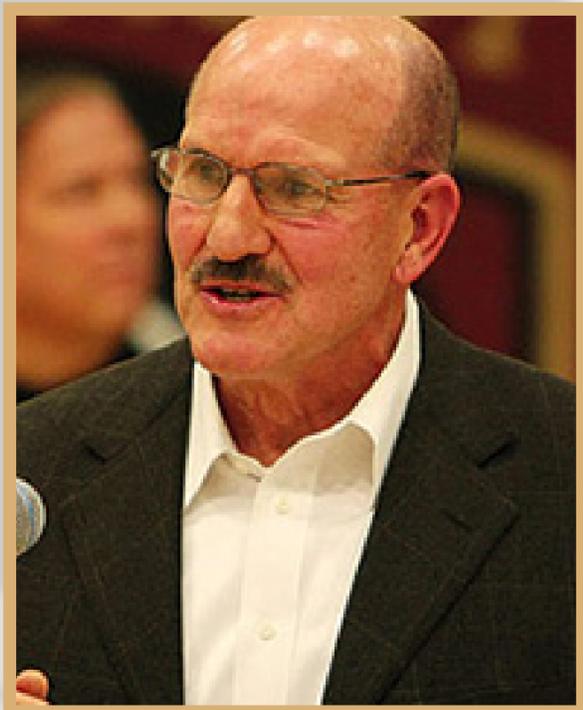




# SANTA BARBARA COURT OF CHAMPIONS

## CHET KAMMERER | 2015 INDUCTEE



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Chet Kammerer, a man of considerable modesty, was floored when Westmont College wanted him to be the men's basketball coach, and equally so when the College's Murchison Gym was resurfaced and dedicated as Kammerer Court. Kammerer, the Miami Heat's vice president of player personnel, coached the Warriors for 17 years, from 1975 to 1992. His teams compiled a record of 359-156 and made five trips to the NAIA National Tournament, reaching the Final Four in 1984.

After coaching men's basketball at Westmont College for 17 years, Chet Kammerer worked with the Lakers and a professional squad in Germany before going to Miami as a scout for the Heat. "There was a rather convincing precedent for bringing a Hoosier to coach a basketball team in Southern California: UCLA had done it some years before by hiring John Wooden. 'I'm no Wizard of Westwood,' Kammerer protested. Okay, let's just call him the Maestro of Montecito..."

After his three children were grown, Kammerer stepped out of his comfort zone again. Randy Pfund, another Midwesterner who got his first coaching job as Kammerer's assistant at Westmont, became head coach of the Los Angeles Lakers in 1992. He persuaded Kammerer to join his coaching staff. "Going to the Lakers was such a unique opportunity," Kammerer said. "My first year, we played against Larry Bird and Michael Jordan."

Kammerer's VP job with the Heat sends him around the country taking stock of players in college and developmental leagues. "I run in the same circles as Bill Bertka," he said. It was Bertka, a longtime Santa Barbara resident who has spent four decades with the Lakers as an assistant coach and scout, who boosted Pfund into the NBA.

"Chet was a tremendous coach at the college level," Bertka said. "He knows the game."

Kammerer called his Westmont years "the heart of my coaching experience."