



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE BASEBALL WRITERS ASSOCIATION

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VETERAN COLLEGE BASEBALL BROADCASTER JOHN COX CAPTURES 48TH ANNUAL 2022 NCBWA RUSSELL D. ANDERSON/WILBUR SNYPP AWARD

DALLAS (NCBWA) – John Cox, a veteran of 45 years of broadcasts in Southern Miss athletics and regional award winner, is the 48th annual NCBWA Russell D. Anderson/Wilbur Snynn Award recipient for national contributions to college baseball.

The award, first given in 1975 to National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association founder Wilbur (Bill) Snynn of Ohio State, also memorializes the cherished Russell D. Anderson – treasurer and associate executive director for the NCBWA for three decades from 1996-2021 before passing away April 5, 2021. Anderson was awarded the top honor given by the NCBWA in 2002 for his sterling efforts.

Cox has been director of sports broadcasting at USM since 1979 and is a legend in the world of college broadcasting. He started his career at USM as play-by-play broadcaster for Golden Eagles football, basketball and baseball along with duties as assistant media relations director in athletics to the late Ace Cleveland.

Cox joins Mississippi State broadcaster and 2019 NCBWA Russell D. Anderson/Wilbur Snynn Award winner Jim Ellis and Ole Miss veteran broadcaster David Kellum as the second-longest tenured college sports broadcasters over 45 seasons and ranks just behind Louisiana Tech's legendary Dave Nitz who is starting his 49th year behind the college baseball radio microphone as well as working Bulldogs football and basketball events.

"I want to thank the NCBWA for selecting me for this incredible honor, and I have to admit I was stunned when I got the call," John Cox said. "To win an award that is named after the talented Russ Anderson, someone that I was fortunate enough to work with for so many years when he was with Conference USA, and the legendary Wilbur Snynn is a dream come true. Like hitting a game-winning home run in the bottom of the ninth. For as long as I can remember all I ever wanted to do was put that headset on and broadcast athletic events. And when I finally got a chance to do it so many years ago it was a dream come true. And the best part is that I love it even more today than when I started.

"Baseball, especially college baseball, is such a unique, beautiful and wonderful sport and to be behind the microphone watching and chronicling the sport grow in leaps and bounds for so many years, especially here at Southern Miss, has been an incredible journey," he added. "Watching the amazing growth of college baseball has been so much fun to cover and the best part is it just keeps getting better as the seasons go by. Learning from and being around all-time great coaches like Pete Taylor, Hill Denson, Corky Palmer and Scott Berry here at Southern Miss has really made it even more special. Thanks to everyone with the NCBWA that had a part in my selection for this prestigious award.

"In college baseball the play-by-play guy's best friend is the sports information director," he continued. "The SID is invaluable and irreplaceable in helping you provide your listener with the most accurate, interesting and important information. I have been lucky enough over the years to have SIDs like (current football media relations director at West Virginia) Mike Montoro and (Southern Miss Assistant AD) Jack Duggan alongside me, traveling on those long bus trips and sitting at ball parks all around the country. Sometimes inside, sometimes outside, rain or shine and even snow, and never getting all the credit they deserve. They certainly have a lot to do with this award."

Among his many duties at Southern Miss, Cox handles the play-by-play broadcasts of Golden Eagles football, basketball and baseball. He hosts the Golden Eagle Hotline radio shows while focusing on football during the fall and on men's and women's basketball during the winter. His more recent responsibilities have included heading weekly podcasts for USM administrators, coaches and student-athletes year-round.

Before he moved to the radio booth, the 2022 RDA/Snypp Award honoree was the play-by-play man on delayed telecasts of Southern Miss basketball from 1978-81. In 1982, he handled the radio play-by-play duties for Golden Eagle football and switched back to the delayed television broadcasts of Southern Miss football for three years before assuming his current radio responsibilities in 1986.

In 1982 Cox began broadcasting Southern Miss baseball games, and over the years he also has performed radio play-by-play roles for Southern Miss women's basketball. He also has worked on the FOX Sports Net South and Comcast Sports Southeast telecasts of Southern Miss baseball. The veteran broadcaster called his 2,000th baseball game in 2019. In 2015 he was on the air for 1,000th men's basketball tussle.

Six times he has been selected as Mississippi's Sportscaster of the Year - most recently in 2013. In 2017 the football radio booth was named in his honor and he was immortalized with his own bobblehead figure during the 2019 baseball season.

“John Cox definitely is most deserving of the 2022 Russell Anderson/Wilbur Snynn Award,” said NCBWA executive director Bo Carter. “His work and promotion of college baseball for all or parts of five decades speak for themselves. People have respected his fairness and picture-painting of baseball and other sports he has worked at USM, and his unselfish work ethic and humble attitude have earned him thousands of followers through the years.”

A native of Middletown, Ohio, Cox received his bachelor’s degree in radio, television and film from Southern Miss in 1978. He has two daughters, Joye, a graduate of Millsaps, and Erin, a graduate of Southern Miss.

Past Russell D. Anderson/Wilbur Snynn Award Winners

1975	Wilbur Snynn, Ohio State
1976	Bill Esposito, St. John's
1977	Phil Langan, Cornell
1978	John Geis, Southern Conference
1979	Hank Schomber, Georgia Southern
1980	Bob Culp, Western Michigan
1981	Lou Pavlovich, Sr., Collegiate Baseball
1982	Tom Price, South Carolina
1983	Bob Bradley, Clemson
1984	Robert Williams, Omaha World-Herald
1985	Jerry Miles, NCAA
1986	Larry Keefe, Seton Hall
1987	Tom Rowen, San Jose Mercury-News
1988	Fred Gerardi, KESY Radio, Omaha
1989	Jim Wright, NCAA
1990	Steve Weller, SIU-Edwardsville
1991	Bill Little, University of Texas
1992	Kirk Bohls, Austin American-Statesman
1993	Bo Carter, Southwest Conference
1994	Lou Pavlovich, Jr., Collegiate Baseball
1995	Steve Pivovar, Omaha World-Herald
1996	Gary Johnson, NCAA
1997	Dave Wohlhueter, Cornell
1998	Allan Simpson, Baseball America
1999	Alan Cannon, Texas A&M
2000	Jim Callis, Baseball America
2001	Dick Case, USA Baseball
2002	Russell D. Anderson, Conference USA
2003	John Manuel, Baseball America
2004	Dana Heiss Grodin, USA TODAY Sports Weekly
2005	Dennis Poppe, NCAA
2006	Mike Montoro, Southern Miss
2007	Barry Allen, Alabama
2008	Mike Patrick, ESPN
2009	Al Chase, Honolulu Star-Bulletin
2010	Lou Spry, NCAA
2011	Jeremy Mills, ESPN/D1Baseball.com
2012	Eric Olson, Associated Press
2013	J.D. Hamilton, NCAA
2014	John Sullivan, Rice
2015	David Feaster, Dick Howser Trophy
2016	Ralph Zobell, BYU
2017	Aaron Fitt, D1Baseball.com/Baseball America
2018	Kyle Peterson, ESPN
2019	Jim Ellis, Mississippi State Radio
2020	Malcolm Gray, East Carolina
2021	Kevin Kugler, Westwood One/Fox Sports
2022	John Cox, Southern Miss