

Callaway On Wallace Award Watch List

Written by Mike Flynn
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Appalachian State University baseball's Will Callaway (Greenville, S.C./Eastside) is one of just 14 players on the latest official watch list for the Brooks Wallace Award, which is presented to college baseball's top shortstop, the College Baseball Hall of Fame announced on Sunday. Callaway is a Wallace Award candidate for the second-straight year after hitting .350 with 12 doubles, four home runs, 37 RBI, 40 runs scored and 13 stolen bases in 47 regular-season games.

After a relatively slow start to the season, Callaway has been one of the nation's best players over the second half of the campaign, regardless of position. Since April 2, he has hit safely in 25-straight games and is batting a whopping .413 (45-for-109) with 26 RBI, 24 runs scored, a .587 slugging percentage and 14 multi-hit games during that stretch. The 25-game hitting streak is tied for the second-longest in Appalachian State history and is just two games shy of the school record of 27, set by Rand Smith in 2009.

Callaway was one of 25 finalists for the Wallace Award last season, when he hit .320 with 12 doubles, four home runs and 53 RBI to help lead Appalachian to a Southern Conference championship, the championship round of the NCAA Charlottesville Regional and within three wins of its first-ever College World Series.

The senior is one of only five 2013 Wallace Award candidates that hails from outside of NCAA Division I's six "power conferences" (ACC, Big East, Big Ten, Big XII, Pac 12 and SEC). The Southern Conference is the lone "mid-major" conference with multiple candidates (Western Carolina's Aaron Attaway is also on the watch list).

The 2013 Brooks Wallace Award, sponsored by Mizuno, will be presented during the College Baseball Hall of Fame's Night of Champions on June 29 in Lubbock, Texas.

Callaway and the fifth-seeded Mountaineers open the 2013 Southern Conference Tournament on Wednesday when they take on No. 4-seeded The Citadel at 10 a.m. The SoCon Tournament is being held at Fluor Field in Callaway's hometown of Greenville, S.C.

2013 BROOKS WALLACE AWARD WATCH LIST

J.J. Altobelli (Oregon)

Aaron Attaway (Western Carolina)

Michael Basil (Indiana)

Alex Bregman (LSU)

Will Callaway (Appalachian State)

Branden Cogswell (Virginia)

Vince Conde (Vanderbilt)

Hunter Dozier (Stephen F. Austin)

Austin Fisher (Kansas State)

Adam Frazier (Mississippi State)

Tyler Shryock (Cal State Bakersfield)

Trea Turner (NC State)

Pat Valaika (UCLA)

Tyler Vaughn (Troy)

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Photo Courtesy: Will Callaway, ASU Athletics