



2007 DANTE BENEDETTI GOLF CLASSIC

WHY WE ARE DOING THIS

“Supporting the Next Generation of
Dante’s Boys”

The Dante Benedetti Golf Classic (like the Dante Benedetti Baseball Classic) is about preserving the 40 year legacy that Dante Benedetti left the University of San Francisco (USF) and the San Francisco community. Simply put, helping kids through the game of baseball.

Dante Benedetti gave numerous kids “a chance” in life through baseball. Over the years he sponsored as many as eight youth league teams and coached baseball at USF for 16 seasons; taking only \$1 a year in salary. He had a bare-bones budget, and he often bought equipment himself when the team ran short.

His USF teams were not wildly successful and never finished higher than second in the West Coast Athletic Conference. But what he really was doing was teaching life’s lessons. “He gave everybody a chance,” said Don Russo, a San Francisco firefighter who played for Benedetti and who worked for him at the New Pisa restaurant, “a chance to play, and a chance to work. And, sometimes third and fourth chances. Everybody who played for him is one of Dante’s boys. We loved him.”

There were always kids who couldn’t afford to go to college. Dante told them not to worry; he’d get them a baseball scholarship. There was no scholarship; Dante paid for their tuition out of his own pocket.

The USF Baseball program continues today largely due to one man’s efforts. And thanks to Dante, the program is not only surviving today, but it is beginning to thrive under Coach Nino Giarratano and his staff by producing both winning teams as well as forming men for others in the Jesuit tradition.

Today, Benedetti Diamond is an integral part of the community, serving as the home field for several Junior Baseball programs, two High School baseball teams, as well as the USF Baseball program. As school funding and Park & Recreation budgets continue to be cut, Benedetti Field has become one of the few available locations to play baseball in San Francisco.

USF Baseball, under the direction of head coach Nino Giarratano continues to embrace Dante’s legacy of service to the community of San Francisco. In the fall of 2006, USF Baseball undertook an ambitious service at the Kipp Bayview School in Southeast San Francisco. The Diamond Dons spent Friday mornings during the Fall Semester at the school reading, mentoring, role playing and imparting necessary qualities to contribute in the continued development of Kipp Bayview students as goal-oriented students.

This dynamic reading/mentorship program also includes a free USF Baseball Clinic, USF Career Day & Kipp Bayview Day at a USF Baseball Game. During USF Career Day the Kipp Bayview students visit the campus of the University of San Francisco and are accompanied by the USF Baseball Players as they are provided with a campus tour, a brief presentation and a question and answer session by the USF Admissions Department.

In the past two seasons the Diamond Dons have also worked on benefits to assist Hurricane Katrina victims, the American Cancer Society’s Race for the Cure and volunteered during the Breast Cancer Walk in Golden Gate Park.

The objective of the Dante Benedetti Golf Classic is to preserve the legacy that Dante Benedetti left the San Francisco community by supporting the USF Baseball Program as it continues to develop the next generation of Dante’s boys through the game of baseball.

