



Elizabeth Belyea Class of 2020

Liz graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1973 and was a member of the California Scholastic Federation (CSF) and National Honor Society for three years and a Top Ten student as a junior. She was a member of the Girls Athletic Association (GAA) all four years and was named Senior Female Athlete the Year. In addition to being an outstanding athlete, she was a member of the OHS marching and pep bands, playing the French Horn, and was active in the American Field Service Club.

Following her graduation from OHS, Liz attended Chico State where she majored in physical education and earned her BA degree in 1977. Three years later, she was awarded her MA degree and presented her thesis on the historical documentation of: "Organization and Administration of the California Collegiate Women's Soccer Conference".

During her four years at Chico State, Liz directed the Women's Intramural Sports Program, played six years of soccer and was a member of the women's track team for two years. As a student-athlete on the soccer team, she was elected the first president of the California Collegiate Women's Soccer Conference, North Division, a position she held for five years.

Following Chico State, Liz joined the staff at University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC), coaching the women's soccer team for two years and the men's team for one year, and was the first female in the nation to become a men's collegiate head soccer coach. Following UCSC, during the next eight years she was assistant women's coach at Brown University, head coach at Wheaton College and the University of Rhode Island.

In 1990, Liz was named head women's soccer coach at Cosumnes River College in Sacramento, a position she held for 10 years in addition to being a professor of Health Education. She was then promoted to chair of the Kinesiology, Health and Athletics Department. In 2007, Liz was named Dean of Kinesiology, Health and Athletics at Cosumnes River College, a position she held until her retirement in the summer of 2016. Of all her accomplishments, Liz is most proud of the work she did to inspire student-athletes to learn.

During her career, Liz was active on numerous committees including the NCAA, The National Soccer Coaches Association, The California Community College Athletic Association, and the first Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW). The latter committee formed as part of establishing a Women's National Soccer Championship. Liz was also very active in promoting the ideals behind Title IX.

In 2005, Liz became the first inductee into the California Community College Soccer Coaches Hall of Fame. Her most recent honor came in 2019 when she was inducted into The California State University, Chico Athletic Hall of Fame. As part of her induction, she also became only the fifth winner of the Mac Martin Award, reserved for a former Chico State student-athlete who has distinguished them self in their post-collegiate career. Liz distinguished herself by paving the way for others to succeed every step of the way, bringing honor to the University, community, and her vocation, as did Mac Martin.

Aside from her major accomplishments as teacher, coach, athletic director and dean at the collegiate level, Liz also found time to devote to non-collegiate students. In 1984-85, she worked soccer camps and led a group of high school girls through the Northwest Soccer Camp to Europe where they played games before European fans.

OHS classmate and friend Marsha Henderson wrote in her letter of support, *“Even in retirement, Liz continues to teach others to seek new skills, new interests and knowledge. She encourages, motivates, problem solves, and seems happiest when she witnesses another person’s joy or their sense of accomplishment. She’s one of the most humble people I know.”*

Her most recent coaching adventure was in 2019, when she coached an Oroville team for children age five and under, a team on which her niece was a member. Lifelong friend Kathryn Downer, writes in her letter of support, *“I observed her with these children and she was kind, patient and very encouraging with them. No matter what they did she complimented and only saw the good. She is always working towards the furtherance of sports and teaching.”*

Liz makes her home in Sacramento.