2025 COLLEGE BASEBALL
PRESEASON GUIDE

college baseball
insiders

WELCOME BACK!

We're thrilled to bring you the fourth edition of our annual preseason guide, your ultimate source for everything you need to know about the upcoming season. College baseball is back, and 2025 promises to be one for the ages. From powerhouse programs like Tennessee and Texas A&M, determined to repeat their trips to Omaha, to sleeper teams ready to make history, this season is packed with parity that will keep fans on the edge of their seats all year long.

If this is your first time reading one of our guides, welcome! We're glad you're here. Unlike typical college baseball coverage, we dive deep into the advanced analytics behind the teams and players we spotlight. We take the action beyond the diamond, offering insights that will keep you informed and engaged throughout the season.

This preseason guide features a comprehensive breakdown of the Preseason Top 25, alongside an analysis of the futures betting markets. We provide the inside track on odds for teams to win it all, clinch a conference title, or punch their ticket to Omaha. Whether you're backing a short favorite or searching for an underdog to cheer for, our insights will help sharpen your plays for the 2025 season.

As we embark on this new chapter, get ready for a wild ride filled with unforgettable moments on the road to Omaha. After diving into this guide, be sure to tune into our live show each week, where we'll break down top matchups, share our best bets, and keep you up to date on all the action.

The road to the College World Series begins now!

Co-Founder, College Baseball Insiders

MEET THE TEAM

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A 2024 SEASON TO REMEMBER

The Tennessee Volunteers capped off their historic 2024 season with a 6-5 win over Texas A&M in Game 3 of the College World Series, clinching their first College Baseball National Championship in program history. After losing several key players from that roster, Tony Vitello will now look to repeat the feat – something that hasn't been accomplished since South Carolina did it in 2010 and 2011.

However, history over the past decade tells a different story. Since 2015, only one team has won the National Championship and returned to the College World Series the following year – Florida in 2018. While Tennessee will undoubtedly remain a powerhouse in the SEC, the trend of repeating champions doesn't necessarily favor them. But what has this program shown us? Tony Vitello and the Volunteers have already bucked one major trend by becoming the #1 overall seed to win the National Championship. Heading into 2025, they'll look to defy another as they aim for a return to Omaha.

MARK YOUR 2025 CALENDARS

Here are the key dates you need to remember for the upcoming season. Also, I want to add, most of the "Conference Champion" futures bets are for regular season only. This is something to monitor as you place your bets on this market. Make sure you know what you are betting!

📅 **OPENING DAY - END OF REGULAR SEASON**
Friday, February 14th – Sunday, May 18th

📅 **CONFERENCE TOURNAMENT WEEK**
Monday, May 19th – Sunday, May 25th

📅 **NCAA SELECTION SHOW**
Monday, May 26th

📅 **REGIONALS BEGIN**
Friday, May 30th – Monday, June 2nd

📅 **SUPER REGIONALS BEGIN**
Friday, June 6th – Sunday, June 8th

📅 **COLLEGE WORLD SERIES**
Friday, June 13th – Monday, June 23rd

OLD FACES, NEW PLACES | TOP 25 TRANSFERS BY 64ANALYTICS

RANK	PLAYER NAME	POSITION	PREVIOUS TEAM	NEW TEAM
#1	CADE FISHER	P	FLORIDA	AUBURN
#2	ANDREW FISCHER	3B	OLE MISS	TENNESSEE
#3	GAVIN KILEN	SS	LOUISVILLE	TENNESSEE
#4	ZACH ROOT	P	EAST CAROLINA	ARKANSAS
#5	LANDON BEIDELSCHIES	P	OHIO STATE	ARKANSAS
#6	GAVIN KASH	1B	TEXAS TECH	TEXAS A&M
#7	TOMMY LAPOUR	P	WICHITA STATE	TCU
#8	KANE KEPLEY	CF	LIBERTY	NORTH CAROLINA
#9	EVAN CHREST	P	JACKSONVILLE	FLORIDA STATE
#10	AIVA ARQUETTE	2B	WASHINGTON	OREGON STATE
#11	LIAM DOYLE	P	OLE MISS	TENNESSEE
#12	JACOB MAYERS	P	NICHOLLS	LSU
#13	BRADY NEAL	CF	LSU	ALABAMA
#14	GRAYSON SAUNIER	P	OLE MISS	TEXAS
#15	RYAN BLACK	2B	UT ARLINGTON	GEORGIA
#16	DANIEL DICKINSON	2B	UTAH VALLEY	LSU
#17	BLAKE CYR	2B	MIAMI FL	FLORIDA
#18	JASON TORRES	1B	MIAMI FL	ALABAMA
#19	JARED SPENCER	P	INDIANA STATE	TEXAS
#20	DALTON BECK	DH	UIW	LSU
#21	TODD HUDSON	DH	LIBERTY	MIAMI FL
#22	MALACHI LOTT	DH	SAM HOUSTON	HOUSTON
#23	LUKE BOYNTON	1B	GEORGIA STATE	JOHNS HOPKINS
#24	NOAH SULLIVAN	DH	USC UPSTATE	MISSISSIPPI STATE
#25	LUCAS STEELE	C	SAMFORD	AUBURN

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF TRANSFER PLAYER RANKINGS, VISIT 64ANALYTICS.COM

POWER IN THE PORTAL | TOP 25 PORTAL TEAMS BY 64ANALYTICS

RANK		TEAM NAME	CONF	# COMMITTED	# LEAVING	T250 ADDITIONS	T250 DEPARTING
#1		LSU	SEC	12	16	10	4
#2		ARKANSAS	SEC	10	9	7	0
#3		GEORGIA	SEC	16	16	10	0
#4		AUBURN	SEC	9	12	6	1
#5		TEXAS	SEC	8	9	5	0
#6		MIAMI (FL)	ACC	13	17	5	4
#7		KENTUCKY	SEC	15	13	7	1
#8		TEXAS A&M	SEC	9	11	6	0
#9		WAKE FOREST	ACC	9	12	6	0
#10		KANSAS	XII	8	11	4	1
#11		ALABAMA	SEC	8	10	6	1
#12		DUKE	ACC	9	7	4	2
#13		VIRGINIA TECH	ACC	9	14	5	0
#14		HOUSTON	XII	13	12	5	1
#15		CINCINNATI	XII	12	11	3	0
#16		MICHIGAN	B1G	10	17	2	1
#17		OLE MISS	SEC	8	14	5	5
#18		PITTSBURGH	ACC	10	10	2	1
#19		MISSISSIPPI STATE	SEC	7	10	5	0
#20		BOSTON COLLEGE	ACC	9	12	1	0
#21		PURDUE	B1G	10	8	3	1
#22		INDIANA	B1G	9	13	3	1
#23		FLORIDA STATE	ACC	7	10	4	0
#24		RUTGERS	B1G	13	11	0	1
#25		GEORGIA TECH	ACC	10	19	1	1

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF TRANSFER PORTAL RANKINGS, VISIT 64ANALYTICS.COM

RANK		TEAM NAME	CONF	PITCHING	HITTING	FIELDING	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS
#1		TEXAS A&M	SEC	A−	A+	B	+500	+110	+700
#2		VIRGINIA	ACC	B+	A+	B−	+500	+135	+1500
#3		LSU	SEC	A−	A	B−	+700	+130	+1100
#4		TENNESSEE	SEC	B+	B	A−	+700	+120	+800
#5		ARKANSAS	SEC	A+	C+	B−	+800	+125	+1000
#6		NORTH CAROLINA	ACC	A−	B+	B	+600	+175	+2500
#7		OREGON STATE	PAC12	B−	B+	B	N/A	+135	+1500
#8		GEORGIA	SEC	B+	B	B−	+1000	+140	+2000
#9		FLORIDA STATE	ACC	B	C−	A−	+400	+175	+2500
#10		FLORIDA	SEC	B	B	C−	+1000	+150	+2500
#11		DUKE	ACC	B	B	C+	+1000	+300	+4000
#12		OREGON	B1G	C+	A−	B	+150	+400	+5000
#13		NC STATE	ACC	A−	C+	B−	+1000	+350	+4500
#14		WAKE FOREST	ACC	A−	B+	B	+1000	+200	+2500
#15		CLEMSON	ACC	C	B	B−	+800	+150	+2500
#16		VANDERBILT	SEC	B	C	C+	+1000	+225	+3000
#17		OKLAHOMA ST	XII	B−	B	C+	+300	+400	+5000
#18		MISSISSIPPI ST	SEC	C	C	B−	+1500	+350	+4500
#19		TEXAS	SEC	C	A	B−	+1000	+140	+2000
#20		DALLAS BAPTIST	C-USA	B+	B	B−	−143	+500	+6000
#21		ARIZONA	XII	C−	B+	B	+400	+400	+5000
#22		UC SANTA BARBARA	THE BIG WEST	A	C	B−	+175	+500	+6000
#23		TCU	XII	B−	C+	B	+500	+250	+3500
#24		NEBRASKA	B1G	C	C	B−	+800	+700	+10000
#25		TROY	SBC	C+	B−	C+	+300	+800	+12500

D1BASEBALL's PRESEASON TOP 25 POLL | D1BASEBALL.COM   ODDS CURRENT AS OF 01/24/2025

#1 TEXAS A&M
AGGIES

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS
53-15	RUNNER-UP	+500	+110	+700

SEC

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
70	75	55	55	65	60	65

IMPACT PITCHERS
2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Ryan Prager	2.95	97.2	124-20
Justin Lamkin	5.21	65.2	88-22
Myles Patton (LBSU)	3.26	66.1	85-24

IMPACT HITTERS
2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Jace LaViolette	.305	1.175	29
Gavin Grahovac	.298	0.986	23
Wyatt Henseler (PENN)	.360	1.220	22

SCOUTING REPORT

By Nick Hathcoat of NCAA Insiders

The Michael Earley era in College Station is set to begin with sky-high expectations. This Texas A&M roster is arguably the most talented in the country, loaded with star power, quality depth on the mound, and a chip on its shoulder to get back to the College World Series (CWS) —and win it this time. D1 Baseball has ranked A&M as the #1 offense heading into the season, and it's easy to see why. The Aggies return superstars Jace LaViolette, who has the best odds to win the Golden Spikes Award (+400), and Gavin Grahovac. Adding to an already powerful lineup, they landed Gavin Kash from Texas Tech and Wyatt Henseler (Ivy League Player of the Year) from Penn through the transfer portal. This lineup is both deep and loaded with talent.

On the mound, the weekend rotation looks strong with the return of lefties Ryan Prager and Justin Lamkin. The addition of Myles Patton from Long Beach State provides a pivotal piece to the puzzle—he's expected to take the Sunday starter role, further solidifying the rotation.

One of the biggest questions surrounding this team is how they, and first-time head coach Michael Earley, will handle the immense expectations of being the team everyone is "hunting." With a championship-or-bust caliber roster, the pressure is undeniably high. The Aggies open their SEC schedule with a tough slate of opponents, including Alabama, Vanderbilt, Kentucky, and a highly anticipated rematch of last season's CWS Championship against Tennessee. There won't be much time for a learning curve. The primary concern, in my opinion, lies in the back end of the bullpen. Losing Evan Aschenbeck and Chris Cortez leaves significant gaps to fill, and it will be critical to see who steps up in high-pressure, late-game situations. This bullpen could make or break their season.

At the end of the day, this team is the best in the country on paper. I fully expect them to return to the CWS, with a legitimate shot at bringing home a national championship.

#2 VIRGINIA CAVALIERS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS	ACC
46-17	CWS	+500	+135	+1500	

BY THE NUMBERS

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
70	65	50	55	60	60	65

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Evan Blanco	3.62	99.1	99-27
Jay Woolfolk	5.92	62.1	67-40
Bryson Moore	1.38	13.0	10-8

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Jacob Ference	.350	1.175	17
Harrison Didawick	.293	1.059	23
Henry Ford	.336	1.006	17

SCOUTING REPORT

By Quentin Mills of NCAA Insiders

After back-to-back 0-2 showings in the College World Series, the Virginia Cavaliers are heading into 2025 with their eyes set on winning in Omaha and capturing their second national title.

Heading into fall ball, Coach O'Connor expressed confidence, calling this one of the best teams he has had in recent years, particularly due to an improved pitching staff—a weak point in previous seasons because of a lack of depth and consistency. The weekend rotation looks promising, with Evan Blanco anchoring Friday nights, Jay Woolfolk transitioning into the Saturday role, and highly touted two-way transfer Chris Arroyo rounding out the weekend. In the bullpen, Virginia expects to have more success and greater contributions, addressing what has been a glaring issue over the past two years. Offensively, the Cavaliers should once again feature one of the top lineups in the nation, returning key bats like Harrison Didawick and Jacob Ference while adding to an already talented group featuring rising stars Henry Ford, Henry Godbout, and Chris Arroyo. With depth and versatility, Virginia's 1-9 lineup is arguably the most complete in the country, capable of delivering power while also excelling at small ball when needed.

Expect big things from Coach O'Connor and the Cavaliers this season, both in ACC play and on the postseason stage. If their pitching staff can hold up and maintain depth throughout the year, this team has all the tools to contend for—and win—a championship.

#3 LSU TIGERS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS
43-23	SUPER REGIONALS	+700	+130	+1100

SEC

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
65	65	50	55	65	60	60

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Kade Anderson	3.99	38.1	59-20
Chase Shores	N/A	DNP	INJURY
Gavin Guidry	2.59	24.1	36-18

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Jared Jones	.301	1.201	28
Luis Hernandez (INDST)	.359	1.115	23
Daniel Dickinson (UTV)	.367	1.130	18

SCOUTING REPORT

By Matt Grissom of NCAA Insiders

The Tigers head into the 2025 season ranked No. 3 in the nation, aiming to reclaim their spot as one of the most dominant programs in college baseball. After an up-and-down 2024 campaign that ended in the regionals, head coach Jay Johnson's squad looks to be reloaded and ready for a deep postseason run. Offensively, the Tigers bring back key contributors like Jared Jones, a slugger with 42 career home runs, and Steven Milam, who made an immediate impact as a freshman. Transfers Luis Hernandez and Daniel Dickinson add additional firepower to the lineup, providing consistency and power that should make LSU one of the most dangerous offensive teams in the SEC.

On the mound, LSU has plenty of talent, but faces the challenge of replacing a plethora of talented arms they've relied on in the past. Sophomore lefty Kade Anderson steps into a leading role after showing flashes of brilliance, while transfer additions like Anthony Eyanson from UC San Diego and Zac Cowan from Wofford bring experience and high ceilings to the rotation. The bullpen will be anchored by experienced arms and newcomers alike, including closer Gavin Guidry, who brings stability to the back end of games. With plenty of raw potential across the staff, the Tigers will rely on this group to develop quickly and support their powerful offense.

LSU has the talent and depth to be a national title contender, but their success will hinge on how well their pitching staff adapts and performs throughout the season. If the new arms step up and the offense lives up to its potential, the Tigers could find themselves back in Omaha, ready to chase another championship. This year's roster has all the tools to be special – it's just a matter of putting it all together.

#4 TENNESSEE
VOLUNTEERS

2024 RECORD	**2024 SEASON FINISH**	**WIN CONF**	**MAKE CWS**	**WIN CWS**
60-13	NATIONAL CHAMPS	+700	+120	+800

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
60	55	55	60	60	60	70

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Liam Doyle (MISS)	5.73	55.0	84-21
Nate Snead	3.11	75.1	61-26
Brandon Arvidson	N/A	0.0	0-0

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Andrew Fischer (MISS)	.285	1.040	20
Hunter Ensley	.296	0.922	12
Gavin Kilen (LOU)	.330	0.952	9

SCOUTING REPORT

By Nick Hathcoat of NCAA Insiders

Tony Vitello has transformed Tennessee baseball into a powerhouse, adopting a mantra of "we don't rebuild, we reload." Over the last five seasons, the Volunteers have won more games than any other program, and after capturing their first national title in 2024, the expectations remain sky-high. Despite losing a star-studded group of players, including Moore, Burke, Dreiling, Beam, and others, Tennessee's combination of portal acquisitions, top-tier recruiting classes, and proven player development keeps the program poised for success. Notable additions include Andrew Fischer (2nd Team All-SEC, Ole Miss), Gavin Kilen (3rd Team All-ACC, Louisville), and freshmen standouts Jay Abernathy and Levi Clark, both expected to make immediate impacts. Returning stars like Team USA shortstop Dean Curley and center fielder Hunter Ensley will anchor the defense, ensuring a strong foundation.

However, the Volunteers face some early-season uncertainties, particularly in their pitching staff. With ace AJ Russell sidelined, the rotation is expected to feature Liam Doyle, who brings SEC experience and a bulldog mentality that aligns with Vitello's philosophy. Nate Snead is transitioning from the bullpen to a starting role, while JUCO transfer Brandon Arvidson and freshman Tegan Kuhns, a top-100 prospect, are in contention for the Sunday spot. Offensively, Tennessee remains loaded and capable of producing big numbers, but they'll need key players like Reese Chapman and Cannon Peebles to step up. Peebles, a former Freshman All-American at NC State, aims to regain his form, while Chapman's potential as a middle-of-the-order bat is pivotal to the team's success.

Vitello and his coaching staff, including Frank Anderson and Josh Elander, have consistently delivered results, making three College World Series trips in the past four years. Even in their one absence from Omaha, the Volunteers fielded one of the most dominant teams in college baseball history. Despite the roster turnover and a few question marks, Tennessee is well-positioned to make another deep postseason run and contend for back-to-back national championships.

#5 ARKANSAS
RAZORBACKS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS
44-16	REGIONALS	+800	+125	+1000

SEC

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
55	50	50	55	70	60	60

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Gabe Gaeckle	2.32	42.2	57-19
Zach Root (ECU)	3.56	68.1	76-21
Lan. Beidelschies (OSU)	4.15	84.2	91-31

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Brent Iredale (NMCC)	.441	1.576	25
Wehiwa Aloy	.270	0.840	14
Kendall Diggs	.229	0.741	7

SCOUTING REPORT

By Matt Grissom of NCAA Insiders

The Razorbacks enter the 2025 season ranked No. 5 nationally, ready to build on their tradition of success under veteran head coach Dave Van Horn. With one of the deepest pitching staffs in the country and a roster brimming with talent, Arkansas is positioned to compete for an SEC title and make a push for Omaha. Sophomore Gabe Gaeckle headlines the rotation after an impressive freshman campaign in which he dominated out of the bullpen, showcasing a fastball that touches 100 mph and a devastating mix of secondary pitches. He'll be joined by East Carolina transfer Zach Root and Ohio State transfer Landon Beidelschies, who bring experience and stability to the rotation. Meanwhile, junior Christian Foutch steps into the closer role, and highly touted freshmen Carson Wiggins and Cole Gibler add even more firepower to a pitching staff loaded with upside.

Offensively, the Razorbacks are focused on taking a step forward after struggles at the plate in SEC play last season. Key returners like Kendall Diggs and Ryder Helfrick are expected to make an impact, while transfers Cam Kozeal and Brent Iredale add fresh energy and production. Iredale, one of the top hitters in junior college over the last two years, brings elite power and consistency to the lineup. Arkansas will rely on this revamped offense to complement its pitching dominance, with the hope of becoming a more complete team capable of winning high-scoring games as well as pitching duels.

As usual, expectations are high in Fayetteville, but the Razorbacks know their season will ultimately be defined by postseason success. With a pitching staff that stands out as one of the nation's best and an offense poised for growth, this team has all the ingredients to compete on the sport's biggest stage. If Arkansas can improve at the plate and maintain its depth on the mound, a return trip to Omaha could very well be in the cards.

#6 NORTH CAROLINA
TAR HEELS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS	
48-16	CWS	+600	+175	+2500	ACC

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
60	60	55	60	60	65	60

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Jason DeCaro	3.81	90.1	78-44
Folger Boaz	5.77	39.0	38-19
Aidan Haugh	4.83	54.0	61-27

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Luke Stevenson	.284	0.955	14
Jackson Van De Brake	.213	0.691	1
Tyson Bass (NC-WES)	.358	1.216	22

SCOUTING REPORT

By Todd Smith of NCAA Insiders

North Carolina was one of the best teams in college baseball last year, winning the ACC title in 2024 with a 22-8 conference record and making first trip back to the College World Series in Omaha since 2018. Coach Scott Forbes is ready to reload the Tar Heels and make another run this season.

The Tar Heels set a school record for home runs last year, with 115. While they lost some key power bats, including clutch hitter Vance Honeycutt, the team returns several impactful players. Catcher Luke Stevenson, who slashed .284 with 14 home runs and 58 RBIs, is back after earning Freshman All-American honors last year. Another standout bat is sophomore Gavin Gallaher, who had an impressive freshman campaign, hitting .314 with 8 home runs and 38 RBIs. The Tar Heels also bring back Alex Madera (.303, 2 HRs, 34 RBIs), who provides a steady bat and a great glove in the infield. Freshman Perry Hargett is also a player to keep an eye on this year.

On the mound, North Carolina could have one of the best weekend rotations in the country. The Tar Heels led the ACC last year with a team ERA of 4.30 and return several key arms. RHP Jason Decaro (6-1, 3.41 ERA, 78 strikeouts) is back after earning Freshman All-American honors. Two more starters, Jake Knapp and Folger Boaz, are expected to return to the rotation after missing time, giving the team a strong core to anchor their pitching staff. Kyle Percival, who posted an impressive 2.42 ERA across 22 relief appearances, is also back, along with Aidan Haugh, who made 22 appearances and started 8 games last season. Matthew Matthijs will be another key bullpen arm this year, while transfers Cale Bolton (Liberty) and Tom Chmielewski (Princeton) will add valuable depth to an already strong staff.

The Tar Heels are primed to defend their ACC title, and another trip to the College World Series could very well be in their future.

#7 OREGON STATE
BEAVERS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS	
45-16	SUPER REGIONALS	N/A	+135	+1500	PAC 12

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
60	60	50	55	55	55	70

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Nelson Keljo	4.00	45.0	63-14
Dax Whitney	N/A	0.0	0-0
Eric Segura	5.23	72.1	75-28

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Gavin Turley	.275	0.995	19
Aiva Arquette (WASH)	.325	0.958	12
Dallas Macias	.315	0.911	9

SCOUTING REPORT

By Todd Smith of NCAA Insiders

Oregon State delivered another impressive season in 2024, finishing 45-16 and falling just short in the Super Regionals against Kentucky. The Beavers face the challenge of replacing No. 1 overall MLB draft pick Travis Bazzana, but their offense still has plenty of firepower. Gavin Turley, who started 61 games and slashed .277 with 19 home runs and 74 RBIs, will be a key cog in the lineup. Transfer Avia Arquette (Washington) brings elite tools, a .325 average with 12 home runs, and gold-glove-caliber defense at shortstop, making him a projected top-10 draft pick. Center fielder Dallas Macias (.315, 9 HR, 43 RBIs) provides leadership and aggressive play, while first baseman Jacob Krieg (.278, 9 HR, 40 RBIs) adds more pop. A healthy Trent Caraway, who missed 44 games last year, should further bolster the lineup.

The pitching staff must replace key arms like Jacob Kmatz and Aiden May, but there is talent ready to step up. Eric Segura (6-1, 4.93 ERA, 72 Ks in 69.1 IP) is a reliable strike thrower who can eat innings. Lefty fireballer Nelson Keljo, who touched the high 90s last year in the bullpen, could transition to a starting role. Freshman standout Dax Whitney, a highly-touted recruit from Idaho, brings a fastball that touches the mid-90s and could play a significant role. The bullpen features versatile options like Joey Mundt and transfer Tanner Douglas (Portland), who are both closer candidates. Transfers Max Fraser (Washington) and Ethan Kleinschmit (Linn-Benton CC) will add depth to the staff.

Playing as an independent this season, Oregon State will rely on its mix of experienced players and high-ceiling newcomers to aim for another deep postseason run.

#8 GEORGIA
BULLDOGS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS
43-17	SUPER REGIONALS	+1000	+140	+2000

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
55	65	50	55	60	60	65

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Kolten Smith	5.56	69.2	105-20
Leighton Finley	4.14	76.0	76-28
JT Quinn (MISS)	8.84	19.1	28-15

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Slate Alford	.300	0.909	17
Kolby Branch	.267	0.904	17
Devin Obee (DUKE)	.309	0.998	16

SCOUTING REPORT

By Matt Grissom of NCAA Insiders

The Bulldogs enter 2025 ranked No. 8 nationally, building on the momentum of a standout season under second-year head coach Wes Johnson. After earning a national seed and advancing to a regional in Johnson's debut, Georgia looks ready to take another step forward with a roster that blends returning stars, key transfers, and rising talent. At the plate, the Bulldogs have a potent lineup led by returning sluggers Slate Alford and Kolby Branch, who combined for 34 home runs last year. Tre Phelps adds another level of power after an outstanding freshman season, while transfers like Robbie Burnett and Devin Obee provide proven production and athleticism. This offense is balanced with power, consistency, and experience, making Georgia one of the most dangerous teams in the SEC.

On the mound, the Bulldogs boast a talented pitching staff led by ace Kolten Smith, who struck out 105 batters in just under 70 innings last season and has the tools to emerge as one of the SEC's best arms. He's joined by reliable returners like Leighton Finley and a crop of newcomers, including Ole Miss transfer JT Quinn and Cal Baptist transfer Brian Curley, who add depth and upside to the staff. While the rotation has the pieces to succeed, consistency will be key as several young and new arms adjust to their roles. The bullpen, anchored by Curley and rising talent Matthew Hoskins, should provide stability in high-pressure situations.

With an experienced lineup, strong pitching depth, and a head coach known for developing talent, Georgia is primed for another big season. The Bulldogs have the firepower to compete for an SEC championship and the potential to break through to Omaha for the first time since 2008. If their pitching staff solidifies and their newcomers adapt quickly, this could be a special year for the program.

#9 FLORIDA STATE
SEMINOLES

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS	
49-17	CWS	+400	+175	+2500	ACC

BY THE NUMBERS
Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
50	45	60	70	55	60	50

IMPACT PITCHERS
2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Jamie Arnold	2.98	105.2	159-26
Joey Volini (USF)	4.40	28.2	26-14
Evan Chrest (JAX)	6.69	68.1	74-25

IMPACT HITTERS
2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Max Williams	.311	0.966	14
Drew Faurout	.286	0.813	6
Alex Lodise	.281	0.833	9

SCOUTING REPORT
By Nick Hathcoat of NCAA Insiders

Link Jarrett's third season at the helm of Florida State follows a successful 2024 campaign that ended in the College World Series. However, the 2025 Seminoles face significant challenges, losing their top four hitters, including stars James Tibbs III and Cam Smith.

Defensively, the Seminoles are among the nation's elite, boasting the No. 1 ranked defense according to D1 Baseball. Catcher Jaxson West, shortstop Alex Lodise, second baseman Drew Faurot, and center fielder Max Williams form a dynamic core up the middle, ensuring that runs will be hard to come by for opposing teams. Offensively, Williams and Lodise must step into larger roles to compensate for the departures.

On the mound, Preseason All-American Jamie Arnold provides stability on Fridays, but the rest of the rotation is a question mark. Transfers Joey Volini, Wes Mendes, and Evan Chrest bring talent but come with uncertainty. Additionally, the status of future first-rounder Cam Leiter remains unclear, and his absence could further strain the pitching depth. Florida State's path back to Omaha will require significant development from its pitching staff and offensive leaders. While the talent exists, the pieces must align perfectly for the Seminoles to replicate last year's success.

#10 FLORIDA GATORS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS
36-30	CWS	+1000	+150	+2500

SEC

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
50	60	45	50	60	55	50

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Liam Peterson	6.43	62.2	76-40
Pierce Coppola	8.75	23.2	35-12
Jake Clemente	5.34	28.2	39-20

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Colby Shelton	.254	0.925	20
Luke Heyman	.246	0.823	16
Blake Cyr (MIA)	.284	0.934	7

SCOUTING REPORT

By Quentin Mills of NCAA Insiders

Depending on which part of the 2024 season you look at, you'll get a different take on how Coach Kevin O'Sullivan might describe his team's performance. In a campaign that truly epitomized the term "rollercoaster season," Florida managed to close on a high note, setting up an exciting 2025.

Florida's pitching was inconsistent in 2024 and likely wouldn't have reached Omaha without key contributions from Jac Caglianone, Brandon Neely, and Jameson Fisher, all of whom have moved on. Now, younger arms like Liam Peterson, Jake Clemente, and Pierce Coppola must step up to anchor the weekend rotation. Both impressed with strong summers for Team USA and in the Cape, giving fans and coaches confidence. Peterson, with his streamlined delivery, has the potential to emerge as a true ace. The bullpen, despite losing Neely and Fisher, still boasts reliable options like Luke McNeillie, Alex Philpot, and Frank Menendez, with JUCO transfer Matthew Jenkins also expected to contribute as well.

While Florida loses Gator legend Jac Caglianone, Coach O'Sullivan has restocked the roster with offensive firepower. Kyle Jones adds a true leadoff hitter, Blake Cyr provides an impact bat, and Bobby Boser offers a combination of defensive and offensive versatility. Ty Evans returns after a strong start before injury, joined by Colby Shelton, Luke Heyman, and Cade Kurland, all primed for rebound seasons. If Florida's young pitching develops and stays healthy, the Gators have the tools to make another Omaha run. Even in "down years," Sully's teams always seem to find themselves back on the national stage.

Offensively, Florida should have no trouble producing runs. If the young arms can continue to grow, stay consistent, and remain healthy, this team has all the ingredients to contend for a national title. There may be some growing pains early, but history suggests that Sully and the Gators will find their way back to Omaha. Even in their so-called "down years," Florida always seems to be playing on college baseball's biggest stage.

#11 DUKE
BLUE DEVILS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS	ACC
40-20	REGIONALS	+1000	+300	+4000	

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
60	55	45	55	55	60	60

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Andrew Healy	3.76	40.2	42-17
Kyle Johnson	4.38	49.1	53-19
James Tallon	5.29	32.1	37-18

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Ben Miller	.360	1.083	15
AJ Gracia	.305	0.999	14
Jake Hyde (GTOWN)	.297	0.965	13

SCOUTING REPORT

By Quentin Mills of NCAA Insiders

Facility upgrades are underway, and a team rebuild was completed this fall for Chris Pollard and the Blue Devils.

The 2024 season was plagued with injuries for Coach Pollard, who aims to avoid the injury bug in 2025 and continue Duke's success as one of the ACC's top teams. After losing elite arms like Jonathan Santucci, Fran Oschell, and Charlie Beilenson, the Blue Devils return a presumed all-lefty rotation featuring Andrew Healy, two-way star Kyle Johnson, and James Tallon. For this staff to thrive, Healy needs to stay healthy, Johnson must maintain consistency, and Tallon must rediscover his freshman-year form. If those pieces fall into place, this pitching staff will give Duke a chance to compete in every game. Offensively, replacing Alex Stone, Logan Bravo, and Zack Morris—who combined for over 50 home runs in 2024—will be a challenge. However, Pollard has risen to the occasion, landing standout Georgetown transfer Jake Hyde to complement returning bats like Tyler Albright, AJ Gracia, and Ben Miller. Another key portal addition is Harvard transfer Ben Rounds, who posted a .400 batting average and hit eight home runs in 170 at-bats last season. While Duke may not lean as heavily on the long ball in 2025, Pollard emphasized that his team has worked hard this fall to grind out at-bats and develop a more balanced offensive approach.

Despite the loss of significant power and talent from the 2024 lineup, Pollard has brought back several quality bats and supplemented them with strong portal additions, ensuring this team will generate runs throughout the season. Duke's success in 2025 will largely hinge on the pitching staff's ability to stay healthy and for key arms to recapture their early career success. If those factors align, the Blue Devils should be among the ACC's best and a formidable postseason contender.

#12 OREGON
DUCKS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS	B1G
40-20	SUPER REGIONALS	+200	+400	+5000	

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
60	65	50	60	55	50	65

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Grayson Grinsell	4.08	79.2	99-44
Jason Reitz (STMARY)	6.00	48.0	65-28
Will Sanford	N/A	0.0	0-0

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Jacob Walsh	.254	0.896	18
Mason Neville	.268	1.033	16
Maddox Molony	.322	0.982	10

SCOUTING REPORT

By Matt Grissom of NCAA Insiders

The Ducks enter the 2025 season with high expectations, ranked No. 12 nationally as they begin their first year in the Big Ten. Head coach Mark Wasikowski has built a program that's consistently competitive, and this year's team looks ready to take another step forward after last season's Super Regional appearance. Oregon's offense is packed with experience and production, with veterans like catcher Chase Meggers and shortstop Maddox Molony leading the charge. Mason Neville adds explosive power to the lineup, while Jacob Walsh brings a steady presence with his ability to drive the ball out of the park. New additions, including power hitter Parker Stinson and freshman Burke Mabeus, provide even more depth and offensive potential, making the Ducks one of the most well-rounded lineups in college baseball.

On the pitching side, ace Grayson Grinsell is the backbone of the staff. The left-hander struck out 99 batters over 79.2 innings last year and uses a mix of precision and deception to dominate opposing hitters. Behind him, the Ducks are relying on several new faces, including Saint Mary's transfer Jason Reitz and freshman standout Will Sanford, who bring high ceilings but limited experience at this level. The bullpen is anchored by Cal Baptist transfer Seth Mattox, a seasoned closer with a reliable arsenal. While the pitching staff has plenty of potential, finding consistency and defining roles will be key to the Ducks' success.

Oregon's inaugural season in the Big Ten presents new challenges, but the team is built to thrive. With a lineup capable of producing runs in a variety of ways and a pitching staff brimming with upside, the Ducks have the tools to compete for a conference title and make another deep postseason run. If the younger arms develop quickly and the team adjusts well to its new surroundings, Oregon could find itself back in the hunt for a trip to Omaha.

#13 NC STATE
WOLF PACK

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS	ACC
38-23	CWS	+1000	+350	+4500	

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
55	50	55	55	55	70	55

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Dom Fritton	7.64	72.2	72-47
Heath Andrews	11.57	9.1	6-8
Ryan Marohn	3.97	58.2	46-25

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Ryan Jaros (GT)	.343	1.054	1
Juustin DeCriscio (SD)	.308	0.793	3
Chris McHugh (VCU)	.273	0.775	6

SCOUTING REPORT

By Todd Smith of NCAA Insiders

NC State had a very successful 2024 season, reaching the College World Series under veteran head coach Elliott Avent, who enters his 28th season at the helm. This year, the Wolfpack will need to replace key contributors Alex Makarewicz and Jacob Cozart, but they bring back some exciting young talent. Sophomore right fielder Josh Hogue had an excellent freshman campaign, slashing .314 with 4 home runs and 28 RBIs in 37 games. Catcher Alex Sosa, another sophomore, returns after hitting .230 with 6 home runs and 24 RBIs in 35 games. Versatile sophomore Luke Nixon also played multiple positions last year and will be a key contributor.

The offense will get a boost from transfers like Luke DeCriscio (.308, 3 HR, 42 RBIs at San Diego), a strong defender, and Ryan Jaros (.343, 1 HR, 8 RBIs at Georgia Tech), a consistent hitter. However, the Wolfpack offense lacks significant power, so playing small ball may be crucial to generating runs. The strength of this year's team lies on the mound. Dominic Fritton (LHP), who went 3-7 with a 7.64 ERA over 17 starts, has improved his secondary pitches and will step into the ace role. Lefty Ryan Marohn (4-2, 3.97 ERA in 10 starts) brings swing-and-miss stuff and should hold a rotation spot, along with sophomore Heath Andrews. The bullpen looks solid, led by Derrick Smith (8 saves, 4.55 ERA) as the likely closer and key arms like Jacob Dudon (4-2, 4.50 ERA).

With a strong pitching staff, NC State's success will rely on its ability to win low-scoring games and hold leads late. If the offense finds its rhythm, the Wolfpack could make another deep postseason run.

#14 WAKE FOREST
DEMON DEACONS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS	ACC
38-22	REGIONALS	+1000	+200	+2500	

BY THE NUMBERS
Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
60	60	60	60	55	70	50

IMPACT PITCHERS
2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Matthew Dallas (TENN)	4.76	17.0	22-10
Logan Lunceford (MIZZ)	6.97	60.2	53-26
Duncan Marsten	N/A	0.0	0-0

IMPACT HITTERS
2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Marek Houston	.326	0.949	8
Jack Winnay	.297	1.042	20
Ethan Conrad (MARIST)	.389	1.171	9

SCOUTING REPORT
By Quentin Mills of NCAA Insiders

The word to describe the 2025 Demon Deacons baseball team is depth. Head Coach Tom Walter has assembled a squad that may lack the superstar power of years past—aside from standout Marek Houston—but is built to be solid in every facet of the game.

On the pitching side, 2025 marks the first time in a while that the Deacs won't feature names like Rhett Lowder, Josh Hartle, or Chase Burns in their weekend rotation. However, don't overlook the new faces set to take the mound. Wake Forest is renowned for its "pitching laboratory," and that development pipeline should pay off for arms like Matthew Dallas, Logan Lunceford, and Duncan Marsten. While this trio may lack experience, their sky-high potential could make them formidable rotation pieces. Backing them up is a deep bullpen brimming with game-tested talent.

At the plate, gone are the likes of Seaver King and Nick Kurtz, but the lineup might be even stronger overall thanks to an impressive haul from the transfer portal. Marek Houston returns after a breakout 2024 campaign, and he'll be joined by impactful newcomers Ethan Conrad, Jimmy Keenan, and Kade Lewis—each expected to thrive in the hitter-friendly confines of Wake Forest's home field. Last year, the offense often faltered when Kurtz wasn't having a monster day, but that won't be an issue this season. This year's lineup is more well-rounded, offering a mix of power, consistency, and speed from top to bottom.

Offensively, the Demon Deacons should rank among the ACC's best, but their ultimate success will depend on the starting rotation living up to its potential after a full offseason in the pitching lab. If Dallas, Lunceford, and Marsten deliver as expected, Wake Forest could find themselves playing deep into June, chasing a trip to Omaha.

#15 CLEMSON
TIGERS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS	ACC
44-16	SUPER REGIONALS	+800	+150	+2500	

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
60	55	55	55	50	55	60

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Aidan Knaak	3.35	83.1	108-29
Michael Gillen (SETON)	2.31	39.0	43-14
Ethan Darden	5.17	66.2	42-15

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Cam Cannarella	.337	0.978	11
Luke Gaffney (PUR)	.359	1.095	13
Collin Priest (MICH)	.279	1.023	11

SCOUTING REPORT

By Nick Hathcoat of NCAA Insiders

Erik Bakich has enjoyed a strong start to his tenure at Clemson, leading the Tigers to success in his first two seasons, though postseason heartbreak has been a recurring theme. The 2025 team appears poised to break through and return to the College World Series. Bakich recently expressed optimism about this group, calling it "the deepest roster we've had in the three years that we've been here." Leading the charge is preseason first-team All-American Cam Cannarella, a dynamic player who competes with a chip on his shoulder and enters the season with the fourth-best odds (+1000) to win the Golden Spikes Award. Bakich has excelled in leveraging the transfer portal, bringing in Purdue standout Luke Gaffney, who hit .359 with 13 home runs and earned Big Ten Freshman of the Year honors in 2024, and Michigan transfer Collin Priest, an All-Big Ten Freshman Team member. Adding to the good news, Andrew Ciufo returns fully healthy after missing the second half of last season, providing another key bat to an already potent lineup.

On the mound, preseason first-team All-American Aidan Knaak will anchor the pitching staff. Knaak is coming off an impressive freshman season where he went 5-1 with a 3.35 ERA, earning All-ACC First Team honors, and looks ready to elevate his game as one of the nation's top arms. The rest of the rotation should include Michael Gillen, a Seton Hall transfer with a fastball that can hit 98 mph, Ethan Darden, who gained experience in last year's rotation, and true freshman Dane Moehler. While the bullpen presents some uncertainties, the starting rotation appears more stable and should improve on last year's performance. Combined with an explosive offense, this rotation gives Clemson a strong chance to contend.

If the offense continues to thrive and the pitching staff proves reliable, Clemson has the tools to claim another ACC title and make a long-awaited return to the College World Series. The pieces are in place, and this season could be the one where Bakich and the Tigers finally overcome their postseason hurdles.

#16 VANDERBILT COMMODORES

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS		
38-23	REGIONALS	+1000	+225	+3000	SEC	

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
55	45	60	50	55	60	50

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
JD Thompson	4.15	52.0	74-18
Cody Bowker	3.00	48.0	59-20
Ethan McElvain	3.24	25.0	29-15

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Jonathan Vastine	.294	0.918	10
Mike Mancini (JMU)	.329	1.005	15
RJ Austin	.331	0.851	4

SCOUTING REPORT

By Nick Hathcoat of NCAA Insiders

Tim Corbin's Vanderbilt program continues to maintain its reputation as one of college baseball's premier teams, having reached the regionals in 18 consecutive seasons. However, the recent years have not lived up to the dominance the Commodores displayed during their golden era in the 2010s, and the expectations from fans remain high.

With the 2025 season on the horizon, Corbin has made key adjustments to his coaching staff, aiming to steer Vanderbilt back to its championship-winning ways. As always, the team's strength lies on the mound. The rotation is headlined by Preseason All-Americans JD Thompson and closer Miller Green, who form the backbone of a pitching staff loaded with depth and talent. Cody Bowker, a Georgetown transfer, and the skilled Ethan McElvain round out a formidable weekend rotation.

Offensively, Vanderbilt continues to grapple with a power deficit, having finished 13th in the SEC in home runs last season. For the Commodores to emerge as true contenders, their offense must take a significant leap forward. Key additions like James Madison transfer Mike Mancini bring much-needed power to the lineup, while returning players such as Braden Holcomb, Colin Barczi, and RJ Austin provide the foundation for offensive growth. Freshman standout Brodie Johnson also offers exciting potential and is an early favorite for SEC Freshman of the Year honors. For Vanderbilt to make it back to the College World Series, their offense must adapt to the modern era of power hitting while maintaining the consistency and discipline they've always been known for. With the potential for improvement at the plate and a strong pitching foundation, Vanderbilt is well-positioned to compete, likely finishing in the 6-10 range in the SEC.

OKLAHOMA STATE
COWBOYS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS		
42-19	REGIONALS	+300	+400	+7500		

BY THE NUMBERS

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
55	65	50	50	55	55	60

IMPACT PITCHERS
2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Har. Bodendorf (HAWAII)	4.61	56.2	64-28
Ethan Lund	N/A	0.0	0-0
Mario Pesca (STJOHN)	2.96	76.0	53-38

IMPACT HITTERS
2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Nolan Schubart	.370	1.351	23
Aidan Meola	.329	1.006	10
Colin Brueggemann	.251	0.851	14

SCOUTING REPORT

By Matt Grissom of NCAA Insiders

The Cowboys are gearing up for another strong season in 2025, entering the year ranked No. 17 nationally. Under the leadership of Josh Holliday, now in his 13th year as head coach, the Cowboys have built one of the most consistent programs in college baseball. This year's roster features a potent offense led by junior Nolan Schubart, a left-handed slugger with light-tower power who is poised to be a first-round MLB draft pick. He's supported by veteran bats like Ian Daugherty, Aidan Meola, and Colin Brueggemann, all of whom bring proven production and the ability to hit for power. Transfers Jayson Jones from Arkansas and Brayden Smith from Iowa Western CC add additional depth and athleticism, ensuring the Cowboys will have a balanced and dangerous lineup.

The pitching staff is filled with potential, though replacing last year's elite weekend rotation is no small task. Gabe Davis, a towering 6-foot-9 right-hander, has electric stuff and made strides last season, putting him in position to take on a leading role. Transfers Harrison Bodendorf from Hawaii and Mario Pesca from St. John's bring valuable experience to the rotation, while freshman Ethan Lund offers high-upside arm talent with a fastball touching the mid-90s. The bullpen features plenty of options, with Davis capable of stepping into high-leverage situations alongside other talented arms ready to develop into key contributors.

With a lineup that's stacked with power and a pitching staff loaded with untapped potential, the Cowboys are well-positioned to compete for the Big 12 crown and make another postseason run. While regular-season success has become the standard in Stillwater, this year's team has its sights set on making a deeper impact in the postseason. If the pitching staff can find consistency to complement the firepower of the offense, Oklahoma State has the pieces to make a serious push toward Omaha.

#18 MISSISSIPPI STATE
BULLDOGS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS
40-23	REGIONALS	+1500	+350	+4500

SEC

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
50	55	50	60	50	55	55

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Pico Kohn	3.38	29.1	35-11
Karson Ligon	4.56	23.2	21-21
Jacob Pruitt	3.02	41.2	57-23

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Hunter Hines	.257	0.832	16
Noah Sullivan (SC-UPST)	.324	1.066	17
Bryce Chance	.286	0.799	6

SCOUTING REPORT

By Nick Hathcoat of NCAA Insiders

Mississippi State heads into the 2025 season as a potential dark horse in the SEC, with a roster full of experience and upside. Despite losing star pitchers Jurrangelo Cijntje and Khal Stephen, the Bulldogs' rotation is deep, albeit lacking a true ace. Pico Kohn, Karson Ligon, and Jacob Pruitt appear to be the frontrunners for weekend starting roles, but each must prove capable of handling the increased workload required to contend in the SEC.

On the offensive side, Mississippi State must replace its top three hitters from last season, but first baseman Hunter Hines returns as a key piece. After a "down" year in which he hit .257 with 16 home runs, Hines is poised for a bounce-back season, potentially surpassing 20 homers with improved plate discipline. Transfers Noah Sullivan (USC Upstate) and Ace Reese (Houston) bring All-Conference potential, with Reese generating significant buzz following a dominant fall.

For Mississippi State to achieve its ceiling, the Bulldogs will need both the rotation and lineup to find their footing. The development of top arms and breakout performances from emerging hitters will be pivotal. This team has the potential to compete at a high level, but it will depend on whether the Bulldogs can answer key questions about their pitching and offensive production. If the pieces come together, Mississippi State could find itself in Omaha, but the margin for error is slim in the unforgiving SEC.

#19 TEXAS
LONGHORNS
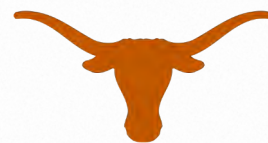
2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS	
36-24	REGIONALS	+1000	+140	+2000	SEC

BY THE NUMBERS
Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
65	65	50	55	50	55	60

IMPACT PITCHERS
2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Jared Spencer (INDST)	4.08	53.0	72-33
Luke Harrison	9.28	10.2	10-13
Grayson Saunier (MISS)	5.64	44.2	35-16

IMPACT HITTERS
2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Jalin Flores	.340	1.064	18
Max Belyeu	.329	1.090	18
Kimble Schuessler	.343	1.021	10

SCOUTING REPORT
By Nick Hathcoat of NCAA Insiders

Jim Schlossnagle begins his tenure at Texas as the Longhorns make their much-anticipated debut in the SEC. With one of the nation's top offenses and an experienced coaching staff, the Longhorns are looking to make a statement in their new conference. The offense, ranked fourth nationally by D1 Baseball, is headlined by Golden Spikes contender Max Belyeu, who also enters the season with the third-best odds to win the award (+800). Jalin Flores, a Preseason Third-Team All-American, adds power and consistency at shortstop.

Schlossnagle brought along renowned pitching coach Max Weiner from Texas A&M to address the significant question marks on the mound. Weiner's reputation for developing pitchers will be tested, as Texas relies on transfers and unproven arms to navigate the SEC gauntlet. Jared Spencer, an Indiana State transfer, is expected to lead the rotation, but the rest of the staff remains up in the air.

The Longhorns face a brutal welcome to the SEC, with a conference slate that closes with a challenging five-week stretch featuring Auburn, Texas A&M, Arkansas, Florida, and Oklahoma. For Texas to succeed, the offense must carry the team while the pitching staff finds its footing. If Weiner can piece together a reliable rotation and bullpen, this roster has the potential to emerge as a dark horse College World Series contender. However, with so many uncertainties on the mound, the Longhorns' postseason aspirations may hinge on how quickly their arms adapt to the rigors of SEC play. While Schlossnagle's coaching pedigree is undeniable, 2025 may serve as a transitional year for a program adjusting to the heightened competition of its new conference home.

#20 DALLAS BAPTIST
PATRIOTS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS
45-15	REGIONALS	−143	+500	+6000

C-USA

BY THE NUMBERS

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
55	60	55	55	60	60	55

IMPACT PITCHERS
2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
James Ellwanger	6.11	17.2	23-11
Luke Pettitte	4.17	36.2	43-9
Jerrod Jenkins	3.58	60.2	57-26

IMPACT HITTERS
2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Grant Jay	.300	1.067	21
Chayton Krauss	.358	1.041	16
Tom Poole	.350	1.185	13

SCOUTING REPORT

By Todd Smith of NCAA Insiders

Dallas Baptist continued its remarkable success in 2024 with a 45-15 record, marking its 10th consecutive NCAA postseason appearance. Head coach Dan Heefner has built a powerhouse program poised for another strong season. The Patriots return a dangerous offense, highlighted by star catcher Grant Jay, who hit .300 with 21 home runs and 57 RBIs. Chayton Krauss led the team in batting average (.358) and added 16 home runs, while Tom Pool (DH/RF) contributed a .350 average with 13 home runs and 37 RBIs. Shortstop Luke Heefner is another steady presence both at the plate and in the field. Freshman Bryan Williams Jr. is a name to watch as he brings exciting tools that could earn him valuable at-bats.

On the mound, the Patriots face the challenge of replacing ace Ryan Johnson but have a strong group of arms ready to step up. Hard-throwing righty James Ellwanger, who can touch 99 mph, will push for a rotation spot after making eight starts last year. Jerrod Jenkins (6-0, 3.58 ERA) and Luke Pettitte (3-2, 4.17 ERA) are key returners who will anchor the weekend rotation. LSU transfer Micah Bucknam and Ryan Borberg could also provide meaningful innings, while the bullpen is expected to be a strength with experienced depth.

With a well-rounded roster and a proven track record, Dallas Baptist is once again positioned to make a deep postseason run, continuing its reign as one of the most consistent programs in college baseball.

#21 ARIZONA
WILDCATS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS
36-23	REGIONALS	+175	+500	+6000

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
60	60	55	55	45	55	60

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Collin McKinney (BAY)	6.70	49.2	60-35
Christian Coppola (RUT)	7.63	43.2	47-33
Casey Hintz	4.13	32.2	24-12

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Mason White	.305	0.995	19
Brendan Summerhill	.324	0.949	8
Aaron Walton (SAM)	.286	0.888	9

SCOUTING REPORT

By Quentin Mills of NCAA Insiders

Writing this preview feels like déjà vu from 2024 to 2025. Just as last year began with questions surrounding the Wildcat pitching staff, those same uncertainties linger heading into the 2025 season.

Chip Hale will embark on the new campaign with an entirely revamped starting rotation, likely featuring two transfers and a highly touted freshman. Bailey Smith, the talented newcomer, is expected to compete for a starting role alongside Rutgers transfer Christian Coppola and Baylor transfer Collin McKinney. All three have immense potential, but it remains to be seen if that potential will translate to consistent success on the mound.

One area where Hale won't lose sleep is the offense, which returns nearly its entire lineup from 2024. Headlined by standouts Brendan Summerhill and Mason White, the Wildcats' lineup may not be loaded with power, but it delivers in clutch moments. Expect Arizona's offense to prioritize gap-to-gap hitting and timely execution, keeping them competitive in every game.

Hale and his staff face the tall task of developing and solidifying the rotation, but if they can find the right formula, the Wildcats are poised to make noise in the Big 12. With a battle-tested lineup and the potential for growth on the mound, Arizona has all the makings of a dangerous postseason contender. Trust in the Cats – they're primed for another trip to the postseason.

UC SANTA BARBARA
GUACHOS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS	
44-14	REGIONALS	+175	+500	+6000	THE BIG WEST

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
50	50	50	55	65	60	60

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Tyler Bremner	2.54	88.2	104-21
Jackson Flora	3.83	47.0	40-25
Chase Hoover (TCU)	9.74	20.1	31-13

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Isaac Kin (POM-CC)	.438	1.328	17
Jonathan Mendez	.272	0.743	4
Jack Holman (UCLA)	.223	0.763	4

SCOUTING REPORT

By Matt Grissom of NCAA Insiders

The Gauchos are gearing up for another strong season in 2025, entering the year ranked No. 22 nationally. Under head coach Andrew Checketts, UCSB has built a reputation as a consistent postseason contender, and this year's squad has the tools to uphold that standard. The pitching staff is the undeniable strength of the team, led by junior ace Tyler Bremner, who is widely considered one of the top arms in college baseball and a projected top-five MLB Draft pick. Bremner's command and ability to miss bats set the tone for a rotation that also features sophomore standout Jackson Flora, a right-hander with a powerful fastball that has touched 98 mph, and sophomore lefty Cole Tryba, who will anchor the bullpen with his strike-throwing ability and deceptive delivery.

The biggest challenge for the Gauchos will be integrating a largely new lineup after losing seven starters from last season. Senior outfielder LaTrey McCollum, a career .309 hitter, provides a steady presence, while UCLA transfer Jack Holman and Pomona-Pitzer transfer Isaac Kim bring experience and power potential to the mix. Highly touted freshman catcher Ian Fernandez will take on a critical role behind the plate, while junior college standout Jeremiah Crain, fresh off an NWAC Player of the Year season, is expected to make an immediate impact at third base. Although the offense lacks proven consistency, the combination of experienced transfers and young talent offers plenty of promise.

The Gauchos remain a team built on dominant pitching, and this year's staff is among the best in the nation. With a deep bullpen and a rotation anchored by Bremner and Flora, UCSB has the arms to compete with anyone. If the revamped lineup can provide enough support, this team has the potential to make another deep postseason run. For a program that has redefined success on the West Coast under Checketts, the pieces are in place to challenge for a Big West title and contend for a trip to Omaha.

#23 TCU
HORNED FROGS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS
33-21	NO POSTSEASON	+500	+250	+3500

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
55	50	55	55	55	55	65

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Ben Abeldt	1.83	44.1	54-16
Caedmon Parker	3.00	33.0	40-18
Tommy LaPour (WICH)	4.25	78.1	69-37

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Karson Bowen	.235	0.698	6
Anthony Silva	.268	0.753	4
Cole Cramer (WSU)	.345	0.912	3

SCOUTING REPORT

By Matt Grissom of NCAA Insiders

The Horned Frogs come into the 2025 season hungry to return to their familiar postseason stage after falling short in 2024. Ranked No. 23 nationally, this year's squad carries a chip on its shoulder and is led by head coach Kirk Saarloos, who is determined to guide the team back to prominence. After starting last season with an impressive 13-0 record, the Frogs faltered down the stretch and narrowly missed the NCAA Tournament. That disappointment has fueled an offseason of growth and preparation, and the Horned Frogs look primed for redemption.

TCU's pitching staff is headlined by junior lefty Ben Abeldt, a dynamic arm who posted a 1.83 ERA and dominated as a reliever last season. He's expected to take on a larger role in the rotation alongside veterans like Caedmon Parker and Wichita State transfer Tommy LaPour, who brings power and grit to the mound. The bullpen features several intriguing options, including Braden Sloan and rising talent Trevor Baumler. The Frogs' pitching depth will be key as they aim to replace the production of departed ace and two-way-player, Payton Tolle.

On offense, TCU boasts a mix of experience and new faces. Shortstop Anthony Silva, a defensive anchor and offensive spark, leads a lineup that includes Sam Myers, who hit .353 as a freshman, and Cole Cramer, a transfer from Washington State who brings a proven bat. Newcomers like freshman outfielder Sawyer Strosnider and two-way phenom Noah Franco add versatility and upside. The return of Karson Bowen behind the plate provides leadership and stability, which will be crucial as the team works to find consistency in a challenging Big 12 slate.

With Texas and Oklahoma off to the SEC, TCU has an opportunity to establish itself as the premier Big 12 team. The pieces are in place for a strong season, but the Frogs will need their talented junior class to step up and their pitching staff to find its rhythm. If everything clicks, they have the potential to contend for a Big 12 title and make a postseason run. The Frogs are determined to prove that last year's disappointment was an anomaly and not the start of a trend.

#24 NEBRASKA
CORNHUSKERS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS	
40-22	REGIONALS	+700	+700	+10000	B1G

BY THE NUMBERS
Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
55	45	55	50	50	50	65

IMPACT PITCHERS
2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Mason McConnaughey	3.45	73.0	91-24
Tyner Horn	4.12	21.1	19-8
Jackson Brockett	4.54	36.2	29-8

IMPACT HITTERS
2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Dyan Carey	.255	0.747	7
Cael Frost (SDST)	.343	1.175	21
Gabe Swansen	.327	1.038	8

SCOUTING REPORT
By Quentin Mills of NCAA Insiders

As the 2025 season approaches, the Cornhuskers aim to build on the momentum of their 2024 Regional appearance and take another step forward.

Nebraska faces a key challenge in replacing ace Brett Sears, leaving Mason McConnaughey as the only established arm locked into the Friday night role. Head Coach Will Bolt will rely on pitchers like Tyner Horn and Jackson Brockett to step up and fill the gaps in the rotation, providing quality innings over the weekends.

While the pitching staff searches for stability, the offense looks more secure. The return of Gabe Swansen, who was red-hot to close out 2024, paired with the addition of power-hitting transfer Cael Frost from South Dakota State, gives the lineup a strong foundation. Complemented by several returning bats, Nebraska's offense should be able to consistently support its pitching staff.

If the Cornhuskers can develop a reliable rotation to pair with their offensive firepower, they have the pieces to compete at the top of the Big Ten standings. Another postseason berth seems well within reach for a program riding high on momentum—now they just need to capitalize on it.

#25 TROY TROJANS

2024 RECORD	2024 SEASON FINISH	WIN CONF	MAKE CWS	WIN CWS	
37-22	NO POSTSEASON	+300	+800	+12500	SBC

BY THE NUMBERS

Featuring D1Baseball's 20-80 Scouting Scale

HITTING	POWER	SPEED	DEFENSE	PITCHING	BULLPEN	EXPERIENCE
55	55	55	55	50	60	50

IMPACT PITCHERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	ERA	IP	K-BB
Garrett Gainous	5.40	48.1	57-25
Noah Edders	6.27	79.0	76-34
Luke Lyon	4.40	74.0	54-23

IMPACT HITTERS

2024 Season Stats

PLAYER NAME	BA	OPS	HR's
Brooks Bryan	.279	0.970	18
Blake Cavill (WKU)	.313	0.970	8
Gavin Schrader (NIAG)	.312	0.931	9

SCOUTING REPORT

By Quentin Mills of NCAA Insiders

Skylar Meade and the 2025 Troy Trojans are focused on making a postseason push after falling short last year, with a roster that has the potential to deliver a strong campaign.

The primary question for Troy heading into the season is their starting rotation, which lacks certainty beyond Friday night ace Garrett Gainous. While the talent is there with arms like Luke Lyon, Noah Edders, and Colby Frieda, consistency will be the key in solidifying the remaining weekend spots.

On the offensive side, the Trojans are in a much better position, led by star catcher Brooks Bryan, who put up an impressive 18 home runs and 85 RBIs last season. Supporting him are Peyton Watts, Gavin Schrader, and Blake Cavill, all of whom are expected to be significant contributors to a well-rounded lineup.

Under Meade's leadership, Troy has emerged as a top-tier program in the Sun Belt and a force in the mid-major landscape. If the Trojans can establish a reliable rotation, they're well-positioned to contend for the Sun Belt title and secure a postseason berth as a team no major program would want to face.

West Virginia (Big 12)

West Virginia enjoyed a magical season in 2024, reaching the Super Regionals before falling to North Carolina. Head coach Randy Mazey retired after the season, leaving the program in the capable hands of longtime assistant and new head coach, Steve Sabins. Sabins is expected to carry on the winning tradition in Morgantown, as the Mountaineers aim to build on last year's success.

Offensively, West Virginia should remain potent despite losing key contributors J.J. Wetherholt and Reed Chumley. Catcher Logan Sauve (.308, 8 HR, 36 RBIs) will anchor the lineup after a strong season. Another key bat will be versatile junior Sam White (.305, 10 HR, 42 RBIs), who can play multiple positions and provide consistent production. Power hitter Grant Hussey (.242, 12 HR, 37 RBIs) remains a significant threat to leave the yard at any moment, and Kyle West, who launched 14 home runs in 2024, will return as the primary DH. Sophomore Michael Perazza (.258, 1 HR, 7 RBIs) will also compete for at-bats, giving the lineup additional depth and versatility. Scoring runs shouldn't be an issue for the Mountaineers in 2025.

On the mound, West Virginia will need to overcome the loss of four pitchers to the MLB Draft, including bulldog starter Derek Clark. Junior Carson Estridge (1-2, 3.21 ERA) is a key returning arm and will transition from the bullpen to a potential starting role this season. Sophomore Chase Meyer could also step into a starting role after an impressive showing in the Cape Cod League. Junior Gavin Van Kempen (6-1, 3.14 ERA) adds high-octane stuff, with a fastball that touches 97 mph. The rotation and bullpen depth will be bolstered by transfer Jack Kartsonas (Kent State), who has starting experience, and freshman Mac Stiffler, a towering 6'7" right-hander with a 90's fastball.

Coach Sabins will undoubtedly have this team motivated and ready to compete. With a mix of returning stars, talented newcomers, and a proven leader at the helm, the Mountaineers are poised for another successful season in Morgantown.

Kansas (Big 12)

The 2025 Kansas Jayhawks enter the season with optimism and momentum under third-year head coach Dan Fitzgerald. Coming off a strong 2024 campaign where they narrowly missed an NCAA tournament berth, the Jayhawks boast a veteran-heavy roster built to compete in the highly competitive Big 12. With a lineup full of experienced players and a pitching staff headlined by Big 12 Freshman of the Year Dominic Voegele, Kansas has the tools to contend for a postseason berth. Voegele, a sophomore ace with a mid-90s fastball and improved secondary pitches, will anchor the rotation alongside breakout candidate Cooper Moore and a deep bullpen. The team's offensive identity will center around disciplined at-bats, physicality, and a mix of power and speed.

Kansas' lineup is led by senior infielder Michael Brooks, who returns after an injury-shortened 2024 season in which he showcased his elite defense and offensive potential. Transfers such as Brady Counsell (Minnesota) and Derek Cerda (Western Oklahoma State) provide additional pop and athleticism to an already experienced roster. The team's ability to grind out at-bats and produce runs in clutch situations will make them a difficult opponent for Big 12 pitching staffs.

The Jayhawks' success will ultimately hinge on their ability to answer questions at the back of the rotation and maintain consistency on defense. If the pitching staff, particularly the rotation depth, can rise to the occasion, and the lineup stays productive throughout the season, Kansas could make significant noise in the Big 12 and punch their ticket to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2006. With a mix of veteran leadership and young talent, this could be a breakout year for the Jayhawks.

Auburn (SEC)

Auburn is coming off a very disappointing season, finishing 8-22 in SEC play and missing the SEC tournament. Heading into his tenth season, Coach Butch Thompson took action in the transfer portal while also signing a strong freshman class to revitalize the Tigers. With the excitement of playing in a renovated Plainsman Park and a solid performance in fall practices, Auburn is optimistic about turning things around and returning to postseason play.

The biggest issue for Auburn last year was its pitching, as the starting rotation struggled to a 5.94 team ERA. The Tigers lost key arms in Chase Allsup and Tanner Bauman to last year's MLB Draft but have addressed these losses by bringing in reinforcements. Cade Fisher, who showed promise in Florida's bullpen with 76 strikeouts, needs to improve his 7.13 ERA but could play a significant role. Samuel Dutton (LSU) and Mason Koch (Creighton) were also added, although Koch will miss the early part of the season. Hayden Murphy emerged as a standout during fall practices and is expected to be a key arm in the bullpen. Additionally, Auburn's talented freshman class could play a major role, with Jackson Sanders and Connor Gatewood standing out as potential contributors.

Offensively, the Tigers have a lineup that could be one of the most dangerous in the SEC. Ike Irish (DH/C) slashed an impressive .319 with 14 home runs and 59 RBIs last season, while Cooper McMurray (1B) adds another big bat, hitting .296 with 14 home runs and 56 RBIs. Key additions from the transfer portal, such as Lucas Steele (Samford) and Bristol Carter (East Carolina), bring depth and power to the lineup. With an offense capable of producing runs and a revamped pitching staff, Auburn has the pieces to bounce back and make a push for postseason action in 2025.

Coastal Carolina (Sun Belt)

Coastal Carolina enters the 2025 season under the leadership of new manager Kevin Schnall, who takes over for legendary coach Gary Gilmore. Schnall, a long-time assistant and protégé, has been preparing to step into this role and is poised to lead the Chanticleers into a new era. While Coastal lost some firepower from last year's offense, they still have a solid core of returning players and new additions ready to contribute.

Catcher Cade Bodine will provide a spark in the lineup, coming off a strong season where he slashed .324 with 9 home runs and 71 RBIs. Blake Barthol, who started all 61 games last year, will anchor second base after slashing .310 with 15 home runs and 61 RBIs. Junior outfielder Jake Books, who hit .290 with 8 home runs in 2024, returns to patrol one of the corner outfield spots, while junior speedster Dean Mihos is expected to take over in center field. Senior transfer Wells Sykes (Citadel) adds veteran leadership and experience, while NJCAA Division II Player of the Year Colby Thorndyke brings left-handed power to the lineup.

The pitching staff looks to be the team's strength this year. Senior RHP Riley Eikhoff will assume the role of ace after posting a 6-1 record and a 5.00 ERA over 75.2 innings last season. Sophomore Cameron Flukey, who started 10 games in 2024, could challenge Eikhoff for the Friday night spot. Dominick Carbone and Oliver Ellison are expected to be key bullpen arms, while freshman Scott Doran, who sits in the low 90s with his fastball, had an impressive fall and should add depth to the relief corps. Additionally, several key arms return from injury, bolstering the staff. With a strong pitching core and a lineup featuring both veteran presence and exciting new talent, Coastal Carolina is poised to contend in the Sun Belt Conference and make another push for postseason success in 2025.

South Carolina (SEC)

This may be more of an honorable mention than anything else, but the Gamecocks enter 2025 led by one of the most surprising coaching hires of the offseason, Paul Mainieri. Has the game changed too much for Mainieri to balance the new world of NIL and the transfer portal? This will be something to keep an eye on throughout the season, but they bode one of the best bats in the country in Ethan Petry. Ultimately, there are way too many question marks to list, but as far as storylines go, seeing how Mainieri navigates this season will be interesting.

College of Charleston (CAC)

Last season ended in heartbreaking fashion for Chad Holbrook and the Charleston Cougars, as they finished as CAA champions but were controversially snubbed from a regional appearance. That postseason disappointment should serve as plenty of motivation for the Cougars to dominate their conference in 2025 and make a strong case for a tournament bid.

The Cougars' pitching staff, led by Jake Brink and Aiden Hunter, should keep them competitive in nearly every game, giving the offense opportunities to shine. Speaking of the offense, Charleston boasted one of the best mid-major lineups last season, and that success is expected to continue. Anchored by standout players like Avery Neaves, Dariyan Pendergrass, and Will Baumhofer, the Cougars' lineup is well-equipped to produce plenty of runs and make noise on the national stage.

With a chip on their shoulder and something to prove, Charleston is primed to make a statement in 2025. Expect the Cougars to compete as a team on a mission, not only aiming for a postseason appearance but also as a potential dark horse capable of pulling off an upset.

UCONN (Big East)

Jim Penders has done an outstanding job making UConn Huskies baseball a relevant program in recent years, relying on a combination of strong pitching and timely hitting—and 2025 should be no different. Veteran pitchers Gabe Van Emon and Ian Cooke will anchor the starting rotation, making UConn a tough matchup every weekend.

Offensively, the Huskies return multiple key pieces from their 2024 lineup, providing quality depth throughout the order. The addition of Sam Biller brings another potent bat to complement Maddix Delana, whose base-clearing power will be a focal point of the offense.

UConn may fly under the radar for much of the season, they have the tools to catch national attention in the postseason. Expect the Huskies to be a dangerous team, with potential to make another Super Regional run.

Virginia Tech (ACC)

The Hokies head into the 2025 season with plenty to prove after back-to-back late-season collapses that left them out of the postseason. The Hokies, led by head coach John Szefc, have the talent to bounce back, with a mix of veteran returners and exciting newcomers. Offensively, Virginia Tech boasts one of the more dynamic mid-tier lineups in the ACC. The return of Ben Watson, who slashed an incredible .417/.464/.592 last season, provides a cornerstone in the lineup. He's joined by power-hitting transfer David Lewis, who posted 24 home runs last year at D-II North Greenville, and Garrett Michel, whose 2024 campaign was cut short but showed elite promise.

On the mound, Brett Renfrow leads the pitching staff after a strong freshman year and a summer with Team USA. Behind him, Madden Clement and Grant Manning add intrigue to the rotation, while Cameron Lejeune, a transfer from McNeese, offers versatility as a potential starter or closer. The bullpen has depth, with promising young arms like Preston Crowl and intriguing transfers like Josh Berzonski and Brendan Yagesh. While Virginia Tech's pitching struggled in recent years, Szefc is optimistic that this year's group, which has more ACC experience than the 2022 super regional staff, can rise to the occasion.

Ultimately, Virginia Tech's season will depend on striking a balance between their strong offense and improved pitching. If they can overcome past late-season struggles and the newcomers gel as expected, the Hokies have the potential to not only return to the NCAA Tournament but also make a deep run. However, any offensive regression or failure to solidify the pitching staff could leave them on the outside looking in yet again.

GOOD AS GOLD | A LOOK INTO THE GOLDEN SPIKES ODDS

If you're not familiar with the award, think Heisman, but for College Baseball. From guys like Charlie Condon (2024) to Bryce Harper (2010), the Golden Spikes Award is given to the most dominant player in College Baseball. Heading into the 2025 Season, here is a look at the the field of some of the top candidates. Even if you don't want to bet this market, these are some studs that you'll want to familiarize yourself with heading into the season.

GOLDEN SPIKES AWARD

JACE LAVIOLETTE
OF – TEXAS A&M
+400
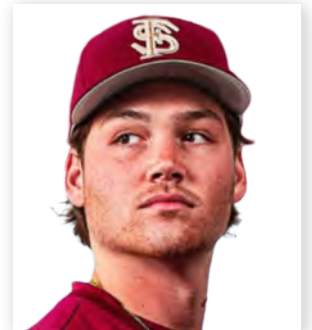
JAMIE ARNOLD
P – FLORIDA ST
+600

MAX BELYEU
OF – TEXAS
+800

CAM CANNARELLA
OF – CLEMSON
+1000

ETHAN PETRY
OF – SO. CAROLINA
+1300
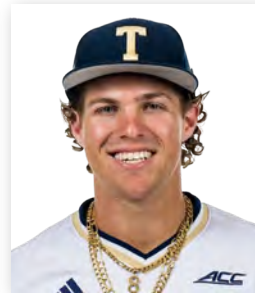
DREW BURRESS
OF – GEORGIA TECH
+1500

JARED JONES
IF – LSU
+1500
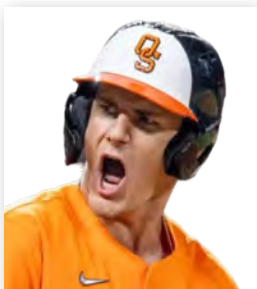
NOLAN SCHUBART
OF – OKLAHOMA ST
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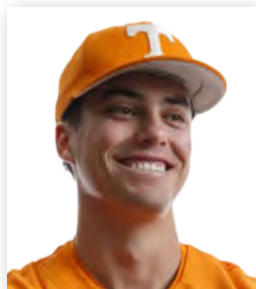
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+2500
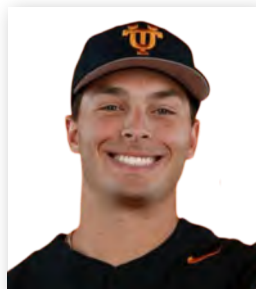
ANDREW FISCHER
IF – TENNESSEE
+2500
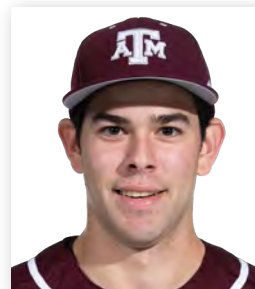
RYAN PRAGER
P – TEXAS A&M
+3000

RINTARO SASAKI
IF/DH – STANFORD
+3000

PRESEASON PICK'EM | 6-4-3

We switched up our typical picks page this year by incorporating both odds and plays that we recommend if you want to add any futures to your portfolio. The 6-4-3 will consist of **6** teams that we believe will make it to Omaha, the **4** teams that will win their regular season conference titles, and **3** contenders that could win it all!

MATT'S PLAYS

TO MAKE CWS:		TEXAS A&M	+110
TO MAKE CWS:		ARKANSAS	+125
TO MAKE CWS:		VIRGINIA	+135
TO MAKE CWS:		GEORGIA	+140
TO MAKE CWS:		NO. CAROLINA	+175
TO MAKE CWS:		UC SANTA BARB	+500
TO WIN ACC:		VIRGINIA	+500
TO WIN BIG 10:		OREGON	+150
TO WIN BIG 12:		OKLAHOMA ST	+300
TO WIN SEC:		TEXAS A&M	+500
TO WIN CWS:		VIRGINIA	+1500
TO WIN CWS:		ARKANSAS	+1000
TO WIN CWS:		NO. CAROLINA	+2500

QUENTIN'S PLAYS

TO MAKE CWS:		FLORIDA	+150
TO MAKE CWS:		VIRGINIA	+135
TO MAKE CWS:		TEXAS A&M	+110
TO MAKE CWS:		ARKANSAS	+125
TO MAKE CWS:		NO. CAROLINA	+175
TO MAKE CWS:		OREGON STATE	+135
TO WIN ACC:		VIRGINIA	+500
TO WIN BIG 10:		OREGON	+150
TO WIN BIG 12:		OKLAHOMA ST	+300
TO WIN SEC:		TEXAS A&M	+500
TO WIN CWS:		VIRGINIA	+1500
TO WIN CWS:		TEXAS A&M	+1000
TO WIN CWS:		FLORIDA	+2500

SMITTY'S PLAYS

TO MAKE CWS:		FLORIDA	+150
TO MAKE CWS:		TENNESSEE	+120
TO MAKE CWS:		TEXAS A&M	+110
TO MAKE CWS:		ARKANSAS	+125
TO MAKE CWS:		NO. CAROLINA	+175
TO MAKE CWS:		OREGON STATE	+135
TO WIN ACC:		NO. CAROLINA	+600
TO WIN BIG 10:		OREGON	+150
TO WIN BIG 12:		OKLAHOMA ST	+300
TO WIN SEC:		TEXAS A&M	+500
TO WIN CWS:		TEXAS A&M	+700
TO WIN CWS:		FLORIDA	+2500
TO WIN CWS:		NO. CAROLINA	+2500

NICK'S PLAYS

TO MAKE CWS:		TENNESSEE	+120
TO MAKE CWS:		VIRGINIA	+135
TO MAKE CWS:		TEXAS A&M	+110
TO MAKE CWS:		GEORGIA	+140
TO MAKE CWS:		CLEMSON	+150
TO MAKE CWS:		OREGON STATE	+135
TO WIN ACC:		VIRGINIA	+500
TO WIN BIG 10:		OREGON	+150
TO WIN BIG 12:		ARIZONA	+400
TO WIN SEC:		TEXAS A&M	+500
TO WIN CWS:		TENNESSEE	+800
TO WIN CWS:		TEXAS A&M	+700
TO WIN CWS:		OREGON STATE	+1500

Shriners Children's COLLEGE SHOWDOWN — Globe Life Field

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14
- 11:00AM — OKLAHOMA STATE vs CLEMSON
- 3:00PM — ARIZONA vs OLE MISS
- 7:00PM — TEXAS vs LOUISVILLE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15
- 11:00AM — CLEMSON vs ARIZONA
- 3:00PM — LOUISVILLE vs OKLAHOMA STATE
- 7:00PM — OLE MISS vs TEXAS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16
- 10:30AM — LOUISVILLE vs ARIZONA
- 2:30PM — OLE MISS vs CLEMSON
- 6:30PM — OKLAHOMA STATE vs TEXAS

LIVE ON FLOCOLLEGE

AmegyBank COLLEGE BASEBALL SERIES — Globe Life Field — Kubota

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21
- 3:00PM — TCU vs MICHIGAN
- 7:00PM — KANSAS STATE vs ARKANSAS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22
- 2:00PM — MICHIGAN vs KANSAS STATE
- 6:00PM — ARKANSAS vs TCU

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23
- 11:00AM — MICHIGAN vs ARKANSAS
- 3:00PM — KANSAS STATE vs TCU

LIVE ON FLOCOLLEGE
BENEFITING Shriners Children's

AmegyBank COLLEGE BASEBALL SERIES — Globe Life Field — Kubota

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28
- 3:00PM — AUBURN vs OHIO STATE
- 7:00PM — BAYLOR vs OREGON STATE

SATURDAY, MARCH 1
- 2:00PM — OHIO STATE vs BAYLOR
- 6:00PM — OREGON STATE vs AUBURN

SUNDAY, MARCH 2
- 11:00AM — OHIO STATE vs OREGON STATE
- 3:00PM — AUBURN vs BAYLOR

LIVE ON FLOCOLLEGE
BENEFITING Shriners Children's

WELCOME LAS VEGAS — TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Times are listed in Pacific Time. Dates and times are subject to change.

	AWAY		HOME
FEB 28	Texas Tech	2:00 pm	Illinois
	Washington	6:00 pm	Texas
MAR 1	Illinois	12:00 pm	Washington
	Texas	4:00 pm	Texas Tech
MAR 2	Illinois	11:00 am	Texas
	Texas Tech	3:00 pm	Washington

The road to Omaha
begins now.

college baseball
insiders