



The Trojan Run Down



12-Time National Champions: 1948 · 1958 · 1961 · 1963 · 1968 · 1970 - 1971 · 1972 · 1973 · 1974 · 1978 · 1998



June 30, 2013

Trojan Baseball Alumni & Friends

Two Most Often Asked Questions of our Baseball Program

A while back we asked TBAA members for their ideas and suggestions on what we could do differently to make TBAA a better organization. Thank you for your comments. We also asked if you have questions. The two questions below were the most often asked and pertain to the baseball program.

- Why aren't we getting better?
- What do we need to do to improve?

UCLA wins its first baseball championship

Finishing the Pac 12 in 3rd place, the Bruins went on to Omaha and became CWS Champs. When Coach John Savage was questioned on UCLA never winning a CWS championship before this he responded, "It's not like they hand them out. Let's be clear on that. You have to earn it"

The Bruins wrapped up their first CWS championship with a victory over Mississippi State. The win gave UCLA a sweep of the championship series and gave them a 10 game sweep of the NCAA Tournament. They scored only 19 runs and had a batting average of .227 but used team pitching and great defense to win it all

"We did this the right way, we played baseball. We pitched, we played defense and at the end of the day we outlasted everyone" said Coach John Savage. Their season record was 49-17

MLB Drafts Teammates Adam Landecker & James Roberts

Trojan second baseman Adam Landecker earns first team All-West Region honors for the 2013 season. Adam led the Trojans with a .351 batting average and was the second highest average in the Pac 12. He also received All-Pac 12 honorable mention honors.

Adam was selected by the Pittsburgh Pirates in the 21st round of the MLB draft as the 629th overall pick. James Roberts hit .320 and was selected by MLB draft in the 15th round by the Cleveland Indians as the 441st overall pick.

Recruiting Skills can make the difference in College Baseball

With the 11.7 limitation of college baseball scholarships for a team of 30 players, baseball Coaches today have an extra challenge not existing when many of us played. With Title IX issues it's not likely this limitation will change in the near future. Private schools often with higher tuition are placed at a disadvantage thus requiring the need for greater skills in the recruiting area. All schools are forced to explain to parents of many exceptional players that they are not able to offer a "full ride" scholarship. This can translate in the parents having to pay a sizeable portion of the tuition. Unless a school can demonstrate that they have a superior baseball program many parents will opt to send their kids elsewhere and experience less costs and possibly a better baseball program as well. .

Other factors colleges must contend with when recruiting players is that players may tell you they will not sign if drafted but do so anyway. Another draft issue is that MLB will often write into the signing contract money for the athlete to go to college after playing professionally.

The reality is that there is not a lot a room for error when recruiting and schools can afford few mistakes when trying to build a championship program. Judging whether a high profile athlete will sign or accept an offer is critical. Without well developed recruiting skills, today's college baseball coaches are not likely to successfully build a winning baseball program.

Upcoming Events...“Ducks on the Pond”...

- July 8th Monday Golf Tournament, at the beautiful Angeles National GC, Sunland, CA: Former players, Trojan Supporters and Parents are all invited to play. Enjoy meeting the Grand Marshall, Hall of Fame Frank Robinson. Get a hole in one and drive away with a brand new Ford. Win first prize in the raffle and take home a 51" Plasma TV. You will also receive a complimentary attendee gift package. Everyone comes away a winner. If you don't play golf you are still welcome to attend the dinner festivities. Open the attachment and fill it out and join us for a great day with teammates and friends.
- July 19 Friday, 4th annual Rod Dedeaux Foundation dinner 6 pm, honoring baseball golden spikes award winner and honoring 2013 Rod Dedeaux USA baseball coach of the year. Call Prycilla Pinon for questions and more details 213-627-6828 x285
Location: The Jonathan Club 545 S Figueroa St. LA, CA 90071
- August 18th Sunday Youth Clinic, Dedeaux Field. Annual community service by TBAA providing all day baseball clinic for underprivileged kids. Volunteer instructors and event helpers are needed. Grandchildren and children of former players, parents and supporters are also welcome to join us. A program donation is appreciated but no required. E-mail Ken Miller for Clinic details, instructions, and a participation form.
- September 14th Saturday. Save the date. All former Trojan baseball players are requested to participate in celebrating 125 years of Trojan athletics and be honored at the Boston College football game. The Athletic department will be sending you a postcard in the near future explaining all details which will include a large tailgate luncheon celebration and tickets to the game. Please attend and bring a guest, help promote Trojan Baseball.
- November 17th Sunday Fall Banquet, Galen Center. The biggest event of the year. Theme will be the 60's era “The Sweet, Swinging, Surging 60's” with three National Titles. All former 60's players are encouraged to attend. Reserve the date. This is homecoming weekend with our football team will be playing Stanford on Saturday homecoming day, our Banquet on Sunday and on Monday join Trojan baseball supporters for a golf fundraising event at Dove Canyon.

In the On Deck Circle...

February, 2014, plan on saving the date and please be thinking about it and come to Dedeaux Field once the specific day is determined. Consider being a part of a very special celebration paying tribute to Coach Rod Dedeaux. Plans are now being developed to honor Coach Rod early next year in the month of February, which would have been his 100th birthday. Coach Rod gave so much to the game of baseball, USC and to his players. Now, all of us will have a chance to leave a lasting tribute to the Trojan that became an unstoppable force, a baseball legend and the greatest Trojan of them all, Rod Dedeaux.

Part of the planned tribute to Coach Rod will be the unveiling of a life size statue that will be displayed at the entrance of Dedeaux Stadium. Everyone that was part of his life, that knew him as a person or played for him as a player is asked to be present for this memorable occasion. By luck or design we are part of Trojan history. Now we have a chance to underscore our past with a tribute to our coach. Please plan on being there. More information will be provided once the event details are complete.

Pac 12 Football...

Oregon avoids bowl ban. The NCAA found that Oregon failed to monitor the program regarding the involvement with Willie Lyles and his Houston based recruiting service but stopped short of banning their bowl games. Oregon sanctions will include the loss of one scholarship each of the next three seasons and will be placed on probation for three years for recruiting violations.

Great Quotes...

Roy Campanella, "You gotta be a man to play ball for a living, but you gotta have a lot of little boy in you."

Tommy Lasorda, "The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a man's determination."

Babe Ruth, "Never let fear of striking out get in your way"

Babe Ruth, "I swing big with everything I've got. I hit big or miss big. I like to live as big as I can"

Muhammad Ali, "The man who has no imagination has no wings."

TBAA and the Board of Directors...

If you would like to get involved, we are looking for current members to help on the Board or on one of our Committees. Call or e-mail me if you would like to get involved.

Thank you for staying connected and your support. If you have not made a donation to TBAA and the baseball program you may do so by opening and returning the membership form.

BASEBALL ALUMNI MISSION STATEMENT... KEEPING THE TROJAN SPIRIT ALIVE

- Keep former players connected
- Communicate news on USC, Trojan baseball and matters of interest
- Preserve & promote our legacy and traditions

Ken Guffey Miller, Trojan Baseball Alumni 949-488-0061



Let's stay connected...and your passion burning!

Views and opinions expressed are mine and do not necessarily reflect the position of any other.