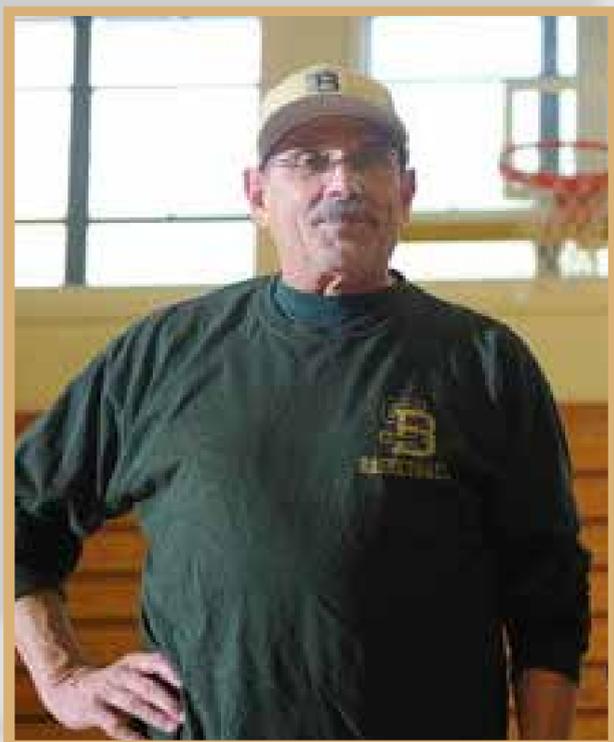




# SANTA BARBARA COURT OF CHAMPIONS

## DAVE BREGANTE | 2016 INDUCTEE



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Talk about a late bloomer: Six years out of high school, Dave Bregante got an opportunity to play college basketball and became an all-star. Four years after retirement, Bregante got his first high school head coaching job and became recognized as one of the state's top coaches.

He learned basketball fundamentals at Santa Barbara High from coach Gene Snyder. He graduated in 1961 and continued to play at SBCC under Dick Weist and then the city recreational leagues. It was there that he caught the eye of Westmont College coach Tom Byron, who recruited him to join the Warriors in 1967.

In the 1967-68 season, Bregante was one of the nation's leading scorers with an average of 23.6 points per game. He made the all-district team both years he played for Westmont. Byron took

him on as an assistant coach, and he stayed on when Ron Mulder was head coach after Byron died of cancer. Westmont made it to the NAIA nationals both years Bregante worked with Mulder. Bregante spent the years from 1973 to 2007 as a teacher at Santa Barbara Junior High and Rio Mesa High. He coached basketball at the ninth-grade and junior varsity levels.

After he retired from teaching, Bregante coached the frosh-soph team at Santa Barbara High. He was offered the varsity head coaching job in 2011. The Dons had won only two games the previous season. "I felt bad for the kids," Bregante said. "Our main philosophy is that the kids gotta have fun." His approach paid immediate dividends as the Dons went 13-12 in his first season. Then came four straight Channel League championships and season records of 20-5, 26-4, 29-6 and 32-2 – the last season (2015-16) set a school record for wins and included the CIF-Southern Section Division 2A championship, Santa Barbara's first CIF title since 1991.

Bregante was named the Cal-Hi Sports State Basketball Coach of the Year in Division 3, the first Santa Barbara area boys coach to be so honored since Maury Halleck of San Marcos won the award in 1981.

I would like to thank my high school coach, Gene Snyder; my city college coach, Dick Weist and my Westmont coaches, Tom Byron and Ron Mulder. VVV