



'23

*Preseason*  
**COLLEGE  
BASEBALL  
BETTING  
GUIDE**



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# About This Guide

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For those that are new here, let me introduce myself. My name is Matt Grissom and I love sports betting and college baseball. I've seen college baseball's popularity grow every year and now that we're seeing more and more sports books offering betting lines for it, I looked for some sort of resource to help me research information and contextualize my thoughts so I could handicap the sport.

This led me to discover the guys at D1 Baseball, the 11.7 Podcast, CWS 24/7, and several other avenues that provide great information regarding the sport. The problem was, I wanted all of this information in one place. So last year, with the help of Parker Fleming of College Football Graphs, I launched a CWS Betting Guide. The three-part guide led bettors through the Regionals, Super Regionals, and the College World Series. For those that followed my picks, we went 34-18, +36.33 units on the season. This catapulted me onto a scene that I'd always dreamed of being on. From having my success recognized on VSIN, the sports betting network, to having the opportunity to talk college baseball with Mintzy of Barstool Sports and Ben Upton of 11.7, I had finally found my niche. I look to build off last seasons success and continue to give my followers more winners throughout the 2023 season.

This preseason guide will be a little different, as we don't have all of the regular season analytics that we had for the postseason. That said, I'm hoping you can still utilize this guide to help you plan out your futures bets. I've compiled D1Baseball's Top 25 Rankings with their team grades. So as you read the grades for each team, keep in mind that they used the same method that scouts use to grade prospects, which is on the 20-80 scouting scale. Also, PLEASE keep in mind before you start firing away at futures bets, that many of the odds you see now on a team to win the CWS will be similar come postseason time. So please don't start taking the heavy favorites in this market. This is the time you want to be studying teams that may start off slow, but eventually get it together in time for the postseason.

So buckle up and get ready for the most exciting 5 month stretch of sports there is... College Baseball. Cheers!



MATT GRISSOM

# Rankings

Top 25 by D1Baseball.com  
Odds by OaklawnSports.com

RANK	TEAM NAME	TO WIN CONF	TO REACH CWS (8)	TO WIN CWS
1	LSU	+225	-125	+450
2	Tennessee	+400	+125	+700
3	Stanford	+150	+150	+1000
4	Ole Miss	+750	+400	+2000
5	Texas A&M	+500	+250	+1750
6	Wake Forest	+350	+300	+3000
7	Florida	+500	+200	+1300
8	Arkansas	+460	+250	+1200
9	Oklahoma State	+250	+350	+2200
10	Vanderbilt	+750	+300	+1750
11	East Carolina	Not Posted	+450	+5000
12	North Carolina	+500	+450	+2500
13	Maryland	+200	+500	+5000
14	Virginia Tech	+800	+700	+7000
15	TCU	+225	+250	+3000
16	Louisville	+300	+200	+2000
17	UCLA	+350	+250	+3000
18	Southern Miss	Not Posted	+325	+4000
19	Virginia	+700	+450	+4000
20	Alabama	+3000	+1250	+7500
21	NC State	+1000	+800	+7000
22	Miami	+400	+400	+4000
23	South Carolina	+4000	+1250	+7500
24	Texas Tech	+300	+450	+4000
25	Oregon	+600	+550	+5000

# Team Breakdowns

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## LSU #1 LSU Tigers

Hitting: 70	Power: 65	Speed: 50	Defense: 55	SP: 70	BP: 65	Exp/Int: 65
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Coming in as the consensus #1 overall team, this year's Tigers squad proves to be the team to beat. NC State transfer Tommy White looks to bring his firepower to a lineup that already features guys like Dylan Crews and Tre Morgan. This pitching rotation also got a huge improvement thanks in part to the transfer portal, picking up Air Force's Paul Skenes (10-3, 2.73 ERA). All things look on the up and up for LSU, however, time will tell if the Tigers can meet these preseason expectations. The Tigers are the shortest shot to win the SEC at +225 and are -125 to make it Omaha. I know they are loaded, but I believe there's way too much parity in the SEC to bet either of those for now.

## T #2 Tennessee Volunteers

Hitting: 60	Power: 60	Speed: 50	Defense: 55	SP: 75	BP: 60	Exp/Int: 55
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Tennessee looks to bounce back after having their Omaha hopes come to an end in their Super Regional against Notre Dame. After a historic '22 season, the Volunteers return the best pitcher in the country in Chase Dollander (10-0, 2.39 ERA), along with their stud of a weekend rotation with Chase Burns (8-2, 2.91 ERA) and Drew Beam (8-1, 2.72 ERA). The question for this Vols squad is going to be their hitting. It's a hard ask to replace a bomb-squad lineup that featured guys like Lipscomb, Lipcius, Ortega, and Beck. Vitello will have the pitching to get them by as they get their lineup sorted out. I think this season is going to be a boom or bust for Tennessee. If they make it to Omaha, I think they win the whole thing. But I think the Vols have a lot of unfinished business from last season and think they're poised for another big year. That said, the only preseason bet I like for the Vols is to win the SEC at +400. If their rotation stays healthy and their lineup produces at an average margin, they can beat any team in the SEC.





## #3 Stanford Cardinal

<b>Hitting: 65</b>	<b>Power: 65</b>	<b>Speed: 50</b>	<b>Defense: 50</b>	<b>SP: 55</b>	<b>BP: 55</b>	<b>Exp/Int: 70</b>
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Coming off of back-to-back seasons of making it to Omaha, the Cardinal have experience on their side as they look to make it a third straight trip to Omaha. Led by star pitcher, Quinn Matthews (9-2, 3.08 ERA), this rotation should be the best in the Pac 12. I see no issues with assuming Stanford wins the conference and makes it back to Omaha and at a short price of +150 for each, I'd say the oddsmakers don't either. I'm on Stanford to do both.



## #4 Ole Miss Rebels

<b>Hitting: 65</b>	<b>Power: 60</b>	<b>Speed: 55</b>	<b>Defense: 70</b>	<b>SP: 55</b>	<b>BP: 60</b>	<b>Exp/Int: 65</b>
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Coming off of a remarkable season in 2022, the defending National Champs look to get back to Omaha with some new faces in their lineup. Keep an eye out for Tulane transfer, Ethan Groff and Northwestern transfer Anthony Calarco as they're tasked with replacing the bats of Tim Elko and Justin Bench. The Rebels do have their ace in Hunter Elliott, who is coming off a 2022 season where he had a 2.70 ERA, but the rotation after that is going to be a question mark for them.



## #5 Texas A&M Aggies

<b>Hitting: 70</b>	<b>Power: 65</b>	<b>Speed: 45</b>	<b>Defense: 50</b>	<b>SP: 60</b>	<b>BP: 60</b>	<b>Exp/Int: 70</b>
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The Aggies are coming off a CWS appearance in Coach Schlossnagle's first season, so they'll look to capitalize on his early success at A&M. The Aggies return two veterans in Austin Bost (2B) and their Friday night guy, Nathan Dettmer (6-3, 4.99 ERA). Outside of that, the Aggies only two other guys that had significant playing time last year. If the Aggies can stay healthy and get their weekend rotation figured out, I think they'll have a decent season.

## #6 Wake Forest Demon Deacons

Hitting: 60	Power: 60	Speed: 50	Defense: 55	SP: 65	BP: 65	Exp/Int: 55
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Wake Forest has one of the nation's best weekend rotations, as well as a very solid lineup. Led by ACC pitcher of the year, Rhett Lowder (11-3, 3.08 ERA), you'll also see Teddy McGraw, Josh Hartle, and a very talented bullpen. Two other key guys to watch for the Deac's are Brock Wilken (3B) and Nick Kurtz (1B). I think Wake is a solid bet to win the ACC this year at +350 and to make it to Omaha at +300.

## #7 Florida Gators

Hitting: 55	Power: 65	Speed: 45	Defense: 60	SP: 65	BP: 55	Exp/Int: 55
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The Gators are one of those teams that based on the talent alone, you expect them to be in the hunt every year, despite not making it to Omaha since '18. After failing to advance past their own Regional by getting bounced by the eventual runner-up, Oklahoma, Florida just didn't look like they had "it." Coming into '23, they'll lean on a solid rotation and a couple of strong hitters in Wyatt Langford (LF) and B.T. Riopelle (C), but I don't think it'll be enough.

## #8 Arkansas Razorbacks

Hitting: 55	Power: 60	Speed: 45	Defense: 50	SP: 60	BP: 65	Exp/Int: 55
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Falling one game short of the Championship Series in '22, the Hogs look to get back to Omaha once again. The biggest question mark for the Hogs is whether or not Jaxon Wiggins (6-3, 6.55 ERA) can gain some control and be ready to be the Friday night guy. Outside of Wiggins, this pitching staff consists of Hagan Smith (7-2, 4.66 ERA) and one of the best closers in college baseball, Brady Tygart (8 SV, 3.82 ERA). The Hogs lost some firepower on offense with guys like Robert Moore and Jalen Battles, but had success in the portal, getting guys like Hudson Polk (C) from Oklahoma, Jared Wegner (LF) from Creighton, and Tavian Josenberger (CF) from Kansas. It may take some time to find their rhythm, but Van Horn knows how to get his teams to click at the right time, so I like taking a swing at them to get back to Omaha at +250.



## #9 Oklahoma State Cowboys

<b>Hitting: 55</b>	<b>Power: 60</b>	<b>Speed: 55</b>	<b>Defense: 60</b>	<b>SP: 55</b>	<b>BP: 60</b>	<b>Exp/Int: 55</b>
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Oklahoma State returns some of their key hitters from last years squad, who got into a shootouts against the Razorbacks in their Super Regional matchup. Roc Riggio (2B) and the Cowboys offense enters this season with some unfinished business, but will need some help out of their weekend rotation, which is the Cowboys biggest concern. That said, the Big 12 is pretty weak this season, so the Cowboys could have a lot of success in conference play. The Cowboys sit at +250 to win the Big 12, but I like another team better.

## V #10 Vanderbilt Commodores

<b>Hitting: 50</b>	<b>Power: 50</b>	<b>Speed: 60</b>	<b>Defense: 55</b>	<b>SP: 60</b>	<b>BP: 70</b>	<b>Exp/Int: 55</b>
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The Commodores will begin their road to Omaha after being eliminated in last years Corvallis Regional. Vandy will rely heavily on their pitching rotation and a solid bullpen, but will have to prove that they can score runs when needed. Vanderbilts biggest hurdle will be on the offensive side of the ball, led by Enrique Bradfield Jr. (CF). If they can do enough to stay in a game late, they've got the closers to put it away.



## #11 East Carolina Pirates

<b>Hitting: 50</b>	<b>Power: 50</b>	<b>Speed: 50</b>	<b>Defense: 55</b>	<b>SP: 60</b>	<b>BP: 60</b>	<b>Exp/Int: 60</b>
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The Pirates enter 2023 with a weekend rotation led by one of my favorite pitchers, Carter Spivey (8-0, 2.83 ERA). The Pirates looked poised to make their first appearance in Omaha after beating Texas in game one of their Super Regional last season, but eventually fell short, dropping their final two. For a mid-major school, ECU has the tools to get back to the Super Regionals so long as they can get their offense rolling.

## #12 North Carolina Tarheels

Hitting: 50	Power: 60	Speed: 60	Defense: 65	SP: 55	BP: 60	Exp/Int: 60
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North Carolina comes into the 2023 season relying heavily on its defense up the middle of the field and depth of their pitching staff. Vance Honeycutt (CF) and Colby Wilkerson (2B) should be two players to keep an eye on this year. If the Tarheels can get solid starts by their pitchers, led by their ace, Max Carlson (4-3, 3.71 ERA), the Tarheels should be poised to make some noise in the ACC.

## #13 Maryland Terrapins

Hitting: 65	Power: 60	Speed: 50	Defense: 55	SP: 60	BP: 50	Exp/Int: 60
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This may sound like a reoccurring statement through this guide, but much of the success Maryland will have in the '23 season is going to rely heavily on their weekend rotation, which looks to be promising. Led by a Friday/Saturday rotation with Nick Dean (6-2, 4.57 ERA) and Jason Savacool (8-3, 2.93), the Terps will be a tough team to win a series against, especially in a down year for the Big Ten. Match that with their explosive offense, I just don't see many Big Ten teams stealing a series against them, so I took Maryland to win the Big Ten at +200. Rutgers is the only other compelling team from the Big Ten that I may take to win, but at +300, it's really not worth betting them both.

## #14 Virginia Tech Hokies

Hitting: 55	Power: 65	Speed: 50	Defense: 65	SP: 55	BP: 60	Exp/Int: 60
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Despite losing 67 home runs from their offensive production last year, Virginia Tech has hitters at nearly every spot in their lineup. Remember names like Carson DeMartini (3B) and Jack Hurley (CF), who will wreak havoc on ACC pitchers this year. Tech also returns a solid pitching staff, led by their ace, Drue Hackenberg (10-2, 3.30 ERA). The Hokies are another team I'd look to bet to win the ACC at +800. If you take WF to win the ACC +350 and VT at +800, I feel like you're in a position to cash a ticket either way. Plus, these two teams end their season against each other with a series at Wake, which should give us a preview of who the hotter team is ahead of the ACC tournament.



## TCU #15 TCU Horned Frogs

Hitting: 60	Power: 55	Speed: 60	Defense: 60	SP: 60	BP: 55	Exp/Int: 60
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Experience may be the Frogs greatest asset as they enter this 2023 season. Led by a group of juniors at nearly every position, including a stud in Brayden Taylor (3B). The Frogs biggest question this season will be in their pitching rotation, which will be made up of Cam Brown (5-2, 4.42 ERA) and Kansas transfer Ryan Vanderhei (5-6, 6.46 ERA). Their season starts off with a bang as they face Vanderbilt and Arkansas in the College Baseball Showdown as their first two opponents. Despite being ranked below Oklahoma St, it's TCU that is the shortest shot to win the Big 12 at +225, which I'm leaning to bet.



## #16 Louisville Cardinals

Hitting: 65	Power: 55	Speed: 55	Defense: 65	SP: 50	BP: 55	Exp/Int: 60
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Louisville comes into this season as the shortest shot to win the ACC at +300 and while there is a lot to like about this years team, their biggest question mark is going to be in their pitching rotation. While other ACC teams are pretty loaded in that position, Louisville may struggle. On the offensive side of the ball, they should excel, led by Jack Payton (C). Ultimately, for those of you who follow me, you know I put a lot of emphasis on a teams success by how good their pitching staff is, and I just don't think Louisville's is up to par.

## Ucla #17 UCLA Bruins

Hitting: 55	Power: 50	Speed: 50	Defense: 55	SP: 65	BP: 55	Exp/Int: 55
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Outside of Stanford being the favorite, UCLA is the next shortest shot to win the Pac 12 at +350 before you get a drop-off with Oregon at +600. While I think it's Stanford's to lose, UCLA may be able to make some noise with their own pitching staff. The problem with the Bruins is with their offense, who finished 80<sup>th</sup> in runs scored last year. In what I'm calling a down year for the Pac 12, they may be able to do enough to stay afloat, but I don't expect the Bruins to make any noise in the postseason.

## #18 Southern Miss Golden Eagles

<b>Hitting: 60</b>	<b>Power: 60</b>	<b>Speed: 50</b>	<b>Defense: 65</b>	<b>SP: 55</b>	<b>BP: 50</b>	<b>Exp/Int: 60</b>
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The Golden Eagles have a TON of experience coming back this year, including seven starters from last years Super Regional team. Southern Miss is right behind East Carolina as far as the top mid-major teams go, but their biggest question mark is with their pitching staff. Outside of their ace, Tanner Hall (9-3, 2.81 ERA), it falls off.

## #19 Virginia Cavaliers

<b>Hitting: 70</b>	<b>Power: 65</b>	<b>Speed: 50</b>	<b>Defense: 55</b>	<b>SP: 45</b>	<b>BP: 50</b>	<b>Exp/Int: 60</b>
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The Cavs bring a firepower offense into their 2023 season, led by one of the best power hitters in the country, Jake Gelof (3B) and his 21 home runs last year. While smashing the ball shouldn't be an issue for the Cavaliers, I'm not confident that their pitching staff is going to be able to cut it in an already tough ACC. Jake Berry (5-3, 4.79 ERA) is the presumable Friday night starter and while he's shown flashes, he hasn't been tested with a starters workload.

## #20 Alabama Crimson Tide

<b>Hitting: 55</b>	<b>Power: 45</b>	<b>Speed: 50</b>	<b>Defense: 65</b>	<b>SP: 60</b>	<b>BP: 55</b>	<b>Exp/Int: 60</b>
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Alabama returns a lot of experience in both their pitching staff and their lineup. But the biggest question concerning the Tide is whether or not they have the talent to contend with the gauntlet that is the SEC. Coming off of a 31-27 season, they'll have to lean on that experience to try and steal some games within their brutal schedule. A schedule that includes SEC road series against Florida, Arkansas, LSU, and Texas A&M.



## #21 NC State Wolfpack

<b>Hitting: 65</b>	<b>Power: 60</b>	<b>Speed: 55</b>	<b>Defense: 50</b>	<b>SP: 50</b>	<b>BP: 50</b>	<b>Exp/Int: 55</b>
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Despite losing a big time slugger in Tommy White to LSU in the transfer portal, the Wolfpack made some noise in the portal for themselves. With nearly an entirely new lineup from last years squad, NC State looks to piece together an offense similar to years past. Their biggest question is how that lineup gels together on the defensive side of the ball along with a mediocre pitching staff. Led by two RS Junior righties in Sam Highfill and Matt Willadsen, they're going to have to step up in a big way from last years numbers if the Pack are going to have success in the ACC.

## #22 Miami Hurricanes

<b>Hitting: 55</b>	<b>Power: 60</b>	<b>Speed: 60</b>	<b>Defense: 55</b>	<b>SP: 55</b>	<b>BP: 65</b>	<b>Exp/Int: 60</b>
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After losing their Regional to the eventual National Champion, Ole Miss, the Hurricanes are coming into 2023 with a lot of upside and even more to prove. Keep an eye on Yohandy Morales (3B) and CJ Kayfus (1B), because this Canes offense will go as they go. Their biggest concern comes with their pitching staff, which I've already noted throughout this guide how much emphasis I put on this, especially in the ACC.

## #23 South Carolina Gamecocks

<b>Hitting: 50</b>	<b>Power: 60</b>	<b>Speed: 55</b>	<b>Defense: 45</b>	<b>SP: 65</b>	<b>BP: 60</b>	<b>Exp/Int: 50</b>
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This years Gamecocks squad will rely heavily on the success of their teams ability to gel together, as it's expected to have five starters from the transfer portal. Where South Carolina can excel is in their pitching staff, led by their ace, Will Sanders (6-3, 3.36 ERA) and an outstanding closer in Cade Austin (5-1, 2.84 ERA). Not to mention, an incoming freshman by the name of Eli Jerzembeck, who has an upper 70's curveball that we may be introduced to sooner rather than later.

## #24 Texas Tech Red Raiders

Hitting: 55	Power: 55	Speed: 50	Defense: 55	SP: 55	BP: 60	Exp/Int: 60
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Earlier when I said that the Big 12 was down, this is what I mean. Tech coming into this season as only the third ranked Big 12 team should tell you exactly where they are as a conference as a whole. That being said, I realize it's just a preseason ranking and time will tell how good the conference is as a whole. But Texas Tech has plenty of upside to succeed, despite not being real strong in any aspect of the game. However, Tadlock does a really good job getting the most out of his players, so you can never count them out.

## #25 Oregon Ducks

Hitting: 60	Power: 60	Speed: 50	Defense: 60	SP: 50	BP: 45	Exp/Int: 55
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Rounding out the Top 25, you have the Oregon Ducks. It's a little odd only seeing three Pac 12 teams in this preseason Top 25, but similar to the Big 12, they're down this year. I don't want to call the Pac 12 soft by any means, but it's apparent that after Stanford, there's a tremendous fall off of talent. Oregon has the position players to be a threat, but ultimately they are highly questionable when it comes to their pitching staff. Similar to UCLA, I just don't think they have the horses to take the #1 spot in the conference.

# Best Bets Recap

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TENN to win SEC (+400)



ARK to reach CWS (+250)



STAN to win PAC 12 (+150)



MARY to win BIG 10 (+200)



STAN to reach CWS (+150)



VT to win ACC (+800)



WF to win ACC (+350)



TCU to win BIG 12 (+225)



WF to reach CWS (+300)

# Key Dates to Remember

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## College Baseball Showdown (Opening Weekend)

\*Must subscribe to FloSports to watch (\$29.99)

### Friday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>

(9) OKST vs MIZZ

(10) VAN vs (15) TCU

TEX vs (8) ARK

### Saturday, Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>

(10) VAN vs (9) OKST

MIZZ vs TEX

(8) ARK vs (15) TCU

### Sunday, Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>

(10) VAN vs TEX

(9) OKST vs (8) ARK

(15) TCU vs MIZZ

## Top 25 Early Non-Conference Series to Watch

### Fri, Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> - Sun, Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>

(11) E Carolina @ (12) N Carolina

(13) Maryland @ (4) Ole Miss

(17) UCLA @ (10) Vanderbilt

### Fri, Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup> - Sun, Mar. 5<sup>th</sup>

(22) Miami @ (7) Florida

Dallas Baptist @ (18) So Miss

## Conference Tournament Dates

Tues. May 23<sup>rd</sup> or Wed. May 23<sup>rd</sup> - Sun. May 28<sup>th</sup>

## CWS Selection Show (16 Regional Hosts Announced)

Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>

## Regional Weekend Begins (Double Elimination)

Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> - Monday, June 5<sup>th</sup>

## Super Regional Weekend Begins (Best of 3)

Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>

## College World Series Begins (Double Elimination)

Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup>

## CWS National Championship Series (Best of 3)

Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>





*Cheers to a profitable*  
**2023**  
*College Baseball*  
*Season*

**A special thank you to all of the people that have helped grow the game, because without them, this guide wouldn't be possible.**

**Please support the guys at [11point7.com](http://11point7.com), [D1Baseball.com](http://D1Baseball.com), and post-season contributions by Parker Fleming with CFB-Graphs (@statsowar). Their research and content in regards to College Baseball are unmatched.**

  
MATT GRISSOM