

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Campbell University's Matt Parrish wins the 2016 Senior CLASS Award® in Baseball

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (June 17, 2016) – Three-time CoSIDA Academic All-American and two-time All-Big South performer Matt Parrish from Campbell University has been selected as the 2016 Senior CLASS Award® winner in baseball. To be eligible for the award, a student-athlete must be classified as an NCAA Division I senior and have notable achievements in four areas of excellence: community, classroom, character and competition.

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*®, the Senior CLASS Award focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities.

"It's an incredible honor to win the Senior CLASS Award," said Parrish, the first three-time CoSIDA Academic All-American in Campbell history. "Being a student-athlete is a lot like having a full-time job and going to school. We put a lot of energy and a lot of focus on our sports, but at the same time we have to put that same work into the classroom. I think that being a student-athlete at Campbell has helped me learn time management, and it definitely helped me with responsibility, as well as respect. You have to respect a lot of people. You have to respect your coaches, classmates, teammates and your professors. Sports are a great vehicle, but they're not the end destination. It's a vehicle, and you can use it to take you a lot of places."

After coming to Campbell as a recruited walk-on and seeing only five plate appearances as a freshman, Parrish went on to earn a starting spot at designated hitter just a few weeks into his sophomore season. It was a breakout season for Parrish, who led the team in batting average with .324 and helped the Camels to a Big South Tournament Championship title and the school's first NCAA berth since 1990. In his four years at Campbell, Parrish earned two all-conference awards, taking second-team All-Big South honors as a junior and first-team honors this season after batting .371 with 41 RBIs, 36 runs and 14 doubles.

“There is no one who epitomizes the student-athlete more than Matt Parrish,” said Campbell Head Coach Justin Haire. “Matt is such an outstanding representative for our program and our school, and a perfect example of what NCAA athletics are supposed to be about. He has had an outstanding career, and I am extremely proud of him for this well-deserved honor.”

As committed as he is on the field, Parrish has demonstrated that same excellence in both the classroom and community. In addition to his third Academic All-America nod, Parrish also received his third Big South All-Academic honor this season after graduating in May with honors, earning a degree in mathematics with a 3.77 GPA. With a desire to see his peers succeed as well Parrish has served as a peer mentor and academic tutor, and assisted in strategically identifying the learning styles of other student-athletes, helping them develop strategies for studying and testing.

Owning a personal strength for making others feel comfortable and at-ease, the senior has enjoyed interacting with kids through the Miracle League and volunteering at local festivals, blood drives and food collections. In the past three years, Parrish also has helped organize and lead baseball clinics at Campbell, developing the skill stations, coordinating volunteers and assigning campers to leaders. It was a role that fell in line with Parrish’s love for seeing kids learn the game of baseball and have fun in the process.

“Matt Parrish is a leader in every sense of the word,” said Erik Miner, executive director for the Senior CLASS Award. “He’s led by example on the field, in the classroom and in the community while maintaining a high level of personal character. He’s the kind of student-athlete we created this award to honor, and we are proud to name him the 2016 winner. Our congratulations to Matt, his team and to Campbell University.”

###

Senior CLASS Award First-Team All-Americans

Kyle Funkhouser, Louisville

Jason Goldstein, Illinois

Thomas Hackimer, St. John’s

Matt Outman, Norfolk State

Matt Parrish, Campbell

Senior CLASS Award Second-Team All-Americans

Taylor Jones, Gonzaga

Greg Kaiser, IPFW

Paschal Petrongolo, Jacksonville State

Joey Roach, Georgia State

Thomas Woodrey, Miami (FL)

CONTACT

Erik Miner

(913) 563-5412

eminer@seniorCLASSaward.com

ABOUT THE AWARD

An acronym for *Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School*, the Senior CLASS Award honors the attributes of senior student-athletes in four areas: community, classroom, character and competition. The award program is designed exclusively for college seniors who are utilizing their complete athletic eligibility, remaining committed to their university and pursuing the many rewards a senior season can bring. Premier Sports Management manages the award.

NCAA and its marks are licensed by or trademarks of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.