

## **Jay Denton**

### **Educator and Coach**

Jay Denton was born in Hays, Kansas on December 17, 1943, and graduated from Newcastle High School, Newcastle, Wyoming in 1961. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Eastern Montana College in 1966 and his Masters in Physical Education Administration from Northern Arizona University in 1972. Jay coached and taught at Kemmerer High School in Kemmerer, Wyoming 1967 and 1968.

Jay coached and taught at Santa Cruz 1969-1978 and 1989 -2005. His career at Santa Cruz included teaching Physical Education and History, coaching football, wrestling, track, golf, baseball and as the Athletic Director. He started what would be a very successful wrestling program at Santa Cruz in 1969.

Coach Denton's term as head football coach won a state championship, state runner up and 5 regional championships. His wrestling teams won 3 state championships, 2 state runner up and 10 regional championships. Coach Denton's track team was state runner-up.

In recognition of his winning records, Coach was chosen as State Coach of the Year in football and wrestling multiple times. He was also often selected as the Arizona High School All Star Coach for football and wrestling.

Because of his highly successful coaching career in various sports, Coach Denton was elected to the Arizona Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He was also honored to be selected as the Arizona Wrestling National Team Coach.

Coach Denton considers his highest honor and achievement was having the opportunity to coach and know all the athletes during his years at Santa Cruz and having had the opportunity to coach with many of his former athletes.

During his long coaching career, Coach Denton was a positive influence on the student athletes as Santa Cruz with his desire to achieve, determination to succeed, and tireless work ethic.

His wife Sharon, daughter Randi and son J.D. are all Santa Cruz graduates.

Jay Denton coached and taught at San Luis and Gila Ridge High Schools in Yuma, Arizona 2005-20013. Jay retired in 2013.