



**January 9-10, 2025**  
**Charlotte, NC**

**PRESENTED BY**



**HOSTED BY**



# WELCOME

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Welcome to the sixth Surefire Baseball Forum.  
Thank you for sharing your valuable time to  
promote college baseball.

This program would not be possible without the  
support provided by Charlotte Athletics and Peak  
Events LLC, which operates four NCAA Division I  
college baseball tournaments: the Frisco College  
Baseball Classic, Karbach Round Rock Classic, JAX  
Classic, and Las Vegas Classic.

Other sponsors include Marucci, Nations Group,  
Teamworks, SET, D1.relocation, the DLR Group,  
and D1Baseball. Please pass along your gratitude to  
these supporters.

Enjoy your time in the Queen City and thank you  
again.



Jason Penry



# SPONSORS

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TEAMWORKS



 DLRGROUP



# BACKGROUND

Since 2018, the Surefire Baseball Forum has matched NCAA Division I administrators with top assistant baseball coaches from across the country.

Surefire was modeled after the Villa 7 networking event for college basketball, which founder Jason Penry attended in 2012 at Nike's campus in Oregon.


The purpose of Surefire is two-fold: prepare assistant coaches for D1 head coaching roles and create more interest in college baseball among athletic administrators.


## Locations


The next Surefire will be held at TCU in January 2026.


Previous Surefire event locations:

2018 – Texas A&M University 

2019 – University of San Diego 

2020 – University of South Carolina 

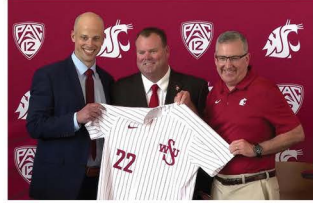
2022 – University of Houston 

2023 – Loyola Marymount University 

Thank you to the host universities for their support to prepare and promote the future of college baseball.



# ALUMNI



After attending Surefire, 30 of the 119 alumni secured their first NCAA Division I head coach positions:

Blake Beemer (Butler)  
Chris Bertrand (Northwestern State)  
Will Bolt (Nebraska)  
Nathan Choate (Loyola Marymount and Washington State)  
Eddie Cornejo (Cal State Northridge)  
Michael Earley (Texas A&M)  
Donegal Fergus (Loyola Marymount)  
Dan Fitzgerald (Kansas)  
Ben Greenspan (Northwestern)  
Brent Haring (Nicholls State)  
Randy Hood (UNC Wilmington)  
Walt Jones (Eastern Kentucky)  
Jason Kelly (Washington)  
Karl Kuhn (Radford and Charleston Southern)  
Bradley LeCroy (VCU and Liberty)  
Skylar Meade (Troy)  
Joe Mercadante (North Florida)  
Bill Mosiello (Ohio State)  
Chris Prothro (Eastern Kentucky)  
Nate Rasmussen (Utah Valley)  
Kirk Saarloos (TCU)  
Steve Sabins (West Virginia)  
Brian Smiley (Miami Ohio)  
Eddie Smith (Utah Valley and Washington)  
Fuller Smith (Tarleton State)  
Jay Uhlman (Tulane)  
Brock Ungricht (San Diego)  
Clay Van Hook (UT Arlington)  
Rich Wallace (Central Florida)  
Gregg Wallis (Grand Canyon)

# AGENDA

Parking: West Deck (adjacent to the Barnhardt Student Activity Center)  
Location: James H. Barnhardt Student Activity Center (Room: Salons)

## Thursday, January 9

**5:00 – 6:00 p.m.** – Pre-Forum Session for Coaches

*Jeremy Foley, Athletic Director Emeritus, University of Florida*

*Mike Hill, Director of Athletics, University of North Carolina at Charlotte*

**6:00 – 7:30 p.m.** – Opening Reception for all attendees

## Friday, January 10

**7:30 a.m.** – Breakfast

**8:00 a.m.** – Speed Networking

**9:15 a.m.** – Break

**9:30 a.m.** – Breakout Sessions – Panel Discussions

Coaches: “The Search”

*Moderator: Joe Healy, D1Baseball*

*John Cohen, Athletics Director, Auburn University*

*Dan Fitzgerald, Head Coach, University of Kansas*

*Drew Turner, President, CSA Executive Search*

Administrators: “A Conversation with the Committee”

*Moderator: Mike Rooney, ESPN*

*Michael Alford, Vice President and Director of Athletics, Florida State University*

*Jay Artigues, Director of Athletics, Southeastern Louisiana University*

*Jeremy McClain, Director of Athletics, University of Southern Mississippi*

**10:30 a.m.** – Speed Networking

**11:30 a.m.** – Break

**11:45 a.m.** – Breakout Sessions – Panel Discussions

Coaches: “You’re Hired: The First 90 Days”

*Moderator: Ryan Holloway, Peak Events*

*Nathan Choate, Head Coach, Washington State University*

*Amy Folan, Vice President of Athletics, Central Michigan University*

*Brent Jones, Director of Athletics, Troy University*

Administrators: “Baseball & Change in College Athletics”

*Moderator: Ben Portnoy, Sports Business Journal*

*Randale Richmond, Vice President of Athletics, Kent State University*

*Graham Rossini, Athletic Director, Arizona State University*

*Greg Seitz, Vice President for Athletics, Jacksonville State University*

**12:30 p.m.** –Adjournment and Lunch



# ATTENDEE ROSTER

## Administrators

[Michael Alford](#) (Florida State)  
[Jay Artigues](#) (Southeastern Louisiana)  
[Leigh Barton](#) (UNC Asheville)  
[Michael Beale](#) (UNC)  
[Chris Clunie](#) (Davidson)  
[John Cohen](#) (Auburn)  
[Matt Duce](#) (Dallas Baptist)  
[Kevin Dwan](#) (Rice)  
[Tim Fitzpatrick](#) (Brown)  
[Amy Folan](#) (Central Michigan)  
[Alvin Franklin](#) (Houston)  
[Andrew Goodrich](#) (Gardner-Webb)  
[Mike Hill](#) (Charlotte)  
[Vinnie James](#) (Penn State)  
[Brent Jones](#) (Troy)  
[Josh Looney](#) (North Alabama)

[Tyson Lusk](#) (South Carolina)  
[Brian Mackin](#) (UNC Greensboro)  
[Matt Martin](#) (USC Upstate)  
[Jeremy McClain](#) (Southern Miss)  
[Chance Miller](#) (Coastal Carolina)  
[Ron Moses](#) (Old Dominion)  
[Milton Overton](#) (Kennesaw State)  
[Randale Richmond](#) (Kent State)  
[Graham Rossini](#) (Arizona State)  
[Doc Sander](#) (East Tennessee State)  
[Greg Seitz](#) (Jacksonville State)  
[Chris Thomasson](#) (Charlotte)  
[Matt Wells](#) (West Virginia)  
[Kyle Young](#) (Clemson)  
[Craig Zakrzewski](#) (Wake Forest)

## Coaches

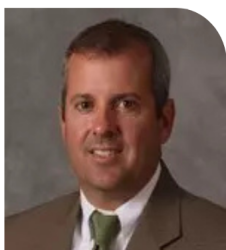
[Jimmy Belanger](#) (Clemson)  
[Toby Bicknell](#) (Charlotte)  
[Adam Brown](#) (Charleston)  
[George Brown](#) (St. John's)  
[George Capen](#) (Georgetown)  
[Phillip Cebuhar](#) (Charlotte)  
[Kyle Cheesebrough](#) (Mississippi State)  
[Adam Christ](#) (Illinois)  
[Clint Chrysler](#) (NC State)  
[Bill Cilento](#) (Wake Forest)  
[Steve Dintaman](#) (Northern Kentucky)  
[Will Dorton](#) (Charleston)  
[Jerry Edwards](#) (High Point)  
[Josh Elander](#) (Tennessee)  
[Trevor Ezell](#) (SEMO)

[Ryan Fecteau](#) (Virginia Tech)  
[Connor Gandossy](#) (Minnesota)  
[Dustin Glant](#) (Indiana)  
[Gabe Gross](#) (Auburn)  
[Chuck Jeroloman](#) (Florida)  
[Brady Kirkpatrick](#) (Duke)  
[Logan Moon](#) (Illinois State)  
[Chris Moore](#) (UNCW)  
[Nick Puccio](#) (Penn State)  
[Matt Rembielak](#) (Bowling Green)  
[Andrew See](#) (Liberty)  
[Jake Valentine](#) (Michigan)  
[Brad Wilkerson](#) (North Florida)  
[Doug Willey](#) (Xavier)  
[Ben Wolgamot](#) (Troy)

# Administrators



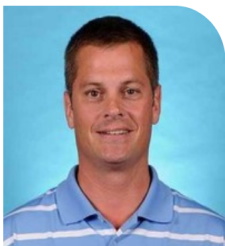
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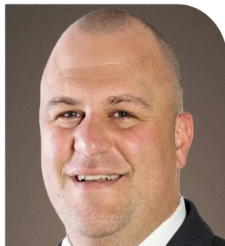
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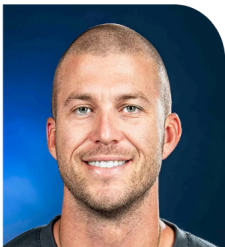
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# PEAK EVENTS



JACKSONVILLE, FL | FEB 21-23, 2025  
@JAXCBC



ROUND ROCK, TX | FEB 21-23, 2025  
@KARBACHRRRC



LAS VEGAS, NV | FEB 28 - MAR 2, 2025  
@LASVEGASCBC



FRISCO, TX | FEB 28 - MAR 2, 2025  
@FRISCOCLASSIC

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**PEAK**  
EVENTS