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 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 the league thanks to career-best performances at the plate.

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. LeReshe is batting .367 with an OBP 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 73 hits and also recorded 11 doubles, .418 average along with a league-leading .543 on-base percentage and a .784 slugging mark (3rd NESCAC). Sonnenfeld hit a conference-best 73 hits and also recorded 11 doubles, 46 runs scored and 41 driven in 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.

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 (Pawow, 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. 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.

Rounding out the 2010 All-NESCAC First Team was Amherst’s second baseman 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.

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

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BASEBALL All-Conference - May 13, 2010

2010 NESCAC BASEBALL ALL-CONFERENCE

First Team

P Chris DeGoti Tufts So. Miami, Fla.
OF Al Mathews * Williams Sr. Wenham, N.H.
3B Sam Sager Tufts So. Cranston, R.I.
C/OF Mike Samela Amherst So. Westport, Conn.
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

OF Pat Barren Williams Sr. Jr. Worthington, Ohio
SS Tom Beaton Bates Sr. Sr. West Newbury, Mass.
SS/1B Bob Cook Amherst Fr. Fr. Winnetka, Ill.
P Ryan Heide Bates Jr. Jr. Medfield, Maine
OF Brice Kelly Wesleyan Sr. Sr. Austin, Texas
2B Frank Petroskey Tufts Jr. Jr. Dallas, Texas
3B Stephen Rogers Trinity Fr. Fr. Watertown, Mass.

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