

SPORTS

Campus Sports • Features • Alerts

Jessica Robinson Photo Courtesy of Cuyamaca College
Jennifer Harper Photo Courtesy of Jennifer Harper
Josh Godfrey Photo Courtesy of Big West Conference



Image Courtesy of Tonie Campbell

BACK ON (A) TRACK — Campbell leaves the Southwestern College track and field program much better than he found it, but never received the support he was promised — including a new track.

“Somewhere on my body I’ll still have on Jaguar colors.”

TONIE CAMPBELL

DEAN OF ATHLETICS, Kinesiology, and Health Sciences at Cuyamaca College

KEEPING TRACK OF WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT

Tonie Campbell made three Olympic teams, then spent decades helping other athletes reach their goals. He took special pleasure coaching Paralympians and disabled athletes.

BY EMILY INGCO

September 26, 1988
XXIV Olympiad. Seoul, South Korea.

Heart pounding, Anthony “Tonie” Campbell wiggled his feet tightly into the blocks for the 110-meter hurdle race in front of 70,000 cheering people.

“On your Mark!”

Campbell tensed and stretched in his red, white and blue tights.

“Set!”

Dropping his head low, Campbell raised his hips and stared ahead.

Inhale. Exhale.

BANG!

Smoke drifted from the starter’s pistol and Campbell was already meters down the vermilion polyurethane. Just 13.38 seconds later, Campbell blazed across the finish line, bullets of sweat streaking across his taunt face.

13.38. Bronze. Made the podium!

Three-time Olympian Campbell, the kid from Banning High School in Wilmington, California, had a medal. His life would never be the same.

Track was not even teenage Tonie’s favorite sport.

“I was always a baseball and football player growing up,” he said. “When I got to high school I wanted to take one year off from baseball and football.”

Campbell’s father said okay as long as he played another sport to stay active during the spring.

“My friends were all going out for track and field,” he said. “I didn’t even know what that was.”

He was drawn to the hurdling group, specifically the low hurdles. Banning’s hurdles captain had other plans for the springy Campbell.

“He shoved me really really hard,” Campbell said. “A hurdle was right in my way. I was going to crash into it, but instead I jumped over it. Lo and behold it was a high hurdle.”

It was love at first flight for Campbell who was a high hurdler from that day forward. He became a state champion and earned a scholarship to USC where



PODIUM IS ‘AWESOME’

Campbell finished second in the semifinals of the 110-meter hurdles at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics before finishing fifth in the finals. In 1988 he grabbed bronze, clocking 13.38. USA teammate Roger Kingdom won both races.

He said it was a thrill to be on the podium while the national anthem played.

“Imagine what it’s like to be in front of millions of people (watching on television) and (a packed) stadium. Having an Olympic medal hung around your neck and they hand you a bouquet of flowers. It’s awesome. It was an amazing moment in my life and I’ll never forget it. When I’m nearing my last breath and somebody asks me my most favorite memories in life, it’ll be the day I met my wife and the day I got my Olympic medal.”

Image Courtesy of Tonie Campbell



“We look forward to having him work with our student athletes as well as our athletic, kinesiology, and health education faculty and classified professionals.”

JESSICA ROBINSON
Cuyamaca College
Interim President



“I admire all the things he has done as an author, Olympian and philanthropist. He’s someone I’ve admired for years. I love him like a brother.”

JENNIFER HARPER
SC Athletic Director



“Whenever I had a decathlon meet, we would always take his car or rent a van and it would be just us, hanging out and talking a lot. He knows so much, so to me he was a really great coach, a really great mentor. He was a really nice, supportive guy.”

JOSH GODFREY, UC Santa Barbara decathlete

CAMPBELL • PG 14

COACH HELPS VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE FLIP THE SCRIPT

BY ALICIA RIVERO

Mariah had something taken from her when she was assaulted. Even though he is a man, Elias Gallegos said he understands the feeling.

Gallegos is helping women like Mariah to fight back and reclaim their confidence in a world that has beaten them down. Martial arts such as Brazilian Jiu Jitsu — a preparation for battle — can actually help assault victims find the road to peace.

One in four American women experience some form of violence and one in five women have been raped.

Practicing a male dominated martial arts form can be intimidating bordering on the unthinkable for many survivors. Benefits, however, can outweigh the doubt, according to Gallegos. Martial arts used for self-defense, he said, can be tremendously empowering.

Gallegos, owner of Alliance BJJ Eastlake and a black belt with 20 years experience, welcomes people he meets with warmth and enthusiasm. He is not a typical sensei. His background is rife with crime, juvenile jail and drugs. More than most people he



PHOTO BY ALICIA RIVERO / STAFF

FIGHTING FOR INNER PEACE — Alliance BJJ Eastlake teaches children but also women who survived violence.

JUJITSU • PG 15

STATUE

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Latinos, LGBTQ community want monument to Wilson removed

Wilson was an unabashed supporter of both measures.

“For Californians who work hard, pay taxes and obey the laws, I’m suing to force the federal government to control the border and I’m working to deny state services to illegal immigrants,” he said during his 1994 campaign. “Enough is enough.”

Wilson’s statue was unpopular from the day it was unveiled in 2007. While a small group of supporters cheered at the sidewalk across from the Horton Plaza mall, hundreds of protesters fenced off by San Diego police voiced opposition across the street.

Morones said most elected officials in San Diego city and county indicated they oppose the Wilson statue, but claim to be powerless to remove it because it

is private property on private land. That is irrelevant, Morones said.

“It may be on private property, but thousands of people still see it every day,” he said. “If it were a confederate flag or a swastika it would be taken down. Symbols of hatred in the heart of a city do not deserve protection.”

Morones said he is disappointed in San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, an out member of the LGBTQ community, for not moving to have the statue removed.

“We talked to Todd Gloria before he was mayor,” Morones said. “He said he would support us. Same with (San Diego Council Member) Steve Whitburn. As soon as they were elected to office they backed away and did not keep their promises.”

Darwin Fishman, co-founder of the Racial Justice Coalition of San Diego, agreed. He said this is a relatively rare effort by Latino activists to have a statue removed. Most of the recent successful removals have been led by African-Americans, he said.

“I think it is a healthy movement in society to critically examine all statues, monuments and plaques that honor people,” he said. “I think it is safe to say that in the case of

many of the older ones most people do not know why they are put up in the first place. They might not be the best representations for society or for a particular community. It is okay to have that debate and discussion.”

Fishman said he remembers the contentious Proposition 187 campaign.

“It viciously attacked and demonized Latino communities and Mexican immigrants,” he said. “There are legitimate reasons why that community would not want that statue up. It is not a good representation for San Diego.”

Ricardo Flores, executive director of Local Initiatives Support Corporation, a non-profit that assists underserved communities with grants and economic partnerships, said he was “repulsed by Wilson’s xenophobic and racist agenda.”

“The statue represents fear and hate towards Mexican and undocumented immigrants,” he said. “I remember the ads (for Proposition 187). It was offensive and embarrassing. (The television advertisements) portrayal of hard working individuals – people I knew, people in my own family – was awful. They were portrayed as

parasites with no value.”

Flores said Latinos then and today are essential contributors to the regional and national economy.

“Latinos pick our food,” he said. “I do not see other people wanting to pick our food in 100 degree weather for 8-9 hours a day. We provide a valuable service to our community.”

Flores said he drafted a formal resolution to the San Diego City Council requesting removal of the Wilson statue and is awaiting a response.

Morones said Latinos and their supporters have battled the Wilson statue for 15 years. Victory seemed at hand in 2020 when the owner of the statue temporarily removed it, but it was replaced a short time later. He said he is optimistic that the statue will eventually be removed once and for all.

“Dr. (Martin Luther) King said ‘the arc of the moral universe bends toward justice,’” Morones said. “We will continue to oppose this symbol of hate in the middle of our beautiful city. Pete Wilson, like Robert E. Lee and Christopher Columbus, represents a racist past that America is moving away from. Someday that statue will go away, too.”

BOOK

• CONT FROM PG 2

47 years later tome finds its way back home

“He noticed my Jaguar pin, that’s really how the conversation started,” Sanchez recalled. “He let me know he had a late book to return. I gave him my card and (invited) him to call me if he ever wanted to return the book.”

Sanchez’ JEDI powers of persuasion worked and Applegate returned home locked onto a mission. “Someday” had finally arrived. Applegate dug through his dusty bookshelf for “Asimov’s Guide to Shakespeare” and ... it wasn’t there. Parting is such sweet sorrow!

Applegate said he was determined to keep his word to Sanchez to return the wayward 800-page tome, so he tracked down a gently pre-owned copy.

Meanwhile, in a library far, far away, busy minds calculated the fine for a 47-year-overdue book. The answer: \$4,197.50. It may have been cheaper to violate the time/space continuum.

Applegate was undeterred.

“My parents raised me to be a responsible man,” he said. “On the way back home, I talked to my mom (in Heaven). I told her I will always do what’s right, just not always right away.”

As he rolled his car on to campus he flirted with the notion that police might be waiting for him. Alas, Chief Marco Bareno declined to roll code and apprehend the serial procrastinator. Applegate slipped unnoticed on to campus and walked undetected to the president’s office. He and Sanchez then traveled the final part of the epic journey together, returning the book to a library building that did not exist when Asimov contemplated Shakespeare.

“If any of you find yourself in a similar situation with an overdue book, you’ll feel good completing that little piece of work,” he said. “I felt like I really accomplished something huge!”

“When I am at home, I am in a better place.”

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

UABC

• CONT FROM PG 2

Partnership may allow Mexican students to attend SC at local rate

would allow students who reside within 45 miles of the California-Mexico border to attend local community colleges.

Border hugging Baja California cities Tijuana and Mexicali have populations of about 2.26 million and 1.16 million, respectively. SoCal’s borderlands are uniquely binational, Pilco said.

“We are a community of 7 million people on both sides, and we exchange so many things every day,” he said. “More than 54,000 people cross (the border) every day for work or school. Our students work in San Diego and Tijuana and vice versa. We are not a separate economy like the border tells us. We are a real binational economy.”

Borderlands commerce may exceed \$250 billion annually, Pilco said.

“We need to work together to prepare students so they can stay in this region, work in this region, get paid well and stay with their



Photo Courtesy of UABC

A NEW WAY FORWARD — UABC students within 45 miles of the border may soon be able to attend Southwestern College and pay California resident rates.



PAVING THE WAY

SC President Dr. Mark Sanchez worked with Assembly Member David Alvarez to introduce Assembly Bill 91, a revolutionary plan to lower costs and barriers for Mexican students.

families,” he said.

Colleges on both sides of *la linea* have worked to slash and burn red tape, Pilco said, by assisting with transcripts and other required documents. Colleges will handle the process of conducting a foreign credential evaluation and pay for it.

“We have made it easier,” he said. “Students do not know how to do it, some schools do not know how to do it. So we are taking this burden from students. All students need to do is have the transcript translated in Mexico before we take care of it.”

SC Governing Board President Roberto Alcantar said the program will provide binational experiences close to home.

“For the first time, people from this community are in charge,” he said. “We are people who grew up along the border and crossed every day to come to school. Now we can bring forward policies and changes that reflect the needs of the community because we are the community.”

Paloma Virginia Guadiana Murrieta, a psychology major in UABC, said she is excited about the binational program.

“I think it gives students an opportunity to study in the (United States) and to explore other possible job opportunities,” she said. “It could be a new way forward.”

CAMPBELL

• CONT FROM PG 13

Olympic medalist transcended SC’s dreadful track to forge champions

he became a national champion. He broke the collegiate record for the shuttle hurdle relay race in 1981.

He qualified for the 1980 Olympics in Moscow, but the American team did not compete due to a multinational boycott following the Soviet Union’s invasion of Afghanistan.

Four years later Campbell competed in the 1984 games in Los Angeles. He finished second to eventual gold medalist Roger Kingdom in the semifinals, but fifth in the final. Kingdom also won gold in 1988, the year Campbell captured bronze. He said he still

relives his glorious moments on the podium as if it were yesterday.

“Imagine what it’s like to be in front of millions of people (watching on television) and (a packed) stadium,” he said. “You’re having an Olympic medal hung around your neck and they hand you a bouquet of flowers. It’s awesome. It was an amazing moment in my life and I’ll never forget it. When I’m nearing my last breath and somebody asks me my most favorite memories in life, it’ll be the day I met my wife and the day I got my Olympic medal.”

After working as a marketing executive for AMC Theaters and becoming a published author, Campbell accepted an offer to coach at Southwestern College and restore its moribund track program. Campbell was promised a new track and field facility as well as ample resources, which the college consistently failed to deliver.

Using SC’s dreadful tattered track, Campbell coached 15

teams to the state track and field championships, and sent Southwestern College athletes to the Olympics, including Guamanian sprinter Philam Garcia, who later became his assistant coach. His fellow coaches said Campbell and Southwestern College lost scores of athletes to other schools because they did not want to train on a crumbling track installed during the Johnson Administration of the mid-1960s.

UC Santa Barbara decathlete Josh Godfrey is an alumnus of Southwestern College who credits Campbell for his success in the California Championships and his university scholarship.

“His specializations were in sprints and hurdles, so he was kind of in deep water trying to coach me in pole vault, javelin, and other stuff,” Godfrey said. “We made it work and he was super supportive. Whenever I had a decathlon meet, we would always take his car or rent a van and it would be just us, hanging out and

talking a lot. He knows so much, so to me he was a really great coach, a really great mentor. He was a really nice, supportive guy.”

Campbell has a soft spot in his heart for athletes with disabilities. He provides pro bono coaching for amputees running on blades and has helped to send local disabled athletes to the Paralympics, including the most recent games in Brazil.

After 20 years at SC, Campbell became Athletic Director and Dean of Athletics at Cuyamaca College. He said leaving Chula Vista was a tough decision.

“I was a professional athlete for 13 years, then I coached and did another job for a while, and then I coached 20 years at Southwestern,” he said. “It was a great career, but it was time for me to move on while I still had something left to offer.”

SC Athletic Director Jennifer “Jefi” Harper worked closely with Campbell and considers him a dear friend, she said.

“I admire all the things he has

done as an author, Olympian and philanthropist,” she said. “He’s someone I’ve admired for years. I love him like a brother.”

Campbell said he will continue to honor Harper and SC in a unique way.

“I’m going to be at the rival college over the hill at Cuyamaca and I’ll probably be wearing their navy blue and sand colors, but somewhere on my body I’ll have some cardinal and gold,” he said. “Somewhere — might be a sock, might be some underwear — somewhere on my body I’ll still have Jaguar colors on.”

“On your Mark!”

Campbell said he plans to revive dead sports at Cuyamaca, including women’s soccer and women’s beach volleyball.

“Set!”

Existing sports will get a new kind of energy and focus, the kind an Olympic champion can provide.

BANG!

Campbell is already several meters down his new path.