

Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Distinguished Service Award



DAN WASHBURN **2004 Recipient**

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

Dan Washburn, once a football star at LaFayette High School who developed into one of the top quarterbacks in the state, was signed by Coach Scrappy Moore at the University of Chattanooga. After graduating from LaFayette in 1958 and being a college QB in Chattanooga, he returned to Alabama in 1962 as a teacher and assistant coach at Valley High School where he spent five years working for Coach Doug Lockridge. He then moved to Lanett High School first as head football coach, later as Lanett’s Superintendent of Education, and then to the AHSAA’s top position, Executive Director.

With a head-coaching record of 115-49-4, Washburn coached the Lanett Panthers from 1967-1982 with a one-year break in 1973 when he served as Prattville head coach. Washburn, 115-49-4, still ranks as Lanett’s all-time coaching leader. Three teams reached the Class 3A semifinals including his 1976 team, which finished 12-1. Perhaps most important was his 11-4 record in 15 meetings with arch-rival Valley. The Panthers’ record in the rivalry is 16-35-2 outside Washburn’s tenure.

Washburn attended Troy State at Phenix City where he completed his master’s degree, allowing him to eventually become Superintendent of Lanett City Schools in 1984 serving in this role for seven years. The opportunity to join the District 4 Legislative Council had opened up a few years earlier. That led to a place on the AHSAA’s Central Board where the board made Washburn the AHSAA’s third full-time executive director.

From that austere beginning, Washburn has led the AHSAA molding the direction of the state’s 400-plus high schools and more than 150,000 student-athletes and coaches. Washburn was instrumental in the development of outstanding venues for the AHSAA championship sports. It was under his leadership that the current corporate partner program began to reach its potential and make possible events such as The Super Six Football championships, Final 48 Basketball championships, the Elite Eight Volleyball championships, and the All-Star Sports Week in the summer. He also established the STAR Sportsmanship initiative as an eligibility requirement and was elected to the NFHS Board of Directors. Washburn was inducted into the Alabama High School Hall of Fame in 2000.

Honored January 16, 2004