

Monday, October 17, 2005

UC Baseball Alumni:

To those of you who participated in the 2nd Annual Alumni Home Run Derby this past Friday, please accept my thanks for being involved in UC Baseball. To those who were unable to join us, know that we had a fantastic event and a good time was had by all – I hope you are able to join us next year.

It is gratifying to me on a personal level to see so many former players return to campus in support of UC Baseball. Specifically to those of you who I had the opportunity to coach, it is especially meaningful for you to remain involved. Thank you.

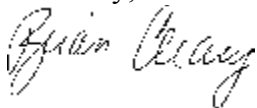
As was mentioned, we had a beautiful evening in the new stadium and the competition, under the lights, was heated. Mark Haske and Steve Pickerell squared off in the final round (both are currently still playing professionally – Mark in the Detroit Tigers farm system and Steve in the Tampa Bay Devil Rays farm system). Haske was most impressive but Pickerell displayed enormous power and emerged as the champion. Of interest to some may be the fact that both of our first two champions are former UC catchers.

While the competition was great, my favorite part of this event (and whenever our alums gather) was listening in on our former players and hearing their stories of good times – on and off the field – from their days at UC. Seeing them enjoy each other's company and reflecting on their times together as players is one of the true benefits of coaching.

We have tentatively made plans to hold the Home Run derby each year on Homecoming weekend, but will confirm that as the event gets closer.

As always, please contact me if I can be of any help. I look forward to your support this spring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brian Cleary".

Brian Cleary
Head Baseball Coach