Anyone who's ever attended an athletic event at Placer High School has been greeted by the welcoming smile of Tracy Rohde. For the past 20 years, she has worked the gate for all boys and girls sports, taking tickets at LeFebvre Stadium and the Earl Crabbe Gym.

For her unselfish service at Placer events, she will be inducted into the PHS Athletic Hall of Fame on April 25 in a ceremony at the school's iconic Earl Crabbe Gym.

Rohde is a 1980 graduate of Placer where she played three years of varsity softball and volleyball, serving as captain and winning all-league honors in the latter sport. Her memories of Homecoming and the positive school environment remain with her today. "I remember everyone taking part in hours-long rallies and dress-up days. It unified the school and brought people together. It was all about being a Hillman."

She joined the Special Education teaching staff at Placer in 2006 and plans to retire tin June. She still revels in the school's culture and tradition by serving as a class advisor each the year. Rohde likes passing on the school's heritage of decorating the gym and building floats to a new generation of Hillmen.

Early in her career, Athletic Director Mark Lee asked her to work the gate for a football game. She has been a fixture at the main gate ever since. "It's fun. I get to meet people, and they get to know me, and we become like friends."

Over the years, Rohde has recognized grandparents who came to watch grandkids play and she's amazed at the number of alumni who attend games. "They ask for the alumni discount (there isn't one), but they still come rain or shine." Community loyalty is a special happening. "Placer tradition is a culture like no other," she said proudly.

Occasionally she'll encounter a grumpy customer, "Mostly about ticket the price, especially for playoff games when the CIF sets higher prices." But overall, "Everyone is very pleasant. It's like old home week. People stop and chat."

She does slip out of the ticket booth at times, once to watch her daughter Cameron as Homecoming Queen be escorted by her two brothers, Jacob and Zac, and at other times when Zac was on the field as the football team's placekicker.

Working the Earl Crabbe Gym door is a different story. "The gym gets crowded, and you have to go as fast as you can." But it provides its own interesting stories.

"There is nothing like watching people come into the Earl Crabbe Gym for the first time and all the "oohs and aahs' that you hear." She especially remembers one man she met several years ago who was a high school basketball fan who had heard about Placer.

"He came up from the Bay Area just to see our team play and check out the gym. He had no ties to the community or to Placer High. He was amazed and loved talking about what he was seeing."

"He's returned several times because he loves the gym and the programs and all the things that make Placer special." Rohde said.

"This past season when I was talking to him, he made sure to remind me how amazing all of it is with the cool gym, all the banners, and the community support. He loves the Athletic Hall of Fame. He made sure to impress upon me how unique it is and how no other school has something like it. I couldn't agree more with him."

The boys and girls basketball seasons were special for Rohde this year as well. Two of her Special Ed teaching colleagues, girls basketball coach Tony Camillucci and boys basketball coach Nate Swesey, took their teams to the Golden 1 Center for the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section

playoffs. Both teams won and Rohde was presented with a certificate of Positive Supporter Award.

Rohde admits to being a sports fanatic. Beside attending the numerous Placer games, she loves to watch sports on television "Anything with a ball and people running around," she said. She followed the NCAA Final Four games with interest and can't wait for major league baseball season to begin. She's a huge San Francisco Giants fan.

She has a deep connection to Auburn, where many of her family members have spent 75 years at Placer. She was born in Highlands Hospital, went to Sierra College for two years, and graduated from Fresno State.

Rohde has the energy of the Energizer Bunny. She and her husband Neil, a member of the Hall of Fame 1980 Placer football team, have raised six children. She says Neil is her "guard dog who helps out at the gate when things get busy.

The couple has been married 38 years and have three other children, Kelsey, Alex, and Nicholas, besides the three previously mentioned. They also have 10 grandchildren spread out over four states.

The Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony will be held in the Earl Crabbe Gym on April 25. A reception will begin at 6 pm followed by the induction ceremony at 7 pm.

Tickets for the reception cost $25 until April 15, and $35 after, and are available online at placerathletichalloffame.org.

The 7 pm ceremony is free of charge to the public.