

Mel Griffin, Jaysee Coach, in Marines

Seven Athletic Coaches Now in Service

Mel Griffin, coach of Long Beach Junior College basketball who received statewide recognition for his cage combinations through 1940 and 1942, yesterday became the seventh member of the city's coaching staffs to join the armed services of the United States when he was sworn in to the Marine Corps Reserves as a first lieutenant, aviation volunteer specialist. Griffin took his oath Wednesday in Los Angeles.

It had been known for some time that Griffin had applied for a commission in the Marine Reserve and the announcement of his plans was held up pending his appointment.

SIX OTHERS

The popular Long Beach jaysee coach follows six other local coaches into the service—Lieutenant Orian M. Landreth, former dean of men at jaysee and football coach at Poly High, in the Navy; Charles Church, basketball coach at Poly, now a captain in the Marines and Walter W. Bell, also of Poly, now a captain in the Army; Lieutenant Jess Hill, formerly at the Jaysee, now with the Navy preflight school at Del Monte; Lieutenant Vincent Reel of Wilson High, with naval training school in Idaho, and Mike Dimas, St. Anthony's football coach, now in the Army at Florida.

Griffin will leave in a short while for a special officers' training course at San Diego or Quantico, Va., after which he will be assigned to active duty with the Fleet Marine Force in the Eleventh Naval District, probably at San Diego.

Griffin has been connected with the local school system for 13 years. Graduating from the University of Kansas in 1924, Mel coached for awhile in the midwest before coming to Long Beach.

SEVEN WINNERS

As basketball coach at jaysee, he produced four championship teams in that sport and three baseball championships. As Vike football coach in 1935, his team finished second in the Metropolitan Conference.

Griffin's 1942 basketball team was the best he ever had at

ohnson, Clyde L. Beoughner, W. am L. Owen, Elmer W. Jimmison, James W. Albright. Charles S. Dixon, Gerald L.