

Hyatt Named to Stopper of Year Watch List

Written by Mike Flynn
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Appalachian State University closer Nathan Hyatt (Brevard, N.C./Brevard) is one of 45 pitchers nationwide that has been named to the official watch list for the 2012 National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) Stopper of the Year award, the NCBWA announced on Thursday. In his first season in the closer's role, Hyatt has been perfect in eight save opportunities with a 4.50 ERA and .259 opponents' batting average in

14 appearances. Aside from unusually sub-par performances in wins over Davidson (March 11) and The Citadel (March 18), the right-handed junior has been nearly untouchable, allowing just one run (0.71 ERA) on seven hits (.152 opp. BA) and striking out 17 over 12 appearances. He turned in perhaps his most dominating showing of the season last Friday at Georgia Southern, when he struck out all four batters that he faced in the ninth inning (one reached on a wild pitch) to preserve the Mountaineers' 5-1 victory.

Hyatt's eight saves are tied for 16th nationally. The eight saves are also already good for a tie for fourth in Appalachian single-season history and tied for seventh in the program's career annals. The 45 pitchers on the official watch list were selected from 90 nominations received by the NCBWA. From the list, five finalists will be selected on June 6. The winner will be announced during the 2012 College World Series, which is set for June 15-26 in Omaha, Neb. Hyatt and the first-place Mountaineers return to action on Friday when they open a three-game Southern Conference series versus Furman at ASU's Beaver Field at Jim and Bettie Smith Stadium. First pitch is slated for 6 p.m.

Photo Courtesy: Nathan Hyatt, ASU Athletics