



# SANTA BARBARA COURT OF CHAMPIONS

## JOSH MERRILL | 2017 INDUCTEE



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Josh Merrill has experienced success as an athlete at a very young age. He grew up in San Diego, California and accomplished the following High School honors:

- 1994 San Diego City/County Basketball Player of the Year
- 1994 San Diego Tribune Athlete of the Year
- 1994 California 3 Sport Athlete of the Year (Basketball, Football, Baseball)
- 1994 All CIF Football Quarterback of the Year

Josh played baseball and basketball his freshman year at Pepperdine University. He transferred to UC Santa Barbara for his final 3 years with the following accomplishments:

- Played baseball for the Gaucho team that went to the NCAA Tournament
- Was the Second Leading Scorer and Rebounder in each of his 3 basketball seasons
- Was named All-Conference his senior year and the Gaucho's won the Big West Regular Season Title
- Averaged 14 points and 8 rebounds his Senior Year
- Made 1999 All Big West Second Team
- 1999 UCSB Captains Award

Josh continued his basketball career playing professionally for 6 years in Australia, Argentina and Portugal. He followed this up with 3 years as Player/Assistant Coach with the Santa

Barbara Breakers of the West Coast Professional Basketball League (WCBL).

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Led the Division One League in Portugal in scoring at over 30 points per game

### *With the Santa Barbara Breakers Professional Basketball Team:*

- Led the Breakers to 3 consecutive WCBL Titles 2008, 2009, 2010
- Led the Breakers to an undefeated 18-0 2008 Season, drawing attention to Chinese Basketball Officials, resulting in thirteen 21 day tours to China from 2008-2015
- MVP of the WCBL for both Regular Season and the Playoffs in 2008
- MVP of the WCBL for Regular Season in 2009
- Averaged 24.4 points per game, a 36 point game, 10.3 rebounds per game, 55.3 fg% in 2008
- Averaged 20.4 points per game, 6.7 rebounds per game, 53.4 fg% in 2009
- Averaged 18.9 points per game, 7.5 rebounds per game, 54.3 fg% in 2010

### LIFE AFTER BASKETBALL

- Josh lives in Los Angeles with his wife Angie and 3 beautiful children; Donovan 8, Kyra 5, Milani 3.
- Over the past decade, Josh has worked at Shepherd of the Hills Church in Porter Ranch where in 2006, he launched Shepherd Sports. This sports ministry provides outreach throughout the community with adult, youth and recreational sports. Josh has found his calling as a Sports Pastor which allows him to use his gifts and passion of sports to share his love of Jesus with people. "I am blessed to have a job that connects my love for the Lord and my passion for sports", Josh states.
- Josh has seen the program grow to over 3,000 participants a year, playing in some type of sport or activity helps connects people to the church and allows for an environment that honors God.

### THANK YOU'S:

"First, I'd like to thank Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. I want to thank my parents, for always guiding my steps both on and off the court, my dad for his example as a Godly man and for being the ultimate rebounder. To my wife and kids, who always have my back, Life is better with you in it."