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F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

The CCCAA Announces Its 2012 Hall of Fame Inductees

Sacramento, CA . . . The California Community College Athletic Association is pleased to announce the 2012 class of inductees into the California Community College Sports Hall of Fame. The 2012 class includes George Culver (Bakersfield College), Jermaine Dye (Cosumnes River College), Simeon Iness (Compton College), Brig Owens (Fullerton College), and Lon Simmons (Glendale Community College).

The CCCAA Sports Hall of Fame is the highest honor bestowed in California community college athletics. Founded in 1984, the Hall of Fame has sought to recognize those who have made the most of their experiences as California community college student athletes, coaches and administrators, maximizing their own potential to better themselves and those with whom they come into contact. The five new HOF members will join 109 previous inductees in the Hall, which features some of the most recognizable names in amateur and professional sports. The CCCAA Hall of Fame page complete with past nominees and bios can be found at <http://www.cccaasports.org/history-hof.asp>.

The CCCAA Hall of Fame Induction Banquet and Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, April 4 at 6:00 p.m. in conjunction with the CCCAA Annual Convention at the San Mateo Marriott Hotel in San Mateo, CA. To purchase tickets, print, complete, and return the convention registration form available at <http://www.cccaasports.org/meeting.asp>.

2012 CCCAA Hall of Fame Inductees:

George Culver, Bakersfield College, Baseball

George Culver attended Bakersfield College in 1962-1963 and was named all-Metropolitan Conference both years. He signed a professional contract with the New York Yankees in 1963 and played nine seasons in the MLB. The highlight of his career was throwing a "no-hitter" for the Cincinnati Reds against the Philadelphia Phillies on July 29, 1968. He posted a record of 48 wins, 49 losses and 27 saves with a career ERA of 3.30. Culver then went on to spend 30 years in the minor league as a manager, pitching coordinator and pitching coach in both the Phillies and the Dodgers organizations.

He has spent the last 22 years as a supporter of Bakersfield College starting when he began the BC Baseball Hot Stove Dinner as a means to upgrade the baseball facilities. The Hot Stove dinners generated over a million dollars, which provided lights for the BC baseball field, a state of the art clubhouse complete with showers, restrooms, laundry facilities, lockers and coaches office's along with two new scoreboards and dugouts. BC is now considered one of the top Community College facilities the nation and will proudly host the State JC championship again this year.

His work in the Bakersfield community has also helped raise money for the Cal State Bakersfield University baseball program plus help for the local high schools and various youth baseball groups. He brought baseball to the Police Athletic League for inner city kids in the Bakersfield area and has raised funds to purchase equipment and helped coach players in the PAL program.



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George Culver is a true Mr. Baseball in the Bakersfield community. He has had outstanding athletic success as a community college student and as a major league baseball player and has exhibited outstanding qualities of leadership and citizenship in the Bakersfield community.

Jermaine Dye, Cosumnes River College, Baseball

Jermaine Dye attended Cosumnes River College in 1992-1993. He came to CRC to pitch for then Coach Rod Beilby. He was initially drafted out of high school but wanted to try college ball. Although he only played one season at CRC he left an impressive mark on the baseball program, the conference and community college baseball.

Instead of a pitcher, Coach Beilby saw in Jermaine a "hitter" and the rest is history. At CRC he finished his freshman year leading the team in slugging percentage (.744), on base percentage (.480), hitting percentage (.397) and doubles (13). As an outfielder, he had nine assists and was second on the team in runs scored (29). In conference play, Jermaine led the team in runs scored (24), hits (37) and doubles (9). He was named the Bay Valley Conference "Most Valuable Player" for the 1993 season.

Jermaine was drafted by the Atlanta Braves in the 17th round in 1993. He played 2½ years in the minors for the Braves and was named "Most Valuable Player" in both Single A and Double A ball. He made his major league debut on May 17, 1996 and hit a home run in his first at bat against the Cincinnati Reds. He played one more year for the Braves and made it to the World Series.



Jermaine was traded to Kansas City in 1997 where he played four years for the Royals. In 2000 he was named to the American Leagues' All-Star Team, won the Golden Glove and batted a career high .321 that season. He played with the Oakland A's from 2001-2004 and then with the Chicago White Sox. In 2005 as a White Sox, Jermaine became a World Series Champion and was named the World Series "Most Valuable Player" after batting .438 with a home run and three RBI's in four games. In 2006 he hit a career high 44 home runs, made his second All-Star Game appearance and earned his first "Silver Slugger Award". In 2009 Jermaine hit 27 home runs making it five consecutive seasons with at least 25 home runs.

When inducted into the Cosumnes River Hall of Fame in 2010, Jermaine indicated that "being inducted into the CRC Hall of Fame is one of the top three awards that I have received. Yes, I played in the World Series and have been a World Series Champion and MVP but CRC is where it started for me. I played baseball in high school but CRC is where I learned how and what it would take to play professional baseball. I learned what would be expected of me and how hard I would have to work to make it!"

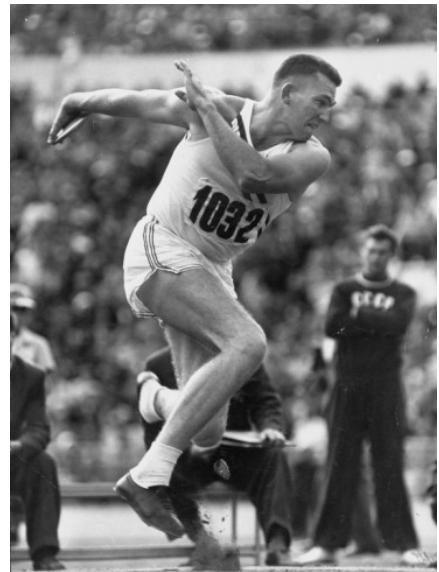
Simeon Iness, Compton Community College, Track & Field

Simeon "Sim" Iness, the second of five children born to Oklahoma sharecroppers, was born in 1930 in the small town of Keota, Oklahoma. Falling on hard times during the precursor to the Dust Bowl, the Iness' migrated west in search of a better life in the land "flowing with milk and honey", California. Riding in the back of a dilapidated Model A truck loaded with mattresses, the Iness's settled in the agricultural heartland of California's San Joaquin Valley and the town of Tulare.

Working on countless farms and in labor camps throughout his entire childhood and teenage years, Sim Iness was first able to use athletics as an escape from a hard day's labor. As a sophomore in high school, he began participating in football and both the shot put and discus for track and field. The idea of college had never been set in his sights due to his family's finances, but with the help and inspiration of his high school coach, Sim poured his heart and soul into being the best discus thrower that he could be.

Sim was able to pursue his education by attending college due to the generosity of the people of Tulare who set up a scholarship fund in his name. Sim attended Compton Community College where he won the National Junior College discus championship in 1949 and was also a member of the winning Compton football squad who won the Junior Rose Bowl becoming National Junior College Champions in 1948. Sim transferred to the University of Southern California where he honed his discus skills; eventually setting every meet, school, junior collegiate, American and National collegiate record possible including the NCAA discus championship in 1952 and 1953.

In 1952 Sim secured a spot on the United States Olympic Team, along with hometown friend and teammate Bob Mathias. At the XVth Olympiad, held in Helsinki, Finland, Sim, ever the underdog and not favored to place at all, smashed the existing Olympic Record on his first throw, and continued to do so throughout the remainder of the competition. Sim walked away not only with the gold medal, but the Olympic Record as well, beginning a 20 year reign of U.S. Discus gold medalists in the Olympics. A year after the Olympics, Sim raised the bar even further by setting the World Record, being the first person ever to eclipse the 190' barrier.



After temporarily dropping out of college in order to support a wife and newborn daughter, Sim graduated USC with a Masters Degree in Physical Education. Truly idolizing his high school track coach Virgil Jackson, Sim began his lifelong pursuit as an educator and quietly moved back to his home roots of San Joaquin Valley, settling in the city of Porterville. First teaching and coaching at Porterville High School, Sim later moved to Porterville College where he served as a teacher, coach, and counselor. Remaining humble throughout his entire life, when he retired in 1994 after 40 years as an educator, many of his students who he helped raise throughout his career were not even aware that the man who was teaching them was in fact an Olympic gold medalist.

Sim is a member of the Tulare High School Redskin Hall of Fame, the Northern California Track and Field Hall of Fame, the International World Throwers Congress Hall of Fame, the University of Southern California Athletic Hall of Fame and the Tartar Athletics Hall of Fame. He summed it all up when he said "I have a lot of empathy for people stuck in poverty. But I also know it's possible to escape. I had goals and I worked hard to achieve them. If a little barefoot Okie in overalls could do it, then maybe all things are possible"!

Sim Iness passed away in Porterville, California in 1996, leaving behind a life full of memories to all those he met, as well as a void in society and its true meaning of an athlete, educator, mentor, and gentleman.

Brig Owens, Fullerton College, Football



Brig Owens played football and ran track at Fullerton Community College from 1961 – 1962. His football coach was Hal Sherbeck. Brig became team captain in 1962 and won All-American Honors as a QB in that year. He received a number of scholarship offers from colleges around the country, but chose to attend the University of Cincinnati because it was one of the few schools that guaranteed that he would play QB. He became the starting QB his first year. He credits his high school coaches, Gil Tucker and Hal Sherbeck, for teaching him the full fundamentals of the game offensively and defensively, which allowed him to make that transition to major college football. Brig lead Cincinnati to the Missouri Valley Championship two years in a row and was elected team captain in 1964. He was rated as one of the top QBs in the country and earned NCAA All-American Honors. He graduated on time in 1965. An Award, "Brig Owens Offensive Player of the Year," is named in his honor at the University of Cincinnati.

Brig Owens is a partner in the Bennett Group, a commercial real estate development company in Washington, D.C. Prior to founding the firm, Brig

served as assistant executive director and associate counsel to the NFL Players Association (NFLPA) from 1979 – 1984. While with the NFLPA, Brig was a member of the negotiating team that developed a new collective bargaining agreement with the National Football League. In addition to his responsibility in the operation of the NFLPA, he developed the Association's Financial Planning, Career Counseling, and Employee Assistant Abuse Programs. Brig also created the Professional Athletes Youth Foundation and Community Service Department for the NFLPA where he raised over \$10 million to implement a Youth Development Program in ten cities across the Nation. This program was selected by the Department of Education as one of the top exemplary programs in the United States.

Brig Owens is a former thirteen-year veteran of the National Football League and seven-year player representative and defensive captain for the Washington Redskins. After being drafted by the Dallas Cowboys in 1965, Brig was traded to the Redskins in 1966 to begin his twelve-year career as a Redskins' defensive back. Brig holds the number two spot for interceptions (36) by a Redskin, holds the career record for most yards on interception returns (686 yds) and most interception returns for touchdowns. In addition, he was selected as one of the 70 Greatest Players in Washington Redskins history.

Among his many accomplishments, Brig served as a member of the Central Caribbean Task Force and served on former Vice President Mondale's Task Force on Youth Employment. In addition, he has served on the board of the National Bank of Commerce, Big Brothers of America, University of Cincinnati Presidents Executive Council, NFL Players Trust Foundation, National Board of Medical Examiners and Venture Philanthropy Partners. He also developed a highly recognized leadership drug prevention program in the Washington Metro area high schools called Super Leaders, now into its 26th year. He and his Bennett Group partner were sponsors of an "I Have a Dream" program which guarantees students a college education if they stay in school, maintain their grades, and graduate from high school.

Brig was one of six to receive the NCAA Silver Anniversary Award in January 1990. The honorees of this prestigious award are selected because of their commitment to their community and country over the past twenty five years. He received a Medal of Honor from Angeles University in the Philippines. In 2008 he received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the University of Cincinnati. He also received Hall of Fame Honors from Fullerton High School, Fullerton Community College, and the University of Cincinnati.

Brig is a published author, graduate of the University of Cincinnati and Antioch School of Law, and received his Doctorate of Juris Prudence. Brig is married to his college sweetheart Patricia and has two daughters, Robin and Tracy, and two grandchildren, Reyna and Owen.

Lon Simmons, Glendale Community College, Baseball

Lon Simmons attended Glendale Community College and played baseball in the early 1940s. Instead of accepting a scholarship offer from the University of Southern California, he decided to serve his country and enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard. Lon had a promising career as a pitcher for the Phillies and the Boston Braves farm teams, but that career was cut short by a shoulder injury, and, like they say, "The rest is history."

Lon had a long career in professional sports. He began his career as an announcer in baseball for a semi-pro league in Marysville, CA. He also announced football at Yuba College for two years. In 1954, he worked as an announcer in baseball, football, and basketball at Fresno State for two years. Then, he joined the SF 49ers in 1957 as a color announcer. In 1958 he took over the play-by-play announcer duties on 49er radio broadcasts and remained in that role through the 1980 football season.

His most famous call during his first stint with the 49ers came on October 25, 1964, when Minnesota Vikings defensive end Jim Marshall picked up a fumble by the 49ers and ran the wrong way, scoring a safety for the 49ers instead of a touchdown for the Vikings. The transcript of the call:



“George Mira, straight back to pass...looking down, now stops, throws...completes it to Billy Kilmer up at the 30-yard line. Kilmer driving for the first down, loses the football...it is picked up by Jim Marshall, who is running the wrong way!! Marshall is running the wrong way!! And he’s running it into the end zone the wrong way!!! He thinks he has scored a touchdown! He has scored a safety!!”

His tenure as the 49ers’ play-by-play announcer lasted 24 years with the team never winning a championship. One year after his departure, the 49ers began a Super Bowl run and Lon returned as the 49ers’ announcer in 1987. His 1988 call of Steve Young’s game-winning 49-yard scramble against the Minnesota Vikings became as memorable as the play itself. A year later, the 49ers won Super Bowl XXIII and Lon’s call of the 49ers’ game-winning drive can be heard on the NFL Film highlights package. He retired from announcing 49er games in 1989.

His work announcing SF Giant Baseball began in 1958 and continued until 1978 before moving across the Bay to call games for the Oakland Athletics from 1981 through 1995. From 1996-2002 he called the Giants’ games part time. A legend in the Bay area, Lon’s famous home run call, “Tell it goodbye.” is etched in the memories of many Giants fans to this day.

Lon received the 2004 Ford C Frick Award given annually by the Baseball Hall of Fame to a broadcaster. He was elected to the Bay Area Hall of Fame as the first class inducted in 2006, as well as, the Glendale Community College Hall of Fame that same year. He is also in the Yuba College and Fresno State Halls of Fame.

About the CCCAA

The California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) is the governing body providing oversight of intercollegiate athletics within the California Community College System. The single largest educational system in the world, with attendance in excess of 2.6 million students annually, the California Community College system serves one-third of all community college students in the United States. The CCCAA establishes the rules and regulations to administer the intercollegiate athletic activities of the student athletes attending California’s community colleges. To view the latest news, information, and updates of all 23 CCCAA-sanctioned sports visit www.cccaasports.org.

California Community College Athletics

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