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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name: Appalachian State University**

**Mascot: Mountaineers**

**Location: Boone, North Carolina**

**Captain(s)/Coach(s): Matt Neverett**

**2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **6-12, 5-9 Conference**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **5**
- Notables:

**Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 21**

**Players to Watch: SS Carson Isaacs, P/3B David Tart, INF Tanner Burrell**

**New additions: OF Jesse Illich, UTIL Tyler Willeford, P Johnny Rollins**

**Biggest Rival: ECU**

**Best Player Nickname: Patrick "Destroyer of Worlds" Sekel**

**2016 Season Outlook: With an influx of new talent in the lineup and in the rotation, our ultimate goal is nothing less than a conference championship.**

**Manager Quote: "A ballplayer spends a good piece of his life gripping a baseball, and in the end it turns out that it was the other way around all the time."**

**— Jim Bouton**



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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name: William & Mary**

**Mascot: Tribe**

**Location: Williamsburg, Va**

**Captain(s)/Coach(s): Head Coach: Hunter McKinney, President: Matt Smith, Vice President: Kyle Wilson, Pitching Coach: CJ Dube**

### **2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **9-7 (7-6)**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **3<sup>rd</sup> in Mid-Atlantic North Conference**
- Notables: **First season at the DI level. In the series the Tribe out scored the Terps 24-22 and outhit them 35-27. They also out scored the Dukes 13 to 12 in the series. Sean Rutherford was a NCBA Mid Atlantic 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Region Pitcher.**

**Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 12 players: 7 seniors, 3 juniors, 2 sophomores. Junior Hunter McKinney was a NCBA Mid Atlantic 3<sup>rd</sup> Team All Region Secondbaseman.**

**Players to Watch: Dakota Hunter, Kaku Masuda, Thomas Pulisic, Matt Smith, Cory Thomas, Kyle Wilson**

**New additions: Eric Bamford, Kendall Bayless, Nathan Broffman, Will Fesjian, Omar Hanley, Kaku Masuda, PJ Negulescu, Ben Reid, Nate Rhondeau, Adam Rosenfield, Robert Rust, Matt Smith, Jackson Stoffer, Chris Suh**

**Biggest Rival: Longwood, JMU**

**Best Player Nickname: Connor "New Guy" Matuszewski**

**2016 Season Outlook: After a dissapointing season last year, the Tribe is settled into the DI level and ready to take the program up a notch. With a great core of upperclassmen, who will bring experience and a hunger to get back to the World Series, a large freshman class full of good ball players, and several other talented new additions there is plenty of depth on this Wiliam & Mary team. The depth on this team allows for plenty of friendly competition for starting roles. They key to the season for the Tribe will**



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**be for them to play sound fundamental baseball and not beat themselves, giving other teams wins. Overall, William & Mary will be a solid team that can beat you in multiple ways and is looking to make the Mid-Atlantic playoffs with a chance for a World Series berth.**

**Manager Quote: “We are our own biggest obstacle. If we play our game, use our athleticism, our baseball IQ and everyone, from star player to the men on the bench, does a job we will be competitive in every game we play. If we can consistently do that then I fully believe will we be in Paducah come May.”**



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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name: Virginia Tech**

**Mascot: Hokie**

**Location: Blacksburg, Virginia**

**Captain(s)/Coach(s): Paolo Guma, Kyle Fairbanks, Will Herzog, Tucker McNally, Jimmy Swiger, Davis Cyrus**

**2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **5-17**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **3-12**
- Notables: **Scored a total of 47 runs in 5 games during the 2015 Spring Training Showcase**

**Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 20**

**Players to Watch: Tyler McCabe, Davis Cyrus, Sean Diven**

**New additions: Seth Towler, Sean Diven, Patrick Hulihan, Nick Stancil, Mike Nugent, Leo Bonett, Jojo Lear, Bryce Slack, Brett Newman, Ben Ngu**

**Biggest Rival: JMU**

**Best Player Nickname: Patches (Patrick Hulihan)**

**2016 Season Outlook: The Mid-Atlantic North Conference is one of the tougher conferences to compete in. This season will test us, but we are very optimistic and believe we can win.**

**Manager Quote: "After a very positive Fall Season, I believe we will be a very strong force in the conference this year. The talent is there and we are all focused on achieving our goals."**



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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name:** Virginia

**Mascot:** Cavaliers

**Location:** Charlottesville, VA

**Captain(s)/Coach(s):** Michael Lord (President), Pete DeLuca (VP)

**2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **bad**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **n/a**
- Notables: **poor turn outs, bad weather, very few games were actually played**

**Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners):** 23

**Players to Watch:** Ben Casillo (walkon for National Championship varsity team last year), Ryan Porter (senior leader both on the field and at social events)

**New additions:** Jake Bak, Will Clarke, Mr Crowley, Jon Deters, Gerard Jalowski, El Gragg, Graham McGowan, Justin Iceberg, Gavin Sweeney, David Conklin

**Biggest Rival:** Virginia Tech I guess but they're usually pretty bad

**Best Player Nickname:** Stephen "Skip" Scipione

**2016 Season Outlook:** After a terrible 2015 season, the Hoos are looking to have a big bounce back season. They went 7-3 in the fall and hope to build on that in the spring. United under their new club baseball czar, the Hoos have the talent and drive to make a great impression this spring.

**Manager Quote:** I hope to instill a sense of order in this group of young men. I plan on holding multiple 6am workouts leading up to the season. We will win or we will run.



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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name: UNC Wilmington**

**Mascot: Seahawk**

**Location: Wilmington, NC**

**Captain(s)/Coach(s): Dalton Epley and Connor Duncan**

**2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **23-3**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **5<sup>th</sup> at Nationals for D2**
- Notables: **Won D2 conference with a record of 14-1, won the regional tournament and placed 5<sup>th</sup> at the D2 National tournament.**

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

**Players to Watch: Connor Duncan, Dalton Epley, Nick Boswell, Gray Ayscue, Evan Phillips, Christian Latham, Cully Crott, Jordan Whitaker, Aaron Reimer, Kevin Gurry**

**New additions: Graham Morton, Joe Phaneuf, Kevin Gurry, Garrett Holland, Nick Ryan, Graham Puckett, Jordan Whitaker**

**Biggest Rival: Elon/ECU**

**Best Player Nickname: Ishmael Sausages**

**2016 Season Outlook: To win our conference and advance to the regional tournament and Nationals.**

**Manager Quote: "A rolling stone gathers no moss."**



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## 2016 PREVIEW GUIDE

**Team Name:** UNC Chapel Hill

**Mascot:** Tar Heels

**Location:** Chapel Hill, NC

**Captain(s)/Coach(s):** Alan Sharpe and Chris Jones

### 2014-15 Performance:

- Record: **12-6 (9-6 in conference)**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **3<sup>rd</sup> in Mid-Atlantic South**
- Notables: **For the second straight year only lost 1 series--to nationally ranked ECU.**

**Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 15, including 1<sup>st</sup> Team All American Chris Jones (OF), 1<sup>st</sup> Team All Region Grant Cabell (3B), 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All Region Andrew Stockstill (OF) and Alan Sharpe (SP), 3<sup>rd</sup> Team All Region Hunter Smith (RP).**

**Players to Watch:** Stockstill, Cabell, and Jones will once again anchor the lineup. Senior OF Courtney Crews somehow got even bigger in the offseason. Junior catcher and team leader Eli Miller will make his much-anticipated return from a shoulder injury this spring. Alan Sharpe will lead the pitching staff, which is deeper than in years past with the return of senior Aaron Bonertz and juniors Zach Jansen and Jacob Bonen-Clark, as well as the emergence of sophomore Jack Clayton. Junior Austin Cole will feature as a two-way player this spring, playing first base and also closing games out on the mound. Senior Sean Henderson brings his magic glove back to the infield, while Jonah Keyserling (another senior) returns to the team to provide a consistent left-handed bat along with excellent outfield defense.

**New additions:** Sophomore OF Spencer Hutchinson (transfer from Cedarville University where he hit .275 in 12 games before injury ended his season, 3A All State selection after hitting .400 as a senior in high school); Freshman C Basil Rodts (hit .361 and was All Conference selection senior year in HS); Freshman SS Chad Spurgeon (hit .474 as a senior in HS and was a 1A All State Selection; Freshman P/3B Sam Whitt (hit .353 as a senior, also posted a 2.37 ERA and struck out 51 batters in 44.1 innings, Sophomore UTIL Maddy Malfitano (hit .356 in his varsity HS career); Sophomore P Andrew Pruitt is contending for a spot in the starting rotation, while junior Adam Prah and sophomore Austin Clinger will provide shutdown arms at the back end of the bullpen.

**Biggest Rival:** Wake Forest University



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**Best Player Nickname: Spencer "50 Spence" Hutchinson**

**2016 Season Outlook: Stoked about the new talent. Also stoked about the returning talent. We're geared up to contend with the big boys in of one of the toughest conferences in the nation.**

**Manager Quote: "Roadtrips with this team are like going on a family vacation. Except mom has a beard"**



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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name: University of Kentucky**

**Mascot: Wildcats**

**Location: Lexington, KY**

**Captain(s)/Coach(s): Michael Davis, Taylor Levi, Branden Wesley**

**2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **13-6-1**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **3rd**
- Notables:

**Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 7**

**Players to Watch: Evan Sawyer, Taylor Levi, Branden Wesley**

**New additions: John Megles, Kyle Slane**

**Biggest Rival: Ohio State**

**Best Player Nickname: N/a**

**2016 Season Outlook: Looking to build on last season with the help of a couple of new additions and win the Conference this season.**

**Manager Quote: N/a**



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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name: Ohio University**

**Mascot: Bobcats**

**Location: Athens, OH**

**Captain(s)/Coach(s): Dietrich Hinesman, Brendan Kearney**

### **2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **18-6**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **Back-to-back Mid-Atlantic West Conference Champions, Mid-Atlantic Regional Runner-up**
- Notables: **Lost to previously undefeated and #1 East Carolina 7-6 on a play at the plate after being down 6-0 in the Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship game.**

**Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): Graduated only 5 seniors (3 Starters)**

**Players to Watch: Starting Pitchers Joey Galloway and Nolan Atwood (Both previously pitched at D1 level), SS Nick Stahlman, 3B Don Kelly**

**New additions: P Brian Burkhart, P Chris Tomschack, SS/2B Mike Urban, and P/DH Brian Penz (All previously played Varsity College Baseball in past years)**

**Biggest Rival: The Ohio State University**

**Best Player Nickname: Ryan Flynn- "The Sunscreen Kid" (He's a ginger)**

**2016 Season Outlook: Returning all but 5 players after a runner-up finish in the region last year. Finished 13<sup>th</sup> in the final NCBA poll. Pitching is much improved and we added some big bats that should help the offense. Also get 2 players back that missed last season with injuries.**



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**Manager Quote: I'm extremely excited for the upcoming season and I believe that the sky is the limit with this team. Our goal of a Regional Championship is very much in reach and we believe with that, we could do damage at Nationals as well.**



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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name: The Ohio State University DI**

**Mascot: Buckeyes**

**Location: Columbus, OH**

**Captain(s)/Coach(s): Head Coach - Chad Lowe | Assistant Coaches - Eric Fashano & Stephen Coan  
President - Aaron Gase | Vice-President - Tyler Harris**

**2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **14-7 (11-4)**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **2<sup>nd</sup> place**
- Notables: **4<sup>th</sup> straight season finishing with a winning record in regular and conference season**

**Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 6 from DI including 1<sup>st</sup> Team MAC All-Region Ian Segall and 2<sup>nd</sup> Team, Jeremy Bank, Jack Birtcher and Isaac Klausing.**

**Players to Watch: Aaron Gase, Isaac Klausing, Connor Hogan, Justin Miller**

**New additions: Ben Herlihy (Sinclair CC), Connor Hogan (Webster University), Keegan Lanter (Otterbein), Dominic Pestello (OSU-Lima), Landon Slomovitz (St. Bonaventure), DJ Komisarek (Sophomore), Diego Irizarry (Freshman) Tim McManus (Freshman). DII call-ups include Tom Bolle, Albert Giebel, Nick Gordon, Tyler Harris, Jake Lark, Alec Livingston, Justin Miller, Al Overfield, & Cooper Rea.**

**Biggest Rival: OU**

**Best Player Nickname: Goose, Turkey Tom**

**2016 Season Outlook: The Bucks look to return to the playoffs after a 2 year hiatus, just missing out on the at-large bid last season. Four returning All-Region players (Segall, Bank, Birtcher, and Klausing) as well as 4<sup>th</sup> year pitcher Aaron Gase (7 & 2 career record) and 3<sup>rd</sup> year player Brett Griffey (career .431 AVG) look to lead a young and hungry team back into the post-season.**



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Leadership changes brought about a new program dynamic with the first DII players moving up to DI. Tom Bolle (9 & 2 career record), Albert Giebel (.415 career AVG), Nick Gordon (.390 career OBP), Tyler Harris (.329 career AVG), Jake Lark (.365 career AVG), Alec Livingston (9 & 2 career record), Justin Miller (.451 career AVG), Al Overfield (.890 career OPS), & Cooper Rea (.294 career AVG) will bring plenty of playoff experience and talent to the DI level.

Five transfers bolster the incoming talent including St. Bonaventure NCAA DI pitcher Landon Slomovitz and third baseman Connor Hogan from NCAA DIII World Series participant Webster University. Herlihy from Sinclair CC will enhance an already solid middle infield defense while Lanter from Otterbein will provide a right-handed power bat from the Outfield. Lefty Pestello from OSU-Lima will compete for significant innings on the mound in various roles.

New comer DJ Komisarek will provide outstanding defense behind the plate, while freshmens Diego Irizarry and Tim McManus are expected to be solid contributors in their first year with the program.

In addition, Coach Lowe returns to the DI level after leading the DII program to 51 wins and two playoff appearances the past two and a half seasons. He will look for career win number 100 during the opening weekend versus Vanderbilt. Assistant Coach Eric Fashano also makes the move up to DI after a successful stint on DII last season and a strong career with Penn State's Varsity and Club program. New Assistant Coach, Stephen Coan, joins the staff as a former OSU club player. He will provide a wealth of baseball knowledge, energy, and passion to the leadership group this season.

The Buckeyes 36 game schedule includes match-ups with defending conference champions Ohio University and defending NCBA DII National Champions, Eastern Kentucky (now in the MAC-West), highlighting a challenging 2016 campaign. The team will also play a tough non-conference schedule with games versus Vanderbilt, Notre Dame, Akron, and Ohio Dominican-JV in addition to the annual NCBA Spring Training Showcase trip in March.

Pitching and defense will be the strength of this group with versatility at each position and a deep staff on the mound (2 no-hitters in the Fall vs Akron and EKU). However, this year's team will go as far as the offense allows. Timely hitting and efficient baserunning will be the key to a deep run into the post-season as they look to win the toughest Regional in the country.

**Manager Quote:** "I'm excited about the program we have put together this year in conjunction with last year's leadership group. This is a big step towards our ultimate goal of winning a National Championship at the DI and DII levels. There will be some bumps in the road, but I have no doubt that the talent, character, and leadership our players possess will be enough to get us through any challenge we face. My expectations this year are simple: strive to get better every day and have fun while you are doing it. The results in the end, will match the level at which you achieve those two concepts."

-Coach Lowe



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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name:** North Carolina State University

**Mascot:** Wolfpack

**Location:** Raleigh, NC

**Captain(s)/Coach(s):** Avery Woolard, Matt Wacenske, Mark Carraway, Bransen Burgess

**2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **17-8 (9-5)**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **2nd**
- Notables: **Niko Simonsen (2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-American)**

**Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners):** 17

**Players to Watch:** Benton Rouse

**New additions:** Hats and Helmets

**Biggest Rival:** The team in the other dugout.

**Best Player Nickname:** Adam "Alice" Daley

**2016 Season Outlook:** Champions

**Manager Quote:** "Its hard to beat a team that never gives up."



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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name: Miami University Club Baseball**

**Mascot: Redhawk**

**Location: Oxford, OH**

**Captain(s)/Coach(s): Josh Listermann, Andy Shafer, Tommy Palmer, Nick Lovealace**

**2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **5-12-1**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **N/A**
- Notables:

**Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 15**

**Players to Watch: Arpit Agrawal (Fr.), Tim Fox (Fr.), Mac Bilski (Jr.), John Regan (So.)**

**New additions: Arpit Agrawal, Ben Arias, Gabe Simpatico, Tim Fox, Jordan Castle, Conor Pentella, Tyrell Harris, Tim Lasch, Nick Blasgen**

**Biggest Rival: Ohio University**

**Best Player Nickname:**

**2016 Season Outlook: We look to rally around a strong fall performance and keep the momentum running through the spring season.**

**Manager Quote:**



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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name: University of Maryland**

**Mascot: Terps**

**Location: College Park, MD**

**Captain(s)/Coach(s): HC-Matt Shin AC: Pradip Ramamurti, Dalton Durocher**

### **2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **15-10, 12-3 in conference**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **MAC North Champs**
- Notables: **Won 7 of 8 series last spring, returned to Regionals for the second consecutive season**

**Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): Return 19 members of last years conference championship team, including All Region Team members Caldwell Clarke and Dalton Durocher and 7/9 starting position players.**

**Players to Watch: Dalton Durocher (Catcher/Pitcher), Caldwell Clarke (Pitcher/Outfield), Steven Hogan (Pitcher), George Gaylord (Outfield/Pitcher), Benji Berg (Shortstop/Pitcher), Miguel Flores (Outfield)**

**New additions: Jack Clifford, Billy Hennessy, Will Grebenstein**

**Biggest Rival: JMU**

**Best Player Nickname: Benji "The Truth" Berg**

**2016 Season Outlook: The Terps return a strong core of last years Conference Champion team and have a loaded rotation and bullpen that set the Terps up well for another run to Martinsville. With the addition of five varsity players to a relatively young team, the Terps have the right mix of leadership and talent to be very competitive this spring. After playing a challenging fall schedule, the Terps showed their potential by winning 4 of their 5 series. The spring will be no different as it includes games against ECU, Top 25 JUCO's Anne Arundel Community College and Montgomery College, and the always competitive MAR North conference.**



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**Manager Quote: "Another One."**



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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name: JMU**

**Mascot: Dukes**

**Location: Harrisonburg VA**

**Captain(s)/Coach(s): Henry Brandmark - President**

**Hayden Hall - VP**

**Dan Cochrane - Secretary**

**Joe Guenther - Treasurer**

**Dill Rudnicki - Senior Advisor**

**2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **15-6**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **Lost first 2 games of Regionals**
- Notables: **Lot of snow early in the year, dissapointing end to the year**

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

**Players to Watch: Joe Guenther, Greg Zajic, Connor Sullivan, Jake Swan**

**New additions: Billy Gerhardt, Garret Becker, Daniel Sugrue, Matt Lisi, Micheal Feild, Tim Moberg**

**Biggest Rival: Maryland and VT**

**Best Player Nickname: Dan "Cookie" Cochrane**

**2016 Season Outlook: "When you get that nice celebration coming into the dugout and you're getting your ass hammered by guys, there's no better feeling than to have that done." We hope to do a lot of that this year.**

**Manager Quote: "When you start the game, they don't say "Work ball!" They say "Play ball!"**



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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name:** George Washington University

**Mascot:** Colonials

**Location:** Washington, DC

**Captain(s)/Coach(s):** Max Strohman-Captain, Mike Garcia-Captain, Remy Costa-Captain

**2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **6-9**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **4/6**
- Notables: **Wins Over VT 2-0, UMD 9-6**

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

**Players to Watch: Max Strohman, Junior, SS/3B:** After an impressive Sprig 2015 and Fall 2015, Strohman will look to lead the Colonials offensive unit. Accounting for around half of all RBIs during the fall, Strohman will be integral to each of Colonial's victories.

**Mike Garcia, Sophomore, Pitcher:** Will be the ace of the Colonials pitching squad. Garcia will look to continue a strong fall showing where he threw 2 complete games.

**New additions: Holden Ackerman, Freshman, Pitcher:** Pitched 7 scoreless innings in OT loss to UVA during the fall season. Ackerman earned a spot in the starting rotation for Spring 2016.

**Jacob Milley, Freshman, 2B:** Earned a starting role in the fall due to injury to starting second baseman. Clutch hitting and fielding will allow Milley to start at 2B for Spring 2016.

**Nolan Day, Sophomore, Pitcher:** Was used in a strong relief role against UD and UVA during the fall season. With losses to graduation and players abroad, Day will look to be the first in relief for Spring 2016.

**Biggest Rival:** UVA

**Best Player Nickname:** Nick "Squanto" Sawka



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**2016 Season Outlook: With the addition of 2 strong pitchers and an increase in offensive production during the fall, the Colonials look to continue rebuilding their team during Spring 2016. Close games between UD and UVA during the fall show good things to come during the spring.**

**Manager Quote: "At least we're smarter than the other team."**



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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name: Elon University Club Baseball**

**Mascot: Phoenix**

**Location: Elon, NC**

**Captain(s)/Coach(s): President: Sam Bonifant, Coaches: Matt Browne, Nick Regan, Alex Day**

### **2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **Spring 2015: 7-9, Fall 2015: 10-3-1**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **4<sup>th</sup> in Mid-Atlantic**
- Notables: **10-0 Conference win over UNC, Winner of the Greenville Fall 2015 Invitational Tournament after going 5-0**

**Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): Over 20 returning players, including the entire starting infield and outfield excluding catcher. In addition, we return all three of our starting pitchers from last year.**

**Players to Watch: Sam Bonifant (4-0 2.24 ERA in Fall), Robbie Nanna (.382 w/11 RBI in fall), Bobby Albers, Michael Roberts (16 K CG SHO in Greenville)**

**New additions: Breslin Wiley: Catcher, Bobby Albers: Closer (Closed 4 out of 5 wins in Greenville), Ryan Roche: INF**

**Biggest Rival: ECU**

**Best Player Nickname: Caveman, Cookie**

**2016 Season Outlook: Extremely bright after competing and beating the best teams in the conference the past two seasons. The return of the core of the team, in combination with key freshman additions, makes this the most talented Elon team we have ever put together. With key series against teams like ECU, UNC, and APP State all at home, this team is poised to really make a run at the one of the two top spots in the conference.**



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**Manager Quote: "Following a huge 2015 Greenville Fall Invitational Championship in which the team went 5-0 after defeating new conference foe UNC-Wilmington in the finals, this team is primed to get over the hump and really compete for this conference. This team is led by a great core group of seniors who have helped grow this organization from the 1-win team of our freshman year, to the one that took home the trophy in Greenville in the fall." - Matt Browne (Senior, Coach)**



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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name:** Eastern Kentucky

**Mascot:** Colonels

**Location:** Richmond, KY

**Captain(s)/Coach(s):** Head Coach: Matt Ridner

**2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **36-9**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **2015 NCBA DII National Champions**
- Notables: **District V Winners**

**Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners):** 16

**Players to Watch:** Dusty Ridner (World Series MVP Pitcher), Josh Abend (10 game winner last year Pitcher) Nick Woltermann CF, Kevin Veeley C, Andrew McWhorter SS, Devon Rowland 3<sup>rd</sup>, Julian Speaks LF (All Returning Starters from last years team)

**New additions:** Jeff Zukowitz RF

**Biggest Rival:** The Ohio State Buckeyes

**Best Player Nickname:** KFV (Kevin F. Veeley)

**2016 Season Outlook:** Fall Record of 12-5. Winner of Xaviers Wounded Warrior Tourney. Winners of Ohio State's D1/D2 Showdown. Picked up a Win vs. local NAIA School. Playoff contender.

**Manager Quote:** "When I filled these preview forms out the last two seasons I pretty much knew how we stacked up versus our competition. After moving to D1 you can throw that out the window. I have no clue. But I do like my team. 7 returning Starters plus all 4 Starting pitchers. in the 17 games we played this fall. We gave up 2 or less in 12 of those games. So the pitching is there. If the bats catch up we'll be hard to beat. This may be dreaming, but with the World Series being in Padukah, KY it sure would be nice to have a Kentucky team in it." - Matt Ridner Head Coach



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## 2016 PREVIEW GUIDE

**Team Name: EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY**

**Mascot: PIRATES**

**Location: GREENVILLE, NC**

**Captain(s)/Coach(s): CAPTAIN: KYLE PRATT. COACHING STAFF: HEAD COACH JOE CARACCI (10), ASST HEAD COACH BEN FOX (6), BENCH COACH ALEX LIVELY (2), PITCHING COACH RYAN KOOPMAN (2), BULLPEN COACH MARK BROWN (1)**

**2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **35-4**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **Mid Atlantic South Conference Champions (15-0). Mid Atlantic Regional Champions. World Series Participant. #4 Final National Ranking**
- Notables: **31 Game winning streak. 32-2 against NCBA Opponents. #1 seed in WS for 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive season.**

**Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): 23 Returning Players. 2 All Americans, 11 All Region.**

**Players to Watch:** The return of 5<sup>th</sup> year seniors Kyle Pratt and Dave Troutman will serve as an anchor for an experienced, balanced, proven, and now even more versatile offensive unit. That, coupled with the return of All American Cory Nygard, World Series Average leader Keaton Derks, and a host of other proven returners and all region level transfers leave the Pirates in good shape to contend. On the mound, the departure of All-American Brandon Taylor leaves a hole to be filled. Senior Tanner Duncan will look to post similar numbers as last season and frontline an incredibly versatile and deep starting pitching staff. Starters include two high level transfers (Graham Edwards and Hatteras Brooks) along with veterans Earl Oliver, Austin Freese, and Sean Garbarino.



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**New additions:** With the entire incoming freshman class on the hunt for a conference championship at the D2 level, ECUCB D1 looked to continue its tradition of strengthening the roster through Transfers. This incoming group may rival the best the program has had. Logan Walden (ECU / WAKE TECH) will be a mainstay in the back end of the bullpen along with Stephen Lennox (SUNY ORANGE), and Casey Wenzel (SUNY BINGHAMTON). Logan also shores up the middle of the order along with 1B Abel Hernandez (PITT CC), Taylor Calcutt (METHODIST U), and Zach Bumgarner (MARS HILL). Other transfers include utility man Spencer Phillips (NC WESLEYAN / LCC) and the aforementioned Graham Edwards (ELON / PITT CC) and Hatters Brooks (NC Wesleyan).

**Biggest Rival:** NCSU Wolfpack

**Best Player Nickname:** Jake, from State Farm

**2016 Season Outlook:** We expect to compete at a high level every day. We have been working hard to plug up any holes that may have been lingering from 2015 or have appeared due to graduation. We are confident we have done so and will be a tough team to beat in 2016.

**Manager Quote:** "This group has a very different feel, seems like as a family (coaches and players) we have grown leaps and bounds in a short period of time, and to be honest, we really needed to. We seem to have a determined group of vets driven by what they see as disappointing finishes in 2014 and 2015. Also, an uber talented group of transfers with a pleasantly surprising work ethic that has been contagious. The transition has been seamless so far, I'm excited, coaching staff is fired up! LETS GOO! #WIT"



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## **2016 PREVIEW GUIDE**

**Team Name: University of Cincinnati**

**Mascot: Bearcat**

**Location: Cincinnati, OH**

**Captain(s)/Coach(s): David Schwehm, Danny Kaletta, Justin Sisko, and James Allen**

### **2014-15 Performance:**

- Record: **9-10**
- Final Conference Ranking/World Series Results: **Mid Atlantic West: 4<sup>th</sup> (5-8)**
- Notables: **National Pitcher of the Week, 3-time Mid Atlantic-West Pitcher of the Week honors (David Gordon and Logan Strauss), 2<sup>nd</sup> best conference record in team history.**

**Number of Returning Players (Include conference/league award winners): Total of 12 returning players including 6 full-time starters and 2 of 4 top pitchers; Mid Atlantic-West Pitcher of the Week: Logan Strauss (2x).**

**Players to Watch: Logan Strauss, James Allen, Wyatt Krupp, Justin Sisko, David Schwehm**

**New additions: AJ Seum, Andrew Schmidt, Aron Doi, Brett James, Gus Ricksecker, Ian Strang, Jacob Schultz, Jake Craig, Jonah Kuvin, JR Nixon, Justin Bruce, Noah Ehrman, Ryan Kuntz, and Tanner Wolfe**

**Biggest Rival: Ohio State**

**Best Player Nickname:**

**2016 Season Outlook: The 2016 season outlook is promising since a majority of the starters are returning and a strong freshmen class looks to make significant contributions. This season's team has the greatest positional depth and features multi-skilled players in key roles. However, our best attribute is our drive and commitment to succeed.**

**Manager Quote: "Work ethic over talent."**