

Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame



RONNIE BAYNES **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."*

Ronnie Baynes coached for 32 years at Banks, Selma, Tallassee, and Mountain Brook high schools as well as the Alabama School for the Deaf. His 17 baseball teams at Tallassee won five state championships (1986, 1987, 1989, 1990, and 1991) and was runner-up in 1985. In addition, his teams had three final four finishes and 16 State playoff appearances. His last two years of coaching was at Central Alabama Community College. In 2001, he led his team to win the State Junior College Division I Championship, Southeastern Regional Championship, and went on to finish third in the JUCO College World Series in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Coach Baynes was selected as National Junior College Coach of the Year, Southeastern District in 2001. His coaching accolades also include coaching in the 1997 North-South All Star Baseball game, being an active coach in the AHSAA for 32 years, and securing an overall baseball career record of 503 wins- 201 losses. Along with being selected to the Alabama Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame, he was also selected to the Alabama High School Coaches Hall of Fame and the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame.

Along with coaching, Baynes also officiated football, basketball, and baseball including football in the Southeastern Conference for 12 years and football in the National Football League for 15 years. Baynes had the privilege of working seven bowl games including a college national championship game between Oklahoma and Washington in the Orange Bowl. In the NFL, he worked for two Super Bowls, the Pro Bowl, five NFC-AFC championships, and 11 play-off games. He was awarded the Art McNally award given by the NFL to the official who has contributed to officiating in a positive manner on and off the field. In 2001, he gave up coaching and on-the-field officiating to accept a position in NYC as the Supervisor of NFL officials. After his sons came into the NFL, he accepted the position as Director of Scouting, Recruiting, and Training potential officials where he eventually retired in 2015.

After retirement Baynes continues to work for the SEC and CUSA as trainer and evaluator of their officials. Baynes is a native of Talladega where he graduated from Talladega High School as a four-sport letterman. He denied a professional baseball offer to sign a football scholarship at Auburn University. During his career at Auburn, he played four years of football (one year freshmen ball and three years where he lettered on varsity). He was named the All-SEC Second Team Defensive End. Impressively, he also played two years as a starter on Auburn's baseball team that won the SEC East Championship and played and started on the freshmen basketball team. He was honored to play in the 1965 Blue-Gray game while at Auburn and then went on to sign a professional football contract with the Dallas Cowboys. Consequently, a knee injury ended his playing career; thus, he began his coaching career.

Inducted January 18, 2002