

Santa Barbara
COURT OF CHAMPIONS



6th Annual
INDUCTION PROGRAM

2019 Inductees

SONNY ALLEN | SAMPSON BRUE JR. | KEITH CLOSS | LINDA DAWSON

LESLIE FORD-GRIEVE | HERB LIVSEY | JOE VAUGHAN

December 7, 2019 | SANTA BARBARA, CA
WWW.SBCOURTOFCHAMPIONS.COM



CELEBRATE SANTA BARBARA

HONORING OUR LOCAL LEADERS AND CLASS OF 2019
SANTA BARBARA BASKETBALL COURT OF CHAMPIONS INDUCTEES



BE A BONDER WITH THE FIRST RESPONDERS

Who: *SB Police/Sheriff's vs. SB Firemen/Bucket Brigade*
&
Med Units/Media vs. Youth Leaders
(YMCA, Special Olympics, PAL Club, Girls Inc. Boys/Girls Club)

When: **Saturday, December 7th, 2019 (2:00pm – 4:00pm)**

Where: **Westmont College Murchison Gym**
(955 La Paz Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108)

**FREE ADMISSION FOR FANS ENTERING WITH CANNED FOOD,
NEW TOYS OR DOLLARS FOR DONATION.**

HALL OF FAMER JAMAAL WILKES WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE !!!

Performing will be: La Boheme Professional Dance Team

Sponsored By: SANTA BARBARA BASKETBALL COURT OF CHAMPIONS



www.sbcourtofchampions.com
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Santa Barbara COURT OF CHAMPIONS

THE SANTA BARBARA BASKETBALL COURT OF CHAMPIONS
IS A COMMUNITY ENDEAVOR...
A FAMILY FOR ALL PEOPLE, ALL AGES.



The Santa Barbara Basketball Court of Champions (www.sbcourtofchampions.com) was established to recognize and honor individuals from our Santa Barbara Community who have achieved and/or made significant contributions to the Game of Basketball. There is an unlimited variety of contributors: coaches, players, administrators, community mentors, entertainers,

medical personnel, financial supporters, team owners and management, media/journalists, and public speakers, who have foundationally served as the grass roots for Santa Barbara basketball over many decades. In concert with recognizing and honoring past and present dignitaries, the Court of Champions also place a high standard of responsibility of assisting our youth participants in basketball as they develop and rise through the ranks of elementary, junior/senior high school and the collegiate level. This support is provided through an infrastructure of clinics, camps, all-star games, motivational workshops and college scholarship funds.



WHY WAS THE SANTA BARBARA BASKETBALL COURT OF CHAMPIONS CREATED?

www.SBCOURtofchampions.com

The Court of Champions was a brainstorming creation based on the fact that the Santa Barbara community has experienced so many talented and influential individual's in the game of basketball. Some of the distinguished inductee's were born and raised here, like former NBA player Don Ford, while others have graced our City temporarily, such as UCSB player and graduate Brian Shaw, who is a long time NBA player and coach. The success and fruitions of our local basketball far exceeds recognizing only players and coaches. Santa Barbara has witnessed many elitist in the area's of Media/Journalist, Medical, Administrator's, Financial Supporter's, Owner's and Management, Community Mentor's, Entertainers and Public Speakers.

Simply stated, our sole purpose is to recognize and honor outstanding participants who have brought joy, entertainment and support to the "Mecca of Basketball", The Santa Barbara Community.



COURT OF CHAMPIONS

Special Thanks

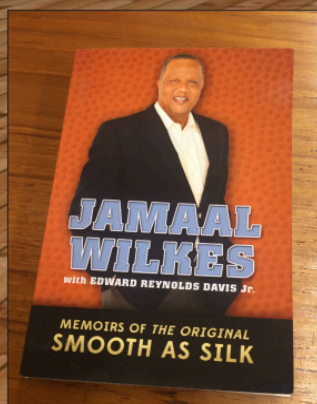
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DIRECTOR.....	CURT PICKERING
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HISTORIAN.....	JOHN ZANT
UCSB.....	MARK FRENCH
SBCC.....	FAHA BANKS
GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL.....	HOLLY FORD - EMERSON
BOYS HIGH SCHOOL.....	ERIC BURKHARDT
WESTMONT COLLEGE.....	RON MULDER
PROFESSIONAL LEVEL.....	CURT PICKERING

Memoirs of The Original Smooth As Silk



An inside look at the Hall of Fame basketball career of Jamaal Wilkes, or "Silk", from the beginning to legendary Coach John Wooden and UCLA along with 2 NCAA championships and an 88-game winning streak, to the 1975 championship season in Golden State, and 3-time NBA champion with the Showtime Los Angeles Lakers. Jamaal's story inspires, uplifts and amuses young and old, and basketball and non-basketball fans alike as he shares his unique perspectives

Available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

Santa Barbara COURT OF CHAMPIONS

Class of 2019



Sonny Allen

Sonny Allen was the Head Coach of the Santa Barbara Islanders, a CBA Pro Minor League team, the Los Angeles Lakers affiliate. The 1989-90 expansion organization still holds records of most wins for a first year (38), 11-0 start of the season, 10 player call ups to NBA teams, 123.7 points per game and most team points scored (8606).

Sonny stated, “A great group of players were put together, we did what we were supposed to do, develop them for the NBA and Derrick Gervin comes to mind; he scored more than 40 points eight straight games and the next thing you know, he’s called up to the New Jersey Nets for the remainder of the season.” He added, “I also remember Michael Douglas, Kenny Loggins and Jonathon Winters sitting courtside at the games. That’s something you don’t see very often at the pro minor league level, plus I enjoyed my time there, working with Don Ford while experiencing the beautiful community of Santa Barbara.”



Sonny Allen (top left) and the Santa Barbara Islanders basketball team



Sampson Brue Jr.

Sampson, who currently serves as a Referee Scouting Lead for the NBA, officiated many games in the Santa Barbara region, at the high school, college and pro minor league level. Sampson played basketball in high school and while serving for 9 years in the United States Navy from 1980-1989, with an Honorable Discharge, he also played basketball, coached and began his officiating career.

Sampson served as West Coast Conference Men's NCAA Division I Basketball Observer of Officials. Past President and Instructor of the California Basketball Officials Association (San Fernando) and (Los Angeles Unit (Instructor)). Former member Channel Coast Unit (Serves Santa Barbara and Ventura County High Schools). Past Director of Mentoring/Leadership (Southern California), Basketball Officiating Success System Court Club Elite. Past President of Basketball Operations, Los Angeles HOOPZ. Past Vice President Referee Operations, California Basketball Association (Semi-Pro Basketball League), Past Director of Officials, West Coast Pro Basketball League (Semi-Pro Basketball League (Home of Santa Barbara Breakers)) 2007-2013. Assigned Community College Men's Basketball Tournament (1999-2007), Past Staff member of California Collegiate Athletic Association and Community College Officials Camps (1995-2008). Former Assignor of the Los Angeles Summer Pro League (1999-2005) and various Pro-Am Leagues in Los Angeles, CA. Assigned Los Angeles Laker and South Bay Lakers Training Camps.

Officiating assignments have included, Continental Basketball Association assignments (1995-1996); National Pro-Am Men and Women's Championship Finals; National Outdoor Pro-Am Final; West Coast Pro Basketball League Final; NCAA Division II assignments; California Community College State and Regional Championships, C.I.F. Southern Section State Championship, Regional Play-offs and Los Angeles City Section C.I.F. Championships.

A statement from Sampson on who he would like to thank for his successes and influences in life:

“First of all my Lord and Savior “Jesus Christ”; “My Father and Mother”; “My Wife and Son”; “My oldest Brother and Sister; Captain Dan Pederson; Master Chief James Hobbs; P. K. Kennedy; Booker Turner; Hugh Hollins; Robert Mozee; Jim Bertolero; Al Harper; Ed Rush; Rob Rorke; Dave Libbey; Bill Birka; Jamal Wilkes; Magic Johnson; Lester Connors; Curt Pickering; Ron Garretson; Darryl Garretson; Aaron Wade; John Wooden; Lou Ciconovich; John Harbor; Cdmr. Rex Kibler; Cdmr. James Melampy; Dr. Martin Luther King; President Barack Obama; Cliff Troy; Mike Lowe; Jeff Gilbert; Ruth Firebaugh; Susan Maddox; Danny Collins; Billy Finger; Albert Record; Ronnie Brown, and Hank Ross to name a few.”



Keith Closs

Keith Mitchell Closs Jr. (born April 3, 1976) is a former professional basketball player, at the center position. At 7 feet 3 inches and 212 pounds, Closs played collegiately at Central Connecticut State University, leading the nation in blocks his only two years in college, and still holding the NCAA Division I career record for blocks with 5.87 blocked shots per game. After playing professionally in the Atlantic Basketball Association with the Norwich Neptunes, Closs signed with the Los Angeles Clippers in 1997.

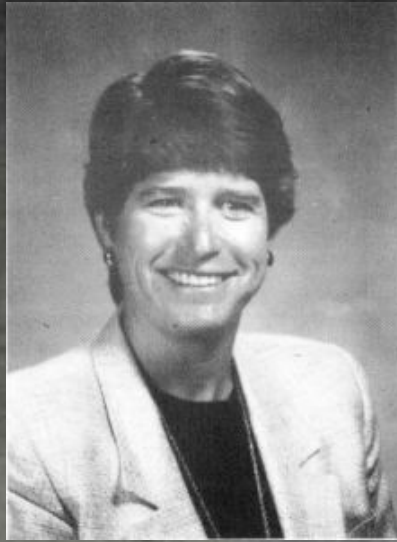
He had three seasons as a backup center in the NBA, playing for the Los Angeles Clippers from 1997 to 2000. He averaged 3.9 points, 2.9 rebounds and 1.3 blocks per game during his spell. Closs ended his career with a club record for most blocked shots per 48 minutes (4.7). Closs later played for the Pennsylvania Valley Dawgs of the USBL in 2003, subsequently moving to the CBA. In January 2007, Closs led the league in blocks per game at 2.9 and later signed with the Buffalo Silverbacks of the ABA; he was selected 11th pick in the 5th round of the 2007 NBA Development League by the Tulsa 66ers.

In December 2008, Closs signed with the Chinese league's Yunnan Bulls and averaged 16.1 points, 11.9 rebounds and 5.9 blocks per game.

Comments by his former coach, Curt Pickering:

“My story begins with the fact that I unsuccessfully pursued Keith for two seasons to play for the Santa Barbara Breakers. Upon receiving an invitation from the Chinese government to bring a tour team over to play 10 games, I got the thumbs up from ‘Closs the Boss.’ During our 26-day journey to 9 cities, Keith and I became very close. Keith shared with me multiple stories on his difficult childhood, some of the bad decisions and road’s that he took. He carried these stories into his time with the Clippers, the Globetrotters and the Minor League Circuit. Since that time, back in October of 2008, I have continued to admire, respect and appreciate who Keith Closs (man first, basketball player second), not to ignore the great accomplishments he established with our Breaker team. During his 8 seasons playing in the red, white, blue and gold jersey, The Boss holds our all-time record for shots blocked in a game (12) and blocks per game (4.2). Keith helped lead to us to 4 WCBL Championships and was a big reason we were welcomed back to China for 12 tours of duty during the Breakers 10 year existence.”

Today, the Breakers salute Keith, his wife and family, and are retiring his jersey for the great years of service, representing The Breakers both on and off the court.



Linda Dawson

Linda graduated from UCSB in 1972 with a B.A. in Ergonomics and Physical Education. She taught and coached at Bishop Diego High School for 7 years (1973-80), coaching basketball, volleyball and track, and was fortunate to win 6 CIF Championships during her tenure; 4 in volleyball and two in basketball. Linda also served as the Athletic Director (boys and girls) at Bishop Diego from 1977-80. She finished with a career basketball record of 109-21 with two CIF AA Championships, winning in 1977 and 1978.

Linda states: "I was lucky enough to have some fantastic athletes at Bishop Diego such as Marina Gomez, Nancy Craig, Iris MacDonald, Diane Sebastian, and Paula Charest. In addition to fine athletes, the tremendous community support in Santa Barbara from Bishop Diego parents, Bishop Diego Dad's Club, Santa Barbara Athletic Round Table, as well as the Santa Barbara News-Press and Jon Zant, regularly celebrated and reported the teams' accomplishments over the years."

Title IX was just coming into play for women's sports in the early 70's and the Santa Barbara athletic community appreciated and embraced the excellence of both boys and girls' sports. Principal, Father Jerome L. Cummings, Vince Stumpo from the Bishop Diego Dad's Club, and the many parent supporters were an inspiration to Linda and gave her the confidence to learn and grow her coaching and leadership skills during those formative years.

Linda states, "I was especially fortunate to have basketball Coach Tony Vigna mentor and generously teach me about the art of coaching basketball. I remember many calls after the games to Jon Zant at the Santa Barbara News-Press to report on the score and highlights of our games. My most memorable basketball moment was traveling from Santa Barbara to Brawley, California (by Melni bus) for the CIF Championship final. Brawley was favored to win, but we upset them in a hard-fought game. Many parents and supporters followed us to the game and cheered us on to victory."

It was a magical time for girls and women's sports and the lessons learned during Coach Dawson's years in Santa Barbara served her well in her career in Education as a teacher, coach, principal, and superintendent. Linda says "The Santa Barbara athletic community was ahead of its time in embracing, supporting and celebrating excellence, regardless of gender. That was most certainly true for Bishop Garcia Diego High School Girls' Basketball! I remember those exciting times and the people I was fortunate enough to teach, coach, learn from and know with fondness and gratitude."



Leslie Ford Grieve

Leslie is a pioneer for women's basketball. She is one of the first females to play the game on a team level in California. Since there was really no female basketball history before she played, she didn't have any significant professional influence from the sport. Leslie states, "my influence comes from my parents. They supported me in everything I did. I wouldn't be who I am today without them."

She began playing basketball in high school but there was never a team format until her senior year. During her senior year at Santa Barbara High School, the girls' team was finally allowed to play full court basketball with 5 players to a side. But it was still considered an afterschool sport and not a real team activity. Leslie was a rebounding machine, at one point in her career at Santa Barbara High School, she grabbed 34 rebounds (an all-time high). She was coached by Bud Revis, who helped elevate her career to the collegiate level where she played for UCSB. At UCSB she averaged a career high and league high 14.8 rebounds per game. On January 21, 1977, she grabbed a career high 25 rebounds against Cal State Northridge, she outsized everyone on the court.



Team picture of the first women's basketball team at Santa Barbara Community College (1974-1975 season)



Herb Livsey

Herb Livsey currently serves as a scout for the Denver Nuggets and is the founder of Snow Valley Basketball Camps that have been held in Westmont College for over 50 years. Born in White Plains, New York, Livsey learned from all the BAA and NBA greats, such as Max Zaslofski and Sweetwater Clifton. Livsey was captain of his high school basketball team at Briarcliff Manor in Westchester, New York and attended Florida Southern College in Lakeland where he played and aided the coaching staff after his freshman year of college.

Livsey moved to Loomis California after college to coach Del Oro High School from 1961-1966. He later coached basketball and cross-country track at Costa Mesa High School in Orange County, California (1966-1969). After his tenure as a high school basketball coach from 1959 – 1996, Livsey pursued a career as the director of player development for the CBA from 1996-1998. Livsey served a player scout for the Portland Trailblazers (1998-2004), the Atlanta Hawks (2004-2008) and currently scouts for the Denver Nuggets (2008-present).

In 1961, Livsey and his wife developed a summer skill training school for high school and junior high school basketball players in California. The program was running in August for 9 years at the Snow Valley Ski Resort in San Bernardino and later moved to Westmont College in Santa Barbara, where the program has been a mainstay for 31 years.

Livsey holds several accolades, most notably in California, he was inducted into the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Hall of Fame and the California Community College Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame. He is currently a nominee for the 2020 James A. Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.



Joe Vaughan

Joey Vaughan played basketball at Westmont College and coached women's basketball at Buena High School in Ventura, California, winning a Girl's State Championship. Born and raised in Ventura, California, Vaughan served in the United States Army from 1968-1970 where he was stationed in Berlin and played basketball for the Berlin Bears. For over 40 years, Vaughan was a basketball coach and teacher at Buena High School, serving as the Athletic Director for 25 of those 40 years. On the high school level, Vaughan was the state coach of the year 2 times, national coach of the year runner up in 2001, Ventura County Coach of the Year 10 times and won 2 state championship in 1983 and 1984. He also coached the WBCA All-American team in Hartford, Connecticut in 2001. Under Vaughan's guidance, Buena high School won or shared 27 league titles in 32 years.

Vaughan was inducted into the Ventura County Sports Hall of Fame, SCIBCA Hall of Fame, California Coaches Association Hall of Fame, CIF-SS Hall of Fame and was honored with the 2014-15 SCIBCA "Ray Putko" Lifetime Achievement Award.

Vaughan states:

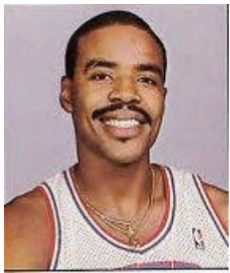
"Anyone who has ever coached realizes the sacrifices your wife and family make for you to follow your passion. Kathy and our daughters did that for me. So much time is necessary to be a teacher and coach and they gave that time to me. I am so appreciative but also carry some guilt. They will never realize how much that has meant to me. We are all shaped by those who touch our lives. So many have done that for me. I tried to pattern much of my teaching and coaching after John Wooden. His basketball philosophy and lessons on life profoundly influenced me. I was fortunate to be around him at clinics and other personal situations, learning from him."

Vaughan on his players:

"How do you evaluate coaching success without thanking your players? They also made the commitment, were dedicated and put in the hard work. They made all the baskets, they passed out the assists, they pulled down the rebounds and they played the tough defense to make our teams successful. Finally, the most constant and dependable asset in my life was God. His guidance and support were unwavered to a sinful human being. I thank him for always being there for me. Any success I had, goes to him!"

Santa Barbara COURT OF CHAMPIONS

Class of 2018



Ron Anderson



Tom Byron



Mort Hill



Shirley Otto



Doug Rex

RON ANDERSON, A 6'7 FORWARD WHO PLAYED HIS FIRST TWO COLLEGE SEASONS AT SANTA BARBARA CITY COLLEGE IS ONE OF THE NEWEST MEMBERS.

TOM BYRON WAS THE HEAD BASKETBALL COACH AND ATHLETIC DIRECTOR AT WESTMONT COLLEGE.

MORT HILL PLAYED HIS COLLEGIATE BALL FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA BARBARA GAUCHO'S. HE WAS THE FIRST GAUCHO TO PLAY IN THE NBA.

SHIRLEY ZION OTTO HAS BEEN A RESIDENT OF SANTA BARBARA SINCE 1964. SHE WAS FRANCHISE OWNER OF THE SANTA BARBARA ISLANDERS FOR THE 1989-90 SEASON.

DOUG REX WAS A SUPERIOR POST PLAYER FOR THE UCSB GAUCHO'S FROM 1968 TO 1972. HE WAS TEAM CAPTAIN AND MVP EACH OF HIS FOUR YEARS.

Santa Barbara COURT OF CHAMPIONS

Class of 2017



Left to Right: Mike McGrew, Lucius Davis, Kristin Knapp-Cole, Josh Merrill, John Moore, Alan Williams, Bill Odell, Ron Mulder, Lisa Willett-Fry, Kayte Christensen, George Terzian, Phil Sherman, Curt Pickering.

Guest speaker and recently retired Police Officer Mike McGrew shared several stories of his life in Santa Barbara.

Kristin Knapp Cole, a graduate of Santa Barbara High School, talked about her love for the game and her players.

George Terzian, a graduate of Westmont College, shared stories about his coaching career at Pasadena CC.

Phil Sherman, current Head Girls' Basketball Coach at Dos Pueblo's High School, entertained us with humor.

Bill Odell, a graduate of Westmont College, discussed his life as a coach and athletic director at Azusa Pacific.

Kayte Christenson, former player at UCSB & the WNBA, & now courtside reporter, spoke about her diverse career.

Josh Merrill, former UCSB & SB Breaker pro, enlightened the crowd with funny & memorable stories.

Ron Mulder, longtime Athletic Director and Head Coach at Westmont College.

Alan Williams, UCSB graduate and NBA player, gave praise to Coach Mulder and his experience as a pro.

Lisa Willett-Fry is a graduate and former basketball player at Santa Barbara High School and UCSB.

Lucius Davis, former player for UCSB, entertained us with songs after sharing his skill as a national anthem singer.

Santa Barbara COURT OF CHAMPIONS

Class of 2016



**JEFF
AZAIN**



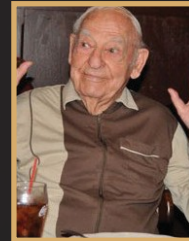
**DAVE
BREGANTE**



**ERIN
BUESCHER-
PERPEROGLU**



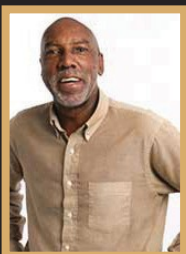
**ERIC
BURKHARDT**



**JERRY
HARWIN**



**CONNER
HENRY**



**CLIFF
LAMBERT**



**SHANTAY
LEGANS**



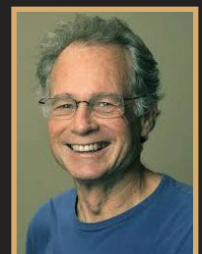
**JO ANN
RECK**



**KRISTI
ROHR-TAYLOR**



**PHIL
WOMBLE**



**JOHN
ZANT**



'Gaucho Phil' Womble Dies

by John Zant (Santa Barbara Independent)

Phil Womble, an inspirational sports fan known as “Gaucho Phil” and a crusader for people with disabilities, died early Monday, January 23.

Born with cerebral palsy, Womble lived to celebrate his 80th birthday last September 4, but his health took a steep decline in late October. He remained in his home at Pilgrim Terrace and continually rallied – true to his motto, “Never Give Up!” – before death came to him peacefully in his sleep.

His full name was John Philip Womble III. Sports events were a touchstone for him to remember time spent with his father, J.P. Womble Jr., a rear admiral in the Navy who died in 1956 when Phil was 20.

Womble came to Santa Barbara in 1962 and resided at Hillside House. He moved out in 1990 to live independently. He was supported by the services of United Cerebral Palsy, and in turn he served as a longtime board member for UCP WORK, Inc.

A familiar spectator at Gaucho baseball and basketball games, Womble also appeared at UCSB classes taught by the late Walter Capps, a professor of religious studies and U.S. Congressman. Capps wrote the foreword for Womble’s 1994 book, *Never Give Up!*

Womble has been inducted into the Gaucho Athletic Hall of Fame, the Santa Barbara Athletic Round Table Hall of Fame, and the Santa Barbara Court of Champions. Three Gaucho athletic awards are named after him. He is an honorary alumnus of UCSB,

where the display area of the Intercollegiate Athletics Building is designated as the Phil Womble Hall of Champions.

“His indelible echo is etched in the spirit of our souls,” wrote Donn Bernstein, UCSB’s sports information director when Womble became involved with Gaucho athletics in 1969.

Baseball was Phil’s favorite sport, and he lived to see the Gauchos play in the College World Series last June, although he was unable to make the trip to Omaha.

Womble’s values are reflected in the Phil Womble Ethics in Sports Award, which the S.B. Athletic Round Table annually presents to a student from each area high school. They are chosen for living up to these qualities: “Accountability, respect of teammates, opponents, and officials, honesty, positive attitude, reliability, loyalty, sportsmanship, others above self, and team above personal interest.”

Beth De Noble, whom Womble met at Hillside House, was his closest companion for 40 years. They shared the experience of living with cerebral palsy. She died in 2012. They were parishioners at Christ the King Episcopal Church.

A memorial service for Phil Womble has been announced for Saturday, February 25, at 2 p.m. at Christ the King Episcopal Church, 5073 Hollister Avenue.



Santa Barbara COURT OF CHAMPIONS

— *Class of 2015* —



**SAM
BATTISTONE**



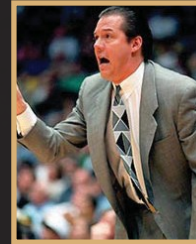
**FRANK
CARBAJAL**



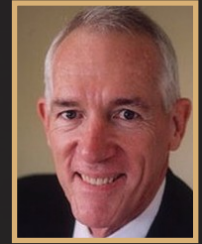
**BRUCE
COLDREN**



**GERRY
KARCZEWSKI**



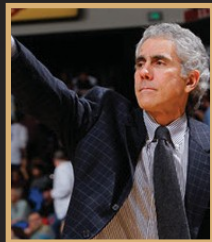
**RANDY
PFUND**



**JAY
CARTY**



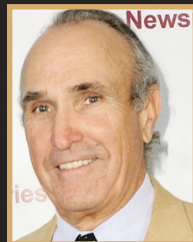
**BARB
BEAINY**



**JIM
EYEN**



**JON
KORFAS**



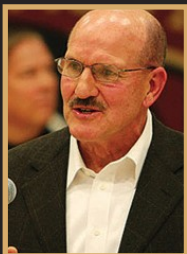
**RON
SHELTON**



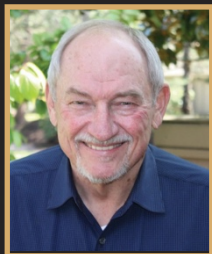
**TUĞÇE
CANITEZ**



**CORI
CLOSE**



**CHET
KAMMERER**



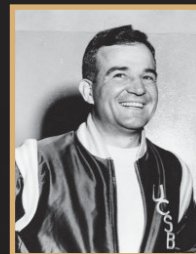
**DOUG
LITTLE**



**GENE
SNYDER**



**LOWELL
STEWART**



**WILLIE
WILTON**



U.C.L.A. Women's Coach Cori Close Follows John Wooden's Example

By Howard Megdal - New York Times

Every day on her way to the practice floor at Pauley Pavilion, U.C.L.A.'s women's basketball coach, Cori Close, makes a point of walking past the 10 banners for the national championships the Bruins' men's team won under John Wooden.

Close, born in 1971, is too young to remember watching Wooden's teams. But after a stellar playing career at the University of California, Santa Barbara, she received the chance to meet and then get to know Wooden through her first job out of college, as an assistant for U.C.L.A.'s women's team. Steve Lavin, who coached the Bruins men at the time, introduced them.

Close and Wooden bonded over Close's first name, which she shared with Wooden's great-granddaughter. But that initial encounter spawned regular meetings, usually on Tuesday nights, for years, with Close returning to Wooden's house every chance she got. Wooden died in 2010, a year before Close returned to Westwood as head coach, but the lessons she took from those conversations continue to serve her today.

"I don't know why he let me continue that relationship with him," Close said. "The reality is, he's a much closer person to me than I am to him. And I'm just really humbled and thankful — not only just the stuff he talked to me about, but that I got to watch him live over a long period of time, for 15 years, really.

"I don't know exactly how it started, but I'm grateful that it did."

In important ways, she said, her teams are building on Wooden's legacy. While some critics of the women's game take pains to point out its differences with men's basketball, the similarities between the men's game of Wooden's time and the women's game of today are striking — much more so than the men's games of then and now, particularly in the aspects of coaching most important to Wooden.

"That's one of the reasons I love coaching women's basketball," Close said. "I don't have any one-and-doners. It's not just about helping them develop on the court. One of the things Coach Wooden talked about was being a part of young men's lives — nothing short of creating a transformational experience that helps them reach elite levels in basketball but also prepares them for life, equips them for something bigger and deeper.

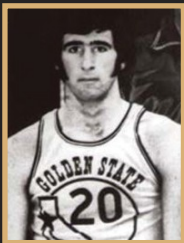
"I do think the parallels are strong with women's basketball going back to Coach Wooden's time. It's still about growing young women. It's still about seeing their growth over four years, and that's really a joy to be a part of."

There is a logic to the idea that women's college basketball has, in many ways, reached the rough equivalent of what the Wooden Era was for the men's game. Consider that the N.C.A.A. tournament began in 1939 for the men, and Wooden won his 10th title in 1975, 36 years later. The obvious analogue to Wooden in the women's game is Connecticut's Geno Auriemma, who won his 11th title in 2016, 34 years after the N.C.A.A. created the women's tournament.

Auriemma, whose third-ranked Huskies meet No. 2 Baylor on Thursday night in one of the season's most eagerly awaited games, has long argued that the relative lack of parity at the very top of the women's college game is a consequence of a simple difference between the men's and women's versions: Many of the top male players leave after a single season, while women are not even eligible to declare for the W.N.B.A. unless they turn 22 during the calendar year of a draft.

Santa Barbara COURT OF CHAMPIONS

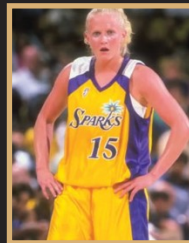
Class of 2014



**VIC
BARTOLOME**



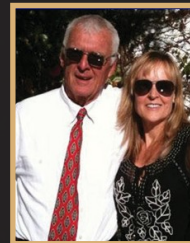
**BILL
BERTKA**



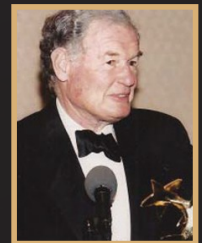
**ERIN
ALEXANDER-
BROWN**



**ANDREW
BUTCHER**



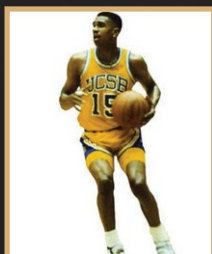
**GARY
COLSON**



**LARRY
CRANDELL**



**GARY
CUNNINGHAM**



**CARRICK
DEHART**



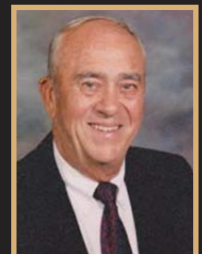
**HOLLY
FORD
EMERSON**



**DON
FORD**



**MARK
FRENCH**



**MAURY
HALLECK**

Santa Barbara COURT OF CHAMPIONS

Class of 2014



NBA LEGEND JERRY WEST AND 'GODFATHER OF SANTA BARBARA BASKETBALL,' BILL BERTKA



**BEN
HOWLAND**



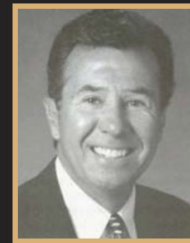
**JOHN
MOORE**



**KRISTEN
MOORE**



**PHIL
PATTON**



**JERRY
PIMM**



**SAL
RODRIGUEZ**



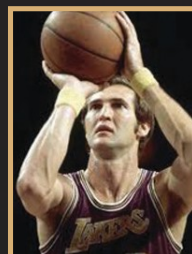
**BRIAN
SHAW**



**JACK
TRIGUEIRO**



**DON
VOLPI**



**JERRY
WEST**



**JAMAAL
WILKES**



2014 STORY OF THE INAUGURAL INDUCTEE BANQUET

On a warm and balmy June evening, when stars glistened in the Santa Barbara sky, a multitude of stars also aligned inside the Fess Parker Resort San Rafael/Santa Ynez Ballroom. The Santa Barbara Basketball Court of Champions exuded a shining moment for 23 Inaugural Inductee's with the likes of Icon and NBA "logo" Jerry West leading the way. Mr. Clutch's supporting cast was deep and rich in name and accolades. Hall of Famer Jamaal Wilkes, Denver Nuggets Head Coach Brian Shaw, longtime Santa Barbara resident and LA Laker guru Bill Bertka (38 years), and former UCLA Bruin player and coach Gary Cunningham name just a few of the dignitaries who have impacted the Santa Barbara community on and off the hardwood floor for many years.

The eloquent ceremonies began with 6-year-old Adeline Hoke singing two traditional patriotic songs, God Bless American and the National Anthem. Master of Ceremonies, Gerry Fall, Sports Editor of the Santa Barbara News Press, followed Ms. Hoke by addressing the audience of over 230, sharing the Mission and Purpose of the Court of Champions. Mr. Fall then introduced the Honorary Guest, Jerry West, who charismatically held the attention of all the patrons, sharing some of his past experiences in basketball while also acknowledging many of his friend... Inductee's sitting with him at the Head Table.

Each of the Inductee's shared briefly their memorable experiences, gratitude for family, friends and their passion for the game of basketball. The 3-hour Ceremony was captured by many media outlets. Time Warner Sports Network was present

to garner the many Los Angeles Laker personnel in attendance. Backstage Lakers produced a documentary about the Court of Champions Event, which aired in February 2015. Breakers Basketball TVNetwork, Santa Barbara Newspress, Santa Barbara Independent, Casa Magazine, UCSB Nexxus Newspaper and UCSB Radio was also covering this Event for their targeted audience, respectively.

As local resident and former Santa Barbara HS, SB City College, UCSB and Los Angeles Laker star player Don Ford wrapped up his 10 minute "roasting" of Jerry West and other inductee colleague's, Mike Klan, Sports Director for Keyt Channel 3, climaxed the evening moderating a Question and Answer session for audience guests. They were offered the opportunity to ask random questions to any of the 23 Inductee's.

Closing out the evening, Curt Pickering, Court of Champions Director, gave his thanks to the Event Staff, Sponsors Tim Tremblay and Nick Zwick, the Media, family, friends and guests of the Inductee's, game officials of the Senior High School All Star Game that was played the previous evening and singer, Ms. Adeline Hoke. Pickering added his appreciation to Bill Bertka, "The Godfather of Santa Barbara Basketball" for being instrumental in Pickering moving to Santa Barbara 25 years ago. Pickering also gave special acknowledgement to Jerry West for attending and speaking at the Inaugural ceremony.

Standing along side Pickering was 9 year old West Figgins, named after Mr. West by the youngster's father, Randy Figgins, a local businessman. A final thanks was directed to the 23 Inductee's, for their achievements, passion for the game of basketball and giving back to the great Community of Santa Barbara.

The Santa Barbara Basketball Court of Champions annually brings the basketball grass-roots fraternity together while also raising funds for local school clinics, camps, workshops and college scholarships.



FOUR WITH LAKER TIES

by Lakers Media Outlet

EL SEGUNDO- Bill Berka, Don Ford, Brian Shaw and Jamaal Wilkes are among 21 individual who have been selected as inaugural inductees into the Santa Barbara Basketball Court of Champions. The Court of Champions has been established to recognize and honor individuals from the Santa Barbara community who have succeeded and/or made significant contributions to the game of basketball.

Bertka is currently in his 33rd consecutive season with the Lakers and his 11th in his current capacity of Special Assistant to the GM/Basketball Consultant.

First employed by the Lakers in 1968, Bertka served as a scout, assistant coach and director of player personnel until 1974. Bertka rejoined the Lakers in 1981 as an assistant coach and for the next 20 years was a key member on the staffs of Pat Riley, Mike Dunleavy, Randy Pfund, Earvin “Magic” Johnson, Del Harris, Kurt Rambis and Phil Jackson. Ford was drafted by the Lakers in the sixth round of the 1975 NBA Draft and spent four and-a-half seasons in Los Angeles before being traded to the Cleveland Cavaliers. In his time with the Lakers, Ford averaged 7.1 points and 3.8 rebounds over 368 games.

Shaw began his four-year Laker career in the 1999-00 season, helping Los Angeles to the first of three consecutive NBA Championships. Upon retirement in 2003, Shaw was a scout for the Lakers for one year before moving to the bench as an assistant coach for seven seasons between 2004-05 and 2010-11.

Wilkes played eight of his 12 NBA seasons for the Lakers, winning NBA Championships in 1980, 1982, and 1985 while garnering All-Star recognition two times in 1980 and 1982. One of the most prolific scorers of his time he averaged 18.4 points, 5.4 rebounds and 2.6 assists while wearing purple and gold.

Local Authors



“A Higher Call of Duty”

By: Sgt. Mike McGrew

Sgt. Mike shares many personal stories of his police work, coping with cancer and the loss of his son to this deadly disease. His book will soon be sold on Amazon.



“Shift & Shine”

By: Deb Richards

Deb Richards shares several personal stories about her abusive marriage and parenthood of her daughters who experimented with drugs. A mother’s love and courage shine no matter what the situation is.

Special Thanks



DID YOU KNOW

Rodents can be unearthed by the disruption that construction, demolition and excavation have on their burrows. In anticipation of the Children's Memorial Hospital demolition next month in Chicago, some Lincoln Park residents are asking for help from Treehouse Humane Societys Cats at Work Program, which uses feral cat colonies to kill or ward off rats, but if need be, the city will put rodenticide into burrows to eradicate the pests.

FREE ESTIMATES

Bed Bugs, Rats, Mice, Ticks,
Ants, Fleas, Spiders, Roaches



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