

MATT CHESS: 2013 INDUCTEE, MIKE MORROW HALL OF FAME



Teaching is one of our noblest professions. It encompasses all aspects of a person's life. No single profession contributes more to society than the teacher. Teachers bring to the table more than just instruction. They bring a combination of skills, knowledge, organization, talent and passion. Matt Chess defines these comments both in the class room and on the ball field.

Over thirty years ago, Matt Chess came out of Northern Virginia as an All-State catcher. A traumatic wrist injury prematurely ended a promising baseball playing career but not a life career of teaching and coaching. Matt Chess graduated with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Social Science from San Diego State University. He is currently on the faculty at award winning Torrey Pines High School teaching Advance Placement Psychology and History.

On the coaching side, Matt has coached youth, travel, high school and college summer teams for over 31 years. Wherever Matt coached, playoff appearances and championships followed. His 2001 San Diego Stars (12 and under) team won the AAU National Championship. Matt was the varsity coach at San Dieguito High School for the 1994, 1995 and 1996 seasons. This team made the playoffs two out of the three years including the semifinals in 1995. Matt moved on to Torrey Pines High School as head coach of the varsity baseball team from



2005 to 2012. Eight years at Torrey Pines produced a 168-68-1 record which included winning three league titles and making the playoffs all eight years. Under Coach Chess' stewardship Torrey Pines reached the finals in 2007 and the semifinals on three other occasions.

Matt Chess has been a big contributor to the Lions Tournament over the years. Organizing a tournament as large as the Lions Tournament requires contributions in various ways from key people. Over the past 5 years, Coach Chess has been instrumental in organizing the initial 7 or 8 division brackets based upon

team ability, geography and conference matchups making sure that the Lions Tournament is the most evenly competitive tournament in the nation.

Coach Chess' big win in the Lions Tourney came in 2006 when Torrey Pines won the Lions Tournament Classic Division Championship in a great game played at Point Loma Nazarene against a tough Thousand Oaks team from Ventura County. In every other year of Lions competition, Matt's teams made the playoffs each year but one. Matt's 2010 team made it to the final round and his 2012 team made it to the semi-finals but eventually lost in one of the most memorable extra-inning games in tournament history. Thank you very much Coach Chess and a well-deserved welcome to the Lions Tournament Hall of Fame.