

Melesio Perales, Sr. Athlete & Volunteer Coach

Melesio was born in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico to Fortunato Casa and Maria Martinez Perales. The family migrated to Arizona in 1958 and established themselves in Eloy.

He was the oldest of six children all of whom would graduate from Santa Cruz. Melesio's daughter, Frances and son, Melesio, are also Santa Cruz graduates.

Melesio lettered in football, wrestling and excelled in track from his freshman year. He was a four year member of the Letterman's Club.

He was a member of the State Runner-Up Football Champions his sophomore year.

He broke the SC school record in the two mile run that had stood for over 20 years. He was a member of the State Track Championship team.

Melesio was Wrestling State Champion Runner-Up his sophomore year and was State Champion both his junior and senior years.

For his outstanding athletic achievements, Melesio was selected "Boy Athlete of the Year" for 1975.

After graduation, Melesio continued to help the Santa Cruz wrestling program. He was a volunteer coach for over 20 years. Melesio went to Central Arizona College and then worked for Southern Pacific Railroad. He ran in the Boston Marathon in 2009 and continues his love of running to this day.