

# HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



## JIM JOHNS

## BASEBALL



Jim John was inspired and taught the game of baseball by his father and grandmother. Yes, his grandmother, a former softball player got him started with the fundamentals. Jim's journey in baseball would lead him to coach the Eldorado High School Eagles for 37 years, 29 years as the Head Coach. He led them to seven big school state championships, including three straight titles from 1999-2001. His teams won eighteen district championships. Rio Rancho Coach Ron Murphy says "I would say to a lot of people, he's the Godfather of coaches in New Mexico," Jim reached his 500th win on April 1, 2014 and winning his 7th state title in 2014. Jim's career record was 552-201-4, which is the second most wins in state high school baseball history.

Jim graduated from Highland High School in 1975, where he played lettered in baseball. It was in high school, that Jim realized he wanted to pursue being a coach after being an assistant to basketball coach, Tom Hogg, plus being around other great Highland High School coaches, like the 1986 NMSHOF inductee and legendary football coach, Bill Gentry and his baseball coach, Al Sutton. He coached football, basketball and baseball as an assistant coach until 1988, when he became the Eagles' head coach. Jim was named the New Mexico High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 1993, 1995, 1998, and 2006. In addition, he was selected as a National High School Athletic Coaches Association National Coach of the Year finalist in 2006.

Jim was inducted into the Albuquerque Baseball/Softball Hall of Fame in 2003. This year, he was inducted into the New Mexico Baseball Coaches Association's Hall of Fame. Jim coached the West team in the prestigious All-American High School Baseball Game in 2007 at Isotopes Park. More than one hundred former players have gone to play college baseball. Fourteen of those players went to play professionally with two having played in the Major Leagues. Jim was the founding father of the New Mexico Baseball Coaches Association. He coached American Legion baseball for 37 years, plus conducted and worked numerous camps, clinic, major league and college tryouts and showcases. Jim has also worked as an associate scout for the Atlanta Braves and the Kansas City Royals.