



January 2025

# The Mighty Mariner

## CHARTING NEW WATERS

The Newsletter of the Aptos Sports Foundation & AHS Sports Hall of Fame



## WELCOME

Welcome to the 3rd edition of the new Aptos Sports Foundation & AHS Sports Hall of Fame newsletter. Have we got some AMAZING MARINER highlights for you this issue! Don't forget to tag us on **Instagram**, **Facebook** or **Twitter** about your current or past Mighty Mariner and use the hashtag #mightymariners.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

46TH Annual Golf Tournament  
Friday, May 2, 2025  
Seascape Golf Course  
[AptosSportsFoundation.com](https://www.AptosSportsFoundation.com)

AHS Sports Hall of Fame Dinner  
Saturday, May 3, 2025  
Seascape Golf Course  
[mark\\_dorfman@pvusd.net](mailto:mark_dorfman@pvusd.net)

## AHS TRIVIA



Q: Which Aptos HS sports team recorded one of the longest winning streaks in California high school sports history?  
Read on to find out!



# THE FOX REPORT

Hey Mariner Family,

**Travis Fox**, Athletic Director at Aptos High School here!

The 2023-24 school and athletic year was a busy, fun, and successful year for our student-athletes, and 2025 is off to just as successful of a start!

With an enrollment of just over 1,300 kids, we are proud to say that Aptos Athletics was able to get over 800 different students engaged in at least one sport last year!

In the last 2 years, Aptos has added 3 new sport offerings which include Girls Beach Volleyball, Girls Lacrosse, and Girls Flag Football, bringing our total offering to 32 different athletic programs between both boys and girls sports, and over 60 teams, including JV and Freshman levels.



It was an extremely successful school year and the momentum has carried into the Fall season! Read on to find out more about our Mariner success this season.

In July, Aptos Athletics rolled out a new athletic website, [aptosathletics.com](https://aptosathletics.com). This new site is an update from our old website, and is a one stop shop for the community to access schedules, rosters, and updates on athletic happenings.

For more information on Aptos Athletics, please do not hesitate to contact me at the information below.

Go Mariners! Sails Up!

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Aptos High School  
Athletic Director  
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## MAKING HISTORY



Girls Water-Polo, under the coaching of new AHS Sports Hall of Fame inductee, Cody Gilbert, won both the CCS Championship and the Nor-Cal Championship.

Both firsts for Aptos High!

The team went 6-0 in the post-season, beating league-rival Santa Cruz for the CCS title, and Morro Bay for the Nor-Cal title.



## THIS YEAR IN SPORTS

The **Fall** season saw Aptos student-athletes capture **SCCAL Team Championships** in:

Girls Tennis

Girls Flag Football

Boys Cross Country

## MARINER MOMENT

After finishing 4th in the PCAL (Pacific Coast Athletic League), our tackle football team under 1st-year head coach Zach Hewett, went on an explosive tear in the CCS Playoffs, beating Willow Glen and Palo Alto before ultimately losing in the CCS Championship Game to Carmel 35-62.





# THIS YEAR IN SPORTS

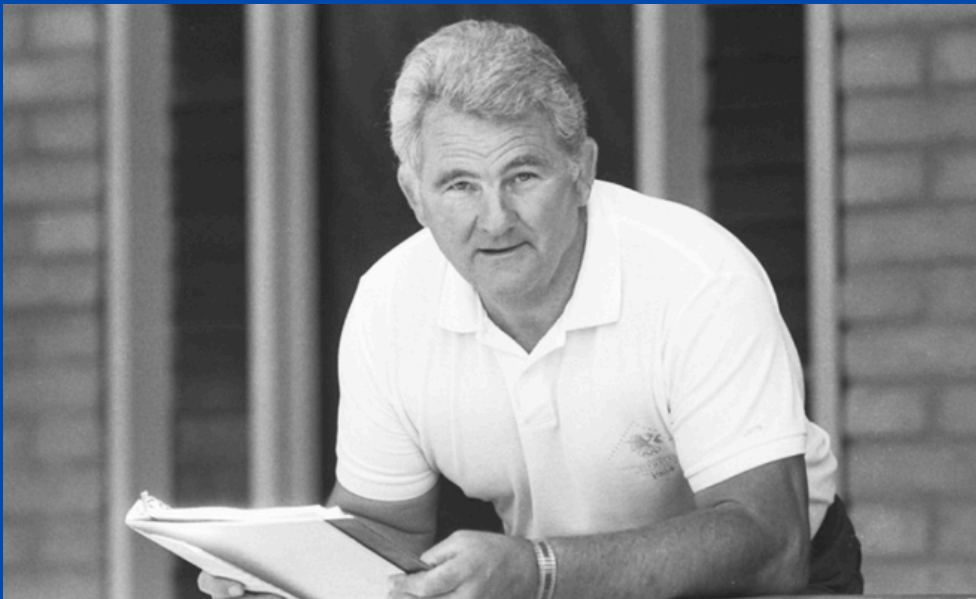
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## The Pat Lovell Award Update

Each year, the Pat Lovell Award honors the SCCAL school with the best overall record in all varsity sports combined.

This award was established in 2019 to honor the legacy of longtime SCCAL Commissioner Pat Lovell, who helmed the SCCAL for 30 years. Points are awarded for 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, etc., in the final league standings for every varsity sport. The school with the highest point total at the end of each year is awarded the Pat Lovell Trophy.

**In 2023-24, Aptos High won the Pat Lovell Award for a 4th time. Good luck to our Mariners again this year!**



# APTOS ALUMI IN THE NEWS

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**Nikki Hiltz ('13)** made it through to the 1500m Finals at the Paris Olympics, where they finished in 7th place. Nikki was the fastest American in the race. Hiltz holds the American record in the mile and is the 2023 US 1500m champion. They won a silver medal at the 2024 World Indoor Championships.

# APTOS ALUMS IN THE NEWS



Former Aptos offensive lineman **Joel Church-Cooper ('98)** deserves a Hollywood Star. Moving to LA after graduating from Cal Poly, Joel wrote and co-produced the **TV show "Going Dutch,"** just released on **Amazon Prime and Hulu** in January, starring Denis Leary. Church-Cooper also created and wrote "Brockmire", an award-winning sitcom about a baseball play-by-play announcer, starring Hank Azaria.



**Olof Arvidson**, a Foreign Exchange student from Sweden, graduated from AHS in 1997. He played basketball and ran track at Aptos, but he entrenched himself firmly into **AHS Track & Field lore** when he tied for 6th place in the high jump at the 1997 SCCAL Track & Field Championships, earning  $\frac{1}{2}$  point, and providing Aptos with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  point advantage over SLV to win our **1st boys championship** in 17 years. Recently, back in Sweden, he placed 3rd and **earned a Bronze Medal at the 2024 Swedish Powerlifting Championships**, Open Division. Olof's total from his three lifts (squat, bench & deadlift) was **1,686 lbs!** Gratulerar Olof!



# MARINER SPORTS HALL OF FAME



## CLASS OF 2025

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Joe Garbini - '79 - Football

John Baker - '83 - Football, Basketball

Shelley Rains - '88 - Softball, Soccer

Kim Fennell - '90 - SB, Soccer, Tennis

Audra Dent - '03 - Volleyball

Andrew Ortega - '04 - Football, Basketball, Baseball

Cody Gilbert - '10 - Water Polo, Swim

Michelle Park - '10 - Golf

Linda Hitchcock - G Tennis coach

Mark Hull - G Volleyball coach



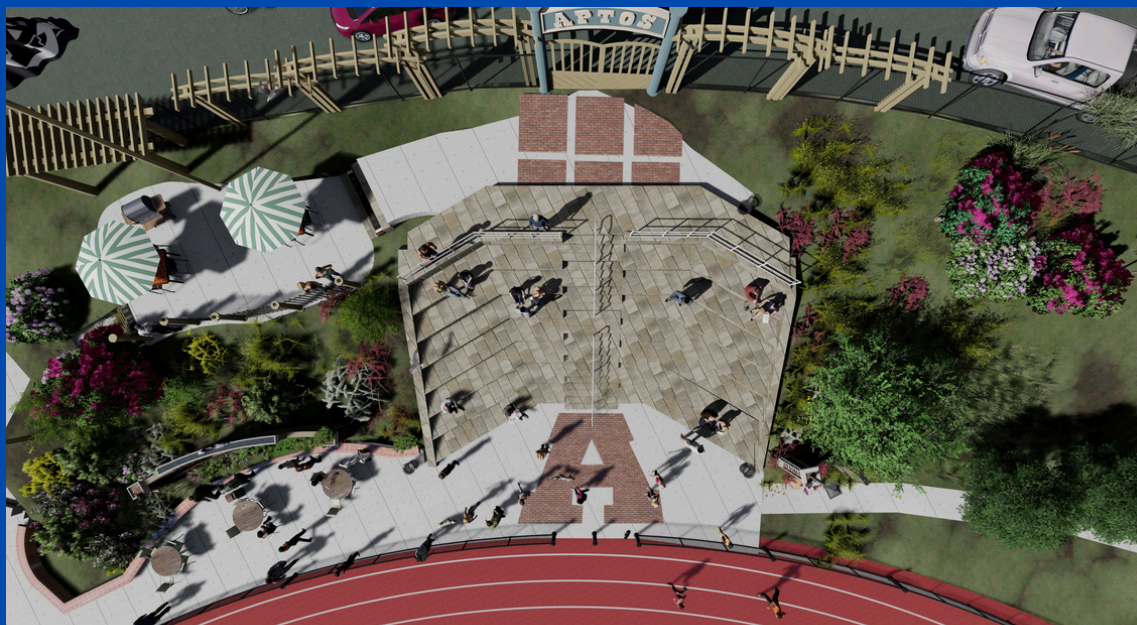
In its 54 year history, more than 14,000 student-athletes and 200 head coaches have participated in our sports programs, but only 123 athletes and 17 head coaches have been inducted into our Sports Hall of Fame.

To attend the HOF Dinner, please contact Mark Dorfman at

**[mark\\_dorfman@pvusd.net](mailto:mark_dorfman@pvusd.net)**

 [aptossportsfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:aptossportsfoundation@gmail.com)

 P.O. Box 2405, Aptos, CA 95001



## HOLCOMB'S LANDING

We are currently working toward a beautification project at Trevin Dilfer Stadium.

Holcomb's Landing will be built in the north end zone and is a gathering area for students, families and community members. It will include seating, a wall of fame and serve as a historic campus landmark.

Named for the late Mark Holcomb, honoring his generosity to Aptos youth and Mariner athletics, Holcomb's Landing will be a source of pride for generations.

**BUDGET ESTIMATE: \$400,000**

**EARNED TO DATE: \$200,000**



## LAY THE FOUNDATION OF A LASTING LEGACY, BUY A BRICK

Become a forever Mariner by etching your name in history at Holcomb's Landing.

AHS families, alumni, teachers and staff, teams, as well as local businesses and community partners are some examples of those who have already contributed to building a lasting legacy.

**To purchase a brick visit: [aptosportsfoundation.com/purchase-a-brick](https://aptosportsfoundation.com/purchase-a-brick)**

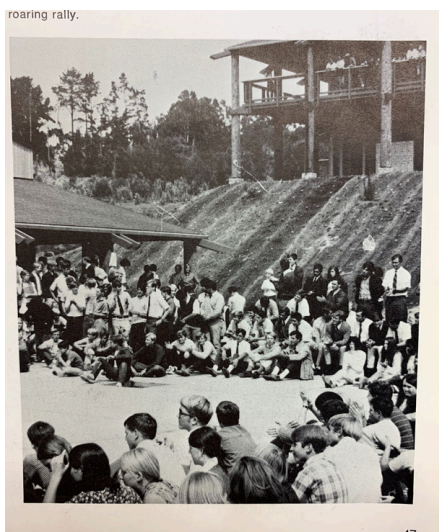
 [aptosportsfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:aptosportsfoundation@gmail.com)

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## THIS PERIOD IN APTOS HIGH HISTORY

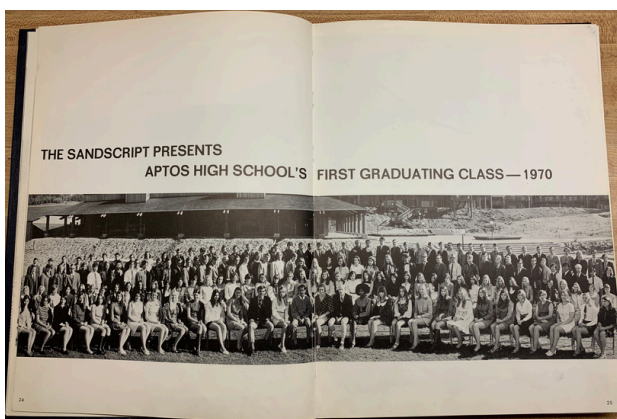


On Monday, **September 8, 1969**, Aptos High officially opened its doors to students. The enrollment of 981 students included 275 frosh, 272 sophomores, 252 juniors, and 182 seniors.

Friday, September 18, 1969, marked the **1st football game** in AHS history. Playing under the lights at Cabrillo College, and led by head coach **Wayne Johnson**, the Mariners lost to Gonzales HS 29-6. **Phil Hayes** scored the school's 1st TD on a 2-yard plunge.

**Boys Water-Polo** played its first game on Saturday, November 20, 1971. Participating in a 4-team tournament at Cabrillo College, Aptos went 3-0 to capture the title, beating Santa Cruz 9-5, Soquel 14-8, and Carmel 4-3. **Greg Henning** was our leading scorer.

**Girls Water-Polo** played their 1st game on Tuesday, September 24, 1996, also at Cabrillo. The Mariners beat Hollister 24-6, and **Corey Schell** led all scorers with 7 goals.



## APTOS TRIVIA



**A:** From 1996 thru 2015, the Aptos HS Girls Track & Field Team did not lose a dual meet. Over a span of 18 years, they won 118 consecutive dual meets. It is the 2nd-longest dual meet win streak in California history.



## SUPPORT OUR MARINERS

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The ASF offers several ways to donate charitable funds to help Aptos High Athletics:

### ENDOWMENT FUND

The Aptos Sports Foundation's Endowment Fund, under the care of the Santa Cruz Community Foundation, will ensure your legacy of support to Aptos Athletics in perpetuity.

### DIRECT DONATION

By donating directly to different Aptos Sports Foundation projects, your gift will make an immediate impact.

- Holcomb's Landing - the new end zone development at Trevin Dilfer Stadium.
- Purchase a "Forever Brick" which will sit in Holcomb's Landing.
- The Bobby Salazar Scholarship Fund, which honors the legacy of Bobby, the unofficial Mayor of Aptos



### EVENTS

Sponsor or attend an event.

- Golf Tournament
- Poker Tournament
- Hall of Fame Dinner
- Seasonal Celebrations