

VARGAS' COACHING CAREER STATISTICS

<u>Seasons 1985-2002</u>		<u>TITLES</u>
State Championship	1	1996
Regional Championship	1	1996
Regional Semi-Finalist Titles	2	1995, 1996
Sectional Championships	3	1995, 1996, 1997
Area Championships	9	1986, 90, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98
Bi-District Championships	9	1990, 91, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 99, 2002
District Championships	10	1986, 89, 90, 92, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 2002

Win/Loss Record 286 Wins 90 Losses 11 Ties

Coronado High School under Coach Vargas advanced to the following:

State Finals	1
Regional finals	2
Regional Semifinals	6
Sectional Finals	5
Area	11
Bi-Districts	13
District	10

Victor M. Vargas

6317 Snowheights Ct.
El Paso, Texas 79912
Phone: (915) 833-7464
Email: pv14vargas@aol.com

Coaching Record:

Coached AYSO Soccer Team 5 years

Conducted Summer Soccer Camps for children ages 7-14

Coached 18 seasons at Coronado High School

15 playoff appearances

10 District Titles

7 Bi-District Titles

7 Area Titles

6 Sectional Titles

6 Regional appearances (Sweet 16)

1995-1996 2 appearances in Final Eight

1996 1 Regional Title

1996 1 Texas State Boys' Soccer Championship (24-0)

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS:

1997 El Paso Times Boys' Soccer Coach of the Year (First year such award given).

1996 Texas State Boys' Soccer Coach of the Year (voted on by all soccer Coaches in Texas).

1996 Texas Region 1 Boys' Soccer Coach of the Year

1996 Coached Coronado Boys' Soccer Team to State Championship (24-0)

1995 Texas Region 1 Boys' Soccer Coach of the Year

1993-1995 Selected to coach the Region 1 All State Soccer Team

Education:

- 1979 Bachelor of Science, The University of Texas at El Paso
- May 2001 Certified as a trainer in Pursuing “**Victory with Honor**”, **CHARACTER COUNTS!** at the Josephson Institute of Ethics, Culver City, California.

Employment:

- Sept. 2002-2004 TXBESS Trainer for Region 19 Educational Service Center
- Summer 2002 Tutoring in the Teacher Preparation and Certification Program
Region 19 ESC
- May 2002 Retired from the El Paso Independent School District after 18 years of service
- 1984-2002 Physical Education Teacher/Varsity Soccer Coach
Instruct students in different sports and activities in compliance with the TAAS Objectives in Texas at Carlos Rivera Elementary.
Coached varsity boys’ soccer team at Coronado High School.
- 1981-1984 Staff Services Supervisor, The University of Texas at El Paso.
Supervise Expediting, Receiving, and Inventory for The University of Texas at El Paso.
- 1976-1981 Inventory Supervisor, The University of Texas at El Paso
Identify personal property for The University of Texas at El Paso.
- 1971-1976 Mail Clerk, The University of Texas at El Paso
- Sort and deliver mail, sell money orders and stamps

Community Service:

- May 2015-May 2017 **Opportunity Center** (Helped to serve homeless men lunch weekly on Tuesdays)
- January 2019-Present **“El Pasoans Fighting Hunger”**
Queen of Peace Church—help to fill boxes and bags of food for the needy and help deliver to vehicles.

January 21, 2020

Induction Committee Members of El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame,

I am writing this letter to affirm that Victor Vargas has the merit necessary to be considered for induction into the Athletic Hall of Fame El Paso. We have all encountered men and women who have set a standard in their vocation to be emulated. I can attest to this since I was that young coach eager for success, motivated but didn't possess the seasoning necessary for sustaining a program that would be the standard of soccer in El Paso. This program would be Coronado High School and its leader would be Victor Vargas. I knew as a coach that I would be measured by how effectively my team competed against the Thunderbirds. I was capable of motivating my team to compete, but what I learned most from competing against the T-Birds and Victor Vargas was formulating a style conducive to the talents of my team. I say this because I often would say to myself, "if I only had this player or that player from that team, we could win a championship." What I didn't realize was I had all those players, but I hadn't found the way to best utilize their talents for the success of the team. This is what I learned from Coach Vargas. Victor showed year in and year out the ability to find and develop each player for success within the system. Rarely does success drop into your lap. One must guide, create and manage teams to success. I don't need to point out his wins to losses or the playoff runs each year and finally a State Championship, but when that State Championship was earned the whole of El Paso soccer believed it was soon to be their turn. To maintain this type of success a level of integrity must be developed among the players. Victor was the source of this integrity. I admired how Coach Vargas could maintain a level of intensity without losing control of the game in front of him. This required not only a high knowledge of the game, but as important a level of self-control that showed in his players as well. So, the numbers will speak for themselves, but it is Victor's integrity that sets him apart. This ability to consistently produce teams that were the standard during his coaching career took place because those teams had a coach that brought them out from themselves into teams that brought accolades to their school. I know this because I competed against Coronado as the coach of Irvin High School. I looked forward to measuring myself against a team coached by Victor Vargas. Victor Vargas met the standard at Coronado High School for so many years that it was almost expected. This expectation comes from the success he achieved through the players he was fortunate to coach. Coronado continues to hold a tradition of excellence in terms of soccer. This tradition had to start

somewhere and that squarely points to Victor Vargas. I want to again affirm that Victor Vargas made contributions to High School that go beyond the normal. I fully endorse him being considered an inductee in the Athletic Hall of Fame El Paso.

Wade Horsch
Boys Soccer Coach Irvin High
20 years

Willie Aguilar

536 Moondale Dr. • El Paso, Tx. 79912
Phone: 915-422-6974

Date: December 2, 2019

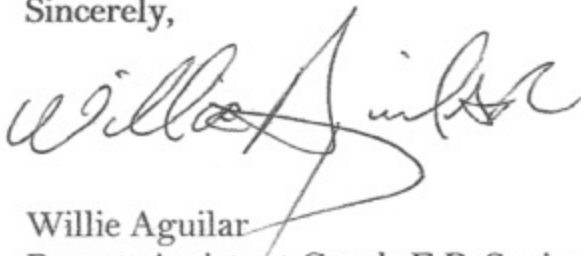
Induction Committee Members

Dear Members

It is my great pleasure that I recommend coach Victor Vargas for induction into the Hall of Fame. I have known coach Vargas since 1994 when my son entered into his high school years at Coronado High School. Prior to that time, coach Vargas' winning record in boy's H.S. soccer was well-known throughout the state. His district, bi-district, regional and state titles reside in the school's trophy case, speaking loudly of his leadership. As a soccer parent, I best regarded Victor as an educator of young adults. One could observe that underclassmen were learning the importance of strategic and tactical soccer. Upperclassmen learned to measure opponent's skills, recognize their game plans, maintain game focus and promote team discipline. Coach Vargas projection was always good sportsmanship to his players, opponents, officials, parents, home school and El Paso School District.

I feel that Victor Vargas accomplishments established the highest coaching standards for all El Paso soccer coaches. What a fitting way to recognize coach Vargas for his contributions to El Paso high school soccer.

Sincerely,



Willie Aguilar
Parent, Assistant Coach-E.P. Senior Soccer Showcases

From: holly mata <holly@getliftedgym.com>
To: pv14vargas <pv14vargas@aol.com>
Subject: Letter of Recommendation HOF (sorry sooooo late)
Date: Thu, Dec 26, 2019 9:22 am

This letter is a letter of recommendation for Coach Victor Vargas for being inducted into the El Paso Hall of Fame.

I have known Victor Vargas since I was a soccer player growing up in El Paso. He has many accomplishments and accolades, including one of El Paso's greatest achievements, his Coronado Boys Varsity Team winning the Class 5A State Soccer Championship!! Every team he coached was a top ranked, well known team in the state.

As long as I have known Coach Vargas, I have known him to instill hard work, discipline, respect and respect for others as well as helping with self confidence within all his players. He treated each player as they were his own. He truly cared and loved each one and that sense of endearment translated to each player truly becoming not just good players but good human beings. His teams always were successful on and off the field, with many players receiving athletic scholarships under his guidance. He helped players understand the importance of success in the classroom as well.

I truly believe Coach Vargas not only belongs in the El Paso Hall of Fame but truly deserves it and I hope you seriously consider him for induction!

Thank you,
Holly Mata
El Paso Hall of Fame Class of 2019



Dear Coach,

My high school years have been the best years of my life. I appreciate all that you have done for myself and the team. Most of all I would like to thank you for your extreme support towards me during the death of my best friend. For that I will never forget.

Thanks for everything

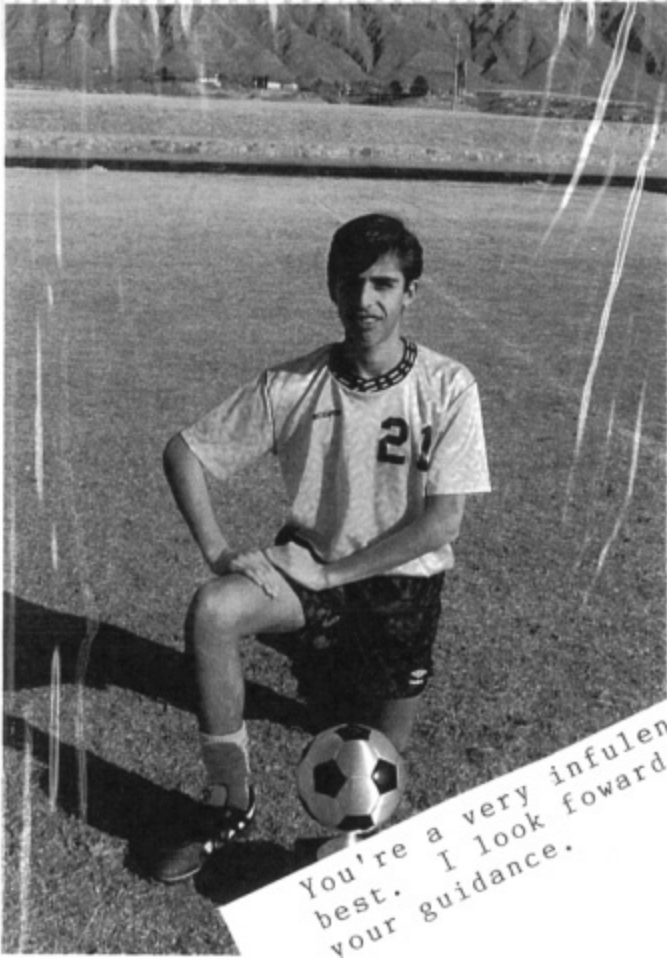
Brian Ward



No one loves the game of soccer more than Coach Vargas but, in his eyes, the players' well-being is far more important than an extra point in a game. Isn't that all that needs to be said? We all love Coach!

Dana Wilson
MGR.





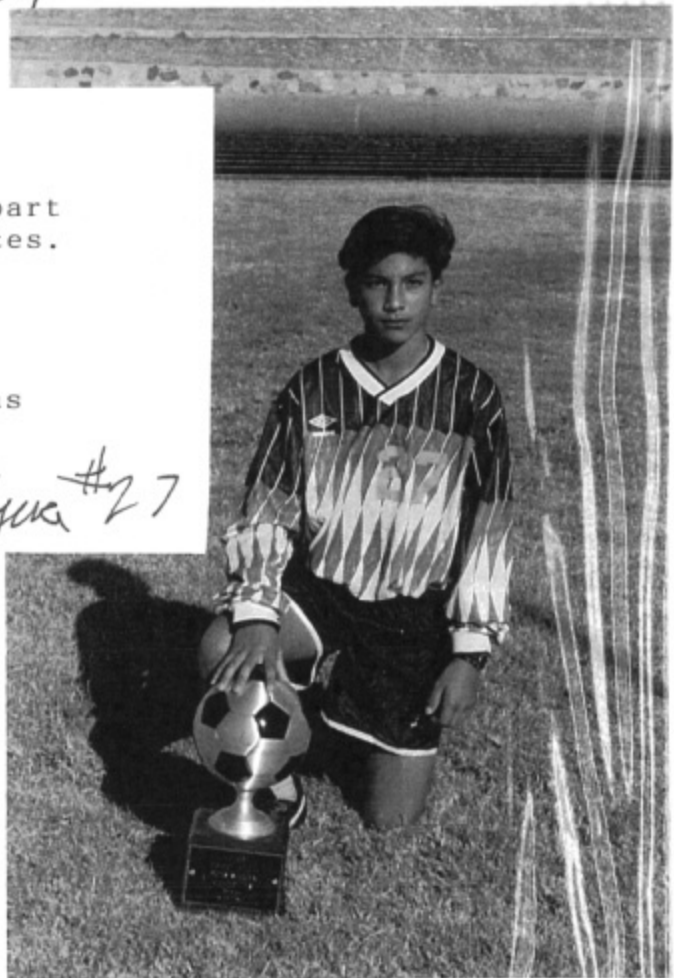
You're a very influential person. You drive me to be my best. I look forward to further victorious seasons under your guidance.

Roger Borchan #21

Coach Vargas,

When the team started to fall apart
He was there to pick up the pieces.
When the team started to wobble
He was there to cushion us.
When the team set goals
He set them higher.
That was our coach; Coach Vargas

Bobby Vargas #27



Sports

Friday
 March 31, 1995

Sports Editor
 Lee Williams, 546-6170

HIGH SCHOOLS

REGIONALS

Today's Class 5A Region 1 soccer pairings for games to be played at Pennington Field in Bedford, Texas:

BOYS

- **Arlington Martin** (21-3) vs. Odessa Permian (15-6), 4 p.m. MST.
- **Coronado** (20-0) vs. Arlington Lamar (17-5-1), 6 p.m.

GIRLS

- **Arlington Martin** (19-3-1) vs. Wichita Falls Rider (18-3-3), noon.
- **L.D. Bell** (19-3) vs. Wichita Falls High (8-7-2), 2 p.m.

SATURDAY'S FINALS

- **Girls:** Semifinal winners play at noon MST.
- **Boys:** Semifinal winners play at 2 p.m.
- **At stake:** Berth to the April 7-8 state tournament in Pflugerville, Texas.

Coronado boys have state on their mind

T-Birds in soccer playoffs tonight

By Julio Lujan
 El Paso Times

Coronado's boys soccer team left El Paso with a simple goal, one the T-Birds believe is within their reach.

If Coronado can win two games at this weekend's Region 1-5A tournament in Bedford, Texas, the T-Birds will earn their first berth to the state tournament.

Coronado (20-0) plays Arlington Lamar (17-5-1) at 6 p.m. MST. The winner plays either Arlington Martin or Odessa Permian Saturday for the Region 1 crown and the right to advance to the April 6-7 state tournament in Pflugerville, Texas.

"Our players are confident we can play a good game against Lamar," Coronado goalkeeper Tim Mack said. "And if we have decent game Saturday, hopefully we will

see us in Austin."

Steve Peña, a junior forward, leads the T-Birds in scoring with 24 goals this season. Full-back Ryan Turnello and midfielder Kirk Wilson have scored nine and eight, respectively.

T-Bird coach Victor Vargas said for his players to be successful, they will have to adjust to Pennington Field's artificial surface, including two sets of out-of-bounds lines.

Soccer out-of-bounds lines — marked in blue paint — are situated five yards further out than those for football, which are marked in white paint.

"Sometimes the players stop at the white lines not realizing there's still five more yards of the field," Vargas said. "That's the biggest adjustment our players will have to make."

Next to the field markings, Peña said the T-Birds must not please see **Coronado / 5F**



Coronado

Continued from 1F

get away from their game plan.

"Arlington teams play on turf more than we do," Peña said. "We play a lot of one-touch. Because of the turf, they play a lot of long ball."

Mack, a 6-foot-1 junior goalkeeper, has 13 shutouts this season. To get a 14th, Mack said he will have to be aware of long shots and keep close tabs on Lamar's forwards.

"I'll probably have to play a little more cautious," Mack said. "I don't know the skill level of their forwards. We're pretty confident we want to represent El Paso well."

This is Coronado's first regional appearance since 1992, when the T-Birds lost 2-1 in overtime to Arlington High. It's the fifth trip to the Region 1 tournament for Vargas' teams, who are still looking for that elusive berth in regional finals.

"This is a pretty strong re-

last year and finished second to New Braunfels."

In 1993, Hanks won the regional and finished second at state.

Vargas said he couldn't scout Lamar and will have to adjust to their play as the game progresses.

"Our defense is pretty strong," Vargas said. "It gives me time to see how we're doing and make the adjustments needed."

Vargas said he's confident in his team's chances because the 1995 team is stronger in the defensive front as well as the mid-field.

"Normally in soccer, the middle controls the game," Vargas said. "Wichita Falls Rider had a hard time keeping up with our controlled style of play."

To counter that style, Lamar likely will look to Matt McNew, who leads the team with 15 goals. Lamar accounted for two of Arlington Martin's three losses this season.

Lamar missed the playoffs the past two seasons. This season, the team went with a new coach in Mike Spruill, 43, an assistant



Saturday

April 1, 1995

★

Sports Editor

Lee Williams, 546-6170

Section C

2C Printout

3C High schools

4C Basketball

5C Horse racing

El Paso Times
Sports

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Coronado comes up big in regional semifinals

By Julio Lujan
El Paso Times

CORONADO	4
LAMAR	2

Coronado defeated Arlington Lamar 4-2 in a

shootout

Friday to advance to today's Region 1-5A soccer championship.

And the T-Birds can thank goalie Tim Mack for their success.

"Tim Mack did a terrific job," Coronado coach Victor Vargas said. "Our defense, even as tired as they were, kept together in overtime."

The game was tied 2-2 at the end of two overtimes, sending the game into a shootout.

Mack, a 6-foot-1 senior, made nine total saves — including four in the shootout — in the

match played at Bedford's Pennington Field.

It's the first time Coronado reaches the regional championship in five tries.

Coronado (21-0) will meet Arlington Martin at 2 p.m., MST today for the right to advance to next weekend's state tournament.

Martin (22-3) defeated Odessa Permian 4-0 in an earlier game Friday.

"Martin plays about the same style, where they kick the ball and run," Vargas said. "So I'll have to substitute players more frequently."

In the shootout, Coronado's Ryan Turnello and Kirk Wilson converted their attempts. Lamar goalkeeper Tim Dakil saved attempts by Coronado's Marco Miramontes and Steve Peña.





High Schools

Martin, Mansfield fall in regional semis

BY ERIC ZARATE
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

than we did, a lot of them were hurried."

BEDFORD — The Arlington-area boys soccer teams were no match for the El Paso high schools yesterday in the Region I semifinals at Pennington Field.

Turnello got his team's second goal 56 seconds later on a penalty kick when Martin's Tony Daniels was given a yellow card for a foul in the penalty area.

El Paso Coronado ran away from Martin, 2-0, and El Paso Hanks outlasted Mansfield, 2-1, in overtime.

Even though the Thunderbirds had not played on artificial turf this season, they quickly picked up the touch needed to keep the ball moving across the rug instead of bouncing it through the air.

The Coronado Thunderbirds (20-0) are scheduled to meet the Hanks Knights (17-2) in the regional championship game at 3 p.m. today at Pennington. It will be the first time two El Paso schools have met in the regional final. Coronado beat Hanks, 4-0, in January.

"We play a control game," Vargas said. "Once we got it on the turf, we kept it on the turf."

Martin (20-2-1), ranked No. 1 in the *Star-Telegram* area poll, gave up goals in the 24th and 25th minutes.

Coronado was only the second team all season to score two goals against Martin. Lamar had two against the Warriors' in the two teams' regular-season finale.

"They had a strong midfield," Martin coach Chris Naughton said. "They were fast."

Mansfield, ranked No. 5, lost its regional semifinal when the Tigers' offense failed to take any shots in the overtime.

That was apparent to the Pennington spectators on Coronado's first goal.

Knights forward Everardo Fierro broke a 1-1 tie in the 91st minute when he punched in a loose ball that had squirmed past several players in the goalkeeper's box.

Thunderbirds midfielder Mark Rowland beat his marking back as he dribbled on the right side of the field, then fired a crossing pass to teammate Ryan Turnello for the 11-yard score. Rowland's pass was just beyond the reach of two Martin defenders.

The second goal was particularly gratifying for Fierro because his penalty kick, with five minutes left in regulation, hit the crossbar.

"That first goal set the tone for the rest of the game," Coronado coach Victor Vargas said. "Even though they took more shots [11-9]

"A good thing makes up for a bad thing in every situation," Fierro said. "Thank God it did today. It was an on-and-off day, man."

Hanks got four shots during the two 15-minute halves, but Mansfield failed to muster a clean shot.

SOCCER

BOYS

Yesterday's results

Region I Semifinals
El Paso Hanks 2.....Mansfield 1 (2 OT)

Yesterday's summaries

Region I Semifinals

El Paso Hanks 2, Mansfield 1 (2 OT)

Goals — NA
Records — Hanks 17-2; Mansfield 16-5-3

El Paso Coronado 2, Martin 0

Goals — Coronado: Ryan Turnello (2).
Records — Coronado 20-0, Martin 20-2-1

Region I finals

(at Pennington Field)

El Paso Coronado - Martin winner vs. El Paso Hanks (17-2), Today, 3 p.m.

Region I semifinals

El Paso Coronado (19-0) vs. Martin (21-1), 7 p.m. Friday

El Paso Hanks 2, Mansfield 1

Region I quarterfinals

El Paso Hanks 2.....Midland Lee 1
Mansfield 1.....Marcus 0
El Paso Coronado 5.....Wichita Falls Rider 0
Martin 2.....The Colony 1

Region I sectional

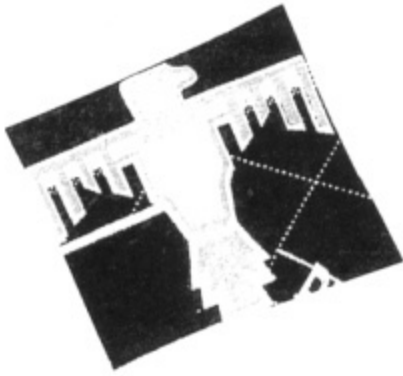
El Paso Hanks 1.....El Paso Del Valle 0 (OT)
Midland Lee 2.....Wichita Falls 1
Marcus 3.....Denton Ryan 2
Mansfield 2.....Paschal 1
El Paso Coronado 7.....Amarillo 1
Wichita Falls Rider 1.....Midland 0
The Colony 3.....Allen 1
Martin 4.....Southwest 1

Region I area

El Paso Del Valle 2.....Lubbock Coronado 1
El Paso Hanks 5.....Amarillo Tascosa 4 (SO)
Wichita Falls 2.....Stephenville 1
Denton Ryan 3.....Richland 0
Mansfield 2.....Arlington Heights 1
Amarillo 5.....El Paso Bel Air 3
El Paso Coronado 8.....Amarillo Caprock 0
Wichita Falls Rider 1.....Abilene 0
Midland 5.....Sherman 0
Allen 3.....Coppell 0
The Colony 2.....Granbury 0
Martin 5.....Western Hills 0
Southwest 5.....Lamar 4 (OT)

Region I bi-district

El Paso Del Valle 3.....El Paso Jefferson 1
Amarillo Tascosa 2.....Lubbock 0
Midland Lee 3.....Brownwood 0
Marcus 1.....Bell 0
Paschal 3.....North Side 0
El Paso Bel Air 4.....El Paso Franklin 3 (OT)
Amarillo Caprock 3.....Lubbock Monterey 2
Abilene 3.....Cleburne 2
Allen 3.....Burleson 0
Western Hills 2.....Diamond Hill-Jarvis 1



1996

Don't call T-Birds favorites in soccer

By Darren Hunt
El Paso Herald-Post sportswriter

El Paso high schools have had their share of disappointments when vying for state championships.

The most recent members of the "almost" club include the 1993 Hanks High boys soccer team, the 1994 and 1995 Bel Air girls softball teams and the 1995 Riverside boys basketball team.

But this weekend, two El Paso prep soccer teams could bring back a pair of Class 5A Texas crowns in the span of a few hours. It's the kind of thing that trivia questions are made of.

Friday afternoon the Coronado High boys face Houston's Klein Oak and the Franklin High girls take on Dallas Highland Park in the state soccer Final Four in Pflugerville.

If both advance, then clinch titles on Saturday, it would be a feat that University Interscholastic League official Peter Contreras says has never happened — two schools from the same city winning Class 5A championships in the same sport.

"Off memory, nobody's pulled that trick," Contreras said Monday.

Possibly even more remarkable would be that both would complete undefeated seasons.

Plano, which earned a spot in the other boys semifinal Friday, almost pulled a soccer double three years

AT A GLANCE

WHAT: Class 5-A state soccer championships.

WHEN: Friday and Saturday in Pflugerville.

All Times MST

Friday Games

GIRLS

Humble Kingwood (defending state champion, 24-0) vs. Austin Westlake (20-1-2), 11:30 a.m.; Franklin (23-0) vs. Highland Park (22-4), 1:30 p.m.

BOYS

Coronado (22-0) vs. Klein Oak (18-3-3), 4:30 p.m.; Plano (defending state champion, 17-1-7) vs. San Antonio McCarthur (19-2-3), 6:30 p.m.

Saturday Games

Girls championship, 11 a.m.
Boys championship, 1:30 p.m.

ago, but the girls team fell in the finals.

The Plano boys have been in the state Final Four five of the past six years. And it may be the only school with a shot at stopping powerful Coronado from throwing the UIL trophy over its shoulder and lugging it back to West El Paso.

But don't tell that to Coronado coach Victor Vargas. He doesn't like his team being pegged the favorites and he hasn't even thought about the 2-fer that he and Franklin coach Kati Hunyadi have a chance at this weekend.

But some gaudy team stats, like outscoring their opponents in the playoffs by a 29-1 mark and allowing a total of only 10 goals all season, clearly makes Coronado the favorite.

"I've never had a team top to bottom this solid," Vargas said. "Technically, we don't have much of a weak spot."



Coronado coach is one-man show

By Darren Hunt
El Paso Herald-Post sportswriter

No need to tag Coronado High soccer coach Victor Vargas the "head" coach.

He's the T-Birds' only coach.

While many of the state's top prep soccer programs enjoy the luxury of junior varsity teams and assistant coaches, El Paso's school districts make due with one team and one coach.

That makes berths by the Coronado boys and Franklin girls in this weekend's state Class 5A Final Four even more impressive, Vargas feels.

"All the other coaches out at regionals last week were surprised that I don't have a junior varsity," Vargas said.

It's not so much the lack of a varsity assistant to help coach as it is the small things that Vargas must tend to himself that make the solo act difficult.

"I was taking the team to dinner at regionals and one of the other coaches there said, 'Oh, I let my assistant do that,'" Vargas said. "And all of those other little details, I get to take care of them all."

Vargas has made the loaded Westside soccer leagues his junior varsity, helping out youth coaches, who he considers unpaid assistants.

"I go visit a lot of games outside the school," he said.

Watching the T-Birds practice at times seems like someone accidentally double-booked the practice field with 19-and-under and

15-and-under teams.

Vargas must coach a group daily as contrasting as 18-year-old University of New Mexico-bound T-Bird senior star Ryan Turnello, a 30-goal scorer, and 14-year-old freshman Eddie Simmons, who stands only 4-foot-11.

"They (freshman) are fun to have around to beat up," senior Mark Rowland jokes.

But Rowland, a starter, knows from experience that practicing with the big boys has its advantages.

"It's better for us because when we were younger we learned a lot from the older guys," Rowland said.

And the way the T-Birds have played this season, allowing only 10 goals in 22 games, it's not as if Vargas hasn't had a chance to play his future stars.

"Everybody played in the regional finals," Vargas said of the 6-0 blowout of Hanks last Saturday.

In fact, Coronado has only been challenged once this season, in a 2-0 win over Arlington Martin last Friday in the regional semifinals.

The T-Birds have outscored opponents 29-1 in their four-game playoff run.

That has allowed a core of younger players, including freshmen like Simmons, Marcos Carrillo and Arnold Ken-Barajas, the chance to travel to Pflugerville for the Final Four.

Consider it priceless playoff experience which could pay off for the assistant-less Vargas in coming years.



Coronado boys convinced

By Darren Hunt

El Paso Herald-Post sportswriter

The undefeated state Final Four-bound Coronado boys soccer team isn't exactly acting like a car full of 8-year-olds on their way to Disneyland.

Not conceited, just convinced.

It's their team motto. Following a 1995 season, which ended in what they feel was an unjustified loss, the team is left with a certain aura of confidence. But don't call it cockiness.

"I think the boys have it in their minds that they will succeed — they are a focused team," Coach Victor Vargas said.

Not conceited, just convinced.

A double-overtime defeat to Arlington Martin, on a penalty-kick goal in the Round of 8, prevented the T-Birds from advancing to the Final Four a year ago.

And the long trip home has never been forgotten.

"We were full of frustration and promises to come back," senior Gabe Lepe said. "We wanted to make sure we saw Martin again — and beat them bad."

With that setback now avenged — Coronado beat Martin 2-0 last Friday in the Round of 16 — the team has taken a la-de-da approach for the state championship tournament, where they will likely be playing in front of more than 3,000 people.

Not conceited, just convinced.

"At the moment, it hasn't sunk in. But by the time we get there, it'll start sinking in," said senior Mark Rowland.

Coronado was scheduled to leave today on a noon flight for Austin. The state semifinal vs. Houston Klein Oak is scheduled for 4:30 p.m. MST Friday in

nearby Pflugerville.

No one can really blame Coronado for its confidence heading into the game, after outscoring opponents 29-1 in its playoff run.

"When you beat teams like 8-0, you get to be a little bit confident," said Rowland.

The T-Birds don't think they've seen the top soccer in the state yet, however.

"I think we're going to see a lot better soccer at state," Lepe said.

But the likes of the rest of the Final Four, Houston Klein Oak, San Antonio MacArthur and even defending state champ Plano, a school with an enrollment of more than 6,000 students, isn't fazing the T-Birds.

"They know in their minds that they had set that goal (state championship)," Vargas said. "We are going to do it."

Not conceited, just convinced.



Klein Oak's dream run ends

El Paso Coronado turns up offense in 5-1 semifinal victory

By **SCOTT KAISER**
Houston Chronicle

PFLUGERVILLE — El Paso Coronado came into Friday's state boys soccer semifinals with some of the most impressive numbers seen in the history of this tournament, but many wondered if the Thunderbirds were for real.

Klein Oak, for one, can attest they are.

Led by a first-half hat trick by Ryan Turnello, the Thunderbirds beat the Panthers 5-1 on a wet, cold night at Kuempel Stadium. The loss ended Klein Oak's fairy-tale season at 18-4-3.

"They think this takes away from their season, but it doesn't," Klein Oak coach Tom Viehoefer said of his players. "We're disappointed, but we gave it our best shot. We had a few flaws, and they were good enough to exploit them."

The Thunderbirds, who outscored their opponents 120-10 entering Friday's match, scored four minutes in and then continued to show solid ball control and movement. Coronado keeper Adrian Santana looked shaky, but the Panthers couldn't get enough going offensively to take advantage.

"We got outplayed, I won't argue that," Viehoefer said. "They're good ... what can I say? It's no fluke that they're here."

Coronado, playing with a stiff breeze at its back in the first half, opened the scoring when Turnello took a throw-in and let loose with low rocket that eluded Klein Oak keeper Brian Diamond.

Diamond made a sparkling save minutes later on a rip by Steven Pena, but had no chance in the 26th minute when a 40-yard free kick by Rick Wilson ricocheted off the crossbar to a wide-open Turnello, who directed the ball into the open goal.

The Thunderbirds made it 3-0 in the final minute of the opening half after the Panthers couldn't clear the ball. On a quick counter, Turnello controlled a lead pass from Wilson off his chest and tucked it past a helpless Diamond.

"When they got that third goal, I thought that might be the nail in the coffin," Viehoefer said. "We could get away with two, but the third one was just too much. Then we didn't do anything in the second half."

Klein Oak cut its deficit to 3-1 in the 54th minute when Carlos Chavez stripped a Coronado defender and then toe-punched an 18-yard shot that clipped off Santana's hands into the goal.

Chavez then had another golden



Associated Press

El Paso Coronado's Ryan Turnello, left, and Kirk Wilson celebrate Turnello's goal, one of three he scored in a 5-1 victory over Klein Oak

opportunity in the 68th minute when he got behind the defense, but his rushed shot went right at Santana.

On the other side of the field, Panthers forward Ronnie Curry (26 goals and 13 assists entering the match) couldn't elude the close marking of Juan Guerrero. With Guerrero all over him, Curry was unable to get a shot on goal.

"They put their fastest man on me and Carlos was able to eat his guy up, but we just weren't able to capitalize on our chances," Curry said.

With the Panthers pressing to score, Wilson and Pena each scored on breakaways in the final 11 minutes.

"We pushed up and got burned but we had to take some chances," Viehoefer said. "I don't think we played well as a team in the second half. We felt the pressure to score and tried to do too much individually."

The Thunderbirds (23-0) will meet Plano (18-1-7), which beat San Antonio MacArthur (19-3-3) 6-0 on Friday, in today's 2:30 p.m. final.

CORONADO

Leaguer

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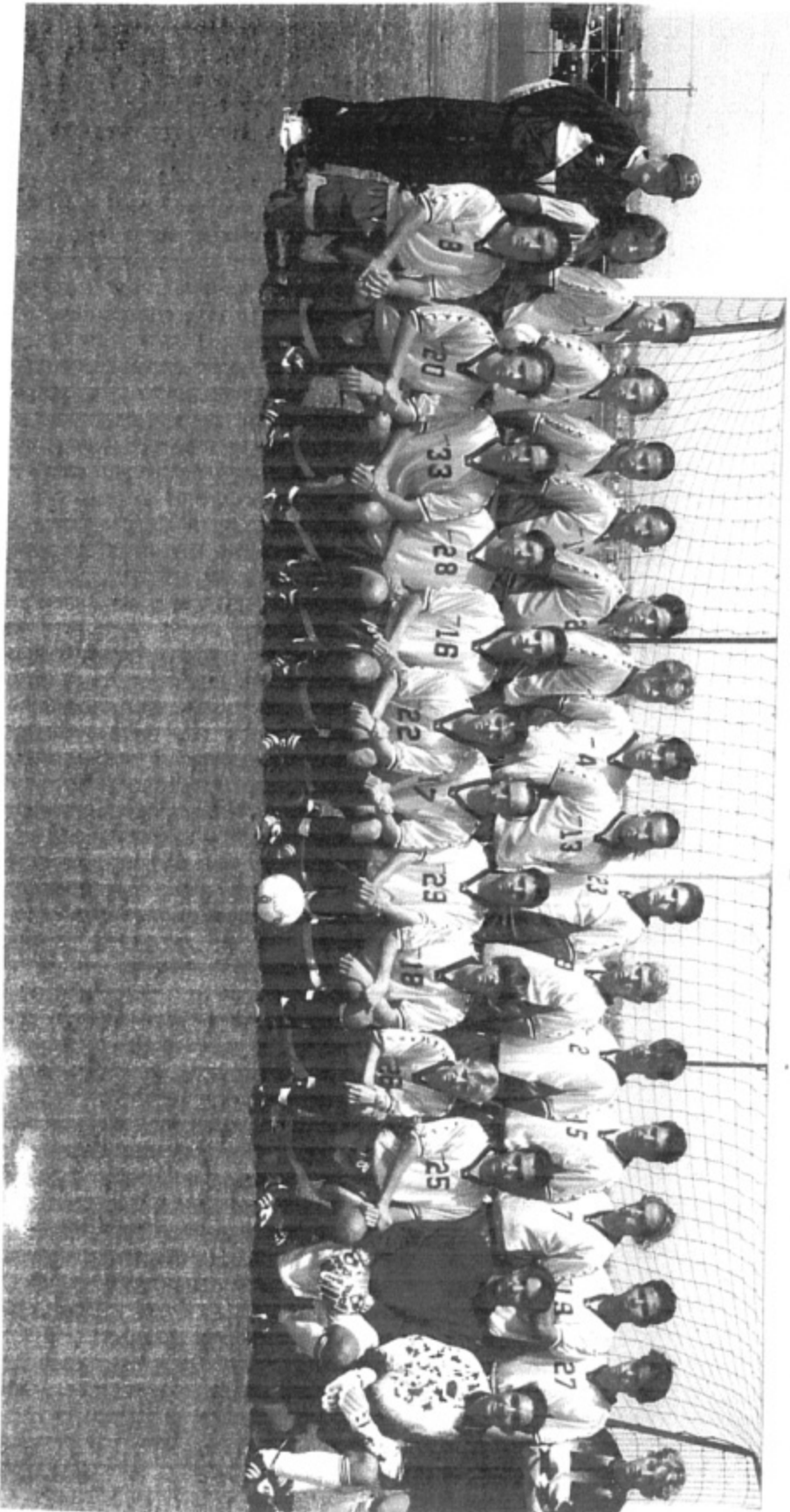
JNG. Plano's Ryan Walker (23) tries to maneuver past so Coronado's Nathan Roth in second half action of the soccer tournament. *Photo by Bobby Hawthorne.*



CUSTOM BUILT T-BIRD. Using amazing speed and skill, the El Paso Coronado Thunderbirds knocked off defending state champion Pk 3-2, to win the state soccer championship on a cool and windy day at Pflugerville High School. Coronado built a 3-0 lead, then held off a Plano rally to finish the season with a 24-0 record. Holding the trophy above is Ryan Turnello, a senior fullback/halfback who was named to all-tournament team. *Photo by Bobby Hawthorne.*

It's the season for medals and trophies

T-Birds 1996 State Championship Team



Sports

Thursday, April 11, 1996

D



Coronado soccer is No. 3 in the nation

Coronado High is rated the No. 3 boys prep soccer team in the nation by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

The Thunderbirds completed a 24-0 season Saturday by defeating Plano for the Texas Class 5A state championship.

Meanwhile, local Franklin High was listed as "having received votes" in the NSCAA national girls rankings. Franklin advanced to the 5A Final Four.

The top-rated boys school is LaCanada High (25-0) of LaCanada, Calif. Second is Lincoln High of Tallahassee, Fla.

Klein (Texas) High trailed Coronado in fourth place and Sal Pointe High of Tucson, Ariz., was No. 5.

The top girls team is St. Thomas Aquinas of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.



**VICTOR VARGAS
CORONADO HIGH SCHOOL
BOYS SOCCER
STATE
CHAMPIONS
1996**



Coach voted Texas' best

Coronado boys won state soccer title with Vargas

By Don Henry
El Paso Times

Victor Vargas takes no credit. His players, he says, are the reason he was named 1996 Boys Soccer Coach of the Year in Texas.

"We had strong, dedicated kids," the 47-year-old Coronado coach said. "They made up their minds after losing in the regional finals last year. They kinda felt then that they should have gone to the final four. They set the goal of winning state."

Winning they did: 24 without a loss, including 3-2 over Plano for the Class 5A championship this spring. That record also elevated the T-Birds to the No. 3 spot in the nation.

The Texas Association of Soccer Coaches followed by picking Vargas as the year's top coach. Vargas will receive the award next month.

This is Vargas' first state award after being named regional Soccer Coach of the Year in 1995 and 1996.

"I'm happy about it," Vargas said. "I knew that, with half our starters back from last year and some good kids coming off the bench to become starters, we'd have a good club."

Coronado's girls coach Isidro Ramirez emphatically agreed with the coaches association on Vargas' selection. "He did a great job, he deserved to be coach of the year," Ramirez said.

WINNING COACH

■ **Victor Vargas** never played high school soccer. "They didn't have it when I



Vargas

came through high school at Ysleta," he said.

■ **When Coronado** began a soccer program 12 years ago, Var-

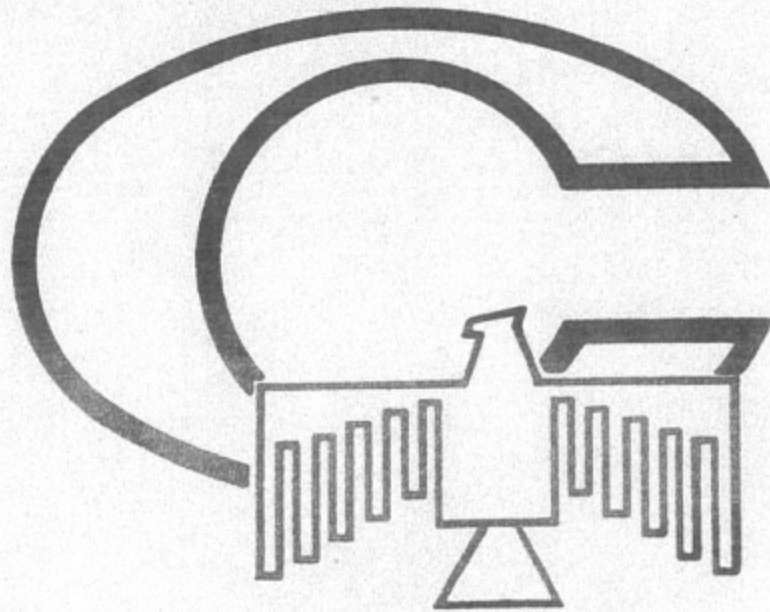
gas was named coach, and he has not had a losing record. His record? "Oh, I don't know what it is," Vargas said, "I don't keep up with that. I know the past two or three years, but that's all."

■ **The last two seasons**, the T-Birds are 45-1 — the lone loss was 1-0 in overtime loss to Arlington Martin in a regional playoff a year ago.



"I saw very little of his team, since we were coaching on different fields. But he really communicated with his players. And he spends a lot of time learning, going to clinics, reading a lot of books, watches tapes."

Vargas said he had four players on the state championship team who have landed soccer scholarships: Gabe Lepe and Mark Roland at Oklahoma, Ryan Tornello at New Mexico and Kirk Wilson at Drake.



HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER QUARTERFINALS

Coronado gets revenge, moves into semifinals

By Chris Gove

Special to the Times

CORONADO	2	ODESSA
S. ANGELO	1	

ODESSA — The first time the Coronado T-Birds made a trip to Odessa this season it wasn't a pleasant experience.

They more than made up for that Tuesday, however. Coronado, with one starter back from last year's state champion, won its 10th straight playoff game over the past two seasons with a 2-1 regional quarterfinal victory against San Angelo Central at Pease Field.

The T-Birds avenged a 4-0 loss to the Bobcats earlier this season on the same field during the Ector County Interscholastic School District tournament. More importantly, they advanced to the semifinals for the

third straight season.

Jose Nunez scored the game-winning goal off an assist from Jesus Nana with five minutes left in the first half. Eric Heredia scored on a penalty kick in the sixth minute for a 1-0 Coronado lead before Central struck back on a goal by Matt Stephens in the 27th minute.

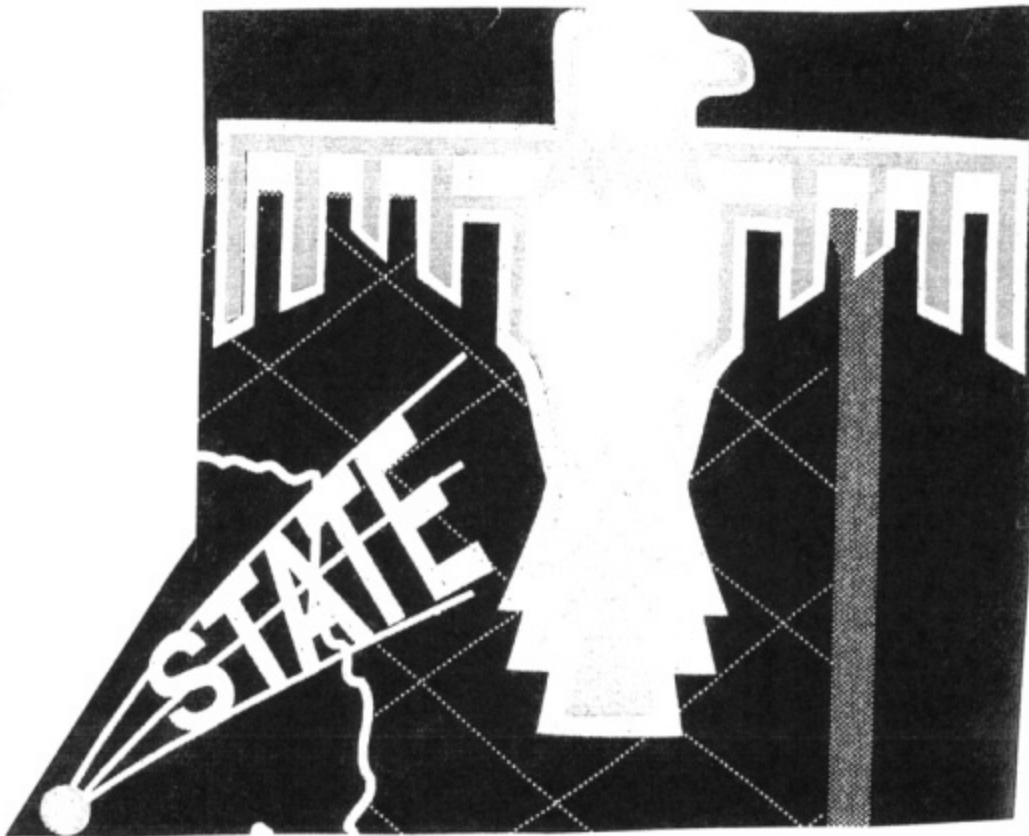
When Nunez scored to give the T-Birds a 2-1 halftime lead and the T-Birds held Central (18-6) to just one shot on goal in the second half while improving to 16-7.

Coronado coach Victor Vargas praised his defensive lineup of Frank Clark, Jose Nunez, Marcos Carrillo and Marcos Morales.

"The defensive group is working very well together. My kids are very improved and they are working toward their goals."

El Paso Times
Wednesday, March 26, 1997

5C



Coronado's Vargas more than a coach

It's never too early to start thinking about El Paso high school soccer, the last sport to bring a state championship to that many outsiders consider soccer, Texas, USA.

The high school season doesn't start until January 9 — 87 days from today — but the conditioning and mental preparation has already started for teams all over the city including the Coronado boys team and the Franklin girls.

Coronado coach Victor Vargas is named the Texas Coach of the Year in 1996 when his T-Birds went undefeated and won the State championship influgerville.

Developing players not only on the field but in life is the most rewarding aspect for Vargas, the 37 El Paso Times Coach of the Year.

"I think the progression the kids show in life is what keeps me going," Vargas said. "Watching them mature and become young men is very fulfilling. I really enjoy it." Vargas has sent countless soccer players to college. "A lot of the kids prefer to go to colleges based on their academics and play soccer as an



Victor R. Martinez

afterthought," Vargas said. "Some play on club teams when they get there. They have their mind in the right place, they put their school first and their soccer second. That's how it should be."

Vargas coached the T-Birds to a 16-8 record and a third consecutive regional semifinal appearance last season, the sixth in his 13 years at Coronado.

He may have turned in his best coaching job last year, however, taking a team basically from scratch and molding it into a winner. All this after winning the state championship in 1996 with a senior-dominated team.

"We had a very young team and we had to start from scratch," he said. "In a sense of accomplishment and expectations, this was better than last year. It was us proving

everyone right (two years ago). We were expected to do well and we did. Anytime you have to defend your title, it's going to be tough but I truly enjoyed last season."