

## **Tickets Remain For Leadoff Banquet Featuring Chipper Jones of the Atlanta Braves**

### **Banquet set for Feb. 1 at Knoxville Marriott**

Tickets remain for the 2005 Tennessee Baseball Leadoff Banquet, which takes place at the Knoxville Marriott Tuesday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. The featured speaker for this year's banquet is current Atlanta Braves third baseman Chipper Jones, a five-time MLB All-Star and one of baseball's most popular players.

Tickets for the banquet are \$30 per seat and \$350 for a corporate table and can be purchased by calling (865) 974-1734. Seats are limited, and the banquet is to be preceded by a silent auction beginning at 6 p.m.

We're obviously very excited to have a player of Chipper Jones' caliber speak at our program's leadoff banquet." Tennessee head coach Rod Delmonico said. "This is the first time we've ever had an active leaguer as our guest speaker, and we're really looking forward to the event. Our players have grown up watching him play, so it will be a treat for them to meet one of the top players in baseball."

Jones boast a .304 career batting average with 310 home runs and helped the Braves reach the World Series three times. He has appeared in 18 total postseason series.

This past August, Jones recorded his 1,000<sup>th</sup> career RBI, and one day later, became the fifth switch-hitter in Major League history to hit 300 home runs.

In 1999, Jones became the first Major League player in history to bat .300 (.319), score 100 runs (116), hit 40 doubles (41), slug 40 home runs (45), drive in 100 runs (110) collect 100 walks (126) and steal 20 bases (25) on his way to receiving National League MVP honors.

The DeLand, Fla., native was drafted No. 1 overall by the Braves in 1990 amateur draft. He finished as Rookie-of-the-Year balloting while helping the Braves wine the 1995 World Series.

Away from the diamond, Jones has been active in the Braves' Reach Out to Our Guest ticket program for disadvantaged youth.

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual leadoff banquet is also a great opportunity for Tennessee fans to meet and greet member team, including returning pitching ace and All-America candidate Luke Hochevar.