

2019 Daily Scholarship Essay

Awardee Carson Anderson, graduate of Adolfo Camarillo High School, attends William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri on a football scholarship

The History of the *Carl Thompson Field* of Adolfo Camarillo High School

Carl Thompson "the legend of Camarillo," was born on December 19, 1936 in, San Bernardino, California." He graduated from Santa Paula High School in the class of 1953 and became the first person to design the first SPSHS letterman's jacket.

After his success of graduating, he served in the U.S. Army being stationed out in Germany; until later attending San Jose State University on a football scholarship, earning his Master's degree and teaching credential. He returned to Ventura County and became a part of Camarillo High School's staff being a physical education teacher, coach, and the Athletic Director for 23 years.

Carl Thompson was the Head Coach of the Camarillo Scorpions having a prodigious reign and a record of the most wins in his football coaching career, 106. Including in his victorious career, he has become the first football coach in high school history, to win not one, but two CIF Southern Section (Division II/III) championships in 1984 and 1996. On December 8, 1984 the Camarillo Scorpions beat Ventura High School 16-14 in the Los Angeles Coliseum by a thrilling game-winning touchdown from Scott Cline, a future UCLA Bruin and Milwaukee Brewer.

Coach Thompson was a football coach for Camarillo High School for 17 years and has been a part of many seasons. He had the opportunity to coach many talented players who then played at the collegiate and/ or professional level. For example, Coach Thompson was able to coach Joe Borchard, who was his quarterback that led him to win his second CIF Championship in 1996--first time in school history to host a CIF game and win. Joe was a phenomenal athlete that posted impressive numbers as a quarterback and baseball outfielder at Stanford University.

Mr. Borchard, who became the 12th overall pick in the 2000 Major League Baseball draft, states that Coach Thompson was one of the best coaches he has ever had, and is grateful for all the lessons and times he has been pushed because it helped him grow as a person and an athlete. Carl Thompson was a lovable, caring, helpful, dedicated and serious man about his job(s), either as a teacher and/or coach because he was very competitive, but also wanted to teach lessons about life because there is more than just being a student or athlete.

As an icon in the community, he taught for 38 years and retired in 2001 with a great history behind him. On October, 2008 he was honored in front of the home field fans by the ACHS Athletic Boosters Club. At halftime

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he was presented with a plaque which cited his integrity and a servant's spirit to the thousands of students who walked the halls of ACHS. The plaque also credits his dedication and loyalty to the school and community as well as to hundreds of individual athletes who called him by his first name, "Coach," and who continued to greet him after retirement.

He was proud that many of his former students are now giving back to the community as leaders, business men and women, teachers, coaches, and ministers.

Coach Carl Thompson is best known for caring more about those he taught and coached, than for himself. Respected by those who knew him, Carl will always be remembered as a role model with a quiet and strong demeanor. Coach was enjoying his retirement traveling and spending time with family, until the devastating news that he was diagnosed with two forms of leukemia in December 2002. Coach fought valiantly against the disease and never gave up hope that he would win his battle. His spirit, strength, sense of humor, and humility continued to inspire those who knew and loved him.

Coach Carl Edward Thompson sadly passed on February 17, 2013 and will be forever missed. Several people whom he inspired and had a drastic effect on their lives were my dad, uncle, and other coaches including Dennis Reidmiller, what was at the hospital the night his coach passed away and says, "It will forever be a moment and time that I will never forget, losing one of the most inspirational people in my life."

Later Coach Reidmiller spoke at the memorial for Carl Thompson and wished that the high school's field should be named after the legend. On November 8, 2013, the dedication to his legacy was continued before the season opener against the school's rival, Rio Mesa, by naming the field after his name, "Carl Thompson" for everything he has done for the school and community.

Carl Thompson's legacy will forever live on the football field and in the school's as he was an architect for success. Recently in 2015, the Scorpions hosted the Thousand Oaks Lancers and won for the school's 3rd Southern Section championship--the first in history as the field being named after him--which was really significant for myself because I was on the team during that victorious moment.

It is a wonderful thing that the field will be forever named after Carl Thompson because of what foundation he has created and it is crazy that I have played on that field my whole life since youth football and also have played my heart out on it for Camarillo High School.

Carson Anderson
ACHS, Class of 2019