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## **OEDING DOUBLES UP AS SCC COACH OF YEAR FOR '06-07**

After becoming the first coach to ever direct two championship water polo teams on the same day, Long Beach City College water polo coach Chris Oeding doubled again as the 2006-2007 South Coast Conference Coach of the Year for both men and women (shared the honor) as voted in the conference's athletic directors meeting Sept. 19 at Cerritos College.

Oeding tied in voting with Mt. San Antonio softball coach Kelly Ford as the SCC Co-Women's Coach of the Year and outdistanced three other candidates as the SCC Men's Coach of the Year. Oeding earned the women's SCC coaching award for the second time in three years (2004-2005). It's also the third year in a row that a LBCC coach picked up a SCC coaching honor as Vikings' baseball coach Casey Crook won for 2005-2006.

Under Oeding's leadership, the Long Beach men's water polo team captured its second straight state title, finishing 31-3 overall. Oeding coached five All-American players including tourney MVP Milos Skaljic. On Nov. 18, 2006 in Fresno, Oeding's men's title followed his earlier direction of the LBCC women to a 6-5 overtime win over Riverside for the women's championship. The Vikings finished 32-4. Oeding, who also serves as LBCC's swimming and diving coach, coached the men's team to fifth at the state swim meet in May.

Ford coached the Mounties softball team to the state championship with a 54-5 overall record. Mt. SAC defeated SCC foe Cerritos in the championship game. Ford coached four NFCA All-Americans and nine members on the All-SCC First Team. Mt. SAC led the state in overall batting average (.401) and set a new state and school record for most home runs (64).

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Ford coached the regular season State Player of the Year in Francesca Gonzales and the state tourney MVP in Mandy Pongs.

Other men's coaching candidates were Cerritos soccer coach Benny Artiaga, LA City basketball coach Mike Miller, and El Camino first-year baseball coach Nate Fernley. Cerritos softball coach Kodee Murray, who coached an all-freshmen team to a school record 39 wins, was the only other women's sports candidate.

### **SCC Supremacy Award—Cerritos College**

After winning seven SCC titles, Cerritos College earned the SCC 2006-2007 Athletic Supremacy Award. The Falcons won one state title, capturing the men's soccer crown. Cerritos finished a conference-best fifth in the state in the 2006-2007 Pepsi/NATYCAA Cup. Mt. San Antonio was sixth and Long Beach placed ninth in state supremacy.

### **SCC MacKenzie Scholarship Award Winners**

Pasadena City College women's basketball player Jeanine Deno and Mt. San Antonio women's water polo player Jessica Spence were the '06-07 season winners of the Don MacKenzie Memorial Scholarship Awards.

The award is granted annually by the conference to student-athletes who excel in both the field of play and in the classroom and are transferring to a 4-year university. The scholar-athlete award is in the name of the late MacKenzie, who served many years as the SCC commissioner.

Deno, the State Player of the Year, is now attending Cal Baptist University, while Spence, an All-SCC First Team selection, is at Sonoma State.

Founded in 1967, the South Coast Conference is currently made up of the following colleges: Cerritos, East LA, El Camino, El Camino College Compton Center (formerly Compton College), LA City, LA Harbor, LA Southwest, LA Trade Tech, Long Beach City, Mt. San Antonio, and Pasadena City. Chaffey and Rio Hondo Colleges are hosted by the SCC for aquatic sports.

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