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High School Basketball: Lady Rattlers lauded at annual awards banquet



Members of the San Marcos High School girls basketball program were honored at the team's annual banquet Wednesday night at the SMHS cafeteria. Pictured from left are Allyssa Castillo, **Ashley Crayton**, Colby Mendiola, Dominique Miles, Madelyn Swinney, Michelle Moody, Ali Gonzales and Danielle Doria.

By Randy Stevens
Sports Editor



San Marcos — The San Marcos High School girls' basketball team didn't make it to the playoffs last season, but head coach David Norris said his squad made strides towards being successful in the future as the program honored the 2009-10 Lady Rattlers at the team's annual awards banquet Wednesday night at the SMHS cafeteria.

"We had a shot to be in the playoffs up until the last game of the season," Norris said. "So to me, we were successful, and this group of girls has helped place a solid foundation to build upon. It's a team I'm very proud of."

After dinner and a motivational speech from Texas State head women's basketball coach Suzanne Fox, team members were honored for their all-district and academic all-district achievements and the team's individual awards were announced.

Ashley Crayton was named the team's Most Valuable Player for the second year in the row. The senior point guard was also a District 17-4A first-team selection last season.

Junior guard Ali Gonzales was named the team's defensive MVP, while the team's offensive MVP was sophomore Madelyn Swinney.

The Lady Rattler Pride honor was shared by seniors Domonique Miles and Colby Mendiola, while freshman post Michelle Moody was named the team's Most Improved Player.

Norris added an honor to the program with a "Rope Holder" award for the player who best embodied the word "team."

"It goes out to the kind of person you'd want holding the rope if you were hanging off a



cliff,” Norris said. “Someone you know would have your back no matter what.”

That honor went to junior Allyssa Castillo.

Other SMHS All-District selections included Gonzales and Swinney with second-team honors, while Danielle Doria and Miles were Honorable Mention selections.

Castillo and Swinney were named Academic All-District .