SHA’TASHA ALLEN, College of the Canyons
“Hall of Fame” NOMINATION

When Sha’Tasha Allen arrived at College of the Canyons in the fall of 1998, she had already received recognition as a two-time All-Los Angeles City Section forward from LA Banning High School. What she didn’t have was experience as a point guard. It was this inexperience and an initial reluctance to switch positions that Head Coach Greg Herrick and his staff were confronted with at the beginning of the 1998-99 season. “Tasha was adamant about not playing point guard. In fact, she told me she couldn’t do it,” remembered Coach Herrick. After months of encouragement and trial by error, Sha’Tasha developed her guard skills with extra practice and discussions with former COC All-State guard La Cresha Clark. “I knew that Tasha, with her size and athleticism, would provide a big advantage for us in our system and I was convinced that we could make it work. The hard part was making her believe in it, too.” said Herrick.

Well not only did it work, Sha’Tasha went on to become one of the state’s best players in her two seasons at Canyons. In her freshman year, she led the Lady Cougars to a second place finish in the Western State Conference (8-4), an overall 20-10 record and an appearance in the Southern California Regional Semi-Finals. Named All WSC 1st Team after a stellar year where she averaged 18.0 ppg and led the state in assists, Sha Tasha worked hard in the off-season and came back and terrorized opponents with her improved play. She averaged 19.4 ppg, led the state in assists again and led her team to an undefeated 12-0 Western State Conference title for which she was selected WSC-South Division “Player of the Year” and All-State by the CCCWBCA.

With an appearance in the State's Elite Eight and a team record of 26-7, Allen finished her College of the Canyons career as the school’s All-Time leading scorer and contributing to a 46-17 overall record. She set school records for Most Free Throws Attempted in a Season (216), Most Free Throws Made in a Season (163) and Most Free Throws Made in a Game (16).

Probably her two most impressive games were her 40-point performance in a victory vs Contra Costa, at that time, the state’s #1 team at 20-0 and another 40-point performance vs Bakersfield where, it was discovered after the game, that she had broken her nose sometime during the first half.

Allen accepted a scholarship and continued her career at Cal State University-Northridge where she attempted to help resurrect a struggling program. Although the Matadors won only 11 games in her two seasons, she was named All-Big West Conference (Honorable Mention) as a senior and completed her career scoring in double figures. Allen graduated from CSUN with a degree in Nursing.

Upon graduating, Sha’Tasha was inflicted with a serious undiagnosed illness that has forced her occasional hospitalization. She has faced death on a few occasions but has confronted it with the same tenacity she showed on the basketball court. Coach Herrick once said, “Sha’Tasha Allen has the courage of an entire army and, when the chips are down, she is the one player you’d want to have the ball.” On February 4, 2012, she was inducted into the COC Lady Cougar Basketball "Hall of Fame" and presently serves as a Volunteer Assistant Coach with College of the Canyons. Her induction into the CCCWBCA “Hall of Fame” would be an exclamation point on the career of one of the state’s very best players of all time.
COC Lady Cougar Basketball "Hall of Fame"

Sha'Tasha Allen
1998-2000

All-Time Career Leading Scorer (1242 points)
Two-Time All-Western State Conference - 1st Team
Led the State in Assists (1999-2000 Season)

Set Season School Records for:
Most FT Attempts (216)
Most FT Made (163)

Set Single Game Record for:
Most FT Made (16)
46-17 Team Record

Western State Conference Champions (2000)
WSC "Player of the Year" (1999-2000)
All-State (1999-2000)

"When the chips were down, Tasha was the one player you'd want to have the ball"  
Coach Herrick

Inducted: February 4, 2012