

El Dorado High School Wall of Fame Coaches

Listed in alphabetical order

Don Chadez

EDHS 1969-1984

Inducted in 2000

Two of El Dorado's most successful programs through the 1970's and 1980's owe that success to the leadership and dedication of Don Chadez. Don was the head cross-country coach for 16 years, beginning in 1969. The boys' team won six league titles and the girls' team won one during his tenure. In 1979, the boys' team won the CIF title and his girls' team followed suit in 1983. Don was the assistant track coach beginning in 1970 under Glenn Hastings. Don took over as head coach in 1973 and continued to lead the program until he left EDHS in 1984. The boys' track team won seven league titles with his direction. Don also helped organize one of the biggest track meets in Southern California. The meet gathered some of the best track and field performers in the area for many years. One of this special coach's legacies here at El Dorado are the many dozens of trees planted around the track area. Along with his coaching, Don has been a national leader in developing a finish-line timing service. The CCAA, Pac10 and Big West Conferences use his program in their conference championships each year. Don runs his service for the NCAA Division 2 indoor and outdoor championships. He says that he is still tremendously proud of all the athletes who completed four years of running and never gave up - a special memory includes training camps at Mammoth and Big Bear. He left El Dorado to become the Cross Country coach at Cal State Long Beach. In 1988, Don went to Corona High School as athletic director. He also is president of the JUSA Select Club program in our area. He encourages today's students to set goals higher than they think are realistic and to venture out into the unknown to make the most of every opportunity. The Chadez family lives in Yorba Linda. He and his wife Lynn have two children, Kristin (18) and Scott (12).

Terry Conley

1973-2009

Inducted in 2011

In 1973, just a few years after our school opened its doors for the first time, a remarkable and dedicated teacher and coach named Terry Conley came to El Dorado HS to begin what would become a thirty-six year career as a Golden Hawk. He began as a science teacher and basketball and baseball coach. He was the quintessential teacher-coach and especially loved working with students at the lower levels. During his career he coached countless athletes on freshman/JV baseball, freshman/sophomore/ JV/varsity football, freshman/sophomore/varsity basketball, frosh-soph wrestling, and boys' JV soccer teams. There was not a sport that he could not coach! His athletes knew him to be a great teacher, demanding but fair-minded, someone with a fierce competitive drive as well as a great sense of humor, a mentor they could trust and look up to as an exemplary athlete in his own right. Coach Conley believed in hard work, the importance of fundamental skills, and the benefit of playing multiple sports. All El Dorado students knew him to be a very enthusiastic, friendly and visible part of the Golden Hawk family. Often, in the evenings and on weekends, he could be found working out in the school's weight room – a very special place to him, a place he took great pride in. Most importantly Mr. Conley could be seen - almost daily - cheering on one Golden Hawk team or another. He loved to support student athletes and his fellow coaches. From the pool to the volleyball court to the football sidelines, he was there to encourage. Not only did Coach help build the legacy of athletic excellence at El Dorado during his thirty-six years as a Golden Hawk, he also helped build the El Dorado staff into a family. Mr. Conley was often a man of few words, but he also loved telling stories, watching movies (and reciting favorite lines from them) with his buddies at lunch, and just hanging out with his wide circle of friends. He was always very proud of his family – his wife Mary Ann, his three daughters Marie, Angie and Rene, and their husbands and children. Everyone knew that he was a man of impeccable character– he was honest, caring, compassionate, courageous and loyal. Mr. Conley's commitment to El Dorado High School and his Hawk Pride were legendary. We are thankful for the difference he made!

Frank Gonzales

EDHS 1976-present

Inducted in 2000

Frank was hired as the head wrestling coach in 1976 following the team's CIF title under coach Chuck Smith the previous season. He not only maintained what was a successful program, but forged it into one of the premier wrestling programs in California. During his 15 years at the helm, El Dorado won a state CIF title in 1982 and finished second in

the state in 1986. Frank's 15 seasons resulted in 12 league and two CIF titles. Frank was named league Coach of the Year nine times, Orange County Coach of the Year three times and in 1982 National Coach of the Year. In 1990, he was hired as wrestling coach at Santa Ana College and success followed him to the JC level. He won four Orange County Community Coach of the Year awards and was twice named South Coast Conference Coach of the Year. In 24 years of coaching, 21 of his wrestlers made all-America team honors, and 17 wrestlers won State Championships. What he remembers most about coaching at EDHS is working with great people at all levels. The attitude of the coaches, teachers, and administrators carried over to the students. His advice is to "take advantage of all the pitfalls and adversities that life has to offer. It's how we deal with them and overcome them that determines in the end who we are. After all, it's never how you start something but always how you finish." His heroes are the Iwanaga, Steele, Tomazic, Lawson, Deferrante, Thomas and Hoskins families for their great support of EDHS wrestling. He credits Chuck Smith as his mentor, Bill Clark for hiring and supporting him, and Steve Hyams, his co-coach for 13 years, for having the patience and foresight to make the program great. Frank still teaches English at El Dorado while serving as Athletic Counselor to the athletes at Santa Ana College. He lives in Huntington Beach with his wife Sue and daughter Kimberlee (9).

Steve Gullotti

1981-present

Inducted in 2011

Even though Steve Gullotti is El Dorado's current boys' athletic director, he will always be referred to as Coach Gullotti. And he will always be remembered as someone with an incredible work ethic, an enthusiasm for athletes, and a clear vision for how to help young people grow into capable adults. This Golden Hawk coach was hired by former principal and Wall of Famer Jerry Jertberg in 1981 and became arguably the best high school baseball coach in the country. With a 511-250 record, Gullotti produced roughly seventy college-level players, thirty professional athletes, and seven Major-Leaguers. He owns seven league titles and two CIF championships. Visionary and caretaker for Orange County's premier high school baseball field, Gullotti also coached on the gridiron from 1981-1989. The former UC Santa Barbara Gaucho credits long-time Dodger announcer Vin Scully and his former JC baseball coach "Big Al" Verdun for igniting a passion for the game. Scully "painted a picture in the mind of the sport that grew to be (his) passion (or obsession)" and taught him a lot about the game he loves. Big Al took his "unbridled passion and channeled it in a very positive direction." One look at the entire El Dorado baseball program and its legacy – from the players themselves, to the beautiful field and clubhouse - shows what happens when one man with a dream and a plan and the willingness to make things happen is given the opportunity to do so! The

1988-89 school year may be the coach's most memorable in a very successful career. Golden Hawk Janet Evans won three gold medals in the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, and Steve Gullotti won his first CIF Championship at Dodger Stadium when Matt Luke stole home. The season culminated with the birth of his first child! Coach Gullotti resides in Yorba Linda with his wife of 28 years Brianne. He has two Golden Hawk daughters. Janelle recently graduated from UCLA and Lauren is a junior at EDHS. These days he enjoys riding his Harley and boating. Steve spent a career at El Dorado but offers this: Find something you enjoy doing, be passionate about it, and do it to the best of your ability. Success will follow you and you will never have to work a day in your life! For all of the life (and baseball) lessons they learned from him, Coach Gullotti's former players hold him in the highest regard.

Tom Milich

EDHS 1982-1989

Inducted in 2003

Among the 2003 Hall of Fame inductees is one coach - that singular individual is aquatics coach Tom Milich. It was during Tom's tenure as a Golden Hawk in the 1980's that the school's water polo and swimming programs were a well-respected dynasty! His contributions to our tradition of athletic excellence were many. At the same time, some might overlook the fact that, to his many biology students, Tom was also an enthusiastic, inspiring, challenging classroom teacher. Milich's Golden Hawk teams won an unprecedented *six* water polo and swimming CIF titles. His swim team lost only one dual meet in his seven seasons and his water polo team lost only one league game during that same time. He was named CIF Coach of the Year twice for water polo and was California Swim Coach of the Year in 1987. His athletes knew him always to have high expectations and to instill a great sense of team loyalty. Tom served as an assistant coach of the USA National water polo team for six years. In 1988, he traveled with Team USA to the Olympic Games in Seoul, Korea, for its silver medal performance. He names one of his most special memories that of being on the pool deck when Janet Evans set world records in the 400 meter freestyle. His work with Team USA took him to Australia, Germany and numerous other countries. He left EDHS to coach water polo at Fresno State University for three years. Milich is currently Aquatics Director for the Clovis Unified School District. He also works with Fresno State's women's swim team and is head coach of the 700-swimmer Clovis Swim Club. Milich fondly remembers the winning attitude of his Golden Hawk teams, "they always expected to win." He thanks Connie Grosse, Bill Clark, Norm Parker, John Bowman, the EDHS science department, Joe Raya and the coaching staff for their support. His coaching mentor is Jon Urbanek, currently at the University of Michigan, and his hero will always be his grandfather who was the fairest and hardest-working man he has known. Tom is married to Moira and they have two children, Caitlin and Milena.

Nash Rivera

EDHS 1966-1984

Inducted in 1998

Coach Rivera, for nearly two decades, was El Dorado basketball! It was the energy, knowledge, and inspiration he gave his players that paved the way for the 1974/1975 back-to-back CIF championships. In his tenure as a Golden Hawk, Nash made thirteen consecutive CIF appearances: ten with boys' teams and three with girls. At one point, his boys earned five consecutive league championships! Born in New Mexico, Nash later came west to attend Chapman College. His athletic excellence there was rewarded in 1979 when he was named one of seven original inductees into the Chapman College Athletic Hall of Fame. His memories of El Dorado are many: the CIF championships, yes, but also a game against Troy when All-American Mark Wulfemeyer was playing. Wulfemeyer scored fifty points in the game for Troy, but the final score was El Dorado 106, Troy 96! He also remembers a water polo player who "streaked" the court in a CIF game against Brea in 1974! Nash names his parents, as well as his good friend and former teammate Bob Hamblin, Don Perkins, Coach John Wooden, Glen Hastings, and all the students and athletes he has had a privilege to teach, as responsible for his personal success. After leaving El Dorado in 1984, Nash went to UCLA where, for five years, he served as assistant women's basketball coach. Since then he has been a physical education teacher in Santa Ana at Spurgeon Intermediate School. Nash's commitment to basketball is undeniable; for years he has conducted clinics from the Middle East to Uruguay to Mexico. In 1994, after having served nine years on its executive council, the Southern California Interscholastic Basketball Coaches Association gave Nash its Merit Award for distinguished service and contribution to the overall quality of high school basketball. Nash and his wife Betty have two daughters, Elizabeth and Ann Marie.