

Testimonials of Support from Sonoma County Track/Cross Country Coaches for Naming the SRHS Track after Doug Courtemarche:

I respectfully put forward for the Santa Rosa High School track to be re-named after former Santa Rosa High School Doug Courtemarche.

Doug has made an incredible impact on the local running community stemming from decades of coaching in cross-country and track & field at both the high school and Junior club level. His coaching has impacted hundreds if not thousands of athletes during his 25+ year tenure as the head coach of Santa Rosa High.

When I began coaching as the new head coach at Montgomery High School five years ago, he immediately and naturally took me under his wing as a new coach. He began dispensing advice casually and kindly throughout the next five years prior to his retirement and we became great friends. We also discovered after a year or so that we were essentially next door neighbors, and during the Tubbs Fire of 2017, I found myself at his doorstep saying hello to find a sense of normalcy during my family's evacuation to my own house. Over the years we have exchanged mutual favorites during the holidays -wine and hot sauce- while swapping stories of athletes and ruminating on best workout practices + league history.

Doug is a pillar to the unique running community we have here, where there is furious competition yet deep respect among all coaches for each other. Doug has served as an excellent mediator during XC and track disputes, delivering a calm and fair hand to riled parties while providing a thorough understanding of national and state sports standards. He has mentored dozens of coaches with his on the ground experience and managed hundreds of meets of all sizes with a deft hand. He is more than deserving of the honor sought for him. The entire Montgomery coaching staff of XC/Track & Field is privileged to support the effort to rename the Panther track in Doug's honor.

Melody Karpinski
Head Coach, XC/Track & Field
Montgomery High School

~~~~~

Thanks for the opportunity and what a fantastic idea for an outstanding guy!  
Doug embodied the openness, caring and supportive attitude that all great coaches provide their young athletes. Moreover, he contributed to the advancement of running in the SR region for decades, as you noted, and was always out front with seeing to the athletes' success in their sport as well as off the field. I fully support the SRHS naming their beautiful Track & Field after Doug. Good luck,

**Mark E. Grismer**  
**Head Cross Country/Track and Field Coach**  
**Analy High School**  
PhD PE  
Professor, Departments of LAWR,  
Biological & Agricultural Engineering  
UC Davis

~~~~~

Please consider this e-mail response as my endorsement to name the Santa Rosa High School track as the "Courtemarche Track".

Having worked with Doug for all of my 16+ years coaching at the high school level, Doug has contributed significantly and always in a very positive way, not just to the Cross Country and Track & Field programs at Santa Rosa High School, but also in many ways, having a profoundly positive impact that extended to the broader community here in the Redwood Empire.

As a coach, Doug was always a fierce competitor and he knew how to get his athletes pumped-up; his teams and athletes always having a strong competitive presence, but he always coached with a big smile on his face. As a coach who has competed with Doug's for over the past 15 years, I've always respected and admired the way Doug ran his program and have had the utmost respect for Doug and his teams; although he's retired, Doug's positive support and contributions within our running community will have a lasting positive impact, even for those that never knew him. ...I hope he still comes out to our XC meets at Spring Lake and yells "GO ROSA" before the start of our races!

Looking forward to hearing more to honor Doug in naming the SRHS Track as the "Courtemarche Track"; please let me know if there's any way I can assist in this wonderful and very deserving acknowledgement.

Greg Fogg
Maria Carrillo High School
Head Coach Cross Country / Track & Field

~~~~~

I knew Doug Courtemarche long before he became coach of cross country and track at Santa Rosa High School. He has long been an active member of the Empire Runners, Sonoma County's largest running club, directing and assisting in local running events year-round. Doug is a joy to be around and is one of those people that you think can't possibly have enemies. In my role as coach at Montgomery High School we faced off many times every spring and fall, a rivalry that was both intense and friendly. In my mind, Doug's most valuable traits as a coach are his honesty, sincerity, boundless optimism and a deep devotion to the young athletes he has mentored over the years. You can't go wrong in placing his name on the track where he has made a positive impact on hundreds of young lives. Doug has earned this type of honor.

**Larry Meredith**  
**Former track and cross country coach at Montgomery High School**

~!~~~~~

I have known Doug Courtemarche for over 30years. We have coached together on the Santa Rosa Express and against each other in the NBL. He is an exceptional coach and an even better person. I cannot think of a more fitting honor than naming the track at SRHS after him.

**John Anderson**  
**Head Coach, Track and Field/Cross Country**  
**Rancho Cotate High School**

~~~~~

It is with great pleasure that I write to you in support of naming the Santa Rosa High School Track & Field Facility after Doug Courtemarche.

For many years, Doug has been an outstanding role model, mentor, and advocate for the student-athletes of Santa Rosa High School. However, it doesn't stop there.

As a newcomer to high school coaching myself, I was most appreciative of the time and encouragement Doug provided me during our time spent together. He is not just a role model for his athletes, but for other coaches as well.

I can think of no more appropriate honor than to bestow his name upon a facility in which he has helped develop countless outstanding young adults over his decades of service.

If I can provide further information or more words of support, please let me know. Thank you for your consideration.

Brandon Bronzan
Head Coach,Track & Field and Cross Country (Boys & Girls)
Windsor High School