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Columbus Native Selected for ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame

TIFTON—Jackie Moore now works for Mercedes Benz. When she pitched Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College to back-to-back conference softball championships in 2001 and 2002, she was the engine that made the Fillies go.

“Getting to play right away was very important to me,” Moore, a Columbus native, said. “ABAC gave me that chance, and we won a lot of games.”

For her heroics in the green-and-gold of ABAC, Moore has been selected as a member of the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame Class of 2016. She will be inducted on April 1 in the ABAC
Alumni Association Homecoming Awards Dinner in Gressette Gym. Tickets to the 6 p.m. ceremony are $30 per person. The event also includes top award winners from the ABAC Alumni Association as a part of the 2016 Homecoming Week activities.

Tickets can be purchased from the ABAC College Advancement Office at (229) 391-4895. The deadline to purchase tickets is March 21. There will be no tickets sold at the event. For more information on the 2016 Homecoming Week, interested persons can visit the web site at www.abac.edu/homecoming.

Moore rolled up a 21-9 record for ABAC in 2001 when the Fillies won the conference championship and finished fifth in the national tournament. She recorded 142 strikeouts with an earned run average of 1.63.

“What made Jackie so special was her ability to keep her emotions under control. Her physical attributes and her work ethic made her a great college pitcher but what separated her from the rest was her tenacious competitiveness, her humbleness, and her cool demeanor.”

In 2002, Moore whiffed 219 batters on the way to a 20-12 record and a microscopic 0.67 earned run average. ABAC won another conference title and wound up ninth in the national tournament.

“When I went to the mound, I never had a particular routine or process,” Moore said. “I have always been one to take life moment by moment, pitch by pitch. I try to live in the moment and make adjustments when necessary.”
At the national tournament during her sophomore year at ABAC, Moore pitched a perfect game, the only one of her storied career that began when she rolled up a 43-24 record at Jordan High School in Columbus.

“That was a very cool experience to pitch a perfect game, particularly since I had never had one before,” Moore said. “My grandfather was there to see me, and I think it’s so special that the Hall of Fame ceremony is going to be on April 1, which would have been his 100th birthday.”

After becoming the winningest pitcher in ABAC history, Moore signed with the University of West Florida. She dazzled the NCAA Division II Gulf South Conference foes with a record of 20-4 as a junior and again with a 20-13 mark as a senior for the Argonauts.

Moore was named All-America as a junior as well as a member of the all-conference team, all-tournament team, and South Regional Tournament Team. As a senior, she was again named all-conference, all-tournament and was selected as the Most Valuable Player of the Gulf South Conference Tournament.

“I will never forget the camaraderie and all the friends I made at ABAC,” Moore said. “Most importantly, I’m so blessed to have had a chance to play for and be coached by Donna Campbell. She is an amazing person who I respect and appreciate so much. She coached selflessly and knew how to balance athletics and academics.”

Other 2016 Hall of Fame selections include Wayne Cooper, Paul Fitzgerald, Tom Moody, David Owens, Ty Wright, and the 1984 state championship women’s basketball team.

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