



AZBCA



WHAT IS THE AZBCA?

The Arizona Baseball Coaches Association (AzBCA) is committed to advancing coaching expertise by offering professional development through our annual clinic, packed with valuable training and resources. We create opportunities for coaches to connect, collaborate, and build lasting relationships within the community. Members gain access to shared resources, including drills, strategies, and player development insights, along with the chance to vote for and participate in AzBCA all-star games. Ultimately, we are dedicated to fostering a strong, supportive community that promotes the growth of both baseball coaches and the sport.

THE AZBCA CLINIC IS THIS SATURDAY

December 14, 2024

Please register online to secure your spot. This year's lineup of speakers is packed with talent. The event will take place at Westwood High School from 8 AM to 4 PM. Our new website has launched! Please go to AzBCA.org to register.

COACH SPOTLIGHT

A Legacy on the Diamond: The Hall of Fame Career of Coach Stan Luketich

Stan Luketich's name is synonymous with excellence in Arizona high school baseball. Over three decades, he built an extraordinary career with three state championships. Yet, his true legacy goes beyond the victories, it is found in the lives he shaped and the values he instilled in his players and he continues to share his passion for coaching under Dave Webb at Corona Del Sol High School. Coaching came naturally to Luketich, inspired by his father, who was a high school coach and athletic director. During college, Luketich began coaching Legion baseball in the summers, and his first official role was at Casa Grande Junior High. He later joined Moon Valley High School as an assistant coach for Al Bauer, where his career flourished. Reflecting on his early years, he says, "Those were tremendous experiences, teaching kids and shaping their love for the game."

Luketich's proudest moments are not tied to titles or trophies. "The greatest experience I've had coaching is seeing kids smile, change, adapt, and learn," he says. His first state championship was particularly special because it involved multi-sport athletes who were true competitors, even if they were not destined for Division I careers. He also recalls a 2005 state semifinal loss to Horizon High as one of his greatest lessons, highlighting the resilience learned in defeat. Over his career, Luketich has seen baseball evolve. He laments the pressure for athletes to specialize in one sport and the shift in some coaching philosophies that prioritize power-hitting over fundamentals. For him, coaching is about more than skills; it is about teaching patience and emphasizing the process over results. "If you focus on doing things the right way, success will follow," he says.

Challenges have also been part of Luketich's journey. He acknowledges that strong support from administrators and clear communication with parents are key to a positive coaching experience. Despite occasional obstacles, his passion for coaching never wavered. "The joy you see in kids' eyes when they've improved or had a good day because of something you helped with, that's what keeps me passionate," he says.

Luketich's impact reaches far beyond the field. Former players often send messages of gratitude, sharing how his guidance shaped their lives. "When I get emails or letters from players who are now married or have families, it chokes me up to know I made a difference," he says. While he has never been concerned with his legacy, he hopes it will reflect the positive impact he has had on others.

Throughout his career, Luketich emphasized community and service. His teams volunteered to feed the homeless and mentored students with special needs. He believes these experiences taught his players invaluable lessons about empathy and perspective. Though he has achieved Hall of Fame status, Luketich remains humble and focused on the joy and growth of his players. His legacy, built on decades of dedication and service, will be remembered not just in wins, but in the lives he changed. As he contemplates retirement, he acknowledges that his wife, Sue, will likely miss his coaching as much as he will. "After a long day, she'd hand me my iPod and let me go write practice plans for the next day," Luketich says with a smile. "Whenever I retire, she's going to be the most disappointed."

AZBCA ALL-STAR GAME

Nominations and Voting

All-Star voting will be conducted through our online nomination form, which will be available at the end of the season in April. Teams will be chosen by the regional representative during the All-State Meeting in early May.

The All-State voting will take place at Apollo High School on Sunday, May 4th.

YOUR AZBCA BOARD

Executive Board of Directors

- President - Garye LaFevers (Retired)
- Vice President - Tom Succow (Yavapai)
- Secretary - Cody Brassfield (CGCC)
- Northern Arizona Rep- Art Griffith (Retired)

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- Special Assistant to Executive Board - Ron Davini
- Southern Arizona Rep - Fred Trujillo (Benson)
- Team Arizona - Matt Denny (Casteel)
- Team Arizona - Scott Richardson (Tolleson)

AZBCA WEBSITE

The Arizona Baseball Coaches Association is excited to announce the launch of its brand-new website, AzBCA.ORG! Designed with coaches, players, and baseball enthusiasts in mind, this site is your go-to hub for everything baseball in Arizona.

