

David Wells, Class of 1982

Athletics/Philanthropy

David Wells transformed himself from a self-described “gym rat” who spent his youth at the Ocean Beach Recreation Center and Robb Field to an honored major league baseball pitcher who has now come full circle to become head coach of the Point Loma High School team he helped lead to the 1982 CIF championship.

Professionally, Mr. Wells is perhaps best known for the perfect game he pitched on May 17, 1998 for the New York Yankees against the Minnesota Twins at Yankee Stadium. But his career shows many more accomplishments.

He was a three-time All-Star, pitched for two World Series champions, was the Most Valuable Player of the 1998 American League Championship Series and led the American League in wins with 20 in 2000. He pitched in 660 games for 11 different teams.

The PLHS baseball field at Dana Middle School was renamed “David Wells Field” five years ago and Mr. Wells was named Pointer head coach in June, 2014. Then, in December, 2014, the field was re-dedicated after it was totally transformed from a bumpy field of grass patches to a colorful and spectacular new artificial turf field.

But in addition to his accomplishments on a major league

mound, Mr. Wells has given back to his alma mater on so many occasions, often without being asked. School officials love telling stories of Mr. Wells walking into the office on more than one occasion, unannounced, and placing an envelope on the counter. He would tell surprised school staff members to “use this wherever it is needed.” The envelope would contain a check for \$10,000.

In recent years, Mr. Wells has given generously to support not only athletics at Point Loma High School but in many other areas. Perhaps no other alumni have given back as generously as David Wells.

Parents of the players on Mr. Wells’ first Pointer team were impressed with the knowledge and mentorship he brought to his young athletes.

Indeed, Mr. Wells and his coaching staff, which includes former PLHS teammate David Camara, took the Pointers to the playoffs for the first time in several years, eliminating three teams before losing to the eventual championship team.

During his first season-ending baseball banquet as head coach this Spring, Mr. Wells had difficulty speaking about each of his players, stopping several times to compose himself. While Mr. Wells does not need to coach at Point Loma High School, he does so as a way of giving back to the community that helped him so much in his youth.

Mr. Wells lives in Rancho Santa Fe with his wife. They have two sons.

