

# Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Distinguished Service Award



## JOE MASON 2017 Recipient

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

Joe Mason's contributions to the Alabama Baseball Coaches Association (ALABCA) have been great and consistent since the association began its statewide Underclassman Regional Workouts and All-Star Event in 2000. Joe was the first person ALABCA Executive Director Barry Dean called upon when he decided to begin the workouts and All-Star game in 2000. Joe traveled the state from North to South, working the four one-day high school underclassmen regional workouts with Barry to help pick the top 100 players to be worked out and showcased in the All-Star game.

Joe participated heavily in these workouts, where up to 700 players were evaluated, for 10 years, until his professional scouting schedule wouldn't allow him the time to do so. Joe continued to attend the All-Star Event and the banquet the night before, where all players and parents and coaches involved in the event are welcomed. Mason has also worked the winter High School baseball player clinics and showcases each year since their inception in 2011.

He has attended the January Coaches Convention each year, when his schedule allowed, since it began in 1995. Joe has been a speaker at all of these ALABCA events he's attended as well. Joe Mason's love of and commitment to the game of baseball, and more specifically, to the players and coaches who participate in it on the amateur level, can be directly seen in his support of and consistent participation in the ALABCA's events held each year since the association was formed in 1995.

Joe attended Dozier High School (he was among 12 graduates in his class), Alabama Christian College and Auburn University. He served in the United States Navy for 4 years from 1969-1973 and served a tour of duty in Viet Nam.

Mason coached baseball at Auburn University of Montgomery from 1973-1979 and began his scouting career as a Bird Dog Scout for Milwaukee in 1977. He became a full time scout with the New York Mets in October 1980. From 1981 thru 1997, Joe served the Mets as area scout, cross checker and area supervisor, covering 5 southeastern states and Australia. He signed major league players Bill Latham, Lou Thornton, Terry Blocker, Barry Lyons, Wes Gardner, Dave Magadan, David West, Rich Rodriguez, Marcus Lawton, Jeff McKnight, Pat Howell and Terrance Long. Mason was part of the 1986 World Championship New York Mets.

Joe joined the Boston Red Sox in 1998 and scouted there until 2004. He signed major league players Josh Hancock and Jonathan Papelbon for the Red Sox, and was part of the 2004 World Championship Boston Red Sox.

Joe Mason was an area scout for the Milwaukee Brewers from 2003-2010, and then worked as an area scout for the Arizona Diamondbacks from 2010 - 2015.

His honors include Scout of the Year for the New York Mets, 1983, induction into the Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame Class of 2001, and appearing on a Topps Baseball Card with Jonathan Papelbon, 2008. Joe was also inducted into the Class of 2016 Professional Baseball Scouts Foundation Hall of Fame. This is the highest honor a professional scout may receive. In 2006 when the Alabama Baseball Coaches Association began awarding yearly scholarships to High School senior baseball player student-athletes, its Student-Athlete of the Year Scholarship, valued at \$2,000, was named after Joe.

Joe Mason, through his vast experience in virtually all levels of baseball, exemplifies the mission of the Alabama Baseball Coaches Association: to educate, honor and promote the state's amateur baseball players and coaches. He selflessly volunteered his time, expertise, and vast contacts in the baseball world, which led to his becoming one of the solid rocks upon which the association was founded.

**Honored January 20, 2017**