

Special Olympics Mayor's Trophy

This award was established by Mayor David Shiffman. It is presented annually to a "Special Olympic Athlete."

Past Recipients

1989 Grant Locker
1990 Susan Carey
1991 Bryan Winger
1992 Amy Petersons
1993 Diego Sandoval
1994 LeAnn Filice
1995 Debra Day
1996 Gerald Martinez
1997 Jeff Gorham
1998 Robert Bryan
1999 Trinity Fiduccia
2001 Kyle Petersilia



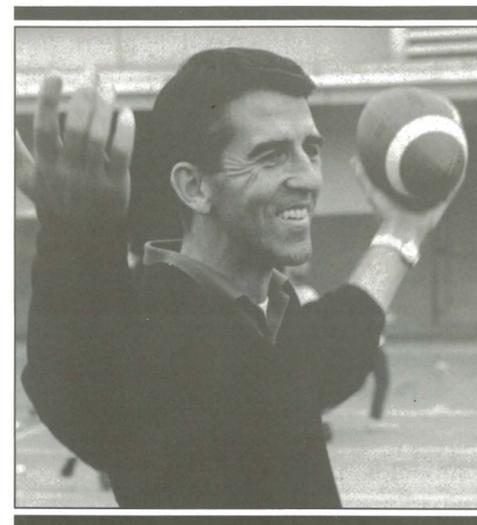
CAMILLE NOEL PIRKO

Camille was born in 1978 with a congenital heart defect and pulmonic stenosis, but that never slowed her down. After corrective surgery she was given a clean bill of health, but the surgeon did say she would probably never play sports. He just didn't know Camille! As a baby she loved the ocean and would do anything to get in for a swim. Later she developed a love for playing ball. The fact that she didn't catch well never deterred Camille. She would have lived at Dodger Stadium if it had been an option!

At Devereux, Camille's first Special Olympics sport was swimming, and Saturdays revolved around practicing and participating in meets. Her favorite was the breaststroke and she always participating 100%, even when the pool water was much colder than she would have liked. How proud she was when she had the ribbon pinned on!

After swimming with such success, Camille was got involved in Special Olympics Basketball and Bowling events. A perfect weekend for her was bowling at Orchid Bowl on Saturday and playing basketball at Santa Barbara High on Sunday. Those athletic weekends helped her blossom into a young woman with self-confidence and pride in her ability to participate. Her basketball coach really encouraged her to do her best. His support, the tournaments and bus trips, and the friendships were all a part of Camille's success in Special Olympics. The day before Camille died she wanted to call Special Olympics to find out when the basketball season started. She thought of Special Olympics as an opportunity for fun and friendship. We are very grateful that Camille had the opportunity to participate in such a worthwhile program.

2002 HALL OF FAME



Bill Shields
Coach

The Goleta School District and the boys and girls who participated in the Valley Elementary League are lucky that founder Bill Shields learned to bob and weave at a young age. Bill did not have a lot of success as a Pasadena High School basketball player, so he decided he wanted to try amateur boxing. He was trained by the legendary blind boxing coach, Canto Robledo, in Robledo's backyard gym in Pasadena. During his boxing tenure, he competed in both lightweight and welterweight division tournaments. Bill won weight division championships in 4 tournaments. What is remarkable is that he was a finalist in every boxing tournaments he entered.

Bill graduated from UCSB in 1957 and earned a Master's Degree from USC in 1962. He was hired by the Goleta School District in 1957, where he taught 6th grade at Cathedral Oaks, drove the school bus and developed a boys and girls after school athletic program. He organized the Valley Elementary League, where boys and girls teams, coached by fellow teachers

and parents, competed against one another on Saturday mornings in Goleta. Sportsmanship, fair play and citizenship were emphasized pre-, during, and post-game. The program was an overnight success. Bill's school won championships in flag football, basketball, softball, volleyball and track. After 19 years, when the Valley League was no longer needed, Bill organized and coached noon leagues at Hollister and La Patera schools. What was unique was that these teams were all co-ed.

Bill Shields coached hundreds of boys and girls in all sports. He was a truly visionary coach by promoting girls to participate in competitive sports 15 years before the implementation of Title IX. His young athletes remember his love of sport and his caring attitude toward athletes of every ability level. Bill retired from teaching in 1990 and now enjoys watching his 4 grandchildren play soccer...a game they have to explain to him!