

NOTIFICATION OF EVENT

For Immediate Release

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Wallace Community College and City of Ozark Host ACCC Baseball Tournament



Pictured (left to right): Ryan Spry, Nate Frazier, Ozark Mayor Billy Blackwell, ACCC Commissioner Al Cox; Wallace President Linda C. Young, David Money, Johnny Oppert, Mackey Sasser, Mark Shope, and Critt Snellgrove. Not pictured: Steve Sherrill, Ozark Leisure Services Director.

Dothan, Ala.—Wallace Community College partnered with the City of Ozark to sponsor the Alabama Community College Conference Baseball Championship tournament May 12 through 17 at historic Eagle Stadium in Ozark. Ten teams from colleges across the state competed in the double-elimination tournament. Shelton State won the championship.

Participating teams were welcomed to the tournament during a banquet held at the Ozark Civic Center. David Money, a Wallace Community College alumnus and well-known Abbeville businessperson, gave the inspirational address.

Ozark Leisure Services Director Steve Sherrill opened the banquet with an address directed toward the players. Sherrill said that he was one of those young men who “dreamed of where baseball would take him.” “I hope you move up, but for this tournament do your best and leave it on the field – no regrets. Before you play, take a moment and look at Eagle Stadium. This is a well-respected place,” said Sherrill.

Ozark Mayor Billy Blackwell also addressed the teams about the town. “I love Ozark, Alabama, and you will, too, before you leave,” he said. He thanked Wallace Community College for bringing the tournament to Ozark the last three years. “You won’t play in a baseball stadium with any more history than Eagle Stadium,” he told players.

Linda C. Young, president of Wallace Community College, recognized Wallace alumni in the audience: Dothan City Commissioner Critt Snellgrove, who played on the first baseball team at WCC on an athletic scholarship, and Johnny Oppert, who coached at WCC for 26 years. Wallace Community College Baseball coach Mackey Sasser assisted Dr. Young in presenting special awards to Mark Shope, dean, student development and Wallace Campus, and Nate Frazier, sports writer, the Dothan *Eagle*. Both received framed Wallace Gobs jerseys signed by the Gobs baseball team. Young expressed the College’s gratitude to both special recipients. “Mackey has done an outstanding job with the baseball team, and we feel that Nate is part of the Wallace Community College family,” she said. Young also recognized Sherrill, Sasser, Ryan Spry, WCC director of student life, and Shope for their work in planning the tournament.

Young introduced David Money and told the audience that in addition to being a Wallace supporter, Money was on the first baseball team at the College, and hit the first homerun for the Gobs. “David Money is an advocate, supporter, friend, and a true leader for this area,” she said.

Money addressed the teams on “Baseball: Memories and Heroes.” His love of the New York Yankees began one warm afternoon on October 8, 1956 when he came to his grandfather’s store (who had the first television in the area) to watch a World Series game. On that day, young Money watched Don Larson pitch the only perfect game in World Series history. He was hooked on the Yankees. “I dreamed of baseball glory as a 10-year-old. Always remember to respect the game and those who play with you,” he told the players. “When those who helped you get to see you play – remember that you are *their* hero! Play Ball!”

Money is the past chair and a current member of the Wallace Community College Foundation, where he works to provide scholarships to deserving students.