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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former COS Athletic Director and Head Baseball Coach to be inducted in CCCBCA Hall of Fame

Weed / COS – College of the Siskiyous (COS) is pleased to announce former COS Athletic Director and Head Baseball Coach, John Mazzei, will be inducted into the California Community Colleges Baseball Coaches Association (CCCBCA) Hall of Fame during the State Community College Championship Baseball game to be held Memorial Day weekend (May 2018).

Coach Mazzei was born in McCloud and raised in Dunsmuir, California, and was active in all sports and academics at College of the Siskiyous. Aside from being the COS Athletic Director (1959 to 1993) and head Baseball Coach (1959-1973), Coach Mazzei also served as the head Men's Basketball team coach, Golf team coach, and served as assistant football coach for two seasons.

In the early years Coach Mazzei's tenure, he was the only person in the Physical Education Department. He taught English, life science, health and physical education courses and was recognized as one of the best instructors on the campus. Coach Mazzei served as the Department Chair and was the Athletic Director his entire 34 years with the District. He was recognized as a professional in the classroom and on the athletic field. The term "student athlete" had true meaning to Coach Mazzei. He demanded "his athletes" have a commitment to the classroom. In the beginning years of COS, there were no COS facilities for physical education. Using off-campus facilities, he organized the first collegiate athletic teams for the college, basketball and baseball.

Coach Mazzei retired from College of the Siskiyous in 1993 after more than 34 years with the District. In 2003, Coach Mazzei was inducted as a charter member of the COS Athletic Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the 1988 California Community Colleges Athletic Directors Association (CCCADA) Hall of Fame.

Virtually single-handedly, Coach Mazzei started the COS Baseball program in 1959. He was instrumental in the design of the baseball field and helped to build it on the Weed Camus after having to play at the Weed Sons of Italy Park for the first few years of the baseball programs' existence. He was also instrumental in the drive to create both DI and DII divisions at the California Community College level of sports, which created equity for smaller California Community Colleges.

Former player Dennis DeRoss compared him the "John Wooden of small community colleges" in that what his teams lacked for talent, they more than made up for preparation. "Coach Mazzei's teams were always fundamentally sound and no team ever played harder and out-worked the teams that he coached," said DeRoss.

The CCCBCA's Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have made an exemplary contribution to California Community College Baseball and recognizes three categories: 1) coaches from the CCC system, both assistants and head coaches; 2) players who went on to play Major League Baseball and then returned to coach at one of the California Community Colleges; and, 3) affiliates who provide support or promotion of the game (including athletic administrators, newspaper writers, Sports Information Directors and Sporting Goods representatives).

Congratulations Coach John Mazzei!!