



## *Houston Baseball Dugout Club*

Your Houston Baseball team is anxiously awaiting the 2017 season. The student-athletes and staff have high expectations and are working hard to maintain the success of previous years, which have included two championship seasons and three consecutive Silver Glove Series wins over Rice.

A year ago, Houston notched its fourth straight 35+ win season and advanced to the American Athletic Conference Championship final for the third straight year. The Cougars finished with a record of 36-23 overall and a 23-9 mark at home.

Houston's pitching staff continues to rank among the nation's elite under the direction of pitching coach Frank Anderson as the Cougars finished 2016 ranked first in the nation in strikeout-to-walk ratio (4.17), walks allowed per nine innings (1.97) and second in the nation in ERA (2.48) and WHIP (1.05).

The 2016 season was highlighted by the play of freshman Joe Davis, who was tabbed an All-American and the league's Rookie of the Year as well as a five-time First Team Freshman All-American and an All-Region selection along with Seth Romero. Houston had three Freshman All-America honorees in Davis, Mitch Ullom and Trey Cumbie to mark the most rookies earning the national honor in program history.

Contributing to the strong play by the Cougars, Darryl & Lori Schroeder Park has become one of the nation's top baseball facilities as it continues to improve each year. The home for Houston Baseball displayed a brand new video board, the second largest college baseball video board by Daktronics, in the nation, last season while also showcasing a new lighting system. Along with those immaculate upgrades, construction for the new Player Development Center and Clubhouse, which will feature a 20,000+ square-foot facility housing a players' lounge, clubhouse, batting cages, training room, party deck for in-game viewing and more, is underway and completion plans are set for 2017.

These upgrades continue to directly impact the team, allowing the Cougars to take pride in generous support for many years to come and was made possible by donations from the Dugout Club.

The 2017 Houston Baseball team, which features 23 newcomers, will hit the field Feb. 17-19 with a home series against Nicholls State. 29 home games are slated for 2017 and 32 will be played in the city of Houston alone.

[I want to invite you to become a member of The Houston Baseball Dugout Club for 2017.](#) With the goal of winning a National Championship ahead of us, we are working tirelessly as a staff and team to improve each day as a unit and individually. The Road to OMAHA is foreseeable and to achieve this ultimate goal we need your continued help and support. The Dugout Club is in place for two reasons:

1. To raise the interest level in Houston Baseball
2. To increase and stabilize financial support for the program

I realize that everyone interested in Houston Baseball is not in the same position financially to support the program. For this reason we have created **two levels** for you to choose from (Diamond and Pinch Hitter Levels). No matter what level of giving you choose to participate in, you will play a major impact on our student athletes. The enclosed information explains the dynamics of each option for giving.

More than ever we need your support as we look to continue our Championship ways and have our eyes set on OMAHA this spring. Houston Baseball is a high caliber program that consistently graduates the type of young men who will represent UH at the highest level both on and off the field. Your generous support will have a direct impact on the experience and development of our outstanding student-athletes.

On behalf of the coaching staff and players, thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you and your family at Darryl & Lori Schroeder Park this spring!

Go Coogs!

Todd Whitting

