

# The Intercollegiate Athletic History of Sonoma State College 1962-74

## "The Pioneer Athletes"

By: Don Vachini  
Sonoma State College  
Class of 1966



The New College Seal

Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletic History  
1962-74

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## Dedication

In 1960, the laser was invented, Americans watched the first televised presidential debates, a group of courageous black students staged a sit-in at Woolworth's Variety Store in Greensboro, North Carolina, moviegoers everywhere screamed in terror at Alfred Hitchcock's Psycho and the birth control pill was approved by the FDA.

Against this backdrop of changes, a former Naval Intelligence officer, World War II Veteran and California State Senator named Joe Rattigan, pushed through a piece of legislation which paved the way for a state college to be built in the tiny city of Rohnert Park, California.

From its very beginning, Rattigan's school, called Sonoma State College, has been represented on the fields of play. It is to those athletes, once called the Cossacks, and now the Seawolves, to whom this book is dedicated.

By: Doug Pricer (1969-71)

## Introduction

A quick glance at the current Sonoma State Seawolves Athletic Web Page portrays myriad, up-to-the-moment information on current or recent teams and contests. It is a well-managed site, chronicling men's and women's sporting events along with team and individual statistics archived and available on-line, dating back to the mid-1980's.

Sadly, not much, if at all, is available of Sonoma State's sports inception during the 1960's and '70's. While some bits and fragments exist, it is usually from yellowing scrapbooks, yearbooks or antiquated copies of the Steppes newspapers.

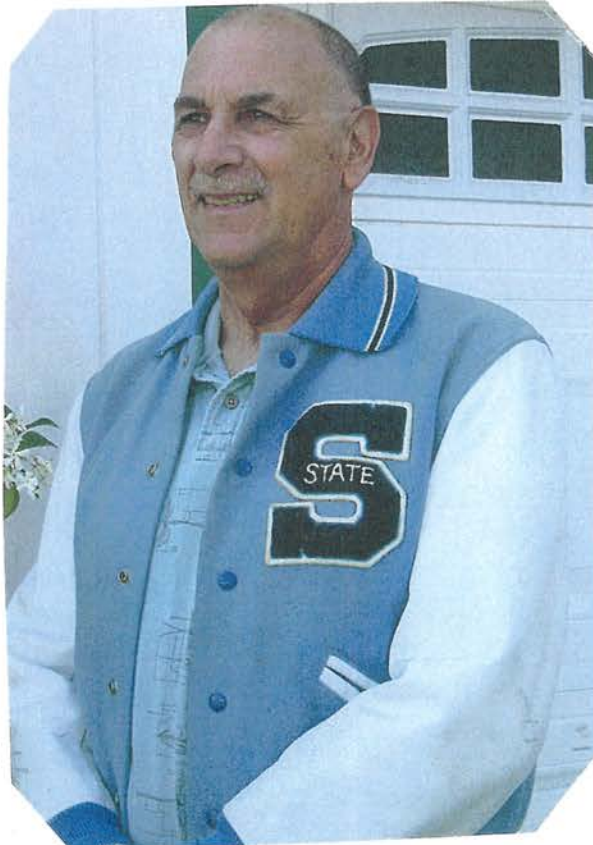
Thus, in 2014, after conferring with Athletic Director, Bill Fusco, Assistant Athletic Director, Brandon Bronzan, Sports Information Director, Tyler Lobe and former SSU Football Coach, Frank Scalercio, I was tasked with compiling an in-depth history of the Men's Intercollegiate Athletic Program from its earliest beginnings. We collectively concurred that, "the only things worse than histories unread are histories unwritten!"

The purpose of this undertaking is to reveal the following slices of history so that they may be archived, perused by former students and athletes and not lost in oblivion. Of utmost importance, is recognizing ALL members of the intercollegiate athletic teams that represented Sonoma State during what is known as the "Pioneer Athletics Era." By compiling rosters and documenting team and individual accomplishments of these "Pioneer" teams between 1962-74, the intent is to recapture and re-ignite some personal memories and anecdotes of that period. Of overall importance, however, is that the results are to be archived digitally, inserting an earlier chapter in the tradition of SSC athletics, and available for future generations to enjoy!

And, as Ambrose Nichols, SSC President from 1961-70, firmly stated when mentioning these formative times, "We must not lose our past history."

By: Don Vachini (1964-66)

"And, after 55-years, my letterman's jacket still fits!!"



## The Dual Histories of Rohnert Park/ Sonoma State College (and the Pheasant Connection)

Today, the City of Rohnert Park and Sonoma State University are both well-established institutions, in existence for over 60-years. Middle-aged in terms of birthdays, they collectively offer services to the community and beyond as they continue to move along with the times.

Historically, both had their beginnings in full view of the Sonoma Mountains, part of the Coastal Mountain Range, which sit due east of Cotati and overlook the vast Santa Rosa Plain. Creeks and rivulets draining past the tiny town of Cotati enter the Santa Rosa De Laguna and eventually trickle into the Russian River, ultimately disappearing into the Pacific Ocean.

Fed by seasonal rainfall, the gently sloping plain located between the larger cities of Petaluma and Santa Rosa was perfect for agricultural purposes. Indeed, small cattle and chicken ranches pocked the bucolic landscape, hunters found the abundant grasslands ideal habitat for pheasants and the fertile soils between Petaluma Hill Road and the new Highway 101 Freeway and bisected by the Northwestern Pacific railroad, housed Waldo Rohnert's massive oat hay and seed farm.

During 1955, attorneys Maurice Fredericks and Paul Golis embarked on a vision to build a city, focusing on a tract of land adjacent to Cotati's city limits. They dreamed of a city accessible to regular people with neighborhood parks, tennis courts, pools, ball fields and community centers. Enlisting the services of developer, Hugh Coddling, they purchased the 2,600-acre seed farm from Waldo Rohnert, selected primarily because it was under one ownership, located at a higher elevation on the Santa Rosa Plain and therefore above flood level. Amid the post-war building boom, construction began in the spring of 1957 and the development was named Rohnert Park.

In addition to housing and businesses, future plans for a junior high and high school were also included. During this time, local Veterinarian, Bill Kortum, spearheaded a drive to locate a future college within the newly defined boundaries of the Rohnert Park plan. Thus, a 290-acre parcel was also set aside for a college at the corner of Petaluma Hill Road and East Cotati Avenue. This particular site was ultimately selected because it prudently allowed for gradual expansion of facilities over a multi-decade span.

Also in April 1955, the State Board of Education recommended that State Colleges conduct off-campus centers within their service regions for improving the preparation of teachers in rural areas. Responding to this challenge, San Francisco State College established a center in Santa Rosa in the fall of 1956, headed by Dr. George McCabe.

In 1960, the California Legislature, with assistance from Senator Joseph Rattigan, officially brought Sonoma State College (SSC) into existence. Part of a 2-year pilot project authorized by the State Legislature, the upper division unit found temporary administrative quarters in the Odd Fellows Hall and classroom facilities in Fremont Elementary School, the Christian Church and the abandoned Pacific

Telephone Business Office in Santa Rosa. Initial enrollment was 176, of which 109 were provisionally credentialed teachers seeking full certification.

For the 1962-63 term, the college moved to an office complex located at 265 College View Avenue in Rohnert Park, which became its temporary campus for three-years while construction was taking place at the permanent campus.

By 1962, the community had incorporated as a city, nicknamed "The Friendly City," and in 1963, Rohnert Park Junior High and Rancho Cotate High School sought their roots within city limits.

Prior to 1962, Sonoma, Napa and Marin county higher education choices were limited to area junior colleges Santa Rosa, Napa and Marin while San Francisco State, San Jose State and Sacramento State were the nearest College Division institutions offering intercollegiate athletics. University of Santa Clara, University of San Francisco and St. Mary's College were major institutions of national prominence. SSC was now included among these Bay Area institutions of higher learning!

With a full schedule of classes being held at the downtown Rohnert Park "Campus," construction of the main campus was slowly taking place at its current East Cotati Avenue location. By 1964, the Fieldhouse became the first "on campus" building along with adjacent tennis courts and baseball diamond; Darwin and Stevenson Halls followed in 1967 and the berm-enclosed football/track complex in 1968.

Indeed, the paths of Sonoma State and Rohnert Park coincided nicely since they were both part of an intriguing master plan-one with an uncanny vision to the future! During the early 1960's, both the City of Rohnert Park and Sonoma State College plus its intercollegiate athletic department were in their corresponding infancies, comparable to a pair of young children finding their own paths as they grew, both locked together in a period of growth and development.

The Rohnert Park Clairion and the Sonoma State Steppes newspapers chronicled their exploits to the town's people and student body respectively.

The college, named after Sonoma County, officially became California State College at Sonoma, was shortened to Cal State-Sonoma and finally just Sonoma State. The institution joined other state colleges named for their counties: Sacramento State, Humboldt State, San Francisco State, Chico State and Hayward State.

The Sonoma State seal depicts a dove, a shaft of light, waves and a redwood tree, inscribed with the school motto: Lux Mentis; Lux Orbis (Light of the Mind; Light of the World).

Fierce Russian Warriors noted for horsemanship, colorful dancing and a legendary prowess in battle, the Cossacks were chosen as the SSC mascot.

For athletic competition, the association of state colleges belonged to the Far Western Conference (FWC), which was formed in 1925. Joining this alliance were UC Davis and the University of Nevada. During its reign, the FWC supported basketball, baseball, cross-country, football, golf, swimming, tennis and track & field.

Along with the chance to pursue various degrees, the creation of Sonoma State brought new, local choice of athletic offerings. The initial sports offered, beginning in 1962-63, were swimming and tennis, with initial participants recruited

from among the 300 campus enrollees. No available, on-campus practice or game facilities existed, the athletes trained at numerous venues and no home events were scheduled. Dr. Ed Rudloff was appointed SSC's first athletic director.

During 1963-64, Rudloff and Joel Grose crafted their infant Physical Education (aka Kinesiology) major. The charge was to form a department and develop curricula to include Health Sciences, Physical Education, Athletics and Dance with Advanced Composition, Mathematics and Biological Sciences to account for a "well rounded" major. Thus, an academic major in PE, new to the California State College system, was born and accepted in its entirety by the new college's Academic Senate.

On the athletic front, Rudloff and Grose chose a "building from within" approach, no recruiting and a requirement of athletic competition among P. E. majors. "Sonoma State will develop its athletic program conservatively, adding several sports each year as facilities, staff and students increase," Rudloff said. "There is no justification for a program of intercollegiate athletics in which the program is not seen simply as a part of the total college instructional program. Team competition must be thought of as a part of the college's P. E. program. Intercollegiate athletics will be a required part of the training of those studying to become P. E. teachers. The intercollegiate athletic program will be available to all students and they will be encouraged to participate regardless of major," he explained.

Of the college's future athletic plans? "With the sizeable increase in student body anticipated in the coming years, it is almost sure the Cossacks will be represented in the Far Western Conference competition," Rudloff stated.

Known as Sonoma State College (SSC) from its inception in 1960 through 1978, Sonoma State attained University status in 1979, henceforth known as Sonoma State University (SSU).

Fredericks and Golis were recognized as the "Co-Founding Fathers of Rohnert Park." Rudloff and Grose earned the "Founding Fathers of Intercollegiate Sports and the Department of Kinesiology" (aka Physical Education) monikers at Sonoma State. Thanks to their insightful visions, all are forever intertwined in the development of housing, community, athletics and higher education, touching hundreds of thousands of young and old alike.

### And the Pheasant Connection??

Introduced from Asia by the California Department of Fish and Game during the early 1930's, ring-necked pheasants adapted profusely to the area's croplands. Once established, they offered abundant hunting opportunities.

During my childhood days, I grew up on a dairy ranch south of Petaluma. One crisp, early December morning in 1954, my dad, Domenic, and I accepted an invitation to hunt these game birds on a friend's ranch. His property of rolling grasslands outside of Cotati was located along Petaluma Hill Road and was partially bound by Copeland and Lichau creeks.

Eleven-years later, I would drive past this same property on my way to classes at Sonoma State-memories of the brace of roosters that fell to my 20-gauge

shotgun still vivid in my mind. Fed by seasonal runoff, Copeland Creek currently bisects the campus, its babbling flows a healthy testament to the farm country atmosphere surrounding the now-university.

Fast forward to 2014. Doug Pricer, a transfer student from the Los Angeles area, was a football player for SSC in 1969, when the permanent campus was still in its early stages, with only 3 buildings amid a plethora of open grasslands. He confided how awe-struck he was coming from a concrete jungle to the rural, down-to-earth farmlands of Cotati, and he shared this story with me. “Teammate, Dave Dohm, was driving me back to the campus along Petaluma Hill Road. Before approaching East Cotati Avenue, he suddenly braked to a halt, fetched a shotgun from his trunk and walked a few yards into the grassy field. When a pheasant flushed, he shot it, then placed gun and bird in his trunk and we proceeded to class,” he said. “Later that evening, it was served for dinner by Dohm’s wife, a true bounty from the land, and we all shared in the delicious meal!”

While both Pricer and I often reminisce about our early days at SSC, we remain particularly fond of our pheasant connection. Based on his description of the shooting site, it was probably within a few hundred yards of my 1954 pheasant hunt! Small world, indeed.



## 1965-66 Perspectives

At the time the Cossack athletic teams were approaching their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, the following data will offer some perspective of the times:

### Historic Events

First episode of the science fiction Star Trek airs on television.

Mini skirts are at their fashion peak.

The world population was 3.397 billion.

The Miranda Rights were established.

### Popular TV shows included:

Bonanza, The Lucy show, Bewitched, Green Acres and The Beverly Hillbillies.

### Popular music included:

“Cherish” (Association), “Last Train to Clarksville” (The Monkees), “The Ballad of the Green Berets” (Sgt. Barry Sadler) and “Monday, Monday” (Mamas and The Papas).

### Average Costs:

House: \$23,300

Average income: \$6,004

New car: \$2,650

Milk: 99 cents per gallon

Bread: 22 cents per loaf

Gas: 32 cents per gallon

Postage stamp: 3 cents

Dozen eggs: 99 cents per dozen

President: Lyndon B. Johnson

Vice President: Hubert H. Humphrey

### Popular Films

Hawaii, The Sand Pebbles and A Man For All Seasons

Sonoma State College  
Circle of Intercollegiate Athletics  
"In the Beginning"



Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletic Team Rosters

The following compilation of rosters recognizes ALL members who participated in each SSC sports teams by year.

1962-63

Swimming

Dana Allen  
Carl Carlson  
Les Easterly  
Paul Eiserich  
Dave Lucchese

Coach: Joel Grose  
Asst.: Bob Miyashiro

Tennis

Hal Brown  
Carl Carlson

Coach: Ed Rudloff

1963-64

Basketball

Ben Black  
Carl Carlson  
Larry Giacomino  
Pete Golis  
Don Graham  
Curt Hastings  
Dennis Murr  
Rich Smith  
Ken G. Smith  
Neal Stine  
Bill Tuel  
Jerry Zanelli

Coach:  
Ed Rudloff

Wrestling

Eric Bjorkman  
Mike Cash  
Paul Dennis  
Jim Fitzgerald  
Steve Ford  
Andy Martin  
Jim Moore  
Stu Oxford  
Guy Sandlin  
Bob Schmelzer

Coach:  
Joel Grose

Tennis

Carl Carlson  
Rich Carsner  
Ed Dunlap  
Dave Fougner  
Carl C. Jensen  
Dave Schapiro  
Jerry Zanelli

Coach:  
Stan Goertzen

Golf

Grant Bodwell  
Pete Golis  
Don Graham  
Dennis Murr  
Ken G. Smith

Coach:  
Ed Rudloff

Swimming

Dave Lucchese  
Guy Sandlin

Coach:  
Ed Rudloff

Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletic Team Rosters

1964-65

Cross Country	Basketball	Wrestling	Track
Rich Carsner	Dale Aman	Eric Bjorkman	Dale Aman
Carl Carlson	Jim Arack	Mike Cash	Don Boger
Mike Cash	Tame Bell	Paul Dennis	Jerry Gromer
Steve Ford	Rich Carsner	Les Garanzini	Terry Langley
Don Graham	Dennis Casarotti	Vern Hansen	Pete Lathrop
Vern Hansen	Don Graham	Terry Langley	Ed Major
Gail Herman	Jerry Gromer	Bill Lewis	Bruce McKee
Carl D. Jensen	Curt Hastings	Andy Martin	Bill Ranney
Tim Kelly	Ed Major	Dave Schapiro	Randy Smith
Rich Kotoff	Ken G. Smith	Jim Stevens	Bill Williams
Ed Major	Ken W. Smith	Steve Stiles	Al Woicicki
Dale Mast	Bill Tuel	Bill Taylor	
Bill Ranney	Jeff Tuel	Lou Winberg	Coach:
Randy Smith	Don Vachini	Al Woicicki	Eric Pearson
Jim Stevens			
Jeff Tuel	Coach:	Coach:	
Don Vachini	Ed Rudloff	Joel Grose	
Al Woicicki	Asst:		
	Noel Frank		
Coach:			
Eric Pearson			

Tennis

Carl Carlson  
Rich Carsner  
Ed Dunlap  
Jack Hemingway  
Dave Schapiro  
Les Young

Coach:  
Stan Goertzen

Golf

Grant Bodwell  
Pete Golis  
Glenn Isaacs  
Dale Mast  
Dennis Murr  
Courtney Peck  
Jim Rustad

Coach:  
Ed Rudloff

Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletics Team Rosters

1965-66

Cross Country	Basketball	Wrestling	Track
Marc Falcone	Dale Aman	Eric Bjorkman	Tom Clancy
Jim Lopes	Jack Bingham	Dave Cash	Cathy Feige
John Noonan	Carl Carlson	Tim Floto	Rich Hughes
Bill Ranney	Dennis Casarotti	Vern Hansen	Jim Lopes
Joel Rudinow	Curt Hastings	Mike Horn	Bruce McKee
Randy Smith	Glenn Isaacs	Freeman Humphrey	Bill Ranney
Jeff Tuel	Rich Lehtinen	Jack Kantor	Bill Reed
Al Woicicki	Ed Major	Ray Kessler	Randy Smith
	Bruce McKee	Dave Schapiro	Al Woicicki
Coach: Ed Rudloff	Joel Rudinow	Jim Stevens	Coach:
Asst.: Bill Ranney	Dayl Thompson		Bob Sorani
	Bill Tuel	Coach:	Joel Grose
	Jeff Tuel	Joel Grose	
	Don Vachini		Baseball
	John Walker		Larry Betts
			Eric Bjorkman
	Coach:		Dan Defoe
	Noel Frank		Harvey Erlich
	Asst.:		Anthony Fleming
	Ken W. Smith		Don Graham
			Jim Halverson
			Vern Hansen
			Warren Hopkins
			Scott Hulbert
			Marty Levinson
			Ed Major
			Wayne Menicucci
			Larry Parducci
			Irv Piotrkowski
			Ron Pomi
			Ken W. Smith
			Bob Strawther
			Jack Throne
			Don Vachini
			John Walker
			Coach:
			Henry Lasch
Tennis		Golf	
Rich Carsner		Dennis Casarotti	
Carl Carlson		Pete Golis	
Jack Hemingway		Glenn Isaacs	
Bjorn Nelson		Jack Kantor	
Gil Schmidt		Courtney Peck	
Harry Strouse		Martin Rist	
Dayl Thompson		Glen Waters	
Les Young			
		Coach:	
Coach:		Ed Rudloff	
Eric Pearson			

Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletics Team Rosters

1966-67

Cross Country	Basketball	Wrestling	Track
Frank Hagerty	Dale Aman	Eric Bjorkman	Jack Gage
Vern Hansen	Jack Bingham	Mike Cash	Frank Hagerty
Dave Johnson	Dennis Casarotti	Davis Danielson	Rich Hughes
Jim Lopes	Dave Castleberry	Mike Horn	Mark Jackson
Randy Smith	Dan Defoe	Gordon Jones	Dave Johnson
Al Woicicki	Dave Goff	Ray Kessler	Jim Lopes
Paul Woicicki	Ernie Hardaway	Lee Panttaja	Tim MacIsaacs
	Curt Hastings	Jim Stevens	Bruce McKee
Coach:	Jack Kantor		Steve Nunes
Bob Sorani	Don Lumpkins	Coach:	Paul Scheiblich
	Wayne Menicucci	Joel Grose	L. E. Wagner
	Ray Nottingham		Al Woicicki
	Charlie Newman		Paul Woicicki
Baseball	Fred Perdomo		Coach:
	John Posey		Bob Sorani
Eric Cake	Gary Strawther		
Dan Defoe	Dave Thomas		Golf
Anthony Fleming	L. E. Wagner		
Bob Franceschi	John Walker		Eric Bjorkman
Tim Furlong			Chris Blanchard
Dave Glassey	Coach:		Bill Counterman
Vern Hansen	Bob Donlan		Dave Herrington
Bob Herold		Women's	Jack Kantor
Del Lydick		Track	Dan Marioni
Wayne Menicucci	Tennis		John Walker
Charlie Newman		Cathy Feige	Bruce Wold
Larry Parducci	Bill Delia	Kathleen McDougall	
Irv Piotrkowski	Jon Owens	Carol Schneider	Coach:
Bob Strawther	Bill Powell	Sherry Tuttle	Ed Rudloff
Gary Strawther	Gil Schmidt		
John Suit	Ralph Smith	Coach:	
Jack Throne	Dave Thomas	Ella Trussell	
Dave Tronnes	Dayl Thompsen	Asst.: Bill Ranney	
Tom Turner			
	Coach:		
Coach:	Stan Goertzen		
Warren Tappin			

Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletics Team Rosters

1967-68

Cross Country	Basketball	Baseball	Track
Cathy Feige	Jim Bracey	John Bussman	Barry Brummell
Kim Fleet	Dave Castleberry	Nick Collins	Tom Clancy
Jack Gage	Mike Francis	Bob Franceschi	Jack Gage
Bill Gillingham	Dave Goff	Mike Francis	Bill Gillingham
Frank Hagerty	Ernie Hardaway	Vern Hansen	Frank Hagerty
Dave Johnson	Howard Johnson	Bob Herold	Dave Johnson
Al Woicicki	Sam Jones	John Hinman	Howard Johnson
Paul Woicicki	Charlie Newman	Bing Kunzig	Norm Johnson
	Ray Nottingham	Terry Parent	Gordon Jones
Coach:	Terry Overlid	Nate Piotrkowski	Tim MacIsaacs
Bob Sorani	John Posey	Bill Silva	Ray Nottingham
	Roger Stone	Gary Strawther	Steve Nunes
	Dave Thomas	John Suit	Fred Perdomo
	Bruce Thorsen	Jack Throne	Pat Scheiblich
Golf	L. E. Wagner	Dave Tronnes	Lymon Stoddard
	Bruce Wold		Ray Tagami
Charlie Canlas			Bob Wallace
Mike Crowley	Coach:	Coach:	Al Woicicki
Ray Dull	Bob Donlan	Bruce Camilli	Paul Woicicki
Dan Fortlin	Asst.:	Asst.:	
Ron Goodrich	John Walker	Lloyd Helgeson	Coach:
Dave Herrington			Bob Sorani
Dan Marioni	Tennis		
Dave Mahoney		Women's	Wrestling
Scott Meyer	Bill Delia	Track	
Roger Milne	Mike Lynch		Ron Goodrich
Rich Trusendi	Jim McNeary	Cathy Feige	Ray Kessler
Dave Walcott	John Owens	A. King	Joe Morgan
Bruce Wold	Leon Richards	Kathleen McDougall	Lee Panttaja
	Dave Schapiro	C. Menchen	Bill Silva
Coach:	Rick Thomas	Carol Schneider	Jim Stevens
Ed Rudloff		Cheryl Soocey	
	Coach:	Sherry Tuttle	Coach:
	Stan Goertzen		Joel Grose
		Coach:	
		Ella Trussell	

Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletics Team Rosters

1968-69

Cross Country	Basketball	Wrestling	Baseball
Barry Brummell	Erral Boardman	Clive Davies	Larry Austin
Jack Gage	Dennis Garrett	Tim Elliot	Ed Banks
Bill Gillingham	Gary Grellman	Joe Morgan	Jeff Barker
Frank Hagerty	Bruce Guelden	Jim Naugle	John Bussman
Mike Johnson	Howard Johnson	Lee Panttaja	Fred Colbert
Norm Johnson	Roy Jones	Charlie Rada	Don Dana
Chuck Melson	Don Lumpkins	Kent Snyder	Bruce Fox
Bob Sickler	Rick Moitoza		John Gho
Craig Silman	Cortez Robinson	Coach:	Mike Gogan
Ragnar Thanning	Ramon Solomon	Ken Flynn	Vern Hansen
	Basil Swaby		Bill Heath
	John Thornton		Bob Herold
Coach:	Ron Trujillo		Richard Hopkins
Bob Sorani	Tito Velasco		Rick Jones
			Bing Kunzig
Tennis	Coach:		Larry Lefor
	Bob Donlan		Nate Piotrkowski
Jim Claitor	Asst.: Mike Francis		Leon Richards
Bill Delia			Doug Squelatti
Mike Lynch	Track		Gary Strawther
Jim McNeary			Julio Valenzuela
Leon Richards	Barry Brummell		Ed Walls
Dave Schapiro	Tom Clancy		
	Bill Gillingham		Coach:
Coach:	Gary Grellman	Track (cont.)	Carl Peterson
Stan Goertzen	Robert Gray		
	Frank Hagerty	Ramon Solomon	Golf
	Dave Johnson	Bob Sullivan	
	Norm Johnson	Ray Tagami	Bill Cox
	Gordy Jones	Ragnar Thanning	Dave Herrington
	Roy Jones	John Thornton	Scott Meyer
	Rick Moitza	Fred Vajda	Roger Milne
	Phil Moon		Bruce Wolcott
	Bob Sickler	Coach:	
	Craig Silman	Bob Sorani	Coach:
	Bill Silva		Ed Rudloff



Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletics Team Rosters

1969-70

Cross Country	Basketball	Wrestling	Baseball
Frank Hagerty	Larry Austin	Chris Alvarado	Ed Banks
Terri Hannay	Jeff Barker	Steve Connor	Jeff Barker
Rod Jamieson	Bill Cox	Clive Davies	Ken Batiloro
Dave Johnson	Henry Crawford	Alex Danneman	George Blankenship
Chuck Melson	Gary Grellman	Bob Dunlap	John Bussman
Wayne Rostomily	Bill Heath	Tim Elliot	Craig Clark
Bob Sickler	Jesse Howard	Benny Guerra	Don Dana
Craig Silman	Roy Jones	Jesus Hart	Jim Dunbar
Brad Tucker	David Law	Brian Loehr	Bruce Fox
	Charlie Newman	Marty McKay	Andy Fracchia
Coach:	Mel Petersen	Dave Moore	John Gho
Bob Sorani	Cortez Robinson	Joe Morgan	Mike Gogan
	Ramon Solomon	Jim Naugle	Bob Herold
	Basil Swaby	Lee Panttaja	Tom Hickman
Tennis	Dave Thomas	Bob Pratt	John Hinman
? Brand	Rick Thomas	Charley Rada	Gary Hopkins
Jim Claitor	Tito Velasco	Kent Snyder	Richard Hopkins
Mike Gabbard		Jack Trujillo	Mike Johnson
Tom Galvan	Coach:	Coach:	Mike Jones
Hilary Hawkins	Doug Earl	Ken Flynn	Bing Kunzig
Mike Lynch	Asst.: Dave Castleberry		Larry Lefor
Mike McBride		Golf	Garry Neville
Dave Thomas	Track		Leon Richards
		Jim Boesinger	Doug Squelatti
Coach:	Roger Appleby	Dave Carty	Gary Strawther
Jim Gale	Jim Baker	Bill Cox	Ken Tomlinson
	Chuck Coleman	Dave Herrington	Julio Valenzuela
	Gary Grellman	Gordy Jones	Jay Victor
	Benny Guerra	Scott Meyer	Ed Walls
	Frank Hagerty		
	Dave Johnson	Coach:	Coach:
	Roy Jones	Ed Rudloff	Carl Peterson
	Dennis Lanze		
	Herman Manuel	Track (cont.)	
	Charlie Rada	Ray Tagami	
	Bob Sullivan	Ragnar Thanning	
	Coach: Robert Lynde		

Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletics Team Rosters  
1969  
Football

Joe Aldridge  
Chris Alvarado  
Jim Baker  
Mike Blankenship  
Jim Boesinger  
John Bussman  
Gene Corzine  
Bill Cox  
Robert DePippo  
Dave Dohm  
Robert Dunlop  
Bruce Ferguson  
Robert Godfrey  
Lynne Goode  
Benny Guerra  
Frank Hall  
Tim Hanify  
Tom Harter  
Tom Hickman  
Steve Hardy  
Scott Irwin  
Mike Johnson

Coach:  
Lloyd Helgeson

Managers:  
Bob Priestly  
Frank Scalercio, Jr.

Bernard Jones  
Dennis Lanze  
Rich Lewandowski  
Herman Manuel  
John Morrow  
Luther Nelson  
Mike O'Connor  
Joe Ortega  
Ed Pettengill  
Nate Piotrkowski  
Doug Pricer  
Chet Rogers  
Larry Russell  
Robert Sears  
Mark Setterland  
Wayne Steel  
Robert Sherwood  
Sam Tharpe  
John Thornton  
Jack Trujillo  
Vic Vandenberghe  
Mike Woicicki

Assts.:  
Charlie Bird  
Bob Donlan  
Dave Francis  
Carl Peterson  
Frank Scalercio, Sr.  
Michael Scalercio

Film Editor:  
Sterling Sakai

Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletics Team Rosters

1970-71

Wrestling	Basketball	Baseball	Track
Chris Alvarado	Larry Austin	Al Artiaga	Gordon Burns
Joe Alvarado	Jeff Barker	John Baker	Bill Denmark
Steve Connor	Mark Bucklew	Clancy Barham	Benny Guerra
Mike Dale	Henry Crawford	Jeff Barker	Dennis Hudson
Alex Danneman	Wayne Fisher	Mike Ball	Dennis Lanze
Bob Dunlap	Dennis Gluhan	Dante Benedetti	John Morrow
Ed Ghiringelli	Ross Goree	Rod Boree	Bob Rebbe
Benny Guerra	Larry Mendel	Ken Charles	Barry Sholtes
Jesus Hart	Mel Petersen	John Chelli	Art Spaletta
Bill Hopkins	Tad Woliczko	Mike Dale	George Steen
Dennis Lanze		Jim Dunbar	Ken Stein
Mike Ornellas		Craig Estes	Bob Sullivan
Bob Pratt		Rich Garretson	Ray Tagami
Charlie Rada	Coach:	Mike Gogan	Ragnar Thanning
Gene Stevensen	Doug Earl	Rich Hobson	Tad Woliczko
Jack Trujillo		Mike Leoni	
		Gordon MacLaughlin	
Coach:		Mark Newsome	Coach:
Ken Flynn		Gary Neville	Bob Lyndw
		Jim Salm	
Cross Country		Gene Soldate	Golf
		Brad Warze	
Bill Denmark			Joe Aldridge
Dave Johnson			Jim Baker
Pat Johnson		Coach:	Jim Boesinger
John Morrow		Bill Trumbo	Dave Carty
Ragnar Thanning			Del Henry
Coach:		Tennis	Coach:
Bob Sorani			Ed Rudloff
		Jim Claitor	
		Mike Gabbard	
		Mike Lynch	
		Mike McBride	
		Larry Sinclair	
		Dave Thomas	
		Coach:	
		Jim Gale	

Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletics Team Rosters

1970  
Football

Joe Aldridge  
Al Artiaga  
Russ Aubrey  
Clancy Barham  
Mike Bell  
Mike Blankenship  
Jim Boesinger  
Pat Bolger  
Aaron Berhel  
Jody Buna  
David Christopherson  
Richard Darsam  
Gary Dellepere  
Bob DePippo  
Bruce Ferguson  
Richard Garretson  
Otto Goode  
Bennie Guerra  
Donivan Hall  
Dennis Hudson  
Mike Johnson  
Rick Jones  
Dennis Lanze  
Rich Lewandowski  
Alex Lissow  
Herman Manuel  
Tony Martinez  
Mike McBee  
Dave Milligan  
Dave Nagle  
Luther Nelson  
Mike O'Connor

Trainer:  
Joe Alvarado

Team Physician:  
Dr. John Bolander

Chuck Pearlman  
Aram Poladian  
Charles Porter  
Charlie Rada  
Richard Ramos  
Simon Ramos  
Bob Rebbe  
Mitch Richards  
Phil Rider  
Ray Rivers  
Tad Roberts  
Larry Russell  
Steve Sager  
Barry Scholtes  
Rob Sears  
Ernie Simon  
Gene Smith  
Rick Smith  
Jon Steward  
Ron Stone  
Sam Tharpe  
Rick Trent  
Jack Trujillo  
Gary Walker  
Damon Watson

Coach:  
Carl Peterson

Assts.:  
Dave Gibbs  
Doug Earl  
Bill Trumbo  
Frank Scalercio, Sr.  
Dave Ziegler

Equipment Manager:  
Felix Duarte

Film Editor:  
Sterling Sakai

Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletics Team Rosters

1971-72

Cross Country	Basketball	Baseball	Track
Charles Clausen	Larry Austin	John Anderson	Norm Anderson
Bill Denmark	Mark Bucklew	Glen Bande	Mark Casebier
Pat Johnson	Henry Crawford	Mike Bell	Tony Getchalian
John Morrow	Jim DeLaughter	Jim Boesinger	Bill Denmark
	Garfield George	Ken Charles	Ted Gropman
Coach:	Paul Holmes	Rick Garretson	Paul Holmes
Robert Lynde	Jesse Howard	Mike Gogan	Brian Horwitz
	Bill Heath	Ian Hoffman	Dennis Hudson
	Al Martinson	Tom Hughes	Paige Johnston
	Darrel Ravani	Rick Jones	Pat Johnston
	Basil Swaby	Dale Lyster	Alex Lissow
	Bob Ward	Gordy MacLaughlin	Bob Rebbe
Tennis	Coach:	Mark Newsome	Art Spaletta
	Doug Earl	Gary Neville	Barry Sholtes
Jeff Farnum	Asst.: Coach:	Ron Petroni	George Steen
Tom Hofferan	Ramon Solomon	Jim Salm	Guy Swick
Mike McBride		Terry Smith	Rob Walker
Mark Robbins	Wrestling	Randy Svoboda	
Larry Sinclair		Jerry Tripp	Coach:
Fred Straub	Chris Alvarado	Paul Zinn	Robert Lynde
Ron White	Joe Alvarado		
	Steve Connor	Coach:	Golf
Coach:	Mike Dale	Bill Trumbo	
Jim Gale	Jake Fitzpatrick	Assts.:	Jon Barnes
	Ed Ghiringelli	Jeff Barker	Dan Davis
	Benny Guerra	Bob Buckner	Paul Feldman
	Earl Green		Jon Fuller
	Paul Halgren		Rich Goldfien
	Bill Hopkins	Wrestling (cont.)	Bob Harrison
	Tim Kelly	Larry Roudenbush	Mike Jones
	Dennis Lanze	Steve Sager	Mike McBee
	Ken Larson	Gene Stevenson	Mike O'Keefe
	Ron Lundsford	Paul Walfort	Don Smith
	Jim McNulty		
	Bob Musante	Coach:	Coach:
	Mike Ornellas	Ken Flynn	Ed Rudloff
	Mike Purcell		Asst.: Dave Castleberry

Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletics Team Rosters

1971

Football

Greg Akula  
Joe Aldridge  
Al Artiaga  
Jim Baker  
Clancy Barham  
Mike Bell  
John Buckley  
Jody Buna  
Jim Crews  
Richard Duarte  
Bruce Ferguson  
Ron Gleason  
Earl Greene  
Benny Guerra  
Donivan Hall  
Val Hole  
Dennis Hudson  
Alex Lissow  
Dave Milligan

Coach:  
Carl Peterson

Assts.:  
Dave Gibbs  
Jim Lance  
Gene Pickerel  
Frank Scalercio, Sr.  
Bill Trumbo

Dave Nagle  
Luther Nelson  
Chuck Pearlman  
Charlie Porter  
? Ramirez  
Simon Ramos  
Bob Rebbe  
Paul Renfrow  
Ray Rivers  
Larry Roudenbush  
Larry Russell  
Steve Sager  
Barry Scholtes  
Bob Sears  
Ernie Simon  
Rich Smith  
John Steward  
Sam Tharpe  
Jack Trujillo

Equipment Manager:  
Felix Duarte

Film Editor:  
Sterling Sakai

Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletics Team Rosters

1972-73

Tennis	Basketball	Wrestling	Baseball
Wendell Baily	John Anderson	Ed Buonaccorsi	John Anderson
Don Collins	Bill Belander	Zeke Contreras	John Barone
Stu Drake	Jim Bristol	Jake Fitzpatrick	Wayne Bauers
Bruce Kuhlman	Larry Dumont	Ed Ghiringelli	Craig Estes
Mike McBride	Tom Fitchie	Earl Green	Elroy Farias
Mark Navarro	Garfield George	Paul Hallgren	Rich Garretson
Howard Ortman	Dan Heien	Guy Hedenberger	Fedenzio Herrera
Paul Pederson	Paul Holmes	Bill Hopkins	Len Hoffman
Ken Rossilon	Mark Jasper	Dennis Hudson	Perry Kozlowski
Ron White	Ron Johnson	Tim Kelly	Gordy MacLaughlin
Coach:	Al Martinson	Ron Lundsford	Gary Neville
Jim Gale	Keith Mason	Jim McNulty	Tom Papadakins
	Tom O'Connor	Bob Musante	Ron Petroni
Track	Mike O'Keefe	Fred Padilla	Garry Tozzi
Rick Boyer	Rich Rousey	Mike Purcell	Tom Treznoa
Mark Casebier	Geo. Schandelmeir	Larry Roudenbush	Bill Weyl
Les Cole	Doug Starr	Steve Sager	Paul Zinn
Ernie Gamma	Bill Stevens	John Schick	
Frank Gannon	Ken Thurston	Dave Schleich	Coach:
Dave Gestri	Steve Tiedeman	Mark Seiberlich	Tom Glover
Tony Getchalian	Bob Ward	Bill Shirley	
Ron Glaeser		George Steen	Cross Country
Sigurd Hope	Coach:	Jerry Stine	
Fred Kenyon	Bill Trumbo	Paul Walfort	Gordon Burns
Keith Mason		Gary Walker	Charles Clausen
Mike McBride	Golf		Ernie Gamma
Frank Lazzaroto		Coach:	Tony Getchalian
Mario Lazzaroto	Paul Feldman	Ken Flynn	Matt Hill
Dan Lynde	Paul Grona		Sigurd Hope
Jim Marchbanks	Mike Jones		Fred Kenyon
Romero Mendoza	Mike McBee		Mario Lazzarotto
Tim Neff	Mike O'Connor		Terry Pintane
Larry Renacker	Mike O'Keefe		Steve Slawson
Dick Stoltz	Don Smith		Roger Williams
Guy Swick	Bill Stephens		
Ken Thurston			Coach:
Guy Wall	Coach:		Robert Lynde
Coach:	Ed Rudloff		
Robert Lynde	Asst.: Dave Castleberry		

Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletics Team Rosters

1973-74

Cross Country	Basketball	Wrestling	Baseball
Butch Alexander	Bill Belander	Ed Buonaccorsi	Wayne Bauers
Jerry Brott	Jim Bristol	Russ Camilleri	Kevin Brandt
Bob Bunnell	Tom Fitchie	Zeke Contreras	Marshall Brandt
Bob Curtis	John Gibson	Jake Fitzpatrick	Jim Crabb
Fred Kenyon	Dan Heien	Paul Hallgren	Willie Curb
Mike Kornek	Ron Johnson	Guy Hedenberger	Rich Garretson
Mario Lazzaroto	Bob LeBrun	Dennis Hudson	Dan Hero
Dan Lynde	Dave Long	Tim Kelly	Randy Jackson
Romero Mendoza	Bill Stephens	Ron Lundsford	Dan Jacobsen
Terry Pintane	Terry Sumpter	Mark Seiberlich	Perry Kozlowski
Steve Slawson	Scott Taylor	Bill Shirley	Dale Lyster
Dick Stoltz	Steve Tiedeman	Jerry Stine	Gary Neville
	Bob Tische		Ron Petroni
Coach:		Coach:	Dane Salodosen
Robert Lynde	Coach:	Ken Flynn	Greg Sherman
	Bill Trumbo		Walt Sweeney
		Track	Chip Ufier
			Bill Wambold
		Butch Alexander	Ken Williams
		Bob Bunnell	
		Keith Dale	Coach:
		Mark Fisher	Gary Hughes
		Steve Fishbaugh	
		Dave Gestri	Tennis
		Steve Hogue	
		Dan Klosterman	Wendell Baily
		Mario Lazzaroto	Don Collins
		John Lynde	Stu Drake
		Keith Mason	Mike Hanlon
		Romero Mendoza	Bill Lewin
		Terry Pintane	Howard Ortman
			Ron White
		Coach:	
		Robert Lynde	Coach:
			Jim Gale
Golf			
Paul Grona			
Mike Jones			
Mike McBee			
Mike O'Keefe			
Tom O'Neil			
Bill Stephens			
Coach:			
Ed Rudloff			
Asst.:			
Dave Castleberry			



Sonoma State College  
Intercollegiate Athletic History  
Pioneer Cheerleader Rosters  
1962-74

1963-64

Linda Castleberry  
Dave Fougner  
Nancy Husa  
Dave Luchese  
Jennifer Wilke

1964-65

Chriss Aho  
Linda Castleberry  
Nancy Husa  
Kathy Olsen

1965-66

Pat Baseheart  
Wendy Hicks  
Barbara Skinner

1966-67

Brenda Barnes  
Susanna Judy  
Dayl Thomsen  
Ellen Wall

1967-68

Dee Andreini  
Cathy Davis  
Sandy Downey  
Linda Ferrera

1968-69

Dee Andreini  
Cathy Davis  
Sandy Downey  
Linda Ferrera

1969-70

Rosemary Adams  
Dee Andreini  
Ken Bomben  
Jon Callaway  
Cathy Davis  
Sandy Downey  
Linda Ferrera  
Cathe Goode  
Debbie Haggler  
Barbara Hopkins  
Lee Jameson  
Renee Jones  
Putter Kozick  
Jim McFarland  
Gerry Mercurio  
Marty Micheli

1970-71

Rosemary Adams  
Ken Bomben  
Jon Callaway  
Cathe Goode  
Debbie Haggler  
Barbara Hopkins  
Lee Jameson  
Renee Jones  
Putter Kozick  
Jim McFarland  
Gerry Mercurio  
Marty Micheli

1971-72

Rosemary Adams  
Cathe Goode  
Bette Holland

1972-73

1973-74

Sonoma State College  
Multi-Sport Athletes  
1962-74

Four-Sport Athletes:

Carl Carlson (1962-66): Basketball, Cross-Country, Swimming, Tennis  
Don Graham (1963-66): Baseball, Basketball, Cross-Country, Golf  
Ed Major (1964-66): Baseball, Basketball, Cross-Country, Track

Three-Sport Athletes:

Jim Baker (1969-72): Football, Golf, Track  
Jim Boesinger (1969-72): Baseball, Football, Golf  
Eric Bjorkman (1963-67): Baseball, Golf, Wrestling  
Rich Carsner (1963-66): Basketball, Cross-Country, Tennis  
Benny Guerra (1969-72): Football, Track, Wrestling  
Vern Hansen (1964-68): Baseball, Cross-Country, Wrestling  
Charlie Rada (1969-72): Football, Track, Wrestling  
John Thornton (1968-69): Basketball, Football, Track  
Don Vachini, (1964-66): Baseball, Basketball, Cross-Country  
John Walker (1966-67): Baseball, Basketball, Golf  
Al Woicicki (1964-68): Cross-Country, Track, Wrestling

Initial Coaches:

Joel Grose: Swimming, Wrestling, Track  
Stan Goertzen: Tennis  
Ed Rudloff: Basketball, Golf, Cross-Country, Tennis  
Eric Pearson: Cross-Country, Track, Tennis  
Noel Frank: Basketball  
Henry Lasch: Baseball  
Bob Sorani: Track, Cross-Country  
Bob Donlan: Basketball, Football  
Warren Tappin: Baseball  
Ken Flynn: Wrestling  
Bruce Camilli: Baseball  
Lloyd Helgeson: Football, Baseball  
Carl Peterson: Football, Baseball  
Jim Gale: Tennis  
Robert Lynde: Track, Cross-Country  
Bill Trumbo: Basketball, Baseball, Football  
Tom Glover: Baseball  
Gary Hughes: Baseball

#### Four-Year Participants:

Eric Bjorkman (1963-67): Wrestling  
Carl Carlson (1962-66): Tennis  
Rich Garretson (1971-74): Baseball  
Mike Gogan (1969-72): Baseball  
Frank Hagerty (1967-70): Cross-Country, Track  
Vern Hansen (1966-69): Baseball  
Curt Hastings (1963-67): Basketball  
Dave Herrington (1967-70): Golf  
Bob Herold (1967-70): Baseball  
Dave Johnson (1966-70): Cross-Country, Track  
Mike McBride (1970-73): Tennis  
Gary Neville (1971-74): Baseball  
Lee Panttaja (1966-70): Wrestling  
Dave Schapiro (63-65; 67-69) Tennis  
Jim Stevens (1964-68): Wrestling  
Ray Tagami (1968-71): Track  
Al Woicicki (1964-68): Cross-Country, Track

#### Three-Year Participants:

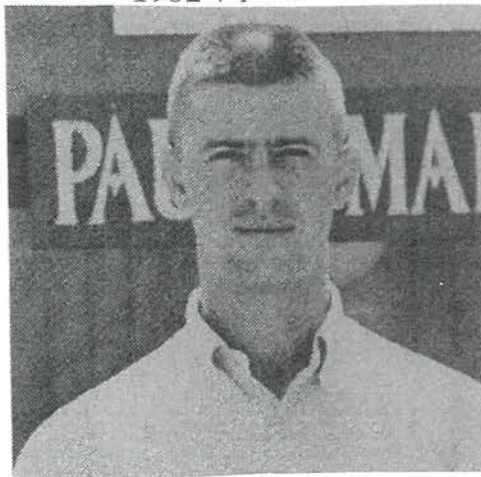
Joe Aldridge (1969-71): Football  
Chris Alvarado (1969-71): Football, Wrestling  
Dale Aman (1964-67): Basketball  
Larry Austin (1969-72): Basketball  
Jeff Barker (1969-71): Baseball  
John Bussman (1968-70): Baseball  
Rich Carsner (1964-66): Tennis  
Dennis Casarotti (1964-67): Basketball  
Steve Connor (1969-72) Wrestling  
Henry Crawford (1969-72): Basketball  
Bruce Ferguson (1969-71): Football  
Jake Fitzpatrick (1971-74): Wrestling  
Pete Golis (1963-66): Golf  
Benny Guerro (1969-72) Football, Wrestling  
Dave Johnson (1966-70): Track  
Mike Jones (1972-74): Golf  
Ray Kessler (1965-68): Wrestling  
Bing Kunzig (1968-70): Baseball  
Gordon Mac Laughlin (1971-73): Baseball  
Bruce McKee (1965-67): Track  
Luther Nelson (1969-71): Football  
Mike O'Keefe (1972-74) Golf  
Charlie Rada (1968-71): Wrestling  
Larry Russell (1969-71): Football

Rob Sears (1969-71): Football  
Randy Smith (1964-66): Cross-Country  
Basil Swaby (1968-72): Basketball  
Ragnar Thanning (1969-71): Track  
Sam Tharpe (1969-71): Football  
Dave Thomas (1966-70) Basketball  
Jack Throne (1966-68): Baseball  
Jack Trujillo (1969-71): Football  
Bill Tuel (1963-66): Basketball

Four-Sport Pioneer Athletes  
1962-74



Carl Carlson  
Basketball, Cross Country  
Swimming, Tennis



Don Graham  
Baseball, Basketball,  
Cross Country, Golf

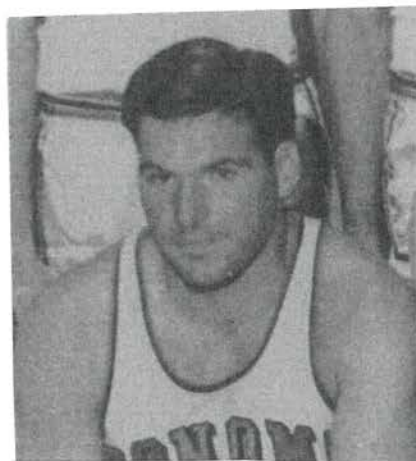


Ed Major  
Baseball, Basketball,  
Cross Country, Track

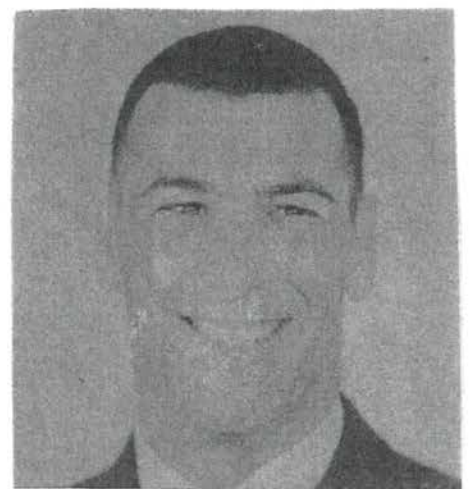
Three-Sport Pioneer Athletes  
1962-74



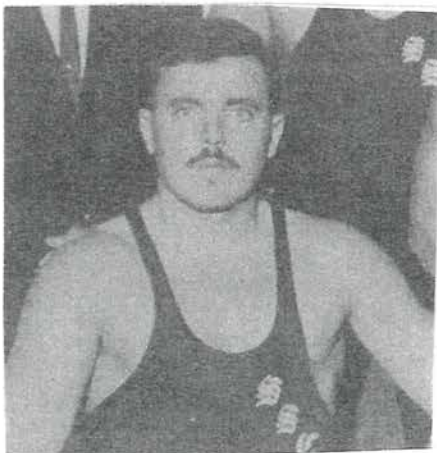
Rich Carsner  
Basketball, Cross Country  
Tennis



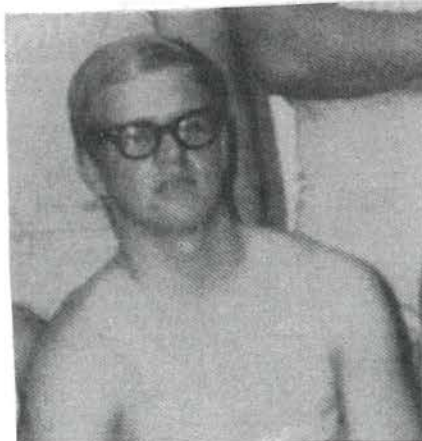
John Walker  
Baseball, Basketball,  
Golf



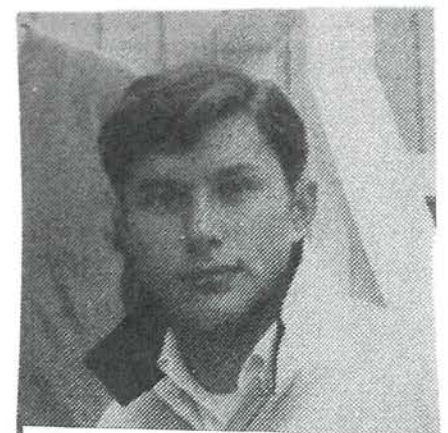
Don Vachini  
Baseball, Basketball,  
Cross Country



Charles Rada  
Football, Track,



Eric Bjorkman  
Baseball, Golf,  
Swimming

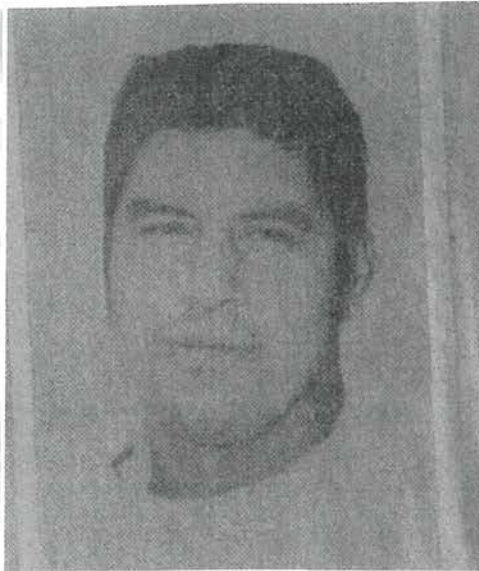


Al Woicicki  
Cross Country, Track,

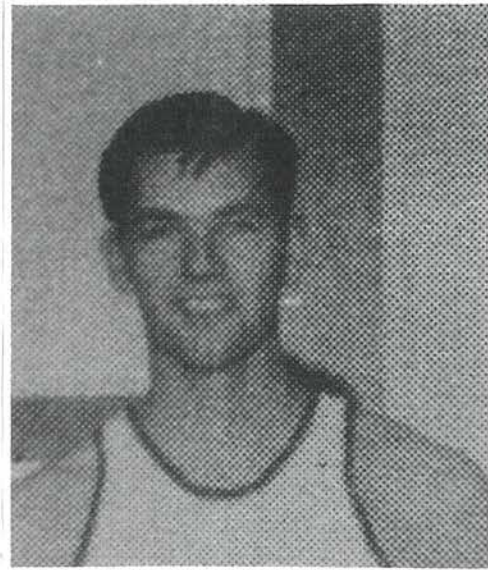
Three-Sport Pioneer Athletes  
1962-74



Vern Hansen  
Baseball, Cross Country,  
Wrestling



Benny Guerra  
Football, Track,  
Wrestling



John Thornton  
Basketball, Football,  
Track

Pioneer Coaches  
1962-74



Joel Grose  
Swimming, Track, Wrestling



G. Edward Rudloff  
Basketball, Cross Country,  
Golf, Tennis



Stan Goertzen  
Tennis



Eric Pearson  
Cross Country, Tennis, Track



Henry Lasch  
Baseball



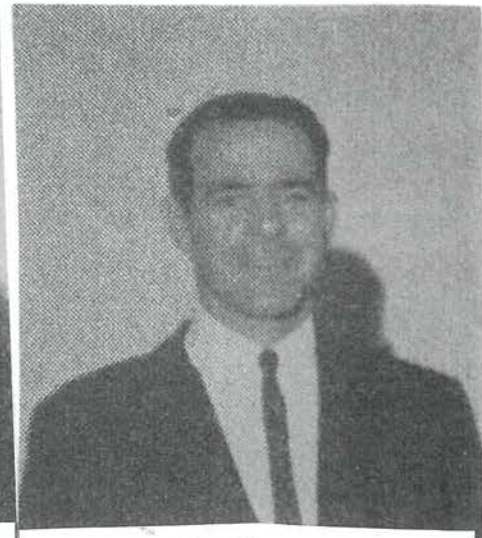
Bob Sorani  
Cross Country, Track



Warren Tappin  
Baseball

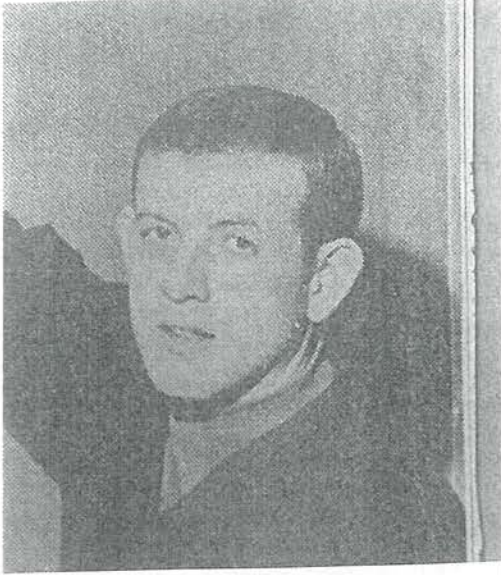


Bill Trumbo  
Baseball, Basketball, Football



Ken Flynn  
Wrestling

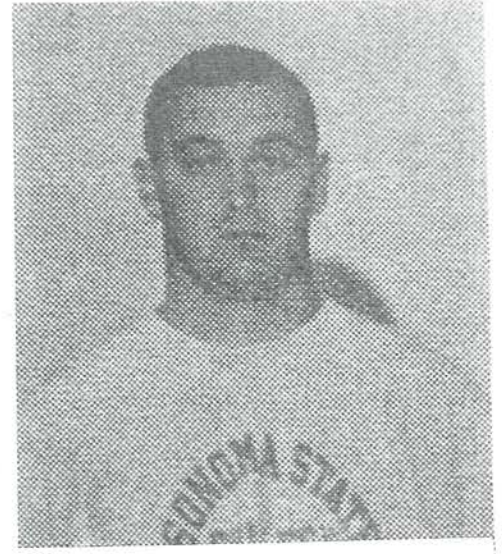
Pioneer Coaches  
1962-74



Doug Earl  
Basketball, Football



Tom Glover  
Baseball



Bob Donlan  
Basketball, Football



Lloyd Helgeson  
Football



Carl Peterson  
Football, Baseball



Pioneer Cheerleaders  
1962-74

1963-64 First



Top: Linda Castleberry, Jennifer Wilke, Nancy Husa  
Bot: Dave Fougner, Dave Lucchese



1964-65 Second

Top: Kathy Olson, Nancy Husa  
Bot: Chriss Aho, Linda Castleberry



1965-66 Third

Barbara Skinner, Wendy Hicks, Pat Baseheart



1967-68 Fifth

Dee Andrieni, Cathy Davis, Sandy Downey, Linda Ferrera

## Initial Team Wins 1962-74

Besides intercollegiate competition, SSC's "Pioneer Athletes" were offered a unique opportunity—a chance to be a member of a sports team earning its first win in program history.

This chapter not only capsules each sport's first win but first Varsity win, first Far Western Conference (FWC) win and first home victory. Following are these epic firsts in SSC lore:

**Cross-Country:** Participating in a 3-way meet at U.C. Davis on October 3, 1964, the Cossack harriers claimed the distinction of winning the college's initial victory in any sport plus the first in cross-country's month-old history.

While heavily out-pointed by the powerful Aggie squad, the Cossacks ran a strategic race by Carl Jensen, Bill Ranney, Rich Kotoff, Ed Major and Carl Carlson to narrowly decision the Humboldt State Lumberjacks by a 26-31 score (in cross country, the lowest score wins). Al Woicicki, Dale Mast, Mike Cash and Steve Ford also participated in the 3.1-mile event.

Sonoma's home course, located on the Alpin Ranch off Crane Canyon Road, proved to be one of the most challenging in the FWC, especially after a good rain. Opponents complained about it being very difficult to negotiate.

Shortly after arriving at SSC's home course on October 31, the visiting Aggies, a squad that had beaten them twice before, showed great displeasure with the muddy conditions as well as the hilly nature of the course itself. However, knowledge of the undulating terrain proved to be beneficial for the hosts as they again ran a very tactical race to claim their first home win. Gaining points from Jensen, Tim Kelly, Ranney, Kotoff and Jeff Tuel, they scored a close 26-31 decision. Mast, Major, Woicicki, Cash, Ford and Gail Herman also ran for the victors.

Splattered with mud, an elated coach Eric Pearson showed extreme pleasure with the win but also exuded praise for the entire squad of 20 runners making up the team. "In addition to having a fine attitude about the sport, the dedicated, self-disciplined runners are showing steady progress in their practice sessions, weekly time trials and perseverance in mastering the skills to compete with other colleges."

Pearson was also grateful for the influence of Jensen, Ranney and Kotoff, a core of talented, experienced runners, courtesy of the Marin Athletic Club. They not only contributed consistent scoring to the team's success as runners but provided valuable ethical guidance to the numerous, non-experienced harriers who were running competitively for the first time.

The team finished with a 4-5 dual meet record.

**Wrestling:** Participating in a Novice Tournament and against Cal State Hayward, UC Davis and University of Nevada JV squads, the 10-man, 1963-64 Cossacks were unable to fill all the weight classes. After being soundly beaten twice by Hayward, the under-manned team only wrestled in "short exhibition matches," where both teams only filled common weight classes and there were no forfeitures.

In a "home" match, held at the Cotati Veterans Memorial Building on January 17, 1964, the Cossacks 5-man squad of Eric Bjorkman, Mike Cash, Paul Dennis, Andy Martin and Guy Sandlin managed to defeat 3 of UC Davis' 5 wrestlers by an 11-6 score to notch their first win. After the match, the victorious Cossacks proudly showed off the brand new Jack London Hall where both teams enjoyed the dormitory's showers.

With a solid group of returnees from the previous campaign and a pleasant influx of newcomers, coach Joel Grose felt the 1964-65 Varsity team held great promise. This potential was realized on January 16, 1965, when the Cossack contingent traveled to the campus of Cal State Hayward for a match with the Pioneers, another neophyte FWC member.

In an extremely gratifying effort, SSC gained valuable 3-point decisions from Bjorkman, Cash, Dennis, Vern Hansen, Terry Langley, Bill Lewis, Martin and Jim Stevens to gain a 24-20 victory over the Pioneers.

Les Garanzini, Dave Schapiro, Steve Stiles, Bill Taylor, Lou Winberg and Al Woicicki rounded out the squad and provided moral support.

Usually a man of few words, coach Grose proudly confirmed that this group of wrestlers had indeed achieved a noteworthy milestone in the young program's history.

Basketball: Playing a mixed Junior Varsity/Varsity schedule, Coach Ed Rudloff's 1964-65 quintet showed marked improvement over the previous years initial team, which failed to secure a win in 11 games. However, despite several close encounters, the 2-season losing streak reached 19-until February 12, 1965, that is. On this particular evening, the Cossacks put together the perfect game in the brand new Fieldhouse, combining just enough defense with a school-record point total to claim an 89-78 win over the Humboldt State JV's.

Jerry Gromer, Dale Aman, Ken W. Smith, Bill Tuel, Dennis Casarotti, Don Graham, Don Vachini and Curt Hastings led the offensive barrage against the Lumberjacks, with Ed Major, Ken G. Smith and Jeff Tuel contributing valuable playing time.

Coach Ed Rudloff was given a ceremonial shower after his long-awaited win, the first in the program he helped develop (he was allowed to change into sweat clothes so as to not ruin his expensive suit!).

The hoopster's first Varsity and FWC wins came during the following 1965-66 season on December 17, 1965 when the Cossacks traveled to Arcata to take on the Humboldt State Lumberjacks, a long-established Far Western Conference member. Playing before a boisterous crowd rooting against them, the squad rallied late for an exciting 72-66 victory, silencing the hometown fans and giving coach Noel Frank his first collegiate win.

While Dale Aman's 28 points led the victors, plenty of scoring support came from Rich Lehtinen, Bill Tuel, Dennis Casarotti, Bruce McKee and Don Vachini. Ed Major and Jeff Tuel contributed solid playing time as well.

The Cossacks garnered their first home Varsity victory in the campus Fieldhouse on January 29, 1966 when the University of Alaska-Fairbanks visited.

Playing a deliberate offense and an effective 1-3-1 zone defense, the Cossacks stunned the heavily favored Nanooks (ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the West Region) by a 74-64 margin. While Dale Aman, John Walker, Dennis Casarotti, Bill Tuel and Rich Lehtinen supplied all the points, Ed Major, Don Vachini and Bruce McKee keyed a tenacious defense.

"This shows what we are really capable of when we play together," beamed as ecstatic Frank.

Tennis: Welcoming a nucleus of talented lettermen, Stan Goertzen eagerly anticipated the '65 season. On a sunny morning on March 30, 1965, the netters hosted the University of Nevada contingent in what turned out to be a memorable contest. With the nearby Sonoma Mountains providing a serene backdrop, veterans Carl Carlson, Rich Carsner, Ed Dunlap and Dave Schapiro along with newcomers Jack Hemingway and Les Young, each won matches, accounting for a 6-3 decision.

After the match, Goertzen had nothing but praise for the entire team, which showed remarkable resolve in gaining the sport's initial Varsity and FWC victories. He also felt the spirited team win against the Wolfpack was a fitting way to Christen the SSC courts.

Gaining confidence as the season progressed, the Cossacks finished 3-5 in dual-match competition.

Baseball: March 4, 1966 marked the inaugural game at Cossack Field as the Napa College Chiefs visited under overcast skies and breezy conditions. Attended by over 200 fans and media, the pre-season skirmish provided a chance for both squads to evaluate their talent. The SSC nine showed a bit more resolve as they claimed a 7-6 victory over the Chiefs.

The well-played game was highlighted by Dan DeFoe's first inning grand slam and 2-run, walk-off single in the final stanza. Besides "One-man-show-DeFoe" and his 6-RBI's, the day featured 2 hits for Tony Fleming, Harvey Erlich and Wayne Menicucci while Ken W. Smith, Bob Strawther and Don Vachini had a hit apiece. Pitchers Larry Parducci, Irv Piotrkowski, Tony Fleming and Marty Levinson all saw action with Levinson getting credit for the win.

Following the non-collegiate victory over Napa College and a pair of rainouts, the Cossacks traveled to Stockton to take on the University of the Pacific on March 19, 1966. Playing at Lodi Crusher Stadium, the Cossacks recorded a 12-1 decision, their first "official" intercollegiate win in team history. Raking four different Tiger pitchers with a 19-hit barrage, Jim Halverson and Ron Pomi led the attack with 4 hits each and Larry Parducci, Dan Defoe and Wayne Menicucci followed with 2 hits apiece. Vern Hansen, Ken W. Smith, Bob Strawther, Jack Throne and Don Vachini also hit safely while Ed Major, Harvey Erlich and Don Graham led a strong defense. Parducci earned the pitching win.

The team's first "official" home victory occurred on April 3, 1966 versus the Humboldt State Lumberjacks in the second game of a FWC double header. Behind the gutsy pitching of Irv Piotrkowski, the Cossacks again unloaded their big bats to pound out a 10-3 decision over the 'Jacks at Cossack Field. Dan DeFoe and Don

Vachini garnered 3 hits apiece and Vern Hansen 2 while Ed Major, Wayne Menicucci and Eric Bjorkman each chipped in with one.

The Cossack nine continued a successful season going 10-4 against mixed Varsity competition and provided a hint of future diamond success. Though not eligible for the FWC crown, they finished a limited conference schedule at 5-2.

Golf: After three years of continued improvement but going winless in matches, the Cossacks finally hit the win column on April 13, 1966 at the Petaluma Golf and Country Club.

Led by medalist Glen Isaacs and solid efforts by Dennis Casarotti and Pete Golis, the linksters edged Two Rock Ranch Army Base 10 ½ to 7 ½. Jack Kantor, Courtney Peck, Marty Rist and Glen Waters were also participants. Coach Ed Rudloff was very pleased with the win, also the first for the "other" program he founded (he was excused from a dunking in the pond to commemorate this first).

Then, on April 19, 1968, the Cossacks collected their first intercollegiate win with an 11-7 decision over St. Mary's College. On the difficult, Round Hill Golf Club in Alamo, Scott Meyer was medalist with an 83, followed by Bruce Wold (84), Dave Wolcott (84), Dan Marioni (88), Roger Milne and Dave Herrington to seal the deal. "We were very strong in match scores," said an elated Rudloff. "Our top 6 (golfers) have played consistently well throughout the season," he continued.

SSC's long-awaited FWC win came on March 11, 1973 with an 18-9 triumph over Stanislaus State. On Santa Rosa's Bennett Valley Golf Course, medalist Don Smith shot a 73 and was supported by key wins from Mike O'Keefe, Mike Jones, Mike McBee and Paul Grona. Jim Baker and Paul Feldman also participated.

Track: In its second year of existence, the thinclads of Sonoma State consisted of an eight-man squad, now co-coached by Joel Grose and Robert Sorani. Greatly over-matched by the larger schools with huge numbers, the Cossacks competed gamely. Their best results occurred when competing in tri- or quad-meets hosted by larger conference members. Such was the case in a four-way meet hosted by San Francisco State on April 16, 1966. Participating along with host SF State, the University of Nevada-Reno and the University of San Francisco, the Cossack contingent accumulated just enough points to edge USF 51-37 for their initial win.

While runners Al Woicicki and Rich Hughes both established the school record in the 400 (55.0), Bruce McKee won the javelin at 176' and placed second in the discus. In addition, Jim Lopes (first in the mile and second in the 3-mile run), Bill Ranney (first in both the 3-mile run and mile walk) and Randy Smith (second in the 3-mile run) accounted for the needed points to gain victory. Tom Clancy and Bill Reed also participated in the monumental victory.

The quiet, be-speckled Bruce McKee, worked passionately on the javelin, tossing in the mid-to-high 170's all season. Flying under the radar of the larger schools (and often bigger throwers), he peaked at just the right time to start a remarkable odyssey for the program (and himself). His efforts accounted for SSC's first successful travels into the realm of FWC, NCAA West Regional and National Championship arenas to become SSU's first All-American in Track & Field (See Track Progression)!

Cathy Feige became the first female runner during 1966, and in 1967, Kathleen McDougall, Carol Schnieder, and Sherry Tuttle joined Feige, providing another landmark for the track program. The foursome represented SSC in a trio of FWC women's meets and on May 13, 1967, competed in an 8-team event at Humboldt State College. Totaling a number of thirds, fourths and fifths, the foursome scored just enough points to decision UC Davis (11-10), Southern Oregon (11-9) and Sacramento City (11-4), accounting for SSC's landmark first win, first Varsity win and first FWC win in women's track.

In addition to coaching an All-American in his first season, Sorani, was also laying the foundation for future squads. He longingly looked forward to the days when Sonoma State could not only host its own meets on the campus oval but have sufficient numbers to compete in the FWC. One of his wishes came true on April 15, 1968. The second-ever meet held at Cossack Field and its modern, Grass-Tex surface, was a three-way affair with San Francisco State and the University of San Francisco. On this early spring afternoon, Cossacks Jack Gage, Bill Gillingham, Frank Hagerty, Dave Johnson, Howard Johnson, Norm Johnson, Gordon Jones, Tim MacIsaacs, Ray Nottingham, Steve Nunes, Al and Paul Woicicki all contributed valuable points in the historic, 48 2/3 - 15 1/3 home win over the USF Dons. Barry Brummell, Tom Clancy, Fred Perdomo, Pat Scheiblich, Lymon Stoddard and Bob Wallace rounded out the 17-man squad.

Football: After a 56-0 pasting against Arizona Western in the college's first-ever game, the coaches and players used the bye-week to refocus. On October 4, 1969, the Cossacks hosted the Hayward State JV's (the first of 5 scheduled FWC JV foes) at Durst Field in Petaluma. With local announcing icon, Curly Acorne, booming over the loudspeaker courtesy of Clover Dairy Products, it turned out to be a festive day.

Relying heavily on basics, the Cossacks established a pounding ground game led by Chris Alvarado, Bernard Jones, Herman Manuel and Luther Nelson to control tempo. While Alvarado rushed for a short touchdown, a pair of spectacular touchdown connections from quarterback Bill Cox to Dave Dohm (he of pheasant fame) accounted for the final 21-7 score-and the first win in school history!

Especially proud that the team adhered to a workman-like concept for the monumental victory, a smiling Helgeson was adamant in his praise of the entire squad. However, he did single out several individuals, including "men in the trenches," Jim Baker, Doug Pricer, Mike O'Connor and Joe Aldridge who anchored the offensive line plus defensive linemen Benny Guerra, Mike Johnson, Rick Lewandowski and Sam Tharpe, who kept the Pioneers at bay. Secondary defensive backs John Bussman, Bob Sears, Ed Pettingill and Bob De Pippo were also touted.

The 1970 team competed at the varsity level and their historic first win on that stage came against the Asuza Pacific University Cougars on October 3, 1970, under the lights at Santa Rosa Junior College's Bailey Field.

Ernie Simon scored the first touchdown on a 25 yard scamper on a broken pass play then, with the Cossacks trailing 14-7 in the fourth quarter, he threw a perfect lead pass to Jack Trujillo who completed the 50 yard scoring play. With the score still knotted late in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, Simon hit Donovan Hall with a 50-yard gain to the 3 yard line. From there, Ray Rivers kicked the winning field goal.

With Asuza driving in the final seconds, Richard Darsam and Rick Smith sacked the quarterback for a 14-yard loss, sealing the 17-14 decision for the Cossacks.

Their first FWC win occurred 2 weeks later on October 17, 1970, a 24-11 decision against UC Davis at Toomey Field, the Aggies raucous home!

After trailing 11-0 in the first quarter, the Cossacks quickly turned things around as the offensive line of Steve Sager, Al Lissow, Larry Russell, Rich Garretson, Dave Nagle and Al Artiaga became a cohesive unit. The Cossacks proceeded to run for over 300 yards and control the ball for 60 offensive plays. Luther Nelson rushed for 87 yards, Simon completed 13 of 18 passes for 195 yards and Jack Trujillo (5), Donivan Hall (4), Bob Rebbe (2) and Nelson (2) collected key receptions. Simon completed touchdown passes to Trujillo and Hall while Nelson and Rebbe plowed into the end zone on runs.

Guerra and Johnson dominated the defensive line and DePippo intercepted a pass to thwart a Davis score.

For this win, Simon (2 TD passes) was named FWC Back of the Week and Guerra (13 tackles) was tabbed Defensive Lineman of the Week.

While previous "home" games were played at either Bailey Field or Durst Field, the first actual home Varsity Cossack Field opponent was Oregon Technical Institute on a sunny afternoon of September 25, 1971.

Riley Richey recovered a fumble on the opening kickoff and the Cossacks scored quickly on a 10 yard, Simon to Trujillo strike, followed by a 30 yard Simon to Trujillo score with John Brickey catching a 2-point conversion pass. Still in the first half, a 10 yard run by Charles Porter made it 21-0. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, Luther Nelson scored on a short run and another Simon to Trujillo touchdown pass capped the scoring for SSC's 34-13 win.

Simon completed 13 of 23 for 209 yards and 3 touchdowns while Trujillo caught 6 passes for 104 yards.

## Sonoma State College Team Progressions

This chapter chronicles each sport on its year-by-year journey, from inception through 1974, when all intercollegiate sports were dropped. The following lists both team and individual achievements in successive order.

### Intercollegiate Baseball Progression

To determine the FWC champion in baseball, each school plays each other member twice and the best won-loss record is the winner. The FWC champion is automatically entered in the 5-team West Region (or District 8) playoff. The West Region winner advances to the 8-team NCAA College Division World Series.

1966: From the time he first gathered his 19-member squad for practice, coach Henry Lasch preached what he called his "Mid-Western philosophy," which involved mindful hitting, solid pitching and exemplary defense. He also inherited a group of athletes with a wealth of baseball experience, adept in the "Western style" of play. Happily, the two fields of thought melded perfectly to form a cohesive team dynamic.

The team was also fortunate to start the program with a brand new diamond. One of the finest fields in Northern California, it boasted finely manicured infield and outfield grass, a giant backstop surrounded by a U-shaped berm for effective spectator viewing and, of course, a great view of the Sonoma Mountains. Larry Betts, Eric Bjorkman, Dan DeFoe, Harvey Erlich, Anthony Fleming, Don Graham, Jim Halverson, Vern Hansen, Warren Hopkins, Scott Hulbert, Marty Levinson, Ed Major, Wayne Menicucci, Larry Parducci, Irv Piotrkowski, Ron Pomi, Ken W. Smith, Bob Strawther, Jack Throne, Don Vachini and John Walker had the distinction of comprising the first team in school and program history.

The initial team was the surprise of the year at Sonoma State. While not eligible for the conference crown, the Cossacks completed a fine 10-4 overall record, 9-2 against both varsity and JV competition, finished 5-2 in FWC play and became the winningest program in SSC sports history.

Multiple team and individual records were set with every achievement. Team records include 10 wins, a 3-game win streak, 97 hits, 82 runs scored, 16 runs in a single game (versus Stanislaus State) and a team batting average of .242.

Most notably, Pomi led the team with 11 runs scored, 18 hits and a .450 batting average while Halverson drove in 14 runs. Among regulars, Vachini (.385), Halverson (.342), Defoe (.308) and Menicucci (.308) led the hit parade. In backup roles, Major (.545) and Hansen (.444) contributed heavily. Defoe and Halverson led in home runs (1 each); Major, Pomi, Strawther and Walker each hit a triple; and Menicucci stroked 4 doubles.

The workhorse of the staff, Parducci led with 63 innings pitched, 42 strikeouts, a 1.28 earned run average and 5 wins. Piotrkowski accounted for 2 wins with a 2.80 earned run average. Graham and Walker each recorded a save while DeFoe pickup a win in relief.



A little-known forfeit win occurred between a scheduled doubleheader on April 16 against Stanislaus State in Turlock. After the first game (won by SSC 16-4) a pair of Stanislaus players left the ballpark (Stanislaus only had 9 players for the first game). With Piotrkowski warming up to start the second game, the home plate umpire beckoned both coaches to produce a lineup card. When the Stanislaus coach replied there weren't enough players yet, the ump immediately bellowed, "That's a forfeit," and the umps departed. Not wanting to embarrass the Warrior coach, who was a friend of his, Lasch didn't report it to the newspaper. It remained a "quiet win" for the Cossacks.

Major League Baseball scouts were present at most of the games and Menicucci (OF), Parducci (P) and Vachini (OF/1B) were touted by various "bird dogs."

The University of Nevada claimed the FWC championship.

1967: With Lasch taking a position at New Mexico State, Warren Tappin stepped in to coach the team in its second season. Returnees, DeFoe, Fleming, Hansen, Menicucci, Parducci, Piotrkowski, Strawther and Throne formed a solid nucleus for the team. They were joined by Eric Cake, Bob Franceschi, Tim Furlong, Dave Glassey, Bob Herold, Del Lydick, Charlie Newman, Gary Strawther (Bob's brother), John Suit, Dave Trones and Tom Turner.

Although playing a full conference schedule, the Sonoma State was still not eligible for the FWC crown. The league format consisted of playing doubleheaders on Saturdays and the best 14-game, round robin record determined the FWC champion.

On March 20, John Suit pitched himself into the Cossack record book, throwing the program's first no-hitter. In the 7-0 win over Stanislaus State in Turlock, he fanned 8, retired the last 12 batters and helped himself by driving in a run. The Cossacks swept both games (in this doubleheader, Stanislaus had enough players). The sweep was led by Lydick's incredible 7 for 8 batting performance but was backed up by the heavy bats of Bob Strawther, Menicucci, Newman, Trones, Fleming and Franceschi. Furlong and Parducci combined pitching talents to win the second game 10-6.

Following the sweep of Stanislaus and subsequent 8-5 victory over San Quentin, the Cossacks tied the program record 3-game win streak.

Several rainouts contributed to cancelled games and when league started, things got a lot more competitive. The Cossacks finished with a 6-14 overall record and 2-12 in the conference.

A new season team record included 189 hits and 128 runs scored plus a few individual marks were established. Defoe set the new season hits mark at 25 and along with Fleming and Newman, tied the existing triples mark at 1. Suit, Furlong and Parducci were the mainstays of the pitching staff. In addition to the first no-no and accumulating a 2.69 earned run average, Suit also increased the new strikeout total to 52 and innings pitched mark to 80. With a total of 7 wins over his 2-year career, Parducci became the program's career win leader.

DeFoe (.442) and Lydick (.370) were the top hitters for average among regulars while Gary Strawther (.285) and Fleming (.241) led the reserves.

The FWC champion was Sacramento State.

1968: Numbers were down for this squad, which is coached by former Major League Baseball player, Bruce Camilli and assisted by Lloyd Helgeson. Veterans, Franceschi, Hansen, Herold, Gary Strawther, Suit, Throne and Tronnes welcomed John Bussman, Nick Collins, Mike Francis, John Hinman, Bing Kunzig, Terry Parent, Nate Piotrkowski (Irv's brother) and Bill Silva.

With 8 teams now making up the FWC, a 14-game conference schedule was in effect. A brilliant, 14-strikeout pitching performance by Bing Kunzig keyed a 3-2 win over Stanislaus State and evened the Cossacks record at 1-1. However, thin numbers, several rainouts and a competitive conference, things deteriorated. Playing a 14 game schedule with FWC doubleheaders on Saturdays, the Cossacks finished 0-14.

Franceschi, Suit, Collins and Strawther were the bright hitting stars, while Herold was the best hurler, who gained valuable experience with each performance. The players, as a whole, never quit and were a credit to their inner competitiveness and their coaching staff. The only team records set was for losses in a season (19). Struggling, they finished last in the FWC and 2-19 overall.

Nevada dropped out of the FWC in June 1968, leaving 7 teams and the return to a 12-game league season.

Throne became the first 3-year participant in the program.

Chico State and Hayward State were crowned FWC co-champions.

1969: Carl Peterson assumed the helm of the Cossacks and welcomed a squad of newcomers to include Larry Austin, Ed Banks, Jeff Barker, Fred Colbert, Don Dana, Bruce Fox, John Gho, Mike Gogan, Bil Heath, Richard Hopkins, Rick Jones, Larry Lefor, Leon Richards, Doug Squellati, Julio Valenzeula, and Ed Walls. Veterans Bussman, Hansen, Herold, Kunzig, Piotrkowski and Strawther provided experienced members, for the Cossacks, now eligible for the FWC title.

With one less conference member (Univ. of Nevada), a scheduling format change was made to a 3-game series with 18 conference games- a single game scheduled for Friday and double-headers on Saturday. This stretched the pitching staff to require more depth.

Experiencing 9 one-run losses, the Cossacks slipped to last in the FWC with an overall record of 8-23. New team records achieved included 190 runs, 202 hits and a .257 batting average. The most losses in a season total was upped to 23.

Batting .340 while recording a 3-6 record and 3.30 ERA while pitching, Kunzig was not only chosen team Most Valuable Player but selected to the All-Far Western Conference baseball team.

Hansen was recognized as the program's first 4-year participant.

The FWC champion was Sacramento State.

1970: Hoping for a pennant, coach Peterson set the bar high, embarking on a rigorous 34-game schedule. With a strong cast of veteran returnees including Banks, Barker, Bussman, Dana, Fox, Gho, Gogan, Herold, Richard Hopkins, Kunzig, Lefor, Richards, Squellati, Strawther, Valenzuela and Walls. They were joined by newcomers Ken Batiloro, George Blankenship, Craig Clark, Jim Dunbar, Andy, Fracchia, Tom Hickman, John Hinman, Gary Hopkins, Mike Johnson, Mike Jones, Gary Neville, Ken Tomlinson and Jay Victor.

With enough players for 2 full squads, Peterson had more depth, which proved beneficial in the longer season. While struggling in the FWC with a 5-13 record, Sonoma State established a new program win mark with an 11-21 record. A 5-4 win over Sacramento State on the final game of the season not only threw the final standings into a tie but set the school record as well!

New team records included 196 runs, a .269 batting average and 267 total hits.

Individual marks set were set by Fraccia, Gho and R. Hopkins with 1 home run each, tying the school mark, Lefor with 3 triples, and 16 runs batted in, while Kunzig and Squelatti tied Menicucci's mark of 4 doubles. Fraccia and Gogan set the new mark of base on balls with 14. In addition to batting .324, Clark also set the new at bats mark with 113 and hits at 37.

Batting leaders were led by Richard Hopkins (.323), Barker (.312) and Fracchia (.260). The new team pitching ERA was 3.60.

Individually, Neville worked a school record 84 1/3 innings, struck out 46 and had a 1.71 ERA. His 5 wins tied him with Parducci for most career wins (7). Blankenship (3) and Victor accounted for all the team wins. Herold became a 4-year participant; Bussman and Kunzig became 3-year participants.

Humboldt State and Sacramento State shared the FWC title.

1971: Peterson accepted a position at UCLA and, with several key losses due to graduation, incoming coach Bill Trumbo was dealing with smaller numbers. Joining returnees Barker, Dunbar, Gogan, and Neville, were newcomers John Baker, Clancy Barham, Mike Bell, Dante Benedetti, Rod Boree, Ken Charles, Joe Chelli, Mike Dale, Craig Estes, Rich Garretson, Rich Hobson, Mike Leoni, Gordon MacLaughlin, Mark Newsome, Jim Salm and Gene Soldate.

Team highlights include a second place finish in the San Francisco State Tournament, losing to USF. Leoni commented that Trumbo was, "A very good coach, fair, kept all team members involved in the action and showed confidence in all of us to play to the best of our capabilities."

Struggles in the FWC continued as the Cossacks finished 4-14 and in last place. The big story concerned San Francisco State, which won the FWC title on the field. However, 2 weeks later, they were forced to forfeit 13 games due to ineligible players. From Sonoma State's perspective, this changed their conference mark to 7-11 and they escaped the cellar. On the administrative front, Hayward State and Sacramento State officially tied for FWC honors.

Individual batting stats included Dunbar (.329), Charles (.261), Garretson (.260) and Barker (.254). Salm led in innings pitched with 56 and a 3.83 ERA while Neville pitched 48 innings with a 2.70 ERA. Barker became a 3-year participant.

1972: Assisted by Jeff Barker and Bob Buckner, coach Trumbo welcomed returning vets Bell, Charles, Garretson, Gogan, MacLaughlin, Newsome, Neville and Salm. New additions included John Anderson, Glen Bande, Jim Boesinger, Ian Hoffman, Tom Hughes, Rick Jones, Dale Lyster, Ron Petroni, Terry Smith, Randy Svoboda, Jerry Tripp and Paul Zinn.

As he began his second season, Trumbo aimed to improve the culture of the sport at SSC. "We booked Bay Area baseball programs with a rich heritage to play in the area- Santa Clara, St. Mary's and USF," he said. "Success also begins with a good, winning attitude. We have to attract players from winning programs," he said.

He selected Gogan, Smith and Salm, players from the Sonoma County Collegians, winners of the Northern California Baseball Association's winter league. Players Svoboda, Tripp and Zinn played for Desert Junior College, Southern California JC baseball champions. "Start with winners," he said.

However, they got off to a horrendous start, going 0-15 to start the year, although most of the losses were one-run affairs that could have gone either way. Their effort and attitude exemplified their winning background and they ended on a positive note despite a 5-41 record.

While the program loss record of 41 was set, 235 runs became the new standard. Gogan, Neville and Newsome led the pitching while Boesinger, MacLaughlin and Petroni led the batting stats. Gogan became a 4-year participant.

The FWC champion was Sacramento State.

1973: Tom Glover took over the program and inherited a small squad, including returnees Anderson, Garretson MacLaughlin Neville, Petroni and Zinn. Newcomers John Barone, Wayne Bauers, Elroy Farias, Fedenzio Herrera, Len Hoffman, Len Hoffman, Perry Kozlowski, Tom Papadakis, Gary Tozzi, Tom Treznoa, and Bill Weyl made up the squad.

His intent was to build SSC into a FWC power using as much local talent as possible. While they had several pre-season game rained out and lost much workout time, they began hitting their stride when FWC play began. Indeed at the halfway point in the season, they were actually a half-game out of first.

Bowers and Treznoa hit homers, Estes whacked a pair of hits and the pitching of Herrera and Hoffman keyed a 4-2 win over Saint Mary's College, setting the new mark for wins at 12.

In their most successful FWC showing, they wound up 3<sup>rd</sup> with a 9-9 record. Their over all mark of 20-21 also established a new program high in wins and marked the highest FWC finish in program history.

Due to a 41 game schedule, many team and individual records were set. Team wins (20), FWC wins (9), team runs (247) and batting average .253 were some of the notable.

Individual marks include MacLaughlin with a .435 batting average and 4 doubles to tie Menicucci's record. Garretson backed up MacLaughlin's with a .386 average. Pitching-wise, Herrera had a 2.00 ERA with 3 wins.

Honors came to the Cossacks. MacLaughlin, Herrera and Garretson were all selected to the All-Far Western Conference baseball team. Both MacLaughlin and Garretson finished 1-2 in the FWC batting race with .435 and .386 averages. Mac Laughlin was recognized as a 3-year participant..

The FWC champion was UC Davis.

1974: Gary Hughes, along his assistant Harold Siler, took over for Glover and faced a daunting task. Returnees included Bauers, Garretson, Kozlowski, Neville and Petroni. Joining them were Kevin Brandt, Marshall Brandt, Jim Crabb, Willie Curb, Dan Hero, Randy Jackson, Dan Jacobsen, Dale Lyster, Dane Salodosen, Greg Sherman, Walt Sweeney, Chip Ufier, Bill Wambold and Ken Williams.

The team was well organized and a credit to their knowledgeable coaches. Indeed, with an 8-7 record prior to the start of FWC play, Hughes felt SSC was poised for a solid run at the title. What followed was a run of 13 straight losses, again, many of them 1-run heartbreakers. The disappointing 2-16 FWC record left them last and with an overall 11-25 mark.

A season highlight included a no-hitter by Kozlowski, the second in program history. In the May 9 contest versus Stanislaus State, Petroni and Williams made key running catches to protect the no-no and then Ufier ended the drama, smacking a leadoff, walk-off home run to win the contest!

After watching the Cossacks lose so many close decisions, Hughes wasn't discouraged with team performances. "Even though our record is bad, we haven't played badly," he said. "We haven't been out of many games at all. We certainly haven't embarrassed ourselves."

According to Richard Craig of the Sonoman Newspaper, "A college baseball program couldn't find 2 better coaches than SSC's Gary Hughes and Harold Siler. They dedicated long hours with the baseball team this season," he said. "With the amount of players returning and junior college transfers and with a pair of coaches like Sonoma's own, it wouldn't be surprising to see Sonoma on top of the FWC next year!"

Neville and Garretson became 4-year participants in the program.

UC Davis reigned as FWC champion.

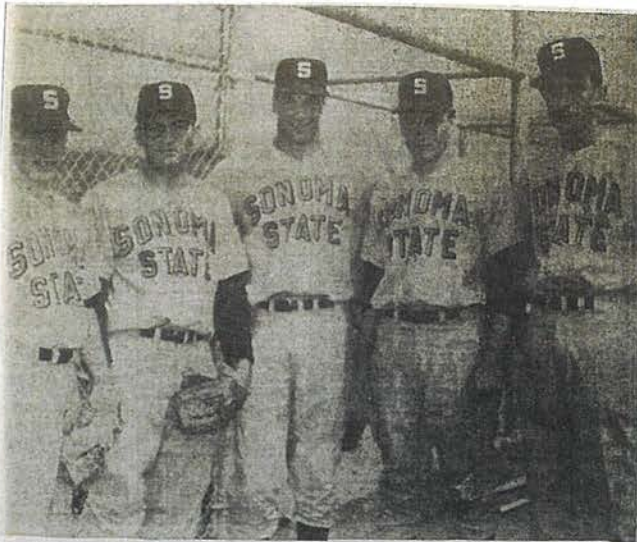
Dan Defoe, Larry Parducci, Wayne Menicucci, John Suit, Bob Herold, Bing Kunzig, Jeff Barker, Larry Lefor, Rich Garretson, Gordon MacLaughlin, Perry Kozlowski, Gary Neville, Ron Petroni, Mike Gogan and Jim Salm were among the Pioneer diamond standouts throughout the first dozen years of the sport

SONOMA STATE COLLEGE  
BASEBALL TEAM ROSTER  
1966

NAME	POS.	HIGH SCHOOL	AGE	HT.	WT.	CLASS
Ron Pomi	2b	Petaluma	19	5' 7"	150	FR.
Bob Strawther	C	Menlo Atherton; San Mateo J.C.	24	5' 11"	175	JR.
Wayne Menicucci	CF	Fort Bragg; SRJC	21	5' 9"	170	JR.
Larry Parducci	P	Ukiah; SRJC	21	6'	175	JR.
Irv Piotrkowski	P	Petaluma	19	5' 10"	175	SOPH.
Eric Bjorkman	C	Cloverdale	21	5' 7"	155	JR.
Dan DeFoe	3b	Monigomery	20	6'	165	JR.
Don Vachini	RF	St. Vincent	21	6' 3"	185	SR.
Ed Major	SS	Santa Rosa	21	5' 11"	150	SR.
Don Graham	SS	Cloverdale	21	5' 11"	180	SR.
Ken Smith	1b	Santa Rosa	27	6'	185	SR.
Marty Lavinson	C	Terra Linda	19	5'	225	SOPH.
Jack Throne	1b	Petaluma; U. of Nev.; U.C.-Davis	20	6' 1"	160	JR.
John Walker	RF	Healdsburg	23	6' 1"	170	SOPH.
Harvey Erlich	LF	Hamilton (L.A.)	19	5' 11"	170	SOPH.
Anthony Fleming	RF	Berkeley	18	6' 2"	185	FR.
Vern Hansen	3b	Petaluma	18	5' 10"	175	SOPH.
Warren Hopkins	P-1b	Kaiser Slautern Am.HS	28	5' 10"	185	SR.
Joe Halverson	LF	Healdsburg	22	5' 11"	175	JR.



Photo by Janet Leeman  
LARRY PARDUCCI puts everything he can on the pitch for Sonoma State's Cossacks baseball team. Note how low (the way it should be) his knee is to the ground. The mark of good form, what?



PETALUMA PLAYERS.— This quintet is a vital factor on the Sonoma State College baseball team which plays a mixed varsity schedule this year. From left: Ron Pomi, Irv Piotrkowski, Don Vachini, Vern Hansen and Jack Throne. They helped the Cossacks split a doubleheader Saturday with Humboldt State. All five are from either Petaluma or St. Vincent High School.



COSSACKS MEET — Sonoma State College baseballers huddle before a game as they map out strategy. The Cossacks host Western Baptist College today as they try and improve upon a 3-1 record. From left: outfielder Harvey Erlich, coach Henry Lasch and team captain Ken Smith.



(l-r) Wayne Menicucci, Dan Defoe, Don Vachini  
May 7, 1966 vs. Stanislaus State  
First SSU Baseball Team

## Sonoma State Pounds Stanislaus State, 16-4

Ron Pomi, former Petaluma High school baseballer, lashed five hits to spearhead a 16-4 Sonoma State College triumph at Stanislaus College at Turlock Saturday.

The spunky second baseman also drove in five runs as the Cossacks boosted their collegiate record to 6-2 on the season.

Larry Parducci went all the way for the Cossacks as he weathered a 12-hit attack through the nine innings. Parducci fanned four and walked just one.

Double plays in the fourth and sixth innings helped keep the hosts at bay.

The Cossacks struck for five runs in the third to snap a scoreless ballgame when Parducci walked, Pomi singled and Ed Major tripled both runners home. Dan DeFoe walked and Wayne Menicucci doubled in a run. Ken Smith drew a free pass and then

Don Vachini, former St. Vincent player, batted in another run.

One of the oddities of the five-run rally was that Bob Strawther, who struck out to start the frame, also struck out to end the inning.

In the fifth, the Cossack attack rallied for four runs.

Menicucci singled, Smith walked and Strawther was hit by a pitch. Parducci, who drew four walks in the game, walked again to force in a run. The big stick, Pomi, singled in two more and Major batted a hit to make it 10-0 at this point.

Coch Henry Lasch's crew rallied for another six runs in the sixth frame with Vachini and Major batting in runs with singles and Pomi ripping another hit to score two more runs.



RON POMI  
Goes 5-for-5

SONOMA STATE		STANISLAUS	
AB	R	AB	R
Pomi, 2b	5	5	0
Major, cf	5	5	0
Graham, ss	5	5	0
DeFoe, 3b	5	5	0
Menicucci, cf	5	5	0
Smith, 1b	5	5	0
Vachini, rf	5	5	0
Parducci, p	5	5	0
Erlich, lf	5	5	0
Lavinson, c	5	5	0
Halverson, 1b	5	5	0
Walker, rf	5	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>



Photo by John LeBaron  
**DAN DeFOE** of Sonoma State's Cossack baseball team rounds third base en route to home after his grand slam home run in a game against Napa JC Friday. DeFoe's home run and the fielding of Don Graham enlivened the workout.

## Cossacks Gain Win After 11

Sonoma State College collected 11 hits, but had to pull the game out of the fire in the 11th frame with three runs to nip Stanislaus College (Turlock) 6-3 in a non-league game Saturday on the Cossacks' diamond.

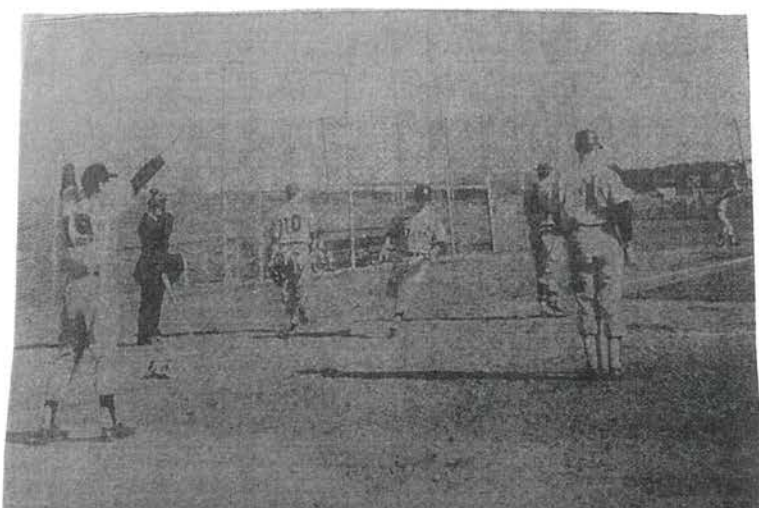
After Stanislaus went ahead 5-3 with a pair in the top of the 11th off reliever Dan DeFoe, the Cossacks made their moves.

Don Graham and DeFoe both walked, Jim Halverson came through with a clutch double that drove in both runners and deadlocked the score. Wayne Menicucci followed with a bloop single that scored Halverson with the winning tally.

Menicucci and Don Vachini both contributed three hits each to the Cossack attack.

The victory pushed the Sonoma State record to 7-2 this season. Coach Henry Lasch's Cossacks go at Cal State, Hayward, today at 3:30 p.m.

STANISLAUS		AB	R	E	B	IP	W	L	P
Walls, lf	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Copp, 2b	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nelson, p	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wallace, 3b	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sefton, ss	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robinson, 1b	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Matthew, rf	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harrison, c	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waldman, cf	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	43	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
SONOMA STATE		AB	R	E	B	IP	W	L	P
Pomi, 2b	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Graham, ss	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DeFoe, 3b-p	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Halverson, lf	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Menicucci, cf	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vachini, rf	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Smith, 1b	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blockman, c	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strawther, c	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pietrski, p	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malor, ss	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	44	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Line score									
Stanislaus	100	100	001	00	3	0	0	0	0
Sonoma State	000	300	010	00	0	0	0	0	0



**SCORES EASILY**—Ron Pomi scores standing up in the second inning when Sonoma State rallied for three runs. Pomi crosses the plate for the second run of the inning as a teammate puts up his hands to signify "Don't slide." The Cossacks beat Western Esplanade 6-3. The umpire is Willie Rossi.



Photo Democrat Photo  
**THREE-FOURTHS** of the four Cal State who are in the Top Ten batters in the Far Western Conference are shown here. The three are Rich Garretton (left), Tom Trezona and Gordon MacLaughlin. Cal State, third in the evenly-balanced Far Western Conference title chase, plays host to Davis Friday in one of the club's more important season games.

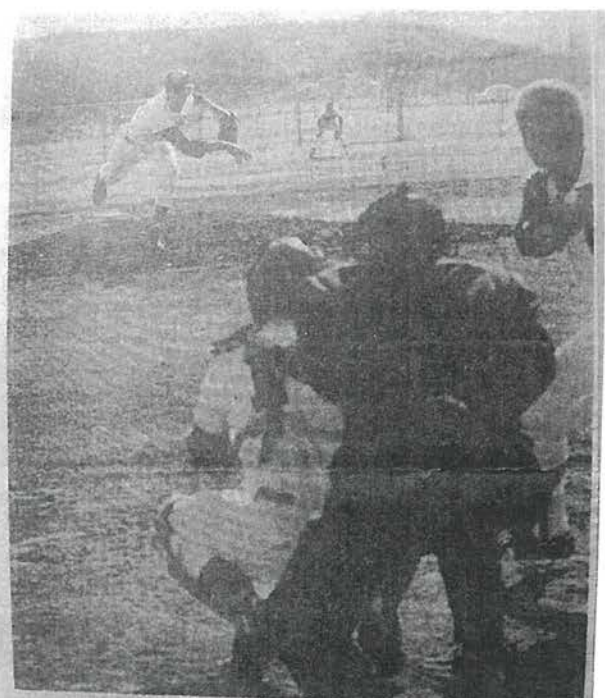


Photo by John Price Jr.  
**SONOMA STATE'S BOB HEROLD COMES IN WITH HARD ONE**  
 Sonoma State Swept Doubleheader from Stanislaus State



UPI PacWest  
**JAY VICTOR IS 3-1 FOR SSC NOW**  
 We Works One of 3 League Games

## Intercollegiate Basketball Progression

To determine the basketball champion, FWC teams compete in a home-and-away, round robin schedule, with the best record producing the conference winner. That team advances to the West Regional (District 8) as part of a 5-team field. Regional winners compete in the NCAA College Division tournament, comprised of the 8 regions across the United States, to determine the National Champion.

In the 1961-62 season, Sacramento State won the FWC, the West Region and finished second in the NCAA College Division final.

Sonoma State fielded the institution's initial team in 1963-64, with Dr. G. Edward Rudloff as the coach. Composed of Ben Black, Carl Carlson, Larry Giacomino, Pete Golis, Don Graham, Curt Hastings, Dennis Murr, Rich Smith, Ken G. Smith, Neil Stine, Bill Tuel and Jerry Zanelli, the team vied against freshman competition.

With only Golis, Graham, Hastings, Rich Smith and Tuel with high school basketball experience, other members were recruited from among campus tennis and golf squads to fill out the team. "If you had shoes, you made the team," Golis quipped with a grin.

An even greater disadvantage was having no practice facility or home court since the temporary campus consisted of apartment buildings on College View Drive. All of their games were played as away contests, even a pair of "home" games at Santa Rosa Junior High's gym. And, with minimal newspaper exposure, their games were played in virtual anonymity.

The Cossack's first game resulted in an 80-40 thumping at the hands of a powerful University of San Francisco frosh, but Rudloff was pleased as the team slowly began jelling as a unit and scores got closer as the season progressed. A 74-70 loss to the Humboldt State frosh and a 70-55 season-ending decision to the University of Nevada frosh indicated great improvement, but the team finished winless in 11 contests. "The college atmosphere was great at all the campuses we visited," said Tuel. "But, we also realized the high level of competition we'd have to achieve to be successful in the next few seasons," he added.

The initial team scored a season total of 530 points and averaged 48.1 points-per-game (PPG) to establish team marks. While Tuel (121 points), Murr (63) and Golis (60) were consistent, season-long scorers, Graham emerged as Sonoma State's top individual scorer with 174 points, an average of 15.8 per game (PPG). He also had 83 free-throw attempts (FTA), 58 free-throws made (FTM), set the free throw percentage mark (FT%) of 79 and established the single-game scoring mark with 23 against the University of Nevada. "We'll do a little better next year," vowed Graham.

The University of Nevada claimed the FWC championship.

The following, 1964-65 season began with Noel Frank, former Grand Canyon College standout, serving as Rudloff's assistant. Jake Williams, a Press Democrat sports writer, was assigned to SSC, and word had begun to spread about the college's burgeoning sports programs. Veteran lettermen Graham, Hastings, Ken G. Smith and



Tuel were joined by local high school standouts, Dale Aman, Jim Arack, Tame Bell, Rich Carsner, Dennis Casarotti, Jerry Gromer Ed Major, Ken W. Smith, Jeff Tuel and Don Vachini. With more experienced players and a heightened sense of confidence, the squad was able to practice and play games in the confines of the brand new, on-campus Field House.

An integral addition, Frank focused on individual skill improvements and these finer techniques helped enhance the team framework. Tuel noted that there was, "a completely different attitude than the previous year."

Although basketball was central on Cossack minds, Mother Nature also became a focal point throughout the season. When unusually heavy, winter storms were unleashed, the adobe soil on the newly-cut road to the Field House became pasty and extremely slick (like driving on butter) and necessitated extremely cautious maneuvering. In addition, the heavy floods of 1964 wiped out portions of Highway 101 along the Eel River, forcing cancelation of a pair of road contests with Humboldt State.

While the team played a mixed Varsity/JV schedule among mostly conference teams, West Region power U. C. Riverside provided the Cossack's first Varsity opponent. Facing a bit stiffer JV competition, the Cossacks improved steadily behind scoring leaders Aman, Gromer, Ken W. Smith and Bill Tuel, but found their first win very elusive. After several close encounters, however, they managed their first win in program history, an 89-78 verdict vs. Humboldt State's JV's on Feb.12, 1965 (see Initial Wins in Program History).

The win was especially gratifying for Graham, Hastings, Ken G. Smith and Tuel, who finally tasted victory after 20 straight defeats. Though the won-loss mark was not impressive, Rudloff was highly pleased with the attitude and improvement of the players. "The lessons learned from this year will bode well for the team's future," he said.

At season's end, players Bill Tuel and Vachini compiled, verified and archived the basketball program's first official, 2-year old statistics, now including various team and individual records. The Cossacks set team records in field goals attempted (FGA) 710; field goals made (FGM) 297; FG% 47.4; FTA 391; FTM 207; FT% 53; total points (TP) 801; points per game (PPG) 66.5; rebounds (RB) 399 and the single-game scoring mark of 89.

Individually, Gromer, a former Santa Rosa High School star, attempted 159 field goals (FGA), set the single-game rebound (RB) record with 14, garnered a school record 112 RB's and his point total of 174 tied Graham's school mark from the previous year. Aman set the new assist mark with 57; Ken W. Smith set the new FT% mark with 80.1, Tuel raised the single-game scoring record to 25 points and Vachini set the FG% mark with 59.

Chico State was the FWC champion.

For the 1965-66 season, Noel Frank replaced Rudloff as coach, with former SSC player, Ken W. Smith serving as his assistant. Returning lettermen Aman, Casarotti, Hastings, Major, the Tuel brothers and Vachini welcomed transfers Rich Lehtinen,

Bruce McKee and John Walker. Jack Bingham, Carl Carlson, Glenn Isaacs, Joel Rudinow, and Dayl Thompson all added depth.

Stepping up a notch in competition and playing 4 of the 7 FWC members in a partial schedule, the Cossacks were ineligible for the conference crown.

Without a true "big man," Aman, Casarotti, Lentinen, Tuel, Vachini, McKee and Walker (all between 5'-10" and 6'-4") operated a spread, 3-2 offense designed to create shots and driving lanes.

Their monumental year of firsts included participating in the program's first tournament (the Cal Aggie Invitational), finishing 6<sup>th</sup> in the 8-team FWC and gaining the school's initial Varsity and FWC wins in school history (see Initial Wins in Program History) and knocking off the University of Alaska, Fairbanks (which was ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in the West Region) while compiling a 4-13 record.

The Cossacks re-set every team and individual scoring statistic. New team records included the season scoring mark of 1,102 points, FGA (920), FGM (437), FG% (47.5), FTA (554), FTM (328), FT% (59.3), scoring average (70.7 PPG and RBs (521).

While Lehtinen (265), Tuel (137) and Walker (108) were consistent scorers, Aman accounted for the bulk of the new individual records to include: 314 FGA, 112 FGM, 145 FTA, 118 FTM, 81.1 FT%, 342 points, 177 RBs, 85 assists, the single-game record of 17 RBs, the single-game mark of 9 assists and the single-game scoring mark of 31 points. Vachini upped his previous FG% mark to 61.2.

"It was a fun year but we often struggled defensively," said Lehtinen. "We did have some really accurate shooters."

At the end of the semester, Frank took a position as head basketball coach at Tempe (AZ) High School.

Bill Tuel was recognized as the program's first 3-year participant.

FWC champion was University of Nevada.

Bob Donlan, a top player on the University of Nevada's 1963-64 FWC championship team, was hired as coach for the 1966-67 year. With the Cossacks entering their first year as a full-time member of the FWC under a complete schedule, he was tasked with moving the program forward.

Experienced veterans Aman, Bingham, Casarotti, Hastings and Walker melded with a band of newcomers to include Dave Castleberry, Dave Goff, Ernie Hardaway, Don Lumpkins, Ray Nottingham, Charlie Newman, Fred Perdomo, John Posey, Gary Strawther, Dave Thomas and L. E. Wagner. Dan Defoe, Jack Kantor and Wayne Menicucci rounded out the 19-man roster.

A fierce competitor, Donlan implemented an exciting brand of offense for the Cossacks. Home games were still held in the tiny confines of the Field House where fans were seated right on top the action. Numerous, tight contests ensued, often coming right down to the wire and the frenetic action was not for the faint of heart! So inspired, Press Democrat sports writer, Williams, coined the nickname of "Cardiac Castle."

In the Cal Aggie Invitational, Walker pumped in 31 points to lead an 80-78 overtime decision over Fresno Pacific, claiming the Consolation championship-the

first basketball title of any type in program history. His 31 not only tied him with Aman for Sonoma State's single game scoring mark but also set a record for the tournament's single game total. He was named to the Cal Aggie All-Tournament Team.

At the halfway point of the FWC season, the Cossacks were on a roll, owning a 7-8 overall record and 2-5 in the conference standings. However when starters Aman and Casarotti graduated mid-year, opponents soon took advantage of the team's lost leadership. The Cossacks went 0-7 in remaining games. Although finishing 2-12 in conference, SSC did increase the school win-loss total to 7-15 (for the first time, the Cossacks could count their wins with fingers on two hands!).

With the addition of 5 more games, team scoring records were also elevated. New marks included: TP (1,402), FGA (1,345), FGM (662), FTA (575), FTM (378), RB (521) plus a 2-game win streak.

While Casarotti, Castleberry, Newman and Lumpkins provided scoring backup, Aman and Walker certainly left their imprints on the career SSC record book. In addition to upping the single game scoring mark to 35 in a loss to Chico State, Walker led the team in scoring with 382 points and was third in FWC scoring. He was selected to both the All-FWC 2<sup>nd</sup> team and the United Press International All-West Coast teams.

Aman, a 3-year captain, left as the school's all-time leading scorer (784 pts.), assists (207) and total games played (44) along with the single game marks of 17 rebounds and 13 made free throws. He respectfully accepted the title of "Sonoma State's Mr. Basketball" from PD writer Williams.

Affectionately known as "Baby Huey," 6'-5" Curt Hastings became the Cossack's first four-year participant. Aman and Casarotti were 3-year participants.

UC Davis was the FWC champ.

Assisted by former SSC player, John Walker, Donlan's 1967-68 squad continued rebuilding as the Cossacks were beginning their second year of FWC play. This year's squad centered around returnees Castleberry, Newman, Thomas and Wagner. Newcomers Jim Bracey, Mike Francis, Sam Jones, Howard Johnson, Terry Overlid, Roger Stone, Bruce Thorsen and Bruce Wold rounded out the roster.

A newly-formed JV team was coached by former SSC player Jack Bingham and Dave Wilson. Sophomores Goff, Hardaway, Dan Marioni, Nottingham, Posey and Strawther plus freshmen Billy O'Dell and Nate Piotrkowski made up the squad.

Utilizing big men Wagner, Francis, Stone and Castleberry and speedy guards Newman, Bracey and Jones, Donlan continued a fast break oriented offense. While the massive gymnasium was still under construction and crowds at the Cardiac Castle swelling, it was obvious that the team needed a larger seating arrangement. Games were moved off-campus and Rancho Cotate High School's gym became a temporary home court, with seating for over 1,500.

An early season highlight occurred in the Cal Aggie Invitational, held at U. C. Davis. In a thrilling, down-to-the-wire contest, James Bracey's basket with 2 seconds accounted for a 66-65 victory over U. C. San Diego as the Cossacks again claimed the tourney's Consolation Championship-the 2<sup>nd</sup> in school history.

Team records continued to be increased as TP (1,839), FGA (1,812), FGM (729), FTA (633), FTM (391), RB (883) and PPG (75.1) became new team standards. While the final 3-11 record left them in last place in the FWC, they were the number one ranked defensive team. Their overall season record increased to a respectable 9-15 and they twice tied the program's 2-game winning streak mark. Francis was voted to the FWC's All-Conference, 1st team.

UC Davis again reigned as FWC champions.

In June, 1968, the University of Nevada dropped out of the FWC to pursue Division 1 status, leaving the conference with 7-teams.

1968-69 season: Former SSC player Mike Francis served as Donlan's assistant. Transitioning to a bigger roster composed of returnees Johnson and Lumpkins, new members included Erral Boardman, Dennis Garrett, Gary Grellman, Bruce Guelden, Roy Jones, Rick Moitoza, Cortez Robinson, Ramon Solomon, Basil Swaby, John Thornton, Ron Trujillo and Tito Velasco (missing was Dave Thomas, who was on a year-long, student-exchange in Europe).

"Looking over what will be the biggest team in its history, I tend to be optimistic about bettering last years record," said Donlan. Indeed, with a pair of "biggs" to include 6'-9" 245-pound Thornton and 6'-6' Guelden plus Soloman and Swaby, this edition of Cossacks implemented a fast-break oriented offense, based on their talented big men clearing the boards.

Striking fear into their opponents, Soloman, Swaby and Thornton were dominant rebounders and scoring leaders and, with plenty of support from Jones, Moitza, Robinson and Trujillo, kept games exciting. The squad again finished 9-16 overall, and last in the FWC at 2-10. Their win total tied the record 9 wins from the previous year.

In one of the most incredible displays of offensive prowess, this version of the Cossacks established the new team records for FGA (2,498); FGM (1,223); FG%(49); FTM (392) and set the team scoring mark of 3,844 (which amazingly, still stands today). During the season, Solomon upped the new single-game scoring mark to 36 points, before Thornton exploded for 37 in a win over Southern Oregon. But before the ink settled on Thornton's mark, Solomon's 39 re-claimed it in the next game.

Virtually unstoppable, Solomon (560 points for the season) led the FWC with 329 points (20.3 PPG) and 182 rebounds (13.2 RPG) and was a unanimous All-Conference 1<sup>st</sup> team selection. In addition, his 24.3 PPG, 530 FGA and 290 rebounds were also new program marks. He also merited consideration for All-American status. Trujillo established the new FT accuracy mark of 81.3%, besting Aman's previous mark of 81.1% from 1965-66.

In addition, Soloman's 290 rebounds combined with Thornton's 281 provided a solid one-two boarding punch throughout the season and helped establish the team's record RB total at 953. With 2 wins over Southern Oregon and Adams State, the Cossacks produced Sonoma State's first 3-game win streak which was tied with wins over Western Baptist, Chico State and Fresno Pacific.

At season's end, Donlan took a position at the University of Utah. His total 3-year tenure produced a 25-47 overall W-L mark; 7-35 in the FWC. A dynamic coach who could relate well with his players, he was highly praised for elevating the level of play at SSC.

U. C. Davis and San Francisco State shared the FWC championship. San Francisco State won the West Region and advanced to the Elite 8 in the NCAA Championship.

In April 1969, the 20,000-square foot, gymnasium was completed, with seating for 3,200 and housing 3 university-sized basketball courts.

1969-70 season: With a new campus gymnasium as home, Doug Earl, A Little All-American player at Chapman College, took over the head coaching position. He was assisted by former SSC player, Dave Castleberry.

Returnees Grellman, Roy Jones, Newman, Robinson, Solomon, Swaby, Dave Thomas (back from Europe) and Velasco welcomed Larry Austin, Jeff Barker, Bill Cox, Henry Crawford, Bill Heath, Jesse Howard, David Law, Mel Peterson, Rick Thomas and Tom Galvin. However, Howard Johnson and Thornton were notably missing, victims of unfavorable NCAA eligibility rulings.

Earl put the charge to the team, "We will need to rise to the occasion." Several did respond. Contributing consistent scoring, Jones (199), Barker (147), Austin (130), Dave Thomas (124) and Crawford (108) joined solid defenders Grellman and Swaby in support of Solomon. Indeed, "Solly" again proved a dominating force, claiming the FWC scoring title for the second year in a row with 324 points (27.0 PPG) and rebounding title with 161 rebounds (13.4 RPG) and was again unanimous All-FWC 1<sup>st</sup> team for the second year. His new records include 583 points, 25.3 PPG, 245 FTA, 133 FTM, 403 rebounds and 17.5 RPG. His record season point total of 583 brought his 2-year career total to 1,143 points, another record!

In a fitting conclusion to his career, the 42 points he scored in a barnstorming 102-101 win vs. Hayward State bested his previous mark of 41 and established yet a new single game school record. (The 102 points established a new single game scoring record). Overall, the Cossacks finished 5-18 and 2-10 in the FWC. The team was competitive in the conference but suffered numerous close defeats that could have gone either way.

Dave Thomas was recognized as a 3-year basketball participant.

Sacramento State was the FWC champion.

1970-71 season: Bill Trumbo, a former teammate at Chapman College, joined as Earl's assistant. Returning players Austin, Barker, Crawford and Petersen, were joined by newcomers Mark Bucklew, Wayne Fisher, Dennis Gluhan, Ross Goree, Larry Mendel, and Tad Woliczcko.

With a notably thin squad and short on height, the Cossacks were embarking on an ambitious schedule, which included the Cal Western Tournament in Whittier and the Rogue Valley Intercollegiate Holiday Tournament in Oregon. Ever upbeat, Earl commented that, "We will really have to hustle and scrap to succeed this year."

Despite solid scoring from Austin, Bucklew, Crawford, Gluhan, Peterson and Woliczcko, the lack of height proved to be the season-long downfall as the team was consistently outrebounded and outshot by taller foes. However, to Earl's credit, his courageous group of young athletes constantly hustled and gave every ounce of themselves throughout the season.

While their 0-25 record set records for most losses in a season and most consecutive losses, team pride and passion shined through and they persevered in the face of adversity while representing the school with class.

Leading the team in rebounding, second in team scoring with a 16.3 PPG average and recording a 36-point effort versus Sacramento State, Austin was also honored as the FWC's 2nd leading rebounder. Bucklew, a solid scorer/rebounder all season, led the Cossacks in scoring with a 19.2 PPG average and was named to the Cal Western all-tournament team.

"Developing a special bond, a nucleus of returning members improved while gaining valuable experience for next year," said Earl.

San Francisco State reigned as the FWC champion.

Ramon Soloman joined the staff as Earl's assistant for the 1971-72 season. Returnees Austin, Bucklew, Crawford and Swaby were teamed with newcomers Jim DeLaughter, Garfield George, Paul Holmes, Jesse Howard, Bill Heath, Al Martinson, Darrel Ravani, and Bob Ward.

Coach Earl rallied his team and the Cossacks slowly began building confidence even as the streak continued. "The new members are a great boon to our team cohesiveness," he said. "We have a better shooting club with DeLaughter, Holmes and Martinson complimenting Austin."

As a unit, there was dedicated focus to ending the loss streak, which had now reached 33. Finally, an 80-53 win over Western Baptist College claimed 7<sup>th</sup> place in the 8-team Rogue Valley Invitational. Austin with 30 points, DeLaughter (14) and Martinson (13) led the scoring while Crawford and Bucklew dominated the boards.

Probably the most gratifying moment occurred near the end of the season when Martinson's field goal with 2-seconds produced a 70-69 victory over St. Mary's College. In addition to Martinson's heroics, Austin, Crawford, DeLaughter and Holmes "played their hearts out" and Earl had nothing but praise for the entire squad, feeling it was a team effort all the way. At that time, it was the biggest win in program history-over a major Division 1 program!

The Cossacks battled valiantly to compile a 3-23 won-loss record and finished 0-12 in conference. At the conclusion of the season, Earl retired from coaching, compiling a 3-year record of 8-66 overall, 2-34 in FWC. However, some of these players, specifically George, Holmes, Martinson, and Ward, were setting the stage for future cage success.

Austin, Crawford and Swaby were recognized as 3-year participants.

Sacramento State claimed the FWC championship.

In August, 1972, Joel Spear was appointed Sports Information Director, responsible for sports publicity and public relations work associated with the SSC athletic program.

Bill Trumbo took over the program from Earl for the 1972-73 season. Former SSC players, Mark Bucklew and Dave Castleberry plus Fred Sion, a standout player for College of Santa Fe in New Mexico, were his assistants.

Applying for conference membership, Stanislaus State College was playing a full FWC schedule but was not eligible for the crown and their games would not count in the official standings.

Besides returning lettermen George, Holmes, Martinson, and Ward, Trumbo recruited a talented group of locals and non-locals to include John Anderson, Bill Belander, Jim Bristol, Larry Dumont, Tom Fitchie, Dan Heien, Mark Jasper, Ron Johnson, Keith Mason, Tom O'Connor, Mike O'Keefe, Rich Rousey, George Schandelmeir, Doug Starr, Bill Stevens, Ken Thurston and Steve Tiedeman. One of Trumbo's first actions was rejuvenating a JV program for freshmen and sophomore players. Under this commitment, players would run the same wheel and passing game offenses as the varsity, thus preparing future players for the same system.

Breathing new life into the program, the coaching staff blended a team, building character and a spirited morale that changed the direction of the entire program. They developed a style accentuating speed, deadly shooting and solid defense. The players quickly picked this up and played unselfishly, communicated on the court and implemented a help-oriented defensive plan. Trumbo was quick to point out that, "We have better players than we've had before."

With fans on campus hearing about the new bodies, the Coca Cola Classic Tournament provided a sneak peek of things to come. In front of over 500 spectators, the Cossacks scored impressive wins over Humboldt State (94-88) and Cal Poly Pomona (73-68) to claim the title, the first basketball tournament championship in program history!

Hitting the road, they came in 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Cal Poly Invitational and 4<sup>th</sup> in the 8-team Rogue Valley Tournament in Oregon.

Once conference play started, Sonoma State waged a competitive war with Chico State, Sacramento State and UC Davis. After a pair of opening wins, the Cossacks were defeated by Sacramento State but gained an advantage when 6' 6" Ron Johnson became eligible for the second semester. This gave them 3 big men, Schandelmeir and Martinson alongside Johnson.

After a loss to Chico left them in second place to begin the second half of play, the Cossacks steady play began to pay dividends. They also got a helping hand from Sac State, who upset both Chico and Davis to put the Cossacks back in first. As 3,000 fans jammed the joint, SSC was able to defeat Sac State 90-83, propelling them past Chico's 9-3, to win the school's first FWC championship with a 10-2 record!

With plenty of bench strength and depth, it was never clear from one game to the next who the star would be-the true sign of a well-balanced team. Indeed, Belander, Bristol, Tiedeman, Fitchie, Schandelmeir, Heien, Martinson and Johnson all took turns leading the barrage with plenty of support from Mason, Holmes, Ward

and O'Connor. Bench members also included Stevens, Sumpter, Jasper, Thurston, O'Keefe, Anderson and Rowsey,

After the title-clinching game, the no-alcohol rule on campus was waived for about a half an hour as the team celebrated with 2 bottles of Andre Cold Duck, 1971 champagne filling tiny paper cups in the locker room amid coaches, administrators and reporters.

Fitchie credited Trumbo with making the right combinations during the season. "My teammates are some of the best I've ever played with," he added. Claiming the program's initial conference crown thrust them into the realm of the NCAA's 5-team field in the West Regional Tournament, which included Puget Sound University, University of San Diego, Cal State Bakersfield, UC Riverside and Sonoma State. Due to a scheduling conflict, the Cossacks missed out on hosting the West Regional play-in game, which instead was hosted in Riverside. A heartbreaking 70-68 loss to the Highlanders ended their NCAA title aspirations.

However, SSC's 18-9 overall record not only was the first winning record in program history but their 18 wins doubled the old mark of 9 wins in a season and the 10 FWC wins also set a school mark. They now ran out of fingers to count their wins!

Accolades came: Tiedeman, who led the team with 548 points (20.6 avg.) and the FWC in scoring, made the All-Conference 1<sup>st</sup> team, was selected FWC Player of the Year in addition to receiving consideration for All American status. Trumbo was named FWC Coach of the Year and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> to Carrol Williams of Santa Clara University in balloting for the Northern California Coach of the Year.

Now the eyes of the FWC were suddenly all on Sonoma State for the 1973-74 season! "We were virtually unknown last year but this year we have a target on our back's," exclaimed Trumbo.

The season proved to be an improvement of the past one. Returning Belander, Bristol, Fitchie, Heien, Johnson, Stevens and Tiedeman from their first championship squad, the Cossacks added John Gibson, Bob LeBrun, Dave Long, Marshall Brant, Terry Sumpter, Scott Taylor and Bob Tisch. Supporting freshmen included Bob Callen, Michael Donahue, Bill Gricius, Loren Hatchett, Steve Hoag, Greg Holmes, Dana Jack, Bill O'Rear, Venson Washington, Chuck White and Glenn White. "While we have a nucleus of returning players from last year's team, we will have our work cut out for us. Chico has gotten much stronger," said Trumbo.

He also orchestrated an extremely difficult schedule with goals of a national small college ranking and an NCAA tournament berth. To open the season, they trounced Dominguez Hills State College 130-74 in the first round of the Coca Cola Classic, then bopped Humboldt State 102-64 to win their second consecutive tournament title. The astounding 130 points shattered the program's single-game scoring record of 102 (and still stands as the program's high water mark)!

Then, after the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Tournament, the Cossacks began a rigorous pre-season schedule, embarking on the school's first major road trip intended to gain national exposure for the team-and it certainly did! One agenda included flying to Kansas, then driving to stops in Springfield, Missouri (Southwest



Missouri State), Murfreesboro, Tennessee (Middle Tennessee State) and Murray, Kentucky (Murray State), all top-ranking Midwest Region colleges. Yet another swing took them to Phoenix, Arizona for the Grand Canyon Invitational. After beating nationally-ranked Marymount (Kansas) 85-84, they fell to host Grand Canyon 67-61 in the championship game.

Finishing a 4-6 pre-season record, the Cossacks got on a roll to begin the FWC season. Behind consistent scoring and defensive contributions from Bristol, Belander, Fitchie, Heien, LeBrun, Tiedeman and Long, the Cossacks beat Humboldt, UC Davis, Chico, Sacramento (twice), Hayward (twice) and San Francisco (twice) to surge to a 9-0 record and clinch a tie for the crown. Hitting a small hiccup, they lost to Chico, Davis and Humboldt on the road but their 9-3 conference record claimed another title—a co-championship with Chico State!

Chico State, UC Riverside and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo were seeded directly into the West Regional while UC San Diego traveled to Sonoma State for the play-in game. In an exciting encounter, Sonoma rallied, then hit key free-throws to hold off UC San Diego 60-54 behind an appreciative home crowd. This win paired them against the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo squad, which had beaten them earlier in the season. This time, however, Belander (22), Fitchie (21), LeBrun (12), Tiedeman (8) and Bristol (8) provided the timely scoring to provide a 73-66 win over the Mustangs and propel SSC into the Regional Final versus nemesis UC Riverside.

However, playing in front of Riverside's noisy home crowd, the Cossacks again fell to the Highlanders (coached by former UCLA great, Freddie Goss, UCR won its 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive West Regional and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the NCAA College Division finals in Evansville, Indiana).

Despite falling short in their NCAA goal, the Cossacks proved highly entertaining and the experienced group of teammates finished with an 18-10 overall mark and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in both the Cal Poly SLO Mustang Classic and the Grand Canyon Invitational Tournament. They also won a pair of NCAA regional games and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the West Regional, all firsts in program history!

More honors came: Belander achieved quite a lot of well-deserved recognition. He was crowned FWC scoring champ with a 23.9 average, named to the FWC All-Conference 1<sup>st</sup> team, selected as the FWC Player of the Year and chosen on the West Regional All-Tournament team!

Fitchie joined him on the FWC 1<sup>st</sup> team while Tiedeman and LeBrun were named on the FWC 2<sup>nd</sup> team. LeBrun also led the FWC in free-throw percentage at 92%, which also set a new program record and Belander's FG % mark of 62% eclipsed Vachini's 61.2% mark from 1965-66.

The Cossack's were also first in the FWC's team FG and FT percentage categories. The home court advantage proved to be just that, as the Cossack's produced a 24 game win streak over the past 2 seasons. Another amazing season of excitement and success for a team on a small budget, financed by the community.

In the span of 2 short years, Trumbo became the program's winningest coach with a combined 36-19 won-loss record. On paper, the future certainly appeared bright. However, as a result of SSC's unstable financial situation (athletics were not supported by a student body association fee), fundraising became an unbearable task and took its toll on Trumbo and he resigned.

Don Graham, Bill Tuel, Dale Aman, John Walker, Dave Thomas, Dave Castleberry, Ramon Solomon, Larry Austin, Mark Bucklew, Bill Belander, Tom Fitchie, Steve Tiedeman, Jim Bristol, Dan Heien, Cortez Robinson and Basil Swaby were among those who distinguished themselves over the initial dozen years of SSC basketball.

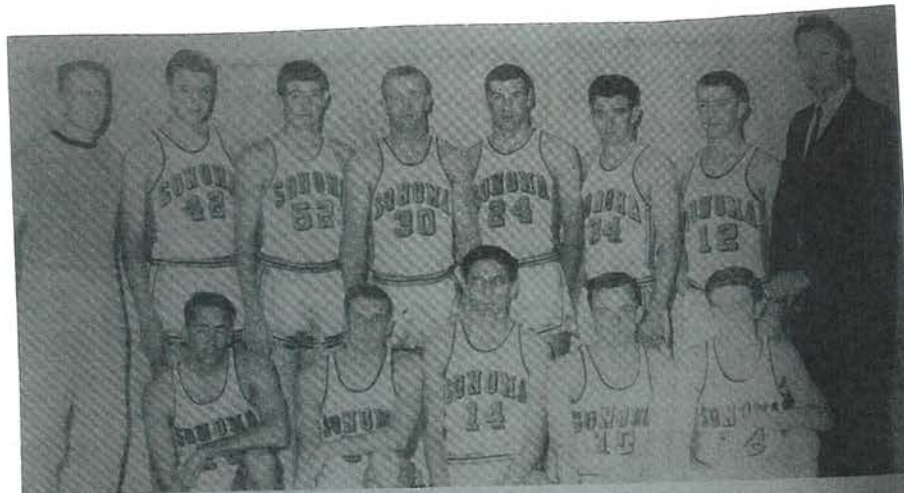
Addendum:

The 1972-73 and 1973-74 FWC championship teams were both inducted into the Sonoma State University Athletics Hall of Fame (HOF) as part of the 2017 class. However, due to the massive fires in October 2017, the HOF ceremony was postponed.















During the following year, Trumbo passed away, thus eliminating one final team meeting with the former players he loved so dearly. RIP, coach Trumbo!



L-R Row 1: Neal Stine, Ben Black, Don Graham, Jerry Zanelli, Dennis Murr. Row 2: Dr. G. Edward Rudloff, Coach; Carl Carlson, Dick Smith, Bill Tuell, Curt Hastings, Pete Golis, Larry Giacomino.



Standing (l-r) Noel Frank, Asst. coach, Curt Hastings, Bill Tuel, Jerry Gramer (team scoring leader), Don Vachini, Dennis Casarotti, Don Aman, coach Ed Rudloff. Kneeling (l-r) Rich Corsner, K. G. Smith, Dale Aman, Ed Major, Jeff Tuel, Not pictured—starter Ken W. Smith.

 ED MAJOR	 JACK BINGHAM	 CURT HASTINGS	 JEFF TUEL	 CARL CARLSON
 BILL TUEL	 RICH LEHTINEN	 DENNIS CASAROTTI	 DON VACHINI	 DALE AMAN
 JOEL HEISKOW	 BRUCE MCKEE	COACH: NOEL FRANK ASST. COACH: KEN W. SMITH  RECORD: 4-13  SONOMA STATE COLLEGE "COSSACKS" 1965-66		 GLEN ISAACS
				 JOHN WALKER



**THE NEW EDITION**—Sonoma State head basketball coach Bob Donlan (far left back row) took time from practice to call his 1967-68 team together for this portrait. Shown, from the left in the same row as Donlan are: John Fossey 20, Roger Stone 40, Dave Gott 30, L. E. Wagner 14, Dave Castleberry 44, Mike Francis 34, and assistant coach Johnny Walker. In the bottom row are, from the left: Dave Thomas 24, Jim Bracy 42, Charlie Newman 10, Bruce Thurston, Sam Jones 12, and Howard Johnson 22. Those figures, of course, are their jersey numbers—not their ages.



SONOMA STATE COLLEGE  
1968-69



Coach Doug Earl and his 1971-72 Sonoma State basket ball team played the

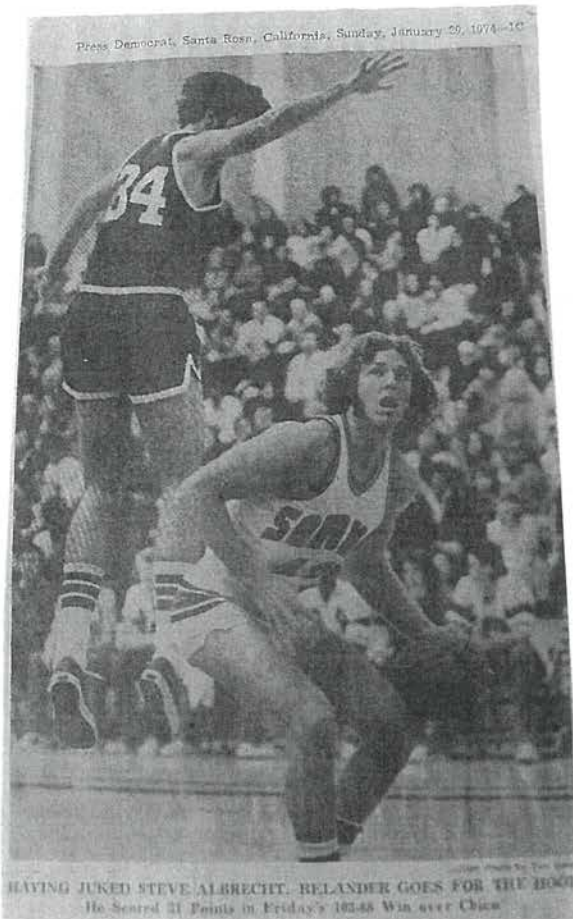


From left to right, standing, head coach Bill Trumbo; assistant coach Dave Castleberry; Jim Bristol, Dave Long, Bill Belander, Ron Johnson, Bob LeBrun, Dan Heien, John Hill, trainer. Kneeling left to right, Scott Taylor, Tom Fitchie, Steve Tiedeman, John Gibson, Terry Sumpter, Bill Stephens, Bob Tische.



DAN HEJEN MISSED THIS LAYUP, BUT COSSACKS WON 120-79  
 Cal State Overwhelmed Hayward Friday But Just Tipped Gators

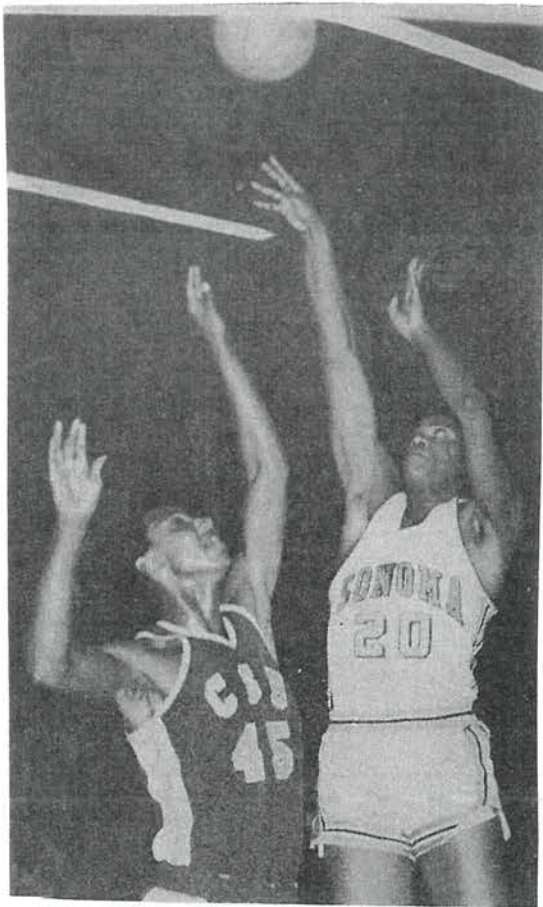
Staff Photos by Tim Baker



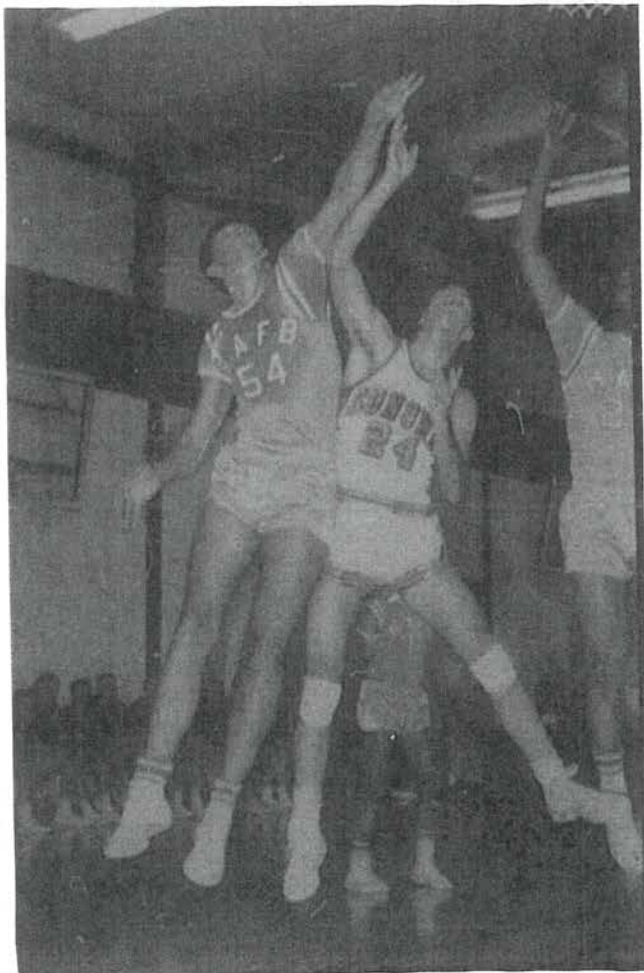
Press Democrat, Santa Rosa, California, Sunday, January 29, 1974-10

HAVING JUNKED STEVE ALBRECHT, BELANDER GOES FOR THE BOOGY  
 He Scored 21 Points in Friday's 102-88 Win over Chico

Staff Photos by Tim Baker



(Press Democrat Photo)





# 24 Don Vachini  
Jan. 28, 1966 vs. Univ. of Alaska



ROSS GORBE (40) BATTLED OPONENT FOR SHOOTING

## Torrid Cossacks Win Cage Crown

By RALPH LEEF  
P.D. Sports Writer

ROHNERT PARK — Yes, Virginia the Cal State Sonoma basketball team is 2-0, and if the Cossacks continue to shoot as they did in winning their won "Coke Classic" championship trophy, they won't lose many games this season.

The Cossacks scored impressive wins over Cal State Humboldt (84-85) and Cal Poly Pomona 73-68) to win the Coca-Cola Classic here Saturday night before a crowd of over 500 spectators.

The champs will have four days to iron out any minor problem spots in the offense and defense before they travel to San Luis Obispo for the four-team Cal Poly Tournament Friday and Saturday.

The Cossacks open opposite Eastern Oregon College in Friday's 7 p.m. game. The winner of that game will face the winner of Friday's 9 p.m. game between Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Cal Lutheran of Thousand Oaks, in Saturday's championship game.

The Cossacks have a chance to put the California College Athletic Association on notice this weekend. Sonoma has already stopped Pomona — a leading CCAA cage choice —



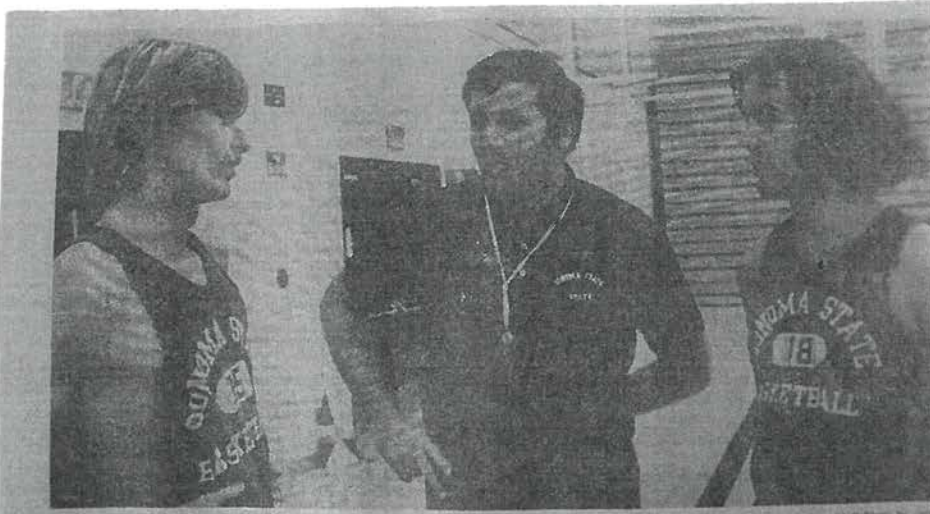
STEVE TIEDEMAN  
'Classic Jump Shot'



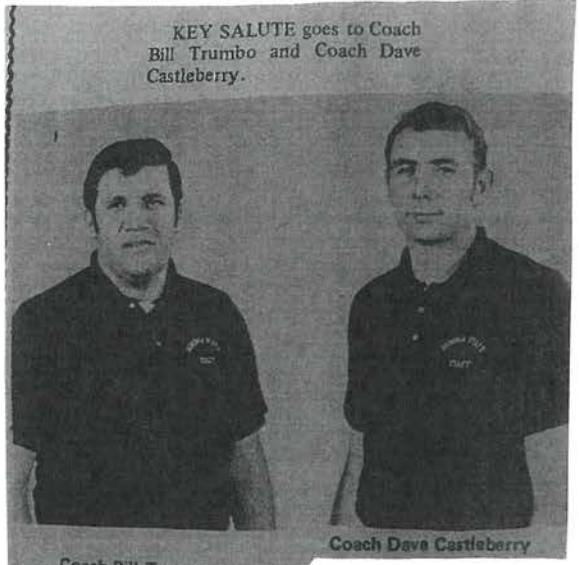
BILL TRUMBO (left) and Doug Earl shared a moment of joy Friday night when Cal State clinched the championship. But it's been learned that Chapman College, Bill's alma mater, is considering him for their basketball program.



BILL BELANDER

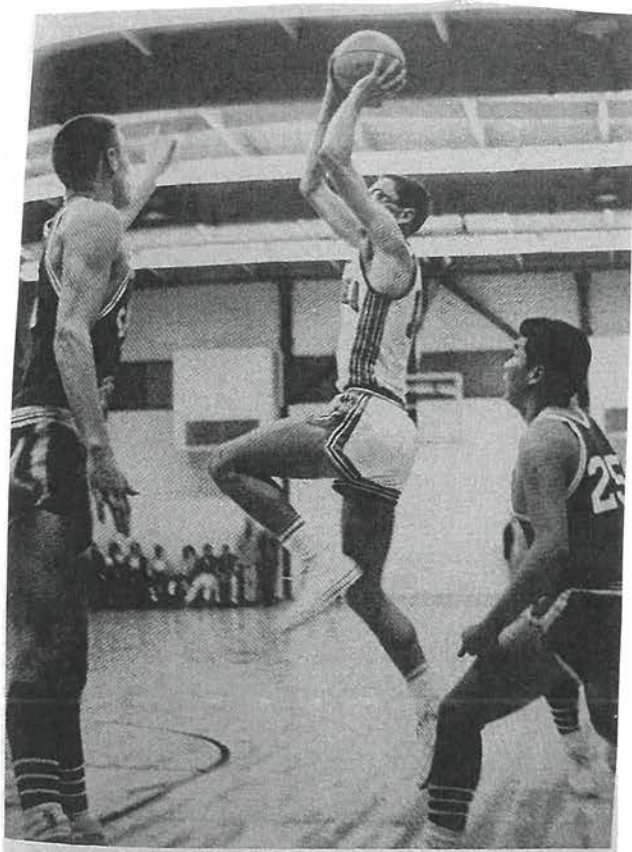


CAL STATE COACH BILL TRUMBO CHATS WITH TIEDEMAN AND FITCHIE.  
Cossack Fans Say Farewell to the Exciting Guards Friday - Saturday



Coach Bill Trumbo

Coach Dave Castleberry



TEAM LEADER  
GUARD DALE AMAN

## Intercollegiate Cross-Country Progression

Intercollegiate Cross-Country is a running event that involves a unique scoring system. Points are awarded on the basis of finish (one point for first place; 2 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place; 3 points for third place, etc.) and the team with the fewest total points is the winner.

While teams compete in dual meets, the actual FWC champion is determined by a meet with all teams competing together and the team accumulating the fewest points is the winner. The top 2 teams plus 5 top individuals not on an advancing team also compete in the NCAA Championship meet.

An amazing 35 runners joined coach Eric Pearson for the initial cross-country team's first practice at Crane Canyon in early September 1964. Many were basketball players and wrestlers tasked with developing cardiovascular and respiratory endurance for their upcoming seasons. The hilly, 4-mile, Alpin Ranch course was home to the Cossack harriers eventual 22-member squad.

In Carl Jensen, Rich Kotoff and Bill Ranney, Pearson inherited a group of experienced distance runners from the Marin Athletic Club based in Novato. These individuals proved extremely helpful regarding etiquette, tactics and strategies imparted to the other assembled runners who knew little of the ethics and unwritten nuances of the sport.

Jensen, Kotoff and Ranney led Mike Cash, Carl Carlson, Tim Kelly, Ed Major, Dale Mast, Randy Smith, Jeff Tuel and Al Woicicki into the school's first-ever meet, the Chico Invitational held on Sept. 26 at Chico's Bidwell Park Course.

Achieving remarkable success for a first year team, the veteran runners guided the team to its first win in program history, a 26-31 decision over Humboldt State (see Initial Wins) and also defeated conference foes UC Davis and Hayward State while compiling a 4-5 won-loss record during the dual meet season.

With top finishers Jensen, Kotoff and Kelly receiving support from rapidly improving Cash, Major, Mast, Smith, Tuel and Woicicki, hopes ran high for a surprise finish at the season ending FWC meet! However, missing 3 key members during the FWC Finals held at San Francisco State, the Cossacks finished a disappointing last in the conference standings. Kelly placed 9<sup>th</sup>, earning the program's first individual medal.

Sacramento State was the FWC champion.

In 1965, Ed Rudloff succeeded Pearson and was ably assisted by student runner Bill Ranney. Their first task was breaking in a new home venue for home meets. The hilly, 4-mile course, set along the Sonoma Mountains, was less than a mile from the main campus and located off Roberts Road.

However, at the first team gathering, returnees Ranney, Tuel, Woicicki and Smith were missing vital cogs-Kelly, Jensen, Kotoff and Major-a huge blow to overcome. Since the newcomers included freshmen Jim Lopes, Joel Rudinow, John Noonan and Marc Falcone, all solid high school distance runners, Rudloff and



Ranney re-tooled their strategy to incorporate the young talent and make use of the challenging home course.

With an encouraging 6<sup>th</sup> place finish in the 7-team Chico Invitational, the Cossacks enjoyed the season's first win over the University of San Francisco (USF), which was tempered with the season-ending loss of Falcone from a collapsed lung. Dealing with this additional adversity, the team stepped up their efforts. Noonan, Lopes and Ranney became team leaders with Rudinow, Smith, Tuel and Woicicki in key supporting roles. Noonan's best effort was a 2<sup>nd</sup> place in a meet against Sacramento State, one of the best teams in the West Region.

On Nov. 7, the harriers recorded the first double dual sweep in program history. Paced by Noonan, Lopes and Ranney, who placed 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> plus strategic finishes from Woicicki, Tuel, Rudinow and Smith, the Cossacks defeated USF 24-31 and Chico State 21-34.

Although they were overwhelmed in the FWC Finals, the team claimed 2 wins over both USF and the University of the Pacific (UOP) plus Chico State and finished a successful 7-7 dual meet season, to date the most successful of any SSC sport.

Rudloff was extremely pleased with the overall record and noted that each runner improved his best individual mark by over 30-seconds over the course of the season. He also praised the efforts of Ranney, who showed a remarkable talent for patiently developing the young squad.

Sacramento State was the FWC champion.

Bob Sorani took the helm in 1966, missing key runners Noonan, Falcone, Rudinow and Tuel. However, he did welcome Frank Hagerty, Vern Hansen, Dave Johnson and Paul Woicicki along with veterans Lopes, Smith and Al Woicicki.

Cathy Feige, who became the first woman to run track at Sonoma State during the spring track season, also trained with the team and ran unattached at some meets to gain experience and endurance.

Improving rapidly, both Lopes and Hagerty became consistent team leaders with Johnson, Al Woicicki, Paul Woicicki, Hansen and Smith providing needed depth. Although they didn't claim a FWC opponent among their 3 victories, the Cossacks defeated USF twice and UOP as part of tri-meets. "Although we only had 7 members, each one gave 100%," said Sorani. "Our wins were all team efforts," he added.

A last place finish in the FWC Finals provided a learning experience to build upon for several of the younger runners.

Randy Smith became a 3-year participant in the program.

The University of Nevada was the FWC champion.

For the 1967 season, Kim Fleet, Jack Gage and Bill Gillingham teamed with veterans Hagerty, Johnson plus Al and Paul Woicicki. Feige also competed in several meets as well.

"Over the past several years, the FWC has provided a very high level of competition in cross country, producing some of the nation's outstanding College Division (D2) runners. This year was no exception," Sorani said.

Plagued by lack of depth throughout the season, the Cossacks ran on the heels of most of their FWC opponents. However, implementing a strategic race, Hagerty, Gillingham, Gage, Johnson, Fleet and the Woicicki brothers accounted for a 21-31 victory over Chico State.

As the team jelled late in the season, hopes were high for escaping the FWC cellar. However, with Hagerty out with the flu, the Cossacks were barely edged out by Chico State in the Finals and again finished last.

Despite small numbers during Sorani's initial 2 seasons, the Cossacks showed steady improvement. "Although the Woicicki brothers will be lost to graduation, Gage, Gillingham, Hagerty and Johnson showed improvement and should push each other next season, making for a brighter future," said Sorani. Al Woicicki became the program's first 4-year participant.

Humboldt State was the champion in the FWC.

During the 1968 season, a deeper, 10-man squad began applying pressure on opponents. Barry Brummell, Dave Johnson, Norm Johnson, Chuck Melson, Bob Sickler, Craig Silman and Ragnar Thanning lent support to Gage, Gillingham, Hagerty and Mike Johnson.

Cossack runners were improving times and began making themselves known along the West Coast. In the Chico State Invitational, top performances from Gillingham, newcomer Thanning, Gage, Brunnell and Johnson helped them place 7<sup>th</sup> in a field of 11, defeating Southern Oregon, San Francisco State, Stanislaus State and Fresno Pacific, and in the Sacramento State Invitational, placed 8<sup>th</sup> among some of the best competition on the West Coast. In both of these prestigious meets, Gillingham was praised by Sorani for, "his excellence in heavy competition."

Indeed, his high individual ranking within the West Region qualified him for the NCAA College Division championships, held at Wheaton, Illinois. Here, his finish helped Sonoma State to a respectable place 64<sup>th</sup> out of 310 runners. With this solid performance in difficult weather conditions, he became the Cossacks first cross-country participant in the theater of the NCAA. "He showed he can hold his own in National level competition," said Sorani. "He joined with (NCAA Champion) University of Nevada, 6<sup>th</sup> place UC Davis and Humboldt State in boosting FWC prestige."

The Cossacks best team effort occurred in a dual meet versus San Francisco State when Gillingham (1<sup>st</sup>), Brummell (3<sup>rd</sup>), Gage (5<sup>th</sup>), Thanning (9<sup>th</sup>), Hagerty, Melson, N. Johnson, Sickler and Silman accounted for an 18-37 victory. A spirited team now set their sights on the FWC championships held in Reno, Nevada. Here, Gillingham (10<sup>th</sup>), Brunnell (22<sup>nd</sup>), Gage (23<sup>rd</sup>), Hagerty (41<sup>st</sup>), Thanning (52<sup>nd</sup>) and Johnson (55<sup>th</sup>) solidified a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish and helped them climb out of the cellar for the first time in program history!

Gillingham was voted SSC's Male Athlete of the Year for 1968-69.

The University of Nevada was the FWC champion (and also the NCAA champion).

The 8-man 1969 squad was composed of veterans Hagerty, Johnson, Melson, Sickler and Silman plus newcomers Rod Jamieson, Wayne Rostomily and Ragnar Thanning. Joining them was Terri Hannay, the 2<sup>nd</sup> SSC woman to engage in cross-country.

Showing tons of improvement and one win under their belts, the Cossacks slipped to last in the FWC Finals.

Hagerty became the program's second 4-year participant.

Humboldt State was the FWC champion.

On the 1970 team, Dave Johnson and Thanning were joined by a new, supporting cast, including Bill Denmark, Pat Johnson and John Morrow.

With a dual meet win over San Francisco State, the harriers were improving steadily.

The FWC Finals were hosted by Sonoma State on November 7. While the start and finish were located on campus, the majority of the course centered on the undulating, Sonoma Mountain landscape off Roberts Road. UC Davis won the title followed by Chico State, Humboldt State, Sacramento State and Hayward State with Sonoma State in 6<sup>th</sup> place finishing ahead of San Francisco State.

Dave Johnson became the third 4-year participant in the program.

UC Davis was the FWC champion.

Bob Lynde became the head coach in 1971 and was assisted by Sorani.

His first team listed only Denmark, Pat Johnson and Morrow plus newcomer Charles Clausen.

Competing in meets with a thin squad, the Cossacks went winless, placing last in the FWC.

The FWC champion was Sacramento State.

However, the 1972 season ushered in a whole new contingent around returnee Clausen, made up of Gordon Burns, Ernie Gamma Tony Getchalian, Matt Hill, Sigurd Hope, Fred Kenyon, Mario Lazzarotto, Terry Pintane, Steve Slawson and Roger Williams.

"We finally have a team of experienced runners," Lynde said. "Things look promising on the horizon!"

The Cossacks hosted their own Cal State Invitational meet on the hilly, Roberts Road course. At the prestigious UC Davis Invitational, Sonoma State harriers Pintane, Slawson, Williams, Kenyon, Lazzarotto, Burns, Hope Getchalian, Hill and Clausen improved their performances right down the line to finish 7<sup>th</sup> among 9 teams.

In their strongest showing, the Cossacks defeated Stanislaus State 21-37 behind co-first placers Slawson and Gamma and finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the FWC Finals.

FWC champion was UC Davis.

Achieving stronger performances, the 1973 squad improved times steadily in the competitive FWC. Joining returnees Kenyon, Lazzaroto, Pintane and Slawson, newcomers Butch Alexander, Jerry Brott, Bob Bunnell, Bob Curtis, Mike Kornek, John Lynde, Romero Mendoza and Dick Stoltz, they achieved their most satisfying results in program history.

The Cossacks asserted themselves in the Cal Aggie Invitational Meet on October 13, 1973 with a 4<sup>th</sup> place finish in the 10-team event. Bob Bunnell placed 18<sup>th</sup> with a time of 25:59 for the 5-mile course, leading the team to its highest finish in the 4- year appearance in the meet.

They also made additional history by capturing the second annual, 5-team Sonoma State Invitational title. Led by course-record times from Bunnell, Slawson, Pintane, Mendoza and Alexander, the Cossacks claimed the first championship of any kind in program history!

Dual meet wins over San Francisco State (15-43) and Hayward State (21-37) and a powerful effort in the FWC Finals held at Hayward State ensued. Bunnell was the first Cossack, placing 20<sup>th</sup> but Slawson and Alexander were 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. They were followed closely by Romero, Mendoza, Brott, Lazzarotto and Pintane (who was suffering from the flu), combining to lead them to a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish—their highest yet.

Adding a bit of levity to the finals, held on the outskirts of rural Sacramento, an ill-tempered bull briefly chased Steve Slawson off course!

Lynde was also very pleased to have a 9-person women's cross country team, composed of Candie Briggs, Adele Devalos, Mary Herschman, Letta Hlavachek, Joy Leonard, Madeline Paul, Pam Sinsel, Sharyn Wiley and Judith Young. They competed along with the men in FWC meets, running on the same 5-mile courses and also participated in the State Championship Meet, held at the San Mateo City College course on November 11.

"Many of us will be looking forward to running for the Sonoma State track team this spring," said an excited Leonard.

Chico State reigned as the FWC champion.

#### Top Cross-Country Performers Pioneer Athletes

Bill Ranney, Jeff Tuel, Randy Smith, Al and Paul Woicicki, Bill Gillingham, Jack Gage, Frank Hagerty, Dave Johnson, Fred Kenyon, Terry Pintane, Steve Slawson, Ragnar Thanning and Ernie Gamma proved to be consistent placers in the decade of SSC cross-country.



TOP POINT GETTERS

Bottom (l-r)—Ed Major, Bill Ranney, Carl Carlson. Second Row (l-r)—Dale Mast, Carl Jensen, Jeff Tuel, Rich Kotoff.

Press Democrat, Santa Rosa, Calif., Fri., Nov. 17, 1967.



ing!  
second and third  
e failed to get a  
the top 10 finish-



Press Democrat photo

SONOMA STATES' distance team goes into competition for the final time tomorrow, running in the Far Western Conference championships at Reno. The "lineup" (left to right): Craig Sil-

man, Ragnar Thuning, Robert Siekler, Norm Johnson, Bill Gillingham, Barry Brunmel, Jack Gage, Frank Hugerty, and coach Bob Soraru. Chuck Melson and Rod Jameison are not pictured.



## Intercollegiate Football Team Progression

Each team plays each other conference member in a single round with the best win-loss record determining the FWC champion. That winner is seeded into a 16-team, single elimination tournament, with the eventual winner being crowned NCAA College Division champions.

It was appropriate that the Cossacks took up the game in 1969, for that year marked the centennial of college football. One-hundred-years ago Rutgers and Princeton played the first college game.

SSC's inaugural season was against JV/Junior College competition and the team was composed largely of experienced Junior College transfers, many from Southern California. Under the patient guidance of head coach, Lloyd Helgeson, and assistants Carl Peterson, Bob Donlan, Dave Francis, Frank Scalercio, Sr. and Charlie Bird, conditioning and pre-season practices were held for the entire 98-member squad (see Team Rosters for complete list) in the campus stadium, a grassed field surrounded by dirt berms with bleacher seating to be installed.

Spirits were high throughout but as the opener loomed, the bleachers were delayed indefinitely and unavailable for installation. This necessitated all home games to be moved to local high school and Junior College fields when available. On a disappointing note, this took away some of the "home field" atmosphere but didn't deflate the team.

Under an inauspicious start, the Sept. 25 contest versus nationally ranked Arizona Western Junior College resulted in a 56-0 waxing, most likely forgotten. Regrouping, the Cossacks hosted Hayward State's JV team at Durst Field in Petaluma, another "home" game. Results were much more favorable as the Cossacks registered a 21-7 victory, their first in program history (see Initial Team wins).

Sandwiched between a pair of non-conference losses to Taft Junior College and the Santa Clara JV's, the Cossacks took care of FWC business, beating U.C. Davis (21-14), San Francisco State (19-0) and then ran wild against Chico State. Bill Cox passed for 186 yards, including a 40-yard TD strike to Chris Alvarado, Jack Trujillo ran a kickoff back 85 yards for a TD, Luther Nelson and Bernard Jones scored and controlled the ground attack to key a 33-8 win, while Rich Lewandowski, John Bussman, Rob Sears and Bob DePippo keyed a relentless defense.

This set up a season-ending matchup against Sacramento State, which was likewise undefeated. In the first game ever played on campus, the Cossacks edged the Hornets 20-15 in a tight skirmish to finish with an unblemished 5-0 FWC record and claim the FWC's "Mythical JV Championship."

This initial team truly embodied a "band of brothers" mentality and with an overall record of 5-3, produced Sonoma State's first team championship! The first football team was honored at an awards banquet, held at the Los Robles Lodge in Santa Rosa after the season. Amid the festivities, players were presented certificates and Varsity letters, with numerous accolades following.

Alvarado received the Outstanding Player and Outstanding Back awards. In addition, he also received the Rohnert Park Clarion's "Player of the Year" trophy.

Rounding out the first football awards gathering, trophies were awarded to DePippo (Outstanding Defensive Back), Jim Baker (Outstanding Offensive Lineman), Bennie Guerra (Outstanding Defensive Lineman), Mike Johnson and Sam Tharpe (Co-Most Inspirational Players) and DePippo (Team Captain).

While Helgeson was honored as, "Football Coach of the Year," by the Rohnert Park Clarion, a special highlight involved players presenting him with an autographed football-the game ball from the Sacramento State JV championship game. He lavished praise on every member of the first year squad as well as assistant coaches Peterson, Donlan, Bird, Scalercio Sr. and Francis, mentioning how close he had been to every member of the team. " This is the greatest bunch of boys I have ever worked with."

Inexplicably, Helgeson's teaching/coaching contract was not renewed after the spring, 1970 term.

The FWC varsity champion was Hayward State.

Carl Peterson took over the head coaching reins in 1970, assisted by Dave Gibbs, Bill Trumbo, Doug Earl, Frank Scalercio, Sr. and Dave Zeigler.

The team was competing at the Varsity level although ineligible for the FWC crown. With offensive linemen Baker taking a personal leave and Doug Pricer lost due to a diagnosed spinal injury, the Cossacks welcomed back a core of 16 members from the 1969 squad. Returning vets included Aldridge, Jim Boesinger, Blankenship, DePippo, Bruce Ferguson, Lloyd Otto Goode, Guerra, Johnson, Rich Lewandowski, Herman Manuel, Nelson, Mike O'Conner, Larry Russell, Rob Sears, Tharpe and Jack Trujillo.

Key newcomers included Al Artiaga, Jody Buna, Mike Bell, Tom O'Connor, Richard Darsam, Gary Dellepere, Rich Garretson, Donivan Hall, Dennis Hudson, Alex Lissow, Mike McBee, Tom O'Connor, Chuck Pearlman, Charlie Rada, Simon Ramos, Bob Rebbe, Ray Rivers, Phil Rider, Tad Roberts, Ernie Simon, Gene Smith, Steve Smith and Gary Walker.

Clancy Barham, Pat Bolger, Aaron Burhel, Rick Jones, Dennis Lanze, Tony Martinez, Dave Nagle, Richard Ramos, Mitch Richards, Jon Steward, Rich Trent, Damon Watson, Dave Christopherson, Aram Palodian and Ron Stone rounded out the roster.

Due to ongoing bleacher malfunctions, home games were played at Santa Rosa Junior College's Bailey Field.

The Cossacks garnered their first Varsity win with a 17-14 decision over Azusa-Pacific University (see Initial Team Wins), followed by a 21-20 nail-biter over Oregon Technical Institute, their first FWC win, a 24-11 pounding of UC Davis (see Initial Team Wins) and a tight 33-27 victory over USF for 4 wins. Along with a 20-20 tie with San Francisco State, agonizing losses by narrow margins occurred to St. Mary's College (13-6) and Cal Lutheran University (16-14).

Following a very impressive 4-4-1 first Varsity season, the Cossacks were thinking a title contender for the following season when they would be eligible for the FWC crown. They would lose Charlie Rada and Mike O'Connor to graduation.



Since they didn't play every team in the conference, players weren't eligible for All-Conference recognition. However, Simon (who was 2<sup>nd</sup> in conference passing with 1,401 yards), along with teammates DePippo, Guerra and Trujillo, were given "Special Recognition" in the 1970 All-FWC selections.

Chico State and Hayward State were crowned FWC co-champions.

For the 1971 season, Peterson added assistants Jim Lance and Gene Pickerel to Scalercio, Sr. and Trumbo. They welcomed 3<sup>rd</sup> year lettermen Aldridge, Ferguson, Guerra, Nelson, Russell, Sears, Tharpe and Trujillo as the central nucleus of the team. Joining them were returnees Artiaga, Baker, Barham, Buna, Hall, Hudson, Lissow, Milligan, Nagle, Pearlman, Ramos, Rebbe, Rivers, Sager, Scholtes, Simon and Steve Smith. Buckley, Jim Crews, Richard Duarte, Ron Gleason, Earle Greene, Val Hole, Charlie Porter, Ramirez, Paul Renfrow, Larry Roudenbush and John Steward rounded out the squad.

Bad luck intervened but SSC persevered throughout the season. Outstanding efforts kept them in most games but in the long run produced a 2-8 record and 0-6 in FWC. In what could have been, turned into agonizing losses to Whittier College (10-7), Sacramento State (23-22), Hayward State (22-21) and Humboldt State (6-0). Wins over USF and Oregon Tech provided some consolation.

There was absolutely no lack of effort and the team played to the best of their capabilities.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual SSC Football awards banquet was held at the Holiday Inn. Donivan Hall was named Cossack Most Valuable Player. An offensive flanker-turned defensive safety in mid-season, he was all FWC honorable mention and led the team in interceptions.

Other awards:

Most Improved Players: Alex Lissow and Clancey Barham.

Most Inspirational Award: Sam Tharpe.

Scholar Athlete Award: Luther Nelson.

Outstanding Offensive Lineman: Steve Sager.

Outstanding Defensive Lineman: Steve Smith.

Outstanding Back Award: Jack Trujillo.

Outstanding Defensive Back Award: Rob Sears.

Team Captains: Joe Aldridge and Larry Russell.

Chico State and UC Davis were crowned FWC co-champions. (This title for Davis started an incredible run of 20+ consecutive fb titles, which was broken by Sonoma State in 1991).

On April 24, 1972 president Thomas H. McGrath announced that football was to be dropped immediately but that the college would continue to field teams in all other major sports. In making the announcement, he noted that under the financial restraints placed on the program by a lack of state or student fees, "there is no way we can field representative teams in the FWC if the major portion of the funds raised through community support has to go to football."

Top performers during three year existence of SSC football include: Jack Trujillo, Luther Nelson, Rob Sears, Bob DePippo, Chris Alvarado, Jim Baker, Benny Guerra, Mike Johnson, Sam Tharpe, Larry Russell, Ernie Simon, Charlie Rada, Alex Lissow, Clancey Barham, Steve Sager, Steve Smith, Joe Aldridge, Donivan Hall and others.

## Addendum

### Fond Memories by Doug Pricer

Sonoma State's initial team was coached by 48-year old Lloyd Helgeson. Not only was he a smart, capable recruiter but he thought of us as men and treated us accordingly. He had no policies on hair or appearance (other than dressing nice on the road), no interest in a players race, called us by our last names, was approachable, serious, professional and respectful.

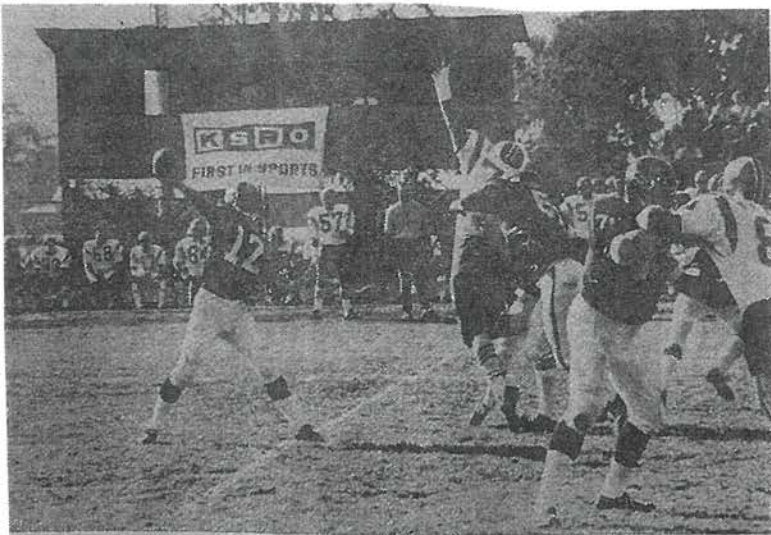
Regarding the first team, everything was new. The gym, the locker rooms with big varsity lockers and all of the equipment was brand new. The building smelled like concrete, fresh paint and floor wax. You could smell the fresh varnish on the wooden benches in the meeting rooms where we gathered for the first time.

Our band of brothers all had our individual political and social positions. "None of these had anything to do with us as a team. Between the lines at practice and between the lines in games, we were one and the same-Cossack blue on the field!"

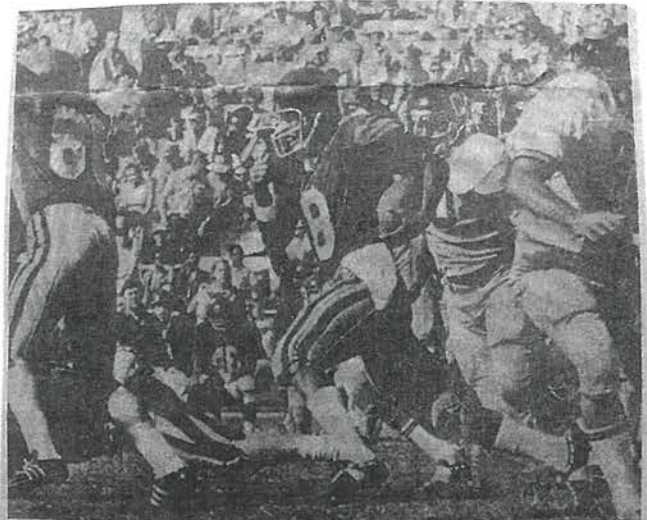
We were very excited about the historic first game on campus, which would also decide the championship! "The day of the 1969 Sac State game was a typical Sonoma County November day. The sky was gray, temperatures brisk and the Sonoma Mountains emerald green-a beautiful day for a game. The football field had never been played on and the grass was smooth and cut like a golf green. White chalk lined the field, SSC was inscribed in the end zones and 'Beat Sac' inscribed on the hillside."

The pair of games played against Arizona Western and Taft were Junior College teams laden with numerous All-Americans and D-1 players from all across the nation. Several went on to play for major colleges with 5 playing in the NFL!

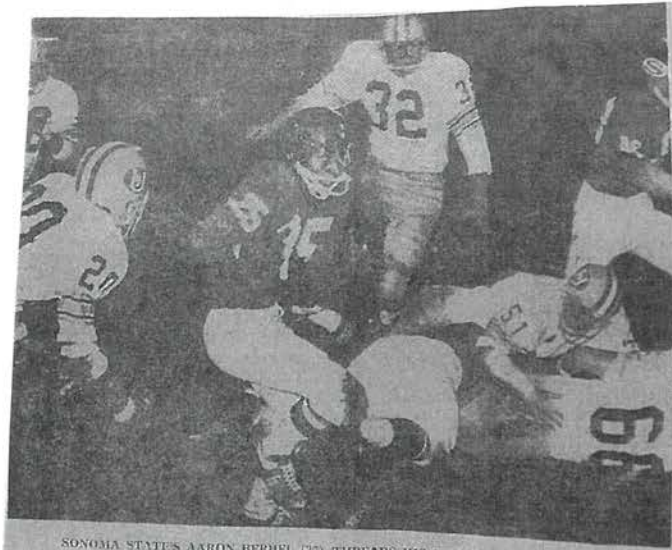
It is with great pride that the 1969 Football Team was inducted into Sonoma State University's Athletic Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2014.



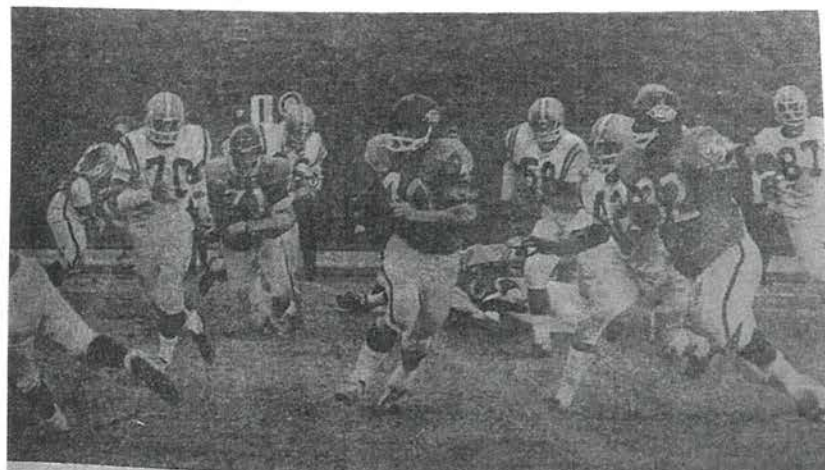
—Staff Photos by Joe Price Jr.  
**QUARTERBACK ERNIE SIMON (12) CRANKED UP AND LET FLY**  
 He Spotted a Receiver Streaking Down the Right Sidelines



**AND JACK TRUJILLO WAS ON RECEIVING END OF THIS OUT PATTERN**  
 He Later Streaked Downfield to Take TD Pass Unmolested



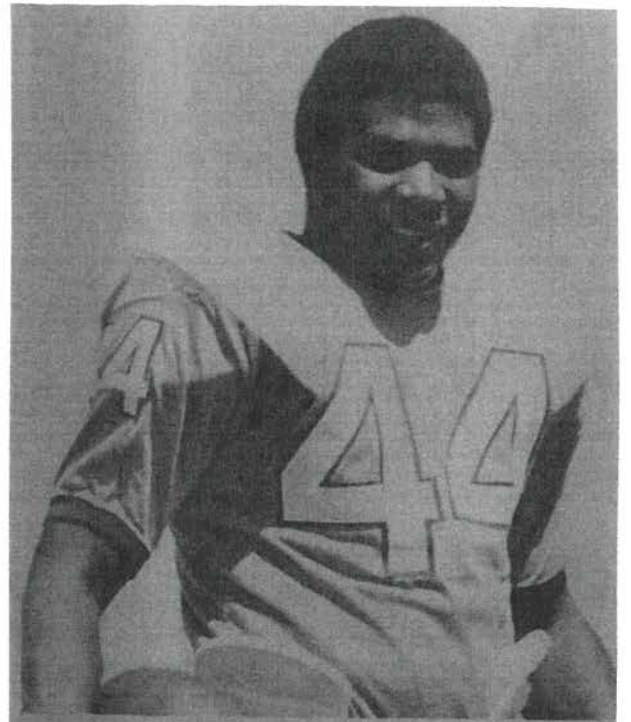
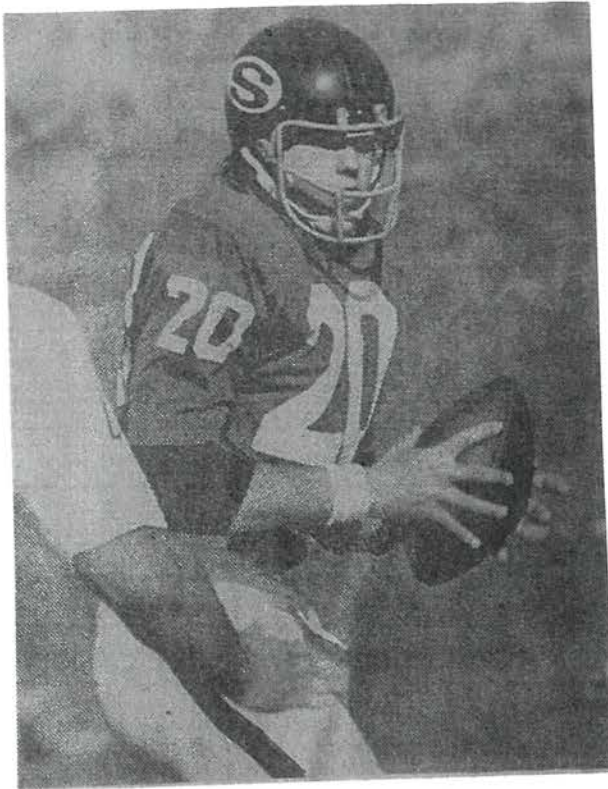
—First Democrat Photo  
**SONOMA STATES AARON BERHEL (25) THREADS HIS WAY THROUGH TRAFFIC**  
 Berhel Rushed for 80 Yards in 20 Carries in 33-27 Win Over USF Saturday



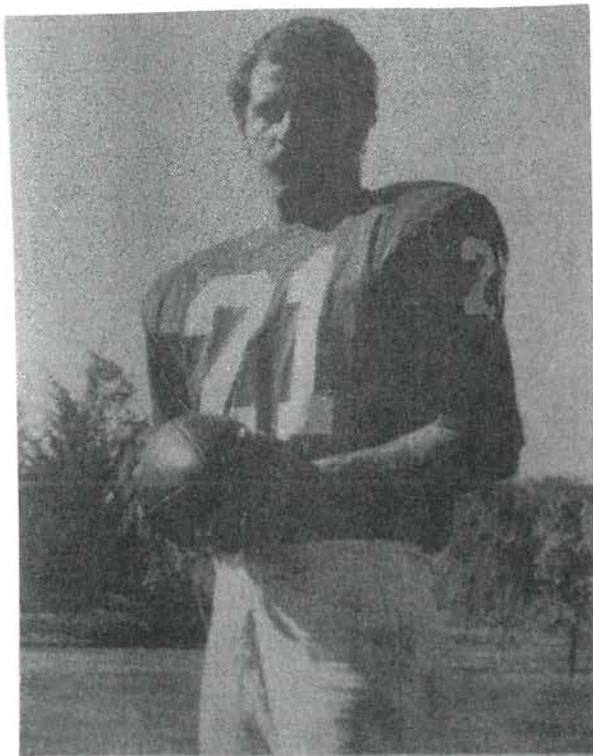
—First Democrat Photo  
**SONOMA ST. GRID OPPONENTS WILL HAVE TO RESPECT NO. 40**  
 That's Chris Alvarado, Leading SSC Ground Gainer in 1969



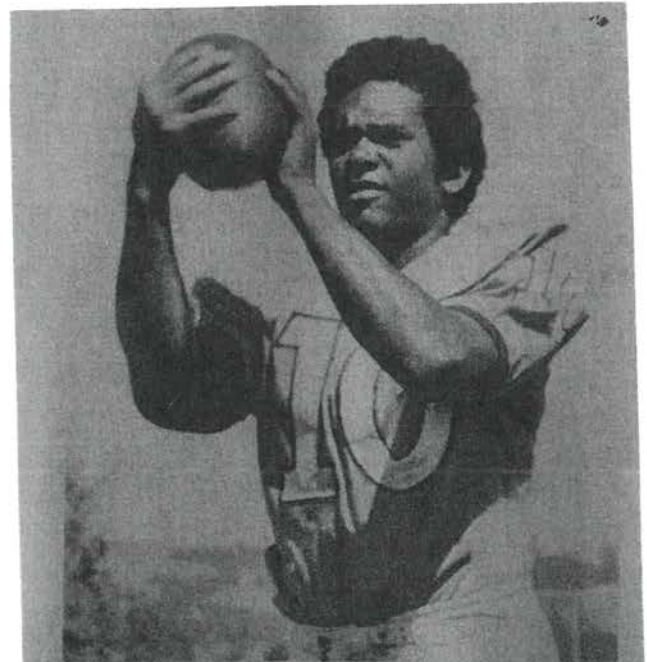
**SIMON AT QUARTERBACK AS THE COSSACKS MOVE DOWN FIELD AGAINST OREGON**  
 TECH TO A 24-12 VICTORY



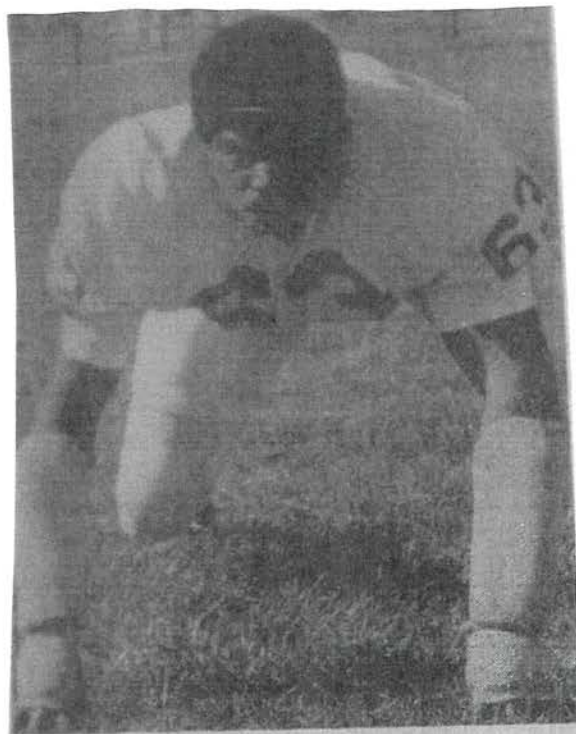
Luther Nelson



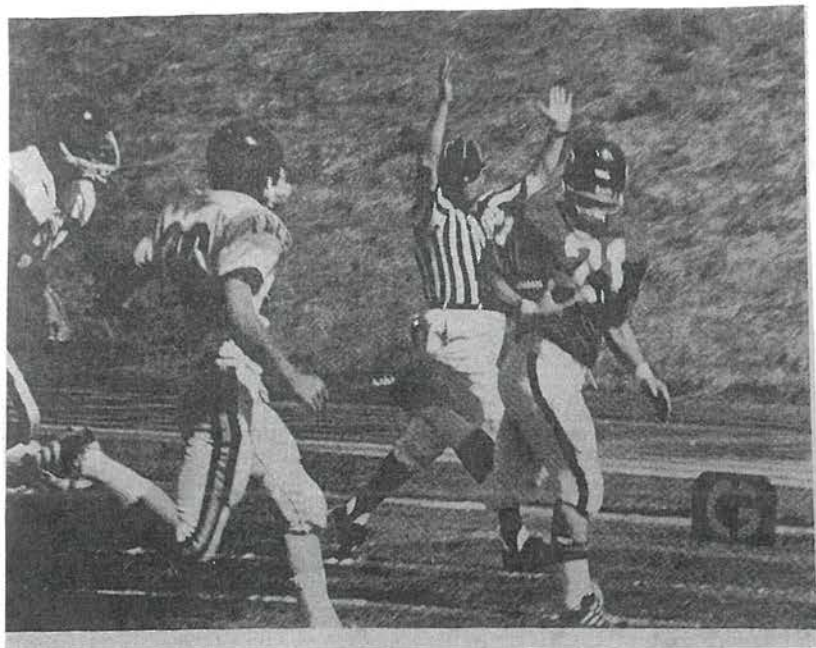
Jack Trujillo



DONIVAN HALL  
MOST VALUABLE PLAYER



Sam Tharpe



## Intercollegiate Golf Progression

The team with the lowest number of strokes among its top 5 players is the winner. Dual matches are held among conference teams during the regular season, but all teams compete together in the 2-day FWC tournament. The team with the lowest combined number of strokes is crowned the FWC champion.

The winning team and top scoring individuals not on the championship team qualify for West Regional play. Winners of the 8 regions meet in a large match to determine the NCAA College Division team champion and individual winner.

It should be noted that SSC was joining a conference that was traditionally powerful in golf, often with multiple teams ranked regionally and nationally.

In the spring of 1964, Ed Rudloff greeted the college's initial team, composed of Grant Bodwell, Pete Golis, Don Graham, Dennis Murr and Ken G. Smith. While the team practiced at the Petaluma Golf & Country Club and the newly-constructed Rohnert Park Public Golf Course, they competed only in away matches against FWC opponents.

Greatly over-matched against the more experienced programs, they finished winless but competed gamely and learned valuable lessons for the following campaign.

Murr was a 5 handicap player but the team was winless and finished last in the FWC Championship Tournament.

The 1965 Cossacks exhibited more balance. Returning lettermen Bodwell, Golis and Murr added Glen Isaacs, Dale Mast, Courtney Peck and Jim Rustad.

Playing on soggy courses courtesy of the past winter's heavy rainfall and suffering from lack of practice time, the team struggled early in the season. A highlight was hosting their first match against Humboldt State (ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in the West Region) on the Rohnert Park Golf Course (young team and young course).

A lowlight was losing teammate Dale Mast (see Recollections).

Showing a marked, 100-stroke improvement in lowering team scores (as in cross-country, the lowest score wins), the Cossacks finished winless and last in the FWC Tournament.

Joining Golis, Isaacs and Peck, Dennis Casarotti, Jack Kantor, Martin Rist and Glen Waters, the 1966 team added more experience. The Cossacks gained a bit of impetus as lower team scores became the trend as the season progressed.

Rudloff's squad also claimed the program's initial win, a 10 ½ to 7 ½ decision over Two Rock Ranch Army Base (this was Rudloff's second "first" win, the first being in basketball).

Despite continued improvement in lowering match scores, the Cossacks finished last in the FWC Finals (of particular note is that FWC member, Chico State, progressed through the West Regional and won the 1966 men's NCAA College Division National championship, typifying the FWC's high-ranking reputation). Golis became the program's first 3-year participant.

In 1967, the only returning letterman, Jack Kantor, was joined by newcomers Eric Bjorkman, Chris Blanchard, Bill Counterman, Dave Herrington, Dan Marioni, John Walker and Bruce Wold.

Inclement weather again played a part in team progression, as the spring was a particularly wet one. "We had as many rainouts as matches played," said Rudloff. The rain-shortened schedule produced no wins and a last place finish in the FWC Finals.

Again showing the conference's overall strength, defending NCAA champion Chico State and nationally-ranked Sacramento State shared the FWC championship, each totaling 771 strokes, far out-distancing SSC's 875 total.

The 1968 season revealed the largest turnout of golfers in program history. Herrington, Marioni and Wold were joined by Charlie Canlas, Mike Crowley, Ray Dull, Dan Fortlin, Ron Goodrich, Dave Mahoney, Scott Meyer, Roger Milne, Rich Trusendi and Bruce Wolcott.

With added intra-team competition, stroke reductions improved, resulting in the achievement of another program milestone. Playing on a well-manicured course, the Cossacks defeated St. Mary's College in Moraga by an 11-7 score, the first intercollegiate win in program history (the victory over Two Rock Ranch Army Base was a non-collegiate foe).

Team scores improved and the Cossacks were more competitive but still finished last in the FWC Finals.

Struck hard by graduation, numbers dropped drastically for the 1969 season. Herrington, Meyer, Milne and Wolcott paired with newcomer Bill Cox to form this year's thin squad.

Winless in all matches, they finished last in the FWC.

In 1970, newcomers Jim Boesinger, Dave Carty and Gordy Jones were welcomed by Cox, Herrington and Meyer.

While SSC's top 2 or 3 golfers could usually match up with their opponent's stroke count, the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> men were often overwhelmed by deeper squads. Again, SSC finished last in the FWC and winless in dual competition. Herrington became the first 4-year participant in the program.

The 1971 Cossacks featured returning letterman Boesinger and newcomers Joe Aldridge, Jim Baker, Dave Carty and Del Henry.

While competitive in a pair dual meet wins against Hamilton Air Force Base and Two Rock Ranch Army Base, the Cossacks were soundly beaten in the FWC Finals, finishing last.

During the 1972 season, Dave Castleberry became Rudloff's assistant and handled many of the day-to-day practices. Fortunes also turned a bit in favor of the Cossacks as a friend of Rudloff, who was the golf coach at Diablo Valley College, convinced a pair of talented golfers to transfer to SSC. Thus, Mike Jones and Mike O'Keefe were

joined by Jon Barnes, Dan Davis, Paul Feldman, Jon Fuller, Rich Goldfien, Bob Harrison, Mike McBee, and Don Smith.

Indeed, with increased numbers and lowered scores, the outlook changed for the positive. The Cossacks won a pair non-conference matches against the University of the Pacific (UOP) and St. Mary's College, played with confidence and suddenly earned the respect of all opponents. Especially in the FWC, their stroke counts suddenly matched many of the top teams.

The FWC Final Tournament crowned UC Davis as the champion. While finishing last, Sonoma State was a mere 6 strokes from climbing out of the cellar, and the groundwork was laid for the future.

With Feldman, Jones, O'Keefe and Smith as the nucleus of the 1973 Cossacks, experienced golfers Paul Grona, Mike McBee, Mike O'Connor and Bill Stephens were also added.

The major improvement in matches continued not just in lowered strokes but in team confidence as well. "Their swagger was noticeable," said Castleberry.

Program history was also set, twice! After edging UOP on March 3, 1973, the Cossacks won their second consecutive match, defeating Stanislaus State 18-9 on March 11. While setting the program's first 2-match win streak, the Cossacks also achieved their first FWC win (Although not eligible for the championship, Stanislaus State was the FWC's newest member).

The FWC Finals were hosted by SSC at the Silverado Golf & Country Club in Napa. Under sunny skies and steady wind, Sacramento State won the championship but SSC's reputation gained impetus during the event. With dramatic improvement, the Cossacks made Hayward State and San Francisco State sweat heavily as they narrowly finished last.

The 1974 Cossacks were composed of a small, albeit solid, nucleus of returning stars. Grona, Jones, McBee, O'Keefe and Stephens joined forces with Tom O'Neil to form a very dedicated and accomplished unit.

Competing against several non-conference foes, the improvement continued, scores were continually lowered and the Cossacks 4 wins set another program high.

Building on that momentum, probably the most significant program moment occurred in the FWC Finals. Here, SSC escaped the cellar at the expense of new member, Stanislaus State, an extremely gratifying achievement for the band of Cossacks who set new standards.

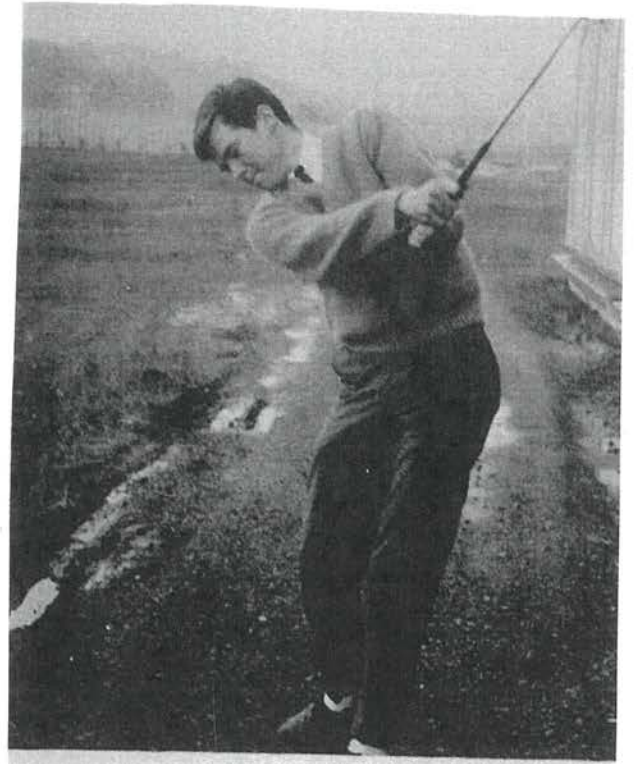
Jones and O'Keefe became 3-year participants.

Top golfers include Dennis Murr, Pete Golis, Dave Herrington, Dan Marioni, Bruce Wold, Jim Boesinger, Mike O'Keefe, Mike Jones, Paul Grona, Mike McBee, Bill Stephens and Glen Isaacs,

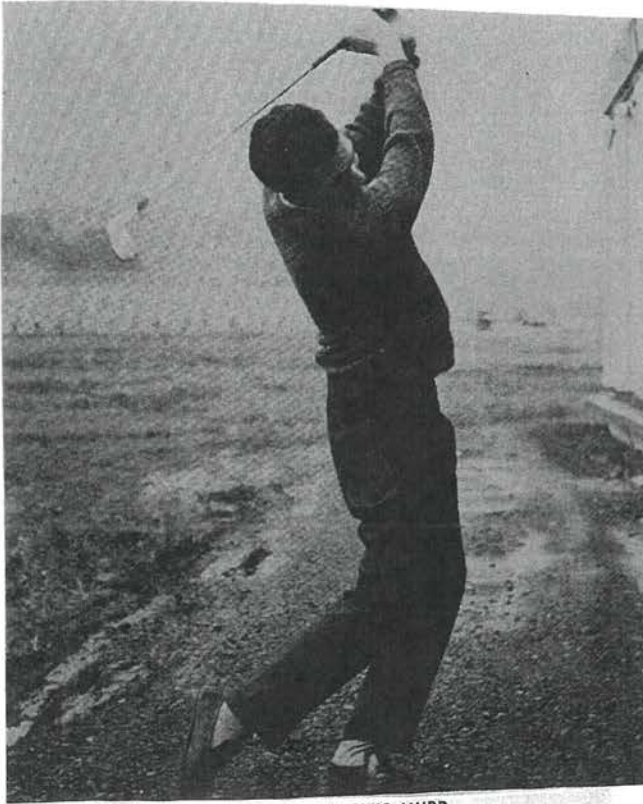




L-R: Dr. Edward Rudloff, Coach; Don Graham, Dennis Murr, Grant Bodwell, Ken Smith.



NEWCOMER DALE MAST



VETERAN DENNIS MURR



FROSH SENSATION  
JIM RUSTAD

## Intercollegiate Swimming Progression

1962-63: Taking their first dives and strokes into the FWC pool realm, coach Joel Grose's 5-member contingent consisted of swimmers Dana Allen, Carl Carlson, Paul Eiserich and Dave Lucchese plus diver Les Easterly.

Assisted by Bob Miyashiro, they practiced at both the Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC) and the Rohnert Park swimming pools and proudly represented Sonoma State as they participated in away FWC meets.

Since this was the college's initial season, each swimmer or diver established school records in every event they entered.

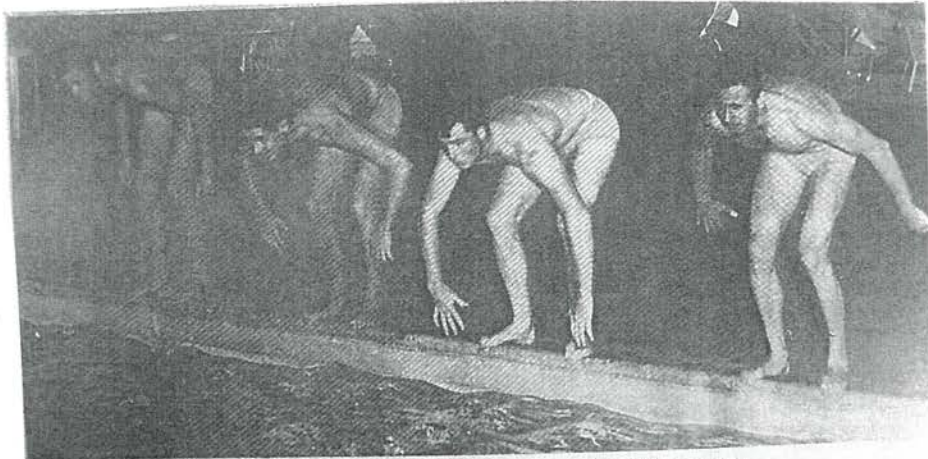
1963-64: In its second season, Ed Rudloff welcomed returning letterman Lucchese and newcomer Guy Sandlin. Still representing the Cossacks, both men participated in away meets and each re-set individual times from the previous season.

A 1963 Steppes newspaper article mentioned, "School records were recorded by all who participated and record holders will go down in the history of Sonoma State College and the annals of the Cossack's ever-growing intercollegiate program."

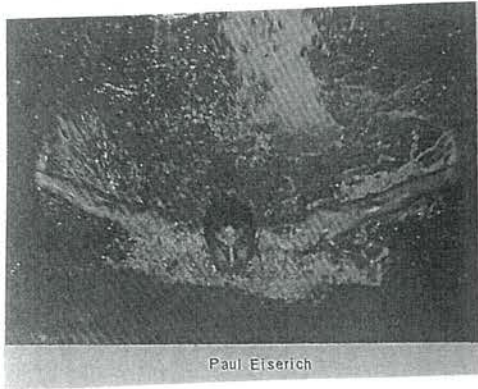
Apparently no statistics or established records were ever chronicled for the 2-year program, but nevertheless are still standing.

During December 1964, the decision was made to drop swimming from the list of sports offered at Sonoma State. "The decision was based solely on lack of interest among the student body," according to Grose.

Miyashiro went on to develop highly successful men's and women's swimming programs at SRJC.



LR: Carl Carlson, Dana Allen, Dave Lucchese, Paul Eiserich



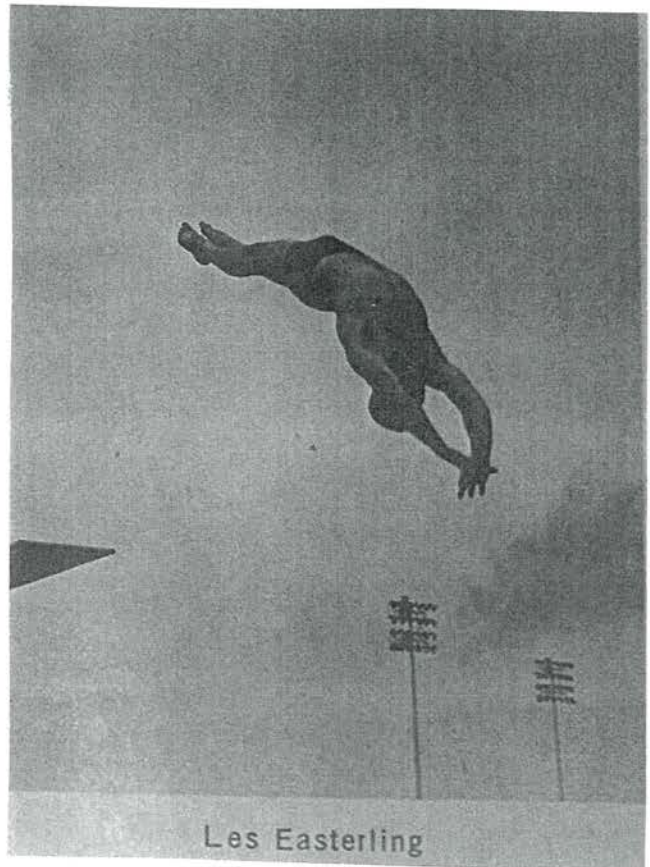
Paul Eiserich



Dave Lucchese



Dr. Joel Grose, Coach  
Dave Lucchese



Les Easterling

## Intercollegiate Tennis Progression

While dual matches are held, the actual FWC winner is decided by a seeded, ladder-style, 2-day tournament including singles and doubles matches. The team with the most points totaled is declared the winner. The top winning team and top individuals compete in the West Regional tournament with the winners advancing to the NCAA College Division tournament. Here, total points account for both the team and individual NCAA National Champion.

1962-63: The era of intercollegiate athletics at Sonoma State dawned with the formation of the first tennis team when Ed Rudloff welcomed Hal Brown and Carl Carlson to the initial campaign.

Without any on-site facilities, they practiced on city courts and participated in both singles and doubles FWC matches at Chico State, Hayward State, San Francisco State and UC Davis.

Brown and Carlson enjoyed the first bit of fame for SSC as they won an exhibition doubles match against Chico State.

UC Davis won the FWC championship.

1963-64: Stan Goertzen replaced Rudloff, and worked tirelessly to establish a strong program, mostly with local talent. As the sole returnee, Carlson welcomed some talented and experienced netmen, including Rich Carsner, Ed Dunlap, Dave Fougner, Carl C. Jensen, Dave Schapiro and Jerry Zanelli.

Fielding a full team, the Cossacks were able to practice and play on their own campus courts, competing against FWC dual competition. They finished winless and last in the FWC Finals but gained plenty of experience.

The FWC champion was Sacramento State.

1964-65: Newcomers Jack Hemingway (son of the famous Ernest Hemingway) and Les Young joined forces with a solid nucleus of returnees Carlson, Carsner, Dunlap and Shapiro to become noticed in the FWC.

The Cossacks win versus the University of Nevada on the new campus courts (see Initial Wins in Program History) was a highlight and larger FWC schools were put on notice. Their final 3-5 dual meet record also included wins over Chico State and San Quentin.

The team showed marked improvement as it matched up strongly with opponents but had limited success in dual meets. Although SSC finished in last place, the talented Dunlap became one of the most respected (and feared) by conference foes. He accounted for SSC's only points in the FWC Finals.

San Francisco State claimed the FWC championship.

1965-66: Eric Pearson filled in as coach for the 1966 season when Goertzen went on sabbatical. Steady returnees Carsner, Carlson, Hemingway and Young joined newcomers Bjorn Nelson, Gil Schmidt, Harry Strouse and Dayl Thompson.

A dual match win over San Quentin accounted for their season's only win, but the doubles teams of Thompson/Schmidt made it to the quarterfinals while Carsner/Young advanced to the semifinal round of the FWC Tournament Final. The 2 points they scored for finishing 6<sup>th</sup> still left them last in the FWC Finals.

Carlson was recognized as the program's first 4-year participant; Carsner the first 3-year participant.

San Francisco State was the FWC champion.

1966-67: Goertzen returned as coach but with Schmidt and Thompson the only returnees, faced a rebuilding effort. New members included Bill Delia, Jon Owens, Bill Powell, Ralph Smith and Dave Thomas.

With only 1 non-conference win, all the players were all eliminated in the first round of the FWC Finals, and the Cossacks finished last. Smith, at 57 and Powell, at 42, became the oldest entrants in the 1967 FWC Finals.

The FWC champion was San Francisco State.

1967-68: Returnees Delia, Owens and Shapiro bonded with Mike Lynch, Jim McNeary, Leon Richards and Rick Thomas.

Winless in all FWC dual matches, the team finished 2-8 overall. Solid efforts by Delia, Shapiro and Smith ensued in the FWC Finals, but all were eliminated short of scoring points.

Hayward State claimed their first FWC championship (this began a run of 9 consecutive conference titles for the Pioneers).

1968-69: Delia, Lynch, McNeary, Richards and Shapiro joined newcomer Jim Claitor.

Continuing to improve and bond as a unit, the team secured 2 wins over San Quentin but went winless against FWC dual competition. In the FWC Finals, Claitor, Lynch and Shapiro advanced through the quarterfinals but their 6 points still left the Cossacks in last place.

This marked the final season for Goertzen, who retired from coaching. Schapiro became a 4-year participant in the program.

Hayward State won the FWC championship.

1969-70: Jim Gale took over for Goertzen. Claitor and Lynch welcomed newcomers (?) Brand, Mike Gabbard, Hilary Hawkins, Mike McBride and Dave Thomas.

A 6-3 win over St. Mary's College on April 11, 1970 highlighted the non-conference portion of the schedule. Singles wins by Claitor, Gabbard, Thomas and McBride plus doubles wins by Hawkins/Claitor and Thomas/Gabbard keyed the

win. Another decision over St. Mary's added to their 3-win season, as the team was showing signs of improving.

In the FWC Finals, Claitor, Lynch and McBride all advanced past first rounds but their combined 6 points left SSC in last place.

Hayward State won the FWC title.

1970-71: Claitor, Gabbard, Lynch, McBride and Dave Thomas greeted newcomer Larry Sinclair.

Winless in dual matches, Claitor, Lynch and McBride all advanced past the quarterfinals, accounting for 8 points in the FWC Finals. Although SSC finished in last, they were advancing more players toward the Finals. Lynch became another 4-year participant in the program.

The FWC champion was Hayward State.

1971-72: The team's 2 returnees, McBride and Sinclair, were joined by newcomers Jeff Farnum, Tom Hofferaman, Mark Robbins, Fred Straub and Ron White.

With an expanded schedule, including a few out-of-state-colleges, the team found the right magic as the season progressed. Gale was extremely pleased with the elevated level of play as this version of the Cossacks finished with their best dual match record in program history, a 9-7 won-loss mark.

This momentum carried over into the FWC Finals Here, Sinclair, White, McBride and Robbins all placed, to lead them to a 5<sup>th</sup> place in the FWC, their best record and highest standing in program history!

Hayward State claimed another FWC championship.

1972-73: Returning lettermen McBride and White were accompanied by Wendell Baily, Don Collins, Stu Drake, Bruce Kuhlman, Marc Navarro, Howard Ortman, Paul Pedersen and Ken Rossilon.

The Cossacks were suddenly brimming with confidence as they bonded as a unit. On March 4, 1973, Sonoma beat conference foe Stanislaus State by a 7-2 margin. In the win, White, Collins, Baily and Ortman won singles matches and White/Pederson, Collins/Navarro and Baily/Kuhlman recorded doubles decisions.

On March 19, Sonoma State's Ron White won the Consolation title in the Sacramento Invitational Tournament held in the state capitol (the first championship of any sorts for the program). He defeated competitors from Stanislaus State, Chico State and Fresno State along the way.

In a match finished in near-darkness, White beat his opponent, adding the final cog in a 5-4 win over Montana State University. Besides singles winners White, Kuhlman, Baily and Ortman, Baily/Kuhlman won the deciding doubles match.

SSC completed the dual meet season with an 8-1 win over San Francisco State and a 5-4 decision over Humboldt State to finish with their second-best record in program history at 5-5.

The FWC Finals provided their best finish yet, where White, Collins and Kuhlman keyed a solid 5<sup>th</sup> place ahead of San Francisco State and Humboldt State. McBride became a 4-year participant in the program.

Hayward State reigned as FWC champion.

1973-74: Newcomers Mike Hanlon and Bill Lewin joined forces with returnees Baily, Collins, Drake, Ortman and White to comprise the squad.

With smaller numbers, the competition within the team progression ladder suffered but 3 well-earned wins were morale boosters.

In the FWC Finals, White, Ortman, Hanlon, Lewin and Baily produced enough points to lift SSC to a 6<sup>th</sup> place finish, ending the challenging year on a high note. White became a 3-year participant in the program.

For the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Hayward State was the FWC champion.

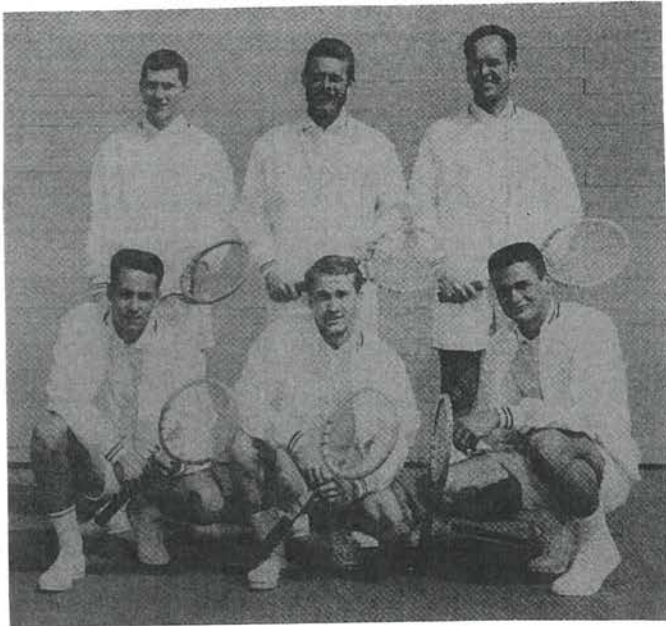
Notables throughout the dozen SSC tennis years were Carl Carlson, Rich Carsner, Dace Schapiro, Ed Dunlap, Bill Delia, Mike Lynch, Jim Claitor, Larry Sinclair, Mike McBride, Ron White, Don Collins, Bruce Kuhlman and Howard Ortman.



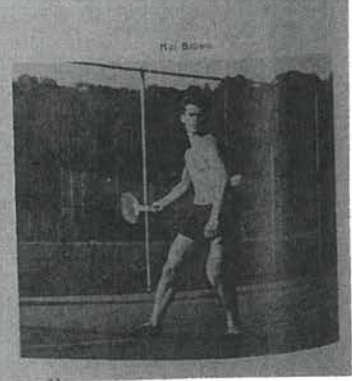
EDWIN V. DUNLAP



Dr. Edward Russell Cook



Bill Garrison



Hal Boren



## Intercollegiate Track & Field Progression

Far Western Conference colleges participate in dual or tri-meets with conference opponents, but the winner of the 2-day FWC Finals meet is crowned as conference champion. Both running and field events are totaled. The winning team and top-placing individuals also advance to the Western Regional meet. Top 5 participants in both running and field events advance to the final NCAA College Division Finals to determine the National champion.

Eric Pearson coached the first track team, which had its inception in the spring of 1965. Composed of 11 members, the Cossacks had no formal track facilities on campus, and trained on the spacious lawn fields adjacent to the tennis courts and baseball diamond. They competed in away meets as part of tri-meets.

Sonoma State's first ever competitions occurred on March 13, 1965 along with Humboldt State, hosted by Hayward State. Don Boger, Pete Lathrop, Ed Major, Bill Ranney, Randy Smith, Bill Williams and Al Woicicki entered running events while Dale Aman, Jerry Gromer, Terry Langley and Bruce McKee were entered in field events.

Having the distinction of being on the first team, all participants established school records in their events. Boger set the 100-yard dash mark at 13.1; Williams the 400 at 58.4; Woicicki the 800 at 2:21; Major in the 1,200 at 8:17 and Smith in the mile at 11:12.5. Gromer in the discus and Langley and McKee in the javelin were consistent, season-long performers. While Aman recorded a 19'-2" long jump and 36'-3" triple jump, Gromer set the initial school record in the discus with a distance of 146' 7" (which holds down the 6<sup>th</sup> spot in the now-retired sport) and McKee's distance of 182' established the initial school record in the javelin.

Woicicki earned a pair of 4<sup>th</sup> places in the triple jump (his 37'-2" eclipsed Aman's previous mark), Williams a 4<sup>th</sup> in the 400 and Gromer a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the discus to account for the only points scored in dual meets.

Always upbeat, Pearson was pleased with the overall efforts of the groundbreaking team.

The Cossack contingent participated 6 tri-meets and the FWC Finals, held on May 14 and 15 at San Francisco State. No Cossacks placed in the Finals.

The University of Nevada claimed the FWC title.

In the spring of 1966, Bob Sorani and Joel Grose shared the helm of the program. With small numbers and emphasizing individual improvement, the 9-person squad, was composed of new runners Tom Clancy, Rich Hughes, Bill Reed and Jim Lopes, joining veteran runners Ranney, Smith and Woicicki plus McKee in the javelin. The Cossacks competed gamely against other FWC opponents, all with huge numbers, but it was at a 3-way meet at SF State that SSC managed to outpoint USF 48-15 for their first team victory in the sport (see Initial Wins).

Also, Cathy Feige began training with the team and became enamored with the 880. Under the guidance of Ranney, she was given a workout regimen, stuck to it

and ran in the Acalanes Invitational Track Meet. As SSC's first woman trackster, she placed 13<sup>th</sup> out of 18 runners.

While small in numbers, all participants were tasked with improving their marks during the course of the season and all came away with satisfying results. In the 400, Woicicki and Hughes each recorded a 55.0 to best Williams' mark of 58.1 from the previous year. Hughes' 28.7 established a new record in the 200 and his 19'-9" long jump bettered Aman's 19'-2" while Ranney established the 3-mile run mark with a time of 25:02 and the 1-mile walk in 17:49.

There was also one outstanding result! The quiet, be-speckled McKee, worked passionately on the javelin, tossing in the mid-to-high 170's all season. Flying under the radar of the larger schools (and often bigger throwers), he peaked at just the right time to start a remarkable journey for the program (and himself). His efforts accounted for SSC's first successful travels into the realm of FWC, NCAA Regional and National Championship arenas to become the college's first All-American in Track & Field.

(In his words, the story via an e-mail from Bruce McKee 3/27/09, regarding the 1966 Track & Field season:

"As far as medal's go, the first was at the league meet (FWC) in 1966. That was bronze for third and the distance was 185'. At the last minute, I decided to strap the javelin on the ski rack of my 60' Ford and head off to Reno, Nevada to the University where the District 8 (West) NCAA regionals were held.

The conditions were cold and windy, and I had just finished finals and was a bit under the weather. I took my three trial throws, and was surprised they were each out over 210'. The furthest was 219' 7", and turned out to be the winning throw for the day. Wow, I could hardly contain myself on the drive back to Cotati!

Upon hearing of the mark, Bob Sorani and others began a campaign to raise enough money to help me get back to the College Division NCAA Finals at Stagg Field at the University of Chicago, Illinois. Money was raised and I was registered for the meet. There were many teams there from all over the country.

The day prior, I was waiting around in my hotel, and folks began to become very excited and scurrying around, so I asked one of the desk clerks, and he said there was a tornado headed from the south up toward the lake where we were. I asked him what I should be doing to prepare, and he said "just stay inside and you'll be fine, they come through all the time this time of year. Oh yeah, some tall task for a California boy!

Stagg Field on the U. of Chicago campus is the location where some of the early atom bomb experiments were conducted. Under ground are these tunnels where a variety of experiments were held in the early 40's and 50's.

The meet went well. There were two of the big throwers from Chico State, including Rick Miller, who always beat me, but was second to me at the regional at Nevada, and a big guy from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. I had a good meet throwing 197'7, and earning a 5th place medal. That gave ol' Sonoma State College 2 points in the meet, and put us in the score box. A great adventure for me, and thanks to the student body and Robert Sorani who organized the effort that enabled me to attend."

The University of Nevada claimed the FWC championship

The 1967 season welcomed veterans Hughes, Lopes, McKee, and Al Woicicki. Adding to this group, Jack Gage, Frank Hagerty, Mark Jackson, Dave Johnson, Tim MacIsaacs, Steve Nunes, Paul Scheiblich, L. E. Wagner and Paul Woicicki.

Meters replaced yards in all the running events, ensuring that all old yardage marks will never be broken.

“An interesting sidelight to the regular men’s track team is the small number of interested female track participants working very stringently to form the nucleus of what could be SSC’s first female track and field squad,” noted Steppes sports editor, Jake Williams. Indeed, the 4-person team, composed of Cathy Feige, Kathleen McDougall, Carol Schneider and Sherry Tuttle competed in a pair of FWC women’s meets held at Chico and Humboldt-another first for SSC (see Initial Wins).

With small numbers, the men’s team still participated in tri-meets with larger schools. Although not registering any wins against conference foes, the Cossacks claimed victories over USF, Oregon Tech and San Fernando Valley State College. McKee drew plenty of attraction, with throws consistently reaching the 190+ mark. “During my senior year, I placed 4th in the FWC meet at 196’3”, and third in the NCAA West Regional meet at Cal State Hayward, at 187’. The student body again came through for Jack Gage and myself, sending the two of us to the NCAA College Division championships at Weber State College in Utah. We had a good time, but neither of us placed in the top 6 at that meet. I think I was a disappointing 12<sup>th</sup> place at around 193’.”

Gage also enjoyed a fine season, competing in the 3,000-meter steeplechase. He finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the FWC with a new school-record 10:30.6 to advance to the NCAA Finals along with McKee. This established another first for Sonoma-sending 2 individuals to the finals!

McKee, who earned 12<sup>th</sup> place, and Gage, who finished 28<sup>th</sup>, were matched among the nation’s elite track and field athletes of their sport where they not only earned respect but put tiny SSC on the map! McKee became a 3-year participant in the program.

The FWC championship was claimed by the University of Nevada.

1968: With a common core of established tracksters including Clancy, Gage, Hagerty, Dave Johnson, Nunes, Scheiblich and the Woicicki brothers, talented newcomers Barry Brummell, Bill Gillingham, Howard Johnson, Norm Johnson, Gordon Jones, Tim MacIsaacs, Ray Nottingham, Fred Perdomo, Lymon Stoddard, Ray Tagami and Bob Wallace made up the largest team in program history. “Both Gage and Gillingham will do well in the FWC. Their speed and endurance will take them far this year,” noted Sorani.

He also was ecstatic for another reason. “This season begins the dawn of a new era at Sonoma State,” he stated. “During its first few seasons, SSC only participated in away meets since they didn’t have a home track and field facility.” That all changed with the completion of a state of the art, all-weather Grass-Tex facility and on April 13, SSC hosted its first home meet, welcoming FWC foe SF State

along with USF in a rain swept meet. Although SF State won the triangular event, the meet proved a rousing success as SSC outpointed USF for its first, monumental, on-campus win in track history.

Led by first place finishes from Gage (3,000-meter steeplechase), Gillingham (mile and 880), Nunes, Mac Isaacs (high jump) and Al Woicicki (intermediate hurdles) plus timely places from Dave Johnson, Howard Johnson, Nottingham, Paul Woicicki, Jones and Hagerty, SSC defeated USF by a score of 49-16. Gillingham established school records in the 800m (1:52.1) and in the 1500m (3:53).

On the women's team, Feige, McDougall, Schneider and Tuttle along with newcomers A. King, C. Menchen and Cheryl Soocey formed a cohesive and competitive squad.

Al Woicicki was recognized as a 4-year participant in the program.

Hayward State was the FWC champion.

1969: Veterans Brummell, Clancy, Gillingham, Hagerty, Dave Johnson, Norm Johnson MacIsaacs and Tagami welcomed a flock of newcomers to include Gary Grellman, Robert Grey, Gordy Jones, Ray Jones, Rick Moitoza, Phil Moon, Bob Sickler, Craig Silman, Ramon Solomon, Bob Sullivan, Ragnar Thanning, John Thornton and Fred Vajda.

With a goal of personal improvements, the Cossacks performed admirably and Gillingham was ranked in the West Region. The FWC Finals were held at San Francisco State and Gillingham set a new FWC record in the 800-meters with a 1:52.1 in the trials. However, he finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the finals, just missing an NCAA Regional berth by 1/10 of a second!

Gillingham's 49.8 became the new 440m school record and his 9:35 time set the new 2-mile record; Tagami's 43'-8" triple jump became the new standard and his 21'-8" long jump briefly held the mark until Clancy's 22'-2" claimed the new standard while MacIsaac set the new pole vault at 13'-0". Hagerty's 10:15.1 became the new 3000-meter steeplechase record, edging Gage's 10:30.6 set in 1967.

Sacramento State won the FWC title.

1970: Robert Lynde took over as head coach, assisted by Sorani. Inheriting returnees Grellman, Hagerty, Dave Johnson, Jones, Sullivan, Tagami and Thanning, he welcomed newbies Roger Appleby, Jim Baker, Chuck Coleman, Benny Guerra, Dennis Lanze, Herman Manuel and Charles Rada.

Lynde favored more even competition against smaller colleges and on April 12, 1970, they collected a pair of wins in a tri-meet in Rohnert Park. Riding points from Jones (HJ), Hagerty (3000 m steeplechase, 3-mile) Rada (shot put), Johnson (javelin), Manuel (100), Grellman (880), Sullivan (intermediate hurdles), Baker and Guerra (discus) and Lanze (triple jump), they defeated the University of San Francisco 31-18 and Oregon Tech 31-16.

Using a composite javelin, Johnson established the "new" standard of 202' (McKee's 219'-7" school record remains in the "old" javelin category).

Sonoma State hosted the FWC finals and received raves for the condition of the facility. Sacramento State placed first with Hayward State a very close second. Finishing with 5 points, Sonoma finished last in the 1970 event. Dave Johnson and Hagerty became 4-year participants in the program.

Sacramento State won the FWC championship.

In 1971, things began to look up for the Cossacks as they added Gordon Burns, Bill Denmark, Dennis Hudson, John Morrow, Rob Rebbe, Barry Sholtes, Art Spaletta, George Steen, Ken Stein, and Tad Woliczko to a veteran base composed of Guerra, Lanze, Sullivan, Tagami and Thanning.

On March 27, Tagami won the high jump (6-1) and the triple jump (42-3) while Woliczko placed first in the javelin (158-7) and the 880 (2:02) to highlight a 66-19 win over USF. On April 24, multiple winners Tagami (long jump, triple jump, and high jump) and Thanning (mile and 2-mile) paced SSC to dual wins over USF (89-50) and Oregon Tech (89-43).

During the season, Hudson set the school record in the shot put with a toss of 51'-4" and Spaletta set the decathlon mark with a 5002 point total. Tagami became a 4-year participant and Thanning a 3-year participant.

Sacramento State was the FWC champion.

For the 1972 season, Norm Anderson, Mark Casebier, Tony Getchalian, Ted Gropman, Paul Holmes, Alex Lissow and Rob Walker joined veterans Hudson, Rebbe, Spaletta and Sholtes.

On April 1972, SSC claimed the season's first win, defeating the University of Santa Clara 85-33 on their asphalt/rubber track. Hudson won 2 events and set a SSC record in a third. He placed first in the hammer throw (136'-6"), first in the shot put (49'-10") and second in the discus. His 153'-2" throw eclipsed the old record of 146'-7" set in 1965 by Jerry Gromer. Anderson (16.9 in the high hurdles), Rebbe (220), Casebier (12'-0" in the pole vault) and Gropman (41'-8" in the triple jump) also contributed valuable points to the win.

While setting the program standard of 153'-2" in the discus, Hudson increased his hammer throw mark to 144'-4" while Anderson bettered his record time in the 110m run to 15.9.

Although SSC continued to improve individually, they finished last in FWC Finals.

Hayward State became the FWC champion.

1973: Casebier and Getchalian were the only returnees from last year. New bodies include Rick Boyer, Les Cole, Ernie Gamma, Frank Gannon, Dave Gestri, Ron Glaeser, Sigurd Hope, Fred Kenyon, Frank Lazzarotto, Mario Lazzarotto, Dan Lynde, Jim Marchbanks, Keith Mason, Romero Mendoza, Tim Neff, Larry Renacker, Dick Stoltz, Guy Swick, Ken Thurston, and Guy Wall.

SSC's '73 track rendition has only 20 members, making a competitive season nil. "We are not interested in a high-powered track program," said Lynde. "We encourage the competitive attitude but we want to have fun too," he adds. With not enough bodies to be competitive at the FWC's team level, Lynde does have several individual conference threats. "Thurston is a definite high jump contender as is Mendoza in the distance runs, Gamma in the 2-mile and Marchbanks in the long jump, he said.

On April 19, in a triangular meet with Humboldt State and Hayward State held at SSC, Marchbanks set a school record, leaping 44-3 in the triple jump to beat the former mark of 43-8 set by Tagami in 1969.

Over the course of the season, competition ran high among SSC tracksters, resulting in more individual marks being set. Mendoza set the 10,000m record at 32:59 but it was soon broken by Gamma's 32:19 clocking.

The FWC champion was Hayward State.

1974: Returnees Alexander, Bunnell, Gestri, Klosterman, Lazzarotto, Lynde, Mason, Mendoza and Pintane joined Keith Dale, Mark Fisher, Steve Fishbagh, Steve Hogue for the '74 rendition of Cossacks.

On March 3, Mark Fisher etched his name in SSC's track and field record book under the decathlon heading after placing 6<sup>th</sup> in competition at Hayward State. He scored 5,027 points to break the former school record of 5,002 set in 1971 by Art Spaletta in the FWC Finals at Chico.

Some records were set and re-set within a few short weeks. In the 110 high hurdles, Lynde's time of 15.70 established the school mark; next meet Fisher ran a 15.19 and then Klosterman re-set the new mark of 15.1.

On March 28, more track records were set in a meet versus Stanislaus State. Klosterman established the 440 intermediate hurdles standard in 55.8 and Gestri won the 100m in 10.2 and the 220m in 22.8. Alexander won the 880m in 1:50.4, Mendoza won the mile in 4:27.5 while Bunnell won the 2-mile in a time of 9:54.2. In a later meet versus UC Davis, Bunnell set a new 6-mile record with a 30:37.3 time and Gestri bested his old mark of 22.8 in the 220 by logging a 22.6. Even more school records were set in a tri-meet with Humboldt State and Sacramento State. Terry Pintane won the 3,000m steeplechase in a time of 9:34 to eclipse his previous mark of 9:51. Gestri set new marks in the 440m (50.1) and in the 220m (22.5).

Final season records included Gestri's 22.4 in the 200m and 49.2 in the 400m; Alexander's 1.57 in the 800m; Bunnell's 31:52 in the 10,000m; Pintane clocked a 9:28 time in the 2-mile run and Fisher raised the decathlon mark to 5,788 and claimed the new pole vault mark at 13'-3".

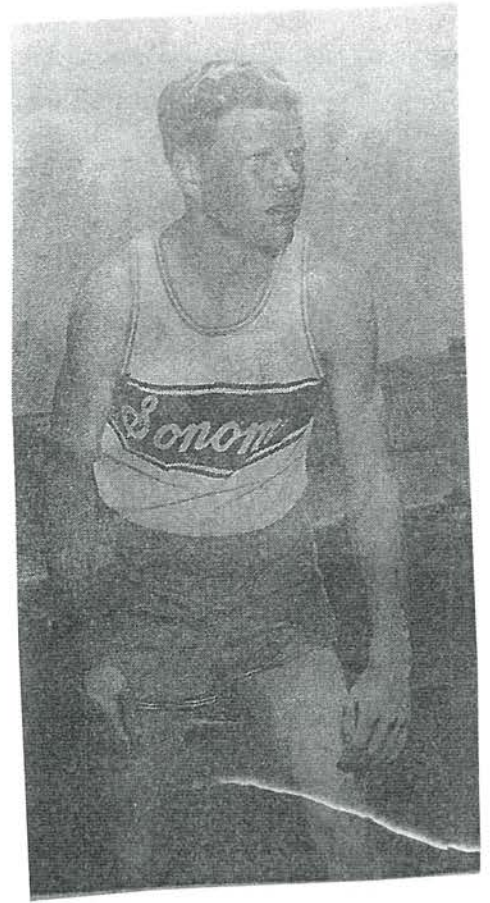
In the FWC Finals meet, Fisher (5<sup>th</sup> in the decathlon) and Gestri (5<sup>th</sup> in the 440m) accounted for the lone 4 points for SSC.

Sacramento State reigned as the FWC champion.

By far the most noteworthy track athletes are Bruce McKee, 1966 West Region champion, 5<sup>th</sup> place finish in the NCAA College Division Finals and All-American status in the javelin; Bill Gillingham, distance runner in the 1968 NCAA College Division Finals and Jack Gage, 1967 NCAA College Division Finals in the 3,000-meter steeplechase.

Without a doubt, the heroic feats of both McKee and Gage, especially at FWC meets, Regionals and NCAA Championship events during the 1966-67 campaigns, helped create much-needed interest in the college's Track & Field program and helped bolster numbers for future squads.

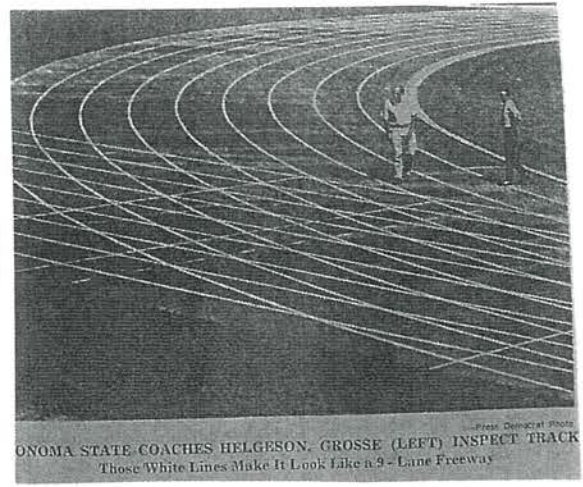
Additional thinclads of note were Al and Paul Woicicki, Jim Lopes, Cathy Feige, Frank Hagerty, Terry Pintane, Bob Bunnell, Dave Johnson, Ray Tagami, Tim MacIsaacs, Hermann Manuel, Dennis Lanze, Butch Alexander, Romero Mendoza, Dennis Hudson, Ken Thurston, Ernie Gamma, Mark Fisher, Art Spaletta and Dave Gestri.



3/10/73



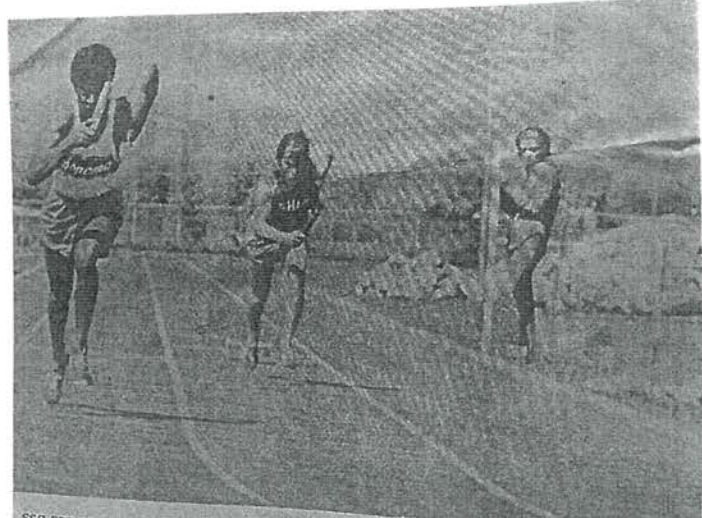
CAL STATE COLLEGE, SONOMA, SPINTERS ARE READY FOR 1972 HOME OPENER  
 Left-Right: Keith Mason, Rick Boyer, Guy Swick, and Tim Neft



SONOMA STATE COACHES HELGEBSON, GROSSE (LEFT) INSPECT TRACK  
 Those White Lines Make It Look Like a 9-Lane Freeway



BERM FORMS BACKGROUND FOR JAVELINIST DAVE JOHNSON



SSC SPRINT STAR HERMAN MANUEL (LEFT) WAS ONE OF FEW POINTGETTERS



## Intercollegiate Wrestling Progression

The FWC team championship is determined by a seeded tournament among all 10-weight classes, with team points accumulating. Five points are awarded for a pin; 3 for a decision and the top scoring team after the 2-day tournament is crowned FWC champion. The Regional winner plus individuals not on qualifying teams are entered directly into the grueling, 3-day NCAA College Division tournament finals. Top point getting team there is crowned National champion with individual winners recognized as well.

Guiding the young Cossacks with patience and solid instruction, Joel Grose initiated the program. The 1963-64 squad, composed of Eric Bjorkman, Mike Cash, Paul Dennis, Jim Fitzgerald, Steve Ford, Andy Martin, Jim Moore, Stu Oxford, Guy Sandlin and Bob Schmelzer, competed against junior varsity competition.

The 10-man contingent participated in a pair of Novice tournaments, designed to provide experience for beginning wrestlers, but were unable to fill all weight classes. Led by Eric Bjorkman, Paul Dennis, Guy Sandlin, Mike Cash and Andy Martin, the team did manage to outpoint UC Davis (see Initial Wins) and University of Nevada JV squads in short exhibition matches.

Cash, Martin and Sandlin represented SSC as varsity members in the FWC Finals. "The trio scored no points, just gained experience on a big stage," said Grose.

Bolstered with infusions of new participants plus a core of talented returning wrestlers, the 1964-65 Cossacks gamely entered into the realm of FWC varsity competition. As was customary, teams were not eligible for the conference title during their first year of competition. Returnees Bjorkman, Cash, Dennis and Martin welcomed newcomers Les Garanzini, Vern Hansen, Terry Langley, Bill Lewis, Dave Schapiro, Jim Stevens, Steve Stiles, Bill Taylor, Lou Winberg and Al Woicicki.

While the season provided SSC's first dual-meet win, a 24-20 decision over Hayward State (see Initial Wins), filling all weight classes still haunted the squad. With an on-campus facility, SSC hosted UC Davis and Hayward State in a pair of matches, also firsts for the new program. "With folding chairs placed close by the mat, our supporting fans were right on top of the action and their encouragement provided the coaches and team with plenty of support," said Eric Pearson.

Bjorkman, Cash, Langley, Stevens and Taylor keyed successes as the team compiled a 1-5 dual meet record, but finished last in the conference. However, a shining moment occurred for the fledgling program in the FWC Finals, held in Arcata on the campus of Humboldt State College. Langley finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the 191-lb. weight class and just missed qualifying for the NCAA West Regional. His medal was the first earned for the program.

The 1965-66 season began with 10 wrestlers. Noted Junior College transfer, Ray Kessler (Rudloff's grandson), plus newcomers Tim Floto, Mike Horn, Freeman Humphrey and Jack Kantor joined veterans Bjorkman, Cash, Shapiro, Stevens and Hansen, proved to be standout individual weight-class performers during their tenure.

Missing several weight classes and experiencing a few untimely injuries, the Cossacks went winless in dual meet competition and finished in 8<sup>th</sup> place in the FWC Finals.

For the 1966-67 season, Bjorkman, Cash, Horn, Kessler and Stevens welcomed Davis Danielson, Gordon Jones and Lee Pantaja to the squad.

Adding to the woes of the shorthanded Cossacks, the FWC fielded some of the strongest teams in the nation. Bjorkman, Kessler and Stevens were bright spots in their weight classes but none were able to advance in the finals, where the squad finished in last place.

“Lack of experience and lack of participants were our 2 greatest downfalls,” said Grose. “By not filling all the weight classes, we are giving up points without wrestling. “However,” he continued, “when high schools in this part of the state begin to establish wrestling programs, things should turn around.” Bjorkman became the program’s first 4-year participant.

Beginning the 1967-68 season with only 6 able-bodied wrestlers, the Cossacks again struggled to fill all weight divisions. Joining veterans Kessler, Pantaja and Stevens, Ron Goodrich, Joe Morgan and Bill Silva filled out the thin squad.

A bright moment occurred in the pre-season San Jose State Tournament where Kessler produced a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish and Stevens won a decision. However, shortly after the dual-season commenced, season-ending injuries to Goodrich, Morgan and Silva, left only Kessler, Stevens and Pantaja. All produced individual wins during their abbreviated season but none were able to place in the FWC Finals.

Despite the frustration of having the dual meets cancelled during his senior season, Stevens was thankful for the opportunity to compete and represent Sonoma State on the mat. “Wrestling is a grueling test of physical strength, endurance and will power,” he said. “But, the field is leveled by the fact that you compete against same-sized individuals.”

Stevens was honored as a 4-year participant in the program; Kessler became a 3-year participant.

At season’s end, Grose took a football coaching position at Hayward State College.

The University of Nevada dropped out of the FWC in 1968 to pursue Division 1 status, leaving a 7-member conference.

Ken Flynn became the Cossacks mentor in 1968-69, replacing Grose. During his inaugural season, only 7 wrestlers formed the squad. Experienced returnees Morgan and Pantaja joined newcomers Jim Naugle, Clive Davies, Tim Elliot, Kent Snyder and Charlie Rada, forming a solid nucleus of individual performers.

The wrestlers worked hard at developing strength and techniques and the extra work was paying dividends on the mat. Although things were changing, the undermanned team produced no dual meet wins and finished last in the FWC Finals.

Echoing Grose’s lament that the lack of participants in all weight-classes was a deterrent to team success, Flynn embarked on a dedicated process to boost numbers during the off-season.

The 1969-70 brought more promise as numbers greatly increased to 18-members. Along with seasoned veterans Davies, Elliot, Morgan, Naugle, Pantaja, Rada and Snyder, Flynn welcomed experienced newcomers Chris Alvarado, Steve Connor, Alex Danneman, Bob Dunlap, Benny Guerra, Jesus Hart, Brian Loehr, Marty McKay, Dave Moore, Bob Pratt and Jack Trujillo, who compiled a core of competitive grapplers which began leading the Cossacks to expanded success. Indeed, word was spreading about the growth at SSC.

Results started showing immediately. In the San Jose State Tournament, the Cossacks faced stiff competition from FWC teams and entries from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, San Jose State and Stanford. While Guerra placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the heavyweight division, Moore (134 lb.) Connor (142 lb.), Rada, (167 lb.) Dunlap, (177 lb.) and Loehr (191 lb.) all advanced 3-4 matches, gaining valuable experience.

Even with injuries to Alvarado, Danneman, Hart and Trujillo, the core of seniors Davies, Morgan, Pantaja and Naugle led the team. Newcomers of note were also in the fold, most notably Alvarado, Connor, Dunlap, Guerra and Pratt.

While most weight-classes were now being filled, there remained no dual meet wins during the season. However, in the FWC finals, several wrestlers advanced and scored points but a last place finish in the FWC still befell the Cossacks.

Pantaja became a 4-year participant.

However, with a core of future wrestlers in the mix, the 1970-71 season produced better team results. Newcomers Joe Alvarado, Mike Dale, Ed Ghiringhelli, Bill Hopkins, Dennis Lanze, Mike Ornellas and Gene Stevenson, joined forces with returnees Chris Alvarado, Connor, Danneman, Dunlap, Guerra, Hart, Rada and Trujillo.

Led by Joe Alvarado (3<sup>rd</sup> in the 134 lb. class), Guerra (2<sup>nd</sup> in the heavyweight class) and Ornellas (5<sup>th</sup> in the 150 lb. class), the Cossacks finished 8<sup>th</sup> among 11 teams in the prestigious San Jose State Tournament. They beat out UC Davis, Sacramento State and the University of Nevada. "This tournament represents some of the toughest opponents Sonoma State will face in intercollegiate athletics," Flynn said after the event.

In the FWC Finals, Guerra reigned as the heavyweight winner, becoming Sonoma State's first FWC champion wrestler and Joe Alvarado earned 3<sup>rd</sup> place medalist in the 134 lb. class. Both wrestlers represented SSC at the NCAA College Division Finals, held at Fargo, North Dakota.

While Alvarado failed to place, Guerra's 6<sup>th</sup> place finish led SSC to a respectable 30<sup>th</sup> place finish out of 375 wrestlers from 50 colleges. "Benny and Joe will never forget this experience," said an ecstatic Flynn. "From the standpoint of a team effort, I was pleased. It's the best showing, collectively, since I've been here. It's starting to come!" Rada became a 3-year participant.

Building on significant numbers, the 1971-72 team exuded high hopes and a firm focus. "For the first time in program history, Sonoma will have competitive

wrestlers in all weight divisions," said Flynn. "With some excellent returnees and a fine crop of Junior College transfers, I feel this years well-balanced squad should do well."

Joe and Chris Alvarado, Connor, Dale, Ghiringelli, Ornellas and Stevenson welcomed Jake Fitzpatrick, Earl Green, Paul Hallgrem, Bill Hopkins, Tim Kelly, Lanze, Ken Larson, Ron Lundsford, Jim McNulty, Bob Musante, Mike Purcell, Larry Roudebush, Steve Sager, John Schick, and Paul Walfort.

Spearheaded by Joe Alvarado, (who won the 134 lb. class), Paul Hallgrem, Jake Fitzpatrick, Ron Lundsford and Purcell, the Cossacks enjoyed a strong showing in the highly competitive San Jose State Tournament on December 4, 1971. Among the 13 schools entered, Sonoma placed 8<sup>th</sup>, ahead of Humboldt State, UC Davis, Sacramento State, and Hayward.

As the season progressed, the Cossacks claimed the program's second and third dual meet victories (a 28-20 decision over Sacramento State and a 28-21 home mat win over Hayward State), which enabled the team to finish in 5<sup>th</sup> place in the dual meet standings.

Joe Alvarado claimed the 134-pound championship (the second in program history) and garnered the Most Valuable Wrestler award at the FWC Finals, hosted by Humboldt State. Lundsford placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 167-pound class and Connor took 5<sup>th</sup> place in the 142-pound class to accumulate enough points to escape the cellar and finish 5<sup>th</sup> in the final FWC standings-the best team finish in program history.

Alvarado again represented SSC at the NCAA College Division Finals, which were held at Lake Oswego, New York. His 10<sup>th</sup> place finish in the 134 lb. class led Sonoma State to 47<sup>th</sup> place out of 75 colleges. "He went further than any other Cossack wrestler has gone in the nationals," said Flynn. "He went 2 matches farther than Benny (Guerra) did last year. It is really commendable to be ranked that high in the nationals," he continued.

As a side note, other FWC wrestlers fared well at the NCAA meet. Ray Hernandez of San Francisco State finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 118 lb. class, Humboldt State's Doug Stone was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 167 lb. class and UC Davis' Mike O'Brien was 4<sup>th</sup> in the 177 lb. class.

Connor and Guerra were recognized as 3-year participants in the program.

The 25-member 1972-73 squad planned to build on the success of the past 2 years when Sonoma State finishes of 30<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> in the nation were putting the Cossacks on the map! Fact is, the Sonoma State wrestling program has enjoyed the most national success of all the sports at the college.

Flynn's hopes were high to continue that trend. "With 25 people out for the team's 10 weight classes, this will be the second year that Sonoma can look forward to being able to put a full team on the mat and not have to forfeit points all over the place." Veterans Fitzpatrick, Ghiringelli, Hallgrem, Lundsford, Musante, Purcell, Schick and Walfort welcomed newcomers Ed Buonaccorsi, Zeke Contreras, Earl Green, Guy Hedenberger/Murtagh, Bill Hopkins, Dennis Hudson, Tim Kelly, Jim McNulty, Fred Padila, Larry Roudenbush, Steve Sager, Dave Schleich, Mark Seiberlich, , Bill Shirley, George Steen, Jerry Stine and Gary Walker.

Sonoma State again fared well at the San Jose State Wrestling Tournament, placing 7<sup>th</sup> in a field of 12 schools. Buonaccorsi won the 126 lb. championship, which was the program's first major wrestling championship to be registered during the regular season. Schick took 5<sup>th</sup> place in the 150 lb. class and Lundsford added to the point totals.

The Cossacks finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the 12 team Chico State Invitational getting points for Buonaccorsi's 2<sup>nd</sup> and Padilla's 5<sup>th</sup> place. And, one of the season's dual meet highlights was defeating UC Davis in Davis and conquering Hayward State to finish 5<sup>th</sup> in the dual meet standings.

In the FWC Finals, Ed Buonaccorsi claimed the 126-pound championship; Ron Lundsford again took 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 167-pound class and Dennis Hudson finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Heavyweight division. Walfort and Contreras also scored points, accounting for the team's 5<sup>th</sup> place "best ever" results in the Finals.

Buonaccorsi represented Sonoma State at the NCAA College Division Finals held at South Dakota State College in Brookings, South Dakota. Ed placed 15<sup>th</sup> in the finals, leading SSC to a 40<sup>th</sup> place finish among 80 schools.

Indeed, hopes were looking up for the program, with 30<sup>th</sup>, 47<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> place finishes in the NCAA field!

While graduation losses took a huge toll on expectations for the 1973-74 season, returnees Buonaccorsi, Contreras, Fitzpatrick, Hallgren, Hedenberger/Murtagh, Hudson, Kelly, Lundsford, Sieberlich, Shirley, and Stine were still optimistic about another serious run at success. However, Russ Camilleri was the only new member.

Once again, with low numbers, filling weight classes became an issue. And, as the dual meet schedule progressed, multiple, untimely injuries left only 3 wrestlers standing at the season's end.

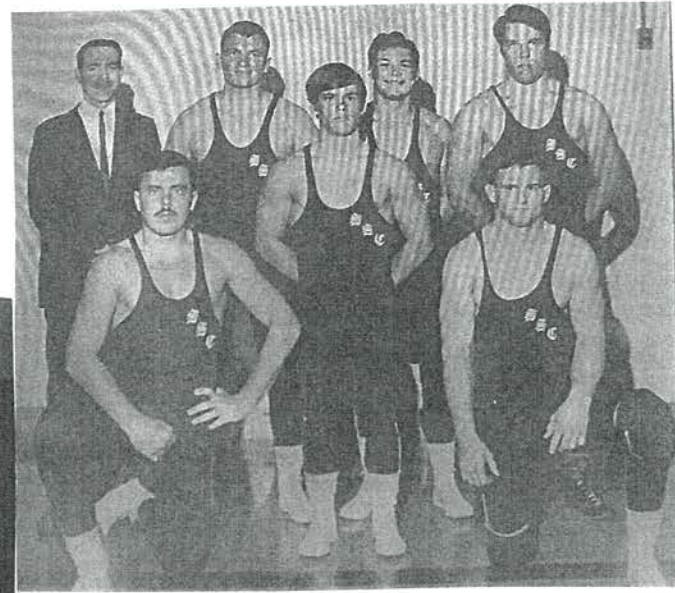
However, in the FWC Tournament, Buonaccorsi again claimed the 126-pound championship and again represented SSC at the NCAA College Division finals held at Fullerton, California. Despite solid a solid quarterfinal performance, he failed to advance to the semifinal round, finishing 50<sup>th</sup>. "However, he represented SSC proudly and being one of 300- 126-pound NCAA wrestlers, it is an honor to be among one of the top 50 or so in the nation," said Flynn.

At Sonoma State's Winter Sports Banquet held at Cattlemen's Restaurant in Petaluma, Buonaccorsi won the Most Valuable Wrestler award. Fitzpatrick became a 3-year participant.

Some of the Top Wrestlers in the Pioneer Athletes Era include Eric Bjorkman, Mike Cash, Jim Stevens, Ray Kessler, Joe Morgan, Jim Naugle, Benny Guerra, Clive Davies, Joe Alvarado, Mike Ornellas, Jake Fitzpatrick, Steve Connor, Ed Buonaccorsi, John Schick, Ron Lundsford, Fred Padilla, Dennis Hudson, Mike Purcell, Paul Walfort and Zeke Contreras.



L-R, Row 1: Mike Cash, Guy Sandlin, Steve Ford. Row 2: Bob Schmeltzer, Stuart Oxford, Andy Martin, Dr. Joel Grose, Coach.



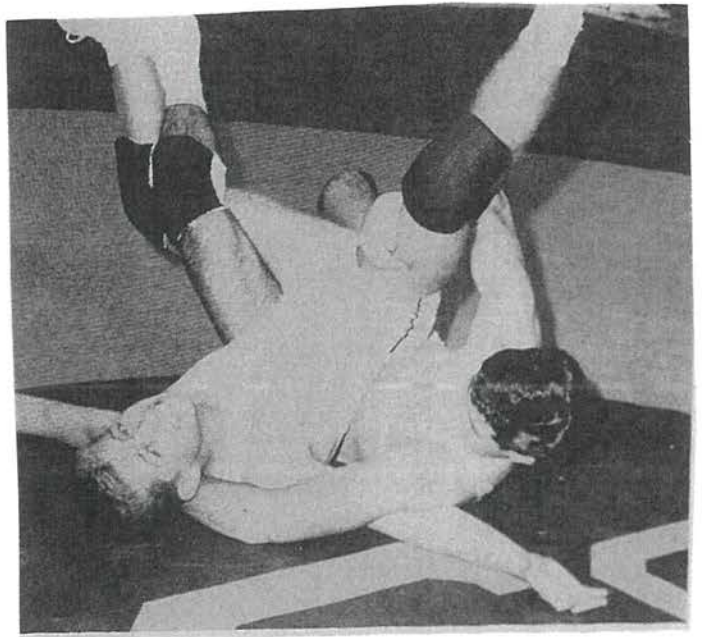
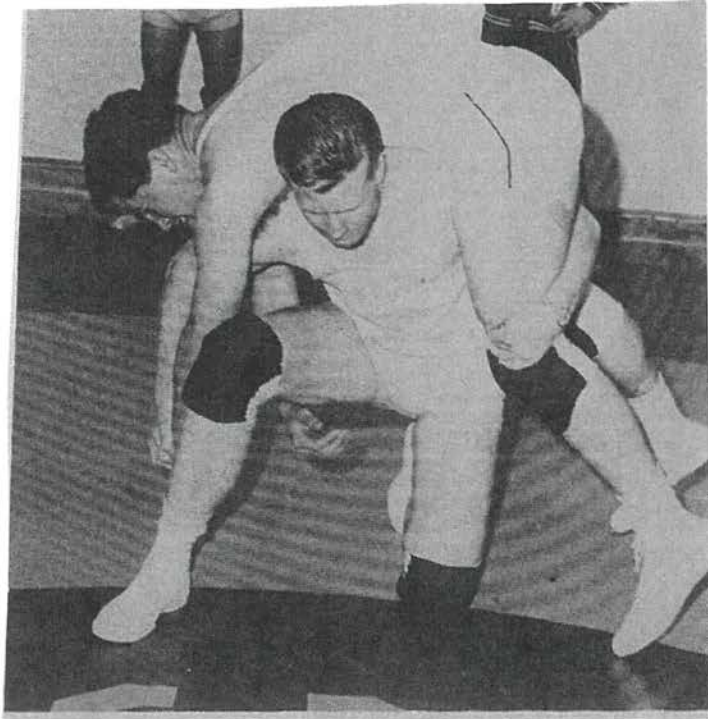
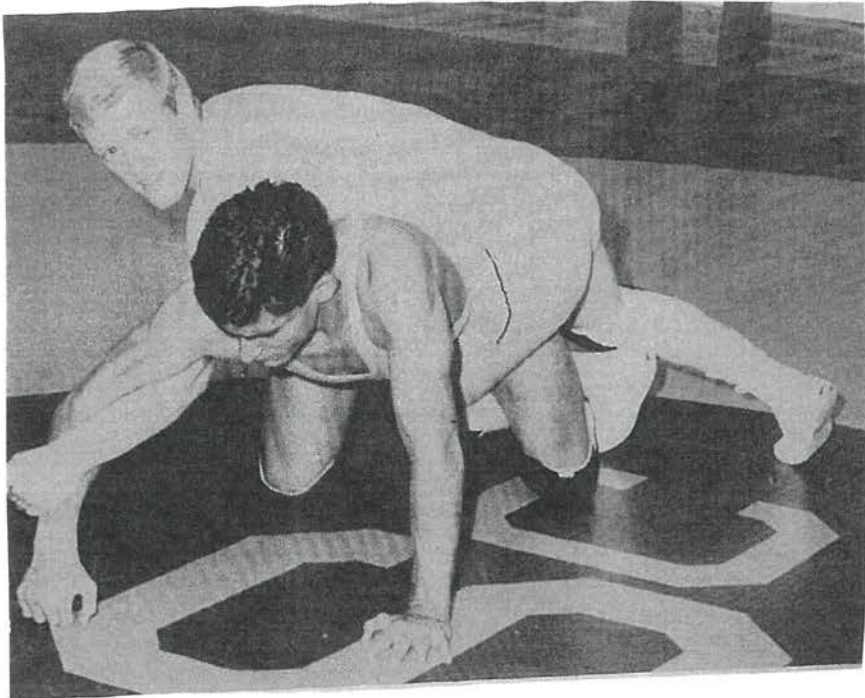
## '64 - '65 WRESTLING TEAM



BENNY GUERRA (LEFT), MIKE ORNELAS, JOE ALVARADO LFD SSC



JOE ALVARADO



## Cossack Recollections

The following collection of personal anecdotes and aging images (part research, part hearsay and part scrapbooking) is intended to bring into focus a glimpse of yesteryear and illicit memories of a valued time in Cossack lives.

1962-63: Carl Carlson: "It never struck me until later that the tennis match against San Francisco State was the first athletic event of any kind at SSC!"  
Joining the swim after the tennis season, Carlson became SSC's first 2-sport athlete.

During the 1963-64 season, Felix Duarte began as Equipment Manager, issuing and maintaining uniforms and practice gear, etc.

Swimmer, Dave Lucchese set the school record in the 200-meter breast-stroke during the 1963-64 season.

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In 1963-64, sports editor, Jerry Zanelli, of the student-run Sonoman Newspaper, was assigned to write a story about the college's first-year basketball team. As part of his research, he joined in the practice and workouts-and became the Cossacks 12<sup>th</sup> member.

During the 1963-64 season, former swim team member Guy Sandlin (wrestling) joined Carlson as Sonoma State's dual-sport athletes.

The college's first dorm, Jack London Hall, located along East Cotati Avenue, sat near the railroad tracks.

Who can forget President John F. Kennedy's assassination in November 1963, which sent the college (and the country) into shock.

Pioneer faculty and staff members Clement Falbo, Galen Clothier, Gene Schaumberg, George McCabe, Quinten Nunn, James Schoenthal, Ella Trussell, Warren Tappin, Phillip Temko, Yvette Falandy and president Ambrose Nichols were visible supporters, attending games and meets-and always with encouraging words!

The diminutive "cafeteria" on the temporary campus just couldn't hold many people. But, just a half-block walk, the A & W Root Beer stand was a popular lunch gathering place for students as was the nearby 30 Thieves pizza parlor later in the afternoons.

The Sissa Market adjoining the school library sat just across the street from "the quad," a group of apartment buildings serving as classrooms. Parking was never an issue at the well-packed, gravel College View parking lot.

1963-64 basketball team player, Rich Smith, became Rich Holstein shortly after his sophomore season. Due to a family inheritance issue, his last name was changed. Years later, many teammates didn't recognize his new name.



The Beattles were the hot music items of the time.

Pete Golis was on the first basketball and golf teams. "The student body was small-smaller still if you set aside the folks over 25," he said.

"Our golf team played in the FWC. I recall golf matches at Humboldt State (Bayside), Chico State (Bidwell Park), Sacramento State (at what was then called Northridge), University of Nevada and San Francisco State (Harding Park). In '65, the conference championship (hosted by UC Davis) was held at the Yolo Fliers Club outside of Woodland. We were overmatched against these teams. But, it was fun and we were doing something no one else had done, at least not at SSC."

"Competing against schools with established programs and a much larger talent pool to drawn from, we took a beating initially," said hoopster Bill Tuel.

" However, we did improve greatly, both individually and as a team."

Don Graham: "It fell to us to accept the challenge and compete against stronger basketball teams," he said. "While we paid the price in terms of wins and losses, we were the first team and made lifelong friendships while doing so."

A bicycling team was also part of the early athletic scene in 1963. Although not a FWC offered sport, the club team was a collection of nationally ranked competitors seeking an un-funded sponsorship. Racing in the Intercollegiate Division of the Northern California Cycling Association, the highly motivated and talented riders brought home Sonoma State's first championship banner.

Ed Rudloff was their advisor. Members included Harry Burke, Bob Dale, Paul Eiserich, Bob Evans, Alan Hale, Richard Holley, Brian Listo, Louis Malone, Bill Ransbottom, Bill Rusk and Tom Sweetman. While nowhere to be found, the banner's memory is fresh among those who took part, including Rudloff!

Popular local eating venues included The Wigwam and Tally Ho Restaurant while Joseph's Barber Shop, Blue and Gold Pool Parlor, Tip Top Cleaners, Cotati Plaza Market, Tradewinds Tavern and Cotati Rexall Drug Company were other frequented establishments.

All coaches were hired as Physical Education instructors first and coaching secondly. Athletic coaching contracts were extracurricular.

Don Vachini: "My initial plan was to transfer from Santa Rosa Junior College to San Francisco State to complete my Physical Education degree. Knowing that I had failed to secure lodging and was dreading a commute from my home in Petaluma, my former high school coach and friend, Ed Schulze, suggested Sonoma State as an alternative. The moment I walked into the administration building on College View Avenue, I was greeted by the smiling face of registrar Kay Wiley. Fifteen minutes after presenting her with my transcripts, she informed me I was admitted, pending payment of the \$7.00 registration fee! I immediately notified friend, Ed Major, and

he joined me and we became multi-sport Cossack teammates. A changing moment of both our lives!"

Under the title "Culture Comes to SSC," Mario Savio was a guest speaker in the quad during the fall of 1964. After lecturing on the virtues of Communism, he answered questions. A voice from the crowd shouted, "If Communism is so great, how come they have to build a wall to keep them in?" His response: "Next question."

The first Cross-Country team greatly benefitted from a core of experienced Marin Athletic Club runners, including Carl Jensen, Tim Floto and Bill Ranney. They were not only skilled runners but imparted much appreciated and timely techniques and strategies to assist other younger harriers.

Freshman trackster Al Woicicki confided that coach Eric Pearson always chose the most expensive restaurants to dine after away meets. "Our \$1.50 per diem didn't go very far," he said.

Dale Mast distinguished himself on the first cross-country team as a talented freshman during the fall of 1964. Energetic and fearless, he was counted on to be a promising runner for future seasons. He was also on the golf team, exhibiting solid skills and was expected to carry a big load in the upcoming 1965 matches. Unfortunately, tragedy intervened. Prior to the Spring break, Dale conjured up an idea for several classmates to drive to Tijuana, Mexico during the week-long lull in classes. As time drew nearer, one-by-one dropped out, so on the spur of the moment, Dale drove alone.

Upon returning to sessions after Easter, news slowly trickled in that Dale wasn't in his classes. Sadly, we received word that he was involved in a high-speed car accident just short of the U.S. border, which claimed his life. It was a shame we never really got to know him. Rest in Peace, friend and fellow Cossack teammate!

Glenn Isaacs, Ken W. Smith and Dale Aman were older students, returning to school under the GI Bill. Together, they brought a fatherly-type influence to the teaching of skill sets. Since we were majoring in PE, many of the skills were broken down from a muscular point of view.

Returning from the Army where he honed his basketball skills, Dale Aman resumed his collegiate basketball career at SSC as a 3-year captain. Here, his talents, coupled with a quiet leadership, greatly elevated those around him.

Ken W. Smith was a father-figure to many, also returning from a tour in the service. He had a way of explaining skills and putting words into action while his calm, reassuring approach won over many teammates. Coaching became more into focus under his tutelage as we became involved in not only game strategy but development of necessary skills for our sports.

Carl Jensen lost a tooth while scrambling under a fence board in a meet with UC Davis. "I misjudged its height and it whacked me right in the mouth. I still won the race!"

Ed Major vividly recalls a pair of cross county meets during the 1964 season, held under opposing temperature extremes. "The first race was hosted by UC Davis in late-September. It was 104-degrees when we started the race and it seemed like it got hotter as ran. After finishing, Jeff Tuel was dehydrated and had to spend the night in the hospital at Davis."

The second meet was held at the University of Nevada in Reno, during mid-November. "Temperatures were in the low 30's and about 4 inches of snow covered most of the course. A snow blower cleared the course's path but the grass underneath remained wet. I slipped and fell at the first turn, getting soaked-and with the whole 4-mile race to go! At the race's conclusion, I relished a most welcome hot shower!"

A crucial student vote to determine whether SSC was to remain a FWC member occurred during spring of 1965. After much heated discussion and presentations by both sides, the vote was in favor of remaining in the conference, thus insuring student fees to help pay for budget. However, state budget and continuing athletic funding woes continued to hang over SSC's athletic future.

Dance instructor, Dr. Sandra Dunwoody, not only produced a 1965 spring dance concert from among her women's dance classes but also assisted 1965-66 cheerleaders Pat Baseheart, Wendy Hicks and Barbara Skinner with their routines.

Jim Stevens: "Professor Hugh Graham was my freshman class advisor and also my History major advisor. The school was so small at the time and one-on-one meetings helped forge solid relationships. A solid instructor, he was always giving helpful advice with class material but was also an accomplished pianist."

During the spring of 1965, the music group, We Five, came to the Santa Rosa Fairgrounds and SSC had a section of bleachers assigned for tickets. Sue Jameson pointed my sweetheart, Pat Baseheart and me toward a front row, VIP seating and we were able to be right on top of the group. We could see them sweating under the lights but it was a moment I'll never forget.

Bill Williams: "I attended Sonoma State from 1963-67 and was on the first track team. There was no "track" per se but we marked out a track each day in the field that would eventually become the baseball field. Members of the team included Al Woicicki, Randy Smith, Don Boger, Ed Major, Bruce McKee and Jerry Gromer. Our coach, Dr. Pearson, though not very experienced in coaching track, was nevertheless enthusiastic and always encouraged our efforts."

"We traveled in one vehicle, always managing to stop at the most expensive restaurant en route to the event, whereupon Dr. Pearson would hand each of us \$1.50 for lunch. That usually covered the cost of a small carton of milk!"

We weren't the greatest track team Sonoma State would field, but we were the first, and we enjoyed competing. I have wonderful memories of our experiences and recall finishing fourth in the 400 against the University of Nevada, Reno.

Doctor Phillip Temko, a popular philosophy professor at SSC, often worked out with the wrestling team. Here, while working up a sweat, he often gave pointers from his college wrestling experiences, which were greatly appreciated.

SSC's first annual Turkey Trot Race, with teams composed of a male and female student, cross country runner and a faculty member, was held prior to Thanksgiving in 1965. The event not only provided food prizes but served to bring students and faculty together in a fun competition. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishers donated their turkey, chicken and squab winnings to charity.

Don Vachini: Knowing I grew up on a dairy farm, Dr. Rudloff used to ask me, "If you crossed a Jersey with a Holstein, would you get a 'Jer-stein?'"

Ray Kessler: "I remember the BBQ hosted at the Vachini Ranch on a Sunday afternoon in 1965. The home-grown, grass-fed beef steaks were the highlight for us starving students!"

Vern Hanson: "I remember coach Grose teaching me a wrestling move. While he's holding me, he's explaining it to other teammates and practically smothering me. From my scrunched position, all I could see were his massive calf muscles!"

In January of 1965, Bill Tuel (president), Carl Carlsen (vice-president) and Don Vachini (secretary treasurer) represented officers of the initial 27-member Lettermen's Club.

As one of a trio of 4-sport athletes, Ed Major was very busy, including a job at the El Rancho Tropicana in Santa Rosa. "Reflecting back, I don't think we realized how special those times were as they were happening. We were young, fully engaged in our classwork and athletics and had boundless energy. I especially enjoyed the small-school atmosphere and knowing everybody."

Piped-in music introduced the Cossack basketball team as they entered the Fieldhouse court to warm up during the 1965-66 season. "Sweet Georgia Brown" resonated during pre-game warm-ups-a modern technique bringing us up to cutting edge pre-game entertainment.

The 1965-66 basketball team members wore white Converse high-top tennis shoes with trendy Columbia-blue knee socks.

During some of the early days, the Cossack tennis team played San Quentin. For obvious reasons, the inmates only played home matches. Visitors had to be carefully

checked in, stamped on the hand then double-checked on the way out. Players were cautioned to NOT remove the ink mark.

Carl Carlson and Rich Carsner remember joking after a 1965 match, wondering out loud what would happen if the mark rubbed off. "Then you'll be here for awhile," quipped a guard who overheard them!

Don Vachini: "While pursuing a BA Degree in Kinesiology and participating in basketball, baseball and cross-country during the 1964-66 timeline, I was constantly reminded by my parents that sports were secondary to my education."

Besides the positive influence Social Science Professor, Stanford Lyman had on him, Bruce McKee also remembers friendships forged through competition. He recalls pleasant memories at the NCAA West Regional and NCAA Final meets in Chicago. "At both meets, an athlete named Rich Miller from Chico State was also present. I beat him to win the West Regional Championship and he beat me at the National meet that year (1966). His wife was at both meets and took pictures of both of us standing on the podium. I still cherish those monumental moments."

From a student perspective, our kinesiology professors had certain tendencies for which they became well known.

Dr. Joel Grose: His favorite line, explaining how a particular performance-based event occurred, was attributed to "individual differences." He also reminded us that, "You will forget 80% of what you learned. However, knowing where and how to find an answer is the key to education."

Dr. Ed Rudloff: A dynamic speaker, debater and polished educator. Often in response to a question asked in class, "Now that's a good question! Bring me the answer for next week's session."

Dr. Eric Pearson: Noted for being upbeat and a source of constant encouragement. "We're going to try something different."

Dr. Henry Lasch: A talented outdoorsman, he often gave information on anything related to backpacking, swimming, archery, canoeing, etc. This caused classmate, Dale Aman, to comment, "Is there anything that man DOESN'T do?"

Our coaches pushed us beyond our comfort zones to ready us for college competition. They would often remind us, "You are not in high school anymore!"

Baseball player, Dan Defoe, in response to coach Henry Lasch's question in the dugout, "Why would Irv (Piotrkowski) walk the lead off batter?"

Defoe's reply was, "Maybe he wants to work on his pickoff move!"

Cathy Feige: "I believe I was the first female involved in Track and Cross Country. Bill Ranney, who was working on his masters, took me under his wing, with directions from coach Sorani. I remember that a carload of us girls went to SRJC to watch our guys practice on their track, since we didn't yet have facilities at SSC. Some of us got on the track to play around and I decided that I needed a little run. Later, Bill approached me and asked if I would like to participate and we were off!"

Approaching his late-20's, Bill Ranney showed a remarkable penchant for assisting men and women runners at SSC. He single-handedly encouraged and extolled Cathy Feige to improve her distance running skills and, in doing so contributed to bringing young women into the realm of SSC track and cross country.

Bruce McKee, on old man's recollection of his track glory days and paying tribute. "I owe many thanks to Bob Sorani. He is retired now, but was certainly a strong leader in the development of athletics and the Department of Kinesiology at SSU, an up and coming University that has gone on to field some marvelous athletes in a variety of sports."

Jay Orcutt, (1966 Associated Student Body president and sport enthusiast): "I will be forever grateful to professor Stanford Lyman, who taught me to be excited about learning."

Eric Bjorkman: With regards to wrestling: "We are all even when the referee blows his whistle. Individually, we can compete to the best of our ability and within our weight class, which also helps level the playing field."

Jim Stevens remembers being the only wrestler to win a match in a 1967 contest versus the University of Nevada and coach Grose being so happy for him. "To celebrate, the team dined at an "all-you-can eat" buffet outside Reno, where the owner marveled at the amount of food the team ate!"

Growing up in the tiny town of Penngrove, Vern Hansen, Jack Throne and Irv Piotrkowski remember playing baseball on the old elementary school field adjacent to Petaluma Hill Road in the late 1950's. Ironically, they all ended up on the Cossacks first baseball team about 2-miles down the road! "We grew up together and played together, much like a real family," Hansen said.

A few diverse athletes were members of 3 sports teams, each of which earned monumental first wins for SSC: Al Woicicki (XC, wrestling and track); Ed Major (XC, basketball and baseball); Don Vachini (XC, basketball and baseball); Vern Hanson (XC, wrestling and baseball); Rich Carsner (XC, basketball and tennis); Don Graham (XC, basketball and baseball).

Student Ron Feige (brother of Cathy) captured many images with his single lens reflex camera, some of which appeared in the Steppes, the 1965 and 1966 Sonoman Yearbooks and the Press Democrat. These pictures truly gave life to the campus and continue to live on today.

Pitcher Irv Piotrkowski remembers the camaraderie of his 1966 teammates and the new baseball field. "It was one of the best-groomed in the area."

A pair of umpire's comments heard prior to the 1966 Western Baptist Bible College game, that, "SSC's grounds were better than Candlestick Park." Pretty high praise but certainly well-deserved.

Major League Baseball scouts often visited the berm behind the backstop at the campus' new baseball diamond. The "bird dogs" touted 3 members of the school's first squad: P Larry Parducci, OF Wayne Menicucci and OF/1B Don Vachini.

Between 1962 and 1964, Carl Carlsen participated in swimming, tennis, basketball and cross-country to become the college's first 4-sport athlete! Joining him between 1964 through '66 were Don Graham (baseball, basketball, cross-country and golf) and Ed Major (baseball, basketball, cross-country and track). They currently remain the only 4-sport athletes in SSC history!

Pioneer athletes Pete Golis, Anthony Fleming and Irv Piotrkowski plus sports writer Jake Williams contributed to the 1966 edition of the Sonoman Yearbook (sadly, from 1967 through 1978, no SSC yearbooks were published).

The first graduating class received diplomas from "the Quad" on the temporary campus in June, 1966.

The popular "Wench of the Week" column began appearing in the Steppes during the 1966-67 year, featuring interviews with and, of course, photos of female coeds!

Sonoma State was named for the county, not the town. Visiting coaches and athletic teams traveling to compete often had a hard time locating the actual SSC campus, commonly driving to the town of Sonoma or confusing it with Sonoma State Hospital, located in Eldridge near Napa!

When basketball coach Bob Donlan was appointed at SSC for the 1966-67 season, he was 25 yrs. old. At that time, returning players Dale Aman, Jack Bingham, Dennis Casarotti and John Walker were all older than him. This led to a few good-natured laughs on who should consult who on team matters!

Beginning with the 1966-67 school year, the FWC allowed freshmen to compete in Varsity basketball and baseball.

Kentucky transplant, Don Lumpkins, was a member of the 1966-67 basketball team. He made a smooth transition from Bluegrass Basketball to Sonoma State. He fit in well, was a valued teammate, a strong rebounder and deft shooter for the Cossacks. "We grew as individuals and as a team while making lifelong friends," he said.

Ray Nottingham: " I started at Sonoma State and played basketball for Bob Donlan during the '66-67 season and then JV basketball the following year. I lived with Dave Castleberry and Dave Thomas among others. We had good intramural football and basketball teams and spent a lot of time at the Tradewinds."

After getting a taste of distance running in the 1966 track campaign, Cathy Feige expanded to cross country and track during 1966-67, becoming the first woman to do so at SSC. Assistant coach Bill Ranney prepared a workout schedule for her and she diligently accepted the challenge. She participated in the Folsom Road Race and Sunset Whitney cross country events, finishing in 9<sup>th</sup> place for women and 19<sup>th</sup> overall. "Coach Ranney lit the fire and practicing with the men kept me on target. A few men took the time to work out with me, too, very accepting and encouraging."

Four young coeds vied for the 1966-67 title of Cossack Queen: Sue Jameson, Sharon Newberry, Jill Rosen and Louise Ross. Ross won the title (and later, the heart of Jack Throne).

Playing third base against the University of Nevada in a 1967 baseball game in Reno, Vern Hansen fielded a hard shot by a Nevada batter and threw him out. Out of the blue, Nevada's coach, who happened to be Jackie Jensen, a former New York Yankee MLB player, complimented Hansen on the play. "He was just like a regular guy but everyone was in awe of him," said Hansen.

The 1967 tennis team benefitted from the experience and knowledge of Ralph Smith and Bill Powell, who were 57 and 42 years of age respectively.

Over the course of 2 semesters, Wayne Menicucci stacked empty Olympia Beer cans in progressive circles in his apartment, forming a conical, Christmas tree-type structure. Although occasionally taking a bat to it, he took a photo of the "tree" and sent it to the Olympia Brewing Company. Rumor has it, he actually heard back from them with a voucher for a free six pack!

Pat Baseheart Vachini: "I attended classes at the temporary campus on College View Avenue in '65-66 and then in Darwin and Stevenson Halls on the permanent site on East Cotati Avenue during the '66-67 year. Everything went well until the heavy winter rains came. The paved parking lot was fine but huge puddles on the mucky, adobe soil were impossible to cross. Work crews laid 5x8' plywood panels to make walkways so that we could access our classes. In June 1967, I graduated on the new baseball field, the first such ceremony on the permanent campus. There, seven-months pregnant, I truly filled out my graduation gown!"

Basketball coach Bob Donlan wondered how 1967-68 basketball player, Jim Bracey, managed to carry a full study load, hold down a 40-hour work week at Napa State Hospital and play basketball for the Cossacks!

Recalling the Carlson/Carsner story, Dan Defoe played in fear of accidentally wiping off the stamp when the Cossack baseball team traveled to San Quentin in 1967 for a game versus the inmates. "Diving for a grounder on the dusty infield dirt could have left me in trouble," he lamented.



In 1967-68, the Associated Student Body (ASB) sponsored intercollegiate athletics. Vern Hansen served the ASB President, Davis Danielson was the Athletic Commissioner with Anna Jaeck serving as the Rally Commissioner with Kenny Samples in charge of Publicity.

Early in the 1968 season, the Women's Recreation Association was formed with Dr. Ella Trussell as its faculty advisor. Students Melanie Graham (president), Betty Castino (vice president), Cheryl Soocey (secretary-treasurer) and Ruth Burrage (publicity) were its officers.

One of the SSC's pioneer, iron men athletes, Al Woicicki became the first 4-year participant in both cross-country and track and was a writer for the Steppes, often providing firsthand documentation of his feats for the sports page.

"While cross-country offered the freedom to run in an open setting, track and field required varied techniques and specialized skill sets to compete," he said.

On a particular road trip to Chico for a track meet, he remembers Jack Gage and Frank Hagerty pleasantly harmonizing with guitars in the back seat of their state car. "In a 1968 cross-country race in Reno, the University of Nevada had 5 runners from Kenya, and they just dominated the course," he said.

Dee Andreini thoroughly enjoyed her 3-years as a cheerleader, first cheering for the basketball team during 67-68, then from 68-70, football and basketball. "Particularly memorable was the 1970 road trip to play Oregon Tech. Most noteworthy was the fact SSC won 21-20."

Of course, her proudest moment came when she met the love of her life, Al Woicicki in an art class and they wed after graduation.

During October, 1968, the Lettermen's Society was formed with 30 initial members representing a variety of sports.

The 1968 assassination of Robert F. Kennedy shocked the world.

By 1968, women's teams began participating in sports and were coached by Ella Trussell, Vivian Fritz, Mary Covington and Marcia Hart. Trussell's 1968 Field Hockey team was composed of Wendy Avis, Ruth Burrage, Betty Castino, Carol Coberly, Melanie Graham, Marie Hirsch, Linda Jacobsen, Pat Laughlin, Norma O'Neil, Keiko Shimizu, Sherry Tuttle, Kathleen Whisler and Nancy Vernon.

Ed Rudloff, Jr. began serving as Sports Information Director beginning in 1968.

Basketball player, Dave Thomas spent his junior year as an exchange student in Europe, picking up valuable international court experience.

Another bicycling contingent paced by USA racer Tim Kelly, led SSC to the 1968 Northern California Cycling Association's Intercollegiate championship, besting 8 other colleges. It was their second such title, but again, no sign of a banner!

During an April 1968 track meet with Sacramento State and Chico State at Chico, Bob Sorani marveled at the exploits of Bill Gillingham. "Bill first ran and won the mile, 4:20.6, came back and won the 440 in 50.7, came back again and won the 880 in 1:56.6 and then came back at the end and ran a very strong 440 leg of our mile relay!" After the meet, the coaches there said, "It was probably the best performance they have ever had there by a track athlete!"

Gary Grellman: " I played basketball and ran track during both my years at Sonoma."

Terri Hannay became the second woman to run cross-country, participating with the men's team in 1969. A few FWC teams had women running and she competed against them.

Runner Bill Gillingham was included in the May 1969 issue of "Outstanding College Athletes of America," a publication sponsored by the non-profit Outstanding Americans Foundation. It recognizes athletes proven in the field, classroom and in relationships with other people.

Sue Jameson: Her tragic murder during spring of 1969, a half-year into her first teaching job in a Central California elementary school, stunned all who knew her. RIP dear classmate and friend to all!

Lloyd Helgeson was so proud of the recently completed, 9-lane, quarter-mile, asphalt-rubber track. "It's a beautiful track facility-one of the finest in the FWC," he said. "Everything is rubberized-the vault pit, high jumps and runways."

The permanent campus housed a brand new Commons in 1969 and numerous students enjoyed gathering in the facility. During late-November rains, one particular student persisted in bringing his soaking wet dog into the cafeteria. Although several people complained, he ignored their pleas. Finally, one football player approached and told him that if his dog was in there the next day, he was going to kill and eat it! The dog never showed again.

In 1969, the United States put a man on the moon and the huge, new gymnasium replaced "Cardiac Castle" and its cramped seating.

In a small November, 1969 ceremony, SSC gymnastics and sailing instructor, Cap Pease, had the new weight room named after him.

The man-made, campus pond offered some students a welcome, skinny-dipping opportunity especially, during warm afternoons or evenings.

Doug Pricer has fond memories of being accepted by the rural community. "I was a kid from the big city of Los Angeles. Growing up, all I remember was concrete, large buildings and traffic. Arriving in Rohnert Park, was truly a contrast in cultures.

However, meeting many of the local families, I was taken aback at how friendly and open they were and I made lifelong friendships here.”

Big John Thornton, a 6'-9" football player on the 1969 team had a rather large hat size. No football helmet available in the Cossack camp would fit. The Oakland Raiders came to the rescue, outfitting John with one from their vast store. Besides his towering size, he could easily be pinpointed on the field with his outsized silver helmet!

Physical Education instructor, Dr. Ella Trussell was one of the Pioneer women's sports coaches. "The future shows a growing interest in women's sports. As time goes by, the image of the girls who compete athletically shows less of a stereotype," she said.

Women's sports are part of the SSC athletic program and Trussell pointed out that teams include volleyball, field hockey, basketball and softball, with tennis and gymnastics listed as individual sports. "Should the turnout be large enough, there might be a girls team in track and cross-country," she said. "SSC does not belong to any league and plays teams when we are able to schedule them."

1970 football player, Luther Nelson, carried 26 units while playing for the Cossacks.

SSC's athletic budget in 1968-69 was by far the lowest among all FWC schools, at \$8,825. At the same time, Chico State's was \$31,800. With the addition of football in 1969-70, the SSC's budget doubled to \$16,500.

During March of 1970, a trio of female gymnasts won a beginning level meet versus San Francisco State and San Jose State. According to coach Mary Covington, Cathy Bacho, Terri Hannay and Debbie Hagler were all impressive in the victory.

In keeping with SSC's athletic budget, the 1969-70 spring sports banquet was a low-calorie buffet. Team letters and most valuable awards were presented and trophies were donated by Russ Camilleri and Associates. Basketball and track sensation, Ramon Solomon, was named outstanding male athlete of the year and multi sport participant, Betty Castino, was named female athlete of the year.

On April 22, 1970, a student vote, by a 713-254 margin, eliminated the \$18 funds for student government, intercollegiate athletics, closed circuit television, the Hidden Talent Program and the Model United Nations. Of the 3,900-student body, only 967 voted.

Football player, Mike Johnson, chose SSC over Chico State, because the Wildcat coach wouldn't allow his players to have moustaches. Your loss, Chico.

Friends of Sonoma State came to the rescue of Sonoma State's funding problems, helping provide enough funds to carry the program through the 1970-71 season.

Key members were Ed Hochuli, Bob Lipman, Gene Benedetti and the Alumni Association.

The 1970 women's Tennis team was composed of Vicki Calamusa, Betty Castino, Shirley Taylor, Sherry Tuttle, Becky VandenBerghe, Linda Watkins and Donna Wells.

While SSC's 1970-71 intercollegiate sports program was financed by an exhaustive drive by the Friends of Sonoma State and the Alumni Association, the upcoming 1971-72 budget had no money for sports. As Dr. Rudloff stepped down as Athletic Director, hope was pinned on an assembly bill, which would levy a student fee of up to \$15 per semester to finance sports and cultural events.

At the spring sports banquet, held at the SSC Commons during May of 1971, Benny Guerra was named Outstanding Athlete of the Year. Larry Austin was named basketball MVP; Del Henry was honored with the golf MVP; Jeff Barker claimed the baseball MVP and Dennis Hudson claimed the track MVP award.

With the bill an uncertainty, SSC sought to again seek help from the local community. On August 15, 1971, President Thomas McGrath announced that SSC would continue to compete in intercollegiate athletics in 8 major sports during the '71-72 season after receiving assurances from a group of prominent Santa Rosa business leaders that they would subscribe the necessary funds to finance athletics. "We are most fortunate to have a group of private citizens who have offered to underwrite the program."

During October of 1971, the assembly bill failed.

Speaking in reference to top javelin hurler, Dave Johnson, coach Lynde stated that it takes 3-years to develop into a javelin thrower. Looking through his training diary-which all track athletes are required to keep-he found one entry: "Javelin goes in right hand." Johnson's toss of 194' 7" is second to Bruce McKee's all-time mark of 219' 7".

Although struggling financially, the football team turned over gate receipts from their October 7, 1971 game versus UC Davis, to the Hidden Talent and Community Involvement projects.

SSC coaches dug into their own pockets to contribute over \$950 to rescue athletics for the 1970-71 season.

Mike Leoni played baseball for the 1971 Cossack baseball team. "We had a good coach in Bill Trumbo. He used his players well and showed confidence in all of us to do our jobs and play to the best of our capabilities. I do not remember any disharmony on the squad. For a bunch of guys who did not know much of each other prior to that spring, we played well together and enjoyed the companionship of being on that team. Coach Trumbo was a good man, was fair and did his best to keep

the team unified. I had a good time that spring and felt honored that he thought well enough of me to pick me on the team," he said.

Also a member of the 1971 baseball squad with Leoni was Dante Benedetti. A strong pitcher, he was a bit older than most members but fondly remembered for being a solid and trustworthy teammate.

Track Coach Bob Sorani was a quiet leader but very respected by his athletes and among peers throughout the FWC.

Mike O'Keefe: "I played golf when Sonoma State was NCAA, Ed Rudloff was the coach and Dave Castleberry was his assistant.

I played basketball only in 1972-73. The school had 2 teams, Varsity and JV and in some cases, I would play in the JV game then suit up for the Varsity game. It was fun being a part of the first championship basketball team in SSC history!

The following year, the '73-74 team was very good. On the team was Jim Bristol whose good friend was Bill Walton, and he lived in Cotati so we saw him frequently. One day, he got stung by a bee and needed medical attention. The story made front page in the Cotati newspaper!"

Sterling Sakai: " I began at Sonoma State in the fall of 1968 and graduated in 1972 with an undergraduate degree and a graduate degree in 1973. I was a member of Sonoma State's first intercollegiate Judo team with articles about its participation in the first-ever Sonoma County Judo Tournament held at El Molino High School. Also, when Sonoma first started playing football, I happened to be the one who filmed the games for the coaches. Certainly nothing fancy, as the coach gave me a super 8 camera and film and told me to catch as much action as I could (remember the berms that surrounded the football field?). I played high school football in San Francisco so I had some idea what to shoot but talk about low level camera work!"

Bette Holland was a SSC cheerleader but when football was dropped after the 1971 season, she sought another football team to cheer for. " I went to the tryouts at Alameda, where I was among 25 girls trying out for 4 positions. We spent the entire day doing routines for the 10 Raiderettes."

After several drills and a variety of splits, cartwheels and "minor acrobatics," she and 3 others were selected by a vote and became a Raiderette, the only North Bay member.

San Francisco State basketball player, Vance DeVost, upon seeing the Cossack's new gymnasium for the first time, "There are no trees on the campus, the gym just sits in open space!"

Dave Castleberry, a former basketball star and a Cossack assistant coach in basketball and golf, also ran the entire 1972-73 SSC Intramural program on a budget of around \$1,000 per year. In chatting with one of the UC Davis assistant coaches, he

was shocked to hear that Aggies annual Intramural budget was an astounding \$100,000. "I was almost embarrassed to mention what my budget was!"

Jake Fitzpatrick: "Wrestling from 1971 through '74, I was surrounded by greatness. Being around Guerra (Benny), Alvarado, (Joe) and Buonaccorsi (Ed) was a real privilege. They all advanced to the NCAA Finals and I not only lent support but learned a lot from them."

Dr. Stan Goertzen: Psychology professor and longtime tennis coach at SSC. Not many knew his real name was Stashu. He was an accomplished tennis player himself and as part of his cutting-edge coaching tactics, often brought in skilled players from the community to practice against his squad.

New Tennis coach, Jim Gale, moved along with the times, by incorporating the physiology of exercise into his tennis team structure.

Wrestling guru, Ken Flynn, not only elevated the skill levels of SSC wrestlers with an emphasis on basics and techniques but helped initiate the sport among local high schools. "It's a numbers game," he said. "By filling all weight classes, we are not giving away points!"

The student vote to drop the fee, which supported several programs, was a means of creating a self-sustaining student government and was not initially intended as an anti-athletic measure. However, it had huge ramifications for all school programs, not just athletics.

When mandatory school fees were abolished, Ed Rudloff and 2 off-campus organizations began an intensive campaign to save the 1970-71 intercollegiate athletic program. Needing \$16,500 to sustain the 1970-71 men's and women's program, the Friends of SSC and the Active 20-30 Club #5 in Santa Rosa stepped in the help raise funds.

Betty Castino, Beverly Sullivan, Keiko Shimizu and Sherry Tuttle were leading players on the 1970 Softball team.

Besides his batting prowess, 1971 baseball player Craig Estes became renowned for his orange diet. He came to believe that all the nutrition he would ever need to stay healthy was to be found in oranges. While teammates would be consuming steak and potato meals, he would dine on oranges, which he carried everywhere.

Coach Doug Earl was an accomplished basketball player in his day and he extolled the finer points of the game along with skill improvement. "Try to view the whole floor and make decisions based on split-second observations," he would say. "Think the game!"

SSC student and North Bay Officials Association member, Joel Spear was named Sports Information Director beginning in the 1972-73 year. He brought a fresh approach to the position and provided plenty of coverage for SSC sports.

The first Cal State Invitational cross-country meet was held on October 7, 1972 on SSC's hilly, Roberts Road course.

Basketball Coach, Bill Trumbo was a master strategist, who made the concepts of teamwork and defensive play a priority. He would comb multiple scouting reports on the same team, not just to determine their mannerisms but to get into their mindsets to disrupt them.

Mike Leoni: "In 1972, I met Janis Fay Ewen, who had come from Culver City to attend SSC. What a stunningly beautiful young lady she was, sweet and personable and she made such an impression on me. We were married, raised 3 beautiful children and live together in happiness and harmony. She is the real story of my time at SSC. But, after her, my best experience was playing as a Cossack on the 1971 baseball team!"

Coach Bob Lynde realized that low track numbers prevented SSC from achieving team success in the powerful FWC. Instead, he focused on individual improvement among his charges. "Seek to improve your times or marks from a personal best standpoint," he said.

The 1973 cross-country season featured a solid men's team along with a 10-team women's squad. Coach Lynde was especially thrilled to see so many interested runners turn out and they ran with the men's team against women's competition. Lynde commented that instead of a van to bring team members to meets, they had to rent a bus to take over 25 runners to the meet at Stanislaus State in Turlock. Composed of Pam Sinsel, Joy Leonard, Madeline Paul, Letta Hlavachek, Adele Devalos, Mary Hershman, Sharyn Wiley, Judith Young and Candie Briggs, ran in several FWC meets at Chico, Sacramento and Stanislaus but also participated in the State College Meet on November 26, 1973. Held on the 3-mile course at San Mateo City College, the event was attended by 60 entrants from both colleges and individual clubs. Joy Leonard really enjoyed the experience. "The meet generated a great deal of enthusiasm for the runners. Many of us will be looking forward to running for the Sonoma State women's track this spring."

Gene Benedetti of Clover Dairy Products, Bob Lipman and Reg Carolan continued to be staunch supporters of the athletic cause, helping to raise necessary funds to keep athletics going.

During coach Lynde's 1973 men's cross country season, SSC harriers were undefeated after 4 events, won the 5-team Sonoma State Invitational meet and recorded the most dual meet wins in program history, beating Sacramento State, Hayward State and San Francisco State.

Steve Tiedeman, the leading Cossack scorer and FWC MVP on the 1972-73 championship basketball team, preferred to downplay his role, instead praising all his teammates. "We worked together as a team but most of all, we are all good friends."

Paul Schandelmeir was probably the softest-spoken player on the 1972-73 championship basketball team and a science major with a unique specialty in herpetology (the study of snakes). Coach Trumbo certainly recognized his court contributions. "It's important to have a player like him on the team. A solid overall player, he compliments others, plays solid defense and goes to the board."

A group of brothers competed for the Pioneer Cossacks, forming a notable sibling connection to the athletic program:

Bill and Jeff Tuel

Irv and Nate Piotrkowski

Al and Paul Woicicki (twins)

Bob and Gary Strawther

Luther Nelson and Chris Smith

Holy Matrimony!

In addition to studying for classes and participating in sports, several pioneer athletes engaged in the happiness of pursuit. No less than 15 pioneer athletes met, began dating SSC coeds and eventually married shortly after graduating. Among these young women who earned their degrees AND attained MRS status are:

Al Woicicki wed Dee Andreini

Don Vachini wed Pat Baseheart

Bill Tuel wed Carol Reily

Don Graham wed Sherri Newberry

Dave Castleberry wed Charla Peck

Rich Carsner wed Carole Felsing

Ray Kessler wed Barbara Peterson

Ron Pomi wed Patty Thompson

Jack Throne wed Louise Ross

Curt Hastings wed Linda Munsch

Dale Aman wed Darlene Azevedo

Ernie Hardaway wed Cathy Feige

Mike Leoni wed Janis Fay Ewen

Nate Piotrkowski wed Terry Sovel

Bill Williams wed Linda Newbrough

Don Vachini: While focusing on getting my degree so I could "get out in the field and teach," SSC athletics also gave me the unexpected opportunity to be a part of the college's development while laying the foundation for future teams.

Being a part of 3 teams, each of which won their initial games, setting the field goal accuracy mark in basketball and 3-hit baseball games versus Stanislaus State and



Humboldt State certainly rank high as personal highlights. Also, team competitions against notable FWC rivals, John and Lynn Livie of Sacramento State and Alan Budde and John Frost of UC Davis as well as Jon Springer from the University of Alaska and Carl Rodwell, a 6'-8" center from UC Riverside, who played in the 1964 Olympics for the Australian National Team, conjure fond memories.

However, my most notable achievement at SSC was marrying the love of my life, Pat Baseheart, thus helping her attain her MRS degree!!

Jay Potter: "I was a student right after the Student Body voted to abolish student fees that went to support athletics and witnessed the downturn in the program after they had just won back to back Far Western Conference Men's Basketball Championships under Bill Trumbo. It was a dark period for the athletic program and the surrounding community really turned against the school, especially with all the hippie students who came from Southern California. Granola U was the nickname for the school for so many years to come."

Dan Plyler did not wrestle for SSC but had a huge influence on the program. Originally sought by SSC in 1968, he accepted a paid scholarship to Long Beach State College and finished his wrestling competition there, before coming to SSC as a graduate student. "Ken Flynn was my teaching credential mentor and appointed me as the team's lightweight coach for the smaller weight classes from 1972-74. He was one of the most caring, knowledgeable and influential coaches I ever had contact with," he said.

A transfer student from West Valley Community College in 1971, Jake Fitzpatrick brought his workman-like attitude to the Cossacks. At the end of the season banquet, Flynn honored him by saying he could always count on him for giving his best effort. "His comments filled me with pride and has stayed with me over the years."

"Coach Flynn was my major advisor," said Jerry Stine. "In addition to making lifelong friends in the SSC wrestling program, Flynn helped me become a Graduate Assistant in the Masters Program at the University of Oklahoma. Later, he helped me get hired as the head wrestling coach at Santa Rosa Junior College and then Analy High School."

Four-season wrestler, Jim Stevens, utilized judo skills learned in high school to earn many take-down points. However, he didn't escape his tenure as a Cossack without injury. "In the FWC Finals in 1965, I ended up with a dislocated elbow, then during my senior year, broke my right ankle learning a new hold," he said.

Ed Buonaccorsi and Jerry Stine represented SSC at the FWC Finals held at Hayward State in 1974. Buonaccorsi successfully defended his 126-lb. championship, making him the only 2-time defending FWC champion in SSC history. "We didn't know it at the time, but both of us were the last wrestlers to compete for SSC." He said.

When Buonaccorsi claimed the FWC's 126-lb. championship and punched his ticket to the NCAA Nationals, funding suddenly became a major issue for the cash-strapped program. Coming to the rescue, Clover Dairy Products stepped up to fund the trip to the Nationals.

In echoing numerous Cossack wrestlers, Buonaccorsi admitted that Flynn was much more than a coach. "He was a gentleman, a leader and a person who would help anyone. In addition to helping us improve our skills, he taught us to be better, both on and off the mat."

All of Flynn's wrestlers collectively remember the after-practice, conditioning "basketball games," designed as an extended workout, which often went scoreless!!

A quintet of former Cossack wrestlers, Fitzpatrick, Plyler, Stevens and Stine, each left a huge impact on the development of local wrestling at the junior high, high school and junior college level for 40+ years.

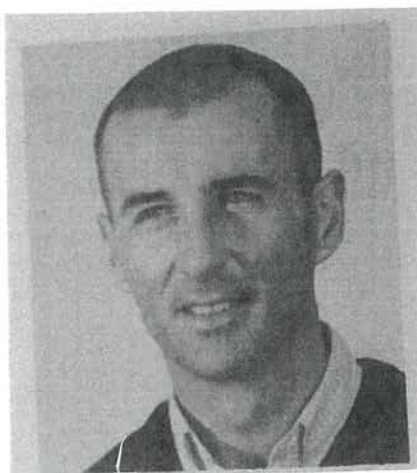
Tom Moore was a soccer player on Grossmont College's undefeated soccer team of 1969-70. Although offered a scholarship to San Diego State, he preferred Northern California, instead transferring to Sonoma State in 1970, along with his new wife. "Only then did I realize Sonoma didn't have a collegiate soccer team! However, we did fall in love with both Sonoma County and Sonoma State. I became so impressed with my professors and classmates, that I gave up my pursuit of intercollegiate soccer!"

Moore was a high-scoring forward on the Cossacks newly formed club soccer teams through 1974.

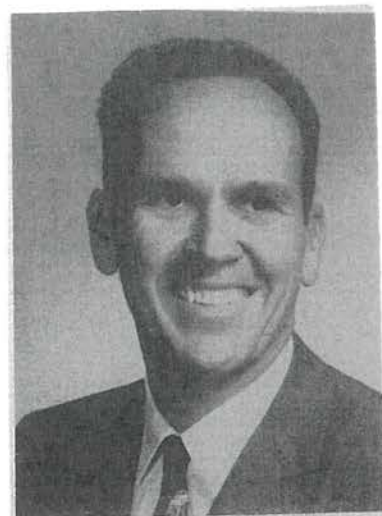
Pioneer Athletes  
Faces in the Crowd



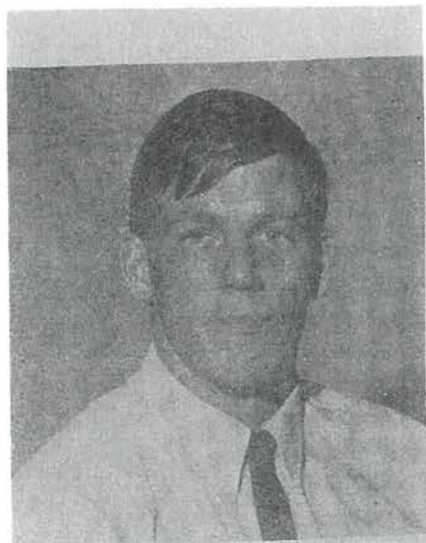
Paul Eiserich  
Bicycling, Swimming



Bill Ranney  
Cross Country, Track,  
Assistant Coach

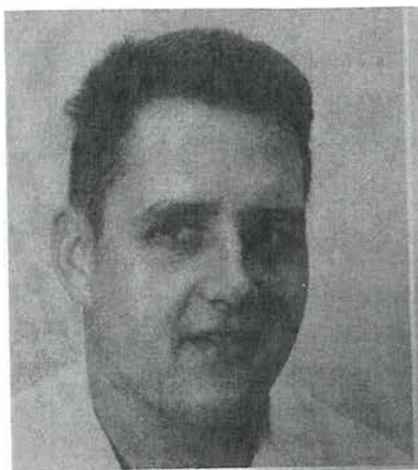


Ed Dunlap  
Tennis



Mike Francis  
Basketball, Assistant Coach

Jake Williams  
Press Democrat, Steppes  
Sports Editor



DENNIS P. MURR



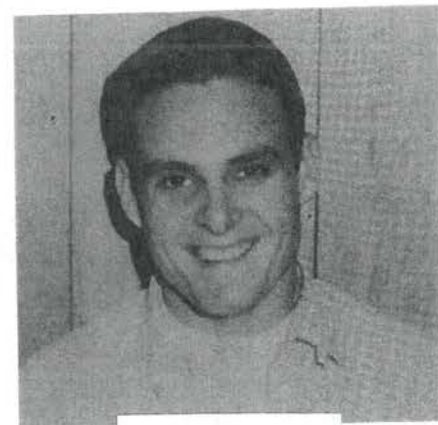
F. Grant Bodwell



Glenn Isaacs



Richard Lehtinen



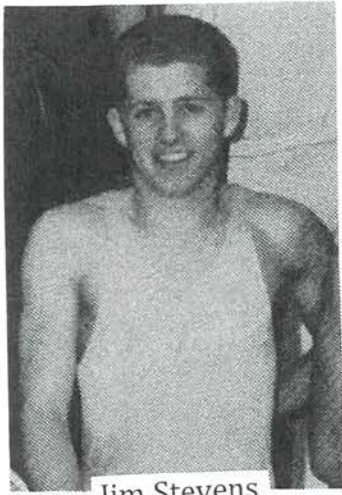
Paul Dennis



Curt Hastings/Linda Munsch



Randy Smith



Jim Stevens



1st Turkey Trot



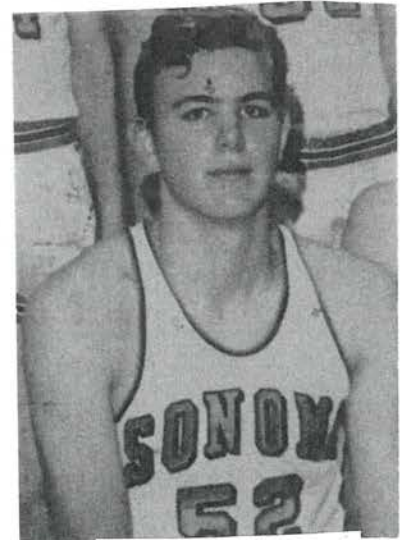
Coach Francisco Gives Chuck Tall, Jr. Compliment



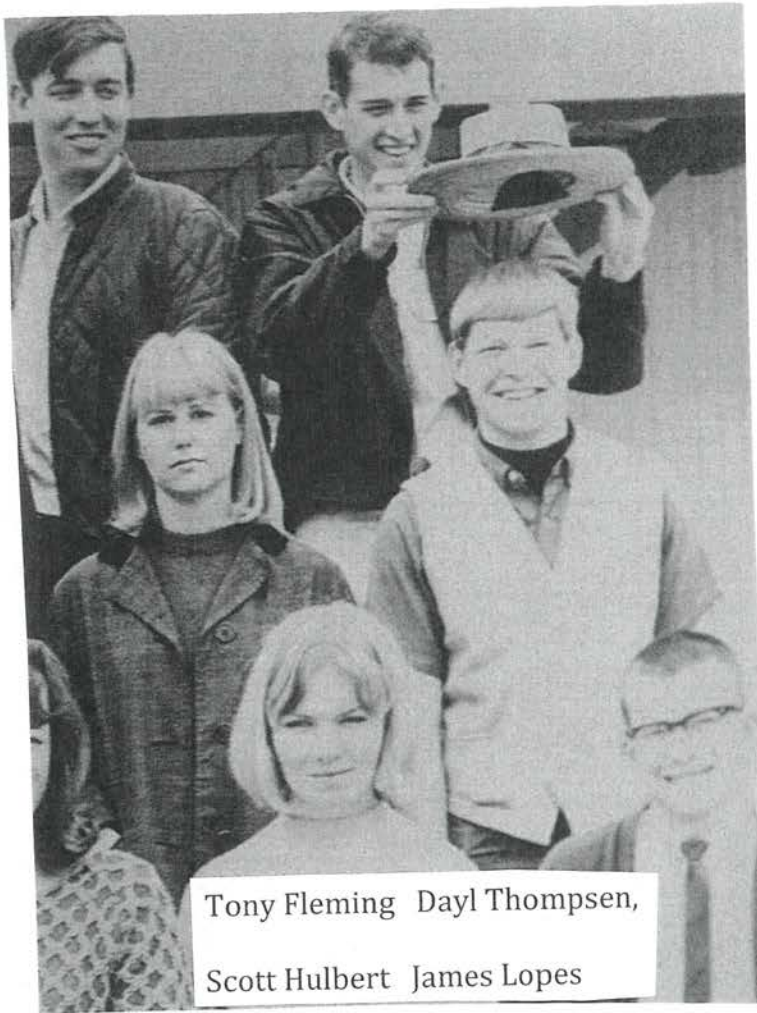
RAMON SOLOMON



Joel Grose Bill Ranney 1966



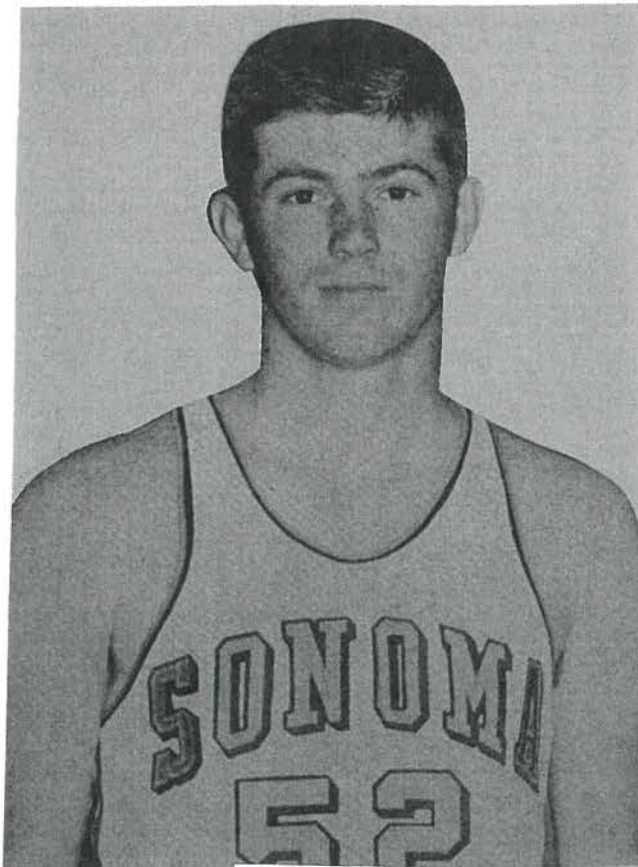
Curt Hastings



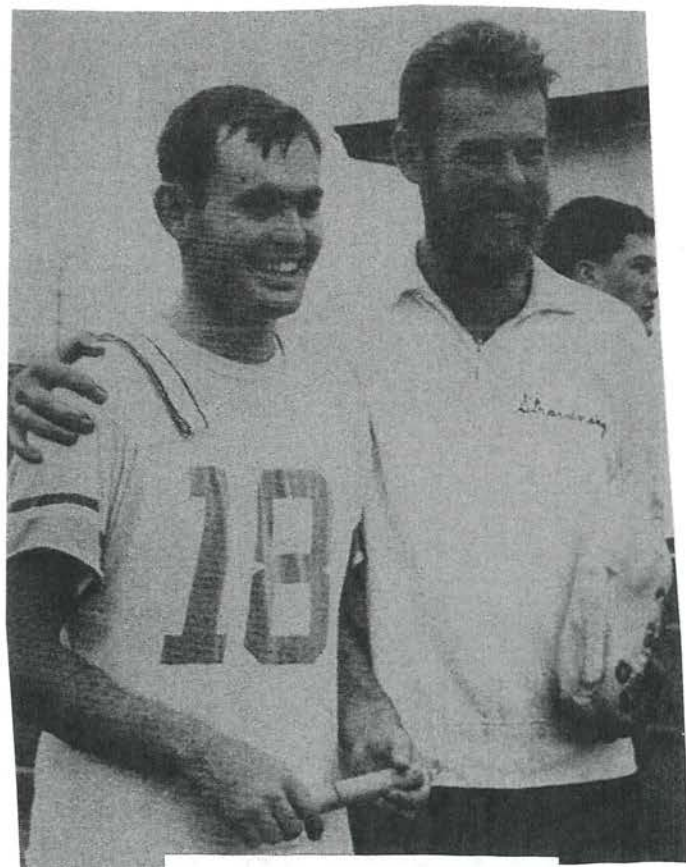
Tony Fleming Dayl Thompsen,  
Scott Hulbert James Lopes



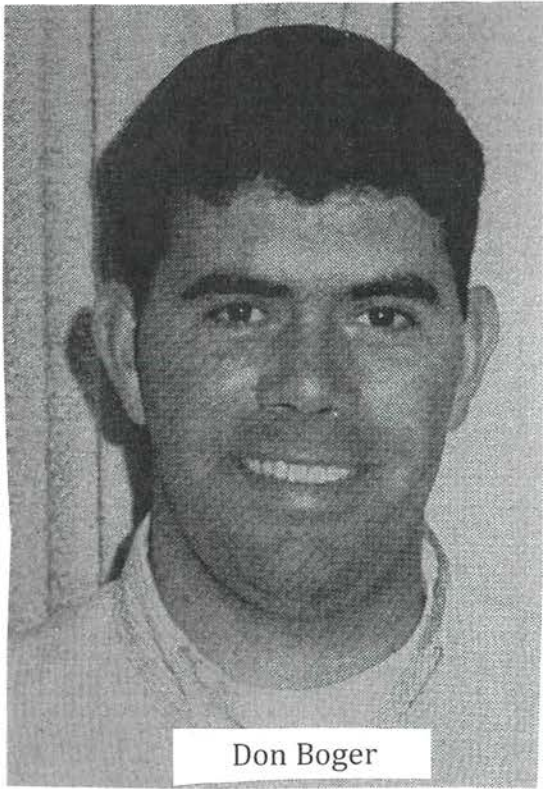
Sue Jameson



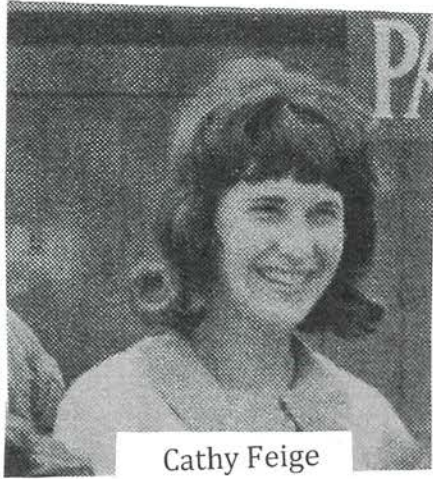
Bill Tuel



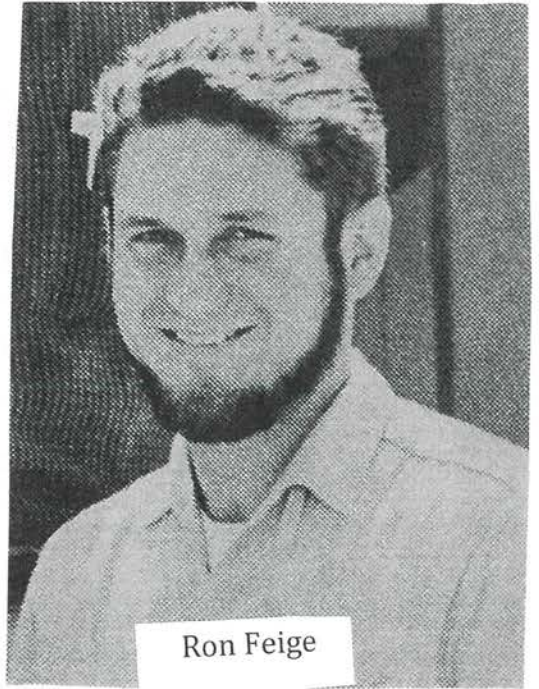
Carl Jensen Stan Goertzen



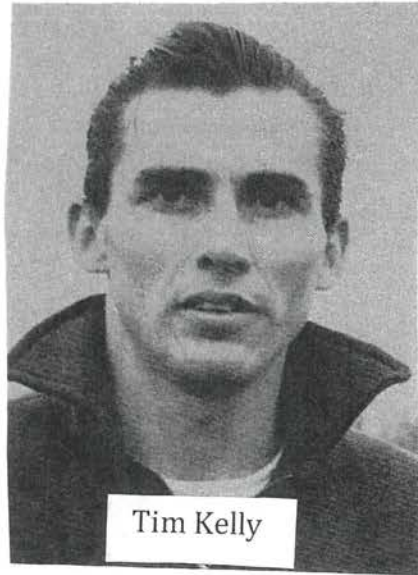
Don Boger



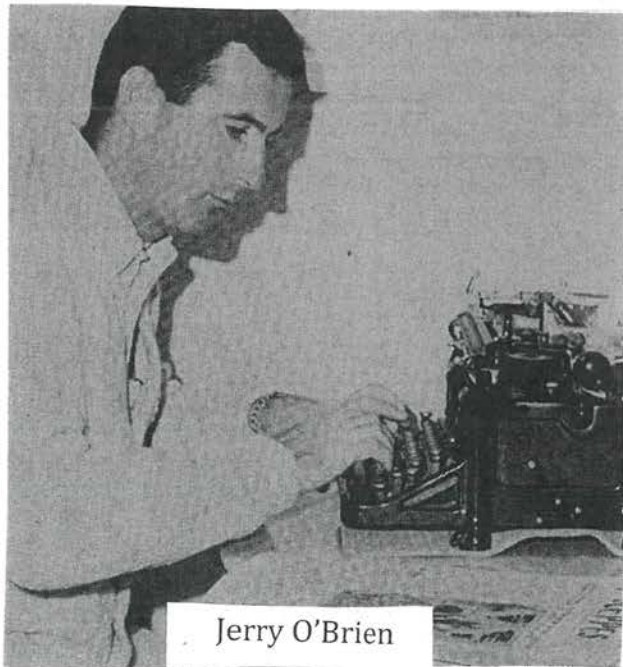
Cathy Feige



Ron Feige



Tim Kelly



Jerry O'Brien



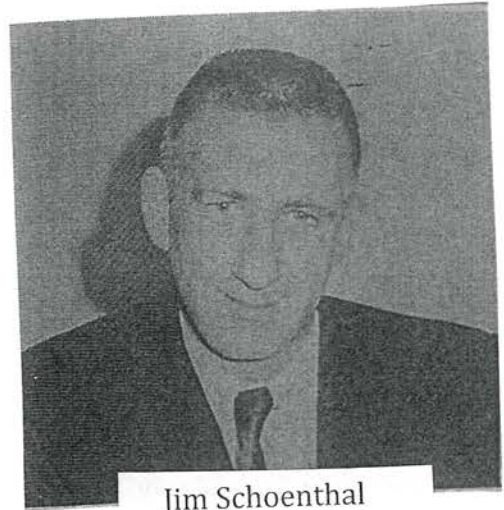
Kay Wiley



Mr. Phillip Temko



Dr. Clement Falbo



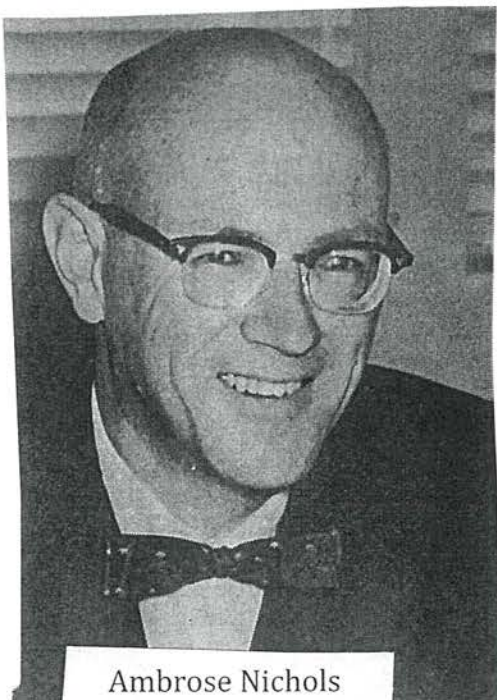
Jim Schoenthal



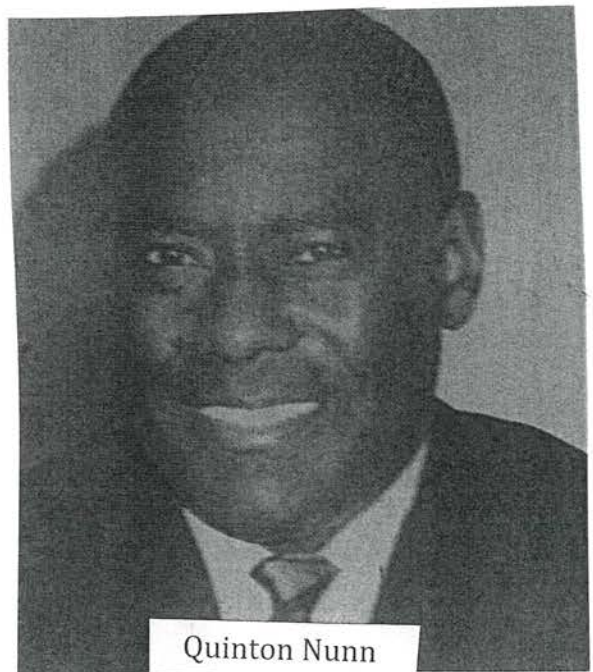
Sandra Dunwoody



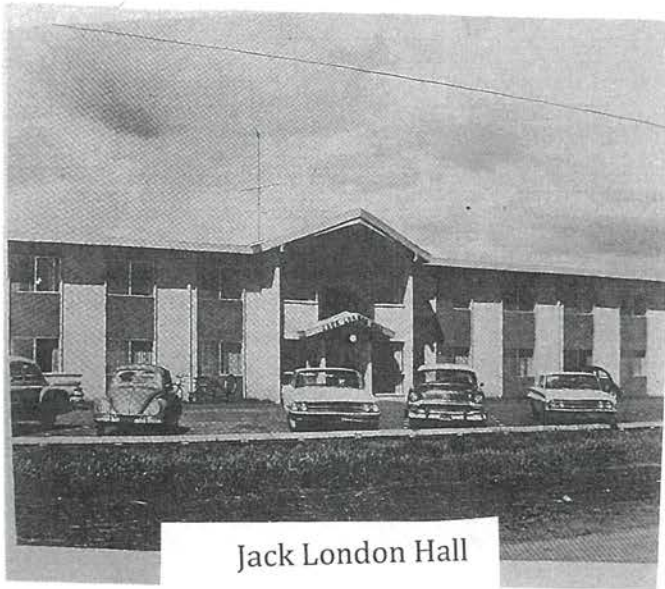
Ella Trussell



Ambrose Nichols



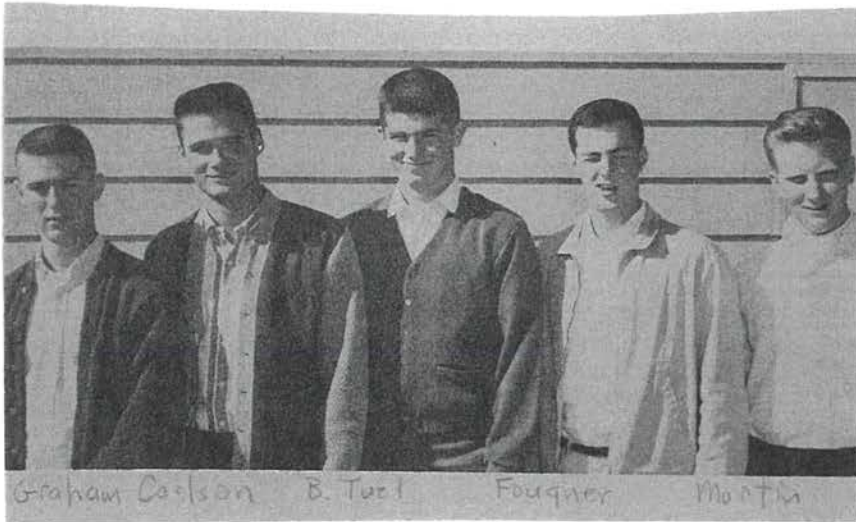
Quinton Nunn



Jack London Hall



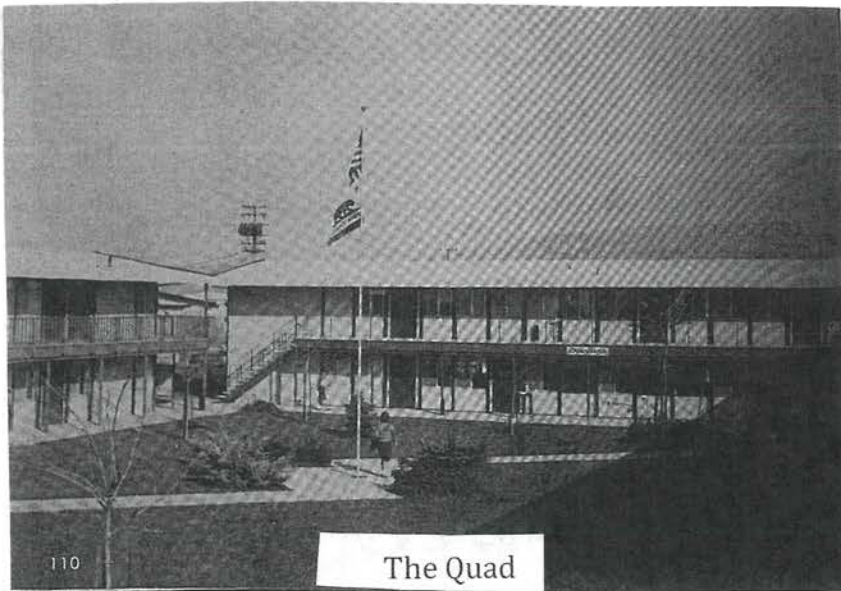
NEAL STINE



Graham Coolson B. Tuel Fouquier Martin

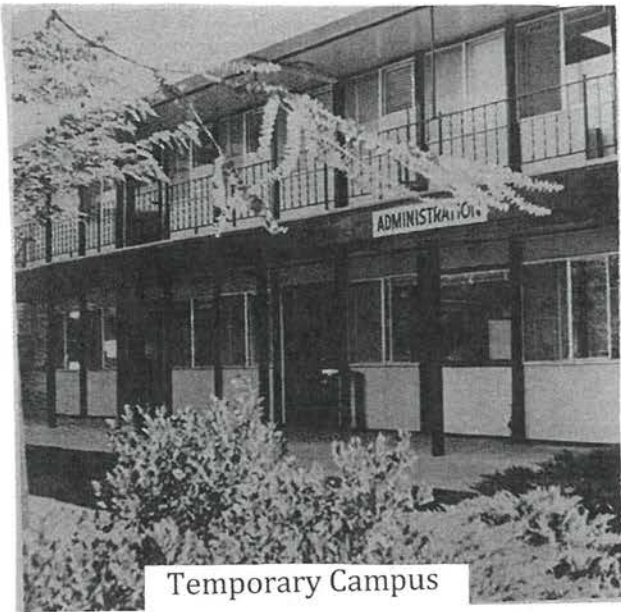


TRANSFER GLENN ISAACS

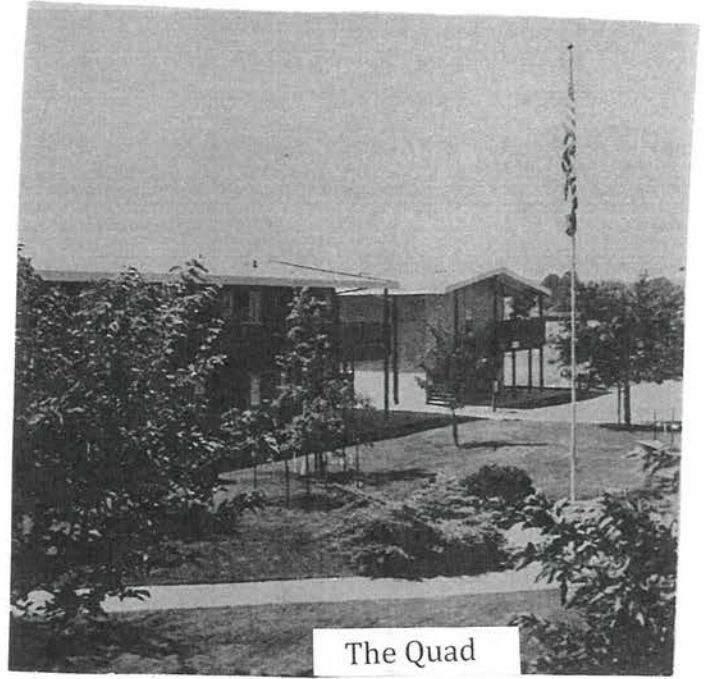


The Quad

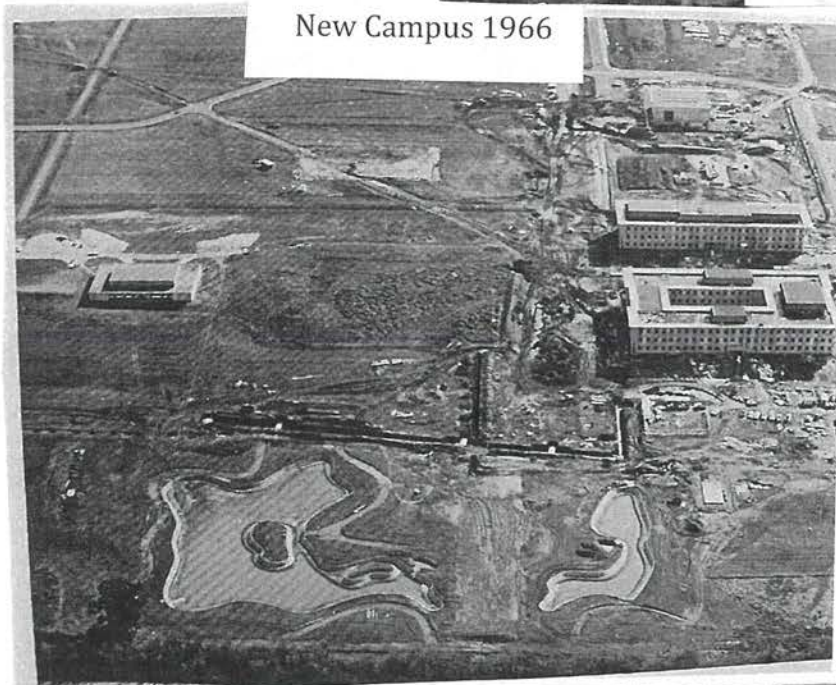




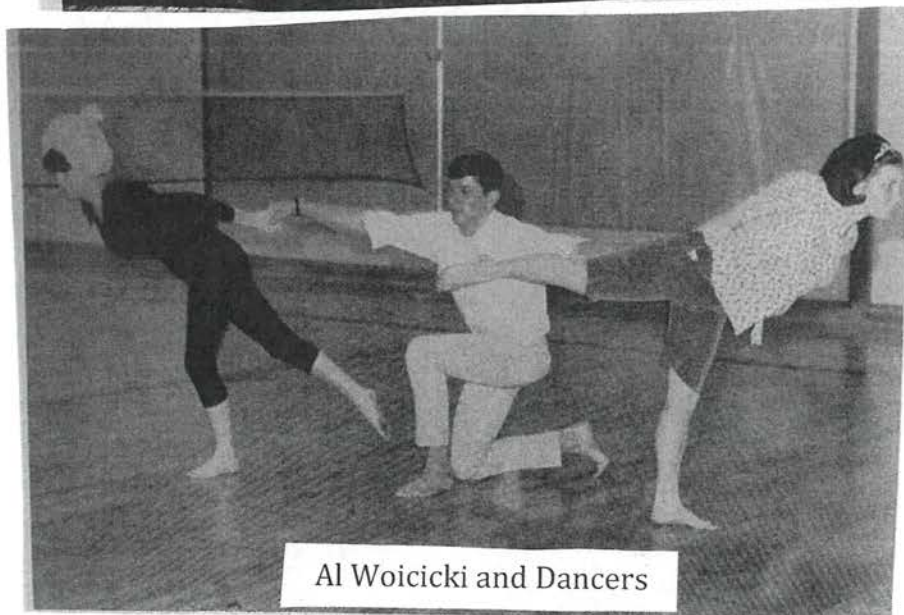
Temporary Campus



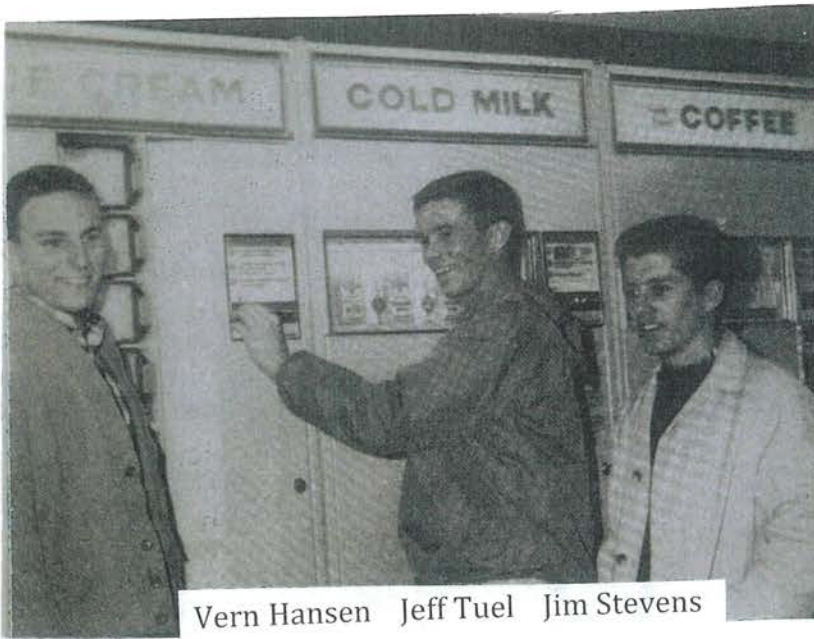
The Quad



New Campus 1966



Al Woicicki and Dancers



Vern Hansen Jeff Tuel Jim Stevens



"Ivan" the Cossack

## GIRLS RELAY TEAM REPRESENTS SONOMA STATE Ladies First in Track, Too

By HERS DOWER  
P.D. Sports Writer

Much has been written about Sonoma State College's fledgling athletic endeavors in basketball, baseball and track, and more will be written when the school moves so in the football field in a few years.

But, dear readers, how about the school's feminine competitors?

Without much fanfare, Sonoma State fielded a three-member rather three-girl-track and field contingent this season, and if Cossack coach Bob Sorani has his way, the women's track program will be expanded in 1968.

That is, if enough girls decide to partake of the daily workouts that go into making a successful track competitor.

The 1967 "squad" consisted of three youthful competitors: Cathy Feige, who hails from Occidental; Carol Schneider, and Kathleen McDougall.

Cathy, who celebrated her 20th birthday toward the end of the season, ran the 800. Carol ran the 50 and 100 yard dashes; and Kathleen ran the 200 and 400.

And who did they compete against?

Several other Far Western Conference schools had women's track squads, and in one meet the Cossack Invitational, seven schools were represented. The largest contingent coming from



SONOMA STATE COLLEGE'S WOMEN'S PERT TRACK AND FIELD CONTINGENT  
Carol Schneider, Kathleen McDougall, and Cathy Feige Represented Cossacks



Women Tracksters Run the Berm  
1967



GALE WIRES LYNDE FOR THE TEST

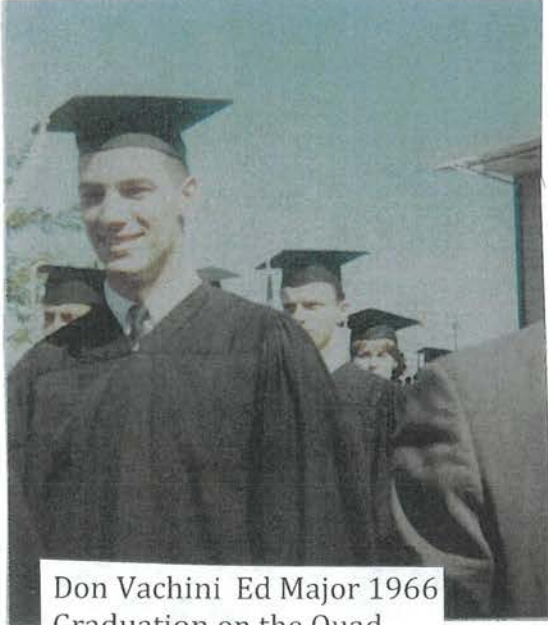


Don & Pat Vachini  
1967 Graduation

Bottom to Top, L-R: Barry Sovel, Don Graham, Andy Martin, Dean Warren R. Tappin, Jr. (ex-officio), Bill Tuel, Carl Carlson (commissioner), Dr. G. Edward Rudloff.



Pat Vachini 1967 Graduation On the Baseball Diamond

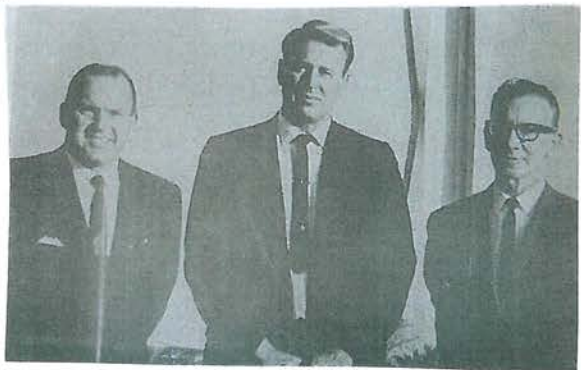


Don Vachini Ed Major 1966 Graduation on the Quad

## Emphasis Is on Variety



SSC COACHES TRUMBO, RUDLOFF, GIBB, EARL, FLYNN, PETERSON —PHOTO COURTESY PHOTO



Joel Grose Ed Rudloff Lloyd Helgeson

## Conclusion

During the "Pioneer Era," sports at SSC endured a challenging combination of circumstances connected with the institution's size. One of Sonoma State's major disadvantages was its diminutive size, with initial enrollments hovering between 300-500. A sparse budget, the lack of a permanent campus, undeveloped facilities and a small student body pool from which to draw athletes made competing against significantly larger FWC schools with established traditions a somewhat daunting task.

On the other hand, Sonoma's main advantage WAS its small size. From the academic stage, students benefitted from small class sizes along with outstanding instruction from dedicated and accessible professors. It seemed as if everyone knew everyone-and cared about everyone.

No matter the areas of major studies, these times at SSC represented a growing period in our lives-ones that were experienced, and now should be remembered and enjoyed. Whether an All-American, a team leader, role player, substitute, cheerleader or bench jockey, proudly review and embrace your athletic history, for you remain an integral part of SSC's past! Who can forget traveling to games, meets or matches, crammed in gray state cars, \$1.50 per diem meal allowances and proudly representing our college as Cossacks, wearing trendy Columbia blue and Navy uniforms?

Truly, those early days were certainly times of building traditions, then transitioning to full lives after college. Looking back, with our place in SSC intercollegiate athletic history secure, we remain forever linked to the accomplishments, memories and friendships accumulated as teammates and classmates. While our SSC teams valiantly accepted the challenge of competition and earned mutual respect, our lasting legacy is that we left our footprints in the sand for others to follow!

When mentioning athletes from this formative era, a quote from Theodore Roosevelt comes to mind:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."