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Dan Fisher
Assistant Director, NESCAC
100 Venture Way - Box 13
Hadley, MA 01035
P: (413) 587-2078
F: (413) 587-2167
daniel.fisher@trincoll.edu

BASEBALL All-Conference - May 13, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NESCAC BASEBALL ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS ANNOUNCED

Mathews of Williams, Wood of Trinity Share Top Honors

HADLEY, Mass. – Seniors Al Mathews (North Hampton, N.H.) of Williams and James Wood (Windham, N.H.) of Trinity shared top honors as they were chosen by the conference coaches as the 2010 NESCAC Co-Players of the Year. The everyday outfielders finished their final season as the top two hitters in the league thanks to career-best performances at the plate.

Williams' leading hitter for the second-straight spring, Mathews connected regularly for the Ephs as he batted an impressive .497 with a .542 on-base percentage and a .639 slugging mark. He paced the conference's best offense with a league-leading 73 hits and also recorded 11 doubles, five triples, 17 walks, scored 46 runs and drove in another 38. Mathews also earned All-NESCAC First Team honors for the second year in a row after being selected as a member of the Second Team in 2008.

Wood collected First Team recognition for the third time during his tenure with the Bantams (2007, 2008). Second only to Mathews among conference hitters this season, Wood batted .441 with a .504 on-base mark along with a slugging percentage of .881 that ranked second in the NESCAC. His 13 home runs in 2010, one more than the 12 he clubbed in 2008, are second all-time at Trinity for a single season. Starting all 30 games for the Bantams, Wood also managed to score 42 runs and drove in 42 more.

Tufts had three members of its 2010 NESCAC Baseball Champion squad on the First Team, more than any other program. Junior David LeResche (St. Louis, Mo.) moved up from last year's Second Team while sophomore teammates Sam Sager (Cranston, R.I.) and Chris DeGoti (Miami, Fla.) both earned All-NESCAC honors for the first time. LeResche is batting .367 with an OPB of .483 heading into the NCAA Tournament. The shortstop has helped turn 25 double plays and holds a fielding percentage of .923. At third base, Sager is just ahead of his junior teammate in batting with a .380 average, posting a team-leading 54 hits, 18 doubles, and 36 RBI. DeGoti has delivered from the mound when it counted the most for Tufts, as the Jumbos' closer has a program-record 11 saves (16 career) in 18 appearances this season and owns a 1.33 ERA with 22 strikeouts over 20.1 IP. Defensive Player of the Year accolades went to Tufts senior catcher Alex Perry (Danvers, Mass.). Perry has only committed three errors on 180 chances (.983) and allowed four passed balls so far this year.

Wesleyan junior outfielder Julian Sonnenfeld (Aberdeen, N.J.) was one of four individuals on this year's First Team that was a member of the Second Team a year ago. Among the top players in the NESCAC in multiple offensive categories, Sonnenfeld headed up the Cardinal offense with a personal-best .418 average along with a league-leading .543 on-base percentage and a .784 slugging mark (3rd NESCAC). Sonnenfeld hit a conference-best and program-record 25 doubles this spring. Joining Sonnenfeld on the First Team from the Cardinals was sophomore pitcher Brett Yarusi (Belmar, N.J.). Yarusi went 7-3 over 10 starts and tossed five complete games with one shutout, as he earned a 3.81 ERA over 59.0 IP with 47 strikeouts while surrendering just 17 walks.

Third baseman Brett Gorman (Bedford, N.Y.) of Bowdoin garnered First Team honors with an impressive all-around effort. Gorman, who earned Second Team recognition last year, led the Polar Bears with a .411 average, a .509 on-base percentage, and a .645 slugging mark while starting all 40 games. The junior had team-highs in hits (58), doubles (16), home runs (5), walks (26), runs scored (46) and driven in (41) to help Bowdoin reach the title game of the NESCAC Baseball Championship for the first time ever this past weekend. Fellow Polar Bear Oliver Van Zant (Westport, Conn.) came away with the conference's Pitcher of the Year and Rookie of the Year awards in addition to First Team honors in his first season. Although he was limited to just seven appearances, Van Zant managed to average a remarkable 11.77 strikeouts per game as he retired 51 batters over 39 innings. At 5-1 with an even 3.00 ERA, Van Zant limited opponents to a .194 average.

Juniors Donald McKillop (Poway, Calif.) of Middlebury and Noah Lynd (Meriden, N.H.) of Bates were rewarded for stellar seasons with First Team honors. After landing on the Second Team last May, McKillop moved up this year with a team-leading .423 average, 47 hits, and 11 doubles. It is the second All-NESCAC award this year for McKillop after he was named Offensive Player of the Year and to the First Team for football in the fall. Lynd became the first Bobcat in program history to hit double-digit home runs, cracking a league-leading 15 dingers this spring as part of an effort that saw him average .398 at the plate with a .517 on-base percentage and a .912 slugging mark. Lynd was part of a Bates squad that won a school-record 25 games.

Rounding out the 2010 All-NESCAC First Team was Amherst sophomore catcher Mike Samela (Westport, Conn.). Samela was fourth among the Lord Jeffs in batting at .381 and also reached base at a .470 clip. Behind the plate, Samela gunned down nine players (.300) and allowed seven passed balls. He had a fielding percentage of .974.

Tufts head coach John Casey earned NESCAC Coach of the Year for the first time in his career. In the midst of his 27th season at the helm of the Jumbos, Casey's team has a program-record 31 victories heading into next week's NCAA Tournament action after earning their second conference crown this past weekend.

2010 NESCAC BASEBALL ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

P	Chris DeGoti	Tufts	So.	Miami, Fla.
3B	Brett Gorman ^	Bowdoin	Jr.	Bedford, N.Y.
SS	David LeResche ^	Tufts	Jr.	St. Louis, Mo.
1B/P	Noah Lynd	Bates	Jr.	Meriden, N.H.
OF	Al Mathews *	Williams	Sr.	North Hampton, N.H.
3B	Sam Sager	Tufts	So.	Cranston, R.I.
3B/OF	Donald McKillop ^	Middlebury	Jr.	Poway, Calif.
C/OF	Mike Samela	Amherst	So.	Westport, Conn.
OF	Julian Sonnenfeld ^	Wesleyan	Jr.	Aberdeen, N.J.
OF	James Wood	Trinity	Sr.	Windham, N.H.
P	Oliver Van Zant	Bowdoin	Fr.	Westport, Conn.
P	Brett Yarusi	Wesleyan	So.	Belmar, N.J.

Second Team

2B/DH	James Allison	Williams	Jr.	Amherst, Mass.
OF	Pat Barren	Williams	Jr.	Worthington, Ohio
SS	Tom Beaton	Bates	Sr.	West Newbury, Mass.
OF	Chris Burke ^	Bates	Jr.	Andover, Mass.
SS/1B	Bob Cook	Amherst	Fr.	Winnetka, Ill.
OF	Brendan Garner	Bowdoin	Jr.	Swampscott, Mass.
P	Kevin Gilchrist	Tufts	So.	Medford, Mass.
P	Ryan Heide	Bates	Jr.	Medfield, Maine
OF	Brice Kelly	Wesleyan	Sr.	Austin, Texas
2B	Frank Petroskey	Tufts	Jr.	Dallas, Texas
3B	Stephen Rogers	Trinity	Fr.	Watertown, Mass.
DH/C	Jacob Simon	Bates	Jr.	Waterford, Conn.

Co-Players of the Year: Al Mathews, Williams; James Wood, Trinity

Pitcher of the Year: Oliver Van Zant, Bowdoin

Defensive Player of the Year: Alex Perry, Tufts

Rookie of the Year: Oliver Van Zant, Bowdoin

Coach of the Year: John Casey, Tufts

* - 2009 All-Conference First Team ^ - 2009 All-Conference Second Team

AMHERST · BATES · BOWDOIN · COLBY · CONNECTICUT COLLEGE · HAMILTON · MIDDLEBURY · TRINITY · TUFTS · WESLEYAN · WILLIAMS