



*Providing Financial Support For Interscholastic
and Intramural Sports*

*Twenty Second Annual
Marin County High School
Athletic Hall of Fame
Induction Banquet*

*Saturday, November 7, 2009
Embassy Suites Hotel
San Rafael*

Marin Athletic Foundation

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The purpose of the Marin Athletic Foundation is to support and insure a full range of quality sports programs for all students at MCAL high schools. MAF funding supports athletics at Branson, Drake, Marin Catholic, Novato, Redwood, San Marin, San Rafael, Tamalpais, Terra Linda and Tomales. Individual, business and organization donations are vital in MAF's fundraising efforts. Tax-deductible contributions may be sent to:

Marin Athletic Foundation
 P.O. Box 150930
 San Rafael, CA 94915
 (415) 472-1165

Program

5:30 p.m.

Reception

6:30 p.m.

Grand Entrance of Inductees

7:00 p.m.

Dinner

Welcome and Introductions

Natu Tuatagaloa
President, MAF Board of Directors

Introduction of Inductees

Chris Weber, Master of Ceremonies

Presentation of Plaques

2009 Inductees

20 Year Anniversary — Graduated 1989 or before

Allison Banks Russell – Drake – 1989

Michael Coffino – Tamalpais – 1986

Bryan R. Price – Tamalpais – 1980

Wade H. Roberts, Jr. – San Rafael – 1964

Laura Schmitt – Redwood – 1982

Roddrick (Roger) Sweeney – San Rafael – 1989

50 Year Anniversary — Graduated 1959 or before

David Watts – San Rafael – 1945

Coaches

Gary Hughes – Marin Catholic

Thomas Ryan – Redwood/Branson

Special Recognition

Don Collins

The Marin High School Athletic Hall of Fame, established by the Marin Athletic Foundation, recognizes and honors athletes who distinguished themselves in Marin County high school sports. It also gives recognition to coaches and others who made significant contributions to high school athletics in Marin County. The annual induction banquet is held in the fall.

Acknowledgments

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Major Sponsor

Rich & Dolly Nave

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Allison Banks Russell

Athlete — Drake 1989

Russell (formerly known as Allison Banks) was a standout in three sports, leading the Pirates in basketball, track and tennis. In her senior year she earned honorable mention on the basketball state team, second-team all-Bay Area and MCAL player of the year while averaging 22 points per game under the tutelage of Drake coach Gene Ng.

In her senior season on the track, she won the league title in the long jump and the 400 meters, as well as helping Drake win the 1,600-meter relay en route to the MCAL title. She was part of a legendary track squad for coach Bill Taylor at Drake, helping the Pirates win four MCAL team championships. In fact, the Drake girls team never lost a dual meet during her tenure in San Anselmo.

During her junior season, Russell was first-team all-MCAL in basketball, while winning the league's 400-meter title and qualifying for the state meet in the long jump. She was also the most valuable player of the school's tennis team. She was second-team all-MCAL in basketball as a sophomore and helped the Drake cross country team finish

third in NorCals as a freshman.

"I would not have made it through school had it not been for the opportunity to play basketball, tennis and run," Russell wrote in a letter to the hall of fame. "So much of what I am today is a result of all the lessons learned and fond memories competing for Drake High School."

Russell was an invited walk-on for the renowned University of Oregon track team and competed for part of her freshman year before focusing on her studies. She became an assistant athletic director at the school before marrying tennis coach Chris Russell.

Chris is now the associate head coach of the University of Washington tennis team in Seattle. The couple has two children and Allison helps with the family's seaplane business, which had been established by her grandfather.

Michael Coffino

Athlete — Tamalpais 1986

Coffino had an extraordinary ability handling a discus almost from his arrival at Tam High. As a freshman in the spring of 1983, he won the Marin County Athletic League frosh-soph discus title and set a Tam freshman record. Moving to the varsity as a sophomore, he began a three-year run that stands among the best in MCAL history. He won the MCAL discus title in 1984, then advanced to the Meet of Champions. In 1985, another MCAL title and advanced all the way to the state meet, where he placed eighth. As a senior, a third MCAL crown was a prelude to another trip to the state meet, where he placed second.

Coffino — who also ran hurdles as a sophomore but gave up the event because of football-related injuries — left Tam as the school discus record-holder with a throw of 183 feet, 3 inches, a mark that stands today and ranks third in MCAL history. His senior campaign at Tam earned him All-America status and he finished fifth in the discus in the Golden West Invitational — a high school national meet — in 1986.

"Mike was a fierce competitor, usually saving his best efforts for the biggest meets," former Tam track coach Bruce Grant said in nominating Coffino for the hall of fame. "His team members appreciated this, electing him captain his senior year."

Coffino attended the University of Oregon, where as a senior in 1991 he placed eighth in the Pacific-10 Conference finals. At Oregon, he also earned entry into the Phi Beta Kappa Society, perhaps the most prestigious undergraduate honors society in the United States.

He currently is Deputy Public Defender in Marin County.





Bryan Price

Athlete — Tamalpais 1980

Long before he took his vast knowledge of pitching to the major leagues, Price was using that same know-how against Marin County baseball players to great success. He spent four seasons on the Tam varsity and in the process demonstrated enough ability as a left-handed pitcher that after his senior season he was selected to the all-state team and was chosen by the Minnesota Twins in the 21st round round of the 1980 major league baseball draft.

He chose to attend the University of California rather than begin a pro career then and again distinguished himself on the diamond. He earned four letters at Cal and was voted the squad's most valuable pitcher in 1982-84, leaving school as the career innings-pitched leader. He also made a lifelong friend in Cal teammate Bob Melvin, a friendship that has served him well.

Price, drafted in 1983 by the Baltimore Orioles, again did not sign a pro contract but did finally become a professional baseball player after being picked by the then-California Angels in 1984. He spent

five seasons in baseball's minor leagues, posting a career 31-19 record pitching at levels as high as Triple-A, before calling it a career.

Since his playing career ended, he has worked as a pitching coach, including under Melvin with the Arizona Diamondbacks. He was recently hired by the Cincinnati Reds, where he will work for manager Dusty Baker. In 2007, he was honored by Baseball America as the MLB coach of the year.

"Bryan Price — you don't find a friend or a colleague like that, ever, really," Melvin said in May. "The pitching staff since he has been here has overachieved every single year. That's due to his talent and his hard work."

Wade Roberts

Athlete — San Rafael, 1964

If there was a sport to be played at San Rafael High in the early 1960s, you could be sure that Wade Roberts would be playing. And playing well. The 1964 San Rafael graduate established himself as a star athlete in football, basketball and baseball, playing for the Bulldogs varsity for three years in football and baseball and for two years in basketball.

In basketball, he earned all-league honors, and he also was an honorable mention pick to the all-MCAL team in baseball. But it was on the football field, where as the quarterback he led the 1963 team to a memorable victory over a powerhouse Drake team that allowed San Rafael to tie Drake for the Marin County Athletic League title, that he really stood out en route to be named San Rafael High's most valuable athlete in 1964.

"He was all-league in all three sports," said San Rafael classmate/teammate Gary Rugoli, who nominated Roberts for the hall of fame and remains friends with him 45 years after they graduated. "That wasn't easy to do. He was a real leader and a great athlete. He didn't have the greatest arm, but he could play football. He was just a very good guy and we were very fortunate to have him around."

Roberts eventually took his football skills to the U.S. Naval Academy, where he moved from quarterback to defensive back in 1966. He also returned kicks and punts.

The discipline he showed in athletics has translated well to the business world, where he has served as a CEO and COO. He currently is with a consulting firm in Pennsylvania that vows on its web site that "We know how to get things done." His history at San Rafael would indicate he can deliver on that promise.





Laura Schmitt

Athlete — Redwood 1982

As Laura Starrett, she was one of the top runners in Marin County while at Redwood High (Class of '82). She was the cross country and track and field team captain as both a junior and senior, distinguishing herself on both teams with selection to the all-Marin County Athletic League team both years. In cross country, she helped Redwood place third in the Northern California championships in 1981. On the track, she set the school record, which still stands, in the 3,200 meters. Additionally, she swam with the Redwood varsity as a freshman and sophomore, helping the school set the MCAL 4x100 record.

Since graduation, Schmitt has remained a fixture in Marin County running circles both as a coach and athlete. She was on the cross country and track teams at the University of California, competing in the NCAA cross country championships in 1983. She now is the cross country and track and field coach at Redwood, where her teams have 15 MCAL championships between them, and continues to show her

own running talents. She was a national masters cross country champion in 2007 and Grand Prix road racing short course masters champion in 2008.

Schmitt — a 2009 inductee into the Redwood High School Hall of Fame — also passed along her athletic genes to her children. Steve Schmitt is a senior at the University of Washington, where he is the team's top runner, and Meagan Schmitt is a junior at the University of California, where she is a defensive specialist on one of the nation's top collegiate volleyball teams. Additionally, Caitlin Schmitt is a Redwood senior who runs for her coach/mom.

Noted Carl Cox, who nominated Laura Schmitt for the Marin hall of fame, "Laura has been one of the premier women long distance athletes in Marin County since graduating from his school. She has a great resume."

Roger Sweeney

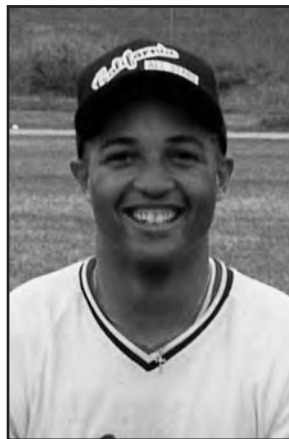
Athlete — San Rafael 1989

Sweeney has clearly made physical activity for all the goal of his adult life. Since dominating the MCAL in football (as San Rafael High's quarterback) and baseball (helping him win the school's outstanding athlete award), he has worked as a recreation supervisor for American Canyon, founded his own youth rec program in San Rafael, worked as a physical education teacher, served as a youth fitness instructor and sports director at the YMCA and directed the programs for a youth athletic club in his hometown. The *IJ* once wrote that Sweeney rarely gets a chance to rest during football games thanks to his standout performances on both sides of the ball. Obviously, Sweeney is taking the same approach to his professional passions.

Sweeney, who was good enough at football to be offered a scholarship to the University of Utah and adept enough at basketball to earn second-team all-MCAL honors on the unbeaten league champs that went on to win the section title, made it the furthest in baseball. He was drafted and played several years of minor league baseball in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization after standout season at College of Marin.

Once called "the franchise" by San Rafael football coach Bob Muster, Sweeney had the admiration of his opponents. "Rog is by far the best quarterback there is because he can run, he can throw," said Juan Shedrick, a childhood friend of Sweeney's who compete against him fiercely in high school. "The one thing you can't do is go in the game thinking 'I'm going to fix Sweeney,' because if you get overanxious, he's going to ... make your head go one way and he's going to be in the end zone."

Working for the city of American Canyon near Vallejo, Sweeney designs, implements and manages delivery of more than 65 community service programs, activities and events for the growing community.





Dave Watts

Senior Category — San Rafael 1945

Watts may have been the MVP running back on the North Bay League champion San Rafael High football team in 1944 and he may have been the baseball team's top player the same year, but what he did on Aug. 4, 1947 caught the attention of the Associated Press, journalism's worldwide newswire.

Watts had two hits for the San Rafael Legion team but when the seventh inning rolled around, he checked his watch and trotted off the field. Watts left just in time to change his clothes and make it to his own wedding, where he married Rosemarie Haywood of Fairfax. Thanks in part to Watts, San Rafael topped the Mill Valley Merchants 15-4.

Watts, who also played basketball and ran track for the Bulldogs, served in World War II after graduating from high school. Upon his return, he played one year of sports at Marin Junior College — earning his letter — before being forced out by a knee injury. Watts is retired comfortably in Sandy, Utah, where he lives with his family.

"He is still an armchair quarterback," his family wrote in a letter of the hall of fame. "(His four sons) interest was music (and) David's second love is singing."

Don Collins, Watts' classmate at San Rafael, sang his praises in the nomination letter to the committee. "He was the go-to back when San Rafael needed a first down," Collins wrote. "H almost always got the job done. ... In baseball he was a marvelous fiender and hitter at second base for the Bulldogs."

It's a legacy that lives on today on the walls of the San Rafael High gym. As the school's outstanding athlete in 1944, his name lived for all to see among the school's other top athletes.

Gary Hughes

Coach — Marin Catholic

Hughes, who spent less than a decade at Marin Catholic after graduation from San Jose State, nevertheless made an impression at the school. At Marin Catholic, he coached the Wildcats to three Marin County Athletic League baseball titles — the first in school history — during his tenure from 1964-72, also producing two Redwood Empire Tournament of Champions titles in that time. When Marin Catholic created its Hall of Fame, he was a member of the first class to be inducted in 2007.

Hughes said after leaving Marin Catholic that he didn't know what he would do next. His first business venture — a sporting goods store that he told the Marin Independent Journal "was to the athletic industry what the Titanic was to shipping" — didn't work out.

He then turned his attention to professional scouting, which he had begun on a part-time basis while at Marin Catholic. Part-time jobs with the San Francisco Giants, New York Mets and Seattle Mariners led to a scouting job with the New York Yankees. From there, it was on to posts as director of scouting for the Montreal Expos and then the Florida Marlins, short stints with the Colorado Rockies and Cincinnati Reds and then his current post as the Chicago Cubs' special assistant to the general manager, a job he has held since 2002. He was inducted into the Professional Baseball Scouts Hall of Fame in August.

After birth of his fourth child, Sam, in 1970, gave him two boys and two girls in the home, he told the Independent Journal, "That gives us two pair. But I don't think we'll go for the full house." He was proved to be wrong on that one. Perhaps appropriately, he has nine children — one for each position on the baseball diamond.





Tom Ryan

Coach — Redwood/Branson

Ryan, who doubles as the boys athletic director at Branson School, has made winning almost a way of life with his school's boys and girls soccer teams. His teams have parlayed hard work and dedication into a combined 14 league titles and 11 section championships since he arrived at the school in 1989 after four seasons as the boys soccer coach at Redwood High.

Ryan's success — which includes the National Soccer Coaches Association of America No. 1 ranking after the 1997 girls season — came despite his school's move from small-school competition in the Bay Counties League to the bigger MCAL. Despite having fewer students than any of the other league members, the Bulls hold their own in MCAL titles.

"Becoming members of the MCAL was such a big part of the program's growth. It was a challenge," Ryan told the Marin Independent Journal in June. "We have good kids here and, as Branson coaches, we tried to use that to tap into the strength of the

athletes to compete at that level."

Ryan's style has won admirers among both his players and his opposition. He was named a North Coast Section honors coach in 2002, at which time former University High coach Rusty Taylor lauded Ryan's abilities as a coach, before adding, "His abilities don't stop there. Tom's players also learn about life, teamwork, sportsmanship and character. Tom is a very fair, ethical person who puts the player ahead of winning. I know that a lot of his past players stay in close contact with Tom. This is a fine tribute to what kind of person he is."

Perhaps the biggest perk in his job has been being able to coach his sons. Tommy was a four-year member of the Bulls varsity and earned a scholarship to Stanford, where he is a member of the men's soccer team. Tom's other son, Michael, is a sophomore at Branson and a member of the JV soccer team.

Don Collins

Special Recognition

Collins may be best known around the Bay Area as the man of many Buicks, thanks to his successful car dealership in San Rafael, but he will forever be remembered for his many contributions to athletics in Marin.

Collins has been a key member of the Marin Athletic Hall of Fame committee for many years, serving on the original Board of Directors. He volunteered in that capacity for many years, before moving to the nominating committee, where he has been involved the past 16 years. Collins, who is still involved in the family's dealership at age 83, served as the master of ceremonies for the hall of fame's annual banquet before his final performance last year.

Collins' love for athletics started in the streets of Fairfax in the 1930s and blossomed at Fairfax School. He played three sports at San Rafael High, worked as the school newspaper editor and was elected student body president before graduating in 1944. He served in the Navy during World War II before completing his education at Marin Junior College (now known as College of Marin) and Stanford (where he graduated in 1950). At Marin JC, Collins was the editor of the school newspaper chronicling the national-championship run for the men's basketball team in 1948.

In 1958, Collins became the subject of IJ sports columnist Jim Gilmartin's column when he saved par for his team on the 18th hole to help the duo tie for first in the Orinda Golf Club Invitational Tournament. At the time, Collins played to a 14 handicap.

"Bugles blared, champions by the dozens rushed up to him to shake his hand," Gilmartin wrote. "Now he modestly mentions himself with the likes of Ben Hogan and Sam Snead."

Collins and his wife, Joanne, were married in 1951. They had three children and four grandchildren.



The 1988 Inductees

Athletes of 1930s

Rome Brusati (deceased), San Rafael High
Sam Chapman, Tamalpais High School
Arnold Nutting, Tamalpais High School
Paul Valenti, Tamalpais High School

Athletes of 1940s

Joe DeMaestri, Tamalpais High School
Colin Hill, San Rafael High School
Bill Nave, San Rafael High School
Karl Olson, Tamalpais High School

Athletes of 1950s

Ron Blum, Marin Catholic High School
John Boccabella, Marin Catholic High School
Reg Carolan (deceased), Drake High School
Willie Hector, Tamalpais High School
Glen Robinson, Tamalpais High School

Coaches

Glidden Benefield, Tamalpais High School
John Clahan (deceased), Marin Catholic High School
George Gustafson, San Rafael High School
Paul Miller (deceased), San Rafael High School
Hank Mobley (deceased), SR Military Academy
"Pop" Wendering (deceased), Tamalpais

Special Recognition

Carl "Red" Brown
George Corson (deceased)
Victor Jones (deceased)