“Coach Imwalle has been a model of success during his time at Menlo College. Bill has been a consummate professional and ultimate team player. His presence on the volleyball sideline will be sorely missed and never forgotten.”

Keith Spataro, Athletic Director

“I’m so proud of the job that Bill has done during his 10 years at the helm of the Volleyball program. With Bill’s amazing volleyball knowledge and love of the game he took a once struggling program and returned it to the glory days it had seen in the late 1980s. Bill would say that he could not have attained this success without his dedicated and hard working assistant coaches, Stephanie Moreno, Dave Faz and Greg Lara.”

Kathy Imwalle
Women’s Volleyball Coach Bill Imwalle Retires

A decade of dominance was plenty for Bill Imwalle. After leading the Menlo College volleyball program through the finest 10-year stretch in its history, the legendary leader of the Oaks volleyball program announced his retirement following his team’s second consecutive California Pacific Conference title and fifth in six years.

Imwalle built one of the region’s most powerful NAIA programs while being named Cal Pac Coach of the Year four times. Under Imwalle, Menlo compiled a 144-87 record for a .623 winning percentage. The Oaks competed in the NAIA Tournament each time they finished at the summit of the Cal Pac standings and won 71-of-72 conference matches over their five title-winning seasons. During the 2009 season Menlo won the first ever Cal Pac Tournament.

In addition to the stunning success Menlo volleyball achieved since Imwalle’s arrival in 2000, a bounty of Oaks student-athletes earned individual honors at the conference, regional, and national level. Imwalle’s teams garnered 37 All-Cal Pac honors, nine Cal Pac Player of the Year awards, nine NAIA Academic All-Americans, two NAIA All-Americans, and numerous American Volleyball Coaches Association All-Southwest Region selections.

While Imwalle cemented his coaching legacy at Menlo, he arrived on campus with an equally impressive pedigree as a player. Imwalle was a two-year starter at Long Beach State, helping the 49ers to a runner-up finish at the 1970 NCAA Tournament prior to graduating with a degree in history. He later excelled on the beach volleyball circuit, winning four tournaments and being named a “Legend of Beach Volleyball” for the 1970s. He would go on to attain All-American status in 1992 when his Masters-level team captured the United States Volleyball Association title.

“Coach Bill will be remembered for his coaching antics during games and at practice, for what he let his players order for dinner at the Cheesecake Factory, for everything he’s said on road trips (I was always in his van!), but most of all I will remember Coach Bill for the great person, coach, mentor and friend that he is. He will always have a special place in my heart for the rest of my life!” Kari Shimomura 2002-2005

“Coach Bill had such a great sense of humor! He just clicked with us Hawaii girls from the moment we arrived at Menlo. It’s been such a pleasure playing for such a knowledgable coach and being a part of the CAL PAC Championship team 2003-2006. Just for the record, everytime we scrimmaged Coach Bill during practices, we beat him! I heard he was amazing on the court back in his day, but he couldn’t show us up too much [we were still in our prime]! It’s been great Coach! Congratulations on your retirement!” Sanoe’ Eselu-llaoa 2003-2006

“Coach has been a huge part of my life during my four years at Menlo. He and Aunty Kathy were like Ohana (family) for not only myself but for all of the girls on the team. I enjoyed playing under coach and his expertise and knowledge is why the program is so successful today.” Christa Hewett, Libero 2004-2007

“Coach Bill has always been nothing but enlightening, whether it was about volleyball or WWII, he was able to keep us laughing and keep us working. I am very happy that I was able to play for this man for all of my four years at Menlo, even though he was stubborn and sometimes angry :) He was the reason I came to Menlo College. He truly is worthy of his many Coach of the Year awards and I wish he was sticking around to earn some more, but Bill Imwalle left sand as a legend, and will leave Menlo as one as well.” Sarah Poole 2006-2009

“Of all the coaches I have had over the years Coach Imwalle stands out as being the most passionate, determined and committed. Volleyball, Menlo College and its players will miss a great asset and friend. I thank Coach for renewing my love of the game.” Brooke Richardson Baumann 1999-2001