

NEW MEXICO SPORTS HALL OF FAME HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE




HENRY TAFOYA



Henry Tafoya: Born and raised in Albuquerque, "Henry T" was a three-sport athlete at Sandia High School, where he was a quarterback and defensive back for the Matadors, as well as an All-City baseball player and the Matadors' point guard on the hardwood.

While attending UNM, he became the director of the Old Town Boys Club. Having a great youth basketball program gave him a great knowledge of officiating. It was during this time he was invited to visit heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali at his training camp at Deerlake, Pa. This incredible opportunity led to an exclusive interview of the champ on television, which aired successive nights on KOAT-TV. Soon after, station manager Max Sklower offered him a job as a week-end sportscaster at KOAT.

Six months later he was offered a job at KOB-TV, where he became the television voice of the University of New Mexico, sports director and weekday sportscaster. After seven years at KOB, he moved back to KOAT-TV where he continued as the voice of NMSU and he also anchored television sportscasts. In 1997, Henry and his son, Aaron started the one of the first sports talk radio station  the country on KDEF-1150 AM.

In 2013, Tafoya joined ESPN Radio (101.7-FM) to do a weekly call-in show on Saturdays.

"I'm just grateful for the opportunity to work with people who really understand radio," Tafoya said of ESPN Radio President Joe O'Neill. "He understands how to do radio, and has one of the best radio sports stations in the country. I'm honored they've asked me to be a part of it."

"As a sports broadcaster for 41 years on radio, he has broadcast thousands of games, from Little League to professional sports. While this agenda was very gratifying he put other aspirations on the shelf. ... Now on a different level, he is pursuing a television and radio play-by-play career  his next exciting challenge," lauded O'Neill.

Tafoya is a former winner of the New Mexico "Sportscaster of the Year" award and a two-time winner of the Play-by-Play award from the New Mexico's Broadcasters Association.

