



Christian Brothers High School  
Athletic Hall of Fame

Saturday, June 4, 2016



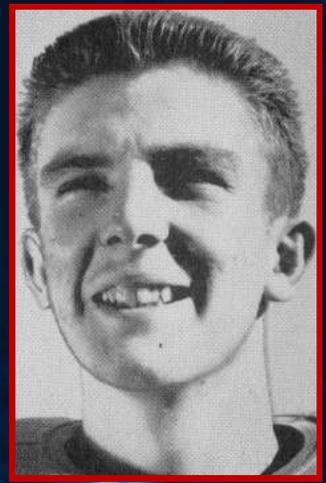
**Clark Aldrich '62**



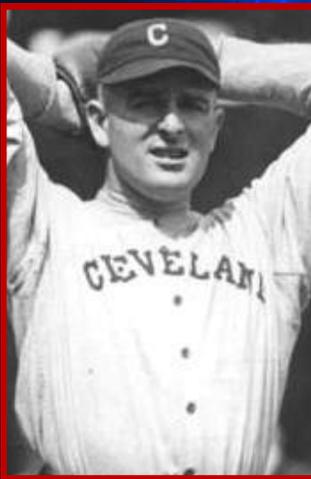
**David Cooke '81**



**Lois Curtis**



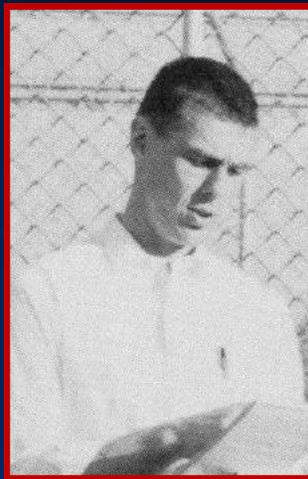
**Dave Jesmer '54**



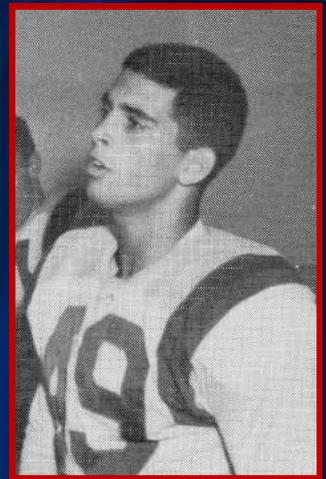
**Walter Mails '12**



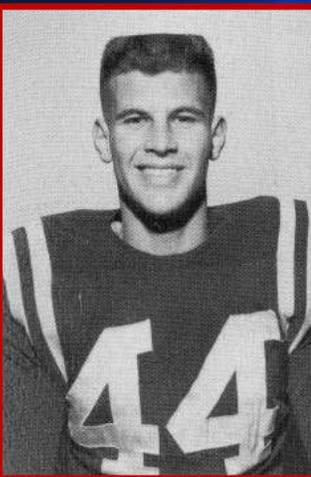
**Ken Orvick '50**



**Dick Sperbeck**



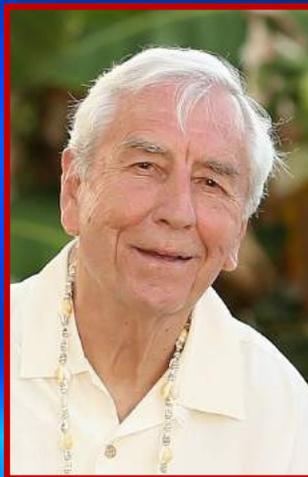
**John Stassi '59**



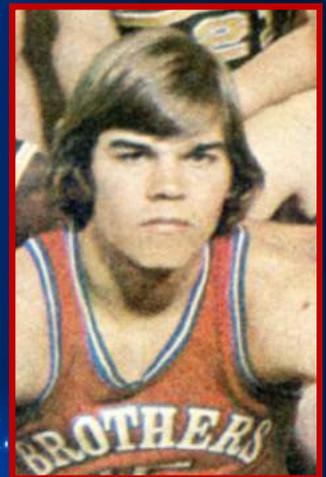
**Sam Stassi '58**



**Jeff Tidel '74**



**Jack Witry**



**Rodney Zanze '75**

**Christian Brothers Athletic Hall of Fame  
Class of 2016**



## *ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT*

INTEGRITY ♦ HONOR ♦ EXCELLENCE

Welcome Inductees and Guests:

On behalf of the administration and athletic department of Christian Brothers High School, welcome to the 2016 Athletic Hall of Fame dinner and induction ceremony. It is an exciting night for the inductees, their families and friends and for all of us at the school as we recognize and celebrate their athletic accomplishments and contributions to the rich and storied 140-year history of Christian Brothers High School athletics. We hope you have time tonight to take in some of this history in the many pictures of the inductees posted around the Jack Witry Field House and the biographies of the inductees included in this program.

We are celebrating the Class of 2016 inductees thanks to the tireless dedication of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee: Gloria Bauer, Bernie Church '62, Danny Delgado '79, Cynthia Gandy '78, Pat Gormley '07, Patrick Harris '82, Bobbi Pires '76, Paul Rieschick, Nancy Smith-Fagan, Dick Sperbeck, and Jack Witry. A special note of thanks to The La Salle Club which acted as a catalyst for the creation of the Hall of Fame and has played an integral part in the success of this event.

The Selection Committee established a number of categories for induction into the Hall of Fame that include individual athletes, families, teams, coaches and administrators. They will begin the screening process for the next class of inductees in the coming months and nominations are welcome. If you know of a deserving athlete, please go to the CB website and complete a nomination form which can be found under the Alumni tab.

Congratulations to this evening's inductees and thank you all for joining us this evening.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dale Milton". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a long horizontal line that extends across the page.

Dale Milton  
Athletic Director

# CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL

## *Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner and Induction Ceremony*

**Saturday, June 4, 2016**

### **WELCOME**

Dale Milton, Athletic Director

### **INVOCATION**

#### ***Inductee Presentations by Pat Still***

☞ John "Duster" Mails '12 ☞

☞ Clark Aldrich '62 ☞

☞ David Cooke '81 ☞

#### ***Remarks by David Cooke '81***

☞ Dave Jesmer '54 ☞

☞ Ken Orvick '50 ☞

☞ Lois Curtis ☞

#### ***Remarks by Sandie Silvestri '77***

☞ Dick Sperbeck ☞

☞ John Stassi '59 ☞

☞ Sam Stassi '58 ☞

☞ Jeff Tisdell '74 ☞

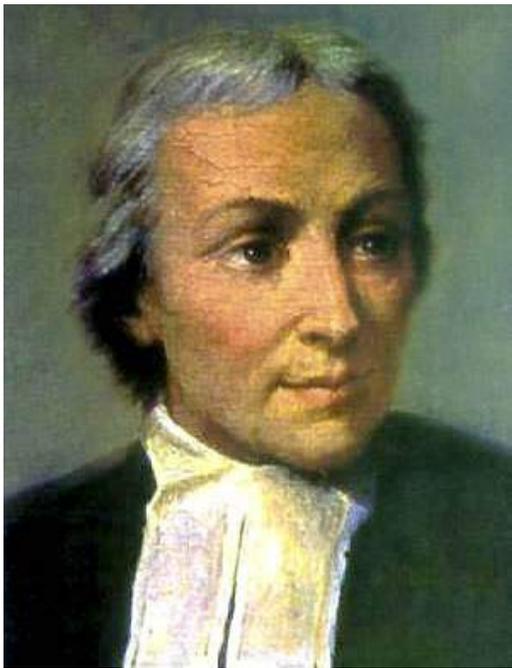
#### ***Remarks by Jeff Tisdell '74***

☞ Jack Witry ☞

☞ Rodney Zanze '75 ☞

***Closing Remarks: Lorcan Barnes***





## Christian Brothers High School

### Yesterday And Today

Take a walk on the Christian Brothers High School campus and the feeling of community among the students, teachers and staff is palpable. In its 140 years in Sacramento, this venerable high school has changed its location three times and been known by six different names. What remains unchanged is the inimitable spirit—the Lasallian spirit and tradition of teaching and caring for young people in a community steadfastly dedicated to the intellectual growth and spiritual well-being of its students.

This rich tradition of Lasallian education dates back to 1680 when St. John Baptist de La Salle, a prominent French priest, founded the Brothers of the Christian Schools “to give a human and Christian education to the young, especially the poor and working class.” De La Salle transformed education by forming a community of educators with whom he developed a spirituality of teaching and learning. In 1876, the De La Salle Christian Brothers and members of the Catholic community brought that legacy to the Sacramento Valley establishing the St. Patrick Institute at 12th and K streets, evolving into what is now Christian Brothers High School.

Lasallian Education centers on Catholic values and personal relationships, emphasizing academic excellence, faith formation, inclusion, respect for the individual, service and social justice. A Lasallian Education strives to enrich each student’s cultural, intellectual, physical, social and spiritual development.

In 1956, when the doors first opened to the current campus, just over 500 young men and women joined together to launch the area’s first co-institutional Catholic high school – Bishop Armstrong High School. Today, more than 1,100 young men and women enter its doors each day and each, in his or her own way, continues the legacy of learning, service and inclusive community that are at the very heart of a Christian Brothers High School education.

*Saint John Baptist de La Salle,*

*Pray for us.*

*Live Jesus in our hearts,*

*Forever.*

## Clark C. Aldrich '62

Clark Aldrich '62, was a resident boarder at the 21st and Broadway campus, and says that his experiences with the Brothers and coaches were instrumental in his upbringing, not only as an athlete, but also as a human being. They were able to turn a self-described punk kid into a young man who eventually was able to make wiser life-altering decisions. While at Bishop Armstrong High School, Aldrich '62 was a four sport athlete, playing baseball, basketball, football and track.

As a JV football player, Aldrich '62 played on the 1959 undefeated team. He was named team MVP, averaging over 10 yards per carry and rushing for 19 touchdowns. During his junior and senior years, Aldrich '62 was a star, All-City running back for the Falcon football team. As a junior in 1961, he was in the top five in both yards rushing and scoring for a team that finished 7-1-1. This 1961 Falcons football team defeated Sacramento High School for the first time in Brothers history, 13 to 6, with Aldrich '62 scoring both TD's on running plays. As a senior, his All-City selection was all the more remarkable since he was limited to 5 and three-quarters games before suffering a season-ending fracture of the right elbow. He was elected to participate in the Optimist Game in 1962, and was impressive enough during his limited senior season that he earned a full scholarship to Oregon State University.

“Anytime the subject of all-time best athletes at CB comes up, my list includes Clark Aldrich '62. He was an outstanding running back with pure natural instincts for a running back. He didn't think while running, he just instinctively did the right thing, leaving would be tacklers grabbing air. He had athletic smarts as well. One time in a showdown game at Orland for # 1 in Northern California, he was returning punts and the punt died at about the 30-yard line and everyone walked away before the whistle blew. Aldrich '62, recognizing it had not been blown dead rushed in, picked it up and went 70 yards for a TD as a confused Orland punting team was leaving the field. CB went on to claim the mythical title.” *–Dick Sperbeck, Hall of Fame Inductee.*

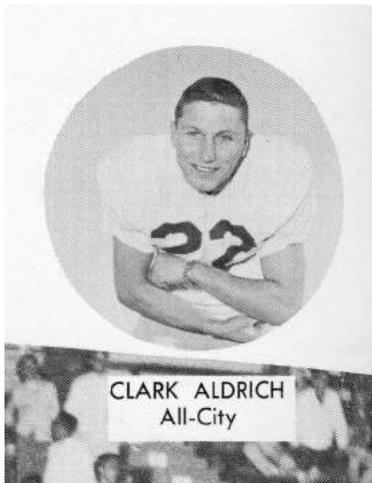
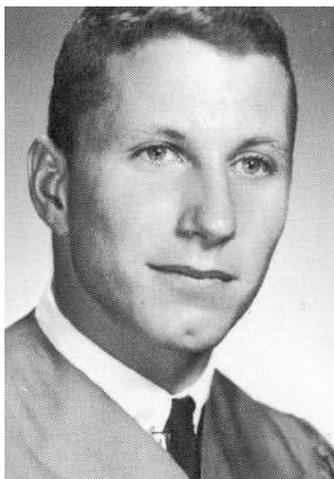
Sperbeck, who described Aldrich '62 as a "hard dog to keep under the porch," talked him into going out for baseball his junior year, mainly to keep him out of trouble and he ended up starting his senior year.

Adapted from “Flying High With The '62 Falcons” by Rick Cabral '70: “Aldrich decided to assist (Varsity baseball coach) Sperbeck that season (1961) as the team's manager. Clark had never played youth baseball, but when Sperbeck encouraged him to grab a bat during practice, he complied. It proved to be a rough adjustment. Locked in a tight ball-game against an always tough Lodi club, Sperbeck sent Aldrich in to pinch run. Clark didn't know the first thing about how to read the pitcher or steal a base, so when the coach gave the steal sign, he just took off for second. Seeing the shortstop standing over the bag waiting with the ball, Aldrich's football instincts took over. He came in spikes high, cleating the infielder in the chest, while dislodging the ball. Aldrich recalled: ‘...to me, that was part of the game. I didn't understand that football and baseball weren't related.’ He eventually wound up at third and scored. Bishop Armstrong won the contest 2-1 over the future Central California Conference (CCC) champion.”

Aldrich '62 would have been a star baseball player his senior year on any other prep baseball team; he hit over .400 on the 1962 baseball team which went 22-2, a team considered one of the best Falcon baseball teams ever. Aldrich '62 became a great baseball player in spite of only playing baseball beginning in the Spring of 1961. His teammates on the '62 team included Hall of Fame inductees Mike Green and Andy Fox.

After leaving Oregon State his freshman year, Aldrich '62 returned to Sacramento where he played running back and defensive back for both Sac City and Sacramento State. He also punted for Sacramento State in 1965, averaging 41.15 yards per punt good for 10th all-time in the Sacramento State record books.

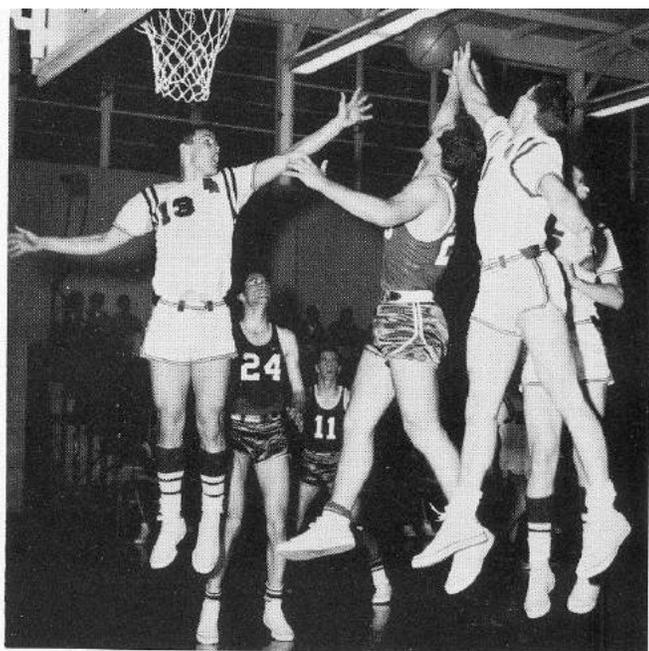
After college, he was a football official for 20 years and was also an avid golfer. Professionally, Aldrich '62 was an employee of United Parcel Service for 30 years, advancing to the position of Division Manager. He and his wife, Claudia, a 1963 Bishop Armstrong graduate, have been married for 50 years. They have two daughters, Kelly and Kristin.



### 1961 Record

7 1 1	
Armstrong 14.	Johnson 7
Armstrong 14.	McClatchy 14
Armstrong 13	Sacramento 6
Armstrong 19	El Camino 6
Armstrong 13	Orland 14
Armstrong 26	Fresno 20
Armstrong 27	St Mary's 12
Armstrong 21	Modesto 12
Armstrong 32	Highlands 7

FOR THE FIRST TIME in history, the Falcons beat Sacramento's Dragons. Clark Aldrich went 3 yds for the first score. The Dragons retaliated in the third quarter but were unable to convert. Recovering a fumbled Dragon fair catch, the Falcons again scored with Aldrich going over from the 8-yd line. Clemon's conversion try was blocked, making the score 13-6.



Clark Aldrich tips to teammate Mike Green (13).



Clark Aldrich struts home as Johnson catcher calls for ball.

## David Cooke '81

David Cooke '81 attended Christian Brothers from 1977-1981. He played trombone in the CB Marching Band, played on the junior varsity baseball team and ran track. However, it wasn't until he was trying out for the freshman basketball team and the JV coach, Mr. Leige, asked him to practice with his team, that Cooke '81 realized basketball was his sport. With an average of 16 points and 11.9 rebounds per game his senior year, he drew attention from many Division I colleges offering full scholarships. Cooke '81 was recruited by Stanford, Oregon State, USC, Gonzaga, Washington State, Colorado State, San Diego State, University of Kansas, UCLA, Fresno State, University of Pacific, Santa Clara and University of Nevada, Reno.

Cooke '81 earned All City & All Conference honors following his senior basketball season at Brothers. He also received a nomination to the McDonald's High School All-American game and was ranked 24<sup>th</sup> on the Long Beach Independent Press Telegram's "Best of the West." A career highlight came during a game against McClatchy where Cooke '81 had 26 rebounds and 25 points.

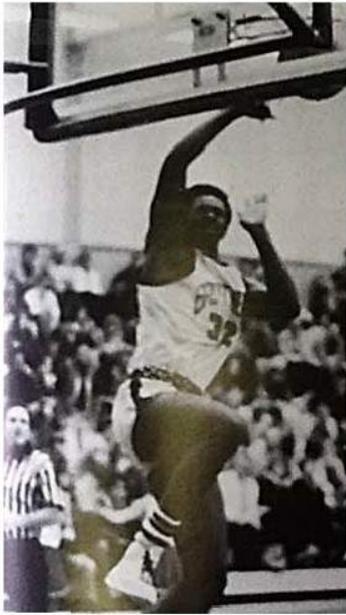
After graduating from CB, Cooke '81 chose to attend Saint Mary's College of California where he was a three-year starter, averaging 15.1 points per game and nine rebounds his senior year. He graduated in 1985 with not only his degree in communications, but, his name etched in St. Mary's basketball history. Some of his accomplishments during college include being named seventh in career blocked shots (83), thirteenth in career rebounds (545) and thirtieth all-time scorer with a career total of (1006). Cooke '81 led the 1984-85 basketball team in scoring (405 points) and was named to the first team for the All-West Coast Conference.

As an undrafted free agent, Cooke '81 was invited to participate in the Phoenix Suns Rookie Camp and was offered a contract to join the team for the upcoming veteran camp. Two months later, Cooke '81 accepted an invitation to join the Sacramento Kings Rookie Camp. After a successful showing, he was offered a contract to join the Kings for their veteran's camp. Cooke '81 is the first born and raised player from Sacramento to play for the Kings. He played with the team in its inaugural season in Sacramento in 1985. He then played in the Continental Basketball Association (CBA) for the Wisconsin Flyers after being drafted in the first round.

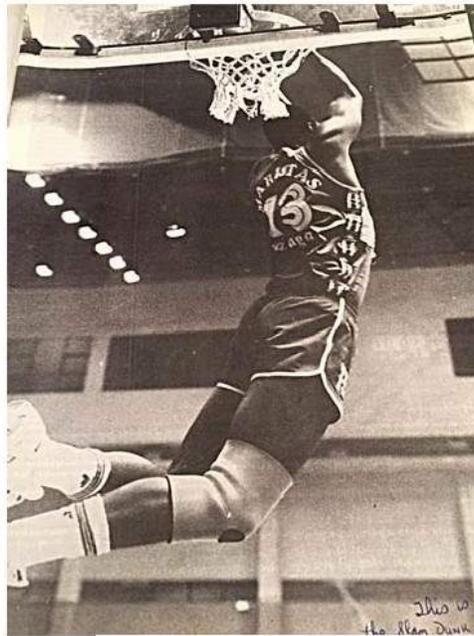
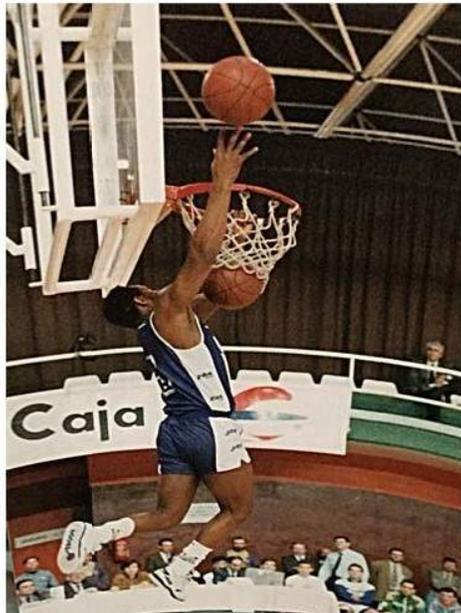
The year of 1986 launched Cooke's '81 European career. The first season was in Malaga, Spain which is where his daughter, Aletta, was born. He spent five seasons playing throughout Spain accompanied by his wife, Deoras and Aletta. In 1991, his team Club Basquet Liria won the Spanish Championship. Cooke '81 would also play two seasons in Israel and two seasons in Switzerland where his team Spirou Basket Club won the Swiss Championship in 1996. Cooke '81 also played in Argentina, Belgium and France.

Cooke '81 credits his CB Basketball coach Joe Gill as having the most impact in his development as a basketball player by say that Coach Gill taught him "how to play the game mentally." His favorite memories playing sports were seeing his parents in the stands for his college games at St. Mary's and the season opening game with the Kings, the first ever in Sacramento history in 1985.

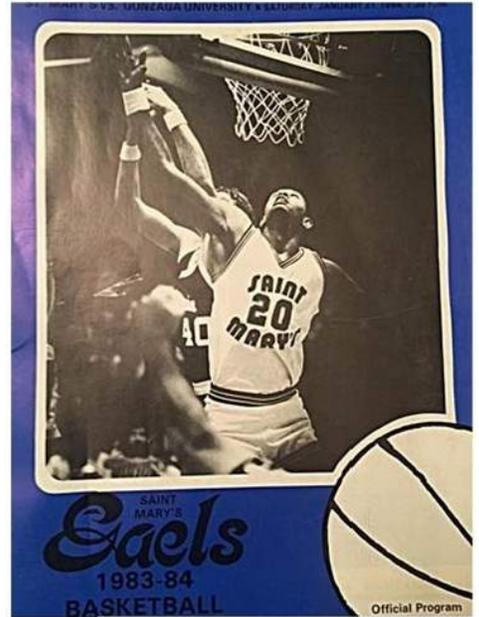
After retiring from professional basketball in 1998, Cooke '81, Deoras and Aletta moved to San Diego where he works for Astra Zeneca Pharmaceuticals.



Cooke se dispone a «machacar», con Solsona delante

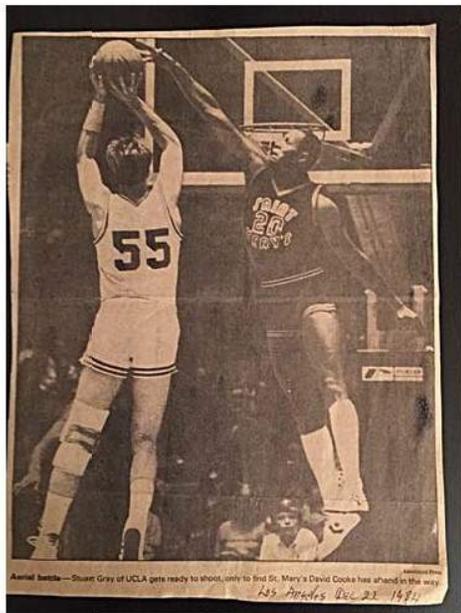


This is the Slam Dunk

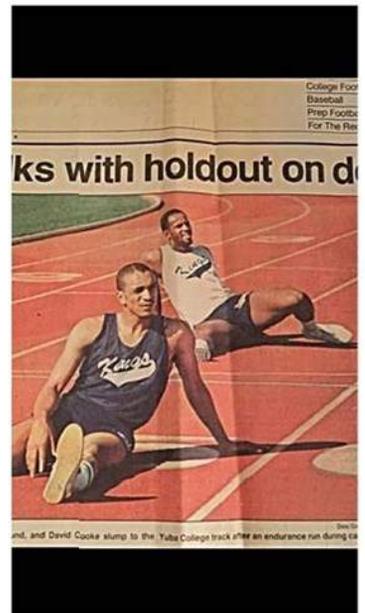
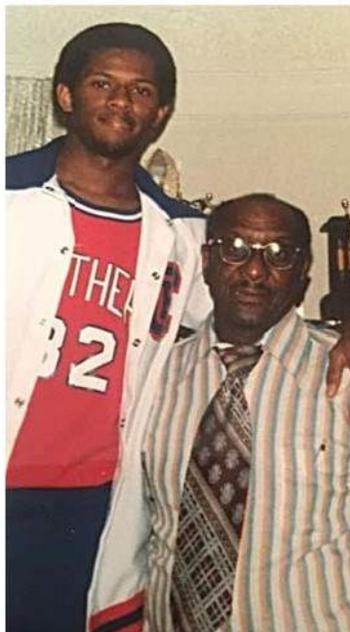


SAINT MARY'S  
**Caels**  
1983-84  
BASKETBALL

Official Program



Aerial battle—Stuart Gray of UCLA gets ready to shoot, only to find St. Mary's David Cooke has shined in the way  
Los Angeles Dec. 27, 1981



College Football  
Baseball  
Prep Football  
For The Rest

ks with holdout on d

and, David Cooke slump to the Yale College track after an endurance run during ca

## **Coach Lois Curtis**

Lois J. Curtis graduated from Sacramento High School in 1945. During her high school years, she was an outstanding athlete and participated in several different sports. Lois married Donald Curtis in 1946 and had three children: Charles, Kandie and Sandie. She also has four grandchildren, all of which attended Catholic high schools, and three great grandchildren.

Curtis spent 30 rewarding years coaching drill teams at three different high schools: Christian Brothers, Bishop Manogue and C. K. McClatchy. In addition to her role as a choreographer and coach of the drill teams, she served as a modern dance instructor, cheerleading adviser for Christian Brothers and established summer cheerleading camps for local Catholic elementary schools.

Curtis was the director of the McClatchy drill team starting in 1970 prior to serving as the Bishop Manogue drill team director from 1974 until the school's closure in 1990. At Bishop Manogue, the drill team typically consisted of about 70 members, almost 20 percent of the student body. Curtis then moved with many of her students to Christian Brothers and continued as the director of the Christian Brothers drill team from 1991 until 1995. The main focus of the Manogue and CB drill teams were to perform at school assemblies and as well as Brothers football and basketball games.

Under the direction and leadership of Mrs. Curtis and her assistants, the drill teams also participated and performed in numerous community events including parades, political events, the California State Fair, the Pig Bowl, drill and dance competitions as well as community and professional sporting events for teams including the San Francisco 49ers, LA Rams and the Golden State Warriors. The drill team also appeared in television commercials for Sears.

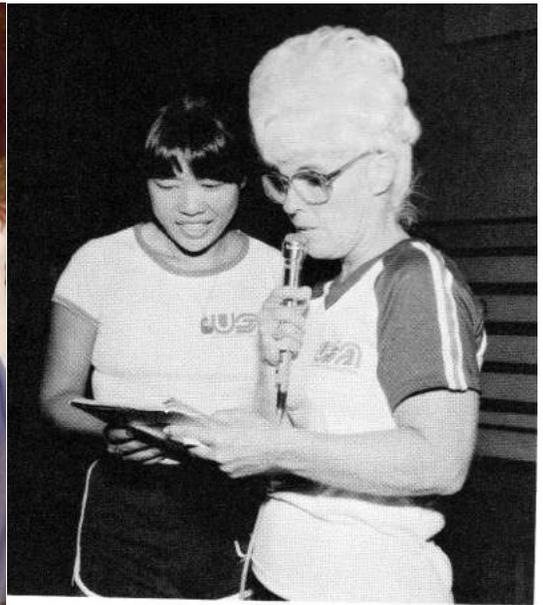
The popularity of Curtis' drill teams were due to the outstanding discipline and hardworking nature instilled in the girls under her charge, along with their very precise, snappy and entertaining performances to popular music. Under the direction of Curtis, the drill teams traditionally won first place awards year after year. In 1981, the drill team marched in the St. Patrick's Day parade and was awarded the 'Grand Sweepstakes Trophy' for the best overall entry in the parade out of 230 participants. The very next week, the team traveled to Hayward, California on March 21, 1981, and won first place in the drill team division for Northern California.

"Perhaps one of Lois' most notable attributes as a coach was her ability to always demonstrate compassion and concern for the academic and physical well-being of each of her team members," said Lois Curtis' daughter, Sandie Silvestri '77.

In 1998, the La Salle Club inducted Curtis into the Sacramento Area Coaches and Officials Hall of Fame. In addition to the drill team, Curtis was also involved in many organizations, including the National Association for Uniformed Services, Germany Commission of Girl Scouts, Joaquin Miller Junior High School PTA, Christian Brothers La Salle Club, Cal Poly SLO Grandparents Club and Loyola Marymount University Presidential Donors Association. She graduated in 1988 with an associate's degree in administrative justice from Sacramento City College at the age of 50.



**The first Manogue Drill Team in 1975**



**Director: Mrs. Lois Curtis  
Assistant: Lynn Kwong**



**1974**



**At the Pig Bowl in 1977**



**1993 CB Drill Team**

**1990 at the Holy Bowl**



## **Dave Jesmer '54**

Dave Jesmer '54 began Christian Brothers High School as a freshman in the fall of 1950 as a resident boarder. In his four years at the school, Jesmer '54 distinguished himself as an outstanding athlete and an active participant in student government. As a senior, he represented Christian Brothers on the Inter-School Council composed of representatives from Brothers, St. Joseph and St. Francis high schools.

Jesmer '54 played three years of varsity football, starting at tackle on both sides, and two years of varsity track and field, throwing the shot put.

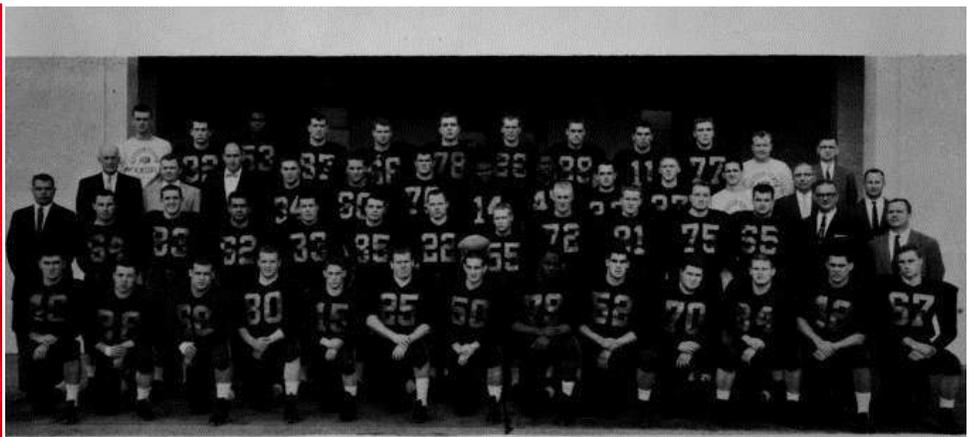
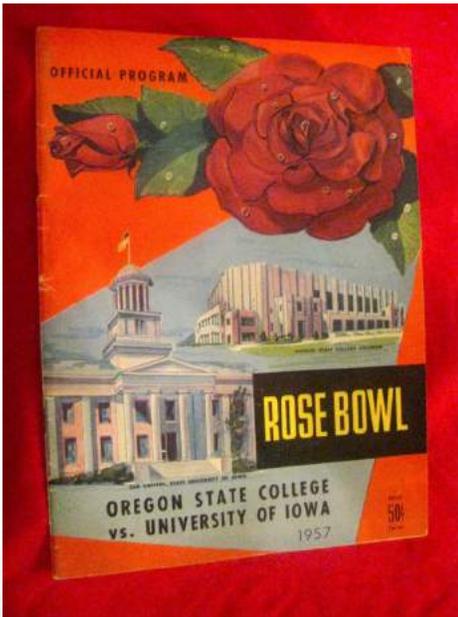
Highlights of Jesmer's '54 football career at Christian Brothers High School: 1951-1953 Varsity Football (Coach Ray Clemens), 1952-1953 First Team All-City Tackle (Sacramento Bee and Sacramento Union), 1953 All-Inland State Team, 1953 All-San Joaquin Team, 1954 Shrine North-South All-Star Game Starter (Los Angeles, CA), 1954 J.C. All Star Game Most Outstanding Lineman (Lodi, CA).

Gaining attention for his outstanding achievements on the football field at CB, Jesmer '54 was awarded a four-year football scholarship to Oregon State University, playing under head coach Tommy Prothro. Jesmer '54 was a letterman in football for OSU in 1955, 1956 and 1957. In 1957, he made the All-Pacific Coast Conference 2<sup>nd</sup> team and started in the East-West Shrine Game in San Francisco. He also joined the wrestling team at Oregon State.

The Rose Bowl played on January 1, 1957 featured the #3 Iowa Hawkeyes vs #10 Oregon State Beavers with Jesmer '54 starting at right tackle for OSU. Iowa won 35-19 in a game that was played before 100,000 people at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena and was nationally televised on NBC. Jesmer '54 was listed as 6' 2" and 226 lbs. as a football player.

After college, Jesmer '54 signed a free agent contract with the San Francisco Forty Niners in 1958, however, he was released just before the beginning of the season. In 1961, Jesmer '54 joined the US Army, and served over 20 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1982. During his military career, Jesmer '54 earned two bronze medals and one Silver Star, the third highest ranking military award, for his outstanding valor in the Vietnam War. While in the army, he continued his football career, playing two years of Service football while stationed with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In this league, Jesmer '54 played other service teams and even a few colleges. Jesmer '54 was a player on his service team in 1960, and was a player/coach in 1962.

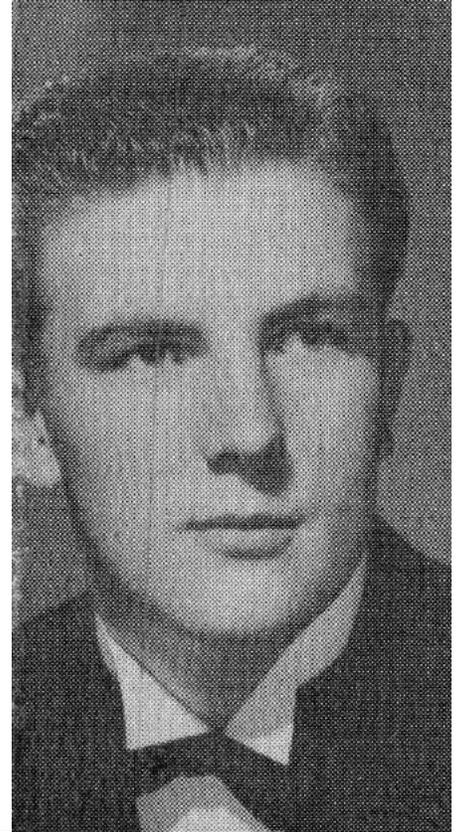
After retiring from the Army, Jesmer '54 retreated to Centreville, Virginia where he works as a self-employed, part-time contractor. He has always been an extremely focused and driven individual, dating back to his days at Christian Brothers.



*Oregon State College  
1956 Pacific Coast Conference Champions  
Rose Bowl Representative January 1, 1957*



**Dave  
Jesmer**



**David Jesmer**

Dave, an outstanding football player, was an all city tackle for two years and was also named to the All Inland State and All Sac Joaquin squads during his senior year. Besides football, he was an officer of his class during all four years and was also on the Interschool Council as a senior. Active in school affairs, he showed his school spirit by participating in dramatics, the ski club, glee club, and the Block CB. Another athletic activity was a two year stint on the track team. A resident student, Dave plans to major in forestry at California or at Oregon State.

PROBABLE STARTING LINEUP			OREGON STATE		THE SQUAD	
No.	Name	Position				
83	NORM THIEL	LE	11	Hammock, H.	47	Love, H.
75	JOHN WITTE	LT	14	Durden, H.	50	Anagnos, C.
62	JOHN SNIFFEN	LG	15	Owings, H.	52	Bardall, C.
55	DICK CORRICK (Co-C)	C	22	Laird, O. Co-C	53	Waltz, C.
60	JIM BRACKINS	RG	23	Milum, F.	55	Corrick, C.
77	DAVE JESMER	RT	25	Searle, Q.	60	Brackins, C.
88	BOB DeGRANT	RE	26	Reich, E.	62	Spiffen, C.
22	GERRY LAIRD (Co-C)	QB	27	Lakehart, Q.	64	Brundage, C.
42	JOE FRANCIS	LH	28	Chamberlain, Q.	65	Ellison, C.
14	EARNEL DURDEN	RH	33	Berry, F.	66	Hog, C.
33	TOM BERRY	FB	34	Beamer, F.	67	Mohr, C.
			36	Blackburn, F.	68	Swain, C.
			42	Francis, H.	70	Hog, C.
			46	Arana, H.		

## Walter Mails '12

On a beautiful October afternoon in 1920, Walter Mails, a 1912 graduate of Christian Brothers High School, stepped off of his train and into one of the wildest homecomings Sacramento had ever witnessed. The hero of the 1920 World Series was swept up by a delirious crowd of well-wishers who serenaded and toasted their hero in a parade from the train station to a reception at City Hall. Feted by local politicians, and with his every step filmed by motion picture cameras, Walter Mails '12 was indeed Sacramento's first celebrity athlete.

Just three months earlier, Mails '12, was pitching for the Sacramento Solons in the Pacific Coast League. His success captured the attention of the Cleveland Indians, and he was sold for a princely sum of \$50,000. As Cleveland readied themselves for a pennant drive, he calmly and efficiently won seven straight games for the club before pitching 15 and two-thirds scoreless innings in the World Series. Sports writers all over the country lauded Mails' '12 blazing fastball, his "larger than life" personality and his abundance of nicknames. Mails '12 was known as: "Walter the Great," "Duster," "The Great Imperial Duster," "Old Goose Eggs in the Coffee," and, as he preferred, "The Great Mails." (Duster was a term for pitching inside in order to get the batter's attention.)

Although born in the town of San Quentin, Mails '12 grew up in Sacramento and attended CB, then called Christian Brothers College, at 12<sup>th</sup> and K Streets. His mentor was a priest named Rev. John Ellis who taught him how to pitch and play handball. Father Ellis got Mails '12 a job with the Sacramento Bee and told him he could strengthen his pitching arm by delivering papers. His father worked for the Southern Pacific Rail Road, and his family lived on the corner of 18<sup>th</sup> and G Streets. Like so many graduates of Christian Brothers, Mails '12 went on to play baseball at St. Mary's College where he caught the attention of the Brooklyn Robins (Dodgers). He made his major league debut on September 28, 1915.

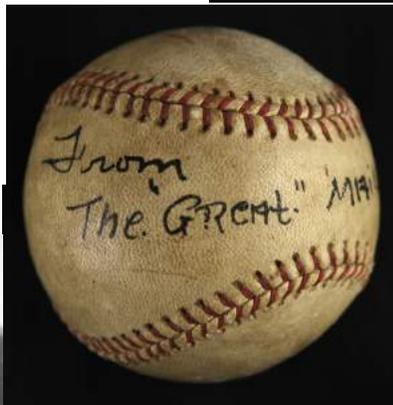
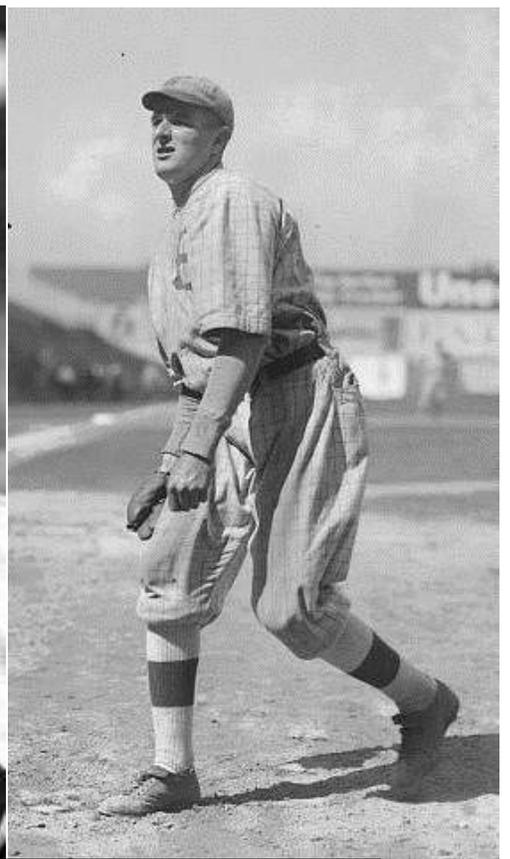
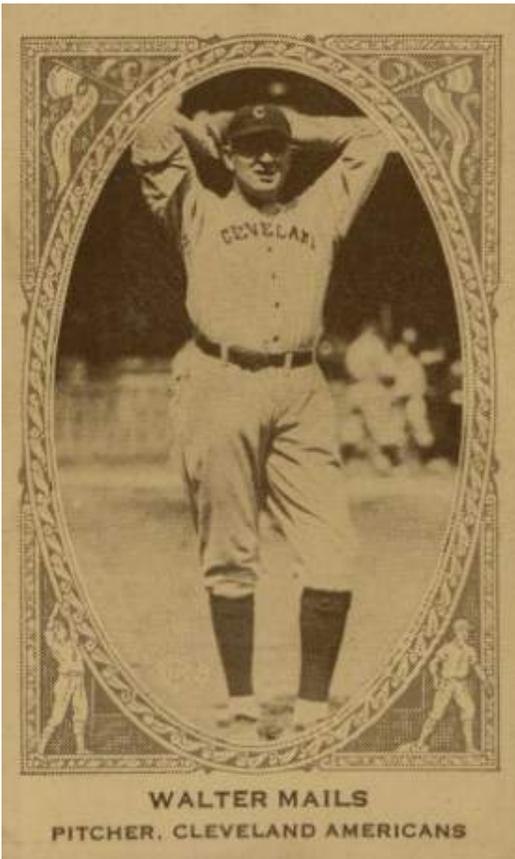
Had he stayed healthy, Mails '12 might have become one of the greatest pitchers in baseball history. He struck out Babe Ruth 15 times, and in one memorable game against the Chicago White Sox in 1920, he was summoned from the bullpen with the bases loaded and no outs, proceeding to strike out Eddie Collins, Buck Weaver, and "Shoeless" Joe Jackson. The media loved Mails '12, as did the ladies, and the handsome pitcher made it known that he loved chocolate cakes. Hopeful suitors followed him all over the country, gifting him chocolate cakes and perfume-soaked letters. One day, 38 cakes were delivered to the clubhouse.

After several successful years with the Cleveland Indians, Mails' '12 trusted left arm grew tired, and although he could still get batters out, his fast ball had lost its sizzle. Mails '12 never let his sore arm affect his career. He simply learned how to trust his "off-speed" pitches. For 25 years, the "Great Mails" pitched in professional baseball, 7 years in the majors and 18 in the minors, including many memorable years in the Pacific Coast League. In 1935, as a member of the San Francisco Seals, Mails '12 closed out his storied career with team mates Joe DiMaggio and a young fellow graduate of Christian Brothers named Joe Marty '31. The "Great Mails" retired with a professional baseball record of 258 wins and 235 defeats.

Always popular with the media, Walter Mails '12 devoted his post baseball life to a career in public relations, plying his trade with the San Francisco Seals and later the Giants. He was particularly successful in organizing "Kids Days," and bragged that he was responsible for bringing in millions of youngsters to the ball park.

Beginning in 1953, Mails '12 dutifully returned to Christian Brothers every year for The La Salle Club Baseball Hall of Fame Dinner. He was frequently asked to give the main address, and the audience never tired of his stories. He was inducted into The La Salle Club's Hall of Fame in 1964, giving a memorable speech extolling the virtues of baseball and the love and support he received from the Christian Brothers community. Walter Mails '12 died on July 5, 1974 at the age of 79.

If you were fortunate enough to meet Walter Mails '12, he would shake your hand and say: "Congratulations, you just shook the hand of the Great Walter Mails." In an era full of colorful characters and nicknames, he may have been the most colorful of all.



## Ken Orvick '50

Ken Orvick '50 was born and raised in Sacramento, attending Immaculate Conception Grammar School and Christian Brothers High School. While attending CB, Orvick '50 played on the varsity football, basketball and baseball teams. But there was something special about the teams Orvick '50 played on, they tended to win championships.

The 1949 Brothers football team that Orvick '50 played on was one of the best defensive football teams that took the field for coach Ray Clemons. They gave up 2 points in their 7 victories, shutting out St. Mary's College High School of Berkeley 30-0, St. Elizabeth 32-0, Marysville 34-0, Jackson 25-0, Live Oak 33-0, McClatchy 21-0 and beating Chico 19-2. However, the ever present Sac High stomped the tough Gaels 39-0 and Grant also prevailed 39-0. Co-captains of this 1949 team were Dan Lahey '50, Ken Orvick '50 and Pete Vartanian '50. Coach Ray Clemons was hoisted on the shoulders of the team and carried off after the CK McClatchy victory, fitting for an outstanding season. Orvick '50 would go on to play football at Sacramento City College and earned a football scholarship to play at St. Mary's College of California.

Both of the Brothers' basketball teams Orvick '50 played on in 1949 and 1950 won the City Championship. The city schools which determined the City Championship were Sacramento High, C.K. McClatchy, Grant Union High and Christian Brothers. The 1949 Championship team posted a record of 16-9. Orvick '50 started on the 1950 Championship team which boasted an 18-2 record and a winning streak of 14 straight games under coach Jack Buick. Also on the team were Jim Church '50 and John McNamara '50.

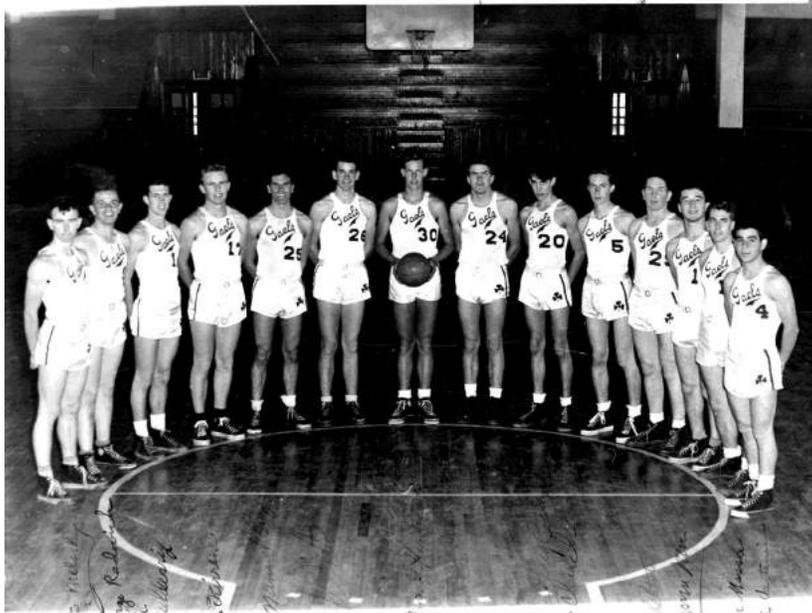
Orvick '50 played on the 1949 CB baseball team that won 16 straight games in route to the City Championship. The 1950 Brothers baseball team finished the season with a 15-6 record and placed three members on the Sacramento Union's All City team: pitcher/left fielder Jim Church '50, catcher John McNamara '50 and first baseman Orvick '50. In 1950, Orvick '50 handled 106 chances at first base without an error, while maintaining a batting average of .309 for the season.

Orvick '50 went on to play professional baseball with the St. Louis Cardinals organization for one year until he "found out what a real curve ball looked like."

Orvick's '50 clutch hit...from "Christian Brothers Baseball History, 1930-1959," written by James McNamara, '47 and Joe McNamara, '83: "Brothers began the inter-city portion of their schedule with a March 10th showdown with Sac High. In a very tight contest, Jim Church '50 pitched a strong game, giving up only three runs. Ken Orvick's '50 bases-loaded double provided the offense, as Brothers bested a strong Dragon squad 4 to 3. ... Heavy hitters Pete Vartanian '50, Ken Orvick '50, and Pete Mikacich '52 spoiled Brother Eugene's return to Sacramento, as Brothers defeated St. Mary's of Berkeley 9 to 8."

His working career included stints as a longshoreman, teamster, and handyman, eventually retiring as a teacher and vice principal in the Folsom-Cordova Unified School District after 33 years. Orvick '50 continued to foster his athletic ability by playing golf throughout his retirement years, resulting in three hole-in-ones. He passed away in 2013, and is survived by his wife, Patricia, children Matthew, Kimberli (Swineford), Ken and Wayne, step-children Craig and Guy Martin, 11 grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

"There were many things I could have or should have done differently but it was a great run with magnificent people."- Ken Orvick '50 (1933-2013)



The 1949 Sacramento City Champions

Ken Orvick #24



Ken Orvick '50 far left at Sacramento City College  
Hughes Stadium in the background



The 1949 Armstrong Gaels City Champions

Ken with John McNamara '50



## Coach Dick Sperbeck

Coach Dick Sperbeck is a graduate of Marysville High School, Yuba College and St. Mary's College. A distinguished athlete, he earned an impressive nine block letters in college. Sperbeck served as the Christian Brothers athletic director for 18 years, football coach for 15 years (91-53-6), baseball coach for seven years (108-39), and basketball coach for three years (48-30). He also taught English and Literature at the school.

Sperbeck coached the Bishop Armstrong varsity baseball team from 1960 to 1966. The 1962 baseball team (22-2) is considered one of the all-time best high school baseball teams in Northern California history by Cal-Hi Sports. Sperbeck was named coach of the year in California in 1962 with six players named to the All-City team including Burt Bonomi '62, Gene Cervantes '63, Doug Crawford '62, Jim Fox '62, Mike Green '62, and Larry Marietti '62.

When Sperbeck took over the Bishop Armstrong varsity football team as its head coach in 1962, the team played an independent schedule because CIF league rules excluded private schools such as Bishop Armstrong from being assigned to conferences. Sperbeck, as the athletic director, worked with the CB administration to have the rules changed. In 1964, the rules were changed and Armstrong was assigned to play in the Metro League. That first year, 1964, the Falcons suffered their only winless season in varsity football history. Sperbeck would go on to build the Bishop Armstrong/Christian Brothers varsity football program into a Metro League powerhouse, winning 4 Metro League championships (a school record) from 1964 to 1976. Sperbeck still holds the all-time school football coaching record for wins (91).

The best football team during Sperbeck's tenure was the 1970 varsity team which posted an 8-1-1 overall record and finished the year ranked second in Northern California. The only loss that year came against rival Jesuit who also owned a league championship of their own. CB won the Metro League title by posting a 6-0-1 record, the only blemish on Metro league play being an 8-8 tie with McClatchy. This team featured many outstanding players, including John Blanchard '71, the team MVP who went on to stardom at Stanford, Dan Carmazzi '71, CB's current head varsity football coach, Hall of Famer Jim Sarti '71 who won All-American honors and played for Santa Clara along with fellow tackle Stan Olsufka '71, and Tom O'Neil '71 who was voted by the team as the most inspirational and went on to St. Mary's College of California.

Notable football players coached by Sperbeck include Brothers Hall of Famers Clark Aldrich '62, John Cartwright '73, Dan Ferrell '75, Steve Scully '66, and Jeff Tisdell '74 (UNR), as well as Bob Bingham '74 (USC), John Blanchard '71 (Stanford), Pat Blocker '71, Bill Boughton '74 who led the area in tackles in 1973, QB Rick Cabral '70, Peter Campbell '62 (UCLA), the Clemons brothers (Mike '63, Pat '67, and Tim '69) who all went to CSU Sacramento, Chris Gandy '74, Joe Greco '75, tackle Dale Jablonsky '77 (UNR), All-American Brica Ragster '74, NFL receiver Eason Ramson '74, Mark Russell '72 who was MVP of the Metro League in 1971, Jay Steiner '63, and many others.

Sperbeck says his greatest legacy was launching the careers of fourteen successful area head coaches who served under him as assistants: Dan Carmazzi '71, Mike Clemons '63, Steve DaPrato '67, Dave Driffel, John Fletcher '67, Mel Fontes, Larry Ghilardi, Dave Hoskins, Dave Page '69, San Popovich, Jim Sarti '71, son, Marshall Sperbeck, Jeff Tisdell '74 and Ralph Villanueva. These former assistants combined to coach eight section championship football teams.

Sperbeck has been married to his wife Helen for 56 years. They have four children (Marshall, Stacey, Jeff, Jennifer) and 12 grandchildren.



Mr. Richard Sperbeck  
Assistant Coach



Coach Dick Sperbeck talks things over with the track co-captains for the season: Ray Austin (left) and Jan Deveny.



CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HIGH SCHOOL  
FOOTBALL ALL AMERICANS



Coach Dick Sperbeck gets set to take senior Joe Gill, left, and managers



Hoskins, Carmazzi, Sperbeck, Sarti, Fletcher in 1976



1962  
Falcon  
Baseball  
Team

## **John Stassi '59**

Born and raised in Sacramento, John Stassi '59 was a two-sport athlete at Christian Brothers School (9th and 10th grade) in both football and baseball. He was voted the MVP of the 1956 CB junior varsity football team. Stassi '59 attended Bishop Armstrong High School (11th and 12th grade) where he continued to be a two-sport star. His favorite high school athletic memory happened in his first football game for Bishop Armstrong in 1957 when Stassi '59 intercepted a pass and returned it 40 yards for a touchdown. Bishop Armstrong went on win that game against Yuba City (27-6) and continued their victories to earn a California Interscholastic Federation co-championship. During the 1957 football season, Stassi '59 played with several other Hall of Fame inductees, including his brother Sam Stassi '58, the "M&M wrecking crew" Dick Mooney '58 and Jim Mikacich '58. His football coaches at Bishop Armstrong were John Stremple and Dick Sperbeck, both men he considered great mentors. In 1959, John was named All-City and All-Northern Interstate Conference, both as guard on offense and linebacker on defense.

In baseball, Stassi '59 was the Bishop Armstrong MVP in 1959 as catcher for the Northern Interstate Championship team coached by Jack Witry, who Stassi '59 considered one of his great coaching mentors. Under the direction of Witry, the 1958 and 1959 teams finished with a 31-5 record and two Northern Interstate Championships. In those two years, John Stassi '59 played alongside his brother Sam Stassi '58, Dick Mooney '58, Jim Mikacich '58, and pitcher Tom Zanze '59.

After Bishop Armstrong, Stassi '59 attended Sacramento City College for the 1959-60 school year where he again played both baseball and football. His football coach at SCC was Ray Clemons '51, former football coach at Brothers. The next year, Stassi '59 joined his brother Sam on the offensive line at University of California, Berkeley, where his coaches included future NFL greats Marv Levy, Bill Walsh and Mike White.

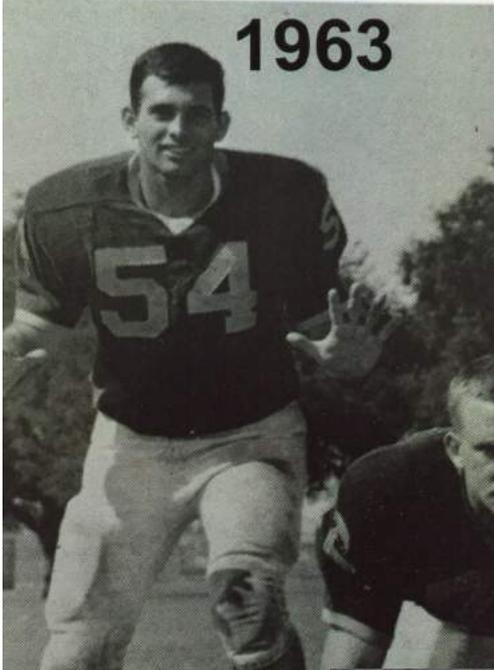
At Cal, Stassi '59 was 5'10, 190 lbs., considered small for Division 1 football. After two seasons at Cal, Stassi '59 transferred to UC Davis where he played both baseball and football. He was recognized as a second team All Far West Conference selection at linebacker in 1963, helping the Aggies win a co-championship in the Far West Conference. Stassi's '59 contribution to the 1963 football team, the team often given credit for creating "Aggie Pride," earned him a spot on UC Davis' 1960's All Decade Team as a linebacker. His coaches at UC Davis included former Cal football players from the "Pappy's Boys" era in 1949 to 1954, Will Lotter and Herb Schmalenberger. Stassi's '59 most memorable college play occurred in 1963 playing linebacker for UCD when he intercepted a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Gauchos pass after Santa Barbara had reached the Aggie 13 yard line. He then returned the interception to the 30 yard line, preserving a 7-0 victory for the Aggies.

Stassi '59 attributed all of his success in sports, business and life to the lessons learned from his parents, in the classroom and on the field throughout his elementary and high school careers. Stassi '59 passed away in 2009 at the age of 67 and is survived by his wife of 42 years, Karen, four children, and 13 grandchildren.



Members of Armstrong's fine '59 baseball team are, FRONT ROW, left to right: Julius Resendez, Yerbe Separovich, Pete Mooney, Mike Elorduy, Don Stockman. SECOND ROW: Charles Escro, Lee Scheuring, Tom Zanze, Fred Thomas. THIRD ROW: Coach Witry, Ken Crawford, Brian Roach, Ken Boltz, and John Stassi.

## UC Davis 1963



John Stassi, stalwart catching ace for the Falcons, strikes a typical pose during a recent game. John was an asset to Armstrong's baseball team in both the '58 and '59 seasons.



John Stassi — All City

Stassi anchors the middle of the line defensively. The younger brother of two time all city guard Sam Stassi is a take charge guy and was respected by all Falcon foes.

John Stassi, All-conference guard in a surprise move to full-back carries the ball for a first down.



## Sam Stassi '58

Sacramento native Sam Stassi '58 played four years of high school football and baseball. He was named an All-City guard in both the '56 and '57 seasons. A testament to his talent, he was also voted the MVP lineman in the years that Bishop Armstrong High School regularly won the conference championships in the North Section of the California Interscholastic Federation.

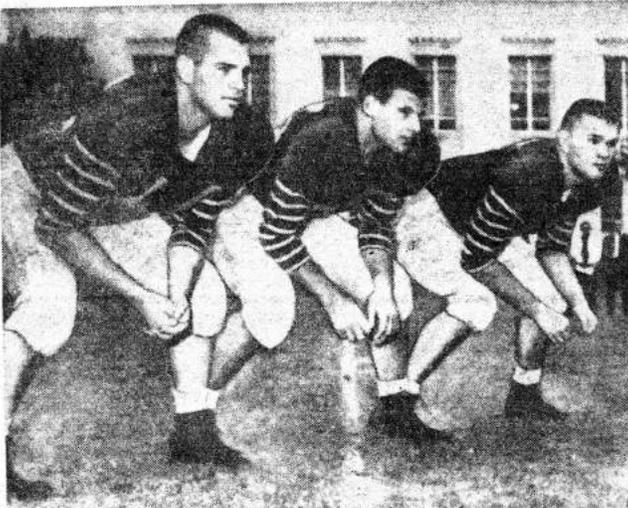
Off the gridiron, Stassi '58 was also an amazing baseball talent. In his junior season, the Armstrong Falcons baseball team finished undefeated against Sacramento area teams, claiming the city title under coach Bob Rodness with a 16-2-1 record. In his senior year, Stassi '58 was an All-City selection at first base and finished the season errorless, holding a .425 batting average and undefeated as a pitcher 7-0 with an ERA of 2.86 in 36 innings. The 1958 Bishop Armstrong Falcons baseball team went 9-2 in Hall of Fame coach Jack Witry's first season as coach. The 1958 team named Stassi '58 as the most valuable player.

Stassi '58 played football for the Sacramento City College Panthers in '58 and '59 and played first base for the baseball team in the Spring of '59. In 1958, Stassi '58 was the co-captain of the SCC football team and was coached by former CB football coach, Ray Clemons '51. While at Sacramento City College, Stassi '58 also participated in Block S Society boxing show; he was featured in the heavyweight bout which he won by unanimous decision.

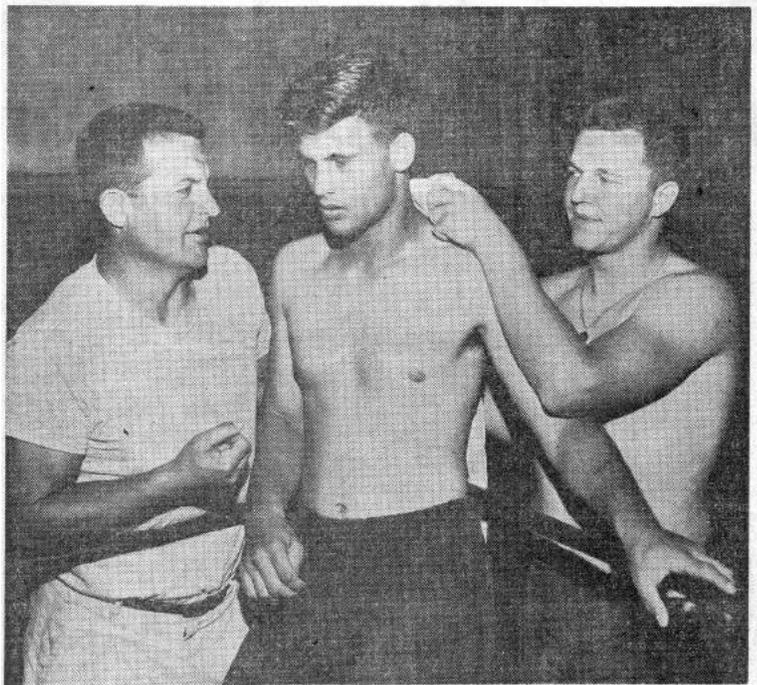
Stassi '58 then moved on to play football at the University of California, Berkeley in 1960 and 1961 where he played guard on offense and defensive end. At Cal, he was coached by Marv Levy, Bill Walsh and Mike White, all of whom became great NFL head coaches. In spite of the great coaching talent, Stassi's '58 Cal football team finished 1-8-1 in its 1961 season.

Cal's only victory in 1961 was against the University of Washington where Cal entered the game as a big underdog. The final score in this game was 21-14 at Memorial Stadium in Berkeley in front of 43,000 spectators. Washington had won the College Football National Championship in 1960 and this loss to Cal would be Washington's only loss in conference and prevented Washington from playing in the Rose Bowl after the 1961 season. This game was Stassi's '58 favorite athletic memory. Another favorite memory for Stassi '58 was the Cal football game at Penn State in 1961 where he recovered two fumbles.

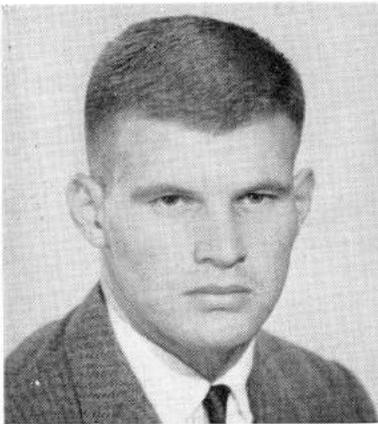
Stassi '58 earned his bachelor of science degree in physiology from the University of California, Berkeley in 1962. He graduated from Loyola University School of Dentistry, Chicago, Illinois in 1967 and later finished with a specialty degree in orthodontics. He returned to Sacramento where he has been in practice for 46 years. Stassi '58 married his wife, Joane, on June 4, 1966, and they are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary today. They have 3 children and 8 grandchildren. Happy Golden Anniversary Sam and Joane!



**SACRAMENTO BEARS**—These three linemen from Sacramento turned out in uniform Thursday in Berkeley as the Bears prepared to open football practice officially today. From left: Doug Graham, Sam Stassi and Lauren Bock. (AP Wire Photofax)



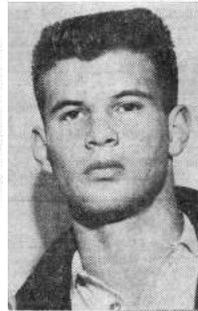
Coach Ray Clemons, left, passes along some pointers to Sam Stassi, center, in preparation for the Sacramento Junior College Block S Society boxing show Saturday night. Looking on is Tom McKerras. McKerras and Stassi will tangle in the featured heavyweight bout. Bee Photo



*Cal*

Stassi, who was a middle guard on the 1956 defensive unit, was voted by his teammates as the outstanding lineman this year. Stremple describes his play as "just vicious."

**Sam Stassi, guard**  
HS coach—John Stremple

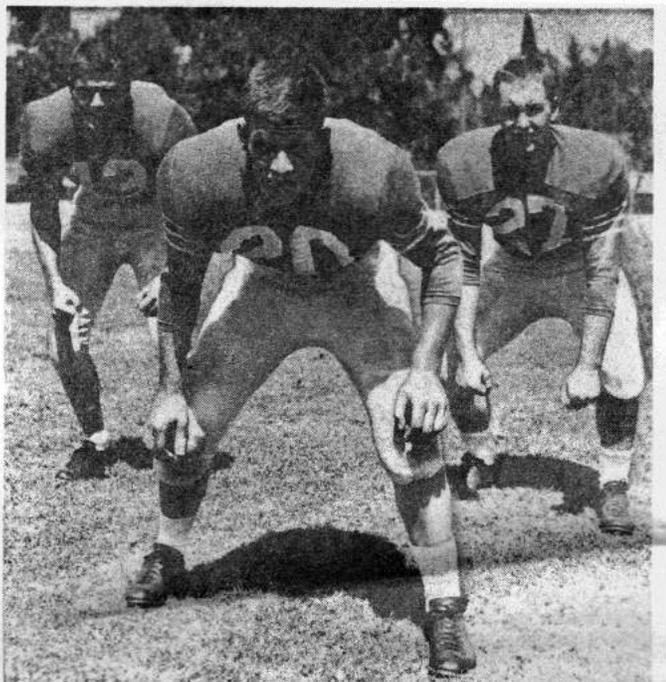


SAM STASSI



SAM STASSI, G

Stassi, a hard hitting guard who weighs in at 175, was tabbed as the top linemen.



**TOUGH HOMBRES**—Three key figures in the Sacramento County All Stars' defensive setup are linebackers Bob Griffin, left, of San Juan High School, and Wayland Sheppard of Norte Del Rio, right, and guard Sam

Stassi of Bishop Armstrong High. Sacramento will play Northern California Saturday night in the 20-30 Sacramento Valley All Star Football Game at Hughes Stadium. The kickoff is set for 8 o'clock. Bee Photo

THE SACRAMENTO BEE, WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1957



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The Bishop Armstrong High School Falcons, with 17 wins, two losses and a tie, and undefeated in 11 games against metropolitan area baseball competition, can lay claim to the 1957 city title. They are, left to right, front row: Sam Stassi, Ron Angell, Mike Barnhart, Tom Stin-

son and Ernie Cervantes. Middle row: Tom Higgins, Dick Mooney, Jim Mikacich, Mario Prisinzano, Pat Henretty and Bill Enos. Top row: Jim Stewart, Rod Amistani, Dick Ferrola, Bob Gatiss, Dave Gonzales and Coach Bob Rodness. Bee Photo

## Jeff Tisdel '74

Jeff Tisdel '74 played varsity baseball, basketball and football at Christian Brothers from 1970 to 1974. As the Falcons quarterback, Tisdel '74 earned All-Metro honors in 1972 and 1973 under the direction of fellow inductee, Coach Dick Sperbeck, and was recognized as an All-American high school quarterback in 1973. Brothers' varsity football finished 6-3 in 1972 and 9-2-1 in 1973 with a Metro League title in 1973. Under Hall of Fame coach Jack Witry, Tisdel '74 was an All-Metro basketball selection in 1973, along with one of his basketball teammates and fellow inductee, Rod Zanze '75.

At the University of Nevada, Reno, quarterback Jeff Tisdel '74 was a Division II All-American selection as a junior in 1976 and again as a senior in 1977. Tisdel '74 set numerous school record in offense and passing and remains in the UNR record books, including 10<sup>th</sup> in yards passing (6,098), 7<sup>th</sup> in touchdown passes (59), 10<sup>th</sup> in completions (394), 9<sup>th</sup> in attempts (776), and 10<sup>th</sup> total offense (6,050). In 1977, Tisdel '74 was selected to play in the East-West Shrine game where he threw a touchdown pass; he was the only Division II player selected that year, and the first UNR player to participate in three decades.

After graduating from the University of Nevada, Reno with a bachelor's degree in physical education and health in 1977, Tisdel '74 began his coaching career. In 1980, he returned to Christian Brothers as an assistant football coach for head coach Craig Rundle, assistant baseball coach with Hall of Fame coach Ron Limeberger '53 and a physical education teacher. With Rundle, the 1981 Falcons football team won 10 straight games, including three wins over number-one ranked teams, to claim the school's first ever Division I Sac-Joaquin Section title. In 1983, now as head coach, Tisdel '74 led Brothers to its second Division I Sac-Joaquin Section title with Hall of Fame running back Vince Delgado '84. In 1986, Tisdel '74 left Christian Brothers to begin his college coaching career as an assistant, again teaming up with head coach Craig Rundle, at St. Mary's College in Moraga for the 1986 and 1987 football seasons.

"I had the privilege of working with Jeff Tisdel '74 on two occasions, at Christian Brothers and St. Mary's College. Jeff has a great football mind and is an outstanding teacher of the game. He has a tremendous passion for the game and is a relentless competitor.... Jeff played a big role in the success we enjoyed at Christian Brothers and at St. Mary's," Craig Rundle, head football coach, Albion College.

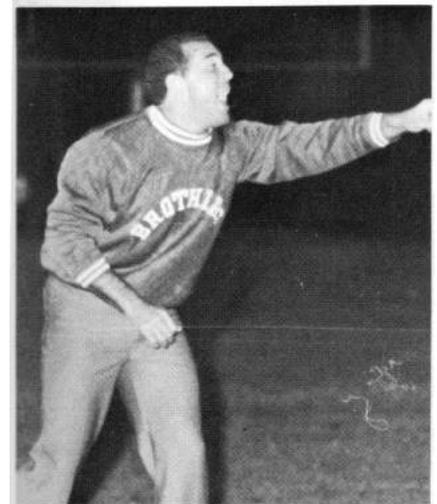
From 1988 to 1989, Tisdel '74 returned to UNR as the running backs coach. He left the following year to serve as head coach of the Sacramento City College football program from 1989 to 1993, leading the Panthers to a 38-12-1 record and winning three Northern California Athletic League Championships before returning to coach at UNR in 1994. From 1996 to 1999, Tisdel '74 was the head coach at Nevada, winning the 1996 Las Vegas Bowl and two Big West Conference Championships. His overall record as head coach for UNR was 23-22.

Coach Tisdel's '74 greatest success as a college football coach came while serving as head coach at Sierra College, where his record was 84-37. Tisdel '74 guided Sierra College to six conference championships and participated in eight bowl games during his decade-long tenure. From 2002 to 2005, Sierra College completed a 37 game winning streak, the second longest in California state history. He remains at Sierra College as an instructor in the Kinesiology Department.

Tisdel '74 lives in Rocklin with his wife of 26 years, Dorothy; they have a daughter, Jennifer.



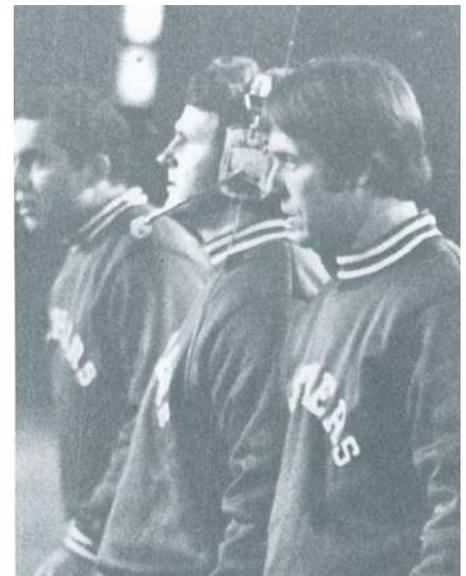
Nevada QB Jeff Tidel



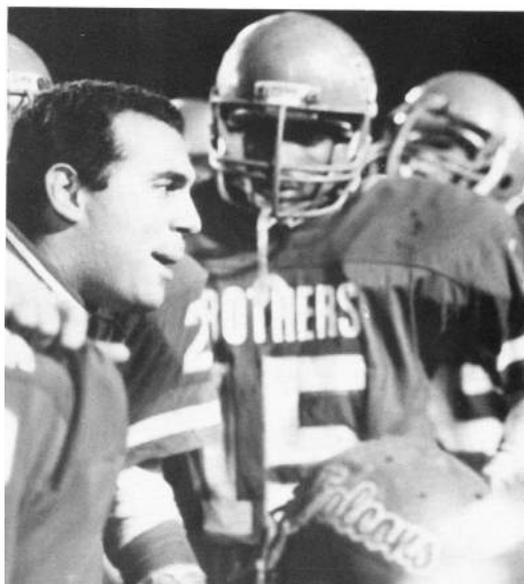
Coach Jeff Tidel:  
"I think the 1981 season was a great experience  
and one that I'm sure will never be forgotten"



Coach Tidel Leading his Sierra College Football Team on to the Field



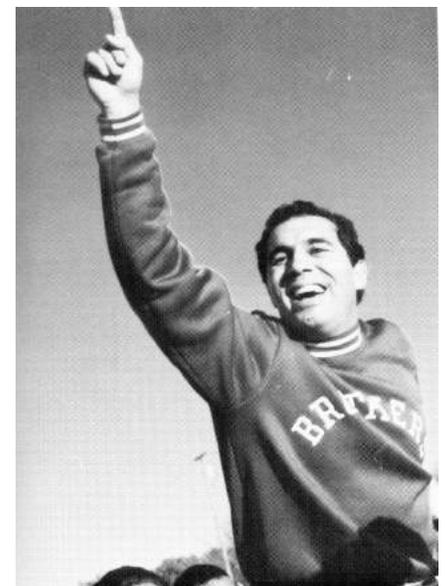
Tidel, Craig Rundle and Bob Woods  
1981 Section Title Coaches



**The 1983 Section Title Season  
Head Coach Jeff Tidel**

C.B.S.	OPPONENT
C.B.S. 42-6	El Camino
C.B.S. 31-14	Jesuit
C.B.S. 19-13	Valley
C.B.S. 45-6	* Luther Burbank
C.B.S. 7-0	* Johnson
C.B.S. 20-28	* Cordova
C.B.S. 55-20	* J.F.K.
C.B.S. 29-14	Nevada Union
C.B.S. 29-7	* McClatchy
C.B.S. 28-0	* Sacramento
	<b>PLAYOFFS</b>
C.B.S. 49-20	Bella Vista
C.B.S. 27-0	Cordova
C.B.S. 29-14	Grant (semi-finals)
C.B.S. 15-12	Vintage (Section Champs '83)

\*Denotes League Games  
League Record 5-1  
Nonleague Record 13-1



## **Coach Jack Witry**

At Christian Brothers High School, coach Jack Witry wore numerous hats including classroom teacher, vice principal, dean of students and coach. Witry grew up in Chicago where he attended St. Rita High School and graduated in 1953. His love of basketball brought him to St. Mary's College of California where he played on a scholarship. But it was his desire to teach math and coach that ultimately brought Witry to Christian Brothers after graduating in 1957.

Witry was the Bishop Armstrong varsity basketball coach in 1958 and 1959. During those two years, the team was led by Jim De Roos '60, Ed Dudycha '58, Duke McAlpine '59, Hall of Famer Jim Mikacich '58 and Art Sanchez '58.

Witry also coached the Bishop Armstrong baseball team in 1958 and 1959. In these two seasons, his teams won two Northern Interstate Conference Championships with a two-season record of 31-5. Notable players on these teams include Mike Barnhart '58, Rick Cable '58, pitcher Tom Zanze '59 and Hall of Famers: Jim Mikacich '58, Dick Mooney '58, John '59 and Sam '58 Stassi.

Witry left Bishop Armstrong in 1960 but returned in 1963 as a teacher and basketball coach. During his time as the basketball coach, Witry had only three losing seasons. Notable players Witry coached include Mike Evans '74, who went on to play for Santa Barbara, Joe Gill '63 who went on to play for USF, Joe Gutierrez '70 who earned a scholarship to San Jose State, Pat McAuliffe '70, Tom Parilo '68 who earned a scholarship to Gonzaga University, four-year starter Rich Raimondi '70, Manny Tequida '65, Mike Wetklow '75 who Bill Cartwright said was the toughest defensive player and rebounder he played against in high school, in spite of the fact he was only 6' 2" tall, and four-year starter and CB Hall of Famer Rod Zanze '75.

Fellow Hall of Fame inductee Rod Zanze '75 had this to say about his former basketball coach Jack Witry: "Coach Witry is one of the greatest gentleman I've ever had the pleasure of meeting, best coach I ever played under, incredible family man, always treating everyone with respect...truly a man of class and dignity!"

From 1976 until 1992, Witry worked full-time as controller and credit manager for Tony's Fine Foods while still teaching three math classes at CB. He then returned to CB full-time serving stints as vice principal, dean of students and math teacher until his retirement in 1999. Witry is still involved in basketball on a limited basis, mostly as an adviser to young coaches. In 1994, Witry was honored as "Lasallian Educator of the Year" by Christian Brothers High School, an award given annually to recognize one faculty or staff member who has demonstrated what it means to be a model Lasallian Catholic educator.

After retiring from teaching, Witry wrote "The History of Christian Brothers Basketball," as a member of the school's History Committee. This text documents Christian Brothers basketball teams and players beginning in 1909 when Brother Baldwin, FSC decided Christian Brothers should have a basketball team and persuaded the YMCA to allow CB to use its gym. This history of CB basketball covers the time period from 1909 to 2010.

Witry has been married to his wife Mona '60 for 51 years; they have 2 children, Nick '87 and Kathy, as well as four grandchildren: Madisyn '11, Lily, Jack and Delaney.



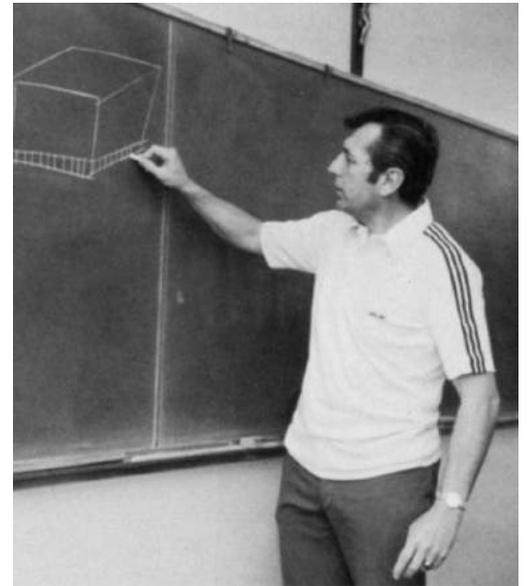
Members of Armstrong's fine '59 baseball team are, FRONT ROW, left to right: Julius Resendez, Yerbe Separovich, Pete Mooney, Mike Horduy, Don Stockman. SECOND ROW: Charles Escro, Lee Scheuring, Tom Zanue, Fred Thomas. THIRD ROW: Coach Witry, Ken Crawford, Brian Roach, Ken Bolo, and John Stasi.



Mr. Jack Witry  
Varsity Basketball Coach

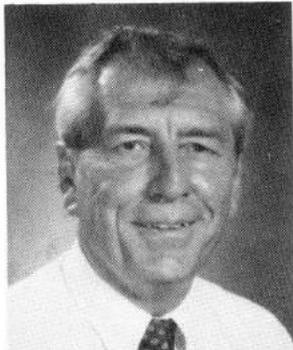


Coach Witry With his 1975 Basketball Team



1980

1994



Mr. Jack Witry  
Dean of Students/Math  
Analysis



1982



## **Rodney Zanze '75**

Rodney Zanze '75 had the unique distinction of playing four years as a starter on both the Brothers varsity basketball and baseball teams. He credits his older brothers with helping him develop his athletic skills in both sports. Zanze '75 vividly recalls beating his older brother Roger in one-on-one basketball in their backyard as one of his favorite memories.

Coached by Jack Witry, Zanze '75 consistently increased his basketball scoring average each year. As a freshman for Brothers, he averaged 11.0 points a game, 15.0 as a sophomore, 17.0 as a junior and 23.9 points as a senior, earning First Team All-Metro honors. Zanze '75 was also considered a great ball handler, averaging five assists and two steals a game. He also had an impressive career free throw percentage of 92 percent.

“While on the subject of child prodigies, the name Rodney Zanze '75 should not be overlooked. The Christian Brothers starter is only a frosh but is averaging 12.5 points per game in the tough Metro League with 50 tallies in the first four contests including 19 against Sacramento High. He hit on eight of nine floor attempts in the Dragon tilt and all but one were in the 20 foot range. Besides being a shooter, he feeds the ball well to Steve Perich and runs the ball club like a veteran.”

-Terrance O'Brien, The Catholic Herald, January 27, 1972.

Coach Witry had this to say about Rodney in 1974, “Rod is an excellent passer and ball handler. He surprises me every game. Yes we expected him to score, but not this much (30 points per game). He’s always working against high odds. Our opponents gear their defense to him. We’ve never had a real big man to go to and for Rod to work with. So it’s pretty tough for a boy 5’10” to compete against these odds each and every game and come through as he has.”

Zanze '75 believes his greatest opponent was Bill Cartwright, who went on to win several NBA Championships with Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls. His favorite athletic memory is playing in the 1975 basketball game against Elk Grove with Bill Cartwright in front of an overflow crowd and live radio broadcast.

In baseball, Zanze '75 was also a four-year varsity starter and a two-time All-Metro League infielder, compiling a four-year fielding average of .970 and a batting average over .300. As a senior he had a .333 batting average, hit five triples and was never thrown out attempting to steal.

Zanze '75 attended Chico State from 1975 to 1977 where he played both basketball as a shooting guard and baseball as a shortstop. In 1978, he played baseball for Sacramento City College as a third baseman; that year he hit .395, earned All-League honors and helped Sacramento City College win a league championship. Zanze '75 also played baseball for Chapman College in 1979. He went on to play baseball in the Sacramento area semi-pro league for 21 years.

Zanze '75 is currently a varsity baseball coach for Christian Brothers and has been for several years. He is married to wife of 33 years, Linda, and has two children, Savannah (26) and Shane (28).

"EVERYTHING IS DONE BY THINKING"

Freshman on Varsity

Made Big Step Up

By LARRY IRBY  
Staff Writer

Rod Zanze of Christian Brothers stole the basketball from Kennedy's Kevin Johnson, and drove for a layup but was fouled. Zanze made both free shots, but nullified the second when he stepped over the foul line.

Zanze is a freshman guard playing varsity ball for Brothers. He will learn about the violations. Already he is an asset on coach Jack Witry's Falcons. He is an exceptional outside shooter.

"Rod has lots of poise, loves the game and he's had to work hard to get the respect of the other players," Witry said. "But he just stepped in and he is doing the job, averaging about 10 points a game."

"I was kinda nervous at first," said soft-spoken Rod, 6 foot-0, "but not anymore. It feels pretty good playing varsity basketball. I'm kinda glad I got to do it."



Rod Zanze



Rodney Zanze

Prep of the Week



Rod Zanze  
Brothers Falcons

Rod, the Falcons' little play-maker and top scorer, put his shooting talent in gear to lead his teammates in two Metropolitan League victories. Against McClatchy, he connected on 12 field goals and eight free shots for 32 points. Then, in the Johnson contest, Rod hit 13 field goals and three free ones for 29 points. He's fourth in the area in scoring with a 22.2 average.

Christian Brothers freshman Rodney Zanze in hitting on 75 per cent of his shots and only one basket has been a layup.



#15 as a Sophomore on 1973 Varsity Basketball Team

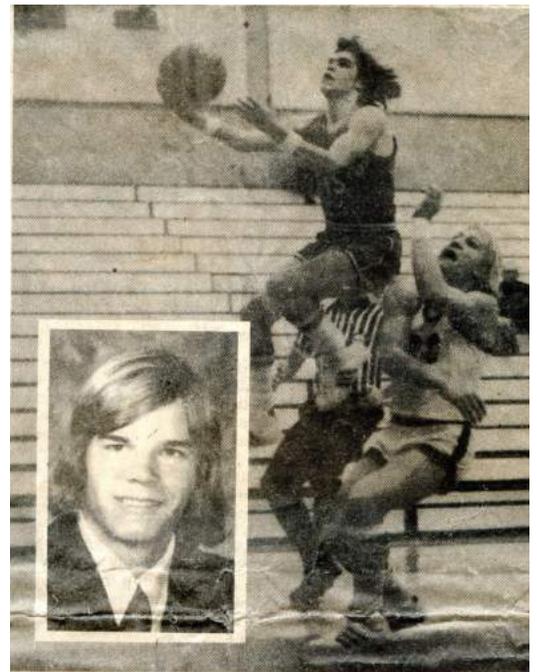
CBS Tops Downey  
As Zanze Hits 35

Nov. 30, 1974

All-Metro Basketball

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Player	School	Ht.	Yr.	Ave
F	Dave Penilton	(Grant)	6-4	Sr.	18.9
F	Jim Stephens	(Rio Americano)	6-5	Sr.	20.4
C	Bill Cartwright	(Elk Grove)	7-0	Sr.	38.4
G	Philip Dickson	(Norte Del Rio)	5-9	Sr.	25.6
G	Rod Zanze	(Christian Bros.)	5-10	Sr.	23.8



Rod Zanze, Brothers

Page F4 THE SACRAMENTO EDE Wednesday, Dec. 11, 1974

Small Rod Lost In The Shadows Of Big Bill

LIKE MANY PREP basketballers this year, Christian

Sacramento City College

1977 BASEBALL PROGRAM



Rod Zanze

5-10, 165, Junior  
2B, 3B

A Northern California product of Sacramento City and Chico St . . . Hit .384 in 1977 for Sacramento City and garnered All League honors at third base . . . Rod has been impressive in early season drills and will challenge for a starting position at either second or third . . . Played summer ball for Cullis Chapel in Northern California.

## Thank You!

The Christian Brothers Hall of Fame Committee would to thank the following individuals:  
 Bobbi Pires '76, Cynthia Gandy '78, Todd Bird '78, Pat Gormley '07, Natalie Reyes '09 and  
 Kristen McCarthy.



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Todd Bird  
 KFBK Home Show Host  
 iHeartMedia

1545 River Park Drive  
 Suite 500  
 Sacramento, CA 95815

o 916.972.8633  
 M 916.208.8633  
 F 916.973.8633

toddcobuilders@yahoo.com



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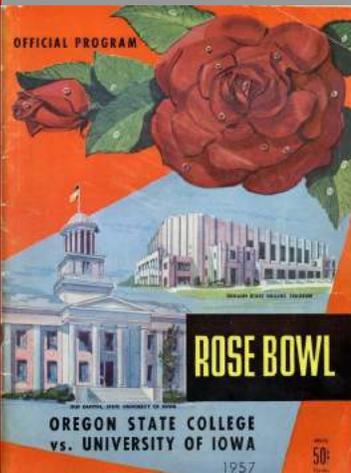
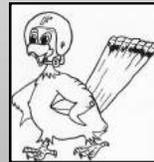
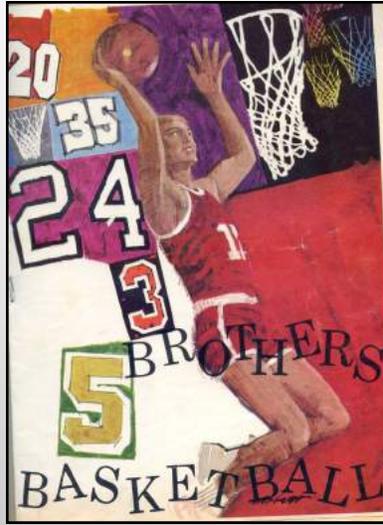
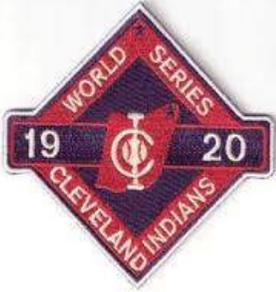
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# The Schools, Teams and Games of the 2016 Inductees



Congratulations to the Class of 2016  
Hall of Fame Inductees!

