

The 2022 New Mexico Sports Hall of Fame class features a little for everybody -- and from all parts of the state.

The latest Fab Five inductees is former women's basketball professional star and multi-championship high school coach Cindy Roybal; Ty Murray, nine-time World Champion professional rodeo cowboy; softball prep coaching sensation and all-around athlete Cheryl Johnson: one of the top women's basketball and volleyball players in Eastern New Mexico University history, Jennifer Goble Poyer and the late New Mexico State and pro football punter and place kicking star, Danny Villanueva.

As a 1971 Pecos High graduate, Cindy Roybal was a women's basketball star before Title IX. She soon was playing professional ball, playing for the All-American Redheads. She has coached for 41 years at New Mexico Highlands University and multiple high schools in softball, track and cross country, volleyball and especially basketball --where she has gone 377-105. Roybal has been inducted into numerous Hall of Fames, including the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame for her days with the Redheads.

Legend has it that the first words of Ty Murray, the most accomplished rough stock athlete in history, were "I'm a bull rider." Murray won seven all-around titles by competing in bull riding, saddle bronc riding, and bareback riding during a record-setting career. His connections to New Mexico run deep, beginning when spending summers in Ruidoso and Santa Fe. The Ty Murray Invitational PBR bull riding launched in 1996 at Tingley Coliseum in Albuquerque, and the highly anticipated annual event moved to the Pit in 2009, regularly playing to sell-out crowds.

A three-sports star for Manzano High, Cheryl Johnson was a standout softball player at New Mexico State and UNM. She eventually became one of the top softball coaches in state history. Johnson was the first woman's athletic director in Albuquerque Public Schools system. In Softball, her teams won three state titles – La Cueva (2005) and Volcano Vista (2011 and 2012, which included a 51-game winning streak)

Jennifer Goble Poyer was a three-sport star at John Marshall High School in San Antonio, Texas. At Marshall, she received all-district honors in basketball, volleyball, and track & field, including holding the school record for the shot put. She also was the 1990 Greater San Antonio Player of the Year for Girls Basketball. At Eastern New Mexico University, Jennifer was twice the LSC player Co-Player of the Year and the LSC Freshmen of the Year. She was a four-time All-LSC pick, leaving ENMU as the all-time scoring leader with 1,852 points. In Volleyball, Jennifer was a four-time first-team All-Lone Star Conference (LSC) pick, was the LSC player or co-player of the year for all four years. She finished her career with several ENMU and LSC volleyball records and lead ENMU to their best-ever volleyball record (33-6) in 1993 en route to the LSC regular season and tournament titles. Jennifer was the Panhandle Sports Hall of Fame Athlete of the year in 1993 and voted as the Greatest Zia in all four years she played. Jennifer has continued to give back to her Alma Mater, spending many years working at ENMU in a variety of capacities.

Danny Villanueva, born in Tucumcari, would be an All-American kicker at NMSU. He played eight seasons and 110 games in the NFL for the Los Angeles Rams and Dallas Cowboys. He was the team punter and placekicker, which is rare in the NFL. To supplement his income, Villanueva became a sportscaster for an all-Spanish speaking TV station called KMEX in Los Angeles. A news director and broadcasting executive, Villanueva was a co-founder of Univision, a major Spanish language television network. A noted philanthropist, Danny contributed millions to New Mexico State as one of many charitable donations across the country.

The NMSHOF will also honor 2022 annual awards in the high school ranks. Ja'Kwon Hill is the 2022 High School Male Athlete of the year, and Ashlyn Salas as the Female Athlete of the year.

Ja'Kwon Hill led Volcano Vista Hawks to a 29-0 record and the 2022 5A state championship. He was the New Mexico Gatorade Basketball Player of the Year.

Ashlyn Salas was the only high school All-American soccer player from New Mexico. Ashlyn led Hope Christian School to an undefeated season and the 4A State Championship.

Rounding out the awards, two coaches will receive the NMSHOF Coach of the Year from Volcano Vista High school.

Greg Brown went 29-0, only the 19<sup>th</sup> undefeated team in the 101-year history, plus won the 2022 Boys Basketball 5A State Championship.

Lisa Villareal matched that accomplishment going 29-0, which is the 29<sup>th</sup> undefeated team in the 49-year history of girls' basketball. Her Hawks team won back-to back winning the 2002 Girls Basketball 5A State Championship.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual NMSHOF Charity Golf Classic is on July 28 at Santa Ana Golf Club and the 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Induction Banquet is Aug. 19 at the Albuquerque Convention Center.

Please visit [www.nmshof.org](http://www.nmshof.org) for more information about tickets and partnerships.