BILL HAMMETT

Bill Hammett starred in three sports at Castro Valley High, receiving four varsity letters in track, three in basketball and two in football.

In football, Hammett made All-Hayward Area Athletic League as a safety in both his junior and senior years and was selected to the Alameda County All-Star team. He set school records in both the high jump and 110-meter high hurdles, winning league championships in those events. He captured the Northern California high hurdles title in 1969 and finished runner-up in the state meet at UCLA. He was an All-HAAL selection in basketball two times as a 6-foot-3, 185-pound post player.

“I was probably better at both basketball and track, but l preferred football,” Hammett said. “It was a challenge. I had to work harder at it.”

Hammett competed in both football and track at Chabot College, earning all-Golden Gate Conference honors at linebacker in 1971 and winning the conference championship in the high hurdles in both 1970 and ’71. He was elected to the Chabot Chabot College Hall of Fame in 2003.

After Chabot, Hammett accepted a football scholarship at Arizona State, but felt uncomfortable there and soon transferred to San Diego State where he played linebacker for Don Coryell’s Aztecs. After finishing his football eligibility, Hammett ran the high hurdles for the San Diego State track team

Hammett is now board chairman for Aztec Football Legacy, a fundraising organization for the San Diego State program. He also has kept active in the sport by officiating high school football games for the past 30 years.

On visits back to Castro Valley, Hammett has toured the 10-year-old Trojan Stadium and has come away impressed.

“Being an official, I see every high school field there is down here (in San Diego) and (Trojan Stadium) ranks with the best in Southern California,” he said.

Bill has three sons, one daughter and two grandchildren. He and his wife, Susie, live in San Diego.