

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### Dates to Remember in March:

- **March 1:** Start of NAR Spring Season
- **March 3:** First day of Spring Training Showcase
- **March 14:** NCFA Phone Day
- **March 20:** Suite 301
- **March 21:** NCBA Phone Day
- **March 28:** NCSA Phone Day

### DID YOU KNOW...

**The Great Lakes Region sends more teams to the NCBA Spring Training Showcase than any other region in the country. The next closest region is the North Atlantic with 8. There are far more Great Lakes teams that participate in the showcase (17) than those that don't (6).**

### SPRING TRAINING SHOWCASE OFFERS PLENTY OF SPONSORS

The National Club Baseball and Softball Association member teams will be descending upon Tampa and Plant City, FL during the entire month of March. The NCBA/NCSA Spring Training Showcase is extremely grateful for all of the local sponsors in the Tampa and Plant City area for supporting not only this amazing event, but our organization and student athletes as a whole. We are looking forward to an incredible month of baseball and softball and great times at our local sponsor locations.

Mainsail Suites Hotel & Conference Center is the Official Host Hotel of the 2012 NCBA/NCSA Spring Training Showcase. With a full kitchen, living room and dining room in every suite, guests are more than comfortable in these spacious accommodations. On-site features include sand volleyball courts, a heated pool, hot tub, half court basketball courts, an extensive fitness center, and a 24 hour laundry room. Mainsail Suites will be hosting participating club baseball and softball teams for this year's event.

The 2012 NCBA/NCSA Spring Training Showcase will feature four team nights at local Tampa area sponsors. Monday nights in March will be Team

Night at the Tilted Kilt-Carrollwood, with NCBA and NCSA teams receiving a special discount on their food bill. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the many All Day Every Day specials that the Tilted Kilt has to offer. Tuesday nights will be Team Night at GameTime in Ybor City. Match and Play Tuesday is sure to be a huge hit at GameTime, with every dollar you spend on food and beverages, you will receive a dollar in game play credits. Wednesday nights will be Team Night at Champps Americana in the International Plaza. Wednesday night specials include \$9.99 Fajitas and half-priced bottles of wine, not to mention the usual happy hour from 4-7pm and 10pm-close. Thursday nights will be Team Night at the Blue Dog Bistro in Ybor City. Formerly known as Rock-N-Sports, Blue Dog Bistro will be offering food and drink specials, and teams will receive a special discount by presenting their Player VIP Cards.

The NCBA/NCSA Spring Training Showcase would be nothing without our local sponsor support and Player VIP Card participation. Each player competing in the 2012 NCBA/NCSA Spring Training Showcase will receive a Player VIP Card. The Player VIP

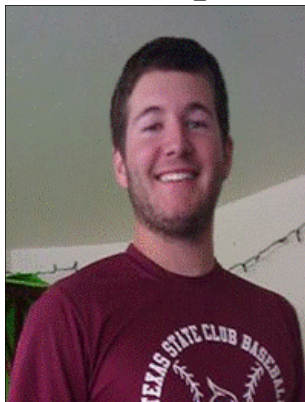
Card includes special discounts and offers from these local sponsors: O'Brien's Irish Pub-Plant City, Circle K/Subway, Hooters, Blue Dog Bistro, The Tilted Kilt, and Champps Americana. Other businesses involved include Papa John's-Plant City, Powerade and 5 Hour Energy.

"I am so excited about our local sponsor involvement this season," said Savannah Harp, Director of Spring Training Operations for CollClubSports. "Team nights are going to be a huge hit this year and the Player VIP Card specials are better than ever!"

For more information about the NCBA/NCSA Spring Training Showcase please visit the website at <http://springtraining.clubbaseball.org/Baseball.asp> or by email Savannah Harp at: Savannah.Harp@CollClubSports.com or by phone at 412.321.8440 x 103.



### CollClubSports Player To Watch



**Name:** Zachary Chirtos  
**School:** Texas State University  
**Position(s):** 2B  
**Scholastic Year:** Senior  
**Major:** Finance  
**Nickname:** Turtle  
**Favorites:**  
**Movie:** The Sandlot  
**Food:** Barbecue  
**Musician:** Incubus  
**Collegiate Baseball Memory:**  
 2011 NCBA DII World Series

*Zach is a senior second basemen and coach for the Texas State Bobcats. After years of disappointment, Chirtos turned the program around last season, leading Texas State to the NCBA Division II World Series in Johnstown, PA. After their success last year, Texas State has been promoted to Division I, where they currently boast a 5-1 overall record.*

*For years Texas State Club Baseball had been very disorganized and forfeited many of their games. As President, how were you able to turn the program around?*

*I turned the program around by having dedication and hard work to put Texas State back on the map. I came in as a freshman and saw the whole club go to the dumps. Seeing that first hand really inspired me to turn our club around and just wanted to run with it and do a whole 360. There is a lot of work behind the*

*scenes that many of the players don't realize, nor did I taking on the task, and can go unappreciated, but having the drive to make a name for myself, and to represent Texas State was enough for me to do all the little things necessary to get our program back on the right track. It took some time management juggling school and the baseball paperwork, but Ryan Norris was a huge help from letting me know deadlines and anything I needed to turn in.*

**Talk about your experience at the DII World Series last year, the first in your program's history:**

*As mentioned above, the DII World Series in Johnstown was awesome. The entire experience from scrapping up money from anyone we could to get there, waiting hours in the airport terminal for everyone's planes to arrive, the baseball, the stadium, the crazy announcer guy, the directors, the other teams and The Alibi (Some of you may know about the Alibi). We didn't play our best series, but the first game vs. the favorite Penn State which we fell short was one of the best games for sure, with all of the nerves and crowd watching was quite an experience. The odds were definitely stacked against us too, especially since only 14 of our players were able to make it, so we were lacking in players. But the entire atmosphere of the whole World Series was great and looking forward to a chance at*

*the DI World Series this year to allow all of our new players to experience the same thing I did last year.*

**After such a successful year last year, your team has been moved up to Division I. What are the biggest differences between DI and DII?**

*The main difference I have seen so far is the amount of depth many of the other teams carry and the competition. Many of the teams are carrying over 25 guys and actually have coaches as well. Our team is player run and we don't have quite the depth as some of the other schools but we will still handle our business on the field. The competition is better since there are more students at the bigger name schools, and more talent to pick from. Also, talking with some of the other teams, their dues are extremely higher and play more baseball games than we do. More games does come at a cost, so we may be scheduling more games in the future to come and raising some dues (Sorry players).*

**What is your outlook for your team this season? What are your goals?**

*Our outlook for this season is to win our conference, win regional's and return to the World Series. We went unnoticed last year flying below the radar until late in the season, so I expect the same thing and look forward to surprising some people again.*

## NCFA ANNUAL LEAGUE MEETING A SUCCESS; 2012 RULEBOOK RELEASED

The 2012 NCFA League Meeting was held at the NCFA headquarters in Pittsburgh, PA on Saturday, January 28th. There were 37 people in attendance, representing 13 different schools. This was significant growth from the previous year, which saw 19 people attend from nine different schools. Teams in attendance at the 2012 meeting included: Miami (OH), VCU, Radford, Univ. of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), Robert Morris (IL), UNC, Longwood, UM-Flint, Wright State, Ohio State, OC Tech, George Mason, and Coppin State.

"I was very pleased with the turn out of this year's meeting," said NCFA President Sandy Sanderson. "The increase in the number of attendees shows that those in charge have a passion for the NCFA and want to have an influence in how it progresses into the future. However, what I liked most about this meeting was that it seemed readily apparent that there was an aura of teamwork in the air. People seemed to want to work together to make the league better as opposed to butting heads over issues like last year."

Mid-Atlantic Regional Director Chris Girardi agreed with Sanderson's sentiments. "Most of the football teams understood that progress requires some sort of sacrifice," Girardi explained. "Most teams were willing to accept rules and that might hinder them somewhat, for the sake of making the league more legitimate and secure. They understood that the desires of the conference outweighed the desires of their team alone. Therefore, the overall mentality going into this thing was far better than last years. People wanted progress and understood that it would not happen without cooperation."

The meeting began with a presentation by the NCFA, which recapped the previous season, previewed the upcoming season, provided information on all league sponsors, and announced Salem, Virginia as the site for the 2012 NCFA National Championship Bowl Game. Two of the highlights of the presentation came when NCFA President Sandy Sanderson and South Atlantic Regional Director Derek Lair each presented their own proposals for a power-ranking system for the NCFA to possibly adopt in the future.

The most important aspect of the meeting came after the presentation when the teams chimed in with their suggestions for changes to the NCFA rules. All suggestions brought forward were voted upon by the teams in attendance, and each item that passed was included on the 2012 NCFA voting ballot. The voting ballot was then sent out to all NCFA member teams, and each team received exactly one vote. Once the votes were counted, the following rule changes were made to the 2012 NCFA rulebook:

- *The credit requirement for players to be eligible was increased from 3 to 6.*
- *The maximum number of faculty/staff members allowed on a roster was set at 5.*
- *The maximum number of players on a roster was decreased from 80 to 60.*
- *The 2013 National Championship game was moved from the weekend prior to Thanksgiving to the 2nd weekend after Thanksgiving.*
- *The official NCFA rankings will be determined by a power rankings system that incorporates the NCFA coaches' poll.*
- *Any cancellation/forfeit with less than six days notice will result in automatic probation.*



Attendees look on as NCFA President Sandy Sanderson presents the NCFA League Meeting Presentation.

"I thought that the meeting was very productive," said Miami (OH) President Eric Kenter. "It is always nice to see the perspective of some of the issues from the viewpoints of other teams who may be running their club under different circumstances than ours whether it be financial, school size, length of their existence, etc. In addition to this I feel the annual meeting is a great way to network with other teams and talk about what works for them and even talk about the possibility of playing them in the near future."

The league meeting presentation and the 2012 NCFA rulebook can all be found at [www.NCFAfootball.org](http://www.NCFAfootball.org).



### NCBA DI Week 13 Top 20 :

1. East Carolina University (17)
2. Colorado State Univ. (1)
3. University of Arizona
4. Florida State University
5. Clemson University
6. UC Santa Barbara
7. Texas A&M University
8. North Carolina State University
9. University of Massachusetts
10. Texas Tech University
11. University of Iowa
12. University of Georgia
13. Western Washington University
14. Penn State University
15. University of Florida
16. University of Texas
17. UC - San Diego
18. Appalachian State University
19. University of Maryland
20. University of No. Colorado



### NCBA DII Week 14 Top 15 :

1. Penn State University (DII) (13)
2. University of Wisconsin (DII)
3. Hofstra University (1)
4. Longwood University
5. University of Wyoming
6. East Carolina University (DII)
7. The College of William & Mary
- T-8. Northeastern University
- T-8. SUNY Binghamton
10. Rice University
11. University of Maryland (DII)
12. Kennesaw State University
13. West Virginia University
14. Furman University
15. Fordham University



### NCSA March Top 15 :

1. Florida State University (9)
2. University of Florida (1)
3. Virginia Tech (2)
4. University of Illinois
5. Miami University
6. University of Antelope Valley
- T-7. Grand Valley State University
- T-7. University of Connecticut
9. Kennesaw State University
10. East Carolina University
11. SUNY Cortland
12. Penn State University
13. University of Kansas
- T-14. Naval Academy
- T-14. University of Delaware

### ***CollClubSports Equipment Pass-Along Program***

Does your team have extra equipment you're not using? An old set of catchers gear? Old practice pants? A set of helmets you no longer use? Well, you can donate your extra gear to the CCS Equipment Pass-Along Program and help an Up-Start club team get their program off the ground. Email [Info@CollClubSports.com](mailto:Info@CollClubSports.com) to find out how.