



## 2019 Pacific Association Legacy Coach Award Recipient

*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), Walt Lange, (Jesuit HS), Kirk Freitas (Chico State), Ed Parker (Millbrae Lions TC), Darrell Hampton (Oscar Bailey TC-Berkeley HS), and Willie White (Berkeley HS, Berkeley East Bay TC and Cal State Hayward), Will Pitman (3M Youth TC), and Lee Webb (Logan HS-Mission Valley Youth TC).*

### Ken Grace - Chabot College, Hayward



It is the Pacific Association Coaches Committee's honor to award Chabot College Coach Ken Grace Legacy Coach of the Year Award for his decades of service to our sports in the Pacific Association.

Ken Grace started coaching track and field at Chabot College the spring of 1980 while finishing his master's degree at Stanford. In the fall of 1980 Ken began teaching at Las Positas College (then called Valley Campus) and began his career as a cross country coach at City College of San Francisco. While at City College of San Francisco Ken annually hosted the Lou Vasquez Cross Country Invitational in Golden Gate Park. One year, Olympic Coach Dr. Joe Vigil was brought in to present a free clinic on distance training to all interested coaches the night before the meet. While at CCSF Ken was

named 1992 California Community College Coach of the Year in Cross Country and in 1995 the California Community College Coach of the Year in Track and Field. From 1993 thru 1995 Ken represented the California Community College Track and Cross Country Coaches as President at all the CCCAA Intercollegiate Athletic Association forums.

In 1994 Ken was named the distance coach for the winning West Team for the USA Olympic Festival in St. Louis, MO. In 1996 Ken was the Assistant Supervisor of the warm-up track (Cheney Stadium) for both USA Olympic Trials and the Olympic Games in Atlanta. In 2000 and 2004 Ken supervised the warm-up track at Hornet Stadium in Sacramento for the USA Olympic Trials.

In 1985 Ken become as certified USA Track and Field level 1 coach and the following year became a level 1 lead instructor. Since 1996 Ken, along with Dr. Dave Shrock, have hosted a Level 1 Coaches School at Chabot College. To date over 1200 coaches have gone through their schools. In 1992 Ken become a certified level 2 coach in both the jumps and endurance. In July of 1995 Ken changed positions and became the Dean of Athletics and Physical Education at Chabot College. During this time, until 2010, Ken hosted the Chabot College Summer All Comer's Track Meet Series. In the Fall of 1998, due to an administrative restructuring at the district, Ken returned to the classroom as a teacher and to the track as a coach. Grace said "It was the greatest move that ever happened to me".

As a teacher/coach, Ken takes great joy in seeing people improve and succeed. In fact, Ken relates that in forty years of coaching he only had three people not improve...and of the three one was sick and when we corrected the ailment, she got back to where she was. During his time Ken has coached numerous conference, NorCal and state champions at both the JC and High School levels. He has had several national champions, an Olympic Trials qualifier and a US team member for the World Cross Country Championships.

Throughout his teaching and coaching career Ken has encouraged athletes to give back to the sport. Following this philosophy here are a few of Ken's kids giving back in the coaching and teaching realm: Jim Bloomer – South Eugene High, Denise Leo – Washington High, Danny Camacho – Balboa High, Lisa Lopez – Antioch High, Michael Smith – Silverado High, Dino Antonio – Balboa High, Adam Luccarelli – City College of San Francisco, Kyle Robinson – Chabot College, Paul Castle, Michelle Noeth – Los Altos, Kevin Stang – Dublin High, Michael Taylor – Kentfield, Matt Omelagah, Ben Greenbaum – Moreau High & Chabot, Ben Vose - Washington High, Evangela Dixon – Chabot College, Moni Singh, Don Aguiar – Ponderosa High, Jadhi Bolds – Mission San Jose, Saul Raygoza – Rio Linda, Abe Espinoza – Rio Linda, Willie Latin – Chico High, Nate Moore, Quincey James, James Jackson – Dublin High School.

These are just a few of the people Ken is most proud of.