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Contact: Russell Luna
469.524.1009 / russell@big12sports.com

2021 All-Big 12 Baseball Awards Announced

OKLAHOMA CITY - The 2021 All-Big 12 Baseball Awards have been unveiled by the Conference, as selected by a vote of the league's head coaches. Coaches are not permitted to vote for themselves or their own players.

Texas Tech's Jace Jung was tabbed as the Big 12 Player of the Year, while TCU's Brayden Taylor earned Freshman of the Year. Oklahoma State's Christian Encarnacion-Strand garnered Newcomer of the Year. Texas had a pair of honorees as right-hander Ty Madden earned Pitcher of the Year and David Pierce collected his second Coach of the Year accolade.

Big 12 regular-season champions TCU and Texas led the way with a combined 13 selections on the All-Big 12 First and Second Teams. The Horned Frogs had seven selections, while the Longhorns had six recipients.

Jung leads the Conference in five categories: OPS (1.279), slugging percentage (.779), walks (45), RBIs (65) and home runs (20). He is the first freshman to lead the Big 12 in home runs since Matt Hopper in 2000. Jung ranks in the top five nationally in five areas: RBIs (1), home runs (4), RBIs per game (5), slugging percentage (5) home runs per game (6) and total bases (8). He is the fifth Red Raider to win the Player of the Year honor and fourth since 2016. He joins his brother and TTU alum Josh who garnered the accolade in 2019.

Madden anchors a Texas pitching staff that is ranked the best amongst autonomy conferences. Madden is 6-3 with a 2.55 earned run average in 13 appearances. The redshirt sophomore leads the league in the fewest hits per game allowed (6.42) and he is second in the Big 12 with 98 strikeouts. Madden is the seventh Longhorn to earn Pitcher of the Year recognition and the first since Taylor Jungmann in 2011.

Pierce guided the Longhorns to a 40-13 overall record and a 17-7 mark in Big 12 play en route to a share of the regular-season Conference title. Texas won its ninth regular-season title and second under Pierce (other in 2018). Texas ranks in the top-five in five of the major polls and is No. 2 in the DI Baseball and NCBWA ledgers.

Taylor is tied for a team-leading 10 home runs and is second on the squad with a .579 slugging percentage. He ranks in the top-10 in the Conference in six categories including: tied for eighth in stolen bases (11), eighth in plate appearances (232), 10th in on-base percentage (.435) and tied for 10th in RBIs (46). Taylor is the third Horned Frog to garner Freshman of the Year, joining Luken Baker (2016) and Connor Wanhanen (2015).

After playing an All-American season at Yavapai College in 2020, Encarnacion-Strand has made an impact in the Big 12 during his first season. The sophomore ranks in the top-20 in three statistical categories: No. 4 in runs batted in (60), No. 2 in total bases (137) and No. 20 in RBIs per game (1.25). His 15 home runs are second in the Big 12. He is the fourth Cowboy to earn Newcomer of the Year and first since Matt Kroon in 2018.

A total of three student-athletes earned unanimous All-Big 12 First Team distinction. In addition to Encarnacion-Strand, Jung and Madden, Ivan Melendez from Texas was a unanimous selection.

On the All-Freshman Team, TCU and Texas led the way with three honorees. Unanimous All-Freshmen selections included TCU's Taylor, TCU's River Ridings, UT's Mitchell Daly and UT's Tanner Witt.

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2021 ALL-BIG 12 BASEBALL AWARDS

Player of the Year:	Jace Jung, Texas Tech, Fr., INF, San Antonio, Texas/MacArthur
Pitcher of the Year:	Ty Madden, Texas, R-So., RHP, Cypress, Texas/Cypress Ranch
Newcomer of the Year:	Christian Encarnacion-Strand, Oklahoma State, So., INF, Pleasant Hill, Calif./Yavapi Junior College
Freshman of the Year:	Brayden Taylor, TCU, Fr., INF, West Jordan, Utah/Copper Hills
Coach of the Year:	David Pierce, Texas

ALL-BIG 12 FIRST TEAM

Name, School	Pos.	Cl.	Hometown/Previous School
Andy Thomas, Baylor^ &	C	Jr.	Murrieta, Calif./Murrieta
Tyler Hardman, Oklahoma@	INF	R-Jr.	Corona, Calif./Temescal
Christian Encarnacion-Strand, Oklahoma State*	INF	So.	Pleasant Hill, Calif./Yavapi Junior College
Mitchell Daly, Texas	INF	Fr.	Madison, Ala./Bob Jones
Cal Conley, Texas Tech	INF	R-Fr.	Mount Carmel, Ohio/West Clement
Jace Jung, Texas Tech	INF	Fr.	San Antonio, Texas/MacArthur
Jared McKenzie, Baylor	OF	Fr.	Round Rock, Texas/Round Rock
Phillip Sikes, TCU	OF	Jr.	Paris, Texas/Pima Community College
Dru Baker, Texas Tech	OF	So.	Tomball, Texas/Memorial
Justin Campbell, Oklahoma State	UTL/RHP	Fr.	Simi Valley, Calif./Simi Valley
Ivan Melendez, Texas*	DH	R-So.	El Paso, Texas/Coronado
Jordan Wicks, Kansas State+	LHP	So.	Conway, Ark./Conway
Ty Madden, Texas	RHP	R-So.	Cypress, Texas/Cypress Ranch
Tristan Stevens, Texas	RHP	R-Jr.	Springfield, Mo./Maple Woods Junior College
Luke Boyd, Baylor	RHP	Sr.	Ojai, Calif./Nordhoff
Haylen Green, TCU	LHP	Sr.	Lufkin, Texas/Lufkin

ALL-BIG 12 SECOND TEAM

Name, School	Pos.	Cl.	Hometown/Previous School
Braxton Fulford, Texas Tech@	C	Jr.	Lubbock, Texas/Monterey
Skyler Messinger, Kansas	INF	R-Jr.	Niwot, Colo./Niwot
Peyton Graham, Oklahoma	INF	R-Fr.	Waxahachie, Texas/Waxahachie
Brayden Taylor, TCU	INF	Fr.	West Jordan, Utah/Copper Hills
Gene Wood, TCU	INF	R-Sr.	Flowood, Miss./Alabama
Cam Williams, Texas	INF	R-Jr.	Odessa, Fla./San Jacinto College
Zach Kokoska, Kansas State@	OF	Jr.	Latrobe, Pa./Virginia Tech
Dylan Phillips, Kansas State	OF/UTL	So.	Omaha, Neb./Creighton Preparatory School
Mike Antico, Texas	OF	R-Sr.	Colts Neck, N.J./St. John's
Hunter Wolfe, TCU	DH	R-Sr.	Kingsport, Tenn./Walters State Community College
Tyler Thomas, Baylor	LHP	Jr.	Keller, Texas/Keller
Austin Krob, TCU	LHP	So.	Lisbon, Iowa/Kirkwood Community College
Russell Smith, TCU	LHP	R-So.	Midlothian, Texas/Midlothian
Micah Dallas, Texas Tech%	RHP	So.	Aubrey, Texas/Homeschool
Jackson Wolf, West Virginia	LHP	Sr.	Gahanna, Ohio/Gahanna Lincoln
Jason Ruffcorn, Oklahoma+	RHP	R-Sr.	Cedar Park, Texas/Texas A&M
Brett Standlee, Oklahoma State%	RHP	So.	Jenks, Okla./Jenks

HONORABLE MENTION

Baylor - Hayden Kettler, Jack Pineda, Tre Richardson; Kansas - Maui Ahuna, Dylan Ditzenberger; Tavian Josenberger, Jonah Ulane; Kansas State - Chris Ceballos, Tyler Eckberg, Nick Goodwin, Cameron Thompson; Oklahoma - Conor McKenna, Brett Squires, Brandon Zaragoza; Oklahoma State - Cade Cabiness, Max Hewitt, Carson McCusker, Parker Scott, Jake Thompson, Caeden Trenkle; TCU - Zach Humphreys, Gray Rodgers; Texas - Silas Ardoin, Trey Faltine, Pete Hansen, Douglas Hodo III, Aaron Nixon, Tanner Witt, Zach Zubia; Texas Tech - Patrick Monteverde, Ryan Sublette; West Virginia - Austin Davis, Paul McIntosh.

Voting is weighted. Ties in voting created an additional second-team starting pitcher.

* Unanimous Choice ^2019 First Team Honoree +2019 Second Team Honoree @2019 Honorable Mention
%2019 All-Freshman Team &2018 Second Team Honoree

ALL-FRESHMAN TEAM

Name, School	Pos.	Hometown/Previous School
Tavian Josenberger, Kansas	OF	Kansas City, Mo./Park Hill
Nick Goodwin, Kansas State	INF	Overland Park, Kan./St. Thomas Aquinas
Jace Bohrofen, Oklahoma	OF	Oklahoma City, Okla./Westmoore
Trevor Martin, Oklahoma State	RHP	Asher, Okla./Asher
Elijah Nunez, TCU	OF	Arlington, Texas/Arlington Martin
River Ridings, TCU*	LHP	Plano, Texas/Prestonwood Christian Academy
Brayden Taylor, TCU*	INF	West Jordan, Utah/Copper Hills
Mitchell Daly, Texas*	INF	Madison, Ala./Bob Jones
Aaron Nixon, Texas	RHP/INF	McAllen, Texas/McAllen
Tanner Witt, Texas*	RHP/INF	Houston, Texas/Episcopal
Ben Hampton, West Virginia	LHP	De Pere, Wis./West De Pere
Mikey Kluska, West Virginia	INF	White Sulphur Springs, W.Va./IMG Academy