



L.G. & Cooper Henderson – Artesia HS Football Coaches

L.G. Henderson established Artesia as a nationally recognized high school football program that included a No. 6 national ranking in the late 1960s. His organization and style allowed Artesia High School to compete in the New Mexico big-school division and changed high school football in southern New Mexico. L.G.'s teams won five state championships from 1964 to 1969. His six-year, five-title run during this time period included winning streaks of 26 games, 17 games and 16 games. Over the course of his 14-year tenure at Artesia, L.G. amassed 110 wins and a winning percentage of .718.

L.G. remained the all-time winningest coach in Artesia football history until early 2001, when his winning record was eclipsed by his son, Cooper Henderson.

Cooper Henderson's name is synonymous with championships, winning, integrity, fairness, innovation, high-octane offenses and hard work. He started his head football coaching tenure at Ruidoso High in 1985, and spent five seasons in Ruidoso before becoming the head coach of the Artesia Bulldogs.

At the two high schools, Cooper's teams have won an incredible 13 state championships. No other high school football coach in New Mexico has ever won more. He is labeled as a great football mind and known for his innovations – especially on offense. Though coming from a small school, many of his players are statewide leaders in passing, receiving, scoring, and other offensive statistical categories.

According to his peers across the state, though Coach Henderson receives an abundance of recognition for his abilities as a football coach, it is his personal relationships that are the most telling. One coach stated, "He is the total package...he makes you a better man. He is concerned about his boys as players and as students. His focus is to prepare his young men for the next game or for life after the game."

Coach Henderson is a great leader in high school athletics in the state of New Mexico and has served as president of the NMHSCA and on the board of directors of the NMADA.