



Ray Rodriguez

Date of Birth: October 25, 1965 **Place of Birth:** El Paso, Texas

Ramon “Ray” Rodriguez Gallardo is a distinguished educator, championship athlete, and internationally recognized basketball coach whose career spans over three decades of excellence in athletics, leadership, and mentorship. From record-breaking performances as a player to championship leadership as a coach and athletic director, Coach Rodriguez has built a legacy defined by discipline, passion, and service to student-athletes.

Education

- **Elementary School:** Beall Elementary School
- **Middle School:** Guillen Middle School
- **High School:** Bowie High School – El Paso, Texas
- **University:** New Mexico Highlands University (1986–1990)

At New Mexico Highlands University, Rodriguez was an athletic and academic scholarship recipient and became one of the most accomplished players in program history.

Current Professional Roles

- Physical Education Teacher
- Varsity Boys Basketball Coach
- Harmony Public Schools – West Texas Athletics Director
- Assistant Coach – Mexico Men’s National Basketball Team
- Assistant Coach – Mexico U17 Girls National Basketball Team

Athletic Career

BowieHighSchool–El Paso, TX

Basketball

- Varsity Team Captain (1982–1984)
- 3-Year Varsity Letterman
- All-District Honorable Mention (1982)
- All-District First Team (1983, 1984)
- All-City First Team (1983, 1984)
- District Leading Scorer (1984)
- Athlete of the Year (1984)

Track & Field

- 2-Year Varsity Letterman
- District Champion – 400m (1984)
- District Champion – 1600m Relay (1984)
- All-City Champion – 1600m Relay (1984)
- Regional Championships – 4th Place (1600m Relay, 1984)

Leadership

- Student Council Member (1984)

New Mexico Highlands University (1986–1990)

- Athletic & Academic Scholarship Recipient
- First Team All-Conference (1987–1990)
- Team Captain (1988–1990)
- All-American (1990)
- All-Time Leading Scorer (1990–Present)
- Tournament Champion (1989–1990, Pueblo, Colorado)
- Inducted into NMHU Hall of Fame (2009)

International & National Representation

- Summer Pro League – Loyola Marymount University (1989), All-Star Select Team
- Represented Mexico at the World University Games – Duisburg, Germany (1989) – 11th in the World
- Mexico Men's National Team Player – Defeated Magic Johnson Tour Team (1998)
- Assistant Coach – Centro Basket, Cancun (2008)
- Assistant Coach – Mexico U17 Girls National Team (2025)
- Represented Team Mexico at the FIMBA World Championships – Ticino, Switzerland (July 2025) – 5th Place (34 Countries)

Professional Playing Career (15 Seasons)

- 1990–Limoneros de Colima (Quarterfinalist)
- 1991–1993 – Dorados de Chihuahua (Finalist)
- 1994–1995 – Dragones de Tijuana (Semifinalist)
- 1996 – Centauros de Chihuahua
 - League Champions
 - League MVP
- 1998 – Leñadores de Durango

- 1999–2000 – Indios de Juárez
- 2001–2003 – Gallos de Pelea, Cd. Juárez
 - League Champions (2003)
- 2003–2007 – Halcones UV, Veracruz
 - League Champions (2005)

Additional Professional Honors

- Jersey #5 Retired – Halcones UV (2008)
- Assistant Coach – Halcones UV (2008, League Champions)
- Director of Basketball Academy – Halcones UV (2008–2009)
- 6-Time All-Star Selection
- 25th Anniversary LNBP Historic Player Selection

Coaching & Leadership Honors

- TAAF Hall of Fame Inductee (2005)
- Hispanic Athletic Association Hall of Fame Inductee (2015)

Harmony Science Academy / Texas

Texas Christian Athletic League (TCAL)

- State Semifinalist (2014)

Southwest Athletic Conference Association (SWACA)

- Conference Champions (2017)

University Interscholastic League (UIL)

- District 1–4A Champions (2022, 2025)
- Bi-District Champions (2022)
- Area Qualifier (2022)
- District 1–4A Coach of the Year (2022, 2025)

March 10, 2026

Hall of Fame Selection Committee
El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame
El Paso, Texas

Dear Members of the Selection Committee:

It is my great honor to recommend **Ramon "Ray" Rodriguez** for induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. I have had the privilege of knowing Ray since 1985, as a participant in the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) Men's "Six Feet and Under" Men's Basketball State Tournaments. During that time I have witnessed firsthand the extraordinary impact that Ray had on that division of TAAF Basketball. I was privileged to serve as State Commissioner of that division for thirty (30) years.

During his career with TAAF, Ray was one of the most accomplished athletes in the program's history. Among his many achievements were:

A six (6)-time State Tournament Champion, with the El Paso "Wilson Optical" team and with the El Paso "All Sports" team.

An eleven (11)-time All-Tournament selection, including **twice being selected as Most Valuable Player**, of the State Tournament.

Ray was nominated and inducted in to the **TAAF Hall of Fame** in 2005, for his achievements at the TAAF State Tournament level.

Beyond the statistics and accolades, however, what truly set Ray apart was his dedication, discipline, and leadership both on and off the court. Ray consistently demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship and competitiveness in the most fast-paced division of TAAF Men's Basketball.

For these reasons, I strongly and enthusiastically support the nomination of **Ray Rodriguez** for induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. Thank you for allowing me to recommend Ray for this prestigious honor. I cannot think of a better representative of El Paso, and of TAAF Basketball, than Ray Rodriguez.

If further information is needed regarding Ray, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.



Doug Kratz
State Commissioner (retired)
TAAF Men's Six Feet and Under Basketball
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San Marcos TX 78666
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March 4, 2026

Eric Pichardo

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El Paso, TX 79904

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Re: Ramon "Ray" Rodriguez

It is with great pleasure that I am writing this letter to recommend Mr. Ramon "Ray" Rodriguez to the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. I have known Coach Rodriguez for approximately 30 years and can truly attest to his great qualities, skills, integrity, and unusual talents and accomplishments.

From 1984, very few local individuals have accomplished as much as Ramon has when it comes to the game of basketball. As a prep star at Bowie High School, he led the district in scoring and had accolades such All-City, All-District, and was named athlete of the year in 1984. He also was a very decorated track star while at Bowie High School. This was very good foreshadowing for what was about to happen in the years to come...

His prep career spring boarded him to become one of the few athletes from the Bowie area to receive an athletic/academic scholarship to college. Ray attended New Mexico Highlands University from 1986-1990. While at NMHU, he was a three time All-Conference from 1987-1990; ending with being named All American in 1990. He was also Tournament Champion in 1989 and 1990. In addition, he is the all-time leading scorer for the university and was chosen team captain in 1988, 1989, and 1990, a true testament to his leadership qualities which would lead to his high achieving basketball coach.

Furthermore, his stellar college career opened an extremely unique opportunity that not many local student athletes get: a professional basketball career in Mexico. His professional playing career spanned for an amazing 17 years, including several league championships and a Most Valuable Player Award in 1997. He was a 6 time All Star Selection and has had his jersey retired by Halcones de Veracruz. Ramon was also the director of a Basketball Academy in Veracruz in 2008-2009.

Ray has also had the distinction of representing Mexico in international play. He participated in the World University Games in Duisburg, Germany where he led Team Mexico to an 11th place finish. In addition, he represented Mexico at the FIMBA World Championships in Ticino, Switzerland and led the team to a 5th place finish out of 34 countries.

His career is currently in the coaching stage where his accolades and awards keep stacking. He has coached at the international level with Team Mexico Girls National Team (U17) and has also coached Team Mexico Men's National Team. He has coached the Harmony Boys Basketball program into multiple district and bi-district championships.

March 10, 2026

El Paso Athletic Hall Of Fame Committee

It gives me great pleasure to write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Ray Rodriguez for consideration for induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. In my 11 years of coaching boy's basketball in the El Paso Independent School District, Ray Rodriguez was by far my best athlete. During his 3 years on the varsity team, he not only lettered every year but was also named team captain by his teammates. He also was named to the All-District Team 3 years, All-City 2 years, Athlete Of the Year, and lead the District in scoring in 1984. It is also worth noting that Ray also had a stellar career in Track and Field at Bowie High School. He continued his basketball career at New Mexico Highlands University where he excelled and had achieved many honors. He concluded his career by playing 15 seasons at the professional level in Mexico.

Ray returned to his hometown of El Paso and began to pursue a career in education with an emphasis on Physical Education. This would later lead to his true love of coaching basketball. He is now coaching boy's high school basketball at Harmony Science Academy. This past year I went twice to watch him coach his team. I was never more proud of Ray. I knew his players were not only going to learn how to play the sport but also learn the values of hard work, sacrifice, and teamwork. Values that can impact a young player for a lifetime. I hope I have been able to shed some light on not only Ray the basketball player, but more importantly on the impact Ray is currently having on the young minds of tomorrow's leaders.

Respectfully,

Robert A. Bransford



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Harmony Science Academy El Paso

To the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

It is with great pride and the highest level of professional respect that I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of Coach Ray Rodriguez in support of his candidacy for induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

Coach Rodriguez has devoted many years of exceptional service to athletics and education in El Paso, leaving a lasting impact on students, coaches, and athletic programs across the district. In his roles as District Athletic Coach, District Athletics Coordinator, Physical Education Teacher, and Boys Basketball Coach, he has consistently demonstrated outstanding leadership, vision, and commitment to excellence.

Throughout his career, Coach Rodriguez has led and strengthened district athletic programs, setting high standards for competitiveness, sportsmanship, and student development. Under his leadership, teams have achieved multiple district championships, and athletic programs have grown in both performance and structure. His ability to guide coaches, develop systems, and sustain successful programs has played a critical role in advancing district athletics.

Beyond championships and accolades, Coach Rodriguez is deeply committed to mentoring student-athletes and fellow coaches. He believes athletics should serve as a foundation for teaching discipline, accountability, teamwork, and resilience. His influence extends far beyond the court, as many former athletes and coaches credit him with being a pivotal influence on their personal and professional growth.

Coach Rodriguez is widely respected for his professionalism, deep knowledge of human performance, and his tireless dedication to serving the El Paso community. His career reflects not only athletic success but also integrity, leadership, and a genuine passion for developing young people through sports.

For these reasons, I strongly and enthusiastically recommend Coach Ray Rodriguez for induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. His many years of accomplishments and his lasting contributions to district athletics make him exceptionally deserving of this honor.

Please contact me at (915) 859 4620 or mcanbegi@harmonytx.org if you require further information.

Sincerely,

Mahmut Canbegi
Principal

