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June 18, 2015

Dr. Walter Tribley, President
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Walt:

On behalf of everyone at Leadership Monterey Peninsula, especially the graduating class members, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to you for your wonderful keynote address for our Class of 2015 Graduation Celebration on June 11, 2015. We were so pleased that you could join us.

As you can see from the class list, the Class of 2015 is a strong, committed group focused on doing good work in the community. You provided some excellent ideas and inspiration to send the class on their way and they are still talking about all that they gleaned from your presentation.

And, as you know, Leadership Monterey Peninsula is dedicated to building a thriving community by developing strong and effective leaders to play major roles in decision-making and problem-solving at every level. Participating with us to really encourage our class members is truly a gift.

Thank you again! Your support of LMP is deeply appreciated as is all your work in the community.

Wishing you continued success in all your endeavors.

Sincerely,


Karen Csejtey
Executive Director

Thank you so much!

LMP is a Winner! Business Excellence Awards 2012
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19 Upper Ragsdale Drive, Suite 200, PO Box 27, Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 649-8252 ~ (831) 655-9246 fax
info@leadershipmonterey.org ~ www.leadershipmonterey.org



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The Panetta Institute for Public Policy

June 26, 2015

Walter Tribley, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President
Monterey Peninsula College
980 Fremont Street
Monterey, California 93940

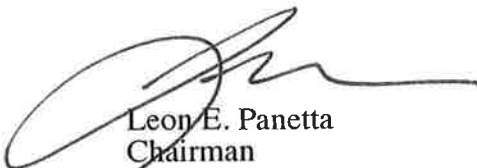
Dear Walt:

Thank you very much for sharing your time, expertise and wisdom with the twenty-seven student body presidents and other elected student leaders who enrolled in the Panetta Institute's sixteenth annual *Education for Leadership in Public Service Seminar*. We are grateful for your support of the Institute and this program, and, because of the generosity of the thirty-eight speakers that participated, this year's seminar was one of the best ever.

David Brooks, in his recent best-selling book, *The Road to Character*, writes: "What a wise person teaches is the smallest part of what they give. The totality of their life...is what gets transmitted. The message is the person." Brooks captures in this sentence the reason for our invitation to you and why, in combination with your eloquent and straightforward insights into great leadership, the students deeply appreciated your presentation.

We extend our best wishes for continued success and happiness and, again, our heartfelt thanks for supporting the mission and objectives of the Institute, and caring so deeply about the youth of our great nation.

Sincerely,



Leon E. Panetta
Chairman

LEP/SMP:rk/m



Sylvia M. Panetta
Co-Chair and CEO

Bears quarterback David Fales returns to his roots at MPC

By John Devine

Learning the business side of professional sports came real fast for David Fales.

Set to come out west with the Chicago Bears last fall to face the San Francisco 49ers on Monday Night Football in Week 2, the rookie quarterback was informed he was being released.

It was a necessity because of injuries to the Bears offensive line. Fales also knew it would be temporary as he was re-signed the day after the game once he cleared waivers.

Still his one trip to the West Coast to see family and friends was foiled for the one-time Palma High and Monterey Peninsula College standout.

“That hurt” said Fales, who was back at the site where he honed his quarterback skills Tuesday, speaking at the Ron Johnson-Anthony Toney Football Camp at MPC.

So did his right shoulder most of last season, which Fales injured after starting the team’s final preseason game against the Cleveland Browns.

“I landed on my shoulder awkwardly after being hit in the first quarter,” Fales recalled. “I had a good first half. In the second half, I was in a lot of pain and wasn’t as sharp.”

Surgery in the offseason on a sprained AC joint has eliminated the discomfort. Following a 12-week rehabilitation period, Fales was back at mini-camp this spring for the Bears, getting in his work behind center while regaining his strength and stamina.

“It feels good,” Fales said. “I was able to get my repetitions in. Right now it’s about building back up the endurance. I will be set to go when training camps starts next month.”

The 24-year-old Fales will start the season behind incumbent Jay Cutler and veteran backup Jimmy Clausen.

“I know they like me,” said Fales, a sixth-round pick by the Bears out of San Jose State. “Coach has told me there is a plan for me. That’s a good sign.”

Fales showed signs of his potential last year in that final preseason game when he tossed a 32-yard touchdown pass to Santonio Holmes, quieting skeptics about his arm strength.

Of course, Fales' accuracy has never been questioned since his days at Palma, where he threw for 2,198 yards and 20 touchdowns in 2008. As a junior at San Jose State, he completed 72 percent of his passes while throwing for over 4,000 yards in 2012.

While Fales is learning his third offensive system in three years after the Bears cleaned house with their coaching staff in the offseason, he has grasped it quickly.

"The terminology and verbiage is virtually the same," Fales said. "Same concept, different language. I'm excited about the opportunity to work with coach (Adam) Gase.

Gase became the Bears offensive coordinator, reuniting with former Broncos head coach John Fox after reportedly turning down a offer to become the 49ers head coach.

With a year under his belt, the speed of the game has come back to the 6-foot-2, 228-pound Fales, who set 25 passing records in only two years at San Jose State.

"Last year I was just trying to catch up," Fales said. "I'm processing the system a lot faster this season. There was a big adjustment period as a rookie. I'm much more comfortable this season."

Fales spent nine weeks on the Bears practice squad last year and five weeks on the active roster, suiting up for the team's final regular season game.

In speaking with 400 campers, Fales talked about his days of attending the camp, the importance of staying active, playing multiple sports, making smart decisions and surrounding yourself with the right people.

One question posed to Fales was what youth football team did he play on?

"I played for the Alvarez Titans," said Fales, who began his college career as a redshirt backup at Nevada to current 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick before transferring back to MPC.

That prompted one kid to tell Fales: "We beat them last year."

"We won a championship when I was there," Fales said as he smiled.

Fales won a few titles, capturing a title in what was then the Tri-County Athlete League with Palma, a Coast Conference crown at MPC and taking San Jose State to its first bowl game in six years in 2012.

In his four college seasons between MPC and San Jose State, Fales threw for over 12,000 yards and 101 touchdowns.

With most of the reps in practice going to Cutler last season, Fales would remain after practice to get in repetitions with Clausen in an effort to have each play down to a science.

“Going from getting all the reps in college to a limited amount was an adjustment,” Fales said. “I would stay and work on the throws I didn’t get to make in practice, getting the footwork down.”

Fales made the most of his limited time in the preseason last summer, completing 18-of-31 passes for 214 yards and a touchdown, while connecting on 58 percent of his passes.

“I tried not to make the moment bigger than it was,” Fales said. “I do remember the first time I took the field, I stopped to think ‘I’m wearing a Bears helmet and that’s an NFL team on the other side.’”

During offseason workouts, Fales got acquainted with newly acquired Bears linebacker Mason Foster, who was Seaside High’s quarterback the year it won its first CCS divisional title in 2006.

“He looks comfortable out there,” Fales said. “He’s picked up the defense real fast. We don’t get to see each other a lot because we’re in different meetings. But he’s going to help our defense.”

Fales seemed humbled by the attention he received at the camp, looking more like a politician in shaking hands and posing for pictures, telling well-wishers how much he appreciated their kind words.

“Coming back to this camp, those were some good years,” Fales said. “It was a fun time. You get all your best friends out here. You learn some football from good coaches and throw it around.”

Greenfield High grad escaped the streets with football

By John Devine

Seeing his cousin incarcerated left Roger Pacheco numb, in a state of disbelief.

“It changed my life,” Pacheco said.

It may have saved his life.

Growing up around the wrong crowd in Greenfield, the Monterey Peninsula College linebacker did not always make the right choices. Yet, prison was a road he did not want to travel down.

“It humbled me a lot,” said Pacheco, who was 13 at the time. “I didn’t want to go in that direction.”

Football was an outlet, an escape from trouble.

It shifted Pacheco’s direction in life, kept him off the streets and served as motivation in the classroom.

“Football kept me out of a lot of trouble,” he said.

It’s also giving Pacheco a chance to further his education.

“I want to make my mom proud and get a college degree,” said Pacheco, who is a camp coach this week at the Ron Johnson-Anthony Toney Football Camp at MPC.

It’s a camp he once took part in as a youth.

“I still remember (former Saints linebacker) Scott Fujita working with us,” Pacheco said. “I gained so much knowledge from this camp. I just want to give back as much as I can.”

If football is an escape for Pacheco, college has become an outlet.

The 19-year-old, who will battle for a starting job this season for MPC, is making sacrifices to keep a promise to his mother, driving from Greenfield to Monterey daily to pursue his education.

“A lot of kids don’t get this opportunity,” Pacheco said. “I look at football as giving me a chance. It’s a tough commute. I am seeing the sun rise and go down. But it’s worth it.”

Nothing has come easy for the 5-foot-11, 200-pound sophomore, who didn’t see a lot of time last year on the field for the Lobos other than on special teams.

“I worked hard for every single rep I got in practice,” Pacheco said. “Coach Ras (MPC coach Mike Rasmussen) told me I am going to get a shot one day. I had to make the best of my situations.”

That moment came in MPC’s final game last fall against Reedley when the Greenfield High graduate got extensive playing time at linebacker, making an impact on the edge.

“When coach Ras said everyone gets a shot one day, I didn’t really believe him,” Pacheco said. “I thought I’d get overlooked. But he gave me that one shot and I didn’t want to let anybody down.”

An offseason dedicated to footwork and improving his strength in the weight room has put Pacheco in a position to start this fall for the Lobos.

“Nobody improved themselves or worked harder in the offseason than Roger,” Rasmussen said. “He’s fought through a lot of adversity to put himself in a position to make an impact on this team this year.”

Pacheco didn’t need any self-motivation once a crack opened in the Lobos defense. He’s put himself in the best shape of his life, driven by the opportunity to make his presence felt on the field.

“I busted my tail in the offseason,” Pacheco said. “I made changes for the better. I saw what coach Ras saw in me to become a better football player. I’ve watched other players and have tried to pick up little things from everybody.”

Pacheco didn’t just get stronger in the offseason. He improved his coordination and lateral movement with shuttle drills, often alone in the afternoons.

“I’m competing against myself,” Pacheco said.

That trend has continued in the heat of summer afternoons in Greenfield.

“He shows up each day and is out there alone,” Greenfield coach Ryan Bravo said. “He’s a role model for us. He’s tough as nails. I wish we had more of those type of kids down here. He’s an example of how to do things right.”

A three-year starter at Greenfield as a tight end and linebacker, Pacheco never earned all-league honors, missing time as a senior from a concussion. He didn’t consider playing in college until Rasmussen gave him a call during his senior year.

“I didn’t think I was good enough,” Pacheco said. “Coach Ras gave me a call and it happened.”

Now Pacheco has realistic visions of playing beyond MPC.

“I’m not a D-I player,” Pacheco said. “But I can see myself playing at a smaller college. I look at football as a chance to help me get my college degree.”

Last year the Lobos struggled on defense, allowing 34 points a game while stumbling to a 4-6 record.

“Hopefully I can be part of the turnaround,” Pacheco said.

Primarily an inside linebacker at Greenfield, Pacheco will likely roam on the outside for MPC, where Rasmussen uses him to stop the run on the edge or drop back into coverage.

“We are a developmental program where we get better every day,” Rasmussen said. “Roger is an example of that.”

Competing in the Johnson-Toney camp as a youth opened Pacheco’s eyes to another world.

“I got a chance to compete with guys outside the (Salinas) Valley,” Pacheco said. “I gained a lot of knowledge. I learned a lot from the coaches. I remember thinking how nice these facilities were.”

By continuing to live at home, Pacheco hasn’t forgotten where he’s come from. He still comes back to the high school and supports the coaches that gave him a chance to change his life.

“I always feel the need to give back,” Pacheco said. “I want to come back to this community and show kids there is something else to do besides being on the streets.”

Former Carmel and MPC catcher Dominic Bifano gets baseball scholarship

By John Devine

Told by the team courting him that it was going in another direction, Dominic Bifano sat in limbo.

His collegiate baseball career was clouded with uncertainty.

“I was worried about my future,” Bifano said. “When the day started, I thought I was going off to Bradley (University).”

How about Indiana State?

Two hours after being told by Bradley that the team was going with another catcher, Indiana State called and made an immediate baseball scholarship offer to Bifano.

“It happened so quickly,” the former Carmel High and Monterey Peninsula College catcher said. “I had some previous contact with them. But (the offer) was a surprise.”

Despite no visit to the Midwest to see Larry Bird’s old stomping grounds in Terre Haute, Indiana, or no eye-to-eye contact with the coaching staff, Bifano has no concerns.

“I can adapt,” Bifano said. “I’m going to play baseball and get an education.”

The 20-year-old will be joining an Indiana State team that played in the fourth-toughest conference in the nation last spring in the Missouri Valley Conference.

Last year four teams from the conference were ranked in the Top 25, including Dallas Baptist, which was ranked No. 1 in the nation for a period of time.

In addition Missouri State recently took part in the College World Series while Bradley reached the NCAA Regionals.

“I’m coming in with the thought of helping this team get back to a level to where they were a year earlier,” Bifano said.

Last year the Sycamores were 28-26 overall and 8-13 in the conference. The year before they won 35 games and reached the NCAA Regionals.

Attention on Bifano seemed to increase recently with a video of him playing baseball on YouTube. It received at least 25 more hits, according to Bifano's father, David.

"I guess that's how Indiana State noticed me," Bifano said.

A former four-year starter at Carmel, Bifano spent the past two years handling the pitching staff at MPC after a brief stop at the University of Oregon.

"I think I caught three games in the fall when I was at Oregon," Bifano said. "There were five catches on the roster. It didn't look like I was going to see a lot of time. It didn't make sense to stay."

In his two years at MPC, Bifano gained a reputation for his handling of the pitching staff and his ability to call a game — in addition to his defensive prowess.

Last year he tossed out eight runners attempting to steal.

"There's a lot that goes into catching," Bifano said. "I do a lot of studying before each game to make sure I know the opponent. You have to know your pitchers strengths and weaknesses. It's my favorite part of the game."

While Bifano struggled at the plate this past spring, he led the Lobos in walks as a freshman with 29 in 34 games.

"A lot of times I'm just trying to get on base any way I can," Bifano said. "I want to be known as a complete catcher. I don't want to be looked at as a defensive specialist."

Bifano has spent most of the summer working on his swing and gaining strength on his 6-foot-1, 165-pound frame.

"I'd like to put on another 15 pounds," Bifano said. "I'm going to get a lot of playing time. Going back to MPC for two years turned out to be a good decision."

Business digest: MPC names academic affairs VP

By Herald staff

Kiran Kamath has been appointed the new vice president of academic affairs at Monterey Peninsula College.

Kamath has more than 25 years of experience working in higher education. She leaves her current position as senior dean of planning and institutional effectiveness and accreditation liaison officer at Los Medanos College in Pittsburg.

Theater review: Talented cast makes for a sweet ‘Charity’

By Mark Shilstone-Laurent

MPC Theatre Co.’s chairman emeritus, Peter DeBono, used to say, “You don’t put ‘Hamlet’ in your season unless you know you’ve got a Hamlet.” With this in mind, current department chairman Gary Bolen made darn sure he had a Charity before he decided on “Sweet Charity” to open the 2015-16 season.

And he had one indeed — the multi-talented Jill Miller, who shines in the 1966 musical from Cy Coleman, Dorothy Fields and Neil Simon.

It’s no secret that the theater company has gone through some serious trauma over the last few years; in January 2014, it lost 80 percent of its operating budget. But Sunday’s near full house and a rock solid production demonstrate that although things may be tough offstage, MPC is still cranking out quality work onstage.

Miller shows off a strong voice, dynamic dance moves and a keen sense of comic timing as Charity Hope Valentine, a taxi dancer (dancer for hire) at the Fan-Dango Ballroom. She’s upbeat, optimistic and gets to spout all those nifty Simon one-liners while searching for love. That’s really about it in terms of plot. Let’s just say we’re not talking compelling story line here, but we are talking compelling performances from top to bottom.

The always reliable James Brady is strong as Charity’s first love interest, film star Vittorio Vidal. Charity’s main love interest, Oscar Lindquist — the one who dubs her “sweet” Charity — is played with charm and comedic skill by Jared Hussey, a dead ringer for comic actor Jack Black.

John G. Bridges as Herman, Kitty Bloch as Ursula March (she also doubles as one of the dance girls) and James “Pete” Russell as Big Daddy Brubeck all turn in strong performances. (I do have to say, however, the New York accents, with the exception of Bridges, were inconsistent and, in some cases, downright indecipherable.)

The rest of the cast — the Fan-Dango Ballroom dance girls and the ensemble — play second fiddle to no one. Led by Nicole West as dancer Nickie, the “hostesses” of the Fan-Dango are a hoot. Each one has created a distinct character, all fully realized — and funny! It’s not really fair to single any of them out, but West, Phyllis Davis and Sherri Beck are particularly strong.

The rest of the ensemble is equally talented. Lynette Graves takes on a number of roles, giving nuance to each character to make them distinct. Dania Ketcham, convincingly disguised as a

man, displays a wonderfully expressive face and great energy. Michael Robbins, an octogenarian treasure and the granddaddy of local theater, makes a cameo appearance, and with two lines takes home the show's biggest laugh. What's new?

The numbers featuring the stars are fine, "There's Gotta Be Something" and "I'm the Bravest Individual" in particular — the latter a hilarious turn by Miller and Hussey trapped in an elevator. But the show really gets rocking when the girls and the ensemble take over, especially in "Rhythm of Life" and "I Love to Cry at Weddings."

As for the technical aspects, this show marks the end of technical director Dan Beck's 40-plus-year run at MPC. He will be retiring July 31. His set for "Sweet Charity" is another in a long line of artistically pleasing and technically efficient designs. He will be missed by both MPC and the local theater community. The rest of the technical aspects — lights and costumes — are solid, and the orchestra, under the direction of Stephen Tosh, complements nicely.

I recommend this one, not for the show itself — it's an eminently forgettable score — but for the work of the talented cast, crew and orchestra. You may not be humming tunes from the show on the way home, but I bet you'll be smiling and trying to figure out which of the wonderful performances you liked most.