



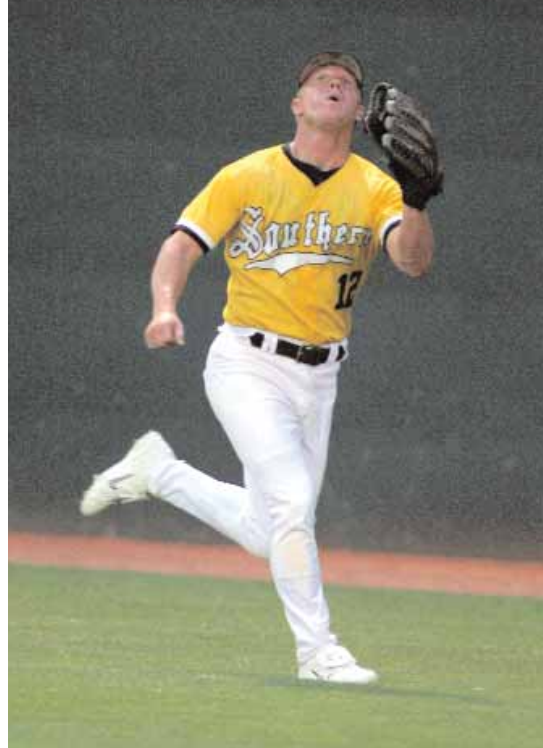
After BSC was eliminated from the Athens Regional with a heartbreaking loss to Clemson, an emotional Brian Shoop tells a postgame press gathering how special the nine seniors on the 2004 baseball team were to him and to the Birmingham-Southern program.

BSC's now growing legacy in NCAA Division I baseball. The fourth-smallest NCAA Division I member made the field of 64, did so as an at-large team, won a game in the postseason, took a team the likes of Clemson to the brink, and did all of this in only the school's first year of being able to do so. That is a new beginning for a school long known as a college baseball power.

Those nine seniors—Matt Bogue (Columbus, Miss.), Cline, Jered Goodwin (Oviedo, Fla.), Ryan Griffith (Pisgah), Robertson, Ryan Sciacca (Hoover), Jared Walker (Sylacauga), Steve White (Birmingham), and Wydner—have given BSC new life in a new place. That place is the big time, which is fittingly what those nine men mean to Birmingham-Southern College.

That the baseball program features outstanding student-athletes who compete at the highest level of intercollegiate athletics, however, is not what is so special. What is special is that the baseball program features outstanding people who excel academically, care for one another emotionally, and uplift those around them spiritually, while being outstanding athletes as well.

And that is how the BSC baseball program serves as a microcosm of the institution's other programs.



Senior Michael Cline hustles down a fly ball in the Panthers' second outing against Clemson in the NCAA Tournament. Cline was named to the All-Regional team along with Connor Robertson.

Shoop, players receive numerous recognitions for 2004 season

Several members of the Birmingham-Southern baseball team were rewarded for their efforts on the field and in the classroom during the 2004 season.

Senior outfielder Jared Walker of Sylacauga, senior catcher Ryan Griffith of Pisgah, and junior pitcher Wes Letson of Hartselle were named First Team All-Big South Conference. Senior first baseman Connor Robertson of Tuscaloosa and senior center fielder Matt Bogue of Columbus, Miss., were named to the second team. Bogue also was named to the Big South All-Academic team.

Robertson and senior outfielder Michael Cline of Homewood were named to the NCAA Athens Regional All-Tournament Team. Robertson also was named second team All-American by CollegeBaseballInsider.com.

Three Panthers were selected in the 2004 Major League Baseball Draft in early June. Letson went to the Atlanta Braves in the 11th round; Griffith was selected by the Texas Rangers in the 22nd round; Robertson was drafted by the Oakland A's in the 31st round.

Head Coach Brian Shoop was named Big South Conference Coach of the Year for leading the Panthers to a 47-18 record, the No. 1 seed in the Big South tourney by winning a conference-record 21 games in the school's first full season of NCAA eligibility, and a berth in the NCAA Tournament. In his 15th season at Birmingham-Southern, Shoop is the college's all-time winningest coach with a 621-267-1 record.