



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hall of Fame Coach Joins SMA Athletic Department

SAN MARCOS-- San Marcos native Peter A. Garza, a veteran head coach for several 4-A and 5-A area school districts, has joined the athletic staff of San Marcos Academy as coach of the Bears baseball team.

“Any school in Texas would be thrilled to have Peter Garza as their baseball coach,” Snuffy Smith, SMA’s assistant vice president for athletics, said. “Not only is he a great coach, but he will be a wonderful role model for our students.”

Garza will take over the reins from Head Baseball Coach Brian Gaylor, who will be leaving the Academy at the end of the month to take a professional football coaching position in Germany.

“I’m very excited about this opportunity,” Garza said. “Being a San Marcos boy, I’ve had good associations with the Academy in the past. It will be a challenge because of the diversity of the kids and their skill level, but that’s what excites me. If the kids are eager, I like challenges, and this is one that I’m looking forward to.”

For the past year, Garza has served as an adjunct professor of physical education at Victoria College, Gonzales Center. In 2009, he was inducted into the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association (THSBCA) Hall of Fame, joining former inductees Cliff Gustafson and Roger Clemons, among others.

From 2001-2008, Garza was head baseball coach at Canyon High School, where he also taught physical education and was assistant coach of the varsity football team.

Garza worked in the Hays CISD from 1992-2001, holding several positions, including Director of Personnel, principal of the Impact Center, and assistant principal of Hays High School.

He has also held administrative and coaching positions at the New Braunfels ISD and at the San Marcos CISD.

During his career as a baseball coach, Garza took teams to the state playoffs 14 times and had 619 wins in all. In 1983, he was named the South All-Star Coach by the THSBCA. He has also served as both an officer and a board director for that association.

While head baseball coach at New Braunfels High School, Garza was also the assistant head football coach. He helped guide the Unicorns football team to a 99-20-2 record, making them the winningest 4-A team of the 1980’s. The Unicorns went to the playoffs nine out of ten years in that period.

While Garza said a number of his former high school players have gone on to play for college and even professional teams, his primary goal is to create scholar-athletes who put their classroom achievement first. “My job is not to turn out college or professional players, but to help these young men become the best high school players and individuals they can be,” Garza said. “Their education is more important to me than what they do in baseball.”

Garza graduated from San Marcos High School in 1963 and completed his bachelor’s and master’s in education degrees at Southwest Texas State University. He and his wife, Joanie, a classroom teacher with more than 30 years of experience, have three children: Dr. Peter A. Garza, Jr., of New Braunfels; Jay Christopher Garza of Austin, and Damond Kelly Garza of San Antonio.

Caption:

Peter A. Garza was recently named head baseball coach for the San Marcos Academy Bears. Garza, a 2009 inductee into the Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, is a San Marcos native and a veteran head coach for several 4-A and 5-A area school districts. (SMA photo by Don Anders)

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