

USA BASEBALL

presents

THE GOLDEN SPIKES AWARD

"30 Years of Excellence"
1978 - 2008

USA BASEBALL NAMES 50 GOLDEN SPIKES AWARD SEMIFINALISTS

GoldenSpikesAward.com unveiled as part of announcement

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(DURHAM, N.C.) – USA Baseball announced today the names of the 50 semifinalists for the 2008 USA Baseball Golden Spikes Award (GSA). This year will mark the 31st consecutive year that the USA Baseball Golden Spikes Award has been presented to the nation's premier amateur baseball player.

Today also marks the launch of GoldenSpikesAward.com, powered by MLB Advanced Media (MLBAM), the interactive media and Internet company of Major League Baseball. The new Web site features content devoted exclusively to the GSA, including news, voting history, past-winner photo galleries, and photographs and video highlights for 2008 semifinalists. Fans can follow online at GoldenSpikesAward.com as the list of 50 players is narrowed to five finalists on Tuesday, June 3, en route to the announcement of this year's winner on Wednesday, July 16.

The 2008 GSA will be awarded as part of a production by Major League Baseball and MLBAM that will be streamed live on the Internet exclusively at GoldenSpikesAward.com and MLB.com. The annual event will be held in New York City following MLB All-Star Week with a time and location to be announced in early June.

Headlining this year's semifinalists are Allan Dykstra (Wake Forest), Preston Guilmet (Arizona), Brian Matusz (San Diego), Justin Smoak (South Carolina) and Brett Wallace (Arizona State), all of whom were also 2007 GSA semifinalists.

North Carolina leads the way with three semifinalists (Dustin Ackley, Tim Fedroff and Alex White), and eight other schools (Arizona State, California, Georgia, Kentucky, Miami [FL], San Diego, South Carolina, and Wichita State) have two semifinalists each.

In total, 40 colleges and universities are represented on the 2008 semifinalist list. Among conferences, the Southeastern Conference (SEC) is tops with nine players on the list, and the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) and the Pacific-10 Conference (PAC-10) have eight and seven players, respectively.

In 2007, USA Baseball instituted a new selection and balloting procedure for the most prestigious award in amateur baseball, and it will follow the same model again in 2008. After accepting nominations from sports information directors across the country, a committee voted to determine the 50 semifinalists. The names of the 50 semifinalists will now be forwarded to a voting body of 125 who will select the five finalists and the eventual 2008 USA Baseball Golden Spikes Award winner.

"USA Baseball is proud to recognize these 50 athletes and their respective baseball programs as semifinalists for the 2008 USA Baseball Golden Spikes Award," said Paul Seiler, USA Baseball Executive Director/CEO. "As in 2007, we see 40 different schools represented on this year's semifinalist list – this again speaks to the level of baseball talent among college programs across the country."



TERRY FRANCONA

University of Arizona
1980 GSA Winner
'04, '07 World Series Manager



WILL CLARK

Mississippi State University
1985 GSA Winner
6-Time MLB All-Star



JIM ABBOTT

University of Michigan
1987 GSA Winner
1988 Olympic Gold Medalist



ROBIN VENTURA

Oklahoma State University
1988 GSA Winner
6-Time Golden Glove Winner



JASON VARITEK

Georgia Tech
1994 GSA Winner
2-Time MLB All-Star



DAVID PRICE

Vanderbilt University
2007 GSA Winner
'07 #1 Overall Pick



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A list of the 50 semifinalists is below.



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6-Time MLB All-Star



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University of Michigan
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1988 Olympic Gold Medalist

Player	College/University	Position	Class
Preston Guilmet	Arizona	P	Junior
Ike Davis	Arizona State	Utility	Junior
Brett Wallace	Arizona State	3B	Junior
Josh Satin	California	2B	Senior
David Cooper	California	1B	Junior
David Sappelt	Coastal Carolina	OF	Junior
Pat Venditte	Creighton	P	Senior
Corey Kemp	East Carolina	C	Senior
Christian Friedrich	Eastern Kentucky	P	Junior
Mike McKenna	Florida Atlantic	OF	Senior
Buster Posey	Florida State	C	Junior
Tanner Scheppers	Fresno State	P	Junior
Gordon Beckham	Georgia	SS	Junior
Joshua Fields	Georgia	P	Senior
Chris Shehan	Georgia Southern	OF	Junior
Sawyer Carroll	Kentucky	OF	Senior
Collin Cowgill	Kentucky	OF	Junior
Andrew Liebel	Long Beach State	P	Senior
Chris Dominguez	Louisville	3B	Sophomore
Matt Clark	LSU	1B	Junior
Jemile Weeks	Miami	2B	Junior
Yonder Alonso	Miami	1B	Junior
Nate Recknagel	Michigan	1B	Senior
Aaron Crow	Missouri	P	Junior
Johnny Dorn	Nebraska	P	Senior
Josh Romanski	San Diego	Utility	Junior
Brian Matusz	San Diego	P	Junior
Stephen Strasburg	San Diego State	P	Sophomore
Reese Havens	South Carolina	SS	Junior
Justin Smoak	South Carolina	1B	Junior
George Brown	St. John's (N.Y.)	P	Senior
Jason Castro	Stanford	C	Junior
Kentrail Davis	Tennessee	OF	Freshman
Jordan Danks	Texas	OF	Junior
Dane Carter	Texas A&M	3B	Senior
Shooter Hunt	Tulane	P	Junior
Jake Jefferies	UC Davis	C	Junior
Scott Gorgen	UC Irvine	P	Junior
Alden Carrithers	UCLA	2B	Senior
Alex White	UNC	P	Sophomore
Tim Fedroff	UNC	OF	Sophomore
Dustin Ackley	UNC	1B	Sophomore
Xavier Scruggs	UNLV	1B	Senior
Ryan Flaherty	Vanderbilt	SS	Junior
Pat McAnaney	Virginia	P	Senior
Allan Dykstra	Wake Forest	1B	Junior
Anthony Capra	Wichita State	P	Junior
Conor Gillaspie	Wichita State	3B	Junior
Jeremy Hamilton	Wright State	1B	Junior
Ryan Lavanway	Yale	C	Junior



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Oklahoma State University
1988 GSA Winner
6-Time Golden Glove Winner



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For the past 30 years, USA Baseball has honored the top amateur baseball player in the country with the Golden Spikes Award. Following the first ever presentation of the Award to Bob Horner of Arizona State in 1978, the Golden Spikes Award has been presented each year to the player who exhibits exceptional athletic ability and exemplary sportsmanship. The 2007 Golden Spikes Award winner was David Price of Vanderbilt University. Past winners of this prestigious award include current Major League Baseball players such as Tim Lincecum ('06), Alex Gordon ('05), Rickie Weeks ('03), Khalil Greene ('02), Jason Jennings ('00), Pat Burrell ('98), J.D. Drew ('97), Mark Kotsay ('95), and Jason Varitek ('94). Former Major League stars that have captured the award include Robin Ventura ('88), Jim Abbott ('87), Will Clark ('85), Dave Magadan ('83), Terry Francona ('80), Tim Wallach ('79), and Bob Horner ('78).

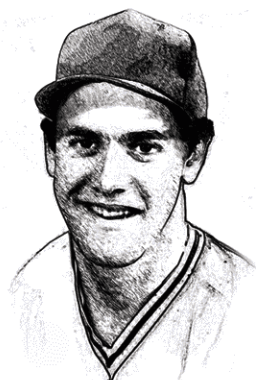


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USA Baseball is the National Governing Body of amateur baseball in the United States and is a member of the United States Olympic Committee. The organization selects and trains the United States Olympic Baseball Team (and all other USA Baseball Professional Teams); the USA Baseball National Team (collegiate); the USA Baseball 18U, 16U and 14U National Teams; and the USA Baseball Women's National Team, all of which participate in various international competitions each year.



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