

**PAC - Northern California from 6**

American organizations throughout his life, including the Polish National Alliance in Chicago, and was one of the founders of the Polish Club at the University of Chicago. He has been a member of the PAC board for the past 2 years.

The goal of the PAC Northern California Division, as described by Mr. Martinek, should be to continue to organize the current established festivals as well as special celebrations, improve Polish community relations with other area organizations, to attract more youth, and to expand on the good relationship with the local church and parish community. The PAC will also develop a new website for communication and advertising its activities. The PAC Northern California Division, will shortly develop a plan for the year to present to the community and to coordinate with other clubs and organizations. □

**Polish American Congress  
Of  
Southern California**

Invites you to attend  
our meeting  
**Sunday,  
September 13  
1:00 P.M.**

**Pope John Paul II  
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3999 Rose Drive  
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**Information: (626) 577-9797**

**Andy Banachowski  
UCLA, inducted into  
National Polish-  
American Sports Hall of  
Fame**

By: **Raymond Rolak**

What is the formula for success? Perseverance, strength of character, and determination, all are attributes to the recipe for Andy Banachowski.

On June 18, 2009, UCLA Women's Volleyball Coach Andy Banachowski was inducted into the National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame. The setting was Troy, Michigan.

**It has been a long and fruitful journey. Many people contributed.**

Andy Banachowski grew up in suburban San Francisco. After high school he left San Mateo for UCLA to play volleyball. He ended up staying.

He graduated in 1968, and was twice named an All-American. After playing volleyball for the Bruins, he became a lifetime UCLA Bruin. He said it just happened that way. Hard work, loyalty and dedication seem more the watchword.

Also, doesn't that formula resonate in a lot of other Polish-American success stories?

Currently, he has just completed his 42nd year as head coach of the UCLA women's volleyball team.

Playing for UCLA legend Al Scales, Banachowski was on the 1965 and 1967 National Championship teams. He was part of four more National titles as Scales' chief assistant coach, when the Bruin men won the NCAA in 1972, 1974, 1975 and 1976.

Longevity doesn't make a Hall of Famer though. One needs to be the total package and in sports the highest accolades come from your peers. He has been National Coach of the Year twice, in 1989 and 2006. Also, he has been Pac-10 Coach of the Year five times.

In 1997, Banachowski was the first women's volleyball coach in history to be inducted into the National Volleyball Hall of Fame. He has received every high accolade from the governing body, USA Volleyball.

Even with such a storied career, Coach Andy B., has future goals, "We want to get back to the Final Four next year. It will be held at the St. Pete Times Forum in Tampa Bay, Florida the second week in December. I am already looking forward to my team next year. We have some great talent returning." He has won six national titles for the Bruin's.

"Besides, I have a few more matches left against, USC, Pepperdine and Hawaii", smiled Banachowski. Those schools have always been such admirable opponents for UCLA.

He has also been at the forefront of rule changes. "The NCAA went to 25-point sets last year," said Banachowski. "We'll have to get used to it," continued Coach B. This will mirror the international scoring method. Olympic sports and the NCAA are trying to stay on the same page.

For commercial air line pilots and medical surgeons, grey hair is a badge of distinction. It exudes experience and confidence. This would hold true for seasoned volleyball coaches.

Not quite ready to be 'Dzia-Dzia', he goes by 'Poppa Andy', to his two grandchildren. "I'm not ready for the rocking chair yet. I'm very passionate about volleyball's future. You know, 2011 will be so special, as sand volleyball will be a sanctioned NCAA emerging sport and we are getting a lot of television exposure", continued Banachowski.

One of his personal coaching highlights was to be able to coach his daughter, Amy at UCLA. His son Brett played volleyball at UC Santa Cruz.

Banachowski has more victories than

any other collegiate women's volleyball coach in history. He gained his 1,000 career victory in 2005 at Pauley Pavilion over an unbeaten University of Washington team. Overall his UCLA coaching mark is 1,082 and 292. Also, at UCLA the women's volleyball outdraws the men's team.

In most successful NCAA Division I operations, there is a synergy the head coaches of the entire athletic staff share. They extend support and energy for each other's programs. This is so evident at UCLA.

Besides Scales' influence, also floating in the athletic administration building in Westwood, California is the aura of one very special legend, John Wooden. "I would ask Coach Wooden a lot of questions. He always made time when you would ask about his 'teaching elements' and his 'pyramid of coaching' techniques. What a treasure! He is still an educator with his advice and common sense approach to coaching young people," continued Banachowski.

One of the nicest comments for a coach is to be addressed as teacher and educator. This mantle is accorded Banachowski.

This is documented by his mission statement for the women's volleyball program. It dictates that his charges are true student-athletes. They 'walk the walk', as said in today's vernacular and are truly the best and brightest. This only arrives in measurable data thru leadership and example.

The women's volleyball team had the highest team grade point average, 3.25 of any squad at UCLA. Two of his seniors, Jade Machado and Kaitlin Sather were recipients of the Athletic Director's Academic Excellence Award. Machado was named UCLA Scholar-Athlete of the year. Her GPA was 3.95. Academics have always been paramount to his programs.

"My dad grew up in Pittsburg and when he came to California, he gave my brother and I every opportunity for sports." Chester Banachowski got the boys involved in swimming, basketball and volleyball. Dad also stressed education. "I followed my older brother Alex to UCLA for volleyball even though swimming was my best sport," said Banachowski.

UCLA Director of Athletics, Dan Guerrero, summed it up best about Coach Andy Banachowski, "Bottom line, he truly is and sets the highest standard for women's college volleyball."

Besides co-founding the American Volleyball Coaches Association, Banachowski has been part of every aspect of the U.S. Olympic volleyball program. From administration, coaching, scouting and instructing, Banachowski has traveled the globe for volleyball. He has had 22 U.S. National Team members and 13 U.S. Olympians.

His coaching legacy will include his Polish heritage. Hard work and demanding expectations all combined with a humanistic style sums up his success formula.

"I haven't been to Poland yet but it is on my schedule," said the volleyball ambassador. Currently his 1983 book, *The Women's Game- Power Volleyball*, is in its second printing.

Coach B. acknowledges and is humbly grateful to those who invested in him and those who came before him. He is modest and credits the many who have contributed to his accomplishments, including his many talented players. He always gives them the recognition.

The sporting world has observed Andy Banachowski. Now the athletic universe will get to celebrate the success and achievement of Andy Banachowski. Mentor and example, we all get to observe living history.

Most important, he is not finished.

In volleyball vernacular, it is all said with a simple, 'Set-Bump-Spike'. □




*Whats Your Legacy*

Many people talk about leaving their will to worthy causes, but don't have a will, and do not realize it requires a will to do so. The laws of most states make it clear that personal property goes automatically, by law, to your nearest relative, even if they are quite distant ones, unless you have a legal will that says otherwise. If you have no relative, it goes to the state. More than half of all adult Americans die without having made their wills. Most of them undoubtedly planned to do so, but never got around to it. Some had wills but didn't keep them current. When you have a will, you should update it every few years as conditions change. Also, always name an executor who will carry out your wishes. Besides money, non-cash possessions can also be used as contributions and various donation plans can be carried out. Be a philanthropist: leave your stocks, bonds, real estate, art, valuable collection or insurance to continue the Polish - American traditions. Your will is the most important way of giving. When you're gone, it is a legacy that is not forgotten. In your will, you can specify what you would like your donation to be used for. For help in making your will, contact a competent lawyer. **The American Center of Polish Culture, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that needs your help and legacy.**

**The American Center of Polish Culture, Inc.**  
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