

# #NationalCollegeBaseballDay 2018

The annual celebration coincides with the Opening Day for NCAA Division I programs but is designed to honor college baseball at all levels. We'll spend the day sharing facts about the college version of America's pastime through social media and [www.CollegeBaseballHall.org](http://www.CollegeBaseballHall.org) in anticipation of a full slate of games, and we hope you'll take time to contribute your own thoughts and memories during the day using #NationalCollegeBaseballDay.

## Did You Know?

- Wingate University's junior outfielder Tanner Forry started the season by hitting two home runs in the same inning of the Bulldogs' game against Concord. Wingate defeated Concord (WVa.), 18-5, to start the 2018 Division II season.
- Trinity (Conn.) has the highest Division III winning percentage for a single season with .978 in 2008 (45-1). The Bantams only lost one game that season.
- By earning the top spot in six different polls, defending national champion Florida enters the 2018 season with the unanimous No. 1 ranking. Their top ranking in Baseball America's preseason poll is the fourth in school history, behind only Texas (six times) and Stanford (five). The Gators won their first national title in their 11th trip to Omaha and return 17 letterwinners from the 2017 squad.

## History in the Making

Florida State head coach Mike Martin enters his 39th season in coaching and needs just 32 victories to surpass National College Baseball Hall of Famer Augie Garrido as the winningest coach in college baseball history. At 1,944 wins, Martin is one of just three active coaches (Jim Morris at Miami, Woody Hunt at Cumberland) with 1,500 or more career victories. The next closest is Denney Crabaugh at Oklahoma City University with 1,402 wins.

## Fighting Frogs

Entering 2018, TCU will seek to become just the sixth program in Division I college baseball history to reach the College World Series five straight years, having gone to Omaha each year since 2014.

The other programs to make it at least five straight times are:

- Northern Colorado, 1957-1962 (6 years)
- Oklahoma, 1972-1976 (5 years)
- Oklahoma State, 1981-1987 (7 years)
- Southern California, 1970-74 (5 years)
- Texas, 1981-85 (5 years)

## Rewriting the Rules

The SEC will experiment with rules for a coach's challenge system and wireless communication from the dugout to the catcher for 2018 SEC regular season and conference tournament games. With approval from the NCAA Playing Rules Oversight Panel, coaches will have two challenges per game and will not receive additional challenges for successful appeals, as was in the original proposal. The ACC will use the same system in its conference games.

The Big 12 will experiment with a 15-second pitch clock during league games this season. If a batter is not in the box before the 15 seconds expire, a strike will be called. If a pitcher fails to deliver a pitch before the clock expires, a ball will be called. No warnings for violation of the rule will be given.

## TV Time

ESPN will show a record number of regular-season games in 2018, with more than 800 games scheduled for the various network channels. That includes a record 161 television games and 153 postseason games, including the championship games of five conference tournaments and the entire SEC tournament.

## Championship Junction

The first NJCAA National Championship was played in Grand Junction, Colorado, in May 1960. The 2017 championship, which recently was named an "Award-Winning Event to Watch" by SportsEvents Magazine, will be the 59th consecutive world series played in Grand Junction.

NJCAA Championship Attendance Records:

Single-Game Attendance	12,309 - May 31, 2010
Single-Day Attendance	33,181 - May 26, 2014
7-Day Tournament Attendance	119,165 - 2007
8-Day Tournament Attendance	137,920 - 2010

## Back Home in Omaha

The 2017 College World Series was one of the most watched in television history. The 16 games averaged 1.12 million viewers. The Florida-LSU championship series averaged 1.945 million viewers, the best of any finals since 2014.

The 2017 College World Series set an all-time attendance record in its 70th season, attracting a total of 357,646 fans to the 16 games at TD Ameritrade Park. The previous high was 353,378 set in 2015, also over 16 games.

# #NATIONALCOLLEGEBASEBALLDAY

### Sources:

**History in the Making:** [stats.ncaa.org/head\\_coaches](http://stats.ncaa.org/head_coaches); **Did You Know:** [www.ncaa.com/news/baseball/article/2018-02-03/wingates-tanner-forry-blasts-two-home-runs-same-inning-dii-baseball](http://www.ncaa.com/news/baseball/article/2018-02-03/wingates-tanner-forry-blasts-two-home-runs-same-inning-dii-baseball), [http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/stats/baseball\\_RB/2018/D3.pdf](http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/stats/baseball_RB/2018/D3.pdf), [floridagators.com/documents/2018/1/24/2018\\_UF\\_Baseball\\_Media\\_Supplement\\_WEB.pdf](http://floridagators.com/documents/2018/1/24/2018_UF_Baseball_Media_Supplement_WEB.pdf); **Rewriting the Rules:** [www.ncaa.com/news/baseball/article/2018-01-12/experimental-replay-rules-tweaked-college-baseball](http://www.ncaa.com/news/baseball/article/2018-01-12/experimental-replay-rules-tweaked-college-baseball); **TV Time:** [espnmediazone.com/us/press-releases/2018/01/espn-2018-college-baseball-television-schedule-comprises-record-number-regular-season-games/](http://espnmediazone.com/us/press-releases/2018/01/espn-2018-college-baseball-television-schedule-comprises-record-number-regular-season-games/); **Back Home in Omaha:** [www.omaha.com/sports/cws/college-world-series-draws-millions-of-viewers-best-ratings-in/article\\_a57ed84a-0bad-5752-8d3d-e440a4e40374.html](http://www.omaha.com/sports/cws/college-world-series-draws-millions-of-viewers-best-ratings-in/article_a57ed84a-0bad-5752-8d3d-e440a4e40374.html); **Championship Junction:** [www.jucogj.org/sports/2014/5/22/BB\\_0522140919.aspx?id=23&www.jucogj.org/news/2017/2/6/BB\\_0206173446.aspx?path=baseball](http://www.jucogj.org/sports/2014/5/22/BB_0522140919.aspx?id=23&www.jucogj.org/news/2017/2/6/BB_0206173446.aspx?path=baseball); **Fighting Frogs:** [fs.ncaa.org/Docs/stats/baseball\\_cws\\_RB/2012/1-CWSGeneral.pdf](http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/stats/baseball_cws_RB/2012/1-CWSGeneral.pdf)