

Rich Alday

Born: 07/19/1947 Tucson, Arizona

Died: January 6, 2021 Tucson, Arizona

High School: Tucson High School (Arizona) 1966

College: Arizona Western 1966-1967

Emporia St Bachelor 's in Physical Education 1971; Master's in Guidance and Counseling 1973.



Rich Alday coached college baseball for 43 years. Alday coached at New Mexico for 18 seasons, becoming the Lobos' most victorious coach, compiling 515 wins. He finishes with a total of 1,032 wins in his collegiate career.

From 1974 to 2019, the Arizona Daily Star ranked annually Rich Alday on their list of Tucson's Top 100 Sports Figures of the last 100 years. In 2021, he was ranked #27th.

High School Accomplishments:

- 1964 Tucson All-City Honorable Mention Team - Catcher
- 1965 Quarterbacked Tucson High School to a 12-0 record and state AA football championship
- 1965 Tucson All-City Second Team Quarterback
- 1965 Arizona Daily Star's All-State Second Team Quarterback.
- 1965 Named as the outstanding player of the football team.
- 1966 Best hitter on the team. Named the Don Bacon-Bobby Morrow Memorial as the most valuable player of the team.
- 1966 Tucson All-City First Team – Catcher

College Accomplishments

- 1967 Arizona Junior College Conference Honorable Mention Team – playing for Arizona Western Junior College
- 1968 Played on the University of Arizona baseball team
- 1968-1970 Emporia State
 - 1969 All Rocky Mountain Conference First team – Catcher
 - 1969 All-NAIA National Baseball Tournament team- Catcher
 - 1969 NAIA All-American Honorable Mention - Catcher
 - 1970 All Rocky Mountain Conference Plains Division team – Catcher
 - 1970 All-NAIA Tournament team – Catcher
 - 1970 NAIA All-American Honorable Mention - Catcher

Professional Accomplishments

- 1971 Played for the Class Genva Senators a farm team of the Washington Senators
- 1971-1973 Assistant baseball coach at Kansas State Teachers College (Kansas)
- **Pima College**
 - First coach of Pima College. They did not have a baseball field. They played at Mission Manor Park and Santa Rita Park.
 - 1973 - 1989 returned in 2017 Record was 517-251
 - 1981 NJCAA National Tournament – 5th place
 - 1981 All-Region Coach of the Year
 - 1983 NJCAA National Tournament – 3rd place
 - 1983 All-Region Coach of the Year
 - 1985 National Junior College Baseball runner-up
 - All-Region Coach of the Year
 - Coached Jack Howell, who played 11 season MLB Angels, Padres and Astros. Jack was a hitting instructor for 25 years in the major leagues. Another major league player was Gil Heredia.
 - Two key assistant coaches, Jim Fleming and Scott Stanley, have gone on to work in big-league scouting and administrative roles for more than 25 years.
- 1985 Assistant Coach for the USA baseball team in the Americas Games.
- 1986 Assistant Coach for the USA baseball team in the World Games.
- 1988 Coached USA baseball teams at the World Championships
- 1988 Coached USA baseball team at the Olympics
- 1996 Auxiliary assistant coach for Team USA, who won a bronze medal in Atlanta.
- **University of New Mexico**
 - 1989-2008 Record 515
 - Six 30+win seasons.
 - 1992 Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Coach of the Year.
 - 1995 Western Athletic Conference (WAC) Coach of the Year.
 - 2000 Mountain West Conference (MWC) Coach of the Year
 - 2000 Led the Lobos to the Mountain West regular season title.
 - 35 players drafted to the Major League players

- Seven players played in major league
 - Scott Strickland
 - Jim Serrano
 - Jamie Vermilvea
 - Matt Young
 - Jordan Pacheco
 - Daniel Herrera
 - Bobby LaFromboise
- Ironwood Ridge High School (Arizona)
 - 2014-2017 Record 107-33
 - 2014 State Softball Champions
 - 2016 State Softball Champions
- He won his 1,000th career collegiate game on April 16, 2007.
- A longtime member of the American Baseball Coaches Association and the U.S. Baseball Association

Honors

- 1994 Inducted into Pima County Sports Hall of Fame.
- 2013 became part of the first inductees into the Pima College Hall of Fame.
- 2000 Inducted into the Emporia State University Sports Hall of Fame.
- 2024 Inducted in the American Baseball Coaches Association's Hall of Fame.

Community

- After all the accomplishments as a head coach, he showed his humble nature by also umpiring high school softball games locally, some at the junior-varsity level.
- Tucson High School Foundation.
- Amphitheater Public School annual softball tournament.

Family

- 1969 Wife Norma for 51 years
- Son – Ambrose died in 1995 of cancer. The batting cages at UNM Baseball field is named for Ambrose.