



NEWS

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El Camino College Remembers Olympians Through the Years

As the world's best athletes come together to compete in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, it is a great time to remember some of El Camino College's own Olympic history.

One Olympic standout is ECC alumnus George Stanich, a high jumper bronze medalist in 1948, when the games were also in London. A multi-talented athlete, Stanich also played basketball for UCLA, under Coach John Wooden. Stanich was a two-time all-conference guard and in 1950, led UCLA to its first NCAA tournament appearance. He scored nine points in the East-West All-Star Game and was a First-Team All-American, the first to earn this honor under Coach Wooden. Stanich also played UCLA baseball, and went on to play professional baseball after graduation, pitching for the Oakland Oaks of the Pacific Coast League, among other teams. George later became an ECC faculty member from 1955-1992.

El Camino College alumna Flo Hyman played volleyball for the U.S. in the 1984 games here in Los Angeles. The three-time All-American led the team to a silver medal that year. Hyman was an ECC student before transferring to the University of Houston.

More recently, El Camino College was represented by Cliff Meidel, who competed in sprint kayaking in the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. He returned to the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, competing in sprint kayaking and serving as the official Team USA flag bearer. His inspiring story of courage and success was broadcast to nearly two billion viewers during the 2000 Olympics, detailing the 1986 construction accident that left him with a slight limp and unable to run.

Other El Camino College Olympians include five people on the 1952 Olympic water polo team, competing in Helsinki. ECC Head Coach Urho Saari led a team with ECC players Bill Dornblazer, Jim Norris, Harry Bisby, and Bob Hughes.

The 1964 Olympics in Tokyo featured Keith Erickson as a standout U.S. volleyball player. Erickson attended UCLA, where he played on Coach Wooden's first two NCAA Championship teams in the mid-1960s. Erickson also played in the NBA for 12 years; five of those years with the Los Angeles Lakers. After retiring from the NBA, he partnered with famed announcer Chick Hearn to broadcast Lakers games on radio and television for eight seasons.

ECC alumna Myra Mayberry represented Puerto Rico in the 100 and 400 meter track and field event in the 1992 games in Barcelona. Mayberry returned to the Olympics in 1996 to compete in the 100 and 200 meters, along with Sharette Garcia, who ran the 800 meters representing Belize.

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