



*Torrance*  
Unified School District

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# Press Release

October 14, 2011

## **West High Stadium Dedicated to Memory of Beloved Coach: Fred Petersen**

Torrance, CA – On Friday, October 21, the community will gather to pay homage and honor the memory of beloved Coach, Fred Petersen, who passed away on August 13, 2011. Known endearingly as “Coach Pete,” Mr. Petersen coached high school and community college football for 57 years. Once a quarterback himself at Midland Lutheran College, Coach Pete believed in building up his players and made sure they understood the basics of the game.

Coach Fred Petersen was the Ultimate Warrior. He coached and influenced thousands of West High football and track athletes, winning multiple league titles including the 1982 football CIF Championship. As the head football coach, Petersen had a combined 140-53-3 record. He was integral to the development and success of many athletic programs including founding the girl’s track and field program. He has been inducted into the West High, El Camino College, and California Wrestling Athletic Halls of fame.

Coach Pete impacted the lives of so many. He served as an exemplary role model of integrity that touched so many on the field and off. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, his children Rick, Barbara (Tom), Kati (Paul), David (Amy), and seven grandchildren, all who adored him. "He lived his life making choices around his children," comments Kati. "He was my track coach and coached both my brothers in football, and as I went on to college I never had a coach better than my dad."

Please join Coach Pete’s family, friends, players, and community members in a special dedication ceremony to rename the West High Stadium, the “Fred Petersen Stadium.” The ceremony will be held on Friday, October 21 at 6:30 pm before the Homecoming Football game. West High School is located at 20401 Victor Blvd in Torrance.

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