



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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ncbwa.com

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***JIM ELLIS NAMED 45TH RECIPIENT OF THE
NCBWA WILBUR SNYPP AWARD***

DALLAS – Jim Ellis, one of the most legendary voices in college baseball who is in his 42nd year at Mississippi State, has been named the 45th recipient of the prestigious Wilbur Snypp Award, presented annually by the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association for outstanding contributions to college baseball.

“I am truly honored to receive the Wilbur Snypp Award,” Ellis said. “I am fortunate to have watched college baseball’s golden years of growth. What a thrill it was to broadcast from dear old Rosenblatt my first season in 1979, and what an experience it was to broadcast from TD Ameritrade last year. When I compare the two experiences, it underscores the tremendous growth of college baseball in coaching, player development, administrative support, facilities, crowds and media coverage. I am humbled to think that I may have made some small contributions along the way.”

Ellis, a native of West Point, Miss., and a 1969 graduate of Mississippi State, also assumed the play-by-play role for football and men’s basketball at the start of the 2011-12 athletic season following the retirement of legendary voice Jack Cristil and served in that role for men’s basketball until 2016-17 and football until the 2016 season. In addition to calling baseball, he had been serving as the weekly call-in show host for all three sports and hosting the weekly coaches’ television shows. In 1998, 2002, 2013 and 2014, Ellis was named “Outstanding Broadcaster in Mississippi” by NSMA (National Sports Media Association) while representing Bulldog Sports Network and Learfield’s Bulldog Sports Properties.

Since 1983, Ellis has been a part of MSU’s basketball broadcast team, including the Bulldogs’ memorable 1996 NCAA Final Four run. He became a radio analyst for MSU football in 1991 before taking over the play-by-play duties in 2011. Ellis was on the call for the memorable 2014 Bulldog football season that saw the program rise to the No. 1 ranking for the first time in the school’s history.

“Jim has been an iconic voice in college baseball for over 40 years and is synonymous with Mississippi State,” MSU Director of Athletics John Cohen said. “A true professional, he has had a front row seat to the greatest moments in Diamond Dawgs history. I would like to congratulate Jim on this incredible and well-deserved honor.”

Ellis is the latest to join the ranks of Wilbur Snypp Award winners, national journalists and college administrators as the 2018 winner. The plaque memorializes longtime Ohio State sports information director and NCBWA founder, the late Wilbur (Bill) Snypp. Snypp was a noted contributor to the writers’ organization, which was initiated in 1962, as well as an officer in the group. The NCBWA/Wilbur Snypp 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.

“Jim Ellis has had a major impact on college baseball broadcasting for parts of six decades,” said NCBWA executive director Bo Carter, “and he is very deserving of this top honor from the NCBWA. Besides being the ‘voice’ of Mississippi State baseball on radio since 1979, he has done so many great things to promote college athletics in general, and, particularly, college baseball from his historic place behind the microphone through MSU athletics and related areas.”

Ellis is the latest to join the ranks of Wilbur Snynn Award winners, national journalists and college administrators as the 2019 winner. The honor 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 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
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
2017	Aaron Fitt, D1Baseball.com/Baseball America
2018	Kyle Peterson, ESPN
2019	Jim Ellis, Mississippi State Radio