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## Thome, Dr. Fletcher to be feted at Pitch & Hit Club banquet



*Jim Thome accepts the Lou Boudreau Hall of Fame Award.*

White Sox slugger **Jim Thome** and Chicago Baseball Museum founder **Dr. David Fletcher** head the list of dignitaries to be honored at the annual Pitch & Hit Club Awards Banquet, which will be held on Sunday, Jan. 25, at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont.

Tickets are \$60 each or \$600 for a table of 10 and can be purchased by phone at (847) 781-8039. A limited number also will be available at the door.

Thome will receive the **Lou Boudreau** Hall of Fame Award as the latest Pitch & Hit Club Hall of Fame inductee. Also a member of the exclusive 500 Home Run Club, the Peoria native is the 28<sup>th</sup> person to be afforded the honor.

Dr. Fletcher will be the first-ever recipient of the Jerome Holtzman Award, which was established in honor of the legendary Chicago baseball writer-columnist who devoted more than a half century to the sport. Earlier this year, Dr. Fletcher was instrumental in the purchase and preservation of the immense Holtzman collection that will serve as the core of the Chicago Baseball Museum library in the future.

Former White Sox great **Billy Pierce** as well as ex-major leaguers **Bill Campbell**, Buzz Capra, **Marvin Freeman**, **Gene Hiser**, **Dave Otto**, **Bill Sharp** and **Tim Stoddard** will take part in a complimentary autograph session prior to the 5:30 p.m. dinner.

Cubs radio broadcaster Pat Hughes will serve as the master of ceremonies for the event.

Founded in 1942 by a group of professional scouts in the Chicago area, the Pitch & Hit Club has held the banquet for more than six decades to honor scouts, players, coaches, umpires, executives and media. Proceeds will benefit Cubs Care, White Sox Charities and the Professional Baseball Scouts Foundation among other causes.