

HENRY O. SANCHEZ

Shooting baskets at the old AHS where his grandfather was a custodian led to Henry's playing for Babe Parenti at St. Mary's High School. The next important coach in his life was Rudy Cordova at St. Joseph's College where subsequently he was selected to the NAIA All American Basketball Team. He was later an assistant coach there for one year.

He went on to be the head basketball coach and athletic director at Our Lady of Sorrows from 1960-65. When the school closed, he became the head coach at Bernalillo High School. He created such a supportive furor that the town literally shut down for the games. His teams qualified for the state tournament 12 out of his 18 years at Bernalillo. They advanced to the title games on 5 occasions and won the State Title in 1977 and 1979.

In 1977 he was honored to coach the USA Team against the Russian National Team. After leaving Bernalillo High, he became the Head Basketball Coach at Highlands University. After coaching 13 seasons at HU, he had an impressive record of two 21-win seasons and helped to change the school's status from NAIA to NCAA. After leaving HU, he became Robertson High School's Coach.

He had many honors later. In '98: inducted into NMHS Coaches Hall of Honor, '99 Albuquerque Journal's Small College Coach of the Year; 2000 Federation State Coach of the Year; 2001 NHSACA Boys Basketball Coach of the Year; and in 2003 he became the 8th person from NM to be inducted into the NHSACA Hall of Fame! In 2002 he was elected Mayor of Las Vegas, NM, a position he still holds with pride.