



Fresno City College Head Coach Eric Solberg and the men's soccer team kneeling and praying before their second round playoff game against UC Merced at the Bobcat field on Nov. 22. Photo by Justin Shaw.

# FCC MEN'S SOCCER HEAD COACH RETIRES AFTER 27 YEARS

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After 27 seasons, 20 conference titles, 10 final four appearances and two state championships, Fresno City College's Eric Solberg will coach his final season with the men's soccer team.

On Wednesday Nov. 19, the Rams beat Contra Costa 5-0 in the first round of the Northern California state playoffs, in what was his final home game as head coach.

Solberg talked about his journey to becoming the head soccer coach, starting just as a part-time coach at FCC.

"I thought I was going to only get hired for baseball, but I also had a background in soccer," Solberg said.

Solberg, a Fresno native was hired 38 years ago as an assistant baseball coach at FCC. He spent his first 11 seasons as a part time coach before taking over as the men's soccer head coach. In addition to soccer, Solberg also spent his years as an assistant pitching coach for the FCC baseball team.

Solberg has been a part of 46 conference titles at FCC. He said coaching at FCC has been very rewarding.

In the last 27 years only five coaches from northern California have won men's soccer state titles. Solberg has won two of them.

Solberg said he's ready to step away from his head coaching position.

"I'm just tired, I'm literally just tired," Solberg said.

Solberg plans to remain as a part-time baseball coach for the immediate future.

Solberg will leave a big impact on his



Fresno City College Head Men's Soccer Coach Eric Solberg coaching against College of the Sequoias on Nov. 14. Photo by FCC men's soccer team.

players, coaches and the program as a whole.

"Its going to be very tough shoes to fill," Women's Soccer Head coach Oliver Germond said. "The relationships he's had with his players, in my opinion, has been the biggest part of his success."

Germond said Solberg has built a relationship with his players over winning .

"I remember their second state championship, all his players celebrated on the field by chanting his name," Germond said.

Solberg is emotional about stepping away and said leaving his assistant coaches will be one of the hardest parts.

"I'll regret not being here next year," Solberg said.

Solberg left advice for the next head coach.

"The main advice I would give to



Fresno City College Head Men's Soccer Coach Eric Solberg and the men's soccer team discussing strategy during halftime against UC Merced in the second round of the playoffs on Nov. 22. Photo by Justin Shaw.

whoever takes over is to be yourself and just work at it everyday," Solberg said.

Nick Andersen, an assistant coach for FCC men's soccer team, has been coaching with Solberg for 19 years since 2006. Andersen played soccer for Solberg at FCC in 2000-2001.

"When Solberg and I talked he was around 400 wins, tonight's win might have put him at his 400th win," Andersen said.

After coaching for 27 years, Solberg's decision to retire came halfway through this season.

"I think in his senses, the timing is right," Anderson said.

## SPORTS CALENDAR

### Men's Basketball:

Dec. 16 3 p.m. FCC vs Citrus (FCC Gym)

### Women's Basketball:

Jan. 5 3 p.m. FCC vs Bakersfield (FCC Gym)

Jan. 10 5 p.m. FCC vs Taft (FCC Gym)

Compiled by Christo Wiehl

## STUDENT ATHLETE VOICES

"Do you think community college players should get paid for name, image and likeness?"

Compiled by Audrey Laney



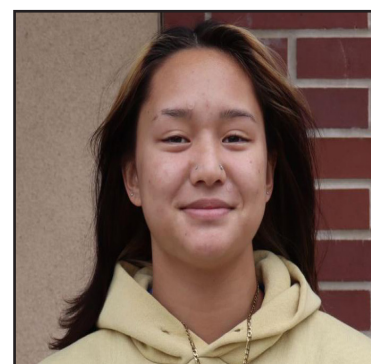
EJ Johnson  
 Men's Basketball

"I feel like yes and no. I feel like it goes both ways because we are grinding everyday and are doing everything we're supposed to do even in the classroom, on and off the court, and just doing the right thing. But we do need to get to the next level. So, it's like we're doing everything here to get to that next level to get paid," Johnson said.



Aubrey Jimenez  
 Women's Tennis

"I think especially if they have a lot of that skill and they know what they're going to go on to play like at a D1 school, then they should. Not saying that players who aren't as good shouldn't get paid. But I think they definitely should if they put in a lot of hard work," Jimenez said.



Sara Shein  
 Women's Basketball

"I definitely think at the JUCO [Junior College] level it is a lot more competitive and a lot more gritty. So, I would say we should get recognized and appreciated for our skills and what we put out there. That's kind of it, it's not really big talk, and we don't really think much of it. We're just happy to be playing the sport," Shein said.