Ty Wright Selected for Athletics Hall of Fame at ABAC

TIFTON—Not many baseball players hit for the cycle in one game in their entire careers. Ty Wright accomplished that incredible feat in four consecutive innings.

“I’ll never forget that game because Sports Illustrated did a ‘Faces in the Crowd’ on me after that game,” Wright said of the 2008 contest when he singled in the first inning, slammed a
two-run home run off the scoreboard in the second inning, belted a triple in the third inning, and slapped a two-run double in the fourth inning. Wright was playing for Georgia Southern University against Wofford that memorable day.

But the Montrose native had many standout days in his baseball career, including an entire year packed with highlights in 2007 when he was named First Team All-America while playing first base for Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. One of those was against George Wallace Community College when he blasted two grand slams in a 16-12 ABAC win.

For his heroics on the baseball field, Wright has been named as a member of the 2016 class of the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame. He 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.

Wright hit .407 for Coach Steve Janousek’s Stallions in 2007 with 83 hits including 19 doubles and eight homers. He scored 49 runs and had 48 runs batted in. He struck out only 12 times in 204 at bats. Besides his First Team All-America selection, Wright was named Player of the Year in the Georgia Junior College Athletic Association and was selected first team on the all-conference and all-region teams.
“I was seeing the ball really good that year,” Wright, now utilizing his master’s degree in nursing with a position in the emergency room at Kennestone Hospital in Marietta, said. “I felt a lot more comfortable at the plate, and Coach J had more confidence in me as one of the leaders of that team.”

Wright was actually planning to play college football after graduating from West Laurens High School where he was a two-time all-region football pick and was selected all-state his senior year. But after clobbering 10 home runs and recording a .522 batting average to set all-time records his senior year on the diamond, Wright decided baseball would be his ticket to a college education. He was all-region on two occasions and all-state in baseball as well.

“ABAC was the last place I tried out, and I decided to go there,” Wright, now 28 and newly married to his wife, Kate, said. “Academically it was a lot tougher than some schools. I was a biology major, and my science classes were more difficult there than anywhere else I went.”

Janousek lauded Wright for making a name for himself in the classroom as well with a 3.33 grade point average.

“Ty is a great individual on top of all his other accolades,” Janousek said. “He is certainly deserving of admittance into the ABAC Athletics Hall of Fame.”

Wright still had to prove himself to the Georgia Southern coaching staff when he walked on to the 2008 team. He did that in a big way during his junior season.

Named Second Team All-America, Wright was also named First Team All-Atlantic Region and First Team All-Southern Conference. He started 45 times and hit .403 after
becoming a regular. He became one of only 45 players in Georgia Southern history to record 50 runs scored and 50 runs batted in during a season.

During a game at Columbia, he helped the Eagles set an NCAA record by hitting one of the 14 Georgia Southern home runs in the game.

“I don’t think Georgia Southern ever had a walk-on who turned out to be an All-America player,” Wright said with a chuckle.

Wright had two terrific years with the Eagles, earning him a spot in the San Diego Padres minor league organization for two years before a knee injury ended his playing days.

“I am three semesters away from completing my second masters degree to be a nurse practitioner, and I want to get back to athletics, maybe by treating some sports injuries,” Wright said.

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

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