



**Coach Jim Knight – Athletic Coaching Inductee
Baseball Coach**

Coach Knight began his career with Holton Public Schools in 1997 as a high school Social Studies teacher. Mr. Knight quickly joined the ranks as a coach for both JV Girls Basketball and Varsity Baseball teams. Having played three years of professional baseball as a minor league pitcher for the Kansas City Royals, Coach Knight brought his experience, passion, and energy to a baseball program ready for change.

Coach Knight went on to coach four seasons of Varsity Baseball at Holton High School. In the beginning, the focus was on building momentum and belief that success was possible. The first season he coached had the motto “Whatever it takes.” This meant the team not only built skills as players but worked to build pride in Holton Red Devil Baseball. To do this, dug outs and bleachers were painted and the community helped fund new equipment through fundraisers.

In just a few short seasons, Coach Knight turned Holton Baseball around. The 1999 Season broke the school record for the most wins only to be broken again with the 2000 team. He was nominated as the Western Waterways Activities Conference Coach of the Year in 2000. After four seasons of coaching Varsity Baseball, Coach Knight inspired a whole community to believe that Holton Red Devil Baseball can be competitive and successful. His leadership helped to spur continued success for baseball players that followed including multiple teams that qualified for post season play.

In the 2002 yearbook, Coach Knight is quoted about his baseball players, “I hope that I have been a positive role model to them, as a teacher, coach, and father. I certainly hope to teach them more than just baseball, so that they can be quality men who look back at their years in the program with fond memories.” With certainty, Coach Knight remains a positive figure for his players and students to this day.

For his leadership, contributions, and passion to Holton Varsity Baseball, the Holton Athletics Hall of Fame Board is honored to induct Coach Jim Knight.