

The History of Texas High School Basketball

Volume I

1970-1974

By Mark McKee

**Dedicated to my father,
Raymond McKee
“Thanks for all you gave to your family”**

For more information, go to www.txhighschoolbasketball.com

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Preface

TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL HISTORY

By Mark McKee

Texas High School basketball has been a big part of my life since I was in my early twenties. In over forty years of following basketball closely, I have seen so many changes in the game. I went to the TABC clinic recently in San Antonio, and was awed by the sharp young coaches coming into the profession. My son is one of those young coaches. The lives that he will influence over his days in the classroom and on the basketball court will be enormous. The responsibility of coaches and teachers is sometimes overwhelming, as you try to juggle the dual roles. Also at the clinic, I ran into many of my old friends in the coaching profession that I have admired and respected for so many years. This book is really dedicated to the coaches and players that have made High School basketball great. I have included my opinions on much of the material and listed the results whenever possible. My agenda is simply to inform and communicate the history of basketball as it relates to Texas. Many times, I will try share either my experiences or the thoughts of others, who were part of the game. It has been fun connecting with the players and coaches and reflecting on the past. This book is for the serious basketball fan. Hopefully you will enjoy reliving many of the memorable moments of the games, as it pertains to your life. If it brings to life some of your fondest memories, then my work has been a success. In undertaking this journey, I realized I would have to produce books in volumes. This is Volume I and will cover the decade of the 1970s. The later Volumes will soon follow. Every attempt has been made to validate the accuracy of the material presented.

Acknowledgements

My Passion and love and respect for the game of High School basketball is the reason this book has been possible. The accumulation of articles, books and everything I could get my hands on that related to high school basketball have been incorporated into this book. There are so many players and coaches to thank I can't list them all. Special thanks goes to Rick Penny and Charles Freet for their encouragement and help. Also, the great Bill McMurray of the Houston Chronicle, who was the high school sports editor from 1960 through 1995. He was one of the great historians of the game. Nobody covered high school basketball like McMurray in Houston. Billy Wilbank's is awesome with his attention for detail, as he covered the history of the state basketball tournament on his website. The TABC and Texas Hoops were both very supportive along with Dave Campbell's Texas Basketball.

The evolution of basketball in the state of

Texas has been very slow over the years. In the last 25 years, great strides have been made in the state. Today basketball teams in Texas can compete with any in the nation and Texas is well known as a recruiter's paradise. That was not always the case for the Lone Star State. In 1967, I was a 8th grader in McKinney, Texas, just having the time of my life. I lived across the street from the High School and went to every athletic event possible. I liked all the sports, but was especially drawn to basketball. The close confines and loud active crowds made it an exciting sport to watch for me and my friends. McKinney was a growing community just north of Dallas, and was strong in every sport. It was a great place to grow up and follow your local high school heroes. We had an exceptional group of athletes come through McKinney at the time, and the Lions dominated. The football team went to the state finals and played fourteen games. That meant that the basketball team played until late December without their football players. The basketball coach at the time was Scott Johnson, who doubled as a varsity football assistant coach. McKinney had only two starters who were in the gym prior to the football season ending. The varsity basketball team's record was a dismal 2-8. This was a typical basketball program in the 1960s and 1970s in Texas. Three starters came in from football and the team went, 15-2 the rest of the season and was one game away from the state tournament, losing to Waxahachie(24-9) 66-65. The Lions had one African American player on the team and he was everybody's favorite, because of his leaping ability. I remember vividly his pre-game dunks. Although he didn't start he played a lot. Those were the days of football dominating the Texas sports landscape. Younger readers can't fathom how the air was taken out of the balls the last day basketball season and weren't aired up again until October, the first day of practice. McKinney had two full-time basketball players on the team in 1967. Mike Olson, the starting guard, had just moved in from Iowa. Although he could have started on the varsity as a junior, he was forced to play on the junior varsity, because of the U.I.L. transfer rule. Even though Olson's father had been transferred by his company to Texas, his son was ineligible for varsity competition in any sport. He had to wait till his senior year to play varsity basketball. The other straight basketball player was 6'7" Jerry Denison, who had tried to play football, but was just too skinny. Everybody played football because the entire revenue of the athletic program revolved around football. The coaches all knew their pay check and lively hood were dependent on football and its success, not basketball.

The following year, in 1968, pressure grew from the town's people for the head football coach and athletic director to hire a basketball coach. The new head basketball coach at McKinney was Don Brownlee. Brownlee had a strong

basketball background, but he had to coach junior varsity football. There was no off-season basketball program. More progressive areas like Richardson I.S.D., located just north of Dallas, had many people moving in from the north. They began putting pressure on school districts for off-season basketball programs. By the early 1970s things began to move slowly towards off-season programs, but the football coaches still ran everything. All hiring within the athletic program was done by the football coach and athletic director. As a basketball coach, you didn't want to have too much success in your program, or you would be taking athletes away from football program, and believe me, this just was not happening.

So, the life of the basketball coach and their programs fought in the shadows of football. By the late 1970s, and early 1980s, basketball was beginning to make some head way with off-season basketball programs, and summer leagues emerging. In talking to Jerry Stone, the former head coach at Richardson High School, he said that the Eagles had an off-season basketball class worked into their last period of the day. If you look at the schools that had off-season programs, they were much more successful than the other programs. In 1984, Harry Miller of Seguin, who was the TABC president, along with president elect of the TABC, Mike Kunstadt, traveled to Austin to try persuading the U.I.L. to allow Texas kids to participated in summer leagues and summer camps. The U.I.L. finally agreed allowing only three kids from one program on a team and a limit of twenty total summer league games for any one player. The quality of play over-all began to improve. There were always strong teams but the number of outstanding teams and programs began to increase. In the early 1990s the restrictions were finally lifted on Summer league action, giving Texas a level playing field with the other states. In 1989, Kunstadt began the Great American Shootouts, under the same rules. This was really the start of AAU basketball in Texas. In the mid-90s the Basketball Congress International or B.C.I. began holding summer tournaments throughout the state, as well. Prime Time moved into the state and really dominated the club basketball scene in the late 1990s.

Kunstadt said the main reason he left Corpus Christi Carroll after 1975 was to get out of coaching football. He got the head job at Irving High school and no longer had to coach football. Ken Norman, at Richardson High School in the late 70s and early 80s, said he had to trade film of the varsity football games after the Friday night football game. Norman would wait for the film and make the exchange with next week's opponent late on Friday night. This was the life of the basketball programs in the new emerging suburbs of the big cities. In McKinney, the head basketball coach after Brownlee was a former McKinney grad, Bill Justice. He took over for Brownlee in 1971, and coached freshman football, and scouted on Friday nights for the football program. By the late 1970s, and off-season basketball period was developing in McKinney during the school day. With players in the gym year round the game continued to improve.

The inner-city schools really had an advantage after desegregation occurred in the late 1960s. These kids would play basketball year round and were not monitored so closely, as the kids in the suburbs. Athletic directors kept the gyms locked in the suburbs, but in the city, there were recreation centers where kids could learn the game. Also, basketball was a playground game and the kids in the inner city gravitated to the game. I remember as head basketball coach in 2000 at a 5-A program, sitting in the stands with the head football coach. He was going through all the players on my team that could help his football program, and telling me what position they could play, and that I should talk them into playing football. Of course, head injuries were not discussed as widely and freely as today, but I was well aware of the concussion issue in football, even as far back as the 1970s. I started laughing after hearing his comments and replied, "That sounds great, and maybe me and my assistant can come out to football and coach the wide receivers." I asked him if we would have anybody left in the gym for offseason basketball, and his response was typical, "There will always be non-athletes that can't play football that will fill up your offseason program." He was dead serious. Needless to say, my days were numbered as the head basketball coach, and I was released from my basketball duties a couple of years later. During the mid-1980s I interviewed for several head basketball jobs, and every one of the football coaches asked me if I was going to share athletes. What they actually meant was, how I was going to share my athletes with football. Of course, if I were in the football coaches shoes I would be doing the same thing. If you go 0-10 in football you will have a for sale sign in your yard the next day. There are only a limited number of athletes and all the programs are trying to corral as many as possible. Playing two sports at a high level, in a big high school, is a very hard thing to do today, as well as years ago. When I was a varsity basketball coach, we always had a couple of football players on the team. They always made significant contributions to the program. But at a 5-A or 6-A program, you can't have your entire team come in from football after their season has ended. The sport has changed a great deal over the decades, and today basketball in Texas is very popular on the athletic landscape.

Three rule changes made the game much more entertaining and fun to watch for the everyday fans. The dunk, had been outlawed from 1968 in the high school game and reinstated in 1977. Today the dunk is still the most exciting play in basketball. The breakaway rim was introduced in 1980, allowing a lot more dunking than before. They also stopped calling the annoying, "hanging on the rim" rule, which really hurt the more athletic teams in numerous close games. It was a way to penalize more athletic teams in critical situations, late in the game. It is still called today, but not as widely as before. It was also a technical foul, and really hurt a team not only on the score board, but emotionally as well. In 1987, the high school game really opened up with the introduction of the three-point line, giving

guard play a much greater advantage then before. At first the shot was used sparingly, but as time went on it was widely used even by big men.

Rick Penny -Reflections

I coached High School basketball for 23 yrs. and have been teaching shooting the past 12 years. Basketball changed dramatically with the advent of the 3-pt. line. Teams had to unpack the lane and guard players 20' from the basket. This opened everything up and coaches had to adjust or get run out of the gym by hot shooting teams. The biggest change I went through was Ross Perot's, "No Pass No Play," rule which started in the mid-80's. Back then if a player failing one class he was banned 6 weeks from playing, plus they weren't allowed contact with the team after school. We lost a lot of kids due to that stipulation and later it was revised to less time (3 weeks) and kids could remain around their teams. As coaches, we disliked the rule immensely when it first came out, but in the long run it caused players to focus more on the classroom or pay the price, so that ended up being a good thing. Another major change had to do with players being able to attend Summer Camps and play in Spring & Summer Leagues. I believe this opened up so many possibilities for Texas players allowing them to improve and to be noticed by recruiters from across the nation. Texas has produced an enormous amount of talent because the UIL finally took the reins off.

Richardson HS was a 4A school back when I played...largest classification at the time. We had a basketball period each day and worked on skills year around. Little did I know that this wasn't the norm for most high schools across the State. Football was King in Texas and it ruled with an iron fist! Fighting amongst the sports was fierce and very frustrating for non-football coaches that just wanted a fair chance to develop their kids and program. That was my biggest shock because at Richardson, I never saw or heard of any problems between the sports...maybe we were an exception to the norm. Still to this day, basketball coaches at smaller classification schools fight for everything they can get due to the "Football is King," mentality. It's a shame all coaches can't be for the kid first and not themselves. Let kids do what they want and stop trying to hurt other programs due to insecurities or jealousy...this is a hot button for basketball coaches!

We all have a story as to why we love high school

basketball. Well my journey started very simply over breakfast. I was having breakfast with a friend of mine on the campus North Texas State University in Denton in my 8th year of college. I was trying to get the most out of my college experience. We would both read the sports page and made a lot of comments. The main thing we had in common was we both loved sports, and especially basketball. That was about all we had in common because he was a straight A student and I was not. We ate at a little corner "whole in the wall" café with dirty floors and nasty walls, but the food was great. Typical college dive. My friend Randy, was a sports enthusiast and former valedictorian of my high school class. We had gone to some NCAA regional tournament games together, and followed our the local high school teams. We were avid followers of the Mean Green basketball team at North Texas State. I lived in the gym almost all my waking hours, which was one of the reasons my grades suffered. At breakfast, each morning the discussion always centered on sports. After reading the sports page every day, Randy would

repeatedly say the same thing, "How in the world can you score 100 points in a high school basketball game." In a 32-minute game, he was trying to figure out how many points you would have to score per minute to reach 100 points. About the third or fourth time he said that, I finally asked him who was scoring 100 points in a game. He responded, Dallas South Oak Cliff and Dallas Roosevelt, and he said we should, check'em out. Randy told me they were playing at Loos Field House in Carrollton that evening at 7:30. I said, "Let's do it." Well Randy bailed on me and I ended up going to the game by myself. It was an experience that changed my life forever. The crowd was prominently black with a few die-hard whites in attendance. You had to be a basketball purest and open minded to subject yourself to this type of entertainment. I knew very little about either team or the school's tradition, just submerged myself into the atmosphere.

I found a seat, if that's what you want to call it, about two rows up, sitting elbow to elbow with other fans. I felt like a sardine. I was seated on a concert slab, that was cold and hard. The Roosevelt Mustangs were playing the South Oak Cliff Golden Bears for the District title. Roosevelt was led by Michael Battle and Rynn Wright while David Burns and Cullen Mayfield would pace South Oak Cliff. It seemed as if everybody was playing above the rim once the game started. The athleticism was off the charts. You could cut the intensity with a knife. The only word I can think of to describe it was "electric." Two arch rivals facing each other for the sixth time during the season, with a winner take all outcome. Does it get any better than that? The game was end to end with full court pressure. Burns would hit a long jump shot and hold his shooting hand up in the air all the way back to mid-court, semi dancing as he retreated never turning around. I said to myself, "What the hell." The most eye-catching individual to this day was playing point guard for the Bears, 5'7" Cullen Mayfield. He couldn't have weighed more than 125 pounds and wore these shorts that were three sizes too big. They hung down past in knees. Remember, this was 1977 and Michael Jordan and baggy shorts were at least ten years away. Mayfield's haircut was a combination between an afro and a Mohawk haircut. He was quick, fast and fearless and could shoot. He could run the fast break with incredible efficiency. On one wing, he had Burns, who could jump out of the gym and literally shoot from anywhere, and was an awesome dunker. He later took his talents to the N.B.A. On the other wing, you had the one of the fastest players in the state in 6'3" Arthur Williams, a track star. It was a great game to watch and I soon forgot about why I had come in the first place. I was deeply engrossed in the game, the cheerleaders, the crowd, the rowdy fans and competition and the entire atmosphere. This was entertainment at its highest level. These teams were leaving everything on the court. After the S.O.C. victory, I left Loos Field House saying to myself, "This was incredible." I had seen in the paper that S.O.C. was ranked 15th in the state. I thought to myself, there is no way there are fourteen teams better than these guys in the state. I also noticed

S.O.C. had lost eight games. This was shocking, until I found out they played Roosevelt six times, and Dallas Carter four times, and Houston Wheatley twice, Ft. Worth Dunbar, Arlington and Daingerfield once, just to name a few. I could not believe the schedule they had faced. I decided I would make my first trip to Austin, and follow the Golden Bears all the way to the state championship, and that was exactly what I did. I had been going to the Southwest Conference tournament the two previous years, and the state basketball tourney, and the SWC conference tourney were on the same weekend. I decided to travel to Austin, and invited my brother-in-law to join me. He was from Houston, and had season tickets to the Rockets games. He loved the game of basketball, and to this day, one of the funniest guys I have ever met. We stayed downtown at the Stephen F. Austin hotel, and had the time of our lives. We played basketball between tournament games, and enjoyed the U. T. basketball facilities. We ate every chance we could because we could. My brother-in-law described his eating experience as a, "food orgasm." Those were fun times.

Soon after my first state tournament, I changed my major to education and coaching, and transferred colleges. Basketball was my main reason for moving towards education. I never regretted my decision for one second. After transferring, I shocked everybody and myself by graduating in one year and made the Dean's list.

Last March, was my 40th straight visit to the state basketball tournament. I took my kids when they were little, and they still join me each year at the tournament. It is a great time of year in Austin and San Antonio and my kids have learned to appreciate the tournament and its surroundings. I've had a great passion for History my entire life. My hope is that you will enjoy reliving and learning about the history of this great game in Texas. This is a detailed account. Hope you ENJOY!

Rick Penny -Reflections

Austin, in conjunction with the State Tournament, has a special place in my heart. Nothing beats that experience for a basketball coach. Three days of non-stop action with the best of the best vying for a State Championship. Getting to see great games and visiting with other coaches was priceless! I can close my eyes and visualize so many great moments and even remember the wonderful smells produced only by Austin. Basketball season can be a long arduous grind so spending time at the State Tournament serves as an escape for coaches allowing them to unwind and start gearing up for next year.

1970 AAAA

Texas High School basketball entered a new era in the 1970s with the desegregation of the schools taking hold in all classifications. The African-American athlete and his arrival on the U.I.L. landscape in the late 1960s and early 1970s took basketball to a new level. The game was for the most part a playground game, and appealed to low income areas in the inner city much more than baseball and football.

By 1970 a lot of the top basketball programs in the state had adopted the full court pressing style that had been so successful for Houston Wheatley, and several other inner city programs. In talking with Jackie Carr of Houston Wheatley at length, he said a lot of his presses he got from the U.C.L.A. Bruins and John Wooden. The Bruins had won back to back NCAA championship in 1964 and 1965, pressing full court. This was before Lew Alcindor or Kareem Abdul Jabbar came to UCLA. Fundamentals were still very important part of the game. The athleticism that was now available at some of the inner-city schools changed the high school game. Speed and quickness were much more important than in previous years. Another aspect that was introduced was the depth on the inner-city teams. A lot of quality teams might have two or even three top players. Wheatley, Houston Kashmere, South Oak Cliff and Dallas Roosevelt and several other schools had an incredible pool of talent. These teams would come at opponents with waves of talent, speed and quickness, playing 10 to 15 players sometimes. Foul trouble was not as big a problem as it was for most high schools. You weren't dependent on how the referees were officiating that day as you had been in the past. Pushing the pace of the game as fast as you could also gave these teams an advantage in conditioning.

With the game being played much faster, fouls and depth became critical to a team's success. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, nobody did it better than the Wheatley Wildcats, coached by Colin Briggs and later Jackie Carr. Carr shared in an interview several years ago that when schools integrated in the Houston I.S.D., all the white coaches were called in and told to take it easy on their black coaching comrades. The athletic director told the black coaches that they could go to coaching clinics and would soon catch up with their fellow white coaches. It was comical at the time, but those were the days of segregated schools.

In discussing the change that the black athletes and programs made to high school basketball the legendary coach Bill Krueger shared one of his many stories. "When the black schools started coming into the U.I.L, I told my administrators that I would have to scrimmage the new black schools in order to stay competitive. They said ok, but it would have to be at home. In our first scrimmage against a black school, I walked up to the head coach and asked him if he wanted to work on his half-court offense or defense, which was the custom in

early season scrimmages. He looked at me and said, "We ain't got no half court anything, we play full court. Well that is when basketball changed in the state of Texas."

When Krueger was asked about competing against the legendary Wheatley teams of the 1970s he said, "It seemed like we would get beat every year by Wheatley. They were so good that they would have about 15 or 16 kids that would get scholarships. When we played Wheatley, Jackie Carr had 70 fouls to give and the question was whether the officials would call the fouls. My guards' arms would be red from the beating that they would take. We always played the charge, but the officials wouldn't call them all the time."

When Krueger was asked about the pressure of playing Wheatley he responded, everybody would say, "Coach Krueger can't win the big games," because we have trouble with Wheatley. I know the sportswriters would always ask me why my team had trouble with big, fast, and strong postmen. I always did a lot better against those short, fat, slow, postmen." Coach Krueger had a dominate program, both before and after integration at San Marcos, Clear Creek and finally Clear Lake. He was one of the winningest coaches in the history of the high school game. Krueger will always be one of my favorite interviews. Krueger was truly a **Texas Legend.**

Wheatley had won the state championship in class 4-A in 1968 and again in 1969. All of the Wildcats key players returned for the '70 campaign. The 1970 season looked as if Wheatley would be making a run at history trying to win their third straight class 4-A title. Coach Jackie Carr entered the season in his first year at the helm after the retirement of Coach Briggs. Questions arose as to whether Carr's teams would have the same discipline as the teams of the past.

Another really strong squad coming into the 1970 campaign was Don Coleman's, Spring Branch Memorial team. The Mustangs were dominating prior to the integration of the schools. They had won a state championship in 1966, and lost in the finals in 1967 and 1969. They also had accomplished something that no other program had been able to do and that is beat the Houston Wheatley Wildcats. During the 1969 season, Memorial beat Wheatley at the Arlington Classic, only to lose the Wildcats in the state finals in Austin. Coleman's team had finished the season at 42-1 in 1969 and looked to be a force again in 1970.

Texas Basketball History- Athens to Wheatley

Many coaches and followers of high school basketball felt the Wheatley would be one of the top teams to ever take the court in the state of Texas. The Wildcats

would enter a pantheon of legendary teams. Texas had a long history of greatness in basketball. None greater than the dynasty of Athens, winning five state championships in eight years, 1927, 1929, 1931, 1933 and 1934. Three titles were under the coaching eye of Jimmy Kitt and two national titles in 1929 and 1930. The 1933 and 1934 teams were coached by J.T. "Bobo" Nelson. Athens recruited from other towns and states, with the "recruits" given room and board by team supporters. The team had been given two Model A Fords to "barnstorm" through the Midwest, playing clubs and high school teams. In those days, you were able to recruit legally because the U.I.L. did not have a transfer rule. On the 1928 and 1929 teams, there was not one Athens boy on the squad. The best player ever to suit up for Athens was 6'4" John Opal "Preacher" Tompkins. He was one of the first inductees into the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame in Waco. Although he never graduated from the 8th grade, it was said he could have played for the Harlem Globetrotters. Athens advanced to the 1929 national championship game in Chicago against Classen High School out of Oklahoma City. Classen was coached by the legendary, Hank Iba. The Athens Hornets trailed at halftime 13-11. Classen guard, Andy Beck had put his team in the lead sinking all six field goals. "Preacher" suggested to the coach at halftime to let him guard Beck man to man and the other four players play zone. Nobody had ever heard of such a defense, but Athens went on to win 25-21 and Beck failed to score in the second half. When the "Preacher" talked even the coach listened. Many of the Athens players went on to fame in College. Tompkins enrolled at DePaul University in Chicago and only stayed one year, despite not graduating from high school. He ended up playing for a touring team from Des Moines, Iowa after they made him a nice offer. The N.B.A. was not around in those days. The "Preacher" soon returned to Texas and played for the Dallas Athletic Club. "Preacher" was a small-town guy and did not like the big city. After a short stay in Dallas he headed towards the oil fields and lost his life in a car accident shortly thereafter.

Denton High also had some outstanding teams during this period from 1927 to 1935, winning two state titles and making two finals appearances, led by Coach Dan McAlister. By 1938, the game of basketball really began evolving, as the center jump was ended after every basket. Man to man defense was introduced during the 1930s because of the delay tactics by the team that was in the lead. One of the most innovative coaches of the time was "Doc" Hayes of Dallas Crozier Tech, who coached from 1930 to 1946. He began running man defense and disliked patterned basketball. He coached his players to free-lance. As head coach, his Wolves teams won nine city championships and tied for two others. They captured seven regional titles and one state title in 1946. "Doc" later went on to coaching fame at S.M.U. in Dallas, winning eight Southwest Conference Championships from 1948 to 1967. Before his death in a car accident in 1972, Hayes commented that the U.I.L. made it impossible to put together a championship team because of all

the restrictions places on schools by the football coaches. "All rules are written around football," Hayes said in 1967. The U.I.L. prohibited organized summer recreational basketball programs, as well as participation by players and coaches in clinics. Dallas Crozier Tech continued Hayes winning ways, capturing state titles in 1948 and 1955 and lost in the finals in 1950 and 1954. Rosy Adkisson replaced Hayes at Crozier Tech and had a great deal of success himself.

The Houston Jefferson Davis teams of the early 1940s were led by Slater Martin in 1941, 1942 and 1943. Davis lost in the state semi-finals in 1941 to El Paso 37-32 and captured state titles the next two seasons. The Panthers advanced to the state tournament six times in eleven years, between 1933 to 1943 under Coach Roy M. Needham and Coach Bert Kivell. The Davis team's dominated Houston basketball in the 1930s and early 1940s. Needham was Davis' first head coach in 1926 and finally moved into administration in 1943, while continuing to coach his teams. His star player, Slater Martin called him, "A coach ahead of his time." Needham ran the full court press before anyone else, fast-break basketball, and taught man to man defense. "If you couldn't play defense you couldn't play for him," Martin said. In all Needham's teams won six city championships and two state titles. Davis won state in the largest classification with probably the smallest team ever in 1942 and 1943. The team's tallest players were 6'3" and 6'1" with two guards at 5'6" and 5'4". Martin stood 5'10" and later went on to make All-American at the University of Texas. He also set the Southwest Conference scoring record against T.C.U. at 49 points. Before he graduated from Texas, he led the Longhorns to the 1947 final four. He won several N.B.A. titles with the Minneapolis Lakers and the St. Louis Hawks. He was named All-N.B.A. seven times. Martin was later elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame.

Ft. Worth Paschal won the 1945 class 2-A state championship defeating Lufkin 43-29. Paschal's top player was Jackie Robinson. Robinson was white and no relation to the legendary baseball player of the same name. Robinson's all around ability separated him from other players of the era. At 5'11", he played on the 1948 Olympic Gold medal team from the United States and took his Baylor Bears to the NCAA championship game in 1948, losing to Kentucky. A knee injury limited his basketball following graduation from Baylor.

A new basketball power entered the state tournament for the first time in the newly created class 4-A division in 1953. They were the Pampa Harvesters out of West Texas. Pampa(26-0), under the leadership of Clifton McNeely won their first state title defeating Austin High 61-47. In the 4-A state championship game of 1954, Pampa(28-0) was led by 6'5" center, Jimmy Bond. The undefeated Harvesters would meet unbeaten Dallas Crozier Tech in the finals, led by 6'9" junior, A.C. Black. Pampa won their second straight title in overtime 47-44. Both Bond and Black finished with 23 points. A.C. Black returned in 1955 to lead Crozier Tech to the state title 59-57 over Waco. Black scored 28 points and Tech finished

29-1. Pampa won back to back titles again in class 4-A in 1958 and 1959, going 28-2 and 31-0. Coach McNeely's team had won their fourth title in seven seasons and accomplished a 72-game winning streak. The 1959 version of the Harvesters was called the best all-around team by Coach McNeely, and won the national championship that year according to the top news service.

Bowie, also from West Texas, won their second state title defeating Dumas 81-44 in 1953. Bowie extended their winning streak to 69 games the following season, beating Spring Branch 70-40 in the 2-A title game. It was their third title in four seasons. Bowie had lost the 1952 Class A title game to Dimmitt 59-54. Bowie's 6'10" Trent Tucker is the only player to have played in four straight state championship games. Tucker went on to make All-SWC at Rice University. Bowie's streak ended at 77 games during the 1955 season.

In 1963, Buna won their third consecutive Class 2-A state championship, playing their deliberate style of play under Coach M.N. "Cotton" Robinson. His teams were known for patience on offense and controlling the tempo of the game. Robinson retired after the championship game, which ended his fifteen-year career with seven titles in nine seasons, from 1955 to 1963. During the glorious run by Buna, one of the highlights was in 1957 when Don Stanley scored 51 points in Buna's 74-45 title win over Seminole. Buna also extended its winning streak to 66-games and finished the season at 40-0. Don's twin brother Pat, had scored 36 points in the team's semi-final victory over Clear Creek. Buna had beaten eventual class 4-A state champion Port Arthur twice during the regular season. Buna's 1957 and 1961 teams were both undefeated.

In the 1960s, Houston Austin won two state titles in 1961 behind 6'7" Tim Timmerman and in 1964 with 6'9" Ken Spain. Timmerman went on to play at Texas A&M and Spain played for Guy Lewis and the Houston Cougars in the famous Astrodome game. Spain was a dual sport athlete, who won an Olympic Gold medal in 1968 in Mexico City. He played one year in the American Basketball Association and was drafted by the Bulls with the overall 20th pick in the N.B.A. draft. He was also drafted by the Detroit Lions of the N.F.L. at tight end. Spain passed away in 1990 at the young age of 44 due to cancer. Both Houston Austin teams were coached by Pat Riley, no relation to the legendary N.B.A. coach. Houston Austin finished 34-5 in 1961 and 38-1 in 1964. In the most lopsided Class 4-A title game in the state's history, Dallas Thomas Jefferson(34-2) defeated Houston Davis 69-46 in 1962. After two early season losses to Denton 61-59 and Ft. Worth Arlington Heights 46-45, Coach Archie Porter installed a platoon system at Thomas Jefferson and used 14 players against Davis in the title game. Several members of the Rebels team had attended a summer camp with Porter prior to the championship season. The following year the U.I.L. adopted a rule which prevented any high school basketball players from attending a summer camp without losing their varsity eligibility during the coming season. Over the next 25 years this camp policy would

be blamed for the slow development of Texas High School basketball. Coach Foster Martin of Jefferson Davis, called Thomas Jefferson after the game in 1962, "The best team he had ever seen." The team was led by 6'7" Bob Glover, who later played at Texas Tech. T.J. couldn't make it two in a row as they lost in 1963 in the state semi-finals to Spring Branch 47-36. Spring Branch lost the next day in the title game to San Angelo Central(29-4) 62-49. In 1965, Houston Jones(37-3) traveled to state and became the first team to ever score 100 points in the state tournament by beating Kingsville 106-71 in the semi-finals. Dallas Thomas Jefferson(31-4) continued their dominance, making it to state for the fourth time in seven seasons in 1965, losing in the finals to Houston Jones 64-57. Jones was led by the Phillips brothers, Lynn and Gene, who would later star at S.M.U. The Rebels of Thomas Jefferson were the dominate team in the state from 1959 to 1970, advancing to state six times over a twelve-year period, with one state title. In 1966, Spring Branch Memorial(34-4) would capture the class 4-A title led by All-American, 6'4" Jerry Kroll who went on to star at Davidson. Coach Don Coleman took Memorial to the state finals three out of four seasons in 1966, 1967, and 1969. His teams were stopped twice in their playoff run by Wheatley in 1968 and 1969. San Antonio Lee(31-1) took the 1967 title with a one-point win over Memorial 70-69. 6'10" Steve Niles led the Volunteers to the class 4-A title. Wheatley did not enter the U.I.L. until 1968.

Wheatley(36-0) emerged from the desegregation of schools as the class 4-A state champion in 1968 defeating Dallas Thomas Jefferson(35-5) in the finals 85-80 in overtime. Jerry Stone of Midland Junior College fame called the Wildcats team of 1968 the best high school basketball team ever. "Their discipline set them apart from other great teams," Stone said. Agreeing with Stone was Lawrence "Spider" Johnson, who was a sophomore on the 1968 team. "The '68 team was our best at Wheatley, we were so discipline and determined," Johnson stated.

Houston Wheatley, an all-black school had a great basketball tradition and continued their winning. The Wildcats under Coach Collin Briggs had won 11 PVIL state titles. Two sophomores played key roles for the Wheatley's team in 1968, Dwight Jones and the previously mentioned, Lawrence Johnson. In 1969, Wheatley(27-2) faced undefeated Spring Branch Memorial(42-1) in the state championship game winning the title 52-47.

Prior to the 1969-70, The Jaycees' basketball tournament under the leadership of the Houston Chamber of Commerce put together a 14-member panel of experts to select the 12 greatest players in the '60s. The tournament in Houston was held every year during the Christmas holidays. Dwight Jones of Wheatley received the most votes, followed by 6'4" Gene Phillips of Houston Jones. 6'9" Ken Spain of Houston Austin was third in the voting. All three were dominate and led their high school teammates to the 4-A state championship. Jones played at the University of Houston and later the N.B.A. Spain played for Guy Lewis as well and

was drafted by the N.B.A. and N.F.L. He played in the American Basketball Association. Phillips was outstanding at S.M.U. and also played in the A.B.A. 6'7" Dwight Davis of Houston Worthing, 6'6" Jerry Kroll of Memorial, Bob Hall of Houston Bellaire, Lynn Howden of Houston Waltrip, 6'7" Tim Timmerman of Houston Austin, Wayne Ballard of Houston Austin, Mike Heitmann of Austin Sam Houston, 6'7" Lawrence Johnson of Houston Wheatley and Phillips brother, Larry of Houston Jones were also selected. Gene Phillips was the tournament top scorer putting up 140 points in five games in 1967. He also held the state scoring record for years at the largest classification at 81 points in a single game against Houston Madison.

After two straight state championships, the stage was set for Wheatley's run at a third Class 4-A title in 1969-70 season. The premier tournament at the time was the Arlington Classic, which featured the top teams in the state each season. The two state finalists the previous year, Wheatley and Spring Branch Memorial were in the field and would be the favorites to advance. The tournament was played on the campus of The University of Texas in Arlington and held in early December each year. Wheatley opened against Borger(27-6) winning 75-67 and defeated Grand Prairie (16-14) in the second round 87-65. In the semis, the Wildcats dismantled Ft. Worth Arlington Heights(24-7) 79-63⁽¹⁾ and in the finals waited for the Spring Branch Memorial- Ft. Worth Terrell winner.

(1)Heights was coached by Johnny Dickerson and assisted by Tommy Newman. Two top starters missed most of the pre-season for Heights, Jeff Pruett broke his collarbone and Cedric Joseph hurt his wrist and had a sprained ankle. Heights split with Waco Richfield in the pre-season and was 1-2 against L.D. Bell. They had a big win over R.L. Turner(38-3), who had one of the top teams in the state 58-55, and lost during the regular season to the top team in Ft. Worth, Terrell 77-65. They were also 2-1 against Ft. Worth Southwest during the season.

Memorial handled their side of the bracket beating Dallas Roosevelt 55-47, Arlington Sam Houston(22-13) 68-50 and Ft. Worth Terrell(27-5) 57-52. In the finals, Wheatley prevailed 59-47 to capture the championship. Lawrence Johnson hit 24 in the finals for Wheatley while Dwight Jones had 17. For Memorial, Jim Stewart had 14 points and Bill Kruger had 13. Ft. Worth Terrell captured the 3rd place game defeating Arlington Heights 74-47. 6'7" Lindell Houston was the big man for Terrell finishing with 36 points. Borger took the consolation game winning 61 to 59 over Dallas Samuel. Dwight Jones of Wheatley was named the tournament outstanding player.

At the 1969 Jaycees' tournament in December, all the top teams in the Houston area arrived looking at Wheatley as the unquestioned favorite. Wheatley

opened against Houston San Jacinto and came away with an impressive victory 89-57. Dwight Jones finished with 39 points. Spring Branch Memorial downed Houston Kashmere to advance in the first round. Houston Yates put away Houston Lee. In second round action, Wheatley continued the onslaught completely destroying South Houston(24-10) 129-61. Roy Fields led Wheatley with 23 points, Lawrence Johnson had 22, Allen Batro finished with 21 and Jones followed with 19 points. All four of these Wildcats were three year lettermen. Houston Milby was next for the Wildcats as Wheatley defeated their District rival 81-62. Jones had 23 points, Johnson added 14 and Batro had 11.

Houston Yates opened the tournament defeating Houston Lee, Houston Austin 71-50 and Houston Jones 78-65. Guard Leonard Duffield led the point parade against Austin and Chestor Thomas paced the Lions against Houston Jones with 16 points.

In the semi-finals, Wheatley would face arch rival Houston Yates. Of course, reflecting on how the season played out, these two teams may have been the best in the state. Yates pulled with-in four points with 1:06 remaining, after trailing by 13 points earlier in the second half. The final score read Wheatley 99, Yates 93. Dwight Jones once again was so dominating scoring 37 points. Chester Thomas once again led the Lions with 32 points. In the other semi-finals game, Houston Westbury was paced by one of the top players in state, 6'6" Lee Griffin. Westbury defeated Houston Waltrip 44-43. Yates won the third-place game against Waltrip 84-76. Leonard Duffield paced Yates with 17 points. Interestingly on the All-Tournament team, Duffield and Thomas were not selected for the Lions. Instead, one of the top juniors in the state, 6'7" William "Toothpick" Johnson was named All-Tournament representing Yates. "Toothpick" had an outstanding career at Texas Tech. Batro, Dwight Jones, Lawrence Johnson of Wheatley were also named to the All-Tournament team along with Lee Griffin of Westbury and Bobby Jochec of Houston Waltrip. Wheatley struggled against Westbury(26-10) in the finals in a slowdown game. Finally, late in the game, Jackie Carr's Wildcats had a run and ended up winning 71-58. Jones hit 19 points, Lawrence Johnson had 15, Batro 13 and Fields 11.

In the Dr. Pepper tournament in Dallas, the field looked wide open with arguably the best player to come out of Dallas since Dave Stallworth in 1960. His name was Sammy Hervey(37.6) and he was one of the most prolific scorers in Dallas school-boy history. (2) Rick Penny of Richardson, one of the top guards in the state as a junior, discussed the top players he saw during his high school career and they were many; Jimmy Murphy of R.L. Turner, Ray Roberts of Garland, Bill Marcellus of Thomas Jefferson, Andre Tillman of Lake Highlands, Keith Sullivan of South Garland. "The very best talent was Sammy Hervey of Dallas Crozier Tech. He was a scoring machine from anywhere on the court...amazing to watch." Bill Marcellus, who was named All-State as a junior from Dallas Thomas Jefferson, said

he played with Hervey many times at the rec and watched his career at Dallas B.T. Washington and Crozier Tech. "When he was a freshman his nickname was Slim, he was really long and lean. By the time he was a senior, he had put on weight and was really tough to handle. He could do it all, drive, finish, shoot from long range, get off the floor, Hervey was the best all-around player I ever saw in high school," Marcellus said." Coming out of Kilgore, Hervey was drafted by the A.B.A. When Hervey got to S.M.U. he was All-Southwest conference but had a hard time staying eligible. "His senior year, it caught up with him and he was ineligible," Marcellus said. "He didn't make it in the N.B.A. because he started putting on a lot of weight. He was just not motivated to stay in shape." In talking to Dallas legend Ira Terrell, he shared his insight on Sammy Hervey. "He had so much ability, he was ridiculous, he had range, handle the ball, the game came easy to him," Ira said. "He was part of the reason why I went to S.M.U. The two best players I ever saw in high school were Dwight Jones and Sammy Hervey. I saw Dwight at the Arlington Classic my sophomore season and he just dominated, he blocked shots, could score, he was so confident. If Dwight was 1A than Hervey was 1B, they were both special the likes of which I haven't seen since." When I asked Ira about Hervey and the N.B.A, he quickly responded, "Sammy had nobody to push him; he came in both years at S.M.U. out of shape and would finally get in shape as the season wore on. Coach Pruitt was not that type of coach who was not going to push Sammy. He needed Ellis Davis to kick his butt. Hervey put up 33 points at Arkansas and fouled out with six minutes remaining in the game while at S.M.U. He was hard to handle. He was drafted by Memphis of the American Basketball Association out of Kilgore and was later drafted by the N.B.A. He went into camp out of condition and was cut."

(2)6'7" 200 pound Stallworth had attended Madison high school in Dallas. He graduated in 1960 and later played college ball at Wichita State, where he was a two-time All-American and was drafted by the New York Knicks of the N.B.A. He won an N.B.A. title with the Knicks in 1970. He set 18 school records while attending Wichita St. and averaged 24.2 point per game during his college career. His career would have been much more successful had he not had a heart attack at the age of 25 in 1967 with the Knicks. He missed two entire seasons before returning to the court in 1969. His career ended in 1974. **Dave Stallworth was a Texas Legend**, he passed away in March of 2017.

In 1970, Hervey played for Dallas Crozier Tech(20-5). He was not your typical 6'6" player. In a mild upset at the Dr. Pepper tournament, Carrollton R.L. Turner defeated Crozier Tech 83-76. Turner later won the finals over Dallas Samuel(21-12) 63-58. Two other outstanding wins for the Lions in the tournament were against Richardson(26-6) 57-54 and Dallas W.T. White(23-6) 59-58. **(3)** This elevated the Lions as one of the top teams in the state. Turner, along with Thomas Jefferson were considered the top teams in Dallas. T.J. had been one of the top programs in the state over the previous ten years. Another highly touted team was Abilene, with a 13-2 record. Abilene lost to Dallas South Oak Cliff(22-8) in the first round of the tournament 91-76 and lost in the consolation finals to Dallas Jesuit 70-66. Jesuit had defeated Dallas Roosevelt in the consolation semi-finals 57-56

and Abilene beat Highland Park 86-80 in the other consolation semis. Crozier Tech took third place game over Dallas Adamson 68-67.

(3) Dallas W.T. White defeated Lake Highlands(20-11) in the season opener 81-44 but the Wildcats were playing without 6'5" standout Andre Tillman, who was coming out of football. The Longhorns lost to Dallas Roosevelt 90-88 and lost a heartbreaker to R.L. Turner(38-3) 66-63. They defeated eventual Class 3-A state finalists, Cypress-Fairbanks(32-5) 64-62. Thomas Jefferson(30-7) was their big District rival and they lost both game to the Rebels 79-75 and 73-65.

Region I

El Paso Austin(26-6)

Lubbock Monterey(28-5)

Lake Highlands(20-10)

W.F. Rider(28-4)

El Paso Bel Air(22-6)

Abilene(30-5)

Carrollton RLT(34-2)

Arlington Sam Houston(22-12)

Top Five Players in Region I

6'3" Richard Little, Abilene; 6'3" Jimmy Murphy, Carrollton R.L. Turner; 6'8" James Forbes, El Paso Bel Air; 6'2" Gabe Nava, El Paso Austin; 6'8" Randy Prince, Midland Lee:

In Region I, R.L. Turner looked like the favorite to advance to state. But Turner had won a number of close games during the season, so they were definitely not a shoe-in for state. The Lions, coached by J.D. Menasco(4), had only lost two games all season. Early season losses came at the hands of Lubbock Monterey(28-5) 76-61 and Ft. Worth Arlington Heights(24-8) 58-55. R.L. Turner had one of the smallest teams in the state: 6'4" Jimmy Murphy(21.5), 6'0" Harry Campbell(11.3), 6'0" Steve Allen(16.0), 5'10" Jack Oren(5.6) and 5'9" J.D. Wyner(10.7). An important sub off the bench was 6'2" Benny McClendon. Harry Campbell was a key player for the Lions and reflected back on his team saying, "Coach Menasco was so special and had us believing we could beat anybody. We only played six or seven players and if you looked at our losses that year, both came in tournaments, when we were playing two games in one day. We had very little depth." The Lions pressed full-court and ran an up tempo offense, with two division one players. Steve Allen, who played one year at Baylor and Jimmy Murphy, who played for S.M.U. R.L. Turner's first round opponent would be Lake Highlands, out of the Richardson school district. The Wildcats had claimed the 1968 state championship in class 3-A. The red and white had a strong basketball tradition. They had inherited one of the top athletes in the state, Andre Tillman from Hamilton Park High School. Tillman left Hamilton Park after the African American school had closed its doors following the integration of schools in Richardson. At 6'5", 220 pounds, Tillman was a physical specimen that was seldom seen in high school. He would go on to star in football at Texas Tech and later with the Dolphins in the N.F.L. Richardson High School had actually been the District favorite defeating Lake Highlands 65-60 in the first round of District, but lost the second-round matchup to the Wildcats 88-78.

(4) J.D. Menasco was highly respected by his players, he graduated from New London High School and graduated from East Texas State University in Commerce. He coached at Midland Junior College, Lon Morris and Jacksonville and Tyler Junior Colleges. He passed away in March of 2000.

The Eagles star player was junior, Rick Penny. (5) Penny played in the loss against the Wildcats but was taken to the hospital the next day. Penny was in a body cast after the injury and his back had actually been broken. Although he had a great senior campaign with the Eagles in 1971 the back effected his recruitment as Shelby Metcalf conveyed in later years.

In the District playoff game between the two teams, Penny was unable to recover and Lake Highlands came away with a nine-point win 73-64. Penny was as critical to the Eagles success as Tillman was to the Wildcats. Coach Jerry Stone, discussing Penny, "He was a rare kind of player that you only had to tell him something once and it was done. Very coachable and one of the top shooters I've ever coached in 40 years." Harry Campbell of R.L. Turner, who guarded Penny paid him high praise saying years later, "He was a class act and was without question one of the top guards in Dallas, even as a junior." Richardson had a really strong team, losing twice to R.L. Turner by three points and one point. The Eagles were coached by Jerry Stone (6) and finished 26-6 on the season.

Lake Highlands was coached by Charles Avant, who was in his second season. The Wildcats played a formidable schedule, losing to Thomas Jefferson twice 77-57 and 70-59. Lake Highlands had lost earlier in the season to R.L. Turner by 23 points and came into the contest with the Lions with 20-10 record. In the Bi-District match-up between Lake Highlands and Turner, the Lions were favored. "We played Turner at their place in December and didn't play well at all," Lake Highlands Coach Avant said, "We've improved a lot since then. The thing about Turner is they do everything so well, they shoot, rebound and play defense like the best of them," Avant continued. "The most important thing about them is even though there's Murphy and Allen on the court, you've got to watch those other kids just as close. Turn one of them lose and he'll beat you." Tillman averaged 26.3 points per game and 17 rebounds for Lake Highlands and was the District M.V.P. of 8-AAAA. 6'5" Pat Hogan(13.0/9.0) was named to the 2nd team All-District for the Wildcats. Rounding out the starting five for Coach Avant's squad were, 6'5" Jack Chmelar, 6'1" Dan Jarma, 5'11" Bob Dryden and 5'11" David Griendsfelter. The Bi-District encounter would be pitting two of the five top players in Dallas area against one another. Murphy averaged 21.3 points and 16.1 rebounds.

(5) Penny played at McMurry University and was a NAIA All-American and averaged 24.4 points per game. He was invited to try out for the Spurs. He served as varsity coach at Waco Midway, Cypress-Fairbanks and Brady High School. Penny actually played during the season with a broken back and was in a body cast for a period of time. The story of my back..."As a Junior, lower back pain plagued me the entire season. Richardson HS had a team doctor that specialized in manipulation of muscle and bones (Osteopathy) so an appointment was made mid-season in hopes of finding relief. The appointment consisted of twists, turns, and pulls all trying to "pop" things into place...so the theory went. One final attempt had the Doc arching my back and applying two quick pulls or jerks, which immediately elicited a loud scream that could be heard throughout the facility! Simultaneously, I felt a sharp pain, plus a dull sensation in the middle of my back. Needless to say, the session was over. I left with no relief for my lower back, thinking the session was a total waste of time, meaning business as usual...play through the pain. As the season progressed my lower back worsened. After the last game of District play, I could barely walk. The next day, they had me going to a back specialist where x-rays were taken. The Doctor came in after reading the results and said, "*Follow me, I want to show you something.*" We went to another room to see the x-rays and he said, "*Look here.*" He pointed to my mid-back area and there it was...a vertebrae was almost completely severed. Immediately, I was placed in the hospital for 10 days, which meant missing the District playoff game with Lake Highlands. From then on, I wore a brace for 6 months, followed by physical therapy, and finally the removal of the brace in late August, prior to the start of my Senior year. Restrictions wouldn't allow me to do much for almost two months, but finally I was allowed back on the court, just in time for the season! Many thought Andre Tillman broke my back during a game at Lake Highlands, when he tripped me from behind, as our team ran out the clock in a crucial District win. This caused me to land awkwardly hitting face first on the floor. I quickly got up with thoughts of throwing the ball at Andre, but his 6' 5" / 220 lbs. frame hulking over me quickly made those thoughts vanish! My friends still blame Andre to this day, but it wasn't him at all. My back was broken during the visit to the Osteopath! The broken vertebrae was located exactly where I felt the severe pain during the mid-season Doctor visit...amazing! From that point on, I played the remainder of the year with a broken back and didn't know it. It wasn't until years later that I finally realized what actually happened."

(6) Stone went on to have a splendid coaching career at Midland J.C., winning a national championship in 1982 and finishing runner-up in 1987. Stone was coach at U.T. Arlington in 1987 and was later named the head coach at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma. He coached, Spud Webb, Ricky Grace and Mookie Blaylock in junior college, after leaving Richardson High School in 1973. He returned to high school coaching in 2000 at Rockwall High School and retired a few years later. He is presently living the dream in Rockwall.

The Turner offense revolved around getting the ball to Murphy inside. **(7)** Years later, Coach Stone of Richardson talked about Murphy, "He was a really good high school player that was a tweener, meaning in college he would have to move outside to be successful, but in high school he was a match-up nightmare. He was very quiet, but was the key to the team's success." When discussing Tillman, Coach Stone replied, "He was a physical specimen, raw in talent but just very imposing. He was very intimidating."

At Memorial Auditorium in Dallas, R.L. Turner looked ragged early but ran away with a 75-60 victory over Lake Highlands. At the end of the first quarter, the Lions led 12-11, and led 32-23 at halftime. Murphy had 21 points in the first half and got Coach Menasco's team going in the second quarter. The 6'4" junior finished with a game high 30 points. Murphy easily won the personal duel with

Tillman. Most of Tillman's 23 points came late in the contest after the game had already been decided. Bobby Dryden played well for the Wildcats and finished with 14 points. For R.L.T., Steve Allen hit 13 points and Jack Oren had 15. Tillman fouled out late, as Lake Highland hit only 12 foul shots compared to the Lions 27. In another first round contest in Region I, Abilene(30-5) would take its up-tempo fast paced attack against the patterned Lubbock Monterey(28-5) unit. The Eagles had two of the top players in the region in 6'0" Kenneth Neal(18.3) and 6'3" Richard Little(17.4). Finishing out the starting lineup for Abilene was 6'5" Lawrence Young(15.0), 5'9" Joe King(12.3) and 6'4" Van Jones(7.3). Coach Harold Wilder loved the fast break and up tempo game, trying to get off as many shots as possible with long range shooters, Little and Neal were the featured act along with Lawrence inside, who signed with T.C.U. The Eagles ran an aggressive full court press and dropped back into a zone. Abilene averaged 86.4 points per game. Monterey under Coach Joe Michalka, were disciplined and liked a patterned offensive attack. His teams always looked for the high percentage shot. Monterey was paced by 6'3" Don Moore(16.1), 6'2" Mike Davis(11.8), 6'2" Joe May(13.1), 6'1" John Conine(10.8) and 5'11" John Day(3.0). Moore and Davis both went on to play at Texas Tech. Monterey had to come out of a four team playoff in their own District to make the playoffs. Plainview(29-10), Amarillo(26-6), Borger(27-6) and Monterey had all tied for the District 4-AAAA title. Monterey and Plainview tied for the first half and Borger and Amarillo for the second half of District.

In Canyon on the campus of West Texas State, Monterey beat Plainview 47-26 in the semi-finals of the District playoff and Borger beat Amarillo 71-65. The next evening Monterey took the District title with a 73-52 win over Borger. Carl Taylor was a key player for Borger. He picked up his third foul with 5:38 remaining in the first half and Borger ended up trailing 53-32 at halftime. Taylor had been the unanimous District M.V.P. Monterey was a team that was not going to beat themselves and their numbers over the season indicated consistency. The Plainsmen averaged 64.9 per game and allowed 45.7 per game for an impressive 19-point margin of victory. Remember, Monterey had an early season win over Carrollton R.L. Turner 76-61. Monterey was tough!

Abilene played Monterey at Snyder Scurry Coliseum in front of 2,800 wild fans. The game ended up being one of the best first round games. In double overtime with 1:21 remaining the Eagles took over the ball on a traveling violation by Monterey. With 3 seconds remaining, Richard Little (**8**) hit the winner to give Abilene the 62-60 victory.

(7) On the 7-AAAA All-District team that year you had some interesting names. Allen and Murphy from Turner made the first team along with Ray Roberts of Garland and Jim Dearien of Highland Park. Mike McNeely was named to the first team and his twin brother, Phil was named to the second team, representing Denton High. These twins were the sons of the legendary Pampa coach, Clifton McNeely. Of course Phil would go on to great heights as a coach himself at Duncanville High School in the 1990s

and 2000s. One of the best athletes to ever come out of East Texas played basketball for Greenville. His name was Mike Thomas and he averaged 22.9 points per game and was a standout in football as well in baseball. Thomas ended up at tailback for the Washington Redskins. He was named 1st team All-District in District 8-AAAA. Steve Slaton(23.5) was a key contributor to Dallas Samuel's success during the 1970 season. A young sophomore was named to the 12-AAAA All-District 2nd team, 6'5" Ira Terrell. (8) Little was one of the premier players in Texas Tech history. Described by former athletic director Gerald Meyers as "one of the most compete guards to ever play at Texas Tech." Little was inducted as a member of the 2011 Hall of Fame. He was a two-time All-Southwest Conference guard. He was drafted by the Spurs in the NBA Supplement draft following his career. Little became involved in the oil business for 30 years before starting his own lawn care company.

It was Abilene's only lead in overtime. Little also hit the basket to send the game into overtime and scored his team's last 10 points of the game. Kenneth Neal had managed to keep Abilene in the game throughout scoring 26 points, of which 17 were in the second half. Abilene's coach, Harold Wilder said after the game, "We beat them at their own game." Meaning the game was much lower scoring than he anticipated. At the end of regulation with 24 seconds left, Little of Abilene came up with a loose ball after a jump ball, and called time out with 16 seconds remaining. After Little hit the bucket that tied the game, Monterey's John Conine shot a 35-footer at the buzzer that missed. At the end of the first overtime, the Plainsmen had the last shot. Moore of Monterey missed a 20-footer that would have won the game. Little finished with 20 points, and the combo of Little and Neal combined for 46 of their teams 62 points. For Monterey, Conine finished with 19 and Moore had 16. Abilene would have the advantage of playing in their home town in the regional tournament.

Wichita Falls Rider(29-4) advanced to regionals with a 68-63 win over Arlington Sam Houston(22-13). (9) Rider's Ken Hunt hit a pair of free throws late, and a tip in by Carlton Young put Rider up 66-61 with 1:00 remaining. Rider started 6'6" Jeff Johnson, 5'11" Dennis Wuthrich, 5'10" Frank Donaldson(11.5), 6'2" Ken Hunt and 6'3" Carlton Young. Sam Houston relied on 6'3" Mise Haithcoat, 5'10" Ralph Springer, 6'0" Mike Smith, 5'11" Charles Talley and 5'10" Vernon Gar. The victory gave Rider its first regional appearance since the school opened in 1961, and the 1970 team captured the school's first District title. Joey Jackson led Rider in scoring with 15 points followed by Jeff Johnson with 12. Carlton Young had 11 points, Wuthrich added 10 and Donaldson had 10 for Rider. Sam Houston's standout guard, Charles Talley was held scoreless in the second half by Donaldson, but still managed 15 points in the first half. Rider coach, Bubba Bailey had nice things to say about Donaldson following the game. "He's the best defensive player I've ever coached. One of the fastest players on the team, he's an outstanding ball handler and dribbler."

Rider, like everybody else had been affected by desegregation. Of the ten players on the Raiders varsity in 1970, five had attended Wichita Falls Washington

the previous school year, and five had attended Rider. Of the top six players, it was split evenly, three and three between the schools.

In District 1-AAAA, El Paso Eastwood(22-5) and El Paso Austin(25-6) battled it out to see who would advance. The two schools had tied for the District title. Coach Bobby Lesley (10) of Eastwood believed that the two teams were not only the two best teams in the city, but the best two teams to ever come out of El Paso. In speaking about the upcoming game Lesley said, "They are a very quick team, we are going to have to outrun them to beat them." In the two teams second meeting in District action, El Paso Austin destroyed Eastwood 93-64. Starters for Eastwood included 6'7" Wayne Tomlinson, 6'5" Bill Seale, 6'2" Mark Cardon, 6'1" David Weick and 6'0" John Yarbrough. In the highly anticipated game, El Paso Eastwood lost the District playoff game to El Paso Austin 61-54. After the game Austin coach, Alvis Glidewell complemented Beto Bautista on his ball handling. Coach Glidewell also elaborated on the key interceptions by Ruben Sanchez and the "clutch performance" of Gabe Nava. Coach Lesley of Eastwood said, "We sure don't have anything to be ashamed of, our District will be well represented in Bi-District." For Coach Glidewell it was his second consecutive District title. He was frustrated following the game on his team's lack of ball movement, "Against Bel Air were going to have to move the ball, their height scares me." Bel Air would be E.P. Austin's Bi-District opponent. Leading scorers for El Paso Austin included, Nava with 17 points, Richard Esper with 13, Jim Watt put in 12 and Sanchez finished with 11 points. For the losing Troopers of Eastwood, Seale finished 17 points, Mark Cardon hit 16 and Wayne Tomlinson added 12. The attendance was 5,150.

(9) Rider had beaten Richardson Pearce earlier in a warm-up game 79-73 as did Sam Houston.

(10) Lesley graduated from Hedley High School in 1959; his high school coach was the legendary Don Haskins. He graduated from Clarendon College in 1961 with a full basketball scholarship and later played at UTEP in 1963. He coached 27 years at Eastwood; High School record 623-197; Lesley passed away in 2015:

In the battle for El Paso, Austin and Bel Air faced off in Bi-District. Bel Air was coached by Charles Quisenberry, who was in his second season at the helm. Glidewell was in his 9th year at El Paso Austin. Austin represented District 1-AAAA and Bel Air represented District 2-AAAA. The game was played at Memorial Gym in El Paso. Bel Air had a tremendous size advantage with 6'7" Ed Lynum, (11) Terry Tiller, Daryl Watts and Rudy Alvarez. Lynum and Forbes were two of the best big men in the state and both played at the next level at U.T.E.P. Bel Air averaged 74.1 points per game and gave up 60.0. El Paso Austin would respond with 6'3" Richard Esper(15.8), 6'2" Gabe Nava(20.1), 5'9" Beto Bautista(11.5), 6'1" Jim Wall(8.0) and 5'9" Ruben Sanchez(5.0). Nava was a three-year starter for Coach Glidewell and

would later go on to star at New Mexico University, where he had a solid college career.

In a game of contrasting styles E.P. Austin prevailed 73-65 and advanced to Abilene. Austin's point guard, Beto Bautista wreaked havoc on the back court of Bel Air, coming up with several steals. "His defensive play out front really helped us," Coach Glidewell said after the game. Bautista was a star at U.T.E.P. and was a key performer for coach Don Haskins.⁽¹²⁾ Bautista was named to the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame by Coach Haskins. Many coaches and member of the press marveled at Wheatley's backcourt, but the best guard combo in the state in 1970 may have been in El Paso at Austin High School with Bautista and Nava. Bel Air's, Coach Quisenberry commented after the game about the Panthers, "Their shooting was unbelievable, that and a few floor mistakes were factors in Austin winning." Austin opened in a full court press and led 19-15 at the end of the first quarter. "Bel Air broke our press in the first half," said Coach Glidewell, "so we got out of it." "In the last period we changed the press to man to man instead of zone." Ed Lynum pulled Bel Air to within one point 57-56 with 4:40 left in the game. Bel Air could get no closer. Lynum finished with 26 points and Forbes had 21. For El Paso Austin, Esper had 22 points, Nava put in 17, Bautista had 12 and Richard Zuloaga contributed 11 points.

In regionals, Abilene faced off against El Paso Austin at 10:00 a.m. followed by Carrollton R.L. Turner and Wichita Falls Rider at 11:15 a.m. Regionals would be played at Moody Coliseum on the campus of Abilene Christian University as usual. The winners would meet later in the evening. R.L. Turner's coach, J.D. Menasco said going into the game with Rider, "We are not taking them lightly, but whoever is the hottest will be the winner." In the much-anticipated Abilene vs. El Paso Austin game, both coaches agreed it would be a high scoring affair. This was probably one of the most anticipated games of the season with two high octane offenses going up and down the court with outstanding guard play.

(11) Lynum went on to have a fine career at UTEP, 6'7" James Forbes was considered one of the best defensive players Coach Don Haskins ever coached at UTEP, he was All-WAC, and played on the 1972 Olympic Team in Munich Germany against the Soviets; Forbes was drafted with the 70th pick in the N.B.A. draft by the Bulls; He coached El Paso Riverside to the state tournament in 1995, losing to S.A. East Central:

(12) "The Bear" was one of the greatest coaches in college basketball history, passed away in 2008 at the age of 78. Haskins was head Coach at UTEP from 1961-1999, leading the Miners to the famous 1966 NCAA championship over Kentucky. CBS Sportsline.com named him the greatest Division I men's basketball coach of all-time in July of 2001. "UTEP had no recruiting base, no media attention and substandard budgets, they had no business winning much of anything," said sports columnist Dan Wetzel. "No coach did more with less."

Coach Bailey of Wichita Falls Rider planned to double team Murphy of R.L.Turner and have his defensive stopper, Donaldson guard Allen. Murphy averaged 21.5 points per game, while Allen managed 16.0 per contest. As for

common opponents going into the game, Turner had defeated Arlington Sam Houston 83-80, but the final score was deceiving because they had led at halftime by 17. Rider beat Arlington Sam Houston by five points in Bi-District. The state rankings meant little in 1970, because they were just based on records. They did not take into consideration “who” you played. Having said that, R.L.T. had to be considered one of the top five teams in the state. Rider on the other hand was not real well known. R.L. Turner won the game at the foul line hitting 15 for 21 while Rider managed only 5 of 11. R.L.T. only led 39-35 at halftime, but pulled away in the second half to win comfortably 84-65. Rider had 15 turnovers while the Lions had 16. R.L. Turner really won the battle of the boards picking up 53 rebounds compared to only 39 for the Raiders. Murphy managed 19 rebounds by himself. Murphy ended up with 22 points on nine of 13 shooting, followed by Oren and Campbell with 14 points, Allen with 12 and Benny McClendon finished with 10. For the Raiders, Wuthrich had 17 and Ken Hunt had 12. (13)

The two highest scoring teams in West Texas would be showcased in the second semi-final affair between Abilene and El Paso Austin. E. P. Austin High left El Paso and spent the night in Midland, and then practiced in Abilene Christian’s gym Friday morning preparing for Saturday’s morning game. “We have seven players who can go full speed on the press,” Coach Glidewell said. Both teams had played Lubbock Monterey, with Abilene winning by two points, and E.P. Austin winning by fifteen. Both teams had faced Hobbs, New Mexico during the regular season. Abilene gave Hobbs their only loss of the regular season by one point and E.P. Austin lost to Hobbs twice. The Panthers were making their second trip to Abilene, having advanced to regionals in 1969. The Eagles had lost to Odessa 68-61 in 1969. Some saw this as an advantage for the E.P. Austin players because they would be more familiar with Moody Coliseum on the campus of Abilene Christian. But that may not have been the case because the regionals were played in Abilene. The 3,000 fans that showed up to see the up and down showcase between Abilene and E.P. Austin were definitely not disappointed. The Panthers from the Sun City proved to be too fast for the Eagles winning 102-88. For the victorious Panthers, Richard Esper scored 37 points going 14-25 from the floor, and 9 of 12 from the line. Gabriel Nava had 27 points on 12 of 25 shooting, and 3 of 5 from the line. For Abilene, Richard Little showed why he was one of the top players in the state, scoring 29 points on 13 of 20 shots, and going 5 of 8 from the line with 15 rebounds. Lawrence Young contributed 19 points for the Abilene while Kenneth Neal followed with 16 points on 7 of 14 shooting. E.P. Austin finished with 19 turnovers and Abilene had 20. E.P. Austin’s speed and quickness was just too much for Abilene. Coach Harold Wilder praised the El Paso Austin team after the game saying, “We were beaten by an outstanding team, and they were not only quick and alert but also hit well. They didn’t get rattled.” Wilder admitted E.P. Austin was the quickest team Abilene had played all year. Remember, Abilene had played

South Oak Cliff in the Dr. Pepper tournament earlier in the season. The closest Abilene got was at the start of the fourth quarter with the score 71-61. Coach Glidewell commended sophomore Will Garner and Truman Wills after the game. With three starters fouling out, these subs really came through for the Panthers. This was the first win in a regional contest since 1965 for an El Paso school.

(13) Murphy was one of those high school talents that dominated in High School with his leaping ability and inside moves.

The regional final was set with R.L. Turner coming into the game on a 24-game winning streak, and E.P. Austin entering the game on fabulous outing against Abilene, scoring 103 points. Turner came out and did not run with E.P. Austin after they had seen what the Panthers had done to Abilene. The Lions were usually a run and gun team, but in the finals, they got the ball inside to Murphy, who could not be stopped, scoring 34 points. The 6'4" junior was without question the most dominate player in the regional. He hit 11 of 14 from the floor, and connected on 12 of 14 from the line with 17 rebounds. The Lions 79-77 victory punched their ticket to Austin and the state tournament. Coach Menasco of Turner called E.P. Austin's press, "The best we have faced." R.L.T. had numerous turnovers and trailed at halftime 38-37. The Lions actually trailed at the end of every period 16-15 at the end of one, and 57-55 at the end of the 3rd quarter. Jack Oren came on strong in the second half, scoring 21 points for the Lions. Murphy hit two foul shots with eight second remaining to put his team up 79-75. Three seconds later Esper scored for E.P. Austin, making the final 79-77. R.L.T. as a team was 27-33 from the foul line while Austin made only 9 of 12 from the charity strip. Turner took 30 less field goal attempts than E.P. Austin. Coach Menasco commented after the game, "I hope Thomas Jefferson won tonight and that we get a chance to play them in state." "If anyone had told me in October that we would be going to state, I'd have told them they were nuts," Coach Menasco explained after the game. In talking about his standout junior, Jimmy Murphy, Menasco said, "He's the greatest." The scoring break down was as follows, Naza 26 and Esper 22 for E.P. Austin and Oren and Murphy were the only players in double figures for Turner.

It didn't come out till the following week at state that Steve Allen had a virus during the regional tournament, and missed classes for three straight days leading up to the tournament. Murphy was also sick, "Not as sick as Steve was," Coach Menasco pointed out. Lucky for the Lions, Jack Oren stepped up and scored 14 points against Rider and 21 in the El Paso Austin game. Oren was averaging 15.4 points per game in the playoffs as compared to 5.4 during the regular season. One of the top players in the state, Richardson's Rick Penny shared in later years that he had a great deal of respect for R.L. Turner, but said he had no idea they could make it to state. "Once you stepped on the floor against R.L. Turner, you knew

they possessed something different in terms of an intangible quality. It was an instant feeling hard to describe, but encompassed mental toughness, desire, and a strong will to win. Physically, they weren't that intimidating, but mentally, it was a different story. They would bend, but not break. Of all the teams I competed against at Richardson High, they were by far the team I most admired and respected."

Region II

Ft. Worth Arlington Heights(24-7)

Dallas Thomas Jefferson(27-5)

Marshall Pemberton(24-5)

Spring Branch Memorial(35-3)

Ft. Worth Terrell(26-4)

Dallas Adamson(23-9)

Waco Richfield(30-7)

Houston Smiley(22-14)

Top Five Players in Region II

6'6" Sammy Hervey, Dallas Crozier Tech; 6'7" Travis Ross, Ft. Worth Terrell; 6'7" Randy Younglin, Spring Branch Memorial; 6'7" Julius Howard, Dallas Adamson; 6'4" Bill Marcellus, Dallas Thomas Jefferson:

Going into the showdown for basketball supremacy in Ft. Worth in 1970, the high school coaches from Ft. Worth voiced their opinion about the winner of the I.M. Terrell vs. Arlington Heights game. S.R Roberson of Ft. Worth Dunbar liked Terrell to win saying, "I don't think Heights big boy(Cedric Joseph) can cope with the two big boys of Ft. Worth Terrell(Lindell Houston and Travis Ross)...I think it will be close though." Weldon Moody of Western Hills said, "Terrell has that rebounding strength to go with quickness." Don Simmons of Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt followed the other saying, "It'll be close but Terrell is hard to beat." James Woods of Ft. Worth Southwest was pretty definite saying, "Terrell is so much more physically stronger."

So if you listen to the coaches who had played both teams, they all favored Ft. Worth Terrell in the Bi-District contest. Coach Robert Hughes, (14) one of the all-time great coaches in Texas High School history had a really strong team at Terrell. 6'7" Travis Ross, 6'7" Lindell Houston, 5'11" Arthur Williams, 5'10" Jerry Starr and 6'3" Ralph Hall were the starting five for Hughes.

Ft. Worth Arlington Heights countered with one of the top juniors in the state in, 6'6" Cedric Joseph(21.0). (15) 6'2" Dale Donaldson, 6'1" Mike English, 6'0" Jeff Peterson and 6'1" Dan Kelly filled out the starting lineup. The two big men had met earlier in the season with Joseph playing with an injury, and was totally dominated by Lindell Houston 47-11 point comparison. Terrell won the game 77-65. Lindell Houston was not as dominant in District 9-AAAA, averaging only 18.2 points per game. I.M.Terrell liked to get the ball inside to Houston with 6'7" Travis Ross in the corner. Ross could shoot from long distance, and Arthur Williams was also a fine long range bomber. Hughes was questioned about changing up his style before the game, and he said the Panthers would continue what they have done all

season. Ft. Worth Terrell came into the contest at 26-4 and Arlington Heights entered with a 24-7 mark. The two rivals would play at Daniel Meyer Coliseum on the campus of T.C.U. The winner would advance to regionals in College Station. The Panthers of I.M. Terrell withstood a comeback attempt by Arlington Heights winning 70-68 in overtime. At one point, Terrell was up 13 points in the 3rd quarter before 6,200 fans at Daniel Meyer. Arlington Heights outscored Terrell 29-16 over the next nine minutes to tie the game 64-64 at the end of regulation. Cedric Joseph led the rally by the Yellow jackets, who outscored Terrell 11-1 during the last two minutes of regulation. Lindell Houston led all scorers with 24 points, and Ross finished with 23. For Arlington Heights, Joseph finished with 19 points, but only hit 3 of 10 from the foul line. Dan Kelly and Jeff Pruett both finished with 16 points for Heights and Mike English had 13.

(14) Hughes was born in Bristow, Oklahoma in 1928, Coached at I.M. Terrell and Dunbar in Ft. Worth. After segregation ended, I.M. Terrell was shut down. Hughes retired as the all-time winningest high school coach in the United States with 1,333 wins, passing Morgan Wooten of DeMatha in Washington D.C. in 2003. His son is the current coach at Dunbar. Robert Sr. played basketball at Texas Southern and was drafted by the Celtics. He was an outstanding offensive player according to Jackie Carr of Wheatley, who faced Hughes in college. Hughes was a great interview and class act in so many different ways. One of the true gentlemen of the game.

(15) Joseph had a fine career at Texas A&M and was the first African American recruit of Shelby Metcalf at A&M.

Spring Branch Memorial(35-3) looked to be one of the big favorites to capture region II and for good reason. Coach Don Coleman Mustangs finished District having won 79 straight District contests dating back seven years. Memorial had advanced to the state finals in 1969, and looked for another strong playoff run in 1970. The Mustangs first round opponent would be Houston Smiley(22-13), who won 15-AAAA with a perfect 8-0 mark. Coleman(16) looked to 6'7" Bengt Bengtson, 6'7" Randy Youngling(21.6), 6'4" Rick Kruger, 6'5" Mark Stewart and 5'11" Tom Bartley. Memorial had a very impressive run during the regular season beating Ft. Worth Terrell(27-5) 57-52 Cypress-Fairbanks(32-5) 66-57 and 73-57 and Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(31-5) 78-54. Losses included Houston Westbury(26-10) 49-47. Westbury had one of the top recruits in the state in 6'6" Lee Griffin, who later played at Baylor. Memorial lost to Wheatley in the Arlington Classic 59-47 and to Houston Sam Houston(24-10) 52-49. The Mustangs had a real impressive average of 67.3 points per game and held their opponents to a mere 46.2 for a 21.1 margin of victory. These numbers were some of the best in the state. Having won the state title in 1966 and state finalist in 1967 and again in 1969, they were going to be a tough out. Memorial would play Houston Smiley at Rice Gym.

Coach Don Coleman was not pleased with his teams 56-34 Bi-District victory over Houston Smiley. "We played ragged, we just weren't sharp. Our

defense looked good but we made far too many turnovers. We can't play like this in College Station and expect to go very far."

Dallas Thomas Jefferson had the strongest program in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area throughout the late 1950s and 1960s. Although the Rebels had won only one title they had traveled to state numerous times. In 1959, 1962, 1963, 1965, and 1968 Thomas Jefferson made the final four, and in '62 captured the class 4-A championship. They were runner-up in '59, '65, and '68. A week before the 1969-70 school year the T.J. head basketball coach, Mike Pinkston decided to take the assistant basketball job at S.M.U. The athletic director and head football coach at T.J. was a little frustrated with the success the basketball program had been enjoying and saw an opportunity to throw a wrench in the machine. He hired the swim coach to take over the basketball program, Charles Vernon. He had no experience coaching basketball. The team he inherited was well versed in the game, and were going to play the way they had been taught, pressing and up tempo. During the summer the Thomas Jefferson team had scrimmaged together with R.L. Turner and Irving high schools on Tuesday and Thursdays. In talking to former player, Steve Moffett, he emphasized T.J. did not even have a half-court offense. "We were not good at slowing down the ball and running a half-court offense."

"Our first game against W.T. White at Loos Fieldhouse was probably the defining moment when we realized we had a pretty good team," Moffett continued. W.T. White returned three starters from the previous year and were the favorite to win District. The Longhorns relied on Wayne Warren, one of the top guards in Dallas and the 6'5" LeGrow twins. After a hard-fought win, the Rebels cruised through District, losing only one game and that was to Dallas Lincoln, late in the District campaign.

(16) Don Coleman started coaching at Aldine High School in 1957 and moved to Memorial when it opened in 1962. His last game was 1992. Compiled 893-331 record with 81 straight 5-A district wins from 1964-71.

As Thomas Jefferson entered the playoffs they would be the underdog in almost every game because of their lack of size. Dallas Adamson, their Bi-District opponent, was led by one of the best big men in the state, 6'7", 235 pound, Julius Howard. Howard averaged 20.7 points per game despite being double and triple teamed. Adamson had one of the more deliberate attacks in the Dallas I.S.D. and had won a very tough District. Adamson had beaten Crozier Tech and South Oak Cliff to gain the playoff spot. The question was could they contain the Rebels running game? Howard commented before the game, "T.J. runs and shoots, but we've seen teams that do that all year." Howard continued discussing the personnel of the Rebels, "There certainly more to that team than just Marcellus."

Bill Marcellus was considered one of the top players in Dallas in 1970 as a junior and later played at S.M.U. The Leopards of Adamson would call upon Coy Johnson, 6'1" Mike Polan(13.4), 6'1" Ronnie Samford, 6'2" Robert Starr(11.3), and 6'3" Larry Smith. T.J. coach, Charley Vernon said, "Julius is one of the best post in the city. Once he gets the ball under the basket, that's two points brother."

Thomas Jefferson continued their great basketball tradition defeating Adamson 65-52 before 4,500 fans at Loos Field House. The outstanding guard play of Bob McKey and Bill Marcellus was the difference. McKey later played at Texas A&M for two seasons and Marcellus played at S.M.U. Howard of Adamson was dominating as usual scoring 23 points, adding 20 rebounds. Marcellus had 25 and McKey hit 18 points with six assists. Adamson won the battle of the boards 42-33. It was Thomas Jefferson's fifth city title in nine seasons and first under Coach Vernon.

As Ft. Worth Terrell entered regionals in College Station, they knew they would have to get ready to run facing the Rebels of Dallas Thomas Jefferson. Hughes commented, "They get the ball and move it down court quickly. In the game I saw them they were on their way back before the other team knew what was happening." Terrell likes to run also, so Coach Hughes was anticipating a high scoring game. Hughes felt confident that the Panthers could go all the way to state with his talented crew of Houston, Ross and Ralph Hall. And guard, Arthur Williams was one of the best deep shooters in the state. The Arlington Heights coach commented after his team's Bi-District loss to Terrell, "We've never worked at guarding anybody that far out." Ross, who was District 9-AAAA Player of the Year, averaged 18.1 in District action while the imposing Lindale Houston hit at an 18.2 clip. Williams averaged 8.5 in District action. The 1970 version of the Rebels was as fast as their teams in the past. They played one of the most formidable schedules in the state and finished with a 27-5 record. The Rebels starting lineup consisted of one of the top juniors in the state, 6'4" Bill Marcellus(21.2) and outstanding guard, 5'11" Bobby McKey(10.6), 6'3" Steve Moffett(12.5), 6'4" Alan Watson(12.4) and 6'3" Nick Taylor(13.7). Dee Green, John Hulme and Mike Nolan were key reserves. Standout Marcellus commented, "It doesn't look like we're going to be able to drive inside much, since those two big men will just be waiting to bat our shots away. When I am inside, I'll be trying to draw the foul. I know this Houston goes for the blocks and maybe we can get them in foul trouble." Ft. Worth Terrell's front line was 6'7", 6'6" and 6'3" with T.J.'s tallest player at 6'4". The Thomas Jefferson vs. I.M.Terrell game would be played at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Waco Richfield against Spring Branch Memorial.

Thomas Jefferson had played so many storied games in its long basketball history that their 101-99 triple overtime win against Ft. Worth Terrell had to rate as one of the best ever. A crowd of 3,000 fans watched the classic at G. Rollie White Coliseum on the campus of Texas A&M in College Station. In the third overtime, Bill

Marcellus put T.J. ahead on a baseline jumper from 20 feet away with 45 seconds remaining. It was the first score by either team in the third overtime and put the Rebels up 97-95. Lindell Houston missed two foul shots and Marcellus hit two free throws to add to the T. J. advantage 99-95. Houston came back and hit a short jumper with 27 seconds remaining. Dee Green of T.J. nailed the coffin shot with two free throws and 13 seconds on the clock. Houston closed out the scoring with seven seconds remaining to make the final, 101-99. The 6'7" Lindell Houston dominated the game scoring 47 of his team's 99 points. Hughes claimed after the game that the officiating hurt his team. A critical call at the end of regulation helped Thomas Jefferson tie the game at 81-81. The backcourt violation was very questionable and enabled Marcellus to shoot a 24-footer to tie the game. At the end of the second overtime another disputed call, this time went against Thomas Jefferson on a tip in by Ralph Hall on a Lindell Houston field goal attempt. It definitely looked as if Hall touched the ball on the rim but the refs disagree, sending the game into a third overtime. The Rebels protested vehemently but to no avail. Only two players from the Panthers finished in double figures, Houston had 47 and Ross contributed 33. For T.J., the scoring was much more balanced, Marcellus finished with 28, McKey 25 and Watson had 26.

As Memorial prepared for the regional semi-final match-up against Waco Richfield the Mustangs were confident because they had easily handled Waco Richfield the previous year 76-58. Richfield(31-7) put its hopes on their fast break offense built around 6'0" Larry Davis(12.6), 5'10" Garland Bullock and the inside game of James Weaver, a 6'4" talented junior. Richfield had out gunned Marshall Pemberton(24-5) in Bi-District 92-82. It would be difficult for Richfield to run on the taller and more discipline Memorial squad. When you faced the Mustangs, it was going to be a slow deliberate game, and Coach Coleman's team would control the boards. Remember, Memorial held their opponents to only 46 points per game during the regular season. No opponent had been able to break 60 points all season, even Wheatley totaled 59 against the Stangs.

The game ended up being one of the most lopsided in state playoff history with Memorial taking no prisoners, winning by 38 points 75-37. Eleven players scored for the Mustangs in the route. Bengt Bengtson led the Mustang charge with 18 points and Mark Stewart collected 12 and both Randy Younglin and Rick Kruger finished with 11. Garland Bullock was the only Waco Richfield player in double figures scoring 15.

Memorial looked to be the favorite in the regional finals against T.J. It would be hard for the Rebels to regroup after their exciting triple overtime victory against Ft. Worth Terrell. Bill Marcellus shared years later that when he saw Memorial walking the ball up the court he was elated. "I was exhausted from the morning game, we wanted to play a slow pace because we were so tired." Bobby McKey showed why he was considered one of the top point guards in the state

early leading his team to an 18-16 lead. The Rebels never relinquished the lead. Memorial was able to tie the game three times in the second half, but could not take the lead. Up by two with 2:34 to play, T.J. went into a semi stall. A short jumper and two free throws by McKey finished Memorial off when the score was tied 48-48. Nicky Taylor and Dee Green also added buckets late for the Rebels. The 59-55 victory put T.J. at the big dance for the sixth time in twelve years. This would also be the schools last visit to the promised land of the state tournament. McKey led the scoring for Thomas Jefferson with 16 points followed by Steve Moffett, who made a strong contribution to the Rebels victory. Once again, T.J. gave up a great deal of size inside with Memorial standing, 6'7", 6'7", 6'5. "We've been against bigger teams all year," Moffett said. Marcellus was held to only 10 points by Memorial but Moffett and McKey picked up the scoring for T.J. Youngling had 23 points for the Mustangs followed by Bengtson with 10.

McKey was such an integral part of the Rebels, although he averaged only 10.6 per game. He was named to the first team All-Greater Dallas squad along with Luther Robertson(20.2) of South Oak Cliff, Sammy Hervey(37.0), Jimmy Murphy of R.L. Turner and Andre Tillman(26.3) of Lake Highlands. Marcellus was named to the second team but was named All-State over McKey. Player of the Year in Dallas of course was Hervey.(17)

(17) Sammy's high school coach at Booker T. Washington in Dallas his junior year was George Roland. "No doubt about it, he sure is a great one... the best I've ever seen." Glynn Stevens of South Oak Cliff said about Hervey, "He's tremendous. He amazes me every time I watch him. He'll come down the court full speed, stop and put it up all in one motion. He's got the quickest hands I've ever seen." Hervey's star faded quickly, out of shape, poor grades; he played only part of his senior season at S.M.U. and was still drafted in the sixth round by the Hawks of the N.B.A. He came home after three days. He loved to fish and cook and cooked up a storm at Sammy's Barbeque downtown. Money was not a big deal to Hervey. He had some health problems later in life and neglected the issues and suffered a heart attack. He died at the age of 54 in 2006. His wife had died two years earlier and this affected him a great deal.

Region III

Deer Park(19-13)

Houston Wheatley(34-0)

Houston Madison(26-8)

Beaumont Pollard(31-5)

Clear Creek(35-2)

Houston Kashmere(21-9)

Houston Waltrip(19-14)

Pt. Arthur Jefferson(22-13)

Top Five Players in Region III

6'10" Dwight Jones, Houston Wheatley; 6'7" Lawrence Johnson, Houston Wheatley; 6'3" Allen Batro, Houston Wheatley; 6'3" Paul Trcka, Clear Creek; 6'6" Lee Griffin, Houston Westbury:

Houston basketball was the best in the state year in and year out throughout the 1960s and 1970s and into the 1980s. Houston had a large population and also was one of two professional basketball franchises in the state, along with the San Antonio Spurs in the A.B.A. The Spurs had been in Dallas for a brief time and were called the Chaparrals while in Dallas. The main reason basketball became so beloved in Houston was the Fonde Recreational Center. Located near downtown Houston in the 6th ward, college level players and pros were frequent visitors to the legendary recreational center. Angelo Cascio, a native of Louisiana, ran the court for 26 years and organized the games on the court. No Alcohol, No Drugs, No Profanity, No Fights! The gym's heyday was the 1970s and 1980s. As Willie Foreman put it, "It was the Mecca of basketball." If you wanted to play against the best, this was the place you showed your talents. Moses Malone, Hakeem Olajuwon, Michael Young, Clyde Drexler, Elvin Hayes, Don Chaney, and Rob Williams just to name a few. The rec center opened in 1960 and has been written about in Sports Illustrated, Boston Globe, Dallas Morning News and Texas Monthly. Cascio also tried to keep what he called the "Rinky Dinks" out of the gym. These were players who thought they had game that didn't. In 1986, at the age of 72, Angelo Cascio passed away, but his legacy lives on with Fonde Recreational center. The gym now bares his name.

Beaumont Pollard and Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson opened the state playoffs facing each other in Bi-District. Pollard had another formidable team finishing at 31-5 while Jefferson was fortunate to make the playoffs. Pollard started 6'1" Donald Smith(13.2), 5'9" Albert Dill(8.9), 6'4" Hardy Malvo(10.0), 6'4" Robert Lee(10.0) and 5'11" Joseph Bowser(10.5). 6'0" Sherman Joseph(11.6) was a key contributor off the bench. The Yellow jackets attack centered around 6'3" Danny Bromley(22.7/10.0), 6'4" Kim Bergman(11.4), 5'9" Bandie Cooper(8.8), 6'0" Lee Poulter(7.0) and 5'10" Matt Colletti(7.0). The game was a close one with Pollard's Albert Dill stealing the ball with 18 seconds remaining and hitting the winning bucket. The 61-59 victory by Pollard enabled them to advance to regionals. Dill finished with 24 points and was the corner stone of the team's defense. Jefferson had been stalling for the last shot when Dill made his steal. Port Arthur Jefferson was led by Danny Bromleg with 32 points.

Pt. Arthur Lincoln did not make the playoffs in 1970, but they had one of the top guards in the state in 5'9" Fred "Pooh" Curby. Coach Gamble years later called "Pooh" one of the best guards he ever coached. "He was very well rounded and shot the ball extremely well, I never had a player shoot the ball better than Fred." Following high school, Curby took his talents and played at Jackson State for a few years.

District 17-AAAA was wild and wooly during the 1970 season. After Houston Sam Houston defeated Houston Reagan 75-55 at Delmar, it threw the District into a five-way tie for the title and playoff spot. It meant that Houston

Davis, Houston Kashmere, Houston Washington, Houston Reagan and Sam Houston all shared 4-4 record in District action. It was one of the few times in the U.I.L. history that all the teams in a District had tied for the title. A four-game tournament was set up over three nights to decide the champion. The pairings were drawn by athletic director, Joe Tusa. Unfortunately, the winner of the District playoff would face Wheatley. While all this was going on, Wheatley traveled to Baton Rouge to face the always strong, Boston High. Wheatley improved its record to 33-0 defeating Boston of Lake Charles 111-97. Allen Batro was the leading scorer for the Wildcats with 27 points. The two teams again faced off on Friday and with the same results, just a bigger difference, Wheatley 126 Boston 67. The Wildcats entered the playoffs on a 57-game winning streak.

In the first game of District 17-AAAA playoff, Houston Reagan defeated Houston Washington 56-54. Reagan had the ball with one second left when Craig Reynolds hit a bucket to give Reagan the win. Reynolds hit the shot on a pass from out of bounds by Earnest Wilson. Reagan had twice lost to Washington during the regular season 40-34 and 45-41. Reynolds finished with 18 points and Wilson had 16. For Washington, it was Rudy Collins hitting 21 in a losing effort. The Houston Reagan Bulldogs would next face Houston Davis the following evening at Delmar at 8:30 p.m. Sam Houston and Kashmere would be teeing it up in the early game at 7:00 p.m. In the semi-final games the following evening, Kashmere defeated Sam Houston(24-11) 62-60 with an eight-foot jumper by Willie Ferguson with eight seconds on the clock. Houston Davis defeated Reagan 67-65 on a baseline drive by Maurice Presley with 28 seconds remaining. Kashmere(21-9) and Houston Davis(23-12) advanced to the finals of the 17-AAAA playoff tournament. 6'9" Presley finished with 28 points for Houston Davis and Ferguson was the leading scorer for Kashmere with 22. In the finals, Kashmere came away with a 72-71 triumph over Houston Davis. Davis missed five shots in the last 42 seconds and Kashmere made two critical turnovers down the stretch and almost lost the game. Houston Davis turned the ball over 28 times while Kashmere had 24 turnovers. At the foul line, Kashmere had a big advantage, hitting 14 of 24 and Davis managed only 7 of 16.

In Bi-District, Kashmere would now have the unenviable task to face Houston Wheatley(34-0) for the third time? The previous scores had been 125-54 and 101-73. Coach Jackie Carr, in his first year at the helm would count on 6'10" Dwight Jones(28.0/30.0), 6'7" Lawrence "Spider" Johnson(19/28), 6'3" Allen Batro(20/16), 6'6" Roy Fields, 5'9" Clarence Johnson, 5'10" Cecil Dutton and 6'3" A.T. Foreman. Jones was a high school All-American and considered one of the top players to ever come out of Texas. He and 6'11" Tom McMillan of Pennsylvania and 6'11" Bill Walton of LaMesa California were the top recruits in the country. (18) Jones went on to star at the University of Houston and a long career in the N.B.A. "Spider" Johnson was a defensive force, who was at the front of the press with

long arms and very athletic. He always guarded the opponent's top offensive player. His specialty was defensive, rebounding and blocking shots. He played his freshman season at the University of Texas and started on the freshman squad which was undefeated. Remember the freshman were ineligible for varsity competition in 1971. While at Texas, "We gave the varsity all they could handle," Spider said. Not only was Spider on the team but Larry Robinson of Hobbs, New Mexico, was also on the freshman squad. Robinson went on to dominate the varsity for the next three seasons with the Longhorns. Spider transferred to Sam Houston St. and later to Texas Southern. "I still had eligibility left, I was just tired of playing," Spider said years later. When you played for Coach Briggs and Coach Carr, with the discipline that they taught, it was hard playing for these other schools. On why he selected Texas over the University of Houston, "They didn't recruit me very hard, they thought I would follow Dwight and Allen because we were teammates, but that was not case. I'm my own man." Allen Batro signed with Houston, but could not qualify academically, so he played at San Jacinto J.C. with the plan he would come back to Houston. Batro ended up at Texas Southern with "Spider." Clarence Johnson, Spider's little brother was probably the top guard in the state his junior and senior year. At 5'10", he could do it all on the basketball court. He was going to be drafted into the service out of high school so he enlisted in the military. Clarence never got a chance to play in college. 6'6" Roy Fields was a low post player that was really strong, he was called "Heavy". He was tough rebounder and would clear out large areas. Fields later played at Texas College in Tyler. The best shooter on the team was probably, 6'0" junior, Cecil Dutton. "He had unlimited range, he was our zone buster," Spider said. Dutton led the country in scoring at an All-Black college in Tyler called, Texas College. Willie Thornton was another strong inside player at 6'4". Another key player off the bench was 6'4" Anthony Foreman, who also played at Texas College. Another sub was Jackie Walker, who played with Spider and Batro at Texas Southern. Wheatley had won 97 of their previous 99 games. Of those two losses, one had come at the hands of Kashmere in 1969 78-73. So the Rams might not have been as intimidated as other teams. Lawrence Johnson of Wheatley teamed with Jones to form one of the most dominating post tandems in the country. Batro rounded out the dynamic trio. The duel between Kashmere and Wheatley would be played at Delmar.

(18) McMillan even had his picture on the cover of Sports Illustrated. He was the second such High School player to be bestowed that honor. Rick Mount of Lebanon, Indiana was the first in February of 1966, Mike Peterson of Kansas in 1971, Kevin Garnett of Chicago Farragut in June of 1995, LeBron James of St. Vincent in Akron, Ohio, Sebastian Telfair of Lincoln High school in New York, and Jabari Parker of Simeon in Chicago.

After a slow start, Wheatley rolled over Kashmere 94-68 behind Dwight Jones 18 points, 22 rebounds and 3 blocks, with two goal tending calls. Lawrence Johnson had 18 points, Batro 17 and Clarence Johnson with 10. Willie Ferguson led the Rams with 16 points. Thirteen players scored for Wheatley, including three brought up from the J.V. squad that had captured the city championship.

In District 20-AAAA, the playoff representative, Houston Waltrip(19-14) played a warm-up game against 15-AAAA champion, Houston Smiley. Waltrip walked away with a 69-57 win and Bobby Jochech finished with 26 points. Smiley's leaders were John Clark with 21 and Charles Goree with 16.

Houston Waltrip(19-14) would face off in Bi-District against a first timer, Houston Madison(26-7), winner of District 21-AAAA. Waltrip had lost earlier in the season to Madison by nine points. Waltrip was looking to get back to regionals for the second year in a row having lost in 1969 to Wheatley 64-55. Waltrip would look to 6'5" Bobby Jochech, 6'6" Bruce Baker, 6'2" Bob Holland, 6'0" Mark Johnson and 6'3" Bubba Cahill. Coach Paul Benton of Madison was proud of his starters, 5'8" Robert Cheesman, 6'3" Phil Towse, 6'2" Jarvis Trimble and 6'2" David Gram. The Waltrip-Madison game was played on a Monday evening instead of the usual Tuesday. Waltrip blasted Madison 71-45 at Delmar to open the state playoffs. Coach Foster Martin's crew led 31-16 at halftime and was up by 21 points after three quarters. The Rams press gave Madison fits forcing 18 errors while Waltrip committed 16 turnovers. Bob Jochee had 21 points and 6'6" sophomore, Bruce Baker collected 16 points to lead Waltrip. Robert Cheesman was the only Marlin in double figures with 11 points. Towse, the Marlins main scorer was surrounded and had only five points. He fouled out with 5:23 left in the game.

Clear Creek(35-2) entered Bi-District against arch rival Deer Park(19-13), having won 17 straight District titles. Coach Bill Krueger's team was always strong and had great shooters. The 1970 team was no different with Buddy Carlisle and 6'2" Paul Trcka(23.6). Trcka finished #5 on the all-time scoring list at Clear Creek with 1555 and Carlisle ended up #11 with 1313. They were considered two of the best Krueger had ever coached. In 2007 after his retirement, Coach Krueger called Trcka one of the best scorers he had ever coached. High praise coming from one of the all-time great coaches. Trcka would be returning after missing five games because of Mononucleosis. Creek played Deer Park at Hofheinz Pavilion of the Campus of the University of Houston. In the 63-53 victory by Clear Creek, it looked as if Trcka had recovered from his illness nicely knocking down 28 points. Ten of the points came late off the Cougars delay game tactics. With seven minutes remaining in the contest, Creek went into a delay leading by only seven points.

The Region III tournament was held at Houston's Hofheinz Pavilion. At 10:00 a.m. Houston Wheatley(34-0) would face Clear Creek(36-2) and at 11:45, Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(32-5) faced Houston Waltrip(20-14). The winners would meet at 8:00 p.m. that evening. Clear Creek was not excited about playing

Wheatley having lost, 66-50 the previous season in regionals. Coach Krueger was hoping his two outstanding guards might be able to handle the pressure from Wheatley. 5'11" Buddy Carlisle(18.0) and 6'1" Hank Bauerschlag formed one of the top backcourts in the state along with 6'2" Paul Trcka(26.0) and 6'4" Brad Wolfe. Waltrip, winner of 12 straight games, would be looking for the upset against Pollard.

Houston Waltrip outscored Beaumont Pollard 34-26 in the second half to advance to the regional finals 71-60 in a mild upset. After trailing 29-20 in the first half, Waltrip came back behind the scoring of Bruce Baker's 17 points, Bob Holland's 16 and Bobby Jochech's 13. Baker also had 14 rebounds. With 5:15 left in the game the Rams top scorer, Jochech fouled out with his team leading 53-47. It didn't matter, as Waltrip went on to win. Pollard's leading scorer in the loss was Joseph Womack with 15 points and Sherman Joseph, who ended up with 12 points. Free throws were the difference late as Waltrip's Mark Johnson, Gary Scott and Bruce Baker all came through for the Rams.

In the other Semi-Finals game, Wheatley continued their winning ways defeating Clear Creek 65-54. Creek took Wheatley to the limit with their slow down tactics and for three quarters stayed with the Wildcats. A crowd of 7,200 saw the lead change hands 12 times during the contest. Going into the fourth quarter, Wheatley led by only one 40-39. Jackie Carr's Wildcats went on a 14-2 run off six straight Clear Creek turnovers from the press. With the lead 54-41 the Wildcats cruised to the victory. Wheatley almost doubled Creek's rebound total 36-20. "Our pressure from the press paid off," Coach Carr said after the game. "But believe me, Clear Creek has a real fine team." Wheatley had a difficult time handling Trcka of Clear Creek. With a variety of hooks, layups and short jumpers he finished with 30 points. Carlisle finished with 11 points, and nobody else was able to manage double figures for Clear Creek. For Wheatley, it was the same old balanced attack with four players in double figures. Jones had 16, Lawrence Johnson finished with 18, Batro 11 and Dutton 10. Wheatley was 13-20 from the foul line and Creek was 8 of 11. A surprising stat was team fouls. Creek had 14 and Wheatley only 9. The region III final was set, Houston Waltrip, the surprise team of the playoffs and Wheatley the favorite. The Wildcats had previously played Waltrip during the regular season and put a whippin on them 96-42. That is a 54-point margin of victory. Wheatley would be fairly confident that they could bring home the critical win for the purple and white faithful. In the early going the score was tied 12 times and the lead switched hands seven times in this very competitive game. Trailing 45-43 in the third quarter, Wheatley went on a spurt of 12-2 and took a 55-47 lead. Waltrip twice got the lead down to four but could never get closer. The 80-73 victory put the Wildcats in the state tournament for the third straight season since desegregation in 1968. Dwight Jones had 22 points and 15 rebounds, Lawrence Johnson finished with 21 and Willie Thornton came off the bench and contributed

18 for Coach Jackie Carr. Waltrip played a great game and was led by Bob Holland's 17 points, Bob Jochec with 15, reserve Wally Ernest finished with 14, Bruce Baker 13 and Mark Johnson 10. Ernest was big down the stretch scoring 8 of his 14 points in the final period.

Region IV

San Antonio Edgewood(19-12)

Victoria(29-2)

San Antonio Marshall(19-13)

San Antonio Highlands(29-4)

San Antonio Brackenridge(32-1)

Edinburg(23-9)

Austin Johnston(27-2)

San Antonio South(30-6)

Top Five Players in Region IV

6'3" Roy Moore(jr), Victoria; 6'6" Charlie McKinney, S.A. Sam Houston; 6'1" Mike Luce, S.A. Lee; 6'7" Doug Schneider, McAllen; 6'1" Jackie Sommers, S.A. Brackenridge:

In Bi-District, Victoria(29-2) matched up against Edinburg(23-9), a team they had beaten earlier in the season 90-53. Every member of the Victoria squad saw minutes in the win. The Bi-District game was played at Kingsville and once again Victoria was too strong for Edinburg winning 70-46. Roy Moore led Victoria with 18 points followed by Joe Luna with 16. Victoria would be making its first appearance in regionals since 1963. Victoria's last loss had been on December 5 to San Antonio Marshall 89-83 in triple overtime. The team was on a mission. Coach Jack Cook had been at Victoria for 18 seasons and had a solid lineup made up of, 6'3" Jim Walker, 6'4" Allen Clifton, 6'3" Roy Moore, 6'1" Joe Luna and 6'0" Mike Mueller. Moore was probably the top player in the region. Victoria had some impressive numbers averaging 75.6 per game and allowing only 57.4 for a difference of 18.2. Moore and Luna were named first team All-District with only five players being named and Clifton was named to the 2nd team. There were no superlatives or anything else in those days, just the top five players in District. In another Bi-District contest played at the Blossom Athletic Center in San Antonio, San Antonio Brackenridge met San Antonio Edgewood. The San Antonio Brackenridge coach, Roger Harris was very upset because his team had been off for eight days, having been unable to get a practice game in before the playoffs. The Brackenridge-Edgewood contest had an unusual start to the game when 6'1" Millard Neely of Brackenridge, the team's 250-pound center had car trouble and missed the first half of action. The Red Raiders of Edgewood were led by Edward Landin and Mike Joyner. The game was not close as the Eagles showed a high powered offense scoring 90 points and allowing only 55. Edgewood tried to bother Brackenridge with their slow down tactics, but it proved to be unsuccessful against the Eagles high octane offense. Jackie Summers hit 27 points, Carlos McCullough had 22 and Vernon Evans finished with 20. Summers played at Tyler J.C. Edgewood came in with Williams with 23 and Ricky Campos with 10.

In San Marcos, on the campus of Southwest Texas State, presently known as Texas State University, Austin Johnston(28-2) played San Antonio Marshall(19-13). Johnston was impressive with their full court pressure and elusive point guard, 5'8" Larry Moore. Johnston's key scorer was a 6'3" sophomore, Dwight Kiel, who was a transfer from Germany. Kiel would lead his team with 20 points in the 72-65 victory over S.A. Marshall. 6'3" junior, Marvin Slovacek kept S.A. Marshall in the game with 16 points and 6'5" Steve Clicque was a key contributor. For the Rams of Johnston, it was their 22 win in a row. Losses during the season included, Alamo Heights 55-40 in the season opener and a 56-51 loss to San Antonio Jefferson in the first round of the Austin Tournament. S.A. Marshall would finish the season with a 19-14 mark, and was thankful to gain the playoffs after winning a playoff with New Braunfels, 46-44 in double overtime.

At the Blossom Center in San Antonio, San Antonio Highlands(29-4) dropped South San Antonio(30-6) 72-68 in the team's Bi-District game. Highlands was leading by 21 points with six minutes remaining when South made up a 17-point difference. Up 64-43, Highlands could not handle the Bobcats press and were outscored 25-8 in the final minutes, making a close game out of it. Highlands coach, Herman Humble said after the game, "We started holding the ball, I guess we should have kept trying to score." The post play inside for Highlands was the difference with Wayne Dickey and John Campbell dominating. Campbell had 21 points and 12 rebounds and Dickey contributed 19 points and 8 rebounds. Anthony Robinson added 19 points from the outside. For South S.A., Danny Snyder was the leading scorer with 23 points and 13 rebounds. Highlands had the rebounding edge 38-23. The Bobcats of South San Antonio stayed in the game from the foul line hitting 28 of 33. South finished at 30-7 on the season while Highlands moved on with a 30-4 mark. A crowd of 2,373 paid to view the game.

In regionals, San Antonio Highlands(30-4) met Austin Johnston(28-2) in the early morning game on the Campus of Trinity University with San Antonio Brackenridge(33-1) meeting Victoria(30-2) in the second game. The regional finals contest would be at the same location at 8:00 unless both San Antonio teams met in the game. In that case the regional finals would be played at the Alamo Stadium Gym. Highlands came into the contest with a 30-4 mark, losing three games to Brackenridge by a total of eight points. The Owls averaged 69.0 points on the season and allowed 51.0. Johnston entered the game with an impressive 28-2 record and a 64.8 offensive average and allowed 49.4 to their opponents. This was the lowest defensive total of the four regional teams. Highlands had four starters that averaged in double figures, 6'3" John Campbell(16.2), 6'4" Wayne Dickey(15.7), 6'3" Alan Kirks(14.3), 6'0" Anthony Robinson(11.8), and either 6'0" Sam White or 6'3" Gary Wehmeyer. Bench performers were 6'0" Ronnie Mullins and 5'10" Clarence Montgomery. Kirks was the team floor leader. Johnston on the other hand relied a great deal on their full court press and run and shoot offense.

6'3" James Price(12.7), 6'0" Darrell Stewart(12.4), 6'5" Howard Blaylark(11.3), 5'8" Larry Moore(9.6) and William Brooks(9.3) were the starters for Johnston. Larry Moore was considered the trigger man for Johnston, who was the playmaker and very elusive.

Johnston forced Highlands into 18 turnovers during the contest, and was able to take the lead with 4:18 remaining in the game 55-53. Highlands hit 17 consecutive free throws and finished 22 of 24 from the line. Johnston's pressure proved too much, as they came away with a 68-59 victory to advance to the regional finals. Highlands finished the season at 30-5.

In the other regional semi-final game, San Antonio Brackenridge(32-1) awaited Victoria. In referring to the four regional teams, Coach Cook of Victoria commented, "I would say that a very thin line separates any of the teams." On having to face Brackenridge in the semi-finals game Cook responded, "I don't see what difference it makes, you have to win both games to get to Austin, there are no patsies beyond district." Brackenridge was a formidable team as their record would indicate. Brackenridge's only loss of the season came against San Antonio Central Catholic 55-47. They defeated San Antonio Wheatley to capture the 31-AAAA District title. The Eagles were fueled by guard Jackie Summers, who at 6'1" was the leading scorer with 19.9 points per game, other starters included 6'0" Vernon Evans(14.5), 6'4" Carlis McCullough(14.0), 6'1" 250 pound Millard Neely(9.6) and 5'10" David Perez(16.9). Summers had played in the state tournament as a sophomore in 1968, and started on a team that finished 3rd in state. The Eagles averaged 80.8 and allowed 64.3 per game for a 16.5 difference. This was easily the highest scoring team of the four teams that made it to regionals. Victoria's only losses had come at the hands of El Campo and San Antonio Mac Arthur. Brackenridge had defeated S.A. MacArthur three times during the regular season. Victoria came into the contest on a 25-game winning streak and averaged 75.4 per game and allowed 57.4 for an 18.0 difference. These were very impressive numbers by both teams.

Roy Moore of Victoria ended up having a career game with 37 points against S.A. Brackenridge, but it was not enough. Brackenridge showed why they were considered the top team in San Antonio during the 1970 campaign winning 92-75. Most of Moore's points came from about 20 feet away and he also pulled down 17 rebounds. Moore got into early foul trouble, picking up his third foul in the first quarter. He had to move his game further outside as a result. Joe Luna also contributed 22 points and 12 rebounds. David Perez led Brackenridge in scoring with 24 points, followed by Jackie Summers with 20, Vernon Evans had 18 and Carlos McCullough finished with 18. The rebounding edge went to Brackenridge 44-35.

In the regional finals, Austin Johnston pulled the upset knocking Brackenridge out of the state playoffs 65-62. Johnston's press forced Brackenridge

into 24 turnovers and Johnston committed only eight. Brackenridge jumped out to a 24 point first quarter, leading the Rams 24-12. Johnston came back and trailed 36-31 at half. The Rams took the lead for the first time with 6:31 remaining in the game 48-46. Brackenridge responded with 12 consecutive points to lead 58-48. The Rams never quit, tying the score at 58 all with 2:25 remaining. Larry Moore hit a foul shot to give the Rams the lead 59-58 with 1:19 left. Brackenridge had gone scoreless last 6 minutes of the contest, and finally scored with 27 seconds remaining to make the score 65-62. Brackenridge finished 34-2 on the season, and the #1 team in San Antonio. Evans and McCullough of S.A. Brackenridge were named all-tournament along with Blaylark of Austin Johnston, Moore of Victoria and Dickey of S.A. Highlands.

State Tournament

Carrollton R.L. Turner	(36-2)	74.1-60.0	+14.0
Dallas T. Jefferson	(30-6)	80.3-68.7	+11.6
Houston Wheatley	(37-0)	96.1-63.2	+32.9
Austin Johnston	(29-2)	63.8-50.3	+13.5

State Tournaments Top Five

6'10"	Dwight Jones	Houston Wheatley
6'7"	Lawrence Johnson	Houston Wheatley
6'3"	Allen Batro	Houston Wheatley
6'4"	Jimmy Murphy	Carrollton R.L. Turner
5'11"	Bobby McKey	Dallas Thomas Jefferson:

Of course, the tournament was all about Wheatley and their pursuit of a third straight championship. Several schools had won back to back titles in the largest classification, but nobody had ever won three in a row. The closest anyone had come was in 1955 when Pampa was stopped on their way to a third title in the semi-finals.

At 4:30, the afternoon game on Friday, would pit Carrollton R.L. Turner against Austin Johnston and then at 8:00 p.m. Wheatley would play Dallas Thomas Jefferson. This was a rematch of the 1968 state title game that had gone into overtime with Wheatley winning. "We were pulling for Memorial," Coach Carr said, "But if Thomas Jefferson beats them they must have a great team." Memorial coach, Don Coleman, who had played both teams said, "I think a lot will depend on how Wheatley's press effect's T.J." "T.J. like Wheatley likes to run and shoot. And they seem to have better outside shooters than Wheatley. If T.J. does beat the press and gets through, they have the speed and shooters to score every time they put the ball up. But on the other hand, I don't think T.J. has seen or been up against a press like Wheatley's. How they react could decide the winner." Coleman continued, "Jones and Johnson give Wheatley a big edge on the boards, but T.J. has three real tough 6'4" boys plus two unreal outside shooters in McKey and

Marcellus." T.J.'s band of rowdy Rebels and their flag-packing fans left an impression on the "Purple Gang" back in the '68 finals. In the 1968 title game saw sophomore Lawrence Johnson score 20 points and pull down 19 rebounds while Dwight Jones finished with 17 points and 17 rebounds. Batro contributed five points. Wheatley's combined man to man and zone presses as Dwight Jones was stationed under the opponent's basket. Wheatley would bring into the semi-final game a 60-game winning streak. Several Dallas coaches had indicated that T.J. would run with Wheatley and were looking forward to the challenge. One coach expressed his opinion, "It's hard to believe that T.J. plans to run and shoot with Wheatley when their biggest boys are 6'4". They'll have to be real hot from the outside to stand a chance against Wheatley. The Wildcats have all that inside height for rebounding." The state scoring record looked as if it would be in danger of being broken. The record had been set in 1965 when Houston Jones and the Phillips brothers set the record beating Kingsville, 106 to 71.

Coach Charles Vernon of Thomas Jefferson remarked, "I'm really glad we didn't draw Turner in the first game, I think T.J. and Turner have the best chance to knock off Wheatley, and if we played each other right off, it would take a lot of the steam out of the winner." "The boys really wanted to take a crack at Wheatley," Vernon continued, "And I know I did too. I hope they come out on the court thinking they've got us beat like Memorial did." R.L. Turner guard, Harry Campbell when interviewed years later said, "We didn't want to play T.J., that was a game we didn't want, we had already beaten them earlier in the season and had little to gain as far as prestige. Also, we weren't real fond of T.J. either. Wheatley is who we wanted and we were confident. We had won 26 games in a row." T.J. and R.L. Turner knew each other well enough because they had played in open gyms during the summer against one another. On the approaching state tournament and his team's attitude going in, Campbell explained, "Coach Menasco really didn't worry too much about what the other team was going to do, he just prepared us to play our game. About the only time we really made some adjustments was against Sammy Hervey in the Dr. Pepper Tournament, he was something, he could do it all."

At Gregory Gym, the state scoring record did fall, as 8,000 fans watched Wheatley run past Dallas Thomas Jefferson 103-91. The game eclipsed the previous record set in 1967 between Abilene and Ft. Worth Paschal of 180 points. T.J. gave up their press early but Wheatley continued to apply pressure on the Rebels. Dwight Jones was everywhere scoring 34 points on hooks, tips, layins and short jumpers and added 26 rebounds. He and Lawrence Johnson shut down the T.J. offense inside. Together they blocked six shots. Jones had four and Johnson had two. T.J. committed 32 turnovers to Wheatley's 22. "They made a mistake running with us," Jones said following the victory. "That press had beaten a lot better teams than T.J." Both Johnson and Jones agreed that the T.J. team the

Wildcats beat in 1968 was a lot better than the one they faced Friday night.” “We were sophomores then. Now we’re seniors and we have the advantage. I guess they were all seniors back then, but I really don’t know,” Jones said. Coach Carr said, “We just had a better team. We ran them down in the fourth quarter and as usual our press worked well. Dwight certainly had a fine night and that helped.” Wheatley led at halftime 58-47 and 78-63 at the end of the three. Jones was just four points shy of the state scoring record. He fouled out with 2:07 left to play and Wheatley leading 93-77. Wheatley out rebounded T.J. 61-53 and had five players in double figures, Batro with 15, Willie Thornton 14, Cecil Dutton 11 and Clarence Johnson 10. Lawrence Johnson had 9 points. Marcellus finished with 29 points for T.J. and Nick Taylor had 18, McKey only managed 12 points, two over his average. After the game, Coach Vernon said, “The kids never quit, we just made too many mistakes. We had too many turnovers and weren’t getting men under the basket quick enough on the fast breaks.” Years later Steve Moffett of T.J. expressed his impression of mighty Wheatley team. “Wheatley was amazing and very impressive and yes we may have been intimidated,” Moffett said. “They were by far the tallest team we had faced. Dwight Jones was probably the best overall player we faced all year, but Sammy Hervey was the best pure shooter. Jimmy Murphy was silky smooth and had a great all-around game, but Bill Marcellus was just as good. We took Bill for granted because we played with him every day. We felt a lot of pressure to keep up the fine basketball tradition of T.J. We also felt like we were competing against the 1968 team since we were there during their run at state.”

Upon finding out his Turner Lions would be facing Austin Johnston in the semi-finals, Coach Menasco said, “We’re all real happy about going to Austin and were even happier about the pairings.” He continued saying, “I’ve still got to go over some more scouting reports on Johnston, but you know they’re bound to be good. They whipped Brackenridge in San Antonio and that couldn’t have been an easy task.” Turner was given a good shot at reaching the finals against the Rams(31-2). It will be a match-up of the Lions running their offense against the pressing Johnston squad.

Turner played well against Austin Johnston and advanced with a 73-52 victory over the Rams. The Lions full-court man to man press destroyed Johnston. Turner went up 43-19 with 3:40 left in the first half. Jimmy Murphy was his usual unstoppable self, scoring 25 points with 25 rebounds. “Our press ate’em alive,” Coach Menasco said following the game. “We didn’t decide to use the thing until about 2:00 on Friday. I’m glad we did, though.” After watching the T.J.-Wheatley game, Coach Menasco said he would have to stay up late to come up with a plan to battle Wheatley.

In finals, R.L. Turner would attempt their hand at trying to derail the Market Street, “Purple Gang.” Unfortunately, Wheatley broke the state scoring record defeating the Lions 108-80. “This one was easy compared to the last two,”

Jones said following the win. Wheatley dominated the glass with a 75-40 advantage and Jones contributed 21 points and 15 rebounds. The 211 two game total also broke the state scoring record in two state tournament games. Johnson added 19, Fields 15 and Batro 14. Two juniors added 29 points, Willie Thornton had 15 and Cecil Dutton threw in 14. Wheatley finished the season at 39-0. The Wildcats put on a second half shooting exhibition from the outside. Since their playing days at E.O. Smith junior high, Jones, Johnson, Batro and Fields had a record of 162-2. Both losses came in 1969 during the regular season. Turner only had 17 turnovers compared to the 34 committed by Thomas Jefferson on Friday night. But the smaller Lions were totally killed on the glass. Rebound totals for Wheatley were as follows; Jones 15, Johnson 14, Fields 12 and Thornton 11. Wheatley was up 52-37 at halftime. Steve Allen led the Lions attack with 29 points and Murphy finished with 23. For Wheatley, Dwight Jones was 9 of 13 from the floor and had four blocks. Lawrence Johnson received a standing ovation with 4:35 left in the game when he retired to the bench. Jones commented on the recruiting trail how all three players wanted to attend the same college. But the three standouts for Wheatley were unable to attend the same college due to grades and other issues. It just didn't happen for the Wildcat trio. Coach Carr called his 39-0 Wildcats the best team in the nation and the best he's seen at Wheatley or in Texas. "I don't think there is a high school team in the nation that could beat them. They really don't know how good they are," Carr said.

Following the game Coach Menasco discussed Wheatley, "They intimidate people, and they intimidated us this afternoon. I've never seen a team that could compare with this one and I've been coming to the state tournament for 19 years." Murphy picking up his second and third foul in the first minute of the second period didn't help matters any. He got his fourth foul with 3:06 in the half and left the game with score 41-30. Murphy had 12 points up to that point and finished with 23 points and 12 rebounds. "I feel like we could have stayed close to them if we had hit our outside shots," Menasco said. "Our game plan was to take the 15 foot jumpers we could get. We had to hit them to stay in it because we knew they wouldn't be many second shots." Years later, Harry Campbell of Turner also looked back at the game saying, "we missed so many easy shots that we usually hit." I remember interviewing Coach Carr years ago when he shared with me his thoughts on offensive basketball. "When I go into a game I want to ask my opponent, can you score a hundred points?" Think about that, 100 points. That means if you average 65 points a game you are going to have to come up with another 35 from somewhere. Most teams I've been associated with that were good had three maybe four double digit scorers. If you have two twenty point players, you are lucky. Carr was implying that most teams can't get anywhere near 100 points. His teams scored those kind of figures on a regular basis.

In the Houston Chronicle in 1992, Michael Murphy wrote an article talking about the best team to ever come out of Houston. He talked to veteran coaches and players and the consensus was the 1970 Wheatley Wildcats was the best ever. They also selected Dwight Jones as the top player to come out of Houston. Houston Worthing's head coach, Freddie Maura said, "If I had to start a team out of all the players I've seen and coached, then I'd pick Dwight Jones first and build around him. The others may be great players, but he'd have to go first." Memorial coach, Don Coleman added, "He was just dominating, he was not only a defensive specialist, but he could score, too. And could he rebound. He was that big man inside and if you're going to win at basketball, you've got to win inside." "He was so good," said Dulles' Paul Benton, "That whole team was. It would be hard to compare anybody with Dwight Jones or that 1970 team." "That group was truly awesome," said Donnie Schyerak, who was an assistant coach at the University of Houston at the time. "They were deep, strong and could play defense." "When I came to Wheatley, the first three months of basketball practice were spent on the track," said former player, Clarence Johnson. "There were guys who were cut and never even bounced a basketball. There were guys who were better than I was who got cut because they couldn't make it on the track. They never even got in the gym." Dwight Jones added, "Our minds were on nothing but basketball. We really didn't care a thing about all that (racial) stuff. We just wanted to win basketball game." Jones added, "Even in all my years in the pros, I never had the fun I had with this team. We had a cohesiveness that I never saw again." "Dwight probably could have averaged 50 points if I had played like most other teams, just setting up and feeding him," Carr said. "Nobody could have stopped him. But we wouldn't have won as much as we did." On the comparisons as who was better between Eddie Owens and Dwight Jones, Clarence Johnson adds, "I would take Dwight five times over Eddie Owens, Owens was an offensive machine, but Dwight was more of a team player. Eddie could outscore anybody. Right-handed or left-handed, he never played defense." Regardless of opinions from coaches all over the state the 1970 Wheatley team is the standard by which all great teams of the future would be measured.

On a very sad note, Steve Allen passed away while I was collecting information about the book. We were supposed to get together again when I found out he was in the hospital. I had just talked to him about the book. He went in for what was supposed to be a minor procedure and the next thing I knew he was not doing well and passed. Steve had so many close friends and family members that were in shock. His energy and love for life will not soon be forgotten. Steve had been a regular at the state basketball tournament for over twenty years and continued to stay connected with game along with his son. He will be missed. Another shocking announcement in July of 2016 was the passing of Dwight Jones due to a long battle with kidney problems dating back to his high school days. Dwight was such a credit to the game and Wheatley high school.

Rick Penny of Richardson-one of the top shooting guards in the state in 1971-reflections

I was fortunate to see the '69 - '70 Wheatley team, led by Dwight Jones, play at the State Tournament in Austin. In those days, we didn't know much about opposing teams/players across the State so my knowledge of Wheatley was minimal. It didn't take long to be introduced to the "Wheatley Experience". Once they ran on to the floor at Gregory Gym the crowd erupted and the entire arena was electric! Their style was unlike anything I'd ever seen growing up and playing in the Dallas area at Richardson HS. Looking back, that one weekend in Austin deepened my love for basketball more than I realized. I left wondering how they could be so good. The best game of the tournament was in the semi-finals where Wheatley took on Dallas Thomas Jefferson. TJ was also known as a running team and they put on a show with Wheatley prevailing 103 - 91.

As a Senior during the '70 -'71 season, our team was entered in the Arlington Classic along with Wheatley and many other great teams. I made a point of walking the baseline as they warmed-up, just to get a feel for their size. They were big all right, but the thing that stood out was a team vibe...a confident swagger. They won the tournament by beating a tough Garland team lead by Ray Roberts.

Wheatley was the very best team I've seen, even to this day. Only Fort Worth Dunbar came close to matching the electricity generated by Wheatley. Just a magical experience!

Conversation with the Great James Gamble- Pt. Arthur Lincoln(1963-1988)

In talking with one of the greatest coaches in the history of High School basketball, James Gamble of Pt. Arthur Lincoln; it was interesting getting his input on the teams of the 1970s and players. "I feel the Wheatley(39-0) team in 1970 was the top team, Dwight could do it all both offensively and defensively. I would put the Kashmere(46-0) of 1975 closely behind them. I felt at the time and still today that Wheatley was the better team," Gamble said. "The Wheatley team of 1973, with Eddie Owens was outstanding and great but not as good as the earlier Wheatley or Kashmere teams. I've always had those teams in that order."

Gambles comments:

Ira Terrell-(72) Dallas Roosevelt, "He could do it all on both ends of the court and was a good athlete."

Spider Johnson-(70) Wheatley, "Tremendous defensive player, very team oriented, limited offensively."

Earl Evans-(74) Pt. Arthur Lincoln, "Best player I ever coached, could shoot from outside and could play defense and athletic, could run the court."

Eddie Owens-(73) Wheatley, "One of the best offensive players I ever saw, could shoot from outside, inside, could put the ball on the floor, he was not a great athlete and didn't like the defensive end of the court, he was not a great leaper, if they would have had the three-point line he would have been something because of his range."

Karl Godine-(75) Kashmere, "He could flat out play, strong inside and good skill, was not a great shooter but he was a scorer. He and Jarvis' game really did not translate to the N.B.A. because they got a lot of their points on the inside. In high school, they were the best."

Sammy Hervey-(70) Crozier Tech, "I saw him in the high school all-star game so it was very hard to tell much about his game."

Chuck O'Neal-(76) Milby, "Could really shoot the ball from the outside, would have been deadly had they had the three-point shot, I don't know how much he could create his own shot but he could shoot."

Alvin Brooks-(77) Wheatley, "Great guard who could do it all, score, pass, defend, athletic, great talent."

The All-Tournament team at state consisted of Dwight Jones, Lawrence Johnson, Allen Batro of Wheatley, Jimmy Murphy of R.L. Turner and Bill Marcellus of Thomas Jefferson.

Season Summary of the 1970: Houston Wheatley finished one of the most extraordinary seasons in state history, winning their third straight state championship, behind an outstanding trio of players, Dwight Jones, Lawrence Johnson and Allen Batro. Coach Jackie Carr's Wildcats finished undefeated 39-0, and national champions. The "Purple Gang" had so much pressure on them finishing the season with a 62-game winning streak and 102-2 three-year record. In the state tournament, they set the bar for future generations of basketball players scoring 108 points in the title game and averaging 96.1 points per game during the season with a 32.9 point differential. Dwight Jones would also go down as one of the greatest players in state history. He was a **TEXAS LEGEND**. I asked "Spider" Johnson why Wheatley and Yates and the other Houston schools were so good. "We all played ball at Finnigan Park right behind Wheatley High School growing up. Everybody played there, kids from the neighborhood, U. of Houston, the Rockets, if you wanted a tough game, that was where you came to play." "Spider" also added that he felt the 1968 Wheatley team was the schools best. When talking to "Spider" about Wheatley basketball the word, "discipline" was constantly being used. He felt that discipline was what separated his team from the Wildcat's team that followed. Coach Carr and Coach Briggs demanded discipline and dedication, but the junior high coaches instilled this attitude in us before we arrived at Wheatley. Coach Frankie Brazos and Carmen Stewart were our junior high coaches and they instilled discipline at E.O. Smith Junior High. Owens and many of the other kids that followed did not get to play for Stewart and Brazos, because they went to McReynolds Junior High."

"Spider" also shared a story about the legendary Collin Briggs, how he demanded excellence and would not tolerate anything less. "Back in the Prairie View league, Wheatley had qualified for the state tournament. Some of Coach Briggs varsity players thought they would skip practice and slack off. Briggs sat all of his varsity players and brought his junior varsity up to play in the state tournament. Briggs played the junior varsity kids and refused to play his varsity team at the tournament. That sent a message to the entire program. We never forgot that story."

Sammy Hervey would be the individual greatest scorer the state had produced in class AAAA, averaging 37.6 per game his senior year along with 19.5

rebounds, 41.3 as a junior and 25.6 his sophomore season. To my knowledge, nobody had ever produced those types of numbers in the largest classification in the state. Sammy Hervey was a **TEXAS LEGEND**. **Sammy is also a fitting cover boy for my book.**

1970 State Rankings

{End of the Regular Season, Ranking based on record, Amarillo Daily}

1. Houston Wheatley	32-0	6'10" Dwight Jones(25.0), 6'7" L. Johnson(24.0)
2. San Antonio Brackenridge	31-1	6'1" Jackie Sommers(19.9), 5'10" David Perez(16.9)
3. Clear Creek	34-2	6'3" Paul Trcka(23.6), 5'11" Buddy Carlisle(18.0)
4. Carrollton R. L. Turner	32-2	6'4" Jimmy Murphy(21.5), 6'0" Steve Allen(16.0)
5. Victoria	29-2	6'3" Roy Moore(22.3), 6'1" Joe Luna
6. Austin Johnston	26-2	6'3" James Price(12.7), 5'8" Larry Moore(9.6)
7. Spring Branch Memorial	34-3	6'7" Randy Younglin(21.6), 6'7" Bengt Bengtson
8. San Antonio Highlands	28-4	6'3" John Campbell(16.2), 6'4" Wayne Dickey(15.7)
9. Wichita Falls Rider	28-4	6'6" Jeff Johnson, 5'11" Dennis Wuthrich
10. Ft. Worth Terrell	27-4	6'7" Lindell Houston(18.0), 6'7" Travis Ross(22.4)
11. Abilene	29-5	6'2" Richard Little(17.5), 6'0" Kenneth Neal(18.3)
12. Beaumont Ch. Pollard	28-5	6'1" Donald Smith(13.2), 6'0" Sherman Joseph(11.6)
13. El Paso Eastwood	22-4	6'7" Wayne Tomlinson, 6'0" John Yarbrough
14. Borger	25-5	6'2" Carl Taylor, 5'8" Earl O'Steen
15. Amarillo	25-5	5'10" Kyle Pipkin, 6'3" Hershell Mitchell
16. Lubbock Monterey	25-5	6'3" Don Moore(16.1), 6'1" Joe May(13.1)
17. South San Antonio	29-6	Danny Synder
18. San Antonio Jefferson	24-5	Tim Brown, 6'7" Rick Bullock
19. Marshall Pemberton	23-5	
20. Houston Yates	25-7	6'6" William Johnson, 6'2" Leonard Duffield(20.0)

My take on the state rankings is you can't base your rankings on just records. Some regions and Districts are much more competitive than others. My regular season rankings would have looked like this:

1. Houston Wheatley	32-0	6'10" Dwight Jones(25.0), 6'7" L. Johnson(24.0)
2. Spring Branch Memorial	34-3	6'7" Randy Younglin(21.6), 6'7" Bengt Bengtson
3. Clear Creek	34-2	6'3" Paul Trcka(23.6), 5'11" Buddy Carlisle(18.0)
4. Carrollton R. L. Turner	32-2	6'4" Jimmy Murphy(21.5), 6'0" Steve Allen(16.0)
5. Houston Yates	25-7	6'6" William Johnson, 6'2" Leonard Duffield(20.0)
6. San Antonio Brackenridge	31-1	6'1" Jackie Sommers(19.9), 5'10" David Perez(16.9)
7. Victoria	29-2	6'3" Roy Moore(22.3), 6'1" Joe Luna
8. Ft. W. Arlington Heights	24-7	6'6" Cedric Joseph(21.0), 6'1" Dan Kelly
9. Ft. Worth Terrell	27-4	6'7" Lindell Houston(18.0), 6'7" Travis Ross(22.4)
10. Austin Johnston	26-2	6'3" James Price(12.7), 5'8" Larry Moore(9.6)
11. San Antonio Highlands	28-4	6'3" John Campbell(16.2), 6'4" Wayne Dickey(15.7)
12. Wichita Falls Rider	28-4	6'6" Jeff Johnson, 5'11" Dennis Wuthrich
13. Beaumont Ch. Pollard	28-5	6'1" Donald Smith(13.2), 6'0" Sherman Joseph(11.6)
14. El Paso Eastwood	22-4	6'7" Wayne Tomblinson, 6'0" John Yarbrough

15. Borger	25-5	6'2" Carl Taylor, 5'8" Earl O'Steen
16. Amarillo	25-5	5'10" Kyle Pipkin, 6'3" Hershell Mitchell
17. Lubbock Monterey	25-5	6'3" Don Moore(16.1), 6'1" Joe May(13.1)
18. Dallas Thomas Jefferson	30-7	6'4" Bill Marcellus(18.1), 5'11" Bob McKey(10.6)
19. Dallas Adamson	23-9	6'7" Julius Howard(22.4), 6'1" Mike Polan(13.4)
20. Abilene	29-5	6'2" Richard Little(17.5), 6'0" Kenneth Neal(18.3)
21. Marshall Pemberton	23-5	
22. El Paso Austin	26-6	6'2" Gabe Nava(20.1), 5'9" Beto Bautista
23. Houston Madison	26-8	6'3" Phil Towse, 5'8" Robert Cheesman
24. Waco Richfield	30-7	6'0" Larry Davis(12.6), 6'4" James Weaver
25. Houston Westbury	26-10	6'6" Lee Griffin
26. El Paso Bel Air	22-6	6'7" Ed Lynum, 6'7" James Forbes(12.2)
27. Houston Sam Houston	24-10	Carey Vann, Ken Phillips
28. Richardson High	26-6	6'2" Rick Penny(20.9), 5'11" Mark LaCroix(19.1)
29. Dallas W. T. White	23-6	5'11" Wayne Warren(16.5), 6'2" Tommy Wantcuk
30. Dallas Crozier Tech	20-6	6'6" Sammy Hervey(37.0), Pete Davis

Of course, I'm a little biased, but I think this is a much better ranking of the state's top teams in 1970. Yates lost seven games all season and three were to Wheatley by 6, 13 and 6 points. The scores were 99-93, 93-80 and 85-79. The Lions also lost to District rival, Houston Milby(22-11) 64-57. The District race was already over for Yates at the time of the loss. They had been mathematically eliminated. The Lions came closer to defeating Wheatley than anybody all season with the exception of Galveston Ball, who played the Wildcats on back to back games losing by 68 points and by 5 points. The Yates games were all intense contest, which had large scale ramifications for the loser. The games between Yates and arch rival Wheatley took place at the Jaycee's tournament in December and two District games. "The best team we played all year was Yates, they had a great coach, Doc Evans, who ran the same pressure defensive style that we did," Spider Johnson said. "The games were wars, they would have won state if they could have gotten past us, really our toughest games were in District. After we got in the playoffs, it just wasn't that tough to be truthful." Yates was powered by 6'6" William "Toothpick" Johnson, who was All-SWC at Texas Tech and 6'3" Leonard Duffield who played at Prairie View A&M. "Toothpick" was an incredible athlete who was chiseled and was just as good on the football field as the basketball court. Duffield was the oldest of three brothers and a tremendous ball-handler. He was recruited to play in Spain after college but didn't want to leave home. 6'2" sophomore, Leo Woods was an outside threat from anywhere past mid-court. Woods would be widely recruited following high school. Another talented guard on the team was junior, Kenneth Berry, who could penetrate and score with the best of them, hanging in the air and weaving his way to the basket. 6'6" George Chambers was another gem along with shooter, Chester Thomas.

All-State Basketball Teams – Sports Writers- 1st team-6’10” Dwight Jones(28.5), Houston Wheatley; 6’7” Lawrence Johnson(21.4), Houston Wheatley; 6’6” Sammy Hervey(37.6/19.5), Dallas Crozier Tech; 6’3” Allen Batro(15.2), Houston Wheatley; 6’4” Bill Marcellus(18.1), junior-Dallas Thomas Jefferson: **2nd Team-** 6’4” Jimmy Murphy(21.5), Carrollton R.L. Turner; 6’7” Travis Ross(22.4), Ft. Worth Terrell; 6’7” Randy Younglin(21.6), Spring Branch Memorial; 6’7” Julius Howard(22.4), Dallas Adamson; 6’3” Roy Moore(22.3), junior-Victoria; 6’3” Richard Little(17.5), Abilene High: **3rd Team-** 6’3” Paul Trcka(23.6), Clear Creek; 6’8” James Forbes(12.2), El Paso Bel Air; 6’6” Cedric Joseph(24.6), junior-Ft. Worth Arlington Heights; 6’0” Larry Davis(12.7), Waco Richfield:

The All-State teams were very nice overall. The Sports Writers did a great job of giving the whole state representation. 6’6” William “Toothpick” Johnson was one of the top players in the state from Yates and was only a junior. Another standout from Yates was point guard, Leonard Duffield. There was so much talent in Houston it was hard to name them all. Sammy Hervey achieved a rare feat of being named all-state three consecutive years in class 4-A. Larry Davis of Lufkin, Tommy Barker of Weslaco and Eddie Owens of Wheatley, were the only other players to accomplish such a feat during the decade.

Rick Penny Reflections

Sammy played at Dallas Crozier Tech his Sr. year and he, by far, was the greatest offensive player I've ever witnessed. It was a pure joy watching him score...from anywhere! I believe he averaged 40 + a game or close to it. His skills were so far advanced that he seemed to toy with everyone, scoring in an effortless manner. You knew you were seeing greatness!

Recruits: 6’10” Dwight Jones(28.5) and Hervey were far and away the top recruits in the class of 1970 and probably two of the top recruits to ever come out of the state of Texas. The University of Houston took Jones talents and he didn't disappoint, averaging 18.7 points per game and 14.1 rebounds. He was selected 9th in the N.B.A. draft and had a long career in the Association. Dwight(20) was ineligible for varsity competition as a freshman because the rule making freshmen ineligible. The rule was finally changed during the 1972-73 season. He played his sophomore and junior years for the Cougars and then applied for the N.B.A. draft claiming hardship. **6’6” Sammy Hervey**(37.6) of Crozier Tech in Dallas, was thought by some to be a better recruit because of his shooting ability. Hervey went to Kilgore junior college, where he was one of the top players in the country. Sammy was drafted by the A.B.A. out of junior college. As a junior, he transferred to S.M.U. and along with Ira Terrell formed a brilliant tandem. Hervey averaged 21.5 points and 9.6 rebounds playing for the Mustangs. Hervey(21) left the team his senior year when he became ineligible. Because of poor grades and poor conditioning, he played only part of his senior year at S.M.U. After being drafted by the Hawks in

the 6th round he returned to Dallas after three days. **6'7" Lawrence "Spider" Johnson**(21.4) of Wheatley committed to Texas and played his freshmen season at U.T., but later transferred to Sam Houston St., and later Texas Southern. Remember freshmen were ineligible for varsity competition back in 1971. **6'6" Lee Griffin** of Houston Westbury signed with Baylor, and had a fine collegiate career averaging 14.4 points and 5.1 rebounds, **6'8" Randy Prince**(23.4) of Midland Lee signed with Texas Tech, **6'6" Charlie McKinney** from San Antonio Sam Houston had a outstanding career at Baylor, 18.7 points and 15.1 rebounds. That is not misprint on the 15.1 rebounds. **6'1" Mike Luce** of San Antonio Lee played at Baylor, 6.3 points. **6'5" Mark Wattier** from Ft. Worth Arlington Heights played at Baylor with a 6.0 average. **6'7" Jack Vest**(19.2) of Kerrville Tivy committed to A&M, **5'11" Bobby McKey**(10.6) of Dallas Thomas Jefferson signed with the Aggies, **6'6" Johnny Mayo**(28.2) of Taft, a class AA school, signed with A&M. **6'3" Richard Little**(18.0) of Abilene had a strong career at Texas Tech, 12.4/ 3.8 assists, **6'4" Mike Davis** of Lubbock Monterey signed with Tech along with teammate, **Don Moore**(17.0). Moore at 6'3" averaged 6.6 for the Red Raiders. **6'8" James Forbes**(12.2) of El Paso Bel Air started at U.T.E.P. 12.1/10.7, **5'10" Buddy Carlisle**(18.0) of Clear Creek signed with Baylor, **6'10" Will Carter** of Edcouch committed to Baylor, **6'7" Julius Howard**(20.6) of Dallas Adamson signed with Arkansas and later transferred to Pan American. **6'9" Lawrence Johnson**(22.0) of Cleveland signed with Prairie View A&M and was drafted by the Rockets. Johnson was offered an N.B.A. contract but turned it down a returned home to work for his father. **6'5" Andre Tillman**(26.3) of Lake Highlands played football at Texas Tech and later with the Dolphins in the N.F.L., **6'8" Mike Holyfield**(21.7) of Richardson Pearce signed with S.M.U., **6'2" Luther Robertson**(20.2) of Dallas South Oak Cliff committed to S.M.U., **6'8" Alfred Nickson** of Beaumont Hebert signed with Lamar University, **6'7" Doug Schneider** of McAllen signed with Baylor, **6'4" Ronald Smith** of El Paso Burges committed to Prairie View A&M, **6'6" Marc Wilson**(17.8) of Lubbock Dunbar signed with Texas, **6'5" Oscar Roan**(20.0) of South Oak Cliff played football and basketball at S.M.U., **6'3" Paul Trcka**(23.6) of Clear Creek played for San Jacinto J.C. and later Texas State(SW Texas St.), **6'2" Gabriel Nava**(16.7) of El Paso Austin played at New Mexico and averaged 10.2 with 3.0 assists per game. **Beto Bautista** of El Paso Austin was named to the U.T.E.P. Hall of Fame by Coach Haskins. **6'6" Gary White**(20.5) of Euless L.D. Bell and **6'2" Jeff Wright** of Ft. Worth Wyatt both signed with T.C.U., **6'2" Carey Vann** of Arlington Sam Houston also committed to T.C.U., **6'5" Rosie Brown**(20.0) of Terrell signed with the Horn Frogs of T.C.U., **6'3" Steve Slaton**(23.5) of Dallas Samuel signed with Texas and played with "Spider" Johnson and Larry Robinson from New Mexico. **6'6" Lawrence Young** of Abilene signed with T.C.U., **6'7" Tyrone Johnson** of Austin High to Texas, **5'10" Joe Galindo** of San Antonio Jefferson to S.M.U. **6'3" Allen Batro**(18.0) of Houston Wheatley signed with Houston but was unable to attend academically, and ended up at San Jacinto

J.C. with the intention of later playing at the U. of H. Batro ended up at Texas Southern with "Spider".

(20) Dwight Jones, in February of 2013 suffered an aortic dissection and lost the toes on his left foot, after two surgical procedures, he lost his right leg above the knee. His weight dropped from 290 to 230 on his 6'10" frame. The health issues stem from a long-term kidney problem.

(21) He loved to cook fish and Barbeque. Money was not a big deal to Hervey who in his later years develop hypertension and high blood pressure. He was told by the doctor that he would need to go to the hospital or he'd suffer a heart attack or stroke. He declined the offer and died on November 19, 2005, two days after his 54 birthday. According to long time Skyline coach, J.D. Mayo, the only time he would get ruffled was when the coach would introduce him to the latest round of Dallas basketball prodigies, "He'd get a little embarrassed," Mayo said. "He was just a real humble, happy guy."

Top Texas Recruits in 1970 based on their college and pro careers:

Dwight Jones 6'10"	Houston Wheatley	Houston, 18.7/14.1 All-Am.(HM)	<u>NBA Hawks #9</u>
Sammy Hervey 6'6"	Dallas Crozier Tech	S.M.U., 21.5/9.6 All-SWC*	Draft Hawk#97
Lawrence Johnson 6'9"	Cleveland	Prairie View A&M 27.0/25.3*	Draft Rock #95
Charlie McKinney 6'6"	SA Sam Houston	Baylor 18.7/14.9 All-SWC*	
Richard Little 6'3"	Abilene	Texas Tech 12.4/ 3.8 asst*	
James Forbes 6'8"	El Paso Bel Air	U.T.E.P. 12.1/10.7*	
Beto Bautista 5'9"	El Paso Austin	U.T.E.P. 7.4	
Gabriel Nava 6'2"	El Paso Austin	New Mexico 10.2/ 3.0 asst	
Lee Griffin 6'6"	Houston Westbury	Baylor 14.4/5.1	
Mike Luce 6'1"	San Antonio Lee	Baylor, 6.3 pts	

(*All-Conference in College)

All-Americans: Sammy Hervey was considered one of the greatest players to ever come out of Dallas. He played for Crozier Tech his senior year after coming over from Booker T. Washington High School after it closed down. Years later, Ira Terrell who played with Hervey at S.M.U. said "Hervey could have averaged 50 points a game if they would have had the three-point line and allowed dunks at the time." Hervey and Jones were both named to the Scholastic Magazine All-American squad, which was one of the most prestigious squads named at the time, and on the Sports Quarterly Pre-Season basketball issue, Jones was named 1st team All-American and Hervey was named 2nd Team.

National Rankings: National Sports News Service selected Houston Wheatley as national champions. The Wildcats followed the footsteps of Athens in 1929 and 1930, Pampa in 1953 and 1954. The Harvesters were undefeated in 1953 going 26-0 and again in 1954 at 28-0.

State Leaders: Wheatley was the leading offensive team averaging 96.1 per game, and Abilene was next at 86.1. Margin of victory is also Wheatley's at 32.9 point differential. **(22)** Memorial was second at 21.1. Top defense is held down by the Mustangs of Spring Branch Memorial at 46.2. Hervey of course is the leading scorer with 37.0 per game followed by Dwight Jones with 28.5. Rebounding leader goes to Jones also with 24.6 per game.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs: Junior Jimmy Murphy of Carrollton R.L. Turner was the leading scorer in the state playoffs beating out Dwight Jones. Murphy hit 30 against Lake Highlands, 22 against Wichita Falls Rider, 34 facing El Paso Austin, 25 vs Austin Johnston and 23 against Wheatley for a 26.8 average. Jones playoff average was 22.0 points per game with a tournament high game against Thomas Jefferson with 34.

(22) This was the highest scoring Wheatley team up to that time, but was outscored every season over the next three years. Wheatley in 1971 averaged 96.9, 1972 averaged 106.2 and 1973 Wheatley hit the national record at 108.5. Although all the Wheatley teams from 1968 to 1973 had a high point differential, the highest was actually the 1968 team, with a 33.4-point difference, second was the 1970 squad with 32.9.

Power Ratings

1. Houston Wheatley	37-5	102.11	State Champs 4-A	Beat Turner +28
2. S.B. Memorial	37-4	98.97	Reg. Finals 4-A	Loss Thomas Jeff. -4
3. Carrollton R.L. Turner	38-3	90.95	State Finals 4-A	Loss Wheatley -28
4. Dallas Thomas Jeff.	30-7	86.67	State Semi-Finals	Loss Wheatley -12
5. Dallas W.T. White	23-6	84.14		
6. Lake Highlands	20-11	80.08	Bi-District 4-A	Loss RL Turner -15

Wheatley is #1, but their numbers are not as high as you would expect. The Wildcats had a lot of lopsided victories, but also several single digits wins against strong teams. Borger(27-6) +8, Galveston Ball(23-11) +5, Houston Yates(26-6) +6, +6. And in regionals, when the games really counted they struggled against Clear Creek(36-3) +11 and Houston Waltrip(21-15) +7. That's a margin of only 9 points, which is not that impressive against one team with double digit losses. In the state semis, the Wildcats only managed to beat Thomas Jefferson(30-7) by 12, when the Rebels had loss to Crozier Tech(20-5) earlier in the season by 19 and to Lake Highlands(20-11) by 11. The **expectations** were unrealistic for the Wildcats. Regardless of the numbers they were the greatest. Teams that should have made it to Austin: Without question Houston Yates(26-6) with three losses at the hands of rival Wheatley.

1970 4-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	E. P. Austin(26-6)	73	El Paso Bel Air(22-6)	65
	Abilene(30-5) 2OT	62	Lubbock Monterey(28-5)	60
	RL Turner(34-2)	75	Lake Highlands(20-10)	60
	Wichita Falls Rider(28-4)	68	Arlington Sam Hou.(22-12)	63
Region I Semis	El Paso Austin(27-6)	102	Abilene(31-5)	88
	Carrollton RL Turner(35-2)	84	Wichita Falls Rider(29-4)	65
<u>Region I Finals</u>	<u>Carrollton RL Turner(36-2)</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>El Paso Austin(28-6)</u>	<u>77</u>
Region II Bi-Dist.	FW I.M. Terrell(26-4) OT	70	Ft. Worth Arl. Heights(24-7)	68
	Dallas Thomas Jeff(27-6)	65	Dallas Adamson(23-9)	52
	Waco Richfield(30-7)	92	Marshall Pemberton(24-5)	82
	Spring Branch Mem.(35-3)	56	Houston Smiley(22-14)	34
Region II Semis	D. Thomas Jeff.(28-6) 3OT	101	Ft. Worth I.M. Terrell(27-4)	99
	Spring Branch Mem.(36-3)	75	Waco Richfield(31-7)	36
<u>Region II Finals</u>	<u>Dallas Thomas Jeff(29-6)</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>Spring Branch Mem.(37-3)</u>	<u>55</u>
Region III Bi-Dist.	Clear Creek(35-2)	63	Deer Park(19-13)	53
	Houston Wheatley(34-0)	94	Houston Kashmere(21-9)	68
	Houston Waltrip(19-14)	71	Houston Madison(26-8)	45
	Beaumont Pollard(31-5)	61	Pt. Arthur Jefferson(22-13)	59
Region III Semis	Houston Wheatley(35-0)	65	Clear Creek(36-2)	54
	Houston Waltrip(20-14)	71	Beaumont Pollard(32-5)	60
<u>Region III Finals</u>	<u>Houston Wheatley(36-0)</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>Houston Waltrip(21-14)</u>	<u>73</u>
Region IV Bi-Dist.	SA Brackenridge(32-1)	90	SA Edgewood(19-12)	55
	Victoria(29-2)	76	Edinburg(23-9)	49
	Austin Johnston(27-2)	72	SA Marshall(19-13)	65
	SA Highlands(29-4)	72	San Antonio South(30-6)	68
Region IV Semis	SA Brackenridge(33-1)	92	Victoria(30-2)	75
	Austin Johnston(28-2)	68	SA Highlands(30-4)	59
<u>Region IV Finals</u>	<u>Austin Johnston(29-2)</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>SA Brackenridge(34-1)</u>	<u>62</u>
State Semi-Finals	Carrollton RL Turner(37-2)	73	Austin Johnston(31-2)	52
	Houston Wheatley(37-0)	103	Dallas Thomas Jeff(30-6)	91
State Finals	Houston Wheatley(38-0)	108	Carrollton R.L. Turner(38-2)	80

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1970 AAAA Top“50”}

1. H. Wheatley 39-0 {One of the greatest teams in the history of Texas}
2. Houston Yates 25-7 {lost Wheatley twice by just 6 pts.}
3. Clear Creek 36-3 {played Wheatley to a stand still for three quarters}
4. R.L. Turner 38-3 {won the Dr. Pepper tournament in Dallas, state finals}
5. Dallas T.J. 30-7 {had some great wins over I.M.Terrell and Memorial}
6. S.B. Memorial 37-4 {The Mustangs strongest team of the '70s}
7. Ft. W. Terrell 27-5 {Terrell's triple overtime loss to T.J. was a classic}
8. El Paso Austin 28-7 {awesome backcourt, pushed RLT to the limit}
9. A. Johnston 31-3 {upset SA Breckenridge to advance to State}
10. S.A. Bracken. 34-2 {loss the critical regional finals contest to Johnston 65-62}
11. FW Arl. Heights 24-8 {Bi-District loss in overtime to Ft. Worth Terrell}
12. H. Waltrip 21-15 {regional finalist against Wheatley}
13. E.P. Eastwood 22-6 {lost a district playoff to El Paso Austin 61-54}
14. D. W.T. White 23-6 {District runner-up to Thomas Jefferson}
15. Bea. Pollard 32-6 {regional semi-finalist, lost to Waltrip 71-60}
16. Wich.Falls Rider 29-5 {regional semi-finalist, lost to R.L. Turner 79-77}
17. D. Adamson 23-10 {taken down by T.J. of Dallas in Bi-District 65-52}
18. H. Kashmere 21-10 {lost to Wheatley three times during the season}
19. H. Sam Hou. 24-12 {tied for the District 17-AAAA title, losing to Kashmere}
20. H. Westbury 26-10 {made the Jaycee Tournament Finals, losing to Wheatley}
21. Abilene 31-6 {regional semi-finalist, lost to E.P. Austin 102-88}
22. Lub. Monterey 28-6 {Abilene took them down in Bi-District 62-60 2(OT)}
23. Richardson 26-6 {lost Dist. playoff to Lake Highlands, Rick Penny was out}
24. D. Crozier Tech 20-5 {incredible Sammy Hervey's team, legend lives on}
25. Borger 27-6 {loss to Wheatley 75-67 in the Arlington Classic}
26. SA Highlands 30-5 {regional semi-finalist losing to Austin Johnston 68-59}
27. Deer Park 19-14 {Bi-District loss to Clear Creek 63-53}
28. South Oak Cliff 22-8 {defeated Abilene in the Dr. Pepper tournament}
29. Dallas Jesuit 31-6 {beat Abilene in the Dr. Pepper tournament}
30. Amarillo 26-6 {lost a District playoff in 4-AAAA}
31. SA Jefferson 24-5 {one of the top teams in S.A. but no playoffs}
32. Waco Richfield 31-8 {was totally dismantled by Memorial in regionals 75-36}
33. H. Madison 26-9 {creamed in Bi-District by Waltrip losing 71-45}
34. Victoria 30-3 {lost in the regional semi-finals to SA Breckenridge 92-75}
35. Lake Highlands 20-11 {taken apart by R.L. Turner in Bi-District, District Playoff}
36. Marshall Pemb. 24-6 {lost in Bi-District to Waco Richfield 92-82}
37. D. Roosevelt 18-6 {emerged as Dallas power, White 90-88, Adamson 71-66}
38. Plainview 29-10 {lost in District playoff with Monterey in District 4-AAAA}
39. South SA 30-7 {Bi-District, losing to SA Highlands 72-68}
40. Dallas Samuel 21-12 {tough District-11-AAAA, with T.J. and W.T. White}
41. Highland Park 22-9 {District runner-up to Turner}
42. Arl. Sam Hou. 22-13 {Bi-District representative losing to W.F. Rider 68-63}
43. El Paso Bel Air 22-7 {great front line, ousted by EP Austin in Bi-District}
44. H. Washington 21-10 {in District 17-AAAA finished in a five way tie for first}
45. Houston Jones 24-10 {toughest District in the state with Wheatley and Yates}
46. Pt. A. Jefferson 22-14 {surprise playoff team, lost to Pollard 61-59 in a close one}
47. SA Marshall 19-14 {lost in Bi-District to Austin Johnston 72-65}
48. H. Spr. Woods 21-8 {District runner-up to Spring Branch Memorial}
49. H. Jeff. Davis 22-12 {five way tie in District 17-AAAA}
50. Houston Smiley 22-15 {Bi-District loss to SB Memorial 56-34}

1971 AAAA

Texas High School basketball finally saw Dwight Jones and his Wheatley comrades vacate the high school center stage. Schools were looking forward to a nice open field, and that's exactly what the 1971 season presented in class AAAA. Wheatley was still a force, but very young and had little varsity experience returning. Cypress-Fairbanks had four starters back from a state finalist team in class AAA. Two of the top players from the 1970 season returned to their clubs, Bill Marcellus of Dallas Thomas Jefferson and Jimmy Murphy of Carrollton R.L. Turner. The two big men were 6'8" Cedric Joseph of Ft. Worth Arlington Heights and 6'10" Maurice Presley of Houston Davis. The underclassmen in 1971 might have been the best in the state's long history; 6'6" Ira Terrell of Dallas Roosevelt, 6'10" Tommy Barker of Weslaco, 6'8" Rick Bullock of S.A. Jefferson, 6'6" Gary Brewster of Midland and a 6'5" sophomore from Wheatley named Eddie Owens.

The Arlington Classic always brought together the state's top teams for some great basketball. Once again, Houston Wheatley would be the showcase team along with Cypress-Fairbanks, from the Houston area. Ft. Worth Arlington Heights had one of the best teams in the state, along with Dallas Kimball, Garland and Spring Branch Memorial. Just on reputation alone, Wheatley was the team to beat. A victory over Wheatley would give you state wide recognition. All total, you probably had five of the top ten teams in the state at the classic in 1971. In the first-round matchups, Garland won a close one over Lake Highlands. Spring Branch Memorial got by Denton 70-68, and Dallas Kimball beat Richardson 79-60. Wheatley had little trouble with Arlington 102-69.

In the quarterfinals, Ft. Worth Arlington Heights barely beat Houston Waltrip 66-65, Kimball easily whipped Spring Branch Memorial 63-48 and Houston Wheatley thumped Garland 116-85. This set up the semi-final games which many sport writers felt may have been the four top teams in the state. Cypress-Fairbanks ended Wheatley's 72 game winning streak with a convincing 66-52 win. In the other semi-final contest, Dallas Kimball showed just how well balanced they were defeating Arlington Heights 72-50. Surprisingly, neither game was close and set up the two top teams in the state playing in the finals. Dallas Kimball, with their all white line-up pulled the game out behind 6'6" Larry Chesney's 25 points 69-62. The Knights were undoubtedly the top team in the Dallas area, if not the state. In the 3rd place game, Arlington Heights defeated Wheatley 66-62. When was the last time Wheatley lost back to back games? The Arlington Classic was in rare form in 1971. Richardson beat rival Lake Highlands 80-73 to capture the consolation game.

The Dr. Pepper tournament in Dallas would be a holiday showcase of talent, as usual. Garland advanced in the first two rounds defeating Dallas Bryan Adams 62-50 and Dallas Lincoln 85-69. Carrollton R.L. Turner, who had advanced to the state finals in 1970, won their first two games 68-39 and 59-49 over Dallas Woodrow Wilson and Dallas Samuel. Dallas Roosevelt advanced beating Dallas

Pinkston 88-85 in overtime and then downed Dallas Adamson 71-54. Kimball had two blowouts against Dallas Carter 82-57 and Dallas Sunset 77-47. Highland Park, one of the top teams in Dallas, won both of their early games, St. Mark's 80-43 and Plano 79-57. Richardson High continued their winning ways defeating a tough Dallas Thomas Jefferson team 62-54 and South Garland 73-60. In the quarterfinals, Kimball was dominant beating Dallas S.O.C. 71-51, Garland defeated R.L. Turner 77-68, Denton eliminated Dallas Roosevelt and Ira Terrell 82-69. The Scots of Highland Park had a great win over Richardson High 59-53. In the semis, Garland upset Dallas Kimball 75-69 and Highland Park advanced, getting past Denton 68-67. Garland, led by Ray Roberts, took home the gold, beating their District rival Highland Park 59-55. Kimball took out Denton in another blowout 83-54 for third place.

The third big tournament of the season was in Houston at the Jaycee tournament. All the Houston I.S.D. teams got together, along with several other outstanding schools in the area. Houston Wheatley showed why they were, year in year out one of the top teams, not only in Houston but the state. The Wildcats defeated Clear Creek 100-80 to win the championship. It was Wheatley's fifth straight tournament title. Clear Creek, led by Coach Bill Krueger, was making it looking easy in class 4-A, after years in the lower classifications.

Wheatley opened the tournament against South Houston winning 89-84. The Wildcats used 16 players and 11 players scored. Mike Archer led Wheatley with 20 points, followed two brilliant sophomores, Eddie Owens and Michael Long with 12. The Wildcats improved their record to 16-2. In the second-round action, Houston Williams was eliminated by Wheatley 93-75. Owens hit 21 points along with Archer's 21. Coach Jackie Carr's troops played rival Kashmere in the quarterfinals, winning 95-83. Archer again led the way with 22 points, Gaylord Davis and Owens finished with 20 points each. Houston Davis really tested Wheatley in the semi-finals, losing a close one 82-81. 6'10" Maurice Presley of Houston Davis, was the premier big man in the state in 1971, dominating opponents. In the loss against Wheatley, he put up 26 points and had 19 rebounds. In Houston Davis' first round match-up, Presley and 29 points and 21 rebounds in his team's 75-57 win over Houston Washington. Presley and Don Wilson led Houston Davis in their second-round win over Aldine MacArthur 81-60. Wilson had transferred in from Cypress-Fairbanks, an added size to the Panthers attack at 6'6". In the quarterfinals, Houston Davis showed they were one of the state's best defeating Cypress-Fairbanks(15-2) 72-65. Presley was again dominating with 25 points, while Richard Walker contributed 16. In the third-place game, Houston Davis topped Houston Westbury fairly easily 77-53. Presley again paced his team with 21 points. After the tournament, there could be little doubt Houston Davis was a top ten team. Another big game of note was Houston Lamar's loss to Cypress-Fairbanks in the early rounds 72-64. Donald Dunlap of Cy-Fair went off for 29 points against Lamar.

Clear Creek defeated Houston Worthing 86-69, Baton Rouge McKinley 94-76, Houston Yates 85-83 and downed Houston Waltrip in the semis 57-48 to make the finals. Key players for Clear Creek were Tim McCarty, Dave Boring and Hank Bauerschlag. McCarty had 25 points against Worthing, Bauerschlag hit 33 vs. McKinley with Boring adding 26 points. In the finals against Wheatley, Bauerschlag had 21 points, McCarty 19 and Boring 16. Clear Creek had some solid early season wins over Cypress-Fairbanks 78-73, Houston Westchester 92-81, and split with Deer Park(27-11) 63-73 and 78-63.

Houston Yates(15-2) had one of the top teams in Houston again during the 1970-71 campaign. The Lions defeated Houston Sterling in the first round 97-75. Kenneth Berry had 24 for the Lions, William "Toothpick" Johnson pitched in 19 points and Leo Woods had 19. Yates was eliminated in the tournament by Clear Creek in the quarterfinals. Houston Milby won the consolation bracket beating Houston MacArthur 77-71.

All-Tournament team was as follows: Clarence Johnson, Eddie Owens and Mike Archer of Wheatley; Hank Bauerschlag and Dave Boring of Clear Creek; Jim Stone of Westbury, Bruce Baker of Waltrip, Maurice Presley of Houston Davis, Craig Whitley of Houston Milby, Donald Dunlap of Cypress-Fairbanks, Ulysses Randle of Houston MacArthur and Johnny Miles of Houston Williams.

Two of the most competitive schedules in the state were played by Houston Wheatley and Cypress-Fairbanks. Although Wheatley loss some tough games, they also had some nice wins. Houston Madison(25-8) 81-64, Houston Davis(30-5) 82-81 and 104-56, Kountze 116-109, Arlington High(24-14) 102-78, Garland 116-85, Houston Yates 126-96 and Clear Creek 100-80. The Wildcats four losses were once again to Cy-Fair, Arlington Heights, Houston Yates and Lake Charles Boston out of Louisiana. Cypress-Fairbanks played just as grueling a schedule beating Wheatley, Yates 63-62, Deer Park(27-11) 69-59, Houston Lamar(29-7) 72-64, Houston Madison(25-8) 67-54, Memorial(24-10) twice 59-54 and 75-73 and Houston Westchester twice. Their losses were to and elite group, Houston Lamar, Clear Creek, Kimball, Houston Davis, Conroe and Houston Westchester.

Clear Creek, Houston Wheatley, Houston Davis and Cypress Fairbanks were clearly four of the top ten teams in the state during the regular season. Houston Lamar and Houston Madison were top twenty teams.

In Dallas, Kimball stood out as the best team. They were not that talented but had great team chemistry and were well coached. Their coach was Pete Brown, who was in his third season with the Knights and had come directly from Gaston Jr. High in Dallas. The seniors had been with him for three years and felt comfortable on his defense first approach. All the key players were full time basketball players except guard, Gene Hanson, who played baseball. 5'11" Eddie Fitzhugh(23) was the standout of the team, if they had one and only averaged 10.9 points per game. Inside, the Knights counted on balance with 6'3" Mark Ellis(18.2) and 6'6" Larry Chesney(20.2). Ellis continued his basketball career at Midwestern University in

Wichita Falls. 6'5" Andy Jones(14.6) was the enforcer of the group and was a valuable clog in the team. Jones later joined the Marines. Other key players for the Knights were Gene Hanson and Clark Lacy. In 1971, Kimball took the court with an all-white line-up and more than held their own. Coach Brown really didn't have a go to player. Balance was the team's strength. In visiting with Eddie Fitzhugh, he said they ran a shuffle offense with Jones on the inside. They would also run a double low post at times. Ellis was their best post-up player inside, with Chesney playing away from the basket, with a nice outside touch. Jones would guard the top inside threats, while Fitzhugh would take the top offense perimeter player. Hanson was a nice outside shooter, and one of the top athletes in Dallas. Defense pressure was applied full court throughout the games by the Knights.

Dallas South Oak Cliff would go on to become one of the elite basketball programs in the state over the next 45 years. The Golden Bears went from 100% white to 98% African American, in a four-year period after desegregation. Coach Stevens was white and coached the Golden Bears from 1969 through 1972. Jimmy Gales replaced Stevens in 1973, coming in from Spenc Jr. High in Dallas. It's hard to imagine the transformation that took place at the south Dallas school.

In Dallas, right behind Kimball, you would have to rate Highland Park, Garland, Thomas Jefferson, and Richardson the best in the area. Just ranked below those teams were Carrollton R.L. Turner, Dallas Roosevelt and Denton.

(23) Fitzhugh went on to start at T.C.U. and was one of the top coaches in the state in his years at Flower Mound Marcus. He carried Coach Pete Brown's philosophy with him into the coaching ranks. Having faced Eddie many times on the court, he got the most out of his talent.

Region I

Pampa(19-13)

El Paso Bel Air(23-8)

Midland(27-6)

Garland(31-2) #4

Plainview(30-2) #8

El Paso Irvin(24-9)

W.F. Rider(24-6)

Arlington(24-12)

Top Five in Region

6'4" Charles Bassett, Plainview; 6'4" Jimmy Murphy, Carrollton R.L. Turner; 6'7" Ed Lynum(26.4), El Paso Bel Air; 6'0" Dennis Wuthrich(19.1), Wichita Falls Rider; 6'6" Gary Brewster, Midland:

West Texas and the playoffs meant intense games and long trips. Wichita Falls Rider(23-7) had a fast and quick team with an aggressive press. Standout guard, Dennis Wuthrich(18.8) led Rider's attack. Coach Bubba Bailey called Wuthrich, "probably the best player he had ever coached." Teaming with Wuthrich was 6'4" Carlton Young(14.6), 6'1" Jimmy Lacy, 6'2" Harold Miller(14.4), 6'2" Maurice Mays and 5'10" David Buck. Key losses during the season for the Raiders were against Ft. Worth Arlington Heights 71-67, Abilene 106-103 and Haltom 76-73. Coach Bubba Bailey's team had scored 122 points against Mineral Wells, showing just how potent their offensive game could be. Rider would be lining up against Midland High(25-7) in Bi-District in Abilene at the Abilene Christian

College's, Moody Coliseum. The Bulldogs had a much taller team than Rider and hoped to take advantage of their size. 6'6" Gary Brewster(15.3) was Midland's best player, and one of the top juniors in the state. Other key players were 6'5" John Mason(11.5), 6'4" Danny Woods(11.2), 6'4" Farold Jackson(11.0), 6'3" Jonathan Phillips and 5'11" Sammy Rodriguez(5.0). James Cagle was the Bulldogs coach. Rider took a halftime lead 40-29 and went on to win 82-66. Wuthrich had a game high 29 points for Rider and Brewster finished with 20 points for the Bulldogs.

State ranked Garland(31-2) entered the playoffs, a strong favorite to advance to the state tournament. The Owls had given the top-rated team in the state, Dallas Kimball, their only loss in the finals of the Dr. Pepper tournament. Joe Brown was the coach of the Owls and he relied heavily on the play of 6'4" Ray Roberts(23.4). Roberts signed with Oklahoma St. out of high school but later transferred to Texas A&M, where he played for Shelby Metcalf. Roberts gave Garland a real inside presence. 6'3" Mark McArthur(14.5), 6'2" Leland Duyck(12.5), 5'10" Tim Christensen(11.0) and 5'8" Ronnie Manley also contributed for Coach Brown's Owls. During the regular season, Garland held some strong victories over some of the state's best teams, Richardson(29-9) 61-51 and 73-62, R.L. Turner(20-11) 61-51, Highland Park(29-6) 59-55 and 65-48 and of course Dallas Kimball 75-69.

Garland had to beat a tough Highland Park(29-5) team to gain the playoffs. The two teams had played three previous times, with the Owls winning two out of the three games. A neutral site was selected, S.M.U.'s Moody Coliseum, which is located in University Park in Dallas. The Scots had trouble with Garland's full court press and in the fourth quarter, Roberts took over, scoring 10 straight points. The Owls went into their delay game with 2:35 remaining in the contest and that was it. The final read, Garland 56 and Highland Park 48. Roberts finished with 17 points for Garland and Ricky Addison added 11 points for the Scots.

The Owls Bi-District opponent was Arlington High(24-12), a traditionally strong basketball school, led by 6'3" post, Bill Kendrick and Jack Grindstaff. The two teams had played each other earlier in the year and knew each other pretty well, which usually makes for a close game. Garland had won previous meetings 61-59 and 92-87. The neutral site was Loos Field house in Dallas. The game went into overtime and Garland pulled it out 77-74. Leland Duyck and Roberts combined for 56 of the Owls 77 total points. Roberts had 32 points and Duyck kicked in 24. Kendrick of Arlington picked up his 3rd foul with 5:55 left in the 2nd quarter. Coach Dale Archer pulled him out and the Colts trailed at halftime 42-39. With his time limited, Kendrick still led his team in scoring with 19 points and Darrah Smith followed with 15. Coach Brown of Garland said after the game, "We really hadn't beaten them badly all year, we played twice before and it was close both times. We turned the ball over three times at crucial times and that really hurt us."

In El Paso, District 1-AAAA finished in a three-way tie for first place and the playoff spot. In a very unusual finish, El Paso Eastwood defeated El Paso Austin twice in District 53-51 and 65-63. El Paso Irvin dropped E.P. Eastwood twice in District, 61-56 and 70-63. E.P. Austin, kept pace by beating E.P. Irvin twice 67-64

and 61-59. In the District playoff, E.P. Austin would play E.P. Eastwood, with the winner to face E.P. Irvin. Kind of a rock, paper, scissors situation, which would not hold form in the District playoff. E.P. Austin eliminated Coach Bobby Lesley's Troopers 87-76. E.P. Eastwood's outstanding guard Randy Anderson(16.8/9.3) finished with 34 points and 13 rebounds in a losing effort. Richard Zuloaga was high man for E.P. Austin with 20 points. E.P. Austin shot 56 foul shots in the victory, relying on their press to disrupt E.P. Eastwood(26-5). Ed Haller was the El Paso Austin coach. For the second year in a row Austin's had eliminated Eastwood.

Against El Paso Irvin, E.P. Austin would be facing a much more formidable foe. Of the five players named to the first team All-District squad, E.P. Irvin had two representatives. They were 6'6" Walter Pekarsky(18.0) and 6'0" Gene Moss(22.3). Others starters for E.P. Irvin were, 6'2" Tom Cieslik, 6'2" Richard Fishell and 6'2" Scott Wynn. Even with a tremendous size advantage, Irvin had lost both District encounters with E.P. Austin. Coach Ed Haller had no members of his team named to the first team All-District squad. His tallest player was 6'1" Richard Zuloaga. Others starters included, 6'1" Manny Chavez, 5'9" Ruben Sanchez, 5'10" Sonny Montes, 5'10" Jorge Estorga and 5'8" Bobby Anderson. Others key members of the District 1-AAAA All-District team were one of the top scorers in the state, 6'2" Bobby Ortega(29.4/10.2) of El Paso Andress and 6'1" Frank Keton(28.6/9.1) of El Paso Coronado. Coronado had a fine team in '71 finishing 23-9. Back in the early years of naming All-District teams the top five vote getters were named first team, and the second five made up the second team. If a coach was upset, too bad; in today's All-District teams, the motto is, "the more the merrier." There is very little distinction made between the elite players in the District and the average or role players. It's not unusual for players that come off the bench to be named All-District. That was not the way things were done in the 1970s and 1980s, you had to earn your accomplishments. In today's, "feel good world," honors are just given away because parents and coaches want bragging rights. It is great to recognize the best players with honors, but to just hand out awards like participation awards, is ridiculous. My two cents, for what it's worth. It has cheapened the entire process.

E.P. Irvin(24-9) pulled out a 63-61 victory over E.P. Austin(28-6), to take the District title in 1-AAAA. For E.P. Irvin, Gene Moss finished with 26 points while Walt Pekarsky had 17 and Scott Wynn 12. E.P. Austin was paced again by Zuloaga with 20 points and Bobby Anderson kicked in 16. In Bi-District, El Paso Irvin(24-9) would be facing one of the tallest teams in the state in El Paso Bel Air(23-8). The Highlanders liked to run and gun and get up and down the court, led by their All-State post, 6'8" Ed Lynum(25.1/12.0). Lynum would later star at U.T.E.P. This was the Highlanders second playoffs appearance in as many years. Rounding out the Bel Air's lineup was 6'5" Rudy Alvarez(16.4), 6'5" Jim Barnhart(12.3), 5'9" Bobby Valenzuela and Jimmy Meledéz. Other key contributors were 6'6" Howard Anderson and 5'9" Joe Navarro. E.P. Irvin had won two of the previous three

meetings between the two teams 70-62 and 59-54. E.P. Bel Air took the third game 61-60.

E.P. Bel Air defeated E.P. Irvin 58 to 51 at Memorial Gym in Bi-District. E.P. Bel Air coach Quinsenberry changed the game when he went from man to man defense to a 1-3-1 zone. "We went to the zone so we would stop fouling and trying to slow down Moss," Quinsenberry said. "Moss is too quick and too good a ball handler for us to handle him one on one." Lynam finished with 21 points and Alvarez put in 14 for Bel Air. Pekorsky had 19 and Moss 16 for Irvin. The win propelled Bel Air to regionals in Abilene.

Because of bad weather, Plainview(31-2) and Pampa(19-13) had to cancel their playoff game and waited till Thursday evening to play the game. Plainview was very formidable, with 6'5" Charlie Bassett(15.3/7.7), 6'5" Leroy Buckner(13.1/12.2), 6'3" Curtis Thompson, 6'2" Willie Carreathers and 6'0" David McAlister. Depth seemed to be Plainview's Achilles heel. The Bulldogs of Plainview had only loss two games all season, Odessa Permian(23-7) 56-47 in the Amarillo tournament and to Hobbs, New Mexico 85-84. The Pampa Harvesters would be the Bulldogs opponent in Bi-District. Plainview had defeated Pampa three times during the regular season, with the smallest margin of victory being 10 points. Pampa was a school deep in basketball tradition, paced by Richard Burton(13.3) and Mike Edgar(19.3). Plainview on the other hand had never advanced to regionals in any sport since they had been in 4-A. In District, Plainview had dominated opponents, averaging 67.4 points per game and allowing only 44.5. Plainview, as expected came out on top ending Pampa's hopes 59-49. Bassett hit 24 points for the winners.

At regionals in Abilene, Garland(31-2), Plainview(30-2), El Paso Bel Air(24-8) and Wichita Fall Rider(25-6) would battle it out to see who advanced to Austin. The two obvious favorites were Garland and Plainview. Garland averaged 72.0 points on the season and allowed only 56.1, for a 16-point differential. Anytime you have more than a ten-point scoring advantage over your opponents, you are playing some solid basketball. Each team had an impressive resume and were battle tested. Plainview had their double trouble tandem on the blocks, Bassett and Buckner and Garland relied on Ray Roberts. As Garland was preparing for Wichita Falls Rider, Ray Roberts said Coach Brown had gotten hold of some film of the game between W.F. Rider and Abilene High. Rider had lost to Abilene 106-103 on the film that Coach Brown showed the players. The Owls had beaten Abilene earlier in the season and Roberts confessed it may have given his team a false sense of overconfidence. Whatever the case, the two teams met at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning in Abilene in the regional semi-finals. Many knowledgeable fans and sportswriters were surprised by the ease that Rider had defeated Midland in Bi-District. The Raiders had beaten Midland by 16 points. Rider coach, Bubba Bailey felt this was Riders year, with five of his six players being seniors. Garland Coach, Joe Brown commented after watching Rider defeat Midland, "Gosh, they're quick, I can't think of anyone we played this year that had as much quickness." Owl

guards, Tim Christensen and Ronnie Manley would be facing one of the toughest challenges of the season against the Rider press. Coach Brown said the last time they had seen such a devastating press, was against Houston Wheatley in the Arlington Classic in December, a game Garland lost 116-85. Interesting side note viewing the team photo and roster of the Wichita Falls Rider Raiders, they only suited up eight players for their varsity. That was not that unusual during the 1970s.

Against Garland, Rider dominated the boards 58-35 and pulled off the upset 74-69 to advance to the regional finals. Ray Roberts committed his third foul early in the second quarter, and as a result, had to go to the bench. Without Roberts, Rider dominated the glass. Harold Miller had 20 rebounds and Jimmy Lacy had 13. Even with the big rebound advantage, the game was close throughout. The teams were deadlocked at the end of one and Rider was up by one at halftime. Young hit 26 points for Rider, followed by Miller with 16, Mays had 12 and Lacy hit 12. Garland was paced by Duyck with 23, Roberts finished with 14 and Christensen contributed 16 points.

At 11:15 a.m., the other semi-finals game between Plainview and El Paso Bel Air tipped off. The Highlanders of Bel Air had a strong winning tradition under Coach Charlie Quisenberry, and also would look to 6'8" Ed Lynum(25.1) for leadership. Plainview won a low scoring affair 52-43 to advance to the regional finals. Bel Air led the entire first half and took a halftime lead of 26-21. But the Bulldogs outscored Bel Air 13-7 and 18-10 in the final two quarters. Charles Bassett led Plainview with 21 points. Curtis Thompson and Willie Carreathers followed with 16 and 11. Lynum was the only Bel Air player in double figures with 22 points. The attendance was estimated at 1,800.

In the finals about 1,700 fans viewed the regional showdown between Wichita Falls Rider and Plainview. Rider suffered an early blow in the game when their standout guard and leading scorer, Dennis Wuthrich, took a charge and injured his shooting arm elbow. He continued to play, but was unable to score as usual. Plainview's inside game was too much as the Bulldogs advanced to Austin 72-61. Coach Bailey of Rider commented after the loss, "We were really outplayed." Bailey felt the Bulldogs physical strength was the deciding factor in his team's loss. "They are big and get good position, it's tough to get off a second shot on them, they do a lot of things well." Plainview led at halftime 31-26. The Bulldogs shot 65% from the floor hitting 26 of 40 shots. "When we got the early lead and saw we could handle their press," Coach Bill Phillips of Plainview commented, "We were able to slow it down when we wanted to." Harold Miller's three-point play with 3:18 left in the game pulled Rider to within two points at 58-56. Plainview foul shooting was the difference down the stretch. Charles Bassett and LeRoy Buckner both finished with 21 points for the Bulldogs while Willie Carreathers added 17. Bassett was 9 of 12 from the floor and Buckner was 8 of 10. Rider won the rebound battle 34 to 32, but Buckner still managed 13 rebounds. Rider was led by Carlton Young's 18 points while Harold Miller added 14 rebounds. Wuthrich was only able

to manage 12 points. Plainview's trip to Austin would be its first in class 4-A, having made two previous trips in class 3-A in 1952 and 1953.

Region II

Dallas Kimball(35-1) #1

Ft. W. Poly(21-6)

Richardson(29-8)

Corsicana(31-7) #13

Dallas Thomas Jefferson(21-12)

Ft. W. Arlington Heights(33-2) #2

Marshall(24-5)

Cypress-Fairbanks(31-6) #5

Top Five in Region

6'4" Bill Marcellus, Dallas Thomas Jefferson; 6'8" Cedric Joseph, Ft. Worth Arlington Heights; 6'8" Jerry Mercer, Cypress-Fairbanks; 6'0" Ron Dunlap, Cypress-Fairbanks; 5'10" Bryan Mauk, Ft. Worth Southwest:

Coach Jerry Stone's Richardson Eagles went undefeated in District action going into the playoffs. "I never thought any team would go through our District undefeated, so I felt pretty good," Stone said. The Eagles were paced by one of the top guards in the Dallas area, 6'2" Rick Penny(21.5). Penny would go on to star at McMurry. Other starters for the Eagles were 5'8" Jack Smithheisler, 6'3" Paul Vance, 6'2" Don Owens and 6'6" Randy Hall. Sophomore, 6'4" Steve Young was also a nice contributor off the bench. Richardson had some good wins during the regular season over Thomas Jefferson(22-12) 91-75 and 62-54, Richardson Pearce(24-6) 83-71 and 80-77, Lake Highlands(20-13) 63-59 and 78-73, and South Oak Cliff 60-55. In an interview with Rick Penny years later, he said he felt like the best team the Eagles faced during the 1971 season was without a doubt, Dallas Kimball. "They had size, great guard play and were smart with the ball, balance inside and out, and experience. "In their two District warm-up games before the playoffs, the Eagles defeated Arlington(24-13) 57-55 and lost to Garland(32-3) 73-62. Richardson entered the playoffs at 29-8. The Eagles Bi-District opponent was Marshall(24-5), out of East Texas. Before the game, Stone commented, "I think it will be an interesting and pretty evenly-matched game." Marshall would rely on 6'4" Eddie Abercrombie, 6'3" James Jenkins, 6'2" Robin Briggs, 6'1" Glenn Del Jones and 5'8" Junior Taft. The Mavericks had good overall height and abundance of quickness. Marshall liked to get up and down the court and press a great deal.

The Bi-District game was played in Tyler and Marshall scored the last nine points of the game, breaking a 55 tie and pulled away winning 64-55. Marshall led at halftime 34-30, but lost the lead with 6:24 remaining in the game. The Eagles Rick Penny, hit three straight shots from the corner, which gave Richardson a 52-51 advantage. Steals and foul shots by Marshall down the stretch were the difference. The pressing, athletic Mavericks from East Texas were led by Glendale Jones, who scored 21 points, followed by James Jenkins with 16 and Eddie Abercrombie with 13. Penny led Richardson with 20 points and Don Owens contributed 13.

Rick Penny Reflections

Basketball during my High School career ('68 - '71) was a thing of beauty. Everything flowed as offenses relied on passing, cutting, screens, and precision offensive patterns to score. Defenders weren't allowed to push or bump like players today with proper positioning being

the key. Post play was crisp and clean and we actually got to see guys make inside moves without being hammered prior to catching the ball. Teams regularly averaged 70 to 80 pts. a game without the three-point line. Having followed the game up until now as a fan and HS coach, my belief is basketball skills and fundamentals took a back seat to physical play. Shooting is now dominated by either taking it to the basket or spotting up for a three-point attempt. Almost gone is the ability to move without the ball or play one-on-one, without dribbling 5-10 times trying to reach the rim. Times change and most everything is cyclical. Stephen Curry is doing so much for young players, as he's made shooting cool again and hopefully they'll be motivated to follow in his footsteps...we can only hope.

Kimball was viewed as the best team in the Dallas area and probably the top team in the state. Night in and night out in District 12-AAAA, Kimball competed against the top players in the state, 6'8" Ira Terrell of Dallas Roosevelt, 6'7" Gregg Padgitt of Dallas Pinkston and 6'6" Kenneth "Grasshopper" Smith of S.O.C. The Knights had a great deal of success during the regular season, winning the prestigious Arlington Classic, with several of the state's top teams in attendance.

In District 12-AAAA action, Dallas Kimball won the first half of District and faced Dallas Roosevelt, with 6'8" Ira Terrell for the second half title. In one of the top games all seasons, Kimball pulled out a 71-70 double overtime victory over the Mustangs. Roosevelt was up 49-37 at the end of the 3rd quarter when Terrell hurt his leg and went to the bench. Limping badly, he resumed play, but was ineffective as the Knights went on to victory and captured the second half title. Terrell had a one and one opportunity at the end of the first overtime which could have won the game, but failed to convert from the line. He was shooting after time had expired with the score tied 64-64. The game was actually supposed to be played at Sprague Field House, but was moved to Loos Field House. Administrators' felt this would lessen the racial tension. In the first meeting at Sprague, after Kimball defeated Roosevelt, several of the Kimball players had objects thrown at them from the front railing of the stands. Lighters and combs were the most frequently thrown objects. This was the early 70s and racial tension was alive and well. Kimball was all white on one side of the gym and Roosevelt was all black on the other. It made for a highly volatile situation.

Against their Bi-District opponent, Dallas Thomas Jefferson(21-12), Kimball would face two outstanding players in 6'4" Bill Marcellus and 6'4" Nick Taylor. Other important players for T.J. were 6'3" Oscar McGaskey, 6'2" Mike Nolen and David McKee. The Rebels ran a disciplined offense implemented by Coach Charlie Vernon. "We're more of a ball control club than usual," Vernon said, "Early in the season our guards were inexperienced." In discussing the Knights of Kimball, Vernon said, "They'll be a hard team for us to defense because they have so much balance. They're like a machine, any man on the team is capable of having a 20-point night."

The backcourt of Eddy Fitzhugh and Gene Hanson combined for 26 points to lead the Knights to a convincing victory over Thomas Jefferson(21-12) 79-61. Fitzhugh also did an outstanding job guarding All-State forward Bill Marcellus,

holding him to two field goals while covering him. Marcellus finished with 15 points, but had only three baskets in the second half. 6'5" Andy Jones led all scorers for Kimball with 23 points. "Our guards were the difference in the game," Coach Pete Brown said, "They shot well and Fitzhugh played excellent defense." Kimball(35-1) took a 24-11 advantage in the first quarter, forcing Thomas Jefferson to abandoned their game plan. With Kimball up 66-44 with 5:09 left to play, Coach Brown went to his bench. Kimball out rebounded T.J. 35-23 and forced 20 Rebel turnovers. Leading scorers for T.J. were Mike Nolen with 17 points, Nick Taylor put in 14 and Oscar McGaskey had 11.

In District 15-AAAA, a real dog fight had developed at the top of the District, with some fine teams being eliminated from the playoffs. Waco Richfield and Bryan finished District at 10-4, and Temple(24-8) and Corsicana(22-7) tied for first at 11-3. The Tigers of Corsicana at one time were 3-3 in District and managed to win eight straight, to tie for the District title. Temple liked the up tempo fast pace game averaging 79 points a game and allowing 68.9. Corsicana on the other hand, lived and died with defense, averaging 51.2 per game and allowing only 45.6. The two rivals faced off in Waco at Heart 'O Texas Coliseum. Corsicana would look to their twin low post, 6'3" Kim Wyatt(15.5) and 6'2" Henry Bowie(12.0). Wyatt had made first team All-District while Bowie was honored on the second unit. Other starters for Coach Jerry Matthews were Steve Smith, Booker McDonald and Mark Schriefer. It was the Tigers third straight season to either win District or play for District in a zone playoff. Temple relied on its zone press to create scoring opportunities for super sophomore, 6'3" Ernest Walker(24.1), 6'0" Isaac Brown(17.2), Horace Chiles and 6'2" Gary Green. Walker was named first team All-District and Brown made the second team. During District, Temple won the first meeting between the two teams at home 70-58 while Corsicana repaid the Wildcats 81-78 upon visiting Corsicana's home gym. Waco Richfield's 6'5" James Weaver(24.0) was named the District M.V.P. and 6'5" Glenn Barrett(18.1) of Bryan and 6'5" Gary Boydston(18.4) of Killeen rounded out the District 15-AAAA 1st team. Lester Moore of Temple was named Coach of the Year. Corsicana won their ninth game in a row turning back Temple 66-53 in front of 2,500 fans. Wyatt led Corsicana with 28 points and Bowie followed with 18. Walker was the leading scorer for Temple with 17.

Next up for Corsicana was one of the top-rated teams in the state, Cypress-Fairbanks(30-6). The Bobcats had lost to Conroe and Houston Westchester(25-13) in District action, but were able finish 12-2, and made the playoffs. Actually, the District runner-up was Spring Woods(28-6), who the Bobcats defeated both times in District, 61-51 and 79-62. Cy-Fair had advanced to the state finals in class AAA the previous season and returned four starters off that squad. The Bobcats had lost in the state finals to Kerrville Tivy 87-68 in 1970. Cypress-Fairbanks started 6'8" Jerry Mercer(16.7), who was a duel player and would later play for Shelby Metcalf and Texas A&M. He was very strong inside and hard to move. The backcourt was probably the best in the state, thanks to twin brothers,

Ron and Don Dunlap. Both were 6'0" and could handle the ball and were tough to guard. Ron averaged 16.1 per game and Don averaged 15.0 per game. Ron played basketball at Kilgore Junior College while his brother played football at North Texas State. 6'0" Andre Jones(9.6) and 6'4" Bobby Metcalf(9.4) rounded out the starting lineup. Bench support came from 6'3" Pat Casper. In front of 1,500 fans in College Station, Cypress-Fairbanks proved to be too strong beating Corsicana 64-52. Cy-Fair won the game at the foul line, hitting 22-31 while Corsicana only hit 8-13. Mercer was high man with 22 points, Jones had 16 and Metcalf finished with 12. For the Tigers, who finished 31-8, Schriefer had 12 points and Bowie, Wyatt and Smith contributed 10 apiece.

In the biggest upset of the first-round games, Ft. Worth Poly took out the second ranked team in the state, Ft. Worth Arlington Heights(31-2). Heights had beaten Poly earlier in the season 76-56. Heights had lost to Dallas Kimball in the Arlington Classic 72-50 and to Carrollton R.L. Turner 54-52 for their two defeats of the regular season. Heights was led by one of the two top big men in the state, 6'8" Cedric Joseph(24.6). Joseph would be the first African-American recruited by Shelby Metcalf at Texas A&M and enjoyed a nice career with the Aggies. Poly hit a bucket with seven seconds left to eliminate the highly touted Heights squad. Arlington Heights had a 24-game winning streak coming into the game. Poly had the size to match up against Heights. 6'8" Michael Griffin, 6'7" Alvin Scott, 6'4" Mark Lappa and their two leading scorers who were guards, 5'11" Arthur Chance(16.3) and 6'0" Thomas Risher(14.9). The backcourt duo was the strength of the team. "Poly's guards are as good as any we've seen this year," Coach Brown of Kimball said. "There should be quite a battle amongst the guards, but we've got to take charge of the game and do a good job on the boards, because they are real strong there as well. It's hard to tell much about them from looking at film, but we know their guards are quick. We were prepared to play Arlington Heights, which had beaten Poly by 20 points earlier in the season," Coach Brown continued. Poly had won 19 of their last 21 games coming into the Kimball game. Coach Brown also explained his team had really gotten a boost from their strong Bi-District win over Thomas Jefferson.

Dallas Kimball(37-1) played with their usual execution and defeated Ft. Worth Poly(22-6) 54-41. The Knights led the entire game, up 28-20 at halftime and led 39-33 at the end of three quarters. Chesney was high man for Kimball with 17, followed by Clark Lacey with 11. Poly had only one player in double figures and that was Arthur Chance with 14.

Cypress-Fairbanks(32-6) completely dismantled Marshall(25-5) 82-66. The Bobcats were up by only six at halftime 39-33. Jerry Mercer led Cy-Fair with 23 points and Donald Dunlap added 21. James Jenkins topped Marshall with 28 points. Cypress-Fairbank was not going to be bothered by teams that pressed because of their strong guard play.

This set up the region II finals between two of the state's top teams, Dallas Kimball(38-1) and Cypress-Fairbanks(32-6). The Bobcats experience showed

as they broke open a close game, scoring 12 straight points early in the fourth quarter, after leading by only 50-49. The Bobcats would pull away to a 66-51 victory and a spot in the state tournament. For the Bobcats, it would be their second trip in as many years to the State Tournament. "They just got hot and we had to abandon our offense in trying to stay with them," Coach Pete Brown admitted. "We just played a better team tonight." Cypress-Fairbanks trailed at halftime 29-23. The fourth quarter was dominated by Cypress-Fairbanks, as Kimball began to press and missed 10 straight shots. The Dunlap brothers combined for 35 points for Cypress-Fairbanks while Andrew Jones added 13 and Bobby Metcalf had 12. For Kimball, Chesney finished with 14 points and Andy Jones added 11.

Region III

Clear Creek(35-3) #6

Houston Madison(25-7)

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(11-15)

Houston Davis(30-4) #7

Deer Park(27-10)

Houston Lamar(27-6) #10

Beaumont Hebert(10-15)

Houston Wheatley(33-4) #3

Top Five in Region

6'0" Sherman Joseph, Beaumont Charlton-Pollard; 6'10" Maurice Presley, Houston Davis; 6'5" Eddie Owens, Houston Wheatley; 6'6" William "Toothpick" Johnson, Houston Yates; 6'7" David Marrs, Houston Lamar:

The Region III was unusual with two teams advancing to the playoffs with losing records. Beaumont Hebert(10-15) took the 21-AAAA playoff spot after the District Executive Committee declared Beaumont Pollard(33-3) ineligible, for using a reserve player in too many tournaments. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(11-15) captured the 22-AAAA District title, also supporting a losing record.

Houston I.S.D. schools dominated the region every season and 1971 was no different. In District 17-AAAA, Houston Davis(30-4) won District finishing 9-1, followed by Houston Kashmere(24-10) at 7-3. Davis had an impressive win over Cypress-Fairbanks and two losses to Houston Wheatley. They were also led by the top player in the state in 6'10" Maurice Presley(25.0). Wheatley captured District 18-AAAA in usual fashion with perennial bridesmaid, Yates(25-5) finishing second with a 6-2 mark. Wheatley and Yates split their District games with the Wildcats winning the first game 126-96 and the Lions(24) taking the second 102-98. Yates had so much talent again in 1971, with 6'7" "Toothpick" Johnson finishing out his brilliant career. Joining Johnson on Coach Doc Evans multi-talented team was 6'0" Leo Woods, a junior, who had range and athleticism. 6'1" Kenneth Berry ran the show and was one of the top guards in the Houston area, 6'8" George Chambers, 6'2" Ethel Jacobs, 6'2" Jesse Duffield and two brilliant sophomores, 6'1" Jimmy Duffield and 6'4" George "Stretch" Campbell. Campbell was a freak with a 46" vertical jump. Unfortunately, several talented players transferred from Yates that year because they didn't feel like they would be able to make the varsity. 6'4" James Sapp transferred to Houston Austin and became a standout over the next three years. 6'5" Len Wiggins also transferred to Houston Austin and had one more

year of eligibility. He had an outstanding career at his new home. 6'7" Pony Cunningham also left and went to Houston Lincoln. All three players were very talented but didn't feel they could even make the varsity at Yates.

Houston Lamar(27-5) took District 19-AAAA finishing 9-1, followed by Houston Waltrip(21-9) and Houston Williams(15-12) tied for second at 7-3. District 20-AAAA was won by Houston Madison(25-6), with Houston Worthing(13-16) and Houston Lincoln(10-17) both tied at 6-4 marks, finishing in second. Clear Creek(35-3) won its 18th straight District championship taking District 24-AAAA while rival, Deer Park(26-10) took the honors in District 23-AAAA.

(24) 6'6" William Johnson was a standout performer for Yates and went to a great career at Texas Tech University. He was named All-Southwest Conference his senior year. Phil Bailey, who played with Johnson at Texas Tech, called him the most remarkable pure athlete he had ever had the privilege of playing with!

In District warm-up games, Wheatley took on Boston High out of Lake Charles and lost, 101-94. At Delmar, Wheatley played their Bi-District game against Houston Davis(30-4). The Wildcats would be after their fourth straight class AAAA state title. Wheatley had twice beaten Davis 82-81 and 104-56 during the regular season. The Wildcats had little trouble the third time around beating Davis 100-87 to advance to regionals for the fourth year in a row. A crowd of 5,300 jammed into Delmer to watch some of the top talent in Texas High School basketball go at it. The gates had to be locked, limiting the number of fans who could enter the fieldhouse. In a three-minute stretch in the 2nd quarter, Wheatley extended their lead over Davis 38-23, scoring 12 straight points. Davis cut the lead to 95-87 with 52 seconds left, after trailing at one point by 23 points. Presley finished with 21 points, with 10 coming in the final quarter. He was also charged with seven goal tending violations. Presley played the entire fourth quarter with four fouls and teammates, Don Wilson and Clifton Yates fouled out in the third quarter. For Wheatley, Gaylord Davis, a junior, was high point man with 20 points, Eddie Owens a sophomore, added 17, Mike Archer had 12, and sophomore Michael Long, hit 10 and Cecil Dutton had 14. Houston Davis had 27 turnovers against Wheatley. Coach Carr's troops made a living at the foul line hitting 34 of 46 compared to only 17 of 30 for Davis. Going into the contest, things really didn't look good for the Wildcats as four starters were either ill or hurt, including star sophomore Eddie Owens, having a broken thumb on his shooting hand.

At Hofheinz Pavilion a crowd of 4,883 watched Clear Creek(35-3) defeat their rival Deer Park 78-63, while hitting 28 of 31 foul shots. Deer Park was only able to hit 13 of 19 from the charity line. The Wildcats advanced to regionals for their 15th time in the previous 18 seasons. The winning at Clear Creek had begun under Coach George Carlisle, who won nine straight District titles from 1954 to 1962 in class 2-A and class 3-A. During that time, the Wildcats made six trips to the State Basketball Tournament, losing in the semi-finals five times and gaining the finals once. Hank Bauerschlag replaced Carlisle in 1963 and captured Clear Creeks

first state championship. In 1964 Clear Creek again advanced to the finals in class 3-A, losing in the finals. In 1966, the legendary Bill Krueger took over the reins at Creek and proceeded to take the Wildcats to another level. After two straight State Tournament appearances in 1966 and 1967, Clear Creek moved up to class 4-A in 1969 and continued to win, advancing to the regionals three straight years. Hank Bauershlag led Creek in scoring against Deer Park with 18 points, followed by Dave Boring with 17, Bill Carlise with 14 and Tim McCarty with 13. All five starters were in double figures. Randy Mulvaney led Deer Park with 19 and Danny Van Rheen finished with 17, followed by Ricky Sullivan with 15.

Houston Lamar(28-6) defeated Houston Madison 100-56 and at one time were up by 51 points. Larry Moten topped the scoring for Houston Lamar with 26 points, David Kee had 16, Jim Peacock and David Marrs with 14. Only one Marlin was in double figures and that was Mike Davis with 27 points. Lamar had little trouble shooting over the Madison zone.

In what may have been the first time in state playoff history in class 4-A, two teams with losing records faced each other in Bi-District. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(11-15) came on top 63-55 over Beaumont Hebert(10-15). The Bees would be riding a 10-game winning streak as they went to regionals to battle Houston Wheatley. Willard Thompson scored 14 and Joe Washington(25) and Jesse Thomas each scored 12. Hebert was paced by Bryant Hudgins 21 points.

(25) One of the greatest running backs to ever come out of Texas, Washington was All-American at Oklahoma and played on a national championship team. He went to one pro-bowl in the N.F.L. and rushed for a career total of over 5,000 yards on three different teams.

In the regional action the same question was being asked, could anybody stop Houston Wheatley(34-4)? The Wildcats lineup was young, but a talented team. Clarence Johnson, Gaylord Davis(19.6), Michael Archer(16.0), 6'5" Eddie Owens(19.4), 6'5" Michael Long(15.2) and the best bench in the state with Cecil Dutton(11.0), 6'3" Anthony Taylor, 6'2" Willie Thornton, 5'11" Linzy Greer, 6'5" Steve Jones and 5'7" Wendell McKelvey: Four of the key contributors for Wheatley were sophomores. (Long, Owens, Jones and Wendell McKelvey) One college scout had an interesting observation, "The Wildcats are not as big and awesome as they have been but they have better speed and as always lots of people to throw at you." Jackie Carr's teams had a very intimidating effect on opponents, with their tough pressing defense and running style. An opposing coach said, "If you don't get Wheatley this year, you won't for a while because of all the underclassmen on the varsity."

In the regional semi-finals, Wheatley ran past Pt. Arthur Lincoln 105-68, while Houston Lamar upset Clear Creek 71-66. Lamar scored eight straight points in the final minutes in a back and forth battle. With 1:45 remaining, Clear Creek had the ball and the lead 66-63. After a steal by Lamar, the Redskins took the lead for good with 1:03 remaining on David Kee's layup. Creek went scoreless in the last 1:45 of the contest. Marrs was the key figure for Lamar scoring 21 points with 12

rebounds. Doug Fain finished with 15 points and Moten had 12 for the Redskins. Clear Creek was paced by Tim McCarty's 24 points and Dave Borning's 16. In the win over Lincoln, Wheatley placed five players in double figures, led by Dutton with 20 and Archer had 16 and Thornton 15.

The regional finals at Hofheinz Pavilion pitted Wheatley against Houston Lamar with 6,800 in attendance. Lamar had trailed 53-41 but came back under the strong play of 6'8" David Marrs and Larry Moten. Marrs contributed 35 points and 19 rebounds. Moten followed with 23 points. With 1:17 remaining in the game, Lamar had pulled to within 3 points trailing 95-92. After running a delay game, Wheatley was able to get Anthony Taylor open for a layup with 37 seconds remaining. The basket put the Wildcats in control 97-92. A late bucket by Eddie Owens ended things with six seconds remaining. The Wildcats top two rebounders had fouled out in the fourth quarter, Cecil Dutton and Michael Long. Gaylord Davis led the Wildcats scoring parade with 22 points followed by the top sophomore in the country, Eddie Owens with 19 points and Archer and Long added 14 each and Dutton tallied 12. Long was the leading rebounder for Wheatley with 12.

Region IV

Victoria(23-8)

San Antonio Jefferson(31-1)

Edgewood(22-10)

Weslaco(22-9)

San Antonio Sam Houston(30-2)

San Antonio Roosevelt(26-9)

Corpus Christy Moody(29-6)

Austin High(25-8)

Top Five in Region

6'10" Tommy Barker, Weslaco; 6'1" Vernon Evans, San Antonio Brackenridge; 6'8" Willie Hodge, San Antonio Sam Houston; 6'8" Rick Bullock, San Antonio Jefferson; 6'3 Roy Moore, Victoria:

San Antonio Sam Houston and San Antonio Jefferson both had outstanding teams in 1971. Both had quality big men, who were juniors and would have outstanding college careers at their respective schools. 6'8" Rick Bullock of S.A. Jefferson and 6'8" Willie Hodge of S.A. Sam Houston had elevated their teams to a point where they could compete with any team in the state. Bullock would move on to Texas Tech after graduation, and was an All-Conference player all four years playing for the Red Raiders. Hodge would go on to a standout career at Duke. Both were drafted into the N.B.A. A third big man from region IV may have been better than either Bullock or Hodge. 6'10" Tommy Barker of Weslaco was also a junior and was even more dominating for his team. S.A. Roosevelt played a warm-up game before the playoffs against Weslaco and the Roosevelt won, 65-59. Barker was in foul trouble and sat out much of the second half but still finished with 27 points.

In other warm-up games, S.A. Jefferson(30-1) played a game against South San Antonio winning 65-55. Interestingly, both coaches agreed before the game, no starters could play in the fourth quarter. Corpus Christi Moody(28-6) defeated Edgewood convincingly 95-73 in another warm-up game.

In Bi-District, S.A. Jefferson(31-1) met Edgewood(22-10) at the Convention Center. Jefferson was the top-rated team in San Antonio and heavy favorites. Jefferson averaged 71 points a game and allowed 51 per game for an impressive 20-point margin. Edgewood had a much closer margin, 63 to 54 for a 9-point advantage. Jefferson's only loss of the regular season had been against Sam Houston in the finals of the San Antonio Invitational 64-59. In the second meeting between the two powers, Jefferson repaid Sam Houston, defeating the Cherokees 70-68. Jefferson started 6'8" Bullock(21.0/12), 6'6" John Myers(14.0), 6'2" Sam Jay(16.0), 5'8" Herbert Lee and 5'9" Ronald Leal. Key players off the bench were 6'1" Mike Norwood and 6'6" Lynn Markham. Edgewood would counter with a very small lineup. 6'2" Ronald Craft, 6'0" Eric Clark(16.0), 5'9" Joseph Sorret, 5'8" Richard Campos and 6'0" Mike Joyner. Joyner and Craft played inside at the post. Edgewood had lost earlier in the season to Jefferson 71-58.

The rematch for a place in regionals was never close, with Jefferson dominating 78-47. Bullock and Myers combined for 53 points and 25 rebounds. Bullock finished with 32 points and 14 rebounds while Myers added 21 points and 11 rebounds. Edgewood had 31 fouls, while Jefferson committed only 10. Eric Clark, Mike Joyner and Richard Campos all fouled out for Edgewood. Jefferson quick guards forced Edgewood into numerous turnovers. The game had an enormous crowd of 4,341 and Coach Jim Shuler of Jefferson was pleased with his team's performance. The win gave Jefferson a 15 game winning streak since their last loss to Sam Houston. At 33-1, the Mustangs had the second-best record in the state behind Dallas Kimball.

Corpus Christi Moody's(29-6) press proved to be too much for Weslaco(22-9), as Moody advanced to regionals with a 73-68 win. Weslaco led early 26-12 at the end of one quarter and 42-40 at half but could not hang on even though Barker scored 39 points. 6'3" James Ellison led the Trojans with 30 points.

San Antonio Sam Houston's Coach, Pat Caza was confident he had the best player in the state in Willie Hodge. "He can do it all," was Coach Caza attitude. Teaming with Hodge were Larry Miles, Ronald Williams, Rodney Givens and playmaker, Lionel Fuery. Sam Houston's Bi-District opponent was San Antonio Roosevelt(25-9). Roosevelt relied on the rebounding tandem of 6'4" Bill Simpson (11.3) and 6'6" Oren Connaway (10.8). Other starters included, King Burney (10.1), Bob Johnson (10.0) and John Lipscomb. One of Roosevelt regular starters, Gunar Otwell, was out with an intestinal disorder. The game was played at the Alamo Stadium gym and Roosevelt coach, Jerry Tyson was optimistic about his team's chances. Sam Houston pulled out a close one 62-60 to advance. Hodge finished with 22 points and 19 rebounds, and Ronald Williams also helped the Sam Houston cause scoring 21 points and 8 rebounds. Sam Houston was up 33-29 at halftime. For Roosevelt, their big men, Connaway finished with 12 and Bill Simpson had 11. King Burney was the Roosevelt's leading scorer, going 10-17 from the floor and scoring 20 points.

The Bi-District contest between Victoria(23-8) and Austin High(25-8) was played at San Marcos. Allen Clifton of Victoria hit a 30-footer with nine seconds left to send the game into overtime. The Stingarees would pull the game out in overtime 57-48. Roy Moore led Victoria with 22 points and Tyron Johnson led Austin High with 24.

In regionals, news quickly spread that the top team in San Antonio, Jefferson had some real injury problems. Bullock had a very bad ankle and was barely walking and his 6'5" backup, Lynn Markham was definitely out with a bad ankle as well. 6'1" Mike Norwood would move into the starting line-up. Bullock had first injured his ankle against S.A. Churchill but reinjured it against Edgewood. It was more than a twisted ankle, his bone was actually bruised. Jefferson's semi-final opponent would be Moody, out of Corpus Christi, who relied heavily on their pressing defense. 6'2" Bubba Ellison(25.5) was the team leader along with 6'1" Danny Wynn(18.3), 6'0" Ricky Walker(8.9), 6'1" Kendall Murray(15.3) and 6'1" Greg Clark(3.0). Jefferson had another 30 plus win defeating Moody 83-53 behind the scoring of Lee with 14, Jay had 24, Myers with 22 and even Bullock was able to score 14 points. Moody was led by Wynn with 23 points and Ellison finished 16 and Walker had 11.

In the second semi-final contest, Victoria would have to get over the physiological stigma of having lost previously to Sam Houston 78-48. Big defeats like that can affect a team two ways. It could hurt Victoria's confidence or make Sam Houston overconfident. There was also the fact that 6'3" Roy Moore(22.2/14.0), the Stingarees top player, had not played against Sam Houston. Other standouts for Victoria were 6'4" Gil Staulbaum(12.5), 6'5" Allen Clifton(15.7), 5'10" Warren Milberger(4.1), 6'4" Steve Cook(8.4) and two subs, 5'11" Wes Cook, the team's best ball-handler and 6'2" Mark Mueller. Victoria never had a chance as Sam Houston throttled them again 78 to 43. Fuery had 20 points, Williams 22 and Hodge 18. Moore as usual led Victoria with 20 points and Clifton finished with 15.

As expected, the two top teams in the region would compete to see which one advanced to Austin and the state tournament. Jefferson and Sam Houston had split in their two earlier meetings during the regular season, so the game was a toss-up. What gave Sam Houston the advantage was the injury to Bullock. The game was played at the Alamo Stadium Gym in front of the largest crowd to ever see a high school game in San Antonio. It was estimated the crowd was over 5,000. Bullock hobbled around in obvious pain and Sam Houston won 63-50. Sam Houston capturing the school's first regional title ever. Bullock finished with 11 points and 15 rebounds, but he was not the same. John Meyers finished with 10 points and Sam Jay had 10 for Jefferson. For the winners, Larry Miles had 17, Rodney Givens had 12 and Ronald Williams was held to 11. Hodges fouled out. Jefferson had a great season, winning their first District title since 1963 and finished an impressive 34-2. Both losses came at the hands of Sam Houston.

State Tournament:

Plainview	(33-2)	#8	65.0-49.0	+16.0
Cypress-Fairbanks	(34-6)	#5	71.9-61.4	+10.5
Houston Wheatley	(36-4)	#3	96.9-73.5	+23.4
S.A. Sam Houston	(34-2)	#11	74.6-55.6	+19.0

State Tournaments Top Five:

6'8"	Jerry Mercer	Cypress-Fairbanks
6'0"	Ronald Dunlap	Cypress-Fairbanks
6'4"	Charles Bassett	Plainview
6'6"	Eddie Owens	Houston Wheatley
6'8"	Willie Hodge	San Antonio Sam Houston:

San Antonio Sam Houston's semi-final opponent at state was the most storied program in the state of Texas, the Wildcats of Houston Wheatley. Everybody had heard of Wheatley's exploits and the Cherokees knew they would have to bring their A game. The Wildcats of Coach Jackie Carr's celebrated program was shooting for their fourth straight class 4-A state title. No team had ever accomplished such a feat. This was a much younger version of the Wildcats. Wheatley only started one senior and that was returning starter, 5'11" Clarence Johnson. Junior starters included, 5'8" Gaylord Davis(19.6) and 6'1" Michael Archer(16.0). Two talented sophomores made enormous contributions, 6'5" Eddie Owens(19.4) and 6'5" Michael Long(15.2). Coming off the bench were four very talented seniors, 6'0" Cecil Dutton(11.0), 6'3" Anthony Taylor, 6'3" Willie Thornton and 5'11" Linzy Greer. A young sophomore also came off the bench, 6'5" Steve Jones, the younger brother of Dwight. The two teams had only one common opponent and that was Houston Lamar(29-7). Lamar had lost to Wheatley in the regional finals 99-94. Lamar had beaten Sam Houston 73-59 in the finals of the Corpus Christi Invitational tournament. Wheatley busted the century mark 18 times during the regular season, eclipsed 90 on 12 occasions and their high game for the season was 126. The Wildcats averaged 96.9 points a game and allowed 73.5, for a 23.5 victory margin. Coach Carr was bold in his statements, "This is the best team we've ever had, we had a lot of injuries anywhere from three to six men at a time and we lost because of injuries." Carr also called Clarence Johnson the best guard in the state.

Sam Houston countered with a nice team themselves, averaging 74.6 and allowing just 55.8 per game, for a 19-point spread. The Cherokees five starters all averaged in double figures. Ronald Williams averaged 17.5, Hodge at 15.0, Miles 13.8, Fuery 12.3 and Givens at 11.4. The biggest problem for Coach Caza was that he only played five or six players, while Wheatley would play eleven or more. In a great game, Sam Houston stayed close throughout the game, finally losing to Wheatley 110-92. The Wildcats broke their own state scoring record set in 1970 at 108 points. For the Wildcats, it was their constant pressure and deep balanced scoring. Clarence Johnson had 15 points, Michael Long added 15, Archer had 18, Eddie Owens put in 20 points, Gaylord Davis hit 18 and sophomore, Steve Jones

finished with 14 points. For Sam Houston, Ronald Williams, showed why he was considered one of the top guards in San Antonio, leading his team with 33 points and 22 rebounds. Coach Carr commented after the game, "He's good, he really hurt us, we didn't think he was that good. That big boy was a heck of a lot better than our scouting report indicated." Other Cherokees who scored were Givins with 15, Miles had 11 and Hodge was big with 28 points. Coach Caza said following the game, "We were real surprised at how well they shot the ball, they shot the eyes out of the basket." Caza also complained about the gym being hot and too crowded, for the number of fans crammed into Gregory Gym. "They played all those people and we stayed with our starters and we wore down." Sam Houston also commented on how all the heights on the basketball program were wrong. Their tallest player listed was only 6'1 1/2" and Wheatley had several players over 6'4". The only substitute Coach Caza made came when 6'8" Hodge fouled out with 1:53 remaining in the game. Wheatley went eleven players deep once again.

In the other semi-final contest between Cypress-Fairbanks and Plainview, the Bulldogs got off to a horrible start trailing 24-6 at one point, late in the first quarter. Plainview spent the rest of the game finally getting close in the last few minutes of the game. Down 58-55, Plainview had several chances to take the lead at the foul line with LeRoy Buckner missing two foul shots, Curtis Thompson and Willie Carreathers each missing one apiece. Bassett and Thompson each finished with 18 points apiece for the Bulldogs. Ronald Dunlap led the Bobcats with 17 points and hit three critical baskets down the stretch to slow down Plainview's momentum. Donald Dunlap had 12, Andrew Jones 12 and Mercer 9 in the Bobcats 58-55 win.

In the championship game, the Dunlap twins combined for 34 points, to upset the Wheatley Wildcats 72-58. Donald had 20 points and Ronald finished with 14. Metcalf added 19 points. Super sophomore, Eddie Owens, was ejected from the game with 2:43 remaining in the third quarter and finished with only 13 points. Owens was ejected for throwing an apparent elbow. 6'5" sophomore post, Michael Long led the scoring for the Wildcats with 20 points. Cypress-Fairbanks Coach, Ronnie Truitt only played five players and controlled the tempo of the game passing up open shots to control the speed of the game. His offense only called for his team taking high percentage shots and at times, passing up three on one and two on one, fast breaks. "We call it our Wheatley offense," Truitt said. "We didn't want to get the game spread out, we didn't think defense was their best suit. When we scored, we were able to get our defense set up when they came back down." Because of his team's strong guard play, Cypress-Fairbanks was able to control the tempo and also with Mercer inside, the Bobcats had a strong inside force.

Years later in my 2005 interview with Coach Carr, he explained the loss to Cypress-Fairbanks in great detail. "Their coach outsmarted me during the game. There were three different things that turned the game in his favor. The first thing was I would always let you have a layup off the fast break and then we would

come right back at you on the other end. But Coach Truitt would not take the layup and circle back around and wait till all five players got on the offensive end. He would not run up and down the court with us. The second thing that they did to hurt us was they had three good ball handlers on their team. Any time you have three good ball handlers on a team, it is hard to press them. And the third thing that they did to win the game was their big post, Jerry Mercer was too strong inside for my sophomore post, Michael Long.”

For Wheatley, no tears would be shed, the Wildcats returned four starters and loads of experience and the junior varsity that finished 26-1 and the sophomore team went 26-0. The J.V. averaged 110 points per game and the sophomores averaged 94. The Wheatley dynasty was far from finished.

A side note of interest about the Cypress-Fairbanks team was that the Coach Ronnie Truitt⁽²⁶⁾ played at Milan, Indiana. The movie “Hoosiers” was of course made about the schools 1954 state championship team. At the time, there was only one high school in the Cypress I.S.D. and today there are ten schools. Some of the Cy-Fair upperclassmen played their first two years of high school athletics at Carverdale High, which was an African-American school located at Gessner and West Little York. Their 1969 team won the Prairie View Interscholastic League Class 1-A championship and Ronald and Donald played on the team. The coach of Carverdale was hired as assistant coach at Cy-Fair and the Dunlap’s and Andrew Jones began attending Cy-Fair as juniors. Mercer played at Texas A&M, Metcalf played for East Texas Baptist, the Dunlap twins played at Kilgore J.C., Donald later played football at North Texas.⁽²⁷⁾

⁽²⁶⁾ Ronnie Truitt came to Cypress-Fairbanks ISD in 1967 and after the state title in 1971, went into administration as a high school assistant principle. He spent his remaining years as principal of Jersey Village High. Truitt was a member of the 1953 Milan High School team in Indiana that the movie, “Hoosiers” was based on.

⁽²⁷⁾ One of the greatest games ever played in Texas high school basketball took place between Cypress-Fairbanks and Spring Branch Memorial in district competition. With three seconds remaining, Bobby Metcalf of Cy-Fair caught the ball and pivoted and hit a mid-court shot at the buzzer to send the game into overtime at 71 apiece. After six overtimes, the Bobcats won 75-73.

Some Cypress-Fairbanks seniors wanted to show their support for their team the week before the state tournament, so they dribbled basketballs from the front of Cy-Fair campus to Gregory Gym, 145 miles away on the U.T. Campus. Chris Labay, the son of then-CFISD assistant superintendent Allen Labay, came up with the idea on the way back from a playoff game in College Station. The students were granted excused absences from Tuesday- Friday during the week of the state tournament. “We wanted to do something for spirit,” Labay said. The students would dribble on the side of the road and their parents would pick them up and they would continue the next day, where they had left off all the way to Austin. One of the basketballs is still in the Cy-Fair trophy case.

The **All-Tournament team** at state was made up of Don and Ron Dunlap, Bobby Metcalf of Cypress-Fairbanks, Michael Long of Wheatley and Willie Hodge of San Antonio Sam Houston.

Season Summary of the 1971: Cypress-Fairbanks(36-6) not only captured the state 4-A title but managed to dominate the state playoffs. In the Bobcats

regional finals game against top ranked, Dallas Kimball, Cy-Fair won easily, 66-51. In the two games against the three-time state champion, Houston Wheatley, Cypress-Fairbanks handled the Wildcats both times by a wide margin, 66-52 and 72-58. In those three big games the Bobcats were 3-0 and won all three games by double digits. Wheatley's 72 game winning streak came to an end with their loss to Cy-Fair.

1971 State Rankings

{End of the Regular Season, with no rating system at the time these rankings are based on regular season results by McKee}

1.	Dallas Kimball	35-1	6'6" Larry Chesney(20.2), 5'11" Eddie Fitzhugh(10.3)
2	Ft. W. Arl. Heights	33-1	6'8" Cedric Joseph(28.9), Jim Williams(13.8)
3.	Houston Wheatley	33-4	6'6" Eddie Owens(19.4), 6'5" Michael Long(15.2)
4.	Garland	31-2	6'4" Ray Roberts(23.2), 6'2" Mark McArthur
5.	Cypress-Fairbanks	31-6	6'8" Jerry Mercer(16.7), 6'0" Ronald Dunlap(16.1)
6.	Clear Creek	35-3	Hank Bauershlag, Dave Boring, Tim McCarty
7.	Houston Davis	30-4	6'10" Maurice Presley(25.4)
8.	Plainview	30-2	6'5" Charlie Bassett(15.4), 6'4" LeRoy Buckner(13.1)
9.	S. A. Jefferson	31-1	6'8" Rick Bullock(21.0), 6'6" John Myers(14.0)
10.	Houston Lamar	27-6	6'7" David Marrs, Larry Moten
11.	S. A. Sam Houston	30-2	6'8" Willie Hodge(16.0), 6'3" Donald Williams
12.	Marshall	24-5	Glendale Jones
13.	Houston Yates	25-5	6'6" William "Toothpick" Johnson, 6'0" Leo Woods
14.	Beaumont Pollard	33-3	5'11" Sherman Joseph(19.8)
15.	Midland	27-6	6'6" Gary Brewster(15.3), 6'5" John Mason(11.5)
16.	El Paso Bel Air	24-7	6'8" Ed Lynum(25.1), Rudy Alvarez(16.4)
17.	Spring Woods	28-6	6'5" James Derkowski(20.1)
18.	Wichita Falls Rider	24-7	6'0" D. Wuthrich(18.8), 6'4" Carlton Young(14.6)
19.	Ft. Worth Poly	20-6	5'11" Arthur Chance(16.3), 6'0" T. Risher(14.9)
20.	Highland Park	29-6	6'3" John Fry(17.3), 6'0" Bowman Williams(15.2)

All-State Basketball Teams – Sports Writers- 1st team-6'4" Bill

Marcellus(25.9), Dallas Thomas Jefferson; 6'8" Cedric Joseph(24.6), Ft. Worth Arlington Heights; 6'8" Jerry Mercer(17.7), Cypress-Fairbanks; 6'0" Ron Dunlap(17.5), Cypress-Fairbanks; 5'11" Sherman Joseph(19.8) Beaumont Charlton-Pollard; **2nd Team**-6'10" Tommy Barker(25.1), Weslaco; 6'10" Maurice Presley(25.4), Houston Davis; 6'4" Charles Bassett(15.4), Plainview; 6'1" Vernon Evans(27.9), San Antonio Brackenridge; 5'10" Bryan Mauk(24.9), Ft. Worth Southwest; **3rd Team**- 6'4" Jimmy Murphy(26.0), Carrollton R.L. Turner; 6'7" Ed Lynum(26.4), El Paso Bel Air; 6'3" Eddie Owens(19.4), Houston Wheatley; 6'0" Dennis Withrich(19.1), Wichita Falls Rider; 6'5" James Weaver(23.9), Waco Richfield:

This was one of the rare seasons that I felt several players were left off the All-State teams completed by the Sports Writers. 6'8" Willie Hodge of S.A. Sam Houston and 6'8" Rick Bullock of S.A. Jefferson were both juniors and should have been named to the squad along with 6'7" Ira Terrell of Dallas Roosevelt. This would have been hard to do because there were so many underclassmen who were clearly outstanding. Coach Jackie Carr of Wheatley called Clarence Johnson the

best guard in the state. That should have been enough said. Clarence was omitted from the All-State squad also. William "Toothpick" Johnson of Houston Yates was also left off the squad for the second year in a row. Johnson was named to the High School All-Star game, so he finally received some recognition.

Recruits: This was really a pretty average class of recruits compared to some of the other classes during the 1970s. This class was much weaker overall than the 1970 recruits and much weaker than the outstanding group that was produced in 1972. 6'10" **Maurice Presley**(25.4) of Houston Davis was considered the top player in the state according to most experts. He signed with the University of Houston and was the 77th pick in the N.B.A. draft by the Blazers. Presley left college early after averaging 13.9 points and 10.7 rebounds per game. 6'8" **Cedric Joseph**(24.6) of Ft. Worth Arlington Heights was generally considered to top prospect by several recruiters. He was the first African American ever recruited by Shelby Metcalf. Metcalf had wanted to recruit black players for several years but was told by administration that A&M would be the last school in the conference to sign an African American basketball recruit. As a sophomore at A&M, Joseph averaged 12.5/9.3, leading rebounder and third in scoring. He only played 2 ½ season for Shelby. S.M.U. signed three of the top recruits in the state in 1971, 6'4" **Bill Marcellus**(25.9) from Dallas Thomas Jefferson, 6'4" **Jimmy Murphy**(26.0) from Carrollton R.L. Turner and 6'8" **Rusty Bourqein**(21.0) of Spring Branch. Bourqein was a load inside and new how to use his size, he averaged 13.3/9.5 as the Mustangs leading scorer and rebounder. Murphy and Marcellus both played up through their junior seasons and had nice careers. Murphy averaged 6.5/4.6. Marcellus said he had offers from Kansas and Michigan and several other schools and took a number of visits but selected S.M.U. because he planned to live in Dallas after graduation. 6'3" **Ray Roberts**(23.4) of Garland and 6'8" **Jerry Mercer**(17.7) signed with Texas A&M and Mercer averaged 5.1/5.3 for the Aggies while Roberts averaged 7.6/2.3. Roberts actually started out at Oklahoma State and then transferred to A&M. Teammates 6'2" **Rudy Alvarez** and **Ed Lynum**(26.4) of El Paso Bel Air both signed with U.T.E.P. Lynum averaged 7.8/4.9 while Alvarez came in at 5.2/1.4. 6'9" **Mark Davis** of Lubbock High, 6'5" **James Dirkowski**(20.1) of Houston Spring Woods was a pure shooter, 6'3" **Phil Bailey**(28.0) (28) of Grand Prairie, 6'7" **William "Toothpick" Johnson**(16.0) of Houston Yates, 5'9" **Mike Mauk**(24.1) of Ft. Worth Southwest, one of the fastest and quickest players in the state, 6'5" **Kim McClintock**(20.6) of Dumas and 6'5" **Steve Trncak**(18.0) of Pasadena High, who was very strong inside, all signed with the Red Raiders of Texas Tech. Two walk-ons at Tech were 6'1" **David Thetford** of Lubbock Monterey and 6'1" **Billy Gray** of Sherman. Bailey averaged 12.3 points per game and went on to become one of the outstanding coaches in the Dallas area after graduation. His ability to transform his talent into winners put him at the top of the coaching profession. Bailey placed a lot of demands on his players. Rick Bullock described Bailey as a big time shooter, "who could light it up." William "Toothpick" Johnson

had a stellar career at Tech with 16.2/8.9 and was the 101st pick in the N.B.A. by the Rockets. He was also drafted by the N.F.L., even though he had not played football since high school. Williams set the single game rebounding record at Tech with 21 against Texas. He was also named 1st team All-SWC his senior year. 6'2" **Ed Riska** of Houston's Brothers of Rice signed with Houston. 6'7" **Randy Willis**(18.1) of Dumas signed with S.M.U., 6'5" **James Weaver**(23.9) of Waco Richfield had a nice career with the Bears averaging 6.1/3.5. Other players who signed with Baylor were 6'6" **Charles Bassett**(15.4) of Plainview, 6'2" **Tom Corley** of Waco Midway. Corley averaged 8.7 at Baylor. 6'3" **Carl Jones**(25.7) from Wichita Falls Hirschi played at North Texas. Jones was a starter for the Mean Green scoring 11.8 per game. T.C.U. signed 6'0" **Eddie Fitzhugh**(10.0) of Dallas Kimball, 6'1" **Alonzo Harris** of Dallas South Oak Cliff and 6'4" **Johnny Blakney** of Ft. Worth. Lamar University in Beaumont signed 6'4" **John Echols** of Hull Daisetta, a 2-A school and 6'6" **Clay Purswell** of San Marcos. Texas signed 6'7" **Bruce Baker** of Houston Waltrip. One of the most successful recruits came out of South Oak Cliff in Dallas. **Ken "Grasshopper" Smith** was a 6'7" standout at Lon Morris Junior College and later All-Missouri Valley Conference at Tulsa. Grasshopper averaged 20.9 points per game to lead the conference and 11.0 rebounds per game. Remember the Missouri Valley was one of the top basketball conference's in the country in the 1960s and 1970s. He was also named honorable mention All-American. He was drafted with the 65th pick in the N.B.A. draft by the Rockets and ended up playing 19 games with the San Antonio Spurs of the A.B.A. He later left the country and played professionally in England and Belgium till the age of 46 and retired a national hero. 6'5" **Bill Seale** of El Paso Eastwood played at Tennessee. 6'7" **Andrew Prince** of Victoria Stroman played at Abilene Christian. 6'3" **Roy Moore**(22.2) of Victoria was highly recruited and played at Tyler JC and Angelo State. 6'5" **J.D. Koehn** of Houston King played at Angelo St., **Jerrald Taylor** of Houston Lincoln and 6'2" **Craig Reynolds** of Houston Reagan.

(28) Phil led Grand Prairie to a 22-12 record his senior year and 10-4 finish in district. Bailey was one of the top players ever produced by Grand Prairie. Phil shared his experience against Wheatley his junior year in the Arlington Classic. "The game is a blur. They were simply too Big and too strong for us across the board. I can still remember my Dad telling me the morning of the game, "Hey, they put their pants on one leg at a time just like you. "Everyone knew who Wheatley was, they were well known. I always loved competing against guys like that because I thought it was fun to play against the best! Their full court press was ridiculous, really tough to crack and that's how they created their leads so fast, turnovers and layups. They ran a 1-2-1-1 press and their front-line traps were deadly. Back in the day "DUNKING" was illegal, it's a good thing!! The final score was 87-65."

Top Texas Recruits in 1971 based on their college and pro careers:

"Grasshopper" Smith 6'7"	South Oak Cliff	Tulsa, 20.9/11.0 All-MVC*	<u>NBA Rock #65</u>
"Toothpick" Johnson 6'6"	Houston Yates	Texas Tech 16.2/8.9 All-SWC*	<u>NBA Rock#101</u>
Maurice Presley 6'10"	Houston Davis	Houston, 13.9/10.7	<u>NBA Blaze #77</u>
Cedric Joseph 6'8"	FW Arlington Hts.	Tex.A&M 12.5/9.3	
Rusty Bourqein 6'8"	Spring Branch	S.M.U. 13.3/9.5	
Jerry Mercer 6'8"	Cypress-Fairbanks	Tex.A&M 5.1/5.3	
Carl Jones 6'3"	W.F. Hirschi	North Texas 11.8	
Tom Corely 6'2"	Waco Midway	Baylor 8.7	
Ed Lynum 6'7"	El Paso Bel Air	U.T.E.P. 7.8/4.9	
Phil Bailey 6'3"	Grand Prairie	Texas Tech 12.3	

(*All-Conference)

All-Americans: Maurice Presley made the Scholastic All-American team, that was probably the most highly thought of at the time and most established. Parade Magazine of course was very well respected also.

National Rankings: Cypress-Fairbanks claimed to be named National Champions by a publication but I could not find the name of the group honoring the Bobcats.

State Leaders: Leading scoring team in the state of course was Houston Wheatley at 96.9 and the top defensive team was Corsicana at 45.6. That is totally unofficial because there were no official stats, it was all done on the honor system. Largest margin of victory went to Wheatley at 23.4, followed by San Antonio Sam Houston at 19.0. High scorer in the state is very debatable. Bobby Ortega at 29.4 of El Paso Andress, Frank Keton at 28.6 of El Paso Coronado, Phil Bailey of Grand Prairie at 28.0, Vernon Evans of S.A. Brackenridge at 27.9, Keith Sullivan of South Garland at 26.9, Ed Lynum of El Paso Bel Air at 26.4, Jimmy Murphy of Carrollton R.L. Turner at 26.0 and Bill Marcellus of Dallas Thomas Jefferson at 25.9. I think you could take your pick, some were District averages and some were actual season averages.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs: Surprisingly, 6'5" Charlie Bassett was the top scorer of the playoffs, averaging a modest 21.0 per game in the playoffs. He hit 24 against Pampa, 21 against El Paso Bel Air, 21 in the regional finals against Wichita Falls Rider and 18 in his team's semi-final loss to eventual state champion, Cypress-Fairbanks. The Bulldogs were not a real up and down team, so to have Bassett gain high point honors was surprising.

Power Ratings:

1.	Houston Wheatley	37-5	98.92	State Finals 4-A	Loss to Cy-Fair -14
2.	Cypress-Fairbanks	36-6	96.69	State Champs 4-A	beat Wheatley +14
3.	Dallas Kimball	38-2	91.91	Regional Finals 4-A	Loss to Cy-Fair -15
4.	Garland	32-3	85.75	Regional Semis 4-A	Loss to WF Rider -5
5.	Highland Park	29-6	83.06	District Runner-up	
6.	Clear Creek	36-4	83.05	Regional Semis 4-A	Loss to H. Lamar -5

Hard to argue that Cypress-Fairbanks should have been the top-rated power ranking team for 1971, but once again Wheatley comes away as #1. Yes, I know Cy-Fair beat them twice by double figures, but you could also say outstanding coaching and talent came together to minimize Wheatley. Does that

sound like a good enough reason, probably not, but I tried to come up with an explanation of some kind. Kimball was clearly one of the top teams, but was unfortunate to face Cy-Fair prior to state. All these teams have one thing in common, and that was they were very competitive all season and played very tough schedules.

Teams that should have made it to Austin: Would have been nice to see what Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(33-3) could have done in the playoffs but they were eliminated by playing an ineligible player.

1971 4-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso Bel Air(23-8)	58	El Paso Irvin(24-9)	49
	Plainview(30-2)	59	Pampa(19-13)	49
	Wichita Falls Rider(24-7)	82	Midland(27-6)	66
	Garland(32-3)	77	Arlington(24-12) OT	74
Region I Semis	Plainview(31-2)	52	El Paso Bel Air(24-8)	43
	Wichita Falls Rider(24-7)	74	Garland(32-2)	69
Region I Finals	Plainview(32-2)	72	Wichita Falls Rider(25-7)	61
Region II Bi-Dist.	Ft. Worth Poly(21-6)	60	Ft. W. Arlington Hts.(33-2)	58
	Dallas Kimball(35-1)	79	Dallas Thomas Jeff(21-12)	61
	Marshall(24-5)	64	Richardson(29-8)	55
	Cypress-Fairbanks(31-6)	64	Corsicana(31-7)	52
Region II Semis	Dallas Kimball(36-1)	54	Ft. Worth Poly(22-6)	41
	Cypress-Fairbanks(32-6)	82	Marshall(25-5)	66
Region II Finals	Cypress-Fairbanks(33-6)	66	Dallas Kimball(37-1)	51
Region III Bi-Dist.	Clear Creek(35-3)	78	Deer Park(27-10)	63
	Houston Wheatley(33-4)	100	Houston Davis(30-4)	87
	Houston Lamar(27-6)	100	Houston Madison(25-7)	56
	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(11-15)	62	Beaumont Hebert(10-15)	55
Region III Semis	Houston Wheatley(34-4)	105	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(12-15)	68
	Houston Lamar(28-6)	71	Clear Creek(36-3)	66
Region III Finals	Houston Wheatley(35-4)	99	Houston Lamar(29-6)	94
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Corpus Christy Moody(29-6)	73	Weslaco(22-9)	68
	Victoria(23-8)	57	Austin High(25-8) OT	56
	SA Sam Houston(31-2)	62	SA Roosevelt(26-9)	60
	SA Jefferson(31-1)	78	SA Edgewood(22-10)	47
Region IV Semis	SA Sam Houston(31-2)	78	Victoria(24-8)	43
	SA Jefferson(32-1)	83	Corpus Christi Moody(30-6)	53
Region IV Finals	SA Sam Houston(32-2)	63	SA Jefferson(33-1)	50
State Semi-Finals	Cypress-Fairbanks(34-6)	58	Plainview(33-2)	55
	Houston Wheatley(36-4)	110	SA Sam Houston(34-2)	92
State Finals	Cypress-Fairbanks(35-6)	72	Houston Wheatley(37-4)	58

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1971 AAAA Top 50}

1.	Cypress-Fairbanks	36-6	{dominant wins over Wheatley/Kimball in the playoffs}
2.	Houston Wheatley	37-5	{Top team, loss to Cypress-Fairbanks twice during season}
3.	Dallas Kimball	37-2	{Won the Arlington Classic, win over Cyp-Fairbanks}
4.	Plainview	33-3	{Loss by only three to Cy-Fair in the State Semis}
5.	Houston Lamar	29-7	{downed Cy-Fair by 21 early, beat C. Creek 71-66 in Reg.}
6.	Houston Yates	25-5	{Split with Wheatley going 6-2 in district action}
7.	Ft. W. Arl. Heights	33-3	{beat Wheatley 66-62, standout Cedric Joseph}
8.	Houston Davis	30-5	{Loss three games to Wheatley, top player Presley}
9.	Clear Creek	36-4	{Beat Cy-Fair early 78-73 and Yates 85-83}
10.	S. A. Sam Houston	34-3	{beat SA Jefferson in regionals behind Willie Hodge}
11.	S. A. Jefferson	33-2	{regional finals loss to Sam Houston with Bullock hurt}
12.	Wichita Falls Rider	25-8	{loss in the regional finals to Plainview 72-61}
13.	Garland	32-3	{beat Kimball in the Dr. Pepper}
14.	El Paso Bel Air	24-9	{regional semi-finalist, lost to Plainview 52-43}
15.	S. A. Roosevelt	26-10	{lost in Bi-District to Sam Houston 62-60}
16.	Ft. Worth Poly	21-7	{knocked Arlington Hts. out of the first round 60-58}
17.	Midland	27-7	{loss in Bi-District to Rider 82-66}
18.	Spring Woods	28-6	{district runner-up to Cypress-Fairbanks}
19.	Beaumont Pollard	33-3	{ineligible for the playoffs}
20.	Corsicana	21-7	{lost in Bi-District to Cypress-Fairbanks 64-52}
21.	Odessa Permian	23-7	{defeated Plainview 56-47 in tournament action}
22.	Dallas Roosevelt	21-4	{lost in Dist. to Kimball in overtime 71-70 during 2 nd half}
23.	El Paso Irvin	24-10	{three team District Playoff}
24.	El Paso Austin	28-6	{lost in District playoff to Irvin}
25.	Pampa	19-14	{Bi-District loss to Plainview 59-49}
26.	Marshall	25-6	{regional semi-finalist losing to Cypress-Fairbanks 82-66}
27.	Deer Park	27-11	{another outstanding team, lost to Clear Creek in Bi-Dist.}
28.	S. B. Memorial	24-10	{always strong, but no playoffs in '71 for Coleman}
29.	D. Thomas Jefferson	21-13	{Marcellus led the Rebels to Bi-District}
30.	Houston Kashmere	24-10	{finished 2nd in district play to Houston Davis in 17-AAAA}
31.	Houston Waltrip	21-9	{runner-up to Houston Lamar in district 19-AAAA}
32.	Richardson	29-9	{lost to Marshall in Bi-District 64-55}
33.	Victoria	24-9	{eliminated by SA Sam Houston in regional-semis 78-43}
34.	Corpus Christi Moody	30-7	{lost to SA Jefferson in the regional-semis 83-52}
35.	Houston Milby	21-13	{same district with Yates and Wheatley}
36.	El Paso Eastwood	26-5	{lost out in a three team district playoff}
37.	Lubbock Monterey	24-7	{District runner-up to Pampa}
38.	Temple	24-8	{District runner-up to Corsicana, lost a district playoff}
39.	Houston Westchester	25-13	{tough district beat Cypress-Fairbanks in district action}
40.	Carrollton RL Turner	20-11	{Murphy led another strong ball club}
41.	Arlington	24-13	{lost in Bi-District to Garland 77-74 in overtime}
42.	Highland Park	29-6	{finals of the Dr. Pepper and beat Garland once}
43.	Houston Madison	25-8	{lost in Bi-Dist. against Houston Lamar 100-56}
44.	Austin High	25-8	{Bi-District loss to Victoria 57-56 in overtime}
45.	S. A. Edgewood	22-11	{lost in Bi-District to SA Jefferson 78-47}
46.	Lubbock High	22-9	{could not get out of district}
47.	Weslaco	22-10	{Tommy Barker led his team to a District title}
48.	El Paso Coronado	23-9	{was in a very tough district in El Paso finishing 4th}
49.	Richardson Pearce	24-6	{tied with L. H. for district runner-up to Richardson}
50.	Denton	19-12	{beat Roosevelt, 4th in Dist., behind Garland, RLT, H.P.}

1972 AAAA

The 1972 season was one of the most exciting years in class 4-A that Texas had ever seen. It was a year of unusual talent all over the state, not just in Houston. During the 1970s, the city of Houston was way ahead of the rest of the state, but during the '72 season the balance was much more spread out. If you know nothing about the season, then you are in for a real treat and even if you know a little, it was a very competitive year. Players that came out of the 1972 season had more impact than maybe any year during the decade. I'm not saying that the teams were better or the talent was the best, just that the players impacted Texas basketball long after they graduated from high school.

The Arlington Classic always kicked the season off and the '72 was no different. The 5th annual tournament had many of the top teams in the state competed once again over a three-day period. The pre-tournament favorites were Houston Wheatley and Dallas Roosevelt. The talent was outstanding. On display, would be some of the top players, not only in the state, but in the nation. 6'7" Ira Terrell of Dallas Roosevelt was considered the top player in the state along with junior, 6'6" Eddie Owens of Houston Wheatley. The Wildcats of Wheatley opened against Carrollton R.L. Turner(18-13) and defeated the Lions 89-74. Owens poured in 31 points in the win. Dallas Roosevelt destroyed Denton(23-7) and Ira Terrell had 37 points and 18 rebounds. Spring Branch Memorial(19-12) defeated Dallas Samuel 64-57 as Pat McClellan led the way with 31 points for Memorial. McClellan later signed with the Longhorns. Lake Highlands(25-9) squeezed by South Oak Cliff(19-12) 56-54 and Fort Worth Arlington Heights(22-9) beat Garland 62-60 and continued to advance beating Spring Branch Memorial 72-69. Wheatley moved on beating Dallas Kimball 98-54 and Roosevelt moved into the semi-finals downing Arlington High(23-12) 80-69. Lake Highlands advanced to the semi-finals winning another close game 61-60 over Arlington Sam Houston(22-10).

In the semis, Roosevelt was upset 73-66 by F.W. Arlington Heights and Wheatley completely leveled Lake Highlands 139-72. In the championship game, Wheatley claimed the crown beating Ft. Worth Arlington Heights 91-83. Roosevelt took the third-place game over Lake Highlands 87-57 and consolation was won by Denton 57-52 over R.L. Turner. Ira Terrell of Roosevelt, broke the tournament scoring record. He put in 37 against Denton, 35 vs. Arlington High, 22 against F.W. Arlington Heights, and 47 against Lake Highlands. He was named the tournament M.V.P., Owens had been the tournament M.V.P as a sophomore, the previous season. The all-tournament team was named as follows: Michael Long, Eddie Owens and Mike Archer of Wheatley, David Krieger, Robert Woods, and Carl Webb of Arlington Heights, Maurice Evans of Denton, Terry Douglas of Arlington High, Larry Ochs of R.L. Turner. In the title game between Wheatley and Arlington Heights, Owens put up 32 points and Archer followed with 17 while Robert Woods hit 32 points and had 10 rebounds for Heights. The talk of the tournament was Terrell, who not only produced big number in scoring but also rebounding. He had

23 rebounds against Arlington High, 13 against Heights and 17 against Lake Highlands.

In the Dr. Pepper tournament in Dallas, the top teams in the state were on display. In the early round games, Highland Park advanced beating Dallas Woodrow Wilson 80-72 and Carrollton R.L.Turner 83-63. David Kimmel led the scoring for the Scots in both games with 29 and 26 points. Richardson moved on into the quarter finals with wins over Dallas Thomas Jefferson 75-69 and Dallas W.T. White 77-51. Denton defeated Dallas Pinkston in the first round 82-75 and then upset AAA power, Plano 81-77. Dallas Roosevelt had little trouble with Dallas Jesuit 81-47 and Dallas St. Mark's 92-52. Terrell hit 25 against Jesuit and 30 vs. St. Mark's. Dallas South Oak Cliff moved on with wins over Bishop Dunne and Irving 75-71. Dallas Carter showed some talent with two wins over Dallas Kimball 60-44 and Irving MacArthur 58-55. South Garland was impressive behind a young sophomore named, John Derrick. The Colonels defeated Dallas Bryan Adams 45-44 and Lake Highlands 72-67.

In the quarterfinal round, Roosevelt dropped Denton 90-73, with Terrell's 38 points and Melvin Moore's 14 points and Marcellus Abney's hitting 14. Highland Park continued their winning ways and remained undefeated beating Richardson 78-69. Kimmel finished with 19 points and Neil Lemon finished with 17. Dallas Carter knocked off S.O.C. 56-50, as Gary Landers of Carter scored 29 points. The Colonels continued their drive to the semi-finals beating Dallas Lincoln 52-49. John Derrick had 17 and Edward Allen kicked in 14 points for South Garland. So, the semi-finals were set with Highland Park against Dallas Roosevelt in one match-up, and South Garland playing Dallas Carter in the other.

In the game of the tournament, Highland Park remained undefeated beating Roosevelt in overtime, 88-82. The Mustangs led at halftime 46-38 and at the end of the 3rd quarter 66-58. Leading 76-70 with three minutes remaining, Roosevelt became cautious and it proved costly. With 25 seconds remaining, and up by two points the Mustangs missed a front end of a one and one foul shot situation. Highland Park came down court and took four attempts at the basket inside. Finally, Kimmel tipped the ball into the basket with two seconds left to tie the game. "I can't say any win this season was any bigger than this one," Coach Bo Snowden said. "We beat one of the top ball clubs in the state." Kimmel finished with 29 points and Neil Lemon and Tommy Delatour both put in 22 apiece. Terrell finished with 18 points and had 16 of those points at halftime. The Scots prevented Terrell from getting the ball in the second half and limited him to only 2 points. Abney contributed 22 points to the Mustang cause, and Clarence Dennard added 17. Terrell began playing cautiously after picking up his third foul with 6:35 left in the third quarter. Dallas Carter proved to be too much for South Garland with a 57-51 victory in the other semi-final game.

In the much-anticipated championship game, Highland Park struggled early but came on to defeat Dallas Carter 59-54. Kimmel finished with 21 points and the tournament M.V.P. award. Roosevelt easily took 3rd place beating South

Garland 87-57. Terrell had 30 points and Derrick of South Garland finished with 19. Bryan Adams captured the consolation bracket with a 42-40 win over Thomas Jefferson. Ira Terrell was named all-tournament and put up some staggering numbers, averaging over 28 points per game in the tournament. Other all-tournament players included, Richard Hill and Gary Landers of Carter, Bobby Ashley of Lincoln, Dwight Carrington of S.O.C., John Derrick of South Garland, Oscar McGaskey of T.J. and Mark Guy of Bryan Adams.

The Houston Jaycee's tournament had an unusual set-up during the 1971-72 season. Houston Wheatley faced South Oak Cliff and Roosevelt of Dallas right before the Christmas holidays, in Dallas. The Wildcats came rolling into Dallas at 17-0, winners of the Houston Baptist tournament and the Arlington Classic. South Oak Cliff ambushed Wheatley 100-96, which gave the Wildcats their first loss of the season. The Mustangs made it back to back losses for Jackie Carr's troops at 111-109. So, the Wildcats entered the tournament as favorites, but not overwhelming, as in years past. Houston Yates came in undefeated at 18-0, having won the San Jacinto and Houston Smiley tournaments. The Lions might have had their best team of the 1970s. 5'10" Kenneth Berry was very special at the point. 6'3" Leo Woods had unlimited range from the outside at the off guard. 6'4" George Campbell was possibly the top leaper in the entire state. 6'2" George Walker was one of the most phenomenal athletes to ever come out of Houston. 5'9" Milton Jacob and 6'2" Mike Matthews rounded out the talent laden squad. The other seeded teams were Clear Creek at 16-2, led by Bill Knox, Reed Robbins and Bill Carlisle. Houston Lamar was the last of the seeded teams, with 6'8" David Marrs returning to the line-up after missing games because of injury. Lamar had beaten Houston Westchester 101-68 prior to the Jaycee tournament, with Marr's scoring 31 points. Wheatley was going to come at you with three 6'5" talented inside threats, Eddie Owens, Michael Long and Edwin Jammer. Yates had defeated Houston Jefferson Davis just before the Christmas Holidays 101-90.

In the first day of action at the Jaycee tournament, Houston Reagan upset Clear Creek 86-73. Arthur Jackson hit 32 points and James Rose added 20 points for Reagan. Yates had little trouble with Houston Westbury 100-76, Wheatley put Houston Williams in the loser bracket 118-64, Houston Lamar put Houston Austin to sleep 87-71, and Houston Washington(19-2) looked impressive beating Houston Smiley 72-49. In the Yates victory, Berry had 23 points, Leo Woods 18, Ken Reese 14, and sophomore, George Walker tallied 12 points for the Lions. Other early games included Houston Sterling's 108-67 over Beaumont Hebert, Houston Smiley beat Houston Kashmere 54-51, and New Orleans Carver loss to Houston Waltrip 83-72.

In second round action and quarterfinal games, Wheatley continued winning big, Houston Davis 101-86, Houston Furr 118-89. Yates kept pace dropping Houston Madison 87-68 and Houston Sharpstown 55-53. Leo Woods scored 20 for the Lions and "Stretch" Campbell contributed 12 points in the win over Sharpstown. Yates had been down at halftime 32-26 and came back to nip

Sharpstown. Houston Lamar squeaking by Houston Sterling 68-67 and Houston Sam Houston in the quarterfinals 60-52. Houston Washington eliminated Houston Reagan 71-59 in the quarterfinals, after Reagan's big upset win over Clear Creek.

The semi-finals had three of the four top seeded teams, plus Houston Washington. Wheatley beat Washington 95-91 in a great game. Yates advanced to the finals beating Houston Lamar 84-73. This set up the two best teams in Houston meeting in the finals, both from District 18-AAAA. Wheatley showed their undeniably dominance beating Yates with a tournament record 131 to 94 victory. The Wildcats were averaging 112.6 points per game after the contest. Eddie Owens was awesome with 37 points, Steven Jones had 17, Michael Long 16 and Gaylord Davis hit 13 points. Yates was paced by Leo Wood's 20 points, and George Walker contributed 19 points. Houston Lamar took the 3rd place game over Washington(20-4) 54-51 and Galveston Ball won consolation by beating Houston Kashmere 60-56. Future standout, Barry Davis of Galveston Ball led his team with 17 points.

The All-Tournament team consisted of four Wheatley players, Eddie Owens, Michael Long, Michael Archer and Gaylord Davis. Ken Berry and Leo Woods were both named from Yates, Marvin Jackson of Houston Washington, David Marrs of Houston Lamar, Barry Davis of Galveston, Phillip Davis of Kashmere, Rick Behrend of Lamar and Don Schmidt of Sharpstown.

Region I

El Paso Burges(26-5)

Midland(29-2) #2

Am. Palo Duro(23-6)

Irving(28-8)

El Paso High(27-3) #9

Wichita Falls(20-9)

Plainview(29-5) #12

Highland Park(35-1) #3

Top Five in Region I

6'8" Gary Brewster, Midland; 6'7" David Kimmel, Highland Park; 6'5" Grady Newton, Lubbock Monterey; 6'0" Wayne Williams, Abilene; 6'5" Mike Edgar, Pampa:

Midland(29-2) and Highland Park(35-1) looked like the class of Region I. Midland had two inside players the likes of which few teams in the state would be able to match-up against. 6'8" Gary Brewster(24.1), the District M.V.P. and 6'9" Ronald Taylor(14.1), who was 2nd team All-District. These two talented big men gave the Bulldogs an advantage over just about anybody in the state. Other key contributors for Midland(29-2) were 6'4" Danny Woods(11.5), 6'0" Harold Howard(9.4), 5'10" Gerry Spires(3.4). The Bulldogs first round opponent in the playoffs were the Coyotes of Wichita Falls(20-9). The Coyotes were much smaller and relied on speed. Leaders for the Coyotes were, 6'2" Otis Taylor(13.2), 6'3" Brad Barrington(9.9), 6'0" Ronnie Littleton(15.1)(29), 6'0" Isaac Bennett(10.3) and 6'1" Jimmy Emmer(18.5). Wichita Falls played a best of three series against Ft. Worth Richland to get out of their own District. After the series stood 1-1 and 2-2 on the season, the two 6-AAAA rivals squared off at the Men's Gym on the campus

of North Texas State University. One of the best places in North Texas to watch a game in the 1970s. Richland had the size advantage, as just about everybody did against the Coyotes. Wichita Falls had the speed and quickness advantage over Richland. Ricky Close, Steve Harter and Ricky Burleson all stood over 6'4" for Richland. Ronald Mattson and Joe McAnally completed the Rebels lineup. Wichita Falls jumped out to a big lead and then had to fight off a late Richland rallying to survive 71-69 and advance. With 6:51 remaining in the game the Coyotes were up 60-45 and looking to bring home the title. With 38 seconds left the Rebels closed the gap to 71-67. McAnally made a big steal for Richland and hit a lay-up, closing the gap to two points. Unfortunately, a foul was called before the lay-up and the basket was disallowed, which put McAnally on the line. He missed the foul shot but stole the ball back on the inbounds and hit another layup, putting Richland down by two points 71-69. With 11 seconds left Wichita Falls was able to run the clock out.

The Bi-District game between Midland and Wichita Falls was played at Moody Coliseum in Abilene. The Coyotes wanted a fast tempo, which they got and lost 92-83 to Midland. The Coyotes had one of the best athletes in the state in Ronnie Littleton, who was all-state in football and a standout in basketball. Littleton had 25 points in a losing effort. Brewster hit 40 points and had 20 rebounds. That is correct, 40 and 20. Ronald Taylor added 18 points. For Wichita Falls, Jim Emmer finished with 20 points and Otis Taylor had 16.

The battle for El Paso came down between E.P. Burges(26-5) and El Paso High(27-3). The game was played at Memorial Gym in El Paso. El Paso was coached by C.D. Jarvis and Burges was coached by Tony Harper. The Bi-District game was played in front of 4,000 fans as El Paso High won an exciting 55-53 contest in overtime. For El Paso High, David Nevarez(15.3) scored 14 points and Joe Marquez kicked in 14. Other key contributors for El Paso High were 6'4" Salvador Aguilar and 6'1" Carlos Palacio.

(29) Ronnie Littleton was one of the top football recruits in the state and played quarterback and running back. He was one of the most celebrated players in Texas High School history. He played in two state championship games as a sophomore and senior on the football field. His story is a sad one, he was recruited by every major University in the country, but signed with the doormat of the S.W.C., Texas Christian. As a freshman, he was playing against Notre Dame and got pummeled. He injured his left knee as a freshman and his right knee as a sophomore. His football career was over, because his whole game was speed and quickness. His recruitment was investigated by the NCAA, because he was driving a new Cutlass. After his career was over, he worked for General Motors on the assembly line. He passed away in 2015 at the age of 61 of cancer of the mouth.

Plainview(29-5) was looking to repeat their state tournament appearance from a year ago. Before they could get to the state playoffs, Plainview would have to win a District playoff game against Lubbock Monterey(23-9). The schools met at

the Texas Dome and Plainview had an easy time of it winning 65-45. Plainview was coached by Bill Phillips. Willie Carreathers led Plainview with 18 points and Curtis Thompson had 17 points and 13 rebounds. For Monterey, their leading scorer 6'5" Grady Newton, had only 9 points and Dan Irons had 15. Newton was one of the top recruits in the state in 1972 and had a nice career for the Red Raiders of Texas Tech.

Plainview met Amarillo Palo Duro(22-6) in Bi-District. The Dons had won their first District title in 11 years. Coach Tom Gilley of Palo Duro called on 6'6" Mike Martin, 6'7" Claude Harris and 6'5" Fred Mitchell inside. Mitchell, was a talented sophomore, who would be one of the top players in the state his senior year. The other two starters for Palo Duro were, 5'10" Don Lewis and Freddie Bryant. Palo Duro liked to run a 1-2-1 zone and a 2-3 zone and man to man defense. Plainview relied on 6'6" LeRoy Buckner, 6'3" Curtis Thompson, 6'2" Mike Anderson, 5'10" Willie Carreathers and 5'9" Billy Washington. The two teams had played earlier in the season and Plainview came away with a convincing 66-47 win on Palo Duro's home court. However, 6'6" Mike Martin did not play and Don Lewis got into early foul trouble. The Bi-District game took place at the Amarillo Civic Center. In front of 4,500 fans, the Dons came from behind to beat the Bulldogs of Plainview 57-53. 6'5" Fred Mitchell scored 16 points and had 11 rebounds for Palo Duro. Mitchell went 6 of 12 from the floor and 4 of 6 from the foul line. 6'7" Claude Harris had 14 points and 10 rebounds. Palo Duro went 9 of 25 from the foul line and Plainview went 19 of 27. The Dons committed 16 turnovers and Plainview committed 23.

The Highland Park(35-1) Scots, coached by Bo Snowden, had their best team ever in 1972. Well they might get an argument from their two state tournaments team in 1989 and 1998. All five starters were talented and included, 6'7" David Kimmel(21.0), 6'6" Neel Lemon(17.0), 6'3" Tommy Delatour(17.6), 6'0" Mac McGee and junior, 6'3" Bob Arnold. Kimmel was a transfer from Richardson High School. Highland Park had a 15-0 record before they finally faced a legitimate contender, Lake Highlands(25-8). The game was no contest, as the Scots won convincingly 78-51. In a pre-season tournament in Austin, the Scots defeated Austin Johnston(24-5) 61-55. Johnston ended up being the top team in Austin in 1972. Later, Highland Park took down Carrollton R.L. Turner(18-13) 83-63. Richardson(26-6) fell 78-69 and Dallas Carter(25-10) was beaten by the Scots 59-54. Dallas Carter had a fine team with 6'6" Gary Landers being their star player. Landers became a standout at T.C.U. in college. In the finals of the Dr. Pepper Tournament in Dallas over the holidays, the Scots faced their biggest test of the season against Dallas Roosevelt. The Scots had a great win, defeating the talented Mustangs 86-82. In District, Highland Park ran the table except for a 75-73 loss to Denton(23-7). Maurice Evans, was the key player for Denton and in later years became the head coach for the Broncos. After several seasons in Denton, Maurice moved to Irving MacArthur, where he continued to have success. Evans was one of the top coaches in the state for almost twenty-five years. A very important side

note in Highland Park's loss to Denton, Scots big man, David Kimmel was out with an injury and missed the contest. Kimmel missed the last five games of the regular season and saw limited action in the playoffs. He had a stress fracture in his leg. This was devastating for the Scots because it left them without their best inside player, who had been named M.V.P. of the prestigious Dr. Pepper tournament. The loss forced a three-way playoff in District between R.L. Turner, Highland Park and Denton. The Scots successfully defeated Denton(23-7) 64-60 and Carrollton R.L. Turner(18-13) 88-61. Kimmel missed both games with injury.

In Bi-District, the Scots took on the Tigers of Irving High(28-8). The Tigers had beaten Arlington Sam Houston(22-10) to capture District 71-52. Standout Grady O'Neal of Sam Houston was held to only 7 points in the loss. Jim Adkins led Sam Houston with 13 points and Vernon Gardner had 11 while Morris Rose was high scorer for Irving with 15 points. The Bi-District game between Irving and Highland Park was played at R.L. Turner High School in Carrollton before 4,100 fans. Neel Lemon led the Scots with 22 points in the 78-63 victory. Junior, Bob Arnold hit five consecutive shots in the 2nd quarter, to push his team into the lead. Kimmel played sparingly with pain in both his leg and back, and finished with only 9 points. Highland Park was still able to come away with an easy win leading at one point by 22 points. Tommy Delatour and Arnold had fine games, contributing 15 and 16 points. Irving was fueled by two of the best underclassmen in the area, 6'6" Tommy Weilert and 6'4" James Scott. Weilert finished with 27 points and David Johnson had 20 points for Irving. Irving Coach, Jim Puryear commented after the game, "They are one of the best teams I've seen this year." Lemons of Highland Park said following the game that Weilert was one of the best players he had played against all season. Weilert was very complimentary of the Scots also saying, "inside and out, they are the best team we've faced this season, they have a great ball club, no doubt about it, speed, size, ball handling."

In the Region I regional in Abilene, Midland played El Paso High at 10:00 AM, and Highland Park followed at 11:30 against Amarillo Palo Duro. In the first game, Midland was facing an opponent they had lost to earlier in the season, El Paso High. It was a one-point loss for the Bulldogs 50-49. El Paso High would be faced with competing against the inside combo of 6'8" Brewster and 6'9" Taylor. The size of Midland was too much for El Paso as the Bulldogs got the victory 54-43. Harold Howard was the leading scorer for Bulldogs with 16 points and Brewster followed with 15 and Taylor had 11. For El Paso High, Marquez finished with 13 points and Nevarez followed with 11.

In the other semi-final game between Palo Duro and Highland Park, the Don's felt like their best effort of the season would be needed to survive Highland Park. The scouting report on the Scots was that they made few mistakes, and were very balanced as well as talented. The Scots led at the end of the third quarter 44-43 and then erupted for 31 points in the fourth quarter to win 75-54. A turning point in the game came when Palo Duro took their only lead of the game 46-45 with 6:39 remaining in the game, on a Don Lewis layup. After three straight

baskets by Highland Park, Freddie Bryant of the Dons received a technical foul. Immediately the Palo Duro's coach, Tom Gilley responded by charging the court and he received the second tech. Delatour sunk both foul shots, which gave H.P. a nine-point lead and the ball. That pretty much ended any chance Palo Duro had in the game. The Scots had five starters in double figures. McGee had 20, Lemons 19, Delatour 11 and Arnold 13 while Palo Duro was led by Don Lewis' 21 points and Claude Harris' 11 rebounds. The key for Highland Park in the contest was the Scots ability to penetrate the Don's zone defense.

In the much-anticipated finals, 6'8" Brewster was the difference for Midland, scoring 10 straight points with his team up 46-43. The Bulldogs post had 27 points and 27 rebounds in leading Midland to the state tournament 58-53. The big senior was 10 of 22 from the floor and 7 for 7 from the foul line. For Midland, Harold Howard had 11 points, 5 assists and 13 rebounds while 6'9" Ronald Taylor contributed 9 points and 20 rebounds. Brewster and Taylor combined for 47 rebounds. Good night! 6'4" Danny Woods and 6'1" Mike Tillman also played well in the Bulldog victory. Highland Park led at the end of one 14-12 and Midland led at halftime 28-26. Midland jumped out to a quick 38-28 lead in the 3rd quarter. Delatour and McGee kept the Scots close pulling them back into the contest at 46-43. The two guards were the Scots leading scorers with Delatour contributing 17 points and McGee 19. Only a small group of supporters made the trip to Midland from Dallas, which gave the Bulldogs a home court advantage. Another factor for the Scots was Kimmel's limited ability, because of his injury. Against Midland's inside strength, Highland Park had no chance without Kimmel in the lineup at full speed. Midland dominated the glass 50-31. In a five-point loss, Kimmel's presence could have been the difference. The Scots finished the season at 36-2, but were undefeated with Kimmel at full strength during the year.

Region II

Killeen(26-5)

Lake Highlands(25-8)

Dallas Lincoln(25-8)

Ft. Worth Southwest

Conroe(31-4) #7

Nacogdoches(27-5)

Dallas Roosevelt(30-4) #5

Ft. Worth Eastern Hills(28-7)

Top Five in Region II

6'7" Ira Terrell, Dallas Roosevelt; 6'6" Melvin Moore, Dallas Roosevelt; 6'8" Wayne Wayman, Ft. Worth Eastern Hills; 6'6" Gary Landers, Dallas Carter; 5'10" Dwight Carrington, Dallas South Oak Cliff:

Of course, everybody knew who you would have to beat to win this region, the heavily favored Mustangs of Dallas Roosevelt. Roosevelt won District finishing 13-1, with their only loss coming to rival South Oak Cliff 68-66. Roosevelt won the rematch for the District title 97-69. On the 12-AAAA All-District team, Roosevelt had two players named, 6'7" Ira Terrell(30.6) and 6'6" Melvin Moore(16.0), Gary Landers(20.0) of Dallas Carter, Carrington(17.4) of S.O.C. and 5'10" James White. Alcy Jackson of S.O.C. was honorable mention along with Clarence Dennard(14.0) and Marcellus Abney of Roosevelt. 6'4" Victor Moore of

Kimball, 6'3" J. White of Sunset, 6'4" Robert Armstrong(22.0) of Pinkston were also named honorable mention, in one of the toughest Districts in state.

In Bi-District, Dallas Lincoln(25-8) awaited the Mustangs. The two teams had faced each other earlier in the season and the Mustangs came away with a convincing 100-59 victory. 6'4" Bobby Ashley(24.0) of Lincoln was the best player in District 11-AAAA, and was ready for the challenge of facing Ira Terrell. In a Dallas Times Herald article prior to the game, Ashley made a comment about Terrell only caring about offense and was not a defensive player. That was the wrong thing to say about Terrell. In the Bi-District encounter, Roosevelt took no mercy on Ashley and Lincoln, knocking them out of the playoffs 110-73. Ashley scored one point and Terrell finished with 27. Ashley had his fourth foul before the end of the 1st quarter, and set out the 2nd quarter, and fouled out early in the 3rd quarter. Moore hit 28 points for Roosevelt and Dennard finished with 21.

After the game Terrell said, "We've played all the strong teams, Wheatley and Highland Park, but we haven't seen Midland yet." Coach Ellis Davis's troops were going to be difficult to beat with their combination of talent and speed and athleticism, coupled with the awesome gifts of their 6'7" post, Ira Terrell. Terrell was arguably the best player to ever come out of Dallas up to that time. Terrell was definitely in the conversation along with Dave Stallworth of Dallas Madison and Sammy Hervey of Crozier Tech. Ira was a match-up nightmare because of his smooth inside touch, and speed and quickness, coupled with size. Mercy what a combination!

In Ft. Worth, District 10-AAAA was unbelievable mess. This was the kind of situation that you hope you can stay away from in high school athletics. During the first half of District 10-AAAA action, Ft. Worth Arlington Heights defeated Ft. Worth Southwest 74-69 to capture the first half playoff game. Two days after the victory, a call came from the U.I.L. in Austin. It seemed that a player named Drain, was declared ineligible on a minor technicality on the senior transfer rule. Drain's father was transferred to Vietnam on January 5th, and since that time Drain had been living with friends, a violation of the rule. As a result, the District executive committee assigned Heights the minimum penalty of forfeiting all first half district games, plus the 1st half playoff victory against Ft. Worth Southwest. That put Ft. Worth Paschal, who had lost to Heights during the first round, in a tie for the first half with Southwest. In the 2nd round of District action, Southwest and Heights tied for the title. Southwest had beaten Heights 42-40 to force a second half playoff, with both teams having one loss. So, the situation after District play had concluded was as follows. Southwest was forced to play a playoff against Paschal for the first half title, and then face Heights for the 2nd half title. If Southwest won both games, there would be no problem, but if they won the first half and lost the second half, then a District playoff game would be required, matching the first and second half winners. Sounds simple enough, but there was a problem because Ft. Worth Southwest could conceivably play three games in one week, which was not allowed by the U.I.L.

Ft. Worth Paschal had lost both District games to Ft. Worth Southwest 83-50 and 41-35, so they were not expected to present that much of a problem against Southwest. Paschal relied heavily on the inside scoring punch of 6'7" Mark Wible(16.9) and 6'5" sophomore, John George(16.6). Other starters for the Panthers were sophomore, Joe Billingsley(10.2), Donnie Smith(6.6) and Wade McMullen(1.7). Southwest on the other hand was led by one of the District's top scorers, David Church(18.6), a junior. Guard, Richie Wilson(14.2) was another key contributor. Wilson was also a junior as was 6'7" Brian Roberts(6.2). Randy Crawford(10.9) was double digit scorer for the Rebels and was only a sophomore. The only senior for Southwest was Charley Reynolds(8.5). The game was low scoring and hard fought but for the third time, Ft. Worth Southwest downed Paschal in double overtime 29-27. With the win, Southwest had now taken the first half title. The game was played on a Tuesday. The Rebels would then face Arlington Heights on Thursday at Public Schools Gym, with a chance to win the second half title. Southwest had won both District contest during the regular season 74-67 and 42-40. The Yellowjackets of Arlington Heights had won the first half playoff against Southwest, but that game was later forfeited. Things looked good for Southwest, because all they had to do was beat Heights, and the title was theirs.

Heights, on the other hand, had a very complicated situation. They had to defeat Southwest and capture the 2nd half title, but then wait to see what the executive committee decided. Under U.I.L. rules, a team could only play two games per week and the playoff representative had to be turned in by Saturday night. Height's starting lineup was made up of the District M.V.P., 6'1" Carl Webb, and 6'4" David Krieger, who was named to the 1st team All-District unit. 6'4" Robert Woods, 6'1" Craig Cameron and 6'1" Darnell Johnson rounded out the starting lineup. It was a formable line-up that had really prospered when two transfers off the 1971 class AAA state finalist team, Ft. Worth Como had moved into the Heights lineup. Heights(22-9) had an impressive record with wins of Dallas Roosevelt in the Arlington Classic 73-66 and defeated the District 9-AAAA champion, Eastern Hills two times 77-55 and 66-64. In the second game of the season, Heights had lost to Ft. Worth Eastern Hills 83-65.

After a 84-58 demolition of Ft. Worth Southwest by Arlington Heights, Coach Johnny Dickerson of Height's found out his team would be staying home. The executive committee voted that a coin flip would decide the District representative. Height's was noticeably upset about the results and Coach Dickerson really felt like he should have been present for the coin flip. Height 's principal, John Sharp called heads, and the coin was tails. This situation should have been anticipated by the District committee. With these unusual circumstances, the committee should have discussed the situation with the U.I.L., and been allowed to have District playoff game on Monday evening. Another decision could have been to allow Southwest to play three games in a week, due to the situation. Of course, that would really have been unfair to Southwest. Titles

should always be played off by the kids and never decided by committees, made up of administrators. There is too many politics involved in a District vote of administrators. As for the actual game, Heights press forced the Rebels of Southwest into 24 turnovers, compared to just seven for the Yellow Jackets. Webb showed why he was the District M.V.P., scoring 31 points, followed by Woods with 19. Heights scored 35 points in the final quarter, so they must have thought maybe a point differential was going to play a role in deciding the outcome of the District. Bottom line was the two teams played four times and split two games apiece. In one of their victories, Heights had used an ineligible player.

District 9-AAAA had a District playoff and the two teams actually played it off. Eastern Hills of Ft. Worth won the first half race and tied with Ft. Worth Poly for the second half crown. A playoff would be needed for the second half winner and possibly another game between the first and second half winners. Poly, coached by Tommy Newman, was picked to repeat as District champion in the pre-season polls, only to open up going 1-4 the first round of District action. The Parrots tied for the second half title going 4-1, with their only loss to Dunbar. Eastern Hills went 5-0 the first round and then loss to Poly 51-50 to finish 4-1 the second half of District. Two really strong players led both teams. For Poly, 6'5" Ed Johnson(15.1), a junior, who played at Texas, was the catalyst of the team. Others key players were Mark Lappa(14.1), Robert Hollie(10.3), Ernest Smith(7.3) and Larry Revels(7.3). The Highlanders of Eastern Hills were paced by 6'8" Wayne Wayman(22.3/20.0), the most dominate player in Ft. Worth in 1972. 6'6" Randy Norman(7.7), James Robinson(11.6), Steve Gross(9.3), Donnie Kliever(8.9), Eddie Starnes(7.4) and Keith Schorn were all key contributors for the Highlanders.

At Public Schools Gym, the two 9-AAAA rivals met to decide the second half champion. Ft. Worth Poly forced another playoff game against Eastern Hills with a 58-53 victory over the Highlanders. The win gave Poly the second half title and they would have to defeat the first-round winner, Eastern Hills to take the District championship. The Parrots went ahead 56-42 with 3:57 remaining in the fourth quarter. Sophomore, Robert Hollie and Larry Revels came off the bench to play a big role in Poly's success. Hollie finished with 16 points while Revels had 12. Ed Johnson, as usual was the man for Poly scoring 18 points. Wayman was held down to only 19 points by Johnson.

The 9-AAAA District championship game took place at the Public Schools Gym once again, and Eastern Hills and Poly were playing each other for the second time in four days. This time, it was loser go home. Donnie Kliever was the hero hitting a 22-foot set shot from the top of the key, to give the Highlanders a 56-55 victory of Ft. Worth Poly. The Parrots were up with 21 second remaining 55-54 and in possession of the ball when Lappa and Wayman were tied up, and forced into a jump ball. Remember the old rules had no alternating possessions. Wayman won the tip and Kliever was ready for his heroics. Wayman, who would later go on to star at T.C.U., had one of the best games ever seen in Ft. Worth high school basketball. He hit 21 of Eastern Hills first 29 points and finished with 35 points. He

hit 17 of 20 shots, going against double and triple teams. Wayman also pulled down 17 rebounds. For Coach Johnny Howerton and Eastern Hills, it was the school's first District title since 1964, when Howerton was first hired.

The Bi-District encounter between Ft. Worth Eastern Hills and Ft. Worth Southwest took place at Daniel Meyer Coliseum on a Monday evening in front of 4,000 fans. The Ft. Worth city championship was on the line and a place in regionals in College Station. Eastern Hills led by 13 points in the third quarter, only to see it slip away behind a late charge from Southwest. The Highlanders were up 48-32 when Southwest closed the gap to 50-46 with 6:13 remaining in the game, and eventually tied the game up. Eastern Hills(27-7) came back with Wayman leading the way, outscoring Southwest 7-2 in the final two minutes of play for the 65-56 win. Wayman was the Rebels main concern defensively the entire evening for Southwest. They felt they had to keep the big 6'8" senior under control. Wayman still managed to score 20 points and pulled in 13 rebounds. Kliever had 14 points along with Gross and Norman with 11 and 9 respectfully for Eastern Hills. For Southwest it was the end of the road after playing three very intense games in six days. Richie Wilson was the leading scorer for the Rebels with 17 points followed by Church with 12.

Lake Highlands(25-8) of District 13-AAAA felt good about their chances against Nacogdoches(27-5) in the team's Bi-District clash. The Wildcats had tremendous size inside with 6'8" District M.V.P., Paul Tedder(16.5), 6'7" Mike Kaesler(12.6) and 6'2" Bill Thomas(11.6). Lake Highlands only blemish in District was a 41-38 loss to South Garland in the first round of play. The South Garland Colonels loss to Richardson 55-41. Lake Highland(25-9) beat Richardson(24-8) 60-54 for a three-way tie for the 1st round. Lake Highland ran the table the second half of District beating South Garland(24-12) 55-43 and Richardson 68-58. The pace of the Bi-District game against Nacogdoches was to Lake Highlands liking, very slow. The Wildcats led at halftime 27-20, but the Wildcats failed to score in the last four minutes of the game and loss 46-44. Dwayne Bruton of the Dragons hit the game winner from 18 foot with four seconds remaining. The Dragons press hurt Lake Highlands in the final quarter after leading by five points entering the fourth period. Willie Washington led Nac with 13 points while Tedder had 16 for the Wildcats.

Conroe(31-4) took the 16-AAAA District title with a tough triple overtime game against Spring Branch Memorial. Charles Adams had 16 points for Conroe and Uriah Harnaby had 15. Memorial's(19-12) leading scorer was Pat McClullen with 14 points. Conroe had to wait patiently for the winner of District 15-AAAA, because two teams finished tied for first, Killeen and Temple. In one of the most competitive District races in the state, Killeen(27-5) and Temple(26-5) both finished with identical 13-3 District records. Bryan(25-7) and Corsicana(26-5) finished tied for third at 12-4 marks. What ended up being truly amazing about this competitive District race, is that they were never able to play it off. Temple and Killeen were unable to play a playoff game because the Kangaroos had already

played two games in the final week on the season. The U.I.L. does not allow three games in one week, unless there are some unusual circumstances, like weather or a natural disaster. The playoff representative had to be decided before mid-night on Saturday night. Because of the two-team's inability to play the game, they had to flip a coin to see who would advance. Killeen won the toss over Temple to enter the state playoffs.

In the District 15-AAAA race, Bryan loss twice to Killeen 57-53 and 67-65, lost twice to Temple, and beat Corsicana twice to finish 2-4 against the contenders. Killeen, who ended up representing the District in the playoffs, beat Bryan twice, and split with Corsicana, and Temple to finish 4-2 against the contenders. Their third loss in District action was against Cleburne. Temple beat Bryan twice, split with Killeen and lost both games to Corsicana. The Tigers of Corsicana were the only one of the four teams that was state ranked during the regular season. The Tigers lost both games to Bryan, which were the Vikings only wins against the District elite. Corsicana beat Temple twice, and split with Killeen for a 3-3 record against the best the District had to offer. The loss that killed the Tigers chances at the playoffs was their surprise loss at Cleburne 72-57. In the two teams' first meeting, Corsicana had really dominated Cleburne, so they were over confident in the re-match, and just didn't show up against Cleburne. In the scoring between the top contenders, Killeen had the biggest margin of victory with an average of 4.0. Temple was next with 1.0, followed by Bryan with a -1.5 and Corsicana with a -4.0. The All-District team in District 15-AAAA was interesting as the coaches made their selections. Killeen placed two players on first team, 6'3" Don Tyson and District M.V.P., 6'3" Gary Boydston. 6'2" Ron Patterson was named to the 2nd team and 6'5" Bill Bishop and Ron Hennington were named honorable mention. Temple, the co-champion with Killeen had only four players named to the squad. 6'3" Ernest Walker(25.0) and 6'2" Mike Jenkins made first team. 6'3" Brandt Glover was named to the 2nd team and Kirby Johnson made the honorable mention list. Johnson would later return to Temple as the outstanding coach of Temple Jr. College. Corsicana placed only one player on the first team, 6'2" Steve Smith(13.8) and nobody on the 2nd team. Two players were named honorable mention for the Tigers, 6'5" Lynn Walters(14.8), who would later played basketball at North Texas State and 6'2" sophomore, Ricky Purdy(14.6). Bryan had one player on the first team, 6'4" Joe Buchanan(14.3) and Milton Mitchell(11.8) named to the 2nd team and honorable mention went to Clyde Miller(13.5). So, all total, Killeen had five honored, Temple had four, Corsicana only three and Bryan three. All four of these teams finished in my state's top 50 at the end of the season.

The Bi-District game was played at Texas A&M in College Station. Killeen came away with a close win 71-68 victory over Conroe(31-4). Killeen(26-5) and Conroe traded the lead back and forth throughout the 3rd period. The Kangaroos took a seven-point lead and held on for the victory. Conroe's leading scorer was Uriah Barnaby with 33 points. Only one other Tiger finished in double digits. Killeen got 22 points from Don Tyson and 21 from Gary Boydston.

The Region II regional brought together Dallas Roosevelt(31-4), Nacogdoches(27-5), Ft. Worth Eastern Hills(29-7) and Killeen(25-5). Nacogdoches jumped out against Killeen in the team's semi-final game and at one point had a 19-point lead in the 4th quarter and ended up winning 56-45. Ken Douglas led Nacogdoches in scoring with 20 points and Dave Hambrick finished with 17. Boydston and Bishop led Killeen. Killeen was coached by Ed Cauley, who left after the season to take a head football job after only one year on the job.

In the other semi-final game, Roosevelt proved too strong for Eastern Hills, leading at one point 29 points. The Mustangs led by 18 at halftime 52-34. Roosevelt was very consistent with the same scoring leaders once again in the 91-74 win. Terrell had 22, Dennard with 20, Abney pitched in 18 points and Moore finished 17 points, filling out the Mustangs score card. Eastern Hills main contributors, were 6'8" Wayne Wayman(25.7) with 30 and Randy Norman had 12. Eastern Hills was coached by Johnny Hoverton.

In Region II finals, the Mustangs, coached by Ellis Davis, faced Nacogdoches(28-5), coached by Jim Wall. Wall was of no relationship to the Jim Wall that later coached at Ft. Worth Paschal. Containing Ira Terrell in any type of situation where the game was going up and down would prove to be a dangerous task. The Dragons played a great game and kept it close trailing only 36-32 at halftime. The Mustangs had too many weapons winning 77-60. Terrell led all scorers with 28 points, Melvin Moore finished 15 points, Marcellus Abney had 13 and Clarence Dennard helped with 10 points. The Dragons were paced by Ken Douglas with 12 points and Dave Hamrick finished with 11.

Region III

H. Wheatley(36-2) #1

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(25-7)

Deer Park(33-4) #8

Houston Lamar(25-9)

Houston Washington(31-6) #19

Beaumont Charlton Pollard(21-8)

Clear Creek(31-6)

Houston Sterling(28-6)#10

Top Five in Region III

6'6" Eddie Owens, Houston Wheatley; 5'11" Gaylord Davis, Houston Wheatley; 6'8" David Marrs, Houston Lamar; 6'5" Barry Davis, Galveston Ball; 6'6" Bruce Baker, Houston Waltrip:

In District 23-AAAA, Deer Park(31-4) took control of first place with a 55-51 victory over South Houston. Two key contributors for Deer Park were Jimmy Shelton and junior, 6'7" Danny Van Rheen. Shelton finished with 27 points and Van Rheen had 13 points and 19 rebounds. For South Houston, Fred McInnis had 26 points.

In another critical District race, Clear Creek(29-6) defeated Galveston Ball 66-55 before a crowd at Clear Creek of 3,000 fans. The win enabled Creek to tie for the 24-AAAA District title with Texas City(28-7). Standouts for Clear Creek were Bill Carlisle, with 21 points, and Hank Bauerschlag with 17 points. For Ball, it was Milton Avie, 6'4" Barry Davis and 6'9" Bill Caldwell. Creek tied Texas City for the

District title with both teams finishing 12-2. The two schools would be forced to have a playoff. The Wildcats were going for the national record, 19th straight District title. The contest between Clear Creek and Texas City was played at Rice University. In the two-regular season games the teams split, with Texas City winning the first contest 59-55 and losing the second 66-64. In the critical third and decisive game, Coach Bill Krueger's Wildcats hit eight foul shots down the stretch to give Clear Creek a 66-56 win over Texas City. Hank Bauerschlag led the scoring for Creek with 24 points, followed by Carlisle with 16 and Steve Whitworth with 12. Texas City was led by Ken Wyrwich and Frank Fernandez with 14 points. The crowd was estimated at 3,500.

In Bi-District, Deer Park rallied against Clear Creek, after being down 47-41 in the fourth quarter. Deer Park scored 13 unanswered points and advanced to regionals with a 54-47 win over the Wildcats. Van Rheen's work on the boards was really responsible for Deer Park's surge at the end. The big junior, finished with 12 rebounds and 14 points. Jimmy Shelton of Deer Park was high man with 17 points. Bauerschlag was top dog for Creek with 16 points, but all his points came in the first half. He was 0 for 7 in the second half. Carlisle finished with 14. Creek had the edge in rebounds 38-35.

District 17-AAAA finished in a tie between Houston Washington(30-6) and Houston Furr(24-8). The two teams finished with matching 8-2 records in District and were forced to play a one playoff. Before 2,500 at Delmar Fieldhouse, Washington claimed the 17-AAAA title with a 91-84 victory over Furr. The key to Washington's win was slowing down the hot shooting of Barry Jones(18.4) of Furr. "We just tried to keep the ball away from him and hurry what shots he got," stated Eagle coach, Clarence Stubblefield. Oscar Ross, Marvin Jackson and David Daniels were the leaders for Coach Stubblefield in the big win. Washington had won the two previous meetings between the two District rivals 70-54 and 73-64. In Bi-District the Eagles would have to face state power Wheatley at Delmar.

District 19-AAAA saw Houston Lamar(25-9) repeat as District champions, and finished one game ahead of Houston Lee. The big gun for Lamar was 6'8" David Marrs, who would later be a standout at the University of Houston.

Houston Sterling(27-5) finished the regular season with a 76-65 victory of over Houston Madison to capture the 20-AAAA championship. In Bi-District, Houston Lamar faced off against Houston Sterling and the game was tied at the end of regulation 65-65. Sterling(28-6) took over the game, outscoring Lamar 5-0 in the overtime frame and winning 70-65. At the end of regulation, Sterling called time-out with 10 seconds remaining, down by two. Sterling maneuvered through the Lamar press and Thomas Williams hit the game tying lay-up with two seconds left. Kenneth Stewart was the leading scorer for Sterling with 19 points, Williams followed with 11. One of the top football talents in the state, Lee Canalito, came off the bench to contribute some big rebounds and also hit five baskets for Sterling. After his football career, Canalito turned to professional boxing for a short

time. Lamar's top men were Marrs and Rick Behrends, both finishing with 19 points.

In the Golden Triangle area, Beaumont Pollard wrapped up District 21-AAAA and Pt. Arthur Lincoln(24-7) and Orange Stark(21-8) were tied for the District 22-AAAA title. The two teams would have a playoff game for the title. Pt. Arthur Lincoln and Orange Stark squared off at McDonald Gym on the campus of Lamar University. The Bumble Bees downed Orange 51-48 to advance to the state playoffs. 6'6" Earl Evans came up with the big basket and finished the game with 24 points to lead Lincoln. 6'7" Gregory Martin also provided 13 points for the Bees and 19 rebounds, along with 9 blocks. When talking about Martin, Coach Gamble said, "Martin was a great defensive player and great athlete, but he was not a big offensive threat." Martin attended Texas Southern for a year following high school. Orange was led by Evan Feathers, with 19 points. In a Bi-District warm-up game between Houston Lamar(26-9) and Beaumont Pollard, Pollard won a close one 81-76 with Kenneth Minkins providing the difference with 39 points for Pollard. Minkins shot and unbelievable 14 of 16 from the floor and 11 of 18 from the foul line. In Lamar's cause, Winfred Butler finished with 15 points and Marrs hit 14. In Bi-District, Pollard(21-8) turned back the always tough, Pt. Arthur Lincoln Bumblebees 76-69. The Bulldogs were paced by Vernon Minix 23 points and Kenneth Minkins had 18 points. Lincoln got 17 points from Winfred Thompson, 16 from Kerven Eli and 13 from the of the top sophomore's in the country, Earl Evans. Also on the 1972 squad for Coach Gamble was a 5'10" guard named Joe Washington, who went to become one of the greatest running backs in Oklahoma football history and a standout in the N.F.L.(30)

Houston Wheatley had dominated the U.I.L.'s top classification, like nobody before or since. The Wildcats were looking to make the state tournament for the fifth straight season and going after their fourth title. The Wheatley dynasty had its roots under Coach Collin Briggs, who was at the helm for the Wildcats for 23 seasons. From 1947-1969, Collin ran up an impressive, 608-55 record and 13 state titles in the old Prairie View league. At the time the races were divided, and the Black schools were not allowed to play in the U.I.L. That all changed in 1968 with de-segregation. Briggs retired in 1970 and Jackie Carr, his longtime assistant took over the program. Carr added an aggressive full court pressing style that became Wheatley's trademark. Carr had played for Briggs in 1948 at Wheatley. The Wildcats had accumulated in three seasons an impressive 112-7 mark under Carr.

(30) Joe was a four sport letterman, a tremendous athlete and outstanding defensive player. "He was a great player, teammate and had a great work ethic. But he was even a better person." Coach James Gamble.

In 1972, Houston Wheatley averaged 106.2 points per game with only two defeats. Defensively, they allowed 78.5 points per game for a 27.7-point differential. The Wildcats had broken the century mark 25 times during the season. The two losses came on a trip to Dallas in which the Wildcats loss to Dallas South

Oak Cliff(19-12) and Dallas Roosevelt. The Golden Bears took down Wheatley 100-96 and the Mustangs did Wheatley in, 111-109. Coach Jackie Carr's teams played the toughest schedule in the state every year with no exceptions. Earlier in the season, Wheatley had defeated both teams, S.O.C. 106-61 and Roosevelt 111-101. The Golden Bears would become one of the elite programs in the state over the next several decades with Oak Cliff being a hot bed for talent. Starters for Coach Glynn Stevens S.O.C. squad were 6'4" Willie Hicks and 5'10" Dwight Carrington, 6'3" Alcy Jackson, 6'2" Norvell Miles and Roy Banks. Carrington was named all-state. Other key victories during the regular season for Wheatley were, Houston Lamar(25-10) 92-68, Lake Highlands(25-9) 139-72, Ft. Worth Arlington Heights 91-83, Houston Furr(24-9) 118-89 and 81-77, Houston Washington(31-7) 95-91, and three tough games against District rival, Houston Yates(30-4). In the Jaycee Tournament, Wheatley and Yates met for the first time with Yates undefeated at 22-0, and the Wildcats entered at 18-2. Wheatley beat the Lions 131-94. In District action, Wheatley had little trouble dominating Yates 104-84 and 105-79. Yates lost one game during the season other than their losses to the Wildcats. Standouts for the Lions of Yates in 1972 were 6'4" Leo "the Dutch" Woods, Ken Berry, Mike Matthews, 6'1" Jimmy Duffield, and 6'4" junior leaper, George "Stretch" Campbell. Campbell went on to play at Tyler Junior College and Prairie View A&M after playing originally at Texas Tech. "Stretch" said he went to Tech because of "Toothpick" Johnson, a former Yates star. Another brilliant sophomore graced the court for the Yates, his name was George Walker. At 6'2", he was a sprinter in track, standout in baseball and a phenomenal football talent. On the basketball court, he was immediately one of the top players in Houston. You would be hard pressed to find a team in the state with three more talented players. Eddie Owens said later that Walker was one of the most talented players he played against in his high school days. In the third meeting between the two rivals, Wheatley downed Yates 104-84, with Owens showing his talent scoring 41 points on 16 of 23 from the floor and 9 for 9 from the foul line. Leo Woods had 26 for Yates, followed by George Walker's 19 points and George Campbell 18.

In the last week of the '72 season Wheatley became the #1 team in the state following Highland Park's loss to Denton. In two practice games, the Wildcats destroyed Silsbee(31-5) 98-69 and McAllen(29-3) 129-80. In the McAllen game, Wheatley traveled to Edinburg before 5,000 fans at the Pan American Field House. McAllen committed 39 turnovers and were behind 66-34 at halftime.

Wheatley returned two key players from their state finalists team of the previous season, 6'7" Michael Long and 6'6" Eddie Owens. Both were juniors and Owens would make Parade All-American as a junior. Long was one of the few players ever to be a three-year starter at Wheatley. Junior, 6'5" Steve Jones, joined Owens and Long up front with a tremendous backcourt of two senior guards, 5'11" Gaylord Davis(13.7) and 6'3" Michael Archer(8.9). Coming off the bench you had a plethora of talent in 5'8" Willie Davis, 5'7" Wendell McKelvey, 6'5" Edwin Jammer and 6'4" Harold Walker. The backcourt of Gaylord Davis and Michael Archer were

named 1st team All-State and All-Greater Houston respectfully. Gaylord Davis had an outstanding college career at Texas Southern where he led the Tigers to Kansas City and the NAIA national championship tournament.

After four straight trips to Austin for Wheatley, number five looked inevitable. Wheatley's first round playoff opponent was Houston Washington, a team that had only lost to Wheatley during the regular season by four points 95-91. Washington was even tougher this time around, losing by only three points 91-88. The game came down to the final seven seconds, when Michael Archer hit two foul shots for the Wildcats. The crowd at Delmar was estimated at 5,500. Wheatley forced 27 turnovers with their press. Inside on the glass is where the Eagles dominated Wheatley. "They're as good as any team we've played, because they do such a good job on the boards," Carr said after the game. Wheatley trailed at halftime 50-47, but outscored Washington 30-16 in the third quarter to take the lead 77-66. David Daniels led the resurgence by the Eagles, scoring nine of his total 29 points in the fourth quarter. With 3:16 remaining, the Eagles led Wheatley 83-82. Eddie Owens led the Wildcats with 26 points, Archer had 21 and Gaylord Davis finished with 18. Houston Washington finished the season with an impressive 31-7 record. The Eagles had all five starters in double figures with Marvin Jackson scoring 15 points, Dwayne Green put in 13 and Oscar Ross and David Williams both finishing with 12 points each. Inside the Eagles had 6'6" Marvin Jackson, 6'5" David Daniels and 6'4" Dwayne Green.

In the Region III tournament, at Hofheinz Pavilion of the campus of the University of Houston, Wheatley was once again overwhelming favorite to advance to Austin. The Wildcats had never lost a regional game since moving into the U.I.L. in 1968. Deer Park would count on two key contributors, 6'6" Danny Van Rheen and 6'0" Jimmy Shelton. Sterling, would look to 6'5" William Thomas, 6'1" Anthony Autry, 6'2" Larry Gibson and 5'9" Kenneth Stewart, plus coming off the bench with 6'5" Leo Canalito. Beaumont Pollard had one of the top juniors in the state in guard, Kenneth Minkins.

In the semi-finals, Houston Sterling trailed Deer Park 30-19 in the second period but recovered to win the game 78-68 behind 25 points from their little guard, Kenneth Stewart. Shelton was the leading scorer for Deer Park with 21 points. Van Rheen could only manage 13 points. In the other semi-final game, Wheatley jumped on Beaumont Pollard early 26 to 15 and 54-31 at halftime. The game wasn't close as the Wildcats advanced to the finals with a 111-88 win. Owens poured in 22 points, Gaylord Davis was good for 13 points, Archer hit 12, McKelvy hit 13 and Willie Davis finished with 14 points. For Pollard, Minkins was held to 14 points and Minix led the team with 19 points, along with Jacko's 19. Wheatley had 13 players in the scoring column. Needless to say they were going to be fresh for the regional finals against Houston Sterling.

Bill McMurray of the Houston Chronicle, described the up and down game between Wheatley and Sterling, as an unbelievable display of run and gun basketball. The Wildcats captured their fifth straight regional champion 120-116,

before 8,300 fans. The 120 points, was a regional record and the total of 236 points, a regional record. Wheatley's two game offensive total of 231 points was also a regional record. The Wildcats were outrebounded in the two regional contests 151-87 by Sterling and Pollard. Wheatley was up on Sterling at halftime 71-55 and led by ten entering the final quarter 94-84. Wheatley iced the contest from the foul line late. Eddie Owens hit 32 points with Gaylord Davis scoring 29 points, hitting 11 of 13 from the field. Archer helped with 18 points and Michael Long scored 11 for Wheatley. Coach Jackie Carr's team had nine players score in the game. Stewart of Sterling was outstanding with 33 points, as he went 15 of 31 from the floor. Ronnie Jackson followed with 20 points while Canalito came off the bench with 19 points and 25 rebounds. At 6'5", 260 pounds, Canalito was a force to be reckoned with inside. He was one of the best two sport players in the state. The Wildcats won the game as usual by forcing turnovers with their tenacious press. Sterling committed 31 turnovers, that resulted in 34 Wheatley points.

Region IV

McAllen(31-3) #11

Alamo Heights(22-12)

S.A. Jefferson(30-3) #6

Austin Johnston(24-5)

Corpus Christi King(28-6) #15

S.A. Sam Houston(26-5)

S.A. Fox Tech(25-10)

Victoria(29-3) #4

Top Five Players in Region IV

6'9" Willie Hodge, S.A. Sam Houston; 6'8" Rick Bullock, S.A. Jefferson; 6'11" Tommy Barker, Weslaco; 6'8" Phillip Sewell, Alamo Heights; 5'9" Victor Traylor, S.A. McCollum:

Region IV had three of the best big men in the state in 1972. The state was so rich in talent during the '72 season, people came to expect this type of talent level every year. These three talents were so special and the likes of which would not be seen again in Region IV anytime soon. The trio was made up of, 6'9" Willie Hodge(26.9) of S.A. Sam Houston, 6'8" Rick Bullock(24.0) of S.A. Jefferson and 6'11" Tommy Barker(32.1) of Weslaco. Sam Houston had advanced to the state tournament in 1971, but had little help for Hodge on a return visit. Sam Houston had six sophomores on the varsity during the 1972 season. The Mustangs of Jefferson had a much more experienced team surrounding Bullock. Jefferson had three losses during the regular season. Jefferson had lost to Victoria(29-4) 71-66, Clear Creek(31-7) 71-59 and S.A. Lee 58-50 during the regular season. Everybody was unanimous, that the Mustangs were the team to beat in San Antonio in 1972.

The five top players in San Antonio in '72 were 6'8" Willie Hodge of Sam Houston, Bullock of Jefferson, 5'10" Marvin Shroust(18.0) of South San, 6'8" Phillip Sewell(18.6), a junior from Alamo Heights and 5'9" Victor Traylor(24.8) of S.A. McCollum.

One of the top players to ever come out of South Texas was Tommy Barker(32.1) of Weslaco. 6'11" Barker's Weslaco Panthers finished in a tie for second place in District 28-AAAA, behind state ranked McAllen(31-3). Weslaco finished 11-3 in District and 23-9 on the season. Barker would sign with Minnesota, and the cold temperatures, and then do an about face heading for Hawaii, where he had an outstanding career. He was drafted by the Hawks in the NBA with the 53rd choice overall. Unlike most of the players that were drafted during the 1970s from Texas, Barker played two seasons in the Association and played 98 games.

Jefferson's Bi-District opponent was S.A. Fox Tech(25-10), coached by Frank Runnels. Fox Tech had a very small lineup in comparison to other teams. 6'3" junior, Clarence Simpson(15.7/16.5) was their best player. Other starters included, 6'3" Ruben Canto(11.5), 6'1" G.W. Williams, 5'11" Aubrey Prince and 6'3" Nathaniel Bolson. Jefferson countered with an impressive front line of 6'8" Bullock(24.1), 6'6" Lynn Markham(8.2), 6'5" Bill Bryden, 6'2" Marc Randle(11.2) and 6'1" Mike Norwood.

At the Alamo Gym, the game between Jefferson and Fox Tech unfolded as many had predicted, with Jefferson's size being the difference. The Mustangs limited Clarence Simpson to five point and forced Fox Tech to shoot from outside, while Jefferson's Bullock dominated the glass, scoring 26 points and 4 blocks. 6'2" Marc Randle added with 15 points, Mark Norwood finished with 11 and Lynn Markham added 11 points. Jefferson advanced to regionals with a 76-57 win.

In another Bi-District matchup pitted San Antonio Sam Houston(26-5) against San Antonio Alamo Heights(22-13). The only rival to Bullock as the top player in San Antonio was Sam Houston's, 6'8" Willie Hodge(26.9/20.0), who led the city in scoring with 26.9 points per game. Hodge also averaged 20 rebounds and several blocked shots. Other key players for Sam Houston were 6'2" Vance Jackson(9.6), 6'0" Edwin Swain and 6'3 Bernard Johnson. Sam Houston was coached by Pat Caza. Alamo Heights team centered around their big man, 6'8" junior, Phillip Sewell(18.7). Unlike Sam Houston, who liked to get up and down the court at a fast pace, the Mules were more deliberate in their offensive attack. Helping Sewell, were Norman George, Randy Trude, Paul Bommer and Kip Krause. Coach of the Mules was Mel Barborak.

Alamo Heights(22-12) defeated the defending regionals champ, Sam Houston(26-5) 62-52. The contest was at the Convention Center Arena in San Antonio before 4,500 fans. Alamo Heights led at halftime by 18 points, 41-23. 6'7" Phillip Sewell had 20 of his 25 points in the first half. The Mules went into a stall late and the lead got down to as low as nine points. Defensively, Alamo Heights played a sagging man to man defense helping Sewell guard big, Willie Hodge. Heights used just six players. Sam Houston came out pressing in the second half and began to come back, but it was too little. Trude hit 20 points for Alamo Heights and Hodge knocked in 23 points for Sam Houston.

Corpus Christi King(28-6) were the new kids on the block, going into the playoffs for the first time in school history. The Mustangs were another team that

liked to run their half-court offense in a patient style. Corpus Christi King averaged 65 points per game and gave up 53 points per game. C.C. King beat C.C. Miller(25-10) in a District playoff game 74-60, to advance to the playoffs. The Mustangs would be facing McAllen(31-4) in Bi-District at the Pan American gym. Coach Fred Gilbert of McAllen, was in his third season at the helm and liked a much more up tempo game with his team averaging 77 points a game and allowing 56 points per game, for a 21-point difference. McAllen and King had played each other twice during the regular season. In the fourth game of the season, McAllen had beaten King badly 68-40 and in the Weslaco tournament, King later gained revenge beating McAllen by three points. Starters for King were 6'5" John Pulzin(14.7), 6'4" Matt Beaton, 6'2" Bill Fleeman(10.4), 6'0" Dennis Stanka and 6'0" Mike Bourg(12.2). For McAllen, 6'4" Micky Uhlaender(19.4), 6'6" Louis Pack(14.8), 5'9" George Mancha(11.7), 6'5" Ron Haines and 5'8" Ruben Castilla made up Coach Fred Gilbert's lineup.

For Tommy Kirkland of Corpus Christi King, it was like a dream, as he hit 10-foot jumper at the buzzer, to beat McAllen 50-49. King had trailed 49-46 with just 40 second left on the clock. Dennis Stanka of C. C. King hit a bucket with just 25 seconds remaining, to put his team down by only a point. Stanka then stole the ball with 16 seconds remaining, to set up the winning field goal by Kirkland. McAllen standout players, Louis Pack(14.8) and Micky Uhlaender(19.4), played the fourth period with four fouls. For King, John Pulzin also had four fouls and Bill Fleeman(10.4) and Matt Beaton fouled out. In the end for McAllen, Beaton had 13 points and Fleeman had 12 while Uhlaender scored 15 points and George Mancha had 12 and Pack hit double figures with 10 points.

Victoria(29-3) returned to the playoffs for the third season in a row, and Coach Jack Cook felt that this team was stronger than his regional qualifying team of a year ago. "I'd say we are more balanced overall in scoring and play better defense." The Stingarees had a fine record and held a victory in the regular season over S.A. Jefferson. Victoria was 5-0 during the regular season against San Antonio schools. In District 25-AAAA action, they finished 12-2 and outright District champion. Finishing second in District action behind Victoria was El Campo, with a 27-6 record. In the second to last game of the regular season, it looked like Victoria was going to let El Campo back into the District race with a 70-65 loss to 3rd place, Lamar Consolidated. But El Campo turned right around and lost a triple overtime game to Brazoswood 70-68. El Campo finished District action with an 11-3 mark.

In Bi-District, Victoria(29-3) would be facing Austin Johnston(24-5). Johnston had also faced San Antonio Jefferson during the regular season and lost. The game would be played at the Blossom Center in San Antonio. Coach Cook felt this would be an advantage for Victoria, because his team had played their four times during the regular season, and were 4-0 playing at the facility. Coach Cook was really worried about the inside strength of Johnston, after he watched them in a warm-up game defeat a strong Houston Sterling team 81-79. Inside the Rams counted on 6'6" sophomore, Skippy Black(9.6) who weighed 230 pounds. Other

strong players inside for Johnston were 6'5" junior, Terry Davis(13.3) and 6'4" William Brooks(17.2). The guards were two juniors, 6'0" Gentry Overton(7.8) and 5'8" Mike Washington(10.8). Davis and Brooks played on the blocks in a double low offensive attack. Brooks was a key player for the Rams, having missed most of February with a back injury. Not only was he the leading scorer, but he had played as a sophomore in the state tournament. For Coach Cook and Victoria, the starters were 6'4" Steve Cook(15.3), 6'3" Mark Mueller(7.0), 6'1" Mike Ehlers(10.4), 6'0" Warren Milberger(12.8) and 6'0" Wes Cook(9.4).

At the Blossom Athletic Center, Austin Johnston pulled out a close decision out over Victoria 68-66. 5'8" guard, Mike Washington of Austin Johnston hit a bucket and two foul shots after the two teams were tied 64-64. Down by four, Victoria's Mike Ehlers hit a 15-footer, narrowing the margin to two points. Following another steal by Victoria, the Stingarees were unable to get a shot off. Mike Washington finished with 17 points for Austin Johnston and William Brooks led the way with 20 points. For Victoria, Steve Cook had 16 points and fouled out of the game with 4 minutes remaining. Ehlers finished with 15 points and Milberger had 12.

In the regional semi-finals, Austin Johnston would try their best to upset S.A. Jefferson. Austin Johnston and San Antonio Jefferson had met in the finals of the San Marcos tournament earlier in the season, with Jefferson winning 57-51. The Rams of Johnston, had also faced the #3 team in the state, Highland Park in the Austin tournament and lost by six points. Against S.A. Jefferson the Rams were down 34-17 at half. Jefferson took a commanding 51-27 lead at the end of three quarters and the final stood at 64-34. Bullock scored 34 points by himself and Jefferson Coach Shuler, said after the game, "I don't know how we could have played much better."

In the other semi-final game, a see-saw battle ensued between Corpus Christi King and Alamo Heights. With 3:25 remaining in the game, C.C. King finally took a nine-point lead 44-35. Alamo Heights could never recover losing 55-43. Sewell, the star for Alamo Heights, played the game with a fractured foot and only scored 9 points. Krause was the leading scorer with 16 points. For C.C. King, Stanka and Bill Fleeman both pitched in 13 points.

In the regional final, the Mustangs of San Antonio Jefferson defeated C.C. King 62-45. Jefferson was just too strong with Bullock scoring 24 points and Randle with 13 and Bryden 12. Matt Beaton led King with 15 points. Jefferson had won three playoff games by the average margin of 22 points. That margin of victory would not be topped in Region IV for the next twenty years of class 4-A playoff action. Even with the three losses, there could be little doubt this was one of the strongest teams to ever come out of the Region IV and San Antonio.

State Tournament

Midland	(33-2)	#2	73.8-53.7	+20.1
Dallas Roosevelt	(33-4)	#5	86.0-66.1	+19.9
Houston Wheatley	(39-2)	#1	106.2-79.0	+27.2
S.A. Jefferson	(33-3)	#6	70.9-58.0	+12.9

State Tournaments Top Five

6'7"	Ira Terrell	Dallas Roosevelt
6'6"	Eddie Owens	Houston Wheatley
6'8"	Rick Bullock	San Antonio Jefferson
6'8"	Gary Brewster	Midland
6'6"	Melvin Moore	Dallas Roosevelt:

The state tournament of 1972 was one of the best ever both in quality of teams, talent and excitement. Some state tournaments are memorable and 1972 was one of the best in the history of class 4-A. I think if you had to pick the top five tournaments ever, this would be one of the selections. Never before did you have the quality of big men and competitive games in all three contests. Rick Bullock of San Antonio Jefferson was 6'8" and had range on his shot, plus he was extremely strong inside. Bullock stepped right into the Southwest Conference and was a dominate all-conference performer all four years at Texas Tech. Bullock was the 58th pick in the NBA draft in 1976 by the Knicks. For Midland, you had 6'8" Gary Brewster and 6'9" Ronald Taylor. This talented tandem has seldom been seen in Austin on one team. Brewster, was strong offensively while Taylor was a defensive specialist. Brewster was highly successful at U.T.E.P and All-Conference and drafted into the NBA with the 48th pick by the Buffalo Braves. The Braves later moved to L.A. and became the Clippers. Taylor signed with Nebraska and later transferred to Midwestern University in Wichita Falls, where he led the team in scoring with a 21.7 per game average. Wheatley had three multi-talented juniors on their squad, 6'5" Steve Jones, 6'7" Michael Long and of course, 6'6" Eddie Owens. The Wildcats were talented and deep. Owens would go on to a brilliant All-American career at UNLV, and was the 31st player taken in the NBA draft by the Kings. Jones was All-Southwest conference at Texas A&M and Long played at U.T. Arlington and later was outstanding at Texas Southern. Dallas Roosevelt had the top player in the state on their squad in 6'7" Ira Terrell. Once again, Terrell immediately stepped up in talent in the S.W.C. at S.M.U., and was one of the best players in the entire conference. Terrell was the 45th player selected in the 1976 NBA draft by the Suns, and played 127 games in the league. 6'7" Melvin Moore played at Sam Houston State, which had one of the strongest basketball program in the state during the 1970s. Junior guard, 6'2" Marcellus Abney played at University of Texas at Arlington and Clarence Dennard (14.0) played football for S.M.U. This was the only time in Texas High School tournament history that all four teams in the largest classification had a player drafted into the NBA within the top 60 picks. Historic performances would be the norm of the tournament in 1972, rather than the exception.

In looking at the four finalists, it's not out of the realm of possibilities, that these were the four best teams to ever advance to the class AAAA state tournament, from their respective regions. The only team that would really challenge S.A. Jefferson, as the best to come out of region IV, might be the 1967 state champions, San Antonio Lee. 6'11" Steve Niles led Lee to the title over Spring Branch Memorial by one point. The only team up to 1972 that would have challenged Roosevelt, as the best to come out of Dallas-Ft. Worth area, would be the 1962 Thomas Jefferson state title team. West Texas had the great Pampa teams back in the 1950s, but I think they would even have had trouble matching up against the inside strength of Midland. The Bulldogs combo of 6'8" Brewster and 6'9" Taylor were imposing. Of course, Wheatley had a number of great teams, but nobody would argue that '72 addition was not one of their better squads. In my top twenty teams of the Decade, all four of the '72 semi-finalist teams were ranked. It was the only time during the decade that all four teams were thought to be that strong. Only the 1979 tournament came close matching '72, with three semi-finalist teams ranked in the top twenty.

In the semi-final game between San Antonio Jefferson and Midland, Jefferson was thought to be a little shorthanded because of Midland's size inside. The game came down to foul trouble, as Midland was in control of the contest until their two talented big men got in foul trouble. At 4:49 of the second quarter, Brewster went to the bench. Taylor got his third foul with 2:19 remaining in the half and joined Brewster on the bench. At the time Brewster left, the score was 20-12 and when Taylor existed before half, the score stood 26-18. Jefferson finally took the lead when Taylor missed the last half of the third quarter, with his fourth foul. With both big men back in the lineup, the Bulldogs took the lead 51-46 with 1:34 remaining in the game. Bullock of S.A. Jefferson hit a tip-in with 1:17 left to make the score 51-48, Midland was up. Harold Howard of Midland hit one of two foul shots ten seconds later, to make the score 52-48. Marc Randle of Jefferson drove the lane twice against Taylor and hit short jumpers to tie the score at 52-52 with 36 seconds remaining. Taylor was unable to challenge the shots because of the four fouls. After Randle's second bucket, Midland turned the ball over to Jefferson with nine seconds remaining. Randle again shot the ball for Jefferson and this time he missed, the shot was rebounded by Bullock, who immediately put the ball back up. Bullock was fouled by Taylor and Bullock went to the line. With one second left in the game, Bullock connected on two foul shots to give S.A. Jefferson a 54-52 win over Midland. After the game Bullock commented, "It was easy for me when they were out. I'm not used to playing against guys that tall."

Danny Woods was the man for Midland in the first half, scoring seven baskets and finished with 18 points. Bullock had 19 points, Randle 17 and Bryden 10. For the Bulldogs, Woods hit 18 points, Brewster and Taylor both ended up with 12 points each because of limited playing time, due to foul trouble.

In the other semi-final game, two of the great titans of the 70s faced off with Ira Terrell going against Eddie Owens. The two teams had met twice

previously with a split. Both coaches, Jackie Carr and Ellis Davis liked to get the ball up and down the court and use their bench. In the end, Ira Terrell had the greatest game in tournament history hitting 21 of 23 field goals, for a state record 45 points and pulled down 30 rebounds. But even after this phenomenal effort, Roosevelt was down 107-103. With 57 seconds left in the game, Marcellus Abney was at the foul line missing a free throw. Terrell got the rebound and put the ball back up for two points, cutting the lead to 107-105. Abney stole the inbounds pass and hit the bucket and was fouled, putting the Mustangs up 108-107. With 9 seconds remaining and his team down by one, Wheatley went to their star Eddie Owens, who was fouled. Owens hit both foul shots, giving his team the lead 109-108. But in this classic contest, Roosevelt came right back and pushed the ball up the court as fast as possible and got the ball to their star, Terrell who scored and was fouled by Michael Long. Terrell hit the foul shot and Abney once again stole the inbounds pass from Wheatley, killing any chances they might have to score. The final was Roosevelt 111 and Wheatley 109. "The greatest game I've ever seen," said Humble's Larry Cooper in 1992. "And I was right there on the sideline. An unbelievable game!"

Scoring for Roosevelt was led of course by Terrell with 45 points, Abney 18, Dennard 16 and Moore 12. For Wheatley, Owens was high man with 31, Archer 20 and Gaylord Davis with 20. Terrell broke the state class 4-A single game scoring record, that had been set in 1961 by Dan Smith of Denton at 38 points. For Wheatley, the loss snapped their 23-game winning streak.

Years later, Coach Carr commented on the game saying, "There were three questionable calls that did not go our way down the stretch, but you can't worry about those types of things." In discussing Terrell's outstanding performance, Carr said, "We never worried about any one player and how many points he had, all we cared about was outscoring the other team. You are not going to stop a great player like Terrell."

In discussing the tournament years later with Terrell, I asked him if they stuck around and watched the other semi-final game between S.A. Jefferson and Midland, "No we went out to eat and just felt like we had beaten the best team in the state, it was a very emotional win. Coach Davis never scouted, we would show up and play our game." Melvin Moore added in discussing Coach Davis, "Our practices were so hard and tough, the games were easy." When asked about playing against Rick Bullock, Ira responded, "I still have nightmares about trying to cover him, he was 6'9", 240 pounds." Teammate, Melvin Moore added, "Bullock was the hardest to handle of any players we faced that year, he was just so big and dominant." I asked Ira to comment on Eddie Owens, "He was one of the best, so effortless and had range from anywhere, he could really score. He could play tough defense when he wanted to, but he seldom had to go full speed." Moore also commented on Easy Eddie saying, "Eddie had a basketball gift, he had a seven-foot afro, he was so humble, he was the best player we faced our senior year."

In the title game, Ira Terrell was held to only 11 points by the 2-3 zone of S.A. Jefferson and Terrell played the entire second half of the game with four fouls. The game was also played at Jefferson's pace, with the final score in the sixties. Jefferson led with 4:49 left in the game 56-51. The outside shooting of Roosevelt's LeRoy Edwards had kept Coach Ellis Davis' team in the game. With 2:30 left, Bullock hit one foul shot to give Jefferson the lead 62-59 and Jefferson rebounded the missed free throw and called timeout. Things looked good for Jefferson as the last two minutes were played out for the state championship. The strategy out of the timeout was to get the ball to Bullock, who had scored 44 points, a state championship record, that has never been broken. But a charging call gave the ball back to Roosevelt, where 6'6" Melvin Moore hit a baseline jumper to cut the lead to one. After another Jefferson turnover, Moore hit another jumper, giving Roosevelt a 63-62 lead. Jefferson was forced to foul late and Roosevelt finished the game at the foul line winning 68-63. After Terrell received his fourth foul, he moved outside on defense and Moore and reserve, 6'7" Larry Ray moved inside, trying to handle Bullock. Abney finished with 23 points, Edwards had 10, all in the fourth quarter. Terrell finished with just 11 points and Moore 13. For Jefferson, Bullock got little help to go with his 44 points, he was the only player that reached double figures. Marc Randle, Bullock sidekick throughout the playoffs, could manage only 3 points. Jefferson shot 52% from the floor and Roosevelt hit 44%. Jefferson won the battle on the glass 41-37. Bullock finished with 24 rebounds while Terrell could bring in only 11 and Moore 11. Jefferson finished a two-year run at 67-7 with Bullock on the team. Jefferson finished 34-4 in Bullock's senior year and 33-3 his junior year.

The all-tournament team at state was made up of Ira Terrell, Marcellus Abney of Roosevelt, Eddie Owens, Gaylord Davis of Wheatley, Danny Woods of Midland and Rick Bullock of Jefferson.

Visit with Rick Bullock: Today Bullock still holds the state scoring record for the championship game with 44 points. Rick was very surprised when I informed him he still held the record. "I'm surprised, I didn't know that," was Rick's response. After high school, Bullock was widely recruited and visited Texas, S.M.U., Houston, New Mexico St and of course, Texas Tech. On why he selected Tech, Rick said, "It just felt right." Toothpick Johnson, the former Houston Yates star, showed Rick around on his recruiting trip. "Toothpick was a great athlete and our best defensive player at Tech. He could guard players on the perimeter and run the court," Bullock said. On playing for Gerald Myers at Tech, Bullock said, "Myers was a good coach, good man, very disciplined and a strong teacher." Upon graduation from Tech, Bullock said he received his teaching degree in American History and Physical Education. After being drafted by the Knicks, Rick played several years in Europe. Rick presently is an accountant in San Antonio, married with three children. Bullock is one of the best to ever come out of the Alamo city and is a **Texas Legend.**

1972 State Rankings{End of the Regular Season}

1. Houston Wheatley	33-2	6'6" Eddie Owens(22.0), 5'11" Gaylord Davis(13.7)
2. Midland	26-2	6'8" Gary Brewster(24.2), 6'9" Ronald Taylor(14.0)
3. Highland Park	33-1	6'7" David Kimmell(21.0), 6'3" Bob Arnold(12.0)
4. Victoria	27-2	6'4" Steve Cook(15.3), 6'0" Warren Milberger(12.8)
5. Dallas Roosevelt	29-4	6'8" Ira Terrell(30.6), 6'6" Melvin Moore(16.8)
6. San Antonio Jefferson	27-3	6'8" Rick Bullock(24.1), 6'2" Marc Randle(11.2)
7. Conroe	28-4	Uriah Barnaby, Charles Adams
8. Deer Park	28-4	6'6" Danny Van Rheen, 6'1" Jimmy Shelton
9. El Paso High	25-3	David Nevarez(15.3), Joe Marquez
10. Houston Sterling	26-4	5'9" Kenneth Stewart(22.8)
11. McAllen	29-3	6'4" Micky Uhlaender(19.4), 6'6" Louis Pack(14.8)
12. Plainview	26-5	6'3" Curtis Thompson, 5'10" Willie Carreathers
13. Houston Yates	29-4	6'3" Leo Woods(23.6), George Campbell
14. Corsicana	24-4	6'5" Lynn Walter(14.8), Ricky Purdy(14.6)
15. Corpus Christy King	25-6	6'5" John Pulzin(14.7), 6'0" Mike Bourg(12.2)
16. Pampa	23-5	6'5" Mike Edgar, Richard Burton
17. S. A. Sam Houston	23-5	6'8" Willie Hodge(26.9), 6'2" Vance Jackson(9.6)
18. Lubbock Monterey	22-6	6'5" Grady Newton(22.0)
19. Houston Washington	28-6	6'6" Melvin Jackson(13.7), 6'5" David Daniels(13.7)
20. El Campo	27-6	

All-State Team: Sports Writers 1st Team- 6'8" Ira Terrell(30.6), Dallas Roosevelt; 6'8" Gary Brewster(24.2), Midland; 6'11" Tommy Barker(31.2), Weslaco; 5'11" Gaylord Davis(13.7), Houston Wheatley; 6'0" Wayne Williams(25.7), Abilene; **2nd Team-** 6'8" Rick Bullock(24.1), S.A. Jefferson; 6'9" Willie Hodge(26.9), S.A. Sam Houston; 6'7" David Kimmell(21.0), Highland Park; 6'0" Jimmy Shelton, Deer Park; 6'5" Grady Newton(22.0), Lubbock Monterey; **3rd Team-**6'6" Eddie Owens(22.0), Jr. Houston Wheatley; 6'6" Danny Van Rheen, Jr. Deer Park; 6'8" Wayne Wayman(25.7), Ft. W. Eastern Hills; 6'6" Melvin Moore(16.8), Dallas Roosevelt; 6'1" Huey Smith(30.5) Jr., Houston Lincoln; 6'1" Keith Kitchens Jr., Hereford; 5'10" Dwight Carrington(17.4), Dallas South Oak Cliff:

In 1972 the Sports Writers got it right, outstanding selections. But they did miss the boat on Owens, who was named to the 3rd team. He was named All-American by Parade Magazine. Ira Terrell was named player of the year by the Amarillo Chamber of Commerce. Barker was a three-time all-state player which was very rare.

Recruits: This was the most talented recruiting group the state had ever produced. There had never been a class of this many talented big men. According to Street & Smith Magazine, 6'8" **Ira Terrell**(30.6) was one of the Top Ten recruits in the nation in 1972. Terrell went on to be a three time All-SWC performer at S.M.U. The only season he didn't make all conference was the year he was forced to sit out. According to Popular Sports Magazine, "Terrell was one of the most

widely recruited schoolboys in the nation. He was first team All-American and probably the best-regarded high schooler ever to play in Texas." That is definitely a mouth full. Terrell's three year won loss total at Roosevelt was 74-14. 6'7" **Lynn Royal**(28.0) of Hughes Springs, was one of the top performers to ever play in Texas smaller classifications. Royal played four years at T.C.U. 6'8" **David Marrs**(20.0) of Houston Lamar, was a standout player at the University of Houston. He averaged 18.3 points per game his senior year and was the 78th pick in the NBA draft by the Rockets. 6'11" **Tommy Barker**(31.2) of Weslaco, signed with Minnesota and later transferred to Hawaii. He averaged a double double at Hawaii. 6'8" **Rick Bullock**(24.1) of San Antonio Jefferson, was All-SWC at Texas Tech. 6'9" **Willie Hodge**(26.9/20.0) of San Antonio Sam Houston played at Duke and was the leading scorer for the Blue Devils, averaging 16.9 per game. 6'8" **Gary Brewster**(24.2) of Midland had a strong career at U.T.E.P, playing in the NCAA tournament and later named to the U.T.E.P. Hall of Fame. Brewster was an All-Conference performer. 6'5" **Grady Newton**(22.0) of Lubbock Monterey, signed with Texas Tech. Newton was a starter for the Red Raiders NCAA tournament team. 6'8" **Wayne Wayman** of Ft. Worth Eastern Hills signed with T.C.U. Wayman was almost a double double man as a sophomore at T.C.U. 6'6" **Bruce Baker**(24.0) of Houston Waltrip played at Texas. 6'6" **Melvin Moore**(16.8) of Dallas Roosevelt, signed with Sam Houston St. after playing two years at Kilgore J.C., Melvin was recruited real hard out of high school by Baylor and Texas Tech, but did not have the grades. 6'5" **Darrell Mitchell**(16.0) of Odessa Ector signed with Texas Tech/UTA. 6'5" **Mike Edgar** of Pampa signed with Wichita St. Edgar was a four year lettermen with the Shockers. 6'5" **Russell Letz** of Old Glory. 6'7" **John Kimmel**(21.0) of Highland Park went to Sam Houston St., 5'10" **Jesus Guerra** of Roma played at Pan American. 6'0" **Steve Colwick** of Waco Richfield played at Baylor. 5'9" **Dwight Carrington**(17.4) of Dallas South Oak Cliff. 5'11" **Gaylord Davis**(13.7) of Houston Wheatley played at Texas Southern. Gaylord was named All-Conference and averaged 23.0 points per-game, 6'4" **Larry Derrick** of Garland High, signed with McLennan J.C., 6'7" **Sherman Patton**(17.0) of Austin Crockett, signed with Baylor. 6'0" **Jimmy Shelton** of Deer Park played for San Jacinto J.C., 6'0" **Wayne Williams**(25.7) of Abilene was drafted by Major League baseball, 6'9" **Jay Downs** of Kilgore, signed with Baylor, 6'8" **John Saffle** of Irving MacArthur had a fine career at U.T.E.P., playing major minutes, 6'0" **Max McGee** and 6'6" **Neil Lemmon** of Highland Park signed with Texas Tech, 6'6" **Bill Manafield**(30.0) of Plano went to Marshall University, 6'5" **Barry Davis** of Galveston Ball played at Texas A&M. Davis was an all-conference performer with the Aggies, averaging 16.2 points per game and 7.3 rebounds his senior year. Davis' last two seasons at A&M, the Aggies were 20-7 and 21-6 and made the NCAA tournament his junior year. He was the 116th pick in the 1976 NBA draft by the Rockets. 6'6" **Gary Landers** of Dallas Carter, was a key member of the team at T.C.U. Landers was the leading scorer with the Frogs his senior year at 15.2. 6'5" **Lynn Walter** of Corsicana, signed with North Texas State. 6'6" **Gary Hetherington** of Linden-Kildare, 6'2" **Marvin Daniels** of Dallas Kimball, 6'6" **Johnny George** of

Kaufman, 6'3" **Leo Woods**(23.6) was widely recruited out of Houston Yates but ended up at South Dakota St. 6'4" **David Daniels**(13.7) of Houston Washington, went to Prairie View, 5'9" **Kenneth Stewart**(22.8) of Houston Sterling lost his life in a robbery, 6'6" **Marvin Jackson**(14.2) of Houston Washington played at Prairie View, 5'10" **Barry Jones**(18.4) of Houston Furr, 6'5" **Jeff Downing**(16.9) of Houston Milby, 6'5" **Jim Jacobs** of Dallas Carter committed to Lamar University, 6'5" **Henry Jones** of Galena Park to Lamar University an averaged 11.4 and 13.4 per game. **Tommy Delatour** of Highland Park signed with Texas

Top Texas Recruits in 1972 based on their college and pro careers:			
Ira Terrell 6'7"	Dallas Roosevelt	S.M.U., All-Am. 22.6/13.4/3.0 bl.*	NBA Suns #47
Rick Bullock 6'8"	S.A. Jefferson	Texas Tech, SWC MVP 22.8/10.4*	Draft Knick#58
Tommy Barker 6'11"	Weslaco	Minnesota/Hawaii/Idaho St. 14.3/10.0	NBA Hawk#52
Gary Brewster 6'8"	Midland	U.T.E.P., All WAC 15.4/8.3*	Draft Brave#48
Willie Hodge 6'9"	S.A. Sam Houston	Duke, ACC Standout 16.9/7.2	Draft Kings#71
David Marrs 6'8"	Houston Lamar	Houston, All-SWC 18.3/10.3*	Draft Rock #78
Lynn Royal 6'7"	Hughes Springs	T.C.U., All-SWC 18.6/7.6 Injury	
Barry Davis 6'5"	Galveston Ball	Texas A&M, All-SWC 13.3/7.6*	Draft Rock116
Gary Landers 6'6"	Dallas Carter	T.C.U., SWC Standout 15.2/6.8	
Grady Newton 6'5"	Lubbock Monterey	T. Tech, SWC Standout 9.0/4.0	
(*All-Conference)			

All-Americans: On the Parade All-American team, Eddie Owens was named to the 2nd team and Ira Terrell, clearly the best player in the state was named to the 3rd team. This was very indicative of the Houston area being the only part of Texas for years that got any national recognition. The name Wheatley carried a great deal of influence nationally, as well it should have. Scholastic Magazine named Ira Terrell All-American. Basketball Yearbook named Eddie Owens pre-season honorable mention All-American. Ira Terrell was named one of the top 15 player's incoming freshmen players in the 1973 class at S.M.U.. He was named freshmen of influence by Street & Smith Magazine, which was the top basketball Yearbook publication of the period. This was really better than being named High School All-American, because Street & Smith was much more widely read than any All-American teams that were published.

National Rankings:

State Leaders: It was hard to get a grip on the scoring leaders in 1972, because Roosevelt turned in a lot of different averages for Ira Terrell. We are going to go with the 30.6 average, which would place him 2nd in the state behind Tommy Barker of Weslaco's at 31.2. Huey Smith of Houston St. Lincoln was at 30.5 per game. Wheatley led the state in scoring at 106.2 per game and point differential with +27.2 per game. Midland was next with +20.1, followed by Roosevelt at 19.9 and Highland Park at 18.9. In rebounding, several players averaged around 20 per game, including Willie Hodge of San Antonio Sam Houston.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs: Rick Bullock of San Antonio Jefferson just edged out Eddie Owens and Ira Terrell with 29.4 points per game in the playoffs, to Owens 27.7 and to Terrell's 26.6. Bullock's games-S.A. Fox Tech(26), Austin Johnston(34), Corpus Christy King(24), Midland(19), Dallas Roosevelt(44)*: Owen's

games-Houston Washington(26), Beaumont Pollard(22), Houston Sterling(32), Dallas Roosevelt(31): Terrell's games- Dallas Lincoln(27), Ft. Worth Eastern Hills(22), Nacogdoches(28), Houston Wheatley(45)*, S. A. Jefferson(11):

(*) State Records

Power Ratings:

1. Houston Wheatley	39-3	107.41	State Semis 4-A	Loss D. Roosevelt -2
2. Dallas Roosevelt	35-4	96.76	State Champs 4-A	def. S.A. Jefferson +5
3. S.A. Jefferson	34-4	94.47	State Finals 4-A	Loss D. Roosevelt -5
4. Midland	31-3	90.80	State Semis 4-A	Loss S.A. Jefferson -2
5. Highland Park	37-2	88.00	Regional Finals 4-A	Loss Midland -5

The power ratings look at the entire season and even though Roosevelt beat Wheatley two out three times, they were 11 points behind Wheatley in the Power Ratings. The Wildcats finished the regular season the #1 team in the state, but couldn't win their fourth title in five years. Carr indicated after the game that he was unhappy with some of the close calls in the late stages of the game. Several coaches wondered why Wheatley didn't adjust their defense to try and contain Terrell. Terrell scored 45 points against Wheatley in the semi-final game. If you look at the two teams body of work, not counting the head to head matchup, Wheatley was 38-1 against the rest of their schedule and Dallas Roosevelt would be 33-3. Continuing the comparison between Wheatley and Roosevelt, both teams faced S.O.C. and were 1-1 against the Golden Bears, both schools played Ft. Worth Arlington Heights, one day apart in the Arlington Tournament. Roosevelt lost to Heights by 7 points and the Wildcats defeated Heights by 9. Both schools clobbered Lake Highlands, Wheatley by 67 points and Roosevelt by 24. Both schools played tough schedules, but Wheatley's was stronger. The Wildcats played eight playoffs teams other than Roosevelt and had an 8-0 record and a +22.2 point difference. The Mustangs were 6-1 and had a +19.5 point difference. Wheatley was 7-0 against state ranked opponents and Roosevelt was 1-1. What does all of this indicate? That over the course of the season, Wheatley was the best team in the state, but on the day the two teams met for all the marbles, Ira Terrell elevated his game and had one of greatest games in state tournament history. His performance in Austin will always be the measuring stick for all great accomplishments at the tournament. Everybody will always remember and be compared to the **Texas Legend, Ira Terrell.**

Up Close and Personal with I.T.

Following graduation from Dallas Roosevelt, Terrell was one of the most hotly pursued players in the country. He visited Houston, Louisville, Nebraska, U.C.L.A., Long Beach St. and Iowa St. Denny Crum was at Louisville, John Wooden was in the middle of winning multiple national titles at U.C.L.A, and Jerry "Shark" Tarkanian was building a powerhouse at Long Beach State, prior to moving on to U.N.L.V. "It was a really hard decision, saying no to John Wooden," Terrell said. "I visited Wilt Chamberlin's home and he was telling me if he had to do it again, he would have gone to U.C.L.A." "It was a very hard decision, but I really felt like

S.M.U. would be really strong. My family was important to me and I don't know if I was ready to leave home. Sammy Hervey was somebody I had always looked up to and idolized and he was coming into S.M.U. from Kilgore J.C. He was an extraordinary player and I had always wanted to play with him. I even thought at one point of joining him at Crozier Tech in high school. I'd known Sammy and what he could do with a basketball, so I felt we were really going to be good at S.M.U. Coach (Ellis) Davis didn't try to influence my decision at all. He was very supportive. I knew I could play right away S.M.U. and at U.C.L.A., that would not happen. U.C.L.A. had their entire team coming back from a national championship. My brother already went to S.M.U. and was in the band."

"Following graduation from S.M.U. I hired an attorney and was the 45th pick in the 3rd round of the N.B.A. draft. My salary was \$30,000 (which in today's money would convert to \$126,000) and the Suns selected me. They had just lost to the Celtics in the N.B.A. finals, so it was going to be a challenge making the team. The Suns had a lot of injuries, so I got to play a lot, about 30 minutes a game. The league was a lot different back in those days, during one stretch we played six games in seven days, in six different cities. I hit the wall about late February, it was tough playing 82 games." Ira was the third pick of the Suns. Ronnie Lee of Oregon was their first pick and Al Fleming of Arizona was their second-round pick. They were two very talented players. Fleming held out for a better contract and was cut. The league was tough and your attitude had a big bearing on whether you would make it in the Association. The following year, Terrell hurt his knee in the pre-season and missed the entire season, and was traded to New Orleans. "New Orleans was a trip, everybody had their own rules, it was not a team," Ira said. "Pete Maravich and everybody had different rules. I found out 45 minutes before a game I had been cut due to a trade with the Suns, everybody else had no cut contracts." That was the N.B.A. in the 1970. Terrell played a few weeks in the Western League in Reno and was picked up by the Trailblazers. He finished out the season in Portland and was cut the following year. Next up was a trip to the Philippines, "You made about \$5,000 per month and only played four months a year," Ira said. Not bad money for those days. After three years in Asia, Terrell returned to the states and began working outside basketball in real estate.

Teams that should have made it to Austin? Highland Park would have been the choice, but I don't know if they were better than Midland, even with a healthy Kimmel.

1972 4-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso(27-3) #9	55	E.P. Burges(26-5)	53
	Midland(29-2) #2	92	Wichita Falls(20-9)	83
	Amarillo Palo Duro(23-6)	57	Plainview(29-5) #12	53
	Highland Park(35-1) #3	78	Irving(28-8)	63
Region I Semis	Midland(30-2) #2	54	El Paso(28-3) #9	43
	Highland Park(36-1) #3	75	Amarillo Palo Duro(24-6)	54
Region I Finals	Midland(31-2) #2	58	Highland Park(37-1) #3	53
Region II Bi-Dist.	Ft. Worth Eastern Hills(28-7)	65	Ft. Worth Southwest	56
	Dallas Roosevelt(30-4) #5	110	Dallas Lincoln(23-13)	73
	Nacogdoches(27-5)	46	Lake Highlands(25-8)	44
	Killeen(26-5)	71	Conroe(31-5) #7	68
Region II Semis	Dallas Roosevelt(31-4) #5	91	Ft. Worth Eastern Hills(29-7)	74
	Nacogdoches(28-5)	56	Killeen(27-5)	45
Region II Finals	Dallas Roosevelt(32-4) #5	77	Nacogdoches(29-5)	60
Region III Bi-Dist.	Deer Park(33-4) #8	54	Clear Creek(31-6)	47
	Houston Wheatley(36-2) #1	91	H. Washington(31-6) #19	88
	Houston Sterling(28-6) #10	70	Houston Lamar(25-9)	65
	Beaumont Pollard(21-8)	76	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(25-7)	69
Region III Semis	H. Wheatley(37-2) #1	111	Beaumont Pollard(22-8)	88
	Houston Sterling(29-6) #10	78	Deer Park(34-4) #8	68
Region III Finals	Houston Wheatley(37-2) #1	120	Houston Sterling(30-6) #10	116
Region IV Bi-Dist.	C. C. King(28-6) #15	50	McAllen(31-3) #11	49
	Austin Johnston(24-5)	68	Victoria(29-3) #4	66
	SA Alamo Heights(22-12)	62	SA Sam Houston(26-5)	52
	SA Jefferson(30-3) #6	76	SA Fox Tech(25-10)	57
Region IV Semis	C.C. King(29-6) #15	55	SA Alamo Heights(23-12)	43
	SA Jefferson(31-3) #6	64	Austin Johnston(25-5)	34
Region IV Finals	SA Jefferson(32-5) #6	62	C.C. King(30-6) #15	45
State Semi-Finals	Dallas Roosevelt(33-4) #5	111	H. Wheatley(39-2) #1	109
	SA Jefferson(33-3) #6	54	Midland(33-2) #2	52
State Finals	Dallas Roosevelt(34-4) #5	68	SA Jefferson(34-3) #6	63

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1972 AAAA Top 50}

1.	Dallas Roosevelt	35-4	{beat Wheatley two out of three}
2.	Houston Wheatley	39-3	{averaged 106.2 points per game, dominating}
3.	S. A. Jefferson	34-4	{One of the top teams ever in the Alamo City}
4.	Midland	33-3	{6'8" Brewster and 6'9" Taylor, great tandem}
5.	Houston Yates	30-4	{three of their four losses were to Wheatley}
6.	Highland Park	37-2	{undefeated with a healthy Kimmell}
7.	Houston Washington	31-7	{lost to Wheatley by three and four points}
8.	Houston Sterling	30-7	{Regional finalist losing to Wheatley 120-116}
9.	Deer Park	34-5	{Lost in the Regional Semis to Sterling 78-68}
10.	Clear Creek	31-7	{last year as a power-Clear Lake opened in '73}
11.	South Oak Cliff	19-12	{wins over Wheatley 100-96, Roosevelt 68-66}
12.	Houston Lamar	25-10	{Bi-District loss to Sterling 70-65}
13.	FW Arlington Heights	22-9	{lost coin flip, missed playoffs, beat Roosevelt}
14.	Nacogdoches	29-6	{eliminated by Roosevelt, regional finals 77-60}
15.	Beaumont Pollard	22-9	{lost-regional semi-finals to Wheatley 111-88}
16.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	25-7	{lost to Pollard in Bi-District 76-69}
17.	Killeen	27-6	{Kangaroos won a coin flip for 15-AAAA title}
18.	El Paso	28-4	{lost in regional semi-finals to Midland}
19.	Corpus Christi King	30-7	{regional finalist losing to S.A. Jefferson 62-45}
20.	McAllen	31-4	{lost in Bi-District to C.C. King 50-49}
21.	FW Eastern Hills	29-8	{lost in the regional semis to Roosevelt 91-74}
22.	Amarillo Palo Duro	24-7	{regional semi-finalist losing to Highland Park}
23.	Temple	26-5	{lost a coin flip with Killeen for the 15-AAAA}
24.	Irving	28-9	{lost in Bi-District to Highland Park 78-63}
25.	Plainview	29-6	{advanced to Bi-District losing Palo Duro 57-53}
26.	Austin Johnston	25-6	{lost to SA Jefferson 63-34 in Reg. semis}
27.	Victoria	29-4	{lost in Bi-District to Austin Johnston 68-66}
28.	Conroe	31-6	{lost in Bi-District to Killeen 71-68}
29.	Texas City	28-7	{lost District playoff to Clear Creek 66-56}
30.	S.B. Memorial	19-12	{lost District playoff in 3 overtimes to Conroe}
31.	Lake Highlands	25-9	{downed by Nacogdoches in Bi-District 46-44}
32.	Lubbock Monterey	22-6	{lost in a District playoff to Plainview}
33.	Denton	23-7	{lost a district playoff to Highland Park}
34.	Corsicana	26-5	{tied for 3 rd in district with Bryan, 15-AAAA}
35.	Dallas Carter	25-10	{tough district with Roosevelt and S.O.C.}
36.	S.A. Alamo Heights	23-13	{regional semi-finalist losing to C.C. King 55-43}
37.	S.A. Sam Houston	26-6	{lost in Bi-District to Alamo Heights 62-52}
38.	Ft. Worth Southwest		{lost in Bi-District to Eastern Hills 65-56}
39.	Bryan	25-7	{tied for third in a tough district 15-AAAA}
40.	Wichita Falls	20-10	{lost in Bi-District to Midland 92-83}
41.	El Paso Burges	26-6	{advanced to Bi-District losing to El Paso 55-53}
42.	Houston Furr	24-9	{tied Washington for the District title}
43.	Orange Stark	21-9	{lost in a District playoff to Pt. A. Lincoln 51-48}
44.	Richardson	24-8	{runner-up to Lake Highlands in district}
45.	Pampa	24-6	{district runner-up, lost to Palo Duro 67-55}
46.	Weslaco	23-9	{finished District in 2nd place with McAllen}
47.	Corpus Christi Miller	25-11	{lost in a District playoff to C.C. King 74-60}
48.	Dallas Lincoln	23-14	{taken out by Roosevelt in Bi-District 110-73}
49.	S.A. Fox Tech	25-11	{lost in Bi-District to SA Jefferson 76-57}
50.	Arlington Sam Hou.	22-10	{finished 2nd to Irving in District}

1973 AAAA

Basketball in Texas went to historic proportions in 1973. Going into the season, Houston Wheatley had as talented a team as the state had ever seen. The Wildcats drew enormous crowds everywhere they played. This was based on the historical impact of the program on high school basketball in Texas, and the fact that the Wildcats were not only an outstanding team but very entertaining. The mad scientist of Wheatley's insane up tempo game was Coach Jackie Carr. Carr had been the longtime assistant under Colin Briggs and developed his many presses watching John Wooden and the U.C.L.A. teams of the mid-1960s. Carr was back for his fourth season at the helm. If there was ever a deeper team in talent, you would be hard pressed to convince the talent master of it. In my 2006 interview with Carr, he was adamant that this was his most talented and deepest team. He also never hesitated calling Eddie Owens the greatest player he ever coached. One of the foremost authorities on basketball talent in the state, Texas Hoops Mike Kunstadt, agreed with Carr. "Eddie Owens is the greatest high school player in the history of the state, Owens could do it all, shoot, pass, handle the ball, rebound, defense, and he had a tremendous all-around game. Owens could affect a game in so many different ways." Kunstadt explained. Mike Kunstadt actually evaluates basketball talent for a living and has been involved with the game since the 1950s.

The question going into the season was not if Wheatley would win state, but if they would go undefeated. The 1972-73 season was about Wheatley's quest for a fourth state title in six years. One of the Wildcats toughest challenges would come early in the season at the Arlington Classic, on the campus of U.T. Arlington in late November. Wheatley dominated the 16-team tournament. Victories included Dallas Samuel 97-57, Dallas S.O.C. 123-102, Dallas Roosevelt 115-101 and Spring Branch Memorial in the finals 78-66. In the three-day tournament, Wheatley left no doubt. But prior to traveling to Arlington, Wheatley had lost unexpectedly to one of the strongest programs in the state, Beaumont Charlton-Pollard. Wheatley lost 86-85 in a game that Carr later took the blame for losing. "The boys didn't lose the game, I did. We had 20 boys on the team and I had to cut it down to 15, so I let the bottom 10 players play most of the game. I didn't play my top boys," Carr admitted.

A detailed look at Wheatley's roster, which Carr repeatedly referred to as his most talented and deepest, was impressive to say the least. The front line was as talented as any in states history with 6'6" Owens(28.0), 6'7" Steve Jones(12.0) and 6'7" Michael Long(12.0). Backing them up were 6'8" Robert Jammer(8.0) and 6'7" Ceasar Holmes(4.0). At point guard was 5'10" Wendell McKelvey(6.0), who ran the fast break offense. At shooting guard was 5'10" Willie Davis(16.0). In 2006, Carr said McKelvey and Willie Davis may have been the best two guards he ever had on one team. The depth of Wheatley was the team's greatest advantage over

their opponents. "Team's that would play only 7 or 8 players would be dead by the fourth quarter and we would score 40 points in the last quarter," Carr said. In discussing Michael Long his post, Carr commented, "Oh man, he was the toughest center we ever had, 6'7" 220 pounds, he was strong. He won a national championship at Texas Southern."

In the first annual Dr. Pepper Christmas Basketball Classic in Houston, defending state champion, Dallas Roosevelt, Houston Wheatley, Houston Westchester, Deer Park, Hobbs, New Mexico and DeRidder, Louisiana would play two games on Friday evening and Saturday evening at Delmar. Roosevelt had already lost twice to Wheatley entering the tournament 119-109 and 123-100. The Mustangs had another talented team with 6'2" Marcellus Abney leading the team. Other important players for Coach Ellis Davis included, 6'8" Larry Ray, 6'6" Stanley Ray, 6'6" Danny Thomas, 6'3" Melvin Price, 6'4" Charles Marshall and 6'4" David Crawford. Deer Park had one of the top big men in the state, 6'7" Danny VanRheen. His supporting cast was strong but limited in size. 6'1" Mark Varnell, 6'0" Greg Arnold, 6'4" Steve Hester, 6'0" Stuart Shannon and 6'0" David Koctar. Hobbs, New Mexico was a perennial power, holding the national record averaging 114.6 points per game in 1970. Hobbs coach, Harold Tasker was known for his pressing, run and gun style. Hobbs came into the tournament at 6-1, having lost to Midland Lee 93-90 in double overtime. This was the first time in eight seasons that Hobbs had lost to Midland Lee. Standout, 6'2" Richard Robinson had fouled out against Lee, but still managed to score 27 points. Robinson came into the Dr. Pepper shootout in Houston averaging 30 points per game. Other big players for Hobbs were 6'4" Eugene Smith, 6'4" Pat Jeffers, 5'10" Robert Franklin, 5'8" Greg Hutchings, 6'1" Pat Woods, 5'11" Scott Michael and 5'7" Junior Hutchins. Houston Westchester, at 11-3, was very talented, paced by 6'4" Dirk Hoyt and 6'8" Jim Greenfield. Others main liners were 6'0" Jim Lassiter, 6'2" Jeff Hays, 6'0" Steve Holstead, 6'5" Jerry Kiel, 6'6" Jeff Swanson, 6'2" Bob Tierney, 5'7" L. R. Vela and 6'3" Glen Louderback. The Wildcats of Wheatley came in at 16-1. DeRidder also had an impressive record of 14-1.

Over 4,000 fans showed up at Delmar to see Wheatley beat DeRidder 98-77. Deer Park nipped Dallas Roosevelt 71-70 in overtime and Houston Westchester got by Hobbs 82-80. Deer Park beat Roosevelt at the foul line, hitting 23 of 39 shots, compared to Roosevelt's 16 out of 25. Danny VanRheen set the scoring record at 43 points for Deer Park, hitting 16 of 20 from the floor and 11 of 15 foul shots. He also added 22 rebounds. Those were impressive numbers, but against one of the top teams in the state, it was extraordinary. Abney hit 18 points for Roosevelt and Danny Thomas contributed 20. Houston Westchester vs. Hobbs was a great game with the lead changing hands 12 times during the contest. With 7 seconds remaining, and the score tied 80-80, Junior Hitchings of Hobbs hit the front end of a one and one foul shot situation. Westchester got the rebound and

Jim Lassiter ended up with the ball. In desperation, he fired up a shot just three steps past mid-court which hit nothing but net, giving Westchester the one point win. It was the first time in seven years that Hobbs had dropped two games in a row. Junior, Dirk Hoyt led the Wildcats with 22 points. 6'8" Jimmy Greenfield added 20 for Westchester. Hobbs was paced by Richard Robinson with 31 points while Eugene Smith hit 15. In the loss to Wheatley, DeRidder(14-2) did not have the depth to keep up with the Wildcats. Wheatley played 14 players and 11 scored while DeRidder, out of Louisiana, used only one reserve. Eddie Owens scored 31 points and added 14 rebounds. Steve Jones, the younger brother of Dwight Jones, knocked down 23 points. For DeRidder, Edgar Holmes had 23 points, John Rudd finished with 18, Robert Mackey added 18 points.

The featured game of the second night of competition was two national powers going at one another in Hobbs, New Mexico and the Wildcats of Houston Wheatley. The contest would feature two of the highest scoring teams in the country. Both programs enjoyed the up-tempo, fast paced basketball. The Eagles fell behind 54-34, but battled their way back, after handling the press and hitting their shots. With 1:45 remaining, Hobbs trailed 106-101. Richard Robinson had paced Hobbs with 35 points. Wheatley came away with an impressive 114-106 victory. Wheatley's size was the big difference in the game along with foul shooting, the Wildcats hit 28 of 47 from the foul line and Hobbs followed with 20 of 34. Wheatley triple threat players were 6'6" Eddie Owens, 6'7" Michael Long and 6'7" Steve Jones. Jones poured in 29 points, Owens had 23 and fouled out with 5:00 remaining in the contest, and Long pitched in 18 points. Eugene Smith led Hobbs in scoring with 22 points. Hobbs tallest players were Smith and Pat Jeffers, both 6'4". Marcellus Abney scored 36 points against Houston Westchester and led his team to an impressive victory 94-76 over Westchester. DeRidder came away with a 47-45 win over Deer Park and held 6'7" VanRheen to only 16 points. Hester had 14 points for Deer Park. John Rudd scored 21 points for DeRidder and Joe Johnson had 10.

So, after two days of outstanding basketball, Wheatley finished 2-0, Westchester, Deer Park. DeRidder and Dallas Roosevelt finished 1-1, while Hobbs lost both games.

The 1972 Jaycees tournament in Houston would be fueled by four seeded powerhouses, Houston Wheatley, Galveston Ball, Houston Furr and Houston Yates. In the first-round games, Houston Furr(18-3) was ousted by Houston Sam Houston(18-3) 73-69 in overtime. Charles Taylor had 20 points for Sam Houston with Mike Davis adding 16 points. For Furr in a losing effort, Tim Sims finished with 28 points and Dennis Jackson tallied 15 points. Houston Yates eliminated Houston Madison 73-71. Yates counted on George Campbell's 25 points, which was key to the Lion's victory. Houston Reagan came away with a big win over District rival, Houston Washington 66-61. Houston Wheatley was ridiculous creating 45

turnovers against Houston Waltrip, winning 115-58. At one point the Wildcats scored 31 unanswered points. Wendall McKelvey led the way for Wheatley with 16 points and Eddie Owens put up 14 points. Galveston Ball defeated Houston Lee 84-68. Ball had Clarence Watson and Bill Caldwell both scoring 18 points in their victory. Steve Walker led the Houston Lee Generals with 23 points. Houston Worthing beat Strake Jesuit out of Houston 105-55, New Orleans Washington knocked out Houston Austin 70-63.

In the 2nd round match-ups, Wheatley faced one of the top players in the country in Huey Smith of Houston Lincoln. Smith poured in 44 points in a losing effort 126-90. Smith came up four points short of the tournament record set in 1953 by Ed Franklin of Houston Austin, at 48 points. Lincoln had 54 turnovers and Wheatley had 15 players in the scoring column. Owens and Jones both hit 20 points each. In the quarterfinals, the Wildcats kept their magic going beating Houston Sterling 116-78. This was a rematch of the 1972 regional finals contest. Owens had 24, Jones 22, and Willie Davis finished with 20 points. Owens didn't play in the fourth quarter. Football standout, Lee Canalito, came off the bench for Sterling to score 26 points. Wheatley ended Houston Reagan tournament hopes in the semi-finals 98-87. Eddie Owens hit 24 points and Steve Jones contributed 21 points for the Wildcats and Robert Jammer added 14. Reagan had advanced to the semis with some impressive basketball over Houston Lamar 83-66. Arthur Jackson led the scoring for Houston Reagan with 40 points.

Houston Yates continued their march to another championship game, defeating Houston Sam Houston 54-50 and New Orleans Washington 62-55. In the semi-finals, Yates defeated Houston Kashmere 69-67. Kashmere had advanced beating Milby 81-71 and Houston Worthing 80-79. Phillip Davis was the leading scorer for Kashmere in both games. Russell Hall delivered high game honors for Worthing with 27 points.

In the finals, District 20-AAAA rivals met, as Wheatley put five players in double figures against Houston Yates. The result was the Wildcats turning back Yates 104-85. Owens finished with 29 points, Jones hit 12, Willie Davis finished with 13, and James Walden and Gary Reese came off the bench for 15 and 13 points. Karl Johnson led Yates with 21 points and Jimmy Duffield had 18 points. Campbell added 14 for the Yates cause. Houston Reagan was impressive with a win over District rival, Houston Kashmere in the third-place game 73-51. Arthur Jackson again took high point honors for Reagan with 19 points and Phillip Davis paced Kashmere with 17 points. The Consolation title was taken home by Captain Shreve of Shreveport, La.

The Dr. Pepper tournament in Dallas was always a great indicator of the best teams in the state. Irving at 13-2, was the pre-tournament favorite along with Highland Park, who came in at 16-2. The Tigers of Irving were led by 6'6" Tommy Weilert(32.0) and 6'4" James Scott(16.0). Coach Jim Puryear returned three

starters from a 27-9 District championship team in 1972. The Scots were led by one of the top guards in Dallas, 6'2" Bob Arnold(18.0). Dallas Spruce looked strong with 6'0" Steve Dunn(22.0) and Otis Darrough leading the way. Roosevelt returned two fine players in 6'2" Marcellus Abney and 6'7" Larry Ray.

In the 2nd round, Irving was eliminated by Dallas Pinkston 83-73. Weilert turned his ankle with 4:30 left in the 3rd quarter with his team leading 49-48. Robert Armstrong and Alfred Clark stepped up for Pinkston, finishing with 29 and 20 points respectfully. Weilert returned with his team down 65-54. The Tigers were never able to regain the lead. Weilert led the Tigers with 22 points. Dallas Roosevelt looked awesome the first day defeating Denton 102-94 and North Dallas 102-38. Irving defeated Plano in their first-round game 61-35. W.T. White had a nice win over Lake Highlands 48-43 and Richardson tripped up Hillcrest 47-41. The Golden Bears of South Oak Cliff held on to defeat Adamson 43-42. In the 2nd round, Highland Park eliminated Carrollton R.L. Turner 74-64.

In the quarterfinals, Roosevelt won an exciting game over Pinkston 74-73. With the lead 68-63, Pinkston decided to go into a stall with six minutes remaining in the game. Anthony Wilson put on a dribbling display but as Coach Ellis of Roosevelt commented later, "I was surprised they went into the stall that early." Roosevelt regained momentum on Keith Baker's steal that tied the score 68-68 with 2:04 remaining. Abney finished with 26 points for Roosevelt. W.T. White eliminated Highland Park with a great height advantage over the Scots 74-50. 6'7" Karl Nelson contributed 18 points and sophomore, 6'5" Walter Louis added 19 points. 6'3" sophomore Don Banks laid in 10 points. Dallas Spruce won in overtime over Dallas Lincoln 66-59. Willie Wallace had 19 points and Dunn had 18 points for the Apaches. Dallas S.O.C. advanced to the semis with a 74-59 win over Dallas Kimball. Charles McMillian and Larry Harris poured in 24 points apiece for S.O.C. Both Harris(30) and McMillian were two of the top juniors in the state.

The semi-finals were set with Dallas Roosevelt getting by W.T. White 84-81 and Dallas Spruce squeaking past S.O.C. 72-70. Roosevelt was paced by Abney with 16, Larry Ray, Harland Hill and Melvin Price. 6'7" Karl Nelson finished with 30 points for W.T. White. Louis Walter of W.T. White, picked up his fourth foul with 6:13 left in the first half and finished with 13 points. For Spruce, it was Otis Darrough and Steve Dunn doing the damage. Darrough had 17 points on driving layups, and hanging, delay lay-ups. Charles McMillian had 29 points for S.O.C. from what was called A.B.A. three-point range. "I've never seen anybody jump like him," commented Spruce coach, John Paul Fultz. "Not a whole lot of coaching you can do against him. You pray he misses." You need to remember Fultz played on one of the top teams in the state at Dallas Samuel in 1961. He was also a standout at The University of Texas, so he had seen some talented players during his basketball career. At 6'9", he was an imposing figure on the sidelines.

The finals were set with Dallas Spruce coming away with a hard-fought win over Dallas Roosevelt, 97-94. The final was the highest score in the 33-year history of the tournament. Steve Dunn took M.V.P. honors and paced Spruce with 41 points over Marcellus Abney of Roosevelt. Abney was high man for the Mustangs with 26 points, but fouled out with 2:13 remaining to play. Larry Ray had 28 points for Coach Ellis Davis' Stangs. F.D.R. led 83-74 and the Apaches came back and finally took their first lead 87-86 with 3:12 left. The Apaches hit 33 of 39 from the foul line and Roosevelt only hit 10 of 16. In the third-place game, S.O.C. got by W.T. White 71-60. Alcy Jackson got hot with 20 points to lead the Golden Bears, and Walter Louis finished with 17 for the Longhorns. In the consolation finals, South Garland came away with a 59-58 win over Denton. The All-Tournament team was made up of Marcellus Abney and Larry Ray of Roosevelt, Charles McMillian and Larry Harris of S.O.C., Steve Dunn and Otis Darrough of Spruce, Karl Nelson and Walter Louis of W.T. White, Robert Armstrong of Pinkston, Fred Jackson of South Garland, Gary Goodner of Denton and Bob Arnold of Highland Park.

(30) Larry Harris passed away a few years ago in East Texas.

Region I

El Paso Austin(28-3)#4

Midland(29-3) #3

Irving(26-4) #5

Monterey(23-9)

El Paso High(26-5) #19

Ft. Worth Richland(26-6)

Highland Park(30-4) #14 Lubbock

Amarillo Tascosa(20-12)

Top Five in Region I

6'10" Ronald Taylor, Midland; 6'6" Tommy Weilert, Irving; 6'3" Bob Arnold, Highland Park; 6'1" Jake Poole, E. P. Burgess; 6'5" James Scott, Irving:

In Region I, Midland(28-3) and Irving(28-3) were the front runners as the playoffs began. Midland had to have a District playoff against Midland Lee(29-3). The winner of the first half facing the winner of the second half. Lee won the first half with a 58-55 win over the Bulldogs and Midland won the rematch 60-58. Lee's lineup was made of 6'2" Don Bradley, 6'0" Tommy Loughrey, 5'11" Larry Thane, 6'3" Melvin Jackson and 6'6" Steve Cromwell. The Rebels were coached by Paul Stueckler. The Bulldogs of Midland countered with 6'10" Ronald Taylor(24.1), one of the top recruits in the state. Taylor was long and athletic, a great shot blocker. He would be a tough match-up for anybody at the high school level. Coach Jerry Stone who coached Taylor at Midwestern said, "Talented guy but just too passive, he could have been great." Joining Taylor in the starting lineup were 5'7" Jeff Thomas(3.5), 6'0" Randall Hunt(9.8), 6'2" Mike Tillman(10.2) and 6'4" Eddie Herring(10.1). A key contributor and second leading scorer off the bench was 6'2" Kenneth Ray(13.0), who had a strong inside game. James Cagle was the Midland

coach. The Bulldogs had experience on their side, having been to the state semi-finals the previous season.

In the District playoff game between Lee and Midland, Taylor picked up his fourth foul with 0:17 seconds remaining in the 1st half. Lee was up at halftime 27-23. Midland played well in the second half without Taylor and with 3:45 left in the contest, Coach Cagle had his team go into a stall, up 49-41. The final was Midland 58, Lee 50. Taylor was the leading scorer, even in foul trouble with 19 points and Herring finished with 12. For Lee, Cromwell had 15 and Jackson had 10.

In Bi-District, Midland was prepared to meet Ft. Worth Richland(26-6). Richland coach, Tommy Newman said, "We pride ourselves on our defense, we spend a lot of time on it." The Rebels had won District 6-AAAA with an impressive 12-2 mark. Newman ranked Midland as one of the best teams in the state prior to the Bi-District clash. He ranked Midland in a class with Dallas Roosevelt, Galveston Ball and Ft. Worth Southwest, all teams his Rebels had played during the season. After scouting Midland against Midland Lee, Newman was impressed with how the Bulldogs took the lead without Taylor in the game. "They are not a one-man team, but we are also a very balanced team." 6'7" Ricky Close(19.1) was Richland's leading scorer. Others starters for Richland included 6'4" Mark Daniel(10.4), Mike Lindsey(9.8) and 6'0" Robert Binion, with 6th man Steve Hill, a 6'3" senior, playing a key role off the bench.

In the much-anticipated matchup, Midland was trailing entering the 4th quarter 44-43. But the Bulldogs exploded for 21 points to secure the win 64-50. Taylor finished with 19 points, Kenneth Ray had 16 and Randall Hunt finished with 10 points. For Richland, Ricky Close scored 24 straight points for the Rebels and finished with 26. Close went on to play at Stephen F. Austin.

In other Bi-District encounters, Lubbock Monterey met Amarillo Tascosa, winner of 3-AAAA. They faced off at the West Texas Fieldhouse. Both teams had a hard time getting into the playoffs. Tascosa(20-12) had to defeat Borger and Pampa on back to back games to win District. Tascosa defeated Borger(24-5) 63-61 and Pampa 52-49 to advance. The key contributor for the Rebels in each game was 6'3" Robert Durrett, who scored 20 points and had 12 rebounds against Borger and 16 points and 8 rebounds vs. Pampa. In both games, Tascosa jumped out to big leads and held on at the end to win close games. Tascosa and Borger had tied for the first half title and Pampa(20-9) took the 2nd half of District. Tascosa's starting lineup was made up of 5'10" Don Hembree(5.7), 6'1" Bill Fountain(15.8), 6'5" Terry Jones(9.6), 6'5" Randy Burkett(10.7) and 6'3" Robert Durrett(9.7). The Tascosa Rebels were only 6-4 in District and 18-12 on the season. Borger leading scorer was 6'0" Russell Dickson(17.8) while Pampa had relied on A.J. Brewer and Freddy Wilbon.

Lubbock Monterey(23-9) had defeated Snyder(24-9) twice to end the season 45-37 and 36-34, to capture 4-AAAA. The first game took place at Snyder

and the second game was played at a neutral site. Monterey advanced into the playoffs against Amarillo Tascosa. Earlier in the season, Monterey had beat Tascosa 45-43. In the contest, Tascosa held the ball for six minutes, when trailing by one point, waiting for the last shot. Tascosa missed the shot and Monterey won. Coach David Camfield of Tascosa felt Monterey would be a much stronger opponent than the first time they faced each other because of addition Dan Iron, who had joined the team from football. Monterey was noted for its slowdown style of play, sometimes going into a complete stall.

As the Bi-District game between Monterey and Tascosa unfolded three things came into play. Rebounding, stalling and foul shooting were all going to be critical to the outcome of the game. The Plainsmen of Monterey dominated inside on the glass and hit 9 of 11 foul shots in the last four minutes, while stalling. All of these facets of the game came into play for Monterey, as they won the game 49-39.

Highland Park had another outstanding team paced by 6'3" Bob Arnold(25.0). Arnold's backcourt mate was 6'1" David Coker(20.0). The Scots lineup was made-up of 6'3" David Wildman, 6'6" Danny Houpt and Robbie Thomas. Highland Park had a 33-game winning streak on their home court. Unfortunately, they had to go on the road in the playoffs. Coach Bo Snowden's team captured the 8-AAAA title defeating Denton 73-66. Highland Park met Irving(27-4) in Bi-District. The contest was a re-match of the 1972 encounter. The Tigers gained revenge defeating Highland Park(30-4) 84-80. Tommy Weilert and James Scott were the leading scorers for Irving, finishing with 28 points and 25 respectfully. The two inside players combined for 53 points. Bob Arnold and David Coker had been the catalyst for the Scots all season, finishing with 36 points and 28. Irving dominated the glass 29-17 over the Scots.

District 1-AAAA race was outstanding in 1973. El Paso Burges(27-3) was considered one of the top teams not only in El Paso, but the state. El Paso Austin beat Burges both times in District action and finished 9-1, while Burges finished 8-2. Austin beat Burges in the team's second meeting 66-61 to take the title. Burges standouts were Roger Sparrow, David Montoya, Jake Poole, and Frank Dryden. For Austin, the stars were Bill Bautista, Keith Hemmitt and Alan Holley. El Paso Eastwood finished a distant third at 17-9. The El Paso High Tigers(26-5) took on El Paso Austin(28-3) in Memorial Gymnasium on the campus of U.T.E.P. El Paso High was attempting to defend their Bi-District title of the '72 season. The Tigers were led by Carlos Palacio, Freddy Acuna, Bernie Tarin and Freddy Sanchez. El Paso Bel Air was runner-up in District 2-AAAA at 16-11. Austin's trapping and pressing defense would pose problems for the Tigers as El Paso Austin defeated El Paso High 45-42 to advance to Regionals. It was El Paso Austin's second trip to regional in four seasons.

In Abilene, four teams gathered for the right to go to Austin. Lubbock Monterey(24-9), El Paso Austin(29-3), Irving(29-3) and Midland High(29-3) were the combatants. In the semis, E.P. Austin was faced with the task of trying to slow down Ronald Taylor of Midland. E.P. Austin started, 5'10" Alan Holly, 5'8" Bill Bautista, 6'2" Keith Hemmitt, 6'2" Tom Wilkins and 6'7" Frank Ingo. E.P. Austin's post was 6'7", but he could not handle the talented 6'10" Taylor of Midland. Midland dominated inside, winning the rebound edge 38-24 and Taylor finished with 25 points, 16 rebounds and was 9 of 15 from the floor and 7 of 10 from the foul line. With those types of numbers, you would have thought Midland ran away on the scoreboard, but the game was close, with the Bulldogs winning by only six 47-41. E.P. Austin press hurt Midland and kept the game close. Frank Ingo was the leading point man for E.P. Austin with 13 points and was the only player in double figures. E.P. Austin had defeated Midland earlier in the season 51-44 in the Roswell Tournament in New Mexico.

In the other regional semi-final game, Irving(27-4) from District 7-AAAA would face the slow-down tactics of Lubbock Monterey(24-9). The Plainsmen's lineup was made up of 5'9" Kevin Taylor, 6'0" Blake Christie, 6'5" Joe Davidson, 6'1" Steve Myalf and 6'6" Dan Irons. The Irving Tigers countered with a strong inside game and a real talent in 6'6" Tommy Weilert(31.1), who would later go on to play at Texas. Starters for Irving included, 6'7" Clifton Laurence, 6'6" Tommy Weilert, 6'5" James Scott, 6'2" Chris Gonser and 5'10" Dennis May. Surprisingly, Weilert was considered the top talent for Irving but James Scott was named the District M.V.P. The high-low combination of Scott and Weilert was too much for Monterey, as the Tigers won comfortably 60-42. Scott had 22 and Weilert finished with 18. For Monterey, it was Kevin Taylor and Dan Irons both scoring 11 points.

In the Region I final, things turned out just as predicted, as the two top teams in the region squared off to see who would advance to Austin. To everyone's surprise, the game was not close, with Midland up by 17 points in the 4th quarter, on their way to a 71-57 win. Midland again was too strong inside with a 33-24 rebound edge. 6'10" Ronald Taylor was a factor and teams were not going to beat the Bulldogs with an inside game. The scoring break-down for Irving, Weilert 17, Scott 16 and Gonsor 10. For Midland, Tillman 19, Ray 17, Hunt 13, Taylor 12 and Herring 8:

Region II

D. Spruce(30-4) #10

Ft. Worth Poly(28-5)

Bryan(26-4) #16

Richardson(24-9)

Dallas S.O.C.(28-5)

Ft. Worth Southwest

Spring Branch(36-1) #2

Lufkin(32-3)

Top Five in Region II

6'2" Steve Dunn, Dallas Spruce; 6'9" Gary McGuire, Dallas Kimball; 6'2" Charles McMillian, Dallas S.O.C.; 6'5" Ed Johnson, Ft. W. Poly; 6'2" Tate Armstrong, Spring Woods:

In Region II, Bryan(26-4) would face the second ranked team in the state, Spring Branch High(36-1) in Bi-District. The game would prove to be one of the best games of the playoffs in 1973. The Bears of Spring Branch were somewhat of an anomaly in that they had a dominating record, but really no dominating player. Spring Branch coach, Charles Turnbough ran a discipline and balanced attack led by 6'3" Jim Burton(14.8/16.0). 6'5" Mark Kenust(11.3/10.0), 6'1" Gerald Hargraves(14.0), 6'4" Jim Spillane(4.7) and 5'11" Rod Vievig(9.9); The Bears also had a solid bench with 6'4" Robert Bourquein, 6'4" Kenny Walker, 6'0" Tommy McNatt. Of the top eight players, six were seniors. On defense, they ran a 2-3 zone and on offense they liked a double low post look and worked the ball inside. Pressing was not part of their scheme. The Bears only loss of the '73 campaign was in mid-season to Texas City(24-8) 70-65. During the regular season, Spring Branch had several quality wins. LaMarque(19-10) 69-58, Houston Smiley(25-11) 80-68, Alamo Heights(23-8) 72-69, Victoria(32-5) 43-42, Deer Park(24-10) twice 56-49 and 65-52, Spring Branch Memorial(25-7) in District 44-35 and 52-38 and Clear Lake(28-7) all fell to the Bears. As you look at the schedule, you don't see a lot of inner city teams with tremendous pressing tendencies. In the playoffs, you would have to beat athletic pressing teams. None the less, they were the #2 ranked team in the state behind Wheatley and had clearly earned the ranking. Bryan relied on 6'4" Joe Buchanan(20.7/17.0) and 6'1" Milton Mitchell(15.4/17.2). Buchanan was later a standout at Navarro Junior College in Corsicana. The Vikings loved to get up and down court with athletic fast players. Coach Bob Perry of Bryan dominated in District action averaging 76.8 points per game and allowing only 45.0. That is a point difference of 31.8 in District action. Rounding out the Vikings starting line-up was 6'3" Larry Garrett(2.3), 5'9" Glenn Devron(8.9) and 5'9" Jesse Davenport(10.1). The Vikings clinched District against Temple(27-5) 93-90 in overtime. Buchanan finished the game with 41 points and 22 rebounds for Bryan and was the District's top scorer. Ernest Walker of Temple has 30 points to lead the Wildcats. Walker was named District 15-AAAA M.V.P., averaging 27.6 points per game. Corsicana(22-6) was runner-up to Bryan in District action and the Tigers were the only team to beat the Vikings 68-54. What was very exciting for

Corsicana, was that they only had one senior on the squad. The Tigers would be a factor during the 1974 season.

Speaking of Corsicana, their talented coach, Jerry Matthews achieved his 200th victory during the season. When asked about his success, Coach Matthews responded, "Corsicana added a 6th period basketball class in 1968. Since that time the Tigers have been very successful."

In the Bi-District game between Spring Branch and Bryan, the Vikings took their last lead of the game with 1:52 remaining in the 1st half. With 6:58 remaining in the game, Bryan's Joe Buchanan fouled out. Guard, Glenn Devron kept the Vikings close from the outside against the zone hitting 12 points. Bryan also won the battle of the boards 28-20. With the score tied 42-42 in the final minute of play, Spring Branch went into a stall. With the clock winding down, Gerald Hargraves drove to the basket and missed and Vikings seemed to have rebounded the ball and in a struggle, Mark Kenust of Spring Branch emerged with the ball and scored at the buzzer, winning the game 44-42. Kenust finished with 8 of his team's 14 total points in the 4th quarter. Burton was the leading rebounder for Spring Branch and Buchanan had 10 rebounds for Bryan.

Richardson(24-9), in preparation for their Bi-District encounter against Lufkin, took on a talented Dallas Spruce(31-4) team at Loos Field House in Dallas. Spruce was led by Willie Wallace's 18 points and Steve Dunn's 14 points, as they defeated the Eagles 69-65. For Richardson, 6'6" District MVP, Steve Young(19.0) led the way with 19 points and 6'1" Bill Tuton(15.0) had 14. Lufkin would be Richardson's Bi-District opponent. The Panthers(32-3) of Lufkin advanced to the playoffs after winning a tough District playoff game with Marshall. Lufkin's frontline stood at 6'4", 6'4", and 6'2". Lufkin came out on top over the Mavericks, winning 52-48. Lufkin would now face off against Richardson at Tyler Junior college. In a very close game, Coach Jerry Stone of Richardson came up with two defensive adjustments that changed the contest in the Eagles favor. Richardson guard, Arzo Smith came off the bench and did a great job slowing down the Panthers second leading scorer, Austin Chapman to just seven points. Then Stone put 6'5" sophomore, Bryan Holland on Lufkin's leading scorer, MacArthur Richards(19.5) in the 4th quarter and Holland held him to only 2 points. Richards had scored 17 points before Holland put the clamps on his scoring. The Eagles won a close one 48-42 and advanced to regionals for the first time in school history. Leading the Eagles were Steve Young with 19 points, Pete Lodwick with 16 and Bill Tuton finished with 15 points.

Richardson had lost a number of games during the regular season. The Eagles had lost to S.O.C(30-6) twice 60-58 and 73-56, and Dallas W.T. White(26-8) 50-45. These were two of the stronger teams Richardson faced all year. In District action, only Richardson Pearce(23-12) and Sherman(20-7) had winning records, so District was not as strong as in year's past. Richardson beat Pearce both times

easily and split with Sherman, a 51-47 loss and 53-50 victory. Nobody came within single digits of the Eagles in District outside of Sherman. Sherman had only one player named to the first team All-District squad, a 5'9" guard named, Scott Gray.(31)

The Dallas area had some fine players during the '73 campaign as the All-Greater Dallas team would indicate. Three talented guards, 6'2" Steve Dunn(23.0) of Spruce, 6'3" Bob Arnold(24.8) of Highland Park and 6'3" Charles McMillian(23.0) of S.O.C. were named to the 1st team. Inside, 6'6" Tom Weilert(22.2) of Irving and 6'9" Gary McGuire(27.0) of Dallas Kimball. Named to the 2nd team were 6'2" Larry Harris(15.0) of S.O.C., 6'1" Marcellus Abney(22.8) of Dallas Roosevelt, 6'8" Larry Ray(16.9) of Dallas Roosevelt, 6'2" Otis Darrough(18.0) of Dallas Spruce, 6'4" James Scott(20.7) of Irving and 6'6" Steve Young(19.0) of Richardson. The only juniors named to the team were Harris and McMillian from S.O.C. Steve Dunn was named, "Player of the Year" and 6'3" Donald Bank of W.T. White was named, "Sophomore of the Year". Seven of those players made the state playoffs and five had advanced to regionals.

In the battle for Ft. Worth at Daniel Meyer Coliseum on the campus of T.C.U., the 9-AAAA champions, Ft. Worth Poly(28-5) would be taking on the 10-AAAA champions, Ft. Worth Southwest. Poly was paced by their talented senior, 6'6" Ed Johnson(14.1), considered the top player in Ft. Worth. Poly's coach, Timothy Austin said, "We'll definitely be counting on Ed, they've got tall personnel and they know how to utilize them." 6'2" Larry Revels(12.8) was on the other post position in the double low offensive set. Ernest Smith(12.7) was the team's ball handler and 6'0" Robert Hollie(11.9) was counted on as an outside shooter. 6'3" Larry McCray was a force on the glass. Out of this talented group, Johnson went on to star at the University of Texas and Hollie made a name for himself at T.C.U. Poly had survived a District playoff against Ft. Worth I.M. Terrell 62-58 to represent the District. The man who triggered the victory against Ft. Worth I.M. Terrell was 6'2" junior, Ricky Maddox who came off the bench and scored 12 points in the critical fourth period. The always dangerous, James Parks(17.4) scored 24 points for Coach Robert Hughes and I.M. Terrell crew.

(31) Gray, who would eventually become the fiery head coach at Ft. Worth Southwest; Gray in 2008 took Southwest to the Class 4-A state championship game and lost in a big comeback win to S.O.C. Gray was very critical after the game of the officials. The U.I.L. suspended him during the 2008-09 school year for what they called verbal abuse of an official after the game. Gray said in the press conference after the game he had wished the officials that called his game would have been from Dallas, Ft. Worth or Houston and not someone "from Amarillo." The reason for his statement was that the Amarillo officials were not used to the pressing and aggressive play seen in the larger inner city action and could not keep up.

The Rebels of Ft. Worth Southwest looked to 6'1" Richie Wilson (14.3) and David Church (14.1) to lead Coach James Wood's troops against Ft. Worth Poly. In the Bi-District clash, Southwest led almost the entire contest until Earnest Smith of Poly drove the lane with 31 seconds remaining to tie the score at 57 apiece. Smith, who was fouled, failed to hit the foul shot and the Rebels rebounded and planned on taking the last shot. David Church of Southwest, went to the line with 8 seconds remaining with a chance to win the game, but missed the front end of a one and one. Southwest controlled the rebound and was ready to take the last shot of regulation, when Earnest Smith stole the ball for Poly at mid-court, and proceeded to score the winning bucket with a lay-up, with only 2 seconds remaining. The 52-50 win gave Poly a ticket to regionals in Abilene.

South Oak Cliff and Dallas Roosevelt had one of the tightest contested races in the state for the 12-AAAA crown. Roosevelt defeated Dallas Kimball and big 6'9" Gary McGuire(32.0) 95-78 to force a one game playoff with S.O.C. McGuire got his points, scoring 24 and Kent Ellis also tossed in 20 points for the Knights. For the Mustangs, Marcellus Abney scored 24 points and Larry Ray finished with 21 points. "They force you to run," Kimball Coach Pete Brown said. "They doubled Gary inside and he was off with his shooting. For 7 or 8 minutes, Larry Ray just dominated the game. Ray has developed. He's going to be some kind a prospect for the colleges," Brown continued. S.O.C. and Roosevelt finished tied for first at 12-2, while Kimball closed out the season at 10-4. Dallas Pinkston finished fourth at 9-5. Roosevelt won the first game between the two rivals, 86-73 and S.O.C. gained revenge downing the Mustangs, 108-96. Mustang post, 6'8" Ray scored 20 and 25 points in the S.O.C. games. Coach Brown of Kimball chimed in on the S.O.C.-Roosevelt contest saying, "S.O.C. may have more quickness than Roosevelt, but Roosevelt has more muscle. Both teams can bound with anybody." The Mustangs of Roosevelt produced outstanding teams throughout the decade, much like Houston Yates. Led by Coach Ellis Davis, the Mustangs just reloaded every year. Dallas Roosevelt should have been ranked in the top ten in the state, but because of the bogus way the teams were rated in '73, the Mustangs were not even in the top twenty. One of the top guards in the state played for Ellis Davis, 6'1" Marcellus Abney(22.1) and another outstanding post, 6'8" Larry Ray(16.9). Other standouts on the team were 6'5" Donald Thompson and sophomore, Keith Baker. Roosevelt played a tough competitive schedule, having lost to Dallas Spruce(30-5) 97-94, S.O.C. 108-96 and Houston Wheatley twice 123-100 and 119-101. Those were four of the team's five losses coming into the District playoff game. At Loos Field in Carrollton, 6,000 fans showed up to watch the showdown. The Golden Bears were paced by Norvell Miles, Larry Harris, Alcy Jackson, Kenneth Williams, and Charles McMillian. S.O.C. followed the lead of their talented point guard, Larry Harris and captured the 12-AAAA District title 104-95. Harris drove

and penetrated the Mustangs defense for 36 points and Charles McMillian added 29. Harris, a junior, put on a real show. He was described as indefensible. Marcellus Abney had 17 points and 6'8" Ray added 21 points for the Stangs. "Anything Larry Harris does doesn't surprise me. Mac did a great job and so did Alcy, who blanketed Abney," Coach Jimmy Gales said following the game. "In the 4th quarter, Larry took over the game."

In the much-anticipated Bi-District clash for the Dallas City Championship game, Dallas South Oak Cliff faced Dallas Spruce. The game was a re-match of the Dr. Pepper finals, won by Spruce 72-70. Coach Gales discussed the Apaches, "Spruce is small but when we played them in the Dr. Pepper Tournament, I thought they played really good position on us. They don't play small." The Apaches didn't have a starter who stood more than 6'2". The catalyst for S.O.C. would be their junior guard, Larry Harris. "For us to run with S.O.C.," Spruce John Paul Fultz said, "We can't make mistakes. We're not as high scoring team as they are and we probably haven't played as many kids off the bench. We used a zone defense to slow them down last time." The question was, would S.O.C.'s young team be able to overcome the experience of Spruce. In front of 7,600 fans at Loos Field House, the Golden Bears advanced beating Spruce 79-71. The difference was the glass, which was won by South Oak Cliff 50-30. Spruce had one shot each time down court while S.O.C. would take multiple opportunities. 6'2" Otis Darrough got into foul trouble, picking up his fourth foul early in the 2nd half. The big lift for Coach Gales troops came off the bench by 6'4" senior, Clarence Lee, who scored 19 points and had 15 rebounds. McMillian finished with 17 points and Harris had 8. Standout performer for Spruce was Steve Dunn with 26 points. "Lee's a savior," Coach Gales said after the big victory. "He's hustled all year for me. We had trouble in the first half with their zone but I turned it over to Harris and he took it inside on them. In the 4th quarter, it was just two guys, Norvell and Lee." Gales said. "We stayed with them on the boards the first half," Fultz said. "Otis is our big man...when he got in foul trouble, missed half the game, we couldn't stay with them on the boards. Their bench strength hurt us too. They had several kids who came in and hit."

An impressive field came together at College Station for the Region II playoffs. Spring Branch came in as the #2 team in the state at 36-1, Richardson at 25-8, South Oak Cliff at 29-5 and Ft. Worth Poly coming in with a fine 29-5 record. In semis, Spring Branch looked like an overwhelming favorite to advance against Richardson. When you compared the two teams by records, the Bears were very impressive. But if you looked at the lineups, the Bears were not really that much more talented than the Eagles. They won with execution and a style that had been successful all season. Spring Branch did not have any big-time recruits, just a tough basketball scheme that was based on teamwork and fundamentals. The Eagles Coach, Jerry Stone was confident as usual in his team's first trip to regionals. 6'6"

Steve Young (16.0) was the key player for Richardson. 6'5" sophomore, Bryan Holland was a nice contributor because of his size and he would later play at A&M. 6'1" redhead, Bill Tuton was a fine outside shooter with great leaping ability and later played for Richland J.C. 6'2" Pete Lodwick was excellent outside shooter who later took his talents to S.M.U., after joining the team as a walk-on. The fifth starter was 5'11" Bobby Donohue. Coach Stone believed in defensive specialist Razo Smith as well Mitchell Stein and Mike Lavern. Coach Stone recalled in later years that his teams pretty much played a system and style in order to be successful. "We weren't overly talented, but what we did have at Richardson were smart hard working players." Stone revealed that in the five seasons that he was at the helm at Richardson, this was probably his best team." Probably his best player was Rick Penny from the 1971 team but talent wise his '73 squad had the most talent. The Eagles would be hard pressed against a Spring Branch team that had a pretty strong system and style themselves. Spring Branch was hard to rattle, as they played their tough zone defense and deliberate style. Stone said prior to the game, "a six-point lead is about the ball-game against them, so we will have to start quickly and make them play with the ball and not hold it.

The Bears downed Richardson High and advanced to the regional finals with a 58-48 win. Young finished with 16, Razo Smith 10, Lodwick 9 and Tuton 8. Lodwick fouled out with 5:41 remaining in the game. Burton led the Bears as usual with 18 points and Hargraves finished with 15 points. Spring Branch led 15-11 at the end of the 1st quarter and 32-24 at half. Actually, Spring Branch had everything go wrong and they still came out on top. Post, Mark Knut was in foul trouble and eventually fouled out with five minutes remaining in the 3rd quarter. Their leading scorer, Jim Burton hurt his ankle before half and only had 4 points in the 2nd half and 18 on the game.

In the second semi-final game, S.O.C was making the first of what would be many appearances in the modern era in the regionals. Coach Jimmy Gales was in his first season at S.O.C. and had a very young team, with all his best players being underclassmen. 6'3" Charles McMillian (23.0), 6'1" Larry Harris (15.0) and 6'6" Kenneth Williams(12.0) were the heart and soul of the team and were all juniors. They were joined in the starting lineup with football star, 6'2" Alcy Jackson and 6'2" Norvell Miles. Miles would play basketball at North Texas and Alcy Jackson was one of the top football recruits in the state. Coming off the bench for Coach Gales was Edwin Webb, Clarence Lee and Sidney Turner. For the Parrots of Ft. Worth Poly, they had been very fortunate to even advance to regionals. In their Bi-District game, Ernest Smith had stolen the ball and scored the winning bucket against Southwest as the buzzer sounded. Poly's luck ran out against S.O.C., as the Golden Bears advanced to the finals by defeating Poly 89-85. For S.O.C., McMillian was high man with 27 points, Miles had 20, Lee 13 and Williams 11. For Poly, Ernest Smith hit 27 and Revels had 14. The Golden Bears and Parrots really went

up and down the court at a fast pace, as the score would indicate. The Parrots ran a zone defense and McMillian began bombing away hitting from 15 to 25 feet out. He scored 14 points in the 2nd quarter. At halftime, S.O.C. was up 47-40 and the Golden Bears held a 10-point advantage at the end of the 3rd quarter.

The regional final was going to be a great match-up between the fast-paced Golden Bears of South Oak Cliff and Houston Spring Branch. S.O.C. liked to push the ball at every chance while Spring Branch tried to control tempo and get their 2-3 zone set-up. Spring Branch handled the pressure well. At halftime, the Houston school was up 34-21 over South Oak Cliff. Spring Branch had an advantage on the glass 43-29. The zone defense of the Spring Branch forced S.O.C. to mainly shoot from the perimeter and slowed the game down to a crawl. Coach Gale's team was down by 22 points before their comeback. The Golden Bears turned to pressuring the ball even more to score, because they could not get any easy buckets. In the first half, fouls started taking its toll on S.O.C., but in the 2nd half the fouls were not called as close and the south Dallas team started getting closer and getting steals. S.O.C. trailed by nine 48-39 with 6:39 remaining, when 6'6" Spring Branch post, Mark Knust fouled out. Spring Branch held on to win 59-51 over S.O.C., thanks to the fine ball handling of 5'11" Rod Vievig and Gerald Hargraves. For Spring Branch, Spillane finished with 17 points, Hargraves with 16, Burton hit 12 and Knust finished with 10 points. For S.O.C., Miles was the leader with 16 points and Harris finished with 7. McMillian had a horrible game finishing with no points and was 0-7 from the floor. The big key to Spring Branch's victory was rebounding, Burton finished with 17 rebounds and Spillane had 9. Spring Branch hit 20 of 39 from the floor for 51% while the Golden Bears were 24 of 68 hitting 35%. Following the game Coach Gales said, "Harris was hurt, he didn't tell me till after the game started. Spring Branch Coach, Charles Turnbough said following his team's big victory, "We believe in that 2-3 zone. We didn't key on McMillian any more than normal, we were fortunate to shoot real well in the start and make them start playing our game." S.O.C finished the season at 30-6 and would be one of the top teams in the state in '74, with several players returning. The Golden Bears could also take solace in the fact that they had eliminated the defending state champions, Dallas Roosevelt(27-6) 104-95 in a District 12-AAAA playoff.

Region III

H. Wheatley(36-1) #1

Deer Park(24-9)

Pt. A. Lincoln(27-4) #15

Houston Smiley(25-10)

Houston Worthing(22-18)

Galveston Ball(26-10)

Beaumont Pollard(29-7) #20

Houston Kashmere(28-10)

Top Five in Region III

6'6" Eddie Owens, Houston Wheatley; 6'7" Danny Van Rheen, Deer Park; 6'7" Earl Evans, Pt. Arthur Lincoln; 6'5" "Stretch" Campbell, Houston Yates; 6'7" Michael Long, Houston Wheatley; 6'2" George Walker, Houston Yates:

In District 24-AAAA, Galveston Ball(26-10) and LaMarque(19-10) finished in a tie for first place at 10-2. Texas City(24-8) finished in 3rd place at 9-3 in District action. Ball and LaMarque split during the regular season with both teams winning on their home courts. Ball won convincingly 84-63 in the team's first meeting and LaMarque came back and won the second game 84-83. The Tornadoes of Galveston Ball looked as if they were going to go through District action with only one loss, but in the second to last District game, Texas City upset Ball 79-73. The Stingarees of Texas City featured two outstanding guards in District M.V.P., Paul Jackson(25.6) and 5'10" Sam Lynch(20.4). Jackson went on to star at Kilgore J.C. after high school. Other standouts for Texas City included, Randolph Lynch, Keith Jordon and Ryan Boone. The Stingarees also were the only team during the regular season to defeat Spring Branch 70-65. Texas City was described by one sportswriter as thieves in the night, that they were so quick defensively, that they did not have to trap you, they could just pick your pocket.

At San Jacinto College Gym, Galveston Ball and LaMarque met to decide the District champion. Galveston Ball(26-10) won 80-75 to advance to the state playoffs. Ball's strength inside was the difference in the game. The Tors were led by 6'9" Bill Caldwell(15.1), 6'5" Milton Avie(19.1) and 5'10" Clarence Watson(15.0). Caldwell was described as a rebounding machine. Ball's inside domination spelled a 52-28 rebounding advantage over LaMarque. From the outside, LaMarque was very effective, with 6'1" Eddie Evans(15.9) and Royce Reeves, both finishing with 21 points. LaMarque also counted on 6'2" Reginald Harrison(22.1), 5'9" Michael Wyatt(13.8) and Billy Smith. Ball opened up a 14-point spread in the 4th quarter, but LaMarque managed to outscore Ball in the 4th period 29-22. For the Tors, Caldwell finished with 26 points, Floyd Feaster had 13 and Clarence Watson finished with 12 points. Next up for Galveston Ball was Deer Park(23-10). Deer Park had been to the playoffs five of the previous eight years and finished 12-0 in District action. Clear Creek had its streak of 19 straight District titles snapped by Deer Park. Clear Creek finished with a 6-6 mark in their District campaign. The opening of the new Clear Lake High school diluted the talent between two schools and crippled Clear Creek. Also, the Wildcats lost their coach to Clear Lake. Bill Krueger took over the reins for the Falcons at Clear Lake.

In 2007, Krueger explained his move from powerhouse, Clear Creek. "Jack Worthington had come with me to Clear Creek from San Marcos, and it was pretty much set in stone that he was going to be the new coach at Clear Lake. The Superintendent had all the juniors in the auditorium, and asked them to stand up if

they wanted to go to Clear Lake the next year. A lot of the kids stood up, including a lot of my basketball players. I wanted to start my own program, and some really good kids were going with me and Jack stayed at Creek.”

Galveston Ball and Deer Park’s Bi-District game would be played at Rice University. Deer Park’s team centered around top flight post, 6’7” Danny Van Rheen(24.5). The supporting cast included 6’4” Steve Hester, 6’3” John Failing, 6’0” Greg Stuckey, 6’0” David Howard and 6’0” David Koctar. Ball countered with 6’9” Bill Caldwell, 6’5” Millum Avie, 6’1” Floyd Forester, 6’2” Larry Hilton, Carl Quiller and Clarence Watson.

In a hard-fought game, Ball defeated Deer Park 57-52 and advanced to regionals for the first time in school history. The Tors hit six of seven foul shots in the final two minutes to seal the victory. The final quarter was the difference as Ball outscored Deer Park, 20 to 10. Sophomore John Failing had 23 points for Deer Park while top recruit, Danny Van Rheen finished with 16. For Ball, Larry Hilton and Clarence Watson both had 14 points. Van Rheen left the state after high school playing ball in the Big Eight at Missouri.

In one of the fiercest rivalries in High School basketball, Pt. Arthur Lincoln(28-4) took on traditional power Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(29-7). Pollard wanted to play a warm-up game to get ready for the Bumblebees. They selected Houston Kashmere, which was quickly building a really strong program on the same level as Pollard and Pt. Arthur Lincoln. During pre-game, the Rams dunked the ball on 10 different occasions, which were technical fouls, with the referees on the court. Referees, John Payton and Enox Minix assessed 10 foul shots to start the game. Coach Weldon Drew of Kashmere said, “We’re not going to play. We’re going home.” The officials went to the locker room and began changing cloths, “Rules are Rules,” Payton said. “If I can’t control a game by the rules, I’ll have no part of it.” Drew came back and agreed to the techs and Pollard’s Vernon Minix hit 8 of 10 to give Pollard and 8-0 lead. Pollard led at halftime 43-40. The Rams of Kashmere pulled out a tough win over Pollard 82-67. Pollard’s record slipped to 29-7. Drew said after the game, “Charlton Pollard has a good team, they compare with at least the top three or four teams in Houston.” There was no stopping Kashmere, as Phillip Davis pumped in 45 points to lead the Rams to victory. Kenneth Minkins led Pollard with 18 points, while Minix added 14.

Pt. Arthur Lincoln was seeking revenge against Pollard. In ’72, Lincoln had loss to Pollard, 76-69 in Bi-District. Two of the best individual talents in the state would be on display in this Bi-District contest. Junior, 6’6” Earl Evans of Lincoln, was the most dominating player in the state outside of Houston. He averaged 30.2 points per game and was an offensive machine. In the three previous meeting during the regular season between the two clubs, Evans had scored 28, 30, and 39 points with 20 rebounds. For Pollard to win, they had to control Evans. Pollard’s offensive attack centered around the guard play of 6’0” Kenneth Minkins(20.6). He

was named the District M.V.P. and a real smooth ball handler. Two other major contributors for the Bulldogs were 6'1" Mark Durden(16.2) and 6'3" Vernon Minix(16.1). Minix was also named 1st team All-District and Durden and 6'5" Donald Almond(8.1) were named to the 2nd team. Joining 6'6" Evans for the Bumble Bees would be junior guard, 5'9" Kervin Eli(11.8), 6'3" Russell Glover(11.0), 6'0" James Dean(10.4) and Chucky Baker. Eli and Evans were juniors. Evans of course was named District M.V.P. while Eli made the 1st team, and Dean and Glover were named 2nd team. Coach James Gamble of Lincoln was concerned about another guard for Pollard, Charles Jaco. In his three games against Lincoln in the pre-district games, Jaco had filled it up from outside, averaging 25.3. Since that time, Jaco had been ineffective because of injuries.

Lincoln managed to contain Pollard's guards winning 75-65 behind Evans 36 points. The big junior made 20 trips to the foul line and hit 14. The standing room only crowd of 5,000 at the McDonald gym on the campus of Lamar University, was packed in like sardines. It was hard to imagine that big a crowd, but back in the 1970s, high school basketball was the only game in town. Minkin's of Pollard was hot in the first half dominating from inside and outside, as the Bulldogs took an early lead, and went into halftime up 33-25. Minkin's cooled off in the second half when Lincoln switched to a 1-3-1 zone, so they could double Minkin's on his penetration to the basket. Bulldog coach, Bob Woodard had to deal with foul trouble as he lost three starters, Vernon Minix, Donald Almonds and Mark Durden. This killed Pollard's chances as Woodard commented, "Man, you can't take three starters out against a team like Lincoln and expect to win. They're too good." Questioned on why he didn't play a zone against Lincoln, the coach responded, "I've seen what Lincoln can do to a zone. When you get to the playoffs, you have to stick with what you do best." Lincoln's outstanding point guard, Kervin Eli, got into early foul trouble and Alfred Comeaux came in and played quality minutes. Eli got in foul trouble trying to guard Minkin's. Jaco was not a factor and still looked to be playing hurt. Coach Woodard of the Bulldogs, commented after the game, "I said this was their best team and they proved it tonight, anytime you have a superstar like Evans and good people to surround him with, you've got to be tough." Gamble commented after the game, that this was the second-best team in school history. In 1956, the Bumble Bees finished with a 33-4 season record in route to the state championship in the old Prairie View League, as well as third place in the National High School tournament.

In District, Wheatley finished 12-0, with Houston Yates(27-8) finishing second. Yates lost to Wheatley three times during the season by 27, 14 and 19 points. Yates go to player was 6'2" George Walker, who scored 42 points against the Wildcats in a 117-90 loss. 6'5" George "Stretch" Campbell also added 22 for Yates. The Yates Lions were so talented, and once again would be left out of the playoffs. 6'6" Carl Johnson of Yates decided to play basketball for the Lions his

senior year, after being forced to cut his afro. "We just told him to cut his damn hair, he was one of the top shooters in Houston," Stretch Campbell said laughing. Other players playing for the RED and GOLD were 6'11" Nate Coffee, 6'10" James McNeil, 6'0" Donte Fulton, 6'2" Jackie Morgan, and 6'5" Gus Johnson. 6'2" Jimmy Duffield was a three-year letterman, and two-year starter at Yates. Upon being asked about the top player he faced during his playing days in Houston. Duffield responded, "Eddie Owens was the best, he could do it all, he was so versatile and could score just about any time he wanted. We'd have won state had it not been for Owens."

In Bi-District game, top ranked Wheatley(36-1) defeated Houston Worthing(22-18) 113-84 before 13,000 fans at Hofheinz. Only a few college and pro teams had ever drawn more fans in the state of the Texas. Fans lined the outer circle of Hofheinz, four and five deep. Most of the aisles were filled. The place only held 10,800 seats. Police arrived in the second half and forced the fans away from the court and into the stands. Coach Jackie Carr's presses caused 51 turnovers for a total of 28 points. The Wildcats had 33 turnovers. Wheatley took a 17-4 lead early, but were only up by five at halftime 51-46. Owens led Wheatley with 34 points while Willie Davis put in 23, Michael Long 17 and Steve Jones 10. For Worthing, Dwight Davidson was top man with 13, James Griffin 12 and Herman Crawford 11. Worthing and Wheatley combined for 63 fouls in the game.

Houston Smiley(25-10) and Houston Kashmere(27-10) both took on warm-up games to prepare for their Bi-District contest against one another. Kashmere elected to play Beaumont Charlton Pollard(29-6), as we discussed earlier and Houston Smiley(25-10) faced Lufkin(32-3). Smiley snuck bye Lufkin 59-55 and showed the state that the best basketball in the state was played in Houston. Smiley made the long trip to Lufkin and came away with a solid victory, led by Bobby Joe Williams and Cornell Harrison. Bobby Joe had 23 points, followed by Harrison's 17. Smiley was back in the playoffs for the first time since 1969.

Houston Smiley(27-10) upset Houston Kashmere(27-10) 47-46 in their Bi-District showdown. The game was tied six times and the lead changed hands six times. Smiley was trying to control the tempo while Kashmere trying to push the pace. Reggie Jones of Kashmere missed the back end of a one and one and the Rams gained the rebound, but missed three put-back opportunities with 32 seconds left, and their team trailing by one. The Eagles of Smiley took a three-point lead with 15 seconds left on Pat Alvarado two free throws. With six seconds left, Kashmere's Danny Thomas hit a drive to draw the Rams within one. Alvarado led Smiley with 13 points, followed by Bobby Joe Williams with 12. Thomas led Kashmere with 19 points. Phillip Davis of Kashmere, was held to only 11 points, well below his twenty-point average and Smiley's standout, Cornell Harrison only managed eight points, which was well below his average as well.

Three teams showed up at Region III in Houston trying to derail the great Wheatley powerhouse. Houston Smiley(28-10), Galveston Ball(28-10) and Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-4) all had momentum and ready for the upset. In the 10:00 AM game, Pt. Arthur Lincoln and the Bumble Bees would be facing a very deliberate and post dominated team in Houston Smiley. Smiley liked to play games in the 50s and 60s and ran a 2-1-2 zone defense. The Bumble Bees goal would be to get the game going up and down, because of their superior guard play. Coach Gamble of Lincoln was very fearful that his troops would be tight playing in front of 10,000 fans at the Hofheinz Pavilion, on the campus of the University of Houston. Lincoln, in their two previous trips to regionals in 1969 and 1971 had been blown out by Clear Creek and Wheatley. Of course, Lincoln had never had a player of the quality of Earl Evans. He was known nationwide as a talent.

The Bee's dominated winning 83-51 and Evans had 30 points and 18 rebounds. The game was never close as Lincoln led 38-24 at half and 63-41 going into the 4th quarter. In the other semi-final game, Galveston Ball and Wheatley would be playing for the third time. The Wildcats of Jackie Carr had won the previous meetings 110-104 and 121-105. Wheatley had never lost a Region III game. They were as intimidating as any high school team the state has ever produced. Wheatley and Ball raced up and down the court, with Wheatley looking as devastating as usual, taking a 1st quarter lead 41-18. At halftime, Wheatley had put up 77 points, leading the Tornadoes 77-38. In the second half, Coach Carr played more subs and was outscored, but the game was never in doubt with the Wildcats winning 119-93. 6'6" Eddie Owens was his usual incredible self, scoring 37 points with 7 rebounds and several blocked shots. Willie Davis scored 20 points, Gary Wagner had 17 and Michael Long finished with 14. Clarence Watson of Ball had 16 points while the Tornadoes big man, Bill Caldwell had a nice game with 34 points. Avie contributed 19 points. It was a typical Wheatley game, in that you think you are really playing well and scoring, but in reality, you are playing the Wildcats game of running up and down the court. The "Purple Gang" killed Ball with their pressing defense.

I used to sit behind Carr during his games at the Arlington Classic. The team would be warming up and Carr and his assistants would calmly come strolling in and sit on the bench, just before the start of the game. If you didn't know who Carr was you would never suspect, he was one of the most successful high school coaches in the country. He always wore his little black fishing hat and I never saw him in a tie and coat. He hardly said anything during the game or during timeouts. He rarely called timeouts, because he played so many players, fatigue was never a factor. His kids played with an intensity level that few teams have ever matched. He would play fifteen kids, so everybody was ready. When he selected the starting lineup, he would slowly get out of his seat and just point at the players he wanted in the game. Rick Shirley shared with me a very typical Jackie Carr story. Shirley

explained, a Wheatley opponent had decided to hold the ball against the Wildcats. While the game was still being played, Carr called all his players to the sidelines next to his bench, and let the other team score. He basically cleared the floor for his opponent to score. Shirley continued, it was about five minutes before Wheatley's opponent crossed midcourt again, because of the Wildcat press. By the time they were once again on the offensive end, their opponents were behind and could no longer go into a stall. Carr had a very simple no non-sense approach to the game, playing to his team's strengths.

In the regional finals, you had the two best teams in the region facing one another, and the two most talented players in the state in Earl Evans and Eddie Owens. Lincoln out rebounded Wheatley 49-39 and with 6:02 remaining in the game, the Bumble Bees pulled to within four points 66-62. Wheatley pulled away winning 87-73. Wheatley seldom went into a stall but up 82-73, the Wildcats went into its delay game with 1:45 left in the game. Evans and Kervin Eli played their best games as Evans finished with 31 points and 18 rebounds and Eli hit 20 and did a great job against the Wildcats press. For Wheatley, Owens had 25 points and 7 rebounds, Long had 14 points, Willie Davis pitched in 12 points and McKelvy was his usual efficient self with 11 points. Russell Glover of Lincoln, totaled 15 rebounds. Following the game, Gamble said, "They are a great team, there's no question about it. We said we wouldn't be scared and we proved it." Holfeinz Pavilion reported the largest crowd to ever see a high school game in Texas, with 13,000 in a facility, that holds only 10,400. Lincoln hit 35 of 90 shots for 38%, while Wheatley found the basket 39 of 73 for 53%. Lincoln won the rebound battle, 49 to 39. Lincoln would have both Evans and Eli returning in '74.

Region IV

S.A. Fox Tech(28-3) #7

S.A. Brackenridge(29-4) #12

Austin Crockett(16-10)

C.C. Carroll(29-4) #13

S.A. Jefferson(27-5) #18

S.A. Roosevelt(28-3) #6

Victoria(31-4) #9

McAllen(30-4)

Top Five in Region IV

6'2" Roy Leggett, San Antonio Kennedy; 6'7" Tom Hutchinson, San Antonio Roosevelt; 6'4" LeRoy Bauerwald(26.0) New Braunfels; 6'1" Mike Ehlers, Victoria; 6'3" Danny Kaspar, Corpus Christi Carroll:

Region IV would be dominated by the San Antonio Schools, San Antonio Roosevelt(28-3), San Antonio Brackenridge(29-4), San Antonio Jefferson(28-5) and San Antonio Fox Tech(28-3). The San Antonio All-City team was made up of 6'7" Tom Hutchinson(16.8) of S.A. Roosevelt, 6'4" junior Arthur Edwards(16.5) of S.A. Brackenridge and 6'3" Walter Kemper(21.1) from S.A. Fox Tech. These young men represented the three of the four playoff teams from the Alamo city. 6'1" Roy Leggett(23.0) of S.A. Kennedy, was viewed along with Hutchinson, as the best

players in the city. Other first team members included 6'3" Odis Malone(17.7) from S.A. Highlands, 6'8" Phillip Sewell(18.1) of S.A. Alamo Hts. The last member of the All-City squad was a player that averaged only 10.5 points per game from the only class AAA team on the list, 6'5" Robert Reid of Clemens. He was known not for his scoring, but rather his ball handling and defense. Reid averaged 4 assists, 5.2 steals, 7 rebounds and 3 blocks a game, a regular freak. He went on to play at little known St. Mary's in San Antonio and had a great N.B.A. career with the Houston Rockets, twice playing in the N.B.A. finals. You could make an argument that Reid was one of the top players ever produced by Texas.

S.A. Fox Tech was matched up against S.A. Jefferson in Bi-District. Jefferson had beaten Fox Tech earlier in the season 58-51, but Fox Tech got revenge in the second meeting 69-68. Fox Tech had won District in 1972, but lost in Bi-District to Jefferson. Fox Tech started 6'4" Walter Kemper(21.1/12.0), 6'4" Clarence Simpson(17.0/15.0), 6'1" Anthony Woodard(6.8), 5'9" Darnell Williams(11.5), 6'3" Douglas Carter(7.3) and 5'9" Alfred Bibles or 5'7" Kenneth Connors. Jefferson also had a small lineup, 6'5" Bill Bryden, 6'4" Dennis Wayne(13.0), 6'2" Adam Zacharie, 5'11" Arjel Boone and 6'1" Mike Brown(12.0). "Snake" LeGrand was in his 1st season with the Mustangs of Jefferson and had a very liberal substitution policy, so none of his players possessed impressive numbers. San Antonio Jefferson would be trying to defend their regional title from the previous season. LeGrand later was the head man at the University of Texas at Arlington.

In the game, S.A. Fox Tech was paced by Clarence Simpson's, 26 points and 11 rebounds, as Fox Tech upset Jefferson 73-69. Darnell Williams also added 17 points. Skip Wayne of S.A. Jefferson had 15 rebounds. Senior guard, Mike Brown was high man for Jefferson with 28 points. Brown had been the 6th man on last year's state finalist team. The game was played at Alamo Stadium Gym. Fox Tech came back after being down by as many as 12 points in the first half. The Buffaloes of Fox Tech won the rebounding battle 50-45. Tech's coach, Franklin Runnels commented after the game, "We came back out in the 2nd half though, and got things going our way, our idea was to press and run. It's always a nice thing to knock off the defending regional champion."

In the other Bi-District encountered in the Alamo city, S.A. Roosevelt would be facing S.A. Brackenridge. S.A. Roosevelt had the most dominate player in the city in 6'7" Tom Hutchinson(17.0/14.0). Other starters included 6'4" Bill Kilgore(11.3), 6'4" Richard Burgess(6.9), 6'3" Gary Snowden(13.6) and 6'1" Sylvester Brown(8.3). Bench players were 6'2" Mike Harrelson and 6'4" Mike Kilgore. S.A. Roosevelt's last loss had been as the hands of Midland Lee, 81-56. Brackenridge's attack was centered around two gifted juniors, 6'4" Arthur Edwards(17.0/12.0) and 6'3" Darrell Scruggs(19.0). The two combined to form an outstanding post combo, averaging 36 points a game.

Hutchinson of S.A. Roosevelt, was so dominating against S.A. Brackenridge that he finished with 19 points, 20 rebounds and 3 blocks. He was just too much, as the Rough Riders won 59-48. Hutchinson played his high basketball in Germany, before his military family moved to San Antonio in the summer. Brackenridge had won 23 games in a row and finished the season 29-5. In other Bi-District encounters, Corpus Christi Carroll(29-4) beat McAllen(30-4) 56-39. Victoria(31-4) dropped Austin Crockett 48-41 in yet another Bi-District game. Victoria came into the game with a defensive minded team, led by one of the top guards in south Texas, 6'1" Mike Ehlers(21.8). 6'0" Wes Cook, 6'3" Mark Mueller, 6'2" junior, Maurice Callis and 6'5" David Clifton rounded out the starting lineup for the Stingarees. The game was played at the Blossom Athletic Center. Victoria led 35-31 at the end of three quarters and the Stingarees hit 12 of 16 free throws to ice the game. Austin Crockett only shot 5 of 9 from the foul line. Ehlers led the scoring for Victoria with 27 points and Wes Cook had 8. 6'7" Mike Murphy of Crockett, led his team in scoring with 15 points. He had to face Victoria's sagging defense on the offensive end. Art Miles hit 10 points for Crockett. Murphy would later take his talents to the University of Texas.

The Region IV tournament was unusual because it was held at two different sites in 1973. Both semi-finals games would be played at 10:00 AM, at different locations. Corpus Christi Carroll(30-4) would play S.A. Roosevelt(28-3) at the Alamo Stadium Gym while Fox Tech(29-3) played Victoria(32-4) at Blossom Athletic Center The winners would play at 7:30 on either court. S.A. Roosevelt was hot coming in, having won 27 out of their last 28 games, under Coach Jerry Tyson. S.A. Fox Tech had won 20 of their last 21 games under Coach Franklin Runnels. C.C. Carroll was also hot winning 20 of 21 games. Victoria, under first year coach Mike Smith, had won 12 straight. S.A. Roosevelt's only losses had come at the hands of Victoria, Brackenridge and Midland Lee. Fox Tech's only losses had come to Jefferson, Midland Lee and S.A. Roosevelt. Carroll's four losses had come to Victoria, Houston Furr, El Campo and Corpus Christi King. Victoria likewise had loss to Brazoswood, Spring Branch and Spring Branch Memorial, twice. The Stingarees also had a very impressive list of victories over teams in the regionals. Victoria had beat S.A. Roosevelt 68-63 in the North-East Tournament and edged C.C. Carroll 52-47 for the Victoria tournament title. Victoria had made three appearances in regionals in four seasons and seemed primed to possibly take the next step. The Stingarees also were 5-0 vs. San Antonio teams during the 1973 campaign. A young, 25-year-old, first year coach, Mike Smith was ready to take on Fox Tech, although he was concerned about the Buffaloes speed and quickness. S.A. Roosevelt was viewed by most coaches as the favorite. Roosevelt loved to run and press.

Corpus Christi Carroll had impressive size, a great coach in Mike Kunstadt, and preferred to play very deliberate and defensive oriented game. Starters for

Kunstadt were 6'10" Steve Frontz(11.8), 6'6" sophomore, Preston Bailess(7.4), 6'3" Danny Kaspar(14.9), 6'0" Glenn Rollins(10.8) and 6'5" Nellis Kelly(9.9). Kaspar went on to play at North Texas State and Frontz played at Texas State, formerly SW Texas State. C.C. Carroll had a dog fight to get out of District with Corpus Christi King(27-7). Corpus Christy Miller(23-8) and Carroll tied for the first half of District with 7-1 records. In the last game of the regular season, C.C. Carroll came away with a 43-29 win over C.C. Miller to take District. During the season, the Tigers lost to Houston Furr 47-45, Victoria(32-5) 52-47, El Campo(28-6) 81-76 and C.C. King 59-54. If you noticed, even when losing, Carroll stayed close and was able to control the tempo. You had to beat them at their game, which was a big advantage for the Tigers. They were a very disciplined outfit.

The semi-finals of Region IV would see C.C. Carroll outlast S.A. Roosevelt 51-49 and S.A. Fox Tech nip Victoria 51-47. In the C.C. Carroll-S.A. Roosevelt game, 6'10" Frontz was a factor inside, altering shots and had 13 points. Kaspar and Kelly both finished with 12 points for Carroll. Hutchinson of S.A. Roosevelt was his usual dominate self with 20 points and 15 rebounds.

In the other semi-finals contest, the Buffaloes of Fox Tech trailed by 9 points early in the 3rd quarter, but outscored the Stingarees 13-4 to tie the score at 33 apiece. Finally, Fox Tech took a 49-47 lead with 13 seconds left in the game. With 11 seconds left, Victoria went to the line to shoot a one and one but missed the front end, and that was the game. All-State guard, Mike Ehlers fouled out for Victoria with 2:39 left in the game and finished with 19 points. Wes Cook added 13 points. Fox Tech won the rebound edge 52-35, with both teams using full-court presses. For Fox Tech, it was their first trip to regionals.

In the regional finals played at the Blossom Center, C.C. Carroll and S.A. Fox Tech would both be playing for their first trip to Austin. A San Antonio school had won five of the previous seven regional IV titles. Once again, it was the Tigers big man, Steve Frontz, who led the way finishing with 20 points and 10 rebounds. Carroll advanced to state with a 48-45 victory. The penetrating point guard, Darnell Williams of Fox Tech, only managed 2 of 19 from the floor. Carroll won the rebound battle 38-33 and Fox Tech forced 19 Carroll turnovers, while the Tigers forced 17.

State Tournament

Midland	(32-3)	#3	71.6-54.9	+16.7
Spring Branch	(39-1)	#2	65.3-51.0	+14.3
Houston Wheatley	(39-1)	#1	108.5-80.6	+27.9
Corpus Christi Carroll	(32-4)	#13	70.0-45.0	+25.0

Top Five Players at the State Tournament

6'6"	Eddie Owens	Houston Wheatley
6'9"	Ronald Taylor	Midland
6'7"	Michael Long	Houston Wheatley

6'7"	Steve Jones	Houston Wheatley
6'0"	Willie Davis	Houston Wheatley

In state, the semi-finals game between Houston Wheatley and C.C. Carroll had two teams with significantly different styles of play. Wheatley played racehorse basketball, up and down the court while Carroll was very deliberate, passing up shots to maintain a slow tempo. Danny Kaspar was the key player for Carroll in their quest to upset Wheatley. Danny shared his thoughts leading up to the big game. "We had tremendous respect for Wheatley and their tradition, practices that week leading up to the game were intense and competitive. We worked hard getting ready for the Wheatley press going against six defense players."

Coach Mike Kunstadt's team got the tempo the way they wanted and held Wheatley to a season low point total. Unfortunately, the results were not what they wanted losing 70-60. Carroll's guards, Danny Kaspar and Nellis Kelly scored 22 apiece, to keep the Tigers close. But Carroll struggled against the Wheatley's press with 15 turnovers, compared to 5 for Wheatley. At halftime, Wheatley was up 36-30. Carroll sunk 18 of 21 free throws to Wheatley's 6 out of 10. Kaspar of Carroll was 12 of 13 from the foul line. The game was much closer than people expected. Carroll passed up a dozen wide open eight to 10-foot shots, plus several two on one and three-on-one fast breaks. The Tigers upset the Wildcats high paced tempo. The only time Wheatley had been held in the 70s during the season was against their old rival, Spring Branch Memorial, who had held the Wildcats to only 78 points. Memorial had lost to Wheatley 78-66, in the finals of the Arlington Classic. Twice in the last few minutes of the game, C.C. Carroll got within five points, only see the Wildcats go into their keep away delay game, that made Carroll chase. Wheatley's scoring parade was led by Owens with 23 points and 9 rebounds, Steven Jones had 14 points, Michael Long pitched in 11, Reese had 10 and Willie Davis finished with 9 points.

Looking back on his team's effort against Wheatley, Kaspar remarked, "We really did a pretty good job against the Wheatley press, what hurt us was their tremendous size and athleticism, we gave up too many multiple shots on the offensive end."

In the other semi-final game, Spring Branch just couldn't handle Midland's pressure and size inside, as the Bulldogs shocked the Bears, opening up 23-9 first period lead, and a 41-21 halftime lead. Most observers felt the game would be close, with the game being a tossup. Spring Branch countered with a press of their own late in the first quarter, but pressing was not the Bear's forte. Spring Branch, like C.C. Carroll wanted to control tempo. With 1:25 remaining in the 3rd quarter, the Bulldogs were up by 25 points. Taylor fouled out with four minutes remaining in the game, which signaled a Spring Branch rally. The pressing Bears got the lead down to 60-51 with 1:23 left in the game. Midland walked away with convincing, 66-53 victory over the once beaten Bears. For Midland, Taylor was dominating

with 17 points and 18 rebounds and Eddie Herring finished with 17 points. Spring Branch was paced by Burton with 14 points, Knust and Hargrave both had only 11 points for the Bears. "The press helped us come back and we should have gone to it sooner. The big boy(Taylor) hurt us on the boards, but that Herring was the one that surprised us with his scoring. I think we worked too much on stopping Taylor and not Herring and the others," Spring Branch coach, Charlie Turnbough said after the game.

Houston Wheatley(40-1) faced Midland(33-3) for the class 4-A state championship. Both teams had lost in the state semi-finals the previous season. Wheatley would force 29 turnovers by Midland, but the Bulldogs dominated the boards with a 63-45 advantage. The Wildcats were up by 10 entering the 4th quarter when disaster struck for Midland. With 7:48 remaining in the game, Taylor picked up his 4th foul. Wheatley had five players which were 6'7" or taller, so foul trouble was never a problem. For Midland, this was critical. 6'7" Michael Long had earlier blocked three of Taylor shots inside. Wheatley went on to win a very close game 84-78. Owens finished with 31 points and 11 rebounds, Jones 17 points and 14 rebounds, McKelvy 12 points, Davis had 12 and Long was held to only 4 points. For Midland, Taylor hit 32 points and Ray had 26 and Herring finished with 10 points. The 6'10" Taylor finished the game with 24 rebounds and had taken his team to state two years in a row. Wheatley had matched the Class AAAA record, set by the legendary Pampa teams of the 1950s with their fourth state title.

After the game, Wheatley Coach, Jackie Carr commented, "I didn't expect for them to be as quick as they were." Carr also said he felt like Houston Yates, a team Wheatley had beaten three times during the regular season, had a better overall team. Carr said, "Ronald Taylor was a great player."

Jackie Carr had very high praise for his super star, Eddie Owens. "He is the best high school player I've ever coached or ever seen play." Of course, that included two former high school All-Americans, Dwight Jones and Jerry Bonney. Both Jones and Bonney went on to star at the University of Houston and Jones in the NBA. St. Petersburg, Florida named the All-American team for 1973 and Eddie Owens and junior, Earl Evans, were among the top 25 players in the country named to the squad. Basketball Weekly, one of the most credible newsletters in the country, named Owens to their All-American team. These were the 30 top players in the country. Interestingly, on the Basketball Weekly special mention list, was Dan Van Rheen of Deer Park and Phil Davis of Houston Kashmere. Owens was considered one of the top five recruits in the country. Larry Cooper, longtime coach at Humble, said in 1992, "Owens is the best player to ever come through Houston in my opinion." Street & Smith Magazine said in their 1974 pre-season issue, "Owens was the best of ten major college prospects on a perennial Texas powerhouse." **Eddie Owens was a Texas Legend.**

One of the more knowledgeable coaches in the state during this period was Jerry Stone of Richardson, who described Owens as follows, “he was an amazing athlete, I’d never seen anything like him, he just glided across the court, and he was so smooth. When you saw him play you just thought about the N.B.A. and his ability.” In 1973, Owens had been seeking redemption, after being thrown out of the 1971 state championship game as a sophomore for a flagrant foul. He lost to Dallas Roosevelt in the state semi-finals in 1972 after scoring 31 points. Wheatley not only had impressive personnel, but had terrific results, scoring over 100 points 33 times during the season. Coach Carr’s team averaged 108.5 points per game, which is incredible in a 32-minute-high school game. Also, remember there was no three-point line to enhance the scoring.

In my interview with Carr in 2004, he was asked how his 1973 squad rates against his 1970 team, which has been considered by many as the greatest team in Texas High School history. “The 1973 team was so much deeper. If you took the top five players from both teams and played them against each other, the 1970 team may win, I don’t know, but when you play all 15 players, the 1973 team would win by 20.”

Wheatley had won four titles in six seasons. No school would ever duplicate this achievement in the largest classification in Texas. The Dwight Jones “era” if you will, 1968 through 1970, finished 102-2 and three straight titles. The Owens era, 1971 through 1973, finished with three trips to the state tournament and one title and a 117-9 record. Both groups claimed national championships, 1970 and 1973. A lot of people forget one of the top N.F.L. cornerbacks of his generation played on the championship team in 1973. 6’3” Lester Hayes, who would go on to fame with the Oakland Raiders and was named All-Pro, was a player on the title team. Can you imagine Lester deeing you up on the full court? As Carr said, “The depth was unbelievable.”

As for the college careers, Wheatley players had several go on to play at the next level. Owens of course was the most recruited and one of the prized recruits in the state’s long history. Jerry Tarkanian had just moved from Long Beach St., where he had established one of the top programs in the country to U.N.L.V. In 1973, he brought to U.N.L.V the top recruiting class in the nation. Owens, who was fully expected to join Dwight Jones at the University of Houston, surprised everybody by signing with the Running Rebels. Owens was named All-American, and led the Rebels to the final four his senior year. 6’7” Steve Jones went another direction and played for Shelby Metcalf at Texas A&M and was All-Southwest Conference. Barry Dowd of UT-Arlington, recruited 6’7” Michael Long, 6’7” Robert Jammer and 5’10” Willie Davis — to play on the Texas Hall stage for the Mavericks. The physically imposing Long had sometimes been referred to as the backbone of the Wheatley team. At 6’7”, he was an imposing figure. Wendell McKelvey, the quarterback of Wheatley’s fast break, signed with Guy Lewis and the University of

Houston. Very few teams in Texas history rival the talent level of Wheatley in 1973. Carr used to joke about how they could have won the Southwest Conference. The only teams in the 1970s that rival this talent level would be Wheatley in 1970 and Kashmere in 1975. Wheatley finished 39-0 and Kashmere was 46-0.

In discussing his guards on the 1973 team, Wendall McKelvey and Willie Davis, Carr commented, "They may have been the best two guards we ever had on one team, but it's hard to say. They were so quick. We had guards as quick earlier under Coach Briggs, but we didn't press back then."

Asked about his team averaging 108 points per game with no three-point line, Carr said, "We would take and shoot it. If they would have had the three-point line, we might have averaged 200 points per game." Carr explained while laughing.

The **All-Tournament** team consisted of Eddie Owens, Willie Davis, Steve Jones of Wheatley, Ronald Taylor of Midland, Kenneth Ray of Midland and Danny Kaspar of Corpus Christi Carroll.

Visit with Eddie Owens:

Owens was one of the most celebrated basketball players ever in Texas U.I.L. history. He was the key figure on three of the great Wheatley teams of the 1970s. After graduating from High School, Eddie took visits to Texas Tech, Texas A&M, University of Houston and had his choice of any college in the country. His college decision was the University of Nevada at Las Vegas or better known as U.N.L.V. Jerry Tarkanian was the new head man in Vegas. With the Running Rebels, Tarkanian brought in the top recruiting class in the nation. Eddie's reason for signing with U.N.L.V. was simple, he wanted to see other parts of the country and felt Tarkanian was putting together a winning program. "I felt like it would help me grow as a person," Owens said. When asked if any schools offered gifts or money as recruitment tools, Eddie had no response. "I was very confident that I would be playing in the N.B.A. so I put everything in one basket so to speak." Eddie did receive his degree in sociology in 1979, but said he was never able to take advantage of the degree in the work place. Although Eddie was named All-American his senior season and led his team to the NCAA final four in 1977, he was very bitter about his last two seasons with the Running Rebels. "Tarkanian limited my minutes my last two seasons at U.N.L.V., and I was still the leading scorer. I only played 14 minutes in the semi-final game against North Carolina." Upon entering the N.B.A. Eddie was shocked he was not drafted in the first round. He was the 31st pick in the N.B.A. draft by the Kansas City Kings. "I felt real good about everything at camp but they put me on waivers," Owens said. After Eddie returned to Houston, Billy Knight had been injured with the Buffalo Braves and he played the same style as Owens. The Braves gave Eddie a 10-day contract and he played out his option. The next season the franchise had moved to San Diego and was

renamed the Clippers. Also, the franchise changed coaches from Cotton Fitzsimmons to Gene Shue. Owens was released by the Kings after training camp and traveled to Rochester, New York to play in the C.B.A. Eddie felt if Fitzsimmons would have remained head coach he would have made the team. In the C.B.A., Owens played well averaging 26 point a game. He injured his knee and decided to give up the game and return to Houston. "Everything was so political in the N.B.A., you had to be connected," Owens commented. "If I had known everything you had to go through in the pros, I wouldn't have played basketball. I had a bad taste in my mouth, just ready to give the game up." A short time later, Owens was contacted by Switzerland about playing overseas, but he turned the offer down. Years later, Eddie said he really regretted that decision. Owens and Tarkanian had a poor relationship and Eddie felt that was the reason he went in the second round of the draft. His college coach had given him a bad rap to the N.B.A. teams, which lowered his draft status. Eddie was very confused about why he went so low in the draft. He had played in the Pizza Hut College All-Star game following the season, with the top players in the country and had received the M.V.P. trophy. Several of these players had gone in the first round of the NBA draft, but not Eddie. Owens had seriously thought about going hardship and not playing his last year at U.N.L.V. The Supersonics had shown a lot of interest, but were going to take him in the second round, so Eddie decided to stay and improve his draft status. After his sophomore year, Eddie considered transferring schools. When asked about his high school Coach, Eddie responded, "Coach Carr was a good coach, very solid, he knew how to play the right players together to get the best results," When asked about Wheatley's only loss his senior year, Owens commented that the gym was very hostile environment in Beaumont. The referees kept the game close throughout against Beaumont Charlton Pollard and when Eddie took the Wildcats last shot of the game for the win, he was mugged. "I could have won the game at the line but the referees never made the call." Having played with some of the best guards in Wheatley's long history of great basketball, I questioned Eddie to compare his teammates. "Offensively I would have to say Gaylord Davis was the best although Cecil Dutton was a great streak shooter." Owens continued, "Defensively, Willie Davis and Willie McKelvey were very quick. Clarence Johnson was a great ball handler and distributor. All these guys made me look good with all their steals and passes for easy baskets." When asked about the best player he faced in high school, Eddie said, "Ira Terrell of Roosevelt, he was very solid and one of the best." "One of the best athletes I ever saw was George Walker of Yates, he was something." In 2012, Eddie was inducted into the U.N.L.V. Hall of Fame. Eddie lost his wife a few years ago, and presently lives in Houston. He is not in the best of health but his life revolves around his church. He said he feels very blessed and fortunate with his life.

1973 State Rankings AAAA{End of Regular Season}

1. Houston Wheatley	36-1	6'6" Eddie Owens(28.5), 6'7" Michael Long(14.0)
2. Spring Branch	36-1	6'3" Jim Burton(14.8), 6'6" Mark Kenust(10.0)
3. Midland High	28-3	6'10" Ronald Taylor(23.2), 6'4" Eddie Herring
4. El Paso Austin	28-3	6'7" Frank Ingo, 5'10" Alan Holly
5. Irving High	28-3	6'6" Tommy Weilert(31.1), 6'5" James Scott
6. San Antonio Roosevelt	28-3	6'7" Tom Hutchinson(16.8), Gary Snowden(13.6)
7. San Antonio Fox Tech	28-3	6'4" Walter Kemper(21.1), 6'4" C. Simpson(17.0)
8. El Paso Burgess	26-3	6'1" Jake Poole, Roger Sparrow, David Montoya
9. Victoria	31-4	6'1" Mike Ehlers(21.8), 6'1" Maurice Callis
10. Dallas Spruce	30-4	6'3" Steve Dunn(23.0), 6'2" Otis Darrough(18.0)
11. Midland Lee	29-4	6'3" Melvin Jackson, 6'6" Steve Cromwell.
12. S.A. Brackenridge	29-4	6'4" Arthur Edwards(17.0), 6'3" Darrell Scruggs(19.0)
13. Corpus Christi Carroll	29-4	6'10" Steve Frontz(11.8), 6'3" Danny Kaspar(14.9)
14. Highland Park	28-4	6'3" Bob Arnold(23.2), David Coker
15. Pt. Arthur Lincoln	27-4	6'6" Earl Evans(30.2), 6'0" Kervin Eli(10.0)
16. Bryan	26-4	6'4" Joe Buchanan(20.7), 6'1" Milton Mitchell(15.4)
17. Borger	25-4	Russell Dickson, Bobo Jackson
18. San Antonio Jefferson	27-5	6'5" Bill Bryden, 6'4" Dennis Wayne
19. El Paso High	26-5	Carlos Palacio
20. Beaumont Ch.-Pollard	28-6	6'0" Kenneth Minkins(20.2), 6'1" Mark Durden(16.2)

All-State Teams: Sports Writers 1st team-6'6" Eddie Owens(28.5) Houston Wheatley, 6'9" Ronald Taylor(23.8) Midland, 6'7" Danny Van Rheen(24.5) Deer Park, 6'2" Marcellus Abney(28.0) Dallas Roosevelt, 6'2" Hank Baueerschlag(29.1), Clear Creek; **2nd team-** 6'7" Earl Evans(30.2) Pt. Arthur Lincoln, 6'9" Gary McGuire(32.0) Dallas Kimball, 6'8" Tommy Weilert(31.0) Irving High, 6'2" Roy Leggett(23.0) San Antonio Kennedy, 6'3" Tate Armstrong(26.2) Houston Spring Woods; **3rd team-**6'7" Michael Long(14.0) Houston Wheatley, 6'4" LeRoy Bauerwald(26.0) New Braunfels, 6'4" Steve McLaughlin(30.8) Richardson Pearce, 5'10" Willie Davis(13.9) Houston Wheatley, 6'0" Kenneth Minkins(23.0) Beaumont Charlton Pollard:

The Sports Writers always did a great job in their selections and the entire state was well represented. Some of the scoring averages were inflated due to the fact they were District averages as opposed to season results. Owens was one of the few big school players ever named on three All-State teams during his high school career by the Sports Writers. Sammy Hervey, from Dallas Crozier Tech in 1968, 69, 70; Larry Davis of Lufkin in 1979, 80, 81; Larry Johnson of Dallas Skyline in 1985, 86 ,87 were also named three time All-State players. Wheatley was well represented on the All-State team with three players, Owens(1st), Long(3rd) and Davis(3rd). The 1970 Wheatley team had three players named to the 1st team, which was the only time in the state's history that has happened. Dwight Jones, Lawrence Johnson and Allen Batro were all 1st team. South Oak Cliff in 1974, would have three players named, Charles McMillian(1st), Larry Harris(1st) and

Kenneth Williams(2nd). Kashmere had four players named all-state in 1975, Karl Godine(1st), Jarvis Williams(1st), Carl Byrd(2nd) and Madison Lane(3rd). That was the only time anybody has had four players named all-state. Today the TABC All-State team recognizes the top twenty players in the state and all are named 1st team, because there is no distinction made about teams. On my Texpreps All-State teams that have come out since 2006, I still use the three-team format that was used by the Sports Writers. Guess I am old school in that regard. Also, the TABC teams sometimes are very political in that coaches on the committees usually have first say in who is named to the all-region and all-state teams. The TABC does a much better job today selecting the All-State teams than in the mid-1970s, when they began naming their squads. The committee system is the best way to handle the selection process, especially in such a big state. The Amarillo Chamber of Commerce Honored Eddie Owens as Texas high school "Player of the Year." The Texas Coaches Association would not allow Owens to play in the Associations All-Star game because of his hair length and sideburns. Michael Long also rejected the invite for the same reasons. Owens played in the most prestigious All-Star game during that period, called the Dapper Dan in Pittsburgh and had 17 points and 10 rebounds. With the best players in the country playing, he was still dominating.

Recruits: **Eddie Owens**(28.5) of Houston Wheatley was one of the top recruits in country signed with U.N.L.V. 6'3" **Tate Armstrong**(26.2) of Houston Spring Woods played at Duke and averaged 22.7 points and was the #13 pick overall by the Bulls. He played two years in the N.B.A. and made the U.S.A. Olympic team in 1976, back when the U.S. sent amateurs to the games. 6'2" **Hank Bauerschlag**(29.1) of Clear Creek played at Texas. 6'9" **Ronald Taylor**(23.8) of Midland played at Nebraska and later Midwestern in Wichita Falls. 6'3" **Steve Dunn**(23.0) of Dallas Spruce was a starter at Texas Tech. "Steve probably would have blossomed more in another system," teammate Rick Bullock commenting on Dunn's college career at Tech. "We were so disciplined and Steve's offensive skills were limited sometimes because we were a half court team." 6'6" **Grant Dukes**(23.5) of Levelland averaged 14.4 at Texas Tech and was a standout for the Red Raiders. 6'1" **Keith Kitchens** of Hereford also started for the Red Raiders. 6'7" **Michael Long**(14.0) of Houston Wheatley played for U.T. Arlington and averaged 15.7 points as a freshmen and 7.9 rebound. He then transferred to Texas Southern and won a NAIA National Championship. 6'7" **Robert Jammer** and 6'0" **Willie Davis**(13.9) both from Wheatley went to U.T. Arlington and later transferred. 6'2" **Huey Smith**(29.0) of Houston Lincoln signed with Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa and later transferred to Houston Baptist. 6'9" **Gary McGuire**(32.0) signed with Baylor and had a solid career, 6'2" **Marcellus Abney**(26.1) of Dallas Roosevelt committed to U.T. Arlington. 6'7" **Steve Jones** of Houston Wheatley was All-SWC for the Aggies of Texas A&M, 6'3" **Billy Carlisle** of Clear Lake played for Baylor and played solid

minutes, 6'3" **Billy Arnold**(23.2) of Highland Park and 6'3" **Pete Lodwick**(16.0) of Richardson both played at S.M.U. Lodwick led the Mustangs in scoring his senior year with a 13.6 average and Arnold was the second leading scorer. 6'9" **Tom Hutchinson**(16.8) of S.A. Roosevelt signed with Baylor along with 6'1" **John Coulter** of Arlington High. 6'5" **Ed Johnson** of Ft. Worth Poly played for the Longhorns averaging 8.5, 6'8" **Tommy Weilert**(31.0) of Irving played at Texas, 6'5" **James Price** played at Texas, 6'1" **Jake Poole** of El Paso Burgess led U.T.E.P. his junior and senior seasons in scoring averaging 13.8 for the Miners. Lamar University had a nice collection of players sign with them, 6'8" **Pat Bardwell** and 6'3" **Steve Lewis** of Houston Mt. Carmel, and 6'0" **Kenneth Minkins**(22.6) of Beaumont Charlton-Pollard. 6'8" **Pat Lave** of Dallas Bishop Lynch was a standout at Texas A&M Commerce, 6'7" **Ceasor Holmes** of Wheatley played at Prairie View A&M, 6'8" **Phillip Sewell** of San Antonio Alamo Heights played at North Texas, 6'1" **Larry Spruill** of Petrolia played at North Texas, 6'8" **T.J. Robinson** of Detroit signed with North Texas, 6'3" **Danny Kaspar**(14.0) of C.C. Carroll played at North Texas, 6'3" **Dennis Stanka**(16.8) of Corpus Christi King played at S.M.U., 6'3" **Norvell Miles** of South Oak Cliff played for North Texas. 6'5" **Robert Reid**(10.0) of Schertz Clemens played for St. Mary's in San Antonio and was the 40th pick in the NBA draft by the Rockets, he played 14 years in the Association and in two NBA finals. 6'7" **Danny Van Rheen**(24.5) of Deer Park played at Missouri for Norm Stewart. 6'10" **Steve Frontz** from Corpus Christi Carroll was All-Conference at Southwest Texas State, better known today as Texas State. 6'8" **Eric Bartlett** of Humble played at Southwest Texas St. in San Marcos.

One of the top recruits in 1973 came out of Yates High School in Houston. Yates was a hot bed of recruiting talent. **George "Stretch" Campbell** was a 6'4" guard, who was being persuaded by several schools throughout the country. This was unusual back in the 1970s in Texas. Most recruiting was done regionally. Stretch had a 46" vertical jump and was talented in many aspects of the game. Campbell was recruited by North Carolina State, who had just finished an undefeated season going 27-0. The Wolfpack were ineligible for the NCAA tournaments 1973 and would eventually end U.C.L.A.'s championship title run in 1974. The team was led by one of the most explosion players ever to play college basketball, David Thompson. Stretch said in hindsight he always wishes he would have attended college at North Carolina State, so he could have played with Thompson. Instead he followed a good friend from Yates out to Texas Tech, to play with the Red Raiders. Tech was coached by Gerald Myers, who was highly respected and a tough hardnosed coach, who demanded discipline and above all else, defense. Campbell's good friend from Yates was 6'6" Toothpick Johnson. He was called Toothpick because he always had a toothpick in his mouth. He even tried to play basketball with it in his mouth, but the coaches strongly discouraged him from doing so. When Stretch showed up at Tech, he was driving a new car.

Several of the Tech players noticed his mode of transportation. Stretch was not highly motivated to attend classes and one day in practice, Coach Myers got on to him about his effort in one the team's drills. Stretch said Myers called him a "boy" which did not sit well with him. Stretch said he just shut down and then was told to get his "black ass" moving. He left the court and with it the end of his college career with the Red Raiders. Of course, they're always two sides to a story. We will be unable to hear the other side, but from Stretch's point of view this is what happened. When I asked Texas Tech legend, Rick Bullock about Stretch he responded, "He was very likable and talented but he wasn't real disciplined. He wasn't going to last long under Myers." "I think he could have been an asset to the program with his talent." When asked about "Stretch's" mode of transportation, Bullock said, "I noticed he was driving a new car." Campbell's journey was typical of a lot of young African American players during the 70s. A great talent who was unable to take advantage of his educational opportunities. Campbell ended up at Tyler Junior College, where many of the great talents played during the 1970s. The Junior College circuit had an incredible array of talent. Following his junior college career, Stretch finished up at Prairie View A&M. He went to camp with the Jazz and was cut, and ended up in Germany, and later played with the Globe Trotters. Looking back at Stretch's basketball career, this was probably more the norm than the exception in college athletics. Young athletes trying to transition into major universities and showing the lack of discipline needed to attend class and take constructive criticism.

Top Texas Recruits in 1973 based on their college and pro careers:			
#Robert Reid 6'3"	Schertz Clemens	St. Mary's at San Antonio	<u>NBA Rock #40</u>
#Tate Armstrong 6'3"	Spring Woods	Duke, Olympian 24.2, 4.4 Asst.*	<u>NBA Bulls #13</u>
Eddie Owens 6'7"	Houston Wheatley	U.N.L.V, All-American 23.4	<u>NBA Kings #31</u>
Steve Jones 6'7"	Houston Wheatley	Texas A&M All-SWC 16.6/4.9*	
Grant Dukes 6'6"	Levelland	Texas Tech, starter 14.4/6.0	
Jake Poole 6'1"	El Paso Burgess	U.T.E.P., All-WAC 13.9*	
Ed Johnson 6'5"	Ft. Worth Poly	Texas, starter 8.5/5.1	
Steve Dunn 6'3"	Dallas Spruce	Texas Tech, starter 6.1	
Pete Lodwick 6'3"	Richardson	S.M.U., starter 13.6/4.0	
Kenneth Minkins 6'1"	Beaumont Pollard	Lamar Uni. Starter 9.5/ 2.0 ast	
(*All-Conference)			

All-Americans: Scholastic Magazine-Eddie Owens, Basketball Weekly(Top 30)-Eddie Owens, Popular Sports Pre-Season-Eddie Owens, Street & Smith Pre-Season-Eddie Owens, Street & Smith-Freshmen of Influence(Nations Top 15 incoming Freshmen)-Eddie Owens. Honorable Mention Basketball Weekly-Dan Van Rheen, Deer Park and Phillip Davis of Kashmere. Coach and Athlete Magazine Sunkist Growers All-American team. (Top 100)-Eddie Owens, Houston Wheatley; Gary McGuire, Dallas Kimball, Huey Smith, Houston Lincoln; Danny Van Rheen, Deer

Park; Honorable Mention- Mike Ehlers of Victoria, Steve Dunn of Dallas Spruce, Michael Long and Steve Jones of Houston Wheatley:

National Rankings: Houston Wheatley(43-1) #1 National Sports News Service tied with Los Angeles Verbum Dei(29-2);

State Leaders: Wheatley finished the season averaging 108.5 points per game and set the State record at the time before the addition of the three-point shot.

Wheatley was also #1 in point differential with 28.0 per game, followed closely by Corpus Christi Carroll at 25.0. Top defensive team was Corpus Christi Carroll at 45.0. Leading scorers in the state were, Earl Evans(30.2) of Pt. Arthur Lincoln and Hank Bauerchlag(29.1) of Clear Lake. All types of numbers were being thrown around when discussing Huey Smith of Houston Lincoln, some as high as 36 points per game. Top rebounder was a junior from South Garland named John Derrick 18.3/20.2. Derrick would have led the state in blocked shots as well had the stats been kept. He once shattered a backboard in a dunking contest in college.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs: Eddie Owens, Houston Wheatley averaged 30.0 per game in the playoffs; Worthing(34), Galveston Ball(37), Pt. Arthur Lincoln(25), Corpus Christi Carroll(23), Midland(31):

Power Rankings

1. Houston Wheatley	41-1	105.15	State Champs 4-A	Def. Midland +6
2. Midland	32-4	93.49	State Finals 4-A	Loss Wheatley -6
3. Spring Branch	39-2	88.88	State Semis 4-A	Loss Midland -13
4. Corpus Christi Carroll	32-5	88.06	State Semis 4-A	Loss Wheatley -10
5. Dallas South Oak Cliff	30-6	86.91	Reg. Finals 4-A	Loss Spr. Branch -8
6. Irving	27-5	86.60	Reg. Finals 4-A	Loss Midland -14

The Power Ratings rating look pretty solid. You would have to agree with Wheatley being Double digit favorites over anybody they faced in the state during the 1973 season. Midland clearly showed that they were the second best team in the state.

A team that should have advanced to the State Tournament in Austin? This was a time when all the top teams advanced to the state tournament.

1973 4-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso Austin(28-3) #4	45	El Paso High(26-5) #19	42
	Midland(29-3) #3	64	Ft. Worth Richland(26-6)	50
	Irving(26-4) #5	84	Highland Park(30-4) #14	80
	Lubbock Monterey(23-9)	49	Amarillo Tascosa(20-12)	39
Region I Semis	Midland(30-3) #3	47	El Paso Austin(29-3) #4	41
	Irving High(27-4) #5	60	Lubbock Monterey(24-9)	42
Region I Finals	Midland(31-3) #3	71	Irving(28-4) #5	57
Region II Bi-Dist.	Ft. Worth Poly(28-5)	52	Ft. Worth Southwest	50
	Dallas S.O.C.(28-5)	79	Dallas Spruce(30-4) #10	71
	Richardson(24-9)	48	Lufkin(32-3)	42
	Spring Branch(36-1) #2	44	Bryan(26-4) #16	42
Region II Semis	Spring Branch(37-1) #2	58	Richardson(25-9)	48
	Dallas S.O.C.(29-5)	89	Ft. Worth Poly(29-5)	85
Region II Finals	Spring Branch(38-1) #2	59	Dallas S.O.C.(30-5)	51
Region III Bi-Dist.	Galveston Ball(26-10)	57	Deer Park(24-9)	52
	Houston Wheatley(36-1) #1	113	Houston Worthing(22-18)	84
	Houston Smiley(25-10)	47	Houston Kashmere(27-10)	45
	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(27-4) #15	75	Beaumont Pollard(29-6) #20	65
Region III Semis	Houston Wheatley(37-1) #1	119	Galveston Ball(27-10)	93
	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(28-4) #15	83	Houston Smiley(26-10)	45
Region III Finals	Houston Wheatley(38-1) #1	87	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-4) #15	73
Region IV Bi-Dist.	SA Fox Tech(28-3) #7	73	SA Jefferson(27-5) #18	69
	SA Roosevelt(28-3) #6	59	SA Brackenridge(29-4) #12	48
	Victoria(31-4) #9	48	Austin Crockett(16-11)	41
	C.C. Carroll(29-4) #13	56	McAllen(30-4)	39
Region IV Semis	SA Fox Tech(29-3) #7	51	Victoria(32-4) #9	47
	C.C. Carroll(30-4) #13	51	SA Roosevelt(29-3) #6	49
Region IV Finals	C.C. Carroll(31-4) #13	48	SA Fox Tech(30-3) #7	45
State Semi-Finals	Midland(32-3) #3	66	Spring Branch(39-1) #2	53
	Houston Wheatley(39-1) #1	70	C.C. Carroll(32-4) #13	60
State Finals	Houston Wheatley(40-1) #1	84	Midland(33-3) #3	78

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1973 AAAA Top 50}

1. Houston Wheatley	41-1	{One of the greatest teams of all-time}
2. Midland	33-4	{only loss by six to Wheatley}
3. Pt. Arthur Lincoln	29-5	{Earl Evans was a high school legend}
4. Spring Branch	39-2	{beat Victoria, Deer Park, Memorial, Bryan and S.O.C.}
5. Bryan	26-5	{lost at the buzzer to Spring Branch in Bi-District 44-42}
6. Dallas South Oak Cliff	30-6	{Tied for District with Roosevelt, split vs. Spruce}
7. Dallas Spruce	30-5	{beat Roosevelt 97-94, split with S.O.C.}
8. Midland Lee	29-5	{finished 1-2 against Midland in district}
9. Corpus Christi Carroll	32-5	{loss to Wheatley by 10 in the state semis}
10. Dallas Roosevelt	27-6	{tied S.O.C. or district, 1-2 vs. SOC, loss to Spruce 97-94}
11. Beaumont Charlton Pollard	29-7	{beat Wheatley by one, no matter why or how}
12. Ft. Worth Poly	29-6	{lost to S.O.C. 89-85 in the regional semis}
13. Corsicana	22-6	{beat Irving by 2, loss to Midland by 4}
14. Irving	28-5	{lost to S.O.C. by 2, lost in regional finals Midland 71-57}
15. El Paso Austin	29-4	{beat Midland in regular season by 7, loss by 6 in Playoffs}
16. Highland Park	30-5	{lost in Bi-District to Irving 84-80}
17. Houston Yates	27-8	{three of their losses were to Wheatley -19, -14, -27}
18. Victoria	32-5	{beat Carroll in regular season, lost to Spring Branch by 1}
19. Ft. Worth Southwest		{Ft. Worth Poly beat them out in Bi-District 52-50}
20. El Paso High	26-6	{lost in Bi-District to E.P. Austin 45-42}
21. Dallas W.T. White	25-9	{split with Spruce in District, wins over H.P. & Richardson}
22. El Paso Burges	27-3	{finished 2nd in district at 8-2, both losses to E.P. Austin}
23. San Antonio Roosevelt	28-4	{lost in regional semis to Carroll 51-49}
24. San Antonio Fox Tech	29-4	{lost in regional finals to Carroll 48-45}
25. Galveston Ball	27-11	{went down in the regional semis to Wheatley 119-93}
26. Deer Park	24-10	{lost to Galveston Ball in Bi-District 57-52}
27. Richardson	25-10	{lost in the regional semi-finals to Spring Branch 58-48}
28. Lufkin	32-4	{fell to Richardson in Bi-District 48-42}
29. LaMarque	19-10	{lost a district playoff to Galveston Ball 80-75 in 24-AAAA}
30. Texas City	24-8	{finished 3rd in district, beat Spr. Branch 70-65, Ball 79-73}
31. Spring Branch Memorial	25-7	{tough district with Spring Branch, lost by 9 and 14 points}
32. Lubbock Monterey	24-10	{lost in Regional Semis 60-42 to Irving}
33. Ft. Worth Richland	26-6	{lost in Bi-District to Midland 64-50}
34. San Antonio Brackenridge	29-5	{lost in Bi-District to SA Roosevelt 59-48}
35. McAllen	30-5	{lost in Bi-District to C.C. Carroll 56-39}
36. Clear Lake	28-7	{district runner-up to Deer Park}
37. Amarillo Tascosa	20-13	{won a district playoff over Borger and Pampa to advance}
38. Borger	24-6	{lost a district elimination game to Tascosa 63-61}
39. Pampa	20-10	{lost a district playoff game to Tascosa 52-49 in 3-AAAA}
40. Houston Sterling	28-9	{finished third in district action behind, Wheatley & Yates}
41. Corpus Christi King	27-7	{beat C.C. Carroll 59-54, went 1-2 vs. Tigers on season}
42. Denton	19-11	{district runner-up to Highland Park}
43. Houston Reagan	29-8	{lost to Wheatley 98-87 in the semis in Jaycees tourne}
44. El Campo	28-6	{beat Corpus Christy Carroll 81-76 in regular season}
45. Corpus Christi Miller	23-8	{finishing 3rd to C.C. Carroll and C.C. King is district action}
46. San Antonio Jefferson	27-6	{lost in Bi-District to Fox Tech 73-69}
47. Houston Smiley	26-11	{destroyed in regional semi-finals by Pt. A.Lincoln 83-45}
48. Houston Kashmere	27-11	{lost in Bi-District to Houston Smiley 47-45}
49. Houston Washington	24-10	{finished in the top three in district 24-AAAA}
50. Austin Crockett	16-12	{lost in Bi-District to Victoria 48-41}

1974 AAAA

The 1974 season started out with the graduation of almost the entire Houston Wheatley basketball team, which had been around for three seasons. Since the integration of Texas schools in 1968, the Wildcats had dominated basketball in class 4-A and the state. The question was, could Wheatley continue its dominance. Most scouts agreed without question, the top player in the state, and one of the top players in the country was 6'6" Earl Evans(28.5/20.0), out of Pt. Arthur Lincoln. The Bumblebees would be the early season favorite to capture the state title, with a nice supporting cast.

The first real test of the season for the top teams in the state once again was the Arlington Classic, on the campus of U.T. Arlington. Spring Branch Memorial, Houston Westchester, Houston Wheatley, Dallas Roosevelt, Dallas South Oak Cliff were all present as usual. Houston Westchester got noticed, "big time" with their thumping of Houston Wheatley 98-78 in the semi-finals. Next up, Westchester disposed of Dallas S.O.C. in the finals 93-81, behind 31 points from 6'3" Dirk Hoyt and 20 from 6'8" Jeff Swanson. Hoyt went on the play at T.C.U. and Swanson played for Southern Methodist. This really changed the complexion of the state's top teams for the first time since 1968. Everybody knew Wheatley was down, comparatively speaking, but to beat perennial powers, Wheatley and South Oak Cliff convincingly in back to back games, it was surprising. Roosevelt took home the consolation trophy with a 100-82 victory over Ft. Worth Arlington Heights and Wheatley came back to take the third-place trophy, beating hometown Arlington(23-8) 91-68. For the Wildcats of Wheatley, Gary Reece scored 22 points, Robert Smith pitched in 12 points and James Hudson had 10. Arlington advanced to the semi-finals with their 50-48 win over Richardson. Dallas Roosevelt defeated Waltrip out of Houston 85-82 and S.O.C. defeated Spring Branch Memorial 80-60. Two of the top teams in the state met in the second round when Houston Westchester defeated a strong Denton team 75-64. In looking down the road to the playoffs, Houston Westchester was in Region II, so they would not have to compete against the Houston schools, but rather the Dallas schools. Other significant games were Richardson's shocking dismantling of Roosevelt 89-70. Denton beat Dallas Skyline 72-64. Westchester had defeated Denton, Wheatley and S.O.C. on their way to the Arlington Classic title.

S.O.C. and Denton were considered the favorites in the Dr. Pepper Classic. St. Marks surprised everybody defeating Richardson 77-59 and Dallas Thomas Jefferson 77-61, to reach the quarterfinals. Tom Ebner, a junior from St. Mark's, hit 25 points in his teams win over Richardson and Paul Collins was top dog against Thomas Jefferson with 25 points. S.O.C. cruised to wins over Dallas Kimball 67-50 and Dallas Sunset 87-45. W.T. White advanced to the quarterfinals with wins of

Plano and Lake Highlands 64-61 and 70-58. Denton advanced beating Garland 67-45 and Dallas Pinkston 74-67. The defending champion, Dallas Spruce defeated Dallas Lincoln and Rockwall 72-68 and 78-47. Highland Park continued their success in the Dr. Pepper tournament defeating Dallas Roosevelt 76-75 and Irving 47-44. Dallas Carter made the quarterfinals defeating Irving MacArthur 60-57 and Dallas Adamson 45-44.

The matchups were as follows- Denton vs. Highland Park; St. Marks vs. W.T. White; South Garland vs Dallas Spruce; Dallas Carter vs. Dallas South Oak Cliff. The Scots continued their series of upsets defeating Denton 59-53. W.T. White blistered St. Marks 70-48. Donald Banks had 22 points for the Longhorns and Walt Louis finished with 19 points and his brother Alex, hit 17 points. The Colonels of South Garland were awesome behind the efforts of 6'7" John Derrick. The Colonels continued their winning defeating Spruce 72-49. John Derrick turned in the stellar performance of the tournament with 24 points, 20 rebounds and 7 blocks. Marty Nichols had 22 points and 16 assists for South Garland. S.O.C. took out Dallas Carter 118-79. In the Golden Bears win, Kenneth Williams hit 27 points, Edwin Webb had 17, and Charles McMillian finished with 14. In the consolation bracket, Richardson beat Plano 74-64, Lincoln dropped Samuel 69-54, and Kimball came out on top against Irving MacArthur 68-59.

In the semi-finals, Highland Park finally had an easy win beating W.T. White 81-57. Charles Bradley led the Scots with 14 points and Alex Louis finished with 18 for W.T. White. S.O.C.(19-3) proved too much for South Garland 100-79, despite 6'7" John Derrick's 41 points. Charles McMillian hit 34 points for S.O.C. and Larry Harris followed with 25. In other games in the consolation bracket, Roosevelt clobbered Richardson 87-67 and Kimball took down Dallas Lincoln 72-64. Harlan Hill had 31 points in the Roosevelt win and Gerald Walton paced Kimball with 20 points. Derrick of South Garland really left an impression on Charles McMillian and Kenneth Williams of S.O.C. Years later both agreed he was one of the best players they ever played against in high school. Kenneth Williams of S.O.C. said, "Eddie Owens was phenomenal but I still would have to say Derrick was the best I played against in high school." McMillian echoed Williams, "you couldn't stop him inside."

In the championship game, S.O.C. showed they were in a league of their own, easily defeating Highland Park 96-75. Charles McMillian poured in 40 points and 6'6" Kenneth Williams finished with 23 points and received the M.V.P. Award. Larry Harris showed his quickness with 5 steals for the Golden Bears. McMillian's points came on soft jumpers from 15 to 20 feet out. Jimmy Gales said after the contest, "If he's hitting, he'll hit every shot they give him. You can't give him those shots." Charles Bradley paced the Scots with 14 points. Highland Park's big front line of 6'6" Danny Houpts, 6'5" Robby Thomas and 6'6" Tom Somerville was unable to stay with the Golden Bears. South Garland took 3rd place behind the brilliant play of John Derrick and his 25 points. The Colonels beat the Longhorns of W.T.

White 55-46. Roosevelt captured consolation 91-81 over Kimball. Leffall hit 25 points for Mustangs in the win.

The All-Tournament team was made up of three players from S.O.C., Harris, Williams and McMillian. Robby Thomas and Charles Bradley from Highland Park, John Derrick of South Garland, Donald Bank of W.T. White, James Leffall of Roosevelt, Erwin Cox of Kimball, Paul Collins of St. Marks, Lawrence Chaffin of Irving MacArthur and 6'7" Bob Horbeck of Richardson.

DeWitt Clinton out of New York City was the featured attraction at the 1973 Dr. Pepper shootout in Houston. This was the second year of the two-game affair, where the top teams in Houston would face the top teams in the state and in this case, the nation. DeWitt was the defending New York City champions. After watching Houston Wheatley square off against Pt. Arthur Lincoln in one of the early games, DeWitt's coach, John Wyles said, "I can't believe it. They just don't play basketball like this in New York City. We've never seen anything like that." Wheatley defeated Pt. Arthur Lincoln and Earl Evans 91-84 at Delmar Field House. DeWitt blew Houston Worthing away 98-61. Coach Jackie Carr of Wheatley said after watching DeWitt, "They're something else." Wheatley entered the tournament with an 18-2 record while DeWitt came in at 6-1. South Oak Cliff came out of Dallas and came away with a strong win over Clear Lake(18-2) 81-73. Clear Lake had just opened their doors the year before. The Falcons of Clear Lake had defeated Pt. Arthur Lincoln in the finals of the Beaumont Tournament 73-70. Of course, Clear Lake's head man was Bill Krueger of Clear Creek fame.

In Wheatley's victory over the Yellowjackets of Pt. Arthur Lincoln, Gary Reese hit 23 points, Randy Grimes finished with 19, Phillip Stroud added 15, and Robert Smith contributed 13 points. The top player in the state, 6'6" Earl Evans of Lincoln, drew his 4th foul with 2:12 left in the 3rd quarter. With Evans out of the lineup, the Wildcats jumped out to a 73-64 lead. Upon Evans return, Lincoln regained the lead 84-83 with 1:53 left. Lincoln was 20 of 20 from the foul line and Evans scored 32 points with 15 rebounds. Kervin Eli was next for Lincoln with 18 points and Gregory Keller hit 18. In the victory for DeWitt over Worthing, the New York school ended the affair quickly, jumping out to 19-3 lead. Butch Lee, DeWitt's All-American guard, finished with 20 points and Ken Johnson had 22. Hector Olivencia had 15 points for DeWitt, mostly on the inside. Lee would later go on to fame as an All-American at Marquette and helped lead Al McGuire's team to the 1977 NCAA championship. Lee later went on to star in the N.B.A. In the S.O.C.(13-3) victory, Charles McMillian paced the Golden Bears with 36 points on 18 of 25 from the field. McMillian would be one of the most prolific scorers the state of Texas would ever produce. His senior year, in almost every big game, he scored over 30 points. 6'5" Kenneth Williams, had 14 points for Coach Jimmy Gales crew, while Edwin Webb added 13. For Clear Lake, Loddie Naymola had 26, David

Buchanan 14 and Robert Kramm 14. Clear Lake had won 18 straight coming into the contest.

Butch Lee of DeWitt led an incredible second half comeback against Wheatley on the second night of action. DeWitt came from 14 points behind to capture a 87-80 win. At Delmar, 4200 fans watched as Butch Lee scored 31 points, to bring his team from behind. Wheatley led 37-23 early and 49-42 at halftime. Hector Olivencia had 17 for DeWitt and Wheatley was paced by Randy Grimes with 22, Robert Smith had 16 and Gary Reese followed with 13. South Oak Cliff showed why they were considered one of the top teams in the state defeating Houston Worthing 84-71 and Clear Lake came away with a close win over Pt. Arthur Lincoln 60-58. For S.O.C., Larry Harris led the scoring parade with 27 points and McMillian followed with 22. Herman Crawford led Worthing with a tournament high 34 points.

The Jaycees tournament was going to have a new champion in 1973-74, after six straight seasons of domination by Houston Wheatley. Kashmere(18-2) ended Wheatley's strangle hold on the tournament with a hard-fought win over the Wildcats 106-103 in the semi-finals. Actually, the game was not that close until the closing minutes of the game. Wheatley had fallen behind by 24 points 87-66 late in the third quarter. Coach Jackie Carr's crew put on a tremendous come back, outscoring the Rams 35-19 in the fourth quarter. Randy Grimes made a lay-up off a steal with 15 seconds remaining to cut the lead to 105-103. Wheatley lost three players to fouls in the game and Kashmere lost only one. The Rams also had four players with four fouls playing in the fourth quarter. Junior, Karl Godine paced the Rams with 20 points, Michael Stanton and Carl Byrd followed with 18 points each. Grimes led Wheatley with 23 points and Gary Reese and Phillip Stroud both contributed 19 points.

A few highlights from the early rounds also centered around Wheatley, as the Wildcats gave up a tournament record to James Harris, a 6'1" guard from Houston Lamar. Harris finished with 50 points in his teams 89-76 loss to the Wildcats. The scoring mark broke the previous record of 48 set by Ed Franklin in 1953. Harris continued his scoring with 34 points in the consolation game against Hancock North Central out of Suburban Bay St. Louis, Missouri. Lamar lost once again 85-83 in overtime and were out of the tournament. Wheatley won their second-round game against Houston Waltrip 98-64. Gary Reese was tops in the scoring column for the Wildcats with 22 points, Gary Reese had 19 and Grimes finished with 14. Daniel Wise was high man for Waltrip with 22 points. Kashmere showed their depth and quickness with two easy early round wins over Houston Lee 104-67 and Forest Brooks 100-81. Houston Yates had much closer games in the early rounds with wins over, Galveston Ball 52-49 in overtime and Beaumont Hebert 91-77. The multi-talented George Walker was high man for the Lions in both games with 18 and 26 points. Most sportswriters were picking Houston

Westchester to continue their dominance after winning the Arlington Classic in early December. Westchester dumped Houston Madison 64-47 and Houston Williams 73-55. Houston Worthing, a team that was beginning to come together, defeated Houston Smiley 63-54 and Houston Washington 84-63, to advance to the quarterfinals. Houston Sterling advanced with wins over Houston Davis 98-77 and Houston Jones 93-73. Houston Reagan had two early round wins over Houston Lincoln 70-58 and Houston Milby 67-58. The last squad to advance to the quarterfinals would be Houston Sam Houston. With wins over Houston Furr 71-50 and Houston Sharpstown 55-49, Sam Houston was able to make the final eight in the prestigious tournament.

In the quarterfinal games, Houston Kashmere defeated Houston Sam Houston 75-62. Jarvis Williams led the scoring for the Rams with 14 points. Wheatley dropped Houston Reagan 85-77 in overtime. Reese had 19 points for the Wildcats and Grimes added 15. James Rose had 29 points for Reagan. The upset of the tournament was pulled off by Houston Sterling, as they beat Houston Westchester at the buzzer 70-69. In a very unusual ending, there was a jump ball under Sterling's basket with one second remaining. Sterling won the tip and somehow Miles Robertston of Sterling managed to hit the winning bucket at the buzzer. How he was able to catch the ball and score with one second on the clock is hard to comprehend. Dirk Hoyt finished with 28 points for Westchester. Houston Yates continuing winning beating Houston Worthing 93-88. George Walker was again high point man for the Lions with 21 points.

In the semi-finals contest, Kashmere of course advanced against Wheatley, as previously mentioned and Yates faced off against Houston Sterling. Two of the top players in Houston would be matched up in the contest. 6'2" George Walker of Yates and 6'5" Cedric Fears of Sterling. Walker hit two foul shots late to give his team a 67-65 victory. Fears led Sterling with 22 points. For Houston Yates, the Lions would be playing in their third straight Jaycees finals against a powerful Houston Kashmere squad. The Rams jumped out to another big lead going up by 27 points 66-29. Most teams would probably quit, but that was not the way the Lions rolled, as they came back to cut the lead to three at 99-96 in the final minute. Pressure free throws by Carl Byrd and Jarvis Williams would be the difference for Kashmere. Walker led Yates with 25 points and Kashmere was paced by balanced scoring. Craig Reggins had 19, Carl Byrd added 18, Karl Godine with 13 and Jarvis Williams had 12. In the 3rd place game, Wheatley rebounded after their tough loss to Kashmere with a 94-76 win over Houston Sterling. Cedric Fears finished with 21 points and Don Washington added 19 for Sterling, while Wheatley scoring march was paced by Robert Smith's 26 points.

For Houston Yates, it was their third straight loss in the tournament finals. Disappointing yes, but very impressive playing the best the state has to offer every year. Yates, who was coached by the great Edward "Doc" Evans, had so much

talent during the decade. Reggie Franklin, who later went on to fame at S.M.U. and was a successful college coach, reflected back on his years at Yates. "George Walker was the greatest athlete to ever play at Yates," Franklin claimed. "I remember in his last game at Yates he said he was going to score 50 points and almost did, finishing with 46 points. He had two dunks that were not allowed. He was a tremendous wide receiver and one of the fastest sprinters in the state." Walker later went on to Tyler Jr. College and Prairie View A&M. The All-Tournament was a who's who as usual. George Walker and Ricky Edwards of Houston Yates, James Harris of Houston Lamar, Cedrick Fears and Don Washington of Houston Sterling, Carl Byrd and Karl Godine of Houston Kashmere, Dirk Hoyt of Westchester, Gary Reese and Philip Stroud of Wheatley, Johnny Fairhart of Houston Lee, and Jim Galloway of Houston Westbury.

Region I

EP Eastwood(24-4) #14

Lubbock Monterey(22-10)

Midland Lee(28-4) #7

Denton(26-6)

El Pasp Bowie(28-3) #9

Borger(23-8)

Ft.Worth Richland(21-9)

Arlington(23-7)

Top Five in Region I

6'6" Gary Goodner, Denton; 6'7" Fred Mitchell, Amarillo Palo Duro; 6'3" Randy Alexander, Denton; 6'8" Craig Bishop, Arlington High; 6'7" J.C. Eakin, Lubbock Monterey:

In Region I, El Paso Eastwood entered the state playoffs for the first time in the 1970s. The Troopers would be the most dominate program to come out of El Paso since El Paso High. The Troopers were not only an outstanding El Paso team but were competitive year in and year out with the top programs in Texas. Eastwood opened up Bi-District against El Paso Bowie, who was coached by Nolan Richardson. Richardson had played at UTEP and later won a NCAA National Championship while head coach at Arkansas. In 1974, nobody envisioned Richardson as a major college coach. Coach Bob Lesley of Eastwood would have been considered a much more likely candidate to advance into the college ranks, but it didn't happen. Coming into the '74 season, Lesley was very worried about his guard play. He felt that if his guards could get the ball inside and not turn it over, they would be able to handle El Paso Bowie. Eastwood's size was too much for El Paso Bowie, winning the rebound battle 49-27 as well as the game 46-38. Joe Blueford, a 5'11" guard, was the leading scorer for Bowie with 18 points and 11 rebounds while Charlie Williams had 17 points for Eastwood.

Lubbock Monterey(22-10) defeated Borger(23-8) 69-63 to advance to the regionals in Abilene. For the Plainsmen of Monterey, 6'7" J.C. Eakin had 25 points and 11 rebounds. The big man hit 11 of 19 foul shots. 6'4" Jackson Pace added 15 points for the Plainsmen. 6'4" Joe Kerr(16.0) paced Borger with 21 points. 6'5"

Chuck Forest(16.0/10.0) was also a key contributor for Borger, as the team's leading rebounder. Up 60-55 with 2:27 remaining in the game, Monterey knocked down 11 of 16 foul shots to seal the victory. It would be Coach Joe Michalka and Monterey's second straight regional tournament, after returning no starters from previous season. Monterey had to win a three-team playoff to even get into the state playoffs. For Borger, it was their first District title in 14 years. Chuck Foster of Borger was named the 3-AAAA Player of the Year. That honor should have gone to the top player in West Texas, 6'7" Fred Mitchell(20.8/14.5) of Amarillo Palo Duro. He paced Palo Duro to a 21-9 record and averaged 5 blocks per game. It really makes you wonder if coaches voting for awards can really be objective.

In District 6-AAAA, Ft. Worth Richland got a little help from Wichita Falls Rider in gaining the District title. After Richland had defeated Haltom 58-39 to complete their District schedule at 12-2, the Rebels listened on the radio to the Rider vs. Wichita Falls game. If Rider won the game against Wichita Falls, the Rebels would be District champions. The loss would give The Coyotes of Wichita Falls three losses in District. Rider won in three overtimes 73-71. Donnie Alexander hit six foul shots in the third overtime to win the game for Rider.

The Bi-District game was set between Midland Lee and Ft. Worth Richland in Abilene at Abilene Christian Coliseum. Coach Tommy Newman of Ft. Worth Richland, felt confident because of the improvement his team had made over the course of the season. The Rebels had incredible size in 6'9" Carlton Hurdle, 6'6" Paul Miller(16.2), 6'5" Bill Wimberley, 6'2" Benny Bentz and press breaker, 5'10" Robert Binion. "Every player we put on the court is capable of having a big game," Newman said.

In a minor upset, Midland Lee(28-4) lost to Ft. Worth Richland(21-9) 82-67. It was not so much that Richland defeated Lee, it was more how convincingly they took Lee apart. Richland led by as many as 26 points at one point in the game. Paul Miller was the leading scorer for Richland with 22 points and Billy Bentz finished with 17. All five starters finished in double figures. Richland had little trouble with Lee's full court press. Surprisingly, Lee won the rebounding battle 51-45. 6'4" Melvin Jackson led Lee with 23 rebounds. The Rebels had been bounced from the playoffs the previous season by Midland High and were glad to make it to the playoffs. Lee's main stays were 5'11" junior, Brett Blackwell, 6'4" Melvin Jackson and 6'4" Mike Hill. Midland Lee finished the season at 28-5.

Arlington and Irving faced off for the 7-AAAA District championship at South Grand Prairie Coliseum in front of 2,510 fans. Irving was going for their third straight District championship. With 36 seconds remaining in the game, 6'7" Craig Bishop of Arlington hit a pair of free throws to give the Colts the title. Chris Gonser of Irving missed a 45-foot desperation shot at the buzzer. Gonser led Irving in scoring with 20 points and 6'8" Bob Rudolph hit 16 points for the Colts and 6'9" Allen Winder had 13 points, followed by 6'7" Bishop's 6 points. Arlington was one

of the tallest schools not only in Texas, but the country. Rudolph was a junior, who played at Texas Tech upon graduation. Winder was also a junior, and was one of the top recruits in the state his senior season. Winder would eventually sign with the University of Houston. Bishop was a senior and played at Baylor.

The Bi-District game between Denton(26-6) and Arlington(23-7) would be contested at Birdville Coliseum for the right to advance to regionals in Abilene. Arlington coach, Dale Archer, said he was used to teams trying to hold the ball against them, because of their tremendous size advantage sitting in their zone defense. The Broncos would counter the great size of Arlington with some size and talent of their own in 6'6" Gary Goodner(17.5). Joining Goodner, who would later star at the University of Texas, were 6'3" Randy Alexander(17.8) and 6'3" Greg Boyd(14.0). These three players were very gifted and created problems for every opponent that they faced because of their athletic ability and skill. The two other starters for the Broncos came from 6'5" John Wesson, 6'3" Jerry Bowen and 5'11" Hank Aiken. Denton's Coach, Jack Howell, would press when needed, which created problems for Arlington. 6'7" Bishop was Arlington's leading contributor at 12.3 points per game. 6'9" Winder(12.0) was the team's leading rebounder at 12 per game and 6'8" Rudolph(12.8) was a nice shooter from outside against a zone. Guard play for the Colts came from Gary Reston and Mike Barton. Arlington's sixth man was 6'3" Mark Gale.

An estimated 3,000 fans showed up in Birdville Coliseum for the Bi-District clash between Arlington(23-7) and Denton(26-6). Denton took control of the contest early and led 30-23 at halftime. Denton out rebounded the enormous Colts 35-26. The Broncos continued to change their full court defenses, which created several turnovers by Arlington. The Broncos advanced 62-42 over the Colts of Arlington. Greg Boyd led in scoring for Denton with 16 points and Alexander finished with 14, Wesson 13 and Goodner 11. Bishop led Arlington with 14 points. Arlington had 33 turnovers while Denton committed only 20.

In the Region I semi-finals, El Paso Eastwood would be pitted against Lubbock Monterey. Both team's strength was their overall size. Monterey came at you with 6'8" J.C. Eakins, 6'5" Dick Clardy, and 6'3" Jackson Pace. Eastwood countered with 6'5" Fred Spain, 6'5" Jim Crenshaw and 6'5" Charlie Williams. The Troopers jumped out to an early lead at the end of the 1st quarter 16-4 and led the game throughout. Eastwood forced 23 turnovers to only 12 forced by Monterey. Coach Lesley's team led 26-10 at half and 38-26 going into the final quarter. Eastwood proved too strong winning a low scoring affair 49-38. Leading scorers for Eastwood were Charles Williams with 14 points, Jim Crenshaw with 10 and Fred Spain led the team in rebounds with 9. For the undermanned Monterey squad, Matt Parsley led the team with 9 points and Eakins pulled in 10 rebounds. In the other semi-final game, Denton and Ft. Worth Richland would battle it out to see who would advance to the finals. The two teams had played twice during the

regular season, splitting the series at one game apiece. The backcourt combination Greg Boyd and Randy Alexander were just too talented for the Rebels. The two 6'3" guards from Denton combined for 39 points. The Broncos led at halftime 33-30, but scored 50 points in the 2nd half. When 6'10" Karlton Hurdle fouled out in the 4th quarter, Richland's season looked as if it were over. Denton had their second playoff win by twenty points by beating Richland 83-63. For Denton, Greg Boyd hit with accuracy from the outside while penetrating the middle. Boyd finished with 21 points, Alexander followed with 18 points, Akin pitched in 15 points and Wesson help with 12 and Goodner made double figures with 11 points. The balanced scoring by the Broncos made them tough to beat. For Coach Tommy Newman's Rebels, it was Paul Miller with 26 points and 8 rebounds.

In the Region I finals, Broncos swingman, Randy Alexander, hit 13 of 14 foul shots to pace his team with 23 points against Eastwood and led Denton to a 64-55 win. 6'6" Gary Goodner was outstanding with 26 points and 16 rebounds. The Troopers key players were Crenshaw and Williams. Crenshaw put in 14 points and Williams had 12. 5'10" Oscar Barcena, Eastwood's leading scorer on the season, was unable to start the contest because of an ankle injury suffered in Friday night's semi-final game against Lubbock Monterey. Although Barcena did not start, he played a key role in the team's comeback in the second half, along with 5'10" Bobby Morales. Denton's junior guard, Greg Boyd committed four turnovers in the second half to help Eastwood's comeback. Denton led at halftime 32-23 and the score was all tied up heading into the fourth quarter 40-40. Denton won a close rebounding edge 43-32 while Eastwood had fewer turnovers 16 to 25.

I interviewed several former players and coaches for the book. I got some great responses, but sometimes you got some unexpected responses. One player that was mentioned often by several former athletes from the 1974 campaign was 6'6" John Derrick of South Garland high school. After talking to his high school coach, Clayton Brooks, I began to gain insight into the world of John Derrick. Actually, I already knew a great deal about the Derrick family, because of the John's younger brothers, Richard and Neil. The brothers were two of the best players to ever come out of Garland in the mid-1980s. Both played division one basketball, so I knew the family history, but I did not know the details. There were four brothers and two sisters in the Derrick family. John's father died when he was ten and his mother worked nights in a nursing home to support the family. Larry was the oldest of the brothers and stayed out of trouble, unlike the other three. Richard was 6'8" and signed with U.T.E.P. out of high school in 1985. He was one of the top recruits in the state. Richard stayed two months at U.T.E.P. before moving on to North Texas University. He later went to a Community College and played as a freshman, at Southwest Christian College in Terrell. He had been in trouble at every stop. Neil was the youngest of the Derrick family and started on the Garland's varsity as a freshman, with his brother Richard. The starting point

guard on that team was a senior, Mookie Blaylock. Neil was a tremendous talent that stood 6'2" and could shoot from long range and finish at the basket, while hanging in the air. Neil would miss his senior year in 1988 for disciplinary reasons. John was the second oldest of the brothers and graduated in 1974. He was also the only one of the three brothers to attend South Garland High. This was unusual, because South Garland was predominately white at the time and Garland High had a much larger African-American student population. As an 8th grader, John Derrick stood 6'2" and could already dunk a basketball. His ability to jump made him one of the top high jumpers in the state. John was a three-year starter for the Colonels and as a junior, in one game against R.L. Turner, he scored 23 points with 20 rebounds and 13 blocks. His team finished 19-14 on the season and John averaged, 18.3 points and 20.2 rebounds and hard telling how many blocks. Official stats on blocks weren't even kept by the N.B.A. during the 1970s. His shooting percentage was over 70% from the floor. Coach Clayton Brooks said, "Derrick didn't shoot to many elbow shots, his points mostly came in and around the bucket." Coach Brooks had a drill for Derrick where he would get the ball directly under the basket and dunk the ball one after another until he became exhausted. "He could really leap and throw it down," Brooks said. Derrick was named to the 8-AAAA 1st team All-District squad his junior year, but was not named M.V.P. His attitude, no doubt limited the honors he received. Bob Arnold of Highland Park was named District M.V.P. When talking to his high school coach, Brooks explained Derrick's success during his junior year. "John was a distraction all the time, he was late for games, practice, got in trouble in class. It was one thing after another, but I had a group of really smart kids on the team his junior year and he was not a distraction. The kids were focused and played well and knew we needed John and would try to help keep him out of trouble. John's senior year his classmate's kind of looked up to him and responded differently to his antics and I knew in order to keep discipline, I had to make a change. Three games into District, he was dismissed from the team. We won the first three games without him and then lost eight straight." Derrick's temper was unreal. On one occasion against Sherman, he got real pissed off at the opposing team and began blocking everybody's shots, post, guards on the perimeter, he just went crazy. On another occasion, during a college game, he was thrown out of contest and received eight technical fouls kicking every one of the opponent's chairs, whether players were seated in the chairs or not. Even after he missed half of his senior year, Derrick was named Honorable Mention All-American by the St. Petersburg Times. Upon graduation, he went off to McLennan Jr. College in Waco and played for Johnny Carter. Once again, Derrick put up incredible numbers with 19.7 points, 18.0 rebounds and 7 blocks as a freshman and added 21 points, 20 rebounds and 3 blocks as a sophomore. He was named a Junior College All-American. Because of his outlaw reputation, no division one schools would touch him and he ended up in Lawton, Oklahoma at Cameron

University and NAIA school. At Cameron, he averaged 20.9 points, 12.0 rebounds and was named NAIA All-American his senior year. Once again, blocks were not kept as an official stat. There was a very good chance Derrick was going to get drafted by the N.B.A., but a few days before the draft he was shot to death in Oklahoma City. Police suspected the shooting was drug related. John Derrick was one of the best talents ever to play in Texas.

Clayton Brooks of South Garland was one of the top coaches in the state during the 70s, 80s and into the 1990s. Brooks called Derrick one of the most talented players he ever coached. "His real strength as a player was his uncanny ability to block shots effortlessly. He had tremendous timing and of course was a great leaper. Billy Smith and Kato Armstrong were two of the better players I ever coached, but they all three had different skill sets. Derrick really limited his opportunities in college because he was a poor student and so hard to handle," Brooks continued. "When we played Highland Park, they would talk to him the whole time trying to get him upset."

In discussing the great players he faced during his lengthy coaching career at South Garland and Boswell, Brooks called Ricky Pierce of Garland High School as the best he ever faced. "Pierce was the best player I ever coached against, he could hurt you from the inside and outside. We didn't know how to guard him. He was the one player we could never stop." Brooks continued, "Ira Terrell was also very special, there were so many great players, those are two that really stand out during the decade."

Region II

Ft. Worth Southwest(23-10)

Dallas Lincoln

Sherman(20-7) #19

Corsicana(32-0) #1

Ft. Worth Poly(27-2) #5

Dallas S.O.C.(33-4) #3

Marshall(25-3)

Houston Westchester(29-3) #4

Top Five in Region II

6'8" Melvin Davis, Greenville; 6'3" Charles McMillian, S.O.C.; 6'8" Jeff Swanson, Houston Westchester; 6'4" Donnie Chambers, Corsicana; 6'7" Kenneth Williams, S.O.C.:

In Region II, the Corsicana Tigers were playing some outstanding basketball, as they had their best team ever. Coach Jerry Matthews had been at Corsicana for 10 years and had an outstanding program based on defense. The Tigers year in and year out played terrific defense and they had just the type of athletes to play pressure defense. The players that came out of Corsicana were tough and aggressive, and Matthews knew the type athletes he wanted in his program. Matthew's record at Corsicana was an impressive 232-52 with seven District titles. Matthew's time with the Tigers dated back to 1963 when Corsicana defeated Waxahachie in a District playoff, 59-54 to advance to the state playoffs.

In 1964, the Tigers tied Waxahachie once again for District, but this time lost the District playoff game to Indians 55-44. In 1965, the Tigers moved up to 4-A and finished 21-7, and lost in Bi-District to Austin McCallum 50-39. The 1969 team reached the class 3-A state finals. The '69 team defeated Athens in District 66-59 in a zone playoff. In Bi-District, Longview Pine Tree fell to Corsicana 42-37 and in regional the Tigers defeated Ft. Worth Como 59-57 at Loos field house, to advance to state. In 1970, Coach Matthew's crew was 30-3 and 1971 they were 31-8. In 1971, the Tigers lost to eventual state champion, Cypress-Fairbanks 64-52 in regionals. The winning continued in 1972 and 1973, finishing as District runner-up both seasons, with fine records of 26-5 and 22-6. The Tigers had a long history of outstanding basketball under the disciplined style played by Matthews's teams. The 1974 verse of the Corsicana Tigers was without question, their best team.

Early in the season the Tigers defeated Sherman(26-6) 74-62 and Waco Jefferson Moore(17-4) 72-52. After going 5-0, Corsicana began just destroyed teams with their defense. They beat Tyler Lee by 51, Tyler John Tyler(24-7) by 24, Greenville by 35, Waxahachie by 42, Lufkin by 18, Nacogdoches by 12 and 42, Sherman(20-7) again, this time by 31, Arlington Lamar by 22. After an impressive 18-0 record the Tigers were ranked #1 in the state. During that stretch they had only had two single digit victories, over Ft. Worth Trimble Tech by 8 and Eules Trinity by 6. After breezing through District with a 31-point average margin of victory, the Tigers were ready for the playoffs and still top ranked. Even at 32-0, it was questionable if Corsicana was the favorite to win the region.

Corsicana relied on man to man full court defense, pressing their opponent at all times. The Tigers pressured every pass, challenged every shot, a total commitment to the defensive end of the floor. Leading the Tigers were 6'2" Chopper Burke(7.5), 6'5" Bob Kerley(8.4) and three athletes that were three year lettermen, 6'4" Donnie Chambers(22.1), 5'11" Raymond Hall(10.1) and 6'3" Ricky Purdy(20.4). Other key players were James Lewis, Tim Wolf, Tommy Tullos and Tommy Bowie. Coach Matthew's team would have a big task ahead of them trying to advance to state. Dallas South Oak Cliff was 30-4, and had one of the most talented teams in the state, and one of the great teams that the school had ever produced. The Golden Bears were ranked #3 in the state and had played several of the top programs in the state. Two other teams that would challenge for the regional title were Houston Westchester(28-3), ranked number #4 in the state polls and Ft. Worth Poly(26-2), ranked #5. So in Region II, you had four of the top five ranked teams in the state.

In Bi-District competition, Corsicana opened against a tough Houston Westchester team, led by one of the best post in the state, 6'8" Jeff Swanson. Swanson would later play at S.M.U. Another standout for Westchester was 6'5" Dirk Hoyt, who played for T.C.U. This was the top first round match-up in the state. These teams could have easily played each other for the state championship. The

game was played in College Station, with Corsicana winning a close game 61-57. Chambers fouled out with 5:33 remaining in the game, but his teammates pulled the game out. Even with the turnover advantage 17-12, Westchester could not overcome the defensive pressure of Corsi. Swanson and Hoyt finished 41 points between them, but it was not enough. The scoring breakdown for the Tigers was as follows, Chambers had 17 points, Hall hit 12, Burke knocked down 10 points, Purdy contributed 13 points and Kerley rounded out the scoring with 7 points.

With the largest crowd of the season in attendance at the Public-School Gym in Ft. Worth, Southwest captured the 10-AAAA District title defeating Ft. Worth Western Hills 77-56. The crowd of 3000 fans saw Southwest win their third straight District championship under Coach James Wood. Mike Brownlee and Tony Talmadge were key for the Rebels inside on the boards. 6'3" Randy Crawford led Southwest with 23 points, hitting 11 of 16 free throws. 6'0" Lowell Franklin, who played for Southwest, was the Districts leading scorer. Franklin finished with only 20 points. On the 10-AAAA All-District team, Crawford and Franklin both were named to the first team for Ft. Worth Southwest. Paschal boasted two outstanding juniors on the first team, 6'3" John Schlicher and 6'6" Wendall Mays. 6'6" Pat Kelly of Ft. Worth Arlington Heights rounded out the 1st team. Mike Brownlee of Southwest was named sophomore of the year and Lowell Franklin of Southwest, was named District Player of the Year. 6'2" Tom Fenoglio and 6'3" Talmadge of Southwest were named to the 2nd team, and were both juniors.

In Bi-District action between the two Ft. Worth schools, Poly(26-2) defeated Southwest(23-10) 80-78. Poly's team was fueled by 6'3" Robert Hollie, a three letterman and District M.V.P. Hollie averaged 20.5 points per game. Another 3 year letterman, 6'4" Larry Revels was a leader for the Parrots. Two juniors rounded out the major contributors for Coach Timothy Austin's team, 6'0" Tommy Parks and 6'4" Greg Bonner. Poly would be making their third appearance in College Station in four seasons.

Marshall, out of east Texas, defeated Sherman(20-7) 56-53 in Tyler in another first round contest. 5'8" Louis Manning(17.6) led the Mavericks in scoring, hitting 25 points against Sherman. The Bearcats of Sherman were coached by Dick Swetnam and were known mostly as a football school. A basketball playoff team was definitely a rarity for the Sherman fan base. Swetnam brought a very deliberate type of offense to Sherman. The Bearcats were not accustomed to the state playoffs. Four players averaged in double figures for Sherman, 6'6" John Doherty(14.0), 6'2" Jim May(15.0), 6'3" Harold Holland(13.0) and Allen Taylor(10.0). Sherman had lost to Corsicana twice during the regular season. North Garland had lost to the Bearcats during the regular season 59-52. The Raiders of North Garland would make the class 3-A playoffs and was considered one of the top 3-A squads in the state. Sherman's only loss in District came at the hands of

Richardson Pearce(21-12) 79-56. Richardson High(20-12) came in 2nd place losing to Sherman in both District games 64-48 and 52-43.

Marshall(26-3) advanced to the regionals in College Station with the same type team as Corsicana, quick and athletic. Standouts for the Mavericks were 6'2" Randolph MacAfee(13.1), 6'4" Warren Bennett(11.8), 6'4" Greg Moore(5.2), 6'4" Leslie Trammell(6.5) and of course Manning(17.6). The Mavericks averaged 62.5 points per game while giving up 51.9 points to their opponents. Marshall had a tremendous victory over 3-A state semi-finalist, Atlanta(26-5) 60-58 early in the season. The Mavericks also had solid wins over Tyler John Tyler(24-7) 70-57 and 69-67. Their only loss in District came at the hands of Texarkana 65-57. Marshall had advanced to the regional semi-finals in 1971 and lost to the eventual state champions, Cypress Fairbanks 82-66.

When you discuss great basketball teams in the history of South Oak Cliff, the 1974 team is always mentioned. What few people realize is that the Golden Bears barely got out of District alive, because they had to face, Dallas Roosevelt(26-6). The Mustangs, coached by Ellis Davis, won the first District game 106-104 and S.O.C. countered with a payback in the second game winning 97-96. The Mustangs were obviously talented with a starting lineup of Harlan Hill, James Leffall, Keith Baker, David Smith and sophomore, Walter Crawford. Dallas S.O.C. defeated Dallas Lincoln in Bi-District 102-90 and Charles McMillian led the Golden Bears with 41 points. McMillian was the top scorer in the state playoffs in 1974. He was also class 4-A top point producer during the 70s. Ahead of Dwight Jones, Eddie Owens, Karl Godine or anybody else you can come up with.

The Region II playoffs were played in College Station in 1974. Marshall would measure their strength against the talented Tigers of Corsicana. The game was a low scoring affair in which the Tigers came out on top 52-48. Corsicana rallied from behind for the victory, after trailing late. Marshall took the lead 40-35 with 5:03 remaining. Marshall was paced by the outside bombing of Manning, who finished with 16 points. Because of an official mistake, Raymond Hall left the game on fouls, but the official score keeper was wrong. With 49 seconds remaining, Purdy iced the game with free throws to put Corsi up 50-45. Bennett and McAfee finished with 12 points each for Marshall. For Corsicana, Chambers had 23 points and Purdy followed with 18 points. Coach Bob Lane's Marshall Mavericks finished the season at 26-4.

In the other Region II semi-final game, S.O.C. was down at halftime 48-44 and came back in the second half to beat Ft. Worth Poly 83-78. McMillian was unstoppable once again for S.O.C., hitting 36 points. The game was tied 74 all with 2:39 left when McMillian and 6'7" Kenneth Williams combined for 8 points, to put their team ahead for good. The Parrots had five players in double figures, with Larry Revels high man scoring 22 points and Gregory Bonner hung 18 points on the Golden Bears. Poly finished an outstanding season at 27-3.

In the Region II final between Corsicana and S.O.C., you had two of the best teams in the state going against one another. The Golden Bears jumped out to an early lead 14-4 and Corsicana cut the lead to 22-19 and at halftime the score stood at 41-37 in favor of S.O.C. Turnovers killed Corsicana in the 3rd quarter as Coach Jimmy Gales' team took control of the game 61-47. S.O.C. pulled away winning 86-64 and hit 20-23 from the foul line. Coach Matthews was really impressed with S.O.C., "I've been coaching 13 years in high school and I've never seen talent like that." S.O.C. used the press and dominated the glass. Corsi's 36 game winning streak had ended. At full strength, S.O.C. was going to be a hand-full to beat for anybody. McMillian finished with 31 points while Chambers had 29 for Corsicana, Burke 10 and Purdy had 8. Turnovers were the difference in the game for the Tigers. Corsicana just had not handled the pressure well. S.O.C. advanced to Austin for the first time in the modern era.

Corsicana coach Jerry Matthews said Dallas S.O.C. may be the finest high school basketball team he's ever seen. "It's like fighting George Foreman, after a while I'm going to have to concede that he's better than me. There's no question about it, S.O.C. is better than us."

In reviewing Corsicana's loss, recently with Kenneth Williams of S.O.C., the former Golden Bear felt like Corsicana hadn't played the same level of competition that his team had played during the season. "We were battled tested, playing the best teams in the state, that was the difference," Williams said.

Region III

Houston Worthing(23-10)

LaMarque(27-8)

Houston Kashmere(34-2) #2

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-5) #18

Houston Wheatley(37-6) #11

Clear Lake(34-4) #17

Houston Forest Brook(28-5)

Beaumont Charlton Pollard(25-8)

Top Five in Region III

6'7" Earl Evans, Pt. Arthur Lincoln; 6'2" George Walker, Houston Yates; 6'4" Karl Godine, Kashmere; 6'6" Albert "Slab" Jones(Sophomore), Houston Worthing, 6'1" Norman Bellard, Beaumont Hebert:

Many coaches and fans around the state thought coming into the season that Pt. Arthur Lincoln(32-5) looked as if they would be the early favorite to win the state title. Wheatley was not as strong as in the past, so the sport writers felt Lincoln would be taking the torch from the perennial power. In Earl Evans, Coach Gamble had the most dominate player in the state. The numbers he put up on a regular basis looked like misprints. Gamble felt like this was the first time he would have the talent to compete with Houston's best schools. "Earl could do everything, score inside or out, rebound, play defense," Coach Gamble said years later in 2016. Returning for Lincoln along with Evans was a magnificent ball handler in 6'1" Kervin Eli. "Kervin was everything you wanted in a point guard, great ball handler, distributed the ball, getting everybody involved, great passer and could defend,"

Gamble said. Eli and Evans had been named 1st team All-District as juniors and would be the center pieces of any state tournament runs. Both were three year starters with the Bumblebees. Others that would contribute for Coach Gamble were 6'1" James Deal, 6'4" Gregory Keller and 6'3" Harold Dennis(9.9). At 5'11", Clyde Traham would be coming in from football and sophomores, 6'1" Ron Traham and 6'3" Thaddeus Sanders would challenge for playing time. Evans had averaged 18.9 points as a sophomore and 28.0 points as a junior. He averaged 30.5 points and 19.5 rebounds his senior year. The Bumblebees five losses had come at the hands of Clear Lake, twice by 3 and 2 points, Pollard by 4, Kashmere by 6 and Wheatley by 7.

In District 21-AAAA, Beaumont Pollard(24-8) and Beaumont Hebert(21-8) tied for the District title both finishing with 9-1 records in District action. The two city rivals would face off at McDonald's Gym on the campus of Lamar University. The winner would meet Pt. Arthur Lincoln in Bi-District. Pollard jumped out to a big lead in the game 32-14 and coasted to the victory 88-67. For Pollard, 6'5" Donald Almond had 30 points and 6'7" Wilbert Marshall added 18. For Hebert, Ronald Remie and Anthony Bell had 17.

In Bi-District, Lincoln faced their rival, Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(25-8). The two schools had met three times during the regular season, with Lincoln holding a two to one advantage. The Bumblebees would be playing without one of their best players with Kervin Eli out with a bad ankle. Eli was injured in a warm-up game against Houston Wheatley, in which Lincoln won 82-75. Eli would undergo surgery on the ankle. Coach Gamble took a lot of heat for playing the warm-up game and losing Eli for the playoffs, but Lincoln's District was very weak. Not one team in District 22-AAAA had a winning record. A warm-up game was a necessity. Starters for Lincoln would come from six players, 6'6" Earl Evans, 6'4" Gregory Keller, 6'3" Harold Dennis, 6'0" James Deal, 6'1" Clyde Traham and 5'6" Alfred Comeaux. Deal was considered the team's best defender. Pollard's first year coach, James White would be calling on 6'4" Donald Almond(19.5), 6'7" Wilbert Marshall(16.6), 6'3" Frank Duplechian, 6'3" Larry Davis and 5'10" Dwight Beniot. Off the bench, White would looking at 5'11" Rodney Savaet, 6'2" Dennis Johnson and 6'3" Gregory Johnson(11.6). Pollard had an interesting tradition, where the leading scorer would wear the number 00, but in 1974, Coach White broke with tradition. Gregory Johnson would be wearing 00, but he was not the team's leading scorer. Pollard dominated early and looked as if they would win easily when Lincoln came up with one of the great comebacks in state playoff history. Lincoln scored six points in the final 17 seconds to pull out a, 80-78 victory over Pollard. Gregory Keller hit two jumpers, four seconds apart in the last seconds of the game. Evans finished with 40 points and 25 rebounds, which was amazing when you consider a high school game is only 32 minutes. The college games are 40 minutes, while the pros play 48 minute games. Keller added 18 points for the

victorious Bumblebees. With the win, Coach Gamble's crew had now won 19 straight games going into regionals. Their last loss had been at the hands of Clear Lake.

Houston Kashmere defeated Houston Worthing in a warm-up game 109-90. Five Rams scored in double figures with Karl Godine leading the way with 22 points, Michael Stanton put in 19 points, Craig Reggins hit 18 points, Carl Byrd had 12 and Lanis Haynes was good for 10 points. For Worthing, it was Michael Green scoring 21 points and Craig Stewart following with 15 points. The talented sophomore from Worthing, 6'6" Albert Jones was held to only two points. Houston Wheatley(36-5) had a young and talented team in 1974, winning their seventh straight District championship. Coach Jackie Carr returned only one letterman from a 41-1 state championship team, and had only four seniors on the 15-man squad. Gary Reece was the only returning letterman. Wheatley was not so fortunate in their warm-up game against the talented Bumblebees of Pt. Arthur Lincoln losing 82-75. Earl Evans of Lincoln was spectacular as usual scoring 41 points. For Wheatley, James Hudson finished with 15, Robert Smith had 14 and Gary Reese hit 12 points. In a warm-up game before the playoffs, Wheatley took on San Antonio Brackenridge(28-5) at Delmar. Houston Kashmere(32-2) also would have another warm-up contest against San Antonio Highlands(30-3), also at Delmar. Wheatley whipped S.A. Brackenridge badly 98-72 and Kashmere did the same to S.A. Highlands 94-81, thus continuing the domination of the Houston schools in warm-up contest. In the Kashmere-Highlands game, six players fouled out. The Rams pulled away in the fourth quarter, outscoring Highlands 24-16 to take the victory. Godine again led the way with 23 points while Jarvis Williams and Carl Byrd both finished with 17. For S.A. Highlands(31-4), Loney Lee had 18 points and Jim Matheny put in 17. In the Wheatley-Brackenridge game, the Wildcats put six players in double digits. Randy Grimes was high man with 14 points. The game was decided in the third quarter when Brackenridge turned the ball over 16 times. Arthur Edwards, one of the top players in San Antonio, finished the leading scorer with 23 points.

LaMarque finished the regular season in District 24-AAAA action against Stratford Dulles(24-6). Coming into the contest, LaMarque(26-7) was unbeaten in District action at 11-0 and faced Dulles, who stood at 10-1. Should Dulles win, the District would be tied, and a playoff would be needed to decide the 24-AAAA title. LaMarque won a close one against Dulles 74-73 on Ken Hopes 25-footer from the corner with only 15 ticks on the clock. The next challenge for the Cougars would be Clear Lake(33-4) in Bi-District. LaMarque would call on Reginald Harrison(25.7), 5'10" Royce Reeves and 6'1" Clarence Bell. LaMarque's numbers were impressive, averaging 75.6 points per game and allowed 63.0.

In another warm-up contest, LaMarque(26-7) and Houston Westchester(28-3) teed it up in Spring Branch at the new Community Coliseum.

Westchester defeated LaMarque 98-83. Westchester(29-3) was led in scoring by Mark Kelting with 30 points, Jeff Swanson kicked in 25 and Dirk Hoyt finished with 18. LaMarque(27-8) was paced by Reginald Harrison with 39 points.

In another warm-up game, Clear Lake was too much for Houston Forest Brook(28-5) 83-71 at Phillip's Fieldhouse in Pasadena. David Buchanan was high point man for the Falcons, scoring 29 points, followed by Loddie Naymola's 27. Clavest Shelly hit 20 and Joe Ard had 16 for Forest Brook. Houston Forest Brook(28-4) had won the 20-AAAA title with a 95-72 clincher against Aldine MacArthur.

Houston Kashmere was very talented with a young squad of mostly underclassmen. 6'6" Carl Belcher, 6'5" Jarvis Williams(11.5), 6'3" Karl Godine(19.0), 6'2" Lanis Hayes(10.3), Craig Reggins(10.6) and 6'3" Carl Byrd(8.3); The Rams were an exceptionally strong rebounding team with depth and strength inside. The teams overall size was tremendous. If you needed size, they could match most college teams inside. 6'5" Charlie Ross, 6'7" Nat Smith, 6'7" Henry Lewis and 6'6" Robert Young were all valuable players for the Rams.

Houston Kashmere defeated Houston Forest Brook 100-88 in Bi-District. Clear Lake(34-4) advanced to regionals with a 66-59 win over LaMarque(27-8). Coach Bill Krueger's Falcons used free throws and long range shooting to win the game against LaMarque at Rice Gym. This would be Clear Lake's first trip to regionals. For Krueger, he had made numerous trips to regionals before changing schools from Clear Creek to Clear Lake. LaMarque finished the season at 27-9. Reggie Harrison was the top scorer for LaMarque with 24 points and he also contributed 18 rebounds. Naymola led Lake with 22 points.

In Region III, Pt. Arthur Lincoln faced #2 ranked Houston Kashmere. In the earlier meeting between Kashmere and Lincoln, the Rams had won 81-75. 6'6" Earl Evans of Pt. Arthur Lincoln entered the Houston region as one of the most dominate players in state history, averaging 28.5 points per game and 20 rebounds. In the Kashmere-Lincoln game with 5:02 remaining the Rams led 70-57 and looked like they were cruising to the regional finals, when Lincoln began pressing. Lincoln outscored Kashmere 18-4 over the next 3:30 and went ahead 75-74. In the end, turnovers killed the Bumblebees as Kashmere was able to regain the lead 82-77 and advanced to the regional finals. Just as in the Charlton-Pollard game, James Deal was the catalyst for the Lincoln comeback. Deal scored 8 of Lincoln's 18 points coming down the stretch. Godine of Kashmere made a key basket off a missed foul shot, that proved to be the winning points. The loss ended Lincoln's 19 game winning streak. In the game against the Rams, Earl Evans picked up his third foul with 6:42 remaining in the 1st half with the Bees leading 25-19. Kashmere outscored Lincoln 26-10 in the second quarter to take a 36-31 halftime lead with Evans on the bench. Ten seconds into the second half, Evans was back on the court and picked up his fourth foul. "I couldn't believe it," Evans said, "As

rough as the game was under the boards and they called that 4th foul when I didn't even touch anybody." Gamble decided to leave Evans in the game with four fouls. Evans scored 10 points in the final period and totaled 28 points and 19 rebounds at the end of the game, after missing almost a full quarter. Playing without standout Kervin Eli really hurt the Bumblebees. Kervin was Lincoln's best ball-handler against the press and Kashmere loved to press. When asked the turning point of the game, Gamble had no hesitation, "Having to take Evans out with nearly seven minutes remaining in the 1st half was the turning point. We were pretty much in control when Evans picked up his third foul." When asked why he didn't press earlier, Gamble responded about his team's lack of depth. Lincoln only hit 15-28 from the foul line while Evans alone was 8 of 9, which meant the rest of the team was only 7-19. For Lincoln, the season ended with the Bumblebees fourth consecutive District title and fifth in seven years.

Evans commented after the game, "We had the best team, I just wish I hadn't had those fouls hanging over me. I couldn't do a whole lot out there the second half because of fouls." Two different scouts at the game said, Evans was the #2 recruit in the country behind 7'1" Moses Malone of St. Petersburg, Virginia. Evans finished his career with 2,582 points. Evans had 50 rebounds against Beaumont Hebert and scored 49 points against Lake Charles. After the season, Evans made the all-star circuit playing in the 4th annual Seamco Basketball Classic in Monticello, N.Y. He was one of ten players from around the country brought in to play the New York and New Jersey All-Stars. Evans also played in the premier all-star game in the nation at the time, the Dapper Dan Classic in Pittsburgh. Competing in these all-star games made him ineligible for the Texas High School Coaches Association All-Star game. What kind of craziness, who came up with these rules? Can you say Football Coaches? Evans had his jersey number #42 retired in April at a school ceremony. His jersey would hang in the trophy case at Lincoln high school for all future Bumblebees to view. After visiting the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, Evans cancelled all visits to other schools. To this day, Evans is viewed as the greatest player to ever come out of Pt. Arthur and that is saying a mouth full considering Leonard Allen and his brother Andre Allen played for the Bumblebees, along with former N.B.A. star, Stephen Jackson. Jackson played his senior year at Oak Hill in Virginia. **Earl Evans was a true Texas Legend. (32)**

Years later Coach Gamble felt this was his best team of the 1970s, and his best chance to win regionals had Eli not been injured. "It really hurt when we lost Eli, he was critical to our team success, he started our offense and was one of our top defenders. It was a close game, but you know you can always talk about what ifs," Coach Gamble said.

(32) The legendary player from Pt. Arthur passed away in December of 2012 in Edmond, Oklahoma. One of his career highlights was outplaying future Hall of Famer, Larry Bird in the Pizza Hut All-Star Classic after his senior year in college. He died on Christmas Eve of an apparent heart attack.

In the other semi-final game for Region III, Clear Lake and Houston Worthing met to decide who would meet up with Kashmere. Worthing had upset Wheatley 100-99 in Bi-District. The Wildcat's missed their 7th straight regional appearance. Worthing would win another close one against the Falcons 83-82 in overtime to advance to the regional finals. Herman Crawford of Worthing, hit a 10-footer with 12 seconds left for the win. Clear Lake missed two shots in the final seconds that could have pulled out the victory. The top sophomore in the state, 6'6" Albert Jones, led Worthing with 23 points and Crawford finished with 20. For Clear Lake, 6'3" David Buchanon was high scorer, pouring in 29 points and Laddie Naymola finished with 18.

Region III finals between Houston Worthing and Houston Kashmere would be Worthing's third one-point game in the playoffs, but this time they would come out on the losing end 91-90. Kashmere was very fortunate to come away with the victory. Only 11 days earlier in the playoff warm-up game, Kashmere had beaten Worthing easily 109-90. You had to figure that the two coaches never dreamed they would advance all the way to the regional finals, and play each other again for the right to go to Austin. Most observers didn't feel Houston Worthing would get by Wheatley in Bi-District. Whatever the reason, it was the only time I know of in the history of the state, that two teams from the same region, would face each other in a warm-up game, and then turn around and play each other again in the regional finals.

In the regional final, Worthing was trailing 91-82, and scored the game's last eight points. With 54 seconds remaining, Ronald Davis pulled the Colts to within one point. Kashmere continued trying to stall but missed their foul shots down the stretch. Twice in the last few seconds, Albert Jones missed shots that would have given his team the lead. A key rebound by Godine and steal by Madison Lane, were the difference in the final seconds for Kashmere. With two seconds remaining, Worthing's Herman Crawford missed a 40-footer that would have sent the Colts to State. Kashmere had two starters leave the contest on fouls, Jarvis Williams and Carl Byrd. For the Rams, Craig Reggins was high point man with 22 points, Godine had 14 and Charlie Ross and Byrd finished with 12 points each. Albert Jones finished with 20 points for Worthing, Craig Stewart added 19 points and Crawford pitched in 12 points as well.

Worthing's future really looked bright with the awesome sophomore, Albert Jones surrounded by underclassmen. Worthing had a great season knocking Wheatley out of the playoffs by one point, and losing to Kashmere by one point.

Kashmere had a number of underclassmen as well, and would be well stocked for the '75 campaign. But for now, the Rams were looking forward to Austin. Willie "Sky" Foreman was one of the top players in the state in 1974. Foreman had to sit out his senior year at Wheatley, after transferring from Houston Furr. Foreman's entire family had graduated from Wheatley so he felt compelled to transfer. None the less, Willie never let that stop him and his dream of playing college basketball. Coach Carr helped him get recruited by telling the recruits that showed up at Wheatley, that he was a major recruit. Foreman was 6'4" in high school and was a leaper and physical player inside. Foreman was recruited by U.N.L.V., Texas A&M and Oklahoma out of high school. Willie was a country boy, so when he went to U.N.L.V., that was not his cup of tea. Eddie Owens was there and loved it, but it was too fast for "Sky". Upon visiting Texas A&M, they took him fishing, which suited him just fine. Sonny Parker was still playing small forward, so Foreman went to junior college to refine his talents. When he left Hill Junior College, he was widely pursued because he had grown four more inches. A&M was still his choice and he made All-SWC with the Aggies. Foreman was not drafted by the N.B.A., but played on several 10 day contracts with the Rockets and Jazz. He never got in a game and took his skills to Belgium and later the Harlem Globetrotters. When asked about the player he was most impressed with during his playing days in high school, Foreman said, "Ira Terrell was the best, it was hard to get inside his head, he had such a soft touch and smooth around the basket. He was so mentally tough and nothing seemed to faze him."

Region IV

Austin Crockett(28-3) #12

San Antonio Jefferson(29-6) #20

San Antonio Highlands(31-3) #8

Corpus Christi Miller(24-5) #16

Victoria(33-4) #13

San Antonio Fox Tech(22-10)

San Antonio Bracken.(30-6) #10

McAllen(28-1) #15

Top Five in Region IV

6'5" Arthur Edwards, SA Brackenridge; 6'8" Mike Murphy, Austin Crockett; 6'2" Maurice Callis, Victoria; 6'4" Randy Washington, C.C. Miller; 6'8" Skippy Black, Austin Johnston:

In Region IV, Corpus Christi Miller(24-5) found itself in Bi-District going against a McAllen team with the second-best record in the state, at 33-1. The one loss had been in December at the hands of Corpus Christi Miller 66-57. The two teams flipped for a home and home, and Miller lost the coin flip, so they had to travel to the friendly confines of McAllen High School. It was not a friendly place to play because the fans were so close and right on top of you. McAllen relied on 6'7" Eddie Gonzales and his physical play inside. Outside, Cris Garcia averaged 20.0 points per game and was very steady. C.C. Miller was going to count on several different players, but their main cog was Randy Washington(22.2). Others who

would contribute for C.C. Miller were Danny Williams, Wendall Williams and Michael Powell. McAllen was coached by Fred Gilbert, while Miller's boss man was George Hillmon. C.C. Miller took a comfortable halftime lead of 40-29. Garcia went off for the Bulldogs of McAllen for 37 points but it was in a losing cause. For C.C. Miller it was their only trip to regionals during the 1970s. McAllen held Miller's leading scorer, Washington to only 11 points, but was unable to control Danny Williams and Michael Powell, who both finished with 17 points. McAllen's inside force, 6'7" Eddie Gonzales only managed 2 points.

Victoria would be trying to make the regionals for the fourth time in five seasons. Victoria took a 17-game winning streak into the state playoffs. Austin Crockett(28-3) had the size advantage with two 6'8" posts, but Victoria(33-4) was able to overcome the size disadvantage. Victoria had a 52-49 rebound margin and came away with the win 52-46. Speaking of disadvantages in height, Fox Tech struggled with the taller San Antonio Jefferson's inside power. Jefferson was also believed to be the deepest team in Region IV. Jefferson(30-6) started 6'7" Brian Bryden, 6'5" Elijah Owens(12.2), 6'5" Alfred Silva, 6'2" Michael Jones(12.9) and 6'0" Arjel Booke. Fox Tech countered with 5'9" Kenneth Conner, 6'6" David Miller, 6'2" Joe Hardaway a post, 6'2" James Brown a post and 6'3" wing, Tommy Spriggs. Coming off the bench were 6'0" Art Corzo and 6'0" Don Wilson. Sixth man was 6'0" Mario Raphnetti. During the regular season, Jefferson held two early season wins over Fox Tech. Fox Tech had upset Jefferson in the 1973 playoffs 51-47, so Jefferson Coach 'Snake' LeGrande was looking for revenge. Snake was in his first season at Jefferson in '73. No surprises this time. Jefferson won a close one 51-47.

The battle for San Antonio came down to San Antonio Highlands(31-4) and San Antonio Brackenridge(30-6). Highlands would have to stop the top player in the Alamo city in Brackenridge's, 6'4" Arthur Edwards(21.2/17.0). Edwards was not only a strong a scorer and rebounder, but averaged 7 blocks per game. Another outstanding performer for Brackenridge was 6'4" Darrell Scruggs(17.9/12.2). Edwards would eventually star at Baylor University in Waco. Highland's best player and also a member of the San Antonio All-City team was 5'8", Lonzy Lee(13.1). He was described as pulsating and dynamic. Lee also averaged 3 steals and 3 assists per game. James Matheny was another big contributor for Highlands. Coach John Kemmerzehl of Highlands discussed Edwards, "He is as good an inside man as anybody in the state, bar none." Brackenridge's Coach, Doc Middleton was glad Edwards and Scruggs were on his side and would be favored. The two inside forces both had strong games against Highlands. Edward finished with 25 points and 17 rebounds and Scruggs added 22 and 9, as Brackenridge dropped Highlands 65-57. Middleton commented after the game, "I think our practice game against Wheatley helped us considerably." Houston Wheatley had won the game 98-72.

As the regionals got underway in San Antonio, it looked like any one of the four teams could advance to Austin and the state tournament. In the semi-final game, Victoria was trying to win their first game in regionals on their fourth try. 6'4" Keith Brown(12.3), 6'3" Anthony King(10.4), 6'2" Maurice Callis(17.6), 5'10" Derel Reaves and 6'1" Billy Taylor wanted to bring home a victory. The Stingarees knew rebounding would be the key. Coach Smith was confident this would be his first win at regionals, but it didn't happen as San Antonio Jefferson was too talented winning 53-48. Callis, who would later go on and sign with Baylor, scored 24 points in a losing effort. For S.A. Jefferson, it was the balance as usual, Michael Jones scored 17 points, Elijah Owens added 13 points and Bryden came in with 9. In the other semi-final, Corpus Christi Miller would try and slow down the wrecking machine combination of Edwards and Scruggs. C.C. Miller put four players in double figures and won a close one 69-62 over Brackenridge. Scruggs finished with 28 points and 12 rebounds while Edwards had 18 points and 14 rebounds, but it just wasn't in the cards for Brackenridge. Coach Doc Middleton commented after the loss, "We just didn't get the ball inside enough."

In the regional finals, Corpus Christi Miller was no match for the deep and talented San Antonio Jefferson squad losing 67-53. Elijah Owens paced S.A. Jefferson with 17 points, Bryden and Michael Jones both followed with 12 each. Sophomore, Micah Owens came through big for the Mustangs off the bench with 10 points and 13 rebounds. For Corpus Christi Miller, it was Randy Washington(22.0) with 29 points, but he had little help. The Bucs 18 game winning streak had come to an end. S.A. Jefferson would be making their second final four appearances in three years. On the San Antonio All-City team, Jefferson only placed one player on the first unit, 6'2" Mike Jones, and only one player was named Honorable Mention, 6'5" Elijah Owens. S.A. Jefferson had so many players that contributed to the team's success on a nightly basis that it was hard to single players out for awards. This spoke volumes as to the depth of Mustangs, and they would need all of that talent in Austin. During the two game regional tournament, S.A. Jefferson never trailed either opponent.

State Tournament

Houston Kashmere	(37-2)	#2	95.0-71.7	+23.3
Denton	(29-6)			
San Antonio Jefferson	(32-6)	#20		
South Oak Cliff	(36-4)	#3	85.9-70.2	+15.7

Top Five Players at the State Tournament

6'3"	Karl Godine	Houston Kashmere
6'2"	Larry Harris	South Oak Cliff
6'3"	Charles McMillian	South Oak Cliff
6'7"	Kenneth Williams	South Oak Cliff
6'7"	Gary Goodner	Denton

The semi-finals in Austin pitted, Houston Kashmere against Denton at 4:30, followed by Dallas South Oak Cliff vs. San Antonio Jefferson at 7:30. The Broncos of Denton had played some outstanding basketball in their three playoffs games and were led by three talented gems, 6'7" Gary Goodner, 6'3" Randy Alexander and point guard, Greg Boyd. The other two starters were Hank Akin and John Wesson. Denton was not a deep team, but had great chemistry and tough defense. Many felt Kashmere would be too tough for the Broncos. Coach Jack Howard showed confidence in his pre-game statements. "We may try to slow them down a little but if they force us to play with them, we're ready." Denton at one point opened up a 12-point lead on the Rams, but Kashmere was playing 10 players and late in the game it began to wear down the Broncos. By halftime, Kashmere had cut the lead to five 42-37. Williams and Godine hit buckets late to put Kashmere up. With a one-point lead late in the game, Kashmere went into their stall and won 75-72. Goodner finished with 21 points, Randy Alexander hit 20 and Boyd followed with 16. Goodner missed almost an entire quarter because of foul trouble. Kashmere leaders were Jarvis Williams with 18 points, Godine was good for 17 points and Reggins had 16 points. In the end, Kashmere won the game on the inside, winning the rebound battle as usual 62-38. Kashmere was one of the strongest rebounding teams of the decade, along with Lufkin in 1979.

In the late-night semis, Dallas S.O.C.(36-4) was favored over the S.A. Jefferson Mustangs(32-6). The Golden Bears, coached by Jimmy Gales, started 6'3" Waymon Lister, 6'3" Charles McMillian, 6'6" Kenneth Williams, 6'0" Edwin Webb and 6'2" Larry Harris. S.O.C. had three exceptional players. Kenneth Williams, had size and balance and strength inside, averaging 20 points a game and was a rebounding machine. Harris was one of the top point guards in the state and McMillian was a human highlight film in action. He could also fill it up from the perimeter. McMillian was averaging 36 points a game in the playoffs and 24 on the season. I remember when I saw McMillian at North Texas as a student and he came to play for the Eagles, after playing at Tyler Junior College. He was a high flyer, with unbelievable dunks and made plays that brought the crowd to their feet. McMillian was named Player of the Year on the Dallas All-Metro squad over his own teammates. Harris, Williams and McMillian were all named first team along with 6'8" Melvin Davis(23.0) of Greenville and 6'3" Randy Alexander of Denton. Waymon Lister was a strong defender and very smooth and steady for S.O.C. You would be hard pressed to find any team with four more gifted players in the state in 1974 or any other year for that matter. The Bears were favored to meet Kashmere in the finals. S.A. Jefferson felt their team was every bit as strong as the Dallas and Houston entries. Coach Robert "Snake" LeGrand felt his team could board with anybody, with their potent starting line-up of 6'7" Brian Bryden, 6'5" Alfred Silva, 6'5" Elijah Owens, 6'2" Mike Jones and 6'0" Arjel Boone. The Mustangs liked to play several players including, Mario Rapanoff, Sam Butler,

Malcolm Freeman, Mike Vilim and Mike Schelper. Also, Jefferson had a brilliant sophomore in Micah Owens.

The game proved to be a fun one, as both teams showed their talents getting up and down the floor. S.O.C. ended up just two points short of the state scoring record winning 109-100. Harris and McMillian combined for 55 points. McMillian was disqualified for throwing an elbow in the 4th quarter at Brian Bryden and Mike Jones of S.A. Jefferson. McMillian fouled out after scoring 29 points. Harris finished with 26 points, Jefferson had 16 and Webb added 10 points. The Mustangs showed their depth also with Elijah Owens scoring 20 points, Bryden with 16 and Micah Owens finished with 10. The closest S.A. Jefferson got in the final quarter was 79-73. The Bears forced 26 turnovers to S.A. Jefferson's 19. After the game, "Snake" LeGrand said, "I have never seen a team shoot that well." For S.O.C., it was the eleventh time during the season to break the century mark and Jefferson's first. LeGrand was the second playoff victim that was dumbfounded by the Golden Bears plethora of talent.

In the state finals, it was a match-up of two of the most talented teams ever to play for the title. Unfortunately for S.O.C. their big man, Kenneth Williams could barely run up and down the court with his injured back. Many times, he would just stay on the defensive end of the court because of his inability to run the court. Coach Gales defended his decision in playing Williams on the fact that he had earned the right to play in the state championship game, even if he wasn't at full speed. Whether you agreed or not with Gales, his decision to play Williams really hurt S.O.C. Two things that compounded the problem even more was, Larry Harris, the Bears great point guard, got into early foul trouble. Even with the limitations placed on S.O.C., they were able to play a great game losing 91-87. In talking with Williams years later, he said the back issue had to do with his growth. He was 6'5" in his senior year at S.O.C., and 6'7 as a freshman at North Texas. In an interview with Charles McMillian, he felt that had Williams been right and Harris not gotten into foul trouble, they would have beaten Kashmere. "We only lost by four points and we were playing without two of our three best players. Yes, I feel confident we would have beat them at full strength," McMillian said. Godine led Kashmere with 21 points, Craig Reggins 17, Jarvis Williams 13 and Lanis Hayes 12. McMillian as usual carried the scoring load for S.O.C. with 32 points, Lister had 10, Webb hit 11 and Williams only had 3 points, 18 under his average. Williams was able to manage 13 rebounds in his limited condition. Harris had three fouls in the first 1:28 of the game. He sat until the final quarter, and played less than a full quarter of the game, and still ended up with 10 points. Coach Gamble of Pt. Arthur Lincoln commented years later about Williams's inability to get up and down the court in the championship game. "He(Williams) should have never have been on the court, he couldn't get up and down the court dragging his leg. He really hurt his team, because they were only playing four players. It is always hard to second

guess coaches, but I would not have done that." Many people who saw the game agreed with Gamble.

You can always speculate on what-ifs, but what remained is Houston Kashmere was a very disserving state champion, and as everybody would find out in 1975, a very young team as well.

The **All-Tournament** team at state was made up of Godine, Jarvis Williams, Craig Reggins, all from Kashmere, McMillian and Harris of S.O.C., Randy Alexander of Denton and 6'2" Mike Jones of S.A. Jefferson.

1974 State Rankings AAAA{End of the Regular Season}

1.	Corsicana	32-0	6'4" Donnie Chambers, 6'3" Ricky Purdy
2.	Houston Kashmere	33-2	6'3" Karl Godine, 6'5" Jarvis Williams
3.	Dallas S.O.C.	30-4	6'2" Larry Harris, 6'3" Charles McMillian
4.	Houston Westchester	28-3	6'8" Jeff Swanson, 6'3" Dirk Hoyt
5.	Ft. Worth Poly	26-2	6'3" Robert Hollie, 6'4" Larry Levels
6.	S.A. Highlands	31-3	John Bowers, James Matheny
7.	Houston Wheatley	36-5	6'7" Randy Grimes, James Hudson
8.	El Paso Eastwood	24-4	6'5" Fred Spain, 6'5" Jim Crenshaw
9.	Victoria	33-4	6'4" Keith Brown, 6'2" Maurice Callis
10.	El Paso Bowie	26-3	5'11" Joe Blueford, Charlie Williams
11.	Midland Lee	28-4	5'11" Brett Blackwell, 6'4" Melvin Jackson
12.	Dallas Roosevelt	28-5	6'3" James Leffall, 6'2" Harlan Hill
13.	McAllen	29-1	6'8" Ed Gonzales, Cris Garcia
14.	Austin Crockett	25-3	6'8" Mike Murphy
15.	Corpus Christi Miller	27-5	Mike Powell, Dan Williams
16.	S.A. Jefferson	28-6	6'2" Mike Jones, 6'5" Elijah Owens
17.	Denton High	22-6	6'6" Gary Goodner, 6'3" Randy Alexander
18.	Clear Lake	33-4	6'3" David Buchanon, Laddie Naymola
19.	S.A. Brackenridge	30-5	6'5" Arthur Edwards, 6'4" Darrell Scruggs
20.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	28-4	6'6" Earl Evans, 6'0" Kervin Eli

All-State Teams: The Sports Writers named a very balanced and fair team once again in 1974. **1st team**- 6'6" Earl Evans(28.3) of PA Lincoln, 6'8" Melvin Davis(23.8) of Greenville, 6'3" Charles McMillian(24.0) of S.O.C., 6'2" junior, Karl Godine(19.5) of Kashmere, 6'1" Larry Harris(16.0) of S.O.C.: **2nd Team**- 6'6" Donnie Chambers(19.5) of Corsicana, 6'6" Gary Goodner(19.0) of Denton, 6'6" Ken Williams(20.0) of S.O.C., 6'7" Fred Mitchell(20.8) of Amarillo Palo Duro, 6'1" Norman Bellard(23.9) of Beaumont Hebert; **3rd team**-6'4" Arthur Edwards(21.2) of SA Brackenridge, 6'8" Jeff Swanson(22.0) of Houston Westchester, 6'4" Randy Washington(22.2) of C.C. Miller, 6'3" Randy Alexander(18.0) of Denton, 6'2" Reginald Harrison(25.7) of LaMarque:

Looking at the team, it was loaded. There are several players that I could slip in on the first three teams. To name a few, 6'2" Maurice Callis(17.6) of Victoria, 6'6" Jarvis Williams(15.0) of Kashmere, 6'3" Ricky Purdy(20.4) of Corsicana, 5'11" Kervin

Eli of P.A. Lincoln, 6'2" Mike Jones(12.6) of SA Jefferson. One player that undoubtedly should have made the team, but was omitted because of his youth, was the big sophomore from Houston Worthing, 6'6" Albert "Slab" Jones. He took his team to the regional finals. He was one of the top fifteen players in the state. His team stopped Wheatley in Bi-District and missed going to state by one point, they also eliminated a strong Clear Lake team by one point in overtime. As usual one of the top players in the country George Walker of Yates was not recognized. The Lions were always overlooked because of their lack of playoff experience.

Recruits: Earl Evans(28.3) of Pt. Arthur Lincoln was one of the best players and recruits of the 1970s in Texas. Southern Cal signed him, but he ended up transferring to UNLV and was drafted by the Pistons. Evans was a fine college player with the Runnin Rebels, averaging a double double, 17.9/10.1. Coach Gamble, his high school coach, said that Evans was not only the best player he ever coached but also the best high school player he had ever seen. 6'2" George Walker of Houston Yates was considered a prize recruit by Southern California. Walker was one of the best athletes to ever come out of Houston. He was a phenomenal wide receiver on the football team and was a sprinter and baseball standout. He ended up at Tyler Junior College with Charles McMillian and "Stretch" Campbell of Yates. Wow what a line-up! 6'8" Melvin Davis(23.8) of Greenville was highly prized recruit, and had a fine career at North Texas State averaging a double double while playing for the Mean Green, 17.3/10.6. Davis was drafted by the Jazz. 6'5" Arthur Edwards(21.2) of Brackenridge, was the best player in San Antonio and played at Baylor. With the Bears, he had a solid career averaging 14.0 points and 7.6 rebounds. 6'3" Charles McMillian(24.0) of South Oak Cliff signed with Tulsa and Wichita State out of high school, both teams were in the strong Missouri Valley Conference. This was against conference rules, so Charles played for Tyler JC and later North Texas State. With the Eagles, he had a nice career averaging 11.7 per game and the pros thought enough of him that he was drafted. The Kings drafted McMillian. 6'2" Larry Harris(15.0) of S.O.C. committed to T.C.U. where his brother Alonzo played, but he ended up at Navarro JC. He was one of the most dominant junior college players in the country at Navarro. 6'5" Dennis Tealer(24.6) of Gonzales signed with Houston, 6'7" Ken Williams(20.0) of S.O.C. went to North Texas St. and led the nation in rebounding at 14.7 and averaged 11.8 points. Williams decided to play at North Texas because the Eagles were in the Missouri Valley Conference, which was a much stronger basketball conference than the Southwest conference. Danny Kaspar, who played with Williams at North Texas St. said, "Kenneth was the best rebounder I ever saw play, he was very tough and so team oriented, a real winner." Gary Goodner of Denton went to Texas and was a solid performer for the Longhorns, averaging 13.4 points and 8.3 rebounds. Goodner was also drafted by the Rockets, 6'1" Norman Bellard of Beaumont

Hebert went to Lamar University. Ballard was the starting point guard on Lamar's first NCAA team in 1979. 6'6" **Willie Foreman** of Houston Furr went to Texas A&M and had a stellar career averaging 14.9 and 5.4 with the Aggies, 6'4" **Donnie Chambers**(19.5) of Corsicana, played at Navarro JC and was a starter at Lamar University, 6'7" **Fred Mitchell**(20.8/13.5) of Amarillo Palo Duro went to North Texas St. and led a talented team in scoring with 18.4 points and 7.0 rebounds. Mitchell was considered by one Southwest Conference coach as the top recruit in the state and he was not far off. 6'8" **Jeff Swanson**(22.0) of Houston Westchester played at S.M.U., 6'3" **Jerrel Sheffield** of Houston signed with Houston, 6'6" **Frank Jackson**(24.0) of Richardson Berkner played at Rice and averaged 11.9/7.7 for the Owls, 6'8" **Mike Murphy** of Austin Crockett signed with Texas and had a nice career with 9.5/5.3. 6'10" **Tom Nichols** of Houston Sharpstown went to Texas, 6'8" **Craig Bishop**(20.0) of Arlington High played at Baylor, 6'3" **Dirk Hoyt**(22.0) of Houston Westchester played at T.C.U., 6'7" **J.C. Eakin** of Lubbock Monterey played at Texas Tech, 6'3" **Randy Alexander**(19.0) of Denton High went to Louisiana Tech, 5'10" **Oscar Barcena** of E.P. Eastwood played for U.T.E.P., 6'8" **Skippy Black** of Austin Johnston played at UTEP, 6'1" **James Simmon** of Silsbee to Rice, 6'2" **Maurice Callis**(19.0) of Victoria played at Baylor, 6'3" **Ricky Dowdle**(17.1) of Longview Pine Tree, 6'6" **Donnie Battie** to Wichita St., 6'9" **Mike Harris** to Wichita St., 6'5" **Carl Gossett** of Houston Sterling played at T.C.U., 6'3" **Mike Edwards** of E.P. Burgess to Texas Tech, 5'8" **Danny Lopez** of El Paso was a starter at New Mexico St., **Brian Barrett** of Bryan played at Texas A&M. 6'5" **John George** of Ft. Worth Paschal, 6'0" **Kervin Eli** of Pt. Arthur Lincoln played at Prairie View after playing at Navarro J.C. and 6'0" **Raymond Hall** of Corsicana played at Navarro J.C. along with teammate, 6'4" **Ricky Purdy**. 6'9" **Bill Caldwell** of Galveston Ball, who was ineligible during the season because of age, but was still recruited. Caldwell played at Texas Southern and was All-Conference averaging, 10.8 points and 7.5 rebounds. 6'3" **Robert Hollie**(20.5) of Ft. Worth Poly played at T.C.U. 6'4" **David Buchanan** of Clear Lake played at Tyler J.C. 6'7" **John Derrick** of South Garland was one of the best players in the state, but had a few problems off the court, which limited his recruitment. He was a Jr. College All-American at McLennan J.C. and a NAIA All-American at Cameron University in Lawton, Oklahoma. Derrick made all the national papers when he was one of the first players to shatter a backboard in a slam-dunk contest. The contest was taking place at halftime at the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association All-Star game on the campus of Bethany Nazarene College.

Danny Kaspar, who paced Corpus Christi Carroll in 1973 to the state tournament, played with Derrick at McLennan Jr. College. As a former teammate of Derrick, Danny was able share his thoughts on the former South Garland standout. Kaspar said, "John was an unbelievable athlete with tremendous jumping ability and quickness. At 6'7" he was a quick leaper and great shot blocker.

John was very moody person who didn't talk much." Kaspar continued "I feel John had the ability to play professional basketball, but I don't know if he would have had the right mindset." Kaspar is presently one of the top coaches in state at Texas State University.

Top Texas Recruits in 1974 based on their college and pro careers:			
Earl Evans 6'6"	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	USC/UNLV 17.9/10.1	<u>NBA Pist #157</u>
Melvin Davis 6'8"	Greenville	N. Texas St. 17.3/10.6	Draft Jazz #74
Kenneth Williams 6'7"	Dallas S.O.C.	N. Texas St. 11.8/14.7	
Gary Goodner 6'6"	Denton	Texas 13.4/8.3	Draft Rock.#91
Arthur Edwards 6'5"	S.A. Brackenridge	Baylor 14.0/7.6	
Charles McMillian 6'3"	Dallas S.O.C.	Tyler JC/N.Tex. St. 11.7	Draft King#136
Fred Mitchell 6'7"	Amarillo Palo Duro	N. Texas St. 18.4/7.0	
Norman Bellard 6'1"	Beaumont Hebert	Lamar University 7.8/3.7 asst.*	
Willie Foreman 6'6"	Houston Furr	Texas A&M 14.9/5.4*	
Jeff Swanson 6'8"	H. Westchester	S.M.U. 13.7/7.2	
John Derrick 6'7"	South Garland	Cameron U. 20.5/11.7 (NAIA All-Am.)	

(*All-Conference)

All-Americans: Earl Evans was named to every All-American team you could find. Scholastic, Basketball Weekly, Popular Sports Pre-Season 1st team, Street & Smith Pre-Season 2nd team, Street & Smith Freshmen of Influence (Top 15 players in the country), Honorable Mention Basketball Weekly-Melvin Davis, Greenville and George Walker, Houston Yates. St. Petersburg Times in Florida had one of the top basketball All-American teams at the time. They recognized the Top 25 players in the country and then the Top 200 and Honorable Mention. Earl Evans of course was named on of the **Top 25**. 6'3" Charles McMillian of S.O.C., 6'0" Larry Harris of S.O.C., 6'5" Dennis Tealer of Gonzales, 6'4" Karl Godine of Kashmere, 6'2" George Walker of Yates, 6'9" Bill Caldwell of Galveston Ball and 6'8" Melvin Davis of Greenville were all recognized in the **Top 200** players in the country. **Honorable Mention** went to; 6'7" Michael Murphy of Austin Crockett, 6'0" James Parks of Ft. Worth Trimble Tech, 6'4" Arthur Edwards of SA Brackenridge, 6'6" Donnie Chambers of Corsicana, 6'6" Jeff Swanson of Westchester, 6'8" Fred Mitchell of Amarillo Palo Duro, 6'6" Gary Goodner of Denton, 6'4" Dirk Hoyt of Houston Westchester, 6'8" Craig Bishop of Arlington, 6'2" Gerald Sheffield, Spring Woods, 6'6" Kenneth Williams of S.O.C., 6'1" Norman Bellard of Beaumont Hebert, 6'2" Maurice Callis of Victoria, 6'2" Randy Alexander of Denton, 6'3" Robert Hollie of Ft. Worth Poly, 6'4" Randy Washington, Corpus Christy Miller, 6'2" Reginal Harrison of LaMarque, 6'7" Albert Jones of Houston Worthing, a sophomore, 6'4" Charlie Bass of Crosby and 6'7" John Derrick of South Garland.

National Rankings:

State Leaders: Earl Evans was high point man at 28.3 per game, followed by Reginald Harrison of LaMarque at 25.7. Charles McMillian of S.O.C. put up 24.0 points per game and Norman Bellard hit 23.9 per game. Rebounding leader was also Evans, averaging 20.0 per game and Arthur Edwards of S.A. Brackenridge

pulled down 17.0 per game. Top offensive team was Kashmere with 95.0 per game followed by S.O.C. at 85.9. Top defensive team in the state was Corsicana at 46.7. Point difference leader was Corsicana at 25.6 per game, Kashmere was next with 23.3.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs- Charles McMillian, S.O.C. averaged 33.8 per game in the Playoffs. His scoring in the playoffs; Dallas Lincoln(41), Ft. Worth Poly(36), Corsicana(31), S.A. Jefferson(29), Houston Kashmere(32):

Power Ratings:

1.	Corsicana	34-1	98.70	Reg. Finals 4-A	Loss S.O.C. 86-64
2.	South Oak Cliff	37-5	95.97	State Finals 4-A	Loss Kashmere 91-87
3.	Houston Kashmere	39-2	94.92	State Champs 4-A	def. S.O.C. 91-87
4.	Denton	26-7	92.75	State Semis 4-A	Loss Kashmere 75-72
5.	Houston Wheatley	37-7	90.08	Bi-District 4-A	Loss Worthing 99-100
6.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	32-6	87.64	Regional Semis 4-A	Loss Kashmere 82-77
7.	Dallas Roosevelt	26-6	85.86		

As for the power ratings of 1974, they came out a little different than you may have expected. Corsicana was easily #1 at an impressive 98.70. Their victory margin was an incredible +25.6 on the season against a fairly difficult schedule. Sherman(20-8) was a playoff team which the Tigers beat convincingly both times by 12 and 31 points. Tyler John Tyler(24-7) had a solid season that Corsicana handled easily by 24 points. They destroyed Waco Jefferson Moore(17-4) twice by 20 and 30 points and they were a class AAA playoff team. In District, Waco Richfield(26-8) was really the only strong opponent and they lost to the Tigers by 8 and 13 points, which were close games for the Tigers. In the playoffs, they beat the #4 team in the state in Houston Westchester(28-4) by 4 and a tough Marshall(26-4) squad by 4. Westchester had won the prestigious Arlington Classic early in the season. The big debacle against S.O.C. was their only loss to the season, which really hurt their creditability.

The most talented team in terms of recruiting goes in 1974 had to be South Oak Cliff. These players were not only highly prized recruits, but went on and had nice careers. 6'7" Kenneth Williams, to North Texas St., along with Charles McMillian and Waymon Lister, all played for the Eagles. Larry Harris was thought to be one of the top guards in the state and was recruited by several major colleges, but ended up at Junior College. He was definitely a division one talent.

Team that should have advanced to the State Tournament in Austin: Of course, I would have loved for Corsicana to have advanced. They caught a very hot S.O.C. team and were eliminated. After winning 34 in a row it was tough not advancing.

1974 4-A Playoffs				
Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso Eastwood(24-4) #14	46	El Paso Bowie(28-3) #9	38
	Lubbock Monterey(22-10)	69	Borger(23-8)	63
	Ft. Worth Richland(21-9)	82	Midland Lee(28-4) #7	67
	Denton(26-6)	62	Arlington(23-7)	42
Region I Semis	El Paso Eastwood(25-4) #14	49	Lubbock Monterey(23-10)	38
	Denton(27-6)	83	Ft. Worth Richland(22-9)	63
<u>Region I Finals</u>	<u>Denton(28-6)</u>	<u>64</u>	<u>El Paso Eastwood(26-4) #14</u>	<u>55</u>
Region II Bi-Dist.	Ft. Worth Poly(27-2) #5	80	Ft. W. Southwest(23-10)	78
	Dallas S.O.C.(33-4) #3	102	Dallas Lincoln	90
	Marshall(25-3)	56	Sherman(20-7) #19	43
	Corsicana(32-0) #1	61	H. Westchester(29-3) #4	57
Region II Semis	Dallas S.O.C.(34-4) #3	83	Ft. Worth Poly(28-2) #5	78
	Corsicana(33-0) #1	52	Marshall(26-3)	48
<u>Region II Finals</u>	<u>Dallas S.O.C.(35-4) #3</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>Corsicana(34-0) #1</u>	<u>64</u>
Region III Bi-Dist.	Clear Lake(34-4) #17	66	LaMarque(27-8)	59
	Houston Worthing(23-10)	100	H. Wheatley(37-6) #11	99
	Houston Kashmere(34-2) #2	100	H.Forest Brook(28-5)	88
	Pt. A. Lincoln(31-5) #18	80	Beaumont Pollard(25-8)	78
Region III Semis	Houston Worthing(24-10)	83	Clear Lake(35-4) #17	82
	Houston Kashmere(35-2) #2	82	Pt. A. Lincoln(32-5) #18	77
<u>Region III Finals</u>	<u>Houston Kashmere(36-2) #2</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>Houston Worthing(25-10)</u>	<u>90</u>
Region IV Bi-Dist.	SA Jefferson(29-6) #20	51	SA Fox Tech(22-10)	47
	Victoria(33-4) #13	52	Austin Crockett(28-3) #12	46
	SA Brackenridge(30-6) #10	65	SA Highlands(31-3) #8	57
	C.C. Miller(24-5) #16	52	McAllen(28-1) #15	49
Region IV Semis	SA Jefferson(30-6) #20	53	Victoria(34-4) #13	48
	C.C. Miller(25-5) #16	69	SA Brackenridge(31-6) #10	62
<u>Region IV Finals</u>	<u>SA Jefferson(31-6) #20</u>	<u>67</u>	<u>C.C. Miller(26-5) #16</u>	<u>57</u>
State Semi-Finals	Dallas S.O.C.(36-4) #3	109	SA Jefferson(32-6) #20	100
	Houston Kashmere(37-2) #2	75	Denton(29-6)	72
State Finals	Houston Kashmere(38-2) #2	91	Dallas S.O.C.(37-4) #3	87

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs, this would be my 1974 AAAA Top "50"}

1. Houston Kashmere	39-2	{State Champions, playing one of the toughest schedules}
2. South Oak Cliff	37-5	{wins -Wheatley, Clear Lake, Poly, Worthing, Corsicana}
3. Corsicana	34-1	{only three single digit victories during the regular season}
4. Houston Westchester	29-4	{beat S.O.C. 93-81, Wheatley 98-78, Denton 75-64}
5. Clear Lake	35-5	{wins Pt. A. Lincoln twice, Kashmere regular season}
6. Pt. Arthur Lincoln	32-6	{split Wheatley, loses Clear Lake twice & Kashmere twice}
7. Houston Wheatley	37-6	{split with SOC, PA Lincoln, and were 2-1 vs Worthing}
8. Houston Worthing	25-11	{lost reg. finals to Kashmere by one, Albert Jones-soph}
9. Fort Worth Poly	28-3	{Hollie, Revels led Poly to three straight regionals trips}
10. Denton	29-7	{lost to Poly, Kashmere and beat Eastwood, 2-1 vs. H.P}
11. Deer Park	35-5	{only team to beat the Clear Lake in district 78-70}
12. Dallas Roosevelt	26-6	{split with S.O.C., winning 106-104 and losing 97-96}
13. San Antonio Jefferson	31-7	{state semis losing to S.O.C. 109-100}
14. Houston Yates	21-10	{tough district vs. Wheatley, Finals of the Jaycee Tourney}
15. Marshall	26-4	{lost to Corsicana 52-48 in the regional semis}
16. El Paso Eastwood	26-5	{regional finals losing to Denton 64-55}
17. Houston Sterling	21-12	{split with Kashmere early, lost by 10 and won by 8}
18. Beaumont Pollard	25-9	{lost in Bi-District 80-78 to Pt. Arthur Lincoln}
19. Victoria	34-5	{regional semis losing to SA Jefferson 53-48}
20. El Paso Bowie	28-4	{lost in Bi-District to Eastwood 46-38}
21. Corpus Christi Miller	26-6	{regional finals losing to SA Jefferson 67-57}
22. McAllen	28-2	{lost twice to C.C. Miller}
23. Midland Lee	28-5	{knocked out in Bi-District by Richland 82-67}
24. San Antonio Brackenridge	31-7	{lost in the regional semis to Corpus Christy Miller 69-62}
25. Austin Crockett	28-4	{lost in Bi-District to Victoria 52-46}
26. Houston Forest Brook	28-6	{out of the playoffs in 1st round by Kashmere 100-88}
27. San Antonio Highlands	31-4	{dropped in Bi-District by Brackenridge 65-57}
28. LaMarque	27-9	{lost in Bi-District to Clear Lake 66-59}
29. San Antonio Fox Tech	22-11	{1st round loser to SA Jefferson 51-47}
30. Ft. Worth Richland	22-10	{regional semis losing to Denton 83-63}
31. Lubbock Monterey	23-11	{lost to Eastwood in the regional semis 49-38}
32. Borger	23-9	{eliminated in the 1 st round by Monterey 69-63}
33. Waco Richfield	26-8	{lost in district to Corsicana 47-39 and 67-54}
34. Dulles	24-7	{lost a district playoff game to LaMarque 74-73}
35. Highland Park	26-8	{district runner-up to Denton finished 10-2}
36. Alvin	28-6	{finished third in district behind, LaMarque and Dulles}
37. Ft. Worth Paschal	21-7	{district runner-up to Ft. Worth Southwest in 10-AAAA}
38. Sherman	20-8	{Marshall eliminated Sherman in Bi-District 56-53}
39. Arlington	23-8	{the Colts were eliminated in 1 st round by Denton 62-42}
40. Ft. Worth Southwest	23-11	{lost a close one to Poly in Bi-District by two points}
41. Dallas Lincoln		{lost in Bi-District to the Golden Bears of S.O.C. 102-90}
42. Amarillo Palo Duro	21-9	{one of the top players in the state, 6'7" Fred Mitchell}
43. Wichita Falls	22-9	{runner-up in district 6-AAAA to Ft. Worth Richland}
44. Tyler John Tyler	24-7	{runner-up to Marshall in the East Texas district}
45. Dallas Pinkston	25-7	{finished 3 rd place behind S.O.C. and Roosevelt in District}
46. Spring Branch Memorial	22-9	{tough district 16-AAAA with Westchester, Spring Woods}
47. Dallas Kimball	20-12	{faced S.O.C. and Roosevelt six times with 1-5 record}
48. Pasadena	25-8	{defeated Deer Park in district, 58-49, finished 3rd}
49. Spring Woods	22-10	{District 16-AAAA behind Westchester and Memorial}
50. Beaumont Hebert	21-8	{lost a district playoff game to Pollard 88-67}

1970 AAA

Class AAA had some strong teams in 1970. Four very talented teams advanced to Austin but only one of the four teams would bring home the gold. Lamesa looked to be the pre-tournament favorite with a rich basketball tradition. Coach O.W. Follis had an outstanding program and the Golden Tornadoes would be making their sixth appearance in Austin. Lamesa came in at 32-1 on the season, with their only loss coming at the hands of El Paso Eastwood(22-5) 57-38 in their sixth game of the season. Lamesa was on a 28-game winning streak. All five starters averaged in double figures, 6'2" Floyd Jenkins(19.7), 6'2" Lloyd Jenkins(17.2), 6'5" Jerry Jernigan(10.0), 5'9" Brent Minnix(10.0) and 6'1" Cecil Davis(10.0). Lamesa was thought to be one of the best teams to come out of West Texas in several years. In the 3-AAA tournament to decide the playoff representative, Lubbock Dunbar(26-5) defeated Snyder(27-5) 59-55 in one semi-final game and Lamesa beat Levelland(16-15) 93-58 in the other. More than 4,000 fans watched the finals, as Lamesa finally ended the two-year domination of District 3-AAA by Lubbock Dunbar 78-70. Up 68-58 with 4:50 remaining in the game, Lamesa went into a delay game. The Golden Tornadoes dominated the glass 61 to 34 and also hit 30-38 foul shots, compared to Lubbock Dunbar's 18-29. Earnest Davis led Dunbar with 21 points, and Minnix put in 25 for Lamesa and Floyd Jenkins ended up with 23 points. Floyd also pulled in 24 rebounds. Lubbock Dunbar finished the season at 27-6. 6'6" Marc Wilson(17.8) was the key contributor for Dunbar.

In regionals, two of the four schools voted for a Bi-District playoff and the other two voted for a common site regional tournament. Because of the tie, they flipped a coin and the tournament format was decided. Ft. Stockton(23-7) would face Wichita Falls Hirschi and Lamesa would play Canyon, a team they had beaten by 40 points earlier in the season. The tournament was held in Lubbock at Texas Tech University. Ft. Stockton's front line of 6'7" James Fallow, 6'5" Mike Patterson and 6'3" Juan Garza would challenge Hirschi's outstanding guard combo of Carl Jones and John Prien. Ft. Stockton defeated Hirschi 58-51 and Lamesa had little trouble with Canyon 82-58. Fallow finished with 15 points, Patterson had 12 and Garza added 11 points. Jones and Prien combined for 43 of Hirschi's 51 points. In the Lamesa victory over Canyon, Floyd Jenkins hit 21 points and Minnix had 20. The rebound edge went to the Tors 62-44.

Ft. Stockton looked like a big underdog in the regional finals against Lamesa. Things did not go well for Lamesa early against Ft. Stockton, as they had three players pick up three fouls in the first half. Floyd Jenkins, Jernigan and Brent Minnix all picked up quick fouls. Lamesa saw a 19-12 first quarter dwindle to a 33-

32 advantage at halftime. Jernigan picked up his fourth foul with 7:06 remaining in the 3rd quarter and amazingly never fouled out. Ft. Stockton finally took the lead with 6:17 left in the 3rd quarter 40-36. Coach O.W. Follis of Lamesa switched gears and went into a full court press and took the lead at 44-43. Going into the final quarter the Tors led 55-50 and that was as close at Ft. Stockton ever got. 6'7" James Fallon was the leading scorer for Ft. Stockton with 27 points but only 4 rebounds. Garza was a bull inside pulling down 13 boards for Stockton. Lloyd Jenkins led the Tornados with 23 points and Minnix kicked in 20 points while Floyd was held to 10 points, but grabbed 13 rebounds. Jernigan finished with 12 points despite the foul trouble. The All-Tournament team was made up of Juan Garza, Mike Patterson out of Ft. Stockton, Floyd Jenkins from Lamesa, Carl Jones from Hirschi and Bobby Martin from Canyon.

When Follis was asked to compare his 1970 squad to the teams of the past he responded, "I'm not sure if this is our strongest team or not. We had a real good crop when we won state twice, of course, but other teams I thought were better, didn't even get out of the regional." During the season, many times Lamesa had an opportunity to score 100 points, and Follis would substitute and pull the ball out, not letting his team achieve the century mark. Follis was old school, he did not feel you had to humiliate your opponent to claim victory.

At State, Lamesa's semi-final opponent was a newcomer to Austin, Cypress-Fairbanks(31-4). The Bobcats were a junior dominated team starting only one senior, 5'11" Larry Matthews(5.9). The other starters included 6'0" Donald Dunlap(14.0), 5'11" Ronald Dunlap(14.3), 6'8" Jerry Mercer(13.9), 6'6" Don Wilson(14.0). Ronnie Truitt was the coach of Cypress-Fairbanks and had played the most difficult schedule of the four semi-finalists. The Bobcats had lost to Dallas White(23-6) 64-62, twice to Spring Branch Memorial(37-4) 66-57 and 73-57, and to Houston Furr 49-41. Remember, Memorial was the second ranked team in the state in class 4-A. Cypress-Fairbanks had defeated Houston Waltrip(21-15) 63-54, a team that would advance to the regional finals against Wheatley in class 4-A.

To advance to state, Cy-Fair had downed Cleveland 62-51 in Humble. The Bobcat's big man, Jerry Mercer, compiled 19 points and 14 rebounds and three blocks. The 6'7" Mercer was one of the top juniors in the state. 6'9" Lawrence Johnson led Cleveland with 22 points. Johnson is often confused with Houston Wheatley's, Lawrence Johnson. Cleveland's Lawrence Johnson, had a fine college career and was drafted into the N.B.A. He was a tremendous talent. In regionals, the Bobcats had faced off against Alvin(22-8). Alvin had advanced in the playoffs with a 56-52 score over Dulles(24-9) at Rice Gym. It was the third straight time Alvin had defeated Dulles in Bi-District. Frank Johnstone, Chuck Walker and Gary Wall led Alvin while David Smith paced Dulles. The regional match-up between Alvin and Cy-Fair was played at Delmar Gym. The Bobcats ran their fast break to perfection, defeating Alvin 63-44, in front of a crowd of 3,500. Cy-Fair jumped out

to an 11-4 lead and never looked back. At halftime, Cy-Fair had control of the game 30-14.

In the state semi-finals contest, the Bobcats had to prepare for the talented Lamesa team. Coach Truitt of Cy-Fair had seen Lamesa once during the season and commented, "They'll impress you in a hurry." "They play a lot like Wheatley," Truitt said after watching Lamesa race past Canyon 82-58 in the Region I semi-finals. "They have good height, good shooters, press hard and like to run and shoot. These Jenkins twins are both real fine shooters," commented Truitt. "The first thing we have got to do is beat their press."

Cypress-Fairbank's balance and depth were the difference against Lamesa, as they managed to pull away late to win 79-64. The turning point in the game came with 5:54 remaining in the 3rd quarter when 6'8" Jerry Mercer of Cy-Fair picked up a technical foul. Cypress-Fairbanks responded by scoring 14 straight points to take command of the contest. "We just didn't play well in the second half," said a dejected O.W. Follis after the game. "We just got whipped on the boards, that plus we stopped working the ball inside to Jernigan." For Lamesa it was only their second loss in 34 games. Coach Truitt's bench played great, as the Bobcats were able to stay in the contest after early foul trouble. 6'0" guard, Ronald Dunlap led Cy-Fair with 30 points, hitting 15 of 26 from the floor while Mercer contributed 24 points, hitting 10 of 14 from the floor. Mercer also contributed 21 rebounds. The Bobcats held the rebounding edge 51-42. Jernigan led Lamesa with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Floyd Jenkins and Brent Minnix both added 16 points.

The other semi-final game was between defending state champion, Kerrville Tivy and Carthage. Tivy's(27-7) record was unimpressive, but they had faced some of the top teams in South Texas. Tivy had their top player from a year ago, returning in 6'7" Jack Vest(18.5). The rest of the Antlers lineup was made up 6'0" Stuart Caulkins(18.7), 6'2" Shelly Williams(13.1), 6'1 George Stacy(12.1) and 5'9" Benny Scharnberg(10.4). Tivy had lost three times to Brackenridge(32-1) out of San Antonio 80-62, 82-80 and 74-67 during the regular season. Brackenridge was the top-rated team in class 4-A in the Alamo city and a top five team in the state. Other losses included San Antonio MacArthur 72-53, San Antonio Highlands(30-5) 63-44, San Angelo 89-79 and Midland Lee 63-61. The Antlers had a high-octane offense breaking the 100-point barrier three times during the season and busting 90 points on six occasions.

Tivy's semi-final opponent in Austin would be Carthage(30-3), out of East Texas. The Bulldogs had a strong program and a great coach named, William Tatum. Tatum was a 23-year veteran with 484 wins with only 198 losses. Carthage came into the game on a roll, having not lost a game since December. The Bulldogs key player was 6'2" junior, Johnny Carter, who averaged 20.2 per game. The Bulldogs ran a one-three-one zone half-court defense. They were very fortunate to make their way to Austin. Carthage had to overcome some of the top teams in the

Texas to advance to state. Coach Tatum's crew opened their playoff run against Mt. Pleasant with a 72-56 victory in a zone playoff.

Two of the top teams in the state, Waxahachie(24-5) and Richardson Pearce(27-5), awaited Carthage in the playoffs. The Indians of Waxahachie had a long tradition of winning basketball and their 1970 team was another strong entry. 5'10" Phil Turner(19.4), 6'5" Joe Wakeland(17.5) and 6'1" Gary Stephenson(10.0) were the Indians main cogs. Other key contributors were T.J. Hutchinson, Sonny Wilson, Pat McElroy and Robert Jones. Waxahachie had a tough zone struggle with Terrell and Kennedy. The Indians defeated Terrell 81-63 in the last regular season game to advance to a north zone playoff against Kennedy. Joe Wakeland came up big for Hachie against Terrell with 29 points, while Hutchinson had 20 points. For the Tigers of Terrell, Bobby Leonard finished with 22 points and Rosy Brown hit 21. The north zone playoff game between Kennedy and Waxahachie was set for R.L. Turner High School in Carrollton. The two teams had met previously, with the Indians winning by one point 95-94, and Kennedy taking the second game 74-73. Both teams had identical District marks of 10-2 in north zone 8-AAA action. Phil Turner had a tremendous effort against Kennedy scoring 23 points. Five Indians scored in double figures, as Waxahachie came away with an 81-74 victory. Coach Rich Blythe of Waxahachie would now have to face the south zone winner Corsicana(30-2), at Moody Coliseum on the campus of S.M.U. The Tigers were lead by one of the top players in the state in 6'6" Jeff Smith.

The two teams had faced each other earlier in the season on December 1, and Corsicana had won a close game 68-64 on their home court. The playoff game was being played on a neutral site. Jeff Smith of Corsicana picked up his fifth foul with 6:42 left in the game. He finished with only 11 points after scoring 27 in the teams' earlier encounter. Turner had another fine game leading Waxahachie in scoring with 16 points, and Wakeland contributed 13 points. Turner and Wakeland were the only Indians in double figures, but the Indians were able to come away with a solid 46-43 victory. Waxahachie was 16 of 25 from the foul line and Corsicana was 11 of 13. The Tigers of Corsicana finished the season with three losses at 30-3. Corsicana's losses had come at the hands of Taylor 69-60, Mexia 45-42, and Waxahachie. Coach Jerry Matthew's Corsicana team had accomplished a great deal during the season and would be one of the top programs throughout the 1970s.(43)

It's hard to believe that two talented teams like Carthage and Waxahachie would have to play each other in Bi-District. The contest was played at Richardson High School, with the winner advancing to the regional finals. Coach Blythe of Waxahachie came into the game without two key players. Gary Stephenson had injured his knee in practice and Pat McElroy had the flu. McElroy had actually missed the Corsicana game. The game didn't disappoint, the Indians were down 16 points in the fourth quarter and were able to come-back and tie the game at 70-

70, with only 23 seconds remaining. Johnny Carter of Carthage had fouled out, but his team was able to pull out the 72-70 win. Carter finished with 24 points, Dale Ware added 20 points and Tipton chipped in 18 for Carthage. For the Green and White of Waxahachie, Wakeland came up big again scoring 32 points and Hutchinson finished 14 points.

With Waxahachie out of the way the Bulldogs now prepared for the J.J. Pearce Mustangs out of Richardson. Carthage's small lineup would really get tested against the Mustangs in the quarterfinals. Coach Royce Cooper's team was paced by 6'7" Mike Holyfield(16.5) and hot shot 5'10" guard named, Jimmy Mackey. Holyfield would sign with S.M.U. and Mackey took his talents to SW Texas State in San Marcos. Also, a fine player for Pearce was 6'4" Jeff Paul, who later played at Trinity University in San Antonio.

(43) Corsicana's starters were Smith, Johnny McKinney, John Sheppard, John Adams and Earl Brown. Corsicana was considered one of the top teams in the state and only allowed opponents 46.0 points per game defensively.

In 6-AAA action, the Mustangs of Pearce took the first half of District action with an undefeated mark of 7-0. In the second round, they were upset by Gainesville 59-55. McKinney turned right around and beat Gainesville 60-58, to put the 2nd half of District action in a three-way tie with Pearce, Gainesville and McKinney, all with one loss. Gainesville was coached by Ralph McPherson, who was in his second season with the Leopards. Don Brownlee was the head man at McKinney(12-10) in his 4th season. Brownlee was a former standout player in Odessa and had a fine career at Baylor. 6'4" Ed Wright paced Gainesville(15.5) and 6'3" Charlie McDonald(16.2) was the bell cow for the Lions of McKinney. After their emotional win over Gainesville, the McKinney Lions traveled to Bonham and were tripped up. McKinney played horrible, losing to the Warriors in their little cracker box gym 73-49. The court was not regulation and it gave McKinney a lot of trouble. McDonald was held to only 13 points while Bonham's standout post, 6'6" Dick Stinson(16.2) finished with 23 points. Pearce ended up winning the 2nd half of District as well as the first half. Pearce entered the class 3-A state playoffs with an outstanding 27-3 record. **[44]**

The Mustangs were only in their third season as a school and their first graduating class. Richardson I.S.D. was a booming area in the 1960s and 1970s and opened three high schools in eight years. Royce Cooper was Pearce's skipper and he was worried about his team's inactivity following the regular season. So, to get ready for the playoffs he scheduled two warm-up games against District winners in class 4-A. This was very common for teams to get themselves ready for the playoffs. The first warm-up game was against Wichita Falls Rider(29-5) the winner of District 5-AAAA. The contest was played at Richardson High School. The

atmosphere was very different than today's warm-up games. The bleachers were not pulled out all the way and there were very few fans in the stands. Both teams wore their practice jerseys. Rider beat Pearce 79-73, but the game proved to be costly as Mustang standout point guard, Jimmy Mackey(17.1), twisted his ankle. In the second warm-up game Mackey saw no action because of the injury, and his team loss to Arlington Sam Houston(22-13) 82-57 on the campus of U.T. Arlington at Texas Hall. The bad news was that senior guard, Tom Shriber(10.3) was injured in the game for the Mustangs. With Mackey and Shriber both hurt the Mustangs playoff chances were not looking good.

The Mustangs ran an offense called Buna, named after the town that won seven state titles in the 50s and 60s. The offensive starts with a high pick and roll. Mackey was the key player in getting the Mustangs into their offense and Shriber was the shooter from the wing. Without these two players on the court, the Stangs would struggle. The starting five for J.J. Pearce was made up of Mackey, Holyfield, 5'10" Shriber and junior, Paul and sophomore, 6'0" Ken Ferrell.(45) Pearce's Bi-District game or first round opponent was against Ft. Worth Carter Riverside(18-9). The game was played in Haltom City at Birdville Coliseum. Carter Riverside had defeated Everman in a District playoff 66-53 in the 2nd game of a three-game playoff between the two schools. Riverside had a big scorer named Robert Gill, who would definitely have to be contained if Pearce was to advance in the playoffs. The 6'6" Gill later went on to a fine coaching career at Arlington High School. The Mustangs took care of business, holding Gill to only seven points and defeated Carter-Riverside 68-52. Mike Holyfield led the way scoring 24 points and 15 rebounds for the Mustangs and Mackey followed with 20.

(44) Pearce's toughest regular season game came against cross town rival, Lake Highlands. The Wildcats were a class 4-A playoff team led by 6'6" Andre Tillman, one of the top post in Dallas. Pearce was beaten badly by Lake Highlands 65-46. Lake Highlands ended up losing in the 1st round of the playoffs to R.L. Turner.

(45) Jerry Stone coached against Coach Cooper while he was at Richardson High School and said Coach Cooper was ahead of his time. "He ran and pressed and let his kids shoot," Stone commented. "He liked to push the ball and the kids loved to play for him."

In the state quarterfinals game, Pearce faced a big challenge in Carthage Bulldogs(30-4). Carthage's speed and quickness against Pearce's size and shooting. The Carthage-Pearce game was played at Tyler Junior College and looked like a great matchup. The Bulldogs really liked to get up and down the court. "I really didn't think they had anybody inside that could stop me," Holyfield explained years later. Holyfield picked up two quick fouls in the first quarter, one of which was called even after the ball had left the shooters hand. Pearce never got closer than ten points in the second half. Coach Cooper's troops were unable to slow down Carthage, as they gave up 84 points, losing 84-73. Carthage starting line-up was

made up 6'2" Carter, 6'2" Dale Ware(19.3), 5'10" Curtis Hill(4.1), 5'10" Paul Leggett(11.0) and 6'1" Larry Tipton(17.5). Pearce had a big height advantage but was unable to take advantage of it.

In the state semi-finals, Carthage was unable to slow down the defending state champions, Kerrville Tivy in the semi-finals, losing 80-65. 6'7" Vest was dominating for Tivy scoring 22 points and finishing with 17 rebounds. Shelly Williams followed Vest with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Five players scored in double figures for Tivy. Carthage's standout guard, John Carter was a bright spot for the Bulldogs with 23 points and Larry Tipton finished with 20. Kerrville out rebounded Carthage 59-49.

This set the stage for the state championship contest between Kerrville Tivy and Cypress-Fairbanks. Coach Jim Reid of Tivy captured their second state championship defeating Cypress-Fairbanks 81-68. 6'0" Ron Dunlap of Cy-Fair sat out most of the first half in foul trouble and his team trailed at halftime 37-31. Coach Jim Reid's Antlers got tremendous outside shooting from Stuart Caulkins and Benny Scharnberg. Cy-Fair trailed by as many as 14 points in the second quarter. Tivy held the rebound advantage over the Carthage in the semi-finals 59-49 and outrebounded Cy-Fair in the finals 51-43. Reid would go on to make Texas U.I.L. basketball history as only one of two coaches to win three state titles with three different schools. Reid would win in 1971 at Dumas and 1990 with Ingram Moore. The Antlers were led in the finals by Caulkins 20 points while Vest finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Scharnberg added 17 points. 6'7" Mickey Cooper came off the bench and had 9 points and 15 rebounds. Mercer led the Bobcats with 23 points.

All-Tournament Team: 6'4" Jerry Mercer and 5'11" Ronald Dunlap of Cypress-Fairbanks, 6'5" Jerry Jernigan of Lamesa, 6'7" Jack Vest and 5'9" Benny Scharnberg of Kerrville Tivy.

The **Sports Writers 1st team** All-State squad was made up of 6'7" Jerry Vest(19.2) of Kerrville Tivy, 6'6" Jeff Smith(16.6) of Corsicana, 6'6" Marc Wilson(17.8) of Lubbock Dunbar, 6'0" John Jones(26.0) of Athens, 6'2" Floyd Jenkins(20.2) of Lamesa. On the **2nd team** was 6'7" Mike Holyfield(21.7) of Richardson Pearce, 6'4" Juan Garza(16.2) of Ft. Stockton, 6'9" Tommy Barker(24.9) a sophomore from Weslaco, 6'3" Johnnie Carter(20.2) a junior from Carthage, 5'10" Benny Scharnberg(11.0) of Kerrville Tivy. **3rd team-** 6'5" Doug Bates(20.0) of LaVega, 6'4" John Prier(18.0) of Wichita Falls Hirschi, 6'3" Ronnie Cornelius(15.5), a junior from Mt. Pleasant, 5'9" Ken Bellflower(19.4) of Kilgore, 5'11" Ron Dunlap(15.1), a junior from Cypress-Fairbanks.

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1970 AAA Top Ten}

1. **Kerrville Tivy** 29-7 {back to back Class 3-A state titles}
2. **Cypress-Fairbanks** 32-5 {a junior dominated team that moved up to 4-A in 1971}
3. **Lamesa** 32-2 {the tradition continued in the West Texas school}
4. **Carthage** 30-4 {averaged 74.5 per game while allowing 59.2}

5.	Waxahachie	24-5	{always one of the top teams in the state in class 3-A}
6.	Corsicana	30-3	{lost a heartbreaker to Waxahachie in the zone playoff}
7.	Lubbock Dunbar	27-6	{lost to Lamesa in a district playoff}
8.	Richardson Pearce	27-5	{regional finals, loss to Carthage 84-73}
9.	Cleveland		{Lawrence Johnson, lost to Cy-Fair in Bi-District}
10.	Alvin	23-9	{regional finals, loss to Cyrpress-Fairbanks 63-44}

1971 AAA

The regional tournament for Region I was moved from Lubbock to Levelland's Texas Dome, on the campus of South Plains J.C. The reason was the new Tartan surface that had been put down in the Texas Dome. It is hard to believe why anyone would want to play on a Tartan surface. I remember these new courts were the latest and greatest fad. It didn't take long before coaches realized the negative effects of the surface.

Dumas was located in the panhandle of Texas and was known as a football school. In 1971 the Demons went out and hired a new basketball coach from the defending state champions, Kerrville Tivy. His name was Jim Reid. Tivy had won back to back state titles under Reid's leadership and in 1971 he led the Demons to the playoffs. The Dumas Demons had finished 16-17 in 1970. Coach Jim Reid's crew had waltzed into regionals with an impressive 26-6 record. The Demons had lost their last District contest to Levelland 80-79, due mainly to point guard Bobby Laughry absence. Laughry missed the game due to injury and was so valuable for the Demons in handling pressure. Laughry was an exception athlete who had been the Demons quarterback on the football team. He was considered a top recruit on the football field.

Dumas opened the playoffs against the very athletic Odessa Ector(25-8) squad. Coach Reid said after scouting Ector, "They are real quick, have good jumpers, three top scorers and do a good job against the press." Ector's key players were 6'3" Joe Davis(16.0), 6'5" Darrell Mitchell(15.9), Jesse Watkins(14.5), 6'0" Bob Pride(8.5), 6'0" Bobby Clinton(7.6). Dumas had some size with 6'7" Randy Willis(18.5), 6'5" Kim McClintock(20.0), 6'4" Sherman Moore(13.5), 6'1" Micky Hartman(8.0) and 5'11" Laughry(10.5). Ector was coached by Al Oglesby and tied for the 2-AAA District title with Fort Stockton(27-6). Ector came out of the District playoff game with a 79-75 victory. Ector's offense averaged 75 points per game.

In two overtimes, Dumas finally defeated Odessa Ector 73-69. Sherman Moore hit 3 foul shots in the last 37 seconds of the 2nd overtime to give the Demons the victory. For the Demons, Willis finished with 17 points and McClintock had 24. Ector's leading scorers were Darrell Mitchell with 15 points, Joe Davis had 16 and Jesse Watkins had 16. Dumas hit 19-33 foul shots and Ector was 19 of 25 from the line. Ector finished 25-9 on the season.

Hirschi(33-3) out of Wichita Falls was making a repeat appearance in the state playoffs and had one of the best guards in the state in 6'1" Carl Jones(25.7). Other Hirschi standouts included 6'3" Donnie Elliott(17.1/13.0), 5'10" Gene Palmer(11.2) and 6'2" Willie Johnson(10.4) and John Hall. Elliott transferred in from Quanah. Hirschi was facing Lamesa, a state semi-finalist in '70. Lamesa had lost to Dumas in the Andrews tournament in December 69-54. Lamesa's attempt at returning to Austin would be led by 6'4" Cecil Davis(16.6) and Russ Baldwin.

Lamesa(29-4) pulled an upset of sorts defeating Wichita Falls Hirschi 62-58. The McCurley brothers were the difference for the Tornadoes. Harry and Kent combined for 36 points. Harry was a sophomore and Kent was only a freshman. These two young men would be at the heart of Lamesa's offensive attack over the next few seasons. In first half action, they had 26 of their teams 33-point total. With the score tied 58-58, Russ Baldwin hit both ends of a one and one to put Lamesa up. With 21 seconds remaining Harry McCurley hit a one and one to claim the win for the Tors. Carl Jones finished with 22 points for Hirschi and Elliott contributed 13.

Lamesa came up short against the bigger Dumas Demons in the regional finals losing 70-51. The Dumas big men were too much for Lamesa. 6'7" Willis scored 31 points with 13 rebounds while 6'5" McClintock added 20 points and 10 rebounds. The score was tied three times during the third quarter and finally Dumas took a 43-34 lead at the end of the quarter. The Demons outscored the Tors 27 to 17 in the final quarter, for the final 19-point margin. Dumas advanced to state for the first time since their state championship season of 1962. In Austin, Dumas was looking at their semi-final opponent, Aldine Carver(27-7). Carver came out of Region II and started four seniors and a junior. Willie Brown, a 6'2" leaper was the leading scoring averaging 15 points per game. Coach Reid commented, "We ran with Odessa Ector and they're very similar to Carver." Carver was coached by Herbert Jones and downed Silsbee 81-80 in the regional finals. Coach Reid, who coached two time all-stater, Jack Vest and all-stater Jimmy Locke, rated both McClintock and Willis as their equals or better. This was really high praise coming from the veteran coach. Dumas almost ran Carver out of the Gregory gym winning 94-67. This shattered the state scoring record set by Lubbock Dunbar in 1968 with 89 points. The combined score of 161 also tied the Lubbock Dunbar-Seguín mark set in 1968. Willie Taylor led Carver with 18 points and Willie Brown grabbed 17 rebounds. McClintock rattled down 33 points for the Demons. Dumas dominated every phase of the game and ripped apart Carver's defense with full court passes against their press. Dumas continually got second shot opportunities with the rebounding of Willis and McClintock.

In District 6-AAA, Richardson Pearce had moved up to class 4-A, so the defending District champions had vacated their title. Three schools emerged as the successor to Pearce. Gainesville, McKinney and Plano were the top three teams in

1971. Joe Chesney, the former assistant coach under Don Brownlee in McKinney, moved over to Gainesville as the head man. Bill Justice replaced Brownlee, who left McKinney for a full-time basketball position in Temple. And Plano was a new emerging basketball power after years of building a football factory. Plano Independent School District was one of the fastest growing school districts in the entire country. People were flooding into Plano at an amazing rate. Plano won the Class 2-A state football championship in 1967 and by 1972 they were one of the top 4-A programs in the Dallas Ft. Worth area. Although basketball did not improve as quickly, the Wildcats had a lot of students to choose from.

The Leopards of Gainesville surprised everybody in 6-AAA going 7-0 and winning the first half of District. Coach Chesney had a solid defensive oriented team led by 6'3" senior, Jim Hennesy, David Trail, 6'4" Larry Lewis and Harvey Franklin, who came off the bench. In the second round of District action, McKinney pulled the upset of the season at home defeating Gainesville 55-54. It would be Gainesville's only loss in District play. With the win, McKinney, Plano and Gainesville went into the last game of District all tied for the second-round lead, with one loss apiece.

The Lions standout player was 6'1" J.T. Hollins(22.0), who had been kicked out of the program his sophomore year, but had now returned to make his presence felt. He was one of the top athletes in the state, winning the 100-yard dash as a sophomore as well as the long jump in the state track meet. He was also regarded as one of the top receivers in the nation in football. Teaming up with Hollins was 6'2" Teddy Cantrell, who was a tough player inside.

McKinney played their last regular season game at home against Plano. A victory would put McKinney into a one game playoff against Gainesville. If Plano beat McKinney, they really had no chance at the second half title because the District minutes stated that if there was a tie for 2nd half title, in a two-way tie, it would go to head to head for the 2nd half winner. Gainesville defeated Plano, thus eliminating them from any playoff hopes. In a two way tie the winner of the head to head would win that half. Gainesville easily defeated Berkner to stay in the 2nd half race. The Plano-McKinney game would be played in the Lions home gym. All McKinney(16-8) had to do was beat Plano on their home court, to force a playoff. It was a very emotional game between the two arch rivals. The schools were bitter rivals. The match-up for McKinney did not seem to be a good one for the Lions. The Wildcats hammered McKinney 99-59. It was never a contest as Plano came out hot and got even hotter. 6'6" Bill Manafield went off for 39 points and 6'0" Bobby Gaddis finished with 22 points. Also making his presents felt for Plano(18-7) was cat like quick, 5'9" Pat Thomas, who led Plano to the state football championship the following fall. He had several steals in the game and created havoc for the Lions. Thomas was a phenomenal athlete in track and also baseball. In baseball, he was so quick he would bunt every time at bat and make it to first safe for a base

hit. I know, I was the pitcher who had to face his speed on the base path. Thomas ended up being a two time All-American in football at Texas A&M and later had a nice N.F.L. career with the Rams. Hollins was the only Lion in double figures against Plano with 23 points. Hollins also played football in college, first at Colorado and later North Texas State. He signed as a free agent with the Vikings. He also ran on the Junior College national championship 440 relay team while at Ranger junior college.

Gainesville(18-10) took the 6-AAA banner into the playoffs and played Wichita Falls Rider(25-8) in a warm-up game and lost by 30 points. Rider ended up advancing to the regional finals in class 4-A. In Bi-District, Gainesville faced Ft. Worth Como, an all-black school that was going to be closed down due to de-segregation in 1972. Four different Ft. Worth schools would be gaining the talented Como players during the '72 season. Como(22-5) was very long and athletic and beat the Leopards 67-58. Gainesville only bright spot was their junior guard, Steve Simmons handling the Como pressure. Simmons looked more like a doctoral student than a basketball player with his black rimmed glasses. But he could handle the basketball. He would be named the District M.V.P. the following season. Como ended up defeating Jacksonville 75-71 to advance to state.

Waxahachie(28-3), as usual stood in the way of any team thinking they were coming out of region II. In a big upset, the Indians and Coach Rick Blythe's team was knocked out of the playoffs 57-48 by LaVega(24-7). Ed Echols led the scoring for LaVega with 15 points and Waxahachie was led by 6'6" Joe Wakeland(18.7) with 16 points, along with Gary Stephenson and Danny Huffstetler. Waxahachie had won 22 games in a row coming into the 9-AAA zone playoff game. The Indians graduated two outstanding players in Stephenson and Wakeland. The green and white's three losses were against Terrell 55-46, Corsicana 57-50 and LeVega. The Indians held two wins over Terrell 67-35 and 50-48 during the season. They were also able to reverse the tables on Corsicana 63-56.

Unfortunately, for LeVega(25-8), they lost to Aldine Carver 78-52 in Bi-District action. LeVega's new coach, Jerry Conner had done an amazing job during the season, leading his team to their first District title in the history of the school.

Como advanced to the state semi-finals after their win over Gainesville and faced Del Valle, from south Texas. Ft. Worth Como's strong inside game was led by leapers, James Cooks and Robert Woods. The inside strength was too much for Del Valle. Como came away with a 74-69 victory. Carl Webb added the outside shooting touch, scoring 19 points for Como while Cooks was the leading scorer with 29 points inside the paint. He also had 28 rebounds, which was five more than Del Valle's entire team. Del Valle leader was George Arnold's 23 points and the outstanding play of Joe Kocurek. Del Valle(26-8) had eliminated the defending class AAA state champions, Kerrville Tivy in Bi-District 60-57.

In the finals, you had the all-white West Texas team of Dumas against the all-black inner city team of Ft. Worth Como(24-5). James Cooks of Como and Willis of Dumas battled inside during the competitive contest. Dumas led at halftime 29-19, despite three fouls on McClintock. In the final quarter, McClintock scored 13 straight points to give his team the state title 65-59. James Cooks, the fantastic leaper from Ft. Worth Como, finishing 22 points and 19 rebounds, despite being challenged by the inside size of Dumas. 6'2" Clifford Punch added 18 points for Como. Kim McClintock of Dumas was 9 of 16 with 21 points and Willis finished with 16 points and 9 rebounds. For Coach Reid, the win was historic, because he became the first coach ever in AAA basketball to win three titles in a row with two different schools. He also had won the state title with Amarillo Palo Duro in 1956 in class AAA as a player.

The **All-Tournament** team included McClintock, Willis of Dumas, James Cooks and Clifford Punch of Como, George Arnold of Del Valle.

The **Sports Writers All-State 1st team**-6'5" Kim McClintock(20.6), Dumas; 6'7" Randy Willis(18.1), Dumas; 6'4" James Cooks(15.2), Ft. Worth Como; 6'3" Cecil Davis(16.6), Lamesa; 6'1" Carl Jones(25.7), Wichita Falls Hirschi; **2nd Team**- 6'3" Dedrick Terveen(23.0), Donna; 6'7" Roger Shute(19.3), A&M Consolidated; 6'3" Joe Kocurke(21.0), Del Valle; 6'3" Donnie Murphee(29.8), Athens; 6'3" Johnny Carter(22.0), Carthage; **3rd team**- 6'7" James Fallon(22.4), Fort Stockton; 6'6" Joe Wakeland(18.7), Waxahachie; 6'3" Ed Echols(15.7), Waco LeVega; 6'4" Dub Preston(20.3), Snyder; 6'1" Marshall Johnson(18.7), Jacksonville:

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1971 AAA Top Ten}

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------|------|--|
| 1. | Dumas | 30-6 | {the combination of McClintock and Willis was tough} |
| 2. | Odessa Ector | 25-9 | {lost in double overtime to Dumas in regionals} |
| 3. | Ft. Worth Como | 24-6 | {State finalist losing to Dumas 65-59} |
| 4. | Ft. Stockton | 27-6 | {lost a district playoff to Odessa Ector 79-75} |
| 5. | Lamesa | 28-4 | {downed Wichita Falls Hirschi in regionals 62-58} |
| 6. | Wichita Falls Hirschi | 33-4 | {upset in regionals by Lamesa} |
| 7. | Del Valle | 26-8 | {eliminated the defending state champs, Kerrville 60-57} |
| 8. | Aldine Carver | 27-8 | {state semi-finalists losing to Dumas} |
| 9. | Waxahachie | 28-3 | {upset by LaVega in the Zone playoffs 57-48} |
| 10. | Jacksonville | | {regional finals loss to Ft. Worth Como} |

1972 AAA

Of all the years covering the state playoffs, Odessa Ector's championship run in 1972 was one of the most unusual. The Eagles had an uncanny ability of coming from behind to win games, especially important ones. Ector had lost the year before to Dumas in Bi-District in overtime and had a talented team returning. Because of the District lines drawn in the Odessa school District, Ector had an all-black team that was athletic and quick. In Bi-District, Levelland stood in the Eagles way of advancing farther than in the previous year. Ector had a high-octane offense that had beaten Crane 105-80 in their last District game. The Eagles had

broken the 100-point level seven times during the regular season. All five of Ector's losses had come at the hands of 4-A teams. Starters for the Eagles were 6'6" Darrell Mitchell(16.6), 6'3" Wayne Yates(11.3), 6'3" Joe Davis(19.5), 5'9" Ray Lewis(10.8) and 5'9" Jesse Watkins(16.0). All five starters averaged double figures, which is very unusual for a high school team. A common opponent for both Levelland and Ector had been Seminole, who Ector destroyed twice 116-88 and 111-73. Levelland struggled with Seminole and lost 66-58. In a warm-up game, Morton fell to Levelland 74-71. Morton was an outstanding program from class 2-A. Levelland's star player was 6'5" Grant Dukes(23.7).

Ector speed was too much for Levelland as they easily came away with the win 93-72. Ector coach, Oglesby felt like this was a must game, after what had happened to his team the year before losing to Dumas in overtime. Mitchell was strong inside scoring 22 points with 5 blocks while Watkins also contributed 22 points. All five starters ended up in double figures. Dukes led Levelland with 20 points. With 6:20 left in the game, Levelland was still close at 71-61 when Ector exploded with a Davis behind the back pass to Watkins, which fueled a seven-point run to extend the lead to 78-61.

The Snyder(28-3) Tigers were next up for Odessa Ector(26-5). The two teams had met earlier in the season with Ector winning 93-74. The second time they faced each other was in December when Snyder won 74-66, but 6'6" Mitchell did not play in the game. The playoff game was played at South Plains Junior College on Tartan surface or artificial playing turf. Snyder had only lost once in District action to Lamesa in double overtime and had defeated Brownwood in Bi-District 69-57. The Tigers three losses during the regular season had come at the hands of Ector, Lamesa and Irving High, a 4-A team close to Dallas. Snyder's go to players were 6'5" Dub Preston(19.1/9.0) and 5'11" Tommy Washington(17.0). These two kids could really score in bundles. The Tigers coach, Bob Moore liked man to man defense and a double low post offense. Ector liked to play man to man and zone, depending on the opponent. Ector's 84 points per game average was very impressive for a team that didn't play a ton of kids. Coach Al Oglesby's ability to adapt to a game situation would be monumental in the playoffs for the Eagles.

Ector did not play well in the first half against Snyder and found themselves down ten points at halftime 45-35. Dub Preston had taken over the game in the first half, and scored 21 points by halftime. Preston picked up his fourth foul with less than one minute into the second half. He had committed a charging violation against Edward Lockhart of the Eagles. Preston sat out till the 3:34 mark of the 3rd quarter. With 48 seconds remaining in the 3rd, Preston got another charging violation and had to leave the game. To make matters worse, he got a technical foul while leaving the court with the score 58-55, in favor of Snyder. The Tigers had been up by as many as 15 points in the first half 34-19. "I chewed on'em pretty hard in the locker room at halftime," Oglesby admitted. "I seldom do

that and don't know if it played a part in the victory, but they certainly deserved to know what they had been doing so wrong." Ector switched from zone to man to man with 6:09 left in the 2nd period. "That was the players call because they wanted to play man to man," Oglesby continued. With Preston out of the game, Tommy Washington carried the scoring load with 28 points but Snyder came up short losing 75-74. At the end of three quarters, Snyder was ahead 60-58, but Ector finally gained the lead with 3:30 left to play 71-66. Snyder cut into the lead 71-70 with 2:20 left. Ector pulled the ball out and began to stall in the last two minutes. The Eagles had two back door cuts for easy buckets to round out their scoring. A breakdown of scoring for Ector shows why the Eagles were so tough to defend. Yates hit 17, Mitchell had 16, Davis kicked in 16, Watkins contributed 12 and Lockhart finished with 7 points. Preston, the standout from Snyder played college ball at Hardin-Simmons.

In the other regional contest, Henderson(28-4) advanced to state by beating Gainesville(18-10) 72-46. Silsbee(29-4) advanced to state dropping Wilmer Hutchins(25-6) 72-64, and Cuero(28-5) moved on to Austin beating Aransas Pass 68-66.

In the Silsbee-Wilmer Hutchins game the Tigers played an outstanding game, handling the full-court man press of the Eagles. This was the farthest any team in any sport had ever advanced in U.I.L. competitions at Silsbee. 6'5" David Brown continued his amazing scoring in the playoffs hitting 15 of 17 shots for 31 points. Brown had scored 32 points in his team's 78-61 Bi-District win over Dulles. James Hunter of Silsbee added 20 points for the Tigers. 5'8" guard, William Walters was critical for the Tigers against the Wilmer Hutchins and their press. With four minutes remaining and up by 12, Silsbee went into a stall.

Silsbee was Ector's semi-final opponent. The Tiger's(29-4) size was a disadvantage against Eagles, but other than that the two teams were very similar. Two of Silsbee's losses during the season had come at the hands of 4-A powerhouses, Houston Wheatley and Houston Yates. For Silsbee, their starting lineup was made up of quickness and speed. Standouts for the Tigers included, 5'9" Jim Bowen, 5'10" William Walters, 6'3" James Hunter(13.0), 6'1" Marvin Kelly(10.0) and 6'4" David Brown(23.0). Brown was voted District M.V.P. two years running. James Hunter was considered one of the top football recruits in the state. Al Oglesby said before the game with Silsbee, "It's just the greatest thrill I've ever experienced in coaching, and I'm not even there yet." Silsbee would become a traditional power through the years in basketball. Coach Dan Montgomery's crew had to defeat West Orange 54-49 in a zone playoff to represent District. The Tigers had been eliminated by Aldine Carver during the '71 season.

The Eagles were forced to come from behind four times in the first half and two times in the second half against Silsbee. Ector outscored Silsbee 20-11 in the 4th quarter and once again all five starters ended up in double figures. Ector

had advanced to the state finals beating Silsbee 81-68. Watkins had 26 points, Mitchell ended up with 11 points and 21 rebounds, Yates contributed 16, Joe Davis had 15 and Lockhart finished with 10 points. For Silsbee, Hunter finished with 23 points and David Brown had 18. Mitchell, of Ector, picked up 3 fouls in the 1st quarter, as Ector took a 29-28 halftime lead. Mitchell fouled out with 7 minutes remaining in the game and the Eagles led 63-59 at the time Mitchell fouled out. For the Tigers, Brown fouled out with four minutes remaining.

In District 6-AAA, it was a rather unusual season, as McKinney returned J.T. Hollins and some outstanding talent from the District Champion junior varsity squad. Juniors, 6'4" Benjie Smith and 6'2" Kenny Bird gave the Lions a very talented scoring punch. This team was better than their 1970 and 1971 versions of the Lions. Bill Justice was in his second season at the helm. Plano was back with another fine team paced by 6'6" Bill Manafield, 6'0" Bobby Gaddis, 5'9" Mark Creed and 6'8" Larry Burrus. Gainesville also had their best group during that three-year run led by District M.V.P., Steve Simmons. Other standouts for Coach Joe Chesney were 6'4" Larry Lewis, 6'6" Tim Manning and Ricky Carter. McKinney shocked everybody by taking the first half of District action defeating Plano 72-66 and Gainesville 61-46. Justice's team was playing outstanding as a team sharing the basketball. The Bird, Benjie Smith and Hollins combination was very tough to stop. Bird, at 6'2", was a big guard and assumed a lot of the ball handling duties. 5'11" James Holley was also a key contributor for McKinney. Holley was a leftie with a nice outside touch. James was the oldest of the Holley family that would dominate McKinney athletics over the next three decades. Holley and Hollins were also two of the top wide receivers in the area. McKinney best player was Hollins, who was black. James Holley, Robert Rockwell, Leonard Evans, and Jerry Henry were also African American. The key white players were 6'6" Gary Chandler, 6'4" Benjie Smith and 6'2" Kenny Bird. Several racial fights broke out in the school during the basketball season and eventually it spilled into the basketball team. Rockwell, Evans and Henry were not involved in the racial tension but Holley and Hollins were deeply involved. As the second half of District opened up, the team was no longer playing together. The tension was killing the team chemistry. McKinney lost the opener of the 2nd round of District to Berkner 62-57. North Garland, a team made up of sophomores beat McKinney next 59-42. By this time, Hollins and Holley had been removed from the team and Chandler had quit. For Hollins, it was his second time leaving the basketball program under two different coaches. A riot eventually broke out at the school, which was completely racial between the blacks and the whites. Nobody was seriously injured but the school was closed for two days to let the emotions calm down. After a great deal of investigation, the McKinney school officials discovered that two or three young men had actually been responsible for creating the trouble. They were soon expelled and things calmed down. The young men had recently moved into the

area and were thugs just trying to get attention. But the damage was done with the team totally made up of underclassmen. Through all of this, Bill Justice, the McKinney coach, had to try to keep his teams focus and playing hard. With all of the distractions it was impossible. After dismissing some key players and elevating some players from the J.V., the Lions lost to South Grand Prairie by one, and Plano 75-63. Kenny Bird had returned to the team from an ankle injury, which really helped the Lions cause. 6'4" Benjie Smith was carrying the Lions, as they prepared for the District title game against Gainesville. The game was played at Trinity High School in Euless and the Leopards won easily 62-46. Tim Manning led Gainesville with 17 points, Simmons added 12, and Larry Lewis finished with 14.

The Leopards faced Everman in Bi-District and were down 48-37 going into the final quarter. Gainesville outscored Everman 28-15 in the final quarter to come from behind victory 65-63. Tim Manning was the leading scorer for Gainesville with 14 points and Mark Sellers topped Everman with 25 points. The Leopards and Coach Joe Chesney met their Waterloo against Henderson, out of East Texas. The Lions were paced by 6'2" James Terry(24.2) and 6'5" Milton Phillips(20.0). Henderson leveled Gainesville 72-46 in the regional final. It was a complete whippin for the Leopards. Henderson(28-4) did not play in a zone in District action, and finished 13-1 in District. The Lions only loss was in their District opener against Longview Pine Tree 63-57. Henderson had defeated Pittsburg 69-55 in Bi-District action.

Waxahachie had a down season finishing out of the playoff hunt with a 18-9 mark. Coach Rick Blythe had two all-district players in Donnie Brock and A.C. Jenkins. McKinney held two wins over the Indians 55-49 and 64-57 as well as Plano 75-66.

In the state semi-finals, Cuero(29-5) lost to Henderson(28-4) 56-50. Henderson was able to get past 6'10" John Blackwell(19.0) of Cuero. The Gobblers led going into the final quarter 39-37. Henderson dominated the fourth quarter 19-11 after trailing at half time 26-21. Blackwell finished with 17 points and Tanny Johnson had 15 for Cuero. Terry James was high man with the Lions of Henderson scoring 17 points. Henderson coach, LeRoy Romines called Cuero the best team the Lions had faced all season. Over the next 20 years Romines would be one of the top coaches in the state at Longview high school.

The state championship was a near disaster once again for the Ector Eagles in the first half, as they trailed at halftime by 16 points 44-28. Again, major adjustments were made at halftime by Coach Oglesby. "I just told them at halftime that they had demonstrated their abilities to rebound from adversity in the past and could do it again. We decided how we were going to defend the individuals who had hurt us in the 1st half." The two individuals who had been killing them were 6'2" James Terry(23.2) and 6'5" Milton Phillips(21.5). The double low post was difficult for Ector to handle with both big men scoring 20 points in the first

half. In the second half with the adjustments, Terry scored 3 and Phillips had 4. “We started in man to man but changed to a 2-1-2 zone press in the 2nd quarter.” “At halftime, we agreed that we would have to drop off their men to help cover inside on their two big men.” The Eagles outscored Henderson in the 3rd quarter 22-10 and 21-10 in the 4th period. Once again, Ector had overcome the odds and pulled out another big win in the second half. Jesse Watkins finished with 17 points while Mitchell was impressive inside scoring 16 points and pulling in 15 rebounds. Yates finished with 14 points.

All-Tournament team-Jesse Watkins and Darrell Mitchell of Odessa Ector, 6’5” Milton Phillips and 6’2” James Terry of Henderson, 6’10” John Blackwell of Cuero and James Hunter of Silsbee;

Sports Writers All-State 1st team- 6’7” Van Garner(22.3), Brownfield; 6’6” Darrell Mitchell(16.1), Odessa Ector; 6’7” Milton Phillips(21.5), Henderson; 6’3” Joe Davis(19.6), Odessa Ector; 6’2” Patrick Tart(17.5), Athens; **2nd Team**- 6’3” Donald Roberts, Seminole; 6’4” James Terry(23.2), Henderson; 6’5” Dub Preston(19.1), Snyder; 5’9” Jesse Watkins(16.0), Odessa Ector; 6’3” Charlie Woods, Wilmer Hutchins; 6’0” Steve Simmons, Gainesville; **3rd Team**- 6’5” Grant Dukes(23.7), Levelland; 6’5” Glen Murphy, Waco Jefferson-Moore; 6’7” Terry Lancaster, Monahans; 6’1” Gary Stroech, Brenham; 5’10” Jimmy Washington, Houston Elmore:

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1972 AAA Top Ten}

1.	Odessa Ector	28-5	{comeback qualities made them champions}
2.	Snyder	28-4	{took Ector to the brink, losing 75-74}
3.	Henderson	28-5	{state finalist, lost to Ector 71-64}}
4.	Silsbee	29-5	{won the tough Houston region advancing to state}
5.	Wilmer Hutchins	25-7	{regional finalist losing to Silsbee 72-64}
6.	Cuero	29-6	{state semi-finalist}
7.	Brownwood		{advanced to Bi-District and lost to Ector}
8.	Longview Pine Tree		{lost out to Henderson and gave the Lions their only loss}
9.	Gainesville	18-10	{regional finals, losing to Henderson}
10.	Aransas Pass		{lost by two points in regional finals to Cuero}

1973 AAA

Levelland, in West Texas, was the top team in the state in class 3-A. They had the top player in the state as well in 6’6” Grant Dukes. Levelland had a perfect record at 28-0. Although they beat Andrews(26-4) in Bi-District 64-52, they had the Mustangs down 21 points at the end of the first quarter. In the regional semi-finals, Levelland faced off with the ever present Lamesa(28-3), who they had beaten twice during the regular season. What is the old adage, “it’s tough to beat a good team three times in one season?” Well that was true, because Levelland was upset by Lamesa 41-35. Levelland led with four minutes left 33-31, when Greg Cannady of Lamesa hit a jumper from the corner to tie the score. Cannady then proceeded to sink two free throws, to put his team up 35-33. Dukes led Levelland

with 16 points and Kent McCurley was high man for the Golden Tors with 17 points. The Levelland Lobos started 5'8" Steve Thompson, 6'3" Marcus Johnson, 6'4" sophomore Donnie Wright, 6'3" Vernon Krueger and Dukes, who would go on and have an outstanding college career at Texas Tech. The Golden Tors started 5'8" Frank Sims, 6'3" Jim Roberts, 6'4" Greg Cannady, 6'1" Harry McCurley and 6'3" Kent McCurley. Lamesa defeated Burkburnett in the regional finals 75-57, with Kent McCurley hitting 29 points. This would be the Tors fourth trip to Austin, having won titles in 1960 and 1967 and losing in the semis in 1970. The region I champion had a responsibility because the two previous state champions had come out of region I. Dumas in 1971 and Odessa Ector in 1972.

One of the most imposing teams came out of Region II and that was Waco Jefferson-Moore(26-4). Starting up front for Moore was 6'7", 235 pound Archie Roberts(14.6/16.7), 6'6" Eddie Ward(13.2/14.2), 6'2" Carlos Williams(15.8/18.9), 6'2" Robert Rice(17.0) and 6'2" Kenneth Jones(6.6/9.6). 6'0" Carl Brown was the Lions 6th man. Waco Jefferson-Moore opened the playoffs by beating Mt. Pleasant 73-63 in Tyler.

The other top team in Region II was Everman(27-2) with a very small and fast line-up. They relied on 6'3" Robert Daniels(18.0/14.0), 6'0" Jesse Kemp(18.0), 6'2" Eric Henderson, 6'5" Terry Dutton, 5'10" Larry Lewis and 5'10" Ronnie Copeland. Kemp went on to U.T. Arlington and continued his basketball career. Everman was coached by John Nichols and had a 25-game winning streak going into their Bi-District game against McKinney(18-7). McKinney was predominately a white team and not one of the more athletic teams in the class 3-A playoffs. Coach Bill Justice and his crew relied on no pressure and a two-three zone half-court defense, as well as a one three one half-court defense. McKinney played an outstanding game against Everman(27-2), pulling the upset, winning in overtime 60-58. The gym was jammed packed at Irving MacArthur High School. Kenny Bird of McKinney hit a bucket with 46 seconds remaining in regulation to tie the score 56 all. Robert Daniels of Everman missed a shot with four seconds remaining, and the game went into overtime. Jerry Henry, a tall 6'4" non-scoring post, hit the biggest basket of his life with 20 seconds left in the first overtime to win the game for the Lions. Daniels once again missed a shoot that would have tied the game. 6'2" Kenny Bird of McKinney was the key player in the game repeatedly going to the foul line and finished with 30 points. Nobody else from McKinney played that well. 6'4" Benjie Smith, who was a standout quarterback on the football team and the teams 2nd best player, finished with 12 points, Johnnie Christie, the team's best outside shooter, had an off night. 5'10" Rex Ritchey, the point guard, was key to the Lions victory in handling the Bulldogs pressure. Bird was also a very smooth ball handler. 6'4" Brad Duncan was the first player off the bench for Coach Justice. Daniels led Everman in scoring with 14 points.

In talking to McKinney Coach Bill Justice years later, he revealed that the final shot made by Henry was actually set up for Bird to come-off a double screen for the shot. Everman was overplaying on defense and Henry was all alone on the backside block and Ritchey made a great pass to the open Henry.

McKinney had finally advanced to the playoffs, after several frustrating setbacks in previous seasons. In 1967, the Lions had advanced to the state quarterfinals, only to lose to Waxahachie by one point. The following season, McKinney lost a District playoff game to the eventual state champions, Lake Highlands. The 1973 version of the Lions was probably not the most talented group, but had two real solid performers in Bird and Benjie Smith. If Coach Justice could control the tempo, his team usually had a chance because of the foul shooting capabilities. The Lions played a very challenging schedule, they lost to Dallas Spruce(30-5) 70-61, Waxahachie 80-66, South Grand Prairie(16-14) 72-68 in overtime, Sherman(20-7) 85-67, Richardson Pearce(22-13) 84-62 and St. Marks 58-47. The only real solid victory was in the season opener against Sherman(20-7) 63-60. In District action, McKinney went 11-1 with their only defeat coming at the hands of Gainesville 47-45. District 6-AAA was much weaker with Plano moving into class 4-A and Gainesville having graduated everybody.

The regional finals between Waco Jefferson-Moore and McKinney was played at Navarro Junior College in Corsicana. Moore had a much more physical team than McKinney had faced all season. Coach Justice commented about Jefferson-Moore, "We know we are going to have trouble with them. We are going to try to make them play a game. We will slow them down and work for the good shot. We are going to have to play a great game." Coach Jack "Spider" Schrader of Jefferson Moore was well aware of McKinney's strength. "Well if we get into foul trouble it could be a problem for us. I know McKinney is a good foul shooting team." It is somewhat unusual for foul shooting to be a team strength, but the Lions shot the ball well at the foul line. Bird was a master at getting to the foul line, with up and under head fakes. Benjie Smith was very deceptive as well. An advantage for McKinney was that Jefferson-Moore loved to block shots. The Waco school played a running game and dominated the boards against most of their opponents. Their full court press and man to man defense presented a lot of problems for their opponents. The game was fairly close, but McKinney could never take the lead losing 82-72. Bird, once again carried McKinney scoring 24 points, 20 of which came from his favorite shot...the foul line. At halftime, the game was very close with Moore leading 40-37 and at the end of the third quarter it was still tight 60-56. Moore was in some foul trouble at halftime. Moore's balance in scoring was uncanny. Williams had 16, Rice 15, Ward 12, Roberts 17, Jones 11 and Brown 11. For the Lions of McKinney, Smith had 12, Christie hit 16 and Henry had 10. Coach Justice said following the game, "We just missed too many foul shots and made too many mistakes."

Bird never played college basketball, T.C.U. was looking at him but didn't feel he had the foot speed needed. Coach Justice, in reflecting back on the '73 team said, "the team had a great basketball IQ and Christie developing his outside game were two keys to our success that season." Coach Justice revealed in hind sight he wishes he would played the Jefferson-Moore in a much bigger gym and not so confined. "The fans were right on top of you at Navarro, it was not an idea situation."

Down in the Pt. Arthur area, Silsbee(23-10) was once again a viable candidate for the state tournament. Although they were not as dominate as in years past, they were still very athletic and were looking to return to state. Two first team All-District players would lead Coach Dan Montgomery's charges against Longview Pine Tree, 6'3" Mitch Dinkle and 5'11" James Simmons. The game was played in Nacogdoches and Pine Tree led at half 20-18, in a very low scoring affair. Pine Tree exploded in the 3rd quarter with their full court pressure defense and was up by 19 points at one time on their way to a 52-46 victory. Coach Montgomery said following the game, "They were tough and we were cold. Their press especially hurt us and we hit only 8 of 20 free throws." Charles Stanley hit 14 points to lead Silsbee. In the regional finals, Longview Pine tree(28-2) defeated Taylor 67-60 to advance to Austin.

As the teams gathered in Austin for the state championships, class 3-A had an impressive field of teams. Rockport-Fulton(24-2) joined the party out of south Texas. They came in with a strong record, but had not played the toughest of schedules. Lamesa(29-3) was always going to be strong, coached by the legendary O.W. Follis. Remember Lamesa had knocked off the top ranked team in the state in Levelland. None of the three teams at state were looking forward to playing Waco Jefferson-Moore(26-4). They were a strong and physical team that could be a real problem depending on how the game would be officiated.

Longview Pine Tree opened against Rockport and won 56-50, thanks to 13 blocked shots by their two big men, 6'5" Glynn Hughes(13.0) and 6'3" Chuck Smith. The Pirates had an impressive lineup that was mainly centered on defense and were coached by Rex Ray. In the other semi-final game, Harry McCurley's driving layup with 59 seconds left, broke open a tie game between Lamesa and Jefferson Moore. Jefferson Moore's, Carl Brown stole the ball from Lamesa and tied the game 64-64. With 23 seconds remaining, Kent McCurley hit two foul shots to give the Lamesa the win. Interesting side note is that McCurley had missed 8 of 10 previous foul shots before he sunk the winners. Waco Moore was really effected by standout player Eddie Ward(13.2/14.2) showing up at halftime due to a funeral. The 6'6" Ward was a difference maker. Jefferson-Moore had to play the first half without his double-digit skills.

In the state finals, records would be broken by the two finalists. It was the worst shooting percentage in the history of the state championship game. I don't

know that for a fact, but the shooting was bad. Pine Tree shot only 27%, hitting 17 of 63 and Lamesa hit 12 of 32 for 38%. The Pirates played the majority of the contest without their top player, 6'5" Glynn Hughes, who sat out 27:37 of the game and finally fouled out for good with 7:27 left in the third quarter. He finished with 2 points and 2 rebounds. The most surprising thing is the Pirates forced 33 Lamesa turnovers and came away with a 45-38 win. Lamesa standout, Greg Cannady fouled out with 6:09 left in the contest. With 5:52 remaining, Linzey Sneed stole the ball to put Pine Tree up 36-34. For the next two minutes the Pirates twin guards, 5'7" Randy and Richard Stringer, had six steals before the Tors could get a shot off. 6'1" Rick Dowdle came off the bench for Pine Tree and went 8 of 26 shooting, all from long range, and was the leading scorer with 17 points. He also came off the bench in the semis for 23 points, and Hughes added 10 points and 16 rebounds against Waco Moore. Kent McCurley and his brother Harry led Lamesa in the finals with 14 and 12 points respectfully. Harry had 11 rebounds and Kent finished with 8. The Tors out rebounded the Pirates 42-33. Neither team led by more than five points during the game. Dowdle went on to play basketball at Tyler J.C. and Stephen F. Austin while Glynn Hughes also played at Stephen F. Austin. Richard Stringer played baseball at Paris J.C. and Baylor. Dowdle was the basketball coach at Pine Tree in later years.

All-Tournament team- Rick Dowdle and Glynn Hughes of Pine Tree, 6'4" Kent McCurley and 6'1" Harry McCurley of Lamesa, 6'2" Ricky Rice of Waco Jefferson-Moore and 6'6" Steve Mays of Rockport-Fulton who had scored 20 points in his teams semi-final loss to Longview Pine Tree.

Sports Writers 1st team All-State- 6'6" Grant Dukes(23.5), Levelland; 6'6" Glen Hughes(13.3), Longview Pine Tree; 6'4" Kent McCurley(23.7), Lamesa; 6'2" Robert Rice(17.1), Waco Jefferson-Moore; 5'7" Richard Stringer(9.5), Longview Pine Tree; **2nd Team-** 6'4" Charlie Bass(27.2), Crosby; 6'7" Archie Roberts(14.6), Waco Jefferson-Moore; 6'7" Steve Mayes(22.7), Rockport-Fulton; 5'11" Melvin Jackson(24.6), Colorado City; 6'2" Carl Baker(18.0), Athens; **3rd team-** 6'6" Dwight High(18.1), Wilmer Hutchins, 6'8" Chad Dean(16.0), Henderson; 6'4" Phil Broin(24.3), Aransas Pass; 6'2" Greg Jones(21.3), Brownfield; 6'2" Rick Jones(21.3), Brownfield; 6'1" Rick Dowdle(11.0), Longview Pine Tree:

The All-State team missed two players that come to mind, Kenny Bird(17.0) of McKinney and 6'3" Robert Daniels(18.0) of Everman. Bird averaged 27 points in the playoffs against two of the top five teams in the state and Everman finished the season at 27-3 and lost in overtime in Bi-District.

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1973 AAA Top Ten}

- | | | | |
|----|---------------------------|-------------|---|
| 1. | Longview Pine Tree | 30-2 | {a tough defensive team and state champions} |
| 2. | Levelland | 29-1 | {best player in the state in Dukes and one untimely loss} |
| 3. | Lamesa | 30-4 | {knocked Levelland out of the playoffs and state finalist} |
| 4. | Waco Jeff-Moore | 26-5 | {lost in the state semi-finals to Lamesa} |
| 5. | Everman | 27-3 | {upset in Bi-District in overtime} |

6.	Andrews	26-4	{lost to Levelland in the first round of the playoffs}
7.	Rockport-Fulton	24-3	{lost in the state-semifinals to Pine Tree}
8.	McKinney	18-7	{regional final loss to Waco Jefferson Moore}
9.	Mt. Pleasant		{Bi-District loss to Waco Jefferson Moore}
10.	Taylor		{regionals finalist}

1974 AAA

Class AAA in 1974 was a season of surprises when it came to the state playoffs. Out west in Region I, Lamesa(28-2) was the favorite and if you were getting out of that region you would have to get past the Golden Tornadoes. Region II was very competitive as usual with North Garland(24-2) having a strong team, and Waco Jefferson Moore looked capable of returning to state. Region III had Pine Tree, out of Longview, looking as if they could return to state and Region IV looked wide open. The thing to remember about the '74 season is nothing went as planned. Many very close games changed the dynamics of the playoff.

Lamesa(28-2) during the 1970s always seemed to have one of the state's top class AAA teams, 1974 was no different. In 1970, Lamesa had lost to Cypress-Fairbanks in the state semi-finals, in '71 the Tornadoes lost to the eventual state champions, Dumas in the regional finals, and in '73, they were ousted in the state finals.

The Golden Tornadoes opened the playoffs against Vernon. The Lions were paced by 6'7" John Harris. Lamesa was led by 6'4" Kent McCurley and 6'2" Melvin "Bo" Robinson. Robinson, a junior post, was very athletic and strong. He played football after graduation at West Texas St. and later played for seven years on the N.F.L. The game was not close, as Lamesa won 61-41 and had a big rebound advantage 47-24.

The Andrews Mustangs were led by 6th year coach, Edd Farmer. His teams at Andrews had progressively improved over his six year stay in Andrews. In 1969 the Mustangs finished 15-13, in 1970 they had their only losing season finishing 11-17, in '71 they finished 16-13, '72 had an 18-13 record, and in 1973 the Mustangs advanced to the playoffs and finished 27-5. Coach Farmer's team did not have as strong a record during the '74 campaign, but none the less advanced to the playoffs with a 22-9 record. In District action Andrews finished 3-3 in the first-round action but won the 2nd half of District going undefeated. In the District playoff game, the Mustangs came out on top 54-48 over Seminole.

Andrews(22-9) faced Canyon(22-9) in Bi-District at Levelland. In order to defeat Canyon, you could not get into their up-tempo game with them. Andrews size was superior to Canyon. Wayne Pitts, a 5'10" guard, who averaged 26.0 points per game was the key to slowing down Canyon. He would have to be controlled if you were going to have any chance of beating Canyon. Andrews, Coach Farmer, scouted Canyon and considered the best all-around player for Canyon to be 6'3"

Andy Cooper(17.0/15.0). Other key contributors to the Canyon were 6'2" Ed Lair(16.0), 6'2" Lynn Wright(15.0) and 6'2" Dennis Collier. "We must control the game against Canyon," Coach Farmer said. Andrews was able to control the tempo and came away with a 60-55 victory. 6'6" Ronny Pearson led the scoring for Andrews with 24 points, 6'3" Charlie Gregg put in 16. Coach Farmer's team held Pitts to only 14 points. The difference in the game was the superior size inside for the Mustangs with 6'6" John Turnage and 6'6" Ronny Pearson. These two players were the heart and soul of the Mustangs and both were named first team All-District.

In the biggest upset of the playoffs, Andrews(23-9) led start to finish against Lamesa(29-3), for a 44-40 win and a ticket to Austin. Defensively, Andrews used a 1-3-1 zone, which gave Lamesa trouble. Lamesa Coach, O. W. Follis said, "We just couldn't score. That was the main thing we had a tough time penetrating their defense." Playing deliberately, Andrews took a 10-0 lead, and then a 26-12 lead, and finally a 26-18 advantage at halftime. Late in the game, with the Mustangs leading 42-38, Andrews pulled the ball out and went into a delay game. With 13 seconds remaining, Lamesa finally stole the ball and Jim Vaszauskas hit a layup to pull Lamesa within two points. Charlie Gregg came back down court and hit a short bank shot for Andrews, with one second left to end the game. 6'4", 220 pound Kent McCurley was the only Golden Tornado in double figures with 18 points and 17 rebounds. McCurley was a beast and four-year starter for Coach Follis. 6'6" John Turnage and 6'3" Charlie Gregg were the leaders for the Mustangs with 14 points apiece, and 6'6" Ronnie Pearson finished with 11. "I think the biggest thing going for us was that we used a moving post offense against Lamesa," Coach Ed Farmer said. "They weren't expecting it, I don't think."

North Garland(25-3) had a strong team in 1974, winning District 6-AAA behind the talents of 6'4" Terry Lawson. In Bi-District, the Red Raiders handily defeated Grapevine(16-8) 82-57. Atlanta eliminated North Garland in the regional finals in double overtime 69-68. This was probably the best game of the state playoffs in class AAA in 1974. Atlanta moved on to state, but it was not without a tremendous battle from the Red Raiders. Atlanta won the battle of the boards 53-37, which was a big advantage for the East Texas team. Marcus Hatley scored 37 points to lead Atlanta and Terry Lawson contributed 24 for North Garland. Atlanta was really an enigma because they barely won District, having to play a three-team playoff with Mt. Pleasant and Clarksville. Atlanta defeated Clarksville 2 out of 3 games to win the District. In Bi-District, Atlanta had been a big underdog against Waco Jefferson-Moore, but came away with the win 63-60. (46) Moore was trying to get back to Austin again.

In Region III, Crosby had a very strong team with a high-octane offense and very athletic. In a District playoff game against always tough Silsbee, Elyard David knocked down a 15-footer with four seconds remaining to defeat Silsbee.

Against the defending state champions, Longview Pine Tree, in Bi-District, Crosby was down by nine points entering the final quarter. Once again David pulled his late game heroics hitting a 20-footer with two seconds left in the game for the win 62-61.

Three players for Crosby averaged in double figures, 6'1" Elyard David(23.0), 6'4" Irvin Robinson(16.7/16.0) and Charlie Bass(17.4/17.0). Bass was a returning All-State player, having made the 2nd team as a junior. All three players were three year lettermen and tough to deal with. The other two starters were 6'3" Randy Marek and the only non-senior starter, 6'1" sophomore, Ricky Carter. During the season, Crosby had averaged 85 points per game and gave up 65, for a 20-point difference. In District action, Crosby had averaged 91.4 points per game and busted the century mark six times, and went over 90 points in a game seven times. Coach Lee Haywood was in his 6th season at Crosby.

These two close victories enabled Crosby to face Rockdale in the regional finals. Rockdale(22-13) came into the playoffs with very little tradition and a lot of defeats. The Tigers had won their first of what would be three District titles in 1974. In 1977 the Tigers moved down to class AA. Rockdale met the other zone winner, Taylor(21-9) for the 12-AAA District championship. The two teams faced off at Temple Jr. College. Taylor went into a stall waiting to take the last shot. With 12 second left, Elroy Stoglin was whistled for traveling and the Tigers took possession. Timmy Sulak hit two foul shots with just seconds left to give Rockdale their first AAA District title 58-56. It was the Rockdale's fourth victory over the Ducks of Taylor, by a total of six points. The teams had met five times during the regular season. 6'4" Mark Burkhart was very strong inside for Taylor. Little Brad Ross was amazing for the Taylor Ducks, stealing the ball twice and going the length of the court for lay-ups. Ross finished with 20 points for Taylor, most of which came from 15 foot jumpers near the baseline. The Tigers had the advantage in rebounds 25-21, paced by their two strong inside players, Parker Peebles and sophomore, Ray Locklin. Peebles finished with 15 points for Rockdale and sophomore Odis Mack was the leading scorer with 16 points for the Tigers.

(46) Two members of the North Garland team that year were two prominent young men who would go on to accomplish great things as coaches. Jimmy Rowe went to lead Lake Highlands High school for several years and Rick Perry was the head man at Carrollton Creekview. Perry was a starter and Rowe came off the bench.

Rockdale(24-13) moved into the Bi-District game playing Aldine Carver(26-4). Aldine is located just north of Houston and was a rapidly growing community. The game was played at Blinn College in Brenham. The Panthers of Carver had a height advantage, 6'5" Jafus Wilson, 6'4" H. Robinson and 6'3" Reggie Gage. The

Tigers countered with 6'1" Ray Locklin, Parker Peebles and 6'0" Mike Sumuel. Rockdale stayed strong on the glass against the bigger Carver team for 27-26 advantage. Locklin led Rockdale with 11 rebounds and 19 points, Peebles finished with 16 and Sumuel had 10 points and 7 rebounds in the 59-57 victory for the Tigers. The difference was the advantage at the foul line, 19 of 24 for Rockdale and 5 of 9 for the Panthers. Carver led going into the 4th quarter 40-39 but could not hold the advantage. Late in the game the Tigers took over the lead 59-53. For Carver, Jafus Wilson finished with 15 points, Robinson had 10 and Gage finished with 16.

Crosby(27-3) and Rockdale(24-13) had earned the right to play for regional championship, with the winner advancing to the prestigious state tournament in Austin. On paper the game did not look like it would be close, with Crosby having the taller and more athletic team, and a much better record. The game was played at Rice University in Houston. Crosby had lost to only three 4-A clubs during the season, Forest Brook out of Houston, Jersey Village out of Houston and Bay City. 6'4" Charlie Bass, 6'4" Irvin Robinson and 6'1" shooter, Elroy David took Crosby to an early 14-4 lead. Crosby was up 20-10 at the end of the first quarter, but Rockdale began closing the gap with the shooting of Mike Sumuel 28-23. The Panthers of Crosby staying in the 3-2 zone defense while Rockdale ran man to man. In the end, Crosby's size was too much as they advanced to state with a 55-45 victory. Coach Adams of Rockdale commented after the game, "Offensively we just didn't play well enough to beat a team of this caliber, it just wasn't a good night for us." The Panthers had a 36-25 rebounding margin with Bass leading Crosby with 14, while Locklin of Rockdale finished with 12 rebounds. David as usual was high man for Crosby with 18 points, Bass had 16 and Robinson 12. Rockdale had limited scoring with Sumuel leading the way with 13 points and Mack contributed 12 points. For Rockdale, the season ended with 24-14 mark, but the Tigers had finished their best season in school history.

No team really stood out in Region IV. The unquestioned best player in South Texas in class AAA was 6'5" Dennis Tealer(29.8/18.0) of Gonzales. Gonzales had an unimpressive record of 25-8 during the regular season. But there was a story behind their many early losses. Gonzales had three players quit the team in January. Coach Vernon Hill had his second leading scorer check it in, a young man who had been a starter earlier in the season also left the team, and a reserve quit the squad. Evidently these young men had been a big distraction, because after they left the team, Gonzales couldn't be stopped. Sometimes less is better; Early in the season, Gonzales lost to Seguin 84-68 and San Antonio Fox Tech 70-66. Early season wins came against San Antonio Holmes 67-66, New Braunfels 76-66, and revenge against Seguin 56-53. The Apaches only loss in District came against Samuel Clemens. The two teams were forced to play a Zone playoff game which Gonzales won 46-44. The Apaches defeated Kerrville Tivy in the District playoff

between zone winners. In the Bi-District in Altair, Gonzales had a tough time defeating Columbus(29-4) 58-54. Tealer was the leading scorer with 25 points. In the regional finals, Gonzales handled Taft(22-8) 77-59 and Tealer scored 30 points. The Apaches led at halftime 39-26 and fought off the second half rally by Taft. "The kids played good defense and were especially effective late in the third period when it looked like Taft was going to make a game of it," Coach Vernon Hill explained.

In the state semi-finals, Tealer would break the state scoring record, hitting 41 points in his team's 68-67 win over Atlanta(25-4). This broke the previous mark set by Jeff Smith of Corsicana, who hit 39 points. The heavily recruited Tealer fouled out with 76 seconds remaining. Gonzales had trailed by as many as twelve points in the second half. Marcus Hatley finished with 26 points for Atlanta and Frankie Hayden finished with 20. Hatley went on to play at Tulsa. In the other semi-finals game, Crosby(27-3) beat Andrews(24-9) 60-50. Elyard David and Charlie Bass combined for 33 points for Crosby's victory. Andrews had tried to go inside as usual, but were pretty much shut down by the strong inside game of Crosby. Midway through the second quarter, Coach Farmer of Andrews felt he would need to get his offense from the outside. Charlie Gregg led Andrews in scoring with 15 points, going 6 of 23 from the floor and 3 for 4 from the foul line. 6'6" Pearson was 5 of 12 for 10 points with 10 rebounds for Andrews in a losing effort. A major factor once again in Crosby's attack was its balance in scoring. Elyard David finished with 19 points, Charlie Bass added 14, and Randy Marek hit 10. For Andrews, it was a fairy tale ending losing at state. The Mustangs never dreamed they would end up in Austin after finishing 3-3 in the first round of District.

In the finals, Tealer continued his assault on the record book, leading his team to the state championship 77-62 over Crosby. Tealer had 37 points with 16 rebounds. The 6'5" senior was 15 of 24 from the field and 7 of 7 from the line. "He's the best I've ever seen," a disappointed but smiling Coach Haywood of Crosby said after the game. "He's got to be the best player in the state. If he doesn't make All-American, they ought to stop picking the thing." Tealer's two game total was 78 points, breaking the old record set by Jerry Mallett of Beaumont South Park of 72 set back in 1953. Tommy Bludau had a dreadful shooting game in the semi-finals for Gonzales, hitting only 2 of 19. But in the finals, he came through with 18 points. Bludau got a real scare late in the 2nd quarter when he took a real hard tumble onto the court, and laid motionless for several minutes. He returned in the second half and had no ill effects. Bass led Crosby with 17 points and 12 rebounds. Elyard David was only 8 of 21 from the floor, Marek hit 6 of 14, Bass 6 of 17, Robinson 3 of 13, and Harry Armstead was 2 for 7, and Ricky Carter was 0 for 5 from the floor. Needless to say, if wasn't just Tealer scoring that beat Crosby. Gonzales was playing some strong defense. Crosby dominated inside, winning the

rebounding battle 54-40. Bass finished with 12 boards while Marek added 11, Robinson 9 rebounds, and DeJean had 8. Turnovers, turned out to be a difference maker with Crosby, turning the ball over 22 times for 25 Gonzales points. The Apaches turned the ball over 19 times, which turned into only 10 points for Crosby.

Dennis Tealer committed to the University of Houston out of high school, but played four years at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. His college career scoring total was 911 points and he averaged 15.4 per game. His high school records at the state tournament have stood the test of time. He averaged 33.2 per game in the four state playoffs games, which more than likely was an unofficial state record in class AAA. On the 14-AAA All-District squad named by the coaches, Tealer was of course unanimous, and 6'1" Tommy Bludau was named to the first team, while 5'10" Jeff Menking was named honorable mention for Gonzales.

Tealer was a Texas Legend.

All-Tournament Team- Tealer and Bludau of Gonzales, Marcus Hatley and Frankie Hayden of Atlanta, Elyard David and Charlie Bass of Crosby.

The Sports Writers All-State 1st team- 6'4" Kent McCurley(19.5), Lamesa; 6'5" Dennis Tealer(29.8), Gonzales; 6'2" Carl Barker(18.0), Athens; 6'3" Ricky Dowdle(17.1), Longview Pine Tree; 6'4" Charlie Bass(20.1), Crosby; **2nd Team-** 6'2" Anthony Sanders(22.1), Clarksville; 6'3" Terry Lawson(20.8), North Garland; 6'4" Dennis King(17.7), Gladewater; 6'3" Marcus Hatley(19.6), Atlanta; 6'1" Elyard David(23.2), Crosby; **3rd team-** 6'6" Clifford Ervin(25.0), Crockett; 6'3" David Hightower(25.2), Huntsville; 6'2" Michael Dabney(24.8), Silsbee; 5'10" Wayne Pitt(20.0), Canyon; 6'2" Frankie Hayden(15.4), Atlanta:

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1974 AAA Top Ten}

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-------|--|
| 1. | Gonzales | 29-8 | {the Apaches came out of nowhere to win state} |
| 2. | Atlanta | 25-5 | {the cardiac kids, were lucky to get out of district} |
| 3. | North Garland | 25-3 | {lost in 2 OT by one to Atlanta in the regional finals} |
| 4. | Lamesa | 29-3 | {the Golden Tornadoes were upset by Andrews} |
| 5. | Crosby | 28-4 | {finalist, eliminated defending state champion PineTree} |
| 6. | Andrews | 24-10 | {knocked off Lamesa and advanced to the state semi} |
| 7. | Waco Jeff- Moore | | {regional finalist for the second year in a row} |
| 8. | Longview Pine Tree | | {lost in Bi-District to Crosby} |
| 9. | Columbus | 29-4 | {loss to Gonzales in Bi-District} |
| 10. | Rockdale | 24-14 | {made the regional finals} |

1970 AA

West Texas basketball is always a good place to start when talking about class AA basketball, and the 1970 season was no different. I just can't emphasize enough how much stronger basketball was in West Texas in class AA, compared to the rest of the state during the decade. Year in and year out there was no comparison. A new team emerged in 1970 in District 3-AA, Lockney. They were coached by Jim Marcos and had been running up some big scores in District action, with their full court man press. Dimmitt finished the regular season at 26-6 and the

first half champion by virtue of their 66-49 victory over Lockney. Lockney(22-4) won the second half with a convincing 82-57 win over Dimmitt. Both teams went into the District playoff with 11-1 records. The Bobcats of Dimmitt had their 50 game District winning streak ended by Lockney. In the District title game that was played in Abernathy, Dimmitt would rely on the top scorer in the area, 6'2" Bobby Baker(25.6) to carry the load. 6'2" post, Kent Bradford, 6'0" Mark Wolhegemuth(16.0), 6'0" Mark Cleavinger and 5'9" Bill Sanders rounded out Bobcats lineup. Lockney had very small team with the tallest player being, 6'1" Raymond Sterling(15.0). Other starters were 6'0" Tim Jeffries, 5'11" Tracey Dickson(14.3), 6'0" Randy Duckworth(8.0) and Robert Duckworth(5.0). The winner of the Dimmitt-Lockney contest would get Morton in Bi-District. "I'm sure Dimmitt's been looking forward to us since we beat them last time," commented Lockney's Coach Marcos. "And I really don't think their play in the last few games is a true measure of their team." Coach Kenneth Cleveland of Dimmitt said, "Lockney has great momentum going into the game, they have a well-balanced team and our defense must play alert and stop them." Dimmitt had a run of nine District championships on the line in the previous ten seasons.

Lockney led the entire first half, trying to win their first District title in nine years. Lockney led at halftime 32-29. Lockney's full court press gave Dimmitt fits in the first half, but in the second half the Bobcats started to adjust. Dimmitt finally took the lead with 2,000 screaming fans looking on with just over two minutes to play. Bradford of Dimmitt hit two foul shots with 1:50 remaining to put the Bobcats up by four. Two more free throws by Wolhegemuth sealed the win 56-48. Dimmitt hit 27-33 from the foul line and 6'2" Bobby Baker managed 22 points in the victory. Tim Jeffries finished with 15 for Lockney and Sterling managed 12.

When the All-South Plains team came out before the playoffs, Dimmitt had 6'2" Bobby Baker(25.6) on the first team, Morton had two players on the first unit, 6'3", 235 pound M.C. Collins and 5'10" Terry Harvey. Lockney also placed two players on the first team, 5'10" Tracey Dickson(14.3) and 6'1" Raymond Sterling(15.0). Another key player in West Texas basketball in class AA was 6'11" Boyd Noble(21.0) of Post. What an appropriate town to represent. Coach Ted Whillock of Morton was named coach of the Year, having finished 21-10 in 1969 and advancing to the playoffs with a 24-7 mark in 1970. Coach Marcos of Lockney really deserved a lot of credit taking his team from 17-10 in 1969 to 22-5 in 1970. Morton also looked strong for the coming years starting three juniors and two sophomores. On the 3-AA All-District team, Dimmitt had two players named, Baker and Wohlgemuth while Lockney had three, Sterling, Dickson and Jeffries.

The Bi-District game between Dimmitt and Morton was played at South Plains Junior College in Levelland. The winner was not that big of a surprise, but rather the score. Morton destroyed Dimmitt 81-59. In one of the most bizarre things that could possibly happen, Coach Cleveland left during the game after

finding out about the death of his father prior to the game. The team was not informed about the death till after the contest. Whether you believe it or not, it had to have an effect on the young men playing, when you see your coach leave the coliseum. Baker was held 12 points under his average with 14 points and 6'1" post, Kent Bradford fouled out. Mark Wohlgemuth led Dimmitt in scoring with 22 points. Terry Harvey was top man for Morton with 22 points.

In regionals, Morton was overwhelming favorite. Quanah(28-4) defeated Phillips 60-53 to join Morton in regionals. Coleman and McCamey also joined the party. In the semi-finals, Quanah defeated Coleman 87-81 and Morton disposed of McCamey 88-74. Prichett was top scorer for Morton with 31 points and Harvey had 19. Five players were in double figures in the well-balanced attack by McCamey. In the regional finals, Quanah played well before losing to the Indians 73-68. Quanah led at halftime 32-30. Prichett's three-point play after a steal was one of the key plays of the game, giving Morton the lead 54-49. Harvey contributed 16 points and Prichett totaled 13. Top scorer for the Indians was Elton Patton with 21 points.

In District 24-AA, Kountze(25-4) opened the playoffs against Newton winning 61-52 in Bi-District. Next up for Coach Willy Wilson's club was Teague(25-7) at the regionals at Blinn Jr. College in Brenham. Teague was disposed of 69-64 by Kountze. Teague came from 14 points behind at halftime to tie the game with two minutes left at 62-62. Teague had been used to comeback wins having defeated Waco Midway in a District playoff and Chapel Hill 65-56 in Bi-District. It was not to be as Kountze came away with the win. Teague was paced by Eddie Ray Branch with 31 points and David Collins hit 16. Ray Bostice had several blocks for Teague. For Kountze, 6'4" James Brannon finished with 25 points and Anthony Manning contributed 20. Kountze hit 17-25 from the free throw line and Teague was only 6-11. Kountze had the rebound edge 25-22. In the regional finals, Diboll stood in the way of Kountze and their first state tournament appearance. 6'3" junior, Anthony Manning(21.0) exploded with 36 points, propelling the Lions to the state tournament with a 59-57 victory over Diboll.

In Austin, the 29-4 Kountze Lions would be hard pressed to capture the class AA title. Standing in their way were three fine teams, Morton(27-6) from West Texas, Taft(28-3) was dominating in the playoffs winning by 31, 23 and 20 points on their way to Austin. Taft also had one of the top scorers in the state in 6'6" Johnny Mayo(28.0). Rounding out the final four was Hughes Springs(25-7), paced by and outstanding sophomore, 6'4" Lynn Royal(21.0).

Kountze showed some true grit beating Hughes Springs 80-67 in the state semi-finals. The Lions led at the end of three quarters 59-54 after Hughes Springs had led at halftime 34-31. The big shift came about when 5'8" Marion Holloman got into foul trouble and had to leave the game for Hughes Springs. By the way, Marion was one of four Holloman's on the Hughes Springs team. Manning led

Kountze attack as usual scoring 31 points, James Brannon finished with 20 points and 19 rebounds. Nathan McDaniel added 20 rebounds. For Hughes Springs, Larry Allen contributed 21 points and the big sophomore, Lynn Royal had 19 points. Hughes Spring finished the season with a 25-8 mark.

In the other semi-finals game, Taft advanced beating Morton 71-63. Taft led most of the way and was up 61-50 with 6:25 left to play, when Morton began to rally. Morton got within two points 65-63, with two minutes remaining. Taft called timeout and responded by scoring six straight points. Sub, Calixtro Garcia made two key steals down the stretch and added two critical foul shots to seal the victory. Mayo, who averaged 28 points a game was held to only 10 points. 5'10" sophomore guard, Elton Patton was the leading scorer for Morton with 24 points. After the game, Coach Whillock said, "We could never get a consistent rally going, we just didn't play as well as we did in regionals." Morton missed 12 foul shots on 23 attempts which could have cost them the game. This was Morton's first trip to the state tournament and most definitely would not be their last.

The finals were quiet an affair, between Kountze(29-4) and Taft(28-3). It is hard to find a place to start. Let's begin with the finals score Kountze 75 and Taft 73. Manning hit the winning field goal with 38 seconds remaining to give the Lions the state 2-A title. James Burch of Taft missed a critical foul shot late, that could have changed the outcome. For Kountze, 6'1" Nathan McDaniel was thrown out of the game for kicking a ball out of the hands of Don Taylor of Taft and shoving another player. The outstanding scoring machine, 6'6" Johnny Mayo fouled out of the game midway through the fourth quarter, finishing with 25 points and 23 rebounds. His lost may have cost Taft the championship. 5'10" Randy Huestis had an outstanding game scoring 25 points for Taft. Manning was the man for Kountze with 33 points, including 24 in the first half. James Brannon(18.0) had 25 points and 20 rebounds. Kountze out rebounded Taft 62-51 and outscored the Greyhounds 15-4 in the last 3 minutes of the game. James Brannon played for Angelina J.C. and Manning played at Lewis and Clark in Idaho.

The **All-Tournament** team consisted of Manning and Brannon of Kountze, Mayo and Huestis of Taft and Elton Patton of Morton.

The **All-State** team by the Sports Writers came out as follows: **1st team-** 6'6" Harold Bridges(25.1) of Klein, 6'6" Johnny Mayo(28.2) of Taft, 6'3" Anthony Manning(21.0) of Kountze, 6'0" James Davis(27.6) of Van and 5'9" Jesus Guerra(22.2) of Roma, who was only a sophomore: **2nd Team-** 6'2" Bobby Baker(23.3) of Dimmitt, 6'5" Mark Gentry(26.7) of Henrietta, 6'1" Don Taylor(18.0) of Taft, 5'10" Terry Harvey(15.0) of Morton, 6'5" J.D. Keehn(20.0) of Houston King: **3rd Team-** 6'5" Steve Routh(20.4) of Ballinger, 6'0" Donnie Wood(19.0) of Coleman, 6'1" Raymond Sterling(17.2) of Lockney, 6'1" Jesse King(18.6) of Quanah, 5'10" Norberto Lopez(18.6) of Zapata:

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1970 AA Top Teams}

1.	Kountze	30-4	{eliminated Teague, Taft, Hughes Spring}
2.	Taft	28-3	{had Mayo not fouled out in the state finals}
3.	Hughes Springs	25-8	{semi-finalist losing to Kountze 80-67}
4.	Morton	27-6	{eliminated Dimmitt, lost to Taft in the semi-finals 71-63}
5.	Dimmitt	27-7	{lost to Morton in Bi-District}

1971 AA

The 1971 season in class AA looked like it would be the strongest in the states long history. The reason was due to the fact that underclassmen dominated the 1970 state tournament in class AA. Of the twenty starters off the four state semi-finalist teams in 1970, only two were seniors. Of those four teams, only Hughes Springs returned to Austin. Kountze, the defending state champion lost a heart-breaker against Friendswood(25-0) in regionals 64-62 in overtime. Morton(28-4) was upset in District by Dimmitt 61-60 at the buzzer. Taft failed to make the playoffs.

In West Texas, District 3-AA was in rare form. Dimmitt and Morton were now in the same district. That meant that one of the top five teams in the state would not make the playoffs each year. In their first encounter of the season, Morton beat the Bobcats 60-58 and with it won the first half of District. In the rematch, Dimmitt defeated the Indians 76-53 to take the 2nd round of District. The District playoff game in 3-AA was set at South Plains College Coliseum in Levelland. Dimmitt's record was 29-2 and Morton's came in at 28-3. The Bobcats losses had come at the hands of a very talent Phillips team 64-58 in the Plainview tournament and of course Morton in District action. The Indians losses were to Ralls by one point, Levelland by 2 points and Dimmitt in District. Morton, as previously mentioned, returned their entire squad from their state semi-finalist team of the year before. Coach Cleveland of Dimmitt felt like he had his finest team in the ten years he had been with the Bobcats. Ralls awaited the winner in Bi-District. Ralls had defeated Morton in the Caprock Tournament and lost to Dimmitt in the finals 74-66.

Dimmitt was lucky and good at the same time, as junior, Danny Ebeling hit a shot with 3 seconds remaining to give the Bobcats a 61-60 win. The Bobcats had worked for the last shot and had been instructed to try and get the ball in the hands of Kent Bradford, but he was being triple teamed by Morton on the inside. Controversy arose when with 38 seconds remaining in the game, Morton's George Pritchett hit a 12-footer to put the Indians up 62-59, but the referee had called traveling before he hit the basket. The Morton fans were obviously very upset. Max Newman had 19 points and 9 rebounds for Dimmitt, followed by Bradford with 18. Bradford was smothered the entire game and had limited opportunities. Ebeling finished with 11 points. Morton was led by Terry Harvey with 24 points with Pritchett and Elton Patton both hitting 10 points apiece. The 30-2 mark was the best record Coach Cleveland's teams had enjoyed at Dimmitt, and Morton

finished out of the playoffs at 28-4. In Bi-District, Ralls posed little threat to the Bobcats as Coach Cleveland's crew beat the Jackrabbits 100-76.

At regionals, Ballinger and Dimmitt would face off with both teams supporting 31-2 records. Ballinger beat Merkel 57-44 in Bi-District and Phillips(26-6) defeated Childress 53-47 to advance to regionals. Crane(22-12) dropped El Paso Parkland by five points to become the fourth entry in Region I. In the semi-finals against Ballinger, the Bobcats won a close one 60-58. In the regional finals, Phillips stood in the way of Dimmitt and a visit to Austin. Phillips had beaten Dimmitt earlier in the season and the Bobcats knew they would have to make some adjustments to defeat the much larger team. Phillips had two talented post, 6'8" Randy Jarnigan(24.0) and 6'4" Kenny Killion, which they played on both blocks. They also played two players in each corner with a man out top. This was the way Phillips attacked the Dimmitt's 1-2-2 zone. Coach Cleveland adjusted his zone matching up both inside and outside and manning the guard out top. The defense worked as Dimmitt won 60-50 to advance to state. Phillips had three players taller than any on the Bobcats, but they failed to attack the zone. Frustrated late, Phillips began getting physical and putting the Dimmitt players on the foul line. The Bobcats shot 22 of 32 free throws and Phillips only hit 8 of 11. Bradford led the Bobcats with 15 points while Ebeling added 11. For Phillips, Jarnigan finished with 14 points. Two players were named to the All-Tournament at regionals from Dimmitt, 6'1" Max Newman and 6'2" Kent Bradford. 6'1" Mark Wohlgemuth was a key contributor to the Dimmitt cause. At point guard, Wohlgemuth handled the press really well and led the team in assists. Actually, Dimmitt had to win every game following their first-round loss in District to Morton. Any losses would have ended their season.

The Dimmitt Bobcats and their fans traveled 470 miles to the state capital for the state basketball tournament. Dimmitt arrived in Austin for the first time since 1967, looking at two powerhouse teams waiting for the Bobcats. Friendswood(25-0) and Hughes Springs(29-1) were very talented for small class AA schools. In the early rounds of the playoffs, Hughes Springs had defeated North Lamar 104-56, Waco Midway 62-59 and Ft. Worth Kirkpatrick 76-59. Their entire lineup returned from a state semi-finals team the previous season. 6'6" Lynn Royal, 6'3" Glyen Royal, 6'0" Larry Allen, 5'8" Willie Bean and 5'8" Marion Holloman made up the starting line-up. Hughes Springs had the most imposing figure in 2-A ball in years in 6'6" Lynn Royal, who averaged 25.9 points per game and 17.0 rebounds. Hughes Springs only loss during the season had been against class 4-A program, Marshall(25-6). Marshall had advanced to the regionals semi-finals and lost to the eventual class 4-A state champions, Cypress-Fairbanks 82-66. Hughes Springs split with Marshall, losing the first game 82-74 and came back to win the rematch against the Mavericks. Against Ft. Worth Kirkpatrick in the regional finals, Royal amassed 32 points and 17 rebounds and 5 blocks, leading his team to

victory. The Royal family was deeply engrained in the Hughes Springs basketball program. Lynn's brother, Evan was a reserve on the T.C.U. basketball team. His cousins, William and Glyen were reserves and teammates of Lynn on the high school team. Hughes Springs was rated the #1 team in East Texas, regardless of classification by the Shreveport Newspaper. Don Woodall coached Hughes Springs. The other team joining Friendswood, Dimmitt and Hughes Springs in Austin was Luling(31-3), who had defeated Roma 60-52 in the regional final.

In the state semi-finals game between Dimmitt and Hughes Springs, the Bobcats trailed Hughes Springs 34-33 with 1:36 remaining in the 3rd period. With 4:30 remaining in the game, Dimmitt standout, 6'2" Kent Bradford fouled out. Royal was awesome in his team's 56-45 victory, finishing with 11 of 19 from the floor, 4 of 7 from the foul line, for a total of 26 points and 13 rebounds and 6 blocks. Hughes Springs had a big rebound edge 56-37. 5'8" jumping jack, Marion Holloman had 13 rebounds for Hughes Springs. For Dimmitt, Wohlgemuth was credited with keeping the Bobcats close. He led his team with 17 points and some fine ball handling and passing. Bradford added 10 points and 14 rebounds before fouling out. Both teams utilized a full court press with the Mustangs committing 13 turnovers and Dimmitt 16. "I was quite proud of our boys," Coach Cleveland said after the game, "This was my most satisfying season I've ever had, just winning District over those folks in Morton was a big accomplishment for our team." Cleveland also said that Morton was the best team they had played all season till they met Hughes Springs. "We played well in every way except shooting, I think Hughes Springs had something to do with that," Cleveland said. Dimmitt would graduate four seniors, Kenny Doss, Mark Wohlemuth, Max Newman and Kent Bradford. The Bobcats averaged 78 points per game and allowed only 55 points. The other dominate class AA team was Friendswood, with a perfect 25-0 record. The Mustangs eliminated the defending class AA State Champions, Kountze(30-8) in the regional finals 64-62 in overtime. Kountze had previously defeated Anahuac(24-3) 71-51 and Kemp 69-67 to advance to the regional finals. Two of the top players in the state played for Kountze, 6'2" Anthony Manning(23.5) and 6'4" James Brannon(27.2). The regional finals win over Kountze was big for Friendswood. The Mustangs were led by Bill Todd, who was a receiver on the Friendswood state semi-finalist football team. Another key contributor was quarterback Kent Ballard, who was the leading scorer on the Friendswood basketball team. Ballard was a record setting QB who signed with T.C.U. to play football. At state in the semi-final victory over Luling, Todd led the way with 13 points while Ballard finished with 10 points in the 51-38 win. Luling(33-3) was paced by Swist with 11 and Roberts with 10.

In the finals, Royal of Hughes Springs was just too much, as he hit 12 of 15 shots from the field and dominated the glass, pulling down 19 rebounds. The Mustangs captured the state championship defeating undefeated Friendswood 64-

60. Hughes Springs led throughout the contest but could never pull away, despite a 51-30 rebounding edge. Friendswood forces turnover after turnover, but was unable to take advantage of Hughes Springs mistakes. Hughes Springs turned the ball over 25 times compared to Friendswood 10. Friendswood finished the season at 26-1. "We just made too many mistakes when it got close," Friendswood Coach Walter Wilson said. "We would steal the ball and then throw it away or blow an easy shot. If we could have ever gotten a one-point lead, we could have won," added Wilson. Hughes Springs led at halftime 33-23. Royal's inside game effected Friendswood throughout the contest. Friendswood stayed close with the outside shooting of Mike Clardy and Bill Todd. With 4:56 remaining in the game, a pair of free throws by Todd closed the gap to 53-51. That was as close as Friendswood would get in the second half. Todd led the Mustangs of Friendswood with 20 points followed by Clardy with 16. Ballard only scored 4 points.

All-tournament team was made up 5'7" Willie Bean and 6'5" Lynn Royal of Hughes Springs. Both were juniors. 6'0" Bill Todd and 6'3" Rodney Unruh of Friendswood, 6'1" Mark Wohlgemuth of Dimmitt;

The **Sports Writers All-State team** consisted of **1st team-** 6'0" Kent Ballard(15.0) Friendswood, 6'6" Lynn Royal(25.9) Hughes Springs, 6'3" Anthony Manning(23.5) Kountze, 6'4" James Brannon(27.2) Kountze, 5'10" Jesus Guerra(26.7) Roma; **2nd Team-**6'4" Randall Treadwell(19.0) Eastland, 6'3" Rodney Unruh(15.0) Friendswood, 6'2" Kent Bradford(18.0) Dimmitt, 6'0" H.T. Burrow(18.0) Linden-Kildare, 6'0" Bill Todd(21.3) Friendswood; **3rd team-**6'4" Steve Routh(19.4) Ballinger, 6'4" Wenche Garcia(17.0) Roma, 6'1" James Langston(26.0) Ralls, 5'9" Rudy Gandaria(33.7) LaJoya; 5'11" Vernon Polk(21.0) Van Vleck, 5'11" Don Kubinski(27.0) El Paso Parkland: [Kubinski hit 74 points during one game]

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1971 AA Top Teams}

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|------|--|
| 1. | Hughes Springs | 31-1 | {state champion defeated Dimmitt and Friendswood} |
| 2. | Friendswood | 26-1 | {state finalist losing to Hughes Springs, 64-60} |
| 3. | Dimmitt | 33-3 | {lost in the state semis to Hughes Springs, 56-45} |
| 4. | Morton | 28-4 | {lost a district playoff to Dimmitt, 61-60} |
| 5. | Kountze | 30-8 | {lost to Friendswood in Regional, 64-62 in overtime} |
| 6. | Phillips | 26-6 | {split with Dimmitt, lost in regional finals} |
| 7. | Ballinger | 31-3 | {lost to Dimmitt in regional semis, 60-58} |
| 8. | Luling | 31-4 | {state semi-finals losing to Friendswood, 51-38} |

1972 AA

The real story in 1972 was all about Hughes Springs and their ability to repeat as state champion after their dominating season in 1971. The Mustangs had the best player in the state in class AA in Lynn Royal. At 6'7", he dominated every game he played at the 2-A level. The Mustangs opened the playoffs against Rivercrest and easily won 77-62. Royal had 30 rebounds for the Hughes Springs, but they turned the ball over 30 times and Coach Perry Elkins of Northwest felt his

team would have a chance in regionals. Northwest Texans had beaten Breckenridge 67-52, to advance to regionals at North Texas. Joining Northwest(30-1) and Hughes Springs(27-4) at the Men's Gym on the campus of North Texas State University would be Waco Midway(28-2) and Van(32-5). Coach Elkins also found out that in the Bi-District game between Hughes Springs and Rivercrest, that the Mustangs had opened up pressing, but had to abandon the press after they got behind. This was encouraging to the Texan Coach, as he prepared for his regional semi-final game against the defending state champs.

In one of the most anticipated games of the season in class 2-A, Northwest shocked Hughes Springs 102-85. Not only did the Texans pull the upset but they led the whole way, even dominating at times. Randy Wilson and Mike Boaldin scored 30 points apiece for Northwest, while Bobbie Henry added 27 points. Lynn Royal hit 28 points, but had only 6 rebounds, as he was consistently blocked out by the Texans smaller players. The Texan fast break was in full gear as 4,000 fans witness the upset. With the score 87-77, Royal committed his fifth foul and left the game with 4:27 remaining. At halftime Northwest was up by only seven 51-44.

After the morning victory and all the excitement, Northwest and Coach Perry Elkins had to prepare for one of the top teams in class 2-A, Waco Midway(28-2). Midway had defeated Van 68-59 in the other morning game. "It's hard for a running team to play twice in one day," Elkins said. "I hope we hold up." Northwest did not have the same energy and did not look like the same team as they trailed the entire game losing 60-58. The Mustangs did rally in the end but it was too little too late. The Texans trailed at halftime 36-28. "Our kids gave it all they had," said Elkins. "I'm proud of them, you just can't run and shoot twice in one day. We just ran out of gas." Of course, this was a common complaint at the time that many coaches had, was you don't have enough time to recover, especially if you had an emotional high scoring victory in the morning.

With Hughes Springs eliminated, the state playoffs took on a whole new look. Now everybody felt like they had a good chance at state. Morton, located just west of Lubbock near New Mexico, was one of those teams. All five starters for the Indians averaged in double figures, which made Morton very tough to defend. 6'1" Elton Patton(20.0), 5'10" Keith Embry(15.0), 6'0" Ted Thomas(15.0), 6'0" Bryant Lewis(12.0) and 5'11" Jimmy Harvey(12.0) made up the starting line-up for Coach Ted Whillock. In a warm-up game, Morton played one of the top teams in class AAA, Levelland, and lost 74-71. Grant Dukes put in 26 for Levelland and Elton Patton had 22 for Morton. The Indians opened the playoffs with a convincing 93-70 victory over Ralls. In regionals, Morton took out Merkel(29-5), a team that they outscored 25-9 in the final quarter to win 73-55. Embry had 28 points in the regional semi-final game against Merkel while Patton had 17, Lewis 13 and Jimmy Harvey 11. In the regional finals, El Paso Parkland was waiting for Morton with a

dynamic scorer in 6'3" Bob Kirkley. Against Childress(21-8) in the semi-finals win, Kirkley had 31 points and 18 rebounds, to led his team into the regional finals 68-57. El Paso Parkland and Morton faced off with the winner going to Austin. Although Kirkley finished with 33 against Morton, his team came up short losing to Morton 73-68. The Indians sometimes double and triple teamed Kirkley during the game. He managed only one bucket in the final quarter. Patton had 22 points, Lewis 22, Thomas 12, Embry 8 and Harvey 9. Embry and Patton made the All-tournament team. Morton would be traveling to state with a 30-5 record for the second time in three years.

In Region II, Whitehouse and their coach C.L. Nix were staring at Anahuac in the regional semi-final game. Anahuac had an impressive record of 32-1 and District champions of 22-AA. The Panthers of Anahuac had eliminated the always tough Kountze in Bi-District 88-60. Whitehouse looked strong as well with an impressive 33-1 mark. Both teams one loss had come at the hands of the same team, Van. Whitehouse's loss to Van was by the score of 85-83 and Anahuac lost 52-50. Whitehouse had made it to regionals by pushing back San Augustine 73-50 in Bi-District. In reference to the Whitehouse-Anahuac match-up, Coach Nix called the two teams, "Pretty evenly matched." He also stated, "We'll probably have to play our best game of the season to win. They have a strong press and outstanding shooters." Whitehouse would start, 6'3" Dennis Duncan, 6'1" Mike Richardson, 6'1" Rufus Taylor, 5'11" Howard Hawkins and 5'10" Tim Dews. Anahuac countered with Roy Wheeler, Tony Rivor, Bobby Rivor, Boris Myers and David Kirkham. Whitehouse won a close game leading all the way for a 65-52 victory. At halftime, Whitehouse led 32-31. Rufus Taylor led the scoring for Whitehouse with 26 points and Anahuac had Tony Rivor put in 26 points and Donald Myers added 17.

Class AA looked like the most balanced and competitive of all the classifications at state in 1972. Whitehouse was 35-1, Roma was 36-2 and Waco Midway came in with a 30-2 mark. Morton had the worst record but was the only team with prior experience in Austin. Morton's semi-final opponent at state was Roma, paced by two-time all-state guard, 5'10" Jesus Guerra. Jesus averaged 29.0 points a game and was one of the top players to ever come out of south Texas. Roma had eliminated Luling and San Antonio Cole in regionals to advance to state. Against Morton, Roma jumped out to an early lead, but the Indians eventually recovered to lead at halftime 40-34. Guerra left the game with an injury for five minutes with his team leading 47-44 at the 7:22 mark of the final quarter. Patton made the critical play of the game playing on a twisted ankle that he had hurt in the regional finals. With 2:06 remaining and the scored tied 57-57, Patton hit a driving lay-up and then immediately stole the inbounds pass and hit a 15-footer with 1:48 remaining. The Indians would go on to win 65-55 and advance to the state finals. Keith Embry of Morton had fouled out with 3:07 left in the 3rd quarter with the score 48-43 in favor of Morton. Morton scoring against Roma had Patton

with 24, Embry with 17 and Harvey finishing with 12 points. Roma had Guerra with 13, Wenceslao Garcia with 17 and Mike Villareal came away with 13 points.

In the other semi-finals game, Whitehouse put together a strong 4th quarter outscoring Waco Midway 18-8 and went on to win 57-47. Whitehouse used an aggressive, quick defense, that gave Midway problems. Midway lost two key starters in the 4th period, David Smith and Mark Pynes. Whitehouse was led by Rufus Taylor(28.0) with 25 points and Mike Richardson finished with 15.

The finals matched the two-top class 2-A teams in the state in Whitehouse(36-1) and Morton(32-4). Of course, Hughes Springs and Northwest would probably not agree with that statement. Morton's balance continued as they defeated Whitehouse 62-59. Whitehouse had 18 turnovers against Morton full court press, while the Indians committed only 13 turnovers. Elton Patton made the key plays down the stretch for Morton. With 2:07 remaining in the game and the score tied 57 apiece, Patton hit a bank shot and 17 seconds later he grabbed a loose ball and hit a long shot to give the Indians a 61-57 lead. These baskets were the difference in the game. Leading Morton was Embry with 16 points, Patton finished with 14 points, Harvey had 11 points and 11 rebounds. Rufus Taylor led Whitehouse with 21 points. Morton finished with a 32-5 record and Whitehouse had a 36-2 mark. Morton relentless defensive pressure was the difference in the game for the Indians.

All-Tournament Team- Elton Patton and Keith Embry of Morton, 6'1" Rufus Taylor and 6'1" Mike Richardson of Whitehouse, 6'2" David Smith of Waco Midway, 6'5" Wenceslao Garcia of Roma:

The Sports Writers **All-State 1st team-** 6'6" Lynn Royal(27.3/24.0), Hughes Springs; 6'4" Glynn Royal, Hughes Springs; 6'5" Wenche Garcia, Roma; 6'3" Larry Toliver, Woodsboro; 5'10" Jesus Guerra(29.0), Roma; **2nd Team-**6'1" Rufus Taylor(28.0), Whitehouse; 6'2" James Langston, Ralls; 6'4" Jasper Young, Van; 6'6" Johnny George, Kaufman; 5'11" Stanley Fielder(25.0), Ballinger; 6'0" Elton Patton(20.0), Morton; **3rd team-** 6'3" James Allen Day, Van; 6'1" Roland Beal, Coahoma; 6'3" Kerry Thames(20.8), Merkel; 6'2" Charles Jackson, Floydada; 5'10" Danny Ebling, Dimmitt;

One of the reasons I listed the entire three teams selected by the Sports Writers, is that it is one of the few times I can recall only one player making the All-State unit from the state championship squad. That is not to say it hasn't happen, but in the smaller classifications, it is very unusual. Another glaring omission is Northwest, the team that beat Hughes Springs, did not have one player on the All-State squad. Also, Waco Midway failed to put anybody on the team.

One of the all-time great players to ever come out of the Valley, Jesus Guerra, was named all-state for the third straight year.

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1972 AA Top Teams}

1.	Morton	32-5	{defeated Whitehouse 62-59 to capture state}
2.	Whitehouse	36-2	{defeated Anahuac 65-62, Waco Midway 57-47}
3.	Northwest	31-2	{pulled the big upset beating Hughes Spring 102-85}
4.	Dimmitt	25-6	{district runner-up to state champion Morton}
5.	Waco Midway	30-3	{beat Northwest and Van, lost to Whitehouse at state}
6.	Van	32-6	{beat Whitehouse and Anahuac during the regular season}
7.	Hughes Springs	27-5	{defending state champions were upset by Northwest}
8.	Anahuac	33-2	{knocked Kountze out of the playoff 88-60}
9.	Roma	36-3	{top team in south Texas}

1973 AA

Going into the 1973 season you always looked at the old guard or the teams with tradition to make their way to Austin and the state tournament. The first two teams that always come to mind were Morton and Dimmitt. Unfortunately, the two schools were in the same District, so only one could advance. In 1973, the Indians were tough as they took the District title and Dimmitt uncharacteristically stayed at home. Dimmitt had their worst campaign in years and of the 1970s, finishing a dismal 20-11. Morton would make waves in the playoffs as usual. Whitehouse was trying to continue their momentum created by their state finals appearance in '72. The Wildcats won District once again but this time was shocked in Bi-District, losing to Grand Saline 59-50. The Chiefs of Grand Saline had a big lead 54-34 and went 4 ½ minutes without scoring. Grand Saline held on to move on to regionals. Whitehouse was unable to get the ball inside to their big men, Travis Pettigrew and Roger Jackson. Grand Saline's big men combined for 34 points and 27 rebounds. Grand Saline won the rebound edge 54-34.

Two teams that really looked impressive during the regular season were Abernathy and Anahuac. Both teams were undefeated and were talented. Abernathy(29-0), unfortunately had to face Morton(27-5) in Bi-District at the Texas Dome on the campus of South Plains in Levelland. Morton had played a very formidable schedule with four of their losses coming to unbeaten AAA power, Levelland, the last of which came in a warm-up game 79-59. The other loss was at the hands of Snyder, a class 4-A school by five points. The Indians once again were for real. No real size of any kind, just up tempo fast break basketball and tough, aggressive pressing full court. For Abernathy it was their first District title since 1961. "We've got a definite height advantage," Abernathy coach Carl Irlbeck said before the game, "But they have the playoff experience and that's a big equalizer." Irlbeck came to Abernathy from Clarendon, where he had been very successful. His first season at Abernathy, the Antelopes had a 15-15 record. Abernathy's line-up was made up of 6'7" Dick Rogers(18.0), 6'4" Joe Evans, 6'0" Ray Martin, 5'11" Randy Settle, 6'3" Larry Lutrick and 6'0" Kent Snodgrass. Morton's press and speed were able to overcome the size of Abernathy as the Indians eliminated Abernathy

70-62. Anahuac at 28-0 was trying to build on the positive momentum created during the 1972 season, but were unable to capitalize on their previous success. The San Augustine Wolves beat Anahuac in Bi-District 54-46. Actually, coming into the game, Anahuac had lost a warm-up game to class A powerhouse, Kennard 56-48.

So, in the early going of the playoffs, some outstanding programs had been eliminated as regional action approached. In Region I, Morton was the favorite as usual against challengers, Stratford(17-10), Hamlin(18-3) and Coahoma(20-5). Morton was led by 6'0" Jimmy Harvey(17.1/7.0) during the 1973 campaign and 6'1" Ted Thomas(10.1/6.0) was another important player. 5'9" Larry Thompson, 6'2" Jerry Silhan and 6'0" Mike Hunter rounded out the starters for Coach Whillock. Hunter played inside at post, Thomas was the lead guard and Silhan was a deadly outside shooter. Thomas and Harvey were named All-South Plains. On the All-District team named in 3-AA, Harvey was unanimous and Thomas and Silhan were named 1st team also. Kenny Ringo represented Dimmitt on the 1st team. Stratford(17-10), who beat Childress in Bi-District 49-43 was Morton's regional semi-finalist opponent. The Elks were led by 6'3" Jerry Pool(18.2) and 6'2" Gary Pool(11.6). Morton proved to be too strong but the game was pretty close as the Indians came out on top 53-42. Ted Thomas and Larry Thompson both contributed 15 points for the Indians while Jerry Pool of Stratford, finished with 20 points. In the regional finals, Coahoma awaited Morton. The Indians only led Coahoma by three at half but finally Morton broke the game open jumping to a 33-25 lead. In the early stages of the fourth quarter, they ran their lead to 54-35 and eventually won by fourteen 64-50. Jerry Silhan scored 21 and Jimmy Harvey added 19, as both players were named to the all-regional team along with Coahoma's, Terry Schaffer(15.0). Other standouts for Coahoma were 6'1" Roland Beal(14.1) and 5'10" Troy Kerby(12.5). The victory by Morton meant that Coach Whillock's Indians would be making their third trip to Austin in four years. In 1970, Morton lost in the state semis to Taft 71-63, in 1971 they were ousted by Dimmitt in a District playoff and in 72' they had won the state championship over Whitehouse.

In Austin, the Indians would be facing three other quality opponents, but not as well known to the average fans as Morton(27-5). Morton and Grand Saline squared off in the semis and it was an exciting game. Grand Saline scored 22 points in the fourth quarter in a come from behind win 62-61. Morton had been up by nine points 49-40 entering the fourth quarter. Tommy Stewart of Grand Saline hit two key foul shots with 12 seconds left on the clock to give his team the win. Jimmy Harvey had 16 points and Jerry Silhan finished with 15 points and 17 rebounds. For Grand Saline, their big post, 6'5" Ronnie Moreland had 25 points and 14 rebounds. Grand Saline's lineup was based around a double low post combination of 6'5" Moreland(19.0/14.0) and 6'4" Dennis Jennings(15.0/10.0), which was a tough combination in class 2-A basketball. Point guard was handled by

David Thomas(11.0), and Tommy Stewart(11.0) and Danny Koonce(7.0) played the wings. The Indians of Grand Saline had beaten Hooks in the regional finals to advance to state 64-60. Bob Linker coached the Indians. Grand Saline(29-3) had taken out Whitehouse earlier in the playoffs. Morton finished the season at 27-6.

In the other semi-finals matchup, San Augustine(28-4) came in with a lot of momentum from south Texas, but little fanfare. Augustine had upset Anahuac(28-1) in the 1st round of the playoffs and beat Buna to win the 17-AA District title. In their playoff warmup game San Augustine took it on the chin against Kennard 56-48. In the semi-finals, San Augustine had little trouble with Mathis(19-7). San Augustine full court press forced 25 turnovers by Mathis. The score could have been worse because Augustine only hit 13 of 31 foul shots. Charlie Harris had 20 points and 19 rebounds to lead Augustine and Robert Barnes contributed 19 and 12 rebounds. In a losing effort for Mathis, Kim Henning put in 18 points. The Wolves won 74-48 and moved on into the finals against Grand Saline.

Grand Saline entered the title game on 20 game roll. Coach Robert Linker had led his team to their first District title in 42 years. In one of the most controversial games in years, Grand Saline(29-3) lost the title game to San Augustine(30-4) 60-58. With 61 seconds remaining in the game and 58-56 advantage, Alfred Johnson of San Augustine drove the lane and took an overhead shot three feet short of the baseline. Grand Saline's Ronnie Moreland blocked the shot, but was called for goaltending giving the Wolves a 60-56 lead. The call proved to be the difference in the game. San Augustine dominated the boards in the final 62-49. Augustine was coached by Henry Whittlesey and were led by 6'2" sophomore Robert Barnes(19.1), 5'10" Curtis Porter(15.3), Charlie Harris(13.0). In San Augustine run to the championship, they had beat Anahuac 54-46, Rosebud-Lott 60-49, Waller 79-60 and Mathis 74-48. The Wolves averaged 78 points and gave up 58 points on the season.

All-Tournament Team- 6'2" Robert Barnes and 6'2" Charlie Harris of San Augustine; 6'4" Ronnie Moreland, 6'4" Dennis Jennings and 6'0" Tommie Stewart of Grand Saline; 6'2" Jerry Silhan of Morton and 6'5" Kim Henning of Mathis:

Sports Writers All-State 1st team- 6'4" Bobby Rivon(24.5), Anahuac; 6'3" Juan Reyes(30.9), Zapata; 6'4" Ronnie Moreland(18.2), Grand Saline; 6'0" Danny Matthews(28.0), LaFerria, 6'0" Jimmy Harvey(17.0), Morton; **2nd Team-** 6'2" sophomore, Robert Barnes(19.1), San Augustine; 6'4" Carol Frost(19.8), Laredo United, 6'5" Kim Henning(21.0), Mathis; 6'2" Charlie Harris(13.0), San Augustine; 6'4" Steve Gibbs(21.5) Bowie; 6'5" Greg Uhlig(21.0), Poth; 6'2" Johnny Bandy(21.6), Friona; **3rd-team-** 6'4" Dick Rogers(18.1), Abernathy; 6'6" Gary Hetherington(18.2), Linden-Kildare; 6'0" John Waggoner(24.2), Comanche; 5'10" Roy Wheeler(20.8), Anahuac; 6'3" Milton Jones(19.0), Hamlin:

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1973 AA Top Teams}

1. San Augustine 31-4 {state champs defeating Grand Saline in the finals 60-58}
2. Grand Saline 29-4 {beat Morton 62-61 and lost in the finals}
3. Morton 27-6 {lost in the state semis to Grand Saline 62-61}
4. Abernathy 29-1 {lost to Morton in Bi-District 70-62}
5. Anahuac 28-2 {lost to San Augustine in Bi-District 54-46}

1974 AA

The defending class AA state champion, San Augustine had another outstanding season finishing 27-3. Unfortunately, they were eliminated in Bi-District by Kountze(19-11) 61-53. San Augustine had defeated Buna in a zone playoff in District 17-AA 55-54. This left the entire field wide open for the 1974 playoffs.

When you are discussing class AA basketball at the highest level in the 1970s the epicenter was District 3-AA in West Texas. At some point, in order to win state, you must beat the 3-AA winner whether it's Dimmitt or Morton. Shocking news came out of District 3-AA in 1974, when it was learned that both those basketball powers had been beaten by upstart, Friona. The Chiefs beat Dimmitt for the first time ever on the road in District and beat Morton for the first time since 1962. There was a lot of first timers for the Chiefs, including the first-time Friona had been to the playoffs since 1945. On the All-District team for District 3-AA, Friona placed three players on the first unit. 6'4" Dale Cleveland(15.3/14.5), 6'2" Gene Strickland(14.8/10.0) and 6'0" Dale Parsons(15.5/5.2). Parsons had transferred in from Olton at the beginning of the school year. Dimmitt also placed three players on the first team, 5'11" Paul Langford(22.0/4.0), 6'3" Bill Gregory(16.1/9.3) and 6'2" Darrell Buckley. Surprisingly, Morton had four Indians on the first team, 6'3" Jerry Silhan, Mark Fluitt, Billy Joyce and 6'0" Larry Thompson(15.0/5.2). On the All-South Plains team, District 3-AA was well represented with Cleveland from Friona being named to the first team along with Langford from Dimmitt. The 2nd team placed Gregory from Dimmitt, Parsons from Friona and Thompson from Morton. Strickland of Friona was named honorable mention. The team was named on February 28, before regionals and before state, or Strickland would have been named to the first team. He dominated the playoffs averaging 22.2 per game. This was seven points better than his regular season average.

During the District campaign, Friona ran the table going undefeated, while Dimmitt took second and Morton was third. Dimmitt finished the season with an impressive 26-5 record, and Morton was 20-8. The Chiefs went into the playoffs with an 24-6 mark. Friona's five losses came at the hands of Canyon three times, Lubbock Estacado, a 3-A team, and class B Channing. Chiefs coach, Ray Debord commented on his regular season opponents. "Next to Dimmitt and Canyon, I'd have to say Morton was the best team we played this year." This was DeBord fifth

season with the Chiefs, having finished 17-11, 14-15, 16-14 and 18-11 at the helm. "I felt Dimmitt had the strongest team in District. I'm just glad we don't have to play them any more this year. We had a tough time in District, but I felt if we could win District we could get through regionals, because our District representative had won the region for the last five years."

In Bi-District, Friona took on Lockney, and won a close one 54-50 at Levelland. Lockney committed 20 turnovers, which was the difference in the game. Dave Cleveland led the Chiefs with 21 points and Strickland finished with 15. John Clark led Lockney and finished with 17 points. In regionals Friona defeated Childress(18-14) 65-48 in the semi-finals. Childress had beaten Spearman(20-10) in Bi-District 58-54. The other semi-final contest saw Frenship take Van Horn apart 78-62. In the regional finals, Friona blitzed Frenship(26-8) 58-43 in front of 4,500 fans in the Lubbock Municipal Coliseum. Cleveland once again led the scoring with 21 points for the Chiefs while Strickland had 20. Jay DePanion led Frenship with 13. Strickland was the leading scorer against Childress with 20 and Floyd Nickerson led Childress with 11 points.

At state, Friona had to play Bastrop. Both teams were making their first visits to Austin. The hero for Friona was junior, Gene Strickland, who hit five straight baskets in the fourth quarter and sparked the Chiefs comeback victory over Bastrop 73-71. Strickland hit a lay-up with 4:28 remaining to give his team the lead for good. Strickland hit 13 of 24 from the foul and finished with 28 points. Cleveland got in foul trouble for Coach DeBord and was not a big factor in the game's outcome. Bastrop finished 22-6.

Refugio entered the state playoffs undefeated at 26-0. Many coaches have always questioned a team's record that had come out of the valley, because of the lack of solid competition. The Bobcats were definitely not over whelming anybody in the playoffs, as they took Region IV. In the regional semi-finals, Jeff Kay scored 19 points and Rufus Green contributed 18, as Refugio defeated Medina Valley(23-8) 53-42. In the regional final, Weimar(20-8) fell to the Bobcats 48-42. Both games were relatively close, but Refugio moved on the state to play the Bowie Jackrabbits. Weimar had beaten Roma(27-8) in the regional semi-finals. Refugio had nice size with two all-staters, 6'3" Jeff Kay and 6'2" Rufus Green, along with 6'3" Curtis Isaiah. The guards were 5'10" Terry Bellows and 5'10" Daniel Firova.

At state, Bowie faced Refugio in the other semi-finals game. Refugio met their waterloo, as Bowie proved to be too strong. Bowie's big 6'8" post, David Prater only played a few seconds of the 2nd half because of foul trouble, but his team managed without his inside presents. Rick Belz came off the bench for the Jackrabbits and did a fine job as Prater's replacement. The formally undefeated Refugio Bobcats went down in defeat 63-56. With four minutes remaining in the contest, Bowie went into a stall and brought home the victory, hitting key foul

shots down the stretch. Darwin McKinley finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds and Prater had 12 points and Lee Ray Massey added 14 points for Bowie. Rufus Green paced Refugio in a losing effort with 16 points and Jeff Kay finished with 21. Bobby Brashear's ball handling in the late stages of the game seemed to be the difference in the game for Bowie. Refugio was used to holding their opponents to scores in the 30s and 40s. When you consider that 6'8" Prater of Bowie only played one minute of the 2nd half, and was the team's leading scorer and rebounder, the victory was amazing for Bowie. It just showed the depth of the Jackrabbits. Refugio won the rebound battle 49-40.

The state championship game would be a great game between Friona(27-6) and Bowie(23-4). A little background about Bowie indicated they were definitely not the underdog in the contest. The Jackrabbits of Bowie were well disciplined and had a big man you would have to deal with on the glass in 6'8" David Prater. Bowie opened the playoffs with a decisive win over Coleman 77-44. Remember Coleman had beaten Friona three times during the regular season. The Jackrabbits balance was indicated by the scoring in the Coleman game. Tommy Cannon hit 20 points followed by sophomore, Darwin McKinley with 18, 6'8" David Prater had 14, Lee Ray Massey contributed 12 and point guard and ball handling whiz, Bob Brasher had 8. Coach Gayno Shelton took Bowie to Denton in the Region II playoff. Bowie came into regionals with a 21-4 mark. All four losses had come at the hands of Petrolia in class 1-A. In the regional semis, Ferris fell to Bowie 65-50 and McKinley was the leading scorer with 23 points. In the other semi-final, Kaufman beat New Boston 67-50. In the Region II final, Bowie continued their winning ways beating Kaufman 63-52. Prater was dominating with 25 points, McKinley had 15 and Brashear finished with 14.

The title game was decided in the 3rd quarter when Bowie outscored Friona 29-8, and took control of the game. The Chiefs had led at halftime 36-33 but Bowie had not pressed. When Bowie began pressing in the second half, Friona began turning the ball over. Bowie's Bobby Brashear led the defensive assault. By the end of the 3rd quarter, the Jackrabbits led 62-44. The final stood 76-66, in favor of Bowie. 6'2" Strickland of Friona had an outstanding game in the finals with 28 points and 17 rebounds, but his heroics weren't enough. Cleveland had to give up four inches guarding Bowie's Prater. Cleveland finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds while Prater dominated with 22 points and 20 rebounds. Bowie won the battle of the boards 56-45. After the game, Coach DeBord commented, "They didn't do anything we weren't expecting. We felt they would press us the whole game, but when they didn't press in the first half, we relaxed a little bit. I told the kids to expect a press in the second half, but you can't really get ready till you meet it." "Their press in the third quarter contributed to our turnovers. It's the first time all year the press really has hurt us. Prater is a better player than we thought, he hurt us on their offensive boards. They were really good ball handlers. I guess

that's their strength really. Bowie's so steady, such good ball handlers, you just can't get behind," DeBord said. Coach Gayno Shelton of Bowie said following the game, "Friona plays good defense. They shut down our high-low post game, and we had to go to a single post and get more movement on offense." Ray Massey had 15 points for Bowie, Bobby Brashear had 17 and Darwin McKinney finished with 17. The Bowie Jackrabbits finished the season 25-4 and state champions. Bowie had an impressive playoff run averaging 68.8 to their opponents 53.6 for a double-digit advantage of 15.2. The Jackrabbits had to be viewed as one of the better class AA teams of the 1970s despite their losses. Bowie really dominated in the playoffs.

All-Tournament team was as follows: From Bowie three players were named, David Prater, Bobby Brashear and Lee Ray Massey; Dale Cleveland of Friona and Andrew Washington of Bastrop.

Sport Writers All-State 1st team- 6'2" Rufus Green of Refugio, 5'9" Bobby Brashear(11.0) of Bowie, Robert Barnes of San Augustine, 6'8" David Prater of Bowie, Kim Henning of Mathis; **2nd Team**-Winfred Wright(16.0) of Bastrop, Jay Depanion of Frenship, Victor Munoz of Van Horn, John Waggoner of Commanche, 6'4" Dale Cleveland(15.3/14.8) of Friona, 6'3" Jeff Kay of Refugio; **3rd Team**-5'11" Paul Langford(22.0/4.0) of Dimmitt, Blake Rasner of Waco Robinson, Walter Bond of Shamrock, 6'2" Gene Strickland(14.8/10.0) of Friona, Roy Burton of Buna. Interesting side note on the All-State team. Jeff Kay and Curtis Isaiah were named 1st team All-District by the District coaches and Rufus Green was named to the 2nd team. But on the All-State squad, Green was named 1st team and Kay made the 2nd team and Isaiah was left off the squad entirely. Usually means a very gifted team. Winfred Wright went on to North Texas State and Bobby Brashear to U.T. Arlington.

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1974 AA Top Teams}

1.	Bowie	25-4	{state champions beating Friona, 76-66}
2.	Friona	28-7	{state finalist, beat Dimmitt and Morton twice in district}
3.	Refugio	29-1	{state semi-finalist losing to Bowie, 63-56}
4.	Bastrop	22-6	{state semi-finalist losing to Friona, 73-71}
5.	Dimmitt	26-5	{runner-up in district 3-AA to Friona}
6.	Morton	20-8	{finished third in district 3-AA behind Dimmitt and Friona}
7.	Kountze	19-11	{eliminated defending state champions San Augustine}
8.	San Augustine	27-3	{lost in Bi-District to Kountze, 61-53}

1970 A

Kennard carried a 41-0 record to Austin and the state tournament in 1970. Kennard had kind of a mini dynasty going during the period. It was their third appearance at state in the last four seasons. They were coached by Johnny Carter and had four players that averaged in double figures. The starters included, 6'1" Lester Hutcherson(17.4), 5'10" James Smith(16.3), 6'0" Carl Watson(17.3), 6'0"

Don Denman(14.0) and 5'9" Jeff Myers(8.2). During the season the Tigers had played AAA Huntsville and beaten them 69-35. Hutcherson paced Kennard in their 64-37 Bi-District win over Troy. In the semi-finals of regionals against Lexington, the Tigers won 75-52 as Don Denman led his team with 19 points. In the regional finals, Kennard won a close one over Malakoff 54-50. Hutcherson was again the leading scorer for the Tigers with 20 points while Elbert Sparks led Malakoff with 19.

At state, Clarendon came in with a fine 26-2 record and 6'3" Charles Louis(27.7) was their go to player. Rounding out the starting lineup for the Broncho's was 5'11" Jim Moore(15.6), 5'11" Bennie Reese(10.8), 5'9" Steve Adams(7.6) and another inside player, 6'3" Wayne Carter(14.3). Clarendon was located in the Texas Panhandle. Clarendon was making their second appearance at state, having made the journey the year before in '69. Itasca came out of District 13-A with a 25-6 mark. They had three players averaging in double figures and were coached by Brenton Hughes. Their nickname was one of my favorites, the Wampus Cats. Now what the hell is a Wampus Cat! I'll never know but I like the sound of it, 5'10" Tom Bowman(16.5) was the leading scorer for the Wampus Cats. The final entry was Deweyville at 31-4. They were from deep in East Texas. Once again four strong scorers averaging in double figures Deweyville. Leaders were 5'9" James Wilson(16.8) and 6'3" Gary Knight(15.4) for the Wampus Cats.

Kennard continued their march to state, defeating Deweyville in the semis 79-68, while Clarendon advanced past Itasca 78-64. Lester Hutcherson continued his scoring binge with 23 points. Charles Wallace paced Deweyville with 19 points. The game was won at the foul line with Kennard hitting 15 of 23 while the Pirates of Deweyville could only manage 6 of 9. Clarendon's size became too much for Itasca as they pulled away in the fourth quarter 28-16. Yes, the Wampus Cats season was officially over. Charles Louis and Jim Moore finished with 21 and 19 points respectfully for Clarendon while Itasca was paced by Tom Bowman and David Plumlee, each with 20 points. The game was described as sloppy.

This set up the finals and Kennard's quest for a perfect season. The 72-64 victory gave the Tigers their third state title in four seasons. The 1967 and 1968 titles had come in Class B. Hutcherson and James Smith were the leading scorers with 33 and 20 points. Clarendon had four players in double figures in the contest. Wayne Carter led the way for the Broncho's with 19 points. The Tigers won the battle inside on the boards 48-41 against the taller team. Coach Carl Irlbeck of Clarendon would later win state titles at Abernathy in 1980 and Plainview in 1994.

All-Tournament team in Class A: Hutcherson and James Smith of Kennard, Charles Louis and Wayne Carter of Clarendon and Gary Knight of Deweyville.

The **Sports Writers All-State** was paced by the state tournament teams. **1st team**, 6'5" Paul Dummond(32.5) of Wylie, 6'1" Lester Hutcherson(17.4) of Kennard, 6'4" Miller Bassler(14.2) of Somerville, 5'11" Jim Moore(18.0) of

Clarendon, 6'0" Connie Hunter(22.0) of West Sabine. Dummond and Hutcherson led in the voting. **2nd team**-6'3" Charles Louis(27.6) of Clarendon, 6'3" Gary Knight(15.4) of Deweyville, 6'2" Eldon Ware(21.2) of Sunray, 5'9" James Wilson(16.8) of Deweyville, 5'9" James Smith(15.3) of Kennard. All of the players on the first and second team were seniors.

1971 A

Van Horn had a great run in regionals upsetting the favorite Clarendon 67-66 on Joe Villasenor driving layup with 27 seconds remaining. Clarendon, who advanced to state during the '70 season, played for the last shot but missed with three seconds remaining. Villasenor led his team in scoring with 19 points. He was also the only player from Van Horn named on the regional all-tournament team. In the regional finals, the Eagles again pulled out an incredible win over Lorenzo(23-11) 78-73 in overtime. Tim Beaty finished with 20 and Joe Nobles contributed 18 points to the winning cause. The Van Horn delay game was the difference, as they ran minutes off the clock late in the contest.

In the state semi-finals, Van Horn(22-6) went against Garrison(31-4) and came away with a 76-67 win. The Eagles pressing defense forced 21 Garrison turnovers. Van Horn was paced in the semi-finals by Floyd with 24 points followed by Mike Talavera and Nobles finished with 15 points. For Garrison, it was Lorenzo Tatum leading the way with 26 points and 17 rebounds. In the finals against Pottsboro(31-4), sophomore guard Ronald Holmes hit a basket with two seconds remaining for Van Horn, to give the Eagles a 68-67 victory. The Eagles starting lineup was made up of 6'0" Perry Floyd(15.9), 6'0" Joe Villasenor(13.0), 6'0" Tim Beaty(12.0), 6'1" Joe Nobles(10.6). Floyd was the leading scorer in the finals with 23 points, Beaty had 17 and Nobles 15. Jackie Oliver was high man for Pottsboro with 27 points.

All-Tournament team- Joe Nobles and Perry Floyd of Van Horn, 6'2" Jackie Oliver and 6'1" Steve Short of Pottsboro, and 6'2" Lorenzo Tatum of Garrison.

The **Sports Writers All-State Team, 1st Team**-David Daniel, Ouinlan; Frank Enioe, Allen; James Allen, Honey Grove; Mike Horn, West Sabine; Charles Wilson, Deweyville:

'71 Van Horn Championship team, Memories from the Players and Coach: **by Head Coach John Curry:**

-We had to play both the semi-final and final games on the same day.

We were used to playing in close games. We won the Van Horn Tournament championship game in two overtimes; we lost the Marfa Tournament championship game in one overtime; we lost the Reagan County Tournament championship game in four overtimes; and won the Regional

Championship game in one overtime. In the regional semi-final game, we beat Clarendon, the defending state champions in our class. We won that game by one point.

One of the most memorable games was our bi-district game against Seagraves. Seagraves beat us in the first round of the regional tournament the year before, and they had us down thirteen at halftime of our bi-district game. At the end of the third quarter, we were up five. We went on to beat them by more than ten points.

The opponent that had the most talent during the '70-'71 season that we beat was Academia Juarez. They had two players who later played collegiate basketball and one who played Division 1 football. That said, I believe Clarendon had the best team that we played in the playoffs.

1971 was a magical year. We won the state championship because we had balanced scoring and we could rebound. Our pressing defense disrupted even the good teams. We had charismatic leaders and players who understood and accepted their roles. All our players had basketball savvy, and to a man, hated to lose.

As usual, I've had fun looking back. I have to work hard to keep from living in the past. Your players gave far more to me than I gave to you. When you win a state championship as a coach, you are automatically given status that you may not deserve. All of a sudden, you are a great coach. I went from ordinary to great because of the dedication and effort of ten Van Horn Eagles!

by Ron Holmes ... He made the winning shot with a few seconds remaining to beat Pottsboro 68-67.

Later Holmes became head coach at Brownfield and took his team to the State Tournament in 1989, and went on to become the Head Coach at McMurry University.

El Paso schools were not that good if I remember correctly. We did play Juarez Academy, which is a colony in the Mexico in the state of Juarez, so it wasn't the El Paso version of Juarez. These guys were from a Mormon colony and they were very, very good. They probably beat us more times than we beat them but we played them in the championship game of the Van Horn tourney and it was classic as we won, 73-72 which was probably the best game we played all year including playoff games. I thought those guys could've won a state championship in Texas.

Our M. O. all year was to get behind and then climb back into the game, run them down, make them substitute, and then overpower them with our presses. We played Seagraves in bi-district and fell behind by 13 only to win by double digits I think.

About the championship game: I remember playing Pottsboro and not being too nervous. I never got too nervous before any game that year because I didn't start which gave me a chance to watch the other team and watch how we played them to start. I was always confident with what I thought we could do because our team was full of role players with two studs but the beauty of the championship game was that we all stepped up. We had some injured players and one in particular that was a difference maker; Joe Villasenor was our glue and best rebounder. Joe V. started but had to sit early due to his injury (hip pointer) and Coach turned to me as I had been the 6th man all year. I was ready when he called my name and was not nervous. I was the youngest on the team at 16 running with what I considered, men, but felt like I could hold my own and play my part. Honestly, it was hard to be too nervous when I was surrounded by players like Perry Floyd and Joe Nobles. Those guys could've started for any team we played that year...hands down! I remember that last possession, Pottsboro had vs. our last possession. I remember we were ahead by one point, they brought the ball down court and scored, putting them up by one point. It got interesting at that point. My recollection was that Pottsboro scored way too early because there was 17 seconds on the clock as I inbounded the ball and that's where it got interesting for me. Perry Floyd was sitting on the bench and he along with Joe Nobles were our best "go to" guys, so, I inbounded the ball to Joe and knew immediately what he was going to do. I remember thinking and telling myself that Pottsboro had made a fatal mistake scoring too early and I ran down the floor to rebound. I also remember telling myself that there'd be no set play and that the ball was going up so I needed to be around the basket.

We were used to scoring quick/early so running down the floor thinking what I was going to do had been drilled into me by Coach Curry. Sure enough, Joe shot the ball from my right side...he missed pretty bad (sorry Joe) and Mike Talevera rebounded what was a long rebound on the left side. Mike shot and tried to bank it in as he was shooting from "no man's" land. His shot bounced off the front of the rim where Tim Beaty and I were fighting for position. I remember jumping to rebound and grabbing the ball, coming down with it, and going straight up to put it back. I also remember knowing that the Pottsboro guys needed to foul me pretty hard to stop my shot because I was right in front of the rim at point blank range. They didn't foul and I put the ball in the hole. Lastly, I remember how loud it got after the shot went in and there was still 4 seconds left in the game. When I heard the buzzer go off I ran and found my mother. Forty-five years is a long time and people will never remember all the shots I missed but they'll never forget the ONE I made.

I remember learning my role as sixth man, and doing what I was told and nothing more. I think that kind of thinking was emblematic of that team. We should play our roll, let studs be studs, and we'd be fine. The absolute best thing we had was the coaching we received. Coach Curry was the best, and still is, at making you want to sacrifice for your team.

The four-overtime game against Coahoma in the Big Lake Tourney was unforgettable. I didn't know how to respond after the game because we had lost. We left everything on the floor and got beat by a better team that night. I learned how to act after a game like that watching Coach Curry. He asked me what was wrong afterwards because I was pouting. Coach then told me, in so many words, that losing a game sometimes is ok as long as you have nothing left in the tank. Some teams are just better than you are.

I remember playing Buena Vista which was a Class B team. Our first game against them was at home and we won, 58-50 and struggled to pull away. I was very confused because that was not supposed to happen. We played them again at their place not too long after and barely won, 51-50. I learned a valuable lesson in that series. We had too many distractions as some of the guys were planning to leave after the game to go on campus visits to colleges. It dawned on me that the visits were more important than the game. It would appear that we took them too lightly which explained why the game was so close.

District started and we were in the dressing room in Clint, Texas. Coach Curry emphasized, with the utmost of importance, that we were to play our role with no hot-dogging.

The season was a surreal experience. It made me and spoiled me all at the same time. I learned many lessons during that time with the biggest being that the bar was set high and we got there. We wore rubber bands around our wrists to remind us of our goals and it was subliminally working the whole time. Studs were studs and role players were role players. That kind of attack still works!

I had a desire to be a coach and when the season was done, I knew I wanted to do just that. Coach Curry made it look so easy, made me smile, laugh, cry, make me mad, make me want to run through walls for my team, and make we want to hug my teammates' necks in appreciation. If I said that we were a close group, then I'd be stating a gross understatement. That particular team was the greatest and grandest team I ever had the chance to make a player's contribution too.

Toughest team we faced; hands down, it was Juarez Academy! No question!!! They had depth, size, skill, high IQ, and a great head coach. I felt like they could've beaten any team we played all year and would've won many, many games had they be in the U.S. For us to be able to beat them was somewhat of a mystery. I say that because Juarez knew what they were getting into when they came to play us. They'd been coming to Van Horn for many years and were true champions that knew how to play like winners and act like champions. I still think that was the greatest high school game I played in.

Thoughts on Coach Curry- He's the reason I went to McMurry and the earthly reason I coached. He embodies, to this day, all that's right with coaching. He's impressed me so much that when I got married, I had my picture taken with the top 5 men in my life to include my Dad. Coach Curry is next to my Dad in the picture and it is in my office. That picture being with me nearly

everyday reminds me of all the great times and lessons I've learned and the men that taught all of that to me. He's the best coach I've ever had.

The state tourney experience was second to only marriage/death. I went to the state tournament my freshman year, stormed the gate when the doors were opened, sat on the bottom row under the west basket, and sponged all of that in. It was pure bliss for me...pure unadulterated bliss. I was in love with something that is not tangible. I wanted the experience, I watched all the other players as I sat under that basket.

by Perry Floyd ... Senior leader and perhaps their best all-around player

The State Tournament-We had two games in one day and that was the only time that had ever happened to us. We played early Saturday morning and then came back late on Saturday night for the championship game. I think looking back my best game all season was on Saturday morning game, when we ran a box and one against Melvis Bell. He averaged about 30 points a game and we held him to 10.

Against Pottsboro in the state championship game, they put a small guard on me man-to-man. We ran our man offense and I shot a lot more than normal. I ended up with 25 points. At halftime, we were walking to the dressing room and Joe Nobles said to me, "Man run the offense! You are shooting too much." I spoke to Coach Curry at halftime and asked him, "Coach, am I shooting too much?" He said, "no". So I kept shooting.

Ron(Holmes) has deflected all praise for 40 years for his part in winning that game -- however, due to Coach Curry's coaching and Ron's basketball IQ, he was at the right place at the right time...the errant shot hit the side of the rim and bounced directly down into Ron's waiting arms, and he simply laid it in for the winning points.

I remember being disappointed after losing the regional game my junior year... Coach Curry took us to the state tourney after we lost in the Regionals...he was priming us for the following year...I remember starting in March of 1970 setting a goal to return and to win...it was the primary goal of my senior year, to get back there and win.

We were small town West Texas. Our state championship was a mostly surprise to our town. After the game, I felt a letdown; we didn't really celebrate, just went to our Howard Johnsons, had the usual meal, and went to bed. I felt we should have run the streets of Austin and go crazy. Coach Curry was not going to let that happen, he clamped down on us.

We were 24-6 that year, I remember losing at Bi-District in football on Friday night -- Saturday we turned in all our football gear. Sunday, we got our basketball gear issued. We had one practice on Monday, then our first game on Tuesday night at home against Pecos... though a bit rusty, we won that in a close game... we had been together for 3 years as a unit, knew the offenses and defenses well, so we came together quickly.

At regionals, we played against our first African-Americans. West Texas hoops, we never saw or played against African-Americans, and we were rattled... I remember in the first game in Lubbock at regionals;

Coach Curry told us that if we played our game, we would beat teams that had more height and talent, and that proved correct. I remember the last two weeks of the season, all we did in practice was run our layup lines, run 3 on 2 drill, and then work on individual stuff -- we were thoroughly prepared as a team.

I remember being part of that team as a wonderful experience. It was a lot like the movie Hoosiers, we felt like underdogs, but played to our best. We improved a lot through the season so that we peaked at exactly the right time.

My coach, John Curry, was a mentor in a lot of ways, and besides my father, was one of the most influential men I have ever known. When at 40, I began teaching in a private Christian school, I said to myself often, what would Coach Curry do here?

We returned 1996 to Austin for our 25-year reunion and were introduced at halftime. That was another big highlight for me and for the team; talking and catching up that weekend was a fantastic experience for me personally.

Two of the most talented ball players in our school were not on our team – Jesse and Mario were highly talented, but wouldn't submit to the discipline of coming to practice, living under team rules... I was dumbfounded that they gave up the chance to be part of that team.

My sophomore year, I saw a great team not go that far... My junior year, one of the most talented athletes I have ever seen (Chuy) dropped off the team because he wouldn't submit to our coach.

About Coach Curry- I can't brag on him enough, he was a fantastic role model and coach and father figure... He was my history and civics teacher, and was an ace in the classroom. His quiet and peaceful way of conducting class has been a model for me in my 20 years as a teacher.

Mike Coulter

Playing in Lubbock at the Coliseum was always exciting. It was so big! When we arrived at Gregory Gym I knew it was a special place but the Lubbock Coliseum was more impressive to me. Gregory Gym was home to the State Tournament but it was old. The dressing rooms were old. Everything was old.

I tell people we used to call plays on the court in Spanish which helped us against most teams during the playoffs. We could not go home after practice until we had made 10 free throws in a row.

Kent Bell

The Championship season was magical. I don't think Coach Curry knew how special this team was. We were a unique group.

1972 A

Pottsboro, located just west of Denison, close to the Oklahoma border returned to state for the second year in a row. In 1971 the Cardinals had lost by one point to Van Horn in the final two seconds of the game. In '72 Pottsboro would come out on the winning side of a one-point game defeating Garrison(27-8) 61-60. Pottsboro finishing the 1972 season undefeated with a perfect 37-0 record. The Cardinals defeated Sanford-Fritch 46-40 in the semi-finals. Pottsboro's playoff run went through Wylie 66-48, Forney 86-62, and Millsap 64-47. Against Forney in the regionals semi-finals, Jerry Cassell was the leading scorer with 25 points. Larry Spruiell was unreal in the Millsap game hitting 18 of 25 from the floor and 8 for 8 from the line for 44 of his team's 64 points. In both state tournament games, Pottsboro had been behind. The Cardinals trailed Garrison by 10 points in the third quarter and Sanford-Fritch had led by 12 points as late as the 4th quarter. Pottsboro's lineup was made up of 6'2" junior, Larry Spruiell(24.0), 6'2" Jerry Casell(16.0), 6'4" Benny Randles(8.6), 5'9" Jesse Williams(5.7) and 5'11" Tony Oliver(5.0).

Benny Randles hit a set shot with 27 seconds remaining in the championship game, to give Pottsboro their first lead of the second half. Garrison had led most of the evening and was ahead 58-57 when Randles picked up a loose

ball and put his team ahead. Garrison came back down court but LeRoy Patton was called for traveling. McVie's Bell of Garrison immediately fouled Spruill on purpose with three seconds remaining. Spruill hit both foul shots to give his team a three-point lead 61-58. Spruill finished 11 for 11 from the line on the evening. Melvis Bell of Garrison hit a meaningless bucket at the buzzer. Spruiell had 26 points and 11 rebounds in the semi-final game and 33 points and 9 rebounds in the finals. Garrison was paced by 6'1" Melvis Bell with 29 points. Bob Dennis led Sanford-Fritch with 13 points.

Cassell of Pottsboro later won another state championship at Van in 2005 as a coach. Spruiell would go on to accomplish something that no other player to my knowledge has ever done. He led two different schools to the state championship game in back to back seasons. Larry's senior year he moved to Petrolia just outside Wichita Falls. He led his new team to the state finals with a perfect 34-0 record before losing in the finals to Kennard. In my 2006 interview with Larry, he relayed why he transferred. During the 1972-73 school year, Pottsboro had introduced football and the head basketball coach, Don Dodd did not want to coach football, so he resigned and left Pottsboro. Larry said he was real close to Coach Dodd and decided it was a good time to leave. Spruill's family was from the Wichita Falls area and his father was given a junior high assistant principal position in Petrolia, which was about 13 miles outside Wichita Falls.

Larry had an amazing winning streak of 71 straight victories in high school. He later went on coach at several stops during his career. He was an outstanding coach at R.L. Turner in Carrollton and Sanger just to name a few. He played college ball at North Texas State University under two coaches, Gene Robbins and Bill Blakeley. Larry Spruiell was definitely a **Texas Legend**.

All-Tournament team- Larry Spruiell and Jerry Cassell of Pottsboro, 6'1" Melvis Bell and 6'0" Tony Oliphant of Garrison, and 6'1" Mike Welch of Somerville.

Sports Writers All-State 1st team- Larry Spruiell, Pottsboro; Gregory Vhlig, Poth; Randy Hardin, DeLeon; Jerry Williamson, Rains; Melvis Bell, Garrison:

1973 A

Petrolia came rolling into Austin with one of the biggest stories of the season, his name was Larry Spruiell. The young man had 68 game winning streak, having captured the 1972 state title with Pottsboro. Spruiell now returned to Austin with 31-0 Petrolia and a new cast of coaches and players. His new coach was a 25-year-old Garland Nichols, who would become one of the standout coaches in the state in later years at Pampa and South Garland. 6'2" Spruiell(27.0) had a fine running mate with the Pirates in 6'2" junior, Darrie Massie(21.0). The two were called by some the finest shooting tandem in the state regardless of classification. Spruiell was also named by the Southwest Conference Coaches as a

Blue-Chip Recruit, which was unheard of in the smaller classifications. Rounding out the starting line-up were 6'1" post, Buddy Rector(13.0) and 5'10" point guard, Greg Nichols. Nichols was the coaches younger brother and did a nice job handling pressure. 6'0" Richard McGhee, 6'3" sophomore, Cecil Watson and 6'0" Harold Newton also contributed. In the semi-finals, Petrolia faced the same Sanford-Fritch ball team that Pottsboro had defeated the year before in the semi-finals 46-40. Sanford-Fritch had been all juniors in 1972, so the team was basically the same in 1973. 6'0" Greg Compton had been named 2nd team All-State the previous season and was a standout once again for Sanford-Fritch(27-3). The Pirates had little trouble winning 77-57 behind another strong performance by Spruiell and Massie, scoring 25 and 22 respectively. Spruiell also added 16 rebounds. For Sanford, nobody scored over 12 points.

The other semi-final game would see two small school titans go at it, Kennard(37-3) and Snook(37-3). Snook had just moved up from class B and both schools had strong traditions in basketball. Kennard had won state titles in 1967, 1968, 1970. Kennard was going to come at you with a double low post, 6'6" Paul Lamb(16.5), sophomore 6'5" Edward Marshall(15.9), 6'1" Curtis Jones(15.1), 6'1" George Steed(10.7), 6'0" Lester Woods(10.6). To have two post of this quality really gave your team a big advantage at the smaller school level. The two teams had faced each other twice during the regular season with both team's coming away with a victory. Coach Don Horn and the Blue Jays offense revolved around their All-State guard, Don Wiley(24.0). Other key contributors were 6'4" sophomore, Roy Dorsey and 6'2" junior, Louis Nix. The Blue Jays would rely heavily on their full court press.

The game turned out to be a close one, but it didn't start out that way as Snook did not play well in the first half. Snooks pressure defense got them back in the game in the second half but in the end, it was Kennard's size that was the difference. Coach Horn of Snook said following the game, "We had to speed up the game more than we wanted to because they were pressing." Kennard's rebounding advantage offset their many turnovers. Kennard out rebounded Snook 55-40 and pulled out a close victory 55-53. Lamb had 14 points and 16 rebounds and Marshall added 13 points and 15 rebounds for Kennard. Snook countered with Nix's 20 points, Royce Dorsey added 13 and Wiley had a disappointing game, scoring only 7 points and came up with 10 rebounds.

In the weeks leading up to the state tournament, senior guard Curtis Jones of Kennard had been having trouble with his twisted ankle. He reinjured the ankle in the semi-finals game and was unable to play in Austin. Surprisingly, his replacement would become the star of the state championship game in his first start, 5'9" Cleotis Wiley. The young sophomore led his team in the finals with 22 points, Lamb had 16 points and 23 rebounds, Woods had 14, Marshall had 12 points and 16 rebounds. The 77-57 victory gave Kennard their fourth state title in

seven years. Carl Owens was the Kennard coach who would go on and win over 800 games during his great career. Spruiell, the man of the hour, turned into a one man show as he tried valiantly to win his last game of his remarkable career. Spruiell finished with 36 points and 21 rebounds and Petrolia finished the season 34-1. Kennard's rebounding advantage was only 50-45 in the finals. Kennard ended up 40-3 on the season after defeating Calvert 98-44, Detroit 78-48 and Troup 78-58 in the earlier rounds of the playoffs. Kennard averaged 77.2 points in the playoffs and allowed only 51.8, for a margin of 25.4. Very impressive against the best class A teams in the state. Kennard also dominated the All-State team with three players named to the first two teams, Lamb, Marshall and George Steed.

The All-tournament team was made up of 6'6" Paul Lamb and 5'9" sophomore, Cleotis Wiley of Kennard, 6'2" Larry Spruiell and 6'2" Darrell Massie of Petrolia, 6'2" Louis Nix of Snook.

Paul Lamb of Kennard later played at the University of Houston. George Steed of Kennard played at Jacksonville Baptist J.C.

Sports Writers All-State 1st team- 6'2" Larry Spruiell(27.3), Petrolia; 5'11" Don Wiley(22.5), Snook; 6'6" Paul Lamb(16.5), Kennard; 6'0" Greg Compton(13.0), Sanford-Fritch; 6'3" Arthur Johnson(25.7), Huntington; **2nd team-** 6'2" Dwight Tillman(15.0), Troup; 5'10" Maurice Evans(19.9), Seagraves, 6'5" Edward Marshall(15.9), Kennard; 6'1" George Steed(10.7), Kennard; 5'8" Mike Durham(15.2), Sanford-Fritch:

1974 A

Class A once again was well balanced, with three very strong teams arriving in Austin. Snook, Petrolia and Huntington. Petrolia(32-2) returned to Austin with what some felt was a better team than the previous season. Garland Nichols, the coach of Petrolia, had done an amazing job since turning the program around in 1969. Before he took the reins, Petrolia had won only one game. His first season with the Pirates the team finished 11-17. In 1970 the Pirates improved to 15-10, 1971 they jumped to 22-3 and were one of the top programs in the state in class A. In 1972, Coach Nichols pushed his team to 28-5 and finally made the state tournament in '73. In 1974 version was a little more balanced than the previous year which had been paced by Larry Spruiell. Petrolia's two losses had come at the hands of class 4-A Wichita Falls Rider(22-9), one in overtime. The Pirates had defeated the class 2-A state champions Bowie, four times. Very impressive! The three key players for Petrolia were 6'2" Darrell Massie(21.0), 6'1" Buddy Rector(17.0) and 6'3" Steve Carr.

Huntington(35-2) shook the class A basketball world up with their ousting of one of the top programs in the state, Kennard winners of four titles in the previous seven seasons. In Huntsville in the regional finals, the Red Devils pulled

the upset 70-67. Huntington also had three very fine players in 6'1" Curtis Johnson(16.6), 6'5" Roy Myers(15.3) and 6'6" Robert Barnes(14.5). With two players 6'5" or better in your lineup in class A, this was almost unheard of back in the 1970s.

The third contender for the state title was the long-time dynasty, Snook(34-3). The Blue jays had traveled to state seven out of the previous nine seasons with three championships. The 1974 team was built around 6'3" Louis Nix, 6'2" Ronnie Hejl and 6'5" Royce Dorsey. The two other starters included 6'3" Robert Woods and 6'0" James Young.

Petrolia advanced to state, first by defeating Carroll 74-49. Massie was the leading scorer as usual with 20 points. Next up was Pottsboro, who fell 56-50. Italy defeated Wall 75-65 in the other regional semi-final game and advanced to meet Petrolia in the regional finals. Buddy Rector poured in 30 points, followed by Massie, who had 20 points in a 70-54 win for the Pirates over Italy. John Ferguson was the star player for Italy, having scored 27 points against Wall. Against Petrolia in the regional finals, Ferguson fouled out with 6:43 remaining in the game.

Snook took out Manor in Bi-District 56-44. In the regional competition, they eliminated Shephard(24-2) 81-63 in the semis. In the other semi-final contest, Bandera defeated Pettus 72-47. In the finals, Snook took care of business defeating Bandera 61-47. Ronnie Hejl finished with 19 points and Royce Dorsey contributed 17 in the win.

In the state semi-finals game between Petrolia(32-2) and Snook(34-3), you had two full court pressing teams. Snook's press hurried Petrolia in a tough hard fought 49-45 win over the Pirates. Massie held his team together much like Spruiell did the previous year, scoring 28 points in a losing effort. He completely dominated play for Petrolia. Ronnie Hejl had 18 points for Snook, 6'3" Louis Nix scored 15 and Woods put in 10 points. The Blue jays had an 11-point lead with 6:10 remaining in the game when the Pirates came back to take the lead 43-42 with 1:39 left. Snook held firm and came right back with a bucket and two foul shots leading 46-43 with 1:09 remaining. Petrolia won the rebound battle 36-32 and the Pirates had 21 turnovers while Snook turned it over 26 times. The halftime score was 16-16. Snook lost Dorsey with 7 minutes to play and Massie fouled out with 1:30 remaining in the game.

In the other side of the brackets, Huntington had little trouble walloping Paducah(29-4), and were in control early leading at halftime 45-23. 6'6" Robert Barnes had 20 points in 20 rebounds while Curtis Johnson added 19 points. Paducah state playoff hopes were led by Carl Wright(14.4), who was some kind of athlete running the 100 yards' dash in 9.7. Wright was considered one of the top players in West Texas.

In the championship game, Snook led most of the game. At the end of one, the Blue jays were up 10-8, at halftime 19-16, and at the end of the 3rd

quarter 25-24. In the fourth quarter, 6'5" Ron Meyers of Huntington took over and scored 8 points for the Red Devils. Huntington pulled out a tough 41-39 victory and the state championship. The final tally broke the state record for fewest points scored in a class A final. Meyers had 12 points, Barnes hit 13 and Steve Thornton tallied 10 points. For Snook, Ronnie Hejl had 15 points and Louis Nix scored 12. Huntington defeated Joaquin 75-36, Detroit 72-60 and Kennard 70-67 in the playoff run. Coach Ken Loyd had captured the state title in one of the most competitive environments seen in class A basketball during the 1970s. When you defeat Kennard and Snook in your title run, you have earned it. Huntington finished at 37-2.

All-Tournament-Roy Meyers and Robert Barnes of Huntington, Louis Nix and Ronnie Hejl of Snook, and Darrie Massie of Petrolia:

Sports Writers All-State 1st team-6'5" Ron Myers(15.3), Huntington; 6'5" Edward Marshall, Kennard; 6'5" Randy Hicks, Bandera; 6'3" Louis Nix, Snook; 6'1" Curtis Johnson(16.6), Huntington; **2nd Team**- 6'1" Darrie Massie(20.1), Petrolia; 6'1" Randy Nichols, Longview Spring Hill; 6'6" Robert Barnes(14.5), Huntington; 6'1" Ricky Chaps, Ettus; 6'1" Donnie Barrow, Frisco:

1970 B

The surprise of the state tournament was Chester at 27-9 capturing the Class B championship over Midway(Henrietta)(45-2) 75-53. Midway had been heavy favorite to bring home the gold. 6'3" Willie Johnson(21.0) and 6'4" H.T. Hood(15.0) were the key players for Coach Thomas Ferguson's, Chester Yellowjackets. Chester had a close win in the semi-finals beating LaPoyner 54-52. Four of Chester's losses had come at the hands of Class A state champion, Kennard. The press was what made Chester successful at state. They forced 16 turnovers against LaPoyner and 20 in the finals against Midway. Outstanding guard play was turned in by Chester's Cyrus Martin and Al Bryan. The Yellowjackets of Chester were led in the finals by Willie Johnson's 32 points and 9 rebounds and Hood's 20 points and 18 rebounds. 6'0" Jim Byrd led Midway with 20 points and 11 rebounds. In the semi-finals, Chester was paced by their inside forces of Johnson again with 21 points while Charles Jones finished with 16 points. Johnnie Cofer led LaPoyner with 17 points and 12 rebounds.

The **All-Tournament** team consisted of Willie Johnson and H.T. Hood of Chester, Jamie Crowley and Jimmy Byrd of Midway, and 5'11" Johnnie Cofer of LaPoyner. Jim Byrd finished his career with 2,644 points over four years to rank 37th on the all-time scoring list and teammate Jamie Cowley scored 2,249 points in his career to rank 73rd all-time.

1971 B

Krum and Snook were on a crash course in the 1971 to the state championship game. Krum traveled to Austin with a 45-1 mark. Their only loss was

in District against Paradise. Key players for the Bobcats were 5'8" Steve Sparks(29.8), 6'1" Tommy Johnson(27.1), 6'2" Larry Jones(10.1) and 5'10" Larry Monschke. Tommy Johnson went on to make All-Conference at Howard Payne University and Steve Sparks played at Cisco J.C. In the playoffs, Coach Bennie Enis' squad beat Brock 68-62, Priddy(33-3) 81-57, May 82-65 and Midway(33-11) 74-65. At state, Krum beat Chireno 71-68 semi-finals with Sparks scoring 31 points.

Snook on the other hand came to Austin with a 32-10 record. Not as impressive as Krum's record but the Blue jays were effective. In the playoffs, they ran over Danbury 50-45, Chilton 83-54, Tilden 78-69 and Big Sandy 66-48. In the state semi-finals, Snook defeated Sands 62-52 to advance to the finals. Sands had eliminated McAdoo in the regional finals 58-47. For Coach Jimmy Horn, Donnie Kovar was the leading scorer in each game finishing with 22 points against Danbury, 28 against Chilton, 23 facing Tilden and had 36 playing in the regional final against Big Sandy. The Blue jays starting lineup consisted of 5'11" Donnie Kovar, 5'9" Don Wiley, 6'0" Sam Washington, 5'9" Surry Lucas and Walter Felder. Snook was predominately black and Krum was white, which made for contrasting styles.

In the finals, Larry Monschke sank two free throws with 19 seconds remaining to give Krum a 52-51 victory. Surry Lucas of Snook was fouled with 2 seconds remaining but failed to convert the front end of a one and one. Kovar was held to a playoff low of 17 points in the finals and Don Wiley was the leading scorer for Snook with 22 points. For the winning Bobcats, Tommy Johnson finished with 24 points and 15 rebounds. Sparks added 18 for Coach Enis.

All-Tournament team- 6'1" Tommy Johnson and 5'8" Steve Sparks of Krum, 5'10" Donnie Kovar and 5'8" Don Wiley of Snook and 6'2" Felix Robles of Sands.

1972 B

LaPoyner of LaRue defeated the always tough Blue jays of Snook to capture the state championship 53-44. LaPoyner is just southwest of Tyler in East Texas. Snook is located just south of Bryan and College Station. The Flyers hit 27 of 33 foul shots to bring home the victory. LaPoyner had an impressive 43-4 record and their playoff run was against Union Hill 80-49, Savoy 65-54, Neches 65-56, Central Heights 70-66, and in the state semi-finals Anton 64-49. You can find Anton just Northwest of Lubbock. 6'10" Terry Belcher was a big attraction for Anton. Bill Ingram was the LaPoyner coach and had previously won state with Jacksonville in 1956. Snook finished the season at 35-10 and as usual played many larger classification schools during the regular season. Snook eliminated Old Glory 46-45 and ended their 37-game winning streak. 6'5" Russell Letz was the catalyst for Old Glory's success during the season. Old Glory is just Northwest of Abilene. The

Flyers of LaPoynor were paced by 6'0" Jimmy Street(25.4), 6'1" Larry Cumby(15.0) a freshman, 5'8" Wendell Stringfield(8.0), 5'8" Calvin Sowell(7.6) and 5'10" Johnny Donnell(5.6). Street was high scorer in the finals with 27 points and 16 rebounds. Street also led the way in the semi-finals scoring 24 points and 17 rebounds.

All-Tournament team- Jimmy Street and Wendell Stringfield of LaPoynor, 5'10" Don Wiley of Snook, 6'6" Russell Letz of Old Glory, and 6'1" LeRoy Medlock of Anton.

1973 B

Spade pulled the big upset of the playoffs knocking McAdoo(30-6) out of the playoffs in the regional finals 67-42. The victory was not as shocking as the score and the 25-point margin. David Gray and Randy Gray led the Longhorns to victory. Alan Neff and Tom Rigsby led McAdoo. The Eagles of McAdoo finished the season 37-7 and were the top ranked Class B school in West Texas going into the playoffs.

Danbury felt really good about the playoffs, having defeated the defending state champions, LaPoynor in a warm-up game 60-53. 6'4" Donnie Bulanck scored 26 points for Danbury in the win and 6'4" Larry Cumby of the Flyers countered with 27. Coach Larry Brown of Danbury called Cumby, "One of the best players we faced all season." Danbury(32-6) beat Hutto 59-57 in the regional finals to gain their ticket to state. The Panthers of Danbury had won 24 out of their previous 25 games with their only loss coming to Snook in a warm-up game.

LaPoynor came to Austin expecting to win another state championship. Coach Bill Ingram's crew was led by 6'2" Larry Cumby(21.8) a sophomore, 5'9" Calvin Sowell(14.0), 5'8" Windell Stringfield(8.4), 5'7" Ronn Gandy(6.1). Cumby was making a name for himself as one of the top players to ever play Class B basketball in Texas. He took his team to the state finals four straight seasons, 1972 through 1975 and won three titles. LaPoynor(Larue) defeated Brock 75-52 in the finals and Danbury 49-44 in the semis. The Flyers finished the season 36-4 and beat Gunter 81-51, Milford 59-47, and Brookeland 55-47 in their state tournament run. LaPoynor trailed Danbury by 11 points with four minutes left and went into a full court press forcing several turnovers. The LaPoynor Flyers never trailed against Brock and out rebounded them 49-29. Cumby led LaPoynor in the finals with 33 points and 16 rebounds, Sowell had 10 points and 6 rebounds. 5'11" Roy Don Bell led Brock with 23 points. Cumby led the Flyers in the semi-finals with 16 points and 11 rebounds. LaPoynor finished 36-5 on the season. Donnie Bulanek led Danbury in scoring in defeat.

5'8" Albert Hambrick of LaPoynor was on the state championship team and would go on to fame as head coach at Sherman High School in 1986 and 1987.

Sherman is up by the Red River and was mainly known for their football teams until Hambrick worked his magic with the Bearcats. Al's teams were outstanding and one of the top teams in the North Texas area those two seasons. Al's son would also be one of the top players in the state playing for Sherman. His name was Brad Hambrick, a 6'0" guard who was named All-State twice in 2007 and 2008. He averaged 23.0 per game for the Bearcats.

All-Tournament Team- 6'2" Larry Cumby, 5'9" Calvin Sowell, 5'8" Windell Stringfield all from LaPoyner; 5'11" Roy Don Bell and 5'11" Randy Jones of Brock; 6'2" Donnie Bulanek of Danbury and 6'3" David Gray of Spade:

Sports Writers All-State 1st team- 6'0" Randy Gillespie(30.8), Rio Vista; 6'3" Donnie Bulanek(21.8), Danbury; 6'3" David Gray(24.6), Spade; 6'0" Larry Pack(28.5), Lingleville; 6'1" Garry Houston(28.5), Harmony: Yes, surprisingly Cumby was on the 2nd team. The top player in the state on 2nd team?

1974 B

Probably the team with the best chance to repeat as state champion was LaPoyner(37-3) in 1974. The Flyers advanced to state in 1970, losing to the eventual state champions, Chester by two points. LaPoyner captured state titles in 1972 and 1973. In regionals, LaPoyner drew Celina(25-6), known mainly as a football powerhouse. The game was no contest as the Flyers won 88-52. 6'2" Larry Cumby was now a junior and finished with 25 points. Ozell Hambrick added 20 points. Celina's only bright spot was Frank Andrews with 22 points. Andrews was the quarterbacks on the Bobcats state champion football squad. 6'6" Paul Martin of Celina was supposed to be able to match-up against Cumby but he had no chance. Martin would go on to star at North Texas State University on the football field. Coach Bob Ingram's team was on a mission, a third straight state title.

In the state semi-finals, LaPoyner faced off against Hedley, who had won 25 straight games. Hedley's star player was Leon Freeman, who averaged 16 points a game and 14 rebounds. The Flyers defeated Hedley 53-42. In the other semi-final game, Huckaby(47-1) beat Anderson(34-6). Huckaby had only lost one game all season, which was a warm-up game before the playoffs to Hutto. The Indians of Huckaby were hard hit by the flu and played without some key players. Huckaby's starting line-up at state was made up 6'6" Randy Spain(22.0), 6'3" Rex Spain(17.0), 5'7" Gary Campos(10.0) and 5'7" Celso Campos(6.0). Against Anderson, the Spain brothers combined for 28 points and 26 rebounds and the Campos brothers had 28 points and 10 rebounds. It was the LaPoyner's all junior line-up versus the brothers of Huckaby for the class B state championship.

The championship game looked like another LaPoyner title until the 3:27 mark of the third quarter when Larry Cumby of LaPoyner picked up his 4th foul. Without Cumby in the middle of 2-3 zone, Huckaby's big man, Randy Spain was

much more successful inside. Huckaby(47-1) came back and pulled the unlikely upset 49-48. The Spain brothers combined for 31 points. The Flyers were only able to score 8 points in the final quarter. Huckaby took its first lead of the game with 2:50 remaining and won the game on a two-handed set shot from the top of the circle by 5'7" Gary Campos. One last shot by LaPoyner's Ozell Hambrick bounced off the rim. LaPoyner finished another great season 41-4 but the season ended in disappointment. The Flyers would return for revenge in 1975 and not be denied. LaPoyner would be on a mission during the 1975 season.

Randy Spain finished his career with 2,771 points during his four-year high school career. His brother Rex, ended up coaching at Abernathy and later became assistant athletic director of the U.I.L. Randy coached at Denver City and in the Texas High School all-star game.

All-Tournament- Randy and Rex Spain along with teammate, Gary Campos of Huckaby; Larry Cumby and Ozel Hambrick of LaPoyner and Tony Reiken of Hedley.

Sports Writers All-State 1st Team-Randy Spain of Huckaby, Mark Sherrod of Channing, Larry Cumby of LaPoyner, Ernest Menefee of Anderson, Herman Carethers of Danbury:

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