

Dreams Do Come True

Kent Shelley will coach his 21st season baseball season at JCCC this spring. He is also serving his one-year term as president of

the American Baseball Coaches Association, making him only the second community college coach to earn this position in the 62-year history of the ABCA.

Shelley, professor, HPER, and coach, has dreamed of being in a position to give more to the game of baseball.

“I attended my first ABCA convention when I was Sonny’s (Maynard) assistant,” Shelley said. “A few weeks after, I had a dream someday I would be in a position to give back to a game that has given so much to me.”

Shelley’s dream came true in 2002, when he was voted by the ABCA membership to serve as fourth vice president of the ABCA. Each year since that appointment, Shelley has moved up the chain, and in January of 2007, he assumed the role of president.

“It is one of the greatest honors I have received in my life – to eventually work through the chairs and then represent the ABCA around the world. Then to be only the second community college coach to do so is quite humbling.”

One of the major roles of the ABCA has been its work with the governing bodies of the groups represented by the coaches – the NCAA, NAIA, NJCAA and the National Federation of State High School Associations. The ABCA also works closely with the Collegiate Commissioners Association, Major League Baseball, Youth Associations, USA Baseball and other federations around the world. It is the desire of the association to have a relationship with all these groups so that coaches and student-athletes will have the best working and playing conditions possible to constantly improve the sport of baseball.

Since assuming his new role as president, Shelley has already served as a key ambassador of the game. In six short months, Shelley has represented the ABCA at the 50th Anniversary of the NJCAA World Series and attended the NJCAA D-II baseball championship in Millington, Tenn., the NCAA World Series in Omaha, Neb., and Major League Baseball’s All-Star Game in San Francisco, Calif. Later this fall, he will be a guest of MLB at games three,



four and five of the 2007 World Series, and will cap his presidency as the master of ceremonies at the ABCA Hall of Fame banquet in Philadelphia, Pa., in January 2008.

Shelley will still be involved with the ABCA when his term is complete. He will serve as past president next year and on the board of directors for life. He also will serve on the NJCAA Baseball Coaches Executive Committee as a past president. Shelley also hopes he has left an impression with the members of his organization.

Story by Tyler Cundith

Kent Shelley stands in the dugout before the JCCC vs. Croatian All-Stars game this fall.