



Robert Mount

Longtime Ayala swim coach hangs up his whistle

Robert Mount recently retired from coaching, ending a 19-year run as head swim coach at Ayala High.

Mount will continue as a history teacher at Ayala, but will be out of the classroom for about five weeks because of a scheduled knee surgery.

He joined the District in 1997 as a United States history teacher at Ayala High in Chino Hills. He has served as Ayala's head varsity swim coach since that time. He was also an assistant freshman and assistant varsity football coach for the school, and was head varsity football coach from 2003 to 2005.

Prior to joining CVUSD, he was an educator from 1977 to 1997 at West Covina High School, where he taught several different subjects over the years. He was also West Covina's head varsity swim coach and head varsity football coach.

Mount was named the 1993 National Football Coach of the Year, the 1993 LA Times San Gabriel Valley Football Coach of the Year, and the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin Girls Swim Coach of the Year in 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.

He earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from California State University, Northridge, and master's degrees in theological studies from Talbot Theological Seminary, and in education from Azusa Pacific University. He also four teaching credentials in various subjects.

He also coach for the U.S. Swim Team in the 1970s.

As a football player himself, Mount was named All League and All Valley at West Covina High, All Conference and Player of the Year in Football at Mount San Antonio College, and All Conference and Most Valuable Player at California State University, Northridge. He was also awarded a three-year contract with the Dallas Cowboys professional football team.

Although he said there are many highlights from his coaching years, he is particularly proud of the girls swim team's third place finish in the state championships last year, as well as the team's second place finish in 2013 at the CIF Division II Championship. He was also proud that the boys' team was named the 2010 CIF Southern Section Academic Champions for their high combined grade point averages.

Mount hopes his legacy as a coach will be summed up in this passage from a book he read years ago:

"Hey coach, how will your team do this year?"

"I don't know, ask me in 20 years. If they are good husbands and wives, if they are good mothers and fathers, if they are good employees and involved in their communities, I will have done my job."

"That is a great answer," Mount said of the book passage. "I hope and pray that I have made that kind of difference in the lives of the kids I have taught and coached."