**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RIO HONDO HIGH SCHOOL UNVEILS STATE-OF-THE-ART WEIGHT ROOM AS PART OF THSCA'S "IRON SHARPENS IRON" INITIATIVE**

**Fin Ewing's Philanthropic Gift Helps Transform Athletic Training Facilities for Student-Athletes**

**Rio Hondo, Texas – August 28, 2025** – Rio Hondo High School has proudly unveiled its newly renovated weight room, marking a significant investment in the health, development, and success of its student-athletes. The renovation was made possible through the Texas High School Coaches Association's (THSCA) *Iron Sharpens Iron* program and generous funding from Dallas businessman and philanthropist Fin Ewing.

The unveiling ceremony featured distinguished guests, including THSCA executives, Ewing, Rio Hondo athletic administrators, student-athletes, project sponsors, and community members who joined in celebrating the facility's transformation.

*"This new weight room represents more than just equipment and walls – it's an investment in our students' growth, resilience, and future,"* said Raul Javier Trevino, Superintendent of Rio Hondo ISD. *"Thanks to the generosity of Fin Ewing and the vision of the Texas High School Coaches Association, our athletes now have a first-class facility to prepare, compete, and thrive."*

The *Iron Sharpens Iron* initiative, spearheaded by the THSCA and supported by its Education Foundation, is dedicated to enhancing athletic programs across Texas by building modern, high-quality training facilities that serve all students – not just athletes.

*"Fin Ewing's leadership and commitment to Texas high school athletics is nothing short of remarkable,"* said Joe Martin, Executive Director of the Texas High School Coaches Association. *"Through his support, and with the help of our building partners, we're empowering coaches to better serve kids – and that's what our mission is all about."*

The Rio Hondo project is the latest example of how public-private partnerships can elevate educational and athletic opportunities for Texas youth. The renovation was made possible through the expertise and contributions of valued partners, including:

- Advanced Exercise – Vaughn Marxhausen (Custom bumpers & plates; 3D render & fly-through)
- Hammer Strength/Life Fitness – Mike Zinda (Weight equipment)

- Plus More Fitness – Waylon Cobb (Equipment delivery & installation)
- Prince Consulting – Blair Prince & Jenna Addison (Project design & management)
- RFS Sports Surfaces & Lockers – David Smith & Oscar Riojas (Sport surface design, demo & installation)
- Texas Power Bars – Buddy Capps & Mitch Stacy
- TRX – Tim Bourke
- Water Boy Graphics – Ty Gipson

This state-of-the-art facility will serve as a cornerstone of Rio Hondo's athletic program for years to come, fostering strength, teamwork, and a commitment to excellence among its student body.

Coach Rocky James, head football coach and athletic director at Rio Hondo High School, has already seen the impact of the new facility. *"The space and flow of the weight room allows us to accomplish more in half the time. We now have more sports – both boys and girls – utilizing the facility on a regular basis. The older equipment was taken to the middle school, giving those students their first true weight room experience. Overall, we have increased participation in athletics and boosted our work capacity by 200%."*

This success is part of a larger movement across Texas. With previous projects at Cedar Hill and Uvalde High Schools, the Iron Sharpens Iron initiative now turns to Jasper High School, where a new weight room will be constructed in honor of Aiden Burt and the Burt family — a tribute that reflects the program's enduring commitment to helping coaches help kids.

**About the Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA)**
The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) is Texas high school coaches' principal advocate and leadership organization. The THSCA provides the highest quality representation, education, and services to Texas High School coaches and affiliate members by enhancing the professionalism of coaches and the schools they represent. The mission statement is simply this: To help and serve Texas high school coaches as they work to help and serve student-athletes. "HELPING COACHES HELP KIDS." For more information on THSCA, visit www.thsca.com

**About Texas High School Coaches Education Foundation**
The mission of the Texas High School Coaches Education Foundation is to develop funds from a broad range of donors to provide professional education programs that will strengthen, reinforce, and enhance professionalism in high school coaches throughout the state of Texas.

These programs provide instructional material and training in character development to coaches in Texas at both the high school and middle school levels. They can directly impact the lives of over 1.5 million student-athletes each year. The two established events are the Texas Coaches Leadership Summit and the R.O.C.K. Mentoring Workshop.

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