

Hometown: Coaching quartet wo

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worked wonders at Christian Brothers, Valley and Elk Grove, and he now teaches linemen how to pull at Sacramento City College.

■ **Max Miller** - The winningest football leader in section history, mostly at Cordova, Miller inherited the Lancers from another Hall possibility in Ron Lancaster and then rebuilt Big Red after it crashed and burned. His personality alone deserves a spot. He's now the defensive coordinator at Folsom.

■ **Frank Negri** - He achieved more with less than any 200-game winning football coach in section history. Decades of meager community and financial support, low numbers and real-life issues for players never slowed Negri's zest for football, and he's still going strong at Natomas in his mid-70s.

■ **Dick Sperbeck** - During his CBS tour in the 1960s and '70s, he groomed young coaches who branched off to championship success, including Hoskins, Mel Fontes, Ralph Villanueva, John Fletcher and Steve DaPrato. Son Marshall has done Sperbeck proud with his impact coaching, including Sacramento State.

■ **Gary Dreher** - "Dreher Ball" at Elk Grove was the prep baseball fad in the 1980s and '90s, when he changed the way coaches coached, in and out of season. He was shrewd in finding a way (his motto), including using sacks of kitty litter to soak up a wet infield to

ensure a 1990 playoff game would be played. Dreher died in 1996.

Around the region

■ Dave Torgerson will be among the inductees tonight in the CBS La Salle Club Baseball Hall of Fame. An outfielder for CBS, Torgerson in 1962 hit the last home run at Edmonds Field while playing for the Fort Sutter American Legion team.

■ The big-name inductee is Rio Linda's Bob Oliver, who clubbed the first grand slam in Kansas City Royals history. The beauty of the La Salle is it honors those who made it to the big leagues *and* those who were every bit as big time in this region,

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even if their careers ended in the minors.

Section trots out an impressive group for its first Hall class

A toast to the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section for unveiling an impressive Hall of Fame crop of legendary high school movers and shakers.

The coaches are especially interesting to me. I've seen how the prep leader has more impact than at any other level of competition. There is more teaching, mentoring, grade checks, parental strife and budgetary nightmares to deal with.

All coaches are unique - the time, effort, loyalty - and this region has true achievers.

Mike Alberghini of Grant football, Guy Anderson of Cordova baseball and Walt Lange of Jesuit track and cross country made perfect sense as inaugural Hall picks, and all are still active. Here's suggesting - someday - more wow coaches, three in football and a baseball innovator:

■ **Dave Hoskins** - The best line/strength-and-conditioning guru the area has produced, according to scores of players and coaches from all levels. He

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Hometown Report
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