



For Immediate Release: May 27, 2004

GONZAGA'S THIBAUT NAMED WCC PLAYER OF THE YEAR; LMU'S CRUZ EARNS THIRD WCC COACH OF THE YEAR HONOR

Gonzaga's Kiel Thibault has been named the WCC Player of the Year, while **Loyola Marymount** sophomore **Stephen Kahn** was tabbed for WCC Pitcher of the Year honors. Thibault becomes the second Zag in three years to earn Player of the Year recognition following Nate Gold, who took home the honor following the 2002 season. Kahn is the first Lion to earn the WCC Pitcher of the Year honor since current major leaguer Billy Traber won the award in 2000.

Thibault led a Gonzaga team that posted a 16-11 mark in conference play and remained in contention for the Coast Division crown until late in the season. The sophomore batted .424 this season, posting the fifth highest single-season batting average in conference history. The Jerome, ID native tied for the conference lead with 87 base hits, falling just four hits short of the Gonzaga single-season hits mark. In conference play, Thibault batted .432 and led the WCC with a .496 on base percentage.

Stephen Kahn helped lead LMU to the Coast Division title and the program's first WCC Championship Series appearance since the 2000 season. He posted a 5-1 record in conference play this season, while registering a 3.88 ERA against WCC opponents. The sophomore struck out 38 WCC batters in 58 innings of work. Kahn's overall ERA of 3.46 ranked second in the conference.

San Diego catcher **Jordan Abruzzo** was named the Freshman of the Year, becoming the third Torero in six seasons to win the honor. The El Cajon, CA native led all WCC freshmen with a .411 batting average in conference play and finished the season second among WCC batters with a .377 overall average. Abruzzo tied for the conference lead with seven homeruns, and drove in a league-best 37 runs during WCC play.

Loyola Marymount Head Coach **Frank Cruz** won his third WCC Coach of the Year award after guiding the Lions their first WCC division title in four years. Cruz skippered LMU to a 20-7 conference mark and an overall record of 32-20-1. He became just the second Lions' coach to reach the 200-win career milestone when LMU defeated UCLA on February 17.

WCC/RAWLINGS ALL-CONFERENCE

2004 BASEBALL TEAM

PLAYER OF THE YEAR:

Kiel Thibault, Gonzaga

PITCHER OF THE YEAR:

Stephen Kahn, Loyola Marymount

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR:

Jordan Abruzzo, San Diego

COACH OF THE YEAR:

Frank Cruz, Loyola Marymount

FIRST TEAM	SCHOOL	POS	YR	HOMETOWN
Jacob Barrack•	Pepperdine	P	SR	Vista, CA
Kyle Collins	San Diego	P	SR	San Jose, CA
Stephen Kahn	Loyola Marymount	P	SO	Anaheim, CA
Kiel Thibault	Gonzaga	C	SO	Jerome, ID
Brent Lewis	Pepperdine	1B	SR	Jackson, TN
David Uribes•	Pepperdine	2B	SO	West Covina, CA
Bobby Carlson	Gonzaga	3B	SO	Woodinville, WA
Jose Ortega	San Diego	SS	SR	Riverside, CA
Tom Caple••	San Diego	OF	SR	San Diego, CA
Ryan Chiarelli	Santa Clara	OF	JR	San Ramon, CA
Joey Prast#	San Diego	OF	SR	Poway, CA
Steve Kleen#	Pepperdine	UT	JR	Menifee, CA
Marshall Bratton	Gonzaga	DH	SR	Wenatchee, WA
•Previous Times an All-WCC First Team Pick				#Unanimous choice

SECOND TEAM

Eric Dworkis	Gonzaga	P	JR	Bellevue, WA
Anthony Rea	Santa Clara	P	JR	Palo Alto, CA
Jeff Stevens	Loyola Marymount	P	SO	Moraga, CA
Aaron Wilson	San Diego	P	SR	Lakeside, CA
Jordan Abruzzo	San Diego	C	FR	El Cajon, CA
Randy Curtis	San Diego	1B	JR	Calabasas, CA
Clint McGill	Loyola Marymount	2B	SR	Fresno, CA
Travis Vettors	Portland	3B	SO	Port Orchard, WA
Armand Gaerlan	San Francisco	SS	SR	Fremont, CA
Joe Frazee	Loyola Marymount	OF	JR	Carlsbad, CA
Josh Hansen•	San Diego	OF	SR	Irvine, CA
Joe Jacobitz•	San Francisco	OF	SR	San Francisco, CA
David Johnson	Gonzaga	OF	SR	Agoura Hills, CA
Michael Thompson	Santa Clara	UT	SO	Mission Viejo, CA
Nic Crosta	Santa Clara	DH	JR	Seattle, WA

HONORABLE MENTION

LOYOLA MARYMOUNT:	James Cooper, Jon Higashi, Billy Lockin, Kyle Mura
PEPPERDINE:	Nick Kliebert, Kea Kometani, Luke Salas, Chad Tracy
SAINT MARY'S:	Delaney Gallagher, Sam Carter
SAN DIEGO:	Keoni Ruth, Freddy Sandoval
SAN FRANCISCO:	Chris Genung, Derek Tate
SANTA CLARA:	Kellan McConnell, Robert Perry, Will Thompson