



NEWS

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Two Longtime El Camino College Coaches to Step Down *ECC Alumni Gene Engle and LeValley Pattison will continue to teach at ECC*

Two successful longtime El Camino College coaches have announced that they will leave their respective coaching positions at the end of this season. Gene Engle, a 35-year football offensive line coach and LeValley Pattison, the head coach for women's volleyball for the past 26 years, have announced they will step down from coaching.

Each coach will be honored at the last home game of the regular season – 6 p.m. Nov. 9 for volleyball and 6 p.m. Nov. 12 for football. Alumni are invited and encouraged to attend these games.

Both Engle and Pattison are alumni of El Camino College and Mira Costa High School, both are members of the ECC Athletic Hall of Fame, and both will remain on campus, teaching classes in the Division of Health Sciences and Athletics.

Engle had an exceptional tenure at ECC, where the Warriors won a national championship and played for two additional national championships. The team also won two state championships, 11 conference championships, made 19 bowl appearances and were nationally ranked during 21 seasons. Engle came to El Camino College in 1975 as a student after graduating from high school and immediately won a spot on the football team coached by Ken Swearingen. In 1976, he not only won the “Helmet Award” for the team's outstanding lineman, but also earned All-Metro Conference honors as a sophomore.

Transferring to Stanford University in 1977, Engle played for legendary coach Bill Walsh and started at offensive tackle. In 1978, Engle's teammates gave him the “Roos-Atkins Award” for his dedication; he also earned All-Pac 12 Honors in '78. After graduating in 1979, he was selected in the free agent draft by the San Francisco 49ers. Engle then returned to Stanford from 1980-82 where he earned a master's degree in education and served as a graduate assistant coach with the football team, assisting with the offensive line. He moved back to ECC in 1982 as an assistant coach, working with the offensive line. Engle had the pleasure of having his son Matt play two years for ECC as starting quarterback.

“I have had the privilege of working alongside so many talented coaches through the years, most notably John Featherstone and Fred Petersen,” Engle said. “It has also been an honor to coach so many gifted young athletes who allowed me to be part of the transformational journey that took place in their lives while at El Camino College. I want to thank my colleagues, amazing staff, and administration for all the support they have shown me.”

Pattison is the only female athlete to win a community college state championship both as a player (1983, MVP) and as a coach (2007 and 2008). Her record stands at 16 conference titles, 2 state titles and 14 coach of the year awards. She began her collegiate career as a setter for UC Santa Barbara in 1982, then transferred to ECC where she captured the regional and state tournament MVP awards for the Warriors. El Camino College won the state title that season with a 16-0 record. Pattison went on to play at CSU Long Beach State from 1984-85. Both years the 49ers competed in the NCAA tournament.

Pattison graduated from CSU Long Beach in 1987 with a bachelor's degree in physical education with an emphasis on coaching and fitness. In 1990 she earned a master's degree in administration in education from National University. Pattison's first coaching job was at Mira Costa High, then on to Division 1 volleyball with head coach Nina Matthies at Pepperdine University in Malibu. The Waves were Western Athletic Conference Champions and made the NCAA playoffs each season she was with the team. Pattison will continue coach the ECC beach volleyball team.

"I have had an amazing journey with many different student-athletes and what I find most memorable is to see how they grow as individuals and the path that they took after El Camino College," Pattison said. "Having success on the court was always a tremendous feeling, but it does not come close to being able to see students thrive at a four-year college/university and in life. I am excited to continue to grow the beach volleyball program and have a positive impact on our students in the classroom."

El Camino College serves more than 450 male and female student-athletes in 22 intercollegiate athletic programs. Throughout the nearly 70 years of ECC athletic history, the program's tradition of excellence extends to both academics and athletics.

For more information about El Camino College athletics, view: www.elcamino.edu.

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