

2013 PA Legacy Coach Award Recipients

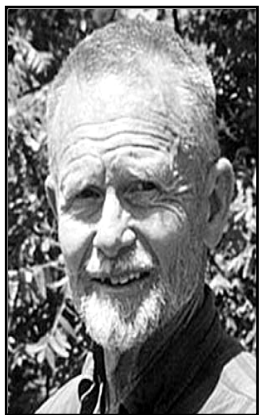
The Legacy Coach Award has been initiated by the Pacific Association's Coaches Committee in recognition of the many influential coaches who have served in our association, and have selflessly strengthened our sport(s) through teaching, mentoring, and promoting our profession. Criterion is weighted heavily on coaches who were not only great coaches, but who also inspired and trained/mentored many of us to become coaches ourselves. Previous recipients are: Jim Hunt (Humboldt State), Jim Santos (Hayward State), Bud Winter (San José State), Margaret Dixon (Oakland PAL), and Walt Lange, (Jesuit HS).

Kirk Freitas (*Chico State*):



One of the most beloved coaches in the history of Chico State athletics, men's track and field coach Kirk Freitas oversaw Chico State's men's and women's track and field programs for 33 years from 1979 to 1998. The results were astounding. The men's track and field team has won nine consecutive California Collegiate Athletic Association titles and has been ranked in the top 30 nationally each of the last 11 seasons, including four consecutive top-10 finishes from 2007 to 2010. He's coached 64 individual CCAA champions, 47 All-Americans and six NCAA champions during that time.

Throughout his tenure he has taught, trained, mentored and, most importantly, genuinely cared for the student-athletes who chose Chico State. His network of alumni, friends and colleagues know he poured his heart and soul into this program for the past 33 years. His legacy reaches beyond the student-athletes he coached to colleagues within and outside the Acker hallways. "Freit" also coached and mentored many of California's top coaches who include Oliver Hanf - Butte JC, and now Head Men's Coach at Chico State, Gary Towne - Head XC/Asst. Track Chico State, Rob Dewar - former assistant at CSU Stanislaus, UC Davis, and now head Men's coach at Sacramento CC, Robert Nooney - Head Women's Coach Chico State, Brian Beeman - Asst. Track Coach Chico State, Carlos Suarez - Head Coach at College of Marin, Kyle Robinson - Head Coach Chabot College, and David Wellman - Head Coach Santa Rosa Junior College, in addition to countless others whom he influenced to continue to contribute to our sport. This is Kirk Freitas's legacy as he enters into retirement as an assistant coach at Butte College in Chico.



Ed Parker (*Mills HS and Millbrae Lions TC*)- posthumously

Coach Ed Parker personified what good coaching is about: Dedication, confidence building, analytical intelligence, and a respect for individuals. Parker affected many lives positively during his 30 years coaching at Mills HS and the Millbrae Lions TC from 1960 to 1995, including many athletes who were not even accomplished athletes but nonetheless to whom he showed respect and inspired by his example. He was a respected leader in track and field coaching, and was sought out by elite athletes from around the country. Parker was in the 1960's and 70's one of the nation's leading women track and field coaches and his honors included serving as the 1964 U.S. Olympic 1964 Women's Pentathlon coach, while coaching Olympians in approximately 8 consecutive Olympic Games from 1964 to 1992. Notable former

athletes or assistant coaches who have gone onto either coach or contribute to our sports include Pat Connolly, Leslie Maxie, Marilyn King, Jim Hume, Dick Connors, Matt Freidman, and Dave Shrock. Coach Parker retired to the Sacramento Valley and he continued to coach the pole vault at Carmichael's Jesuit HS until his passing in 2009. The stadium at his beloved Mills High School was named in his honor in 2010.

A tireless organizer of clinics and AAU coaching education schools, Coach Parker's legacy will be known as a man of the highest character who touched countless lives.