

Jack Flanagan d. August 26, 2025

Description

I am forwarding a message from Marta Gillen, Sr. Executive Assistant for the DVC President regarding the passing of Jack Flanagan.

I am sorry to hear about his loss to the community. He did so much for students, for his colleagues and for the college.

Nancy Zink

DVCRA Liaison

Dear DVC Community,

We are saddened to report of the passing of former Hall of Fame aquatics coach Jack Flanagan. Jack began teaching physical education and coaching swimming, diving, and water polo at DVC in 1965 and taught and coached here for 38 years. He was instrumental in designing DVC's first aquatics complex and pool and had a highly successful coaching record during his tenure. The following was posted on the DVC Athletics Hall of Fame website:

The Diablo Valley College community is deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Hall of Fame member and legendary aquatics coach, Jack Flanagan. A trailblazer in DVC athletics, Coach Flanagan was the college's very first swimming and water polo coach, setting a standard of excellence that would leave an enduring mark on the program. Over his storied career, he led his teams to nine state swimming championships—an achievement that remains one of the most remarkable coaching legacies in DVC history.

Coach Flanagan's impact went beyond wins and titles. Known for his tireless dedication and vision, he built a foundation that turned DVC aquatics into a powerhouse. In his eighth season, his program was recognized as one of the strongest in the college's history, boasting undefeated dual-meet records, multiple Northern California Championships, and an impressive roster of All-Americans. His leadership and drive ignited what he often described as a "powder keg of energy," inspiring athletes to break records and pursue greatness in and out of the pool.

Before his time at DVC, Flanagan's coaching journey took him from high school programs in Florida to the collegiate level at Florida State University and the University of California, where he worked alongside legendary coaches and guided divers to conference and NCAA success. A competitor himself, he swam, dove, and played water polo during his student-athlete days, experiences that shaped his lifelong devotion to the sport.

DVC Athletics extends our heartfelt condolences to Coach Flanagan's family, friends, former athletes, and colleagues. His contributions to Diablo Valley College and the broader aquatics community will never be forgotten. Coach Flanagan will be remembered not only for his championships but also for the spirit of excellence and mentorship he instilled in generations of student-athletes

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Author

uf4retired

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