



MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE BASEBALL

ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS: MAY 22, 2023

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MVC ANNOUNCES 2023 BASEBALL ALL-CONFERENCE TEAMS

ST. LOUIS, MO – Missouri State outfielder Spencer Nivens and Indiana State pitcher Connor Fenlong highlight the 2023 MVC all-conference baseball teams, being tabbed Joe Carter Player of the Year and Pitcher of the Year, respectively. Indiana State's Mitch Hannahs has been named the league's Dan Callahan Coach of the Year, after leading the Sycamores to a regular season title after being selected fourth in the preseason poll. Nivens is Missouri State's sixth Player of the Year, while Fenlong is the second Sycamore to be named Pitcher of the Year. UIC's Charlie Szykowny was named Newcomer of the Year and Missouri State rookie outfielder Zack Stewart earned Freshman of the Year honors. Indiana State catcher Grant Magill wraps up the specialty honors with the Defensive Player of the Year award.

Nivens, a redshirt sophomore outfielder from Columbia, Missouri, leads the MVC in slugging percentage (.681), while sitting among the top three in batting average (.357), runs (54), hits (76), triples (6) and stolen bases (6). He started every game in center field and has reached safely in 49 of 52 game this season. His six triples rank 10th nationally and are the most for a Missouri State player since 2016. His 35 total extra-base hits are the most for a Bear since both Jake Burger and Jeremy Eierman reached that total in 2017. Nivens is the sixth Bear to earn the Valley's Joe Carter Player of the Year honor, joining Bill Mueller (1993), Steve Hacker (1995), Matt Cepicky (1999), Brayden Drake (2009) and Jake Burger (2017).

Fenlong, a product of Gouverneur, N.Y., finished the year as the Missouri Valley Conference leader in both wins (9) and innings pitched (92.0), while finishing fifth in ERA (3.52) and fourth in opponent batting average (.225). The redshirt senior took over a starting weekend role this season after two years as one of the top relievers in The Valley including earning First Team All-MVC honors in 2021 as Indiana State's primary closer. Fenlong is the second Sycamore to win the Valley's Pitcher of the Year honor, joining Jeremy Guerrero (2021).

Szykowny, a transfer from Wisconsin-Stout, made an immediate impact offensively for the Flames this season. The graduate transfer third baseman hit .347 for the season and ranked among the top five in the MVC with 55 RBI and 16 home runs. He led the team in batting average, runs scored, hits, triples, home runs, RBI and slugging percentage in his first season in Chicago. Szykowny is the first Flame to win the Newcomer of the Year award as UIC completed its first year in the league.

Stewart, an outfielder who hails from Lebanon, Missouri, has been sensational in his Missouri State debut. The rookie is the MVC overall leader with 18 doubles and 58 RBI this season and trails only Ryan Howard's RBI total of 66 in 1999 among true freshmen in Missouri State history. Among freshmen nationally, Stewart ranks 10th in RBI and sixth in doubles. Stewart becomes the 10th player in Missouri State history to be named MVC Freshman of the Year, joining a list that includes Ryan Howard (1999).

Magill, a catcher from Highlands Ranch, Colo., claimed the league's Defensive Player of the Year award. Magill tied for The Valley lead with 17 runners caught stealing, while adding four pickoffs on the year from the catcher position. MVC teams only attempted 11 stolen bases against the Sycamores in the 2023 campaign with Magill nabbing six of them. He is a two-time All-Defensive selection at catcher and headlines an ISU defense that sits second in the NCAA in team fielding defense at 0.984 in the 2023 season. Magill is the third player in Indiana State history to win the league's Defensive Player of the Year, joining Tyler Wampler (2014) and Jake Means (2019).

Hannahs, now in his 10th season as head coach of the Indiana State baseball squad, led the Sycamores to a first-place finish in the Missouri Valley Conference standings after being picked fourth in the preseason poll. This season, the Sycamores claimed an outright title for just the second time in program history and won the

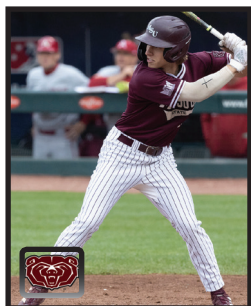
league's title by six games, marking the largest margin since 1998. The Sycamores entered the final week of the regular season ranked in five of the six major baseball polls, while sitting in the top 10 in the NCAA in RPI in four of the last five weeks. Hannahs joins Bob Warn, Lindsay Meggs and Rick Heller as the only other Indiana State skippers to win Coach of the Year honors.

Regular season champion Indiana State placed a league-high five players on the all-conference first team. The Sycamores first-team selections included Randal Diaz (SS), Grant Magill (C), Matt Jachec (SP), Connor Fenlong (SP) and Jared Spencer (RP). Second place Missouri State placed four players on the first team, including Cam Cratic (DH), Spencer Nivens (OF), Brandt Thompson (SP) and Garrett Ferguson (RP). Evansville has three first-team players with Chase Hug (1B), Kip Fougereousse (2B) and Eric Roberts (OF). UIC's Charlie Szykowny (3B), Murray State's Dustin Mercer (OF) and Valparaiso's Ryan Maka (OF) round out the list of first-team accolades.

Featured on the second team are four Salukis, including Steven Loden (2B), Cole Christman (C), Pier-Olivier Boucher (OF) and Jake Combs (SP) and three players from Belmont in Mason Landers (3B), Andy Bean (SP) and Ethan Harden (RP). Indiana State also placed three on the second team with Adam Pottinger (OF), Lane Miller (SP) and Cameron Holycross (RP). Murray State placed two on the second team with Brennan McCullough (1B) and Drew Vogel (SS). Bradley's Logan Delgado (DH), Evansville's Nate Hardman (RP) and Missouri State's Zack Stewart (OF) round out the members of the 2023 second team.

An additional 11 players were honored as part of the honorable mention all-conference team, as student-athletes must receive at least two votes to be named as honorable mention. A 10-member all-defensive team was also named.

All-conference honors and specialty awards are voted on by the league's 10 head baseball coaches.



Spencer Nivens
PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Connor Fenlong
PITCHER OF THE YEAR



Charlie Szykowny
NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR



Zack Stewart
FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR



Grant Magill
DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR



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2023 All-Missouri Valley Conference Baseball Teams

First Team	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown (Previous School)
Chase Hug, Evansville	5th	1B	Indianapolis, Ind. (Olney Central College)
Kip Fougereousse, Evansville	Jr.	2B	Linton, Ind. (Indiana)
Charlie Szykowny, UIC	Gr.	3B	Palos Heights, Ill. (Wisconsin-Stout)
Randal Diaz, Indiana State	So.	SS	Toa Alta, Puerto Rico (Leadership Christian Academy)
Grant Magill, Indiana State	R-Jr.	C	Highlands Ranch, Colo. (Mountain Vista)
Cam Cratic, Missouri State	Gr.	DH	Madison, Wis. (Madison College)
Spencer Nivens, Missouri State \$	R-So.	OF	Columbia, Mo. (Rock Bridge)
Eric Roberts, Evansville %	Gr.	OF	Hamilton, Ohio (Hamilton)
Ryan Maka, Valparaiso	So.	OF	Oak Forest, Ill. (Oak Forest)
Dustin Mercer, Murray State	R-So.	OF	Weddington, N.C. (Virginia Tech)
Matt Jachec, Indiana State*	R-Jr.	SP	Hampshire, Ill. (Hampshire)
Connor Fenlong, Indiana State @	R-Sr.	SP	Gouverneur, N.Y. (Wabash Valley CC)
Brandt Thompson, Missouri State	Jr.	SP	Eden Prairie, Minn. (North Iowa Area CC)
Jared Spencer, Indiana State	So.	RP	Centreville, Mich. (Centreville)
Garrett Ferguson, Missouri State	Fr.	RP	Blue Springs, Mo. (Summit Christian Academy)

*2022 First Team; \$ 2022 Second Team; % 2022 Honorable Mention; @2021 First Team

Second Team	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown (Previous School)
Brennan McCullough, Murray State	Gr.	1B	Oxford, Ala. (Wallace State-Hanceville CC)
Steven Loden, Southern Illinois	Jr.	2B	Lower Gwynedd, Pa. (Florida Atlantic)
Mason Landers, Belmont	Jr.	3B	Shelbyville, Tenn. (Shelbyville)
Drew Vogel, Murray State	Jr.	SS	White House, Tenn. (White House)
Cole Christman, Southern Illinois	Jr.	C	St. Louis, Mo. (John A. Logan College)
Logan Delgado, Bradley	Jr.	DH	Antioch, Ill. (Antioch)
Adam Pottinger, Indiana State	Jr.	OF	Deerfield, Ill. (Triton College)
Pier-Olivier Boucher, Southern Illinois	Sr.	OF	Saint-Joseph-de-Bauce, Quebec (Indian Hills CC)
Zack Stewart, Missouri State	Fr.	OF	Lebanon, Mo. (Lebanon)
Lane Miller, Indiana State	R-Sr.	SP	Boonville, Ind. (Indiana)
Andy Bean, Belmont	Jr.	SP	Fisherville, Tenn. (St. George's HS)
Jake Combs, Southern Illinois	Jr.	SP	Houston, Texas (Navarro College)
Cameron Holycross, Indiana State	R-Jr.	RP	Lapel, Ind. (Lapel)
Ethan Harden, Belmont	Fr.	RP	Franklin, Tenn. (Battle Ground Academy)
Nate Hardman, Evansville	R-Jr.	RP	Normal, Ill. (Lincoln Land CC)

Honorable Mention	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown (Previous School)
Connor O'Brien, Bradley @*	Sr.	1B	San Diego, Calif. (Rancho Bernardo)
Matt Schark, Southern Illinois	Jr.	1B	St. Charles, Mo. (Jefferson College)
Josue Urdaneta, Indiana State \$	R-Jr.	2B	Maracaibo, Venezuela (Avant Garde Academic)
Mike Sears, Indiana State	R-Jr.	3B	Cincinnati, Ohio (Sinclair CC)
Simon Scherry, Evansville ^\$	Jr.	SS	Santa Claus, Ind. (Heritage Hills)
Jake Skrine, Valparaiso	Sr.	C	Longmont, Colo. (Indiana)
Dan Pacella, Illinois State	Fr.	OF	Mundelein, Ill. (Mundelein)
Ryan Vogel, Bradley %	Jr.	OF	Metamora, Ill. (Metamora)
Nick Smith, Evansville*	Jr.	SP	Boonville, Ind. (Boonville)
Hayden Minton, Missouri State	Sr.	SP	Collinsville, Okla. (Johnson County CC)
Paul Bonzagni, Southern Illinois	R-So.	RP	Grapevine, Texas (Weatherford College)

*2022 First Team; \$ 2022 Second Team; % 2022 Honorable Mention; @2021 First Team; ^ 2021 Honorable Mention

All-Defensive Team	Yr.	Pos.	Hometown (Previous School)
Chase Hug, Evansville	5th	1B	Indianapolis, Ind. (Olney Central College)
Josue Urdaneta, Indiana State	R-Jr.	2B	Maracaibo, Venezuela (Avant Garde Academic)
Mike Sears, Indiana State	R-Jr.	3B	Cincinnati, Ohio (Sinclair CC)
Simon Scherry, Evansville	Jr.	SS	Santa Claus, Ind. (Heritage Hills)
Grant Magill, Indiana State	R-Jr.	C	Highlands Ranch, Colo. (Mountain Vista)
Ryan Vogel, Bradley	Jr.	OF	Metamora, Ill. (Metamora)
Seth Gergely, Indiana State	R-Sr.	OF	Tallmadge, Ohio (Sinclair CC)
Auggie Rasmussen, Illinois State	Jr.	OF	Blair, Neb. (Iowa Western CC)
Spencer Nivens, Missouri State	R-So.	OF	Columbia, Mo. (Rock Bridge)
Andy Bean, Belmont	Jr.	SP	Fisherville, Tenn. (St. George's HS)

JOE CARTER PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Spencer Nivens, Missouri State

PITCHER OF THE YEAR

Connor Fenlong, Indiana State

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Charlie Szykowny, UIC

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

Zack Stewart, Missouri State

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Grant Magill, Indiana State

DAN CALLAHAN COACH OF THE YEAR

Mitch Hannahs, Indiana State

2023 Joe Carter Player of the Year Voting

Student-Athlete, School	1st	2nd	Pts.
Spencer Nivens, Missouri State	8	1	17
Charlie Szykowny, UIC	2	5	9

Student-athletes received two points for a first-place vote and one point for a second-place vote. Additionally, coaches could not vote for their own student-athletes.

2023 Pitcher of the Year Voting

Student-Athlete, School	1st	2nd	Pts.
Connor Fenlong, Indiana State	9	0	18
Brandt Thompson, Missouri State	0	7	7
Andy Bean, Belmont	1	2	4

Student-athletes received two points for a first-place vote and one point for a second-place vote. Additionally, coaches could not vote for their own student-athletes.

2023 Newcomer of the Year Voting

Student-Athlete, School	1st	2nd	Pts.
Charlie Szykowny, UIC	8	0	16
Adam Pottinger, Indiana State	1	3	5
Brandt Thompson, Missouri State	1	3	5

Student-athletes received two points for a first-place vote and one point for a second-place vote. Additionally, coaches could not vote for their own student-athletes.

2023 Freshman of the Year Voting

Student-Athlete, School	1st	2nd	Pts.
Zack Stewart, Missouri State	9	0	18
Dan Pacella, Illinois State	1	7	9

Student-athletes received two points for a first-place vote and one point for a second-place vote. Additionally, coaches could not vote for their own student-athletes.

2023 Defensive Player of the Year Voting

Student-Athlete, School	1st	2nd	Pts.
Grant Magill, Indiana State	7	0	14
Simon Scherry, Evansville	1	6	8
Cole Conn, UIC	2	1	5

Student-athletes received two points for a first-place vote and one point for a second-place vote. Additionally, coaches could not vote for their own student-athletes.

2023 Dan Callahan Coach of the Year Voting

Student-Athlete, School	1st	2nd	Pts.
Mitch Hannahs, Indiana State	27	0	54
Keith Guttin, Missouri State	3	17	23

Coaches received two points for a first-place vote and one point for a second-place vote. Additionally, voters could not vote for their own coach. A total of 30 voters served on the Coach of the Year panel, including three voters from each school. Only coaches receiving first place votes are listed.