

Coach Bios



Head Coach Rich Aldrete

Rich Aldrete, whose college coaching career began with the inaugural 2006 CSUMB baseball season, continues the tremendous task he began last season.

Aldrete leads the 2007 CSUMB Otters as they enter their second season in the highly competitive Division II CCAA Baseball Conference, playing such national powers as Chico State, Sonoma State and UC San Diego. Expectations are high for this season considering Aldrete's baseball background as both a coach and former player.

Aldrete, born and raised in Monterey, starred in football, basketball, and baseball at Monterey High and then attended UC Berkeley on a baseball scholarship. At Cal, Aldrete joined an elite group of four-year letter winners under legendary coach Bob Milano.

After a stellar career at Cal, Rich enjoyed seven seasons of minor league baseball with the San Francisco Giants and Saint Louis Cardinals, reaching as high as Triple A and winning five Divisional titles and a Double A championship with the Shreveport Captains, an affiliate of the San Francisco Giants. Aldrete was

a lifetime .320 hitter in his minor league career, which helped him land a job building the independent baseball icon, the Northern League. Rich starred as a player/coach for the Sioux Falls Canaries while doubling as a special scout for the Florida Marlins, signing with the like of 2004 World Champion Kevin Millar. After two seasons in the Northern League, Rich helped start the Salinas Peppers a member of the Western Baseball League where he became an All-Star. Once his pro career ended, Rich re-focused his commitment to giving back to the youths of the Tri-County area by starting the Aldrete Baseball Academy, a non-profit baseball school. There he not only tutored players on the field, but helped place over 75 local youths in college baseball programs in all divisions. He also served as an advisor to over 10 local professional players. He stressed academics and family first before athletics.

When past Athletic Director Bill Trumbo appointed Aldrete in May of 2005, Aldrete stated he wanted to build a program around quality students and men first, and baseball players second. The 2007 squad Aldrete and his staff brought in have filled the mold to a "T."

Rich recently married his high school sweetheart, Stephanie Olaeta. They reside in Marina with his two kids: Annie, 10, and Carter, 8.



Assistant Coach Jimmy Walker

Jimmy Walker continues now into his second year as an Assistant Head Coach and Recruiting Coordinator for CSUMB Otter's Baseball. Walker's on the field duties include coaching third base and working defensively with the catchers and outfielders.

Walker came to the Monterey Peninsula in 1997 to play catcher at Monterey Peninsula College after being a three-year starting catcher for Pearl City High School in Pearl City, Hawaii. While here, he met Rich Aldrete and not only began a professional relationship as an instructor at the Aldrete Baseball Academy, but also gained the opportunity to learn the games of baseball and life under Aldrete's tutelage. After MPC, Walker played two years at UC Santa Barbara. In 2001 he was part of the Gauchos' greatest team in school history. When his career at Santa Barbara concluded, he played three years professionally with the San Angelo Colts, Duluth Superior Dukes, and the Kansas City T-bones. When his pro career ended, he began coaching, serving in the same capacity for Daniel Phillips at MPC, coaching the 'Dores to a CCS title in 2005. In the summer of 2006 he managed the Monterey Baysocks, a semi-pro team in the California Collegiate League.

Walker is currently finishing his B.A. in Liberal Studies from CSU Monterey Bay and resides in Marina.



Assistant Coach Chris Lasaca

Chris Lasaca is now in his first year as an Assistant Coach for CSUMB Baseball. His on the field responsibilities include defensive fundamentals, strategies, and coaching third base.

Lasaca first started his baseball career as a three-time letterman at James Lick High School from 1979 to 1983. He then attended Mission Community College from 1983 to 1985 and was the 1985 Defensive Player of the Year. After Mission he transferred to San Jose State and played as a shortstop and second baseman for two years. While at San Jose he received his bachelor's in sports recreation. He later received his master's in education in instructional technology from American Intercontinental University. Chris is the founder of Hardnocks Baseball where he ran baseball camps, clinics, seminars, and travel ball. In his 22 years of coaching he has been to Mission Community College, De Anza College, and San Jose State.

Chris has three children, Ty, Keano, and Georgiana, and his significant other Patricia Gran. He loves to watch all children succeed at something they are unsure of, and says "baseball gives them that opportunity."

