State College of Florida welcomes 2013 Hall of Fame class

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BRADENTON -- Meredith Headings was shocked.

Her softball team was assembled behind the band atop the second floor in the Stephen Korcheck building at State College of Florida.

It was a total surprise for Headings, who is entering her sixth season as the Manatees head coach.

The former Manatee High star was inducted along with past baseball players David Moates, Robin Flake and Glenn Davis into SCF's Hall of Fame on Friday.

Davis was not in attendance because of a prior commitment.

Meanwhile, Moates and Flake had the opportunity to rekindle old memories during their time as teammates.

For one season, the duo played under legendary head coach Bob Wynn, also a Hall of Fame member, and each garnered All-American honors.

Both continued their careers at Florida State University, but did not play together as Moates, who held the program's single-season stolen base record for 25 years, left to pursue professional baseball before returning to the area as a coach -- most notably, he guided Lakewood Ranch High to the 2003 state baseball championship.

"We were roommates here," said Flake, who was a pitcher for the then-Manatee Junior College. "We stayed in people's homes. And then we were lucky enough to be roommates out in the Basin League, too. So we spent almost a whole year together."

Athletic director Matt Ennis said Davis was crushed he could not be in attendance for Friday night's induction ceremony.
Davis was a former Major League Baseball All-Star and finished runner-up in the National League's Most Valuable Player voting in 1986. He spent one season in Bradenton after transferring from the University of Georgia.

Davis gained All-American honors for his one season, before having his MLB success with the Houston Astros.

But while Davis played for the junior college in Wynn's final season, Moates and Flake played during the program's beginnings.

Yet there was still a high expectation based off the early success of heading to the JUCO World Series.

"With a 10 year history, and if you look at what they did during those first 10 years, we knew we had something to live up to," Flake said.

While this year's class was baseball dominated, Headings represented the lone softball entrant.

Her achievements as a player, where she hit .414 with 10 home runs as a freshman and .426 with 13 homers as a sophomore made her a no-brainer for inclusion this year.

Headings' 23 career home runs are still an SCF record.

And at 31 years old, Headings became the youngest member of the Hall of Fame.

"Whatever age, even if I was inducted at 50," Headings said. "To be mentioned in the same category as people like coach Wynn and coach (Tim) Hill and the major leaguers, and everyone that went in before me. It's just so mind-blowing, and such an honor at any age to be put in with that caliber of people."
David Moates, left, Robin Flake, center, and Meredith Headings, right, were inducted with Glenn Davis into State College of Florida's Hall of Fame. Moates, Flake and Davis played baseball at the school, while Headings played softball. JASON DILL/Bradenton Herald