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## MEDIA RELEASE

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# Sac-Joaquin Section names six Model Coaches

## Bryan Kilby and Christine Toon selected for statewide honors

The Sac-Joaquin Section today named **Luis Barranon** (Marysville), **Tracy Cordes** (Rodriguez), **Bryan Kilby** (Franklin-EG), **Chopper Mello** (Golden Valley), **Christine Toon** (West) and **Jacqueline Wooding** (Golden Valley) as the

recipients of the 2020-21 Sac-Joaquin Section Model Coach Award.

This year's six winners represent five different high schools, five leagues, four of the seven divisions and both halves of the Section.

Barranon is the third coach from

Marysville High to receive this award. Mello and Wooding become the second and third coaches from Golden Valley High to receive this award. These are the second winners from Franklin-EG, Rodriguez and West High Schools.

To date, 122 coaches have been honored from 73 different schools.

The award, honoring coaches who are positive role models within our schools and the community at large, is being given for the 20th year. Each of the six model coaches will receive a plaque and a lifetime Sac-Joaquin Section pass at an awards ceremony to be determined later this year.

Each member school in the Sac-Joaquin Section can nominate one male and one female coach from its staff. Those names then went to the leagues, and each league was then directed to select one male and one female coach and send those names to the Section office for consideration.

Below is a short synopsis of this year's six honorees, listed in alphabetical order:

### **LUIS BARRANON (Marysville)**

Barranon coached the varsity tennis team from 1982-2015, where he's won three league titles and has been named league coach of the year three times. He also coached varsity track and field and cross country from 1978-1981.

He's also coached competitive and rec-league soccer in his community for 14 years. He was a Spanish teacher at Marysville – his alma mater – for 38 years. The Marysville High tennis complex is named in his honor.

"Luis is authentically altruistic in everything he does and in every interaction he has with others," Marysville Superintendent Gary Cena said. "He personifies the tenets of Pursuing Victory with Honor."

### **TRACY CORDES (Rodriguez)**

Cordes has coached the varsity softball team since 2006. During that time, she's seen her teams win four league championships and two Sac-Joaquin Section crowns (2009, 2011). She also coached the junior varsity softball team from 2002-2005.

She has also run a local youth sports clinic for

### Model Coach Winners

#### 2020-2021

Luis Barranon	Marysville
Tracy Cordes	Rodriguez
Bryan Kilby	Franklin-EG
Chopper Mello	Golden Valley
Christine Toon	West
Jacqueline Wooding	Golden Valley

**Note:** Above are the winners, listed alphabetically, of the 2020-21 Model Coach program.

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four years, coached competitive softball and she's been the advisor of the Rodriguez Mustang Mentor Club since 2008. She's been the Rodriguez Athletic Director for the last seven years.

"Coach Cordes focuses on innovation, relationship building and trust," Rodriguez principal Clarence Isadore said. "She's definitely a top-notch adviser, leader, and coach."

### **BRYAN KILBY (Franklin-EG)**

Kilby has been the varsity baseball coach at Franklin-EG since 2012; he's been involved with the school's baseball program since the school opened in 2002.

He's also been the school activities director and assistant athletic director since 2008. He volunteers with Laguna Youth Baseball and the Elk Grove Champions League, which facilitates baseball games for kids with handicaps.

"Throughout his tenure at Franklin High, Bryan has demonstrated incomparable leadership, both in and out of the classroom," Franklin-EG principal Chantelle Albiani said. "He's always been well-respected because he is willing to extend himself knowing that his efforts will translate to student success."

### **CHOPPER MELLO (Golden Valley)**

Mello has been the varsity wrestling coach at Golden Valley since 1997. He's also worked in several roles with the football program. His wrestling teams have won four league titles and three divisional Section titles. In addition, he is the PA "voice" of the SJS Masters Wrestling Championships.

He volunteers within his community in various wrestling roles, from coach to tournament director.

"Mr. Mello always places the academic, emotional and physical well-being of student-athletes at the top of his priority list," Golden Valley principal Kevin Swartwood said. "He's spent a lifetime

## Past Model Coach Winners

### 2001-02

Warren Blomquist	Oakmont
Mike Gebhardt	Mesa Verde
Judy Morris	Rio Linda
Angie Pozzi	Rocklin
Barbara Smith	Sonora
Harvey Tahara	McClatchy

### 2002-03

Armando Alonzo	Colfax
Paul Cornwell	Beyer
Jackie Gabriel	Casa Roble
Gary Stringfellow	Woodcreek
Donna Tofft	Lincoln (L)
Judy Wettstein	Vacaville

### 2003-04

Suzanne Baker	Capital Christian
Tom Galvin	Lincoln-S
Joan Lewis	Del Oro
Darla Mayhew	Sonora
Dean Perkins	Oakmont
Peter Sawyer	Dixon

### 2004-05

Dan Carmazzi	Jesuit
Jan Edwards	Bret Harte
Barbara Iten	Dixon
Radley McCord	Placer
Shawna Nunes	Ceres
Bill Rood	Linden
Jim Rubiales	Lincoln-S
Alynn Wright	St. Francis

### 2005-06

Keri Butler	Vanden
Kristy Dwyer	Summerville
Rick Francis	Sonora
Rod Gaines	Tokay
Tevani Liotard	Sierra
Marlen Ronten	Summerville

### 2006-07

Denise Aguilar	Sheldon
Brent Bohlender	Johansen
Jack McCrory	Bear River
Terri McKillop	Woodcreek
Angelo Naldi	Livingston
Lisa Shrock	Sierra

### 2007-08

Walt Lange	Jesuit
Max Miller	Cordova
Ron Pucci	Colfax
Thalia Puddy	Wood
Felicia Rowley	St. Mary's
Mary Jo Truesdale	Sheldon

### 2008-09

Vince Bicocca	Calaveras
Jennifer Birch	Roseville
Patty Burnett	McNair
Courtney Porter	Tokay
Nan Prolo	Benicia
Mike Singer	Armijo

### 2009-10

LaDeane Hansten	Sonora
Mark Loureiro	Escalon
Len Marks	Marysville
Vicky Satterlee	Colfax
Elizabeth Saunders	Vintage
Jack Thomson	Sierra

### 2010-11

Rich Cathcart	Bret Harte
Nancy Holt	Woodcreek
Connie Marion	Lodi
Ann Talamantes-Ristow	Hogan
Mick Tate	Pitman
Ben Tsukiji	West

*Note: Above are the winners, listed alphabetically, from inception in 2001-02 through 2010-11.*

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helping young student-athletes learn about wrestling, and more importantly about the skills needed to be a productive person in any community."

### CHRISTINE TOON (West)

Toon coached varsity girls volleyball for 15 years, varsity boys volleyball for two years and varsity boys tennis for three years.

She formed Low Cost Clubs in Tracy to allow any volleyball player to continue to develop their skills on the volleyball court.

Her community is mourning her passing in September due to Covid-19.

"Perhaps her most impressive quality was her commitment to being fair and caring to all students," West principal Zachary Boswell said. "She treated everybody with fairness and respect. She was an exemplary model of taking the high road and caring for students. I regret that I did not submit this nomination before she passed away this year, as she has been deserving of this recognition for many years."

### JACQUELINE WOODING (Golden Valley)

Wooding coached varsity cross country for 10 years and varsity track and field for eight years. Her track and field teams have won two league titles and one SJS title. She's seen cross country and track and field runners qualify for the state championships five times.

She's helped organize the Merced County Junior Olympics for 11 years and the Livingston Youth Track Meet for three years. She was also the co-director of the SJS Division III championships in 2019.

"Ms. Wooding is a worth role model and is always mindful of the great influence she has as a teacher-coach and consistently conducts herself in a manner of what she wants her student-athletes to be," Golden Valley principal Kevin Swartwood said. "She's dedicated to teaching young people how to look beyond themselves."

**NOTE:** The Sac-Joaquin Section is also working in conjunction with the state CIF in honoring 20 model coaches from among the 10 sections of the state of California. Each section is allowed two recipients (one male and one female) for their award. From the six above, the committee selected Bryan Kilby of Franklin-EG and Christine Toon of West to represent the Sac-Joaquin Section at that level.

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CIF Sac-Joaquin Section oversees high school athletics for 198 schools and 225,000 students. Its geographic boundaries stretch from Merced in the south, Grass Valley in the North, Fairfield to the west and the Nevada state line to the east. The Section is the second largest of California's 10 athletic sections.

## Past Model Coach Winners

### 2011-12

Diane Heine	Christian Brothers
Mike Papadopoulos	Vacaville
Kelly Rhoden	Nevada Union
Roddy Svendsen	Atwater
Mike Takayama	Del Oro
Janice Williams	Galt

### 2012-13

Kingsley Claudy	Monterey Trail
Debbie Clemens	Pitman
Mark Miller	Linden
Michael Morris	Rio Linda
Jana Osgood	Downey
Jill Tooker	Del Oro

### 2013-14

Rusty Fachner	Escalon
Michael Gimenez	Whitney
Maria Hill	Valley Christian
Mike Johnson	Franklin-EG
Rhonda Mohr	Davis Sr.
Mimi Scott	Colfax

### 2014-15

Terri Hammerstrom	Franklin-S
Eric McCahon	Cordova
Mike Rosendin	Sierra
Tara Staal	Lodi
Christie Wheeler	Bella Vista
Mike Zaklan	Linden

### 2015-16

Jay Aliff	Union Mine
Troy Mott	Napa
Kay Nekota	Vacaville
Kristen Pontes-Christian	Pitman
Matt Thissen	Golden Valley
Elizabeth Zamora	Lincoln-L

### 2016-17

Lynn Barcellos	Los Banos
Mary Krupka	Turlock
Catherine Mendes	Hilmar
Manuel Pires	Sierra
Rob Scheidt	Merced

Dean Stark	Sac Waldorf
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### 2017-18

Fred Jones	Vacaville
Mike Lee	Bella Vista
Mary McCullick	Atwater
Sarah McLaughlin	Rodriguez
Linda Merrida	Pioneer
Steve White	Oak Ridge

### 2018-19

Maureen Barnett	Rio Americano
Greg Largent	Escalon
Terry Logue	Bear River
Jill McPherson	Ripon
Marcy Tarr	Marysville
Rick Wanlin	Rosemont

### 2019-20

T.J. Ewing	Monterey Trail
Patti Harris	Hilmar
Daryn Glasgow	Bear River
Scott Savoie	Bear River
Rob Steve	Gregori
MaryAnn Tolbert	Manteca

**Note:** Above are the winners, listed alphabetically, from inception in 2011-12 through 2019-20.