



SANTA BARBARA COURT OF CHAMPIONS

RON MULDER | 2017 INDUCTEE



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Ron has been a “fixture” with Westmont Basketball for almost 60 years! He not only has terrific stats...he has served in many capacities. No matter what his official capacity, he has ALWAYS been a true mentor and loyal (and probably the loudest!) fan.

HIGH SCHOOL

He played at Helix High School in San Diego; the same HS as Bill Walton, the famed UCLA Bruin and NBA great. Ron says, “I inspired Bill”. HA ! I was coached by a great Indiana man and it was the best thing, the start I got under him.”

PLAYER

He began his career at Westmont in 1959 and played for 2 ½ years. In his senior year, he averaged a double double, (10.5 rebounds per game and 18.7 points per game), garnering All District III honors. He ranks 10th in all time rebound average (8.7) and 15th in career scoring average (14.7 points per game).

PROFESSIONAL

Ron coached Holland’s Nationale Nederlanden Donar in the Erste Division (highest level) in 1975-76. “It was a great year, one of the best I ever had as a coach and I brought Jim Dykstra over to play with us.”

COACH

Ron served as Assistant Coach under Jack Siemens in the early 60s and Tom Byron in the early 70s. He took over the Head Coaching job and won the District III championships in 1972 and 1973. His teams finished in the Elite 8 at the NAIA Nationals in both 1972 and 1973, losing to the eventual National Champion by 3 points in 1973. He has the all-time highest winning percentage (.767) among Westmont Basketball Coaches. “My highlight of coaching in college was winning the thriller against the University of Hawaii in 1972. They were ranked 14th in Division 1 and only 2 games that year. Also, going to the Nationals two years in a row and finishing like we did was great.”

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Ron was Athletic Director for 12 years. He was instrumental in bringing Snow Valley Basketball Camps to Westmont...a partnership that exists to this day. He drove the decision to reinstate Women’s Basketball into the Westmont athletic program in the 90s.

AWARDS

- The Dean’s Trophy (outstanding athlete in senior class) at Westmont, 1961
- Santa Barbara Athletic Round Table Coach of the Year, 1972
- Golden State Athletic Conference Administrator of the Year, 1998
- Westmont College Hall of Fame, 2005.

Those I wish to Thank...

When I think back about my life and basketball in particular there are many people that come to mind. The list would be long if I included everyone. These are the ones who have made a profound and significant effect on my life.

My parents are the foundation. Both my mother and father gave and instilled in me the values that are intimately apart of who I am. My Dad was a great provider and scrupulously honest. He was very well respected and his reputation paved the way for me. One of those values that they imparted was the attitude that in everything you pursued was to “work hard and do the best you could”. That has served me well over the years.

My mother was very strong, but the most loving person. She loved and nurtured me in my spiritual and emotional development.

I have had many coaches in a number of sports over the years, but my high school coach, Bob Devine was critical. He was an Indiana man and came to Helix in the mid 50’s. He helped me develop as a player and gave me confidence in my ability and what I could become. He was very hard on me, but through him I realized that my motivation had to come from within not some external influence.

Becky, my wife has been in my life for almost 70 years. We have been married for 56 years.

Through all of those years, she has been my best friend and confidant. We have faced many things together. Trials and difficulties, but a lot of good times. I can’t imagine where I would be or my life without her in it. She has given and brought such joy into my life on a daily basis. Her love and support is so constant in spite of my weakness and failings.

When I was 19, I gave my life to Jesus Christ. He is my Lord and Savior. My daily motivation is His teachings, Word, and Spirit. My Faith is in Him, that He died for my sins, and rose from the dead by God’s power. I know that He is always with me, strengths me and forgives me for all my shortcomings. He is my light and salvation. There is no Life without Him.

Thanks to many others I have not mentioned.