



CIF/CENTRAL COAST SECTION

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CENTRAL COAST SECTION COACHES HONORED BY COLLEAGUES: 2008 CCS FALL SPORTS HONOR COACHES SELECTED

The Central Coast Section-CIF has announced the following recipients of the **2008 CCS Fall Sports Honor Coaches Awards**:

Cross Country	Susie Kelly , Hillsdale HS
	Ernest Lee , Gunn HS
Field Hockey	Gerri Baldwin , Los Altos HS
Football	Nick Alfano , Santa Teresa HS
Girls Tennis	Candy Basso , Del Mar HS
Girls Volleyball	Matthew Sandora , Andrew Hill HS

These fine coaches were selected by their Central Coast Section colleagues to be recognized during the current 2008 Fall season.

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Susie Kelly, for the past six years, has been the Head Coach of the Cross Country Teams and the Head Coach of the Track & Field Teams at Hillsdale High School. During her tenure she has developed a reputation as an outstanding communicator and excellent teacher. While being extremely competitive herself she always has an eye on the big picture of using athletics as a tool to teach the values of personal effort, improvement and integrity.

Susie has also provided administrative leadership by serving as the athletic director for two year and developing programs that promoted school and athletic success. Susie also finds the time advise a club on campus called *Student-Athlete Association*, which promotes positive values and character development through athletic participation.

Hillsdale Athletic Director, Mr. Brad Zucker, cites Susie as “the best Hillsdale has to offer in terms of promoting sportsmanship and academic responsibility.”

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Ernest Lee has been the Cross Country Coach at Henry Gunn High School for the last 14 years. Besides coaching Cross Country, Ernest also coaches Track and Field. He has won four CCS team titles, 13 CCS individual titles, and has produced two CIF State Champions. Ernest has served as the President of the California Coaches' Alliance and has been a member of the State Cross Country/Track & Field Advisory Committee.

Gunn HS Athletic Director/Wrestling Coach, Christopher Horpel, states, “Ernie has shown that he is a consistent winner. He is also liked, respected and admired by his athletes. Each year coach Lee attracts the largest teams on the Gunn campus, both in cross country and track & field. He takes kids who often have never participated in organized sports and turns them into athletes.”

Gerri Baldwin is in her 15th year of coaching Field Hockey at Los Altos High School. During these 15 years Gerri has also coached Track & Field for 7 years at Los Altos. Gerri's Field Hockey Teams have garnered 6 League Championships and 1 Central Coast Section title. Gerri has personally been named the BVAL Coach of the Year 3 times as well as being named the Los Altos High School Coach of the Year in 2007.

Gerri's athletes have been very successful on the field of play but she also conveys to her student-athletes the virtues of Pursuing Victory with Honor and becoming respectful and responsible individuals on and off the athletic fields.

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Nick Alfano is in his 12th year of coaching Football at Santa Teresa High School (9 years coaching varsity; 3 years coaching junior varsity) . He also helps coach Baseball and Golf at Santa Teresa HS. He is currently a member of the Santa Teresa Best Buddies program for special kids and has been associated with the Asian Student Union and Fishing Club also at Santa Teresa HS. He has conducted competitive edge football camps for the past four years.

Santa Teresa HS Principal, John Duran, states of Nick: "One of Nick's trademarks is his ability to follow through on issues from presentation to solution. In solving problems, he naturally involves all affected parties: students, parents, teachers, and other support personnel."

Barbara Uchiyama, Santa Teresa HS's Athletic Director, says of Nick: "...Without a doubt he runs a program that never jeopardizes the integrity or character building opportunities of his team and individual athletes for the sake of a winning record. I believe that one of his best attributes in achieving success he has, is that he finds what is good in all of his athletes. He then personalizes his approach and teachable moments to help them achieve maximum success both on and off the field."

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Candy Basso has been the Girls Tennis Coach at Del Mar High School for the past 10 years. She also coached Boys Golf and JV Field Hockey at Del Mar HS. Prior to coaching at Del Mar HS, she coached Tennis, Badminton and Gymnastics at St. Francis HS. Candy has been the ELD Department Chair at Del Mar HS and was awarded the District Teacher of the Year for 2006 for contributions to the ELD program and Del Mar's Golf program.

Roger McClaughry, previous Athletic Director at Del Mar HS, says of Candy, "I found Mrs. Basso to be consistent in her integrity, organizational skills, and professionalism in interacting with her athletes, parents, and other coaches. She is always kind and respectful and enthusiastic."

Del Mar HS Principal, James Russell, states: "...I have watched her build the girl's tennis program into a highly competitive one, winning the school's first league championship in 2007. What is most evident when watching her team play their matches, is the respect they show for her, for their opponents and for the game. Good sportsmanship is always on display whether in a winning or losing cause; this is directly attributable to Candy's coaching style."

Matthew Sandora is in his fifth year of coaching Girls Volleyball at Andrew Hill High School after spending the previous four years at Silver Creek coaching Boys Basketball. Bob has created a club volleyball team, the Eastside Devils Volleyball Club, and has also created a club volleyball league, the South Bay Volleyball League, a cooperative of local coaches who support each other through a series of low-cost tournament play. While at Andrew Hill HS, he served as the Girls Athletic Director from 2006-2007 and has been the Science Fair Advisor from 2004-2007.

Besides a number of praiseworthy recommendations submitted from student athletes, Greg Dunlap, Andrew Hill HS's Athletic Director, says of Matt, "Matt's most distinguishing characteristic, however, is his strong sense of integrity. He constantly emphasizes team play over winning. He makes it a priority for all players to play in each game whenever possible."

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The **Central Coast Section Honor Coach Award** is presented to those coaches who their colleagues believe have made outstanding contributions to that sport at their school, within their League, in the community and to the CCS. At the time of nomination, they must be actively coaching and have been coaching their respective sport for a minimum of five years at the varsity level. Attributes considered are maintenance of professional standards of conduct, general service to the respective sport, outstanding coaching accomplishments, additional contributions to school and community, and being a role model and inspiration to athletes, coaches, teachers, administrators, parents and public.

Susie Kelly, Ernest Lee, Nick Alfano, Gerri Baldwin, Candy Basso and Matthew Sandora were nominated by their respective High Schools as embodiments of these qualities. Fall Honor Coach Award recipients will be recognized at the CCS Board of Managers meeting at the Silicon Valley Holiday Inn on October 22, 2008.