

Meet the 2024 HOF Inductees

Bobby Brown – Umpire

A native of Georgia, Bobby has a passion for umpiring. An active umpire on the Eastern Shore for 30 years, he has officiated games at levels from Little League, High School, College, Eastern Shore Baseball League, and as a fill-in at Delmarva Shorebirds games six times. Additionally, Bobby helped organize and umpire the National Amateur Baseball Federation Regional Tournament numerous times. To improve his skills, he would travel to Florida and umpire the Roy Hobbs World Series two weeks each year. He is a leader in the Atlantic Coast Umpire Association, serving 15 years on the board as treasurer and 30 years as a member. Bobby has organized and worked clinics to help and teach new umpires the love and respect for the game as he always had. Bobby has dedicated his time and love of the game to be the best when he steps on the field all while working a full-time job and providing for his family.

Wayne Byrd, Sr. - Player

Born in Parksley, Virginia, Wayne was a three-sport athlete at Parksley High School. He played football, basketball, and baseball. As a left-handed pitcher, he was overpowering with a blazing fastball. In his senior year, Wayne was 7-2 with an ERA of 2.50 and averaged 10-12 strikeouts per game. That season, he threw a no-hitter against Cape Charles High School, who was a higher classification than Parksley. He finished his high school career by being the winning pitcher against Atlantic High School in the Group 3 Eastern Shore High School Championship, striking out 14 batters. After his high school success, the Baltimore Orioles signed him to a professional baseball contract in 1959, assigning Wayne to Bluefield in the Appalachian League. Soon after his start in professional baseball, he injured his throwing arm, which ended his pro career. After his playing days, Wayne spent over 25 years as a banking executive and was a vice-president of Hebron Savings Bank at the time of his passing.

Mike Cherry - Player

A native of Easton, Mike Cherry was born in 1935 and played baseball at Easton High School. After high school, he enrolled in Sid Hudson's Baseball School in Kissimmee Florida in 1954 and signed a professional baseball contract, which sent him to the San Angelo Colts of the Texas Class C Longhorn League and the Pauls Valley Raiders in Oklahoma. Mike was one of five players signed out of Sid Hudson's school. He also played for the 1958 All Navy baseball team. After his playing days, Mike coached Little League and provided uniforms and equipment. He would also bring players from the Baltimore Orioles to Easton for special events to promote baseball in the area.

Thomas D'Armi, Jr. – Manager

Born in Federalsburg, Md., Thomas was an All-America soccer player at East Stroudsburg State and graduated in 1960. He earned his master's degree at North Carolina in 1961, then became the head baseball coach at West Georgia College in 1962. In four seasons, 1962-65, he posted a record of 59-13, directed the team to three conference (GIAC) championships and was named league coach of the year three times. In 1990 he was inducted into the West Georgia Sports Hall of Fame. He then served as the assistant baseball coach at Mississippi State from 1966-73, during a time when the school won three SEC titles and played in the 1971 College World Series. Before going to Duke, Thomas trained heavyweight boxing champion Floyd Patterson, traveled to Italy as the general manager and field boss for the Milan franchise in a European professional baseball league, and authored the book "Daddy, Will You Play Catch With Me?"

D'Armi arrived at Duke in the fall of 1976 as the assistant coach to Enos Slaughter. He was named the program's head coach following the 1977 season and remained at the helm through May of 1984, posting a record of 125-98-2. Along with producing five straight winning ledgers, D'Armi's victory totals of 29 in 1981 and 25 in 1984 were at that time the best marks in school history behind only the 31 wins achieved by the 1952 College World Series team. He also handled groundskeeping duties at Duke's Jack Coombs Field, grooming the field on his tractor early in the morning before every home game and lining the field himself. He eventually took over management of all of Duke's athletic facilities, including Cameron Indoor Stadium and Wallace Wade Stadium. Thomas retired after 28 years of service at Duke in 2004 and passed away in 2010.

Zack Gelof – Player

A native of Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, Zack is currently a major league second baseman for the Oakland Athletics. He played baseball at Cape Henlopen High School where he finished his high school career as Delaware's all-time leader in runs scored and stolen bases and second in career hits. He was a two-time Henlopen Conference Player of the Year as a shortstop and a pitcher. He was selected in the 38th round of the 2018 Major League baseball draft, but he opted to play collegiately at the University of Virginia. Zack started every game in his 3-year career at Virginia, batting .316/.396/.478 in 137 games while accumulating numerous awards along the way. He was then drafted in the second round of the 2021 Major League draft by Oakland. Zack made his major league debut on July 14, 2023 and played in 69 games while batting .267 with 14 home runs and 32 RBI's.

Derrick Cameron Gibson – Player

Derrick was an outstanding athlete and baseball player at Seaford High School from 2005-2008. He earned three first-team All-State honors, was a two-time selected Gatorade Play of the Year, and was named 2008 Delaware Baseball Coaches Association Player of the Year, where he batted .655 and had a 7-0 pitching record. He was then selected in 2nd round (77th overall) of the 2008 Major League draft by the Boston Red Sox. Derrick played six seasons in the Red Sox organization, earned numerous awards, and was named to the all-star team twice. Following his stint with Boston, he played in the Baltimore Orioles and New York Mets organizations, and ended his career in the Colorado Rockies organization in 2018. Derrick's career stats include a .253 batting average and 172 stolen bases.

Steve Petitt – Player

Born in Salisbury, Maryland, Steve played high school baseball at Parkside High School from 1976-1979. As a pitcher for Parkside, he started 18 games in his career and had 9 complete games and two shutouts. As a junior, he pitched a no-hitter against Stephen Decatur in a 13-0 win. After playing collegiately at Florida International University, Steve pitched professionally in the St. Louis Cardinals organization in 1985 and 1986 for Savannah and St. Petersburg. He finished his pro career with a 17-14 record and a 2.94 ERA over 284 innings pitched. Steve was nominated by local baseball historian and Eastern Shore Baseball Hall of Fame inductee Mike Lambert.

Orem E. Robinson Jr. - Player

Orem was born in Halethorpe, Maryland in 1924 and moved to the Eastern Shore of Maryland after the Great Depression. He began his amateur career at age 15 as a pitcher for the Phillips Packing Plant baseball team in Cambridge, where he pitched for three years. He was then drafted into the US Army during World War II and volunteered for the Airborne Forces. Orem fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was awarded the Bronze Star for his combat action. After the war, he was signed to a professional baseball contract by Branch Rickey of the Brooklyn Dodgers. Orem, who had a "Rex Barney fastball", spent 4 years in the Dodgers organization and pitched for the Cambridge Dodgers of the Eastern Shore League in 1948 and 1949. He pitched in 97 games in his minor league career and had a 31-30 record in 468 innings pitched. After retiring from professional baseball, Orem spent many years as the pitching coach for Salisbury State College under head coach Deane Deshon, who is also enshrined in the Eastern Shore Baseball Hall of Fame.