Ozzie Smith Inducted into Baseball Hall of Fame

On July 28 former Cal Poly baseball star Ozzie Smith was inducted into the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

During his career at Cal Poly in the 1970s, Smith set still-unbroken records for career stolen bases (110), stolen bases in a season (44), and career at bats (754). He earned All-California Collegiate Athletic Association first-team honors and led Cal Poly to a school-record 41 victories and a berth in the NCAA Division II championship tournament.

He went on to play with the San Diego Padres (four years) and the St. Louis Cardinals (15 seasons), winning 13 consecutive Gold Gloves and setting National League records for fielding and numerous major league records. He is regarded as the finest fielding shortstop ever. (See “Mustangs’ Wizard” in the spring 2002 Cal Poly Magazine.)

Larry Lee Selected To Coach Cal Poly Baseball Team

Larry Lee, head baseball coach at Cuesta College for 16 seasons, was named to head Cal Poly baseball in 2003.

Lee led the Cuesta Cougars to the California Community College State Final Four in 1992, 1997, 2001, and 2002, and guided Cuesta to qualify for the Southern California Regionals each of the last six years, including a No. 1 seed in 1992 and a No. 2 seed this past spring.

Lee’s overall record at Cuesta was 460-241-3, including a state-leading 44 wins in 1997. Under his leadership, Cuesta claimed nine Western State Conference titles and averaged 38 wins during the six-year stretch. Lee was named conference coach of the year eight times, with his teams producing a 267-119 record in conference games.

While at Cuesta, Lee produced 26 all-state players, three Southern California Players of the Year, and numerous professionals. Thirteen of his 16 teams finished above the .500 mark for the season, including the last seven.

Lee played for Orange Coast college, transferred to Pepperdine (where he was a career .304 hitter), and later played for the Utica Bluesox and the Seattle Mariners’ Single-A farm team.

"The Cal Poly team’s goal is to be a perennial playoff team and get a chance to play in the College World Series," Lee said.
Sports News

Plane Crash Victims Remembered

In 1960 a Toledo, Ohio, plane crash took the lives of 16 Cal Poly football players, the team manager, and a booster. This June, Everett Chandler, former dean of students and the Cal Poly Alumni Association’s 2001 Distinguished Service Award recipient, met on campus with former football players and plane crash survivors Al Marinai and Gil Stork, and Marti Hogle, the widow of a Toledo policeman called to the site of the crash.

Hogle and Marinai visited "The Rock," a campus memorial to the crash victims, and Hogle read a proclamation from Toledo’s mayor “memorializing the spirits of the young athletes who tragically lost their lives.”

In August the Cal Poly football team returned to Toledo for the first time since 1960 to play the University of Toledo. The final score was Toledo 44, Cal Poly 16.

Athletic Trainer Steve Yoneda Retires

Steven Yoneda (PE ’70, M.S. PE ’72), head athletic trainer for Cal Poly’s Department of Athletics, retired on July 1 after 32 years of service to the university.

During his tenure at Cal Poly, Yoneda oversaw a comprehensive sports medicine program, managing the department alone for 23 years before an assistant was hired.

An active member of the National Association of Athletic Trainers and the Far West Athletic Trainers Association, Yoneda also served a term as the program director for the annual Physical Education Athletic Coaches and Health workshop held in San Luis Obispo each summer.

Before coming to Cal Poly as a student in 1968, Yoneda worked with the Santa Barbara Dodgers pro baseball team. During the 1971 season, he worked for the California Angels at Shreveport, La., in the combined Texas and Southern leagues.

He is currently a member of the Cal Poly Athletics Hall of Fame Selection Committee. Many of his former student-trainers are currently in the NFL, professional baseball, colleges and universities, and private practice.
Baseball
Cal Poly finished third in the Big West Conference with a 15-9 record, posting a third straight winning season at 30-29-1. Finishing 11-5, pitcher Kevin Correia became Cal Poly’s first 10-game winner in five years, and the Mustang offense finished near the school record for batting average with a .319 mark, led by designated hitter Bryan Gant (.402) and catcher Kyle Wilson (.361). Gant broke the school record for career triples and is No. 2 in career hits with 234.

Men’s and Women’s Basketball
The men’s team posted 15 wins, advancing to the first round of the conference tournament for the second consecutive season. David Henry started all 27 games at forward and was fourth on the team with 9.4 points per game, finishing his career at a school-record ranking of ninth with 116 career three-pointers.

Women’s basketball went 11-17 overall and finished fifth in the Big West Conference with a 7-9 league mark. Odessa Jenkins, honored as an All-Big West Conference Second-Team selection, led the team with 10.8 points per game, and Kari Duperron was second with 10.3 points per game.

Men’s and Women’s Golf
The men’s golf team placed sixth at the conference championships in El Dorado Hills, with Aaron Dexheimer shooting rounds of 69, 75, and 72 to finish in a tie for sixth at even par (216). Tristan Gardner played in all 24 rounds for the Mustangs this year, averaging 75.6 strokes per round with four rounds under par and two in the 60’s.

The women’s team hosted its first-ever tournament at the Avila Beach Resort Golf Course, finishing third, and hosted the Invitational at Cypress Ridge, coming home as champions. Ann Marie Costello competed in nine events, leading the team with a 79.7 stroke-per-round. The team ended the year with a fifth-place finish at the Big West Championships.

Softball
The softball team concluded its season at 25-29, hosting Cal Poly’s first softball tournament, the Mustang Roundup, in its second season at Bob Janssen Field. Kasey Poet led with 48 hits, a .300 batting average and 13 doubles, and came in third in RBIs with 15.
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**Men's and Women's Swimming and Diving**

The men's team finished fourth at the Big West Conference Championships. Matt Patane set a new record in the 100 butterfly (49.74) for fourth place and also earned a sixth-place finish in the 200 butterfly with a season best time of 1:52.63. Kyle Power set new school records in the 1,000 freestyle (9:36.11) and the 1,650 freestyle (16:04.76).

Mary Thomas led the way for the women's team at the Big West Conference Championships, setting school records in both the 100 butterfly (56.86) and 200 butterfly (2:04.32) and placing third in both. She was also part of the record-setting 200 medley relay team that included teammates Stacy Peterson, Rea Lardelli, and Jen DeMers.

**Women's Indoor Track and Field**

The indoor track and field team finished 10th at the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Championships, with All-American Stephanie Brown placing third overall in the shot put and setting a new school indoor record with a throw of 52 feet, 7-1/4 inches. She finished 10th at the NCAA Indoor Championships.

**Men's and Women's Tennis**

Men's tennis went 8-17 and posted a 2-2 mark in the Big West Conference. Nick Tracy won 17 matches, including 12 in dual matches, and Stacy Meronoff and Davey Jones combined for seven wins at No. 1 doubles in dual matches, earning All-Big West Conference honors.

Women's tennis went 9-13 overall and 4-4 in the Big West Conference. Highlighting the season was the play of Angie Bagheri, who went 3-7 at No. 1 singles in dual matches and won nine matches overall. Danielle Hustedt was 11-9 and 9-7 in dual matches for the Mustangs. Both were named All-Big West Conference for 2002.

**Men's and Women's Track and Field**

The men's team placed second at the Big West Conference Championships. All-American Andrew Badger earned NCAA qualifying marks in the long (25-8) and triple (53-1.75) jumps. The latter mark is the second best in school history. Tyrone Ward set a new school record in the long jump with a leap of 26 feet, 7-3/4 inches, the third-best mark nationwide.

The women's team also placed second at the Big West Championships. Stephanie Brown won the title in both the shot put and discus, while Maggie Vessey captured the Big West title in the 800 meters. Kristin Hall took home first at the conference meet in the 400-meter hurdles. At the nationals, Brown placed fourth in the discus and 14th in the shot put.

**Wrestling**

The season began with a strong showing in the Fullerton Open, with the Mustangs winning three straight and six of their first eight dual meets en route to an 11-8 mark. David Schenk (197 pounds) captured a Pac-10 title, Steve Strange (174 pounds) finished second, and Cedric Haymon (141 pounds) claimed third place. Haymon posted Cal Poly's best finish at the NCAA National Championships in eight years by taking third place with a 6-1 record and tied the school record for victories in a season as he finished with a 41-7 record.

Stephanie Brown