



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

May 19, 2011

El Camino College Celebrates 24th Annual Athletic Hall of Fame

El Camino College recently celebrated its 24th Annual Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet at Los Verdes Golf Course. The event honored players, coaches and those involved with the El Camino College athletic program through the years. Five new Hall of Fame inductees and five current student-athletes were recognized at the event.

The five new Hall of Fame inductees include:

Jaymie (Britton) Baquero (1997-1999) Soccer, Softball, Badminton: Baquero was a multi-sport athlete at the youth level and at Mira Costa High School. Before attending ECC, she won 16 U.S. Junior National Badminton titles and was a member of the U.S. Junior National Badminton team. At ECC, she competed on the soccer, softball, and badminton teams. In her freshman year she led the soccer team in scoring, was selected as the team's MVP and South Coast Conference first team; the following year she was captain and led the ECC team to the 1998 state final. Again, Baquero was the team's leading scorer, MVP, and South Coast Conference first team selection. In 1999, she partnered with her mother Traci to win the doubles title at the Women's State Badminton Championships. After graduating from ECC, she earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Loyola Marymount University and a master's in sports management from CSU Long Beach. She is a part-time teacher at ECC and is a volunteer assistant coach for the women's soccer team, guiding them to the playoffs in 2010.

Guy Bunyard (1983-1984) Football: Bunyard was a standout student-athlete at South Torrance High School in football and basketball. At ECC, he fulfilled a lifetime dream of playing for the Warriors and his dad, longtime assistant coach Jim Bunyard (ECC Hall of Fame 1998). In his sophomore season, Bunyard was the leader of a tremendous offensive line (five Division I scholarships) and was a unanimous first team All Conference selection. He received a football scholarship to Stanford University where he played two successful years, culminating in a trip to the Gator Bowl as a senior. Bunyard returned to ECC in 1988 as an assistant football coach for five years while he completed a master's degree in mathematics from CSU Long Beach. He then moved to Maryland to take a fulltime position in mathematics at Howard Community College, continuing to coach football for a number of years both at the college and high school levels. Bunyard joins his dad in the Hall of Fame, becoming the first-ever father-son inductees.

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Gary Debeaubien (1967) Wrestling: Debeaubien began his wrestling career at Mira Costa High School under the direction of Coach Jack Fernandez, and was a member of the CIF Wrestling Championship team in 1965. While at El Camino College, his record was amazing: not only was he undefeated in 1967, but was also All American that year. Debeaubien was a two-time state champion and placed in every two-year and four-year tournament during his El Camino College years. He coached and taught at West Torrance High School; while at West, the wrestling team was CIF Champions. His coaching record at the community college level is superior: 80-27, two conference championships, and 40 All-Americans. He was also named California regional "Coach of the Year" seven times, and conference coach of the year. Debeaubien was recently added into the National Coaches Hall of Fame.

Steve Obradovich (1972-1975) Men's Volleyball: Obradovich played volleyball for ECC under the outstanding Coach Don Hay, who also doubled as the head football coach. After ECC, Obradovich attended USC to continue his education and volleyball career. He also played football in September 1975 for John McKay; he lettered in football in 1976; then played volleyball in the spring of 1977, where USC put together an 18-1 record and their first NCAA Men's Volleyball Championship with a win over Ohio State. Obradovich is the only USC player in history to ever letter in both football and volleyball at the same time. He later took his volleyball skills to the beach and competed in two-man competitions. Before professional beach volleyball, there was the parks and recreation tour and Obradovich won nine of them. Next came the AVP and nine more wins, including the "Wimbledon of beach volleyball," the Manhattan Beach Open. With that win on August 15, 1976, Obradovich was immortalized with his name on the pier with teammate Chris Marlow.

Tedd Wall (1954-1955) Wrestling, Football: Wall was the 1952 California State Wrestling Champion for his weight class at Redondo Union High School, his senior year. At El Camino College, he placed second in league championship at 157 pounds and first in league team championships twice. He also placed first in league at 167 pounds and was the league outstanding wrestler of the year. In football, he was a member of Rose Bowl Team, and was first team offensive and defensive end, in addition to All-League honorable mention. After ECC, Wall joined the U.S. Army where he played football and wrestled for Army teams. He was offered a full scholarship to UCLA for both football and wrestling but an automobile accident after his release from the Army ended his athletic career. Wall remained in Southern California where he had a successful business career in real estate development. He is currently retired and living in Washington.

Also honored at the Hall of Fame banquet was El Camino College cross country/track & field standouts **David Cardona** and **Shalé Garland**, the 2011 Athletes of the Year.

David Cardona came to ECC from North Torrance High School, where he recorded one of the South Bay's fastest 1600m times. He made the transition to college athletics quickly and won the 2009 conference cross country title, leading his team to the win and placing second in the 2009 State Championships. During the 2010 track & field season, David won South Coast Conference titles in both the 1500m and 5,000m and went on to win the Southern California 1500m Title and State Championships 5,000m title, with his time making the ECC All-Time Top-10 List. During his sophomore cross country season of 2010, David went undefeated in conference, Southern California, and the state.

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Along the way, David set four course records and once again led his team to the South Coast Conference Title. He was voted South Coast Conference Cross Country and Track & Field Athlete-of-the-Year, both of his years of each sport. He is the ECC school record holder in the 5,000m and the fastest California Community College runner at that distance in more than 20 years, while also placing himself on the ECC Top-10 Lists in the 3,000m steeplechase and 3200m relay. He is the current state leader in both the 5,000m and 3,000m steeplechase and a heavy favorite to win both state titles this year. He has accepted a full scholarship to attend California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo where he will major in sociology.

Shalé Garland came to ECC from Inglewood High School. After attending California State University, Dominguez Hills for one year with plans to compete, Garland chose to transfer to El Camino College after her first year. During her freshman year, Garland was among the state leaders in the 100m, 200m, 400m, and long jump, while earning a spot on the ECC Top-10 Lists in the 100m, 200m, and long jump. She scored in the state championships in the 200m, 400m, and 1600m relay. In her sophomore year, Garland immediately placed herself higher on the ECC All-Time Top-10 Lists in the 200m and 400m and leads the state in both while also leading her top-ranked team to state in both the 400m relay and 1600m relay. A Scholar-Baller during her academic tenure at El Camino College, Garland is planning on pursuing a degree in kinesiology at one of the many universities currently pursuing her.

Norm Verry Scholarship Awards were given to scholar-athletes **Ashleigh Gideon** and **Javier Molina**.

Ashleigh Gideon was the women's volleyball team captain and a solid floor leader. She led the team in kills with 272, 3.4 kills per game. She was second in digs, with 376, and had a huge blocking season with 15, along with 22 aces. Gideon was the South Coast Conference MVP 2010, AVCA All American 2010 (one of three from California in 2010) and made the All State Team. The 2011 team captured the conference this past season. Ashleigh will transfer to Chapman University in the fall to continue her academic and athletic careers.

Javier Molina was elected water polo team captain both years he competed, leading the 2009 team in every category: scoring, assists, and steals. By 2010, every opposing team geared its entire defense toward stopping Molina. He responded by leading the team in assists for the second straight year, smashing the old career school record for assists by 15. He is known as a hard-working leader who continually encourages and helps his teammates become better players. Off the court, he works long hours and volunteers to help disadvantaged youth improve computer skills.

The Ray Southstone Scholarship Award went to **Kara Kalmar**. A graduate of South Torrance High School, she was one of the South Bay's top pole-vaulters. In her first year at ECC, she won the South Coast Conference Title in the pole vault at 11-1, setting a new school record. Kalmar went on to place second in the Southern California Championships and placed fourth in the state. In her sophomore year, she set a new school record in the pole vault at 11-8 and was undefeated in California community college competitions, while being among the state leaders. In addition to her track & field accomplishments, Kalmar was one of the top three women on the cross country team during her two seasons. An outstanding student, Kara has maintained a 3.4 GPA and has been a Scholar-Baller every semester.