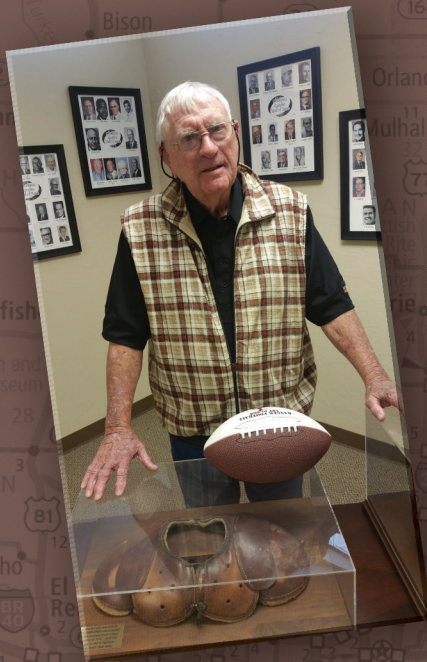


OKLAHOMA GOACH

January
2016
\$3.95

The Official Magazine of the Oklahoma Coaches Association



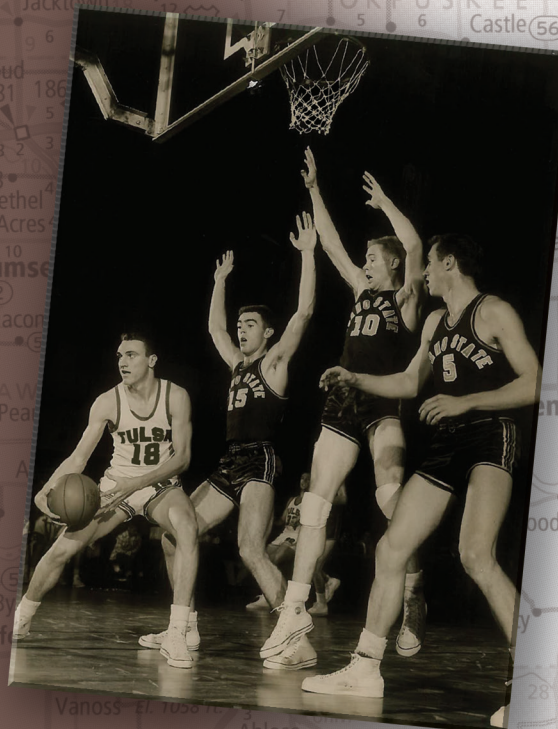
**Coach Pat O'Neal Forged
A Colorful, Fulfilling Career**



**Byng Coach Alan Simpson
Had Two Careers In One**



Prep Parade



**Clester Harrington Still
Talking A Good Game**



8080 Crystal Park Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73139
(405) 635-9300

Fax (405) 635-9325

e-mail: okcoaches@hotmail.com

Web Page: www.oklahomacoaches.org

Hours: Monday thru Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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OKLAHOMA COACH

*The Official Magazine of the
Oklahoma Coaches Association*

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Association

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WRITER
Terrell Lester



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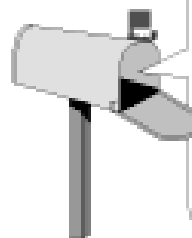
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405.685.4000

Notes from the Director



Milt Bassett

- Hope everyone had a good Christmas and that the New Year is going to be as good as the last one!
- Don't forget to get rooms for the summer Clinic, Sunday July 24 through Friday, July 29th. The host hotel is the Tulsa Southern Hill Marriott and to make reservations please call (866) 530-3760. Also, located right down the street, the Crowne Plaza Tulsa - Southern Hills at (918) 492-5000 is available.
- Clinic registration forms will be sent to the schools in March. Be sure to take advantage of the pre-registration discount. Forms for retired coaches will be sent to your home address.
- We are considering having the Hall of Fame banquet on Saturday night, July 23rd, rather than Sunday the 24th. This would allow inductees, families and friends to attend and not have to drive home late and get up for work the next day.
- A new trend was set last year with HOF ticket sales. Almost all of the tickets were sold due to pre-sales. Be aware that HOF tickets always go on sale beginning in June. Call the office for Joe Tunnell or Jerry Havens for tickets.
- Assistance Plan Info: Only active coaches and their spouses can join the Assistance Plan and they must have no pre-existing condition.
- Please remember that all Vice-Presidential candidates should have their resumes in the OCA office by March 1, 2016. A photo should accompany the resume.
- We have finalized a corporate sponsorship deal with Byford Auto Group out of Chickasha. They will provide the OCA with a company car and we hope to have a link for member coaches to check out prices for new and used vehicles on our website.



Oklahoma
Coaches Association
8080 Crystal Park Drive
OKC, OK 73139

Oklahoma Coach
Magazine
P.O. Box 768
Lindsay, OK 73052



In Memoriam

Glen Wolfe – Moore

Butch Bouher – Grove

Grover Wade – Coweta

Charles Standridge – Denton, TX

Colton Schneider – Edmond

Gerald Daugherty – Watonga

Wayne Merryman – Colbert

Allan Long – Cordell/Geary

Kenneth Aaron – Guymon

Bobby Yadon – Waynoka

Tom Anthony – Edmond

Harold Cagle – Haskell

Bert Elliott – Guthrie

Doyle Green – Tahlequah

Martha McHenry – Coweta

Robert Cook – Prague

Stan Scott - Stroud

Bob Brock – Choctaw

R. Mike Riley - Mangum

Faye Stone - Watonga

Oklahoma Coaches Association

2015/2016 Board of Directors

PresidentJeff Myers, Kingfisher

Vice-PresidentDaryn Brantley, Marlow

Ex. DirectorMilt Bassett

Region 1Mike Jinkens, Okeene

Region 2Brett Jones, Bristow

Region 3 Kyle Ford, Inola

Region 4U'V Williamson, Chattanooga

Region 5Corey Cole, Sulphur

Region 6Kevin Harmon, McAlester

Region 7Jeff Brown, Union

Region 8Wayne Dozier, Carl Albert

REGION MEETINGS

February 3, 2016

7:30 p.m.

REGION 1 Woodward

REGION 2 Cushing

REGION 3 Coweta

REGION 4 Lawton MacArthur*

REGION 5 Pauls Valley Rec Center*

REGION 6 McAlester

REGION 7 Union HS*-UCA

REGION 8Carl Albert

***Region 5 meetings - Pauls Valley Rec Center -
Donald W. Reynolds Rec Center,
1005 N. Willow St, Pauls Valley.**

***Region 7 meetings will be at Union HS
(6636 S. Mingo Rd.) in the
Union Collegiate Academy Grand Ballroom.**



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ALL STATE COACHES

FOOTBALL

EAST

Rafe Watkins - Muskogee (Head)

Shannon Watford - Prague

Shawn Snyder - Seminole

Marvin Dantzler - Tulsa Booker T Washington

WEST

Jeremy Watkins - Altus (Head)

Joe Thornbrue - Yukon

Bobby Wortham - Marlow

Dan Burgess - Western Heights

FAITH 7 COACHES

John Coons - Catoosa (HEAD)

Keith Quaid - Kiowa

CHEERLEADING

EAST

Kristina Taylor - Warner

WEST

Sheila Leforce - Washington

VOLLEYBALL

LARGE EAST-----Tanna Smith - Jenks

LARGE WEST-----Lamonte Lowe - OKC Southeast

SMALL EAST-----Judy Penner - Wagoner

SMALL WEST-----Megan Middleton - Chisholm

State Champions

FOOTBALL

6A-I Jenks

6A-II Bixby

5A Altus

4A Wagoner

3A Heritage Hall

2A Adair

1A Stratford

B Davenport

C Shattuck

VOLLEYBALL

6A Edmond North

5A Bishop Kelley

4A Christian Heritage

3A Community Christian

FALL BASEBALL

A Binger-Oney

B Leedey

FAST PITCH SOFTBALL

6A Choctaw

5A Collinsville

4A Chickasha

3A Washington

2A Tushka

1A Binger-Oney

B Red Oak

CROSS COUNTRY – BOYS

6A Jenks

5A Guymon

4A Lincoln Christian

3A Marietta

2A Hooker

CROSS COUNTRY – GIRLS

6A Bartlesville

5A Claremore

4A Metro Christian

3A Marietta

2A Cordell

CHEERLEADING

6A Edmond North

5A Heritage Hall

4A Tuttle

3A Washington

2A Warner

CHEERLEADING -CO-ED:

LG: Broken Arrow

SM: Newcastle

BUSINESS MEETING NEWS

OCA REGION MEETING AGENDA February 3, 2016 7:30 P.M.

1. Call to order.
2. Invocation.
3. Select one (1) Large (4A-5A-6A) All State Boys Basketball coach nominee.
4. Select one (1) Small (B-A-2A-3A) All State Boys Basketball coach nominee.
5. Select one (1) Large (4A-5A-6A) All State Girls Basketball coach nominee.
6. Select one (1) Small (B-A-2A-3A) All State Girls Basketball coach nominee.
7. Select one (1) Large (5A-6A) All State Wrestling coach nominee.
8. Select one (1) Small (3A-4A) All State Wrestling coach nominee.
9. Select one (1) Regional Football Coach of the Year.
10. Select one (1) Male Scholar Athlete of the Year. (\$500)
11. Select one (1) Female Scholar Athlete of the Year. (\$500)
12. Select one (1) Bob R. Williams Scholarship recipient. (Male or Female) (\$500)
13. Discuss Harold Park Memorial Injured Athlete Scholarship. Deadline March 1, 2016.
14. Miscellaneous.
15. Adjourn.

OCA BOARD MEETING AGENDA MARCH 6, 2016

1. Call to order – Jeff Myers, President.
2. Invocation.
3. Presentation of minutes.
4. Hall of Fame Report.
5. Financial Report.
6. Discuss Assistance Plan.
7. Select Large school All State Boys Basketball coaches.
8. Select Small school All State Boys Basketball coaches.
9. Select Large school All State Girls Basketball coaches.
10. Select Small school All State Girls Basketball coaches.
11. Select Large school All State Wrestling coaches.
12. Select Small school All State Wrestling coaches.
13. Select Football Coach of the Year.
14. Approve contribution of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.
15. Discuss corporate sponsors.
16. Discuss Harold Park / Injured Athlete scholarship recipients. Selection at March meeting.
17. Discuss All State game sites.
18. Approve expenses of the office.
19. Approve expenses of the board meeting.
20. Miscellaneous
 - a. Ideas for "Oklahoma Coach" magazine
21. Adjourn.

OKLAHOMA COACHES ASSOCIATION DECEMBER 6, 2015 OCA BUILDING BOARD MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Jeff Myers, President.
2. Invocation by Mike Jinkens.
3. Minutes approved. Motion by Mike Jinkens. Seconded by Wayne Dozier. Minutes approved.
4. Hall of Fame Report. Set number of inductees for committee. Milt outlined process for HOF selection and recommended the number of inductees be set at ten. Also, discussion about moving the HOF Banquet to Saturday night before clinic, rather than on Sunday night. A motion was made to set number of inductees at ten and to move the HOF Banquet to Saturday night. (Milt will pass these changes along to the HOF selection committee.) Motion to approve by Corey Cole. Seconded by Jeff Brown. Motion approved.
5. Financial Report. Motion to approve by Kyle Ford. Seconded by Wayne Dozier. Motion approved.
6. Board approved All State Football coaches.
 - East: Rafe Watkins - Muskogee (Head)
Shannon Watford - Prague
Shawn Snyder - Seminole
Marvin Dantzler – Tulsa Booker T. Washington
 - West: Jeremy Reed - Altus (Head)
Joe Thornbrue - Yukon
Bobby Wortham - Marlow
Dan Burgess – Western Heights
7. Board chose coaches for Faith 7 Basketball Game:
 - John Coons - Catoosa (Head)
 - Keith Quaid - Kiowa
8. Board chose All State Cheerleading Coaches:
 - East: Kristina Taylor - Warner
 - West: Sheila Leforce - Washington
9. Board chose All State Volleyball Coaches:
 - Large West: Lamonte Lowe – OKC Southeast
 - Large East: Tanna Smith - Jenks
 - Small West: Megan Middleton - Chisholm
 - Small East: Judy Penner – Wagoner
10. Board selected Coaches of the Year for the following sports: Cheerleading, Volleyball, and Cross Country. The results will be announced at the 2016 Clinic.
11. Assistance Plan Report.
12. Motion made by Brett Jones to authorize Executive Director to employ necessary workers for All State games and clinic. Seconded by Corey Cole. Motion Approved.
13. Motion made to authorize Executive Director to approve expense of the clinic. Motion by Wayne Dozier. Seconded by Jeff Brown. Motion approved.
14. Motion by U'V Williamson and seconded by Kyle Ford to approve expense of the OCA Board Meeting. Approved.
15. Discuss Corporate Sponsors.
16. Discuss 2016 clinic site – Tulsa: Southern Hills Marriott / Crowne Plaza.
17. Discuss site of All State games.
18. Set Salaries of the office staff. Motion by Kevin Brown. Seconded by Kyle Ford. Approved.
19. Miscellaneous.
20. Adjourn. Motion made by Wayne Dozier. Seconded by Brett Jones. Approved.

OKLAHOMA COACHES ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS

1. Up to SIX (6) HAROLD PARK / INJURED ATHLETE.....\$500.00 EACH
Must apply to OCA office prior to March 1
2. EIGHT (8) BOB R. WILLIAMS.....\$500.00 EACH
Selected at the February Region Meeting
3. EIGHT (8) MALE REGIONAL SCHOLAR ATHLETE.....\$500.00 EACH
Selected at the February Region Meeting
4. EIGHT (8) FEMALE REGIONAL SCHOLAR ATHLETE.....\$500.00 EACH
Selected at the February Region Meeting
5. EIGHT (8) MALE REGIONAL ATHLETE OF THE YEAR.....\$500.00 EACH
Selected at the April Region Meeting
6. EIGHT (8) FEMALE REGIONAL ATHLETE OF THE YEAR.....\$500.00 EACH
Selected at the April Region Meeting

The Male Athlete of the Year and the Female Athlete of the Year will be selected at the May OCA Board Meeting. Each will receive a plaque designating them as "Athlete of the Year".

In the event that an acceptable applicant does not apply for the scholarship during a given year, the scholarship money will be retained in the treasury of the association and no scholarship will be awarded for that particular year. In the event that the financial condition of the association makes this scholarship infeasible, it can be discontinued until the financial condition of the association makes it feasible.

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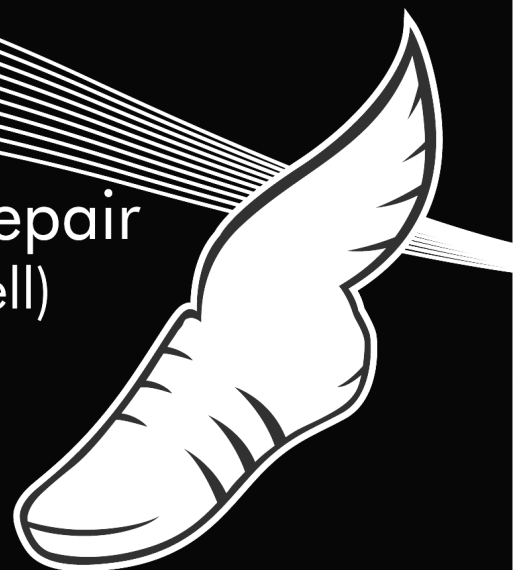
Ted Younts 817-266-4279 (cell)

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OKLAHOMA COACHES ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

A Coach (OCA member) must nominate their athlete at their respective region meeting. Scholarship nominees from each region will be voted on and chosen at the region meetings.

In the event that an acceptable applicant does not apply for the scholarship during a given year, the scholarship money will be retained in the treasury of the association and no scholarship will be awarded for that particular year. In the event that the financial condition of the association makes this scholarship infeasible, it can be discontinued until the financial condition of the association makes it feasible.

Any problems that may arise as to the administration of this scholarship will be under the jurisdiction of the board of control of the Oklahoma Coaches Association.

The Scholar Athlete and Bob R. Williams Scholarships are chosen at the February region meetings. The Athletes of the Year Scholarships are chosen at the April region meetings. The following scholarship recipients are chosen at the OCA region meetings:

BOB R. WILLIAMS SCHOLARSHIP (\$500.00):

The Oklahoma Coaches Association shall award this scholarship to (8) eight (one per region) senior athletes. The selection shall be based on the student overcoming obstacles, disabilities or injury in order to participate in high school athletics. Each of these eight winners will be awarded the sum of \$500.00.

SCHOLAR ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIP - Male and Female (\$500.00):

The Oklahoma Coaches Association shall award (16) sixteen scholarships annually to senior students who have participated on the varsity level and have excelled academically. These awards for the amount of \$500.00 each will be given each year to (1) one male and (1) one female in each region.

REGION ATHLETE OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIP - Male and Female (\$500.00):

The Oklahoma Coaches Association shall award (1) one male and (1) one female scholarship in each region. The scholarships will be in the amount of \$500.00 each and shall be awarded to senior students who have excelled athletically, scholastically, and morally and have exhibited all the desirable traits of citizenship.

The Male Athlete of the Year and the Female Athlete of the Year will be selected from the recipients of the Regional Athlete of the Year awards. The selection will take place at the May OCA Board Meeting. Each will receive a plaque designating them as "Athlete of the Year".

HAROLD PARK / INJURED ATHLETE SCHOLARSHIP (\$500.00)

The Oklahoma Coaches Association shall sponsor an annual one-year scholarship to a graduating high school senior athlete, who because of an athletic injury, or sickness, will be unable to attend college on an athletic scholarship. The designed purpose of this scholarship is to help athletes who prior to an athletic injury, or sickness, had the potential of attending college on an athletic grant. If this student has become incapacitated during his, or her high school participation, this scholarship will give an opportunity to attend college his or her freshman year.

The scholarship will be awarded on a one-year basis. The scholarship will pay \$500.00. There will be a maximum of six (6) scholarships awarded, based on qualified applications.

The money may be used for enrollment fees, books, tuition, or may be applied to the student's room and board. No cash will be awarded to the student.

The scholarship will be based on these qualifications:

Scholarship, leadership, citizenship, athletic potential before injury, morals, interest in athletics, desire for education, and need (not destitution).

Coaches who wish to submit an application should call the OCA office to receive the necessary form. A letter of recommendation from the coach and high school principal must accompany the application. The application shall be received no later than March 1, of the student's senior year. This application must be sent to the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Coaches Association and shall be accompanied by a statement as to the nature and extent of the injury from the student's family doctor.

The Board of Directors, during their spring meeting, will make the final decision as to the recipient (s) of the scholarship.

In the event that an acceptable applicant does not apply for the scholarship during a given year, the scholarship money will be retained in the treasury of the association and no scholarship will be awarded for that particular year. In the event that the financial condition of the association makes this scholarship infeasible, it can be discontinued until the financial condition of the association makes it feasible.

Any problems that may arise as to the administration of this scholarship will be under the jurisdiction of the board of control of the Oklahoma Coaches Association.

ALL STATE SWIMMING SELECTION PLAN

Nomination Due Date: February 25, 2016

1. The Number of All State Athletes is 36. The East team will have 18 swimmers – 9 boys and 9 girls. The West team will have 18 swimmers – 9 boys and 9 girls.
2. The All State selection will be determined by final standings at the High School State Meet.
 1. Athlete must be a senior.
 2. Coach must be a member of the Oklahoma Coaches Association.
3. If a team does not have 9 finalists, the remaining will be chosen from their area by total number of points earned in an individual event or events.
4. In swimming, the areas will be made up by the East and West. There will be no regions until numbers of swim programs warrant a change. That change will have to be approved by the OCA Board of Directors.
5. The coaches from the East or West (OCA members) will vote on one coach to represent their area All State coach. Two All State coaches (East and West) will put together their line-up for the All State Swim Meet.
 - a. A coach can be an All State coach more than once, but must set out every two years from candidate list.
6. Swimmers must attend the All State meet to be considered for All State status.

Swimming nominations are due in the OCA office on or before February 25, 2016.

Mail to: Oklahoma Coaches Association
8080 Crystal Park Dr.
Oklahoma City, Ok 73139.

Fax #: (405) 635-9325
Do not fax the picture.

2016 OKLAHOMA COACHES ASSOCIATION ALL STATE SWIMMING SELECTION COMMITTEE

STEVE RIGGS.....EDMOND

KENT NICHOLSON.....NORMAN

KURT GOEBEL.....STILLWATER

LINDA WIGINGTON.....ALTUS

BEN HARLOW.....BARTLESVILLE

ALL STATE WRESTLING SELECTION PLAN

Nomination Due Date: March 7, 2016

Four selection committees will be formed: one (1) Large and one (1) Small to represent the East and one (1) Large and one (1) Small to represent the West. Large school committees will be comprised for classes 6A & 5A and small school committees will be made up of classes 4A & 3A. The East will represent all schools within regions 2, 3, 6, and 7; the West will represent all schools within regions 1, 4, 5, and 8. Each committee will consist of four coaches - two from each class.

At the annual fall meeting, the Oklahoma Wrestling Coaches Association will select the selection committee. Each coach selected for the committee must be a member of the Oklahoma Coaches Association, then approved by the Oklahoma Coaches Association Board of Control.

The nomination deadline is March 7, 2016. The forms must be an official Oklahoma Coaches Association nomination form completed and **signed** by the respective head wrestling coach. The head coach must be a member of the OCA in order to nominate an athlete for All State. Incomplete or unofficial nominations will be voided.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

1. The head coach must be a member of the OCA. Only the head coach can nominate an athlete for All State.
2. A coach may nominate only his senior wrestlers.
3. A coach may nominate his wrestler for only two weights and the wrestler may not be nominated at a weight lower than the lowest weight he wrestled that year. If he is nominated at a weight lower than he wrestled at state, a copy of tournament bracket or dual at the lower weight must be included with nomination.

4. The nomination must include a comprehensive record, resume' and picture of the wrestler.

The respective selection committee will select thirteen (13) wrestlers, one for each weight class (113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 160, 170, 182, 195, 220 and Heavyweight) on the basis of (1) state tournament finish; (2) season record; (3) competition; and (4) career record. Each all state squad will consist of no more that two wrestlers from one school and must include at least one wrestler from each of the four wrestling classes. The selection committee must rank in order of preference the wrestlers in each weight on the honorable mention list. Players shall be listed in order of preference by secret ballot.

Weigh in procedures: When wrestlers report for weigh-in, all wrestlers must be within twelve (12) pounds of weight or be sent home. Any wrestler that weighs in within ten (10) pounds will count that weight as his official weigh-in and will not have to weigh-in again. The next day, for thirty minutes after the last morning practice and for thirty minutes after the last afternoon practice, wrestlers that have not made weight with the ten (10) pound allowance may do so at these times. The third day will be the last chance weigh-in for those wrestlers who have not made weigh yet (ten- (10) pound allowance). Wrestlers must make weight by this time or be replaced.

Nomination Deadline: March 7, 2016

All nominations must be in the OCA office by the deadline. You may mail or fax a copy to the OCA office. Selection committee members are not exempt from the due date. Late nominations brought in the office on the day of the selection will be subject to a fine. **Do not fax the picture.** **The fax number is (405) 635-9325.**

Please return the nomination form to:

**Oklahoma Coaches Association
8080 Crystal Park Dr.
Oklahoma City, OK 73139**

FAX: (405) 635-9325

2016 ALL STATE WRESTLING SELECTION COMMITTEE

(Committee Members are subject to change.)

Large West (6A / 5A)

Brent Sarette - Deer Creek
Larry Tettleton - Edmond North
Nick Williams - Altus
Wes Ruth - Del City

Small West (4A / 3A)

Shawn Finch - Clinton
Shane Head - Tuttle
Ed Evey - Kingfisher
Jasen Bailey - Pauls Valley

Large East (6A / 5A)

Ray Weis - Jenks
Derek Scheihing - Owasso
Shae Jefferson - Pryor
Ty Bowling - Glenpool

Small East (4A / 3A)

Ladd Rupp - Cushing
Josh Cunningham - Cleveland
Aaron Spears - Pawnee
Ronnie Delk - Perry

ALL STATE DEADLINES

Please note the following deadlines for All State athlete nominations. All nominations must be received in the office on or before the deadline date. The address is OCA; 8080 Crystal Park Dr., OKC, OK 73139. You may also fax the forms to (405) 635-9325. **Do not fax the picture!** These deadlines should be adhered to. Please do not ask to submit your nomination late. Selection committee members are not exempt from the due date. Late nominations brought in the office on the day of the selection will be subject to a fine.

Swimming	February 25, 2016
Wrestling	March 7, 2016
Boys Basketball	March 22, 2016
Girls Basketball	March 24, 2016
Trainers	April 26, 2016
Golf	May 12, 2016
Baseball	May 16, 2016
Girls Tennis	May 7, 2016
Boys Tennis	May 14, 2016

The nominations for All State Tennis are given to the selection committee at the state tournament on the deadline date.

Notice: A request for change of address must reach us 30 days before the date of issue with which it is to take effect. Duplicate copies cannot be sent to those undelivered through failure to send advance notice. Do not assume the post office will forward your magazine, because that is not normally the case. Contact the OCA office at 8080 Crystal Park, OKC, OK 73139 or (405) 635-9300.

Mailbag

Dear Milt and OCA Family,
Thank you so much for nominating me for the NHSACA Boys Swim Coach of the Year. As always, I am so proud to represent Altus, OCA and the great state of Oklahoma. I appreciate your thinking of me as worthy to present OCA.

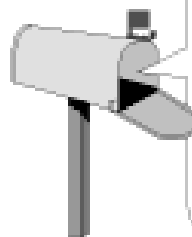
Professionally yours,
Linda Wiginton
Altus Bulldogs, 35 years

Oklahoma Coaches Association HOF Committee and OCA Staff, I would like to thank the OCA Hall of Fame Committee for including me as an inductee in this year's incredible Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame Class. What an amazingly humbling honor to be included with so many great coaches, many of

whom I have looked up to my whole career. Thank you so much!

I would like to thank the OCA staff for all of the hard work that they put into the Hall of Fame Banquet. It was truly a CLASS Event and made the honor of being selected even more special. Milt, Lea, Mary Jane, Joe, Strippy and especially Jerry (Go Aggies!), thanks for a great evening.

Sincerely,
Jeff Wardlaw



Oklahoma
Coaches Association
8080 Crystal Park Drive
OKC, OK 73139

Oklahoma Coach
Magazine
P.O. Box 768
Lindsay, OK 73052

Contact Us.....

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jerry.havens@oklahomacoaches.org
strippy.biggers@oklahomacoaches.org
joe.tunnell@oklahomacoaches.org

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OCA 2016 ALL STAR BY CLASS GIRLS

BASKETBALL SELECTION COMMITTEE

WEST

6A

REGION	LARGE	SCHOOL
5.....	ANDREA GUZIEC*	WESTMOORE
8.....	DANDY PEELER	ED MEMORIAL
4.....	JACKIE BARRETT, JR	LAWTON
1.....	KEVIN KORSTJENS	MUSTANG
8.....	PAUL BASS**	ED SANTA FE

5A

REGION	LARGE	SCHOOL
5.....	LINDSEY VANDERBURG	NOBLE
1.....	TYLER SNOWDEN**	EL RENO
4.....	DANNY GARZA*	LAWTON MAC
8.....	ANITA WALKER	WESTERN HEIGHTS
8.....	TIM FLANIGAN	CARL ALBERT

4A

REGION	LARGE	SCHOOL
8.....	CURT KNOX*	HARRAH
1.....	JAY WOOD	KINGFISHER
4.....	TIM ELLISON	ELK CITY
8.....	NICHOLE COPELAND**	MT. ST. MARY
5.....	BRETT SANDERS	NEWCASTLE

3A

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
1.....	TERRY MIDDLETON**	CHISHOLM
5.....	ROCKY CLARKE	WASHINGTON
8.....	DAVID ROSENBERG	JONES
8.....	LESLIE WARNER*	HERITAGE HALL
4.....	JAMES KELLEY	RIVERSIDE
5.....	SEAN HUSHBECK	COMANCHE

2A

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
1.....	MIKE BARTON*	FAIRVIEW
4.....	JEFF TOMPKINS	CARNEGIE
5.....	RICK PARRISH**	RUSH SPRINGS
1.....	RONNIE MAPLE	CASHION
8.....	LISA LITTLEJIM	CHRISTIAN HERITAGE

A

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
4.....	BRAD THRASH*	CHEYENNE-REYDON
1.....	CHERIE MYERS*	OKARCHIE
8.....	JOE CRAWFORD	OK CHRISTIAN ACAD
4.....	BOBBY DAWSON**	CANUTE
5.....	SCOTT PACE	TURNER

B

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
1.....	SCOT FRIESEN*	ARNETT
4.....	JUSTIN JANZ**	ERICK
4.....	KYLE WILLIAMS	MTN VIEW-GOTEBE
5.....	TRACI DRAGG	SPRINGER
1.....	TOM WEBB	COYLE
4.....	U'V WILLIAMSON	CHATTANOOGA

EAST

6A

REGION	LARGE	SCHOOL
7.....	MATT SWEENEY	OWASSO
2.....	MARK HARRIS**	STILLWATER
3.....	DOYLE ROWLAND*	MUSKOGEE
2.....	JODY FINCHER	PONCA CITY
7.....	JAMIE HILL	UNION

5A

REGION	LARGE	SCHOOL
6.....	APRIL BURNS*	MCALISTER
7.....	SAMMY MACK	TULSA EAST CENTRAL
7.....	SUSIE VAUGHN	COLLINSVILLE
6.....	WENDI WELLS	SHAWNEE
3.....	BRAD CRACE**	COWETA

4A

REGION	LARGE	SCHOOL
3.....	SCOTT LOWE*	ROLAND
6.....	CHRISTIE JENNINGS**	ADA
7.....	ED CALHOON	VICTORY CHRISTIAN
3.....	SCOTT REED	VINITA
2.....	MATT MORGAN	BRISTOW

3A

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
6.....	BRANDON LINDLY	ANTLERS
3.....	SCOTT WINFIELD**	ADAIR
2.....	JERRY BURNETT	PERKINS-TRYON
6.....	JACE JOHNSON*	BETHEL
7.....	MELODY STEWART	LINCOLN CHRISTIAN

2A

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
6.....	JOSH FORSYTHE	DALE
3.....	J.K. WAYNE**	WYANDOTTE
7.....	BRANDON TREECE*	LIBERTY
6.....	BRUCE PLUNK	LATTA
2.....	BRIAN KADER	TONKAWA

A

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
2.....	JOE GILBERT**	BARNSDALL
6.....	WADE DANIEL*	KIOWA
3.....	DEAN ARMSTRONG	GANS
7.....	ADAM BISHOP	REGENT PREP
2.....	TODD BEEN	DEWAR

B

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
6.....	CASEY BUTCHER*	RED OAK
2.....	KRISTY BRYAN**	COPAN
3.....	JEREMY ROGERS	BLUEJACKET
6.....	JIM MIZE	INDIANOLA
3.....	JERRY WARD	WEBBER FALLS

Denotes: *Chairman **Vice-Chairman AL = At-Large
Committee Members are subject to change.

OCA 2016 ALL STATE GIRLS BASKETBALL FINAL SELECTION COMMITTEE

1-4-5-8

Large West

6A	(5)..ANDREA GUZIEC*	WESTMOORE
6A ...	(4)..JACKIE BARRETT, JR	LAWTON
5A ...	(8)..TIM FLANIGAN	CARL ALBERT
5A ...	(5)..LINDSEY VANDERBURG...	NOBLE
4A.....	(1)..JAY WOOD**	KINGFISHER
4A.....	(4)..TIM ELLISON...	ELK CITY
AL.....	(8)..CURT KNOX	HARRAH

1-4-5-8

Small West

3A	(1)..TERRY MIDDLETON	CHISHOLM
3A ...	(8)..LESLIE WARNER**	HERITAGE HALL
2A ...	(4)..JEFF TOMPKINS	CARNEGIE
2A ...	(5)..RICK PARRISH	RUSH SPRINGS
A.....	(8)..JOE CRAWFORD	OK CHRISTIAN ACAD
A.....	(1)..CHERIE MYERS*	OKARCHIE
B.....	(4)..KYLE WILLIAMS	MTN VIEW-GOTEBE
B.....	(1)..SCOT FRIESEN	ARNETT
AL.....	(4)..SEAN HUSHBECK	COMANCHE

2-3-6-7

Large East

6A	(3)..DOYLE ROWLAND	MUSKOGEE
6A ...	(7)..JAMIE HILL	UNION
5A ...	(6)..WENDI WELLS**	SHAWNEE
5A ...	(7)..SUSIE VAUGHN	COLLINSVILLE
4A.....	(6)..CHRISTIE JENNINGS	ADA
4A.....	(3)..SCOTT LOWE	ROLAND
AL.....	(3)..SCOTT REED*	VANITA

2-3-6-7

Small East

3A	(7)..MELODY STEWART*	LINCOLN CHRISTIAN
3A ...	(6)..JACE JOHNSON	BETHEL
2A ...	(6)..BRUCE PLUNK**	LATTA
2A ...	(3)..J.K. WAYNE	WYANDOTTE
A.....	(2)..TODD BEEN	DEWAR
A.....	(3)..DEAN ARMSTRONG	GANS
B.....	(3)..JEREMY ROGERS	BLUEJACKET
B.....	(2)..KRISTY BRYAN	COPAN
AL.....	(7)..BRANDON TREECE	LIBERTY

OCA 2016 ALL STAR BY CLASS BOYS

BASKETBALL SELECTION COMMITTEE

WEST

6A

REGION	LARGE	SCHOOL
1.....	TERRY LONG.....	MUSTANG
4.....	ERIC WILEY	LAWTON
5.....	SCOTT HODGES*	WESTMOORE
8.....	SHANE COWHERD**	EDMOND MEMORIAL
AL.....	RYAN WAGNER*	PUTNAM CITY NORTH

5A

REGION	LARGE	SCHOOL
1.....	RUSS GILLMORE	GUTHRIE
4.....	BRUCE HARRINGTON*	LAWTON IKE
5.....	DAVID MCGUIRE	DUNCAN
8.....	WALTER BREWER.....	OKC SOUTHEAST
AL ...	TIM STOGSDILL**	DEL CITY

4A

REGION	LARGE	SCHOOL
1.....	JARED REESE.....	KINGFISHER
4.....	LUCIEN BLISS**	ELK CITY
5.....	WES PULLIAM	CHICKASHA
8.....	WADE WALLACE	HARDING PREP
AL ...	BRYAN JENNINGS*	HARRAH

3A

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
1.....	BRADY PAGE.....	HENNESSEY
4.....	PATRICK MOORE	RIVERSIDE
5.....	KIRK HARRIS*	MARLOW
8.....	SHAWN SCHENK**	CROSSINGS CHRISTIAN
AL ...	PAUL DUNCAN.....	ALVA

2A

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
1.....	TY HUSSEY**	WATONGA
4.....	KIRK GRAHAM*	CARNEGIE
5.....	DAMON GARNER	DIBBLE
8.....	VARRYL FRANKLIN	MILLWOOD
AL ...	SAM STEPHENS.....	CRESCENT

A

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
1.....	KENNY DAUGHERTY.....	COMINGTON-DOUGLAS
4.....	RICK GORE**	HYDRO-EAKLY
5.....	ISSAC BYRNE	ALEX
8.....	ROBERT GREGG.....	OK CHRISTIAN ACAD
AL ...	RAY WEST*	OKARCHIE

B

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
1.....	TODD KERR*	FORGAN
4.....	JERRY BROWN**	CHATTANOOGA
5.....	KEVIN MCLENDON.....	VERDEN
4.....	JASE NEWCOMB	ERICK
AL ...	JOSH SUMRALL.....	COYLE

EAST

6A

REGION	LARGE	SCHOOL
2.....	ALAN HIBLER**	PONCA CITY
3.....	JOSH BERRY	MUSKOGEE
7.....	MARK VANCUREN*	OWASSO
7.....	RUDY GARCIA	UNION
AL ...	CONLEY PHIPPS.....	SAPULPA

5A

REGION	LARGE	SCHOOL
2.....	AARON GEORGE	DURANT
3.....	SCOTT NORRIS	COWETA
6.....	CHRIS ZIKE	MCALISTER
7.....	ROBERT ALLISON**	TULSA MEMORIAL
AL ...	RON ARTHUR*	SHAWNEE

4A

REGION	LARGE	SCHOOL
2.....	MIKE BANFIELD.....	MANNFORD
3.....	CLYDE BARKLEY	INOLA
6.....	TRENT MILLER**	BYNG
7.....	DOUGH WINTERS*	GLENPOOL
AL ...	BUD VALERIUS.....	BLACKWELL

3A

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
2.....	KYLE RICHEY	PRAGUE
3.....	RANDY UPSHAW*	VERDIGRIS
6.....	BURTCHAL GRIFFIN.....	IDABEL
3.....	KYLE GRIFFITHS**	KELLYVILLE
AL ...	DUSTIN GIST.....	SPIRO

2A

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
2.....	SCOTT HOWELL**	TONKAWA
3.....	TRAVIS WHEELER	CHOUTEAU-MAZIE
6.....	MATT BRYANT	LATTA
2.....	DIRK WALDEN*	PRESTON
AL ...	T.W. ESTES.....	QUINTON

A

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
2.....	BOB WECKSTEIN.....	FRONTIER
3.....	GERALD FISHINGHAWK	CAVE SPRINGS
6.....	JON GREGG	MACOMB
6.....	LARRY JOHNSTON**	ROFF
AL ...	DOUG SCOTT*	RIPLEY

B

REGION	SMALL	SCHOOL
2.....	WILLIAM BENCOMA.....	WELEETKA
3.....	VERNIE THOMAS**	WILSON-HENRYETTA
6.....	TREY BOOTH.....	RED OAK
2.....	JON HADLEY*	VARNUM
AL ...	KEVIN FORMAN.....	COPAN

OCA 2016 ALL STATE Boys BASKETBALL FINAL SELECTION COMMITTEE

1-4-5-8

Large West

6A	(8)..SHANE COWHERD*	ED. MEMORIAL
6A ...	(8)..RYAN WAGNER	PC NORTH
5A ...	(4)..BRUCE HARRINGTON**	LAWTON EISENHOWER
5A ...	(1)..RUSS GILLMORE.....	GUTHRIE
4A.....	(5)..WES PULLIAM.....	CHICKASHA
4A.....	(4)..LUCIEN BLISS.....	ELK CITY
AL.....	(1)..JARED REESE	KINGFISHER

1-4-5-8

Small West

3A	(1)..BRADY PAGE.....	HENNESSEY
3A ...	(8)..SHAWN SCHENK**	CROSSING CHR
2A ...	(4)..KIRK GRAHAM**	CARNEGIE
2A ...	(5)..DAMON GARNER.....	DIBBLE
A.....	(1)..RAY WEST*	OKARCHIE
A.....	(4)..RICK GORE.....	HYDRO-EAKLY
B.....	(5)..KEVIN MCLENDON	VERDEN
B.....	(1)..TODD KERR.....	FORGAN
AL.....	(8)..ROBERT GREGG	OK CHRISTIAN ACAD

2-3-6-7

Large East

6A	(2)..CONLEY PHIPPS**	SAPULPA
6A ...	(7)..RUDY GARCIA	UNION
5A ...	(6)..CHRIS ZIKE	MCALISTER
5A ...	(7)..ROBERT ALLISON	TULSA MEM.
4A.....	(3)..CLYDE BARKLEY*	INOLA
4A.....	(6)..TRENT MILLER	BYNG
AL.....	(2)..AARON GEORGE	DURANT

2-3-6-7

Small East

3A	(6)..BURTCHAL GRIFFIN	IDABEL
3A ...	(3)..RANDY UPSHAW*	VERDIGRIS
2A ...	(2)..SCOTT HOWELL.....	TONKAWA
2A ...	(2)..DIRK WALDEN	PRESTON
A.....	(2)..BOB WECKSTEIN.....	FRONTIER
A.....	(3)..TRAVIS WHEELER.....	CHOUTEAU-MAZIE
B.....	(6)..TREY BOOTH**	RED OAK
B.....	(6)..LARRY JOHNSTON.....	ROFF
AL.....	(3)..VERNIE THOMAS.....	WILSON-HENRYETTA

Denotes: *Chairman **Vice-Chairman AL = At-Large

ALL STATE BASKETBALL SELECTION PLAN

Boys - Nomination Due Date: March 22, 2016

Girls - Nomination Due Date: March 24, 2016

- Each classification will have a selection committee for the Large Schools (6A, 5A, 4A) and for the Small Schools (3A, 2A, A, B). The Large School committees will have five (5) members, one (1) from each of the three classifications representing each region of the state and two (2) At-Large. The Small School committees will have five members, one (1) from each of the four classifications representing each region of the state and one (1) At-Large.
- The Class Selection Committees will be appointed by the Oklahoma Coaches Association Staff upon receiving recommendations from the Oklahoma Boys Basketball Coaches Association and the Oklahoma Girls Basketball Coaches Association. The Final Selection Committees will be chosen by the OCA Staff.
- A nomination form will be sent to each head basketball coach who is member of the Oklahoma Coaches Association. Copies may be made as needed.
- Player nominations must be made and signed by his/her coach. Send the original nomination form to the OCA office. You must mail or fax the nomination form for your athlete to be considered for All State. Please do not fax the picture!
- Boys' nomination forms must be received in the OCA office on or before March 24, 2015. Girls' nomination forms must be received in the OCA office on or before March 26, 2015.
- Each Large school class committee will select a twelve (12) member All Class team. Each Small school class committee will select twelve (12) member All Class team. Players shall be listed in order of preference.
- Selections are not picked by position. Select the best players.
- Nominees from any one school will be limited to three (3). A school could have three (3) on the All Star by Class team.
- The East Large and Small Boys region selection committees will meet the morning of March 31, 2015 with the final selection committee meeting that same afternoon. The West Large and Small Boys region selection committees will meet the morning of April 1, 2015 with the final selection committee meeting that same afternoon.
- The East Large and Small Girls region selection committees will meet the morning of April 8, 2015 with the final selection committee meeting that same afternoon. The West Large and Small Girls region selection committees will meet the morning of April 9, 2015 with the final selection committee meeting that same afternoon.
- Each class will be represented by at least one (1) player in the All State Game. This will be the player who comes out of the class selection committee ranked number one. In case of a tie for class player of the year, the Final selection committee will break the tie.
- The Large school final selection committee will receive thirty-six (36) All Class players from their half of the state. The Small school final committee will receive forty-eight (48) All Class players from their half of the state.
- The final selection committee for the Large class schools will select a ten (10) member All State team – two (2) players from each class and four (4) At-Large players. The final selection committee for the Small class schools will select a ten (10) member All State team – one (1) player from each class and six (6) At-Large players.
- The final selection committees will select a ten (10) member honorable mention list and rank them 1-10. These alternates must be selected in order of ranking to replace a player who is unable to participate in the All State Game.
- The final selection committees will be composed of five (5) representatives for the Large schools and five (5) representatives for the Small schools. The Large School committee will have one (1) member from each class and two (2) At-Large representatives. The Small school committee will have one (1) member from each class and one (1) At-Large. Each region will be represented on the final selection committee.
- When a member of the selection committee has a player under consideration by the committee, that coach will step out of the meeting at that time.
- All State selections will be released from the OCA office.

Mail nomination form with a labeled photo to:

Oklahoma Coaches Association

8080 Crystal Park Ave.

Oklahoma City, OK 73139

Fax nominations to (405) 635-9325

Do not fax the photo.

Selection committee members are not exempt from the due date. Please mail or fax all nominations to the OCA office.

Nominations brought in the day of the selection meeting will be subject to a late fee of \$25.00 per nomination form.

PHOTOS: Please label your athlete's photo. Pictures should be appropriate for the All State program and will not be returned. If you lack a photo, you may send in a labeled picture as soon as one is available.

Boys' Due Date: March 22, 2016

Girls' Due Date: March 24, 2016

Byng Coach Alan Simpson Had Two Careers In One

By Terrell Lester

Alan Simpson pulled off quite a coaching hat trick before retiring in the spring of 2015. He won state championships in two sports. That alone might enable Simpson to breathe in some rarefied air. But before finishing off a 42-year coaching career, he did something precious few – if any – ever have done. He succeeded his wife as a head coach.

Some coaches might succeed a father. Some coaches might succeed a mentor. Alan Simpson succeeded Mrs. Alan Simpson as coach of the Byng High School tennis teams. Boys squad and girls squad.

Simpson then proceeded to guide both tennis teams to unprecedented heights over a 34-year run. It was his second successful coaching assignment. Both came at Byng. He was in charge of boys basketball at Byng for 21 seasons (1981-2001). He took seven teams to state and won Class 3A championships in 1986 and 1992. Adding in three years as head coach at his alma mater, Hugo (1977-80), Simpson compiled a record of 476-198.

As Simpson recalls, when he and



Alan Simpson

his wife, Kim, arrived at Byng in 1981, she took the tennis reins and he handled the boys basketball program. But by the second year, he said, Kim wished to stay at home and help start a family.

Alan Simpson became head coach of the two sports. “She was a tremendous help to me,” Simpson said. “She was an accomplished tennis player in college, in Texas, and her father was a tournament player. “I really learned the ropes through her family,” Simpson said.

“I studied the game a lot. I became a pupil. If I was going to do something, I wanted to do a good job. I wanted to be the best that I could be at doing it.” Being around Kim, however, was not Alan Simpson’s introduction to tennis. That came earlier while he was a teenage athlete at Hugo.

Walter Leonard mentored him. Played tournament doubles with him. At the same time, Simpson was coming under the influence of another mentor, basketball coach Don Overton. “He had a lasting influence on me,” Simpson said. “I learned how to compete (from Overton). “He was a man. He was tough. A tough man. A brawler, really. He inspired me and believed in me as a player. I believed in him as a coach. “I

saw how he competed. It inspired me to be that way. And I always wanted to please him.”

Following graduation from Hugo in 1967, Simpson moved on to Murray State College and played basketball for Gene Robbins. “I owe him a lot,” Simpson said. Simpson played one year at East Texas State University before completing his degree at Southeastern Oklahoma State.

Robbins was instrumental in Simpson landing his first coaching job, in 1973, at Denton, Texas. There, Simpson picked up even more basketball knowledge from a wellspring: Jack Howell. “I was blessed to have learned under him” for four years, Simpson said.

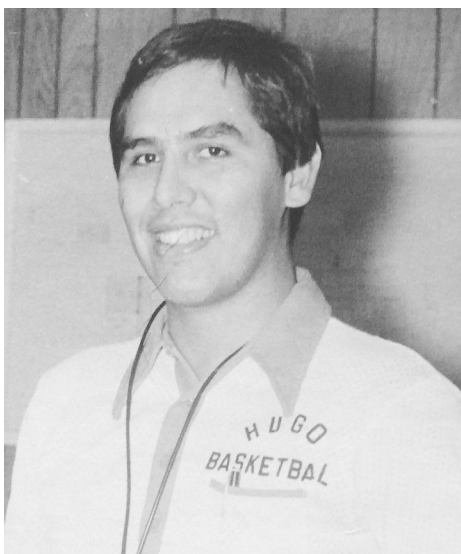
Armed with the teachings of Howell, Robbins and Overton, Simpson returned home to begin his head-coaching career at Hugo in 1977. Three years later, he was headed to Pontotoc County and a school that would forever change his life.

Over the next 35 years, Simpson would carve out a career that would carry him into the halls of fame of the Oklahoma Coaches Association and the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association. “It’s been a wonderful experience,” Simpson said of coaching journey. “I wouldn’t change a thing.” He coached the Byng basketball boys for 21 seasons before stepping aside in 2001. “Winning didn’t mean much, and the losing just killed me,” he said.

“My last two years, we were 23-6 and 24-4. That’s not real bad. “But when you can’t forgive yourself because you didn’t go to the state tournament, it just got to where I was just really miserable. I couldn’t forgive myself.” He walked away from basketball. Turned all of his focus on tennis. For another 14 years. “I was so thankful that I was able to have tennis to fall back on,” he said.



Kim and Alan Simpson



Young, 27 year-old first-year head boys basketball coach at Hugo. Coached Hugo to it's first-ever trip to the state basketball tournament.

"Something that I enjoyed. "I felt like we did a lot of good for a lot of kids. "Tennis is a different sport. It's referred to as a minor sport by lots of people. It was never a minor sport to me. It was never a minor sport to my players. "Tennis kids are different. You've

got to push different buttons when you coach tennis." Simpson located those right buttons.

Instructing youngsters beginning with rackets from Wal-Mart, Simpson compiled an enviable resume, with a consistent Top 5 program. His boys teams were Class 4A state runners-up in 2012 and 2013. They moved up the ladder in 2014 and 2015, winning state championships.

His girls teams posted runner-up finishes in 2014 and 2015. Three times his squads emerged as academic state champions. And his wife, Kim, continued to keep track of the two programs, often making suggestions and offering helpful hints. Simpson never failed to listen. "My pride did not get in the way," he said. "She gave me some very good insightful things the last two or three years, as far as tennis goes," he said. "She's got a good eye for tennis."

Still, in the spring of 2015, the 66-year-old Simpson decided it was time to leave his coaching days behind him. "I just felt like it was time," he said. "Ecclesiastes 3 talks about a



Simpson coaching Lady Pirate, Ashlyn Wisbauer

time and place for everything. That just started slowly sinking in to me. "It's time to turn it over to a younger guy." "The Lord has blessed me immeasurably every day," he said.

Simpson paused for a moment. As if giving one last glance at his resume, he turned his head and smiled. "I only hope what I've given to athletics is comparable to what it has bestowed upon me."

(Terrell Lester is a retired newspaperman who lives in Claremore.)



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Deaf Cheerleader First OSD Student To Make All-State Team

Oklahoma School for the Deaf senior Keith Montrell Adams from Tulsa is the first OSD student ever selected to Oklahoma's All State Cheerleading Team.

Oklahoma Coaches Association Executive Director Milt Bassett confirmed Adams' groundbreaking accomplishment. "We were tickled when we saw Montrell Adams was selected," Bassett said. "The Oklahoma Coaches Association stands for athletics, and this just goes to show that anybody who is a top athlete can achieve something great, regardless of their disability."

The School for the Deaf is a division of the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services.

OSD head cheerleading Coach and high school special needs teacher Karlie Campbell asked Adams, age 18, to try out for the team. He successfully competed in cheer, jumps and tumbling categories against 38 cheerleaders at the regional selection competition in Washington, Oklahoma on October 27.

Adams then progressed to All State selection try-outs for the west squad in Jenks on November 11. Sixty-four cheerleaders tried out in Jenks for the east and west squads. Adams was among the 16 competitors selected for the All State Cheerleading Team. "Everything was an individual competition – the opportunity was the same," Adams explained. "The first one was cheer. They give you the words. You make up your own cheer. After that everybody took their turn. "The second was jump competition. You have to do specific jumps. "The third was tumbling -- standing tuck, back handsprings and running tumbling and with a back tuck connected.

"I was shocked -- it was amazing,"



Oklahoma School for the Deaf senior Keith Montrell Adams from Tulsa is believed to be the first deaf student ever named to the Oklahoma Coaches Association's All-State Cheerleading Team.

he said. "I was able to show everybody that a deaf person can do it. The hearing people were all watching. The communication was there. It was a real feeling of unity."

In addition to cheer squad, Adam plays basketball and runs track at OSD. He was the football team manager and is a student ambassador, a member of National Honor Society and a leader in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

As a participant in Leadership Murray County, he joins other students with the qualities and the potential to become leaders from schools in Davis & Murray counties. Adams transferred to OSD from his local school in Tulsa

four and a half years ago.

"It is a huge difference," he said. "With public school, I wasn't involved hardly at all. There were opportunities, but they were limited -- just too many people. "Here at OSD, I feel a strong connection like family. Everybody signs. It's so positive. These are experiences I will carry into my future. Here there are no limits, no barriers, so I can be involved in whatever I want to. Whether you excel or not, you still have the opportunity, and everybody helps you here and works with you."

Coach Campbell is proud of her star cheerleader and student leader. "Montrell has worked really hard," she said. "He started not being able to do some of the tumbling, jumping and cheer routines, but I knew he was capable of doing it because he was willing to put in the time and effort."

Assistant coach and speech language pathologist Jennifer Power added, "We wanted him to be scored just like everybody else, so Montrell had to overcome his fear to voice in front of a crowd when he doesn't always do that. "We wanted him to make it because he's a great cheerleader. He got out there just like everybody else."

Adams, his coaches and fans are looking forward to the All State competitions July 24-29. All the games will take place in the Tulsa area. Students selected for all state in any sport will practice together in a week-long camp before the east and west teams compete.

Adams will perform with the cheerleading team during the All State football, and girls and boys basketball games. "I feel strongly with hard practice that more deaf students can make All State teams," he said. "Everybody has a chance."

Oklahoma Coaches 2016 All State Volleyball

LARGE EAST

5A Lexi Gogets	Bishop Kelley	Jerri Berna
6A Megan Patillo	Bixby	Kari Smith
6A Sarah Bateman	Tulsa BT Washington	Shelby Swanson
6A Taylan Nero	Tulsa BT Washington	Shelby Swanson
5A Deanna Scheffler	Tulsa Edison	Siera Williams
6A Anabella Pope	Jenks	Tanna Smith
6A Claire Farmer	Muskogee	John Hammer
5A Amanda Milnick	Tahlequah	Don Ogden
6A Bre Atay	Union	Chadd McKee
5A Sierra Holmes	Victory Christian	Dan Donohue

LARGE WEST

6A Samantha Bradley	Edmond Memorial	Natalie Murray
5A Elizabeth Cloe	Bishop McGuinness	Teddi Roy
6A Kaitlyn Dillon	Edmond Santa Fe	Will Ethridge
6A Samantha Ethridge	Edmond Santa Fe	Will Ethridge
6A Hannah Rose Frohling	Edmond North	Kimo Aweau
6A Mary Kate Gatewood	Edmond North	Kimo Aweau
5A Skylar Hamlett	Heritage Hall	Dana Schwab
5A Christina Leija	OKC Southeast	C.L. Lowe
5A Paige Miles	Heritage Hall	Dana Schwab
6A Morgan Turner	Deer Creek	Lisa Polcovich

SMALL EAST

4A Hannah Ennis	Lincoln Christian	Zac Briscoe
3A Serena Nicholls	Rejoice Christian	Wally Poplin
3A Summer Milligan	Okay	Belinda Clark
3A Kati Starks	Oklahoma Union	Chrissy Ott
4A Yesenia Velazquez	Catoosa	Carolyn Replogle
4A Becca Gleason	Lincoln Christian	Zac Briscoe
3A Avery Jones	Rejoice Christian	Wally Poplin
4A Lynsey Moniz	Claremore Sequoyah	Jeff Harrison
3A Cassi Barry	Salina	Mark Fraley
4A Cammie Copeland	Tahlequah Sequoyah	Jay Herrin

SMALL WEST

3A Braedyn Rackley	Union City	Daniel Anderson
3A Nicole Middleton	Chisholm	Megan Middleton
3A Marissa Graf	Corn Bible Academy	Erin Basinger
3A Berkley Leeper	Community Christian	Stephanie Myrick
4A Payton Olive	Christian Heritage	Heath Kufahl
4A Abigail Corff	Christian Heritage	Heath Kufahl
4A Ashley Atwood	Oklahoma Bible Academy	Katelyn Ruby
4A Laney Davidson	Oklahoma Christian School	Mark Herrin
4A Amber Hoover	Cache	Kenny White
4A Kendra Kroeke	Oklahoma Bible Academy	Katelyn Ruby

Coach Pat O'Neal Forged A Colorful, Fulfilling Career

By Terrell Lester

Pat O'Neal has rubbed shoulders with some of football's greatest coaches and personalities. Considering his own personality, his own record, it would be just as equitable to say that some of football's greatest coaches and personalities have rubbed shoulders with Pat O'Neal.

He played for two iconic coaches. He coached at two of college football's citadels. He became the winningest football coach at the state university in his hometown.

His name is synonymous with success, interchangeable with integrity. He is plain-spoken and knowledgeable, candid and straight-forward. He is respected and revered. He has been feted and celebrated.

A quarter-century removed from his final game as a coach, he was recognized last summer with the Merv Johnson Integrity in Coaching Award from the Oklahoma chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame.

First presented in 2003 and bearing the name of longtime University of Oklahoma coach Merv Johnson, the award annually identifies a coach best representing the highest standard of truth, honor, veracity and uprightness, according to the organization.

At the age of 82, Pat O'Neal continues to turn heads, continues to command a place of honor in his profession, continues to hold estimable sway among his peers. Energetic and cogent, O'Neal splits his time evenly between his hometown of Ada and his retreat on Lake Texoma. "For a man who doesn't have anything to do, I'm the busiest guy in the world," the four-year widower said recently during a conversation in Oklahoma City.

He touched on a broad array of subjects, ranging from his days as a prep quarterback under Elvan George



Pat O'Neal is honored at halftime of the 2009 ECU home football game shortly after the new Pat O'Neal Strength and Conditioning Center was opened on campus.

at Ada to his tenure at the University of Oklahoma during the halcyon days of Bud Wilkinson. With a voice graveled by age and tinged with a flavor of saltiness, O'Neal is a mesmerizing storyteller.

O'Neal spent 12 years as George's top aide at East Central University, and readily recalls the bus rides, the daily practice routines, the clinics attended, the wins and the losses. Playing quarterback under Wilkinson from 1951 through 1954, and alongside a roster of OU greats, O'Neal added pages and chapters to his own book of life.

In the immediate years following his graduation from OU, O'Neal worked two seasons as a graduate assistant to Wilkinson and two more in the same role at West Point Military Academy where Earl "Red" Blaik, more often identified as Col. Blaik, was overseeing a football dynasty rivaled only

by Wilkinson and OU. In 1959, with his internship indemnified and validated, O'Neal returned to his hometown to join his high-school coach in his first season at East Central. O'Neal had already been atop the Mount Olympus of college football, had already forged a lifetime of memories during stops at West Point and the University of Oklahoma. And now he was headed to East Central State College (it would not become East Central State University until 1974). Why? "Because it was my hometown," he said, matter-of-factly. The relationship with East Central would endure for 30 years, the only full-time employer O'Neal would ever know.

George had surprised many, including O'Neal, by leaving Ada High for East Central in 1959. "East Central was the whipping boy of the world," O'Neal said. "Elvan was a graduate of East Central and it was an embarrassment



O'Neal posing with four of his players in the early to mid 1980s.

to him." It did not take long for George to begin the transformation. "He won eight games in his first season," O'Neal said. "They hadn't won eight games in 10 seasons."

O'Neal and George were kindred spirits. They were linked by football, bound by hometown and family ties. O'Neal and his two younger brothers, Jay and Benton, played for George, starred for George. Pat O'Neal was like a son to Elvan George. They spent endless hours talking football and life. "Every subject in the world," O'Neal said. George displayed a dry sense of humor. So, too, does O'Neal. George kept a written journal of football X's and O's. O'Neal kept football knowledge filed in his brain.

George was the son of an itinerant preacher. O'Neal is the son of jeweler who operated a string of stores in the state.

When George stepped aside as head coach at East Central after the 1971 season, he recommended the 39-year-old O'Neal as his successor. The move was reminiscent of the transition eight years earlier when Wilkinson resigned and recommended that OU elevate longtime assistant Gomer Jones. O'Neal said that he was content in his position of assistant to George.

O'Neal handled the defense. George handled the offense. Leland Newton, who had followed George from Ada High, coached the special teams. "I had a good job," O'Neal said. "I just

enjoyed what I was doing."

Although the head-coaching position was not foremost in O'Neal's career vision, he was ready to make the transition after 12 years under George. It must have been a big day for O'Neal once the nameplate on his desk read "head coach."

"Well, I guess it was, but I think more than anything else, I felt a helluva responsibility all of sudden," he said. "Now, you're in charge of a whole lot of things." He went on to ring up 96 victories, more than even George could accumulate, and established himself as the winningest coach at East Central. "I never did have any of this national championship thing, even though it was always in the back of your mind," he said. "The only thing you knew you could win before you started was the conference. You had complete control of that. "That business of getting into the national playoffs requires you were voted in. Sure, you had to win, but you had to be voted in."

O'Neal guided the Tigers year after year until 1989, when he unexpectedly resigned at the age of 58. Eligibility problems surrounding a single player forced East Central to forfeit a couple of games. "I just decided I couldn't deal with this," O'Neal said, adding that he submitted his letter of resignation midway of the season. "Coach Wilkinson always said there are not many old coaches. "He said what usually happens is a guy retires and the minute he retires, he dies. That scared me right there."

O'Neal need not have feared. In good health at 58, still at 82, Pat O'Neal has thrived in retirement. "I don't play (golf) as much as I used to," he said. "I got to where I can't hit it out of my shadow. I mostly play in scrambles now.

"Fishing? I got to where I found fishing too hard a work. I used to work at it real hard. I just go down to the slip now and fish for crappie. "I do exercise some. Walk. I don't really do any exercises, as such. "I eat three meals a day. "And I sleep at night, too."

Pat O'Neal's observations of many who crossed his path.

Bud Wilkinson - Head Coach, Oklahoma, 1947-63. O'Neal referred to Wilkinson as a "God-type person." "Bud Wilkinson was the most intelligent man I ever knew. "He spoke elegantly. He had perfect command of the English language. "He didn't talk down to (his players), but he covered subjects that I sometimes thought, 'how does he know that?' I thought the man was a psychic or something."

Gomer Jones - Offensive Line Coach, Oklahoma, 1947-63; Head Coach, Oklahoma, 1964-65 - "(Gomer Jones) was that average, everyday ol' boy that you could go talk to any time. A beautiful person. A wonderful person. Down-to-earth. Truly knowledgeable." Wilkinson, of course, led all staff meetings. "If for some reason, he had a question, he would ask Gomer. All the rest of the coaches, he didn't ask anything. He relied on Gomer." "I thought Elvan George and Gomer Jones were the two best offensive line coaches I ever saw



O'Neal giving instructions to All-American quarterback and future College Football Hall of Famer, Brad Calip.

in my life.”

Elvan George - Head Coach, Coalgate High, 1935-36; Head Coach, Ada High, 1940-58; Head Coach, East Central University, 1959-71.

O’Neal played for George at Ada, then served 12 years as an assistant at East Central. O’Neal succeeded George as head coach at East Central in 1972.

“Coach George was the most patient man I have ever known in my life. “He never raised his voice. He never was domineering. He spoke very mildly. He was highly intelligent. “He had a great, dry sense of humor. “He studied football diligently. A student of the game. “He studied everything he could in regard to what Bud Wilkinson did. “He always rode on the back seat of the team bus. He thought coaches ought to sit in the back of the bus. That’s where I was required to sit. “We’d sit and talk by the hour. He would talk about every conceivable subject you can imagine.”

Port Robertson - Head Wrestling Coach (1947-59, 1962), Freshman Football Coach, Academic Enforcer, Oklahoma, 1947-85. “The greatest man I ever knew. “I thought he was the meanest man I ever knew. But as time went by, I found out that he wasn’t mean, he was, just, what he said, he meant. I don’t care how ridiculous it might have been, he wasn’t joking. “He never said anything vulgar. He never raised his voice, nor used bad grammar. He just emphatically said, “this is what we (will do).”

In 1951, Robertson coached the freshmen class that included O’Neal. Freshmen were eligible at the time, but few saw substantial game action. In huddles, Robertson told his rookies in no uncertain terms that they would be required to run 100-yard sprints should they allow the varsity to make a first down.

As O’Neal digested those words, he watched as Robertson went into the varsity huddle and made a similar declaration. Fail to register a first down against those rookies, the veterans would be running 100-yard sprints.

The varsity, O’Neal recalled, included such OU legends as Billy Ves-

sels, Eddie Crowder, Buck McPhail, Jim Weatherall. Robertson, O’Neal said, “was something else.”

Earl “Red” Blaik - Head Football Coach, West Point Military Academy, 1948-59. Nicknamed “Colonel” by his players, Blaik was known for being a stern and disciplined coach. “He was extremely distant,” O’Neal said. “He did not really mingle that well, but he had a good rapport with the players. “It was his personal style.” There was no doubt, O’Neal said, that “(Blaik) was in complete charge.” “He was just unique.

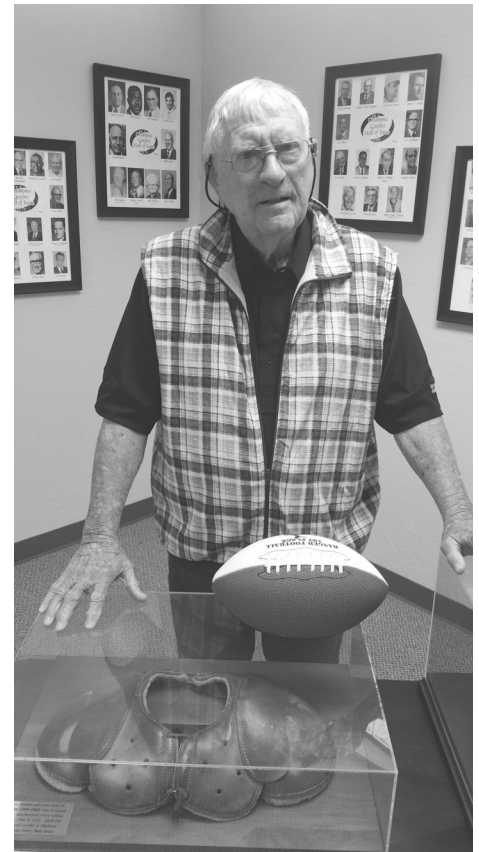
“He called me every once in a while (to his office) during (Oklahoma’s) 47-game winning streak. To talk. He was quite taken by that.” “He had been in the business a long time and had been very successful. His reputation had been made during World War II. And his record (121-32-10 with three consecutive national championships and a 32-game string) speaks for itself.”

Brad Calip - Hobart High School; East Central University, 1981-84.

His career at East Central led him to the College Football Hall of Fame in 2003, the first non-Division player from Oklahoma to be inducted. “If you were to ask me who the best athlete that I ever was around, it’s Brad Calip. “I’ve never known anybody like him. He was a freak. He was unbelievable.” O’Neal said that film of Calip’s playing days, “Was, oh, my God, the prettiest stuff you ever saw in your life.

“If you were able to put the ball in somebody’s hands – he was the quarterback, he took every snap – you couldn’t have had a better situation if you tried. “You’d have had to seen it. It was like a man playing with kids. His quickness. His lateral adjustment. His balance. A burst of speed. “I’m telling you, every time I’d watch him play, it would scare me to death to think one day I wouldn’t have this guy.”

Leland Newton - Assistant Coach, Ada High, East Central University. Newton served under Elvan George at Ada for nearly two decades, then followed him to East Central where he continued to work during O’Neal’s tenure. Now in his 90s, Newton lives



Coach Pat O’Neal

in the Oklahoma City area. “He was invaluable,” O’Neal said. “He was one of those people that took care of nearly all of the things that had to be done. He knew what needed to be done in regard to everything relating to equipment, laundry, preparation, athletic training, taping ankles, wrapping knees. “He did everything. And he did all the utility-type work as far as a coach is concerned. “His contributions, you don’t really see them, but they have to be done.”

At Ada, Newton was a shop teacher. At East Central, he was in industrial arts teacher. “He had so many different titles it’s hard to describe all of them.”

Billy Vessels - Cleveland (Okla.) High School; University of Oklahoma. “He was phenomenal. One of the nicest guys,” O’Neal said. “For some reason, he took up with me. His dorm room was right across the hall from mine.

Vessels won the Heisman Trophy in 1952. “No one even knew what the damn thing was then,” O’Neal said. “He used the Heisman Trophy for a paper weight.”

(Terrell Lester is a retired newspaperman who lives in Claremore).

PREP PARADE

by **Terrell Lester**

Just weeks after the curtain came down on the football season, **Jody Iams** resigned as head coach at Class 3A Claremore Sequoyah. "It was the hardest thing I've ever had to do," the 52-year-old Iams said. "It was emotional. I felt like I was quitting on (his players). How many times have I said to them, 'Don't quit on me.'"

Iams has spent the last 21 years at the independent school district outside Claremore; 17 as head coach. After serving five seasons on the staff of mentor August Deets at Newcastle, Iams moved to Sequoyah and spent four years under Rex Trent.

Iams played for Deets, inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2006, at Apache. "He made me want to be a football coach," Iams said. With Deets, Iams was a member of Newcastle's 1992 Class 3A state championship squad. Iams led unbeaten Sequoyah to the 3A title in 2006 and to a runner-up finish in 2008.

As head coach, Iams rang up a record of 120-74, running the wing-T and reaching the playoffs 15 times in his 17 seasons.

He resigned at a still-young age, but does not expect to leave coaching. He does, instead, expect to leave Oklahoma.

Citing financial considerations, Iams said that he will explore coaching opportunities in nearby states.

It is no secret that coaches retiring in Oklahoma can realize monetary gains in similar positions just by crossing a state line.



Jody Iams

"I have an opportunity now that I've never had before," Iams said.

He is more interested in returning to the ranks of assistant coach rather than resuming the responsibilities of head coach.

"I want to get back to the basics of teaching," he said. "I want to stop worrying about when the bus is leaving, and just get kids ready to play a ballgame."

Iams enjoys a reputation built on old-school traits such as hard work, dedication, loyalty, commitment.

"I just quit a great job," Iams said. "There is an atmosphere for success here."

"I just hope I can find another good job."

Those who have spent time with Iams over the years don't expect any problems there.

Sequoyah Athletics Director Steve Cooper said: "He is going to be missed."

Oklahoma City area teams took away top honors in the 51st basketball Tournament of Champions staged during the holidays in Tulsa's Mabee Center. And underclassmen led the way in both boys and girls brackets.

Ana Llanusa, 5-11 junior, led Class 6A No. 6 Choctaw to a 58-37 victory over 6A No. 2 Muskogee in the girls finals. She was selected Most Valuable Player, compiling 48 points, 16 rebounds, 9 assists, 6 steals. She was the first junior to be honored

since 2010.

Sophomore Keyshawn Embery set the pace for Class 6A No. 3 Midwest City as the Bombers subdued 4A No. 2 Harrah, 57-52, for the boys title. The 6-3 Embery earned the MVP salute, leading all scorers with 74 points, adding 22 rebounds, 7 assists, 11 steals.

He was the first sophomore MVP since 2010 and the first sophomore leading scorer since 2005.

The tournament Hall of Fame inducted Leslie Brumley, who carried Class B Bluejacket into the 1999 and 2000 girls Oklahoma's Best tournaments, and Shea Seals, the only MVP player (Tulsa McLain, 1992) and winning coach (Tulsa Washington, 2010) in tournament history. Gary "Doc" Blevins,

T of C public address announcer for 28 years, also was honored. ...

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During November's Homecoming weekend, St. Gregory's University recognized Coach **Don Sumner** and his wife, Jenetta Sumner, by renaming the field house in their honor and unveiling a new sign for the athletic facility.

Don and Jenetta, married 56 years, have dedicated 75 years of combined service to St. Gregory's.

Don Sumner spent more than four decades at St. Gregory's, serving as instructor, coach and director of athletics. He is a member of the St. Gregory's athletics Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame and the Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame. ...

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Tulsa Public Schools inducted 11 members into its athletics Hall of Fame during January ceremonies.

Honorees were:

Mike Bolton, McLain coach; **Anthony Bowie**, East Central, 1982; **Richard Calmus**, Webster, 1962; **James Furch**, Washington coach, administrator; **Bruce Humphrey**, Hale, 1975; **Kathy Kraft West**, Edison, 1971; **Brandon Loyd**, Memorial, 1995; **John Starks**, Central, 1983, and **John Ward**, Rogers, 1966. Also, **Ernie Jones** (Webster, Washington coach) and **Gil Cloud** (Rogers, 1964, and TPS Director of Athletics) were honored as TPS Legends.

They comprised the fourth class of TPS honorees and bring the total of Hall of Fame members to 51. As has been the case each year, all nine TPS high schools were represented. ...

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Casey Stelzer is in his first year as swimming coach at Owasso. He has promised to "turn some heads" with his program.

"So many coaches coach to the

group," Stelzer told the Tulsa World. "Swimming is an individual event. I work with kids one-on-one to fix issues. Individually, the kids are doing phenomenal." ...

* * * * *

Sand Springs junior **Cheyenne Walden** is running toward stardom.

For the third consecutive year, he has been named the Gatorade Oklahoma Girls Cross Country Runner of the Year.

She has won Class 6A state championships in each of her first three years in high school.

In the last state meet, in October, Walden was clocked in a time of 17:57.9, almost a full minute ahead of the runner-up.

The award recognizes athletic excellence, of course, in addition to academic achievement and exemplary character. She carries a 3.50 GPA and volunteers with local efforts. ...

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While Walden was winning a third straight Gatorade award, Locust Grove's **Mason Fine** received his second Gatorade Oklahoma Football Player of the Year salute. He also was selected Wendy's Oklahoma High School Heisman award.

Fine, the state's first two-time Gatorade winner, broke all state football passing records.

Over four seasons, he completed 65.6 percent of his passes for 13,086 yards with only 27 interceptions. Included were 166 passing touchdowns.

As a junior, he set state records with 5,006 passing yards and 71 touchdowns. ...

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Richard Eddy, a state championship football coach at Tulsa Memorial, died in January at the age of 86. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1989.

A native of Warner, Eddy earned

All-State honors at Checotah in 1947.

He played football at the University of Tulsa for two years before joining the Navy. In the Korean War, he served on three submarines while also playing two seasons on a Navy service football team.

Coaching stops that led to Memorial were at Warner, Vinita and Broken Arrow. He spent seven years as a Memorial assistant before landing the top job in 1977. He guided Memorial to the Class 4A (the largest classification at that time) championship in 1980.

He coached in the Oil Bowl in 1983, and retired two years later.

* * * * *

Cyril and Maysville will long be remembered for their instant classic football game in October. Seven overtimes. Four hours.

Cyril finally emerged with a 78-72 win, a state record for longevity.

The game should top a lot of lists for most memorable, maybe most unlikely, decisions of the football season.

Cyril's Koval Willhoite recovered a Maysville fumbled on the first possession of the seventh overtime, then QB Josh Garza scored on Cyril's first play. Garza scored five of Cyril's six touchdowns in the extra periods.

The Tulsa World noted that Hennessey defeated Fairview, 22-19, in seven overtimes in 1979. The paper said that the game was scoreless at the end of regulation. ...

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Sure, seven overtimes would qualify as a marathon game. But how about **Rejoice Christian** of Owasso and **Afton** in mid-October?

The game at Afton was halted at halftime because of stormy weather. Rejoice led, 45-36, when play was suspended on Thursday night.

Play was resumed on Monday night, some 95 hours later.

Rejoice held on to its lead and won, 59-52.

Clester Harrington Still Talking A Good Game

By Terrell Lester

There was a time when Clester Harrington was feared for his coaching skills. Today, some two decades after his retirement, Clester Harrington is beloved for his colloquial skills.

Once a wizard directing in-your-face pressure defenses on the basketball court, now he is a sorcerer directing smile-on-your-face conversations while holding court. He is a survivor of 40 seasons on the bench, and his much-anticipated parleys with peers these days reflect all of that and more. The highs, the lows, the in-betweens. He coached at small schools, schools now shuttered, schools that rank among the largest in the state.

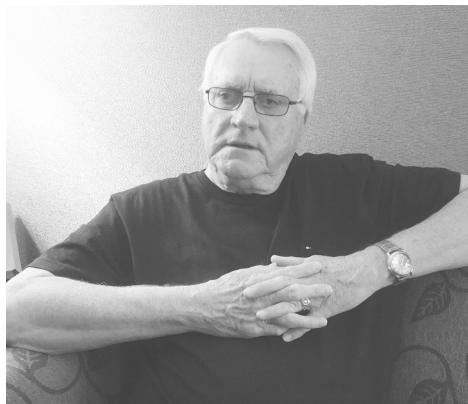
His success has earned him statewide recognition as a trend-setter and a game-changer. He is a charter member of the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

During his 30 years at Altus, he developed an invitational tournament that now bears his name. He is respected and admired by those he competed against.

At the time of his retirement, in 1998, The Oklahoman singled him out as a “coaching legend.” He might have felt uncomfortable being fitted with such a mantle at the age of 63. But today, as a freshly minted octogenarian, Clester Harrington is the personification of honor and legend. Another generation of coaches seeks his counsel. Coaches of all ages want to share in his knowledge, his wisdom, his experiences. He has the air, the presence of elder statesman. A gentleman of the gym.

The path that led to this exalted position began in McAlester, where he played for a legend from another time, Hall of Famer Bob Brumley. Harrington was, in fact, Brumley’s first All-Stater, in 1954.

The 6-foot-4 Harrington was recruited by the likes of University of Oklahoma Coach Bruce Drake and Oklahoma City University Coach Abe Lemons, but he chose, instead, to accept the scholarship offer of University of Tulsa Coach Clarence Iba. “Things were dif-



Clester Harrington

ferent in the ‘50s,” Harrington recalled in Edmond recently as he awaited the start of another day of basketball spectating from the stands.

In those days, he said, high school recruits participated in scrimmages with college varsity players in what amounted to tryouts. The recruits hitchhiked to college campuses, and more often than not received monetary reimbursement from college coaches for “travel expenses.” Harrington was a product of a work-a-day environment. “That’s what you did,” he said. “You got out and you went to work.” In high school, he was asked, “Why are you going to school?” “To play ball,” was his straight-to-the point reply. He lacked the sophistication, and the wherewithal, to even give college more than a passing thought. Brumley began to advise him. Presented him options. Opened his eyes. “If it wasn’t for basketball, I’d probably be working out at the Naval Depot (near McAlester), or pumping gas,” Harrington said.

Upon graduation, and bolstered by his All-State honors, Harrington appeared on the radar screens of several college coaches. A visit from Clarence Iba solidified Harrington’s decision. He arrived at a time when TU was enjoying one of its finest runs, joining a team that included All-American Bob Patterson and an assistant coach by the name of Joe Swank.

From Brumley, Harrington had in-

herited a healthy respect for defense that would serve him well under Iba and establish the foundation for his own coaching future. “I really worked on (defense) because I could see what I needed to do to make the ball club (TU) the next year,” he said. “Maybe the reason I worked so hard on defense was because I thought offense would take care of itself.”

Iba was the younger brother of Oklahoma State’s more famous Henry Iba, known far and wide as “Mr. Iba.” Clarence Iba did not command, nor seek, such salutation from his players, Harrington said. “We called him Coach.” Beyond that, though, Harrington said his coach “was a clone of the other one, Mr. Iba.” “You put them in the same room and you probably wouldn’t know who was talking. They talked pretty much alike. They had a lot of the same sayings. And they both stressed defense,” Harrington said.

Clarence Iba recommended Harrington for his first coaching job, during his senior year of 1958. Harrington made his debut at Tulsa’s Marquette High School, then moved to Wetumka after one season. He made another jump a year later, moving up to Edmond Memorial, at a time when the city had but one high school.

He remained at Edmond for seven seasons, building game by game, season by season a reputation as a hard-working, demanding, defensive coach.



Clester coaching against his son, Kevin, at Lawton MacArthur.

The toughness, the unyielding persona that defined Harrington as a coach and as a person might have been responsible for his sidestepping tragedy one summer morning in 1966.

He was preparing for that seventh season at Edmond when he took an automobile ride that would drastically alter his life. Headed for his summer job on the freight docks of an Oklahoma City trucking company, Harrington was in the passenger seat while a friend and fellow coach was driving on a rain-slick thoroughfare. The car hydroplaned, went off the road and struck a telephone pole. The crash, in the days before mandatory seat belts, sent Harrington careening through the windshield. Head first.

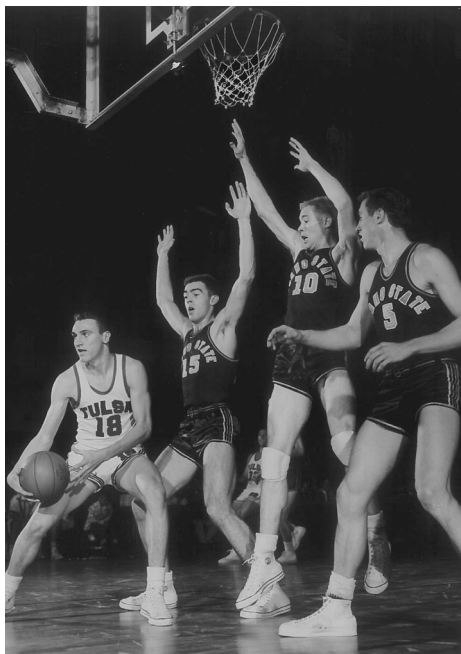
It sounds horrific now. It was even more horrific then. But it could have been worse. Harrington survived, with cuts, bumps and bruises. The damage to his throat, however, was said to be beyond repair. Doctors told Harrington and his wife, Patty, that he would live. But he would never talk again. His vocal chords were shredded.

A series of experiments and surgeries followed. Using muscle tissue from Harrington's vocal chords, doctors reconstructed his voice box. It took weeks for Harrington to learn how to drink and swallow a cup of water.

It was three months before he was able to return to his teaching and coaching. His once powerful voice had been reduced to a whisper. A whisper with a raspy edge. Harrington's voice sounded like he was straining through a case of laryngitis. Or battling a bad cold. It did not keep him from working. "What do you try to do in coaching?" he asked. "You go to war with what you've got. 'I've never been one to feel sorry for myself.'"

His voice has remained at that grainy level for the last 50 years. Despite sounding quite hoarse, Harrington insists that his throat is neither sore nor painful. "In a conversation, it probably bothers you more than it does me," he said. "Now, in a crowd, that's when it bothers me."

When he returned to the history classroom, Harrington was quick to head off any and all doubters. "I would tell students, if I am talking and you can't hear me, you will not embarrass me if you say, 'hey, say that again,' or 'I can't hear you.' I will make a point to come back there (in the classroom) and



Clester Harrington (#18) takes on three players from Tulsa.

get closer. So, don't ever use that as an excuse," he said. "And I didn't have any problems."

There came a story from the final year or two of his coaching days, a story that involved his wife, Patty, coming home from teaching a first-grade class and complaining of having a case of laryngitis. Frustrated, she said to her husband: "I wish I could talk." Clester replied: "Tell me about it."

On the court, he traded his attention-getting booming voice for an equally loud foot stomp to quickly communicate with his players while the clock was running. "I really don't think I had that much trouble (communicating)," he said. For those situations in huddles, he even resorted to the Etch A Sketch drawing toy so popular with tykes.

Like so many coaches, Harrington did his teaching, his instructing, his preparation during practice sessions. "My gym was my classroom," he said. "Even before the accident. 'That's the way I coached. I want everybody's attention. I don't want any, any, disturbance. Not a bunch of rah-rah people. 'That may have come from the Ibas,' he said. 'We teach, we learn. 'You come in and watch practice if you want to, but you keep quiet.'"

There are those occasional moments, though, when Harrington just cannot totally express his emotions. "I miss the release of frustration right now," he said. "I'd give anything to walk out

there and just holler some time."

When Harrington left Edmond, he coached one year at Oklahoma City Harding before it closed its doors. It was 1968, and the Harringtons took their three children to Altus. Clester Harrington has never looked back.

He registered 440 of his career 560 wins at Altus and it was there that he was inducted into five halls of fame, including the Jackson County honor roll and a similar salute from the National High School Athletic Coaches Association.

All three Harrington offsprings, sons Kevin and Bruce and daughter Tracy, went into education and coaching. Kevin is head coach at Lawton MacArthur and Bruce is across town at Eisenhower. Tracy teaches in Texas.

In addition to being a basketball coach, Harrington was a teacher of life. He placed ample emphasis on preparing for adulthood on his own children, as well as the players who came into his basketball program. He stressed the need to prioritize. In school. In life.

His message was simple, direct: "What's important to you?" "Whatever you make important will become important," Harrington said. "School. Family. Basketball. 'If you don't make it important, it won't be.'"

Harrington learned to make those determinations while still in high school. "I never lost that drive to be the best player I could be," he said. "If I was in school, I had to make certain grades to get to play basketball. 'If it hadn't been for this drive (to be a better player), I probably wouldn't have gotten a degree.'"

He worked summers through high school and college. "And, hey, I knew I didn't want to do this all my life," he said. "That was a motivating factor." He took his own motivation and later directed it to succeeding generations. Even without the aid of a "normal" level of communication.

The loss of a larynx did not hold back the teacher in Clester Harrington. "I could die tomorrow and I couldn't gripe," he said. "God's been good." He paused for a moment. "I coached for 40 years," he said. "I didn't pay back what I got out of it." But many people, players and coaches, got plenty from Clester Harrington.

(Terrell Lester is a retired newspaperman who lives in Claremore.)

Oklahoma Coaches Association 2016 All State Football

WEST OFFENSE							
JERSEY #	POS	NAME	SCHOOL	COACH	HT	WT	CLASS
7	QB	TERRY WILSON	DEL CITY	NICK WAREHIME	6'3	198	5A
11	QB	CHANDLER GARRETT	MUSTANG	JEREMY DOMBEK	6'5	215	6A
33	RB	TAVEN BIRDOW	ALTUS	JEREMY REED	6'1	220	5A
22	RB	JEREMY LEWIS	LONE GROVE	JEREMY TURNER	6'2	200	3A
3	RB	GRANT MARTIN	HARRAH	PHIL WEBB	5'9	170	4A
6	RB	QUAN HOGAN	NORMAN NORTH	BRENT BARNES	6'1	220	6A
25	RB	DARRAN WILLIAMS	EDMOND SANTA FE	KYLE WHITE	6'1	180	6A
22	RB	MAURICE WRIGHT	LUTHER	SHAWN MEEK	6'1	200	2A
2	RB	KYLER THORNBURG	ALEX	Matt Brand	5'10	180	8-MAN
26	WR	TEVIN MCDANIEL	HERITAGE HALL	BRETT BOGERT	6'0	215	3A
13	WR	JOSH HAMPTON	CASHION	LYNN SHACKELFORD	6'0	185	1A
55	OL	STEVE YOUMANS	LAWTON	RANDY BREEZE	6'2	272	6A
74	OL	TYLER BROWN	LEXINGTON	JEFF HALL	6'5	325	2A
71	OL	JACE WEBB	HOLLIS	READE BOX	6'5	305	1A
63	OL	JALEN YACKEYONNY	CACHE	JOHN HERBERT	6'3	295	4A
68	OL	T.J. FIAILOA	LAWTON MACARTHUR	BRETT MANNING	6'5	340	5A
71	OL	TRENTON MANNERING	THOMAS	BOB WARD	6'3	255	1A
76	OL	CHANDLER ANTHONY	TUTTLE	BRAD BALLARD	6'7	295	4A
70	OL	TYLER BANTA	CARL ALBERT	GARY ROSE	6'4	286	5A

WEST DEFENSE							
JERSEY #	POS	NAME	SCHOOL	COACH	HT	WT	
10	LB	JaRON PRYOR	GUTHRIE	KELLY BEEBY	6'1	206	A
47	LB	BLAKE LANDON	DEER CREEK	GRANT GOWER	6'2	220	5A
40	LB	JAROD ANDREW	WASHINGTON	BRAD BELLER	6'1	215	2A
5	LB	MICHAEL COATS	EDMOND SANTA FE	KYLE WHITE	6'2	215	6A
49	LB	AUSTIN MALICOTT	WESTMOORE	ADAM GAYLOR	6'0	211	6A
20	LB	BRAXTON BRUCE	SHATTUCK	TYSON BULLARD	6'2	195	8-MAN
87	DL	NOAH JONES	SOUTHMOORE	JEREMY STARK	6'4	260	6A
77	DL	LONELL BURRIS	CHOCTAW	TODD DILBECK	6'4	240	6A
40	DL	DALTON COOPER	TUTTLE	BRAD BALLARD	6'1	215	4A
90	DL	KEEYANTE WOODS	LAWTON	RANDY BREEZE	6'3	328	6A
55	DL	WORENN DAVIS	MIDWEST CITY	DARRELL HALL	6'3	286	6A
57	DL	JAKE CURLESS	CHISHOLM	JOEY REINART	6'0	245	2A
14	DB	JAYDEN BENWAY	ALTUS	JEREMY REED	6'0	178	5A
5	DB	LANE MARTIN	STRATFORD	MICHAEL BLACKBURN	6'0	185	1A
8	DB	BRAEDEN O'DELL	MARLOW	ROB RENSHAW	6'0	170	3A
3	DB	KEVIN RASSATT	WESTERN HEIGHTS	JUSTIN MAYHEW	5'6	165	5A
4	DB	WALTER NEIL	LAWTON MAC	BRETT MANNING	5'10	180	5A
9	DB	COLE PALMER	SULPHUR	JIM DIXON	6'0	190	3A

Oklahoma Coaches Association 2016 All State Football

EAST OFFENSE							
JERSEY #	POS	NAME	SCHOOL	COACH	HT	WT	CLASS
24	K/P	CHAD STEPHENS	REJOICE CHRISTIAN	BRENT MARLEY	6'0	190	1A
77	OL	TY ANDREWS	VIAN	BRANDON TYLER	6'1	270	2A
71	OL	BAILEY PUCKETT	HILLDALE	CHAD KIRKHART	6'4	300	3A
65	OL	GRANT APPELBERG	SKIATOOK	VANCE MILLER	6'3	300	5A
54	C	HUNTER WATKINS	MUSKOGEE	RAFE WATKINS	6'2	235	6A
79	OL	ROWDY FREDERICK	BROKEN ARROW	DAVID ALEXANDER	6'4	325	6A
65	OL	TILLER BUCKTROT	STROUD	CHRIS ELERICK	6'5	350	2A
89	TE	JAKE ROSS	COWETA	JAY WILKINSON	6'5	220	5A
5	TE	QUINT SCOUFOS	SALLISAW	SCOTT BETHEL	6'4	245	4A
21	RB	JUSTICE HILL	TULSA BT WASHINGTON	MARVIN DANTZLER	5'11	190	6A
22	RB	TYLER ADKINS	UNION	KIRK FRIDRICH	5'10	195	6A
25	RB	DAKE REESE	SEMINOLE	MIKE SNYDER	5'8	175	3A
16	WR	CADE CABBINESS	BIXBY	LOREN MONTGOMERY	6'3	205	6A
3	WR	BROCK MARTIN	ADAIR	MARK LIPPE	6'1	190	2A
9	WR	DREW DAN	CHECOTAH	CHAD HENDRICKS	6'3	185	3A
3	WR	A.J. FREETH	WAGONER	DALE CONDUCT	6'2	175	4A
9	QB	MASON FINE	LOCUST GROVE	MATT HENNESY	5'11	170	3A
12	QB	COLIN WATFORD	PRAGUE	SHANNON WATFORD	6'2	215	2A
3	QB	MICAH WILSON	LINCOLN CHRISTIAN	DARREN MELTON	6'3	205	3A

EAST DEFENSE							
JERSEY #	POS	NAME	SCHOOL	COACH	HT	WT	CLASS
87	DE	TRISTON GRANT	OWASSO	BILL PATTERSON	6'4	225	6A
91	DL	GAGE KAISER	BROKEN ARROW	DAVID ALEXANDER	6'1	225	6A
70	DL	TRISTAN EUBANKS	DAVENPORT	JOHN GREENFIELD	5'11	245	8-MAN
65	DL	ALEX CRIDDLE	TULSA EDISON	D.J. HOWELL	6'4	315	5A
44	DE	ROC ROBBINS	COLLINSVILLE	KEVIN JONES	6'1	220	5A
60	DE	K.J. MORRIS	TALAHINA	KELLY GRAVITT	6'4	250	1A
57	DL	WYATT BOWERS	AFTON	ZACH GARDNER	5'10	225	1A
10	DB	A.J. PARKER	BARTLESVILLE	JOHN MCKEE	6'0	175	6A
6	DB	MANUEL BUNCH	ROLAND	JEFF STREUN	6'2	185	3A
6	DB	KYLE MAYBERRY	TULSA BT WASHINGTON	MARVIN DANTZLER	5'11	170	6A
5	DB	JACE WELCH	KEOTA	ERIC HENRY	6'0	200	8-MAN
2	DB	TYLER SKEEN	WAGONER	DALE CONDUCT	6'4	185	4A
12	LB	JACOB TABER	SAND SPRINGS	DUSTIN KINNARD	6'0	215	6A
33	LB	SHILOH WINDSOR	ADA	WADE STANDLEY	6'3	225	4A
44	LB	ISAAC MCWILLIAMS	HILLDALE	CHAD KIRKHART	6'0	215	3A
18	LB	CARTER NELSON	JENKS	ALLAN TRIMBLE	6'1	225	6A
40	LB	JIMMY MCKINNEY	OOLOGAH	Brandon Craig	6'1	225	4A
8	LB	BRYAN MEAD	REJOICE CHRISTIAN	BRENT MARLEY	6'2	230	1A

Oklahoma Coaches Association 2016 East All State Cheerleading Squad

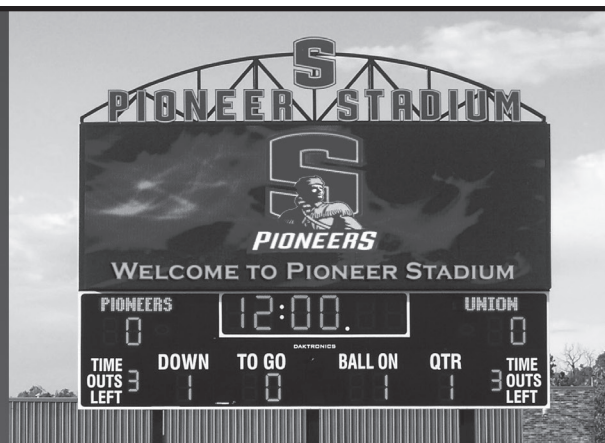
Ashlee Basquez.....	Preston	Becky Beets
Courtney Bergman	Bixby	Sharla Burgess
Hannah Bilbrey	Grove.....	Kelsey Rhine
Josh Blythe	Grove.....	Kelsey Rhine
Taylor Cunningham.....	Owasso	Sarah Kidwell
Michaela Evans	Sallisaw	Robbi Martin
Andra Eve.....	Bixby	Sharla Burgess
Allison George	Tahlequah	Vickie Elliott
Madison Hackett.....	Owasso	Sarah Kidwell
Madison Hague	Blackwell	Annilyn Young
Natalie McClendon	Bristow.....	Tara Mattox
Kendall Perez	Henryetta.....	Tracey Sontag
Caitlyn Sanchez.....	Stillwater	Carolyn Walstad
Kaitlynn Vanmol.....	Stillwater	Carolyn Walstad
Shelbie Walker	McAlester	Danielle Younger
Ellexa Yessen	Jenks.....	Carrie Loeber

2016 West All State Cheerleading Squad

Keith Adams	OK School For The Deaf.....	Karlie Campbell
Abbie-Grace Culwell.....	Community Christian.....	Lavonda Rayburn
Jasmine Exum	Edmond North.....	Erikka Ault
Kami Glenn.....	Moore	Shana Lewis
Margaret Hirsekorn.....	Heritage Hall	Heather Showalter
Caroline Hogan.....	Edmond North.....	Erikka Ault
Saylor Mashburn	Edmond Memorial.....	Julie Oppel
Kennedy Mathis.....	Deer Creek	Andrea Williams-Roe
Allie Morain.....	Community Christian.....	Lavonda Rayburn
Allison Rippy.....	Newcastle	Jill Folsom
Madison Scott.....	Putnam City.....	Beka Chase
Holli Steele	Choctaw	Melissa Coulter
Michaela Stevens	Choctaw	Melissa Coulter
Rylee Watford.....	Tuttle	Carrie McKee
Destiny Wheeler	Newcastle	Jill Folsom
Kennedy Wood	Edmond Memorial.....	Julie Oppel

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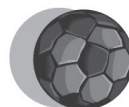
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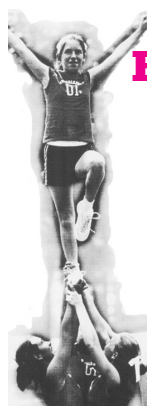
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