

Coach left a memorable legacy

From a reporter's standpoint, it was easy to appreciate Ron Limeberger. He loved to talk. He was opinionated. He was animated.

He bristled at the idea of his beloved Christian Brothers High School becoming a coed institution in 1990, then grew to accept and understand.

He couldn't stand the notion that prep sports was buckling under the weight of off-campus coaches, budget cutbacks and realignment, and the stubborn old coach

insisted he'd never grow to accept or understand it. About the only thing he

enjoyed more than coaching, teaching and barking at umpires at CBS in a storied 42-year career that ended in 2000 was strolling the beaches of Hawaii with his wife of 46 years, Joan.

Limeberger died last week from a heart attack at age 69. He will be remembered at 4 p.m. Wednesday in his old gym, a fitting place for the funeral of a man who lived for athletics. He's best known for coaching baseball, including mentoring two of the area's all-time greats in **Bo Dodson** and **Andy Fox** in the late 1980s. Dodson is one of the finest hitters the area has produced. Fox is an eight-year major-league veteran whose Florida Marlins just won the World Series.

Limeberger especially got up for the 1980s showdowns with chief rival Cordova and its coach, **Guy Anderson**, where the winner often wound up winning the Metro League. Anderson, still coaching at Cordova, hasn't had a fierce rivalry to match those CBS dramas since.

"They went at it like two roosters," Joan Limeberger said. "People loved to see them coach."

Wrote reader **Bill Hocking** in an e-mail: "When I was a freshman at CBS in 1970, Ron offered to take me to school every morning. One day he said, 'Everybody in back. Bill's sittin' up front.' Ridin' shotgun with the coach broke my shyness. Hat's off to Ron."



Sacramento Bee, 2000/Anne Chadwick Williams

Ron Limeberger had an impact on numerous students during his lengthy coaching career.

Living in Rodman's world

NBA scouts are sure to flock to Long Beach Jam games after the minor-league team granted **Dennis Rodman** a chance to revive his career. That comes as good news for **Matt Barnes**, the former Del Campo and UCLA great who has scored 25 and 28 points in his last two games as a Jam starter.

"It's a win-win situation for those of us trying to get some attention," Barnes told reporters.

Post Shrine football

Ryan Dinwiddie will cherish his Most Valuable Offensive Player of the Game award from Saturday's East-West Shrine Game after throwing for 109 yards and one touchdown, but the Elk Grove product was more moved by **Neil Parry's** courage.

Parry is the San Jose State special-teams player who had his right leg amputated below the knee after hurting it during a grisly play in October 2000. He played in eight games this season and capped his career with a tackle in the all-star game.

"Neil's an amazing guy," Dinwiddie said. "That guy's heart and will, if the other players here had half of that, they'd be All-Pros."

More Shrine

Pat Hill won't buy into the notion Dinwiddie isn't good enough to make the NFL. Hill is the Fresno State coach who produced

former No. 1 pick **David Carr**.

"People talk too much about size, but the thing about Dinwiddie is he's amazingly accurate, and he's a winner," Hill said. "I blew it by not offering him a scholarship. I'm very high on him now."

"We just got a verbal commitment from a kid in Southern California who is the same size as Dinwiddie at 6-foot, and I told him I wanted him because I lost a guy just like him years ago."

More all-star experiences

Five area products will compete in Saturday's Las Vegas Bowl, where 100 NFL scouts will observe quarterback **Ryan Flanigan** of Rio Americano and UC Davis, wide receiver **Malcolm Floyd** of River City and Wyoming, tailback **David Mikell** of Natomas and Boise State, and offensive linemen **Isaiah Ross** of Laguna Creek and Nevada and **Forest Vance** of Colfax and UCD.

Top that, pal

They were friends as teammates at Sacramento High. Last week, they opposed each other and went down shooting.

Kenny Sims of American River College scored a career-high 45 points, but it wasn't enough to overcome **Victor Nance**, who had a school-record 42 points and propelled Sacramento City College to an exhausting 89-79 victory.

Sims had seven three-pointers and Nance six. Sims scored 30 in the second half and Nance 26. Nance had 10 points, including two threes, in the final 2:12, and his 42 broke the school record of 40 held by **Harvey Fong** in 1955, **Terry Bennett** in 1956 and **Gerald Ayers** in 1990.

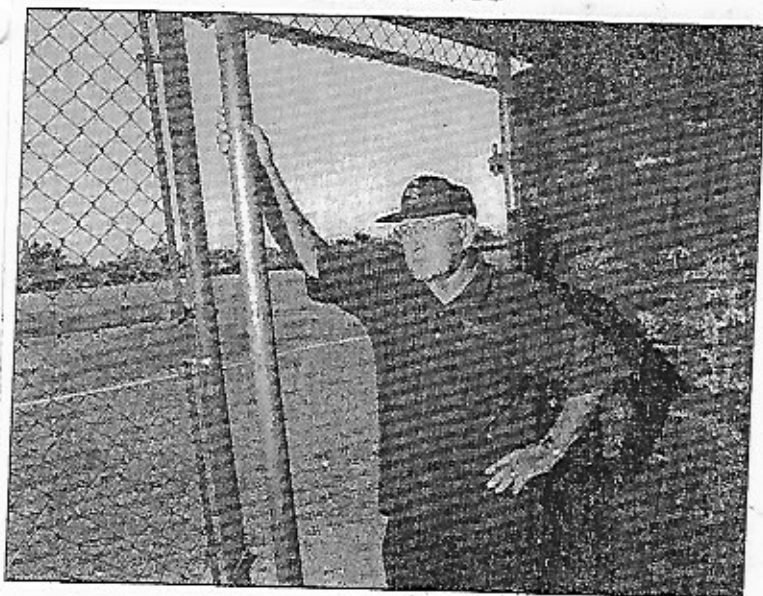
Sims and Nance, sophomore guards, embraced after the game was over.

Said SCC forward **James Carelock** later: "It looked like Victor and Kenny were playing H-O-R-S-E."

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The Bee's Joe Davidson can be reached at (916) 321-1280 or jdavidson@sacbee.com.

Obituaries



Sacramento Bee file, 2000/Anne Chadwick Williams

Ron Limeberger, who retired in 2000, was a graduate of Christian Brothers High School who returned there to teach and coach.

Ron Limeberger taught, coached baseball at CBS

LIMEBERGER, Ron "Coach"

In Sacramento, on January 8, 2004. He is lovingly survived by his wife Joan Limeberger and children; Mike and Mark Limeberger and Jill Sackett as well as daughter-in-law Michelle Limeberger and son-in-law, Gene Sackett. He is the cherished brother of Bill Limeberger and his wife Mary, and is also survived by his cherished grandchildren; Melissa, Matthew, Ryan, Amanda, Eric, Max & Megan and Travis. A native and lifetime resident of Sacramento Ron was 69. Friends are welcome to attend a Memorial Service to celebrate his life on Wednesday, Jan. 14, at 4:00pm at Christian Brothers High School Gym, 4315 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Remembrances in his honor may be made to the Ron Limeberger Endowed Athletic Fund, 4315 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Sac., CA 95820. W.F. Gormley & Sons Funeral Directors.

By Joe Davidson
BEE STAFF WRITER

Ron Limeberger, who taught classes and directed the physical education department at Christian Brothers High School with the same zest as he did in guiding his championship baseball teams, died Wednesday night of a heart attack. He was 69.

Mr. Limeberger, an institution at CBS, was proud that CBS was the only teaching job he ever had. He was popular with his students and fellow faculty, admired for the way he could relate to students of all nationalities, athletes or not.

He was perpetually upbeat in class and fiery on the baseball diamond, where he won 431 games in 31 seasons, retiring from coaching in 1989.

For years Mr. Limeberger maintained that he could relate to his students because he once was one, graduating from CBS in 1953, when he was student body president and an All-City athlete in baseball and basketball.

After his graduation from what was then Sacramento State University, Mr. Limeberger started teaching and coaching at CBS in 1958. He retired from the school in the spring of 2000.

"He loved that school, and any chance he could get over there, he would go," said his wife of 46 years, Joan.

"The hardest part for him when he retired was missing the kids. Even recently, he would wait for the kids down the street who attended CBS and he would ask them what they learned that day, what sports are they playing. He cared so much."

Mr. Limeberger remained a regular on campus in recent years as a substitute teacher.

"I made \$3,200 my first year teaching, and I thought I was a rich man," Mr. Limeberger said in an interview with The Bee three years ago. "I would have coached for nothing if I didn't have a family to feed."

His twin sons, Mark and Mike, attended CBS, as did his daughter, Jill. Mark Limeberger has a daughter, Amanda, who is a sophomore at CBS, where she is an artist and an athlete.

Baseball was Mr. Limeberger's athletic passion.

He was a bat boy for the Sacramento Solons in 1948, and in his adult life he was a regular at Joe Marty's on Broadway, offering his two cents on all things baseball.

Ron Limeberger

Born: Dec. 8, 1934

Died: Jan. 8, 2004

Remembered for: His charm, his sense of humor, how he was in perpetual motion as the coach for Christian Brothers High School for 31 seasons.

Survivors include: Wife, Joan of Sacramento, twin sons, Mark and Mike of Sacramento; daughter, Jill of Sacramento, and eight grandchildren.

Memorial services: 4 p.m. Wednesday, in Christian Brothers High School gymnasium, 4315 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Reception to follow.

His chief rival during his CBS baseball coaching days was Guy Anderson of Cordova High School. Their teams often met to decide the Metro League championship in the 1970s and '80s, with some of the best drama being the coaches themselves.

"This really hurts," said Anderson, now retired from teaching and coaching. "He was such a fun guy. We had so many great stories. We would really go at each other in games, but there was never a harsh word between us."

In baseball retirement, Mr. Limeberger spent his afternoons in his office, which had about as much charm as a muffler-shop waiting room, with archaic file cabinets and team pictures stretching back four decades.

A sign he had on the door read, "It's a great life if you don't weaken."

"He was truly one of a kind," said former CBS football coach Dick Sperbeck. "He was a real character, with a great sense of humor. People loved him."

Mr. Limeberger said upon his retirement in 2000 that he had more time, finally, to spend with his wife. They were travel buffs, going to Hawaii six times and on a number of cruises.

"I know people cared about Ron because of all the calls we've received," Joan Limeberger said. "We're getting cards and flowers and so much support."

"It's amazing."

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