

# NEW MEXICO SPORTS HALL OF FAME

## HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE



# MARV SANDERS



**M**arv Sanders: Coach Sanders, a 1960 graduate of Western New Mexico University, has bounced around more than a basketball when it comes to coaching in the Land of Enchantment. Only two coaches, Ralph Tasker and Pete Shock, have amassed more victories, but Sanders won titles at three stops, and at three classifications: Hatch Valley (1964), Silver High (1975) and Farmington High (1982, '86). Sanders "retired" in 2003, completing a 41-year career with 787 victories, about 20 wins per season. FHS honors him annually with its Marv Sanders Tournament every December. In 2010, Sanders was inducted into the WNMU Athletic Hall of Fame; as a Mustang, he'd twice been named an all-conference basketball player. "After graduation (from WNMU), I went back to Indiana for two years, but after going three weeks without seeing the sun, I made the decision to make my way back to New Mexico."

His first coaching job was in Indiana, at Mentone High School, but he returned to coach at Hatch Valley High School, where he won the school's first-ever Class B state championship in 1964, his second year at Hatch.

Two years later he was an assistant coach at Alamogordo under a former WNMU teammate, Dick Drangmeister; he then became head coach at Silver High for nine years, winning the Colts' first-ever championship in 1975.

Moving to Portales, his team made it to the state finals in 1976; he moved on to Lovington for a four-year stint, including an overtime loss to Bernalillo in the 1979 finals.

He headed to Farmington in 1980 for the better part of the next 23 years — winning a championship in his second year there when his son, Mike, scored the winning free throws with five seconds left. He won again in 1987 with future UNM Lobo great Rob Robbins on board.

In his last year with the Scorpions, the team made the finals again, losing to Kirtland Central.

In the 2014-15 season — he said it was his last — Sanders was an assistant coach at Capitan High.

