

*Price's*

**"GIVE 'EM FINE"**

**El Paso  
Athletic  
Hall of Fame  
51st  
Annual**

**A FUND FOR KIDS**

**Awards Banquet**



**Tomás Rivera Center  
University of Texas at El Paso  
Wednesday, May 3rd, 2006**



**PRESENTATION OF THE 2005-2006  
OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES**

District 1-5A . . . . . Ron Leiman – SISD Athletic Director  
District 1-5A - 1-4A . . . . . Kenneth Owen – EPISD Athletic Director  
District 1-5A - 2-4A . . . . . Pat O'Neill – YISD Athletic Director  
Private/Parochial Schools . . . . . Wayne Thornton – Coordinator, El Paso Parks & Recreation

**PRICE'S CREAMERIES - FRANK DAVIS EL PASO WHATABURGER INC.  
OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES 2005-2006**

**District 1-5A Outstanding Female/Male Athletes**

Norma Rueda – Socorro High School  
Alex Torres – Franklin High School

**District 1-4A Outstanding Female/Male Athletes**

Natalie Flores – Burges High School  
Wesley Walker – Andress High School

**District 2-4A Outstanding Female/Male Athletes**

Tina Madry – Parkland High School  
Paul Sosa – Clint High School

**Private/Parochial Schools' Outstanding Female/Male Athletes**

Christina Becerra – Faith Christian Academy  
John Azar – Cathedral High School

**THE EL PASO ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME UTEP AWARD**

Andrianna Zolton – Softball – UTEP sophomore

**INDIVIDUAL AND TEAM STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**2006 Texas Class 5A Girl's Wrestling**

**State Champion**

— Hanks High School—  
*Head Coach* - Anthony Carter  
Awbrey Lowe - 102 lb weight class

**2006 Texas Class 5A Girl's Wrestling**

**State Champion**

— Socorro High School—  
*Head Coach* - Rene Barreras  
Norma Rueda - 128 lb weight class

**2006 Texas Class 5A Boy's Wrestling**

**State Champion**

— Americas High School—  
*Head Coach* - Ken Jury  
Kevin Jury - 125 lb weight class

**2006 Texas Class 5A Boy's Wrestling**

**State Champion**

— Hanks High School—  
*Head Coach* - Anthony Carter  
Jacob Valdez - 140 lb weight class

**2005 Texas TAPPS Class 6A Boy's Cross Country**

**State Champion**

— Cathedral High School—  
*Head Coach* - Bashar Ibranhim  
Emilio Puente 5K Run

**2005 Texas TAPPS Class 5A Boy's Cross Country**

**State Champion**

— Lydia Patterson Institute—  
*Head Coach* - Byron Locke  
David Arredondo - 5K Run

**2005-2006 Texas State TAPPS Boy's Swimming Championship Team**

— Cathedral High School—

*Head Coach* - Jack White

John Azar - 200 medley relay, 200 individual medley, 200 freestyle relay, 100 breast stroke

Carlos Escarcega - 200 medley relay, 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, 200 freestyle relay

Albert Venegas - 200 medley relay, 100 backstroke, 400 free relay

Jorge Diaz - 200 medley relay, 100 butterfly

Vince Gallegos - 200 freestyle relay, 400 free relay

Edgar Hernandez - 500 freestyle, 400 free relay

Richard Anez - 400 free relay

Josh Bieganowski - 200 freestyle relay

Patrick Gailey - 200 freestyle

**2006 Texas State TAPPS Class 5A Boy's Winter Soccer Championship Team**

— Lydia Patterson Institute —

*Head Coach* - Melchor Yuen

Title Game: LPI 3 - Lutheran Baptist North 1

Victor Olivares

Christopher Yuen

EPAHOF

# El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Salutes Its' 2006 Sponsors

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*Price's Creameries — Gene Carrejo*

*Associate Sponsor*

*Whataburger Inc. — Frank Davis*

## **SPONSORS**

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Gene Calabro

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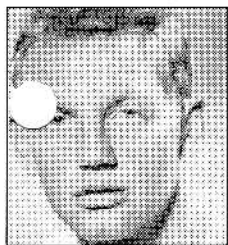
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Thomas Ciaburri

EPAHOF

## Merrill T. "Skookie" Autry Athlete



What qualities - speed, size, agility, - must a person possess to become a special athlete? All of these are important but ultimately meaningless without one

other quality - desire. Desire determines an athlete's level of success and Merrill T. "Skookie" Autry certainly epitomized the word desire during his athletic career.

Skookie was raised in Long Beach, California, where he excelled in basketball and other sports during his high school years. He joined the United States Army and served in the 6th Army from 1946-1948. Skookie played for and helped lead Ft. Lewis to the 6th Army championship in 1948. He was named to the All-Star team

for his efforts. Skookie returned to Long Beach after receiving his discharge from the Army in 1948. He played basketball for Long Beach City College from 1948-1949 and was named LBCC's outstanding athlete. His skills also attracted the eye of Texas Western College's coach Dale Waters who recruited Skookie to play basketball. Thus began Autry's lifetime odyssey to the city of El Paso.

Skookie played basketball and football for TWC from 1949-1952. He was a halfback on the football team and would have played in one of the Miners' first Sun Bowl games if the basketball season had not already begun. Skookie was a valuable member of the TWC football team, but basketball was the sport that he excelled. Autry scored 693 points in 74 games and averaged approximately ten points per game during his Miner career. His point total is significant because schools played far fewer games when Skookie competed as compared to the teams of today. His points' total remained on TWC/UTEP's all-time scoring list for nearly twenty years after his graduation. Autry was co-captain

for his team during the 1951-1952 season and was the highest scoring guard in the Border Conference. He and the Miners also played in two of the earliest Sun Carnival Basketball tournaments.

Skookie discovered a third sport that he excelled while playing basketball at TWC. That was men's fastpitch softball. Any longtime sports fan can remember that El Paso was a hotbed for fastpitch softball during the 1960's. El Paso would host some of the best teams in the United States during the annual 4th of July Softball Tournament played at Memorial Park. Some of the best squads in the country could be found right here in El Paso, and Skookie was usually a member of one of them. He was a catcher on seven teams that played for the International Softball Congress' World Championship.

Skookie was the catcher for some of softball's all-time great pitchers including Paul Lopez, Ken Wycoff, Eddie King, John Birkhead, and Dick Shinaut. Autry played in six 4th of July Tournaments and also was the one-time holder for most home runs (3) in a single game at

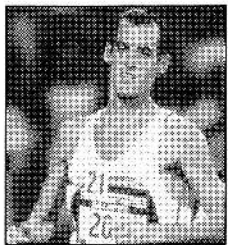
Memorial Park.

Skookie has lived in El Paso for over fifty years. He is a retired vice-president of Cunningham Distributors of El Paso where he worked for approximately twenty-five years. He also worked for the El Paso Natural Gas Company for twelve years and spent one year with the El Paso Independent School District. His 1964-1965 Burges High School "B" team basketball squad won the district championship.

A sports article once described Mr. Autry as "an institution" for close to two decades. During that time, Skookie always demonstrated a love for sports, a respect for teamwork and his fellow athletes, and excellence on the field. Perhaps former El Paso mayor and El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame member, Bert Williams said it best when he stated, "Skookie was never a big guy, but he played big."

Tonight, Merrill T. "Skookie" Autry takes his rightful place among several of his former teammates in the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

## Alan Culpepper Athlete



Track and Field experts covering the sport around the globe for newspapers, magazines, television, and radio networks have called him one of the world's elite

distance runners. One sportswriter recently called him the best American born distance runner competing today at stadium venues. Yet, still another scribe described him as the very best runner ever produced by the city of El Paso. He is a two-time member of the United States Olympic Team.

Every sportswriter or sportscaster covering the sport claimed our inductee has strong moral values and tremendous character. Tonight, the committee is asking

former El Pasoan and Coronado High School track star Alan Culpepper to join our ranks. He has earned a prestigious plaque to be placed at the Don Haskins Center concourse area for his outstanding athletic achievements.

The 33-year-old Culpepper has represented his country, the United States of America, earning spots on the 2000 USA Olympic team competing as a 10k runner based out of Sydney, Australia, and on the 2004 Athens, Greece, team as a marathon runner. Culpepper believes he will survive the 2008 USA Olympic trials and win a spot on the team as a marathon runner. His bid to become a three-time Olympian was greatly enhanced when he finished fifth in this year's Boston Marathon and fourth in the 2005 Boston Marathon. Culpepper's fourth place finish in the 26-mile Boston event was the top race run by an American that year and the highest finish by an American in the last 18 years. Alan's personal record in this marathon event was a mark of 2:09:41, which is an American debut record turned in by this fleet Coronado High School T-

Bird and University of Colorado Buffaloes running star.

Culpepper set the American debut clocking in an event staged in Chicago. Two years ago in Athens, Greece, Culpepper finished 12th in the Olympic event and since then has gotten stronger and faster making him believe that he can make the 2008 USA Olympic team at the age of 35 as a marathon runner. Culpepper said, "Twenty years ago, as a runner at Coronado High, I had a goal to make the U.S. Olympic team; I fulfilled that, but now I want to make the 2008 squad."

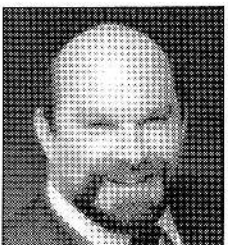
Culpepper's personal records in 2006 include running 1,500 meters in 3:38:06, the mile in 3:55:01, the 5,000 meters in 13:25:06, and the 10,000 meters in 27:33:09, which was the fastest American time. While becoming the best distance runner ever produced in El Paso, Culpepper won five Texas state championships in cross country competition - the 1,600 meters, and the 3,200 meters. He still owns seven state record times over the 1,600 meters, the 3,200 meters, the mile, and the cross

country run. Some of these marks go back 17 years in time.

As a collegian, Culpepper earned a scholarship to the University of Colorado in Boulder, where he was named to eight college All-American teams. In 1996, the former El Pasoan won the individual NCAA championship at the cross country distances. The University of Colorado was great for Alan Culpepper educationally and socially. At Boulder, Alan met his future wife, Shayne, who was a mile runner on the CU women's track team. Both were members of the 2000 and 2004 U.S. Olympic teams. Alan and Shayne are the only married couple to ever make consecutive U.S. Olympic teams in American history earning spots on the Sydney, Australia, and Athens, Greece, rosters.

Alan and Shayne are the proud parents of a 3 1/2-year-old son, Cruz, and are expecting a second child this June. When Alan can spare the time away from his parenting duties and professional running schedule, he has also launched a career as a sports analyst.

## Scott Warman Athlete



World Class athlete Scott Warman took on the biggest challenge in his brilliant 12 year Powerlifting career when he retired from the sport in 1999 to start his own business as a "Professional Personal Trainer" working out of his own gymnasium in central El Paso.

Why was starting a business of his own such a challenge for such a great athlete? That is because Warman's clientele is made up of people beyond their physical prime. It takes on people injured in car wrecks need rehabilitation, individuals that have suffered heart attacks and strokes, and people that are drastically overweight and out of shape.

Why is handling such a vast group of people so difficult? Because as their "Personal Trainer," Warman must make these people exercise when they don't want to! Talk about a tough job! He is constantly

busy with rehabilitation work and has also attracted a youthful group of men and women that are into serious bodybuilding.

Why are people drawn to Warman as a Personal Trainer? Maybe, it's because Scott Warman won 18 World and National Powerlifting championships from 1987 thru 1999! Perhaps, it is because Warman is in demand all over the world conducting Powerlifting seminars and workshops. Maybe, he stays so busy because of the numerous articles Warman has written on Powerlifting. Perhaps, his services are wanted worldwide because he has become a Powerlifting referee at international competitions or because he serves as a consultant on physical fitness to several professional sports teams.

At any rate, Marshall University prepared the 48-year-old for life after athletics. Scott earned a Business Administration degree from Marshall and a Masters degree in Exercise Science. The 6-1, 270 pound Warman began lifting weights early in life and first made his mark as a powerlifter in 1987 by winning the Heavyweight championship of the United States. In 1989, Warman skyrocketed to fame winning not only the American Heavyweight championship, but also the World Heavyweight

championship in competition held in Birmingham, England. He captured the American and World Heavyweight titles in 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995. Warman dominated the sport of Powerlifting like no one ever has before by winning World titles in Pescara, Italy; Birmingham, England; Macon, France; Las Vegas, Nevada; and Columbus, Ohio. He continued to win American crowns (1996 and 1999) while regaining the World championship belt (1999) at Calgary, Canada. His run of 18 National and World titles in 12 years is even more astounding considering Warman was a full-time strength and conditioning coach at Marshall University, Sam Houston State, and UTEP.

Powerlifting is a sport consisting of three different lifts. The "Squatlift" is designed to measure leg strength in a contestant's body. The "Deadlift" determines back strength. Upper body strength is measured with the "Bench Press" known worldwide as the standard by which every Powerlifter is graded upon. The numbers Warman turned in were staggering. He squatted 964 pounds, deadlifted 860 pounds, and benched 529 pounds.

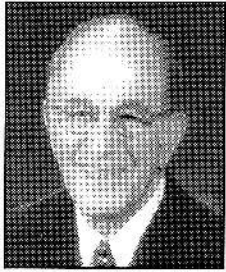
In 1999, the last year Scott competed

for a World championship, *Powerlifting USA Magazine* named him the best Powerlifter in the world for the decade of the 1990's. He was a member of the U.S. National team for 10 years. As a deadlifter, Warman held the World Record 9 times in his career. He was one of the greatest champions in the history of the sport, despite the fact that many of his challengers were much bigger physically.

His greatness has not gone unnoticed. Warman has been a guest speaker for California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on powerlifting and physical fitness. He addressed the State of Texas' Medical Convention held in Galveston, Texas, and the Orthopedic National Convention in San Antonio. However, his biggest motivational speaking occurs on a daily basis persuading his clients to exercise when the body and mind refuse.

People swear by Scott Warman's ability to motivate them into enjoying the benefits of being physically fit. Many of his clients return to him seeking help for bad injuries or even worse medical conditions. Some never leave. They stay with Scott Warman to keep them in good physical condition in the everyday battle of life.

## Gene Calabro Administrator



In our golden years, most of us are unfortunately in failing health and are unable to get any exercise at all. Not Gene Calabro! Gene is 81-years old and has been blessed with outstanding

health. El Paso's ambassador to the sport of bowling does not look 81 and certainly does not act his age.

Instead, Gene Calabro is full of energy and can outwork people half his age. Gene uses his good health to promote the sport of bowling and still participates in it. And what an ambassador he is!

Calabro can still bowl in the 165 range on a consistent basis, as he is continuously used as a substitute bowler on several

teams. At the present time, Gene is serving as a secretary for 3 to 5 leagues on a yearly basis.

Forty-one years ago, Gene Calabro first became a member of the El Paso Bowling Association. And, what a member he has been over that time period! Since 1965, Gene has served the organization as a member, vice-president, and finally as the president. Over the past 41 years, Gene has served as a director for 13 years to the Texas State Bowling Association. He has been elected to the El Paso and State of Texas Bowling Halls of Fame.

Calabro has worked with the mentally challenged individuals of El Paso as a Special Olympics volunteer coach teaching bowling to some outstanding athletes in El Paso. "Gene is one of the hardest working individuals that fully gives of himself and expects nothing in return," said Ralph Rodriguez, director of Special Olympics Texas Area 19.

Calabro also served as the vice-president and president of the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. He did a flawless job as the Hall's 50th president directing a

perfect Golden Anniversary Awards Banquet in front of a sold-out house at the Tomas Rivera room at the UTEP Student Union Building last year.

Recently the former New Yorker and U. S. Army Criminal Investigator was elected vice-president of the newly formed El Paso United States Bowling Congress, which is a merger of the Men's and Women's Associations.

In the winter of 2006, a project Gene worked on for years finally became a reality. El Paso Sports Commission president, Brian Kennedy, and the El Paso Convention Center general manager, Bill Blaziek, in conjunction with the El Paso Bowling Association will bring the woman's United States Bowling Congress tournament to the El Paso Convention Center in 2010. The El Paso Convention Center will be converted to a large, air-conditioned bowling alley. The event will cover 95 days from morning till night.

For years Calabro lobbied and campaigned for just such a bowling tournament to be staged in El Paso, fully realizing what an event such as this would

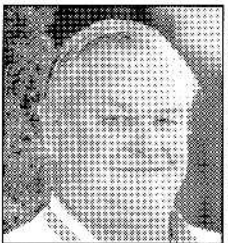
be worth to the city. This bowling tournament in 2010 will certainly be a huge economic impact monetarily to our city.

El Paso is a good bowling town and back in the 1970s was a PBA Tour stop featured on the ABC Television Network. Calabro believes El Paso could be another professional tour stop on a network like ESPN or the Fox Sports Network if the upcoming bowling tournament is a success in 2010. He certainly hopes so.

Gene Calabro has bowled for 50 years. It is a way of life for him and his wife Sue, a schoolteacher at Gadsden (NM) Middle School. Sue is planning on retiring this year after 38 years of teaching.

The greatest attribute for bowling is that people of all generations can bowl together as a team. In addition to bowling with his wife, Gene has spent many pleasant nights bowling with his sons, grandsons, and great-grandson. Bowling is truly a tradition in the Calabro household.

## Tony Shaw Coach



Oh, how he loved his Friday night football! Over a 25-year period he was in a different world living - physically and emotionally. Once Friday night rolled around, Tony Shaw became a vastly different person.

For 25 years, Shaw stalked the Irvin High sidelines as the head football coach of the Rockets. Shaw coached Irvin to a 159-103-3 (won-loss-tie) record during his tenure at the northeast El Paso high school. The big, gruff Shaw coached the game with fire, passion, skill, and tremendous intensity. Coaching football on Friday nights took all of his energy, which he willingly gave up as long as his players gave everything they had back.

Prior to Shaw's arrival, Irvin was a graveyard for young football coaches.

Coaching football at Irvin was a losing proposition. Although the school was located in the rapidly growing northeast El Paso, Irvin was a nightmare for any coach that wanted to give it a try. The school was blessed with some great athletes, but not enough of them were "suited up" to play football.

After the 1975 football season, the Irvin job was wide open again. Tony Shaw was a very well respected defensive coordinator at Austin High School working for Hilton Lambeth. Undaunted and unfazed by the previous Irvin football teams, Shaw decided to apply for the job. The fearless ex-Marine also never doubted his ability to coach the Irvin Rockets, even when the team struggled the first few years. Tony had a long range plan for turning Irvin around, a school with no winning tradition, into a team that had a chance to win on Friday nights. The first thing Tony had to do was to get his numbers up throughout the football program levels. The next thing Shaw had to do was to talk to the great athletes Irvin did have into trying out for the football team. Finally, Shaw had to hire good coaches, who would teach his system throughout the Irvin High School levels

and junior high feeder schools.

It took five seasons for Irvin to make a dent into the district title map. His Rockets won the 1981, 1982, and 1983 District championships and 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1997 found Irvin in the Bi-district round of the Texas State football playoffs. During the 1992 season, Coach Shaw shelved his veer option attack because Irvin offensively had too many turnovers in key situations. Instead, Shaw installed the NFL's one-back rushing offense similar to the Washington Redskins scheme for running the football. Coach Shaw wanted to take advantage of one of the best players he ever coached in 6-2, 210 pound, running back, Patrick Norris, who possessed sprinter's speed running the 40-yard dash in 4.43 seconds. Norris took full advantage of his athleticism, starting all 12 of Irvin's games rushing for over 1,200 yards to lead the State of Texas in that category during the 1992 campaign. A year later, running back Caleb Quinn led Texas in rushing for over 1,300 yards in 12 games in 1993. Quinn stood 6-0 tall, weighing 190 pounds, but was much faster than Norris.

From 1994 through 1996, Shaw coached High School All-American Quarterback Edmund Stansbury, who passed for over 4,000 yards and 50 touchdowns in a three year career as a full-time starting signal caller at Irvin. The 6-3, 220 pound, Stansbury went on to play quarterback, fullback, and linebacker at UCLA. Irvin reached the state playoffs 11 times under Coach Shaw, thanks to great athletes like Patrick Norris, Caleb Quinn, Edmund Stansbury, Joe Hankins, and Billy Davis. Also the Rockets won a share of the District 1-5A championship in 1997.

Coach Shaw retired leaving the record with a 159-103-3 record, and a winning percentage. Today, Tony Shaw still loves his Friday nights, but they are much quieter sitting in the stands as a spectator. He lives in the Austin metropolitan area near his children, where they enjoy fishing and hunting in the beautiful hill country of Texas. And, when he gets the urge on a Friday night to go to a football game, Tony Shaw and his family have plenty of contests to choose. As you know, the Shaw's love their football.

## Thomas "Joe Fan" Ciaburri Media



When he graduated from Bryant University in Rhode Island, Thomas Ciaburri had no idea he would ever become a sportscaster.

After fulfilling his three-year military obligation in the U.S. Army (the last 1½ years at Ft. Bliss), Tom began his civilian employment working for Phelps Dodge Refining Corporation in El Paso. When the copper industry had a major economic decline in 1982, Tom became unemployed. While still looking for a job, Tom telephoned *El Paso Times* sportswriter Vince Langford about a UTEP season ticket drive proposal. Vince quoted Tom anonymously in his story calling him, "Joe Fan." Tom was later hired part-time by a new weekly newspaper called *Sportweek*. Tom used the pseudonym "Joe

Fan", as the column's writer. Thus "Joe Fan" was born some 25 years ago.

Ciaburri began in the radio business in 1983 working as a part-time sportscaster at KFIM-FM (92.3) while being a full-time instructor at International Business College. Tom worked three years at KFIM-FM quite successfully. So successfully that in 1986, management at KTSM-AM 1380 and Television offered him a part-time position covering sports at the high school and college level doing radio sportscasts and aiding channel 9's television sportscasters doing feature stories and remote live sports reports. KTSM legendary sportscaster John Phelan took Tom under his wing to mentor him. And for that, Ciaburri will forever be indebted to the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame member.

The Waterbury, Connecticut native was having the time of his life working as a sportscaster. Ciaburri was so excited doing this that in 1992 he quit his teaching job at IBC to work full-time at KTSM. A sports fan could not do any better in life!

Now Ciaburri was about to be challenged with a new assignment. KTSM-TV sports director Fred Albers was impressed with Ciaburri's knowledge of

the El Paso high school sports scene and his working relationship with the coaches. Albers thought "Joe Fan" was perfect for the job as host and executive producer to the over 20 year acclaimed KTSM radio's *Friday Night High School Football Round-up Show*.

The El Paso Athletic Hall of Famer Albers was absolutely correct about Ciaburri's ability to broadcast and produce such a difficult show for 12 weeks. He was perfect for it. KTSM's listening audience enjoyed the show because of Tom's ability to broadcast football and work with the station's reporters and El Paso's football coaches. Even better than that, the *Friday Night High School Football Round-up Show* was a critical success earning a first place award from the New Mexico Associated Press Broadcasters in the Best Sports Radio Program category for 1992. In fact that same year, "Joe Fan" also won first place awards in radio sports from the Texas Associated Press Broadcasters and the El Paso Press Club. No local sportscaster had ever previously completed a clean sweep winning all three prestigious awards in the same year.

Baseball is Tom's first love and he

managed to broadcast numerous high school state championship series throughout his career. He (Joe Fan) broadcasted Riverside High's baseball run in 2000 to the Class 4A Final Four in Round Rock, Texas. He has also been at the microphone when Socorro, Franklin, and Coronado advanced deep into the state baseball playoff rounds.

In 1994 Ciaburri returned to teaching, this time at Cathedral High. Along with teaching freshmen English, he worked as the media publicity director promoting the school and its students and athletes. Ciaburri retired nine years later in 2003.

Presently, Ciaburri is right where he ought to be working with Time Warner Cable's MetroSports Southwest cable channel 24 along with the broadcasting crew of Wayne Thornton and Duke K... MetroSports Southwest broadcasts w... high school boys and girls games on a taped delay basis. Tom also helps host MetroSports Showcase.

All of this could not have been done without the love and support of his wife Maria and sons John, Mark, and Paul. And, maybe, just maybe there's a little "Joe Fan" among his four grandchildren.

## Joe Gomez Supporter of Athletics



From time to time, in every organization, there comes along a man or woman that proves to be invaluable to that group by successfully performing tasks deemed impossible by the majority of that group's membership.

El Pasoan, Joe Gomez, was invited by President Bush and his wife Laura to be a guest at the White House celebration honoring Coach Don Haskins and the 1966 National Championship basketball team, Texas Western College. So, just how did El Paso sports enthusiast Joe Gomez earn a Presidential Invitation to a State Dinner at the White House? This is his remarkable story that earned him this induction tonight into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame, for the category, "Supporter of Athletics."

Gomez graduated from Burges High School in 1965 and began attending Texas Western College. He was already a devoted sports fan at the age of 18 and the 1966 Miner basketball team put him over the top forever.

Gomez and the rest of El Paso fell in love with Don Haskins' 1966 team because the Miners defeated every squad it played except one. He also became a lifelong friend of Bobby Joe Hill and in fact he and Nolan Richardson did the eulogies at Bobby's funeral. El Paso's sports hysteria quelled slightly when Seattle upset the Miners 72-70 in Seattle in the final game of the regular season. The sports fever reached an all-time high two weeks later when TWC earned a trip to the 1966 Final Four. It was played at the University of Maryland's Cole Field House on the weekend of March 18 and 19.

Gomez was a very astute basketball fan at the age of 18. He began collecting sports memorabilia from the 1966 Final Four. Joe was thrilled when Texas Western outscored #1 ranked Kentucky 72-65 to win the National Title. It was a feeling that has never left him. He also found himself owning a first rate 1966 Final Four collection of photographs.

A few years later Gomez graduated from

college and entered the business world. Joe wanted to stay involved in sports so he was asked to join the Sun Carnival basketball committee. The Sun Carnival was already a top-flight holiday basketball tournament during its first decade of operation, but Joe was about to take it to an even higher level. Gomez worked year round as the chairman building relationships with college coaches throughout the United States. He promised visiting coaches great hospitality and a chance to play against a Haskins coached team. The Sun Carnival has consistently attracted top programs to play in its annual December holiday classic thanks to Joe Gomez and his hard working volunteers. Joe made the Sun Carnival Classic one of the top tournaments in the country attracting teams including Georgia Tech, Iowa State, Michigan, Florida, South Carolina, California, SMU, and Purdue.

In the middle of the 1980's Joe along with Bobby Joe Hill started a movement to bring back the 1966 NCAA Championship Texas Western Miner basketball team for a 20 year reunion. El Paso welcomed the 1966 Miners with open arms. Gomez along with Henry and John Silverman presented each member of the Texas Western traveling party with a beautiful championship ring. Then Joe

worked closely with the UTEP athletic department on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion to give each member a commemorative watch. Gomez also worked on the 30<sup>th</sup> reunion of the team as well. A few years ago UTEP president, Dr. Diana Natalicio came up with the idea of a traveling exhibit featuring this historic championship team and she named Gomez as the "Local Curator" for the planning of it. Joe is still active in promoting his beloved Miners. Joe has provided research and memorabilia for such documentaries as HBO's *Real Sports with Bryant Gumble*, *Glory in Black and White* produced by CBS, and *As the Wheels Turned* produced by UTEP. When Jerry Bruckheimer decided to make the Walt Disney movie, *Glory Road*, the costume designer, Alex Friedberg called on Joe to assist her with duplicating the uniforms, letterman's jackets, and even the cheerleader uniforms. He also did a little bit of acting, but unfortunately it ended up on the cutting room floor. Look for Joe on the DVD to be released in June.

He has been a great treasure for this University and the name Joe Gomez is synonymous with the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame inductee category, "Supporter of Athletics."

## James J. Crouch Official



You can judge the success of his remarkable life by his contributions as a basketball and volleyball official. In the El Paso and Fort Bliss area, his career spans decades of leadership roles, presidents of the El Paso Basketball Officials Association and Ft. Bliss Officials Association and Rules Interpreter and Clinician.

His introduction to officiating started in the Moorland Branch of the YMCA in Dallas where he learned that keeping the score book and the clock were tasks just as important as refereeing the game. He continues to ensure that all officials carry this concept with them as they pursue an

officiating career. El Paso and Fort Bliss are very fortunate to have Jim Crouch as an official.

His Army training experience set the stage as he provided rules interpretations that were accurate and accepted as the standard for all officials. His fellow basketball officials inducted him into their Hall of Fame with this citation: Jim "Rules" Crouch - "In appreciation of your many years of dedication to basketball officiating in the El Paso Area. Thanks for making us better officials."

The Texas Association of Sports Officials awarded him both a plaque for Distinguished Service to basketball and a watch for his work in volleyball. His selection to officiate the state of Texas - University Interscholastic League (UIL) - regional tournaments plus Fifth Army and Fort Bliss championship contests reflect the confidence administrators and coaches have in him. Although he donned the black and white striped official's shirt in Dallas, his Army service took him to Korea, Germany, Florida, Virginia, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Missouri.

Adopting the Tower Principle from his International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (IAABO) training about halfway in his career caused him to develop into a better official. The Tower Principle states that advantage, gained or lost, is the most important approach to successful officiating.

Crouch now joins Paul Lopez, Bert Williams, Yvan Rechy, and Charlie Smith as an inducted member of the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. These were his teammates from the 1962 Dautrich Jacks, International Softball Congress (ISC), Fastpitch Softball champion team. This squad led by Paul "The Boss" Lopez and Kenny "The Sidewinder" Wycoff won the ISC Championship in 1961 by beating the Rock Island, Illinois, Hamm's Brewers. The El Paso team returned to Rock Island the next year with Crouch as the centerfielder. His errorless play and .250 batting average helped the Jacks repeat as World Champions. He will always cherish playing for the World Champion Jacks.

A decade later, Jim played centerfield for the Fort Bliss entry in the "5th Army

Softball Tournament" and helped Fort Bliss win championships in 1972 and 1973. Although no longer playing softball, he stays in great physical shape playing racquetball and officiating basketball and volleyball.

Some of the top basketball officials from El Paso are now working for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). They have refereed games in the Big 12, Conference USA, Mountain West, Western Athletic Conference, and the Big West. Over the years Jim Crouch tutored these local officials - Mountain West Supervisor of Officials, Bobby Dibler, the WAC's Ronnie Hernandez, Big West's Shawn Lehig, and El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame's Manny Reynoso.

Last August Jim and Lillian celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. They raised four children and have six grandchildren. You better believe James J. Crouch has received tremendous support from his family to survive a sports schedule of 14,000 games.

## Pete Paredes, Jr. Posthumous



Tonight, the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame honors the life and achievements of Pete Paredes, Jr. He was born in 1912 and was a lifelong resident of El Paso until his

death in 2004 at the age of 91 years. Pete enriched the lives of anyone that knew him whether it was in the role of athlete, coach, educator, administrator, sports official, civic-minded citizen, or family man. This is his story.

Mr. Paredes graduated from El Paso School in 1932. He was a two sports star for the Tigers participating in football and boxing. Pete was an offensive guard and one of the toughest linemen in the city. Mr. Paredes was instrumental in leading the Tigers to a district championship when he was a junior and was named to the All-City Football Team in 1932. Pete may even have been a better boxer than he was a

football player. He was the captain of the Tiger boxing team for two years from 1931-1932 during which he was a two time runner-up champion for the Southwest Amateur Boxing Association (forerunner of the Golden Gloves) and middle-weight champion in 1932. Mr. Paredes was inducted into the El Paso High Tiger Hall of Fame in 1989 in recognition of his many achievements for that school.

Pete enrolled at the Texas College of Mines after his graduation. He was a three year letterman for the Miners from 1935-1937. Mr. Paredes demonstrated the same toughness in college as he had in high school while playing guard for the Miners. A newspaper article written in 1935 stated that Pete had played every minute of every game during that season. The rest of his football career was equally impressive. He was named Honorable Mention All-Border Conference Team in 1935 and All-Border Conference First Team in 1936. Pete also played against Hardin Simmons in the 1937 Sun Bowl Game.

Mr. Paredes was now ready to embark on a new chapter in his life that would last the next 42 years as coach, educator, and administrator. Pete began his educational career with the El Paso Independent School District in 1940 when he was named

assistant football coach and head boxing coach for Bowie High School. His teams at Bowie always demonstrated the same toughness as he had shown during his athletic career. The boxing teams at Bowie were especially rugged as Ray Sanchez, a long-time sportswriter for the *El Paso Herald Post*, wrote in one of his articles a few years back. Pete remained at Bowie from 1940-1949 until a significant milestone occurred. Mr. Paredes was named head football coach and athletic director at the newly opened Jefferson High School and thus became the first Hispanic head football coach in El Paso. Certainly, Pete influenced the lives of anyone who ever played for him.

Mr. Paredes remained in coaching for several more years until he decided to pursue a career in school administration. He rose through the ranks and spent the last seventeen years of his educational career as a principal at Lincoln Elementary School (1965-1967), Alamo Elementary School (1967-1977), and Zavala Elementary School (1977-1982). Pete retired from the EPISD in 1982 after dedicating 42 years of his life to his athletes and students. One can only guess at the number of students whose lives were influenced by the love and devotion of Mr. Paredes.

Pete had such a love for sports and people that he found additional ways to channel his enthusiasm. Boxing still remained an important sport to Mr. Paredes so it was natural for him to become a boxing and wrestling referee during the late 1940s. He was even a boxing and wrestling commissioner. His love of football also presented Mr. Paredes new opportunities. He joined the El Paso Officials Association and did high school football games from 1947-1968. He later moved to the press box where he became an official timekeeper. Many people that attended UTEP football games might remember that Pete was the official timekeeper for that university for over 40 years. Even all of this was not enough to tire out Mr. Paredes. He was a life-long member of the El Maida Shriners and Elks Masonic Lodge. One of his great passions was being a member of the El Maida Drum and Bugle Corps and Oriental Band.

Mr. Paredes is represented at the banquet tonight by his wife of 28 years, Carmen Paredes and son Dr. Sam Paredes. The El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame is proud to induct Mr. Pete Paredes, Jr., for his love and dedication to sports and for the multitude of lives that he touched during his lifetime.

## Hall of Fame Past Honorees

1955 Andy Cohen*	1974 Raymond B. Ward, Sr.*	1985 Samuel L. Jenkins	1993 Hector Carranza	2000 Harry Brown
1955 N. A. Ferguson*	1974 Fred Wendt	1985 Gene Odell	1993 Bill Eschenbrenner	2000 Sonny Pitts
1956 Cliff Hill*	1975 Lee Treviño	1985 Fenton E. Slaughter*	1993 Bob Savage	2000 Bob Nitzburg
1956 Margaret Varner	1975 Lee Floyd*	1985 Camile Whitfield	1993 Dr. Joe Galatzan*	2000 Margarito Bañales
1957 Luther Coblentz*	1975 Karen Linton	1986 C. B. "Stretch" Elliot*	1994 Don Riederer	2000 Tom Rush*
1957 Ken Heineman	1975 Dr. John Edwin	1986 Robert E. Kolliner*	1994 Jon Sanders	2000 Edna Kurita
1958 Dr. Sandy Esquivel*	1975 Robert Carson*	1986 Jack P. Morris*	1994 Francisco "Kiko" Martinez	2001 Nate Archibald
1958 Asa Porter*	1975 John Phelan*	1986 L. O. Page	1994 Pug Gabrel	2001 Fred Reynolds
1959 Jack Harden	1976 C. M. Hendricks*	1986 Frank Porth*	1994 Kristi Albers	2001 Willie Vasquez
1959 Mack Saxon*	1976 Billy Stevens	1987 J. D. Partridge	1994 David Binder	2001 Don Brooks
1960 Judge Ballard Coldwell*	1976 Thad Steele*	1987 Walter Driver	1994 Leo Cancellare*	2001 Tony Harper
1960 E. E. "Mannie" Ponsford*	1976 Jim Degroat*	1987 Joe Hague*	1995 Jose Palafox	2001 Jon Teicher
1961 Bob Osborn*	1976 John McFall*	1987 Larry Stubing	1995 Manny Morales	2001 Manny Reynoso
1961 Willie Shoemaker*	1976 Jim Paul	1987 K. C. Brown*	1995 Jerry Bailey	2001 Randolph Young*
1962 Syd Cohen*	1976 Chuck Whitlock*	1987 James Malone	1995 John Wedel	2002 Art Abraham*
1962 Carlos Edwards*	1977 Oscar Villareal	1987 Bill Macatee	1995 Wayne Thornton	2002 Frank Castillo
1963 Mike Brumbelow*	1977 Dick Shinaut*	1988 John (Jack) Parks	1995 Manny Pacillas	2002 Larry Durham
1963 Dr. James Vance	1977 Pete Melendez	1988 Santos "Kayo" Perez*	1995 Eddie Mullens	2002 Steve Hill
1964 A. L. "Doc" Holm*	1977 Bobby Dobbs*	1988 Dr. R. J. "Buddy" Shaeffer	1995 Jimmy Walker*	2002 Armando Sambrano
1964 Bob Laraba*	1977 Dalton Hill*	1988 Dr. James G. Mason*	1996 Marian L. Bennett	2002 Andy Stoglin
1965 W. I. "Chule" Milner*	1977 Judd Milton*	1988 Miss Lydia Sierra	1996 William "Bill" Bridler	2002 Juan Vasquez*
1965 Javier Montes	1978 Bob Arneid	1988 Mrs. Marjorie Williamson	1996 Jesse Bulos	2002 Truman Wills
1966 A. S. Valdespino*	1978 Harris Cantrell	1989 Suleiman Nyambui	1996 Tom Chisari*	2003 Frank Johnson
1966 Clyde Wafer*	1978 David L. Carrasco*	1989 Gus Bailey*	1996 Al Franco	2003 Manny Martinez
1967 Frank Redman*	1978 Wayne Vandenberg	1989 George Kurita*	1996 Andy Morales	2003 Benjamin Rodriguez
1967 Charles H. Leavell, Sr.*	1978 Ray Sanchez	1989 Mary Jane McCutcheon	1996 Wilson Waigwa	2003 H. R. Moyer
1967 Jesse Whittenton	1978 Margaret Osborne duPont	1989 Gerald Campbell	1997 Neal Franklin*	2003 Elsie Partridge
1968 Don Maynard	1979 D. W. Conway*	1989 James E. Rogers, Jr.	1997 Richard Hedeman	2003 Julio Lujan
1968 Harry Phillips*	1980 Tony Carvajal*	1989 James Forbes	1997 Raymond Hibler	2003 Frank Davis
1968 Nemo Herrera*	1980 Jack Curtice*	1990 Bert Cameron	1997 William Cowan	2003 Robert Castaneda*
1968 Ross Moore*	1980 Ernest E. Keily	1990 Don O'Neill	1997 Jack Quarles*	2004 Dr. Billy M. Dickey
1969 George Ball	1981 Chris P. Fox*	1990 Bob Osborne	1997 Derry Eads	2004 Bobby Elliott
1969 Agatha Lee	1981 Roy Löwn	1990 Ted U. Kepple	1997 Cecil Maxwell*	2004 John Folmer
1969 Mike Izquierdo*	1981 Ken George	1990 Joe I. Valencia*	1998 Fred Albers	2004 Chris Forbes
1970 Dale Waters*	1981 Ted Banks	1990 Norman Lee Phillips	1998 Alvis Glidewell	2004 Jeff Limberg
1970 Ben Collins	1981 Lawrence "Sag" Shea*	1990 Clay Cox*	1998 Phil Luckett	2004 Jack McGrath
1971 Vernus Carey*	1982 E. R. Bowman	1991 Buzz Kendrick	1998 David Peck	2004 Marvin J. Nicchio*
1971 Don Haskins	1982 Bill Cummins	1991 Lance Taylor	1998 Robert Samamiago*	2004 Tony Perea
1971 Paul Barry	1982 Fred Kriss	1991 Bert Williams	1998 Ken Schrom	2004 Ladislao "Junior" Vicencio
1972 Chuck Hughes*	1982 Vic Clark	1991 Danny McKillip	1998 Allan Sepkowitz	2005 Greg Foster
1972 C. D. Jarvis*	1983 Russel E. Ball*	1991 Armando Gutierrez	1998 Camp Wilson*	2005 Flip Lyle
1972 Paul Lopez*	1983 John C. Birkhead*	1991 Robert Lee Garner*	1999 Charlie Brown	2005 Bruce Ruffin
1973 Wayne Hansen*	1983 Janet Blades Prieto	1992 Bill Chesak	1999 Sara Marie Guido	2005 Bob Haack
1973 Bobby Goldfarb	1983 Jim Bowden	1992 Seth Joyner	1999 Cliff Thomas	2005 Carlos Lowenberg
1973 Dolph Quijano	1983 Tee Casper*	1992 Russ Walker	1999 Tim Floyd	2005 Ruben Ramirez
1973 Gene Jordan	1984 Peggy Robertson Birkhead	1992 Ruth Meredith	1999 Julius Lowenberg	2005 Dr. Charles Roark
1973 Harrison Kohl*	1984 Larry Jesse	1992 George McCarty	1999 Bill Knight	2005 Nino Aguilera*
1974 Nolan Richardson	1984 Charles R. Smith	1992 Ralph J. Banner	1999 Dotson Lewis	* Deceased
1974 Mary Hoover	1984 Jack McNutt*	1992 Gerald Lamar Boykin*	1999 Rocky Galarza*	
1974 Charles "Red" Harris*	1984 Albert C. Messer	1993 Yvan A. Rechy*	2000 Louis James	
1974 Saul Kleinfeld*	1985 Bobby Joe Hill*	1993 Richard Ochoa	2000 Michael Mulandi Musyoki	
1974 Bob Ingram*	1985 Tom Chavez	1993 Jake Martinez	2000 Sal Olivas	

## Hall of Fame Past Presidents

1956 John Phelan*	1967 Jim Bowden	1978 Harris Hatfield	1989 Peggy Birkhead	2000 Al Velarde
1957 John Phelan*	1968 Jim DeGroat*	1979 Billy Stevens	1990 Tim Crenshaw	2001 Julius Lowenberg
1958 John Phelan*	1969 Bob Goldfarb	1980 Dr. John "Pinkey" Edwin	1991 Ted Kepple	2002 Pat O'Neill
1959 Bob Ingram*	1970 Bill Woodul	1981 Tee Casper*	1992 Yvan Rechy*	2003 Rene Aguilar
1960 Chuck Whitlock*	1971 Bert Williams	1982 C. W. "Lucky" Leverett*	1993 Vic Clark	2004 Bob Nitzburg
1961 Harry Phillips*	1972 Dick de Bryan	1983 Jim Paul	1994 Ruth Meredith	2005 Gene Calabro
1962 Vernus Carey*	1973 Frank Porth*	1984 Steve DeGroat	1995 E. B. Polk	*Deceased
1963 Thad Steele*	1974 Ben Collins	1985 Ken George	1996 Wayne Thornton	
1964 John McFall*	1975 Don O'Neill	1986 Richard Fritz	1997 Jon Sanders	
1965 Frank Redman*	1976 John Thompson	1987 Vince Carafano*	1998 Al Franco	
1966 G. M. (Bill) Green	1977 Maynard Haddad	1988 Luis Flores, Jr.	1999 Steve Hill	

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