JOE HENDREN

As the girls’ varsity basketball coach at Redwood Christian High for 18 seasons (1992-2010), Joe Hendren led the Eagles to a state championship, a state runner-up, two Northern California titles, two Section championships and five consecutive NorCal Regional appearances. His teams won 306 games while losing just 173.

Born and raised in Tennessee, Hendren was introduced to the sport of basketball when he moved to Livermore and became friends with a couple of guys who had played high school basketball at Granada. The coaching didn’t begin until a few years later when he had a couple of sons and they became school age.

Hendren coached both T-ball and basketball at the Castro Valley Boys and Girls Club, but his passion was basketball. He began attending basketball clinics and reading books by noted coaches. Former UCLA legend John Wooden and Stanford women’s coach Tara VanDerveer were major influences.

“I never considered myself a good coach,” he said. “I always wanted to learn more, find better ways to do things.”

Hendren coached the Redwood Christian junior high boys for three seasons (1987-1989), winning one Middle School League championship, and the school’s junior varsity boys’ team for two years (1990-’91) before the girls’ varsity job opened up.

Hendren’s success with the girls’ varsity included making the Section playoffs in 14 of 18 seasons. He was named the ANG Newspapers Coach of the Year in 2000, the year the Eagles won the Division V State Championship.

“As a Christian school, there were two things I focused on,” Hendren said. “One, play good basketball; and two, be a testimony (to Christ).”

In addition to coaching the Redwood girls’ varsity, Hendren ran youth basketball camps in Castro Valley for 14 years, coached the seventh grade girls’ CYO team at Our Lady of Grace one year (1994) and took a team of high school girls to the Dominican Republic five different summers.

Hendren has worked as a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley for 28 years. He and his wife, Sandy, have lived in Castro Valley since 1974. They have two sons (Jason and Joshua) and five grandchildren.