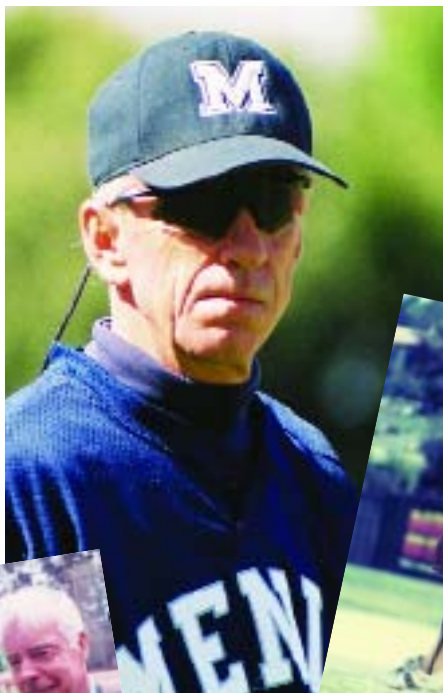


Coach Bo's Field of Dreams *by Matt Slavin*

THE YEAR WAS 1975. The place was the Ulrich Baseball Field on the campus of the University of San Francisco. On the pitcher's mound at Ulrich, senior pitcher Ken Bowman was blazing fastballs past opposing hitters with regularity. Finishing up a four-year career under legendary coach Dante Benedetti, Bowman collected 14 wins, 166 strikeouts, and a 3.71 earned run average. He also earned a degree in psychology, and his next stop was the professional ranks. Bowman was signed by the Oakland Athletics and sent to Boise to begin his career.

Bowman would return to USF every Fall to help coach Benedetti get the Dons ready for the upcoming season. It was after his third season in the minors that he started to contemplate his future in baseball. It was at this point that Bowman took a long look in the mirror and realized that although he had the stuff to be a good player, competing with the major leaguers was just not in the cards.

In 1981, after discussing his future as a baseball player with his wife Chris, Ken took over for his long time mentor and served for 13 years as the head coach on "the hilltop." He led the team to an impressive 209 wins during his tenure.



LEFT: Bowman with San Francisco and New York baseball legend Joe DiMaggio. **RIGHT:** Bowman pitched for the Oakland Farm Team. **BELOW:** Bowman with his USF coach, Dante Benedetti.



Bowman to join the staff to coach the pitchers. He accepted the position, as well as the position of the Assistant Director of Admission at Menlo, which gave him the opportunity to have an impact on the development of Menlo's student body.

Four years later, Neagle resigned and Bowman and former Oak player, Reggie Christiansen, took over the head coaching duties. That also marked the year that Jeff Bowman, Ken's oldest son, joined the Oaks as a pitcher. It was the first time that the older Bowman had the chance to coach one of his sons. Under the tutelage of his father, Jeff finished his two-year Oak career in 2003. Last year, Ken's younger son, Scott, joined the Oaks as a freshman,

and after recovering from a season-ending injury last year, is back for his sophomore season.

This year, with Scott nearly healthy again, and with Jeff on his staff, and with Chris on the sidelines at nearly every home game, the Oaks have put together one of the best seasons in school history. Behind

the senior leadership of Sean Scott, Jason Bynum, Gary Mullins, and Menlo's all-time home run leader, Jimmy Goethals, The Oaks were contenders for one of the few coveted playoff spots for Division III independents, a tough task. For Bowman, the enjoyment of seeing this group play and succeed together has made him tear up several times this year.

He encourages his players to focus on school and on their future. "I try and help them understand why they are here and to seize the moment and take care of business. Menlo happened to me at the right time and for many of them, this is their opportunity as well." **M** *Matt Slavin, '93, is Menlo College's Sports Information Director*

Bowman went on to coach at Skyline College in San Bruno for four years, but at the same time, he continued to do work with an organization that he became connected with during his playing days, the Special Olympics. Bowman says, "The Special Olympics turned my life around. I realized how fortunate I was to be a gifted athlete, which meant that lots of things came easy to me. However, I also understood that, with my help, these athletes could develop to their fullest potential too. I took some of those lessons and I put them into practice as both a player and a coach."

After leaving Skyline in 1998, then Menlo head coach Blair Neagle asked



Gomez Becomes All-Time Leading Scorer



ON JANUARY 18, Menlo senior hoopster Maria Gomez became the all-time leading scorer in Menlo College women's basketball history. Sports information assistant Casey Smith had a chance to sit down with the senior from Nipomo, CA, to get her thoughts on the record, her basketball career, and her time at Menlo:

CS: How is it that you decided to come to Menlo College?

MG: Coach Collier saw me play in a tournament in San Francisco, and started sending me letters. I decided to visit the school during my senior year and I really liked it. The school was small, and the girls on the basketball team were really nice. I liked the idea of coming here, playing basketball, and majoring in psychology. I thought at the time that it would be a real good fit for me.

CS: Describe some of the struggles you have had since you have been on the women's basketball team.

MG: To tell you the truth, there haven't been many. The toughest one, though, would have been when I was the starting point guard my freshman year. The other four starters were seniors. I had never played point guard before and it was a big responsibility, so I was nervous. Having to tell the four seniors what to do while we were on the court

was a little intimidating.

CS: What are your reactions to breaking the scoring record? Do you see it being broken in the near future?

MG: I was really surprised —I had no idea what was going on. Everyone kept passing me the ball and telling me to shoot when there were teammates who were open. I kept trying to pass to the open person but they would pass it back. Coach Collier told me to shoot, so I did—

and made the three-pointer. "They taught me ...never give less than my best effort. This was meant for both the basketball court and the classroom."

CS: How have your coaches influenced you over the years?

MG: The coaches here have taught me to work very hard in all the things that I do. They taught me to go all the way, and never give less than my best effort. This was meant for both the basketball court and the classroom. And if you do things right the first time, you won't have to do them again.

CS: Now that your Menlo career is

coming to an end, are there any memories that are close to you?

MG: There have been a ton, but one in particular sticks out in my mind. I remember my freshman year, at the end of one of the games. Coach called a time out, and told me that the ball was in my hands. The team was either going to win or lose with me. I was really surprised. I ended up shooting the ball and making it as the buzzer went off, and we won the game.

CS: How would you like for your career here at Menlo to end?

MG: With a win! I would like to win the CAL PAC championship and go to nationals. I'm a senior, and since I have never gone to nationals I think it would be a great experience. We would be able to take the younger players there, and they will come back the next year and have gained a lot of experience. Then hopefully it would start somewhat of a dynasty.

The Menlo Oaks came within one game of winning the Cal Pac title, falling to the #5 Dominican Penguins 47-39 in the finals. Gomez had 16 points in the game, and for her efforts was named the final Cal Pac Player of the Week for the 2004-2005 Women's Basketball Season. **M** Casey Smith, '05, is Menlo College's Sports Information Assistant

2005 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Saturday 9/3	7:00 PM	McMurray University	Abilene, TX
Saturday 9/10	12:30 PM	Humbolt State	Atherton, CA
Saturday 9/17	7:00 PM	Whittier College	Whittier, CA
Saturday 9/24	12:30 PM	Willamette University	Salem, OR
Saturday 10/1	12:30 PM	University of San Diego*	San Jose, CA
Saturday 10/8	12:30 PM	Cal Lutheran	Atherton, CA
Saturday 10/22	12:00 PM	Whitworth College	Spokane, WA
Saturday 10/29	12:30 PM	Linfield College	Atherton, CA
Saturday 11/5	1:30 PM	Pacific Lutheran University	Tacoma, WA
Saturday 11/12	1:00 PM	Colorado College	Colorado Springs, CO

Home games in bold Homecoming in blue *at San Jose City College

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Homecoming 2005

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8th

DON'T MISS THIS YEAR'S EVENTS:

Menlo Football vs. Cal Lutheran
Tailgate Party ■ Live Entertainment
Special Reunion Activities
...plus much more!