

Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame



GERALD GANN Class of 2005

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

Gerald Gann is a native of Winfield, Alabama. He was born August 31, 1943 to A.C. and Coy Gann. He graduated from Winfield High School in 1961 where he lettered in football, basketball, and baseball. Gerald was named to the All-State football team and played for the State All-Star Team in the East-West games in 1961. The summer of 1961 following high school graduation, he played in the National Baseball Congress World Series Tournament in Wichita, KS, where he hit .365 while playing for Anniston, AL.

Following high school, he went to the University of Alabama on a football scholarship. In 1962, Gerald signed a professional baseball contract with the Houston Colt 45's where he played winter ball. The following season he played in the Minnesota Twins organization for Class A Erie, Pennsylvania in the New York-Penn League.

Gerald completed his B.S. degree from the University of Alabama in 1966 and his master's degree in administration in 1972, also from UA. Following his professional baseball career, Gerald began his coaching career at Gordo High School in 1965 as head baseball coach and assistant football and basketball coach.

After a year at Gordo, Gerald was offered an opportunity to coach at W.A. Berry High School in Birmingham with Coach Wayne Sims and legendary Coach Bob Finley. His stay at W.A. Berry lasted from 1966-1979 where he was head baseball coach (1966-1979), offensive coordinator in football, head boys' basketball coach (1969-1974) and assistant boys' basketball coach (1966-1968; 1975-1979). The 1969 football team was a state runner-up. W.A. Berry was Jefferson County Baseball Champions in 1971 and 1972. His 1972 baseball team was State Champions and finished with a 32-9 record. While coaching 15 years of baseball at Berry, his teams accumulated over 250 wins. In 1977, he was a member of Coach Bob Finley's state championship football staff. During his time at W.A. Berry, Gerald was President of Jefferson County High School Baseball from 1973-1979. He also coached in the East-West Classic on four different occasions. Following his 13 year tenure at W.A. Berry, Gerald moved on to become head football coach at Homewood High School in 1979.

At Homewood High School, Gerald was head football coach (1979-1994), Athletic Director (1982-1994), Head Baseball Coach (1981-1983), and Girls' Basketball Coach (1986-1995). His football teams were 5A State Runner-Ups in 1986, 1990, and 1994. While at Homewood, he was member of Alabama High School Athletic Association's 5th District Board (1984-1995), President of the Alabama High School Coaches and Athletic Directors Association (1987-1988), State Planning Committee for the Alabama-Mississippi Football All-Star Classic (1988), President of Alabama High School Athletic Association 5th District Board (1988), President of the Jefferson County High School Baseball for a 2nd time (1990-1992), Member of Alabama High School Athletic Association Central Board of Control (1991-1992), and was inducted into the Marion County Sports Hall of Fame (1995). Following his 16-year tenure at Homewood, Gerald moved on to Hoover High School in 1995 to become head football coach and athletic director.

While at Hoover, his 1995 team was area champions and finished with an 11-2 record. In 1999, Gerald retired from the Alabama State System and moved to Georgia where he coached football and girls' JV basketball at Newnan High School for two years. In the spring of 1999, he was a volunteer baseball coach for UAB and Coach Pete Rancont. He was inducted into the Alabama High School Sports Hall of Fame in 2000.

In 2001, he returned to Birmingham as head football coach at John Carroll Catholic High School where he led them to five playoff appearances. He also coached JV baseball for two years.

Inducted January 21, 2005