CARMEL ROYALISTS

LIFE COACH

Gene Johnson, 85, retires after nearly six decades coaching in Santa Cruz County

Gene Johnson coached football at Cabrillo College and in the Santa Cruz youth league. He was known for his dedication to the sport and his community. Johnson was a fixture in Santa Cruz sports for decades, and his impact on the community cannot be overstated.

JOHNSON

College coach C.B.

Gene Johnson

“Gene was a very hard worker, very dedicated to the game,” said Marlene, who will continue to work with Johnson at Cabrillo. “He was a great mentor to me and many other players.”

Johnson graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz, in 1959. He then began his coaching career at Cabrillo College, where he stayed for nearly 60 years. Johnson coached football, basketball, and track, and was a driving force in the school’s athletic program.

“Gene Johnson was a very special person,” said Al Santa Cruz, a former student of Johnson’s. “He had a big heart and a great spirit.”

Johnson’s retirement marks the end of an era for Cabrillo College and the Santa Cruz community. His legacy will be remembered for years to come.

SEE JOHNSON IN 05

Gene Johnson at Cabrillo College football practice in 2009.

Brooke Ireland

December 2009

CABRILLO ATHLETICS

Gene Johnson, 85, retires after nearly six decades coaching in Santa Cruz County.