

Martinez joined Center Schools' Hall of Fame

BY SUPT . GEORGE WELSH

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Courtesy Photo Former Center High and Adams State College standout Aucencio Martinez is embraced by Viking's coach Dennis Schoenfelder Saturday during his induction into the Center High School Athletics Hall of Fame. Martinez, who is a prep state champion and national collegiate champion at ASC, is one of 13 members of the school's Hall of Fame.

CENTER On Saturday March 27 Center High School inducted Aucencio Martinez into its Athletic Hall of Fame. The ceremony took place at the track complex at Center Community Park.

Aucencio's athletic prowess began to shine early in his career at Center Schools. As a Penguin

Runner in Dennis Schoenfelder's Junior Olympics program, Aucencio showed talent and an impeccable work ethic. Aucencio's Junior Olympics career culminated with a 7th place finish at the National Junior Olympic Cross Country Meet during his freshman year.

Aucencio graduated as a member of the Center High School Class of 2002. During his high school years he excelled in cross country, winning the 2A classification individual boys championship as a sophomore and finishing 2nd in his junior and senior years.

Aucencio's track accomplishments include 2nd place finishes in the Colorado State Track 800 meter race during his junior and senior years, state championships in the 1,600 meter race during his junior and senior years and championships in the 3,200 meter races during his junior and senior years. Aucencio set the state record in the 1600-meter race as junior, only to break that record during his senior year. His time of 4:21:35 still stands as a state record in the 2A classification to this day.

Upon graduating from Center High School, Aucencio attended Adams State College in pursuit of a business degree with an emphasis in marketing. As an athlete at ASC, Aucencio won three national championships (two 1500-meter indoor individuals and one as a member of a distance medley relay team).

Aucencio now runs for the Boulder Running Company. However, his pride in Center Schools continues to show through as he has still been seen, on occasion, competing in a Center High School Track singlet.

People interested in nominating a former CHS athlete can contact the district office at 754-3442 to obtain a copy of the nomination form.