CITY OF WEST COVINA

90TH ANNIVERSARY 1923-2013 WEST COVINA

SATURDAY APRIL 6, 2013
10:00 AM

WEST COVINA
BIG LEAGUE DREAMS SPORTSPLEX
2100 S. AZUSA AVE.
WEST COVINA, CA 91792
(626) 919-6966

BIG LEAGUE DREAMS SPORTS PARKS

WALK OF FAME CEREMONY

West Covina 2013 Walk

In 2004, the West Covina City Council approved the creation of a Walk Of Fame inside the Big League Dreams Sportsplex to honor athletes, coaches and sports group volunteers from West Covina who have made significant contributions to make West Covina a better place to live, work and play. The Walk of Fame includes bronze plaques that are inserted into the concrete walkways that transverse the Big League Dreams facility.

Tim Brancheau (High School Football/Track Coach) – For over 50 years, Tim Brancheau has served as a Track Coach at West Covina High School. Before moving to Covina, Tim earned his Bachelor and Master's degrees from Western New Mexico University, where he competed for four years on the track team, four years in football, and three years in basketball. In track he was Conference Champion in the half-mile, mile, and two-mile, and named All-American. He is a member of Western New Mexico University's Hall of Fame. In 1962, Tim began his career at West Covina High School where he taught various subjects, including history, health, physical education, etc. That same year he began coaching track (hurdles and relay events) and football. He retired from West Covina High School in 1998, but has remained on as an Assistant Track Coach. During his tenure as Head Track Coach, Tim had a record of 434 wins, 45 losses, and 1 non-decision.

Jerry Curcio (Little League Volunteer) – Born and raised in West Covina, Jerry Curcio attended Merle Vista Elementary, Del Norte Junior High, and Edgewood High School. Jerry played several years of baseball with Del Norte Little League. He also played Pony, Big, and Senior League at Del Norte. Later in life, Jerry coached three of his children a combined sixteen years at West Covina National Little League League. In addition to coaching, Jerry was on West Covina National Little League's Board of Directors for 10 years, six as the League President. At the completion of his coaching service, Jerry volunteered to serve as Little League's District 19 Assistant District Administrator for three years. He is currently serving his first year as the District 19 District Administrator. At his church, Jerry volunteered seven years as the Athletic Director and played basketball and softball. He has also served as a West Covina Community Services Commissioner and on the West Covina Sports Council. For his dedicated service as a volunteer in the community, Jerry was recognized as the City of West Covina's 2010 Recreation Services Volunteer of the Year.

Chrissy Gil (Softball) – Raised in West Covina, Chrissy Gil attended Vine Elementary, Edgewood Middle, and Bishop Amat High School. Chrissy learned to play softball at Cameron Park where she played eight years with the West Covina Bobbie Sox. At Bishop Amat, Chrissy was a four-time member of the All-Del Rey League, four-time All-San Gabriel Valley Player, two-time Del Rey League Outstanding Pitcher of the Year, two-time All-CIF Player of the Year, and first team All-State honoree. After high school, Chrissy attended the University of Arizona on a softball scholarship. During her time with the Wildcats, she participated in four College World Series, winning in 1997 and runner-up in 1998. In addition, Chrissy was a member of two PAC-10 Championship teams, All-American Scholar Athlete, two-time All-Academic PAC-10 Player, and selected as the Raytheon Hispanic Sports Player of the Year in 1998. Chrissy works for IMG Worldwide, which is a global sports, fashion, and media business in Arizona.

Kim Gil (Softball) – Raised in West Covina, Kim Gil attended Vine Elementary, Hollencrest Middle, and Bishop Amat High School. Kim learned to play softball at Cameron Park where she played eight years with the West Covina Bobbie Sox. At Bishop Amat, Kim lettered in softball, was a two-time member of the All-Del Rey League and All-San Gabriel Valley Player. After graduating from Bishop Amat, Kim played two years at Mount San Antonio College, where she was a two-time Offensive Player of the Year and All-South Conference Player. Kim then went on to play for Cal State Fullerton where she also earned her degree in Sociology. Kim is a 6th Grade Teacher at Orange Grove Middle School in the Hacienda La Puente School District.

Lisa Gil (Softball) – Raised in West Covina, Lisa Gil attended Vine Elementary, Hollencrest Middle, and Bishop Amat High School. At Bishop Amat, Lisa lettered in softball and basketball. Her senior year she was the team MVP and captain on both squads. Lisa learned to play softball at Cameron Park where she played six years with the West Covina Bobbie Sox. From 1991-1995, Lisa played softball at U.C. San Diego, where she was captain of the team, was named MVP and was a member of the all-region team her senior year. After college, she served one year as assistant coach for her alma mater. In 1998, Lisa played professionally for a Series A softball team in Bussolengo, Italy that played in the European Cup. In 1999, Lisa joined the University of Ohio's coaching staff while she pursued her Masters in Sports Administration. She currently lives in Portland with her family and works as the Director of Nike's Global Retail Golf Division.

Larry Gonzales (Baseball)– Born and raised in West Covina, Larry Gonzales, was a member of the California Angels from 1988-1994. Larry attended Merlinda Elementary, Willowood Junior High, and Edgewood High School. At Edgewood, Larry played three years of baseball and two years of football. He earned All-League honors in both sports and All-CIF in baseball. Larry grew-up playing baseball in the community at Walmerado Park in the Pony League, and was a pitcher for West Covina Pony Baseball World Series Champions in 1981 (2013 Walk of Fame Inducted). After graduating from Edgewood High School, Larry received a scholarship to the University of Hawaii as a catcher. In 1987 and 1988, Larry was named All-Conference Player and was selected to play for Team U.S.A. in the 1987 Pan American Games, where he earned a Silver Medal. In 1988, Larry signed with the California Angels and played catcher for the franchise through 1994.

Of Fame Honorees

All honorees are selected based on nominations received from the public and evaluated by the Walk of Fame Committee, which is made up of individuals representing the City of West Covina, Big League Dreams and the sports community. Nominations are considered from any athletics program or sport. In addition honorees must have exhibited high ethical standards in their respective athletic fields and in the community. This year ; join us in thanking West Covina's 15 honorees:

Bob Lamb (Travel Baseball Coach)– Raised in West Covina, Bob Lamb attended California Elementary School, St. Christopher School, and Bishop Amat High School. Bob has served the community for over 40 years as a coach, referee, and umpire. He coached for 11 years at Walnarado Park's Pony League. He has umpired baseball in the City and region since 1973, and began umpiring college baseball in 2000. He is still actively umpiring baseball games. For 38 years Bob also served as a high school basketball referee, and since 1989 he has served as a high school football referee. A position he is still currently doing. Bob is also the co-founder of the West Covina Duke's Travel Baseball program at Maverick Field. He served as a coach from 1999-2001, and was part of the coaching staff that won the 1997 and 1998 World Series Championships. He is also the father of Mike Lamb (2010 Walk of Fame Inductee).

Mike Lassalette (High School Athletic Director/Coach) - Born and raised on a farm in the neighboring community of La Puente, Mike Lassalette currently lives in Temecula. Mike attended Pomona Catholic High School where he played basketball. He was named All-CIF in 1957. After high school, Mike played basketball at Cal Poly Pomona for three years. In 1963, Mike began coaching basketball and baseball at Bishop Amat High School. In 1966, his baseball team won the Santa Fe League Championship. In 1967, Mike began coaching baseball and basketball at Edgewood High School. From 1978-1989, Mike served as the Athletic Director at Edgewood. In 1988 and 1989, he returned to coaching and led the woman's basketball team to back-to-back league championships. From 1989-1998, Mike served as the Athletic Director at West Covina High School. During his tenure as an Athletic Director, Mike was the Founding President of the Foothill Citrus Athletic Director's Association. In addition to his coaching career, Mike was also a physical education teacher from 1968-2000 and a baseball coach for his children from 1974-1982 with West Covina American Little League at Cortez Park.

Gilbert Maxson (High School Coach) – Gilbert "Gib" Maxson lived his entire life in West Covina, being born the 12th child of West Covina's first mayor Benjamin Maxson. Gib received his degree in Physical Education at UC Santa Barbara and then finished with a master's degree from USC. Gib spent all 29 years of his teaching and coaching career in the West Covina School District. The majority of those years were as a Physical Education consultant for the district, going school to school in his trusty Model A teaching sports, games and, the ever popular, square dancing. Gib also spent seven of those years as a Little League coach leading his teams to championships. In the latter portion of his career, he taught at Edgewood High School where he also coached football for a brief time. After retiring, Gib could be seen at many different events continuing his long career of encouraging and helping young athletes in the valley and following the success of those he had coached. Gib, along with seeing the potential in each child, believed in athletics as a path to teaching integrity, sportsmanship and citizenship.

Darrell Myrick (Triathlete)– Raised in West Covina, Darrell Myrick attended Monte Vista Elementary, Del Norte Middle, and Edgewood High School. He grew-up playing baseball but switched to swimming in high school. He would later serve as a coach for Edgewood High School's Swim Team; he has also coached over a dozen Little League teams and taught martial arts as a black belt instructor for the City's Parks Department. Darrell has also volunteered with the Pacific Coast Little League, serving as their President from 1995-1998. In 1975, Darrell joined the West Covina Police Department, where he served with distinction until his retirement in 2007, as the Assistant Police Chief. He currently serves as a Reserve Police Officer with the Police Department. During his tenure with the Police Department, Darrell participated on 6 Baker to Vegas public safety runs, and competed in the Police and Fire Olympics. He is the former California Record Holder of the "Toughest Cop Alive" competition. He is one of the most decorated police athletes in California history with over 180 medals in swimming, TCA and triathlon. Last summer, at the age of 66, Darrell entered five events in the National Police and Fire Games in San Diego, winning five gold medals. His time in the triathlon event not only won his age group, but also would have won in the 50 – 55 and the 45-50 age groups. Darrell is currently a certified triathlon coach and regularly competes in triathlons from sprint distance to ironman events.

Cameron Saylor (Youth Baseball Coach) – Born in West Covina, Cameron Saylor lived just outside the City limits and attended Baldwin Elementary, Fairgrove Junior High, and Workman High School. At Workman, Cameron played football and baseball. As a football player, Cameron was recognized as a Scholar Athlete and All-CIF. From 1991-2006, Cameron taught baseball, soccer, and softball for his three children, who played at Cortez Little League and South Hills Little League. He also was a member of the Cortez Little League Board of Directors. He is an active booster club member at South Hills High School. He also previously served on Casa Colina Center for Rehabilitations Board of Directors. In 1991, Cameron helped to form the Maverick Development Group that completely rehabilitated Maverick Field into one of the top baseball training facilities in the region. This program helps players develop the necessary skills to play baseball at the college and professional level. This group has also helped many local youths obtain millions of dollars in college scholarships and move on to professional baseball careers. In 2006, he became the General Manager of the West Covina Dukes Baseball Club, which he continues to manage to this day. He is also working towards establishing the Maverick Baseball Academy as a non-profit organization. This organization will seek funding to expand and provide better amenities for the players that play at Maverick Field.

Michael Touhey (Community Sports Supporter) – Michael Touhey served on the West Covina City Council for seventeen years, serving as Mayor on four occasions. During his tenure on the City Council, Mike was instrumental in the development of several recreational programs in the community, including: the Skatepark, the new Cameron Gymnasium, the Roller Hockey Rink Improvements, the Splash-pad at Del Norte Park, and numerous park and sports field improvements. He also voted for the development of the facility we are at today, Big League Dreams. For over 30 years, Mike Touhey has volunteered his time and provided financial support for many, if not all the sports leagues in West Covina. He is an avid supporter of youth sports in the community and is currently serving on the District 19 Little League Board of Directors as the Assistant District Administrator in charge of fundraising and media relations. Because of his community support, he has received numerous awards and accolades, including: Rotarian of the year, West Covina PTA Volunteer of the Year, Community Service Award from the NAACP, and West Covina Hometown Hero. As an athlete, Mike played basketball at Mount San Antonio College, Azusa Pacific University, and Biola University. At Biola, he was on the 1983-1984 National Basketball Championship Team.

1974 West Covina Pony Baseball World Series Champions - In 1974, Manager John Cheatle (2011 Walk of Fame Inductee) took his Pony Team to Springfield, Illinois, where they won the Pony Baseball World Series. To accomplish this feat, they had to beat teams from Charlotte, North Carolina; Springfield, Illinois; Mexico; and Puerto Rico. Gary Ramirez and Charles Davidson also coached the team. The team included: Marty Akins, Sam Andranigian, Terry Blanchard, Tom Brunansky (2008 Walk of Fame Inductee), Rob Bullano, Dan Burg, Loring Davies, Rodney Daniels, Sam Favata, John Fucci, David Garcia, Keith Longoria, Mark Murray, Tim Stidham, and Mike Toothman.

1981 West Covina Pony Baseball World Series Champions - In 1981, Manager Doug Bletcher took his Pony Team to Washington, Pennsylvania, where they won the Pony Baseball World Series. To accomplish this feat, they had to beat teams from Miami, Florida; Oak Park, Illinois; and Washington, Pennsylvania. Jeff Jones and Dave Marquez also coached the team. The team included: Chris Calderone, Eric Figueroa, Brian Flanagan, Larry Gonzales (2013 Walk of Fame Inductee), Barry Hector, Tom Henderson, Danny Hernandez, Ray Hopson, Eric Johnson, Chris Kohler, Jim Lazzara, Ron Mitchell, Joe Orozco, David Pena, and Mark Razook.

1982 West Covina Pony Baseball World Series Champions - In 1982, Manager Jeff Jones took his Pony Team to Washington, Pennsylvania, where they won the Pony Baseball World Series. To accomplish this feat, they had to beat teams from Bethel Park, Pennsylvania; Oak Park, Illinois; Del City, Oklahoma; and Washington, Pennsylvania. The team was also coached by Greg Gano (2011 Walk of Fame Inductee). The team included: John Caylor, John Davis, Darren Desrain, Emmett Downs, Joe Escoboza, Eric Figueroa, Ron Haight, Jim Jastrab, Brian Kelly; Joe LaFountain, Darin McBride, Albert Salgado, Eric Schumaker, and Ernest Valenzuela.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR HONOREES

WEST COVINA CITY COUNCIL

MAYOR: Shelley Sanderson
MAYOR PRO TEM: Steve Herfert
COUNCILMEMBER: Andrew McIntyre
COUNCILMEMBER: Rob Sotelo
COUNCILMEMBER: Fred Sykes

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