



10932 PINE ST.
LOS ALAMITOS, CA 90720
(562) 493-9500

WWW.CIFSS.ORG

THOM SIMMONS
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
THOMS@CIFSS.ORG

ALEXANDRA LAGOS
PROGRAM
COORDINATOR
ALEXL@CIFSS.ORG

PRESS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA INTERSCHOLASTIC FEDERATION SOUTHERN SECTION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE: #4

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CIF SOUTHERN SECTION ANNOUNCES **41st HALL OF FAME CLASS**

LOS ALAMITOS, CA – The CIF Southern Section is proud to announce the 41st class of inductees into the section Hall of Fame.

Eight impressive and deserving educators will be honored at a luncheon at The Grand Conference Center in Long Beach on Tuesday, October 21 starting at 11:30 a.m.

Additionally, five outstanding individuals will be honored with a CIF Southern Section Distinguished Service Award for years of dedicated contributions toward the student-athletes of the CIF-SS.

“It will be an honor to induct the class of 2025 into the CIF Southern Section Hall of Fame and to recognize our Distinguished Service Award winners,” said CIF Southern Section Commissioner of Athletics Mike West. “Our Hall of Fame inductees have set a standard of excellence over their career that is matched by few. And our Distinguished Service Award recipients have demonstrated tremendous support for education-based athletics throughout their career” added West. “We are proud of each and every one of them.”

Media members interested in attending must RSVP by Thursday, October 16 to Alex Lagos (alexl@cifss.org).

CIF SOUTHERN SECTION DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS – 2024-2025

Randy Bell

Randy Bell's leadership and dedication make him an exceptional selection for this award. He consistently credits those behind the scenes, always mentioning his Athletic Office Assistant, Amanda, first. He is consistently present and supportive. In critical moments, whether involving student injuries or complex incidents, Schools always trusted Randy to resolve matters effectively. His ability to "Always Be There" is an invaluable quality that will be missed. League Manager Valle Vista League 2023-2024, League CIF Rep (12 years), League Manager (the league Monrovia HS was in- he did it for 15 years there), Athletic Admin Advisory Committee since 2015.

Joe Conte, Sr.

Joe Conte, Sr., was around sports all his life either as a player, coach, or official. Joe started his officiating career in 1969, working football, basketball, and baseball games. In addition to these sports, he officiated softball and volleyball. Joe was one of the founding fathers of the San Gabriel Valley football, basketball, and baseball units. During his career, Joe has served as president of the San Gabriel Valley football, basketball, baseball, and softball units. Joe is the past Instructional Chairman of the San Gabriel Valley Football Unit; a position he has held for more than 10 years. Along with these duties, Joe was also the CIF Liaison for San Gabriel Valley, the Past President of the California Football Official Association, and Past Secretary for the California Basketball Officials Association. In his 43 years of officiating, Joe gained the respect of not only his partners but of the many coaches, athletic directors, and spectators.



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Dave Farmer

At 90 years young, Dave Farmer continues to inspire as one of the CIF Southern Section's most dedicated officials—and is believed to be the oldest active high school referee in the nation. A graduate of the University of Redlands in 1956, Dave built a lifelong career as a teacher, coach, and official. He taught physical education and driver's education for 38 years while coaching multiple sports and shaping generations of student-athletes who still know him simply as "Coach Farmer." As an official, Dave has donned the black and white stripes for more than six decades across football, volleyball, basketball, and softball. His passion for fairness, consistency, and respect for the game has made him a fixture on fields and courts throughout the Inland Empire. Off the field, Dave's devotion extends to his family and community. He started a small landscaping and sprinkler business to support his late wife during her battle with Alzheimer's, and he continues that work today - directing the proceeds toward his great-grandchildren's futures. Known for his tireless work ethic, upbeat spirit, and love of athletics, Dave Farmer embodies what it means to dedicate a lifetime to sports, students, and service. He remains active, respected, and deeply admired - an extraordinary example of perseverance and passion.

Jon Hamro

Jon Hamro's contributions to the CIF Southern Section over the past three decades have been nothing short of extraordinary. As a long-serving Athletic Director at San Clemente High School, he demonstrated consistent leadership, professionalism, and dedication to student-athletes. Mr. Hamro successfully managed one of the section's largest and most competitive athletic programs, ensuring compliance with CIF regulations while promoting equity and sportsmanship across more than two dozen sports. He played an active role in the broader Southern Section community—participating in league governance, playoff site coordination, and eligibility reviews. He collaborated closely with CIF officials to support initiatives focused on academic accountability, athlete safety, and fair competition. As Head Coach, he led San Clemente's football team to a CIF Championship appearance in 2012, reinforcing his deep connection to the student-athlete experience. Mr. Hamro's influence extends well beyond wins and titles—he mentored new athletic directors, supported coaches, and modeled ethical leadership at every level. He remains widely respected throughout the Southern Section for his integrity, advocacy, and lasting impact. His service represents the highest standard of commitment to the mission and values of CIF.

Rich Shearer

Shearer, who came to the Southern Section in 2019 after serving a successful stint as teacher, coach and athletic director at Citrus Hill High School in Perris for more than 14 years, served as administrator at the CIF-SS in the sports of football, boy's and girl's wrestling and baseball. Shearer entered the field of education in 1991 after earning bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of California at Riverside. Prior to taking the role at Citrus Hill, Shearer taught, coached basketball and was the athletic director at Norte Vista High School in Riverside. He was named the Press Enterprise Riverside Basketball Coach of the Year in 2000. Shearer was named Citrus Belt Area Athletic Director of the Year in 2011 and California Coaches Association Athletic Director of the Year in 2019. His achievements also include induction into the Citrus Belt Area Athletic Directors Association Hall of Fame in 2019. Rich's work has left a lasting mark. In wrestling, he helped grow the girl's program by adding four new divisions for dual team championships. He also developed and implemented a more efficient one-day Masters Wrestling Qualifier, helping schools and athletes navigate the postseason more smoothly. In baseball, he led the addition of two new championship divisions, creating more competitive opportunities for programs of all sizes. And in football, Rich took on the challenge of implementing same-season competitive equity playoff divisions. His success in this implementation led to a transformation in the way playoff divisions are structured in most CIF Southern Section sports.



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Bob Walton

Bob has served over the past three decades as a valuable member of the Boys and Girls Tennis Advisory Committees. He has been a Stalwart Worker for the Boys and Girls Team Tennis Championships Bob has served as tournament director for the CIF-SS Individual Championships. Coach Walton has served as an important resource of tennis knowledge. Walton also provided leadership as a tennis and basketball coach for several CIF-SS schools.

HALL OF FAME AWARDS – 2024-2025

Mark Calentino

Wrestling Coach

San Clemente High School

Served 31 years (1991–2022) as Varsity Boys' Wrestling Head Coach at San Clemente High School, with an overall record of 426–98–2. Guided teams to 6 CIF-Southern Section Championships, 2 Runner-Up finishes, and 18 South Coast League titles. Founded the Girls' Wrestling Program at San Clemente in 2015, helping expand opportunities for female athletes. Honored as Orange County Wrestling Coach of the Year twice (2005, 2021) and South Coast League Coach of the Year 15 times. Inducted in 2023 into both the Orange County Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame and the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Earned 400+ Win Recognition from the National Wrestling Coaches' Association.

Alan Clinton

Wrestling Coach

Servite High School

Head Wrestling Coach: El Modena High School (21 years), Servite High School (19 years), 40-year coaching career total, Founder of Servite wrestling program. El Modena & Servite Team Achievements: 16 League Championships, 6 CIF-SS Championships, 4 CIF-SS Dual Meet Championships, 10 CIF-SS Runner-Ups . El Modena and Servite Individual Achievements: 149 league champions, 37 CIF-SS champions, 6 Masters champions, 42 state medalists, 5 national All-Americans. Coaching Honors: Inducted into California Wrestling Hall of Fame (2018) and National Wrestling Hall of Fame (2016); El Modena Hall of Fame (2013); NFHS National Coach of the Year (2018); multiple league Coach of the Year honors; CIF Model Coach of the Year (2011). Athletic Director Honors: CIF Southern Section Distinguished Service Award (2020); State AD of the Year (2016); Sue Kamiyama Leadership Award (2015); CIF-SS AD of the Year (2009). Service & Leadership: Member of CIF State & CIF-SS Wrestling Advisory Committees, CIF State Athletic Administration Advisory Committee, Orange County Wrestling Association, Tournament Director of CIF-SS Masters Meet.

Fred Di Palma

Football Coach

Santiago, Garden Grove High School

Coaching Career: Over 46 years coaching high school football, including 26 years as head coach at Santiago, Savannah, and Katella High Schools. Head Coaching Record: 150+ career wins, including CIF SS Championships at Savannah (1993) and Katella (2017). Program Builder: Revitalized struggling programs at Savannah and Katella, creating winning cultures marked by discipline, dignity, and class. Katella Achievements: Six straight league titles (2015–2020); 2017 Division 5 CIF Southern California Regional Champions and State Runners-Up. Honors: CIF SS Division 6 Coach of the Year (1994), Orange County Register Coach of the Year (2017), Head Coach, Orange County All-Star Football Game (1994, 2015).



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Ken Drain

Football Coach

Rio Hondo Prep High School

Coached Football, Basketball and Baseball from 1989 – 2021 all at Rio Hondo Prep. Athletic Director from 2000 – 2021. Head Football Coach from 2001 – 2017. Bus driver for the team as well. Won 5 CIF SS Football Championships ('01 8-man, '05, '08, '11, '12) Won 1 CIF SS Basketball Championship ('13) Football team made playoffs all 17 seasons with 8 Championship game appearances 150-50 career record with 11 league titles 6 Coach of the Year Awards from Various organizations – 5 Football, 1 Basketball.

Eddie Hackett

Track and Field Coach

Ganesha High School

Drafted by the NFL's Minnesota Vikings (3rd Round, 76th overall) in 1971 before retiring due to injury. Joined Ganesha High School in 1975, teaching multiple subjects and serving as Head Boys' and Girls' Track & Field Coach. Girls' Track & Field CIF-SS Team Champions: 1982, 1983, 1984. Boys' Track & Field CIF-SS Team Champions: 1984, 1985. Individual CIF-SS Champions: 1981, 1982, 1984, 1987. Girls' Relay Titles: 400m relay CIF-SS Champions – 1981, 1982, 1984. 1600m relay CIF-SS & Masters Champions – five consecutive years (1981–1985).

Myron Miller

Football Coach

Tustin High School

Compiled an overall Varsity Football record of 206–105–6, including 158–76–1 at Tustin. Led Tustin to 11 League Championships, 10 CIF SS Semi-Final appearances, 4 CIF SS Finals, and the 2011 CIF Southwest Division Championship. Named Orange County Coach of the Year and CIF SS Southwest Division Coach of the Year in 2011. In 2008, Tustin High School had 6 alumni playing in the NFL—the most of any high school in the nation. Previously served as Head Coach at Costa Mesa High School (1992–1994), winning a League Championship (1993) and reaching the CIF Finals, earning LA Times and OC Register Coach of the Year honors. Head Coach at Ramona High School (1989–1991), leading the team to a League and CIF SS Championship (1989) and being named Division 4 Coach of the Year.

Gwen Ritzau

Swim Coach

Riverside Poly High School

In the early 1970s, Gwen was among the first female athletes to compete in CIF-Southern Section swimming after Title IX. Returned in 1984 to her alma mater to coach the girls' swim program, leading it for 34 years. Her girls' swim teams went undefeated in league meets from 1984–2008 (25 straight years). Collected 26 league swim titles and a CIF-Southern Section championship in 2002. Coached eight swimmers who won individual CIF-SS titles. Also coached girls' golf, winning five league titles. Career totals: 41 league titles and one CIF-SS championship. Served on the CIF-SS Coaches Advisory Committee until her 2013 retirement.

Bob Timberlake

Golf Coach

Mira Costa High School

Founded Mira Costa High School golf program in 1992 and coached for 22 years (354–72 record, 83% winning margin). Won 12 league titles, including 10 straight Bay League championships (2002–2011). Captured 3 CIF Southern Section Divisional Championships (2004, 2006, 2010) and 4 CIF runner-up finishes. Produced 7 league individual champions and 8 CIF SS individual finalists. Mentored 24 golfers to college careers, including 16 Division I players and 8 at HBCU programs. Earned 10 League Coach of the Year awards and multiple city honors from Hermosa Beach and Manhattan Beach. Served 10 years on CIF SS Golf Advisory Board; tournament director at Lakewood, Mountain Meadow, and Montebello; helped implement major rules changes (yardage lasers, coaching advice).



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