

Coach

John Seydel-Basketball-1990 thru 2020

John Seydel stands as a titan of Inland Empire athletics, leaving an indelible mark defined by continuous leadership, competitive excellence, and unwavering mentorship. Over a distinguished 37 year coaching career highlighted by 30 years as the Head Boys Basketball Coach at Arlington High School, Coach Seydel became the longest continuously tenured head coach at a single school in Riverside County history. A native of Salinas, California, Seydel was an All County player at North Salinas High School before earning 1st Team All-Conference and Team Captain honors at Hartnell Junior College. He completed his collegiate playing career at California Baptist University, where he earned a Single Subject Physical Education credential before taking his talents abroad to play and coach internationally across New Zealand, Fiji, Hong Kong, China, and Macau. He later expanded his academic background by earning a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Chapman University in 1997. Seydel began his coaching path with five seasons as an assistant at Cal Baptist under Head Coach Jerry King while also coaching girls' basketball and softball at J.W. North High School. Upon taking the helm at Arlington, he built the Lion Basketball program into a perennial powerhouse. His teams accumulated 507 career victories, including his milestone 500th win against Mt. View on December 27, 2020. Under his direction, the Lions captured three league championships, won two Kiwanis Tournament titles alongside ten runner-up finishes, and made 25 CIF Playoff appearances, reaching the quarterfinals three times and advancing to the CIF Semifinals in 2004. His remarkable impact

on the game earned him a spot on the Riverside Hall of Fame "Wall of Distinction," four League Coach of the Year honors, and three Riverside County Coach of the Year awards. Following his retirement from coaching, Seydel continued his dedicated service to the Arlington community as a Physical Education teacher. Beyond his impressive record, Coach Seydel's true legacy endures through the generations of student-athletes he mentored. Former player and Citrus Hill High School Head Coach Davey Hopkins noted that competing for Seydel prepared players for life beyond the court, while Los Osos High School Head Coach Calvin Tang remembered him as one of the last true cowboys who coached for the sheer purity of the game.