

# Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame



## **BOBBY SPROWL** **Class of 2010**

*"In Recognition of a Lifetime of Outstanding Achievement in the game of Baseball.  
The State of Alabama will forever be in your debt."*

Bobby Sprowl grew up in Tampa, Florida and played in the prestigious Tampa youth leagues. He attended Chamberlain High School where he was an All-State player and led his team to a regional final. Following his career at Chamberlain, Sprowl attended The University of Alabama where he enjoyed a stellar collegiate career and was recognized as a second team All-American and Consensus All-SEC in 1977. His 11.50 strikeouts per nine innings led the NCAA in 1977. He was recently honored by being named to the Crimson Tide All-Century Team. In the summer of 1976 Sprowl was named the most outstanding pro prospect when he led Wareham to its first championship in the esteemed Cape Cod League.

After his collegiate success at Alabama, Sprowl enjoyed an eight year professional baseball career with the Boston Red Sox and Houston Astros. Sprowl, who was the number two pick of the Boston Red Sox in the June 1977 free agent draft, was a member of the 1978 team that lost a one game American League Eastern Division playoff to the New York Yankees on Bucky Dent's famous three run homer over the green monster at Fenway Park. On June 13, 1979 Bobby was traded to the Houston Astros where he played on the 1980 and 1981 Western Division Championship Teams.

Sprowl began his coaching career at Shelton State in 1986 during the second year of their program. He remained at Shelton until 1990 taking the Buccaneers to the ACCC Championship game in 1988 & 1989. After this four year stint at Shelton, Sprowl moved across town to return to his alma mater as the pitching coach. He served in this capacity for five years before returning to Shelton in 1995.

Sprowl, well known throughout the south as a pitching instructor, has remained at Shelton for the past fifteen years. His Shelton teams play an exciting brand of baseball and have drawn national attention by winning the ACCC Championship the past three years, including finishing runner-up in the nation at the coveted Junior College World Series in 2008. His overall record at Shelton is 668-397 and he has been named ACCC Coach of the Year for 2007, 2008, and 2009. Perhaps one of his greatest accomplishments has been sending over 130 players on to play baseball at 4-year colleges and universities.

Baseball has been a big part of Bobby's life but the most important part has been his family. "My wife Teresa has been everything you could ask for as a friend and partner. She is the most caring and understanding person I know. My sons Trevor and Jon Mark and my daughter Graceson have given me more memories than anything that has happened in baseball."

After having spent over forty years in baseball Sprowl still takes the same approach he has taken since day one. "When I walk through the gates out to the field I still have fun. When I quit having fun will be the day I quit!"

**Inducted January 22, 2010**