



CLASS OF 2021 INDUCTEE



BILL GRACEY

For over 40 years, Bill Gracey has been and continues to be coach, mentor and an inspiration to countless young men and women in New Mexico who learn from him valuable skills and respect for the games they play.

Many of these were granted college scholarships. Some became coaches themselves. James Yodice became a respected sportswriter. James Buccheri, Scott Gracey, Chad Kuhn, Scott Jaster, John Roskos, Sam Smith, Mike Vento, Kyle Weiland played professional baseball.

Just as important are numerous individuals whose lives benefit from lessons of teamwork, discipline and perseverance taught by Gracey who is equally enthusiastic in promoting athletic opportunities for young people regardless of age or gender. Just ask Maya Pacheco currently playing Varsity Softball at Cleveland High School and being offered College scholarships.

A talented athlete himself, Gracey was named to All-State, All-District, All-City High School teams in Baseball and Football and was West Mesa's Outstanding Senior Athlete of the Year (1970-71)

Gracey coached Boys' Baseball at West Mesa, Cibola, and La Cueva High Schools and Club Baseball in New Mexico. Overall, his coaching record boasts eight State Championships.

With Gracey as Assistant Coach, Lobo Women's Softball achieved a 4 year record of 127-84.

The "Bill Gracey MVP Baseball Player Award" created in his honor is awarded annually to the outstanding player at Cibola High School.

Gracey was inducted into the Cibola High School Athletics Hall of Fame in 2014 and into the New Mexico Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2020.

Gracey served as a Division 1 NCAA Men's Basketball Official for 31 years. He officiated 14 NCAA DI Tournament Games (1 game away from Final Four twice); NCAA DII National Championship Game (1987); New Mexico Championship Games (1982, 1985)

In 2015, Gracey was appointed Associate Supervisor of Officials for The West Coast Consortium that includes PAC Twelve, Mountain West, Western Athletic, Big West, Big Sky, and West Coast Conferences and he continues in that role today.

His knowledge of college baseball motivated the Mountain West Conference to seek his services in the evaluation of baseball umpire performance.

Sports is a family affair at the Graceys—Wife of 38 years, Kris played Collegiate Volleyball, daughter Lauren played Varsity and Club Volleyball, son, Scott played on two La Cueva State Baseball Championship teams, was a Lobo shortstop and played for the Toronto Blue Jays Organization. Bill continues his coaching career as an Assistant Baseball Coach for the La Cueva Bears.

