



January 9-10, 2025
Charlotte, NC

PRESENTED BY



HOSTED BY



WELCOME

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



TEAMWORKS



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 

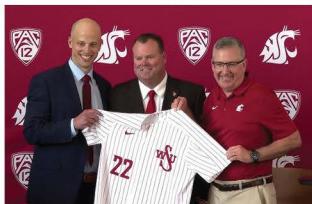
2020 – University of South Carolina 

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)



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PEAK EVENTS



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



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

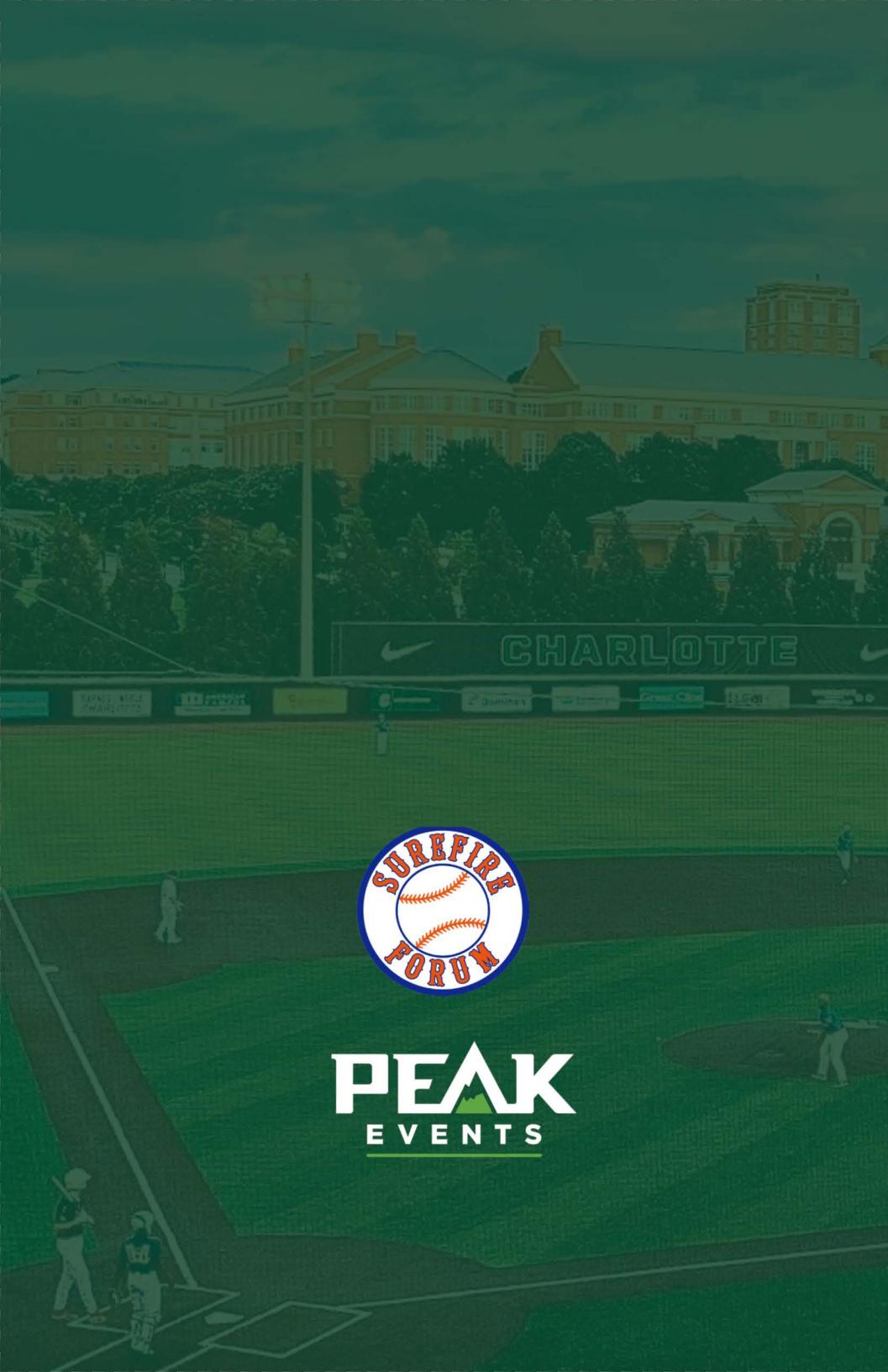


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A wide-angle photograph of a baseball stadium. The field is green with white lines. In the background, a large, multi-story brick building with many windows is visible, likely a hotel or resort. The sky is filled with scattered clouds. A tall street lamp stands on the left side of the frame.

CHARLOTTE



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