Eddie Hamada ’46 led a One Team way of life.

‘Iolani’s legendary athletic director and football coach inspired his players, and everyone else, with the lessons he learned from his mentor Father Kenneth A. Bray. Though Coach Hamada died on January 3 at the age of 81, his legacy continues. From his name on the scoreboard above the school’s athletic field to the countless stories retold by his colleagues, players, and even casual acquaintances, Coach Hamada’s memory will never fade.

For the past 19 years, a golf tournament has been held in his honor to raise funds for the Edward K. Hamada Scholarship, which benefits students who show great promise in academics and athletics as well as the desire to perpetuate the One Team spirit.

The following pages feature three ‘Iolani graduates who were recipients of the Edward K. Hamada Scholarship. After ‘Iolani, each pursued different goals. Yet all share love and respect for Coach Hamada and are deeply grateful for the scholarship in his name.

Through these graduates, the ways of Coach Hamada live on. Derrick Low ’04, Leinani Keanini ’08 and Isaac Ickes ’04—along with so many other young people—will never forget the coach who took time to share pearls of wisdom or to just say hello. In their own lives, they carry on his good deeds while remembering the coach who cared.
As a basketball player, Derrick Low ’04 stands out. He was a four-time All-State Player and three-time All-State Player of the Year while at ‘Iolani. He went on as a four-year starter for Washington State University, then played professionally in France, Australia and Lithuania. He’s now on the Maccabi Haifa professional basketball team of the Israeli Super league.

More important, Low is a good person who remains grounded and humble. He is grateful that ‘Iolani opened opportunities that would not have been available otherwise. This past summer, he led a basketball clinic for boys and girls throughout the Honolulu community. Helping were former and current Raider teammates. Their love of the game and desire to give back made for a slam dunk of a day.

“I really appreciate all that has been possible,” Low says.
Leinani Keanini ’08 remembers Mr. Hamada ’46 at ‘Iolani’s annual scholarship breakfast. She watched him happily interacting with students and wondered what being an athlete under his tutelage would have been like.

“I saw him as a man that left behind an incredible legacy of athletic leadership,” she says. “You hear many people say their goal in life is to leave behind a legacy, something that made a difference and continues to touch lives. Mr. Hamada accomplished that and more.”

She credits the Edward K. Hamada Scholarship for making her education at ‘Iolani possible. Keanini is now majoring in fashion merchandising at the Academy of Art University of San Francisco.

“Mr. Hamada’s unselfishness and desire to help others, not only athletically but also academically and developmentally, were his most admirable traits,” she adds.
Isaac Ickes ’04

“Coach Hamada was a rare kind of leader: his presence commanded respect and at the same time a sense of fatherly love.”

—Isaac Ickes ’04

The first thing one notices about Isaac Ickes ’04 is that he’s big. Today, he stands six-feet four-inches. At ‘Iolani, he was a formidable 275-pound wrestler and football player.

Yet Ickes’s big heart is most impressive. His devotion to making a positive impact on the world makes him the epitome of an Edward K. Hamada Scholarship recipient. He remembers how Coach Hamada always took time to stop, say hello, and ask how his classes were going. “He was definitely an inspiration,” Ickes says.

Ickes, whose mother is from Tokelau near Samoa and whose father is Caucasian, went on to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in social anthropology from Harvard University. He is now in his second year at the William S. Richardson School of Law.
The Eddie Hamada Memorial Golf Tournament not only perpetuates the good name of Eddie Hamada, but also funds the Eddie Hamada Scholarship Fund. Thanks to hundreds of golfers, supporters, donors and volunteers, the tournament is a success that benefits students who receive the scholarship. ‘Iolani is grateful for the philanthropic spirit of its community and for the many alumni who, in turn, give back to the school.
1st place
Brent Shimokawa ’84
Daren Akiyama ’93
Derek Toyama

2nd place
Russ Miyahira
Grant Iwamoto ’09
Neal Honma

3rd place
Larry Cundiff ’55
Tom Meehan
Al Souza

4th place
Russ Saito ’61
Francis Claveria
Les Hoshide

5th place
Blaine Umeda ’01
Tyler Kimura ’00
Reed Tanaka ’02

6th place
Keith Morioka ’64
Chris Chun
Brian Iha

7th place
Michael Shimoko ’79
Phil Chun ’83
Leonard Shimoko

8th place
Nelson Moku ’91
Carter Siu ’92
Matt Wagner ’92

9th place
Keilyn Ing ’15
Kaci Masuda ’15
Ayumi Sakamoto ’15

10th place
Dean Yonamine ’83
Darin Lee ’83
Scott Nekota ’83

Grand Prize (19th place)
Mark Teruya, Kelvin Shigemura, Cliff Tamura

“It feels good helping young individuals reach their potential in life.”
—Colin Sato ’84

Golfers and volunteers gathered for a group photo before the start of the tournament.

Below: Bryan Li ’96, Justin Walthall ’96, Darryl Nitta ’96

Below: Bryan Li ’96, Justin Walthall ’96, Darryl Nitta ’96
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- Nelson Yoshioka ’77

**Steering Committee**
- Lorene Azama
- Trevor Benn ’92
- Earl Ching ’80
- Craig Haga ’83
- Kevin Ing ’74
- James Lee ’74
- Colin Miwa ’74
- Alton Miyashiro ’72
- Gary Miyashiro ’85
- Roy Nishioka ’55
- Harry Oda ’77
- Russell ’61 & Lei Saito
- Kelvin Sato ’81
- Chris Shimabukuro ’85
- Brian Sunada ’66

**Volunteers**
- Class of 1967
  - Willis Au ’67
  - Kevin Chong ’87
  - Robert Cooper ’67
  - Michael Flores ’87
  - Les Funai ’67
  - Miles Miyamoto ’67
  - Tom Ritchie ’67
  - Ken Sekimoto ’67
  - Reggie Suma ’67
  - Ernie Tsuhako ’67
  - Brandon Flores ’90
  - Leilani Fortuno
  - Jane Heimerdinger
  - Colleen Inaba
  - Lynne Inouye
  - Sanford ’85 & Toby Morioka
  - Mike Moses ’93
  - Phyllis Muraoka
  - Faye Nagata
  - Jo Okumoto
  - Andrew Yee

**Prize Donors**
- Shaun Ushijima ’81
- Russell ’69 & Pat Yamamoto

“This is an event where we all have a great time with great friends to benefit students of ‘Iolani! Awesome.”

—Andrew Yee ’85
Dear Coach Hamada,

I imagine you to be in a much better place, maybe even playing golf with friends Masa Yonamine ’47 and Bing Fai Lau ’28. I hope you are hitting it straight and not leaving any of your putts short.

We held your annual golf tournament on August 13 at Pearl Country Club again this year. As usual it was a great day of fun and fellowship, but it just wasn’t the same without you there. We missed your smiling face and hearty laugh, your kind words of support, your sincere interest in everyone’s lives, and even you teasing us about how much weight we gained. You would have enjoyed seeing many of your former players, coaches and friends. To name just a few: Ted Wong ’47, Larry Cundiff ’55, Les Uyehara ’60, Jon ’69 and Steph Yamaguchi, Russ Saito ’61, Carey Inouye ’66, Brian Sunada ’66, Roy Nishioka ’55, Roy Murakami ’55, Glenn Flores ’69, and George Fujishige all played.

Can you believe this year marked the 19th year of the tournament? I thought about making an Eddie Hamada Golf Tournament banner to put up, but I remembered the last time we did that, you took it down and threw it away because, in your usual humble manner, you said it was embarrassing.

Mike Flores ’67 and the Class of ’67 helped run this year’s tournament, and Mike told a story of how you told him that ‘Iolani alumni are not dishonest on their golf handicaps, they are just too humble. The golfers got a kick out of that, Coach.

Of course, we thanked all the sponsors, prize donors, volunteers, and players who made the golf tournament possible. We thanked them for supporting the tournament and in turn your scholarship fund that enables two current students, Kainoa Scheer ’11 and Ammon Baldomero ’11, to attend ‘Iolani School. And then, Coach, we did something long over due, we thanked you. I know you would argue and say that was unnecessary, but it was important. You allowed us to name this tournament after you only because it supports our students. Thank you.

We realized that we have a lot to thank you for, Coach. The example you set through your own life and the lessons you tried to teach us in humility, dedication, compassion, generosity, fairness, and the One Team spirit gave us a high standard of excellence we all aspire to achieve. You always said you could never be Father Bray. Well, you were right, you weren’t Father Bray, you were Coach Hamada, you were your own man, and we are all better people for having known you. Thank you, Coach. Many of us have become who we are today because of the seeds you planted in us years ago. You continued to plant seeds even in our adult years. I smile at the hope that down the road I will be a better person when other seeds you have planted finally awaken and come to life. I don’t think I truly appreciated it until recently, but the best part of my job was the opportunity to work and spend time with you every day. I miss those days, Coach.

During the golf tournament banquet, we made a toast to you, even though you are probably cringing at the attention.

“Mr. Hamada, you coached us in athletics but taught us lessons in life. You gave so much and asked for so little. We love you. We miss you. We thank you. Cheers.”

You may not have been there physically, but your presence was definitely felt, and you will always be a part of us. Thanks, Coach, thanks for everything, ‘Iolani–One Team.

Sincerely,

Christian (as you have called me)