

WILL TAVIS



PROFILE

Will Tavis grew up in Hayward and Castro Valley before attending Castro Valley High, but spent a lot of time at Head-Royce School in Oakland, soaking in the entirety of the athletic scene while his dad, Ed, coached the basketball team.

“I was a gym rat,” Tavis, now a San Ramon resident, recalled recently from his home-away-from-home: the Chabot College baseball diamond. “I’ve always enjoyed sports and love the competitive nature of them.”

Tavis did more than just compete. The 1995 graduate was a three-year starter on the Castro Valley basketball team, earning all-league first-team honors twice, and a two-time all-league pitcher for the Trojans in the spring.

He went on to play both basketball and baseball at Chabot, before focusing on pitching at Metro State in Denver, where his name is still etched on several pages of the record book.

Ask Tavis about his most memorable achievements and he doesn’t talk about helping the basketball team make the playoffs, about earning Pitcher of the Year honors as a prep senior, or about being the conference Player of the Year as a sophomore at Chabot.

Heck, ask him how many years he was the head coach at Chabot (he retired after the 2023 season) and he’ll say he’s not sure, noting that he’s as proud of his 17 years as an assistant and pitching coach under Steve Friend as the last five as the man in charge.

“Many great moments,” he says of highlights. “The main thing is the relationship with the players and the camaraderie with the coaches. I didn’t coach just to be successful in baseball. I tried to be part of the story and help them be successful in the game of life.”

Tavis said his decision to “retire” as Chabot’s head coach was not “for a lack of passion; it was for lack of time. I wanted to spend more time with my kids, with my wife. Assistant coach, pitching coach, head coach ... they’re all very time-consuming. When you’re fully committed, you want to win. It can consume your life.”

Tavis and wife Kelly have two children, 12-year-old son Chase and 9-year-old daughter Haley.