

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



Frank Castillo is one of the greatest high school basketball coaches ever in New Mexico. He is currently coaching in his 39th year, which ranks 4th all-time in "Years as a Head Coach". Frank is only one of four coaches in New Mexico history to coach over 1,000 games currently at 1,043. Frank's teams have won 688 games, which ranks him 6th all-time in state's history. Frank is the all-time leader in Albuquerque Public School history in "Years as a Head Coach" and "Wins". Frank has led his teams to 30 state tournaments, ranking 3rd all-time. His teams have played in 17 Final Fours, ranking 4th all-time and 11 championship games, winning five of them.

Frank's coaching journey started just wanting to be a "coach". He fell in love in coaching while coaching for 4 years in Albuquerque Parochial League. His doors would open over his career at two "new" Albuquerque Public School's high schools. First the door was opened for him by 2004 NMSHOF Inductee, Coach Joe Vivian, who would recommend Frank to Cibola High School's new Athletic Director, Jimmy Juarez to be a coach in 1974. Frank over the next four years would coach freshmen and junior varsity football; junior varsity basketball and freshmen baseball. In 1978, Frank became the Cougar's second head coach at the age of 26. Louie Yannoni, Cibola's first head coach recommended Frank as the head coach so he could continue what they had been building. Frank would coach the Cougars for the next eight years leading the Cougars to two state runner-ups 1985 and 1986; third place in 1981; four state tournament appearances; three district titles and a 120-89 overall record.

In 1986, Frank headed to the next new high school, La Cueva High School on the advice again of Coach Vivian and 1994 NMSHOF Inductee, Mickey Miller. He is the only head coach remaining on the Bear campus since 1986. His Bears teams have won five state championships - 1989, 1994, 2003, 2009 and 2010 - plus 18 district titles. His Bears teams had 25 consecutive winning seasons (1988-2013) ranks as the state's third best ever.