

# Era ends as Van Boschetti resigns as Los Medanos College football coach

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You get the sense that every part of it over the last 42 years has been special to Van Boschetti.

That's why it was tough for the Los Medanos College football coach to tell his players Tuesday the long ride had ended.

He is stepping down after heading the program for 28 years. This followed 14 years as a high school football coach — six at Point Arena and then eight at Miramonte.

"I'm not getting any younger and so forth," Boschetti, 67, said Wednesday. "I had a good run out there. I'm in a good place. I feel good. I'm happy. I said one thing — when I leave I don't want to be bitter."

He said he realized "it was time" after spring ball.

Los Medanos offensive coordinator Chris Shipe, a former record-setting quarterback for the Mustangs after starring at Pittsburg High, has been hired to replace Boschetti.

"He's like a son to me," Boschetti said of Shipe, who quarterbacked Pittsburg to a 35-27 victory over De La Salle in the 1991 North Coast Section 3A title game, snapping the Spartans' 34-game winning streak.

Boschetti guided Los Medanos to 14 bowl appearances since 1990. The Mustangs finished 3-7 in 2009 and featured state rushing leader Thomas Hampton (1,708 yards).

"Coach Van was great," said Hampton, who received a full scholarship with NCAA Division II West Texas A&M. "He's your friend. He sticks to his guns. If you give him your all, he's gonna give you his all."

At Point Arena, the team had a great run, Boschetti said, including sending a player to the former Pac-8 each year for six straight years. Success followed him to Miramonte, where he was named Northern California Coach of the Year, he said.

Things got emotional Tuesday when Boschetti broke the news to his players.

"I worked with a lot of young men, worked with a lot of teams," he said. "It's surprising how fast it went."