



John Gallardo: Conversation with a Hispanic Trailblazer

Interview presented by
HTXHHSFBCA



Coach John Gallardo served as Head Baseball Coach of Fox Tech High School.

This is a question-and-answer session with Hispanic trailblazer John Gallardo, Assistant Athletic Director in North East ISD.

Q: What makes you a Hispanic trailblazer?

A: In 2020 - 2021 I was hired as the first ever Hispanic/Minority Assistant Athletic Director in the Northeast ISD. The first AD in the district was in 1957. It only took 63 years.



Coach Gallardo is now the first minority and Hispanic Assistant Athletic Director at NEISD.

Q: Coach Gallardo, can you please tell our readers about your current job assignment, educational background, and any of your professional association affiliations.

A: I oversee Cross Country and Track. I am responsible for planning meets, scheduling meets, ordering equipment and distribution of equipment to all Cross Country and Track Coaches. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of North Texas and have a master's degree from Texas A & M San Antonio. I am part of the Texas High School Coaches Association, the Hispanic Texas HS Football Coaches Association, and the Texas Athletic Director's Association.

Q: Tell us a little about your family and where you currently reside.

A: My wife, Ann, and I have been happily married for 17 years. I am the definition of a girls dad. I have two great step-daughters, Taylor, 31 who is a Physician Assistant in Austin and Katelyn, 26 who is finishing her Masters at Texas State in San Marcos. I have one daughter, Analie, 11 who we were blessed to adopt at birth.



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Coach Gallardo gives a lot of credit to his mother for the success he has enjoyed over the years.

Q: Share with our readers your favorite quote or saying.

A: “The Best Ability is Availability.” Always make yourself available if you want to advance in this profession.

Q: Do you have any material that has been published over the years highlighting your work?

A: I was published once in 2008 when I coached at Clark for a narrative titled, “The Real Field of Dreams.” It was about the blood, sweat and tears we poured into our little inner-city field at Fox Tech H.S. The book is a compilation of narratives written by English teachers in the Northside school district. Also, one of my college professors at A&M San Antonio used two of my research papers as examples for his classes for a year...My work being recognized was an honored since I poured my heart and soul into these papers.

Q: Can you tell us about your high school and collegiate career?

A: I attended Alamo Heights HS. For two years, I played football, basketball, and baseball. My last two years I focused on football and baseball. I started as a catcher all four years. I was first team All-District linebacker and second team fullback my senior year. I was an All-City Honorable Mention linebacker as well. I was voted team captain and Defensive player of the year by my peers. I was also an All-District Honorable Mention Catcher. I received a baseball scholarship to play at Hill Junior College and Southwest Texas State in San Marcos. I later graduated from The University of North Texas in 1990.



Coach Gallardo believes family is what drives us and the true reason we are able to accomplish great things.

Q: Tell us about the schools you have worked at and your time as an educator and coach prior to becoming an administrator.

A: It's a long list, but I don't want to leave anyone out. I was at Oak Crest Middle School from 1993-1995, East Central High School from 1995-2000, Fox Tech High School from 2000-2008, Clark High School from 2008-2012, Eisenhower Middle School from 2012-2013, Wagner High School from 2013-2014, Nimitz Middle School from 2014 - 2015, and Ed White Middle School from 2015 - 2018 where I served as Athletic Coordinator. From 1993-2008, I coached mainly football and baseball, but also coached basketball and track along the way. During that time, I was teaching physical



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education and health, and also taught one year of psychology. From 2008-2015 I taught all levels of English and mainly coached football and baseball at those schools.



A young John Gallardo returns an interception for a touchdown while playing for Alamo Heights.



*John Gallardo
Assistant Athletic Director
North East Independent School District*

Q: Please share a few milestones in your career that have contributed to you being where you are now.

A: The one milestone I am most proud of is guiding Fox Tech to their first ever baseball playoff appearance. We ended up making the playoffs 4 years in a row until I left in 2008. No one believed in our downtown San Antonio inner-city school. We built a program there. Reaching my 100th win as a head baseball coach was also special.

