



★ TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2004 ★
★ ALBUQUERQUE MARRIOTT HOTEL ★
★ ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO ★

Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame



★ SALLY MARQUEZ ★



★ CONNIE ALEXANDER ★



★ HENRY O. SANCHEZ ★

The Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame was established "to honor by public acknowledgement those individuals who have merited recognition and distinction, and who by their exploits, accomplishments and activities in regard to sports and athletic events have brought fame and honor, or have made outstanding athletic contributions to the City of Albuquerque; and who, by their character and respect-ability, will serve as an inspiration and an example of the highest tradition of the American people".

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★ PROCESSION ★

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**SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL
AREA ATHLETES**

- ★ ALLEN BRANCH-CIBOLA-FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL
- ★ RODNEY FERGUSON-MANZANO-FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL, TRACK
- ★ DOUG MCDANIEL-RIO GRANDE-FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL
- ★ CAITLYN DEMAREST-ELDORADO-BASKETBALL, SOCCER
- ★ RACHEL PFAFF-ST. PIUS-BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL, GOLF
- ★ LEDE MCDANIEL-SANDIA-BASKETBALL, CROSS COUNTRY, TENNIS

★
PROMOTION OF THE YEAR
Marty Saiz-State Farm-Player of The Week

★
Co-TEAMS OF THE YEAR
La Cueva High School Boys Basketball
La Cueva High School Football

★
COACH OF THE YEAR
DON FLANAGAN-UNM WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

★
ATHLETES OF THE YEAR
DONTRELL MOORE-UNM FOOTBALL
JASON LENZMEIER-UNM FOOTBALL
JORDAN ADAMS-UNM BASKETBALL
KENNY THOMAS-PRO ATHLETE

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AWARD OF DISTINCTION
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HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

- ★ CONNIE ALEXANDER ★
- ★ SALLY MARQUEZ ★
- ★ HENRY O. SANCHEZ ★

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HENRY O. SANCHEZ

Shooting baskets at the old AHS where his grandfather was a custodian led to Henry's playing for Babe Parenti at St. Mary's High School. The next important coach in his life was Rudy Cordova at St. Joseph's College where subsequently he was selected to the NAIA All American Basketball Team. He was later an assistant coach there for one year.

He went on to be the head basketball coach and athletic director at Our Lady of Sorrows from 1960-65. When the school closed, he became the head coach at Bernalillo High School. He created such a supportive furor that the town literally shut down for the games. His teams qualified for the state tournament 12 out of his 18 years at Bernalillo. They advanced to the title games on 5 occasions and won the State Title in 1977 and 1979.

In 1977 he was honored to coach the USA Team against the Russian National Team. After leaving Bernalillo High, he became the Head Basketball Coach at Highlands University. After coaching 13 seasons at HU, he had an impressive record of two 21-win seasons and helped to change the school's status from NAIA to NCAA. After leaving HU, he became Robertson High School's Coach.

He had many honors later. In '98: inducted into NMHS Coaches Hall of Honor, '99 Albuquerque Journal's Small College Coach of the Year; 2000 Federation State Coach of the Year; 2001 NHSACA Boys Basketball Coach of the Year; and in 2003 he became the 8th person from NM to be inducted into the NHSACA Hall of Fame! In 2002 he was elected Mayor of Las Vegas, NM, a position he still holds with pride.

SALLY MARQUEZ

Sally Marquez, a native of Albuquerque, graduated from Manzano HS 25 years ago, leaving a three sport record of accomplishments shared by only a few. Her 25 year journey after Manzano included basketball at UNM before the sport gained its current popularity, teaching and coaching at APS, five years in Virginia, and three years in Texas. She returned to the metro area in 1998 and is now personnel director for Rio Rancho public schools. Sally's outstanding career at Manzano HS made 1979 a year of honors. Sally was selected for the first George Maloof Award, representing at that time, both the best male and female high school athlete. The Chamber of Commerce named her Female Athlete of the Year and Carnation selected her as an All-American Girl Athlete. Academics and athletics shared her priorities at MHS and UNM. Sally's 1976-79 Manzano basketball honors included three years as All-City and All-District along with being named All-State in the '77-'78 and '78-'79 seasons. Her two years playing volleyball was capped by an All-City, District and All-State in 1978-79. Her track and field ability gained similar honors: she was selected All-City, District and State all three years. Sally's 1979-83 basketball efforts at UNM included being twice named Defensive Player of the Year; she was Co-captain in 1982-83. Sally was also selected to the Academic Athletic Honor Roll her junior and senior years. During her math teaching tenure at Eldorado and La Cueva High Schools, Sally was assistant coach for track & field and basketball. She began La Cueva's girls basketball program in 1986. An exciting year was EHS's 1986 AAAA Basketball State Championship. That combined with EHS's 1985 and 1986 City and State championships in track & field. The 1990's had Sally relocating to Virginia to pursue her master's degree in Education Administration at Virginia Tech. While there she coached girl's basketball for one year and the boy's basketball team in Newport News, making her the only female to coach at the boy's high school level. She also coached soccer from '91-'94.

Sally and her husband Michael Reilly, a counselor at Rio Rancho HS, are raising their two sons Benjamin, age 11 and Ryan, age two. Sally also serves on the Youth Basketball League Board, and coaches basketball teams for Senior Olympics, County Youth League, and AAU Boys.

CONNIE ALEXANDER

Connie Alexander became a nationally known play-by-play announcer for the CBS Radio Network after starting his career at Albuquerque High School, then being Dukes p.a. announce for \$2 a game. At 19, he got on local radio calling high school sports, UNM basketball and Dukes baseball (he played baseball at UNM). At 21, his career was interrupted for four years military service in the Korean War.

His CBS work included major college bowls and the NFL Pro Bowl and playoffs. He set a record for most radio broadcasts of the Cotton Bowl (ten straight on CBS). One of them featured Joe Montana's fabled 1979 performance, perhaps the most dramatic by a Notre Dame player since George Gipp in 1920. He announced collegiate football's 100th anniversary national championship game. President Nixon helicoptered in, and Billy Graham gave the invocation. He was at the mike for ten Texas-Oklahoma football games and eight Sun Bowls (six on CBS and two on national/regional TV). For 13 years, his broadcasts were carried worldwide on the American Forces Network (350 stations and 70 ships at sea). He covered NCAA Regional basketball tournaments for 13 years on the NCAA, ESPN and TVS television networks, working as telecast partner in 1976 with just-retired UCLA coach John Wooden, winner of ten national championships.

He was the long-time "Voice of the Southwest Conference" as lead announcer of the 14-announcer Exxon Football Network, the world's oldest radio series (44 years). At the same time, he was the "Voice of the WAC" on the Western Athletic Conference Basketball Game of the Week on TVS, in association with NBC Sports. As a freelance announcer, he broadcast on 12 different networks, including 20 years of regional coverage, traveling coast to coast. He was simultaneously a bank vice president. He described Lobo football and basketball games on radio and TV a total of 13 years. His broadcasts contained more information than typical broadcasts. He developed advanced methods, and was known for knowledgeable, accurate, exciting and unique descriptions. He won Sportscaster of the Year awards for two states-Texas and New Mexico.

He is co-founder and first president of the Albuquerque Fellowship of Christian Athletes. He volunteers on many civic projects, including Metropolitan Redevelopment and "Drug-Free Residential Zone" legislation. He led some 50 anti-drug marches against crack houses, experiencing gunfire on the third march.

His family includes daughters, Amy and Lynn, son Gregg, six grandchildren and his mother, Thelma (95 years young).



SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR HIGH SCHOOL AREA ATHLETES

Male

- Allen Branch - Cibola - Football, Basketball
- Rodney Ferguson - Manzano - Football, Basketball, Track
- Doug McDaniel - Rio Grande - Football, Basketball

Female

- Caitlyn Demarest - Eldorado - Basketball, Soccer
- Rachel Pfaff - St Pius - Basketball, Volleyball, Golf
- Lede McDaniel - Sandia - Basketball, Cross Country, Tennis

Male Co-Athletes of the Year

JASON LENZMEIER

UNM FOOTBALL

Lenzmeier is a First Team All MWC selection who triumphantly overcame what was thought to be a season-ending injury. He was the team leader with 37 knockdown blocks in about 12 quarters of play before suffering a torn MCL in his left knee just before half time against BYU. Initial diagnosis was he tore his ACL, but an MRI revealed a lesser injury, so the All-MWC tackle missed only 3-1/2 games. His absence was felt in those games:

8-1/2 games with Lenzmeier

3-1/2 games without Lenzmeier

RUSHING	TOTAL OFFENSE	SCORING
270.9	454.6	35.2
118.6	290.3	22.3

Jason became the first offensive lineman in UNM history to be named Offensive Player of the Week for his performance against Utah, paving the way for 633 yards of total offense, the eighth best total in school history. He received a 99.9 assignment grade and had 15 knockdown blocks. Jason played in the 2004 Hula Bowl which improved his stock as an NFL prospect.

DONTRELL MOORE

UNM FOOTBALL

Moore is one of the nation's premier running backs. As a sophomore tailback in '03 he ran for a record 1,438 yds. He also established UNM season records for rushing touchdowns (109), overall touchdowns (21), points (126), 100 yd rushing games (9) and consecutive 100 yard games (5). He was first in the MWC rushing (119.8 yds/game), all purpose yards (134.8 yds/game) and scoring (10.5 pts/ game). He scored the second most TD's (21) in NCAA Division I-A football this season.

Dontrell was named Offensive Player of the Year by College Football News.com. He was first team All Mountain West Conference for the second straight year, joining UNLV's safety Jamaal Brimmer as league's only unanimous first team selections.

Moore had the second best rushing day in UNM history against CSU, carrying 34 times for a career best 242 yards and 3 TD's. He earned MWC Player of the Week honors and again made Offensive Player of the Week against Air Force rushing for 188 yards on 36 carries. He had 7 multi-touchdown games for the season.

Pro Athlete of the Year

KENNY THOMAS

PHILADELPHIA 76'ERS

In his fourth NBA season (2002-2003) Kenny Thomas played 20 games for the Houston Rockets before being traded to the Philadelphia 76'ers where he played 46 games (he started 42 of the 66 games he played in). After arriving in Philadelphia, he averaged 10.2 points and a 76'er high 8.5 rebounds per game. Kenny's highlights with the 76'ers in 2003 included: two 20 rebound games, a 24 point and 20 rebound game (Philadelphia's first 20-20 game since 1977), and 17 double-doubles over the course of the season. Kenny finished the 2003 season strong averaging 12.7 points and 11.7 rebounds per game in the

last 15 contests (recording a double-double in 10 of those 15 games). Kenny continued his strong play into the 2003 playoffs averaging 10.6 points and a team best 9.3 rebounds per game. He shot a team best 53.5% from the field in the playoffs and also recorded five double-doubles including three against Detroit in the Eastern Conference semi-finals. Kenny continues to be a key contributor on a team that is a perennial power in the NBA's Eastern Conference.

Coach of the Year

DON FLANAGAN

UNM WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Don Flanagan did something in the 2002-2003 season that surprised him as well as most Lobo fans. He took a team with a 19-8 season and defeated San Diego State, Colorado State and BYU to win the Mountain West Conference tournament.

First time ever: UNM hosted the 1st and 2nd rounds of the NCAA women's tourney. Due to their amazing attendance figures, they were also asked to host the Midwest Regional's 3rd and 4th rounds. Coach Flanagan took advantage of their home court. In the 1st round they beat Miami in overtime 91-85. Next they beat Mississippi St., ranked #13, 73-61, putting them in the Sweet Sixteen for the first time in UNM history. They lost 71-48 to 8th ranked Texas Tech. All 3 games were sell-outs. They ended their year ranked 23rd nationally in the final USA Today/ESPN Top 25 Poll. Tremendous fan support made them 4th in national attendance with a school record of 11,896 fans per game. The UNLV game packed The Pit with 18,018. Flanagan has taken the Lobos to the post season 6 straight years, 3 times to the NIT (2000-2001 lost championship game to Ohio State 62-61) and 3 times to the NCAA.

CO-Teams of the Year

LA CUEVA HS BOYS BASEBALL

LA CUEVA HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

La Cueva High School Boys Baseball

La Cueva completed one of the most impressive seasons in NM prep history by overwhelming Las Cruces 13-4 in the 5A State Baseball Tournament. It was the 23rd time the Bears scored 10 runs or more. Ending a perfect 29-0 season, they blasted 4 homers which gave them a remarkable season total of 79 home runs. La Cueva has had some great teams in the finals, but this is their first State Baseball Championship. Their 2003 team was ranked 6th in the nation in the final Easton National High School Baseball Poll published by Collegiate Baseball. They were ranked 8th in the final Baseball American poll. Center fielder Ramon Romero and catcher Matt Quillen were named to the Easton HS All American Team. On the All Metro baseball team, they had 7 out of 12 first team selections. Their coach, Stan McKeever, has been named the National High School Baseball Coaches Association's Coach of the Year for District 7 which includes New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Nevada and Utah.

La Cueva High School Football

Some experts say that this could be the best football team ever in the history of NM high

school football. They had an undefeated regular season, later rolling through the first 2 rounds of the playoffs with wins over defending champions Las Cruces and Rio Grande. The Bears then finished their 13-0 season by staging the only rally they needed all year. Behind 21-7 at half time, they came back to beat Mayfield 24-21 in Las Cruces before 12,000 fans. It is the first time Las Cruces Mayfield has been defeated twice in the same year during Coach Bradley's career.

The Bears scored more than 600 points this season and averaged better than 46 points per game. Defensively they gave up only 55 points, averaging a little over 4 points per game. The defense set a national record for yards rushing per game. The Bears landed 7 spots on the Associated Press All State Team for Class 5A. The top individual, Aaron Lewis playing defensive end, finished the season with 26.5 sacks.

Female Athlete of the Year

JORDAN ADAMS

As a senior, center Jordan Adams was one of the reasons the Lobos won the Mountain West Conference (MWC) Tournament and advanced to the NCAA Women's Sweet 16. Jordan was placed on the all MWC first team, awarded the MWC Tournament MVP, and also named to the NCAA Midwest All-Regional Team. Over the course of the season Jordan scored in double figures in 27 games, while scoring 20 points or more in nine of those games. She had three double figure rebounding games, including a career high 15 rebounds at San Diego St. On March 24th she recorded her 337th blocked shot to surpass Luc Longley and become UNM's all time leader in blocked shots. She finished 12th in the nation in blocked shots and her eight blocks against Miami was an NCAA tournament record. In the NCAA tournament, Jordan scored in double figures in all three games with an average of 22 points per game. Jordan had 27 points and 7 rebounds against 11th seed Miami, 19 points and 10 rebounds against 3rd seed Mississippi, and 20 points and 5 rebounds in the loss to the 2nd seed (and 8th ranked team nationally) Texas Tech.

Award of Distinction

Jim Johnson

Jim Johnson left a legacy of encouraging young local boxers to succeed . . . in and out of the ring. His death occurred December 27, 2002 after a skiing accident in Santa Fe. Johnson was one of the devoted backers of boxing in Albuquerque and was called "Gentleman Jim" by many.

Jake Valencia and Johnson co-founded the South San Jose Community Center boxing team in the 1980's. Valencia spoke of Johnson's generous spirit. A UNM graduate with a successful career in oil and gas exploration, Johnson became a co-trainer and financial backer of the South San Jose team. Johnson stressed the importance of education with all of his boxers and instituted an incentive program where kids were rewarded with boxing equipment for improving their grades.

PREVIOUS YEARS	HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES	ATHLETE OF THE YEAR	AWARD OF DISTINCTION	PROMOTION OF THE YEAR
1973-1974	F.M. (Tony) Wilson Bobby Unser Roy W. Johnson	Cathy Carr Bob Foster	H.L. (Hickum) Galles, Jr.	Sid Cutter
1974-1975	Don Perkins Paul (Babe) Parent Bob Foster	Don Woods	George Maloof	-
1975-1976	Ralph Bowyer Al Unser, Sr. Adolph Plummer	Janet Ely Bob Berg	Don Kirby	Albuquerque Jaycees Invitational Track Meet
1976-1977	Jim Cleary John Dolzadelli	Jesse Casteneda	S.Y. Jackson, Sr.	Frank Crosby
1977-1978	Nancy Neeld Pete McDavid Abble Palz	Val Boyer Chuck Walter	Frank Schifani	Mike London
1978-1979	Mannie Foster Cathy Carr West Mel Daniels	Darlene Anaya Mike Williams	Chet Caldwell	Willie Sanchez (Albuquerque Dukes)
1979-1980	L.F. (Tow) Diehm John Baker	Diana Silva John Whitson	Gwinn (Bub) Henry	Arabian International Horse Association
1980-1981	Tommy McDonald Hugh Hackett	Kathrin Keil	H.I. (Iggy) Mulcahy George Baldwin	Special Olympics
1981-1982	Bob King	Steve Jennings	Carlos Salazar	Albuquerque Journal Gymnastics Meet
1982-1983	-	Alexandra Reinhardt John Jackson	-	Pat McKernan (Albuquerque Dukes)
1983-1984	Toby Roybal 1934 UNM Football Team Charlie Renfro	Dana Miller Mike Winters	Mrs. Ruth Wilson	-
1984-1985	Ben Abruzzo Maxie Anderson Larry Newman	Rosie Jones Jim Everett	W.D. (Bill) Brannin Dave Tomlinson	Rusty Mitchell (U.S. Olympic Gymnasts, Exhibition)
1985-1986	Ira Harge Dick McGuire Clarence Robinson	Claudia Schleyer Terry Landrum Al Unser, Jr.	Lloyd McKee	Albuquerque International Balloon Fiesta
1986-1987	W. D. (Bill) Brannin Bill Gentry Carlos Salazar	Caroline Keggi Chad Fox Johnny Brown	-	Sunwest Bank Charley Pride Sr. Golf Tourney
1987-1988	Bobby Santiago H.I. (Iggy) Mulcahy Ashby Harper	Al Unser, Sr. Caroline Keggi Ibrahim Hussein	Dr. Jerome Greenblatt, M.D.	Albuquerque Journal Duke City Marathon
1988-1989	Mel Otero	Lance Ringnald Gary Kinder Laurel Kessel	Mike Roberts	McDonald's All-American High School Basketball Game
1989-1990	Dave Tomlinson Chuck Hill Jim Hulsman Owen Smaulding	Terance Mathis Jill Shaver Sheila Burrell	J.D. Kaller	Virginia Slims, 1st. National Bank Women's Tennis Tourney
1990-1991	Rusty Mitchell	Al Unser, Jr. Pauline Manser Maria Gurreri Rosemary Thompson	Joe Zeni	Pat McKernan (Albuquerque Dukes)
1991-1992	Michael Cooper Jack Rushing	Pauline Manser Dana Miller-Mackie Luc Longley Lance Little	Dr. John F. Boyd, M.D.	-
1992-1993	Robin Cole Guyton Hays Ron Nelson	Lisa Escobedo Shelly Steely Trent Dimas Tom Jager Al Unser, Jr.	Art Cardenswartz	Larry Ahrens (Presidential Scholarship Golf Tournament)
1993-1994	George Maloof Mike Roberts Rosemary Thompson	Melissa Moore Mike Nesbitt	Kent Mathis	UNM Lobo Club Kickoff Committee
1994-1995	Vince Cappelli Al Unser, Jr. Mickey Miller	Terance Mathis (Pro) Stoney Case Greg Brown Janet Trujillo	Greater Albuquerque Medical Association	Coca Cola New Mexico Games
1995-1996	Jim Everett Dave Barney H.L. (Hickum) Galles, Jr.	Winslow Oliver Olga Appell	Dick Terwilliger	New Day Shelter Shootout Golf Tournament

PREVIOUS YEARS	HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES	ATHLETE OF THE YEAR	AWARD OF DISTINCTION	PROMOTION OF THE YEAR
1996-1997	Walt Arnold Tony Valdez Sid Cutter	John Wetteland (Pro) Travis Young Bobby Newcombe Leslie Hammond Tamika Stukes	Don Flanagan	"Pack the Pit" UNM Athletics
1997-1998	Bill Weeks Don Flanagan "Cowboy" Jimmy Moore	Paul Konerko (Pro) Graham Leigh Laurie Hegedorn	Dr. James Bradley	Albuquerque Public Schools Golf Extravaganza
1998-1999	Janet Ely Lagourgue Henry Family Tom Jager	Luc Longley (Pro) Andrea Goldberg Abby Garchek A.J. Herrera	Pat McKernan Jim Schumacher	Sandia Cup Soccer Tourney
1999-2000	Rudy Cordova Petie Gibson Pat McKernan Don Woods	Notah Begay III (Pro) Katie Kern Brian Urlacher	Bobby Gibbs	Paralyzed Veterans of America - Jr. Wheelchair Championships
2000-2001	Kent Bostik Ray Etherly Rosie Jones Dana Miller-Mackie	Brian Urlacher (Pro) Grace Galagan Mike Moharic	Shella Burrell Elva Dryer Heather Moody Jackie Lance Falliat Ogunkoya	The American Bowling Congress Championship Tournament 2000
2001-2002	Preston Dennard Ray Giannini John "JD" Kailer Carol Hudson Knauber	Brian Urlacher (Pro) Erik Hinterbichler Jarrod Baxter	Backing Albuquerque Baseball Committee	Amature Athletic Union's 2001 Grand National Sanction Wrestling Tournament
2002-2003	Valerye Boyer-Wells Terry "Tito" Landrum Stan Quintana	Brendan Donnelly (Pro) Dontrell Moore Natasha Lee	Tommy Long Sheila Burrell	Erin Trujeque Memorial Golf Tournament
2003-2004	Connie Alexander Sally Marquez Henry O. Sanchez	Kenny Thomas (Pro) Jason Lenzmeier Dontrell Moore Jordan Adams	Jim Johnson	Marty Saiz/State Farm Player of the Week

★ SPECIAL RECOGNITION ★

ALBUQUERQUE ISOTOPES

Baseball had been silent for 2 years in Albuquerque and the fans were patiently waiting for the opening of Isotopes Park. No one could have predicted that the team would do so well or imagined the success of the team in its first year. The Isotopes won the central division of the 2003 Pacific Coast League before losing to Nashville in the playoffs 3-1.

Promotion nights were exciting and very popular. They had some type of promotion every night, but some of the best were: 1) Fifty cent hotdog night, where more than 35,000 hotdogs were sold to 11,023 Isotopes fans and 2) The Isotope's school day matinee which targeted local schools inviting students, teachers and parents to come out to the ballpark. If you bought a game ticket for \$7.00 you would get in the game, get a sack lunch and a drink. Over 3,000 people attended on two different promotions.

The Isotopes had the 3rd largest PCL attendance with 576,867 for 71 games.

JIM JOHNS-ELDORADO HS BASEBALL

Eldorado won an important double-header sweep over Manzano. The Eldorado players gave Johns the water cooler treatment, because the 2nd win was his 300th coaching victory. When asked about the milestone, Johns replied, "I hadn't even thought about it" "Obviously, some other people did and I appreciate that, but getting 300 wins isn't as important to me as the way it happened. These two wins really help us out."

Johns joins Carlsbad's Tom Forni and Valley's Roger Cordova among active coaches in the baseball 300 win club.

Johns has put up remarkable coaching numbers. Since taking over the Eldorado varsity program in 1988, Johns has led the eagles to 12 district championships, 11 state semifinal berths and six state titles, including three straight from 1999-2001.

★ SPECIAL RECOGNITION cont'd ★

JORGE TRISTANI JR-ST. PIUS HS SOCCER

Tristani became the first coach in New Mexico to win 300 soccer games at the same school beating the Farmington Scorpions 5-0. Tristani joins La Cueva's Larry Water's as the only boys soccer coaches with 300 wins. The typically modest and gracious Tristani tried to diffuse the praise by saying "you can't get 300 wins unless you have the horses."

Michael Strati, a former player and one of Tristani's first stars, said "Coach isn't just a soccer coach, he's a life builder. He builds self-esteem and confidence. He takes boys and turns them into young men." In his 21 years at St Pius, Tristani has won 12 State Championships.

★ PROMOTION OF THE YEAR ★

MARTY SAIZ STATE FARM PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Six years ago, KDEF-AM Henry Tafoya approached State Farm's local agency management team of Marty Saiz and Dennis Hodges about doing a high school player of the week and high school player of the year awards for basketball. Since State Farm wanted to get involved with the community, they jumped on it.

For the first two years, State Farm honored only boys and girls basketball in Albuquerque. It was so successful that in their third year they added boy's football. Today they now recognize student athletes in the Albuquerque metro area including Belen, Los Lunas, Moriarty, Rio Rancho and Bernalillo. In 2001, State Farm and the Albuquerque Journal joined forces in honoring all metro players of the week and year. Each week the winner is honored in the Albuquerque Journal and KDEF has a live broadcast with each male and female athlete.

The banquet has grown to an average of 450 people for football and 550 for basketball. Marty's hard work has proven invaluable to the success of this program.

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*The Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame
deeply appreciates and acknowledges
the excellent volunteers who helped make tonight's
31st Annual Banquet a success.*