



CIF/CENTRAL COAST SECTION

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2008 SPRING SPORTS HONOR COACHES SELECTED BY CENTRAL COAST SECTION COLLEAGUES

The Central Coast Section has announced recipients of the **2008 CCS Spring Sports Honor Coaches Awards**:

- Badminton – **Blaine Hashimoto**, Pioneer HS;
- Baseball – **Mark Cummins**, Live Oak HS;
- Softball – **Barry McDonnell**, Live Oak HS;
- Track & Field – **Jim Luttrell**, Woodside HS;
- Track & Field – **Walter Van Zant**, Wilcox HS;
- Boys Volleyball – **Rob Georges**, Valley Christian (San Jose) HS.

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

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Blaine Hashimoto has been the Girls and Boys Badminton Coach at Pioneer High School for 7 years guiding them to the BVAL West Valley Division Champions for the 2007 season. He has also coached Girls Basketball from 2000-2005, and is also currently coaching Girls and Boys Cross Country at Pioneer. Besides coaching and teaching, he also serves on Pioneer High School's Curriculum Council and advises the Badminton Club.

Pioneer HS Principal Sandra Engel says: "Blaine is an excellent coach and is well respected as a staff member. He is very deserving of this honor."

Pioneer HS Athletic Director Mark Krail states: "...His approach is always positive and one of support. ...Blaine has always been a great sportsman and role model for our athletes, both boys and girls. ...His teams are always solid academically, and there are very few grade eligibility problems. ...He is the perfect colleague, very easy to get along with, and eager to pitch in to get the job done. Not only is Blaine a respected colleague, but also a good friend."

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Mark Cummins, Athletic Director at Live Oak, has been the Baseball Coach at Live Oak for 21 years. Prior to that, he also coached baseball at Santa Clara HS from 1985-1986. Besides coaching high school baseball, he even found time to coach for the Morgan Hill Pony Baseball League for over 12 years.

Live Oak HS Principal Nick Boden says: "...He is a man of integrity and fierce loyalty; compassion and commitment; and, above all, the highest and finest character. His passion for his students and his players is surpassed by no one. ...Mark is a teacher, first and foremost; he also is a leader who leads by example. He respects and values each and every student athlete who is in his class or on his teams and works hard to instill pride and value in each of them. ...Mark brings that passion, love, and intensity for baseball to all aspects of his professional life. As Athletic Director, Mark works tirelessly with his fellow coaches, encourages and supports them as they honor their game, and he is the first to recognize the achievement of our student athletes. ...I value his professionalism, his commitment to students, his integrity, and his friendship."

Other individuals supporting Mark's Honor Coach nomination are Mack Haines (Live Oak teacher/Aquatics Head Coach), C. J. Goularte (Live Oak teacher/Asst. Baseball Coach), and Ron and Barb Bonfiglio (Live Oak alumni parents). These individuals all echo the same high praises expressed by Principal Nick Boden for Mark's exceptional worthiness for this award.

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Barry McDonnell has coached the Varsity Softball team at Live Oak HS in Morgan Hill for the last 13 years. He also coaches Live Oak's golf team. He has been the 2005 Mercury News 'Coach of the Year' and 2007 BVAL MHAL 'Coach of the Year.' He has served the City of Morgan Hill community as Events Director for many charity golf tournaments and as an aide for the city of Morgan Hill Board of Directors.

Live Oak HS Athletic Director Mark Cummins says: "...Through his hard work and dedication he has built our softball program into a perennial powerhouse. He gets the most out of his players and enjoys an unparalleled rapport with the student-athletes on his team. He not only cares about how his players perform on the field but more importantly how they live their lives off the field. ... Honesty, responsibility, caring, kind and honorable—these are the qualities that I associate with Barry McDonnell."

Showing support for his nomination are--Jim Liggett (Carlmont HS softball coach), Naomi Patridge (Half Moon Bay HS softball coach) Joe Given, (Notre Dame HS-Salinas softball coach), Bob Sparks (College and High School official), and Debbie Adamo (Live Oak alumni parent)—all express similar words of praise for Barry McDonnell.

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Jim Luttrell, of Woodside High School, has been the school's Track & Field and Cross Country Coach since 1982. Prior to coming to Woodside HS, Jim coached Cross Country and Track and Field at San Carlos HS for more than 21 years; and 3 years at Carlmont HS, coaching Football and Track. Jim also works with the future Olympic Track and Field Program for ages 7-12 for the City of Redwood City Parks & Recreation Department, teaches reading to 2nd graders for the Redwood City School District, and volunteers for the Friends In Service to Humanity (F.I.S.H.).

Susan Wilson, former Athletic Director and current Head Track and Field Coach, says of Jim: "...Mr. Luttrell is so much more than 'just a track coach', ...his specialty is teaching all of his athletes, students, and colleagues what a gentleman and role model is. His influence is on the everyday lives of everyone that he has ever coached. ...He has taught me that doing your best is just as good as winning an event. He sees the positives in everyone and everything."

Other letters of recommendation were received by Rob Solari, former student at San Carlos HS (presently teaches at Serra HS), and Rodney Liner, former student/colleague at San Carlos HS. Their raving remarks all add sustenance to the exceptional characteristics of this individual and coach.

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Walter Van Zant has been the Track & Field coach for Wilcox High School since 1984. Walter also coaches the Wilcox HS Cross Country team. Walt has set up and maintained a detailed Wilcox track web page, which builds and maintains interest in track at Wilcox. He spent one summer preparing a history of track in the SCVAL that dates back to 1929.

Wilcox HS Athletic Director Woody Freitas states: "Walt is a model of dedication and consistency. ...Rain or shine, Walt is ready to round up the kids and get them running. Walt Van Zant is a vital part of the fabric that makes up Wilcox High School and a fixture in the Santa Clara Valley track community."

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Rob Georges has been the Varsity Boys Volleyball Coach for eight years at Valley Christian High School in San Jose, as well the Girls Volleyball coach for seven years. He also coached Boys and Girls Volleyball at Liberty Baptist School and their Junior High School Basketball team. Out in the community, Rob also coached two club teams, Bay to Bay Volleyball and Hang Ten Volleyball, and has assisted with the tryouts for the USA Volleyball Junior National Team.

Valley Christian HS Athletic Director Eric Scharrenberg says: “ ...Rob is highly regarded both in our school and in the volleyball community as an even-tempered, fair coach whose interest in athletes goes beyond wins and losses. ...He enjoys sharing his passion for life and volleyball with his athletes and is committed to giving young people opportunities to pursue their passions. I most appreciate Rob’s steadying influence in our program, he is always willing to share his wisdom learned through experiences as an executive in Silicon Valley with our coaches and athletic staff. “

Valley Christian HS Athletic Director Jolene Keel states: “...Rob embodies the traits of a successful coach: knowledge of his sport, communication, team building capabilities, compassion, and competitiveness. Rob is an inspiration to his athletes because he sets high standards for them and pushes them to exceed in all avenues of their lives.”

Another letter of recommendation from Leisa Moore, assistant coach, reiterates the same wonderful words coming from the Valley Christian HS Athletic Directors.

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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 the public.

Blaine Hashimoto, Mark Cummins, Barry McDonnell, Jim Luttrell, Walter Van Zant and Rob Georges were nominated by their respective High Schools as embodiments of those qualities. **Spring Sports Honor Coach Awards** recipients will be recognized at the CCS Board of Managers meeting at the Los Gatos Lodge in Los Gatos on April 24, 2008.