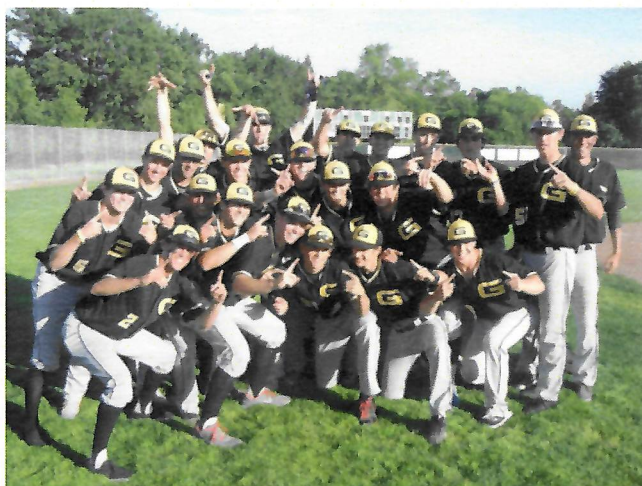


early Boot Hill diamond recall there was a huge elevation difference between home plate and centerfield. Centerfielders often reported only seeing the top of the batter's head while playing the position.

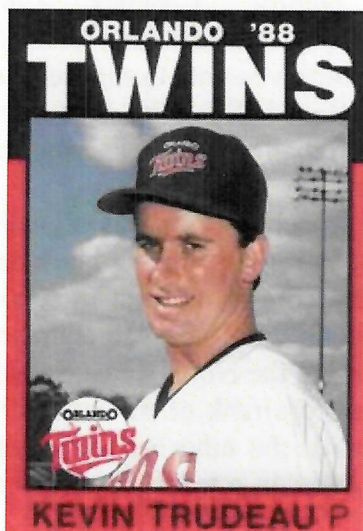


Top Grade Construction did a monumental job of moving dirt to level this new facility. Coaches Chris VanSchaack, Tony Battilega, and Corrigan Willis added improvements to the field, so that today the Boot Hill facility is as fine a high school baseball diamond as you will find in the area.

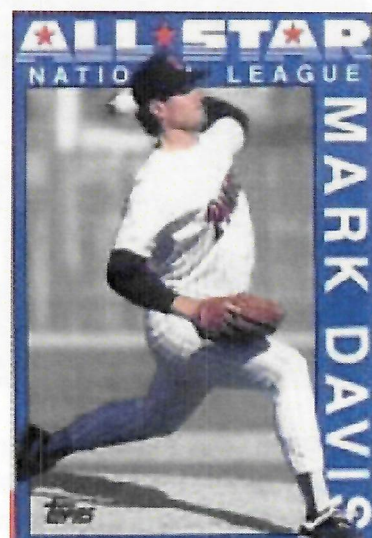
The 2013 baseball team was arguably the finest squad ever to wear the black and gold. Its 24-2 record is the best in school history, and along with the 1978 team and

1992 team, was the only other team to capture the EBAL title. Entering the North Coast Section playoffs, the team had outscored opponents 197-40, and had achieved a rank of #2 nationally. Entering the North Coast semi-finals, the Matadors were 5-0 against the other semi-finalists. However, their season was cut short when they suffered a loss to Amador, a team that they had previously twice defeated.

NOTABLE ALUMNI

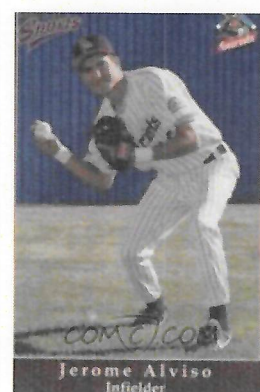


Cy Young winner Mark Davis ('78)



Kevin Trudeau ('81) played triple A for the Twins⁸¹

Jerome Alviso ('93) played Triple A for the Rockies⁸²



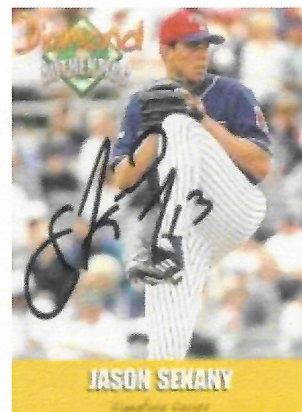
Erik Threets ('99) pitched with the Giants

⁸¹ Kevin Trudeau was drafted in the 6th round out of Chabot College

⁸² Jerome Alviso was drafted out of CSU, Fullerton



Derek Helenihi ('05) was the starting third baseman for the College World Series LSU Tiger Championship team in 2009.



Jason Sekany ('93) pitched at the Triple A level for the Twins.⁸³

Other Notable Professional Baseball Alumni Include:

David "Shorty" Farfan ('92), California Angels, Class A
 Carlos Arrelano, ('93), Cleveland Indians, Class A
 Jim "Jumbo" Alviso, ('66) Philadelphia Phillies, Class A
 Paul Keck, ('02), Seattle Mariners, Rookie League
 Steve Stone, ('75)
 Ryan Bosch ('02), Third Round, Attended Arizona State instead
 Ryan Kirby ('13), San Francisco Giants, Attending University of San Diego
 Kyle Dixon ('02),

Athletes Who Have Played At Four-Year Colleges and Universities Include:

Matt Garner ('03)—Jackson State University
 Kirk Ekstrom ('04)—CSU EastBay
 Kris Little ('05)
 Drew Helenihi ('08)—Northwestern State
 Jon Sa ('08)—University of Texas, El Paso
 Kyle Holmstrom ('08)—Campbell University
 Gary Lindhardt ('09)—Cal Poly Pomona
 Marcus Mastroboni ('11)—CSU Stanislaus
 Chris Wilson ('12)—Holy Names
 Vince Fernandez ('13)—University of California, Riverside
 Jacob Payne ('13)—CSU, Northridge

⁸³ Jason Sekany was drafted out of the University of Virginia



THE HELMET

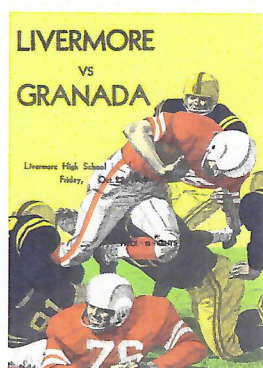
The first two football teams from Granada took the field in the fall 1964. One was a JV team and the other a Frosh squad. Both teams were successful the first year. The Frosh team coached by Bill Wolcott, went undefeated (6-0), defeating Livermore High by a 19-6 score. The JV team, under Coach Robert Springer ended the initial season with a 5-3 record, but defeated Livermore by a 6-0 score.

After the undefeated freshmen season, Coach Wolcott set the philosophical foundation for the

Matador program when he stated, "Freshmen ball's main goal is play every boy to get him ready for rougher assignments as he progresses in high school athletics."⁸⁴ He further noted that, "I was able to use every of my 33 boys in every game except the Livermore contest which the Matadors won 19-6."⁸⁵



Football Program, October 22, 1965



The first varsity season was 1965, and the Matadors finished the season 3-6, and lost to their cross-town rivals by a 20-13 score. But this game started a tradition that continues to the present. To the winner goes THE HELMET. The official name of the first helmet was "The Teen Canteen Victory Helmet."⁸⁶ It was an old Riddell suspension helmet, painted one side old gold, the other side yellow. That helmet lasted through the 2000 season when there was no more room remaining for the plaques. A new modern helmet now changes hands with the winner retaining its rights for the entire year.

Livermore had the rights to the helmet for the rest of the 1960s. The Matadors did come close the second year (1966) as they scored late in the game and came away with a 7-7 tie. The first Matador victory occurred in 1970. Coach George Wilson's Matadors were trailing 14-6 with only 2:10 left in the game. Tony Foster then pulled in a 42-yard pass from Cal Nelson to put the ball on the LHS one-yard line. Nelson scored on the next play, and Robin Green scored on the two-point conversion. Game tied 14-14. The Matadors then recovered an onside kick at the Livermore 45-yard line. (The Livermore bench was outraged as coaches were screaming at

⁸⁴ *The Herald and News*, November 4, 1964

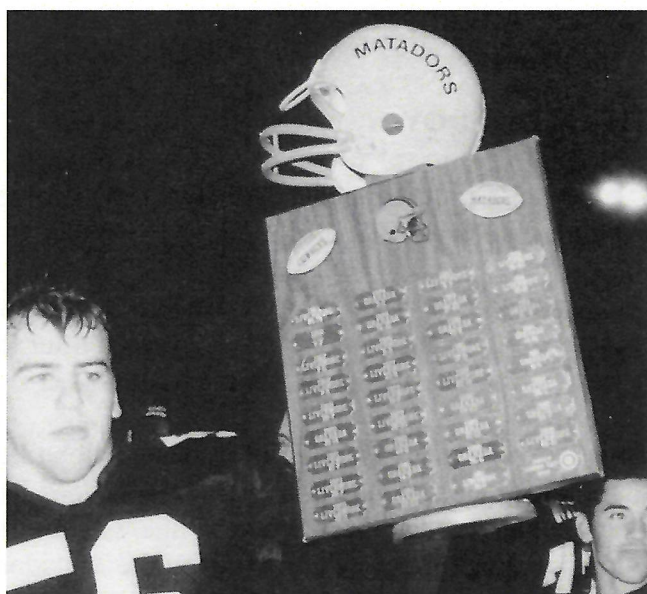
⁸⁵ *The Herald and News*, November 4, 1964

⁸⁶ Teen Canteen was a club for both high schools sponsored by L.A.R.P.D.

officials that the ball had not traveled ten yards—all to no avail). But the key play in the game occurred as the Matadors faced a fourth down with 1:20 left in the contest. Cal Nelson hit tight end Mark Baumgartner with a twelve-yard gain to the Cowboy 26. The next play Robin Green came out of the backfield and caught the game-winning touchdown. As reported the next day in *The Herald*, “Last night, half of Livermore went wild.”⁸⁷ Since the game was played at Livermore High, the Matadors took their time getting on the bus to take them back to Granada. In fact the bus made a special trip through the middle of town as the players let all the people know that a rivalry had now begun.

One of the most memorable games occurred in 1981. The game was going to be televised by a Livermore High film crew, but a huge weather front came in on Friday and it rained, and rained and rained. By game time the field was a quagmire. The yard lines and boundaries were obliterated, and the film crew went home. The game was finally decided when John Petlansky caught a short pass from Kevin Trudeau, turned up field and raced 80 yards for the winning touchdown. Livermore complained that Petlansky was 5 yards out of bounds, but.....Matadors won!

The Matador's win in the 1975 game was memorable for a couple of reasons: (1) Granada was behind Livermore by a touchdown in the fourth quarter when a botched Livermore quick kick led to a GHS touchdown. That touchdown was immediately followed by a long Matador drive and the game-clinching touchdown. (2) This victory not only resulted in a victory over archrival Livermore but also secured the first-ever EBAL championship for the school, and a trip to the NCS playoffs.



Suddenly the Matadors were the talk of the town. On November 28, 1975 the following editorial appeared in the *Herald and News*:

It's FOOTBALL, hot dogs, apple pie and a popular car that define the American dream. No way will baseball take the place of football—not this season, not this week, not tonight!

The Matadors from Granada High School of Livermore are champions of the East Bay Athletic League. Thanks to their escapade with Mission San Jose last weekend, they march on tonight to Pinole Valley in hopes of capturing the North Coast Section Large School Championship.

The Mats have been a hard luck team for years. It was always a good scramble when they met the cross-town rivals of Livermore High, but Granada was never

⁸⁷ *The Herald and News*, October 17, 1970

able to put together a championship season. This year it is different, and everyone should sit up and take notice.

They are the best football players in the valley

With the local conflicts past, all the valley schools should be cheering for the Mats. Everyone loves a winner, and GHS has been waiting for this year for a long, long time. It is their week of glory.

This is Matador Week in Livermore!⁸⁸

After defeating heavily favored Mission San Jose High School in the first round, sadly the Matadors lost the championship game to Pinole Valley.

Since the 1970 game the results have been balanced. Livermore did run off four wins in a row from 1976-1979, but the Matadors have had four streaks of three wins each. (1980-1982, 1988-1990, 1996-1998, 2008-2010). Currently the Matadors lead the overall competition 25-23-1. (Through the 2013 football season).

THE FIFTH DOWN

No long-time Granada football fan will forget what happened at Curt Lehew Field on the evening of October 23, 1981.

Monte Vista came into the week 4 showdown with Granada with an unblemished league record, while Granada sported a 1-2 record after losses to Amador 15-14 and 6-3 to San Ramon. It was obviously a must-win for the Matadors.

Touchdown passes from Kevin Trudeau to John Petlansky and a fumble recovery in the end zone by Mike Miller gave the Matadors a 16-13 lead late in the fourth quarter. The Matadors did take over the ball on their own two-yard line with a little over three minutes left in the game. Trudeau came out flinging the ball and moved the Matadors to their own thirty-five yard line with under two minutes remaining. The Mustangs were now out of time outs. On a third and five situation, Trudeau passed the ball to Petlansky for a first down, but Petlansky was flagged for offensive pass interference. The Matadors had to punt the ball to Monte Vista.

The Mustangs returned the punt to the Granada forty-seven yard line with 1:27 left in the game, and no time outs.

On first down, the Mustang quarterback connected on an eight-yard pass to the Granada 39. On second down, the quarterback threw a deep pass but Matador defender Jim Rothstein broke up the play. On third and two, the quarterback threw a screen pass that was brilliantly defended by Steve Aguiar, who tackled the back for a 9-yard loss. Situation: 4th and 11. On fourth down, the Mustangs ran the same play that they had run on first down for a 7-yard gain.⁸⁹ Game Over! Not so! The Mustangs immediately ran to the line of scrimmage and completed a 21-yard pass over the middle.

⁸⁸ *The Herald and News*, November 28, 1975, p. 10

⁸⁹ *The Herald & News*, October 25, 1981 p, 43

As the Mustangs got ready to run a “5th down play,” Coach Kevin Drake and the entire Matador sideline were up in arms. QB Kevin Trudeau yelled at Drake, “What are they doing out there?” Drake yelled at the Field Judge that they were running a fifth down play, but the official shook his head.⁹⁰ As reported in the *Herald* at the time, “I (Drake) called timeout. Basically I was in shock this was happening. When I went out onto the field I tried to recreate the sequence of plays for the official’s....They said they didn’t remember. They said they were sorry if they blew it, but to their recollection Monte Vista only had four downs.”⁹¹ Drake called for the three reporters to walk on the field and show the officials the play-by-play accounts, but the officials weren’t interested.⁹²

The game continued with Monte Vista scoring with a few seconds left in the game. Drake protested the game. A meeting of the eight league principals was held on the following Wednesday. After two hours of discussion, a motion was made to uphold Granada’s protest. That motion was defeated, and while the vote was not secret, the vote was not made public.⁹³ The prepared statement that came out of the principal’s meeting read: “After reviewing the information, discussing the issues, recognizing that five downs were allowed, the East Bay Board of Governors voted not to uphold the Granada High School protest of the game with Monte Vista High School on Friday, October 23.”⁹⁴

Jeff Faraudo, sports columnist for *The Herald and News* summarized the Board of Governors decision, “I personally believe that the Board of Governors made the correct decision by turning down Granada’s protest. Although acknowledging the fact that Monte Vista was indeed given a fifth downplay, they determined that it was not their job to legislate the outcome of a football game. Right or wrong, they did not want to take away the same authority and responsibility that they have entrusted in the referees.

A mistake was made, no doubt about it. But the mistake was made last Friday night, not Wednesday.”⁹⁵

After the vote Drake commented, “This thing is in. We did everything in our power and we must go on. We can’t sit and cry for something we were entitled to, but denied, because it doesn’t do us any good. That just leads to self-pity and we won’t do that.”⁹⁶

The Matadors did do as Coach Drake suggested. They finished the season by defeating Dublin, Foothill and Livermore by a combined score of 70-26.

⁹⁰ *The Herald & News*, October 25, 1981 p. 43

⁹¹ *The Herald & News*, October 25, 1981 p.43

⁹² *The Herald & News*, October 25, 1981 p. 43

⁹³ *The Herald & News*, October 29, 1981 p. 35

⁹⁴ *The Herald & News*, October 29, 1981 p. 35

⁹⁵ *The Herald & News*, October 29, 1981 p. 35

⁹⁶ *The Herald & News*, October 29, 1981 p. 35

Footnote: Many people have asked why there was no film of this fifth down controversy. At the time teams were using 16mm film for games. Normally a photographer used between 4-5 reels per game. In this particular game, the photographer completed the fourth reel as Granada was in control of the game with less than three minutes left. Thinking the game in hand, and wanting to save the cost of using a few frames of a new reel, he did not film the last two minutes of the game.

THE COIN FLIP

Head Football Coach Aaron Gingery recalled the way the 1994 football season came to end:

It was my second year at Granada in 1994, and the three schools tied for first place (Granada, Foothill and Amador); but per CIF rules only two could advance into the playoffs from each league. So we met at Dublin High Saturday at 9 am. Our boys went to practice and game reviewed as normal while I ducked off to flip the coin. All three coaches flipped, and Foothill and Amador came up heads, mine came up tails so..... no playoffs.

Needless to say I was not too happy about a coin controlling a year's worth of effort by our boys. One of the hardest things I have had to do as a coach was to return to school to tell the boys we were out of the playoffs despite coming in first in league. So much for "hard work paying off".

That off-season, I created an alternate plan, which was adopted by the section. If there were another three-way tie, all wins by our opponents would be added to our wins. This would reward strength of schedule. When I left, that rule had been applied a few times and was still in place.⁹⁷

NOTABLE ATHLETES

JOHN CHESTER KING



In researching the first fifty years of Granada's history, there was one name that came up in a number of places. We were intrigued to learn more about John Chester King.

Chester, as he was called, was a 1968 graduate of Granada. He was one of the first "stars" on the emerging Varsity Football team. Looking back at the 1967 season, his name is in nearly every news/sports article of the time. In October 1967, the *Herald and News* reported, "There could also be quite a battle brewing in the individual rushing department between Chester King and Amador's Dave Figueroa. The two currently stand one-two in that department. King has toted the pigskin 43 times for 260 yards and a 6.0 mark per carry..."⁹⁸ King would eventually finish second in the league in rushing that year by a mere 26 yards.

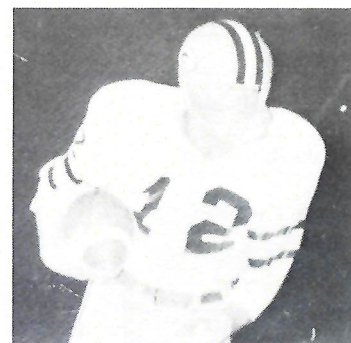
His coach that year, George Wilson, has fond memories of Chester. "He was a '25 year-old' senior," Wilson recalled with a smile on his face. He continued, "Chester was one great kid. Not only was he a great athlete, but a great individual--everyone liked him."⁹⁹

⁹⁷ Aaron Gingery, April 21, 2014

⁹⁸ *Herald and News*, October 24, 1967 p. 10

⁹⁹ George Wilson, April 2, 2014

One of the treasured awards in high school football was the annual Eagles Award, given by the local fraternal order of Eagles. Remember, Livermore High School was the only high school in a small agricultural community for the entire twentieth century until 1963 when Granada was established. At the end of each season the entire football team would meet at the Eagles' Hall for a banquet. The highlight of the evening would be the announcement of the Eagles' Award. (The Eagles took this so seriously that they assigned three members to watch each football game during the season and make a decision based on their evaluation). The winner of the 1967 Eagles' Award from Granada was Chester King.



After graduation, Chester attended Chabot College and then enlisted in the army. On November 5, 1970 Chester King was killed in combat in Vietnam. To our knowledge he is the only Granada alumnus to suffer such a fate. In his memory the family asked that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to a fund to support the construction of a football field on Granada's campus. Over \$3,400 was donated. Thus the memory of a dedicated student-athlete, a courageous soldier, and a loyal friend to his classmates is still with us.

GEORGE ATKINSON III (2011)



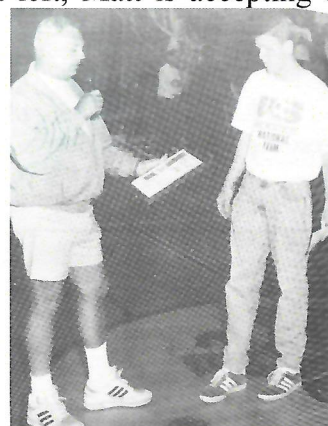
George Atkinson is a 2011 Granada graduate. He had a celebrated athletic career at Granada. As a sophomore, he placed eighth in the California State Track meet in the 200-meter dash. He was also an all-league performer for two years on the Granada Varsity Football team. He is the only Granada football player ever selected to participate in the annual U.S. Army All-Star football game played each January at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas.

After graduation, George accepted a full scholarship to the University of Notre Dame, where he excelled for three varsity seasons. As a freshmen player, he returned three kickoffs for touchdowns. He left Notre Dame after his junior year and is currently awaiting the NFL draft in May 2014.

Matt Johnson ('95)

In 1995, Matt Johnson was not only selected for all-league honors, but he also was named the Gatorade California and Western Regional Player of the Year. (at left, Matt is accepting this award from Coach Don Briemle.)

Matt went on to have a stellar four-year soccer career at the University of Notre Dame.



TEAM	LEAGUE CHAMPIONS	NCS	STATE
Baseball	1978, 1992, 2013	2001 (2nd)	
Basketball-Boys	1966, 1967, 1996*	1996 (1st)	1996-Final Four
Basketball-Girls	1982, 1983	1986 (1st)	
Cross Country-Boys	1977, 1996, 1999, 2000	1976-(1st), 1988-(2nd), 1995 (1st), 1996 (1st), 1997 (1st), 1998 (2nd), 1999 (1st)	1999-2nd
Cross Country-Girls	1975*, 1976*, 1977* 1986, 1987, 1994, 1999*, 2006, 2007, 2008, 1010*, 2011*, 2012	1976 (1st), 1999 (1st) 2010 (1st), 2012 (1st)	1999-2nd
Fencing	1972 (IMFL)		
Football	1975*, 1976, 1994, 1997(TCAL); 2000* (TCAL)	1975-(2nd), 1988-(2nd), 1995-(1st), 1997 (2nd), 2000-(2nd)	
Golf-Girls		2009 (3rd); 2010 (3rd)	2009 (3rd)
Gymnastics	1978, 1980*, 1981, 1982	1976 (1st)	
Soccer-Boys	1977, 1980, 1981, 1984, 1985	1981(1st), 1985 (1st)	
Soccer-Girls	1982, 1983, 1985*, 1986, 1987	1982 (1st), 1983 (1st), 1985 (1st), 1986 (1st), 1987 (1st), 1988 (1st)	
Softball	1982, 1983, 1984, 1987, 1996*	1995 (1st), 1996 (2nd), 1997 (1st), 1998 (2nd) 2007 (2nd)	
Swimming-Boys	1975, 1976, 1996, 1998*	2011 (2nd), 2013 (2nd)	
Swimming-Girls	1974, 1975		
Tennis-Boys		1994 (1st Doubles), 1995 (1st Doubles)	
Tennis-Girls	1977	1997 (2nd)	
Track-Boys	1974*, 1979, 1994*, 1996*, 1999, 2001, 2003, 2004*, 2005*, 2007, 2008*, 2009	2008 (1st), 2009 (1st)	
Track-Girls	1974, 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1987, 1988, 2000(co-Champ), 2002*, 2005*, 2007*	1989 (2nd), 2013 (2nd)	
Volleyball	1983, 1985, 1986-1995**	1984 (1st), 1986 (1st), 1987 (2nd), 1988 (2nd) 1989 (1st), 1990 (2nd), 1991 (1st), 1992 (1st), 1993 (1st), 1994 (2nd), 2009 (2nd). 2013 (2nd)	1989-Final Four, 1991-2nd, 1993 Final Four
Wrestling	1966, 1967, 1968, 1975*, 1976,* 1980*, 1981*, 1982*, 1987, 1988, 1997*, 2005, 2007*, 2008*	2005 (2nd-dual), 2007 (2nd-dual), 2008 (2nd dual), 2009 (3rd-dual), 2010 (3rd-dual); 2005 (3rd-Team); 2010 (2nd-Team)	

*- Undefeated