



May, 2, 2012

2012 Commonwealth Conference Baseball All-Conference Teams

Annville, Pa. – The Middle Atlantic Conference has announced the 2012 All-Commonwealth Conference baseball teams. Alvernia University swept the postseason awards. Chris Ray took home Player of the Year honors, Pitcher of the Year went to Aaron Benusis, Richie Ricciardi earned Rookie of the Year, and Yogi Lutz was awarded Coach of the Year.

Ray picks up his second straight Commonwealth Player of the Year award. His .405 batting average leads the league and he is second in on-base percentage at .489. He registered 15 multi-hit games including five 3-hit games. Ray earned Commonwealth Player of the Week on Feb. 27, the first of five straight for the Crusaders

Sophomore righty Aaron Benusis makes it three straight Crusaders to garner Pitcher of the Year awards following Shane Zellers and teammate Andrew Kirk. Benusis finished the regular season with a 2.34 ERA and a league-leading 60 strikeouts in 57.2 innings. In his ten starts he held opponents to a run or less six times. He fanned three or more in every start including a season-best 11 over eight innings at Manhattanville.

Ricciardi wins Rookie of the Year and joining Ray who won in 2010. Ricciardi batted .317 through the regular season with four doubles, three triples, and drew 16 walks. As a slick-fielding shortstop Ricciardi handled 163 chances with just five errors.

Lutz earns his seventh Coach of the Year honor having won once in the Keystone Athletic Conference, twice in NAIA District 19, and three times in the Pennsylvania Athletic Conference. His Crusaders were a unanimous selection for the top spot in the preseason coaches poll and that's exactly where they stand heading into this week's Commonwealth Championship. Lutz is also closing in on 700 career wins, standing at 684-313-6.

First Team

| Position | Name | School | Year | Hometown/High School |
|----------|----------------------|----------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| P | Aaron Benusis | Alvernia | Sophomore | Bristol, CT/Bristol Eastern |
| P | Jason Ferrie | Widener | Senior | Royersford, PA/Spring-Ford |
| RP | Kevin Becker-Mendito | Alvernia | Freshman | Frederick, MD/Walkersville |
| C | Ryan Brown | Messiah | Senior | Telford, PA/Souderton |
| 1B | Matt Patterson | Alvernia | Sophomore | Hamilton, NJ/Nottingham |
| 2B | Ryan Schwartz | Lebanon Valley | Senior | Hummelstown, PA/Lower Dauphin |
| 3B | Aaron Carman | Alvernia | Senior | Robesonia, PA/Conrad Weiser |
| SS | Richie Ricciardi | Alvernia | Freshman | Manalapan, NJ/Manalapan |
| OF | Max Dundore | Albright | Freshman | Reading, PA/Exeter |
| OF | Aaron Mills | Lebanon Valley | Senior | Clear Spring, MD/Clear Spring |
| OF | Dan Sieracki | Widener | Senior | Cherry Hill, NJ/Bristol Eastern |

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|-----|---------------|----------|--------|--|
| DH | Chris Ray | Alvernia | Junior | Exton, PA/Henderson |
| UTL | Dennis Hocker | Widener | Junior | Coral Spring, FL/Coral Springs Charter |

Second Team

| Position | Name | School | Year | Hometown/High School |
|----------|-----------------|----------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| P | Caleb Fick | Lebanon Valley | Senior | Emmaus, PA/Emmaus |
| P | Andrew Kirk | Alvernia | Senior | Media, PA/Penncrest |
| RP | Todd Leister | Elizabethtown | Senior | Stanhope, NJ/Lenape Valley |
| C | Dilon Tagle | Elizabethtown | Junior | Ringoes, NJ/Hunterdon Central |
| 1B | Wes Hollenbach | Messiah | Junior | Hummelstown, PA/Lower Dauphin |
| 2B | Paul Mellinger | Messiah | Junior | Reisterstown, MD/Boy's Latin School |
| 3B | Mike McElhatton | Arcadia | Senior | Haddon Heights, NJ/Camden Catholic |
| SS | Kyle Gable | Elizabethtown | Junior | Emmaus, PA/Emmaus |
| OF | Derek Drake | Messiah | Freshman | Chesterville, VA/Matoaca |
| OF | Nole Saylor | Alvernia | Senior | Boyertown, PA/Boyertown |
| OF | Brian Witkowski | Alvernia | Junior | Ewing, NJ/Notre Dame |
| DH | Jordan Witmer | Lebanon Valley | Senior | Mechanicsburg, PA/Cumberland Valley |
| UTL | Collin Hecker | Albright | Sophomore | Reading, PA/Holy Name |

Player of the Year: Chris Ray, Alvernia

Rookie of the Year: Richie Ricciardi, Alvernia

Pitcher of the Year: Aaron Benusis, Alvernia

Coach of the Year: Yogi Lutz, Alvernia