Former Cal Poly Athletics Director, Swim Coach Dies

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Dick Anderson, Cal Poly athletics director from 1963-68 and emeritus professor of physical education, passed away on Friday, Aug. 3 at his home.

Anderson joined the faculty of California Polytechnic School in 1947 as a physical education instructor. He went on to serve Cal Poly and its students for more than 36 years, retiring in 1983.

He coached the swimming and water polo teams between 1947 and 1968. A recipient of numerous awards from the aquatics community, professor emeritus Anderson was inducted into the Cal Poly Athletic Hall of Fame in 1991.

During his remarkable tenure at Cal Poly, he established successful intercollegiate programs in swimming and water polo. More than 40 of his swimming competitors were recognized as All-Americans with one of those -- Gene Lenz -- being selected to represent the United States in the 400 meters in the 1960 Olympic Games.

Anderson went on to lead Cal Poly's entire intercollegiate athletic program as director of athletics from 1963 to 1968.

Coach Anderson provided everything from wise advice to job opportunities to ensure that his student athletes realized their full potential. After they graduated, he helped place many of his students as teachers and coaches in high schools, community colleges and universities.

Cal Poly recognized Anderson for his accomplishments with the naming of the Anderson Aquatic Center in October 2004.

"All of us at Cal Poly are saddened by the passing of Dick Anderson. Jane and the Anderson family are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Dick's exemplary years of service to the university and his dedication to his students have continued to echo across the Cal Poly campus. A coach, a professor and a friend, he is and will be fondly remembered by the many people whose lives he touched," said Cal Poly President Warren J. Baker.

Anderson is survived by his wife, Jane, and three children.

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