



René G. Garza
Head Girls Basketball Coach
Mission High School

René G. Garza has been the Head Girls Basketball Coach at Mission High School for the past fourteen years. In 1980, Coach Garza and his family moved to the Rio Grande Valley and was named head boys basketball coach at Weslaco High School, where he managed to take a struggling program and develop it into a competitive and state playoff program. For his efforts, Coach Garza in 1982 and 1983 was named Weslaco Boys Coach of the Year. In 1986, Coach Garza went to Mercedes High School as head boys basketball coach/athletic administrative assistant. After a brief stay at Mercedes, Garza left coaching and turned to administration from 1987-1995. Coach Garza has a total of thirty-four years in education, having experienced numerous positions in his career including being a teacher, athletic administrator, principal, assistant principal, director of transportation, and Head Girls/Head Boys basketball coach.

In 1996, Coach Garza was named Head Girls Basketball Coach in Mission, taking a program that was in dire need, and developed it into one of the most respected girls basketball programs in the Rio Grande Valley and in the State. In his first season as the Lady Eagles Head Coach, Garza achieved much success and turned the one-time mediocre Lady Eagles to their first-ever District Championship title in the 21 years of school's basketball history. Coach Garza has guided the Lady Eagles to nine State Playoffs appearances 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2009 and 2010. These teams have won 1 District Championship, 4 Bi-District Championships, 5 Bi-District finalist and 4 Area finalists. In 2006, Coach Garza was inducted into the Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame. In 2003, Coach Garza was selected as the South All-Star Coach for the TGCA All-Star Game in Austin. In 2007, Coach Garza was selected as the West All-Star Coach for the Rio Grande Valley Basketball Coaches Association All-Star Game. Coach Garza is in his 26th year of coaching basketball has been named District, Area, and Valley Coach of the Year numerous times (1997, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2007 and 2009). Garza's fourteenth year record at Mission is 252-174, and he posts an overall coaching record of 483-272.

Coach Garza was the founder and director of the Rio Grande Valley Basketball Coaching Clinic (1983-1987). Coach Garza's dream became a reality. He managed to promote a positive image of Valley basketball statewide by bringing big name coaches throughout the state as clinic speakers. In 1996, Coach Garza became Coordinator of the SPI Basketball Clinic by promoting, recruiting keynote clinic speakers, and coordinating the three-day event. Coach Garza served as Board of Director (1984-1986) and 5A Boys Basketball Representative (1981-1983) in the Rio Grande Valley Coaches Association. In 1983-1985, Coach Garza served on the Basketball Advisory Committee of the Texas High School Coaches Association.

Coach Garza was the first RGV girl's basketball coach to serve as Board Director for the Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA) from 1999-2003 and served a second term from 2005-2009. He had given a total of eight years of service to the TGCA as a Board Member. Also, in 1999, Coach Garza was the first RGV girl's basketball coach to serve as State Chairman for the Basketball Committee and in 1998, served as State Assistant Chairman.

In 1998, Coach Garza was very instrumental in getting RGV coaches involved and elected to the TGCA to serve on various regional committees and for the first time-ever the Valley had 10 representatives. This gave the Valley a voice at the state level, helping to promote Valley athletes for All-Star, All-State, and All-Academic teams. To present date, through Coach Garza's effort and influence, the Valley is well represented in the TGCA by coaches and athletes.

In 2001, Coach Garza served as President for the Rio Grande Valley Basketball Coaches Association and served on different positions from 1996-2000. He served as President for the Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame from 2002-2004 and presently serves as Board Director.

In 2001 Coach Garza was nominated for All-Star Coach to the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches (TABC). He served as Committee member for the All-Star /All-State Girls Selection Committee in 2004, 1998, 1997. In 1986, Coach Garza served as TABC Board Secretary. He served as Chairman for the Ethics Committee in 1985, Newsletter Committee Chairman in 1984.

Coach Garza is known as a great motivator, a doer, a firm believer and preacher of LOYALTY, a disciplinarian with a unique style of sensitivity and caring. He is a strategic and hard working coach who is continues to implement and explore new offenses, defenses, drills, and philosophies to the game of basketball. Coach Garza has made a commitment to helping others, especially his athletes, to be the best they can be on the court and in life. He has influenced their lives and instilled hope in them; playing a vital role in helping shape their values. He stresses to his athletes that honesty and integrity are important parts of life. Coach Garza promotes the game of basketball with a passion and is always looking for ways to increase the school and community interest. Garza consistently promotes basketball in the Rio Grande Valley, more important, he promotes Valley Basketball across the State of Texas in bringing recognition to the Rio Grande Valley.

Coach Garza is well known, respected and admired throughout the Valley and State. He is looked up to for guidance and direction from his peer. Coach Garza has been a keynote speaker at sports banquets, clinics, and civic organizations. His contributions to basketball are countless. Where Coach Garza leads, coaches will follow. Coach Garza has devoted, dedicated, and promoted 30 years of his life to the Rio Grande Valley. His love for the Valley is impeccable.

Coach Garza is unique to have such honors as follows:

- In 2006, he was inducted into the Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall Of Fame.
- In 2003, he was selected as the South All-Star Coach for the Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA) All-Star game in Austin, Texas.
- Coach Garza is the first Rio Grande Valley (RGV) girl's basketball coach to serve as Board Director for the Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA) from 1999-2003; 2005-2009.
- In 1999, he was the first RGV girl's basketball coach to serve as State Chairman for the Basketball Committee and in 1998, served as State Assistant Chairman for the Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA).
- Coach Garza is the first RGV girl's basketball coach to serve as Region VII Sr. and Jr. Member for the Texas Girls Coaches Association (TGCA) from 1998-2003.
- In 2008, he was the recipient of the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) 25 years Service Award.
- In 2007, he was selected as the West All-Star Coach for the Rio Grande Valley Basketball Coaches Association All-Star Game in Brownsville, Texas.
- In 1986, he was the first RGV boy's basketball coach to serve on the Board of Directors as Secretary for Texas Association Basketball Coaches (TABC).
- In 1985, he was the first RGV boy's basketball coach selected as representative for the State of Texas to serve on the National Boys Basketball Committee by the National High School Athletic Coaches Association in selecting the Converse Texas High School All-American.

Coach Garza, a native of San Antonio, graduated in 1970 from Fox Tech High School. He earned his bachelor's degree from St. Mary's University and his master's degree from Our Lady of the Lake University. He began his sports interest in high school as team manager for the basketball and football teams. Garza was player/coach on a YMCA Men's Summer League for eight seasons winning seven league championships. He served as team basketball manager at St. Mary's University earning two final four appearances, ranked fourth in the nation for two consecutive years (1974, 1975). Coach Garza began his coaching career in 1976 at Dwight Middle School. Before moving to the Valley, Coach Garza coached in San Antonio at West Campus High School and Memorial High School, winning numerous championships.

Coach Garza and his wife Carol have been married 35 years and have 3 sons. Rene II, Mission Elementary Teacher (wife Sandra and daughter Alexia); Roger, Associate Vice-President with Morgan Stanley (wife Clarissa, children Tristan and Talia); and Roman, Physical Fitness Trainer