



CLASS OF 2022 INDUCTEE



CINDY ROYBAL

Cindy "Pecos" Roybal was born in Pecos, NM. From an early age, Cindy has always been a fierce competitor. She had dreams of winning a state high school basketball title, playing in the Olympics and professionally, like boys.

Unfortunately, there were no sanctioned girls' teams at the various levels. Cindy decided to change that with a sit-down strike at Pecos High School to start a girls' team or to allow her to play on the boys' team.

Her senior year, Cindy would go to New Mexico Highlands to watch a game at the Stu Clark Gym that the All-American Red Heads were playing. The Red Heads, a professional all women's all-star team, played full court against men's teams and existed from 1936 to 1986. After this game, her life would never be the same. She asked to try out for the team. The owner, Orwell Moore invited Cindy to Camp Courage in Caraway, Arkansas for the tryout. She made the team. They played 228 games over thirty-two states from 1971-1972. One year was enough and decided to become a coach.

In 2012 Cindy, as a member of the Red Heads organization, were inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Cindy went on to attend the College of Santa Fe where she competed in the Women's Recreation Association in basketball, volleyball, and tennis. In 1981, Cindy received her master's degree in physical education from NM Highlands University.

She started her teaching and coaching career in 1975 at SF St. Catherine's High School where she was the PE Department Head, cheerleader sponsor, intramural director, and head coach for girls' basketball, volleyball, softball, and track. She then went on to the Institute of American Indian Arts for one year as a PE teacher and head basketball and volleyball coach. From 1979-1985 Cindy was at SF Indian School and taught PE and coached basketball, volleyball, and softball, was the PE Dept. Head and Interim Athletic Director.

From 1985 to 2002, Cindy became a college professor and coached basketball and volleyball at NM Highlands University. She was the only Hispanic female Athletic Director in the nation from 2000-2002. Her basketball teams won the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) in 1992, 1994, and 2000. Her teams posted over 250 wins and they posted a winning record for twelve seasons in a row. She was named RMAC Coach of the Year in 1992.

In 2002, Cindy returned to high school basketball for three years at Pojoaque Valley High School. She then went back to Santa Fe Indian School from 2009-2013 where she won back-to-back AAA State Basketball Championships in 2010 and 2011 and her team was the State runner-up in 2012, losing by one point in the final. In 2014, she went to Espanola for four years where her basketball teams were 5A State Semi-Finalists for three years straight in 2015, 2016, and 2017. Her overall High School Basketball record is 377-105.

Cindy will return to coaching as the head girls basketball coach at Pojoaque High School for the upcoming 2023-2024. Her sports journey continues ...

