



## 2014 AVCA Division I-II All-Americans Announced

LEXINGTON, Ky. (April 24, 2014) - The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) is proud to announce its 24th annual AVCA Division I-II Men's All-America Teams. The awards will be presented at the NCAA Men's Volleyball Championship Banquet on the campus of Loyola-Chicago on Wednesday, April 30, 2014.

Stanford leads the way placing three athletes in the All-American teams. Lewis, Pepperdine, UC Irvine and USC each have two players earn AVCA All-American honors.

Highlighting this year's class with four consecutive AVCA All-American recognitions is BYU's Taylor Sander, who was an AVCA Second-Team All-American in 2011 then went on to make the first team for three consecutive seasons. UC Irvine's Michael Brinkley, Stanford's Brian Cook, Long Beach State's Taylor Crabb and UCLA's Gonzalo Quiroga are the others to repeat as AVCA First-Team All-Americans. USC's Micah Christenson and Henry Cassiday, Lewis' Geoff Powell and BJ Boldog, Stanford's Steven Irvin and Pepperdine's Matt West are the others who have garnered All-American honors a previous year.

The 2014 selections were made by the AVCA Division I-II Men's Volleyball All-America Committee: chairperson Mark Pavlik (Penn State); Brian Baise (Harvard); Sam Shweisky (Princeton); Wes Schneider (Cal Baptist); Kevin Ring (UC San Diego); John Kosty (Stanford); Pete Hanson (Ohio State), Dan Friend (Lewis); Jeremy Price (Grand Canyon); David Heller (Mount Olive).

### AVCA Division I-II Men's First-Team All-America

Player	Institution	Pos.	Year	Height	Hometown
Taylor Averill	University of Hawai'i	MB	RS- Jr.	6'7	San Jose, CA
Michael Brinkley*	UC Irvine	L	Jr.	5'10	Huntington Beach, CA
Micah Christenson%	University of Southern California	S	Jr.	6'6	Honolulu, HI
Brian Cook*	Stanford University	OH	Sr.	6'5	Santa Cruz, CA
Taylor Crabb*	Long Beach State University	OH	Sr.	6'0	Honolulu, HI
Thomas Jaeschke	Loyola University Chicago	OH	So.	6'6	Wheaton, IL
Geoff Powell+	Lewis University	OH	RS- Jr.	6'4	Claremont, CA
Gonzalo Quiroga*	UCLA	OH	Sr.	6'4	San Juan, Argentina
Aaron Russell	Penn State University	OH	Jr.	6'9	Ellicott City, MD
Taylor Sander!^*	Brigham Young University	OH	Sr.	6'4	Huntington Beach, CA

**AVCA Division I-II Men's Second-Team All-America**

Player	Institution	Position	Year	Height	Hometown
BJ Boldog%+	Lewis University	S	RS- Sr.	6'4	Palatine, IL
Henry Cassidy%	University of Southern California	L	Sr.	6'3	Honolulu, HI
Driss Guessous	Ohio State University	MB	RS-Fr.	6'8	Pasadena, CA
Steven Irvin+	Stanford University	OH	Sr.	6'5	Pacific Palisades, CA
Scott Kevorken	UC Irvine	MB	Sr.	6'9	Westlake Village, CA
Matt Leske	Ball State University	MB	Sr.	6'7	Highwood, IL
Jonah Seif	UC Santa Barbara	S	So.	6'8	Thousand Oaks, CA
James Shaw	Stanford University	S	So.	6'8	Woodside, CA
Josh Taylor	Pepperdine University	OH	Jr.	6'7	Honolulu, HI
Matt West*	Pepperdine University	S	Jr.	6'5	Seattle, WA

**AVCA Division I-II Men's National Player of the Year:** Announced at NCAA Championship Banquet on April 30th.

**AVCA Division I-II Men's Newcomer of the Year:** Driss Guessous, Ohio State, MB

\* - 2013 AVCA Division I-II Men's First-Team All-America selection

+ - 2013 AVCA Division I-II Men's Second-Team All-America selection

^ - 2012 AVCA Division I-II Men's First-Team All-America selection

% - 2012 AVCA Division I-II Men's Second-Team All-America selection

\$ - 2011 AVCA Division I-II Men's First-Team All-American selection

! - 2011 AVCA Division I-II Men's Second-Team All-America selection

**AVCA Division I-II Honorable Mention**

Player	Institution	Position	Year	Height	Hometown
Cody Caldwell	Loyola University Chicago	OH	Jr.	6'6	Newport Beach, CA
Angel Dache	University of Mount Olive	OH	Fr.	6'2	La Havana, Cuba
Nick Goodell	Penn State University	Opp	RS-Jr.	6'4	Ambridge, PA
Conrad Kaminski	Stanford University	MB	So.	6'7	New Berlin, WI
Cody Kessel	Princeton University	Opp	Jr.	6'5	Colorado Springs, CO
Mike Michelau	Erskine College	OH	So.	6'3	Trevor, WI
Nicholas Olson	Loyola University Chicago	MB	So.	6'10	New Berlin, WI

Robart Page	UCLA	OH	Sr.	7'0	Rochester, NY
Greg Petty	Lewis University	OH	Jr.	6'6	Downers Grove, IL
Spencer Rowe	UCLA	Opp	Sr.	6'6	Trabuco Canyon, CA
Brook Sedore	University of Hawaii	Opp	Jr.	6'5	Grand Prairie, Alberta
Andrew Sellan	IPFW	Opp	So.	6'5	Westerville, OH
Joseph Smalzer	Loyola University Chicago	Opp	RS- Sr.	6'8	Chicago, IL
Matt Tarantino	Pepperdine University	MB	RS-So.	6'8	Van Nuys, CA
DJ White	Harvard University	OH	Jr.	6'5	Hermosa Beach, CA
Lucas Yoder	University of Southern California	OH	Fr.	6'4	San Clemente, CA
Caleb Zimmick	Harvard University	MB	Jr.	6'9	Middleton, WI

### AVCA Division I-II First-Team All-America

**Taylor Averill**, a 6-7 middle blocker for the University of Hawai'i, is a redshirt-junior from San Jose, Calif. Averill's .477 hitting percentage places him second in the highly competitive MPSF Conference and his 1.22 blocks per set has him in the top-5. He was even better in his MPSF Conference matches, hitting at a .482 clip. Averill earns AVCA All-American accolades for the first time.

**Michael Brinkley**, a 5-10 libero for UC Irvine, is a junior from Huntington Beach, Calif. As one of the top defensive players in the game, he has been a vital part of the Anteaters success over the last three years. In 2014, his 2.52 digs per set has him third in the conference recording double-digit digs 13 times. He is now second in program history in career digs, and has made the All-MPSF First-Team for the second consecutive season. Brinkley is now a two-time AVCA First-Team All-American.

**Micah Christenson**, a 6-6 setter for the University of Southern California, is a junior from Honolulu, Hawai'i. Christenson is unquestionably one of the most talented collegiate setters in recent memory, even starting on the U.S. Men's National Team in key tournaments in 2013. He leads the nation in assists per set (11.62) and 15<sup>th</sup> in digs per set (2.33). His 0.29 aces per set ranks him ninth in MPSF conference matches. This is Christenson's second AVCA All-America honor after making the second team in 2012.

**Brian Cook**, a 6-5 outside hitter for Stanford University, is a senior from Santa Cruz, Calif. Cook leads the Cardinal into the MPSF Semifinals as one of the hottest teams in the nation, currently riding a 12-match winning streak. He has led the team in kills 19 times, including last weekend's game against UC Irvine where he finished with 21 kills and nine digs, narrowly missing his sixth double-double of the year. Cook is an AVCA First-Team All-American for the second consecutive year.

**Taylor Crabb**, a 6-0 outside hitter for Long Beach State University, is a senior from Honolulu, Hawai'i. There are few players that are as talented as Crabb in so many facets of the game. His 4.80 kills per set leads the country while ranking nationally in hitting percentage (.371) and finishing in the top-10 in the MPSF in digs per set (2.16) and points per set (5.33). The 2013 AVCA Player of the Year has also been remarkably consistent, notching double-digit kill figures in all 28 matches with 10 double-doubles. Crabb is a back-to-back AVCA First-Team All-American.

**Thomas Jaeschke**, a 6-6 outside hitter for Loyola-Chicago, is a sophomore from Wheaton, Ill. The 2014 Midwestern Intercollegiate Volleyball Association Player of the Year has led his Ramblers to a No. 1 ranking in the latest AVCA Coaches Poll, a spot they've held since February 10<sup>th</sup>. Ranking nationally in kills per set (3.69), he was also incredibly efficient hitting nearly .400 in the 2014 campaign. Defensively, his 2.13 digs per set is first on the Ramblers. This is Jaeschke's first AVCA All-American honor.

**Geoff Powell**, a 6-4 outside hitter for Lewis University, is a redshirt-junior from Claremont, Calif. Leading the Flyers into the MIVA Semifinals where they will take on Ball State, Powell is amongst the best in the country (second in the MIVA) averaging 3.86 kills per set on .377 hitting. In the conference quarterfinals against Grand Canyon, Powell smashed a team-leading 20 points with 19 kills and hit an astounding .548 in just three sets. Powell was an AVCA Second-Team All-American last year, making this his second AA honor.

**Gonzalo Quiroga**, a 6-4 outside hitter for UCLA, is a senior from San Juan, Argentina. Quiroga will go down as one of the greatest servers in program history, and in 2014 averages 0.50 aces per set. He's recorded three or more aces on nine separate occasions this season. However, he's more than just an elite server ranking eighth in the MPSF in kills per set (3.70), 15<sup>th</sup> in digs per set (1.78) and fourth in points per set (4.50). This marks Quiroga's second consecutive AVCA First-Team All-American award.

**Aaron Russell**, a 6-9 outside hitter for Penn State University, is a junior from Ellicott City, Md. Russell became the first Nittany Lion since Joe Sunder (2011-12) to earn back-to-back EIVA Player of the Year honors. He's currently second nationally averaging 0.67 aces per set, just 0.02 behind Loyola-Chicago's Joseph Smalzer. In addition to leading the EIVA in aces, he also leads the conference in kills per set (3.95) to accompany his 1.92 digs per set average. Russell is a first-time AVCA All-American.

**Taylor Sander**, a 6-4 outside hitter for Brigham Young University, is a senior from Huntington Beach, Calif. Owing one of the most prolific careers in men's volleyball, Sander is just the 11<sup>th</sup> player in DI-II Men's history to be selected a four-time AVCA All-American. He's the first player to win back-to-back MPSF Player of the Year awards since Pepperdine's George Roumain in 1998 and 1999. In 2014, he led his Cougars to an MPSF regular season title en route to setting the BYU rally-scoring era kills record with 1,685 and service aces with 175.

#### **AVCA Division I-II Second-Team All-America**

**BJ Boldog**, a 6-4 setter for Lewis University, is a redshirt-senior from Pallatine, Ill. Earlier this year, Boldog received his third-straight All-MIVA First Team honor. He also became the Flyers assist leader during the rally-scoring era and is third all-time with over 2,400 career assists. He led the Flyers to a .338 hitting percentage (1,281 K, 410 E, 2,575 TA), good enough for second in the country. That percentage is the highest since the 2003 squad hit .380. In regular season play, Boldog averaged 10.22 assists, 0.94 digs and 0.84 blocks-per-set, the best of any MIVA setter this season. He was previously named as an AVCA Second-Team All-American in both 2012 and 2013.

**Henry Cassidy**, a 6-3 outside hitter for the University of Southern California, is a senior from Honolulu, Hawaii. Entering postseason play, Cassidy ranked second nationally in digs (3.04, first in the MPSF). He has a team-best 295 digs. His 21 digs against Pepperdine earlier this year set a USC rally scoring era match record. His 297 digs in 2014 are 18 shy of tying the school record. He has recorded double figures in digs a school-record 17 times in 2014, including seven times with at least 15 digs. He was honored as an AVCA Second-Team All-American in 2012.

**Driss Guessous**, a 6-8 middle blocker for Ohio State University, is a redshirt freshman from Pasadena, Calif. Earlier this year, Guessous became the third Buckeye to be named MIVA Freshman of the Year since 2005. Guessous led the conference throughout the entire season with a .446 hitting percentage. He also ranked seventh with 0.90 blocks per set. His defensive efforts earned him MIVA Defensive Player of the Week recognition earlier this season (Feb. 11) after racking up 11 blocks for a 1.38 per set average against Penn State and Saint Francis.

**Steve Irvin**, a 6-5 outside hitter for Stanford University, is a senior from Pacific Palisades, Calif. Irvin ranked second on the squad with 3.27 kills and 3.80 points per set, and hit over .300 for the first time in his career (.312). Both marks ranked in the top-15 in the MPSF. He also led the team with 0.31 aces per set, good for seventh in the conference. Irvin was also tabbed as an AVCA Second-Team All-American in 2013.

**Scott Kevorken**, a 6-9 middle blocker for UC Irvine, is a senior from Westlake Village, Calif. In MPSF matches, he ranked second in hitting percentage with a .480 mark. Kevorken hit over .600 eight times this season, including a .875 performance against UC San Diego on April 4. He recorded a season-high six block assists twice this year and is currently ranked fifth in UCI career solo blocks and seventh in block assists and total blocks. Kevorken was named second team All-MPSF in 2013 and was named to the MPSF All-Freshman team in 2011.

**Matt Leske**, a 6-7 middle blocker for Ball State University, is a senior from Highwood, Ill. Earlier this year, Leske earned First Team All-MIVA honors for the first time in his career. The senior has netted double-digit blocks three times this season and has tallied at least seven blocks 12 times this season. He also ranks fifth in Ball State's 51 year history in career blocks per set average at 1.46. He is eighth in Ball State history in career total blocks and seventh in career assisted blocks.

**Jonah Seif**, a 6-8 setter for the UC Santa Barbara, is a sophomore from Thousand Oaks, Calif. Seif built upon a successful 2013 season, which saw him garner All-Freshman and All-MPSF Honorable Mention honors. Seif became the first UCSB setter to pick up All-Conference First Team honors since 1996. In his second year as the catalyst of the UCSB offense, Seif recorded another 1,000 assist season while rounding out the other areas of his game, ranking at or near the top among MPSF setters in kills (54), aces (29), digs (169), and blocks (93). His 10.60 assist per set average was among the best in the conference.

**James Shaw**, a 6-8 setter for Stanford University, is a sophomore from Woodside, Calif. Shaw, who earned All-MPSF honorable mention and freshman team accolades last season, guided the Cardinal offense to an MPSF-best .334 team hitting percentage, one of the best in the country. He averages 10.78 assists per set, to go with 1.02 kills and 1.51 digs per set. Earlier this season he was named the MPSF and Sports Imports/AVCA National Player of the Week after the Cardinal knocked off Pepperdine and USC on the road.

**Josh Taylor**, a 6-7 outside hitter for Pepperdine University, is a junior from Honolulu, Hawaii. Taylor was voted to the All-MPSF First Team for the first time in his career after picking up second team honors in 2013. The junior outside hitter has been the Waves' go-to offensive option all season long and rightfully so. He averaged 4.09 kills per set - third in the conference and sixth in the NCAA - and recently became just the 18th player in program history to reach the 1,000 kills milestone.

**Matt West**, a 6-5 setter for Pepperdine University, is a junior from Seattle, Wash. Earlier this year, West made his second-straight appearance on the All-MPSF First Team. The junior, a top-three finalist for the Lloy Ball Award (which honors the nation's best setter), he's currently third in the MPSF with an assists average of 11.09. He also picked up 2.14 digs per set. He is just one of six players in program history to surpass 3,000 career assists. West was named as an AVCA First-Team All-American in 2013.

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#### **About AVCA**

The AVCA, with its headquarters in Lexington, Ky., is managed by Associations International. The mission of the AVCA is to develop the sport of volleyball and its coaches. With a membership of over 6,000 and counting, the AVCA provides a professional network for those individuals and companies dedicated to enhancing and promoting the sport. Members include collegiate, high school, club, youth and Olympic coaches, as well as volleyball club directors. The AVCA provides education to volleyball coaches, recognition of elite players and coaches, promotion of volleyball competitions throughout the world, and networking opportunities for volleyball products and services providers. Further information is available at [www.avca.org](http://www.avca.org).