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**For Immediate Release**

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**Clovis Unified Athletic Hall of Fame events Oct. 27, 28**

*Six individuals, two teams in the district’s seventh Hall of Fame class*

A Bronze Medal Olympian who played in Major League Baseball, two professional soccer players and a tri-sport athlete who went on to be a Fresno State football star and later a college coach are among the 2023 Class of Inductees for the Clovis Unified Athletic Hall of Fame. Six individual athletes and two Clovis Unified teams were chosen from among hundreds of nominations profiling highly accomplished district athletes and they will take part in festivities this weekend.

The inductees will first be celebrated at their hometown football games Friday night Oct. 27 conducting the pre-game coin toss, and then they will be honored at the Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Oct. 28 at the Shaghoian Concert Hall with on-stage interviews and video profiles of each legendary athlete. A reception prior to the ceremony will include displays of honoree sports memorabilia, awards and photos.

“Each inductee is an example of hard work paying off.  They’ve made incredible contributions to Clovis Unified, their professional careers, and their communities,” said Assistant Superintendent Steve France who oversees the event. “Their stories are a testimony to the incredible caliber of our district’s schools and athletics programs. We are proud to honor them and be a part of their outstanding accomplishments.”

These athletes are part of the foundational sports legends upon which Clovis Unified built and grew its athletic dynasty. The CUSD Athletic Hall of Fame serves to preserve the inductees’ important contributions to the district’s history and inspire student athletes while instilling even more pride in the district’s powerhouse athletic programs and their rich history. Learn more at: cusd.com/AthleticHallOfFame.

The induction ceremony is open to the public free of charge and no tickets are required.

*The 2003 class of inductees are:*

* Jason Donald - Baseball, Buchanan High
* Elise Krieghoff - Basketball, Soccer, Buchanan High
* Jack Mattox - Football, Basketball, Track, Clovis High
* Chad McCarty - Soccer, Clovis High
* James Patrick - Baseball Coach, Clovis High
* Stephen Tirapelle - Wrestling Coach, Clovis High
* 1974, 1975, 1976 & 1978 Clovis High Girls Tennis Teams
* 1991 Clovis High Football Team
* Carlo Prandini, Ph.D., Doc Buchanan Award

**Clovis Unified Athletic Hall of Fame Events**

Events held this week include the following, with media welcome to attend.

**WHAT:  Honoree Tailgate, Friday, Oct. 27, 5:30 to 7 p.m.**WHERE: Lamonica Stadium, follow signs directing to gathering west of the scoreboard on the south side of the stadium *An informal dinner gathering of the honorees, their families and coaches*

**WHAT: Honoree Coin Tosses, Friday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.**

WHERE: Honorees will be tossing the coin to kick off the Clovis High vs. Clovis West football game at Lamonica Stadium and Buchanan vs Clovis East football game at Veterans Memorial Stadium

**WHAT: Honoree Media Availability, Friday, Oct. 27, 10:45 to 11:15 a.m.**

WHERE: CUSD Performing Arts Center, 2770 E. International Ave., Fresno

*Honorees will be gathered at the site of the annual gala and available for media interviews against a backdrop of event preparations and sports memorabilia.*

REQUIRES RSVP: Media, please contact us in advance if you will be attending this.

**WHAT: CUSD Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony, Saturday, Oct. 28, Reception at 6 p.m., Awards at 7 p.m.**

WHERE: CUSD Performing Arts Center, 2770 E. International Ave., Fresno

*An ESPY Awards-style gala honoring Hall of Fame inductees.*

NOTE: The gala will begin with recognition of Clovis Unified’s 2022-23 Athletic High School Supremacy Award for the athletic program with the most earned league, regional and state titles. For last year, there was a tie, and the award is being presented to Buchanan High and Clovis West High.

**CONTACT:**

For more information or to arrange interviews with the inductees or Clovis Unified representatives, contact Kelly Avants at [559-327-9092/kellyavants@cusd.com](mailto:559-327-9092/kellyavants@cusd.com).

**More About the 2023 Honorees**

**Carlo Prandini, Ph.D.**

*Doc Buchanan Award*

Carlo Prandini, Ph.D. was hired by Doc Buchanan personally in 1978 to be a track coach and teacher at Clovis High, and it was easy to see that the two shared the idea of students being the best they could be. This was also the idea that fueled Prandini throughout his career. Under his teaching, Clovis High’s track teams won seven league championships, numerous league and section individual championships, two individual state championships, and one national individual championship. While working in Clovis Unified in multiple positions from athletic director to deputy superintendent, Prandini played a vital role in making Clovis Unified the hub of multiple State CIF Championship meets, including cross country, track and field, and swim and dive.

**Jack Maddox – Football, Basketball & Track**

*Representing: Pre-1960s/60s*

Three-sport athelete making Cougar history. Along with basketball and track, Jack Mattox played football during his time at Clovis High School. He later became the first Cougar to play the sport professionally, in 1959 with the Dallas Cowboys and the Denver Broncos in 1961. After retiring from football, he had a 25-year career as a teacher and coach at Fresno City College.

**James Patrick – Baseball Coach**

*Representing: 1970s/80s/90s/2000s*

Highly decorated baseball coach with a trophy case full of individual and team honors. At Clovis High School, Patrick coached football from 1984-2004 and baseball from 1985-2019. During that time, he was dubbed USA Today’s Baseball Coach of the Year two years in a row (1997 and 1998), CalHi Sports’s 1998 California Coach of the Year and 2010-2019 California Coach of the Decade, and the American Baseball Coaches Association’s 2014 National Coach of the Year. In 2005, he was inducted into the California Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame.

**Stephen Tirapelle - Wrestling Coach**

*Representing: 1980s/90s/2000s/10s*

National, state, and local coaching legend. From 1995-2018, Tirapelle coached a total of 63 Clovis High State wrestling finalists, 33 of whom were CIF State individual champions. His 2015 team still holds the CIF State Championship record score of 276.5 points. With these accomplishments come accolades, like the title of 2013 National High School Coach of the Year as well as his induction into the California Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2014 and the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2021.

**Chad McCarty – Soccer**

*Representing: 1990s*

Soccer star with stops including Major League Soccer and the Sydney Olympics. McCarty earned the title of The Fresno Bee’s Player of the Year while at Clovis High as well as contributing to the very first boys soccer CIF Valley Championship win in the school’s history in 1995. Professionally, he played for the Tampa Bay Mutiny and the Columbus Crew Juniors, the latter team winning the U.S. Open Cup during his time there. McCarty was also an endorsed Nike athlete, a member of the United States national team and competed in the Sydney Olympics in 2000 (taking 4th place).

**Jason Donald – Baseball**

*Representing: 2000s*

Buchanan High grad with a stellar baseball resume. His achievements as a Bear included the titles of BHS Athlete of the Year, TRAC Player of the Year, The Fresno Bee Player of the Year and CIF Player of the Year, all awarded in 2003. After high school, Donald played for the Philadelphia Phillies and the Cleveland Indians, and he also played in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, where Team USA earned a Bronze Medal! On the Olympic team, Donald led in batting average (.381) and slugging percentage (.571).

**Elise Krieghoff – Soccer**

*Representing: 2010s*

Krieghoff was a 4-year starter in soccer and a 3-time CIF Central Section champion, racking up 100 goals and 37 assists while at Buchanan. During her college career, she became the 2013 Big West Conference’s Offensive Player of the Year, the conference’s record holder for most player of the week honors (with eight), Cal Poly’s Female Athlete of the Year recipient and Cal Poly’s all-time leader in single-season goals (21), career goals (52) and game winning goals (seven). Professionally, Krieghoff played for the Boston Breakers in 2016 and the Valerenga Damer in Norway in 2017.

**1974, 1975, 1976 & 1978  Clovis High Girls Tennis Teams**

North Yosemite League Champions, Two-time NYL Co-Champions, & CIF Section Champions

**1991 Clovis High Football Team**

CIF Valley Championship (Undefeated Season), One of Only Two Undefeated Teams in Clovis High School Football History, Scored the Most Points of Any Team in 100+ Year History of CIF Football, Ranked No. 2 in State and No. 16 in Nation

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