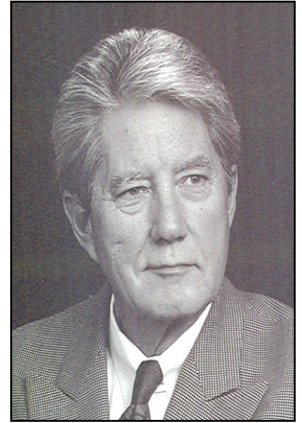


Jim Santos

2010 Pacific Association Legacy Coach Award Recipient

Coach Jim Santos has been involved with track and field as a coach and administrator for more than 50 years enhancing the opportunities of his athletes and fellow coaches to attain their personal goals in the areas of sport and track and field. Jim was the former 1980 United States Men's Olympic Track and Field Coach serving as the field events coach in the jumps and throws. As a track coach at Cal State Hayward in the 70's Coach Santos became the first collegiate coach in the country to win both a women's and men's national collegiate championship winning the AIAW National Track and Field Title in 1973, and the NCAA Division II National Track and Field Championships in 1977. In 2005 Coach Santos was elected to the United States Track and Field Coaches Hall of Fame for his success as a high school and collegiate track and field coach spanning over 40 years of league, regional and national titles.



Starting in 1984, Jim served in Washington DC as the Director of Athletics for Special Olympics International, directing two International Special Olympics Games, serving more than 150 countries and one million athletes with an intellectual disability. Santos went on to then serve Special Olympics for fourteen more years as the Family Director, developing family programs for more than 5 million family members of special needs children and adults around the world.

As the former head track coach at the Bloom Township High School in Chicago Heights, Illinois from 1967-1969 Jim's track teams produced some of America's most influential sports professionals who have had a direct impact and influence on track and field today. Jan Johnson, pole vaulter for coach Santos went on to win an NCAA National title and winning the 1972 Olympic Bronze medal. Today Jan serves as the Director for USATF Pole Vault Safety. Assistant coach Steve Miller moved on to be the head track and field coach at Cal Poly SLO, Kansas State, and then was named the Global Marketing Director for Nike. John Capriotti ran for coach at Bloom, and he too developed into a most successful coach at Kansas State, then became the track and field director for Nike, and now holds the position as Nike Global Marketing Director.

At Cal State Hayward, Jim's former assistant coaches look like a Who's Who in American and International Track and Field. Marcel Hetu served as the Olympic Coach for Saudi Arabia while taking over the head coaching position when Jim left for Washington DC. Coach Don Chu served as the head track and field coach at Hayward, and Don then became the President of the National Strength and Conditioning Association, and Olympic Strength Coach for the Women's Synchronized Swimming Team winning the Olympic Bronze Medal in 2004. Dr. Harmon Brown served as the throws coach for Jim at Hayward, and went on to become one of the most influential coaches and administrators for women's track and field for the USATF, and was the Olympic Track and Field Coach serving in 1992. Chiaki Miyakawa was an assistant coach for Santos in 1981, on an internship program between the United States and Japan. Chiaki went on to serve as the Head Track and Field Coach for Japan for three Olympic Games.

As a coach, Jim was responsible for the development of girls track and field in the state of Oregon. His girls team at the Lebanon High School produced five USA Track and Field National Champions: established eleven national records, one Olympic Gold Medal and one Bronze Olympic Medal from his team of 1966.

Jim has had many titles and honors over the years, but his rewards are seeing the development and success that his former coaches and athletes have had, and the influence that his students and associates have had on American track and field. Coach Santos' legacy is the thousands of children, high school students, collegiate athletes and associate coaches who have made a difference in the sports world today.