

NEW MEXICO SPORTS HALL OF FAME HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



FLO VALDEZ



Flo Valdez: This Roswell native has led volleyball teams to 985 match victories through 42 seasons – 367 matches won at Roswell High School and 618 matches won at El Paso Franklin High School – setting the standard for volleyball success in the Southwest.

Strangely, Valdez never actually played volleyball. But in order to coach her favorite sport, basketball, Valdez had to agree to coach volleyball. She later founded the founder of the Youth/South volleyball all-star matches and led Roswell High School to three state volleyball championships. Plus, she was the New Mexico High School Coaches Association Volleyball Coach of the Year in 1987 and 1993.

The last of 12 children born to Ramon and Carolina Valdez and a 1963 graduate of Roswell High School, she received her BS from Texas Woman's University and her MS from Eastern New Mexico University.

Her teaching career began at Tatum High School in 1976, where she taught physical education, sponsored the cheerleaders and began GAA teams in volleyball, basketball, softball, badminton and track. Valdez then spent a year at Hobbs High School and another year at Mesa Middle School, returning to Hobbs, which is where she happened to be when the state finally decided to "give girls a shot at competition." In 1973, Flo became known as "Coach Valdez" and began her coaching career with the "Eaglettes," coaching softball, basketball and track.

The fall of 1974, Valdez returned to Roswell High as varsity volleyball, basketball and track coach. For the next 22 years, Flo dedicated her life to Roswell High and all the young women athletes who helped build a tradition of excellence in women's athletics.

She headed to the "West Texas town of El Paso" in 1996, where she has been the varsity volleyball coach at Franklin High School ever since. She was inducted into the New Mexico High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor in 1998; she was an inductee of the 2009 El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame in 2009.



1993 AAAA STATE
VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONS
ROSWELL HIGH SCHOOL

