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MEDIA RELEASE

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Sac-Joaquin Section names six Model Coaches

Roddy Svendsen and Janice Williams selected for statewide honors

The Sac-Joaquin Section today named **Diane Heine** (Christian Brothers High School-Sacramento), **Michael Papadopoulos** (Vacaville High School), **Kelly Rhoden** (Nevada Union High School-Grass Valley), **Roddy Svendsen** (Atwater High School),

Model Coach Winners	
2011-12	
Diane Heine	Christian Bros.
Mike Papadopoulos	Vacaville
Kelly Rhoden	Nevada Union
Roddy Svendsen	Atwater
Mike Takayama	Del Oro
Janice Williams	Galt

Note: Above are the winners, listed alphabetically, of the 2011-12 Model Coach program.

Michael Takayama (Del Oro High School-Loomis) and **Janice Williams** (Galt High School) as the recipients of the 2011-12 Sac-Joaquin Section Model Coach Award.

This year's six winners represent six different high schools, five leagues, three of the seven

divisions and both halves of the Section.

For Del Oro and Vacaville, it is each school's second model coach winner. The other four schools were first-time winners.

To date, 68 coaches have been honored from 49 different schools.

The award, honoring coaches who are positive role models within our schools and the community at-large, is being given for the eighth year. Each of the six model coaches will receive a plaque and a lifetime Sac-Joaquin Section pass at an awards breakfast on April 17, 2012 at Hutchins Street Square in Lodi.

Each member school in the Sac-Joaquin Section was permitted to nominate one male and 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 winners, listed in alphabetical order:

DIANE HEINE (Christian Brothers)

Heine has coached four different sports over the last decade at Christian Brothers High. She was the girls volleyball head coach from 2002-07 and from 2010 to the present. She's also helped coach girls golf (2010), boys volleyball (1998-2001) and softball (1992-97). She was the junior varsity girls volleyball coach from 1992-97.

Her volleyball teams have had all sorts of success, including several league titles and three Section championships in a row (2005-07). She was named the Sacramento Bee volleyball coach of the year in 2007.

She's worked at the Wellspring Women's Center for six years as a moderator for the school club that cooks breakfast every Friday morning for low-income families that live in Oak Park. She also developed and designed a garden for the women at the Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home.

She also introduced "Athletes Committed to Service" to the Christian Brothers athletic student council two years ago and now all of the school's athletic programs are involved.

MICHAEL PAPADOPOULOS (Vacaville)

Papadopoulos has been Vacaville's varsity football coach since 2005, and he was an assistant on the team from 1993-2004. He's also been the school's varsity track and field coach since 1994.

As head coach, he's seen his football teams win four league titles, and they won a Division I Section

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championship in 2006 and the D2 championship in 2011. In 17 years as the track coach, his teams have won 15 Monticello Empire League titles and one Section crown.

He has been the MEL track and field representative since 2000 and he was the Sac-Joaquin Section track and field championship co-director from 2003-08.

What distinguishes "Coach Pop" is his friendly demeanor and enthusiasm.

"He works with the third-string guard or last sprinter with the same enthusiasm he gives the starters and scholarship athletes," Vacaville principal Ed Santopadre said. "He opens his home every Thursday night to his players. Kids like being around Coach Pop and they become better people because of his influence."

He also leads school study halls and tutoring sessions and he can be seen helping just about anyone, from administrators to cafeteria workers to all of the students. **KELLY RHODEN (Nevada Union)**

Rhoden has been involved with the Nevada Union girls volleyball program in some form or another since 1998.

She's also been a JV or varsity assistant with the boys volleyball program since 2000.

She's been the school district fitness coordinator for six years and she became part of the Community Emergency Response Team in 2010.

She's been beneficial internally at Nevada Union as well. She and two other staff members formed the Sunshine Committee, which focused on boosting morale and promoting a sense of teamwork.

"Kelly's ability to communicate with her players motivates and inspires them and also helps them to improve," Nevada Union principal Michael Blake said. "She commands respect not through fear but through competence, communication and connection. Kelly is the calm, cool coach and her players respond to that leadership.

"She truly cares about children. This is her greatest strength. Students know she cares and this is what

Past Model Coach Winners

2001-02		2006-07	
Warren Blomquist	Oakmont	Denise Aguilar	Sheldon
Mike Gebhardt	Mesa Verde	Brent Bohlender	Johansen
Judy Morris	Rio Linda	Jack McCrory	Bear River
Angie Pozzi	Rocklin	Terri McKillop	Woodcreek
Barbara Smith	Sonora	Angelo Naldi	Livingston
Harvey Tahara	McClatchy	Lisa Shrock	Sierra
2002-03		2007-08	
Armando Alonzo	Colfax	Walt Lange	Jesuit
Paul Cornwell	Beyer	Max Miller	Cordova
Jackie Gabriel	Casa Roble	Ron Pucci	Colfax
Gary Stringfellow	Woodcreek	Thalia Puddy	Wood
Donna Tofft	Lincoln (L)	Felicia Rowley	St. Mary's
Judy Wettstein	Vacaville	Mary Jo Truesdale	Sheldon
2003-04		2008-09	
Suzanne Baker	Capital Christian	Vince Bicocca	Calaveras
Tom Galvin	Lincoln-S	Jennifer Birch	Roseville
Joan Lewis	Del Oro	Patty Burnett	McNair
Darla Mayhew	Sonora	Courtney Porter	Tokay
Dean Perkins	Oakmont	Nan Prolo	Benicia
Peter Sawyer	Dixon	Mike Singer	Armijo
2004-05		2009-10	
Dan Carmazzi	Jesuit	LaDeane Hansten	Sonora
Jan Edwards	Bret Harte	Mark Loureiro	Escalon
Barbara Iten	Dixon	Len Marks	Marysville
Radley McCord	Placer	Vicky Satterlee	Colfax
Shawna Nunes	Ceres	Elizabeth Saunders	Vintage
Bill Rood	Linden	Jack Thomson	Sierra
Jim Rubiales	Lincoln-S	2010-11	
Alynn Wright	St. Francis	Rich Cathcart	Bret Harte
2005-06		Nancy Holt	Woodcreek
Keri Butler	Vanden	Connie Marion	Lodi
Kristy Dwyer	Summerville	Ann Talamantes-Ristow	Hogan
Rick Francis	Sonora	Mick Tate	Pitman
Rod Gaines	Tokay	Ben Tsukiji	West
Tevani Liotard	Sierra	<i>Note: Above are the winners, listed alphabetically, from the first 10 years of the Model Coach program.</i>	
Marlen Ronten	Summerville		

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makes her connection with them – in the classroom or in an athletic setting – so strong.”

RODDY SVENDSEN (Atwater)

Svensden has been involved with aquatics at Atwater since 1979. He remains the boys and girls swimming coach, where he’s helped produce four all-Americans. He coached the boys water polo team from 1979-2006, where he won over 500 games and led 20 all-Americans, went to the playoffs 24 of 27 years and presided over four league champion teams. He coached the girls water polo teams from 1980-87. Svensden, Atwater’s athletic director, has coached within the aquatics program over five decades.

He’s been the adviser for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Atwater for 20 years. He’s mentored over 2,500 athletes through this program. He’s also the co-founder of Atwater’s Character Counts program and the Atwater High Athletic Hall of Fame.

His first year of teaching, in 1979, Svensden initiated the “Random Acts of Kindness” program, which encourages students and athletes to perform random acts of kindness during the Christmas season. A product of this was the organization of the local Toys for Teens program, which distributes Christmas gifts to needy teens in the area.

“His teams have won many championships,” Atwater principal Alan Peterson said. “But what Roddy is most remembered for is building character. He pushed students beyond what they thought they were capable of.”

MICHAEL TAKAYAMA (Del Oro)

Takayama has been the varsity girls basketball coach at Del Oro for 25 years. He was also the school’s varsity softball coach for seven seasons.

His basketball teams have won 13 league championships (including a current streak of seven in a row), two Section championships and they’ve made seven appearances in the CIF Northern California Regional Tournament. His teams have made the playoffs in 24 of 25 seasons. His softball teams won three league titles, two Section crowns and were the mythical state champions in 1994.

A lifelong member of the Buddhist Church, Takayama has volunteered in countless community events and was honored with the Paul Yokote Community Service Award. He’s also coached youth baseball, basketball and soccer.

“Coach Takayama does not take days off,” Del Oro principal Daniel Gayaldo said. “He consistently projects hope and energy to everyone around him. Over the years, I have been continually impressed with the organization, structure and collaborative spirit that characterizes every venture with which Mike has been involved.”

JANICE WILLIAMS (Galt)

Williams has coached several sports during her tenure at Galt. She’s been the volleyball coach for 16 years, girls golf coach for 12 years, boys golf for five, junior varsity softball for a decade and she coached JV basketball for a year as well. She started the girls golf program at Galt in 2000, and remains the only coach in that sport in school history.

She’s volunteered as a youth boys basketball coach in Galt, and also runs golf clinics at Forest Lake and Dry Creek Golf Courses. She’s been a coach for the Galt Volleyball Club for 15 years. She’s the adviser for the Liberty Ranch Honor Society for three years.

“Every student-athlete has that one coach they will always remember,” said Jennifer Van Dyke, Galt High Class of 2001. “For so many athletes who have walked the halls of Galt High School, Janice Williams is that coach.

“She was always there with her support and encouragement, but perhaps the most important value she instills in her athletes is integrity. When it came time for me to disqualify myself during a round for mistakenly finishing a hole with the wrong ball, she was the one who gave me a hug and told me I’d done the right thing.”

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 Roddy Svendsen of Atwater and Janice Williams of Galt to represent the Sac-Joaquin Section at that level.