



The Escondido History Center

With the Generous Sponsorship of

Jack Raymond

2020 ESCONDIDO LEGENDS APPLICATION

PETE COSCARART AWARD PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL PLAYER



Explanation of award: The honorarium will be given to a senior student attending a high school in Escondido who has participated in a variety of school activities and has demonstrated leadership throughout his or her high school years. Volunteerism in the community is also highly important.

Additional consideration will be given for participation in varsity baseball or softball. Also, additional consideration will be given for participation in the performing arts. Commitment to attend the Honorarium presentation, when arranged, is required.

Applications are available at www.escondidohistory.org (click on Legends button on front page of website) or from you high school counselor.

Please complete: The Escondido Legends application information below and submit your typed responses to the Escondido History Center along with a copy of your current high school transcript no later than 4 P.M. on Tuesday, February 9, 2021.

Please include your full name on all pages and deliver finished application:

- In person or to the Escondido History Center, 321 N. Broadway or by U.S. mail, P.O. Box 263, Escondido, CA 92033 OR
- As an email PDF attachment to fox@escondidohistory.org .

APPLICATION INFORMATION

1. YOUR NAME
2. YOUR HIGH SCHOOL WHICH YOU ATTEND
3. SUBMIT A COPY OF YOUR CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT
4. TELL US ABOUT YOUR LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES IN WHICH YOU PARTICIPATED
5. TELL US ABOUT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE INVOLVING VARSITY BASEBALL/SOFTBALL OR THE PERFORMING ARTS
6. DESCRIBE YOUR ACTIVITIES IN COMMUNITY WORK AND SERVICE
7. TELL US ABOUT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE
8. DESCRIBE YOUR GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE
9. SUBMIT YOUR PRINTED NAME AND SIGNATURE, AND INCLUDE THE SIGNATURE OF YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Pete Coscarart

Pete Coscarart was born in 1923 and raised in Escondido. The “Bounding Basque,” as he was later nicknamed, was a multi-talented student at Escondido High School, a short-term baseball star at Washington State University, an All-Star selection in professional baseball and an advocate for baseball players’ benefits.

Pete was educated in Escondido schools and enjoyed many activities at Escondido High School, graduating in 1931. Pete played baseball, was on the track team, played football and was selected Football Captain his senior year. Beyond sports, Pete was in the Letterman's Club, Hi-Y, Glee Club, Chorus for “Up in the Air”, and a Boy’s League officer.

As a three-sport high school athlete, Pete received an athletic scholarship to Washington State University. He left the University early to join the Portland Beavers of baseball’s Pacific Coast League, and then joined the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1938. Struggling initially, Pete was sent to the Nashville minor league team where he excelled. Pete was invited back to spring training in 1939 and worked his way back into the starting lineup. As part of the double-play combination of shortstops with Leo Durocher and later Pee Wee Reese, he was selected to the 1940 All-Star team. In 1941 Pete played in the Dodger-Yankee infamous fourth game of the World Series that sealed a win for the Yankees with a passed ball error by the Brooklyn catcher.

Pete Coscarart was a leader in a growing players’ union movement, but unfortunately, he played a few years too early to receive the benefits which future generations of professional baseball players now enjoy. He was a strong supporter of a players’ union that would negotiate players’ pensions and rights. He joined with other players in voting for a failed strike. The next year he was sold to the minor league San Diego Padres. The following year a pension plan was adopted and other players’ rights were negotiated. However, after many failed attempts through letter writing campaigns and court proceedings, Pete and others were never able to receive the pensions or receive royalties for the use of their images and memorabilia.

After his playing days, Pete worked as a scout for numerous teams and notably signed San Diego native Craig Nettles. In 1963, Pete started a thirty-year career as a Real Estate Broker in Escondido. In 1990 he was inducted into the Brooklyn Dodger Hall of Fame. Pete was surprised and very proud to have Escondido Varsity Baseball Field named after him and to be inducted into the Escondido High School Hall of Fame.

Pete Coscarart was a defensive whiz and an All-Star professional baseball player and likely the most notable player ever from Escondido. Now Pete is a 2020 ESCONDIDO FOREVER LEGEND.