

## BCA clinic a family affair for Phil Clark, Hall of Fame inductee



By Casie Vogel

This year's NHSBCA conference was a family affair for Phil Clark, Hall of Fame inductee. Being from Memphis, Tenn. only a few hours away, Clark's family including his parents, aunt and uncle, were all able to attend the Awards dinner where Clark received his BCA Hall of Fame ring.

"Until I finished my speech it was a little nerve-wracking," Clark said. "I told them on the podium that I feel more comfortable between the lines of the baseball field than behind the podium. But it went well I am just so appreciative of everything."

Clark's award is not undeserved, he has been with the association since 1995, is the winningest coach in Tennessee history, and has been coaching high school baseball for over 34 years in the Memphis area. He currently coaches at Bartlett High School in Bartlett, Tenn.

He's been involved with Memphis baseball for so long that he has five players on his team that he coached their father years before.

"One my boys who played that night, his daddy was on the very first win I had and his son was on win 898," Clark said "He was number 1 and his son was 898. That's a long ways in between."

Despite Clark's experience, he still attends the clinic every year and takes the time to listen to speakers. He said his favorite speakers were Jim Lefebvre, Former MLB Manager and Player, and John Lowery Sr., Jefferson High School, WV, who gave a presentation on base running.

"I enjoy sitting and listening and trying to get one thing from every speaker. One thing that I can carry back to my kids," he said. "And even if it nothing but a term that I can use to make them feel what I'm trying to do."

However, Clark's favorite part of the conference is the opportunity to meet new coaches and be exposed to new ideas. With coaches from all over the country, there are opportunities to connect with coaches from different states and backgrounds.

"A lot of the time I learn just as much sitting at a table, at the bar, in the hallway, in the hotel room, as I do in the ballroom. We get to really talk about the things we want to talk about, ask about, and that is what I enjoy the most," he said.