

Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame



FRANK SIMS Class of 2017

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

Frank Sims, Athletic Director and head baseball coach at Spring Hill College in Mobile, has compiled more than 35 years of experience as a head baseball coach in both colleges and high schools in Illinois, Kentucky, Wisconsin and Alabama.

Frank grew up on a farm in Charleston, Illinois with seven brothers and sisters, and graduated high school in 1970. After attending Lake Land Junior College, he pitched for the University of Iowa, and was a member of its co-Big Ten championship team in 1973. He and his wife Dana have four children, Drew, Sara Anderson (Charlie), Kelsey Welch (Tyler), and Brian, along with two grandchildren.

Sims has accumulated 858 total victories as a collegiate head baseball coach. He holds the record for most career victories at Spring Hill and his tenure there includes 23 20-win seasons, six 30-win seasons, two 40-win seasons and four conference championships.

Spring Hill appeared in the NAIA Regional Tournament four times under his leadership, and Sims has been honored as a Conference Coach of the Year on five occasions; the latest time being the 2014 Independent Collegiate Athletic Association (ICAA) honor in NCAA Division II. During Spring Hill's 2015 NCAA Division II transition season, the Badgers achieved a perfect 16-0 mark in the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) and a 26-14 record overall. In 2016, the Badgers once again topped the SIAC with an 18-3 conference record and a 29-16 record overall.

Spring Hill College has maintained a baseball team since its first intercollegiate play in 1889. Currently the team plays its home games at Stan Galle Field, the oldest continually used college baseball field in the country.

Sims earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Eastern Illinois University in 1977. He began his coaching career as an assistant baseball coach at Eastern Illinois. He then began a successful three-year stint as the head coach at Sparta High School in Sparta, Illinois. He became a graduate assistant coach in 1980 at Morehead State University in Kentucky and served in that position for three years. Frank completed his Master of Arts in Health, Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater. He was the head baseball coach at Milton College in Wisconsin, where he compiled a 36-10 record and reached the NAIA Regional Tournament during the 1982 season. He was named head baseball coach at Spring Hill College in 1985, with just three weeks remaining in the season. He has remained head baseball coach, while also rising through the ranks to serve as Assistant Athletic Director and Athletic Director; the position he currently holds.

Frank did not limit his coaching to baseball only in the United States. He coached the US team in international competition for nine years, and led his teams to win the championships of the Prague (formerly Czechoslovakia) Baseball Week in 2009 and 2010. He also coached US teams to Runner-Up finishes in 2008 and third-place finishes in 2005 and 2006. In addition to Prague, Frank's coaching in international play took teams of young men to the Netherlands, Milan, Italy and Regensburg, Germany, providing them with an international travel experience they would probably not have experienced otherwise.

Frank Sims has devoted his professional life to serving as a baseball coach and collegiate Athletic Director, with most of that career spent at Spring Hill. He has achieved an outstanding graduation rate among his players at Spring Hill College, a Catholic Jesuit liberal arts school. In addition to his success in baseball, he has recruited, hired, and motivated coaches and administrative support personnel. He has designed, organized, and implemented new men's and women's intercollegiate programs and increased Booster Club sponsorship, fund raising and participation. He is a devout family man and is highly respected in the Mobile community, serving on numerous conference and national committees. He has dedicated his life not only to Spring Hill College, but to his family and community. His career's most important legacy is the positive and constructive impact it has had on the lives of the young men and women who benefited from the programs implemented by Frank Sims in their quest for athletic and educational excellence.

Inducted January 20, 2017