

# Layton coach earns top nod

**Coach of the Year**  
» Rick Talamantez helped Layton overcome bad start.

By MAGGIE THACH  
*The Salt Lake Tribune*

Layton finished just under .500 this season with an 8-9-3 record. Layton struggled in the regular season, entering the playoffs with a No. 5 seed from Region 1.

But under Rick Talamantez's coaching, the Lancers advanced deep into the state tournament and gave themselves a shot at the state title. For that, Talamantez has been named *The Salt Lake Tribune's* Coach of the Year.

What could have been a sub-par season for the Lancers ended up being a spectacular finish, and a part of that was Talamantez always believing in his team, pushing his players to go further.

"He would always tell us that he had a feeling we would make it to the finals.

He would tell us and you felt that he meant it," said player Christian Cannavina. "It was nice to feel that your coach isn't giving up on the season. He would make us try not to give up on the season."

**Other notable coaches**

**Mark Graham, Mountain View** » Graham has taken his team to the state championship game the last three years but this season, the Bruins prevailed for the school's first boys' soccer state title in school history. The team finished with a 17-1-1 record.

**Mike Camps, Grand** » Three years after taking over the program, Camps turned the Red Devils into a state title contender. Along the way, Grand earned its first outright region title and finished with a 17-1-1 record. Grand dominated in region play and had 11 shutouts this season.

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## Selection process for Tribune All-State teams

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

*The Salt Lake Tribune's* All-State teams are selected entirely by coaches' votes. Letters were sent to the schools soliciting votes, notices were put in the newspaper and voting was available online at [tribpreps.com](http://tribpreps.com). Players with the top votes were selected for first team. Anyone else with more than one vote was put on second team.

Don't like the team? E-mail us at [sportseditor@sltrib.com](mailto:sportseditor@sltrib.com) to vent your frustrations.

**Prep soccer » Season in review**

**Back-to-back titles** » This year's winners in Class 5A, 3A and 2A all won state titles last season, with 4A champ Mountain View the only new kid on the block. For the second year in a row, Brighton, Park City and Rowland Hall hoisted championship trophies.

**"Every player's dream"** » The 5A and 4A state title games were held at Rio Tinto Stadium, an experience all the players involved relished. "I could barely sleep the night before," Brighton's Bryce Stockman said. "I was so excited. It's every soccer player's dream to play on a field like that."

**Layton's Cinderella run** » The Lancers came into the state tournament with a No. 5 seed from Region 1, but that didn't stop them from advancing to the state title game. Layton beat Alta, Fremont and Viewmont on its way to the championship game. **State's leading scorer** » Wasatch Academy's Kyle Farmer led the state in scoring with a staggering 42 goals this season, an average of almost three a game. Grand's Sebastian Roa wasn't too far behind with 35 goals.

**New contenders in Region 4?** » Lehi and Timpanogos enjoyed successful seasons. The Pioneers and Timberwolves each earned a share of the Region 4 title, the first time for each Utah County school.

**A streak is broken** » For the past 13 seasons, Brighton had won an outright or at least a piece of the Region 2 crown. This year, the streak was broken after Alta took the title with a 6-2-2 record.

**Emergence of Copper Hills** » The Grizzlies made a big splash this season, becoming a surprising state contender early on. Copper Hills won the Region 3 title easily and was one of the few teams to go into the playoffs undefeated. But the Grizzlies fell to Brighton, the eventual state champion, in the quarterfinals.

**Park City prevails against the odds** » Just before the state tournament began, Park City schools closed because of a possible swine flu outbreak, leaving the soccer team wondering if it could defend its state title. After a long weekend, the schools opened and Park City was allowed to play. But the odds were against the Miners because they had little time to rest between games. The Miners persevered and played four playoff games in five days to take their second straight title.



Brighton's Tim Herzog holds the championship trophy aloft after the Bengals won the Class 5A championship.

**2009 MVPs**



Jordan Hatanaka



James Rogers



Alfonso Perea



Felipe Saltz

PHOTOS BY LEAH HOGSTEN | The Salt Lake Tribune

**MVPs**

» Continued from D1

of Jordan to us was apparent all year long."

The choice to make Highland's James Rogers the Class 4A MVP was an easy one. The sophomore created multiple opportunities for himself as well as his teammates. Rogers always drew the opposing team's focus on defense and was often keyed in on by two or more defenders.

He is exceptionally skilled and has incredible speed. When defenses would collapse on him, he would find ways for his teammates to score. If not, he could always be counted on to deliver the game-winner, like he did against Murray at the end of April. He spent most of the game on the bench because the coaches were trying to rest him before the

playoffs. But when the teams went into double-overtime, it was Rogers who scored the golden goal.

"The other coaches and I just looked at each other and just said, 'That's James,'" Highland coach Eric Bliss said. "He was a finisher for us. He scored goals when we needed it most."

Ogden's Alfonso Perea takes the top honor in Class 3A for what he provided for his team from the beginning to the very end of the season. Even as opponents started to acknowledge him as a prolific scorer and pay more attention to him as the season went on, he still found ways to score. He had some of his best offensive performances in the state tournament, notching hat tricks in the first round game against Canyon View and quarterfinal game against Waterford. He finished with 21 goals and 12 assists.

Ogden coach Sterling Castle said it was Perea's work ethic that set him apart.

"He's got that motor that doesn't stop. He's driven and he's focused," Castle said. "He works harder than any player I've ever had and that's unusual for someone as talented as he is."

Rowland Hall was dominant throughout the season and its success was largely due to a strong team effort with skilled players such as Robbie Hull, Walker Adams, Jared Accettura and Brendan Hovsepian-Kelley, among others.

But goalkeeper Felipe Saltz made his presence known by bringing composure to his position and stabilizing a defense that didn't allow an opponent to score more than two goals a game.

Saltz' maturity made him invaluable to the team. "I was always trying to

keep things in perspective," Saltz said. "I knew it was okay if a goal went through because we have good enough players to score on the other side and the only thing that mattered was the win. The forwards and midfielders were the best and I knew as long as I could come up with a couple saves, we would win."

Saltz' balance of competitiveness and composure was the difference between being a mediocre goalkeeper and an outstanding one.

"Of course he's a great athlete. He's got command of the box, he's good on crosses, he comes off the line well and thwarts one-on-one situations," Kennedy said. "But being prepared and putting the program first, those are the intangibles. We were just steadier back there because of him."

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**Class 5A Jordan Hatanaka**

**Position** » Defender  
**School** » Brighton  
**Year** » Junior  
**Reason to smile** » Hatanaka has an amazing touch on the ball and is exceptional defensively. He's a threat offensively, making him extremely versatile. Hatanaka could play almost every position on the field, but he excelled on defense, helping Brighton to 12 shutouts this year — including three in the state tournament.  
**Helped his team to** » A second straight Class 5A state title.

**Quote** » "He doesn't come out of the game at all, unless we have a lead. That speaks to his consistency and excellent play. He holds things down for us. His consistency is remarkable." — Brighton coach Russ Boyer

**Class 4A James Rogers**

**Position** » Forward  
**School** » Highland  
**Year** » Sophomore  
**Reason to smile** » He's one of the craftiest players a defender will run into. He has tremendous ball control skills, and that, combined with his speed, makes him incredibly difficult to mark. He scored 11 goals this season — eight fewer than last year — but he could always be counted on to deliver when needed. Four of his goals were game-winners.

**Helped his team to** » A Region 6 championship and a spot in the Class 4A state semifinals, which was the farthest the program has advanced since 2004.  
**Quote** » "James didn't score as many goals but when you look at the team's accomplishments this year to last year, the results speak for themselves. He reads the game well and his positioning is stellar. He knows where to be and that's why he was able to come up big in games." — Highland coach Eric Bliss

**Class 3A Alfonso Perea**

**Position** » Forward  
**School** » Ogden  
**Year** » Junior  
**Reason to smile** » His contribution impacted his team from the beginning of the season to the Class 3A state semifinals, in which Ogden lost to Park City. In the playoffs, he posted three-goal games in the first round and quarterfinals against Canyon View and Waterford, respectively. Ogden had many talented players but without his 21 goals and 12 assists, the Tigers would have been an entirely different team.

**Helped his team to** » A second-place showing in Region 11 and a state semifinal appearance.  
**Quote** » "It was amazing the intensity level he had. ... His game helped our team go to the next level." — Ogden coach Sterling Castle

**Class 2A Felipe Saltz**

**Position** » Goalkeeper  
**School** » Rowland Hall  
**Year** » Senior  
**Reason to smile** » Saltz's tall frame and long wingspan physically made him a good goalkeeper, but it was his attitude and work ethic that made him truly stand out. He was consistently solid through the season, and Rowland Hall posted seven shutouts.

**Helped his team to** » A Region 14 championship and the school's second straight Class 2A title.  
**Quote** » "The biggest thing is that he changed the complexion of our defensive core because of how he competed. ... His single best attribute is his willingness to compete." — Rowland Hall coach Bobby Kennedy