



2004 Big Ten Baseball Players of the Week

May 24

Brandon Roberts, Michigan
SR, DH, Arlington, TX/Martin

Roberts boosted the Wolverines to the No. 3 seed in the upcoming Big Ten Tournament by batting a sizzling .692 (9-for-13) to lead his team to three wins against Penn State and earn League Player of the Week honors. After entering the week tied with PSU for fourth in the standings, the senior designated hitter drove in four runs and scored three more times while producing an on-base percentage of .714 and a slugging percentage of .769.

May 17

Steve Caravati, Ohio State
JR, LF, Dover, OH/Dover

Caravati scorched Northwestern pitching at a .786 clip (11-for-14) to lead the Buckeyes to three victories and earn Player of the Week honors for the third time in the last five weeks. The junior leftfielder, who also claimed the weekly award on April 19 and May 3, boasted a slugging percentage of .929 and an on-base percentage of .813 while producing six runs batted in and a pair of doubles to keep OSU's hopes alive for a Big Ten title. He was perfect in games two (3-for-3) and four (4-for-4) and drove in three runs in the third game. In Conference games only, Caravati currently leads the League with a .422 batting average while ranking second with 43 hits and 28 RBI.

May 11

Simon Klink, Purdue
SR, 3B, Auburn, IN/Canterbury

Klink batted a sizzling .615 with five runs scored and four runs batted in to lead Purdue to three wins over Michigan and collect Big Ten Player of the Week honors. In a series opener decided by one run, the senior third baseman was a perfect three-for-three at the plate with two doubles and three runs scored. He tallied the Boilermakers only runs in the second game with a two-run blast, his third long ball on the year. Klink capped the weekend with a three-for-four performance with a run scored and batted in to help the hosts rally from a 5-2 deficit and claim three of four in the series. The Indiana native boasted an on-base percentage of .643 and a slugging percentage of 1.000 in the series to boost Purdue back into the Conference race, just three games off the lead. He is the first Boilermaker to nab League Player of the Week laurels this season.

May 3

Steve Caravati, Ohio State
JR, LF, Dover, OH/Dover

Caravati collects Big Ten Player of the Week honors for the second time in three weeks after leading the Buckeyes to a four-game road sweep at Indiana while batting .563 (9-for-16) with seven runs batted in and six runs scored. For the week, the junior outfielder batted .579 (11-for-19) while racking up 11 RBI, seven runs, two home runs, an on-base percentage of .636 and a slugging percentage of 1.000. Caravati, who boasted at least two hits in all five games, opened with four RBI and a long ball in a mid-week win over Bowling Green. He added another homer, three RBI and two runs scored in the opener against the Hoosiers. The Ohio native ranks among the top five in League games only in batting average (5th at .392), RBI (3rd with 20) and runs scored (T3rd with 20). He was also honored as the Conference Player of the Week on April 19.

April 26

Chris Robinson, Illinois

SO, C, Dorchester, Ontario/Lord Dorchester

Robinson batted a sizzling .688 (11-of-16) with four doubles and seven runs batted in during a 3-2 week to earn Big Ten Player of the Week honors. After opening with four RBI and a pair of doubles in a mid-week victory over Illinois College, the sophomore catcher produced a .667 batting average (8-of-12) and a 1.083 slugging percentage to help the Illini split a four-game set against Indiana. He recorded three runs batted in and three runs scored against the Hoosiers, and his two doubles in the third game helped head coach Itch Jones collect his 1,200th career victory. Robinson added a home run in the series finale, as he is currently tied for second among all League players with four long balls and ranks fourth with a .415 batting average (in Conference games only). Robinson is the first Illini to earn Player of the Week accolades this season.

April 19

Steve Caravati, Ohio State

JR, LF, Dover, OH/Dover

Caravati boosted Ohio State into first place in the Big Ten race by batting .474 (9-for-19) with seven runs batted in and five runs scored as the Buckeyes won three of four games on the road at Michigan State, which entered the weekend alone atop the standings. The junior leftfielder produced three doubles and two home runs, good for a .947 slugging percentage in the series. He opened with a double and a long ball in the opening loss to the Spartans and registered back-to-back three-hit games to wrap up the four-game set, including another double and homer with three RBI and two runs scored in the finale. Caravati, who is batting .339 on the year, is in the midst of an 11-game hitting streak, just one off his career long. He is the third Buckeye to nab Player of the Week accolades this season, as teammates Jedidiah Stephen (March 16) and Ronnie Bourquin (April 5) were also honored.

April 12

Sam Steidl, Minnesota

SR, CF, Alexandria, MN/Alexandria

Steidl led the Gophers to three wins at Indiana by batting .563 with six runs scored and five runs batted in to earn Big Ten Player of the Week honors. The senior outfielder was successful on nine of 16 trips to the plate and added four walks to produce a .650 on-base percentage and a .625 slugging percentage. Steidl scored at least one run in each outing and added three RBI in the first game of the Saturday doubleheader. He now has 267 career hits, which ranks fifth on the school's all-time list. The Minnesota native leads the Big Ten with a .409 batting average in all games and rates second with 30 runs scored. Steidl is the first Conference standout to earn weekly honors twice this season, as he was also selected on March 9.

April 5

Travis Gulick, Michigan State

JR, OF, East Lansing, MI/East Lansing

Gulick helped lift the Spartans to a 5-0 record this week, including a sweep of League foe Iowa. Gulick hit .500 on the week, including .538 in Big Ten play. On the week, he went 8 of 16 at the plate, collected five RBI and scored five runs, including the game-winner in the second game against the Hawkeyes. He hit two doubles and a homerun against Iowa increasing his career-best active hitting streak to 19 games. In four games against Iowa, Gulick played error-free in right field while posting a slugging percentage of .923 and an on-base percentage of .684.

Ronnie Bourquin, Ohio State

FR, DH, Canton, OH/Canton South

Bourquin hit .529 on the five-game week, including .643 in Big Ten play against Illinois, to earn a share of Big Ten weekly honors. He posted nine hits (including two doubles and a homer) on 17 at bats with five RBI and scored four runs. Bourquin was a perfect 3-for-3 with three RBI in the first game of Saturday's double-header against the Illini and in game two hit a walk-off, two-run home run which clinched the 5-3 victory. He posted a 1.000 slugging percentage against Illinois while adding a .667 on-base percentage.

March 29

Matt Fornasiere, Minnesota

SO, SS, Maple Grove, MN/Maple Grove

Fornasiere was named the Most Valuable Player of the Iowa Cubs/Hawkeye Classic in Iowa City as he batted .778 (7-of-9), drove in seven runs and scored six times in three games to collect Big Ten Player of the Week laurels. The sophomore shortstop led the Gophers to a 3-0 record with a slugging percentage of 1.111 and an on-base percentage of .818. Fornasiere delivered the game-winning pinch-hit single in an 11-inning triumph over Northern Illinois and collected two hits and two walks against Northern Colorado. In a non-conference game against the host Hawkeyes, he batted four-for-five, including the first Minnesota grand slam since the 2002 season, and added six RBI and four runs. Fornasiere is the second Gopher to earn Player of the Week honors this season, along with teammate Sam Steidl on March 9.

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March 22

SO, IF, Caldwell, OH/Shenandoah

Stephen led Ohio State to two wins at the Coca-Cola Classic in Mobile, Ala., by batting .727 (8-for-11) with two home runs and five runs batted in to earn Big Ten Player of the Week honors. The Buckeyes sophomore was perfect at the plate in his first two games, going four-for-four with a homer and two RBI in the win over McNeese State before batting three-for-three with another long ball, a double and three RBI against South Alabama. He set a tournament record with eight hits and tied the tourney-best with two home runs. Stephen boasted an impressive slugging percentage of 1.364 and an on-base percentage of .750 during the three-game set

March 9

Sam Steidl, Minnesota

SR, CF, Alexandria, MN/Alexandria

Steidl became only the fifth player in the 20-year history of the Dairy Queen Baseball Classic to win Most Valuable Player honors and the Easton Silver Stick, awarded for the highest batting average in the event, to earn Big Ten Player of the Week accolades. The senior outfielder led the Gophers to the title with a pair of triumphs over top-25 teams and batted .636 (7-of-11) in the event with four runs, two doubles, two runs batted in and two stolen bases. He went two-for-three with a triple in the opener against West Virginia and added two more hits, including a double, to upset No. 14 Nebraska. In the championship game, Steidl batted three-for-four with three runs, a pair of RBI (including the game-winner) and a steal to knock off No. 22 Florida State.

March 2

Kevin Sunderman, Iowa

SO, 3B, Papillion, NE/Papillion La Vista

Sunderman batted an impressive .700 (7-of-10) during a three-game series at Centenary and racked up seven runs batted in and two runs scored to earn Big Ten Player of the Week honors. In the Hawkeyes' season-opening victory, the sophomore third baseman was two-for-four with a double and drove in three runs. In the second game, he collected two of Iowa's three hits and added two more RBI, a run scored and a pair of walks before wrapping up the weekend by going three-for-four with a pair of doubles, two RBI and another run scored. Sunderman compiled an imposing slugging percentage of 1.000 and an on-base percentage of .769 in the three-game set.

February 24

Matt Harter, Penn State

SR, C, Centre Hall, PA/Penns Valley

Harter sparked the Penn State offense to a season-opening split at Virginia, as he batted .714 with a pair of runs batted in and two runs scored to earn Big Ten Player of the Week honors. The senior catcher was two-for-three with a double and a run scored in the first game against the Cavaliers before batting three-for-four with two runs driven in and another run scored as PSU handed Virginia its first loss of the year. The Pennsylvania native produced a slugging percentage of .857 and an on-base percentage of .778 during the two-game split. This is the first weekly Conference award of Harter's career.

February 17

Anthony Wycklendt, Northwestern

SO, OF, Glendale, WI/Nicolet

Wycklendt batted .417 with six runs batted in and two runs scored to earn the first Big Ten Player of the Week award of the 2004 campaign. The Wildcats opened the season by scoring 18 runs in their first three games at the Oakland A's Spring Training Tournament in Phoenix, Arizona. The sophomore outfielder began the year with a bang, going four-for-five with a double and two triples while driving in four runs and scoring twice in a 15-11 loss to Pacific. He added an RBI in each of the next two games, including NU's 3-2 triumph over Washington State. Wycklendt produced an .833 slugging percentage in the three-game set and did not make an error in five chances in the field. This is the first weekly honor of his career.

