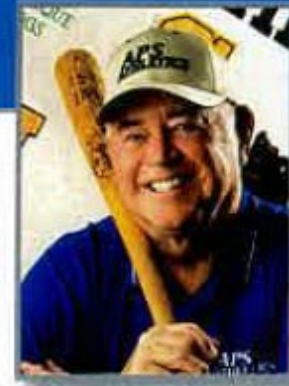


## BUDDY ROBERTSON



You've got a better chance of discovering an Arctic iceberg in Hobbs than of finding someone who will say a bad word about Buddy Robertson.

Hard-working. Honest. Decent. Friendly. Honorable. Family-oriented: those descriptions are the ones that followed Robertson in his long career as an athlete, coach and athletic director within the Albuquerque Public Schools.

In a business where it's easy to make an eternal enemy, Robertson found only friends. Most were, and are, amazed by his unique ability to remain positive as he worked to improve the lives of high school coaches, athletes and parents.

"I always figured my job was to help the coaches, because the coaches were the ones who made the kids happy, and the kids were the ones who made the parents happy," the 69-year-old Robertson says, trying to explain a formula for success that sounds simple, but isn't.

From 1977 to 2002, Robertson was an athletic specialist and athletic director for the state's largest school district. Sounds like administration, and it was, but Robertson was never at home in the office. He was always at games, or running track meets, or helping staff tournaments.

He became the father confessor, the trusted confidant and the honest broker for thousands of people who participated in APS sports.

"I never tried to close the door on people, even if you didn't agree with them," he says. "I never expected people to always agree, so I tried to listen to them. I guess more than anything, I was really lucky."

Robertson's athletic achievements predated his time at APS. A Highland High graduate, he was a standout baseball player at the University of New Mexico, before embarking upon a successful coaching career at Belen and Valley highschools.

Still, Robertson's greatest achievements may have come away from sports: His success as a family man is legendary. He and his wife, Jerri, have been married 46 years. Their three children, Mike, Lisa and Thomas, grew up at APS sporting venues, and Mike and Lisa are teachers in the district.

"I was lucky," Robertson says, over and over.

But that's just the thing. It's not luck. It's Buddy Robertson.