

Hudson to Speak at Hot Stove First Pitch Banquet

Written by Mike Flynn

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Major League Baseball veteran Orlando Hudson will be the keynote speaker at Appalachian State University baseball's second-annual Hot Stove First Pitch Banquet. This year's banquet is set for Saturday, Feb. 9 at 6 p.m. on the Club Level

of the Appalachian Athletics Center. In addition to Hudson's keynote speech, the Hot Stove First Pitch Banquet will include a cocktail hour, silent auction, dinner from Casa Rustica and the opportunity to meet first-year head coach Billy Jones, his staff and the 2013 Mountaineers. Entering his 12th season in the Major Leagues, Hudson is a two-time MLB all-star (2007, 2009) and four-time Gold Glove Award winner (2005-07, 2009). The Darlington, S.C. native attended Spartanburg Methodist College and was selected by the Toronto Blue Jays in the 43rd round of the 1997 MLB Draft. He broke into the Major Leagues with the Blue Jays in 2002 and has played for six organizations, most recently the Chicago White Sox in 2012.

Appalachian State returns five starting position players and three starting pitchers from last year's club that won a school-record 41 games, claimed its first Southern Conference championship since 1987 and advanced to NCAA postseason play for the first time since 1986. The Mountaineers advanced to the championship round of the NCAA's Charlottesville Regional and fell just three victories short of advancing to the College World Series for the first time in program history. Appalachian opens the 2013 campaign on Friday, Feb. 15 at NC State. Tickets for the Hot Stove First Pitch Banquet cost just \$60. Reservations can be made by sending checks to Appalachian State Baseball at ASU Box 32159, Boone, NC 28608. The reservation deadline is Jan. 31.

Photo Courtesy: Orlando Hudson, PHOTO SUBMITTED