

Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Distinguished Service Award



BARRY DEAN 2010 Recipient

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

Barry Dean was born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama. He was introduced to the game of baseball at age six by his dad, Richard C. Dean, Sr., whom the baseball field at East Montgomery Baseball Complex is named after (Ross Tanner/Richard Dean, Sr. Field). Barry's parents were very influential on his development. His Dad's love of the game of baseball was passed on to Barry, as was his Mother's volunteerism, as she helped her church and high school with countless hours of service. From age six, Barry has never left the baseball field. He played summer league baseball until age 18 at East Montgomery and High School baseball at Montgomery Catholic High School. He then walked on at Chattahoochee Valley Community College, located in Phenix City, Alabama. Barry earned a scholarship his second quarter there, and eventually was voted team captain of the 1986 state community college champion "Pirates" by his teammates. He earned a scholarship to play at Auburn University at Montgomery for the 1987 & 1988 seasons. After completing his B.S. degree in psychology from AUM, he volunteered as a graduate assistant baseball coach at Troy University, while pursuing his masters degree/k-12 teachers certification in health and physical education. He's had head coaching stints Montgomery Catholic High School (his alma mater), Alabama Southern C.C., Wallace-Dothan C.C., Andrew College, Wallace-Selma C.C. and most recently, from 2007 – 2009, Lawson State C.C. in Birmingham.

Barry was a head coach in the NCAA-sanctioned upstate New York Summer Collegiate League in 1994 & 95, has traveled to England, Germany, Brazil and Nicaragua as an envoy coach with Major League Baseball International (MLBI) and was a featured speaker at the American Baseball Coaches Association National Convention in 2007 in Orlando. He struck a deal with MLBI, the first and only state association in the country to do so, that will allow the ALABCA to send a coach overseas each summer as an envoy coach, to teach and promote the game of baseball, beginning in the summer of 2010. Barry has also traveled to the Dominican Republic on several occasions to conduct clinics with various groups.

Barry also has an in-depth background in umpiring, as he attended the Harry Wendelstedt Umpire School in January 2000. He has umpired youth league, high school and college baseball. Upon Barry's urging, the community college umpires association have a fall clinic for new umpires and use his fall community college classic games as their training ground.

He attended the first Alabama Baseball Coaches Association clinic held at Hoover High School on December 16-17, 1995, and it was there that he volunteered to help out with future association activities. After attending the Georgia Dugout Club's state clinic in 1990, Barry realized what a good baseball coaches association could do to service the sport on a statewide level. Barry was invited by Harry Lloyd, Head Coach of Westminster High School in Atlanta, to attend this event. Harry Lloyd and Julian Mock, former Cincinnati Reds Scouting Director, were both major influences on Barry, when he worked their summer baseball camp in north Georgia for five years from 1990-1994. Barry learned how to run a fun, yet professional and instructional baseball camp. His trademark of having his players shin their shoes and wear their uniform properly were learned from Coaches Lloyd and Mock. At a very formative time in his young coaching career they were a blessing to have in his life. Two other ALABCA Hall of Famers who had major professional and personal influences on Barry were Joe Mason and Larry Giangrosso. Joe, legendary professional scout, got Barry to work the baseball camp in Georgia that proved to be pivotal in Barry's career. He also has supported Barry in all his endeavors with the ALABCA. Larry Giangrosso, widely known as Coach Gino, had the greatest influence on Barry on and off the field of play. Barry learned what it meant to run a structured and disciplined program, with organized and specific practice plans. He once told Barry, "If you fail to plan, you plan to fail." Coach Gino has been a sounding board, confidant and advisor to many of the ideas Barry has had for the Coaches Association. He urged Barry to run the coaches association on a full-time basis because of his love of the game and vision he had for the coaches association. More importantly, Coach Gino is a devout Catholic Christian, and this has been a great inspiration to Barry in how to live his life since he's Catholic.

Barry volunteered as a committee member of the ALABCA from 1996 – 2000. He organized and ran the coaches convention. During this time the event went from seventy-five coaches and five exhibitors attending, to three-hundred fifty coaches and twenty exhibitors attending. In 2000 he was appointed the Executive Director of the ALABCA and has held that position until the present time. His first order of business was to incorporate the ALABCA, re-write the by-laws and apply for 501 (c) (3) non-profit status. Non-profit status was granted by the government on the first attempt, a feat not easily achieved. The membership has remained around four-hundred-fifty high school and college coaches and professional scouts during this time. As President/Executive Director he has had the vision to service all levels of baseball on the amateur level and even work with the professional level, with the scouts. As a result the high school coaches attend a convention each year with outstanding speakers from the state of Alabama and from around the country, while youth league volunteer coaching clinics are held throughout the state February – April. In June 700 high school underclassmen are worked out at community colleges throughout the state, as 160 of them are chosen to participate in the All-Star Weekend of games and clinic activities off the field. These games are coached by community college coaches from around the state as high school coaches assist them. A professional scout school for high school and college coaches to attend during the All-Star Weekend was founded in 2009. In the fall of 2009 forty high schools participated in the ALABCA fundraiser that brought in over \$80,000, with 75% of that going to the schools. Other events/activities the ALABCA sponsors: the Fall Community College Sophomore workout days and the Fall Community College Classic, four baseball field clinics being held in December throughout the State, the January "First Pitch" Dinner and silent auction that raises money for the \$1,500 scholarships awarded to underclassman participant applicants, and the minority outreach efforts to get more black coaches involved in the All-Star Weekend, therefore getting their players more involved in the underclassman event.

Bobby Pierce, Troy University Head Coach and 2010 ALABCA Hall of Fame Inductee, wrote Barry this note after the 2007 January Coaches Convention: "Barry, just wanted to congratulate you and the entire ALABCA for another great coaches convention. I just want you guys to know how much we appreciate your efforts. I also want you and the association to know that through your efforts baseball in the state of Alabama has progressed beyond my imagination. As we look at the success of our high school and collegiate programs over the past several years the progress has never been more obvious. I believe growth of the ALABCA and impact has been a very big part of that success."

What started out as a volunteer position with the ALABCA has turned into a full-time position. Barry enjoys passing on the experiences he's had in the game of baseball, or the ideas he's gotten from other people and organizations, to the players and coaches in Alabama. Barry is honored and humbled that he has received the support of the states' baseball players, coaches and professional scouts since 2000, when he began running the ALABCA. He feels privileged to be able to live out the ALABCA mission statement as his life's professional calling. It states, "Our Mission is to Educate, Honor and Promote the state's amateur baseball Players and Coaches."

Honored January 22, 2010