
Spring Preseason Notes



BASEBALL PRESEASON POLLS TAB MARIETTA AND OTTERBEIN AS TOP-25 TEAMS

Twinsburg, OH - According to the *Collegiate Baseball Newspaper* preseason baseball poll, Marietta was selected at the number-eight spot, while Otterbein came in at 15. According to the preseason *Baseball America* poll, Marietta was ranked third.



Marietta begins the 2006 campaign hoping to equal what the Etta Express did in 1986, capture the school's last NCAA Baseball title. This year's team will feature five seniors and 11 total letterwinners, including senior hurler **Mike DeMark (Jeanette, PA/Penn-Trafford)**, the 2005 OAC Kent Tekulve Pitcher-of-the-Year. DeMark finished last year's campaign with a 10-0-2 mark and 76 strikeouts. Joining DeMark will be junior pitcher **Mike Eisenberg (Coral Gables, FL/Bullis)**, junior utility player **Ryan Eschbaugh (Marietta)**, senior infielder **Justin Steranka (Pittsburg, PA/Mt. Lebanon)**, senior catcher **Lee Guerrera (Wolcott, CT)**, junior infielder **Ryan Belanger (Coldwater, MI)**, sophomore infielder **Zack Welch (Marietta/Warren Local)**, senior outfielder **Chris Hendricks (Little Hocking/Warren Local)** and senior utility player **Jarrold Klausman (Altoona, PA)**.

Otterbein, the 2005 OAC Tournament champions, will look to the leadership of junior 1B/P **Bobby Wright (Grove City/Westland)** and sophomore hurler **Dan Remenowsky (Cincinnati/Moeller)**. The Cardinals finished last year in the NCAA "Sweet 16". Other top returners for the Cards, include sophomore shortstop **Ben Titus (Grove City)**, sophomore pitcher **Doug Stevens (Newark/Newark Catholic)** and sophomore outfielder **Pat Connor (Columbus/Bishop Watterson)**.

Baseball Notes

ONU Baseball Notes -- Ohio Northern opened its 2006 season with a 3-4 record in Port Charlotte, Fla. ... Junior **Scott Bruckman (Huber Heights/Chaminade-Julienne)** led ONU on the mound, picking up a complete game win over Dubuque on Tuesday and then earning a save against Loras on Friday. Bruckman did not allow an earned run in his combined 10 innings of work ... Junior **Josh Conkey (McDonald/Youngstown Ursuline)** led the Polar Bears at the plate on the trip. In seven games last week, Conkey hit .435 (10-for-23) with five RBI, two doubles and a triple ... Freshman **Mike Henfling (Richmond Heights)** went a combined 5-for-6 in ONU's doubleheader split with Loras on Friday ... Junior **Robby Stoffer (Coshocton)** was a perfect 7-for-7 in stolen bases last week. As a team, ONU stole 21 bases out of 34 total attempts on the trip ... Senior **Tom Yeager (Clearfield, PA)** hit .333 (6-for-18) on the week. Yeager had a home and run a double and drove in three RBIs. Yeager and Stoffer tied for the team lead with five runs scored apiece ... Junior **Jeff Salay (Brecksville/Brecksville-Broadview Heights)** was solid in his start against Dubuque. Salay earned the win by going six innings, allowing three runs on five hits with five strikeouts ... Sophomore **Chad Sule (Clayton/Northmont)** posted a 2.45 ERA in his two appearances on the trip. Sule earned his first career save in ONU's second-game win over Dubuque.

MOUNT UNION AND MUSKINGUM RANKED IN THE NFCA PRESEASON POLL

Twinsburg, OH - According to the *National Fastpitch Coaches Association (AFCA)* preseason softball poll, Muskingum was fourth and Mount Union was 11th. Mount Union finished second in both the OAC regular-season and tournament a year ago, while the Fighting Muskies ended their 2005 season with their third straight stop in the NCAA Division III World Series.

Mount Union returns seven everyday starting and an experienced pitching staff in 2006. The pitching corps will be led by sophomore **Lindsey Royer (Louisville/Marlington)**, who earned the OAC John Wells Pitcher-of-the-Year and Rookie-of-the-Year honors. Also returning to the mound are seniors **Ashley Hochstetler (Orrville)** and **Ashley Ault (Mineral Ridge)**. Junior **Crystal Thomas (Akron/Walsh Jesuit)** returns behind the plate, while juniors **Amanda Yackmack (Mantua/Twinsburg)**, **Cortney Frederick (Vermilion)** and **Carissa Prince (Cortland/Lakeview)** and sophomore **Erin Duignan (North Canton/Green)** return in the field.

The Muskies, under the all-time winningest coach in NCAA Division III history, **Donna Newberry**, return three All-Americans from last year's squad that finished 42-7. Senior pitcher **Erica Hoyt (Tipp City/Bethel)**, a three-time All-American and two-time OAC Pitcher-of-the-Year, will be back to lead the pitching corps. Juniors, **Kim Tackett (Canal Winchester/Whitehall Yearling)** and **Amy Iammarino (Mantua/Crestwood)**, are back after earning All-America honors for the first time in their careers. Also returning for the Muskies are seniors **Lindsay Bramhall (Vandalia/Butler)**, **Elaine Haubner (Hamilton/Ross)**, **Julianne Johnston (Coshocton/Ridgewood)** and **Jessica Rowland (Warren/Champion)**; junior's **Ashley Carpenter (Senecaville/Meadowbrook)** and **Allie Scheetz (Columbus/Worthington Kilbourne)**; and sophomores **Jamie Echelberger (Ashland/Hillsdale)** and **Kari Hoying (Russia/Russia Local)**.