



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Spike Hupka Named 2018 “Mr. Baseball”**

### **Lipscomb Great Jamie Pride Named to Hall of Fame**

**NASHVILLE, TN – January 11, 2018** – Spike Hupka will be honored as the Old Timers “Mr. Baseball”, and Lipscomb star Jamie Pride will be inducted in the Nashville Amateur Baseball Hall of Fame at the organization’s 80<sup>th</sup> annual banquet to be held Monday, January 15, 2018 at the Nashville Airport Marriott.

Hupka has been active in baseball for the most part of his life, currently serving as a member of the Babe Ruth League, Inc. International Board of Directors. He has been a task force member at 25 World Series tournaments and director for 31 Southeast Regional tournaments, and was inducted into the Southeast Region Hall of Fame in 2010. His connection with Babe Ruth League has spanned over thirty-five years as a player for three years, coach for fourteen years, and district and state commissioner for over eighteen years and is a Babe Ruth League Golden Alumni Club member. One of his highlights is participating in the 1959 Babe Ruth World Series in Stockton, California, and as a coach, in 1981 his team won the Dixie Youth World Series at Bartow, Florida.”

Pride was All-Nashville for Cumberland High School in 1970 and an All-American at Lipscomb University in 1974. He holds the career record for triples in the NAIA World Series. A Tri-State League all-star third baseman for Coursey's in 1973 and 1974, after the 1974 season he joined Haury and Smith; that team went to back-to-back National Baseball Congress World Series in Wichita, Kansas in 1975 and 1976. He continued to play for Haury and Smith until retiring from amateur baseball as a player after the 1981 season.

The banquet, sponsored by Franklin American Mortgage, will feature Hall of Famer Gaylord Perry as speaker. Banquet tickets are now on sale for \$75 each and may be purchased from any Old Timers board member. For more information call Old Timers president Russ Pyles (238-5308), Farrell Owens (587-1384) or Rip Ryman (319-8459).

Formed in 1938 by a group of local baseball enthusiasts, the Old Timers organization is one of the oldest such organizations in the United States, celebrating its 80th year of existence in 2018.