

# Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame



## **BOB RIESENER** **Class of 2003**

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

Bob Riesener retired in 2003 after 30 years at the University of Montevallo (1973-2003) and four years at Livingston University (1967-1971). Riesener's overall collegiate coaching record was 1,045 wins and 704 losses. The wins represent the most ever in a four-year collegiate baseball coaching in the State of Alabama. In addition to these totals, he was 39-44 in high school, 40-7 in semi-pro ball (1970-71) while at Livingston, and 13-8 in U.S. Army Baseball in 1962. Impressively, that factors into 1,137 wins in 40 years of coaching.

Riesener coached the NAIA All Stars, IBA President Cup in Seoul Korea in 1991 as well as the Team USA Trials, South Team in 1992. He has coached the Alabama Collegiate Conference four years, Southern States Conference four years, and the NAIA District 27 four years. He was named the Coach of the Year 12 times and the NCAA Alabama Coach of the Year in 2000.

His team records include eight-time Conference Champions (4 at Livingston, 4 at UM); seven-time NAIA District 27 Champs (2 at Livingston, 5 at UM); two-time SS, C. Northern Division (Both at UM); NAIA Area V Champs (At Livingston); nine-time Montevallo Classics Champs (At UM); six-time Selma Classic Champs (At UM); and 3rd Place NAIA World Series (At Livingston).

Riesener's honors include being inducted to the 1990 NAIA Baseball Hall of Fame, the 1990 University of Montevallo Hall of Fame, and the 2003 Alabama Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. Likewise, his honors in coaching are demonstrated through the success of his players.

In 34 years of coaching, he boasted a 90 percent plus graduation rate of his players. He has helped 25 players sign with professional leagues and has had 117 all-conference players. He saw the following players pursue baseball dreams beyond their collegiate playing career: Kenny Gonzales (Scout), Doug Sisson (Minor League Manager and Major League Coach), and Rusty Greer (Big Leaguer). He has had 26 All American Honorable mention players as well as two All-American 3rd Team, four All-American 2nd Team, and four All-American 1st Team.

Riesener himself played professional baseball with the New York Farm System from 1955-60. He amassed a 20-0 record with Alexandria of Evangeline League in 1957, which has never been done at any pro baseball league before or since. An arm injury forced his playing retirement in 1960.

Riesener was born in 1937 and served in the U. S Army from 1955-60 and 1961-2. He graduated with honors from all three colleges earning a B.S. from Rutgers University in 1963, a M.S. from Barry College in 1967, and his A.A from the University of Montevallo in 1979.

His educational accolades include being the Director of Physical Education at Miami Military Academy from 1964-67, winning the Outstanding Teacher Award at Livingston University in 1969, being the Headmaster at Sumter Academy from 1971-73, and being the Elite Night Recipient at the University of Montevallo in 1993.

Riesener's contribution to athletics goes beyond the field as he has completed 23 years of NAIA Baseball Committee work, was the District Chair (10 years), Area Chair (6 years), and on the Executive Committee (7 years). He was the founder of the UM Falcon Club in 1975, raising \$2.7 million through 2000. Coach Riesener is also credited for being responsible for baseball field lighting; intramural field lighting; renovations to Myrick Gym and Bibb Graves; bringing in O.D.P. (Olympic Development Program) camps to UM; and being the founder of U.M. Hall of Fame 1989. Additionally, he was the Director of Athletics, U.M. 1995-1998 and oversaw transition from NAIA to NCAA.

**Inducted January 17, 2003**