

Top Teaching Pro Award For 2011 Goes To Wilkinson

By JOHN PINKMAN
Special To Collegiate Baseball

STERLING, Va. — Pete Wilkinson is the 2011 winner of the Tom House Teaching Professional of the Year Award sponsored by Edge charting software and web stats.

This award was created to acknowledge excellence and professionalism in the art of teaching young men how to pitch.

Wilkinson was one of the pioneers of the instruction business. In comparison to other sports, paying for personal instruction in baseball is relatively new. Back in the late 80's and early 90's the public response to paying someone was "What for? It's only baseball, everybody knows baseball!"

Back Then

Wilkinson began in those early days of training. As a former player for Hall of Fame Coach Rod Dedeaux of USC, he studied the game at the highest level. After his playing days were over, Wilkinson became a businessman.

With a passion for teaching the game, Wilkinson tried to find a way to stay in the game.

He became a volunteer with an eye on the clock that would deliver him back to the field in the afternoon. As his players became successful from hands-on instruction, more players showed up.

As he ran out of time in his schedule, parents would say they were willing to pay him if we could devote time to their children. As the word spread, he experienced serious conflicts between business responsibilities and his love of teaching baseball.

Training Vs. Practicing

Wilkinson has a very simple standard. Does the child leave knowing more than when he came. As Wilkinson became one of the



PETE WILKINSON

few full time baseball teachers in 1989, he was contacted to run a clinic for the Soviet Union's baseball team. They were preparing for the Goodwill games and the eventual entrance into the 1996 Olympics. Despite the fact he did not know Russian and they didn't speak a word of English, the clinic was so beneficial that the Soviets asked him to build their national baseball program.

He called Rod Dedeaux, Stanford's Mike Marquess and Dick Case from USA Baseball to comment on his 10 point program. They met at the 1989 Goodwill games, heard Wilkinson's plan and said, "This is great. How can we help?" So for the next two years, he developed the Soviet (Russian) program.

Choosing A Path

As his teaching program grew, he made a commitment at his Academy not to do "retail." By that he means he did not want to process hundreds of players through a thin veil of practice and call it training. He wanted to teach players who had made a commitment to learn how to increase their baseball skill.

"There are times I wish I wasn't in the baseball instruction business. We have absolutely created a monster! Many of these people (instructors) claim to do top end or specialized work, but when they're done, much of the information (taught) does not resemble the skill used by college and major league players.

"But kids are eating it up; and if they get a nice guy they do it longer. Or if they get a baseball lookin' guy, [the rough chew guy], he can sell real bad information for a long time because parents have no way of knowing."

Wilkinson believes in teaching the *whole student-athlete* - not just how to swing a bat or how to throw a ball. He said that coaches practice players' skills without teaching them what to do with the skill in the game.

"It's about getting in touch with what's inside yourself. That's just not psychology; it's a whole lot of things. Coaching is about getting the kid connected to himself and then the game."

Creation Of The Workbook

The long hours of research to create the program was developed into a workbook that is still used today to teach players how their brains work and how they "sabotage themselves."

He said, "It's neck up stuff that helps you command your own life."

Wilkinson focuses on teaching time management related to real goals and developing an authentic athletic personality. He uses the real life experiences learned from Rod Dedeaux to teach the values of winning and leadership. He also was able to learn directly from John Wooten. Wilkinson worked at UCLA and had an office down the hall from the legendary coach.

Living at the Top of My Game is used in house at the Academy and

is not sold publically. Perhaps it should be. Workbooks like this take a tremendous amount of creative time to develop. The workbook is designed to deliver 12 sessions covering topics such as:

- Building fundamental mental skills
- Preparing for success
- Commanding your life
- Perfecting the process

The goal and direction of athletic training is to enhance performance.

How you get there is the vital key. His workbook program concentrates on developing self esteem and confidence, personal accountability, clarifying purpose and reducing stress.

Producing Improvement

As coaches in the Information Age we must adapt our leadership and delivery to our students who are being born in the 21st Century.

Professional educators and instructors recognize that improvement requires one absolute. It is impossible to improve unless you embrace this fact.

In order to improve you must *change*. You cannot repeat last year's approach and expect to improve. Some require more change than others. Leadership and management of change are unique qualities of all great coaches.

The late Steve Jobs said, "The way we run Apple is by values. We don't use management by objectives. Apple is the fastest growing company in American corporate history and when you are growing that fast you don't hire people and tell them what to do. You attract incredibly talented people and in general let them tell you what to do."

You can see these concepts

developed in the work of Pete Wilkinson, a consummate teaching professional.

Independents Led By Dallas Baptist Univ.

Continued From Page 29

- ◆ 2B Andrew Ayers, Sacramento St. (.249, 2 HR, 13 2B, 21 RBI)

Independents

Projected Order Of Finish	Rank	School	2011 RPI
1.	Dallas Baptist		41
2.	Cal. St. Bakersfield		53
3.	Seattle		240
4.	Longwood		242

Other Top Players To Watch:

- ◆ CF Landon Anderson, Dallas Baptist (.356, 7 HR, 13 2B, 58 RBI, 21 SB)
- ◆ 3B Kenny Hatcher, Dallas Baptist (.287, 2 HR, 15 2B, 48 RBI)
- ◆ SS Joel Hutter, Dallas Baptist (.303, 9 HR, 15 2B, 50 RBI)
- ◆ 1B Ryan Behmanesh, Dallas Baptist (.318, 4 HR, 18 2B, 51 RBI)
- ◆ RHP Jake Johansen, Dallas Baptist (Throwing in mid 90s during fall)
- ◆ P Taylor Massey, Dallas Baptist (0-0, 4.85 ERA, 17 K, 16 BB)
- ◆ P Jay Calhoun, Dallas Baptist (From Second Baptist H.S., TX)
- ◆ OF Ronnie Mitchell, Dallas Baptist (Trans. Seminole St. J.C., OK)
- ◆ OF Boomer Collins, Dallas Baptist (Transfer from Nebraska — redshirt)
- ◆ LHP Jonathan Montoya, Cal. St. Bak. (.8-5, 3.67 ERA, 86 K, 48 BB)
- ◆ 2B Oscar Sanay, Cal. St. Bakersfield (.355, 12 2B, 34 RBI)
- ◆ 3B D.C. Legg, Cal. St. Bakersfield (.312, 3 HR, 13 2B, 42 RBI)
- ◆ RHP Kyle Morgan, Longwood (4-1, 2.89 ERA, 26 K, 24 BB)
- ◆ RHP Matt Gwaltney, Longwood (5-6, 4.26 ERA, 43 K, 17 BB)
- ◆ RHP Cory Ramsey, Longwood (6-3, 3.95 ERA, 37 K, 21 BB)
- ◆ 1B Justin Lacy, Longwood (.331, 5 HR, 15 2B, 29 RBI)
- ◆ OF Robbie Newman, Longwood (.308, 4 HR, 11 2B, 25 RBI)
- ◆ C Scott Burkett, Longwood (.270, 3 HR, 9 2B, 34 RBI)
- ◆ 3B Brady Hohl, Nebraska-Omaha (.408, 5 HR, 11 2B, 35 RBI, 15 SB)
- ◆ 2B Caleb Palensky, Nebraska-Omaha (.366, 4 HR, 14 2B, 36 RBI)
- ◆ 1B Tyler Splichal, Nebraska-Omaha (.322, 5 HR, 13 2B, 29 RBI)
- ◆ RHP Matt Tew, Nebraska-Omaha (6-1, 2.98 ERA, 39 K)
- ◆ LHP Cory Buckley, Nebraska-Omaha (2 SV, 5-3, 3.57 ERA, 14 AP)

Southern Indiana Returns 6 Position Player Starters For 2012

Continued From Page 37

20 APP, 17 K, 6 BB).

TOP NEWCOMERS: INF J Golden (Blackhawk JC); C Mike Andries (Johnson CC); OF Jon Flattery (Iowa Central CC).

KEY LOSSES: OF/P Danny Miller (.320, 27 RBI, 8-3, 64.1 IP, 70 K); C Steven Helget (.351, 34 RBI); SS Zach Rowles (.315, 31 RBI); OF Aaron Berner (.335, 43 RBI); P Luke Putz (7-1, 2.69 ERA, 67 IP, 52 K).

2012 OUTLOOK: The Mavericks posted a 40-12 overall record last season and return six position player starters and two important pitchers including RHP Bryce Bellin (6-0, 1.20 ERA, 39 K, 13 BB) and closer Mahlon Zimmermann (9 SV, 2.45 ERA). "This team returns many key bats in the lineup, but we will need a couple of pitchers to step up and contribute," said Head Coach Matt Magers. "By the end of the year, we will look to be in a good position to make another run at the conference the region titles."

21. SOUTHERN INDIANA

COACH: Tracy Archuleta (207-95 in 5 years with the Screaming Eagles; 355-219 overall)

2011 RECORD: 37-19

2011 FINISH: Participated in Regional

TOP RETURNERS: SS Brad Vance (.314, 4 HR, 20 2B, 54 RBI, 16 SB); RF Brad Wannemuehler (.306, 3 2B, 12 RBI, 12 SB); 2B Ryan Kaczmarek (.282, 4 2B, 3 3B, 14 SB); RHP Silas Dill (2 SV, 2-0, 3.16 ERA); RHP Jim Mulvaney (2 SV, 1-2, 5.04 ERA).

TOP NEWCOMERS: OF BJ Willis (Wabash JC); C Colton White (Lincoln Land CC); OF Bryce Shoulders (Kentucky Wesleyan); RHP Keith Greer (South Suburban CC); LHP Adam Carver (Kaskaskia JC); RHP Matt Davidson (St. Charles JC).

KEY LOSSES: P/DH Tyler Choate (All-Conference, All-American); OF Justin Blinn (All-Conference); P Dan Marcacci (All-Conference); P Trevor Leach (All-Conference, All-Region); P Taylor Dennis (All-Conference).

2012 OUTLOOK: The Screaming Eagles rolled to a 37-19 overall record last season and return six position player starters and three quality pitchers. In addition, 22 new players were brought in. "We have a great deal of experience from our position players, but we also have a whole new pitching staff," said Head Coach Tracy Archuleta. "Our staff has to mature quickly for us to make a run in 2012."

22. SOUTHERN ARKANSAS

COACH: Steve Browning (36-16 with the Muleriders)

2011 RECORD: 36-16

2011 FINISH: Participated in Regional

TOP RETURNERS: SS Trey Buck (.339, 2 HR, 16 2B, 34 RBI, 19 SB); CF Gavan McCauley (.273, 2 HR, 4 2B, 26 RBI, 25 SB, gold glove); RF Jason

Dahl (.298, 4 2B, 23 RBI, 12 SB); LF Trevor Rogers (.286, 6 HR, 7 2B, 29 RBI, 13 SB); 1B David Allday (.233, 1 HR, 3 2B, 11 RBI, 1 SB); RHP Doug Shields (8-2, 2.35 ERA, 84.1 IP, 75 K, 19 BB, 3 SV); LHP Ziggy Vanderwall (6-2, 4.34 ERA, 64.1 IP, 70 K, 32 BB); RHP Joey Cifuentes (4-2, 3.86 ERA, 42 IP, 26 K, 9 BB); RHP Janson Carr (3-1, 4.23 ERA, 12 APP, 24 K, 8 BB).

TOP NEWCOMERS: 3B Brady Capshaw (Frank Phillips Coll); C Ryan Guedry (Navarro Coll); RF Nick Fountain (Allen Co. CC); CF Rafael Thomas (Lubbock Christian); LHP Justin Parsons (Texarkana Coll); LHP Justin Thomas (Navarro Coll); RHP Jon Mark Abbey (Paris JC).

KEY LOSSES: C Brandon Choate (.313, 14 HR, 54 RBI, All-American); RHP Dan Bream (12-3, 108.1 IP, 98 K, All-South Region); 3B Logan Williams (.355, 13 2B, 14 HR, 67 RBI, All-American).

2012 OUTLOOK: The Muleriders posted a 36-16 overall record and return four key pitchers and five position player starters. "We have a great blend of talented returners and newcomers," said Head Coach Steve Browning. "We will have a balanced offense with great team speed. Our pitching staff will be as deep as ever and will be looking for big things from our 2012 squad." One player to watch is Gold Glove centerfielder Gavan McCauley (.273, 2 HR, 4 2B, 26 RBI, 25 stolen bases).

23. GEORGIA COLLEGE

COACH: Tom Carty

2011 RECORD: 35-17

2011 FINISH: Third place in Peach Belt Conference

TOP RETURNERS: SS Tanner Funk (.392, 2 HR, 20 2B, 54 RBI, 3 SB); OF Josh Young (.291, 17 2B, 37 RBI, 30 SB); OF Pat Daugherty (.291, 5 HR, 14 2B, 29 RBI, 19 SB); 3B Travis Echols (.269, 6 HR, 13 2B, 43 RBI, 5 SB); LHP Mike Guinane (9-1, 3.84 ERA, 96.1 IP, 64 K, 24 BB); RHP Matt Robinson (2 SV, 3-1, 3.33 ERA, 20 APP, 22 K, 9 BB); RHP Walker McKiwan (1 SV, 1-2, 5.18 ERA, 20 APP, 35 K, 22 BB).

TOP NEWCOMERS: 1B Karsten Streiby (Arizona Western Coll); OF Bryce Williams (Allen CC); 3B Jeremy Donaldson (South Georgia Coll); RHP Zach Hula (South Georgia Coll); RHP Derek McGowan (Park Univ); RHP Darin Wiltgen (Mesa CC).

KEY LOSSES: OF Shawn Ward (Peach Belt co-Player of the Year); C Richard Pirkle (All-Conference); LHP Jason Nicholas (8-2, 4.1 ERA, 74 IP); RHP Eric Pettepher (5-4, 5.03 ERA, 77 IP).

2012 OUTLOOK: The Bobcats return four position player starters and one key starting pitcher in LHP Mike Guinane (9-1, 3.84 ERA, 64 K, 24 BB). One position player to watch is SS Tanner Funk, a first team All-American last season (.392, 2 HR, 20 2B, 54 RBI). "We have lots of depth, but the team will need to replace a strong leadership. Our pitching staff looks good with promising freshmen arms."

24. LE MOYNE

COACH: Scott Cassidy (23-30 in one year with the Dolphins)

2011 RECORD: 23-30

2011 FINISH: Independent

TOP RETURNERS: CF Brett Botsford (.311, 13 2B, 19 RBI, 20 SB); 3B Matt Marra (.247, 11 2B, 17 RBI, 9 SB); SS Ryan Mahoney (.292, 6 HR, 7 2B, 31 RBI, 9 SB); LF Pat Wiese (.290, 4 2B, 17 RBI, 7 SB); C Brian Stinson (.262, 2 HR, 8 2B, 24 RBI, 2 SB); 2B Vinnie Redmond (.252, 1 HR, 3 2B, 17 RBI, 2 SB); 1B Kody O'Connor (.243, 5 HR, 7 2B, 25 RBI); RHP Derek Zielinski (3-4, 5.20 ERA, 55.1 IP, 48 K, 23 BB); LHP Mark Kuzma (3-6, 4.53 ERA, 59.2 IP, 36 K, 30 BB); RHP Ed Kohout (5 SV, 1-6, 3.49 ERA, 59.1 IP, 17 APP, 56 K, 18 BB); LHP Mike Anarumo (1 SV, 4-1, 4.59 ERA, 33.1 IP, 13 APP, 25 K, 15 BB).

TOP NEWCOMERS: P Jon Dunn (Honeoye Falls-Lima, NY); P Ryan Davis (Queensbury, NY).

KEY LOSSES: RHP Jeff Tardiff (3-2, 2.81 ERA); RF Don Schaaf (.348, 3 HR, 30 RBI, 8 SB).

2012 OUTLOOK: The Dolphins return seven position player starters and four key pitchers off last year's ball club. One key player to watch is 3B Matt Marra (.247, 11 2B, 17 RBI) who also is the closer with a 91 mph fastball. "We are an experienced team returning all but one starter from a solid team," said Head Coach Scott Cassidy. "We will have good depth with our pitching staff."

25. ARMSTRONG ATLANTIC ST.

COACH: Joe Roberts (1,250-607 in 32 years with the Pirates)

2011 RECORD: 35-17

2011 FINISH: Fourth place in Peach Belt Conference tourney

TOP RETURNERS: C John Roberts (.355, 5 HR, 18 2B, 55 RBI, 2 SB); 3B Drew Walker (.337, 7 HR, 11 2B, 41 RBI, 4 SB); 1B Chris Zittrouer (.322, 2 HR, 9 2B, 28 RBI, 3 SB); SS Alex Frederick (.320, 1 HR, 7 2B, 36 RBI, 8 SB); C/DH Clayton Miller (.301, 12 2B, 19 RBI, 3 SB); 2B Mike Barnhill (.294, 8 2B, 25 RBI, 4 SB); RHP Scott Strickland (8-3, 2.90 ERA, 112 IP, 104 K, 48 BB); RHP Chris Base (redshirt); LHP Chandler Hall (8-4, 4.23 ERA, 83 IP, 45 K, 27 BB); RHP Travis Morris (2-1, 3.20 ERA, 19 IP, 23 K, 17 BB).

TOP NEWCOMERS: OF Zach Taylor (Santa Fe CC, FL); P Ethan Bader (Lake-Sumter CC); OF Casey Maloney (GateWay CC); UT Richie Anderson (American River Coll); P Jimmy Coughlin (Coastal Carolina); C RJ Dennard (Trautlen County HS, GA); P Chess Malone (Gordon Coll).

KEY LOSSES: OF Michael Price (4-year starter, .317 BA); P Trent Landa (5-5, 3.38 ERA, 80 IP, 66 K); OF Josh Heath (.242 BA).

2012 OUTLOOK: The Pirates posted a 35-17 record last season and return six position player starters and four superb pitchers. One player to watch is OF Zach Taylor, a 6-foot-3, 215-pounder who has a plus bat and speed. Taylor transferred from Santa Fe Community College (FL). "We return a pretty solid infield intact plus recruited options with two weekend starters and our closer," said Head Coach Joe Roberts. "Our entirely new outfield is pretty solid, and we have depth and options with players. We have limited pitching depth, and the new arms need to help get outs."