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## Cabrillo adds tennis programs, drops golf

School says moves keep  
department under budget,  
Title IX compliant

By JIM SEIMAS

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APTOS — Cabrillo College is dropping its successful golf program and reinstating its men's and women's tennis programs next season, the school announced Thursday.

The decision, reached last week

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but never made public, was made to remain budget neutral and Title IX compliant, said Kristin Fabos, Cabrillo's Director of Marketing and Communications.

The men's and women's tennis teams, which have a combined annual budget of \$28,000, were eliminated two years ago due to budget constraints.

Fabos said Seahawks athletics director Dale Murray recently real-

ized the Seahawks weren't in compliance with Prong 3 of the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights. Murray declined to comment.

Prong 3 states: "A school can demonstrate that the interests and abilities of the underrepresented sex have been fully and effectively accommodated by the present program."

Fabos clarified that Cabrillo had a golf program, not a men's golf team. No women tried out for the team this year, Fabos said, noting that only one school in the Coast Conference

has women's golf team.

After his findings, Murray teamed with Dr. Kathleen Welch, Cabrillo's Dean of HAWK [Health, Athletics, Wellness and Kinesiology], to remedy the situation.

"We can't eliminate a women's sport ever or we'll be in violation of Prong 3 of the OCR," Fabos said.

In the 2011-12 school year, Cabrillo will offer six men's sports [baseball, basketball, football, soccer, tennis, and swimming and diving] and six women's sports [basketball, soccer,

softball, swimming and diving, tennis and volleyball].

On the school's website, golf is listed under men's sports.

Only one person will be used to coach both the men's and women's tennis teams, Fabos said, noting the school is trying to finalize plans to bring on a former Seahawks tennis coach.

David Van Ness last coached tennis at Cabrillo and held the position

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for 10 years, according to the school's website. He was unavailable for comment Thursday.

Cabrillo's overall athletic budget is \$3.8 million annually.

Fabos said the school could reinstate golf sometime — but it was hardly a guarantee.

"Hopefully in better budget times," she said, noting the school would have to add a women's sport too. "This was the best possible solution in

bad budget times. It's always tough to lose something."

The news was hard on golf coach Tom Pera, who just finished his 10th season at the helm.

"It was a real bummer," Pera said. "I worked hard to build this program. But it is what it is. I gotta move on. The hardest thing was letting the kids know."

The Seahawks recently made their fifth straight appearance at the NorCal golf championships — their sixth in the past 10 years.

Pera's teams also reached the state tournament in 2007 and '08. Many players

advanced individually to the state tournament, including Lucas Dunne and Neil Ostermann this year.

The Seahawks had three freshmen among their top six players: Dunne [a Las Lomas High alum], Eric Ichtertz [Aptos], and Kraig Mitchell [Watsonville].

They will be allowed to transfer to another program to continue playing, if they choose, without needing the required 12 units at a new school, Fabos said.

Pera said he spent the past week arranging transfers for his younger players, including nonstarters and redshirts.

"That's the main thing, get these kids an opportunity," said Pera, the 1974 state champion while at San Jose City College and a '77 All-American at San Jose State. "Who knows? Maybe something pops and they move forward from there."

Pera said Monterey Peninsula College will take in Mitchell, Scott Abel [San Lorenzo Valley], Ryan Mock [Watsonville], Jason Rivas [Aptos] and Noah Sturm [Santa Cruz]. Evan Dunbreck [Los Gatos] will transfer to San Jose City. Matt Milton will return to his native Hawaii and Chris Corbin will head home to Chico.