



# SANTA BARBARA COURT OF CHAMPIONS

## PHIL WOMBLE | 2016 INDUCTEE



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Phil Womble was born on September 4, 1936, with cerebral palsy. His father, a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy, instilled in him a love of sports. When he became a resident of Santa Barbara's Hillside House in 1962, Phil started following local sports in the newspaper. In 1969, he became actively involved in UCSB athletics as the official historian of the baseball team. He

regularly attended basketball as well as baseball games and became known as "Gaucho Phil."

Phil's interests extended to all sports in Santa Barbara. When the San Marcos Royals won 26 straight basketball games in 1980-81, Phil made the journey to Los Angeles to support them in their quest for a CIF title.

In 1990, Phil moved into an independent living situation. He was familiar sight motoring around town in his wheelchair and showing up at games. He wrote a book, titled "Never Give Up," encouraging people with disabilities to stay positive and engage in life. He follows his own advice.

Phil entered the "Special Achievement" wing of the Santa Barbara Athletic Round Table Hall of Fame in 1994. UCSB inducted him into the Gaucho Athletic Hall of Fame in 2005. The biggest honor was yet to come. In 2008, the Hall of Fame display area in UCSB's Intercollegiate Athletics Building was dedicated as the Phil Womble Hall of Champions.