

Tom Baldwin

Head Coach – Football

1965-1974

Lyndon Thomas Baldwin, Jr. was born on January 31, 1932 in Sierra Madre, CA. He and his brother Buddy, two stepbrothers and a half-sister grew up in Long Beach, CA. Tom graduated from Jordan High School in 1950 and after attending a semester at Long Beach City College he entered the Army where he spent 3 years serving his country. He received a Purple Heart in the Korean War and served on the Division Faculty at Camp Roberts and as an Intelligent SGT in the 200 and 24th Infantry Regiment 40th Division.

When he returned from the war in 1953 his parents had moved to Garden Grove, CA. and he started his college schooling at Santa Ana Jr College where he played Rugby and became the Quarterback for the Dons in 1954 and '55. He was voted Most Improved Player in 1954 and in 1955 received the Hal Tucker Memorial Award. In 1956 he chose Long Beach State to get his BA in teaching and graduated in 1 1/2 years. He continued his studies and received his teaching credentials. He played running back and safety for the 49ers 1956 football team and then was hired in 1957 as the Graduate Assistant for the varsity team. He also coached the freshman team.

In 1958 he was hired at Santa Ana High School for his first teaching/assistant football coaching position. His history classes were held in the balcony of the big auditorium as the city was building a new high school (Valley) and Santa Ana High was over crowded.

When Valley opened in 1959, Tom worked there for six years as an assistant football and wrestling coach, and teaching history and government. During this time he earned his MA of Education from Chapman College and graduated with honors in 1963.

He took the head football coaching job at Santa Ana High in 1965, serving as head coach through 1974 where he led the teams to multiple CIF playoffs appearances. Baldwin guided the 1967 Saints team to a 12-1 record and into the CIF Southern Section Division 4A finals against Anaheim, where they played in

Anaheim Stadium in front of 26,383 fans. That same year, Baldwin was named Orange County Coach of the Year, an honor he received two times in his career. He also coached the two County All-Star Games as well as the State North - South All Star game. Aside from athletics, he served as Chairman of the Harbor Beaches and Parks Commission and was on the Orange County Juvenile Delinquency's Prevention Commission.

The new professional World Football Team was formed in 1974 and the California Sun team was based at Angels Stadium. For two years he was Director of Player Personnel, Special Teams Coordinator and assistant coach. In 1976 the Sun ended with the closure of some of the teams across the country.

The next 7 years were spent running his own insurance business. Tom had a great team of coaches who worked part time for him but he just missed his "kids" and teaching too much; so, in 1981 - 1983 he went back to Valley where he was head football coach and teacher.

1983 found him taking the head football coaching position at Costa Mesa High School, where he was head football coach for 8 years. He stayed for 26 years as an economics/history teacher, football coach, girls' and boys' golf coach and a Mentor Teacher Bilingual Specialist.

Over these 49 years, Tom was instrumental in the careers of many of his students. Even today, he gets calls, letters and visits from former students thanking him for his guidance, support, encouragement and mentoring. They tell him their lives have been forever changed by his love for the thousands of students he taught during these 49 years.