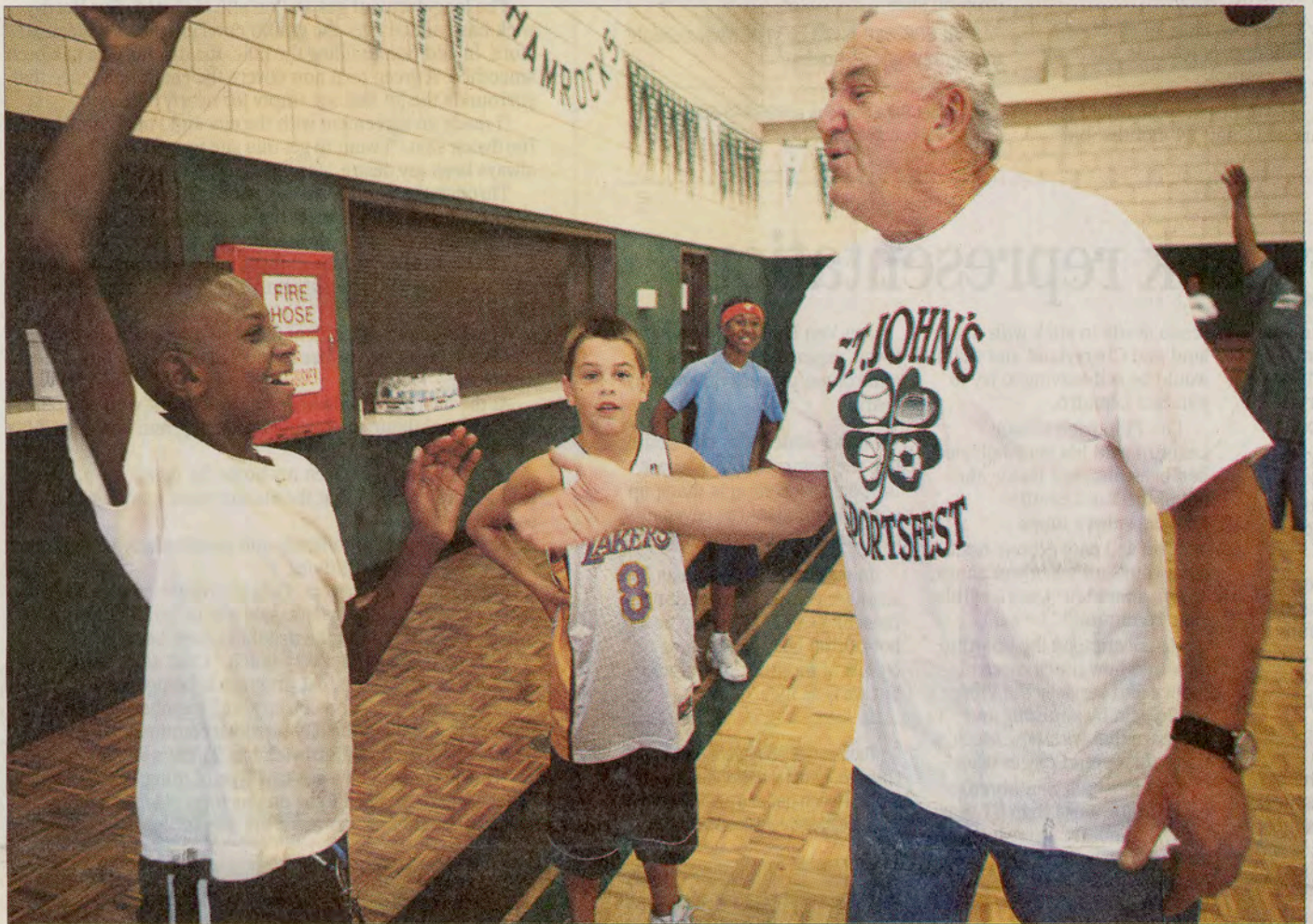
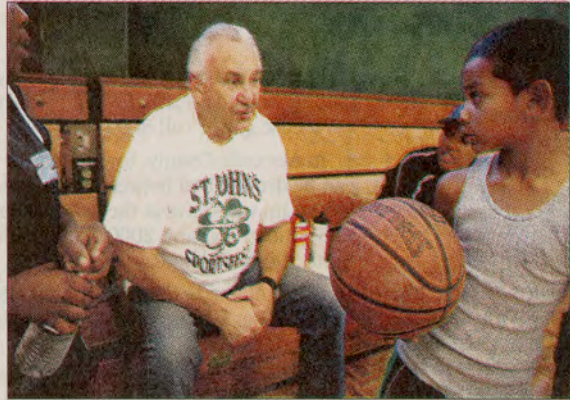


SENIOR JOURNAL

# TWO SCORE ON THE COURT



ANTONIO FRANCO — Staff photos

**COACH RAY BANNISTER**, 67, jokes around and offers advice to his students this week at St. John's Community Center in San Lorenzo, where he has been coaching boys and girls basketball for 40 years. Bannister (below) takes a knee to inspect the floor of the community center.

# Coach honored for 40 years of work with kids

By Aaron Morrison

STAFF WRITER

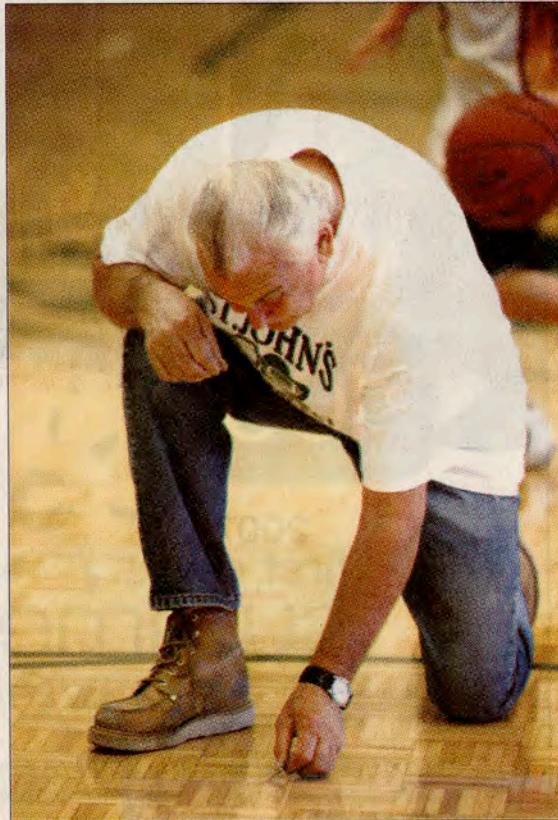
For more than 30 years, Ray Bannister, 67, worked full days for Pacific Bell and made sure that he was off work in time to make it to St. John's Community Center in San Lorenzo to coach boys and girls basketball.

Bannister, who has been a coach with the Catholic Youth Organization for 40 years, was honored last Saturday by former students and parents who have been touched by his unwavering dedication to the community's youth.

"Everyone knows who Ray is," San Lorenzo resident Emily Babcock said. "He's the very first coach that (kids) get introduced to."

Babcock, her three daughters and about 250 other people turned out for Bannister's party, where they commended him on being their "favorite coach."

Babcock remembers having Bannister as her coach from the late '70s to the early '80s. He now coaches her 10-year-old, Julia, and 8-year-old, Madelyn. She said her youngest, Jose-



phine, who just entered kindergarten, will be coached by Bannister should she decide to play basketball.

"I get people coming up to me from out of nowhere saying, 'My son wants to play for you,'" Bannister said.

Bannister became interested in coaching after assisting one of his neighbors in the '60s. When his own kids began playing, Bannister started coaching his own teams.

In addition to coaching, Bannister got the idea of helping small children learn their numbers from his wife, Maxine.

Bannister uses a deck of playing cards in a game to teach his students to add up to 10. For each student who wins the game, he awards them a quarter. And at the end of a school year, the student with the most wins is rewarded with a \$50 savings bond.

"I probably lose \$2 per night," Bannister said of both the card game and his basketball free-throw contest. "I lose the money, but they are learning, and that's

Please see **COACH**, Local 2

## Teaching fundamentals for 40 years

► **COACH**, from Local 1

pretty good." Bannister retired in 1996. Since then, he said he enjoys spending his spare time teaching and coaching.

"I just get a kick out of seeing how quick they learn how to do their math," Bannister said. "It's the same with basketball. It's neat to be one of the only guys that's been with this for 40 years."

### Senior lunch menus

Hayward-based Spectrum Commu-

nity Services serves a complete lunch weekdays for a suggested minimum donation of \$3.25. For information and dining room locations, call 510-881-0300.

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### Aug. 20-24

► Monday: Corn chowder, turkey and Swiss on whole-wheat with condiments, three-bean salad on mixed greens with tomato wedges, apple turnover. Hamburger and veggie burger also available.

► Tuesday: Salisbury steak with mushroom gravy, cornbread stuffing, broccoli spears, pickled beets, fresh

strawberries with whipped topping.

► Wednesday: Spaghetti and meat sauce, cauliflower with butter and herbs, breadstick, fruit juice (Vitamin C-enriched), sherbet.

► Thursday: Cream of spinach soup, barbecued chicken quarters, baked beans, whole-wheat bread, watermelon. Hamburger and veggie burger also available.

► Friday: Romaine salad with cherry tomatoes, baked tilapia, tropical fruit salsa, steamed brown rice, peas and carrots, whole-wheat roll, apricot cup.