

Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame



LARRY FOSTER 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.”*

Over a long career, Larry Joel Foster has achieved a high degree of success in every level and facet of baseball, serving as a player, coach, supporter, speaker, volunteer and Hall of Fame member.

Before he graduated from Etowah High School in 1969, Larry earned All State status while playing baseball and football. While attending Jacksonville State University from 1969 to 1973, Larry was named an NAIA All-American in baseball in 1971 and an NCAA baseball All-American in 1973. He also participated in the College World Series in 1973.

Foster earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education and English from Jacksonville State University in 1974, and earned a Master of Science degree in Physical Education from the same institution in 1978.

Larry and his wife Jolene have one daughter, Jamie Copeland (Kevin), and two grandchildren, Abby and Kaycee. He has taught Sunday School at the Stowers Hill Baptist Church for more than 30 years.

After earning his undergraduate degree from Jacksonville State, Larry went on to fulfill his dream of playing professional baseball. While playing for the Chicago White Sox and the Kansas City Royals organizations, he was named the M.V.P. of the Sarasota Rookie League in 1973. In 1976 he earned M.V.P. status from the Southern League (AA) and won the batting title with a .311 average.

Larry then began a coaching career that would achieve success at a historic level for his school, his community and the state of Alabama. He served as the head baseball coach at Etowah High School from 1980 through 2004. In these 24 years, Etowah would win the Area Championship 14 times, and make the State playoffs 17 out of 24 years, including 16 consecutive years from 1989 through 2004. Etowah High School won the State Baseball Championship in 1985, 1987 and 1996.

Foster retired from the Attalla City Schools in 2004, but was brought back to serve as the varsity baseball coach from 2013 to the present. During his time as head coach, he has compiled an impressive record of 618 wins and 262 losses. Some 85 players were awarded college scholarships in baseball and 5 players were drafted to play professional ball during this period.

Larry started a youth baseball program in Attalla in 1980, and led campaigns to improve the baseball facilities at Etowah High School, including upgrading the baseball field, building a locker room and indoor batting facility. The City of Attalla named the baseball field in honor of Coach Larry Foster in 2004. He was elected to the Jacksonville State University Hall of Fame in 1985 and the Etowah County Hall of Fame in 2004.

Larry Foster continues to make lasting impressions on the lives of his players, passing along good moral and ethical character as well as outstanding qualities. “Be at the right place, at the right time, with the right equipment, the right preparation and with the right attitude, then there is no way you cannot succeed,” Foster said. With his outstanding playing, coaching, and community involvement career, Larry Foster exemplifies all the best qualities of a winner and true leader.

Inducted January 20, 2017