

Santa Barbara Court of Champions



9th Annual Induction Program

2022 Inductees

Santiago Aguirre • George Albanez • Keani Albanez • James Coronado
Bernard Hicks • Jelani Hicks • Jay Hillock • Joe Hillock • David Jackson
Kim Kjar • Larry Lesett • Sha'Rae Mitchell • David Palmer • Matt Sanchez
Robert Thompson • Kent Wojciechoski

August 20, 2022

www.sbcourtofchampions.net

WHY WAS THE SANTA BARBARA BASKETBALL COURT OF CHAMPIONS CREATED?

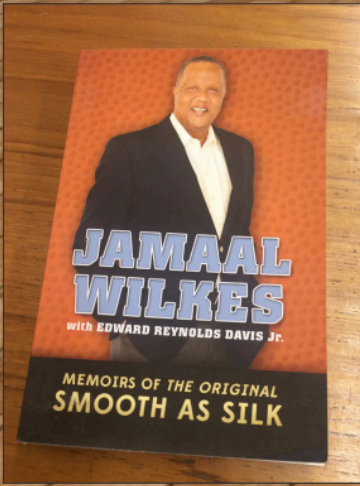
The Court of Champions was a brainstorming creation based on the fact that the Santa Barbara community has experienced so many talented and influential individuals in the game of basketball. Some of the distinguished inductees were born and raised here, like former NBA player Don Ford, while others have 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 areas 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.



Jamaal Wilkes addresses the crowd at the 2021 Court of Champions Induction Ceremony

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



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.

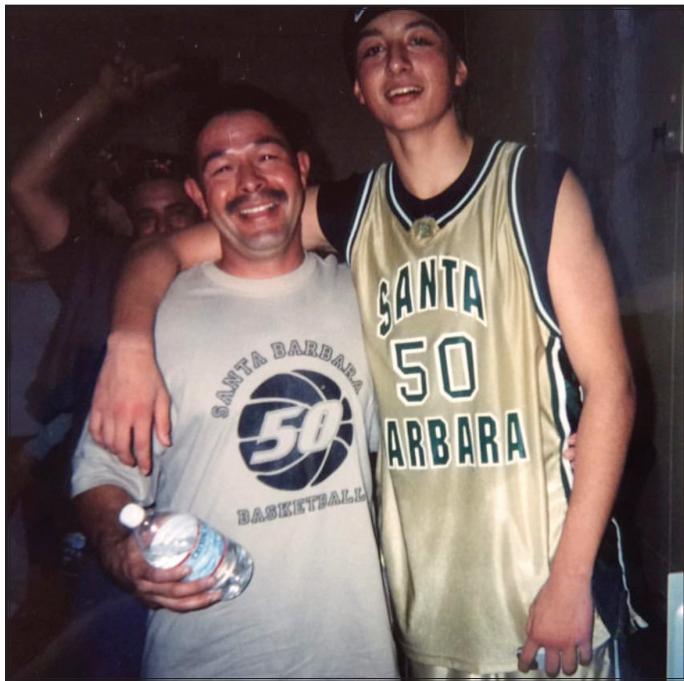
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Girls High School. . . Holly Ford - Emerson
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Santiago Aguirre



- Born and Raised in Santa Barbara
- SBHS Class of 2003
- 2003 Channel League Champion and MVP and CIF Div. 2AA First Team
- Westmont Class of 2007 and Team Co- Captain
- 2007 First Team GSAC and Third Team NAIA Div. 1 All-American
- Played for six professional clubs from 2007-2017 in the LNBP League in Mexico
- 2009 LNBP League Champion and FIBA Liga de las Americas Final 4
- 2015 LNBP League Champion and FIBA Liga de las Americas Final 4 and Team Co-Captain
- Assistant coached at San Marcos High School with the 2018 Channel League Champion and CIF Div. 2A Championship Boy's Basketball Team
- Assistant coached in 2021 with the Westmont Warriors Men's Team

George Albanez



- Born: December 4, 1973
- He is the oldest of 6 children in the Albanez Family
- He was a Varsity Player, graduating from Santa Paula High School in 1991
- He is a Man of God
- George has 5 children: Elise, Keani, Jayla, Ahmad and Carmelo Albanez
- He Founded the 805 Basketball Program in 1994 (28 years), a Club Travel Team that has
 - sent over 40 players to the Division 1 level
- He has coached in Top Tier Camps: ABCD, Adidas Phenom, Blue Star, Kobe Bryant Summer Camp
 - and Michael Jordan's Flight School
- He has coached at Westlake High School the past 3 years along with his 805 Academy and Cal Storm Nike
- He has also worked at Westside/ Eastside Boys and Girls Club and Page Youth Center as Coach and Administrator
- "I Take Pride In Building The 805 Basketball Community by Faith, Passion and Family"

Keani Albanez



Born and raised in Santa Barbara, she is the daughter of George Albanez and Ronda Albanez and has a total of 5 siblings. She spends her free time Golfing, training the youth, through her basketball academy and hanging out by the beach with loved ones. Her basketball career started taking off in high school, thanks to her father who trained her with his boys travel team 805, up until high school.

She Attended Buena high school in Ventura, Calif...was rated No. 72 overall in the class of 2011 by ESPN HoopGurlz and was widely considered one of the top guards in the nation...nominated for the 2011 McDonald's All-America team...as a senior led Buena to the CIF-Southern Section Division 2AA and CIF Division II SoCal Regional finals...averaged 21.6 points, 5.6 rebounds, 2.9 steals and 2.7 assists per game...named Star's Girls Basketball Player of the Year 2011.

Keani then went on to accept a full athletic scholarship to Gonzaga University, where her team achieved multiple top-25 rankings with appearances in the Sweet 16 2x and Elite 8. They won West Coast Conference title all four years she attended. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Sports Management and a double Minor in Public Relations and Communications.

In her four years as a Zag, Albanez appeared in 132 games, which is sixth all-time in program history. She started 68 consecutive games. She started all 34 games her Senior year. She tallied 1,038 points during her GU career, which is 20th all-time in program history. She averaged a career-best 13.1 points per game in 2014-15.

Albanez was named All-West Coast Conference second team this season. In her GU career, she had seven 20-point games, with six coming in 2014-15. The Santa Barbara, Calif. native is fifth all-time in program history with a career 80.6 free-throw percentage. Proving she is a defensive threat as well, Albanez has totaled 180 steals in her career, which is eighth on the Gonzaga all-time list. She is third all-time at GU with 164 made three-pointers in her career.

After graduating from Gonzaga, she was scouted by several agencies and had the opportunity to go play overseas. Her first experience was playing in China for the USA Net Scouts team. She then went on to sign her first contract with Panathinaikos, in Athens Greece. She would play for the two other top teams in Greece, Athinikos and Paok. Each year she would bring her team to the championship and Greek Cup finalist. In 2017 she was named Co Guard in Greece and led the league in steals. She also played in Switzerland and ended her last year in Egypt where she won her last Cup in 2018.

Despite being busy with her playing career, Albanez has found time during her Pro career to build a successful basketball training academy called KA Academy, training kids all over the 805.

She had her first training/ coaching job at Mamba Academy 2018

Worked with National Basketball Players Association, running camps and started a Virtual training camp and Training program during COVID. 2018-2020

Coached and Directed Boys and Girls Snow Valley camps 2020,21

Directed her own KA Academy camps and clinics through Page Youth Center, where she became the Program Director 2021-22. During that time ran the biggest youth basketball league with over 860 players involved.

She accepted the Santa Barbara City College Head assistant coaching position in 2019 and coached her first full season 2020-21. She's the second female assistant on a men's basketball squad in the Western State Conference, one of only a handful in state history. The first Woman at the collegiate level to coach men in Santa Barbara's history.

She is currently the Head Coach of the Oaks Christian girls program. Assisted by her Father George Albanez and big sister Eilse Albanez.

James Coronado



Basketball has been life for James ever since he was a young child. Coming from a big family, he spent many of his early years competing versus his dad's 10 brothers and sisters in nearly every sport. As a result, a young James grew to be very competitive in everything he did. Born and raised in Fresno, California, he played any and every sport as time would allow.

He was a multiple sport standout athlete in high school which afforded him the opportunity to try his hand as a two-sport athlete at UCSB. While his college career fizzled out quicker than he expected, James maintained his love of sports in a different avenue, working with young children as a baseball umpire, camp leader, youth sports coach, and instructional aide at City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Division and Franklin Elementary. A great opportunity to still be involved in sports, this is only the beginning of what was to come for him.

Among his first duties working for the City of Santa Barbara Parks and Recreation Division was umpiring baseball games. James seemed to be a natural offering words of advice and encouragement to young players. His love for sports fostered a gift for working with young athletes he never knew he had. He was given opportunities to work at summer sports camp and coaching in the parks and rec youth leagues beginning at Cleveland Elementary. Unfortunately or fortunately, Cleveland had a school coach so James jumped at the chance to coach multiple sports when the spot opened up at nearby Franklin Elementary.

In addition to coaching at Franklin Elementary, a young and eager James was called upon to work with young children in various capacities, not just in sports. "I always loved working at Franklin because I got to do a little bit of everything...teaching, coaching, assisting and learning from some of the best teachers in the area." While all those job duties were great, James always knew his passion for sports would steer him in the right direction.

That direction led him to start a grassroots club basketball team made up of over 95% Franklin students. James, along with his now wife of 15 years, Patty, began the "Tgop Franklin Eagles Club Bas-

ketball and Handball Teams". They wanted to start a program that would be affordable to any young athlete that wanted to compete at the highest level without the limitations of finances. He and his wife started a non-profit organization to help offset all the costs associated with playing club/travel sports.

The Franklin program became a huge success. Among many other tournament titles, their basketball teams won 4 national age group championships and their handball players won over 15 individual national titles, the most recent in 2008 and 2019, respectively.

While becoming a certified teacher and continuing his coaching at Franklin, a few former players pushed for James to join the high school coaching ranks. A bit reluctant because of time constraints, a spot coaching the freshmen team at Santa Barbara High School opened up, and

he took the job only to reunite with some of his former players. The new level of competition yielded the same results with Santa Barbara winning a share or outright league title in the competitive Channel League in all 4 years of his coaching tenure at SBHS. He is most proud of the fact that many of these young freshmen would eventually become CIF champs a couple of years later.

After coaching at SBHS for 4 years and assisting at Bishop Diego for 2 more seasons, James was given the reins to Bishop Diego as varsity head coach and leader of the Boys' Basketball Program. His first two seasons as head coach, Bishop quickly became contenders, finishing in 2nd twice in the Tri-Valley league. In addition, Bishop snapped a 57 league game winning streak of St. Bonaventure, defeating the powerhouse in 2017-18.

After 2 playoff exits, Bishop was headed for a rebuild in Coronado's 3rd season as the team graduated 13 players that school year. After a tough 2018-19 campaign, which saw 2 freshman and 2 sophomore starters all season, the rebuild had a quick turnaround when Coronado led a young Cardinal team to the CIF finals of the 2019-20 season. Although that team lost 62-60 on a buzzer beater, it led the core of the team to work harder the next 2 seasons which resulted in a historical championship season in 2021-22. The first ever CIF Boys' Basketball Championship in the school's history. Coronado has also led the Cardinals to California State Playoff tournament first round victories in 2020 and 2022. He is currently gearing up for his 7th season as Head Coach of Bishop Diego High School in 2022-23.

Throughout the years, James has received multiple awards. He was the Santa Barbara Independent Local Hero award recipient in 2004. He was selected as the World Pro Handball coach of the year in 2009, and United States Handball Association coach of the year in 2011. He received the Santa Barbara Roundtable Russ Hargreaves award winner in 2013. He is a 4-time Tri-Valley coach of the year, most recently in 2022 as well as CIF coach of the year in 2021-22.

James Coronado continues his passion for coaching and teaching in a myriad of roles including teaching 5th grade at Franklin, director of the basketball and handball programs for Tgop Franklin Eagles, head coach of the Bishop Diego Cardinals, as well as father of 6 children who, you guessed it, all play or played competitive basketball.

Bernard Hicks



Bernard Hicks, born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, played high school basketball and later, college basketball at Brooklyn College. He then came to California in September 1972 to play basketball at Hartnell College in Salinas, California, then came to Goleta in 1978 to attend UCSB, "My Lilly and I have 5 children, Maurice, Aisha, Khary, Noni and Jelani and we have been married 47 years." Bernard started volunteering at Goleta Boys Club in 1980, coaching basketball; in 1999 started working at the Westside Boys and Girls Club as Athletic Director, a total of fifteen years at the Club. He coached JV girls at Dos Pueblos High School for three seasons and then partnered with son Jelani starting the girls youth basketball program, DC -Dreamchasers. He has also served as Radio programmer at the UCSB radio station KCSB for more than thirty years, playing African music, Reggae music, Poetry, Spoken Word, Interviews and Social Commentary.

Jelani Hicks



HIGH SCHOOL:

2001-02: Varsity/Laguna Blanca. All conference
2002-03: Varsity/ Dos Pueblos. All League
2003-04: Varsity/DP. All league
2004-05: Varsity/Dp. All league
3X Athlete of the week.

COLLEGE PLAYING:

2005-06: Bakersfield college
2006-2009: Missouri Valley College

COACHING EXPERIENCE

Dos Pueblos:

2010-11: 18-12 (2nd round playoff birth)
2011-12: 18-12 (2nd round playoff birth, ranked 4th in CIF)

San Marcos Coaching Tenure:

Head Coach
2018-19: 14-9 (8-2 in Channel League)
2019-20: 18-10 (9-1 in Channel League)*
2020-21: 11-5 (10-0 in Channel League)*
2021-22: 19-11 (9-1 in Channel League)*

Assistant Coach

2017-2018: 27-7 (8-0 in Channel League)*, CIF CHAMPS
2016-2017: 19-9 (5-3 in Channel League)
*denotes Channel League Champs
36-4 Channel League record
3x Channel League Champs (back 2 back 2 back)
3x Coach of the year

Coaching Timeline:

2017- 2022- San Marcos High School boys varsity coach
2013- Present- Founder Dream Chaser Basketball
2010-2012- Dos Pueblo's High girls varsity coach
2009-present- player development coach

Started Dream Chaser Basketball in 2013 with my dad to help improve girls basketball in the area and help provide training and a platform to help players get to college and pro level. Helped place 20+ players in college.

David Jackson



David Jackson, known lovingly as “DJ” grew up in Santa Barbara, Ca. where he went to school at Franklin Elementary School, Santa Barbara Jr. High School, Santa Barbara High School and attended University of California Santa Barbara.

From 1974 – 1994 DJ served as the athletic director at the Santa Barbara Boys & Girls Club where he grew the athletic program.

From 1995 – 2004 DJ gave back to the community in Santa Barbara, establishing and coaching the Santa Barbara Youth Basketball All Star program for boys’ in the 6th, 7th & 8th grades. Joel Maloney, a longtime friend accompanied DJ throughout these youth programs as an asst. coach.

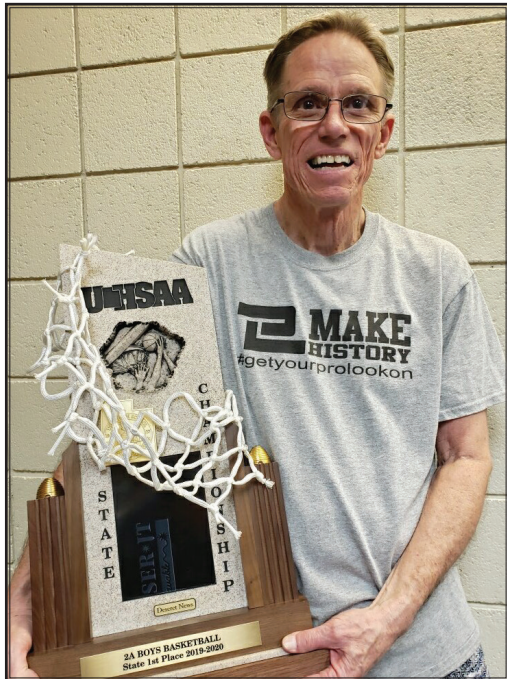
In 2016 DJ retired and moved to Prescott, AZ where he currently resides.

Jay Hillock



After 16 seasons with the Bulls Hillock retired from Chicago as director of pro personnel in 2020. Prior to joining the Bulls he spent two seasons with New York. Jay also scouted for Utah, Washington and Memphis. Hillock’s first venture into coaching was as a volunteer assistant under Ed DeLacy at Santa Barbara City College. In his second season at SBCC Hillock became a salaried assistant. Santa Barbara had a record of 62-6 in those two seasons and lost to Cypress in the state championship game. Hillock joined Dan Fitzgerald’s staff at Gonzaga as an assistant in the summer of ’79. Prior to the 81-82 season, he was elevated to the head coaching position. The Zags posted a four year record of 60-50 under Hillock. At Gonzaga he coached all-time great John Stockton. Stockton carried the Zags to several wins during his collegiate career. In the spring of ’85 Jay moved on to Loyola Marymount as the top assistant. The LMU team featured Hank Gathers and Bo Kimble running Paul Westhead’s fast break system. LMU advanced to the elite eight in the ’90 NCAA tournament. When Westhead left LMU in ’90, Hillock was elevated to the head coaching position. In his two seasons at LMU Hillock finished 2nd and 3rd in conference play. He has a career record of 91 wins and 78 losses. Jay played for San Marcus High School coached by Maury Halleck. The Royals were 24 and 5 and advanced to the round of eight in the CIF tournament in ’67. Hillock graduated from Gonzaga in ’71 and earned a Master’s Degree from Cal Poly in ’75. Jay and his wife, Cindy, reside in Ventura, Ca.

Joe Hillock



Due to the rapid growth in the Goleta valley Joe attended, Cathedral Oaks, Goleta Union, Fairview and Kellogg elementary schools. After Kellogg Joe attended Goleta Valley Junior High School. At this time Joe became a lifelong member of the Goleta Boy's Club. After graduating from junior high school Joe attended Dos Pueblos High School where he played basketball for Don Volpi and graduated in 1970. Joe attended Santa Barbara City College playing basketball for Ed DeLacy. He received his undergraduate degree from Southern Utah University.

Joe received his post graduate degree from Gonzaga University.

Joe loved playing sports but his passion was basketball.

He started coaching at an early age, Coach Don Volpi needed a summer freshman coach to help with practices and to coach games, so senior Joe Hillock said yes.

While at Santa Barbara City College Joe worked part time

at the Goleta Boy's Club and was an assistant coach to Sal Rodriquez, with the Boy's Club traveling team.

In 1975 while attending Southern Utah University Joe was named assistant coach at Cedar City High School. Cedar City won the State Championship that year.

In 1976 Joe was named the Head Women's basketball and softball coach at Southern Utah University. Softball won the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference and participated in the NAIA western regional.

Joe then moved on to Milford High School leading the team to the State Finals in 1978.

In 1979 Joe followed his brother Jay and became a graduate assistant at Gonzaga University, moving to full time assistant two years later. Joe stayed at Gonzaga until 1991 when he moved to Loyola Marymount University.

In 1993 he moved back to southern Utah and took over the Milford High school program for the second time.

Joe was named the Head Women's coach at now Division I Southern Utah University In the summer of 1996 a position he held until 2006. Joe is the winningest women's basketball coach in Southern Utah University history.

In 2008 Joe joined Ben Howland's staff at UCLA as director of basketball operations.

In 2011 Joe returned to the Southern Utah area and took over a struggling Beaver High basketball program where he continues to coach today. In Joe's 11 years at Beaver, they have had 10 winning seasons. Joe's teams have won 2 Utah State Championships (2018 & 2020).

Joe has been named the Art Hughes 2A coach of the year twice and in 2018 was named the National Federation of High Schools, State of Utah BASKETBALL COACH of THE YEAR.

Joe and his wife Denise have 3 children, Joe Jr. (wife Christy), Heather (husband Todd) & Jordan, 6 grandchildren, Tanley, Conner, Avery, Houston, Jonah & Emily.

In November Joe and Denise will celebrate their 45th Wedding anniversary.

Larry Lesett



I am incredibly touched, honored and humbled to be included in the great group of men and women in the Santa Barbara Court of Champions. I must mention that all of my success in basketball starts with Sal Rodriguez. Without the Goleta Boy's and Girl's Club and Sal's guidance and encouragement to follow my dreams I would never had been able to accomplish what I have in my playing and coaching career. This is true for so many children who have passed thru the doors of the Club. Sal is also responsible for turning out 4 Division I head coaches.

I would also like to thank the late Maury Halleck, whom without I would not have had a magical senior season, and is directly responsible for starting my coaching career.

My greatest joy in coaching has been my relationships with my players, and their trust and belief in me. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than watching them succeed and hearing their kind words. I treasure every stop in my career journey as a player and coach. I would sincerely like to thank the committee for including me in the Court of Champions.

- Born and raised in Santa Barbara
- Graduated San Marcos High School 1977, Bachelor's from Cal State Northridge 1983, Master's from Georgia College 1991
- Channel League scoring and assist champion 1977
- San Marcos Most Valuable Player 1977
- First Team All Channel League 1977
- Head coach ARC National Champions 1983
- Assistant Coach: Loyola Marymount 1986-1987, Mercer University 1994-1996
- Head Coach LA Pro Am college division summer league 1988
- Head Coach LA Pierce Junior College 1987
- Head Coach NBA Summer League and Magic Johnson's NBA Summer League team 1999, 2000
- Head coach Division I University of Maryland Eastern Shore 2004-2007
- Head coach ABA Manchester Millrats 2008
- Head coach LNBP Potros Itson 2009-2010
- Associate head coach CIBACOPA Guaymas 2014
- Head coach LNBP Zacatecas 2017
- Assistant coach CIBACOPA Tijuana 2019, 2022



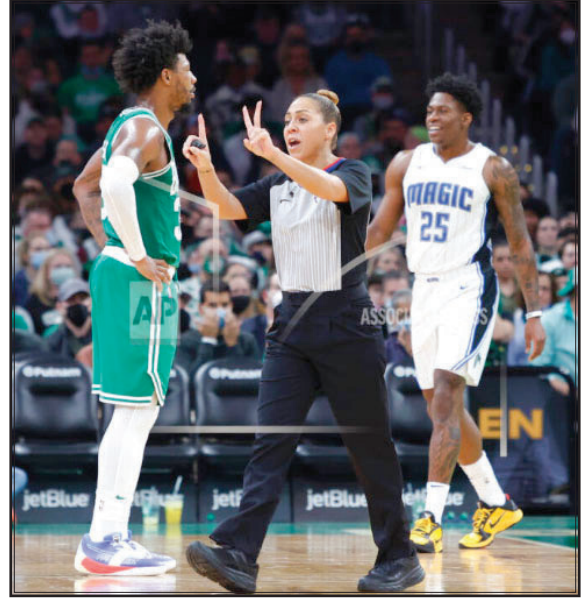
NBA Legend Jerry West and "GodFather of Santa Barbara Basketball" Bill Bertka

Kim Kjar



- Santa Barbara Native
- Graduated SBHS 1985
- Business owner 1990-2009
- Athletic Director Boys & Girls Club Santa Barbara 2004-2019
- Head Coach Director Santa Barbara Ballers 2001-2021
- Jam on It AAU West Coast Champions 2017
- Asst Head Coach SBHS 2010-2016
- CIF Champions 2016

Sha'Rae Mitchell



Born in Provo, UT and grew up in Sacramento, CA. She grew up watching John Stockton and the Utah Jazz with her dad and older brother. Lettered in 6 sports in high school and graduated with a 4.3 grade point average. Proudly proclaimed self-recruited to UC Santa Barbara. While there went to 3 NCAA tournaments, 4 Big West Championships, made the 2nd All-Team Big West and received the UCSB Phil Womble Courage Award. Graduating with double majors. Taught by the master Coach Mark French and took his teachings into life.

Started coaching the local Santa Barbara Blazers AAU girls basketball program her sophomore year at UCSB. Knew then she wanted to coach basketball. Coached at Providence High School in Santa Barbara, interned at Stanford University where the women's basketball team made it to the final 4, left there and went to UCLA for 2 seasons before heading to Coastal Carolina in Myrtle Beach, SC for a season.

In 2014 she left coaching to have her twins, Elle and Elijah. After spending a year home with her babies she was introduced to refereeing. In her 2nd season of refereeing she was advanced to the California high school state championship game and picked up in the collegiate ranks. This includes refereeing in the PAC-12, WCC, WAC, Big West, and Big Sky. During that season she was scouted and recruited to join the NBA's developmental league, the G-league, as a referee. Since she has worked her way up to the crew chief position and placed in the G-league playoffs. Last season she got pulled up to work mid-season NBA games and hired full time by the WNBA.

Basketball has always been a place of peace, and refuge, and solace for her. She is forever thankful for the places that basketball has taken her and will continue to take her. A proud basketball triple-threat; always moved and motivated by the desire, drive and passion to be better and make those around her better.

David Palmer



Born and raised in Santa Barbara, David Palmer, Jr. grew up playing ball with his older brother and friends. He was part of the Santa Barbara High School Dons basketball team that brought that school their 1991 CIF title after their last appearance in the finals since 1935!

Dave followed that huge win by bringing a State Championship to Ventura College's Pirates in 1995.

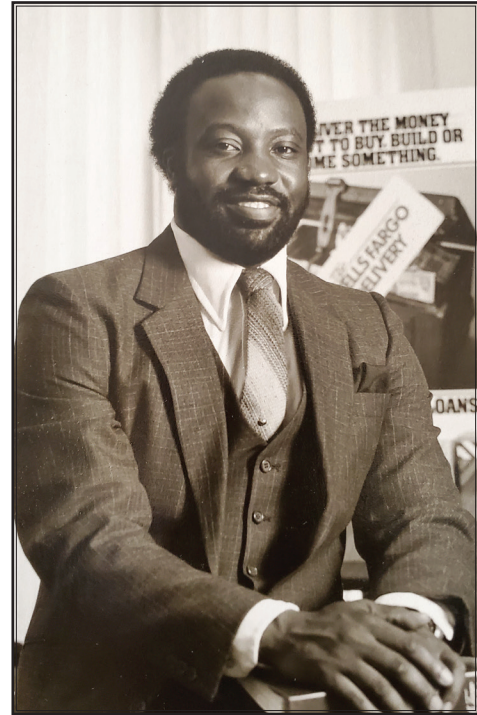
After college, David played for Fuerza Guinda Nogales, Mexico before returning to Santa Barbara to begin his coaching career.

He worked for Michael Jordan and Kobe Bryant at their respective local camps while building his Santa Barbara Vipers Basketball Club.

“To watch this organization grow from the ground up has been a very humbling experience for me. I strive to teach the kids the fundamentals of the game so they can grow into serious high school players, and good young men and women. To see it all come together has been a wonderful experience personally and for the teams year after year. I couldn't be more proud of my players and this organization. Coaching, you really don't do it for the money, you do it for the love, or for the community, and for the kids.”

David dedicates this award to the mentorship and loving guidance of his father, David Palmer, Sr.

Robert Thompson



- Born on a cotton plantation in Farrell, Mississippi
- December 1962 moved to Santa Barbara with my parents and seven siblings
- Married for 43 years to my wife Gwendolyn, we have one son, Justin and one grandson, Jace
- First played basketball at the Santa Barbara Boys Club under the famed Donnie Yee
- 1970 & 71 varsity basketball at SBHS alongside Jamal Wilkes, Don Ford and David Jackson
- 1970 & 71 varsity baseball at SBHS alongside Booker Brown and Eddie Bowman
- 1971 to 75 varsity baseball at Westmont College on a baseball/academic scholarship
- Graduated from Westmont in 1975 with a double major in Sociology and Business/Economics
- Five years at Wells Fargo Bank as a Business Banking Officer
- Five years at the Santa Barbara Boys and Girls Club as the Club Director
- Twenty one years at the Goleta Boys and Girls Club as the Athletic Director
- A total of 26 years with the Boys and Girls Club mentoring and coaching thousands of youth in the Santa Barbara/Goleta area
- Currently I am semi-retired, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, along with volunteering at my church

Matt Sanchez



by Nick Welsh, *Santa Barbara Independent*

Matt Sanchez, the former Eastside gang leader who spent the past 20 years working to provide at-risk teens an alternative to the gang life, died Wednesday from complications stemming from liver and kidney problems.

By day, Sanchez ran Montecito Barbers, but in the rest of his time he played a founding role with such organizations as All for One and Hoods in the Woods that target young men drawn to the gang scene. His agenda was not just to take at-risk kids out of their environment and show them some place new — like a camping trip to the Sierras — but to take them with members of rival gangs. Such trips, however, came only after much mentoring, counseling, and talking.

What made young gang members listen was Sanchez's own personal history. As a teen in the 1970s, Sanchez, a bear of a man with slicked-back black hair, was a shot-caller with an Eastside gang, and his role in that regard has since become the stuff of urban legend. Many a retired cop has war stories of chasing Sanchez and his brother all over town. While his brother accidentally shot himself playing Russian roulette, Sanchez wound up addicted to heroin and spending nearly four years behind bars in various lockups. He would also join the Marines and kick his addiction.

When gang activity began to spike in the early 1990s, Sanchez emerged as a key player in the response to find solutions other than incarceration. He worked closely with former city councilmember Babatunde Fodayemi — also recently deceased — and the Pro-Youth Coalition, helping to create the Hoods in the Woods program. Later, he would start All for One. Those efforts were given fresh urgency after a 14-year-old Eastsider stabbed a 15-year-old Westsider to death on State Street by Saks Fifth Avenue five years ago.

As gang violence became more of a community concern, city officials pushed for stricter law enforcement. But others in the community, like Sanchez, called for different options and other approaches. When South Coast movers and shakers sought to assemble a team of major players to form the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs, Sanchez was at the top of everyone's list. He was a central figure in community discussions and debates over gang violence.

In this dialog, Sanchez displayed rare endurance and longevity. He managed to be blunt and very direct but without being personal. In 2000, Sanchez was awarded the California Peace Prize by the California Wellness Foundation, along with the likes of the more nationally famous Father Gregory Boyle of Los Angeles. With that award, he was also given \$25,000.

In recent years, Sanchez and his family have been beset by a host of problems. He himself weathered a bout with cancer, and his barbershop burned down. And his parents were victimized by notorious scam artist Denise D'Sant Angelo, who persuaded them she could help prevent them from losing their home to foreclosure. Not only did the Sanchezes lose their home, but they lost thousands of dollars to D'Sant Angelo as well. Despite such hardships, Sanchez took delight during his last months in riding the Harley-Davidson his son bought him.

Kent Wojciechoski



I started off this wonderful life journey by being blessed to have wonderful parents. I was raised in Moorpark, California in a home that was surrounded by love and giving back to the community, from my father being the Little League Coach, the league President and the parent that would pick up any child that needed a ride to and from practice. My mother was the team mom on every team or activity, that either myself or my sisters were involved in. This is where I learned the passion for giving back to the community, and sports being my direction in life. Growing up in Moorpark, the city was limited on the number of kids that could or wanted to participate in high school athletics. I played football, baseball and basketball, but at 6'11" in my junior year, I knew my sport was going to ultimately be basketball. As a freshman, I started on the Varsity team and never looked back. During my high school days, our team won the Tri-Valley League, and I was chosen to partici-

pate in the All-County team and was the MVP. During all of this, I knew it was not just me, it was about the team!

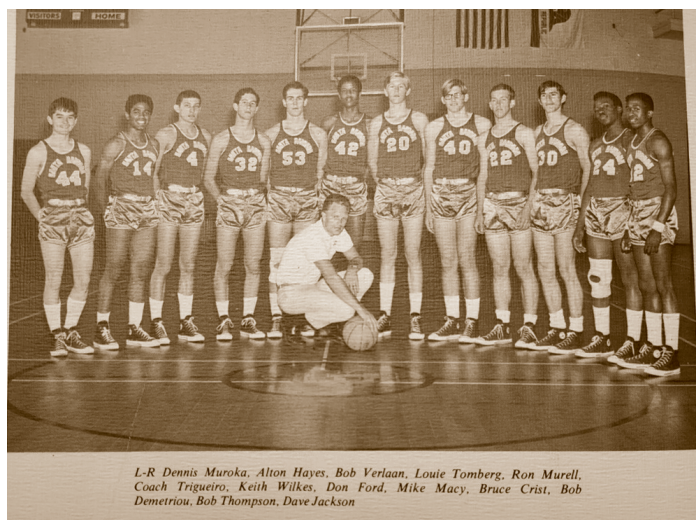
Being 6'11", I was recruited by over 100 Colleges and Universities, and I ultimately chose to attend Texas Tech University, in Lubbock, Texas. Being in college, and now playing at a level that I had never seen before was difficult. At that level, I was a small fish in a huge pond, but I quickly found how I could be an asset to the team as a role player. I was playing against players like Akeem Olajuwon and the "Phi Slama Jama", Sam Perkins, Joe Klein, Jon Koncak, and that little unknown player, Michael Jordan. During my time at Texas Tech, our team won the Southwest Conference; I played in 3 NCAA Tournaments and was ranked in the top 20 several times.

After college, I played in the European league for a season, but I returned home to raise my two daughters, Anna and Jennifer, which was my priority in life! I'm married to the love of my life, Erin, and from the first day I saw her, I knew we would be together. Fast forward to 1990, I was working for a healthcare business, but I know I needed a long-term job with good pay and benefits, because that is what my parents drilled into our heads. I never thought I would go into a Law Enforcement career, but I'm so glad I did. It was a great job, and I worked with and for some amazing people and that gave me the opportunity to work with the Santa Barbara community. In 1999, I was asked by S.B. Police Chief Breza to find a youth program that Police Officers could get involved with the community. I founded the Santa Barbara Police Activities League and created football teams, basketball leagues, and a Teen Center that is located at 1235 Chapala Street. The most exciting part of this program is to see kids that had life struggles, not only succeed, but become amazing leaders in the Santa Barbara Community.

Again, I have been blessed!

SANTA BARBARA BASKETBALL COURT OF CHAMPION INDUCTED TEAMS

- 2014 Santa Maria Dukes Professional Team-NIBL 1947-1954
- 2015 San Marcos HS Runnin Royals 1981-83
- 2016 Westmont College Women's National NAIA Champions-2012-13
- 2017 Santa Barbara HS Dons Boys-2016-17
- 2018 UCSB Gaucho Women-1991-92
- 2019 Santa Barbara Islanders Professional Team-1989-90
- 2020 Laguna Blanca HS Boys-1991-92
- 2021 Westmont College Women's National NAIA Champions-2020-21
- 2022 Santa Barbara HS Dons-Boys-1970-71



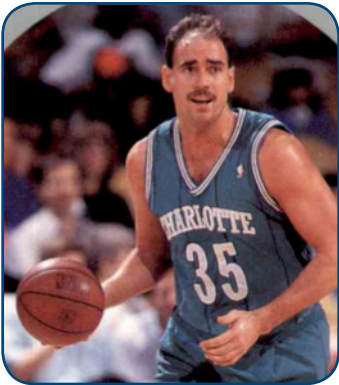
L-R Dennis Muroka, Alton Hayes, Bob Verlaan, Louie Tomberg, Ron Murell, Coach Trigueiro, Keith Wilkes, Don Ford, Mike Macy, Bruce Crist, Bob Demetriou, Bob Thompson, Dave Jackson

Class of 2021

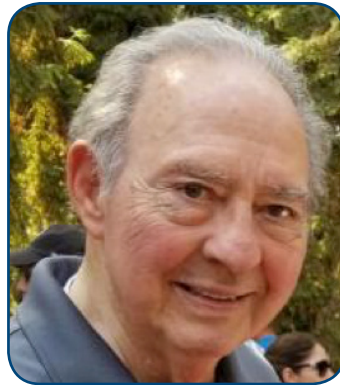


Deron Carbajal, George Schnackenberg, Ryan Reed, Sarah Grieve Miller, Butch Breeden, Cathy Caudillo, Ann Latham, Rich Medel, Brad Jay, Jacob Ranger, Henry Gonzales, Matt Ruiz, Kevin Kenney, Coastal View News

Class of 2020



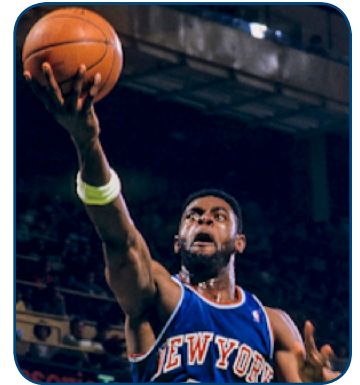
Richard Anderson



George Chelini



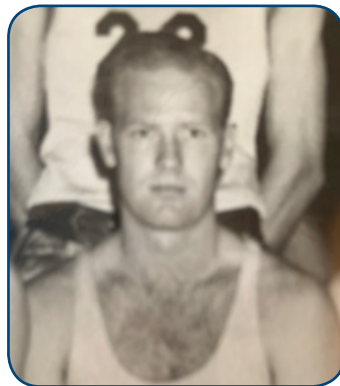
Bob McCutcheon



Chris McNealy



Pat Moore



Quentin Sims



Mekia Valentine

Class of 2019



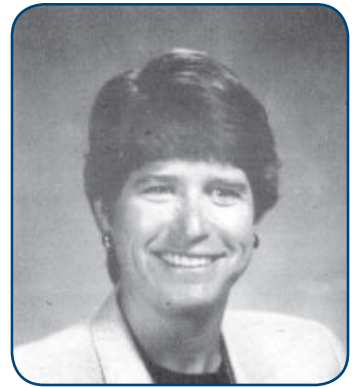
Sonny Allen



Sampson Brue Jr.



Keith Closs



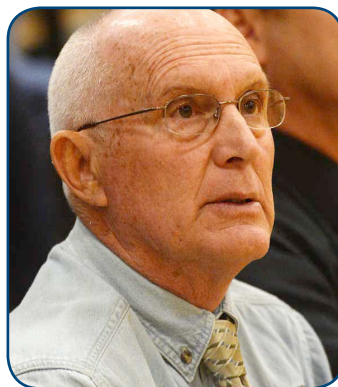
Linda Dawson



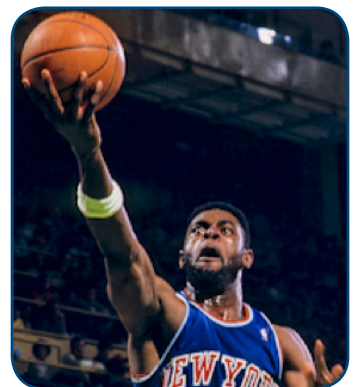
Leslie Ford Grieve



Herb Livsey

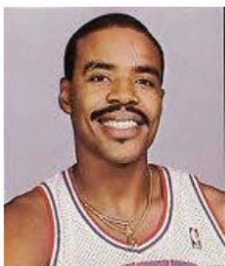


Joe Vaughan



Chris McNealy

Class of 2018



Ron Anderson



Tom Byron



Mort Hill



Shirley Otto



Doug Rex

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.

Class of 2016



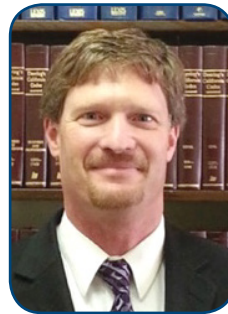
Jeff Azain



Dave Bregante



Erin Buscher-Perperoglou



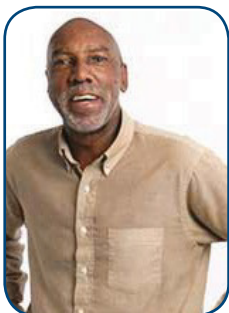
Eric Burkhardt



Jerry Harwin



Conner Henry



Cliff Lambert



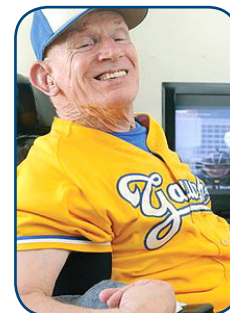
Shantay Legans



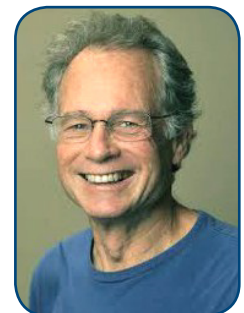
Jo Ann Reck



Kristi Rohr-Taylor



Phil Womble



John Zant

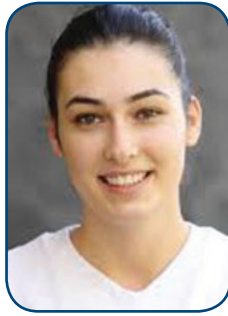
Class of 2015



Sam Battistone



Barb Beainy



Tuğçe Canitez



Frank Carbajal



Jay Carty



Cori Close



Bruce Coldren



Jin Eyn



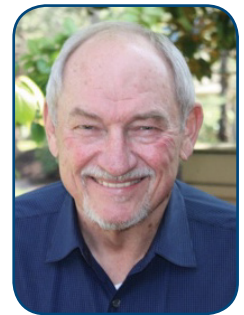
Chet Kammerer



Gerry Karczewski



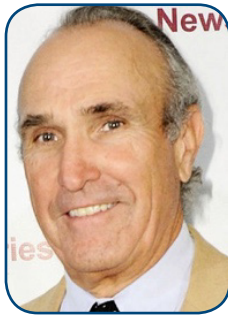
Jon Korfas



Doug Little



Randy Pfund



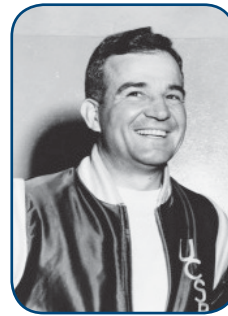
Ron Shelton



Gene Snyder

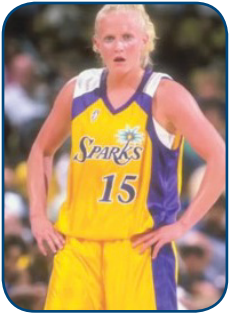


Lowell Steward

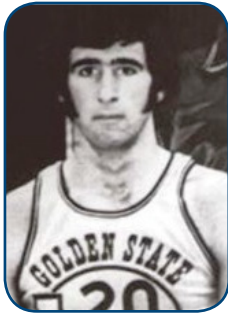


Willie Wilton

Class of 2014



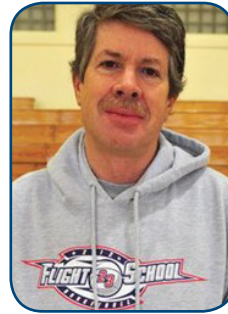
Erin Alexander-Brown



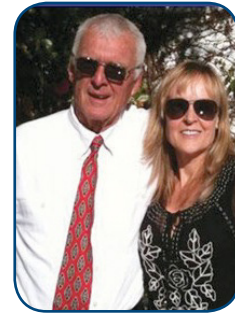
Vic Bartolome



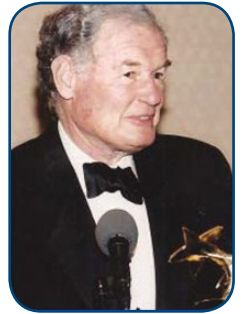
Bill Bertka



Andrew Butcher



Gary Colson



Larry Crandell



Gary Cunningham



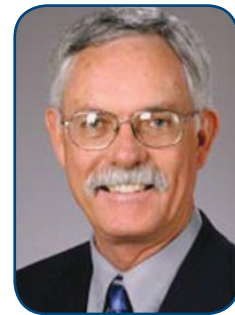
Carrick Dehart



Holly Ford
Emerson



Don Ford



Mark French



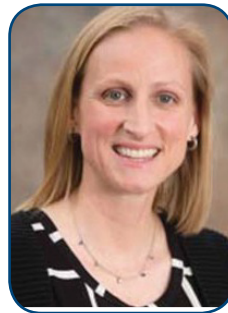
Maury Halleck



Ben Howland



John Moore



Kristen Moore



Phil Patton



Jerry Pimm



Sal Rodriguez



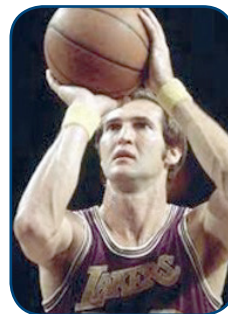
Brian Shaw



Jack Trigueiro



Don Volpi



Jerry West



Jamaal Wilkes

Resolute

Insurance Services
CA License #6004055

Offering:

Workers Compensation Coverage

Business Owner & General Liability Coverage

Group Health

Group Ancillary Products (Dental, Vision, Accident & Life Insurance)

Our focus is Workers Compensation Coverage

We will assist in reducing your premium cost with:

- On staff attorney to address any claim removal and reserve reduction issues
- Workers Comp Business Consultation
- Brochure: 300 Tips to Reducing Workers Compensation Costs
- Annual Policy Review and Quoting to be sure your business has the lowest premium pricing and best coverage for your business.



Contact:
Robert Simon
CA License #0G51578
(805) 637-6229
rob@resoluteinsurance.biz

A TESTIMONIAL FROM ONE OF OUR CO-FOUNDERS



Kevin O'Connor - Co-Founder

I've been fighting high insurance rates for the last 36 years and even became a lobbyist against abusive rates in the early 1990's.

I wrote a book titled "300 tips to reduce your worker's compensation rates"

I co-founded Resolute Insurance Services Inc. out of a desire to share my 36 years of knowledge and help privately owned businesses pay the very least amount possible for their business insurance.

We offer free consulting and attorney assistance to partner with you in your fight against old claims, high mod rates and high reserves.

Resolute Insurance Services Inc. is a full service insurance company that will truly fight for you and become your partner in the endeavor to obtain low cost, high quality insurance for your business.

Why would you use anyone else.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin O'Connor".

Kevin O'Connor, Founder and CFO