

70
UPDATES
TODAY

97°
FEW CLOUDS



Advanced Search

GO

News Opinion Sports Business Life Get Out QuickHits Nerdvana Photos Jobs Elections Marketplace Obits

Varsity Xtra Find school/sport Brackets VBlog Photos: DI State Championship Football Photos: DIII State Championship Football Photos: DV State Championship Football Get a grip at the Focus Climbing Center Ballet Folklorico Fuego De Phoenix Home VarsityXtra

VARSITY XTRA CALENDAR

Sep 14	Sep 15	Sep 16	Sep 17	Sep 18	Sep 19	Sep 20
--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------	--------

Submit an Event

Ballard, Edens next up in MP Hall class

Story Comments Image (2)

Share Print Font Size:

Tweet 2

Previous Next



Submitted photo

Posted: Sunday, September 13, 2015 12:00 pm

By Jason P. Skoda, Ahwatukee Foothills News

The induction class for the Mountain Pointe Hall of Fame might be the smallest in the five years of existence, but the impact the individuals had was anything but slight.

Sam Ballard molded young players into men while taking the boys basketball team to the brink of the state title game. Cameron Edens walked all of the area courses while setting records with a sweet and pinpoint golf swing, and Rachel Melvin showed her acting chops before leaving for Hollywood in a production of "Any Number Can Die."

All three will be celebrated in a ceremony on Sept. 25 at Mountain Pointe before the Pride take on Pinnacle at Karl Kiefer Stadium.

"I think I will feel a little more as the ceremony goes and when we get acknowledged at the football game," Edens said. "It's going to be lot of emotions. There are a lot of good memories associated with Mountain Pointe."

Edens

Mountain Pointe product Cameron Edens set the standard for the Pride golf program and will be inducted into the school's hall of fame on Sept. 25. [Submitted photo]



Buy this photo

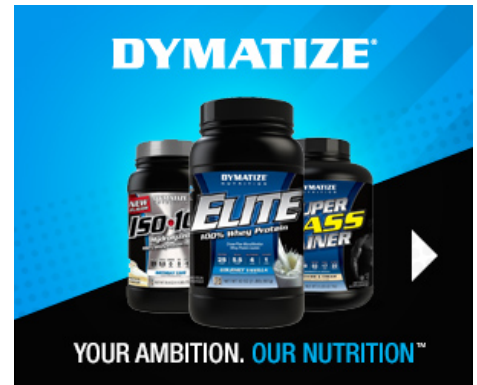
Edens, 26, is the most decorated golfer in Pride history and continues to play professionally although he is on the shelf now with an elbow injury.

His imprint on the Pride program is more than the lowest scoring average (34.6), lowest score for nine holes (31) and 18 holes (62).

Edens, a 2007 graduate, set the standard for all Pride golfers and came back several times over the years to help with some tips for the younger golfers.

"Cameron was an inspiration to the golfers he played with and was very humble about his accomplishments," Pride golf coach Tony Ramseyer said. "He helped jump start the golf program for the next 10 years by encouraging others to play, practice and compete at a high level.

"I am truly convinced his success in the sport at Mountain Pointe has helped the program continue



CONNECT WITH US

Sign Up for Email Alerts

SPORTS BLOG

Desert Ridge loses two quarterbacks in early going

Desert Ridge began the year with three quarterbacks playing in the first quarter as Jeremy Hathcock tried to find the best fit for his offense.

Davies makes debut with Brewers

Zach Davies could be mistaken for the batboy.

Five games that make us go hmmm

Five games we find very intriguing:

to be successful and when he has had time, he has come back and helped our young golfers and worked with them to improve their game.”

Edens was a four-time Tempe All City, finished as a state runner-up his senior year and went on to play at Arizona State and BYU.

He left Mountain Pointe considered one of the top 15 golfers in the country after posting some pretty special rounds and plenty of memories.

“What sticks out is the relationships,” Edens said. “I am still in touch with most of those guys, especially (Ramseyer) and my best friend Nick Scheib was on the team. As far as golf, it was the city tournament at Ken McDonald when I shot 31 the first day, 62 the second and was 15 under for 27 holes. I couldn’t play much better than that.”

Ballard knows a little something about playing at a high level as he took over the basketball program soon after the school opened.

Ballard coached the team from 1997 to 2007 to a 171-90 before leaving for Mesa Community College.

During his tenure with the Pride, he won the Central Region Coach of the Year four times and was named the Arizona coach of the year by ArizonaVarsity.com in 2006.

The best team he might have had during his time on the Pride bench came during the 2005-06 season when Mountain Pointe won 19 games before losing in the state semifinals to eventual state runner-up Corona del Sol.

There were other seasons – like his first team in 1997 that won the program’s first region title with 11 seniors or the 2001 squad that was No. 1 in the state most of the year – that were memorable and that’s what makes coaching special.

“The treasures you get out of this business is when you bump into someone, or they call or email, and they thank you or remember those times you had together despite working them as hard as I did,” Ballard said. “It’s like the news of the Hall of Fame, ‘Wow, someone remembers me.’ It is a special thing.

“Being inducted into the Hall of Fame at Mountain Pointe after 10 years there is very meaningful to me.”

Ballard remembers those days in at Mountain Pointe, where he was also named the most inspirational teacher of the year for his time in the social studies department, as a special time.

“(Former principal) Harold Slemmer made sure there was a real close camaraderie among the coaches,” Ballard said. “It was really important to Harold and all of the coaches made it a special place, a very attractive place to be. I’m proud to say I was part of Mountain Pointe and honored to be included in the Hall of Fame.”

• *Contact writer at 480-898-7915 or follow him on Twitter @JasonPSkoda.*

• *Check us out and like Ahwatukee Foothills News on [Facebook](#) and AhwatukeeFN on [Twitter](#)*

Tweet 2 Like 1

Discuss Share Print

Posted in VarsityXtra, School, Mountain pointe on Sunday, September 13, 2015 12:00 pm.



Highland-Mesa game one of intrigue

Not sure the Highland at Mesa game was on the radar before the season began but after a couple of good outcomes last week this one has some intrigue.



O'Sullivan continues her winning ways

This is something we should all get used to - Hannah happened.



Bagley's departure part of prep academy stigma

The news cycle of the Marvin Bagley Jr. decision to follow his family to Hillcrest Prep has passed, but it will come up again any day now.



DV's scrimmage performance could make for a promising season

The murmur along the sidelines started early and one of the opposing coaches confirmed it.



UPDATE AGAIN: Chandler National North eliminated

The Chandler National North Little League came up short of the ultimate goal.



Catching up with Arizona high school products in the NFL

Depth charts at this point in the football season are pretty fluid.



Examining some of the scheduling quirks

In taking a look at the football schedules broken down there were some quirks that became pretty clear.

VXSHOUT

Click to learn how to be seen and heard while Mom is watching