

May 5, 2011

2011 Commonwealth Baseball All-Conference Teams

Annville, Pa. – The 2011 Commonwealth Conference baseball post season honors have been announced by the conference office, as voted on by the leagues head coaches. Alvernia University and Messiah College swept the post season honors. Alvernia's Chris Ray took home Player of the Year honors, while Ray's teammate, Andrew Kirk was named Pitcher of the Year. Jon Lapp of Messiah was awarded Rookie of the year, and Lapps' coach, Steve DeRiggs earned Coach of the year honors.

Ray has helped lead the Crusaders reach their highest ranking in the Top 25 ranking #8 in the nation in the American Baseball Coaches Association poll after winning six out of seven games to close out the regular season. Ray will enter the postseason tournament leading the conference in batting average (.455), on base percentage (.510), hits (60), second in runs scored (41) and third in runs batted in with 32.

Kirk compiled a 7-1 record with the league's best ERA 1.94. In 60.1 innings or work, he fanned 71 batters, gave up 44 hits and walked only 23 batters while throwing three complete games. He leads the conference in strikeouts and wins, was second in the conference with innings pitched, was third in the conference in opposing batting average (.204) and runs allowed with 18.

Lapp collected Commonwealth Conference Rookie of the Year honors, leading the Falcons in the field, at the plate and on the mound. As a first-year pitcher, Lapp went 4-2 and posted an immaculate 2.25 ERA, tossing 44 complete innings while allowing just 41 hits, giving up just 14 runs on the year. When not pitching, Lapp anchored third base. Lapp was more than capable at the hot corner, coming up with 59 assists to just 11 errors. At the plate, the Lancaster, Pa. native hit .258, scoring nine runs while bringing in six more. He was a perfect five-for-five in stolen bases.

The interim tag may still be there, but it didn't stop DeRiggs from earning Commonwealth Coach of the Year honors. Serving as a liaison-coach while Messiah searches for a full-time leader, DeRiggs helped Messiah to 22 regular-season wins, equaling the amount the club had in all of 2010. The Falcons were picked to finish fourth in the league's pre-season coaches poll, but Messiah grossly exceeded expectations, finishing as the number two team in the Commonwealth with a 13-5 record. Messiah was the only team to hand regular-season champion Alvernia University a league loss.

First Team All-Conference

| <u>Player</u> | <u>Team</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>Hometown/High School</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|
| Ryan Brown | Messiah | Catcher | Junior | Telford, PA/Souderton |
| Bill Hollingsworth | Widener | First Baseman | Junior | Drexel Hill, PA/Monsignor Bonner |
| Alex Oliver | Widener | Second Baseman | Senior | Lebanon, NJ/North Hunterdon |
| John Brubaker | Messiah | Shortstop | Junior | Lancaster, PA/Living Word |
| Chris Ray | Alvernia | Third Baseman | Sophomore | Exton, PA/West Chester Henderson |
| Tom DeAngelis | Widener | Outfield | Senior | Pottstown, PA/St. Pius X |
| Dan Sieracki | Widener | Outfield | Junior | Cherry Hill, NJ/Bishop Eustace |
| Leon Stimpson | Alvernia | Outfield | Sophomore | Philadelphia, PA/Malvern Prep |
| Dillon Tagle | Elizabethtown | Designated Hitter | Sophomore | Ringoes, NJ/Hunterdon Central |
| Sean Saverio | Widener | Utility Player | Senior | Horsham, PA/LaSalle University |
| Tory Arnesen | Messiah | Pitcher | Junior | Princeton, NJ/Rutgers Prep |
| Andrew Kirk | Alvernia | Pitcher | Junior | Media, PA/Penncrest |
| Chuck Nicholas | Alvernia | Pitcher | Senior | Boyertown, PA/Boyertown |
| Austin Rohrbach | Alvernia | Relief Pitcher | Senior | Maxatawny, PA/Kutztown |

Second Team All-Conference

| <u>Player</u> | <u>Team</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>Hometown/High School</u> |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Steve Motika | Elizabethtown | Catcher | Junior | Kutztown, PA/Kutztown |
| Tom Canuso | Albright | First Baseman | Junior | Aston, PA/Salesianum |
| Nate Peiffer | Albright | Second Baseman | Freshman | Robesonia, PA/Conrad Weiser |
| Reid Martin | Alvernia | Shortstop | Senior | Ephrata, PA/Ephrata |
| Jason Brooke | Widener | Third Baseman | Senior | Collegeville, PA/Methacton |
| Jon Lapp | Messiah | Third Baseman | Freshman | Lancaster, PA/Lancaster Mennonite |
| Sam Tajiri | Messiah | Outfield | Junior | Allentown, PA/Parkland |
| Travis Wrambel | Alvernia | Outfield | Junior | Newtown Square, PA/Marple Newtown |
| Brian Witkowski | Alvernia | Outfield | Sophomore | Ewing, NJ/Notre Dame |
| Chris Gehris | Alvernia | Designated Hitter | Freshman | Sinking Spring, PA/Holy Name |
| Justin Danser | Albright | Utility Player | Senior | Ewing, NJ/Ewing |
| Nate Blough | Lebanon Valley | Pitcher | Senior | Peach Bottom, PA/Solanco |
| Matt Ruth | Elizabethtown | Pitcher | Sophomore | York, PA/York Suburban |
| Sal Spera | Widener | Relief Pitcher | Junior | Norristown, PA/Kennedy-Kenrick |

Player of the Year: Chris Ray, Alvernia

Pitcher of the Year: Andrew Kirk, Alvernia

Rookie of the Year: Jon Lapp, Messiah

Coach of the Year: Steve DeRiggs, Messiah