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2014 PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: Ball State Club Baseball

Mascot: Cardinals

Location: Muncie, IN

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Brett Bennick, Eric Meyer

2013 Performance:

- Record: **10-10**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **5th/NA**
- Notables: **Illinois, Ohio, UNCC**

Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 14

Players to Watch: Brett Bennick, Nate Biggs, Billy Gerstner, Matt Gray, Matt Polito

New additions: 9 new players

Biggest Rival: Purdue

Best Player Nickname: NA

2014 Season Outlook: Spring 2014 is a new chapter for us, looking to compete for a conference title, our position battles are heating up. Returning most of our starters from the 2013 season, along with a strong newly built pitching staff, Ball State should be a team to watch out for in the Great Lakes South division.

Manager Quote: I'm really excited about this season, I think we have a great group of guys who can really be a special team.



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2014 PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: Bowling Green State University

Mascot: Falcons

Location: Bowling Green, OH

Captain(s)/Coach(s):

President: Billy Nowak

Vice President: Aaron Christy

Treasurer: Mark Dubow

Additional Captains: Bobby Bandelow, Lucas Hawkins

2013 Performance:

- Record:
23-5
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results:
14-1 in the Great Lakes East Conference, placing 1st overall. Advanced to Regionals and was knocked out by University of Illinois and University of Wisconsin, after defeating UW earlier that same day.
- Notables:
Swept all the conference games, apart from University of Cincinnati, which was still a 2-1 series win. The big moment came upon the defeat of our previous rival, The Ohio State University, to gain our national ranking at the 12th spot, which marks the first time that BGSU has ever cracked into the national rankings.

Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners):

Returning Players from the 2013 Season:

Lucas Hawkins, Kaleb Kumza, Dustin Peper, Brett Jordan, Mark Dubow, Kevin Moulton, Billy Nowak, Jeff Huffman, Stevie Carter, Josh Fey, Andrew Fox, Kyle Melchert, Aaron Christy, Dylan Atibagos, AJ Mighton, Bobby Bandelow, Michael Galletti, Travis Mollohan.

Awards and Accolades from the 2013 Season:

Brett Jordan - 1st Team All-American Starting Pitcher

- 1st Team All-Conference

Dustin Peper - 1st Team All-Conference

Scott Brady - 1st Team All-Conference

Scott Stevenson - 2nd Team All-Conference



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Lucas Hawkins - 3rd Team All-Conference
Kyle Melchert - Home Run Derby Participant

Players to Watch:

Dustin Peper, Brett Jordan, Andrew Burdick.

Notable Mentions:

Lucas Hawkins, Andrew Fox, Kyle Melchert.

Also, keep an eye out for Michael Galletti, jumping into the outfield position, and Travis Mollohan, to come out of the bullpen as a strong reliever with potential to start games, as well.

New additions:

Brett Agne, Gary Galbreath, Jr., Andrew Burdick, Donovan Havens, Thomas Mulig, Jake Eby, Alex Kane, Mitchell Bronne.

Biggest Rival:

Central Michigan University

Best Player Nickname:

Jeff Huffman - "Turtle"

2014 Season Outlook:

After the riveting 2013 Season, full of heated emotions, down-to-the-wire games, and the team's first national ranking in the history of the club, decisions were made over the summer, involving moving teams around to different conferences. The Great Lakes East Conference provided many opportunities for terrific games, as players began to know what to expect from certain teams and as personal rivalries and/or friendships were spawned.

With that in mind, NCBA Executives finalized the decision to transfer Bowling Green State University to the Great Lakes North Conference, leaving Ohio State, University of Miami, University of Cincinnati, Ohio University, and University of Dayton behind. The Great Lakes North Conference for the upcoming season is comprised of Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Central Michigan University, Ferris State University, Western Michigan University, and Bowling Green State University, as the newcomer.

It was made very apparent that the team's newest conference rival has become Central Michigan University, after dropping a heartbreaker to them in the 2012 Spring Training Showcase, in which CMU's Center Fielder made an incredible diving play, to make the final out and prevent the tying and winning runs from scoring. As it were, BGSU had a chance for redemption in the Michigan State



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University Invitational tournament in the 2013-2014 Fall Ball Season. Words were exchanged consistently throughout the game between the two teams, as CMU managed to come out on top, once more.

Despite losing the abilities of seven key players after the 2013 Season, six of which occupied starting positions, there was a large turnout for the team's tryouts in the fall. The team was able to account for the lost players, adding more to compensate and provide talent and support.

It is difficult to create the perfect prediction for an upcoming season because some players may be plagued by injury, personal commitments, or situational issues amongst each other. The largest challenge for the BGSU Falcons for 2014 will be the transfer to a new conference. Besides brief exposure to a few of the teams in the Great Lakes North Conference, prior to the switch, no one has a full understanding of what the team may be up against.

Keep an eye out for Brett Jordan, as he comes off his astounding freshman year with an 8-0 record, at an ERA of 0.74. He was honored as a 1st Team All-American Starting Pitcher, and we look forward to receiving more superior performances from him. Another player to note is Dustin Peper, at the 2B position. He was given 1st Team All-Conference honors in 2013. That is quite a feat, considering the fact that he split time with Omar Santiago, who is now graduated. Given more time, repetitions, and opportunities to make great plays, there is a high bar for Peper to reach, and without a doubt, exceed. Both, Jordan and Peper, were highly considered as candidates to be on the BGSU NCAA Varsity team, but we are glad to have those two, and 24 more players' levels of talent and ability to merge together, as one successful team in this upcoming 2014 Season.

Manager Quote: "When we play like a team should, we will be a team to be reckoned with. We have many key returners and many new players to our team. It will be fun to see how we all will continue to bond during the heart of our season."

2014 PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: Central Michigan University

Mascot: Chippewas

Location: Mount Pleasant

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Preston Kirkwood and Joshua Fritch

2013 Performance:

- Record: 12-3



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- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **2nd in Conference**
- Notables:

Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 13 returners

Players to Watch: Nick Doyle, Gage Hammond, Hank Dreffs, Cody Parafin, Mitch Reetz, and more

New additions: 7 or more new players

Biggest Rival: University of Michigan

Best Player Nickname: Jacob "Chance" Krusen

2014 Season Outlook: We are looking to win the conference.

Manager Quote: We had a great season last year and we are looking to build on it. We picked up key pieces in the offseason that are going to contribute heavily this year. We're looking forward to getting back on the diamond and enjoying the season.

2014 PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: UW-Eau Claire

Mascot: Blugold

Location: Eau Claire, WI

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Jeremy Lochner, Mike Arnold, Zach Griebenow, Adam Walkowski, Jarrett Yuknis

2013 Performance:

- Record: **1-3**



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- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **6th**
- Notables: **Only played four games due to weather**

Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 13

Players to Watch: Jeremy Lochner, Dakota Perock, Brian Lochner, Brian Dickow, Zach Griebenow, Jarrett Yuknis

New additions: Brian Lochner, Sam Jasperson, Isaac Parupsky, Corey Steier, Trevor Dresen, Zach Sauerer, Sam Rossmiller, Chad Pronschinske, Evan Ostergren, Justin Johnson, Casey Grosshauser, Adam Bielmeier

Biggest Rival: Wisconsin

Best Player Nickname: Yuknasty-Jarrett Yuknis

2014 Season Outlook: Very young team. Will only graduate three players. We have a good young pitching staff and a potent offense but need to sure up our defense if we plan to contend for the conference championship.

Manager Quote: "There are three types of baseball players: Those who make it happen, those who watch it happen and those who wonder what happens." Tommy Lasorda

2014 PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: Ferris State

Mascot: Bulldogs

Location: Big Rapids

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Jake Kizer and Brandon Krebs



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2013 Performance:

- Record: **3-19**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **5th in Great Lakes North**
- Notables: **Defeated Ohio State**

Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 13

Players to Watch: Brandon Krebs, Zak Nelson, Collin Proksch

New additions: Wade Stevenson, Jeff Acton, Alex Chase, Tylor Mumby, Kyle Bates, Nick Staffen,

Biggest Rival: Central Michigan

Best Player Nickname: Big Hoss (Brandon Krebs)

2014 Season Outlook: Looking to improve with a roster rich in returning players.

Manager Quote: "If we can eliminate the one bad inning, we can be a real contender in the Great Lakes North"

2014 PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: ISU Redbirds

Mascot: Redbird

Location: Normal, IL

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Tyler Johansen, Kevin Miller & Jay Pajak



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2013 Performance:

- Record: **10-9**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **6-6 (Conference) 2nd**
- Notables: **N/A**

Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 12

Players to Watch: Mike Oles, Anthony Orlando, Jay Pajak, Nick Hieb, Conor Funk, Matt Klein

New additions: Nick Hieb, Andrew Granato, Billy Strohl, Billy Stewart, Alex Gabbard, Donny Kirk, Kurt Kauffman, Chuck Shempf, Conor Funk, Blake Rynearson,

Biggest Rival: University of Illinois

Best Player Nickname: Megatron

2014 Season Outlook: Win Conference and develop the new guys

Manager Quote: N/A

2014 PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: Illinois

Mascot: Fighting Illini

Location: Champaign, IL

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Captains TBD; Coach - Nick Kujawa



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2013 Performance:

- Record: **18-5**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **GLS Champions/0-2 World Series**
- Notables: **Mike Castillo - All- American**

Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 16/22 returning; Nick Kujawa (former All-American), Eric Ashcraft (former All-American)

Players to Watch: Joe Kadela (P), Nick DeVries (P), Nick Kujawa (SS), Eric Ashcraft (OF)

New additions: Manny Campbell (OF), Kyle Lewis (P), Bill Hacker (OF), Doug Hayes (P), Brandon Lee (1B), Rohit Ramkumar (P), Mark Gillofo (P), Joey Giuffre (2B), Hank Pender (OF), Cole Hoepel-Tranter (C), Drew Malter (SS)

Biggest Rival: Indiana/Purdue

Best Player Nickname: Kujo

2014 Season Outlook: We fully expect to return to the World Series in 2014, winning the GLS conference and regional tournament along the way.

Manager Quote: "We are extremely excited about the amount of talent on the roster this year, especially from our new guys. Several are freshmen while others are inter-collegiate transfers who have played junior college or Division III baseball at their former schools. Our pitching is the best it has ever been led by last year's starters, Joe Kadela, Nick DeVries, and Matt Robare. Additionally, newcomers Hank Pender and Brandon Lee are expected to make enormous impacts in the middle of the lineup. We realize that we have to take it one day at a time, one opponent at a time. With that said, taking home a trophy at the World Series in Tampa is our end goal."

2014 PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: Indiana University



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Mascot: Hoosiers

Location: Bloomington, IN

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Bob Morgan - Coach / Lucas Mueller - President

2013 Performance:

- Record: **11-8**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **N/a**
- Notables: **7-1 record at the NCBA Spring Training Showcase**

Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 14 (Zach Collier 1st team all conference 2011, Lucas Mueller 1st team all conference 2011)

Players to Watch: Max Barron, Dan Kotula, John Robertson, Mark Blakey

New additions: 9

Biggest Rival: Illinois

Best Player Nickname: N/a

2014 Season Outlook: IU lost very little from graduation and gained quite a bit in new talent. IU picked up a new starting catcher and new starting outfielder who should slot in to the middle of the order, while providing solid defense. Outside of starting pitchers Mark Blakey and Lucas Mueller, IU has a litany of extremely talented but unproven pitchers. Former D1 coach Bob Morgan returns to lead the Hoosiers this season, and with only one graduating senior this spring, things look bright for the present and future.

Manager Quote: "If all our players hold the rope this year, we should be pretty good"

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Team Name: Michigan State University

Mascot: Spartans

Location: East Lansing, MI

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Errik Scott
Adam Banchiu

2013 Performance:

- Record: **10-11**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **3rd in Great Lakes North**
- Notables: **Errik Scott No-Hitter vs Ferris State 4/14/13**
- **Nick VanMaele 2 HRs vs Ferris State 4/14/13**
-

Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 17 returning players including 8 returning starting position players and all 3 starting weekend pitchers.

Players to Watch: Jake Smith P, Sr.

Smith is coming off a dominant 2013 season on the mound and looks to build on that success in 2014 as a front runner for Conference Pitcher of the Year. In 2013, Smith went 4-1 while accumulating 37 innings pitched with a 1.14 ERA and striking out 43 hitters. Smith made only one start in the fall due to intership responsibilities but did not fail to live up to his hype. In his one start vs. reigning Great Lakes East champion Bowling Green, Smith pitched 6 innings with 13 strikeouts, 0 Earned Runs, and just 2 hits.

Zach Schwenneker OF, Sr.

Schwen, as he is known, is entering his 4th straight season as a starting outfielder for the Spartans. The consistent third hole hitter for the Spartans is just 11 hits shy of becoming the Michigan State Club Baseball all-time hits leader. The one time High School State Champion will look to put together one last great offensive season, to go along with his hose from Right Field, to help propel the team to a league title.

Austin Bubin SS, Sr. / Nick VanMaele 2B, Sr.

This Senior double-play combo offers more than just soft hands and nifty footwork. Bubin lead the team in doubles last year, while VanMaele led the way with big stick and took home the home



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run crown. Production out of these two will be vital to the Spartans success in 2014 as the team looks to have a breakout season at the dish.

New additions:

11 New players who all contributed in some way during the fall season. Some highlights include:

Evan Meier INF, Jr. - Led the squad in hits in the fall along with a .412 average.

Zach Osisek OF, Fr. - Led all Spartan hitters with a .429 average during the fall

Biggest Rival: University of Michigan

Best Player Nickname: Andrew "Porkchop" White

John "Sprinkles" Szymanski

David "Chachi" Dulzo

2014 Season Outlook: The 2014 season looks to be very promising for the Spartans. The dominant pitching from 2013 should return as shown in the fall when the team went 46.2 innings with just 5 earned runs and 51 strikeouts. The Spartans road their pitching to the finals of the tournament they hosted, The Spartan Invitational in Battle Creek, Michigan. The Tournament included many of the top Division I and Division II NCBA teams in the regional area. The Spartans went 4-1 with wins over Ohio University, Bowling Green, Eastern Michigan, and Akron. Michigan State would eventually lose to Grand Valley State in an 11 inning, 3-2 thriller in the finals. With a plethora of returning starters along with the additions of some new big bats the Spartans hope to compete for the Great Lakes North Crown and reach their ultimate goal of the NCBA World Series.

Manager Quote: We are really looking forward to the upcoming season. We feel like we have a very strong and cohesive unit. The Great Lakes North Conference should be competitive this season, as it always is, especially with addition of a very good ball club in Bowling Green.

Team Name: Michigan

Mascot: Chief Keef

Location: Ann Arbor, Michigan



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Captain/Coach:

Captains: Jack Hellwig, Matt Gutknecht, Justin Kucera, Brian Schweitzer, Skylar Skrzypczak
Coach: Trevor Nutt

2013 Performance

- Record: 14-5 (12-3 conference)
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: 1st Place – Great Lakes North delicious
- Notables: Eliminated in Great Lakes Regional Tournament, had multiple team meals throughout the season

Number of Returning Players (include conference /league award winners):

Number of returning players: 21

List includes:

- 1st Team All-Regional:
 - Nick Lagerstrom
 - Nathan Beck
 - Spencer Allen
- 2nd Team All-Regional:
 - Brian Schweitzer
- 3rd Team All Regional:
 - Brandon Block
 - Gabe Derman

Players to watch:

Jack Hellwig
Matt Gutknecht
Nate Beck
Brian Fagel

Biggest Rival: Coastal Carolina

Best player nickname: Cody “Sloth” Cramer

2014 season outlook: The University of Michigan Club Baseball team is returning 21 players from last year’s Great Lakes North championship squad. They return all 8 starting position players as well. The lineup is lead by team captain and senior 2B Jack Hellwig who led the Great Lakes North Conference in HRs. After teammates publicly criticized Hellwig’s speed (or lack there of) this offseason, Hellwig responded by shaving his beloved mullet he sported during last year’s season in effort to make himself more aerodynamic. When asked why, he responded, “The Team, The Team, The Team.” On the mound, Michigan will rely on the arms of 1st Team All-Regional Junior SP Nate Beck and 2nd Team All-Regional Junior SP Spencer Allen. Rumors have been circulating this winter about Allen, who has reportedly gained 20-25 pounds of muscle this since June. A source



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close to the team who is close with Allen confirmed the reports. “I spent much of the summer training with Spencer back in his hometown in Maine. We followed his rigorous, homegrown strength and conditioning program for about three months. It mainly consisted off fishing for lobster by hand, chopping down trees, milking his goats, and the fabulous Brazilian Butt Workout.” Allen declined to comment.

Manager quote: “I asked my team, I said ‘Are you strong?’ They said, ‘we strong, if you strong.’ And I said ‘We strong then!’”

2014 PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: Northwestern University

Mascot: Wildcats

Location: Evanston, IL

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Jimmy Xamplas and Eddie Cytryn

2013 Performance:

- Record: **6-6**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **4th**
- Notables:

Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 18

Players to Watch: Anthony Prousis, Cooper Wetherbee, Zack Smetana

New additions: Macray Poidomani, Rahul Nallappa, Graham Derfner, Shane Mulhern, Michael Paretzky, Paul McCullough, Cooper Wetherbee

Biggest Rival:

Best Player Nickname: Tie between Booshua and Shom-Dog

2014 Season Outlook: This is the best team to come out of Northwestern in a while



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Manager Quote: This game is fun!

2014 PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: Purdue University

Mascot: Boilermaker

Location: West Lafayette, IN

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Head Coach: Luke Versprille, Assistant Coach - Matt Clark, Team Captains: Aaron Gegg and Doug Dybas

2013 Performance:

- Record: **7-7 Overall, 6-6 Conference Record**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **3rd in Great Lakes South**
- Notables:

Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 13 Returners

Players to Watch: Returners: Alex Benson - 2013 Stats: 54 PA, .551 Avg, 14 Runs, 10 RBIs, and 13 SB, Aaron Gegg - 2013 Stats: 4-1 Record, 2.33 ERA, 24K in 30IP, Newcomers Robert Geary and Thomas Leary look to improve the teams hitting and pitching respectively.

New additions: Robert Geary, Thomas Leary, Nick Lathouris, Justin Markle, and Bill Swift

Biggest Rival: University of Illinois

Best Player Nickname: Bill Swift aka Swifty



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2014 Season Outlook: 4th Year Players Connor Burnett, Doug Dybas, Bryan Epsky, and Kevin Rivera look to provide leadership to a team with high expectations. After finishing 6-6 in conference last spring, the Boilermakers look to continue to make strides with aspirations of a conference championship! Offensively, the Boilers will be led by returners; Alex Benson, Gary Downey, and Doug Dybas, along with newcomer Robert Geary. On the mound returners Aaron Gegg, Zach Capo, and Connor Burnett look to eat up innings, along with newcomer lefties Thomas Leary and Andrew Arroyave. Grant Evans, Bill Swift, and Kevin Rivera look to provide a lot of utility to the team.

Manager Quote: Vision gets the dreams started. Dreaming employs your God-given imagination to reinforce the vision. Both are part of something I believe is absolutely necessary to building the life of a champion, a winner, a person of high character who is consistently at the top of whatever game he or she is in. -Emmitt Smith-

2014 PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Mascot: Panthers

Location: Milwaukee, WI

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Mike Hommen

2013 Performance:

- Record: **10-5**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **2nd Great Lakes West**
- Notables:

Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 11

Players to Watch: Andrew Wolf, Calvin Falk, Joe Bianchi, Chris Thiesen



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New additions: Cole Krueger, Chris Thiesen, Matt McCartan, Ryley Rosenfeldt, Wesley Pautz, Alex Nicholson, Connor Shipman

Biggest Rival: UW-Madison

Best Player Nickname: Beyonce-Joe Bianchi

2014 Season Outlook: With many players returning from last years second place team in the conference, it should make for a very competitive team. The pitching staff has 4 starters that will rotate weekends starting. The batting lineup will be tough to make every game because of the talent that is full throughout the roster. The new guys will help the depth for the team and push the returning players for starting spots. We should challenge for the conference title this year but will have to unseat UW-Madison from the top spot. Just like every year, the conference will be tough to get through so we hope to prepare for it when we go to the Spring Showcase in Tampa.

Manager Quote: Just Have Fun and Do Your Best

2014 PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: UW-Whitewater

Mascot: Warhawks

Location: Whitewater, WI

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Joe Lautenschlager (President) Travis Vanderwall (Vice President)

2013 Performance:

- Record: **3-3 in the Spring, 9-5 in the fall**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **N/A**
- Notables: **2-0 Victory over previously 15-0 SIU-Carbondale**

Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 14 Returning Players



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Players to Watch: Junior Sean Staral (SS) and Junior Greg LaHaye (3B)

New additions: Gunnar Mlsna (OF) Aaron Brockman (P) Tyler Sexton (P)

Biggest Rival: Drexel University

Best Player Nickname: Taylor "2 Trainz" Meyers

2014 Season Outlook: Showed a lot of potential in Spring of 2013, entering the Regular season in an 0-3 hole after being swept by UW-Milwaukee. Still expecting a Top 2 finish in the Great Lakes West

Manager Quote: "There are few fans, cold weather, and the slimmest of chances to play at the next level. We play for one reason, the love of the game."

2014 PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: University of Wisconsin-Madison D1

Mascot: Badgers

Location: Madison, WI

**Captain(s)/Coach(s): Head Coach: Jeff Block
Assistant Coaches: Jeff Booth and TJ Diprizio**

2013 Performance:

- Record: **12-5 6-2 in conference**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **1st in conference .. Lost in Regional Championship game**
- Notables:



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Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): We return about 70% of our team. Including our starting rotation and all relievers besides 2. We lost our starting catcher, starting CF, Starting SS, Starting 3b, and Starting 1B. We lost a lot of talented seniors who were also great leaders. There is a lot to replace, but we have the talent to pick up where we left off.

Players to Watch: Sam Hartwick, Chris Hase, Nick Meyer, Aaron Starr, Max Sellman, Adam Rubatt, Parker Sear, Griffin Lynch

New additions: Adam Rubatt, Griffin Lynch, John Raff, Adam Boben, Sean Blythe

Biggest Rival: Illinois

Best Player Nickname: Shart (Sam Hartwick) Rube (Adam Rubatt)

2014 Season Outlook: We have a lot of pieces to replace.. including our probably our two best hitters. We had zero home runs last year and still made it to the regional championship by playing good Wisconsin brand baseball. We have good at bats, run the bases extremely well, and play good defense. I think we have a few bats with power potential this year that might add a spark to the lineup. A lot of good young talent. Last year we were probably one of the fastest teams in the nation. We lost some of that speed, but should still be faster than most teams. We have a few new freshman that show great promise, as well as a couple guys moving up who were on D2 last year and helped lead them to a third straight WS showing. We went into last year thinking pitching would be our strength and it served us fine, but we ran into some injuries and other outside circumstances that kept us from reaching our potential. Ultimately, our shortage of good, healthy, available arms did us in at Regionals. This year we will keep more arms up with D1 because we have a lot of pitching on both squads. We return our top starters from last year, some key relief pieces, and a new freshman arm that should turn out to be one of.. if not the best... on the team.

We lost a couple of long-time, work-horse, great leader catchers, but luckily have a couple good replacements in waiting.

Manager Quote: I hope we don't have snow on the fields in April like last year. Some people rake fields... we pump them, drain them, or shovel them.



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2014 PREVIEW GUIDE

Team Name: Western Michigan Club Baseball

Mascot: Broncos

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Captain(s)/Coach(s): Head Coach - Steve Roessel, Pitching Coach - Mike Berry

2013 Performance:

- Record: 10-13 Overall 7-8 Conference
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: Third Place Great Lakes - North
- Notables: Were outscored 22-5, but took 2 out of 3 from Michigan State
Flip Cup Champions - Crabby's Bar Spring Break '13

Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): The Broncos will return 18 players from last year's squad.

Players to Watch: Nick Hughes, Joe Hankins, Logan Scheumman, Ryan Feist, Brendon Ayers

Look for returning pitchers Ryan Feist and Logan Scheumman to come back with great years on the bump. Newcomers Jon Fox and Brendon Ayers are looking to anchor the rotation while returning vets Chad Carpenter and Mike Berry will be closing out games again this year.

In the field, look for Nick Hughes and Joe Hankins to play to form after the conference award-winning seasons last year. Trent Zwiars will anchor the catching corps while sporting the gnarliest beard in the NCBA.

Fourth-year vet Ruben Flowers and rookie Brendon Ayers are looking to lead the outfielders, with returners Max Hocking and Collin Lorenz providing serious threats from the outfield as well.

New additions: Evan Peacock, Drew Petty, Drew Hine, Justin McElhaney, Anthony Parker, Brendon Ayers, Eric Bright, Jon Fox, Bryce Walls, Bernie Butgereit, Josh Wilson, Tyler Bassler

Biggest Rival: Central Michigan



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Best Player Nickname:

Nick “Huggie Bear” Hughes, Bryce “Redbeard” Walls, Trent “Fear the Beard” Zwiers, Tyler “T-Willy” Wilson, Collin “Boog” Lorenz, Mike “Ding” Berry, Ruben “Thunder Club” Flowers, Max “Potta P” Hocking, Matt “Mega” Reno, and Phil “The Carb Monster” Serzo

2014 Season Outlook:

Strong returning pitching will be the foundation for the Broncos’ success. Returning position players Nick Hughes and Joe Hankins will look to provide big offense, while Chris Slack and senior catcher Trent Zwiers will help establish the defensive side of the Broncos’ game.

Newcomers Brendon Ayers and Jon Fox will contribute well to the pitching staff and rookie transfer Bernie Butgereit could make some noise at the top of the lineup.

Veterans Chad Carpenter and Mike Berry provide experience and a crafty calm to the bullpen while rookies Tyler Bassler and Bryce Walls will add innings out of the pen as well.

Manager Quote:

“Forget the curveball, Ricky. Give ‘em the heater.” - Steven Roessel

“I have discovered the secret. Hot ice. I heat up the ice cubes. It’s the best of both worlds.” - Mike Berry