

Pitch & Hit Club Banquet a Success



Dr. Fletcher accepts the Jerome Holtzman Award.

*Posted by Paul Ladewski
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A number of dignitaries were feted at the 63rd annual Pitch & Hit Club awards banquet on Jan. 24, but the biggest winner of all may have been the Chicago baseball public.

Despite uncertain economic times and adverse weather conditions, more than 600 people attended the event at the Rosemont Convention Center in Rosemont.

"We were thrilled by the turnout especially in light of the economics of our country at this time," said Pete Caliendo, Pitch & Hit Club president. "The event spoke highly of the Chicago baseball market once again. The evening was a considerable success."

Chicago White Sox slugger **Jim Thome** received the **Lou Boudreau** Award as the newest member of the Pitch & Hit Hall of Fame.

Chicago Baseball Museum founder and president **Dr. David Fletcher** was the first-ever recipient of the Jerome Holtzman Award in honor of the longtime baseball writer.

"To say the least, it's an honor to be mentioned with Jerome Holtzman, a true Chicago legend," Dr. Fletcher said. "What the award underscores is the commitment that our organization has to a

local baseball museum and research center. It is a project that we are confident will be realized with the help of the local baseball and business communities."

Other awards that were presented:

- Harry Caray Sportscaster of the Year: **Bruce Levine**
- Bill Gleason Sportswriter of the Year: **Dave Van Dyk**
- High School Coach of the Year: **Robin Renner**
- Charlie Hum Club Service Award: **Terry Ayers**
- Bo Jackson Courage Award: **Adam Bender**
- Meritorious Service Award: **Steve Schmidt**
- Minor League Executive of the Year: **Steve Tahsler**
- Dizzy Trout Ambassador Award: **Minnie Minoso**
- Mary-Frances Veeck Woman of the Year: **Joan Gillespie**
- Amateur Baseball Service Award: **Enrico Heirman**
- College Coach of the Year: **Jim Brownley**
- Nick Kamzic Scout of the Year: **Steve Miller**
- Trainer of the Year: **Herm Schneider**
- Chicago Area Minor League Player of the Year: **Mike Eifel**
- Chicago Rookie of the Year: **Michael Bowden**
- Chicago Cubs Player of the Year: **Geovany Soto**
- Chicago White Sox Player of the Year: **Carlos Quentin**
- Major League Executive of the Year: **Randy Bush**
- Major League Umpire of the Year: **Tim McClelland**