



David Hinojosa
San Antonio Express News

David Hinojosa marks his 10th anniversary with the San Antonio Express-News on July 22. It's the longest he's been at one place in his 30-plus years in sports journalism.

Hinojosa was born and raised in Edinburg, Texas, located in the Rio Grande Valley. After high school graduation, he attended the University of Texas for two years before ultimately graduating from the University of Texas-Pan American (in Edinburg) in 1993.

In 1992, he began working as a freelancer for his hometown newspaper, the Edinburg Daily Review, to help cover football when the city's second high school – Edinburg North – opened. In 1993, he was one of 15 college journalists from the United States selected for the inaugural class of the Sports Journalists Institute, which was formed to help diversify sports newsrooms. From there, he interned at the Dallas Morning News in the summer of 1993.

He started working as a full-time sports journalist at the McAllen Monitor in the fall of 1993, covering mostly high school sports and specializing in football, girls basketball and track and field.

The Dallas Morning News hired Hinojosa in the fall of 2000 as a high school writer with emphasis covering Collin County. Among his primary beats were McKinney and Allen in which he covered retired Katy ISD athletic director Debbie Decker and former UIL director of athletics Susan Elza when they coached softball at those respective schools.

Hinojosa's tenure with the Dallas Morning News lasted until October 2008 when he was victim to the newspaper's reduction in staff. He remained in Dallas as freelance writer until July 2009 when he accepted a full-time job back with the McAllen Monitor. During that time, he attended graduate school at the University of Texas-Pan American where he ultimately earned a Master's in communication studies in the summer of 2015, the final graduating class before the school turned into the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley. His Master's thesis centered on the challenges women sports journalists face on the job.

In July 2013, the San Antonio Express-News hired Hinojosa to work primarily as a sports writer for its community publications, which includes the Southside Reporter. Ultimately, he became a full-time high school sports writer for the main section. Coverage highlights during his tenure at the Express-News include Converse Judson (2019) and San Antonio Clark (2023) winning state championships in girls basketball; San Antonio Brandeis (2021) winning a state championship in volleyball, San Antonio O'Connor (2022) winning a state championship in softball and Judson girls winning back-to-back state championship in track and field (2014, 2015).

Hinojosa has earned several national and state awards for this work at the Express-News. Most recently, he was part of a projects team that garnered national recognition by the Associated Press Sports Editors in 2021 and 2022, the latter was a oral history on the day the UIL shut down beginning at the Alamodome during the state boys basketball tournament in 2020 due to the national covid outbreak.

This past April, Hinojosa earned honorable mention distinction for sports feature writing by the Texas Managing Editors in Division 3A (publications with the highest circulation) for a story on former Judson softball player Mimi Thornton, who was mourning the death of the mother who died of cancer two weeks after Judson played in the state championship game in 2021.

Given the volatile nature of the journalism business, Hinojosa is grateful to still be doing this job. He doesn't take it for granted. Each day he gets to write about high school sports is a good day.