

## El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame honors 7 who made impact in city

By Bill Knight \ El Paso Times El Paso Times

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A lifetime of athletic memories were floating gently through the Tomas Rivera room on the UTEP campus Wednesday night as seven new members were inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame.

Phil Prieto, Diane Proud, Pete Solis Jr., Bernie Olivas, Jack White and Richard Castro were inducted. Norman Pittenger was inducted posthumously.

Seven new members ... seven exceptional résumés.

Prieto bowled 19 300 games, and in 1985, rolled a stunning 876 series -- the best score in the nation at the time. Prieto bowled games of 299-288-289 for the great series. Proud, who was just inducted into the Texas Triathlon Hall of Fame last week, remains one of this city's outstanding triathletes. She has been a USA Triathlon All-American, and was a two-time age group winner in the Triathlon National Championships. She also finished third in the New Zealand Ironman.

Solis excelled at an amazing variety of sports -- football, basketball, baseball and wrestling -- at Jefferson High, was a three-time Golden Gloves boxing champion, the Ascarate Golf Course club champion, played with one of the city's top softball teams for 30 years and drove in professional auto races in Mexico.

Olivas played football at both Cathedral High and UTEP, coached Cathedral to a pair of state runner-up finishes in basketball and has been involved with the Sun Bowl since 1983. He has been the executive director of the nation's second oldest bowl since 2001 and has helped get two of the bowl's best games ever -- Stanford-Oklahoma in 2009 and Notre Dame-Miami in 2010. He was also the official scorekeeper for the El Paso Diablos AA baseball team for 29 years.

White has an incredible record as the longtime swim coach at Cathedral High and the El Paso Aqua Posse. He has coached Cathedral to an amazing 25 state championships. The Irish lost White's first meet to Eastwood and has not lost to another El Paso school since -- 25 years. "That one loss still eats at me," White said.

Castro, who owns 21 McDonald's restaurant, has been the driving force behind youth basketball and volleyball in El Paso since 1983. He has coached and sponsored teams and helped found Midnight Basketball in this city. Pittenger had an incredible running career, running a marathon on every continent in a nine-month span in 1997. He also helped found the HalfFast Track Club in 1972.

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### Hall of Fame inductees

- Phil Prieto: Living Athlete category.
- Diane Proud: Living Athlete category.

- Pete Solis Jr.: Living Athlete category.
- Bernie Olivas: Coach/Administrator category.
- Jack White: Coach/Administrator category.
- Richard Castro: Media/Contributor category.
- Norman Pittenger: Posthumous category.