



Jay Johnson Class of 2017

Jay graduated from Oroville High School in 1995 and was an outstanding student and multi-sport athlete. He played four years of football, basketball and baseball, was a member of Block O, all-league in football and baseball and, as a senior, was OHS athlete of the year. He was very active in student body activities, serving in the student senate, a senior class officer and the school representative to Boys State.

Following graduation, Jay earned his AA degree at Shasta Community College, his BA degree at Point Loma Nazarene University (PLNU), and his MA degree at Azusa Pacific University (APU). He played four years of college baseball winning a Gold Glove at PLNU and hit .326 as a senior at APU.

Jay's coaching career began in 2002 when he was assistant coach at PLNU and helped lead the team to the NAIA World Series in 2004. In 2005, he was named head coach and posted a record of 37-16. In 2006, he was named associate head coach at University of San Diego where he served for seven years and helped guide the team to the NCAA tournament six times. In 2013, the University of Nevada (UN) hired him as head coach where he served two years, posting a 72-42 record, the team winning its first ever Conference Championship. UN finished in the top-five nationally in batting and scoring and Jay was named Mountain West Coach of the Year. Johnson is the first OUHSD graduate to serve as a Division 1 head coach.

The year 2015 saw Jay head to the big time being named as University of Arizona's (UA) 16th head baseball coach in program history, a member of the prestigious Pac-12 Conference, and one of the most storied programs in college baseball history. *"I'm beyond humbled and grateful to be a part of Arizona baseball"* said Johnson when he was hired. *"To be associated with this program and what it has stood for over such a long period of time is a dream come true. I am so excited to get to work and build on the great tradition of this program and play a brand of baseball that our fans will be very proud of and excited to watch."*

Quote from UA Director of Athletics Greg Byrne, *"We were absolutely blown away by the interest and number of qualified candidates that inquired about our head baseball coaching position. As we narrowed our search and looked at who would be the best fit for the UA baseball program, Jay Johnson's name kept rising to the top of the list. We are excited to welcome Jay to the Wildcat family and we look forward to watching him build on the storied past of Arizona baseball."*

Jay's initial year at UA saw him leading his team to an impressive 49-24 record, the second-most wins in program history and to the finals of the College World Series (CWS) where the Wildcats lost the final game by one run. Had Arizona won the CWS, Jay would have been the first coach in NCAA history to win the CWS in his first year at a school. As it was, he was the 5th coach in NCAA history to reach the Series in his first year as coach and was named West Region Coach of the Year, by the American Baseball Coaches Association.

The 2017 season saw Jay's Wildcats finishing 4th in the Pac-12 with a record of 16-14, and earning the 16th seed in the Regional Pod where they lost to Sam Houston University (SHU) by a score of 3-9. SHU then went on to defeat Central Arkansas, whose assistant coach was Nick Harlan, another OHS alumni. Jay's Arizona team ended its season with a record of 38 wins and 21 losses.

A few of the many notable Items of interest in Jay's coaching career:

- He is the son of retired OHS teacher, assistant football, and head track and field coach, Jerry Johnson.
- -His 2016 PAC-12 championship team was picked to finish 9th in the conference.
- Six of his 2016 players were selected in the Major League Baseball draft that year.
- In 2013, Jay coached Kris Bryant, College Baseball Player of the Year. Bryant was drafted #2 overall by the Chicago Cubs, who went on to win the 2016 World Series, and was named The National League Most Valuable Player (MVP).

Jay is a newlywed. He and his wife, Maureen, reside in Tucson, Arizona.