

***Daren
Walker***

EL PASO ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME
NOMINEE 2021



Nomination Cover Sheet
El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame
(effective date: January 18, 2008)

Name of Presenter: Gabriel Blanco

Date of Presentation: 1-8-2021

Home Address: 6504 Loma De Cristo El Paso Texas 79912

Home Phone: 915 274 3738

Cell Phone: 915 274 3738

E-Mail Address: gsblanco@episd.org

Business Address: Frankilin High School 900 N Resler Dr, El Paso Texas 79912

Business Phone: 915 236 2200

Business Fax: n/a

Name of Nominee: Daren Walker

Category Being Nominated In: Coach(Football)

Home Address: 840 Hempstead Dr.El Paso Texas 79912

Home Phone: 915 276 0053


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E-Mail Address: dbwalker@episd.org

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Business Phone: 915 236 2200

Business Fax: n/a



To President Stansbury and the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Selection Committee,

It is my pleasure to present Daren Walker in the category of Coach(football) for consideration for the 2021 El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

Coach Walker has been an educator and coach in El Paso since 1992. Under the legendary Coach Sepkowitz at Andress HS, Coach Walker quickly went from a valued assistant to Defensive Coordinator and started his journey in to El Paso football History. Coach Walker got his first head coaching job as the first head football coach at Chapin HS. After several successful years at Chapin HS, Coach Walker elevated his coaching career by taking over the Head Football/Athletic Coordinator duties at Franklin HS. Along the way, Daren Walker has coached in the Texas vs The Nation game, Greater El Paso All-Star Game and has spoken at several football clinics in the Southwest. Coach Walker ranks among the top Football coaches in El Paso as well as West Texas.

On a personal note, I have been a teacher and coach in El Paso for 26 years. Before landing a spot-on Coach Walkers staff at Franklin, I knew Coach Walker going back to his days at Andress HS. Coaching/teaching at the high school level is very demanding, it is an emotional roller coaster at times. After some great, good and tough years, I found myself asking if I wanted to continue in the profession, I was in. I had just resigned as the defensive coordinator at Coronado HS where the defense held opponents points to one of the lowest in school history and a district championship. I found myself spent. Coach Walker at the same time had just become the head coach at our rival school Franklin HS. A fellow coach had just been hired to his staff and urged me to talk to Coach Walker about a possible job as he started his program there. At the time thinking I would just go over and check out a workout and wish the new program luck changed quickly. Feeling burnt out and tired of the toll coaching takes, I was eager to be a fan rather than a coach in the years to come. THAT ALL CHANGED! It took me going and seeing one workout at Franklin to re-energize me. The presence and the command Coach Walker displayed on the field and in the weight room that afternoon was contagious. The way his coaches and players were buying in to his philosophy was awesome and I had to be part of it. It has been my pleasure for the last 15 years to be part of Coach Walkers program at Franklin HS. Coach Walker has had this impact on several like me throughout the years and continues till this day.

Respectfully,

Gabriel S. Blanco M. ED

Personal Information---

Coach Walker is a native of Minot, North Dakota. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Minot State University. He was a four year letterman and earned all conference honors as a senior.

Daren and Kelley have three children Haley (18) Freshmen at Texas Tech University majoring Nutrition and minoring in Biology, Tatum (16) Junior at Franklin High School—active in Student Council, National Honor Society and Varsity Volleyball, Jake (12) 7th grader at Hornedo Middle School he is known as a “sports extraordinary.”



*Personal
Information*

Coaching Experience---

Minot State University, Minot, ND---assistant coach defensive line 1988-1989

Charles Middle School, El Paso, Tx---assistant coach

Andress High School, El Paso, Tx---assistant coach and Defensive Coordinator 1998

Chapin High School, El Paso, Tx---Head Coach (first—starting the program) 2000-2007

Franklin High School, El Paso, Tx—Head Coach 2007-present



Experience

Texas State Playoffs 17 out of 19 years as Head Coach

KEYS: C= District Champion; CO=Co-Champion
TRI=Tri-Champion; R=Runnerup; TH=Third Place
FT= Fourth Place; ZZ=Zone Champion; DQ=Ineligible

KEYS FOR ALL-TIME RECORD

Won-Lost-Tied

Playoff Appearances-DistrictChampions-State Champions

Head Coaching Records

at Chapin

2002		6-4-0	264-219	Daren Walker
2003	C--	11-1-0	406-176	Daren Walker
2004	TH	7-4-0	275-186	Daren Walker
2005	C--	11-2-0	511-252	Daren Walker
2006	C--	12-1-0	489-200	Daren Walker

at Franklin

2007	TH	8-3-0	286-166	Darren Walker
2008	TH	7-4-0	355-279	Darren Walker
2009	F-	6-5-0	336-286	Darren Walker
2010	F-	8-3-0	338-230	Darren Walker
2011	C--	10-2-0	487-257	Darren Walker
2012	TRI	10-2-0	474-200	Darren Walker
2013	TH	6-5-0	489-399	Darren Walker
2014	C	9-2-0	467-283	Darren Walker
2015		4-6-0	328-371	Darren Walker
2016	F-	4-7-0	342-459	Darren Walker
2017		4-6-0	354-379	Darren Walker
2018	C	9-3-0	529-358	Darren Walker
2019	TH	8-3-0	409-218	Darren Walker



*Coaching
Awards and
Championships*

Coaching

Time Warner Coach of the Year 2003

El Paso Gridiron's Coach of the Year 2006

El Paso Times All City Coach of the Year 2005, 2006, 2011 and 2018

Texas vs. Nation---colligate All Star Bowl game---coaching with Mike Price and Buddy Ryan 2007

Greater El Paso Football All Star Game---assistant coach—2017, 2018 and 2019

Overall Records--- (as of May 2019)

Record 132-60

District Championships 7

Bi District Championships 6

Area Championships 2

Chapin has right coach in Walker

By Darren Hunt
El Paso Times

Chapin High Principal Carla Gonzalez said she knew Daren Walker was a winner the first time she spoke with him.

"He stood out from the beginning," Gonzalez said, reflecting on the process that led to the hiring of her school's head football coach four years ago. "I think it was just the way he answered the questions, the plans he'd made, the task that he definitely wanted to take on."

"You could tell he was somebody that was going to put together an incredible football program." Mission accomplished.

In his first year with seniors at the new Northeast El Paso school, Walker has led the Huskies to a 10-0 mark entering Saturday's Class 4A bi-district playoff against Parkland (7-3) at 3:30 p.m. at the Sun Bowl.

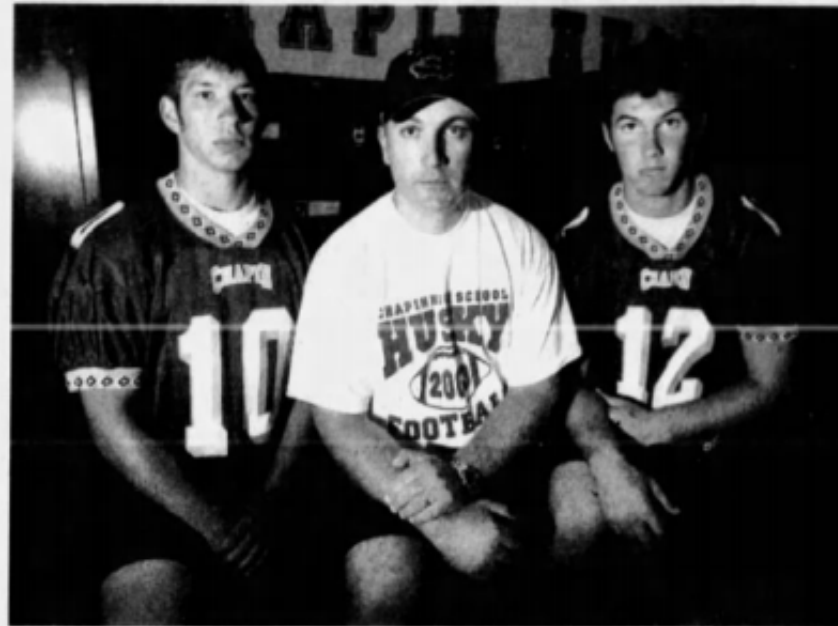
The 37-year-old, who left Minot, N.D., 13 years ago for the opportunity to coach at a junior high in El Paso, reflected Wednesday on the path that has led him to becoming one of the city's top coaches.

"I was born and raised in North Dakota," said Walker, whose Fargo-like accent gives him away. "I graduated from Minot State, where I played nose guard and developed my work ethic and attention to detail."

Walker said he was 24 when a friend with whom he coached in North Dakota talked him into moving to El Paso.

"He told me I'd get a chance to move into the high school ranks pretty quickly," Walker said.

A few years into his coaching career at H.E. Charles Junior High,



Times file photo

Chapin High School's undefeated football coach Daren Walker, center, quarterback Chris Day, left, and running back Kyle Bumgarner.

Walkerfile

▶ **Who:** Chapin High head football coach Daren Walker.

▶ **Age/Hometown:** 37, Minot, N.D.

▶ **Record:** 32-7-1 (all levels at Chapin combined).

Walker caught the attention of El Paso's dean of coaches, Address' Allan Sepkowitz.

"I noticed his ability to communicate with coaches and players, his intensity and his work ethic," said Sepkowitz, who made Walker his defensive coordinator from 1995-99. "He really proved to be even more than we expected when we hired him."

Five seasons at Address and an

endorsement from Sepkowitz qualified Walker for one of the most attractive local jobs available in recent years.

"A lot of people wanted that job," El Paso Independent School District Athletics Director Ken Owen recalled. "(Walker) was obviously the right choice. He's very organized. The best thing he did was go out and hire a quality staff."

Starting a program from scratch is no simple project, but Walker had a solid plan.

"The first thing we wanted to do was get the young men together and develop 'Husky Pride,'" Walker said. "We wanted them to be proud of what they were going to accomplish."

Walker had success immediately, watching his first freshman team finish second in the district (7-2-1) and his first junior varsity team nearly go undefeated (9-1). Last year's initial varsity squad (6-4), minus seniors, missed the playoffs only after losing a coin flip.

"The only way to assure we'd

have a playoff spot was to be district champs, so we went out and won the championship," he said.

Sixteen players on this year's 1-4A title team have been with Walker's program since its inception, including standout senior quarterback Chris Day.

"I think coach Walker's success has a lot to do with the relationship he has with the team," Day said. "He's not too buddy-buddy or anything. He's actually real strict, but he has a good relationship with the whole team. The whole coaching staff is excellent. This school will be a power in the city for a while."

Which is exactly why Gonzalez said she's glad she chose Walker.

"It's amazing the atmosphere that a winning football program brings," she said. "We definitely have football fever here at Chapin, but it's a lot more than just that. There's a lot of pride in what these young men and their coach have accomplished in four years."

Darren Hunt may be reached at dhunt@elpasotimes.com

All-City Football Team

4C Monday, Oct. 16, 2006

SUPERLATIVES

Co-Most Valuable Players

MARCO CHAZZ

Position: Quarterback
Height: 5-11
Weight: 175 pounds
Class: Senior

Notes: Was District 2-AAA Most Valuable Player and earned Class 5A all-state honorable mention honors. Played for 2,000 yards and 33 touchdowns during eight intersessions, while also playing for 1,200 yards and 27 touchdowns. Led his All-City champion Huskies to their first regional semifinal appearance.

ALEX TURNER

Position: Quarterback
Height: 6-1
Weight: 175 pounds
Class: Senior

Notes: Was District 1-AAA Most Valuable Player and earned Class 5A all-state honorable mention honors. He earned consecutive starter being named all-state and all-conference starter. Was 2005-06 for 1,177 yards and 20 touchdowns, rushed for 611 yards and 14 touchdowns. Led the 3-5A champion Vikings to their first state quarterfinal appearance.

Offensive MVP

OSCAR GARCIA

Position: Quarterback
Height: 6-2
Weight: 175 pounds
Class: Junior

Notes: Was District 2-AAA Most Valuable Player and earned Class 5A all-state honorable mention honors. Led his team to a 12-1 record and earned MVP honors for the 2005 season. Led his team to a 12-1 record and earned MVP honors for the 2005 season. Led his team to a 12-1 record and earned MVP honors for the 2005 season.

Defensive MVP

JEREMY JORDAN

Position: Quarterback
Height: 6-2
Weight: 175 pounds
Class: Senior

Notes: Was named District 2-AAA Co-Defensive Most Valuable Player and earned Class 5A all-state honorable mention honors. Recorded 120 tackles, five sacks, three interceptions, two fumble recoveries and two fumble returns for the 2-AAA champion Vikings.

Co-Coaches of the Year

TONY GALINA

Position: Quarterback
Height: 6-2
Weight: 175 pounds
Class: Senior

Notes: Was named District 2-AAA Co-Defensive Most Valuable Player and earned Class 5A all-state honorable mention honors. Recorded 120 tackles, five sacks, three interceptions, two fumble recoveries and two fumble returns for the 2-AAA champion Vikings.

Defensive MVP

JEREMY JORDAN

Position: Quarterback
Height: 6-2
Weight: 175 pounds
Class: Senior

Notes: Was named District 2-AAA Co-Defensive Most Valuable Player and earned Class 5A all-state honorable mention honors. Recorded 120 tackles, five sacks, three interceptions, two fumble recoveries and two fumble returns for the 2-AAA champion Vikings.



All-City first-team offense: Top left, Michael Scott of Franklin; Stone Osborn of Franklin; Stores Osborn of Chappin; Christian Weaver of Sacrament and J.D. Thomas of Corvallis. Bottom left, Johnny Sanchez of Riverside; Cliff Tucker of Chappin; Ben Hernandez of Corvallis; John Shelton of Franklin; Esteban Santiago of Corvallis and Mike Wiggins of Eastwood.

OFFENSE: FIRST TEAM

- QB:** Marco Chazz, Franklin
- RB:** Alex Turner, Franklin
- RB:** Oscar Garcia, Franklin
- WR:** Jeremy Jordan, Franklin
- TE:** Tony Galina, Franklin
- OL:** [List of offensive linemen]
- OT:** [List of offensive linemen]
- QB:** [List of quarterbacks]
- RB:** [List of running backs]
- WR:** [List of wide receivers]
- TE:** [List of tight ends]
- OL:** [List of offensive linemen]
- OT:** [List of offensive linemen]



All-City first-team defense: Bottom left, Jared Dunaway of Franklin and Charles Vora of Chappin; Middle left, Bobby Hernandez of Riverside; Jeff Turner of Riverside; Rudy Valle of Marquette; Alan Diaz-Jacques of Del Valle and Luis Zarate of Parkland.

DEFENSE: FIRST TEAM

- QB:** [List of defensive quarterbacks]
- RB:** [List of defensive running backs]
- WR:** [List of defensive wide receivers]
- TE:** [List of defensive tight ends]
- OL:** [List of defensive linemen]
- OT:** [List of defensive linemen]
- QB:** [List of defensive quarterbacks]
- RB:** [List of defensive running backs]
- WR:** [List of defensive wide receivers]
- TE:** [List of defensive tight ends]
- OL:** [List of defensive linemen]
- OT:** [List of defensive linemen]

SPECIALISTS

MICHAEL SCOTT

Position: Quarterback
Height: 5-11
Weight: 175 pounds
Class: Senior

Notes: Selected District 2-AAA Most Valuable Player and earned Class 5A all-state second team honors. Also earned an honorable mention (HM) and was 6-0 in his last game, with a string of 43 yards.

DELAN WELLS

Position: Quarterback
Height: 6-2
Weight: 175 pounds
Class: Senior

Notes: Selected District 1-AAA Most Valuable Player and earned Class 5A all-state second team honors as a starter, along with honorable mention recognition as a starter. Averaged 25.4 yards per game, made four touchdowns and converted 14 of 18 field goals.

BOB ABELLANO

Position: Quarterback
Height: 6-2
Weight: 175 pounds
Class: Senior

Notes: Selected District 1-AAA Most Valuable Player and earned Class 5A all-state second team honors as a starter and second team as a backup. Averaged 25.4 yards per game and converted 14 of 18 field goals.

CHRISTIAN NAVARE

Position: Quarterback
Height: 6-2
Weight: 175 pounds
Class: Senior

Notes: Selected District 1-AAA Most Valuable Player and earned Class 5A all-state second team honors as a starter and second team as a backup. Averaged 25.4 yards per game and converted 14 of 18 field goals.

SECONDO TEAM

Offense

- QB: Alex Edwards, St. Camillus
- RB: Andrew Mahler, St. Camillus
- RB: Alex Edwards, St. Camillus
- WR: [List of wide receivers]
- TE: [List of tight ends]
- OL: [List of offensive linemen]
- OT: [List of offensive linemen]

Defense

- QB: [List of defensive quarterbacks]
- RB: [List of defensive running backs]
- WR: [List of defensive wide receivers]
- TE: [List of defensive tight ends]
- OL: [List of defensive linemen]
- OT: [List of defensive linemen]

Specialists

- QB: [List of defensive quarterbacks]
- RB: [List of defensive running backs]
- WR: [List of defensive wide receivers]
- TE: [List of defensive tight ends]
- OL: [List of defensive linemen]
- OT: [List of defensive linemen]

HIGH SCHOOL

All-City Football Co-Coaches of Year: Franklin's Walker, Austin's Pichardo are city's best

Felix F. Chavez

El Paso Times

0:08

0:59





*Head Coaching
Tree from Coach
Walker*

Head Coaches under—

Fred Guerrola

Rene Hernandez

Patrick Brown

Phil Barrios

Mark Torres

Ryan Warner (also former player at Chapin)



***LETTERS OF
REFERENCE***

***FRANK MARTINEZ
-FORMER PL.
CHAPIN
-DEFENSIVE
COORDINATOR
FRANKLIN H***

Frank Martinez
Franklin High School Defensive Coordinator
900 N. Resler
El Paso, TX, 79912
1/8/21

Dear Members of The Selection Committee: It's with great pleasure that I recommend Daren Walker to be inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. I have had the privilege to know Coach Walker as my head coach during my high school playing career, as well as during my professional career. Throughout the duration of both Coach Walker has demonstrated how hard work and determination will always lead to success. After my first year of college in the state of Nebraska he reminded me that there are going to be tough times, but to always stay focused on accomplishing my goals and never quit. That lesson has been something that has guided me through my life and I have been fortunate to see the same in numerous young men that have played for Coach Walker. The values that he instills in his programs are the foundation for victory year after year. Not only have players benefited from Coach Walker's wisdom but the members of his coaching staffs have as well. Coach is known for leading great staffs that have produced successful head coaches around the city of El Paso and throughout the great state of Texas. His impact has seen all ages, races, and backgrounds and that speaks of the character that Coach Walker prides himself on. No matter who you are or where you come from, he is willing to help guide each individual he crosses to the path of success. Coach Daren Walker deserves to be included in the upcoming class of the El Paso Athletics Hall of Fame. His records, credentials, and relationships qualify him to be a member of this exclusive and prestigious group.

Sincerely,

Frank Martinez

***PATRICK BROWN
-LOS FRESNO
HEAD FOOTBALL
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR***

Mr. Stanberry,

I am taking this opportunity to give my personal recommendation of Daren Walker for the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. I have had the pleasure of knowing him for the past 22 years. I was Daren's assistant coach for 10 years at Chapin and Franklin High School. I feel his is among the great coaches, not only in El Paso, but the state of Texas and it is my pleasure to write this letter on his behalf.

Coach Walker has a unique and wonderful rapport with his coaches and students that work or play for him. He is extraordinarily talented at connecting with students and coaching in a creative and engaging fashion. He has excellent communication skills, which is evident when examining his success in creating strong relations or connecting with student athletes.

Daren always took an active interest in the well-being of each of his players. Under his guidance and encouragement, his student athletes and coaches consistently realized their potential. If you look at the success of many former student-athletes, it speaks volumes to the character and integrity he instills in them.

It has been my pleasure to have worked for Daren Walker. He is a hardworking, loyal, well organized, and committed coach who has given so much to the El Paso community. He enjoys the respect of his players, coaches, parents, faculty, and the school administration.

Most importantly to me is our friendship we have built over the last 2 decades. He has always been there to support me throughout my career, and I treasure the time I spent on his staff. Coach Walker is also a dedicated husband and an amazing father to his 3 beautiful children. His statistics and accomplishments speak for themselves. I am pleased to recommend him without reservation. Please contact me if you have need of any further information.

Sincerely,

Patrick Brown

SCOTT BROOKS HEAD FOOTB. ATHLETIC DIR. CANUTILLO IS



Canutillo High School
6675 S. Desert Blvd.
El Paso, TX 79932
Telephone (915)877-7873

*Coach Scott Brooks
Athletic Director*

Dear members of the selection committee,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Daren Walker for inclusion in the EL Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. I have known Coach Walker for over twenty years. He has done an outstanding job wherever he has coached. He opened up Chapin High School and created an El Paso powerhouse. He left Chapin for Franklin High School and has continued the tradition of winning at Franklin. Coach Walker's teams are always very well coached. His players always play hard for him and his staff. He has sent many players on to the next level of football. Daren cares about the kids and staff he works with. He has volunteered to coach in the El Paso All Star game. I have seen how well he gets along with kids who did not play for him at Franklin. Coach Walker's teams always represent El Paso football at its finest when his teams compete in the play-offs.

I think Coach Walker deserves to be included in this year's class of the EL Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. His record and credentials fit right in with the requirements of the Hall of Fame.

Scott Brooks
Athletic Director/ Head Football Coach
Canutillo High School

***FLO VALDEZ
(RETIRED)
HEAD VOLLEYBALL
ATHLETIC COORDINATOR
FRANKLIN HS***

Ed Stansbury, President

El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame

Dear Mr. Stansbury:

It is with great pleasure I write this letter on behalf of Coach Daren Walker, Head Football Coach at Franklin High School as a nominee into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

I had the pleasure of working with Coach Walker for many years and I watched him continue the Tradition of winning football at Franklin and more important, make great young men out of those football players. He continuously prepared his young men to be great on the field, in the classroom and in their community. Coach Walker not only created a great football team but supported all the activities at Franklin, and as the volleyball coach I was excited to see his team out supporting the girls as they competed.

Coach Walker's record as a coach speaks for itself, but his contribution to the El Paso Athletic Community is more remarkable, as he works tirelessly to get athletes recognized and get his assistant coaches into the Head Coaching ranks, this is what makes him so special.

I am proud to have had the privilege of working with him as a coach but more to get to know him as a man committed to his players, coaches, school and community!

Respectfully,

Flo Valdez, Retired

Franklin High School 1996-2018

El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Class 2009

RYAN WARNER M.ED.

915.588.1359 | rcwarner@episd.org

ATTENTION:
Ed Stansbury
El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Daren Walker for consideration into the El Paso Hall Of Fame. Over the past 20 years I have had the pleasure of knowing Coach Walker, first as my high school football coach, then as my mentor and most recently, my friend.

Coach Walker has been coaching in El Paso for almost 30 years. He has instilled Hard work, discipline, respect and loyalty in all of his players. He is the reason I perused a career in education and gave me my first opportunity in the profession. He has molded and influenced the character of student athletes across the city. Daren Walker has led successful programs in the North East and Westside of El Paso. During his tenure as a head coach, Daren has had a major influence in El Paso football. Over the past 19 years, Daren has made 17 playoff appearances. He has won over 132 games, recorded one of the highest winning percentages and has produced 5 head coaches from his staff. It is hard to imagine El Paso football the past two decades without Daren Walker

In summary, I feel Daren Walker will be a great addition to the El Paso Hall of Fame. In his service to the El Paso community, He has elevated the level off football across the city. He has been a consistent winner, consummate professional and tremendous individual. I feel Daren Walker is deserving of such a distinguished honor.

Sincerely,

Ryan Warner M.Ed.
Athletic Coordinator/Head football
Chapin High school

***RYAN WARNER
-FORMER PLAYER
-HEAD FOOTBALL
ATHLETIC COORDINATOR
CHAPIN HS***