

## Steve Vickery joins heroes, inducted into Hall of Fame

By Casie Vogel



“I’m not much of a ring guy, but I put it on and I’m so darn proud of it I’d hate to take it off,” says Steve Vickery, showing his Hall of Fame ring, large, gold, and red with the BCA baseball logo in the ring’s center. “I’ve kind of been flashing that thing around. It just really means something special, I’m trying to wear it as much as I can this weekend.”

Vickery, Retired Head Baseball Coach at El Capitan High School, Lakeside, CA, was inducted into the 2012 Hall of Fame for his support and dedication to high school baseball coaching. He is a charter member of the NHBBCA and with one exception, has attended every clinic since 1993.

Vickery was told at last year’s convention that he would be inducted in, but didn’t receive the honor until this year’s Awards Dinner on Friday night.

“It’s just a real privilege; it’s still a little bit unbelievable to be honest with you. The guys who were on the stage with me and the guys who’ve got it before, I’ve idolized those guys,” Vickery said. “I’ve been to a lot of clinics, and those are the guys who I have always looked up to. And then all of a sudden, I’m standing next to them it just kind of gives me goose bumps.”

Even though Vickery retired last year, he still took notes and attended the clinic. His favorite speaker, Joel Sato, Head Baseball Coach from Bingham High School (South Jordan, UT), spoke on creating a culture of excellence.

“One of my ex-players is our new coach and I’m going to bring back to him continuing to build a culture of excellence, a culture of positive relationships between places,” Vickery said. “I think he just really hit home and is exactly right and is the number one thing you can talk about all the skills and everything you want, but it’s all about building relationships with your players and getting them to trust you.”

Vickery is retired from coaching and finishing up his last year teaching, but suspects that he’ll never really leave the game and will be back. He plans to work “behind the scenes” with the El Capitan baseball program and spending time with his oldest granddaughters who are playing softball.