

Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Distinguished Service Award



DARRELL COOPER **2024 Recipient**

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

Darrell Cooper is a 1982 graduate of Albertville High School where he was a four-sport letterman. Upon graduation, he played college football as a tight end and long-snapper at both Livingston University and Auburn University.

After his time at Auburn, Cooper spent 33 years as an educator in Alabama with a coaching career that spanned 15 years—coaching track, football, basketball, and baseball—with stints at Mortimer Jordan, Saks, and Albertville. Cooper coached baseball for 13 years at Albertville, coaching more than 40 players who went on to play at the collegiate level. One passion of Cooper's was his six-year effort to build a new baseball and softball complex on the campus of Albertville High School. Cooper designed, coordinated fundraising, and managed construction for the premiere complex.

Cooper is one of the original committee members of the Alabama Baseball Coaches Association (ALABCA) and served on the ALABCA Committee from 1995-2002, the last two years as ALABCA President. He was instrumental in the preparation and conduction of the formative years of the ALABCA Coaching Convention, and assisted with ALABCA Regional Workouts and the June All-Star Event.

Barry Dean, ALABCA Executive Director says about Cooper. "Darrell was pivotal with my Convention and All-Star Event work very early on. The success and impact the ALABCA has had all these years on the amateur baseball players and coaches in this state are a direct result of his selfless work for, and unwavering commitment to, the ALABCA and its' mission."

Cooper exited the coaching world after the 2002 season and spent his remaining career as an administrator serving as a principal in Albertville City Schools, assistant superintendent in Jasper City Schools, and superintendent in Alexander City Schools. He holds a B.S. degree from Auburn University and a M.S., Ed.S., and Ed.D. from The University of Alabama. He is currently the Founder and CEO of E3 Strategic Solutions.

Honored December 8, 2023