



2020 Rancho Cordova Sports Hall of Fame Inductees announced

A dominant high school cross country team, a founder of youth baseball in Rancho Cordova and a remarkable quartet of coaches will be among those inducted this October into the Rancho Cordova Sports Hall of Fame.

The inductees will be honored during the 2020 Induction Ceremony slated for 6 p.m. Saturday, October 10 at Rancho Cordova City Hall. The class includes athletes, coaches, and Rancho Cordova sports supporters who have exhibited the "Heart of a Champion."

"Rancho Cordova has a uniquely powerful history of youth sports achievement," said David Sander, mayor of Rancho Cordova and president of the Rancho Cordova Athletic Association (RCAA). "Our Hall of Fame highlights that incredible history and inspires our current youth athletes."

Honorees elected to the Rancho Cordova Sports Hall of Fame were judged to have attained significant achievements in or have made important contributions to athletics, as well as exhibiting high standards of character and sportsmanship.

"The history of Rancho Cordova is closely linked with some of the most talented athletes in the country," said Conrade Mayer, chairman of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee. "We need to look at this sports legacy and allow it to inspire our entire community, especially our youth."

Rancho Cordova sports luminaries to be inducted during the Sixth Annual Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony will include:

Marcus McCauley (Cordova '02): A football hero during his days at Cordova High, McCauley was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings in the third round of the 2007 NFL draft. During his rookie season as a pro, he started nine games, recording 64 tackles.

Scott Sellner (Cordova '83): As a mighty 12-year-old, Sellner won the 1977 Pitch, Hit & Run baseball competition at the All-Star Game in Yankee Stadium. Drafted by the New York Mets in 1983 and the Cincinnati Reds in 1987, he went on to play five years in the minor leagues, including two seasons in Double-A baseball in the early 90s.

Jeff Yurtin (Cordova '80): A Cordova High baseball star, Yurtin helped Louisiana State University win its first Southeastern Conference title as tournament MVP. Drafted initially by the Chicago Cubs, Yurtin played in the San Diego Padres organization for five seasons, including two years for Triple-A Las Vegas of the Pacific Coast League.

Tanya Smith Chappell (Cordova '91): A four-time competitor in the California State Meet, and a three-time medalist, Smith Chappell ran the fastest hurdle time in the nation as a high school junior while at Cordova High. She went on to an outstanding college athletic career at the University of Southern California and later became a professional cheerleader for the Los Angeles Rams.

Erin Wachter (Cordova '05): Wachter's list of lifetime achievements includes running in her first Junior Olympics at age 12, winning eight All-American medals in track and field and cross country, and setting the mile run record at Cordova High. She was the first female cross-country competitor from Cordova High to qualify for the California State meet, ran with two Big Sky Conference championship teams while at California State University, Sacramento, and ran multiple marathons including Boston among a long list of distance running accomplishments.

Greg Uding (Cordova '87): A globally-recognized athlete, Uding followed up a stellar high school career accepting a basketball scholarship from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks before launching a professional basketball career in Portugal.

Vicki Baugh (Sacramento High '07): Before being drafted by the Tulsa Shock and becoming a professional WNBA player, this two-time Sacramento Area Player of the Year was a basketball star as a freshman at Cordova High. Baugh won a gold medal with the USA U19 World Championship team, competed with the FIBA Americas U18 championship team, and was selected by USA Today as a 2007 First Team All-American.

K.C. Clark (Cordova '87): A founding member of the first women's professional baseball team to play against men, Clark was a pioneer for women in sports at a young age. Before playing softball with California State University, Fullerton and professional baseball with the Colorado Silver Bullets, she was the first girl to play in Rancho Cordova Little League in the 1980s.

Melinda Garcia Craigie ('86): A Cordova High softball standout, Garcia Craigie was a State Most Valuable Player at Sacramento City College in her rookie season. She went on to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas on a full ride athletic scholarship, leading UNLV to its first appearance in the Women's College World Series. Garcia Craigie was also a founding member of the Lady Magic youth softball travel team, for which she later coached, putting northern California softball on the map.

Angie Smith Rodriguez (Cordova '84): Named as a First Team All Metro selection in 1984, Rodriguez went on to earn All State pitching honors for Sacramento City College, breaking several pitching records. Next stop: Sacramento State University, where she compiled a 1.01 ERA covering 166 innings pitched – a feat that earned her induction into the Sacramento State Sports Hall of Fame.

Mickie Weekly (Cordova '84): A multi-sport stunner in basketball and softball during a golden year for Cordova sports, Weekly was named to All-City teams in two sports in 1984. She led the Lancers to a Section crown in basketball following an unbeaten season and helped the Lancers softball team to 28 wins and runner up in the Section in softball. This scholar athlete went on to UC Davis where she was a softball Player of the Year and record-holder.

1974 Cordova High School Cross Country Team: This remarkable team had an undefeated record through the Section finals and ranked third in the nation. At the Northern California Finals at California State University, Sacramento, the team's top five runners finished within one minute of each other, a feat unheard of in the sport of cross country. A powerhouse in a sport which was sometimes overshadowed by Cordova's football success, this team routinely swept the field of top finishers and was even known to trot across the finish line holding hands.

Bill Mikelson (Cordova '68): A coaching veteran, Mikelson spent 31 years coaching football, winning state titles in two states. He won the "Louisiana Sport's Writer Association's Coach of the Year" award in 1981 after winning two Louisiana state titles, and later took the Pleasant Grove team to the Utah State Championship.

Don Boardingham: (Cordova '78) A multi-sport athlete setting records as a fleet-footed football halfback, a track sprinter, long and triple-jumper who once qualified for the Cow Palace Indoor Meet, Boardingham was also a winner on the wrestling mat. He had a successful college career in track at Cal State Northridge before turning his talents to coaching. Sharing his athletic know-how with student athletes during 20 years as a track and field coach, Boardingham has sent 10 boys and girls to seven different state events, has won 17 Los Angeles city championships and has shaped the athletic careers of his own son and daughter – stand out athletes in their own right.

Rich Rose: Coach Rose had an impact on hundreds of Cordova High athletes' lives through his 32 years as teacher and coach at Cordova High coaching baseball, football, and wrestling. An outstanding college baseball player in his early years, Rose was inducted into the Fresno State Baseball Hall of Fame as a pitcher on the 1959 team which won third place in the College World Series and again in 1961 as pitcher on a team that ranked fourth in the nation. In Rancho

Cordova, he was the coach of the 1974 American Legion Baseball Team which finished third in the state championship and sent 12 of 15 players to post-high school play. He was the pitching coach at both Cosumnes River College and Sacramento State among a long list of coaching accomplishments.

Bill Evans (Cordova '67): An outstanding high school athlete in Cordova High's early days, Evans went on to Southern Utah University and Idaho State University before embarking on a coaching career in Port Sulphur High School in New Orleans in 1977. He joined the college coaching ranks in 1983 with stops at Southern Utah State, Alaska-Anchorage, and Montana during a career capped by being named Big Sky Basketball Coach of the Year in 2016 for his work at Idaho State. 2020 is the start of a new era for Evans as Head Coach for the Utah State University Eastern Eagles.

Rancho Cordova Sports Club (RCSC): A foundational stone in Rancho Cordova's sports bedrock, the Rancho Cordova Sports Club provided a critical space for kids to play sports, learn about teamwork, and build lifetime friendships. While no longer an active organization, RCSC holds a special place in many Rancho Cordova hearts for laying the groundwork for parent support upon which Cordova High School's rich legacy was built. Their contributions will be enshrined in the Rancho Cordova Sports Hall of Fame in the "Heart of a Champion" category.

Dario Ondina (deceased) Ondina, an early Rancho Cordova sports pioneer, is credited with establishing youth baseball in Rancho Cordova in the mid-1960s. A talented baseball player as a youth, in the Army he was a pitcher and first baseman on various semi-pro teams in the Sacramento area before turning his focus to youth baseball for Rancho Cordova. He is a founder of the Rancho Cordova Little League, Rancho Cordova Babe Ruth Baseball and American Legion Baseball. In addition to launching the leagues, Ondina coached in them all, plus the St. John Vianney baseball teams of the late 1960s. His devotion to youth sports and success in establishing leagues which have withstood the test of time was honored with a "Citizen of the Year" award from the Knights of Columbus and will be memorialized once more in the "Heart of a Champion" category.

Tickets for the induction ceremony are \$25 and include an appetizer and cocktail reception and awards program. Online tickets will go on sale Sept. 1 at www.cordovacouncil.org. The event is organized by the Rancho Cordova Athletic Association in partnership with the Cordova Community Council.

The Rancho Cordova Athletic Association was formed in 2013 to foster lifelong values of good sportsmanship, teamwork, and healthy, active lifestyles through the development of excellent youth sports facilities and organizations, positive coaching, and access to play for all.