

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Athletics Are Thriving in Chico Unified School District

Awards and accolades are the themes for the 2021-22 sports season.

Chico, CA – Pleasant Valley High School and Chico High School are forging the way in sports excellence! Coaching awards, top state championship teams and facility upgrades are just a few of the recent highlights heading into the spring season.

"It's incredible to see students thriving in the sports programs. The athletic programs are positive outlets following the hardships experienced over the last few years. I couldn't be more proud of how our community has come together to support student-athletes," shared John Shepherd, Director of Secondary Education. "The clubs, parents and Sports Booster volunteers have made this year's athletics programs at CHS and PV a huge success."

PVHS Coaching Awards

Coach Keating was awarded the California Coaches Association's State Coach of the Year Award. The Coach of the year is a prestigious recognition where a select group of coaches are nominated throughout the entire state, and only one is chosen to receive the award. Coach Keating is the PVHS Head Boys Basketball coach. His team won the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Division III State Championship on March 11, 2022 as well as in 2018.

Coach Bill Flory was awarded the California Interscholastic Federation's 2021-22 Model Coach Award for leading the Field Hockey team at Pleasant Valley High School. The CIF organization recognizes coaches who demonstrate six core values: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship. In the CIF announcement press release, Coach Flory was described as, "A driven, caring, committed and humble coach, Flory develops players into honorable people of society. He has established a reputation as a person that PVHS stakeholders and students can rely upon to continuously raise the level of achievement and integrity."

"We wish to express huge congratulations to Coach Keating and Coach Flory! These are incredible honors and tremendously well-deserved for two individuals who have achieved outstanding accomplishments for our Chico Unified students and community," said Chico Unified Superintendent Kelly Staley.

School Sports Facility Upgrades

Over spring break, the Chico High Sports Boosters upgraded the school's weight room. Over \$8,000 of new equipment, a fresh coat of paint and energy-efficient LED lighting help round off the weight room renovations. This is a massive boost for Chico High School (CHS) student-athletes and Physical Education students who utilize the facility.

In addition, CHS recently made collegiate-style upgrades to their baseball diamond. Safety improvements, including CHS Sports Booster purchased school colored windscreens, help define the field boundaries and reduce outside distractions. Zak Piper, a senior on the baseball team, shared, "The new changes to the field make me feel proud to be a Chico High Baseball player."

"Our baseball program has been taken to the next level ... Coach Ludwig has done a ton for our field, including the brand new windscreen and bringing our team together as a family," shared Logan Whitfield, a senior baseball player at CHS.

Enhancements are coming to the varsity softball field this season as well, thanks to the support of the Sports Boosters program.

Pleasant Valley High School (PVHS) is seeing upgrades to its weight room and baseball field. New equipment, including squat racks and dumbbell sets, was a welcome addition to the student weight room. The school's Sports Boosters are finalizing the installation of a new electric scoreboard for the PVHS baseball field.

Thanks to our parent Sports Boosters' enormous efforts and community members who support student athletics, these athletic improvements are possible. Both schools are ready to host spring sports athletes' robust and exciting season!

California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) State Championship Teams

Chico High School's girls soccer team won the CIF NorCal D-III Championship taking home the plaque and the prestige that goes with this incredible accomplishment.

Pleasant Valley High School's Head Coach Tim Keating successfully led the Pleasant Valley High School boys basketball team to the Division III State Championship Title!

Pleasant Valley High School's Varsity Cheer team won the first-ever CIF Northern Section Non-Tumbling Division Championship, won the CIF Northern Region Large School Non-Tumbling Championship, and then moved on to Orlando, Florida to win the National Cheer Association's Large School National Championship in the Non-tumbling Division. Quite a run!

"We couldn't be more proud of our student-athletes! This has been an incredibly challenging year, and it's so inspiring to see students thriving in sports and connecting with each other," said Superintendent Kelly Staley. "It takes a community to foster student success, and I couldn't be more proud of our students, families and sports supporters."

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Resource Links

- *CIF Press Release, "CIF Honors 2021-22 Model Coach Award Winners":*
https://cifstate.org/coaches-admin/model_coach/2021-22_mc_rel