

Price's

"GIVE 'EM FIVE"
El Paso
Athletic
Hall of Fame
49th Annual
Awards
Banquet
A FUND FOR KIDS



**Tómas Rivera Center
University of Texas at El Paso
Wednesday, May 5th, 2004**



**Program for the 2004
El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Banquet
May 5th, 2004**

Welcome.....Steve Hill, Host
Pledge of Allegiance.....Steve Hill
Invocation.....Pastor David Grousnick –
Senior Minister, First Christian Church
President’s Message.....Bob Nitzburg

INTRODUCTION OF 2004 HONOREES

John Folmer - Athlete
Tony Perea - Athlete
Jr. Vicencio - Athlete
Bobby Elliott - Coach
Chris Forbes - Coach
Dr. Billy M. Dickey - Sports Medicine
Jack McGrath - Sports Officiating
Jeff Limberg - Media
Marvin J. Nicchio - Posthumous Award

DINNER

**PRESENTATION OF 2004 EL PASO ATHLETIC
HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

Living Athlete - John Folmer
Living Athlete - Tony Perea
Living Athlete - Jr. Vicencio
Coach - Bobby Elliott
Coach - Chris Forbes
Sports Medicine - Dr. Billy M. Dickey
Sports Officiating - Jack McGrath
Sports Media - Jeff Limberg
Posthumous Award - Marvin J. Nicchio

**PRICE’S-FRANK DAVIS/WHATABURGER
OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES 2003-2004
PRESENTERS**

El Paso I.S.D.*: Kenneth Owen – Athletic Director
Ysleta I.S.D.: Pat O’Neill – Athletic Director
Socorro I.S.D.: Ron Leiman – Athletic Director
Area County Schools: Wayne Thornton – El Paso Parks and Recreation Director
Clint I.S.D.: Rene Aguilar – Athletic Director
San Elizario I.S.D.: Bernie Del Hierro – Athletic Director

District 1-5A Outstanding Female & Male Athletes

Jordan Bostic, Franklin – Volleyball
Ryan Darnell, Coronado – Football

District 1-4A Outstanding Female & Male Athletes

Nikki Gomez, Irvin – Multiple Sports
Thaddeus Chase, Burges – Football

District 2-4A Outstanding Female & Male Athletes

Jennifer Flores, Riverside – Multiple Sports
Luis Carlos Gutierrez, San Elizario – Multiple Sports

Area Schools Outstanding Female & Male Athletes

Claudia Castillo – Father Yermo
Ryan O’Leary – Immanuel Baptist Christian School

*Independent School District

Dr. Billy M. Dickey Sports Medicine



UTEP's magical 2004 WAC Championship basketball season found him sitting next to legendary Miners Hall of Fame Coach Don Haskins in the tunnel directly behind the basket. It was a seat UTEP was happy to give him in light of his outstanding, lifetime contributions to the school's athletic department. It seems perfectly natural that Dr. Billy M. Dickey is seated next to Coach Haskins in

their retirement days. After all, Dr. Dickey sat on the same bench with Coach Haskins for 34 years in his professional role as UTEP's team physician. Dr. Dickey was proud to be known as UTEP's team physician. He was honored to represent the University fulfilling his professional duties with great distinction. No physician of Dr. Dickey's caliber will ever come UTEP's way again. An explanation of that last sentence is necessary. No explanation will be necessary afterward. Upon graduation from the University of Texas Medical School in 1965, 31 year old Billy Dickey signed a contract to work for Dr. W.P. Curtis as a staff Urologist in his large practice in El Paso, Texas. Dr. Dickey had never visited West Texas or El Paso prior to signing a contract to work for Dr. Curtis. He fell in love with El Paso's friendly people, the beautiful weather, and the peaceful, laid back lifestyle. This proud Texas Longhorn also did not know anything about Texas Western College either. Dr. Curtis was one of three doctors dealing with the Texas Western College Athletic Department in 1965 providing medical services. Curtis was frustrated with an ongoing situation concerning TWC. He acted as the school's team doctor, but was not being paid for this work. Veteran TWC trainer Ross Moore told Dr. Curtis with regret, "I am sorry to inform you that the Athletic Department cannot pay you. We don't have any money." Moore was not happy about asking Curtis and the other two physicians to work for free. He was deeply embarrassed about it! He had to put himself on the line as a professional athletic trainer begging the trio of doctors to continue providing free medical services to the school's athletic teams. Enter Dr. Billy M. Dickey! Curtis turned the TWC problem over to him saying, "Go see what you can work out with Ross Moore and the School." Dr. Dickey hit it off with Ross Moore. They became fast friends. Dickey loved being involved in college athletics and Moore felt comfortable working with him under such dire financial conditions TWC's Athletic Department operated under. Together they reached a solution. Texas Western would provide free tickets to physicians willing to work with the department in exchange for free medical services. It was one of the greatest bargains TWC ever agreed to! Also one of the most lopsided agreements the school would enjoy. Think about it! Free tickets for free medical services! One season ticket to every TWC athletic event would have cost a few hundred dollars a year, while one injured athlete might easily cost a thousand dollars or so. The deal the doctors worked out with TWC in 1965 was incredible! Beyond belief. Guess what? It still exists today for the most part thanks to some very generous doctors. Dr. Dickey used his work with the UTEP Athletic Department to get the stress his large practice caused out of his system. Down deep inside he was also a fierce athletic competitor dating back to his days at Palestine High School in east Texas. For the first six years as the school's team doctor, he was on the bench or sidelines as the Miners won the National Championship in basketball, and two Sun Bowl football games. He was thrilled to be a part of it. He also found out that the title of "Team Doctor" was more than just a catch phrase. He was the number one "Team Doctor" spending more and more time at UTEP. To meet the school's needs he had to put his professional reputation on the line in talking other doctors to come on board with him. He succeeded wildly beyond his dreams, although the advent of Women's Title IX Athletics forced him to reach even farther into the medical community to recruit the finest Women's Family Practice doctors in the city. Every fall, each UTEP male and female athlete underwent a full physical, including stress tests administered by Dr. Dickey and his staff of associated team doctors, assisted by his wife, Lydia, a licensed RN. According to the Western Athletic Conference 10,000 men and women competed for UTEP from 1965 until 1998 when Dr. Dickey retired. A full physical perhaps cost \$400.00 as a ballpark figure. Alone, just alone, that's over \$4.0 million dollars right there in medical costs donated for free to UTEP. That's just the tip of the iceberg. No one can put a price tag on the donation Dr. Dickey made to the university or the donations his associates have made. It runs millions and millions of dollars. As years went by, 60 physicians in 18 medical fields joined him on the UTEP Medical Staff. That will be his lasting gift and legacy as the UTEP Team Doctor. Tonight, the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame proudly welcomes Dr. Billy M. Dickey to its' roster. No one could ever love UTEP and the City of El Paso more than he has.

Bobby Elliott Coach



Some people are born into this world to become doctors, lawyers, or engineers. There are those individuals among us that are cut out to be soldiers, policemen, firemen, judges or actors. It was Robert Elliott's destiny to become an educator. A teacher and a coach. And a great one at that! His professional career spanned 36 years and was an era of excellence, whether it was in the classroom, or on the sidelines working a football or basketball game. Bobby Elliott excelled! Anything else was unsatisfactory! The Midland, Texas native decided to make El Paso his home after

graduating from then Texas Western College with a degree in Health and Physical Education in 1962. Bobby's second teaching field was in science. Most young coaches started working in elementary schools gaining priceless experience teaching kids how to play football, basketball, or run on the track. Bobby Elliott was no different, coaching at Travis Elementary School and Bassett Junior High School from 1962 to 1966. However, while at TWC Elliott got a world class education in Kinesiology and in the Physiology of Exercise. His knowledge of the human anatomy and the lessons he learned from TWC's legendary trainer Ross Moore allowed him to make a career change to start the 1966 school year. Irvin High School needed an athletic trainer in 1966. Elliott applied for the position and won the job finding a home for the next 16 years of his life. The transition from working as a coach and becoming a school's athletic trainer was startling. All of a sudden Coach Elliott found himself working seven days a week and 70 hours a week in charge of the athletic health of perhaps 150 or 200 Irvin student-athletes. Athletic trainers also had no professional assistants. Elliott was the man! The only help he received was from the students he was teaching Rudimentary Athletic Training. An athletic trainer's life was really complicated because each sport overlapped into another sport. Elliott found himself working a football game and a basketball game all in the same day. It was a tough, fast-paced job. J.D. Partridge took over the struggling Rockets Football program the same year Bobby Elliott became Irvin's Athletic Trainer, 1966. Partridge found himself short on players and short on assistant football coaches. He knew Bobby Elliott had coached football at the Grade School and Junior High School level. Partridge turned to Elliott for help, managing to talk an already over worked man into coaching the defensive backs at Irvin. Bobby Elliott's legend was born in 1966! How one man was able to fulfill his duties as the Team's Athletic Trainer and coach the game at the same time was beyond belief! Elliott earned respect citywide from other coaches for being able to perform two very different jobs at the same time. The taxpayers in the El Paso Independent School District got quite a bargain in Coach Elliott. He was a fulltime Science Teacher, Athletic Trainer and Defensive Backs Coach rolled into one. Only a great man could have pulled this off! It was a shame Elliott was not paid three salaries for working three fulltime jobs, instead of the one he received each month of the year. Amazingly, Elliott was able to maintain this breakneck pace for five years working as a Teacher, Athletic Trainer and as a Defensive Backfield Coach. His work load would have wiped out most men or women, but Bobby Elliott was the exception to the rule. He was truly a great educator and coach. Finally in 1971, Elliott gave up his Trainer's job devoting his time to football and his first love, Track and Field. By 1977, Irvin was getting clobbered in football on a weekly basis. EPISD Athletic Director Armando Gutierrez hired former New Mexico star sprinter and football star Tony Shaw to turn the Rockets around. Shaw hired Bobby Elliott as his new Defensive Coordinator. After much discussion with several college coaches Bobby installed the Split 4 Defense, which pleased the tough minded, hard nosed Shaw. The Split 4 Defense was designed to stop the opposing team's running game with what amounted to an eight man front. This defensive scheme also applied pressure to opposing QB's trying to throw the ball. Once Tony Shaw was able to get the good athletes Irvin had to play football, he and coach Elliott rode the Split 4 Defense for 159 wins and eight District Championships over a 25 year time span. Today, many teams around El Paso and the state of Texas run the Split 4 including present day Irvin Coach Leon Stewart, who loves the system. Stewart's Rockets won the 2002 District 1-4A Championship and earned a playoff spot last year. Elliott's reputation as a top flight football coach carried over to Track and Field as a coach and as a Track Official. He proved to be particularly adept at coaching high jumpers, pole vaulter, and long jumpers. These field events were the most difficult to coach, but Elliott turned out many champions at Irvin as an Assistant Coach and then later as the Head Track Coach at Andress. For 17 years, Bobby officiated over 100 UIL high school track meets as the Clerk of the Course at the local, regional and state levels. At the collegiate level Coach Elliott has worked almost every UTEP Track Meet and was honored to be the Clerk of the Course for the 1993 and 1997 WAC Track and Field Championships. He made his mark as a Consultant and as an Administrator for a decade before retiring in 1997. He helped to write the EPISD's Drug Free Program, Re-Instated Tennis into the high school curriculum in physical education classes, set up CPR Certification Classes for all coaches as required by The Texas Education Agency, put running back into EPISD's P.E. Classes, and devised a program where the District's Outstanding Athletes made trips to the District's Elementary and Junior High Schools to meet younger and upcoming athletes in a Mentoring Program. Today, in May of 2004 Coach Elliott spends some of his retirement time as a Volunteer Coach teaching aspiring young high jumpers, pole vaulters and long jumpers the finer points of each event. He works with his son Chris' athletes at Chapin, and at Irvin. He is a great motivator in addition to being a great coach. His advice to the youngsters he works with is simple, "Get a college education and then make the most of it working hard every day."

John Folmer Athlete

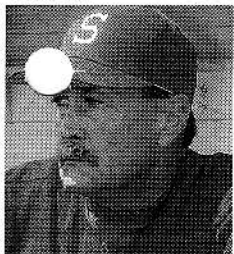


Native El Pasoan John Folmer has enjoyed an incurable love affair with the game of football for almost fifty years, first as a stand-out player, and secondly as a sports administrator, and sports contributor. The great game of football has been good for John Folmer and

John Folmer has been good to football over the last 45 years at every chance he has been given to show his love for the game. Our story begins in 1958 at El Paso's Ysleta High School, where the 14 year old John Folmer put on the school's Maroon and White uniform as a JV Offensive Guard. Folmer made the Ysleta Varsity Football team in 1959, as a 15 year old sophomore, playing Linebacker for legendary Coach, J. W. "Red" Coates. It was the beginning of a brilliant career. Over the next three seasons, Ysleta won three straight District Championships posting a 28-3-1 record. Ysleta totally dominated El Paso high school football winning every game played against rival Sun City teams. In fact, only Abilene, Wichita Falls, and San Angelo Central defeated Ysleta. The three losses occurred in the Texas Class 4A Playoffs. During Ysleta's three year championship run, John Folmer was a first team All-District Linebacker in 1960 and in 1961. At the end of John's junior season in 1960, Ysleta met Odessa Permian for the very first time in the Texas State Playoffs. The game was played at Ysleta's Hutchins Stadium and was the first game of many, 70, for Odessa Permian in the Texas State Playoffs. Ysleta won the playoff game 31-21 to advance to the State Quarterfinals. Permian went back to Odessa with a 10 point loss, which was hard to explain to some of its' overzealous fans. Today, 44 years and counting, only Ysleta has defeated Odessa Permian in a football game. The Permian Panthers own a 50-1-1 record against El Paso schools. The 1960 game was a playoff loss, totally unacceptable in Odessa. John Folmer recovered two game saving fumbles against Permian sealing the Panthers doom. People in Odessa still talk about that 1960 loss to Ysleta as if it was a bad dream or a nightmare. Ysleta, when injury free, was a better football team in 1961. The Indians were ranked a high as 7th in the AP and UPI polls. Ysleta's rock-ribbed defensive unit did not allow a point to be scored against it, for the Indians first six games, lead by LB John Folmer. Ysleta allowed only 273 yards total offense, combined in six games. Sadly, Ysleta could not stay healthy, losing several key starters to injury. The Indians still won the District 14A Championship, despite many season ending injuries. District 24A's powerful San Angelo Central Bobcats quickly bounced Ysleta out of the playoffs 28-7. John Folmer had a tremendous senior season intercepting seven passes, five of which were returned for defensive touchdowns. He was a quick, powerful LB, dishing out punishing tackles to the unfortunate ball carriers that ran into him. Folmer picked off 11 interceptions in his Ysleta career, along with 300 to 400 career tackles. As a result of his stellar play, Folmer was recruited by every major football playing college. He signed with Arizona State, sold on legendary Coach Frank Kush's reputation as a tough minded football coach. Kush did not disappoint him. He was a stern disciplinarian as a coach, but he was one of the winningest college football coaches of all-time. Folmer played LB at Arizona State for three seasons and Kush turned out an All-WAC product. As a sophomore, Folmer played on an Arizona State team ranked 13th in the nation with an 8-1 record. The next year Arizona State sported a 7-3 record. The 1965 season was a special one for John Folmer. He was elected as a Sun Devils Captain. Arizona State won eight games and in his final game as a collegian against arch-rival Arizona, Folmer picked off three Wildcat passes, including one for a TD. He was credited with making 14 solo tackles against Arizona. In order to stay in the game, John Folmer became associated with key Sun Bowl officials. He has been the Chairman of the Sun Bowl's Football Selection Committee for the last 26 years and has been instrumental in landing some of the biggest college football powers to play in the game. For his work with the Sun Bowl, John was named as a "Legend of the Sun Bowl" last year. He is only the third volunteer Sun Bowl Worker to receive such an award.

2004 El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Honorees

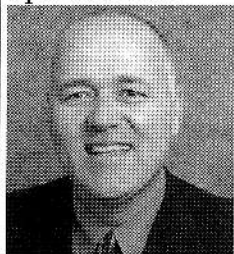
Chris Forbes Coach



He has created a dynasty as the Head Baseball Coach of the Socorro High School Bulldogs. He may be the very best High School Baseball Coach in the state of Texas. He is a better human being

than he is a coach, which is saying a lot. Chris Forbes has coached baseball at Socorro High School for 19 seasons, dating back to 1986. He did not inherit a championship caliber baseball team after the 1985 season was over. Since then Forbes has built Socorro into the top high school program in El Paso and in west Texas winning over 400 games and 10 District Championships. Socorro has made 14 appearances in the Texas High School Baseball Playoffs winning area championships in 1991, 1998, 1999, and 2003. Forbes has guided the Bulldogs to championships in the regional quarterfinals, semi-finals, and finals in 1998. His club reached the regional quarterfinals last year. The El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame inducted him in 1999 for his outstanding coaching job. Tonight, the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame is proud to enshrine Chris Forbes in its 49th class of nominees. Forbes is more than just a baseball coach in the close knit community of Socorro, Texas. He is a vital teacher and coach that is looked upon for help and hope within the school's boundary lines. He has touched thousands of lives as Socorro's Baseball Coach during his era as a teacher, and a coach, dating back to 1981 when he served the school as an assistant football and baseball coach. He has helped adults, teen-agers, and children in Socorro with their problems in his role as the Head Baseball Coach at the school. In putting together and sustaining a dynastic baseball program people in Socorro look upon Forbes as a man that can make a difference in a student's life. He has had a positive influence in the community by bringing winning baseball to Socorro. People want to be part of the program as fans because Forbes wins baseball games. Youngsters want to play for Forbes because he makes baseball fun and because Socorro wins championships. Over the years, 11 of his players have gone on to play professional baseball. Most notably, Forbes turned out Shortstop Omar Quintanilla who played for the Bulldogs from 1998 thru 2000. Quintanilla was a superb defensive shortstop and a clutch hitter leading the Bulldogs to three district championships and the Texas Regional Championship game in 1998. Quintanilla's talent on the baseball field was not lost on Texas Longhorns coach Augie Garrido, who signed him to a national letter of intent after the 2000 season. Omar did not disappoint him earning college All-American honors in 2001, 2002 and 2003. Quintanilla helped Texas win the 2002 National Championship playing air tight defense at shortstop and crushing the baseball for big hits driving in his teammates for critical runs. Texas reached the 2003 College World Series, but fell short on its bid to win a second national title. Quintanilla was selected to the College World Series All-Tournament Team. The Texas star shortstop was drafted in the first round of the 2003 Major League Baseball draft by the Oakland Athletics. Quintanilla decided to forego his senior season at Texas signing a lucrative contract with A's. Clearly, Quintanilla is the future shortstop in Oakland, especially since the A's traded All-Star shortstop Miguel Tejada in the off-season to eventually make way for him. The future big leaguer learned how to play the game at Socorro High School playing for Chris Forbes. Many youngsters will be trying to play like Quintanilla as they battle for spots on the Big Red baseball team coached by Chris Forbes. Chris Forbes symbolizes pride, excellence, winning and hope for a better future in Socorro as the coach of the Bulldogs. Teachers and coaches like Forbes only come along once in a lifetime. Socorro will never see a better coach than Forbes.

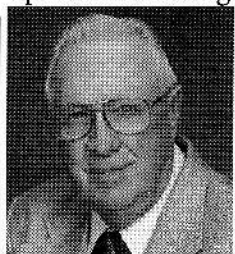
Jeff Limberg Sports Media



He becomes the 16th member of the Sun City's Sports News Media to be inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. He is the 4th KTSM-TV employee to be enshrined into the 49 year old hall for outstanding contributions in local sports in the Sun City. He arrived in El Paso 16 years ago from his native Wisconsin, as a young reporter trying to start a career as a sportscaster. Since then he has been fearless in his job choices and not afraid to take chances. He proved that when on January 5th, 2003 he accepted the biggest challenge of his life taking over the KTSM-TV news room as its Interim Director. Back in 1988 Jeff

Limberg was happy to be covering sports for KVIA-TV anchoring on the weekends. Sixteen years later Jeff has done such a good job at KTSM-TV that he is now the full-time News Director overseeing the work of 30 reporters and running a multi-million dollar news operation. It has been a fast, whirlwind ride for Jeff Limberg. He hit the ground running in 1988 working the TV booth with Fred Albers telecasting UTEP Football and Basketball games on KVIA. He picked a great year to break into the El Paso Sports TV market. UTEP played in the Independence Bowl in football and the Miners earned a bid to the NCAA Basketball Tournament facing Seton Hall in a first round game played in Los Angeles at UCLA's fabled Pauley Pavillion. Limberg stayed at KVIA four years perfecting his craft. He probably would have stayed at KVIA-TV a lot longer, but was pitched by KROD Radio's management to become the host of a three hour sport talk show Monday through Friday called Sport Talk. Jeff realized taking on this project was a dare and could be a defining moment in his career as a Sports Journalist. After all giving up a steady television job to start a radio talk show was risky, especially when the program was designed to allow callers to talk and state their opinions. It was not a new idea by any means in El Paso. Actually, the old Irishman "John Phelan tried it out on a limited basis on KTSM-TV hosting a show during the World Series called "World Series Baseball Open Mike." He and the Cohen Brothers, Andy and Sid fielded calls on television from sportsfans that overcame their fear of talking over the air waves to the panel. Phelan tried this idea out in the 1950's and early 1960's when the average sportsfan was scared to death about talking in public on radio or television. Next to try it from 1979-1980 was Steve Hill on KINT Radio. Steve had a one hour talk show five days a week covering local, regional, and national sports. KINT owner Jim Taber dreamed of producing a sport talk show with plenty of feedback from the audience. Hill was not convinced El Paso was ready to support such a show dependent on audience participation. In order to make the show go, if people were too frightened to talk on the radio, he lined up an in-studio guest each day to talk about a vast array of topics in the sports world. Hill also covered local sports and used tape recordings filled with interviews from El Paso's top coaches and athletes to prevent dead air. The show lasted two years and was called Sport Talk. It was not yanked off the air due to poor ratings, but by the FCC in a dispute with the owners of the station over failure to pay back taxes on the property. The station went silent and over 25 people lost their jobs. Steve enjoyed doing the show and believed it provided a spot on the airwaves to cover the El Paso sports scene. He was right about one thing, however. People were not ready to voice their opinions on a live radio show. So, Jeff Limberg faced an uncertain future when he agreed to try to make Sports Talk work. Perhaps it was the host, or perhaps 1991 was the year of the "call-in guest", or perhaps El Paso evolved with talkative, opinionated, sports fans willing to talk live on radio, but Jeff Limberg got the concept to work. Plenty of people suddenly mushroomed on the air talking about sports. Sports Talk hosted by Jeff Limberg was a run away success still going strong in 2004. However, the host, Jeff Limberg moved back into television after two frantic years lured into the bigger medium by a better salary and another chance to broadcast sports for El Paso's top station manager Richard Pearson. Pearson was familiar with Limberg's work when both worked at KVIA. The innovative Pearson turned KVIA into El Paso's hottest TV station in his first stint as a General Manager. Now KTSM's new GM, Pearson faced the biggest challenge in his life. KTSM was third in the ratings among English speaking stations. He wanted to team Limberg with Fred Albers again to cover sports. KTSM's ratings soon skyrocketed to the top under Pearson's leadership. Channel 9's sports was a big part of that success. According to the Nielsen Rating Books Fred Albers and Jeff Limberg were a strong #1 covering sports. Over the next five years Limberg had the great fortune to call UTEP Basketball games on television. It was his honor to work with Naismith Hall of Fame Basketball Coach Don Haskins in 1992 when UTEP stunned Kansas 66-60 earning a trip to the Sweet 16. From 1994-1996 Jeff produced and anchored KTSM's morning news program at Sun-Up Monday through Friday. This show was also dead last in the ratings when he first started working on it. Limberg's warm, friendly TV air persona paid off. The program topped the charts in 1997 when he left KTSM to start another career at KZIA-TV Channel 48 as a TV Commercial Salesman. Although he had no experience as an Account Executive, Limberg jumped right into the fray and became KZIA's top salesman. He became the station's public image. Fortunately KTSM wanted him back and teamed him up with Fred Albers to cover sports in El Paso on an exclusive basis. From 1997 until that January day in 2003, Jeff worked out in the field producing local sports stories all over El Paso County and Southern New Mexico. He spent three full days a week producing and performing the sports on camera at KTSM, and also telecast UTEP Football and Basketball games at the NBC affiliate. Jeff was a first rate Satellite Producer working remotes with coaches and athletes on tight deadlines. Viewers could also count on him to produce satellighted Football and Basketball game highlights that captured the spirit of the story he was working on either at halftime or at the conclusion of a game. Happily married, raising a family, Jeff was very content covering sports. He had earned the respect of his colleagues in the KTSM newsroom and was highly thought of throughout El Paso's TV industry, as a dependable, hard working, reporter. When KTSM needed a strong News Director capable of making tough decisions and organizing a multi-million dollar newsroom operation the station's ownership picked the steady, battle tested Limberg to lead them through a rough time. He has succeeded beyond his wildest dreams KTSM's numbers are up.

Jack McGrath Sports Officiating



Veteran Tennis Official Jack McGrath was honored by the Greater El Paso Tennis Association in February 2004 as the top referee in El Paso County. McGrath was deeply humbled in receiving the GEPTA Award. He became even more devoted to the game he loves. Sports Referees covet an award such as GEPTA because the players and coaches vote on it. For McGrath there could be no finer accolade. He has no plans to retire in the near future and will continue to officiate tennis matches as long as his health remains good. You see, Jack McGrath will soon be 79 years of age. Most 79 year old men or women are not officiating tennis matches. They may watch tennis matches, but they are not working them. It is amazing that McGrath still has the eyesight, reflexes, and stamina needed to referee tennis matches, but he does. Jack McGrath is an amazing story and is a great person. He is richly deserving of this award from the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. It is overdue. What follows is why McGrath is being honored. Thirty years ago, 49 year old Jack McGrath needed a challenge in his life. Austin High School classmate and Varsity Football Official Bill Bridler suggested that McGrath give sports officiating a try. McGrath said he would take a chance and attempt to referee Football. Bridler turned the 49 year old rookie official over to veteran college and high school football referee Don O'Neill to start the process that would put him on the field wearing a black and white shirt. In order to referee football McGrath had to learn the NCAA rulebook and had to push his 49 year old body into physical shape to endure the running officials had to do during the course of a game. To the surprise of many fellow officials McGrath not only learned the rulebook, but he also got his middle aged body into excellent physical condition. Convinced that McGrath could hold his own on a football crew of officials, Don O'Neill began assigning him to work elementary school games. McGrath started from the ground up as a football referee working kids games. He found out that he loved his new job and was consumed by the mechanics of the game as an official. He dreamed of calling a perfect football game. No one could try harder than Jack McGrath to get it right. He worked his way all the way up to officiating Varsity Football games. Once he donned the black and white striped shirt of an official McGrath was hooked. He loved being involved in a game. He decided to give the even more demanding game of basketball a try. To officiate basketball at any level the referee had to master the NCAA rulebook and get into even better running shape than football required. McGrath survived the rule book and tortured his 49 year old body into basketball shape. It was a labor of love for McGrath. He developed into a top flight high school basketball official after starting his career at the elementary school level. His physical condition improved even more when he took up the sport of soccer played all over El Paso County from grade school through high school. Originally high school soccer referees invited the coaches to run alongside them since both were learning the rules of the game from the ground up literally on the run. That practice soon ended. Soccer referees ran after the players for a full 90 minutes without a stop. This was third game McGrath mastered as an official physically and mentally. Quite an accomplishment for a middle aged man. Baseball was a sport McGrath disliked and had no interest in, but the late supervisor of umpires Yvan Rechy talked him into giving the sport a try. That's all it took. Once McGrath worked the basepaths in a little league game he was hooked. He loved the mechanics of baseball umpiring, discovering that he and his partner, the plate umpire, had to work cohesively as a team to make the correct calls. Once he got his chance to work the plate in a game McGrath found out he was perfectly suited to run the game from behind the catcher. He loved making a ruling on each pitch. He was so adept at working the plate that 75% of his assignments called for him to put on his chest protector and mask. As usual, McGrath started umpiring in the little league and became an outstanding college official. At Rechy's request McGrath began umpiring men's fast pitch Softball in the spring and summer to go along with his assignments working women's high school and college fast pitch games. A good fast pitch plate umpire called balls and strikes on 100 mph shots from 43 feet in a split second. McGrath excelled at making those decisions. Volleyball was a sport that appealed to the veteran official because the game moved with great speed and required the players on the team to make incredible, athletic shots. The chair referee in a volleyball match had to have great eyesight and reflexes just to keep up with the match. McGrath became one of the top referees in the nation in matches sanctioned by the United States Volleyball Association. Tennis played in the El Paso Southwest requires stamina from the officials working the matches because of weather conditions. A match can be played in brutal, searing heat, or in dusty high winds. Cold weather can plague matches scheduled for the spring of the year or just occasionally perfect weather greets a match. McGrath has seen it all devoting his weekends to college and high school tennis matches. Just this past year he officiated the Price's Sun City Junior Open, the USA Team Tennis Regional Championship. The USTA National Boys and Girls Sectional Tournament and numerous college matches. He has worked WAC and Big West Team Tennis Championships, USTA Southwest Men and Women's Sectional Tournaments, USTA Pro Circuit matches, and the Sun Bowl Junior Tennis Tournament. His services are in constant demand at age 79, which is the greatest compliment you could pay him.

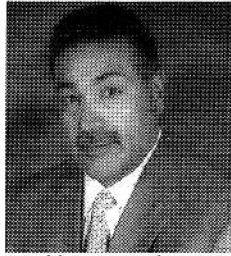
Marvin J. Nicchio Posthumous



It was with great sadness that the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Committee noted the passing of social-activist Marvin J. Nicchio at the age of 64. The Brooklyn, New York born Nicchio died while hospitalized at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Portland, Oregon. He was on a long

list of veterans seeking a liver transplant, when death took him as he suffered complications from the dreaded disease. Mr. Nicchio was buried with full military honors at the Ft. Bliss, Texas National Cemetery in February. He served his county with great pride as a member of the United States Army. Marvin Nicchio lived his life with great, tremendous passion. He brought boundless energy to whatever project he got involved in. Reportedly, Marvin knew he was going to die in the hospital in Portland, Oregon. He spit death in the face and lived his final days with great courage, optimism, and cheerfulness. He was enthusiastic about living his life, while facing death. El Paso, Texas became Nicchio's adopted home after serving in the U.S. Army. El Paso was blessed when Marvin decided to retire here and became involved in the community as a civic leader. He loved baseball, he dreamed and slept baseball. Most of his free time was devoted to baseball. His contribution to the game of baseball is amazing. Marvin was a coach in Boys Baseball of El Paso for six years he was an optimist coach for three seasons and guided teams in the Pony League for two summers. As an administrator, Nicchio was a Board of Directors Officer for nine years serving Boy's Baseball of El Paso, a Pony League trustee for two years, and a Committee Member representing the El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame for three years. Photography was a hobby Nicchio loved and worked hard to become an expert with a camera. The El Paso Diablos hired Nicchio as its' official photographer from 1986-1994. He shot a picture of every player dressed in a red and gold Diablos uniform for nine seasons and also photographed every opposing Texas League player that suited up trying to beat the Diablos. One of his still photographs was autographed and given to the Diablos. His second print went to the players themselves. Nicchio's last year with the Diablos was a memorable one. The 1994 El Paso Diablos won the Texas League Championship. Nicchio had a pictorial history of that magical season. The Diablos' front office loved his work so much that they voted to award him a Championship Ring. Nicchio was stunned by the ring presented to him by the Diablos and wore it with great pride, until the day he died. How many lives did Marvin Nicchio touch as a baseball coach and as an administrator over the years? He made thousands of young baseball players happy every year as an instructor or as an administrator making sure the youngsters had a field to play on. For his work with youth baseball Marvin was inducted into the prestigious El Paso Baseball Hall of Fame in 2000. Nicchio was also very visible as a civic leader around El Paso. He was a constable in El Paso County, the President of the El Paso Italian Cultural Society, a member of the Knight of Columbus, a member of the American Legion and worked with the Disabled Veteran's of America seeking organ transplants. Baseball was the love of his life, but he supported high school athletics around El Paso County, the baseball program at the El Paso Community College, and athletics at the University of Texas-El Paso. If there was a meaningful game in El Paso, you would find Marvin. Marvin's death was a gigantic loss for the city of El Paso. No one will attack a problem like he did or get involved for that matter. However, his work lives on. Many of his baseball photographs have been printed in national sports magazines and the book *"The Texas League 1888-1987 A Century of Baseball"* used some of the shots to illustrate its' pages. Mr. Nicchio is survived by his wife, Anita; daughter Debbie; son Marvin Jr. and Carl; and four grandchildren. He is the 2004 El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Posthumous Award Winner.

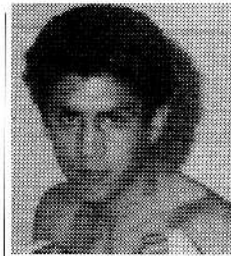
Tony Perea Athlete



Although Tony Perea is in his early 50's, he still looks like he could play football or lace on the gloves and box. Tony believes in physical fitness. Staying in shape allows him to remain youthful in appearance and it commands respect from the football players he is coaching at Jefferson High School. Respect! Tony Perea has fought for respect all of his life and he has earned it in athletics as one of the top linebackers in UTEP Football History and as a world ranked heavy-weight boxer. Perea started carving out his place

in athletics in 1968 as a RB at Friona High School in the Texas Panhandle. He rushed for 1,787 yards as a high school senior in 10 games, which is still a school record at Friona. Tony's ability to carry the football with the combination of speed and power caught the eye of UTEP Football Coach Bobby Dobbs and thirty other college recruiters. Dobbs thought Perea was a good high school RB, but thought he could be a great college linebacker, despite the fact that he was a bit undersized at 6-0, 190 pounds. Dobbs won the recruiting war for Perea's services. Little did he know just how good Tony would become as a college linebacker. When Dobbs started Perea at Middle Linebacker in 1970 he turned loose a Holy terror. The 220 pound Perea played his position with a fury, which stunned Coach Dobbs. The former high school RB, converted to MLB, ran sideline to sideline making tackles. He filled the middle in short yardage situations sending opposing RB's flying backwards. No offensive lineman could block him. Perea punished unlucky ball carriers with driving, explosive tackles. It didn't take long for opposing coaches to figure out that they could not run the football against UTEP as long as Perea was in the game. In a 31 game career at UTEP's MLB, Perea made 228 solo tackles, 119 assisted tackles, good for 347 total tackles. His top game as a collegian occurred in 1971 on the road against Arizona State in Sun Devil Stadium. Tony was credited with an incredible 26 tackles against ASU RB's and WR's. He ran sideline to sideline making crushing textbook tackles. Arizona State's great football coach Frank Kush said after the 24-7 victory over UTEP, "Tony Perea was the best player on the field. We could not run the ball against him." Perea's effort in a losing cause against Arizona State caught the eye of the voters representing the Associated Press Sports Department. The AP writers voted Perea to the 1971 All-American team, despite the fact that UTEP posted a 5-6 record. UTEP has produced 21 All-Americans in 90 years of playing football dating back to 1914. Perea is one such player. He is the only player in school history to be named to the All-WAC team all three years of his career. He was the Defensive Player of the Year in the WAC in 1972 dazzling opposing coaches with his great nose for the football, while his club struggled to a 2-8 record, forcing the school to fire Coach Dobbs. NFL scouts were impressed by Perea's ability to play the game, but thought he was too small to stand up to the punishment bigger offensive linemen would dish out. He went undrafted. Undaunted, Tony took his skill as a LB landing a job with the Calgary Stampeders and the Hamilton Tiger Cats of the Canadian Football League. Ten years later, age and injuries forced Perea out of football. During his football career Perea noticed that his cousins Joey and Flory Holguin of Albuquerque, New Mexico were enjoying great success as championship caliber boxers. At the age of 30, Perea decided to give professional boxing a try. He attacked boxing like he did football winning 19 straight heavyweight matches. His 19-0 record earned him a bout with top contender Ernie Shavers. Perea entered the match as the division's 7th ranked heavyweight. Perea was a heavy underdog against the powerful Shavers, but was winning the fight on two judges' scorecards when he suffered an injury and had to stop. Shavers won on a 7th round TKO, the only loss in Tony's career. The loss to Shavers did not end his career. Perea battled his way back to the top of the division earning a title shot against Trevor Berbick, a Don King sponsored fighter. For reasons known only to Don King himself, the fight was cancelled. An angry Perea sued the legendary King in court and won. Disgust, age, and injuries ended Perea's career in the ring, but he continued in the sport as a top flight boxing trainer. During gaps in his athletic career, Tony worked for the El Paso Independent School District as a teacher and a coach at Andress, Bowie, and Jefferson High Schools. Perhaps Tony's biggest contribution to society has been as a teacher and as a football coach. He also was an instructor at the EPISD's Richard Telles Academy for disadvantaged students. At the Telles Academy, Perea worked with troubled students facing either a life on the streets of the city, or with a life in mainstream El Paso. There is no telling how many disturbed teenagers Perea saved from a life of misery, crime, and running from the police. His success rate was high offering tough love, discipline, honesty, and straight shooting advice. Pete Euzarraga's 2003 Jefferson Silver Foxes football team had only 24 players suited out for each game. Jefferson went 4-6 last year, but were in every game refusing to quit. In several games Jefferson physically whipped opposing teams, but could not score enough points to win. 2003 Jefferson was blessed with winners. Maybe not on the scoreboard, but in life. These kids refused to quit. Assistant Coach Tony Perea was a big part of Jefferson's story on the field.

Junior Vicencio Athlete



Ladislao "Junior" Vicencio

been making sports headlines in the City of El Paso for over 35 years as a championship boxer, and then as a sports administrator, working with the youth of the community. Bel Air High School's Junior Vicencio stepped into a boxing ring for the first time in 1966 as a high school freshman. What a career he had as a featherweight and lightweight boxer over the next ten years! Vicencio won seven City of El Paso Golden Gloves Championships in this decade of fighting. He captured the Texas State Championship three times in his career in 1971, 1975, and 1976. While boxing Vicencio graduated from Bel Air in 1969 starting college at UTEP in the 1970's. He dreamed of being the first boxer from El Paso ever to earn a spot on the United States Olympic Boxing Team. When he wasn't winning the Texas Golden Gloves Championship he was pretty close to the title at all times. He was a National Quarterfinalist in 1971 in Ft. Worth, and a state runner-up in 1974. Junior came very close to winning a National Lightweight Championship in 1975 in Nashville, Tennessee, and again in 1976 in Miami, Florida. He also fought for the United States in 1972 and 1973 against boxers from Mexico and Great Britain. In 1974 Vicencio won the Chihuahua State Championship and also won the State New Mexico's Lightweight Championship. The ten years of amateur boxing, no matter how successful you are, is a long time to be fighting in the ring taking punishment. Vicencio hung up his gloves in 1976, after coming ever so close to winning a National Championship, and a spot on the 1976 U.S. Olympic Team, and began working for the City of El Paso in the Parks and Recreation Department. For the last 23 years Vicencio has been the director of several of the City's Youth Centers bringing him into direct contact with school-aged children and teenagers from all over El Paso. His most notable success has been as the Director of the Carolina Recreation Center. Mr. Vicencio helped start the boxing program at the Carolina Center, as well as the Midnight Basketball Program. He has positively influenced the lives of thousands of children by getting them involved in sports at the Carolina Center. He went back to college to finish his education and to improve his knowledge, graduating from UTEP in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education, while working for the City of El Paso. His first love is still boxing. He was the Director of the Golden Gloves program in El Paso from 1980 to 1985. He can always be found working El Paso's annual Golden Gloves Tournament and is a member of the City of El Paso's Golden Gloves Advisory Board. He is also a licensed Professional Boxing Official and is generally ringside at every big fight card El Paso plays host to. No one will ever know just how many young lives Junior Vicencio has saved through his work at the Carolina Center. The number is probably very high. The City of El Paso has been fortunate that Junior Vicencio got into that boxing ring back in 1966, and is still fighting today in even a bigger arena. The game of life!

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- | | | |
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| 1956 Cliff Hill* | 1973 Harrison Kohl* | 1982 Bill Cummins |
| 1956 Margaret Varner | 1974 Nolan Richardson | 1982 Fred Kriss |
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| 1957 Ken Heineman | 1974 Charles "Red" Harris* | 1983 Russel E. Ball* |
| 1958 Dr. Sandy Esquivel* | 1974 Saul Kleinfeld* | 1983 John C. Birkhead* |
| 1958 Asa Porter* | 1974 Bob Ingram* | 1983 Janet Blades Prieto |
| 1959 Jack Harden | 1974 Raymond B. Ward, Sr.* | 1983 Jim Bowden |
| 1959 Mack Saxon* | 1974 Fred Wendt | 1983 Tee Casper* |
| 1960 Judge Ballard Coldwell* | 1975 Lee Treviño | 1984 Peggy Robertson Birkhead |
| 1960 E.E. "Mannie" Ponsford* | 1975 Lee Floyd* | 1984 Larry Jesse |
| 1961 Bob Osborn* | 1975 Karen Linton | 1984 Charles R. Smith |
| 1961 Willie Shoemaker | 1975 Dr. John Edwin | 1984 Jack McNutt* |
| 1962 Syd Cohen* | 1975 Robert Carson* | 1984 Albert C. Messer |
| 1962 Carlos Edwards* | 1975 John Phelan* | 1985 Bobby Joe Hill* |
| 1963 Mike Brumbelow* | 1976 C.M. Hendricks* | 1985 Tom Chavez |
| 1963 Dr. James Vance | 1976 Billy Stevens | 1985 Samuel L. Jenkins |
| 1964 A.L. "Doc" Holm* | 1976 Thad Steele* | 1985 Gene Odell |
| 1964 Bob Laraba* | 1976 Jim Degroat* | 1985 Fenton E. Slaughter* |
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| 1972 C.D. Jarvis* | 1981 Chris P. Fox* | 1989 Suleiman Nyambui |
| 1972 Paul Lopez | 1981 Roy Lown | 1989 Gus Bailey* |
| 1973 Wayne Hansen* | 1981 Ken George | 1989 George Kurita* |
| 1973 Bobby Goldfarb | 1981 Ted Banks | 1989 Mary Jane McCutcheon |

*Deceased

1989 Gerald Campbell	1993 Bill Eschenbrenner	1997 Raymond Hibler	2000 Margarito Bañales
1989 James E. Rogers, Jr.	1993 Bob Savage	1997 William Cowan	2000 Tom Rush*
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*Deceased

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1957 John Phelan*	1974 Ben Collins	1991 Ted Kepple
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1969 Bob Goldfarb	1986 Richard Fritz	2003 Rene Aguilar
1970 Bill Woodul	1987 Vince Carafano*	
1971 Bert Williams	1988 Luis Flores, Jr.	
1972 Dick de Bryan	1989 Peggy Birkhead	

*Deceased

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THE EL PASO ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME AWARD

Gilat Barzalia – UTEP Tennis Team

2003–2004 TEXAS CLASS 4A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

GIRL'S SWIMMING

Chapin High School – Coach Jeremiah Rush
Athlete

Lara Jackson

MEN'S SOCCER

Del Valle High School – Coach Bruce Reichman
Athletes

Pedro Gallardo

Rodrigo Morin

GIRL'S CROSS COUNTRY

Del Valle High School – Coach Danny Jasso
Athletes

Claudia Ruiz

Jisel Bailon

Gabriela Ramos

Belinda Castañon

Brissa Montalvo

Ivette Montalvo

2003–2004 TEXAS CLASS 5A STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

FOOTBALL

Montwood High School – Coach Chuck Veliz
Athlete

Edward Britton

Edward Britton

WRESTLING

Eastwood High School – Coach Tony Dubeansky
Athlete

Tressa Yocum

Tressa Yocum

GIRL'S BASKETBALL

Eastwood High School – Coach Indi Vargas
Athlete

Virginia Velasquez

Virginia Velasquez

2003–2004 TEXAS STATE TAPPS CHAMPIONSHIP

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Cathedral – Coach Sam Govea
Athlete

Alex Flores

Alex Flores

MEN'S SOCCER

Cathedral – Coach Robert Tucker
Athletes

Alejandro Velarde

Giovanni Saucedo

Sergio Vasquez

Sergio Vasquez

WOMEN'S GOLF

Immanuel Baptist – Coach Wendell Powers
Athletes

Rachel Romack

Jordan Romack

Cydney Jones

Samantha McCardle

Samantha McCardle

MEN'S SWIMMING

Cathedral – Coach Jack White
Athletes

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