

For the love of the game at Mar Vista

Football coaching staff packed with passion, experience

BY KEVIN J. FARMER, a freelance writer.

When you attend a Mar Vista High School football game, you get to enjoy a well-coached and exciting squad with size and speed. The Mariners are in the heat of the Metro South Bay title race, with an eye on the Division IV Section Playoffs, where they advanced to the semifinals last year.

If you look closer, you'll witness something even more special. It's a celebration of family, friendship, history, and the love of the sport.

Fourth-year head coach Tyler Arciaga took to heart the saying, "Surround yourself with people better than you." He's done that with his coaching staff.

"These guys are antiques, they're fossils," Tyler joked. These "antiques" have quite impressive resumes. Counting Arciaga, the staff has five head coaches combining for more than 350 wins. Their names are quite familiar – Carl Parrick, Greg Raby, Steve Sutton and Tyler's father, Robert "RC" Arciaga.

That's where the stories begin: Tyler's first dose of football came as the ball boy for RC at the new Southwest High School. RC, who coached the Raiders from 1978-80, hired Parrick to be his defensive coordinator, turning the program over to him in 1981.

Parrick went on to amass a record of 193-118-6 as head coach at Southwest and Bonita Vista. At Southwest, Parrick hired Raby, who stayed his assistant until Raby took over the Bonita program when Parrick stepped down in 2011.

Tyler starred at quarterback at Bonita before going on to UNLV and Sacred Heart University in Connecticut. When he returned home, Parrick hired Tyler as an assistant at Bonita before Tyler took his first head coaching job at San Ysidro in 2011. In turn he hired the newly available Parrick.

Last January, Parrick was working with a chainsaw in his bac yard when he started to feel strange. "It felt like a vice on my temples," Parrick

explained. "I could feel pressure on my heart. I had a heart attack. I was gone 2 ½ to 3 minutes; they had to bring me back."

A record seven stents later and Parrick, 70, survived the scare.

Discussion came up and the longtime friends talked each other into accepting Tyler's invitation to join his staff at Mar Vista, Raby's alma mater.

"I love to coach with Carl," said Raby, who is in his early 60s and coaches the Mariner linebackers. "When I knew he was going to do this I immediately said I'm in."

"I'll take it one year at a time," said Parrick, the defensive coordinator. "Greg was the deciding factor for me." On the other side of the ball, Tyler hired longtime West Hills/Valhalla offensive wizard Steve Sutton. All Sutton had accomplished was amass a record of 13795-2.

"I still love to coach," Sutton, 67, said. "I wouldn't drive all the way here from El Cajon if I didn't enjoy it."

"(Tyler) asks our opinions before he makes a decision. He takes our opinions but he makes the decisions."

The one opinion that means the most to Tyler is the one coming from his father. The retired RC, 67, finds time to help when he's not pursuing some of his other hobbies like fishing and climbing Mt. Everest, which he did three years ago.

"I think to myself how lucky I am," Tyler said. "My father coached me in Little League, came back to be on the staff at Bonita when I played, was with me at San Ysidro and now he comes over here to help."

And the team?

"Sometimes I don't think the kids realize what they've got," Tyler said. "Sometimes it looks like they're asking themselves, 'Who are these crotchety, old curmudgeons yelling at me?'" Maybe they should look a little deeper.

Mar Vista football coaches (from left) Robert "RC" Arciaga, head coach Tyler Arciaga, Carl Parrick and Greg Raby. Not pictured is coach Steve Sutton. They have combined for more than 350 wins.

CHADD CADY U-T

