



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ATHENIAN ATHLETIC DIRECTOR HONORED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE  
ATHLETIC DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION AND THE NORTH COAST SECTION**

DANVILLE, CA – Darek Cliff, the Athletic Director at The Athenian School since 2005, was recently selected by the California State Athletic Directors Association (C.S.A.D.A.) and the North Coast Section to receive the Norm MacKenzie Award. The MacKenzie Award is presented to a C.S.A.D.A. member, from each section that nominates a candidate, who has completed a minimum of one year and no more than four years as an active athletic director. Cliff was nominated by his peers to receive the award for his outstanding work as a new athletic director.

Cliff has worked at The Athenian School for six years, beginning his career at the school as the Assistant Athletic Director and Middle School Physical Education Teacher. The 2005-2006 school year was his first full year as the Athletic Director. Before Athenian, Darek was a Long-Term Substitute Teacher at Atascadero High School in San Luis Obispo County. He is a graduate of San Ramon Valley High School, and in 1999, he graduated from Cal Poly. In addition to being Athletic Director at Athenian, he also currently coaches water polo for the Wolves at San Ramon Valley.

Since Cliff assumed the Athletic Director position in 2005, Athenian's athletics program, which includes 19 competitive sports, has flourished. Last year, the boys' baseball team competed in the North Coast Section championship. It was Athenian's first appearance in the prestigious tournament, which invites 16 teams each year. Also during the 2005-06 athletics season, the Athenian Owls reached postseason in cross-country and basketball, and four Athenian baseball players won All-League Honors. As for the 2006-07 season, Athenian's girls and boys' basketball teams have made it into the North Coast Section playoffs. Head of School Eleanor Dase has this to

say about Cliff's performance as Athenian's Athletic Director: "Darek has infused Athenian's athletic program with enthusiasm and pride in his brief time as Athletic Director. His inspirational leadership has resulted in a record number of students participating in sports and a strong, committed coaching staff."

Darek Cliff will receive public recognition as the recipient of the Norm MacKenzie Award during the annual C.S.A.D.A. Conference Banquet at the San Diego Town & Country Resort in San Diego on April 21, 2007.

### ***ABOUT THE ATHENIAN ATHLETICS***

The fundamental purpose of Athenian Athletics is to mirror the mission and goals of the school. Specifically, The Athenian School recognizes that its interscholastic athletic program is an integral part of the total education program. In addition to athletic skill development, the program endeavors to instill in its athletes proper attitudes and behaviors that reflect the ideas of citizenship, sportsmanship, and cooperation, as well as building self-discipline and self-esteem. The Athenian School recognizes that striving to win is part of life; however, the way in which one wins and loses during competition is also relevant. Athenian promotes its athletes to be humble in victory and gracious in defeat. This can only be achieved through a well-organized, goal-oriented program, conducted by cooperative leaders.

### ***ABOUT THE ATHENIAN SCHOOL***

The Athenian School is a distinctive San Francisco Bay Area college preparatory school, providing an outstanding education that is challenging, engaging, personal, interactive and international. With 457 students in grades six to 12, Athenian's 75-acre campus lies at the base of Mt. Diablo in Danville, 32 miles east of San Francisco. The student to faculty ratio is an enviable 10:1 and the average class size is 15 students. The Athenian School is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the California Association of Independent Schools.

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