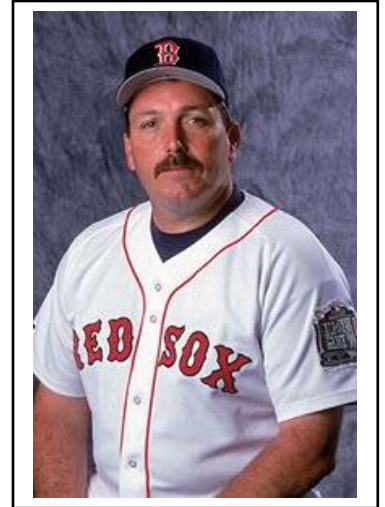


## BUDDY BAILEY

Buddy Bailey commenced his life in baseball as an 8-year-old, representing the Amherst Lions on the school fields in Amherst, Clifford, Temperance, and Pleasant View. His uniform consisted of tennis shoes, jeans, and a sleeveless flannel baseball shirt. He first put on an “official” baseball uniform for Amherst All-Stars against Madison Heights All-Stars, who later combined to form great ACHS teams. From those dusty beginnings emerged a professional baseball man who has covered much of the Western Hemisphere in his managerial career.

His sports experiences at Amherst County High School and at Lynchburg College all featured Amherst Hall of Fame coaches: Tom Berry, Jim Procopio, and Gerald Thomas. The 1974 ACHS baseball team won the AAA state championship under Procopio, followed by participation in the state football semi-finals in 1974, led by Berry. Playing baseball at Lynchburg College under Thomas, he was named Old Dominion Athletic Conference Player of the Year in 1977, as well as All-American in Division III.



Drafted out of LC in 1979, he signed his first professional contract with the Atlanta Braves, and remained in their organization until 1990 – four years as a minor league player, mostly as a catcher, followed by positions in coaching and management. Confirming the conventional wisdom that former catchers make effective managers, he led the Greenville Braves to the Southern League championship in 1988. After a brief stop in Lynchburg with the Red Sox, he assumed leadership of the Pawtucket team as its youngest-ever manager, where he gained two Manager of the Year awards, accomplished only three times previously.

He made it to the majors in 2000 as bench coach of the Red Sox, also serving as advance scout. In addition to his current affiliation with the Chicago Cubs as manager of the Tennessee Smokies, he spends his winters in Venezuela in the Winter League with the Tigres de Aragua. There he has won six championships, and the 2009 Caribbean Series title.

Among the many whose careers he has influenced are major leaguers Jeff Blauser, Dave Justice, Ron Gant, Starlin Castro, and, 2012 Triple Crown winner, Miguel Cabrera. An all-star roster could be drawn up of players touched by Buddy Bailey’s 30 years in professional baseball.

Welby Shelton Bailey – March 28, 1957

### Career Highlights

- ACHS: Baseball – AAA State Championship (1974), Football – AAA State Semi-Finals (1974)
- Lynchburg College: ODAC Player of the Year (1977), 1<sup>st</sup> team All-America team
- Professional baseball player: Atlanta Braves organization (1979-82), A and AA
- Professional baseball manager: 30 years – Pulaski, Sumter, Durham, Greenville SC, Lynchburg, Pawtucket, Daytona, Iowa, Tennessee, Australia, Navajoa Mexico, Venezuela; Manager of the Year, Appalachian League (1983), Southern League (1988), International League (1996, 2004)
- Boston Red Sox: Bench coach (2000), advance scout, field coordinator of minor league instruction (4 years)