

Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame



JIM CASE Class of 2014

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

Jim Case has been one of the most successful baseball coaches in the Ohio Valley Conference's history over the last decade at Jacksonville State.

Case's JSU teams won five Ohio Valley Conference Championships from 2004-2013 and won more OVC games during that 10-year span than any other team in the league. His teams set the OVC record by posting an amazing 23-4 Conference record in 2008; won two OVC Coach of the Year Awards; and the Gamecocks have played in the OVC Tournament Championship game seven out of 10 years.

Case, who was named the 2005 and 2008 Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year, has posted a 385-314 overall record, but has an impressive 176-87 record against OVC opponents, which is 20 more wins than second place Austin Peay's total of 156-96, and JSU's 66.9 winning percentage is well ahead of the Govs total of 61.9 percent.

In 2013, the Gamecocks finished with a 32-26 overall record, and tied for third in the OVC with a 22-8 record and advanced to the OVC Conference Tournament for the tenth straight year. As a matter of fact, JSU has advanced to the six-team Tournament every year since joining the league in 2004.

2012 Gamecocks finished with a 17-10 OVC record and earned the No. 3 seed into the Conference Tournament, posting a 2-2 record before losing to eventual champion Austin Peay.

The 2011 Gamecocks finished with a 36-23 record and advanced to the OVC Tournament Championship for the seventh time (out of eight years) and had 11 players earn All-Conference honors.

The 2010 Gamecocks won the school's 15th conference baseball championship after winning all three games in the OVC Tournament. JSU opened with a 7-5 win over Eastern Illinois and defeated Tennessee Tech 9-7 to advance to the OVC Championship game for the sixth time in the last seven years. Jax State then beat the Golden Eagles 10-8 as four players had three hits.

Although the 2009 JSU team entered the OVC Tournament as the No. 6 seed, the Gamecocks advanced to the Championship game for the fifth time in the last six years.

The 2008 Gamecocks raised the bar in the Ohio Valley Conference by posting an incredible 23-4 OVC record, including winning their final 14 straight conference games. It was the most conference wins by any team in the OVC's 48-year history.

In 2007, the Gamecocks played in the OVC Championship game for the fourth straight year after posting an 18-9 mark in conference play. The Gamecocks placed the most players of any other school after 10 Gamecocks were named to OVC All-Conference teams. JSU also earned the OVC Sportsmanship Award in baseball for the 2007 season.

In 2006, Case led the Gamecocks to their second NCAA Regional appearance in three years after winning the OVC Tournament with a dramatic final at-bat win over Samford. JSU placed six players on the All-Conference squad, the most of any other team in the league. In 2005, Jax State won the Conference regular-season title after posting a 35-25 season, including a 19-8 mark in the league. It was the school's sixth conference championship and the first in Division I.

The Gamecocks made an immediate impact in their first season in the league in 2004. JSU finished third in the regular season standings and then defeated Southeast Missouri State to claim the OVC Tournament Championship and advance to NCAA post-season play for the first time in more than 13 years and the first time in the school's Division I history.

Over the last 10 years, 174 of his players have posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher and a total of 141 players have been named to the Academic All-Conference teams. JSU had 14 players named to the squad last year and the team posted an impressive grade point average of 3.26 during the term.

Jacksonville State claimed the prestigious OVC Team Academic Achievement Award after placing 11 student-athletes on the OVC Commission's Honor Roll in 2005. The OVC Team Academic Achievement Awards are presented annually in each of the 17 Conference sponsored sports to the member institution's team with the greatest percentage of its student-athletes named to the OVC Commissioner's Honor Roll.

One of his team's principles is to study hard and go to class. While at Mississippi State, the Bulldogs led the SEC with 37 Academic Honor Roll recipients. Under his leadership at JSU, the baseball team has achieved an impressive increase in GPA and 82 team members have achieved Academic All-Conference honors over the last seven years.

The road to JSU for Coach Case was filled with tradition and hard work.

Case was a three-sport letterman earning All-City honors in baseball and football at Birmingham's Ensley High School. He credits coaches George Gould, Ronnie Syphurs, Jimmy Tucker, and Jerry Deaton for instilling good work ethic and practice habits.

Case continued his playing career at Louisiana Tech University under Coach Pat Patterson. Case earned All-Southland Conference honors as a catcher and was selected by the team as the recipient for the Outstanding Attitude Award. Afterward, he stayed at Louisiana Tech as a student assistant coach for a year before entering graduate school and working as a graduate assistant coach for Ron Polk at Mississippi State University. While at MSU, Case completed a Master's Degree in Physical Education and an Educational Specialist's Degree in Educational Leadership.

Leading up to his first head coaching position at JSU, Case served as assistant coach at UAB under Pete Rancont and at Mississippi State University under Pat McMahon.

While at UAB, teams coached by Case claimed a 1991 Sun Belt Conference Championship and their first NCAA Regional appearance as well as a 1992 Great Mid-West Conference Title.

During his stints at MSU, Case coached in six NCAA Regional tournaments, two Super-Regionals, and made two College World Series appearances. Over 30 of his former players have been selected in the Major League Baseball Draft with eight advancing to the major leagues. Former MSU pitchers Matt Ginter and Paul Maholm were first round draft choices, while former JSU pitchers Ben Tootle (third), Jesse Corn (sixth) and Donovan Hand (14th) have all been selected in the MLB Draft.

Because of Case's many successes, he is frequently asked to speak at local, regional and national clinics and organizations. He has twice been featured as an invited lecturer at the American Baseball Coaches Association Convention, including the 2008 convention in Philadelphia. Case also just concluded a three-year term on the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee.

Inducted January 17, 2014