



February 18, 2010

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **AWARD TO HONOR OLERUD, TWO-WAY BASEBALL PLAYERS**

**LUBBOCK, Texas** — The College Baseball Foundation announced today the creation of the John Olerud Two-Way Player of the Year Award to be presented annually as part of the College Baseball Awards Show.

Olerud, who was inducted into the National College Baseball Hall of Fame in 2007, was a standout pitcher and first baseman at Washington State University from 1987 through 1989.

“This award is a huge honor,” Olerud said. “There have been a lot of great players in college baseball and for the College Baseball Foundation to name it after me, I am humbled and honored.”

The inaugural Olerud Award will be presented on July 2 in Lubbock as part of the second annual College Baseball Awards Show. The awards show provides a venue to present some of the biggest awards in college baseball including the Brooks Wallace Shortstop of the Year Award, the Pitcher of the Year Award and the Dick Howser Trophy, which honors the nation’s most outstanding player.

“This is a natural fit for the College Baseball Awards Show,” said Raymond Richardson, awards show chairman and member of the CBF Board of Trustees. “John Olerud had incredible on-field statistics, but more importantly, his character outside of baseball makes him the perfect namesake of this award.”

Bobo Brayton, Olerud’s coach as Washington State and fellow 2007 College Baseball Hall of Fame inductee, said Olerud’s character is what makes him a strong role model for current players.

“Naming the award after John is a great move because of the kind of person he is,” Brayton said.

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“He is as great in the community as he was on the playing field. I commend the CBF on the creation of the John Olerud Award.”

Naming a two-way player award after Olerud will allow a new generation of baseball players to understand the legacy Olerud has within the college game, said current Washington State head coach Donnie Marbut.

“The first thing I’m happy about (with this award) is that people will talk about John,” Marbut said. “We are so proud that John is an alumni of Washington State and our baseball program. There is no more special player or more special person than John Olerud.”

The College Baseball Awards Show is a part of a three-day celebration honoring the accomplishments of college baseball players past and present. The celebration also features the induction ceremonies for the National College Baseball Hall of Fame and the 4<sup>th</sup> on Broadway Parade and Fan Fest.

For more information on the Olerud Award or any program of the College Baseball Foundation, visit [www.collegebaseballfoundation.org](http://www.collegebaseballfoundation.org).

