baseball: sign no college players during their full four years of college, establish a draft similar to the one used by football and basketball, and only sign players who would receive a bonus of at least \$25,000. By 1960, major and minor leagues agreed not to sign players until they reached the age of twenty-one unless they withdrew from school because of academic problems. No other significant rule changes were established; however, the ABCA was well on its way to protecting the interests of college baseball.

The University of Southern California Trojans (USC) won their second NCAA baseball championship in 1958 with a 5-1 College World Series record. Their only loss occurred in the first round when the Trojans were shut out by Holy Cross pitcher Harold Dietz. USC pitcher Bruce Gardner followed with a 4-0 shutout of his own over the Arizona Wildcats. The Trojans then pounded Colorado State 12-1 and avenged their first round loss to Holy Cross by eliminating the Crusaders 6-2.

USC would now have to defeat unbeaten Missouri twice to capture the 1958 championship. College World Series Most Valuable Player Bill Thom forced the winner take all championship game by throwing a shutout in a 7-0 USC semi-final victory. The final game was one of the finest games in College World Series history. Down 4-0, USC battled back to tie the score at 7-7 forcing extra innings. In the bottom of

the twelfth third baseman Mike Blewett drove a single to right field that pushed across the winning run for USC. Thom had entered the game in the seventh inning and pitched scoreless relief the rest of the game to receive credit for the win. In the last two USC victories Thom had pitched fourteen scoreless innings.

Nineteen fifty eight also was the first year that ABCA officials began to select an all-tournament team. National champion USC was represented by second baseman Mike Castanon, shortstop Fred Scott, outfielder Ron Fairly, and Most Valuable Player pitcher Bill Thom. Twenty five thousand fans came out to Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium to watch the exciting 1958 College World Series and CWS Inc. paid for losses that would total \$9,285.

The All-American squad featured third baseman Ray Uriarte of national runner-up Missouri and shortstop Dick Howser of Florida State, who was the lone repeat selection from 1957.

#### 1959

Nineteen fifty nine marked the centennial year for college baseball. The first recorded collegiate baseball contest had occurred on July 1, 1859 between Amherst College and Williams

College in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. Baseball was not quite the same game as it is today as the final score of 73-32 would indicate. Each team had thirteen players on a side, provided their own balls (which had no size or weight limitations), over twenty innings were played and players wore no standard uniforms to distinguish themselves from each other. Bases were not the standard 90 feet as they are today with first base being thirty feet away from home, second was sixty feet from first, third was sixty feet from second and home was sixty feet from third. Runs were called tallies and runners could be tagged out or "plugged" (hit with a thrown ball). The winning team would be allowed to take their opponent's ball as an award which would be placed in a trophy case on campus so that they could proudly display their victory.

During the centennial year of 1959 college coaches around America paid tribute by wearing arm bands to signify 100 years of college baseball. Amherst coach Paul Eckley organized a replay of the first game between Amherst and Williams Colleges. Eckley staged a baseball centennial weekend on May 15 and 16 which included banquets, a "replay" of the original game and other events. Other college coaches held similar weekends as they attempted to take advantage of the centennial to publicize their sport.

On the playing field Oklahoma State won its only NCAA

college baseball championship with a 5-3 victory of the Arizona Wildcats. This was the fifth trip to the College World Series for the Cowboys as the Big Eight Champions finally won the championship. Toby Greene's Cowboys opened the series with victories over Western Michigan, 10-2 and Penn State 8-6 before losing to Arizona by the score of 5-1. Facing elimination the Cowboys played three consecutive outstanding games as they defeated Penn State again 4-3, Fresno State 4-0 and got revenge versus Arizona in the title game 5-3.

In those last three games Sophomore third baseman Jim Dobson led the offense with seven hits and three runs batted in. For his efforts, and a .458 batting average, Dobson was selected as the Most Valuable Player of the tournament. Also contributing was Junior Roy Peterson who threw a shutout against Fresno State for his ninth win of the season. Defense also was an important factor as Oklahoma State committed only one error in those last three victories.

Future Chicago White Sox pitcher Joel Horlen won two games in the series for Oklahoma State and was selected to the second team ABCA All-American team. The 1959 College World Series drew over 33,000 fans which was the third highest total in series history. Despite the fan support losses were still recorded which CWS Inc. once again absorbed.

The decade of the 1950s was a progressive and successful



period for college baseball. Collegiate Baseball was created, collegiate and professional relations improved, college coaches celebrated 100 years of college baseball and, most important of all, the College World Series found a home in Omaha, Nebraska.

## Footnotes

1. Werner, John, Waco (Texas) Tribune and 1989 NCAA Division I College World Series program, p 26.
2. Ibid.
3. Petruska, Dave, Pitcher Cemented Into College World Series Records, 1987 NCAA Division I College World Series program p 46.
4. Ibid, p 47.
5. Pollack, Joe, The Columbia Missourian, June 17, 1954.
6. Ibid.
7. Tiede, Joe, Raleigh Times, April 10, 1982.
8. McDuffie, Mac, Raleigh Times, June 16, 1955.
9. Callis, Jim, 1991 NCAA Division I College World Series program.

## Chapter III

### The Major League Baseball Draft Begins

1960

In the last half of the 1950s, Coach Dick "Chief" Siebert's Minnesota Gophers had been dominating the Big Ten Conference, winning championships in 1956, 1958, and 1959. However, not since the NCAA championship team of 1956 had the Gophers returned to Omaha, having lost in regional play in both 1958 and 1959. Minnesota was not to be denied the trip to Omaha, in 1960, as it swept through the regional in Minneapolis, 15-6 over Notre Dame and 12-5 and 5-4 over the University of Detroit. The Gophers were headed to the finals as the tournament favorite with a 29-6 record.

Scheduled to play on Saturday June 11, the Gophers had to wait three days because of heavy rains. Rain plagued the entire tournament, which lasted twelve days, making it the longest College World Series in history. Victories over North Carolina 8-3 and Arizona 8-5 sent Minnesota into a third round showdown with Southern California. Powerhouse Southern California had won ten consecutive Pac-Ten Conference championships and had amassed a 42-14 record in 1960. "We

thought maybe they should be the favorite rather than us," commented Minnesota pitcher Jim Rantz, "Chief and Southern California coach Rod Dedeaux were the most respected coaches in college baseball, and whenever they faced off against each other everyone beared [sic] down."(1) The media felt that Minnesota's 83% winning ratio to Southern California's 75% was the only way to distinguish a favorite among the equally talented teams.

The Minnesota-Southern California matchup was one of the most exciting in College World Series history; it took ten innings and nearly four hours to complete. Trailing 11-3, the Gophers scored four runs in the seventh, three in the eighth, and one in the bottom of the ninth to tie the score. Contributing to the length of the game was a rain storm that swept through Omaha in the seventh inning. The game was not delayed, but playing conditions were slowed down considerably. "It was the worst rain storm in the history of the College World Series in Omaha," said USC coach Rod Dedeaux. "Our team had not made an error in seven games prior to that context. In that slush, we were charged with five errors inside of three innings."(2)

A single by Barry Effress drove in the winning run for Minnesota in the bottom of the tenth, keeping the Gophers the only unbeaten team in the 1960 College World Series. Pitcher Rantz commented: "We used everybody in that game. We had

pitchers pinch running, even pinch hitting. I even pinch hit."(3)

Following a 3-1 victory that eliminated defending champion Oklahoma State, Southern California gained some revenge over the Gophers with an eleventh inning 4-2 victory.

The championship game, like their previous two contests, went extra innings, and Minnesota defeated Southern California 2-1 in the first extra frame. Rantz contributed much more to this victory, pitching a seven hit complete game. The victory was his second of the tournament, but was only his first start of the year. Cal Rolloff drove in both runs for Minnesota, the winning score coming via a bases loaded walk in the tenth inning. Rantz later recalled: "That team had played together for four years. We really had a closeness. Freshman weren't eligible back then, but we played together and then won the Big Ten three straight years so we had continuity. We finally got over the hump and won the championship."(4)

Another highlight of the 1960 College World Series was a second round no-hitter pitched by Oklahoma State's Jim Wixson in a 7-0 victory over North Carolina. Wixson, who walked six and struck out six, was in trouble in the first inning as he hit the leadoff batter and walked the next hitter. Coach Toby Greene quickly made an appearance on the mound. "Coach Greene was kind of a crusty, old guy," Wixson said. "He called me a

choke artist. He told me 'if you don't get it together, I'm taking you out of the game and sending you back to Oklahoma.'"(5) Catcher Ray Bond helped Wixson's cause by picking off the runner on second. Wixson then retired the next two hitters and was on his way. Wixson recalled the moments after the last out. "I remember Ray Bond running out to the mound and picking me up and then everybody else coming in. Even some of the North Carolina batters congratulated me."(6) Despite his no-hitter, Wixson was not named to the all-tournament team, nor was Rantz, who had won two games. Pitcher Bob Wasko of Minnesota, who also won two games, along with teammates second baseman John Erickson, third baseman Rolloff, and shortstop Dave Pflipsen highlighted the all-tournament team. Because of the exciting games at the 1960 College World Series attendance increased, with 35,222 fans turning out. This resulted in a loss of only \$4,268, which was absorbed by CWS, Inc.

First baseman Wayne Knapp of National Champion Minnesota led the 1960 All-American team. Representing the University of Mississippi was their future head coach Jake Gibbs (1970-1990) as an outfielder.

1961

With a .285 team batting average and a 2.15 team earned run average the 1961 University of Southern California (USC) Trojans went unbeaten in the post-season to win the College World Series. John Withers, who had a 12-1 season record, threw a four-hit shutout in the championship game 1-0 victory over Oklahoma State. The winning run was scored by Mike Gillespie, who would later coach the squad in the 1980s and 1990s, in the eighth inning as USC ended its season with a 43-9 record. This was the third of what would become eleven national championships for the Rod Dedeaux coached Trojans. Attendance dropped to 24,778; fewer games were played because of USC going unbeaten, leading to a loss of \$7,886 for CWS Inc.

Oklahoma State's Jim Wixson, who had pitched a no-hitter in the 1960 College World Series, headed the 1961 ABCA All-American team. Four future major league stars were also selected to the team including Bill Freehan, University of Michigan catcher (Detroit Tigers 1961-1976), Bill Faul, University of Cincinnati pitcher (Detroit 1962-1964, Chicago Cubs 1965-66 and San Francisco Giants 1970), Frank Quilici, Western Michigan shortstop (Minnesota Twins 1965-1970) and Joe Nossek, Ohio University outfielder (Minnesota 1964-65, Kansas City Royals 1966-67, and St. Louis Cardinals 1969-70).

1962

Despite losing the Big Ten Conference championship, to Illinois, which had a 17-5 record, the 1962 Michigan Wolverines won their second NCAA baseball championship. Receiving an at large berth in the NCAA tournament, the Wolverines won the regional tournament in Kalamazoo, Michigan by defeating Mid-American champion, and host school, Western Michigan 3-2, in ten innings and Illinois 5-1. Senior lefthanded pitcher John Kerr threw seventeen of the nineteen innings played that day, receiving credit for both pitching victories. Michigan coach Don Lund, a former major league outfielder, said Kerr's pitching was the "greatest pitching performance I've ever seen." (7)

Michigan opened the 1962 College World Series with a 3-1 victory over Texas on Ron Tate's two-run homer to right field on a hit and run play. "I wanted Tate up there swinging," said Lund, "so I called the hit-and-run and it was a line drive over the infield that just kept going." (8) Victories over Holy Cross 11-4 and Florida State 10-7 set up a rematch between the Wolverines and Texas. Texas responded with a 7-0 shutout, with Tom Belcher hurling a seven-hitter. Santa Clara University then advanced to the championship game by eliminating Texas 4-3.



In the championship game Jim Bobel tripled in one run and scored the winning run in the top of the fifteenth inning as head coach Don Lund's Wolverines defeated Santa Clara 5-4. Bobel also was the winning pitcher in relief which gave him two wins in the series. "I had confidence in Bobel," said the Michigan coach. "That's not to say we couldn't have lost, but Bobel knew how to pitch and was rested. The game was decided on breaks, but that's the way it is when you have two pitchers going like that [Bobel and Santa Clara's Bob Garibaldi]. Bobel's hit just fell in and then the extra run scored on a wild pitch." (9)

Bobel was not selected as the tournament Most Valuable Player, however; that honor went to Santa Clara pitcher Bob Garibaldi. Garibaldi won two games in the series and pitched in five of Santa Clara's six games. Following the 1962 College World Series Garibaldi signed a bonus contract with the San Francisco Giants for \$150,000, one of the highest contracts ever offered. Professional baseball success, however, did not follow Garibaldi; he pitched in parts of four major league seasons and did not receive credit for a victory. Michigan first baseman Dave Campbell, third baseman Harvey Chapman, outfielder Ron Tate, and catcher Joe Merullo, along with Belcher and Garibaldi, were selected to the all-tournament team.

The exciting 1962 College World Series also was successful

off the field, drawing a record 39,307 fans. Both the NCAA and CWS Inc. received \$5,235, which was also the highest figure to date. For the next twenty-nine years, the College World Series would not show a deficit in net receipts, providing profits for both the NCAA and CWS Inc.

Highlighting the 1962 ABCA All-American first team was Santa Clara shortstop Ernie Fazio. Following the World Series, Fazio signed a professional baseball contract with the Houston Astros. Fazio played two seasons, 1962-63, for Houston and one for Kansas City, 1963. Garibaldi was a second team ABCA All-American; despite winning the national championship, Michigan had no players selected to either team.

### 1963

Record attendance of 52,757, at the 1963 College World Series, the college baseball season. Profits of \$18,180 were divided equally by the NCAA and CWS Inc. Since the move to Omaha, Nebraska in 1950 attendance had tripled, providing proof that college baseball was growing by leaps and bounds.

On the playing field, the University of Southern California (USC) captured their fourth NCAA championship. The championship, however, did not come easy for the Trojans, who

lost their first round game to Texas 8-3. Consecutive victories over Holy Cross 6-5, Florida State 4-3, and Missouri 12-3, left USC with only one more hurdle, the Arizona Wildcats. Arizona was unbeaten, meaning the Trojans would have to defeat them twice for the title.

A 6-4 USC win set up the championship game, in which pitcher Walt Peterson threw a complete game victory in the Trojans' 5-2 victory. Home runs by catcher Bud Hollowell and first baseman Gary Holman provided USC with an early lead it would never relinquish. Hollowell hit four home runs in the six games that USC played, which remains a College World Series record. USC outfielder Kenny Washington joined teammates Holman, Peterson and tournament Most Valuable Player Hollowell on the all-tournament team.

Current Chicago White Sox manager Jeff Torborg, then of Rutgers, was a first team ABCA All-American as a catcher in 1963. Texas had two representatives: first baseman Butch Thompson and shortstop Bill Bethea, who later was an assistant baseball coach at Texas for 21 years, 1969-1989. Pitcher Walt Peterson of USC was selected to the second team as was outfielder Fred Decker of Western Michigan, who in 1978 was named head coach of his alma mater.

1964

Minnesota head coach Dick "Chief" Siebert won the last of his three NCAA baseball championships in 1964, in what was probably his best coaching effort. The 1964 team was not a veteran squad. Six starters were lost from 1963, and the Gophers began the season losing eight of their first eleven games. The Gopher pitching staff turned the season around. Hurlers Joe Pollack, Frank Brosseau, Dan Howard, and Dick Mielke established a team earned run average of 2.00. Pollack led the staff with an 11-2 record and an earned run average of 1.75.

Behind their strong pitching staff the Gophers won the Big Ten Conference championship with a 11-3 record, swept Kent State University in the district tournament, and headed for Omaha. With additional support from their offense, Minnesota won their first three games defeating Texas A&M 7-3, Maine 12-0, and Southern California 6-5. Missouri then defeated Minnesota 4-1 leaving three teams, Minnesota, Missouri and Maine, with one loss, remaining in the tournament. Minnesota received the bye, while Missouri defeated Maine 2-1 for the right to play the Gophers for the championship. Pollack pitched his third complete game victory of the tournament as Minnesota defeated Missouri 4-1. Gopher pitching, as it had

done all year, was the key in the series, allowing only seven earned runs in 44 innings and having an earned run average of 1.43.

Pollack was named to the all-tournament team, which included teammates Bill Davis, first baseman Dewey Markus, second baseman Dan Hoffman, and outfielder and catcher Ron Wojciak. Attendance increased once again as 61,871 fans turned out providing the NCAA and CWS Inc. with profits of \$8000 to share.

Don Kessinger, a shortstop from the University of Mississippi who later was a professional player with the Chicago Cubs and Chicago White Sox, headlined the 1964 All-American team. Kessinger played sixteen seasons in the major leagues and is currently (1991) the head coach at Mississippi. Also selected to the All-American team was Wisconsin outfielder Rick Reichardt, who also played on the Wisconsin football team. Reichardt received the largest baseball bonus contract to that date, \$205,000 from the then Los Angeles Angels' (now California) owner Gene Autry. Reichardt would go on to play eleven seasons in the major leagues, ending his career in 1974 with a .261 batting average.

1965

On December 2, 1964 the Commissioner of professional baseball, Ford Frick, announced that professional baseball would begin an amateur draft similar to the systems established in professional football (1936), professional basketball (1947), and professional hockey (1963). The first amateur baseball draft would take place on June 8, 1965 at the Commodore Hotel in New York City. All high school, junior college, and major college players who had completed their sophomore year of eligibility were considered eligible for the draft.

In order to include all of the above mentioned players, three separate drafts were established: 1) a June draft which was divided into two phases, a regular phase for players who had not been previously drafted and a secondary phase for previously drafted players who had not signed professional contracts; 2) a American Legion draft in September, for American Legion players only, because American Legion rules prohibit its players from signing professional contracts prior to September 1; and 3) a January draft, similar to the one in June, which included a regular and secondary phase.

Professional teams would draft in the reverse order of finish from the 1964 season and hold the rights to a drafted

player until fifteen days prior to the next draft. The American Legion draft was eliminated in 1966, when only eight players were selected; the winter draft and the secondary phase of the June were removed in 1987. All that remained was the regular phase of the June draft.

There were a number of reasons for the establishment of the amateur draft: 1) to equally distribute player talent among all professional baseball teams; 2) to attempt to decrease the skyrocketing bonus salaries being paid during the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s; 3) to utilize the dollars saved from scouting and bonus payments to support the failing minor league system; and 4) to attempt to curb relationships between professional baseball and college baseball.

The New York Yankees had been dominating professional baseball with nine pennants and five World Series championships from 1949-1958. Most amateur players desired to play for the successful Yankees and often would wait for their call before signing with another team. The Yankees also had the available finances to sign amateur players which contributed further to their domination of professional baseball. Other professional teams felt that the amateur draft would distribute the talent, leading to more equality among the teams.

Bonus payments to recently signed players were also a major concern to professional teams. In 1942 outfielder Dick

Wakefield of the University of Michigan signed for \$52,000 with the Detroit Tigers; in 1950 Lomita, California high school pitcher Paul Pettit signed for \$100,000 with the Pittsburgh Pirates; in 1957 Metropolis, Illinois high school catcher Bob Taylor signed for \$120,000 with the Milwaukee Braves; and in 1961, with expansion teams adding to the bidding wars, five players were awarded \$100,000 or more including a record \$175,000 to Long Beach, California shortstop Bob Bailey. The bonus payments reached a pinnacle in 1964 with Reichardt's \$205,000 contract. The amateur draft would curtail negotiations between the players and a number of teams forcing the player to sign with the team who drafted them or to wait for the next draft.

By 1960 attendance and interest in minor league baseball was a major concern to professional baseball organizations. Major League teams had gone from having ten or twelve minor league teams from 1930-1960 to six or seven by the mid-1960s. Professional teams could not continue their large bonus payouts or their minor league systems would continue to decline. College baseball could only benefit from the draft because the minor leagues could only handle so many prospects, leaving college programs with their share.

The American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) went on a vigorous campaign supporting the amateur draft and organizing a committee that met with Commissioner Frick in 1964. College



players could sign professional contracts at any time during their college careers often leaving the team and coaching staff not knowing who would be competing from day to day. Following the establishment of the draft, a college player could only sign after his sophomore year; this rule provided the college program with the player for at least two years. In 1967 further perserverance from the ABCA led to an amendment that prohibited a college player from signing until he reached 21 years of age, and in 1976 the rule was added that a college player could not be drafted until he completed his junior year. The establishment of the amateur draft enabled college coaches to have more stability within their programs. With professional teams relying on college players more and more, the future of the college game was bright.

The first player selected in the amateur draft was Arizona State outfielder Rick Monday, taken by the Kansas City Athletics. Four days later, Monday led the Sun Devils to the 1965 NCAA championship. Monday, a sophomore, signed for \$104,000, which provided proof that bonus payments had decreased because of the draft. His bonus was \$101,000 less than Rick Reichardt earned one year earlier.

Arizona State climaxed seven years of building an NCAA baseball powerhouse by winning the 1965 College World Series. Baseball was merely a club sport until Bobby Winkles established the program in 1959. Athletic Director Clyde

Smith explained the school's athletic endeavours over the past decade, "We're like Avis, we try harder." (10) Each year the program improved until the Sun Devils reached the College World Series in 1964, only to lose two of their three games. That trip to Omaha, however, brought a new confidence that led Arizona State to a 5-1 College World Series record and an overall mark of 54-8 in 1965.

The Sun Devils won their first four games in Omaha, by a combined score of 42-10 before bowing to Ohio State 7-3. As they had done all year, Rick Monday, Duffy Dyer, and tournament Most Valuable Player Sal Bando led the offense to the four victories. Bando had twelve hits, scored ten runs, had six doubles, and drove in five runs. All three players would eventually play professional baseball: Monday, 1967-1984 for Kansas City A's, Oakland A's, Chicago Cubs, and the Los Angeles Dodgers; Dyer, 1968-1981 for the New York Mets, Pittsburgh Pirates, Montreal Expos, and the Detroit Tigers; and Bando, 1966-1981 for Kansas City A's, Oakland A's, and the Milwaukee Brewers.

In the championship game Monday homered and Bando had two hits as the Sun Devils got revenge on the Buckeyes, winning the title 2-1. Monday, Bando, second baseman Luis Lagunes and pitcher Doug Nurnberg, all of Arizona State, led the all-tournament team. Also making the all-tournament team was pitcher Steve Arlin of Ohio State. Arlin had pitched all

fifteen innings of a fourth round 1-0 win over Washington State allowing only three hits and striking out twenty Cougar hitters. Because of rain and high winds attendance was down to 45,894, leading to net receipts of only \$1,357 that the NCAA and CWS Inc. divided.

Both the ABCA and Sporting News All-American teams selected Monday, pitcher Arlin of Ohio State, and catcher John Olerud of Washington State. Olerud is the father of 1989 All-American (Washington State) and first round selection of the Toronto Blue Jays John Olerud Jr. Olerud Jr. is currently the starting first baseman for the Blue Jays. The Sporting News also selected Bando as a first team All-American.

1966

In 1966, Ohio State continued the dominance of college baseball by the Big Ten Conference as they won College World Series with a 8-2 victory over Oklahoma State. Big Ten Conference teams now had won six of the previous fourteen NCAA titles. This also was the last NCAA baseball title that a Big Ten team would win to date (1991). The determined Buckeyes had lost the championship game 2-1 to Arizona State in 1965, making their 1966 title a fitting conclusion to a fine two year period in Ohio State baseball history.

Ohio State opened its 1966 season by winning a tournament hosted by Miami, Florida with a 6-2 record. The northern portion of their schedule was not quite as kind to the Buckeyes, as they began by losing three straight games to Western Michigan University, 6-1, 4-3 and 9-0. Those losses appeared to inspire Ohio State: they won 21 of their next 23 games, losing only to Southern California at the College World Series 5-1, and tying Bowling Green 0-0 in 10 innings to finish at 27-6-1.

Pitching was the key ingredient. Three hurlers, Steve Arlin, Dick Boggs, and Mike Swarm combined for 21 wins and only 3 losses. Arlin was 11-1 with a 1.72 earned run average and was a repeat first team ABCA All-American.

Following a three game sweep in the District 4 playoffs, 13-3 over Valparaiso and 16-3, 14-7 over Western Michigan, the #2 ranked Buckeyes opened the College World Series with a 4-2 victory over Oklahoma State as Boggs got the win with relief help from Arlin. The victory set up a showdown with #1 ranked Southern California. Arlin responded by throwing a three-hitter, striking out twelve, in front of 9,189 fans. The Buckeyes then defeated St. Johns 8-7 with Arlin again pitching in relief. Southern California gained some revenge on Ohio State with a 5-1 victory, leaving three teams,-- Ohio State, Southern California and Oklahoma State-- still alive all with one loss each. Oklahoma State received the bye,

forcing Ohio State and Southern California to meet for the third time. Once again it was Arlin turning in a brilliant performance with a two-hit shutout in the 1-0 victory.

Boggs started and won the 8-2 championship game over Oklahoma State with relief help from Arlin, who had pitched in all five Ohio State victories. Arlin, the series' Most Valuable Player, had pitched 20 and 2/3 innings, allowed only 2 earned runs for a .87 earned run average, gave up only five hits, and was credited with two pitching victories.

Head coach Marty Karow commented after the game: "I hope you [Oklahoma State] can take pride as I did a year ago in playing in this great tournament and coming that close to winning the championship. It's no disgrace to be the second-best team here."(11). A record 63,376 fans turned out for the 1966 College World Series in Omaha. Both the NCAA and CWS Inc. received \$7,035 in net receipts.

The ABCA and Sporting News All-American teams both featured pitcher Arlin of Ohio State and outfielder Reggie Jackson of Arizona State. Jackson would have a twenty-one year professional career with the Kansas City Athletics, Oakland Athletics, Baltimore Orioles, New York Yankees and the California Angels. Jackson became known as "Mr.October" for his World Series feats; he led Oakland (1972,73 and 74) and New York (1978) to World Series championships. Jackson was the second player selected in the 1966 amateur draft by

the Kansas City Athletics, signing for \$84,000. Arlin was selected in the first round of the secondary phase of the June draft by the Philadelphia Phillies, signing for \$105,000. He went to San Diego in the 1968 expansion draft, pitching in six professional seasons finishing with a 34-67 record.

The ABCA established their Hall of Fame in 1966. Eighteen charter members were enshrined, including six past presidents: Eppy Barnes, of Colgate University (1945); Clint Evans, of the University of California (1947); Joseph Bedenk, of Pennsylvania State University (1948); J.F. McKale, of the University of Arizona (1950); John Kobs, of Michigan State University (1954); and J. Orlean Christian, of the University of Connecticut (1960). Hall of Fame members have their photos displayed at Omaha's Rosenblatt Stadium where the College World Series is played each year. With five additions in 1991 the Hall has grown to 142 members. The ABCA has established certain criteria that must be met in order to qualify for nomination. This includes being a head coach for fifteen years and contributing to the ABCA in some capacity other than being a member.

1967

The Arizona State Sun Devils (53-12) won their second of five NCAA baseball championships in 1967. Following victories over Oklahoma State 7-2, Boston College 8-1, and Stanford 5-3, the Sun Devils were shut out by Houston's Rick Brewer 3-0. Three teams, Arizona State, Houston and Stanford, all with one loss, remained in the 1967 College World Series. Houston drew the bye which allowed the Cougars to advance to the championship game.

The Arizona State-Stanford semi-final turned out to be an outstanding game before 9,118 who witnessed fourteen innings of baseball. Pitchers Gary Gentry of Arizona State and Rod Poteete of Stanford both pitched complete games. Gentry allowed nine hits, walked six and struck out fifteen. Poteete did not quite match Gentry's numbers as he allowed thirteen hits and five walks while striking out eight. The game ended when Gentry led off the bottom of the fourteenth with an infield single and then was doubled home by Scott Reid, which gave Arizona State the 4-3 victory. Gentry's record improved to 17-1 while Poteete dropped to 5-1.

In the championship game before 9,210 another strong Arizona State pitching performance, this time by Tom Burgess, led the Sun Devils to a convincing 11-2 win. "It was a long way to go," said Arizona State coach Bobby Winkles. "I owe

everything to twenty-one dedicated young men." (12) Burgess (16-3) allowed twelve hits but constantly got himself out of trouble as he struck out fifteen Houston batters. Reid had another fine game with two hits, two runs batted in and four runs scored. Reid, along with catcher Ron Davini, batted .409 for the series: Davini earned Most Valuable Player honors. Joining Davini on the all-tournament team were teammates Dave Grangaard, third baseman Jack Lind, shortstop Reid, and Gentry. Also selected to the all-tournament team was Stanford first baseman Mark Marquess, who batted .421. Marquess is currently (1991) the successful head baseball coach at Stanford. Attendance was slightly up from 1966 as 63,906 fans witnessed the tournament in Omaha, allowing the NCAA and CWS Inc. to share \$15,064.

Three players were selected to both the ABCA and Sporting News All-American teams: Gentry of Arizona State, outfielder Tom Paciorik of Houston, and first baseman Marquess of Stanford University. Gentry played professional baseball for the New York Mets from 1969-1972 and Atlanta Braves from 1973-1975. Paciorik played in the major leagues from 1970-1987 for the Los Angeles Dodgers, Atlanta Braves, Seattle Mariners, Chicago White Sox, and Texas Rangers.

Also in 1967 an amendment was passed by professional baseball that changed the eligibility status of college players. In order for a college player to be drafted, he must



be either a graduate or 21 years old. Most college players were now eligible following their junior year, allowing coaches to rely on players for three years and providing more stability to their programs. As well, the NCAA allowed freshman to compete on the varsity level which, when added with the 1967 amendment, gave the coaches at least three years of eligibility for each player.

The amendment affected the draft. Only one college player, Don Denbow of Southern Methodist University, was selected in the first round of the regular phase by the Los Angeles Dodgers. Denbow did not enjoy a long professional baseball career. He never made it past class A ball and was released in 1970.

In 1967, Dutch Fehring, head coach of Stanford, was named the new president of the National Committee for Amateur Baseball (NCAB). In 1962, the NCAB had been renamed the United States Baseball Federation (USBF). With Fehring as its new president, the USBF began to pursue its Olympic dream once again. The United States won the gold medal in the 1967 Pan-Am games and agreed to participate in the World Championship games. Baseball, however, continued as a exhibition sport only. College coaches just did not have the time available to actively pursue the interests of the USBF and its Olympic dream. As much as the organization tried, the next ten years saw little growth for the USBF.

1968

The Southern California Trojans (45-14) won their fifth NCAA baseball championship in 1968 going unbeaten in Omaha with a perfect 5-0 record. Three of the games were decided by one run, 6-5 over Oklahoma State, 7-6 over St. Johns, and 4-3 over Southern Illinois in the championship game. In the title game USC trailed 3-2 going into the bottom of the ninth inning when pinch hitter Pat Kuehner tripled to drive in two runs providing the Trojans with the championship. Series' Most Valuable Player first baseman Bill Seinoth also contributed timely hitting as USC managed only a .221 team batting average. Pitcher Brent Strom let the staff with two victories in relief along with 13 strikeouts in 8 innings of work. On the season Trojan pitchers struck out 511 batters in 547 innings, which remains a USC single season record.

Contributing to that record were future professional pitchers Bill Lee, Boston Red Sox (1969-1978) and Montreal Expos (1979-1981), and Jim Barr, San Francisco Giants (1971-1978) and California Angels (1979-1981). Strom also pitched in the major leagues for the New York Mets, Cleveland Indians, and San Diego Padres from 1972-1977.

With USC going unbeaten in the series, one less game was played and attendance decreased to 58,373. However, the average crowd increased to 7,297 per session (through the

first four rounds one ticket provides entrance to a session which is two games). The NCAA and CWS Inc. split profits of \$15,740.

Seinsoth, along with teammate second baseman Pat Harrison, was selected to the 1968 Sporting News All-American first team. Other notables on the Sporting News team were third baseman Steve Garvey of Michigan State University, catcher Thurman Munson of Kent State University and outfielder Tom Paciorek of Houston. Garvey played professional baseball for the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Deigo Padres from 1969-1987, Munson for the New York Yankees from 1969-1979, and Paciorek from 1970-1987 for five different teams. (Munson died in a plane crash during the 1979 season near his home town of Canton, Ohio). Paciorek and Munson were also both selected to the first team ABCA All-American team of 1968.

## 1969

The Sun Devils of Arizona State University won their third NCAA baseball championship in five years in 1969 with a 10-1 victory over Tulsa. The 56-11 Sun Devils, however, did not breeze through the tournament. They lost their opening round

game to Texas 4-0. Freshman pitcher Burt Hooten threw a three hit eleven strikeout performance for the Longhorns. Hooten commented later: "I've been asked many times about highlights in my career, you can't put your finger on just one easily, but that game was certainly one of them. It was special because I was just a freshman, and it was the College World Series and they were a strong team. I just went out and pitched as hard as I could." (13) On the season Hooten went 12-0 with an earned run average of 0.88.

Five straight victories followed that loss as the Sun Devils battled back to win the title. Strong pitching led the way with the staff having three complete games and an earned run average of 1.45. Larry Gura, 19-2 and 1.01 earned run average, Larrin LeGrow, 14-1, and Craig Swan, 9-0, led the pitching throughout the series and the year. All three eventually pitched in the major leagues, Gura from 1970-1985 for the Chicago Cubs, New York Yankees and Kansas City Royals, LaGrow from 1970-1980 for the Detroit Tigers, Cubs, St. Louis Cardinals, and Philadelphia Phillies, and Swan from 1973-1984 for the New York Mets and New York Yankees.

Offensively, outfielder Paul Ray Powell (11 home runs, 73 runs batted in and a .366 batting average) led the Arizona State attack. Leftfielder John Dolinsek, was selected as the series Most Valuable Player as he batted .476.

The 1969 NCAA championship came two years after the Sun

Devils' last championship, 1967, which also came two years after the previous title, 1965. Why had Arizona State won the NCAA title every two years? Coach Bobby Winkles offers this explanation: "There's a reason we've been winning every other year. Each time we win the championship the majors sign most of our team and we have to start rebuilding. They've drafted six so far this year. It takes a year to get the team into shape and then you can figure to be a challenger again."(14) Ten sessions attracted 63,625 fans which provided the NCAA and CWS Inc. with a share of \$17,038.

Only two players, Gura of Arizona State and Hooten of Texas, made both the ABCA and Sporting News All-American teams. Also only two college players, Powell of Arizona State (Minnesota Twins) and outfielder Noel Jenke of the University of Minnesota (Boston Red Sox) were selected in the first round of the amateur draft of 1969. Jenke never made it to the major leagues, while Powell only played 30 games for Minnesota.

Off the playing field the 1960s brought about the establishment of the amateur draft in 1965, which with its ammendments, completely changed the future of college baseball. Professional baseball realized that they must rely more on college players, rather than high school players, which made it easier to recruit for college coaches. College coaches could now actively recruit players with whom they

would be able to work for at least three years, which allowed them time to build stable programs.

On the playing field, in the 1960s the Big Ten Conference with four titles, was giving way to a new powerhouse conference, the Pac-Eight, which won six titles including four of the last five. In fact, Ohio State's 1966 title was the last NCAA baseball championship that a Big Ten team would win.

## Footnotes

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## Chapter IV

The University of Southern California (USC)  
Dominates the Decade with five NCAA titles

1970

Having already won five NCAA baseball championships, more than any other school, the University of Southern California (USC) doubled its output with five straight titles from 1970-1974. With Rod Dedeaux as its head coach, USC dominated the college game like no other team in history. Until the Trojans' remarkable string of titles, only Texas had ever won more than one championship in succession (1949-50), and only one team, Stanford (1987-88), has repeated since then.

Following an opening round 4-1 loss to Ohio University the 1970 USC squad faced an uphill struggle to win the College World Series. Victories over Delaware, 7-1, and Dartmouth, 6-1, provided the Trojans with the opportunity to face unbeaten Texas (3-0). The USC-Texas game turned out to be a classic that went fourteen innings with USC prevailing 8-7. Trailing 7-1 after six innings, USC never gave up. It tied the score in the seventh inning with a two-run triple from catcher Craig Perkins. Then both teams failed to score until the Trojans came up with a triple and a single in the top of the



fourteenth inning and held Texas in the bottom half for the victory. USC ace righthander Jim Barr pitched the last eight innings, shutting down Texas on three hits and no runs.

Three teams, all with one loss, (USC, Florida State and Texas) remained alive in the 1970 College World Series. USC drew the bye to the championship game, as Florida State defeated Texas 11-2. The championship game also went extra innings, fifteen, which tied a series record, before USC defeated Florida State 2-1. Once again it was Barr who pitched the last eight innings, allowing no runs, and winning his 14th game of the season. "Barr had an excellent fastball and a slider, but there are other pitchers who have that," said Dedeaux. "Most important is that Jim had great command of his pitches. He had pin-point control." (1) With the bases loaded and nobody out, second baseman Frank Alfano singled home the winning run, providing USC with the championship.

Following its opening round loss to Ohio University, USC had to play perfect baseball to win the series. With a team batting average of .208, and with only one home run hit during the six games, there was something special about the 1970 Trojans. Lou Bagwell, the Texas second baseman, commented: "Those guys (USC) even then didn't think they were going to lose. We had played with and against a lot of their players in summer baseball, so we knew each other well. Everything bad began to happen, and you could see they

believed they were going to win."(2) The exciting series attracted a record 74,683 fans to Rosenblatt Stadium allowing the NCAA and CWS Inc. to divided a record \$29,007.

The 1970 ABCA All-American team was led by future three-time National League Most Valuable Player Mike Schmidt (Philadelphia Phillies) of Ohio University. Future Los Angeles Dodger star pitcher Burt Hooten of Texas was also selected to the squad, as was pitcher Brent Strom of USC. Dave Kingman of USC joined Strom on the Sporting News All-American team. Kingman was selected by the San Francisco Giants in the first round of the secondary phase of the June draft; he would go on to hit 442 home runs in sixteen major league seasons.

## 1971

Southern California's path to the second of five straight national championships was similar to the route it took in 1970 as the team battled through the losers' bracket in both the regional and national finals. In the District 8 finals at USC, Santa Clara defeated the Trojans 6-5 in the opening game, forcing USC to win the next two contests, which they did, 5-1 and 9-1, to advance to Omaha.

Following an opening round 5-1 victory over Seton Hall,

USC lost its second round game to Southern Illinois, 8-3, placing the Trojans into the losers' bracket. However, USC scored nineteen runs in their next three games, 8-6 over BYU and 8-4, 3-2 over Tulsa to set up a rematch with Southern Illinois for the championship. In the title game Steve Busby pitched a complete game victory (his 11th win of the season) as USC defeated the Salukis 7-2 to finish with a 53-13 record. Frank Alfano and Craig Perkins hit home runs in the championship game to lead the offense. Future American League Most Valuable Player and Rookie-of-the-year (Boston Red Sox 1975), Fred Lynn hit .467 in the series to lead all Trojan hitters. Lynn went on to play fifteen years in the major leagues from 1975-1990 for Boston, California, Baltimore, Detroit and San Diego. Alfano, Lynn, and pitcher Mark Sogge of USC all were selected as members of the all-tournament team.

The attendance record was once again broken as 77,460 fans flocked to Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha. Because of increases in game and team expenses the NCAA and CWS Inc. did not receive a larger profit share than in 1970: however, they still split \$28,383.

Burt Hooten, of Texas, headed the 1971 ABCA All-American team, having been selected for the third consecutive year. Hooten finished his collegiate career with a 35-3 record, 386 strikeouts in 292 innings and an earned run average of 1.14.

Arizona State coach Bobby Winkles commented: "Hooten is the best college pitcher we've ever faced-or seen."(3)

Steve Rogers, of Tulsa, who later pitched for the Montreal Expos in 1973-1985, was a second team ABCA selection as was Mike Schmidt of Ohio University. The Sporting News featured both Hooten and Schmidt on their 1971 All-American team.

In the professional draft no college players were selected in the first round; professional teams elected to go with all high school players. However, Rob Ellis (ABCA and Sporting News All-American from Michigan State University) and Hooten were both selected in the first round of the secondary draft. (The secondary draft is for previously drafted players who had not signed professional contracts.) Both played in the major leagues that summer with limited success. Hooten won only two games and Ellis never lived up to his power image, managing no home runs in 64 games. However, Hooten went on to win 151 games in a fifteen year career with the Cubs, Los Angeles Dodgers and the Texas Rangers.

Nineteen seventy one marked the last year in which college players who were previously drafted had to be selected in the secondary phase of the draft. Subsequently, college players, unless drafted in the previous thirteen months, could be drafted in the regular phase of the draft. Because of this new rule, 1971 also was the last year where high school players would dominate the first round of the regular phase of the draft.

1972

Even though Southern California (USC) had won the two previous NCAA baseball championships, won the championship of the tough Pacific-Eight Conference, and had an overall record of 45-12, they were not the 1972 College World Series favorite. That honor went to Arizona State, which had won three NCAA titles of their own (1965, 1967 and 1969), sported a .331 team batting average, had a 32-game winning streak, and a gaudy record of 60-4, establishing a NCAA victory record. The two teams had contrasting styles. Arizona State played a new brand of baseball where every player, including the pitcher, would sprint on and off the field between innings and sprint to first following a walk. Under no circumstances would any player argue with an umpire or say something negative about an opponent. Southern California, on the other hand, often used bench jockeying to rile the opposition and would openly discuss umpires' decisions. "They play what I call the old-fashioned professional style," said Arizona State coach Jim Brock. "Good execution, ride the other team, argue with the ump. We're the new trend." (4) Pitcher Mark Sogge explained the USC style: "We never go out

on the field with any thought of losing. We feel the other team can't beat us unless we make mistakes, and we don't make many."(5)

Following an opening round win over Iowa 2-1, Arizona State rode the shutout pitching of Eddie Bane, Oklahoma 1-0, Jim Crawford, USC 3-0, and Craig Swan, Temple 1-0, to become the only unbeaten team in Omaha. Meanwhile, USC had defeated Mississippi 8-6, Connecticut 5-4, and Texas 4-3, with its only loss coming to Arizona State. The Trojans would have to defeat unbeaten Arizona State twice for their third consecutive NCAA title. A 3-1 USC win set up the winner-take-all national championship game.

In the championship game Arizona State continued to struggle offensively as USC pitchers Sogge and Russ McQueen combined to shut out the Sun Devils 1-0. USC won the tournament despite a puny team batting average of .198. Pitching, obviously, was the dominant factor. The USC staff had an earned run average of 1.93, allowing only twelve earned runs in fifty six innings. McQueen had three pitching victories, one save and did not allow a run in fourteen innings of work as he earned Most Valuable Player honors. The three USC-Arizona State games contributed to record attendance; as 80,214 fans attended the series, which allowed the NCAA and CWS Inc. to divide \$42,744.

Shortstop Alan Bannister of Arizona State and outfielder

Fred Lynn of USC were the only players selected to both the ABCA and Sporting News All-American teams. Bannister went on to enjoy a twelve year professional career with the Philadelphia Phillies, Chicago White Sox, Cleveland Indians, Houston Astros and Texas Rangers from 1974-1885.

With college players now eligible for the regular phase of the amateur draft, five were selected in the first round. ABCA All-American third baseman Dave Roberts of Oregon was the overall #1 pick by the San Diego Padres. Roberts played ten seasons with the Padres, accumulating a .239 batting average.

The second college player selected in the 1972 amateur draft was first baseman Danny Thomas of Southern Illinois University, who was taken by the Milwaukee Brewers. Thomas had one fine season in the minor leagues being named the Most Valuable Player in the AA Eastern League. However, his religious beliefs, which permitted no work between sundown Friday and sundown Saturday, led to the decline of his baseball career.

The other three first round college players selected were pitcher Dick Ruthvan of Fresno State by the Minnesota Twins, shortstop Dave Chalk of Texas by the California Angels and shortstop John Harbin of Newberry College, South Carolina, by Los Angeles Dodgers. Ruthvan pitched in the major leagues for fourteen years for the Atlanta Braves, Philadelphia Phillies

and the Chicago Cubs, compiling a 123-127 won-loss record. Chalk played nine seasons for the California Angels, Texas Rangers, and Kansas City Royals, with a lifetime batting average of .252. Harbin injured a knee in spring training of 1973, ending his career.

### 1973

Heading into Omaha in 1973 the two favorite teams were once again, USC and Arizona State. The Sun Devils had another outstanding season as they entered Omaha with a team batting average of .340 and a 56-6 record. The USC Trojan baseball team was once again loaded with talent, however, in 1973 they were hitters rather than pitchers. Three sluggers, Fred Lynn, Roy Smalley, and Rick Dauer, combined for 23 home runs, over 100 runs batted in and a .325 batting average while leading USC to a 51-11 record.

USC was up to its old tricks as it attempted to unravel Arizona State. "They have a good team this year," said USC All-America pitcher Randy Scarberry, "but they don't win the big ones. They also play a weak schedule, beat a lot of people, get ranked number 1 and then lose the important games. The poised, intelligent team will beat them. A team like ours."(6) First baseman Clay Westlake of Arizona State



countered: "Those guys are bush, the way they razz the opposition. That's little league stuff." (7)

USC and Arizona State both won their first two games and met in the third round with USC winning 3-1. Ed Putnam delivered a bases loaded single, his only hit against Arizona State in five games, to break a 1-1 tie.

Oddly enough, the most memorable game of the 1973 College World Series occurred in the fourth round as USC played Minnesota. The Golden Gophers started Dave Winfield on the mound, and he dominated the Trojans through eight innings, striking out fifteen batters while allowing only one hit. With a seven run lead and Winfield pitching, the prospects appeared dim for USC. Then three singles and an error leading off the ninth inning brought a pitching change from Minnesota. Coach Dick Siebert explained: "If Winfield had anywhere near his normal control, he would have breezed through the game in short order [9 walks]. But college pitchers are used to a full week's rest, playing only on weekends as we do in the Big Ten Conference. This time David had only three day's rest, but he played left field and was in the action the previous two games so he really didn't get a full rest." (8) Five more singles, a sacrifice fly and two more errors led USC to an amazing 8-7 comeback victory.

The following day USC defeated Arizona State 4-3 to win the championship. USC had won eleven straight post-season

games enroute to the 1974 title. Teammates Smalley, outfielder Ken Huizenga, pitcher Randy Scarbery, and Most Valuable Player Winfield of Minnesota led the all-tournament team.

Since USC won five straight games, only nine sessions were necessary to complete the series, which resulted in a decline in attendance from 80,214 to 65,356. CWS Inc. and the NCAA still were able to divide \$37,918 of net receipts.

Scarberry and catcher John Stearns of Colorado State both were selected to the ABCA and Sporting News All-American teams. Stearns went on to a eleven year professional career with the New York Mets, compiling a batting average of .260. Lynn and Winfield made the Sporting News, team while Smalley was selected to the ABCA first team. Winfield remains an active major leaguer currently employed by the California Angels having also played for the San Diego Padres (1973-1980) and New York Yankees (1981-1988). Smalley enjoyed a thirteen year professional baseball career with Texas, the New York Yankees and Minnesota Twins.

Unlike 1972, when college players did not move on to major league success, 1973 resulted in five of seven college players drafted in the first round having major league success. Stearns was the #2 player selected in the amateur draft (Philadelphia Phillies), Winfield #4 (San Diego Padres), Eddie Bane of Arizona State #11 (Minnesota Twins),

Steve Swisher of Ohio University #21 (Chicago Cubs) and Scarberry #23 (Oakland Athletics). All five players reached the major leagues, making 1973 a banner year for college baseball players.

## 1974

The 1974 College World Series marked the fifth consecutive championship for the USC Trojans. The Trojans, 50-21, defeated Miami of Florida 7-3 in the title game. Once again their offense (a .299 team batting average) was the difference. In the series USC hit .271 as a team and averaged six runs per game. Rich Dauer had a fantastic season, batting .387 with 108 hits, 15 home runs and 92 runs batted in.

The 1974 Trojans did not go unbeaten in playoff action as the 1973 team had, losing to Cal-State Los Angeles in the District 8 playoffs 7-6, Pepperdine 4-2 in the District 8 finals and to Miami 7-3 in their third game of the College World Series. In each tournament the Trojans bounced back to win the remaining games and extend USC's domination of college baseball.

Dauer, along with teammates shortstop Marvin Cobb,

(who went on to be assistant athletic director at USC), outfielder Bob Mitchell, second baseman Rob Adolph, and pitchers George Milke and Mark Barr were all selected to the all-tournament team. A \$17,000 increase in team and game expenses led to decreases in net receipts shared by the NCAA and CWS Inc. Although 71,105 fans attended the games only \$24,616 was split between the two organizations.

Even though they finished second in the 1974 series the Miami Hurricanes under head coach Ron Fraser were building a collegiate baseball powerhouse. "This is the biggest thing that's ever happened to us athletically," said Fraser. "It's the closest we've ever been to a national championship. We're ahead of schedule getting a shot at it. I would have been happy with this in five years. We're the little kids on the block challenging the big guys." (9) The Hurricanes were making their first trip to Omaha, as they had only participated in two previous NCAA tournaments (1971 and 1973) with a 4-4 post season record. Fraser's twelfth season at Miami was his finest, as the Hurricanes were 52-10, breaking the school record for victories. Southern Illinois coach Itchy Jones, whose team had lost in the semi-finals, commented on the future of Miami baseball: "They are newcomers as of now, but they are going to as well known as Southern California and Arizona State. They will be a

national power."(10) Jones turned out to be a prophet as Miami has qualified for every NCAA tournament since (1974-1991) and has appeared in ten College World Series's, winning twice, in 1982 and 1985.

Rich Dauer of USC headlined both the ABCA and Sporting News All-American teams. Dauer would go on to play professional baseball for ten years with the Baltimore Orioles, compiling a .257 batting average. Other notables on the 1974 ABCA All-American team included shortstop Bill Almon of Brown University, who went on to play fifteen years of professional baseball, mainly for the San Diego Padres and Pittsburgh Pirates, and second team selection Ron Hassey of Arizona. Hassey currently is playing for the Oakland Athletics and has performed for fourteen major league seasons for Cleveland, the Chicago White Sox, and the New York Yankees.

Many college records were tied or broken in 1974. Texas sophomore pitcher Jim Gideon's 19 victories tied Arizona State's Larry Gura's record set in 1969. Orlando Gonzalez of Miami stole a record 62 bases, and Santa Clara third baseman Gene DeLyon belted 19 home runs to break the NCAA mark of 18. Dauer's hitting feats also established NCAA records for hits (108), total bases (181) and runs batted in (92).

Six college players were selected in the first round of

the 1974 amateur draft with four reaching the major leagues; Almon #1 (San Diego), pitcher Tom Brennan of Lewis University #4 (Cleveland), shortstop Mike Miley of Louisiana State University #10 (California), and Dauer #24 (Baltimore).

## 1975

The Texas Longhorns finally ended USC's domination of college baseball by winning the 1975 College World Series. It had been twenty-five years since the Longhorns had won the title in 1950. Throughout the season the Longhorns had been led by the hitting of Keith Moreland (.345 batting average) and the pitching of Jim Gideon (17-0, 1.60 earned run average). As in many World Series, two lesser known stars shared the series limelight. Mickey Reichenbach hit .455 and was selected the tournament Most Valuable Player while Richard Wortham pitched the final game victory over South Carolina, allowing only four hits in a 5-1 victory. It was Reichenbach's two-run homer in the third inning, with Moreland on base, that propelled Texas to a 3-0 lead that they would never relinquish. Moreland commented on the 1975

team: "The key to the team was that everybody on it, at some point, did something to win a ballgame. I remember thinking that as the ball [Reichenbach's homer] went by me, everybody did something to help us win."(11) Coach Cliff Gustafson's Longhorns were the toast of Austin, Texas. They ended the 1975 season with an incredible 59-6 record and the national championship.

With 78,052 fans attending the 1975 College World Series the NCAA and CWS Inc. divided \$41,617. Both figures were the second highest totals in series history to that date.

Both Gideon and Moreland of Texas were selected to the ABCA All-American team, with Gideon also being chosen to the Sporting News team. Moreland was the seventh round draft choice of the Philadelphia Phillies in 1975 and went on to a twelve year professional career with the Phillies, Chicago Cubs, San Diego Padres, and the Detroit Tigers. Gideon encountered arm trouble which curtailed his professional career; he appeared in only one major league game in 1975 with the Texas Rangers.

Also selected to both All-American teams were future professional players Steve Kemp, USC outfielder (Detroit Tigers and Pittsburgh Pirates), outfielder Dave Stegman of Arizona University (Detroit), and third baseman Denny Walling of Clemson (Houston Astros and St.Louis Cardinals).

In 1975 eight college players were selected in the first

round of the amateur draft including the #1, pick catcher Danny Goodwin of Southern University (California Angels). Goodwin did not live up to his billing and played only 252 major league games for the Angels.

In 1975, only 188 high school players signed professional contracts. This was an all-time low. More and more high school players were by-passing professional baseball and attending college. This trend would continue through the 1970s and 1980s, leading to improvement of the quality of play in the college ranks. Conversely, professional baseball now had to rely more on college players in the amateur draft.

#### 1976

Even though they failed to win the college baseball national championship, the 1976 Arizona State Sun Devils (65-10) were an impressive team. In fact Collegiate Baseball newspaper named it as its all-time top college team. Thirteen players from that team were selected in the amateur draft and eleven of the thirteen reached the major leagues. Two members of that team, pitcher Floyd Bannister #1 and outfielder Ken Landreaux #6, were selected in the first round of the draft by the Houston Astros and California Angels respectively. Both players went on to have fine professional



careers. Bannister won 133 games for Houston, Seattle, Kansas City and the Chicago White Sox, while Landreaux compiled a .268 lifetime batting average for California, Minnesota, and the Los Angeles Dodgers. Other 1976 Arizona State players who reached the major leagues were second baseman Bob Horner (Atlanta and St.Louis) and outfielder Ken Phelps (Seattle and the New York Yankees).

Arizona State did reach the College World Series semi-finals, losing to eventual National Champion and Pac-Ten rival Arizona, 5-1. It was the eighth meeting between the two rivals and the only one that Arizona had won all year.

In the series, Jerry Kindall's 1976 Arizona Wildcat team not only had to overcome their underdog role, but also had to win five straight games following a 7-6 loss to Arizona State in the first round. A record crowd of 15,107 fans attended the two game session that also included Washington State's 6-1 victory over Oklahoma. Victories over Oklahoma, 10-2, Clemson, 10-6, and Eastern Michigan, 11-6, set up the rematch against Arizona State, with the winner facing Eastern Michigan for the title.

Eastern Michigan had shocked the college baseball world by making their second consecutive World Series appearance. The Hurons (now Eagles), coached by Ron Oestrike, were a virtual unknown until 1975 when they won the regional, at Eastern, over Michigan 2-1. Oestrike and his team even had to raise

money to finance a spring trip to California by selling kegs of beer at a rock concert. "I'm a country boy from Flat Rock (Mi.)," Oestrike says. "I didn't even know what a rock concert was. I'm still not sure I do."(12) All of college baseball knew who the Hurons were after lefthanded pitcher Bob Owchinko hurled a complete game 2-1 victory over heavily favored Arizona State in the third round of the series.

In the Arizona-Arizona State rematch, pitcher Steve Powers of Arizona threw a complete game as the Wildcats eliminated the Sun Devils. Ken Bolek, who was 0 for 7 in the series, hit a two-run homer in the second inning which proved to be the game winning hit.

Arizona State coach Jim Brock made a prediction for the championship game between Arizona and Eastern Michigan: "Arizona will win going away."(13) Brock predicted correctly as All-American Ron Hassey led a fourteen hit attack with two hits and two runs batted in. Dave Stegman also contributed with three hits and Robert Chaulk hurled a complete game five-hitter. Tournament Most Valuable Player Steve Powers added two hits, including a home run and three runs batted in. For the series, first baseman Pete Van Horne finished with a .520 batting average, thirteen hits, one home run and six runs batted in. Once again attendance increased to 83,455: however, because of increases in game and team expenses the NCAA and CWS Inc. divided a lesser share--

\$34,701.

Landreaux and Bannister of Arizona State, along with outfielder Dave Stegman of Arizona, were selected to both the Sporting News and ABCA All-American teams. Stegman was drafted by the Detroit Tigers in the 23rd round and had a four year major league career.

In 1976 the troubled United States Baseball Federation (USBF) made some changes that greatly benefited the organization. Under the direction of Richard Case, president of Babe Ruth Baseball, the USBF was reorganized. Each national member now would receive one vote and one board representative. The reorganization brought equality among its members leading to fewer rules disputes. The United States Congress also helped by passing the Amateur Sports Act, which gave the United States Olympic Committee sole rights to govern all amateur sports in the country. In turn, the Olympic committee turned baseball over to the USBF so that it could govern its own sport, thus providing the organization with the authority it needed to develop fully. Dr. Robert Smith was elected the new president in 1978 and, along with Case, Fehring and Dedeaux continued the quest to institute baseball as an official Olympic sport.

1977

Intrastate rival Arizona State followed Arizona's 1976 title with one of their own in 1977. The Sun Devils finished with a 57-12 record. Arizona State also followed Arizona's come from behind strategy. They had to win four straight games after losing to Southern Illinois 3-2, in the second round. Victories over Minnesota 8-4, South Carolina 6-2, and Southern Illinois 10-0, led Arizona State to the championship game where they once again defeated South Carolina, this time 2-1. Catcher Chris Bando's seventh inning home run clinched the victory for the Sun Devils.

During the 1977 series Arizona State's offense established many records which still remain in 1991, including team batting average .346, most hits 77, most total bases 121, and highest slugging percentage .545. Leading the offensive attack were shortstop Mike Henderson, who hit .462 with one home run and six runs batted in, and tournament Most Valuable Player Bob Horner, who had ten hits and drove in seven runs. For the season Horner batted .389, with 22 home runs and 87 runs batted in. Arizona State pitching was also outstanding with a team earned run average of 1.50. Jerry Vasquez was 2-0 with two complete games and a 2.02 earned run average. Teammate Darrel Jackson hurled a 10-0 shutout against Southern Illinois and allowed no runs in fifteen innings

pitched. The well played tournament drew a record 90,117 fans, which led to a record \$51,377 being divided among the NCAA and CWS Inc.

Horner of Arizona State and pitcher Randy Martz of South Carolina were the only players selected to both the ABCA and Sporting News All-American teams. Horner played professional baseball for eleven years for the Atlanta Braves and St.Louis Cardinals, while Martz played four years for the Chicago Cubs and the Chicago White Sox.

Future professional players Paul Molitor, University of Minnesota shortstop (Milwaukee Brewers), Arizona State shortstop Hubie Brooks (New York Mets, Montreal Expos and Los Angeles Dodgers), Florida State catcher Terry Kennedy (St.Louis Cardinals, San Diego Padres, Baltimore Orioles and San Francisco Giants) and Southern Illinois outfielder George Vukovich (Philadelphia Phillies and Cleveland Indians) were all Sporting News All-Americans.

Molitor (Milwaukee), Kennedy (St.Louis), and Martz (Cubs) were all selected in the first round of the 1977 amateur draft. Two other college players, pitcher Bob Welch of Eastern Michigan (Los Angeles Dodgers) and pitcher Steve Taylor of the University of Delaware (New York Yankees) were the only other first round college selections.

More and more high school players were now choosing to attend college, which resulted in the 1977 draft having more

college players selected, 438, than high school players, 392. This trend would continue through the 1991 draft as professional teams elected to draft the more established and proven college players. Of the 21 high school players selected in the first round of the 1977 draft, only 10, (48%) reached the major leagues while 4 out of 5 (80%) of college players reached the majors.

In Division II baseball, Steve Balboni hit a record 26 home runs leading Eckerd (Florida) to the NCAA Division II championship. Balboni would play professional baseball for twelve years for the Kansas City Royals, Seattle Mariners and New York Yankees.

#### 1978

A second straight NCAA title by Arizona State was not to be as it lost the final game to USC, 10-3. This marked the third time (1972 and 1973 were the others) that USC had defeated Arizona State in the championship game. USC had the rare blend of power (81 home runs) and pitching (4 starters with over 10 victories) which led them to a 54-9 record and their 11th NCAA title. The fifty-four wins remains a USC record. So strong was the 1978 USC team that twelve players were selected in the June amateur draft and eight reached the

major leagues.

The 1978 USC team won ten straight post season games beginning with a sweep of Washington State in the Pac-Eight playoffs, 3-2 and 5-4. Three victories in the West Regional at USC, 3-2 and 2-1 over Arizona and 2-1 over Cal-State Fullerton sent the Trojans on to Omaha.

Led by the hitting of Tim Tolman (.533 batting average) and the pitching of Most Valuable Player Rod Boxberger (two victories) USC swept through the series winning five straight games, over Minnesota 9-3, Michigan 11-3, North Carolina 3-2 and twice over Arizona State 5-2 and 10-3. Only nine sessions were needed to complete the tournament resulting in a drop off in attendance from 90,117 in 1977 to 79,654 in 1978. Game and team expenses increased, which led to the NCAA and CWS Inc. sharing only \$25,688.

The 1978 NCAA title was to be the last for Rod Dedeaux. The Trojans would not return to Omaha through the 1991 season. Dedeaux, who retired in 1987, but remains a consultant to USC baseball, coached the Trojans to ten NCAA titles. Dedeaux commented on his coaching philosophy: "I think first of all baseball should be enjoyable. Winning is the best way of making it that way. By keeping my kids loose and laughing, I can help them win. Of course the laughing doesn't extend to the field." (14) Dedeaux also commented on the style of play his USC squads displayed: "Physical

mistakes are part of the game, but mental ones don't have to be. At the level of competition we play, the teams are pretty even as far as talent goes, but we manage to win more often by minimizing the mental errors and executing the fundamental plays correctly."(15)

Four players were selected to both the ABCA and Sporting News All-American teams: pitcher Bill Bordley of USC (12-2), second baseman Bob Horner of Arizona State (25 home runs, 100 runs batted in and a .412 batting average), shortstop Hubie Brooks of Arizona State (126 hits and a .432 batting average) and outfielder Kirk Gibson of Michigan State University (16 home runs and a .390 batting average). Eventually all four reached the major leagues: Bordley (San Francisco), Horner (Atlanta and St.Louis), Brooks (New York Mets, Montreal and Los Angeles) and Gibson (Detroit, Los Angeles and Kansas City).

Pitcher Dave Stieb of Southern Illinois also made the Sporting News All-American first team. Stieb is currently the ace of the Toronto Blue Jay pitching staff. Also on the Sporting News team were third baseman Bill Springman of Oral Roberts University, who currently (1991) is an assistant coach at Pepperdine University and Steve Balboni of Eckerd. The ABCA also selected shortstop Greg Cypret of Missouri, who is now an assistant coach at Ohio State University.

Horner was the first player selected in the 1978 amateur



draft (Atlanta), Brooks the third player selected (New York Mets), Boxberger of USC the 11th (Houston) and Gibson the 12th (Detroit). An All-American wide receiver on the Michigan State football team, Gibson had to choose between a professional football or baseball career.

In 1978 the USBF established the Golden Spikes award, presented to the top amateur baseball player in the United States. Bob Horner of Arizona State was the first recipient of the award.

#### 1979

In 1979 a new collegiate baseball powerhouse, Cal-State Fullerton, emerged. The Titans, coached by Augie Garrido, had been a Division I team only for four years before striking it rich in Omaha: however, Fullerton had previous tournament successes. In its initial Division I season (1975) the Titans knocked off USC, at USC, in the regional tournament, thus ending the Trojans' five year World Series reign.

Unlike USC the previous year, Fullerton did not go unbeaten in post-season play. The Titans had to battle back through the losers' bracket in both the regional and national tournaments. In the regional, at Fresno, California,

Fullerton lost its opening round game to UCLA 5-4 and then won four straight over Portland State 20-3, Fresno State 12-3 and UCLA 9-2 and 6-5 to advance to Omaha.

Once in Omaha, Fullerton again moved into the losers' bracket with an opening round 6-1 loss to Mississippi State. The determined Titans got their offense rolling as they defeated Connecticut 8-3, Arizona 16-3, Arkansas 13-10, and Pepperdine 8-5, setting up the winner take all championship game versus Arkansas. In the Pepperdine game outfielder Mickey Palmer had five hits to pace the offense. Defensively, catcher Kurt Kingsolver, whose father had played for Oklahoma State in the 1954 College World Series, threw out three would be base stealers and picked off a runner on first base.

Arkansas, coached by Norm DeBriyn, had finished second to Texas in the Southwest Conference and were sent to the Eastern regional where they went unbeaten to reach Omaha. Adding to the championship drama was the fact that neither Fullerton nor Arkansas had ever won an NCAA title in any sport.

In front of 10,158 fans, starting pitchers Steve Krueger (Arkansas) and Dave Weatherman (Fullerton) were outstanding through five innings as the game was tied at one. With Fullerton batting in the bottom of the sixth inning Arkansas committed an error that allowed Sam Favata to reach first. Favata promptly stole second and scored on a single by

Tim Wallach to give Fullerton the lead. Most Valuable Player Tony Hudson pitched the last three innings to nail down his third save of the tournament. The 66-14 Titans slugged four home runs and finished with a team batting average of .330 for the series. Attendance climbed to 87,070, an increase of over 10,000 from 1978, leading to profits of \$47,832 that were divided between the NCAA and CWS Inc.

Third baseman Wallach of Cal-State Fullerton, who hit .392 with 23 home runs and 102 runs batted in, and second baseman Mike Gates of Pepperdine were the only players selected to both the ABCA and Sporting News All-America teams. Wallach was drafted in the first round of the 1979 amateur draft by the Montreal Expos and went on to become a National League all-star. He also was the 1979 winner of the USBF's Golden Spike award as the best amateur baseball player in the United States.

The University of Michigan had three players selected in the first round of the draft-- outfielder Rick Leach (Detroit), and pitchers Steve Perry and Steve Howe (both by the Los Angeles Dodgers). Leach had been a four-year starting quarterback for the Wolverine football team but elected to pursue baseball. He reached the major leagues in 1980. Leach and Howe were both Sporting News first team All-Americans in 1979. Howe became a relief specialist for the Dodgers and won the National League rookie-of-the-year award in 1980 when he

recorded 17 saves.

The three Michigan players, along with Wallach, contributed to a record ten collegiate players drafted in the first round of the 1979 amateur draft. Three other pitchers selected in the first round also reached the major leagues Tim Leary (UCLA and New York Mets), Jerry Don Gleaton (Texas and Texas Rangers) and Atlee Hammaker (East Tennessee State and Kansas City Royals).

Collegiate baseball named Division II coach John Scolinos of Cal Poly Pomona as their first coach-of-the-decade. Scolinos, coaching with no athletic scholarships, had a 910-606 won loss record entering the 1980 season. Under Scolinos' guidance Cal- Poly Pomona had won two national championships (1976 and 1980). Eleven years later, Scolinos still was coaching at Cal Poly Pomona at the age of 73. Al Campanis, president of the Los Angeles Dodgers, commented on Scolinos: "Here's a man without the benefit of scholarships and he beats the schools with blue chippers and does it year in and year out. That indicates to me that John knows baseball, knows how to teach it, and gets the best out of his team." (16) Cal- Poly Pomona's sports information department summed up Scolinos best with this statement: "If life, like baseball, is a game. Scolinos would be pitching a perfect game." (17) Scolinos was elected to the ABCA Hall-of-Fame in 1974.

USC's domination of college baseball highlighted the 1970s as the Trojans won six NCAA championships (1970-1974 and 1978). However, USC has not won one since nor has it returned to Omaha which has led to parity in college baseball. Eight different teams have won the College World Series since 1978 with only one team, Arizona, winning the title more than twice (1976, 1980 and 1986). The 1970s were a period of growth in college baseball but nothing compared to the 1980s where, because of television, the game would grow as never before.

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## Chapter V

### ESPN and CBS Televised The College World Series

1980

Arguably, in 1980 the most influential item in the growth of college baseball occurred: television coverage by the Entertainment and Sports Programming Network (ESPN). Based in Bristol, Connecticut, the cable company's programming is seen in 60% of all United States homes, making it the largest cable network in the country. The growth of ESPN has paralleled that of college baseball. Since December, 1980, ESPN has increased its subscribers by over 600% while college baseball has more than doubled its attendance from 5,300,000 in 1979 to over fourteen million in 1991.

ESPN first televised college baseball on June 3, 1980 in a game that featured Hawaii and Miami (Florida). Since then more than 200 regular season and College World Series games have been covered. Each year ratings have increased, from 50,000 viewing the Hawaii-Miami game to over one million for the Wichita State-Florida College World Series game in 1989. Every game of the 1990 College World Series that was covered by ESPN had at least 750,000 viewers.

Why the increase in the viewing of college baseball on

ESPN? Producer Bruce Connal states: "It is definately not just another game with balls, strikes, outs, hits and the other traditional aspects. It is the college game with college crowds, the college scene, the spirit and enthusiasm. The series is the greatest challange to our ESPN crew trying to capture and dovetail the bread-and-butter action on the field with the unique trappings of the game."(1) In adding the unpredictability of the game to Connal's remarks, one can understand why the game is so popular on ESPN.

ESPN's college coverage has been so successful that CBS decided to invest \$500,000 in telecasting the championship game of the College World Series (1988). The 1988, 1989 and 1990 final games were so highly watched that CBS covered an opening round Saturday game, Creighton against Wichita State, in 1991 in addition to the final game. CBS has ESPN to thank as it was ESPN who took the risk in 1980 to begin coverage of college baseball.

How much has ESPN helped the college game? "ESPN has made it possible for programs like ours to become revenue producing," states John Winken, head coach of the University of Maine Black Bears.(2) Since appearing on ESPN a number of times in the early 1980s, Maine has built a new stadium and draws crowds of over 3,000 per game. (Prior to appearing on ESPN Maine seldom drew crowds of over 500 people, and the program was not having any financial success.) Now, each



spring the thing to do on Maine's campus is to attend a Black Bear baseball game.

Former University of Southern California coach Rod Dedeaux comments: "ESPN has made a major contribution to the growth of college baseball." (3) Even Miami coach Ron Fraser, labeled the "Wizard of College Baseball", believes ESPN has helped the game, stating: "I don't think there's been a bigger factor in the development of college baseball's popularity than ESPN." (4)

Many current professional players earlier appeared on television during the College World Series, and their comments reflect the impact that ESPN has had on the game. "Most of the Red Sox players saw me pitch on ESPN. They wanted to see who Boston had drafted. I swear, most of the Red Sox fans had seen me pitch, too. That is where I received most of my attention, playing on ESPN has added excitement to college baseball," (5) stated Roger Clemens, former Texas Longhorn pitcher and current ace of the Boston Red Sox pitching staff. Alvin Davis, former Arizona State star and current Seattle Mariner, stated: "ESPN has made the College World Series something to look forward to each year. It is almost like a college bowl game." (6) The list of professionals who have appeared on ESPN is an impressive one:

Robin Ventura, Chicago White Sox and Oklahoma State  
Pete Incaviglia, Detroit Tigers and Oklahoma State  
Roger Clemens, Boston Red Sox and Texas  
Alvin Davis, Seattle Mariner and Arizona State  
Will Clark, San Francisco Giants and Mississippi State

Rafael Palmeiro, Texas Rangers and Mississippi State  
Jim Abbott, California Angels and Michigan  
Chris Sabo, Cincinnati Reds and Michigan  
Barry Larkin, Cincinnati Reds and Michigan  
Billy Swift, Seattle Mariners and Maine  
Ben McDonald, Baltimore Orioles and Louisiana State  
Roger McDowell, Chicago White Sox and Stanford

Despite high viewer ratings, the future of college baseball on ESPN is not as solid as it once seemed. 1990 saw ESPN begin its coverage of 171 major league games. This led to a decline in college coverage from twenty one regular season games to only twelve in that year. In fact, half of the College World Series games were tape-delayed by ESPN so that the network could carry live major league games.

All four games of the American Baseball Coaches Association (ABCA) Boardwalk and Baseball tournament were televised by ESPN in 1990 and 1991. Four teams from the previous College World Series participate in the annual event. The tournament is ESPN's kickoff to the college baseball season. Regardless of its future plans, ESPN has contributed greatly to the growth of college baseball.

ESPN's first telecast, in 1980, was not the first telecast of college baseball. In 1939 NBC televised a college doubleheader as Princeton played Columbia at Baker Field in New York. This historic event was the first sporting event of any kind ever televised. It was estimated that 5,000 viewers watched the games as Princeton swept the doubleheader 8-6 and 2-1. Few people realized the impact television would have on

sporting events following that first game in 1939. Mike Jacobs, a fight promoter during the 1930s and 1940s, predicted: "Someday, I'll sell television rights for a championship bout for as much as \$1 million." (7)

At the 1980 College World Series, the "Comeback Kids" of college baseball, the Arizona Wildcats, continued their early tournament woes by losing in the first round. St. Johns beat the Wildcats 6-1, and things appeared dim. Following a 5-3 victory over Florida State, lefthanded pitcher Craig Lefferts tossed a 8-0 shutout over Michigan to keep Arizona's title hopes alive. A 6-4 win over Hawaii was followed by a 11-10 thriller over California as Terry Francona led the Wildcats with five hits. Francona would go on to hit .458 in the series to capture Most Valuable player honors. On the season Francona hit .395 with eight home runs and 78 runs batted in. He also won the USBF Golden Spikes award as the top amateur baseball player in the nation.

The championship game, Arizona against Hawaii, was played in front of 15,276 fans and an ESPN audience. Lefferts pitched 6 2/3 innings of relief to receive credit for the victory as the 45-21 Wildcats defeated Hawaii 5-3. Current (1991) Arizona assistant coach Scott Stanley had two hits and one run batted in, and first baseman Wes Clements chipped in with three hits. Attendance increased to 95,406 which led to a record in net receipts of \$116,208 that the NCAA and CWS

Inc. shared.

Both the ABCA and Sporting News selected catcher Scott Madison (Vanderbilt), second baseman Tim Teufel (Clemson), and Francona (Arizona) as All-Americans. Madison played professional baseball from 1985-1989 (Detroit, Kansas City and Cincinnati), Teufel from 1983-1991 (Minnesota and the New York Mets), and Francona from 1981-1989 (Montreal, the Chicago Cubs, Cleveland, and Minnesota). The Sporting News also selected outfielder Joe Carter (Wichita State), who had a fine year batting .432 with 34 doubles and 91 runs batted in. Carter currently is an All-Star player for the Toronto Blue Jays following eight seasons with Cleveland, San Diego and the Chicago Cubs.

A record nine college players were selected in the first round of the 1980 amateur baseball draft. Seven of the nine eventually played in the major leagues including pitcher Ken Dayley (University of Portland and St. Louis), pitcher Dennis Rasmussen (Creighton University and San Diego), infielder Glenn Wilson (Sam Houston State and Detroit and Philadelphia Phillies), pitcher Jim Acker (Texas and Atlanta Braves) and Francona with the Montreal Expos.

Other notable accomplishments from the 1980 season included a .551 batting average, still an NCAA record, by New Mexico first baseman Keith Hagman. Pitcher Alan Fowlkes of Division II Cal-Poly Pomona also had a fantastic year as his 21-2 record indicates.

As in 1977, the Arizona State Sun Devils followed rival Arizona's 1980 World Series victory with one of their own. Arizona State's fifth national title came with a 7-4 win over Oklahoma State as the Sun Devils finished the season with a 55-13 record. The championship win was a revenge game for Arizona State as they had lost to Oklahoma State 11-10 in front of 15,333 spectators in the third round. Kevin Dukes hurled eight innings of relief to receive credit for the victory in the final game. Dukes had pitched in four World Series games allowing only seven hits in 22 innings.

Outfielder Stan Holmes captured Most Valuable Player honors as he had five hits and six runs batted in during a first round 11-2 win against Texas. Holmes finished with fourteen hits and seventeen runs batted in, which remains a College World Series record. As a team the Sun Devils scored 54 runs in six games, hit nine homers and finished with a .325 batting average. Ten sessions of outstanding baseball drew a record 120,535 fans to Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha. The NCAA and CWS Inc. also split a record \$166,605 in net receipts.

Arguably the greatest college pitching matchup also took place in 1981 as Ron Darling (Yale) and Frank Viola (St.Johns) hooked up in an NCAA regional tournament in front

of 2,500 fans. Both pitchers had thrown shutouts through eleven innings. Darling had not allowed a hit along with striking out fifteen St. John batters, while Viola had worked out of two bases loaded jams.

Darling's no-hitter was broken up in the top of the twelfth inning as Steve Scarfa opened the inning with a bloop single to left field. Virtually all 2,500 spectators, along with the coaches and players from both teams, gave Darling a well deserved standing ovation. On the next pitch, Scarfa, who had fine running speed, stole second base. Following a strikeout, an error by the shortstop left two men on and one out: however, Scarfa was unable to take third on the play as the ball was hit in front of him. Scarfa once again showed his speed by stealing third. Following another strikeout, the Redmen pulled off a successful double steal as Scarfa scored the go ahead run. Darling then struck out the last hitter and received another standing ovation.

Viola was replaced by Eric Stampfl who had two strikeouts as he retired the Bulldogs in order to finish the 1-0 St. John victory. Viola, now 10-0 on the season, allowed seven hits and walked four while striking out eight. Loser Darling's record fell to 9-4 as he pitched all twelve innings allowing the lone hit to Scarfa, walked five and had sixteen strikeouts.

Viola later commented on the game. "That was something

else, wasn't it?" he grinned. "I don't think I ever enjoyed watching another pitcher as much as I did looking at Ron that day. Myself? Honestly, I feel I was off a bit. I didn't get as much spin as I wanted and kept asking coach Gershberg what to do. He just told me to stay in there. That was a great game, whether you won or lost it. But I'm glad we won."(8)

Darling also reflected on the outstanding game, "I'll always remember that one. It will always be on my mind. I'd have to say I was at my best that day."(9) Former major league pitcher and Yale coach, Joe Wood, witnessed the game and summed it up best: "I never saw a better game played anywhere, college or big league. That's a swell ball game."(10)

Darling was the first round pick of the Texas Rangers in the 1981 amateur draft. Texas traded him to the New York Mets where he would go on to win over 100 games before being traded to the Oakland Athletics in 1991. Viola was a second round selection by the Minnesota Twins in that same draft and reached the major leagues in 1982. He won the American League Cy Young award in 1988 with a 24-7 record and has won over 130 games in his career.

A third collegiate All-America team was established in 1981 as All-America Baseball magazine began professional and college coverage. The name of the publication was changed to Baseball America in 1986. Published bi-monthly, Baseball

America introduced a collegiate baseball annual in 1983 that recapped the previous year and provided predictions for the coming season. Throughout the season Baseball America carries feature stories on college baseball from all over the country.

Two standout collegiate players, pitcher Neal Heaton (Miami, Florida) and first baseman Phil Stephenson (Wichita State) were selected to all three (ABCA, Sporting News and Baseball America) All-America teams. Heaton had an outstanding year. He won twelve games while losing only three with an earned run average of 2.23. Stephenson stole 34 bases and had a batting average of .447. Joe Carter, also of Wichita State, slugged 24 homers, drove in 120 runs, had a .436 batting average and was selected to both the Baseball America and the Sporting News teams. In their professional careers Heaton has won over 100 games for the Cleveland Indians, Stephenson has played sparingly for the Chicago Cubs and San Diego Padres, while Carter became an all-star outfielder for the Toronto Blue Jays.

College baseball players continued their increasing popularity with professional baseball as seventeen of the twenty-six first round selections were college players. Why was professional baseball turning to college players in the amateur draft? New York Mets General Manager Frank Cashen explained: "For quicker dividends, you go for college



players, especially pitchers, because they're more advanced than high school kids. It takes less time for them to develop. Consequently, its better economically, it costs us less money."(11) Besides Carter and Darling, college players selected in the first round of 1981 who went on to major league careers include Mike Moore (Oral Roberts and Seattle), Kevin McReynolds (Arkansas and San Diego), John Cerutti (Amherst and Toronto), Steve Lyons (Oregon State and Boston), and Dave Anderson (Memphis State and Los Angeles).

1982

By 1982 Miami of Florida coach Ron Fraser had achieved every award and honor that could be bestowed upon a college baseball coach with the exception of a national championship. He was labeled the "Wizard of College Baseball" for his promotion of the college game that resulted in his Hurricanes leading the nation in attendance from 1981-1985 and remaining among the top ten ever since. In fact Miami has drawn over 100,000 people to Mark Light Stadium in Coral Gables, Florida every year since 1981 except 1987. Miami had been to Omaha

four straight years (1978-1981), yet each time they had been denied the title.

A fifth consecutive trip appeared out of the question because Miami returned only two starters from the 1981 team that had gone 61-10. Nine of the departed Hurricanes had signed professional contracts, leaving the 1982 squad depleted. However, after outscoring their opponents 42-9, in the regional tournament, Miami was out to prove that 1982 was its year.

After a 7-2 victory over Maine in its first game, Miami was paired against Wichita State in what would become the most written about collegiate baseball game. This was not because Miami won 4-3 and went on to sweep the series in five games, but rather because of a famous phantom pick-off play executed by the Hurricanes. With the Shockers' best base runner, All-America Phil Stephenson (86 stolen bases in 90 attempts), on first and Mike Kasprzak on the mound for Miami, the stage was set for the play that the Hurricanes had practiced for the first time only the day before. As Stephenson took a big lead, Kasprzak stepped off the pitching rubber and faked a throw to first. Stephenson dove for the bag believing an attempt had been made to pick him off. First baseman Steve Lusby lunged for what Stephenson thought was an errant throw and then got up and took a couple of steps toward the bullpen area. Players from the dugout hollered

and pointed to the bullpen area; players in the bullpen scrambled to avoid being hit by the supposed pick-off ball; and even the Miami bat girls moved from their seats in the bullpen to fool the opposition. Stephenson then started for second, and Kasprzak tossed the ball to shortstop Billy Wrona who applied the tag to the started Stephenson. Since the game was televised on ESPN, the network took advantage of the uniqueness of the play by showing it a number of times. The Sporting News and Collegiate Baseball carried feature articles that included pictures of, and comments from, both teams. Wichita State coach Gene Stephenson, brother of baserunner Phil, stated: "That was as well a camouflaged play as I've ever seen, they rehearsed it many times, and with the bat girls. They definitely fooled everyone in the house. It never would have worked had the bat girls not been running from the ball, supposedly."(12) Brother Phil added: "I'm not saying it's a bad play, but it's bush when they've got the bat girls out there. It's a pile of crock."(13) Did the bat girls have a role in the play? Fraser commented: "No, they don't have a role in it. Our players on the bench worked on it."(14)

The phantom pick-off play seemed to inspire the Hurricanes as they dominated the 1982 series, outscoring their opponents 32-13 in the five games. Following the 4-3 win over Wichita State the Hurricanes had to face the 59-4 Texas Longhorns,

who were unbeaten in the series. Texas was using ace righthanded pitcher Roger Clemens, who had a 12-1 season record, in hopes of taming the Hurricanes. Clemens did just that as he allowed only seven hits and two runs; however, Sam Sorce and Danny Smith of Miami were even better, allowing five hits and one run as Miami defeated Texas 2-1.

A 10-4 win over Maine set up a Miami-Wichita State rematch for the championship (Wichita State had eliminated Texas 8-4). Fittingly, Miami beat Wichita State 9-3 to win its first national championship. Phil Lane hit a three-run homer in the game and had a .421 batting average for the tournament. Most Valuable Player Smith had three saves and appeared in all five Miami victories. Miami Pitching coach Skip Bertman boasted: "Smith was a Hall of Fame pitcher. Out in Omaha they think he's the best they've ever seen." (15)

With Miami winning five straight games only nine sessions were needed to complete the series, which led to a decrease of 14,000 in attendance from 1981. Despite this, the NCAA and CWS Inc. divided \$163,222.

Florida State outfielder Jeff Ledbetter was the only college player selected to all three All-America teams (ABCA, Sporting News and Baseball America). Ledbetter had obliterated the college home run record as he smashed 42 (the previous record was 29) while driving in 124 runs. Selected by the Boston Red Sox as the 26th pick in the first round,

Ledbetter failed to live up to his college billing. He played only three minor league seasons before the Red Sox released him.

The victim of the phantom pick-off play, Phil Stephenson of Wichita State, was selected to both the Baseball America and ABCA All-America teams. Stephenson had impressive statistics hitting .399 with 23 homers, 115 runs batted in, and 87 stolen bases. The Oakland Athletics selected Stephenson in the third round of the amateur draft.

Eleven college players were selected in the first round of the 1982 amateur draft including Franklin Stubbs (Virginia Tech and Los Angeles), Todd Worrell (Biola College and St. Louis), Spike Owen (Texas and Seattle) and Augie Schmidt (New Orleans and Toronto). Stubbs, Worrell and Owen have enjoyed fine major league careers, while Schmidt, the 1982 Golden Spikes Award winner, failed to reach the majors and finished his career in 1986.

### 1983

Texas dominated the 1983 college season with a pitching staff that included Roger Clemens (13-5), Calvin Schiraldi (14-2), Mike Capel (13-1), and Kirk Killingsworth (12-3). The Longhorns, 66-14, followed Miami's 1982 path to the title and

went unbeaten in the College World Series.

In the series opener Schiraldi threw a 12-0 shutout against James Madison, and the Longhorns were on their way. Following a 6-5 win over Oklahoma State, Schiraldi pitched five innings of relief against Alabama to nail down a 6-4 victory. Those two outings earned Schiraldi Most Valuable Player honors. He pitched fourteen innings, had sixteen strikeouts, and compiled a 0.63 earned run average.

The next day Michigan led 2-0 when Longhorn shortstop Mike Brumley hit a fifth inning grand slam sending Texas to the title game against Alabama (4-2). This time it was Clemens' turn, and he hurled a complete game leading Texas to a 4-3 victory. Attendance climbed to 115,700 allowing the NCAA and CWS to divide \$256,803.

Dave Magaden of Alabama enjoyed a great series as he batted .550 and swatted eight consecutive hits. On the season Magaden batted .525, won the Golden Spikes Award, and was the only player selected to all three (ABCA, Sporting News and Baseball America) All-America squads. Alabama coach Barry Schollenberger commented: "David had a phenominal year, he was truly one of the finest hitters ever to play college baseball." (16)

1984

In 1984 the most talented group of collegiate baseball players in history performed on campuses across the country. Eighteen of the twenty six-first round selections in the June amateur draft were college players, and twelve reached the major leagues. By contrast, four of the eight high school players selected in the first round reached the major leagues. Some of the most notable first round college draft selections were Maine pitcher Billy Swift (Seattle), Brigham Young outfielder Cory Snyder (Cleveland), USC first baseman Mark McGwire (Oakland), UCLA outfielder Shane Mack (San Diego), Arizona State outfielder Oddibe McDowell (Texas), North Carolina pitcher Scott Bankhead (Kansas City), Mississippi State first baseman Will Clark (San Francisco), North Carolina catcher B.J. Surhoff (Milwaukee) and Oklahoma pitcher Bobby Witt (Texas).

Thirteen of those eighteen first round selections and five 1985 first round selections played for team U.S.A in the 1984 Olympic games in Los Angeles. Even though baseball was still only a demonstration sport, over 50,000 fans attended every U.S.A game in Dodger stadium. Team U.S.A had a fine 31-5 record for the summer and won the silver medal following an upset loss to Japan, 6-3.

Cal-State Fullerton returned to Omaha in 1984 winning its second NCAA championship. In doing so the Titans had to overcome many obstacles, both on and off the playing field. Less than one week before classes were to begin, three junior college transfers, all pitchers, signed professional baseball contracts. As the season began, two starters, catcher Bob Caffrey and rightfielder John Bryant, were suspended for missing curfew.

Fullerton started off the season winning only seventeen of their first twenty-six games. However, the suspension seemed to inspire the Titans. Coach Augie Garrido commented: "I think that was a turning point. We had some leadership problems, but from that point on the team began to show its potential as a championship caliber team. We started to come together at that point." (17) Fullerton won twenty-nine of their next thirty-two games, captured the regional at Fresno State, with Caffrey and Bryant (who had been reinstated) delivering big hits, and headed to Omaha.

Following an 8-4 win over Michigan, Fullerton took a path that many past College World Series champions had taken--the losers bracket-- as they lost to Texas 6-4. In doing this, the Titans defeated collegiate baseball powerhouses, Miami 13-5, Arizona State 6-1, and Oklahoma State, 10-2. In the Arizona State game Jack Reinholtz and Eddie Delzer combined to throw an eight-hitter against a team that had defeated



Oklahoma State the previous day 23-12. John Fishel's two-run homer highlighted the Oklahoma State victory which provided Fullerton with a rematch against Texas.

Out of starting pitchers from his normal rotation, Garrido decided to send the 5'7", 133 pound Delzer to the mound. Delzer was a comeback story of his own, overcoming the shocking murder of his father in 1982 at a Christmas party. Following his father's death Delzer had been caught stealing a moped and served forty-five days in jail. Slowly Delzer began to accept the death of his father. He commented: "I handle it a lot better now, I know he's still with me." (18) Delzer gave up a run in to Texas in the first inning and then slammed the door until he was relieved in the eighth inning because of a hamstring injury. Down 1-0 in the fourth, Fullerton stormed back. Caffrey singled in a run, and Bryant tripled him home. The Titans went on to defeat Texas 3-1, finishing their season with a 66-20 record. Delzer commented: "I wish he [his father] were here, I know he would've been right here in the stands. He would've been the first one on the field. But I know he's happy wherever he is. I can see his face smiling." (19)

Delzer made the all-tournament team, but it was Fishel who earned Most Valuable Player honors with thirteen hits and a .475 batting average. Fullerton had thirteen players selected in the 1984 amateur baseball draft, including Caffrey who was

the #1 pick of the Montreal Expos. The second largest fan turnout in College World Series history, 120,456, allowed the NCAA and CWS Inc. to divide a record \$264,542.

First baseman Mark McGwire (USC), outfielder Oddibe McDowell (Arizona State), and shortstop Cory Snyder (Brigham Young) were selected to all three (Sporting News, ABCA and Baseball America) All-American teams. Also earning All-American honors in 1984 were Will Clark (Mississippi State, Sporting News), Shane Mack (UCLA, Sporting News and ABCA), John Marzano (Temple, Baseball America and Sporting News), Rafael Palmeiro (Mississippi State, Baseball America and ABCA), Greg Swindell (Texas, Baseball America), B.J. Surhoff (North Carolina, ABCA), Barry Larkin (Michigan, ABCA), Pete Incaviglia (Oklahoma State, ABCA and Baseball America), Drew Hall (Morehead State, Sporting News), Mike Dunne (Bradley, Sporting News), Chris Gwynn (San Diego State, ABCA), and Gene Larkin (Columbia, ABCA). All of the above mentioned 1984 All-Americans reached the major leagues, which provided more evidence that the caliber of baseball played in college was improving at a phenomenal rate.

1985

In 1985 two controversial stories, both involving college baseball powerhouse Arizona State University, were revealed. The first occurred in January when Arizona State was hit with Pacific-Ten sanctions that covered a period of five years for violations of NCAA rules. Arizona State baseball players were being paid to maintain athletic fields on the ASU campus, which is perfectly legal: however, all funds that were earned must be counted towards the NCAA baseball scholarship limit of thirteen, which was not done. Also some full scholarship baseball players were part of a work-study program, which is also a violation since a full scholarship athlete cannot earn any money above the full scholarship limit. These violations occurred over a four year period, and amounted to ASU having fourteen more scholarships than it should have.

The Pac-Ten handed down sanctions that included: 1) the losing of fourteen scholarships over the next four years: 2) suspending of four players for the first seventeen games of the season and suspending of one player for four games: 3) forcing the players involved to repay the work study money: 4) placing ASU on probation for the 1985 season making them ineligible for the Pac-Ten championship and post-season play: and 5) taking away ASU's 1984 Pac-Ten championship. Following the sanctions, Coach Jim Brock commented: "The

sanctions are totally and completely logical. There is absolutely no way to argue with the logic or fairness. They [the Pac-Ten] felt that it was our responsibility to know the rules. And they said you benefitted from your own mistakes. Therefore you got fourteen extra scholarships [over four years] because you didn't know the rules. And now you've got to pay it back. You can't argue with that."(20)

A second controversy surrounding ASU baseball occurred in April when the Arizona Republic reported that two ASU baseball players were taking Nardil, a drug prescribed for neurotic depression. Nardil is prescribed for people to increase levels of adrenalin: however, athletes usually have high levels of adrenalin. One of the side effects of Nardil is it can cause high blood pressure. The Arizona Republic stated that the players had taken the drug under the direction of Dr. James Gouge, a local psychiatrist who worked for Arizona State as a consultant.

One of the players involved, Drew Silver, had begun the season as a starter and at one point had a .400 batting average. When his average dropped to .200, Silver stated to the Arizona Republic, he was asked to take Nardil, which he refused to do. He eventually was taken out of the lineup and finally quit the team. The other player involved, whose name was not divulged, was prescribed the drug by Dr. Gough to help solve the player's addiction to marijuana.

Brock, who contemplated resigning over the incident, stated he was aware that Nardil was being taken by a few players. He also stated that Dr. Gough had thoroughly explained the possible side effects of the drug to all members of his team. Pac-Ten officials found no violation of conference rules and did not hand down any penalties against

On the field Pete Incaviglia of Oklahoma State grabbed the collegiate baseball world's attention by breaking a number of NCAA batting records. Incaviglia, a junior, established three new records when he smashed forty-eight home runs, batted in one hundred forty three runs, and had two hundred eighty five total bases. The previous home run record had been forty-two by Florida State outfielder Jeff Ledbetter in 1982. "The best college hitter I've seen since the advent of the aluminum bat," Oklahoma State coach Gary Ward said of Incaviglia, "The only guy I've seen comparable was (Bob) Horner at Arizona State." (21) Incaviglia was drafted in the first round of the June draft by the Montreal Expos but did not sign because of contract difficulties. He then elected to drop out of college to become eligible for the January draft, and he was chosen by the Texas Rangers. Following spring training in 1986, Incaviglia went directly to the major leagues, becoming only the fifteenth player ever to do so. In his first five seasons he averaged over twenty home runs and seventy-five runs batted in.

Incaviglia was not the only college player to break records in 1985. Tim Barker of Central Florida established two with 104 stolen bases and 142 hits.

There were no phantom trick plays to highlight Miami's 1985 NCAA title, just solid baseball. The Hurricanes had played well from the beginning of the season when they won thirty-four of their first thirty-nine games enroute to a 64-16 record.

Miami opened the series with a 17-3 romp over Stanford as designated hitter Greg Ellena hammered two home runs. The Hurricanes then lost to Texas, 8-4, slipping into the losers' bracket. Following a 2-1 win over Oklahoma State, once again it was tournament Most Valuable Player Ellena delivering a game winning home run to eliminate Mississippi State 6-5. Ironically Ellena did not appear in one game of the 1984 series because he served as the Hurricane bullpen catcher. Only two teams remained in the 1985 College World Series, unbeaten Texas and Miami.

In the 2-1 semi-final win over Texas, Dan Davies and Rick Raether combined to throw a five-hitter, sending Miami to the winner-take-all title game. Texas ace Greg Swindell, 19-2, was the losing pitcher--his only loss in three World Series' decisions.

In the championship game Ellena again paced the Miami offense with four hits and two runs batted in as the

Hurricanes defeated Texas 10-6. A crowd of 9,800 saw Raether finish the game for starter Kevin Sheary. It was Raether's fifth appearance of the series; he recorded one save and was 2-0 with a 1.50 earned run average. The win was Sheary's third, which tied a College World Series record. Ex-bullpen catcher Ellena finished with thirteen hits, three home runs and twenty two total bases.

Over 14,000 fans attended the Texas-Miami semi-final which contributed to a record setting total of 125,980 for the entire series. The high attendance figures allowed the NCAA and CWS Inc. to share \$256,701 in net receipts. ESPN reported that the 1985 College World Series was the most highly watched series in its six year history of coverage. Once again the Texas-Miami semi-final was the top game as it received a 3.7 rating, making it the highest rated game in history.

Five players were selected to all three (ABCA, Baseball America and the Sporting News) All-American teams, Incaviglia of Oklahoma State, Swindell of Texas, catcher B.J. Surhoff of North Carolina, shortstop Barry Larkin of Michigan, and first baseman Will Clark of Mississippi State. Four of the five (Swindell was a sophomore and was not eligible) were first round selections in the June amateur draft; Incaviglia (Montreal), Surhoff (Milwaukee), Larkin (Cincinnati), and Clark (San Francisco). Surhoff is the starting catcher for

the Brewers (1991) while Larkin and Clark are two of the better players in the National League, having both been selected to the All-Star game a number of times. Swindell would become the #1 selection of the Cleveland Indians in 1986 and won fifty-two games for the Tribe in his first four seasons.

The four previously mentioned first round college selections were not the only drafted players in the first round as seventeen college players were chosen out of twenty six picks. This group, in fact, turned out to be as impressive as their 1984 counterparts. New York Mets Vice President Joe McIlvaine remarked: "An awful lot of them have a good chance to have good careers. And it's probably the fastest group to get to the big leagues. Whether that says something about the outstanding caliber of the players themselves, or the caliber of play in the major leagues, I don't know. But it's pretty amazing."(22)

Other first round selections in 1985 who went on to major league success were pitcher Bobby Witt of Oklahoma (Texas), outfielder Barry Bonds of Arizona State (Pittsburgh), shortstop Walt Weiss of North Carolina (Oakland), pitcher Joe Magrane of Arizona (St.Louis), and outfielder Rafael Palmeiro of Mississippi State (Chicago Cubs). All are outstanding major league players with Bonds (1990 National League Most Valuable Player), Margrane (18-9 in 1990), and



Palmeiro a perennial .300 hitter (1989,1990 and 1991) in particular. Palmaeiro has played for the Texas Rangers since 1987. With fourteen first round selections in 1983, eighteen in 1984 and seventeen in 1985, college baseball was showing its domination over high school selections providing more evidence of how much college baseball had improved.

### 1986

In 1986 the Arizona Wildcats won their third NCAA title in eleven years. Surprisingly, the Wildcats won their first three games, 8-7 over Maine, 7-5 over Loyola, California, and 9-5 over Florida State, avoiding the losers' bracket. Trailing 7-0 to Maine, the "Comeback Kids" rallied in the bottom of the ninth with a dramatic two run homer from pinch hitter Dave Shermet. Another home run, this time a three-run blast from tournament Most Valuable Player Mike Senne, provided the go ahead runs in the victory over Florida State.

Miami of Florida then defeated Arizona 4-2 leaving three teams, (Miami, Arizona and Florida State), all with one loss remaining in the series. Luck was on the Wildcats' side as they drew the bye sending them to the championship game against the Miami-Florida State winner. Florida State

defeated Miami 4-3 as they advanced to the final game.

Florida State ace righthanded pitcher Mike Loynd, who had a 20-3 record, started the game and was effective for five innings, allowing only two runs. In the sixth, following a single, Loynd was relieved by Richie Lewis, who promptly gave up a two-run homer to Senne and later another two-run homer to Gar Milllay as Arizona rolled to a 10-2 romp over Florida State. Gary Alexander tossed a complete game seven-hitter for Arizona.

Coach Jerry Kindall commented on his 1986 team: "Of the three titles (1976, 1980 and 1986) the 1986 championship was the most meaningful because it came on the heels of a real down time in our program." (23) The Wildcats had been to the College World Series in 1985: however, the two previous years were down years with records of 25-36 in 1983 and 22-36 in 1984. Kindall also commented on the success of his program: "Our three National Championships mean we've had a succession of wonderful ball players at Arizona. You can't win the championship with Karma, nor with destiny. You get some young men with talent together, you get them to work hard and you get them to shoot for the top." (24)

Two juniors, pitcher Greg Swindell of Texas and shortstop Matt Williams of UNLV, were selected to the ABCA, Sporting News and Baseball America All-American teams. Swindell had a 10-4 record with an earned run average of 1.85, while

Williams batted .351 with twenty-five home runs and eighty-nine runs batted in. Swindell was 14-2, 2.04 and 19-2, 1.67 in his first two years at Texas, which prompted this comment from coach Cliff Gustafson: "I put him right behind Burt Hooten, I think Hooten was more dominating because he had a pitch (knuckle curve) that nobody could hit." (25) Mike Loynd, at 20-3, was the winningest pitcher in college baseball and made the ABCA and Baseball America teams.

In the amateur draft eleven of the twenty-six first round selections were college players, including the first four: third baseman Jeff King of Arkansas (Pittsburgh), Swindell of Texas (Cleveland), Williams of UNLV (San Francisco), and pitcher Kevin Brown of Georgia Tech (Texas).

Rod Dedeaux, who coached baseball at USC for forty-five years compiling an overall record of 1372-571, announced his retirement in 1986. Under Dedeaux's leadership USC had won eleven national championships and an amazing seven during an eleven year span from 1968-1978. Over fifty of his players went on to the major leagues, including Tom Seaver, Fred Lynn and Dave Kingman. Dedeaux also coached the 1984 Olympic team to a silver medal. "I've had a love affair with USC for more than fifty years," said Dedeaux, who was inducted into the ABCA Hall of Fame in 1970. (26) Mike Gillespie, a former USC player under Dedeaux, was named to replace him. Prior to his being selected at USC, Gillespie had been the coach at the

College of the Canyons, a junior college in California. Dedeaux remained active with the USC program as the director of baseball operations.

It was fitting that in the same year of Dedeaux's retirement the United States Olympic Committee announced on October 13, 1986 in Lausanne, Switzerland that baseball would become an official medal sport at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. Dedeaux was one of the biggest contributors to International baseball and its goal of realizing baseball as an Olympic sport.

Cal-State Fullerton (national champions in 1979 and 1984) was reprimanded for scholarship irregularities. Penalties included reducing its scholarship limit to ten in 1987, and the forfeiture of all its games played in 1985.

1987

The Stanford Cardinals won their first NCAA baseball championship in 1987 with a 9-5 victory over Oklahoma State. Stanford had been to the College World Series three times in the previous five years, made seventeen trips to the NCAA tournament (six in succession), but had never won it all.

Following a sweep in the regional tournament at Stanford, the Cardinals headed to Omaha with momentum on their side. "We were playing real well when the regular season ended", coach Mark Marquess commented. "I'd have to say we were peaking at the right time. We were doing all the things it took to win. It continued through the regionals and when we went to Omaha, we kept it going. We won the first two games even though we didn't play well."(27)

Those two wins, 3-2 over Georgia, and, 6-1 over Texas, were dominated by pitchers Jack McDowell and Lee Plemel. McDowell pitched seven innings of three hit baseball while Plemel allowed only one run and recorded eight strikeouts. Stanford's next opponent was the #1 ranked Oklahoma State Cowboys who had a 65-12 record. The Cowboys played a nearly flawless game and defeated Stanford 6-2.

Facing elimination, Stanford placed itself in a deeper hole as it trailed Louisiana State University (LSU) 5-2 in the bottom of the tenth inning. In front of 15,411 fans and with All-American Ben McDonald pitching for LSU the outcome appeared dim for Stanford. However, the Cardinals loaded the bases on two walks and a hit batsman. Up came freshman Paul Carey who delivered possibly the biggest blow in Stanford's baseball history. Carey belted a grand slam homer which ended the game providing Stanford with a 6-5 victory. "After Carey's home run, I kind of felt that maybe this was our

year," said Marquess, "and it proved to be our year."(28)

Carey's home run ignited the Stanford offense. They scored nine runs in each of the final two games, defeating Texas 9-3 and Oklahoma State 9-5. Carey continued his hitting with two hits against Texas and three, including two doubles, in the Oklahoma State game. He finished the series batting .381, scoring eight runs, and driving in seven more as he earned Most Valuable Player honors. McDowell threw seven solid innings in the championship game, while reliever Steve Chitren pitched in three games and received credit for two saves. The attendance at the 1987 series reached 130,659 which enabled the NCAA and CWS Inc. to divide \$327,868.

Oklahoma State was led by Jimmy Barragan, with one home run and a .500 batting average, and Robin Ventura, who had four hits in the championship game. Ventura, a sophomore, caught the nation's attention with a fifty-eight game hitting streak that ended at the 1987 College World Series in a third round 6-2 loss against Stanford. On the year Ventura batted .428 with twenty one home runs and one hundred and ten runs batted in. Selected in the first round of the 1988 amateur draft, Ventura is currently (1991) the starting third baseman for the Chicago White Sox.

Ventura, pitcher Derek Lilliquist of Georgia, and second baseman Torey Lovullo of UCLA were the only players selected to all three (ABCA, Baseball America and Sporting News) All-

American squads. Lilliquist, 14-3 and a 2.24 earned run average, and pitching teammate Chris Carpenter, were both selected in the first round of the 1987 draft by the Atlanta Braves and St.Louis Cardinals respectively. The two pitchers led Georgia to its first College World Series appearance. Lovullo batted .350 with twenty-four home runs and seventy three runs batted in, leading the Bruins to a 40-25 record and a runner-up finish at the West II regional in Tempe, Arizona.

Thirteen college players were selected in the first round of the 1987 amateur draft. Pitcher Mike Harkey of Cal-State Fullerton, 10-2 and 2.72, (Chicago Cubs), Jack McDowell of Stanford, 13-5 and 4.13, (Chicago White Sox), shortstop Chris Spiers of Clemson (Milwaukee), pitcher Jack Armstrong of Oklahoma (Cincinnati), catcher Craig Biggio of Seton Hall (Houston), along with Lilliquist and Carpenter all have reached the major leagues with the team that selected them.

Lefthanded pitcher Jim Abbott of the University of Michigan won the Golden Spikes award as the USBF top amateur baseball player in the nation. Abbott, born without a right hand, had an outstanding season with a 11-3 record and a 2.08 earned run average. His two year career record now stood at seventeen wins and five losses.

In 1987 the first Dick Howser award was presented to

outfielder Mike Fiore of Miami University which signified him as the ABCA's top collegiate player of the year. Fiore batted .423 in 1987 and had fifty eight runs batted in. The late Dick Howser was a former professional player (New York Yankees, Cleveland Indians and Kansas City Royals), manager (Yankees and Royals), college All-American (Florida State in 1957 and 1958) and head coach at Florida State in 1979. Players are nominated from all divisions (NCAA I, II, and III, NAIA and NJCAA or junior colleges). The nominating is done by ABCA members whose votes are tallied by the Howser Award Committee, which consists of the five All-American division chairman.

Augie Garrido surprised college baseball by accepting the head coaching position at the University of Illinois. Illinois had fired Tom Dedin and offered Garrido the largest college baseball contract in history, a three year deal at over \$100,000 per year. Garrido was replaced at Fullerton by Larry Cochell, who had coached at Northwestern in 1987.

Also in 1987 Lee Elbracht retired as the ABCA's executive director. Elbracht was replaced by Jerry Miles of the NCAA becoming only the second full-time executive director in the history of the ABCA.

The first change in the College World Series format in over forty years took place in 1987 as CBS television agreed to pay \$500,000 to cover the championship game. CBS wanted



the game played on a Saturday, and, in order to assure the game would be for the championship, a new format had to be established. Two-four team divisions would play to determine a champion of each division, which would meet in front of the CBS cameras on the second Saturday in June for the title. ESPN also announced it would continued coverage of all College World Series games except the final game.

1988

Inconsistent would be the word to describe the Stanford Cardinals of 1988. Stanford found out that repeating as national champions would be difficult as every opponent was aiming for them. The season started off slow for Stanford as it won only five of its first ten games. Following fourteen wins in fifteen games Coach Mark Marquess and his squad thought they had things working; however, four straight losses took care of that. "There were times during the year where we could have quit," said Marquess, "but we just kept telling ourselves to keep working hard and maybe something good will happen and it did." (29) Up next, of course, was a winning streak as Stanford won eleven of their next fifteen

games. Stanford's inconsistent regular season ended as the Cardinals lost seven of their final fourteen games to finish with a 35-21 record. By finishing second to Arizona State in the tough Pac-Ten conference, Stanford received an at-large berth in the NCAA tournament to be held in New Britain, Connecticut.

Making it even more difficult for Stanford to return to Omaha was a 5-3 loss to St.Johns in the first round of the regional. Four straight victories, 7-5 over Fordham, 8-1 over Rutgers, and 6-5 and 16-2 over Kentucky provided Stanford with the opportunity for a second straight NCAA title.

The 1988 College World Series once again started off well for Stanford as it defeated Fresno State 10-3. Second round action saw Cal-State Fullerton upset the Cardinals 5-3. Needing four straight victories to repeat as national champions, even coach Marquess had his doubts, saying: "I honestly didn't think it was possible for us or any other team to win back-to-back championships. In this day of scholarship limitations and the parity of college baseball, I just didn't think it could happen. It is truly an amazing feat for us to repeat."(30)

Yet the Cardinals did repeat by defeating Miami 2-1, Cal-State Fullerton twice 4-1 and 9-5, and the title game 9-4 against Pac-Ten rival Arizona State. The Sun Devils had

beaten Stanford five out of six games during the regular season which made the Cardinal victory even more special. A crowd of 16,021 witnessed the championship game and millions more watched on television as CBS covered the College World Series for the first time. Freshman pitcher Stan Spencer threw seven solid innings and third baseman Ed Sprague hit two home runs to pace the Stanford victory.

Sprague finished with three home runs, and teammate Ron Whitmeyer batted .400 with one home run and five runs batted in. It was pitching, however, that led Stanford to its second national championship. Plemel was voted the Most Valuable Player as he was 2-0 with two complete games, and only four walks allowed in eighteen innings of work. Spencer was not the only young pitcher to throw well. Fellow freshman Mike Mussina threw seven innings in the 9-5 victory over Cal-State Fullerton. Marquess commented on the pitching staff: "To say that our pitching was one of the main reasons for our success the last two years is an understatement. The importance of pitching, and pitching depth, in these types of tournaments is enormous. We've had some tremendous pitching performances the past two years and I'd have to say that without them we would not have won the national championship." (31) Arizona State's Martin Peralta also had an outstanding series, hitting three home runs and driving in eleven runs.

Four crowds of over 16,000 contributed to a record 132,688

fans attending the 1988 College World Series. Under the new format only nine sessions were needed to complete the tournament: however, the NCAA and CWS Inc. still shared a record \$380,933.

Third baseman Robin Ventura of Oklahoma State and pitcher Greg Olsen of Auburn were the only players selected to all three (ABCA, Sporting News and Baseball America) All-American teams. Ventura, who had the fifty-eight game hitting streak in 1987, batted .391 with twenty-six home runs and ninety-six runs batted in. His offensive numbers also earned him the Dick Howser award as the ABCA collegiate player of the year. Ventura was the first round selection of the Chicago White Sox in the June 1988 amateur draft. Olsen, despite numerous injuries, had a fine season going 7-3 with ten saves. The relief specialist was the fourth overall pick in the draft by the Baltimore Orioles. He reached the major leagues in September of that same year and quickly turned into the Orioles top relief pitcher. In 1989 he recorded twenty seven saves which earned him American League Rookie-of-the-Year honors.

Sophomore first baseman/pitcher John Olerud of Washington State and junior pitcher Andy Benes of Evansville were both selected to the ABCA and Baseball America All-American teams. Olerud had an outstanding year, going 15-0 on the mound with a .464 batting average and twenty three home runs. The hard

throwing Benes, 16-3 and an earned run average of 1.42, was the first player selected in the 1988 amateur draft by the San Diego Padres. Olerud is currently (1991) the starting first baseman for the Toronto Blue Jays and Benes is a starting pitcher for the San Diego Padres.

In the summer of 1988 twenty collegiate players were selected by head coach Mark Marquess and his staff to represent the United States in the 1988 Olympics. The games were to be played in Seoul, Korea. This was to be the last time that baseball was to be played at the Olympics as a demonstration sport only. Beginning with the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona, Spain baseball would become a full medal sport.

The United States team was a talented group with many future professional stars, such as Robin Ventura (Oklahoma State and the Chicago White Sox), Jim Abbott (Michigan and the California Angels) and Ben McDonald (LSU and the Baltimore Orioles), but not nearly as talented as their 1984 counterparts who had won a silver medal. Sixteen of the twenty collegiate players who performed in the 1984 Olympics, including Will Clark (Mississippi State and the San Francisco Giants), Mark McGwire (USC and the Oakland Athletics), B.J. Surhoff (North Carolina and the Milwaukee Brewers), Bobby Witt (Oklahoma and the Texas Rangers) and Barry Larkin (Michigan and the Cincinnati Reds) reached the major leagues.

It was felt that if this talented group of players could not bring home the gold medal, then how could the less talented 1988 squad?

Even with Cuba, perhaps the top amateur baseball team in the world, boycotting the games, the United States team still was not favored to win. Japan was seeded first, the host country South Korea second, and the United States third.

In the first game hard throwing Ben McDonald tossed a complete game seven-hitter as the United States defeated favored South Korea 5-3. In game two Robin Ventura drove in three runs as Andy Benes (Evansville and the San Diego Padres) received credit for the pitching victory.

The United States team lost their third game to Canada, 8-7, as starter Jim Abbott was roughed up, lasting only four innings. McDonald then came back to pitch another gem, throwing his second complete game as the United States defeated Puerto Rico 7-2, which qualified them for the gold-medal game.

Marquess selected Abbott to pitch the gold-medal game while Japan countered with Takehior Ishii. Ishii had already won two games and was considered to be the best pitcher in the Olympics. Abbott and Ishii threw well for three innings, until Ishii made a mistake to Tino Martinez (University of Tampa and the Seattle Mariners). Martinez hit a tremendous 420-foot two run homer over the centerfield fence to give the

United States a 3-1 lead. Abbott held Japan to only two more runs the entire game, and Martinez added a solo homer in the seventh inning as the United States won the gold-medal game 5-3. "I'm proud to be a part of all of this," said Martinez, the tourney's Most Valuable Player. "There aren't many people who have an Olympic gold medal, including the 1984 American team. I know it would have been an awfully long plane ride home if we had lost."(32)

The gold medal victory in Seoul did not automatically qualify the United States for the Olympics in 1992. Seven teams must qualify under these guidelines: the top four teams in the 1991 Pan-American games to be held in Havana, Cuba, the top two teams at the 1990 Asian Baseball Federation Championships, and the 1991 European champion. The last spot goes to the host country, Spain.

## 1989

Perhaps the most exciting College World Series in history took place in 1989, when the Wichita State Shockers won the series, overcoming tremendous odds. Because of financial cutbacks there had been no baseball program at Wichita from 1971 to 1977. To say that Stephenson built the Wichita State

baseball program from scratch would be an understatement. In 1977, when baseball was reinstated, the Shockers practiced on the band practice field, played their games at a city park, and dressed in their own cars. Stephenson's salary of \$12,000, travel, recruiting, and equipment all were taken from a budget of \$50,000. Amazingly the Shockers went 43-30 in 1978, their first season of play, finishing second in the Missouri Valley Conference.

In only their third season, 1980, Wichita State went 53-12, won the Missouri Valley Conference, and qualified for the NCAA Midwest regional, where they lost two straight. In 1982, everything fell into place as All-Americans Phil Stephenson (Gene's brother and first baseman) and Bryan Oelkers (pitcher) led the Shockers to a 73-14 record, another Missouri Valley title, and their first College World Series appearance. Even though they finished second to Miami of Florida, Gene Stephenson and Wichita State were now a force in college baseball.

Winning was not the only priority on Stephenson's list. He also stressed academics. His 1990 squad had a team grade point average of 2.8, with seventeen of his twenty-nine players having 3.0 or better.

Stephenson was not satisfied with his second place finish in 1982 or with the existing facilities at Wichita State. In 1985 a new stadium was built, mainly from the donations of



Rusty Eck and Todd Aikens, and spearheaded by Stephenson. A second renovation took place in 1988 with \$400,000 of improvements that included an Astroturf infield, additional seating, and a rubberized warning track. These additions were made possible by the donations of former Wichita State pitcher Ron Tyler. The Wichita State complex is appropriately named Eck Stadium-Tyler Field. Still another renovation will take place in the near future as 1,800 additional seats will be installed increasing the capacity to 5,600.

Since Eck Stadium-Tyler Field has been constructed, attendance has increased dramatically from 13,681 in 1986 to 30,652 in 1988 to over 100,000 in 1991. The Shockers have won over 80% of their games that have been played at Eck Stadium-Tyler Field. Wichita State also hosted the past two Midwest regionals where over 20,000 fans attended the games including crowds of over 6,000 to see the hometown Shockers play.

Wichita State's 1989 squad was a positive reflection on the program's growth, showing fortitude, determination, and a tremendous desire to succeed. Two starters were injured before the series began: shortstop Mike Lansing with a ruptured disc and pitcher Jeff Bonacquista with a broken kneecap. Three other starters, Jim Audley-achilles tendon injury, P.J. Forbes-ankle sprain, and Bryant Winslow-stress fracture of the leg, continued to play despite their pain. At times the Shockers had only eleven players who were healthy

enough to enter a game.

In the West II Regional in Fresno, California the Shockers won two of their first three games. This placed them in the position of having to win three straight to qualify for the College World Series in Omaha. Their first opponent was Fresno, the host school, where over 5,000 hostile fans would be rooting for the hometown Bulldogs. Trailing 4-3 in the bottom of the fifth inning, fifth year senior Mike Wentworth hit a two run homer to give the Shockers a 5-4 lead. Relief ace Jim Newlin closed the door on the Bulldogs, which advanced the Shockers to the championship round against unbeaten Michigan. Wichita State showed its determination by defeating Michigan twice, 3-2 and 9-5, sending it to Omaha.

By splitting its first two series games, Wichita State placed itself in an even more difficult situation. However, World Series Most Valuable Player Greg Brummett beat Arkansas 8-4 with relief help from Newlin. Brummett's victory was his seventeenth of the year, matching Newlin's seventeen saves. Undefeated Florida State was the Shockers' next opponent as its cinderella season continued. Newlin picked up his eighteenth save and catcher Eric Wedge drove in four runs as Wichita won 7-4. Designated hitter Wentworth sent Wichita State into the championship game with a three-run home run that rallied the Shockers to a 12-9 victory over Florida State.

In the championship game, 13,701 fans turned out to see the Wichita State-Texas match-up. Brummett won his third game allowing only six hits and one earned run as the Shockers defeated Texas 5-3. Shortstop Pat Meares hit a two-run homer in the sixth inning to pace the offense. Stephenson commented on his "gutsy" 1989 team: "We have a bunch of players hurt, and they could have thrown in the towel. But there is no quit in this team. At times it does seem like a miracle. We have had all sorts of adversity, and we still have found a way to win. I am just proud to be a part of this amazing ball club."(33)

Typical of the 1989 Shocker team was the performance of Winslow in the final game. Following a collision at first base, Winslow was in obvious pain. (x-rays later revealed he had broken his leg and wrist). Despite these injuries, he attempted to remain in the game and did so for a few pitches until he could no longer stand. As he was carried off the field Winslow turned to Brummett and Wedge and hollered, "You guys better win this thing! Don't you dare lose this game."(34) The 1989 Shockers will be remembered as a team of courage and destiny.

Another college player who showed tremendous courage in 1989 was John Olerud of Washington State University. The 1988 ABCA and Baseball America All-American nearly died from a brain aneurysm in late February. Following six hours of

delicate surgery, Olerud recovered in time to finish the 1989 season for Washington State. The Toronto Blue Jays took a chance on Olerud, drafting him in the 23rd round and signed him in August to a 123,888 bonus contract. He did not disappoint the Blue Jays as he appeared in the major leagues in September and currently (1991) is their starting first baseman.

Three college players, first baseman Frank Thomas of Auburn, catcher Scott Bryant of Texas, and pitcher Ben McDonald of LSU were selected to all three (ABCA, Sporting News and Baseball America) All-American squads. Thomas batted .403 with nineteen home runs and eighty-three runs batted in, Bryant, the ABCA Dick Howser award winner, hit .386 with eighteen homers and one hundred twelve runs batted in, and McDonald went 14-4 with 202 strikeouts in 152 innings.

ABCA All-American John Byington of Texas A&M had an outstanding year with fifteen home runs, eighty-nine runs batted in and a .442 batting average. He led the Aggies to a 55-8 record which was the best in Division I. Baseball America All-American Scott Erickson of Arizona was 18-3 leading the Wildcats to a 45-18-1 record.

The 1989 amateur draft was highlighted by three Fresno State players being selected in the first round: outfielder Steve Hosen (San Francisco), outfielder Tom Goodwin (Los Angeles Dodgers), and infielder Eddie Zosky (Toronto). (The

only other year that happened was 1979 when three University of Michigan players were selected in the first round.)

In all, fourteen college players were selected out of the twenty-six first round picks. McDonald was the #1 overall selection (Baltimore) and other college players in the first round included Bryant (Cincinnati), Chuck Knobloch (Texas A&M and Minnesota), Brian Barnes (Clemson and Montreal), and Kyle Abbott (Long Beach State and California). McDonald received a record three-year \$800,000 contract as professional baseball was making more money than ever before, because of television contracts and record attendance.

Collegiate Baseball's attendance survey showed that over 14.2 million people attended college baseball games in 1989. The survey, through a questionnaire, has been taken since 1979 with increases every year except 1988. All four year and junior college schools are asked to participate in the survey. Mississippi State led the nation in average attendance with 4,476 per game while Fresno State drew the highest totals as 147,147 fans attending their games. On April 23, 1989 Mississippi drew a record 14,991 fans for a doubleheader against Florida, which established a regular season single game record.

Ron Fraser, head coach at Miami of Florida, was named the Collegiate Baseball coach of the decade. Fraser's Hurricanes won two national championships (1982 and 1985) and 75% of

their games (534-177-2) during the 1980s. Fraser's overall record was 1,118-398-9 placing him second to the legendary Rod Dedeaux on the all-time NCAA Division I list. Not only is Fraser an outstanding coach, but he is credited with college baseball being covered on ESPN. The "wizard of college baseball" commented on his award: "Naturally, I'm honored by this. It's not something that one sets as a goal. But, through the kind of players we've had over the last ten years and the tremendous support of the South Florida community, I've been able to have success. Realistically, it's our [South Florida's] success." (35)

The 1980s proved to be the most influential decade in college baseball history. New stadiums were constructed or refurbished all across the nation (Illinois, Fresno State, Mississippi State, Mississippi, LSU, Wichita State, Maine, Texas A&M, Alabama, Florida State, Hawaii and Florida just to name a few). These new stadiums contributed to record attendance as Collegiate Baseball reported 14,000,000 attended games in 1989, an increase of 280% from 1979 when only 5,200,000 attended.

First ESPN (1980), than CBS (1988) began television coverage of college baseball. Television revenue (\$100,000 from ESPN and \$500,000 from CBS) contributed to a record \$2,000,000 payoff to 1989 NCAA tournament teams. Also contributing was the College World Series which increased

attendance over 39% from 1980 (90,406) to 1989 (132,865).

Tremendous talent also emerged in college baseball in the 1980s as these current professional stars performed on collegiate diamonds: Will Clark (Mississippi State), Matt Williams (UNLV), Rafeal Palmeiro (Mississippi State), Barry Larkin (Michigan), Kirk Gibson (Michigan State), Jim Abbott (Michigan), Roger Clemens (Texas), Robin Ventura (Oklahoma State), Frank Thomas (Auburn), Chris Sabo (Michigan), and Bo Jackson (Auburn).

## Footnotes

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## Chapter VI

### College Baseball Faces Severe Cutbacks

1990

The turn of the decade brought many changes to the College World Series. Traditional powerhouses of the 1980s Miami, Arizona State, and Texas all lost at home in the regionals, providing Omaha with a different field of competitors. Louisiana State, Mississippi State, Georgia, Georgia Southern, and the Citadel led the less heralded field. All performed well, as did Stanford and Oklahoma State, and provided Omaha with another great series.

Georgia's 1990 rise to the top of the college baseball world was not without its peaks and valleys. The Bulldogs ended the regular season by being swept by Louisiana State University (LSU) and then losing two straight games, 6-3 to Vanderbilt and 6-5 to Florida, in the Southeastern Conference tournament. Despite the five consecutive losses the 44-17 Bulldogs received an at-large bid to participate in the NCAA tournament. Four out of five victories in the regional tournament at Waterbury, Connecticut sent Georgia to Omaha

for the second time in four years. "The key to our success, no matter what anyone says, was going to the Northeast regional," said outfielder Bruce Chick. "We thought we were going to Miami, and that's a tough place to win. It was definately a key going up there thinking we could win."(1)

In the first round of the College World Series senior Dave Fleming tossed a four-hit, 3-0 shutout against Mississippi State as the Bulldogs began to gain momentum. Up next were the #1 seeded Stanford Cardinals (50-19), who had won their first round game 5-4 over Georgia Southern. Stanford junior pitcher Mike Mussina dominated Georgia for five innings, allowing only three hits while striking out nine batters. Trailing 2-0, the Bulldogs had their biggest inning of the year scoring eleven runs, six off of Mussina, en route to a 16-2 win. Every Georgia starter had at least one hit, with six batters collecting at least two. Senior Dave Rebhan pitched a complete game five-hitter, striking out seven while allowing only two walks.

Stanford eliminated Mississippi State 6-1, leaving the Cardinals and Bulldogs as the two remaining teams in bracket one. Meanwhile, Oklahoma State was blitzing through the other bracket undefeated with victories over Cal-State Fullerton 14-4 and LSU, 7-1 and 14-3. The Cowboys had won eleven consecutive games including seven straight post-season games. In the series they had scored thirty-five runs and had banged

out forty-six hits.

In front of 16,109 fans Stanford kept its season alive as freshman Brian Sackinsky pitched a six-hit 4-2 victory over Georgia. Another good crowd of 15,919 turned out the next day to see Stanford and Georgia play for the third time, with the winner facing Oklahoma State for the 1990 NCAA title.

Tournament Most Valuable Player Dave Rebhan won his second game of the series tossing a complete game six-hitter in Georgia's 5-1 victory.

Fleming and Rebhan had started all four games forcing Georgia coach Steve Webber to start freshman Stan Payne in the one game showdown for the NCAA title. Facing the top offensive team in the series, with a .349 team batting average, did not bother the unflappable Payne. "I've never actually worried about a team like that," Payne said, "I just always try to go out and pitch my game." (2) Pitch his game he did, hurling six innings of four-hit baseball and allowing only one run. Meanwhile, the Bulldog offense scratched across single runs in the fourth and fifth innings to take a 2-1 lead. Fleming came on in relief and earned a save, blanking the Cowboys the rest of the way. The old adage that good pitching gets good hitting out was real as Georgia had a 1.40 team earned run average and silenced the hard hitting Cowboys.

The exciting 1990 series contributed to a record 138,426

fans attending the games. Another attendance record also was broken as the nine sessions averaged 15,381. The NCAA and CWS Inc. divided \$376,044 from the series.

CBS television ratings were up 14% from 1989. A rating of 3.3 was recorded in 1990 as compared to 2.9 in 1989. (The rating is the percentage of the 92,000,000 United States households that are viewing a particular event.) ESPN was down from 1.5 to 1.4, however. Ironically, because of an increase in households that watched ESPN, more people, 785,000 per game in 1990 compared to 766,500 in 1989, actually viewed the games.

Following a lengthy investigation of rules violations, the University of Michigan was placed on three year probation by the Big Ten Conference. The violations occurred from 1983 through 1988 under then head coach Bud Middaugh, who resigned in July, 1989. Middaugh had coached at Michigan for ten seasons and was the second winningest baseball coach in the school's history. Some of the violations included: 1) payments of \$45,000 to twenty four players; 2) exceeding the thirteen (now 11.7) scholarship limit; and 3) illegal recruiting, such as working out high school prospects and paying the meals of family members of recruits. In addition to the probation, Michigan was banned from post-season play through the 1991 season, banned from appearing on television, and forced to reduce scholarships through the 1992-93 season.

On the playing field relief specialist Tom Hickox of Stetson (Florida) established a new NCAA record for saves with thirty eight. "It's simply difficult to access Tommy's importance to our program," head coach Pete Dunn said. "In eleven years at Stetson, certainly I have never coached another like him. I'm not sure I ever will. The fact that we can go to Tommy when we have a lead in the late innings and feel assured we can get the win is most comforting. Simply put, he has been brilliant."(3)

Augie Garrido left Illinois to accept the head coaching position at Cal-State Fullerton where he had coached for fifteen years (1973-1987). The job became vacant when Larry Cochell left Fullerton to become the head coach at Oklahoma. As the head coach at Fullerton, Garrido led the Titans to NCAA titles in 1979 and 1984. Garrido left Fullerton for Illinois in 1988 where he was given a three year, \$100,000 contract. Under Garrido, Illinois won the Big Ten Conference championship in 1989 and 1990, which marked the first times the Illini had done so since 1963.

Shortstop Tim Costo of Iowa and pitcher Stan Spencer of Stanford were selected to all three (ABCA, Sporting News and Baseball America) All-American teams. Costo had a .372 batting average with sixteen home runs and sixty-four runs batted in, while Spencer compiled a 14-1 record. Selected to both the ABCA and Sporting News squads were Arizona State

outfielder Mike Kelly, who batted .386 with twenty home runs, and UCLA catcher Paul Ellis, who hit .360 with twenty-nine homers.

In the June amateur draft, eleven of the twenty-six first round selections were college players. Pitcher Mike Mussina of Stanford was selected by Baltimore in the first round and is currently (1991) pitching in the major leagues. Also selected in the first round was pitcher Alex Fernandez of Miami Dade South Community College by the Chicago White Sox. This was the second time Fernandez had been drafted in the first round (Milwaukee had first drafted him out of high school in 1988). Fernandez turned down \$150,000 to attend Miami University where he had a tremendous freshman year with a 15-2 record. He then transferred to Miami Dade South, which allowed him to be eligible for the 1990 draft. "I don't have the power to change the draft, so I can't really say. But I do think if a player wants to go into professional baseball after his second year, he should be able to," said Fernandez (4).

At Miami Dade South, Fernandez dominated junior college hitters finishing with 154 strikeouts in 121 innings and a 12-1 record. When not pitching Fernandez was a designated hitter, compiling a .316 batting average with nine home runs and fifty-four runs batted in. Based on his tremendous season the USBF (Golden Spikes Award) and ABCA (Dick Howser Award)

honored Fernandez as their player of the year. Fernandez would spend only three months in the minor leagues before the White Sox brought him up to the majors where he has been a starting pitcher ever since.

1990 saw the editor of Collegiate Baseball, Lou Pavlovich Jr., research college baseball history to name the All-Time College Baseball Dream Team. In order to select the team Pavlovich sent nominations to sports information directors around the nation. Fifteen members of the All-Time College Baseball Team have been elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York. Infielders on Lou's team included Lou Gehrig (Columbia), Jackie Robinson (UCLA), George Sisler (Michigan), Lou Boudreau (Illinois), Mike Schmidt (Ohio University) and Harvey Kuenn (Wisconsin). Some of the more prominent outfielders were Tony Gwynn (San Diego State), Reggie Jackson (Arizona State), Carl Yastrzemski (Notre Dame) and Dave Winfield (Minnesota). The pitching staff included Christy Mathewson (Bucknell), Sandy Koufax (Cincinnati), Bob Gibson (Creighton) and Tom Seaver (Southern California). Mickey Cochrane (Boston University) and Thurman Munson (Kent State) were the catchers named to the squad. Nominations even included a manager, John McGraw (St. Bonaventure) and a coaching staff led by Bibb Falk (Texas), Dick Siebert (Minnesota), Walter Alston (Miami, Ohio) and Dick Howser (Florida State). Administating the team would be Branch



Rickey (Ohio Wesleyon and Michigan) with President George Bush (Yale) as president of the Dream Team.

1991

The LSU Tigers won the 1991 College World Series, marking the second consecutive year that a Southeastern Conference team had won the title. LSU blitzed through bracket one with victories over Fresno State, 15-3, and twice over Florida, 8-1 and 19-8. Rightfielder Lyle Mouton hit two home runs in the first Florida game and one more in the second. Also flexing his muscles was tournament Most Valuable Player catcher Gary Hymel who smashed two homers in the Fresno State win and two more in the second Florida game. Hymel's four home runs gave him twenty-five on the season along with tying the College World Series record held by Bud Hollowell of USC in 1963. Ironically, Hymel also broke the record for being hit by the most pitches (3) for an individual in the series.

In bracket two action Wichita State also went unbeaten as it defeated Creighton twice, 3-2 and 11-3, and Long Beach State 8-5. A record crowd of 18,206 witnessed the first Creighton game which went twelve innings before Wichita State prevailed. (Creighton is an Omaha school, which may account for the record attendance.) In the victory over Long Beach

State pitcher Kenny Steenstra won his sixteenth game of the season against no losses.

In the championship game righthanded pitcher Chad Ogea of LSU allowed only four hits and three runs over seven innings as LSU defeated Wichita State 6-3. Another home run paced the offense: however, it was hit neither by Mouton nor Hymel, but by centerfielder Armando Rios who had clubbed only three all year. LSU had drilled nine home runs, averaged twelve runs per game, and had made only one error, all of which either tied or broke World Series records. Coach Skip Bertman commented on the dominating Tigers: "Over the years clubs I have been on have faced super hot teams here. We never seemed to be that team until this year. We were fortunate that everything went well for us. Our bats were hot, defense excellent and pitching solid. This national championship is as much for past players such as Ben McDonald and Wes Grisham as it is for players on this team."(5)

For the first time in history a team from the state of Nebraska (Creighton University) qualified for the College World Series. Creighton set a team record in 1991 with fifty-one victories, including two in the World Series. The Blue Jay's four games were played in front of an average crowd of 16,634.

Off the field, Jerry Miles, executive director of the ABCA, resigned in June of 1991. An ABCA committee chaired by

Maine head coach Dr. John Winkin selected former Massachusetts coach Dick Bergquist to replace Miles. Bergquist said "This is an unexpected delight. It is a great challenge. It is trying time for all of us, but at the same time a tremendous opportunity. I was going to keep my fingers in baseball...but now I have put my whole arm in it!"(6) ABCA headquarters would move from Omaha to Amherst, Massachusetts where Bergquist resides.

Twelve of the twenty six first round selections in the June amateur draft were college players. Arizona State outfielder Mike Kelly was the second overall pick by the Atlanta Braves. Other top college selections were Stanford first baseman David McCarty (Minnesota), Florida pitcher John Burke (Houston), Alabama outfielder Joe Vitello (Kansas City), and Georgia Southern pitcher Joey Hamilton (San Diego).

Team USA failed to win the gold medal in the 1991 Pan American games. It did manage to win a bronze medal, which qualified it for the 1992 Olympics. Host Cuba won the gold medal, while Puerto Rico won the silver. The 1992 Olympics are to be held in Barcelona, Spain where baseball will be played for the first time as an official medal sport.

## Conclusion

College baseball's future faces two critical issues if it is to continue to grow and prosper: 1) The Presidents' Commission's proposals to reduce the emphasis on college athletics; and 2) bringing equality to the game by providing a mandatory starting date for all regions of the country.

In January, 1991 the college Presidents' Commission decided to demphasize college athletics. In college baseball the new proposals would include: 1) reducing scholarships by ten percent, from thirteen to 11.7 2) reducing practice and playing time to twenty hours per week with at least one day off per week 3) reducing the number of games to be played from sixty to fifty-six 4) reducing the playing season from twenty-six to twenty two weeks (including fall, winter and spring practices and playing seasons); and 5) reducing coaching staffs where each school would be allowed one head coach, one full time assistant coach and one restricted earnings coach. The restricted earnings coach could earn up to \$12,000 per year in salary and \$4,000 a year from camp income. All proposals were effective as of August 1, 1991 except the coaching reduction which goes into effect August 1, 1992.

Reducing the number of weeks, hours, and games a team can play or practice will be a positive move to bring equality to

college baseball. Many college coaches abuse the meaning of the term "student-athlete" by practicing seven days a week during fall practice when the "student-athlete" should be focusing his attention on academics. The reduction in the number of games that are played will only affect a few schools which generate income from ticket sales. Most schools, because of the weather, end up playing fewer games anyhow.

I do, however, oppose the reduction of scholarships and coaching staffs. College baseball's 11.7 scholarships are divided among four classes leaving programs with fewer than four available per year. College coaches divide their scholarships into halves and thirds in order to attract more athletes. The reductions will lead to fewer students receiving an opportunity to attend college, which is not what should be intended. More walk-ons (non scholarship athletes) will be needed to fill a roster resulting in a drop in talent at the college level. Fewer scholarships will only encourage high school players to sign professional contracts rather than attend college.

The reduction in coaching staffs will severely affect the game of baseball at the college level. In the Pac-Ten South Conference nine coaches will lose their jobs. The Big Ten Conference will lose six full time assistants. The quality of play will suffer because of the decrease in coaches who are

avalable to teach the game. Recruiting will suffer since coaches cannot possible maintain the same commitments that they once had. Most college assistants make less than twenty thousand dollars a year so the amount saved is not that significant. College coaches proposed an amendment, that each school be allowed two full time assistants and one restricted earnings coach. It was presented at the January 1991 Presidents' Commission meetings but was rejected.

In order for college baseball to become a national, rather than a regional, sport the playing season must be pushed back to accommodate the northeastern and midwestern schools. Far western and southern teams have dominated the game for years, winning 23 of the past 23 NCAA titles. Not since Ohio State in 1966 has a northeastern or midwestern team won a title.

College baseball begins in late January or early February for schools in the west and south. Their fifty-six games are spread over a four month period which allows them to play single games which begin in the late afternoon or evening. It also allows for less class time to be missed and less scholarship aid to be used for pitching. Northeastern and midwestern schools have to play their fifty-six games in April and May, forcing them to play doubleheaders where more pitching is needed.

Another factor that benefits the western and southern schools is the opportunity to practice outdoors. Midwestern

and northeastern schools must practice in gymnasiums and fieldhouses in January, February, and March. Baseball cannot be properly learned under those conditions. It was meant to be played and practiced outdoors on grass diamonds.

Midwestern and northeastern schools attempt to combat their disadvantages by taking costly southern or western trips. These trips usually occur in late February or March. Having practiced indoors, they are not prepared for these games and usually are not able to compete with their southern and western counterparts at that time. This leads to losses that eventually hurt their chances to reach the NCAA tournament.

A number of proposals have been discussed to arrive at a mandatory starting date for all of college baseball. The most practical was proposed by Wichita State head coach Gene Stephenson. Stephenson proposes a February 10 starting date for practices, with the regular season to begin on the third Saturday in March. The regular season would end on June 10, conference playoffs would begin on June 13, NCAA regionals on June 20, and the College World Series on June 28.

Currently, midwestern and northeastern teams practice from mid-January until their spring trips, than return home unable to practice or play for three to four weeks. The regular season ends the second weekend in May. Conference tournaments are the third weekend in May, NCAA regionals the last weekend in May, and the College World Series around June 5-11.

Stephenson's proposal would create equality among the nation's college baseball teams, while playing in better weather, and would also generate income from increased fan support. It would take years to actually see the results of Stephenson's proposal, but it would be worth the effort to implement.

Another proposal to create a mandatory starting date for all of college baseball was formulated by Oklahoma State coach Gary Ward. He proposes to begin games in early April with the regular season ending around September 10. The NCAA regionals and College World Series would begin in mid-September and end at the end of the month.

By making the game a "summer" rather than a spring game, Ward's proposal would be financially difficult to implement. Room and board for players would have to be provided during the months of June, July, August, and September when school is not in session. Increased attendance probably would not be enough to offset these expenses.

Also by playing in the summer the "student-athlete" would no longer be student. He would be an athlete only, which is not what the college experience is all about. (College baseball players work during the summer to help offset their expenses. Baseball is played during the evening hours so jobs can be arranged during the day time hours.)

The ABCA asked its member to complete a survey in 1990



that offered questions regarding the Ward and Stephenson proposals. Thirty percent of the ABCA members responded, with 64% in favor of a mandatory starting date. Forty six percent of Division I coaches favored the Stephenson plan while the Ward proposal was favored by 25%. Not suprisingly 38% of cold weather climate coaches (Northeastern and Midwestern schools) supported the two plans while only 8% of the Sunbelt coaches supported the plan.

As stated in the introduction, college baseball is growing by leaps and bounds. With attendance on the rise, the College World Series booming and television revenue beginning to produce large sums of money, the game is in good hands. However, if moving the playing season back a few weeks would make the game a national game, unlike it is today, then changes should be made.

### Footnotes

1. Sinclair, Steve, Collegiate Baseball, June, 1990, p 14.
2. Ibid
3. Collegiate Baseball, May 18, 1990. p 13.
4. Gyorgy, Dean, Baseball America, December 25, 1990, p 39.
5. Pavlovich, Lou Jr, Collegiate Baseball, June 21, 1991, p 6.
6. Collegiate Baseball, June 21, 1991, p 7.

## Appendix A

### College World Series Results

<u>Year</u>	<u>Champion</u>	<u>Runner-up</u>
1947	California	Yale
1948	Southern Cal	Yale
1949	Texas	Wake Forest
1950	Texas	Washington State
1951	Oklahoma	Tennessee
1952	Holy Cross	Missouri
1953	Michigan	Texas
1954	Missouri	Rollins
1955	Wake Forest	Western Michigan
1956	Minnesota	Southern Cal
1957	California	Penn State
1958	Southern Cal	Missouri
1959	Oklahoma State	Arizona
1960	Minnesota	Southern Cal
1961	Southern	Oklahoma State
1962	Michigan	Santa Clara
1963	Southern Cal	Arizona
1964	Minnesota	Missouri
1965	Arizona State	Ohio State
1966	Ohio State	Oklahoma State
1967	Arizona State	Houston
1968	Southern Cal	Southern Illinois
1969	Arizona State	Tulsa
1970	Southern Cal	Florida State
1971	Southern Cal	Southern Illinois
1972	Southern Cal	Arizona State
1973	Southern Cal	Arizona State
1974	Southern Cal	Miami (Florida)
1975	Texas	South Carolina
1976	Arizona	Eastern Michigan
1977	Arizona State	South Carolina
1978	Southern Cal	Arizona State
1979	Cal St. Fullerton	Arkansas
1980	Arizona	Hawaii
1981	Arizona State	Oklahoma State
1982	Miami (Florida)	Wichita State
1983	Texas	Alabama
1984	Cal St. Fullerton	Texas
1985	Miami (Florida)	Texas
1986	Arizona	Florida State
1987	Stanford	Oklahoma State
1988	Stanford	Arizona State
1989	Wichita State	Texas
1990	Georgia	Oklahoma State
1991	Louisiana State	Wichita State

## Appendix B

### College World Series Champions

<u>University</u>	<u>Titles Won</u>	<u>Years</u>
USC	11	1948-58-61-63-68-70-71-72-73-74-78
Arizona State	5	1965-67-69-77-81
Texas	4	1949-50-75-83
Minnesota	3	1956-60-64
Arizona	3	1976-80-86
Michigan	2	1953-62
Stanford	2	1987-88
Miami	2	1982-85
California	2	1947-57
Cal-State Fullerton	2	1979-84
Missouri	1	1954
Ohio State	1	1966
Oklahoma	1	1951
Oklahoma State	1	1959
Wake Forest	1	1955
Holy Cross	1	1952
Wichita State	1	1989
Georgia	1	1990
Louisiana State	1	1991

### Conference Leaders

Pac-Ten South	23 (USC, Arizona State, Stanford and Cal)
Big Ten	6 (Minnesota, Michigan and Ohio State)
Southwestern	4 (Texas)
Big Eight	3 (Oklahoma, Oklahoma State and Missouri)
Big West	2 (Cal-State Fullerton)
Southeastern	2 (Georgia and Louisiana State)
East Coast	1 (Holy Cross)
Atlantic Coast	1 (Wake Forest)
Missouri Valley	1 (Wichita State)

\* Miami (2) is the only independent to win a National Title

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