

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2004

Book signing, silent auction benefit youth

► Grand opening of BayBears' Z-Technology Center will help youth Rookie League

Staff report

Authors Joe Cuhaj and Tamra Carraway-Hinckle will sign copies of their book "Baseball in Mobile" tonight from 6-9 p.m. at the Z-Technology Center, located in Gas Light Park at Hank Aaron Stadium.

The event is actually three events in one, serving as the grand opening for the Z Technology Center and also featuring a silent auction of sports memorabilia. The proceeds go to the Mobile BayBears Rookie League for inner-city youth.

Cost of the event is \$30 per person and will be available at the door. Ticket-holders receive a copy of the book, hors d'oeuvres and live music.

Mobile baseball players (past and present) are also scheduled to attend, including Jake Peavy, Milt and Frank Bolling, Turner Ward, Bernie Carbo, Clark Girardeau and University of South Alabama baseball coach Steve Kittrell. Barbara Wasiak, widow of Stan Wasiak, will also attend.

The 4,000-square foot Z Technology Center will serve as a banquet facility at The Hank. It can seat 250 and will be available to rent throughout the year. During the BayBears' season, it will be available for home-game parties. The center has closed-circuit television as well as a big-screen TV.

The silent auction will have items such as a Hank Aaron-autographed bat and Nolan Ryan-autographed baseball. Baseballs autographed by Jon Lieber, Ozzie Smith, Pete Rose, Matt Clement and Khalil Greene will also be auctioned, as well as a Herschel Walker-autographed football.

The BayBears Rookie League was formed six years ago to establish organized leagues for inner-city boys and girls. The proceeds will be used to help fund equipment, uniforms and other costs of running the league.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2004



CHIP ENGLISH/Special to the Register

Nancy Anlage of Mobile gets her copy of "Baseball in Mobile" signed by authors Tamra Carraway-Hinckle and Joe Cuhaj at the opening of the Z Technology Center at Hank Aaron Stadium on Thursday night.

The Hank hosts a winning night

► Baseball book signing, youth benefit, center opening combine at Thursday event

By **TOMMY HICKS**
Sports Reporter

In baseball terms, a triple play was recorded at Hank Aaron Stadium Thursday night. A signing for the recently released book "Baseball in Mobile" took place in the new Z Technology Center at The Hank's Gas Light Park with proceeds from a silent auction held during the evening going to the Mobile BayBears' Rookie League for inner-city youth.

The triple play led to a win for all concerned. Joe Cuhaj and Tamra Carraway-Hinckle began signing copies of their book at 5:30 p.m. and didn't stop until after 8.

More than \$3,000 was raised for the Rookie League with the silent auction of sports memorabilia, which got its biggest boost when Susan Hamilton won the bid for an autographed Hank Aaron bat for \$1,000.

All the activities took place in the Z Technology Center, a 4,000-square-foot multi-purpose building that celebrated its grand opening with the event.

"With the tradition-rich legends of baseball, Mobile is Baseball City, U.S.A.," BayBears general manager Bill Shanahan said of the evening.

Among the former major leaguers on hand for the event were Milt and Frank Bolling, Turner Ward and Dave Stapleton. University of South Alabama coach Steve Kittrell also attended, as did University of Mobile coach Mike Jacobs. Barbara Wasiak, widow of Stan Wasiak, the all-time winningest minor league manager, also attended.

"This has been exciting, it's been amazing," said Cuhaj as he and Carraway-Hinckle signed copies of their book. "We're just amazed to have this kind of turnout. It's been great."

Carraway-Hinckle said she was "thrilled" by the evening, adding the number of people asking to have their copy of the book signed was "overwhelming."

The authors got together on the project when Carraway-Hinckle, who was editing a collection of short stories Cuhaj had written, was told by Cuhaj of a "Baseball in Mobile" project.

A short turnaround time for the writing led to long weekends and many interviews in a short period of time, not to mention gathering facts and photos for use in the book.

Both authors said they are happy with how the book (\$19.95, Arcadia Publishing) turned out.

Among the 35 items included in the silent auction were a Herschel Walker-autographed football, Nolan Ryan-autographed baseball, several black-and-white photos of players from Mobile, as well as many other baseball items.

The BayBears Rookie League was established six years ago to provide equipment, uniforms, instruction and an organized league for inner-city youth. In the first year of the league, fewer than 50 youngsters participated. Last year, that number was more than 500.

The next project of the league is scheduled March 13, when volunteers will work to renovate the Josephine Allen Homes Park field.

Shanahan said the Z Technology Center is a facility that not only will be available for BayBears home games, but throughout the year for a variety of events. He said the facility had already been booked for more than 20 events.



Submitted by Over the Transom Books

"Baseball in Mobile" authors Tamra Carraway-Hinckle and Joe Cuhaj will appear at Over the Transom Books in Fairhope on Thursday to discuss and sign copies of their book, which takes a personal look at the game through the eyes of people who were there.

'Baseball in Mobile' authors to sign work

Submitted by Over the Transom Books tomorrow.

Joe Cuhaj and Tamra Carraway-Hinckle, authors of "Baseball in Mobile," will discuss their collection of local stories and memorabilia beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday at Over the Transom books in downtown Fairhope.

This event is free to the public.

Spanning from the late 1800s up to the present day, "Baseball in Mobile" recounts the introduction of baseball into the Port City, chronicles the vast talent of Mobile natives who have influenced the sport, and highlights the players and teams of modern-day Mobile who could become the legends of

Cuhaj has been a radio broadcaster, working in various capacities on WUNI, WMML, WBCA and WZEW. He is now working as a software programmer for Adam Software in Daphne. He has also co-authored "Hike Alabama" and "Paddling Alabama."

Carraway-Hinckle, fluent in baseball terminology and scorekeeping, is a Texas native and a current Fairhope resident.

Over the Transom is located at 9 North Church St. For more information, call 251-990-7980 or e-mail letters@overthetransom.com.