

Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame



OREN P. “PIGGY” MITCHELL Class of 2006

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

Oren Prentice “Piggy” Mitchell enjoyed quite the coaching career and his impact is still felt to this day. Mitchell is known for his contribution to the state of Alabama in multiple sports, including baseball.

Mitchell was born in Bibb County, Alabama and graduated from Birmingham’s Simpson High School in 1919. After high school, Mitchell attended Marion Institute, Birmingham-Southern College before graduating from Valparaiso University in Indiana in 1926 and starting his coaching career in DeFuniak Springs, Florida.

After two years coaching in Florida, Mitchell returned to his home state where he served as a coach in Cordova at Bankhead High School before moving on to Valley High School in Dekalb County. Records indicate Mitchell leading his teams to winning records in each of his seasons at Bankhead and Valley.

In 1934, Mitchell took a coaching position at Shades Cahaba High School (now known as Shades Valley) which began a 31 year stint in Jefferson County. Mitchell enjoyed many winning seasons at Shades Cahaba/Shades Valley including winning the Jefferson County championship six times and 11 trips to the playoffs in 15 years at the helm.

Mitchell moved across town to Hewitt-Trussville in 1951 and remained there until he retired in 1964. From 1935-1965, Mitchell founded and served as president of the Jefferson County High School Baseball League and was heavily involved in the East-West baseball games.

Mitchell was privileged to coach many outstanding and accomplished athletes throughout his career including notable baseball players: major league player and manager, Harry Walker and pitcher Dickie Smith of the Atlanta Braves.

Beyond the baseball Diamond, Mitchell enjoyed much success over his 37 years as a basketball, football, and wrestling coach. In his 31 years in Jefferson County, Mitchell’s football teams amassed an overall record of 182-118-19 record.

Coach Mitchell proudly served as president of the AHSAA 5th District Board for 25 years.

Inducted January 20, 2006