

RAY GIANNINI

Ray Giannini, a native of Albuquerque, was an outstanding prep athlete earning letters in football, basketball, and baseball at St. Mary's High School where he graduated in 1959. As an All-State fullback, he played in the North-South All Star Football game. He attended Notre Dame University and later graduated from UNM.

Ray began his coaching and teaching career at Our Lady of Fatima. In 1970 he moved on to St. Pius X High School as a math teacher and Head Football coach. In addition, he served as Athletic Director (1975-89) and Head Track coach (1970-76).

At St. Pius he built a football dynasty and became a coaching legend known for his ability to inspire and motivate. In 19 seasons, his highly-ranked teams won 73% of their games and qualified for the State Playoffs 11 times. His 1973 squad crowned a 12-0 season with the AAA State Championship. He was named UPI Coach of the Year in 1973 & '75 and Albuquerque Tribune Coach of the Year in 1983 & '85. Under Ray's leadership, his players were routinely selected for All-State and All-District honors.

Hundreds of his former students and players attended his funeral services in January, 2000, to show their respect for the man who impacted their lives as their mentor, counselor, father figure and caring friend.

To honor the man and his memory, The Ray Giannini Memorial Endowment Scholarship Fund was established to provide scholarships for deserving St. Pius students. More than \$50,000 has been contributed — a great testimony to a man who played an important role in many lives and in the history of St. Pius. A Ray Giannini Memorial Football Award is also presented annually at St. Pius to honor the football player who best represents what Ray looked for in an athlete: dedication, ability, academics, leadership and citizenship.