



## CIF/CENTRAL COAST SECTION

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **2009 SPRING SPORTS HONOR COACHES SELECTED BY CENTRAL COAST SECTION COLLEAGUES**

The Central Coast Section has announced recipients of the **2009 CCS Spring Sports Honor Coaches Awards**:

- Baseball – **Carlos Roman**, El Camino HS;
- Softball – **Clovis Mirassou**, Leigh HS;
- Boys Swimming – **Jeff Borges**, Hill HS;
- Girls Swimming – **Deborah Fujii**, Santa Teresa HS;
- Boys Tennis – **Losaline Mafileo**, Sacred Heart Prep;
- Track & Field – **Jason Fung**, Palo Alto HS;
- Track & Field – **Mary Tuff**, Mills HS;
- Boys Volleyball – **Michael Rubin**, St. Francis HS.

These exceptional coaches were selected by their Central Coast Section colleagues to be recognized during the current 2009 spring season.

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**Carlos Roman** has been coaching baseball at El Camino High School for the past 26 years—one year as the Frosh-Soph baseball coach and 25 years as its head Varsity coach. A special award ceremony was held celebrating his 25<sup>th</sup> year of coaching at El Camino HS; during which time he has taken El Camino HS to 6 League championships and countless CCS berths.

Lonnie Beckenhauer, previous AD at El Camino HS, says of Carlos: “Carlos Roman was the best thing to ever happen to El Camino athletics”. (Eric Johnson’s tribute speech included: “...He taught me ... the right way to play this great game of baseball; not only the fundamentals of baseball, but to respect this great game of baseball. ...he has taught life lessons through the game of baseball, hard work, dedication & respect for not only your uniform, but for your opponents as well.”)

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**Clovis Mirassou** has been the Head Softball Coach at Leigh High School from 2001 to present, an Assistant Softball Coach at Leigh from 1990-1999, and an Assistant Softball Coach at Live Oak HS in 2000. At present, he also helps coach Field Hockey at Leigh High School. Clovis has been the Director for the Spring Softball Clinic and helps run the Summer Field Hockey camp, both at Leigh HS. He has been a volunteer coach for the 6-and-over leagues and local Bobby Sox leagues for Branham Hills Organization. He has also served as President of the Cambrian Golf Course Men’s Club. .

Individuals supporting Clovis’ nomination for Honor Coach are Jon Hennig (Westmont HS Varsity Softball Coach), Shelby Ford (class of 2009), Jennifer Wheeler (class of 2001), and parent Neil Hogan. These individuals all express how qualified and deserving Clovis is of this award.

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**Jeff Borges** has been the Boys Swimming Coach at Andrew Hill HS for more than 10 years; he also coaches Andrew Hill's football team.

Andrew Hill HS Athletic Director, Greg Dunlap, says: "Jeff has done a great job promoting the swim program and has over 100 student athletes on the team this year." Although we have not won any league titles in swimming at Hill, Jeff has done an outstanding job of promoting the sport at Andrew Hill and getting student athletes involved in a sport.

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**Deborah Fujii** has been the Santa Teresa HS Girls Varsity Swimming Coach for 8 years. Prior to coming to Santa Teresa, she was an assistant varsity Swimming Coach, history teacher, and Honor Society and class advisor at Yerba Buena for 5 years. Besides coaching Swimming at Santa Teresa, she also teaches history and has been a freshman class advisor. Debbie has chaired the BVAL Swim Championships since 2004. Away from school, she continues helping coach/train the South Valley Swim Team since 2000.

Santa Teresa's Athletic Director, **Barbara Uchiyama**, says of Deborah: "...Debbie has been a driving force in totally integrating our male and female swimmers into one program with common goals and mutual support. She has always offered a program that has met the needs of the novice to club swimmers with a 'no cut' policy. ...She enforces the academic expectations and personal goal setting that we would like all of our student athletes to understand and pursue."

Additional supporting letters come from Jessica Nicholson (class of 2010) and Tom Lebherz (Santa Teresa), both praising Deborah's coaching and nomination for Honor Coach.

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**Losaline Mafileo** has coached the Varsity Boys (and Girls) tennis team(s) at Sacred Heart Prep in Atherton for the last five years. Since coaching the SH Prep Boys tennis team, they have won the PSAL title all five seasons, CCS titles in 2005, 2006 and 2007, and Nor Cal title during the 2006 and 2008 seasons.

In 1989 she became a member of the EPATT (East Palo Alto Tennis Tutoring Program), where she learned that she could make a difference in many young lives with her teachings from tennis and being involved in this organization. She works extensively as a coach/mentor for a non-profit organization (Dexterity Sports and Literacy) that runs tennis and academic programming for the youth of East Palo Alto, hoping to empower these children and giving them the confidence they need in order to succeed. She also started the FJF Organization in Tonga in 2006, donating hundreds of tennis racquets, apparel and equipment to schools while also giving scholarships to children so that they are given the opportunity to play tennis and receive a valuable education.

Sacred Heart Prep's Assistant Athletic Director Dawn Hemm says: "...She is a great role model for our student athletes at Sacred Heart Prep as she is always positive and upbeat. She is dependable, trustworthy, responsible, fair, caring and treats all of her student athletes, parents and colleagues with the utmost respect. ...I am always amazed by her energy and effort to help others. She is unselfish and very giving of her time."

Also showing support for this nomination is Jeff Arons, Director of Tennis, Sacred Heart Schools, who offers similar words of praise for Losaline Mafileo.

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**Jason Fung** of Palo Alto High School has been the school's Track & Field Coach since 2000. A graduate of Palo Alto HS, Jason returned to Palo Alto as an assistant coach in both football and track after finishing his undergraduate studies. In addition to his coaching duties, he was an aide in an alternative Learning Program for "at risk" students under Paul Jones, retired track coach, Palo Alto HS.

Earl Hansen, Palo Alto Athletic Director, says of Jason: "...The athletes respect and perform for Coach Fung... This is a tribute to his hard work and professional style. He is organized, knowledgeable and an intense competitor, students really respond to this style of coach. ....a man that is committed to being the best coach he can be and at the same time keeping everything in proper perspective. He works with all levels of the athletes that he has, not just the so-called elite athletes, he builds true track teams not just individuals."

Paul Jones, Palo Alto retired track coach, supports wholeheartedly the nomination of Jason Fung .

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**Mary Tuff** has been the Track & Field coach for Mills High School for four years. Prior to coming to Mills HS, she had coached Half Moon Bay for 4 years and San Mateo for 7 years. Mary also coaches the Mills HS Cross Country team. Mary has been a member of the New Balance Excelsior Track Club for 10 years and the USA T&F for Level 1 & III Sprints Coaches for 11 years.

Polly Wiard, Mills HS Athletic Department Chair, states: "Mary sets high standards and realistic goals for the individual and the team. She does not just send athletes out to run. She trains them in all aspects of the sport of running from weight training, nutrition and the different training programs in running. *I quote my son ... 'Mary was an awe inspiring coach that provoked growth and development from her athletes. Her constant devotion to the sport enabled individuals such as myself to re-acquire a love lost for a sport through her engaging workouts, and insurmountable efforts to put the athlete first.'*"

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**Michael Rubin** has been the Varsity Boys Volleyball Coach for five years at St. Francis High School in Mountain View. He also teaches physics at St. Francis and is the moderator of the St. Francis robotics program. He previously coached Girls Volleyball at Harbor High School. Out in the community, Michael has been involved with the First Robotics Organization.

St. Francis HS Athletic Director Michael Pilawski says: "...Mike is a true student of the game and has taken this approach to build one of the best boys volleyball programs in the state. ...Mike truly is passionate about teaching the sport and getting kids to play together. He is always looking at ways to improve his own knowledge and also the sport of boys' volleyball in the Bay Area. ...Mike's diverse background and passion for working with young people have allowed him to be an outstanding role model for our students, whether that be on the volleyball court or the robotics shop. Mike puts students first and is a true teacher and role model in all he does."

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The **Central Coast Section Honor Coach Award** is presented to those coaches who their colleagues believe have made outstanding contributions to that sport at their school, within their League, in the community and to the CCS. At the time of nomination, they must be actively coaching and have been coaching their respective sport for a minimum of five years at the varsity level. Attributes considered are maintenance of professional standards of conduct, general service to the respective sport, outstanding coaching accomplishments, additional contributions to school and community and being a role model and inspiration to athletes, coaches, teachers, administrators, parents and the public.

**Carlos Roman, Clovis Mirassou, Jeff Borges, Deborah Fujii, Losaline Mafileo, Jason Fung, Mary Tuff, and Michael Rubin** were nominated by their respective High Schools as embodiments of those qualities. **Spring Sports Honor Coach Awards** recipients will be recognized at the CCS Board of Managers meeting at the Holiday Inn-Silicon Valley in San Jose on April 29, 2009.