

Arizona Major League Baseball Alumni to Honor 2009's Best;

Andre Ethier, Ike Davis and Mike Leake Among Those to be Honored November 14

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October 13, 2009 (Tempe, Arizona)--The **Arizona Major League Alumni** (AZMLA) announced that it will recognize the state's most outstanding baseball and softball players at an inaugural dinner at Embassy Suites in Tempe on November 14, 2009. Single dinner tickets are available for \$100.

A silent auction will begin at 6 p.m., followed by a cocktail reception and dinner program. **Jude Lacava**, sports anchor from 3TV, will emcee the evening.

Awards will be presented in the following categories:

- Major League Baseball Player of the Year—**Andre Ethier** (Los Angeles Dodgers)
- Minor League Baseball Player of the Year—**Ike Davis** (NY Mets, Binghamton Mets)
- College Baseball Player of the Year—**Mike Leake** (Arizona State)
- College Softball Player of the Year—**Kaitlin Cochran** (Arizona State)
- Junior College Baseball Player of the Year—**Jimmy Patterson** (Central Arizona)
- Junior College Softball Player of the Year—**Lacey Goodman** (Phoenix CC)
- High School Baseball Player of the Year—**Jake Barrett** (Desert Ridge High School)
- High School Softball Player of the Year—**Kenzie Fowler** (Tucson Canyon Del Oro)

Additional acknowledgements will be given to **Tony Valdez**, (Hamilton High School) coach of the National (14-year-old) Babe Ruth Champions, and **Steve Erickson** (Mountain View Little League in North Scottsdale), coach of the Junior Little League (age 13-14) World Series Champions.

A legacy “lifetime achievement award” will be presented to former Arizona Governor **Rose Mofford**.

According to **Lou Klimchock**, president of Arizona Major League Alumni, the **Legacy Award** presented to Ms. Mofford recognizes her “lifetime contributions to baseball in Arizona.”

A panel of experts from *The Arizona Republic*, The Society for American Baseball Research (SABR) and the AZ MLB Alumni determined the recipients.

Proceeds will benefit the Baseball Assistance Team (B.A.T.); Play Ball Experience; SABR; and Arizona Youth Baseball.

The event will be the culmination or the first annual SABR Arizona Fall League Conference which will also be held at the Embassy Suites on November 12-14.

Since 1987, the AZMLA has staged the annual Celebration of Baseball Celebrity Golf Tournament golf series at cities around the state.