

# Gonzalez promoted to head basketball coach

## Estelle departs to UNT

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Texas A&M-Kingsville has selected Omar Gonzalez as the next head coach for the 2023-2024 season.

This news comes after the departure of former-Johnny Estelle, who is moving on to now be the assistant coach of the University of North Texas Men's Basketball team.

Gonzalez spent 2014-2017 as a graduate assistant while earning his master's degree at TAMUK before eventually becoming the Assistant Coach in the 2018-19 season.

"I am absolutely honored and thrilled to be in the position of Head Coach," Gonzalez said. "It's bittersweet because I

get to continue and honor what I want to do and help young men but now I have to do it without Coach Estelle."

Gonzalez has been in the coaching circuit for a decade and has spent the last five seasons building a strong team at TAMUK, posting a 56-26 record since arriving as the assistant coach for Estelle. This includes a third appearance in the NCAA Tournament in four years as an assistant.

During his first tenure in Kingsville, Gonzalez helped guide the Javelinas and improve from eight total wins in his first year to 11 in his second season.

Year three would see the team explode for 19 victories, including a record of 10-8 in the Lone Star Conference, which would stand for TAMUK's highest win total in conference since the 1995-96 season.

Gonzalez took a year



Gonzalez and team after recent press conference.

Photo by CJ Cortez

away from Javelina Basketball to coach at Blinn College, helping the Buccaneers accumulate 20 wins and reach the regional semi-finals.

"I believe that Coach O (Gonzalez) deserves this job more than anyone," sophomore forward Ja

Robertson said. "He has put so much time in with each and every player that has been a part of the program and does everything to a high level."

Gonzalez, under coach Estelle, has helped mold multiple young men into 17 total All-Conference

selections along with two All-Defensive team selections as well.

"It's a big opportunity for both of them," forward Kavon Booker said. "It's coach Gonzalez's first coaching job and now he gets to show what he can do."

For nearly a full decade, TAMUK has seen elevated play from its men's basketball team and its coaches. Now, as the 17th head coach in program history, Gonzalez must take the reins and lead at the front with a new assistant at his side.

# Baseball rounds out it's regular season

## Javelinas finish with 26-24

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The 2023 baseball season has come to an end. The Javelinas finished their season by splitting the series with Texas A&M International. The season had tremendous highs as well as lows but despite the low points, the Javelinas refused to give up.

Now, the Javelinas look to extend their season after being considered for the NCAA Division II South Central Regional Tournament. The results will be released on Wednesday May 3.

Despite starting 0-4, the Javelinas quickly bounced back and in a win against Eastern New Mexico, they overcame their early season slump by achieving a winning record of 6-5. Along with this they defeated Eastern New Mexico with scores of 14-7 and 13-3.

three wins against Cameron before going into another rough stretch of the season. The following games series' against UTPB and UT-Tyler gave the Javelinas a lot of challenges but with this they worked through it and despite their struggles they would manage to get a few wins, a bright spot through this point of the season.

After this the Javelinas would go 3-1 against UAFL, Oklahoma Christian, and St. Mary's before they would enter their exhibition game against the Corpus Christi Hooks. Though they lost this game, it gave the team something to look at and allowed them to focus on the things that needed to be worked on.

In the final stretch of the season, the team finished with a record of 5-7, however, in three of the seven losses they were decided by no more than two points. To add to this, in the first game of the series against number two ranked Angelo State, the Javelinas came out and stunned the team by defeating them with a score of 9-8.

With the conclusion of

the final game, the future is not set for the Javelina baseball team, but Head Coach Jason Gonzales remains hopeful for what is yet to come.

"We will continue to recruit and add players that will add competition to the already existing roster," Coach Gonzales said.

Coach Gonzales also has set his expectations high for the team.

"I expect us to be competing for a championship and to be in the 2024 South Central Regional Tournament," Gonzales said.

With many seniors graduating a lot of them look back on the season they had.

"I'm very thankful and blessed to be able to play baseball for this prestigious university and I would tell the younger players to work hard because you never know when it will be your opportunity to play," senior Steven Bonuz said.

Bonuz also helped the Javelinas gain a 2-0 lead early on against A&M International, "logging singles and advancing into scoring position," per Javelina Athletics.



Kapri Pelle going up for a spike.

Photo courtesy of Javelina Athletics

# 100th Win for Allen-Gonzalez

## Beach volleyball hits milestone

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After her long journey and coaching career at Texas A&M University-Kingsville, head coach Tanya Allen-Gonzalez has managed to accomplish her 100th win recently during this beach-volleyball season.

Her hard work and great coaching have put her in the position to excel and grow as she has reached a great peak in her career and in the program.

"I'm so proud to get this 100th beach victory here at TAMUK, I'm incredibly thankful for the players and my assistant Gary Payne," Allen-Gonzalez said. "All 100 of the wins were only possible because of their talent and hard work."

Coach Allen-Gonzalez has shown great dedication to the program and her team. She has instilled greatness into her team and has held each of them to a standard to be the best that they can be, players said.

"The program here has been greatly impacted by Coach Allen-Gonzalez, with a focus on winning the national championships. She recruits the top players and holds



Allen-Gonzalez cheering on her team.

each of us to a high standard," beach-volleyball player Grace Gettys said.

"Her success and the 100 victories are a result of creating a beach program that all her players need to buy into for our team to succeed."

The program has done great things over the years that could not have been done without Coach Allen-Gonzalez, and her impact on the different teams that she has coached during her era has not gone unnoticed. Her team and the coaching staff continue to speak highly and congratulate her on the 100th win victory. "The program has improved as a result of coach Allen-Gonzalez's accomplishments and her 100th win...since she will be able to continue bringing in top recruits.

She establishes high expectations for our pairs and the team as a whole," Gettys said. "She has a great deal of passion for her players

and the TAMUK Beach program which is why she achieves so much success."

The beach volleyball team will continue to work towards great things with the help of their coaching staff.

"Moving forward, I think you celebrate the achievement and then get working towards 100 more wins," "Assistant Sports Information

Director Ryan Smith said. "Once a program milestone is reached and you see that the task is attainable there's a sense of accomplishment and a desire to keep pushing forward to reach the next goal."

The Javelinas now continue to show out for Javelina nation and create memorable moments that every coach and athlete can uphold and attain for generations to come at TAMUK. The Javelinas now prepare and work in the off-season as they prepare for next season.

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