Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

The Riverside Sports Hall of Fame annually recognizes those persons who have brought exceptional fame and honor to the City of Riverside through their participation in their chosen sport. The 2013 inductees included four individuals with Riverside City College connections. They were honored at the Annual Awards dinner on May 19, 2013 at the Riverside Municipal Auditorium and Event Center. The Riverside Community College District and the RCCD Foundation ran the ad below in the event’s program.

Professional golfer and TV commentator Gary McCord attended RCC from 1966-68 where he was a member of the golf team for both years. He went on to play at UCR then began a 23 year career on the PGA Tour where he played in 422 tournaments. He continues to play on the Senior PGA tour and for over 21 years he has served as a guest commentator on CBS Sports golf telecasts.

Jess Mortensen coached both Track & Field and Football while at (what was then called) Riverside Junior College from 1930 to 1947. Two of his RJC Track & Field teams won National Junior College Track titles. When the administrative post of Dean of Men was created in 1942, Mortensen was appointed to fill it. He went on to coach Track & Field at USC for ten years where his teams won
seven NCAA team titles. In 1956 he served as an assistant track coach with the 1956 U.S. Olympic team in Helsinki, Sweden. Mortensen also served as a Trojan assistant football coach.

David Almquist attended RCC from 1969-1971 where he was a member of the Water Polo team. He went on to coach at his high school alma mater, Riverside Poly beginning in 1974. He then returned to Riverside City College to coach Swimming, Diving and Water Polo from 1996 to 2013. He guided four RCC Women’s Water Polo Teams to California State Community College State Championships in 2005, 2007, 2010 and 2011. The 2007 RCC Women’s Water Polo Team was undefeated.

Nick Goldware attended RCC from 1965 to 1967 where he played Football. He continued playing the sport at UCR. He was honored by the Riverside Sports Hall of Fame as a “Contributor”. Goldware was a founding member of the RCC “Tiger Backers” and has been associated with many local organizations that give back to the community. In 2011 he was honored as the RCCD Alumnus of the Year.

Below are photos of the RCC inductees. On the top row are: Gary McCord, and Jess Mortensen. On the bottom row are Dave Almquist and Nick Goldware.

Of the four 2013 honorees, David Almquist has spent the most time (19 years) at Riverside City College, two years as a student/athlete and 17 as a member of the Faculty. Last week, Almquist concluded his fulltime career at Riverside City College as an Associate Professor of Kinesiology. The top two photos (below) are of Almquist while he was attending RCC. The bottom two photos (below) show Almquist during his coaching days at Riverside Poly High and Riverside City College. In both of these pictures he is seen on the extreme right hand side.
On the Riverside Sports Hall of Fame website, Almquist is described in this manner: “Dave Almquist is the recognized Riverside water polo coach who has led Poly High School and Riverside City College to numerous championships in three decades of coaching. David was also the assistant coach of the United States Men’s National team from 1984-1988, which included the 1988 silver medal winning team that competed in Seoul, South Korea. David has been wildly successful with the Riverside City College women’s water polo program, winning four California State Championships since 2005, eight straight Orange Empire Conference titles and boasting a gaudy 184-12 record over the last six seasons. Many of those teams finished the season with more goals scored than missed shots. The 2007 season is indicative of the high level to which the program has risen. That team completed its undefeated season with wire-to-wire dominance and played only two games within five goals all season, outscoring their State Tournament opponents by a combined score of 41-5. In 2009, a winning streak of over 50 straight matches began, which was the longest in program history. During the years of their championship runs, a big part of the program success has been the coaching philosophy of Coach Almquist which emphasizes team togetherness and unselfish play.”
It is 2 years and 39 weeks until RCC’s 100th Anniversary on March 13, 2016.

The Riverside City College Instructional Media Center is bringing you this five year countdown to RCC’s 100th Anniversary. Our intention is to give everyone a weekly glance at the many people and events that have been a part of the college.

Our thanks go to the RCC Digital Library Archives and the District’s Office of Strategic Communications and Relations for allowing us to use their photo and newspaper collections. Thanks as well to all of the RCC students and Faculty Advisors that were a part of the yearbook and newspaper staffs. Thanks also to Tom Johnson and Gilbert Jimenez who wrote “the book” about RCC’s history. “Riverside City College 1916-1981- A 65 Year History” is available in the RCC Digital Library.

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