

# Cesar H. Morales

## El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Nomination Coach/Administrator Category

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### Personal Profile

**Full Name:** Cesar Hugo Morales

**Spouse:** Claudia Morales

**Kids:** Anahi, America and Cesar Morales Jr.

**Parents:** Martha & Reynaldo Morales

**Place of Birth:** Chihuahua, Mexico, August 20, 1983

**Elementary School:** Ignacio Zaragoza, Chihuahua, Mexico

**Middle School:** Ysleta & Carroll T. Welch Middle School, Horizon, TX

**High School:** Clint High School, Graduated 2001

**College:** El Paso Community College, A.S in Engineering

**University:** University of Texas at El Paso, B.S. Mathematics (2007)  
Sul Ross University, M.Ed in Educ Leadership (2020)

# Cesar H. Morales

232 Lago Claro, El Paso, Texas 79928

915-820-3861

cemorales@seisd.net



## EXPERIENCE

San Elizario Independent School District — *Executive Athletic Director*

May 2023 - Present

San Elizario High School — *Math Teacher/Cross Country and Track & Field Head Coach*

August 2013 - May 2023

San Elizario High School — *Math Instructional Coach*

August 2012 - June 2021

## EDUCATION

- Sul Ross State University, Alpine TX — *Master's in Educational Leadership, 2020*
- University of Texas at EL Paso, El Paso TX — *Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, 2007*
- El Paso Community College, El Paso TX — *Associate's Degree in Engineering, 2004*
- Clint High School, Clint TX — *Class of 2001*

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Texas High School Athletic Directors Association
- Texas Girls Coaches Association
- Texas High School Coaches Association
- El Paso Coaches Association
- Cross Country Coaches Association of Texas

# Career Highlights, Accomplishments and Recognitions

## Timeline

### 2014

- UIL Cross Country Team Boys & Girls **District Champion**
- UIL Cross Country Team **Regional Champion**
- UIL Cross Country Team **State Champion**
- San Elizario ISD Coach of the Year
- 2014 El Paso Times Coach of the Year
- UIL Track & Field Individual State Champion



**2015**

- UIL Cross Country Team **District** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Team **Regional** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Team **State** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Individual State Champion
- 2015 San Elizario ISD Coach of the Year
- 2015 El Paso Times Coach of the Year
- UIL Track & Field Silver Medalist
- UIL Track & Field Individual State Champion
- 2015 Cross Country Coaches Association of Texas Coach of the Year



**High school sports**  
**Morales, Garcia earn nod as coaches of the year**

FELIX F. CHÁVEZ  
 EL PASO TIMES

San Elizario's Cesar Morales and Tornillo's Jesse Garcia each coached teams that had to face challenges during the recently completed high school cross country campaign.

Due to their efforts, the pair have been named the El Paso Times' Coaches of the Year for leading the two boys programs to outstanding seasons.

For the second straight year, San Elizario won the UIL state championship in Class 4A, scoring 53 points, which was comfortably ahead of second-place Lufkin Hudson's 97 points.

"It was a great experience winning another state title," Morales said. "We had some challenges. We started the season slowly and we had to really pick it up as the season went on. It was more difficult winning the state title this year, but I'm very proud of our kids and very proud of what they accomplished. We feel like we are starting a positive tradition."

The last time an area team won back-to-back state titles in cross country came in 1979 and 1980 when the El Paso High girls won Class A championships.

"Our team went out and took it," Morales said. "I wanted them to give their best and they did."

Six of San Elizario's seven runners finished in the top 25, led by junior Erick Arambula, who won the individual state championship.

Tornillo finished fourth as a team for the second straight year finishing with 147 points, 22 points back of Eustace.

But it was how Garcia got his team to do well that was intriguing. He only had three runners back from last year, meaning he had to go find four runners at the school who he felt could help the program.

And sure enough, Garcia did just that. His team was able to find enough consistency to win District 4-3A, the Region 1-3A meet and find its way to the state meet making the 2015 season a special one.

"It was great to see the team develop and do some great things," Garcia said.

"Along with our returnees, the new kids developed, kept working hard and we ran solid as a team. We just wanted to keep building our tradition and keep improving each year. We're proud of what we have done in cross country and hopefully we can continue the tradition. We have five kids returning for next season and we're hopeful for another good showing. Cross country is a great sport and we want more kids out to help us keep building our program."

The Coyotes had an average time of 17:54.60 at the state meet and were led by senior Jordi Elias with a time of 17:27.98, which was good enough for 26th, and junior Cesar Gonzalez, who finished 35th with a time of 17:44.98.

Felix F. Chávez may be reached at 546-6167; [fchavez@elpasotimes.com](mailto:fchavez@elpasotimes.com); [@Fchavezptimes](https://twitter.com/Fchavezptimes) on Twitter.



MARK LAMBIE / EL PASO TIMES  
 The El Paso Times' cross country coaches of the year are San Elizario's Cesar Morales and Tornillo's Jesse Garcia.



2015 continue...

# SAN ELIZARIO'S MICHAEL JOHNSON RETURNS

Track star makes another appearance at state meet, aims for gold medal

**By Mark Stout**  
msout@elizariotimes.com  
Special to The Times

**SAN ELIZARIO** — Last season, San Elizario's Michael Johnson helped a track & field team win the Division II state title and gold medal. He, along with teammate David Calderon, were the first San Elizario athletes to qualify for the UIL state track and field meet since 1977. Now San Elizario has returned to the state meet with a vengeance.

Johnson, who was named to the 2014 All-State team, is back in action at the state meet in Austin. He has a chance to win the 800-meter race at the University of Texas at Austin.

"Obviously, the last time a San Elizario athlete with a state track and field title, it was Michael's uncle, David Calderon, who won the 800-meter race in the 1970s in 1977."

"My sophomore year in senior season is when my captain really, really took off," said Johnson, who's expected to run the 800-meter and cross country mile at the meet. "I loved to train. After that, I just myself saying 'I've got to go to state for track.' And I ended up going to state. I was determined. I just wanted to win. I did my best. I did all I could. This year, I'm determined to win it."

**JOHNSON FILE**  
Name: Michael Johnson  
Position: Junior runner on the San Elizario High School track and field and cross country teams.  
Of note: Johnson finished second in the 800-meter race last season, won Region 1-4A championships in the 800 and 1,600 meters, is a two-time District 2-4A champion in the 800 and won the district title in the 1,600-meter race. Johnson also won the District 2-4A championship in cross country this year.

**I did my best, did it could. This year, I'm determined to go out and win it (state).**

Michael Johnson

San Elizario's Michael Johnson is one of the favorites in the state track meet in the 800- and 1,600-meter runs.

MARK STOUT — ELIZARIO TIMES

## Ex-Irvin standout hopes for NFL call

NMSI's Davonte Wallace aims to be chosen in draft

**By Paula Chastain**  
paula@elizariotimes.com  
Special to The Times

Having his college football career at San Elizario State turned into a professional football career was Davonte Wallace's dream. Now, he's a professional player on the field for the Houston Texans.

"I was never afraid for the Texans to pick me," Wallace said. "I was just confident in my abilities. I was a star in high school and college. I was a first-round pick in the draft. I was a first-round pick in the draft. I was a first-round pick in the draft."

**TEXAS DRAFT**  
QB but not QB first in...

# TAKING STATE ... AGAIN

The boys cross country team face off against the best to win another championship

**BY DONNA MORALES AND IRVINE ORTIZ**  
EL AGUILA STAFF

It was a long San Elizario morning, on a muddy course, when Erick Arambula was the San Elizario Cross Country team to their second consecutive state championship title.

"I took a lot of guts and didn't get there and didn't get there," Cross country coach Jorge Morales said. "The team fought through the districts and regional competitions to make it back to the state championship, placing in 30 out of 20 races this season before making it to the end."

"I think it's an honor because last year we didn't know what we were doing but the coaches won," Coach Jorge Morales said. "This year we were in depending on the top so it's a lot harder — more pressure. In the beginning of the season we were ranked 2nd. Mike Moran was 4th so we were going to be competing for 2nd but those kids, prompt everyone wrong and they were stronger than any other team in Texas."

After the long, hard season, the team announced their final victory.

**Lance, a junior runner on the team.**  
But this race was about more than breaking records, for the team, it was about making all their hard work worth it. It means a lot because waking up early the whole summer and still having school was worth it," Lises Cardozo, senior runner said. "It took a lot of hard work and dedication."

Being on the championship team means hours of intense practice Monday through Friday, but the team never gave up.

"We really wanted it and we worked hard for it," Carlos Fargas, a sophomore, said.

And though most seem a bit too humble to say the words about the team and community are pretty confident that next year the team can do it again.

"I feel that we can win again because we don't have any seniors and the team is going to keep improving," Adrian Contreras, a sophomore, said. "It feels very good because we want to win again so that we make [the community] proud."

Because at the end of the day, according to Coach Morales, it's the community that drives the team toward success.

"It was a big help to have the parents involved, the other part of the group, the girls, and all students showing support," Morales said. "It was great to have everyone in our side. Those are the factors that make a difference when you're having a tough race."



After a muddy victory, San Elizario 2015 State Champions pose for a team picture.

JOHN HANSEN

**"It means a lot because waking up early the whole summer and still having school was worth it."**

- JUNIOR, Lises Cardozo



Junior Erick Arambula leading to victory.

PHOTO CREDIT CESAR MORALES



PHOTO CREDIT CESAR MORALES

SAN ELIZARIO — Many years ago. See JOHNSON, Page 4



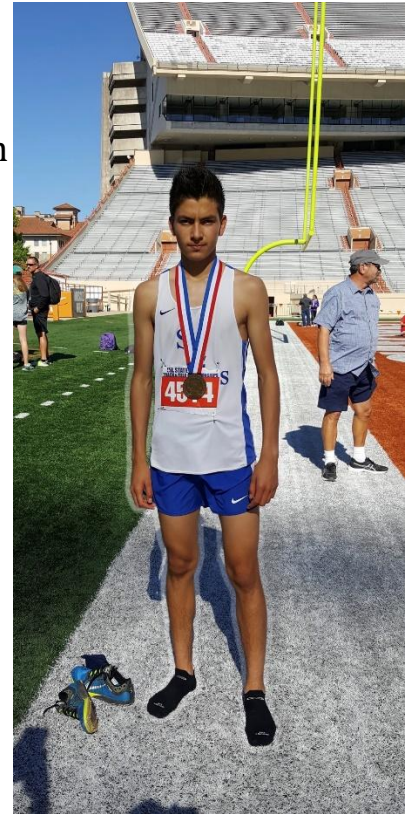
— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

**NOT RESTING** — Michael Johnson is not letting his medals slow him down. He has signed to attend the University of North Texas on a track scholarship.



## 2016

- UIL Cross Country Team Boys & Girls **District** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Team **Regional** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Team **State** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Individual Silver State Medalist
- UIL Track & Field Individual Bronze State Medalist
- 2016 Cross Country Coaches Association of Texas (CCCAT) Coach of the Year
- Recipient of San Elizario, TX “Key to the City”



# San Elizario cross country wins state championship

VICTOR R. MARTINEZ  
EL PASO TIMES

San Elizario made history Saturday morning dominating the field to win its third consecutive Class 4A state cross country championship in Round Rock.

San Elizario, which became the first team in the El Paso area to win three straight state championships, easily won

the Class 4A UIL State Cross Country Championship at Old Settlers Park.

The Eagles scored 51 points, 93 points ahead of Andrews.

Senior Erick Arambula was second overall in a time of 16:02.09 behind Levelland's Isaac Vargas who won the individual title in 15:34.20.

"I'm glad for the community of San Elizario," said Cesar Morales, San Elizario's head coach. "We're proud of these kids. We worked for this one week at a time. They did amazingly well not only in this race but the whole season."

Morales said of the three state championship teams, this one was the most consistent.

"They've grown together," he said. "The three seniors Erick, Ulises (Cardoza) and Miguel (Garica) have been work-

ing together since the beginning and the other three juniors (David Ceballos, Adrian Contreras and Carlos Pargas) have been running since middle school. It's been amazing to watch."

Arambula, the defending Class 4A state champion, said he is overjoyed to be coming home with three team state

See SAN ELIZARIO, Page 2C

## San Elizario

Continued from Page 1C

### Championships

"I'm very proud of my team. I'm blessed to have them on my side," he said their passion to win. It's sad for me to know that this was my last race with those guys. We became a real family."

The young Clint Lavin finished in 14th place. Sophomore Walter Stover was the 20th runner in a time of 16:31.18.

Eastwood's Daniel Bernal ended his medal in a stacked Class 6A race. Bernal lost the lead in the final 400 meters to Comal Canyon and Alex Maier from Lewisville Flower Mound.

"I knew I had to be in that top group immediately," Bernal said. "I felt really released in the first and second mile but I was getting a little more anxious going into the third mile so I made a move going down the downhill but the problem with that was immediately there was an uphill."

The final mile was full of hills and curves.

"I was trying to create a gap because I was thinking about how good of a kick Reed Brown (Southlake Carroll) has but it was Sam Worley and Alex who caught up to me right before the 400 meter mark and passed me," Bernal said. "They just had more fuel in them. I felt the lactic acid immediately flushing into my legs. It was a bit disappointing but I'm happy that I closed out this UIL season fairly well."

Worley won in 14:40.82. Maier was second in 14:43.33 and Bernal was third in 14:49.72.

Eastwood's team finished in sixth place with 149 points. The Woodlands won the race with 51 points.

After seven attempts, the Tornillo Coyotes finally won a team medal in the Class 3A race.

For the seventh consecutive year, Luling won the team title with 50 points followed by Tornillo with 75 and Eastvale with 111.

"It feels good to finally get that money off our back," said Jesse Garcia, Tor-



San Elizario successfully defended its Class 4A state championship. This makes it three in a row from the Eagles.

nillo's head coach. "The kids fought hard. I'm really proud of every single one of them. I couldn't have asked anything more from them."

Senior Adrian Morales ran a 16:21.65, good for a seventh and All State honors. Junior Juan Rivera also had a strong race placing 13th in 16:27.21. Senior Cesar Contreras was 18th (16:28.08) and junior Daniel Araya was 19th in 16:39.01.

"We finally got someone in the top 10 and the rest of the other guys were not far," Garcia said. "When we got the results, we thanked the Lord and we were feeling grateful to be part of this. Luling is such a great team but we gave them a run for their money."

A state medal has been the goal since last November when Tornillo finished fourth.

"We're just getting started," Garcia said. "I'm still learning as a coach to put in the work to make Tornillo better. It really doesn't matter where you're from, as long as you work hard you're going to get somewhere and that's what these kids showed today."

In the Class 5A race, Austin finished

fifth with 204 points. Lucas Lowejoy won the state title with 59 points. Junior Jesus Monreal was the Panther's top finisher, placing 17th in 16:53.91.

Individually, Mountain View senior Michelle Estrada was fourth in the Class 4A race, finishing the 2-mile course in 11:39.97, earning her All State honors. All-vered freshman Emily Garcia won the meet in 13:25.71.

"The pace was real fast," Estrada said. "I had to really push to stay up with the other girls. This race was the toughest of the past three state races I've run in, the girls were a lot faster this time."

Estrada said she was happy with the way her season ended.

"I came in wanting to run a fast race and that's what I did," she said. "This is the fastest time that I've had at state so I'm happy about that."

San Elizario senior Ashley Pargas was 24th in the 12:21.08 and Fabera sophomore Jocelyn Castro finished in 30th place in 13:15.44.

Fabens senior Miguel Salis was 68th in the boy's race in 17:30.65. Castillo senior Anna Durciaga fin-

ished sixth in Class 5A crossing the finish line in 18:14.13 to earn All State honors.

"The course was a little different this year so it did take some time getting used to it," she said. "I was able to run it on Friday so I kind of had a feel for it. When I found out there would be more inclines throughout the course, I wasn't worried but I was a little more cautious on how I was going to run the race."

This was Durciaga's second All State finish.

"There is obviously room for improvement but overall, for my last race, I think I gave it my all," she said. "I felt more calm and at ease because I know this would be my last state meet. I'm proud of what I was able to do at Comal and how I was able to advance throughout these four years."

Hanks junior Andrea Abeyta was 30th in 15:05.41.

Her younger brother Michael Abeyta, a freshman at Hanks, finished sixth in 15:31.97 to earn All State honors.

"It was beyond fast," he said of his race. "We were moving. That first mile we put up a 4:40. It was that fast. I don't even know how I hung in there."

Abeyta, who has been a front-runner all season, was again in the lead pack for the first two miles.

"At that second mile we started breaking up into smaller groups," he said. "I was fifth at that time and I figured if I could keep this pace I could be in the top five or top 10."

He said the memory of standing on the podium representing Hanks and El Paso as an All State runner will always be with him.

"It was an honor to know that I competed with the best runners in the state of Texas in 5A and to do it as a freshman is pretty awesome," he said.

Irvin junior Aaron Gilliam was 21st in 16:07.08 and Borges sophomore Sam Zambrano was 45th in 18:22.86.

In the Class 6A race, Socorro junior Natalie Gomez was 41st, finishing in 18:50.07. Her teammate, senior Jessica Dominguez was 105th in 19:47.33.

On the boy's side, Franklin senior Adam Cortez turned in a time of 15:48.32, good for 32nd and El Dorado senior Sebastian Moreno was 96th in 18:29.37.

Victor R. Martinez may be reached at 546-6124; vmartinez@elpasotimes.com; @vrmart on Twitter.

## San Elizario runners recognized

ON THE FAST TRACK - El Paso County Commissioners Court unanimously recognized the San Elizario Boys Cross Country Team's third consecutive State title with a proclamation on Monday, Dec. 5, 2016. The team posed for a photo during the presentation. Erick Arambula, Ulises Cardoza, David Ceballos, Adrian Contreras, Antonio Diaz, Miguel Garcia, and Carlos Pargas, along with coaches Cesar Morales and Jorge Maese, were present to receive such recognition. "It was not easy getting to this point," said Head Coach Cesar Morales. "These boys trained really hard day after day and gave it their all at every race. We also could not have done it without the support from the community and all of SEISD who have been by our side since day one." Erick Arambula, a San Elizario High School senior, said that he was determined to





# The State of Texas House of Representatives

*This certificate of congratulations is presented to*

*Coach Cesar Morales*

*By*

*State Representative Mary E. González*

*It is my honor to extend cordial congratulations  
to you for your placement in the Class 4A  
State Cross Country Championship*

*In witness thereof and pursuant to the authority vested in me,  
I have here unto set my hand and seal of office at Austin, Texas*

*This the 8th day of December A.D 2016*

*Mary E. González*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*State Representative*



2017

- UIL Cross Country Team **District** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Team **Regional** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Team **State** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Individual State Champion
- 2017 Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) Guest Speaker
- UIL Track & Field Individual State Champion
- UIL Track & Field Individual State Silver Medalist
- 2017 Cross Country Coaches Association of Texas (CCCAT) Coach of the Year
- 2017 National Federation of State High Schools (NFHS) Coach of the Year



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## Morales named top coach

By Hector Gonzalez  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – San Elizario High School (SEHS) Boys Cross Country Head Coach, Cesar Morales, was selected to receive the 2016-2017 Texas Coach of the Year award by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

"I feel proud to represent our Cross Country program and the San Elizario Independent School District," said Morales. "This is recognition is proof of our work ethic and our commitment to our student athletes." "I share this award with my colleague and Assistant Coach, Jorge Maese, who is also a key component to the success of the Cross Country program at SEHS," he added.

Morales' constant dedication to lead his sport (Cross Country) and often contributing in a positive way to the San Elizario community are the reasons why he was nominated by the Texas University Interscholastic



– Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

**Cesar Morales**  
League as the most deserving recipient for this honor.



University Interscholastic League  
November 3, 2018 · 🌟

Congratulations to Coach Cesar Morales of San Elizario High School, **National Federation of State High School Associations Boys #txhsxc** Coach of the Year!

# San Eli runners chase 5th state championship

By Steve Escayola / El Paso Inc.

When he took over the cross country program at San Elizario High School seven years ago, coach Cesar Morales didn't have enough runners to form a team. "You need at least five runners (of the same gender) to qualify as a team," Morales said. "I had to go out and beg kids to join the program, and eventually it began to grow."

Some 40 student-athletes and four state titles later, Morales and the Eagles are now looked at as perennial championship contenders.

The team from the 1,000-student school in Far East El Paso County is the one to beat. It's the only team from the county to win the boys cross country state championship since Fabens High School took the Class 4A title in 2000.

"I don't promise anybody a state championship, but I do promise that anybody who beats us will have to be very good," Morales said, pointing to the regional meet in Lubbock on Oct. 22 and the state meet in Round Rock on Nov. 3.

So what's the secret behind San Eli's success?

"Honestly, there's no secret," Morales said. "It's just the consistence, the responsibility the kids put into the program."



The San Elizario High School Boys 4A 2017 Cross Country State Champions included, from left, Coach Cesar Morales, Rene Arambula, Edwin Gomez, Martin Pargas, Seth Rodriguez, Tony Diaz, Adrian Contreras, David Ceballos and assistant coach Jorge Wasson.

ent. All of my top runners are hard-working kids. We do teach them to like the sport. If you like the sport, you're going to come in every day with the mentality of wanting to get better and working harder and enjoying it more."

The chances of the Class 4A Eagles winning a fifth-straight title took a hit over the summer when their second-fastest runner, Rene Arambula, broke his ankle. Arambula finished fifth in the state meet last year.

"I'm still hoping to run this year but I have to wait to see what the doctors say," Arambula said. "It's been difficult not being with the team, but I'm proud of the way they are progressing and growing as a group. Hopefully I



The San Elizario High School boys 2018 cross country team is the one to beat as it looks to win its fifth state title.

of those runners drawn to the program once he witnessed its success.

"I was dreaming of that moment ever since I was a seventh grader," he said. "I remember seeing when they won that first state title, and I knew right then that I wanted to be a part of it."

Winning state titles is nice, but improving the lives of his runners is the No. 1 priority, Morales said.

"Our goal is never the state championships," Morales said. "Our main goal is to get these kids some scholarships. About 90 percent of the kids in our program are running in college right now, and that's the bottom line."

And when the cross country team does well, it inspires the other students and the commu-

"It's a big deal; it's historic for the district, for the high school and for the entire community," said Hector Gonzalez, communication officer for San Elizario Independent School District. "It puts the city on the map. It's rare when any local school wins a state title; San Eli has won four consecutive state titles."

Morales knows that his cross country team must share the credit.

"In four years this school has produced six state champions; four from cross country and two from soccer," Morales said. "The students are beginning to believe that they can compete with anyone in any sport. But not only in athletics - this stretches out to academics as well. This is something I didn't see when I first got here."





September 24, 2018

Cesar Morales  
San Elizario High School  
PO Box 920  
San Elizario, TX 79849

Dear Coach Morales

On behalf of the University Interscholastic League and the National Federation of State High School Associations, it is my pleasure to congratulate you as the recipient of the 2017 State Coach of the Year for Boys Cross Country.

The National Federation of State High School Associations bestows this prestigious award to one coach in each sport for each state association. Recipients of this award reflect excellent coaching abilities on and off the athletic arena.

Your service to the state of Texas has not gone unnoticed, and we are very proud to have positive role models, like yourself, impacting our student-athletes. Thank you for representing your team, school, community and the University Interscholastic League in a manner that is to be commended and celebrated.

The University Interscholastic League would like to recognize you for your outstanding contributions to the cross country coaching profession and the milestone of achieving Coach of the Year. It is our privilege to honor you during a special UIL presentation at the 2018 UIL Cross Country State Meet. We are excited about the opportunity to recognize you for such an outstanding accomplishment.

We will recognize your achievement during the 4A Boys awards ceremony, which will take place approximately 30 minutes after the conclusion of the 4A boys race. The 4A boys race starts at 1:50pm.

To confirm your attendance, please contact Hannah Higgins by email at [hhiggins@uiltexas.org](mailto:hhiggins@uiltexas.org). We will also need a brief biography that highlights your coaching career along with a list of individuals (family and school administration) who would like to join us in recognizing you.

Thanks for your years of service, and we sincerely hope you can join us.

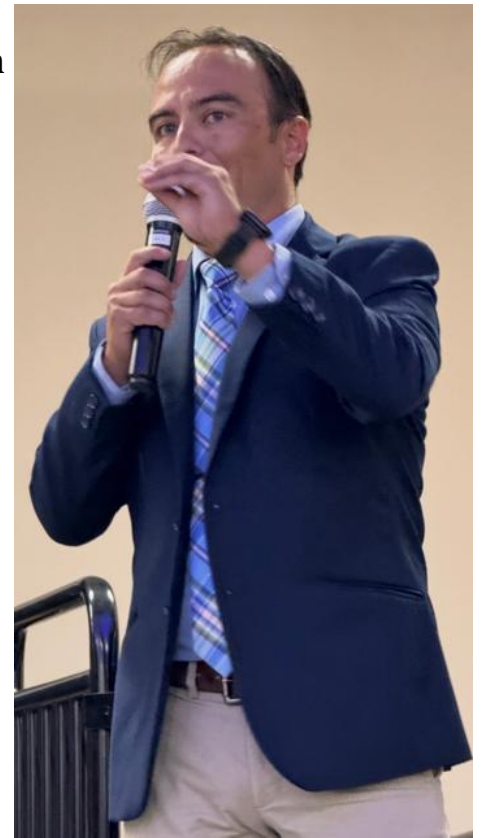
Congratulations,

Susan Elza, Ed.D.  
Director of Athletics  
University Interscholastic League

Brian Polk  
Assistant Director of Athletics  
University Interscholastic League

**2018**

- UIL Cross Country Team Boys & Girls **District** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Team **Regional** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Team **State** Bronze Medalist
- UIL Cross Country Individual Silver State Medalist
- UIL Track & Field Team District Champion
- UIL Track & Field Individual State Champion
- UIL Track & Field Individual Silver State Medalist
- 2018 El Paso Times Coach of the Year
- Nike Cross Nationals Individual Qualifier
- 2018 Texas Girls Coaches Association Guest Speaker
- San Elizario ISD Athletic Banquet Guest Speaker



SUCCESSFUL – San Elizario ISD Cross Country Coach Cesar Morales looks to inspire his team to a fifth straight state title and put another trophy in the case. —Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

## San Eli Eagles shooting for fifth straight CC state title

By Steve Escajeda  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO — When he took over the San Elizario cross country program seven years ago his initial goal was not to embarrass himself. Four state

titles followed. Then he finished fifth at state last year," said Morales. "It's a big loss to our team; not just in terms of points, but psychologically as well. It's a blow to his teammates because they're very young. But we're going to have to rely on them to mature quickly."

Returning however for San Elizario is the defending state individual champion

What the team has done the last four years has not gone unnoticed by the community. "It's a big deal; it's historic for the district, for the high school and for the entire community," said Hector Gonzalez, communication officer for San Elizario ISD. "It puts the city on the map because no other team has won four consecutive

titles didn't look very good in the beginning. "I have over 40 kids in the program which for our school is a very good number," said Morales. "When I took over the program seven years ago we didn't have enough runners to put out a full team. We had only six athletes total, boys and girls. "I had to go out and beg kids to join





**HIGH SCHOOL**

# El Paso's best track and field coaches come from Eastwood and San Elizario high



**Felix F. Chavez**  
El Paso Times

July 5, 2018 | Updated July 7, 2018, 5:31 p.m. MT

Eastwood's Jimmy Ayala and San Elizario's Cesar Morales each led their respective schools to district track and field championships this past spring.

The pair also led their athletes to success at the regional and state level.



### Gomez runs in prestigious meet

By Hector Gonzalez  
Special to the Courier

SAN ELIZARIO – San Elizario High School's Edwin Gomez, a sophomore, recently participated in one of the most important Cross Country races in the nation – the Nike Cross Nationals (NXN) Championship. The race was held in Portland, Oregon where 210 elite runners from all over the country competed for the top spot in the national rankings.

Before qualifying for the NXN Meet, Gomez competed in the Nike Cross Regional (NXR) South Meet in The Woodlands, Texas. Out of 350 runners, Gomez came in 5th place, securing him a place in the national competition.

"The NXR South was not an easy race," said Cesar Morales, Head Coach for Cross Country at San Elizario High School (SEHS). "His top 5th finish is a result of his hard work, dedication, and respect to the sport. I had a feeling he was going to do well at the NXR South Meet and advance to the Nike national meet. He is a fighter who does not give up easily."

Competing at a national level is something Gomez never imagined would happen this early in his high school years. For him, this was an experience he will always remember.

"I did not know what to expect at all," Gomez said. "When I ran at the NXR South, I gave it my all but I never thought I would move on to the next level. Both races were tough, but to me it was not about placing a high rank. It was more about the experience and getting to meet and network with other top athletes from across the nation. To me, that was a real privilege."

Jorge Maese, Assistant Coach for Cross Country at SEHS, says he could not be more proud of Gomez and his accomplishments.

"Edwin's hard work has truly paid off and we are all extremely proud of him for making it this far," Maese said. "The NXN Meet was an eye-opener for Edwin and us as his coaches because it showed us what we need to do as a team and as a program to get to that level of competitiveness. We have a lot of work to do, but nothing is impossible."

Gomez finished 84th out of 210 national qualifiers and is the second individual qualifier to represent the El Paso region at the NXN Meet.

Edwin Gomez  
— Photo courtesy San Elizario ISD

2019

- UIL Cross Country Team Boys & Girls **District** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Team **Regional** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Team State Runner-Up
- UIL Cross Country Individual State Silver Medalist
- UIL Sponsor Excellence Award Nominee
- San Elizario ISD Annual Convocation Speaker



## 2020

- UIL Cross Country Team Boys & Girls **District** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Team **Regional** Runner Up
- UIL Cross Country Team **State** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Individual Silver State Medalist
- UIL Cross Country Individual Bronze State Medalist
- UIL Track & Field Team District Champion
- UIL Track & Field Individual State Champion
- UIL Track & Field Individual Silver Medalist
- 2020 Cross Country Coaches Association of Texas (CCCAT) Coach of the Year
- 2020 El Paso Times Coach of the Year





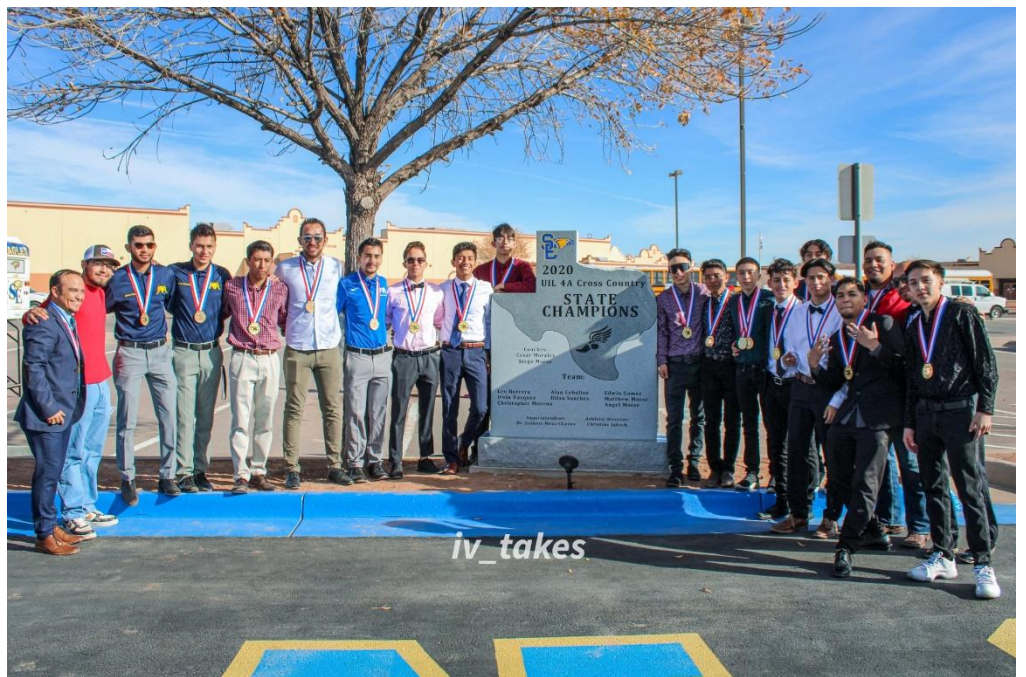
Eastwood cross country coach, Mike McLain (left), and San Elizario coach, Cesar Morales pose with their team trophies at Eastwood High Wednesday. McLain guided the Troopers to a third-place finish at the Class 6A state meet and had two girls place in the top 10 at state, while Morales led the Eagle boys team to a state championship in Class 4A and had one girl qualify for the state meet. Morales and McLain are this year's El Paso Times' Cross Country Coaches of the Year.

PHOTOS BY HUGO HINOJOSA/EL PASO TIMES

# McLain, Morales named city's top cross-country coaches

Felix F. Chavez  
El Paso Times

year and had a successful season. Won the District 1-6A title as an individual, as well as nationals and qualified for



iv\_takes

## 2021

- UIL Cross Country Team Boys & Girls **District** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Team **Regional** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Team **State** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Individual Silver State Medalist
- UIL Track & Field Team District Champion
- UIL Track & Field Individual State Champion
- 2021 Cross Country Coaches Association of Texas (CCCAT) Coach of the Year
- 2021 El Paso Times Coach of the Year





**SPORTS**

## 2021 El Paso Times All-City boys track and field: Meet the athletes and coach who made the list



**Felix F. Chavez**

El Paso Times

July 1, 2021, 6:00 a.m. MT

With the 2021 high school boys track and field season completed, here is a look at the All-City team along with the Coach of the Year.

### Coach of the Year

Cesar Morales, San Elizario





December 1, 2021

Head Coach Cesar Morales  
San Elizario HS  
PO Box 920  
San Elizario, TX 79849

Dear Coach Morales,

Congratulations on a great season and a 2021 UIL State Cross Country Championship. The work of your team throughout the season has culminated with the ultimate achievement in high school cross country.

Winning a state championship is of the highest honor, especially in Texas. Talented athletes are important in this journey, but we want to thank you for the tremendous leadership you have provided for your team and the school you represent. Your staff and your athletes represent your leadership expectation; spending countless hours and energy devoted to the goals of the team and are well deserving of both the credit and recognition that accompanies a state championship.

Thank you for your first class approach and integrity displayed. Thank you also for being a great role model to so many young people. Most importantly, we want to express our appreciation to you for being part of the greatest profession in the world. The title of coach carries much weight and honor as you are consistently helping to shape and change the lives of young people.

As you reflect on the memories of this past season, consider these facts pertaining to what you and your team have accomplished. Over 1,340 schools participate in UIL cross country with almost 49,000 individuals competing for one cause: to win the state cross country championship. Winning a state championship in Texas is most difficult and does not come along easily. Take time to enjoy this special achievement. To commemorate this occasion, we have enclosed a state championship lapel pin for you.

On behalf of all the UIL staff and each of the 1,500 member schools, congratulations and best of luck as you get back to the off-season grind and attempt a repeat in 2021.

Best Regards,

*[Signature]*  
Dr. Susan Elza  
Director of Athletics  
University Interscholastic League

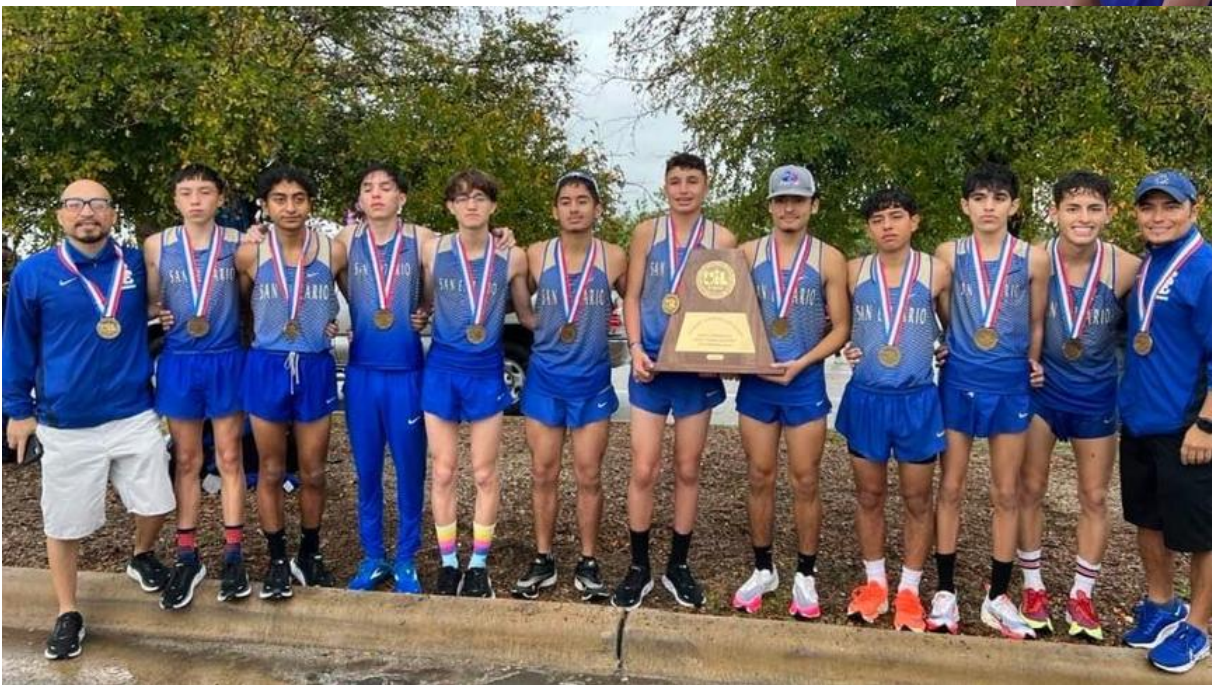
*[Signature]*  
Brian Polk  
Associate Director of Athletics  
University Interscholastic League s

*Coach Morales,  
Congratulations on another  
championship. Proud  
of you and for you.*

*Congratulations to you and your kids on  
an incredible year!*

## 2022

- UIL Cross Country Team Boys & Girls **District** Champion
- UIL Cross Country Team **Regional** Runner-Up
- UIL Cross Country Team **State** Bronze Medalist
- UIL Cross Country Individual State Silver Medalist
- UIL Track & Field Team District Champion
- UIL Track & Field Area Champion
- UIL Track & Field Individual State Silver Medalist
- 2022 San Elizario ISD Convocation Guest Speaker



## Accomplishments Summary

### Cross Country

- 6-time team UIL Cross Country **State** Champion (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2020, 2021)
- Team UIL Cross Country Silver medalist (2019)
- 2-time Team UIL Cross Country Bronze Medalist (2018 & 2022)
- 9-time team UIL Cross Country District Champion (2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022)
- 2 individual Cross-Country UIL State Champions.
- 5 Individual Cross-Country UIL Silver Medalist
- 3 Individual Cross Country UIL Bronze Medalist
- 6-times El Paso Times Cross Country Coach of the Year (2014, 2015, 2017, 2020, 2021)
- 4-times Cross Country Coaches Association of Texas (CCAT) Coach of the Year (2016, 2017, 2020, 2021)
- 6-times El Paso Hall of Fame Team/Coach of the Year (2014, 2015, 2017, 2020, 2021)
- 2017 National Federation of State High School Associations Coach of the Year.
- 5-times San Elizario HS Coach of the Year.
- 2-time keynote speaker at the Cross-Country Coaches Association of Texas (CCAT) conferences
- 2017 Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) Guest Speaker
- 2018 Texas Girls Coaches Association Guest Speaker



## Track & Field Coach

- 6--time team UIL Track & Field District Champion
- UIL Track & Field State Medal for 9 consecutive years.
- 5 Individual UIL Track & Field State Champions.
- 4- Individual UIL Track & Field State Silver Medalist.
- 3- Individual UIL Track & Field State Bronze Medalist.
- 2-times El Paso Times Track & Field El Paso Coach of the Year (2017, 2019)





**2014**  
UIL 4A Cross Country  
**STATE CHAMPIONS**

Coaches:  
Cesar Morales  
Jorge Maese

Team:

Ulises Cardoza Miguel Garcia Angel Rangel  
Daniel Alvarez Erick Arambula Alex Fernandez

**2019**  
UIL 4A Soccer  
**STATE CHAMPIONS**

Coaches:  
Max Sappenfield  
Miguel Mendez  
Mario Espinoza

Team:

Vicente Guzman Eduardo Chavez Antonio Lozano Yahir De Anda Ivan Berumen Richard Gutierrez Hugo Berumen Edgar Caro Kevin Betancourt

Gueter Mendoza Angel Rojas Victor Uruzeta Omar Martinez Martin Rodriguez Eric Valdez Juan Pina Jonathan Carrillo

Jedrek Pantoja Adrian Moreno Francisco Sotelo Jose Sarmiento Pavel Garcia Bryan Silva Moises Hernandez Steve Salais

Superintendent:  
Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez

Athletic Director:  
Christine Jaksch

**2016**  
UIL 4A Cross Country  
**STATE CHAMPIONS**

Coaches:  
Cesar Morales  
Jorge Maese

Team:

Carlos Pargas Tony Diaz Ulises Cardoza  
Adrian Contreras David Ceballos Miguel Garcia  
Erick Arambula

Superintendent: Col. Luis Horn Athletic Director: Maria Barros

**2015**  
UIL 4A Cross Country  
**STATE CHAMPIONS**

Coaches:  
Cesar Morales  
Jorge Maese

Team:

David Ceballos Leo Gomez Ulises Cardoza  
Adrian Contreras Miguel Garcia Carlos Pargas  
Erick Arambula

Superintendent: ...

**2020**  
UIL 4A Cross Country  
**STATE CHAMPIONS**

Coaches:  
Cesar Morales  
Jorge Maese

Team:

Leo Herrera Alan Ceballos Edwin Gomez  
Irvin Vazquez Dilan Sanchez Matthew Maese  
Christopher Moreno

Superintendent:  
Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez

Athletic Director:  
Christine Jaksch

**2017**  
UIL 4A Cross Country  
**STATE CHAMPIONS**

Coaches:  
Cesar Morales  
Jorge Maese

Team:

Rene Arambula Edwin Gomez Seth Rodriguez  
David Ceballos Martin Pargas Adrian Contreras  
Tony Diaz

Superintendent: Dr. Jeannie Meza-Chavez Athletic Director: Maria Barros

**2015**  
UIL 4A Soccer  
**STATE CHAMPIONS**

Coaches:  
Max Sappenfield  
Miguel Mendez  
Mario Espinoza

Team:

Alfredo De Anda Humberto Aranda Bryan Rodriguez  
Angel Rangel Marcos Utajara Luis Castro  
Alejandro Madrid Abraham Escareno Francis Ruiz  
Jaime Armenta Jonathan Berumen Jaime Valenzuela  
Edwin Maese Alzedo Lopez Jesus Franco

**2018**  
UIL 4A Soccer  
**STATE CHAMPIONS**

Coaches:  
Max Sappenfield  
Miguel Mendez  
Mario Espinoza

Team:

Victor Uruzeta Richard Gutierrez Vicente Guzman  
Kevin ... Bryan Silva  
Mario ...  
Steve Salais Jonathan Carrillo Jedrek Pantoja