

Former Major Leaguers Continue Baseball Careers at College Level

Randy Bush, local baseball coach of the University of New Orleans Privateers, is one of a number of former major leaguers who continue their careers by coaching baseball at the college level. Bush, now in his fourth season at the Privateers' helm, is approaching his 100th career victory at this level. A former Privateer player himself in 1978-1979, Bush played with the Minnesota Twins from 1982 to 1993 and helped win two World Championships. He worked as a minor league instructor, before taking his current job.

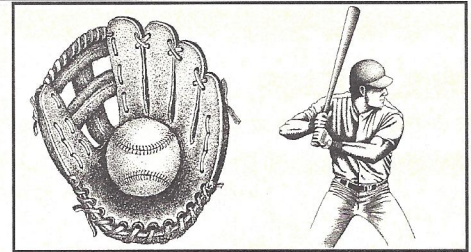
Tony Gwynn recently gained additional notoriety after his extensive playing career with the San Diego Padres, when he became the head baseball coach at his alma mater, San Diego State University, for the 2003 season. His son, **Anthony Gwynn**, is currently a player there and a promising professional prospect himself.

This trend of former major league players using their baseball knowledge after their active days has been around since the early 1900's. **Ted Lewis**, who won 96 major league games from 1898 to 1901, coached at Harvard University. Hall of Famer **Jack Chesbro** won 198 games from 1899 to 1909 and later coached at Amherst College. **Steve Brodie**, who hit for a major league career .303 average from 1890 to 1902, coached at Rutgers and the U. S. Naval Academy. **Jack Barry** was a member of five World Series teams from 1908 to 1919 and managed in the major leagues in 1917. He later coached at Holy Cross College.

Probably the greatest college coach of all time is **Rod Dedeaux**, the long-time coach at the University of Southern California. In 45 years of coaching the Trojans, his teams were the winners of 10 national championships, including consecutive titles from 1970 to 1974. During his career, his teams won 1,332 games, an NCAA record. Dedeaux appeared in two major league games in 1935. A little-known fact is that he was born in New Orleans.

Four other former major leaguers coached college teams that won College World Series championships. **Dick Siebert** played eleven years in the majors and compiled a .282 career average as a first baseman from 1932 to 1945. His University of Minnesota teams won championships in 1956, 1960, and 1964. **Don Lund** was a primarily a utility outfielder from 1945 to 1954. He coached at the University of Michigan team and won the national championship in 1962. **Bibb Falk** had a successful 12-year major league career from 1920 to 1931, when he hit for a .314 average. His University of Texas teams captured college titles in 1949 and 1950 and won a total of 476 games during his tenure there. **Jerry Kindall** was a utility infielder in the major leagues from 1956 to 1965, when he hit for a .213 career average. During his 24-year college career, Kindall led University of Arizona teams to College World Series championships in 1976, 1980, and 1986, and his teams won 861 games.

There were other former major leaguers who had long tenures as college



coaches. **Dave "Boo" Ferriss** was head coach at Delta State (Miss.) University for 26 years, where his teams compiled 639 wins. **Max Bishop** won 306 games at the U. S. Naval Academy from 1938 to 1962. **Andy Coakley** coached at Columbia University from 1915 to 1951. **Andy Cohen** coached 17 years at the University of Texas at El Paso. **Bunny Hearn** led the University of North Carolina team as head coach for 27 years. **Danny Litwhiler** coached from 1955 to 1982 at Florida State University and Michigan State. **Chuck Hinton** coached Howard University for 28 years.

Bobby Winkles and **Branch Rickey** initially had successful careers at the college level before embarking on major league careers. Winkles won national titles at Arizona State University in 1965, 1967, and 1969, before managing at the major league level with California and Oakland in the 1970s. Rickey coached at the University of Michigan from 1909 to 1911, before becoming one of the most influential executives in major league history.

Other notable major leaguers who coached at the college level included **Bobby Richardson** (University of South Carolina), **Bill Freehan** (University of Michigan), **Dick Howser** (Florida State University), **Don Kessinger** (University of Mississippi), **Robin Roberts** (University of South Florida), **Eddie Stanky** (University of South Alabama), and **Joe Sewell** (University of Alabama).