

**For Immediate Release**

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## **BIG TEN ANNOUNCES ALL-BIG TEN BASEBALL TEAMS AND INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**

*Michigan State's Boss, Holm and Wunderlich and Ohio State's Dezse Claim Top Conference Honors*

**PARK RIDGE, Ill.** – After winning a share of its first Big Ten Championship since 1979, Michigan State earned three conference individual awards as first baseman **Jeff Holm** was named Player of the Year, **Kurt Wunderlich** was named Pitcher of the Year and **Jake Boss Jr.** was named Coach of the Year. Ohio State's **Josh Dezse** was named the conference's Freshman of the Year.

Holm becomes just the second Spartan in history and the first since Bob Malek in 2002 to be named the Big Ten's top player. The senior ranks second in the conference with a .379 average and a .607 slugging percentage. Holm leads the conference with 61 RBI and also ranks among the Big Ten's leaders in on-base percentage (.443), runs scored (49), hits (80) and is tied for second with nine home runs.

Wunderlich is the first Michigan State player to collect Pitcher of the Year accolades. The senior leads the Big Ten with nine wins this season and boasts a 3.36 overall ERA. The right-hander picked up his first career complete-game shutout in the final home start of his career last Saturday, helping the Spartans to their first conference title in 32 years.

Boss is the second Spartan to be named Big Ten Coach of the Year, following Tom Smith who earned the accolades in 1988 and 1992. Boss led Michigan State to the program's fourth Big Ten Championship and first since 1979. The Spartans also earned a bid to the 2011 Big Ten Baseball Tournament for the second time in three years and enter the event with a 34-19 overall record.

Dezse becomes the 10th player in Ohio State history to collect Freshman of the Year honors and the first since J.B. Shuck in 2006. The utility player was named Big Ten Freshman of the Week on four occasions during the season. He led his team with a .341 average in all games and a .388 mark during conference play. He also compiled a 4-1 record over 24 pitching appearances, including a 2-0 mark in 12 Big Ten outings.

Holm and Wunderlich are both first-team All-Big Ten selections and are joined by teammates **Ryan Jones** (2B), **Torsten Boss** (3B), **Brandon Eckerle** (OF) and **Tony Bucciferro** (SP). Also on the first team are Indiana's **Joey DeNato** (SP) and **Alex Dickerson** (DH), Minnesota's **Scott Matyas** (RP) and **AJ Pettersen** (SS), Penn State's **Sean Deegan** (OF) and Purdue's **Kevin Plawecki** (C) and **Barrett Serrato** (OF). Eckerle and Deegan are unanimous selections.

The Big Ten also announced the 11 Sportsmanship Award honorees from each institution. The student-athletes chosen are individuals who have distinguished themselves through sportsmanship and ethical behavior. These student-athletes must also be in good academic standing and have demonstrated good citizenship outside of the sports-competition setting.

The complete list of All-Big Ten teams and award winners can be found below.

**ALL-BIG TEN FIRST TEAM**

C – Kevin Plawecki, PUR  
 1B – Jeff Holm, MSU  
 2B – Ryan Jones, MSU  
 SS – AJ Pettersen, MINN  
 3B – Torsten Boss, MSU  
 OF – BRANDON ECKERLE, MSU  
 OF – SEAN DEEGAN, PSU  
 OF – Barrett Serrato, PUR  
 DH – Alex Dickerson, IND  
 SP – Joey DeNato, IND  
 SP – Tony Bucciferro, MSU  
 SP – Kurt Wunderlich, MSU  
 RP – Scott Matyas, MINN

**ALL-BIG TEN SECOND TEAM**

C – Adam Davis, ILL  
 1B – Josh Dezse, OSU  
 2B – Pete Cappetta, ILL  
 SS – Josh Parr, ILL  
 3B – Chris Lashmet, NU  
 OF – Patrick Biondi, MICH  
 OF – Michael O’Neill, MICH  
 OF – Tyler Spillner, PUR  
 DH – Paul Snieder, NU  
 SP – Jarred Hippen, IOWA  
 SP – Drew Rucinski, OSU  
 SP – Steven Hill, PSU  
 RP – Nick Wittgren, PUR

**ALL-BIG TEN THIRD TEAM\***

C – Tyson Blaser, IOWA  
 1B – Nick O’Shea, MINN  
 2B – Micah Johnson, IND  
 SS – Trevor Stevens, NU  
 3B – Cameron Perkins, PUR  
 OF – Willie Argo, ILL  
 OF – Casey McMurray, ILL  
 OF – Trevor Willis, IOWA  
 OF – Stephen Talbott, PUR  
 DH – Jared Hook, MSU  
 SP – Brandon Sinnery, MICH  
 SP – TJ Oakes, MINN  
 SP – John Walter, PSU  
 RP – Wes Braun, ILL  
 RP – Tony Wieber, MSU

Unanimous honorees in ALL CAPS

\* - Additional honorees due to tie

**ALL-BIG TEN FRESHMAN TEAM**

C – Joel Fisher, MSU  
 1B – JOSH DEZSE, OSU  
 2B – KYLE RUCHIM, NU  
 SS – Thomas Lindauer, ILL  
 3B – DUSTIN DeMUTH, IND  
 OF – Taylor Zeutenhorst, IOWA  
 OF – MICHAEL O’NEILL, MICH  
 OF – Tim Wetzel, OSU  
 DH – Jack Livingston, NU  
 SP – JOEY DeNATO, IND  
 SP – David Garner, MSU  
 SP – GREG GREVE, OSU  
 RP – Ryan Halstead, IND

**SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD HONOREES**

Josh Parr, ILL  
 Brian Lambert, IND  
 Tyson Blaser, IOWA  
 Anthony Toth, MICH  
 Brandon Eckerle, MSU  
 Kyle Geason, MINN  
 Matt Gailey, NU  
 Theron Minium, OSU  
 Bobby Jacobs, PSU  
 David Blount, PUR

**PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

Jeff Holm, MSU

**PITCHER OF THE YEAR**

Kurt Wunderlich, MSU

**FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR**

Josh Dezse, OSU

**COACH OF THE YEAR**

Jake Boss Jr., MSU