



Courtesy photo

**AWARD CEREMONY** Esteban Velasquez, a senior at Odessa High School, was selected by members of the world renowned Mariachi Vargas Tecalitlan from Mexico City as the best Mariachi Vocalist in the United States. Velasquez received a \$2,000 college scholarship Thursday during a performance at Ector Junior High School in Odessa.

## Odessa High student wins scholarship in national mariachi vocal competition

*From Staff Reports*

Esteban Velasquez, senior at Odessa High School was selected by members of the world renowned Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan from Mexico City as the best Mariachi Vocalist in the United States.

He was chosen during a student competition held Dec. 1 in San Antonio.

Velasquez, 18, received a \$2,000 college scholarship made possible by Ford Motor Co. and Safeco Insurance. He received the scholarship during a performance at Ector Junior High School Thursday evening, a news release said.

He performed the song he won the competition with, "Si Te Vas," accompanied by his High School mariachi group, Mariachi Bronco, from Odessa High School.

In addition to the scholarship, Velasquez gets the chance perform at the San Antonio Municipal Auditorium prior to Mariachi Vargas on Saturday night in front of nearly 5,000 people.

Velasquez also won an all-expense paid trip to Eugene, Ore., to take part in a three-day residency program on behalf of The John G. Shedd Institute for the Arts. Esteban will open for Mariachi Vargas on Friday, March 14 at the Eugene's Hult Center for the Performing Arts.