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# State Media Release

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## ***CIF RECOGNIZES THIRTEEN RECIPIENTS OF 2007-08 MODEL COACH AWARD***

**ALAMEDA** – Thirteen (six men, seven women) coaches statewide have been selected as 2007-08 CIF Model Coach Award winners. The CIF Model Coach Award program, now in its seventh year, is designed to recognize coaches who have served as positive role models in their schools and communities, and who have exhibited the traits apparent in the 16 principles of Pursuing Victory With Honor.

Winners, nominated through their local CIF Section office, will receive an award and be honored at their sport’s state championship or at an event of the recipient’s choosing.

A model coach demonstrates and teaches the six core ethical values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship (the “Six Pillars of Character”). The CIF believes that the highest potential of sports is achieved when teachers/coaches consciously Teach, Enforce, Advocate and Model (T.E.A.M.) these values and are committed to the ideal of Pursuing Victory with Honor.

“This is the highest and most prestigious award the CIF bestows upon its coaches,” said CIF Executive Director Marie M. Ishida. “We are honored to be able to recognize coaches throughout our state who are dedicated to impacting the lives of high school student-athletes by not only teaching them the values of Pursuing Victory with Honor and the Six Pillars of Character, but also that there is more to participating in sports than just winning and losing.”

**2007-08 CIF Model Coach Award Winners (alphabetical order)**

<b>Name</b>	<b>School, City (Section)</b>	<b>Sport(s)</b>
<i>Glenn Bell</i>	<i>Santee Education Complex, Los Angeles (LAS)</i>	<i>Football &amp; Boys Tennis</i>
<i>Robin Blalock</i>	<i>Mount Carmel, San Diego (SDS)</i>	<i>Girls Basketball</i>
<i>Linda Ghilarducci</i>	<i>Liberty, Brentwood (NCS)</i>	<i>Volleyball</i>
<i>Bill Grisham</i>	<i>Arlington, Riverside (SS)</i>	<i>Water Polo &amp; Swimming</i>
<i>Walt Lange</i>	<i>Jesuit, Carmichael (SJS)</i>	<i>Cross Country &amp; Track and Field</i>
<i>Kathy Lincoln</i>	<i>Saint Francis, Mountain View (CCS)</i>	<i>Field Hockey</i>
<i>Becky Love</i>	<i>Shasta, Redding (NS)</i>	<i>Softball</i>
<i>Haruko Ruby Mayeda</i>	<i>Roosevelt, Los Angeles (LAS)</i>	<i>Girls Basketball</i>
<i>Michael Meneses</i>	<i>George Washington, San Francisco (SFS)</i>	<i>Wrestling &amp; Football</i>
<i>Bill Porter</i>	<i>Julian Union, Julian (SDS)</i>	<i>Cross Country</i>
<i>Thalia Puddy</i>	<i>Will C. Wood, Vacaville (SJS)</i>	<i>Softball, Volleyball &amp; Basketball</i>
<i>Doug Sakamoto</i>	<i>Mission San Jose, Fremont (NCS)</i>	<i>Girls Basketball</i>
<i>Andrea Sims</i>	<i>Downey (SS)</i>	<i>Volleyball</i>

-- bios on all recipients follow --

**GLENN BELL (Santee Education Complex, Los Angeles)**

**Football & Boys Tennis**

Glenn Bell has been a successful coach for 35 years, the last 20 of those in the Los Angeles Unified School District. In light of his many accomplishments, when the Santee Education Complex began its football program in 2005, Bell was asked to be the first leader of the program. But coaching is not the only reason Santee approached Bell, as he helps mold and guide all students and is a Guidance Counselor at West Los Angeles College.

**ROBIN BLALOCK (Mount Carmel HS, San Diego)**

**Girls Basketball**

Robin Blalock is in her 10<sup>th</sup> year coaching and ninth as the head girls' varsity basketball coach at Mount Carmel. During her tenure, her teams have won an impressive four San Diego Section titles and five Palomar League Championships or Co-Championships. Opposing teams and coaches have quickly noticed the class and dignity Blalock and her teams exemplify, an illustration of the Six Pillars of Character and the foundation of this award.

**LINDA GHILARDUCCI (Liberty HS, Brentwood)**

**Volleyball**

Linda Ghilarducci has more than 27 years of coaching experience in three sports, and has been Liberty's volleyball coach for 25 years. Her teams have made the NCS playoffs 22 times, and advanced to the state finals in 2005. Ten of her players have gone on to play NCAA Division I and three have been honored as Top 100 Athletes in the Bay Area. She was selected as the coach of an All-Star Bay Area Volleyball team that competed in Russia, and was selected into Liberty's Hall of Fame in 1994.

**BILL GRISHAM (Arlington HS, Riverside)**

**Water Polo & Swimming**

Bill Grisham has served for more than 25 years as coach of the boys and girls water polo teams as well as the boys and girls swimming teams. During his tenure at Arlington, his teams have won 14 league championships and three Section championships. He has sent 32 student-athletes onto the NCAA, but possibly most telling of the impact Grisham has made is that 13 of his former student-athletes went on to become aquatics coaches at the high school or community college level.

**WALT LANGE (Jesuit HS, Sacramento)**

**Cross Country & Track and Field**

Walt Lange's résumé is impressive: 37 league championships; 23 Section championships; nine state titles; Coach of the Year in 1981; and a Section-record 15 consecutive SJS Section titles -- and those are just in cross country. He also has won five league championships and one Section championship in track. Since retiring, Lange started a website that allows viewers to access information about invitationals, results, and links to various cross country and track and field sites. He also designs color coded maps for schools competing in races in order to assist the runners.

**KATHY LINCOLN (Saint Francis HS, Mountain View)**

**Field Hockey**

Kathy Lincoln embodies the spirit and commitment all persons should strive for. She has been coaching at Saint Francis for 21 years in softball, boys and girls' volleyball, tennis and field hockey. Ten years ago, she began the field hockey program, and has since won five league championships and four CCS Championships. As a teacher, she successfully initiated her school's new exercise science class, which has since become one of its most successful. Also, when the school was without a coach for the softball team, Lincoln volunteered, even though she was already a department chair, full-time teacher, and had just finished the field hockey season.

**BECKY LOVE (Shasta HS, Redding)**

**Softball**

Becky Love's excitement is contagious to all. A former member of Shasta's softball team, Love returned to her alma mater to take over and guide the program as its coach. But her student-athletes are not the only ones that feel her spirit. During rallies and Spirit Day, students and faculty alike can find Love dressing up and performing, instilling pride and enthusiasm in the onlookers. As a counselor, she is intent on helping her students find their way through problems, and helps them plan out the road map for their lives after high school.

**HARUKO RUBY MAYEDA (Roosevelt HS, Los Angeles)**

**Girls Basketball**

Haruko Mayeda has been a successful coach for Roosevelt's girl's basketball program at all levels, and also has been a great role model for the school's student-athletes, exemplifying character, trustworthiness, and dedication. Year after year, her former students return to give her thanks, and her professionalism as an educator and coach has earned her the respect of her peers. Mayeda's conduct illustrates the Six Pillars of Character and principles of a Model Coach.

**MICHAEL MENESES (George Washington HS, San Francisco)**

**Wrestling & Football**

Michael Meneses has been an integral part of George Washington's athletic staff for 12 seasons, coaching both junior varsity and varsity football, as well as wrestling. Meneses is a great communicator and relates the importance of character, ethics and sportsmanship to his student-athletes. He understands that participation in athletics is a vehicle for positive personal growth and accepts the responsibility of serving as a role model.

**BILL PORTER (Julian Union HS)**

**Cross Country**

Bill Porter has instilled leadership and perseverance into his student-athletes for 18 years. During that span, Porter has sent competitors to the state cross country meet 16 times, and his teams have combined for eight league titles, four Section titles, and four individual Section champions. But Porter's students are not just successful on the fields; they are also successful in the classroom, as his student-athletes consistently have the highest grade-point average of any sport at Julian.

**THALIA PUDDY (Will C. Wood HS, Vacaville)**

**Softball, Volleyball & Basketball**

Thalia Puddy has not just been successful coaching one sport, but rather coaching three. For more than 30 years, Puddy has dedicated her time and knowledge to her players, and has won league championships in volleyball, girls' basketball and softball. But beyond her teams' and her own glory, Puddy is committed to recognizing positive behavior at Wood, and is the founder and facilitator of the Wildcat of the Month Award, which lights up the faces of those recognized and imbues positive self-esteem.

**DOUG SAKAMOTO (Mission San Jose HS, Fremont)**

**Girls Basketball**

Caring and good citizenship are two qualities that well describe Doug Sakamoto. As girls' basketball coach the past seven seasons, Sakamoto has dedicated his time and energy to his student-athletes, time which is scarce in this coach's schedule. Beyond his regular teaching and coaching duties, Sakamoto volunteers his free time to various non-profit organizations, including the San Jose Zebra Youth Foundation and the Fremont Youth Basketball Chinese program, and has been the Tournament Director for the Irvington Junior Varsity and Varsity Holiday Invitational the past three years.

**ANDREA SIMS (Downey HS)**

**Volleyball**

Andrea Sims has served as Downey's volleyball coach for 12 years, and has had much success during her tenure. She has qualified her teams for Section playoffs 11 times, including seven league championships. Sims has been named league Coach of Year seven times and has sent seven girls onto play NCAA volleyball. She is a superb teacher in the classroom and has earned the respect of her students, peers, and administrators, all through her strong character and integrity.