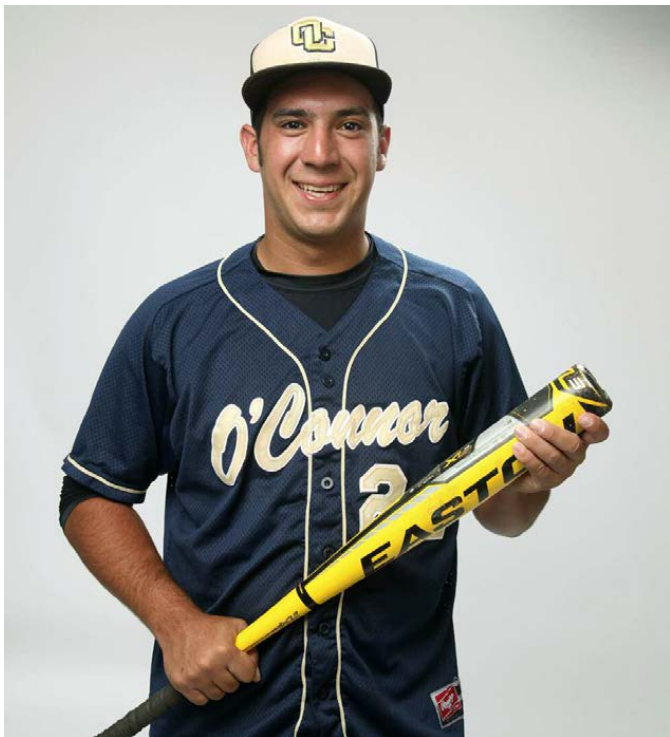


# 2013 ALL-AREA BASEBALL

## PLAYER OF THE YEAR



Juanito Garza / San Antonio Express-News

### Justin Garcia

#### AT A GLANCE

**School:** O'Connor

**Grade:** Senior

**College choice:** St. Mary's

#### WHY GARCIA'S THE ONE

He still doesn't see himself as a pitcher, but Garcia was a force on the mound when O'Connor needed him.

Once the playoffs hit, the Panthers needed him on the mound as much as possible. Garcia went on to lead them to their first state tournament appearance in school history.

Garcia earned the victory in six of

O'Connor's seven playoff games. He threw 30 2/3 of the Panthers' final 33 1/3 innings, finishing the season with a 12-2 record, four saves and a 1.35 ERA.

Primarily a catcher in the regular season, Garcia batted .402 with 36 RBIs and a .525 on-base percentage as O'Connor went 16-0 in District 27-5A play, winning the district by a six-game margin.

**Highlights:** Earned the victory in both ends of a doubleheader in the second round against Reagan and third round against Corpus Christi King. ... Threw a complete game in a 2-1 victory over Laredo United in the regional semifinals, allowing five hits and striking out four. ... Had a shut-

out through five innings of O'Connor's 2-1 state semifinal loss to Conroe The Woodlands and scored the Panthers' lone run.

**Honors:** Class 5A all-state tournament MVP. ... Unanimous All-District 27-5A.

**Quotable:** "After the game, I hugged Justin and told him he's my hero, because he is. He's somebody who fights and competes. He's such a great guy, a great teammate. He's our coach on the field." — O'Connor coach David Collenback after the Panthers' state semifinal game.

**Also considered for the E-N honor:** O'Connor's Mark Ecker, Medina Valley's Jonathan Groff, Churchill's Zane Gurwitz

## COACH OF THE YEAR

### David Collenback

#### AT A GLANCE

**Age:** 51

**School:** O'Connor

**Career record:** 309-167-2

**Head coaching experience:** Marshall (1998), O'Connor (1998-present)

#### LOOKING BACK ON 2013

Collenback, the only



baseball coach O'Connor has had since the school opened in 1998, took the

program to the state tournament for the first time this past season.

The Panthers had a 16-0 run through District 27-5A, winning the district by six games.

O'Connor saved the drama for the playoffs. The Panthers won three one-game playoffs by one run and dropped the first game of both of their best-of-3 series before sweeping both ends of double-headers to advance.

No. 1 pitcher Mark Ecker was unable to throw for the last three weeks of the playoffs because of an elbow injury, but O'Connor was able to keep advancing behind Justin Garcia. The run came to an end in a 2-1 loss to Conroe The Woodlands in the state semifinals.

**Also considered for the E-N honor:** Alamo Heights' Glynn Tschirhart, McCollum's Jose Garza, Marion's Jason Fox.

## NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

### James Nittoli

**School, position, grade:** Alamo Heights, pitcher, sophomore

**Note:** Had three complete-game victories in the playoffs as Alamo Heights went from a fourth-place tiebreaker in District 27-4A to the Region IV-4A final. Finished the season with an 8-4 record and a 1.32 ERA. ... Also the 27-4A Newcomer of the Year.

## ALL-AREA TEAMS

### Class 5A

#### PITCHERS

**Mark Ecker:** O'Connor, senior

**Jordan Hackett:** Taft, senior

**John Shult:** Churchill, junior

#### CATCHER

**Justin Garcia:** O'Connor, senior

#### INFIELDERS

**Trevor Ahin:** Steele, senior

**Drew Brooks:** Reagan, junior

**Connor Gesel:** Johnson, senior

**Zane Gurwitz:** Churchill, senior

#### OUTFIELDERS

**Zachary Galm:** O'Connor, junior

**Jason Serchay:** Churchill, senior

**Mark Whitehead:** Johnson, senior

#### UTILITY

**Zach Schneider:** Judson, senior

#### MVP

**Justin Garcia:** O'Connor

#### Class 4A

#### PITCHERS

**Michael Agis:** Harlandale, senior

**J.J. Elkins:** Clemens, junior

**Cameron Mineo:** Alamo Heights, senior

#### CATCHER

**Garret Kizer:** Clemens, senior

#### INFIELDERS

**Matt Ramirez:** Burbank, senior

**A.J. Ruland:** Kerrville Tivy, senior

**Ethan Valdez:** Brennan, sophomore

**Anthony Vasquez:** McCollum, sophomore

#### OUTFIELDERS

**Jacob DeVries:** Medina Valley, senior

**Hagen Fryrear:** Kerrville Tivy, senior

**Jonathan Groff:** Medina Valley, senior

#### UTILITY

**Seth Henry:** Edison, senior

#### MVP

**Jonathan Groff:** Medina Valley

#### Sub-4A/private Schools

#### PITCHERS

**Carson Cox:** Boerne, junior

**Victor Garza:** Marion, senior

**Cody Richey:** Comfort, senior

#### CATCHER

**Raphael DeHoyos:** Marion, senior

#### INFIELDERS

**Colton Childress:** Blanco, senior

**Jorge Mendoza:** Boerne, senior

**Donald Perez:** Somerses, junior

**Rudy Mendoza:** La Vernia, junior

#### OUTFIELDERS

**Elijah Engelmann:** Pleasanton, senior

**Jonathan Ramirez:** Central Catholic, junior

**Justin Ross:** Hondo, senior

#### UTILITY

**Troy Garcia:** Antonian, junior

#### MVP

**Victor Garza:** Marion

**Selection process:** Teams were picked by Express-News staff writer Lorne Chan with input from area coaches.

## SUPER TEAM

### Pitchers

#### MICHAEL AGIS

**School, grade:** Harlandale, senior

**Note:** THSBCA third-team all-state, unanimous All-District 29-4A. ... 9-2 record with 139 strikeouts in 76 innings and an 0.65 ERA. ... Also batted .410. ... Signed with Broward College.

#### MARK ECKER

**School, grade:** O'Connor, senior

**Note:** THSBCA second-team all-state, 27-5A District MVP. ... 7-2 record with a 1.19 ERA and 131 strikeouts in 70 1/3 innings. ... Batted .438 with 57 hits, seven home runs and 49 RBIs for state semifinals. ... 2012 Express-News Player of the Year. ... Signed with Texas A&M.

#### CAMERON MINEO

**School, grade:** Alamo Heights, senior

**Note:** Unanimous All-District 27-4A. ... 11-4 record with a 2.08 ERA and 84 strikeouts, leading team to regional final. ... Will attend Johns Hopkins.

### INFIELDERS

#### ZANE GURWITZ

**School, grade:** Churchill, senior

**Note:** THSBCA second-team all-state, unanimous All-District 26-5A. ... Batted .458 with 49 runs scored, four HRs and 24 RBIs. Also walked 26 times for a .562 on-base percentage for 26-5A champions. ... Three-time Super Team selection. ... Signed with Texas A&M.

#### DREW BROOKS

**School, grade:** Reagan, junior

**Note:** Unanimous All-District 26-5A. ... Batted .393 with a .492 on-base percentage for 23-7 team. ... 2012 Newcomer of the Year.

#### TREVOR AHIN

**School, grade:** Steele, senior

**Note:** THSBCA third-team all-state, District 28-5A MVP. ... Hit .411 with 39 runs, a .559 on-base percentage and 26 RBIs for 28-5A champions. ... Also went 3-3 on mound with two saves. ... Signed with Texas A&M-International.

#### ZACH SCHNEIDER

**School, grade:** Judson, senior

**Note:** Unanimous All-District 25-5A. ... .437 batting average with 33 runs scored. ... Also had a 6-2 record with 91 strikeouts and a 2.14 ERA. ... Signed with St. Mary's.

### OUTFIELDERS

#### ZACHARY GALM

**School, grade:** O'Connor, junior

**Note:** Unanimous All-District 27-5A. ... Batted .384 with an area-high 12 home runs, 39 runs and 42 RBIs. ... Helped Panthers go undefeated in 27-5A play and reach the state tournament.

#### MARK WHITEHEAD

**School, grade:** Johnson, senior

**Note:** Unanimous All-District 26-5A. ... Batted .433 with 45 hits, 37 runs and three HRs for regional semifinals. ... Signed with Incarnate Word.

#### JASON SERCHAY

**School, grade:** Churchill, senior

**Note:** THSBCA third-team all-state, unanimous All-District 26-5A. ... Hit .513 with 60 hits, 46 RBIs and 30 runs scored in a 30-5 season. ... Signed with Ranger College.

#### UTILITY

#### JONATHAN GROFF

**School, grade:** Medina Valley, junior

**Note:** THSBCA third-team all-state, unanimous All-District 29-4A. ... Batted .526 with four HRs, 60 RBIs and 37 runs. ... 9-2 record with 121 strikeouts in 65 1/3 innings for 28-4 team. ... All-Area last season.

