

El Dorado High School Wall of Fame Support

Listed in alphabetical order

Tom Byrnes

EDHS 1965 – 1972

Inducted in 2003

One has only to walk through the Joe Raya Gym and view the many banners displayed there to realize the rich tradition of athletic excellence at El Dorado. Much of that tradition began with Tom Byrnes. Tom started his very special career in school athletics in 1957 at St. Dominic's School in Los Angeles. He moved on to Moorpark HS in 1960 before joining up with Valencia High School in 1962. He joined the Golden Hawks in 1965 as a member of El Dorado's opening faculty. He served as a varsity football and lower level baseball coach while organizing the athletic staff as the school's first athletic director. Tom hired many of the coaches who gave El Dorado its start in athletic prominence in the 1970's. In 1972, the CIF recognized his management skills in athletics and lured him away from the Hawks to become an Assistant Commissioner for the Southern Section. Tom advanced to become the CIF-SS Commissioner of Athletics in 1975. He served for five years before being hired as the Commissioner for the State CIF Office in 1980. He served as state commissioner until 1995. The CIF's growth in corporate sponsorship began under his watch. His work for the CIF resulted in many of the improvements that are taken for granted today. Gender equity and the expansion of student participation in athletics were among his many accomplishments while in office. Tom also created the statewide Student-Athlete award program along with beginning the statewide playoff system for various sports. Tom was rewarded for his many efforts on behalf of student-athletes by being given the Lifetime Achievement Award in 1995 by the State Athletic Directors' Association. His memories of El Dorado include the Hawks' young staff that had a great deal of spirit along with the group of students and parents who opened a high school with 7th graders "against all odds". Some of the coaches with whom he worked remember the fiery and inspirational pep talks he would give the Golden Hawk varsity football team. Tom is married to Joyce and they have three grown children: Tom, Tim and Brenda.

Bill Clark

EDHS 1967-1980

Inducted in 1998

To begin to describe the leadership that Bill Clark provided El Dorado High School athletics during his tenure as Athletic Director, one could mention the ten CIF titles that Golden Hawk teams won while he served! A strong believer in student-athletes playing multiple sports, Bill followed the “blueprint for success” that his predecessor Tom Byrnes had established. Bill graduated from Washington High School in Los Angeles before attending Pepperdine University and earning his undergraduate degree from Cal Western (now USIU). His teaching career began at the San Miguel School for Boys in 1965; in 1967 he came to El Dorado as an assistant football and head tennis coach. In the classroom he taught English, social science, economics, and drivers’ training. In 1973, Bill became athletic director. Just as coaches strive to get the most they possibly can from their athletes, Bill sought to get the most he possibly could from his coaches. He demonstrated a great ability to bring people together, to unify coaches in purpose and pride. He was the “founding father” of the El Dorado Coaches Club, and rumor has it that Bill has served as treasurer for everything organization to which he has belonged! In addition to his appreciation for Tom Byrnes, Bill credits Marv Stewart for giving him his first job at EDHS and especially Jerry Jertberg for his support and “for not firing me”! Bill says that fellow inductee Joe Raya is a hero of his, for leading by example. In 1980 Bill moved from El Dorado High School athletics to the offices of Southern Section CIF, where he serves as an assistant commissioner. Bill has three children, who attended El Dorado, Lisa, Dana, and Greg, and also three grandchildren. One of his special memories is the year that Greg was a part of the CIF championship water polo team; Bill had the chance to present the awards to the team members. He and his wife Ginny live in Long Beach.

Ray Ernst

EDHS 1972-present

Inducted in 2003

Ray is half of the first parent-athlete duo to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Ray has five sons and two daughters who graduated from El Dorado with Steve starting in the fall of 1972. This is when Ray first met cross-country coach Don Chadez. When Tim entered EDHS in 1973, Ray got involved with the Golden Hawk Marching Band. When Greg came along in 1974 Ray got involved in football activities. In 1989 Laura became a pepster and Ray helped found the Pepster Booster Club. He received the OC Athletic Directors Booster Award in 1992 and the PTSA Lifetime Award in 1993. He could always be found at the starting line of the cross-country races pumping up the runners! In track one of his big thrills was hugging Greg in the pole vault pit after Greg cleared 16'6". Another special moment occurred at the end of the 1979 league final mile run. Ray met Ken on the track and gave him the 1st place medal that he had won in his high school league finals. Another thrill was being able to call Bill Clark from

Castaic Lake to tell him that El Dorado had just won its first boys' cross-country CIF championship. Ray's son Dan was a member of that winning team. Ray fondly remembers working on booster activities with Frank Gonzales, Vic Tomazic and Bill Hoskins, Gerald Hershey, Bruce Groff, Gerri Wilson and Vic Chadez. In Pepster Boosters, Don Dolliver and Ray spent many Saturday mornings setting up car washes. When it comes to outstanding teachers that Ray has worked with, he names Connie Grosse, Terry Conley, Joe Raya, and Steve Gullotti. Ray's brother Bob is Ray's hero. He has overcome tremendous challenges throughout his life and he is -- a champion. Ray currently practices dentistry in La Habra, lives in Hacienda Heights with his wife Kathy, and fills his time visiting with his 7 children, 2 stepchildren and 14 grandchildren. Ray believes that El Dorado is THE SCHOOL providing unlimited potential for students to excel. He advises parents: be involved with your sons and daughters while at El Dorado. These years will be some of the best times of your life!

Connie Grosse

1974-present

Inducted in 2011

When asked about who inspired them during their time at El Dorado, not surprisingly, many of our Wall of Famers answered “Connie Grosse.” Support comes in many facets: teacher, motivator, cheerleader and role model. Connie encompasses all of them. Connie and El Dorado athletics have shared a symbiotic relationship for nearly four decades. Connie began her career on the Golden Hawks campus in 1974. Since then, she has served and set the standard for excellence in countless assorted roles, including science department chair, volleyball and swimming/diving coach, cheer advisor, Senior Awards’ Night coordinator and scorekeeper for the boys’ basketball team. A Golden Hawk through and through, she never misses an opportunity to attend an EDHS event. While her support has not been limited to athletics, many coaches and athletes consider her a valued member of their team. She often quietly intervened during seasonal or life’s rough patches by writing notes that offered support and inspiration when it was needed most. Humble in nature, she works tirelessly behind the scenes to recognize the contributions of others on campus, and was a driving force in seeing the Wall of Fame come to fruition. Connie has received numerous campus, county and state awards for teaching, including being named 1988 Orange County Teacher of the Year. The OC Athletic Director Association recognized her with the Teacher Appreciation Award in 2005. In 2008, even the LA Lakers honored Connie as April’s Teacher of the Month. Connie considers herself blessed to have parents who provided her awesome opportunities and taught her to savor the simple joys in life. She is also thankful for Jeff, her husband of 36 years. According to Connie, his selflessness and humility define love. She thanks the EDHS science department for being such a wonderful family – “The chance I have had to be a Golden Hawk is one of God’s most amazing gifts in my life.” When asked which award or honor has meant the most to her, in true Connie fashion, she deflected the spotlight, “Just the chance to share in the victories and lives of so many awesome kids and coaches.” Hanging on the wall in her classroom is a sign that speaks to her and for her: He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose!

John and Pat Hayes

1968-present

Inducted in 2000

The first family to be inducted into the Hall of Fame is one that has had a lasting impact on the Golden Hawks athletic program for over thirty years. John and Pat Hayes are the parents of ten children, nine of whom are El Dorado graduates. Over the years the Hayes' have had an impact in almost too many sports and activities to imagine. Their children played football, basketball, volleyball, baseball, wrestling and track. John and Pat were involved in GAA activities, band, and Grad Night; they were committed to supporting their community! They were members of the first EDHS booster club. John has been football booster club president, member of the chain gang on the sidelines of games, and in charge of game program sales. Pat co-chaired Grad Night and has served as a judge for Senior Projects. In 1982 they received El Dorado's PTSA award. The Orange County Athletic Directors honored John in 1983. Pat is a two-time nominee for Placentia Citizen of the Year. Some of their favorite memories are watching Dan Petry pitch the Hawks to a CIF baseball title in 1976 and seeing the Hawks basketball team beat son Greg's Canyon team in the first round of the CIF playoffs in 1986. Was that a good memory? They feel privileged to have seen their sons develop under Hall of Fame coaches Glen Hastings, Nash Rivera and Frank Gonzales. John and Pat feel that the influence of the faculty, including Connie Grosse and Dave Mosley, and athletic staff was extremely helpful in their children's college success. John and Pat still live in the family home in Placentia. John works for the George Yardley Company (34 years) and Pat does volunteer work. They keep busy watching their 15 grandkids' sports activities along with going to Golden Hawk games. Their heroes? John's long-time boss, George Yardley, a former NBA great, and all the people who supported the ED program while their children were in school.

Jerry Jertberg

EDHS 1966-1986

Inducted in 2000

The legacy of excellence in athletics and academics at El Dorado High School was established very early in the history of the school. Jerry was one of El Dorado's assistant principals when the school opened in 1966. He became the principal in 1974 and served as head of the Golden Hawk campus until 1986. As principal Jerry was a strong advocate for his teachers and staff members. He was always a well-known member of the community and worked diligently to maintain an excellent relationship between the school and community. During his tenure as principal, the Golden Hawk athletic program became recognized as one of the finest in Orange County. Jerry always seemed to have a knack for hiring quality people who were committed to teaching, coaching and inspiring students and athletes. His leadership in putting the pieces together that brought that success to El Dorado's athletes brings him into the Hall of Fame. All three of his children attended El Dorado where they enjoyed success in academics and athletics. His special memories are the team spirit within the staff and the dedication to the students that everyone consistently represented. There were many

highs and lows on the way to developing the school into what it is today, and Jerry led with a great sense of humor, with a forthright manner, and with tremendous enthusiasm. Jerry's advice to El Dorado students is to "get involved! Dedicate yourself to doing your best. Enjoy life to the fullest!" The Jertberg family, Jerry and wife Patricia, now live in Yorba Linda after many years in Placentia. Their three children, Jeff, Julie and Jerilyn are married and there are seven grandchildren to keep track of. After leaving El Dorado, Jerry became a program director in the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified District offices and later principal at Kramer Middle School. He is now retired still enjoying close friendship with the El Dorado family.

Dave Ramos

EDHS 1968-Present

Inducted in 2018

El Dorado High School opened its doors to students in September 1966. Just four years later Dave Ramos, and his wife Helen, moved into Placentia and quickly became active members of the community. In 1971, their eldest son David became a Golden Hawk, and in the ten years that followed, five more Ramos children would attend EDHS. David graduated in 1975, Veronica in 1977, Shirley in 1979, Paul in 1982, Jeanette in 1983, and Robert in 1985. Including sons- and daughters-in-law, along with grandchildren, too, twelve members of the Ramos clan are El Dorado graduates. Our school has enjoyed incomparable parent and community support in its more-than fifty-year history, and in the finest traditions of those contributions, Dave Ramos has been an extraordinary and ever-present Golden Hawk booster and friend. Active in his support for the boys' basketball program for many years, he also served as the team photographer during the seasons his sons Paul and Rob played. Now, many years later, it is not uncommon to see Dave at numerous school events and athletic activities each year. He loves to encourage and cheer for others, and his loyalty to the Golden Hawks knows no bounds. Having served in the United States Navy from 1951-1955 during the Korean War, Dave exemplifies diligence, patriotism, hard work, integrity, concern for others and self-sacrifice. We honor Dave especially tonight for his special contribution to the annual Bell Game played at Bradford Stadium. Since 1968, the varsity football teams from El Dorado and Valencia High School have battled on the football field each season in the hopes of calling themselves City of Placentia champions. Nineteen years ago, Dave donated a beautiful victory bell, along with a handcrafted cradle and wagon that is now awarded to the annual winner of the game. This very special gift was established in memory of Dave and Helen's grandson Quinn Christian. Through Dave's efforts to promote the Bell Game, he sought to foster school spirit and pride in the community he has loved and called home for nearly fifty years. The Bell Game is absolutely one of the highlights of each school year! Until very recently, Dave could be seen every October participating in Placentia's Heritage Day Parade, of course riding with the winning team's cheerleading squad and the Victory Bell in tow. Dave Ramos is a humble, friendly, generous, dedicated husband, father, grandfather, booster, and difference maker He is a fine example of leadership, citizenship and service.

Joe Raya

EDHS 1966-1996

Inducted in 1998

There are many who believe that no one individual has had a greater impact on El Dorado athletics than Joe. He came to our school when it opened in 1966 as its cage man, or “zoo keeper” as he called himself. For the next ten years, Joe took care of the equipment for all the boys’ sports, washing, mending, and repairing uniforms. He helped maintain swimming pools and athletic fields. He served as athletic trainer for all of the teams. As if this were not enough, Joe would often be found as the “assistant” on the bench at various games, “working” the game officials, gaining an edge for the Hawks! Joe moved up to the position of Head Custodian at El Dorado in 1975. As such, he faithfully and heartily served the staff and students at school with dedication and caring. Joe continued to serve the athletic program, too, by maintaining and lining the fields, sweeping and maintaining the gym, timing games and events, taping athletes, assisting coaches and so on. He always has been the team player. Joe was born and raised in Placentia and proved to be an outstanding high school athlete in his own right at Valencia High School (Class of ‘49). He was a four-sport letterman (football, basketball, baseball, and track), earning league and CIF honors. He went to Mt. SAC before being drafted into the Army and serving in Korea. When he returned to Placentia in 1953, he married his high school sweetheart, Millie. Joe and Millie were blessed with seven children - Liane, James, Patrick, Paul, Gary, Jennifer, and Matthew. Family is an important part of Joe’s life - his own mom and dad are his heroes. Special El Dorado memories include the back-to-back CIF basketball championships, Janet Evans and John Mykkanen’s Olympic

Sally Reclusado

1989-2008

Inducted in 2011

Sally served the Girls’ Athletic Director for nineteen formative, successful, noteworthy years. In 2005, she was named the CIF Southern Section’s Athletic Director of the Year. She worked tirelessly to build a strong, competitive and respectful athletic program. Sally wanted as many positive experiences as possible for high school female athletes to compete. She added freshman and sophomore levels in soccer, volleyball, basketball and softball. Golf, water polo and lacrosse were added to the program under her directorship. She was the first to compile and archive records, statistics and overall history of girls in sports at El Dorado. Her coaches knew her to be loyal, forthright, encouraging and supportive – she herself had been a swimming, softball, and tennis coach at La Puente High School for many years before coming to El Dorado. Every day Sally proved that hard work, good sportsmanship and respectfulness through competition is an integral part of the high school curriculum. Sally always demonstrated faith in her coaches, love for Golden Hawk athletes, and effective leadership and service to the entire school staff. Sally retired as Director of Athletics at EDHS, but she isn’t done working! She is currently chair of the Orange County Athletic Director’s

Association Women in Sports Conference. She is an OCADA and CIF Distinguished Service Award Winner. Never intimidated to roll up her sleeves and word hard, Dirt and Design is her recent business project. She enjoys interior design and gardening – and she has her own John Deere tractor to prove it!! One of her most memorable Golden Hawk moments was watching the softball team capture the CIF Championship by beating Kennedy on her birthday in 2001. Sally credits her eighth grade teacher Mr. Joe W. Sallee for inspiring her to love education. She and her family are now dedicated to that cause. For over 40 years, her husband Ron has been a teacher and coach at Don Lugo High School in Chino. Her daughter Robyn directs athletics and activities at Duarte High School. Toby, her son, was a Division I scholarship-athlete at UCSB. She has two grandchildren: Ayden and Brody. She thanks her parents for supporting her in everything she did and advocating hard work and leadership

Carl Sweet

1972-present

Inducted in 2011

Carl Sweet has served El Dorado with undying loyalty and impeccable style in many capacities since 1972. He began as the freshman football coach and returned to that very same position two years ago 'after retirement'. Carl's love of Golden Hawk football was instilled initially by his mentor and former coach at Brea Olinda High School, Glen Hastings. After stints as both defensive and offensive coordinator for Coach Hastings, in 1980 Carl left El Dorado to spend four seasons at Hart High School as the head coach. In 1983 Carl led the Indians to a CIF championship. Coach Sweet returned 'home' and took the reins as head varsity football coach in 1984 for the Golden Hawks. Carl Sweet's coaching career, by the way, also included baseball, swimming, and golf. In 1989, he became the boys' athletic director, serving in this capacity for 20 years. During his directorship, EDHS captured numerous CIF titles in baseball, football, soccer, swimming, water polo and wrestling. During his tenure as boys' A.D., Sweet masterminded the Joe Raya Gymnasium dedication and helped to organize the El Dorado Athletics Wall of Fame program. Under his leadership the Gary Raya Co-Ed Classic Basketball Tournament came into existence as well. To his coaches, Carl was the ever-present, thorough, dependable leader and friend. He worked hard to build camaraderie among his coaches. If Golden Hawks were competing, Carl was there! His attention to detail as well as his pride for the Golden Hawks revitalized the gym and rejuvenated the tradition and spirit of El Dorado athletics. He was honored with the CIF Southern Section Athletic Director of the Year in 2002. Sweet credits his early success and happiness to the love and support of his high school sweetheart and late wife Marie. They have three children: Chris, Jamie, and Kevin, all El Dorado grads. After Marie's passing, Carl found love again with his current wife Kathie. Kathie and Carl enjoy traveling to Major League ballparks and visiting their grandchildren. An avid golfer, Sweet encourages student-athletes to "take advantage of your God-given abilities and participate in as many different activities and sports that you can possibly fit into your schedule." "... Mediocrity is excellence for the common person – be uncommon."

