

Santa Barbara
COURT OF CHAMPIONS



7th Annual

INDUCTION PROGRAM

2020 Inductees

RICHARD ANDERSON | GEORGE CHELINI | ROBERT McCUTHEON | CHRIS McNEALY

PAT MOORE | QUENTIN SIMS | MEKIA VALENTINE

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

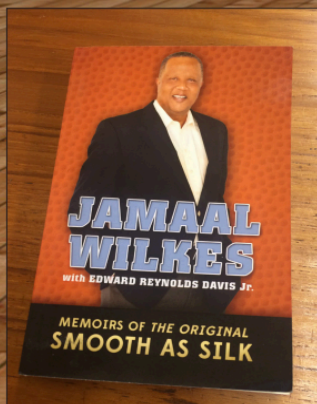
Staff

DIRECTOR.....	CURT PICKERING
LEGAL COUNSEL.....	ERIC BURKHARDT
GRAPHIC/WEB DESIGNER.....	MICHAEL SALAME
SOCIAL MEDIA COORDINATOR.....	TAYLOR REAUME
VIDEO COORDINATOR.....	TYLER GECK
PHOTOGRAPHER... ..	SERGIO IBARRA
CATERING.....	TIM & KIMBER MAHON
M OF CERMONIES.....	DREW WAKEFIELD

Selection Committee

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 2020* —



Richard Anderson

Richard Anderson was born in San Pedro, California; attended and played basketball for Rancho Alamito's High School in Garden Grove, California. From 1978-1982, Richard developed his inside, outside game on the court playing for the UC Santa Barbara Gauchos. He played in 100 games during the 4 campaigns, averaging 12.4 points per game and 7.7 rebounds per game. He was rewarded for his collegiate play, being drafted the 32nd pick overall, in the 2nd round by the Houston Rockets, in the 1982 NBA Draft. He was then traded to the San Diego Clippers for Kobe Bryant's father, Joe "JellyBean" Bryant. He played for the following teams:

1982-83 San Diego Clippers
1983-84 Denver Nuggets
1984-86 Pallacanestro Cantu - Italy
1986-87 Houston Rockets
1987-88 Portland Trailblazers
1989-90 Charlotte Hornets
1991-93 Sioux Falls Skyforce – CBA

The 6'10, 240 pounds forward scored 2,260 points in the NBA and tallied a single game high of 23 points with both the Denver Nuggets and Houston Rockets. Since retirement, Richard Anderson has been living on the East Coast.



George Chelini

* Story credit to Santa Barbara News Press *

George T. Chelini, Santa Barbara native and former director of the Santa Barbara Boys and Girls Clubs, passed away on June 17, one day short of his 89th birthday.

George grew up just off Milpas on Alphonse Street; graduated in 1949 from Santa Barbara High School, where he played basketball and football; served with the U.S. Air Force in the Korean War; and attended Santa Barbara City College (where he was Student Body President) and UC Santa Barbara.

He started working for what was then the Santa Barbara Boys Club in 1956. He spent 37 years with the organization, eventually unifying all the Clubs in Santa Barbara County and becoming their overall Director. George mentored many well-loved staffers at the Clubs who became local legends in their own right, including Sal Rodriguez, Pat Wargo and Donnie Yee.

He also drummed up lots of donations, improved the Clubs' facilities and ran sports leagues, all while keeping in close touch with the children who came to the clubs for entertainment, exercise and guidance. He was one of the first directors in the country to invite girls into the Clubs, leading to a renaming of the organization as the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Barbara.

Even long after retiring in 1993, there weren't many times when George went out in public in Santa Barbara when he wasn't recognized by several people who'd been kids at the Boys Club during his years there. Nearly all, now grownups, would express how much George and the Boys Club had meant to them in guiding them into leading worthwhile lives.

Somehow, even while raising his family and steering his nonprofit, George also found time to spend multiple terms on the Goleta School Board.

George leaves behind his beautiful and loving wife Margie, four children — Karen, Eric, Marilyn and Remy — 9 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, and a stepdaughter, Polly Frost.

* Story credit to Santa Barbara News Press *



Bob McCutcheon

* Story credit to Santa Maria Times Sporters Writer, Elliot Stern *

Santa Maria said goodbye to longtime basketball player, teach and coach, Bob McCutcheon. Several hundred people were on hand for a celebration of his life at the Grace Baptist Church gym-on the basketball court. Family and friends shared stories about McCutcheon and spoke of what he called “his promotion” – the end of life on earth and promotion to everlasting life in Heaven.

“Bob can rest in peace,” said Bill Bertka, a Santa Maria Golden Duke teammate. “Bob made a substantial contribution to the game of basketball-as a player, as a high school and a college coach. Anyone who has ever known him has benefited from that relationship.”

"His career transcends all of basketball in the Santa Maria Valley and he meant a lot to the game," said Bob White, who replaced him at Hancock College and also played for McCutcheon at both SMHS and AHC. "He built a legacy at Santa Maria High School and continued the legacy at Hancock and he did things the right way, his teams were built like machines. He was like a father to me and everyone who ever came in contact with him is better for it."

"He was a great person and a great friend, a great teammate and a great player. He played against the best and more than held his own." Bob will be sorely missed," said another legendary Golden Duke player, Madison Stanford.

* Story credit to Santa Maria Times Sporters Writer, Elliot Stern *



Chris McNealy

Chris McNealy graduated from Roosevelt High School in Fresno, California where he starred as a basketball player. This led to his signing with the Vaquero's of Santa Barbara City College, under the leadership of legendary Head Coach Frank Carbajal.

He spent one season in Santa Barbara and was quickly recruited by Head Coach Bill Berry at San Jose State. After finishing a solid 3 years for the Spartans, McNealy was drafted into the 1983 NBA Draft, with the 38th pick of the 2nd round, by the Kansas City Kings. McNealy delayed his entrance into the NBA, opting for Bic Trieste Basketball Club in Italy. The following season, he signed with the Bay State Bomardier's of the Continental Basketball Association, the minor league feeder system to the NBA. Eventually, the New York Knicks became home for the next 3 seasons. During this time, McNealy played in 108 NBA games, scored 466 career points and hit single game highs of 17 points on 2 occasions. His career was completed finishing up in Spain and Italian professional clubs.

He was respected for his ability to play inside or outside the paint, handle the ball like a point guard while sporting a lengthy 6-7, 210 frame. He was gifted with very agile slash moves to the hole on offense and carrying a reputation as a hardnosed athlete who could guard both quick and strong opponents at the defensive end of the floor.

Also, to note: Chris is proud of his son, Chris Jr, who played at UC-Irvine from 2010-14. Chris Jr has established a quality playing career since his Anteatrer days, playing in Austria, Greece and Finland.

Chris continues to live in Europe with frequent returns to the USA to see family and friends.



Pat Moore

Pat Moore grew up in a gymnasium as an infant watching her father John Maurice Cowan play basketball for the Wabash College Little Giants, located in Crawfordsville, Indiana. She attended Western College in Ohio for 2 years but when funds fell short of supporting both she and her brother to complete their education, she offered to move to Chicago, Illinois where she became a flight attendant for United Airlines.

In 1952, she fell in love with her future husband George Moore, who was a Managing Director for Goodyear Tire. When George was offered a position in Tokyo, Japan, the family of 6 made the transition seamlessly, continuing their education and passion for the game of basketball. In 1968, George was transferred to Orange County, California and thus, the Moore Movement began making its basketball imprint on communities at the high school and college levels in the Golden State.

Pat Moore has supported the game of basketball for over 90 years. She is infamous for "critiquing" game officials.

At one of her daughter Beth's high school games, versus star player Annie Meyer's, (they later became teammates on that UCLA National Championship team) Pat was working the referee's over, to a point that they ejected her from the game. How did Pat counter this blatant and unacceptable move by these inept rent-a-ref's? She proceeded to sit behind Annie Meyer's team bench, continuing to correct the game officials on calls she found questionable or downright wrong.

At Westmont College games, on many occasions, she was the Commander in Chief, sitting with the Westmont student body section, helping lead the students in resounding cheers while also assessing "accountability and justice" to the game officials. Yes, she displayed a charm and Warrior presence in her 5'5 slim frame, turning Murchison Gymnasium into Duke University's Cameron Hall, the Crazy's and all. Yet, after the game was all forgotten, she could be witnessed walking up to a game official out in the lobby, shaking their hand and dissolving any misunderstanding that the referee might have considered. It was never personal with Pat. It was just that Hoosier competitive spirit and the Love of the Game.

Since that initial basketball season in 1976, when her son John attended Westmont College as a student and player, Mama Moore, as fans like to call her, has been a jewel to the community of Santa Barbara, both as a basketball fan and as a community leader. She has even passed on this zest for life and the hardwood floor to her granddaughter Laura Moore, (Beth's daughter) who is the Head Girls' Basketball Coach at Cate School in Carpinteria. To no surprise, Pat attended each and every Lady Rams game last season. Did she cut the high school game officials a break, with a lesser number of fans and intensity occupying the spectator seats? Not a chance. But after all these years of supporting coaches and teams, she has translated her influence on the game with a jovial pitch and finesse that is sweet to the ears of everyone in attendance.

In a world of uncertainty, you can always count on Pat Moore's award-winning smile and her love for engaging in conversation. She has never met a stranger. That's just the way they did it in Indiana and that has been her signature mantra throughout her life's journey, be it Chicago, Tokyo or Southern Cal.



Quentin Sims

As told by his son, Doug Sims

My Father was born in Kansas in a basically a dust bowl. He was the 5th son of 7 children. When my father was a small boy, they came to California to start a new life. They moved to Riverside, CA and my dad and his brothers became orange pickers while growing up in Riverside. My dad being one of the younger sons learned to play Basketball and sports with his older brothers. In that era, because of World War II, most everyone went into some type of service (my father was in the Coast Guard). My dad attended UCSB and was fortunate to be good enough to play basketball for them.

My dad played basketball at UCSB 1947-1949. He was the Captain in 1949 and MVP in 1947 and 1949. He was also 2C2A conference all three years. Other basketball players described my dad as a super aggressive defensive player and a great passer. One of his nicknames when I was growing up, was the Bob Cousy of the West. During his basketball career he played with the Golden Dukes in the NIBL (National Industrial Basketball League) from 1953 and 1955. He was MVP and all conference in 1953 and 1955. Back in the 50's the NIBL was as good as the NBA. Part of the reason for this was because it being right after World War II the NBA would pay their ball players so much money and then in the off season, they would have to go find a job. But in the NIBL you would work for a corporation and they would give you more money to play for their basketball team. Big corporations during that time like Phillip 66 and Caterpillar offered more security than the NBA. The thing that switched all that was when the NBA got a TV contract, and the rest is history.

When all the Golden Dukes would get together, I was able to sit around and listen to some of the old stories and there are a lot of good stories. But one of the stories is when they were coming back from a game in Denver they were flying over the Sierras and I guess they were coming in on a really bad storm and I guess it was a heck of a ride, so when the plane finally landed in Santa Barbara after being battered all over the Sierras the first thing the pilot did was jump out and kiss the ground. That was the last time my father was ever in a plane, he never got on a plane again. One of the other stories I have heard was about is in the early 50's smoking was aloud indoors, and the Golden Dukes would be the only game in town so everyone would be at the Golden Dukes game and the gym would be packed, and everyone in the gym would be smoking sometimes it would get so bad that you almost couldn't see across the court.

My dad truly loved the game of basketball and he made a lot of good friends doing what he loved. One of them being Robert McCutcheon. They were good buddies during that time growing up in Santa Barbara and both moving to Santa Maria as educators. My dad settled in Santa Maria like a lot of ball players at that time because Santa Maria was a growing community and they needed educators. My dad was an elementary school teacher, a principal, and an administrator for 30 years. He always thought education was the most important thing you could have. He is the only one in his family who went to college. He would always say that reading comprehension was one of the greatest gifts. His leadership in the community lead to many people to go into education. I thought this was really, really cool. Both my sisters and both brother in laws were educators and my dad always thought that being a teacher, and I agree with him on this, was one of the most important professions we have.

My dad's greatest interest outside of basketball was his family, he was also an avid golfer, but his family always came first. Besides myself, he had two daughters Debbie and Cindy. His wife Patty, my mother, were always together during their 55 years of marriage. One of your questions is to share your families influence on you with your immediate family, and you know fathers teach you a lot of things but probably the most enduring thing is, and it comes from that generation, and that is "hard work always pays off". It may not be tomorrow and maybe not next week or even next year, but sooner or later hard work always pays off.



Mekia Valentine

Ms. Valentine passed away on March 26, 2020.

* Story credit to Santa Barbara News-Press Writer, Mark Patton *

Ms. Valentine, a 6-foot-4 transfer from Wake Forest, was the first player Lindsay Gottlieb recruited when she succeeded Mark French as the Gauchos' coach 12 years ago. The 6-foot-4 center had been ranked as the nation's No. 23 recruit and third-best power forward by Full Court Press while coming out of high school in Greensboro, N.C. She made the ACC All-Freshman Team in 2007 while averaging 5.9 points and 4.7 rebounds with 50 blocked shots, the second-most in Wake Forest history. She followed that up with averages of 6.0 points and 4.8 rebounds with 44 blocks during her sophomore year.

Gottlieb was ecstatic when Ms. Valentine opted to transfer to UCSB. "Whatever points or rebounds she accumulates, that will never tell the story of Mekiya Valentine, her competitiveness, and what she brings to the table," she said. "Above all else, she is an absolutely outstanding young woman."

Ms. Valentine redshirted during the 2008-09 season and then led UCSB to a 19-12 record and WNIT berth as a junior in 2009-10, averaging 12.3 points and 9.7 rebounds. Her 4.0 blocks per game set a school record and ranked third in the nation. She received second-team All-Big West Conference honors and was also voted to the Big West All-Tournament team. She also made second-team all-league as a senior while averaging a double-double of 11.1 points and 11.2 rebounds with 3.7 blocks. Her 347 rebounds that season set a school record. That mark was broken this year by Gaucho freshman Ila Lane, after getting 378 rebounds for an NCAA-best average of 13.0 per game. Ms. Valentine still holds UCSB records for career rebound average (10.5 per game), blocks in a game (11), blocks in a season (120), and field-goal percentage in both a season (.620) and career (.595).

The New York Liberty selected her in the third round of the 2011 WNBA Draft – the first Gaucho chosen since the Minnesota Lynx picked Kristen Mann in the first round in 2005. She opted to go overseas, however, and spent the next four years playing professional basketball in Israel, Poland, Romania and Germany.

Ms. Valentine returned to Santa Barbara after her retirement from basketball and studied nursing at SBCC. She also worked as a human resources assistant for a local computer software company.

Santa Barbara COURT OF CHAMPIONS

Class of 2019



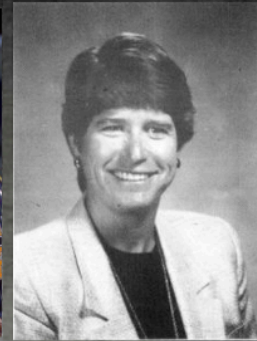
Sonny Allen



Sampson Brue Jr.



Keith Closs



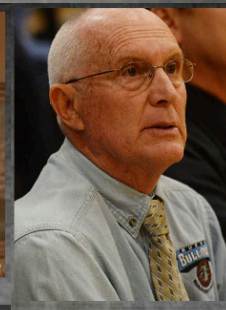
Linda Dawson



Leslie Ford Grieve



Herb Livsey



Joe Vaughan

SONNY ALLEN, former NBA Coach & Head Coach of the Santa Barbara Islanders CBA team-LA Lakers minor league affiliate team; 1989-90

SAMPSON BRUE was an NBA supervisor who officiated many games in the Santa Barbara region, at the high school, college and pro minor league level

KEITH CLOSS played for the LA Clippers, Harlem Globetrotters & Santa Barbara Breakers

LINDA DAWSON played at UCSB and coached at Bishop Diego High School

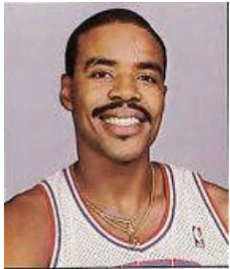
LESLIE FORD-GRIEVE played at Santa Barbara High School, Santa Barbara Community College & UCSB and is the sister to Court of Champion Inductee's Holly & Don Ford

HERB LIVESEY, founder of Snow Valley Basketball Camps held at Westmont College for over 50 years and scout for the Denver Nuggets

JOE VAUGHAN played at Westmont College and coached Girl's State Championships at Buena High School, Ventura, CA

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**



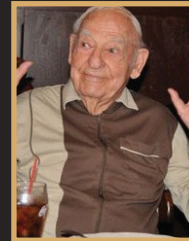
**DAVE
BREGANTE**



**ERIN
BUESCHER-
PERPEROGLU**



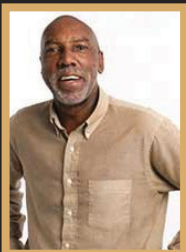
**ERIC
BURKHARDT**



**JERRY
HARWIN**



**CONNER
HENRY**



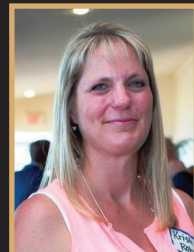
**CLIFF
LAMBERT**



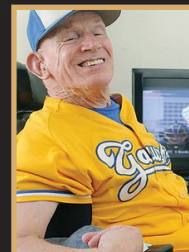
**SHANTAY
LEGANS**



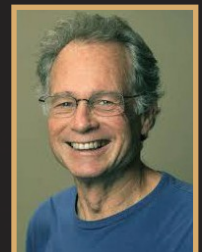
**JO ANN
RECK**



**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**



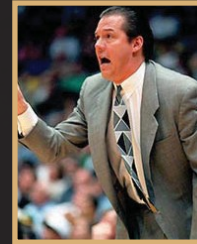
**FRANK
CARBAJAL**



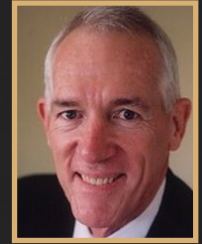
**BRUCE
COLDREN**



**GERRY
KARCZEWSKI**



**RANDY
PFUND**



**JAY
CARTY**



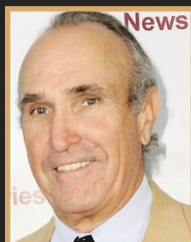
**BARB
BEAINY**



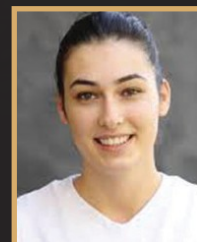
**JIM
EYEN**



**JON
KORFAS**



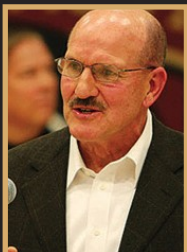
**RON
SHELTON**



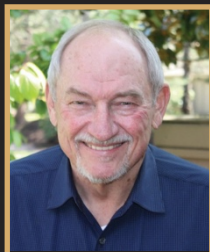
**TUĞÇE
CANITEZ**



**CORI
CLOSE**



**CHET
KAMMERER**



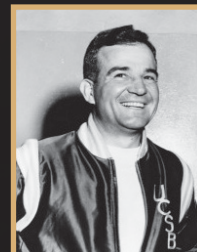
**DOUG
LITTLE**



**GENE
SNYDER**



**LOWELL
STEWARD**



**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.

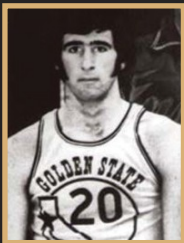
"I do think the parallels are strong with women's basketball going back to Coach Wooden's time. It's still about growing young women. It's still about seeing their growth over four years, and that's really a joy to be a part of."

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

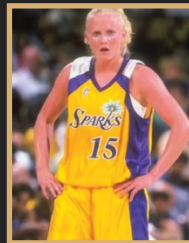
Class of 2014



**VIC
BARTOLOME**



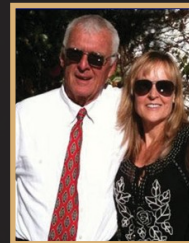
**BILL
BERTKA**



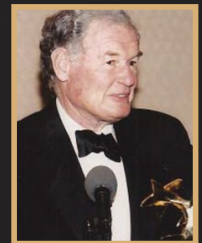
**ERIN
ALEXANDER-
BROWN**



**ANDREW
BUTCHER**



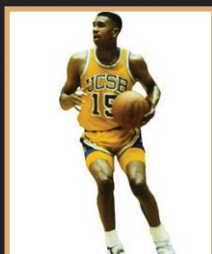
**GARY
COLSON**



**LARRY
CRANDELL**



**GARY
CUNNINGHAM**



**CARRICK
DEHART**



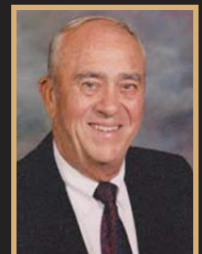
**HOLLY
FORD
EMERSON**



**DON
FORD**



**MARK
FRENCH**



**MAURY
HALLECK**

Santa Barbara COURT OF CHAMPIONS

Class of 2014



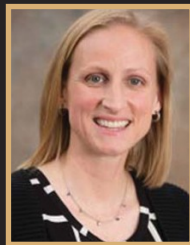
NBA LEGEND JERRY WEST AND 'GODFATHER OF SANTA BARBARA BASKETBALL,' BILL BERTKA



**BEN
HOWLAND**



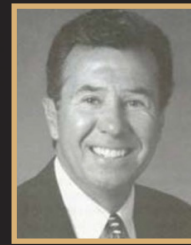
**JOHN
MOORE**



**KRISTEN
MOORE**



**PHIL
PATTON**



**JERRY
PIMM**



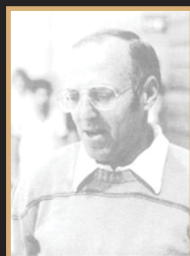
**SAL
RODRIGUEZ**



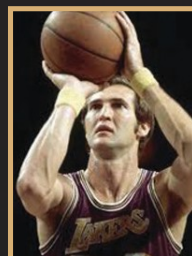
**BRIAN
SHAW**



**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 Bertka, 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



805-687-6644 - www.OConnorPest.com