

Media Advisory For Release 9/30/09

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## **San Francisco 49er's Great Character Ronnie Lott Aims to Inspire Deaf Students and Honor CSD's Hall of Fame Inductees**

Fremont, California – Friday, October 23, 2009 - - Fremont, California – Friday, October 23, 2009 - - Hall of Fame player and former 49er star Ronnie Lott aims to inspire deaf students and honor the California School for the Deaf's (CSD) Hall of Fame inductees during CSD's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Homecoming Pep Rally.

Because of his determination and successes, he will be able to inspire anyone and the deaf students are fortunate to be in his presence. We are excited about his presence at our important event," explained Kevin Kovacs, CSD's Athletic Director.

For the most of Lott's career, he played for the San Francisco 49ers and won three Super Bowls. Then, he became a well-known sports television anchor after his retirement.

### Former 49er Ronnie Lott's Appearance

In the morning on Friday, October 23, 2009, participants can enjoy the student's school-wide pep rally in the gym to inspire volleyball, cross country, and football teams.

### State Superintendent Jack O Connell's Appearance

In the evening, a Sports Hall of Fame Ceremony will be held in the gym to honor the past outstanding athletes and coaches at a dinner in the High School Dining Room at 5:30 PM, then the new inductees will be honored in the Big Gym on campus at 6:00 PM. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O Connell will present to the participants.

### **Saturday: "The Big Games" on Saturday, October 24th**

Over 4,000 fans are anticipated to attend. The "Big Games" will take place on October 24. The California School for the Deaf and California School for the Deaf-Riverside (CSDR) have played against each other since 1974. Both of them are the only two deaf high school football teams in the state of California. Coaches and players on both sides communicate thru American Sign Language (ASL) and use a different audible system than the hearing teams. They have a rich history of rivalry. In the morning, volleyball and cross country meets will take place.

Then, football game will take place at 2:00 PM. Some of the former players on both football teams have been playing for Gallaudet University, NCAA Division III, in Washington DC. CSD has a pipeline with Gallaudet University for players to play on a NCAA football level after their graduation from CSD.

Prior to the football game at noontime, former queens and kings from the past years along with the current student court will march in a parade around the track. In addition, there will be a fun children area next to the football field.

#### About California School for the Deaf's Athletic Programs

California School for the Deaf, Fremont prides itself on an extensive competitive athletic program. Provision is made for as many students as possible to participate in all sports. Our teams participate in the Bay Area Conference (BAC), Bay Shore Athletic League (BSAL) and Bay Football League (BFL) under the auspices of the Northern Coast Section (NCS) and California Interscholastic Federation (CIF). Through participation, through participation and lessons of sportsmanship, dedication and teamwork are learned and serve as valuable life-learning experience. For more information, visit <http://www.csd.k12.ca.us/athletics/>

#### About California School for the Deaf

The California School for the Deaf (CSD) has been educating Deaf and Hard of Hearing children successfully for 150 years, it is a school that teaches children to think. The California School for the Deaf has an international reputation for its high quality educational program. CSD is a fully accredited, state-funded school for students who are deaf/hard of hearing living in Northern California.

Course contents based on state standards for public schools are taught through American Sign Language and English, allowing students full access to learning in all core subjects. Career programs are tailored to student interests and abilities. Students have full access to campus activities including athletics, academic competitions, student body government, Scouting, clubs, drama, yearbook, and Web team.

Teachers and staff members are bilingual users of American Sign Language (ASL) and English, providing students with constant exposure to language and culture. The school also provides them with the technology that Deaf and Hard of Hearing people use in their daily lives. Students develop ASL and English skills to the maximum extent possible. Credentialed and highly qualified teachers use methodology and technology designed for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. Experts in learning strategies, media, career, literacy, student outcomes, diversity, and Deaf Studies support classroom learning. Articulated/spoken language teachers, on-site licensed pediatric audiologist and language pathologist work directly with students and families.

The school also provides services to CSD and non-CSD families with deaf children. Please contact the school at (510) 794-3707 for further information or visit the student-produced website: [www.csd.k12.ca.us](http://www.csd.k12.ca.us)

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