



GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

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SAU LEADS ALL-GSC FIRST TEAM AND OVERALL SELECTIONS VSU's Costello, OBU's Gowdy Named Players of the Year

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.— **Southern Arkansas** garnered the most All-GSC Selections while also claiming the highest number of First Team honors after clinching a share of its first-ever GSC West Division title.

The Muleriders had seven First Team choices led by unanimous selections **James Schroeder (3B)** and **Hayden Simpson (SP)**. Schroeder also garnered a Second Team nod as a starting pitcher while Simpson followed up his *2008 GSC West Division Freshman of the Year* award with a no-hitter this season. SAU earned 10 overall All-GSC honors.

Delta State finished with six players on the First Team, seven overall, led by unanimous selection **Kellen Bozeman (DH)** and three-time honorees **Clay Sartain (2B)** and **Devin Goodwin (SS)**. Sartain and Goodwin are the 29th and 30th players in GSC history to claim three First Team All-GSC accolades in a career, respectively.

Valdosta State and **West Alabama** tied for the third-most First Team honorees with five each, including the Tigers' **first baseman Rob Dahlberg**. The senior from Gilbertown, Ala. follows Sartain and Goodwin as the 31st player in GSC history to claim three First Team All-GSC selections. The *2006 GSC East Freshman of the Year* and the *2008 GSC East Player of the Year*, Dahlberg moved to first base this year after spending his first three years as a third baseman. UWA had the second-most overall selections with eight while the Blazers added seven players to the *2009 All-GSC Baseball Team*. Two of VSU's choices made up half of the unanimous selections in the East Division, **designated hitter Matt Costello** (more on Costello, page 2) and **outfielder Brandon Decker**.

Henderson State also garnered seven All-Conference nods with two First-Team honorees. **West Florida** followed with six Second Team performers, while **North Alabama** rounded out the top five of First Teamers with three. The Lions **shortstop Cole Mitchell** and **outfielder Jeffrey Ritter** were the remaining unanimous selections in the East Division while UNA also placed a player on the Second Team. **Ouachita Baptist** was the only other team with multiple First Team selections and one player made up both choices. Like VSU's Costello, **Will Gowdy** earned First Team nods as a position player and a pitcher (more on Gowdy, page 2) while two other Tigers made the Second Team.

Rounding out the First Team honors were **Alabama-Huntsville**, **Christian Brothers**, **Harding** and **Montevallo**. HU **outfielder Adam Darby** was one of the four unanimous selections in the West Division. **Arkansas-Monticello** and **Arkansas Tech** completed the overall contingent with two Second Team selections each.

more

HISTORY MADE THROUGH PLAYERS OF THE YEAR

For the first time since the Gulf South Conference began the award in 1997, the Player of the Year in each Division also earned First Team All-GSC honors at two different positions.

VSU junior Matt Costello made quite a splash in his first year in the GSC, claiming the GSC East Division Player of the Year while being named a unanimous First Team All-GSC designated hitter and First Team starting pitcher. The West Barnstable, Mass. native leads the nation with a .494 batting average and is tops in the GSC in on-base percentage (.580). Costello led the Blazers in four offensive (batting average, slugging percentage, on-base percentage, doubles and hit by pitch) and six pitching categories (opposing batting average, innings pitched, batters struck out, games started, batters struck out looking and sac bunts allowed). The southpaw ranked in the top ten of the GSC in 13 total categories, nine hitting and four pitching, and earned Valdosta State's third Player of the Year laurel.

Junior Will Gowdy was OBU's answer to Costello, winning the GSC West Division Player of the Year award. Gowdy is the third straight Tiger to accomplish the feat (Jeremy Haworth, 2007 & Destan Makkonen, 2008). The junior college transfer from Amarillo, Texas was a First Team All-GSC outfielder and starting pitcher while leading the GSC with 28 doubles. Along with the 18 categories Gowdy ranked in the top ten of the GSC (nine hitting and nine pitching), the two-way player also led Ouachita Baptist in 19 more groupings including every major offensive statistic except triples.

The only other time any player has claimed two First Team All-Conference selections and a Player of the Year award was Southern Arkansas' Bobby Beeson in 2004. Costello and Gowdy also join a group of elite company as just the third and fourth players in GSC history to be named an All-GSC First Team performer at two different positions, respectively (Stephen Jackson, UWF, 1998 and Beeson)

UM CLAIMS SECOND FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR HONOR, OBU EARNS FIRST EVER

Montevallo outfielder Duston Daugherty became just the second Falcon to claim the GSC East Division Freshman of the Year award. The Hoover, Ala. native led UM in hit by pitch (11), stolen bases (15), steal attempts (17) and total plate appearances (200) in his first campaign in Montevallo while also finishing tied for third in the GSC in sacrifice bunts with 10.

For the first time in school history, **Ouachita Baptist** took home the GSC West Freshman of the Year honor, sweeping the major awards in the Division. **First Baseman Brock Green**, a native of Hot Springs, Ark., helped lead the Tigers to their fourth straight GSC Tournament. Green finished in the top three on the team in batting average (.359), slugging percentage (.523), on-base percentage (.464), hits (55) and doubles (16) while leading the team with two other players in hit by pitch (12).

School Breakdown

UAH—1 First Team, 4 Second Team: 5 Overall
UAM—2 Second Team
ATU—2 Second Team
CBU—1 First Team
DSU—6 First Team, 1 Second Team: 7 Overall
HU—1 First Team, 2 Second Team: 3 Overall
HSU—2 First Team, 5 Second Team: 7 Overall
UM—1 First Team; East Freshman of the Year
UNA—3 First Team, 1 Second Team: 4 Overall
OBU—2 First Team, 2 Second Team: 4 Overall; West Player and Freshman of the Year
SAU—7 First Team, 3 Second Team: 10 Overall
VSU—5 First Team, 2 Second Team: 7 Overall
UWA—5 First Team, 3 Second Team: 8 Overall
UWF—6 Second Team

Complete Team Follows

2009 ALL-GSC BASEBALL FIRST TEAM

EAST DIVISION

<u>POS.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>B/T</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
C	Ryan Norman	UM	SR	5-8		R/R	Hoover, Ala.
1B	!\$^@—Rob Dahlberg	UWA	SR	6-0	200	R/R	Gilbertown, Ala.
1B	*—Ryan McCrory	UAH	JR	6-2	220	L/R	Mobile, Ala.
2B	\$—Jeremy Finney	UWA	SR	5-7	185	R/R	Memphis, Tenn.
3B	\$—Nick Wheeler	UWA	SR	6-1	205	R/R	Hokes Bluff, Ala.
SS	#—Cole Mitchell	UNA	SR	6-1	180	R/R	Lester, Ala.
DH	Matt Costello	VSU	JR	6-1	190	L/L	West Barnstable, Mass.
OF	#—Qualon Millender	UNA	SR	5-9	165	S/R	Talledega, Ala.
OF	\$—Jeffrey Ritter	UNA	SR	6-0	195	R/R	Detroit, Mich.
OF	Brandon Decker	VSU	JR	6-3	205	L/R	Gulf, Fla.
OF	\$—Blaine Wilson	VSU	SR	6-2	220	R/R	Santa Maria, Calif.
SP	Justin Fleming	UNA	JR	6-3	185	L/L	Muscle Shoals, Ala.
SP	Matt Costello	VSU	JR	6-1	190	L/L	West Barnstable, Mass.
SP	#—Matt Hill	UWA	SR	6-4	210	R/R	D'Iberville, Miss.
SP	\$—Mike Schmitt	UWA	SR	6-0	165	R/R	Cheyenne, Wyo.
RP	Brandon Graves	VSU	SR	6-1	190	L/L	Crawfordville, Fla.

East Division Player of the Year—Matt Costello—Designated Hitter/Starting Pitcher, Valdosta State

East Division Freshman of the Year—Duston Daugherty—Outfielder, Montevallo

WEST DIVISION

<u>POS.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>B/T</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
C	#—Brandon Graves	SAU	SR	6-0	205	R/R	Hewitt, Texas
1B	#—Joseph Kaminski	CBU	JR	6-4	225	R/R	Sherwood, Ark.
2B	\$\$—Clay Sartain	DSU	SR	5-9	195	R/R	Horn Lake, Miss.
2B	*#—Cannon Lester	SAU	JR	5-11	185	R/R	El Dorado, Ark.
3B	#—James Schroeder	SAU	SR	6-0	205	R/R	Montgomery, Texas
SS	\$\$—Devin Goodwin	DSU	SR	5-10	185	R/R	Russellville, Ala.
SS	Andrew Whittington	SAU	JR	6-2	205	L/R	Texas City, Texas
DH	Kellen Bozeman	DSU	JR	6-2	205	R/R	Baton Rouge, La.
OF	Cade Hoggard	DSU	JR	6-3	215	R/R	Oxford, Miss.
OF	Michael Niemann	DSU	SO	5-10	180	L/L	Yelm, Wash.
OF	^—Adam Darby	HU	SR	6-0	205	L/L	Jackson, Tenn.
OF	#—Jeremy Saucedo	HSU	SR	5-7	175	R/R	Corpus Christi, Texas
OF	Will Gowdy	OBU	JR	6-4	210	R/L	Amarillo, Texas
SP	Chris Brown	HSU	SR	5-10	150	R/R	Little Rock, Ark.
SP	Will Gowdy	OBU	JR	6-4	210	R/L	Amarillo, Texas
SP	\$—Hayden Simpson	SAU	SO	6-0	170	R/R	Magnolia, Ark.
SP	Aaron Terry	SAU	SR	5-11	185	R/R	Rison, Ark.
RP	#—Levi Bishop	DSU	SR	5-8	165	L/L	Saltillo, Miss.
RP	Brendan McDonald	SAU	SR	6-3	210	R/R	Eltham, Victoria, Australia

West Division Player of the Year—Will Gowdy—Outfielder/Starting Pitcher, Ouachita Baptist

West Division Freshman of the Year—Brock Green—First Baseman, Ouachita Baptist

\$—2008 First Team All-GSC selection

#—2008 Second Team All-GSC selection

^—2007 First Team All-GSC selection

@—2006 Second Team All-GSC selection

!—2008 GSC East Player of the Year and 2006 GSC East Freshman of the Year

Unanimous Selections in BOLD

*—Voted to team as next highest infielders

2009 ALL-GSC BASEBALL SECOND TEAM

EAST DIVISION

<u>POS.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>B/T</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
C	#—Chase Blackwood	VSU	SR	5-10	200	R/R	Taft, Calif.
C	Tyler Hastings	UWF	SO	5-11	195	R/R	Niceville, Fla.
2B	Nick Huckaby	UAH	JR	5-11	200	R/R	Jamestown, Ky.
2B	Dewayne Gunn	UNA	JR	5-10	200	L/R	Tuscumbia, Ala.
3B	Austin Smith	VSU	JR	6-1	220	R/R	St. Petersburg, Fla.
SS	Brandon Brewer	UWF	SO	5-8	165	L/R	Apopka, Fla.
DH	Brian Simone	UWA	SO	5-10	185	L/R	Amherstburg, Ontario
OF	George Washington	UAH	SR	6-3	190	L/R	Demopolis, Ala.
OF	Kevin Deese	UWA	SO	6-4	205	L/R	Fosters, Ala.
OF	Greg Pron	UWF	SO	6-6	190	R/R	Daphne, Ala.
SP	Chase Earl	UAH	JR	5-10	170	R/R	Valley, Ala.
SP	Jacob Wray	UAH	JR	5-10	185	R/R	Hartselle, Ala.
SP	Kevin Johnson	UWF	JR	6-5	230	R/R	Pensacola, Fla.
SP	@&—Kyle Ramsey	UWF	SR	6-2	210	L/L	Kissimmee, Fla.
RP	#—Brian Burgess	UWA	SO	6-1	190	R/R	Huntsville, Ala.
RP	John Church	UWF	JR	6-3	235	R/R	Lake Wales, Fla.

WEST DIVISION

<u>POS.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>HT</u>	<u>WT</u>	<u>B/T</u>	<u>HOMETOWN</u>
C	Kendal Norman	HSU	SO	6-0	190	R/R	Hot Springs, Ark.
1B	#—Robert Gilbert	HSU	SO	6-0	205	L/R	Jasper, Texas
1B	Brock Green	OBU	FR	6-2	165	L/R	Hot Springs, Ark.
1B	%—Dane Lucas	SAU	SR	6-0	185	L/L	Houston, Texas
3B	Wisley Correa	HU	SR	5-10	190	R/R	Sebring, Fla.
DH	Blaine Ivey	UAM	JR	6-3	210	R/R	Baton Rouge, La.
OF	Drew Harper	UAM	JR	6-2	200	R/R	Meridian, Miss.
OF	Jeremy Houchin	ATU	JR	5-10	196	R/R	Springdale, Ark.
OF	Clint Stroud	ATU	JR	6-2	200	R/R	Bonham, Texas
OF	Jonathan Dooley	HSU	JR	6-0	190	R/R	DeQueen, Ark.
OF	Brandon Story	HSU	SR	5-7	155	R/R	Springdale, Ark.
SP	\$—Korey Cunningham	DSU	SR	6-2	210	R/R	Clinton, Miss.
SP	Brodie Brumley	HU	JR	6-2	220	R/R	Scottsboro, Ala.
SP	Jarod Hershberger	OBU	SR	6-2	190	R/R	Tulsa, Okla.
SP	#—James Schroeder	SAU	SR	6-0	205	R/R	Montgomery, Texas
RP	Evan Eary	HSU	JR	5-10	155	R/R	Batesville, Ark.
RP	Brian Byrd	SAU	SR	6-1	175	R/R	Arlington, Texas

\$—2008 First Team All-GSC selection

%—2007 Second Team All-GSC selection

&—2005 Second Team All-GSC selection

#—2008 Second Team All-GSC selection

@—2006 Second Team All-GSC selection

#GSC#