

# Nemo taken by death

By Ray Sanchez  
El Paso Herald-Post

William Carson "Nemo" Herrera, one of the most successful high school coaches in the history of El Paso and Texas sports, is dead.

Herrera, 84, passed away in a nursing home in San Antonio Thursday night.

Herrera coached at Bowie High School and Coronado High School in El Paso following a successful coaching career in San Antonio. He coached Bowie to the championship of the first state baseball tournament ever held. That was in 1949.

He won several district basketball and baseball titles with the Bears.

At San Antonio Lanier, he won State basketball titles in 1943 and 1945 and was runnerup in 1939. He was third in 1942 and 1944.

He moved to El Paso in 1946. At Bowie, he compiled a baseball record of 454 victories and 288 losses with 10 ties.

Herrera, who once turned down an offer to coach in college (at Texas A&M), coached freshman basketball and varsity baseball at Coronado before retiring in 1970 at the age of 70.

He sometimes coached in summer youth programs and directed El Paso's Babe Ruth team to a State



**Nemo Herrera while in El Paso.**

championship and a fourth in the 1958 World Tournament in Canada.

He was quite an athlete in his youth. He attended Brackenridge High School in San Antonio where he made the basketball and baseball teams. Pete Cawthon, who later became a legend as a college coach, recruited him to play baseball for Southwestern University. The school was a powerhouse in those days and Herrera, despite being small in stature, lettered four years in both basketball and baseball.

He received many honors, including induction into both the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame and the Texas Athletic Hall of Fame.

Services are pending.

## Deaths in the area



William "Nemo" Herrera

### *Baseball-basketball coach compiled win-loss record never beaten in El Paso*

El Paso's most successful high school coach — the man who led the 1949 Bowie Bears to the first State Baseball Tournament championship — has died. William Carson "Nemo" Herrera died Thursday in a San Antonio nursing home at 84.

Herrera arrived in El Paso in 1945 as Bowie's head baseball and basketball coach after achieving two state basketball championships at San Antonio's Lanier High School.

Herrera began coaching at Lanier in 1923 and remained there until his move to El Paso. Before going into coaching, Herrera played semi-professional baseball with the Galveston Sandcrabs in the Texas League.

Herrera led the 1949 Bowie baseball team to a three-game sweep of Austin High School of Austin to secure the state title, a feat that hasn't been repeated.

While at Bowie, Herrera's baseball teams won city titles in 1946 and '47, and district titles in 1949, '50, '58 and '59. He compiled a record of 195-82-8 while at Bowie.

Not only did Herrera succeed with Bowie's baseball program, he also coached the school's basketball team to the state tournament twice, finishing fourth in the state in 1948.

In 1960, Herrera was reassigned to a new school, Coronado High School. He was there until 1970 when he retired after 43 years of coaching.

In those years, he compiled 545 basketball wins against 193 losses, a .738 winning percentage. In baseball, his winning percentage was .582 with a record of 495 wins and 355 losses.

His achievements have been acknowledged with induction in the El Paso and San Antonio athletic halls of fame and the Texas High School Coaches Hall of Honor.

Herrera is survived by his wife, Mary Leona of San Antonio, and two sons, William Leonard of Dallas and Carlos Douglas of Overland Park, Kan. He also is survived by four grandchildren.

Services in San Antonio will be at 10 a.m. Monday in Trinity Episcopal Church. Burial will be in San Jose Burial Park. Arrangements are by Roy Akers Funeral Home in San Antonio.