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California Polytechnic State University

June 20, 2002

Ozzie Smith Welcomed Back To Campus for Honors, Commencement Address

Photos by Bob Anderson and Jeff Greene

Ozzie Smith Plaza Dedication

Cal Poly welcomed alumnus Osborn Earl "Ozzie" Smith back to campus June 13 and 14.

The University dedicated the plaza at Baggett Stadium as "Ozzie Smith Plaza" June 13 in honor of the National Baseball Hall of Fame member, who played for the Mustang baseball team in his years at Cal Poly.

Smith spoke to a crowd of some 500 faculty members, students, staff and Central Coast baseball fans, calling his career and return to Cal Poly a dream come true. *(Left)*

"Thank you for following me down my Yellow Brick road," he told the cheering fans, before signing autographs for fans -- including plenty of children -- for nearly an hour.

(Below)

(Scroll Down for more photos)

Spring Commencement

At Cal Poly's spring commencement ceremonies Saturday, June 14, Smith was both the honoree and keynote speaker.

After entering the morning ceremony in procession with President Warren J. Baker *(Left)*, Smith received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree In recognition for his outstanding accomplishments as an athlete and media professional and his extensive work with youth charities and young people.

As "Dr. Smith," the best shortstop of all time addressed grads and crowds at the morning and afternoon commencement ceremonies *(Below)*.

(Scroll down for more photos)

And, just like all commencement ceremonies, in the end grads found time to say goodbye to their favorite professors, get creative with their caps, and call their parents and friends about where to meet next. *(Below)*

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