

El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Nominee

Coach K

Isabella #14 Galindo I Love you

Ysabella Sifuentes #8 but #1 in your heart. I love you more than anyone Coachy K!

Ale Puentes #1 Love you Goat "K"

Coach K, Thank you for your endless support, compassion, and kindness. You have the biggest heart and I appreciate everything you have done for the team. I love you.

Yvette Sifuentes #3 When I doubted myself or others did you have always been there to pick me up & support me. You were when you got discouraged. You will always be my constant place in my heart. I love you.

Stephanie Mercado #2

Kirsten Martinez (Kennedy) #10


Rebecka Chavez #10

Val Rojas #12

Jacqueline Lopez #17

A GOOD COACH CAN CHANGE A GAME

A GREAT COACH CAN CHANGE A Life



Mike Kennedy
(Coach K)

St. Pius X- Rams

1973-1977

The Beginning...



COACHING

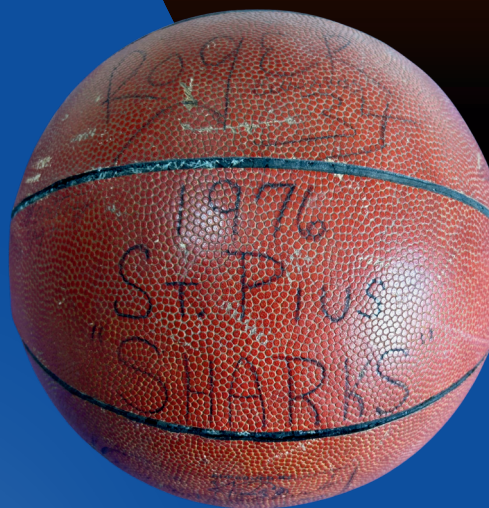
FLAG FOOTBALL:

HIGHLIGHTS 1974-1976 – 3 LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS – UNDEFEATED (21-0)

BASKETBALL:

HIGHLIGHTS: 1977 – League Champion
1976 – BISHOP'S Tournament Champs
(defeated League Champs St Joseph's –
coached by MINER great Harry Flournoy)

Robert "Jello" Lopez hit corner shot with
0:01 seconds on the clock! Robert went on to
become an ALL-CITY player for Riverside HS!



Cathedral High School

1977-1983

Gaining Experience...

COACHING

FRESHMEN FOOTBALL: 1977-1983

Focused on FUNDAMENTALS (from putting on uniforms to terminology to techniques) – most Freshmen had grown up playing Flag Football in Parochial League. Freshmen coach's goal was to DEVELOP players and INCREASE numbers for the program. Worked with and learned football from great coaching staff to include:

Tom Stokes / Zeke Monteros / and Bob Berryhill
– Bernie Olivas / Pete Euzarraga / Rene Aguilar
Jaime Loweree / Mario Acosta
Ray Gomez / Rudy Forti / Don Davis

GOLF: 1977-1983

- 1978 – Top five in city – 4th at STATE Tournament
- 1979 – Top 3 in every tournament – Joey Taylor & Charlie Ellis (ALL CITY)- 2ND in STATE
- 1980 – Top 3 teams in El Paso – 2nd at STATE
Joey Taylor & Marcos Delgado named to ALL STATE TEAM
- 1981 – Top 3 teams in city – STATE QUALIFIER – Marcos Delgado repeats ALL STATE TEAM
- 1982- Top 3 in city – QUALIFIED for STATE –
5th after Day 1 / rallied on Day 2 (302- lowest score In CATHEDRAL GOLF HISTORY) - 2nd in STATE
Marcos Delgado three-peats as an ALL-STATE golfer!
- 1983 – Top 3 teams in El Paso – QUALIFIED FOR STATE TOURNAMENT
Finished 2nd in State - AGAIN!!!
BUT Marcos Delgado won the INDIVIDUAL STATE TITLE!!!



Eastwood High School

1983-2008

Home for a long time...



FOOTBALL:

1984 – Freshman - 5-3 record

1985 – Varsity (Secondary / Receivers)

CO-DISTRICT CHAMPS - 3 way tie for FIRST

1986- Varsity - 8-1 season / 6-0 DISTRICT CHAMPS

BI-DISTRICT CHAMPS over Austin HS

1987- Varsity - 7-2 season / 6-0 DISTRICT CHAMPS

BI-DISTRICT CHAMPS over Irvin HS

1988 – Varsity – 7-2 season / 5-1 DISTRICT CHAMPS

BI-DISTRICT CHAMPS over Irvin HS

1989 – Varsity – 6-4 season/ 5-2 (3rd in District)

1990 – Varsity – 3-4-2 season / 3-1-2 in DISTRICT

LOST to Irvin HS in Bi-District

1991 – Varsity – 7-2 season / 6-0 DISTRICT CHAMPS

LOST to Austin HS in Bi-District

1992 – Varsity – 9-1 season / 7-0 DISTRICT CHAMPS

BI-DISTRICT CHAMPS over Burges HS

1993 – Varsity – 9-1 season / 7-0 DISTRICT CHAMPS

LOST Bi-District to Bowie HS

1994 -Varsity (Defensive Coordinator)

8-2 season / 7-0 DISTRICT CHAMPS /

BI-DISTRICT CHAMPS over Andress HS

1995 - Varsity – 4-6 season / 4-3 (3rd in District)

LOST Bi-District to Irvin HS

1996– Freshmen (now HEAD SOFTBALL Coach)

– gave up DC to returning Coach Jolley

1997 - Junior Varsity - moved up with '96 Freshman team



Eastwood High School

1983-2008



Home for a long time...

One of my most memorable football seasons!

1997 - 10-0 on season / shutout 5 opponents/
BIG GAME – last game of season vs AMERICAS HS
(new school - had not yet moved up to Varsity)
Our team worked so hard prepping for this game!
Put in a WHOLE NEW OFFENSE in one week!

Destroyed Americas!

1998 – Varsity - Head Coach Todd Ware retired
Wade Ardoin (new Head Coach) asked me to
return to Varsity - told him I would help for
a year – til he could get his new staff in place.
3-8 / 1-5 in District - disappointing because JV
was 10-0 the year before!



1984-1998

JV – 10-0 SEASON (1997)

VARSITY – 12 yrs – 8 DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

- 5 BI-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

SECONDARY / RECEIVERS / DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR (2 YRS)

Coached : Eric Jack (UNM & Atlanta Falcons)

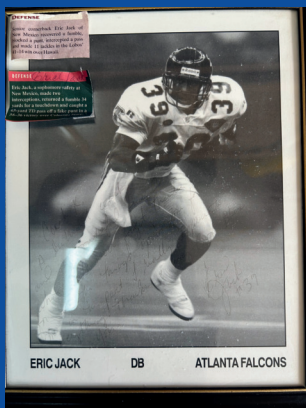
Tyrone Davis (UTEP) / Darius Ellison (UTEP)

Mike Deal (UTEP) / Hubert McGraw (NMSU)

Jimmy Ayala (Eastwood Track & Football Coach)

ALL-CITY players – John McCarden / Jeff Patton

Velton Locklear / Lorenza Davis / David Walker



Roger Maldonado was selected to the Dallas Morning
News - TEXAS - ALL-ACADEMIC FOOTBALL TEAM

I was honored that Roger asked me to accompany him to
Dallas for Banquet & Honor Ceremony! I was his AP
World History teacher and one of his football coaches!

Eastwood High School

1983-2008



Home for a long time...

GIRLS BASKETBALL:

FALL of 2001 – Endi Vargas and I were recruited to fix the Girls Basketball Program.

2001-02 – JV GIRLS BASKETBALL- 10-2 DISTRICT

2002-03 – JV GIRLS BASKETBALL –

Turned into another “SPECIAL” season!

JV had the “Leftovers” – kids that had some deficiencies; but loved the GAME! Early in the year ALL 3 teams travelled to Las Cruces to play MAYFIELD HS.

Freshman won by 30+ / Varsity won by 20+ / JV LOST 62-28 !

Bus ride home was not fun! JV got the “cold shoulder”

from other teams! Next day - a couple of Varsity players came to our practice (make sure that we were practicing hard!)

I talked to the team after practice. I told them I know how much you love basketball! I told them others may ridicule your size, speed or talent! But I also told them that they could be as good as they wanted to be! You have to believe in yourself and each other and in what we are doing and no outside criticism can stop you!

I even created a SLOGAN for our team:

**“We may be SHORT ! We may be SLOW!
We may have LITTLE TALENT!
BUT – WE WILL BE DISTRICT CHAMPS!”**

GUESS WHAT? - They won DISTRICT!!!



2002-03 - Varsity Asst 32-2 - season record
DISTRICT & BI-DISTRICT CHAMPS

2003-04 - Varsity Asst 32-4 - season record
DISTRICT & BI-DISTRICT CHAMPS

EASTWOOD GIRLS BASKETBALL was back as best in the city!

I went back to Full Time SOFTBALL COACH

Eastwood High School

1983-2008

Home for a long time...

SOFTBALL:

1995-2008 Head SOFTBALL COACH

Qualified for PLAYOFFS 8 of 14 years

2 - DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS - 2003 & 2007

7 - BI DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS

1997/1998/1999/2003/2005/2006/2007

2 - AREA CHAMPIONSHIPS - 1997 & 2007

18 - Eastwood players went on to play in college

PROFESSIONAL PLAYER (Katie Gutierrez) -
ONLY El Paso HS player to play PROFESSIONALLY
(Arizona Heat & Nebraska Comet)

Katie also earned ALL-CITY - MVP (1997 & 1998)

Katie returned to El Paso and became the
Head Softball Coach at EPCC for 13 years!

3 Eastwood players went on to become HS / College coaches

Christine Ritch / Melissa Navarro / Katie Gutierrez



Del Valle High School

2008- 2011

One Family... One Destiny



FOOTBALL:

Transferred to DEL VALLE in summer of 2008 –
Rick Lopez -Del Valle Principal and ex EW student
hired me to teach History and coach - SOFTBALL!

Jesse Perales (Del Valle Head Football Coach) worked
out my schedule so I could also coach Football.

2008-2011 FOOTBALL:

Freshmen- 3 years - great experience – learning
“new” game - I had not coached HS football since ‘98

Got to work with one of the BEST Coaching staffs
in El Paso: Jesse Perales (Head Coach)
Ariel Famaligi (Off Coordinator)
Kevin Butler (Def Coordinator)
Neil Rutledge / Alfred Montez / Rick Feti
Bobby Morales / Danny Simental / Bruce Reichman



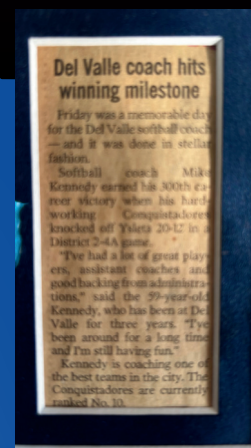
SOFTBALL 2009-2011:

HEAD SOFTBALL COACH

Qualified for PLAYOFFS (2009 / 2010 / 2011)
DISTRICT CHAMPS – 2009 (1st in school history)
CO-DISTRICT CHAMPS - 2010
BI-DISTRICT CHAMPS – 2009

RETIRED – SOFTBALL RECORD – 17 years

- 303-165-3 ranked 29th in Softball wins in Texas
- Ranked 1st in El Paso HS Softball wins
- 1st El Paso Softball Coach to reach 300 wins



Retired

2011- Present

But Not Done...

Officially retired from schools –
Time for me to coach and support my kids!

COACH K'S CAGES - (2011-2018)

COACH K'S CAGES (indoor batting facility)
Continued to support SOFTBALL and BASEBALL PROGRAMS in El Paso:

- Little League teams / Middle & High School teams
- City League teams / El Paso Community College
- Provided – banners / donations / cage time and lessons (individual or team)

2013-2018 – SPONSORED – SENIOR SHOWCASE
Provided: uniforms / certificates / games

2014-Present – VOLUNTEER SOFTBALL COACH
(Eastwood & Del Valle)

2014 – Elected to the EL PASO FASTPITCH SOFTBALL HALL of FAME

2014- PRESENT – Active member of SOFTBALL HALL of FAME



El Paso Fastpitch Softball Hall of Fame

Inducted May 22, 2014

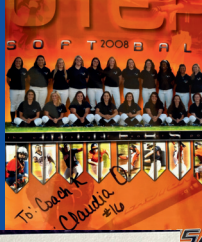
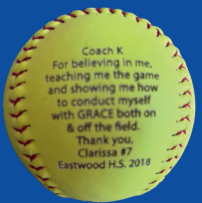
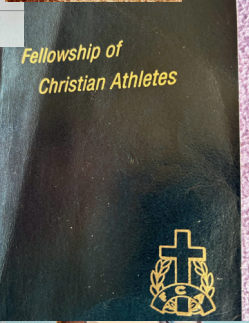


Serving as an active member since 2014

- Attend monthly meetings
- Involved with Community Projects
 - Food Drive
 - Clothing Drive
 - Fundraising Projects
 - Yearly Softball Banquet to induct new members
 - Recognize outstanding high school coaches and players for the school year



“REAL wins are in the LIFE LESSONS - NOT just on the scoreboard”



Cathedral fights v to TCIL state final

SAN ANTONIO — Will the third time be the charm for the Cathedral Fighting Irish?

Overcoming a 10-point deficit here Friday night, Cathedral clawed into the finals of the Class 3A Texas Christian Interscholastic League basketball tournament for the third straight year with a dramatic 64-62 victory over favored Dallas Bishop Dunne.

Robbie Swieger, Cathedral's leading scorer on the season, hit two free throws cleanly with three seconds left to give the Irish the title berth against San Antonio Central Catholic, a 78-59 victor over Houston St. Thomas.

Cathedral, 19-7, will face the San Antonio team at Bernhardt Arena at 7:30 p.m. (MST) Saturday.

The last two years, the Irish have lost in the finals. This time may be different, however, after they subdued a Bishop Dunne front line of Normas, 64 Donald M. James Qualls.

Ruben Gutierrez, paced the Irish with 18 points and 11 fouls for Dunne, 30-8.

The key for Cathedraling 21 fouls from Dunning the Falcons 14-41 line.

"I feel we'll match up Catholic very well at year Coach Mike Kennedy."

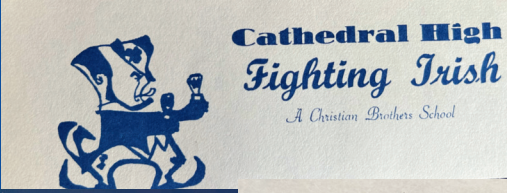
"We're almost like old friends. They will have the edge although we have people who made the difference for us."

(Please see Cathedral's website for more details.)

2023-2024 ALL STAR GAME

May 2nd, 2024 @ 6:30pm (at Eastwood)

Red Team	Blue Team
David Garcia	Andre Bledsoe
Chase Carter	Shane Miller
Michael Brown	Andy Smith
John Hernandez	Shane Smith
John Lopez	Andre Barr
Victor Reyes	Michael Miller
Logan McLean	Shane Smith
Michael Mendez	Victor Barr
Victor Barr	Shane Smith
Andy Ellis	Michael Miller
Michael Lopez	Victor Barr
Garrett Williams	Andy Barr
Coach Mike Smith	Coach Mike Kennedy



Presented to **Mike Kennedy**

In appreciation for your service and dedication to Eastwood High School from 1983 to 2008 for your hard work and the support you've given to Trooper Athletes.

"El Paso's Finest!"

4/5 Softball Coach
May 5, 2009

EASTWOOD SOFTBALL FIELD MAY 28TH @ 6:30

All-District

1-4A & 2-4A Introduced After 2nd Inning
1-5A & 2-5A Introduced After 4th Inning
1-6A Introduced after 6th Inning



Letters of Recommendation

February 22, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

I am honored to recommend Mike Kennedy to the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame

I have known Mike most of my educational and coaching career. In proverbs 27:17 it states as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. Mike has done exactly that; he has sharpened so many lives over his lifetime and career. He has sharpened the coaches he works with and the colleagues which he has encountered.

His players also have been sharpened through the time he spent with them, helping them to become a better spouse, a better parent, and a better person. As a coach, one of your attributes is to get your athletes out of their comfort zones, to help them reach beyond what they think they can accomplish, to help them reach their goals and much more. Mike Kennedy is that type of person and a coach. With all the player's lives he has touched with personal care and a specific time in their life; that has been the special gift he's passed on to his players.

Micah 6:8 states: This is what God requires of us: TO do what is right, to love mercy and walk humbly with God. Mike Kennedy does all of these as a coach, colleague, and as a family man.

Mike Kennedy is very well deserving to be inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. He represents what the Hall of Fame stands for.

Sincerely,

Ron Durkes

Former Athletic Director for Socorro ISD, Head Football Coach, and Campus Administrator

Darius Ellison
14748 David Latin Ave
El Paso, TX. 79938
delsp96@yahoo.com
915-503-3716
14 January 2026

El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Committee
El Paso, TX

Re: Nomination of Coach Kennedy for the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame

Dear Selection Committee,

I am honored to write this letter in support of Coach Kennedy's well-deserved induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. His influence on athletes extends far beyond the game, shaping young men and women into successful individuals both on and off the field. I am living proof of his impact.

Coach Kennedy's coaching style is not just about wins and losses; it's about building character, resilience, and a mindset for success. I remember as a freshman, after hearing his speech about how tough the football program would be, I decided to leave and focus on basketball. But Coach didn't let me disappear. One day, he saw me in the hallway, looked me in the eye, and simply said, "Where have you been? I expect to see you on Monday." That moment changed my life. From then on, he became more than just a coach—he became a mentor and a father figure.

Coach Kennedy instilled in us the values of discipline, accountability, and perseverance. He made sure we understood that football was more than just a sport—it was a reflection of life. He constantly emphasized that the lessons we learned on the field would carry us through any challenges we faced in the real world. He wasn't just developing athletes; he was preparing us for life beyond the game.

Without Coach Kennedy's guidance, I truly believe I wouldn't have gone on to play in college, the CFL, or the AFL. But more importantly, he made me promise to earn my degree, saying, "I don't care if you play a down of football; they are willing to pay for your school—get your degree!" That promise was sealed with a handshake, and because of his unwavering belief in me, I kept my word.

Even 30 years later, we remain in touch—a testament to the lasting relationships he builds with his players. His legacy isn't just in the games won, but in the countless lives he has shaped. Coach Kennedy is more than just a great coach; he is a great person, a mentor, and a role model. His induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame would not only recognize his incredible coaching career but also honor the profound and lifelong impact he has had on so many of us.

I strongly urge you to consider Coach Kennedy for this well-deserved honor. He has left a lasting imprint on El Paso athletics and beyond, and I can think of no one more deserving.

Sincerely,

Darius Ellison

January 28 th , 2026

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to give my highest recommendation for Coach K to support their application for the El Paso Athletic HOF. My name is Jacqueline Loera, and I have had the pleasure of playing for Coach K in all four of my high school years.

As an Eastwood Alumni, not only has playing alongside his daughter Triana been a joy and learning experience in my softball career, but having a mentor in my life on and oM the field like him is something I will cherish forever. He is what every athlete wishes to have as a coach. Someone passionate about the sport we all love, who teaches with sincerity and patience, and who will pick you up from the trenches no matter how hard the situation may be. His wisdom has touched the hearts of many players who have come before me and will leave a lasting impression in the softball/baseball community.

Above all, what I admire most is the person he is outside of the sport. As a 2020 graduate, when times were uncertain and it was time to close the chapter in my high school career, he wrote a letter to each of his players acknowledging their accomplishments and reassuring us that everything would be alright. It is rare to be coached by a person who wishes you to succeed in all facets of life, who will support you even after you've stepped on that graduation stage, and who wishes to stay in touch to see you succeed after playing the sport you've been doing your whole life.

He is one of the biggest support systems I have ever had. It was an absolute privilege to play for him. To show my appreciation for everything he has done for me, I am writing this recommendation letter as a thank you for all the piece of advice that has allowed me to grow into the person I am today.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Loera

January 27, 2026

To whom it may concern, It is with great pleasure and honor that I write this letter of recommendation for Coach Mike Kennedy. "Coach K" is, by far, a worthy candidate for induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. He is the epitome of a mentor and a teacher—anyone who knows him, especially those fortunate to be coached by him, can attest to this. His passion for sharing his knowledge of softball extends beyond his time as a coach at Eastwood High School. Throughout the softball and baseball community in El Paso, "Coach K's Cages" became the mecca of practice facilities. The family-owned and operated batting cages welcomed anyone at any skill level. It was there that I first met Coach K who, though he did not know it at the time, motivated me to continue practicing and pursuing what I loved.

Because his lessons were never bound by the dimensions of the field, Coach K has been the most influential coach of my ten-year athletic career. He taught me more than just a game: I learned how to work efficiently on a team and how to lead. I learned about compassion, strategy, planning, intentionality, and grit. I learned to "hold the rope" for my teammates and coaches. He taught me how to challenge those ahead of me and support those coming after me. Under his guidance, I learned how to identify gaps to fill while inspiring others to strive to be the best they can be. In hindsight, Coach K laid the foundation for many of my values and set an example that I hope to pass on to future generations. I have been witness to his capabilities and am proud to be a product of his coaching.

In conclusion, his induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame would be a well-deserved honor. I am incredibly grateful for the lessons he taught with such grace and the memories woven into them. Being coached by him carries immense respect in the softball community—a reputation that is no coincidence. Having known Coach K is a privilege, and I strongly recommend him for this recognition without hesitation. Thank you for your time and attention.

With utmost sincerity,

Valerie Rojas Sanders

Eastwood High School Alumna Varsity Softball Captain (2017-2020)

To: El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Committee

From: Gabby Diaz

Educator, Basketball Coach

August 1974 – May 2023

Date: January 24, 2026

Re: Mike Kennedy

I have known Mike Kennedy for over 50 years; we both started our teaching careers at Cathedral High School. I also had the opportunity to teach and coach basketball alongside him at Eastwood High School, and then again at Del Valle High School. When he left Del Valle High School to retirement, his absence was immediately felt, both academically and athletically. Simply put, he was irreplaceable.

Some decisions are very difficult to make, while others are very easy and require very little debate, if any: **Mike Kennedy belongs in the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.** His passion and love for teaching and coaching are unparalleled. His concern and care for his students and student athletes is an example to all teachers and coaches; with dignity and respect, he guided his students and athletes to success. Through his volunteer work in the community after retirement, he continues to affect our youth positively. He has earned the highest accolade, award, and trophy that any teacher and coach can possibly receive: the respect of his colleagues, students and student athletes.

Respectfully submitted,

Gabby Diaz

El Paso Hall of Fame Committee:

It is with immense respect and admiration that I am writing a letter of recommendation for Coach Mike Kennedy to be inducted into the El Paso Hall of Fame. Coach K is the perfect candidate for induction for his on and off the field coaching and teaching abilities, while encouraging multi-sport athletes.

I have witnessed firsthand and been a prodigy of the profound impact Coach K has on his students and athletes in the classroom, on the basketball court and on the baseball field.

I have known Coach K for twenty-two years now. I played softball under Coach K from 2004-2007. Coach K led us to a spot in the playoffs all four years, including Co-District Champs in 2007, Bi District Champs 2005-2007 and Area Champs 2007.

Coach K taught me more than just the game of softball! He is more than just a coach, as I view him as a role model, mentor and second father to me! Even as the years have passed, Coach K has always checked in to see how I was doing, where I was living now and if I was ready to take over as he headed for retirement. Unfortunately, I had a change in career but none the less my success is due to Coach K. He built my confidence and leadership skills as a freshman in high school, and I use those skills in my day-to-day job, as a Director of Operations for a medical device company here in San Antonio, TX.

I can't think of anyone more deserving than this man who has coached both male and female sports at a very high level, taught AP World History and does so much for the El Paso Community. Coach K's contributions extend far beyond the diamond. He truly is a leader, role model and mentor who has instilled in not only me, but others a love for the game and a strong sense of character.

Thank you for your consideration of a well deserving man and coach!

Sincerely,

Erika Crank or as Coach K calls me "Little One"

February 2, 2026 To Whom It May Concern,

It is with great pride and unwavering support that I recommend Coach Kennedy for induction into the EIPaso Hall of Fame for Softball. I have had the privilege of knowing Coach Kennedy since I was 10 years old, and over the years, he has made a lasting impact on my life—not only as a coach but as a mentor and role model.

Coach Kennedy's knowledge of the game is unparalleled. His dedication to the sport of softball and to the development of young athletes in EIPaso has left a legacy that spans generations. His ability to teach the fundamentals of the game, while also instilling discipline, sportsmanship, and a love for competition, sets him apart as one of the most influential figures in our community's softball history.

Beyond his impact on the field, Coach Kennedy has always gone above and beyond for those around him. He personally supported my professional journey, including writing a recommendation that helped me secure a position at Fresno State—something I will always be grateful for. His belief in his athletes and his willingness to support them even beyond the games speaks volumes about his character and leadership.

Coach Kennedy's contribution to EIPaso softball, his tireless commitment to excellence, and his profound influence on countless athletes make him more than deserving of this honor. It would be a privilege for the EIPaso Hall of Fame to recognize him for the immense role he has played in shaping the sport and strengthening our community.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Martinez
Accountant-1
Mississippi State Athletics
C: 915-929-2101 O: 662-325-3596
E: amartinez@athletics.msstate.edu
Bryan Building | 288 Lakeview Dr. | Miss. State, MS 39762

February 12, 2026

To the El Paso Hall of Fame Committee,

My name is Claudia Oliva-Gil, and I would like to nominate Mike Kennedy, or better known as Coach "K," to be inducted to the El Paso Hall of Fame. There is no doubt in my mind that there is no one most deserving in receiving this honor. He is the true definition of a coach. He has motivated, inspired, and mentored many individuals. Since I have known Coach K, he has always looked out for his student-athletes and even those he never coached. He always sees the best in others and stands up for them.

For me, Coach K always had my back, even when I was a freshman. During my freshman year, rumors were going around that I had lived outside the Ysleta boundaries and my opportunity to try out for the varsity team would not be possible. Given at that time, my parents did not know what the process would be for us to prove that I lived in the Ysleta boundaries, but Coach K stepped in to help us out. We did not really know Coach K at that time but after this incident we were so grateful to him. As a 15-year-old young lady I saw a stranger step in to help us out. I was at an awed with him. I never knew any coach who would just help his players out, especially since I was not on his team yet. Prior to high school ball, my experience with coaches was with only those from the city league and unfortunately it was not very good. I had realized that my city league coaches never really had my best interest at heart and it was very disappointing to experience that. So, when Coach K stepped in to help my family out, I just could not believe it. He did not have to do anything. He could have laid back and told me to wait another year to try out for the varsity team, but he saw how important it was for me. This was the first time that I saw an actual coach that cared about his players. This became one of the many big moments of my life where Coach K made a big impression.

Another moment was when I made the UTEP Softball team. I never told Coach K that I was going to try out for the team. So, when I was able to walk on to the UTEP Softball team, the coaches at that time shared with me that they spoke to my high school coach and were very impressed with what they were told about my softball performance. I was speechless to know that Coach K had spoken to them. I was already out of high school; I never expected my coach to still advocate for me.

After my time with the UTEP softball program, Coach K asked me if I would help some of his players with pitching. I agreed and little did I know, Coach K planted this coaching seed in me that would have me coach other young players to be pitchers. I never thought I would be a "coach" or inspire other players to be pitchers. I never thought I would love it. Who would have thought Coach K would have played a big part in my life?

Coach K is without a doubt the most deserving individual to receive this honor. For so many of us he has made a long-lasting impression is still well-spoken about. For me, he would always be my greatest mentor and advocate. I will always be very grateful to him for all that he has done for my family and myself.

Therefore, Hall of Fame Committee, please accept my nomination to induct Coach K to the Hall of Fame of El Paso.

Respectfully,

Claudia Oliva-Gil

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great pride that I recommend Coach Kennedy for induction into the El Paso Hall of Fame. Coach Kennedy has been a pillar of excellence in El Paso's sports community, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to athletic achievement, mentorship, and an advocate for female athletes.

I am honored to write this letter in recognition of Coach Kennedy and the profound impact he has had on my development as a coach. When I first started my coaching journey at Eastwood High School, I was eager but young. Coach Kennedy welcomed me with open arms, offering not only his vast knowledge of the game but also his unwavering support and encouragement. Through his guidance, I learned the importance of fostering a positive team culture, holding athletes to high standards while also showing compassion, and continuously striving for improvement. He taught me that coaching goes beyond wins and losses—it is about instilling confidence, discipline, and life lessons that extend far beyond the game. He showed me what it means to be a true leader—one who is passionate, patient, and dedicated to the growth of both players and fellow coaches.

Coach Kennedy is a legendary coach with a historic resume. Few individuals have left such a profound impact on El Paso softball as he has. I wholeheartedly support Coach Kennedy's nomination and strongly urge the committee to recognize his immense contributions to El Paso sports. Coach Kennedy's mentorship has left a lasting impact on my career, and I am incredibly grateful for his generosity, and wisdom. He embodies the very best of what coaching should be, and I am proud to carry forward the lessons he instilled in me.

Sincerely,

Crystal Carrion

Crystal Carrion, M.Ed.
Physical Education
Head Softball Coach

Eastwood High School
Ysleta Independent School District
2430 McRae Blvd., El Paso, TX 79925
Phone: 915-434-4000
E-Mail: ccarrion1@yisd.net

February 5, 2026

El Paso Hall Of Fame Committee:

Mike Kennedy, also known as Coach K would be the perfect person to be elected into the Hall of Fame. Coach K has made a huge impact on my life. He was a coach who taught by example, if there were something that needed to be learned he would pick up a glove or bat and show us exactly how to do it. When I was at Eastwood I wanted to quit and he pulled me aside and told me to not give up. He later helped me get signed into my first college here at EPCC, where I later continued to play at another school and graduated with my bachelor's. I am now coaching myself and I would want to be the coach, coach K is. Coach K deserves this award, there is not a coach like him anywhere, and I have played for many. He is a kind soul with a love for the game and his players.

Sincerely,

Clarissa Hernandez CO'18

Dear Selection Committee,

It is with great pride and the utmost respect that I write this letter in support of Coach Mike Kennedy's induction into the El Paso Sports Hall of Fame. Coach Kennedy's impact on El Paso's athletic community, particularly through his years at Eastwood High School, extends far beyond the football field. His legacy is not just one of wins and championships, but of leadership, character, and an unwavering commitment to the development of young athletes.

As the head coach of Eastwood High School's football program, Coach Kennedy set the standard for excellence. His teams were known for their discipline, determination, and sportsmanship—qualities that reflected his own approach to the game and to life. He had an incredible ability to inspire his players to push beyond their limits, not just in competition but in academics and personal growth. His mentorship shaped the lives of countless young men, many of whom went on to achieve success in college, careers, and their own communities.

Beyond his success on the field, Coach Kennedy was a pillar of integrity and service. He led by example, demonstrating the values of hard work, humility, and respect. He built strong relationships with students, parents, and colleagues, always emphasizing the importance of teamwork and perseverance. His impact extended into the El Paso community, where he remained an advocate for youth sports and education.

Coach Kennedy's contributions to El Paso athletics and the countless lives he has touched make him more than deserving of a place in the El Paso Sports Hall of Fame. His dedication to the game and, more importantly, to the people around him, embodies the very spirit of this honor.

I wholeheartedly support Coach Mike Kennedy's induction and hope that you recognize his extraordinary contributions to El Paso sports and beyond. Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,

Joseph Salem
ISR Instructor
[\(915\)613-8171](tel:(915)613-8171)
j.salem@infantswim.com

Dear El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Committee,

This letter is to recommend Mike Kennedy for membership in your organization.

I have known Mike since I was a student at Cathedral High School (Class of 1980). He was a Social Studies teacher and Basketball and Golf coach at CHS during the time I was a student. He coached the basketball team to a state runner-up at the TCIL state championships in 1982. My brother Gabriel was a member of that team. He has told me in the past how much he enjoyed being coached by Mike.

I was a colleague of Mike's while a teacher and coach at Eastwood High School from 1986 to 1996. Mike was instrumental in me getting hired at EHS. He notified me of a football coaching opportunity at EHS and put in a good word for me with the head coach. I was a teacher at Bel Air High School at the time. I highly appreciated his help in getting me that opportunity.

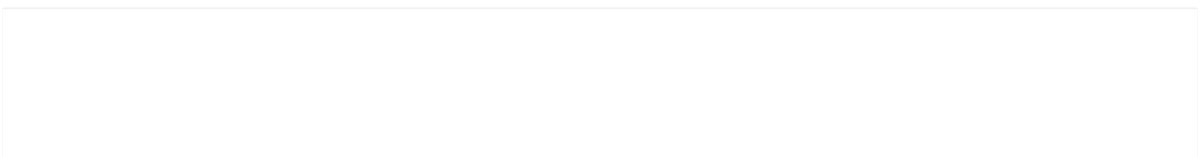
Mike was on the varsity staff when I started out a Freshman team coach. He was always willing to help me learn the offensive and defensive systems. Mike was very knowledgeable in both offensive and defensive systems. He coached player positions on both sides. I worked more closely with him years later when I was promoted to the varsity staff.

It was during my time as varsity coach that I got to know Mike more as a person and witnessed the relationships he developed with both the coaches and the players. We as coaches enjoyed his upbeat personality and admired his dedication and work ethic. All the players loved and highly respected Mike. They enjoyed being coached by him for the same reasons we as coaches enjoyed working with Mike. The players enjoyed his upbeat personality. He joked around with them often. They also accepted and understood that he wanted them to be the best players they could be. He coached them hard during practices and games but always showed respect and caring for them.

Please consider Mike Kennedy for membership in the EP Athletic Hall of Fame. I believe he is well deserving of this honor.

Thank you.

Ray Flores



January 20, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jerry Gomez and I'm an alumni of Eastwood High School and graduate of the class of 1994. I'm nominating Mike Kennedy to be inducted in the El Paso Hall of Fame.

Coach Kennedy has played a very important role in my life. In high school he was someone who supported me throughout my four years in high school and beyond. I had the privilege to have him as my world history teacher, golf and football coach. He helped me with my homework from other classes and would let me use his computer since we didn't have one. Coach K always had the best interest of all his students and players. During high school I also had the opportunity to work closely with him with his other business which was a paper route. We delivered the El Paso Sunday Times to different towns outside of El Paso. We had lots of stories and spent lots of time talking about various things.

During my high school years, my brothers and I went through a very challenging time. I lost my parents and had to grow up very quickly. Throughout all of the trials and tribulations, Coach K truly treated me like a son. Financially, he lent me money and sold me his grey Ford truck for nothing. Coach K opened his door and let me stay with him while I was able to get back on my feet. His kindness and guidance helped me through an incredibly difficult time. As time passed, I eventually moved to Los Angeles. Despite the distance, I always ensured we stayed in touch. I am now living in New Jersey and to this day, Coach K and I talk very often.

I was also honored to be in Coach K's wedding when he married his beautiful wife Cathy. I still remember the days when they met and started dating. It happened to be the same time I was staying with him. Coach K and Cathy have two amazing and successful kids, Anthony and Triana. I had the opportunity to meet so many different family members of both Coach K's and Cathy's family. I've met Cathy's parents and her siblings and played lots of golf with her brother in Los Angeles.

Coach Kennedy has my vote and definitely should be inducted to the El Paso Hall of Fame. He's touched my life in so many different ways. He had his Coach K's cages and his photo booth business and has made an impact on everyone who's crossed his path. He is unselfish and always wants to help others. He's an amazing individual who deserves this and an icon of El Paso. The only thing I will always question is why he's a Packer and Yankees fan but that's for another time.

Thank you,

Jerry Gomez

Jorgejimenez0111@icloud.com
(915) 241-1331
January 18, 2026

El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Committee

El Paso, TX

Subject: Nomination of Coach Mike Kennedy for Induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame

Dear Selection Committee,

I am honored to submit this nomination for Coach Mike Kennedy to be considered for induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. Coach Kennedy has made outstanding contributions to athletics in El Paso and has exemplified excellence in golf, football, basketball, softball, and as a long-standing supporter of El Paso athletics.

Coach Kennedy has been an integral part of the El Paso sports community many years, demonstrating dedication, skill, and leadership especially in local high school softball.

Beyond Coach Kennedy's personal accomplishments, Coach Kennedy has contributed significantly to the growth and development of sports in El Paso. The main purpose of my letter is not to list his list his accomplishments as a coach as that will be addressed by other in great detail and goes without saying. My contribution to his nomination packet is to talk about him as a man. Although Coach Kennedy has inspired countless individuals through coaching, I am sharing my experience with him as a teacher and friend. I personally never played for Coach Kennedy, but had the privilege to be in his Honors American History class at Eastwood in the mid 1990's. Coach Kennedy challenged me and my classmates to reach our highest potential in his class and ultimately in life. His passion in the classroom impacted me and when I became an El Paso Police Officer he is one of the people that I give credit to as he was someone that supported me when I shared I was in the process of getting hired. I am honored to be able to call him a friend as I still have contact with him over 30 years later. I work police security during the fall football season and find Coach Kennedy helping the booth at Eastwood High School football games. He always takes time to see how I am doing, and we talk about our beloved New York Yankees or his favorite Green Bay Packers. I treasure these conversations and consider myself blessed to have known him as a teacher and friend.

Coach Kennedy's dedication to the local athletic community and his countless students embodies the values of perseverance, integrity, and excellence that the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame seeks to recognize.

I strongly believe that Coach Mike Kennedy deserves this prestigious honor, and I respectfully urge the committee to consider his contributions and impact on our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me at my above listed phone number or email if any further information is needed. I look forward to the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of this outstanding man.

Respectfully,

Detective Jorge Jimenez #3057

El Paso Police Department - Major Crimes Division / Crimes Against Children

From: Class of 93
Number 83
Eastwood High School Football
Kenneth Mayberry

It is an honor and a pleasure to be asked to submit a letter recommending Coach Mike Kennedy to the El Paso Hall of Fame.

Coach Kennedy was my position coach from 1990-1993 but more than that, he has been a life long mentor. He displayed the type of character that people should emulate throughout life. As a young Afro-American growing up in El Paso, TX it is hard to fit in when everywhere you look you are the minority. At this age I realize most of my problems were brought on by my own actions, but in 1993 the one person I could turn to for life advice and true wisdom was Coach Mike Kennedy. For all the times I ran away from home or made a terrible choice, he was there to communicate with me and was the one adult that actually listened and spoke to me, not as a child but actually heard and understood what I was saying. He was a blessing, a friend and someone you never wanted to disappoint. He encouraged me to volunteer to help others, find my foundation in team, and be open to new challenges. He encouraged me to join the military to grow and develop myself. It is now that I can look back and truly appreciate his approach and understand what a great human being he is. Coach Mike Kennedy should be immortalized for history to look back and recognize as one of El Paso's finest.

V/r Kenneth Mayberry

February 13, 2026

Dear El Paso Sports Hall of Fame Committee Members:

I am honored to write this reference letter on behalf of Coach Mike Kennedy. I had the privilege to be coached by him in football at Eastwood High School from 1990-1993. Aside from being an amazing coach, Coach K was also an amazing teacher. As a receiver/ defensive back coach for the Eastwood varsity team, Coach K displayed tremendous knowledge of the game. He taught me many excellent drills and techniques that helped me to become a two-time all-district and all-city defensive back. The unique thing about Coach K's approach was that he was a true teacher with amazing virtues: he was patient, he was encouraging, he was giving, and he was truly motivating. One practical example of this is when he bought all his defensive backs/receivers gloves with his own money. These types of gestures were immensely appreciated and motivated our entire group to play hard for him. Coach K had such a tremendous impact on me personally that I came back to Eastwood in 1999 as a teacher/coach. I wanted to follow in his footsteps and a lot of my coaching philosophies are those that he personally taught me. Now, 26 years into my professional career as a teacher and track head coach, I keep in close contact with Coach K.

Coach K is such a versatile coach in that he coached football, softball, and basketball for many years and with much success. Coach K is one of a few men I know that has a tremendous amount of integrity, diligence, and dedication. This is a man who would be the perfect selection for the El Paso Sports Hall of Fame. I hope that you consider him as a possible recipient of this prestigious honor.

Respectfully,

Eduardo (Jimmy) Ayala

English Department co-chair

Head Girls Track

Assistant XC

Eastwood High school.

Letter for Coach Kennedy.

I am Joel Lopez, class of 2000 Eastwood High School graduate. I would love to take this opportunity to speak on behalf of Coach Mike Kennedy for El Paso Hall of Fame nomination.

Coach Kennedy was the BEST coach I have ever had the privilege of playing for. As the Head coach of the JV team my sophomore year, he had given me the opportunity to join the Varsity squad as a sophomore, to which I declined. I knew at the time that I was about to learn how to play football under superb leadership that Coach Kennedy entailed. Coach Kennedy led us to an undefeated season that year. I can honestly say I truly fell in love and truly learned how to excel in the game of football that season.

Coach Kennedy showed us what it took to win, showed us how to be better people in life and was always there if we needed anything. I have done so much in life as a Veteran and Firefighter since graduating high school, but I have never forgotten all that I learned under Coach K. He exemplifies what it takes to succeed in sports and life. I pray that whoever reads this will truly consider Coach K for the hall of fame.

There isn't a Head Coach past or present at Eastwood High School that motivated and brought a team together as well as Coach Kennedy did.

Joel Marc Lopez

Class of 2000

February 1, 2026

El Paso Hall of Fame Committee:

It is with great respect and deep gratitude that I write this letter in strong support of Coach Mike Kennedy's induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

I had the privilege of playing for Coach Kennedy while I was a football player at Eastwood High School. From the very beginning, his leadership, belief in each player, and relentless dedication pushed us to become not just better athletes, but better individuals. Coach Kennedy had an extraordinary ability to inspire every player — not just to perform on the field, but to believe in themselves off of it. He saw potential in each of us, often long before we saw it in ourselves.

Years later, as I walked onto the field again, this time as a coach, I gained a different lens through which to view his impact. I saw firsthand the intentionality behind his words, the depth of his character, and the strength of his conviction to develop young people into people of integrity, resilience, and purpose. What I once appreciated as a player, I now understand even more profoundly as a coach: Coach Kennedy built belief into every athlete he coached, and he did it with a genuine heart.

Coach Kennedy's influence extends far beyond wins and losses. He helped shape careers, instill lifelong values, and lift young men and women to see themselves as more than they ever thought possible. His mentorship didn't stop at the final whistle; it carried through college decisions, career paths, and life choices, equipping countless individuals to lead with confidence and compassion.

What sets Coach Kennedy apart is not just his knowledge of the game, but his unwavering commitment to his players as human beings. He believed in us, championed us, and pushed us toward greater versions of ourselves. Whether you knew him as a coach, mentor, teacher, or friend, it was clear that his impact was deep, lasting, and life changing.

Coach Mike Kennedy's contributions to athletics and to the El Paso community are immeasurable. His influence lives on in the athletes he coached, the coaches he inspired, and the countless lives shaped by his belief in their potential. There is no one more deserving of this honor.

Respectfully,

Roy Torres

Torresroy03@gmail.com

Dear El Paso HOF Committee,

Mike Kennedy has been a staple in El Paso sports for many years. His reach was not just in coaching a single sport, or at one location. Coach Kennedy's impact on El Paso sports expanded on and oE the field.

Mike Kennedy coached football and golf during the time I attended Eastwood high school as a student athlete. During the four years I played football, Coach K impacted many of our lives. Not only did he set high standards as players, but he also provided guidance and introduced us to Fellowship of Christian Athletes of Texas. Coach taught and motivated athletes with integrity. He did not humiliate or demean athletes. His goal was to coach us to be good men. Coach K was a role model of how to be a man. In many aspects, I witnessed him fill in as a father figure to some of my teammates who did not have a male figure in their life. The way he interacted with student athletes motivated me to become a teacher/ coach. I graduated from Eastwood in 1994.

In 2002, I returned to Eastwood to teach and coach. I had the great pleasure of working alongside Coach K for 5 years. During this time, he was coaching softball. As a new teacher he was my mentor in the classroom and as my former coach, he provided me with great insight into influencing young athletes. Coach Kennedy's purpose was to impact and improve young lives. I can sincerely say that my professional career has been impacted by the mentorship and the modeling that Coach K shared.

I am sure you will have many great candidates for this prestigious honor, and I believe Coach Mike Kennedy should be selected.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Nathan Ballard

