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Howard College Hawks Continue Receiving Post Season Recognition

BIG SPRING – The Howard College Hawks Baseball Team brought home the JUCO National Championship earlier this month and several players are now bringing home post season recognition and awards including All American, Big Stick, Defensive Player of the Year and Golden Gloves.

The NJCAA All American list was released this week with Wil Calhoun-Designated Hitter, Zach Neal-Pitcher and Miles Hamblin-Catcher headlining for the Hawks.

Vying for the recognition among 10,305 fellow student athletes who played junior college baseball, the three Hawks rightfully landed among the 126 member All American team.

“These guys deserve every bit of recognition they receive for the season they had,” said Britt Smith, Hawk Baseball Head Coach. “They earned it each and every game they took the field.”

Calhoun, Neal and Hamblin will each have their names painted on the Jack Barber Field fence as they join their predecessors in the line of All American recognition.

Calhoun, with a regular season batting average of .527 – the highest in the nation, also brought home the Rawlings Big Stick Award.

Rawlings, in conjunction with NJCAA, annually honors the top hitter in each Division I District. Calhoun was not only the top hitter in the Southwest District, but also claimed the top spot among his peers in the nation.

“We originally brought him here to pitch,” said Smith. “The hitting was just a bonus, but what a bonus it was!”

The NJCAA / Easton Division I Baseball Defensive Player of the Year award went to Hawk centerfielder Runey Davis.



William Calhoun



Runey Davis

Davis, touting a perfect 1.000 fielding average with 53 putouts, 4 assists and 0 errors also held a .381 batting average including 7 home runs, 39 RBIs and 34 stolen bases.

Runey was a fan favorite, and served as a continual catalyst for the Hawks, bringing in clutch hits and plays when the team needed him the most, especially in post season play.

Rounding out post season awards is the NJCAA and Rawlings 2009 Golden Glove Teams. Runey Davis and Hawk Catcher Miles Hamblin landed recognition for their defensive efforts. Davis with a 1.000% and Hamblin with .993% fielding average were key defensive players on a Hawk baseball team that led the nation in team fielding percentage.



Miles Hamblin

“The things this team has been able to accomplish this season are phenomenal,” said Dr. Cheryl T. Sparks, Howard College President. “These post season awards are just the icing on the cake at this point.”

True enough, with many players receiving national recognition at the World Series as well as regional and all-conference awards, the post season has been good to the Hawks.

“I certainly couldn’t single any one of these players out for special recognition,” said Coach Smith. “I’m proud of all of them with the way they put this record-breaking season together as a team. But I also want to congratulate the ones who have received special recognition as it offers them some validation that their hard work and dedication didn’t go unnoticed.”



Zach Neal

The Hawk Baseball Team won the hearts of many by bringing only the second national championship home to Howard College / Big Spring. “With the way they performed this season, the entire team could’ve been labeled All American,” said Smith.

To view complete lists of award teams, visit www.njcaa.org. For more information on Howard College Athletics and the Hawk Baseball Team, please call 264-5000 or visit www.hchawk.com or www.howardcollege.edu.