

The History of Texas High School Basketball

Volume IV

1983-1984

By Mark McKee

Website www.txhighschoolbasketball.com

Contents

Perface		4
Acknowledgements		5
AAAAA	1983	6
AAAA	1983	89
AAA	1983	107
AA	1983	115
A	1983	123
AAAAA	1984	125
AAAA	1984	211
AAA	1984	235
AA	1984	243
A	1984	248

Preface

History of Texas High School Basketball Volume IV

By Mark McKee

By 1982 my brother-in-law was no longer able to attend the state tournament and I went with a coaching friend. The old Stephen F. Austin Hotel, where I stayed for the first five years at the tournament was remodeled and renamed. The cost became outrageous there, so we no longer enjoyed staying downtown. Today the Hotel is called InterContinental Stephen F. Austin. Visiting Sixth street became popular and I continued to eat at the Waterloo Ice House. The main attraction in those days was playing at Gregory Gym on the campus of U.T. We always had great pickup games at the student activity center, located right next to Gregory. Jogging was also another passion of mine. Town Lake provided great running trails just south of downtown Austin. Coaching clinics became the norm, as I continued to learn the game. Great times.

The person who had the greatest impact on my life was my brother-in-law. This book is dedicated to him. At the age of 10, he began coming over to the house dating my older sister. He was like a family member. For the next twenty years he influenced all aspects of my life. He was an independent thinker who didn't follow the crowd. In my youth, I was struggling like so many young men to find direction and purpose in my life. He provided a strong role model. His artistic background gave him an unusual perspective on life. He always seemed to see things that other people missed. The beauty in life, no matter how insignificant, was what he took away. It was through his eyes that I began to see life in a much more positive light. His generosity with his time and money influenced me throughout my life. Like all of us, he had his battles in life, but his strength, confidence and resilience inspired me. Thanks Jerry.

Acknowledgements

Where do you start when naming all individuals that have been so instrumental in making this book possible? Charles Freet, Micheal Williams, Mike Kunststadt, Larry Brown, Rick Sherley, Boyce Honea, Ira Terrell, Carven Holcomb, Jim Wall and so many more. Special thanks to the T.A.B.C. and Dave Campbell's Texas Basketball along with my great friend, R.V. Baugus. Texas Hoops, with Blue Zertuche continues to be very supportive. Basketball historians, Dr. Billy Wilbanks and his fabulous website, Ivy McLemore, Bill McMurray and so many more have kept the high school game of basketball interest alive and well in Texas. Thanks also goes to Bob Springer – Founder & Curator of *TEXAS BASKETBALL MUSEUM* now in its 10th year of operation, located in Carmine, Texas. Check it out.

Welcome back my friends to Volume IV. The 1983 season

introduced two teams into the state playoffs for the first time from each District. This was over-all a positive for the playoffs, but many coaches fought against the move. The change meant more quality teams and more revenue as well as great competition. It also gave coaches the bragging rights to say, "we made the playoffs." The down side of more teams in the playoffs was that you had District rivals sometimes facing each other in the regional finals. A team might be forced to defeat an opponent three or four times to advance to state. This will happen numerous times in the playoffs over the years.

Covering the different classifications will continue the same format as before with the emphasize on the top teams in the state. I will try to cover the entirety of the state in the larger classifications and top programs in the smaller divisions. At times I will be redundant. This is not because I suffer from any type of memory loss, but because I realize many people just read the portions of the book that apply to them or their school. My attempt at humor will be minimal, but will occur from time to time. Enjoy!

1983 AAAAA

Houston Yates played in the shadows of Houston Wheatley through-out the 1970s. The Lions storied program produced so many standouts and great teams. Yates just reloaded every year led by the greatness of Coach "Doc" Evans. Outstanding players were numerous: 6'7" William "Toothpick" Johnson, Leo "Dutch" Woods, Chester Thomas, Leonard Duffield, Kenneth Berry, 6'1" Jimmy Duffield, 6'4" George "Stretch" Campbell and 6'2" George Walker. Walker was called by the legendary Eddie Owens of Wheatley one of the best he ever faced in High School and Reggie Franklin of S.M.U. called Walker the "best athlete to ever play at Yates." The '74 season saw Walker finish his super career scoring 46 points in his last game for the red and gold. "He told me before the game he was going to put up 50 points," Franklin said years later. Had they counted two dunks he would have scored 50 points. "Stretch" Campbell was heavily recruited by North Carolina State and could have teamed up with up Hall of Famer, David Thompson, but instead chose Texas Tech with "Toothpick" Johnson. "Toothpick" went on to make All-Southwest conference at Texas Tech and led the conference in rebounding while Campbell didn't stick with the Red Raiders.

The recruiters definitely knew where Yates was on the basketball map. Every year the talent just flowed out of the program. In a thirteen-year period from 1970 to 1982, only three schools in the largest classification finished in the state's Top Twenty eleven times, Houston Wheatley, Dallas Roosevelt and Houston Yates. That is rarified air, but the Lions impact was not felt state wide because of their District rival, Wheatley.

Traditional power Yates really pressed the pedal to the medal in 1980 finishing as the states top ranked team in the polls. The new decade also may have produced the top school-boy ever to play for the red and gold in 6'6" Michael Young of "Phi Slama Jama" fame. Young was the most decorated player in school history. He was named All-American while at the University of Houston. He played in three straight final fours with the Cougars and Guy Lewis.

The 1980 season ended in a tremendous disappointment for Yates, as they were upset by eventual state champions, Houston Kashmere in Bi-District by two points. This of course killed the great vibe from the regular season. In 1981 Yates completed a fine campaign with 20 wins and 12 losses and #19 in my final rankings. The 1982 team advanced to the playoffs going 33-4. Kashmere brought down Yates once again in Bi-District by one point.

That's the climate that Yates entered the 1983 season. Many felt that the 1983 version of the Lions would be their best team yet. Yes, better and more talented than the teams of the early 1970s and the Michael Young led 1980 squad. Many experts felt they would take their place along the greats of Texas High School basketball. I would venture to say very few teams in the state's history have had three players the quality of 6'7" Ricky Winslow, 6'4" Carven Holcombe and 6'8" Stacey Belcher. Immediately, comparisons were being made to the great Wheatley, Kashmere and Houston Madison teams of the past.

The Lions of Yates were not alone in 1983. One of the leading state contenders was San Antonio Sam Houston. The Cherokees had advanced to the Bi-District in '82 losing to Churchill on a last second shot. Coach Wayne Dickey returned several keys players from the year before. Both Yates and Sam Houston had enormous size, depth, talent and speed. Talent was plentiful all over the state in 1983.

There was definitely a changing of power in some of the basketball hotbeds in 1983. In Dallas, Kimball emerged as a new force as South Oak Cliff and Roosevelt were in rebuilding modes. Ft. Worth Dunbar re-emerged as a top five team along with the pesky Panthers from Ft. Worth Paschal. Houston Yates and San Antonio Sam Houston were nationally ranked. Beaumont Hebert closed their doors, which ended their three-year run in class 4-A. By order of federal district judge Robert Parker, Forest Brook was merged with Hebert to form Westbrook Senior High School. This was an effort to achieve racial integration in the district. South Park was also subsequently merged into Westbrook, which now occupies the former Forest Park campus. Beaumont Westbrook looked to emerge from the Golden Triangle after inheriting the former players from Hebert.

In the pre-season polls by the T.A.B.C., Houston Yates came in at #1, San Antonio Sam Houston at #2, Bryan #3, Plainview #4, Clear Lake #5, Tyler John Tyler #6, El Paso Bel Air #7, Houston Wheatley #8, Spring Branch Memorial #9, and Stafford Dulles at #10. Pt. Arthur Lincoln had moved down to class 4-A and held down the top spot in the polls. Pampa also moved down and had almost their entire team back for another run at state. The Harvesters came in at #2,

Waxahachie #3, Houston Furr #4, and Corpus Christi Flour Bluff at #5. The reason I am including 4-A in the discussion with 5-A is that the gap had become very close between the two classifications.

In a match-up of top programs, Houston Yates came to Dallas to face the Mustangs of Roosevelt at Sprague field house. Ricky Winslow led the Lions to a 64-52 victory over Roosevelt putting up 27 points. Carven Holcombe followed with 17 points, while 5'7" Thomas Peters paced Roosevelt with 18 points. "We are going to be playing some pretty tough teams," Coach Ellis Davis said. "Just trying to get some experience under these guys' belts. This is what it's all about. You play strong people and you find out your strengths and weaknesses." Size was a real problem against Yates for the Mustangs. 6'7" Stacey Belcher pulled down 25 rebounds for the Lions. Winslow was considered the top talent in the state only to be outdone by his own teammate 6'4" Carven Holcombe. Winslow had two big dunks late in the first half that brought the crowd to its feet.

In another early season meeting of top teams, Wilmer Hutchins snuck by S.O.C. 86-85. Ricky Graves finished with 21 points for Wilmer Hutchins while Steve Benson added 21 points. Bryan Walton threw down 34 points for the Golden Bears in a losing effort. Graves would later star for Oklahoma on their way to the NCAA Championship game in 1988. The Sooners were upset by Danny Manning and Kansas in the title game.

In another early season battle between Dallas and Houston schools, the Wheatley Wildcats came to Dallas and took down South Oak Cliff 86-80. Dallas Kimball and Ft. Worth Paschal came together and Chuckie Graves led the Knights with 20 points as the Kimball proved superior 72-65. Ft. Worth Dunbar lost to Wilmer Hutchins in another early season match-up 64-56.

The Arlington Classic continued to draw strong teams with South Oak Cliff, Dallas Roosevelt, Ft. Worth Paschal, Wilmer Hutchins, Denton, Arlington Lamar, Dunbar, and Ft. Worth Southwest all advancing to the second round. Paschal defeated Houston Wheatley 102-94 and Wilmer Hutchins dropped Plano 63-38. The Wildcats of Plano were no longer a state ranked team and would have a pretty rocky season. Teams advancing to the Quarterfinals were Paschal(30-9), Wilmer Hutchins(31-5), Dallas Roosevelt(20-12), and Ft. Worth Dunbar(33-3). Dunbar(33-3) beat S.O.C.(19-13) in a close one 56-55 and Paschal(30-9) dominated Denton(20-9) 66-46.

In the semi-finals Paschal advanced to the finals in a 75-71 win over the Mustangs of Roosevelt(20-12) and Dunbar got some revenge against Wilmer Hutchins(31-5) 82-75. Just like old times as Ft. Worth dominated the finals. Dunbar snuck away with the Arlington Classic championship 49-47 over Paschal. Linzie Bogan hit a 10-foot jumper with seven seconds left to give the Wildcats the victory. Balanced scoring was a trade-mark of this next generation from Dunbar. John Johnson finished with 17 points in the finals, Lawrence Hudson 10 and Fred Hamilton 9. Horace Taylor pitched in 14 points for the Panthers and Vernon Coleman knocked down 11 points. In the 3rd place game, Hutch beat Dallas

Roosevelt 82-67, Wheatley(25-12) took consolation 71-69 over North Mesquite(16-14) and Denton beat S.O.C. in the 4th place game 66-61.

In the Birdville Invitational at the Thomas Coliseum, an outstanding cast of teams showed up. Dallas Kimball(30-5), Richardson High(32-3), Haltom(20-11), Pampa(21-7) and South Garland(23-8). All of these teams were state ranked and would have strong campaigns in 1983. All five teams advanced, but some upsets occurred in the 2nd round. Haltom defeated Wichita Falls Rider 49-39, South Garland played its best game of the season beating a tough Richardson squad 64-47, L.D. Bell(24-7) upset Dallas Kimball(30-5) 70-57 in a shocker, and Euless Trinity(19-12) took the wind out of Pampa's sails 52-51. The semi-finals saw a low scoring affair with Haltom(20-11) coming away with a 38-37 victory over South Garland. L.D. Bell won the other semi-finals 62-57 over Euless Trinity. Mike Blair was showing his talent for Bell with 26 points against Trinity. 6'7" Bill Wirskey had 25 points for Haltom against South Garland. District 7-5A gave a pretty strong showing in the tournament with Trinity, L.D. Bell, and Haltom all making the semis.

Two of the top teams in the state faced off in the 5th place game between Dallas Kimball(30-5) and Richardson(32-3), with the Knights bringing home a tough 72-64 victory in overtime. Haltom(20-11) took the championship over L.D. Bell(24-7) in the finals.

Dallas Carter(20-7) had another talented quick team and took out Wilmer Hutchins(31-5) 85-81. The backcourt combo of Jeff Gibson and Michael Williams combined for 47 points and were the only Cowboys in double figures. Johnny Fuller hit 33 points for Hutch. The Richardson Eagles played some outstanding basketball knocking off the top ranked 4-A team in the state, Waxahachie 61-53 in the 2nd round of the Pepsi-Cola Classic in Mesquite. This would prove to be Richardson's biggest victory of the season. Chip Lloyd, Steve Jarvie, and David Causey all finished with 12 points for the Eagles and Mike Washington paced the Indians with 16 points. The Eagles continued their winning ways taking the tournament title 55-43 over nemesis Lake Highlands(14-14) in the finals.

Richardson also gave Dallas Jesuit(24-5) its first loss of the season 64-58. The Rangers had one of the top guards in the state in Gary Swain, who put up 23 points in the loss. Jesuit Coach, George Coelen said, "Gary is the best all-around player I've ever had, he plays all the positions in one game because that's natural for him. So, we've pretty much designed our offense so he can drive, shoot the outside shot or post whenever he needs to." Dallas Skyline got a good win over Dallas Kimball 57-55 in another pre-district contest. Cedric Walker had 22 points for Coach J.D. Mayo and the Knights were paced by Dwayne Brown with 16 points and Marvin Washington put up 14. Kimball bounced back with an impressive win over Plano 51-33. Graves had 21 points for Coach Jimmy Tubbs.

The Coca-Cola Tournament in Garland had a fine tournament. South Garland, Dallas Skyline, Tyler John Tyler, and Richardson were the favorites. The Richardson Eagles continued their winning taking the tournament title with a 52-40 victory over Dallas Spruce(14-14) in the finals. Spruce's standout big man was 6'7"

Dewayne Chism, who went on to star at Texas Tech. The tournament finals were played at Garland Lakeview. The Eagles improved their record to 14-2 on the season. In back to back tournaments, Richardson had won the Pepsi tournament and the Coca Cola. The turning point in the game against Dallas Spruce was Coach Joe Longino going from zone to man defense. The Eagles went on a 14-2 run in the 3rd quarter. "We usually try to play a quick tempo," Longino said, "but today we just tried to run our offense and play a defensive game." Charles Washington led Spruce with 18 points. Richardson showed balanced scoring with their leading scorer putting up only 11 points. Following the two tournament titles, Richardson finally got some respect moving into the #4 spot in area rankings by the Dallas Morning News. Dallas Hillcrest captured the 3rd place game 70-62 over Richardson Berkner. Dallas Skyline won the 4th place game defeating North Garland 91-51.

Denton(20-9) defeated Dallas Carter(21-7) to claim the Wichita Falls Holiday tournament 70-56. Richardson Pearce(20-11) was successful at the Panther Classic in Duncanville with a 46-39 win over the home team, Duncanville(11-19). Wilmer Hutchins won another solid game over John Tyler(22-10) out of Tyler 55-54 in the Jacksonville Tournament. Hutch turned right around and lost to Kimball 65-63. Chuckie Graves and Marvin Washington both shared scoring honors with 19 points apiece for the Knights. Wilmer Hutchins had been the top team in Dallas coming into the contest. Fuller again was the man for the Eagles with 18 points, while teammate Ricky Grace contributed 17 points. "That's one of the best games we've played this year," Kimball coach Jimmy Tubbs said. "Wilmer Hutchins has a very, very good team and it's good that we came here and won. This should give our guys a lot of confidence."

The Lee College Tournament in Baytown had some highly ranked teams show up for their tournament. Austin Travis(30-5) sent out an early warning to the rest of the state that they were for real defeating Crosby 79-65, Texas City(20-11) 71-52, Baytown Sterling(22-12) 65-58 and in the finals took down Beaumont Westbrook(28-5) 55-52. In the finals, 6'9" Sylvester Kincheon had 10 rebounds and six blocks. In the Mad-Dog Tournament, San Marcos continued their winning ways defeated Boerne 71-57 and Austin Lanier(17-14) in the finals 47-44. Lanier had upset Seguin(23-10) the semis 71-68. In the Corpus Christy Classic, San Marcos(32-4) won another tournament title defeating San Antonio Fox Tech in the finals 45-36 and Corpus Christi King in the semis 75-46. Austin Reagan(23-6) took the tournament in Gonzales over Jersey Village 59-52. In the South San Antonio Tournament, San Angelo Central(23-12) defeated Austin Anderson(18-14) 75-72. Nothing real special about that score outside of the fact that Lorand White of Central went off for 43 points. It was one of the top scoring outputs of the season by any player in class 5-A. In the Austin I.S.D. tournament, Austin Travis(30-5) lost their first game of the season in the finals against Seguin(23-10) 76-69. Travis had beaten Austin Johnston(19-11) 58-56, Highland Park(19-13) 84-62 to advance. Seguin eliminated Austin L.B.J. 74-42, Austin Reagan(23-10) 67-62 and Spring Woods 84-52 during their run to the title.

The 16-team Milton Jowers tournament in San Marcos always had a great tournament. Ft. Worth Dunbar(33-3) won the tournament over Dobyns-Bennett of Kingsport, Tennessee. Dunbar defeated San Marcos(32-4) in a close one in the semi-finals 53-52 and San Marcos took down Clear Lake(29-7) in the 3rd place contest 64-59. Dallas Skyline(21-10) defeated Victoria(24-10) in the 5th place game 70-60 and Houston Madison(27-5) was successful against Clear Creek(19-13) in the consolation finals 69-56. This was viewed as one of the top tournaments in the state with Clear Lake, Dunbar, Houston Madison, Victoria, and Dallas Skyline all traveling great distances to play one another.

The San Antonio ISD Tournament was a real solid tournament. S.A. Jefferson defeated S.A. Jay(20-7) in the 1st round 63-57, S.A. Sam Houston(32-8) took out the Houston entry, Worthing(19-10) 88-77, S.A. Madison(22-12) advanced against S.A. Wheatley 45-43. In the semis, S.A. Sam Houston(32-8) defeated Fox Tech 49-48 and S.A. Jefferson(27-8) moved on to the finals beating S.A. Madison 51-44. The Championship game saw Sam Houston proved too strong for District rival S.A. Jefferson(27-8) 73-60. Fox Tech won the 3rd place game 54-51 over S.A. Madison.

The Clear Creek/Clear Lake Tournament always attracted a great deal of talent from all over the state. Longview traveled in from East Texas once again and proved to be a tough out. The Lobos drummed Pasadena Dobie in the opener 70-48 and S.A. Jefferson(27-8) 73-54 in the 2nd round. S.A. Jefferson defeated Baytown Sterling(22-12) 63-62, Cypress-Creek(27-6) beat Baytown Lee(19-12) 71-61. Clear Lake(29-7) beat Friendswood 54-40, Houston Sterling(15-13) defeated Clear Creek(19-13) 70-64, and the big upset of the tournament, Aldine MacArthur(17-13) took apart the Cherokees of Sam Houston 49-35. S.A. Jefferson(27-8) defeated Aldine MacArthur(17-13) 62-56 in the next round to eliminate the Cardinals from the tournament. Sam Houston(32-8) went through the consolation bracket defeating Baytown Lee 101-81 and Friendswood 60-42. But in the consolation finals, Sam Houston(32-8) took home their second loss of the tournament losing to Clear Creek(19-13) 49-42.

In the semi-finals of the winner's bracket, Clear Lake(29-7) beat Cypress Creek(27-6) 57-47 and Longview(29-4) took down Houston Sterling 74-66. Cypress Creek(27-6) had eliminated Aldine MacArthur(17-13) earlier 55-51. Longview took the championship back to East Texas once again with a 56-50 win over Clear Lake. Cypress Creek(27-6) came away with the 3rd place trophy by defeating Houston Sterling(15-13) 63-50.

The two big Dallas-Ft. Worth tournaments continued to be the Dr. Pepper in Dallas and the West Side Lions Club Holiday Tournament, which was later named the What-a-Burger Tournament. Wilmer Hutchins(31-5) had made the tournament finals at the Dr. Pepper tournament in the two-previous seasons. The Eagles of Wilmer Hutchins stood as one of the pre-tournament favorites along with Dallas Kimball(30-5), Dallas Carter(21-7), Dallas Skyline(21-10). Hyattsville DeMatha was making their second appearance at the West Side Lions Club Tournament after

taking the championship the previous season. DeMatha was located just outside of Washington D.C. and was one of the top programs in the country.

DeMatha opened the Westside Lions Club Tournament in Ft. Worth against a tough L.D. Bell(27-6) team in the first round. At 4-2, DeMatha had lost to two highly ranked teams nationally, Baltimore Dunbar 67-55 and Lafayette out of Kentucky 46-33. Sophomore Danny Ferry, Benny Bolton and Drew Komlo were the three main cogs for Coach Morgan Wootten. DeMatha defeated L.D. Bell 68-57 to advance to the quarterfinals against Ft. Worth Paschal(30-9) and the crafty Jim Wall. The Panthers pulled the upset of the tournament dropping DeMatha into the consolation bracket 56-55. Keith Buckley was the only Paschal player in double figures with 18 points. DeMatha was paced by Benny Bolton with 21 points. Pampa(21-7), one of the top 4-A teams in the state, defeated Ft. Worth Western Hills 76-54. With the victory, Pampa met Paschal in the semi-finals. The Harvesters came up big with a 62-60 win over Paschal to advance to the finals. In the other bracket, Ft. Worth Southwest clipped Highland Park(19-13) 73-48 and Ft. Worth Dunbar(33-3) advanced to the finals with wins over O.D. Wyatt and Southwest.

DeMatha went nuts in the consolation bracket beating Highland Park 76-46 and Ft. Worth Western Hills 83-36. The Wildcats of Dunbar(33-3) took home the championship 80-68 over Pampa. For the second year in a row the DeMatha vs. Ft. Worth Dunbar game never materialized. Many of the locals were disappointed. Lawrence Hudson poured in 21 points for Coach Robert Hughes and Linzie Bogan added 16 points. Pampa had three players in double figures, 6'3" Mike Nelson, 6'6" Phil Jeffrey and 6'6" Coyle Winborn showed the way for the Harvesters. Waxahachie(35-2) claimed the title in the class 4-A West Side bracket with a 76-52 win over Cleburne(20-9).

The Dr. Pepper tournament had been the domain of Dallas Roosevelt for several seasons, but the 1982-83 season was different for the Mustangs. Coach Ellis Davis had eight seniors quit the team early in the season, as well as losing two of the top players in the state in Carl Wright and Ronell Peters to graduation. The Mustangs lost their first-round game to Dallas Jesuit 65-60 and eliminated from the tournament in the consolation bracket by North Mesquite 58-56. Wilmer Hutchins, as expected advanced through the early rounds beating W.T. White(19-10) 74-66, Dallas Jesuit(24-5) 62-60, Dallas Samuel(17-11) 83-68. The Eagles advanced into semi-finals facing Dallas Kimball. The Knights(30-5) defeated Bryan Adams 64-37 and Dallas Hillcrest(19-10) 74-64. In the top bracket, Dallas Skyline(21-10) advanced to the semis along with Dallas South Oak Cliff(19-13). The Golden Bears started 5'8" Deon Hunter, 6'2" Barner Wilson, 6'3" Billie Ferrell, 5'11" Anthony Smith and 6'3" Ryan Walton. Henry Warren was still at the helm for S.O.C. Skyline's team centered around 6'5" Cedric Walker. S.O.C. got by Skyline 61-60 in one semi-final while Dallas Kimball eliminated Wilmer Hutchins 72-70 in the other. In the finals, Kimball prevailed 73-63 over S.O.C. Dallas Carter took the consolation trophy 47-34 against the Stallions of North Mesquite. Hutch won the 3rd place game 64-62 over The Golden Bears. Wilmer Hutchins had an impressive

line-up that included 6'3" Fuller, 6'3" Cedric Spain, 6'4" Adrian Harris, 6'1" Ricky Grace and 6'5" Kino Johnson. Kimball improved their over-all record to 16-2 with the tournament title and claimed the top spot in the area rankings. Hutchins had 18-4 mark with two of the losses coming at the hands of Kimball. Dwayne Brown finished with 19 points against Hutchins and 21 vs. S.O.C. in the finals. Chuckie Graves scored 28 points for the Knights in the finals. Coach Tubbs singled out 6'5" Washington after the Hutchins game, "I thought Marvin played a super game. It's hard to pinpoint who's going to be the leading scorer for us and he didn't score much, but that wasn't an indication of how he played. He did an outstanding job." In the championship game against S.O.C., Tubbs commented, "I thought the ballclubs were really even coming in, we just got hot and lucky. They played much better defense in the second half. They are a super ballclub." 6'5" Edward Robinson and 6'5" Marvin Washington dominated inside for the Knights. Coach Warren of S.O.C. was playing without 6'3 Troy Dickson, who had stretched some knee cartilage. "We missed him a lot on the inside, he's my best kid and it's too bad we've been without him all year," said Warren.

The All-Tournament team was made up of Robert Clark of W.T. White, Deon Hunter of S.O.C., Cedric Walker of Skyline, Fuller of Wilmer Hutchins, 6'4" Lawrence Chumbley of Dallas Samuel, Keith Adams of North Mesquite, Chuckie Graves and Dwayne Brown of Dallas Kimball, Gary Swain of Dallas Jesuit and Michael Williams of Dallas Carter. Brown was named tournament M.V.P.

The Houston Jaycees Tournament saw two old rivals in the finals, Houston Yates(20-1) and Houston Wheatley(13-6) battling it out once again. (The records listed for this tournament were their records as they entered the tournament.) Yates jumped out to a comfortable halftime lead 43-24 before 5,200 fans at Delmar Field House. With standing room only, Yates began taking the conservative route in the 3rd quarter and were outscored 18-6. Late in the game, Ricky Winslow and Carven Holcombe seized control for the Lions, leading the Houston school to their first Jaycee title. The 65-57 victory left no doubt who was the top team in Texas. Winslow finished with 21 points and Holcombe finished with 20 points, while Wheatley was powered by Everett Gay and Fred Demerson, both with 15 apiece.

Yates only loss coming into the tournament had been against Bryan(12-4) in the Victoria Tournament 62-47. In the re-match between the two power-houses, Yates gained revenge 47-42. The top seeded teams in the Jaycee tournament included Houston Yates, Bryan, Galveston Ball(10-5), Houston Wheatley, Houston Kashmere, Aldine and Houston Madison. Right before the tournament, Yates had defeated Wheatley 99-94, with Winslow and Holcombe both putting up 30 points apiece. Fred Demerson scored 31 for the Wildcats.

In some early round match-ups, Kashmere(9-3) defeated Galveston Ball 64-49, paced by Darrin Sublet with 23 points and 12 rebounds. The Rams also advanced beating Humble 57-33. Yates defeated West Orange Stark 60-51 in a tough 1st round game. The Lions also turned right around and defeated Houston Marian 42-35 in the 2nd round. Marian(13-1) was led by future McDonald's All-

American, Tito Horford, and was one of the top private schools in the state. Bryan advanced against St. Thomas 63-54 and Houston Sterling 65-54. Wheatley's early round wins came against Forest Brook 94-86 and Houston Scarborough 92-77. Alexandria Peabody(11-2) out of Louisiana, had some impressive victories taking out Aldine(13-3) 53-50. Houston Madison(11-3) was successful against Houston Reagan(11-5) in the early round game 84-71 and Houston Davis 74-44. Houston Milby moved on with wins over Houston Worthing 85-70 and Houston Furr(10-3) 83-57. Furr as you'll recall was the defending champion of the tournament. Teams still battling after the first day in the quarterfinals were Wheatley vs. Kashmere, Bryan vs. Peabody, Alvin vs. Houston Madison, and Yates vs. Houston Milby.

Wheatley(12-6) proved they were still elite in the city of Houston coming away with a convincing win over Kashmere(10-4) 102-83. Roy Waddy put up 25 points for the Wildcats and Fred Demerson knocked down 27. Sublet had 19 points for the Rams and LeRoy Phillips added 33. Peabody eliminated the Vikings of Bryan 65-54. Robert Brown had 24 points for Peabody and Darrell Mitchell was leader for Coach Larry Brown's Vikings with 20 points. Houston Madison(12-3) took care of Alvin(11-6) 76-62 to gain the semis. Yates leveled Houston Milby 64-38 easily to advance. Holcombe canned 17 points for the Lions.

In consolation, West Orange Stark defeated Houston Furr 70-58 and were eliminated by Houston Westbury 47-34. Houston Sterling advanced to the consolation finals with a 76-61 win over Forest Brook. Sterling won consolation bracket beating Houston Westbury 58-55. Terrance Woods of Houston Sterling came within 12 points of the all-time tournament scoring record with 130 points. The record dated back to 1978 held by Rob Williams of Houston Milby.

In the much-anticipated semi-final game, Wheatley defeated Peabody 99-94. Coach Jackie Carr's team was led once again by Waddy scoring 32 points and Demerson hitting 22. For the team from Louisiana, Robert Brown knocked down 29 points and Ken Lee finished with 31 points. In the other semi-final game, Yates moved to the finals with a 54-46 win over the Marlins of Houston Madison. Holcombe finished with 29 points for Yates and Donald Harvey and Greg Willis paced Coach Benton's troops with 11 points each. Madison took down Peabody in the 3rd place game 92-65. Another future McDonald's All-American, Lance Blanks, had 18 points for Madison. Blanks was only a sophomore.

The All-Tournament was very difficult to select with so much talent. Donald Harvey of Houston Madison, John Solomon from Houston Westbury, Darin Sublet of Kashmere, Leslie Aaron from Peabody, Terrance Woods from Sterling, Ronnie Floyd from Alvin, Roderick Waddy and Fred Demerson from Wheatley, and Carvin Holcombe and Ricky Winslow from the champions.

You would have to call the Optimist Tournament in San Antonio the top attraction in the state once again. San Antonio was bringing in more outside teams than any other tourney in the state. The four semi-finalist teams were rich in tradition and had a big impact on the state rankings throughout the season. San Antonio Roosevelt was highly ranked in San Antonio along with Sam Houston.

Churchill was back with another gifted squad but was weaker than their state title team. The fourth semi-finalist sat atop the state polls at #1, Houston Yates. Yates handled San Antonio Roosevelt rather easily 48-37 to advance the finals, while Sam Houston clipped Churchill 59-53. In the Championship, Yates was impressive once again beating a gifted Sam Houston team 73-55. The win was not a surprise, but the score definitely was.

The third-place game was won by S.A. Churchill against District rival S.A. Roosevelt in overtime 74-72. Bryan(34-5) took away the consolation title defeating Houston Waltrip 71-56. The Vikings of Bryan had gone down in the first round to San Antonio Central Catholic 69-66. Coach Larry Brown's troop regrouped against Ft. Worth Paschal(30-9) with an impressive victory 68-65. S.A. Sam Houston had beaten Paschal earlier in first round action 67-59. So, one of the top teams in the state, Ft. Worth Paschal, was two and out. Irving, led by Coach Mike Kunstadt, came away with a strong effort beating San Antonio Madison(22-12) 51-49. S.A. Jefferson(27-8) took down Temple 77-63, Houston Smiley defeated S.A. Fox Tech 60-47, Churchill put Deer Park in the loser's bracket 69-53 and S.A. Highlands defeated Houston Waltrip 63-48.

Key early round contest included, S.A. Sam Houston(32-8) over Houston Kashmere(23-6) 59-57 in double overtime. S.A. Churchill defeated Dallas Roosevelt(20-12) 73-68, S.A. Roosevelt(30-4) had two impressive wins over Nacogdoches and Dallas S.O.C.(19-13) 70-59, Yates(37-3) beat S.A. Jefferson(27-8) 59-48 and eliminated Irving(22-11) 61-51. Dallas Roosevelt defeated S.O.C.(19-13) 70-59, Temple took out S.A. Madison(22-12) 68-54, S.A. Jefferson defeated St. Gerard's 43-41 and S.A. Churchill(26-10) elimination Corpus Christi Carroll 55-49. Dallas Roosevelt beat Houston Smiley 48-34, Kashmere(23-6) beat Midland 70-66, and Smiley eliminated Carroll out of Corpus Christi 48-36. You have to say to yourself, "what competition." The Lions of Houston Yates were clearly the best in the state at Christmas Break having won the Jaycees and Optimist tournaments. The 1983 team also carried the dubious task of being the best to ever represent the gold and red.

The tournament M.V.P. was 6'4" Carven Holcombe of Yates. All-tournament members included; Darren Sublet of Kashmere, Ricky Roberson of Dallas Roosevelt, Rod Bernstine of Bryan, Robert Smith of SA Fox Tech, Randolph Parker from Houston Waltrip, Albert Reese from Temple, Alvin Ellison of SA Jefferson, Danny Kellum from SA Central Catholic, David Moss from Sam Houston.

In the Northside Tournament, S.A. Marshall(20-8) defeated S.A. Jay(20-7) in the championship 69-56. The 3rd place game was won by Seguin(23-10) 65-53 over S.A. Holmes. S.A. Marshall defeated Seguin in the semis 61-49 and S.A. Jay beat S.A. Holmes 64-57. The M.V.P. went to Johnnie Price of S.A. Marshall.

In the first TABC polls that came out during the season on December 28, Houston Yates came in at #1 with a 16-1 record. Records were as of December 28. San Antonio Roosevelt(16-2) at #2, West Orange Stark(12-1) at #3, Beaumont Westbrook(11-4) at #4, Longview(16-0) at #5, Ft. Worth Dunbar(12-2) #6, San

Marcos(13-1) #7, Seguin(12-1) at #8, Austin Travis(12-1) at #9 and Dallas Kimball(12-2) rounding out the top ten. The second ten was just as impressive, there was so much talent and so many outstanding teams, that it was hard to put accurate rankings together. Yates only loss was at the hands of Bryan 62-47 and the Vikings were ranked #13 at 12-4. Irving MacArthur(13-0) was a big surprise coming in undefeated at #14. El Paso Jefferson(12-0) was also unbeaten at #16. Richardson(15-2) was at #17. The Eagles probably should have been higher in the polls. Paschal was unranked, although they had defeated national power DeMatha.

Region I Playoffs

El Paso Eastwood(24-4) #17	El Paso Jefferson(25-4)
San Angelo Central(22-11)	Plainview(16-10)
Weatherford(22-9)	Ft. Worth Paschal(24-7) #20
L.D. Bell(23-6)	Irving High(22-10)
El Paso Andress(17-14)	El Paso Bel Air(25-2) #18
Amarillo Caprock(17-13)	Odessa High(21-11)
Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-2) #2	Denton(20-8)
Eules Trinity(19-12)	Irving MacArthur(30-0) #11

Top Five in Region I

5'10"	Willie Henderson	Eules Trinity
6'3"	Kenny Yates	L.D. Bell
5'10"	Lawrence Hudson	Ft. W. Dunbar
6'4"	Johnny Gipson	El Paso Eastwood
6'3"	Gil Wright	Plainview

Once again in Region I you would have to believe the two top teams in the region were in the same District, Ft. Worth Dunbar and Ft. Worth Paschal. The Wildcats had almost everybody returning from their regional semi-final crew of the previous year. 5'11" Lawrence Hudson was a dynamite guard with unlimited range. 5'11" Wayne Mathis was back to run the show, giving Dunbar one of the top backcourts in the state. 6'4" John Johnson returned inside along with 6'6" junior Rodney Washington and 6'6" John Hughes. Coming off the bench was 6'4" Linzie Bogan, 5'5" Fred Hamilton and 6'1" Jeffrey Perkins. Coach Robert Hughes as usual had his long-time assistant on the bench with him, Leondas Rambo.

Paschal countered with a fine line-up as well with 6'2" Vernon Coleman, 6'0" George Davis and 6'4" Horace Taylor led the charge for Coach Jim Wall. Davis played at the University of Texas, Taylor played at Tyler Junior College and Vernon Coleman played at Midland J.C. in the final four and later went on to play at Wisconsin Eau-Clair and Southern Nazarene, which were NAIA schools. 6'0" Keith Buckley and 6'2" Steve Donald rounded out the starting line-up. Coach Wall felt like Coleman may have been the toughest player he ever coached. Taylor was his only player over 6'2" on the squad at 6'4". "Taylor was our inside threat, we ran

several different defenses to confuse opponents and always tried to shorten the game with our delay game. We had real solid guard play,” Wall said.

The Wildcats were ranked in the top three spots in the state polls throughout the season. Dunbar split with Wilmer Hutchins(31-5), defeated state ranked San Marcos(32-4) 53-52 and split with South Oak Cliff(19-13). Coach Hughes’ bunch also held impressive wins over Euless Trinity(19-12) 76-52, Dallas Roosevelt(20-12) 102-70 and Pampa(21-7) 80-68. Paschal had a very impressive list of opponents as well. The Panthers losses included L.D. Bell(24-7) 84-67, S.A. Sam Houston(32-7) 65-58, Bryan(34-5) 68-65 and Ft. Worth Dunbar(33-3) 49-47. Big victories were many; Weatherford(22-10) 74-62, Denton(20-9) 66-46, Dallas Roosevelt(20-12) 75-63 and DeMatha out of Washington D.C. 56-55. Playing this type of schedule ends up being the difference in the playoffs. Knowledgeable coaches know competition is one of the big keys to success.

District 6-AAAAA

In the first showdown game between Dunbar and Paschal for the lead in District 6-5A, the Wildcats made it look easy taking a 72-57 win. The game was played at the Wilkerson-Greines Activity Center. You may get some arguments but it’s probably the best place to watch a high school game in the state. You are right on top of the action and the seating is very comfortable. When asked about playing Paschal, Coach Robert Hughes replied, “Come prepared to play or come prepared to explain a loss.” Paschal record coming in was 18-6 on the season and 6-1 in District action while Dunbar remained undefeated in District and 23-2 on the season. Lawrence Hudson led the charge for Dunbar with 21 points while Keith Buckley led Paschal with 18 points.

Paschal kept their hopes alive with Dunbar in an overtime victory over Ft. Worth Trimble Tech 65-64. The Panthers were down by two with Tech at the foul line with four seconds remaining. Think about that...You would have to say Tech felt pretty confident about their chances. Coach Gales of Tech pulled his players out of the lane area after the ball had been handed to the shooter. Tech was charged with a lane violation and Paschal took the ball out of bounds. They proceeded to throw the ball the length of court hitting the jumper as time expired in regulation. In overtime, Paschal pulled out the win and put their record at 10-1 in District.

Dunbar(29-2) won the second-round game between the two Ft. Worth titans 69-65. The win gave Dunbar their 8th straight 6-5A District title. The Wildcats won the title with a perfect 14-0 record. The Panthers finished 12-2 in District play. Hudson had 18 points for Coach Hughes, Vernon Coleman put up 26 points for Coach Jim Wall.

On the All-Tarrant Country team named by the Star-Telegram, District 6-5A dominated. Lawrence Hudson of Dunbar was named M.V.P. and Jim Wall was named “Coach of the Year. 6’3” Mike Blair of L.D. Bell was named first team along with Vernon Coleman of Paschal, John Johnson of Dunbar and Williams Smith of Mansfield. Second team honors went to David Bibbs of Ft. Worth Poly, Jay Crane of Haltom, George Davis of Paschal, Willie Henderson of Trinity and Horace Taylor of Paschal. Third Team members included David Bird of Arlington Sam Houston, Ron Everett of Ft. Worth Western Hills,

Anthony Fobbs of Ft. Worth Southwest, Wayne Mathis of Dunbar and Derek Williams of Ft. Worth Northside.

District 7-AAAAA

District 7-5A had Haltom as the pre-season favorite led by two highly recruited young men named Jay Crane at 6'8" and 6'7" Bill Wirskye. The Buffaloes were led by these two pre-season All-Americans. L.D. Bell were paced by two standouts of their own, Mike Blair(21.0) and Kenny Yates(20.0). Coach Frank DeBord's squad would be tough to defeat in District action. Eules Trinity was paced by a 5'10" hot shot guard named, Willie Henderson, who was one of the top scorers in the metro-plex.

L.D. Bell and Eules Trinity emerged as front runners after first round action at 8-1. Arlington Sam Houston shocked L.D. Bell 62-59 to jump back into the District race in overtime. Sam Houston's David Bird scored 25 points in the win for the Texans. Sam Houston improved their record to 8-3 in District. Mike Blair led Bell with 21 points and Bell still held down the top stop at 10-2. Eules Trinity kept pace behind 27 points from Willie Henderson in his team's 66-58 win over Arlington. The Trojans of Trinity moved their record to 9-2.

Haltom, who had been one of the pre-season favorites finally came away with a big win over District co-leader Trinity 49-36 late in the season. Crane finished with 18 points and Wirskye added 12. Henderson was held to his season low of only 6 points. In the decisive game in 7-5A, L.D. Bell took down Trinity 64-59 and with the win took the top seed in the state playoffs. Mike Blair and Kenny Yates both had 13 points in the victory. Henderson finished with 32 points. Trinity had won the first match-up between the two front runners 73-59.

L.D. Bell(23-6) finished first at 14-2 followed by Trinity(19-12) at 12-4. Traditional power, Ft. Worth Richland(20-10) finished out of the running at 10-6. Haltom, the district favorite, was 8-8 in District and 20-11 on the season.

The All-District unit was talented with Willie Henderson(*) taking home District M.V.P. honors. Named to the first team- Mike Blair of L.D. Bell, Kenny Yates of Bell, David Bird of Sam Houston, Jay Crane of Haltom, and Bill Wirskye of Haltom. The second team included Zack Carroll of FW Richland, Kris Keller of Richland, John Wygle of Haltom, Mike Cobie of Arlington High, Cedric Williams of Sam Houston and Terry Maxfield of Burleson.

Willie would later become the head coach at Trinity High School and father of 6'2" Marshall Henderson, who went on to fame as one of the top guards in the state. Marshall played at Mississippi after averaging 25.8 points a game and scoring over 2,289 points during his high school career. Marshall signed with Utah and later transferred to Texas Tech. After never playing a game at Tech, Marshall transferred to South Plains J.C., where he was named first team All-American. His senior year at Mississippi he averaged 19.0 per game, but went undrafted.

District 8-AAAAA

In District 8-5A, Irving MacArthur shocked everybody by going through the pre-season undefeated. The Cardinals relied a great deal on inside strength with 6'5" Bryan Amason(11.5) and 6'5" Mike Nation(13.5). "We thought we were going to have a pretty good ballclub. I'm not sure that we thought we'd be 16-0 but with some of the starts we've had over here, we'll take it," Coach Tim Milford said. "We knew we would be competitive with four starters back from last year and seven kids that were on the varsity. Milford previously coached at Luling High School and was in his 10th season with the Cardinals. Preseason wins included Trinity(19-12) by

two points in overtime, a two-point win over Lake Highlands(14-14) and a 51-50 win over Plano(13-18).

Irving(12-6) returned four starters and leading scorer Glenn Sullivan. Three of Irving losses had come at the hands of Houston Yates, Waxahachie and Richardson in close games. These were three of the toughest teams in the state. Coach Mike Kunstadt commented about his team saying, "We're not bad, we don't have a lot of size like MacArthur, so we play defense well." 6'2" Sullivan and 6'2" Jake Smith were the leaders of the Tigers attack. Sullivan played quarterback in football and pitcher on the baseball team. He was called one of the top shooting guards in the state by an opposing coach. 6'4" Blake Brueggemeyer led Grand Prairies chances along with Cecil Jackson of South Grand Prairie.

MacArthur(30-0) took a big step towards the District title with a 71-68 win over Irving. MacArthur came in to the contest at 8-0 while Irving stood at 6-3. The Cardinals ended up running the table going 14-0 and Irving(22-10) finished up at 10-4 to take the number two spot in the playoffs. Newman Smith(18-13) was the only other team to finish with a winning record on the season and the Trojans were well back in the standings at 6-8.

On the All-District team, Irving MacArthur, as expected, dominated with Bryan Amason being named District M.V.P. Glenn Sullivan of Irving was named first team along with Blake Bruggemeyer of Grand Prairie, Ron McCrary of Carrollton R.L. Turner, Andy Ellard of MacArthur, and Bert Cooper of Irving High. Second team members included Terry Talley of Duncanville, Cecil Jackson of South Grand Prairie, Mike Nation of MacArthur, Wayne Stewart of Irving Nimitz, Stacey Roberts of South Grand Prairie.

District 3-AAAAA

The whole season came down to one game in District 3-5A between Amarillo Caprock and Plainview. Caprock was looking at its first playoff spot in school history while Plainview was looking at their third straight District title. Caprock won the first game between the two teams 70-62. Coach Digger Elam said the first game was one of the best games of the season. Plainview's standout performer, Gil Wright was held to only 15 points. Wright was a dynamite scorer averaging 27.3 per game. In the previous game against Lubbock High he poured in 41 points. "We want to slow him down. He can't have 40 points. If he gets 20, we have a chance to win," Coach Digger Elam said. Caprock countered with a big front line of 6'7" Troy Fry, 6'5" Todd Hunkapiller, and 6'4" Robbie Lambert. Plainview entered the do-or-die game with a 12-3 District record following by Caprock at 11-4. If the Caprock Longhorns won the game they would take the top seed in playoffs because of their previous win over the Bulldogs.

The Plainview Bulldogs(16-10) came away with a relatively easy win over Caprock 66-52. In front of a standing room only crowd of 1500 in Plainview the Bulldogs took control from the start. Supposedly, it was the first capacity crown in 12 years. Coach Dan Hamrick of Plainview said following the game, "It was one of our better games of the season." Standout Gil Wright of Plainview finished the game with 26 points, while the guards shot lights out. Kenneth Hallman, Steve George and Randy Williams shot 13 of 18 from the floor. They were all members of

the football playoff team. Hamrick enjoyed his fifth straight basketball title, the first three of which came while coaching at Childress. "We were way to tight. Our kids weren't used to the pressure of a playoffs," Caprock coach Elam said. Coach Hamrick felt his team handled the pressure better because four of his regulars were used to pressure having played in the football playoffs. 6'7" Troy Fry(19.0) finished with 15 points for Caprock followed by Colin Dunivan with 14 points.

District 4-A-A-A-A-A

Odessa High(21-10) took District with a 10-4 mark and San Angelo Central(22-11) made the playoffs as runner-up going 9-5. Odessa defeated Central 57-56 for the District title. Abilene(17-15) and Midland(16-14) tied for 3rd with 8-6 records, Big Spring(17-12) finished 7-7 along with Abilene Cooper(13-18). Odessa Permian(13-14) was one game back at 6-8 while Midland Lee(3-27) struggled through a long season at 1-13. Coach Joe Tubbs of Odessa felt the team's success during the '83 campaign came off the success by the junior varsity the previous season. A 25-win season by the junior varsity formed a winning attitude in the program. "It allowed us to keep more kids in the program," Tubbs said.

Odessa played the #5 team in the state in class 4-A Borger in a warm-up game in Shallowater. Borger(24-6) came away with a tough 54-52 win on Dwight Coffey 20-footer with seconds remaining. Kevin Willis led Borger with 17 points and Terrance Sheppard kicked in 14 and Rick McDonald finished with 10 points for Borger. Thomas Taylor and Joe Terry both fouled out for Odessa. Terry knocked down 14 points for the Odessa.

On the All-District squad, Howard Harris, Joe Terry and Thomas Taylor from Odessa were named to the 11-man 1st team. Jerald Wrightsil of Big Spring was named District M.V.P. 5'7" Rodney Hendrix of Permian and 6'2" Doug Hixon and 6'2" Johnny Panell represented Midland High, 6'2" Lorand White and 6'5" Jeff Kasner were named from San Angelo Central, 5'11" Bob Estes of Abilene Cooper and 6'3" Tony Randle of Big Spring rounded out the coach's All-District unit.

District 5-A-A-A-A-A

In District 5-5A the Denton(15-3) Broncos were heavy favorites with only six schools competing in the District. Maurice Evan's Broncos were strong every year and returned 6'2" Tim Duryea and 6'6" Doyle Franklin. Sherman had a pre-season moment defeating Dallas Jesuit 64-58 which raised some eye-brows. Coach Bill Estes of the Bearcats got 15 points from 6'4" Andy Olmstead and James Thomas added 15 points. Standout Gary Swain of the Rangers finished with 21 points and was one of the top scorers in the metro-plex. Swain went on to star at Creighton University and led the Bluejays in scoring his senior year at 17.3 per game.

The Weatherford(22-9) Kangaroos took down top spot in District tying with Denton(20-8) at 8-2. Weatherford gave Denton both their losses in District action 50-46 and 56-47. 6'8" Bill Willough of Weatherford was held to only 8 points in his team's first win but came up big in the return match with 20 points against Denton. Weatherford's dropped two District games to Wichita Falls(12-15) 80-72 in the District opener and 76-70 to Sherman(16-11).

M.V.P. Award in District 5-5A went to Scotty George of Weatherford. Other first team members included Dwaine Ballard of Weatherford, Eddie Williams of Wichita Falls, Tim Dureya of

Denton, Ronnie Williams of Wichita Falls Rider, Doyle Franklin of Denton and Brian Wright of Sherman. Second team was made up of Bill Killough of Weatherford, Eric Lucas of Denton, Steve Avar of Sherman, Leslie DeHorney of Denison, Andrew West of Wichita Falls, and Andy Olmstead of Sherman. Harold Scott of Weatherford came away with coach of the Year honors.

District 1-AAAAA

El Paso Jefferson(25-5) captured their first District title and playoff spot in fifteen years with a 68-51 win El Paso Andress(17-14). E.P. Jefferson finished the District campaign at 12-2 and E.P. Andress followed at 11-3. Jefferson's losses in District were to E.P. Austin and E.P. Burges while Andress loss twice to Jefferson and once to E.P. Irvin. E.P. Jefferson's other two defeats came in pre-district against E.P. Eastwood and E.P. Riverside. El Paso Austin(21-11) finished in 3rd place with a 10-4 record.

Coach Mike Harper of E.P. Jefferson attributed his team's success to the junior varsity's strong finish the previous season. Jefferson was picked in the pre-season 6th by the District coaches. "The kids learned what it takes to become a champion," Coach Harper said about the junior varsity title. Coach Danny Wilson was the junior varsity coach. For Coach Harper it was a six-year journey to the title. "When I got the job at Jefferson some people called me and sent condolences, but I'll tell you something, it was the best move I ever made." The playoffs hadn't been made at Jefferson since 1967 under Coach Tom Chavez.

District 2-AAAAA

El Paso Bel Air took first place with a 11-1 District record with their only loss coming at the hands of El Paso Eastwood 61-55. Eastwood had their streak of seven straight district titles end. Bel Air finished the regular with a close win over El Paso Riverside(19-7) in overtime 51-50. Bel Air ended the regular season at 25-2. Their only other loss was in the Bel Air Tournament against Eastwood 73-65. The battle for the runner-up spot in the playoffs went right down to the last game. El Paso Hanks and Eastwood were both tied at 8-3 marks. El Paso Ysleta(15-14) spoiled Hanks(13-15) playoff adventure by beating Hanks 57-55 on Isaac Gonzales tip in with seconds remaining. Eastwood responded by grabbing the 2nd spot with a convincing 71-44 win over El Paso Socorro.

El Paso Eastwood(24-4) finished the regular season with only four losses. In the Hanks tournament the Troopers lost to E.P. Hanks 66-65. In District, Eastwood came up short against E.P. Riverside 63-62, E.P. Bel Air 72-58 and against Hanks 58-56. Bel Air had some impressive wins during the regular season against Lamesa(24-6) 68-47, Big Spring(17-12) 70-48, Amarillo Caprock(17-14) 78-73, Eastwood(26-5) 72-58 and El Paso Andress(17-15) 49-47 in 2 overtimes and 66-56.

Playoffs

The West Texas basketball playoffs got underway with Plainview losing to San Angelo Central 79-73. 6'3" Gil Wright got his points scoring 32 but had little help. Central, coached by first year coach Rob Wylie, had much more balanced scoring and dominated the boards with two 6'5" post, Henry Green and Jeff Kasner. Coach Hamrick of Plainview couldn't understand his team's poor performance saying, "I don't know what the problem was, we were just dead

legged from the start." Plainview ended the season at 16-11, while Central advanced with a 23-11 mark. Coming into the game, Coach Wylie dismissed 6'2" Mike Pluger from the team and replaced him with 5'9" Greg Thomas from the football team. Central's star player, 6'2" Lorand White(24.0) finished with 20 points, Kasner added 16 points and Henry Green chipped in 14 points. Plainview had Roy Thompson and Kenneth Hallman contribute 10 points apiece to the Bulldog cause. In the 4th quarter, Central had taken a commanding 68-53 lead over Plainview.

At Levelland, Odessa High(21-11) prepared for the Bi-District game against Amarillo Caprock(16-13). Odessa High had won their first District title since 1969 and they're first winning since 1973, when they finished 17-14. Amarillo Caprock finished 11-5 in District behind Plainview. Their 16-13 record was their third winning season in school history. Caprock came on late in the season winning 10 straight before losing their last game to Plainview 66-52. Because of the weather issues, Caprock was forced to play six games in two weeks during District. Coach Digger Elam of Caprock compared the two teams saying, "we both try to go inside with the ball and we both have good guards outside." Caprock's lineup stood 6'7", 6'6", and 6'4". Coach Joe Tubb of Odessa said, "they're tall, but I don't feel they are as physical as we are. We'll get them inside. They're good shooters. We're going to have to play good defense." Coach Tubb continued saying, "hopefully, with our running game, we can neutralize that height." Caprock started 6'7" Troy Fry(19.0/9.0), 6'5" Todd Hunkapiller(11.0/9.0), 5'11" Colin Dunavan, and 5'11" Scott Brewer(9.0). Odessa started 6'2" Joe Terry(8.3/7.4), 6'0" Howard Harris(15.4), Willie Adams, Boyd Cowan, and 6'5" Thomas Taylor(14.0/10.4).

Amarillo Caprock came away with a close victory over Odessa 69-65 to advance to the second round. 6'7" Troy Fry led Caprock with 19 points, Scott Brewer added 12 points and Robbie Lambert had 12 points. Odessa was paced by Howard Harris with 15 points and Joe Terry tallied 14 points. Caprock led by 11 points with 2:40 left in the game when the Broncho's made a strong push getting as close as 2 points with less than a minute to play. Howard Harris paced Odessa with 22 points and Willie Adams kicked in 15 points.

In Bi-District in El Paso, the heavily favored E.P. Bel Air team got ready for El Paso Andress(17-14), a team that they had beaten twice previously. Starters for Bel Air were 5'9" George Lopez, 6'0" Robert Parham, 6'3" Phil Larkin(15.9), 6'0" Zeak Williams(12.8), 6'2" Ty Burns and 6'1" Jaime Gallinar. E.P. Andress looked to 5'11" Angel Vela, 5'10" Daryl Williams, 5'11" Efren Fernandez, 6'3" Steve Bullitt(10.5), 6'3" David Ortega(18.2) and 5'11" Kevin Frye. Larkin and Williams were named to the El Paso Times eleven man All-City 1st team for Bel Air. David Ortega(18.2) was named to the squad from E.P. Andress and was a three-year starter for Andress, as well as District M.V.P. 6'3" Steve Bullitt of Andress was offered a football scholarship to play at Texas A&M. He was considered a tremendous athlete.

Bel Air looked as if they were going to run away with an easy win leading 42-28, when things started going south. Zeak Williams picked up his 3rd foul early in the 3rd quarter and returned late in the quarter and picked up his 4th foul. With Zeak on the bench, Andress came back to take the lead 54-52 with less than four minutes remaining. Phil Larkins of Bel Air made two key baskets to put his team on top and Bel Air made 8 of 9 foul shots down the stretch to take a 64-58 victory. "We took advantage of Zeak getting into foul trouble," Coach Fernie Hernandez of Andress said. "When Zeak was in there, he opened it up for Bel Air." Larkins was top scorer for Bel Air with 21 points followed by Parham with 16 and Zeak finished with only 11 points. David Ortega(18.3) only managed 12 points for Andress in the loss and Vela led the team in scoring with 14 points.

What would the playoffs be without El Paso Eastwood(24-5) led by Coach Bobby Lesley in his 17th season. The Troopers were District runner-up in 2-5A behind E.P. Bel Air. El Paso Jefferson(25-5) took District 1-5A and had lost earlier in the season to E.P. Eastwood 44-41. Lesley said he had used several players in the contest and Jefferson's Cesar Pedroza had went out early with an ankle injury. The Troopers of Eastwood were making their eighth trip to the playoffs.

E.P. Eastwood put one of the tallest line-ups in El Paso on the court with the best player in the Sun city in 6'4" Johnny Gipson(22.5). Gipson was named "Player of the Year" by the El Paso Times and led the city in scoring. Coach Lesley called Gipson the best defensive post man he'd ever seen at the high school level. That's a mouth full coming from the legendary coach. As for his future, Gipson had several academic opportunities at Purdue, Stanford and Rice. A basketball scholarship was not a big priority. 6'4" Nate Shepherd(14.0) was also named to the eleven-man All-City team. Rounding out the starting line-up for the Troopers were 6'1" Kevin Sylvester, 6'5" Dwight Smith, and 6'5" Arnold Durce.

E.P. Jefferson had the El Paso Times "Coach of the Year" in Mike Harper. Two players were named to the unit, 5'7" Jesse Uranga(10.6) and 5'9" Cesar Pedroza(11.9). Others starters for Jefferson were 5'8" Joe Morales, 6'1" Florentino Sanchez and 6'2" Richard Fernandez. Jefferson was not going to overpower anybody with their size.

Eastwood won a close one over El Paso Jefferson 55-51 at the Special Event Center in front of 5000 fans. Eastwood took the lead into the final 1:24 of the game with both teams exchanging turnovers on traveling violations. With 15 seconds remaining, Coach Harper of Jefferson called timeout to set up a play in which he was hoping his player would get fouled on the drive. The call was not made and the ball went out of bounds. With five seconds left, Dwight Smith hit two foul shots for Eastwood and with it the Bi-District victory. Johnny Gipson led the Troopers with 14 points, Dwight Smith hit 10 points and Arnold Ducre had 10. E.P. Jefferson was paced by Jesse Uranga with 18 points, 12 of which came by way of the foul line.

Irving MacArthur played Eules Trinity in Bi-District and advanced with a double overtime win 60-56. The difference was Andy Ellard's four foul shots in the

final minute of play in the second overtime. Mike Nation was the Cardinals leading scorer with 21 points while Willie Henderson paced the Trojans with 22 points. The win gave MacArthur three wins over Trinity during the season.

In the early game played at Wilkerson-Greines, L.D. Bell(24-6) and Mike Blair beat Irving High(22-11) 71-59. Mike Blair was key for Bell with 25 points. Kenny Yates added 16 points along with teammate Wayne Morris knocking down 14 points. "We lost our intensity on defense and were shooting from the outside instead of forcing the ball inside," Coach Ray DeBord of Bell said.

Unfortunately, District 5-AAAAA faced Ft. Worth Dunbar and Ft. Worth Paschal in the first round of the playoffs. The Kangaroos of Weatherford showed their strength with a solid warm-up game against Euless Trinity, winning 79-75. Killough finished with 21 points, while George hit 20 for Weatherford. Henderson went off for 31 points in a losing cause. In the Bi-District match-up, Weatherford was up on Paschal at halftime 30-25, but was outscored 33-23 in the second half losing 58-53. The game was played at Daniel Meyer in Ft. Worth. Killough of Weatherford could only manage 8 points while Scotty George led the Kangaroos in scoring with 13 points. The Panthers were paced by George Davis with 16 points and Marvin Smith with 14 points. Denton did not have any more luck against the Wildcats of Dunbar losing 61-42.

Irving MacArthur faced Dunbar in 2nd round action with their undefeated streak on the line. Thirty-one straight wins was impressive, but the Wildcats would not be impressed. On a Monday evening at Loos Field House, MacArthur and Dunbar tangled. "All I know is this, I saw them go into two overtimes against Trinity Friday, and both of those teams were good ballclubs," Coach Robert Hughes said. "I also know that anybody who is still playing this time of year must be doing something right." "We like to play speed-type games, and we rely on our transition game a lot more," Hughes explained.

MacArthur just couldn't hang with Dunbar losing 73-45 in front of an estimated 7,000 fans. "I still think they are a good ballclub," Hughes said. At halftime, the Cardinals had already committed 13 turnovers pacing the Wildcats to a 35-24 lead. Junior, Roderick Ford led Dunbar in scoring with 19 points. Dunbar outscored MacArthur 19-2 in the third quarter and the game was over. Twelve players scored for Dunbar as Hughes played everybody. MacArthur did not have one player make double figures. As happens so many times in the playoffs, the Cardinals finished the school's best season ever on a miserable note.

The Paschal Panthers matched Dunbar winning their 2nd round game 65-52 over L.D. Bell. Bell owned an earlier season victory over Paschal 84-69 with Mike Blair scoring 31 points. Beating Jim Wall twice in a season is very difficult. His ability to make adjustment will prove to be critical during the season. Beating Wall in back to back games doesn't happen much. Blair ended up with 17 points in the re-match. Horace Taylor countered with 22 points for Paschal. Taylor was dominating inside for the Panthers. George Davis added 18 points for Coach Wall

in the win. For L.D. Bell, Kenny Yates chipped in 18 points. Paschal led at halftime 33-24.

Amarillo Caprock(17-13) prepared for their 2nd round game against favored El Paso Bel Air(26-2) in a contest between size vs. quickness. The two teams met earlier in the season with Bel Air taking a 76-73 win at the El Paso tournament. For three quarters, Caprock was ahead but had faded late. Coach Elam of Caprock said the first game gives his team confidence they can beat Bel Air. "Overall, they're a small team, but they have tremendous jumpers with more quickness than any team we've faced this year. We got them on size, but they far out man us in speed. I don't want to get into a running game with Bel Air."

Bel Air looked to 6'3" Phil Larkin(14.5), 6'2" Ty Burns(6.3) and 6'0" Zeak Williams(13.8) to lead the charge. Williams was said to be the key to the Bel Air attack with his speed and quickness. "We know about him, we need to find some way to stop him. He was the difference last time. If he gets one step on the press, he's going to the hole," Elam continued. "He can run faster backward then we can forward," Coach Elam of Caprock said. "He's quick and can leap, but we don't have anything special planned for him."

Troy Fry of Caprock had 27 points in the first game between the two teams. "I'm a little scared of their size," Bel Air coach Bob Haack said. "Their front line is tall and they shoot so well from the perimeter." 6'7" Fry(19.0/11.0) was joined on the front line by 6'5" Todd Hunapiller(11.5/9.4), 6'4" Robbie Lambert(13.0), 5'11" Scott Brewer and 5'10" Colin Dunavin. Brewer and Dunavin came off the football field and were both All-District playing with the pigskin.

E.P. Bel Air came out early with some solid play and led the entire game winning 70-59 at the Chaparral Center on the campus of Midland College. Amarillo Caprock finished the season at 17-14. "You can't get behind by 12 points in the first quarter to a team like that and expect to win the game," Caprock coach "Digger" Elam said. "I thought we'd never loosen up." Caprock was behind at the end of one 18-6, at halftime 35-27, and at the end of three quarters 53-40. In the 4th quarter the Longhorns made a small run led by 6'7" junior, Troy Fry. The Longhorns closed the gap to 59-51 with 4:56 left in the game, but Bel Air came back with three straight turnovers to take their biggest lead of the game 66-51. Zeak Williams paced Bel Air with 18 points and Fry led Caprock with 23 points and 14 rebounds.

E.P. Eastwood(25-4) and San Angelo Central(23-11) faced off at the Midland Chaparral Center. Central looked to the inside strength of 6'2" Lorand White(20.0), 6'5" Jeff Kasner and 6'5" Henry Green. As for the contest between the two teams, Eastwood showed their experience jumping out to a 22-8 first quarter lead and was up 60-30 late in the 3rd period. Coach Lesley decided to put the subs in and the score got down to 70-63 with 1:05 remaining. Eastwood let the lead get to five points before putting the starters back into the game. Sylvester and Shepherd hit some late foul shots to give Eastwood the win. 6'4" Johnny Gipson was unstoppable scoring 30 points for the Troopers, while Lorand White finished with 32 points for San Angelo Central. Lesley commented after the big win, "I don't

think those guys were quite ready for us, we were up by 30, and we didn't want to embarrass anybody."

Regionals

In regional action at the Chaparral Center in Midland, Ft. Worth was well represented by Paschal and Dunbar. District 2-5A filled the other two spots with The Troopers of El Paso Eastwood(26-4) and Bel Air(27-2). Eastwood was a very familiar foe at regionals and was well acquainted with Dunbar. Paschal started a small quick line-up, 6'0" George Davis, 6'0" Keith Buckley, 6'4" Horace Taylor, 6'2" Vernon Coleman, and 6'2" Steven Donald. Eastwood came in with 6'5" Arnold Ducre, 6'4" Johnny Gipson, 6'5" Dwight Smith, 6'4" Nate Shepherd, and 6'1" Kevin Sylvester.

Foul trouble made things difficult for Eastwood against Paschal as the Troopers had three players go to the bench in the 2nd quarter. Nate Shephard, Dwight Smith and Arnold Ducre all went to the bench after picking up their 3rd foul. The result was a 38-24 halftime margin for the Panthers.

El Paso Eastwood managed to come from behind and got as close as 48-42 with 7:10 left. Paschal had 19 turnovers, which made things difficult for the Panthers. "We relaxed a little while, and it went from 14 to six in a hurry," Coach Wall shared. "But we played well when we had to." Paschal recovered and expanded the margin back up to 58-44. Vernon Coleman was the leader for Paschal with 16 points followed by Keith Buckley with 12 and Horace Taylor added 10. Johnny Gibson was the leading scorer for the Troopers with 12 points. "We played right with them until then," Coach Bobby Lesley said. "But we had to sit three of our top five down with foul trouble and that was the ballgame." Eastwood only shot 23 of 73 from the floor but won the battle of boards 41-24. Paschal shot 24 of 42 from the floor good floor 57%.

In the F.W. Dunbar(33-2) vs. E.P. Bel Air(27-2) game the Wildcats had a veteran club. 5'11" Wayne Mathis, 5'11" Lawrence Hudson, 6'5" Rodney Washington, 6'4" John Johnson, and 6'6" John Hughes had so much experience in big games. Bel Air line-up was made up of 6'2" Ty Burns, 6'1" Zeak Williams, 6'3" Phil Larkin, 5'9" George Lopez and 6'0" Robert Parham. Size was a big disadvantage for the smaller Bel Air squad. "Our main concern is getting on the backboards," Bel Air coach Bob Haack said.

Both teams liked the up-tempo game and pressed. "We've seen some good presses, so I'm not too concerned with their press," Haack said. "Our bench is going to have to come through."

Hughes commented before the game, "Bel Air has a good ball club, Williams is a good player, they have two excellent guards, who run their offense."

Travel was also a problem for the well-traveled Bel Air Highlanders. The team returned from Midland late Tuesday night and turned right around and went back to Midland on Thursday. One thing was for certain, Dunbar would not be overlooking anybody from El Paso after their upset loss the previous season to El Paso High.

The Wildcats took out El Paso Bel Air in the regional semi-finals 58-49. But the game was far from being a cake walk for the Wildcats. Dunbar began pulling away from Bel Air in the 2nd quarter 25-14 when the Highlanders did something very unusual. Coach Bob Haack had his team pull the ball out with a stall. Bel Air went into halftime down 25-16. Coach Haack said, "I thought it was the best thing to do at the time, they were on a run and if you go into halftime down 20 to these guys, it's all over. You have got to be in the game before you can win it." Dunbar seized control by the end of the 3rd quarter 41-28. Dunbar went up by fifteen points only to let the Highlanders back into game. In the 4th quarter, Dunbar committed five turnovers and got Bel Air back into the game. Zeak Williams pulled his team to within four points at 53-49 with only 50 seconds remaining. Mathis and Hudson led the Dunbar delay game and hit foul shots down the stretch to seal the victory.

Zeak Williams was the man for Bel Air with 15 points and Larkin followed with 12 points. Lawrence Hudson and Rodney Washington showed Dunbar the way with 19 and 18 points. Washington was nine of ten from the floor. Coach Haack discussed Dunbar following the game saying, "they beat us on transition, they were shooting 20 footers on transition, and they have a darn good team, we couldn't prepare for that in two days. I don't think we could have stopped them anyway." Haack continued his dissecting of the game, "Dunbar got back on defense better than anyone we've seen. I was very impressed with their ball club. Their perimeter shooting is tough to beat." Coach Hughes was not happy with his troops saying following the game, "we were just standing around too much and throwing the ball away. I think we left our game in Abilene at Luby's."

The Dunbar win set up the fourth meeting between Paschal and the Wildcats. Coach Hughes crew had won the first three meetings between the two rivals, 49-47, 72-57, and 69-65. "I don't like to play a team four times in one year," Hughes stated. Jim Walls said, "we will have to control the tempo and rebound well, if we can't do that it's going to be tough. They have too much firepower for us. But we're going to give it a shot, and when you get this far, who knows what can happen." The last time Paschal advanced this far in the playoffs was in 1975 when they went to the state finals. "This shows you our district is a pretty good basketball district, I just wish they'd send us in opposite directions so we both could end up in Austin," Wall continued.

At the Chaparral Center in Midland, George Davis knocked down a 30-footer off the glass and with it punched Paschal's ticket to the state tournament. With two second left on the clock the Panthers hit the winning bucket. The final read 55-54 in favor of the Panthers. "We beat a team I feel might be the best in state," Coach Jim Wall said. It was the Panthers first win in three seasons against Dunbar and first in four tries during the '83 season. Davis on his big shot, "I got the ball with seven seconds left, took a couple of dribbles and shot. I was worried about the clock, and no one was on me so I had to shoot, I didn't mean for it to go off the glass."

The Wildcats were in control 54-49 with 1:10 remaining. Baskets by Horace Taylor and Keith Buckley closed the gap to one. Marvin Smith stole John Johnson's errant pass to set up the last shot by Davis. "I knew it was off, I just didn't know it was off the glass." "This game should have never come down to the last-minute shot," Hughes said.

George Davis paced Paschal with 14 points, Coleman finished with 11, Buckley 13 and Horace Taylor had 12 points. The Panthers finished with four players in double figures. Dunbar had two players reach double figures, Hudson hit 14 points and John Hughes, the coach's son, finished with 12.

Region II Playoffs

Wilmer Hutchins(33-4) #13	Dallas Samuel(18-7)
Dallas Kimball(27-4) #5	Richardson Berkner(17-12)
Richardson(30-2) #16	Tyler John Tyler(21-9)
Klein Forest(26-4)	Bryan(27-5) #4
Conroe McCullough(19-10)	Longview(29-2) #7
Dallas W.T. White(19-9)	Dallas Roosevelt(20-11)
Cypress-Creek(26-5)	Conroe(20-11)
South Garland(23-7)	Killeen(25-3) #12

Top Five in Region II

6'4"	Marcus Bolden	Killeen
6'3"	Johnny Fuller	Wilmer Hutchins
6'5"	Dwayne Brown	Dallas Kimball
6'3"	Rod Bernstine	Bryan
6'5"	Marvin Washington	Dallas Kimball

District 13-A

Longview came into District action as clear favorite. The Lobos were one of the top rated 5-A teams in the state. The Lobos were 16-0 and played a rather soft schedule over-all. Coach LeRoy Romines(1) team did have some solid victories over San Antonio Jefferson(27-8) 73-54, Houston Sterling(15-13) 74-56 and Clear Lake(29-7) 56-49. The Lobos starting line-up centered around 6'8" Jerry Holmes, who signed with Texas following high school. 6'3" Mark Reynolds, 6'3" Tommy Smith, 5'9" Kirk Hunter and 6'6" Johnny Patillo were also key contributors.

In the first round of District action, Texas High(21-7) was considered the main challenger to the Lobos. Texas High was led by one of the top scorers in all of East Texas, Calvin Grigsby(26.5). In the first meeting between the two teams Longview won easily 71-58. The Lobos surprisingly dropped two District games in the first round. The Dragons of Nacogdoches defeated Longview 55-53 and John Tyler took down the Lobos 43-40. The Lions of John Tyler ran the table in the 1st round of District going undefeated. Longview came back in the 2nd round, winning seven straight. The Lobos came away with an 83-79 win over Texas High and a 73-53 win over Tyler John Tyler(21-9).

This set up the playoff for the number one seed in the playoffs between the Lions and Lobos. In the two teams third and final meeting, 6'2" post Albert Dixon went off for 23 points and John Tyler had a 52-49 win. Holmes got into early foul trouble and finished with only four points. John Tyler entered the playoffs against Killeen, while Longview faced Bryan. The 1st round games were played at McLennan Community College in Waco, the site of regionals.

The Lions of Tyler John Tyler started one freshman and four seniors. The freshman was 6'5" James Johnson. Others starters included 6'0" Randy Fleet, 6'2" Albert Dixon, 6'3" Vernon George, and 6'4" Eric Hodge.

On the All-District team selected by the coaches, Calvin Gribbsby(26.5) of Texas High and 6'2" Albert Dixon(17.0) of John Tyler were named Co-M.V.P. winners. Mark Green of Nacogdoches was named sophomore of the year and Billy Lawson of John Tyler and Romines were named, "Co-Coaches of the Year." Tommy Smith(16.0) and Jerry Holmes(13.0) of Longview were named to the five-man 1st team along with 6'3" Vernon George of John Tyler, Shannon Hughes(20.0) of Tyler Lee and Torres Mott of Lufkin. 6'3" Mark Reynolds(12.8) of Longview and 5'10" Rod Dunn of John Tyler were named to the 2nd team.

- (1) **Coach LeRoy Romines passed away in 2014 at the age of 74 after battling a heart transplant and cancer. He coached the Lobos from 1978-1996. He was one of the great coaching figures of East Texas Basketball. He was inducted into the Texas Coaches Hall of Fame in 2009. He was a true TEXAS LEGEND**

District 9-A-A-A-A-A

The Eagles of Wilmer Hutchins at 19-4 looked to continue their winning tradition paced by the top player in District, Johnny Fuller. Fuller combined with junior, Ricky Grace, to give the Eagles and Coach Homer Smith one of the top backcourts in the state. Wilmer Hutchins and South Garland were geared up for another run at the 9-5A title in 1983. Hutch had a 33-0 junior varsity coming up to a varsity giving Coach Homer Smith a great deal of depth.

Wilmer Hutchins pre-district action was very strong. Hutchins split with Dunbar(33-3) and had two losses against Kimball(30-5) 67-65 and 72-70. Dallas Carter(21-7) also won a close one over the Eagles 85-81. Victories were very impressive, as the Eagles defeated South Oak Cliff 86-85, Dallas Roosevelt 82-67, John Tyler(21-10) twice, Dallas Jesuit(24-5) 62-60, W.T. White(19-10) 74-66, Dallas Samuel(18-9) 83-58 and Dallas Skyline(21-10) 64-62. The Eagles were considered one of the elite teams in Dallas.

South Garland under the leadership of Coach Clayton Brooks had a better team in 1983 after finishing 27-5 the previous season. Four key returning players were back in 6'5" Greg Crowe, 6'5" Dale Fields, 5'10" Ben Crowe and 6'3" Tim Craddick. Coach Brooks was welcoming the best group of youngsters to the program that the Colonels had ever seen. Sophomores, 5'9" Charles Smith and 5'11" Kato Armstrong would leave a legacy before graduating from South Garland. If that weren't enough, South Garland had one of the top freshmen in the state in 6'3" Billy Smith. Remember, Greg Crowe was only a junior. Highland Park and North Mesquite planned to make things interesting with solid programs. The Scots looked to 6'3" John Vandermeer and 6'3" David Reicher, while the Stallions were

looking to rebuild after they advanced to state in '82. Keith Adams was a key player returning for Coach Ron Powell.

The first game between South Garland and Wilmer Hutchins was won by Eagles 60-54. Johnny Fuller hit 20 points for the Hutch along with Ricky Grace's 15 points. Kato Armstrong led the Colonels with 16 points followed by Tim Craddock with 15.

Highland Park went through the first round of District action undefeated and set up their match-up against Wilmer Hutchins for first place. Dave Reichert and Bart Showalter were the lead dogs for the Scots. Both were guards who could shoot from range. Reichert had knocked down 25 points in the Scots 59-55 win over South Garland. H.P. was no match for Hutch losing 83-72. Fuller went off for 39 points in the win while Highland Park put four players in double figures. With the win, Wilmer Hutchins moved to 7-0 and 24-4 overall, while the Scots remained in second place with a 6-1 mark and 16-9 mark. Fuller said following the game, "When I got the hot hand, can't nobody stop me. Coach Smith tells me all the time that I'm an offensive machine." Dave Bliss, the S.M.U. head man was in the crowd watching intently. Ricky Grace tallied 12 assists for the Eagles.

Fuller was another in a long line of talented players at Wilmer Hutchins. Shannon Lilly was one of the top scorers in NCAA Division III at Bishop College, Mookie Smith was a standout at North Texas State, while Spud Webb ended up playing for the Atlanta Hawks in the N.B.A. Coach Smith felt Fuller was his best backcourt player ever. "Talent wise, he is probably a little ahead of those guys," Smith said. "The Lillys, the Spuds and the Mookies were role players. They could move the ball well, but these guys were not the all-around players that Johnny is. He's getting a lot more attention from the college coaches than the others." Of course, this was quoted in 1983. Coach Smith may have thought differently after Spud's long N.B.A. career. Coach Bo Snowden of Highland Park commented, "We've seen him for three years and he's more impressive every time we see him. And he's so unselfish. And to say he's unselfish after all the points he scored is saying something."

In the second meeting between Wilmer Hutchins and South Garland the Eagles took another close win 58-56 over the Colonels to extend their District lead. Fuller was held to only 10 points while Grace countered with 17 points. Coach Clayton Brooks team was fueled by 6'5" Greg Crowe with 16 points. Hutch put Highland Parks hopes to rest in their second meeting 83-82. The Scots held Fuller to 23 points while Reichert had his career high 35 points. Reichert would later take his talents to Baylor.

Highland Park(19-13) finished in 3rd in District action at 9-5. Coach Snowden's team lost to Garland Lakeview 55-51, North Mesquite 52-41 and South Garland along with the two losses to the Eagles. The Colonels(25-7) took the runner-up spot losing to Wilmer Hutchins twice and splitting with Highland Park.

The All-District team was made up of Dale Field of South Garland and Johnny Fuller of Wilmer Hutchins. They tied for Most Valuable Player Award in District. Dave Reichert of Highland Park, Keith Adams of North Mesquite, Greg Crowe of South Garland and John Vandermeer of Highland Park

rounded out the first team. The 2nd team had Kenneth Clark of Garland, Ricky Grace and Adrian Harris of Wilmer Hutchins, Bart Snowalter of Highland Park, David Green of Mesquite, and Ben Crowe of South Garland.

District 11-A

In 11-5A, Dallas Kimball had a new coach in Jimmy Tubbs and a new assistant named Chris Dyer. 6'5" Dwayne Brown returned for Coach Tubbs having averaged 22.5 points per game as a junior. Brown was considered one of the top shooting guards in Texas as well as the top player in Dallas. The Knights had an imposing lineup. 6'5" Marvin Washington was an incredible athlete who later played eleven years in the N.F.L. with the Philadelphia Eagles. Needless to say, he was a space eater with a soft touch inside. 6'3" Chuckie Graves was one of the top guards in Dallas who could also shoot with range. This was the Knights best squad since 1971, when they advanced to regionals. Tubbs was one of the best coaches to ever walked the sidelines in Texas. Tough, hardnosed defense and disciplined offense were his trademarks. His disciple was Chris Dyer, who would eventually become one of the great coaches ever produced from the Lone Star State. We will forgive him for being from Ohio. Coach Tubbs called Dallas Carter the team to beat, trying to draw attention away from Kimball.

The Knights were one of the top five teams in the state coming into District action. Disciplined, talented, prepared and experienced, they were going to be tough to beat. Kimball took down some talented teams in pre-district, Richardson(32-3) 72-64, Ft. Worth Paschal(30-9) 72-65, Dallas Roosevelt(20-12) 59-54, Wilmer Hutchins 67-65 and 72-70, Killeen(27-4) 68-58 and S.O.C.(19-13) 73-64. Losses came at the hands of L.D. Bell(24-6) 70-57 and Dallas Skyline(21-10) 57-55.

Dallas Hillcrest had another team that would challenge Dallas Kimball in District action. Coach Larry Jones had 6'4" Brian Elliott leading the charge along with 5'7" Wayne McClinton. Elliott was very athletic player who had transferred over from Richardson Pearce after feeling his talents were not being used by the Mustangs. McClinton at 5'7" could dunk, wow. Alvin Jones was another key contributor for Coach Jones.

The flamboyant Alex Gillum from Dallas Carter had the Cowboys charged up once again and ready to make a run at Kimball after advancing to regionals the previous season. 6'7" Terry Thomas, who later played at S.M.U., was Coach Gillum's top inside threat. 6'0" junior, Michael Williams was one of the best guards to ever come out of Big D. He would eventually make his way into the N.B.A. with the Detroit Pistons by way of a SWC championship at Baylor. 6'2" Jeff Gibson was another solid guard for Coach Gillum.

The Carter Cowboys downed Kimball in the two teams first match-up 73-71. The win put Carter right in the middle of the District race. The tremendous backcourt of Michael Williams and Jeff Gibson put up 50 points for Coach Alex Gillum. Kimball placed four players in double figures, but came up short. Williams hit a driving lay-up with five seconds remaining for the win at Sprague Fieldhouse. "Coach had told us during the timeout he wanted Gibson or me to take the shot,"

Williams said. Curtis Moore of Kimball missed a 15-footer at the buzzer that could have tied it.

The Knights also had trouble with W.T. White the second-time round in District action losing 62-56 to the Longhorns. White improved their record to 8-3, just one game back of Kimball at 9-2. White went 17-9 overall on the season. "It was just a great win," Coach Clarence Warren said. White took control midway in the third quarter 35-34 and went to their delay game to control tempo. Point guard, 6'1" Robert Clark led White with 20 points while Dwayne Brown was the leader for Coach Jimmy Tubbs with 21 points. Kimball had won the first meeting between the two teams 63-55.

In their second meeting with Dallas Carter at Sprague Field House, Kimball had a much easier time defeating the Cowboys 89-77. The win gave Kimball(27-4) and Coach Billy Tubbs the 11-5A title. Tubbs* was in his first year with the Knights and had some big shoes to fill following Paul Graham*. Coach Tubbs switched his defense from a 2-3 zone to a 3-2 to try and contain Williams and Gipson. Graves and Brown combined for 40 points in the Knights victory. Michael Williams led Carter with 29 points and Jeff Gipson had 21. They scored 50 of Carter's 77 points. Kimball's victory put W.T. White(19-9) into the playoffs with a District mark of 9-3. Dallas Carter(21-7) finished 3rd at 8-4. Dallas W.T. White came away with two close wins over the Cowboys of Dallas Carter 79-77 and 73-72 to advance to the playoffs.

The All-District team was loaded with 6'4" Dwayne Brown of Kimball and Robert Clark of W.T. White being named co-M.V.P. Coach of the Year went to Clarence Warren of White. First team members included 6'1" Mike Williams of Dallas Carter, James Williams of Pinkston, and 6'5" Marvin Washington of Kimball. Second team members were Myron Jacobs of Hillcrest, 6'3" Chuckie Graves of Kimball, Chris Domhoff of White, Jeff Gibson of Carter, and Jeff Hurd of Hillcrest.

*Graham went on to coach in college at Oklahoma State and took the head job at Washington State in 1999-2003. Tubbs also coached at the college level taking the head job at S.M.U. Tubbs had been a long-time assistant at S.M.U. and Oklahoma. He passed away in 2009. Coach Tubbs was only 59 years old. Graham returned to the high school game in 2016 at Dallas Skyline taking the Raiders to state in 2017.

District 10-AAAAA

In District 10-5A, Dallas Roosevelt came into District much weaker after losing almost their entire team. Nobody could remember the last time Coach Ellis Davis had such limited talent. "We don't have any depth, only one letter winner is coming back, and he didn't start last year," Davis said. 6'4" Jeffrey Jacobs was the lone returning letterman. Jacobs was also quarterback on the football team and a track star. Jacobs would later play football at S.M.U. Dallas Roosevelt also lost eight seniors off the team after the beginning of the season. S.O.C. and Skyline looked like the front runners in District for obvious reasons. "South Oak Cliff(10-9) hasn't shown it in their record, but they've got a good team," Coach Ellis Davis said. "They've just had a lot of bad luck. Skyline, they have a nucleus and could be a surprising team." S.O.C. was paced by 5'8" Deon Hunter once again with six returning seniors. Dallas Skyline had pre-season All-American in Cedric Walker to

hang their hopes on during the season. Walker was the District M.V.P. as a junior averaging 18.0 points a game on a 20-10 team. This was a pretty impressive accomplishment considering Carl Wright was on the 1982 Roosevelt Mustangs. Dallas Samuel and Dallas Spruce also had very competitive teams. Spruce had one of the top big men in Dallas in 6'7" Dewayne Chism along with Charles Washington. Coach Doug Scott's Samuel bunch would be paced by 6'4" Lawrence Chumbley.

*Coach J.D. Mayo was the head man with the Raiders and was a coaching legend. I'll never forget the first time I saw Mayo in action. He didn't feel like the referees were giving his team any respect and was causing a raucous on the sidelines. Pretty soon he began disrobing, taking his sports jacket off and wading it up in a ball and throwing it under his chair. It was hilarious watching Mayo. I've told him that story many times, which always brings a smile to his face. The reason this was so funny is because it was totally out of character for him on the sidelines. He was the ultimate gentlemen both on and off the court. J.D. Mayo is and was a **TEXAS LEGEND**.

Jeffrey Jacobs(19.1) led Dallas Roosevelt(20-11) to the District championship with 31 points and 12 rebounds in the Mustangs 95-84 win over S.O.C.(19-13). 5'8" Deon Hunter topped Jacobs with 32 points, but his Golden Bears were eliminated from the playoffs. Dallas Spruce upset Dallas Samuel 63-61 to give the Mustangs the title. Roosevelt moved to 10-2 in District action while S.O.C. fell to 8-4. Samuel finished the regular season at 9-3. "Overall, I'm proud of the youngsters because we've come a long way," Coach Ellis Davis said. 5'11" Ricky Robertson(19.0) provided 20 points for Roosevelt and 5'7" Thomas Peters hit 12 points and 10 assists. Roosevelt had defeated S.O.C. 87-80 in their first District meeting.

After the game, Davis shared his thoughts, "I am prouder of this team than any other I've had, I am proud of these kids. This has been a very unusual year." Davis had won a state title in 1972 and went to state in 1981 at the helm of the Mustangs. Davis was also the only coach the school had ever had opening Roosevelt in 1963. The 11 losses during the '83 campaign were the most losses any of his teams had ever recorded. After an early 104-70 loss to Dunbar, the Mustangs regrouped. After eight kids left the program early in the season, Davis held the team together. Davis singled out Jacobs, Robertson, Peters, 6'4" Richard Williams, and 6'3" Bruce McDonald for having turned things around.

Coach Clayton Brooks of South Garland added his two cents about Davis losing eight players earlier in the season, "I've heard him crying a lot about those guys leaving, but from what everybody tells me, they weren't going to do anything." Coach Doug Scott of Samuel agreed saying, "That was a bunch of bull about those guys leaving and hurting the team. Roosevelt usually has 18 guys on their roster. They could drop eight and still have their top 10. Davis will have a good team anyway." Nobody was feeling any pain for Coach Davis.

Dallas Samuel(17-10) was the surprise District runner-up to Roosevelt beating the Mustangs twice 82-67 and 76-69 in District action. The Spartans also split with South Oak Cliff and Skyline(21-10). Their third District loss was an upset

loss to Dallas Spruce(14-14) 63-61. In pre-district the Spartans were very competitive with wins over Irving(22-11) 70-67, South Garland(24-8) 52-43 and Dallas Skyline(21-10) 60-56. Losses came against South Garland(24-8) 60-43, Dallas Kimball(30-5) 64-53, Hillcrest(19-10) 62-48, Richardson(32-3) 70-49 and Wilmer Hutchins(34-5) 80-57. Samuel split with Lake Highlands(14-14).

The All District team was paced by District M.V.P. 6'4" Lawrence Chumbley of Samuel, 5'8" Deon Hunter of S.O.C., 6'1" Ricky Robertson of Roosevelt, Harold Sanders of Woodrow Wilson, 6'4" Jeffrey Jacobs of Roosevelt and 6'5" Cedric Walker of Skyline. Second team honors went to Darren Smith of Bryan Adams, Charles Washington of Spruce, Billy Ferrell of S.O.C., Terrance Mosley of Skyline, 6'7" Dewayne Chism of Spruce and 6'7" Frank Williams of Samuel.

My long-time friend, **Doug Scott**, passed away in November of 2017 at the age of 75. I coached against Doug for several years while at Pearce High School. He was the pride of Dallas Samuel for almost 50 years, as a player and coach. He took over the reins for the Spartans in 1973 and left in 2001. He had several strong teams over the years. The loss was felt by everybody in the Dallas ISD family as well by friends and family. Doug, you will be missed. **TEXAS LEGEND!**

District 12-AAAAA

Richardson was originally picked fourth in District behind Plano, Lake Highlands and Berkner. After the pre-district there was little question about the over whelming favorite, the Richardson Eagles. The Eagles had been a basketball power throughout the 1970s under Ken Norman and Jerry Stone. The Eagles begin to fade in the latter part of the decade and the first three seasons of the new decade. Ken Norman was replaced at the helm by a former Richardson student, Joe Longino. Longino became somewhat of a darling of the common fan coming up the hard way. Longino had been the Richardson Eagles team manager under head coach Jerry Stone. He kept stats and charts as well as his other duties as manager. After being cut from his high school squad he played basketball at Austin College in Sherman. After coaching at Wylie High School, he took the head job with the Eagles in 1982.

Richardson returned nine players from the '82 squad that had finished 18-17. "We don't have a superstar or even anyone who is being considered a big prospect," Longino said. "It would be hard to pick one or two players who have been carrying us because they all are carrying us," Longino continued. "I thought we'd have a chance to be a pretty good because we have a lot depth," Longino explained. "I think we'll be competitive in the District but Lake Highlands and Plano have been traditional powers, and that is always an advantage."

On a personal note, I remember the '83 Eagles quite well having interviewed for the assistant basketball position in the spring of 1982. I was extremely disappointed with being passed over as an assistant. I felt like I could have learned a great deal from Coach Longino. Looking back, it would be the first of many disappointments while trying to move up the coaching ladder. Lake Highlands and Plano had five year grasp on the District title. Plano claimed the crown in 1979, 1980 and 1982, while Lake Highlands did the honors in 1978 and 1981.

Richardson won the 1983 District title going 14-0. Having said that it must be pointed out that overall the District was really down. Plano lost their head

coach mid-way through the season and finished 11-20, while Lake Highlands was only 14-14. Berkner(17-12) and Richardson Pearce(20-10) finished 2nd and 3rd in District action with 10-4 and 9-5 records.

The '83 version of the Eagles had only one player averaging in double figures and that was senior guard, Mark Buchanan. Buchanan was a long-range bomber who ended up walking on at Baylor. He started in the backcourt with Michael Williams of Dallas Carter on a team that advanced to the SWC conference championship game. Buchanan was named 12-5A District M.V.P., but it was hard to single out anybody on the team. 5'11" Steve Jarvie(9.3) played point guard and was an aggressive hardnosed player who liked to drive. He played college baseball at Baylor. 6'3" Darrell Jordon was another downtown shooter who had major ups. Jordon was also the only African-American on the team and was the most talented as well. 6'3" Lloyd Hudson(9.2) was a nice leaper and best inside scorer along with 6'2" Chip Loyd. Loyd had range and was physical when he needed to be. Coming off the bench was 6'4" Larry Kelly and 6'3" David Causey. The one common quality running through the team was their ability to shoot. Coach Longino's bunch took the school's first playoff spots since 1977. At the basketball banquet the Eagles M.V.P. award went to "The Team."

The Eagles were a senior dominated squad that emphasized defense. The purple and gold would have been lethal had they had the three-point line in 1983. Going into the playoffs the Eagles had losses to South Garland(23-8) 64-47 and Dallas Kimball(30-5) 72-64 in overtime. Wins came over playoff team's Dallas W.T. White(19-10) 71-59, Waxahachie(35-2) 61-53, Dallas Samuel(18-8) 70-49, Irving(22-11) 81-55 and 62-50, Berkner(17-13) 73-57 and 67-48, Pampa(23-8) 70-57 and Dallas Jesuit(24-5) 64-58. Only two of the seven wins were single digit.

The All-District squad featured Buchanan and Jarvie representing the Eagles along with 6'3" Keith Winstead of Berkner, 6'4" Hop Sullivan of Richardson Pearce and 6'0" Stu Graham of Lake Highlands. Richardson had three players named to the second team, Darrell Jordon, Larry Kelly, and Chip Loyd. Cranfill of Berkner and 6'3" Keith Lair of Pearce were also represented on the second team.

On the All-Metro team named by the Dallas Times Herald and the All-Greater Dallas team named by the Dallas Morning News, not one player came from the Richardson Eagles. 1st team on the All-Metro squad was made up of 5'11" Todd Alexander(18.0) of Waxahachie, who would later signed with Minnesota following his senior year. 6'3" Johnny Fuller(20.2) from Wilmer Hutchins, who signed with S.M.U., 6'4" Dwayne Brown(17.0) from Kimball, who signed with Baylor. 6'4" Mike Blair(20.1) of Euless L.D. Bell. Blair signed with the Horn Frogs of T.C.U. Rounding out the first team was footballer, 6'4" Jeffrey Jacobs(19.5) from Dallas Roosevelt. Jacobs was a tremendous athlete who took his skills to S.M.U. Tom Milford of Irving MacArthur was named "Coach of Year" by both publications. Cedric Williams from Arlington Sam Houston was named Sophomore of the Year. 2nd team honors went out to Willie Henderson(21.8) from Euless Trinity, 6'1" Robert Clarke(17.5) from W.T. White, 6'4" Lawrence Chumbly from Dallas Samuel, 6'4" Gary Swain(24.0) from Dallas Jesuit, and 6'7" Jody Reeves(25.6) from Allen.

For the Dallas Morning News, Jacobs, Reeves, Swain, Brown, and Fuller were named first team. Cedric Walker from Dallas Skyline, Blair, Alexander, Chumbly and Chuckie Graves from Dallas Kimball were named to the second team. Mike Williams of Dallas Pinkston was named sophomore of the year. Dwayne Brown was named M.V.P. by the Times Herald and Gary Swain took home the honors by the Morning News.

14-AAAAA

The District preview was pretty wide open according to the coaches. Killeen won the District title in 1981 and Bryan advanced to the regional finals in 1982 losing to North Mesquite. Coach Wayne Howard of Killeen returned a fine cast of players from his 31-5 squad. "We have the depth, the ball handling and the quickness," Howard explained.

Coach Wayne Howard of Killeen started an imposing line-up. 6'6" Victor Webb, 6'6" Vince Webb, 6'3" Marcus Bolden(23.0), 6'2" leaper Thomas Bethany, and sophomore 5'10" Sedrick Evans. The big question coming into the 1983 season was could Killeen replace 6'5" Keenan DeBose, who moved onto the college ranks at Arkansas. DeBose eventually ended up at North Texas State in Denton. DeBose big shoes were filled by Bolden, who went on to make All-State. "The pressure on Marcus hasn't been nearly as great because the other players are producing," Coach Howard said. "Marcus is always going to get his points, but he doesn't feel any pressure that he has to score. The defense can't concentrate on stopping Marcus, they have to concentrate on stopping the whole team."

Bryan and Coach Larry Brown looked to improve on their '82 finish. 5'10" Billy Chambers and 6'1" Darrell Mitchell were leading the Vikings hopes along with 6'3" football star, Rod Bernstine. Bernstine missed the entire '82 season with a broken leg from football after averaging 15.0 per game as a sophomore.

Two other teams were thought to have good chance to make a run at the playoffs were Round Rock Westwood and Killeen Ellison. Westwood finished at 12-18 the previous season and had 6'3" Scott Sodoma returning. 6'3" Kyle Green, 6'1" William Wenthe and 6'0" Robert Teets were other returning lettermen. Mike Krueger and Jeff Petroff were two athletic 6'5" players looking to contribute inside. Coach Gerald Adams had two transfers, 5'11" Ross Williams and 5'11" Keith Behrens, that he was hoping could compete for minutes.

Killeen Ellison had another competitive squad returning several key players from 22-11 team. Eagle Coach, Mark Hudson had two returning lettermen coming back in 5'10" Ricky Hodges and 5'9" Roger Tyson.

Bryan(28-5) and Killeen(25-3) ended up dominating the Central Texas District. Killeen Ellison(15-13) held down the third spot with an impressive 7-5 record. The two match games between the Kangaroos and the Vikings decided the 14-5A crown. In early January the two rivals met in Killeen with Killeen ranked 11th in the state and Bryan came in at the 13th spot in the T.A.B.C. poll. The score was tied at half 39 apiece, but the 2nd half was all Bryan. The Vikings opened up a comfortable lead which grew to 89-68 with 58 seconds remaining. Both teams emptied the benches and the final looked much closer at 90-80. "They lost their(Roos) poise in the 2nd half," Killeen coach Wayne Howard said. Marcus Bolden was suffering from a groin pull and still managed to score 18 points. 6'5" Victor Webb came off the bench for coach Howard to lead the Kangaroos with 23 points. Darrell Mitchell did the honors for Bryan with 19 points. Bernstine and Kevin Bradsher both finished with 18 points.

The second meeting between the two teams took place in Bryan and was much closer. The second half the game followed the same pattern as the first game, as the Vikings went out to a 17-point lead. Following a strong comeback by Killeen, the Kangaroos missed several foul shots down the stretch, losing 64-62. "It was a fun trip down here for them, but they weren't mentally ready to play," coach Howard explained. Marcus Bolden paced the Kangaroos with 21 points and Bethay added 11. Chambers led Bryan with 16 points and Bradsher knocked down 14 points, Mitchell 12 and Bernstine 10 points.

Bryan went undefeated in District at 12-0 and the Kangaroos only losses in District came at the hands of the Vikings. 6'4" Marcus Bolden(23.0) of Killeen was the 2nd leading scorer in District and one of the top recruits in the state. He signed with Texas following graduation. Killeen took care of Killeen Ellison 70-56 and 65-60 in both games between the crosstown rivals.

The Vikings played probably the toughest schedule in the state with the possible exception of Houston Yates. Losses were against playoff teams, Huntsville 57-55, Houston Yates(37-3) 47-42, Houston Kashmere(23-6) 71-70, San Angelo Central(23-11) 69-66 and a strong and talented team from Alexandria, Louisiana named Peabody 65-54. Bryan also had an impressive list of victims, Victoria(24-10) 75-59, Houston Yates(37-3) 62-47 and Ft. Worth Paschal(30-9) 68-65.

Killeen's lost to Kimball(30-5) 67-62 in the pre-season and held down wins over Klein Forest(26-4) 62-58 and Houston Westchester(20-12) 55-43. In District play Temple went down to the Kangaroos 84-75 and 80-76. The Wildcats of Temple were led by Albert Reese. The 6'4" Reese was all-conference tight end at S.M.U. on the football field.

The All-District team was made up of Bolden(23.0) and 6'5" Victor Webb(14.8) of Killeen, David Lumpkins(23.8) from Copperas Cove, 6'1" Darrell Mitchell(16.2) from Bryan, 6'2" Jeff Harper(19.8) from Round Rock and 6'2" Keith Jackson(18.8) of Temple. The 2nd unit had Billy Chambers, Kevin Bradsher and Rod Bernstine of Bryan along with Scott Sodoma from Round Rock Westwood, Albert Reese from Temple and Jerry Barks(11.1) from Ellison. Vince Webb of Killeen was named honorable mention along with teammate Thomas Bethay. William Dickson of the Vikings also took home honorable mention honors. Coach of the Year honors went to Larry Brown of Bryan and Mark Hudson of Ellison.

The Bryan Vikings had a great coach in Larry Brown, who took an already strong program and took it to another level. Brown had several ideas to improve an already solid program when he arrived at Bryan. First, was to play the toughest schedule possible. He invited the top teams from the Houston area to his tournament each year to improve the level of competition. In his seven seasons at the tournament, Bryan completed 1-13 record against the best in Texas. "We wanted to play the best, the schools from Houston and Dallas were the ones you had to beat in order to win state," Brown explained. Coach Brown also wanted to get his kids playing hard and in top condition, so he implement the "Ponderosa Run" each year in the fall, which was a half marathon of 13.5 miles. The players would run around the outskirts of Bryan. You would build up to running the distance at one mile, three miles and eventually a timed six miles run. You had to

complete the six-miles in 48 minutes. All of this was to prepare you for the "Ponderosa Run."

Brown had four returning lettermen his first season at Bryan. The night before the "Pondarosa Run" he couldn't sleep. "I was thinking about possibility of having to cut the four players if they didn't make the run," Brown explained. "I was worried to death, maybe losing my job," Brown said. Luckily three of the four made it and he only had to cut one. "Each season the kids would vote to see if they wanted to continue the run and the seniors always voted to continue the run," Brown said. Brown followed the kids on a Moped. The first season of the run some of the kids got picked up for rides. Coach Brown caught'em and took them back to the start. "We always talked about BLUE MAGIC late in games, because the kids knew they had paid the price by running the Pondarosa."

Coach Brown played six players and ran multiple defenses trying to confuse his opponents. His six players were point guard, Billy Chambers, who later went to West Texas JC and Mary Hardin-Baylor. 6'1" Darrell Mitchell, who was mentioned as maybe the best player that Brown coached at Bryan. An incredible leaper, who played post at 6'1". Mitchell went on to Tyler J.C. and blew-out his knee, which ended his career. He hit seven game winners his senior year with the Vikings. 5'10" Kevin Bradsher was a player that only played two years of organized ball. Coach Brown got him out of a P.E. class. He later played at Carl Albert J.C., Howard J.C. and played for the NAIA national championship at Southeastern Oklahoma. William Dickson was another player with tremendous quickness and desire. Dickson later played junior college ball. Rod Bernstine went on to star on the football field at Texas A&M and played 10 years in the N.F.L. with the Chargers and the Broncos. Sophomore, 6'6" Kenny Keller, came off the bench for Brown. Keller played at Texas Tech.

Bryan had a pre-game drill where they would set the balls down at mid-court and the team would run and jump up as high as they could on the backboard. Coach Wayne Dickey of Sam Houston said his kids watched in amazement, as the Viking players touched the backboard above the box. Mitchell would jump well above the box and hit his head on the rim. "We did this to try and gain a psychological advantage against our opponent because the other teams would be watching in disbelief," Brown admitted.

In Brown's seven seasons at Bryan, Keller was the only player to play division one basketball. He blew his knee out in football his senior season after having never played football before. He walked on at Tech in basketball and later received a scholarship.

15-A-A-A-A-A

Klein Forest(26-3) and Cypress Creek(23-5) battled to a tie in this north Houston District. Both schools finished 9-1 in their District campaigns. In the Houston Post final area rankings, Klein Forest came in at #7 and Cypress finished at #12. Cypress-Fairbanks(21-10) took third place with a 5-5 record.

The All-District team was dominated by the two playoff representatives. Six players were named to the first team. 6'6" Gary McGuire(14.6/16.1) was named "Player of the Year" from Cypress-

Creek. Other members of the first unit were 6'1" Craig Britton of Cypress Creek, 5'10" Ken Butts from Klein Forest, 6'2" Maurice James(15.6) of Klein, 6'1" Chris Reilly of Klein Forest and 6'1" Troy Thomas from Cypress-Fairbanks. David Middleton of Klein Forest was named Coach of the Year.

Cypress Creek had two players on the 2nd team, 6'0" Kendell Allen and 6'2" Louis Garza. Klein Forest had one player named 6'2" Eric Hirsch. To put it into perspective, they were among the top eleven players in District.

16-AAAAA

The two Conroe schools advanced to the playoffs with McCullough(19-10) going undefeated in District action at 12-0, followed by Conroe High(20-11) at 9-3. McCullough was ranked #16 in the area by the Houston Post.

Terry Priest of McCullough was named, "Coach of the Year" in District. Seven players were named to the first team on the All-District team. 6'4" Scott Deegan(14.5) and 5'10" Scott Sholes(14.5) were named from McCullough, 6'4" sophomore, Maurice Wright from Conroe, 5'10" Greg Potter from Spring Westfield, 6'1" Paul Niemeyer of Humble Kingwood, 6'3" Scott Sullivan from Humble High and the District M.V.P., 6'5" Steve Salter of Spring High.

Playoffs

The Houston representative in region II looked impressive in Bi-District action. Cypress Creek advanced with a 53-47 win over Conroe. 6'6" Gary McGuire led the way for Creek with 21 points. Morris Wright paced Conroe with 12 points. Klein Forest came away with a close overtime win over Conroe McCullough 52-51. Eric Hirsch was the hero scoring five of his 16 points in overtime for Klein Forest. Chris Reilly also added 16 points for Klein Forest. Bill Walkup led the way for McCullough with 13 points.

Jimmy Tubbs and the Kimball Knights entered the playoffs for the first time since 1971. Kimball had a lot of hype coming into Bi-District. Honestly, the fanfare was well deserved. In order to take out the Knights you would have to be very talented and play one of your best games. They were that good. Coach Ron Nicholas of Richardson Berkner(17-12) unfortunately had to face the Knights in the first round. Nicholas was a dedicated coach, who came over from Richardson High School after serving as varsity assistant under Ken Norman. Nicholas was a student of the game. Berkner had opened up in 1970 and were making their first playoff appearance ever. Nicholas replaced Marcus Everett as head coach with the Rams in 1978. He would continue at the helm for 23 seasons. Coach Nicholas was a friend of mine and always took the time to help young coaches. I remember what a thrill it was finally coaching against him while at Richardson Pearce.

Vance Cranfill put up 27 points for Coach Nicholas but Kimball took away a 61-50 victory to advance. The Knights turned loose the likes of 6'5" Marvin Washington, 6'4" Dwayne Brown, 6'3" Chuckie Brown, 5'10" Kenneth Willingham and 6'6" Edward Robinson. The entire lineup played basketball at the next level except Washington, who ended up in the N.F.L. Willingham finished with 8 points, Graves 19, Washington 10, Brown 12 and Robinson 4. Cranfill was the only Ram in double figures.

The Richardson Eagles made their first appearance in the playoffs since 1977 as they rolled through District undefeated. Dallas W.T. White was the Eagles first round opponent. White had lost earlier in the season 71-59 to the Eagles but

that was in the season opener. At Loos Field House, Richardson took down the Longhorns for the second time 65-46. 6'1" Robert Clarke of the Longhorns held his team close in the first half and finished with 21 points. Richardson only led 25-23 at halftime. The Eagles outscored W.T. White 40-23 in the 2nd half paced by Buchanan's 19 points. "Defensively, we had to cut off Domhoff and Clark," Longino said. Jarvie had drawn the assignment of guarding Clark. "I just tried to make him take the shots he didn't want to take... those running one-handers," Jarvie said.

The Longview vs. Bryan game was one of the top first round games in the state. Coach Romines of Longview was impressed with the Vikings comparing them to their District rival John Tyler. "The 6'2" kid, Darrell Mitchell(16.0) can really leap and do a lot of things for them. Chambers is a premier ballhandler and is the QB of their team. Inside they have Bernstine(13.0), who plays a very aggressive game. They get a lot of offensive boards for second shots." Romines continued saying, "On any given day, Bryan can play as well as anybody, but I think we can too."

In the Bi-District clash between Bryan and Longview, 6'1" Darrell Mitchell scored eight of his team's ten points in the fourth quarter to give Bryan a 55-53 win. Mitchell hit the winning bucket with no time left from 17 feet. Longview had the ball with 14 seconds left only to have their inside shot blocked. "The kids played hard, and it just came down to the last shot," Coach Romine's of Longview said.

Two outstanding talented and athletic teams faced each other in Tyler John Tyler(23-9) and Killeen(28-3) at McLennan Junior College in Waco. John Tyler started out in a match-up defense only to abandon it after getting down 10-2 early. At the end of the first quarter, Killeen had taken a 23-19 lead playing man to man defense and pressing. John Tyler had 14 first half fouls compared to five for Killeen. The Kangaroos took full advantage hitting 9 of 15 from the foul line. Vince Webb and Marcus Bolden had key baskets that put Killeen up 43-33 at halftime. John Tyler began pressing and were able to get as close as five points. The final read, Killeen 77 John Tyler 70. Rod Dunn finished with 17 points for the Lions and Vernon George added 21 points. Coach Billy Lawson's standout, Albert Dixon, was held to only 10 points. For Killeen it was Bolden hitting his career high of 36 points. "Marcus was terrific, I thought all of the starters did a good job," Coach Wayne Howard said. 6'2" Thomas Bethay finished with 13 points for Killeen along with Vince Webb, who added 16 points. Killeen finished with 15 turnovers to Tyler's nine and Tyler had a big rebound advantage over the Kangaroos 32-12.

Cypress Creek(29-5) was not quite as lucky in the 2nd round action losing to Killeen(29-3) 56-53. The Kangaroos went into a spread offense in the second half up 28-26. "We knew if we could spread them out we could get them into foul trouble," Howard said. "We could also get Marcus open." Killeen went to a three-guard offense with James Doctor, Sedrick Evans and Marcus Bolden. The Kangaroos entered the 4th quarter in control 49-39 with 3:54 remaining. Creek came back to outscore Killeen 12-2 to tie the game at 51 all with 1:20 left. Coach Howard's crew came through in the clutch winning by three points. Gary McGuire

showed his talent finishing with 19 points and 14 rebounds for Creek. Bolden paced Killeen with 20 points and 6'6" Victor Webb added 11 points.

The Bryan Vikings was impressive proving you can't judge a team by its size with their man-handling of Klein Forest(27-5) 66-43. Four players hit double figures for Coach Larry Brown. Darrell Mitchell had 18 points, Kevin Bradsher had 15, Rod Bernstine 11 and Kenny Keller 10. Chris Reilly led the Eagles with 14 points and Jake Bell hit 12 points.

South Garland advanced to the playoffs against perennial playoff power Dallas Roosevelt. The Colonels were led by senior point guard, Ben Crowe and sophomore post, Greg Crowe. Clayton Brooks entered his 13th season at the helm of the Colonels. 6'5" Dale Fields was another key performer for South Garland. "Greg is the best all-around player on the team. There is no doubt about this," Brooks said. "He averages 12 points and 10 rebounds along with four assists and three blocks and three steals. He can do everything. I'd say that everybody looks to Greg to keep us going."

The Colonels(26-7) took down Dallas Roosevelt(20-13) 72-70 in Bi-District at Forester Field House in front of an estimated 2,500 fans. Tim Craddock came through for Coach Brooks with three seconds remaining hitting a 12-foot baseline jumper. With only 21 second left Roosevelt was up 68-66 when Greg Crowe made a key steal and hit Dale Fields for a lay-up to tie the score. In overtime, Craddock hit his big shot. "That wasn't the planned shot," Coach Brooks said. "The plan was to let Fields take a good shot in the middle." Point guard, Thomas Peters got into foul trouble which hurt the Mustangs. Dale Fields was the leading scorer for South Garland with 21 points while Craddock knocked down 20 points. Ricky Roberson led the Mustangs with 21 points and Richard Williams had 15.

Wilmer Hutchins made it two for two in the playoffs for District 9-5A beating the Samuel Spartans before 5,000 fans at Sprague Fieldhouse. Wilmer Hutchins finished District at 14-0 and were one of the favorites in Region II to advance to Austin. The Eagles 78-74 victory over Samuel was much closer than expected. Hutch was down by nine points four minutes into the contest. Ricky Grace finally put the Eagles up with four minutes left for the first time. 6'8" Frank Williams of the Spartans fouled out with 1:51 left in the game, which really limited Samuel's chances. Wilmer Hutchin's bench put up 25 points while Samuel did not scratch. Johnny Fuller led the charge for the Eagles with 20 points and Steve Benson came up with 19 points. Lawrence Chumbley, one of the top players in Dallas, put up 23 points and Marcus Camper followed with 22. Frank Williams was valuable inside for Coach Doug Scott scoring 13 points.

In 2nd round action one of the top games in the state pitted Wilmer Hutchins against Dallas Kimball. The Eagles had already lost twice to Kimball during the season. Both games were extremely close with the Knights winning both games by only two points. Dwayne Brown(17.0) vs. Johnny Fuller(23.0) were showcased, but both teams had so much more talent than just those two players. Brown went on to a fine career at Lamar University and Fuller did good things at

S.M.U. Loos Field House would host the third meeting between the two rivals. Wilmer Hutchins had won sixteen straight following their second loss to the Knights. The winner would be become the favorite in Region II to advance to Austin.

Before 2,700 fans the Kimball Knights ended Wilmer Hutchins season on a great display of outside shooting in the second half. "I think the difference was the outside shooting," Coach Jimmy Tubbs said following the 74-63 victory. The amazing backcourts of Kimball and Hutch went at each other with Chuckie Graves and Brown pouring in 21 points apiece while Ricky Grace and Fuller counter with 10 and 11 points, respectfully. Fuller was held to only two points in the second half.

Things began to go south for Kimball when 6'5" Marvin Washington fouled out with 7:42 remaining. 6'6" junior Edward Robinson excepted the challenge and came up big for the Knights in Washington's absence. Kimball outscored the Eagles 24-12 in the fourth quarter mainly from long-range. Coach Homer Smith of Hutch said following the loss, "This time they looked like their players had a lot more confidence, they wanted it more." 6'4" Steve Benson led the scoring for the Eagles with 20 points. Benson scoring came from the 20-foot range.

South Garland and Richardson were also playing a re-match of an earlier season contest in which the Colonels won convincingly. Forester Field House would be the site of the 2nd round game. South Garland and Dallas Kimball were the only losses on the Eagles slate for the '83 campaign. "That game was two months ago," Coach Brooks said. "They were tall and they beat us in our man defense," Mark Buchanan said. "Once we went to a zone, we played better."

6'6" Dale Fields and 6'5" Greg Crowe posed several problems for the Eagles. "We've got to shut him down and keep him from having a good night on offense," Longino said referring to Fields. The Colonels had two fine guards in senior Ben Crowe and sophomore Kato Armstrong. "The biggest thing for us is to keep them off the boards," Longino said. "I don't feel like we need to push the panic button if we go out and play the way we're capable of playing."

Richardson was able to hold the inside game of the Colonels to only 14 points between Fields and Greg Crowe. Only four South Garland players were able to score in the 59-38 loss to Richardson. The Eagles placed nine players in the scoring column. A lot of high school teams have depth but the difference for the Eagles was the offensive firepower that every player possessed. South Garland under Clayton Brooks pushed the ball hard while Richardson was more patient. "We wanted to get the slow-down game," Longino said. "When we got the transition, we ran with it." "Our shooting was the difference," Longino said. Ben Crowe finished with 16 points to lead the Colonels while Kato Armstrong hit eight points from outside. Larry Kelly and Chip Loyd were the leaders for the Eagles with 11 points. Longino felt his team dominated inside which was the difference in the game.

Regionals

Dallas Kimball and Richardson advanced to regionals in Waco at McLennan Community College against Bryan and Killeen. The Eagles had a 27-game winning streak coming into regional action. District 14-5-A champion Bryan Vikings starting line-up consisted of 5'8" Billy Chambers, 6'1" Darrell Mitchell, 5'10" Kevin Bradsher, 5'11" William Dickson and 6'3" Rod Bernstine. Coach Larry Brown did not go deep on his bench. 6'5" sophomore, Kenny Keller was his main player off the bench. Bryan was making a return trip to regionals having lost the previous season to North Mesquite. The Vikings were all leapers with tremendous endurance and heart. Mitchell could get his elbow over the rim and Bernstine was and physical specimen. Coach Brown was so precise in everything he did. I was fortunate enough to hear him speak once at a clinic and his knowledge and attention to detail was incredible.

Bryan had five losses coming into regionals. All were very early in the season. Huntsville 57-55, Houston Yates(37-3) 47-42, Kashmere(23-6) 71-70, San Angelo Central 69-66 and Alexandria Peabody out of Louisiana 65-54. Victories were impressive defeating Houston Yates(37-3) 62-47, Ft. Worth Paschal(30-8) 68-65, Killeen(27-4) 90-80 and 64-62, as well as a warm-up game against Houston Madison(27-6) 75-64. The Vikings were systematic in their approach to the game. They were extremely quick, patient on offense, tenacious defense and one of the best delay games I've ever witnessed. If you were trailing in the last two minutes of the game it was basically over. Larry Brown is one of the top coaches in Texas High school's long history. Yes, he is a **TEXAS LEGEND**.

Kimball already held a victory over Killeen(25-3) earlier in the season 68-58 in the Killeen invitational tournament in early December. 6'4" Marcus Bolden put up 24 points against the Knights in the contest. Killeen and Marcus Bolden would have to play their best game of the season to get past the Knights of Kimball. It was so unfortunate that only one team would be able to advance to state from such a gifted group of teams.

In Waco, the Richardson Eagles season came to an end losing to Bryan 63-59. Rod Bernstine gave the Vikings their first lead with a slam dunk with 58 seconds left in the third quarter. Mark Buchanan later commented that momentum really changed on Bernstine steal and dunk. "We realized that we may lose, we were pretty confident before the dunk." Pressure caused two key turnovers early in the 4th quarter and with 5:13 remaining in the game, Bryan took a 53-47 lead. The Eagles closed to within two points but was unable to get any closer. Coach Longino was very gracious in defeat. "We played better than we did in some of our wins. Bryan's a good team. They just made the shots tonight," Longino said. "Bryan has some talent, they have the capabilities of doing some things." Richardson ended the season with the school's best record ever and the best team produced by the high school up to 1983. The '83 squad finished in my final top ten for the first time in school history and had the highest power rating a Richardson has produced. It was a memorable season.

Joe Longino's career at Richardson High School ended in 1992. He moved on to coach at Rockwall High School in later years and served as athletic director. He also served as the Freshman Center Principal. In 2003, Longino suffered a stroke which almost cost him his life. Because of health concerns, he was forced to retire. Today, Joe continues to work part time with the Rockwall basketball program and mentor's students, as well as singing in the church choir and teaches Sunday school. I visited with my old friend recently at the Allen Basketball tournament. Coach Longino is one of the great ambassadors of the high school game and real credit to the game. Coach Longino's former players spoke so highly of him and attributed much of their success to his leadership and support.

Dallas Kimball won their regional semi-final contest over Killeen 67-62 in another great game. I was at both regional games and it was amazing the talent on display. Things did not look good for the Knight's as their star, Dwayne Brown got into early foul trouble. Brown had four fouls at the 3:32 mark of the 2nd quarter, with Kimball trailing 26-17. Brown did not re-enter the game until the four-minute mark of the 4th quarter. The Knights were behind at halftime 32-25 but took over the lead mid-way through the 4th quarter 56-50 behind Kenneth Willingham, Chuckie Graves and Curtis Moore. Moore started out on Killeen's standout guard Marcus Bolden in the second half and held the All-Stater to only two points in the quarter. Kimball outscored Killeen 22-10 during the 3rd period. Kimball took control 56-44 at the 5:36 mark of the final session. With the lead 61-58, the Knights went to their spread offense and hit their foul shots down the stretch. Kimball had won their biggest game of the season without their best player. That says a lot about the talent level at Kimball.

Coach Wayne Howard discussed the game after the disappointing loss. "Everything went exactly as we wanted except the score," Howard said. "We wanted them to play us man-to-man," the Kangaroos head man said. "We wanted them in foul trouble. So, we went to the spread when we got the lead." Kimball refused to get out of their 2-1-2 zone despite Bolden's ability to hit the outside shot. Kimball led 47-42 entering the final period and increased the lead to 10 points.

For Killeen, the Kangaroos had finished their most successful season in school history at 29-4. The Kangaroos had previously lost to Kimball in the Central Texas Classic. The scoring for Killeen had Bolden finishing with 25 points, Victor Webb added 13 points and five rebounds, Thomas Bethay had 10 points and seven rebounds along with Vince Webb's eight points and seven rebounds. For the Knights, Graves took up the slack for the missing Brown scoring 20 points, Washington had 12 points and 11 rebounds while point guard Kenneth Willingham directed the team and finished with 11 points.

The Region II finals pitted the two teams that had defeated Richardson High and were the regions two top teams. Kimball had beaten Richardson in double overtime earlier in the season and Bryan eliminated the Eagles in the semis.

Both teams also held down two wins apiece over Killeen. Two very talented and disciplined squads were squaring off for the right to travel to the state capital.

Kimball was unable to continued their magic losing to Bryan 73-67 in a high scoring affair. Coach Larry Brown commented after the game, "We just had to keep coming at them. They are a very talented team. But our free throws at the end were very effective." The Vikings hit 14 of 17 foul shots under pressure. Dwayne Brown finished his outstanding career with Kimball scoring 27 points, Chuckie Graves came away with 16 points and Marvin Washington tallied 13 points. Kevin Bradsher paced Bryan with 23 points, Mitchell hit 16 points and Bernstine added 15. "Bryan is just a darned good team," Coach Tubbs said. "You have to give them credit. I thought it was a super ball game between two good teams. We played one of our better games of the season. I was real proud of the way our guys played."

Tubbs finished his first season with the Knights and would go to college and eventually took the head job at S.M.U. after twelve seasons as assistant. Tubbs was released by the Mustangs in 2006 and passed away at the age of 60 in 2009. I interviewed with Tubbs in 2002 for a basketball position. He was totally dedicated to the profession and a workaholic. Everybody that knew Coach Tubbs had a great deal of respect for him. His impact on the Dallas and the Coaching profession can still be felt today.

Private schools were becoming more and more popular as the talent level increased and became very competitive with the public schools. Dallas Jesuit(24-5) took the Texas Catholic title with a 59-51 victory over St. Gerard's out of San Antonio. Coach George Coelen of Dallas Jesuit said, "We were really pleased with the win, I had thought all along that we would have a good chance. We had beaten everybody in the tournament before." Jesuit completed the season as the top rated private school in the Dallas Morning News rankings. "What surprised me more than anything about the tournament was that the competition was tougher than we expected," Coelen said. "We had our toughest game against Central." Central being San Antonio Central, which Jesuit clipped 37-36 to gain the finals. The TCIL championship was Jesuit's third title since 1971. Gary Swain paced the Rangers with 24 points. Mike Harrington of Dallas Jesuit was also named All-Tournament along with Michael Hights of Gerard, Chris Dovie from St. Thomas, and Danny Kellum of Central Catholic. Coach Coelen was in his fifth season with the Rangers.

Jesuit lost during the regular season to Richardson(32-3), Wilmer Hutchins(30-5), Sherman(16-11) and South Garland(24-8). Solid wins were over Dallas Hillcrest(19-10) and Dallas Roosevelt(20-12). During District the Rangers had some very close wins over Bishop Lynch 59-57 and Ft. Worth Nolan 44-40. Both teams had losing records against a private school schedule. Standouts for the Rangers were Swain, Harrington, Billy Young, and Dwight Johnson. Johnson was considered the best outside shooter and Young was Coach Coelen's top defender.

Swain led the team in scoring at 23.8 points per game as well as assists and steals. Coelen called Swain, "the best all-around player I've ever had." Swain's dream was to play at Notre Dame. He had to settle for Creighton.

St. Gerard advanced to the finals with a 72-68 win over St. Thomas out of Houston in overtime. Michael Hights paced the Royals of St. Gerard with 25 points. In the 3rd place contest Central Catholic took down St. Thomas 74-67.

In the 3-A Division, Houston Marian Christian took apart Tyler Gorman 75-39. In the semi-finals, Marian defeated Waco Reicher 59-45 and Gorman got by Corpus Christi Incarnate Word 46-45. The third-place game was won by Waco Reicher defeating Incarnate Word 58-56. The All-tournament team was made up of Fred Goporo and Bruno Kongowain from Marian, and Chad Polk from Gorman.

Dallas Jesuit and Houston Marian played during the regular season and Jesuit won 53-52, so there was very little separating the two top private schools in the state. Goporo finished with 21 points for Marian and Kongowain added 9 and Horford knocked down 5 points. Swain led the Rangers with 18 points and Dwight Johnson kicked in 19 points from the outside.

In the Dallas Morning News article by John Rice, coach George Coelen discussed the private schools and their struggles for recognition state wide. "Last year after we beat a couple of 5-A schools, their coaches said afterward they wouldn't schedule us this year because they couldn't afford to lose to a Catholic or small school. I think that no one has heard about us because we haven't received publicity. For the last five years, the Texas Catholic Interscholastic League always has had a team that has been competitive at all levels. It's true to a certain extent that the privates don't always match-up in numbers and size and maybe they are not great or overpowering," Coelen said.

Region III

Houston Worthing(18-8)

Houston Wheatley(24-11)

West Orange Stark(27-6) #10

Galveston Ball(23-10)

Houston Madison(26-4) #6

Houston Yates(33-2) #1

Beaumont West Brook(26-4) #9

Clear Lake(28-6)

S.B. Memorial(26-5)

Houston Kashmere(23-5) #19

Houston Forest Brook(21-13)

Baytown Lee(19-11)

Alief Hastings(23-2)

Houston Reagan(19-12)

Houston Smiley(22-7)

Baytown Sterling (22-11)

Top Five in Region III

6'5" Carven Holcombe

6'8" Ricky Winslow

6'7" Connally Brown

6'2" James Nance

6'7" Stacey Belcher

Houston Yates

Houston Yates

West Orange Stark

Beaumont Westbrook

Houston Yates

District 20-A AAAA

Historically this District was one of the top two or three Districts in the state every season. 1983 was no different with Yates having the most talented team in the state. The Lions with Coach Tommy Malone at the helm dominated in the pre-season. They were overwhelming favorites to take District. The Lions came in as the top ranked team in the state. Milby and Wheatley were viewed as front runners for the 2nd playoff spot. Houston Sterling was considered the dark horse in the field and ended up playing a key role on the District race.

Yates had really challenged themselves in pre-district facing a very challenging schedule. Only Bryan was able to defeat Yates in the pre-season 62-47. Coach Tommy Malone's troops came away with wins over Bryan(34-5), Dallas Roosevelt(20-12) 64-52, Houston Kashmere(23-6) 57-55, Houston Madison(27-6) 60-59, Mission(23-7) 57-41, Irving(22-11) 61-50, San Antonio Jefferson(27-8) 59-48, San Antonio Roosevelt(30-4) 48-37, San Antonio Sam Houston(32-7) 73-55, Houston Worthing(19-10) 77-62, Houston Wheatley(25-12) 99-94, West Orange Stark(30-7) 60-51 and Christian Marian out of Houston(33-3) 42-35. The Lions left very little doubt who had the best team in the state.

The Yates-Houston Wheatley rivalry might have been unmatched in Texas basketball. Coach Jackie Carr's team had some impressive victories in pre-district against Forest Brook(21-13) 94-86, Kashmere(23-6) 102-83 and Alexandria Peabody 99-94. Critical losses came against Ft. Worth Paschal(30-9) 102-94 and Yates 99-94. Houston Milby was always going to be a challenge with Coach Honea pulling the strings. The cagey master of the game could never be counted out. The Buffaloes split with Deer Park(14-16), lost to Pasadena San Rayburn(23-8) 73-69 and Yates(37-3) in a blow-out at the Jaycees tournament 64-38. Key wins came against West Orange Stark(30-7) 56-46, Houston Westbury(20-12) 63-43, Houston Furr(23-6) 83-57 and Houston Worthing(19-10) 85-70.

One of the best games of the District campaign saw Wheatley defeated Houston Sterling 115-110 with Terrance Woods(11.3/10.6) putting up 44 points for Sterling in the loss. Yates defeated Houston Wheatley in both District games 65-57 and 74-57. The Lions owned four victories over the Wildcats during the season. The Buffaloes of Milby would not go quietly for Yates as expected. After a 64-38 shellacking in the Jaycee tournament, Coach Boyce Honea decided he would have to make some adjustments. After a great deal of scouting and watching film, Coach Honea came to the conclusion that Yates had only one really strong perimeter shooter. Consequently, Yates inside game was paramount to the team's success. Limiting Yates offensive rebounding would be one of the major priorities going into the game. The strategy was to deny the Lions shooter the ball and sag on their inside game. On offense, patient would be necessary, with solid shot selection.

Controlling the gigantic front line of Yates, Milby led at halftime 18-17. In the upset of the season, Milby defeated Yates 38-36. The Lions were ranked #1 in the state and #11 in the nation. Yates only other loss during the regular season had

come at the hands of Bryan. Arthur Walton(12.2) of Milby finished with 15 points and 7 rebounds, while Ladwig Jones hit 10 points and 9 rebounds. In the re-match with Milby, Yates won another low scoring affair 38-28 win.

In the struggle for the 2nd spot in the playoffs, Wheatley and Milby fought it out. Both teams stood at 9-3 in the final standings. With two games remaining Wheatley was tied with Yates at 9-1 and dropped their last two District games to Milby 77-69 and to Yates 75-61. The Wildcats three District losses were against Milby and twice to Yates, while Milby losses came at the hands of Wheatley 81-77, Yates and Houston Jones 50-47. Coach Honea was not real happy with the officiating in his team's 81-77 loss to the Wildcats. Milby had led at halftime 51-42 when one official ran out of gas and quit calling anything and the other official was going to make sure Milby wasn't going to win. Coach Honea felt the official's calls were very one sided against his ball club. Wheatley was full-court pressing and Milby never reached the one and one in the second half. The Wildcats on the other hand shot 28 foul shots. On the evening, Wheatley shot 42 foul shots and Milby shot 14. Remember the pressing team was Wheatley, not Milby. Coach Honea was assessed two technical fouls but it was to no avail. Honea wrote a letter to the President of the Houston Association of officials. "It was the most one-sided deal since Manhattan Island was bought from the Indians for a string beads," Coach Honea said.

In the District playoff game to decide the runner-up in District 20-5A, Wheatley(23-11) won 63-56 over Milby(19-13) at Barnett Field House. Wheatley advanced for the playoffs for the 21st time in 26 seasons. What would the playoffs be without the legendary program? Four of their 11 losses had come at the hands of Yates. Everett Gay hit 17 points for Coach Jackie Carr's Wildcats while Reginald Angel also added 17 points. For Coach Honea, Arthur Walton paced the Buffaloes with 18 points.

The final District standings looked as follows; Yates(33-2) 11-1, Wheatley(23-11) 9-3, Milby(19-12) 9-3, Houston Sterling(15-13) 6-6, , Houston Austin(10-14) 4-8, Houston Jones(6-18) 3-9, and Houston Davis(8-20) 1-11.

The All-District squad was impressive with Yates dominating the first team. 6'4" Holcombe, 6'7" Winslow from Yates, 6'6" Terrance Woods of Sterling, 6'3" Roy Waddy(19.8) and 6'1" Fred Demerson(23.1) of Wheatley, 6'4" Darius East from Jones and 6'4" Robert McLemore of Austin. The 2nd team was made up of Reginald Patrick of Sterling, Kevin Johnson of Davis, Arthur Walton from Milby, 6'7" Stacey Belcher(12.0) of Yates and Reginald Angel(16.7) from Wheatley.

District 17-AAAAA

Coming into District, Alief Hastings looked really strong with wins over Houston Madison(26-4) 59-58, Clear Creek(19-13) 62-52, Forest Brook(21-13) 66-56, Dulles(24-7) 54-47, Aldine MacArthur(17-13) 48-47, while Spring Branch Memorial took down Forest Brook(21-13) 54-53 and Westbury(20-12) 51-42. The District race came down to Memorial(27-5) and Hastings(29-5), with both teams tied at 12-2. The Mustangs took the top playoff spot with 63-56 District playoff win over Hastings. The inside tandem of 6'7" Jim Rathburn(18.5) and 6'7" Andy Gilchrist(14.0) closed the game with 16 total points in the 4th quarter. Memorial

outscored Hasting by 21-9 in the critical 4th quarter. Gilchrist and Rathburn both finished with 21 points. Davis Lueck(18.3) scored 17 points in a losing effort for Hastings. Alief Elsik(22-10) at 9-5 and Houston Westchester(20-12) tied for 3rd place.

All-District members were 6'7" Jim Rathburn of Spring Branch Memorial, 6'7" Jack Obringer of Stratford, 6'3" Mike Lively of Spring Woods, 6'2" David Lueck from Alief Hastings, 6'4" Billy Tommaney from Westchester, 6'5" Karl Yust of Elsik. Second team members that were key to the playoffs were 6'7" Andy Gilchrist of Memorial and 6'7" Scott Sekal from Alief Hastings.

District 18-AAAAA

Houston Madison was the master of this District and the 1983 season was no different. The Marlins dominated District action with six straight titles dating back to 1977. Madison proved to be one of the top teams in the state in the early season having advanced to the semi-finals at the Jaycee tournament. Big wins included Houston Reagan(19-12) 84-71, Alvin(23-8) 76-62, Peabody, Louisiana 92-65 and the Rams of Kashmere(23-5) 78-77, Clear Lake(28-6) 82-69 and 58-52 and S.A. Churchill(26-10) 72-64. Defeat came at the hands of Alief Hastings(29-5) 59-58, Houston Yates(33-2) 54-46 and Bryan in a non-District warm-up game 75-64.

The big District clashes for Houston Madison were two big wins of over Houston Worthing(18-8) 75-73 and 102-82. Two more convincing wins came against Houston Westbury(20-12) 66-45 and 77-58. The Marlins came in at #2 in the Houston area by the Chronicle. Madison(26-4) went undefeated in District at 12-0, Houston Worthing(18-8) finished at 10-2 and Houston Westbury(20-12) was 3rd at 7-5.

The Marlins talent showed on the All-District unit with 6'6" Greg Willis(11.3/12.1) and 6'0" Donald Harvey named to the first team. 6'2" Keith Davis of Westbury, 6'5" George Davis of Lamar, 5'10" Ed Roberts from Sharpstown, 6'8" Greg Anderson of Worthing and 6'2" Allen Gordon from Bellaire were all named 1st team. On the 2nd unit were three of the top sophomores in the country. Yes, I said the entire nation. Shannon Nero from Worthing, Sean Gay and Lance Blanks from Houston Madison.

District 19-AAAAA

The Kashmere Rams had lost to Wheatley in the quarterfinals of the Jaycee tournament 102-83. Coach Frankie Brazos and Kashmere ran through a rather weak District going undefeated. Houston Reagan(19-12) and Houston Washington(11-17) finished tied for second place at 6-4. In the playoff game to who would advance along with Kashmere, Reagan defeated Washington 55-53. Reagan's Steve Neal hit a three-point play with five seconds remaining. Neal finished with 28 points and Washington was paced by John Osborne with 17 and Paul Edwards added 14 points.

Kashmere(23-5) held impressive pre-district wins over Bryan(34-5) 71-70 along with Galveston Ball(23-11) 64-49. All of the Rams losses had come at the hands of elite teams; Houston Madison(27-6) 78-77, Houston Wheatley(25-12), San Antonio Sam Houston(32-8) 59-57 and Yates(37-3) 57-55 and 70-56. The Rams were strong once again as the scores indicate.

The Rams named to the All-District team were 6'4" Darren Sublet, 6'4" James Phillips and Larry Phillips. Two outstanding sophomores were named to the first team, 5'11" John Osborne of Houston Washington and 6'5" Chris Morris from Houston Sam Houston.

District 21-AAAAA

A real close District race emerged between Forest Brook(21-13), Aldine High(22-7) and Houston Smiley(21-7). Forest Brook captured the District title finishing 8-2. Aldine High and Houston Smiley fought it out for the runner-up spot at 7-3, while Aldine MacArthur(17-13) grabbed 4th with a 6-4 mark.

Smiley advanced to the playoffs with an impressive showing against Aldine 62-51. Twalure Boyd finished with 30 points to lead the Smiley assault. A key in the victory for Smiley was their ability to hold 6'1" Billy Reece(24.5/11.0) to 10 points.

The All-District squad was well represented by the District frontrunners. Forest Brook placed two players on 1st team, 6'3" Gregory Hines(22.6/10.9) and 6'3" Berlin Jackson, Aldine was represented by 6'1" Billy Reece and 6'6" Derrick Williams, while Smiley placed 6'5" William Harris and 6'0" Twalure Boyd on the elite unit. Aldine MacArthur placed sophomore Keith Hill on the 1st team as well.

District 22-AAAAA

The landscape had really changed in the Golden Triangle in 1983. Pt. Arthur Lincoln had moved down in classification to 4-A and Beaumont Hebert had closed their doors. The former Panthers were now attending Beaumont Westbrook High School. Fred Williams, the former coach at Hebert, took over at Westbrook. With three state titles in his pocket, Coach Williams inherited a team that once again had little size. His tallest player stood 6'3". "I think our major problems is trying to offset the height disadvantage we'll have against schools," Williams said. 6'1" John Barker was his only returning starter. Coming over from Forest Park were two solid contributors in 6'2" Brad Broussard and 6'2" Kyle Shumaker. Other players that Coach Williams was counting on were 6'2" Clinton DeQuir, 5'8" Scott Young, 6'3" Gene Walker and newcomer, 6'2" James Nance.

Defending District champions Beaumont French only returned two lettermen from a 27-6 squad for Coach M.J. McDonald. Coming up from the 22-1 junior varsity were several talented players. Coach Mark Weir welcomed back four starters at Vidor. Craig Anderson broke his ankle, which really limited Coach Weir's team during the '83 campaign. Anderson was the team's best ball-handler, defensive player and all-around talent.

District 22-5A had so much talent and a big part of it had to do with size. 6'8" Randy Peet, 6'10" Kevin Newman of Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson, 6'6" Jules Wells of Beaumont Charlton-Pollard and 6'8" Connally Brown of West Orange Stark. Beaumont Pollard was still under the direction of long-time Coach James White. Pollard was not as strong as in the past but still a mighty force on any given evening. After a rebuilding season in which they finished 13-15, Pollard welcomed back three starters. 6'4" Bryron Bell, 6'0" David Jones, 5'8" Joseph Landry and twins, 6'2" Kenneth Fortenot and 6'1" Randy Fortenot. The best newcomer was 6'6" Jules Wells, who would make his mark at Pollard before he left.

West Orange Stark had a new coach in former Bridge City mentor, Al Barbre, who was one of the best coaches in the state. WOS had finished 19-11 during the 1982 campaign and returned a nice group of players. Coach Barbre called his senior post, 6'8" Connally Brown, "potentially the best player in the league." With Brown and 6'4" Hardy O'Neal, the Orangemen had one of the top

teams in District. 6'2" Hosea Singleton, 6'3" Derrick Johnson and 6'3" Frank Thompson were all be key contributors in the Mustangs attack. The Mustangs had lost to Yates(37-3) in pre-district 60-51, Houston Milby(19-13) 56-46 and Houston Westbury(20-12) 47-34. Big time victories came against Houston Furr(23-6) 70-58, Galveston Ball(24-11) 77-72 and Beaumont Westbrook(28-5).

Nederland coach, Jim Weaver was the former mentor at West Orange Stark and faced a rough road in District 22-5A. Coach Weaver's son, 6'4" Jamie Weaver(24.5) had averaged 20.0 per game as a junior in 1982 at New Caney. Coach Willie Williams of Pt. Arthur Jefferson built his team around 6'10" center, Kevin Newman. "If we're going to ever win a district title this will be our best chance," Coach Williams said.

In the finals of the YMBL tournament during the pre-season, West Orange Stark won an impressive game over Beaumont Westbrook 64-61 in the finals. Kenny Ledet, Hardy O'Neal and Connally Brown were named All-Tournament for WOS. Brad Broussard was named from Westbrook, Jamie Weaver of Nederland, Jules Wells of Pollard, Terrance Franks from French and Dewayne LeBlanc from South Park. In the semi-finals, WOS defeated Pollard 68-55 and Westbrook put away French 71-66. In the 3rd place game Pollard dropped French 64-55.

In the first game between West Orange Stark and Beaumont Westbrook in District, the Bruins were able to come away with a 70-64. In the return match WOS closed out with a 77-75 victory. Beaumont French lost to Beaumont Westbrook twice 62-49 and 85-62 in District. WOS also took French down 81-61 and Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson was able to take down French as well 53-48. Westbrook and West Orange Stark both advanced to the playoffs with the Bruins taking the District title.

The finals District results had Westbrook(26-4) finishing 13-1 followed closely by West Orange Stark(27-6) at 12-2. Beaumont French(20-10) was third at 9-5 and Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(16-12) came in at 8-6. Nederland(14-17), Thomas Jefferson(13-14), Pt. Neches Groves(5-21) and Vidor(2-26) were all looking forward to next year.

The 22-5A All-District team named by the Pt. Arthur News was made up 6'4" Hardy O'Neal(17.3) of WOS, 6'10" Kevin Newman from PA Thomas Jefferson, 6'2" James Nance(23.2) of Beaumont Westbrook and 6'7" Connally Brown(17.8) from WOS. The 2nd team was very impressive as well. 6'2" Brad Broussard(11.5) of Westbrook, 6'1" David Jones(19.8) from Pollard, 5'10" Scott Young(5.0) of Westbrook, 5'9" Jetson Ekins(13.2) from French and 6'6" Jules Wells(15.3), a junior from Pollard. Nance was named District M.V.P. and was a move-in from Mississippi. Some impressive stats were put up by Newman of Thomas Jefferson, who averaged 15.8 points, 10 rebounds and 5 blocks per game. Connally Brown averaged 17.8 points, 12.6 rebounds and shot 56% from the floor for West Orange Stark. O'Neal of was also impressive for WOS averaging 17.3/9.1.

District 23-AAAAA

Baytown Lee(19-11) snuck away with the crown finishing 11-3, followed by Baytown Sterling(22-11) at 10-4. Pasadena Sam Rayburn(23-8) tied for 3rd at 8-6 with and old basketball power Deer Park(14-16). The District was very competitive in pre-district and was stronger than many perceived.

Baytown Lee went to the playoffs for the first time since 1962. Second year coach, Jim Ledbetter, from Battle Creek, Michigan finally beat Pasadena Dobie to clinch the District Title 62-52. "The real key has been our experience, we have 11 seniors on this team and their effort and leadership has had a big effect," Ledbetter said. Baytown Sterling finished the '82 campaign at 9-23, but returned four starters. The Rangers of Baytown Sterling were able to claim their first playoff spot in 15 years. The team relied heavily on defensive pressure and were coached by veteran Woody Walker.

The All-District team was rather unusual because only five players were named and three were from Baytown Lee, and the tallest player named was 6'2" Freeman Tomlin of Baytown Lee. The other two players that were honored from Lee were 6'1" Charlie Brown and 6'0" Darold Williams. Sam Rayburn placed 5'10" Brent Davis and South Houston completed the line-up with 6'1" Joe Johnson. Not much size in the District.

District 24-AAAAA

Galveston Ball fought their way out of this 24-5A in 1982 and marched all the way to the state finals. Clear Lake was back in the familiar role on top of the District in 1983. This began an eleven-year run for the Falcons in the playoffs. Coach Bill Krueger put together an awesome program in so many ways which stood the test of time. Clear Lake(28-6) finished 13-1, followed by Galveston Ball(22-10) and Clear Creek(19-13) tied for 2nd at 11-3. Texas City(20-11) was very competitive as well finishing 7-7. Clear Lakes only loss in District was at the hands of Galveston Ball during the first-round action 46-44. The Falcons recovered to beat the Tors 73-53 at Clear Lake in the re-match. 6'2" Brad Meyer(18.1) paced the Falcons with 25 points, Jim Novak(16.9) added 19 points and 6'7" Glenn Puddy was a force inside for Coach Krueger. Terrance Wilson(11.3/10.6) and David Morris led Ball with 13 and 12 points.

Clear Lake had a strong pre-season schedule defeating Houston Milby(19-13) 75-60, Victoria(24-10) 88-67, Forest Brook(21-14) 78-53, Cypress Creek(27-6) 57-47, San Marcos(32-4) 64-59 and Baytown Sterling(22-12) 76-66. Losses included; Longview(24-3) 56-49, Houston Madison(27-6) 82-69 and 58-52 and Dobyns-Bennett 49-40. Clear Lake had a total collapse against Houston Marian Christian losing 72-44. Very unusual for the Falcons to take a loss like that in any season, let alone against a private school.

At Deer Park, Galveston Ball claimed their playoff spot with a 48-40 win over Clear Creek. The Tors outrebounded Clear Creek 28-17 and won the turnover battle 17 to 8. Terrance Wilson led Ball with 12 points along with Kimble Anders with 12. 6'2" guard, Mike Ledbetter(16.8) paced Clear Creek with 14 points. During the season the two teams had split with Ball winning 58-43 and Creek getting the pay back 60-47.

The All-District picks placed eleven players on the first unit. Clear Lake put Meyer and Novak on the first team with 6'7" Glenn Puddy and Laird Sweet(10.9) named to the second unit. Terrance Wilson was the only member of Galveston Ball named to the first team and Clear Creek placed two players, 6'2" Mike Ledbetter and 5'11" Jimmy Harrison on the first unit. Meyer of Falcons and Ledbetter were named Co-M.V.P. of the District. Buddy Carlisle of Clear Creek was named Coach of the Year. Buddy was the former standout at Clear Creek for Bill Krueger back in 1970 and played college ball at Baylor. This is well documented in my first Volume.

Playoffs

Yates opened the playoffs in a double hitter at Hofheinz Pavilion playing in the second game of the evening. The Lions took out Houston Reagan easily 59-34 in front 8,000 fans. Winslow finished with 20 points for Yates while teammates Holcombe and Pink finished with 10 each. Steve Neal finished with 13 points for Reagan. Wheatley opened the evening with a solid win over rival Kashmere 89-80. The Wildcats had just defeated Milby on Tuesday evening and turned right around and played the Rams on Thursday. Wheatley was down at halftime 44-38 before turning things around. The Wildcats had an earlier season victory over the Rams 102-83.

Wheatley was led as always by the their big three of Reginald Angel with 23 points, Roy Waddy(19.8) had 13 points and eight rebounds while 6'2" Everett Gay(10.2/11.4) added 13 point and 15 rebounds with six steals. Fred Demerson(23.1) broke his nose in the 3rd quarter and left the game for the Wildcats. "We had to adjust," Everett said. "He is the key to our offense." It was also discovered Roy Waddy had been playing with a broken finger for the past three weeks. Michael Williams added 15 rebounds for the winners. Gay played football at the University of Texas and was known for his dunking in high school. He went out for football his senior season to stay in condition for track and basketball. He was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys and played three seasons in the N.F.L. Knee injuries ended his football career. Darren Sublet paced Kashmere with 24 points and Terrance Glaze put up 13 points.

Clear Lake, a veteran of the state playoffs, opened against Baytown Sterling, a newcomer. The game was played at Autry court on the campus of Rice University. The Falcons had two three-year starters in Jim Novak and Brad Myers. The two teams had met earlier with Clear Lake taking away a 76-66 victory. Baytown Sterling had to rely on the press because of the big disadvantage in size. "Were going to have to do a super job on the press and make some steals," Coach Woody Walker of Sterling said.

The result was a 76-71 win for the Falcons and Bill Krueger. Clear Lake took control early and led at halftime 43-27. Jim Novak paced Lake with 28 points and big man, Glenn Puddy tossed in 17 points. Novak hit 14 of 14 from the foul line and fouled out with 41 seconds left in the game. Sterling was able to come within four points at 74-70 in the last minute of action. Sterling of Baytown was led by Earvin Barnett with 17 points and Donald Forbes finished with 16 points.

Baytown Lee prepared for Galveston Ball with a great deal of anticipation. Robert E. Lee high school from Baytown had a mascot called the Ganders. Our bonus question for the week is, "What is a Gander?"

Lee's coach, Jim Ledbetter and Ball's head man, T. Berry felt that rebounding would be the key to who would advance to the next round. "We are much like Lee," Coach Berry said. "We are small and we like to rebound and run up and down the court. We are not very big; our tallest player is 6'3". We lost 11 seniors off last year's team." The Ganders tallest player was 6'2". Coach Berry

showed his class when he agreed to play the Bi-District encounter on a Thursday instead of the normal Friday night game. Lee's girls were playing on Friday, so he agreed to move the contest up one day sooner. Most the time this would not be a problem, but Ball had just played their District play-in game against Clear Creek on Tuesday. That meant the Ball had only one day to prepare. Give yourself 5 points if you got the trivia question correct. A Gander is a male goose.

Galveston Ball carried on the winning tradition for District 24-5A defeating Baytown Lee 86-76. Ball won the rebounding edge as well 41-32. "I knew before the game rebounding would be a key," Coach Berry said. Charlie Brown of Lee was outstanding leading the second half comeback by Ganders with 30 points. Ball had taken a halftime lead of 37-24. David Morris and Terrance Wilson paced Ball with 21 points apiece. Morris was a nice addition to Ball joining the team at mid-season. Coach Berry of Ball called Brown a great shooter with his 30-point performance. Delmar was the site of the Bi-District game.

In an upset of sorts, Houston Worthing not only defeated Spring Branch Memorial 68-53, but did it convincingly. Sophomore Shannon Nero was hot from outside for Worthing scoring 17 points, while 6'8" Greg Anderson was steady inside with 14 points. Worthing was 14 of 19 from the foul line. The inside combo of 6'7" Jim Rathburn and 6'7" Gilchrist could not be stopped contributing 21 and 19 points. That's 40 of the team's total 53 points.

Another veteran of the state playoffs, Houston Madison and Coach Benton moved on with a convincing 84-53 blitzing of Alief Hastings. Twelve players hit the scoring column for the Marlins and Arthur Goudeau(15.0) topped the list with 14 points and Donald Harvey added 12 points. Scott Sekel finished with 11 points for Hastings. Autry Court on the campus of Rice University was the site of the double hitter.

District 22-5A came away with two impressive wins in Bi-District with both Beaumont Westbrook and West Orange Stark advancing. The Bruins defeated Houston Smiley 56-55 paced by James Nance(23.6) and Scott Young with 14 and 12 points respectfully. Smiley was fueled by William Harris, who scored 17 points and Tiko Crawford adding 14. Darryl Nedd was fouled with one second remaining for Smiley. Nedd went to the line with a chance to win the game shooting a one and one. He missed the first foul shot and with it the season ended for Smiley.

WOS won easily over Forest Brook 75-51, paced by their top recruit 6'7" Connally Brown's 25 points. Kenny Ledet added 18 points for the Mustangs of WOS. Forest Brook placed three players in double figures at ten points each.

In the Regional Quarterfinals, the two top rated teams in Houston faced off with Yates and Madison going head to head. Unfortunately for the Marlins they were eliminated in tough 67-56 loss. In the first game of a double hitter played at Hofheinz Pavilion, the Lions hit 4 of 6 foul shots late to expand their lead to 64-50 over the Marlins. Four of the foul shots came from technical fouls from the Madison bench. Holcombe and Winslow were in foul trouble throughout the game and played the critical fourth quarter with four fouls apiece. Holcombe finished

with 23 points, Winslow was good for 18 points and Clement Pink came away with 13 points. For Coach Benton, Donald Harvey finished with 19 points, while sophomore Lance Blanks added 11 points. Madison finished the season at 27-6.

In the second game of the double hitter, Wheatley fought from behind to bring down Houston Worthing(19-9) 91-86. The Wildcats trailed 49-43 at half and 68-59 at the end of the 3rd quarter. Wheatley ran off 29 points in the fourth quarter behind the dynamic duo of Reginald Angel and Roy Waddy, who combined for 42 points on the evening. Angel finished with 22 points, Waddy finished with 20 points and Fred Demerson 15. Everett Gay had an incredible evening scoring 18 points, 23 rebounds and six assists. 6'8" Greg Anderson showed why he would have a ten-year N.B.A. career leading his team with 25 points. Standout sophomore Shannon Nero went off 24 points. David Alford hit double figures with 12 points for Worthing. Nero took flight on some of his dunks as one area coach described, "It was not a good dunk, it was just incredible."

"We started the game thinking Fred wasn't going to play," Everett Gay of Wheatley said following the game. "When he came in it took some of the pressure off us." Demerson had undergone surgery for a broken nose on Tuesday and was finally cleared. Waddy played with a broken finger on his shooting hand.

The Beaumont Westbrook Bruins opened the 2nd round action against the ever-present Clear Lake Falcons with a 52-50 nail biter. Clear Lake jumped out to an early 10-2 lead and then decided to pull the ball out going to four corners. Nance of Westbrook made a big steal and proceeded to go down and dunk the ball changing the games momentum. "I think they relaxed early in the game, they were ready to blow us out," Coach Williams said. "Nance's dunk got us going."

Late in the contest the Bruins went into their own delay game. At halftime, Westbrook went up 28-27. Novak scored 14 points for the Falcons, while Lake Meyer put in 11 points and 6'7" Glenn Puddy chipped in 13 points. Brad Broussard had 12 points for the Bruins and Nance hit his average with 23 points. Interestingly, the game was played at the Beaumont Civic Center in front of 5000 fans, which meant Westbrook had a nice homecourt crowd. On the potential regional game against Houston Yates, Coach Williams commented, "from what one coach told me, they ought to be playing the University of Houston schedule."

The West Orange Stark(29-6) vs. Galveston Ball contest was played at the Winnie Brown Gym in Baytown. 6'7" Connally Brown went off for 30 points in leading the Mustangs to an impressive 77-72 against the defending regional champions. Hardy O'Neal kicked in 18 points in the victory. David Morris was high scorer for Ball with 19 points. "I think it's says a lot for Basketball in our area," noted Coach Al Barbre of WOS. "No one's ever going to give 22-5A much of a chance, but we had some good teams this year."

Regionals

The regional semi-final challenge put the W.O.S. Mustangs against the Wheatley Wildcats, a team that had accumulated 5 state titles through the years. "It hasn't bothered us yet, but we haven't been up against a tradition rich school

like Wheatley," Barbre exclaimed. Houston Wheatley(25-12) took control early 34-17 in the second quarter against WOS. The Mustangs of WOS were able to comeback in overtime to get the win 87-82. "I thought we were about to get blown out," Coach Barbre said. "When you're down 17 to Wheatley in Houston the situation is awfully dark and bleak," The Mustangs committed 16 turnovers in the first 10 minutes of the game. Wheatley lead at halftime was only 46-41. From that point on the inside game of 6'4" O'Neal, 6'7" Brown and 6'5" Derrick Johnson began to turn the game in WOS's favor. Brown finished with 26 points and 13 rebounds, Johnson claimed 23 points and 9 rebounds while O'Neal finished with a double-double of 15 points and 11 rebounds. "We knew Wheatley's press was the only way they could beat us," said Barbre. "We weren't shooting well from the outside and we couldn't get the ball inside to Brown and Johnson, so the fast break was what we had to have." WOS had 29 turnovers to the Wildcats 26. Connally Brown fouled out with 30 seconds into overtime. "This has to be the greatest win in Orange basketball history," Barbre said. Wheatley was fueled by Waddy with 19 points, Angel collected 14 points and Demerson hit 19.

"We were just plain tired, wore out," said the legendary coach, Jackie Carr of the Wildcats. "We had a hard game with Worthing just to get here. We were drained and ran out of gas," Carr shared. "We don't have the talent, when you put 6'2" guys against 6'7" guys all the time it finally catches up with you." Everett Gay had a chance to win things for the Wildcats at the end of regulation, but his shot bounced off the rim. Derrick Brown scored four points in the finals 50 seconds for the Mustangs. Wheatley gave up numerous layups off the press with four players in the front-court of which the Mustangs passed over.

In the second semi-final contest Houston Yates continued their march to the state championship. Their 63-58 victory over Beaumont Westbrook was very unemotional but convincing. 6'4" Carven Holcomb carried his team in the 2nd half going 8 of 10 from the foul and finished with 24 points. Winslow had 14/12 and Belcher added 16 points as the Lions moved into the regional finals. Westbrook finished the season with an impressive 28-5 record. The Lions outrebounded the smaller Bruins 37-25. Yates biggest lead went to 10 points in the 4th period. Nance and Broussard finished their high school careers with 12 points apiece. Scott Young added 10 points for Westbrook. The Bruins had won the class 5-A football state championship and were trying to become one of the few teams in state history to win both titles.

The regional finals game had district runner-up, West Orange Stark(30-6) matched against #1 ranked Houston Yates(32-2) for the right to advance to Austin. These teams represented two of the strongest Districts in the state. Yates had beaten WOS earlier in the season at the Jaycee Tournament 60-51. Already the impact of the new rule change was being felt around the state. Of the eight regionals finalists, two had been District runners-up. (Ft. Worth Paschal and West Orange Stark) In front of 3,000 fans at Hofheniz Pavilion on the campus of the University of Houston, Yates and WOS battled it out for three overtimes before a

winner would be decided. WOS had two opportunities to win the game. At the end of regulation and at the end of the 2nd overtime. Both times Kenny Ledet of WOS came up short. Yates took the lead with one-minute remaining on two foul shots in the 3rd overtime. Clement Pink was fouled with only 22 seconds remaining. The foul was called a flagrant by Allen Hudson and pretty much ended the game. Pink hit one of the foul shots while Holcomb knocked down both technical shots. Yates also got possession of the ball and won the game 57-50, advancing to state for the first time in school history. "There is no doubt Yates is more talented and physical than our kids," Barbre said. "But they don't impress you the way they play. He(Malone) needs to unleash those guys more because when its slowed down it's anybody's game," Barbre continued. Only five players scored for Yates with Holcombe leading the way with 26 points followed by Winslow knocking down 17 points and 14 rebounds. Hosea Singleton powered WOS with 16 points mostly from long range. Connally Brown followed Singleton with 15 points while O'Neal added six and Johnson also kicked in six points. WOS finished the season at 30-7.

"I've never been involved in such a game," Tommy Malone said following the game. "It was an emotional drain on everybody. Our guys just reached back and got something extra. Winning this one took away some sting from those losses in the past." Holcombe said following the big win, "It was a tough game, the toughest I've ever played." The Holcombe, Winslow combo combined for 43 of Yates total 57 points. Holcombe was 10 of 21 from the floor and 6 of 8 from the foul line with 11 assists. Winslow hit 8 buckets on 13 attempts. "We didn't make the plays at the end that could have won the game, but Yates did," Coach Barbre said. "Looking back on this game, we can be proud of ourselves. We had a chance to win it."

The guard play of W.O.S. was outstanding by Allen Hudson, Hosea Singleton and Kenny Ledet. Inside the Mustangs relied on 6'7" Connally Brown, who finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds. "They disrupted our inside game a lot," Winslow said. "We're usually trying to go inside but they had that great center. We had to go outside and slowdown." 6'7" post, Stacey Belcher of Yates said following the game, "(SA)Sam Houston was the only team tougher than W.O.S. that we've faced this year." Yates came into the contest ranked #1 in the state and #5 in the nation.

Holcombe played against Winslow and Belcher in the freshmen championship their 9th grade season at their respective Junior Highs. Holcombe played for Johnston and Winslow and Belcher played for Ryan, which won the game 77-70 and finished a perfect season at 35-0.

Longtime Yates coach, Tommy Malone, passed away on July 3, 2018. His impact on Houston basketball was immense. The Yates family was hard hit with the news. Tommy Malone was a TEXAS LEGEND.

The All-Greater Houston squad named by the Houston Post had a definite Yates flavor. Carven Holcombe(22.0) was named "Player of the Year", members of the first team were Winslow(18.0) and Belcher(12.0) from Yates, 6'8" Greg Anderson of Houston Worthing, 6'8" Bruno Kongowain of Houston Marian Christian and 6'2" Billy Reese(24.5) of Aldine. The Post only named five to the first

team while The Chronicle named fourteen to the first unit on the H.I.S.D. unit and sixteen to the All-Greater Houston Team. The Post combined the two areas while the Chronicle separated the two areas.

Coach David Middleton of Klein Forest was named Coach of the Year by the Post. Members of the 2nd five for the Post included, 5'11" Fred Goporo of Marian Christian, 6'2" Everett Gay from Wheatley, 6'3" Roy Waddy of Wheatley, 6'3" Brad Meyer from Clear Lake and 6'6" Gary McGuire from Cypress Creek. Interesting side note is the both Kongowain and Goporo from Marian were named to the 2nd team on the All-District squad by the coaches. The Third team was made up 6'3" Terrance Wilson of Galveston Ball, 6'6" Greg Willis of Houston Madison, 6'1" Fred Demerson of Wheatley, 6'2" Jim Novak of Clear Lake and 6'5" Terrance Woods from Houston Sterling. Some of the more prominent names on the Honorable Mention list were 6'7" Connally Brown of West Orange Stark, Donald Harvey of Madison, Arthur Goudeau from Madison, Darren Sublet of Kashmere, Greg Hines from Forest Brook, Keldred Martin from Yates, Lance Blanks and Sean Gay from Madison, Jamie Weaver from Nederland, Mike Ledbetter from Clear Creek, Chris Reilly from Klein Forest, Jim Rothburn from Memorial, Shannon Nero from Worthing, Arthur Walton from Milby, Reginald Angel from Wheatley, Joe Goudeau from Marian Christian and Steve Russo from Houston St. Thomas.

Kongawoin signed with Houston Baptist early and was a native of Bangul in the Central African Republic. Following his career at Houston Baptist he participated at the 1988 Summer Olympics with the Central African Republic national basketball team. Following the Games, he was released by the Milwaukee Bucks of the NBA just prior to the 1988-89 season. Along with countrymen, Goporo, Kongawoin led Marian to the 3-A TCIL state championship.

Region III

Austin Travis(28-3) #14	Alvin(23-8)
San Antonio Roosevelt(30-3) #3	San Antonio Marshall(20-9)
Mission(22-6)	Corpus Christi Ray(21-9)
Harlingen(25-6)	S. A. Sam Houston(28-7) #15
Laredo Nixon(18-12)	Corpus Christi Moody(23-8)
San Antonio Jefferson(25-7)	San Antonio Churchill(25-9)
San Antonio Jay(20-6)	Eagle Pass(20-9)
San Marcos(29-3) #8	Victoria(24-9)

Top Five in Region IV

6'5"	David Moss	S.A. Sam Houston
6'8"	Raynard Davis	S.A. Sam Houston
6'9"	Sylvester Kincheon	Austin Travis
5'11"	Darryl Derryberry	San Marcos
6'5"	Ike Mitchell	S.A. Roosevelt

District 28-AAAAA

San Antonio Jay(20-6) and San Antonio Marshall(20-9) came out of District action and gained the playoffs spots. The two teams had met prior to District action in the finals of the Northside Tournament. S.A. Marshall came away with the 69-56 victory over Jay that day. The Jay Mustangs looked to Dennis Perryman and Scott Ankrom, while Marshall relied on Jon Sprencel, Johnnie Price and Kurt Martin. In Jay's critical 66-61 District win over Marshall, Dennis Perryman was the leading scorer with 26 points for the Mustangs. Jon Sprencel managed 26 points for Marshall in a losing effort. Marshall took the third meeting between the two

teams 65-57 propelled by Johnnie Price's 24 points and John Butler's 22 points. Perryman again was top dog for Jay.

S.A. Clark finished in 3rd place and S.A. Holmes had a strong 4th place finish paced by Quentin Miller. S.A. Jay and S.A. Marshall both split with Holmes in District. Clark had Holmes number defeating them in both District games 54-42 and 43-42.

District 30-AAAAA

The Mr. Freeze award of 1983 went to Dagoberto Banda of Eagle Pass. Banda went to the line with no time remaining on the clock with his team trailing 48-47 to Laredo Nixon. The lane area was completely devoid of any players as Banda approached the line. Banda was shooting a one and one. The Eagle Pass gym was packed with a standing room only crowd. Dagoberto knocked down both foul shots for the win and the home crowd went absolutely crazy. Banda finished the game as the leading scorer with 23 points and rebounder with 11 boards. With only 19 seconds left, Laredo Nixon standout Gilbert Cruz had gone to the line hitting one of two, giving the Nixon Mustangs the one-point lead.

Eagle Pass had eliminated Laredo Martin the week before with another home victory 71-56. With the victories the Eagles advanced to the first round against San Antonio Jefferson, while Laredo Nixon got San Antonio Sam Houston.

District 26-AAAAA

The Austin District was very competitive in '83. Two teams dominated the scene throughout the 1983 campaign, Austin Travis and San Marcos. The Travis Rebels and the San Marcos Rattlers were big rivals and were paced by two sensational talents in 6'9" Sylvester Kincheon of Travis and 5'11" Daryl Derryberry of San Marcos. Early in the season it was obvious these were two of the top teams in the capital city. Travis held down wins over Texas City(20-11) 71-52, Beaumont Westbrook(28-5) 55-52 and Baytown Sterling(22-12) 65-58. Their only loss in pre-district came against Seguin(23-10) 76-69 in the Austin Invitational tournament.

In the Rebels game against Seguin, Coach Harry Miller of Seguin trailed 43-36 in the 3rd quarter when he decided to switch his press from man to zone. The results were six turnovers and a 54-45 lead for the Matadors of Seguin. Point guard, Chris Flores of Travis commented, "It kind of just caused chaos, we just got out of control." Miller's team was led in scoring by James Harris with 24 points and all five starters finished in double figures.

The Rattlers of San Marcos held down two impressive victories over San Antonio Central Catholic 61-50 and Clear Lake(29-7) 64-59. They also had a one-point loss to one of the top teams in the state, Ft. Worth Dunbar(33-3) 53-52 on their record. Both Travis and San Marcos had one loss coming into the District action. There were ten teams in District 26-5A, which meant twenty games.

Travis was much more dominating against District opponents, although both teams were undefeated going into the two team's first meeting. San Marcos got Travis at home which made them small favorites. The Rattlers coach, Celester Collier said his team's main focus would be finding a way to stop Kincheon. "If we

can stop him we have a good chance,” Collier said. Travis showed why they were one of the best teams in the state overpowering San Marcos 65-37. That’s right, it was a blow-out. Ten minutes into the contest Travis was up 16-3, even though their key players were in foul trouble. Travis shot 46% from the floor while the Rattlers could manage only 35%. Even with foul trouble, Kincheon managed 14 points and 11 rebounds. Coach Collier showed his grit following the game with his comments. “We’re definitely not going to make any excuses, they kicked our butt.” Chris Flores of Travis said, “they probably just had an off night.” The Rebels 2-3 zone did the trick holding Derryberry to 3 of 13 shooting and 12 points. Rob Thomas was 4 of 11 scoring 13 points and Sandy Coleman was only 2 of 11 for four points.

Austin Travis had clearly one of the best players in the state in 6’9” Sly Kincheon. In the Austin Tournament the big senior post had 25 points, 14 rebounds and led the Rebels to an impressive 84-62 victory over Highland Park(19-13). David Reichert had 25 points for the Scots. In the loss to Seguin, Sly had 25 points on 12 of 16 shooting with 9 rebounds in the finals of the Austin Tourney. In District action, he put up 37 points, 7 rebounds and had five blocks against Austin Anderson(18-14) in a 90-68 blowout.

To show the competitiveness of District 26-5A, Austin Crockett(12-19) had an early season victory over San Antonio Sam Houston(32-8) 54-51.

San Marcos was having a much tougher time in District with several close calls and overtime wins. It got to the point where people were referring to them as the cardiac Rattlers, because of all their close wins. Coach Collier’s team had won eleven games by five points or less. Their close wins included Austin Lanier(17-14) by three, S.A. Madison by two, Austin Reagan(23-10) by two, Austin Crockett(12-19) in 2 overtimes by two, and on and on.

As both teams entered the second District game, San Marcos had one District loss and Travis was undefeated. Travis was on 13-game winning streak and had a ton of momentum. Coach Collier of San Marcos said coming into the game, “We’re going to take a whole different approach. I really think the first game was a fluke, I don’t think we’re that bad.” Collier said he had used a match-up zone the first game in an attempt to control Kincheon. This time he would be playing man with backside help and fronting the big boy.

Daryl Derryberry showed why he was one of the top players in the state hitting four foul shots in the final 14 seconds to give the Rattlers a 52-51 win. Travis was now 24-2 on the season and 12-1 in District. The game was played at the Burger Center in Austin before 3,000 paid customers. The attendance numbers broke the previous record set in 1977 between Austin Anderson and Austin Reagan. Derryberry was not having one of his better games early missing eight of his first nine shots. He asked Coach Collier if he could move to the point guard position so he could drive the ball up the court. Collier agreed with his team down eleven points. In the final two minutes of the game, Derryberry brought his team back with six points, two assists and forced two steals to win the game. “There was

no doubt he would hit those free throws at the end,” Collier said. “He’s that kind of player. There was no doubt.” Derryberry finished with 10 points and seven assists on 2 of 11 shooting. “This is the biggest moment of my high school career,” Derryberry said. “I’ve never been in a situation when so much was riding on a pair of free throws. I just tried to block everything out and concentrate on the basket.”

Center Rob Thomas of San Marcos held Sylvester Kincheon to only 14 points in the big victory. “You have to stop him if you’re going to stop Travis,” Thomas said. Thomas was considered one of the top defensive post in the District even though he stood only 6’2”. Thomas fronted Kincheon and Travis tried to counter the defense by lobbing over the top. San Marcos gave help on the backside.

Following the big emotional win, San Marcos turned right around and lost to Austin Reagan 75-65, throwing the District into a tie. “I’m so happy, I could cry,” Gerald Wright(18.5) of Reagan said following the emotional win. Wright put up 33 points in the win and Marshall Sanders added 21 points, while 6’7” James Johnson was a force inside for Reagan. Reagan hit 20 of 24 from the foul line in the win. Rob Thomas knocked down 19 points in a losing effort for the Rattlers and Derryberry came away with 17 points.

Austin Travis was also tripped up on their way to the District title, losing to Austin Lanier(17-14) 49-47, forcing a playoff for the District title. A third game between Travis and San Marcos was needed to decide who would get the top seed in the playoffs. The critical game was played at Strahan Coliseum in front of 4,250 fans. Again, Darryl Derryberry was the hero in overtime hitting two foul shots on a one and one opportunity with 13 seconds remaining. The 55-52 overtime victory gave San Marcos the top seed in the playoffs, which would prove to be valuable. San Marcos hit 17 of 22 from the line for the game. Coach B.J. Wolf commented after the heartbreaking loss, “It’s been free throws the whole year, actually, that was pretty good for us 6 of 16.” Kincheon(23.2/10.0) finished with 14 points and went 4 of 10 from the foul line, while Flores finished with 16 points for the Rebels. Derryberry paced his team with 18 points and Coleman added 12 points. Travis entered the playoffs at 28-4 and San Marcos had an impressive 30-3 mark.

District 27-AAAAA

San Antonio Roosevelt had a nice team in 1983. In pre-district the Rough Riders actually took the state’s top ranking at one point after Yates loss to Bryan. S.A. Roosevelt defeated S.A. Jay(20-7) 75-47, S.A. Marshall(20-8) 49-46 and 64-47, S.A. Sam Houston 65-61 and South Oak Cliff(19-13) out of Dallas 70-59. After acquiring the top rating in the state, the Rough Riders were jinxed losing the next two games to Houston Yates 48-37 in the semi-finals of the Optimist tournament and split with Churchill in the pre-season. Roosevelt won the first game against Churchill(26-10) 71-66 and lost the second 74-72.

Coach Jerry Tyson of Roosevelt had another tough line-up centered around 6’5” Ike Mitchell. Mitchell was named first team All-City by the S.A. Light. This was a tremendous honor because only five players were named. 6’7” Gary

Spray, 6'4" David Lynch, 6'5" Milan Skala, 6'3" Ed Mills and Steve Talbot were key players for the Rough Riders. Roosevelt liked a very deliberate offensive attack trying to use their size in the half-court. The Rough Riders averaged 64.5 points per game and allowed 50.9, which was third in the state for point differential. El Paso Bel Air led the state with a 14.9 advantage followed by Yates at 14.3. San Antonio Roosevelt was right behind them at +13.6. The Rough Riders only allowed three teams to score over 70 points during their 30-4 campaign and lost all three games.

S.A. Roosevelt only lost one District game and that was against their old rival, S.A. Churchill. The Chargers won the first District meeting 71-66 and the Rough Riders got revenge in the re-match 58-54. Churchill(26-10) dropped two other District games against S.A. Madison(22-12) 60-59 and S.A. Lee 71-55. The Chargers won the District playoff for the second spot over S.A. Madison 54-39. Willie Baker paced Churchill with eight points during the third quarter and inspired the Chargers 15-2 scoring spree over a seven-minute span. With 5:55 remaining, Churchill had expanded their advantage to 43-27. "We really didn't do anything special," said Churchill coach Bobby Murphy. "We played a 2-1-2 zone and dropped off on Martin and White when they got the ball." The Mavericks only managed to shoot 30% from the floor for the night. S.A. Madison ended the season with a 22-12 season mark. Kurt Martin still led S.A. Madison with 15 points and Willie Baker paced Churchill with 16 points.

Seguin(23-10) looked strong coming into 27-5A action but finished in 4th place. S.A. Roosevelt dominated S.A. Madison both times by double figures in District action.

27-5A standouts named to the All-City team by the S.A. Light were Willie Baker of Churchill and Steve Gutshall of S.A. Lee. Baker was named to the first team and Gutshall made the 2nd group. Once again, they only named five players to the first and second teams.

District 29-A-A-A-A-A

San Antonio Sam Houston(28-7) went undefeated in District play and really dominated action. District runner-up S.A. Jefferson(25-7) was propelled by Alvin Ellison, Roland Arevalos and James Robinson during the season. Jefferson's only two losses in District came at the hands of the Cherokees 79-74 and 73-64. Fox Tech had a strong group with Robert Smith and a great young guard named Fennis Dembo. Sam Houston was able to handle Fox Tech both times 64-56 and 64-59. Jefferson finished 12-2 in District action by beating Fox Tech in two very close games 52-50 and 39-38. Fox Tech finished District at 10-4. All four losses for Buffaloes came at the hands of S.A. Sam Houston and S.A. Jefferson.

Solid wins Sam Houston came against Baytown Lee(19-11) 101-81, Houston Worthing(19-10) 88-77, San Antonio Jefferson(27-8) 73-60, Ft. Worth Paschal(30-9) 67-59, Houston Kashmere(23-6) 59-57 and San Antonio Churchill 59-53 and 77-71. Losses for the Cherokees were against S.A. Marshall(20-8) 68-65, S.A. Roosevelt(30-4) 65-61, Yates(37-3) 73-55 and Austin Crockett(12-19) 54-51.

District 25-A-A-A-A-A

Victoria(24-9) and Alvin(23-8) tied for the District title with both teams finishing with 12-2 marks. The two teams flipped for the first and second playoff

spots. My personal opinion is that is always the best thing to do unless there is some significant difference in your first-round opponents. I can't tell you how many times I have seen teams play an emotional game like that and turn right around and fall flat in Bi-District against a much lesser opponent. Many times, win or lose, a team can be mentally drained from the experience. These are kids and it's hard to get up in emotional back to back games.

Dulles(24-7) had a real strong 3rd place team finishing 11-3.

Brazoswood(23-9) came in 4th with a 9-5 record. Alvin showed their metal with pre-District win over Galveston Ball(24-11) 62-58.

The All-District named six players to the first team. They included 6'2" C.A. Robert of Dulles, who was named M.V.P., 6'7" Derrick Formby from Brazoswood, 6'4" Rodney Murray of Victoria Stroman, 6'7" Phillip Howard and 5'10" Ronnie Floyd of Alvin and 6'5" Jeff Drost(17.2) of Victoria. 5'11" Bobby Miberger and 6'1" Ricki Brigham were named to the 2nd group from Victoria. Bob Cook of Brazoswood was named "Coach of the Year."

District 31-AAAAA

Corpus Christi Moody(23-8) came away with the District title followed by Corpus Christi Ray(21-9). Charles Shelton was the key to Moody's success during the District campaign. Key contributors for Moody along with Shelton were Charles Francis, Kerry Carroll and Arnold Moore. C.C. Ray looked to Rene Valdez, Robert Skinner and Mike Benavidez.

District 32-AAAAA

Mission(22-6) was able to capture District with a 17-1 record. Their only loss was in the second round against District runner-up, Harlingen(25-6) 69-60. It was the last game of the regular season so for all intent Mission had already won District. Weslaco(24-6) took down the 3rd spot in District action with 12-6 mark. In Harlingen's win over Mission, Sammy Garza paced his team with 23 points and Johnny Jackson added 15 points. For Mission, Noel Cavazos put up 16 points and Jesse Sanchez finished with 15 points.

Noel Cavazos was named District M.V.P. from Mission. David Gilpin was also named to the first team from Mission. Other members of the five-man squad were Arturo Castillo from Weslaco, Sammy Garza of Harlingen and Robert Espericueta from Edinburg.

Playoffs

As the playoff approached Austin Travis had lost two out of three games to San Marcos, but I can assure you in the playoffs, nobody was looking forward to facing Austin Travis. Alvin faced Travis in the first-round in El Campo. Although Travis had lost two in a row, their body of work was very impressive. The Rebels had previously won 23 out of 24 games. The biggest fear Coach Wolf had was his team's foul shooting. "We're not playing well at a crucial time of year. We're kind of down." Wolf decided to make some changes making it harder for teams to sag on Kincheon. He decided to go with a double low post with Cedric Washington moving inside. "What we've got to do is start counter-acting for what people are doing to us." Wolf said. "Things like spreading out the offense a little to keep people from sagging on Sly." Against San Marcos, Kincheon had only 3 points at half and one rebound.

Austin Travis overpowered Alvin in Bi-District 85-60. 6'9" Sylvester Kincheon had a big impact with 25 points, going 10 of 11 from the floor. Chris Flores added 23 points and commented, "We knew we had to have it. Two straight losses make you play harder," Flores said. Coach Bill Ervin of Alvin was not real encouraged after the game, "If we played a good game, I'm not sure if we'd still won. Once we got behind 10 to 12 points we had to do something we weren't accustomed to doing. They obviously didn't work." Alvin was trying everything to slow down Kincheon, which left Cedric Washington and Flores open. Travis was able to open up a 45-23 lead. Alvin committed 19 turnovers against the Rebels 2-2-1 press. The Yellowjackets were only able to shoot 39% from the floor. Ronnie Floyd led Alvin with 19 points. "I'll tell you, when Travis plays well they're the best team in the area. I've seen the San Antonio teams play, but when Travis is right they can beat any of them," Ervin said.

San Marcos(30-3) prepared for their Bi-District encounter with Victoria(24-9). The Austin American said in their preview that the teams were very similar and they proved to be correct. Victoria was paced by 5'10" Robbie Milberger(10.0) who averaged five assists per game. 6'4" Jeff Drost(18.0) was key for Victoria inside. Derryberry paced the Rattlers with 18.0 per game with six assists. Neither team relied a great deal on their bench. Coach Mike Smith of Victoria said, "I think San Marcos is a lot better than we are, I think they have a great team. We'll have to play over our heads to win."

The game went into overtime and you can probably predict who came out winning and how. Anthony Gordon of San Marcos hit two foul shots with six second left to gain the win 70-67. The Cardiac Rattlers came away with another overtime victory. Victoria ran their 1-2-2 half court press, which gave San Marcos trouble. Derryberry scored 25 points, going 9 of 10 from the foul line. Sandy Coleman had a nice game as well finishing with 18 points and 12 rebounds. Rob Thomas added 16 points and 15 rebounds. Jeff Drost led Victoria with 18 points.

The key play of the game occurred with 37 second remaining with San Marcos up 68-67. Bobby Milberger of Victoria was called for charging and gave the ball back to the Rattlers. As you are well aware, charging calls are the most difficult for the referees. San Marcos got the call and with it the win.

Coach Sheridan Pearce was in his second season at San Antonio Marshall having replaced Bobby Murphy at the helm. These were big shoes to fill when considering Murphy had taken Marshall to the state championship game in 1981. Pearce came up with the biggest upset in the opening round of the class 5-A playoffs with S.A. Marshall's 73-66 win over S.A. Roosevelt. The Rough Riders were ranked #3 in the state polls and were one of the favorites in Region IV along with S.A. Sam Houston to advance to state. "The best we've ever played," Pearce said following the big win. "In our second game against them we held Mitchell to three points and everybody else killed us," Pearce said. "I decided Mitchell was going to get his but everybody else was not going to get theirs." The strategy did the trick as Marshall limited every one's scoring while Mitchell finished with 19 points. With

1:16 left, Marshall was in control 70-60. Roosevelt was able to come charging back 70-66, but it was too late. Johnny Price led the scoring parade for S.A. Marshall with 25 points and Jon Sprencel followed with 19. Steve Talbot hit 15 points for S.A. Roosevelt. The Rough Riders had put together a 12-4 run in the 3rd quarter and took a 42-35 lead. Marshall responded with full court pressure and came right back to seize the lead 51-49 after a 19-7 run. Coach Tyson of S.A. Roosevelt was very complimentary of Marshall after the game, "They did a great job, they shot well. They pressed well. They just played a great ballgame."

The much-anticipated match-up between Austin Travis and S.A. Roosevelt never materialized because of S.A. Marshall's big upset over the Rough Riders 73-66. Now Marshall had to deal with Austin Travis. Coach Pearce of Marshall looked to 6'5" Johnny Price(15.0) and 6'2" Jon Sprencel(13.0). Travis main men of course were Kincheon(23.0/11.0), 6'1" Chris Flores(12.0) and 5'9" Mike Raigosa(8.0). Coach Sheridan Pearce was well aware of the uphill battle his team faced against 6'9" Kincheon. "But the problem is the 6'9" kid. He's been a problem for everybody all season."

Austin Travis advanced to regional with another dominate performance defeating S.A. Marshall 78-65. The Rebels shot 89% from the floor in the 2nd half and Flores produced 27 points and the big man added 26. "We went out and played a pretty good second half," Coach Pearce of Marshall said. "But there's nothing you can do when they shoot 90% from the floor." At halftime, Travis was up 30-22. Marshall tried a variety of presses along with a 1-3-1 zone. "Their guards are what hurt us the most," Pearce said. "We knew that Flores was a shooter. We didn't know that Raigosa was going to hurt us as much as he did." Travis really pulled away in the 3rd quarter leading 46-28. Flores had an interesting comment following the game, "I think they were like Alvin, they paid too much attention to Sylvester. As long as they let me have the shot, I'll take it." Sly Kincheon hit 24 points followed by Mike Raigosa with 12 points for Travis. S.A. Marshall had three players in double figures in Johnnie Price with 17 points, Jon Sprencel and Ray Kujawa both added 14 points.

S.A. Churchill began the playoffs with an impressive win over San Antonio Jay 71-60 behind Willie Baker's 24 points. Tim Woods added 15 points along with Paul Meyer's 14 points. "We shot the ball exceptionally well," coach Bobby Murphy commented. The Chargers were able to shoot 75 % from the floor. "I thought it would be closer because they had the size on us," said Murphy. "We're small compared to last year's team so we're more aggressive on defense and we move the ball around on offense." The Chargers felt it was paramount to contain Jay's standout post, Dennis Perryman, sagging on him out of their 2-1-2 zone. Perryman still managed 21 points and teammate Scott Ankrom added 12 points. When asked about the playoff system of adding another team from each District, Coach Murphy said, "If you'd asked me last year, I wouldn't have been for it, but I like it this year. It gets a lot more teams involved."

San Antonio Sam Houston continued their dominance in the first-round match-up against Laredo Nixon 76-54. Coach Dickey changed some presses and took a commanding half-time margin 41-26. Gilbert Cruz and Wicho Tijerina were key for the Mustangs combining for 29 points. Moss finished with 22 points and 9 rebounds, Davis added 18 points and Royster chipped in 14 points for S.A. Sam Houston.

S.A. Jefferson battled Eagle Pass on much more even terms with Jefferson owning a 28-26 advantage at halftime. Jefferson came away with a hard fought 52-44 victory, led by the scoring combination of James Robinson, Roger Henarie and Roland Arevalos. Jefferson's standout, Alvin Ellison, finished with only four points. "We felt we could use our quickness against their size," Coach Marion Williamson of Jefferson said. "Basically, our game is to make a few steals and make a few layups." Williamson continued saying, "we started in man but went to zone because of the heat." 6'3" Dagoberto Banda paced Eagle Pass with 17 points.

Mission(23-5) had to travel to Corpus Christi Ray(21-9) for their Bi-District game. Usually in such a situation there is not a large enough gym to handle a playoff game at a neutral site, so the two teams agree on a home and home. The travel didn't seem to bother Mission as they came away with the win 82-71. Noel Cavazos showed why he was selected District M.V.P. finishing with 34 points. David Gilpin followed with 16 points for Mission. C.C. Ray was led by Robert Skinner with 21 points, Mike Benavidez and Rene Valdez both put up 14 points. Corpus Christi Moody advanced against Harlingen 75-53 even though they had to travel to Harlingen.

In second round action at Texas A&I University, Mission lost to S.A. Jefferson 75-61. Noel Cavazos paced Mission with 18 points and Jesse Sanchez added 13 points. For S.A. Jefferson, Alvin Ellison poured in 22 points, James Robinson added 18 points, Roger Henarie 13 and Roland Arevalos had 11 points. Entering the 4th quarter, Jefferson had a commanding 62-38 lead. S.A. Jefferson showed the strength of District 29-5A by advancing to regionals along with Sam Houston, who defeated Corpus Christi Moody 81-68. The Cherokees faced Moody at Corpus Christi Ray High School. 6'9" Ray Davis managed 31 points on 14 of 21 from the floor for Coach Dickey. Moss followed with 14 points and Royster added 12 points. The focus of the Sam Houston defense was to slow down Charles Shelton. "We doubled on Shelton forcing him to give up the ball," Coach Dickey explained. Moody had a seven-point lead in the 2nd quarter but was overwhelmed in the 2nd half. "We did not play good basketball in the first half," Dickey said. "We played a hully-gully, run and gun game, which is not our style. We wanted to go to Davis and Royster in the 2nd half," Dickey added. Shelton paced Moody with 25 points, followed by Charles Francis and Kenny Carroll both added 10 points.

San Marcos prepared for the defending state champions, San Antonio Churchill in the 2nd round action. 6'4" Paul Meyer(13.0/8.0) and 5'9" Willie Baker(14.0) were key contributors for Churchill. "We're not real big," Coach Bobby

Murphy of Churchill said. Darryl Derryberry commented, "They wouldn't be here if they weren't good."

The Rattlers continued their journey with an impressive 63-51 victory over Churchill at the Convocation Center on the campus of U.T.S.A. "I was real confident about tonight's ballgame," coach Celester Collier said. San Marcos defense was impressive holding Churchill to only 28% shooting from the floor and making only 12 baskets. San Marcos, who was not known for its rebounding, did the job on the boards with a 31-15 advantage. Sandy Coleman pulled in 12 rebounds. Churchill had to foul late and San Marcos was deadly at the foul line, hitting 13 of 14. Derryberry finished with 18 points, leading the way for the winners and Coleman added 16 points. Churchill finished the season at 26-10. Meyer managed 13 points for the Chargers and Willie Baker knocked down 18 points.

Coach Murphy of Churchill explained, "We had a very poor shooting night, I'm real pleased with our players." Murphy continued, "We didn't really anticipate a season like this. With the size we had this year I feel like they played beyond their capabilities."

Regionals

District 26-5A and 29-5A showed their dominance in Region IV as their two representatives marched into regionals in San Antonio. In the District games, Sam Houston handled Jefferson easily in their three meetings, while Austin Travis only won one out of three games against San Marcos. The battle between Austin Travis and S.A. Sam Houston was the premier game and match-up of the region. Sam Houston stood at 30-7 and Travis came in at 30-4. Sam Houston looked to 6'10" Raynard Davis and Travis called on 6'9" Sly Kincheon. These were two of the top big men in the state and top recruits. Seldom had two such high profile players like Davis and Kincheon met in such a meaningful game. Davis(12.3) was no-where as critical to his team's success as Kincheon(23.0). "I heard he's supposed to be better than me, bigger than me and a better shooter than me," Kincheon said. "I might have to go out and prove something to myself and other people."

The Rebels line-up was made up of 6'1" Chris Flores, 6'4" Carl Nuekols, 6'4" Cedric Washington, 5'9" Mike Raigosa, and 6'9" Kincheon. The Cherokees were talented but didn't have the depth as in years past. With three D-1 talents in their line-up, most considered Sam Houston to be the heavy favorites. Remember, Sam Houston had lost the previous season on a last second shot to eventual state champion, San Antonio Churchill and returned all their key players. Coach Wayne Dickey's team was called the most talented squad to come out of the Alamo city since the days of 6'9" Rick Bullock of Jefferson in 1972 and 7'0" Gilbert Salinas of Burbank in the class of '77. Coach Dickey's lineup included 6'7" Don Royster, 6'9" Raynard Davis, 6'5" David Moss, 6'2" Tommy Green, and 5'10" Reggie MacKall. Royster signed with Mississippi and later transferred to Tulsa to play with Moss. Nolan Richardson was the head man for the Hurricanes. 6'9" Davis signed with Texas and was one of the top recruits in the state.

In visiting with Coach Dickey years later he shared with me that he felt his 1982 team was better because of the depth that they had compared to the '83 team. "We could go 10-deep in 1982 with a number of talented seniors on our second unit," Dickey said.

Sam Houston had played a very challenging schedule. One that prepared them for the rigors of the state playoffs. The Cherokees were battle tested even though they had lost seven games. Coach Dickey felt his team was well prepared for the challenges of regionals.

Sylvester Kincheon of Austin Travis scored half his team's points against Sam Houston, but the Rebels came up short losing 65-58. 6'9" Kincheon finished with 29 points, mostly inside. "I know what people have been saying, that I wouldn't be able to hold my own against him," Kincheon said. "But he wasn't as good as everyone was saying and I liked to think I proved a little something myself." Sam Houston led the entire game paced by Moss with 20 points and Davis finished with 18 points. Chris Flores of Travis was held to only five points after putting up 50 points in the first two playoff games.

Coach B.J. Wolf had some interesting comments following his team's elimination. "I think we were intimidated out there. Sam Houston was really aggressive out there, probably as good a team as we've ever seen. Travis shot 60% from the floor and the Cherokees only managed 40%. The difference was rebounding which Sam Houston dominated 37-20. Coach Dickey of Sam Houston said. "Our forward play was the key for us, they pressured them up front, and sagged on the big guy underneath." Most of Davis' points came from the key area. Davis said following the game, "I think we can go all the way, as long as we play as one, unselfishly, not caring who scores the most points."

San Marcos was a team that received very little respect making their deep run in the playoffs. But two things were very clear when facing the Rattlers. Don't make the game close if you expect to win and keep them off the foul line. S.A. Jefferson relied on a small quick pressing line-up made up of 6'4" Roland Arevalos(14.4), 6'5" James Robinson, 6'0" Roger Henarie, 5'10" Anthony Johnson and 5'10" Alvin Ellison(14.0). The Mustangs must have not scouted San Marcos, because they would have known the Rattlers were automatic from the line.

San Marcos advanced to the regional finals with a 73-64 victory over Jefferson, hitting 39 of 43 foul shots. Over half their points came from the foul line. Derryberry was 16-16 and finished with 28 points, Sandy Coleman was 9 of 10 and finished with 17 points. Dennis Walker hit 8 of 10 and tallied 12 points. "We've been shooting free throws well throughout the playoffs," Coach Collier said. That is an understatement. The Rattlers only shot 36% from the floor and 91% from the foul line. S.A. Jefferson committed 24 fouls and forced San Marcos to the foul line 15 times in the fourth quarter and watched the Rattlers hit 11 of the freebies.

Obviously, Coach M.T. Williamson of San Antonio Jefferson was not happy about the discrepancy from the foul line. The Mustangs only shot 8 of 12. "But 43 free throws compared to 12, that's a big gap." Rob Thomas of San Marcos suffered

a season ending ankle injury early in the contest. The 6'2" Thomas was considered one of the top defenders in District 26-5A.

San Marcos had expanded their lead to 39-26 in the 3rd quarter. Alvin Ellison of Jefferson responded scoring 10 of his 28 points to get the Mustangs back into the game 48-44. Jefferson began fouling late which worked to San Marcos' advantage. Williamson commented after the game, "I don't feel like they were a better team than us. They were just better than us tonight." Arevalos poured in 22 points for the Mustangs and he and Ellison combined for 50 of the Jefferson's 64 total points. San Marcos also outrebounded Jefferson 31-26.

On the approaching game with San Marcos, Coach Dickey of Sam Houston summarized facing the Rattlers. "They're a real smart ballclub. They do what they have to do to win. They get ahead, go to the spread and they don't miss many free throws." When asked about Sam Houston's overwhelming size advantage, Dickey didn't want to hear about it having lost the previous season to Churchill. "I worry about everything, I don't ever eat before the games anymore because I throw it up," Dickey said.

In the regional finals, San Marcos just did not have enough fire power to stay with Sam Houston, losing 59-41. San Marcos never got any closer than 10 points in the second half and at one point were down 20 points to the Cherokees. The Rattlers held the Cherokees eight points under their season offensive average but were only able to put up 41 points. "We were outmanned," Coach Collier of San Marcos said. "I always feel like we can come back. We have all season long, but you're a little crazy if you don't think they're going to out rebound us." Sam Houston's front line of 6'10", 6'7" and 6'5" towered over the smaller Rattlers. The rebound total was only 31-23 in favor of Sam Houston, but the inside dominance was indicated by the combined 13 points produced on the inside by San Marcos. Anthony Gordon, Dennis Walker and Sandy Coleman were held in check the entire game. Derryberry managed double figures with 16 points along with Rob Thomas' replacement, Glen Gray, who had 12 points. For Coach Dickey's Cherokees, Moss put up 26 points and Davis added 13 points.

"We knew we had to play well because their a small, but good ballclub, they're probably the smartest ballclub we've played," Moss said following the game. Coach Dickey was really pleased with his team's speed with the steals from Derryberry. "We had six or seven steals from Derryberry and when you take it from him your taking it from one of the best," Dickey said. We just wanted to keep him from penetrating because one way or another he accounts for about 45 or 50 of their points." Dickey continued. The Cherokees held Derryberry to only 16 points and only two foul shots. We started trapping him all over the court trying to make him pick up his dribble, but he kept throwing the ball over us."

Another problem for San Marcos was the full court press employed by Sam Houston. Coach Dickey liked to pressure opponents with a full court man press which created 22 turnovers against the Rattlers. With the score 12-10 in favor San Marcos, Sam Houston forced five straight turnovers to take a 22-12

advantage. From that point on Sam Houston was able to expand their lead to 55-35 with only 3:41 left in the contest. San Marcos finished 33-4 on the season and Coach Collier was very proud of his troops for all they had accomplished over the season.

When Dickey was questioned about Yates he responded, “I’d love to play them again, that’s what the kids have been working toward.”

<u>State Tournament</u>				
Bryan	31-5	#4	68.4-57.5	+10.9
Ft. Worth Paschal	29-7	#20	69.2-58.7	+10.5
Houston Yates	37-2	#1	63.6-49.3	+14.3
S. A. Sam Houston	32-7	#15	67.6-56.0	+11.6

<u>Top Five Players at the State Tournament 5-A</u>		
6’8”	Ricky Winslow	Houston Yates
6’4”	Carven Holcombe	Houston Yates
6’8”	Raynard Davis	S.A. Sam Houston
6’5”	David Moss	S.A. Sam Houston
6’3”	Rod Bernstine	Bryan

The 1983 state tournament would have #4 ranked Bryan(31-5) playing San Antonio Sam Houston(32-7) at 4:00 P.M. Houston Yates(37-2), the state’s top ranked team, facing Ft. Worth Paschal(29-7) in the night cap. Paschal pulled an enormous upset defeating arch rival Dunbar by one point in the regional finals. All four of the entries had played in the Optimist Tournament in San Antonio in mid-December. Yates took the title defeating S.A. Sam Houston in the finals 73-55. Sam Houston defeated Ft. Worth Paschal in an early round 67-59 and then the Panthers were beaten by Bryan in the second round 68-65. Bryan lost to Central Catholic 69-66 in the first round which threw them into the consolation bracket. The Vikings ended up winning consolation 60-48 over S.A. Fox Tech.

I remember the ’83 tournament well and all eyes were on Houston Yates. I had read all about them and their talent. “We’ve played both Bryan and Sam Houston this season and know something about them,” Yates coach Tommy Malone said. “Of course, we have all heard a lot about Ft. Worth Dunbar and when Paschal beat them we had to think that this was a great team coming out of Ft. Worth,” Malone continued. “I understand Paschal is not very big but are quick and have some great shooters. We played Sam Houston early in the season at the San Antonio tournament and believe me, they are big. They’ve got Ray Davis and David Moss inside.” In discussing Bryan, Malone said, “We lost to Bryan 62-47 at Victoria and then a few days later came back to beat them 47-42 in Bryan. The Bryan-Sam Houston game should be a war but our main concern is Paschal, nothing else right now. We don’t intend to change from what we did in the other playoff games.”

Bryan came into Austin with a great deal of momentum. I know from my view point, I felt three of the top teams in the state were not in Austin; Richardson, Dallas Kimball and Ft. Worth Dunbar. Bryan had eliminated two of those three teams. I had not seen Yates yet, but I was a Bryan believer after what I had seen in

regionals. As usual we knew very little about the San Antonio entry, Sam Houston. Coach Dickey was making his second appearance in Austin. In 1980 Sam Houston had lost to Houston Kashmere in the semi-finals.

As Sam Houston prepared for their second state tournament visit in four seasons, Coach Dickey was asked to compare his 1980 squad with the '83 team. "They both had a hell of a coach," Dickey said. "This team is a lot better inside than our '80 team, they're also much better pressing." Dickey continued saying, "I feel better this time around than I did the last, the kids are more serious." In discussing his star player Moss, "I never thought that Moss would be the player that he is. The competitor, yes, but he's really developed into a super player." Dickey also shared that he was not only preparing for Bryan but also getting ready for a possible re-match with Yates should they make the finals. The reasoning was very solid. Because of the quick turnaround time of one day you would have no time to prepare for the championship game.

Coach Larry Brown of Bryan felt his team belonged, "I think we have as good a chance as any, I really do. We just felt like we should be here. We're not starry eyed. We didn't come down here to take up space." The Vikings were definitely ready for their first state tournament.

In a classic confrontation Bryan came away with an oh so close victory over Sam Houston 64-63 in the state semi-final contest. Kenny Keller, a 6'5" Bryan sophomore, stepped to the line for a one and one situation with eight seconds on the clock. The Vikings were up by one 62-61. Keller knocked down both shots and Reggie Mackall of Sam Houston hit a bucket with two seconds left to make the final 64-63. The game had seven lead changes in the second half. Coach Wayne Dickey of Sam Houston felt the turning point of the game came in the 4th quarter with his team up by one and had the ball. Sam Houston failed to convert and Bryan came back to take the lead. Coach Dickey said following the game, "The offensive boards are where we lost. Their aggressiveness definitely hurt us. They did a good job with their zone and press."

Darrell Mitchell finished with 16 points for Bryan, Rod Bernstine added 15 points, Kenny Keller came off the bench for 14 points and Kevin Bradsher finished with 10 points. David Moss had 20 points for Sam Houston in a losing cause. Tommy Green finished with 12 points for the Cherokees. Bernstine pulled down 13 rebounds and Royster countered with 12 boards for Sam Houston. The Cherokees won the rebound battle 41-36. Bryan was 25 of 57 from the floor for 43 % and Sam Houston 28 of 58 for 48%. The free-throw line was the difference for Bryan hitting 14 of 23, while Sam Houston could only manage 7 of 13.

"It just goes to prove it's not always the best ballclub that wins, but the ballclub that goes to its strengths the best," Coach Dickey said following the heartbreaking loss. "We just didn't play smart basketball. It's as simple as that. We had an opportunity to win it and didn't."

With two All-Americans pacing Coach Tommy Malone's attack, Yates looked impressive. 6'8" Ricky Winslow(18.0) and 6'4" Carven Holcombe(24.4) were

special talents. Two of the best to ever play in Austin. 6'7" Stacey Belcher played the post, 6'7" Keldred Martin and 6'2" Clement Pink were major contributors. Key players off the bench were 6'3" Earl Swindle and 6'5" Eugene Hall. Winslow and Belcher signed with Houston, Holcombe and Martin committed to T.C.U. and Swindle signed with North Texas State. Horace Taylor was Paschal's tallest player at 6'4". "Their size doesn't worry us," says Buckley. "We've been playing larger teams all year." Coach Jim Wall added, "The pressure's not on us, it's on them, if we lose, we lose to the number one team. But they're supposed to win." Wall continued saying, "We can't run with them because of their depth, and we can't get into a half-court game with them because of their size. We've got to play good defense, we've got to utilize our quickness and we've got to rebound. If we can outrebound them, I think we can win the ballgame." When Coach Robert Hughes was asked about Paschal's chances in Austin he replied, "I've got to think they're pretty good. They beat us." Paschal also had an early season win over DeMatha of Hyattsville, Maryland in the West Side Lions Club Tournament 56-55.

Senior Captain, Carven Holcombe of Yates said, "Pressure, it's really hard on us. It's hard because everyone wants to beat the number one team. You have to go out and prove yourself." Yates had barely got past West Orange Stark in regionals in three overtimes 57-50. "I hope this is the year," Winslow said. "I feel confident we can win it, not that we're the only team here or anything like that. But we came here to win it all."

In discussing Paschal distractions during the season Coach Wall said, "Some things are better left unsaid. But this is probably one of the hardest teams to coach that I've ever had. There are a bunch of different personalities on this team and I think it created problems during the season." In discussing Vernon Coleman's disagreement with Coach Wall, Coleman said, "That's been going on since my freshmen year. He stays on me a lot. But that's all right. I know he cares about me a lot. And it's helped me improve." Wall commented on today's players saying, "I think kids nowadays think of discipline as punishment instead of something that will help them. Well, I'm from the old school. We're going to do it my way or we're not going to do it, and that's something I'll probably never change." Wall continued saying, "Kids are better basketball players today, but you've got psychological problems with kids that I don't think you used to have. Sometimes, I'm the only one that hollers at them and I think they resent it."

As for support for Paschal during the season, Coach Wall was disappointed, "We haven't had any following, and that's one thing that has puzzled me, I counted 50 heads in Midland." According to Coach Wall the turning point of the season occurred after a practice game against Denton. After a lot of internal bickering the team came away with a close win. After the game, Coach Wall called for a practice to get things straight. Many players were rumored to be walking out on Coach Wall before the Weatherford playoff game, only two days away. "We've come a long way this year," George Davis said, "but it's all been worth it."

As for the Paschal vs. Yates game, Coach Wall said, "I don't think we're as talented as the others. But at this time of the year there are so many intangibles that can play a part in a basketball game, that you never know what can happen." "I would have preferred to have played either Bryan or Sam Houston, I felt we had a chance to beat either one of them, but I don't know about Yates." "I haven't seen Yates play, but I know they're pretty talented. We're going to be at a very great disadvantage with our height." Wall continued saying, "we beat Dunbar and they may be the best team in the state."

In one of the biggest upsets in state tournament history, Paschal knocked off the #1 team in the state, Houston Yates 53-48. Paschal relied on outside shooting and pressure defense as equalizing factors against the over-all size of the Lions. So, with the victory the Panthers had now defeated nationally ranked DeMatha, #2 ranked Ft. Worth Dunbar and #1 Yates. All-American Ricky Winslow scored 24 points, 20 of which came in the second half. Winslow also pulled down 13 rebounds. The Lions had narrowed the gap to 50-48 with just 30 seconds remaining. Paschal had the ball and Vernon Coleman was fouled with 17 seconds remaining by Winslow. Coleman hit the front end of the one and one to give the Panthers a three-point advantage. Yates came down quickly and missed their last opportunity, which George Davis rebounded. The senior guard was fouled immediately and knocked down both foul shots to make the final 53-48. "It feels good. It always feels good to be in the state final," Coach Jim Wall said.

Unfortunately for Paschal, point George Davis left the court on a stretcher and was hurt late in the contest and was taken to the local hospital for X-rays on his leg. "I don't think it's serious, just a bruise," Coach Wall said. Davis was the key player in Friday's win over Yates with 18 points and great guard play. Paschal's press produced 23 turnovers against Yates and proved to be a big factor in the Panthers win. Coleman added 12 points for Paschal, while Taylor finished with 10 points. For Coach Malone, Winslow was the only Lion in double figures.

With both teams playing the slow-down game, Paschal led at halftime 19-16. "It's a big advantage for us when they slow it down," Wall said, "we only have six guys that can play. We can't run up and down the floor with anybody. We just don't have the people." Yates missed eight of 12 layups during the 2nd quarter. The Panthers opened the 2nd half in a full-court press which really turned the game in Paschal's favor forcing seven turnovers. The Panthers went up 37 to 25 in the 3rd quarter. "The press hurt them a lot and I don't even think we executed it that well," Wall said. "I wanted to use it earlier but I had to protect my players from foul trouble. We knew we couldn't press the entire game or they would have run us in the ground, but it certainly helped give us a good lead, and we needed it," Wall said. Paschal committed 17 turnovers of which four came early in the 4th quarter. "The press did hurt, and we helped it with some sloppy ball handling," Holcombe said. "They were so quick, and that press got them rolling and hurt us," Winslow said. "After they got 11 points ahead and were moving the ball around so

well, we knew it was going to be hard to come back. We got close but came up short," Winslow continued.

Yates only shot 37% from the floor. Coach Tommy Malone was not happy saying, "Missed layups were what beat us. In the second quarter, we were 3 of 12, turnovers and missed layups just killed us. When you shoot that bad, there's no way you can win, no matter how big you are." Probably the biggest factor for Yates was the illness of star player Carven Holcombe. The standout senior only scored eight points, well below his average of 22 or 24 depending on who's numbers you are looking at. Holcombe was Yates best shooter and hit only 4 of 14 from the floor. "I lost five pounds coming into the game and of the four shots I hit, two were prayers," Holcombe said years later. "I just had no strength." Holcombe continued saying, "I will always feel confident that if I would have been healthy we would have won the game." Paschal shot 41 % from the floor. The big difference came at the foul line as the Panthers were 15 of 24 while Yates was 6 of 11.

Paschal quickness gave Yates problems as Coach Wall was employing three and four guards in his line-up running his delay game. Yates won the rebound battle 43-29 with Martin pulling down 11 boards. "But rebounds don't mean a thing unless you can score off them," Coach Malone said. "And we just missed too many shots inside the paint to win. That's what beat us."

For Coach Jim Wall, now in his 12th season at Paschal, was returning to the state championship game. The wily veteran was back in the title game. It brought back a lot of fond memories of his 1975 team. "I wish I had a couple of those players from that team," Wall said. "Because that team probably had more talent than this one does. In fact, we've got a chance to win the state championship with one of the worst teams I've had in the last six years. That's what so wonderful about it." In comparing Paschal's talent to Yates, Wall said, "I don't think I've had a college recruiter in my gym this year. This is probably the shortest team I've ever had, but we've beat some pretty good people. We're not as talented, but I think we've had some breaks and tips and played well when we had to."

In the end, Yates had one of the most talented teams the state has produced. "We didn't want it to end like this," Holcombe said. "We thought we could win it all this year. But we just didn't play well, not like we can. Not in my wildest dreams did I think we would not win. It just happened." Coach Tommy Malone said, "We just had a bad game, but we got farther than any Yates team in the past. We can say that much."

In the 5-A state championship game in front of 13,060 fans, Bryan proved they were the best team in the state. Having beaten Dallas Kimball, Richardson, Houston Yates, S.A. Sam Houston, Ft. Worth Paschal twice and Houston Madison, there could be little doubt after their convincing victory over Ft. Worth Paschal 71-54. Six players for Coach Larry Brown finished in double figures. Kenny Keller came off the bench for Bryan to score 11 points, Billy Chambers hit 14 points, Darrell Mitchell finished with 13, Bradsher 10, Dickson 13 and Bernstine 10. Horace Taylor was the only Panther in double figures scoring 23 points. Taylor was 10 of 16 from

the floor for Coach Wall. On the evening, Bryan was 28 of 43 from the floor for 65%, while Paschal finished 24 of 49 for 49%. The Vikings won the battle of the foul line shooting 15 of 24, while the Panthers could only manage 6 of 11.

“Bryan played well, and I can’t take anything away from them,” Coach Jim Wall said. “I think we may have played the state championship last night. I think that may have hurt us a little mentally. It’s hard to tell 16 and 17-year-old kids to get psyched up after such a big win. We accomplished a lot of things this year that was amazing.” The Paschal head man continued saying, “We just got outplayed, that’s all there was to it. We played two great teams to get here and we couldn’t make it three straight. There was really no way we should have beaten Yates in the semi-finals,” Wall said.

Coach Larry Brown of Bryan said, “A lot of people will say that winning a big game can hurt you, and I didn’t think Paschal would beat Yates, but even us beating Sam Houston was a big game. When you get to the final four, everybody’s tough. I do give Paschal credit, because they’ve had a fine season and Wall has done a good job.” Brown continued saying, “We weren’t a team with superstars, but everybody had his role and when they play together like a team...well you can see the results.”

Bryan led at halftime 40-27 and 56-42 at the end of the third quarter. The Viking press gave Paschal trouble throughout. Paschal had two players foul out, Davis and Coleman. Paschal had 23 fouls compared to 19 for the Vikings.

Years later, I asked Coach Brown about the tough teams he had faced, Sam Houston, Yates and Kimball. Those four teams finished in my final top five teams in the state. Add Ft. Worth Paschal, Richardson, Killeen and Kashmere and you have seven teams ranked in my final top twenty. When asked, who was his toughest opponent he responded, “Sam Houston, Kimball and Yates were just so talented with all their division one players and Richardson was the consummate team with no real stars. Paschal was a team I identify with because they were like us, kind of a dark horse. Nobody thought they were that strong.” Brown replied. “We weren’t the best team in the state, we just happen to peak at the right time. I really believe there is an art to getting your team to peak at the right time, it involves scheduling and player rotation.” Coach Brown said he relied heavily on football players. On his 1983 state title team, six of the twelve players came out of football. “We had a great relationship with the football program.” The football coaches were always after Bernstine to stay in the weight room and go straight football. The future 11-year NFL veteran told the coaches, “I’m thinking about going straight basketball.” They never bothered him again about leaving basketball.

All-tournament team was made up of Ricky Winslow of Yates, Rod Bernstine, Kenny Keller, Darrell Mitchell all from Bryan, Horace Taylor of Paschal and David Moss of S.A. Sam Houston.

Catching up with Charles Young of Tyler Lee, Class of 1982

Charles Young was one of the top players to ever come out of East Texas. He paced Tyler Lee to a 30-5 record averaging 25.3 per game. He was named first team All-State by both the T.A.B.C. and Sports Writers. The accolades on Young were many from opposing coaches and scouts. Longtime head man, LeRoy Romines, from Longview High school called Young, "one of the best players I've seen in high school. When you have a kid like Young, when the pressure's is on, he wants the ball and the last shot and will usually make it." Tyler Lee coach, Harry Masch said, "I've never had a player like him." Masch was a veteran coach and one of the top coaches in the state at the time. The three top recruits in 1982 were Alvin Franklin(28.0) from LaMarque, Carl Wright(25.0) from Dallas Roosevelt and Young. Both Franklin and Wright were drafted into N.B.A. Franklin played for Phi Slamma Jama at the University of Houston and Wright helped propel S.M.U. into the NCAA tournament his junior year.

Young's recruitment was not real wide spread because of his grades. Word got out that Charles would be going the junior college route after receiving over 100 letters from colleges all over the country.

I was finally able to run down Charles, who is presently living in Tyler and working as a truck driver. "I made a lot of mistakes that I would have done differently if I had the chance. I was the oldest of six kids and my mother was a single parent trying to raise us kids. It's not an excuse, but it was just the way it was. She was not real healthy and had epilepsy. She passed two years ago. She really enjoyed coming to my basketball games. She did the best she could, but it was hard for her," Young explained. Following high school, Young stayed in East Texas attending Kilgore J.C. and averaged 18.0 points a game for the Rangers. The Kilgore coach was Carter Williams. "They really wanted me, they had **WANTED** posters all over campus with my picture on it recruiting me," Young said. Charles left Kilgore and got married to his high school sweetheart and bought a car. While attending East Texas State in Commerce, Charles got in trouble with the law and the police arrested him. He was later released from jail and went back to Tyler. Once again, Charles made some poor decisions and got in trouble with the law. This time he got into it with two men who he caught messing with his girlfriend. He knocked their teeth out and did some damage. Charles then proceeded to rob them of some cash. "I was running with the wrong crowd and was influenced by my peers. I really made some bad decisions. I didn't take care of my grades and smoked too much weed. I took everything for granted, especially basketball. I was so good, I could have really went somewhere playing ball. I had that killer instinct on a basketball court. I felt like nobody could stop me," Young emphasized.

Young's lawyer encouraged him to take a Plea Bargain for the robbery charges and he felt they would drop the assault charges. "Which was probably a mistake," Young said. Charles was sentenced to 16 years in prison and served ten. "While I was in Huntsville, I made trustee, which gave me more freedom within the jail, I wasn't locked in a cell all day," Charles said. While in prison, Charles lost his

father that he barely knew. "I've straightened out my life since prison. I've found the lord and a deacon in my church," Charles said. "Women, smoking weed and peer pressure all got me sidetracked. I should have been stronger, but I was all caught-up in the wrong things. Wish I'd found the lord sooner. He saved me. That was a long time ago, I've changed, I live a good life."

1983 State Rankings AAAAA {End of the Regular Season}:

1. Houston Yates	33-2	6'7" Ricky Winslow(18.0), 6'4" C. Holcombe(24.0)
2. Ft. Worth Dunbar	30-2	5'10" Lawrence Hudson(17.0), 6'4" John Johnson
3. San Antonio Roosevelt	30-3	6'5" Ike Mitchell(16.1)
4. Bryan	27-5	6'3" Rod Bernstine, 6'1" Darrell Mitchell
5. Dallas Kimball	27-4	6'5" Marvin Washington, 6'4" Dwayne Brown(17.0)
6. Houston Madison	26-4	6'6" Greg Willis, 6'2" Donald Harvey
7. Longview	29-2	6'8" Jerry Holmes(15.0)
8. San Marcos	29-3	5'11" Daryl Derryberry
9. Beaumont West Brook	26-4	6'2" James Nance
10. West Orange Stark	27-6	6'7" Connally Brown, 6'4" Hardy O'Neal
11. Irving MacArthur	30-0	6'5" Bryan Amason, 6'5" Mike Nation
12. Killeen	25-3	6'4" Marcus Bolden(23.0)
13. Wilmer Hutchins	30-4	6'3" Johnny Fuller(23.0), 6'1" Ricky Grace
14. Austin Travis	28-3	6'8" Sylvester Kincheon(23.0)
15. S.A. Sam Houston	29-7	6'8" Raynard Davis(14.0), 6'5" David Moss
16. Richardson	30-2	6'1" Mark Buchanan(13.), 6'3" Darrell Jordon(9.2)
17. El Paso Eastwood	24-4	6'4" Johnny Gipson, 6'4" Nate Shepard
18. El Paso Bel Air	24-2	6'1" Zeak Williams, 6'3" Phil Larkin
19. Houston Kashmere	23-5	6'3" Darren Sublet, 6'2" James Phipps
20. Ft. Worth Paschal	24-7	6'2" Vernon Coleman, 6'4" Horace Taylor

All-State Team: As usual the Sports Writers of Texas did an outstanding job naming the All-State line-up. Almost anybody who followed high school basketball could name the **1st team**. 6'9" Sylvester Kincheon(23.6) of Austin Travis, 6'4" Carven Holcombe(24.4) of Houston Yates, 6'9" Ray Davis(13.8) of San Antonio Sam Houston, 6'8" Ricky Winslow(18.0) of Houston Yates, and 6'5" Dwayne Brown(17.0) of Dallas Kimball; **2nd team**, 6'7" Connally Brown of West Orange Stark, 6'3" Rod Bernstine of Bryan, 6'1" Darrell Mitchell of Bryan, 6'3" Mike Blair of L.B. Bell, 5'11" Daryl Derryberry of San Marcos; **3rd team**, 6'6" Dennis Perryman of San Antonio Jay, 6'4" Gil Wright of Plainview, 6'8" Jerry Holmes(15.0) of Longview, 5'8" Billy Chambers of Bryan, 6'4" Marcus Bolden(23.0) of Killeen High:

The **Texas Association of Basketball Coaches**: **1st team**-6'4" Gil Wright(27.0) of Plainview, 6'3" Mike Blair of L.D. Bell, 6'8" Ricky Winslow(18.0) of Houston Yates, 6'8" Raynard Davis(13.0) of San Antonio Sam Houston, 5'11" Daryl Derryberry(22.0) of San Marcos; **2nd Team**-6'5" Dwayne Brown(17.0) of Dallas Kimball, 6'1" Darrell Mitchell of Bryan, 6'4" Carven Holcombe(24.4) of Houston Yates, 6'7" Connally Brown of West Orange Stark, 6'9" Sylvester Kincheon(23.6) of Austin Travis. **3rd Team**-6'3" Johnny Fuller(23.0) of Wilmer Hutchins, 6'7" Jay Crane of Haltom, Robert Harris of Seguin, 5'11" Lawrence Hudson(16.7) of Ft. Worth Dunbar, 6'4" Marcus Bolden(23.0) of Killeen High:

T.A.B.C. All-Star Game: Anthony Fobbs, FW Southwest; Mike Blair, L.D. Bell; Dwayne Brown, Dallas Kimball; Johnny Fuller, Wilmer Hutchins; Mike Nelson, Pampa; Gil Wright, Plainview; Jay Crane, Haltom; David Reichert, Highland Park; Jody Reeves, Allen; Terrance Sheppard, Borger; Sylvester Kincheon, Austin Travis; Daryl Derryberry, San Marcos; Brad Broussard, Beaumont Westbrook; Connally Brown, Orange Stark; Carven Holcombe, Houston Yates; Ray Davis, SA Sam Houston; Mike Washington, Waxahachie; Lloyd MaArthur, Silsbee; Robert Smith, Seguin; Billy Chambers, Bryan; Ronnie Thomas, A&M Consolidated:

Recruits: The Knoxville News-Sentinel listed the top 100 players in the country and as you might expect, Texas was not well represented. Ricky Winslow came in at #39, Raynard Davis at #66 and Carven Holcombe #68. In the annual Blue-Chip poll produced by the Times Herald in Dallas, 6'8" **Ricky Winslow** (22.5/12.0/8.0 assists) was hands down the top recruit in Texas. The poll was made up of Southwest Conference recruiters. University of Houston was in the midst of their great run in the NCAA tournament and had their choice of top recruits. Winslow was the only unanimous selection as the top recruit and made numerous high school All-American teams. Winslow was so talented he had even made the Parade All-American team as a junior. An astute Boyce Honea said the following about Winslow, "I'd only call him an average shooter, but I'd score him a "10" in everything else. He's a great college prospect. He can get up and down the floor and he likes to dunk. He'll fit right into the fraternity." In discussing Winslow and Holcombe one scout commented, "You can believe all that stuff about Louisville and Texas if you want to, but when it comes down to the nitty-gritty, they'll go to Houston. I'd be shocked if they didn't." One Southwest Conference scout said, "Winslow can be awesome, everybody would like to have him." Another scout exclaimed, "Winslow has great physical skills. He's quick and he can run, rebound, handle the ball, shoot, and he's 6'8". There's nothing he can't do." Former Yates graduate Michael Young was assigned to recruiting the 6'8" talent. Winslow participated in the most prestigious high school All-Star game at the time, the Dapper Dan Classic in Pittsburgh, as well as the McDonald's All-Star game. The Cougars coordinator for scouting commented about Winslow and Holcombe, "Everybody knows we're after those two players, if we can get them and two more players that we're seriously looking at, it would be one of the greatest recruiting classes ever for UH." With Houston, Winslow played in one Final Four and two NCAA tournaments along with teammate Cadillac Anderson from Houston Worthing. Winslow averaged 12.8/ 7.4/ 2.4 assists with the Cougars. Teammate **Carven Holcombe**(24.4) was the #2 recruit in the state and was called by one scout the, "second coming of Otis Birdsong," he continued by saying, "Carven Holcombe is the best player in the state." He's projected as a guard or forward at the next level. "I think he is the best outside shooter of any high school player I've seen and he's good in crucial situations. He's the type player who would want the ball when the game was on the line," another scout remarked. Carven surprised everybody by going to a different school than Winslow. Holcombe took his talents to T.C.U. Assistant Coach Kirkpatrick of Houston was shocked when Holcombe announced

his commitment to the Horn Frogs. Holcombe had visited Villanova and really liked it there but it was cold and a long way from Houston. He also visited Texas, Houston and Missouri. Holcombe had scheduled visits to Alabama, Kentucky and Louisville but after his visit to the Horn Frogs he cancelled the rest of his visits. T.C.U. was coached by Coach Killingsworth at the time. The Horn Frogs made several promises to Holcombe. He could be a four-year captain, four-year starter and would have an opportunity to turn the Horn Frogs program around. Coach Killingsworth commented following the signing, "I'm just totally thrilled to have a player as talented as Carven coming to play for us." Houston's Coach, Guy Lewis commented following the shocking announcement, "Nothing should surprise me about recruiting, but his sure does, of course we have other kids we are recruiting, but I can't deny Carven was one of our top recruits." Following his All-Southwest Conference career at T.C.U. Carven was projected to go in the top 30 in the N.B.A. by the legendary expert, Marty Blake. Holcombe's agent was Bill Blakely of North Texas State. Carven said he was never informed about Blakes projections in the N.B.A. draft. If he would have known this he would not have attended all the pre-draft camps. Carven went into the camps with a bad ankle sprain, which really limited his ability to go laterally playing defense. In Hawaii, he was still hurt and in the pre-draft camp in Chicago his stock continued to fall. He was selected by the Cavs in the 4th round and #80 overall. After the second week in the Bulls camp he reinjured his ankle and was done. Rochester, Minnesota owned his C.B.A. rights and their coach was the former U.C.L.A. legend, Henry Bibby. After playing in Rochester, Holcombe decided the money was much better in Europe. He played in Spain, France and Belgium for seven years. The Mavericks brought Carven into camp when Steve Alford and several other rookies were holding out. Holcombe played in a tournament with the Mavs in pre-season, but the rookies finally signed and it was back to Europe. "I would have played another six or seven seasons in Europe but my wife didn't want to raise our kids in Europe." Carven coached AAU basketball for a long time and is presently the varsity assistant at Plano East High School coaching girls. Carven was very happy with his time at T.C.U. and thought the world of Coach Jim Killingsworth. "He kept me on the straight and narrow." Holcombe was a four-year starter and was named "Player of the Year" in the Southwest Conference averaging 17.5/5.3/2.2 assists for the Frogs. Also, T.C.U. improved every season Holcombe played for Killingsworth finishing 11-17, 16-12, 22-9 and 24-7. His senior year the Frogs advanced to the second round of the NCAA tournament and finished 19th in the AP poll. The Frogs have only made one NCAA appearance since the 1987 season. The 1987 season was also the farthest the Horn Frogs advanced in the tournament dating all the way back to 1968. The University of Texas grabbed the #3 recruit in 6'9" **Raynard Davis**(13.8/11.8) of Sam Houston out of San Antonio. Davis was considered the top big man in the state. His senior year with the Longhorns he averaged 12.4 points along with 5.7 rebounds. 6'5" **Carlton McKinney**(27.6/16.3/6.2 assists) of Nixon was the #4 recruit in the state according to the survey. McKinney looked at Arkansas, S.M.U. Houston,

Memphis State and Baylor. Tulsa and Coach Nolan Richardson landed another big fish. McKinney played two seasons with the Hurricanes before transferring to Dallas to play for S.M.U. McKinney had two standout seasons with the Mustangs averaging 16.0 points, 5.2 rebounds and 3.6 assists. 6'5" **Dwayne Brown**(17.0) of Dallas Kimball took his skills to Baylor. "Brown is definitely the best player in Dallas," one Southwest Conference recruiter said. "And he is probably one of the top five players in the state. He is going to help whomever he signs with." Other schools Brown interest in were T.C.U., Texas Tech, Louisiana Tech and Hardin Simmons. Brown said in the DMN, "people are starting to mess with my mind now," who was also considering Iowa. Paul Graham, Brown's coach at Kimball his sophomore and junior years, moved on to S.M.U. and had strong connections with Brown. Brown commented, "I think it would be better if I got away from Dallas." Brown received at least twenty scholarship offers. "The thing about S.M.U. was that it was at home, and I would always consider playing at home. I felt comfortable at Baylor. I felt comfortable with the environment, and the people I was around when I was down there. Haller says I'll play a lot, but that's going to depend on how hard I work. But basically, I figured I'd be happy," Brown explained. Coach Jimmy Tubbs commented, "I think he's going to be a great one." Coach Jim Haller of Baylor commented, "For overall quality, there are a lot of kids in the state who could play college basketball. I think it's an excellent year." Haller continued saying, "I think right there in Dallas there are some excellent recruits who could help someone. It's a much better year than normal in Dallas." Brown had a fine freshmen campaign with the Bears averaging 9.6 point per game. He later transferred to Lamar University in Beaumont and averaged 11.5 points his senior season. 6'9" **Sylvester Kincheon**(23.6/11.0) of Austin Travis was viewed as the next top recruit and verbally committed to Houston, but later signed with Mississippi. "The playing time and it being a better opportunity was the difference," Kincheon said. "If I went to Houston, I'd always be playing in somebody's shadow." He played only one season with Mississippi. Kincheon had also been contacted by Baylor, New Mexico State and Southwestern Louisiana. Kincheon ended up at Seminole Junior College and averaged 12.3 points and 10.2 rebounds per game. His last two seasons he played for Oklahoma St., averaging 10.6/6.2 in his two seasons with the Cowboys. He later played pro-ball in Germany. In 1988 he was the 60th pick in the 5th round of the CBA draft by the Albany Patroons. 6'8" **Bruno Kongawoin** of Houston Marian Christian signed with Houston Baptist. Kongawoin was from the Central African Republic. Countrymen, 5'10" **Fred Goporo** of Marian Christian, also attended Houston Baptist. Kongawoin averaged 12.4/10.2 while Goporo put up impressive numbers at 14.9/3.3/7.6 assists. 6'3" **Arthur Walton** of Houston Milby played at Houston Baptist as well as 6'3" **Arthur Goudeau** and 6'0" **Donald Harvey** of Houston Madison. Walton knocked down 17.4 per game while at Houston Baptist. Goudeau put up 6.2 and Harvey registered 7.3 points per game at Houston Baptist. 6'5" **David Moss** of San Antonio Sam Houston signed with Nolan Richardson and Tulsa after being heavily recruited by Arkansas, Oklahoma State,

Wyoming, Tulane and Baylor. Moss had an outstanding career at Tulsa averaging 17.8 points, 6.5 rebounds and 2.6 assists with the Hurricanes. 6'7" **Stacey Belcher**(12.0/10.0) of Houston Yates was looking at Lamar University and New Mexico. He signed with the Houston Cougars. Coach Guy Lewis said upon his signing, "He is a great rebounder, and we need rebounding help. And we know what Winslow can do. We've built our program in recent years with Houston players and these are two more outstanding players in the city." Belcher played four seasons with limited success. 6'7" **Connally Brown** of West Orange Stark committed to Villanova and played four seasons. 6'7" **Jay Crane** of Ft. Worth Halton committed to Arkansas. Crane played three seasons with the Razorbacks. 6'9" **Anthony Fobbs** of Ft. Worth Southwest signed with Tulsa after looking at Baylor, West Virginia, Kansas State and Houston. With the Hurricanes he played three seasons. 6'3" **Johnny Fuller**(24.0) of Wilmer Hutchins was recruited by S.M.U., Louisiana Tech, Texas Tech and Hardin Simmons. "I haven't had anybody attract people the way Johnny did," Coach Homer Smith said. Remember Smith coached Spud Webb, Chester Smith and Mookie Smith while at Wilmer Hutchins. Fuller played four years with the Mustangs and averaged 7.2 points his senior year on the hilltop. 6'4" **Gary Swain**(24.5/10.0) of Dallas Jesuit visited Marquette as well as Creighton. He was considered one of the top guards in Texas. He was named the "Player of the Year" in the Dallas area by the Morning News. He signed with Creighton and averaged 17.3/4.2/ 2.5 assists. 6'2" **Frederick Demerson**(23.1) of Houston Wheatley was looking at Idaho St., Lamar and Cleveland State. Frederick played one season at Idaho St. 6'8" **Jerry Holmes**(15.0/10.0) of Longview committed to Texas. He played one season with the Longhorns. 6'3" **Mike Blair** of L.D. Bell signed with T.C.U. and played only one season. 6'5" **Cedric Walker** of Dallas Skyline signed with Sam Houston, and played his sophomore season at Jacksonville College and ended up playing for Abe Lemons at Oklahoma City College. 6'3" **Chuckie Graves** of Dallas Kimball was called, "a real sleeper" by one scout, signed with Hardin Simmons. "I thought Chuckie would have gotten a little more recognition," Coach Jimmy Tubbs said. "He had a good season." Graves ended up playing for Jerry Stone at Midland Junior College. 6'6" **Gary McGuire**(14.6/16.1) of Cypress Creek committed to Rice and played two seasons with the Owls. 6'7" **Jody Reeves**(26.0) of Allen committed to Baylor along with 6'4" **David Reichert**(19.0) of Highland Park. Reeves and Reichert both played four years with the Bears. 6'4" **Jamie Weaver**(24.5/9.6) of Nederland signed with Houston. Weaver was an honor-roll student and District high jump champion. He played two seasons with the Cougars. 6'3" **Marcus Bolden**(23.0) of Killeen signed with Texas. Bolden played two seasons at Texas and averaged 9.3 his freshmen season. 6'1" **Clint Thomas** of Snook went to Texas A&M. Thomas reportedly had a 45-inch vertical. Thomas never played for the Aggies. 6'2" **James Nance**(23.6) of Beaumont Westbrook signed with Lamar University. Nance played all four seasons for Pat Foster and the Cardinals and averaged 11.6/2.6/3.0 assists his junior year. 6'3" **Darrin Sublet** of Houston Kashmere also signed with Lamar and played one season.

6'5" **Ike Mitchell**(16.1/8.5) of San Antonio Roosevelt signed with U.T. Arlington and played three seasons with the Mavericks averaging 15.9/7.1. He played for Jerry Stone at U.T.A. and led the team in scoring and rebounding. 6'8" **Frank Dyer**(8.0) of Waxahachie signed with U.T. Arlington and played one season. 6'9" **Bill Willough**(12.6) of Weatherford signed with U.T. Arlington and played two seasons. 6'7" **Dewayne Chism** of Dallas Spruce signed with Odessa Junior college and averaged 10.1/5.7 his senior year with the Red Raiders of Texas Tech. Coach Tommy Newman of North Texas St. signed 5'11" **Lawrence Hudson**(16.7) of Ft. Worth Dunbar. Hudson only played his freshman year. 6'10" **Dwight Johnson** of Dallas Jesuit signed with Creighton. 6'6" **Mike Washington**(13.0/7.0/9.0 assists) of Waxahachie signed with T.C.U. He played two seasons with the Horned Frogs. 6'3" **Mike Nelson**(23.0/7.0) of Pampa signed with Texas Tech. He averaged 7.3 points as a senior with the Red Raiders. 6'9" **Greg Anderson**(20.0/14.7/4.3 bl) of Houston Worthing signed with Houston. With the Cougars he had a very impressive career averaged 18.2/10.6 and played in one final four. He was the 23rd pick of the N.B.A draft by the San Antonio Spurs and played 10 years in the N.B.A. Anderson finished his brilliant career with 4953 points, 4246 rebounds and 590 blocks. 6'7" **Keldred Martin** of Houston Yates played at T.C.U., 6'8" **Tom Nelson** played at Texas, 6'5" **Dennis Perryman** of San Antonio Jay signed with Texas. Perryman averaged (9.0/5.5) his senior year with the Longhorns. 6'0" **Gerald Wright** to New Mexico St., 5'11" **Deon Alexander** of Waxahachie signed with North Texas State playing two seasons, 6'6" **Don Royster** of San Antonio Sam Houston signed with Mississippi and only stayed one season. He transferred to play with his high school teammate, David Moss at Tulsa. He averaged 7.9 points per game his senior season with the Hurricanes. 6'7" **David Grissom**(22.3) of Gladewater Sabine signed with San Diego St. and played his freshmen season, 6'2" **Brad Meyer**(18.1) of Clear Lake signed with Baylor, 5'11" **Daryl Derryberry** of San Marcos signed with Texas but never played for the Longhorns, he ended up playing at Southwest Texas State. He's still one of the top performers in school history from the three-point line in shooting percentage. 6'8" **Ray Danielak** of San Antonio Jay signed with Southwest Texas State and played three seasons, 6'2" **Tim Duryea** of Denton signed with Pan American, but ended playing two seasons at North Texas State. 6'0" **George Davis**(12.6) of Ft. Worth Paschal signed with Texas and played two seasons, 6'8" **Greg Hines**(22.6/10.9) of Houston Forest Brook signed with Rice and had an outstanding career finishing with 18.2/5.0 his last season with the Owls. 6'3" **Noel Cavazos**(20.1) of Mission signed with Texas A&I, 6'2" **Eliezar Gordon**(25.0) of Houston Bellaire signed with Southwest Texas State, 6'3" **Vernon George** of Tyler John Tyler signed with U.T. Arlington playing only his freshman season, 5'11" **Bert Cooper** of Irving High signed with Texas Wesleyan, 6'5" **Dwayne Ballard** of Weatherford signed with Texas Wesleyan, 6'7" **James Johnson** of Austin Reagan signed with Austin St. Edwards. 6'4" **Lawrence Chumbley** of Dallas Samuell was reportedly looking at junior colleges and Texas A&I. **Scotty George** of Weatherford was looking at Hardin Simmons, Pan American and Louisiana Tech. 6'3" **Earl**

Swindle of Houston Yates played with North Texas State his freshman year. 6'1" **Mark Buchanan**(16.0) of Richardson High was named District M.V.P. and walked on at Baylor. Buchanan started as a senior averaging 8.9 per game for the Bears. 6'10" **Kevin Newman** of Pt. Arthur Jefferson was looking at Southern, Lamar, North Texas State, Louisiana Tech and West Texas State. He signed with Southern University. **Brad Broussard**(13.1) of Beaumont Westbrook was recruited by Seton Hall and 6'4" **Hardy O'Neal** of WOS was pursued South Alabama, NE Oklahoma, Sam Houston St. and Midwestern University. 6'5" **James Dawn** from Amarillo signed with Texas Tech. **Delton Harper** and **Lloyd McArthur** from Silsbee both went to Cisco J.C.

Top Texas Recruits in 1983 based on their college and pro careers:			
Greg Anderson 6'9"	Houston Worthing	Houston, 18.2/10.6 All-SWC	<u>Spurs NBA #23</u>
Ricky Winslow 6'8"	Houston Yates	Houston 12.8/7.4	<u>Bulls NBA #28</u>
Carven Holcombe 6'4	Houston Yates	T.C.U. 17.5/5.3 SWC MVP	Draft Cavs #80
David Moss 6'5"	SA Sam Houston	Tulsa 17.8/6.5/2.6 asst.	Draft Blaz#109
Gary Swain 6'2"	Dallas Jesuit	Creighton 17.3/4.2/2.5 asst.	
Carlton McKinney 6'5"	Nixon	Tulsa/S.M.U. 16.0/5.2/3.6 asst.	
Greg Hines 6'8"	Forest Brook	Rice 18.2/5.0	
Raynard Davis 6'10"	SA Sam Houston	Texas 12.4/5.7	Draft Spur#142
Sylvester Kincheon 6'9"	Austin Travis	Oklahoma State 10.6/6.2	
Ike Mitchell 6'5"	Dallas Roosevelt	U.T. Arlington 15.9/7.1	
Dewayne Chism 6'7"	Dallas Spruce	Texas Tech 10.1/5.7	
James Nance 6'2"	Beaumont Westbrook	Lamar University 11.6/2.6/3.0	
Dwayne Brown 6'5"	Dallas Kimball	Baylor/Lamar 11.5	

All-Americans: Basketball Weekly produced the most widely respected High School All-American team in 1983, because it represented most of the country. Texas really had impacted the national scene in honors as well as recruiting. Four players from Texas were named to the 75-All-American squad named by Basketball Weekly. 6'8" Ricky Winslow from Yates was named to the 4th team, 6'9" Raynard Davis of Sam Houston was named to the 7th team, 6'4" Carven Holcombe of Yates made the 11th team, and 6'5" Carlton McKinney of Nixon was named to the 12th team. **Named Honorable Mention** All-American by Basketball Weekly were 6'5" David Moss of San Antonio Sam Houston, 6'7" Stacey Belcher of Houston Yates, 6'3" Mike Nelson of Pampa, 6'5" Dewayne Brown of Dallas Kimball, 6'9" Sylvester Kincheon of Austin Travis, 6'8" Jerry Holmes of Longview, 6'4" Cedric Walker of Dallas Skyline, 6'8" Jay Crane of Ft. Worth Haltom.

Ricky Winslow of Yates was the only player named to the **Parade All-American** team made up 40 players. He was named to the first team, which had 10 players selected. This was an extremely high honor considering he was named one of the top ten players in the country. The **McDonald's All-American** team was announced and Texas placed their third player ever on the highly visible team. Ricky Winslow joined Rudy Woods of Bryan in 1978 and Greg Kite of Houston Madison in 1979 as the only three players from Texas honored by McDonald's,

dating back to inaugural team named in 1977. That is incredible when you think about the players that were passed up, Rob Williams of Houston Milby, Michael Young of Yates, and Mike Wacker of San Marcos and we could go on and on. **Adidas** had a widely recognized All-American team and named Ricky Winslow and Raynard Davis to the team.

Street and Smith Basketball magazine always held a special place for me through the years. Every season began with my purchase of the classic magazine and reading about the top players in college, high school and the pros. In 1973 freshmen became eligible for the first time in the college game and Street and Smith came out with a new section. It was called “**Freshmen of Influence**” by Jim Bukata. What made it so interesting was the accuracy by which he was able to project the college talent for the coming season. After all the All-Star games and watching all the incoming talent play against one another, Bukata made his selections.

Players that were named to the elite group were few because you had to be one of the top 15 talents in the country. **Ira Terrell** of Dallas Roosevelt in 1972, **Eddie Owens** from Houston Wheatley in 1973, **Earl Evans** of Pt. Arthur Lincoln in 1974, **Karl Godine** from Kashmere in 1975, **Rudy Woods** of Bryan, **James Griffin** from Dunbar and **Terry White** from El Paso Eastwood were all named in 1978. Yes, the list looks like the Mount Rushmore of Texas high school basketball. One name would have needed to be added, Rob Williams.

During the '78 issue of **Street and Smith**, Bukata expanded the list to honorable mention. From 1979 to 1984 Texas did not have anybody make the “Freshmen of Influence,” but three players were named honorable mention. **Rob Williams** from Houston Milby and **Claude Riley** of Crockett in 1979, and **Carven Holcombe** of Houston Yates following the 1983 season. This is pretty elite company. Two players Bukata definitely missed on were Clyde Drexler and Michael Young. Winslow was not named to the Freshmen of Influence or Honorable Mention. None the less, good stuff.

National Rankings: Houston Yates, although they were upset at state, finished #33 in the national rankings according to Basketball Weekly and Bryan was #41 in the country.

State Leaders: Always difficult to come up with the stats leaders, but I came up with 6'2" Gil Wright of Plainview as the top scorer averaging 27.3 per game. Top rebounder looked like 6'6" Gary McGuire of Cypress Creek at 16.1, followed by 6'8" Greg Anderson of Houston Worthing with 14.7 boards per game. Anderson also led the state in blocked shots with 4.3 per game. Hard to believe Anderson was a late recruit of the University of Houston. Guy Lewis did it again finding a player with little state coverage. Wheatley came out as the leading offensive team with 90.0 points per game. Top defense team was close between El

Paso Burges at 42.3 per game and El Paso Jefferson at 42.4 per game. El Paso Bel Air margin of victory was +14.9 finishing just ahead of Houston Yates at +14.3.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs: Two of the most dominating players to ever play on the same team were Ricky Winslow and Carven Holcombe of Houston Yates in 1983. Their playoffs totals ended up 18.6 for Winslow and 18.2 for Holcombe.

Power Ratings 1983

1.	Bryan	34-5	97.60	State Champs 5-A	def. Paschal 71-54
2.	Houston Yates	37-3	94.90	State Semis 5-A	Loss Paschal 53-48
3.	Dallas Kimball	30-5	93.97	Regional Finals 5-A	Loss Bryan 73-67
4.	Waxahachie	35-2	93.23	State Champs 4-A	def. Borger 79-66
5.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	33-3	92.02	Regional Finals 5-A	Loss Paschal 54-53
6.	Silsbee	35-2	90.95	State Semis 4-A	Loss Borger 61-56
7.	Richardson	32-3	89.23	Regional Semis 5-A	Loss Bryan 63-59
8.	S.A. Sam Houston	32-8	88.73	State Semis 5-A	Loss Bryan 64-63
9.	Houston Madison	27-5	87.84	Regional Quart 5-A	Loss Yates 67-63
10.	Austin Travis	30-4	87.23	Regional Semis 5-A	Loss SA S.H. 65-58
11.	Ft. Worth Paschal	30-8	86.50	State Finals 5-A	Loss Bryan 71-54
12.	W. Orange Stark	30-7	85.08	Regional Finals 5-A	Loss Yates 57-50 3OT
13.	Clear Lake	29-7	84.41	Regional Quart 5-A	Loss Westbrook 52-50
14.	Longview	29-4	82.88	Bi-District 5-A	Loss Bryan 55-53
15.	Bea. Westbrook	28-5	82.57	Regional Semis 5-A	Loss Yates 63-58
16.	San Marcos	32-4	80.76	Regional Finals 5-A	Loss SA S.H. 59-41
17.	Wilmer Hutchins	31-5	80.10	Regional Quart 5-A	Loss Kimball 74-63
18.	S.A. Roosevelt	29-4	80.16	Bi-District 5-A	Loss SA Marshall 73-67
19.	Houston Wheatley	25-12	79.77	Regional Semis 5-A	Loss WOS 87-72 OT
20.	Houston Milby	19-13	79.40	3 rd place finish	

Looking at the Power Ratings: Really no surprises in the final numbers. Two class 4-A teams showed their strength making the top 20, Waxahachie and Silsbee.

Teams that should have advanced to Austin: There were so many talented teams that were unable to make Austin in 1983. Richardson and Dallas Kimball are the first two to come to mind along with Ft. Worth Dunbar. S.A. Roosevelt collapsed in the playoffs and Ft. Worth Dunbar had beaten Paschal three times before they were upset. Austin Travis had a very special team.

1983 5-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso Eastwood(24-4) #17	55	El Paso Jefferson(25-4)	51
	San Angelo Central(22-11)	79	Plainview(16-10)	73
	Ft. Worth Paschal(24-7) #20	58	Weatherford(23-9)	53
	L.D. Bell(23-6)	71	Irving(22-10)	59
	El Paso Bel Air(25-2) #18	64	El Paso Andress(17-14)	58
	Amarillo Caprock(17-13)	69	Odessa High(21-11)	65
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-2) #2	61	Denton(20-8)	42
	Irving MacArthur(30-0) #11	60	Euless Trinity(19-12) (2 OT)	56

Region I Q-Finals	El Paso Eastwood(25-4) #17	72	San Angelo Central(23-11)	67
	Ft. Worth Paschal(25-7) #20	65	L.D. Bell(24-6)	52
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-2) #2	73	Irving MacArthur(31-0) #11	45
	El Paso Bel Air(26-2) #18	70	Amarillo Caprock(18-13)	59
Region I Semi Finals	Ft. Worth Paschal(26-7) #20	60	El Paso Eastwood(26-4) #17	50
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(32-2) #2	58	El Paso Bel Air(27-2) #18	49
Regional Finals	Ft. Worth Paschal(27-7) #20	55	Ft. Worth Dunbar(33-3) #2	54
Region II Bi-Dist.	Wilmer Hutchins(33-4) #13	78	Dallas Samuel(17-10)	74
	Dallas Kimball(27-4) #5	61	Richardson Berkner(17-12)	50
	Killeen(25-3) #12	77	Tyler John Tyler(22-9)	70
	Cypress Creek(26-5)	53	Conroe(20-11)	47
	South Garland(23-7)	72	Dallas Roosevelt(20-11) OT	70
	Richardson(30-2) #16	65	Dallas W.T. White(19-9)	46
	Bryan(28-5) #4	55	Longview(29-3) #7	53
	Klein Forest(26-4)	52	Conroe McCullough(19-10)	51
	Dallas Kimball(28-4) #5	74	Wilmer Hutchins(34-4) #13	63
	Killeen(26-3) #12	56	Cypress Creek(27-5)	53
Region II Q-Finals	Richardson(31-2) #16	59	South Garland(24-7)	38
	Bryan(29-5) #4	66	Klein Forest(27-4)	43
Region Semis	Dallas Kimball(29-4) #5	67	Killeen(27-3) #12	62
	Bryan(30-5) #4	63	Richardson(32-2) #16	59
Region II Finals	Bryan(31-5) #4	73	Dallas Kimball(30-4) #5	67
Region III Bi-Dist.	Houston Worthing(18-8)	68	S.B. Memorial(26-5)	52
	Houston Wheatley(23-11)	89	Houston Kashmere(23-5) #19	80
	West Orange Stark(27-6) #10	75	Houston Forest Brook(21-13)	51
	Galveston Ball(23-10)	86	Baytown Lee(19-11)	76
	Houston Madison(26-5) #6	84	Alief Hastings(29-4)	53
	Houston Yates(33-2) #1	59	Houston Reagan(19-12)	34
	Beaumont West Brook(26-4) #9	56	Houston Smiley(22-7)	55
	Clear Lake(28-6)	76	Baytown Sterling(22-11)	71
	Houston Wheatley(24-11)	91	Houston Worthing(19-9)	86
	West Orange Stark(28-6) #10	77	Galveston Ball(24-10)	72
Region III Q-Finals	Houston Yates(34-2) #1	67	Houston Madison(27-5) #6	63
	Beaumont West Brook(27-4) #9	52	Clear Lake(29-6)	50
Region III Semis	West Orange Stark(29-6) #10	87	Houston Wheatley(25-11) OT	82
	Houston Yates(35-2) #1	63	Beaumont West Brook(28-4) #9	58
Region III Finals	Houston Yates(36-2) #1 2OT	57	West Orange Stark(30-6) #10	50
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Austin Travis(28-3) #14	87	Alvin(23-8)	60
	San Antonio Marshall(19-7)	73	San Antonio Roosevelt(30-3) #3	66
	S.A. Sam Houston(28-7) #15	76	Laredo Nixon(18-12)	54
	Corpus Christi Moody(23-8)	75	Harlingen(25-6)	53
	San Marcos(29-3) #8	70	Victoria(24-9) OT	67
	San Antonio Churchill(25-9)	71	San Antonio Jay(20-6)	60
	S.A. Jefferson(25-7)	52	Eagle Pass (20-9)	44
	Mission(22-6)	82	Corpus Christi Ray(21-9)	71
	Austin Travis(29-3) #14	78	San Antonio Marshall(20-7)	61
	S.A. Sam Houston(29-7) #15	81	Corpus Christi Moody(24-8)	68
Region IV Q-Finals	San Marcos(30-3) #8	63	San Antonio Churchill(26-9)	51
	S.A. Jefferson(26-7)	75	Mission(23-6)	61
Region IV Semis	S.A. Sam Houston(30-7) #15	65	Austin Travis(30-3) #14	58
	San Marcos(31-3) #8	73	S.A. Jefferson(27-7)	63

Region IV Final	S.A. Sam Houston(31-7) #15	59	San Marcos(32-3) #8	41
State Semi-Finals	Bryan(32-5) #4	64	S.A. Sam Houston(32-7) #15	63
	Ft. Worth Paschal(30-7) #20	53	Houston Yates(37-2) #1	48
State Finals	Bryan(33-5) #4	71	Ft. Worth Paschal(31-7) #20	54

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1983 AAAAA Top Teams}

1. Bryan 34-5 {beat Paschal(2), Yates, Sam Hou., Kimball, Richardson}
2. Houston Yates 37-3 {split with Bryan, won Optimist & Jaycees Tournaments}
3. S.A. Sam Houston 32-8 {def. Paschal +8, Worthing, A. Travis +7, San Marcos +18}
4. Dallas Kimball 30-5 {beat Richardson +8 OT, Paschal +7, Hutch(3), Killeen +5}
5. Ft. Worth Dunbar 33-3 {3-1 vs. Paschal, split with Hutch, San Marcos +1}
6. Ft. Worth Paschal 30-9 {defeated Yates, DeMatha, Wheatley, Dunbar 1-3}
7. Richardson 32-3 {1-1 vs. S. Garland, def. Wax., Pampa +13, Loss Bryan -4}
8. Houston Madison 27-5 {loss to Yates three times, beat Clear Lake(2) & Worthing}
9. Austin Travis 30-5 {def. Westbrook +3, San Marcos +28, loss SA Sam Hou. -7}
10. West Orange Stark 30-7 {Westbrook 2-1, lost to Yates in 3-OT, beat Wheatley OT}
11. Bea. Westbrook 28-5 {District Champ, Regional semis losing to Yates 63-58}
12. San Marcos 32-4 {def. Clear Lake +5, loss to Dunbar -1, 2-1 vs. A. Travis}
13. Wilmer Hutchins 34-5 {Loss to Kimball three times, Split with Dunbar}
14. Houston Wheatley 25-12 {Yates 0-3, beat Milby 2-1, Worthing 1-0, Kashmere 2-0}
15. Marian Christian 30-3 {def. Clear Lake 72-44, lost Yates 42-35, 3-A TCIL Champs}
16. S. A. Roosevelt 30-4 {def. SA Sam Hou. +4, 2-1 over SA Marshall, 2-2 Churchill}
17. Houston Kashmere 23-6 {0-3 vs. Wheatley, 0-2 vs. Yates, def. Bryan & Gal. Ball}
18. Killeen 27-4 {loss twice to Kimball and twice to Bryan}
19. Longview 29-4 {PO loss Bryan -2, def. Clear Lake, John Tyler 1-2}
20. Clear Lake 29-7 {lost to Westbrook in 2nd round 52-50, beat San Marcos}
21. Tyler John Tyler 22-10 {beat Longview 2-1, lost to Wilmer Hut. by 1 point twice}
22. Houston Worthing 19-10 {Lost to Wheatley 2nd round 91-86, Runner-up to Madison}
23. Euless L.D. Bell 24-7 {early win over Kimball 70-57, split with Paschal}
24. Houston Milby 19-13 {beat Yates, 1-2 vs. Wheatley, Def. Worthing & WOS}
25. Cypress-Creek 27-6 {2nd round loss to Killeen 56-53}
26. Alief Hasting 29-5 {1st round loss H. Madison, def. H. Madison +1 pre-season}
27. Klein Forest 27-5 {lost 2nd Round to Bryan, lost District PO Cypress Creek}
28. S.B. Memorial 26-7 {lost in 1st round to Worthing 68-52}
29. Houston Smiley 22-8 {lost to Beaumont Westbrook in 1st round 56-55}
30. San Antonio Marshall 20-8 {upset SA Roosevelt in the playoffs in 1st round}
31. Dallas Jesuit 24-5 {TCIL title, def. Roos 65-60, loss Richardson -6, Hutch -2}
32. SA Central Catholic 22-9 {TCIL state semi-finalist losing to Dallas Jesuit 37-36}
33. S.A. Churchill 26-10 {2-2 vs SA Roosevelt, def. SA Madison for 2nd spot}
34. Austin Reagan 23-10 {3rd in 26-5A def. San Marcos 74-65, loss to Killeen 79-76}
35. Beaumont French 20-10 {Finished 3rd behind Westbrook, WOS in 22-5A}
36. Galveston Ball 24-11 {Lost in 2nd round to WOS 77-72, split with Clear Lake}
37. South Garland 24-8 {District runner-up to Hutch, split with Richardson}
38. Dallas Roosevelt 20-12 {District Champions 10-5A, lost in OT to South Garland}
39. Clear Creek 19-13 {lost District playoff to Ball for 2nd place}
40. Alief Elsik 22-10 {3rd place 17-5A behind Hastings and Memorial}
41. Houston Sterling 15-13 {4th in 20-5A, wins over Forest Brook +15, Westbury +3 }
42. Houston Westbury 20-12 {3rd -18-5A, behind Madison, Worthing, def. WOS 47-34}
43. Aldine 22-8 {lost District playoff for 2nd against Smiley}
44. Beaumont Pollard 16-12 {took 4th in 22-5A, behind Westbrook, WOS, French}
45. Dallas W.T. White 19-10 {runner-up to Kimball, lost to Richardson in Bi-District}

46.	Cypress-Fairbanks	22-10	{3 rd place 15-5A behind Cypress Creek & Klein Forest}
47.	Texas City	20-11	{finished 4th in 24-5A behind Clear Lake, Clear Creek, Ball}
48.	Dallas Carter	21-7	{def. Hutch +4 and Kimball +3, 3 rd place in District}
49.	Irving MacArthur	31-1	{Dunbar ended their season in the 2 nd round 73-45}
50.	S. A. Jefferson	27-8	{Runner-up in 29-5A, lost to San Marcos 73-63 - Regionals}
51.	Weatherford	23-10	{Won District 5-5A, lost in 1 st round to FW Paschal}
52.	Eules Trinity	19-12	{lost in 2 OT to Irving MacArthur in 1 st round, beat Pampa}
53.	Dallas Skyline	21-10	{finished 3 rd in 10-5A to Roos. & Samuel, beat Kimball +2}
54.	El Paso Bel Air	27-3	{def. Lamesa 68-47, District 2-5A title, regional Semis}
55.	Dallas Samuel	17-11	{two wins over Roosevelt, District runner-up 10-5A}
56.	Houston Reagan	19-13	{Runner-up to Kashmere}
57.	Victoria	24-10	{Co-Champs 25-5A with Alvin}
58.	Alvin	23-9	{Co-Champs 25-5A with Victoria}
59.	El Paso Eastwood	26-5	{regional semis, 2 nd in 2-5A behind Bel Air, 2-1 vs. Bel Air}
60.	Dallas S.O.C.	19-13	{shocking 4 th place finish in District 10-5A}
61.	H. Westchester	20-12	{4 th place in 17-5A behind Hastings, Memorial, and Elsie}
62.	Odessa High	21-12	{loss to Borger 54-52, beat San Angelo Central twice}
63.	San Angelo Central	23-11	{beat Bryan 69-66 and Borger 77-73, 4-5A runner-up}
64.	Baytown Lee	19-12	{lost to Galveston Ball in 1 st round 86-76}
65.	S. A. Madison	22-12	{lost 27-5A playoff for 2 nd to Churchill 54-39}
66.	Baytown Sterling	22-12	{lost in Bi-District to Clear Lake 76-71}
67.	C. C. Moody	25-10	{District champ 24-5A, lost to SA Sam Houston 2 nd round}
68.	Seguin	23-10	{def. Austin Travis 76-69, 4 th in 27-5A}
69.	Irving	22-11	{District runner-up to MacArthur, lost in PO to Bell 71-59}
70.	Haltom	20-11	{Disappointed in District 8-5A, beat S. Garland 38-37}
71.	S. A. St. Gerard	18-12	{lost in the finals of the TCIL to Dallas Jesuit 59-51}
72.	Denton High	20-9	{Runner-up 5-5A, PO loss to Dunbar, beat D. Carter +14}
73.	S. A. Fox Tech	23-9	{Finished 3 rd in 29-5A, lost to Jefferson 52-50 and 39-38}
74.	El Paso Jefferson	25-5	{District 1-5A champion}
75.	Mission	23-7	{First in 32-5A, finished 17-1 in District, 2 nd round playoffs}
76.	Plainview	16-11	{District Champion, lost to San Angelo Central in 1 st round}
77.	Amarillo Caprock	18-14	{District runner-up behind Plainview, 2 nd Round}
78.	Highland Park	19-13	{9-5A finished 3 rd behind South Garland, Hutchins}
79.	Conroe McCullough	19-11	{District champion 16-5A, went undefeated in District}
80.	Richardson Berkner	17-13	{District runner-up in 12-5A to Richardson}
81.	Conroe	20-12	{District Runner-up 16-5A}
82.	Dallas Hillcrest	19-10	{4 th in District behind Kimball, White, and Carter}
83.	Richardson Pearce	20-10	{3 rd place in District 12-5A behind Richardson & Berkner}
84.	Corpus Christi Ray	21-10	{Runner-up in 24-5A, lost 1 st round to Mission 82-71}
85.	Pasadena Rayburn	23-8	{had some strong early season wins, tied for 3 rd in 23-5A}
86.	Forest Brook	21-14	{lost in 1 st round to WOS 75-51}
87.	Harlingen	25-7	{District runner-up in 32-5A}
88.	Laredo Nixon	18-13	{Bi-District loss to S.A. Sam Houston}
89.	El Paso Austin	21-11	{Finished 3 rd in District 1-5A behind Jefferson, Andress}
90.	Edinburg	25-6	{Finished 3 rd -32-5A behind Mission and Harlingen}
91.	Weslaco	24-6	{Finished 4 th -32-5A behind Mission, Harlingen, Edinburg}
92.	Killeen Ellison	15-13	{Finished behind Bryan and Killeen in 14-5A at 7-5}

Reflecting on my final rankings I had to expand the list once again. There were just too many strong teams to eliminate. Houston again had the strongest teams placing nine in the Top “25” and Dallas was second with three.

1983 AAAA

The Waxahachie Indians and Pt. Arthur Lincoln Bumblebee were considered the top contenders to capture gold in Austin during the 1983 season. Beaumont Hebert was no more having closed their doors. The Pampa Harvesters returned almost their entire squad from a state tournament run in 1982. Both Pampa and Lincoln were moving down to class 4-A. Houston Furr and Huntsville also had formidable teams.

In sub 5-A divisions you always had a much more level playing field, because schools for the most part were the same size. For that reason, West Texas basketball was very competitive in the lower divisions. Pampa was the overwhelming favorite to capture Region I, with the top player in the state in 4-A returning in Mike Nelson. The 6’3” senior was highly thought of by recruiters and high school coaches alike. Coach Garland Nichols and the Harvesters also returned a fine supporting cast. Pampa had a dogfight on their hands just getting out of District. In 1-4A the Borger Bulldogs awaited Pampa. Coach Duane Hunt was at it again with Bulldogs building another powerhouse.

In the first meeting between the two teams, Borger ran away with game in front of 2,000 fans on their home court. The Bulldogs shot 63% from the floor and out rebounded the Harvesters 32-17, to take a 72-57 victory. 6’2” Terrance Sheppard(17.0) led the Bulldogs with 21 points and 11 rebounds. Sheppard had a strong inside game with a muscular frame. 6’1” Dwight Coffey added 13 points and 7 rebounds for Coach Duane Hunt. The much-anticipated re-match was played in Pampa and proved to be one of the best games of the season. Borger won again in overtime 69-68. Point guard Tony Tillman was the hero, hitting two free throws with 11 seconds remaining. The crowd was estimated at 3,000.

Pampa was able to wrap up the District runner-up spot with a 65-58 win over Lubbock Dunbar in the final District game. Coach Nichols of Pampa was having some health issues prior to the Harvesters Bi-District contest against Lamesa. Nichols had spent the early part of the week in the hospital with a blood clot.

Lamesa was back in playoffs for the first time since their state championship run in 1975. Coach Wayne Roberts was in his first season the Tornadoes. Victor Spencer(23.7/16.2) paced Lamesa and was considered one of the top players in West Texas. Spencer had a 36-inch vertical leap and was a considerable talent. “It’ll be their speed versus our height,” Nichols said. “But we’ll run with them. I just hope the scoreboard can handle all the points.”

Pampa was paced by one of the most highly-recruited schoolboy cagers in Panhandle history, Mike Nelson(24.0). This was according to Lance Lahnert of the Amarillo Globe. 6'6" Junior, Coyle Winborn(14.0) was a top recruit in his class and gave Coach Nichols a nice inside game. Phil Jeffrey(14.0) was another double-digit scorer for the Harvesters.

In Plainview, 4,000 fans were on hand to take in the playoff game between Pampa and Lamesa(24-5). The Pampa triumvirate of Nelson, Winborn, and Jeffrey went off for 30, 18, and 13 points in the Harvesters 79-65. Pampa held Spencer to only 8 points and 9 rebounds with a collapsing 2-3 zone. "He's the key to our running game," Coach Wayne Roberts shared. "Without him, we were never really able to get the running game into gear." Spencer got in foul trouble picking up his 4th four in the first half. Nelson used head fakes and took a charge to get Spencer in foul trouble. Chris Mason answered the bell for Lamesa with 22 points and Steve Alexander responded with 21 points. "We played hard, but they were just a little big for us," Roberts said. "We were just out manned." Pampa led at half 41-34. "We're playing real-well together right now," Mike Nelson said. "We got real down when we lost to Borger."

Borger prepared for old nemesis Snyder(24-5) for their Bi-District clash. The Bulldogs came at you with a talented group of four double digit scorers and super quick Tony Tillman at the point. 6'2" Terrance Sheppard(16.6), 6'1" Dwight Coffey(13.2), 6'4" Kevin Willis(11.0) and 6'1" Ricky McDonald(10.3) were the keys to Coach Hunt's team. McDonald was the best outside shooter, while Sheppard operated on the interior. Coach Larry Scott of Snyder commented about the Borger dynasty, "they deserve their ranking, the thing about Borger is they don't hurt themselves by making mistakes."

In front of 3,500 fans at Wayland Baptist University Hutcherson Center in Plainview, the Bulldogs advanced defeating Snyder 69-54. Sheppard hit 19 points and 11 rebounds from the inside followed by McDonald with 17 points from the outside. Kevin Willis added 11 rebounds for Borger. Snyder was paced by Curtis Grafford with 11 points. Borger led at half 30-23. "We knew rebounding was going to be the key in this game," Coach Larry Scott said. Borger had a big advantage on the boards 37-21. Borger led 64-38 with 2:27 left to play.

Borger continued their march toward the rematch with Pampa facing Wichita Falls Hirschi(25-5) in the regional semis. The Huskies were riding a 14-game winning streak coming into the contest. Hirschi had defeated Cleburne in Bi-District, which was their first District title in the schools 19-year history. 6'1" Ronnie Smith(17.7) scored 29 points in the 62-47 win over Cleburne. The Borger-Hirschi game was played in Pampa of all places. Borger took a close one over the Huskies 63-62 to advance to the regional finals. Sheppard

showed what a man he was dominating inside with 31 points and 11 rebounds for the Bulldogs. In front of 2,000 fans at the Harvester Field House, Tony Tillman hit three foul shots in the final seconds, which proved to be the difference. Borger was bound determined they were going to give the game away missing 10 foul shots in the 4th quarter. "If we'd knocked in a few free throws, we'd have won this easily," Sheppard explained. Borger had a 55-45 lead in the 4th quarter. Sheppard picked up his 4th foul with 6:15 left in the game, which ignited the Huskies comeback attempt. Ronnie Smith again carried the Huskies with 22 points as Hirschi relied primarily on outside shooting. Ricky McDonald finished with 12 points for Borger, while Rodney James put in 12 points for Hirschi.

Pampa(23-6) had to battle the Mansfield(25-2) Tigers in the other regional semi-final match-up. 6'3" William Smith was a good one for the Tigers averaging 20.2 points along with 8 rebounds. Smith had scored 38 points in his team's victory over Iowa Park in Bi-District. Smith also contributed 25 points in the team's 64-54 zone playoff victory over Ft. Worth Northside(17-12). The regional semis game was played in Vernon and Mansfield came into the contest averaging 87 points per game according to Coach Garland Nichols. Smith came in averaging 29.5 points per game over the previous five games. Coach Rodney Shropshire had done an amazing job developing the Tigers program into a winner.

Pampa turned back Mansfield 58-46, holding Mansfield under 50 points with their defense. "They really like to fast-break, but we covered them and wouldn't let them run," Nichols said. "We switched defenses a lot on them." Nelson came away with 22 points along with Winborn's 14 points. Pampa actually trailed at halftime 20-18. Ron Johnson added 12 points for Mansfield. The future looked bright for the Tigers with all their youth.

Pampa and Borger had eliminated all contenders as they battled it out for a ticket to Austin. The two teams met in Amarillo at the Civic Center Coliseum. The facility held 6,000 and 5,500 turned out, making it the largest crowd to ever watch a basketball game in Amarillo. The cast of characters were the same, 6'3" Nelson(23.8), 6'6" Winborn(14.5), Phil Jeffrey(12.2) for the Harvesters; 6'2" Sheppard(17.0), 6'1" Coffey(13.0), 6'4" Kevin Willis(11.0) and 6'1" Ricky McDonald(11.0) for Borger.

Pampa came out and seemed to have the game under control leading at halftime 32-24. Going into 4th quarter the Harvesters were still up by five points. Pampa's sagging 2-3 zone was giving Sheppard fits, as he only managed 14 points with 3 rebounds. Paced by Kevin Willis of Borger, the Bulldogs were able to turn things around. Willis was 3 for 3 from the field and 7 for 7 from the foul line in the 4th quarter. With Bulldogs up 43-42 with 4:20 remaining, Borger pulled the ball out and went into a delay game. Things got worse for

Pampa as 6'6" Winborn fouled out with only 2:30 remaining in the game. Borger took the hard-fought win over Pampa 56-49. "Willis is a clutch player," Coach Duane Hunt said. "We told our wings that if they took our inside game away, they'd have to shoot. McDonald and Willis have shot well all year," Hunt said.

Nichols, as usual was classy after his team's defeat saying, "they have a good team and they deserve to be going to the state tournament." Willis led the Bulldogs with 17 points, Sheppard had 14 and McDonald came away with 11 points. Nelson paced Pampa in his last game with 15 points along with Winborn's 12 points and Jeffrey hit 10.

East Texas basketball had some great games and competition, but talent wise was probably a little down from previous years. The dominate force of Carlton Cooper was at the University of Texas. In District 8-4A, Palestine(16-11) punched their ticket to the playoffs capturing the runner-up spot defeating Henderson(18-8) 56-41. Kenneth Abrams paced Palestine with 21 points and Harlan Lovings finished with 15 points in a winning effort. Henderson was led by Clifton Thurmond with 17 points. Jacksonville(19-9) had already nailed down the District Championship.

District 7-4A champion, Liberty-Eylau took the title in one of the best games of the season 65-64 in overtime against Paris. The game was played in Mt. Pleasant. With the Wildcats of Paris up 64-63 with 11 seconds remaining in the overtime period, Avis Young of Paris went to the foul line shooting a one and one. He missed and James Carson of Liberty-Eylau came down with the ball and dribbled the length of the court knocking down a 15-footer with three seconds remaining. Paris had their chance as time expired but missed the front end of a one and one opportunity. Following the emotional win, Coach Don Tuttle was openly weeping as his team won the school's first district championship ever. "After 11 years, you begin to think that maybe it's just not meant for you to win a championship," Tuttle said.

James Carson led Liberty-Eylau with 20 points while Paris was paced by Ronald "Cash" Twitty with 16 points. Senior post, Carl Bradford of Paris only scored 9 points for Coach Long. Paris advanced to the playoffs with an 8-3 District mark and 18-8 on the season, while Liberty Eylau moved on with a 9-3 record and 18-10 tally.

In the Bi-District games between 7-4A and 8-4A representatives, District 8-4A won both contest. Jacksonville took out Paris 71-64 and Palestine eliminated Liberty-Eylau 60-47. In the Paris game, coach Mike Long of Paris was pretty down after the game. "We should have beaten those people by at least 20 points. I really can't tell you why we played so poorly."

Jacksonville was coached by John Alexander in his 5th season. The Indians were fueled by 6'1" post, Eddie Harris and 5'4" Howard Fuller. Surprisingly,

neither were the leading scorers against Paris. 6'4" Jeff White took high point honors for coach Alexander with 21 points. Mike Hamlet contributed 19 points to the effort for Jacksonville. Paris saw Ronald "Cash" Twitty lead the Wildcats with 14 points, Avis Young added 12 points and Carl Bradford put in 10. Coach Long continued, "our kids played hard all year long...probably won several games they shouldn't have and then lost a playoff they should have won."

Harlan Lovings finished with 21 points for Palestine in the win over Liberty-Eylau. Kenneth Abrams added 13 points for Palestine in the win. James Carson hit some timely baskets for Liberty-Eylau and finished with 14 points.

Next up for Palestine was Allen and 6'7" Jody Reeves. Allen High School probably had their best team in school history up to 1983. Presently, Allen is the largest high school in the state with a nation-wide football program and a pretty darn solid basketball team. Allen has made some deep runs in the playoffs recently, but back in the early 1980s they were a great unknown. The Eagles basketball program first began to spread their wings under the leadership of coach Steve Williams in the late 1970s and early 80s. Williams succeeded Gene Maples as the Allen head man and expanded on what Maples had established in the small community. In 1983, Allen moved up in classification to 4-A after two playoff teams in AAA. The Eagles finished 30-6 during the 1982 season and were undefeated in district action. The step up to class 4-A was going to be made much smoother because of 6'7" Jody Reeves. Reeves averaged 25.2 points per game along with 15.3 rebounds for coach Williams. Reeves took his talents on to Baylor after high school. Williams was in his 4th year as head coach and 8th over-all with the Eagles. "I think we have a pretty exceptional club," Williams said. "Some schools probably couldn't have made the transition quite as easily. But we've had a strong tradition the past couple of years, and I think that just carried us on in." In discussing his star player, Williams said, "He's a good inside player, but one thing about his game is that he is also a tremendous outside shooter."

Allen had come into District action at 17-1. In 4-4A the Eagles faced Dallas Lincoln, who moved down from 5-A, Dallas Madison, McKinney and Dallas Adamson. Allen(26-2) took first place finishing 11-1, Lincoln(14-9) and Madison(15-13) tied for second and were forced to have a playoff at 9-3. Adamson(15-14) was very competitive, finishing 7-5 and McKinney(9-17) came away with 5-7 mark under first year coach Chester Story. The Dallas schools played mostly 5-A programs in the pre-season, so their records were not too impressive. Allen defeated McKinney 52-44 and 59-49, Madison 66-60, Adamson 55-52 and 49-43. Dallas Madison was the only winner against the Eagles in District 65-55. As you can see by the scores, Allen was winning games, but mostly by single digits.

Dallas Madison took the District playoff game over Dallas Lincoln 84-74. Madison was paced by Eddie Beasley with 24 points and Lincoln relied on Whiteman with 21. Members of the 13-man All-District team included Johnny Stephney and Eddie Beasley from Madison. Lincoln honored Billy Giggins, Don Rochelle and Fred Ellison. The District M.V.P. went Jody Reeves of Allen. The Eagles also placed Kevin Williams and Kevin Cowan on the squad.

Allen handled Waco Midway(23-8) 64-57 in Bi-District to advance to the regional semis. The game was played in DeSoto. Reeves was tough handle finishing with 23 points for the Eagles. Waco Midway had advanced to the playoffs with a zone victory over Rockwall(24-8) 67-52.

The regional semi-finals game between Allen and Palestine was played in Ennis and the Wildcats continued their winning 51-47. Reeves scored 29 points and was the only Eagle in double figures. Harlan Lovings was at the heart of the Palestine offense scoring 25 points and Kenneth Abrams was effect with 18 points.

As Palestine approached the regional finals game they were well aware of the daunting task that laid ahead of them. Against Waxahachie, Palestine would be facing the top ranked team in class 4-A as well as one of the top teams in the state, regardless of classification. The Indians had eliminated Palestine the previous season 77-74 in regionals. Palestine appeared weaker, having lost their outstanding guard, Jeffrey Carter. Waxahachie on the other hand looked much stronger. Palestine would be a big underdog coming into the contest. It was actually a forgone conclusion Waxahachie would be in Austin.

The Waxahachie Indians had been to state three straight seasons and had maybe their best team. But there were some changes in the Indian basketball program. The Indians lost their outstanding coach Jack Aldridge. Aldridge resigned in July to enter private business. Another big loss was point guard, Deon Alexander, who moved to Omaha, Nebraska due to problems at school. The new head man came from Everman, John Nickols. The Indians faced a challenging pre-season schedule defeating Waco Midway(23-8) twice by 11 and 9 points, Irving(22-11) by 3, Dallas Roosevelt(20-12) by 11, Joshua(20-9) by 28, and Cleburne(20-9) by 24. Their only two losses came against Richardson(32-3) 61-53 and Tyler Lee 71-67.

The Indians began their playoff run defeating Waco Richfield(20-10) in a zone playoff 102-71. Alexander was the leading scorer with 22 points and Carlos Hooks led Richfield with 24 points. In Bi-District, Dallas Madison challenged Waxahachie for the third season in a row in Irving. The Indians had won both contest 96-91 in 1981 and 94-74 in 1982. The Green and White were too much again dominating 98-76. What was remarkable about the win is that Waxahachie was down 22 points in the first half and came back to win by 22 points. That's a 44 point turn around for those of you who are keeping track. Got to be a record of sorts. 6'6" Lloyd Price and 6'6" Mike Washington were

critical in the comeback effort pulling down a combined 28 rebounds. Curtis Wheeler put up 9 points for the Trojans and Johnny Stepney added 17 points. For the Indians it was the backcourt combination of Mike Byrd and Todd Alexander scoring a combined 56 points. Byrd finished with 30 points and Alexander added 26. Waxahachie outscored Madison 60-24 in the second half.

Next up for the Indians was Jacksonville in Mineola. Jacksonville fell to Waxahachie 67-51 with Alexander hitting 21 points and Roger Hunter pacing Jacksonville with 18 points. As Waxahachie anticipated their regional final contest against Palestine(19-12), the Indians really looked like a team on a mission. Coach Nickols team had gotten off to terrible starts in both playoff games trailing at halftime. That was not the case against Palestine as the Indians jumped out early and led at intermission 31-21. Waxahachie forced 15 turnovers and moved to state once again with a 71-56 victory. Kenneth Abrams kept the Wildcats in the game in the first half from long range scoring 11 of his 14 points. In the second half, Lovings carried his team 18 points. Coach John Nickols of Waxahachie said he was nervous until the very end. "Anytime you have a player like Harlan in the game, I'm scared. He is a fine, fine player, and yes, you have to remember you're not going to play any bad teams when you come this far."

Nickols was in his 12th season as a head coach and 1st at Waxahachie. His previous experience was at Everman. On losing Deon for the season Nickols commented, "I really didn't know what to expect when we lost Deon at the start of the season. He had been the primary playmaker here for two years. There couldn't have been many better than him." Nickols continued, "Coach Aldridge did a good job before I got here, he and I were good friends. So, it was easier for me to move in. I knew some of the players. It wasn't like I was coming in from outer space," Nickols said.

Looking at Region III, Pt. Arthur Lincoln had been highly ranked all season and many thought they would be the top challenger to Waxahachie. The Bumblebees had a rich tradition, as well as coaching, size and depth. In the District 9-4A East Zone the Bumblebees were forced to deal with the Silsbee Tigers, a school with a strong basketball history. The Tigers basically played five guards and tried to press their opponents into submission. After Lincoln and Silsbee split in District action, the two teams came together at McDonald Gym on the campus of Lamar University. At stake would be the District title and the top seed in the playoffs. With a near capacity crowd on hand Silsbee gained revenge over Lincoln 68-57. Lincoln's outstanding point guard, 5'8" Steve Jones went to the bench with foul trouble in the 3rd period and the results were not good for Coach James Gamble. Lincoln committed 26 turnovers on the evening and recorded 26 fouls. Silsbee was only able to hit 12 of 29 from the foul line, but it was enough. Coach Gamble was very

disappointing following the loss. "It's very disappointing, we thought we were the better team, but realistically, you would have to say they are the better team." When facing Silsbee, you always need to be aware that late the game they will spread the court on you. The Tigers took a 64-46 lead on Lincoln and things looked bleak. With Jones on the bench, Silsbee had outscored the Bees 20-8 during the critical third period. Coach Gamble and Lincoln were able to control the inside threat of Delton Harper of the Tigers. In the previous meeting between the two teams, Harper had scored 27 points, but was held to only nine this time. The Bumblebees were unable to stop Lloyd McArthur, who finished with 25 points. "This has got to be the sweetest moment of the year," McArthur said. "This is what we worked all summer and every day in practice for." 6'3" Ricky Williams led Lincoln with 18 points. At 31-1, Silsbee won two of three from Lincoln and moved on to the zone playoffs against Cleveland(24-5) in Dayton. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(24-7) would get Huntsville(22-9), the West Zone champion.

Huntsville(22-9) was ranked #14 in the state and a basketball powerhouse. The Hornets made three straight state tournaments trips in the late 1970s and captured two state titles. In 1977 they advanced to the state semi-finals and finished 26-8. The next season the Hornets returned virtually their entire team winning back to back titles with records of 27-7 and 27-5. The first title was under Coach Joe Main and second was under the tutelage of Coach Gary Surratt. Huntsville ran off a string of impressive records in the 1980s at 27-5, 24-5 and 23-10. Twice the Hornets were derailed by eventual state champions, Beaumont Hebert. The '83 campaign was viewed as a rebuilding season by many and the weakest group since 1976. Coach Surratt was very pleased to be in the playoffs once again.

Huntsville played in the 9-4A West zone against state ranked Cleveland. The two teams dominated the West zone much like Lincoln and Silsbee dominated the East. In the two teams first District encounter, Huntsville took advantage of the home court winning 57-51. Both teams came into the contest at 3-0 in District action. The Hornets came away with 51 rebounds of which 27 were offensive. 5'11" Sherman Gilbert of Huntsville finished with 15 rebounds and 15 points. 6'3" Steve Bruce produced 19 rebounds and point guard George Perry was the leading scorer with 19 points. Cleveland had one of the top performers in the state in 6'4" Charlie McDuffie. Gilbert held the talented senior to only 13 points, which was a big contributing factor in the Hornets victory. Alfred Smith paced the Indians with 17 points and 6'1" Billy Ross proved to be very effective.

In the re-match between the two titans, Cleveland gained revenge 60-55 on their home court. In a miserable display of basketball, the two teams combined to miss seven foul shots in the last 1:40 of the game. "We sure tried

to give it away,” Coach Davy David of Cleveland said after the big win. Cleveland’s tough 2-1-2 zone defense took away the Hornets inside game. Huntsville weakness as a team was their outside shooting. Perry hit 6 of 14 for 15 points and Sherman Gilbert was only 4 of 14 from the floor. McDuffie came away with 18 points leading the Indians to victory. Alfred Smith contributed 18 points as well. Cleveland moved into a tie for first place in the West zone and state ranked with a 24-6 record.

Things looked pretty much set in the West zone with a playoff coming between Huntsville and Cleveland. Then the unexpected happened. Lightly regarded Channelview upset Cleveland 64-62 to give the Zone title to Huntsville. The Hornets had beaten Channelview earlier in the season by 30 points. With the zone winners set, Huntsville prepared for Pt. Arthur Lincoln with a warm-up game against the Bryan Vikings. The Vikings were one of the top rated 5-A teams in the state. They would eventually win the state championship. Bryan came away with a solid win 85-69 over Huntsville. George Perry was held scoreless in the contest. Sophomore Joe Bryant led the Hornets off the bench with 27 points, Steve Bruce added 16 points and Sherman Gilbert kicked in 12 points. For the Vikings, Kevin Bradsher finished with 22 points, Todd Chambers had 17 points, Darryl Mitchell and Rod Bernstine finished with 15 and 10 points apiece.

Humble Kingwood was the site of the showdown between Pt. Arthur Lincoln and Huntsville. These were two of the top programs in the state going against one another. Three out of the top eleven teams in the state rankings were from District 9-4A, as well as the last three state championship teams. Coach Surratt of Huntsville discussed Pt. Arthur Lincoln saying, “I think they have got great talent. They just had an off night against Silsbee. I’ve seen worse teams than theirs win state championships.” Gamble discussed the upcoming game against Huntsville saying, “If we play like we’re capable, we can play with anybody.” Huntsville looked like the underdog with only one starter over 6’0” and returned 6’3” Steve Bruce as their only returning starter. “There’s no doubt Lincoln is deserving of its ranking,” Surratt continued. “We’re not as quick as Lincoln and they have plenty of talent.” 6’3” Steve Bruce(14.0/6.0), 5’10” Sherman Gilbert(14.0/9.0), and 5’10” George Perry(16.0) all averaged in double figures for coach Surratt. Perry was named District M.V.P. averaging 15 points, 7 rebounds, 6 assists and 3 steals per game. Perry was the key to the Hornets attack. Gilbert and Bruce were named 2nd team All-District and got a lot of their points inside.

P.A. Lincoln and Coach Gamble had probably the most impressive line-up this side of Waxahachie. 6’1” Barry “Skywalker” Scruggs(12.8), 6’3” Derek Young(12.7), 6’3” Ricky Williams(11.3), 5’8” Steve Jones and defensive specialist, 6’2” Craig Shields made up the Bees starting line-up. Lincoln’s

second unit could have won a lot of Districts. 6'7" R.C. Mullin, 6'3" Marcus Gipson, 6'0" Gerald Washington and 6'2" Donzell Henton gave coach Gamble one to deepest teams in class AAAA. Mullin was drafted into the N.F.L. after his football career ended at Louisiana Lafayette. Williams was named 1st team All-District along with Scruggs. Young made the 2nd unit.

The 9-4A zone playoff game went right down to the wire with Huntsville(23-9) winning 65-63 over P.A. Lincoln(23-8). Coach Gamble said it was very disappointing. "Looking from the standpoint of the type of personnel we had, I'd have to say it was the most disappointing loss ever," Gamble continued saying, "you have to give Huntsville credit, they're not one of the better teams we've played, but they never quit." 6'2" junior center, Craig Shields, came up big for coach Gamble finishing with 14 points and 7 rebounds. Ricky Williams was steady with 12 points and 11 rebounds. The big problem once again was the guard play that led to 28 turnovers. Huntsville's Sherman Gilbert penetrated the lane and dished to Steve Bruce for the winning bucket with 20 seconds remaining. Lincoln called time out but came down and threw the ball away. After forcing a turnover, the Bees blew another opportunity to send the game into overtime.

For Coach Surratt of Huntsville, the victory was a big relief having lost three of the previous four playoff games. 5'11" Sherman Gilbert paced Huntsville with 20 points and 14 rebounds hitting 12 of 16 from the foul line. One of the Hornets biggest weaknesses all season came from the foul line, but against the Bumblebees the team hit 23 out of 30 attempts. Bruce finished with 12 points and 6 rebounds and Bryant added 18 points. Lincoln was only able to manage 3 of 11 from the foul line. Coach Surratt had nothing but praise for his point guard, George Perry. "He really provided leadership on the floor and handled their press."

Silsbee advanced in their zone playoff against Cleveland(24-7) 63-55. Lloyd McArthur paced the Tigers with 27 points. The game was played in Dayton as Silsbee advanced to Bi-District against Bay City. Cleveland actually led as late as the 3rd quarter 43-42 but failed to handle the Tigers pressure. Charlie McDuffie led the Indians with 24 points. 6'5" McDuffie and 5'10" Alfred Smith were the leaders for Cleveland, both made the All-District team. On the East Zone All-District team, the Tigers dominated. With eight spots available, Silsbee took four. 6'1" Delton Harper, 6'1" Lloyd McArthur, 6'2" Darrell McArthur, and 6'0" Ferrell Artis were all selected first team.

Silsbee captured Bi-District at Deer Park High School with a 57-53 victory over the always competitive Bay City(24-5) Black Cats. The McArthur brothers were the leaders with Lloyd scoring 20 points and Darrell adding 11. Carl Jackson paced Bay City with 17 points. Elton Harper added 16 points and Hart Lee Dykes kicked in 11 points. Leonard Eaton from Bay City was named the

District Co-M.V.P. along with Jeff Knebel of El Campo in District 10-4A. A name to remember was sophomore Hart Lee Dykes of Bay City, who was named to the 2nd team. Dykes would have an outstanding basketball career with the Black Cats, but even a better football career at Oklahoma State. He was the over-all top pick in the N.F.L. draft by Patriots. His career was cut short when he fractured his kneecap. He was only able to play two seasons in the N.F.L. He was named the High School "Player of the Year" by a national publication on the football field. He was a tremendous athlete. Silsbee brought Bay City's 17 game winning streak to an end.

The Silsbee Tigers next opponent was one of best in class 4-A, A&M Consolidated(30-4). These two teams could have been playing in the state finals, but instead they were meeting in the regional semis. Silsbee continued their winning in overtime 73-66. Consolidated had several chances to end the game at the end of the regulation but failed to capitalize. A&M missed a technical free throw and the front end of a one and one with 14 seconds left with the scored tied at 60. Delton Harper finished with 26 points for Silsbee and Lloyd contributed 18 points along with Ferrell Artis adding 15 points. A&M had advanced in the playoffs by defeating Austin Westlake(27-6) 83-77 at Lexington in Bi-District. One of the top guards in the state played for Consolidated, 5'11" Ronnie Thomas. Thomas came away with 34 points in his team's victory over Westlake. Thomas outscoring 6'5" Jimmy Baker of Westlake, who finished with 29 points. Both were named All-State. Thomas and 6'3" Paul Crawford were named to the 1st team on the All-District selections for A&M and were considered the cornerstones of the team.

In Bi-District and the first round of the playoffs, Huntsville met West Columbia(14-13) at Alief Elsik. West Columbia came into the game winning 10 straight and defeated Friendswood 39-37 to win District. The Roughnecks had a big size advantage against Huntsville with 6'4" Jeff Robinson(12.0), 6'4" Robert Sexton, 6'3" Rodney Williams(12.3) and 6'2" Jeff Cadenhead. West Columbia was known for the discipline deliberate offensive attack. Getting the ball inside was their primary goal. Having said that, the team's leading scorer was 6'2" Kevin Davis(19.7), who scored mostly from the outside. Two of the Roughnecks District losses had come at the hands of state ranked Bay City.

West Columbia had no chance against the quickness of the Hornets giving up 12 steals in the first quarter alone. The 71-51 victory was due to aggressive man to man full court pressure. Davis came away with 19 points for West Columbia but most of those points came late in the game, when things had already been decided. Rodney Williams finished with 12 points inside. Huntsville at one point took a 31-point lead with George Perry having another outstanding game. Perry hit 15 points with 10 steals. West Columbia did not

play well shooting 11 of 27 from the foul line and missing 10 front-end of one and ones. Huntsville finished with 31 steals.

Next up for Huntsville was one of the top teams in Houston, the Furr Brahmas. Size would be a big advantage for Furr as well. By this time, you have probably gathered Huntsville was not worried much about giving up size inside. With their quickness they were going to make it a full court game. "We'll have to play out very best to win," Surratt said coming into the regional semi-finals. Furr dwarfed Huntsville according to Jack Duncan of the Huntsville Item. 6'6" Wilford Howray, 6'5" Jesse Green and 6'3" Coy Limbrick were very talented. Huntsville countered with 6'3" Steve Bruce, 5'11" Sherman Gilbert and 5'10" George Perry.

Houston Furr(26-6) came out of the Space City of Houston with a gifted team, as you might expect. In Bi-District, 6'2" Jeff Marks went off for 34 points in Furr's 77-62 win over Del Valle(25-7). Johnny Alonzo led Del Valle with 15 points. Marks was named the District M.V.P. over Thomas of Consolidated. 6'5" Jesse Green and 6'6" Wilford Howray also were named to the 1st team for Furr. Furr's Coach, Freddie Maura was named "Coach of the Year."

Perry dominated against Furr as he penetrated their zone for 16 points and dishing off to Gilbert for a career high 28 points. Perry got to the foul line 17 times hitting 10. The results were Huntsville(25-9) 62 and Houston Furr(26-7) 59 at Spring High School. "Pressure defense was the key, there's no double about that," Surratt said. The Furr guards were pressured into several turnovers. Jesse Green of Furr was described as unstoppable inside finishing with 20 points and 15 rebounds. 6'2" Jeff Marks came away with 14 points and Wilford Howray hit 14 points as well. The Hornets outscored the Brahmas 26-17 in the 4th quarter.

Huntsville was behind most of way against Furr, but finally took the lead at 55-53 with less than four minutes remaining. The Hornets immediately went to their spread offense. The Brahmas were unsuccessful chasing the quicker Hornets. Furr finished the season with an impressive 25-8 record. "We didn't get good guard play we normally get," Coach Freddie Maura said following the game. "I'm really at a loss for words. We let it slip away."

The two top teams in Region III were Huntsville and Silsbee. They had eliminated Pt. Arthur Lincoln, Houston Furr, Cleveland, A&M Consolidated and Bay City. In 1983 this was the deepest of the regions in class 4-A. So many strong teams had been eliminated in the run to the regional finals. Both teams were very similar and had been good as well as lucky to advance. Neither team had any real size to speak of, but both teams played with intense full court pressure. Silsbee(34-1) had knocked out Pt. Arthur Lincoln in District action 69-57 and the Hornets eliminated Bees from the state playoffs 65-63.

Silsbee(34-1) and Huntsville(25-9) would be playing for a trip to Austin. Coach Gary Surratt was excited at the pre-game meeting on deciding where the game would be played. Coach Terry Culley of Silsbee did not want to play at Kingwood, so both teams selected large arenas close to home. Coach Surratt selected University Coliseum on the campus of Sam Houston State at home in Huntsville. Silsbee wanted Lamar University in Beaumont. Surratt won the toss and ended up playing at home even if it wasn't their home court. In looking at his opponent, Surratt made several comments leading up to the game. "They've got the best press defense I've EVER seen. They'll trap you and double-team you all over the place. They're even quicker than Sam Houston(College team). The Tigers are even quicker than the Hebert teams which won three straight titles," Surratt continued.

Huntsville scouted three games in preparation for Silsbee. 5'10" floor leader, Ferrell Artis was going to create problems for Huntsville with his quickness. Huntsville did not get off to a strong start and fell behind early. The Tigers proved too much for Huntsville taking a 31-15 halftime lead and winning 66-54. The closest the Hornets could get in the second half was 11 points. "We met a better ball club. We've probably met some better ball clubs in the playoffs and we beat them. This was one of those nights," Surratt said following the disappointing loss. "Once they got up on us they were able to pull the ball out and isolated us. They were quicker than us at all five positions. They were extremely quick." Huntsville press was not affective against the Tigers as 5'10" Artis did some serious damage. Although he only scored 3 points, his ball handling was the difference. "He was the key to their offense," the Huntsville coach said. "He is a legitimate All-State candidate." George Perry fouled out with 2:26 remaining in the game with only 8 points. Gilbert finished with 13, Bryant 14 and Bruce kicked in 10 points. Delton Harper finished with 20 points while Lloyd McArthur added 16 points for Silsbee. "I was pleased with our defense," Coach Terry Culley of Silsbee said. Silsbee finished 14 of 27 from the foul line while Huntsville suffered hitting only 4 of 11.

All four of teams that congregated in Austin were outstanding and entertaining. Corpus Christi Flour Bluff and Borger liked to control the tempo, while Silsbee wanted to get up and down. Waxahachie had the size and depth to play about any style they wanted to play. Many surprises had occurred in the state playoffs. Pampa was unable to get past Borger out west and Pt. Arthur Lincoln got knocked out by Huntsville and Silsbee. Waxahachie didn't disappoint, as they entered the final four as the favorite.

Upon coming to Austin, Coach Nickols commented, "We feel like we can win it, but I'm sure the other three teams feel the same way." Waxahachie did something that is very unusual in approaching their semi-final contest. They

skipped their optional half hour workout at the Drum and stayed home and got in a two-hour workout at school. The next morning, they jumped on a plane and traveled to Austin for their scheduled game.

At the Frank Erwin Center, Waxahachie(33-2) faced Flour Bluff(30-4) out of Corpus Christi. Flour Bluff looked to 5-10 Eric Miller, 6'6" Frank Fishtel, 6'2" Bobby Jackson and 6'2" Kevin Washington(16.0) to lead coach Bill Batey's attack. Coach Batey commented, "we can't depart from playing our game. I think just being here is a lot of motivation."

Flour Bluff had only four losses coming into state. Corpus Christi Carroll 55-43 and San Antonio Fox Tech(23-9) 56-54 had defeated Flour Bluff in the 3rd and 4th games of the season. Both were also 5-A programs. The other two losses were at the hands of West Oso 52-49 and Calhoun Port Lavaca 53-52. Some real solid victories came against Corpus Christi Ray(21-10) 43-35, Bay City(24-5) 55-54, Laredo Nixon(18-13) 63-54, and they defeated their District rival, Tuloso Midway three times, 59-57, 67-49 and 52-47. The last win was for the Region IV title. But it is safe to say the Hornets had never faced a team as talented as the Waxahachie Indians.

In front of a crowd of 8,500, Waxahachie dismantled Flour Bluff 76-57. It was the Hornets biggest deficit of the season. 6'6" Mike Washington finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds and Todd Alexander hit 14 points. The Indians press controlled the game early as Waxahachie took a 34-20 halftime lead. Flour Bluff was playing without their second leading scorer, 6'6" Roger Durden, who suffered an ankle injury in the Hornets regional final game against Tuloso-Midway. "I'm sure losing Durden hurt them," Nickols said. "That had to be a major factor. I think our depth was a factor." Ten Indians scored in the contest. Lionel Slaughter came off the bench and scored 12 points for Coach Nickols. Price added 14 points and 11 rebounds. The Indians also won the rebound battle 47-30. Bobby Jackson came up big for Bluff with 18 points. Waxahachie moved on to the state championship game as overwhelming favorite.

In the other semi-final game, Borger and Silsbee were an excellent matchup. The #2 and #4 teams in the final state rankings. The teams were not real familiar with one another because of distance. Borger was closer to Cheyenne, Wyoming then Silsbee. The distance between the two schools was 650 miles. Yes, Texas is enormous, but that's what makes the playoffs so fun and interesting. Teams come from all over the state to compete for the title. The only real connection between the two schools was the Silsbee's head coach, Terry Culley, had been an assistant during the 1950s at Pampa. The legendary Clifton McNeely was having his run with the Harvesters during the decade. Culley later succeeded McNeely as head coach at Pampa.

Culley was making his 8th trip to state and first with Silsbee. His career record was impressive at 720-238. Silsbee(35-1) counted on a full court press and the talents of 6'3" Delton Harper(17.0), 6'0" Lloyd MacArthur(17.1) and a talented freshman named Darrell MacArthur(9.5). Borger had limited size with 6'4" Willis and 6'2" Sheppard, but Sheppard played much bigger. 6'1" Ricky McDonald and 5'8" Tony Tillman made up a strong backcourt for the Bulldogs. Coach Hunt commented, "I understand their press is as good as anybody's in the state tournament." The Tigers were on a 25-game winning streak with 35 total wins. Culley was in his third year at the helm at Silsbee and had an 83-21 record with the Tigers.

The contrasting styles between Borger and Silsbee produced a wild game. Kevin Willis of Borger was once again the man of the hour. Willis hit 4 foul shots in the final 11 seconds to give the Bulldogs the win 61-56. Willis finished with 14 points and 6 rebounds and saved most of his heroics for the last quarter. The Tigers were down by as many as 15 points in the last stanza. After a furious comeback, Lloyd MacArthur went to the line with a chance to tie the score at 57. Shooting a one and one, he hit the first and missed the second, leaving the Tigers down by one. Willis got the rebound with 12 second left and was fouled, sending him to the line on the other end of the court. Willis hit both free throws, making the score 59-56. Silsbee was unable to get the ball inbounds, giving the ball back to Borger. Coach Hunt's team had missed the front end of 3 previous one and one situations before Willis came through for the West Texas school. Ten 4th quarter turnovers by the Bulldogs got Silsbee back into the game. "We got tentative late. We made some passes we shouldn't have tried," Hunt said.

Sheppard dominated for three quarters scoring 22 points along with 15 rebounds. McDonald fouled out for Borger with 3:25 remaining and finished with 10 points. Borger's changing defenses gave Silsbee a lot of trouble. Borger shot 56% from the floor on 24 of 43, while the Tigers shot only 35% finishing with 24 of 68. Dalton Harper paced Silsbee in the losing effort with 22 points.

As Borger marched into the state finals they had to be questioning themselves against the Waxahachie Indians. Both teams had one common opponent and that was Joshua(20-9). The Indians destroyed Joshua 100-72, while Borger had lost 71-65. That is over a 30 points difference. Borger was returning to the state finals for the first time since their 1977 loss to Daingerfield 72-68. Waxahachie was back in the finals for the third time over the previous eight seasons. The Indian had lost to Hebert in the '82 finals and Odessa Ector in '76. Coach Hunt commented, "We're glad to be here. It's unbelievable what this bunch has done, and I'm grateful. It's been a fantastic year." In discussing Waxahachie Coach Hunt said, "they are an outstanding

ballclub, my goodness they've been ranked #1 or #2 all year." The veteran coach continued saying, "they've got more depth than any 4-A team I've seen all year, and they use those people to their advantage." Waxahachie had eight players over 6'2" with a talented bench. "We have to shoot well from the outside because they are so big," Hunt said. "If we take it inside all the time, they're going to reject quite a few against us."

The finals had clearly the two top teams in the state in class 4-A. Both teams had earned their position in the title game. Two of the top coaches in the state would be going against each other. Waxahachie, after so many disappointments in Austin finally took home the gold with a convincing 79-66 win over the Bulldogs. Washington was dominating with 13 points and 7 rebounds, Price added 14 points and 11 rebounds. These two talents later played at T.C.U. and Tyler J.C. They were a tough match-up for every team the Indians faced. Who was the top player for coach Nickols? That honor went to 5'10" Todd Alexander, who finished with 27 points, 12 rebounds and 5 assists. Coach Nickols commented, "I've had some scouts tell me that he is the best guard they've seen."

Coach Nickols said following the game, "I thought our depth was a factor." Alexander compared this year's team to the previous teams, "they were a tough ballclubs, and I give them a lot of respect, but we were much more confident this year." Alexander and 6'2" Adrian Frazier were both juniors. Frazier finished with an impressive stats line of 10 points with 8 assists. Frazier would later play at North Texas. Frazier commented, "they were a good team, but I felt like our running wore them down and they got a little tired." Price added, "I just wish we could have gotten one for Coach Aldridge before he left." Price continued saying, "we sure would like to get a game with Houston Yates or Ft. Worth Dunbar, we think we could stay with them. This is what we have been after for four years." Price was asked to compare his two coaches while playing for the Indians. "Coach Nickols is more of a disciplinary coach, he feels like we should be men in everything we do. We have to work hard if we want to stay on top." Nickols received written progress reports each week from his players. No grades, no play. His rationale was that study habits will pay off just as much in college as learning fundamental defense."

Coach Duane Hunt of Borger(28-7) spoke very openly after his team's defeat saying, "No question about it, Waxahachie had an outstanding ballclub. They are one of the deepest teams in 4-A that I've seen in a long time." The Indians size and quickness forced 23 Borger turnovers. Down 64-55 with only 4:07 remaining the game, Borger began gambling trying to get back in the game. "We wanted to make something happen so we went into a trapping press," Hunt said. Waxahachie had little trouble with the press and 6'6" Mike Washington and 6'6" Lloyd Price finished with two nice dunks.

Todd Alexander proved he was one of the top guards in the state even as a junior. "He's a great player," Hunt said. "He alone was difficult to stop." 6'1" Dwight Coffey came away with high point honors for Borger with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Coffey commented after the game, "when they kept coming in with those 6'3", 6'5" and 6'7" guys, that eventually wore us down." Sheppard followed with 16 points and 6 rebounds and Mr. Willis added 11 points.

Coach Duane Hunt had some closing comments, "but whoever thought we'd get to state, this was the smallest crew I've had in a while, but the chemistry was right." A crowd of 11,500 watched the class 4-A finals.

When asked what was the key to victory coach John Nickols answered, "we had more talent. Simple as that, I'm no genius. These are gifted young men with the ability to play basketball. But, more than that, they were willing to practice hard and make themselves better. We drilled fundamentals constantly. Nobody ever loafed. And they have remained unselfish throughout the season." Alexander chimed in saying, "Once we started getting the outlet pass going it changed a lot of things, no team in Texas can run with us."

It was Waxahachie first state title since 1958. The Indians had to rank right up there with the best that have ever won the 4-A title. 5'9" Mike Byrd played baseball at Howard J.C., Price played at Tyler J.C., Adrian Frazier played for the Mean Green at North Texas, Washington was a Frog at T.C.U., 6'7" Frank Dyer played at U.T. Arlington and Alexander was the top recruit in the state the following year and signed with Minnesota. The Indians averaged 82.5 points per game during the season and allowed 59.1, a difference of +23.4. The Green and White playoff totals were very impressive, 78.2-61.2 for a +17.0 difference. The Indians had all double-digit victories in District with their closest contest coming against Corsicana(16-14) at 82-71. They also had no single digit victories in the playoffs as well.

All-Tournament Team-Todd Alexander, Lloyd Price and Mike Washington of Waxahachie; Terrance Sheppard of Borger, Delton Harper of Silsbee:

The **TABC AAAA All-State team**: **1st Team**-6'2" Terrance Sheppard(17.0), Borger; 6'3" Mike Nelson(23.8), Pampa; 6'6" Mike Washington(13.0), Waxahachie, 5'10" Todd Alexander(21.0), Waxahachie; 6'1" Lloyd McArthur(17.1), Silsbee; **2nd Team**-James Carson, Liberty Eylau; 6'7" Jody Reeves(25.2), Allen; 5'11" Ronnie Thomas, A&M Consolidated; 6'5" Jimmy Baker, Austin Westlake; **3rd Team**-Ricky Capello, Edcouch-Elsa; 5'10" George Perry, Huntsville; Rodney Williams, Del Valle; Eddie Harris, Jacksonville; 6'1" Victor Spencer(23.7), Lamesa:

The **Texas Sports Writers All-State** was very similar: **1st Team**- 6'2" Terrance Sheppard(17.0), Borger; 6'6" Mike Washington(13.0), Waxahachie; 5'11" Todd Alexander(21.0), Waxahachie; 5'11" Ronnie Thomas, A&M Consolidated; 6'5" Lloyd Price, Waxahachie; **2nd Team**- 6'1" Victor Spencer(23.7), Lamesa; 6'5" Cliff Ridge, Tuloso Midway; 6'1" Delton Harper, Silsbee; 6'1" Lloyd McArthur(17.1), Silsbee; 6'4" Kevin Willis(13.0), Borger; **3rd Team**- 6'4" Harland Lovings, Palestine; 6'5" Charlie

McDuffie, Cleveland; 6-6 Jody Reeves(25.2), Allen; 6'5" Jeff Robinson, Columbia; 6'2" William Smith, Mansfield; 6'1" Brian Hinds, Joshua; 6'2" Kevin Davis, Columbia:

The most glaring omission was Mike Nelson from Pampa, probably the top player in the state in 4-A. Also, very hard to believe Pt. Arthur Lincoln and Huntsville placed nobody on the All-State team by the Sports Writers.

1983 State Rankings AAAA {End of the Regular Season}:

1.	Waxahachie	29-2	5'11" Todd Alexander, 6'6" Mike Washington
2.	Silsbee	31-1	6'1" Delton Harper, 6'1" Lloyd MacArthur
3.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	24-7	6'3" Ricky Williams, 6'1" Barry Scruggs
4.	Borger	24-6	6'2" Terrance Sheppard, 6'4" Kevin Willis
5.	Dallas Jesuit	24-5	6'4" Gary Swain, Billy Young
6.	C.C. Flour Bluff	27-4	6'2" Kevin Washington, 6'6" Frank Fisher
7.	Houston Furr	24-5	6'2" Jeff Marks, 6'5" Jesse Green
8.	Mansfield	27-2	6'3" William Smith(20.0), Ron Johnson
9.	A&M Consolidated	28-4	5'11" Ronnie Thomas, 6'3" Paul Crawford
10.	Pampa	21-6	6'3" Mike Nelson(24.5), 6'7" Coyle Winborn(13.0)
11.	Austin Westlake	26-3	6'5" Jimmy Baker
12.	SA South San West	20-9	Albert Williams, Brian Carroll
13.	Bay City	24-4	5'9" Carl Jackson, Leonard Eaton
14.	Huntsville	22-9	5'10" Sherman Gilbert, 6'3" Steve Bruce
15.	Del Valle	25-6	Rodney Williams
16.	Lamesa	26-4	Chris Mason, 6'1" Victor Spencer(23.7)
17.	W.F. Hirschi	24-5	6'1" Ronnie Smith(17.7), Rodney James
18.	Waco Midway	23-8	Carlos Hooks, Mike Lucas
19.	S.A. Alamo Heights	25-5	Jonathan Robinson
20.	Liberty Eylau	18-10	James Carson

Others-Allen(25-3), Brownsville Pace(24-8), Cleburne(20-8), Cleveland(24-6), Edcouch Elsa(23-7), Paris(19-8), Snyder(23-5), Waco Richfield(20-9), Kerrville Tivy(20-9):

1983 4-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	Pampa(22-6) #10	79	Lamesa(24-5) #16	65
	Borger(25-6) #4	69	Snyder(24-5)	54
	Wichita Falls Hirschi(24-5) #17	62	Cleburne(20-8)	47
	Mansfield(24-2) #8	88	Iowa Park	74
Region I Semi Finals	Borger(26-6) #4	63	Wichita Falls Hirschi(25-5) #17	62
	Pampa(23-6) #10	58	Mansfield(25-2) #8	46
Regional Finals	Borger(27-6) #4	56	Pampa(24-6) #10	49
Region II Bi-Dist.	Jacksonville(19-9)	71	Paris(19-8)	64
	Allen(25-3)	64	Waco Midway(23-8) #18	57
	Palestine(16-11)	60	Liberty Eylau(18-10) #20	37
	Waxahachie(30-2) #1	98	Dallas Madison	76
Region II Semi Finals	Palestine(17-11)	51	Allen(26-3)	47
	Waxahachie(31-2) #1	67	Jacksonville(20-9)	51
Region II Finals	Waxahachie(32-2) #1	71	Palestine(18-11)	56
Region III Bi-Dist.	Silsbee(32-1) #2	57	Bay City(24-4) #13	53
	A&M Consolidated(28-4) #9	83	Austin Westlake(27-3) #11	77
	Houston Furr(24-7)	77	Del Valle(25-6) #15	62
	Huntsville(23-9) #14	71	West Columbia(14-13)	51
Region III Semis	Silsbee(33-1) #2	73	A&M Consolidated(29-4) #9	66

	Huntsville(23-9) #14	62	Houston Furr(25-7) #7	59
Region III Finals	Silsbee(34-1) #2	66	Huntsville(24-9) #14	54
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Kerrville Tivy(20-19)	66	SA Alamo Heights(25-5) #20	64
	CC Flour Bluff(27-4) #6	70	LaJoya(14-14)	40
	CC Tuloos Midway	57	Brownville Pace OT	55
	South San Antonio West(20-9)	46	Gonzales(21-10)	40
Region IV Semis	CC Flour Bluff(28-4) #6	67	Kerrville Tivy(21-9)	51
	CC Tuloos Midway	56	South San Antonio West(21-9)	55
Region IV Finals	CC Flour Bluff(29-4) #6	52	CC Tuloos Midway	47
State Semi-Finals	Waxahachie(33-2) #1	76	CC Flour Bluff(30-4) #6	57
	Borger(28-6) #4	61	Silsbee(35-1) #2	56
State Finals	Waxahachie(34-2) #1	79	Borger(29-6) #4	66

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1983 AAAA Top Teams}

1. Waxahachie 35-2 {The Indians left no doubt, defeated Borger +13}
2. Borger 29-7 {3-0 vs. Pampa, def. Silsbee 61-56}
3. Silsbee 35-2 {2-1 vs. PA Lincoln, def. Huntsville, Bay City, A&M Con.}
4. W.F. Hirschi 26-5 {lost to Borger 63-62 in 2nd round action}
5. Bay City 24-5 {lost to Silsbee in Bi-District 57-53}
6. Pampa 24-7 {regional finalist, second best in West Texas}
7. Huntsville 25-10 {regional finalist, lost to Silsbee 66-54, def. PA Lincoln}
8. Pt. Arthur Lincoln 24-8 {lost in zone playoff to Huntsville 65-63, 1-2 vs. Silsbee}
9. Houston Furr 25-8 {lost in regional semis to Huntsville 62-59}
10. A&M Consolidated 29-5 {lost to Silsbee in reg. semis 73-66}
11. CC Flour Bluff 30-5 {def Bay City 55-54 and Tuloos Midway three times}
12. Cleveland 24-7 {lost in Zone to Silsbee 63-55}
13. Lamesa 24-6 {lost in Bi-District to Pampa 79-65}
14. Tuloos Midway {regional finalist losing to Flour Bluff 52-47}
15. Snyder 24-6 {lost in Bi-District to Borger 69-54}
16. Mansfield 25-3 {lost in Regional semis to Pampa 58-46}
17. Austin Westlake 27-6 {lost to A&M Consolidated in Bi-District 83-77}
18. Del Valle 25-7 {lost the district runner up game to Furr 77-62}
19. Cleburne 20-9 {lost in Bi-District to WF Hirschi 62-47}
20. Palestine 19-12 {regional finals losing to Waxahachie 71-56}
21. Jacksonville 20-10 {regional semi-finals losing to Waxahachie}
22. Allen 26-4 {lost in regional semis to Palestine 51-47}
23. Liberty-Eylau 18-11 {too the school's first district title in OT win over Paris}
24. Paris 19-9 {knocked out of the playoffs in 1st round by Jacksonville}
25. Henderson 18-8 {lost district runner-up playoff to Paris 56-41}

1983 AAA

Class 3-A basketball had a team for the ages in 1983, the Dimmitt Bobcats. Coach Kenneth Cleveland's team finished with a perfect 38-0, dominated District opponents by an average of +39.0 per game and continued their domination in the playoffs with a +30.0 margin. The West Texas school was the defending their title from the previous season, winning back to back titles. The Bobcats won 44 games in a row over a two-year period.

During the regular season Dimmitt played a challenging schedule facing the class AA champion, Morton(28-8) four times. The Indians lost to Dimmitt 92-72, 78-59, 75-61 and 73-59. The Bobcats defeated 5-A schools, Wichita Falls 71-55, Lubbock High 67-66, Lubbock Coronado 82-60 and District rival, Abernathy(25-9) 74-65 and 73-54.

Dimmitt started the incredible third season facing Amarillo Boys Ranch(14-11) in the playoffs, a team that was making their first appearance ever. Dimmitt had such a tough line-up paced by 5'10" Kevin Cleveland(23.4). Cleveland was the coach's son and a returning All-State performer. Other starters for Dimmitt were sharpshooter, 6'1" John Smith(15.7,6.0), 6'5" Jeff Watts(12.5/9.1), John King(9.1,9.2) and point guard, Fermin Gonzalez(5.0).

"I think it'll be real tough," said Roughriders coach, Ben Allison. "They're a whole lot better than they were last year. I think they're the best in this part of the country. We're just happy to be there."

Coach Kenneth Cleveland counter, "they've got a scrappy ball club and they've got good size." Boys Ranch relied on two key players, Benjie Adams(15.0) and 6'4" Dale Horner(15.0). The final was not close as Dimmitt marched on with an 89-49 victory. Kevin Cleveland knocked in 19 points, Watts added 16 points, John Smith had 24 points and John King hit 12 points. The score stood 43-28 at halftime. Horner led Boys Ranch with 13 points. It was the Bobcats 41st win in a row over a two-year period. A capacity crowd of 2,000 watched the contest. Dimmitt shot 39 of 71 for 55% while Boys Ranch could only manage 20 of 57 for 35%.

Coach Cleveland's second round opponent was Slaton(22-9) at the Texas Dome in Levelland. Dimmitt had defeated Slaton twice previously 79-47 and 76-55. In front 1,500 fans the Bobcats throttled Slaton 82-46. Coach Cleveland chimed in, "we respected Slaton. We weren't going to take them lightly even though we'd beaten them twice." Cleveland finished with 22 points and 6'1" Smith hit 17. Coach Cleveland had high praise for his team after the game, "We won state last year with a good basketball team. But this one is the best we've ever had." Slaton was led by 6'4" George White, who racked up 20 points and was the only Tiger in double figures. The Bobcats placed ten players in the scoring column.

In the regionals at Lubbock, the Bobcats District rival, Abernathy appeared to want another chance at Dimmitt. The Antelopes (21-10) opened playoffs facing an always strong Perryton(25-8) team, winner of 11 straight. Perryton had won District 1-3A, while Abernathy was the runner-up to Dimmitt in 2-3A. Abernathy had a size advantage in the contest with four starters taller than 6'0". 6'6" Allen Lester and 6'3" Ed Teal(18.0) presented some real match-up problems for Perryton. "They're strong inside and mobile," Perryton coach Charles McLarty said. "We're going to have to stop their inside game and go

from there.” At one point in the early season Perryton’s record had stood at 5-8. Standouts for Coach McLarty were 6’0” Danny Smith(10.9), 6’0” Clint Allred(9.9), and 6’4” Chris Smith(8.5). At Canyon High School in front 850 fans Abernathy dominated inside on the boards 52-39 and came away with a 74-54 victory. 6’3” Ed Teal put on quite a display scoring 25 points with 13 rebounds on 11 of 14 from the floor. Abernathy took 26 more shots than Perryton. The Antelopes sophomore sensation, Sammy Galloway, put down two slam dunks for the crowd’s entertainment. Coach Irlbeck of Abernathy played his subs the last six minutes of the game. Abernathy had 30-point blowout over Idalou in the second round 69-39 to advance to regionals.

As Dimmitt and Abernathy came into regionals they were well aware of what was at stake. Dimmitt was dominating everybody and held form against Canutillo 93-47. Nine different players scored for Dimmitt and Jeff Watts led the way with 23 points. For Abernathy, the Antelopes took apart Ballinger 83-75 with a 10 for 15 performance from the foul line in the 4th period. Ed Teal was impressive once again scoring 31 points and Galloway finished with 20 points.

At the Lubbock Municipal Coliseum, Abernathy and Dimmitt prepared to play for the last time during the ’83 campaign. Point guard Fermin Gonzales contributed 12 points for Dimmitt, while Kevin Cleveland scored 13, John King 11, Jeff Watts 19 and John Smith 19. That’s five players in double figures and the Bobcats bounced Abernathy from the playoffs 78-56. Ed Teal led Abernathy with 19 points and Cletus Irlbeck finished with 12 points. Cletus was ejected from the contest. Teal picked up his 4th foul with 5:01 left in the 3rd quarter and that was pretty much ball game. Dimmitt extended their lead to 42-33 in his absence. Coach Irlbeck came back with Teal at the 3:09 mark of the period, but the damage was done. Dimmitt took control of the game with a 22-9 advantage in the 3rd period. The score was 36-29 at halftime in favor of the Bobcats.

At state, everybody almost conceded the state championship to Dimmitt. But as followers of the state tournament, you know all too well what can happen in a one game sudden death elimination game. Dimmitt(36-0) played Lindale(26-7) in the semi-finals at 2:00 in the afternoon. Newspapers were trying to look back as to the last time a class 3-A team had went undefeated. The answer was 1961 with the Buna going 43-0. Coach Jody Sory of Lindale commented, “I’m playing Dimmitt, we have nothing to lose.” Coach Cleveland showed concern saying, “records don’t mean that much when you get down here. I’ve impressed on my team you don’t win on your record.”

Lindale was impressive with an athletic team having won 14 straight games. Lindale had advanced against New Boston in the regional finals knocking down 19 of 21 free throws. 6’1” Stanley Smith(21.0) was their all-

state performer and would need the game of his life to pull out the victory. 6'5" Willie Griffin and 6'3" James Griffin averaged 25 points and 20 rebounds together. 6'5" Jeff Fennell was another key contributor along with 5'10" Richard Cooper for the Eagles. Lindale only started one senior. "If we can keep it close and stay in there, we could have a chance because our last three games have all been close," Lindale's Coach Sory said.

Dimmitt was attempting to become the first team from the Panhandle to win back to back titles since Pampa back in 1958 and 1959. "They are as excited now as they were last year." Cleveland said, "and that's a good sign. We're down with only one objective and that's to win state. They're fired up and ready to go."

In front of 7,000 fans at the drum, Dimmitt took control of the semi-final game against Lindale(26-7) and cruised to a 63-47. It would end up being the closest game for the Bobcats in the state playoffs. Coach Jody Sory of Lindale said following the loss, "Dimmitt was just like we expected, they handled our press, and they shot like we were afraid they would do." Coach Cleveland said, "when I heard Lindale loved to run, that tickled me to death. We seem to play better when we run." The Bobcats led at halftime 45-34 and outrebounded Lindale 28-19. Dimmitt had little trouble with the Lindale press. Cleveland said, "I didn't expect to out rebound them." Jeff Watts pulled down 13 rebounds and John King came away with 13 rebounds for Dimmitt. Kevin Cleveland led the scoring parade with 25 points, Watts added 13 points, Smith finished with 11 and King added 10 points. The Eagle's 14 game winning streak came to an end. Lindale was 22 of 64 from the floor at 34 % and the Bobcats hit 25 of 51 for 49 %. Lindale at one point closed the gap on Dimmitt to 49-41 with 7:45 left in the game. Smith scored 16 points to lead Lindale and J. Griffin hit 10. Coach Cleveland took his starters out with 45 seconds remaining up by 18.

Van Vleck marched into the semi-finals against Columbus with the winner gaining the right to face Dimmitt. Van Vleck had lost earlier in the season to Columbus 65-53. Columbus(31-4) came out of District 24-3A and had last appeared at state in 1980. Van Vleck(24-6) represented District 25-3A and was returning to Austin after a two-year absence. Columbus starters consisted of 6'1" Arthur Coleman, 6'1" Wayne Thomas(15.1), 6'3" Alan Koopman, 6'3" Troy Denley and 6'6" Thomas Tolliver(15.0). Coach Mike Benedict of Columbus commented, "our offense is an extension of our defense. I think defense is what's gonna make or break us." Van Vleck had some solid size as well with, 6'0" Warren Polk, 6'2" Kelvin Prince(15.0), 6'1" Andre Martin, 6'4" Arkeith Brown and 6'4" Edwin Williams.

The key to the game for Columbus was standout, Thomas Tolliver, who fouled out with 4:53 left in the 4th quarter. In his absence Van Vleck outscored Columbus 27-18 to advance to the state finals 67-57. Columbus finished with

25 turnovers compared to the Leopards 8. Scoring breakdown for Van Vleck had Kelvin Prince with 18 points and Troy Denley finished with 17 points. Columbus ended the 1983 campaign with an impressive 31-5 record.

As Coach Cleveland entered the state championship game against Van Vleck(25-6) he realized his team could end up going undefeated. "It's really amazing that we have a chance to be the only undefeated team in Texas. In fact, it's kind of scary." Dimmitt was also looking at a 44-game winning streak. In referring to Van Vleck coach Cleveland said, "those people have a lot of talent. What's scary to me is while they're not selective on their shots, if they get hot, look out." Cleveland continued with his assessment saying, "they push their defense way out, and I think we can get inside some. And if we can beat their press, we should get a lot of 2 on 1 and 3 on 2 situations."

In front of 8,500 screaming fans the senior dominated line-up of Dimmitt left no doubt defeating Van Vleck 81-54. It was the largest margin of victory since the legendary Buna teams back in the 1950s. Buna defeated Seminole back in 1957 by 29 points. The Leopards had a great game plan, but things got away from them early. Coach Cleveland said, "they ran a box and one on Kevin, and we didn't expect that at all. But that left the inside open, and we did a great job moving the ball." The 6'4" muscleman, Jeff Watts and 6'6" John King combined for 19 points and 15 rebounds in the first half. Dimmitt outrebounded the Leopards 30-20 for the game. Rebounding was supposed to be Van Vleck's only real advantage over Dimmitt. Van Vleck was described by some sports writers as a playground team. The Bobcats shot 31 of 69 from the floor for 45%. The Leopards only shot 32% from the floor hitting 25 of 79 attempts. Coach Cleveland was a real student of the game analyzing a lot of film and studying opponents when possible. Dimmitt's defense was described as a match-up 2-3 zone and gave opponents fits.

Kevin Cleveland finished his outstanding career at Dimmitt with 24 points to lead his father's team in scoring. John Smith contributed 11 points and added 12 rebounds, while Jeff Watts kicked in 19 points and King added 12 points and 19 rebounds. For Van Vleck, Warren Polk finished with 16 points and 6'4" ArKeith Brown had a solid effort with 13 points and 9 rebounds. The Leopards leading scorer on the season was Kelvin Prince who could manage only 4 of 22 shooting. Coach Ernest Wilson was in his second season at Van Vleck. Wilson commented after the tough loss, "We wanted to stop Cleveland and definitely rebound on the defensive boards, not giving them second and third shots. The problem was there weren't many second shots." Wilson continued saying, "It wasn't our turn, to come this far is an accomplishment. It took the best in the state to get rid of Van Vleck."

For the Dimmitt Bobcat it was their fourth state title, having captured the championship in 1952, 1975 and 1982. Kevin Cleveland left the floor for the

final time with 43 seconds remaining and shook his father’s hand and said, “We did it, Dad.” Ken Cleveland was a “**Texas Legend**.” His untimely death in 1993 at the age of 57 left everybody in shock in the small community. He was on vacation with granddaughter and was struck by lightning while seeking shelter under a tree. In 32 years of coaching he accumulated an incredible record of 897 wins and 277 losses during that span. At the time of his death, he was 19th winningest coach in the country. His wife, Libby, compiled a book of letters written by former players for Coach Cleveland. The book is called “Letters for Coach.” He took his teams to state 10 times and captured 27 District titles and 3 state championships. In visiting with his good friend and rival, Coach Tony Mauldin of Morton and Garland Lakeview fame, he said the amazing thing about Ken was his record with limited talent. “Coach had many outstanding high school players, but few were big time recruits,” Coach Mauldin shared. “His 1983 team was his best in my opinion, I should know they beat us four times. We got to be good friends over the years, we traveled to clinics together.” Mauldin continued, “Coach Cleveland was a 2-3 zone man and pushed the ball when possible. He was the athletic director and kept the gym open year around. He was a teacher of the game; his kids knew the game. His teams were loaded with basketball junkies and gym rats. They seldom passed the eye test but they could play.”

From his 1983 team, Kevin Cleveland went on to play at Wayland Baptist, John Smith went into coaching, John King and Jeff Watts became ranchers. Mauldin felt the glue to the title team was Watts. He was a big strong, physical guy inside. The Dimmitt Bobcats of 1983 will always rank with the best to ever play in class AAA.

All-Tournament Team-Kevin Cleveland, Jeff Watts, John King, John Smith of Dimmitt; Warren Polk, Van Vleck:

1983 State Rankings AAA {End of the Regular Season}:

1.	Dimmitt	31-0
2.	Center	26-5
3.	H. Marian Christian	28-3
4.	C.C. West Oso	23-2
5.	Dallas St. Mark’s	28-3
6.	Columbus	27-4
7.	New Boston	23-4
8.	Kermit	25-4
9.	Graham	25-4
10.	Lindale	22-7
11.	McGregor	17-2
12.	Groesbeck	27-5
13.	Boerne	21-9
14.	Whitehouse	21-7

15.	Crockett	23-8
16.	Palestine WW	21-6
17.	Abernathy	22-9
18.	Denver City	19-8
19.	Omaha Paul Pewitt	22-5
20.	Diboll	22-7

Others: Bowie(23-5), Coldspring(27-4), Hempstead(22-7), Kaufman(26-5), LaGrange(22-7), New Braunfels Smithson Valley(23-5), Justin Northwest(20-9), Seminole(20-8):

The **TABC AAA All-State: 1st Team-** 5'10" Kevin Cleveland, Dimmitt; 6'1" John Smith, Dimmitt; 6'4" Ron Ranger, Graham; Clifford Young, Willis; Roderick Goins, Hitchcock; **2nd Team-** 6'4" Jeff Watts, Dimmitt; Johnny Ray Holland, Hempstead; 6'3" Ed Teal(18.0), Abernathy; 6'3" Troy Denley, Columbus; Jim Hellums, Pearsall; **3rd Team-** Barry Kimball, Kermit; Jeff Voight, Boerne; 6'0" Warren Polk, Van Vleck; 6'1" Stanley Smith, Lindale; Alvin Davis, Center:

Texas Sports Writers AAA: 1st Team- 5'10" Kevin Cleveland, Dimmitt; 6'3" Bryan Young, Goliad; 6'1" Roderick Goins, Hitchcock; 6'1" John Smith, Dimmitt; 6'4" Jeff Watts, Dimmitt; David Haynes, McGregor: **2nd Team-** 6'5" Kevin Hurley, Diboll; 6'6" Thomas Toliver, Columbus; 6'3" Ed Teal(18.0), Abernathy; 6'0" Warren Polk, Van Vleck; 6'0" Richard Cooper, Lindale; **3rd Team-** 6'2" Stan Smith, Lindale; 6'4" Bruce Nedd, Stafon, 6'3" Lynn Mayberry, Sweeny; 5'11" Ronnell Spears, Luling; 6'0" Jeff Voight, Boerne:

T.A.B.C. All-Star Game: 5'10" Kevin Cleveland, Dimmitt; 6'5" Barry Kimball, Kermit; 6'7" David Grissom, Sabine; 6'4" Tim Schones, Coppell; 6'2" Stuart Burleson, Midland Greenwood; 5'7" Galen Kunka, Follet; 5'8" Travis Patton, Morton; 6'4" Kenneth Jones, Memphis; 6'2" Keith Berry, Ferris; 6'4" Jeff Watts, Rockdale; 6'4" Carlton McKinney, Nixon; 6'1" Roderick Goins, Hitchcock; 6'3" Troy Denley, Columbus; 6'6" Jim Hellums, Pearsall; 6'2" Clint Thomas, Snook; 6'3" Steve Shield, Reichert; 6'3" Johnny Holland, Hempstead; 5'10" Jeff Voight, Boerne; 6'4" Michael Grace, Brookland; 6'2" Robert Jones, Blanca; Robert Stone, Axtell; Henry Benevidez, Nixon:

1983 3-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	Abernathy(22-8) #17	74	Perryton(21-9)	54
	Idalou(14-12)	48	Seminole(20-8)	46
	Ballinger	71	Kermit(25-4) #8	70
	Marble Falls	43	Abilene Wylie	39
	Stamford	50	Commanche	48
	Canutillo	67	Crane	56
	Dimmitt(31-0) #1	89	Amarillo Boy Ranch(13-11)	49
	Slaton(20-8)	53	Denver City(19-8) #18	51
Region I Quarters	Abernathy(23-8) #17	69	Idalou(15-12)	39
	Ballinger	48	Marble Falls	47
	Dimmitt(32-0) #1	82	Slaton(21-8)	49
	Canutillo	75	Stamford	64
Region I Semis	Abernathy(24-8) #17	83	Ballinger	75
	Dimmitt(33-0) #1	93	Canutillo	47
Region I Finals	Dimmitt(34-0) #1	78	Abernathy(25-8) #17	56
Region II Bi-Dist.	Hillsboro	66	Mineola	45
	Graham(25-4) #9	65	Bonham	62
	Praireland(23-8)	69	Omaha Paul Pewitt(22-5) #19	68

	Lindale(22-7) #10	77	Groesbeck(25-8) #12	50
	Bowie(23-5)	54	Commerce	49
	Kaufman(26-5)	63	Cedar Hill	57
	Whitehouse(21-7) #14	60	McGregor(17-2) #11	58
	New Boston(23-4) #7	56	Pittsburg	43
Region II Quarters	Graham(26-4) #9	77	Hillsboro	66
	Lindale(23-7) #10	49	Prairieland(24-8)	47
	Kaufman(27-5)	42	Bowie(24-5)	39
	New Boston(24-4) #7	59	Whitehouse(22-7) #14	56
Region II Semis	Lindale(24-7) #10	49	Graham(27-4) #9	47
	New Boston(25-4) #7	54	Kaufman(28-5)	43
Region II Finals	Lindale(25-7) #10	66	New Boston(26-4) #7	63
Region III Bi-District	Columbus(27-4) #6	68	Pflugerville(15-11)	57
	Navasota(17-10)	61	Marlin	56
	Hempstead(22-7)	64	Luling(21-7)	62
	Center(26-5) #2	43	Palestine Westwood	38
	Rockdale(16-10)	35	Coldspring	34
	Kountze	60	Anahuac	51
	Kirbyville	66	Hardin-Jefferson	64
	Diboll	66	Crockett	61
Region III Quarters	Columbus(28-4) #6	76	Navasota(18-10)	56
	Hempstead(23-7)	51	Rockdale(17-10)	50
	Center(27-5) #2		Kirbyville	
	Kountze		Diboll	
Region III Semis	Columbus(29-4) #6	57	Center(28-5) #2	47
	Hempstead(24-7)	41	Kountze	40
Region III Finals	Columbus(30-4) #6	54	Hempstead(25-7)	51
Region IV Bi-District	Van Vleck(20-6)	75	New Braunfels Smithson Valley	62
	Medina Valley(24-4)	62	Cuero	58
	West Oso	83	Bishop	45
	Sweeney	64	Boerne	54
	Pleasanton	72	Floresville	71
	Roma	71	Rio Hondo	58
	Mathis	75	Aransas Pass	44
	Mission Sharyland	40	Zapata	36
Region IV Quarters	Sweeney		Pleasanton	
	Van Vleck(21-6)	63	Medina Valley(25-4)	51
	Roma		West Oso	
	Mission Sharyland		Mathis	
Region IV Semis	Van Vleck(22-6)	80	Roma	71
	Sweeney		Mission Sharyland	47
Region IV Finals	Van Vleck(23-6)	66	Sweeney	59
State Semi-Finals	Van Vleck(24-6)	67	Columbus(31-4) #6	57
	Dimmitt(36-0) #1	63	Lindale(26-7) #10	47
State Finals	Dimmitt(37-0) #1	81	Van Vleck(25-6)	54

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1983 AAA Top Teams}

1. Dimmitt 38-0 {one of the great teams in state history}
2. Columbus 31-5 {beat Austin Westlake 72-62, beat Center +20}
3. Van Vleck 25-7 {state finalist, split with Columbus}
4. Lindale 26-8 {state semi-finalist losing to Dimmitt}

5.	Sweeny		{regional finals, lost four times to Van Vleck}
6.	New Boston	26-5	{regional finals, losing by 3 to Lindale}
7.	Hempstead	25-8	{regional finals, went 1-2 against Columbus}
8.	Whitehouse	22-8	{2 nd round, 1-2 vs. Lindale}
9.	Graham	27-5	{regional semis, lost to Lindale by 2}
10.	Center	28-6	{regional semi-finals, lost to Columbus}

1983 AA

Class AA was exciting during the early part of the decade. You had so many quality teams facing each other year in and out. Morton(21-8), from West Texas, was back in Austin for the second year in a row as was Coppell(29-0). Both clubs were stronger versions of the previous year. Gladewater Sabine returned to state for the third time in four seasons. Bartlett(27-2) was also making their third appearance in four years. Sabine had two state titles to their credit, while Bartlett had made one finals appearance. Nixon was the top-rated team during the regular season and for good reason, led by one of the top performers to ever play in class AA, Carlton McKinney. The 6'5" senior paced his team with 20.5 points and 16.5 rebounds per game. McKinney was attempting to lead Nixon(29-1) back to the state finals. The defending state champions, Shelbyville(27-2) had another strong team, led by maybe the second-best player in the state in class AA, 6'5" Jeff Chumbley.

Sabine began their hunt for another state championship losing a warm-up game against class 4-A, A&M Consolidated. The game had no bearing on the playoffs, as the Cardinals opened the third season(playoffs) against Elkhart(16-13) in Tyler at Wagstaff gym. 6'7" David Grissom finished with 35 points and Mike Brittain added 20, as Sabine advanced easily 85-53. Next up for Sabine in the second-round action, was a much tougher foe, Cooper(27-7). Ranked #11 in the final polls, Cooper was paced by a massive talent, 6'3" Ronald Morris(1). "This one ought to be one of the toughest games we will play this year. Cooper is such a physical team that it should be a real knock-down drag out battle," Sabine coach Allen said. Morris signed a football scholarship with S.M.U. He averaged close to 20 points per game and was supported by his brother, Rodney Morris. Cooper had advanced to the second-round action with a slim win over New Diana 53-52. In preparing for Cooper, coach Allen decided Grissom would draw the assignment of trying to handle Ron Morris. "Cooper is like us, they press a lot and are very physical."

- (1) Morris took his talents to the Chicago Bears after his college career at S.M.U. and was the 2nd round pick in the N.F.L. draft in 1987. He was the 54th selection overall. He played for the Bears from 1987-92 and won a \$5.2 million lawsuit against the Bears stemming from a career ending knee injury.

The Sabine-Cooper game proved to be no-contest with the Cardinals

winning 60-38. Sabine controlled the inside game as Grissom finishing with 22 points. "I figured we would beat them, but not by 22 points," Cardinal coach Carl Allen said. "I wasn't as impressed with Cooper as I thought I would be. They're big boys, the Morris brothers, didn't really play that great." Rodney Morris finished with 13 points and Ron Morris knocked down 12 points. Sabine(28-3) advanced to regionals in Huntsville. Stone finished with 9 points and 14 rebounds for Sabine.

Regionals presented a dangerous opponent for the Cardinals in the form of Shelbyville(26-2), the defending state champions. The Dragons were the only team in four seasons to defeat Sabine in a playoff game. Shelbyville held a 45-44 overtime win against the Cardinals in the regionals the previous season. "I still remember that score. It stands out in my mind and the minds of the players," coach Allen shared. "We wanted to meet Shelbyville so that we could return the favor that they gave us last year." The Dragons rely on two key players, 6'5" Jeff Chumbley and 5'10" Gene Bolten. Chumbley was one of the top rebounders in the state and Bolten was an outside threat. Shelbyville would be pressing and running as was their custom.

In an emotional win, Sabine's Lance Baker hit two key foul shots late to give the Cardinals a 54-51 victory over the Dragons. The win put Sabine in the regional finals against Burkeville, a 67-52 winner over Troup. After being tied at halftime, Coach Allen decided to go inside in the second half. 6'8" Tony Stone took advantage of the touches and finished with 19 points for Sabine. Chumbley led Shelbyville with 16 points and fouled out late in the 4th quarter.

At the Sam Houston Coliseum in Huntsville, Sabine battled the Burkeville Mustangs for the right to play in Austin. The result was a 60-50 win for the Cardinals and their third trip in four seasons to the state tournament. "This year nobody gave us a chance," coach Allen said. "This year's team is as good as any other team I've coached. A very disciplined group, very dedicated, and unselfish." Grissom finished with 20 points and point guard, Mike Brittain added 19 points. Sabine was in serious foul trouble and only led by four points entering the 4th quarter. 6'8" Tony Stone left the contest for good at the 6:58 remaining. Sabine shot 20-53 from the floor while Burkeville could only manage 17-40. David Grissom of Sabine commented following the game, "last night's game was really tiring, so we played sorta sloppy today, but we'll be ready next week." Coach Allen said, "I believe we are the team to beat."

Coach Tony Mauldin of Morton(26-8) brought the Indians back to state in his fifth year at the helm. The Indians faced the strongest schedule in class AA ball. Mauldin put his troops through a relentless series of test throughout the season, not caring about the scores. Mauldin cared only that his team was getting better playing the strong competition. By tournament time they were ready for the best the state could offer. The 1983 team was made up of 6'2" twins, Ronald and Donald Kuehler, 6'0" Robert Johnson, 5'8" Travis Patton and 6'0" Vennie Evans; All

were juniors with the exception of Patton. During the regular season, Morton lost four times to class AAA champion Dimmitt. Other losses were at the hands of Lubbock Dunbar 68-59 and 70-69, Snyder(23-6) 61-57 and Lubbock Estacado 91-87. Big wins came against class 5-A San Angelo Central(23-12) 77-71, Lubbock Dunbar 63-56, 5-A Ft. Worth Arlington Heights(9-21) 106-49 and Lubbock Estacado 76-64.

Mauldin had a very successful career leading Morton to the state tournament in 1982, 83, 84, 85 and 86. In 1987 he moved on to the college arena at West Texas Junior college in Snyder. After four seasons at in Snyder he continued moving up the coaching later when he took the head job at Abilene Christian University. From 1991 through 1996 he was the head man in Abilene. Mauldin reappeared on the high school scene at Garland Lakeview taking his team to the class 5-A finals in 2010 and again in 2011. He lost two heartbreakers to Ft. Bend Bush and Flower Mound Marcus. Coach Mauldin showed his versatility having success at two very different coaching levels. His team's full court pressure and pressing style was his team's calling card providing relentless pressure the entire game.

Morton(22-8) opened the 1983 playoffs against Kress(18-6). Coach Mauldin said coming into the contest, "We press the whole game and rely on our transition game." The Indians came away with an easy win 89-58. The twins, Ronald and Donald, scored 18 and 26 points, Robert Johnson kicked in 15 points. For Kress, Mark Stockstill finished with 16 points and Rudy Galan added 12 points. Morton forced 20 turnovers. The Indians were impressive with a 38-27 rebound advantage. The game was played at the Texan Dome in Levelland. "We're not a running team, we haven't run all year," Kress coach Colin Toot said. "Not being able to control tempo really hurt." It was a very successful season for Kress with all things considered. It was the school's first playoff appearance since 1958.

Kress standout, Kevin Cheek(16.0) was declared ineligible the week before the playoff game. "It hurts to lose a starter, but that was not why we lost," Coach Toot said. "We lost because we got into their running game." In their second-round game, Morton took care of Van Horn easily 88-65. In the regional semi-finals against state ranked Memphis(28-4), Morton met their first real competition of the playoffs. The Indians were successful once again winning 76-65. The twins combined for 32 points and Vennie Evans added 16 points. For Memphis, Kenneth Jones paced his team with 23 points and Paul Richardson contributed 17 points, along with Jonny Richardson's 19 points. In the regional finals, Morton had twenty-point victory over Clint(24-6) 79-59.

The state tournament brought together four of the most competitive teams in class 2-A. A good case could be made for any one of the four teams taking state. Coppell(31-1) matched up against Morton(26-8) and Bartlett(32-2) would go against Sabine(30-3). The Cowboys of Coppell had lost a warm-up against state

ranked Allen(26-4) representing class 4-A. The 62-44 loss was the only blemish on their record entering state. Coppell had won 27 straight games during the regular season and were ranked #2 in the state behind Nixon. Somerville(30-6) unexpectedly eliminated Nixon in the regional semi-finals 41-34. The next day Somerville lost in the finals against Bartlett 56-51. As happens so many times, you have a letdown after such an emotional win. Regardless, Bartlett moved into state with an impressive team.

The Cowboys of Coppell were making their fourth trip to Austin having visited the capital in 1976, 1978 and 1982. Starters for coach Pat Brown were 6'4" Tim Schones, 6'1" Barry Adams, 6'1" Brad Hatchel, 6'1" Derek Jett and 5'7" Casey McLeod. There was little doubt this was the best Cowboy team in school history. Coach Brown commented, "We're gonna have to limit the turnovers and put the ball in the hole. This year we're a lot more relaxed." Coppell defeated Ferris(23-7) in the regional finals 45-44. The Cowboys were able to hold standout Keith Berry(18.0) of Ferris to only 2 points in the victory. "We were on him all night," coach Pat Brown said. Derek Jett paced the Cowboys with 14 points.

In Morton, Coppell would be facing a very athletic group. Morton took control early leading in the second quarter 30-16. The Indians seemed to have things under control 56-44 through most of the third period. The Cowboys began their rally behind 5'7" Tony Weger, who began launching 20 footers, hitting seven of nine from the field. Morton led 80-73 with 1:14 remaining when they began to miss critical foul shots. The Indians missed three front ends of one and ones to open the door from Coppell. The Cowboys took advantage when Brad Hatchel hit an 18-footer to put his team in front for the first time 81-80. Morton had the ball with nine seconds remaining at mid-court. Travis Patton entered Morton basketball lore hitting a 22-foot shot with three seconds remaining. The basket won the game for the Indians 82-81. Morton's Donald Kuehler's led the Indians with 19 points and Ronald Kuehler followed with 17 points. For coach Pat Brown, Barry Adams finished with 23 points and Hatchel put up 15 points.

In the other semi-final game, Bartlett prepared for their old nemesis, Gladewater Sabine. The Bulldogs had lost twice previously to Sabine in the finals in 1980 and the semi-finals in '81. Bartlett had a 24-game winning streak on the line coming in. Sabine's three losses came at the hands of class 4-A Kilgore 45-43 in the Oil Bowl tournament, class 3-A state tournament bound Lindale 65-3 and a warmup game against #9 class 4-A, A&M Consolidated(29-5) 71-60. Most observers felt Sabine was the team to beat as the tournament began. Coach Carl Allen of Sabine said, "this team has as much potential as any I've coached." Rebounding was one of the team's real strengths with Grissom and Stone both averaging 15 per game. 6'4" George Cameron averaged 12 boards a game and Lance Baker pulled down 8 rebounds per game. Point guard, Mike Brittain even averaged 7 rebounds a game. Coach Allen also commented that his M.V.P. was

6'2" Ralph Baker coming off the bench. "He can play any position." Sabine's line-up was made-up of 6'8" Tony Stone, 6'7" David Grissom(23.0/15), 6'3" Lance Baker, 6'4" George Cameron and 6'1" Mike Brittain. The lineup was actually bigger than their two championship teams. Bartlett starters included 6'2" George Turner(18.0), 6'2" Leslie Scott, 6'0" Sammy Williams(14.0), 5'8" Robert Williams(14.0) and 5'9" Michael Smith. As you can see, Bartlett was going to have a hard time matching up against Sabine. Turner had been a starter on the '81 team that played in Austin.

Bartlett coach, Franklin Jones said he felt his kids were looking forward to playing Sabine. "Sabine will be the biggest team we've met, but I don't believe their personnel is equal to 1980 and 1981 with big men, Johnny Mumphrey and Johnny Stone." Jones continued talking about his squad, "These kids are probably not the best talent overall that I've coached in Bartlett, but we feel they can play with anybody, any size, and they're not going to back off, every team I've talked to says that our defense should be quick enough to force Sabine into turnovers, and we hope to be quick enough to keep Sabine from getting the ball inside." Jones had won five District titles in five seasons with Bartlett. The 1983 version of the Bulldogs didn't run as much as in past seasons, but the team still managed to average 70 points per game.

Coach Allen of Sabine was in his 15th season with the Cardinals and had tallied over 400 victories during the time. Sabine lost a warm-up game to A&M Consolidated which coach Allen felt really brought his team back to earth. Coach Allen said, "it was a good loss, we know Bartlett will be tough. We lost every starter from last year, but our kids have come to play well and I'm sure we'll be competitive in the state tournament."

The game turned out to be disappointing, especially for Sabine, as none of their starters finished the contest. The Cardinals committed 33 fouls to only 12 for Bartlett. Coach Allen was not a happy camper after the game, "the game started bad for us. The referees wouldn't let us play basketball. I've seen a lot of basketball in my time, but this definitely wasn't basketball." Allen continued saying, "I told the referees after the game I wasn't pleased with the way the game was officiated." The final score stood 60-50 in favor of Bartlett. With 6:42 remaining Bartlett was in control 53-40. 6'7" Grissom fouled out with 6:42 remaining in the game with only 10 points on 5 of 14 from the floor. 6'8" 240-pound, Tony Stone had even a worse game hitting only 1 of 2 field goals for two points. "A player like Stone doesn't just get two points in a game. That's stupid. I know I might sound like sour grapes, but we didn't play that bad," Stone said.

For coach Franklin Jones of Bartlett, he was excited about the defensive job his two standouts, 6'1" Greg Turner and 6'0" Sammy Williams, did against Sabine's big boys. Offensively, Turner struggled going 5 of 13 from the floor and 1 of 9 from the foul line. He did manage to pull down 10 rebounds and helped force 26 turnovers by Sabine.

Coach Allen continued showing his displeasure saying, "Bartlett is not that much quicker than we are, I still feel we should have won the game. Unfortunately, the officials saw it another way." Robert Williams finished with 15 points for the winners along with Greg Turner's and Sammy Williams 11 points each. For coach Allen, Mike Brittain led the Cardinals with 18 points.

In preparing for Morton in the finals, coach Franklin Jones of Bartlett commented, "Morton quickness and fast break offense will be a challenge in the championship game." No truer words were ever utter. The Indians would be bringing it "big time" in the finals. Morton took out Bartlett 91-69 in the highest point total in a Class AA championship game since Sweeny scored 92 back in 1954. The 22-point difference was the most since 1976 when Broadus and Terry Teagle defeated Crowell by 36 points. I think most people's reaction was to ask, what happened? Well, if you listen to coach Mauldin he summarized it pretty quick saying, "we got the lead against Coppell and then didn't continue to play our game. This time, we wanted to get the momentum and keep it."

Morton had a great game play and followed it all the way to the championship. Mauldin said, "we wanted to force them out of the disciplined type offense they used against Sabine. We wanted to press and run, get some steals early and get the lead and we succeeded in doing all those things." The Indians shot 35 of 70 from the floor and 21 of 34 from the foul line. Bartlett on the other hand managed only 31 of 83 from the floor and 7 of 17 from the line. "We never could get anything going," said coach Franklin Jones of Bartlett. "We had people that didn't play. We missed early free throws that could have gotten us back into it, our defense fell apart and we just stood around and looked." Bartlett had 26 turnovers while Morton committed 25. Robert Johnson had an outstanding effort for Morton, finished with 27 points and 14 rebounds. The twins were impressive as usual with a combined effort of 26 points and 18 rebounds. Bartlett relied on the usual cast of characters, Robert Williams had 16 points, Michael Smith finished with 12 points and Greg Turner could only manage 10 points.

In talking with Coach Mauldin in later years he revealed he learned a great deal after the 1982 season. "I began asking coaches who had been to Austin multiple times about how they handled their team and how they approached the state tournament. It was so helpful and probably one of the major reasons why we were successful during the '83 season." When asked about scouting, Mauldin shared with me he didn't worry a great deal about what his opponent was going to do, but rather playing his style. Full court pressure along with an aggressive 2-3 zone. We set goals before the game on limiting our turnovers and steals, we felt like if we accomplished our goals we would be successful."

All-Tournament Team- Ronald and Donald Kuehler and Robert Johnson from Morton, Robert Williams of Bartlett, Barry Adams of Coppell.

1983 State Rankings AA {End of the Regular Season}:

1.	Nixon	29-1	6'5" Carlton McKinney, 5'9" Henry Benevides
2.	Coppell	29-0	Barry Adams, 6'4" Tim Schones
3.	Morton	21-8	6'0" Robert Johnson, 6'2" Ronald Kuehler
4.	Gladewater Sabine	25-3	6'7" David Grissom, 6'1" Mike Brittain
5.	Somerville	27-5	Patrick Williams
6.	Bartlett	27-2	5'8" Robert Williams, 6'1" Greg Turner
7.	Blanco	24-5	6'2" Robert Jones
8.	Shallowater	18-6	
9.	New Diana	25-3	5'7" Jerry Wayne Smith
10.	Shelbyville	27-2	6'5" Jeff Chumbley
11.	Cooper	26-7	6'3" Ronald Morris, 6'3" Rodney Morris
12.	Memphis	26-4	6'4" Kenneth Jones
13.	Stinnett	16-4	
14.	Bogata Riverside	26-7	
15.	Walmar	23-5	
16.	Eastland	16-2	
17.	Ranger	22-4	Michael Butler
18.	Stratford	19-9	Ed Cunningham
19.	Dripping Springs	21-7	
20.	FW Trinity Valley	22-9	

Others: Axtell(27-2), Bangs(25-4), Buffalo(16-14), Clint(21-6), Edgewood(24-6), Frisco(19-8), Huntington(20-12), Lorenzo(23-8), Wall(24-4):

Sports Writers All-State: 1st Team- 6'5" Carlton McKinney(20.5/16.5), Nixon; 6'7" David Grissom, Gladewater Sabine; 6'0" Ron Johnson, Morton; 6'1" Michael Brittain, Gladewater Sabine; 5'7" Jerry Wayne Smith, New Diana; **2nd Team-** 6'4" Scott Austin, Troup; 6'1" Greg Turner, Bartlett; 6'4" Kenneth Jones, Memphis; 6'1" Michael Butler, Ranger; 5'9" Henry Benevides, Nixon; **3rd Team-**6'4" Tim Schones, Coppell; 6'2" Robert Jones, Blanco; 6'8" Ed Cunningham(Soph), Stratford Fitch; 6'5" Kenneth Anderson, Cisco; 5'8" Travis Patton, Morton; 5'10" Richard Shepherd, Bovina:

TABC All-State: 1st Team- 6'1" Greg Turner, Bartlett; 6'5" Carlton McKinney, Nixon; 6'5" Jeff Chumbley, Shelbyville; 6'7" David Grissom, Gladewater Sabine; 6'4" Tim Shones, Coppell; **2nd Team-** 6'0" Robert Johnson, Morton; 6'4" Kenneth Jones, Memphis; Keith Berry, Ferris; Ronald Morris, Cooper; Patrick Williams, Somerville; **3rd Team-** 6'8" Eddie Cunningham, Stratford-Fritsch, Darrell Lindsey, Kerens; Paul Blanford, Clint; Kendall Byerly, Burkeville; 6'2" Robert Jones, Blanco;

1983 2-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	Stinnett(22-4) #13	71	Shamrock(18-8)	58
	Lorenzo(22-8)	64	Hamlin	57
	Hale Center(10-8)	72	Haskell	71
	Memphis(26-4) #12	62	Stratford(19-9)	61
	Boliva(24-4)	59	Shallowater(18-6) #8	59
	Morton(22-8) #3	89	Kress(18-6)	58
	Clint(21-6)	67	Stanton	54
	Van Horn	52	Wall	48
Region I Quarters	Memphis(27-4) #12	70	Hale Center	61
	Lorenzo(23-8)	54	Stinnett(26-4)	51
	Clint(22-6)	70	Boliva(25-4)	58

	Morton(23-8) #3	88	Van Horn	65
Region I Semis	Morton(24-8) #3	76	Memphis(28-4) #12	65
	Clint(23-6)	63	Lorenzo	53
Region I Finals	Morton(25-8) #3	79	Clint(24-6)	59
Region II Bi-District	Olney	66	Deleon	43
	Eastland	61	Early	54
	Coppell(27-1) #2	65	Whitewright	42
	Ferris	57	Itasca	48
	Winters	59	Bangs	55
	Ranger	60	Holiday	52
	Kerens	61	Whitney	50
	Farmersville	54	Frisco	52
Region II Quarters	Olney	56	Eastland	54
	Coppell(28-1) #2	45	Ferris(23-6)	44
	Winters	61	Ranger	52
	Kerens	74	Farmersville	70
Region II Semis	Coppell(29-1) #2	64	Olney	53
	Kerens	71	Winters	59
Region II Finals	Coppell(30-1) #2	80	Kerens	62
Region III Bi-District	Sabine	85	Elkhart(16-14)	53
	Shelbyville(27-2) #10	74	Hull-Daisetta	42
	Burkeville	64	Huntington	54
	Troup	84	Karnack	81
	Cooper(26-7) #11	53	New Diana(25-3) #9	52
	Axtell	73	Pollock Central	59
	Bogota Rivercrest	59	Edgewood	52
	New Waverly(18-8)	83	Buffalo	74
Region III Quarters	Sabine(27-3) #4	60	Cooper(27-7) #11	38
	Shelbyville(28-2) #10		New Waverly(19-8)	
	Burkeville		Axtell	
	Troup	61	Rivercrest	59
Region III Semis	Sabine(28-3) #4	54	Shelbyville(29-2) #10	51
	Burkeville	67	Troup	52
Region III Finals	Sabine(29-3) #4	60	Burkeville	50
Region IV Bi-District	Bartlett(28-2)	68	Calvert	62
	Dripping Springs	81	Lytle	62
	Nixon(29-1) #1	87	Woodsboro	46
	Yorktown	46	Three Rivers	32
	Somerville(27-5)	67	Thorndale(19-9)	35
	Weimar	68	East Bernard	61
	Blanco(24-5) #7	75	Sabinal	50
	Thorndale	56	Troy	54
Region IV Quarters	Nixon(30-1) #1	62	Blanco(25-5) #7	40
	Yorktown	44	Dripping Springs	41
	Somerville(28-5)			
	Bartlett(29-2)	77	Weimar	69
Region IV Semis	Somerville(29-5)	41	Nixon(31-1) #1	34
	Bartlett(30-2)	66	Yorktown(23-9)	55
Region IV Finals	Bartlett(31-2)	56	Somerville(30-5)	51
State Semis	Morton(26-8) #3	82	Coppell(31-1) #2	81
	Bartlett(32-2) #6	60	Gladewater Sabine(30-3) #4	50

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1983 AA Top Teams}

1.	Morton	28-8	{Indians continue their West Texas dynasty}
2.	Coppell	31-2	{state semi-finals loss by one to Morton}
3.	Gladewater Sabine	30-4	{state in three out of four seasons}
4.	Shelbyville	29-3	{lost in the regional semis to Sabine by 3}
5.	Bartlett	32-3	{upset Sabine in the state semis}
6.	Nixon	31-2	{lost to Somerville in regional semis}
7.	Ferris	23-7	{lost by one to Coppell in the playoffs}
8.	Somerville	30-6	{upset win over Nixon in the playoffs}
9.	Memphis	28-5	{loss to Morton in the playoffs}
10.	Blanco	25-6	{was knocked out of the playoffs by Nixon}

1983 A

Snook was back once again to go after their sixth straight state championship. The Blue Jays of Snook was a small community with a population of 408, located outside College Station. Coach Donnie Victorick was at the helm for Snook, looking for his third straight championship. The Blue Jay's featured an aggressive full-court press along with man to man defense. 6'2" Clint Thomas was the tallest player for Snook and the team's only senior. He committed to Texas A&M after the season but never saw the court for the Aggies.

In the state semi-finals, Valley(31-5) attempted to derail the Blue Jays with very little success. Snook dominated Valley in every phase of the game. The Patriots could only manage 11 shots in the entire first half, while Snook took a commanding halftime advantage 41-16. Snook forced 23 turnovers during the game and outrebounded the Patriots 43-25. Coach Victorick's team only committed five fouls the entire game. Thomas finished with 16 points and 15 rebounds, while teammate Darin Benford was able to knock down 17 points. Valley unfortunately had to take the court without the services of their leading scorer, Jerry McNary(15.0). He was declared academically ineligible.

In the other semi-finals game Nacogdoches Central Heights defeated Maypearl(29-4) 61-54. It was Central Heights first trip to the big dance in Austin. Wayne Johnson paved the way for Central with 24 points and Rodney Bryant added 16 points for the Blue Devils. Terry Talton tallied 21 points for Maypearl and Ken Norwood chipped in 14 points in a losing effort.

Nacogdoches Central Heights(31-7) had no chance in the finals as Snook(33-5) captured their 6th title 76-40. The Blue Jays had now won six straight titles along with fourth straight track championships. Thomas again was dominating with 18 points and 10 rebounds and two nice dunks. The Blue Jays were able to limit their leading scorer, Wayne Johnson to only 7 points. Frederick Christopher picked up the slack for Central Heights scoring 18 points. The Blue Devils tried to stay close early by refusing to come out of their zone defense. After

a technical foul, Central found themselves down 10-2 and the game was history. Snook led at half 34-17 and placed four players in double figures. Benford accounted for 23 points, Anthony Stringfellow scored 14 and Wesley Walker finished with 12 points.

"We know the streak will end someday," said Clint Thomas, "but I didn't want to be here when it does." Coach Victorick followed up saying, "right now, it's too good to be true, reality hasn't hit me." Thomas stated the obvious, "we played good ball this time, the other team would have had to be super to beat us."

Snook followed much the same blueprint as Morton did playing the toughest schedule possible to prepared for the playoffs. The real state championship game was in the regional finals game against Brookeland. The Blue Jays came away with a close 46-43 win to advance to state. Brookeland was 29-4 on the season coming into the game and ranked #8 in the state. They were led by All-Stater, 6'4" Michael Grace and 5'6" John Hamilton.

In analyzing Snook's schedule, the Blue Jay's played a plethora of strong teams. They faced A&M Consolidated(29-5) in class 4-A twice, losing both games 64-62 and 68-51. Consolidated advanced to the regional semis in AAAA. Somerville(30-6) was a highly respected team in class 2-A basketball, but really captured the spotlight after they eliminated the #1 ranked team in the state, Nixon from the playoffs. Snook came away with three wins over Somerville 42-40, 60-41 and 43-42. The Blue Jays also faced Nixon(31-2) and lost a close one 43-41. Class 4A Waco Midway(23-9) advanced to the playoffs and was rated as high as #18 in the final state polls. Midway defeated Snook 57-47. Class 4-A Corsicana(16-14) tasted defeat at the hands of Snook 55-47. Class 3-A Hempstead(25-8) advanced to the regionals finals but were bullied by the Blue Jays 61-43. Another 3-A squad, Navasota, felt the pain of playing Snook losing 50-39, as did Rockdale(17-10) 41-37. Navasota and Rockdale were both regional quarterfinalists in AAA ball. Quite possibly the most amazing score for Snook was their 59-58 loss at the hands of class 4-A powerhouse, Huntsville(23-10). The Hornets advanced to the regional finals and finished #6 in my final state rankings.

The point of showing you all these scores was to emphasize just how competitive Snook was with all the classifications. It didn't matter if you were A or 5-A, the Snook Blue Jays would play you tough. When you think about the size of these schools in comparison to the Blue Jays, it was truly remarkable. Snook finished with a 7-5 mark against these larger schools. Of the five total losses, four were against class 4-A teams and Nixon was #1 in class 2-A. Three of the five losses were by 2 points or less. You could make a strong argument for the 1983 version of the Snook Blue Jays being their best team. Clint Thomas was certainly one of the best to ever play for the Blue Jays.

All-Tournament Team-Clint Thomas, Anthony Stringfellow, and Darin Benford of Snook, Frederick Christopher and Wayne Johnson from Central Heights.

1983 State Rankings A {End of the Regular Season}:

1.	Snook	28-5
2.	Ponder	24-4
3.	Chilton	25-2
4.	Petty West Lamar	23-5
5.	Italy	19-2
6.	Midland Green.	22-3
7.	Tenaha	25-6
8.	Brookeland	26-4
9.	Anton	19-1
10.	Smyer	20-4
11.	Waelder	20-8
12.	Savoy	21-4
13.	Laneville	19-11
14.	Turkey Valley	23-4
15.	Henrietta Midway	23-6
16.	Nazareth	19-7
17.	Harold	18-6
18.	Avery	21-5
19.	Malafoff Cross Rds.	22-5
20.	Saltillo	22-3

Others: Corsicana Mildred 21-2, Cumby Miller Grove 23-4, Detroit 20-8, Goree 24-5, Graford 22-6, Happy 18-5, Holland 25-4, Iola 19-7, Moulton 24-5, Paradise 20-8, Rio Vista 23-3, Wink 18-3:

TABC Class A All-State 1st Team- 6'2" Clint Thomas, Snook; 6'2" Rodney Bryant, Central Heights; 6'2" Stuart Burleson, Midland Greenwood; 6'4" Michael Grace, Brookeland; 5'6" Galen Kunka, Follett; **2nd Team-** 5'10" Wesley Jackson, Snook; 6'3" Kenneth Fountain, Ponder; 5'9" Terry Talton, Maypearl; 6'2" Donald Price, Italy; 5'11" Kenneth Washington, West Lamar; **3rd Team-** 6'0" Tommy Williams, Valley; 5'9" Ricky Freeman, Sam Rayburn; 6'4" Michael Darilek, Moulton; 5'6" John Hamilton, Brookeland; 6'4" Curtis Knoblock, Megarget:

Sports Writers Class A All-State 1st Team- 6'2" Clint Thomas, Snook; 5'10" Wesley Jackson, Snook; 6'2" Donald Price, Italy; 6'5" Malcolm Townsend, Waelder; 5'11" Kenneth Washington, West Lamar; **2nd Team-** 6'2" Stuart Burleson, Midland Greenwood; 6'4" Michael Darilek, Moulton; 6'1" Terry Martin, Agnus Duice; 5'10" Morgan Walker, West Lamar; 5'10" Danny Hughes, Cross Roads; **3rd Team-** 6'0" Darrin Jackson, Snook; 6'5" Ronnie Cox, Anton; 5'7" Jerry Wallace, Roby; 6'0" Frederick Christopher, Nacogdoches Central; 5'8" Wesley Gates, Harrold; 5'11" Reginald Degrate, Chilton; 5'9" Terry Talton, Maypearl:

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1983 A Top Teams}

1.	Snook	33-5	{The dynasty continues- six in a row}
2.	Brookeland	29-5	{loss to Snook in the regional finals by 3}
3.	Valley	31-5	{loss in state to Snook}
4.	Anton	23-2	{one-point loss to Valley in regional finals}
5.	Nacogdoches Central Hts	31-7	{state finals, destroyed by Snook}
6.	Maypearl	29-4	{state semi-finalist}
7.	Ponder	27-5	{regional finals losing to Maypearl}
8.	Moulton	26-6	{loss to Snook 53-43 in regional semis}
9.	Italy	22-3	{regional semis loss against Central Hts. 64-55}

1984 AAAAAA

The 1984 season started a stretch of six years where six different schools traveled to the State Tournament with undefeated records in class 5-A. This had never happened in the state's largest classification, before or since. The first of these powerhouse clubs came in '84 from a program steep in tradition, the Dunbar Wildcats out of Ft. Worth. Dunbar was the premier 5-A program in the state, having made state four out of the previous seven seasons with two state finals appearances.

Coach Robert Hughes team was putting up incredible numbers the likes of which hadn't been seen since Houston Kashmere in 1975. They also produced the highest power rating in ten seasons. The flying Wildcats were really unusual, because they had no real superstars, but loads of depth and college talent. Unlike Houston Yates in 1983 with Winslow and Holcombe, you had a hard time picking the top players off the Dunbar team. If you watched them play five times you might select five different individuals as their top players. Coach Hughes welcomed back almost his entire line-up from the 1983 campaign.

The Wildcats advanced to the regional finals in 1983. Dunbar had unfortunately lost on the desperation bank shot off the glass against Ft. Worth Paschal. Coach Hughes squad was hungry for revenge. As a team, Dunbar had a surplus of talent. Inside Hughes looked to 6'6" Rodney Washington, 6'4" James Montgomery, 6'4" Tim Howard, 6'4" Linzie Bogan, 6'4" Reginald Toombs and 6'3" Fred Williams. Washington was a quick lean post with tremendous quickness and speed. He signed with Wichita State and later transferred to Southern University. With Washington in uniform the Jaguars of Southern University made two NCAA tournament appearances. Washington's teammate at Southern was future N.B.A. player and coach, Avery Johnson. The strongest and most powerful player on the team was Montgomery. He looked more like a middle linebacker than a basketball player. He was the strong enforcer type. If things got rough he would prove extremely valuable. Montgomery played at St. Gregory's J.C. in Oklahoma along with 6'2" Keith Woodard. 6'5" Tim Howard was one of two juniors that saw substantial playing time during the '84 campaign. Howard was very long and multi-talented playing inside or out. Howard signed with San Angelo State following graduation and became the school's all-time leading scorer. He was one of the great scorers to ever play for Hughes. Linzie Bogan did not play college ball, but rather focused on his education and is presently a judge in Tallahassee, Florida. He received his degree at Morehouse State. Bogan was very talented with a wide body and uncanny moves inside around the basket. He won two-tournament

M.V.P. trophies during the season. Toombs played at Kansas Wesleyan after his high school career. Toombs and Fred Williams were valuable players for coach Hughes off the bench. Williams played at Paul Quinn in Dallas after graduation.

The depth at guard was just as impressive. 6'1" Roderick Ford, 6'2" Jeffrey Perkins, 6'2" Keith Woodard and 5'5" Fred Hamilton. Ford played at U.T. Arlington and had a very successful college career. Hamilton attended a junior college in Mississippi, while Perkins went with Washington to Wichita State, but left after a semester. Dunbar would hold down the top spot in polls from the early weeks of the season all the way to the state tournament. This group was compared favorably to any of the teams that have donned the Dunbar uniform.

Early season news was big for South Oak Cliff as Jimmy Gales returned to lead the Golden Bears after coaching at North Texas State. When Bill Blakeley was released at North Texas, Gales returned to the high school ranks. Gales had been the head man at S.O.C. previously from 1972-75. Almost immediately the "Gales effect" had an impact on the legendary south Dallas campus. For the next three seasons the Golden Bears had top ten teams.

Ft. Worth introduced the **7-UP tournament** at Wilkerson-Greines facility in Ft. Worth early in the 1983-84 season. I was always looking for some quality games to watch so I drove over to Ft. Worth. Teams from all over the state were invited. Early round scores saw Ft. Worth Dunbar defeat Carter-Riverside 107-43, Houston Kashmere(27-7) beat Dallas Roosevelt 73-71, Houston Yates over Austin Anderson 52-49 and Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt(19-8) beat Weatherford 70-61. In the semis, Dunbar advanced to finals with an 89-70 victory over Kashmere and Yates(19-13) defeated O.D. Wyatt 55-52. The Wildcats destroyed Yates in the finals 85-51, while Kashmere took the 3rd place game 80-76 over Wyatt. Dallas Roosevelt won consolation 75-55 over Austin Anderson. Dunbar won the tourney with an average margin of victory of 39 points. Kashmere later won the Jaycees Tournament in Houston over the Christmas Holidays.

The All-Tournament team was made up of Linzie Bogan, James Montgomery, Fred Hamilton and Roderick Ford from Dunbar. Clement Pink, Clamon Jacobs, Clarence King and Willie Pierce of Yates, Falanda Newton from Wyatt, Barry Miller of Weatherford, Ricky Robertson from Dallas Roosevelt and Terrance Glaze and Randy Hampton from Kashmere.

In the **Coliseum Classic in Houston**, Killeen(7-0) defeated Dulles 61-51 in the finals. Dulles came into the tourney at 6-0. The Kangaroos had beaten Spring Woods 61-44 and Houston Westbury 66-33 in the early rounds of the tournament. 6'6" Vince Webb and 6'6" Victor Webb along with point guard Sedrick Evans were all named All-tournament from Killeen.

In the **Central Texas Classic in Killeen** some of the top teams in the state competed for the title. Dallas Kimball opened the tournament with an impressive 55-46 win over Tyler Lee. The Knights had a chance to really put the game away

but missed several foul shots down the stretch. Kenneth Willingham paced the Knights with 12 points followed by Edward Robinson's 11 and Jerry Fudge added 11 points. Duncanville defeated Killeen Ellison 57-47, Spring Branch Memorial took down Victoria behind Andy Gilchrist 20 points. Stephen Gaskin led Victoria with 17 points. Killeen demolished San Angelo Central 64-29 in their first-round game.

In the semi-finals Killeen faced Dallas Kimball(32-4) and S.B. Memorial played Duncanville. Killeen was looking for revenge having lost twice to Kimball the previous year. 6'5" "All World" Marvin Washington was not playing for the Knights because of an ankle injury. Without Washington, Killeen had a definite advantage on the inside with the Webb twins. Killeen led at halftime 29-27 and went on to victory over the Knights 61-44. "This is the first time in a long time we've come out and played a really good ball game," coach Wayne Howard said. "We lost to them twice last year and I think the kids really wanted to come out and beat them. Kimball had a good ball team, I'm sure glad they didn't have their big boy, he would have made a difference." Marvin Washington was an athlete that was definitely difference maker. He was such an impressive physical specimen. Washington played eleven seasons in the N.F.L. with the Jets, 49ers and Broncos. Victor Webb paced Killeen with 18 points. Vince Webb added 10 points, Mike Knorr had 13 points and Sedrick Evans contributed 12 points. Carl Love, the outstanding sophomore paced Kimball with 18 points. Killeen hit 19 of 22 foul shots for the victory.

I ran into Coach Chris Dyer of DeSoto fame and discussed the '84 Kimball squad. Dyer was an assistant under Coach Tubbs. "Love was a strong athlete with incredible hands," Dyer said. Love was classified as a sophomore but eligibility wise he was a junior. He played football, baseball and basketball at a very high level.

In the other semi-final game Duncanville(28-3) snuck by Spring Branch Memorial(31-8) 45-44 on Andy Blakeslee's free throws with three seconds left. Memorial looked to have the game under control with 10 seconds remaining and inbound the ball at mid-court only to see the Panthers Keith Smith steal the inbounds pass. Smith pulled up and missed a 10-footer and Blakeslee got the rebound and went back up with the shot and was fouled. Terry Talley was the man for the Panthers with 16 points and Andy Gilchrist led the Mustangs with 16 points followed by Elvin Hayes Jr. with 12 points.

After the emotional win over Kimball, Killeen(29-3) fell flat in the finals losing to 58-45 to Duncanville. The Kangaroos were undefeated and the top-rated team in the state entering the contest. Two of the top teams in the state faced off in the 3rd place game as Kimball beat S.B. Memorial 74-58. In consolation bracket Killeen Ellison defeated Victoria 62-53 and San Angelo Central regrouped and beat Tyler Lee.

The **Arlington Classic** had lost a lot of its glamor over the years but it was still one of the better tourneys. The Classis was in its 17th season. Wilmer

Hutchins(27-7) took on Duncanville(28-3) in the finals and dominated 89-68. Tournament M.V.P., Sylvester Rogers of Hut put down 25 points in the finals. Ricky Grace added 20 points for the Eagles and Terry Talley put up 18 points for the Panthers of Duncanville. The Eagles were up 31-15 at the end of one quarter. Duncanville had an impressive win in the semi-finals over Arlington Sam Houston(28-5) 65-64 to advance to the finals. Talley led the Panthers once again with 20 points and Cedric Williams was the leader with 21 points for Sam Houston. Wilmer Hutchins advanced to the finals against Ft. Worth Southwest(27-11) 84-75. Arlington Sam Houston was successful in the 3rd place contest with an 84-71 victory over FW Southwest. Other early round games saw Arlington Sam Houston(28-5) drop Houston Wheatley 79-73, S.O.C.(25-7) took down North Mesquite(24-8) 67-56, Duncanville got by Denton(18-10) 56-55, Wheatley defeated Arlington High(21-8) 84-81, and FW Southwest beat Arlington 57-52. Denton defeated Dallas Roosevelt 64-59 and FW Southwest came-up big against S.O.C. 77-75 in other early round match-ups. 6'7" Norman Anderson of Ft. Worth Southwest was named Tournament M.V.P. Southwest coach, James Woods called Anderson the best player in the state.

In the **Klein Invitational**, Houston Smiley(25-6) captured the championship 62-61 over Conroe McCullough(22-9). In the semi-finals, Smiley defeated Klein(25-8) 42-37 and McCullough was able to get past Houston Lamar(17-13) 71-69. Klein won the 3rd place game 57-53 over Lamar. Conroe(27-5) won the consolation bracket over Klein Oaks 92-62. In the **Lee College Classic**, Aldine MacArthur took down Baytown Sterling(24-8) in the finals 60-49. In one of the oldest tournaments in the state, the **Clear Lake/Clear Creek Classic**, Clear Creek(24-10) defeated Baytown Sterling(24-8) in the finals 60-47. Clear Lake(31-7) won the 3rd place game 56-44 over Aldine MacArthur(28-7) 56-44. Houston Milby(29-5) captured the **Deer Park Tournament** over Alvin(21-9) 74-58. In the **Cypress-Fairbanks tournament** Conroe McCullough(22-9) had a good win over Humble Kingwood(23-7) 68-67. McCullough advanced to the finals defeating District rival, Conroe(27-5) 79-71. Kingwood made the finals defeating Aldine Nimitz(23-12) 76-39. Conroe won 3rd place over Aldine Nimitz 78-69. In the **Ft. Bend Invitational**, Houston Madison(29-3) showed why they were the top-rated team in Houston beating Dulles(23-11) 56-46. Smiley(25-6) came away with two solid wins defeating Yates(19-13) 54-42 and Kashmere(27-7) 50-49. Alief Elsik(22-11) got by Klein(25-8) 54-48 in overtime. In **Grand Prairie Tournament**, Arlington Sam Houston(28-5) dropped Grand Prairie(22-11) 64-52 to win the title. **(records are season ending totals)*

In the **Halton-Richland Tournament**, South Garland(28-8) defeated Abilene(21-12) 77-66 to take the tournament title. In the consolation bracket, Dallas Kimball(32-4) beat L.D. Bell(26-7) 62-46. The big game of the tournament saw South Garland come away with a substantial win over a tough Kimball squad

74-63. Irving MacArthur captured the **Irving Tournament** with a win over Lake Highlands(22-12) 66-58. MacArthur had a new coach, David Meyers. Lake Highlands gained revenge later in the pre-season with a 68-38 win over MacArthur. Waxahachie defeated Tyler Lee(20-10) 62-58 in the finals of the **Waxahachie tournament**. In the **Waco Invitational** Michael Williams took home tournament M.V.P. honors pacing the Dallas Carter(23-8) Cowboys to a 70-53 win over Tyler John Tyler(24-6).

The 28th annual **Austin Tournament** featured all the top teams in the Austin area that weren't playing in San Marcos. Austin Travis(30-8) proved to be the top team in Austin at the tournament. Travis defeated Kerrville Tivy 73-43 in the quarterfinals, Houston Northbrook(24-8) 68-52 in the semis and Highland Park fell in the finals 70-56. Travis won the tournament in convincing style. Highland Park(21-10) had a great run to the finals defeating Austin Anderson 57-56 and Austin High 52-43 in the semi-finals. Northbrook won the 3rd place game 68-59 over Austin High. Waco Jefferson Moore, a class 4-A school, had an impressive early season victory over Austin Travis 61-53, which indicated the strength of the Waco area in 1984.

The **Lower Classic** in San Marcos always drew an outstanding cast during the tournament season. Harlingen pulled off an upset defeated the defending state champions, Bryan(31-6) 63-62. Houston Madison(29-3) defeated Dallas Skyline(22-9) 77-67 and took care of Ft. Worth Southwest(27-11) 61-59 in overtime. S.A. Churchill downed Harlingen and advanced to the semi-finals along with Houston Madison, Worthing and Houston Milby(29-5). The Buffaloes of Milby ended up winning the tournament with a 66-63 win over S.A. Churchill. In the 3rd place game, District rivals Houston Worthing(19-10) and Madison went at it with the Colts beating the Marlins in overtime 77-74.

Dunbar had two early season wins over Dallas Carter(23-8) 92-74 and S.O.C.(25-7) 75-57. Michael Williams of Carter put up 37 points in the loss to Dunbar. Immediately after their victory at the Arlington Classic, Wilmer Hutchins(27-7) was throttled by Dunbar 85-66. "I think we caught them coming down after winning the classic," Coach Hughes said. "But I'm not sure they have played a team with our quickness and rebounding yet, and I think that threw them off a little." The Wildcats were up 40-14 at halftime. 5'6" Fred Hamilton of Dunbar finished with 4 steals and 11 assists. Roderick Ford had 19 points and Linzie Bogan finished with 14 points. Dallas Roosevelt came away with a strong win over Wilmer Hutchins 75-73 in overtime. Dallas Kimball was playing without their top force inside, 6'5" Marvin Washington, defeated S.O.C. 73-53. Once again sophomore Carl Love was impressive leading the Knights with 29 points. Jeffrey Ralston paced the Golden Bears with 19 points.

Early season rankings in the Dallas Morning News looked as follows: Dunbar at 8-0 was #1, Wilmer Hutchins(6-2), Dallas Carter(6-1), Duncanville(8-1),

Arlington Sam Houston(12-1), Dallas Kimball(9-3), South Garland(7-2), S.O.C.(5-3), Arlington(10-2) and Grand Prairie(8-3).

The **Dallas Dr. Pepper tournament** featured the top teams in Dallas. 6'7" Bill Wirskye of Haltom went up against 6'8" Frank Williams of Samuel(23-10) in a great early round match-up. Haltom won 61-44 after Williams got into foul trouble. Wirskye was impressive, finishing with 35 points and 10 rebounds. Kimball, which stood at 13-3 at the time, continued their winning ways without Marvin Washington beating Dallas Skyline(22-9) 65-59 and Dallas Spruce 66-49. The Knights were 6-1 without his services. Love again stepped up scoring 24 points against Spruce. Dallas Carter took down North Mesquite(24-8) 72-62 paced by Micheal Williams 35 points.

Ft. Worth Dunbar held down the state's top ranking by defeating Dallas Hillcrest 60-49 and Plano 70-40. The Wildcats of Dunbar continued their dominance over the Dallas Carter(23-8) Cowboys 78-60. Hughes put in three guards to combat the Carter quickness. Micheal Williams put up 26 points and Terry Thomas added 15 points for the Cowboys. Kimball(32-4) got revenge against South Garland(28-8) 53-52 and Wilmer Hutchins(27-7) beat rival Dallas Roosevelt 86-67. 6'3" Sylvester Rogers again was impressive scoring 45 points on 19 of 26 from the floor for Hutch in the Quarterfinals win. The finals saw undefeated Dunbar take down S.O.C.(25-7) 94-67. Linzie Bogan dominated with 26 points and Roderick Ford put in 23 points for the Wildcats. Sophomore Rodney Samuel scored 24 points for the Golden Bears, Deon Hunter finished with 16 points and sophomore Ronnie Morgan added 14 points for coach Jimmy Gales. Dallas Kimball won the 3rd place trophy with a 59-56 over Wilmer Hutchins. Rogers again led the Eagles with 20 points while Kimball placed four players in double figures.

Dunbar took down Wilmer Hutchins 72-57 in the semi-finals. Bogan finished with 26 points against Hutch. Hughes commented after the game, "we like to play all the Dallas teams, they will play you every year and if you can compete against them you know you have a strong team." Coach Homer Smith of Wilmer Hutchins commented after his team's loss to Dunbar, "I just can't think there is a better team in the state than they are, they just have everything it takes to beat you." S.O.C. had a surprisingly big victory over Kimball 61-38 in the other semi-final match-up. 6'5" Washington did not play for Kimball.

Bogan, Ford, and Rodney Washington all made all-tournament and Bogan was named tournament M.V.P. Bogan scored 52 points in Dunbar's last two games. Two super sophomores were emerging during the early season, 6'3" Rodney Samuel of S.O.C. and 6'1" Carl Love of Kimball. Samuel averaged 17.4 in his first varsity campaign and Love averaged 17.7 in the Dr. Pepper tournament.

The **Ft. Worth Lions Club Tournament** brought in Los Angeles Verbum Dei as their featured team. Two standouts for Verbum Dei were 6'7" Sean Brooks(18.0), who committed to New Mexico and 6'1" Chris Jefferson, who

committed to Santa Barbara and Torrin Williams(15.0). Verbum Dei was a Catholic School rich in tradition as a national power, made up of all-male student body of 350 students. Verbum Dei had won seven state titles over the previous 14 years. Dunbar came in at 15-0, Highland Park(21-10) had an impressive early season record, S.O.C.(25-7) entered the tournament for the first time. L.D. Bell(26-7) also proved to be one of the top teams in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area.

Verbum Dei breezed to the finals beating Ft. Worth Eastern Hills 60-46, Euless Trinity 56-41 and Dallas South Oak Cliff(25-7) 72-65 in the semi-finals. Dunbar's march to the finals was even more impressive defeated L.D. Bell(26-7) 58-48, Ft. Worth Western Hills 88-62 and Grand Prairie(22-11) in the semi-finals 77-51. Cedric Webb of Western Hills put up 34 points in a losing effort and Juric Brown knocked down 28 points for Grand Prairie against the Wildcats. The finals were very anti-climactic as Dunbar came away with one of their greatest performances in school history defeating Verbum Dei 93-65. In front 6,500 fans at Wilkerson Greines Activity Center the Dunbar fans went absolutely crazy. The Wildcats placed six players in double figures and at one point were up by 42 points. You must understand that when Dunbar plays at home they are almost unbeatable. I would venture to say they were ten points better at home then on the road. The crowd, the familiar surroundings and electric atmosphere, were all conducive to a tremendous home court advantage. Coach Cliff Sanchez said following his team's loss, "There's certainly no doubt about it. They could play with any of the top teams in California. They deserve any number one ranking they get in Texas or nationally."

Dunbar took an early lead at 17-3 against the impressive front line for Verbum Dei. Their front line of 6'8" Shawn Brooks, 6'8" Torin Williams and 6'8" Anthony Langston looked like a college team. The Wildcats counter with 6'4" James Montgomery and 6'6" Rodney Washington, who outrebounded Verbum Dei 18-7 in the first half. Hughes commented, "We have some guys who can jump pretty well and we have outstanding quickness." Bogan finished with 15 points, Montgomery came away with 14, Howard added 12, Washington finished with 12, and Fred Williams and Roderick Ford combined for 20 points. Montgomery led the rebounding with 10 boards. Jefferson paced Verbum Dei in scoring with 23 points and Williams kicked in 18 points. Washington of Dunbar was named tournament M.V.P. Bogan and 5'6" Fred Hamilton from the Wildcats were named all-tournament along with sophomore, Ronnie Morgan of S.O.C.

S.O.C. took the 3rd place game 69-65 over Grand Prairie, Highland Park won the 5th place game 60-56 over Ft. Worth Southwest and L.D. Bell won consolation over Haltom 69-54. In other key games, Highland Park defeated San Antonio Jefferson 59-42, Grand Prairie beat Highland Park(21-10) 39-37, L.D. Bell(26-7) took out Arlington High(21-8) 70-64 and S.O.C.(25-7) won a big game against Ft. Worth Southwest(27-11) 69-65. Anderson hit 21 points for Southwest

and Morgan was high man for the Golden Bears with 23 points. Coach Jimmy Gales commented after the big win, "Southwest is tough, they have one of the best big men I've seen in Anderson. They beat us earlier this year by two in double overtime and he had 30 points."

Houston's Jaycee Tournament featured the top high school teams in the Houston area every year. Perennial power Houston Madison was dealt a devastating blow when 6'4" Lance Blanks left the team and took his talents to The Woodlands. Blanks was one of the top juniors in the state and was named a McDonald's All-American his senior year. He was later drafted into the N.B.A. and had an outstanding career with the Longhorns at the University of Texas. Not many programs could lose a player of this quality and continue to be competitive, but the Marlins never broke stride.

Houston Austin had one of their best teams in school history having defeated Victoria earlier in the season in the Victoria tournament. It was only the eighth loss for Victoria on their home court. There were no Greg Anderson's, Carven Holcombe or Ricky Winslow's in the field in 1984, but none the less there were several outstanding teams. Houston Kashmere(14-4) advanced to the semi-finals against Lufkin(10-5) out of East Texas. The Rams downed the Panthers 72-70 on Jerry Cook's tip in at the buzzer. Anthony Parker lead Kashmere with 17 points. Anthony Blackshire came away with 21 points for Lufkin. Houston Worthing(10-5) had another formable ball club advancing to the semis against Houston Milby(17-2). The Buffaloes didn't have the big names as in the past but were one of the top teams in the state once again. Worthing proved too strong for Milby winning 82-75. Shannon Nero of Worthing was finishing his outstanding career with the Colts. Nero put up 20 points for the Colts and Trent Edwards added 21 in the win over Milby. For the legendary coach Honea, Rodney Branch hit 15 points and Victor Gonzales contributed 16 points. Earl Seals scored 12 points and Michael Ligons had 15 points for the balanced Buffalo attack.

Milby(18-2) took home 3rd place honors defeating Lufkin(10-6) 75-67. This time the Buffaloes were led by Carlos Sanders and his 21 points along with Rodney Branch's 16 points. Robert Hamilton paced Lufkin with 24 points and Blackshire and Cedric Wilson finished with 14 and 12 points respectively. The Championship game saw Kashmere(15-4) continued their winning tradition downing Houston Worthing(11-6) 80-63 in front of 2,500 fans at Delmar. Kashmere's press was devastating to Worthing, as the Colts were down at one point by 30 points in the 3rd period. Dennis Hines was a key factor in the Rams press. Anthony Parker was high man once again with 25 points and was helped by Hines 19 points. Worthing leaders were Nero with 12 points and Brent Hill with 16. The consolation finals went to Houston Sam Houston(13-4) and their outstanding player Chris Morris. Morris contributed 38 points for Sam Houston in the team's 71-70 win over A&M Consolidated(13-7).

Yates(11-7) was eliminated by Galveston Ball(13-4) 61-54, Conroe(15-4) downed Houston Smiley(14-4) 61-56 and Worthing took out Houston Madison(15-2) 77-74 in double overtime. Trent Edward finished with 18 points, Von Taylor had 16 points and Shannon Nero knocked down 14 points for Worthing. Madison was paced by Russell Crocklin's 25 points while Sean Gay added 16 points. The Marlins had defeated Worthing two weeks earlier at the San Marcos tournament. Worthing coach Bennie Roy commented, "We lost to Madison in the area playoffs last year, and we lost to them in San Marcos. If we had lost again it would have been a big letdown. This is a record for us because we are usually out in the 2nd round." The loss proved to be Madison's second loss of the season having lost to San Antonio Churchill earlier in the season in San Marcos.

Kashmere beat Houston Austin(12-3) 58-56 in another battle of two of the top programs in Houston. Austin had been 10-0 at one point during the season and was the early favorite to take the Region III title. Houston Washington(11-6) eliminated Houston Wheatley(9-7) 73-71. Terrance Moore paced Wheatley with 21 points and Paul Samuels was key for Washington with 17 points. Aldine MacArthur knocked the defending state champions, Bryan, out of the tourney 50-42.

After two rounds of the Jaycee tourney only one seeded team remained, Houston Milby. Madison, Houston Austin and Houston Reagan had all been eliminated. Kashmere eliminated their district rival Houston Washington 53-51.

Anthony Parker and Randy Hampton of Kashmere were both named All-Tournament. Others members of the All-Tournament included Shannon Nero, Trent Edwards of Worthing, Anthony Blackshire and Robert Hamilton of Lufkin, Larry Godfrey of A&M Consolidated, Jeff Williams from Aldine MacArthur, Chris Morris from Sam Houston, and Victor Gonzales of Milby.

Some of the toughest basketball in the state was always played down in the Golden Triangle area of Pt. Arthur, Orange and Beaumont. The 1983-84 season was no exception. The early season **YMBL Tournament in Beaumont** on the campus of Lamar University brought together several strong candidates for the coming season. In the semi-finals, Pt. Arthur Lincoln(32-3) lost to Beaumont Pollard(22-8) 54-50. Beaumont Westbrook(30-6) advanced to the finals with a big win over Beaumont French(21-10). The Buffaloes of French had eliminated Galveston Ball(26-8) in an earlier round 59-56 and Westbrook beat Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson(17-11) 63-42. Pollard also defeated West Orange-Stark 75-58 in the earlier rounds. Westbrook won the tournament 64-46 over Pollard in the finals. Third place was taken down by the Bumblebees 66-59 over French. Interesting side note to add was that Lincoln had just defeated Pollard on the Tuesday evening before the tournament 60-46. Other tournament results had French a 63-49 winner over Houston Smiley(25-6) and Westbrook an 84-54 victor over Forest Brook.

6'6" Jules Wells was considered the top player in the Golden Triangle area in 1984. Wells put in 20 points in Pollard's win over Pt. Arthur Lincoln. The All-Tournament team was made up of Wells, Anthony Allen of Lincoln and Henton of Lincoln. Darrell Brown of Pollard, Eric Rhodes, Terry Sylvester and Antonio Wells from Westbrook, David Morris from Galveston Ball, Cedric Hubbard of Kountze and Gary Lazard from French.

Pretty much the same teams prepared for the next big tournament in the Pt. Arthur-Beaumont area, **Nederland Tournament**. The semi-finals saw Pt. Arthur Lincoln(32-3) play a focused game and gained revenge over Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(22-8) 61-48. Anthony Allen held the talented Jules Wells to only 8 points and provided five blocks. Allen was just a sophomore and would add his name to the long list of greats that have played for Coach Gamble. The 6'7" sophomore had a tremendous impact on the Bumblebee program. "I thought it was our best defensive game of the season," coach Gamble said.

In the other semi-final game Beaumont French(21-10) beat Baytown Sterling(24-8) 69-65. In the finals, it was all Lincoln scoring a 64-40 over French. Coach Gamble's crew was a class 4-A team that was dominating the larger classifications. The 3rd place game saw Pollard come away with a 74-68 victory over Baytown Sterling. {*Season ending records}

The holidays wouldn't be the same without the **Yellowjacket Classic** in Pt. Arthur. Pt. Arthur Lincoln showed their dominance defeating Beaumont Pollard in the finals 58-47. It was their first title since 1976 in the Yellowjacket Classic. Lincoln went into their delay game after 6'7" Anthony Allen fouled out of the contest. Henton was named M.V.P. and finished with 12 points and Bush added 12. For Pollard, Wells had 13 points and Darrell Brown finished with 12 points. The 3rd place game was won by the host team, Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson 62-59 over Beaumont Westbrook. The Bruins of Westbrook were still recovering from their 50-40 loss to Lincoln in the semi-finals. Pollard had taken down Thomas Jefferson 50-48 in the other semi-final contest.

The **San Antonio Optimist Tournament** was in its 5th season bringing together many of the top teams from across the state. Dallas didn't bring any teams but Paschal came in from Ft. Worth. The two Midland schools showed up, Lee(17-14) and Midland High(27-8). Houston had several clubs making the trip to the Alamo City. Clear Lake(31-7) was very impressive defeating San Antonio Highlands(35-5) in the finals 61-48 with tournament M.V.P., Glenn Puddy leading the Falcons with 23 points. "You can't beat a good team like Clear Lake playing the way we did," said coach John Kemmerzehl of Highlands. Clear Lake defeated Midland High in the semi-finals 62-46 and Highlands advanced beating District rival San Antonio Fox Tech(33-6) 52-49.

In the 3rd place contest Fox Tech(33-6) had little trouble Midland High(27-8) 79-58 and Houston Smiley(25-6) downed Houston Yates(19-13) in the

consolation finals 53-42. In early games, Clear Lake defeated S.A. Roosevelt(27-6) 46-43 in the Falcons closest game of the tourney. Highlands came away with a big win against S.A. Central Catholic(29-4) 49-40. Fox Tech(33-6) put away Converse Judson(20-9) 48-41, Central Catholic(29-4) had defeated S.A. Churchill 54-46, Houston Smiley 51-49 over Deer Park(16-15), Houston Kashmere(27-7) 68-50 over Midland Lee(17-14), S.A. Highlands(35-5) 69-63 over Kashmere(27-7), S. A. Highlands(35-5) 53-47 over Deer Park, Bryan(31-6) 71-69 over Nacogdoches(20-12), a game the Vikings were up by 21 points at one point. S. A. Fox Tech got by Houston Smiley(25-6) 64-43, S.A. Jefferson pulled off some unexpected upsets beating Houston Yates(19-13) 50-49 and dropped Ft. Worth Paschal 66-54. Converse-Judson(20-9) defeated S.A. MacArthur 66-49, Clear Lake(31-7) dominated S.A. Churchill 77-39, Houston Smiley(25-6) trounced Nacogdoches(20-12) 61-47, S.A. Roosevelt(27-6) dropped Corpus Christi Carroll(24-10) 62-46, Clear Lake beat S.A. Sam Houston 77-39. Midland(27-8) beat S.A. Holmes 78-71, Austin High 64 Del Rio 32; S.A. Jay(23-8) 69 Laredo Martin(26-10) 57; Midland 67 S. A. Jefferson 64; Houston Yates 40 S.A. MacArthur 36; Kerrville Tivy 55 Del Rio 52; Laredo Nixon 54 C.C. Moody 40; C.C. Carroll(24-10) 47 S.A. McCullom 45; S.A. Churchill 60 Bryan(31-6) 56; Houston Smiley 51 Deer Park 49; Midland 59 S.A. Madison 56; Clear Lake 69 Houston Waltrip 64; S.A. Roosevelt(27-6) 76 Temple(17-14) 68; Fox Tech(33-6) 69 Bryan(31-6) 41; Houston Smiley(25-6) beat Kashmere(27-7); Yates 44 S.A. Sam Houston 39.

So many strong teams and competitive games it's tough to mention all of them. The All-Tournament team was impressive with Gerald McPherson and Edward Nious from S.A. Highlands being honored along with Mike Phoenix from Converse-Judson, Dembo from Fox Tech, Kevin Stiner of Clear Lake, Tim Bozarth - S.A. Roosevelt, James Robinson from S.A. Jefferson, Ron Classy of S.A. Central Catholic, Twalore Body from Houston Smiley, Bobby LaFleur of Houston Waltrip, Clement Pink from Yates, and Chris Rooker from Midland.

In a double header on December 30 and 31 the Arlington schools faced off against the two representatives from 14-5A, Killeen and Temple. The games were played at Arlington Martin high school and Killeen dropped their second game of the season to Arlington Sam Houston 76-67. Coach Wayne Howard was given three technical fouls and was dismissed from the game. After all the technical fouls were shot the Kangaroos were down 68-63. Sam Houston improved to 16-3 on the season while Killeen fell to 17-2. 6'5" Sedric Williams finished with 21 points and Henderson added 18 points for Sam Houston. Mike Knorr paced Killeen with 16 points, Vince Webb finished with 13 points along with Sedrick Evans. Arlington Sam Houston also defeated Temple 68-63 and Killeen downed Arlington Martin 65-51.

In coach Howard's defense, I think most coaches will tell you that sometimes your team doesn't get a fair shake. As a coach, it is your responsibility to protect your players. I was thrown out of a game once in a small-town

tournament where we were playing the home team. The referees knew all the players by name and were just flat out horrible. I also once pulled my club team off the court because of the poor officiating. By the way, we were winning at the time. As a club coach, you have the power to do so because you have to answer to the parents for the kid's safety. In my judgement, we were going to have several players hurt and it was not worth the risk. Not one parent questioned my decision, not even the tournament director, who was sitting at courtside.

Region I Playoffs

Ft. Worth Dunbar(33-0) #1	Euless L.D. Bell(25-6)
El Paso Jefferson(27-3)	El Paso Eastwood(14-17)
Amarillo(25-3)	Midland(27-7)
Denton(18-9)	Ft. Worth Southwest(24-10)
Grand Prairie(23-9)	El Paso Riverside(24-5)
El Paso Burges(22-9)	Odessa Permian(20-8)
Lubbock Monterey(23-7)	Wichita Falls Rider(17-11)
Duncanville(28-2) #7	Arlington Sam Houston(27-4)

Top Five in Region I

6'6"	Rodney Washington	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'3"	Ronnie Williams	Wichita Falls Rider
6'7"	Norman Anderson	Ft. Worth Southwest
6'4"	Horace Taylor	Ft. Worth Paschal
6'2"	Roderick Ford	Ft. Worth Dunbar

District 1-AAAAA

El Paso Jefferson(27-3) won the District 1-5A with a 12-2 record. Coach Mike Harper was in his 7th season at the helm. Jefferson's only pre-district loss came at the hands of El Paso Riverside(24-5). Jefferson averaged 53.2 per game and allowed only 41.1 points a game. Only one starter was over six feet tall for the Foxes. Starters included 5'8" Jesse Uranga(10.9), 5'9" Joe Morales(8.9), 6'2" Richard Fernandez(8.6), 5'10" Larry Hernandez(11.1) and 5'10" Albert Fierro(5.6). District losses came at the hands of El Paso Coronado and El Paso Austin 57-55 in overtime.

El Paso Jefferson(27-3) defeated District runner-up El Paso Burges(22-9) four times over the course of the season. Every one of the games were close and the Mustangs ended up the top defensive unit in the state allowing only 37.2 per game. Coach Tony Harper was in his 14th season with the Burges Mustangs. Burges held down a 61-39 win over Borger(15-15) in the Snyder Tournament and losses came against Lindale 51-46 and Abernathy 78-68 in pre-district. Burges came away with a 11-3 record in District and started 5'9" Eddie Martinez(12.2), 5'10" Richard DeLacruz(4.5), 6'3" Larry Pigeon(6.3), 5'10" Martin Garcia(9.3) and 6'3" Pat Basukto(3.6).

District 2-AAAAA

Perennial power El Paso Eastwood barely snuck into the playoffs taking 2nd place behind El Paso Riverside(24-5). The Troopers of Eastwood(14-17) had a losing record, but were able to regroup in District action to finish 9-3. Coach Bobby Lesley was in his 18th season with the Troopers. Eastwood looked to 6'3" Kenny Cobb(16.2) as their main contributor. El Paso Riverside(24-5) broke Eastwood's strangle hold on the District with a 10-2 mark and split with Eastwood. Riverside had only one player on their roster over six foot tall. The Riverside Rangers also held an early season win over E.P. Jefferson(27-3) 45-39 to claim the title of best in the Sun City. 6'5" Mike Duran(11.3) and 5'10" Rudy Acosta(9.7) were the key players for the Rangers.

The El Paso Times All-City 1st team was made up of 5'8" Jesse Uranga(10.9) from E.P. Jefferson, 6'3" Kenny Cobbs(16.2) from E.P. Eastwood, 5'10" Alex Darley(19.0) from E.P. Parkland, 6'5" Mike Duran(11.3) from E.P. Riverside, 6'8" Todd Joyner(13.2) from E.P. Coronado, 5'9" Eddie Martinez(12.8) from E.P. Burges, 5'8" Joe Morales(8.9) from E.P. Jefferson and 5'10" Raymond Rodriguez(18.4) from E.P. Bowie; Uranga was named Player of the Year:

District 4-A-A-A-A-A

Abilene High, Odessa Permian and Midland were all battling for the two playoff spots in the last week of the regular season. Abilene Cooper came away with a big 67-66 win over their cross-town rival to eliminate Abilene High. Permian held form defeating Odessa High and Midland defeated Midland Lee to nail down second place. The Panthers of Permian(20-8) took first place a game ahead of Midland. The championship was their first in four years and third in school history. The 1980 District title broke a 12-year drought for the Panthers. Permian finished 11-3 in District with losses coming against Midland, San Angelo Central and Abilene Cooper. Midland(27-7) had an impressive season as well taking the runner-up spot in the playoffs at 10-4. Abilene(21-12) claimed third at 9-5 and Midland Lee(17-14) came in at fourth at 7-7.

All-District had something like 13 players being named. Chris Rooker of Midland was named M.V.P. and Anthony Dickens of Midland Lee was named sophomore of the year.

District 3-A-A-A-A-A

Lubbock Monterey(23-7) awaited Permian in Bi-District while Midland and Amarillo High(24-3) locked horns. Permian and Monterey had split during the regular season, with the Panthers taking a 2-point victory in November and Monterey coming away with a 76-65 win in the opening round of the Snyder Invitational Tournament in early December. 5'8" Rocky Hendrix(13.0) paced the Permian Panthers with 88 steals on the season. Other key players Coach Charles Pattillo of Permian were 6'1" Terry Williams(11.0) coming off the bench, 6'5" Troy Nini(9.4/5.0), 5'10" Paul Logan(9.0/4.6), 6'4" Orlando Ontiveroz(7.0/5.0) and Baron Gage.

Coach Grady Newton was in his first season at Monterey after a strong career at Texas Tech. Monterey finished 13-3 in District and 23-7 on the season. Standouts for Monterey included 6'2" Curry Blackwell(12.0), 5'9" Donny

Briggs(11.0), 6'4" Kyle Smith(10.0), 6'8" Jeff Gustafson(10.0/12.0) and 6'1" Brian Christiansen. Newton discussing Briggs, "he's probably our best ball handler, and is a quick guard." Newton continued discussing his team calling Gustafson an intimidating player of defense. Coming off the bench for the Plainsmen were Brent Price, Glenn Seale and 6'8" Lance Linguist.

In discussing the game against Permian, Newton said, "generally, we like to run. We know Permian likes to run also, so I figure it will be a pretty fast paced game." Coach Pattillo commented, "rebounding is still the most important phase of the game." Monterey and Permian faced off at Lamesa Middle School gym while Midland(27-7) played Amarillo(25-3) in Levelland.

Monterey prevailed over Permian 62-53 to advance to the 2nd round of the playoffs. Permian finished the season at 20-9. Monterey got to the foul line often hitting 18 of 34 while the Panthers could only manage 7 of 13. The Plainsmen were only whistled for 14 fouls while Permian committed 30 fouls. For Coach Pattillo, Terry Williams was the only player in double figures with 12 points. Troy Nini came away with 10 rebounds. The hero for Monterey was actually a sub, 6'8" Lance Linguist, who came in and played well for 6'8" Jeff Gustafson, who was ill and only played four minutes. Brian Christiansen finished with 15 points and 7 rebounds for Monterey while Donny Briggs added 14 points and Curry Blackwell finished with 11 points.

Amarillo(24-3) had taken the District 3-5A title finishing 15-1 and defeated Monterey 71-69 to wrap up the title. Following Amarillo in District action was Monterey(23-7) at 13-3 and Amarillo Caprock(16-11) at 3rd with a 9-7 record. The Sandie's played a warm-up game against one of the top 4-A teams in the state, Pampa(24-5). The game was played in Borger in front of 1500 fans. Amarillo won on Kelly Calvin's lay-up with 22 seconds remaining in the third overtime. 6'7" Coyle Winborn put up 25 points for Pampa and Craig Chapin finished with 14. Tim Gilbreath led Amarillo with 20 points.

The Amarillo Sandie's continued their overtime success pulling out an exciting victory over Midland(27-8) 66-65 in Bi-District. The Sandie's hit 22 of 26 foul shots down the stretch and Kelly Calvin was 12 of 15 from the charity line. "They couldn't stop us inside, I knew we still had a chance if we could get the ball inside," Coach Simpson of Amarillo said. Kelly Calvin paced Amarillo with 22 points. "This was one of the best games Calvin's ever played," Simpson said.

"Calvin was the difference, he's a good player, and they were letting him play out there. We're just not that physical," Coach Jack Stephenson of Midland said. The Bulldogs placed three players in double figures. Chris Rooker led Midland with 18 points, 6'2", 200-pound Darrell Davis finished with 15 points and Kenneth Johnson hit 12 points. Levelland was the site of the game and only an estimated 400 fans were present.

District 5-A

The Denton Broncos were attempting to return to the glory of the 1974 campaign that took the team to the state tournament. Coach Maurice Evans was a former Bronco himself and felt this talented group could compete at a high level. Evans was welcoming players off a 23-1 junior varsity. Two young men that excited Coach Evans were 6'6" sophomore, Aundra McDade and 6'6 junior, Bryan Stinchcomb. Wichita Falls Rider had the top player and athlete in the District in 6'3" Ronnie Williams. The multi-talented Williams was a standout on the football field at quarterback. He would take his talents to the N.F.L. as a tight end after a fine career at Oklahoma State. Sherman felt they could make a strong run at the playoffs with 6'4" Vaughan Gentry and 6'2" James Thomas. Coach Bill Estes of Sherman commented that Gentry had the potential to be the best he had coached with the Bearcats. Coach Harold Scott of Weatherford had only one starter returning, 5'10" Barry Miller and would be in the rebuilding mode.

Denton(19-8) took District finishing at 8-2. Rider(17-11) and Sherman(18-9) tied for second at 6-4. Rider took down the runner-up spot in a 75-71 win over Sherman.

The All-District team was made up Ronnie Williams and 5'11" Greg Roland from Rider, 6'3" Vaughan Gentry of Sherman, Scott Robinson of Denton, 6'2" Leslie Dehorney of Denton and Richard Hodge of Wichita Falls. Williams was named Player of the Year and McDade of Denton was named Sophomore of the Year. Maurice Evans was named Coach of the Year. 6'6" McDade and 6'6" Stinchcomb of Denton were both named to the second unit. The future looked promising for the Broncos and Coach Maurice Evans.

Williams numbers were very impressive for Rider on the season averaging 22.0 points and 11.0 rebounds per outing. "He's the person most responsible for where we are," Rider coach Terry Richter said. "He's capable of totally dominating any game." Against his Sherman he stepped up with 32 points and 22 rebounds. Weatherford had no chance either giving up 20 points and 19 rebounds to Williams. In the biggest game of the season against Sherman for the playoff spot, Williams threw down 35 points and 10 rebounds in the 75-71 victory." Coach Richter concluded by saying Williams was the most talented player he had coached in his 18 years. Weatherford coach Bill Estes commented, "He got them from all over the place, inside the circle and outside, we tried to double team him and he still scored."

"He a super athlete," Denton coach Maurice Evans said. "He's a heckuva basketball player and plays a good, aggressive game, he's their whole team."

District 6-AAAAA

Dunbar(33-0) ran away with the District title and Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt(19-8) and Ft. Worth Southwest(23-10) played for the second playoff spot. Paschal looked as if they were going to make it a three-team race for the playoffs beating Southwest 56-51 early, but the Rebels rebounded nicely winning the second-round game 63-53. 6'6" Derrick Lewis, who became eligible for varsity action at mid-term, made his presence felt for the Southwest Rebels with 17 points. Southwest

improved to 6-3, while Paschal went to 5-4 in District action. "We've improved some since we last played Paschal," Coach James Wood said. "We had Lewis become eligible. He's improved our ball club."

F.W. Wyatt and F.W. Southwest both finished the regular season with 10-4 marks. Southwest won the first District game 61-55 in double overtime and Wyatt came back in the second encounter 63-61 on Chris Walker's bucket with three seconds remaining. In the pre-season, Southwest had played an extremely competitive schedule. Wyatt on the other hand did not face that many heavyweights. Wyatt came up short against S.O.C. 97-84, Houston Kashmere 80-76 and Houston Yates 55-52. The only high-profile tournament that Wyatt played in was the 7-UP tournament in Ft. Worth early in the season.

Southwest's (23-10) strong inside game was paced by 6'7" Norman Anderson. In the five games leading up to the playoffs he had averaged 20.0 points and 13 rebounds. Coach James Wood of Southwest had coached some outstanding talent through the years, including the state's top recruit in 1981, John Brownlee. Anderson was another highly sought player state wide. Many recruiters felt he was the best player in the state. "Anderson's a great player. Usually there's two or three people guarding him so someone else is open," Wood said. "He's a great rebounder and passer so he'll give up the ball. He's a very unselfish player." Joining Anderson in the potent Rebel line-up was 6'3" Ron Perkins(17.6/7.0) and 6'6" Derrick Lewis(15.4). Wyatt on the other hand has a size disadvantage with their tallest player standing 6'3". "We are perhaps a little taller but they jump well and are a little quicker," Wood said. Wyatt(19-8) looked to 6'2" William Ford, 6'2" Falanda Newton and 6'3" Adam Powell to compete. "We play taller than we are," coach Willie Jones of Wyatt said.

In game to decide who would be claiming the second playoff spot, Anderson, Perkins and Lewis combined for 54 points and 25 rebounds in the Rebels 63-59 victory over Wyatt. Anderson alone kicked in 23 points and 7 rebounds. Inside, Wyatt faced a number of obstacles in which they were forced to overcome. Adam Powell got into early foul trouble and was a non-factor in the game, scoring only 2 points. William Ford also picked up some quick fouls and fouled out in the 4th quarter. 6'2" Falanda Newton was all that remained against the inside strength of Southwest. Newton managed to finish with 18 points and Ford chipped in 14 points before exiting. The Chaparrals didn't give up and got within 2 points with 6:05 remaining only to go into an ill-advised slow-down game, which caused them to lose their momentum.

F.W. Dunbar dominated F.W. Wyatt in the two teams District games 92-57 and 75-53, but Southwest seemed to present some real problems for the talented Wildcats. Dunbar came away with a slim victory against Southwest in the two teams first match-up 60-58. The second game between the two rivals was just as challenging for Dunbar as the Wildcats pulled away 68-63. Southwest counted on

the inside presence of 6'7" Norman Anderson and 6'6" Derrick Lewis to keep them in the game. The combo began controlling the inside game of Dunbar when Lewis fouled out at the 4:33 mark of the 3rd quarter. Lewis finished with 17 points in less than three quarters of play. Anderson and guard Ron Perkins took up the slack for Southwest finishing with 12 points and 21 points respectfully. Dunbar began holding the ball late to pull Southwest out of their sagging zone defense. Rodney Washington led Coach Hughes' team with 19 points and Tim Howard followed with 18. The Wildcats escaped with a five-point victory, but the game was much closer than expected. At 17-8 on season and 5-2 in District action the Rebels seemed to be at a big disadvantage against the top ranked Dunbar squad.

Longtime Paschal coach, Jim Wall moved on to Texas Tech at the start of the 1983-84 season. This was good news all over the District. The old coaching adage applied to Wall, **"He can take his'n and beat your'n, or take your'n and beat his'n"**. Wall took the Panthers to state in 1975 and again in 1983 and had several outstanding teams during his stay with the Panthers. The classic games between Dunbar and Paschal would never be the same. Walter Dansby attempted to replace Wall at the helm. Paschal returned 6'4" Horace Taylor as one of the top performers in District along with 6'2" Earl Whittaker.

The All-District teams was dominated with talent like few others in the state. 6'7" Norman Anderson of Ft. Worth Southwest and 6'6" Rodney Washington from Dunbar were co-Player of the Year honors. The 1st team was made up Washington, Anderson, 5'9" Cedric Webb(25.4) of Western Hills, 6'2" Roderick Ford of Dunbar, and 6'4" Horace Taylor(19.3) from Ft. Worth Paschal.

District 7-AAAAA

District 7-5A had a great deal of balance during the 1984 season. L.D. Bell(25-6) was able to take the District title finishing 15-1. Two Arlington I.S.D. schools fought it out for the runner-up spot. Arlington Sam Houston(27-4) and Arlington High(21-8) finished second and third. Sam Houston turned in a 14-2 record and the Colts were 12-4. Sam Houston split with Bell during District. Bell took the first game 63-46 and Sam Houston came back to win a close one 49-47. L.D. Bell defeated Arlington High twice by six points and Sam Houston and Arlington split. Bell had some solid wins in pre-district of Lake Highlands(22-12) 63-55 and lost a close one to Ft. Worth Southwest(27-11) 56-54. Arlington Sam Houston had a nice victory over Ft. Worth Southwest in pre-district 84-71.

The All-District team was led by the Player of the Year, 6'3" Wayne Morris(19.9) from L.D. Bell. Coach Ray DeBord was named Coach of the Year. Joining Morris on the first team were 6'1" Jonathan Henderson of Sam Houston, 6'2" Eddie Hulsey from L.D. Bell, 6'2" Steve Gomez from Arlington High, 6'5" Cedric Williams from Sam Houston and 6'7" Bill Wirsky of Haltom. Chris Risenhoover played for Arlington and was named to the 2nd team along with Joe Tusso and 6'6" Todd Clawson from L.D. Bell.

District 8-AAAAA

Duncanville coach James Cagle returned 5'10" Terry Talley, 6'4" Darin Childress and 6'1" Lenny Bell and were favored to repeat as District champions. South Grand Prairie had a strong cast of characters in 6'5" Jason Alcorn, who

transferred in from Dallas Spruce, 6'3" Keith Jackson and 6'0" Stacey Roberts. Coach Tom Milford of Irving MacArthur left the Cardinals moving to a junior high program in Central Texas.

The Duncanville Panthers were impressive in pre-season action winning some close ones over Arlington Sam Houston(28-5) 65-64, Denton(18-10) 56-55, Euless Trinity 66-51, Lake Highlands(22-12) 63-60 and a big victory over state ranked Killeen(29-3) 58-45. Losses came against Wilmer Hutchins(27-7) 89-68 and Denton(18-10) 54-43.

Duncanville(28-2) dominated the District race finishing 14-0. Grand Prairie(22-10) and South Grand Prairie(19-12) were a distant second tied at 10-4 marks. The Gophers and the Warriors had a one-game playoff to see who would advance to the playoffs. Grand Prairie took the last playoff spot with a defensive 47-45 victory over the Warriors. Randy Wade paced Grand Prairie with 11 points and Keith Jackson led S.G.P. scoring 14 points, followed by Jason Alcorn with 14. Duncanville had defeated the Gophers in District action 42-39 and 55-53 in two very close contests.

Duncanville's Keith Smith took home the Player of the Year honors with 5'10" Terry Talley making the 1st team. 6'4" Darin Childress was named to the 2nd team for the Panthers. 5'10" Juric Brown was also named to the 1st team from Grand Prairie, 6'5" Ron McCray of Carrollton R.L. Turner, 6'0" Stacey Roberts and 6'5" Mike Nation from Irving MacArthur joined the 1st team as well. Steve Callarman of Grand Prairie, Rusty Troy of MacArthur, Keith Jackson and Randy Carter of Irving Nimitz were all named to the 2nd team. James Cagle of Duncanville won Coach of the Year.

Playoffs

The El Paso schools played their first-round action in a double header at the Special Events Center. E.P. Riverside(24-5) faced E.P. Burges(22-9) in the first game at 6:00 to be followed by E.P. Eastwood(14-17) against E.P. Jefferson(27-3). Riverside and Burges had played each other earlier in the season and split with Riverside winning the first game 43-37 and losing second 39-37. Riverside won at home while Burges won on a neutral site. On Burges boring style of basketball, the Mustangs head man, Tony Harper said, "people might not like it, they might say it's boring, but that's how we got here. We didn't get here playing an exciting brand of basketball." Coach Ralph Ornelas was not concerned with the tempo stating that his team has won playing both ways. "I think it's a matter of who wins the boards, offensive execution and team defense," Ornelas said.

In the first game of the double header, El Paso Riverside advanced beating El Paso Burges 44-39. The Rangers of Riverside used only five players for the majority of the contest and went to the spread late knocking down 8 of 12 from the foul line. Next up for E.P. Riverside was Lubbock Monterey in Midland at the Chaparral Center. An estimated 5,000 fans attended the double header made up of El Paso schools. Riverside was powered by Rudy Acosta's 16 points and E.P. Burges was paced by Eddie Martinez and his 13 points.

El Paso Jefferson(28-3) came away with a 65-61 advantage over Eastwood(14-18) in the second game of the double header. Coach Mike Harper collected three technical fouls in his team's winning effort. Harper left the contest with 2:06 remaining. In the 4th quarter the Foxes went to the spread offense and hit six of eight foul shots down the stretch. Harper commented after the game, "I think we were looking ahead after beating Eastwood by 19 points twice earlier in the season." E.P. Jefferson moved to the second round of the playoffs against Amarillo(25-3) in Canyon. E.P. Jefferson had lost the coin flip on the selection of the site for the playoff game.

As for the officiating in the Eastwood-Jefferson game, both coaches were not happy. Harper commented, "everybody in there saw what happened, it kept Eastwood close." Coach Bob Lesley of Eastwood said, "the first technical totally intimidated the referees and from that point on, it was a different game. I wish them a lot of luck, but they got a lot of luck out there tonight." Joe Morales finished with 12 points for E.P. Jefferson, Jesse Uranga added 15 points for the Foxes and Larry Hernandez added 21 points. David Gomez paced E.P. Eastwood with 22 points and Kenny Cobbs added 17 points.

Amarillo(26-4) opened up the Region I playoffs with an exciting 66-65 overtime victory over Midland High(27-8). Next up for the Sandie's was arguably El Paso's best team in the Jefferson. The two teams had both faced El Paso Bel Air, with Amarillo losing 53-49, while Jefferson handled Bel Air by 14 and 18 points. Coach Harper of Jefferson commented, "I think we'll pick the tempo up, I don't know if they want to do that." Coach Allen Simpson of Amarillo said, "our big guys are physical enough that we can hurt Jefferson. I'm impressed with their press and quickness. If we get the ball past mid-court and run our offense we'll be in good shape."

Some 1,500 fans were in attendance at Canyon High School as Amarillo got down early 34-21 to E.P. Jefferson, but came back with their full court press to take a 49-42 lead with 4:08 left in the game. "It looked like we were going to get beat by 30," Coach Allen Simpson said. Jefferson and Amarillo were tied up at 51 apiece with 1:10 remaining. Jefferson had the ball and held for the last shot. "We knew they would hold for the last shot," Simpson said. 5'9" Joe Morales took a 17-footer with six seconds remaining but missed. The ball went out of bounds and given to Jefferson with only two seconds remaining. Morales hit a 5-foot off balance shot at the buzzer to give the Foxes the win 53-51.

Kelly Calvin of Amarillo was held to only six points and 6'3" Tim Gilbreath led the Sandie's with 18 points. Jefferson had Jesse Uranga leading the way with 18 points and Larry Hernandez with 14 points. El Paso Jefferson's quickness gave Amarillo a great deal of trouble.

Lubbock Monterey felt they had a lot of momentum after their victory over Odessa Permian. El Paso Riverside(25-5) definitely looked like a team that

would be unable to stay with the Plainsmen. Riverside came at you with a very small line-up led by 6'5" Mike Duran(10.0), 5'10" Eric Fino(9.0), 5'10" Rudy Acosta(9.0), 5'9" David Neria, and 5'9" Mike Concha. Coming off the bench was 5'8" Marty Noriega and 5'10" Alex Flores. Coach Newton of Monterey said, "I'd like to get a shot at Dunbar, but I hope we're not looking ahead to them. Riverside plays a very disciplined control type of game." Newton continued saying, "we may be taller, but Riverside is quicker. I also think they have better ballhandlers and passers."

Coach Ralph Ornelas talked about his Riverside team, "we're not that tall so we rely on our quickness and tenacious man to man defense. We're pretty sound fundamentally, but we realize that Monterey is also." Ornelas continued saying, "controlling tempo will be the key to success and getting an early lead." The Riverside coaches explained what he meant, "if the tempo is slow, like the Burges game than I'll be able to go with the starters most of the way, but if they press and try to run on us, I'll use more players."

Coach Newton of Monterey had been the junior varsity coach the previous season and led his team to an undefeated season. Two juniors off that squad really infused a winning attitude in the varsity. Juniors 6'2" Curry Blackwell(12.5) and Brian Christiansen(10.4) were two keys to the Plainsmen success during the season. 6'8" Jeff Gustafson could also pose a problem for Riverside. Monterey had finished 9-21 in 1982 and 12-18 during the '83 campaign.

At Midland Chaparral Center, E.P. Riverside proved too quick defeating Monterey 75-66. "Their quickness just killed us," Coach Newton said. "We definitely tried to change our tactics but nothing worked. We felt like we couldn't go to a zone defense because they could just hold the ball. But that's our best defense. When we went to the man defense, they just beat us." At one-point Riverside led 58-40. David Neria finished with 29 points, several of which were layups.

Monterey's full court press was ineffective against Riverside's speed. Coach Ornelas said, "we knew if we got ahead of Monterey that they would have to play out type game. We couldn't afford to get behind on them because we were no match for them inside." Glen Seale and Curry Blackwell finished with 13 points each for the Plainsmen and Donny Briggs added 12 points. Brian Christianson came away with 11 points and Jeff Gustafson put up 10 points. For E.P. Riverside, Eric Fino contributed 19 points. "Their quickness just wore us down," Coach Newton said.

F.W. Dunbar and Denton both wanted to play a warm-up game because of the long lay-off. "Anyone you can get a game with this time of year is going to be a playoff team," Hughes said. "They're the only one still playing. If you lose, it won't have any psychological effect on us. To us, a loss is just a loss, it means you

have to go back to the gym and work.” Hughes used 13 players in the 79-60 victory over the Broncos in front of a sparse crowd.

Denton(18-9) played Ft. Worth Southwest in their first-round match-up. The Broncos had some size of their own in 6’6” Andre McDade(9.2), an outstanding sophomore. 6’3” David Baker, 6’0” Barry Jackson and 5’10” Billy Jones were other key players for Coach Maurice Evans. The game was played at the Super Pit on the campus of North Texas State. Denton was a young group with only two seniors.

The key play in the Southwest-Denton Bi-District game occurred with 29 second remaining with the Rebels up by one point. David Porter of Southwest went to the line shooting two shots. After hitting the first one the Broncos took a time out attempting to freeze Porter. “I felt real comfortable,” Porter said. He proceeded to hit the second, which gave Southwest a 41-38 advantage. Denton came down court immediately and Barry Jackson missed his shot, which was rebounded by Derrick Lewis. Lewis hit both foul shots giving coach James Woods of Southwest the 43-38 victory. Woods commented, “it was a defensive game, but I was about to change our philosophy there for a while. You always figure if you play good defense the 30-footers won’t beat you, but Robinson is some shooter. He’s the best we’ve seen.” Robinson scored 14 points all from the ozone. Both teams had nice size with Denton’s 6’6” Andre McDade and 6’7” Brian Stinchcomb battling 6’7” Norman Anderson, 6’6” Derrick Lewis and 6’3” Ron Perkins of Southwest. Woods said he felt like “Custer” when all three of his top hands had four fouls. “I thought eventually, they’d quit bombing,” said Woods. “But they just stayed with it, so we tried to put a man in their shooters spots.” With 35 seconds remaining Southwest went into a delay game and Denton intentionally fouled Porter. Norman Anderson finished with 16 points for the Rebels and Lewis kicked in 13 points.

L.D. Bell(25-6) and Grand Prairie were very familiar with one another as the prepared to meet once again. In the pre-season, the Gophers had beaten Bell twice in close games. At the Haltom-Richland Tournament, Grand Prairie downed the Blue Raiders 56-50 and in the semi-finals of the South Grand Prairie tournament, Grand Prairie had come out on top once again 62-60. 5’9” Juric Brown was the spark for the Gophers. Grand Prairie had advanced to playoffs after a 47-45 victory over S.G.P. in a District playoff. 6’3” Wayne Morris(20.2) was key for L.D. Bell. Others key contributors for the Blue Raiders were 5’10” Joe Tusso, 6’4” Todd Clawson, 6’3” Eddie Hulsey and 6’3” Lee Beckelman. L.D. Bell had been led by Coach Ray DeBord for 10 seasons with three District titles and finished runner-up four times. The program was well established.

L.D. Bell fell behind by as many as 10 points in the first half against the Gophers but made some key adjustments at halftime. The famed match-up zone defense had been pushing out to far giving the Grand Prairie one on one inside. With more pressure in the 2nd half, Bell took a 56-37 lead with 5:16 left to play. Bell advanced with a 63-48 victory led by Wayne Morris, who tallied 21 points.

Arlington Sam Houston(27-4) came into their first-round game against Duncanville(28-3) on an eight-game winning streak, while the Panthers were on a twenty-game streak. Coach Cagle of Duncanville said he had the smallest 5-A team in the state playoffs.(he obviously had not seen the El Paso schools) Duncanville has to rely on speed to off-set their larger opponents. Their last loss was at the hands of Denton High with two 6'6" inside players. Keith Smith, Terry Talley, and Lenny Bell were key for Coach Cagle's Panthers. The two teams had met earlier in the Arlington Classic which was won by Duncanville 56-55. It would be Sam Houston's first playoff game in eight seasons. Two of the hottest teams in the metro-plex were going at it at Wilkerson-Greines Field House.

The Texans looked to 6'5" Cedric Williams(17.0) and Jonathan (Pooh) Henderson(16.6) for leadership. Pooh Henderson was late for the bus in the first game between the two teams and did not start for the Texans. Henderson was anxious to gain redemption after fouling out in the team's one-point loss to Duncanville. Coach Don Louis of Sam Houston discussed Henderson contribution to the Texans program, "we've never had a guard who was a better shooter, he's the best we've had at combining all phases of the game." 5'10" Bob LeGrand was Henderson's fine running mate in the backcourt.

Pooh Henderson came up big for Sam Houston(28-4) with 10 fourth quarter points that propelled the Texans to a 62-52 victory over Duncanville(28-3). Henderson hit five points in less than 45 seconds that proved to be the difference. Duncanville cut into the Sam Houston lead 42-39, with just four minutes remaining. Henderson's five straight points put the Texans in control 47-39. Sam Houston looked to be in trouble when 6'5" Cedric Williams, the team's leading scorer, got in foul trouble. 6'4" sophomore, Arthur Oliver saved the day for the Texans scoring 16 points, as Williams replacement. Oliver had only played in eight regular season games on the Texan's varsity.

The Panthers were only able to shoot 16 of 57 from the floor for the game. Coach Louis said after the game, "I think the difference was how well our District prepared us for this game. The quality of the people we had to beat to get here had us used to the pressure. I don't think Duncanville had to match up with the teams with our kind of size too often during District."

"That was the worst we've shot all year," Coach Cagle said. Duncanville shot a season low of 28% on the game. "We didn't run our offense at all." Cagle said. Coach Don Louis chimed-in, "This was one of our best defensive efforts we've had all year." For the Texans, they took control outscoring Duncanville 19-8 in the 2nd quarter and sunk 13 of 17 foul shots down the stretch to wrap up the victory. Sam Houston won the battle boards as well 40-35 behind 6'3" Oliver, 6'5" Williams and 6'3" Troy Standback.

In discussing their next opponent, Dunbar, Pooh Henderson said, "We think we match-up pretty well with them. If we don't let their press bother us and let the game get out of hand... who knows what can happen in one game."

As usual, I made a lot of the playoff game in 1984. I was attending the Wichita Falls Rider-Dunbar game over at the Super Pit in Denton on the campus of North Texas State. Anytime you attend a Dunbar game you are going to see enormous crowd participation and excitement. One of the most phenomenal athletes in the playoffs was Ronnie Williams of Rider. He paced his team to a five-point lead early in the 3rd quarter. Williams fouled out at the 6:32 mark of the final period. With Williams out of way Dunbar cruised to a 78-60 victory. Rodney Washington poured in 23 points along with Fred Hamilton's 19 points and Tim Howard tossed in 14 points. Rider got points from Reed Welch, Eric Buford and Williams. All three finished with 14 points. Hughes was his usual quotable self after the victory. "The only thing good about this game is we are still in playoffs." Hughes continued saying, "I'm just trying to figure out who they lost 11 games to. We sure don't want to play them." Rider finished the season at 17-12.

As the second-round games approached, Whit Canning of the Star-Telegram talked about the playoffs with Ft. Worth Richland head man, Ken West. West had faced Bell and Sam Houston twice and Southwest once. He also was very familiar with Dunbar basketball having faced the Wildcats several times in the playoffs. "Bell and Sam are both good teams, but I don't know if they're good enough to beat Dunbar. I feel like Bell can beat Southwest and they also have a better chance of beating Dunbar than most teams do." West continued, "Dunbar is so tough in these early games they have so much going for them, the crowd aspect. All it takes is one small dunk and that crowd starts oohing and aahing and all of sudden they just explode."

Ft. Worth Southwest and Euless L.D. Bell knew each other well having faced each other at least once a year over the previous seven seasons. With Southwest's size, L.D. Bell would be forced with a challenge. "We'll have to shoot well offensively, play good defense to make their people come out and handle the ball, and spend a lot of time praying," Coach DeBord said. "They're a pressing team, so the tempo is usually pretty fast with them and I like it that way."

DeBord last played in regionals in Friona in 1974 in class 3-A. Bell's tallest player stood 6'4", Todd Clawson. Coach Wood of Southwest discussed Bell saying, "They're not going to stall the ball and neither are we." Southwest beat Bell 56-54 in December in a non-district game. Since that game Southwest added 6'6" Derrick Lewis, who really improved the Rebels inside game.

Ft. Southwest, led by Ron Perkins down the stretch came away with a 47-45 victory over Bell to advance to regionals. Bell finished 26-7 on the season with two losses coming to Southwest. "We are extremely lucky, but at this stage you have to be," Coach Wood said. Bell missed three straight long-range shots late in

their comeback attempt. Joe Tusso was critical for Bell hitting two jumpers late to pull the Blue Raiders close at 45-43. Norman Anderson finished with 11 points and Derrick Lewis blocked six shots. "Anderson made the difference inside," Coach Wood said. Bell out rebounded the large Southwest team 26-20, but the Rebels won the battle of the foul line hitting 13 of 16, while Bell could only manage 1 of 6. Bell committed 17 fouls and Southwest had only six fouls. Wood said, "We stayed in a 2-3 zone with emphasize on Morris." Wayne Morris came into the contest averaging 20 points a game and was held to only nine points on 4 of 14 shooting.

Arlington Sam Houston was very optimistic going into their 2nd round game against unbeaten Dunbar. "We match up with them as well as anyone, people tend to give Dunbar too much respect. They're undefeated, but they're not invincible," Cedric Williams(17.0) of Sam Houston said. Coach Don Louis pointed out, "they have a bigger, more physical starting lineup and bigger, more physical subs. The biggest difference is off the bench. They come off the bench with 6'3" 6'4" and 6'5". Our top players off the bench are all in the 6'0" range."

The Texans came in with an impressive 28-4 record with wins over a formidable group, L.D. Bell, Ft. Worth Southwest, as well as state ranked Killeen, Waxahachie and Duncanville. "Dunbar has always been the team to beat," Williams said. "All year, we've wanted a shot at Dunbar," Pooh Henderson said. Rounding out the Texans line-up was 6'3" Arthur Oliver, 5'10" Bobby LeGrand, 6'0" Eric Gant and reserve Vance Bailey. The last time the two teams met, it wasn't pretty, as Dunbar thumped Sam Houston 81-53 in the 1982 Arlington Classic. Both Williams and Henderson were starters in that game. "We won't be intimidated," Williams said.

A crowd of 9,500 fans came out to watch Dunbar put a whipping on Sam Houston 85-60. After two sub-par games the Wildcats played well behind 26 points from Rodney Washington and 16 points and 8 steals from Roderick Ford. Dunbar dominated inside with a 45-28 rebound advantage. Sam Houston was only down by eight at halftime 35-27. Coach Louis was disappointed saying, "Look, we got beat by 25 points and I don't draw much hope from that. Obviously, there is still a considerable gap in the two programs." Sam Houston had nothing to be ashamed of, they finished 28-5 on the season and defeated some really strong teams. You make no apologies losing to Dunbar.

Regionals

The two Ft. Worth schools once again were playing El Paso I.S.D. representatives in the Region I semi-finals. El Paso Riverside(26-5) was known for their deliberate offensive attack. Although Riverside defeated Lubbock Monterey 75-66 in the area round, they generally liked to slow things down. If they don't have a good shot off the fast break they will really work the ball. "They're very patient," Hughes said. "I counted some 17 passes before they took a shot, if they don't get a lay-up off the fast break. They like to go into a half-court offense." 6'5"

Mike Duran was the key player for Riverside, who had good range from the top of the key.

Southwest looked as if they were an enigma having lost ten games during the season, but managed to play Dunbar twice closer than any other team in the state. Nobody else had been able to accomplish the feat. In the first rounds of the playoffs, the Rebels just slipped by Denton and L.D. Bell by three and two points. Coach Ray DeBord of L.D. Bell shared. "I'd rather play Dunbar than Southwest," DeBord said. "The reason they do so well is they have the biggest team in Tarrant County," Coach Hughes said. "They camp in the 2-3 zone under the basket and unless you're shooting a high percentage from the outside you're going to be in trouble."

Southwest losses had been numerous but against outstanding competition. "You don't have to make excuses for 26 victories," Coach Wood said. "A lot of our critics hung their equipment up two weeks ago." Two of the Rebels losses came at the hands of Dunbar 60-58 and 68-63, 2nd ranked Houston Madison 61-59 in overtime at the San Marcos tournament, 4th ranked Dallas S.O.C., state ranked Wilmer Hutchins, O.D. Wyatt, Paschal, Harlingen, Highland Park and Arlington Sam Houston. "We played a real tough pre-season," Wood said. "And all of the games were close, we weren't getting blown out. Harlingen was the 2nd game of the day after a loss to Madison and Highland Park came on the same day as the S.O.C. game." Woods said.

"We match-up pretty good individually with Dunbar, our post men are about the same size and ability, Perkins goes well with Bogan. Willie and David Porter match-up well with the other two. Willie is not as good as Roderick is but he plays good defense," Wood said. The Southwest coach talked about his team's inexperience as well, "Derrick Lewis in only in his 12th and 13th game since coming back, he was a back-up on the junior varsity and didn't play as a freshmen and sophomore." Willie Thomas is just a sophomore," Wood said.

Dunbar came into the tournament ranked 8th nationally by the *U.S.A. Today Newspaper* with the top record in the country at 36-0. The Wildcats were making their 9th straight trip to regionals. "None of the I.M. Terrell teams or Dunbar teams have ever had anything like that," Hughes said. Coach Ray DeBord of L.D. Bell summarized a third match-up between Dunbar and Southwest the best, "if it boils down to those two it would be a toss-up, I think Southwest has as good a chance of winning as Dunbar does."

Dunbar and Southwest dominated the El Paso representatives in the semi-finals. Dunbar won 59-42 against El Paso Riverside. Coach Ralph Ornelas counted on 5'11" Rudy Acosta and 6'5" Mike Duran for most of their scoring and Eric Fino, Mike Conche, and David Neria rounded out the starting line-up. Coach Ornelas commented after the game, "I couldn't believe they were that quick. When you've only got one six-footer out there against all that height, it's hard to

win. And they've got all that quickness." It was Riverside's first playoff appearance in school history. Tim Howard started in place of 6'4" James Montgomery, who was still recovering from being knocked cold in the Sam Houston game. Howard was more of a shooting threat from the outside and high scorer for Coach Hughes with 20 points. 5'9" David Neria finished with 17 points for Riverside and Mike Duran added 9 points. At one-point Dunbar led 51-29. Riverside finished the season with a fine 26-6 record.

El Paso Jefferson(29-3) didn't have much success against Southwest either losing 65-48 at the Chaparral Center in Midland. The Rebels improved to 27-10 on the season and their first regional finals appearance. Coach Wood emphasized getting the ball inside where 6'3" Richard Fernandez was going to attempt to guard 6'7" Norman Anderson. The Southwest post hit his first 10 shots and finished with 25 points. "When I got the ball, they weren't helping," Anderson said. Jefferson coach, Mike Harper said, "they played the toughest zone defense I've ever faced as a coach." The Foxes full court press was ineffective due to point guard David Porter ability to handle the pressure. Willie Thomas added 14 points for the Rebels and Ron Perkins hit 12 points. Jefferson was paced by 5'8" Jesse Uranga(10.0/9.0 asst/5 steals) with 12 points. Joe Morales was another key contributor during the season for the Silver Foxes, along with Larry Hernandez and Albert Fierre.

As the third and final game between Southwest and Dunbar approached, most Wildcat fans were thinking about the 50-foot bank shot by George Davis the previous season. The "Miracle in Midland" had sent Paschal to the state tournament. The Panthers had overcome three previous losses to Dunbar during the season. Almost the exact same scenario had developed once again in Midland. Instead of Paschal, it was Southwest that would attempt to overcome Dunbar. Coach Wood was confident with one of the top big men in the state in 6'7" Norman Anderson. "We're basically as good as they are in three of four positions, I'd like to think we're pretty even," Wood said.

The game was a see-saw battle going back and forth down the stretch. The Wildcats jumped out to a 14-point lead in the first half, only to get in foul trouble and began playing conservative. Anderson was unconscious in the 4th quarter scoring 18 of his 25 points during the period. He didn't miss a shot. Rodney Washington, Dunbar 6'6" post, fouled out with 1:49 remaining with Wildcats up 53-51. Bogan knocked down two critical foul shots with 34 second left to give coach Hughes a four-point lead. Anderson came right back and cut the lead to two. Roderick Ford was fouled in desperation with 10 seconds remaining. The senior guard hit both foul shots to give Dunbar a four-point advantage. David Porter of Southwest hurried down court and hit a jumper making the final 57-55.

The Paschal shot had haunted Dunbar for a full year. Coach Hughes was receiving hugs from three seniors off the '83 team, Wayne Mathis, John Johnson and Lawrence Hudson following the game, as the tears of joy were flowing from

the Dunbar faithful. Was this the best Dunbar team? That question would be answered in Austin in the state tournament.

Anderson finished with 25 points and ended his incredible career at Southwest. "Everybody knows Norman's our money man," said Ron Perkins of Southwest. "In the 4th quarter, every time we got the ball downcourt, we saw no reason not to go to him." Coach James Wood chimed in adding, "He did it all, he's just a super ball player." Roderick Ford complimented Southwest following the big win, "you've got to give it to'em, they did it, they're great team."

Dunbar's uncanny depth was indicated by nine Wildcats putting their names in the score book. Ford hit 12 points, Bogan matched his total and Montgomery returned from his concussion adding 10 points. Dunbar would be making their 5th trip to Austin eight seasons. In the awards ceremony following the game, coach Hughes showed his sense of humor when his team was introduced as the Dunbar Panthers. Hughes said, "All right Panthers, go get your trophy."

Region II Playoffs

Dallas Kimball(30-4) #3

Wilmer Hutchins(26-6)

Plano East(22-8)

Klein(23-8)

Dallas South Oak Cliff(25-6) #4

Lake Highlands(21-11)

Killeen Ellison(20-9)

Conroe(24-4) #5

Bryan(23-8) #8

Dallas Samuel(23-9)

Tyler John Tyler(24-5)

Humble Kingwood(23-6)

South Garland(27-7)

Dallas Carter(21-6)

Lufkin(22-9)

Cypress Creek(18-11)

Top Five in Region II

6'8"

Frank Williams

Dallas Samuel

6'5"

Marvin Washington

Dallas Kimball

6'2"

Darrell Mitchell

Bryan

6'1"

Michael Williams

Dallas Carter

6'4"

Greg Crowe

South Garland

District 9-A

Four teams were contenting for the 9-5A two playoff spots. Wilmer Hutchins was state ranked with wins over S.O.C.(25-7) 67-64, Duncanville(28-3) 89-68, Ft. Worth Southwest(27-11) 84-75 and Dallas Roosevelt 86-67. Losses for the Eagles came against Dunbar(38-1) twice 72-57 and 85-66, Dallas Roosevelt 75-73 and Dallas Kimball(32-4) 59-56. South Garland looked to have one of strongest teams in the state with several talented players. 6'5" Greg Crowe and 5'11" Kato Armstrong were two of the best to have ever played for the Colonels and coach Clayton Brooks. Coach Brooks called Armstrong one of the best he ever coached along with John Derrick. Crowe played at Texas Tech and Armstrong played for the Mustangs of S.M.U. South defeated Lake Highlands 60-55 in pre-district and Dallas

Kimball(32-4) 74-63. Losses for the Blue and Red came against Dallas Samuel(23-10) twice 65-64 and 53-50, S.O.C.(25-7) 75-73 and Dallas Kimball(32-4) 53-52.

Wilmer Hutchins was loaded as well with multi-talented 6'1" Ricky Grace. His coach, Homer Smith commented that Grace had been receiving more attention than either Spud Webb or Johnny Fuller in recruiting circles. Coach Smith said, "I've never seen anyone run a team like he does." High praise coming from the veteran coach. Other key performers for the Eagles included 6'3" Sylvester Rogers, 6'5" Kino Johnson, 6'9" Reginald Muhammad, 5'11" Makato King. Rogers had a real strong inside strength that enabled him to dominate at times.

In a key battle between the two top teams in District, Wilmer Hutchins was able to sneak by South Garland 87-81 on South Garland's home court. 6'9" Reginald Muhammad made a big impression for the Eagles finishing with 21 points. "Some people criticized us earlier because he was having a hard time. But we knew he just needed some playing time to get in the flow of things," Coach Homer Smith said. Hutch moved its record to 22-4 and 9-0 in District. 6'3" Sylvester Rogers had a game-high 34 points for the Eagles. South Garland focused on Rogers after he put down 28 points in the first half. For the Colonels they moved their record to 22-6 and 7-2 in District action. A big plus for coach Clayton Brooks was the return of his standout guard, 5'11" Kato Armstrong. Unfortunately, Armstrong left the game with 6:36 remaining after fouling out with 19 points. 6'4" Billy Smith contributed 15 points for the Colonels and 5'9" Charles Smith finished with 21 points. With Armstrong out of the game, 6'5" Greg Crowe moved to the guard position. The Eagles had won the earlier game against South Garland on their home court 57-53.

The North Mesquite Stallions and Highland Park Scots were strong as well as District opened. North Mesquite split with the Wilmer Hutchins winning 72-46 and losing 53-44. Hutch won both games against Highland Park 24-22 and 83-72. The Eagles finished first in District with an impressive 12-2 record and 25-6 on the season. Their other loss came at the hands of rival Garland 81-78. The Owls had a great young team and would be heard from in coming seasons. South(26-7) defeated North Mesquite 55-44 and lost to coach Ron Powell's Stallions 41-39. The Colonels finished tied for second place with North Mesquite(24-8) at 11-3. North Mesquite's third District loss was to Highland Park(21-10) 48-41. The Scots were well back in the District standings at 8-6.

North Mesquite and South Garland had a playoff to see who would advance to the state playoffs. North Mesquite was one of the hottest teams in the District winning seven straight games including a lopsided victory over District champion, Wilmer Hutchins. The Stallions only managed a 4-3 record in their first run through 9-5A. A key player returning for the Colonels was Kato Armstrong, who missed the previous game against North Mesquite with a hip pointer. South Garland jumped out to an incredible 15-2 lead which was hard for North Mesquite

to recover from. North Mesquite got within four points with just 30 seconds remaining, but was unable to close the gap.

The Colonels advanced with a 44-39 victory with Kato Armstrong and Crowe leading the way with 17 points and 14 points each. North Mesquite finished the season at 24-9. In discussing Greg Crowe of South Garland, coach Clayton Brooks said, "he is one of the most consistent players around, I still think he's the best all-around player in the metroplex. He's an excellent rebounder, a very good passer and plays good defense.

The All-District team was outstanding. 6'2" Sylvester Rogers of Wilmer Hutchins took home Player of the Year honors. Sophomore of the Year went to one of the top youngsters in the state with a special name, 6'6" Richard Derrick. Yes, he was the younger brother of John and the third from the family. Other members of the first team included, 6'1" Ricky Grace of Hutch, 6'5" Greg Crowe and Charles Smith from South Garland, Richard Derrick from Garland and 6'1" Miles Habarer from North Mesquite. The 2nd unit was made up of Milton Crutchfield from North Mesquite, Daron Blaylock of Garland High, Billy Smith from South Garland, Kato Armstrong from South, and Edward Horsley from Wilmer Hutchins. Homer Smith of Hutch was coach of the Year.

Daron Blaylock was better known as "Mookie" and teamed up with Grace in the Sooners backcourt in 1988. The Dallas area backcourt combo was one of the best in the NCAA during the '88 season. Mookie later had an outstanding N.B.A. career with the Atlanta Hawks, while Grace played one season with the Hawks.

District 10-AAAAA

The Golden Bears of S.O.C. played Samuel for first place during the first half of District. S.O.C. prevailed 68-64 with two sophomore forwards, Rodney Samuel and Ronnie Morgan showing the way. Coach Jimmy Gales full-court press also was impressive with outstanding guard play from Deon Hunter, Mark Hill, Jeffrey Ralston and Darryl Joe. Joe went on to play at L.S.U. and Hunter had a stellar career at North Texas. The victory left S.O.C. undefeated in District action. Samuel led at halftime, but the press began to get some turnovers and easy baskets. The Spartans had 30 turnovers, which turned the game in S.O.C.'s favor. Morgan finished with 13 points and 10 rebounds on the evening, while Samuel led everybody with 28 points. S.O.C. won the first match-up between the two schools 60-57.

Dallas South Oak Cliff(25-6) returned to the throne room in 1984 taking the District title with a 12-0 undefeated mark. The thing that was so scary about the Golden Bears was they were extremely talented and young. As mentioned earlier, Jimmy Gales was back at the helm and S.O.C. was back as well. 5'8" Deon Hunter was finally going to graduate after what seemed like a long stay with the Bears. Dallas Samuel(21-8), with coach Doug Scott at the helm, took the 2nd spot finishing 9-3. Dallas Skyline(22-9) came away with 3rd place at 7-5.

S.O.C. faced one of the top schedules in the state defeating North Mesquite(24-8) 67-56, South Garland(28-8) 75-73, Grand Prairie(22-11) 76-60 and 69-65, South Grand Prairie(19-12) 71-63, Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt(19-8) 97-84, Dallas

Kimball(32-4) 61-38 and FW Southwest(27-11) 69-65. Losses came against Wilmer Hutchins(27-7) 67-64, FW Southwest(27-11) 77-75, Dallas Kimball(32-4) 73-63, FW Dunbar(38-1) 94-67 and Los Angeles Verbum Dei 72-65. In District action S.O.C. took care of the Raiders of Skyline(22-9) 82-68 and 61-55. Samuel and Skyline split their two District games.

Samuel came away with an impressive season as well beating South Garland(28-8) twice, Tyler Lee(20-10) 55-51 and South Grand Prairie(19-12) 55-42. Dallas Kimball took down Samuel(23-10) 65-42. The Spartans looked to 6'8" Frank Williams, who signed with Baylor and 6'3" Floyd Macon. In discussing Williams, coach Doug Scott said, "He had the potential to dominate, he once blocked 14 shots in a game. He has been contacted by more than 80 schools."

Player of the Year honors went to 6'8" Frank Williams(17.0/11.0) of Samuel. Coach Doug Scott was extremely proud of his post, "his main worth is his defense, he changes everyone's shot. They shoot higher against him." Rodney Samuel of S.O.C. was Sophomore of the Year. Samuel would become one of the best guards to ever play at S.O.C. and had two more seasons with the Golden Bears. As good as he was, Larry Johnson of Skyline, attracted even more attention winning Freshmen of the Years honors. At 6'3" Johnson, made a strong case as the best player to ever come out of Big D. Jimmy Gales won the Coach of the Year Honors. Members of the All-District 1st team were Ray Willis(20.3) of Skyline, 6'3" Rodney Samuel of S.O.C., 6'0" Money Marlin from Woodrow Wilson, 6'1" Richard Williams from Roosevelt and 6'8" Frank Williams from Samuel. Members of the 2nd team were led by a future Heisman Trophy Winner at Notre Dame, Tim Brown of Woodrow Wilson, 6'3" Floyd Macon from Samuel, 5'8" Deon Hunter from S.O.C., and another outstanding sophomore, 6'3" Ronnie Morgan of S.O.C.

District 11-AAAAA

Kimball and Dallas Carter were the class of District 11-5A. The Cowboys and Knights were very gifted with size and outstanding guard play. Coach Jimmy Tubbs of Kimball looked to veterans 6'5" Marvin Washington, 6'5" Ed Robinson and 5'10" playmaker Kenneth Willingham. Washington signed with U.T.E.P. and Robinson committed to Texas Tech. The Carter Cowboys and coach Alex Gillum were synonymous with blowing and going basketball. Gillum had such a litany of stars through the years but none better than 6'1" Michael Williams. Joining Williams was 6'7" Terry Thomas and 6'3" Derrick Ellis. Thomas played at S.M.U., while Williams took his talents to Baylor and in the N.B.A. Gillum called Williams the top guard in Dallas. What Gillum should have said was that Williams was one of the top guards to ever come out of Dallas. He had unlimited range, could put the ball on the floor with incredible vision and quickness.

In Kimball and Carter's first match-up, Kimball was able to show their strength winning 70-59 at Sprague Field House. 6'5" Marvin Washington provided the inside strength for the Knights with two dunks, seven blocks and 11 rebounds. Jeffrey Fudge knocked down 21 points and Washington finished with 10 points. "We knew we would have to control the tempo," Coach Tubbs said. "They are such good shooters. We knew we would have to play good defense. And I think holding them to 59 points is a pretty good job." Michael Williams paced Carter with 27 points.

The Knights captured District once again finishing 12-0 and defeated Carter in the re-match 58-56. Kimball(28-3) suffered some early season injuries to 6'5" Marvin Washington, but never missed a beat. Dallas Carter(21-6) went 10-2 in District and would prove to be a challenging opponent in the playoffs. Early season records for both the Knights and Cowboys were impressive. Kimball dropped Samuel(23-10) 65-42, L.D. Bell(26-7) 62-46, Tyler Lee(20-10) 55-46, Spring Branch Memorial(31-8) 74-58, S.O.C.(25-7) 73-63, Skyline(22-9) 65-59, South Garland(28-8) 53-52 and Wilmer Hutchins(27-7) 59-56. The Knights took it on the chin in losses to Killeen(29-3) 61-44, South Garland(28-8) 74-63 and S.O.C.(25-7) 61-38. The Cowboys defeated John Tyler(24-6) 70-53, Waco Jefferson-Moore(28-7) 80-64, Waco Richfield(29-8) 79-78 and North Mesquite(24-8) 72-62. Ft. Worth Dunbar had Carters number defeating the Cowboys four times 107-43, 92-74, 78-60 and 78-62. Remember, Dunbar went through the regular season at 33-0 and the top ranked team in the state. Wichita Falls Hirschi(25-4) also took down Carter 67-65. This was possibly the Huskies best win of the season.

Michael Williams and Marvin Washington were named Players of the Year in District 11-5A action. Sophomore of the Year came down to a tie between Ed Jackson from Thomas Jefferson and Mike Buckner from W.T. White. Jimmy Tubbs was coach of the Year for the second year in a row. Making the first team were 6'1" Michael Williams, 5'10" Ken Willingham, 6'4" Michael Williams from Pinkston, 6'7" Terry Thomas from Carter, and 6'5" Marvin Washington. The Second unit was made up Myron Jacobs of Hillcrest, Chris Goodspeed of Thomas Jefferson, Chris Coffey of Pinkston, Andrew Colbert of Thomas Jefferson, 6'5" Ed Robinson from Kimball.

District 12-A

Richardson Berkner returned four starters for coach Ron Nicholas. 6'4" Randy Wall and 6'3" Vance Cranfill formed the heart and soul of the Rams attack. Lake Highlands had an outstanding sophomore, Duane Tanner, take over the reins for the Wildcats. Tanner became one of the great players in Wildcats history, leading Jack Clark's team to three straight District titles. He would go on to become the top assists man in school history at Rice. The talented 5'9" guard was a tremendous ball handler and a great court general. It is no coincidence that coach Clark became a great coach over the next three seasons.

Lake Highlands(21-11) had a losing record in pre-district and went 13-1 against a rather unchallenging District field. Plano East(21-8) and Berkner(17-10) tied for 2nd in District action with 10-4 records. The Wildcats of Lake Highlands beat East 55-54 and 50-42. Coach Jack Clark's team split with Berkner. The Rams and Plano East also split their District games. In the District playoff for 2nd place the Panthers of Plano East beat Ram's 37-33 to advance. East, with their slow half-court attack was able to control the tempo against the Rams. "We had to control the tempo to get them to play our kind of game," East coach Gary Mosely said. Vance Cranfill of Berkner finished with a game high 16 points. With the score 35-33, Berkner was behind and had the ball, but Cranfill was called for traveling.

All-District honors went to 6'3" Vance Cranfill(20.5) of Berkner as Player of the Year. Sophomore of the Year from Lake Highlands went Duane Tanner. Jack Clark took home the Coach of the Year award. Named to the first team was 6'3" Tom Supan of Plano East, 6'4" Derrick Culbreath of Lake Highlands, 6'0" Horace Myrick from Plano, 6'3" Anthony Portley from Greenville and Tanner. Second team was made up Greg McGowan of Lake Highlands, Randy Wall of Berkner, Trey Kimbrough of Lake Highlands, Glenn Schmidt of Plano East, Joe Jefferson from Greenville and Mark Brooks from Plano.

District 13-AAAAA

Coming into the District campaign coach Rex Ray of Longview Pinetree said, "Lufkin is one of the top three team in District along with John Tyler and Tyler Lee." LeRoy Romines of Longview agreed, "Tyler Lee is one of the top three teams we'll face." John Tyler was the front runner entering District with a 11-2 mark. The Lions front line was impressive with 6'5" James Johnson and 6'7" Fred West.

The Lions got off to a bad start in District defeating Texas High, but later had to forfeit the game because of an ineligible player. John Tyler handled Lufkin both times in District 77-67 and 67-49. Tyler Lee was John Tyler's big rival and lost both times to the Lions. Nacogdoches(20-12) finished 4th in District and were able to hand John Tyler their only District lose on the court 57-52. John Tyler had previously defeated the Dragons 55-44. The Panthers of Lufkin(22-9) beat out Tyler Lee(20-10) for the other playoff spot. Tyler Lee played the most challenging pre-district campaign of the 13-5A teams. The Red Raiders lost to Dallas Samuel(23-10) 55-51, Dallas Kimball(32-4) 55-46 and Waxahachie(28-3) 62-58.

Twelve players were named to the first team 13-5A All-District squad. John Tyler had four players named, 6'5" James Johnson(18.7), 6'7" Fred West, 6'1" Stanley Smith and 5'7" Lewis "Pappa" Nicholson. Smith had transferred over from Lindale and proved to be a valuable asset during the season. Johnson was named Player of the Year as only a sophomore. Lufkin placed 6'5" Anthony Blackshire and 5'10" Robert Hamilton on the first team. The Raiders of Tyler Lee were paced by James Hoods on the first team and placed Kenny Lewis(13.3), Andy Hall(13.8) and 6'4" Otis Ward on the honorable mention list. Nacogdoches had the highest scoring tandem in the District with 6'4" James Water(20.6) and 6'2" Mark Green(18.1). Big man, 6'9" John Heath of the Dragons, was named honorable mention. Coach of the Year honors were shared by Jesse Walker of Lufkin and Billy Lawson of John Tyler.

District 14-AAAAA

Killeen entered the season as the top ranked team in Texas by the T.A.B.C. Only two teams had defeated the Kangaroos during the '83 campaign, Kimball and Bryan. The Knights and Vikings held two victories apiece over the Kangaroos. Dallas Kimball and Bryan ended up meeting each other in the regional finals in 1983. Coach Wayne Howard welcomed by three starters from a 29-4 squad. 6'6" Vince Webb, 6'6" Victor Webb and 5'10" Sedrick Evans. Vince had been named honorable mention All-District as a junior while Victor was named to first team. The twins gave coach Howard a big advantage inside with Vince averaging 10 rebounds per game as a junior and Victor adding nine per game. Rounding out the starting line-up were 6'4" Brian Bolden and 6'1" Lynn Borders.

The Kangaroos had a strong tradition as well having finished 28-9 in Howard's first season at the helm in 1981. Killeen advanced to the regional semis

that year losing to Dallas Roosevelt. In 1982 they finished 2nd behind Bryan in District and 31-5 on the season. On being named the top-rated team in the state, Howard explained, "how do you really know who's No.1 at his point. It's a nice honor for the team and for the program. This is probably the biggest team I've ever fielded though and we still have quickness." 6'5" Mike Knorr and 6'2" Mike Nichols would prove valuable coming off the bench for Killeen. Knorr and Nichols had led the junior varsity to the District Championship finishing 22-3 on the season and 12-0 in District. "This year's team is probably one of the best rebounding team's I've had at Killeen, comparable to the 1981 team," Howard said. "Inside we can score but the outside shooting is what I'm worried about, no pure shooters like I've had in the past." Killeen had produced three straight District M.V.P.'s in Keenan DeBose and Marcus Bolden. DeBose won the award in back to back seasons as a junior and senior. The 6'5" DeBose had moved on to Arkansas while Bolden signed with the Longhorns.

The first showdown game between Bryan and Killeen took place in the District opener for both teams. At Bryan High School, Killeen was able to come away with an impressive 58-55 victory over the Vikings. With Killeen up 56-55 with 19 seconds left coach Larry Brown of Bryan called timeout to set-up his team's last shot. He felt Kevin Bradsher had the hot hand and decided to put his two best rebounders under the basket. Brown explained, "most games are won in follow-ups." Darrell Mitchell and Kenny Keller were placed under the basketball as Bradsher missed an 18-footer on the baseline. Vince Webb rebounded the miss and immediately called timeout. The Roos inbounded the ball to Sedrick Evans who was fouled. The junior point guard calmly sank both free throws with four seconds remaining. Bryan never led during the contest. Victor Webb finished with 23 points and Vince added 13 points. Bradsher had 18 points for the Vikings and Mitchell was good for 16 points.

The rematch between the two District rivals took place on February 1 in Killeen. Bryan was forced to forfeit two first round victories due to using an ineligible player. The games were Temple and Killeen Ellison. So, 14-5A was pretty messy as the two teams teed it up once again. The standing room crowd in the Killeen gym were not disappointed with the overtime battle. The Vikings Darrell Mitchell hit a 15-foot shot with three second left to give Bryan a 59-58 victory. Killeen had pretty much led the entire game only to self-destruct at the foul line hitting only 6 of 19 for the game and 1 for 10 down the stretch. The Kangaroos just gave the game away to Bryan.

With 2:59 remaining in regulation Killeen led 51-43 when Bryan went on an 8-0 run. Sedrick Evans missed three straight front-end of one and ones to keep the Vikings alive. "We made a lot of silly mistakes, and we just flat choked at the free-throw line," coach Wayne Howard said following the heartbreaking loss. Victor Webb was in foul trouble most of the game and finished with only 10 points.

Evans finished with 21 points and Mike Nichols had 10 points for the Kangeroos. Mitchell paced the Vikings with 25 points and Kenny Keller came away with 14 points.

On February 9, 1984 the 14-5A committee voted 6-0 that Victor and Vince Webb were ineligible, and that Killeen would be forced to forfeit every game the twins had participated in over the season. At the time, high school basketball players were not allowed to play in any non-school basketball games. The twins were talented and were somewhat uninformed having moved in a year earlier from Columbus, Ohio. Whether you can use that as an excuse is up to debate, but they played in the Bryan Parks and Recreation department tournament in March following their junior seasons. A former Bryan player had mentioned this to Coach Brown of Bryan and the info was passed on to coach Howard of Killeen. The Webb's testified for 20 minutes in front of the District committee in closed session.

The question that had to be answered was if this was actually and organized tournament. Killeen said it was not organized. Teams that played in the tournament had to pay an entry fee, trophies were awarded, officials were not affiliated with the schools, teams had commercial sponsors, teams wore uniforms, the twin's names were in the scorebook and people saw them play in the games.

Victor Webb said, "if we had known, we would have not played. I know an organized basketball game when I see one and that wasn't organized." The Webb's were unaware of the U.I.L. rules because in Ohio this would have been legal.

The twins were wanting to get some exposé and maybe a college offer. Victor was left handed and the better outside shooter, while Vince was more physical, playing on the inside. The boys had moved to Killeen to live with their father. In Columbus they had lived with their mother and the high school they attended had closed down, making the move much easier for the boys.

As the smoke cleared the District title was a tie between Killeen Ellison and Bryan. During District the Kangeroos had defeated Ellison 47-46 and 51-41. In a pre-season match-up they dominated Ellison 70-49. Bryan had two losses as did Ellison in District action. With the deadline drawing close the teams decided to flip for the seeding. Ellison won and took the top seed. Killeen unfortunately was left out with a 3-9 District finish and 3-29 record on the season.

Killeen's pre-district run was impressive defeating state ranked Dallas Kimball(32-4) 61-44, Spring Woods(17-15) 64-61 and Austin Anderson(15-16) 81-54. Remember Spring Woods held two victories over Spring Branch Memorial. Losses came at the hands of Arlington Sam Houston(28-5) 76-67 and Duncanville(28-3) 58-45.

District 15-AAAAA

Klein(23-7) finished undefeated with a 12-0 record in District action. Cypress-Creek(18-11) continued their playoff run going 8-4 and picked up the 2nd playoff spot. Creek secured the 2nd spot with a 64-49 win over Cypress-Fairbanks.

Both of Klein's games with Cypress-Creek were nail biters. The Bearkats defeated Cypress 52-51 and 46-37 to capture first place.

The All-District team had ten players named to the first team. 6'4" Jeff Young(21.3) of Cypress-Fairbanks was named first team and M.V.P. of the District. Young was also named 2nd team All-Greater Houston by the Post and made the 1st team named by the Chronicle. The Post named five first teamers and the Chronicle named 15 players. This was a major difference in the two all-star teams. 6'2" Anthony Strothers(12.5) of Klein was also named first team by the Chronicle and first team All-District. 6'2" Luis Garza(12.5) of Cypress Creek, 6'6" Troy Tutwiler(10.9) and 6'0" David Jones of Klein(9.2) and 6'7" Bobby Klope(10.3) from Cypress Creek were players named off the top teams.

District 16-AAAAA

Conroe(27-4) finished #2 in the final Houston Chronicle rankings and the #5 team in the state rankings. Honestly, I question that high a ranking but there's little question they were one of the most physical teams in the state. The Tigers were 12-0 in District and Humble Kingwood(23-6) and Conroe McCullough(22-9) tied for second at 9-3. Kingwood defeated McCullough 60-55 to advance to the playoffs. Conroe's rival, McCullough held a 79-71 victory over Conroe in pre-district, but fell both times in District action to the Tigers 88-80 and 84-77. Kingwood and McCullough split in District play with McCullough winning a one-point decision 68-67 and Kingwood gaining vengeance winning the rematch 85-64.

Conroe was coached by Harold Wilder, who won over 800 games at the college and high school level. Coach Wilder passed in 2004 after complications during gall bladder surgery. His Tigers squad in 1984 was very young, but talented. 6'2" Rod Jacques, who later played at T.C.U. was only a junior. 6'4" Maurice Wright and 6'5" Kelvin Smith were also juniors. All three players were physical and athletic specimens. Two seniors rounded out the starting line-up for Coach Wilder, 6'5" Charles Russell and 6'5" David Preston.

The All-District team placed seven players on the first team led by 6'2" Rod Jacques(17.5) and 6'4" Maurice Wright(15.8) from Conroe, 6'4" Lance Blanks(19.8) from Conroe McCullough, 6'0" Scott Griffen(14.1) and 6'5" Roger Whitehead(12.5) from Humble Kingwood, 6'2" Kevin Gilbert(13.4) from Spring Westfield. Named to the 2nd team from Conroe was 6'5" Kelvin Smith(13.2). The surprise M.V.P. was 6'2" Scott Sullivan of Humble. Harold Wilder of Conroe was named Coach of the Year. Blanks was named 1st team All-Greater Houston by the Post and Jacques was named 3rd team. Jacques and Sullivan were both named All-Greater Houston 1st team by the Chronicle.

Playoffs

The defending state champions, Bryan had to face Tyler John Tyler(24-6) in the first round of the playoffs. The Lions had an impressive front line paced by 6'5" James Johnson(18.7) and 6'7" Fred West. Other starters for the Lions were 6'1" Stanley Smith and 5'7" Lewis "Pappa" Nicholson. The Vikings came away again with a tough hard-fought victory 67-59. Nothing was ever easy for the Bryan. They were used to playing close games, which would prove beneficial as the playoffs continued. In visiting with Coach Larry Brown years later he commented on the enormous size that the Lions possessed. He felt very fortunate to advance in the playoffs.

Killeen Ellison benefited from Killeen High's misfortune and was matched up against a talented Lufkin(22-9) squad. Lufkin had taken the runner-up spot in District behind John Tyler at 11-3. The Panthers relied on the inside game of 6'5" Anthony Blackshire. He was called a rebounder, scorer and intimidator by coach Steve Sylestine of Ellison. "We will have to shut him down." 6'0" Leamon White, 5'9" Robert Hamilton(15.0), 6'0" Cedric Wilson and 6'0" Ronnie Palmer were the other starters for Lufkin and coach Jesse Walker. The Eagles of Ellison relied on balanced scoring in Roger Tyson(10.6), Eric King(10.4) and Tommy Tzaguirre(7.3). Lufkin was able to advance with a one-point victory 59-58 to the second round.

In District 10-5A Dallas Samuel had two every impressive warm-up victory's over Denton and Dallas Carter. The Spartans bi-district opponent was unfortunately one of the top teams in the region, Wilmer Hutchins. The two teams tangled at Sprague Field House. "We feel good about the way we're playing," Coach Doug Scott said. 5'11" point guard, Marcus Camper returned from injury for Coach Scott, giving the Spartans a real shot in the arm. Camper was near full strength from a knee injury. Wilmer Hutchins had dropped two of their last five District games to Garland High and North Mesquite. Hutch was able to regroup eliminating Samuel 66-61 in overtime. It was the second year in a row the Spartans were eliminated in the first round. The Eagles had defeated Samuel the previous year in bi-district 78-74 in overtime. This unfortunately would be a common thread for Coach Doug Scott of Samuel, "close losses and early exists."

Dallas Kimball(32-4) used a pressing up-tempo attack in an effort to speed up the highly discipline attack of Plano East. The results for Coach Tubbs team were positive as the Knights advanced in the playoffs with a 52-40 win. "Our defense did a great job," Tubbs said.

Coach Jack Clark of Lake Highlands(21-12) discussed the Wildcats reasons for trying to control the tempo in their bi-district game against Dallas Carter. "We got beat 14 points each time we've run with teams," Clark said. "Of course, that was when we weren't playing well earlier in the year. And early in the year, the press was hurting us a lot. I don't know how they'll react to a slowdown." Clark commented about the Cowboys backcourt, "We haven't played anyone with the caliber guards they have, so that will present a problem. All we can do is slow them down." Carter came into the contest having lost two in row against District rival Kimball and a warm-up against Samuel. Gillum responded saying, "I don't think he can slow down the tempo." He being coach Clark of Lake Highlands. In District the Wildcats changed their substitution pattern from 14 players to five or six. Starters include 5'10" Dwayne Tanner, 6'2" Trey Kimbrough, 6'3" Tony Watters, 6'4" Greg McGowan and 6'7" Derrick Culbreath. Lake Highlands entered the playoff on a roll winning 11 of their last 12 games. Personally, I remember the Lake Highlands team well, they were better than their record indicated.

Dallas Carter and Lake Highlands met in Bi-District at Forester Field house. I always selected a game that I had a great deal of interest in to go watch. I wanted to see what all the noise was about regarding Michael Williams. I was not disappointed. Carter's brilliant guard had an off-night finishing with 19 points, but the Cowboys still had enough to bring away a victory 65-61 in overtime. Williams left the game with 5:45 remaining with his 5th foul. Cetrick Modkins, Williams backcourt mate picked up the slack for Carter. Modkins added 21 points, of which 10 came in the 4th quarter. "Modkins has been doing this all year long," Coach Alex Gillum said. "He has scored over 30 points in three different game."

You would probably have to ask Clayton Brooks, but in my opinion the 1984 Colonels were the best team South Garland had put on the court up to that point. Earlier in the season, South Garland had lost a one-point decision to S.O.C., but in the playoffs the Colonels gained revenge. The 79-74 Bi-District victory was a great indication of the talent South Garland could put on the court. 6'6" Greg Crowe, 6'1" Kato Armstrong, 6'6" Billy Smith and 5'10" Charles Smith were four outstanding talents for the Colonels. Smith put in 31 points and Crowe added 22 in possibly the biggest victory in school history at Loos Field House. The Colonels shot 56% from the floor and 70% from the foul line. S.O.C. on the other hand could only shoot 31% and were down 61-45 going into the 4th quarter. The Bears put up 29 points in the last quarter with an aggressive press. Rodney Samuel led S.O.C. with 26 points and Ronnie Morgan finished with 15 points. Point guard, Deon Hunter tallied 14 points for the Golden Bears. South Oak Cliff finished 25-7 on the season. South Garland led 41-28 at halftime. "We play in a slow-down league," Brooks said. "But we can play both ways. We played the running game before we got into district, but except for Wilmer Hutchins, we have to play a slower tempo with everyone else."

Klein faced Humble Kingwood in Bi-District at Cypress-Fairbanks High school. The Bearkats pulled out a close one 59-56 over Kingwood. Coach Lloyd Long of Klein had Troy Tutwiler come off the bench to contribute 15 points in the victory. Anthony Strother led Klein with 19 points and David Jones finished with 16 points. Mike White was the only Kingwood player in double figures with a mere 10 points.

Conroe took care of business against Cypress Creek 82-66. Conroe's strong inside game dominated. Maurice Wright finished with 24 points, Rod Jacques hit 18 points and 6'5" Kelvin Smith put up 13 points. Creek got a great performance from Louis Garza with 26 points.

As expected the 2nd round games were going to be exciting and close. Wilmer Hutchins(28-6) came in with maybe their strongest team and that is saying something. Dallas Kimball(31-3) was flat out a powerhouse. The two teams had played earlier in the season with the Knights winning a three-point victory 59-56. "Our game is running," Hutch coach Homer Smith said, "but we don't have to. We

can play any type of game, but I'd like to control the tempo. We'd like to see a running game but I have a feeling Kimball may come with a semi-stall. Coach Jimmy Tubbs counter saying, "If they don't blow us out, it'll be a close game." Tubbs was always laying bait in his pre-game interviews.

In one of the strangest endings to a playoff game you could see, Wilmer Hutchins came from 16 points down to take a 2-point lead over the talented Kimball Knights. The game was played in front of 2,000 at R.L. Turner High School in Carrollton. With 39 seconds left in the game, down by two points, the Knights Jeff Fudge was fouled with the Knights in the bonus. Fudge was shooting a one and one situation. The Eagles had called a time out, which they did not have and were hit with a technical foul. Fudge hit all three foul shots giving Kimball a 55-54 victory. "It is a hard way to go out," Coach Homer Smith said, "We thought we had communicated well with the kids. We took our last time out with three minutes remaining in the game. But someone in the crowd must have called for a time out. Coach Tubbs said, "we knew they didn't have any left, and we pointed it out to the scorer."

Kimball had the advantage inside outrebounding the Eagles 48-32 paced by 6'5" Marvin Washington and 6'6 Edward Robinson. The guard play was outstanding for the Knights with Kenneth Willingham, Chris Williams and Fudge putting in strong performances. Sylvester Rogers was impressive inside scoring 17 points in a losing cause. He was the only Eagle in double figures.

South Garland was favored over Dallas Carter after their upset victory of South Oak Cliff. Coach Clayton Brooks had a balanced team with inside and outside strength. The Cowboys of Dallas Carter had been forced into overtime to beat Lake Highlands, who was not considered anywhere near a tough as the Golden Bears. Having said that, Micheal Williams(30.9) was the most explosive players in the state and would have to be contained. "If Williams makes 30 on us and Motkins scores 20, you can say bye-bye to South Garland," Brooks said. "It's a good thing my guys are in shape. It's like running a track meet with 12 guys when you play Carter."

The South Garland-Carter game was played at Forester Field House and yours truly was in attendance. I wanted to see Williams in action again. The guard did some things I had basically never seen before. On defense he would wait around half court getting ready for the fast break. His offensive skills were awesome. He could put the ball on the floor, penetrate, pass, shoot with unlimited range, quick as a cat and freelanced on defense. Me and my compadre decided we would be following the Carter Cowboys until they lost. Williams led his team to a convincing 76-58 win by putting up 30 points. Most observers had to be somewhat shocked by the 18-margin of victory. Carter had little trouble with the Colonels 2-3 zone. Coach Alex Gillum said following the game, "this was by no means Michael's best game, but in the third quarter, he played one of his best games." Coach

Brooks said, "they just outplayed us tonight, you can say anything else you want. But their defense caused us to take bad shots, and they got on the boards better than we did. Tonight, they were the better team." Armstrong had 11 points for South, Crowe added 10, Billy Smith came away with 16 points and Charles Smith had a game high 19 points. Carter was paced by Williams and Modkins who finished with 10 points.

Conroe advanced to regionals with a hard fought 78-75 win over Lufkin(23-10). Maurice Wright and David Green hit keys shots down the stretch for the Tigers. Green hit a field goal with four seconds remaining to put Conroe up 77-75. Lufkin called a timeout, which they did not have. Jacques went to the line and hit one of two technical fouls to make the final score a three-point deficit. The two teams had met back in 1979 in regionals. In a classic game Lufkin came from behind to defeated Conroe on that day. This time the Panthers weren't as lucky as Maurice Wright poured 20 points and Rod Jacques hit 17 points. 6'5" Anthony Blackshire paced Lufkin's attack with 25 points and 5'10" Robert Hamilton added 24 points.

The defending state champions continued their march through the playoffs defeating Klein Bearkats 61-58. Klein was up 58-57 with 17 seconds remaining when Bryan's superstar guard, Darryl Mitchell hit a jumper to put the Vikings up 59-58. Kenny Keller stole the inbounds pass and finished off Bryan's scoring with a slam dunk. Mitchell came away with 31 points, Keller 16 and Kevin Bradsher added 12 points. Klein was led by Anthony Strothers with 24 points.

Regionals

Bryan was back in Waco on the campus of McLennan Community College for the third year in a row. I don't know how else to explain the Vikings other than the fact they played everybody close with gadget defenses and great coaching. They were a tough out for any team in the playoffs. When I was watching them play I was always confident they would win the close games. Bryan was faced with the challenge of beating what was considered the top team in Dallas, the Kimball Knights. Conroe was facing Dallas Carter in a highly anticipated contest. Carter was 0-2 on the season against Kimball and Bryan had beaten Conroe earlier in the season 76-62. The first game was played at 6:00 and pitted Kimball against Bryan. The second game was played at 7:30. Once again I was in attendance and the fans were end for some great basketball.

Dallas Carter and Dallas Kimball were intense rivals and had an opportunity to play each other in the regional finals. According to David McNabb of the Morning News, Carter was built in 1966, just seven years after Kimball and the two schools had shared the same boundary lines all these years. Carter had only lost twice in District, both to Kimball. Coach Gillum explained the possible match-up saying, "there is something electric when we play each other." "There is one

street that is the boundary whether you are going to Carter or Kimball. And when we play, it is for the bragging rights of the community.”

In a double overtime donnybrook, Bryan once again got by Kimball 69-66. Bryan had defeated the Knights the previous season in the regional finals. 6’5” Marvin Washington fouled out with 5:23 left in the game with the score 49-44 in favor of Bryan. Kimball guard play got the Knights back into the game with steals that eventually put the Kimball in the lead 55-53 with 1:44 remaining. Kevin Bradsher of Bryan came back to send the game into overtime with a pressure 10-footer with 33 seconds left. At the end of the first overtime, Darrell Mitchell hit two foul shots to put Bryan in control with 21 seconds remaining. Chris Williams made a key steal for the Knights off an inbounds pass, which set up the tying score by Jeff Fudge for a lay-up. Mitchell again was the key player hitting a put back layup to give the Vikings a 65-64 lead. The final stood at 69-66 in favor of Bryan. Kenneth Willingham and Marvin Washington were the leaders for the Knights with 14 points apiece. Darrell Mitchell again was outstanding with 20 points along with Bradsher who tallied 19 points. Kenny Keller added 16 points for coach Larry Brown.

Coach Tubbs commented after the tough loss, “we had our opportunities, it was just a matter of not coming up with the right play at the right time.” Tubbs was never one to make excuses for his teams. Two of the best coaches in the state went at it once again and only one advanced. Tubbs was such a classy young coach. Every time I watched his team play it was a clinic. He was a very underrated coach.

Coming into regionals, coach Harold Wilder of Conroe commented, “We’re lucky to be still playing. We’re starting four juniors. But we’re hoping to win one more game. We’re getting real good play at critical times.” In discussing his outstanding junior guard, Rod Jacques, Wilder said, “Jacques had really been playing well, he has done everything we have wanted him to do for us. He’s a good penetrator and great passer. He really sets up the other players. He averages six or seven assists per game and is our leading scorer at 17 points and can rebound. Our next best is 6’4” Maurice Wright, our leading rebounder.”

After watching the great Kimball-Bryan game we never realized this would be the second best game of the day. We were exhausted after the Kimball game and we hadn’t scored a point. The anticipation for the Conroe-Dallas Carter was incredible. Me and my buddy talked to the Conroe fans about the style the Tigers preferred to play. “We run every chance we get and never back down,” the fan said discussing Conroe’s style of play. That was music to our ears because that meant Williams was going to put on a show of monumental size. Can you say, “state scoring record?” We decided to count every basket and keep a running total of his points. Williams put up 17 points in the first half and his team trailed 50-29

at intermission. Coach Gillum told Michael to stop passing the ball off and finish, because his teammates were having trouble putting the ball in the basket.

The crowd began cheering his every basket as Williams proceeded to put on one of the most incredible performances in the annals of state basketball history. He had seven three-point plays, 23 field goals and 15 free throws and finished with 61 points in his team's 97-87 loss. Remember there was no three-point shot in 1984. When told how many points he put up Williams said, "I didn't even know how many points I scored. I was just looking at the scoreboard to see how close we were." Coach Alex Gillum of the Cowboys had coached some incredible talents during his long career, Dwayne Scales and Vernon Smith, to name a few. "It was the best performance I've ever seen. I've seen some score 61 before but never under the pressure Michael was under- not against a team as good as Conroe," Gillum said. Area coaches in attendance chimed in also. Coach Jimmy Gales of South Oak Cliff said following the game, "it was the most incredible feat I've ever seen in high school. I've never seen a performance like that. And don't overlook his defense. He made a lot of good plays." Longtime coach, Pete Thompson of South Grand Prairie commented, "it was just an outstanding offensive performance. He had good body control, he was shooting on the move and in traffic. It takes a good talent to do that." Irving MacArthur coach said, "it seemed like whenever he got fouled, he just stuck the ball in." Grand Prairie long time coach, Stan Hicks followed suit saying, "he got more three-point plays than anyone I've ever seen. I thought there for a moment he would beat Conroe single-handedly."

Carter trailed by as many as 28 points at one point but wouldn't go away, closing the score to just six points twice in the game. With 58 seconds remaining Williams had gotten his team at close as 91-85. The Tigers balance was too much with 6'5" Kelvin Smith putting up 30 points, 6'4" Maurice Wright had 21 points, Rod Jacques finished with 21 points, as the Tigers scored 95 points. For Carter, only four players scored. I know what most people are thinking that it was just a ball hog trying to get points. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Conroe was so strong that Williams was the only player for Carter able to put up points. They did everything trying to control him, but he was incredible. It was the most incredible offensive performance of my long career following the high school game. I remember the game so vividly and Williams red shoes. WOW what a performance.

I have to share with you that when I saw he was listed as the #16 recruit in the state of Texas following the season, I thought to myself, "do these guys watch the games." I was never surprised that Michael played 10 seasons in the N.B.A. He will be remembered as one of the best to come out of the Lone Star State. He was without question, a **TEXAS LEGEND**.

As for Conroe, they were impressive and could play with anybody. The regional finals would be fun but as usual I knew Bryan would be tough in a single game elimination with their style of play. And I was correct.

In the regional finals, Conroe took control early leading 23-14 at the end of one and were up 39-31 at halftime. Coach Brown made some great adjustments at halftime and was able to gain control of the contest. The Vikings outscored Conroe in the second half 49-27 to advance to state for the second year in a row 80-66. Kelvin Smith put up 22 points for the Tigers, Maurice Wright followed with 16 and Jacques only managed 8 points. For the Bryan attack, Kevin Bradshear did a great imitation of Michael Williams scoring 39 points, followed by Mitchell's 17 points. For you mathematicians that's a total of 56 points for two players.

The All-Greater Dallas team named by the Dallas Morning News was as follows: Robert Hughes of Dunbar, Coach of the Year. Named to the first team was 5'11" Todd Alexander(21.0) of Waxahachie, 6'1" Michael Williams(30.9) of Carter, 6'6" Rodney Washington(14.0/12.0) from Dunbar, 6'8" Frank Williams(18.0/12.0) of Dallas Samuel and 6'5" Marvin Washington(14.0/13.0) from Kimball. Alexander was named Player of the Year. Sophomore of the Year was Rodney Samuell of South Oak Cliff. The 2nd team was made up of 6'0" Ray Willis of Skyline, 6'1" Ricky Grace of Wilmer Hutchins, 6'3" Wayne Morris from L.D. Bell, 6'2" Billy Giggins from Dallas Lincoln and 6'5" Greg Crowe of South Garland. The All-Metro team named by the Dallas Times Herald was basically the same kids named except 6'7" Bill Wirskey from Haltom and 6'5" Cedric Williams of Sam Houston were named to the second team. Jimmy Gales of S.O.C. and Clayton Brooks took home Coach of the Year honors from the Times Herald. Michael Williams was named Player of the Year.

The TABC named the All-Region 1st team-Marvin Washington from Kimball, Frank Williams of Samuel, Michael Williams of Carter, and Greg Crowe from South Garland, along with Darrell Mitchell from Bryan. 2nd team honors went to Jeff Young of Cypress-Fairbanks, Ray Willis of Skyline, Ricky Grace from Wilmer Hutchins, Victor Webb from Killeen and James Waters from Nacogdoches. Named to the 3rd team were Lance Blanks of Conroe McCullough, Sylvester Rogers from Wilmer Hutchins, Rod Jacques from Conroe, Derrick Culbreath of Lake Highlands and James Johnson of Tyler John Tyler.

Region III Playoffs

Spring Branch Memorial(26-7)

Houston Madison(28-2) #2

Houston Kashmere(27-6)

Aldine MacArthur(26-6)

Baytown Sterling(24-7)

Houston Milby(29-3)

Beaumont Westbrook(27-5)

Clear Lake(29-6)

Houston Lamar(17-12)

Houston Austin(22-6)

Beaumont French(21-9)

Alief Hastings(26-5)

Houston Sam Houston(24-7)

Houston Smiley(25-5)

Galveston Ball(25-7)**Pasadena(16-12)/Deer Park(16-15)****Top Five in Region III**

6'6"	Tom Grant	Aldine Nimitz
6'7"	Andy Gilchrist	Spring Branch Memorial
6'5"	Chris Morris	Houston Sam Houston
6'8"	Glenn Puddy	Clear Lake
6'4"	Robert McLemore	Houston Austin

District 17-AAAAA

Spring Branch Memorial(26-7) claimed another District championship defeated Alief Hastings 48-45. The Mustangs went 13-1 in the District campaign. Alief Hastings(26-5) defeated their sister school Alief Elsik(22-11) 66-55 to finish runner-up with a 11-3 record, compared to Elsik's 9-5 record. Northbrook(24-8) tied for 3rd with Elsik at 9-5. Spring Woods(17-15) was the only blemish to the Mustangs undefeated District campaign 55-53. Memorial was coached once again by one of the all-time greats in Texas High School history, Don Coleman. Coleman was a **TEXAS LEGEND**. The average margin of victory in District against the contenders was only 6 points. Memorial averaged 54.6 points per game and allowed 46.9 on the season for a 7.7-point differential. My point here for yawl is the Mustangs liked it slow and games were usually very close. Coleman didn't like to fly up and down the court. The team centered around the low post play of 6'7" Andy Gilchrist, who later played at Rice.

In early season action Memorial lost to Spring Woods 50-48. So, on the season Memorial was only 1-2 against Spring Woods. Facing the toughest opponents on their schedule, Memorial had very little success losing to Dulles(23-11) twice 50-45 and 43-40, Houston Milby(29-5) 67-59, Duncanville(28-3) 45-44 and Dallas Kimball 74-58. The Mustangs took it to another level once the playoffs arrived.

Gilchrist(20.2/9.2) was by far the dominating player in District and was named District M.V.P. 6'7" Jeff Keene(18.9/8.0) of Elsik, 6'1" Mike McCoy(18.2) from Northbrook, 6'8" Scott Sekal(13.6/6.7) from Hastings, 6'1" Brock Fairchild from Memorial and 5'11" Charles Triola from Northbrook were also named first team. Gilchrist was named M.V.P. in the Houston area by the Houston Chronicle after taking the Mustangs to state. Named second team All-District from Memorial were David Hoisington and Elvin Hayes Jr.

District 18-AAAAA

It gets so redundant year after year, but the Marlins of Houston Madison(28-2) were one of the great dynasties in the state. Coach Paul Benton troops went through District undefeated at 12-0 and won their 8th straight District title. They had clearly taken over as the dominate team in Houston supplanting Wheatley and Kashmere. Houston Lamar(17-12) tied with Worthing at 8-4 and advanced to the playoffs with an 89-77 victory over the Colts. Deron Johnson knocked down 27 points in the winning effort against the Colts and Eric Price

chipped in 17 points. For Worthing, David Alford had 21 points and the standout guard, Shannon Nero finished his last game for Worthing with 16 points.

In pre-district action Houston Madison took down Yates(19-13) 59-52, Kashmere(27-7) 75-56, Dallas Skyline(22-9) 77-67, Ft. Worth Southwest(27-11) in overtime 61-59 and Dulles(23-11) 56-46. The Marlins lost to Worthing in pre-district 77-74 in overtime, but was able to handle the Colts in both District games 95-82 and 89-77. Madison finished the regular season as the top-rated team in the Bayou City by the Houston Chronicle.

The All-District team was made up of 6'3" Juan Bibb(19.6/6.6) of Houston Lee, Mike Bebezuk(16.8) of Sharpstown, 6'0" Greg Santos(15.0) of Bellaire, 6'6" Trent Edwards(14.0) of Worthing, 6'5" Shannon Nero(12.0) of Worthing, 6'6" George Davis(10.0) of Houston Lamar, 6'3" Sean Gay(14.0) of Houston Madison and 6'3" Ronnie Turner(13.3) from Lamar. Gay was also named 1st team All-Greater Houston by the Houston Post. Bibb was named to the 2nd team. Nero, Bibb, George Davis, and Gay were all named 1st team All-HISD by the Chronicle. Turner was named to the 2nd team All-HISD along with 6'6" Edwards from Worthing. Paul Benton was named coach of the Year by the Post, having won eight straight District titles at Madison. He was also the only coach the school had ever had. Arguably his best player, Lance Blanks, moved to Conroe McCullough and his team still had a great season. "Playing for him is like playing for Dean Smith," Blanks said. "He's so calm. He never yells at you. He's got everything under control." One of the truly unusual things about Benton is that he was the offensive coordinator during the varsity football season. Can you imagine going from football right into basketball every season. Benton said he got used to the stipend and he really enjoyed coaching football.

District 19-AAAAA

Houston Kashmere(27-6) got past Houston Washington(17-13) in 1984, but still had to have a playoff against Houston Sam Houston(24-8). The Rams and the Tigers met to decide District at Delmar, as both finished at 8-2. Kashmere proved to strong winning 72-62 to take the top seed. Chris Morris of Sam Houston finished with 29 points to lead the Tigers. Sam Houston moved into the playoffs as the second seed. Houston Reagan(23-9) took 3rd place with a 6-4 record and Washington finished 4th at 5-5.

Kashmere continued their strong tradition winning the Jaycee tournament in late December. The Rams had a very competitive schedule beating Lufkin(23-9) 72-70, Houston Austin(23-7) 58-56, Wheatley(17-13) 87-86 and 92-82 and Worthing(19-10) 80-63. Pre-district losses were against a challenging group, Yates(19-13) 66-65, Madison(29-3) 76-56 and Smiley(25-6) 50-49. 19-5A was probably the toughest District in Houston in 1984. The Rams dropped Sam Houston(26-8) in convincing style 77-46 in the two teams first game and lost by one 58-57 in the second game. Reagan came close but lost both games against Kashmere(27-7) 69-67 and 74-69. The Tigers of Sam Houston had one of their best teams in years in 1984. They split with Reagan(23-9) in District and beat Washington(17-13) in both games 60-59 and 58-52.

The All-District team was made up of 6'5" Chris Morris(24.2/9.6) of Sam Houston, 5'11" Paul Banks(25.2/8.6) of Houston Reagan, 6'2" Randy Parker(13.3) of Waltrip, 6'5" Randy Hampton(10.0) from Kashmere, 6'0" John Osborne(10.0) from Washington, 5'6" Tyrone Mingo(7.9) from Sam Houston and 6'0" Anthony Parker(14.0) from Kashmere. Morris and Banks were both named 2nd team All-

Greater Houston by the Post. Named to the first team All-HISD by the Chronicle were Morris, Banks and Hampton. Making the 2nd team were Randy Parker of Waltrip, Osborne of Washington, Tyrone Mingo from Sam Houston and Anthony Parker of Kashmere.

District 20-AAAAA

The District title came down to a playoff between Houston Milby(29-3) and Houston Austin(22-6). Both teams came into the contest at 9-2. The game was played at Barnett Field House in front of a packed house. The fans were standing for most of the game and according to those that were there the noise was deafening. With the game tied with two minutes remaining, Milby spread the court and went into their delay game. After two turnovers, Austin was able to go up by four points. Milby came back and with 24 seconds remaining were down one and had no choice but to foul. Austin missed both foul shots and with six seconds remaining the Buffaloes had a shot at winning the game. Milby's Victor Gonzales shot was off, but the Buffaloes Roswell Dixon came up with the rebound and was fouled. With Austin crowd yelling Dixon calmly sank both foul shots, giving Milby the win 46-45 and the District championship. Carlos Sanders finished with 14 points and Rodney Branch kicked in 9 points for Milby. Robert McLemore was tops for Houston Austin with 18 points.

Milby finished 10-2 in District and Austin claimed second with a 9-3 mark. Generally speaking you would have to say the District was a little down compared to previous seasons. The reason was due to Yates and Wheatley struggling. Houston Davis(16-12) and Houston Yates(19-13) tied for 4th place and Houston Wheatley(17-13) took 3rd at 7-5. Milby's two losses in District came against Houston Davis 61-55 and Houston Austin 48-40. The Mustangs of Austin lost to Davis(16-12) 52-51, Milby and Wheatley(17-13) 77-76.

In talking to Coach Honea he revealed his team's success was a surprise to him. "I knew we would be pretty good, but I didn't think we would finish 29-5 on the season." The team had an outstanding attitude according to Honea and no super stars. The starting line-up was made up of 6'3" Rodney Branch, 6'5" Michael Ligons and 6'0" Victor Gonzalez, all seniors. Juniors in the starting lineup were 6'0" Earl Seals and 6'3" Carlos Sanders. "They were a pleasure to coach," Honea said. "It was one of those seasons when you hated to see it end." Milby opened the season in impressive style beating Clear Lake(31-7) 65-51. The Buffaloes won the Deer Park tournament over Alvin 72-58. Milby continued their success beating San Antonio Churchill(22-12) in the finals of the San Marcos tourney 66-63. In the Jaycee's tournament, Worthing(19-10) took down Milby 82-75 in the semi-finals. The Buffaloes beat Lufkin(23-9) in the 3rd place game 75-67. Milby got another solid victory over Spring Branch Memorial(31-8) in pre-district 67-59.

All-District 1st team was made up a very talented group of athletes. 6'4" Robert McLemore(19.7/10.9) from Houston Austin, 6'6" Darrell Richardson(13.0/10.4) and 6'5" Melvin Swift(12.7/8.2) all from Houston Austin. 6'0" Earl Seals(11.3) and 5'11" Victor Gonzales(10.0) from Houston Milby. 5'10" Greg Bundage(8.8) from Wheatley, 5'11" Kevin Johnson(21.4) from Houston

Davis. We mention the 2nd team only because this District was so talented. Terance Moore of Wheatley, Eugene Hall of Yates, Greg Williams of Austin, Rodney Branch(15.1/8.0) of Houston Milby and Darwin Whitmill of Houston Davis. Gonzales from Milby was named 1st team All-Greater Houston by the Post. McLemore was named All-Greater Houston Player of the Year. He led Austin to their first playoff in two decades. Standouts named to the All-HISD 1st team were McLemore from Houston Austin, Kevin Johnson from Houston Davis, and Earl Seals of Houston Milby. Named to the 2nd All-HISD squad was Gonzalez of Milby, Bundage from Houston Wheatley, Richardson and Swift from Houston Austin.

District 21-AAAAA

Aldine MacArthur(26-6) and Houston Smiley(25-5) tied for the District title at 9-1. The playoff for first place was at C.E. King high school. MacArthur won it at the buzzer 57-55 to take the top seed in the playoffs. 6'5" sophomore, Howard Turner hit the winner for MacArthur. "Even though we are co-champions," Coach Walt Kaiser of MacArthur said, "I think it was on everyone's mind that this was for the District championship. We split with them before, so this was the rubber game." Kaiser continued saying, "this game was good for us, we've lost six games this season, four in overtime. We had the poise in the end, though. This handling the pressure will help us in the playoffs." Darryl Nedd led Smiley with 16 points and Alex Williams paced MacArthur with 12 points.

Aldine Nimitz(23-12) finished in 3rd place at 5-5. Smiley and MacArthur split their District games. Smiley won 66-59 and the Generals came back to win 73-51. MacArthur handled rival Nimitz both times easily 64-51 and 61-46.

Houston Smiley played a challenging pre-district schedule beating Beaumont French(21-10) 50-38, Klein(25-8) 42-37, Conroe McCullough(22-9) 62-61, Alvin(21-9) 66-57, Houston Yates(19-13) 54-42 and Kashmere(22-7) 50-49. Losses came against Conroe 61-56 and Beaumont French 63-49. MacArthur also had a very impressive pre-district campaign beating Baytown Sterling(24-8) 60-49, Houston Austin(23-7) 45-28, Galveston Ball(26-8) in overtime 78-74, Lufkin(23-10) 56-53 and Strake Jesuit out of Houston 62-48. Clear Lake(31-7) took down the Generals twice 56-44 and 47-41 in the pre-season.

Making All-District honors on the 1st team were 6'6" Tom Grant(28.1/11.7) of Aldine Nimitz and 6'1" Twature Boyd(17.0) from Houston Smiley, 6'4" Keith Hill(13.0), 6'2" Alex Williams(12.0) and 6'3" Jeff Williams(12.0) of Aldine MacArthur and 6'1" Daryl Nedd(13.0) of Houston Smiley. Walt Kaser of MacArthur was named Coach of the Year and Boyd was named Player of the Year. Boyd of Houston Smiley was named 1st team All-Greater Houston by the Post and also All-Greater Houston 1st team by the Chronicle. Tom Grant of Nimitz was named 1st team by the Chronicle along with Keith Hill of Aldine MacArthur.

District 22-AAAAA

The Beaumont schools dominated this District finishing first, second and third in the final standings. French(21-9) and Westbrook(26-5) tied for District at 12-2. Beaumont Pollard(22-8) was impressive finishing 11-3 in District. Pt. Arthur Jefferson(17-11) took 4th at a 9-5 record.

Pollard lost an early season game to Thomas Jefferson 68-60, as Jules Wells of Pollard fouled out and only put up three shots before leaving the contest. Wells finished with only 8 points off 6 offensive rebounds.

In the first game between top contenders, Westbrook and French, the Bruins took an early lead in the District defeating French 61-59 in overtime. Tory Butcher of French was called for a goaltending call late that gave Westbrook the winning basket. Rhodes finished with 17 points for Westbrook. Westbrook dominated Thomas Jefferson 63-45 in the early District battle for first place.

The Buffaloes of French pulled out a tough win over Pollard 57-55 to stay in the running for the playoffs. Steve Morris led French with 16 points and 15 rebounds. Darrell Brown and Jules Wells finished with 14 each for Pollard. In the critical playoff between Westbrook and French for first, the Bruins won 71-58 to take the top seed in the playoffs. Eric Rhodes put up 20 points for the Bruins and Anthony Wells finished with a double-double scoring 13 points and 11 rebounds. French was led by Butcher's 16 points.

The Houston Chronicle named the All-Golden Triangle team that only somebody as knowledgeable as Bill McMurray could do. Truly a TEXAS LEGEND as a sports writer. He covered the entire Houston area for years. The 1st team was made up of seven players, 6'5" Kevin Bush and 6'4" Donzell Henton from Pt. Arthur Lincoln, 6'3" James Bryant from Jasper, 6'3" Eric Rhodes of Beaumont Westbrook, 6'4" Steve Thompson from Pt. Arthur Jefferson, 6'6" Jules Wells from Beaumont Pollard and 6'2" Cedrick Hubbard of Kountze. The 2nd team had 6'2" Darrell McArthur of Silsbee, 6'2" Derek Young and 6'7" Andre Allen of Lincoln, 6'4" Greg Westbrook from Pt. Neches-Groves and 5'10" Darrell Brown of Pollard on the unit.

The All-District 22-5A team was made up of six players. Darrell Brown and 6'6" Jules Wells from Pollard, 5'10" Tim Hood of Beaumont French, 6'2" Eric Rhodes from Westbrook, 6'4" Steve Thompson from Thomas Jefferson and 6'3" Greg Westbrook of Pt. Neches Groves. The 2nd unit was just as talented with 6'2" Joey Butcher from French, Mike Mayes of Nederland, 6'4" Steve Morris of French, 6'1" Terry Sylvester of Westbrook and 5'8" Michael Young of Westbrook. James Fisher of French was named Coach of the Year.

District 23-AAAAA

Baytown Sterling(24-7) dominated the District at 13-1 and took their first title since 1968 and only their second playoff spot in school history. Deer Park(16-15) and Pasadena(16-12) tied for second place at 10-4. The playoff for second place took place at Deer Park and Pasadena got the win 53-44. Fourth place went to Pasadena Dobie(20-13) with an impressive 9-5 record.

Baytown Sterling was coached by Woody Walker. Walker ran a very balanced attack led by Stephone Leaks(13.0), Paul Roberts(12.7), Burney Young(12.3) and Donovan Forbes(9.1). Pasadena really came out of nowhere to get the runner-up spot after a horrible campaign the previous season.

District 24-AAAAA

Two traditional powers battled to a tie in District 24-5A. Galveston Ball(25-7) and Clear Lake(29-6) both came away with 12-2 campaigns. The two powerhouses met three times during the regular season with Lake holding a 2-1

edge. Ball's only win over Lake came in the finals of the Pasadena Tournament 63-45. Ball lost both District games to Clear Lake 44-39 and 60-35. Ball had Clear Creek's number coming away with victories over the Wildcats 54-44 and 77-60. The Wildcats of Clear Creek upset arch rival Clear Lake in the 1st round encounter 44-42. In the Wildcats big win over Lake, 6'0" senior Charles Johnson had a tip-in at the buzzer to pretty much make Clear Creek's season. Coach Buddy Carlisle came away with his 2nd win over the Falcons in six seasons. Glenn Puddy was held to only 13 points.

Clear Lake went on to capture their 8th District title in 12 years defeating Creek by 31 points 64-33 in the rematch. Texas City proved to be the big spoiler defeating Clear Lake 61-53 leaving both Ball and Lake with 12-2 District marks. Andre Booker put up 28 points for Texas City in the victory. Texas City eliminated Clear Creek from the playoff hunt 75-55. Clear Creek(24-10) took 3rd place with a 10-4 finish and Texas City(16-11) was 4th at 9-5.

Clear Lake and Galveston Ball both agreed it would be counterproductive to play each other a fourth time for the seeding in the state playoffs. The two coaches decided to flip a coin in which Ball won and took the top seed.

Ball was tough all season defeating Houston Yates(19-13) 61-54, Wheatley(17-13) 83-80, Alvin 71-58 in pre-district action. Losses came at the hands of Houston Austin(23-6) 81-76 and Aldine MacArthur(27-7) 78-74 in OT. The Falcons played their usual gauntlet of teams with wins over Aldine MacArthur(27-7) 56-44, Dulles(23-11) 59-49, S.A. Roosevelt(27-6) 46-43, Midland(27-8) 62-46, Baytown Sterling(24-8) 52-41. Losses for Clear Lake came at the hands of Milby(29-5) 65-51, Baytown Sterling(24-7) 59-53, Houston Madison(29-3) 62-47. Clear Lake won the prestigious Optimist Tournament over San Antonio Highlands(35-5) 61-48.

All-District was dominated by Clear Lake and Galveston Ball. The Tornadoes were represented on the first team by 6'0" Steve Martin and 6'4" David Morris, the Falcons placed 6'9" Glenn Puddy(21.3) and 6'3" Kevin Stiner on the first team. Clear Creek had 6'0" Jimmy Harrison and 6'0" Charles Johnson named. Harrison was also named 3rd team All-Greater Houston by the Post along with Puddy, who was named to the first team. Puddy was honored on the 1st team All-Greater Houston by the Chronicle. Other members of the All-District team included 6'4" Redd White of Texas City, 6'1" Keith Martin of LaPorte, 6'1" Randy Pryor(20.2) a sophomore from Pearland, 5'10" Rochon Hall from Dickinson. Puddy, from Clear Lake was named District M.V.P. The big 6'8" senior was one of the top big men in the state. He had several big games in District. Against Ball in their 25-point win, he put up 28 points, 11 rebounds and 7 blocks. Coach T. Berry of Ball said following the game, "I don't want to say he intimidated us, but he made us alter our shots." Bill Krueger was named coach of the Year. T. Berry had a great season as well in his fourth season at Ball. His record spoke for itself going 35-6, 24-11, and 25-7 with the Tornadoes. When Berry was asked to compare his '84 team to his state finalists' squad in 1982 he responded, "the team that went to the state finals had a lot of great athletes, this team has some great athletes, but I really believe this team can do more things."

The Houston Chronicle's final rankings were as follows:

#1	Houston Madison	28-2
#2	Conroe	27-4
#3	Houston Milby	29-3

#4	Houston Kashmere	26-6
#5	Houston Austin	22-6
#6	Aldine MacArthur	26-6
#7	Houston Sam Houston	24-7
#8	Spring Branch Memorial	26-7
#9	Beaumont Westbrook	26-5
#10	Houston Smiley	25-5
#11	Clear Lake	29-6
#12	Galveston Ball	25-7
#13	Alief Hastings	26-5
#14	Klein	23-7
#15	Alvin	21-8
#16	Beaumont French	21-9
#17	Baytown Sterling	24-7
#18	Dulles	23-11
#19	Humble Kingwood	23-6
#20	Conroe McCullough	22-9

Playoffs

Houston Milby(29-3) played Houston Sam Houston(24-7) in Bi-District at Hofheinz on Friday evening. Sam Houston had just lost the District playoff on Tuesday against Houston Kashmere. Coach Honea said his kids always wanted to play at Hofheinz, but it probably cost them the game. The reason was the depth perception of shooting in a big arena. Sam Houston ran a tight 1-3-1 zone defense that required outside shooting from the Buffaloes. Sam Houston's coach, Larry Pitre had a great game plan and came away with a solid 54-51 upset. 6'5" junior, Chris Morris finished with 22 points and was the leader for the young Tigers, who had seven underclassmen out of their top eight players. Morris did it all with 9 rebounds and several assists and steals and showed why he was considered one of the top players in Houston. Sam Houston hit 16 of 17 foul shots to end the Buffaloes season. Sam Houston took a 49-47 lead off a turnover late by Milby. Sam Houston spread the court and knocked down 5 of 6 foul shots to come away with the "W". "The whole idea was to beat Milby," Morris said. "I think it was one of my better games of the season. The team counts on me to do these things."

Houston Kashmere(27-7) and Houston Austin(23-6) also played their Bi-District game at Hofheinz. Austin came away with an impressive victory over the Rams 54-49. Austin hit 18 of 26 foul shots on the evening and took the lead with 1:08 remaining. "You're not going to win many games if you can't hit free throws, especially pressure foul shots," Coach Howard Smith of Austin High said. "That's what we practiced on after the loss to Milby." 6'6" Darrell Richardson and Robert McLemore paced Austin with 14 and 12 points. McLemore didn't start because he

wasn't feeling well. Kashmere counted on Terrance Glaze for 16 points and Randy Hampton for 15 points.

At Autry Court on the campus of Rice University, Houston Madison(28-2) won their first-round contest over Alief Hastings(26-7) 74-61. A five-point technical foul on coach Rick Sherley sunk what chances Hastings might have had to pull the upset. Madison increased their lead from 58-53 to 63-53. Scott Sekal was outstanding for Hastings scoring 33 points. "Oh, we didn't want to run with them," 6'8" Sekal said. "There's no way I can run with those guys for 32 minutes. We're the running team in our district and we always try to get Memorial in a running game, but we can't run with Madison. We tried to slow them down." Gerry McGee was the leading scorer for the Marlins finishing with 17 points. Tony Gatlin chipped in 14 points for coach Benton and Sean Gay added 11 points. "Our assets are our quickness and our depth," Coach Paul Benton said. "It's certainly not our height." With the Marlins tallest player listed at 6'4" it is somewhat deceiving, and you almost feel sorry for Benton until you see these guys leap. Nobody is going to shed any tears for Madison and their lack of height. "We kind of have a tradition of letting the other team's top player get his points," Madison James Pope said. "We were happy to be in a running game, if they slowed it down it would have worked against us."

Houston Lamar(17-13) and Spring Branch Memorial(27-7) also played in the double header at Rice Autry Court. The Mustangs came from 46-36 deficit going into the 4th quarter to outscore the Redskins 17-5. Andy Gilchrist, who finished with 20 points, hit the winning bucket for coach Coleman's Mustangs with five seconds remaining. It was the first lead of the evening for Memorial. Ronnie Turner finished with 14 points for Lamar.

Galveston Ball(26-7) met Pasadena(17-12) in the playoffs. The two teams had met earlier in the season in the 2nd round of the Pasadena tournament. Ball came away with a solid victory 51-43 in that one. Pasadena had a new coach in Phil Eaton, who had done one of the best coaching jobs in the state. He took the Eagles from a winless 1983 district campaign to the playoffs in one season. Pasadena also was the only team in District to defeat Baytown Sterling in District competition 48-45 in overtime. The Eagles were paced by Steve Garnett(11.4/8.8) and Joe Overholtz(10.3). Coach T. Berry of Galveston Ball discussed Pasadena High, "they are essentially a half-court team that uses man to man defense, they don't try to fast break, they're very patient. They like for the final score to be in the 40s. Ball was counting on David Morris(11.0), Steve Martin(8.0), Byron Watson(8.0), and Kimble Amber to lead them to victory.

Steve Garnett had a big game for Pasadena scoring 26 points, but his team came up short losing to Ball 63-52. Pasadena trailed at one point 30-17 and didn't sub a great deal. Ball prepared for the 2nd round game against Beaumont

Westbrook. Coach Berry commented, "we're going to have to break their press consistently. They try to put a lot of pressure on you."

As Baytown Sterling prepared for Clear Lake they were well aware they would have to put forth their best effort to the season. Coach Walker was really worried about 6'8" Glenn Puddy of the Falcons. "He's the best big man around. I'd say it really doesn't matter what we do, he'll get his points. You won't just go out there and stop someone as good as he is. Besides, his teammates do a real good job of getting him the ball." Walker continued saying, "We're going to have to play one our better games of the year Friday night. I think one of our strong points is that we're well balanced."

Clear Lake(30-6) and Baytown Sterling(24-7) faced off at Phillips Field house in Pasadena. Clear Lake defeated Baytown Sterling 58-42. The Falcons placed three players in double figures with Puddy leading the way with 24 points. Stephen Leaks was the leading scorer for Sterling with only 12 points. The Falcons led 31-16 at intermission. In the first half, Puddy was 5 for 5 from the floor and 6 for 6 from the line. The leading scorer for Sterling was Bernie Young(14.0) who was held to six points.

Beaumont Westbrook(28-5) defeated Houston Smiley 81-62 in first round tournament action. The score was somewhat of a surprise because Smiley had really played some good ball during the season. Terry Sylvester and Eric Rhodes played key roles for the Bruins, both averaged 14 points per game. Sylvester finished with 18 points, and Smiley was paced by Darryl Nedd with 20 points.

Aldine MacArthur Generals were deadly from the foul line hitting 27 of 31 free throws in defeating Beaumont French 65-58 in a first-round playoff game. In an upset of sorts, MacArthur outscored French 20-6 in the 2nd period and took a comfortable halftime lead 32-19. Keith Hill had 15 of 16 foul shots for the Generals and finished with 23 points. Joey Butcher was the leader of French finishing with 18 points.

In 2nd round action, Beaumont Westbrook pulled out a great overtime win over Galveston Ball 72-69. Terry Sylvester's two foul shots with six second remaining ended up being the difference. Ball put four players in double figures. Morris finished with 18 points, Kimble Anders had 14, Steve Martin knocked down 11 points and Byron Watson added 11. Westbrook was paced by Eric Rhodes 23 points with Sylvester adding 16 points and Antonio Wells hit 15 points.

Clear Lake(31-6) faced Aldine MacArthur(28-6) in the 2nd round action at Barnett Field House. Clear Lake won hard fought victory advancing to regionals with an overtime win 47-41 over the Generals. Puddy came up big in overtime scoring six of his team's total eight points. The 6'8" post finished with a team high 18 points. The Generals outscored Lake 4-0 in the 4th quarter to tie the game at the end of regulation 39-39. MacArthur was paced by Alex Williams and Ezra Henderson, who both had 11 points.

In more 2nd round action, Spring Branch Memorial(27-7) continued their cardiac legacy defeating Houston Austin(23-7) in overtime 39-38. Elvin Hayes Jr. put in two foul shots with nine seconds remaining for the Mustangs win. Andy Gilchrist led the way for Don Coleman's team with 16 points and Hayes added 9. Melvin Swift was the man for Houston Austin scoring 14 points and standout Robert McLemore was held to a mere 8 points. "We knew we would have to stop their inside scoring, especially McLemore," coach Coleman said. All of Memorial points in overtime came from the foul line as the Mustangs did not attempt any field goals.

The Tigers of Sam Houston(25-7) came away with another major upset defeating Houston Madison(29-2) 64-61. Sam Houston continued their march to regional by eliminating the top ranked bunch in Houston. Yes, the game was an upset of sorts. Chris Morris once again was the center of attention with 19 points and Rodney Taylor added 13 points. Patrick Cocklin paced the Marlins with 14 points, Gerry McGee had 12 and Tony Gatlin added 10 points. Sam Houston was being called the "Giant Killers" after their victories over two of the top three teams in Houston beating Milby and Madison.

"We hit our free throws 24 of 37 when it counted, controlled tempo for the most part and stayed with our offense," said coach Pitre of Sam Houston. Five players finished in double figures for the Tigers. "We just made entirely too many fouls," Coach Benton said following the loss. "That was the difference." Sam Houston scored 24 points from the line and Madison was only able to come away with three.

Regionals

Region III had an entirely different look about it in 1984. Yes, there were four really quality teams, but the top teams in Houston had been eliminated by upstart, Sam Houston. Would the Tigers continue their winning ways, would be the question? Memorial was clearly Cinderella and the cardiac kids. Clear Lake had to be the favorite with Puddy inside. Beaumont Westbrook's coach had won three straight titles while coaching at Hebert. It was pretty wide-open as to who would advance out of region III.

Coleman, Krueger and Fred Williams were three of the winningest coaches in the history of Texas High School basketball. At the time, Don Coleman had accounted for 714 wins while Krueger came in with 764 wins. "It's important to him and important to me, but the game is on the floor," Krueger said. The last time the two teams faced off, Memorial defeated the Falcons at the San Marcos tournament during the 1981-82 season. Clear Lake had over achieved after pre-season picks had the Falcons forecast to finish third in District action. "From day one I told my team anybody could win Region III, because it was wide open," Krueger said.

"We're really glad to be playing Clear Lake," Coleman said. "Hastings was picked early and they were state ranked. Everybody figured them to win it." Memorial picked up their third straight District title and were coming off two very close playoff wins. Two of the biggest and most dominated big men in the state went at each other in the regional semi-finals. 6'8" Glenn Puddy of Clear Lake and 6'7" Andy Gilchrist of Memorial. Puddy later had a nice career at S.M.U. and Gilchrist at Rice.

Clear Lake led at halftime 24-23 due mainly to their press, which Memorial had to adjust to in the second half. Hofheinz Pavilion had 4,500 fans in attendance. The Mustangs always had an advantage in the playoffs, because of their deliberate and unorthodox style in which teams were unaccustomed to playing against.

Gilchrist was difference coming away posting 24 points and 14 rebounds, as the Mustangs advanced with a 51-46 victory over Lake. Puddy finished with 12 points and 9 rebounds for the Falcons. Elvin Hayes Jr. added 10 points for the Mustangs and Kevin Stiner hit 13 points for Clear Lake along with help from Mitch Fogle's 10 points. Memorial would be making their second regional final appearance in three seasons.

You have to look long and hard to find a more successful coach than Beaumont Westbrook's, Fred Williams. Williams had success at Silsbee and Beaumont Hebert before coming to Westbrook. While coaching at Hebert he won three straight state championships. That puts you in rarified company having accomplished three-straight. Sam Houston out of Houston was one of the hottest teams in the playoffs having upset Houston Milby and Houston Madison. The Tigers luck ran out against the Bruins. Westbrook pressed Sam Houston throughout the game, which was the difference in the game. With nine seconds remaining in the 3rd quarter, Sam Houston received a knockout blow losing point guard, Tyrone Mingo. The score stood 44-37 when Mingo left the court and the Tigers were outscored 25-7 in the fourth quarter and lost by 25 points 69-44.

Coach Larry Pitre of Sam Houston praised Bruins saying, "Westbrook just played great, especially in the fourth quarter. We seemed to be flat, no snap. We were coming off two big wins and we were afraid something like this might happen." Pitre continued saying, "we got off to a bad start and never could get anything going. Of course, the fouls hurt and when we lost Mingo that put our main man at breaking the press on the bench. We got beat by a good team, no question about that."

Coach Williams of Westbrook said, "we don't have any height this year so we work hard to get things down the best way we could. That includes pressing, good passing, shooting and moving the ball. We did that in spurts tonight." Eric Rhodes led Westbrook with 24 points and 12 rebounds and Lane Mallet added 11

points. Chris Morris continued to lead Sam Houston with 22 points, but was the only Tiger in double figures.

The regional finals saw Spring Branch Memorial advance to the state with a slow ball control 43-39 victory over Westbrook. But not without a 25-minute delay for a fire due to a faulty air conditioner. After the fire department was called the scoreboard malfunctioned in the 3rd period stopping the contest. The 3,500 fans in attendance at Hofheinz watched the Ponies advance to state for their fourth time in school history. The Mustangs won state in 1966 and lost in the state finals in 1967 and 1969. For Coach Don Coleman, it was career win 715 in 27 years of coaching. "It's been a longtime since we've been to the state tournament," Coleman said. Anytime your team plays coach Fred Williams of Westbrook, your team is going to have to handle the Bruins press. "The key to the Westbrook game was beating the press in the second half," Coleman said. "We attacked the press, straight down the court and not sideways, as we did in the second quarter when we got into trouble, and we also made Westbrook play our game."

After trailing 26-19 at halftime, Coach Coleman made some key adjustments at intermission going to a man defense. "I thought our man defense was the difference in the 3rd quarter," Coach Coleman said. "I didn't want to show it in the first half, I was afraid that if they saw it they would adjust to it at half. I'm not sure how many good man-defenses they went against this year. We did a good job with the man defense against Clear Lake in the semis and today, that was the difference."

Senior Paul Garver of Westbrook explained how the man defense effected the Bruins. "We kind of expected they would come out in a man defense in the 3rd quarter. When they did it changed things for us. Against their zone, we were used to getting the ball inside, but when they changed to the man we couldn't get inside." For Memorial the tempo of the game slowed down, which was much more conducive to the Mustangs half court attack. Memorial also ended up with the rebounding edge 27-19.

Hoisington was effective from the outside for Memorial while Elvin Hayes Jr. had some nice buckets in close. "We like it when other teams key on Andy," Coleman said. "It opens other people up." Hoisington and Gilchrist finished with 14 points while Eric Rhodes paced Westbrook with 14 points and Terry Sylvester finished with 13.

Region IV Playoffs

San Antonio Fox Tech(31-5) #6

Alvin(21-8)

San Antonio Roosevelt(25-5)

San Antonio Highlands(33-4) #8

Corpus Christi Miller(22-9)

Dulles(24-11)

Austin Travis(28-7)

Austin Johnston(23-10)

San Antonio Holmes(20-8)

Laredo Martin(26-9)

Mission(24-9)

San Antonio Jay(23-7)

Converse Judson(19-8)
Harlingen(30-4)

Eagle Pass(27-5)
Corpus Christy Carroll(23-9)

Top Five in Region IV

6'6"	Paul Riley	San Antonio Highlands
6'4"	Fennis Dembo	San Antonio Fox Tech
5'10"	Ricky Green	Austin Johnston
6'6"	Charles Smith	San Antonio Fox Tech
6'5"	Carl Nuckols	Austin Travis

TCIL Private Schools

Houston Marian paced by two of the top recruits in the state, 7'0" Tito Horford and Tike Crawford defeated Tyler Gorman 45-39 to capture the AAA championship. Horford fueled Marian with 15 points and Cedric Golden was the leading scorer for Gorman with 13 points. Crawford and Horford made All-Tournament. In class AAAA, San Antonio Central Catholic(29-4) took down Houston Strake Jesuit 56-44 for the title. Pat Sheridan finished with 15 points and Brian Stanush added 13 points, Darrell Keller and Ron Classy both had 12. Tracey Manning was the man for Strake Jesuit with 18 points.

"I thought it was a fitting tribute to these kids. You can win a championship and still not be a champion. But these kids are champions in every sense of the word," coach Joe Cortez of Central Catholic told the San Antonio Light. "It would have been a travesty if these kids hadn't won."

Burke O'Malley of Strake Jesuit and 7'0" Hito Horford were named All-Greater Houston 1st team by the Chronicle.

District 25-AAAAA

Alvin(21-8) came away with the title finishing 13-3, while Brazoswood(19-10) and Dulles(23-11) tied for second at 11-5. The two teams had to decide matters at Brazoswood and once again the visiting team won, as Dulles advanced to the playoffs. Angleton(24-10) and Victoria Stroman(17-11) tied for 4th place at 10-6. Victoria had an unusual season finishing 15-16 on the year and 9-7 in District action.

The All-District squad had seven players named to the first team. 6'0" Tim Hobby(18.9) of Alvin was the most decorated player in District being named District M.V.P., 3rd team All-Greater Houston by the Post and 1st team by the Chronicle. Others players named to the first team All-District were 6'3" Jeff Blice(18.3) of Angleton, 6'7" Derrick Formby(15.3) of Brazoswood, 5'6" P.A. Smallwood(10.1) from Dulles, 6'5" Todd Redmond(20.0) of Lamar Consolidated, 6'3" Rodney Murray(19.9) of Stroman and 6'0" Tony Gant(17.0) of Victoria. Bill Erwin of Alvin was named coach of the Year.

District 26-AAAAA

Austin Travis(28-7) defeated Austin Johnston(24-10) 62-60 to capture the top seed in the state playoffs. The two teams had tied for the title. Johnston's coach, Tony Castillo said after the loss, "this is the way it should be, Wolf has chased the title trophy for 17 seasons." Coach B.J. Wolf said, "I've waited a long

time for this, I really thought we were going to get it last year, but we didn't, but we got it now."

District 28-AAAAA

San Antonio Jay(23-7) took the District title with a 62-56 win over San Antonio Holmes(20-8). Scott Ankrom and Paul Rowland each poured in 16 points for S.A. Jay in the victory. Holmes lost in the first-round action to Jay 62-53. Standouts for S.A. Jay were Scott Ankrom, Mike Bowers and Darrell Stonewall. S.A. Holmes looked to Quentin Mills, Steve Keller, David White and Melvin Tealer.

The All-District first team was made up of five players. Scott Ankrom and Paul Rowland of S.A. Jay, Quentin Miles from S.A. Holmes, Rand Cawthon from Del Rio, and Billy Simms from S.A. Marshall.

District 27-AAAAA

The three front runners in District action came down to S.A. Roosevelt, S.A. Churchill and Converse Judson. The Chargers had another fine team having lost to Houston Milby in the finals of the San Marcos tournament. Judson, behind the excellent effort of Mike Phoenix, defeated Churchill 52-50 in the two teams first District match-up. Phoenix was the hero hitting a runner with four seconds left and finished the game with 22 points. Deon Phelps of Judson was held to only nine points.

On the game winning shot, Meyer of Churchill had tied the score at 50 apiece. With only 15 seconds remaining coach Jim Shuler of Judson failed to call a timeout to set-up the last shot. He explained his tough decision, "you know, sometimes we would have called timeout in that situation, but I think I've seen just as many games won when a team didn't call timeout. They were unable to get their defense set which was to our advantage," Shuler said.

In the big District showdown between S.A. Roosevelt and Converse Judson, the Rough Riders of Roosevelt came away with their second win over the Rockets 56-51. Roosevelt had the game well under control leading 54-43 with on 2:54 remaining in the game. Deon Phelps paced Judson with 24 points and Ed Mills led Roosevelt with 18. The first game between the two contenders was much closer with Roosevelt winning by only two points 41-39.

Going into the last week of the regular season, Roosevelt led the District race at 10-2, Churchill was second at 9-3 and Judson was 3rd at 8-4. Churchill(22-10) closed out the regular season facing Roosevelt and Judson. The Chargers were unable to pull out either contest losing both critical games, Roosevelt(25-5) 63-50 and Converse Judson(19-8) 41-37. S.A. Roosevelt(25-5) captured the District title at 13-1, Judson was runner-up, Churchill(22-12) finished 3rd and San Antonio Lee came in at 4th.

The All-District team was made up of ten players so these were the players who played on playoff teams. Roosevelt was represented by Chuck Bauman, Ed Mills, Tim Bozarth and Arthur Butcher. Converse Judson had Gerald Embry and the District M.V.P. Deon Phelps. Churchill had a left over from

the 1982 state championship squad, Paul Meyer selected and Kyle Smith. Fred Battles of Judson was named "Sophomore of the Year."

District 29-AAAAA

This was the strongest District in San Antonio with San Antonio Highlands and S.A. Fox Tech leading the way. You also say one of the strongest in the entire state. Every time the two teams turned around they were facing off in some kind of tournament, District or playoff competition. Highlands(31-4) won the first District game 51-50 at the Alamo Gym. The game was basically decided on two technical fouls against Fox Tech. One of the technical fouls was for hanging on the rim by Charles Smith with under two minutes to play. Highlands hit both foul shots, which was the difference. Coach Kemmerzehl of Highlands attributed the victory with his team's ability to contain Fennis Dembo and Charles Smith. The two standouts were held to only 17 combined points.

The two rivals had met previously in the San Antonio ISD tournament and the Optimist tournament. The Buffaloes of Fox Tech won the first game 58-45 and Highlands came back to capture the second in the semi-finals of the Optimist tournament 52-49. Fox Tech(31-4) put together an outstanding effort taking the second District meeting over Highlands 62-44. With the victory, both teams tied for the District Championship. A playoff was required to see who came away with the first and second seed in the playoffs. Both teams were ranked in the state's top ten and had to be considered top contenders for the Region IV ticket to Austin. The game was played at Alamo Stadium and was the fifth game between the two rivals.

In the big district showdown, Highlands was able to hold Andre Elias and Fennis Dembo to only four points apiece. The result was a 51-48 victory for the Owls and the top seed in the playoffs. Highlands pretty much was in control the entire way leading 33-23 at halftime. Elias fouled out at the 5:35 mark of the 4th quarter and Dembo joined him on the bench with only 4:23 remaining. Highlands had a balanced attack led by Paul Riley's 13 points. Coach John Kemmerzehl of Highlands commented after the game, "the only thing we're looking for is that little light at the end of the tunnel where four teams walk out on the floor in Austin. The district title is just a stepping stone toward the lights." Kemmerzehl also added that he told Dembo, "we expect to see you in the regional finals, we expect to be there." Robert Smith was the leading scorer for Fox Tech with 16 points. Jeff Medina added 11 for Highlands cause.

District 29-5A dominated the All-City squad named by the San Antonio Light. 6'4" Fennis Dembo(18.7/10.0) and 6'6" Robert Smith(13.5) of Fox Tech were named 1st team along with 6'6" Pat Riley(9.0) of Highlands. Edward Nious of Highlands made the 2nd team along with Garland McPherson.

District 30-AAAAA

The Hornets of East Central looked like they would run away with the District race with a 6-0 start only to collapse late and miss the playoffs. For Coach Stan Bonewitz, his team had shown tremendous improvement in his third season

at the helm. "We were 11-21 my first year here and 14-16 last year. The year before I came they were 1-29," Bonewitz said.

District 30-5A had a wild finish with three teams claiming first place. San Antonio East Central, Eagle Pass and Laredo Martin were all tied up with 12-2 records. The District had to make the decision in short order. East Central lost the toss of the coin and played Eagle Pass at Eagle Pass. The winner would play Laredo Martin at 11:30 A.M. on Tuesday morning. If the winner of the first game beat Martin, Martin would have to play that evening against the loser of the first game for the playoff spot. GOT IT!

East Central(25-8) came up short against Eagle Pass(27-4) in the first elimination game 69-44. Obviously, the home court played a role in the Eagle Pass victory. Hernandez put up 28 points in the win for Eagle Pass. Laredo Martin(26-9) also lost to Eagle Pass, but turned around and gained the playoffs with a 62-53 win over East Central. The Hornets lost their last three games of which any one of them would have assured them a playoff spot. Please feel no pity for coach Stan Bonewitz, his time will come.

Named to the All-District team for East Central- Charles Bellinger, Kevin Rankin and Lateese Ford. Eagle Pass had the District M.V.P. in Charles Schuessier. Amaro Hernandez also made 1st team from Eagle Pass. Laredo Martin was represented by Delfino Montemayor and Carlos Duarte.

District 31-AAAAA

Corpus Christi dominated the District race with C.C. Carroll(23-8) and C.C. Miller(21-9) finishing at 12-2. C.C. Ray(16-15) challenged for a playoff spot up until the last week of the season, but finishing third at 11-3. Corpus Christi King came away with 4th place at 21-10 and 8-6. Carroll and Miller split their District contest. Miller eliminated Ray in the last week of the regular season 58-46. It was Carroll's first title since 1981 and Miller first in 10 years.

The Carroll vs. Miller playoff was set up to decide the top seed for the playoffs. Ray's gym was the site of the playoff game. 2,800 fans jammed into the gym with 500 being turned away at the door. The fans outside got a glimpse of the game looking through the windows at the end of the gym. Miller starters included 6'9" Vernon Perdue(10.0), 6'2" Eric Auzenne(13.0), 6'0" Michael Howze(10.0), 6'3" David Anderson and 6'0" Neil Cook. Corpus Christi Carroll called on 6'1" Lee Brooks(11.2), 6'2" Tim Williams(15.0), 6'4" Greg Bland(13.6), 6'2" Clifton Moffett and 5'11" Michael Drinkard.

Miller came away with the win 65-59 over Carroll taking top spot in the playoffs. Miller coach, Vance Heard was very complimentary of his sophomore guard, Michael Howze after the game. Howze finished with 14 points and came away with several key plays down the stretch. The difference in the contest was a 15-0 run in the 3rd quarter led by Howze. Miller was paced Eric Auzenne 17 points and 15 points coming from 6'8" Vernon Perdue. Neil Cook added 14 points to the

Miller attack. Carroll was led by Tim Williams with 16 points and Greg Bland's 11 and Clifton Moffett's 14 points.

All-District team was led by Ronnie James of Alice, who won the M.V.P. honors. Michael Howze of Miller won sophomore of the year. Tim Williams(15.0) of Carroll was a unanimous choice. Richard Taylor(19.7) and Eric Coleman(18.2) made the 1st team from Corpus Christi Moody and four players tied for the last spot. Tony Bryant(17.7) from King, Norman Clapp of Ray, Zachary Lawson from Ray and Eric Auzenne(12.9) from Miller.

District 32-AAAAA

Harlingen(30-4) took the District over Mission(22-9). Harlingen hung their hat on the fact that they had a win over Ft. Worth Southwest(27-11) earlier in the season.

Playoffs

The Rams of Austin Johnston looked at Bi-District with anticipation having lost in their two previous 1st round games. Coach Castillo felt confident he had an ace in the hole with Ricky Green(22.3) for the '84 campaign. Alvin(21-8) would counter with the talent of the own in Tim Hobby(18.9) and Terrance Woodson, who averaged 7.1 rebounds per game. "I'm trying to install in our players that we're beginning a new season and what had happened in the last 24 games does not pertain now," Castillo said. "This is the time to play your best."

Austin Johnston(24-10) advanced past Alvin at the Burger Center 58-57. 5'8" Ricky Green was the hero the Rams. Mike Weldon also popped in 19 points for the Rams. Green knocked down one of two free throws with 8 seconds left to give the Johnston a three-point lead. Alvin's Matt Erwin put up the final basket with one second left. For Johnston, the elation was nice after losing the District title 62-60 to Austin Travis on Tuesday night. The big threat for Alvin was Tim Hobby(19.0), who finished with only 8 points. "We wanted to keep a man on him all the time, even when we were in a zone," Green explained. Alvin finished the season with 21-9 mark.

Austin Travis(29-7) got by Stafford Dulles at the Burger Center in front of some 1,500 fans 53-48. Travis put on a clinic from the foul line in the 4th quarter hitting 5 of 18 foul shots. "I want to put in a new rule for next year," Travis coach B.J. Wolf said, "we don't have to shoot free throws. We can just take the ball out of bounds." 6'11" David Cones of Dulles affected the inside game of Travis with his size and length. To compound the problem the Travis Rebels leading scorer, 6'5" Carl Nuckols picked up quick fouls in the first quarter and watched much of the game from the sidelines. Cedric Washington stepped up for coach Wolf and finished with 12 points. First year coach, Sonny Benefield of Dulles commented after the tough loss, "down the stretch, we just broke down on the basic fundamentals that we usually do, they hit when they had to and they never gave up." Cones finished with 12 points and Diepramm followed with 12 points. For Austin Travis, Nuckols only managed only 7 points and Satterwhite finished with 12 points.

S.A. Holmes(20-8) went up against S.A. Roosevelt(25-5) in Bi-District. S.A. Jay(23-7) and Converse-Judson(19-8) battled it out in the other Bi-District clash. Both games were played at the UTSA Convocation Center. District 27-5A proved too strong with both Roosevelt and Judson coming away with impressive victories.

The Rough Riders of Roosevelt, coached by Jerry Tyson, won their third Bi-District game in sixteen seasons. Roosevelt cruised to a 74-54 victory and advanced to the next round. Tim Bozarth finished with 16 points and Ed Miles had 14 points for the Rough Riders. Chuck Bauman added a strong inside game for S.A. Roosevelt. Quentin Miles of S.A. Holmes kept his team in the game for a period of time finishing with 27 points. "We finally managed to shut Miles down," coach Tyson said. He was held scoreless in the 4th quarter by Arthur Butcher. Roosevelt jumped out to an early 36-22 lead in the 2nd quarter, but Holmes closed the gap before halftime to 40-33.

Converse Judson defeated San Antonio Jay 68-54 in a convincing matter. Judson's strong inside game was the difference, paced by sophomore Fred Battles, who finished with 18 points and Gerald Embry who added 12 points for the Rockets. Deon Phelps was key for coach Jim Shuler's Judson team with 22 points, mostly from the perimeter. Mike Phoenix added 13 points for the Rockets. The Mustangs of S.A. Jay were led by Scott Ankrom with 20 points and Paul Rowland added 14 points in a losing effort.

At Alamo Stadium Gym, S.A. Fox Tech(32-5) advanced against Eagle Pass(27-6) 57-44. Fox Tech jumped into a press leading 36-35 entering the 4th quarter and immediately went on a 15-7 run. "I was hoping there would be some intimidation coming into our place and since we were state ranked," said Tech coach Roland Lopez, "but that was simply not the case." Fox Tech ran their 1-2-2 zone and 6'1" Amaro Hernandez finished with 13 points, mostly from long range for Eagle Pass. "We knew they were a good perimeter shooting team," Lopez said. "They were double and triple teaming Robert Smith." Balanced scoring was the key for Fox Tech as 6'3" Charles Mack worked inside scoring 17 points, Dembo added 17 points and Elias 16. Dembo and Elias combined for 20 first half points. Charlie Scheussler finished as the top scorer for Eagle Pass with 14 points.

S.A. Highlands(33-4) traveled to Laredo to face Martin(26-10) on their home court. The Owls got out of town with a 52-37 win behind Thomas Carson's 12 points and 6'6" Paul Riley's 10 points for Highlands. Martin looked to Delfino Montemayor and Gerardo Ydrogo during the game. Both finished with 10 points.

Austin Johnston(24-11) saw their season come to an end in a 2nd round match-up against one of San Antonio's best teams, Roosevelt(27-5). The Rough Riders put an end to the Rams season 64-42. Johnston led early 32-27, but Roosevelt basically won the game in the 3rd quarter outscoring the Rams 22-7. Roosevelt shot 17 of 24 in the second half. Johnston countered with a dreadful performance hitting 2 of 23. Standout Ricky Green(24.0) only produced 15 points

on the night for Johnston. "We were real tight in the first half," Roosevelt coach Jerry Tyson said. "Ricky Green had us mesmerized. We were just standing around. We changed defenses, not letting Ricky roam around." The Rough Riders looked to Talbot with 12 points, Mills knocked down 15 points and Bauman added 16 points to seal the win. Roosevelt dominated the second half outscoring Johnston 37-10. "These kids aren't going to be denied," said Tyson.

After limited minutes against Dulles in Bi-District, Nuckols came to life for Austin Travis(30-7) in 2nd round action. The 6'5" junior finished with a season high of 35 points in the Rebels 56-48 victory over Converse Judson(20-9). At Straham Coliseum 2,500 fans looked on. Coach Wolf put into words as only he could, "that son of gun was incredible, he really played super." Nuckols scored 19 of the Rebels final 22 points in the game. "I think our defense did it for us down the stretch," Wolf added. Fred Battles paced Judson with 18 points and Deon Phelps added 14 points. Nuckols was able to hold Gerald Embry of Judson to only 2 points. Coach Jim Shuler of Judson commented after the game, "they were just so strong and so quick."

Corpus Christi Miller(22-9) got the number one seed and faced Mission(22-8) in the first round of the playoffs. Miller lost the coin flip and had to travel to Mission. (**Quick:** can you name the most famous person ever raised in Mission. Keep reading and I'll give you the answer.) Playing at Mission was a big disadvantage that C.C. Miller would have to overcome. Mission relied heavily on 6'3" David Gilpin(21.0). Gilpin was a very strong physical inside player who weighed 205 pounds. Coach Vance Heard of Miller said, "We hope to stop the big fellow. He maneuvers well and we don't want Perdue getting into foul trouble. It's going to be tough playing in their gym." Missions lineup around Gilpin was 6'0" Eddie Zamora(11.7), 5'10" Oscar Martinez, 5'9" Ralph Cantu(9.0/3 assists), 6'1" Mike Gonzalez along with 6th man 6'1" Scott Walsh. The team had very little depth.

The Buccaneers of Corpus Christi Miller got a tough win over Mission 39-36. The difference for the Bucs was their delay game and knocking down five foul shots late in the 4th quarter. Mission did a great job limiting Perdue's touches running a 3-2 zone defense. The 6'8" post did not get one shot in the second half. Mission's stud, Gilpin finished with 13 points and 6 rebounds. You say, "well Miller did a great job against Gilpin," but his whole team only score 36 points. Miller was forced to play slowdown and according to Coach Vance Heard his team did not even have a delay game, which led to his comment, "we never practiced that, it was the worse looking stall I've ever seen." David Anderson proved valuable for C.C. Miller with 10 points and Cook hit two critical foul shots to put the final nail in the coffin.

Corpus Christi Carroll(23-9) was more fortunate on the coin flip and won the toss meaning the game against Harlingen(30-4) would be played in Corpus at Ray High School. The Cardinals of Harlingen had a very balanced team, much like

C.C. Carroll. Coach Carl Owens of Harlingen said he would have to stop Carroll's fast break in order to win. "They have good speed and quickness and overall size. Comparing scores and common opponents, it's pretty even." Johnny Jackson and Jeff Ives were the leaders for the Cardinals.

C.C. Carroll Tigers handled Harlingen Cardinals 62-54 to advance. The Tigers trailed the entire first half because of the lack of rebounding. Coach Hrock was a little upset at halftime and got his point across. After trailing 35-27 at halftime the Tigers outscored the Cardinals 35-19 after intermission. Tim Williams finished with 15 points and Greg Bland led the scoring with 22 points. Harlingen was paced by Jeff Ives and Art Rangel both with 12 points and Johnny Jackson with 16 points.

San Antonio's two dominating teams were next for the two Corpus Christi entries. C.C. Miller played San Antonio Highlands and C.C. Carroll went up against San Antonio Fox Tech. It was a very daunting task for both teams.

C.C. Miller would have to handle Highlands press to have any type of chance. Miller had become completely unraveled in the two team's earlier meeting. The 68-50 victory by Highlands was impressive. "We were ahead by nine points at one time and they started pressing," said Miller coach Vance Heard. "Corpus Christi Ray played them within 2 points. They can be handled. Since they beat us and are ranked #7 in the state, they may be pretty cocky." Heard continued saying, "we enjoy playing those run and gun types, we don't like those slowdown games."

S.A. Highlands counted on four double digit scorers. 6'6" Paul Riley(11.0), 6'4" Thomas Carson(11.0), 6'3" Garland McPherson(11.0) and 6'1" Edward Nious(11.0).

6'8" Vernon Perdue of C.C. Miller limited the inside game of Highlands, which kept the Bucs in the contest. Had the Miller been able to hit better than 20% from the foul line they could have very well won. But it was not to be as Highlands advanced 42-40 over C.C. Miller. Coach John Kemmerzehl was not happy with his team's performance. "We got lazy, that's all there is to it, we played with very little enthusiasm. We were dead." The Highlands coach continued saying, "they were a team very much under control, it was definitely a different ball club than the first time we faced them."

C.C. Miller was down only 24-20 at halftime and coach Vance Heard felt his team had a good chance to pull out the victory. The Bucs even outrebounded Highlands 25-20. 6'4" Thomas Carson and 6'6" Paul Riley got their game together late scoring a combined nine points in the 4th quarter. 6'1" Edward Nious kept Highlands on target with his outside shooting scoring 16 points. Corpus Christi Miller finished the season at 23-10. The Bucs hit only 2 of 10 from the foul line and Highlands shot 6 of 11. Michael Howze was the only C.C. Miller player in double figures with 11 points.

S.A. Fox Tech continued their journey in the playoffs with a convincing 62-45 victory over Corpus Christi Carroll. Coach Jay Hroch said after the loss, "we got the ball where we needed it- inside- but I think their size intimidated us. We'd miss a lay-up and then they'd go down and dunk it."

"We made the decision to pack it inside because they were hurting us there," said Fox Tech coach Roland Lopez. "Carroll started to run more and that got us running and into up tempo, which we enjoyed playing. I don't think they were prepared for us to run on them." Andre Elias was key in Fox Tech's success in the 2nd half with his penetration and kicking to the open player. "Elias penetration helped them. In the 3rd quarter if he didn't shoot, he passed off. That was the difference," Hroch said. "They started to intimidate us, especially when they blocked a couple of shots early," Hroch said.

Fennis Dembo showed why he was considered one of the top guards in San Antonio scoring 20 points. Elias was close behind adding 14 points and 6'6" Robert Smith finished with 14 points. These three were such a tough combination, maybe the best in the state on one team. Tech only led 28-24 at halftime, but exploded in the 2nd half outscoring Carroll 34-21. Greg Bland was the leading scorer for the Bucs with 15 points. C.C. Carroll finished the season at 24-10.

(Trivia answer – Tom Landry is from Mission and went on to play at the University of Texas and later the New York Giants)

*You like Trivia, can you name the player from the class of '84 that played in Texas that graced the 1988, "Sports Illustrated College Basketball Pre-season Issue."

Regionals

If you ever played sports or coached at a high level you know the anticipation and the excitement of making it to regionals. This is what high school basketball is all about. Contrasting styles, scouting, skills, talent, and mental toughness all coming together is a 32-minute game. Greatness!

At the U.T.S.A. Convocation Center, Austin Travis(30-7), the 26-5A champion met the 29-5A runner-up, San Antonio Fox Tech(33-5) at 6:00 P.M. San Antonio Highlands faced San Antonio Roosevelt in the night cap at 8:00 P.M. The quotable B.J. Wolf of Austin Travis commented, "one of the big things in the playoffs is for a team to be hot, to not be tired of playing basketball, I ought to be tired. I'm 50 years old, but I'm not tired. I love it."

Coach Jerry Tyson of Roosevelt said, "It's really going to be a tight battle that could see any one of the four going to the state tournament. You know, if you think about it, us and Travis are the dark horses here," Tyson continued, "Highlands and Fox Tech are ranked teams and have gotten the press all year long, we haven't. No one really expects us to pull it out." Roosevelt's two leading scorers were Chuck Bowman(13.0) and Ed Mills(12.0). The Rough Riders played nine players with a great deal of depth. Coach John Kemmerzehl of Highlands commented on Roosevelt saying, "they're a well-coached team, we beat them last

time we played by five points and I think we can to it again. With the personnel we've got, I don't think we can lose," Kemmerzehl said. S.A. Highlands would be making their first trip to regionals since 1975.

S.A. Fox Tech's attack centered around 6'4" Fennis Dembo(18.7/10.0). "He's one of the better guards in the state," coach Roland Lopez said. "We've run across some that are just as good as he is but none that are better." Joining Dembo in the starting lineup for Fox Tech were 6'6" Robert Smith(13.5), 6'2" Charles Mack, 5'11" Andre Elias(10.2) and 6'3" Javan Blye. Austin Travis relied heavily on the strong inside game centering around 6'5" Carl Nuckols. "Our scouting report says Nuckols is probably the best inside player we've faced all year," Lopez said. "I think our defense will start there and build from that point." The rest of the Rebel's lineup was made up of 6'4" Cedric Washington, 5'9" Fred Satterwhite, 6'1" Anthony Smith and 6'4" Rich Hasbrouck.

5'10" Andre Elias and 6'4" Fennis Dembo guided the Fox Tech attack against Austin Travis(30-8), the result of which was a 55-44 victory for the Buffaloes. Austin Travis tasted defeat for second year in a row in the regional semi-finals. Previously Travis had lost to S.A. Sam Houston in their 1983 campaign. Dembo, who usually plays outside moved to the interior and wreaked havoc on the inside game of Travis. Dembo finished with 12 points and five blocked shots. "I think Dembo may have surprised them. I don't think they thought he could block shots like that," coach Lopez said. "Instead of playing him out on the point on defense, we moved him underneath in our zone. Our game plan was to shut them down inside." Dembo had a great deal with Carl Nuckels scoring only 13 points.

Elias put on an impressive show finishing with 26 points. Coach B. J. Wolf commented, "Elias was incredible, we just couldn't stop that son of a gun." Wolf said, "we got behind too much in the 1st half, ten points is just too much against that team." Coach B.J. Wolf of Travis said he heard about Elias' abilities before the game. "We didn't know about him until before the game, I talked to a couple of people and they told me that with him their transition game would kill us. With him out of there, I thought we could have beat them."

In the 3rd quarter with Dembo and Elias on the bench, Travis was able to get back into the game. The Rebels overcame a 13-point disadvantage and was only down by four with 7:30 remaining in the game. Elias and Robert Smith combined to score the next 11 points for Tech and extended the lead to 49-39. Dembo pushed the lead to 55-39 with a slam dunk.

Fox Tech finished with three players in double figures with 6'6" Robert Smith putting up 13 points. Austin Travis was only able to get one player in double figures and that was Nuckols who finished with 13 points, before he went to the bench on fouls. "It took a lot out of us when we came back," said Nuckols. "It's hard to come back all the way when they have such a big lead." The Rebels could

only manage to hit 18 of 54 from the floor. Travis was held 16 points under their season average of 60 points per game.

San Antonio Highlands did not break their date with Fox Tech in the regional finals. The Owls defeated a strong San Antonio Roosevelt in the regional semi-finals 65-55. Thomas Carson paced with the Owls into their sixth game against their District rival. Going into the 4th quarter, Highlands had a comfortable 51-38 lead only to watch it fade away with turnovers and poor foul shooting. Point guard, Jeff Medina, left the game in the first quarter for the Owls with a season ending ankle injury. Medina was the key ball-handler for coach John Kemmerzehl. The Rough Riders were able to tie the score with only 2:50 remaining. With the ball and a tied score, Roosevelt had an opportunity but failed to capitalize. Coach Tyson of Roosevelt summed up the team's attitude, "I felt like if we could have gotten the lead we could have won." The Owls took a 59-54 advantage over Roosevelt with 1:00 remaining and went on to win. Carson finished with 18 points for Highlands, while Butcher led the Rough Riders with 16 points. Roosevelt's 14 games winning streak came to an end. Both teams struggled mightily from the foul line. Roosevelt was 7 of 17 and Highlands finished 15 of 25.

The stage was set for the sixth and final meeting for the right to go to Austin between S.A. Highlands and S.A. Fox Tech. This was one of the most historical rivalries the Alamo City has ever seen in one season. The Owls had a three game to two-edge coming into the regional finals. Highlands wins had been by margins of 3, 1, and 3 points. Tech's victories were much more lopsided at 13 and 18 points. Who had the advantaging coming into the contest? The game had to be a toss-up, but if anybody had the edge you would have to say Fox Tech. If Tech could stay out of foul trouble the Owls would have a tough time winning.

Highlands took a 28-18 lead at halftime and looked to be in control only to disappear in the second half, as they were outscored 34-18 by Fox Tech. The Buffaloes came away with a 52-46 victory to advance to state for the first time since 1978. One of the reasons Tech trailed at halftime was Elias missed the 2nd quarter due to foul trouble. "I didn't think I was ever going to get back into the game," Elias said. The Buffaloes big turnaround happened with Dembo on the bench in the 3rd quarter. The Buffaloes scoring break down was as expected. Andre Elias finished with 14 points, Robert Smith had 15 points and Dembo contributed 13. For the Owls, who finished the season at 35-5, Garland McPherson had 14 points and Thomas Carson kicked in 11 points.

(Trivia answer – Fennis Dembo of Wyoming graced the Sports Illustrated cover.)

*I know that wasn't very challenging, next question: Three players from Texas were drafted in the 2nd round of the 1988 Draft, Mike Williams and Fennis Dembo. Can you name the third? Hint-the player actually graduated from the class of 1985 and played at a private school. His son had a much more impressive NBA career than he did.

Dembo made his presence felt with less than a minute remaining. The talented senior made a critical steal and finished with a three-point play to give

Tech a 52-44 advantage. With only 11 seconds remaining the game was over. “Somebody has to win and somebody has to lose. It just so happened to be our turn,” Kemmerzehl said. “We didn’t run our offense like it should be. We quit doing the things that got us here. I have to give Tech all the credit in the world though, because they came back.”

The All-City 1st Team by the San Antonio Light was made up of 6’4” Fennis Dembo(18.7/10.0) from Fox Tech, 5’11” Quinten Miles(17.0) from S.A. Holmes, 6’6” Robert Smith(13.5) Fox Tech, 6’5” Pat Sheridan(20.3) of S.A. Central Catholic, and 6’6” Pat Riley(9.0) of S.A. Highlands: Members of the 2nd team were Deon Phelps from Converse Judson, Edward Nious from S.A. Highlands, Chuck Bauman of S.A. Roosevelt, 6’5” Paul Meyer from S.A. Churchill, and Garland McPherson from S.A. Highlands. Named Honorable Mention- Tim Bozarth from S.A. Roosevelt, Scott Ankrom from S.A. Jay, Kyle Smith of S.A. Churchill, James Roberson from S.A. Jefferson, Ed Mills of S.A. Roosevelt, Craig Bellinger from S.A. East Central. John Kemmerzehl of Highlands beat out Roland Lopez of Fox Tech by one vote for Coach of the Year.

State Tournament

Bryan	29-6	#10	69.1-57.7	+11.4
Ft. Worth Dunbar	38-0	#1	69.2-58.7	+24.6
Spring Branch Memorial	30-7		54.6-46.9	+ 7.7
S. A. Fox Tech	33-5	#6	61.6-44.3	+17.3

Top Five Players at the State Tournament 5-A

6’1”	Darrell Mitchell	Bryan
5’11”	Kevin Bradsher	Bryan
6’4”	Fennis Dembo	S.A. Fox Tech
6’7”	Andy Gilchrist	S.B. Memorial
6’6”	Rodney Washington	Ft. Worth Dunbar

Fox Tech was making their second trip to Austin having lost in overtime to Houston Wheatley by one point in 1978. That squad surprised everybody advancing to state, but the 1984 verse was one of the region IV favorites. “I definitely think we’re capable of playing with any of the three teams,” coach Roland Lopez said. Lopez knew his basketball as a 23-year veteran. After scouting Fox Tech, coach Coleman of Memorial was not surprised his team would be at a disadvantage. “We’ve learned to expect such facts, so we will just go play Memorial-style basketball and see what happens.”

The Mustangs had such a strong basketball tradition dating all the way back to the 1960s. In 1980 Memorial finished 27-7 and was in a three-way tie for first place in District. In 1981 they finished 32-6, ranked #14 in my final rankings and lost in the first round of the playoffs. The 1982 team were regional finalist and one of the strongest Memorial teams in years. The Mustangs finished 36-5 and ranked #5 in my final state rankings. The 1983 Memorial finished #28 and 26-7 on the season losing in Bi-District. So, you can see Memorial would not be in awe of the Fox Tech team. Any team that wins the Houston region definitely has game.

For the legend, Don Coleman, it was his sixth trip to Austin. As a player he made the trip in 1951 at Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson. As a head coach in 1960 at

Aldine High. At Memorial, he made trips in 1966, 1967 and 1969. The Mustangs of Memorial played a slow methodical game centered around the inside game of 6'7" Andy Gilchrist. The rest of the line-up was made up of 6'3" Elvin Hayes Jr., 6'0" David Hoisington, 6'3" Mark Hendry, 6'0" Brian Fairchild and 6'4" Mark Hendry. "Our ability to withstand the pressing quickness of the teams we've faced in the playoffs has been a key to our success," Coleman said. Fox Tech relied heavily on the big three, 6'6" Charles Smith, 6'4" Fennis Dembo and 5'10" Andre Elias. 6'3" Javon Blye and 6'3" Charles Mack completed the starting line-up. Dembo may have very well been the best player in the state in 1984. His college career would definitely indicate that he was.

Things just did not go well for the Buffaloes against Memorial. The only luck they had was bad luck. Dembo and Elias were in foul trouble and fouled out late. Charles Smith was carried off on a stretcher in the 3rd quarter, only to return with 2:30 left, but was ineffective. "When you play somebody that you feel you're a better ballclub than and then see it go down the drain, it's a hard one to take," Fox Tech's Roland Lopez said. "When you get this close and we were very confident all through the game, it's hard to take."

Even with all the adversity, Fox Tech and Memorial were tied with 58 seconds remaining. Memorial was in familiar territory, you might say their comfort zone. They relished close games, which were won on one or two critical possessions. "We were going for the last shot but it turned out we didn't have to because we went to the free-throw line four times in the finals six seconds and made them all," Coleman said. Memorial had come from behind once again to win 42-38.

Fox Tech held two eight-point leads in the 3rd quarter and looked to have things under control. Foul trouble was becoming a problem for the Buffaloes as they entered the fourth quarter leading 30-28.

Coach Coleman was very happy about his team's success following the game, "it's just unbelievable how this team has come from behind in all five of our playoff games this year. I've never had a team like this. They just won't accept defeat. They do what it takes to win. The key to the Fox Tech game- and believe me they had some good players- was our pressure defense in the second half."

Gilchrist was his usual self, dominating inside with 26 points on 7 of 15 from the floor and 12 of 17 from the foul line with 9 rebounds. Hoisington added 12 points, mostly from the perimeter. Only three Mustangs scored in the game. "We crowded Gilchrist as much as possible," said Lopez. "But when Hoisington and Fairchild starting hitting from the outside, we had to extend out and that opened up some things in the middle for Gilchrist." As a team, the Mustangs were 14 of 20 from the foul line and Memorial was able to control the pace of the game. The Buffaloes stayed in their 1-2-2 zone and never pressed. The Buffaloes out rebounded Memorial 38 to 22 on the boards with Dembo leading the way with 9

rebounds. Dembo finished with only 13 points before fouling out along with Elias, who left the game with foul trouble. Elias scored 12 points for Tech and Smith could only manage 9 points. "We went with too much one on one. We got out our patterned offense and we didn't use Smith as much as we should have," Lopez said. Memorial advanced to the state finals with the lowest point differential since Lufkin at +7.9 in 1979. The Mustangs margin was only +7.7. Attendance for the semi-final game stood at 8,100.

Bryan came into their semi-final game against Dunbar as the defending state champions. You would have thought they would have received more respect. I had seen both teams on several occasions and felt the game was a toss-up. Bryan had very few weaknesses that you could exploit. And that is not to say I felt Dunbar was going to lose, but rather that a lot of people were overlooking the Vikings. I was confident it would be close game and was the real state championship game. Playing coach Brown in a one game playoff just was not a good situation for any opponent. The team was so small overall with tremendous leaping ability. They presented match-up nightmares. Everybody on the team was very adept at handling the ball. They had a very tenacious press and made few turnovers and were extremely disciplined in the late stages of ball-games. The bench was very short and the starters all ran cross-country. They were a well-conditioned group. And above all they were money on the foul-line down the stretch. I felt Darrell Mitchell was one of the best all-around players in the state and his side kick, Kevin Bradsher, was outstanding at so many fazes of the game. You would have thought that Dunbar would have a big advantage on the glass, but that was not the case with the leapers Brown had assembled.

Most people looked at the numbers, which indicated Dunbar had to be heavy favorites. Dunbar beat most opponents before they tipoff, much like the old U.C.L.A. teams. (I know I'm dating myself) What you had to realize was Dunbar played very few close games, while Bryan made a living winning close games. All the pressure having never won a state title, and being undefeated played to Bryan advantage. Bryan did not have any pressure, they were expected to lose. Down the stretch that would be the difference. In a conversation with a close friend of mine, I commented, "if Bryan has the lead late, it's over." Bryan started three players under 6'0" tall. The other two were 6'1" All-State guard, Darrell Mitchell(19.3/8.0) and 6'5" junior, Kenny Keller(10.0/8.0). 5'4" Dennis Rhodes, 5'11" Gary Caldwell and 5'11" Kevin Bradsher(15.3) completed Coach Brown's starting group. Coming off the short bench were 5'11" Houston Williams, 6'2" Stanley Mitchell and 5'11" Derrick Wiggins.

In discussing Dunbar, coach Brown said, "they're just a great overall team from what I've gathered. We know they are undefeated and awesome. We just want to go down there and play the best game we can. If we do that we'll be happy with whatever the outcome is."

Coach Hughes of Dunbar addressed the pressure of being undefeated, "I know we haven't won the championship, but to me that isn't the point. What we've done here is build the most consistently tough program in the state. Where are the Abilene's and Lufkin's or even the Wheatley's and Kashmere's? We've been in the playoffs nine straight years and going to Austin for the 5th time, and that's what you strive for, "consistency." How many titles you win is icing on the cake, the thing you try to do is be the team to beat every year. I don't think there's a school in Texas that can say they've even come close to our success, overall." Wow, a lot of truth in Hughes words.

Hughes was very high on his 1984 version of the Wildcats, and well he should have been at 38-0. "This one may be the best team. We have tremendous depth, leadership, its veteran team, close knit and has great chemistry. They do what they're told, but they have fun."

Dunbar and Bryan did not play the up and down high scoring affair that was anticipated. In front of 14,100 fans at the Drum the game went right down to the last second. With 2:39 remaining in the game, Rodney Washington fouled out for Dunbar. The Wildcats took the lead at the 1:02 mark 46-45 after Linzie Bogan of Dunbar hit one of two free throws. With only 32 seconds remaining, Darrell Mitchell went to the line and sunk two foul shots to give his team a 47-46 advantage. Coach Hughes took a time out and with 26 seconds left went for the final shot. With only seven seconds left Jeffrey Perkins dumped the ball inside to James Montgomery, who missed the lay-up, which was tipped by Bogan and the ball rimmed out to Mitchell for the rebound. Bogan tied up Mitchell as the clock ran out.

Dunbar's best season ever had come to an end at 38-1 and state semi-finalist. "We just mistaked ourselves out of a possible state championship," Coach Hughes said. "We beat ourselves with missed layups, turnovers, missed defensive assignments," Hughes continued. Dunbar was out rebounded by the smaller team 37-34 and only shot 33% from the floor. Bryan was 11-19 from the foul line, while Dunbar could only manage 4 of 9. Washington and Perkins kept the Wildcats in the game with 14 points apiece. Mitchell was the leader for Bryan with 18 points.

Coach Larry Brown said, "but we came in here thinking we could do this. Their undefeated record and #1 ranking in the state and #7 nationally helped us. The last thing we wrote on the board before we went out on the court was "38-1".

Hughes reflected on his incredible season. Much as Houston Madison did in 1979 in their semi-final loss to Lufkin, the pressure is tremendous coming into play as an undefeated team. How much of that was a factor will never be known. Hughes said, "we're gonna keep going back till we win the damn thing. We didn't play loose, we didn't play our game." Hughes continued saying, "when you miss layups the way we did, it doesn't really matter what else we did. We missed enough of them to win by 20 points. But we haven't played well since the end of

the district. I've been worried about the way we were playing. It's always disappointing to lose, but there's no way I can complain about the season. It was a great year," Hughes shared.

In discussing the 1984 Wildcats with Coach Hughes in my interview in 2006, he explained the decline near the end of the season. "That was a great team. I tell you what happened with them is after we defeated Verbum Dei at the Lions Club tournament, we started playing not to lose. We had them down 50-14 at halftime and they were one of the top teams in the country. Nobody gave us a chance against Verbum Dei. When we hit the playoffs, we just began to play careful. We weren't playing well at all. The Verbum Dei game was probably the worst thing that could have happened to those kids. It put too much pressure on them. We should have finished 40-0."

Bryan came into the title game with a chance to be the first repeat champion since 1969 and Houston Wheatley. The Vikings two returning starters, Darrell Mitchell and Kevin Bradsher were the catalyst for coach Larry Brown. Memorial offense centered around the inside game of Gilchrist.

The Mustangs dominated early with their patient offense leading at halftime 25-20. In the second half, Bryan finally took the lead and began pushing the tempo. "Our press forced them to pick up the tempo," Brown said. Going in, I thought the final score had to be in the 60s for us to win." Darrell Mitchell and Kevin Bradsher combined for 40 points and 15 rebounds in Bryan's 68-56 victory over the Mustangs. Memorial's attack was not conducive to overcoming double digit numbers. 6'7" Andy Gilchrist of Memorial was dominating inside with 31 points and 10 rebounds. The Frank Erwin Center attendance was set at 11,800.

"Their press is what hurt us, no question," Memorial coach Don Coleman said. "They were able to pick up the tempo of the game, and they shot well." Bryan hit 20 of 25 foul shots in the second half to seal the victory. Memorial only had one foul shot opportunity in the second half. For the game the Vikings had 32 foul shots and Memorial only had six. "If we would have hit those few outside jump shots it really would have helped us," said guard Brock Fairchild. "They sagged more on Andy." Coach Brown of Bryan explained, "we tried to front him, side-front him, match-up with him, we just couldn't stop him. I thought he would never miss." Gilchrist was 15 of 23 from the foul line finishing with 31 points. Bradsher of Bryan scored 13 points of his 18 total points in the second half. Mark Hendry was the only other Mustangs in double figures with 10 points. Mitchell finished with 23 points.

As the years have went by the Bryan accomplishment have become more and more incredible. In the 90s, Dallas Kimball pulled off the back to back title runs, Willowridge at the turn of the century, Flower Mound Marcus in 2011 and 2012. So, over the last 34 seasons only four schools have been able to accomplish this feat. The other three schools were paced by future N.B.A. players, Jeryl Sasser,

T.J. Ford and Marcus Smart. The Vikings accomplished the feat with no such super stars, although you'd be hard pressed to tell coach Brown that Mitchell and Bradsher weren't super stars.

(Trivia answer – 7'1" Tito Horford of Houston Marian, his son is Al Horford of the Atlanta Falcons and Celtics)

State Record Holder- Micheal Williams Interview:

High School basketball has so many memorable moments and games, but none more than the 1984 playoff game between Conroe and Dallas Carter. Micheal Williams was a 6'1" guard and leading scorer for the Carter Cowboys. When the smoke cleared Williams had put up a state playoff record 61-points. In a losing effort, Micheal had scored from every conceivable range and angle. The game took place in a "win or go home" type environment at McLennan Junior College in Waco. It's called "sudden death" in today's terminology. The record still stands and will always remain in the record books because at the time there was no three-point shot. "Coach Gillum told me at halftime to stop passing the ball so much if we wanted to win," Micheal said. "He told the players to start getting me the ball because we were already down by 20 at halftime, and I was thinking I was shooting too much. I followed coach Gillum's instructions." Williams had the ability to shoot from range and finish at the basket. These skills would serve him well at Baylor and in the N.B.A.

Williams was named to the 17-man Baylor All-Centennial Basketball Team announced in 2006. In 1987 and 1988, Williams was named first-team All-SWC, and received honorable mention All-American honors. On his way to leading Baylor to an NCAA Tournament appearance, Williams earned SWC Tournament Most Outstanding Player honors at the 1988 Classic. On Baylor's all-time lists, Williams ranks third in points scored, first in career steals and second in career assists.

Micheal discussed his colorful coach at Carter, Alex Gillum. "Coach gave me the confidence to be aggressive and shoot the ball," Micheal said. "I remember he took me out one time for passing the ball too much. My teammates were unable to finish at the basket." Coach Gillum told me to know my personal. Micheal sat for the 2nd half and the message was clear. Williams became one of the most prolific scorers in Dallas High School basketball history averaging 30.9 points his senior year with the Cowboys.

On his recruiting journey following High School, Micheal was looked at by a number of schools. Coach Jim Haller of Baylor had a tremendous recruiting class and told Williams he would see playing time as a freshman. "Waco was close to home and I liked the University," Williams said. Micheal was named one of the top freshmen in the country following his first season with the Bears. Then coach Haller was released from Baylor. Williams had a tough decision about whether he should continue to play for the Bears or transfer. "I worked out with Terry Teagle and he encouraged me to stay in Waco and finish out my career," Micheal explained. Two schools that really pursued Micheal were Marquette and Oklahoma. "It was a tough decision because both schools had a lot of talent and O.U. went to the championship game my senior year." Williams strong religious background also played a role in staying with the Bears.

Following college, Micheal pursued the N.B.A. and his professional career. "I went to all the pre-camps and played against the best, I was confident in my ability," Williams said. The Chicago Bulls showed more interest than anybody and Micheal felt if he went in

the first round it would be with the Bulls. Chicago proceeded to draft Will Perdue with their first pick. Williams fell late into the 2nd round to the Pistons and was selected with the overall 48th pick. Interestingly, Steve Kerr went two picks later to the Phoenix Suns. "I couldn't believe the competition with the Pistons with Vinnie Johnson, Isiah Thomas and Joe Dumars, I knew it would be tough," Micheal continued. "It was nice because Fennis had also gotten drafted by Detroit and we were friends from our college days. We had both been recruited by New Mexico State." Both Fennis and Micheal made the cut and Detroit won the N.B.A. title. "Yes, I got a ring my first season," Williams said. Early in the season he was in the rotation but later did not get major minutes. He was traded the following season to the Suns and later cut by the Mavericks. The Indiana Pacers put Micheal in the line-up and his career blossomed. Later with the Minnesota Timberwolves, Williams broke Larry Bird's N.B.A. record of consecutive foul shots with 97 in a row during the 1993 and 1994 seasons. An indication of the level Williams played at in the association, he was named to the N.B.A. All-Defensive team in 1992 with the Pacers. Other players named to the squad were Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Dennis Rodman, John Stockton and Patrick Ewing. This placed Williams in elite company with only ten players being named. Offensive is what Williams was known for in high school, but at the highest levels of the basketball world, defensive is what got him minutes.

Williams was invited to the Olympic trials in 1988 in Colorado. John Thompson of Georgetown was the coach and Micheal made it to the second cut. Fennis Dembo, Vernon Maxwell and Rod Strickland were some of the other players that were released. The guards on the squad were Mitch Richmond, Bimbo Coles, Hersey Hawkins, Jeff Granger and Charles Smith of Georgetown. Smith went undrafted and had a limited career in the N.B.A., but was one of Thompson's players at Georgetown.

Micheal presently lives in Dallas and owns his own Construction Company. "I learned the business in the off season in Minneapolis while playing with the Timberwolves." Williams credited his strong father for keeping him grounded through all of his success and struggles. "I was so lucky to have my father," Micheal said.

As a spectator, what I remember most about Micheal Williams's playing days at Carter were his "red" basketball shoes. "The Kangaroos," Micheal said. The entire team wore the red shoes. We both agreed Gillum probably got a kick-back from somebody and we both laughed knowing it was probably the truth. Coach Gillum was a mover and a shaker.

When I asked Micheal about where he wanted to play coming out of high school he said, "Arkansas." But he was never contacted by the Razorbacks. I questioned Williams about some of the great talents he faced during his playing days. He explained Marvin Williams of Kimball and Kato Armstrong were two of the best he faced. The player that impressed him the most growing up in Dallas was Carl Wright of Dallas Roosevelt. "He was ahead of everybody, he'd come down and shoot the ball with his left hand and switch to right hand the next time down, he was the best. If he hadn't run around with the wrong crowd he would have been something."

I have to take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of the greats of Texas High School basketball, **Alton Ballard**. Ballard never scored a point, but was a true **TEXAS LEGEND**. He was the executive director of the TABC from the late 1970s until his death in

2002. It was not unusual for Ballard to read 40 newspapers a day and write his bi-weekly newsletter for coaches around the state. He put together the state rankings for the TABC for years and would usually answer as many as 30 phone calls every Saturday morning getting state results.

Ballard was a teacher at Midway High School in Waco and graduated from Gatesville High School in 1963. In 1984 for example, he was sending out 1800 newsletters every two weeks. Ballard also took over the TABC finances till his death. He began as a volunteer for years and eventually was receiving a salary. "It gives me a sense of fulfillment and I enjoy the fellowship." Ballard said. Ballard received his B.S. and M.S. from Baylor University. He and his wife, Sing Le, attended the Parkview Baptist Church in Waco.

Alton Ballard was one of the biggest contributors to the growth of high school basketball in Texas and the TABC. I remember vividly waiting for my newsletter from Alton and dissecting the results and rankings from all over the state. Before the internet and the mass communications available today, Alton Ballard was the man.

1984 State Rankings AAAAA TABC {End of the Regular Season}:

1. Ft. Worth Dunbar	33-0	6'6" Rodney Washington, 6'3" Linzie Bogan
2. Houston Madison	28-2	6'3" Sean Gay, 6'4" Patrick Cocklin
3. Dallas Kimball	29-4	6'5" Marvin Washington, 5'10" K. Willingham
4. Dallas South Oak Cliff	25-6	6'3" Rodney Samuelli, 5'8" Deon Hunter
5. Conroe	27-4	6'3" Rod Jacques, 6'4" Maurice Wright
6. S.A. Fox Tech	31-4	6'4" Fennis Dembo, 6'6" Charles Smith
7. Duncanville	28-2	6'0" Darrin Talley, Keith Smith
8. S.A. Highlands	31-4	6'6" Paul Riley, Ed Nious
9. Houston Milby	31-4	6'3" Rodney Branch, 6'5" Michael Ligons
10. Bryan	23-8	6'2" Darrell Mitchell, 6'0" Kevin Bradsher

All-State Team: As usual the **Sports Writers of Texas** did an outstanding job naming the **1st Team**, 6'1" Michael Williams(30.9), Dallas Carter; 6'0" Kevin Bradsher, Bryan; 6'6" Rodney Washington(14.0), Ft. Worth Dunbar; 6'2" Darrell Mitchell(19.1/9.0), Bryan; 6'7" Andy Gilchrist, Spring Branch Memorial; **2nd Team**, 6'4" Fennis Dembo(18.0), SA Fox Tech; 6'3" Eric Rhodes, Beaumont Westbrook; 6'6" Tom Grant(28.5), Aldine Nimitz; Troy Fry of Amarillo Caprock; 6'8" Frank Williams(18.0), Dallas Samuel; **3rd Team**, 5'6" Fred Hamilton, Ft. Worth Dunbar; 6'5" Greg Crowe, South Garland; 6'3" Ronnie Williams(18.0), Wichita Falls Rider, 6'8" Glenn Puddy Clear Lake; Ronnie James, Alice:

The **Texas Association of Basketball Coaches: 1st Team**-6'6" Rodney Washington(14.0), Ft. Worth Dunbar; 6'7" Norman Anderson(17.0), Ft. Worth Southwest; 6'8" Frank Williams(18.0), Dallas Samuel; 6'4" Fennis Dembo(18.0), S.A. Fox Tech; 6'2" Darrell Mitchell(19.1), Bryan; **2nd Team**-6'7" Andy Gilchrist, Spring Branch Memorial; Paul Riley, S.A. Highlands; Eric Rhodes, Beaumont Westbrook; 6'8" Glenn Puddy, Clear Lake; 6'1" Michael Williams(30.9), Dallas Carter; **3rd Team**-6'5" Marvin Washington(13.0), Dallas Kimball; 6'5" Chris Morris, Houston Sam Houston; 6'4" Robert McLemore(19.7), Houston Austin; Ricky Green, Austin Johnston; 6'3" Ronnie Williams(18.0), Wichita Falls Rider:

T.A.B.C. All-Star Game- Tom Grant, Aldine Nimitz; Darrell Mitchell, Bryan; Robert McLemore, Houston Austin; Ricky Green, Austin Johnston; Carl Jackson, Bay City; Kevin Bush, Pt. Arthur Lincoln; Fennis Dembo, S.A. Fox Tech; Glenn Puddy, Clear Lake; Roger Durden, Flour Bluff; Eric Rhodes, Beaumont Westbrook; Chris Hall, Cleburne; Todd

Alexander, Waxahachie; Coyle Winborn, Pampa; Michael Williams, Dallas Carter; Frank Williams, Dallas Samuel; Norman Anderson, Ft. Worth Southwest; Dennis Smith, Waco Midway; Ronnie Williams, Wichita Falls Rider; Rodney Washington, Ft. Worth Dunbar; Greg Crowe, South Garland:

Recruits: The U.I.L. rules prohibiting players from participating in Summer Leagues and Camps unlike the rest of the country. The rule continued to limit the Texas players and their opportunities. The Knoxville News-Sentinel listed the top 100 players in the country, and as you might expect Texas was not well represented. 6'8" **Norman Anderson**(17.0) of Ft. Worth Southwest was the top rated player from Texas at #40. Anderson signed with hometown T.C.U. He made only one visit on the recruiting trail and that was to Oklahoma. Anderson played four years with the Horn Frogs and started his senior year at T.C.U. averaging 13.1/7.1 pre-game. 5'11" **Todd Alexander**(21.0) of Waxahachie was next on the list at #89 for Knoxville News. Alexander signed with Minnesota and later transferred to SMU. Other schools listed on Alexander's interest were Texas, S.M.U. and Baylor. According to his coach, John Nickols, Minnesota got him because of their early start and he felt comfortable with their program. Alexander was a four-year starter for the Indians and played in the state tournament three straight seasons. His senior year, Waxahachie was the top ranked class 4-A team in the state only to lose to Waco Jefferson-Moore in a zone playoff. His coach, John Nickols had high praise for Alexander. "He's multi-talented, a good shooter, quick and he does three things a lot of star-type players don't understand. He plays hard in practice, hard on defense and he understands that it is a team game." Against Rockwall in District action, Alexander finished with 35 points, 12 assists, 10 rebounds and 9 steals. He developed his skills at Red Bird Recreation Center against the best in Dallas. "I had one recruiter tell me Todd was the best high school guard he had seen in the last couple of years," Nickols said. 6'1" **Michael Williams**(30.9) of Dallas Carter just made the Knoxville top 100 at #99. He was a real sleeper signing with Baylor late over New Mexico State. Williams said, "I wanted a good big man to come with me, either Terry or Frank. So, Frank's coming with me and we're going to be roommates. Williams had an outstanding career at Baylor and later the N.B.A. He averaged 3.0 steals per game at Baylor. Truly one of the best guards to ever come out of the state of Texas. Most publications viewed 6'7" **Coyle Winborn**(20.9) Pampa as the state's top recruit. Winborn signed with SMU after considering Rice and Duke. Winborn played four seasons with the Mustangs. 6'8" 265, **James Gulley**(26.0/14.0) from Class 3-A Newton(26-8) was #3 in the Dallas Morning News Poll. Coach Pat Foster of the Cardinals was ecstatic with the signing Newton's powerful post. After Gulley's 22 points, 9 rebound performance in the TABC All-Star game in Waco, his stock was rising fast. "This definitely makes it a great year," Coach Foster said. The Cardinals beat out Louisiana Tech, Texas A&M, Louisiana Tech, UTEP and U.T. San Antonio for his signature. Commenting on the 3-A player

of the Year, Foster said, "He does everything pretty well, and there's no reason to suspect he won't get better and better because of the competition. He's got good touch, catches the ball, runs well and is a good jumper. To say I'm excited is putting it mildly," Foster said. "I'll tell you this, he's the most massive human being I've ever been around. But he's not fat." Gulley had an outstanding career with the Cardinals being named "Newcomer of the Year" as a freshmen and All-Southland Conference 1st team as a senior, averaging a double-double. Gulley was so typical of young men moving to the next level. After finishing as Lamar's 3rd all-time leading scorer and rebounder he was labeled a disappointment by his coaches. He had so much potential, NBA potential. Super Scout Marty Blake of NBA fame said about Gulley, "he better get in shape pretty quick, otherwise he's going to blow an opportunity to make a lot of money." Gulley was labeled as someone, "who was coasting." He was invited to the Portsmouth, Va. for the second echelon NBA prospects. Gulley left everyone with the impressive of being overweight and out of shape. Even with his poor performance he was still invited to the instructional camp in Chicago for the top 50 prospects. Needless to say, he was not drafted. 6'6" **Jules Wells**(14.0/9.0/3 blocks) of Beaumont Charlton Pollard received a lot of attention especially from Don Haskins of U.T.E.P. and Pat Foster of Lamar. Wells was a tremendous leaper and prospect. "I think Jules has tremendous potential," Foster explained. Wells had a nice career with the Cardinals. 6'6" **Tom Grant**(27.5), Aldine Nimitz went to Houston after looking at Lamar and Southern Alabama. Grant played four years at Houston and averaged 7.4 points his senior year. Grant was considered by many the top player coming out of Houston. 6'8" **Frank Williams**(18.0/12.0) of Dallas Samuel signed with Baylor and looked at SMU, Texas and Lamar. Oklahoma really came on strong late in an attempt to get Williams services. Coach Haller of Baylor commented on signed two of Dallas school boy talents. "We are elated to have Frank and Michael in our program, they have great talent and will add offensive punch and speed in our line-up. Both can put the ball in the hole and they give us a good start in our recruiting." Frank Williams played four years at Baylor with limited success. 6'4" **Shannon Nero**(12.0) of Houston Worthing signed with Lamar after considering Houston. Nero was seen as Houston's top prospect, but had a disappointing senior year. "He's the most highly recruited big school player we've been able to sign and I'm tickled to death to get him," Foster said. "I think I know a big-league talent when I see one, and he's definitely that." Nero played three seasons with the Lamar Cardinals. 6'8" **Glenn Puddy** of Clear Lake signed with S.M.U. and was a standout. 6'5" **Marvin Washington**(14.0/13.0) of Dallas Kimball traveled to U.T.E.P. after looking hard at Tulsa and Texas Tech. "They have a top 20 program year in and year out," Washington said. He narrowed his choices down between Tech, North Texas, and S.M.U. Rebounding and defense were Washington's strengths. The big man crossed over to football and played eleven seasons in the N.F.L. and won a title

with the Broncos in 1998. 6'11" **David Cones** from Houston Dulles signed with Washington St. 6'4" **Fennis Dembo** of San Antonio Fox Tech signed with Wyoming. Jim Branenburg, the head coach at Wyoming, was a former coach in San Antonio and recruited Dembo. Dembo turned out to be a standout in college. He was named 3rd team All-American, WAC Player of the Year in 1987, 1st team All-WAC in 1987 and again in 1988. His big claim to fame was his picture on the cover of "Sports Illustrated" pre-season basketball issue his senior year at Wyoming. He was inducted in the Wyoming Hall of Fame in 1993. Drafted by the Pistons, he played several seasons in Europe and the C.B.A. He was also the first Texan since Dwight Jones in 1971 to be named to the U.S. Pan American team. Dembo was also invited to the 1988 Olympic trials along with Michael Williams(84), Larry Johnson(87), Mookie Blaylock(85) and Sean Gay(85). 6'5" **Joe Baker** from Kerrville Tivy committed to U.T.S.A. 6'5" **Greg Crowe** from South Garland decided on Texas Tech and turned down Lamar and New Mexico. Crowe played four seasons for the Red Raiders. 6'2" **Randy Parker** from Houston Waltrip signed with TCU. Parker played four seasons with the Frogs. 6'2" **Chris Hall** of Cleburne traveled all the way to Mississippi but I have no records of him playing with the Rebels. 6'6" **Bill Wirskey** from Haltom committed to Creighton. He only played one season with the Bluejays. 6'6" **Rodney Washington**(13.0) of Ft. Worth Dunbar went to Wichita State for a semester and transferred to Southern University. 6'7" **Adrian Caldwell**(17.0/18.0) of Corpus Christi Carroll committed early to SMU. Adrian played one season with the Stangs. 6'5" **Edwin Robinson** of Dallas Kimball signed with Texas Tech. Robinson never suited up for the Raiders. 6'4" **Linzie Bogan** of Ft. Worth Dunbar traveled to Morehouse State and did not play basketball. He received his law degree and presently a judge in Tallahassee, Florida. 6'1" **Ricky Grace** from Wilmer Hutchins was a standout at Oklahoma after an outstanding career at Midland J.C. Grace was drafted into the N.B.A. and played three games with the Hawks. He played his entire professional career in Australia playing for them in the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney. He was inducted the Australian Basketball Hall of Fame in 2010. 6'7" **Dennis Smith** from Waco Midway played for North Texas State. 6'2" **Billy Giggins** from Dallas Lincoln was looking at Abilene Christian, Tulsa and New Mexico. 6'5" **Ron McCray** from Carrollton R.L.Turner went to Colorado State. McCray played a couple of seasons with the Rams. 5'10" **Deon Hunter** from South Oak Cliff went to North Texas State. Had an outstanding career leading the Mean Green to the NCAA tournament his junior year. He presently runs a Point Guard Camp that has been very successful. 6'4" **Horace Taylor** of Ft. Worth Paschal played at Tyler J.C and later at North Texas State, 6'0" **Ray Willis** was a standout for Dallas Skyline and went to Montana St. Willis had a very nice career with Montana St. playing in the NCAA tournament his sophomore season. 6'8" **Terry Thomas** of Dallas Carter came on very late in recruiting and was outstanding in the all-star games. He signed with SMU. He was considering Texas

and Rice. With the Mustangs as a senior he averaged 8.6 points per game along with 7.9 rebounds. 6'2" **Adrian Frazier** of Waxahachie went to North Texas State. 6'3" **Sylvester Rogers** from Wilmer Hutchins signed with Midland J.C. or Howard Payne. 6'5" **Arthur Brown** of Dallas Adamson signed with Cisco J.C. 6'6" **Michael Strange** of Rockwall went to North Texas State. Strange turned down a football offer from Texas Tech. 6'0" **Bobby LeGrand** of Arlington Sam Houston signed with his father at U.T. Arlington. **Scott Sekal** of Alief Hastings traveled to Michigan State. Sekal played four seasons with the Spartans. 6'8" 225, **Haywood Adams** of Marian signed with Lamar University. Adams was considered a raw prospect who bench pressed 300 pounds, threw the discus, and ran on the sprint relay and ran the 200 and 400 meters. He also played quarterback and defensive end in football at a class AA school. "We'll just have to wait and see how quickly he develops," Lamar coach Pat Foster said. 6'6" **Bobby Stastny** of Slidell committed to North Texas State. 6'4" **Robert McLemore**(19.7) from Houston Austin played four seasons with the Baylor Bears. McLemore had a nice career with Bears. **William Smith**, Mansfield signed with North Texas. 6'4" **Kelvin Collins** from Waterproof signed with Texas. 6'1" **Wayne Thomas** of Columbus committed to Texas. 6'5" **Sam Williams**(25.8/11.0) of Hardin Jefferson signed with Lee College after finishing his high school career with 18 school records. 6'6" **Vince Webb** and twin brother, 6'6" **Victor Webb**(14.1) of Killeen signed with Henderson County Jr. College.

Top Texas Recruits in 1984 based on their college and pro careers:

Michael Williams 6'1"	Dallas Carter	Baylor 18.4 pts, 5.4 asst, 3.0 st	<u>PistonNBA#48</u>
Fennis Dembo 6'4"	S.A. Fox Tech	Wyoming 20.4, 7.2 reb., 3.2 asst.	<u>PistonNBA#30</u>
Ricky Grace 6'2"	Wilmer Hutchins	Oklahoma 14.7 pts., 7.4 asst.	<u>Jazz NBA #67</u>
James Gulley 6'9"	Newton	Lamar 17.1 pts., 10.1 reb.	
Glenn Puddy 6'10"	Clear Lake	S.M.U. 15.3 pts., 9.8 reb.	
Todd Alexander 6'0"	Waxahachie	Minn./S.M.U. 14.5 pts., 4.3 asst.	
Norman Anderson 6'7"	FW Southwest	T.C.U. 13.1 pts., 7.1 reb.	
Deon Hunter 5'8"	Dallas S.O.C.	North Texas 17.9 pts., 2.8 asst.	
Ray Willis 6'1"	Dallas Skyline	Montana St. 16.9 pts., 3.3 asst.	

All-Americans: U.S.A. Today produced the most widely respected High School All-American team in 1984. Only ten players were named to the first and second teams. **Named Honorable Mention by U.S.A. Today**-5'11" Todd Alexander(21.0), Waxahachie; 6'7" Norman Anderson(18.1), Ft. Worth Southwest; 6'4" Fennis Dembo(16.0), San Antonio Fox Tech; 6'6" Tom Grant(28.7), Aldine Nimitz; 6'8" James Gulley(27.0), Newton; 7'0" Tito Horford(18.0), Houston Marian Christian; 6'2" Darryl Mitchell(19.4), Bryan; 6'5" Shannon Nero(14.0), Houston Worthing; 6'4" Robert McClemore(19.7), Houston Austin High; 6'2" Randy Parker(14.0), Houston Waltrip; 6'8" Glenn Puddy(19.3), Clear Lake; 6'8" Jules Wells(18.0), Beaumont Pollard; 6'8" Frank Williams(16.8), Dallas Samuell; 6'7" Coyle Winburn(22.4), Pampa:

Parade All-American, and **McDonald's All-American** teams were named with no Texans on either squad. The **Orlando Sentinel** named the All-South team, representatives from Texas were 6'7" Coyle Winburn(22.4) from Pampa, 6'5" Marvin Washington(13.0) from Dallas Kimball, 6'8" Frank Williams(18.0) of Dallas Samuel, 6'7" Norman Anderson(18.1) from F.W. Southwest and 6'5" Jules Wells(18.0) of Beaumont Pollard.

Orlando Sentinel Dixie Dozen- Todd Alexander was named to the top 12 in the south and Honorable Mention went to Coyle Winborn, Frank Williams, Marvin Washington, Norman Anderson and Jules Wells.

National Rankings: U.S.A. Today newspaper had now become the most legitimate ranking nationwide. Ft. Worth Dunbar climbing as high as #7 late in the season and still finished #16, even though they didn't win state.

State Leaders: The top scorer in the state was Michael Williams of Dallas Carter at 30.9 per game. Williams also set the state scoring record for a playoff game in the largest classification at 61 points against Conroe. The record will never be broken because the rules have changed with the three-point field goal. Tom Grant averaged 28.7 and played for Aldine Nimitz. Ft. Worth Dunbar dominated the team records with 38 straight wins, averaged 80.8 per game and the average margin of victory at +24. 6. Dallas Carter averaged 83.0 per game to lead the state in scoring unofficially. Defensively, Spring Branch Memorial was impressive allowing only 46.9 points per game. Fox Tech, out of San Antonio was even better at 44.2. Plano East was tops in the Dallas area at 46.3. El Paso Burges was the state's top defensive allowing only 37.2. El Paso Jefferson was second at 41.1 and El Paso Riverside was third at 44.1. Hopefully you're getting an indication El Paso schools play a real deliberate style. Rebounding leaders were Marvin Washington of Kimball and Norman Anderson of Ft. Worth Southwest both listed at 13.0.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs: 6'7" Andy Gilchrist from Memorial was the top scorer in the state playoffs averaging 21.8 per game. His scoring outputs were 20, 16, 24, 14, 26 and 31 in the state playoff games. When you consider his team only averaged 47.3 per game in the playoffs, his point totals are even more impressive. He managed to score 44% of his team's offensive output.

Power Ratings 1984

1.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	38-1	103.64	State Semis 5-A	loss Bryan 47-46
2.	S.A. Fox Tech	33-6	100.74	State Semis 5-A	loss Memorial 42-38
3.	Bryan	30-7	95.08	State Champs 5-A	def. SB Mem. 68-56
4.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	32-3	91.88	State Champs 4-A	def. Flour Bluff 61-52
5.	FW Southwest	27-11	90.15	Regional Finals 5-A	loss Dunbar 59-57
6.	Arl. Sam Houston	28-5	86.61	2 nd Round 5-A	loss Dunbar 85-60
7.	S.A. Highlands	35-5	86.51	Regional Finals 5-A	loss Fox Tech 52-46
8.	S. B. Memorial	31-8	86.04	State Finals 5-A	loss Bryan 68-56
9.	Killeen High	29-3*	85.91	Ineligible	
10.	Wilmer Hutchins	27-7	85.08	2 nd Round 5-A	loss Kimball 55-54

11.	Bea. Westbrook	30-6	84.94	Regional Finals 5-A	loss Memorial 43-39
12.	Houston Madison	29-3	84.29	2 nd Round 5-A	loss Houston SH 62-59
13.	Aldine MacArthur	27-7	83.13	1 st Round 5-A	loss Clear Lake 47-41
14.	Clear Lake	31-7	82.98	Regional Semi 5-A	loss Memorial 51-46
15.	Dallas Kimball	32-4	82.83	Regional Semi 5-A	loss Bryan 69-66 2OT
16.	Dallas S.O.C.	25-7	82.68	1 st Round 5-A	loss S. Garland 79-74
17.	South Garland	28-8	81.78	2 nd Round 5-A	loss D. Carter 76-58
18.	Dallas Carter	23-8	81.07	Regional Semis 5-A	loss Conroe 97-87
19.	Beaumont French	21-10	80.96	1 st Round 5-A	loss Aldine Mac. 65-58
20.	Flour Bluff	32-4	80.10	State Finals 4-A	loss PA Lincoln 61-52
21.	Galveston Ball	26-8	79.74	Regional Semis 5-A	loss Westbrook 72-69
22.	Waxahachie	28-3	79.60	Zone Playoff 4-A	loss W. Moore 80-64
23.	Eules L.D. Bell	26-7	79.41	2 nd Round 5-A	loss FW SW 47-45
24.	Houston Austin	23-7	78.90	2 nd Round 5-A	loss Memorial 39-38
25.	Houston Kashmere	27-7	78.36	1 st Round 5-A	loss H. Austin 54-49
26.	Conroe	27-5	77.84	Regional Finals 5-A	loss Bryan 80-66
27.	Houston Milby	29-5	76.87	1 st Round 5-A	loss Houston SH 54-51
28.	Beaumont Pollard	22-8	76.66	3 rd District 5-A	
29.	Houston Smiley	25-6	76.07	1 st Round 5-A	loss Westbrook 81-62
30.	Duncanville	28-3	75.95	1 st Round 5-A	loss Arlington SH 62-52
31.	H. Sam Houston	26-8	74.86	Regional Semi 5-A	loss Westbrook 69-44

Looking at the Power Ratings: Dunbar and Fox Tech came away with the highest power ratings since 1975 and Houston Kashmere. In the Optimist Tournament, Fox Tech beat Bryan by 28 points 69-41. Coach Larry Brown said he was still trying to incorporate four football players into the line-up during the December tournament. "Sometimes we struggled early in the season," Brown said.

Of Fox Tech's six losses, five were four points or less. The other loss was by only seven points. The Buffaloes average margin of victory was +17.3. Also impressive was they only had five single-digit wins out of 33 victories. Digital jargon, but what it tells you is Fox Tech lost most of the close games they played.

Reflecting on the state rankings: I keep expanding the rankings because there are so many talented and deserving teams. Tremendous balance as opposed as previous years. The suburbs continued to get stronger along with one high school towns. Bryan, Conroe, Killeen and Duncanville to name a few. Houston was the leader placing six teams in the top 25 followed by Dallas with four. San Antonio had three teams in the final group and Ft. Worth had two.

Teams that should have advanced to Austin: It would have been nice to see what Killeen High(29-3) could have done in the playoffs, if they would have won their appeal. You hate to see kids penalized because they were unaware of the rule and really gained no real advantage. But that is why we have rules.

1984 5-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso Jefferson(27-3)	65	El Paso Eastwood(14-17)	61
	Amarillo(25-3)	66	Midland(27-7) OT	65
	Ft. Worth Southwest(24-10)	43	Denton(18-9)	40

	Eules L.D. Bell(25-6)	63	Grand Prairie(22-10)	48
	El Paso Riverside(24-5)	44	El Paso Burges(22-9)	39
	Lubbock Monterey(23-7)	62	Odessa Permian(20-8)	53
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-0) #1	78	Wichita Falls Rider(17-11)	60
	Arlington Sam Houston(27-4)	62	Duncanville(28-2) #7	52
Region I Q-Finals	El Paso Jefferson(28-3)	53	Amarillo(26-3)	51
	Ft. Worth Southwest(25-10)	47	Eules L.D. Bell(26-6)	45
	El Paso Riverside(25-5)	75	Lubbock Monterey(24-7)	66
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(35-0) #1	85	Arlington Sam Houston(28-4)	60
Region I Semi Finals	Ft. Worth Dunbar(36-0) #1	59	El Paso Riverside(26-5)	42
	Ft. Worth Southwest(26-10)	65	El Paso Jefferson(29-3)	48
Regional Finals	Ft. Worth Dunbar(37-0) #1	59	Ft. Worth Souhtwest(27-10)	57
Region II Bi-Dist.	Wilmer Hutchins(26-6)	66	Dallas Samuel(23-9) OT	61
	Dallas Kimball(30-3) #3	52	Plano East(22-8)	40
	Bryan(23-8) #10	67	Tyler John Tyler(24-5)	59
	Klein(24-7)	59	Humble Kingwood(23-6)	56
	South Garland(27-7)	79	Dallas South Oak Cliff(25-6) #4	74
	Dallas Carter(21-7)	65	Lake Highlands(21-11)	61
	Lufkin(22-9)	59	Killeen Ellison(20-9)	58
	Conroe(24-4) #5	82	Cypress Creek(18-11)	66
Region II Q-Finals	Dallas Kimball(31-3) #3	55	Wilmer Hutchins(27-6)	54
	Bryan(24-8) #10	61	Klein(25-7)	58
	Dallas Carter(22-7)	76	South Garland(28-7)	58
	Conroe(25-4) #5	78	Lufkin(23-9)	75
Region Semis	Bryan(25-8) #10	69	Dallas Kimball(32-3) #3 2OT	66
	Conroe(26-4) #5	97	Dallas Carter(23-7)	87
Region II Finals	Bryan(26-8) #10	80	Conroe(27-4) #5	66
Region III Bi-Dist.	Spring Branch Memorial(26-7)	53	Houston Lamar(17-12)	51
	Houston Austin(22-6)	54	Houston Kashmere(27-6)	49
	Aldine MacArthur(26-6)	65	Beaumont French(21-9)	58
	Clear Lake(29-6)	58	Baytown Sterling(24-7)	42
	Houston Madison(28-2)	74	Alief Hastings(26-5)	61
	Houston Sam Houston(24-7)	54	Houston Milby(29-4) #9	51
	Beaumont Westbrook(27-5)	81	Houston Smiley(25-5)	62
	Galveston Ball(25-7)	63	Pasadena(17-12)	52
Region III Q-Finals	Spring Branch Memorial(27-7)	39	Houston Austin(23-6) OT	38
	Clear Lake(30-6)	47	Aldine MacArthur(27-6)	41
	Houston Sam Houston(25-7)	62	Houston Madison(29-2) #2	59
	Beaumont Westbrook(28-5)	72	Galveston Ball(26-7)	69
Region III Semis	Spring Branch Memorial(28-7)	51	Clear Lake(31-6)	46
	Beaumont Westbrook(29-5)	69	Houston Sam Houston(26-7)	44
Region III Finals	Spring Branch Memorial(29-7)	43	Beaumont Westbrook(30-5)	39
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Austin Johnston(23-10)	58	Alvin(21-8)	56
	San Antonio Roosevelt(25-5)	74	San Antonio Holmes(20-8)	54
	San Antonio Highlands(32-4)	52	Laredo Martin(26-9)	37
	Corpus Christy Miller(22-9)	39	Mission(22-9)	36
	Austin Travis(28-7)	53	Dulles(23-11)	48
	Converse Judson(19-8)	68	San Antonio Jay(23-7)	54
	San Antonio Fox Tech(31-5) #6	57	Eagle Pass(27-5)	44
	Corpus Christi Carroll(23-9)	62	Harlingen(30-4)	54

Region IV Q-Finals	San Antonio Roosevelt(26-5)	62	Austin Johnston(24-10)	42
	San Antonio Highlands(33-4)	42	Corpus Christi Miller(23-9)	40
	Austin Travis(29-7)	56	Converse Judson(20-8)	48
	San Antonio Fox Tech(32-5) #6	62	Corpus Christi Carroll(24-9)	45
Region IV Semis	San Antonio Highlands(34-4)	65	San Antonio Roosevelt(27-5)	55
	San Antonio Fox Tech(33-5) #6	55	Austin Travis(30-7)	44
Region IV Final	San Antonio Fox Tech(34-5) #6	52	San Antonio Highlands(35-4)	46
State Semi-Finals	Bryan(27-8) #10	47	Ft. Worth Dunbar(38-0) #1	46
	Spring Branch Memorial(30-7)	42	San Antonio Fox Tech(35-5) #6	38
State Finals	Bryan(28-8) #10	68	Spring Branch Memorial(31-7)	56

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1984 AAAAA Top Teams}

1. Ft. Worth Dunbar 38-1 {dominating team with only one loss}
2. Bryan 31-6 {Upset Dunbar 47-46 to capture state, two forfeits}
3. S.A. Fox Tech 33-6 {State-semis, 3-3 vs. Highlands, beat Bryan by 28 points}
4. Dallas Kimball 32-4 {Reg. Finals, loss to Bryan 2OT, 2-0 vs. Hutch and Carter}
5. Killeen 29-3 {ineligible, split with Bryan, beat Kimball by 17}
6. Houston Madison 29-3 {beat Kashmere, FW SW, Clear Lake, Hastings, Yates}
7. FW Southwest 27-11 {Reg. Finals, loss H. Madison -2 OT, split with SOC}
8. S.B. Memorial 31-8 {state finalist, came on late in the season}
9. S.A. Highlands 35-5 {top team in S.A. along with Fox Tech, tied series 3-3}
10. Arlington S. Houston 28-5 {Beat FW SW, Wax., Killeen, 1-1 vs. Bell and Duncanville}
11. Bea. Westbrook 30-6 {Reg. Final, 1-1 vs. PA Lincoln, beat Sam Hou., Ball, Smiley}
12. Clear Lake 31-7 {beat MacArthur, SA Roosevelt, Midland, Bay. Sterling}
13. Wilmer Hutchins 27-7 {beat S. Garland 2-0, beat FW SW & SOC, loss OT Kimball}
14. Aldine MacArthur 28-7 {beat Bryan, Bea. French, H. Austin, Ball, Lufkin}
15. Conroe 27-5 {Reg. Finals, beat Carter, Lufkin, Smiley, Kingwood twice}
16. Dallas Carter 23-8 {Reg. Semis, beat John Tyler, N. Mesquite, S. Garland}
17. South Oak Cliff 25-7 {beat S. Garland twice, split with Kimball and Southwest}
18. S.A. Central Catholic 29-4 {state champions private schools, loss to Highlands 49-40}
19. Houston Milby 29-5 {beat Clear Lake, Lufkin, Memorial, Alvin, split H. Austin}
20. Houston Austin 23-7 {Defeated H. Sam Houston, split Milby and Kashmere}
21. Houston S. Houston 26-8 {wins over Milby, H. Madison, split with Kashmere}
22. Euless L.D. Bell 26-7 {District champion over Arlington SH., 2nd Round}
23. South Garland 28-8 {split with Kimball, SOC, 0-2 vs. Wil. Hut. and Samuel}
24. Duncanville 28-3 {1-1 vs. Arl. S.H., beat Killeen +13, N. Mesquite, Memorial}
25. Houston Smiley 25-6 {beat Klein, Alvin, Kashmere, split MacArthur and French}
26. S.A. Roosevelt 27-6 {unbeaten in District, loss to Highlands in playoffs}
27. Tyler John Tyler 24-6 {beat Lufkin twice, District champs 13-1}
28. Beaumont French 21-10 {Split Smiley, beat Ball, Bay. Sterling, 1-3 vs. Westbrook}
29. Houston Kashmere 27-7 {beat Lufkin, split with H. Sam Houston and H. Austin}
30. Galveston Ball 26-8 {split with Clear Lake, beat Yates, 2-0 vs. Clear Creek}
31. Dallas Samuel 23-10 {beat S. Garland twice, split with Skyline, 0-3 vs. SOC}
32. Beaumont Pollard 22-8 {1-3 vs. PA Lincoln, 1-1 vs. French, beat Bay. Sterling}
33. Austin Travis 30-8 {finished 16-2 -District, won playoff game vs. A. Johnston}
34. El Paso Riverside 26-6 {regional semi-finals, defeated EP Jefferson 45-39}
35. El Paso Jefferson 29-4 {regional semis finals, 12-2 finish in District 1-5A}
36. Lufkin 23-10 {2nd to John Tyler in District, Playoff loss to Conroe by 3}
37. Amarillo 26-4 {District Champ 15-1, def. Monterey 71-69 to take title}
38. North Mesquite 24-8 {had to battle S. Garland and Hutch, beat Hutch by 26}
39. Killeen Ellison 20-10 {with forfeits tied with Bryan for District title}

40.	Austin Johnston	24-11	{District co-champs with Austin Travis}
41.	Baytown Sterling	24-8	{District Title, 1-2 vs. Clear Lake, 2-0 vs. Dobie}
42.	Klein	25-8	{losses Bryan -3, Westbrook -6 ot, Smiley -5}
43.	Lake Highlands	22-12	{Dist. Champs, loss in Playoffs to Carter in overtime}
44.	Lubbock Monterey	24-8	{2 nd in District 3-5A finishing 13-3, lost 2 nd round}
45.	Houston Lamar	17-13	{beat H. Marion, beat H. Sam Hou., split H. Worthing}
46.	Houston Worthing	19-10	{finished 3 rd in District, 1-2 vs. Madison, beat Milby}
47.	Houston Reagan	23-9	{Dist. 3 rd , 1-1 Sam Hou, 0-2 vs. Kashmere, beat Fox T +7}
48.	Corpus Christi Miller	23-10	{tied with CC Carroll, lost to Highlands -2 in 2 nd round}
49.	Odessa Permian	20-9	{District Champ 4-A, finished 11-3, 1 st round Playoff loss}
50.	Grand Prairie	22-11	{District Runner-up to Duncanville}
51.	Denton	18-10	{District champs, loss in Bi-District to Southwest 43-40}
52.	Midland	27-8	{runner-up to Permian, lost in Bi-District}
53.	El Paso Burges	22-10	{District runner-up in 1-5A, four losses to EP Jefferson}
54.	Alief Hastings	26-6	{District runner-up, 2-0 vs. Elsik, 1-1 vs. Northbrook}
55.	Clear Creek	24-10	{split with Clear Lake, beat Bay. Sterling, Alvin}
56.	Dulles	23-11	{2-0 vs. Memorial, beat Alvin, losses Clear Lake, Madison}
57.	Alvin	21-9	{beat Elsik, Victoria, Brazoswood, -losses Milby, Smiley}
58.	FW O.D. Wyatt	19-8	{3 rd in District behind Dunbar and 1-3 vs. Southwest}
59.	Houston Yates	19-13	{2-1 vs. Wheatley, beat Kashmere 66-65}
60.	Houston Wheatley	17-13	{were 1-2 vs. Yates, 1-2 vs. H. Austin, 0-2 vs. Kashmere}
61.	Converse Judson	20-9	{beat S.A. Churchill 41-37 for runner-up spot}
62.	San Antonio Churchill	22-12	{finished tied for 2 nd with Judson and lost a playoff 41-37}
63.	Arlington	21-8	{3 rd place in District, finished behind Bell, Sam Houston}
64.	Corpus Christi Carroll	24-10	{lost District playoff to CC Miller}
65.	Harlingen	30-5	{lost to C.C. Carroll 62-54, defeated Ft. Worth SW}
66.	Humble Kingwood	23-7	{split with Conroe McCullough, loss to Klein by 3}
67.	Conroe McCullough	22-9	{finished 3 rd in District, 1-2 vs. Conroe, 1-1 vs. Kingwood}
68.	Eagle Pass	27-6	{finished 1 st in a three-team district playoff, 30-5A}
69.	San Antonio Jay	23-8	{undefeated in district action, lost to Judson 68-54 in PO}
70.	Laredo Martin	26-10	{Finished in a three-way tie in District 30-5A, 2 nd seed}
71.	Mission	24-9	{lost in the first round of the playoffs to C.C. Miller 39-36}
72.	Tyler Lee	20-10	{3 rd place in district behind John Tyler and Lufkin}
73.	Houston Washington	17-13	{4 th place finish behind, Kashmere, Sam Houston, Reagan}
74.	Nacogdoches	20-12	{4 th place following John Tyler, Lufkin and Tyler Lee}
75.	San Antonio E. Cent.	25-8	{finished in a three-way tie for the 30-5A district title}
76.	Wichita Falls Rider	17-12	{District runner-up behind Denton}
77.	South Grand Prairie	19-12	{3 rd place behind Duncanville and Grand Prairie}
78.	Highland Park	21-10	{finished 4 th in Dist., beat FW SW, split N. Mesquite}
79.	Dallas Skyline	22-9	{tough district, finished 3 rd behind SOC, Samuel}
80.	San Antonio Holmes	20-9	{2nd to Jay in District, lost to SA Roosevelt 74-54 in PO}
81.	Texas City	16-11	{win over Clear Lake and Clear Creek, 4 th place in 24-5A}
82.	Alief Elsik	22-11	{beat Klein in OT, beat Northbrook, 0-2 vs. Hastings}
83.	Houston Northbrook	24-8	{finished 3 rd tied with Elsik behind Memorial, Hastings}
84.	Houston Davis	16-12	{20-5A tied for 4 th place with Yates}
85.	Aldine Nimitz	23-12	{3 rd place behind MacArthur and Smiley in 21-5A}
86.	PA Thomas Jefferson	17-11	{4 th place behind, Beaumont French, Westbrook, Pollard}
87.	Brazoswood	19-10	{tied for 2 nd with Dulles in District 25-5A}
88.	Plano East	22-9	{finished 2 nd to Lake Highlands in District 13-5A}
89.	Abilene	21-12	{3 rd in District behind Odessa Permian and Midland}
90.	Pasadena	17-13	{defeated Deer Park for the runner-up 53-44}

91. Deer Park	16-15	{finished tied for 2 nd , lost playoff to Pasadena 53-44}
92. Angleton	24-10	{finished tied for 4 th place in 25-5A}
93. Midland Lee	17-14	{4 th place finish behind Permian, Midland, and Abilene}
94. Temple	17-14	{finished 4 th in District behind, Bryan, Killeen and Ellison}
95. Pasadena Dobie	20-13	{4 th place behind Baytown Sterling, Deer Park, Pasadena}
96. Cypress-Creek	18-11	{in 15-5A defeated Cypress-Fairbanks for 2 nd place}
97. Austin Lanier	16-13	{3 rd in 26-5A at 12-6 behind Austin Travis and Johnston}
98. Richardson Berkner	17-10	{3 rd place behind Lake Highlands and Plano East}
99. El Paso Eastwood	14-18	{district runner-up in 2-5A, beat EP Riverside 70-51}
100. Corpus Christi Ray	16-15	{played tough in district finishing 3 rd in 31-5A at 11-3}
101. Spring Woods	17-15	{defeated S. B. Memorial 2 out 3 games}

Best 1980-1984 (73)

<u>Players(5)</u>	<u>Pts.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>Pros</u>
6'8" Leonard Allen(81)*	13.1	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	San Diego St.	Draft Mavs #50
6'9" Greg Anderson(83)*	20.0	Houston Worthing	Houston	<u>Spurs NBA #23</u>
6'8" Mike Wacker(80)*	22.2	San Marcos	Texas	Draft Jazz #151
6'10" John Brownlee(81)*	26.1	FW Southwest	N. Carolina/Texas	Draft Clip #78
6'9" Sylvester Kincheon(83)	23.6	Austin Travis	Oklahoma State	
6'9" James Gulley(84)	22.0	Newton	Lamar	
6'7" Norman Anderson(84)	18.0	F.W. Southwest	T.C.U.	
6'8" Andre Ross(81)	17.0	Houston Milby	San Diego St.	
6'6" Randy Samuels(80)	15.4	Beaumont Hebert	Oklahoma	
6'7" Jimmie Gilbert(82)	16.3	Huntsville	Texas A&M	Draft Bulls #98
6'8" Glenn Puddy(84)	21.3	Clear Lake	S.M.U.	
6'8" Ricky Cobb(80)	20.5	Wichita Falls	Midwestern Univ.	
6'7" Connally Brown(83)	17.8	West Orange Stark	Villanova	
6'7" Chris Hardin(81)	22.2	W. Orange Stark	McNeese St.	
6'8" Gilbert Collier(80)	16.0	Ft. Worth Dunbar	T.C.U.	
6'7" Kirk Lundblade(80)	22.0	Plano High	S.M.U.	
6'7" Paul Cunningham(80)	12.6	Houston Milby	U.T.E.P.	
6'9" Raynard Davis(83)	13.8	S.A. Sam Houston	Texas	Draft Spur#142
6'11" Kelly Blaine(81)	13.0	Austin High	South Alabama	Draft Nets#108
6'10" Tony Papa(82)	14.0	Angleton	T.C.U.	
6'7" Eric Poerschke(82)	14.0	S.B. Memorial	Arkansas	
<u>Players(4/5)</u>				
6'6" Michael Young(80)*	20.0	Houston Yates	Houston	<u>Celtics NBA#24</u>
6'6" Clyde Drexler(80)*	16.0	Houston Sterling	Houston	<u>BlazersNBA#14</u>
6'8" Ricky Winslow(83)*	22.5	Houston Yates	Houston	<u>Bulls NBA #28</u>
6'7" Steffond Johnson(81)	18.0	Longview	LSU/ San Diego St.	<u>Clip NBA #100</u>
6'9" Herb Johnson(81)	25.0	Midland High	Tulsa	Draft Cavs #55
6'4" Willie Ashley(81)	16.0	Ft. Worth Dunbar	T.C.U.	
6'8" Larry Davis(81)	19.6	Lufkin	S.M.U.	
6'5" Keenan DeBose(82)	27.2	Killeen High	Arkansas	
6'5" Sam Norton(81)	26.7	FW Paschal	U.T. Arlington	
6'6" Andre Allen(80)	18.6	Ft. Worth Dunbar	Illinois/UTA	
6'4" Todd Chambers(80)	22.0	Bay City	Oklahoma	
6'5" Carlton McKinney(83)	27.6	Nixon	S.M.U.	
6'1" Darrell Mitchell(84)	19.1	Bryan	Tyler J.C.(Knee)	
6'6" Jules Wells(84)	14.0	Beaumont Pollard	Lamar	
6'6" Tom Grant(84)	28.5	Aldine Nimitz	Houston	
6'4" Doug McNeely(80)	16.5	El Paso Eastwood	Duke	

6'6"	Kenneth Roberson(80)	19.6	Dallas Roosevelt	Louisiana Tech	
<u>Players(2/3)</u>					
6'4"	Carven Holcombe(83)*	24.4	Houston Yates	T.C.U.	Draft Cavs #80
6'4"	Fennis Dembo(84)*	17.0	S.A. Fox Tech	Wyoming	<u>PistonNBA#30</u>
6'4"	Charles Young(82)*	25.3	Tyler Lee	Kilgore J.C.	
6'4"	Carl Wright(82)*	25.0	Dallas Roosevelt	S.M.U.	Draft 76er#113
6'2"	Puntus Wilson(80)	20.1	Dallas S.O.C.	JC/ Ariz. St/Lamar U	
6'5"	Matt England(80)	15.2	Houston Madison	L.S.U./H. Baptist	DraftBullet127
6'3"	Carlton Cooper(81)	23.1	Paris	Texas	Draft Mav#132
6'5"	David Moss(83)	17.8	S.A. Sam Houston	Tulsa	Draft Blaz#109
6'4"	Gary Heyland(82)	15.4	S.A. Churchill	Baylor/UTSA	
6'3"	Robert Hughes(81)	19.0	Ft. Worth Dunbar	Texas/U.T. Arlington	
6'5"	Dwayne Brown(83)	17.0	Dallas Kimball	Baylor/Lamar Univ.	
6'6"	Reid Gettys(81)	12.6	S.B. Memorial	Houston	Draft Bulls#103
6'1"	Donald Mickens(81)	23.0	Beaumont Hebert	Tyler J.C.	
6'4"	Gary Swain(83)	24.5	Dallas Jesuit	Creighton	
6'4"	Terry Faggins(82)	16.4	Pampa	Oklahoma State	
6'3"	Vern Vittatoe(81)	17.0	San Antonio Marshall	Hardin Simmons	
6'3"	Vince Vittatoe(81)	19.0	San Antonio Marshall	Hardin Simmons	
<u>Players(1/2)</u>					
6'1"	Michael Williams(84)*	30.9	Dallas Carter	Baylor	<u>PistonNBA#48</u>
5'4"	Spud Webb(81)*	25.0	Wilmer Hutchins	Midland JC/NC State	<u>PistonNBA#87</u>
6'1"	Alvin Franklin(82)*	28.0	La Marque	Houston	Draft Kings #80
6'2"	Reggie Roberts(80)*	22.6	McKinney High	Texas A&M	
6'1"	Luster Goodwin(81)	16.9	Houston Kashmere	U.T.E.P	Draft War. #71
5'11"	Todd Alexander(84)	21.0	Waxahachie	Minnesota/SMU	
6'1"	Eric Dickens(81)	17.1	Houston Madison	Houston	
6'2"	Jack Worthington(81)	27.1	Spring High	Texas/Okla. City	
6'0"	Harold Howard(80)	23.5	Austin Lanier	Texas State	
6'1"	Ricky Grace(84)	15.0	Wilmer Hutchins	Oklahoma	<u>Jazz,NBA#67</u>
6'3"	Ken Walling(81)	13.7	Canyon	West Texas A&M	Draft MLB
5'8"	Ronell Peters(81)	12.0	Dallas Roosevelt	U.T. Arlington	
6'3"	Charlie Harris(80)	14.0	Ft. Worth Paschal	U.T. Arlington	
6'3"	Johnny Fuller(83)	24.0	Wilmer Hutchins	S.M.U.	
5'11"	James Stern(81)	27.0	Waxahachie	Baylor	
5'11"	Daryl Derryberry(83)	22.0	San Marcos	S.W. Texas State	
6'0"	Ron Singleton(82)	27.3	Dallas Carter	Ariz. St./Gr. Canyon	Draft Sun#146
6'0"	Kevin Bradsher(84)	18.0	Bryan	Howard J.C.	
5'8"	Deon Hunter(84)		Dallas S.O.C.	North Texas State	

Top Teams 1980-84 "McKee"

1.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(84)	38-1	5-A State Semi-Finals
2.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(81)	36-3	5-A State Champions
3.	San Antonio Churchill(82)	37-3	5-A State Champions
4.	Bryan(83)	34-5	5-A State Champions
5.	Bryan(84)	31-6	5-A State Champions
6.	Dallas Roosevelt(81)	41-3	5-A State Semi-Finals
7.	Galveston Ball(82)	35-6	5-A State Finals
8.	Houston Kashmere(80)	31-5	4-A State Champions
9.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(81)	31-5	5-A State Semi-Finals
10.	Houston Yates(80)	29-2	4-A Bi-District
11.	Houston Milby(80)	30-3	4-A District Runner-up
12.	Plano High(80)	32-4	4-A State Finals

13.	Houston Yates(83)	37-3	5-A State Semi-Finals
14.	Houston Madison(81)	35-4	5-A Regional Finals
15.	Clear Lake(81)	38-2	5-A Regional Semis
16.	San Antonio Fox Tech(84)	33-6	5-A State Semi-Finals
17.	Houston Yates(82)	33-4	5-A Bi-District
18.	Houston Washington(81)	30-6	5-A Regional Semis
19.	San Antonio Marshall(81)	29-8	5-A State Finals
20.	Dallas Roosevelt(80)	30-4	4-A Regional Finals
21.	Ft. Worth Paschal(80)	30-5	4-A District Runner-up
22.	Houston Milby(81)	29-8	5-A District Runner-up
23.	San Antonio Roosevelt(81)	35-5	5-A Regional Finals
24.	Dallas Roosevelt(82)	32-2	5-A District Runner-up
25.	Spring Br. Memorial(82)	36-5	5-A Regional Semis
26.	S. A. Sam Houston(82)	31-4	5-A Bi-District
27.	North Mesquite(82)	38-3	5-A State Semi-Finals
28.	Tyler Lee(82)	30-5	5-A Regional Semis
29.	S. A. Sam Houston(83)	32-8	5-A State Semi-Finals
30.	Dallas Kimball(83)	30-5	5-A Regional Finals
31.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(83)	33-3	5-A Regional Finals
32.	Dallas Kimball(84)	32-4	5-A Regional Finals
33.	Killeen(84)	29-3	Ineligible
34.	Houston Madison(84)	29-3	5-A Regional Quarterfinals
35.	Ft. Worth Southwest(84)	27-11	5-A Regional Finals
36.	Houston Memorial(84)	31-8	5-A State Finals
37.	Ft. Worth Paschal(83)	30-9	5-A State Finals
38.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(80)	30-8	5-A State Semi-Finals
39.	Houston Madison(80)	26-11	5-A Regional Finals
40.	San Antonio Highlands(84)	35-5	5-A Regional Finals

{4-A are not included, also class 5-A was 4-A in 1980}

Power Ratings 1980-83

1.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(84)	38-1	103.64	5-A State Semi-Finals
2.	San Antonio Fox Tech(84)	33-6	100.74	5-A State Semi-Finals
3.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(81)	36-3	99.30	5-A State Champions
4.	Bryan(83)	34-5	97.60	5-A State Champions
5.	Galveston Ball(82)	35-6	96.87	5-A State Finals
6.	Dallas Roosevelt(81)	40-3	96.76	5-A State Semi-Finals
7.	Beaumont Hebert(81)	35-2	96.60	4-A State Champions
8.	Clear Lake(81)	38-2	95.49	5-A Regional Semis
9.	Bryan(84)	31-6	95.08	5-A State Champions
10.	Houston Yates(83)	37-3	94.90	5-A State Semi-Finals
11.	San Antonio Churchill(82)	37-3	94.19	5-A State Champions
12.	Dallas Kimball(83)	30-5	93.97	5-A Regional Finals
13.	Dallas Roosevelt(82)	32-3	93.93	5-A District Runner-up
14.	Waxahachie(83)	35-2	93.87	4-A State Champions
15.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(83)	33-3	92.02	5-A Regional Finals
16.	Beaumont Hebert(80)	35-2	91.95	3-A State Champions
17.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(84)	32-3	91.88	4-A State Champions
18.	North Mesquite(82)	38-3	91.57	5-A State Semi-Finals
19.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(81)	34-5	91.24	5-A State Semi-Finals
20.	Tyler Lee(82)	30-5	90.96	5-A Regional Semis
21.	Silsbee(83)	35-2	90.95	4-A State

22.	Beaumont Hebert(82)	30-3	90.81	4-A State Champion
23.	Longview(81)	33-4	90.68	5-A Regional Finals
24.	San Antonio Marshall(81)	31-8	90.39	5-A State Finals
25.	Plano(80)	32-4	90.20	5-A State Finals
26.	Ft. Worth Southwest(84)	27-11	90.15	5-A Regional Finals

1984 AAAA

The two top rated recruits in 1984, Todd Alexander of Waxahachie and 6'7" Coyle Winborn of Pampa, both played in class 4-A. These two tradition rich programs held down the top spots in the polls most of the season. With so many outstanding teams during the 84 campaign it's tough to find a place to start. Waxahachie is as good as any, located about 30 miles south of Dallas, the Indians were the defending state champions. Coach John Nickols was in his 2nd second season with the tribe and once again was loaded. Waxahachie had made four straight trips to the state tournament and were overwhelming favorites to repeat as Region II champions. The region as a whole was really down and Hatchie had the top guard in the state in 5'11" Todd Alexander. Other starters included, 6'2" Adrian Frazier, 6'0" Lionel Slaughter, 6'0" Joe Johnson and 6'3" Todd Harris and Marcus Finley. Frazier went on to play basketball at North Texas State.

The Indians first early test did not end well as they came up short against a talented Waco Midway team. The game looked as if it was a major upset at the time, but the Panthers would advance all the way to the regional finals. Midway(29-8) defeated the green and white 72-62. For Hatchie, it was their first loss to a class 4-A school since the 1982 state tournament. Class 5-A Arlington Sam Houston(28-5) had a powerful squad during the '84 season and gave the green and white their second loss 61-58. Coach Nickols team proceeded to run off 28 straight wins after these early season set-backs. Along the way Hatchie defeated Tyler Lee(20-10) 62-58 and Highland Park(21-10) 72-61.

At the 26th annual West Side Lions Club tournament in Ft. Worth in the class 4-A division, several of the top teams in the state came together. Two of the best in the state were Waxahachie and Pampa. The Harvesters had impressive wins early in the tournament beating Cleburne(30-5) 64-49 and Waco Richfield(22-7) 77-73. Waxahachie came through the other side of the bracket defeating Mansfield 84-65 and Ft. Worth Nolan 77-58. William Smith of Mansfield had 36 points in his team's loss to Waxahachie. In the finals, the Indians beat Pampa 72-64 for their biggest win of the season. Alexander dropped 21 points and was selected the tournament M.V.P. Other Indians hitting double figures were Adrian Frazier with 23 points and Marcus Finley with 13 points. 6'7" Coyle Winborn, from a long line of basketball players in Pampa, put up 27 points. Adrian Frazier was also named all-tournament along with William and Riley Smith from Mansfield. They were not related.

Chris Hall and Jerry Scott from Cleburne also made All-Tournament along with Gregg Chappin from Pampa. In the third-place game, Cleburne came back and defeated Mansfield 69-68 in overtime. William Smith finished with 24 points and Riley Smith knocked down 22 points for Mansfield. Chris Hall paced Cleburne with 18 points.

Waxahachie marched through their District race defeating two tough teams, Corsicana(22-10) and Lancaster(21-9). The Indians defeated Corsicana by seven and six points and had single digits wins over Lancaster as well. As the playoffs arrived, Waco had two powerhouse clubs in Jefferson-Moore and Midway. Both teams were very formable opponents, especially for zone playoff games.

In 6-4A south zone the Waco schools dominated the action. Waco Richfield, Midway and Jefferson-Moore all had very competitive squads. After Midways early season win over Waxahachie the Panthers were ranked #10 in the state rankings and Jefferson Moore came in at #9. Midway gym was the site of the first meeting between the two teams as 800 fans packed into the gym. Jefferson-Moore stood at 17-7 and Midway came in at 19-5. The two teams had met in the Belton tournament earlier in the season and the Lions came away with a 58-56 victory over Midway in double overtime. The two teams were very similar with 6'5" Calvin Moore a dominating force at times inside for Jefferson-Moore and 6'7" Dennis Smith propelling Midway. Both teams had outstanding guards. William Iglehart and Rayford O'Neal paced the Lions and 6'0" Doak Taylor and Bob Senter were key for Midway's success. Jefferson-Moore's other starters were Vincent Green and Darrell Washington. Bobby Anderson and Andy Seely were the Panthers other starters.

Midway drew first blood against Jefferson-Moore winning a close one 50-44. Midway finally adapted to the Lions full-court press and took the lead entering the 4th quarter 37-30. After taking a 41-30 advantage Jefferson-Moore closed the gap to 41-38 with 3:40 remaining. The Panthers went into their delay game at the 2:15 mark of the 4th quarter. "I thought we did a good job of spreading them out," coach Ray Murphree of Midway. "They don't like to play the man-to-man defense and we forced them into that with the stall."

Bob Senter led Midway with 14 points, Dennis Smith finished with 12 and Doak Taylor had 12 points as well. William Iglehart, Rayford O'Neal and Darrell Washington were the leaders for Jefferson-Moore with double figures. Jefferson-Moore added a big District win over Richfield(22-7) 60-57 to keep pace with Midway. Darrell Washington came up big for the Lions with 17 points and O'Neal added 8 assists.

Both Jefferson-Moore and Midway entered their second-round game in first and second place in District. On the Lions homecourt 800 fans saw another great game, although it was very unusual, as Jefferson-Moore's overcame three technical fouls to defeat Midway 71-64. The win put the two teams in a tie for first

place. Waco Jefferson-Moore hit 25 of 33 foul shots to pave the way to victory. The Panthers suffered in the first half with 14 turnovers against Moore's press. Coach Jack Schrader of Jefferson-Moore said, "I think the press won the game for us. We came up with a lot of steals and easy baskets off the press." The Lions hit critical foul shots in the final two minutes knocking down 10 out of 12 from the charity stripe. Ray O'Neal finished with 16 points for the Lions followed by Darrell Washington's 14 points and 5 rebounds and 2 dunks. William Iglehart came in with 13 points and Calvin Moore had 14 points contributing to the Jefferson-Moore win. Dennis Smith and Andy Seely both came away with 15 points apiece for Midway and Doak Taylor added 11 points.

Waco Moore continued their mastery over Richfield(22-7) with a 53-46 victory. 6'5" Calvin Moore provided the spark for the Lions with 24 points. Richfield finished the season at 22-7 and 6-4 in District. Richfield did a number on Waco Midway 70-57 in second round action and Jefferson-Moore and Midway both finished District at 8-2.

To decide who would get the top seed the two teams played their fourth game of the season. The tussle was important because the loser would be faced with playing the top-rated team in the state in class 4-A, Waxahachie. The game took place at McLennan Community College in Waco. Midway was ranked 14th by the TABC and Jefferson-Moore was 15th in the final state poll. Moore entered the game with an impressive 25-6 mark and Midway stood at 24-7. Midway lost a key player for the big game in Bob Senter, who dislocated his knee cap and was out for two weeks.

In front of a crowd of 2,200 the Panthers proved to be tough enough defeating Jefferson-Moore 40-38. Midway jumped on The Lions quickly 12-2 in the first period, but Jefferson-Moore was able to tie things up by halftime. Two key players were lost to Jefferson-Moore coach Jack Schrader down the stretch. O'Neal fouled out with 1:56 remaining and Iglehart left the game with only 40 seconds remaining. "That definitely hurt us," Schrader said. "Our backups have practiced with the team and known what to do, but they've never played in the type of pressure situations. I think it could have turned out a little different if we had Ike and O'Neal in there at the end." Calvin Moore finished 12 points and 14 rebounds for Jefferson-Moore while Washington added 12 points and 8 rebounds. Coach Murphree of Midway singled out 6'0" Doak Taylor following the game. "Doak did a fantastic job for us, he knew we were counting on him to handle the Jefferson-Moore press." 6'7" Dennis Smith came away with 12 points and Patrick Kelly had 11 points for the Panthers winning effort.

The four participants in the 6-4A zone playoffs were finally ready with the top seed in each zone facing the runner-up from the opposite zone. Waco Midway defeated Lancaster 56-51 with Doak Taylor's 22 points doing the damage. Tracey Stepney was on target for the Tigers with 16 points. Waxahachie(28-2) was

expected to advance deep into the playoffs. When the Indians took the playoffs, they seemed to have an air of invincibility. The Indians starters were 6'3" Adrian Frazier, 6'0" Todd Alexander(20.6), 6'0" Lionel Slaughter, 6'4" Marcus Finley and 6'1" Lee Parks were experienced and well tested. Coach Jack Schrader of Jefferson-Moore new what to expect in the game. "They'll run a man to man defense and full court press the entire game." "They can definitely be beat," Schrader emphasized. Jefferson-Moore stood at 25-7 after the tough series against Midway.

Waxahachie had the home court advantage because they were the top seed. The Lions shocked the basketball world with big upset 80-64 over Waxahachie. On the Indians home court Jefferson-Moore placed five players in double figures. Rayford O'Neal hit 18 points, Tim Scott added 14 points, Iglehart finished with 12 and Darrell Washington knocked down 10. The real star was the inside play of 6'5" Calvin Moore, who contributed 19 points and numerous rebounds. Jefferson-Moore was able to handle the Hatchie press and led at intermission 42-30. O'Neal left the game with 5:45 left in the game. Waxahachie had trouble from the foul line hitting only 15 of 28 from the line, while Moore wasn't much better with 13 of 27. All-Stater Todd Alexander made his best effort to pull the game out for the Indians with 30 points, but it wasn't enough. The senior finished his brilliant high school career missing the state playoffs.

Midway continued showing the surprising strength of the south zone with a 56-51 over the Tigers of Lancaster(21-9). Lancaster relied on speed and quickness with only two starters over six foot in 6'2" Barry Baker and 6'1" Tracey Stephney. Midway on the other hand looked to 6'7" Dennis Smith and 6'5" Andy Seely inside for an advantage. The Panthers one-three-one zone gave the Tigers trouble and Lancaster was only able to manage 19 of 56 from the floor. Waco Midway shot a much better percentage hitting 58% of their field goals. The Panthers were horrific from the foul line missing five front ends of the one and one situations and hitting only 10 of 24 for 41% from the line. Doak Taylor carried the scoring load with 22 points and Dennis Smith was good for 11 points for Midway. Tracey Stephney led Lancaster with 16 points.

Next up for the two Waco entries were two of Dallas i.s.d. schools with talent and athleticism. Lincoln took first in the District with a 19-7 mark and Adamson was the runner-up finishing with a 17-13 record. Both teams had played very competitive schedules. Waco Midway(27-7) played Dallas Adamson at Burleson High School in front of 650 fans. The Panthers worked on their foul shooting and took the game from the line hitting 17 of 20 in the last eight minutes, to come away with a 61-53 win. The game was marred by two technical fouls by Adamson down the stretch, which Midway took advantage of. One Adamson player tried to stare down the referee as he left the court and received the second "T" with 1:40 remaining. "Their kids lost their composure there in the 4th quarter," Murphree commented. "That was the difference. We are not a real hyper

emotional team. We just go about our business and hope for the best.” Doak Taylor had 17 points, Smith and Anderson both contributed 12 points. Adamson pressed the entire game and Pat Washington led all scorers with 23 points for the Leopards.

Waco Jefferson-Moore(27-7) continued the Waco sweep with a close 75-73 win over Dallas Lincoln(19-7) in overtime. The Lions had faced two of the top players in class 4-A over the two-game winning streak. Moore eliminated Todd Alexander and turned right around and ended the season of 6’3” all-stater, Billy Giggins. Giggins, like Alexander was outstanding scoring 31 points for Tigers. The game was played at Waxahachie in front of 900 fans. Rayford O’Neal was key in the victory for the Lions scoring 10 of his team’s final 15 points in the game. O’Neal hit a short jumper with five seconds on the clock to give his team the win. Giggins missed a 25-footer at the buzzer. 6’5” Calvin Moore played most of the second half in foul trouble, but still managed 13 points. Darrell Washington chipped in 18 points along with O’Neal’s and William Inglehart both hitting 14 points in the winning effort. Scoring for Lincoln was dominated by Giggins and Kenneth Mock, who had 21 points.

Waco had two teams advancing to regionals for the first time since anybody could remember. They also had an excellent chance for one of the two teams to advance to Austin. Both teams had proven themselves against toughest competition.

East Texas was still in Region II and overall was a little down compared to previous years. Henderson(22-6) defeated Jacksonville(19-8) 52-51 in District 8-4A for the top seed, after both teams finished 11-1 in District action. These were the two top teams coming out of the East Texas. Henderson led 46-38 entering the final quarter and was able to hold on behind Calvin Neal’s 18 points, Clifton Thurmond’s 14 points and Colin Wade’s 12 points. Jacksonville was led by Michael Jackson with 23 points and Kenneth Brown chipped in 14 points. The two teams had split during the district campaign.

Henderson’s line-up was centered around one of the top juniors in East Texas, 6’4” Collin Wade(14.8). Coach Brooks Dozier also looked to 6’1” Clifton Thurmond, 6’2” Joe Bradford, 5’10” Gerry Davis and 5’9” Calvin Neal. Neal was an all-district running back in football and Thurmond was 1st team all-state at quarterback. Coach Mike Long of Paris was not very optimistic about his team’s chances against Henderson in the Bi-District. “They’re so solid and such a good rebounding team, there’s absolutely no advantage for us in a half-court game. I’m not sure there’s an advantage for us in a full-court game. I don’t know.” Paris(15-11) had a real small line-up with 5’10” post, Marcus Morgan(17.7) leading the Wildcats. Coach Long would have loved to have Carlton Cooper back for another season, but he had taken his talents to the University of Texas. Liberty-Eylau had

come on and won the 2nd round of District 7-4A and defeated Paris 50-48 to take the top seed in the playoffs.

The Paris Wildcats had lost some key players earlier in the season and Coach Long's depth was really depleted. The Wildcats needed numbers to run their up tempo full-court pressing style. Paris finished 2-3 in the second round of District action and lost a warm-up game against 3-A Prairiland 72-66. Paris was 2-5 over their last seven games going into the playoffs. The outcome looked pretty obvious as Henderson came away with a 72-57 victory over the Wildcats. Calvin Neal led the Lions with 28 points and Collin Wade added 16 points.

Jacksonville opened the playoffs with a tough Bi-District win against Liberty-Eylau(19-10) 58-54. Marcus Wallace was the high man for Jacksonville with 20 points and Albert Traylor did the honors for Liberty.

Henderson(23-6) and Waco Midway(27-7) met in the regional semi-finals. The Lions of Henderson had been ranked #14 in the pre-season polls and were athletic. Coach Murphree of Midway felt his team had an advantage inside, "we want to utilize our strength and size inside. They don't seem to have a lot of depth since they seldom play more than six players. But they play good man defense, and with Brooks Dozier as their coach, I can tell you that he will have them ready." Henderson strategy going into the game was to limit the touches of 6'7" Dennis Smith (15.0) of Midway.

The game did not disappoint. With four seconds remaining, Henderson was down 53-52 with Calvin Neal of Henderson going to the line. He failed on both attempts as Patrick Kelly of Midway came up with the rebound. Kelly was fouled immediately and proceeded to hit both foul shots giving the Panthers a 55-52 win. At Ennis High School 1,800 fans watched as Midway advanced to the regional finals. "We knew that Neal was one of their best shooters, so we called time out for him to think about it," Murphree said. "And it worked." Clifton Thurmond finished with 13 points for Henderson along with Joseph Bradford's 12 points and Calvin Neal adding 10 points. For the Panthers, Andy Seely had 14 points, Dennis Smith 13 and Doak Taylor added 8 points.

In the other semi-finals game, Jacksonville(21-8) was determined to control the running game of Jefferson-Moore(27-8). The game was played at Henderson Jr. College in Athens. The Indians were successful keeping the game at a snail's pace. Rayford O'Neal once again hit the big bucket for the Lions with 36 seconds remaining sending the game into overtime. Jacksonville got the center jump in O.T. and proceeded to hold it for 2 ½ minutes waiting to take the game's final shot. Calvin Moore of Jefferson-Moore upset the Indians plans stealing the ball with only 30 seconds left in the first overtime. The Lions held the ball until the 10 second mark and O'Neal shot a 20-footer that missed. Jacksonville rebounded the errant shot and tossed the ball to the other end of the court for Dwyndle Hamilton's game winning lay-up. After a timeout, the Lions long pass hit the rafters

with one second remaining. Because the ball had not touched a player the clock failed to start. Jefferson-Moore was adamant that Jacksonville had called a timeout of which they had none. This would have been a technical foul putting Jefferson-Moore on the line. "Their coach called a timeout and they should have been given a technical and we should have gotten shots," coach Schrader emphasized. The final read Jacksonville 38 and Jefferson-Moore 36. "The slow down game was what hurt us," Schrader said. "We got a whippin." We got whipped on the boards too, they shouldn't have beat us on the boards," Schrader continued.

O'Neal finished with 12 points, Vincent Green added 11 and Darrell Washington came away with 8 points for Jefferson-Moore. Michael Johnson was the leader for Jacksonville with 10 points and was the only player in double figures. There were only four foul shots combined by both teams in the game and only 12 fouls called.

Jacksonville and Waco Midway were both somewhat Cinderella stories as they approached their regional finals contest. Neither team had any really strong basketball traditions or experience. The Indians played with little size in their lineup. Starters included 5'10" Michael Johnson, 5'10" Robert Hunter, 6'0" Marcus Wallace, 6'2" Dwyndall Hamilton and 5'9" Kenneth Brown. Once again, the game was played in Athens in front of a crowd of 1,400. Coach Murphree felt his team had a psychological advantage coming in saying, "knowing that they finished second and we beat Henderson gives us an advantage." Murphree continued, "over confidence wouldn't be a problem. They are a little more disciplined in their shot selection than Henderson."

Jacksonville's zone gave Midway fits, which was the difference in the game. "They defended us better than anyone this year," Murphree said. "They were able to keep us from scoring no matter what we did. We couldn't score at all inside. They triple teamed Dennis inside, but we just didn't take advantage on the weak side." Jacksonville(21-8) surprised a lot of close observers upsetting Waco Midway(28-7) to advance to the state tournament 60-48. Jacksonville ran off to a 10-1 lead at the beginning of the fourth quarter, opening up a 46-32 advantage with 4:31 left. Dennis Smith fouled out for Midway at the 4:42 mark and the Panthers got as close as 50-44 with 1:49 remaining. Reliable Doak Taylor fouled out with 1:37 left in the game and had earlier received a technical foul. "It just hurts to get this close and then not make it," Murphree said. "I think we were outcoached. I didn't make the adjustments we needed to make to win this one."

Michael Jackson knocked down 16 points for Jacksonville and Kenneth Brown came away with 14 points. Dwyndle Hamilton was held to only 2 points, because of foul trouble. Midway was paced by Doak Taylor with 12 points and Bobby Anderson added 10 points. Taylor, Smith and Seely all fouled out for Midway.

In Region I the field looked wide open. District 4-4A north zone was captured by Ft. Worth Northside(17-8), which finished with 12-2 mark. Grapevine(19-11) and Ft. Worth Diamond Hill(15-14) tied for the runner-up spot. With a playoff spot at stake Grapevine defeated Diamond Hill 56-45.

The south zone had an all-star cast of Cleburne(26-4), Mansfield(22-9), Granbury(20-8) and Everman(20-10). Cleburne finished District action with a 13-1 record, the Tigers of Mansfield went 12-2, Granbury 9-5 and Everman was 8-6. The Yellowjackets of Cleburne only loss in the District came in their opener against Granbury 50-47. And in the second game against Granbury, Cleburne was only able to manage one-point victory. Cleburne handled Mansfield in both District meetings 51-48 and 75-74, a three-point advantage in two games. The Tigers held a victory over Cleburne in the Lions Club tournament 69-68. There was not much separating the two teams. This could have very well been the 2nd strongest AAAA District in the state behind District 9-4A with Pt. Arthur Lincoln and Silsbee.

In the zone playoffs, Cleburne played host to Grapevine and Ft. Worth Northside hosted Mansfield at Billingsley Field House. Cleburne looked to one of the top players in the state, 6'3" Chris Hall(20.0). Grapevine countered with a strong front line of 6'6" Billy Eaves, 6'3" Anthony Zimmer, 6'3" Jeff Jackson, 6'6" Bud Heckman and point guard 5'11" Keith Walker. The Mustangs also had size on their bench with 6'7" Keith Rowden and 6'6" Keith Carpenter. Coach Jeff Cody of Cleburne felt Grapevine's biggest weakness was probably team quickness, much like Waco Midway, who the Yellowjackets defeated earlier in the season.

Northside was the underdog against Mansfield. The Steers had 6'5" Derek Williams(18.0/14.0), Billy Spriggins and Anthony Williams as the team's nucleus. Mansfield had two of the top players in the state in 6'3" William Smith(22.0) and a fabulous sophomore, 6'7" Riley Smith(21.0/14.0).

Ft. Worth Northside really had little chance against the Tigers of Mansfield losing 83-64. 6'7" Riley Smith was in beast-mode as he scored 22 points and helped the Tigers dominate the glass 37-18. "We won the game with our rebounding," coach Rodney Shropshire of Mansfield said. Northside finished the season at 17-9. While the Steers were sagging in to defend William and Riley Smith, 5'9" Dale Furtick went off for a season high 18 points. Northside was outscored 26-8 in the 2nd period and came out pressing in the 3rd quarter, which got them back in the game. Northside trailed by only eight points with 5:53 remaining in the contest. The Tigers finally figured out the press and went on to advance to the state playoffs. Billy Spriggins led Northside with 20 points.

Cleburne was even more impressive in the zone playoff win over Grapevine(19-12) 64-41. The Yellowjackets jumped out to a 32-13 margin in the 2nd quarter and led at halftime 34-21. "We used different combination presses to speed the tempo up and that worked for us tonight," coach Jeff Cody said. "The thing is you keep harping on is that you should never have a bad game defensively

or rebounding, and I was pleased that we held them to only 41 points. "The press in the first half forced them to play a little faster than they wanted to," Cody said. The Jackets held a rebounding advantage 28-19 against their larger opponent. Standout Chris Hall continued playing with back pain and recovering from the flu. He didn't work out all week before the game. Hall finished with 15 points, 5 rebounds and 4 assists. Heckman and Carpenter both finished with 12 points for the Mustangs.

Mansfield opened Bi-District with a double hitter at Boswell High School against Wichita Falls Hirschi. Hirschi's strength was their full court press and that seemed to be the Tigers Achilles heel. After trailing at halftime, the Huskies came out in the third quarter and gave the Tigers fits with their pressure. "Their press hurt us," Shropshire said following the game. Even with their struggles, 6'7" Riley kept Mansfield in the game right down to the final shot, putting up 27 points. Hirschi was paced by an incredible performance late by Rodney James, who scored 16 points in the last nine minutes of the game. James also hit the game winner from 20 feet in the corner to seal the Tigers fate 69-67. The Huskies David Robinson stole the inbounds pass and the game was over along with the hopes of 6'3" William Smith. Smith was a four-year starter that ended his high school career after taking the Tigers to the playoffs two years running.

Burkburnett(21-6) was Cleburne's Bi-District opponent and looked very challenging. Four of their six losses had come at the hands of 5-A teams. Burkburnett had finished as the runner-up in District 3-AAAA. The teams big claim to fame was their 40-38 victory over Wichita Falls Hirschi(23-3) in District action. The Bulldogs of Burkburnett managed to slow the tempo to come away with the victory. The Huskies won the first match-up between the two teams by ten.

Burkburnett liked to run a 1-3-1 zone pressuring their opponents and trapping in the corners. "They'll attack you defensively," Cody commented. "They have a real good man offense, probably the best one we've seen since Pampa." The Bulldogs relied a great deal on their enormous size in 6'9" Robert McAlister. The big man only managed to finish with 14 points as Cleburne had little trouble with Burkburnett winning 61-38. Coach Cody said following the lopsided victory, "we had them pretty well scouted." 6'5" Jeff Kennon put up 14 points and 6'1" Jay Scott added 11 for the Jackets. Hall struggled once again with 6 points and 8 assists after having averaged 20 points during the regular season.

Moving out West you had some real competitive teams. It was always hard to gage the West Texas basketball because rarely did they play outside the region. District 2-4A had traditional power Lamesa with another outstanding team. Lamesa(26-3) ran the table in District finishing 14-0. They concluded the regular season winning 21 straight games. Andrews(22-9) was very competitive once again with a 11-3 finish, followed by Sweetwater(19-8) at 9-4.

Lamesa took a warm-up game against Seminole(22-7) and had to go into overtime to get the win 76-75. Chris Mason put up 26 points and Jerry Mason helped with 20 points. The Mason brothers were two of the best players to ever come out of West Texas. Murphy chipped in 16 points for Lamesa. Seminole looked strong paced by T. Bailey with 29 points.

As the playoffs approached Andrews had to face state ranked Pampa in Bi-District. Borger, Lubbock Dunbar and Canyon all battled in out for the runner-up spot in District 1-4A. Borger came away with the runner-up position and defeated Dimmitt in a warm-up game 51-47. The game had been played in Amarillo.

Pampa(25-6) prepared to face Andrews(22-11) in Plainview at the Hutcherson Center. 1,300 fans watched as Harvestors had an easy time with the the Mustangs winning 67-44. Pampa took control early leading 36-19 at halftime. Coyle Winborn finished with 28 points and Marty Cross added 14 points. Andrews was led by Darrell Collin's 19 points.

Borger(15-14) and Lamesa(29-3) were both so rich in basketball tradition. The two teams met at Lubbock Coronado High School with 2,300 in attendance. The game went into overtime, as David Address hit the winning bucket with six seconds remaining for Borger. Rob Hunt penetrated and dished the ball off the Address. The basket was the only points of the game for Address. Following the score Hunt stole the inbounds pass and hit a lay-up making the final 60-56. For Lamesa, their 22-game winning streak came to an end. Borger was the surprising winner having graduated all their key players from the state finalist squad in 1983. Terry Witcher finished with 18 points for Borger and Wayne Dickson came away with 15 points and 10 rebounds. For Lamesa, Jerry Mason finished with 20 points and Chris Mason added 15 points and 13 rebounds while Richard Diaz added 19 points. "I guess the state probably would consider this an upset, but I don't think we do," Borger coach Duane Hunt said following the game.

The regional semis saw a re-match between Pampa(25-6) and Wichita Falls Hirschi(24-3). The two teams had played earlier in the season in the Lawton, Oklahoma tournament. Hirschi won that day by eight points over the Harvesters. The Huskies were paced by 6'2" Rodney James and 5'11" Brian Dial. The Huskies lived by the press. They relied heavily on a 2-2-1 full court press. 6'7" Winborn(23.0) of Pampa would need to be controlled if Hirschi was to advance to the regional finals. Pampa was ranked #2 in the state polls while Hirschi stood at #7. The game was played in Elk City, Oklahoma in front of 1,800. The score was tied at half at 27. The Harvesters were 25 of 54 from the floor, but only 7 of 11 from the line. The Huskies came away with a 72-57 victory on 26 of 53 from the floor and 20 of 25 from the charity stripe. Winborn managed only 12 points for Pampa. The Harvesters leaders were Randy Harris with 23 points and Rodney Young with 14 points. Hirschi looked to Rodney James with 26 points and Mike Christman's 19 points, followed by Brian Dial's 14 points.

Cleburne looked to Borger(15-14) in the regional semi-finals, a team that began the season at 3-10. The legendary coach of Borger was Duane Hunt. He explained his team's slow start on the season. "The school was constructing a new gym so we had to play all the early games on the road and the quality of practice was not real good because of the lack of facilities." Coach Hunt made some adjusted during the season, which turned the team's fortunes around as well. Starters for Borger were 5'11" Rob Hunt, 5'10" Charles Tillmond, 6'1" Brett Newton, 6'4" David Andress and Anthony Jones. The real strength of the team interestingly enough was on the bench. Two sophomores provided firepower for the Bulldogs, 6'5" Wayne Dixon and 6'5" Terry Whitcher. It is very unusual that your two leading scorers would come off the bench. Coach Cody of Cleburne commented that, "Dixon can play and looks like a tackle on the football team." Whitcher on the other hand scored 18 points in Borger's win over Lamesa. Borger had been down 14-3 against Lamesa early and brought Dixon and Whitcher in off the bench quickly. The result was Borger was leading at the end of the first quarter.

Borger liked to start the game in man defense and would run a 2-3 zone as well as a 1-3-1 trapping zone. The Bulldogs weakness seemed to be foul shooting and outside shooting. Borger was 7 of 23 against Lamesa and had two foul shots at the end of regulation that would have won the game. Coach Cody of Cleburne was real concerned about the travel in the playoffs. "We're not used to long road trips like they are in West Texas." Coach Cody described Borger as a team that lines up and dares you to stop their strength inside, nothing fancy.

Cleburne was able to get by Borger(15-15) 54-52 on a bucket at the buzzer by sophomore, Greg Frizzell. As Cleburne's Chris Hall drove to the basket the defensive shifted and Hall hit Frizzell for the easy bucket. It was the sophomores only points of the evening. The hero had just been moved up from the junior varsity. 6'5" Jeff Kennon finished with 12 points for the Yellowjackets and Jay Scott also added 12 points. Borger's Wayne Dickson had just tied the game at 52 with a mere 19 seconds left on the clock. Dickson stepped over the line on the second foul shot attempt, giving the Jackets the ball.

Coach Cody came to the defense of his high-profile guard, 6'3" Chris Hall. "Good players have off-nights even in the playoffs and even with college coaches in the bleachers." Coaches from South Carolina and Mississippi State were watching Hall against Borger. "He doesn't carry the big stats some guys do, he just does what it takes to win." Wayne Dickson had 14 points for the Bulldogs and Terry Whitcher finished with 12 points. The game was played in Vernon. Cleburne again won the battle of the boards 32 to 17.

Cleburne prepared for the regional finals against Wichita Falls Hirschi, a team that they had lost to in the finals of their own tournament 56-50. There was a lot of commotion as to where the game would be played. School officials were

supposed to meet in Wichita Falls following each team's playoff wins, only to see Hirschi show up two hours late. It took several hours to finally decide on Boswell High School as the site. Hirschi was pushing for a home game, because they had traveled to Cleburne the year before.

The Cleburne and Wichita Falls Hirschi was looking like a classic when some usual events took place in the last minutes. As the two teams battled nip and tuck, things were looking really good for the Huskies in the closing minutes. The Huskies had the ball with the score tied 55 all, and 19 seconds remaining. With 15 seconds on the clock, Hirschi was bringing the ball up the court and called timeout, only to discover they were out of timeouts. A technical foul was called against Hirschi. Coach Jeff Cody called on his 90% foul shooter, Jeff Kennon to put down both foul shots. The Jackets inbounded the ball following the technical and Lonnie Smith stole the inbound pass giving Mike Christmas of Hirschi a 15-footer with six seconds remaining. Al Smith of Cleburne rebounded the failed attempt and was immediately fouled. Smith proceeded to miss the front end of the one and one leaving four seconds on the clock. Hirschi attempted a long pass, which was stole by Chris Hall, giving the Jackets the ball-game. Hall drained a 35-footer at the buzzer making the final 59-55. The Jackets inside game was the difference in the game producing 29 points. Cleburne won the rebound battle as well 27 to 25 over the Huskies. Coach Cody said following the game, "I've always said I'd rather be lucky than good."

Wichita Falls Hirschi had went up 55-53 with only 45 remaining on Brian Dial's 15-footer. Cleburne came right back with a put back by Al Smith to tie the game. The Huskies defensive attack was centered on slowing down the Yellowjackets all-state guard, Chris Hall. Hall finished with only 10 points, but dished out nine assists. Al Smith led Cleburne in scoring with 13 points, Stephen Hafford hit 10 points, along with Kennon. Dial did the scoring honors for the Huskies with 18 points, and Rodney James came away with 15 points.

The best basketball in 1984 in class 4-A came out of the Golden Triangular region in southeast Texas. Pt. Arthur Lincoln was so strong they could compete with any team in the state, regardless of classification. The Bees could have an off night and still win. The Bumblebees of Coach James Gamble had size, depth, skill and tradition. That's a tough combination to beat. Lincoln lost three of their first fourteen games. Houston Washington(17-13) took down the Bees in the second game of the season 65-60. Later the Bees gained revenge defeating Washington 40-37. Beaumont Pollard(22-8) split with Lincoln, losing the first game 60-46 and winning the return match 54-50. Pollard lost the next two games against Lincoln 61-48 and 58-47, giving the Bees a 3-1 edge over one of their rivals. Beaumont French(20-10) was another 5-A power in the region, and finished with two losses to Lincoln 66-59 and 64-49. French ended up as co-champions in 22-5A, along with Beaumont Westbrook(30-6). Westbrook, as you will recall were regional finalist

losing to Spring Branch Memorial. The Bruins of Westbrook split with Lincoln on the season at one game apiece. The Bees lost to the Bruins 53-44 and returned the favor beating Westbrook 50-40.

As District approached, Lincoln had a big challenge of facing Silsbee in zone competition. District 9-4A East Zone was going to be a donnybrook, with the Tigers having another top ten squad. Lincoln came in at 10-2 and Silsbee at 9-0 as the two powerhouses approached their early District encounter. The east zone showdown would go a long way in deciding the title. Up 39-36 with 1:43 remaining, Lincoln pulled the ball out in their customary delay game. "Silsbee kept sagging on our inside game," Gamble said. The Bumblebees went on to win 47-42. Donzell Henton finished with 9 points, Darrell Young hit 8 points and Sam Jackson added 6 points. Darrell McArthur, the incredible 6'2" sophomore for Silsbee, was high man with 19 points.

At Lincoln High School the two rivals went at it again. The game had everything that is great about high school athletics, tremendous school support, great athleticism, top flight coaching and facilities. Silsbee was ranked #5 in the state coming into the game and Lincoln held down the third spot. The Tigers were down 23 points before they were able to make their incredible comeback. With the score 41-18, Silsbee went to an all-out, full-court press forcing 11 turnovers. Coach Terry Culley of Silsbee said, "we played about as well as we could in the 2nd half." Silsbee called timeout, down one with 1:16 remaining in the game. The Tigers, Donald Jackson was preparing to take the last shot of the game for Silsbee when Sam Jackson of Lincoln stripped him of the ball. "We wanted to get the ball inside to Darrell or Kevin Dodd early, but if it came down to 30 seconds, I told them to wait for the last shot," Culley said. Coach Gamble countered saying, "I didn't figure they would go for the last shot. But we didn't want to sit around and become passive. We came to play. For two and a half quarters we couldn't have played any better, especially on defense," Gamble continued. Lincoln got away with a tough 51-50 decision.

Sophomore Darrell McArthur paced the Tigers with 25 points, leading the comeback. Silsbee had gotten the lead down to 45-38 entering the four quarter. "We went to more of a trapping defense and small and quick lineup, which allowed us to get momentum in our favor," Culley said.

Coach Gamble said, "Our starters haven't had to play almost an entire game in a long time and we kind of got winded." When point guard Walter Senegal went to the bench for a brief rest, Lincoln began to lose their ability to break the Tigers press. With the victory, Lincoln extended their District lead to two games at 7-0 and Silsbee fell to 5-2. Henton and Kevin Bush paced Lincoln with 12 and 14 points.

The Bumblebees finished zone champs at 26-3 and Silsbee was runner-up at 26-3. Arguably the two best teams in the state in the same zone. The Bees faced

Cleveland, the runner-up in the west zone, and Silsbee matched-up against Huntsville. Lincoln had finished District undefeated at 12-0 and the Bees and Silsbee dominated the All-Zone team. 6'5" Kevin Bush(12.6/7.6) of Lincoln was named District M.V.P. "We had no idea, judging from last year's performance, that Kevin would start for us, let alone be one of our better players," Coach Gamble said. 6'2" Derek Young(11.4) was a 3-year letterman for the Bees, was named to the first team. 6'4" Donzell Henton(11.4) also made the first team for coach Gamble. 6'2" Darrell McArthur(24.4/11.3) of Silsbee and 6'3" James Bryant(15.9/6.1) of Jasper rounded out the first unit. Young and Henton formed an outstanding backcourt for Coach Gamble.

The 2nd team saw Anthony Allen(5.3/6.7/4.5 blocks) of Lincoln, Ferrell Artis of Silsbee, Kevin Dodd of Silsbee, Tracey Gunter from Bridge City and John Dunn of Little Cypress-Mauriceville. Coach Gamble discussed his team saying, "I'd rate this team with some of the better teams I've had as far as pride, chemistry, and mental toughness are concerned." The All-District team was named before the playoffs. What was interesting about the selection was that one of Lincoln's top performers in the playoff was Walter Senegal. He was not named to either unit. Senegal went on to be named to the All-Tournament team in Austin. This was an indication of the depth that the Bumblebees possessed.

Lincoln handled Cleveland(17-14-1) in the zone playoff, jumping out to a 21-4 lead and coasted to a 73-58 victory. Derek Young paced the Bees with 15 points. The game was played at Barber Hills. Walter Senegal added 13 points, Henton put up 13 points, while Bush finished with 9 points and 9 rebounds. The future of Lincoln basketball, sophomore Anthony Allen, hit 4 points, 11 rebounds and 4 blocks. In the other zone playoff in 9-4A, Silsbee took care of business, defeating a solid Huntsville team 71-59. Bay City(23-1) was next up for the Tigers, while Lincoln looked to Friendswood(20-10).

Friendswood(20-11) played Lincoln at San Jacinto Junior College. The Mustangs finished 2nd behind Bay City in District action. Walter Senegal of Lincoln set the tempo early on a one-handed dunk, as he soared over a defender. The 6'1" guard got everybody's attention. Friendswood was probably wondering what they had got themselves into. "We don't have many guards that can do that kind of stuff," Mustangs coach Dana Drew said. Friendswood attempted to limit Lincoln's inside game setting up in a zone defense. 6'2" Derrick Young and 6'4" Donzell Henton saw this as an opportunity to show off their shooting prowess and finished with a combined 31 points. Young had 12 in the first half and finished with 21 points. The Bees led 32-20 at halftime. 6'7" Anthony Allen missed most of the game because of the foul trouble. 6'1" Sam Jackson came off the bench and played well replacing Allen. Lincoln took a 60-41 victory into the next round. "We were beaten by an excellent team. I hope Lincoln gets to play Bay City, because that's

going to be a great game,” Drew said. Lincoln was up at intermission 32-20. The Bees looked to Willowridge(23-9) in 2nd round action.

Region III had so many viable teams challenging to advance to state. Austin Westlake was another talented group that held down the fifth ranking in the state with a 31-0 record. The Chaparrals took the District 12-4A title over Georgetown. Austin Westlake had a well-balanced line-up with limited size. 6’4” Sam Pesi, 6’4” John Turman, 6’2” Brett Goodwin, 6’0” Ronnie Castillo and 5’10” Richie Dozier. Westlake faced an uphill battle in the playoffs against A&M Consolidated(23-11). A&M had finished as runner-up to Willowridge in 11-4A. A&M was the last team to beat Westlake in the 1983 playoffs 84-77. So, the Chaparrals were not looking past their playoff nemesis. A&M was paced by 6’3” Randy Sweed, 6’2” Tim Campbell, 6’1” Bryan Windham, 6’0” Bruce Young and 5’10” Randy Allen.

In one of the best games of the playoffs, the Chaparrals were eliminated by A&M once again 75-74. Westlake got behind by 11 points in the 3rd quarter, but recovered and tied things up at 74 late in the game. A&M’s Randy Allen ended up hitting a key free throw with only 29 seconds left in the contest. Allen’s foul shot gave A&M a one-point lead, which they were able to convert into a victory. The Chaparrals were unsuccessful in the last two possessions of the game. Westlake’s Brett Goodwin missed at the buzzer in a last-ditch effort. Allen, a deadly outside shooter, finished with 25 points for Consolidated. “Our game plan was to dominate the backboards and win with our inside game,” coach Jim McManus of A&M said following the big upset. The Tigers had 15 offensive rebounds in the first half alone. “A&M just out-quickened us and dominated the boards,” coach Dent Taylor of Westlake said. Ronnie Castillo paced Westlake with 16 points and Dozier and Truman followed with 12 apiece.

Willowridge got out of the first round by defeating Georgetown(22-10) 66-59. Charles Arbuckle paced the Eagles with 19 points and Steve Henderson was the star for Georgetown knocking down 31 points.

Willowridge now had the unenviable task of playing Pt. Arthur Lincoln in Bi-District. The game was played in Pasadena Phillips Field House. The Bees were down in the 3rd quarter by 10 points, but were able to turn things around due to Willowridge’s short bench. In the final quarter, Lincoln turned up the heat scoring 22 points, and pulled away for a 68-60 victory. Lincoln’s press took its toll on the Eagles late because they were only playing six players. “Fatigue was a factor and that hurt us more than anything,” Kalinowski said. “We normally do a good job of recognizing defensive changes, but we were too tired to do anything about it.” Kalinowski continued saying, “When Lincoln started its come back, I think we went into shock,” Kalinowski said. “Lincoln has a deep playoff tradition and most of our kids our juniors and sophomores. Maybe when we got ahead by ten we just relaxed too much.”

For Coach Gamble and his crew, it was their 18th win in a row dating back to December 19, when they fell to Westbrook. The Eagles were impressive with Charles Arbuckle finishing with 11 points, Chris Cook added 13 points and Milton Moore chipped in 8 points and 11 rebounds. After the victory coach Gamble commented, "the two times we scouted them, they did not play nearly as well as they did against us. They were loose. You could tell they had everything to gain and nothing to lose." The loss was Willowridge's first playoff experience in the school's five-year history. The Eagles finished 23-10 on the season. Bees came through at the foul line hitting 16 of 20.

Henton had his best game of the playoffs going 11 of 19 from the floor and 5 for 5 from the line, finishing with 24 points. The 6'4" senior kept the Bees in the game early. In the 2nd and 3rd quarter, Henton scored 18 of the 33 points the Purple and Gold put on the score board. "They were giving him the shot," Gamble said. Coach Virel Kalinowski explained, "we knew Henton could shoot the ball, but the times we saw him he wasn't hitting. We were hoping he'd have a cold night again." Lincoln's Derek Young helped with 18 points and Kevin Bush, the District MVP finished, with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

The stage was set for quite possibly the featured rivalry of the 1980s in Texas High school basketball; **Pt. Arthur Lincoln vs. Bay City**. Lincoln had a long tradition, but the Blackcats had some tradition of their own. In 1979, 1980 and 1982 Bay City had lost in the state semi-finals to Hebert twice, and Mineral Wells once. Their 1983 squad lost to eventual state qualifier Silsbee 57-53 in Bi-District. Between 1984 and 1987 the two rivals faced each other four straight seasons in the playoff, resulting in three state titles. The only exception came in 1987 when Dallas Hillcrest upset Bay City.

The first of the two team's playoff contest took place at Phillips Field House in Pasadena. Bay City(25-1) came in with an impressive win over A&M Consolidated(24-12) 79-72 and ranked #4 in the state. The Bumblebees(30-3) were ranked #3 behind Waxahachie and Pampa in the final rankings. In the end, the game was really simple. It came down to Lincoln's ability to hit foul shots. Up 41-39 at the beginning of the 4th quarter, coach Gamble decided to go to his spread offense. The Bees committed only two turnovers in the last quarter and the purple and gold hit 11 of 18 foul shots. "The way Bay City was playing defense they were sealing off the inside," Gamble said. "So, we decided to spread things out and let our guards handle the situation." Derek Young finished with 12 points and Henton added 17 points. "I got tired of shooting so many free throws," admitted Henton.

Anthony Allen(6.0/7.0/4.5 blocks) brought his A-game as the Bees outrebounded Bay City 34-28. Allen blocked 7 shots with 7 rebounds. 6'3" Craig Shields had 5 rebounds and 6'5" Kevin Bush finished with 11 points, 5 rebounds and 1 block. "Anthony played a tremendous basketball," Gamble said. "Our game plan was not to get into a 94 feet game with Bay City. We wanted to give them one

shot from the outside, and not look for the fast break unless we had a wide-open opportunity.” Bay City was really frustrated, because they were unable to play their fast-up-tempo game. Coach Eddie Nelson of Bay City commented after the game, “Lincoln’s inside game-especially that big kid was the difference. This was the first time we’ve really been shut down inside. We basically break a game open with steals, but we couldn’t force enough and every time we shot somebody had a hand in our face.”

Gamble was forever the strategist, “I think the only way to beat Bay City was to play a half-court game, and it was one of our best game this year.”

Another big problem for Bay City was their top player, Hart Lee Dykes, got into early foul trouble. The 6’4” junior was more critical to his team than any player on the court. He was considered one of the top wide receivers in the country and un-real athlete. He was a first pick in the N.F.L. draft after his senior year in college by the Patriots. His career was cut short due to injuries in the N.F.L.

Even with their struggles, Bay City was able to keep things close because of turnovers in the 3rd period. At one point, the Blackcats outscored Lincoln 14-2. After the score was tied at 41, Lincoln once again gained separation going ahead 46-41. Carl Jackson, a 5’10” All-State guard paced Bay City with 22 points. Freshmen, LaBradford Smith added 12 points. Smith was considered one of the top ten freshmen in the country. He would eventually become a first-round pick in the N.B.A. draft.

It is possible you had the top three teams in the state all from Region III during the ’84 campaign. Lincoln was the survivor, but Silsbee or Bay City would have been great representatives. The incredible thing about these three teams is they had four of the top underclassmen in the state, regardless of classification. LaBradford Smith was a freshmen and Hart Lee Dykes was a junior for Bay City, while Anthony Allen of Lincoln and McArthur of Silsbee were sophomores.

Region IV was dominated by Corpus Christi Flour Bluff. They were the only team making a return visit to Austin from the previous year. The Hornets began the season losing three of their first six games. Losses came at the hands of Corpus Christi King(21-10) 59-53, Houston Reagan(23-9) 65-57 and Corpus Christi Ray(16-15) 44-43. All of these losses came against class 5-A teams who were very competitive. Impressive wins for Flour Bluff came against Mission(24-9) 63-54, C.C. Ray(16-15) 62-41 and 58-46, West Oso 64-43, Corpus Christi Miller(23-10) 66-48 and Laredo Martin(26-10) 58-48. District action was not real challenging for the Hornets, as they went undefeated and had no close games.

Coach Bill Batey was one of the top coaches in Texas and very experienced at ripe age of 60. Over the previous five seasons he had an impressive 142-34 record and his career totals were 595-434. His coaching stops had been at Moulton, Alice, Laredo Martin, Laredo Nixon, Tuloso-Midway and Flour Bluff. Batey graduated from Moulton in 1941 at 134 pounds and later played at Texas A&M

after 2 ½ years in the navy. He spent 24 years in Laredo at Martin and Nixon. His teams took on his personality and were very disciplined and efficient.

Coach Batey welcomed back three returning starters from a state semi-finalist team that had lost to Waxahachie 76-57. Frank Fichtel, Andrew Westerkom and Danny Hodges returned for the Hornets. The biggest plus for coach Batey was the return of Roger Durden, who had missed the '83 campaign with a shattered ankle. The starting line-up was impressive and experienced. 6'7" Durden(14.6), 6'3" Westerkom(9.9), 6'4" Ray Canales(7.6), 6'6" Fichtel(11.4) and 5'10" Bud Lewis(6.7). 5'11" Danny Hodges was a valuable 6th man. The three "bigs" were referred to as the triple towers. Every victory in District was a double-digit win, so Flour Bluff wanted a competitive warm-up game. Their margin of victory in District action was an incredible +34.8 per game average.

West Oso(22-6) was a class 3-A school, but very talented and arguable the top team in the Corpus Christi area, regardless of classification. Two outstanding players had led Oso to 14 straight wins. 6'8" Adrian Caldwell(19.7) and 5'11" Willie Harper(17.7). West Oso held down wins over C.C. Miller(23-10) by 21 points, C.C. Carroll(24-10), C.C. King(21-10) and C.C. Ray(16-15). The Flour Bluff Hornets had an earlier season win over West Oso 64-43 in the semi-finals of the Aransas Pass tournament in December. Caldwell had been suspended at the time. Harper only scored 2 points in the first meeting. The two rivals had previously been in the same District and over the previous 3 seasons, West Oso had a 4-games to 3 advantage. Flour Bluff had a 28 games District winning streak going and their last loss had come to West Oso in 1982.

Flour Bluff was too big and strong against West Oso, winning easily 63-40. Coach Arnold Flores of West Oso said following the game, "the best team won tonight." The Hornets loved the 1-3-1 zone defense with their size and length. Andy Westerkom lit up West Oso's zone with 24 points. West Oso could only manage 17 of 70 shooting against the zone and had 21 turnovers. The sagging 1-3-1 zone held Caldwell scoreless till the 4th quarter, when the game was well out of reach. He missed his first twelve shots. Caldwell still managed to finish with 15 points and 20 rebounds.

Coach Batey's bunch was really unchallenged in the playoffs taking down Rio Grande City(16-12) 71-54 with all five Hornets in double figures. Alamo Heights(26-6), out of San Antonio, was considered to be a much greater challenge, but were leveled 71-51. The Mules counted on 6'0" Clay Tarver(15.0), 6'7" Tadd Thomas(14.0) and 6'0" Jeff Davis(14.0). Westerkom once again got hot for the Flour Bluff Hornets hitting 12 of 17 from the floor finishing with 27 points, 7 rebounds, 1 block and 2 assists. Coach Batey was surprised by the margin of victory, "I didn't expect anything like this. This team has beaten some of the best in San Antonio." Alamo Heights could only manage to shoot 37% from the floor against the 1-3-1 zone of Flour Bluff. The Mules started in a zone, but changed to

man to man defense. "The mis-match was so obvious," said Alamo Heights coach Charlie Bogges.

South San West Campos(26-8) faced Flour Bluff in the regional finals, but didn't do any better than the previous teams. Coach Batey was really worried about the inside strength of 6'3" A.J. Miller and 6'3" Brian Caldwell. Both were strong inside and weighed 220 pounds each. The regional finals contest was played at Victoria Stroman and Flour Bluff put on a clinic winning 56-37. The Hornets hit 18 of 20 shots in the first half and led 38-28 at halftime. South only managed to score 11 points in the second half against the zone defense of Flour Bluff. The Hornets started out in a 1-3-1 and went to a 1-2-2 zone. "I never seen shooting like that- on either side," South San coach Phil Dugger said. "We tried to play defense against them, but they're definitely awesome." South failed to score for the first 6:16 of the 3rd quarter after the Hornets switched to the 1-2-2 zone. "What we wanted to do was get them into a running game with us, but we couldn't do that either," Dugger said.

As coach Gamble of Pt. Arthur Lincoln came into Austin he had learned valuable lessons on his first visit to the state tournament in 1981. "This time we'll be a lot more organized. We'll get a lot of things done without having to work a helter-skelter atmosphere," Gamble said. On the possibility of winning state again, Gamble said, "whether we win or not, I'd have to say the first one's a little more rewarding, because we did it with the big boys. At the same time, we're proud to play with the little boys, because we're little boys too." Gamble discussed his scouting in Austin, "we'll be going in blind, so for that first game we'll have to make our adjustments as we go."

Cleburne was making their first appearance in Austin, but that was deceiving. The Yellowjackets had been very successful over the previous six seasons winning 20 games in five of those seasons. Cleburne advanced to the regional finals in 1981, losing to Canyon and in 1982 they were stopped by Andrews. The 1983 season had ended in Bi-District at the hands of Wichita Falls Hirschi.

Cody discussed his expectations entering the '84 campaign. "Our goal was to get to Austin," Cody said. "Once we entered the playoffs we felt we were playing as good as anybody else in our region." Two of the Yellowjackets losses had come in the Ft. Worth Lions Club tournament in the class 4-A division. Cleburne took it on the chin from Pampa by 12 points and Mansfield by one point in three overtimes. The two returning starters for Coach Cody were Chris Hall(16.0/8 assists), a three-year starter and 6'5" Jeff Kennon(11.0/8.0). "Chris is a good guard, a real good one," Cody said. "He's a heck of a passer." Cleburne was not considered a quick or fast team, but rather relied on discipline and accurate shooting. The other Yellowjacket starters included 6'1" Jay Scott, 6'1" Al Smith and 5'9" Steve Hafford(7.0). All three were juniors. Two sophomores came off the

bench for coach Cody; 6'5" Gregg Frizzell and 6'6" Allen Hornell. "We're very disciplined and tend to play better against people that are disciplined," Cody said. "We've beat teams taller and more talented than us, but what concerns me about Lincoln is I've heard they're tall, talented and disciplined." Cody continued saying, "they were good in 5-A, so that should speak for itself. I don't think we'll go in starry-eyed, but I hope the level of ability isn't so great we won't get embarrassed." Cody felt Lincoln was the best of the three possible opponents, "I think Lincoln's the best of the other three teams down there. They're probably the favorite to win the thing from all the people I've talked to. So, we might as well play'em first.

The scouting report on Lincoln was pretty scary. "They run kind of a triple post inside, Bush at 6'5", is probably their best player." Cody continued his analysis, "the bench is really good with Henton their best outside shooter." Bush averages 12 points per game, 6'5" Ronnie Halliburton averages 8 points and 6'7" Anthony Allen hits 8 points and 8 rebounds.

The semi-final contest between Cleburne and Pt. Arthur Lincoln came down to a simple reality of defense. "Defense has been our key all year," Gamble said. In front of 7,384 fans in the drum the Bees defeated Cleburne 51-44. Lincoln was 20 of 47 from the floor and had a small rebounding edge 36-34 over Cleburne. "It was our poorest offensive game of the year," Gamble said. "I felt we were tight. Sometimes we tried too hard to make something happen and sometimes we were too careful." Gamble continued. "Maybe playing in front of 7,000 fans had something to do with that."

Lincoln had to overcome a horrible shooting performance from their three key offensive weapons, Kevin Bush, Donzell Henton and Derek Young. The trio were 5 of 24 shooting from the floor. 6'0" point guard, Walter Senegal took up some of the slack scoring 12 points on 6 of 9. Senegal's two fourth quarter steals were critical to the Bees victory. Sam Jackson, Craig Shelton and Brett Whitley were big for coach Gamble off the Lincoln bench scoring 17 points.

Pt. Arthur went to a full court press early. Gamble said, "We really didn't know anything about them, so we wanted to test their depth." There were several lead changes during the game, as both teams continued to challenge one another. Lincoln went to a spread offense late up 42-34. The Bees struggled from the line shooting only 11 of 21, but in the critical fourth quarter Lincoln was able to connect on 6 of 8 from the line. "Cleburne was loose and played about as well as they could," Gamble said.

Coach Cody of Cleburne echoed Gamble saying, "Lincoln is the best defensive team we've played all season." Hall, the main offensive threat for the Yellowjackets scored only 10 points on 5 of 14 from the field. "I don't think we were intimidated, we made some mistakes, but I don't think we were ever intimidated," Coach Cody said. You should remember Lincoln blocked five Jacket

shots in the first half. "We didn't lose our poise," was Cody's response. The Yellowjackets finished their first state tournament with an impressive 30-5 record.

As Jacksonville prepared for their semi-final match-up at state against Flour Bluff, it was going to be a game of contrast. Flour Bluff started 6'7" Roger Durden(15.0), 6'6" Rey Canalas, 6'6" Frank Fichtel(12.0), 5'10" Brad Lewis and 6'3" Andy Westerkom(10.0). Coach Batey was making his fifth appearance in the state tournament having taken Moulton to state in 1951, led Laredo Martin to the state championship in 1956 and took Flour Bluff to state twice before. Jacksonville countered with one of the shortest groups ever to play in a class 4-A final four. 6'2" Dwyndle Hamilton(12.0), 6'0" Marcus Wallace, 5'10" Robert Hunter, 5'10" Mike Johnson(12.0) and 5'9" Ken Brown(12.0). The Fighting Indians relied on quickness, speed and full court pressure.

Jacksonville's regular season was no indication that the team would advance to state. Jacksonville had faced Whitehouse and finished 1-2 against them. Whitehouse was one of the top AAA teams in the state in 1984. The Indians came up short against Crowley(9-19) 73-71, Lufkin(23-10) 50-47, Tyler Lee(20-10) 60-55 and Huntsville 66-64. On paper the Hornets looked to be heavily favored.

Flour Bluff big line-up seemed to pose a problem for the smaller Jacksonville team, but the Indians were used to playing at a disadvantage. 5'9" Kenneth Brown(14.0) and 6'2" Dwyndle Hamilton(10.0) were both quick and athlete, but the Hornets looked to be ready. Jacksonville's sagging man to man would definitely test Flour Bluff's inside game. Coach Batey said, "if we go up there and lose...hell, we had a good year...but it wasn't as good as it could have been."

With :53 seconds remaining in the game, Flour Bluff took a 43-41 lead over Jacksonville. After a turnover by Flour Bluff, Jacksonville took possession under the Hornets basket. Unable to get the ball inbounds the Indians called timeout. Jacksonville received a technical foul, because they were out of timeouts. Andy Westerkom stepped up and hit one of two foul shots making the score 44-41. Westerkom was fouled a few seconds later and knocked down both opportunities, which basically ended any hopes Jacksonville might have had of coming back. With 44 seconds on the clock the Hornets had taken a 46-41 lead. Flour Bluff shot 18 of 42 from the floor and had 17 turnovers. The Indians were held to only 34% against the tough 1-3-1 zone. For the 4th straight game Flour Bluff had held their opponents under 40% from the field. "We deserved to win. We led the whole ballgame," Batey said. 6'6" Frank Fichtel(13.0) hit 13 points for the Hornets and 6'7" Durden(15.0) contributed only 6 points on 3 of 11 from the floor with 13 rebounds, against the sagging man to man. Westerkom ended up with 11 points. Flour Bluff did NOT own the boards only managing a 37 to 33 advantage. Jacksonville's two studs, Brown and Michael Jackson combined for 26 points and shot only 12 of 31 from the field for 39%.

Following the victory over Jacksonville, Batey said, "we didn't play one of our great games, but as this team has done all year, we did what we had to do to win it." Coach Batey only played six players, which would be tough when facing the deep Pt. Arthur Lincoln squad.

Coach Bill Batey discussed his coming state title game against Lincoln saying, "if they beat Bay City, then I know they're pretty good." Batey discussed the challenge that laid a head facing Lincoln, "We've played taller teams than Lincoln and we've played quicker teams, but we haven't played a team that is as tall or as quick as they are." Batey was a 35-year veteran of the basketball wars and knew his basketball. "We certainly have a task ahead of us," Batey continued.

Flour Bluff for one of the few times all season would be facing another team with similar size. 6'7" Anthony Allen, 6'5" Kevin Bush and 6'4" Donzell Henten would pose a threat of which the Hornets hadn't seen all year. Even the backcourt was of similar size. 6'3" Westerkom and 5'10" Lewis matching up against 6'0" Walter Senegal and 6'2" Derek Young of the Bumblebees.

"They'll pressure us the whole game if we don't handle it, but if we can break it early, maybe they'll drop it," Westerkom said. If everyone doesn't play their best game, we're in trouble," Batey said.

Coming into the state finals Gamble commented, "I think we're going to have to play better. The main thing is to play our game, anytime you get in a championship situation everybody can play." In facing the Hornets, Lincoln would be facing their tallest opponent in three seasons. "Flour Bluff is the biggest team we've faced this year," Gamble said. "They were here last year so they have got to be talented, they're big and strong, but we're not going to be in awe of that. We've got adequate size to combat them."

The game itself almost turned out to be anti-climactic, as Lincoln won 61-52 and gained their second state title. The final score made the game appear close, but it wasn't. The Bees forced 17 first half turnovers and were up 35-19 at intermission. Lincoln was in total control up 52-31 with 5:24 left in the contest. Coach Gamble finally emptied the bench and Flour Bluff closed the gap. Gamble said following the game, "there is no point in lying, I really felt we'd beat them by eight or 10 points. I never expected us to get as comfortable as we did." Lincoln's defense once again was incredible as they blocked eight shots, four of which were by sophomore, Anthony Allen. "It was the only way we could shut down their inside game," Gamble said. "Our plan was to trap them in the backcourt and if we couldn't do that we'd make them run." In the first half, when the game was still being contested, the Hornets only managed 8 of 18 shooting. A disappointed Batey said following the loss, "you can't win if you can't get shots."

Lincoln controlled the glass with a 46-36 advantage over the bigger team and came away with 15 offensive rebounds. "I think we intimidated them a lot," senior post, Kevin Bush said. "They're a veteran and disciplined team," Gamble

said. "But I didn't think we would shake them that badly." Senegal continued his scoring in the playoffs leading the Bees with 14 points, Derek Young finished with 11 points. Those were the only two Pt. Arthur players in double figures. 6'7" Roger Durden led the Hornets with 13 points on 4 of 14 from the floor. Allen of Lincoln countered with 4 points, 9 rebounds, 4 blocks and a dunk. Lincoln was 24 of 61 for 39 % from the field, while Flour Bluff hit 19 of 53 for 35%. Ten Bees scored for the winners. Coach Gamble had a great comment following the state championship game, "when you have the horses, all you got to do is saddle them up."

"I knew rebounding was going to be a big factor because they're so much quicker than we are on the boards," Batey said. "The thing that impressed me was they had so many people who could go to the boards," Durden said. "These guys had guards that were crashing. There wasn't one guy you could single out to keep off the glass," Durden said. "They have a good team, they have a lot of jumpers. We haven't played a team like that. There aren't a lot of teams like that in our area," Durden continued. "It was just the unforced errors and sloppy passes and they were so quick," Westerkom said. "We expected them to be quick, but we didn't handle it as well as we should have," Frank Fichtel said.

Batey explained that the easily road to state hurt his team in the long run. "We probably needed some tough games." Batey said, "we didn't know what it is like to try to catch-up," Fichtel explained. Frank Fichtel explained the Hornets dilemma saying, "we got down and weren't in a position of slowing it down anymore."

"I was surprised the pressure defense rattled them," Lincoln point guard Walter Senegal said. "They were here last year and I thought they would play us tougher." A crowd of 11,000 enjoyed the game at the Drum in Austin.

All-Tournament team- Walter Senegal, Kevin Bush, Derek Young from Pt. Arthur Lincoln, Roger Durden from Flour Bluff, and Chris Hall from Cleburne.

1984 State Rankings AAAA {End of the Regular Season}:

1.	Waxahachie	28-2	5'11" Todd Alexander, Adrian Frazier
2.	Pampa	24-5	6'7" Coyle Winborn, George Chappin
3.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	26-3	6'5" Kevin Bush, 6'2" Derek Young
4.	Bay City	23-1	5'10" Carl Jackson, 6'4" Hart Lee Dykes
5.	Austin Westlake	31-0	5'10" Richie Dozier, 6'4" Sam Pesi
6.	Silsbee	27-3	Darrell McArthur, Ferrell Artis
7.	W. F. Hirschi	23-3	Brian Dial, Rodney James
8.	CC Flour Bluff	28-3	6'7" Roger Durden, 6'6" Frank Fichtel
9.	Cleburne	26-4	6'3" Chris Hall(18.0), Jerry Scott
10.	Waco Midway	25-7	Doak Taylor, Andy Seely

Texas Sports Writers All-State, 1st Team-6'5" Kevin Bush, P.A. Lincoln; 6'7" Roger Durden, Flour Bluff; 6'5" Joe Baker, Kerrville Tivy; 5'11" Todd Alexander, Waxahachie;

5'10" Carl Jackson, Bay City; **2nd Team-** 6'3" Chris Hall, Cleburne; 6'6" Coyle Winborn, Pampa; 6'4" Hart Lee Dykes, Bay City; 6'7" Anthony Allen, Pt. Arthur Lincoln; Kevin Davis, Columbia; 3rd Team- 6'3" Billy Giggins, Dallas Lincoln; 6'3" William Smith, Mansfield; Darrell McArthur, Silsbee; Joseph Goynes, Sinton; 5'10" Richie Dozier, Austin Westlake:

Texas Association of Basketball Coaches, 1st Team- 5'11" Todd Alexander, Waxahachie; 6'6" Coyle Winborn, Pampa; 6'5" Kevin Bush, Pt. Arthur Lincoln; 6'7" Roger Durden, Flour Bluff; 5'10" Carl Jackson, Bay City: **2nd Team-** 6'3" Chris Hall, Cleburne; Dennis Smith, Waco Midway; 6'3" Darrell McArthur, Silsbee; 6'3" Billy Giggins, Dallas Lincoln; 6'3" William Smith, Mansfield: **3rd Team-** Joe Baker, Kerrville Tivy; Clay Tarver, S.A. Alamo Heights; Derek Young, Pt. Arthur Lincoln; Brian Dial, Wichita Falls Hirschi; Michael Johnson, Jacksonville:

1984 4-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	Pampa(24-6) #2	67	Andrews(22-10)	44
	Borger(14-14)	60	Lamesa(26-3) OT	56
	Wichita Falls Hirschi(23-3) #7	69	Mansfield(23-9)	67
	Cleburne(27-4) #9	61	Burkburnett(20-6)	38
Region I Semi Finals	Cleburne(28-4) #9	54	Borger(15-14)	52
	Wichita Falls Hirschi(24-3) #7	72	Pampa(25-6) #2	57
	Regional Finals Cleburne(29-4) #9	59	Wichita Falls Hirschi(25-3) #7	55
Region II Bi-Dist.	Jacksonville(19-8)	58	Liberty-Eylau(19-10)	54
	Henderson(22-6)	72	Paris(15-11)	57
	Waco Jefferson-Moore(27-6)	79	Dallas Lincoln(19-7) OT	73
	Waco Midway(27-7)	65	Dallas Adamson(17-12)	53
Region II Semi Finals	Jacksonville(20-8)	36	Waco Jefferson Moore(28-6)	34
	Waco Midway(28-7)	55	Henderson(23-6)	52
Region II Finals	Jacksonville(21-8)	60	Waco Midway(29-7)	48
Region III Bi-Dist.	Willowridge(22-12)	66	Georgetown(22-10)	59
	A&M Consolidated(23-11)	75	Austin Westlake(31-0) #5	74
	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(27-3) #3	60	Friendswood(20-10)	41
	Bay City(23-1) #4	66	Silsbee(27-3) #6 OT	65
Region III Semis	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(28-3) #3	68	Willowridge(23-12)	60
	Bay City(24-1) #4	79	A&M Consolidated(24-11)	72
Region III Finals	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-3) #3	58	Bay City(25-1) #4	53
Region IV Bi-Dist.	South San West(24-7)	64	Kerrville Tivy	59
	S.A. Alamo Heights(25-6)	48	Gonzales(25-6)	45
	Rockport Fulton(13-13)	59	LaJoya(16-14)	53
	CC Flour Bluff(27-3) #8	71	Rio Grande City	54
Region IV Semis	South San Antonio West(21-9)	86	Rockport Fulton(14-13)	47
	CC Flour Bluff(28-3) #8	71	S.A. Alamo Heights(26-6)	51
Region IV Finals	CC Flour Bluff(29-3) #8	56	South San Antonio West(22-9)	37
State Semi-Finals	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(30-3) #3	51	Cleburne(30-4) #9	44
	CC Flour Bluff(30-3) #8	46	Jacksonville(22-8)	43
State Finals	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-3)	61	CC Flour Bluff(31-3)	52

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1984 AAAA Top Teams}

1. Pt. Arthur Lincoln 32-3 {State Champions 4-A, defeated Silsbee, Bay City}
2. Bay City 25-2 {lost in regional finals to Lincoln 58-53, beat Silsbee +1}
3. Silsbee 27-4 {lost to Bay City by 1, lost to Lincoln by 5 and 1 point}

4.	Waxahachie	28-3	{beat Mansfield by 19 and Pampa by 8, top rated team}
5.	Cleburne	30-5	{state semis, 2-1 vs. Mansfield, 1-1 against Hirschi}
6.	Wichita Falls Hirschi	25-4	{1-1 vs. Cleburne, defeated Pampa by 15, beat Mansfield}
7.	C.C. Flour Bluff	30-4	{back to back trips to state, dominated region IV}
8.	Austin Westlake	31-1	{upset in bi-district by A&M Consolidated}
9.	Pampa	25-7	{ranked #2 throughout the season, led by Winborn}
10.	Mansfield	23-10	{finished 1-2 vs. Cleburne, lost to Hirschi by 2}
11.	Waco Midway	29-8	{upset in the regional finals, defeated Waxahachie earlier}
12.	Waco Jeff. Moore	28-7	{beat Waxahachie in zone, lost out by 2 to Jacksonville}
13.	A&M Consolidated	24-12	{lost to Lincoln by 7, beat Westlake 75-74}
14.	Borger	15-15	{advanced to regional semis losing to Cleburne by 2}
15.	Lamesa	26-4	{lost in overtime to Borger 60-56 in Bi-District}
16.	Willowridge	23-13	{had Lincoln down for 3 quarters, loss 68-60}
17.	Andrews	22-11	{finished 2 nd in district 2-4A behind Lamesa}
18.	Jacksonville	22-9	{state semi, defeated Waco Midway and Jeff. Moore}
19.	Henderson	23-7	{won district playoff against Jacksonville, loss to Midway}
20.	Granbury	20-8	{split with Cleburne in District, finished 3 rd in District}
21.	S. San Antonio West	22-10	{regional finalist, lost to Flour Bluff 56-37}
22.	S. A. Alamo Heights	26-7	{regional semi-finalist, lost to Flour Bluff 71-51}
23.	Georgetown	22-11	{lost bi-district Willowridge by 7, 2 nd behind Westlake}
24.	Everman	20-10	{4 th in tough zone behind Granbury, Mansfield, Clebur}
25.	Gonzales	25-7	{lost in bi-district to Alamo Heights by 3}

1984 AAA

Class AAA ended the 1984 regular season campaign with two undefeated teams. Graham finished 29-0 and New Boston came in at 27-0. Region II housed both of these dynamite teams, as they appeared to be on a crash course for the regional finals. Two of the top talents came out of Region III in 6'4" Sam Williams(25.8) of Hardin Jefferson and 6'8" James Gulley(26.0) from Newton. These were two of the best to ever play in class AAA. Region I was always going to be tough having produced the two previous state champions in class AAA in Dimmitt.

The Newton Eagles advanced to regionals with a convincing 82-50 victory over Hamshire-Fannett. The Eagles had finished as runner-up in 18-3A. Hamshire had also finished as a runner-up to Hardin-Jefferson in District action losing by 41 and 24 points. 6'8" Gulley put up 23 points in the Eagles win over Hamshire. Newton continued their success in the playoffs defeating a strong Navasota(24-7) squad in the regional semi-finals 83-73.

Hardin-Jefferson joined Newton in regionals with a 68-65 win over Center. The Hawks sensational post, 6'4" Sam Williams finished with 21 points. Coldsprings went down to Hardin Jefferson in the regional semis 67-56. This set up the much-anticipated regional final between Hardin-Jefferson(37-4) and Newton(27-7). Clearly, two of the top teams in the state. Hardin Jefferson was ranked 4th in the state while Newton was unranked for some unknown reason. The game would showcase Williams and Gulley head to head.

Newton and Hardin-Jefferson had met earlier in December in the finals of the Lumberton tournament. Gulley dominated the Hawks with 33 points and 10 rebounds in Newton's 72-66 win. Sam Williams of Hardin-Jefferson finished the game with 18 points and 8 rebounds in a losing cause.

In talking with coach Charles Breithaupt of Hardin Jefferson recently he shared his thoughts on James Gulley. "At 6'9", 275 pounds he had an imposing presence. He was a skilled basketball player who had great hands and agility. He had a soft touch and was remarkably accurate. He was a true post player at each end of the floor. He had four great years at Lamar."

In the regional finals the Hawks came away with a hard fought 64-62 win over Newton and advanced to state. 6'4" Sam Williams played an awesome game finishing with 32 points. "Sam did it on both ends offensively and defensively. He took it to the hole and got two big charges," coach Breithaupt said. "That's something he hasn't done all year." As for James Gulley of Newton, he scored 26 points and fouled out on a charge with 3:34 remaining in the game, with his team down 56-53. Hardin-Jefferson trailed by nine points late in the 3rd quarter and took the lead for the first time in the game 50-49 with 5:30 left to play. Williams made a mental error late in the game calling a time-out. The Hawks didn't have any timeouts left causing a technical foul. Newton took advantage and had two more opportunities to extend the game, but failed to convert. "They got some crucial calls, but that's just the breaks," Newton coach Kenneth Sims commented. "You face that every night." Mark Hawthorne of Newton scored 12 points in the game and Dwight Thomas also finished with 12 points. Hardin-Jefferson supporting cast was led by Reggie Batiste with 14 points and Rocky Rocquemore added 10 points.

Hardin-Jefferson entered state with four losses on their record. The losses came at the hands of Newton, as mentioned earlier, along with Snook 45-38, Jasper 67-63 and Huntsville in a warm-up game 84-72. The Hawks were making their third visit to Austin and the state tournament.

The Graham Steers finished the regular season as the state's top ranked AAA team. Coming off 27-5 campaign in 1983, the Steers were looking to improve on their regional semi-finals appearance. The '84 team centered around two outstanding players, point guard Todd Sims(7.4/6.5 assists) and 6'4" post, Ron Ranger(22.2/13.1). Ranger won three tournament M.V.P. awards during the regular season and was the catalyst of the Steers attack. Coach Lonnie Gaylor was in his 3rd year with Graham. Gaylor had previously coached at Marlin and taken the Bulldogs to the regional finals in 1981. Sims commented on playing for Coach Gaylor, "it took me a long time to adjust to Coach Gaylor's system, because I used to score a lot. Now, I like making assists." The Graham roster was dominated by nine seniors.

Coach Gaylor looked to 6'3" Wayne Chowning(11.8), 6'2" Chuck Heffington(8.3) and Jim Bob Williams to complement his two stars. A key player off the bench was Robert Sedberry. Graham averaged an impressive 65.3 points per game and allowed only 44.3 for a +21.0 margin of victory. Sims commented on Graham's outstanding regular season, "the 30-0 has been a dream come true, and everybody is expecting us to go all the way."

Graham opened up the playoffs facing Commerce at Arlington Martin High School. Commerce had lost 43-42 to Bonham in a District playoff for the top spot in the playoffs. The Steers handled the pressure winning 60-52 over Commerce. Ranger led the way with 24 points and Todd Sims came away with 14 points. Commerce was paced by Jack Waters with 16 points and Kevin Bridges finishing with 15 points. In the 2nd round, Graham had a close one against Cedar Hill(21-7) 53-51. The game was played at Boswell High School.

Undefeated New Boston(27-0) opened the playoffs with a real nail biter against a tough Prairiland(20-8) team. Kim Phillips of New Boston hit two foul shots with 25 seconds left to give the Lions a 65-64 victory. Jeff Griffin of Prairiland missed a mid-court shot at the buzzer. Griffin was high point man with 23 for the Patriots, while Joe Smith added 17 points in a losing effort. "We knew coming in here that we were up to our necks in alligators," coach Dan Harris of Prairiland said. "I've never coached a team that gave that kind of effort." The Patriots strategy was to keep the tempo slow against the superior speed of the Lions. The Patriots guards, Scott Scudder and Joe Smith did a great job controlling tempo. "They turned it into a half-court game on us," Lion boss man Gary Schiffner said. New Boston led 46-36 at intermission. Kim Phillips came away with 14 points for the New Boston along with Dennis Yarbrough's 17 points and Carl Brewer was good for 13 points.

Brownsboro offered a real challenge for New Boston as they prepared for their 2nd round game. Brownsboro had 6'5" Greg Sherfield, Greg Adair and Scott Williams in tow. New Boston looked to 6'5" Reggie Austin, 5'11" Carl Brewer and 6'0" Ben Griffin. In the first half things were tough for the Lions leading 28-26 at intermission. During the second half, New Boston's talent became too-much, as they pulled away winning 68-50. 5'11" Kim Phillips hit 23 points and 6'4" Reggie Austin followed with 15 points. Brownsboro was propelled by Greg Sherfield's 29-point effort.

Daingerfield was another team that could never be overlooked with some talent-laden athletes and a traditional 3-A power. Daingerfield came into the playoffs with a 13-2 record after a long football season. 6'0" Eric Everett led Daingerfield against North Lamar(21-5) in Bi-District. North Lamar gave the game to Daingerfield late when calling a timeout that they didn't have. The technical fouls were the difference for the Tigers, as they advanced 51-48

victory. Rodney Mill's was Daingerfield's leader with 20 points and North Lamar was paced by Glenn Young's 17 points.

Daingerfield's 2nd round opponent was another school with loads of basketball tradition, Whitehouse, just outside Tyler. Whitehouse(26-4) relied on the brother combo of Ronald and Roy Johnson. Whitehouse ended Daingerfield's season with a 57-49 count. Roy Johnson finished with 20 points while brother Ron had 14 points and Carlisle added 19 points. Eric Everett finished with 15 points for the Tigers. Daingerfield finished with an impressive 13-3 record.

As Graham came into regionals, they were staring at Whitehouse, New Boston and Kaufman. Any one of the four teams could come away with the regional trophy. For the battle of unbeaten to occur, Graham had to get by Whitehouse, and New Boston would be trying to eliminate Kaufman.

Whitehouse took out top ranked Graham 61-59 behind 22 points from Roy Johnson. Graham was down at halftime 36-26, but outscored Whitehouse 17-9 in the 4th quarter. 6'4" Ron Ranger was the only Steer in double figures with 32 points. New Boston kept their date in the regional finals defeating Kaufman in another close one 59-56. 6'0" Brock Sanders led the Lions with 16 points, Carl Brewer finished with 17 points and Kim Phillips added 10.

The Region II finals saw New Boston defeat Whitehouse 68-65 to advance to Austin. 6'4" Reggie Smith provided a strong inside for the Lions with 24 points. Carl Brewer added 14 points for New Boston. Whitehouse was led by the Johnson brothers. Roy knocked down 20 points and Ron ended up with 24 points.

As New Boston rolled into Austin, they were going to face one of the strongest traditional AAA powers in two-time defending state champion, Dimmitt. Coach Kevin Cleveland was a 25-year veteran of basketball wars with a 615-163 record and three state titles. After losing eight seniors from his undefeated state champion squad, Coach Cleveland was anticipating a big rebuilding assignment. "No coach ever tells his kids he doesn't believe they can win, but I really couldn't see us doing what we've done so far," Cleveland said. At 20-13 on the season and District runner-up at 6-4, the team got hot late in the season.

Coach Cleveland had produced 18 playoff teams at Dimmitt in 23 seasons at the helm. The 1984 team was completely rebuilt with 6'3" Brad Holcomb and 5'11" Richard Saucedo as the only returning lettermen. "We brought 18 players, when we went into the playoffs, I figured our junior varsity players had earned promotion to the varsity and could dress out for a game or two. I never figured we'd play as many as five game," Cleveland said.

The Bobcats began the season with a victory which extended their undefeated streak from the previous season. Dimmitt had won 45-straight.

Hereford ended Dimmitt's winning streak in the next game 61-46. Coach Cleveland continued discussing his team's struggles during the season, "We were 15-12 in January and struggled to finish second in District. Then we caught fire and won five of our last six games, losing only a warm-up game to Borger before the playoffs."

Dimmitt took down Idalou(20-10) in the 2nd round of the playoffs 61-47. Idalou liked a half-court offense while Dimmitt preferred to get up and down the court. Leaders for the Bobcats were 6'3" Brad Holcomb(14.0/8.0) and 5'11" Richard Saucedo. The Wildcats of Idalou relied on the inside game of 6'5" Jeff Fulfer(16.0/12.0).

Dimmitt's next opponent in the regional semi-finals was Crane(20-8). Lubbock Municipal Coliseum was the site of the Dimmitt-Crane contest. Dimmitt's coach Kenneth Cleveland commented before the game, "We're already three games farther along than I thought we'd be, this is hard to believe, but it's true."

Crane lost 59-50 to Dimmitt because of the inability to score against the Bobcat 2-3 zone. Crane only hit 1 of their last 12 shots from the floor. Crane only managed 21 of 63 for the game. Kenny Walker(18.0) was Crane's leading scorer and fouled out with 7:29 remaining and was held scoreless. "I really think losing him was the key factor," Cleveland said. "Without him their inside game is like ours. We have to live by the outside shot." The brother combo of Dwight and Pat McDonald was critical in the victory for the Bobcats. Dwight came away with 15 points and Pat had 12 points. Gus Walker was the leader for Crane with 19 points. Walker had put up 34 points in his previous playoff game.

Dimmitt magical season came to a peak against Abernathy in the regional finals. The two teams had previously played twice with Abernathy winning both games by one point. The game would also be a re-match of last season's regional finals game. "Everybody tries to build this game with Abernathy as a grudge match, but I don't see it that way," Cleveland said. "We're just glad to be where we are."

In front of 4,500 fans at the Lubbock Municipal Coliseum the Bobcats continued their drive back to Austin. With only six seconds remaining the 5'9" Dwight McDonald of Dimmitt went the length of the court for the winning basket to advance to Austin. Abernathy looked to have things under control holding for the final shot with 54 seconds remaining and the score tied. Chester Cooper of Abernathy missed and 8-footer and Robert Nelson of Dimmitt got the rebound and immediately called timeout. McDonald took the inbounds pass and went $\frac{3}{4}$ of the court dribbling in and out of traffic and hit the winner at the buzzer. "I told them to go as far as they could and put it up,"

Cleveland said. "If they picked us up too quick, lay it off, just don't charge. It makes you look like a great coach when it works."

Abernathy was fueled by 6'4" Ed Teal, who led the Antelopes with 21 points and 16 rebounds. Sammy Galloway contributed to the Abernathy's effort with 23 points. The Bobcats were paced by Brad Holcomb's 14 points and Dwight McDonald's 24 points.

In facing New Boston at state, coach Cleveland commented, "we call it a real assignment – and hope we don't get embarrassed. We're just tickled to be here."

The Bobcat started 6'3" Brad Holcomb(12.0/7.0), 5'9" Dwight McDonald, 5'11" Richard Saucedo(13.0), 5'9" Robert Nelson and 6'3" sophomore, Pat McDonald. New Boston looked to 5'11" Kim Phillips(11.6), 5'11" Carl Brewer(13.8), 6'0" Ben Griffin, 6'4" Reggie Austin(10.2/7.0) and 6'4" Dennis Yarbrough.

When looking at Dimmitt over the course of the season, it is true Cleveland's team had a poor record, but after looking at his schedule the Bobcats had lost to mostly 4-A and 5-A teams. Hereford, Amarillo Caprock, Plainview, Lubbock Coronado, Odessa High, and 2-A power Morton, all had wins over the Bobcats. Dimmitt finished 2nd to Abernathy in District, but both losses were by one point. In a warm-up game prior to the playoffs, Dimmitt lost to 4-A regional finalist, Borger 51-47. In their run to state, outside of the game against Abernathy in the regional finals, Dimmitt didn't have a close game. Dimmitt defeated Spearman 69-57, Idalou 61-47 and Crane 59-50. These games were not blow-outs, but rather comfortable wins.

Against undefeated New Boston, Dimmitt finally lost a state tournament game after winning back to back titles. 6'4" Reggie Austin of New Boston was a big factor in Lion's one-point victory 60-59. Although Austin only managed to score 11 points, the Dimmitt defense was geared up to stop his inside attack. The Bobcats sagged continually allowing Ben Griffin to get some real good looks at the basket. For the Bobcats, 6'3" Brad Holland put up 22 points and Dwight McDonald came away with 17 points. With Dimmitt's four-point margin late in the contest, coach Cleveland gave thought to going into a delay game, but decided against it because of their poor foul shooting.

New Boston had a 60-57 lead with 12 seconds remaining when Dimmitt's Dwight McDonald went to the foul line and hit two free throws, cutting the lead to one with only five seconds left. After a steal with three seconds remaining, Dimmitt's McDonald missed a 20-footer that would have given Dimmitt the win. New Boston outrebounded Dimmitt 41-36 on the day. Ben Griffin finished with 20 points and Carl Brewer added 10 for New Boston.

Sour Lake Hardin-Jefferson(38-4) arrived in Austin coming off their big victory over Newton in the regional finals. The Hawks were making their third

appearance in Austin, having won state in 1967. Their offensive attack was the most potent in the state scoring over 100-points three times and 90 points on six occasions. Coach Charles Breithaupt offensive attack centered around 6'5" Sam Williams(25.8/12.8). Williams was so talented that many opponents felt he was the best player they had faced all season. 5'11" Rocky Rocquemoore(20.2) was also outstanding along with 5'11" David Martel(14.8), 5'11" Reggie Bastiste(15.0) and 5'10" Jamie Louviere.

The Hawks drew the Sweeny(25-4) Bulldogs in the semi-Finals. The Bulldogs called on 5'10" Michael Houston(10.2), 6'1" Bennett Fields(14.3), 6'3" Don Lemon(14.0/11.6), 6'3" Aaron Williams(13.0 rebounds) and 5'8" Ludwell Taylor. Sweeny was athletic and had to get by District rival Van Vleck in the regional finals 56-54 in double overtime. Sweeny's win over Van Vleck was their third win of the season over their rival. Previously, the Bulldogs had defeated Van Vleck 54-51 and 67-66 and lost 65-63. Sweeny's other losses during the season came at the hands of Columbus 52-43 and two 5-A schools, Klein Forest 65-40 and Houston Bellaire 62-55.

Sam Williams dominated against Sweeny in Hardin-Jefferson's 59-55 victory in the semis. Williams finished with 23 points and 16 rebounds. Coach Randy Miksch of Sweeny summarized everything after the game, "Williams was super, the best big man we've been up against all year, Hardin Jefferson got to many second and third shots." Williams would keep balls alive by tipping them back out to his teammates when he was unable to control the ball. By the time Williams left the game his team was up by five, 50-45 with 3:53 remaining. David Martel finished with 18 points for the Hawks and the Bulldogs were paced by 6'1" Bennett Fields 17 points and 5'10" Michael Houston's 13 points. Jefferson dominated the glass with a 37 to 23 advantage.

The state championship game saw a great performance from Hardin-Jefferson's Sam Williams. The 6'5" senior put up 33 points, but he was unable to get his team past the talented New Boston squad losing 76-65. Coach Gary Schniffer of New Boston commented, "this is definitely the best game we have played all year, I don't think we can play much better." The Lions led at halftime 38-26 and late in the contest were up 69-52 before emptying the bench. "I think our quickness showed," Schniffer said. New Boston led the battle of the backboards 38-31 over Hardin-Jefferson. Ben Griffin pulled down 13 boards for New Boston and Sam Williams countered with 14 rebounds for the Hawks. Rocky Rocquemoore added 16 points for Hardin-Jefferson and New Boston had some really balanced scoring. 5'11" Brewer finished with 18 points, 6'5" Reggie Austin chipped in 16 points, 6'0" Ben Griffin came away with 13 points, 5'11" Kim Phillips added 12 points and 6'4" Dennis Yarbough hit 10. Five players in double figures, very impressive.

Talking to Hardin-Jefferson coach Charles Breithaupt about the New Boston game, he was impressed with Reggie Austin. "He was the hub of their offense at center. I placed my best defender against him and unfortunately, he picked up three early fouls. We fell behind and every time we made a run they made a big shot. Their guards especially were outstanding. (Carl Brewer and Kim Phillips) Both went on to play college football." Phillips went on to play at North Texas State and later the N.F.L. with the Saints and the Bills.

All-Tournament team-Sam Williams from Hardin-Jefferson, Carl Brewer, Reggie Austin and Ben Griffin from New Boston, and Brad Holcomb from Dimmitt.

1984 State Rankings AAA {End of the Regular Season}

1.	Graham	29-0
2.	New Boston	27-0
3.	Fairfield	27-3
4.	Hardin Jefferson	29-4
5.	Abernathy	25-6
6.	Coleman	24-5
7.	Pleasanton	27-3
8.	Roma	25-2
9.	Medina Valley	25-3
10.	Sweeney	21-3

Texas Sports Writers Association All-State 1st Team-6'4" Sam Williams(25.8), Hardin Jefferson; 6'8" James Gulley(26.0), Newton; 6'5" Reggie Austin(10.2), New Boston; 5'11" Rocky Rocquemore, Hardin Jefferson; 5'11" Carl Brewer, New Boston: **2nd Team**-Ed Teal, Abernathy; 6'4" Ron Ranger, Graham; 6'8" Adrian Caldwell(19.7), West Oso; Clifton Davis, Hearne; 5'11" Willie Harper(17.7), West Oso: **3rd Team**- 6'4" Donald Thompson(19.0), Aransas Pass; 6'3" Donald Lemon(14.0), Sweeny; R.J. Greathouse, Post; John Eisenberg, Cedar; Wayne Thomas, Columbus:

Texas Association of Basketball Coaches- 1st Team- 6'4" Sam Williams(25.8), Hardin-Jefferson; 6'5" Reggie Austin(10.2), New Boston; Bob Hunt, Pleasanton; 6'8" James Gulley(26.0), Newton; 6'5" Ron Ranger(22.2) of Graham: **2nd Team**-John Eisenberg, Cedar Hill; Ed Teal, Abernathy; Wayne Thomas, Columbus, 6'1" Bennett Fields(14.3), Sweeny; Andre Martin, Van Vleck: **3rd Team**- 6'3" Brad Holcomb(12.0), Dimmitt; 6'3" Donald Lemon(14.0), Sweeny; Cedric Hubbard, Kountze; Dereak Mack, Fairfield; 5'9" Dwight McDonald, Dimmitt:

1984 3-A Playoffs

Region I 2nd Round	Abernathy(26-7) #5	55	Post(15-5)	42
	Dimmitt(17-13)	61	Idalou(19-9)	47
	Crane	69	Abilene Wylie(21-6)	64
	Clyde(21-6)	62	Kermit	61
Region I Semi Finals	Abernathy(27-7) #5	80	Clyde(22-6)	68
	Dimmitt(18-13)	59	Crane	50
Regional Finals	Dimmitt(19-13)	63	Abernathy(28-7) #5	61
Region II Bi-Dist.	Graham(30-0) #1	60	Commerce(21-7)	52

	Springtown(21-9)	49	Bonham	43
	Cedar Hill(21-7)	81	Canton(21-8)	65
	Kaufman(24-4)	72	Hillsboro(19-11)	51
	Daingerfield	51	North Lamar	48
	New Boston(27-0) #2	65	Prairieland(20-8)	64
	Whitehouse(25-4)	60	Mexia	19
	Brownsboro(21-6)	53	Gatesville	42
Region II 2 nd Round	Graham(31-0) #1	53	Cedar Hill(20-6)	51
	Kaufman(25-4)	72	Springtown	68
	New Boston(28-0) #2	68	Brownsboro(22-6)	50
	Whitehouse(26-4)	57	Daingerfield(13-2)	49
Region II Semi Finals	Whitehouse(27-4)	61	Graham(32-0) #1	59
	New Boston(29-0) #2	59	Kaufman(26-4)	55
Region II Finals	New Boston(30-0) #2	68	Whitehouse(28-4)	65
Region III 2 nd Round	Hardin Jefferson(35-4) #4	68	Center	65
	Newton(25-7)	82	Hampshire(17-12)	50
	Navasota(23-8)	61	Brookshire Royal	53
	Coldspring	63	Elgin(19-10)	61
Region III Semis	Newton(26-7)	83	Navasota(24-8)	73
	Hardin Jefferson(36-4) #4	67	Coldsprings-Oakhurst	56
Region III Finals	Hardin Jefferson(37-4) #4	64	Newton(27-7)	62
Region IV 2 nd Round	Van Vleck(20-8)	65	Medina Valley(27-3) #9	63
	Sweeney(22-4) #10	57	Pleasanton(28-3) #7	47
	West Oso(23-7) #11	65	Roma(26-2) #8	61
	Aransas Pass(24-8)	58	Hebronville(18-10)	47
Region IV Semis	Van Vleck(21-8)	70	Aransas Pass(25-8)	61
	Sweeney(23-4) #10	55	West Oso(24-7)	46
Region IV Finals	Sweeney(24-4) #10	56	Van Vleck(22-8) 2OT	54
State Semi-Finals	New Boston(31-0) #2	60	Dimmitt(20-13)	59
	Hardin Jefferson(38-4) #4	59	Sweeney(25-4) #10	55
State Finals	New Boston(32-0) #2	76	Hardin Jefferson(39-4) #4	65

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1984 AAA Top Teams}

1. New Boston 33-0 {undefeated State Champions}
2. Dimmitt 20-14 {lost in the state semis by 1 to New Boston}
3. Hardin Jefferson 39-5 {state finals losing to New Boston}
4. Newton 27-8 {regional finals, split with Hardin-Jefferson on the season}
5. Whitehouse 28-5 {regional finals losing to New Boston 68-65}
6. Graham 32-1 {eliminated by Whitehouse by two in regional semis}
7. Abernathy 28-8 {defeated Dimmitt twice in district by one}
8. Sweeney 24-4 {state semi-finals losing to Hardin-Jefferson 59-55}
9. Van Vleck 22-9 {regional finals losing in double OT to Sweeney}
10. Prairieland 20-9 {lost by one in Bi-District to New Boston}

1984 AA

West Texas basketball and the Morton Indians were synonymous with winning. Morton under the leadership of coach Tony Maudlin had another outstanding squad. The Indians were defending state champions and ranked

as the top team in the state. In the pre-season it was hard to name all of the class 4-A and 5-A teams Morton defeated.

Region I was competitive in 1984 and would challenge Morton. In the regionals semi-finals, Seagraves(25-4) played Sanford-Fritch(29-1) for the right to play Morton in the regional finals. Morton had beaten Haskell 76-61 in the other semi-final game. Sanford-Fritch had perhaps the best class 2-A player in the state in 6'8" Ed Cunningham. The big junior finished with 30 points, 16 rebounds and 5 blocks. Just another day at the office for the big guy. The game was very close till the 1:51 mark of the game. Sanford-Fritch proceeded to watch Seagraves score 9 unanswered points, while Fritch had four players foul out. Seagraves came away with three offensive rebounds off foul shots down the stretch. Seagraves relied on their full-court press to make up a 38-28 gap early in the game. Sanford-Fritch was forced into 29 turnovers in the game. "Our press is what hurt them," coach Jim Eddins of Seagraves said. "If they'd been able to come down and set up, the big boy would have scored every time." Russell Davis led Seagraves with 19 points followed by Darren Griffin's 14 points.

Morton had little trouble with Seagraves in the regional finals. The 84-66 win put Morton in Austin for the third year in a row. The Indians averaged 79.0 per game and allowed 53.9 points for a +25.1 difference. As the state's top ranked team, the Indians appeared to be strong favorites in class 2-A

Shelbyville came out of deep East Texas with 6'5" Jeff Chumbley still in tow. Shelbyville is located really close to the Louisiana border. Chumbley had paced the Dragons to the state title in 1982 and a regional semi-final finish in '83. The Dragons had another powerhouse ranked #3 in the polls and were undefeated averaging 77.3 points per game and allowing 49.3 per game. That's a +28.0 difference, but their regular season was not that competitive. Their toughest opponent was probably class A state semi-finalist Tenaha. The Dragons defeated the Tigers 56-51 and 55-49 in their two meeting.

Shelbyville opened regionals with a 77-66 victory over Karnack(25-6) with Chumbley putting up 25 points and Darren Martin adding 20 points. In the regional finals the Dragons advanced to state for the second time in three seasons defeating Grapeland(29-5) 70-60. Chumbley once again dominated scoring 32 points, followed by Joe Bolton with 13.

At state, the Itasca(22-9) Wampus Cats would have to line-up against Shelbyville. As I mentioned earlier, Wampus Cats is one of my favorite nicknames. Unfortunately, having a great nickname was of no use against the Dragons. Chumbley, the three-time All-State post, scored 19 points with 17 rebounds and 8 blocks. Yes, close to a triple double in a 32-minute contest as opposed to the N.B.A.'s 48-minute games. All of this despite the fact that Chumbley sat out much of the 3rd quarter. 6'4" Greg Sewell paced the

Wampus Cats with 15 points. 6'2" Darren Martin of Shelbyville was 11 of 17 from the floor for 25 points. Oh, the final score was 83-57.

"We really didn't think we'd have that easy a time with them," said Shelbyville coach Joe Schillings. "We really got in there and got after it." Coach Schillings was complimentary referring to Chumbley and Martin saying, "that's not unusual for them. They've carried us the whole season." Chumbley dominated inside and Martin scored from long range.

Somerville won Region IV defeating traditional power Bartlett(20-7) in the regional semi-finals 63-52. The Somerville Yeguas were led by their imposing 6'4" post, Patrick Williams. The senior post proved to be unstoppable, scoring 29 points against Bartlett. Robert Williams of Bartlett was held down to only 8 points, while teammate Sammy Williams finished with 24 points.

Nixon-Smiley(24-7) advanced to the regional finals in the other side of the bracket defeating Blanco(27-6) 65-55. Blanco held a win over Nixon earlier in the season. The regional finals saw Somerville over-powered Nixon-Smiley 63-36.

As Somerville moved into Austin to face the top ranked Morton Indians, they were well aware of Morton's reputation of pressing and aggressive style. Somerville relied heavily on the inside game of Patrick Williams, while Morton played with a balanced attack. 6'3" Ronald Kuehler, 6'3" Donald Kuehler, 6'0" Vennie Evans and 6'1" Robert Johnson were all seniors for coach Tony Mauldin. When Patrick Williams of Somerville picked up his 3rd foul in the 3rd period, things began to look bleak for the Yeguas. Somerville led at halftime 40-38 and Williams had already scored 17 points, while Robert Johnson of Morton put up 19 points at intermission.

Williams was one foul away from elimination picking up his 4th foul early in the 2nd half. Coach Bill Shaw had a tough decision and left Williams in the game. "He was trying too hard and had picked up two stupid fouls," Shaw explained. Williams finished the battle with 31 points, 11 rebounds and 4 dunks. Morton went right after Williams trying to get the fifth foul on the talented senior. Morton's Ronald Kuehler concluded his game with 19 points and 13 rebounds from the inside.

Somerville came away with the upset over Morton 72-71 to advance to the state finals. Morton's Robert Johnson proved his All-State credentials putting up 29 points. Coach Mauldin of Morton commented after the heartbreaking loss, "this wasn't one of our better games, we started off slow, but the kids have played well all year, and they did a super job." For Somerville, Tim McCain knocked down 13 points, Basil Lister chipped in 14 points. Morton won the rebounds battle 41-34.

This set up the state championship game featuring two outstanding big men in 6'5", 215-pound Jeff Chumbley of Shelbyville and 6'4", 180-pound

Patrick Williams from Somerville. Both players had been the catalyst on their team's success during the season. In the head to head match-up Chumbley came away with the advantage scoring 34 points and bringing down 20 rebounds compared to William's 17 points and 12 rebounds. Chumbley's team won the battle as well with a 73-67 victory and the state title.

The Dragons seemed to be in total control up 48-31 with 1:15 left in the 3rd period when Somerville mounted a terrific comeback. Somerville's press forced 24 turnovers and closed the gap to 56-54. "They hurt us with the press," coach Schillings of Shelbyville said. Patrick Williams was 8 of 20 from the floor and fouled out with 2:54 left in the game with the Dragons leading 63-60.

Coach Bill Shaw of Somerville commented, "we just couldn't hit early in the ballgame. I don't know if Chumbley intimidated Patrick or not, but I know he wasn't squared to the basket on a lot of his shots." Shaw of Somerville continued discussing Chumbley's play, "you look at what happened today, and Chumbley is the best big man we've been up against all year. We got killed on the boards and that was a factor too." The Dragons had a 50-37 advantage on the glass and Chumbley went 12 of 16 from the floor. Shelbyville finished 28 of 56 shooting for 50% while Somerville took 23 more shots going 32 of 79 from the floor for 40%. Martin added 20 points in the victory for the Dragons and Tim McCain scored 14 points for Somerville. Lister added 19 points and Vernon Woodbury finished with 11 points for the Yeguas. Shelbyville committed only 12 fouls while Somerville had 23 fouls. The game was played in front of 11,000 fans. Chumbley finished his phonemical career at Shelbyville with two state titles and a 92-4 career record over three years.

State All-Tournament team-Jeff Chumbley and Darren Martin of Shelbyville, Patrick Williams and Basil Lister of Somerville, Robert Johnson from Morton.

1984 State Rankings AA {End of the Regular Season}

1.	Morton	22-2
2.	Ferris	25-0
3.	Shelbyville	26-0
4.	Somerville	26-5
5.	Grapeland	26-3
6.	Edgewood	30-1
7.	Sanford-Fritch	26-1
8.	Troy	28-2
9.	Olney	26-3
10.	Coppell	23-5

Texas Sport Writers Association Class AA, All-State- 1st Team- 6'5" Jeff Chumbley, Shelbyville; Robert Johnson, Morton; George Moore, Nixon-Smiley; Richard Shepherd, Bovina; John Burton, Edgewood; **2nd Team-**6'4" Patrick Williams, Somerville; 6'8" Eddie

Cunningham, Sanford-Fritch; Steve Young, Dripping Springs; Monty McCutchen, Dublin; Floyd Whitehead, Elkhart; **3rd Team-** Ray Kelly, Spur; Ronald Kuehler, Morton; Heath Chambers, Florence; Donald Kuehler, Morton; Chris Connally, Quitman:

Texas Association of Basketball Coaches Class AA, All-State- 1st Team- 6'4" Patrick Williams, Somerville; 6'5" Jeff Chumbley, Shelbyville; Michael Butler, Ranger; Vonnie Evans, Morton; 6'5" Greg Sewell, Itasca; **2nd Team-** Robert Johnson, Morton; Derek Jett, Coppell; George Moore, Nixon-Smilely; Donald Kushier, Morton; Roderick Manning, Ferris; **3rd Team-** Sammy Williams, Bartlett; Owen Floyd, Seagraves; Eugene Dillard, Edgewood; Tony Jones, Grapeland; Steve Young, Dripping Springs:

1984 2-A Playoffs

Region I 2nd Round	Morton(24-2) #1	85	Wall	57
	Sanford-Fritch(27-1) #7	74	Lorenzo(27-5)	64
	Seagraves(23-4)	59	Clint(23-3)	57
	Haskell	63	Memphis(22-5)	48
Region I Semi Finals	Morton(25-2) #1	76	Haskell	61
	Seagraves(24-4)	64	Sanford-Fritch(28-1) #7	54
Regional Finals	Morton(26-2) #1	84	Seagraves(25-4)	66
Region II 2nd Round	Olney(27-4) #9	58	Winters(23-6)	51
	Ferris(27-0) #2	59	Coppell(23-5) #10	48
	Menard	54	Nocona	51
	Itasca(19-9)	69	Farmersville(25-5)	68
Region II Semi Finals	Itasca(20-9)	73	Menard	66
	Olney(28-4) #9	71	Ferris(28-0) #2	64
Region II Finals	Itasca(21-9)	58	Olney(29-4) #9	52
Region III 2nd Round	Shelbyville(28-0) #3	65	Buffalo	59
	Grapeland(27-4) #5		Hull-Daisetta	
	Karnack(26-6)	51	Edgewood(32-1) #6	44
	Elkhart(26-5)	48	Bogata Rivercrest	41
Region III Semis	Shelbyville(29-0) #3	77	Karnack(25-6)	66
	Grapeland(28-4) #5	70	Elkhart(27-5)	57
Region III Finals	Shelbyville(30-0) #3	70	Grapeland(29-4) #5	60
Region IV 2nd Round	Somerville(27-6) #4	67	Thorndale	41
	Bartlett(19-7)	66	Shiner	55
	Nixon-Smilely(22-7)	63	Dripping Springs(28-5)	49
	Blanco(26-5)	81	Pettus(24-7)	54
Region IV Semis	Somerville(28-6) #4	63	Bartlett(20-7)	52
	Nixon-Smilely(23-7)	65	Blanco(27-5)	55
Region IV Finals	Somerville(29-6) #4	63	Nixon-Smilely(24-7)	36
State Semi-Finals	Somerville(30-6) #4	72	Morton(27-2) #1	71
	Shelbyville(31-0) #3	83	Itasca(22-9)	57
State Finals	Shelbyville(32-0) #3	73	Somerville(31-6) #4	67

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1984 AA Top Teams}

1. Shelbyville 33-0 {undefeated State Champions, second title in three years}
2. Somerville 31-7 {defeated #1 Morton in the state semis 72-71}
3. Morton 27-3 {one of the top programs in the state every year}
4. Grapeland 29-5 {regional finals losing to Shelbyville 70-60}
5. Seagraves 25-5 {regional finals losing to Morton 84-66}
6. Bartlett 20-8 {lost in the regional semi-finals to Somerville 63-52}
7. Karnack 25-7 {lost to Shelbyville in the regional semis 77-66}
8. Itasca 22-10 {state semi-finalists, lost to Shelbyville 83-58}

9. Olney	29-5	{regional finalist losing to Itasca}
10. Ferris	28-1	{lost to Olney 71-64 in the playoffs}

1984 A

Snook marched on to their 7th straight state championship. This incredible record that will probably never be matched in Texas High School Basketball. In an interview with Mark Rosner of the Austin American, Coach Victorick discussed the struggle that being at the top for so long presented to himself and his players. Following the semi-finals victory over Tencha(26-7), Coach Victorick discussed the unfair comments that were made about his team. "We knew we had played poorly. Everyone jumped on the bandwagon about how badly the team played. The official scorekeeper made the comment that it was the worst Snook team he'd ever seen." The Blue jays had to battle the communities' expectations and how they were expected not only to win, but had to win impressive.

The Snook story and background are well known and have been covered many times. Jim Horn was the assistant for the legendary Cotton Robinson, who won several titles at Buna during the 1950s and 1960s. Horn took over the reins at Snook in 1963 and taught the same offensive and defensive system he learning under Coach Robinson. Defensively they ran a full-court man pressure and on offense Snook ran a very deliberate attack, centered around a double low post look or a high-low. Jim's brother, Don served as assistant and took over as the head man in 1972. Donnie Victorick served as assistant under Don for two seasons and came to the helm 1980. Coach Victorick had played for Jim Horn in 1966 on the undefeated team. Victorick described himself as a 20-point man. "I played when we were 20 points ahead or 20 points behind." Victorick served as the elementary principal and drove the bus to all the games. Don Horn and Victorick added a variety of traps to the full-court man pressure that Jim Horn had brought from Buna.

The 1984 version of the Blue jays was strong as usual with 6'0" Darin Benford(16.0/8.0), 5'10" Wesley Jackson(14.0), 5'9" John Washington, 6'0" Vincent Swain and 6'7" Walter Martin(14.0/8.0). Snook made their 17th appearance at state with an impressive 35-2 record. Coach Donnie Victorick teared up following the Blue jays first loss of the season against Iola 25-24. Snook was up the entire game, but pulled the ball out. Coach Victorick instructed his players to hold the ball for most of the 2nd half, because Iola was using a collapsing zone to double team Benford and Martin. Iola scored with three seconds left to come away with the upset. "We wanted an undefeated season this year, but we're human. We'll come back," Victorick said. Six of the ten Snook's players could dunk although only three were taller than 6'0".

Many people attributed Snook unreal success to the fact that they don't play football, but Coach Victorick didn't agreed. He felt their success was due to

the system that the kids run from the 7th grade through 12th. The terms are exactly the same for the feeder system. Basketball is supplemented by track in which Victorick was also the head coach. State track titles were captured in 1980, 1981 and 1982. So you can see the Blue Jays had some nice athletic talent. Snook put an all-white team on the court until integration in the late 1960s, at which time they were bi-racial. The 1983 squad was the first all-black team to take the court as well as the '84 team.

The 6'7" freshmen, Walter Martin would be the first division one recruit to come out of Snook when he graduated in 1987, although 6'1" Clint Thomas from the 1983 squad went to Texas A&M. Thomas was red-shirted his freshmen season. He had to transition from playing inside to playing guard in college. Thomas had a 43" vertical, but left the Aggies after his freshmen campaign because of "personal problems." Martin was the tallest player to ever suit up for the Blue Jays.

As for the state tournament, Snook had to beat Iola 42-38 in the second round of District to advance to the playoffs. In the regional finals, Snook had to overcome Iola a third time 28-22. In the state semi-finals game against Tenaha(26-7) the Blue jays came away with a 56-45 victory. Snook committed 24 turnovers, but still managed to win. The Blue jays were up 36-18, but let the Tigers back into the contest. At the 3:05 mark of the 4th period, Tenaha had cut the lead to seven points at 48-41. Walter Martin led the way for Snook with 17 points and Benford complimented him with 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Tenaha(26-7) starting line-up consisted of 6'5" Brian Wiebold(25.0/10), 5'11" Aubrey McClure(17.0), 6'2" David Edmond(14.0), 5'11" Desmond Steadmond, 6'6" Randy Jackson. Tenaha averaged 70 points in their five playoff games and was making their first appearance at state.

Nazareth(32-2) was making their second trip to Austin in 1984. The Swifts advanced to the finals defeating Ponder 53-47 in the other semi-finals match-up. With the score tied at 35-35 and only 1:48 remaining in the 3rd quarter, Nazareth took control of the game. The Swifts scored the last 10 points of the game to advance. Nazareth was whistled for only 6 fouls while Ponder committed 17 violations. Mark Huseman paced Nazareth with 12 points and Russell Hoelting scored 11. Ponder was led by All-State guard Steve Pennington's 15 points and Mike Lee added 11 points. On losing their first attempt in Austin, Ponder coach LeRoy Lawson commented, "we were a little tentative and they just played better than we did." Lawson conveyed that his team was nervous in their first appearance at state.

Nazareth starters included 6'1" Johnny Schmucker, 6'1" Marvin Schmucker, 6'3" Mark Huseman(18.0), 6'1" Chris Gerber and 6'0" Russell Hoelting. Nazareth was a defensive juggernaut only allowed one team all season to score over 50 points. Incredible at any level of competition!

Ponder(31-5) was making their first appearance in the storied programs basketball history. The first Lions team to advance to state was made up of 6'2" Steve Pennington(16.0), 6'1" Mike Lee(13.0), 6'0" Sam Parr, 6'2" Lance Larson(10 rebounds) and 6'3" Chris Lyles(15.0).

The finals saw Snook beat a very competitive Nazareth squad 39-30 for their 7th straight state title. The Blue Jays were also claiming their 10th overall title. Bowie had won four titles in a row from 1951-54 and Buna won a total of seven during their glory years. "I don't know why, but this is probably the best for me," coach Victorick said. Snook finished the game with no double-digit scorers, while the Swifts were paced by Mark Huseman's 15 points and 10 rebounds. Nazareth had a tremendous season going 33-3. Snook's scoring was balanced with Walter Martin, Wesley Jackson and Vincent Swain all finishing with 8 points. Coach Joe Lombard of Nazareth said following the loss, "they've been here so many times before. They never panicked."

Snook finished the state title run with a 37-2 record and averaged 63.5 points and allowed only 41.6 points, which came out to be a +22.1 difference. It is impossible to talk about the Blue jays without mentioning their incredible schedule. Teams that lost to Snook:

Hardin Jefferson 45-38 -class AAA finalist;

A&M Consolidated(24-12) 53-49 and 58-49 -Regional Semi-Finalist in AAAA;

Somerville 39-36 and 61-49 -class AA state finalist;

Navasota 64-39 and 57-55 -Regional semis in AAA;

Klein(25-8) 47-46 -Regional quarterfinals in AAAA;

Brenham 78-62 -class AAAA;

Waco University 72-45 -class AAAA;

The Blue Jays finished 10-0 against elite competition. Their only setbacks came against Iola and Fairfield 75-70. Fairfield finished as the #3 team in the state in class AAA with a 27-4 record. Snook's record against these larger schools was remarkable. **State Tournament team**- Walter Martin, Wesley Jackson, and Darin Benford of Snook; Mark Huseman from Nazareth; Bryon Wiebold from Tenaha:

Texas Sports Writers Association Class A All-State- 1st team- 5'10" Wesley Jackson, Snook; 5'10" Michael Short, Lohn; 6'1" Darin Benford, Snook; 6'5" Bryon Wiebold, Tenaha; 6'5" Scott Nevil, Iola; **2nd Team**- 6'2" Steve Pennington, Ponder; 5'10" Joe Large, Ector; 6'3" Mark Huseman, Nazareth; 6'6" Bobby Joe Stastny, Slidell, 6'3" Kerry Pettie. LaPoynor: **3rd Team**- 6'1" Steve Jones, Avinger; 5'11" Danny Hughes, Crossroads; 6'7" Walter Martin, Snook; 6'5" Malcolm Townsend, Waeider; 6'3" Courtney Gothard, Highland:

T.A.B.C. Class A All-State- 1st Team- 6'5" Bryon Wiebold, Tenaha; 6'3" Mark Huseman, Nazareth; 5'10" Wesley Jackson, Snook; Bobby Joe Stastny, Slidell; Ronnie Cox, Anton: **2nd Team**- 6'1" Darin Benford, Snook; 6'5" Scott Nevill, Iola; 6'5" Michael Short, Lohn; 6'1" Steve Jones, Avinger; 6'1" Johnny Schmucker, Nazareth: **3rd Team**- 6'2" Steve Pennington, Ponder; 6'5" Malcolm Townsend, Waeider; Louis Anderson, Neches; Tommy Williams, Valley; Ken Boykin Lueder-Avoca:

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1984 A Top Teams}

- | | | | |
|----|------------|------|---|
| 1. | Snook | 37-2 | {The dynasty continues, #7 in a row} |
| 2. | Iola | | {defeated Snook during the regular season} |
| 3. | Nazareth | 33-3 | {state finals losing to Snook 39-30} |
| 4. | Ponder | 31-6 | {state semis losing to Nazareth 53-47} |
| 5. | Tenaha | 26-8 | {state semis losing to Snook 56-45} |
| 6. | Lago Vista | | {lost to Iola 42-41 in the regional quarters} |
| 7. | Italy | 18-6 | {lost in the regional semis to Tenaha 73-61} |
| 8. | Waelder | 27-5 | {Iola ended their season in the regional semis} |

Snook State Championship Run of 7 Straight:

Year	Record	Coach	Title Game	Standouts
1978	A 37-1	Don Horn	Coppell 63-62	Myron Palmer, J. Washington
1979	B 45-2	Don Horn	Krum 57-56	Mike Junek, James Washington
1980	B 43-1	Donnie Victorick	West Lamar 59-58	Hezekiah Carter, Billy Felder
1981	B 39-4	Donnie Victorick	Henrietta Mid. 41-33	Hezekiah Carter, Al Jackson
1982	B 32-5	Donnie Victorick	Midland Green. 52-45	Clint Thomas, Daron Benford
1983	B 33-5	Donnie Victorick	Nacog. Hts. 76-40	Clint Thomas, Wesley Jackson
1984	B 37-2	Donnie Victorick	Nazareth 39-30	Wesley Jackson, Daron Benford