

# Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame



## **RUDY ABBOTT** **Class of 2002**

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

Rudy Abbott, the winningest coach in Alabama collegiate sports history, coached the Jacksonville State University Gamecocks from 1970-2001. He led the Gamecocks to back-to-back NCAA Division II National Championships in 1990 and 1991. He won eight conference Coach of the Year awards and captured 11 Conference Championships. Coach Abbott led his team seven times to the NCAA Division II World Series and won seven NCAA Division II Regional titles. His teams made four NCAA Division I Regional appearances and 13 Division II Regional appearances.

Coach Abbott and his teams won the Ohio Valley Conference Tournament Championship four times. In addition, he holds three Atlantic Sun Conference Division I Divisional Championship titles and eight Division II Gulf South Conference Divisional Championship titles.

Abbott finished his impressive 32-year coaching career amassing 1,003 wins. He is only the 29th coach in NCAA history to eclipse the 1,000- win plateau. His 1000th win came on March 10, 2001, with a 4-3 win over Belhaven College. He coached 24 All-Americans, and more than 75 of his players have gone on to the professional ranks. Coach Rudy Abbott is not only a JSU coaching legend but is also known for his contributions to the university as a player who proudly wore the Gamecock uniform himself.

As a pitcher for the Gamecocks during the early 1960's, Abbott holds the distinction of hurling two of the school's 17 no-hitters, both of which came during the 1962 season. He was drafted by Major League Baseball's Pittsburgh Pirates in 1962. Abbott returned to his alma mater as the school's Sports Information Director before taking over the baseball program in 1970. He continued to serve as SID until 1984. The road to victory Abbott paved at JSU does not go unnoticed as Alabama Highway 204 was named "Rudy Abbott Highway" in his honor after his retirement following the 2001 baseball season.

**Inducted January 18, 2002**