



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL  
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*Ralph Zobell Chosen as Recipient of 2016 NCBWA/Wilbur Snyppe Award*

**EUGENE, Ore. – Ralph Zobell**, a 41-season veteran of college baseball media relations and national leader in this field, is the 42<sup>nd</sup> recipient of the prestigious **2016 Wilbur Snyppe Award** presented annually by the **National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association** for outstanding contributions to college baseball.

Zobell has served as the baseball sports information director at BYU since 1977 and started when the office consisted of two full time communications professionals. He began his career as an assistant sports information director, later associate SID and then sports information director for the Cougars from 1990-98. He currently serves as BYU athletics web page and game program coordinator while coordinating baseball communications for the Cougars for the 40<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

The personable veteran, who also attended Wyoming before gaining his undergraduate and graduate (Masters) degrees from Brigham Young University, has worked in the day-to-day coverage of all 21 Cougars sports programs since joining the department in '77.

He was president of the NCBWA in 1990 after serving in the vice-presidential rotation and as a Western Region director for several years. Zobell also was part of the planning committee for BYU's combination baseball/softball Miller Park Stadiums complex, which opened in 2001.

For several seasons he provided top services for media covering BYU baseball without the benefit of a permanent press area. The ingenious Zobell used such items as folding tables, his children's toy chest and plastic bags to protect equipment from rain and snow while seated in front of aluminum bleachers.

He has worked with many of the top student-athletes in BYU baseball annals such as college baseball's 1981 Freshman of the Year (and later Major League Baseball standout) Cory Snyder and numerous Academic All-America and All-American standouts, including Snyder, Wally Joyner and Scott Nielsen.

He also was publicist for one of BYU's all-time greatest teams in 1983 when the Cougars were ranked No. 1 nationally prior to the NCAA Regionals.

Zobell is an accomplished writer with several published historical articles in such journals as the Utah Law Review and chronicled BYU history as well as the Cougars' absence in both the 1958 and 1961 NCAA World Series because of Sunday play. He has worked 11 NCAA baseball Regionals and has attended nine NCAA Division I World Series in Omaha, Neb., while gathering ample historical data for college baseball.

"This is totally unexpected," Zobell said, "and I am thrilled and speechless. So many great names in college baseball have won this award, and it is an honor to become part of this group. Throughout the years, it is been to promote college baseball any way I can, and I have been fortunate to have worked with some wonderful mentors and many tremendous baseball student-athletes."

"Ralph Zobell has been a shining example about the positive points of college baseball for five decades," said NCBWA executive director Bo Carter. "He is the consummate college athletics media relations professional, has been a fine contributor to the NCBWA and has affected the lives of hundreds of college baseball student-athletes, coaches and administrators during his illustrious career at BYU."

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Zobell joins a sterling group of past Wilbur Snynn Award winners, national journalists and college administrators as the 2016 winner. The plaque memorializes longtime Ohio State sports information director and NCBWA founder, the late Wilbur (Bill) Snynn. Snynn was a noted contributor to the writers' organization, which was initiated in 1962, as well as an officer in the group. The NCBWA/Wilbur Snynn Award yearly honors a professional for contributions to the sport of college baseball. Voting is conducted by a panel of previous winners, who include past NCAA College World Series directors, College Sports Information Directors of America Hall of Fame members, decorated media members, and others.

#### **Past Wilbur Snynn Award Winners**

1975	Wilbur Snynn, Ohio State
1976	Bill Esposito, St. John's
1977	Phil Langan, Cornell
1978	John Geis, Southern Conference
1979	Hank Schomber, Georgia Southern
1980	Bob Culp, Western Michigan
1981	Lou Pavlovich, Sr., Collegiate Baseball
1982	Tom Price, South Carolina
1983	Bob Bradley, Clemson
1984	Robert Williams, Omaha World-Herald
1985	Jerry Miles, NCAA
1986	Larry Keefe, Seton Hall
1987	Tom Rowen, San Jose Mercury-News
1988	Fred Gerardi, KESY Radio, Omaha
1989	Jim Wright, NCAA
1990	Steve Weller, SIU-Edwardsville
1991	Bill Little, University of Texas
1992	Kirk Bohls, Austin American-Statesman
1993	Bo Carter, Southwest Conference
1994	Lou Pavlovich, Jr., Collegiate Baseball
1995	Steve Pivovar, Omaha World-Herald
1996	Gary Johnson, NCAA
1997	Dave Wohlhueter, Cornell
1998	Allan Simpson, Baseball America
1999	Alan Cannon, Texas A&M University
2000	Jim Callis, Baseball America
2001	Dick Case, USA Baseball
2002	Russ Anderson, Conference USA
2003	John Manuel, BASEBALL AMERICA
2004	Dana Heiss Grodin, USA TODAY Sports Weekly
2005	Dennis Poppe, NCAA
2006	Mike Montoro, Southern Miss
2007	Barry Allen, Alabama
2008	Mike Patrick, ESPN
2009	Al Chase, Honolulu Star-Bulletin
2010	Lou Spry, NCAA
2011	Jeremy Mills, ESPN/D1Baseball.com
2012	Eric Olson, Associated Press
2013	J.D. Hamilton, NCAA
2014	John Sullivan, Rice
2015	David Feaster, Dick Howser Trophy
2016	Ralph Zobell, BYU