

5/6/2019 Softball Coach of the Week – Jonathan Worrell



Softball Coach of the Week:

Jonathan Worrell coaches our 12U Storm and the Junior Crimson Tide

What age are your teams? What leagues do you play in?

I am the coach of the 12U Storm and the Junior Crimson Tide

When did you know you wanted to coach at SSYS? / How long have you been coaching?

I played at SSYS from T-Ball until PONY League (13/14-year-old league). I always knew I wanted to coach at SSYS but didn't know I would start so early. I started coaching baseball at SSYS as a junior in HS in 1994 when my Dad volunteered me to help coach a baseball team that didn't have an assistant coach. I coached baseball until 2007. Made the switch to softball in 2008.

What do you enjoy most about coaching?

The relationships that I have built with my players, their families and my coaches. Watching my players grow and improve throughout the

season. I love going to watch my former players play for their school teams and seeing that they still love the game.

How do you go about motivating your players?

Instilling confidence in them on and off the field. Trying to get them to believe in themselves as much as I believe in them. Getting them to trust their teammates and play for each other.

What skills/characteristics do you look for in your players?

Hustle, desire and attitude. A nice fastball, change-up and a strong bat are nice, too.

What is the biggest challenge you've had as a coach and how did you overcome it?

Helping to grow the summer all-star/Select program in softball. I loved coaching summer teams in baseball and didn't know if that was something that would be able to be replicated in softball. Thanks to some incredible Softball VPs, families and players, we have been able to give the girls those chances. We have gone from our Storm/Cyclones teams playing one 3-day tournament for all-stars for the entire summer.....to playing throughout June and giving our 12U Storm girls the chance to play a National Tournament in Myrtle Beach.

What advice would you give to new coaches?

Have fun! Be patient. Be flexible. Make sure to communicate well with the parents on your team, especially on schedules.

When not rooting for your SSYS team, who is your favorite school/sports team and/or players?

All sports teams from The University of Alabama. Roll Tide!!

What has been your most memorable SSYS moment?

Having an award named after me is an amazing honor and one for which I am very thankful. On the field...

- As a baseball coach: Helping coach 2001 SSYS 12-year-old All-Star team that finished as Georgia State Little League Champions and Southeastern Regional Runners-Up. Lost in the Regional Final on ESPN2. Finished one game short of the Little League World Series.
- As a softball coach: Shutting out NYO on their field in the championship of their tournament in 2015 and beating Murphey Candler on a walk-off hit in the 2018 Sandy Plains Tournament Final.

When you are not at the fields, what do you enjoy doing most?

Attending Alabama Football games (Have been the to the last 150 and counting); attending as many other sporting events that I can...have been to 3 Olympics, the last 18 Final Fours and many, many more events; spending time with my family.