

## JOE F. VIVIAN

Joe F. Vivian's legacy will be as a teacher and coach, but his accomplishments as a player in football and wrestling are what opened the door to a star-studded career. Joe's student athletic career began at Washington Jr. High School, and it started a career which has led him to be a giant among men. He was named to the All-City Football team as a ninth grader and this opened the door for him to enrich his sports career as a player and coach. He responded by working diligently to being named 1959 All-City and a consensus All-Star football player as a guard for the AHS Bulldogs, as well as becoming a two-time state champion in wrestling.

He opted for a UNM football scholarship over an offer from the University of Wyoming. At UNM, he not only lettered 3 years in football but also distinguished himself as a two-year letterman in wrestling for the Lobos.

He played on the victorious 1961 Aviation Bowl team which was honored in 1990 by being inducted into the UNM Hall of Honor. He was also a member of the 1962 Western Athletic Championship team.

He graduated from UNM with a BS degree in 1964 and his Alma Mater, AHS, welcomed him back as a teacher, head wrestling coach, and assistant football coach. This opportunity enabled him to do what he does best, and that was to mold champions. In his 33 year wrestling coaching career at AHS, Manzano, Cibola, La Cueva, and Albuquerque Academy, he led his teams to 300 wins - 90 loses and one tie; but more impressive, he coached 31 state and 8 All American wrestling champions!

Joe was rewarded for his ability to bring out the best in young men by being named New Mexico Wrestling Coach of the Year four times: 1964, 1967, 1992 and 2000. He was also honored by being named to the Cibola High School Hall of Fame in 1988. In 2000, he received one of the highest honors in high school athletics. He was named "Coach of the Year" by the National Federation of Coaches Association. Then, in 2001, UNM inducted him into the UNM Hall of Honor.

Joe and Betty Vivian have been married 39 years. They have 3 wonderful children, Beverly, Teri and Joe Ray, and 6 grandchildren, Steven, Michelle, Lindsey, Lauren, Samantha and Baylee. Joe is the proud son of Joe and LaLa Vivian, both still living.

Finally, through all of the years of accomplishments, it cannot go without saying that Joe has maintained a commitment and dedication to his family, to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Special Olympics, and to the Meals on Wheels program which he has served unselfishly.

Joe's dignity speaks for itself. He is truly a legend.