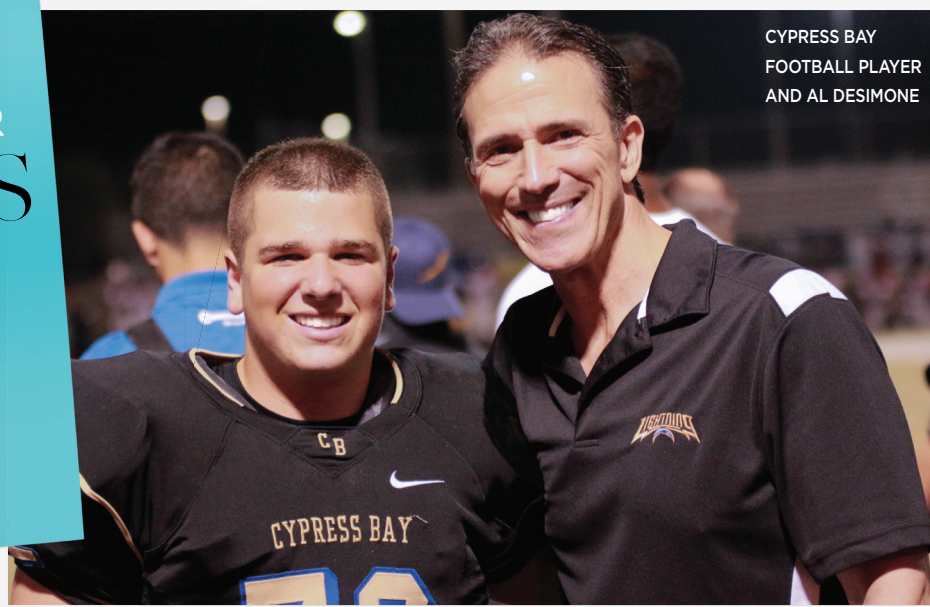


## A CHAMPION FOR CHARITIES

DR. DESIMONE



CYPRESS BAY  
FOOTBALL PLAYER  
AND AL DESIMONE

Under Friday night-lights, at a high school football game or sidelining for a professional sports team, Dr. DeSimone will always pursue his passion. Growing up in Long Island, New York, he entered Stonybrook College and earned a degree in graphic arts and design with the intention of becoming a medical illustrator. During his last year, he discovered that medicine was his true passion and continued to apply his artistic talent and knowledge to surgery, making his technique unique "with a fine sense of touch".

Al understands the value of family and friends, since losing his parents at a young age. During a two-year leave of absence because of his mother's illness, he did what he needed to do to support himself and worked as a commercial fisherman, allowing him the opportunity to continue school. He also



ALEXANDRA AND AL DESIMONE

found a niche for exercise and obtained a certificate for personal training and guiding his clients to a healthier way of life. Even today he maintains a keen interest in strength, conditioning, and nutrition and has been practicing Jiu-Jitsu for over 6 years.

Working as a sports medicine physician for over 20 years, Dr. D (as he is

known to his patients) has had the opportunity to work with numerous athletes on a professional, collegiate and community level. "I always had an interest in the health, wellness and education of the student athletes within our community. I truly believe they are an amazing talented group of young individuals that could excel in so many ways but unfortunately they don't always have the means," he states.

This has prompted an active desire to support some of these students who have shown excellence in their athletic, academic and personal achievements. Dr. DeSimone's non-profit organization "Charity for Champions" was founded in 2008, and has awarded over 200 scholarships to some of these outstanding young men and women.

Being committed to his

charity Al says, "It is our vision that by playing sports and understanding the importance of education, young student-athletes, regardless of any limitation, can learn the value of team leadership, academics, sportsmanship and community service." The scholarships are provided based on an application and interview process that considers several criteria such as: academic accomplishments, athletic achievements, team fellowship, artistry and community involvement.

Al and his wife, Alexandra (Sasha) remain committed to helping young individuals and feel that these scholar-athletes should have the opportunity of discovering the Champion within them.

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