



Induction Banquet

June 27, 2015 • Port Isabel, Texas



Congratulations Class of 2015

**Lupe Rodriguez, Nati Valdez,
Aaron Ramirez and Jaime Peña**

RGV Sports Hall of Fame Inductees, Class of 2015



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President's Message

Welcome to the 28th Annual Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame Induction Banquet. This 2015 event is the first year that we host at the new and beautiful Port Isabel Events Center. The Board of Directors are happy to be here this evening and are glad everyone could join us tonight for this year's Induction Banquet. The RGV Sports Hall of Fame is a non-profit organization dedicated in bringing recognition to our local talent that have exposed the Rio Grande Valley throughout Texas and the nation.

Tonight will be a memorable night for the inductees and their families. We all look forward to hear about their stories of the past and some of the most memorable moments they remember during their sports careers.

I would like to congratulate this year's 2015 Class of nine inductees. It is a diverse group consisting of one woman – Stacey Seibert Banks (Harlingen) who averaged 23.1 points per game at Harlingen High School, who participated in NCAA Division I basketball at Texas Tech University, and who was a member of the 1987 U.S. Olympic Festival Team. The eight men start with Tommy Barker (Weslaco), who was a two-time All-State basketball player at Weslaco High and moved on to play in the National Basketball Association. Juan De Dios Garcia (Brownsville) coached Brownsville Hanna for three decades and has been inducted into the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches Hall of Honor. Alonso "Knot" Garcia (Edinburg) helped lead Pan American University baseball to the 1964 NAIA District Championship and Texas A&I University, where he became part of the 1959 NAIA National Championship team. Jaime Peña (Mission) played basketball at Mission High and New Mexico State University, and was drafted by the San Antonio Spurs in 1982. Aaron Ramirez (Mission) was a long distance runner at Mission High School and the University of Arizona, where he earned a place on the 1992 U.S. Olympic Track Team. Lupe Rodriguez (Mission) holds the Valley's record for passing yards of 6,917 at Mission high, and went on to play for Stephen F. Austin University and Texas A&I University. Nati Valdez (Mission) holds the Valley's record of 3,726 for the most yards by a receiver at Mission High, played at Brigham Young University and later was inducted into the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame.

I would also like everyone to help me welcome and honor the 1965 Brownsville High School Baseball team, the Class 4A state finalists. Among the honorees we have a few Hall of Famers that are part of the Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame.

Our ultimate goal in our organization is to raise money towards a museum to display all our recognized inductees and some of their memorabilia. We are in the process of making our dream come true with local entities and local businesses for key sponsorships.

Finally, I would like to thank the board members for allowing me to serve as their President for the past two years. We hope you enjoy this evening's event.

Sincerely,

*Dan Ogletree,
RGV Sports Hall of Fame Chairman of the Board 2013-2015*

Special Thanks

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CONGRATULATIONS Juan de Dios Garcia and the Class of 2015

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Making Memories, Today

When it was founded in 1985, the Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame immediately became a repository of Valley sports history and memory, with a goal of honoring a select group of the area's best sports heroes. The brainchild of a handful of Valley greats from sports and news media, the Hall induced its first class in 1988 and has been bringing luminaries of the Valley sports world together annually ever since. More than 200 men and women who made headlines in high school and beyond are enshrined, with an average of seven joining the group each summer.

Highlights for this year's class are four athletes from Mission – a football quarterback and receiver who made it to the collegiate level, a basketball star who was drafted into the NBA, and a world-class distance runner.

The Selection Committee's task is a difficult one. There are nearly 100 deserving people nominated for induction each year, and the committee's task is to narrow that list to about 25-30. There are many former student-athletes, coaches, game officials, administrators, and sports media who have been nominated. The group is separated into a Primary Ballot for nominees between the ages of 40 and 69, and a Veterans Ballot for those over the age of 70.

While the honor list is heavy with football stars from the past, the organization recognizes the contributions of candidates from all sports. Board members have also focused on uncovering the stories of notable female sports stars throughout Valley history. As basketball great Stacey Siebert Banks joins the club this year, the diversity – and quality – of the group will be augmented.

The Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame is celebrating its 30th year since it was founded in 1985. The Hall continues to evolve and has a Facebook page that everyone is encouraged to "like." For the last three years, the Hall has co-sponsored the All-Star Sports Awards with RGVSports.com, to honor high school student-athletes, coaches and sports programs for their achieve-



Recognizing Achievement

ments during the school year.

The long-range goal of the organization is to find a permanent physical home for the Hall, from which to display donated memorabilia plus temporary and permanent exhibits, and to have a venue to host events. As we look forward to the new gathering, and listening to the stories of the nine honorees June 27 in Port Isabel, the Hall wishes to thank Valley athletes and fans for contributing to the growth and popularity of the organization.

Preserving the history of the area's games is our passion, and we do it gladly.

Visit us at RGVSportsHallofFame.org and on Facebook

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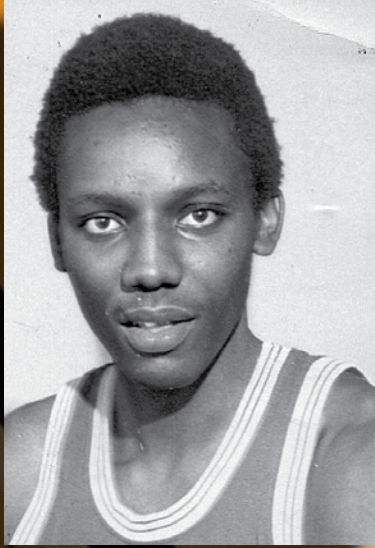
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TOMMY BARKER

Hometown: Weslaco, Texas

High School: Weslaco High School

College: The University of Minnesota,
The University of Southern Idaho, and
The University of Hawaii

Professional: Atlanta Hawks, New York Knicks,
Boston Celtics, Houston Rockets

Sport Best Known For: Basketball

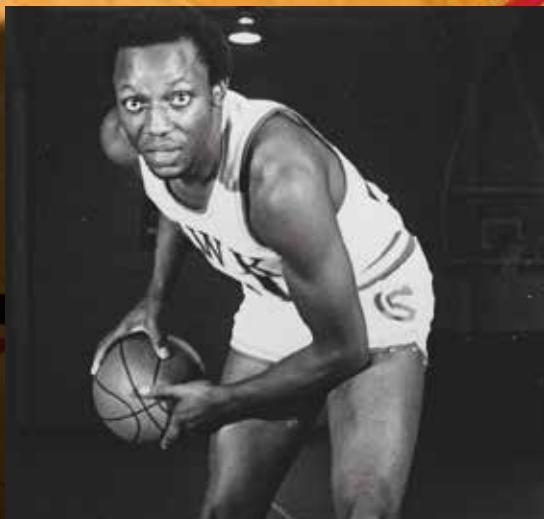


Tommy Barker is the only person born and raised in the Rio Grande Valley to play in the National Basketball Association. He is also the best high school basketball player the Valley has ever seen.

Tommy was a force that nobody could reckon with during his high school days at Weslaco High. He was 6-foot-10 as a junior for the Panthers, averaging 25 points per game. As a senior, he was an inch taller and averaged 32 points a game. He earned All-State honors both seasons.

He played collegiately at The University of Minnesota as a freshman, at the University of Southern Idaho as a sophomore, and at the University of Hawaii for his junior and senior seasons.

He was taken in the fourth round of the 1976 NBA Draft by Atlanta, and played 59 games for the Hawks in 1976-77, averaging 8.1 points and 6.8 rebounds a game. Some teammates on those teams included Nate Archibald, Jo Jo White, Bob McAdoo, Dave Cowens, Rick Barry, Mike Dunleavy, Calvin Murphy, Moses Malone, Rudy Tomjanovich, Robert Reid, Earl "The Pearl" Monroe, Michael Ray Richardson, and Spencer Haywood. He left the Hawks after one season and played in the CBA in 1977-78. Tommy rejoined the NBA in 1978-79, playing with three teams – the New York Knicks, the Boston Celtics and Houston Rockets. After 22 games with the Knicks, Barker left to play in Holland. In 1981 his rights were traded to the Portland Trailblazers, although he never reported there.



CONGRATULATIONS BRONCS ALONSO "KNOT" GARCIA JUAN DE DIOS GARCIA

*Pan American Athletes, Coaches and Alums
inducted into the RGV Sports Hall of Fame*

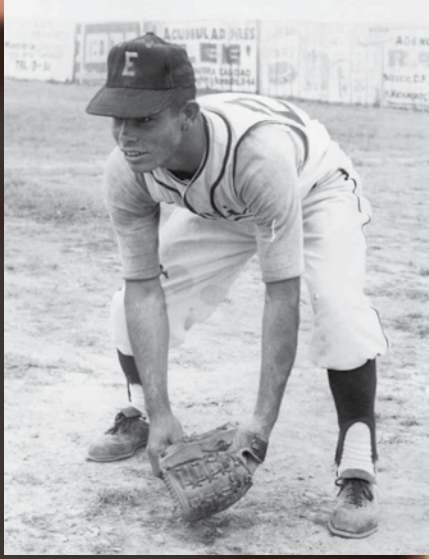
Louie Alamia, 2010
LuAnn Alexander, 2013
Arnie Alvarez, 2007
Richard Avila, 2003
Tony Barbosa, 2005
Jack Bloomfield, 1993
Mike Brisky, 2012
Jim Brooks, 1990
Guadalupe "Lupe" Canul, 2002
Max Cavazos, 1991
Nancy K. Clark, 2014
Thomas Esparza, Ph.D., 1991
Camilo Estevis, 1995
Richard R. Flores, 1992
Willie W. Garcia, 2010
Jesus "Chuy" Guerra, 2000
Oton "Tony" Guerrero, 1995
Donald Guillot, 2011
Kathy Howell, 2010
Iris G. Iglesias, 2012
Lucious "Luke" Jackson, 1995
Alex Leal, 1996
Felipe Leal Garcia, 2000
Jim McKone, 1994
Erasmio "Mo" Molina, 2010
Otto Moore, 2010
David Mosqueda, 1993
Al Ogletree, 1989
Mary Lee Rabke, Ph.D., 1997
John Anthony Raders, 2003

Jody Ramsey, 1999
Camilo "Bucky" Rodriguez, 2002
Joe A. Rodriguez, 1991
Pikey Rodriguez, Jr., 2001
Hector Salinas, 2009
Lupe Salinas, 2003
Patsy Sanchez-Paredes, 2013
Rene Torres, 2007
Reggie Tredaway, 2009
Carlos Vela, 2011
Pete Vela, 2012
Robert Vela, 2008
D. Joe Williams, 2003
Sam Williams, 1988
Raul Zamarripa, 2013



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ALONSO “KNOT” GARCIA†

Hometown: Encino, Texas
High School: Edinburg High School
College: Pan American College
Professional: Pittsburgh Pirates,
 Monterrey Sultans
Sport Best Known For: Baseball

Alonso “Knot” Garcia enjoyed a baseball career that included playing collegiate and professional ball.

After graduating from Edinburg High School in 1962, he started his two-year career as a shortstop for the Pan American’s 1963 team that started a 26-year run of winning seasons for the Broncs in the NAIA and NCAA. He played a big role in leading the Broncs to the NAIA District 8 championship in 1964, marking the team’s first postseason appearance in baseball.

After that 1964 season, he was drafted by the Pittsburgh Pirates, and immediately went to the Salem Rebels in the Rookie League, where he batted .241 with two homers in 71 games.

He played briefly for the Monterrey Sultanes in the Mexican League in 1965 before the Pirates called him back to play at Class A Batavia. He hit .228 in 25 games in the New York-Penn League. He returned to the Mexican League and started the 1966 season with Monterrey when he was drafted into the U.S. Army that year.

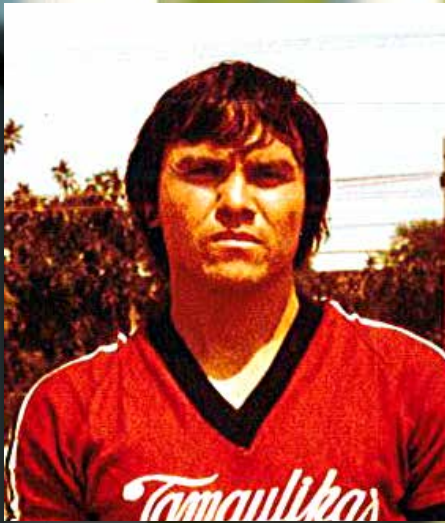
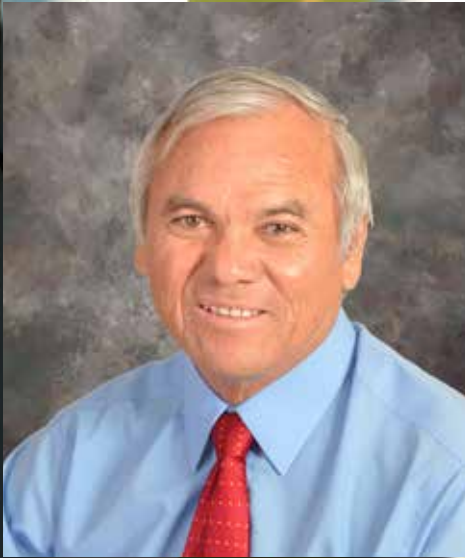
Garcia spent 18 months in Vietnam. His service earned him the National Defense Medal, the Sharpshooter (Rifle M-14) Medal, the Vietnam Campaign Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal. He was honorably discharged in May 1972.

He returned home to play baseball again in the Mexican League in 1968, where he played for eight seasons at the AAA level at Monterrey, Reynosa, Tampico, Pueblo, Yucatan, and Coahuila.

After his baseball career ended in 1975, he coached American Legion Baseball in Edinburg. Alonso passed away in 2005.



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JUAN DE DIOS GARCIA

Hometown: Matamoros, Mexico

High School: Brownsville High School

College: Pan American University at Brownsville

Best Known For: Coaching Soccer

Juan de Dios Garcia is considered by soccer aficionados as the Father of Soccer in the Rio Grande Valley.

He grew up in Matamoros playing soccer in the early 1960s. After graduating from Brownsville High School in 1974, he played on multiple all-star teams in Texas and Mexico in the 1970s. He realized he needed to finish college, and did so in 1982 at Pan American University at Brownsville

The UIL approved soccer as a new sport in 1982, and Garcia was there to serve as the first coach at Brownsville Hanna that year. He stayed 30 years as the boys' soccer coach at Hanna, the longest-tenured soccer coach in the Rio Grande Valley in any sport. His career record was 437-206-66, a winning percentage of .663. He took the Eagles to the playoffs 20 out of the 30 years, and took seven Hanna teams to the regional tournament, including five straight times from 1999 to 2003.

Hanna's 1-0 victory over previously undefeated San Antonio MacArthur in the 1990 regional final marked the first time a Valley boys' soccer team advanced to the state soccer tournament. That 1990 Eagles lost in the semifinals to Austin Westlake, 4-3, in a wild 22-player shootout.

Several of his former players are now successful coaches, including Rev Hernandez of Sharyland, Salvador Garcia of Rivera, and Amadeo Escandon of Lopez. After retirement, he served as a volunteer assistant coach for the UTB/TSC women's soccer team from 2007 to 2010.

Garcia was inducted into the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches Hall of Honor in 2012.



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HAROLD HEES

Hometown: Harlingen, Texas
High School: Harlingen High School
College: Texas A&I University
Best Known For: Football

Harold Hees was an elusive running back at Harlingen High in the mid-1950s, earning All-State honorable mention honors, and had a successful career as a running back for Texas A&I University, where he earned Honorable Mention Little All-America for the Javelinas.

Hees was a bruising running back for the Cardinals, and was among the Valley leaders in touchdowns scored. He was a three-year letterman from 1953-55, and was a Cardinal tri-captain his senior year. Hees made Second Team All-District as a junior and then First Team All-District as a senior in 1955. He led District 8-AAA in scoring, and beat San Benito with a last-second touchdown run.

At Texas A&I, Hees lettered three years as a fullback in football. As a sophomore, he was one of the team's leading scorers and rushers. As a junior, Hees made the All-Lone Star Conference team as the Javelinas won their first-ever LSC championship and then took their first NAIA national title. Hees was at his best in the clutch, with touchdowns in both playoff games. Hees made the All-Lone Star Conference team two years, along with All-America in 1960.

The honoree was named to the All-LSC team again in 1960, was All-Texas College and was on the Associated Press Little All-America honorable mention list.

The 1959 team captured the first of seven national championships for Texas A&I and gained the South Texas campus nation-wide attention when it played the title game on CBS television.

He was inducted into the Javelina Hall of Fame in 1982.



CONGRATULATIONS

JAIME PENA

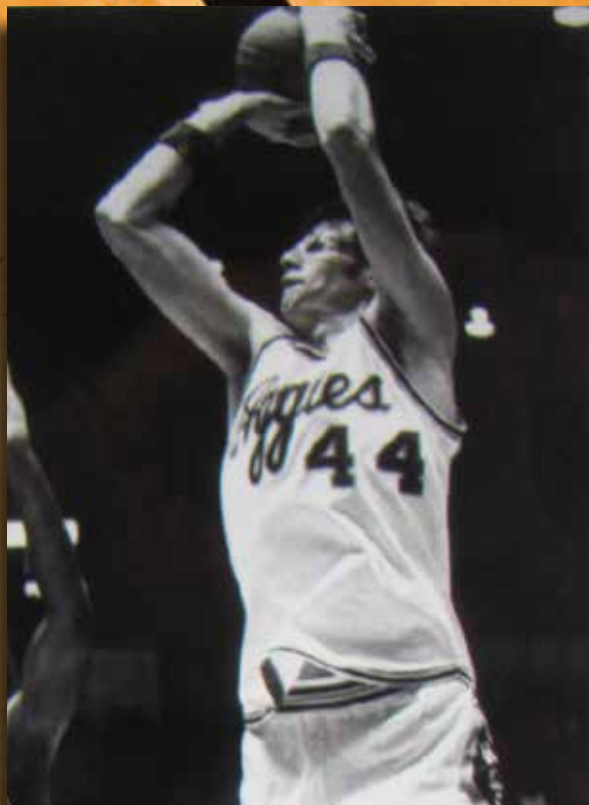
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JAIME PEÑA

Hometown: Mission, Texas

High School: Mission High School

College: New Mexico State University

Best Known For: Basketball

Jaime Peña enjoyed a memorable basketball career, where he starred at Mission High School, had great success at New Mexico State University, and was drafted by the San Antonio Spurs.

He was Valley Freedom Newspapers Player of the Year in 1978, leading Mission to three straight District 28-4A championships under legendary Coach Roy Garcia. The Eagles were unbeaten in district in 1975-76 and 1976-77, and lost only once in 1977-78, going 51-1 Jaime's three years. He was 6-foot-7 as a senior when Mission went 32-5. He was named to the All-State Team and played in the Texas High School Basketball Classic in 1978.

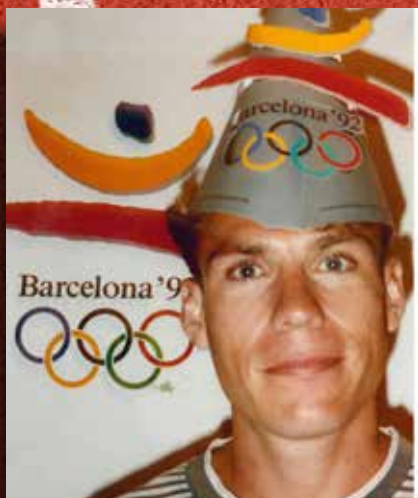
Jaime played two seasons at Lon Morris Junior College and transferred to New Mexico State University, where he scored almost 1,000 points in two years. As a junior and now 6-foot-8, he was co-Newcomer of the Year in 1980-81. He averaged 18.1 points to lead the Missouri Valley Conference in scoring. He also averaged 6.9 rebounds per game, earning Second Team All-Conference honors. As a senior, he averaged 17.5 points and 6.5 rebounds per game, and was named to the First Team of the MVC and MVP of the conference.

He was drafted in the sixth round of the 1982 NBA draft by the San Antonio Spurs, but never played for the team. He played professionally in with CAI Zaragoza (Spain) in the European League, and in Puerto Rico and Mexico. He later joined the Mexico Olympic team.



Congratulations
Aaron Ramirez
and
the class of 2015.





AARON RAMIREZ

Hometown: Mission, Texas

High School: Mission High School

College: Texas A&M University and
The University of Arizona

Best Known For: Long Distance Running

Aaron Ramirez wasn't just one of the best long distance runners in the Valley or the state of Texas, he established himself as one of the best in the nation during his era. His specialty was distance running, and his time of 9:07.18 in the 3,200-meter run in 1982 has stood as a Valley record for 33 years. After graduating from Mission High School, Ramirez signed with Texas A&M University and but transferred after one year to The University of Arizona.

At Arizona, he set the collegiate distance running world on fire from 1984 to 1987.

Ramirez ran a personal best time in the 10,000 meters of 27:59.70. He won the Pacific-10 and District 8 Cross Country Championship to qualify for nationals in 1986. At the NCAA Men's Cross Country Championships, Ramirez won the 10,000-meter run with a time of 30:27.53, winning the race by five seconds. He ended his college career by winning the Pacific-10 and District 8 championships. He finished his career at Arizona ranked in the Top 10 in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, 5,000-meter run, and 10,000-meter run.

He was a finalist at the 1988 U.S. Olympic Trials in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, and was a member of the U.S. team at the World Cross Country Championships in 1989, 1990, and 1991. At the 1992 Olympic trials, Ramirez qualified in the 10,000-meter run to earn a trip to the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona. At the Games, he finished in 13th place in his heat with a time of 29:00.12.



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LUPE RODRIGUEZ

Hometown: Mission, Texas

High School: Mission High School

College: Stephen F. Austin University,
Texas A&I University

Best Known For: Football

Lupe Rodriguez was the leader behind the team that revolutionized offenses in the Valley in the 1980s. Mission was the first Valley team to use the shotgun formation exclusively and used a pass-first philosophy to move the football.

In his junior year in 1986, Lupe Rodriguez passed for 2,738 yards and 33 touchdowns, falling just eight yards short of the state passing title to San Antonio Holmes' Wilbur Odom. Mission qualified to the state playoffs for the first time since 1968, advancing to the bi-district round to face Harlingen, a team Mission had not defeated since 1941. Rodriguez completed 26 of 41 passes for 422 yards and six touchdowns in the 54-7 victory over Harlingen witnessed by 18,000 fans.

In his senior year, Rodriguez's 4,179 passing yards in 1987 still stands as the Valley's single-season record, as do his 50 touchdown passes that year. The passing-yard mark was best in the nation at the time. His two top targets, Nati Valdez and Frank Hernandez, ranked 2-3 nationally in receiving that year with 104 and 98 catches, respectively.

Rodriguez still holds five Valley-best marks, including career TD passes (83) and single-season pass attempts (445). Lupe finished his two-year career with 6,917 passing yards. He held three national records at the time: the single-season passing mark, the single-season TD mark and the most TD passes in a game (seven). He was the Class 5A All-State offensive player of the year in 1987.

Rodriguez signed with Stephen F. Austin and later transferred to Texas A&I University.

Congratulations

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STACEY SIEBERT BANKS

Hometown: Harlingen, Texas
High School: Harlingen High School
College: Texas Tech University
Best Known For: Basketball

Stacey Siebert Banks is perhaps the most successful female basketball player to come out the Rio Grande Valley at Harlingen High School and Texas Tech University.

At Harlingen High, Siebert terrorized opponents, leading the Lady Cardinals to District 32-5A championship in 1986. She averaged 23.1 points per game as a senior and finished her three-year career with 1,499 points and 843 rebounds. For her efforts, she was named to the All-District Team and chosen First Team All-Valley.

Siebert graduated from HHS in 1986 and earned a scholarship to Texas Tech University. Where she played four years. Between her freshman and sophomore seasons, she was selected to play in the 1987 U.S. Olympic Festival team.

At Tech, she earned second-team All-Southwest Conference honors in 1989 and 1990, and was on the SWC Classic All-Tournament team both years as well. She finished her career at Tech with 1,315 points, 154 blocked shots, which is ranked fifth all-time, and 10.4 rebounds per game average, which is ranked fourth all-time at Tech. She is also in Tech's all-time Top 10 in free throws attempted and made. Her career-high rebounding mark came in 1989 when she pulled down 23 boards against Texas A&M. She was chosen MVP by her teammates in 1989.

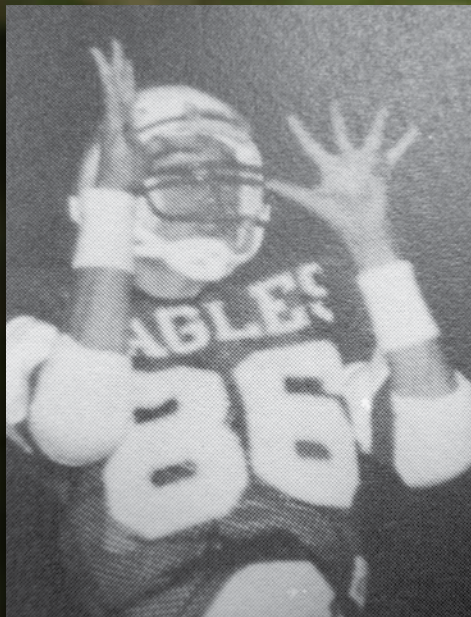
Texas Tech had winning records each year Stacey was there under legendary Coach Marsha Sharp, who won a national championship in 1993 with Sheryl Swoopes. The Lady Raiders finished 18-11 in 1987, 17-13 in 1988, 16-13 in 1989, and 20-11 in 1990.

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NATI VALDEZ

Hometown: Mission, Texas
High School: Mission High School
College: Brigham Young University
Best Known For: Football

Nati Valdez was one of the most outstanding wide receivers the Rio Grande Valley has ever seen. He played at Mission High from 1986-1988, becoming a starter since the fifth game of his sophomore season. During Valdez' senior season, Mission won its first district championship in 20 years.

He holds three Valley receiving records. His 104 receptions during his junior season was a state record at the time and remains a Valley best. Valdez finished with a three-year total of 252 catches, which ranks fifth all-time in Texas. At the time, it was the national all-time record. His 3,726 career receiving yards total is still a Valley record, and he scored 37 touchdowns in his career as an Eagle.

During his senior year, Mission played only eight regular season games, yet Valdez caught 70 passes for 987 yards despite playing hurt most of the year.

He was double-teamed by many teams, who knew they had to stop him, but few could. Nati ran his routes well and had good communication with his quarterbacks. Opposing coaches found it difficult to defend Nati.

Valdez was chosen to the Class 5A All-State team, a first-team selection to the Valley's All-Millennium Team, and was inducted into the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame in 2008. Aside from lettering three times in football, he was also a three-year letterman in baseball, twice in basketball, and once in track.

He played collegiately at Brigham Young University, where he had three touchdown catches in his sophomore and junior seasons.

Valdez one of four in state's football hall of fame
 By Justin McDaniel | [10/1/2008](#)

Nati Valdez has a rather cheery first name. The full version, Nestor, is pretty unique. And knowing how kids can be in school, it's a Christmas miracle Valdez didn't take more abuse because of it. But the accomplished receiver managed to keep his full name mostly under wraps at Mission High, and besides, when you're a record-setting varsity football player, your peers tend to keep their gift of gab to themselves.

"In school you don't really ever have to pronounce your full name, so I don't hear much," Valdez said. "When I was actually at BYU it was more of an issue. People tended to kind of try to play with pronouncing it. Mostly it's been a fun type of deal. They all want to know if I'm a Christmas baby."

For the record, he's not. Valdez was born July 9, 1971. But his genius as a legendary football player began as a sophomore with the high-flying Eagles in 1986 and culminated in May with his induction into the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame. Valdez received the hall call from Eddie Joseph, the former executive director of the Texas High School Coaches Association. Valdez says he was overjoyed.

FIVE TO KNOW
 Nati Valdez's career receptions total of 252 still stands as a state record, though Burnett Jordan Shipley tied the mark in 2003. Shipley, now at Texas, needed one more year than Valdez to do it.

In 1986, Mission High beat Harlingen High for the first time since Tom Landry's 1941 team in a non-district game. Harlingen had the last laugh, however, dispatching the Eagles 17-16 in the bi-district playoffs.

Valdez and his wife, Carrie, celebrated their 13th wedding anniversary June 17. Valdez teamed with

1965 Brownsville Baseball:

Eagles Make Run to State Title Game

In June 1965, there was a nasty war going on in Vietnam. Lyndon B. Johnson was President. Gasoline cost 31 cents a gallon. A dozen eggs cost 53 cents. A gallon of milk cost 95 cents.

In Brownsville, advertisements in The Brownsville Herald at Anthony's listed Father's Day dress shirts for \$1.88 and dress slacks for \$2.99. Tires were on sale at Sears for \$14.99. Arnulfo Oliveira was just approved to be the Brownsville High principal at a salary of \$11,259.40.

The Brownsville High Eagles had a young baseball coach named Joe Rodriguez who was 29 years old.

The Eagles had a fine team built around two solid left-handed pitchers – Tony Barbosa and Charlie Vaughan. Both threw moving fastballs and nasty curveballs. It was rare to see one good left-handed pitcher on a 1965 high school team, yet the Eagles had two very good ones.

What everybody found out was how two great lefty pitchers could carry a team.

It was a storybook ending that culminated in the UIL Class 4A (now 6A) state championship finale, when Brownsville came within one game of winning it all. It was a season that Eagle players and fans will never forget.

The Team

Joe Rodriguez, who would later become the head football coach, had one assistant coach – Ramon Rodriguez. There were 19 players on the team.

Barbosa (12-1), a junior, threw three no-hitters that season, including a 2-0 perfect game that lasted 80 minutes against Harlingen High. He logged 139 strikeouts in 91 1/3 innings. His ERA was 1.01.

Vaughan (13-3), a senior, tossed two no-hitters in and finished with 203 strikeouts in 107 2/3 innings along with an ERA of 0.39. He recorded double-digit strikeouts in 13 of his 15 starts that season.

Either Barbosa or Vaughan played first base depending upon who pitched. Raul Barreda also played first. Cesar de la Garza was the starting second baseman with Rene Torres at shortstop and Arnie Alvarez at third. Starting outfielders were Tony Tamayo in left, Art Galvan in center and Sergio Manzano in right. Ramiro Barreda was the catcher.



Other players included utility players Chris Carpenter, Prax Garcia and Albert Solitaire, pitchers Ronnie Humphreys and Louis Huff, pitcher/shortstop Ruben Delgado, second baseman Jack Harding, third baseman Henry Martinez, and outfielder Tommy Hughston. Manuel Torres was the team manager.

“We weren’t prolific hitters, we didn’t hit too many home runs, but the team speed was phenomenal,” said Rodriguez, whose Eagle teams posted a phenomenal record of 74-18 from 1964 to 1966. “Our fastest four guys challenged the track team’s sprint relay and beat them. That’s how fast we were. I can’t remember anyone ever getting thrown out stealing a base.”

Among the regulars, Alvarez led the Valley in batting with a .478 regular-season average. De la Garza came next at .385, while Barbosa hit .353. All others hit less than .300.

The Eagles were dubbed the “Hitless Wonders” by a sports writer. “Coach Joe knew how to make the most of a scrappy bunch of kids,” Vaughan said. “We didn’t score many runs, but we made things happen and took advantage of opponents’ mistakes. If one player was not performing, another would pick him up.”

Teammate Rene Torres said, “We didn’t need a defense. Only one guy per inning would hit the ball.”



1965 Brownsville High School Golden Eagles Baseball Team

Front Row (L to R): Bat Boy - Roddy Rodriguez, Cesar de la Garza, Ruben Delgado, Sergio Manzano, Jack Harding, Louis Huff, Prax Garcia, Albert Solitaire, Rene Torres, Arnie Alvarez, Henry Martinez, Tony Barbosa and Head Coach Joe A. Rodriguez.

Back Row (L to R): Assistant Coach Ramon Rodriguez, Team Trainer-Manuel Torres, Tommy Hughston, Ramiro Barreda, Charlie Vaughan, Art Galvan, Raul Barreda, Tony Tamayo, Chris Carpenter and Ronnie Humphreys.

The Regular Season

District 14-4A was divided into a North Zone and South Zone. The South Zone was made up of five teams – Brownsville, Harlingen, McAllen, Edinburg, and Alice. The Eagles went 9-1 in the South Zone and finished the regular season with a 23-6 record.

Brownsville clinched the South Zone title with a 5-1 victory over McAllen in the season finale. Barbosa threw a two-hitter, striking out 13, and Manzano hit a solo homer in the fifth for the game's final run.

The win propelled the Eagles to the best-of-three series district championship series with North Zone champion Corpus Christi Ray that would end in drama.

The State Playoffs

Ray won the first game in Corpus Christi, but Brownsville won the second at home, to set up a dramatic Game 3 May 19 before an overflow crowd that included hundreds behind restraining ropes that lined both foul territories.

With Vaughan on the hill, Ray took a 1-0 lead in the third before an Eagle explosion in the fourth. Tamayo blasted a three-run homer to center field to put Brownsville ahead, 3-1. In the top of the seventh, Ray rallied for two runs to make it 3-3 going to the bottom of the seventh.

After two outs, it looked like the game would go into extra innings with Torres at bat. But on the first pitch, Torres hit it high and far, sailing over the left field fence in one of the most memorable moments in Brownsville sports history. Many jubilant fans went through the restraining ropes and a few ran and patted him on the back before he got to third base. The jog to home plate was even harder.

“They wouldn’t let me get to home plate,” Torres said. “It was really something memorable. You could say it was the shot heard around the city.”

Coach Rodriguez was also mobbed. Final score: Brownsville 4, Corpus Christi Ray 3.

Brownsville then swept Waco Richfield in bi-district and San Antonio Lee in the regional round to advance to the state tournament. The Eagles beat Galena Park in the state semifinals, 7-1, before falling to Dallas Samuell in the state championship game, 14-0.

Future for the Eagles

On the day of the second Lee game, Major League Baseball held its first-ever player draft. Vaughan, who was only 17 years old, was taken by the Milwaukee Braves. He bypassed a scholarship offer from the University of Texas and signed with the Braves June 24, only eight days after the state title game. Vaughan was called up to the majors Sept. 3, 1966 just one month shy of his 19th birthday. Vaughan pitched for the Braves, who by then had moved to Atlanta, to a 12-2 victory over the Houston Astros with Joe Torre as his catcher.

Barbosa, Alvarez and Torres played collegiately at Pan American University. Barbosa pitched in the California Angels minor-league system and later played in the Mexican League. Cesar de la Garza later signed with the Houston Astros in the Rookie League.

The Memories

“The 1965 season was a dream season,” Rodriguez said. “Every coach should experience one of those. A season like 1965 stays with you for the rest of your life.”

Hall of Fame Inductees

Alamia, Luis Jr.	2010	Crafts, Willie†	2003	Helms, J.W.†	1996
Alaniz, Leo “Najo”†	1988	Crane, Corky	1999	Helms, Jim	1996
Alexander, LuAnne	2013	Creasey, George†	1989	Henson, Bob	2013
Alvarez, Arnie†	2007	Davis, C.W. “Napper”†	1988	Hernandez, Alfredo “Boxer”†	1998
Ausmus, Don	2013	Davis, Gilly†	1992	Hinojosa, Herbie	2014
Anzaldua, Amador “Mayo”†	2004	Denson, Don	2005	Hinojosa, Rene Manuel†	2002
Araguz, Leo	2014	Detmer, Sonny	2009	Hirst, Gerald	1994
Aranda, Olga	2002	Drew, Tom	1995	Hollingsworth, Hank	2004
Avila, Alfredo	2003	Edwards, Freddie Allen	2004	Houghtaling, Jim†	2005
Avila, Celestino Z., M.D.	2000	Esparza, Thomas, Ph.D.†	1991	Howell, Kathy	2010
Avila, Richard	2002	Esquivel, Carlos†	1998	Hudson, Jim†	1994
Ayala, Jr., Ernesto	1995	Estevis, Camilo	1995	Iglesias, Iris G.	2012
Balducci, Roxanne	2004	Etnire, Stanley†	1996	Jackson, Johnnie	2013
Barbosa, Tony	2005	Evans, Norm	1994	Jackson, Lucious “Luke”	1995
Barker-Davis, Rochelle	2006	Farias, Rey	2010	Knetig, Ed Jr.	2012
Bazan, Pete	2009	Farris, Bill†	1990	Keyes, Bert R.	2008
Beaudry, Charles, Ph.D.†	1989	Field, Jackie†	2006	Labar, Wayne†	1997
Beene, Cathy A.	2012	Filoteo, Joe	2008	Lackey, Bobby	1990
Bloomfield, Jack	1993	Flores, Adrian†	1997	LaGrange, Charles	2001
Boyle, C.L. “Smokey”†	1989	Flores, R.C. “Fito”†	1992	Lambert, Gerald	2014
Brooks, Jim†	1990	Flores, Richard	1992	Landry, Thomas Wade	
Brumley, Bob†	2011	Garcia, Gonzalo†	1999	“Tom”†	1988
Bush, Bruce	2011	Garcia, Roy	1993	Lawrence, Jimmy†	1989
Butler Kalencki, Jeanie	1999	Garcia, Willie	2010	Leal Garcia, Felipe†	2000
Butler, Tony†	1998	Garza, Eleuterio	1993	Leal, Alex	1996
Caldwell, Earl†	2013	Garza, Gil	2006	Lerma, E.C.†	1989
Cannon, Bobby†	1989	Garza, Leo Jr.†	1996	Lerma, John C.	2000
Cantu, Juanita M.†	1997	Garza, Leonel G.	2006	Levermann, Gerald	
Cantu, Ramon O.†	1995	Garza, Meme	2006	“Dutch”†	2001
Canul, Guadalupe	2002	Garza, Rene G.	2006	Levermann, Margaret†	1998
Capello, Juan J., M.D.	2004	Garza, Sammy	2011	Levine, Lewis Milton “Lew”	1998
Capello, Robert	2003	Gerlicki, Joseph†	2002	Lohr, Larry†	1989
Casso, Teresa	1996	Gomez, Jesse S.†	2014	Longhofer, Jesse D.	1994
Castillo, Juan	2005	Gonzalez, Paula	2005	Longoria, Sylvia	2007
Cavazos, Max†	1991	Gonzalez, Rogelio “Roy”†	2004	Lopez, Carlos	2013
Clark, Margaret M.†	2001	Gorges, Matt	1992	Lugo, Alfredo†	2005
Clark, Nancy K.	2014	Green, Buddy†	2013	Maldonado, Frank “Pancho”	2000
Cleckler, Mary Jeanne	1995	Guerra, Jesus “Chuy”	2000	Martin, Donny	2010
Coleman, Bert†	2003	Guerrero, Oton “Tony”	1995	Martin, Robert L. “Bob”†	1992
Conner, M.F. “Red”†	1993	Guillot, Donald	2011	Martinez, Carmen G.	1999
Conover, Brooks W.†	1997	Hall, James C. “Red”†	2005	Martinez, Homer Sr.	2002
Corona, Regino C.	2008	Hallbeck, Vernon	2014	McKone, Jim†	1994
Cortez, Robert	1997	Harbour, Todd	2004	McLish, Rachel	2006
Cox, Tommy†	2009	Heald, Dessie†	1989	McMurtry, Paul J.†	1991

Mims, John †	2004	Rodriguez, Hesiquio "Zeke"	2005	Vela, Carlos	2011
Molina, Mo	2010	Rodriguez, Joe A.	1991	Vela, Efraim	1999
Moore, Otto	2010	Rodriguez, Pablo "Pikey"	2001	Vela, Ernesto V. †	2000
Moore, Tommy	2008	Salazar, Dolores	2001	Vela, Pete	2012
Morrow, Bobby	1988	Salinas, Hector	2009	Vela, Robert †	2008
Mosqueda, David †	1993	Salinas, Lupe	2003	Vest, George †	1993
Moxley, Paul	2002	Sanchez, Joe R. Sr. †	1999	Villarreal, Eliseo †	1994
Nixon, Charles M. †	1998	Sanchez-Paredes, Patsy	2013	Villarreal, Magda	2007
Nyquist, Larry †	2001	Sanders, Travis	2011	Villarreal, Vic †	2001
Ogletree, Al	1989	Sauceda, Dora †	1994	Villegas, Ramiro	2003
Olvera, Johnny	2014	Scott, Earl	1989	Wallace, Jack Sr. †	2012
Owens, Carl B.	2001	Schulgen, George L. Jr.	2012	Ward, Al	1998
Parker, Lloyd †	1995	Shuford, John Albert		Watkins, Mary F. †	1990
Pedraza, Luz Jr.	1996	"Lefty" †	2002	Weekley, Tom B.	2001
Pemelton, Billy Gene	1998	Silver, Gene	1991	West, Tom †	1992
Peña, Bernardo †	1991	Smith, Frank Jr.	1994	White, Howard A. "Andy"	1999
Platt, Jimmy	1997	Solis, Merced	2007	Williams, Charlie †	1988
Ply, Bobby	1991	Soza, Guadalupe "Lupe"	1998	Williams, D. Joe †	2003
Pompa, Eliseo	2007	Spoonmore, Carl	2006	Williams, Sam †	1988
Rabke, Mary Lee, Ph.D.	1997	Stephens, Jerry †	1990	Wise, Steve	2005
Raders, John †	2003	Stevenson, W.M. "Buster" †	1997	Woodson Winston, Teresa †	2000
Ramsey, Jody †	1999	Stewart, Ray †	1993	Wright, Jim	1993
Reichert, Tommy †	1996	Stromeyer, George Jr. †	1990	Wright, Lum	2009
Rivas, Homero, M.D.	1999	Stromeyer, George Sr. †	1990	Young, Russell †	2008
Roberts, Tommy	2009	Thomas, Amilda, Ph.d. †	1992	Zamarripa, Nora	2005
Robie, Glen †	1993	Torres, Rene	2007	Zamarripa, Raul	2013
Rodriguez, Amador †	2006	Tredaway, Reggie	2009	Zamora, Lupe "Chipper"	1994
Rodriguez, B.R. "Poppy"	2000	Uhlaender, Ted †	1991	Zamora, Ronnie	2011
Rodriguez, Camilo Sr. †	1990	Vasquez, David	2004	Zavaletta, Gus †	1992
Rodriguez, Camilo "Bucky"	2002	Vaughan, Charlie	2004		

Distinguished Service Award

Glenn Roney, McAllen	1995	A.C. Jaime, Pharr	2004
Roy Gonzalez, McAllen	1996	Charlie Isbell, Brownsville	2005
Robert Valadez, Mission	1997	Joe Ayala, Harlingen	2006
Othal Brand, McAllen	1998	Bill Guthrie, Harlingen	2007
Joe Ochoa, Edinburg	1999	Larry Pressler, McAllen	2008
Irma Elizondo, Pharr	2000	Ben Garza, MD, Edinburg	2009
Herman Keillor, MD, Harlingen	2001	Roland Lomblot, Harlingen	2010
Greg LaMantia, McAllen	2002	Emilio O. Hernandez, DDS	2011
Val LaMantia-Piesen, McAllen	2002	Brownsville	
Jorge Salcines, McAllen	2003	Benjamin Lopez Jr., Mission	2012

**The Class of 2016 will be announced in January on
RGVSportsHallofFame.org and on Facebook**

Scholastic Achievement Awards



Darlene Rodriguez
Nikki Rowe High School

E.C. Lerma Memorial Award

Darlene Dre Rodriguez is a 2015 graduate of Nikki Rowe High School in McAllen. Academically, Darlene excelled and graduated with a GPA of 101.857.

Darlene was a member of the cross country and track and field team for three years. She was also an active volunteer in her community spending time at Renaissance Hospital for three years and Holy Spirit Church in McAllen.

Darlene will be attending Texas A&M University and major in Allied Health Science. Darlene is the daughter of Deanna M. Guerra and granddaughter of Lupe Soza of McAllen.



Scholastic Achievement Award

Sponsored by Dr. Celestino Avila

Bernardo Salas III is a 2015 Donna High School graduate. Bernardo graduated in the top 5% of his class with a 94.35 GPA. He was a member of the National Honor Society, Ambassadors Program, FFA, FCA, and Grid Iron Heroes.

Bernardo was a member of the varsity football team and track team. He was one of the football members who spent time with a Donna HS student whose dying wish was to be part of the Donna Redskins football team. The student was made a team captain for the homecoming game. Bernardo also participated in various other activities for his school and community.

Bernardo will be attending Texas A&M University in Kingsville majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He is the son of Nereyda Ponce of Donna.



Bernardo Salas
Donna High School

Scholastic Achievement Awards



Darlene Rodriguez
Nikki Rowe High School

RGVSHOF Scholarship Joan Cepeda is a 2015 graduate of Thomas Jefferson T-STEM High School in Pharr. She was a member of the varsity track, softball, and volleyball at PSJA Memorial High School.

Academically, Joan excelled having a 97.9 GPA and over 60 hours in dual-credit at South Texas Criminal Justice Academy. Joan placed 3rd in the high jump at the 2014 state meet. She was ranked in the top 3 in the Valley in 2014 and 2015.

Joan has volunteered as a volleyball coach as well as a referee at the Alamo Boys and Girls Club. During her senior year she was chosen as Miss Alamo.

Joan will be attending Sam Houston State University on a track scholarship. She will be majoring in criminal justice as she aspires to be an attorney. She is the daughter of Nancy Gonzalez of Alamo.

Scholastic Achievement Award

Sponsored by Forest Hood/Dr. Kenneth White



Aminta Flores
Mission High School

Aminta Michelle Flores is a 2015 graduate of Mission High School. Michelle is an honor student graduating with a GPA of 3.7 ranking 71st in her class.

Michelle was a member of the cross country team for three years, and the track team for four years. She was 1st or 2nd team all-district/all-Valley in both cross country and track for two years.

Michelle was very involved in school as she was in National Honor Society two years, FFA for four years, and volunteered in various activities in her school and community.

Michelle will be attending UTRGV and majoring in Civil Engineering. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mario Flores of Mission.

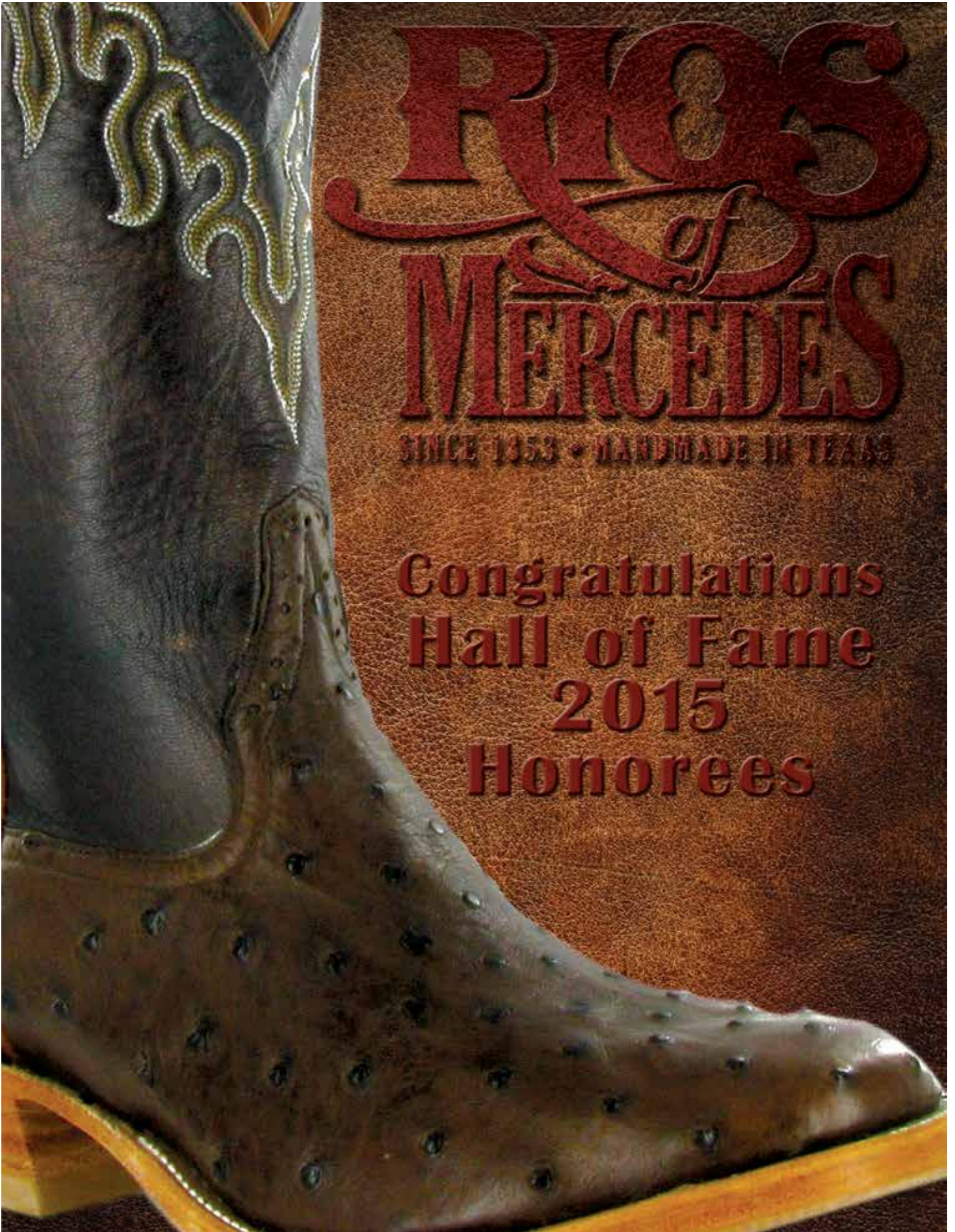


Jesus Cuellar Jr.
Nikki Rowe High School

Jesus Cuellar Jr. is a 2015 graduate of Mission High School. An outstanding student Jesus was an all A honor student and will graduate with an GPA of 3.72 ranking him 5th in his class.

Jesus was a member of the varsity basketball team for four years. He was chosen All Valley honorable mention, All Star game participant and varsity captain for two years. Jesus was very involved in school activities as a member of the Eagle film club, Business Professionals of America, and the broadcast news team.

Jesus will be attending Le Tourneau University and major Professional Flight. He hopes to be an airline pilot one day. Jesus is the son of Jesus Cuellar Sr. and Maribel Moreno of Mission.



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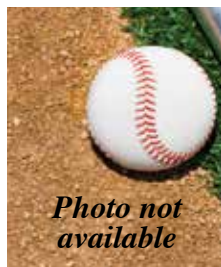


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Company name recognized as a co-sponsor of a scholarship.
3 RGVSHOF embroidered polo shirts and 3 caps.

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Company name recognized as a co-sponsor of a scholarship.
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Tickets for the Annual Induction Banquet are distributed in May.

If you donate \$50 or more and request a banquet ticket, they will be mailed at least ten days before the banquet.

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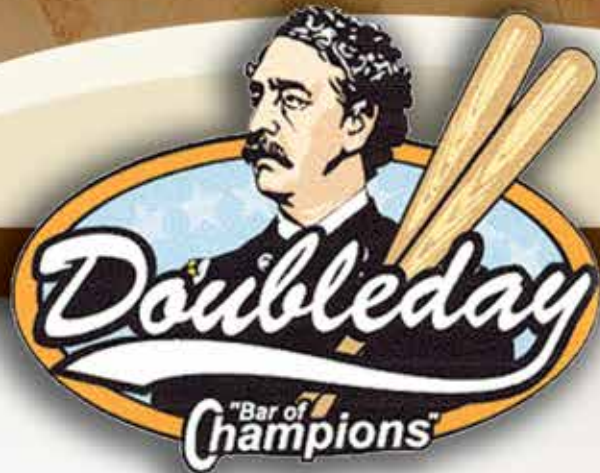
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