

2002 HALL OF FAME



George Bliss *Community Leader*

An avid sports fan, successful businessman and tireless community servant, George Bliss has been active in our community helping for over 60 years.

As a resident of Carpinteria since 1921, he has been Chairman of the Memorial Stadium Steering Committee and he championed the funding of the High School's Memorial Stadium. Recently he was selected as the Honorary Directory of the Russell Cup Track Meet. A 60 year member of the Lions, he was instrumental in establishing the Carpinteria Lions Park. He has been active in the campaign to build the city swimming pool and in the establishment of the Historical Museum. There hasn't been a Boys or Girls Club Capital Campaign that did not involve George. He has been on the Carpinteria School Board, a Director of the Chamber of Commerce, and in 1967 was Carpinterian of the Year.

George's good works don't stop in Carpinteria. As President and Director of Elings Park, he played a key

role in transforming a useless landfill into a showcase park. He is Past Chair of the SB County Employees Civil Service Commission, Past Chair of the SB Sheriff Civil Service Commission, Past Member of the SB Planning Commission, Past Director of the Land Trust of SB County and Past President and Director of the 19th Agricultural District. George is this year's recipient of both the News-Press Lifetime Achievement Award and the Santa Barbara Foundation's Man of the Year Award.

As for athletic prowess, George has that too. In 1935 and 1936, he won the Russell Cup 660. In 1936, he was the State Champion in the 660. He was a member of the UCLA Track Team and the Captain of the UCLA Cross Country Team. However, he is most proud of being a member of the Carpinteria High School Medley Relay Team that beat Clarence Schutte's best back in 1935.

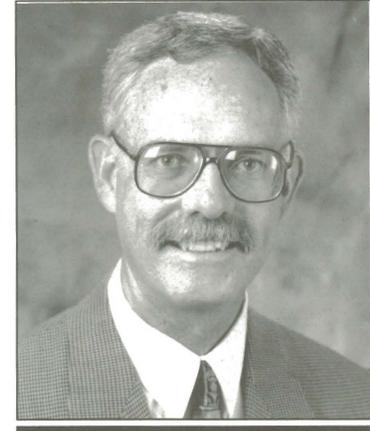
George and his wife Marjorie have 3 children: Terry, Wendy & Tim and 6 grandchildren.

Louise *Lowry Davis* *Award*

Louise Lowry Davis was Supervisor of the S.B. Recreation Dept. for over 30 years before retirement in 1966. As director of the Women's Sports League, she made women's sports activities one of the biggest draws in town in the 1930's and 1940's. Louise was a State Champion and nationally ranked in 1936 and 1939 in table tennis. Over the years, Louise has generously contributed to the youth of Santa Barbara. This award is given to a person recognized as a player, coach or sponsor who excels in leadership and sportsmanship.

Past Recipients

1989 Jennifer Moreland
1990 Joan Serrano
1991 Kathy Gregory
1992 Alice Henry
1993 Kathleen O'Connor
1994 Ellen T. O'Connor
1995 Jane Frederick
1996 Pat Moorhouse-MacPhee
1997 Joan Russell
1998 Kira Anthofer
1999 Steve Kozaki
2000 Paula Rudolph
2001 7-Up Bartling Company
Sofball Team of 1940



MARK FRENCH

When Mark French graduated from UCSB in 1973, he aspired to be a baseball coach. If you had told him he would return to Santa Barbara 14 years later to coach the Gaucho women's basketball team, he would have thought you were nuts. Women's sports were, at best, a curiosity during his college years. But changes had begun sweeping through intercollegiate athletics, prompted in part by the passage of Title IX in 1972. While many of his peers resisted the movement, French became one of its leaders.

French took a job coaching women's basketball at the University of the Pacific in 1979 because he needed the money. He was also the pitching coach for UOP's baseball team. He'll always remember the first time he watched a women's basketball game – he was one of the coaches. Two years later, French resigned from his baseball position because he felt his women's team deserved his full-time energy and attention.

UCSB had a downtrodden women's basketball program when French began coaching the Gauchos in the 1987-88 season. In his fourth year, they had a winning season. In his fifth, they won their first Big West championship and reached the NCAA Tournament for the first time. They made their seventh appearance in the "Big Dance" this past year, and French passed two milestones with his 300th victory at UCSB and 400th of his career. His team's winning ways boosted the community's following of the Gauchos. Next to Stanford, they have the top drawing women's college basketball team in California. His program has graduated 98 percent of its student-athletes and has produced more Big West scholar-athletes than any other team.