



GULF SOUTH CONFERENCE

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DSU, UWA LEAD ALL-GSC FIRST TEAM HONORS

Dahlberg Claims East Player of the Year Award, Noland and Makonnen Split in the West

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—**Delta State** and **West Alabama** led its respective divisions with the most First Team selections on the *2008 All-GSC Baseball Team*.

The Statesmen placed six players on the West Division First Team while seven Tigers were on the East Division's squad. DSU and **Southern Arkansas** each had nine total selections on the All-Conference contingent, leading the West; UWA topped the East with 12 overall members.

Valdosta State and **Ouachita Baptist** tied for the third most honorees with seven each (VSU had 5 First Team selections, the Tigers 4), **North Alabama** and **West Georgia** followed with six a piece and **Henderson State** rounded out the top five with four. **Montevallo** and **Arkansas Tech** each placed three, **Harding** had two honorees while **Christian Brothers** and **West Florida** rounded out the selections with one each.

DAHLBERG TOPS IN THE EAST

UWA third baseman Rob Dahlberg added to his award collection as he was named *GSC East Division Player of the Year*, becoming just the second Tiger (Chance Melvin, 1999) to win the honor.

Dahlberg, the *2006 GSC East Division Freshman of the Year*, also claimed his third consecutive All-GSC laurel and was named to the First Team for the second year in a row. The junior from Gilbertown, Ala. led UWA in eight offensive categories (batting average, slugging percentage, on-base percentage, runs, hits, doubles, total bases and stolen bases) and ranked in the top ten of the GSC in six of those groups including having the highest on-base percentage in the league (.557). Dahlberg also ranked in the top 12 in five NCAA offensive categories (batting average, runs per game, on-base percentage, stolen bases per game and overall stolen bases) and was in the top 20 in another (runs scored).

NOLAND, MAKONNEN TOO TOUGH TO CALL FOR THE WEST

For just the second time since the Award's inception in 1997, the *GSC West Division Player of the Year* honor was split as **DSU catcher Rickey Noland** and **OBU first baseman Destan Makonnen** shared the prize.

Noland is the eighth Statesmen to claim the laurel and third in the past four years. The Denham Springs, La. native also garnered his second straight All-GSC First Team accolade after leading DSU in slugging percentage, home runs and hit by pitch. The senior was in the top five of four GSC offensive categories (home runs, total bases, on-base percentage and slugging percentage) and ranks in the NCAA top 30 in three of those groups.

Makonnen earns just the second major GSC award in OBU baseball history but is the second straight Tiger named GSC West Player of the Year (Jeremy Haworth). The senior from Grand Rapids, Mich. led his club and the GSC in home runs while also leading OBU in slugging percentage, RBI and total bases and finishing among the league's top ten in those categories. Makonnen was tied for third in the Conference and 19th in the nation in walks (40) while being in the top 15 in the NCAA in home runs and home runs per game.

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UAH CLAIMS SECOND STRAIGHT FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR HONOR, SAU EARNS SECOND ALL-TIME

Alabama-Huntsville third baseman Jordan Parker became the second straight Charger and fourth overall to be named GSC East Division Freshman of the Year. The Hartselle, Ala. native led UAH in batting average (.347), slugging percentage (.647), hits (58) and total bases (78) in his first campaign in Huntsville while also finishing third in the GSC in triples with 5.

For just the second time in school history, **Southern Arkansas** took home the GSC West Division Freshman of the Year award. **Starting pitcher Hayden Simpson**, a hometown native of Magnolia, Ark., was incredible in his rookie season, holding opponents to a .199 batting average and going undefeated with nine victories. Simpson led the league in lowest opponents' batting average, tied for first in the conference and 12th in the country in wins and was 17th in the NCAA in hits allowed per nine innings with 6.44.

School Breakdown

UAH—East Freshman of the Year
ATU—2 First Team, 1 Second Team: 3 Overall
CBU—1 Second Team
DSU—6 First Team, 3 Second Team: 9 Overall; West Co-Player of the Year
HU—2 Second Team
HSU—4 Second Team
UM—2 First Team, 1 Second Team: 3 Overall
UNA—3 First Team, 3 Second Team: 6 Overall
OBU—4 First Team, 3 Second Team: 7 Overall; West Co-Player of the Year
SAU—5 First Team, 4 Second Team: 9 Overall; West Freshman of the Year
VSU—5 First Team, 2 Second Team: 7 Overall
UWA—7 First Team, 5 Second Team: 12 Overall; East Player of the Year
UWF—1 Second Team
UWG—2 First Team, 4 Second Team: 6 Overall

Complete Team Follows

2008 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	\$—Jake DeRoy	UWA	SR	6-0	195	R/R	Navarre, Fla.
1B	Josh Graham	UNA	JR	6-4	245	R/R	Pontotoc, Miss.
2B	\$—Matt Horton	UNA	JR	5-8	165	R/R	Cleveland, Ala.
2B	*—Jeremy Finney	UWA	JR	5-7	175	R/R	Memphis, Tenn.
3B	\$@—Rob Dahlberg	UWA	JR	6-0	200	R/R	Gilbertown, Ala.
3B	*—Bradley Abell	UWG	SR	6-3	225	R/R	Leesburg, Ga.
SS	Nick Wheeler	UWA	JR	6-1	205	R/R	Hokes Bluff, Ala.
DH	Daniel Muniz	VSU	SR	6-1	200	L/L	Bronx, N.Y.
OF	\$—Eric Moore	UM	SR	5-11	180	R/R	Florence, Ala.
OF	Jeffrey Ritter	UNA	JR	6-0	195	R/R	South Rockwood, Mich.
OF	Blaine Wilson	VSU	JR	6-2	220	R/R	Santa Maria, Calif.
OF	Tres Avans	UWA	SR	6-0	187	R/R	Trenton, Ga.
OF	Adam Matos	UWG	SR	6-1	200	R/R	Port St. Lucie, Fla.
SP	Zac Blakney	UM	SR	6-1	175	R/R	Morris, Ala.
SP	Glen Lemke	VSU	JR	6-5	210	S/R	Leavenworth, Kan.
SP	Will Thompson	VSU	SR	6-4	245	R/R	Valdosta, Ga.
SP	Brandon Dill	UWA	SR	6-1	195	R/R	Ethelsville, Ala.
SP	Mike Schmitt	UWA	JR	6-0	165	R/R	Cheyenne, Wyo.
RP	@—Justin Lamb	VSU	SR	6-1	210	R/R	Darien, Ga.

East Division Player of the Year—Rob Dahlberg, West Alabama

East Division Freshman of the Year—Jordan Parker, Alabama-Huntsville

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	\$—Rickey Noland	DSU	SR	6-1	215	R/R	Denham Springs, La.
1B	\$—Destan Makonnen	OBU	SR	6-2	210	L/R	Grand Rapids, Mich.
2B	\$—Clay Sartain	DSU	JR	5-9	189	R/R	Horn Lake, Miss.
3B	#—Chris Clark	DSU	SR	6-0	188	L/R	Paducah, Ky.
3B	Rudy Jovanovski	OBU	JR	5-11	200	R/R	Sterling Heights, Mich.
SS	\$—Pat Robey	SAU	SR	5-9	170	R/R	Longview, Texas
SS	*\$—Devin Goodwin	DSU	JR	5-10	185	R/R	Demopolis, Ala.
DH	Jonathan Houston	ATU	FR	6-1	180	L/R	Conway, Ark.
OF	#—Jantzen Black	ATU	SR	6-2	185	R/R	Greenwood, Ark.
OF	\$—Hunter Jobes	DSU	SR	5-10	180	L/R	Southaven, Miss.
OF	\$—Justin Pennell	OBU	SR	6-2	245	L/L	Toronto, Ontario, Canada
OF	John Long	SAU	SR	5-9	175	L/R	Smackover, Ark.
SP	Korey Cunningham	DSU	JR	6-2	210	R/R	Clinton, Miss.
SP	Steve Smith	OBU	SR	6-0	205	R/R	Texarkana, Ark.
SP	#^—Cody Jones	SAU	SR	6-2	180	L/L	Springhill, La.
SP	Hayden Simpson	SAU	FR	5-10	170	R/R	Magnolia, Ark.
RP	#—Jeremy Jenkins	SAU	SR	5-11	175	R/R	Longview, Texas

West Division Co-Players of the Year—Rickey Noland, Delta State & Destan Makonnen, Ouachita Baptist

West Division Freshman of the Year—Hayden Simpson, Southern Arkansas

\$—2007 First Team All-GSC selection

^—2006 First Team All-GSC selection

Unanimous Selections in BOLD

#—2007 Second Team All-GSC selection

@—2006 Second Team All-GSC selection

*—Voted to team as next highest infielders

2008 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	JR	5-10	200	R/R	Taft, Calif.
1B	@—Daniel Furuto	UM	SR	5-10	205	L/L	Birmingham, Ala.
1B	Jud Jones	UWG	JR	5-11	210	R/R	LaGrange, Ga.
SS	Cole Mitchell	UNA	JR	6-1	165	R/R	Lester, Ala.
SS	Jon Koenigsfeld	VSU	SO	5-11	170	R/R	New Port Richey, Fla.
DH	\$—Todd Rea	UWA	JR	5-10	170	R/R	Middleburg, Fla.
OF	Qualon Millender	UNA	JR	5-9	160	S/R	Talledega, Ala.
OF	Matt Busbee	UWA	SR	5-11	185	R/R	Faunsdale, Ala.
OF	Kyle Andrews	UWF	SO	5-11	185	R/R	Fort Walton Beach, Fla.
OF	#—Nolan Childers	UWG	SR	6-1	200	R/R	Lilburn, Ga.
OF	A.J. Renfrow	UWG	SR	5-10	175	L/R	Carrollton, Ga.
SP	Brennen Auerbach	UNA	JR	6-1	185	R/R	Olathe, Kan.
SP	Matt Hill	UWA	JR	6-4	210	R/R	D'Iberville, Miss.
SP	Josh Varner	UWA	FR	6-4	205	R/R	Brandon, Miss.
SP	Cody Gossett	UWG	SR	5-9	180	L/L	Ringgold, Ga.
RP	Brian Burgess	UWA	FR	6-1	190	R/R	Huntsville, Ala.

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	JR	6-0	200	R/R	Hewitt, Texas
1B	Joe Kaminski	CBU	SO	6-4	225	R/R	Sherwood, Ark.
1B	Robert Gilbert	HSU	SO	6-0	205	L/R	Jasper, Texas
2B	Cannon Lester	SAU	SO	5-11	180	R/R	El Dorado, Ark.
3B	Tony Sanchez	ATU	JR	5-7	183	L/R	Mesquite, Texas
3B	James Schroeder	SAU	JR	5-11	195	R/R	Montgomery, Texas
SS	Bo Whitaker	HU	SR	6-0	190	R/R	Blytheville, Ark.
DH	Chandler Boyce	OBU	SR	6-0	195	R/R	Edmond, Okla.
OF	Aaron Roberts	HU	JR	6-0	200	R/R	Terlton, Okla.
OF	Mike Devito	HSU	SR	6-3	220	R/R	Phoenix, Ariz.
OF	Jeremy Saucedo	HSU	JR	5-7	175	R/R	Corpus Christi, Texas
OF	Blake Lockwood	OBU	JR	6-1	170	L/R	Stuttgart, Ark.
OF	#—Tyler Maag	SAU	JR	5-9	180	R/R	North Canton, Ohio
SP	Kenny Smalley	DSU	JR	6-3	210	R/R	St. Charles, Ill.
SP	\$!—Justin Smith	DSU	SR	6-4	200	R/R	Ridgeland, Miss.
SP	Chris Brown	HSU	JR	5-10	150	R/R	Little Rock, Ark.
SP	Chase Baran	OBU	JR	6-0	180	L/L	Boyd, Texas
RP	Levi Bishop	DSU	JR	5-8	160	L/L	Saltillo, Miss.

\$—2007 First Team All-GSC selection

@—2006 Second Team All-GSC selection

#—2007 Second Team All-GSC selection

!—2005 First Team All-GSC selection

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