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Campus, Central Coast Invited to Cal Poly June 13 Ceremony Honoring National Baseball Hall of Fame Legend Ozzie Smith

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Baseball fans, families, Cal Poly friends and supporters, students, faculty and staff are invited to attend a June 13 ceremony in honor of Cal Poly's own National Baseball Hall of Fame legend Osborne Earl "Ozzie" Smith.

On Friday, June 13, a statue in Smith's honor will be unveiled at a 3:30 p.m. dedication of Ozzie Smith Plaza, located between Baggett Stadium and Bob Janssen Field on the Cal Poly campus.

The three-quarter-life-size bronze statue of Smith was created by noted sculptor Harry Weber, who also sculpted statues of the other St. Louis Cardinal players named to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. A scholarship endowment for Cal Poly baseball is being created to honor Smith, with a limited number of statue miniatures available for donors.

"The Ozzie Smith Plaza and the statue are in recognition of Ozzie's many contributions to his sport and for being an outstanding role model for young athletes and the country's youth," said Cal Poly Athletic Director John McCutcheon.

"Ozzie is an amazing, first-class athlete," said Dan Marple, a former Cal Poly teammate and Cal Poly assistant coach, "and classy in the way he went about his work."

At Cal Poly, Smith broke a number of school records, including at-bats (754), career stolen bases (110) and stolen bases in a season (44) -- the last a record he broke twice. A four-year starter at shortstop and a three-time All-Conference selection, he became a charter member of the Cal Poly Athletics Hall of Fame in 1987.
To get to Baggett Stadium/Bob Janssen Field and the new Ozzie Smith Plaza, take Highway 1 to the Highland Drive entrance to campus; turn left on Via Carta to reach the baseball stadium complex and parking lots.

Smith is scheduled to be Cal Poly's honored speaker at morning and afternoon Commencement June 14. He will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Cal Poly at the morning ceremony. Click Here to read more about Commencement.

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