



The Mighty Mariner

CHARTING NEW WATERS

The Newsletter of the Aptos Sports Foundation



WELCOME

Welcome to the 1st edition of the new Aptos Sports Foundation quarterly newsletter. Our goal is to keep you up to date with the latest and greatest projects, as well as the latest and greatest news about our current and former student athletes. There are so many great things happening and you deserve to know about it all! We hope you'll enjoy it. We appreciate your support. It takes a village, and we have the best!



Courtesy: Denise Russo Photography

UPCOMING EVENTS

45th annual ASF Golf Tournament
Friday May 10, 2024
Seascape Golf Course
Sold Out but you can still be a sponsor!
AptosSportsFoundation.com
Lisa Gerety at (831) 688-7434

AHS TRIVIA



Q: What AHS team won the 1st CCS Championship in both school and SCCAL history?
Read on to find out!

REGISTER

THIS YEAR IN SPORTS



Courtesy: Denise Russo Photography

The **Fall** season saw Aptos student-athletes capture 2 SCCAL titles, in Girls Tennis and Girls Flag Football. This was the first year the CIF offered Girls Flag Football, and the turnout statewide was tremendous. At Aptos, the team had over 40 members.

In the **Winter**, Boys & Girls Soccer each swept the SCCAL title, League MVP and Coach of the Year honors.

Girls Basketball won the SCCAL Tournament and took home League MVP. Boys Basketball won both League MVP and Coach of the Year awards.

MARINERS MOVING UP

Aptos saw 6 student-athletes sign Letters of Intent to continue their sports careers in college:

Jordan Espinoza - Texas Tech. - Baseball
Alexis Fajardo - CSU East Bay - Swimming
Dylan Hocum - Skidmore College - Baseball
Rachel Hoops - CSU Monterey Bay - T&F/XC
Paloma Primavera - Fresno State - Equestrian
Ella Shoemaker - CSU San Marcos - T&F
Mileena Crabajal- Arlington Baptist- Softball

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APTOS ALUMS IN THE NEWS



This past September, **Peter Mel** ('87) caught the biggest wave of the season at Mavericks. In 2021, Peter caught what is called "the best wave ever surfed at Mavericks", which the World Surf League named The Ride of the Year.

Last October, **Judi Oyama** ('77) was selected to the 2024 USA Slalom Skateboarding Team, and will represent the USA at the World Skate Games in Rome in September. In August, she placed 2nd at the US National Championships.

Tyler LaTorre ('01), the head baseball coach at Westmont College, was recently honored at the 38th annual Hot Stove of Santa Clara Valley banquet, at a sold-out event with more than 600 people in attendance. In 2023, Tyler led the Warriors to a 48-9 record and to the NAIA National Championship, earning NAIA Coach of the Year honors.

Former head Girls Volleyball coach, **Mark Brewer**, who is now the head volleyball official in Santa Cruz County, was recently honored by the CCS with the Golden Whistle Award for his contributions as an extraordinary volleyball official for over 30 years.

Aptos grad and longtime Aptos coach **Zach Hewett** ('03) was recently announced as the new head football coach, replacing the legendary Randy Blankenship. As a student-athlete, Zach was an All-SCCAL linebacker, a league champion in the discus, and captain of both teams. He was the head JV coach for nine years.

This past July, **Nikki Hiltz** ('13), running at the Monaco Diamond League Meet, set the American record in the mile (4:16.35), breaking Mary Decker Slaney's record, which stood for 38 years. And in January, at the University of Washington, Nikki set another American record, this time in the indoor 1000 meters (2:34.09), breaking a record that was 19 years old.

Trent Dilfer ('90) recently completed his first year as head coach at the University of Alabama, Birmingham. In his inaugural year leading UAB, the Blazers went 4-8, going 4-2 at home, which included big wins over the University of South Florida (USF) and Temple University.





RECENT PROJECTS

At the end of 2023, **Aptos BBQ owner and Mariner parent, Lawrence Ingram**, partnered with the ASF to give the Aptos Junior High gym a historic makeover. Spearheaded by Mr. Ingram and **Volcan Coatings**, the gym walls were painted for the first time and the floor was refurbished. The project took eight days, over two phases.

The new floor coating is NBA approved, and used on both Golden State and Santa Cruz Warriors' courts.

Also working with Mr. Ingram, the ASF completed a remodel of the stadium Snack Shack, completely redesigning the interior and bringing the facility up to the new building code standards.

And, thanks to the team at **Testorff Construction**, and with the help of the Aptos High Woodshop class, Mariner Softball received a new equipment shed.





INTERESTED IN DONATING?

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

AHS TRIVIA



A: The 1982-83 Girls Basketball team, coached by Dan Gruber, beat Menlo-Atherton in the championship game. Coming back from a 13-point 3rd quarter deficit, the Mariners defeated the Bears 44-40. Char Reber led Aptos with 17 points, SCCAL MVP Karen Cantoni had 14, and Bonnie Wickwire added 8.



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