

# Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame



## **TOMMY WALKER** **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.”*

Tommy Walker has been coaching baseball since 1982 – culminating a career balanced between college and high school with three straight Class 5A state baseball championships at Spanish Fort High School in 2010, 2011 and 2012 – recording a perfect 6-0 record in the three championship series with his teams outscoring opponents 56-14 in that span and never trailed in 42 innings.

Walker took over the new Spanish Fort program in 2005. He spent the next seven years building the Toros into one of the state’s most successful programs ever. After a 9-8 start the first year with basically eighth, ninth and tenth graders, his teams reached the state playoffs for the next six seasons. His overall record at Spanish Fort was 201-62. He also built a lasting impression on the school’s students serving as Fellowship of Christian Athletes Huddle Coach during his tenure.

Walker became head coach at Alabama’s most storied prep baseball power Vestavia Hills High School following 2012.

The Mississippi native graduated from Ocean Springs High School, where he was named All Bay Area in baseball in 1976 and 1977. After high school, Walker played at Mississippi Gulf Coast Junior College. The catcher helped Gulf Coast win the Mississippi Junior College State Championship.

Walker walked on at the University of Montevallo for ALABCA Hall of Fame Coach Bob Riesener. He hit .300 as a junior and was a part-time starter for the Falcons as a senior. The utility player played outfield, third base, second base and catcher his senior year, graduating Cum Laude in 1982.

He was hired that fall by another ALABCA Hall of Fame Coach, Gerald Gann, to teach math and coach football, basketball and baseball at Homewood High School. After coaching the JV baseball team for two years, Walker was named the head coach at Homewood. During his three years at Homewood, the Patriots won the area championship in 1985 and 1987 and advanced to the 2nd round of the AHSAA playoffs both years.

Walker became a graduate assistant at Mississippi State in 1988 and was named head coach at Samford University the next year, taking over a struggling Bulldogs program that had lost 49 games the year before – most in the NCAA that season.

Within three years, Walker guided Samford to the championship of the Western Division of the Trans American Athletic Conference and finished 3rd in the TAAC Tournament. His teams won 187 games at Samford, second most in school history.

He left Samford and returned to the high school ranks at Mountain Brook. His Spartans won the area championship in 2000 and 2002 and made the state playoffs three years before taking over Spanish Fort. Walker led Vestavia Hills to the Class 6A, Area 12 title in 2013 – recording the 500th win of his coaching career in the process.

In 14 years as a head coach on the high school level, Walker has compiled a 319-169-1 slate. His overall coaching record, including his college years, is 506-454-3.

His prep teams have won 11 area championships and have been to the state playoffs 12 times. A total of 28 players have gone on to play college baseball, including 17 on the Division 1 level. Seven have played professional baseball including major leaguer Wendell Magee.

Walker was named the ASWA Class 5A Coach of the Year in 2012, the Mobile Press-Register Coach of the Year (twice), and the Baldwin County Coach of the Year (4 times). He received the prestigious Sammy Dunn Coach of the Year award from the ALABCA in 2011 and the Sammy Dunn FCA Baseball Coach of the Year Award in 2007.

**Inducted January 17, 2014**