

# **Joe Muench**

## **Media/Supporter of Athletics Nominee**

### **El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame**



For more than 40 years, Joe Muench was a sports editor and columnist in Las Cruces and El Paso. During his career with the Las Cruces Sun News, El Paso Herald Post, and El Paso Times, his no-nonsense style of writing earned him numerous state and national awards. He also spent 20 years as a regular Monday contributor on KROD AM's SportsTalk.

Joe covered a pair of Super Bowls, several NCAA Tournament basketball games, and every Sun Bowl game from 1985 until 2009. His first major assignment was the 1967 Final Four with New Mexico State.

# Joe Muench

## Journalism Experience

2009 – 2013	Editorial department at El Paso Times
Oct 1997 – 2009	Sports Columnist at El Paso Times
July 1985 – Oct 1997	Sports editor/columnist at El Paso Herald Post
Feb 1971 – July 1985	Sports editor/columnist at Las Cruces Sun News

## Professional Training

American Press Institute, April 1989.

Several management courses and seminars provided by Scripps Howard

## Professional Awards

(National)

First Place Associated Press Sports Editors “Column Writers” in circulation less than 50,000 in 1988.

Top 10 finalist for AP Sports Editor “Best Column Writing” in circulation less than 50,000 in 1989.

(State)

First place Texas Associated Press Managing Editors “Sports Column” in 1998 and 1999.

First place Texas Associated Press Managing Editors “Spot News” in 1993.

New Mexico Sportswriter of the Year by the National Sports Writers and Sportscasters Association in 1974.

## **Professional Experience**

Covered the majority of home and away games for NMSU from 1970 through 1985 and then home games for UTEP from 1985 through 2009.

Covered Super Bowls XXII and XXIII.

Covered NCAA Tournament games in 1987, 1975, 1970, and 1967.

Helped organize the NCAA Midwest Region in Las Cruces in 1975.

## **Education**

Neenah High School, Neenah, W., 1962-66

New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, N.M., 1966-70

## **Contact Information**

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**April 5, 2021**

**El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame  
Mr. Edmund Stansbury, President  
El Paso, Texas**

**Dear Mr. Stansbury and El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame Committee:**

This letter is in reference to the nomination of Mr. Joe Muench for the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame in the Media/Supporter of Athletics Category.

One of the most inspiring, articulate and motivating columnists in the history of El Paso Sports is one Joe Muench. His insight into sports always makes one wonder of their own perspective of their favorite or not so favorite collegiate or professional sports team or athlete.

The El Paso Herald Post was the afternoon daily newspaper for El Paso, Texas since 1881 until it ceased publication in 1997. Joe Muench served as sports editor for a number of those later years at the Herald Post and later on as well at the El Paso Times. Mr. Muench oversaw a staff that focused on a marked increase in coverage of high school, college and professional sports while devoting more interest in female sports.

One area in particular that Mr. Muench excelled at during his tenure as sports editor was the art of the written column. His columns provided a different, yet creative and humorous analysis of sports from the perspective of the average everyday fan. His sports ideals opened the door to an explosion of ideas and opinions from sports fans from different ages and all walks of life that now had a voice through the columns of Joe Muench.

The journalistic skills of Mr. Muench enabled his hundreds of columns make us all stop and think. All the while he was also a leader of a staff of journalistic professionals that made his sports editor stewardship at the El Paso Herald Post and later the El Paso Times make both newspapers a must-read for years with their accent on UTEP Sports.

During my tenure with the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation Department, through the efforts of Mr. Muench, he enabled many of our programs to be front and center with his support of youth sports as well.

Mr. Joe Muench is a gifted writer and columnist and his years of being a sports editor also showcased his leadership skills and is a person that should be given strong consideration for induction into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

**Sincerely Yours,**

**Wayne Thornton  
El Paso Parks and Recreation Department (Retired)**