

A dream fulfilled, Jim Darby becomes honorary Hall of Fame member



By Casie Vogel

It was always Jim Darby's dream to be a baseball coach. He coached at the high school level for one year and four years at the college level, but things didn't work out. Instead, he was lucky enough to get a job in the sporting goods business and could still be involved with the sport he loves.

For 22 years, Darby has been a supporter of high school baseball and the NHSBCA as the Easton Sports representative, attending every conference as a vendor.

At this year's awards dinner, Jim Darby was officially inducted into the BCA Hall of Fame as an honorary member. And for Darby, being an honorary member was like being an honorary coach and fulfilling a part of his dream.

"I'm very humbled and very honored, because, now this is very important, I love the association and to be given that honor from the guys, from my peers, means a lot," Darby said. "I wanted to be a coach. So in a way, getting this honor last night kind of validated what I wanted to do."

Darby has been involved since the NHSBCA's inception and was invited by Jerry Miles to become a part of the organization.

"What is really cool about is to see the guys who have started it throughout the years and see them evolve. And then their assistants evolve," he said. "You think back and these young coaches were 8 years old when we started it."

He is a strong supporter of the NHSBCA and urges high school coaches to be more involved.

"For a high school coach this is the best clinic to come to, because you're getting nationally known coaching speaking at the clinics where there aren't 2,000 people in the room," Darby said. "You're not seeing a guy on a screen talking because he's so far away you can't see him. You're seeing the guy right in front of you so you can absorb the knowledge right there."