

## 11 El Pasoans to watch in 2011

Posted: 01/09/2011 01:53:50 PM MST

El Paso is a city of doers. Looking ahead to 2011, El Paso Times has identified 11 people to watch in the New Year. Photos by Christ Chavez / El Paso Times

### Nick Bombach: certified green' developer



He's only 37, and already Nick Bombach has a seven-page résumé that would make a 67-year-old green-eyed.

The El Paso native holds a bachelor's degree in hotel administration with a focus on real estate finance from Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., where he was a student athlete, dean's list honoree and a first team All Ivy League varsity football player.

Most impressive is that Bombach is now a "certified green" master builder and developer who develops, builds and sells residential homes and communities in the Southwest and Midwest. He's also a mortgage company operator.

"I always strive to operate with a high level of integrity and fulfill the talents I was blessed with," said Bombach, president of Casas de Leon, Ithaca Homes and Ithaca Development, where he manages the organic startup of the two homebuilding companies and development company simultaneously.

Before working with Ithaca and Casas de Leon, Bombach was -- among many things -- the president of Saratoga Homes of Texas in Houston, president of JNC Development in El Paso, vice president of JNC Mortgage Co. and JNC Land in El Paso, and vice president of sales and a construction manager for Vista Linda Homes in El Paso.

In his spare time, Bombach is director of Cornell University's Cornell Football Association, a volunteer 7-on-7 football coach at Coronado High School, a church volunteer and an avid runner and mountain biker.

Through it all, though, Bombach said his wife, Celine, and 2-year-old daughter, Noelle, are his center. "I keep my priorities in proper order: God, family, work," he said. "I am motivated to excel in any endeavor I undertake and overcome challenges with insurmountable odds in order to fulfill my talents while knowing that success or failure is truly defined by the effort one puts forth in all of his endeavors."

**Q:** Whom do you look up to and why?

**A:** Knute Rockne, head coach of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish football team from 1918 to 1930. Rockne established the greatest all-time winning percentage of 0.881. This mark still ranks at the top of the list for both college and professional football. É Especially important were his ideas on winning and losing, and on the past and the present. "The past: It's history. Make the present good, and the past will take care of itself. The present and future: Give the best that you have, and the best will come back to you. Your success in the future depends on the present. Build well."

**Q:** What is your New Year's resolution?

**A:** To improve the housing market in El Paso and help people pursue their vision of American home ownership and make their vision a reality.

-- Debra Lund