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El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | Email: agarten@elcamino.edu

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El Camino College Names Gifford Lindheim New Head Football Coach

El Camino College named Gifford Lindheim the new head football coach. Lindheim comes to El Camino College after seven years as head football coach at Santa Monica College (SMC), where he led the Corsairs to five consecutive conference championships and 34 straight conference game victories.

Lindheim joins the El Camino College team as it begins a new era of Warriors football in a brand new, \$37.2 million Murdock Stadium, scheduled to open later this spring. The 2016 football season will kick off in the modern stadium, which is designed to support the college's outstanding athletic programs and kinesiology classes.

Though the stadium is new, El Camino College has nearly seven decades of outstanding athletics history, with a tradition of excellence for student-athletes who excel both in academic and athletic endeavors.

Lindheim follows Warriors head coach John Featherstone, a legend in community college football, who completed 31 seasons at ECC with the highest winning percentage of any active coach in Southern California when he retired in fall 2015. Lindheim is a former assistant of Featherstone, serving as the co-defensive coordinator from 2008-2009, before he took the head coach position at SMC.

“Coach Lindheim is an excellent addition in the classroom and on the field,” said Rory Natividad, dean of ECC's Health Science & Athletics Division. “He is a student of the game and understands what it takes to recruit and transfer student athletes. Gifford has respect for our strong history as well as a vision for how El Camino College will be successful well into the future.”

Lindheim's winning record of 50-24 overall (39-7 in conference) at SMC includes honors such as of the No.1 offense in the state and the No. 1 defense in Southern California, five consecutive Coach of the Year awards, and an undefeated 2015 season.

He also has coaching experience at West Los Angeles College, Venice High School, Whittier College, University High School in Los Angeles and the University of Nevada, Reno. He has coached numerous student-athletes who have transferred to play football at the university level,

in addition to many who have made their way to the NFL, such as linebacker David Mayo of the Carolina Panthers.

"Coach Giff is one of the most positive and uplifting coaches I've worked with," Mayo said. "He helped turn SMC into a powerhouse by creating a structure that works for young men to achieve something greater athletically and in the classroom."

Lindheim earned a master's degree in higher administration in education from the University of Nevada, Reno; a master's in education from Whittier College; and a bachelor's degree in kinesiology from San Francisco State University, where he played running back.

A Los Angeles native, Lindheim lives in Westchester with his wife Claudia and two sons.

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