

The History of Texas High School Basketball

Volume II

1975-1979

By Mark McKee

**Dedicated to my sister,
Sandy Herring**

*“In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in
your years.”*

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1975 AAAA

Kashmere, out of Houston, grabbed all the headlines entering the '75 season. It was as if nobody else had a chance. The Rams were returning several key players from their state championship team. Two of the top players in the state were back in 6'5" Jarvis Williams and 6'4" Karl Godine. The scary thing about this team is even without Williams and Godine, Kashmere would have been one of the top teams in the state. To follow the 1975 season was to follow Kashmere. The numbers they put up were staggering and soon became one of the top teams in the entire country. Many knowledge followers of the game were making strong comparisons to the great Wheatley teams of the past. Would Kashmere lose any games? Would they repeat as state champions? Was it all hype or were they really as strong as advertised? These were the questions that the '75 season would answer in exciting fashion. I was living in Houston at the time and the Rams were always in the newspaper. This was one of the high points for high school basketball during the 1970s.

The Arlington Classic in early December on the campus of U.T. Arlington set the stage for Kashmere's first real test of the season. Ft. Worth Dunbar(19-12), W.T. White(18-11) out Dallas, Houston Worthing, Dallas Roosevelt, Dallas S.O.C., Houston Wheatley, Denton, and Ft. Worth Paschal would present a challenging field. Kashmere opened against a strong Arlington(27-10) team that would win their District. The Rams totally demolished the Colts 104-59. Ft. Worth Dunbar was next up and lost by twenty 102-82. In the semis, W.T. White played Kashmere close losing only 73-63. For the Longhorns, Walter and Alex Lewis led the charge and would be named all-tournament. In the other bracket, Dallas Roosevelt beat a tough Houston Worthing team and Albert Jones 90-81. The Golden Bears of S.O.C. destroyed Denton 102-49. Houston Wheatley advanced and played Ft. Worth Paschal, who had received a first-round bye. The Wildcats dropped Paschal 78-75 to advance to the semis against S.O.C. Coach Gales team had beaten rival Roosevelt 86-73 in the 2nd round. The semi-final game between Houston Wheatley and Dallas S.O.C. was much anticipated, and the outcome got everybody's attention, not by who won but rather the score. The Golden Bears beat the Wildcats 116-80, in what was being called the worst defeat for Jackie Carr's team in many years. Dallas W.T. White surprised Wheatley in the 3rd place game 89-75

and Houston Worthing beat Arlington Sam Houston in the consolation finals 80-76. Worthing's star player was the top junior in the state, 6'7" Albert Jones. The championship game, which was a rematch of the state championship game of a year ago, Kashmere strength and experience showed as they took down S.O.C. 105-98. Karl Godine and Carl Belcher were named all-tournament along with Wayman Lister of S.O.C., Jones of Worthing, Stanley Carr of Wheatley, 6'10" Allen Windor of Arlington High, sophomore Michael Watley of Dunbar and Ronnie Newton of Arlington Sam Houston. Ft. Worth Dunbar had a very young team and would be the team of the future under the leadership of Coach Robert Hughes.

In the Jaycee Tournament in Houston, Houston Kashmere defeated Houston Yates for the second year in a row 87-80 to capture the tournament title. In 2nd round, Kashmere thrashed Galveston Ball 95-54, with Karl Godine showing the way. His 27 points came from a wide assortment of shots. Houston Lee won their two first round games 53-50 against Houston Williams and 54-46 against Houston Waltrip. Waltrip had previously beaten Houston Lee prior to the tournament. James Harris of Houston Lamar set a single-game Jaycee scoring record with 49 points in last year's tournament. Harris filled it up once again with 33 points against Hancock, Mississippi in a 114-70 route in the consolation bracket. Houston Furr also advanced to the quarterfinals with two wins over Houston Sam Houston 65-49 and Houston Westbury 97-65. Houston Washington knocked off Houston Worthing in the first round 69-68, but lost in the 2nd round 72-61 to Houston St. Thomas. Houston Reagan eliminated Houston Milby 59-58 in overtime, while Deer Park beat Houston Wheatley's junior varsity 87-60. Wheatley's varsity was in Israel playing a holiday tournament overseas. John Falling scored 25 points for Deer Park and Frank Dishongh added 18 in Deer Park's 64-60 win over Houston Lamar, in first round action. James Harris of Lamar was held to only 15 points in the loss against Deer Park. Houston Yates defeated Houston Madison 85-83 in overtime and Houston Jones 78-69 in their 2nd round match-up. James Anderson and Ricky Edwards led Yates in scoring against Houston Madison with 15 points each and Clarence Hill was top dog for the Lions against Houston Jones. Yates had a fine 14-3 record, as they entered the quarterfinals. Houston Lincoln advanced beating Houston Davis 101-88 in a great game and dropped Houston Sterling 73-68 in a 2nd round game. The Panthers of Lincoln improved their record to 15-3. For Lincoln, Edison Smith led the charge with 26 points against Houston Davis, and Fred Brown poured in 24 points for Houston Lincoln against Houston Sterling.

In quarterfinal and semi-final match-ups, Kashmere eliminated Houston Lee 87-50 and Houston St. Thomas 87-58. 6'5" Jarvis Williams showed his all-state credentials against St. Thomas, hitting 22 points with a dozen rebounds. Carl Byrd of Kashmere ripped the net for 19 points from the corner, and Godine was limited to just 14 points because of early foul trouble. Against Houston Lee, Byrd had 16, Godine 15 and Williams and Henry Small finished with 12 each. St. Thomas had

beaten Houston Furr 77-58 to advance to the semis. Gerald Jozwiak had 23 points for St. Thomas and Pete Kesser hit 22 points. Against Kashmere, Kesser had 19 points and Jozwiak had 15. The Houston Yates-Deer Park semi-final game was a rematch of the San Jacinto tourney finals in which Yates won 94-90 in overtime. In that contest, Deer Park's John Failing scored 45 points and had 30 rebounds. How is that possible in a 32 minute high school game? John was definitely a baller. In the rematch, Failing was double and triple teamed and was limited to only 15 points, as Yates came away with a 73-62 victory. Seven of Failing points came from the foul line. With the loss, Deer Park's record stood at 18-3. For the Lions of Houston Yates, they improved their record to 16-3, Clarence Hill came off the bench and ignited his team against Deer Park with 16 points, while James Anderson and Johnny Donahue each hit 12 points. Travis O'Banion led Deer Park with 17 points. In the quarterfinals, Yates proved too much for Houston Lincoln 92-89. James Anderson led the Lions with 24 points and Edwards finished with 20. For Houston Lincoln, Jerrell Miller was high man with 28 points and Edison Smith had 22. Deer Park beat Houston Reagan 67-52 in the other quarterfinal game.

In the championship game, Karl Godine was spectacular, scoring 34 points and coming away with a dozen rebounds, as Kashmere defeated Houston Yates 87-80. A crowd of 4,000 watched the Rams improve their record to 24-0. Kashmere led at halftime 52-49. Madison Lane followed Godine in scoring with 21 points, while Carl Byrd had 11. Jarvis Williams scored only six points but pulled down 16 rebounds. For the Red and Gold, Clarence Hill led the way with 17 points, Edwards added 17 and James Anderson finished with 15. Yates and Kashmere had met previously in the semi-finals of the "Super 16" tournament in Huntsville, with the Rams topping the Lions 110-87. Deer Park won the third-place game defeating Houston St. Thomas 71-62. Once again John Failing proved to be unstoppable scoring 28 points, with 12 coming in the final quarter. Gerald Jozwiak added 22 points for St. Thomas. Forest Brook took consolation bracket defeating Houston Lamar 76-68. Forest Brook finished the tournament with a nice 18-3 record. Forest Brook had four players finish in double figures in their win over Lamar. Barry Ross had 21 points, Michael Walters finished with 14, Calvert Shelley had 13 and Zachary West had 11. James Harris had 30 points for Lamar and was the top scorer in the tournament with 131 points.

All-tournament members were, Karl Godine, Jarvis Williams, Carl Byrd of Kashmere, Pete Kesser of St. Thomas, James Harris of Lamar, John Failing of Deer Park, Barry Ross of Forest Brook, James Anderson and Clarence Hill of Yates along with Fred Brown of Lincoln.

In Dallas at the Dr. Pepper tournament, South Oak Cliff was trying to repeat as champion. The Golden Bears had another outstanding club. On the first day of the tournament, Dallas Sunset pulled the biggest upset of 1974 holiday tournament, with a 75-72 win over heavily favored Dallas Roosevelt. For Sunset

coach, Joe Huey, this was a land mark victory for the hard-working coach. Huey loved the game and had certainly paid his dues. Coach Davis of Roosevelt said later that he was missing starter, Walter Crawford, who was out with a shoulder separation, and several other players that had been affected by the flu. W.T. White defeated Carrollton R.L. Turner 62-50, Lake Highlands defeated Dallas Hillcrest 64-46. Marion Lewis scored 22 point for the Wildcats of Lake Highlands. North Mesquite, led by Mark Davis, downed North Garland 42-39. Dallas Pinkston, paced by Richard Bacon's 21 points beat Thomas Jefferson 70-65. Dallas Roosevelt defeated Dallas Adamson 67-59, led by Rynn Wright's 22 points. Richardson Pearce was paced by 6'7" Joe Baxter's 36 points, in their victory over North Dallas 82-76 in overtime. Denton beat Dallas Jesuit 57-56, S.O.C. dropped Highland Park easily 87-68. Irving beat Mesquite 64-51. South Garland defeated Dallas Carter 60-58, Dallas Bishop Dunne had an easy win over Rockwall 55-30, Garland defeated Dallas Kimball 57-54, Dallas Lincoln got by Dallas Spruce 72-55 and Dallas Skyline downed Dallas Samuel 82-59. Richardson continued their success beating Dallas Bryan Adams 50-45, Bishop Lynch was too much for Woodrow Wilson 72-68, W.T. White eliminated Lake Highlands from the tournament with a 74-67 win, North Mesquite eliminated Dallas Pinkston in a close one 68-67. Bacon of Pinkston continued his scoring with 27 points. S.O.C. beat Plano handily 92-57. The Wildcats of Plano went to win their District and make the playoffs. The Golden Bears handled Plano by 35 points.

Garland advanced to the quarterfinals and defeated South Garland 75-63, to take on South Oak Cliff in the semi-finals. Football star, Randy Love, was the leading scorer for the Owls with 21 points. Mitchell Huskey led the Colonels with 20 points. Dallas Lincoln took an early lead against Richardson with their press and hung on to win 74-71. Ronald Forge paced Dallas Lincoln with 25 points and Elton Garrett finished with 23. Craig Nedrow led the Eagles with 18. Dallas Sunset was coming off their big upset of Dallas Roosevelt, but fell flat against Denton 67-56 in the quarterfinals. Greg Boyd paced Denton with 21 points and Bill Hardy and Steve Wilks led Sunset. W.T. White had a nice win over North Mesquite in the quarterfinals 79-66. Donald Banks led White with 24 points.

In the semi-finals of the Dr. Pepper, SOC once again showed why they were considered the top team in Dallas, beating the Garland Owls 82-74. Lister led SOC with 16 points while Randy Love had 17 for Garland. Coach Jimmy Gales of SOC saved most of his starters for the finals. In the finals, SOC took down Dallas Lincoln 89-82 in overtime. The Golden Bears led 23-17 at the end of the first quarter and 43-38 at half and 57-42 at the end of the 3rd quarter. Waymond Lister was the leader for SOC with 26 points and sophomore David Burns added 14. Elton Garrett led the Tigers of Lincoln with 20 points and Kenneth Stubblefield contributed 17 points. Lister scored five of the nine SOC points in the overtime period. Dallas Lincoln had advanced to the finals by defeating the Denton Broncos

77-57. Elton Garrett was the man for the Tigers scoring 24 points and Greg Boyd took high game honors for Denton with 17.

Coach Gales of SOC discussed his team following the Dr. Pepper championship saying, "Last year I could play about eight players, so this is definitely a plus for the team, playing 12 to 15 players." Gales said one of his top players was 6'4" Anthony McMillian, who had been hurt and playing with a muscle pull in his back. Two sophomores played key roles for the Golden Bears, David Burns and Arthur Williams. SOC quarterback and future Ohio State football great, Roderick Gerald was a key contributor for Coach Gales. "Gerald is our defensive specialist." Against Lincoln, Gerald fouled out and our defense collapsed, allowing Lincoln to come back and send the game into overtime," Gales said. Coach George Roland of Lincoln discussed how difficult it was trying to beat SOC, "To beat SOC, you have to make them slow down and play basketball. You can't let them get down the court fast. You have to stop the fast break and that is hard, as is beating them on the boards." SOC came out of the Dr. Pepper tournament with a 20-3 record and Lincoln was 8-6.

The All-Tournament team was made up of Waymond Lister and Roderick Gerald of SOC, Elton Garrett and Kenneth Stubblefield of Dallas Lincoln, Tom Somerville and Ronnie Thompson of Highland Park, Greg Boyd of Denton, Jerald Booker of Dallas Carter, Craig Nedrow of Richardson, Walt Louis of W.T. White, Reagan Holm of Dallas Hillcrest and Richard Bacon of Dallas Pinkston. Lister was named Tournament M.V.P.

Region I

EP Burgess(24-6) #14

Lubbock Monterey(21-9)

Midland Lee(30-3) #8

North Mesquite(26-7)

El Paso Bowie(28-6) #11

Pampa(24-4) #15

Wichita Falls Rider(22-7) #18

Arlington(27-10)

Top Five in Region I

6'5" Junior Miller, Midland Lee; 6'10" Allen Windor, Arlington High; 6'1" Brent Blackwell, Midland Lee; 6'1" Jose DeSantiago-El Paso Bowie; Carl Webb-El Paso
Address:

In Region I, a great story developed during the 1975 season with Midland Lee. Lee, coached by Paul Stueckler and his fine assistant, Jack Stephenson, had an impressive record of 29-3 and were ranked #8 in the state polls. Even with the ranking and fine record they were not an imposing team. In the pre-season, Lee had lost to Hobbs, New Mexico 101-75, but they were playing without their physical post and District M.V.P., 6'5" Junior Miller. Miller was still on the football field. Later in a rematch with Hobbs, Lee came up with their best effort of the regular season beating Hobbs in Midland 72-49. The only other significant pre-season victory was over Lubbock Monterey(21-10) 70-67. Once again that was before the arrival of Miller. In District action, Lee lost to Midland High in the first

half of District 71-66, to tie with their rival for the first half title. In the second round of District, Lee lost to Abilene High 51-50 and finished second. As these scores indicate, you may have already come to the conclusion that Coach Stueckler and his team played everybody close, win or lose. Stueckler was described by Mike Kunststadt as a heck of a coach. You did it, "my way or the highway" was his philosophy according to Kunststadt. Midland High and Lee would decide the winner of the 1st half in a playoff game. The result was a 64-62 triple overtime win for Lee. Midland(21-11) never led in the game and did not tie the game until 1:06 left in the contest. The game was played in Odessa and with the victory, Lee advanced to the District championship game against Abilene High(23-7). Brent Blackwell scored 18, Ron Farish 14 and Miller had 20 points for Lee. The District 5-AAAA title would be decided in Snyder between Midland Lee and Abilene, with the winner advancing and the loser going home. The two teams had split their District meetings and the game was a toss-up.

Lee and Coach Paul Stueckler had won the District title in 1965 and lost to El Paso High 56-41 in Bi-District. In 1974, Lee had captured District, but had been eliminated in Bi-District by Ft. Worth Richland 82-66. Abilene had a stronger basketball tradition, having last represented the District in 1970 with standout, Richard Little leading the way. The Eagles lost in the regional semi-finals that year to El Paso Austin 102-88 in a classic. Little went on to star at Texas Tech and his little brother, Mike was a junior on the 1975 Eagles squad. Abilene had also won District titles in 1966 and 1967.

In typical Lee fashion, the Rebels downed Abilene High 42-39 in another low scoring affair. Other District playoff games included Ft. Worth Richland being eliminated by Wichita Falls Rider(22-7) in two straight games 48-47 and 57-36, in a best of three series. Richland stood, 6'10", 6'6", and 6'6" with an imposing front line, but they were unable to match the quickness of Rider, losing both games. Riders only loss in District had come at the hands of arch rival Wichita Falls Hirschi 66-60.

In the Bi-District match-up against Rider, Coach Stueckler was looking at a team that would be a big challenge to defeat, because of the team's overall quickness. Lee's lineup was not overly quick, but they were athletic and played extremely well together. With 6'5" Miller inside, Lee was always strong on the boards. Lee averaged 66.9 points per game, while giving up 53.0 per contest for a nice 13.9-point differential. Joining Junior Miller(14.3) inside was 6'5" Jeffrey Jackson(8.9), to form a strong tandem. The guard play was really strong with 6'0" Brett Blackwell(16.3) leading the way as a team leader and taking the big shots for the Rebels. 6'1" Gary Parson(8.5) and 6'2" Ron Farish(12.9) were also very capable. Blackwell was second on the all-time scoring list at Lee and a three-year starter. Rider would counter with 6'2" Robert Criner(17.2), 6'0" Will Davis(13.2), 6'4"

James McKee, 6'5" Mike Simonds and leaper, 6'1" Brian Nelson. The Raiders liked to get up and down the court.

The Bi-District game between Lee and Rider was played at the same location as regionals, at Abilene Moody Coliseum and their tartan surface. Going into the contest Coach Stueckler commented, "Rider has to be by far the quickest team we have faced all year." That was saying a lot considering Lee had faced Hobbs twice during the regular season. Rider had split with Abilene during the regular season. The Raiders were state ranked at #18. Lee guards, Farish and Blackwell were outstanding against Rider, scoring a combined 53 points in Lee's 87-69 victory over the Raiders. Farish finished with 29 and Blackwell hit 24, mostly from long range. Criner finished with 25 points for Rider. The difference was the foul line, as the Rebels were 21 of 31 from the line and the Raiders were only 7 of 10.

The Pampa Harvesters(23-3) were making waves in 1975 and were forced into a District playoff against Amarillo Tascosa(18-11). Tascosa had defeated Pampa 60-58 at home to capture the District first half title with a 5-0 mark. The Harvesters downed Tascosa on their home court 70-57 to win the second half of District. The District championship game was going to be decided on a neutral court at the Amarillo Civic Center. Pampa started 6'0" Robert Young(14.5), Nick Slaymaker(9.0/9.0), 6'6" Howie Lewis(20.2/12.0), 6'2" Billy Wilbon(17.0) and Richard Lane. Tascosa counter with 5'8" Byron Carter(20.0), Dwight Cleveland, Mike Lorene, 6'5" Dwight Gilbreath, Kurt Reinbold and sophomore, Dave Gilbreath. In front of 4,500 fans, Pampa captured District with Howie Lewis's 27 points and 20 rebounds, Wilbon's 26 points and Young's 23. The final score wasn't close 92-76. Byron Carter led Tascosa with 19 points.

The Bi-District clash between Lubbock Monterey(21-9) and Pampa(24-3) was played in Canyon. Coach Robert McPherson's Harvesters were upset 57-52, and knocked out of the playoff race. Pampa(24-4) had won the two the previous meetings between the two schools 81-55 and 65-51, so this was a big upset in West Texas basketball. Pampa also had been ranked #15 in the state. Coach Joe Michalka's Plainsmen had been off for eleven days without a game. Because of Pampa's quickness, Monterey abandoned their man to man defense and instead played zone, trying to keep their three big men close to the basket. 6'6" Dick Clardy(16.0/9.0) was 1st team All-District and 6'4" Jackson Pace(15.9/8.3) had been named District M.V.P. 6'5" Scott Gardner(10.7/6.3) was another key force inside. Defense was Monterey's game, holding District opponents field goal percentage to 32% in District action. The Plainsmen controlled the tempo of the game from the outset and offensively almost ran a delay game. Monterey shot 52% from the floor on the evening and Pampa shot only 35%. Dick Clardy hit 25 points for Monterey and Howie Lewis led Pampa with 12.

In another Bi-District encounter, El Paso Bowie(27-5) faced El Paso Burges(26-6) at UTEP. El Paso Bowie had beaten Hobbs, New Mexico earlier in the season 75-74 and Midland had beaten Burges earlier in the season 62-52. Burges was ranked #14 in the state rankings and took District 1-AAAA over Eastwood(22-8), with a 9-1 finish and Eastwood finished 8-2. District 2-AAAA champion, El Paso Bowie relied on a strong inside game that was paced by two sophomores, 6'4" Melvin Patridge and 6'6" Ralph Brewster. Brewster had missed 22 games due to an ankle injury during the season. Patridge was one of the top sophomores in the state. Senior captain, Jose DeSantiago was the team leader and top player for the Bears. The other two starters were, 5'11" Alfredo Ferniza and 6'0" Alfredo Tovar, both seniors. "Size is our biggest difference this season," Coach Nolan Richardson said. "We've got some inside people who can go get the ball and take pressure off our guards. I said last year after we won the District championship that if we ever got a little talent around here we'd really be tough. We've got 10 kids that can go out there and do a job. We play both man and zone defense, but our best defense is the 1-3-1 zone trap," Richardson said. "We haven't lost to a pressing team all year," Richardson was quick to point out. "Full-court pressure doesn't bother this club, I will assure you. Last year we had no competition in District," Nolan laughs, "And this year we had too much talent people said, I didn't have to do any coaching, I guess I just can't win." Coach Tony Harper of El Paso Burges pressed full court and liked to use 12 players.

Bowie came into Bi-District with a 21-game winning streak and advanced to regionals with a 70-58 victory over El Paso Burges. Sophomore Melvin Patridge led the Bears charge with 21 points. Bowie jumped out to a big lead with Aurelio Castro getting behind the defense on the press and hit seven uncontested layups. Castro finished with 15 points, DeSantiago 10 and Brewster had 10. "This is one of the finest late game clubs I've ever been associated with," Richardson said. After the game, Richardson said, "Just say this is a start. I think we have the horses to go all the way to state."

The Arlington Colts defeated a tough Highland Park(29-7) team in a 7-AAAA District playoff 58-57 in overtime, to march on to the playoffs. Arlington was led by 6'10" Allen Windor(18.4) and 6'9" Bob Rudolph(14.0). Highland Park was ranked at #17 in the state polls and were paced by 6'2" Ronnie Thompson(16.0), 6'8" Tom Somerville(17.0/19.0) and 6'3" Bob Pirtle(14.0). Windor was considered one of the top recruits in the state according to several scouts and coaches. Baylor Coach Jim Haller, called Windor the premier big man in the country. His high school coach, Dale Archer said, "I think he shows more college potential at his position than anyone I have seen in a long while." Every college in the state along with teams from the Southeast conference, Missouri Valley and Big Eight, were recruiting the big man. Windor decided to only visit four schools with Baylor and Houston at the front of the list. Arlington High(26-10) faced North Mesquite(24-7)

at Carrollton R.L. Turner in Bi-District. North Mesquite had a hot shot guard named, Mark Davis(16.0). Other starters for the Stallions were, 6'5" Mike Nelson(14.0), Van Ogden(13.0) and 6'2" David Crumpton(13.0). North Mesquite came out ahead of Richardson(22-7) to capture the District 8-AAAA title. The Richardson Eagles lost a close one to South Garland 64-63 to give North Mesquite the District honors. The two teams had split during the regular season with both teams winning on their opponent's home court. Richardson beat North Mesquite in the first round 70-61 and North Mesquite came back in the 2nd half to down the Eagles 66-59.

The Stallions of North Mesquite moved on to regionals with a 52-47 victory over Arlington. Coach Ron Powell was the head man for the Stallions of North Mesquite. He didn't look anything like a coach. He looked more like a hairdresser. He was very small and slim and his hair was perfect. A good friend of mine was the Richardson Coach, Ken Norman, who didn't pass out complements very often about other coaches. But Powell was an exception, Norman felt he was one of the best coaches around. I learned through the years that was a pretty good assessment. If you looked over at the opposing bench and Ron Powell was sitting there, you better get ready for a battle. Powell's teams were very limited in terms of talent throughout most of his career, but he ranked as one of the top coaches in the state. The victory over Arlington was typical. Powell said following the contest, "The main thing we were trying to do in the latter part of the game was to get a lead and go into a delay game, hoping they would have to come out of the zone, into a man to man. When that happened, they began fouling and that made the difference." Powell continued, "Our press kept them off balance, causing several turnovers." The height disadvantage was staggering. North Mesquite's tallest player was 6'5" and the rest of the Stallions, 6'0", 6'1", 6'0" and 6'2". Arlington was 6'10" and 6'9" up front. 6'0" Mark Davis was the leading scorer with 18 points. Davis won the District 8-AAAA M.V.P. award. Other players that were named to the 8-AAAA All-District squad were, Mitchell Huskey(21.3/12.2) of South Garland, 6'7" Bryan Holland(20.0/15.0) of Richardson, Scott Kirkpatrick of Lake Highlands and 6'5" Mike Nelson of North Mesquite.

E.P. Bowie came into regionals with a lot of confidence. Their coach, Nolan Richardson(32), sure didn't lack for confidence. He commented, "Two games in one day won't bother us at all." E.P. Bowie Bears took out North Mesquite 63-56 to advance to the regional finals. North Mesquite missed seven straight FG attempts in the game's final minutes. Bowie outscored North Mesquite 13-2 in a four-minute span. The score went from 49-47 in the Stallions favor to 62-51 in favor of Bowie. North Mesquite had three players foul out during the contest. Bowie came into the game well known for their inside game, led by their two big sophomores. North Mesquite was able to shut off the inside game only to see Bowie sub in shooters who began hitting from the perimeter. El Paso Bowie hit

nearly 60%, while North Mesquite could manage only 38%. Mark Davis was the only threat late for the Stallions, scoring seven of his 22 points late in the game. Mike Nelson had 11 points and Van Ogden finished with 10 for North Mesquite. Alfredo Ferniza finished with 16 points to lead E.P. Bowie along with the consistent play of sophomore, Melvin Patridge with 14.

Midland Lee had become known as the cardiac kids, as they moved into regionals, but if you didn't know who they were before regionals, you definitely knew who they were after the tournament. At the Moody Coliseum in Abilene, the Rebels made believers of everyone as they defeated Lubbock Monterey 62-51 in the semi-finals and El Paso Bowie in overtime 51-47. Lee had played six overtime games during the season, winning all of them. Against Monterey, Lee jumped out to an early lead, 21-11 and controlled the lead throughout. Parson led the well-balanced scoring attack with 17 points, Farish had 14, Jackson hit 14 and Blackwell finished with only 9 points. For Monterey, Pace hit 17, Clardy knocked down 14 point and Keith contributed 10 points. Against E.P. Bowie in the regional finals, it was a nail-bitter as Lee went into their famous domino delay with 5:12 left in the contest leading 43-40. Blackwell was back in his customary role leading the scoring with 18 points and Farish put in 14 points. For E.P. Bowie, Francisco Baca had 15, Jose DeSantago 10 and Aurelio Castro 10. The Rebels coach Stueckler commented after the game, "It seemed like no matter what we did, Nolan had those guns coming right back at us. They had tremendous poise and they never started to panic. With all those sophomores, you know they'll be back." At the end of regulation, Bowie's Patridge missed a 10-footer that hit the front of the rim, that would have won the game for the Bears. The colorful Stueckler, said after the game that he had used the domino delay 117 times and had won 110 of those games. Stueckler was dressed in his mod super fly outfit in black and white and with a white hat. Asked if he would be dressing like that in Austin he replied, he didn't know.

(32) Richardson was a graduate of El Paso Bowie High School in the 1950s and was one of the best all-around athletes the city had ever produced. He was named All-District in football, basketball and baseball. Nolan went on to star at U.T.E.P. in basketball.

Region II

Ft. Worth Paschal(28-2) #7

Dallas Lincoln(20-9)

Plano(25-6)

Corsicana(21-7)

Ft. Worth Wyatt(25-7) #13

Dallas South Oak Cliff(34-3) #3

Tyler John Tyler(27-5) #12

Spring Branch(27-8)

Top Five in Region II

6'4" John Schlicher, Ft. W Paschal; 6'8" Wendall Mays, Ft. W. Paschal; 6'1" Richard Bacon, Dallas Pinkston; 6'3" Waymon Lister, Dallas S.O.C.; 6'4" Anthony McMillian, Dallas S.O.C.:

There were some great games in the first round of the Region II playoffs in 1975. One of those took place between Plano High(25-6) and Tyler John Tyler(27-5). John Tyler had defeated Marshall in a District playoff game 58-52 to advance into the playoffs. It was Plano's first playoff appearance since 1965, when they were in class AA and football legend, John Clark was their basketball coach. The game took place at Forester Field House in Dallas. The Wildcats lineup was centered around 6'5" Mike Escher(15.7/11.3) and his inside strength. Filling out the rest of the starting lineup for Plano was Randy Newton(11.1), Kent Gaddis(11.1), King Nelson(9.1) and Chuck Vaugh, who was a defensive specialist. Other players contributing to the playoff run were 6'3" Sammy Bickham(6.0/5.1), (33) the #1 quarterback in the state, playing duel sports, and Tom Blizzard(5.9). Bickham was also a standout in baseball and was drafted by major league baseball. Gaddis was part of the one of the most athletic families in Plano High school history both on the football field and basketball court. Reggie Davis was the first-year coach with the Wildcats and had begun to turn the program around. Plano in the 1970s was one of the fastest growing cities not only in Texas but in the country. They were adding new students daily with only one high school in Plano. John Tyler countered with 6'5" Harold Taylor(16.5), 6'3" 240-pound football standout, Ronnie Lee(9.5), 6'2" Buster Rettig(13.7), 6'0" Terrance McDaniel(9.7) and 5'11" junior, Dennis Gordon(15.0). Ronnie Lee would go on to star on the football field at Baylor. Others who contributed to the team's success were, Tony Brown, Danny Ward and Ben Brooks. Going into the final quarter the score was tied 53 all, but the Lions from John Tyler dominated the final period 21-9. Rebounding was the difference, as John Tyler repeatedly had second chance opportunities. The score had been tied at halftime 35-35. Rettig led all scorers with 23 points, followed by Gordon with 20 points and Lee had 12. For the Wildcats, Gaddis finished with 20 points, Blizzard had 10 and Newton finished with 9 points. Plano finished with an impressive 26-7 mark on the season.

(33) Sammy Bickham was one of the great athletes of the 1970s, I never got to see him play baseball, but I watched him throw a football and it was remarkable. He was so smooth throwing the ball with a great touch. He was one of the top recruits in the state his senior year. Handsome, personable, a great athlete, playing three sports, he had been one of the highest profile athletes of the decade. As freshmen, Bickham led Baylor to the College World Series. He was also the starting quarterback on the Baylor football team. He was drafted by the San Francisco Giants in 1976 and the Phillies in 1978. He never played in the big leagues.

Bickham ended up filing a \$2 million lawsuit accusing the Baylor of fraudulent recruiting practices, broken promises and causing physical damage. He complained he suffered "irreparable physical damage." After he was given pain-killing drugs and sent back on the field, "without medical supervision." Bickham played football and baseball at Baylor before transferring to S.M.U. in 1977. His

left leg was permanently disabled, which required extensive medical and surgical treatment. Richard "Racehorse" Haynes filed the suit. Staph infection resulted from a 1977 operation.

Ft. Worth Paschal was back in the playoffs for the first time since 1970, when the legendary Charlie Turner was coach of the Panthers. Coach Turner stepped down in December of 1971 and Jim Wall was named the new head man. Wall had big shoes to fill. Turner had won District 22 out of 26 years he had been at Paschal. Wall had played in Ft. Worth at Trimble Tech and had a great deal of success on the high school level and later Midwestern University. Wall worked in the feeder system for Paschal at the 7th grade level early in his coaching career. There was a youngster in the 7th grade that lived right across the street from Coach Turner's house. This young man would later become one of the best players ever to play for the Panthers. His name was John Schlicher(Cover Boy). Wall left the middle school to get his master's degree and when he returned, Schlicher was a freshman at Paschal in 1971-72. This young man would be the foundation of the 1975 squad. "Everything we did revolved John, he was a great player with the ability to handle the press from the point guard position, able to finish and had a great shot. He was a special talent," Wall commented. Asked about the program he inherited at Paschal from Coach Turner, Wall said, "It was like finding a Cadillac with the keys left in it." In an early season game between two of the top teams in the state, Dallas S.O.C. and Ft. Worth Paschal, the Panthers hit a mid-court shot at the buzzer to beat the Bears 95-94. An interesting stat from the game was that S.O.C. took twice as many shots from the floor as Paschal.

The Panthers starting line-up of 6'3" John Schlicher(17.6), 6'8" Wendall Mays(17.1), 6'1" Bruce Baird(13.0), 6'4" Gerald Battery and 6'0" Clay Bibb. Coming off the bench was 6'7" Brian DeCoverly and 6'2" Michael Roberts. According to Mike Kunststadt of Texas Hoops, "Schlicher was really a good ball player, smooth as glass." He was the centerpiece of the Paschal attack. Mays, who eventually became an inside force for the Panthers, stood 5'8" in middle school and Wall kept trying to get him to be his manager, but the young man wanted to play on the team. By the time Mays was a sophomore, he stood 6'4" and as a senior stood 6'8", 170 pounds. Mays went on to Tyler Junior College, where he was named All-American and had a nice career at Baylor. Coach Wall got Battery out of his P.E. class. Battery got a lot of easy buckets because teams were always focused on stopping Schlicher. Battery played at Navarro J.C. and later played at Texas A&M at Commerce. DeCoverly was a real physical player, who gave Paschal some size off the bench. Michael Roberts was very athletic and good defensive player. During the regular season, the Panthers had lost to Houston Wheatley(31-8) 78-75. Important wins included, F.W. Wyatt(25-9) 79-77 and 75-67, South Oak Cliff(35-4) 95-94 and F.W. Southwest(23-9) 63-53 and 45-29. Before Paschal played their playoff game, Coach Wall wanted to have two warm-up games. His team traveled

to Houston to face Kashmere with the understanding that the Rams would come to Ft. Worth in a 2nd warm-up game. The game didn't go well for the Panthers, as the officiating was very questionable and his team got run out of the gym 100-68. Mays and Schlicher had both fouled out and both were under the weather and got fatigued very easily. After the contest, Coach Drew of Kashmere informed Wall that they would not be able to make the journey to Ft. Worth in the 2nd game. Wall was very upset and ran into Jackie Carr after the game, the Wheatley coach. Carr said Wheatley would travel to Ft. Worth and face the Panthers. Paschal won the game easily 104-86. The two teams played at a local gym there in Ft. Worth. Ft. Worth ISD paid Wheatley \$1,800 to travel up from Houston. Wall had wanted to play Kashmere in a re-match at Daniel Meyer Coliseum. "That probably cost us \$20,000," Wall explained. "Everybody wanted to see Kashmere play us play in Ft. Worth. I was upset, but what could you do?" Coach Drew of Kashmere had told Wall that his team was coming up on the state record for number of wins in a row, and did not want to risk a loss against such a tough team as Paschal. After the convincing win over Wheatley, the Panthers were very confident moving into Bi-District. Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt, the Panthers opponent, was a team Paschal had already beaten twice during the regular season. In a close game, Coach Wall's kids moved on with 64-57 win.

The Golden Bears of South Oak Cliff were once again one of the best teams in the state, finishing #3 in the state polls. Coach Jimmy Gale's crew had beaten Plano(25-7) by 35 points, Richardson(22-7) by 23, Dallas Roosevelt(27-8) by 20, by 3 and by 11, Highland Park(28-8) by 19, Clear Lake(30-5) by 6 in overtime, and Wheatley 116-80. Their three losses coming into the playoffs were against, Kashmere 105-98, Ft. Worth Paschal 95-94 and against Houston Worthing(24-12), led by Albert Jones. The seven-point loss to Kashmere was one of the closest games the Rams had all year. The Golden Bears actually played better in the regular season than their state finalist squad of the previous year. Dallas South Oak Cliff had two 1st team All-District players, 6'3" Waymond Lister(20.0) and 6'4" Anthony McMillian(17.0). Other standouts included Charlie Webb, Bervin Faggett, Kenneth Burns, Roderick Gerald and two sophomores, Arthur Williams and David Burns. The Bears averaged 88 points per game and were thought to be the best team in the Dallas area. Coach Gales team ran through District action at 14-0 and their closest game was against arch rival, Dallas Roosevelt. In front of 2,700 at Sprague Fieldhouse the Golden Bears downed the Mustangs in a close one 78-75. Sophomore, Rynn Wright paced Roosevelt with 19 points, along with James Parker's 24. Other key contributors for Coach Ellis Davis's team were sophomore, Michael Battle, Kenneth Crowe and Keith Baker. Anthony McMillian led SOC with 23 points.

The All-Greater Dallas squad selected by the Dallas Morning News was made up of some familiar names and so not so familiar. Members of the First team

included, 6'0" Richard Bacon(23.0) of Pinkston, 5'11" James Mashburn(21.0) of Skyline, 6'10" Allen Windor(18.0) of Arlington, 6'3" Waymond Lister(20.0) of S.O.C., 6'4" Elton Garrett(19.0) of Dallas Lincoln. On the second team, 6'1" Mark Davis(16.0) of North Mesquite, 6'3" Greg Boyd(18.0) of Denton, 6'6" Ricky Rand(15.0) of Hillcrest, 6'4" Anthony McMillian(17.0) of S.O.C., and 6'6" Bryan Holland(20.0) of Richardson. Davis and McMillian were juniors. Rand signed to play football with Baylor. On the 3rd team, 5'9" Kenneth Stubblefield(14.0) of Dallas Lincoln, 6'3" Phil Hale(16.0) of South Grand Prairie, 6'8" Tom Somerville(16.0) of Highland Park, 6'5" Mike Eschler(16.0) of Plano, 6'4" Steve Wilks(18.0) of Dallas Sunset. Rynn Wright of Roosevelt was named Sophomore of the Year.

The big Bi-District and City Championship clash between S.O.C. and Dallas Lincoln, would take place in front of 7,000 fans at Loos Field House. Lincoln had lost the previous two meeting between the two teams. The Tigers had lost to S.O.C. in Bi-District the previous year 102-90. They had also lost in the finals of the Dr. Pepper tournament 89-82 in overtime. Lincoln was looking to change their fate in 1975, jumping out to a nice lead 26-19 at the end of one quarter of play. At halftime, Lincoln continued to lead the Golden Bears 43-36. Lincoln stud backcourt ace, Kenneth Stubblefield missed the 3rd quarter due to foul trouble and S.O.C. regained the lead 62-57 entering the 4th quarter. Lincoln soon closed the gap to 76-73. Coach Gales team turned it on once again winning a comfortable 89-75 victory. Lincoln finished 20-10 on the season.

District 15-AAAA proved to be a tremendous dog fight in 1975. The final standings had Corsicana(20-7) and Waco University(24-8) finishing tied atop the District at 12-2. Killeen finished 8-6 and 25-9 on the season, Temple went 7-7 and 20-15, Waco High finished 7-7 and 21-11, Bryan was 7-7 and 21-14 on the season. If you were counting, that's five teams with twenty plus wins, very impressive. This District also had some of the top athletes in the state, and their season records were a definite indication of the District's over-all strength. Corsicana and Waco University squared off for the District title at R.L. Turner in Carrollton. How Waco ended up driving all the way to Carrollton was unusual, but it was probably the best gym situation they could find. Surprisingly, the score was not close as Corsicana won 66-47. The Tigers outscored University 46-19 in the second half. The last Bi-District game pitted Spring Branch High(28-8) against Corsicana(21-7). Both teams had been recent visitors to the regionals in College Station, Spring Branch in 1973 and Corsicana in 1974. The teams were not as strong as the previous entries. The Tigers were attempting to win their third Bi-District title in five seasons. Corsicana returned no starters from their top ranked team of the previous year. Coach Jerry Matthews would play nine players in the Bi-District game against Spring Branch. Marvin Livingston, Ken Walter, Don Jessie, Tim Wolf, Bubba Lewis, Eddie Hatten, Ronnie Hood and Mike Matthews would all contribute to the Tigers 1st round playoff game. The Bears, 2-3 zone would shut Corsicana's

offense down, as Spring Branch dominated the game from the foul line, hitting 22 of 29, while the Tigers could manage only 7 of 9. Spring Branch advanced 60-47. Tim Wolf was high scorer for Corsicana with 15 points and Mitch Medart led the Bears with 19 points. The game was played at G. Rollie White Coliseum in College Station.

In College Station, the semi-final games at regionals were scheduled for 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM in the morning. The winners to meet at 2:00 P.M. in the finals. All eyes were focused on the S.O.C.-Paschal game, with the winner having a good shot at capturing the regional title. Paschal had won the earlier meeting of the two teams on a mid-court shot. Gales of S.O.C. was quick to point out that in the first meeting between the two teams, S.O.C. did not have their sophomores and Lister was out of the line-up. Gales had high praise for Schlicher calling him, "One of the best guard's I have ever seen."

Paschal got 28 points from Battley while Schlicher contributed 24 points. The talented Schlicher went 7 for 8 from the foul line in the last 1:30 in the game for the 83-70 win. "We played a smart game and tried to control tempo. We wanted to get McMillian and Lister into foul trouble early and did," Coach Wall said following the game. The Golden Bears were not very smart in the contest, with six goal tending calls and one technical by Lister, for hanging on the rim. S.O.C.'s defensive stopper, Roderick Gerald guarded Schlicher and the Golden Bears were able to take a 60-53 advantage. S.O.C. had the lead 68-66 with 3:51 remaining but committed two straight goal tending calls, to give Paschal the lead. Lister fouled out with 2:18 left in the game. Anthony McMillian and Wayman Lister led S.O.C. with 14 and 16 points respectfully. Schlicher scored the last 13 points of the game for the victorious Panthers.

Following the game, Coach Jimmy Gales of S.O.C., said he kept expecting his team to blow the game wide open, but it never happened. "We didn't play our normal inside game, because we didn't even have an inside game in the second half. We knew they would double team Lister and that would leave Anthony McMillian open. But McMillian didn't play his normal game either. He got shook-up after getting his third foul."

Tyler John Tyler(28-5) continued winning and advanced beating Spring Branch 62-54. Terrance McDaniel led the scoring for John Tyler with 15 points. Texas A&M wanted to play Texas in the afternoon, so the game could be televised. This moved the starting time of the regional final back to 6:00 PM. Coach Wall said, that was great because it gave his team more time to rest, having just played S.O.C. Paschal needed the extra rest. John Tyler battled the Panthers on even terms for three quarters, but in the fourth, Paschal pulled away for the win 69-59. Paschal jumped out to a 17-8 lead and led at halftime 36-34. At the end of the three, it was all tied up at 51 apiece. Schlicher again was the key for Paschal's success, finishing with 20 points and Mays added 16.

Region III

Deer Park(35-4) #10

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-2) #2

Beaumont Charlton Pollard(24-8)

Houston Kashmere(41-0) #1

Dulles(27-9)

Houston Wheatley(30-6) #6

Forest Brook(34-3) #5

Houston Lincoln(28-7) #19

Top Five in Region III

6'4" Karl Godine, Houston Kashmere; 6'6" Jarvis Williams, Houston Kashmere; 6'5" George Walker, Dulles; 6'3" Carl Byrd, Houston Kashmere; 6'5" John Failing, Deer Park:

In Region III, Galveston Ball(24-9) and Dulles(27-9) went toe to toe for the 24-AAAA District title in Alvin, at the end of the regular season. The winner would face Deer Park, one of the top teams in the state and rated #10 in the polls. Ball coach, Bob Woodard's main goal would be to stop one of the top players in the state, 6'5" George Walker of Dulles. (34) Woodard would call on Mike Venible, Darrell Mitchell, 6'4" June Washington, 6'3" Andrew Webb, 5'11" Lee Paul, 6'2" Perry Nelson and 5'7" Michael Lindsey. Dulles would counter with 6'5" Arthur Washington, 6'4" Steve Patterson, and 6'0" Charles Williams. At half, the score was tied 39-all and at the end of regulation it was knotted at 73. Roy Lee Hayes of Dulles scored all his teams points in overtime to give Dulles the 77-75 win. Paul led Ball with 12 points while Washington hit 19 points and Walker had 18 for Dulles.

Next up for Dulles was Deer Park(35-4), a traditional state power. Deer Park's strong lineup included, John Failing(18.2/13.0), Terry Moore(10.8/8.0), Jimmie Griffey(11.5), Geetus Crew(8.0) and Travis O'Banion. Failing, Moore and Griffey were all named to the 1st team on the All-District team by the coaches. In a playoff warm-up game, Deer Park defeated a fine O.D. Wyatt team out of Ft. Worth 73-67.

George Walker led Dulles in a furious comeback against Deer Park in their first-round playoff game. With 12 seconds left, Walker put in a basket off a rebound to tie the score 59-59 and force the game into overtime at Spring Branch Coliseum. Walker's field goal with 30 seconds left in overtime, put Dulles ahead to stay and eliminated Deer Park from the playoffs in a mild upset 66-63. Walker finished with 25 points for Dulles and John Failing led Deer Park with 18 points and Terry Moore put in 14 points.

Houston Wheatley was in their customary place in the playoffs. Their starting lineup was talented as usual with 6'6" Randy Grimes(14.1), 6'4" Anthony Forch(16.6), 6'7" Phillip Stroud(17.0), Sheelie Lee, James Hudson(17.4) and Anthony Sullivan. The Wildcats were always in demand for tournaments and games because they were a big draw. Key wins for Coach Jackie Carr's team included, Ft. Worth Paschal(32-3) 78-75, Houston Yates(26-6) 105-94, Stratford Dulles(29-10) 94-91, and Galveston Ball(24-10) 99-98. Losses came at the hands of

Paschal 104-86, South Oak Cliff(35-4) 116-80, Kashmere(46-0) 96-70 and 116-79, Yates 89-77, and PA Lincoln(29-4) 101-88. The Wildcats biggest win of the season was over nationally ranked Elk Grove, California and 7'0" Bill Cartwright, the #1 recruit in the country. Cartwright averaged 46 points a game coming into the contest but got into early foul trouble. He picked up his 3rd foul at the 3:05 mark of the 3rd quarter and had to sit. 6'6" Bill Job tried to keep Elk Grove going hitting 27 points, but it was not enough as Wheatley won 89-81 in double overtime. Cartwright fouled out with 38 seconds left in regulation, but still finished with 35 points. The Wildcats lost their last regular season game to rival Houston Yates(26-6) 89-77 which ended an eight-game losing skid for the Lions against Wheatley. It was Yates first District win over Jackie Carr since 1971. The game was played at Delmar in front of 3,100 fans. Clifton Deal led the way for the Lions with 20 points, 6'4" Ricky "Cigar" Edwards followed with 19 and Roland Milburn had 13 points off the bench. Deal was a 6'3" left hand shooter who could really stroke it from the outside. Others who played for Yates were 6'5" Reggie Franklin, 6'7" James Anderson, and 6'7" Johnny "Boo" Donahue. Donahue was a three-sport athlete who later played in the N.F.L. for the Falcons and 5'11" Clarence Hill contributed to the Lions cause. For Wheatley, Randy Grimes had 16 points and was a force inside blocking shots. The Wildcats had already won the District title, so the game had no effect on the District results.

(34) He was no relation to the player of the same name that played for Houston Yates.

In talking with Reggie Franklin, who was a starter on the 1975 Yates team years later, he reflected on being a Lion and playing for Yates. "It was different back then, I grew up right across the street from Yates in the projects, wanting to play for Yates and Coach Edward "Doc" Evans. We hated Wheatley who was our arch rival. It was the biggest rivalry I've ever seen in high school sports. I hate the color purple to this day, I won't wear the color. We respected each other, but there was no way I was going to play for anybody other than the Lions. My senior season my parents moved to a better area of town, but I used my sister's address, so I could still attend Yates." Yates was an all-black school who had a strong tradition and had they not been in the same District with Wheatley, would have made deep runs into the playoffs throughout the 1970s. "Doc" Evans coached at Yates for close to 30 years and was succeeded by Tommy Malone in the late 1970s. Coach Evans liked the up-tempo game and had a plethora of talent.

Franklin's journey to basketball success and fame was very similar to a lot of players during that period. Reggie said, "I barely made the starting line-up while at Yates, I just wasn't that good in high school. I had no offers following high school and attended junior college at the New Mexico Military Institution. I had some great coaching and they developed my talent. I had over 100 offers coming out of

junior college and visited Tech, UTEP, Utah St., Tulsa and S.M.U.” When asked if Sonny Allen was the reason he chose the Mustangs, Reggie replied, “It was more S.M.U. than anything, great education, great city, I wanted to get back to Texas, and they ran an honest program. I was a big Cowboy fan and loved being in Dallas.” Following his days at S.M.U. and a very successful career with the Mustangs, Reggie traveled with the Harlem Globe Trotters for a period.

In District 18-AAAA a playoff was needed to decide the winner between Houston Lincoln and Houston Worthing. Lincoln won the second half and Worthing took the first half. Lincoln’s starting lineup consisted of Fred Brown who was a great shooter, Edison Smith, Elworth Newsome, Roger Jones, and Jerrell Miller. Worthing’s leader was the sensational junior, 6’8” Albert Jones who took his team all the way to the regional finals the previous season, and knocked Wheatley out of the playoffs in ‘74. Jones averaged 29 points a game against Lincoln in the two team’s District games. Worthing(23-12) won the first matchup against Lincoln in District 96-91 and lost the second 94-86. The Panthers of Lincoln won an overtime thriller 87-85, and with the win a ticket to the state playoffs Foul shots by Elsworth Newsome and Roger Jones won the game in overtime. Lincoln was down 73-63 with 5:29 remaining in regulation and came back and took the lead 79-73 with 2:00 remaining. That was a 16-point run by Lincoln. Roger Jones was top scorer for Lincoln with 26 points while Fred Brown and Newsome each had 20. Albert Jones, the big man for Worthing, was held to 20 points and fouled out with 1:56 remaining in the overtime period.

Wheatley opened the playoffs with a tough win over Houston Lincoln(28-7) 89-87. Shellie Lee hit a 25-foot bucket with two seconds left giving the Wildcats the win. “I can’t stand many more games like that one,” Jackie Carr commented. Houston Lincoln comeback forced Wheatley into a delay game with two minutes remaining. Roger Jones of Lincoln went to the foul line with his team down 87-84, and made the first foul shot and missed the second, but got the rebound and tied the score with 20 seconds remaining. Carr called timeout to set up the last shot, which was made by Lee. James Hudson scored 24 points for Wheatley, Lee had 18 and Anthony Forch hit 16. Coach Carr lost 6’8” Phillip Stroud and Anthony Sullivan to fouls during the fourth quarter. For the Panthers, Roger Jones and Elsworth Newsome both had 20 points while Fred Brown added 19 points and Edison Smith put in 12.

In Pt. Arthur, many people were talking about Lincoln having its best team ever as they climbed the rankings. The Bumblebees went all the way to #2 in the state polls. Coach James Gamble’s team was sitting with an impressive 29-2 record and ranked right behind Kashmere. In a warm-up game against #5 ranked Forest Brook the Bumblebees did not look very strong losing 89-79. Pt. Arthur Lincoln was devastated by the Forest Brooks press, creating 33 turnovers. “They have the best foot speed of any team I’ve seen,” Coach Gamble said after the game. Gregory

Keller had 26 points for Pt. Arthur Lincoln and Michael Walter had 24 for Forest Brook. The loss snapped Pt. Arthur Lincoln's long winning streak. "We haven't had a game like that since our other game against Wheatley in November," Gamble said.

Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(24-8) also played a warm-up game against Forest Brook(35-4) and won 84-72. Beaumont Pollard and Pt. Arthur Lincoln would be facing one another in a Bi-District match-up, with the winner advancing to regionals. Lincoln(29-3) and Pollard(24-7) were common opponents, being in such close proximity to one another. They were also big rivals. Lincoln had dominated the series. The Bumblebees held three straight wins over Pollard during the season 73-71, 73-61 and 91-78 and six straight victories over a two-year span. The Bulldogs started 6'7" Alfred Speight(14.0), 6'7" Al Whittington, 6'4" Gregory Johnson(13.5), Charles Malonson and Johnny Walker. Coming off the bench were Greg Garrett, Tommy Minix, Jimmy Briscoe, Dwight Benoit and Frank Johnson. Coach Gamble's Lincoln squad was under sized in comparison, starting 6'3" Gregory Keller(18.8), 6'3" Thad Sanders(15.5), 6'3" Harold Dennis(12.3), 6'2" Ronald Trahan(16.8) and 6'3" Mike Milstead. In discussing Gregory Keller in later years, Coach Gamble said, "Gregory could shoot the ball, he was what you would call today a spot-up shooter. He played two years at Stephen F. Austin. If they would have had the three-point line he would have been something, very agile, average defender." Key subs were 6'5" Eddie Whitley and guards Chester Allen, Murray Evans, and Jackie Mann. In a big upset, Charlton-Pollard beat Pt. Arthur Lincoln 65-51, behind a great performance by Alfred Speight's 26 points and 16 rebounds. 6'7" Whittington was starting only his second game of the season and really had an effect on the game. Lincoln could not shoot from the outside and the inside was dominated by the two 6'7" Bulldogs. The outside shooting of senior Gregory Keller was the only offense for Lincoln. Keller finished with 16 points and 7 rebounds. For Lincoln, it had been one of the school's best seasons ever and their highest ranking at #2 in the polls, only to lose their last two games of the season and finish 29-4. Coach James White of Pollard said, "This helps make-up for last year. I know this is my most satisfying victory personally. We beat a great basketball team, one of the best in the state." The Bulldogs out rebounded the Bumblebees 45 to 32 before an estimated crowd of 4,000 fans. The loss was especially bitter for Lincoln's Keller. He was a member of the regional finalists as a sophomore and Bi-District winner as a junior. Both times his team lost to the eventual state champions.

The #1 team in the state and one of the top teams in the country was Houston Kashmere. The Rams regular season run of 41-0 was so impressive, and the wins so dominating, it's hard to mention all of them. During the regular season they destroyed, Wheatley(30-8) 96-70, Yates(26-6) 110-87 and 87-80, Worthing(24-12) 108-71, Arlington High(27-11) 104-59, S.O.C.(35-4) 105-98,

Houston Waltrip(24-7) 87-63, Corsicana(21-8) 73-48, and nationally ranked Elk Grove, California with 7'0" Bill Cartwright 66-64. At one point, Elk Grove took a 44-34 lead early in the 3rd quarter. Kashmere double-teamed Cartwright most of the evening with Jarvis Williams, Carl Belcher, Charlie Ross, Godine and Byrd all guarding the All-American. Cartwright was held to 22 points by the group. This was 15 points under his average of 37 points and 23 rebounds. Godine finished with 16 points against Elk Grove.

In a very interesting scenario, Kashmere faced two warm-up opponents that would both advance to the State tournament. Kashmere played Ft. Worth Paschal and San Antonio Highlands, beating both convincingly 100-68 and 114-76. The Rams also faced the 19-AAAA District champion Houston Lincoln(27-6) prior to their District playoff game against Houston Worthing. The Rams obliterated Lincoln 122-77. That was a victory margin of 38.3 points per game over three state playoffs teams. These are staggering numbers and indicate the total dominance of Kashmere. Against Houston Lincoln, Kashmere outscored them 71-33 in the second half with five players scoring in double figures. Godine put up 22 points, Byrd hit 18, Williams 18, Belcher 17 and Henry Small 12. Coach Drew was looking for somebody who would run with his talented team and Houston Lincoln had agreed.

In the Rams first warm-up game for the playoffs, Kashmere picked one of the strongest teams in the state, #3 ranked Ft. Worth Paschal. The Panthers had only one loss on the season which had come at the hands of Houston Wheatley 78-75 at the Arlington Classic. Coach Jim Wall of Paschal said after the game the Kashmere game, "They just wore us out," with a blistering pace that few teams can survive. "We just couldn't stop Godine. He's without a doubt the best we've played against this year," Wall continued. The win tied the class 4-A state record of 72 wins in a row set by Houston Wheatley in 1969 and 1970. Snook, a class B school, holds the state overall record of 90 consecutive wins. Coach Drew realized Paschal was not at its best by saying, "I don't think the score indicates what type of club they have." The game was played at a familiar setting for Kashmere while Paschal had never played at Delmar. Godine finished with 31 points and 15 rebounds, Lane had 19, Byrd put in 16 and Williams finished with 10. Schlicher only had 10 points for Paschal and Wall said later that his standout senior guard had been playing a little under the weather. Mays put in 21 and Baird had 15 for the Panthers.

In Kashmere's other warm-up game, Coach Drew selected what he felt was the best team in San Antonio. He selected Highlands and he was correct because Highlands proved to be very successful in the Region IV playoffs. The win over San Antonio Highlands set the state class 4-A streak at 73 in a row. The Rams never trailed playing Highlands at Jeppesen before 2,000 fans. Kashmere only led 55-44 at halftime, but scored 59 points in the second half to run away with the score 114-76. Godine again was dominating scoring 26 points and coming away

with 16 rebounds. Belcher also had a big evening with 12 points and 20 rebounds. For Highlands, Jim Matheny and John Colby both finished with 17.

The number one problem for the Rams in the playoffs would be overconfidence and staying focused. Kashmere only had three single digit wins during the regular season, Houston Sterling(19-11) 77-72, Elk Grove and Yates.

Houston Kashmere opened the playoffs against #5 ranked Houston Forest Brook. Forest Brook remember had a convincing win over #2 ranked Pt. Arthur Lincoln in a warm-up game 89-79. Forest Brook had a strong record of 36-3 and had a lineup full of quickness and athleticism. Coach Monroe Doyle of Forest Brook said before their Bi-District encounter with the Rams, "You don't completely stop them, not Kashmere. You just try to outscore'em, force turnovers and run." The Jaguars faced off against Kashmere in the first round of the playoffs for the second year in a row. Kashmere would come into the contest riding a 73-game winning streak. The last team to beat the Rams was Clear Lake early in the 1973-74 season. Kashmere owned an early season victory over Forest Brook 87-75. Forest Brook looked to Michael Walter, Zachary West and Calvert Shelley to carry the scoring load. In Forest Brook's tune-up win over Pt. Arthur Lincoln, Walter had scored 24 points. Kashmere was impressive running Forest Brook out of the gym 97-73. "We didn't play a good game out there tonight," Karl Godine of Kashmere said after the game. A standing room only crowd of 13,000 watched the contest at Hofheinz Pavilion. Everybody wanted to get a glimpse of the Kashmere show. The Rams extended their record setting class AAAA winning streak to 74 games in a row. The crowd tied a state attendance record set in 1973 in a double header between Wheatley and Kashmere and Worthing playing Smiley. More than 2,000 people were turned away at the gate.

The three regional semi-finalists were ready to take on the state's defending champion. Dulles (29-9) was a new comer to regional while Charlton-Pollard (24-8) had made trips to the regionals in 1970 and 1972. Wheatley had advanced to regionals six straight seasons before missing in 1974. Beaumont Charlton-Pollard was such a surprise entry that Coach Drew of Kashmere said, "We didn't even scout Pollard." Drew was certain Pt. Arthur Lincoln would be coming out of the Golden triangle area. "We really don't know a lot about Pollard. We do know Pollard has the good big boy(Speights) and a strong, physical type team." Kashmere and Pollard faced off at 10 a.m. and Dulles and Wheatley would mix it up at 11:30 at Hofheinz Pavilion. The title game was played at 8:00 p.m. "If us and Wheatley can both win this morning, there should be another big crowd on hand tonight for the finals," Coach Drew explained. "That's the game everybody wants to see." Drew continued, "From what I've heard from college coaches and others, I would guess Midland Lee will be favored in Region I, Dallas S.O.C. in Region II, and either San Antonio Jefferson or Corpus Christi Carroll in Region IV. I know South Oak Cliff is good. We beat them 105-98 in the Arlington Classic and had to do some

good shooting. Paschal is another tough team. That game at College Station should be a good one, “

In the semi-finals game between Kashmere and Beaumont Pollard the Rams took control early, and led 49-30 at halftime. Coach Drew played most of his bench in the 2nd half winning 100-68. Godine finished with 18 points, but did not play much in the second half saving his legs for the finals that evening. Small had 15, Byrd added 13 and Belcher chipped in 10 points. Thirteen players scored in the game for Kashmere.

The other semi-finals game was much more competitive between Dulles and Wheatley. The score was tied 12 times during the game. Wheatley was down by 12 points and came back to take the lead 84-75 midway through the fourth quarter. With 15 seconds to play Dulles took the lead 91-90 on George Walker’s three-point play. Six seconds later Philip Stroud gave Wheatley back the lead on a pair of free throws. Dulles had handled the Wheatley press pretty well through-out the game, but in the final seconds they turned the ball over. The Wildcats advanced to the regional finals against Kashmere. James Hudson was high man for Wheatley with 25 points, followed by Anthony Forch with 23, Phillip Stroud had 18 points and 15 rebounds and Randy Grimes finished with 16. George Walker proved he was special recording 34 points and 10 boards against the talented Wheatley team.

The regional final between the Kashmere and Wheatley was greatly anticipated, but proved to be anti-climactic as Kashmere won 116-79. The sellout crowd of 10,045 saw the Rams stretch their winning streak to 76 games. For Wheatley, it was one of their worst defeats in school history. Kashmere had six players in double figures, Godine with 25 points, Madison Lane tossed in 24 points, Carl Byrd had 20, Jarvis Williams added 15 and Henry Small and Carl Belcher contributed 12 each. Jarvis Williams was strong inside with 15 rebounds. Coach Drew of Kashmere commented after the game, “You could tell Wheatley was tired and I’m sure that had a lot to do with the one-sided score.” Coach Carr of Wheatley responded, “Sure we were tired, after that morning game, we had to go all out in that one and it took something out of us. Kashmere played earlier and got a little rest.” For the losing Wildcats, Grimes hit 16 points, Hudson 16, Stroud 11, Carr 13 and Forch 10.

In 2005 I asked Coach Carr about his loss to Kashmere and he responded, “I had lost a lot of experience from the previous season on my team and their big boys, Belcher and Jarvis Williams, just beat us to death inside, like what I usually did to people. Don’t get me wrong, we had a good team, but they were just too much.” When asked about Godine, Carr responded, “Oh, he was one of the best players to come out of Houston. He would be in my top 10. He would have been something had he not gotten messed up.”

Region IV

Corpus Christi Carroll(33-2) #4
Austin Lanier(27-5)
San Antonio Fox Tech(26-12)
San Antonio Burbank(18-15)

Brazoswood(24-8)
San Antonio Jefferson(34-5) #9
San Antonio Highlands(26-12)
Harlingen(27-7)

Top Five in Region IV:

6'8" Preston Bailess, Corpus Christi Carroll; 6'2" Bobby Sommers, S.A. Fox Tech; John Colby, S.A. Highlands; Tom Trevino, Laredo; David Williams, Corpus Christi Miller:

The overwhelming favorite in Region IV was Mike Kunstadt's Corpus Christi Carroll(34-2) team. The Tigers averaged 78.6 per game and allowed only 49.4, for an incredible 29.2-point differential. Carroll had lost their 6'8" post, Preston Bailess with a broken elbow on January 24, with six weeks remaining in the season. The big post was very valuable for the Carroll squad if they were to have any hope of advancing to Austin. Bailess was athletic and only weighed 165 pounds, but affected shots all over the court with his defensive length. With Bailess out of the lineup, Carroll lost twice to Corpus Christi Miller(27-7) 68-64 and 85-81. Three players stepped in for Bailess, 6'4" Steve Hook, 6'1" Jerome Powell and 6'2" Randy Baker. 6'2" Victor Melton(17.6) was the team's key scoring threat. Others starters included Randy Feemster, Kenneth Robichaux, and Mark Kein. Over the previous ten years, Carroll had made six playoff appearances.

In the District playoff game between Corpus Christi Carroll and Corpus Christi Miller, David Williams of C.C. Miller had to be contained if Carroll was to win. Williams had scored 27 points in the previous game between the two city rivals. Miller had beaten Carroll 85-81. In team's rematch, assistant coach Jim Creech convinced head coach Mike Kunstadt that a different defensive approach was needed against Williams. Carroll's all-purpose defender, Randy Feemster would stay with Williams, playing him man to man, while the rest of the Carroll's defense was set up in a 1-3 zone defense. "He could shoot lights out," Kunstadt said referring to Williams. The plan worked as Carroll advanced to the playoffs 68-64. Ken Robichaux led Carroll with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

In 1975, all four Corpus Christi ISD schools had all won 20 games during the season for the first time ever. Moody finished 27-7, Miller 27-7, and Ray 21-11. Moody was paced by junior post, 6'5" Charles Tryon. "He was a man, he looked like a college tight end," was Kunstadt's comment when asked about Tryon and their strong inside game.

With Bailess still out, Carroll would face off in the first round of the playoffs against Harlingen(27-7), a team they had earlier defeated 84-44 in the Corpus Christi Invitational Tournament. That was before Harlingen got their football players. Carroll dominated the boards 59-32 and won easily 84-53. Melton had a big game with 30 points and 17 rebounds followed by Powell with 17 points

and 17 rebounds. Harlingen was making their first appearance in the playoffs since 1955 under Coach Eloy Salinas. The Ragin Redbirds had won a District playoff game against Mission(24-12) 50-46. Harlingen two key players were 6'5" junior, Billy Banks(21.6) and Ramiro Lucio.

In other first round games, Brazoswood(24-8) downed Austin Lanier(27-5) 57-54. San Antonio Jefferson(34-5) dropped San Antonio Fox Tech(26-12) 66-57, and San Antonio Highlands(26-12) advanced against San Antonio Burbank(18-15) 61-53.

As regionals approached, the big news was the return of Bailess to the line-up for the Tigers. With his return things looked very promising for Carroll to advance to Austin. The Tigers had a great run under the tremendous leadership of Mike Kunststadt. His career record was very impressive, 1969 (24-7), 1970 (22-12), 1971 (19-15), 1972 (25-9), 1973 (32-5), 1974 (23-9) and 1975 (35-3). The '75 season would be his last at Carroll as coaching football and basketball were taking their toll. Kunststadt moved up to the Dallas area and took over at Irving High School where he would continue their fine program and coached only basketball. San Antonio Highlands had big plans as they entered regionals. Highlands had won 18 of their last 20 games. They were the hottest team entering regionals even though their record was a poor 26-12. Coach John Kemmerzehl's crew had missed their leading scorer, 6'4" James Matheny(19.4), for the first nine games of the season because of football. Another leading standout for Highlands was junior, Johnny Bowens(15.4). Bowens had been named sophomore of the year the previous season and missed the first 12 games of the season because of a tragic accident. Bowens had a fork lift fall on him during the summer which slit his throat and punctured his lung. With the return of these two key players, Highlands felt they had a great shot at advancing to state. Floor leader for Coach Kemmerzehl was 5'8" John Colby(11.0). The other guard position was held by 5'9" Darrell Williams(11.5), who also averaged in double figures. The fifth starter was 6'1" junior, Edgar Evans. Kemmerzehl felt his team weakness was its lack of depth.

S.A. Jefferson was making its third trip to regionals in a row for Coach Robert "Snake" LeGrand. LeGrand was a former star at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. Jefferson had pressed early in the season, but found his team was much more successful running a more deliberate style of play with 6'7" Brian Bryden(11.0) and 6'5" Micah Owens(14.0) under the basket. Owens was one of the top players in San Antonio, even as a junior. Other starters were 5'8" Mac Freeman(6.2), 6'1" Sam Butler, and 6'3" Mike Schelper(10.0). Butler was a great leaper and usually drew the other team's best offensive player.

Brazoswood(25-9) felt great about their chances as well having broken Victoria's 37 game home winning streak during the season. Brazoswood ran a double low post with three guards. 6'5" James Bell(11.5) and 6'4" Chesley Brown(8.0/11.3) were the inside forces, and Donnie Stephens(13.5/5.0), 5'11" Nick

Houston Kashmere	(44-0)	#1	91.4-63.8	+27.6
Ft. Worth Paschal	(31-2)	#7	79.2-58.2	+21.0
San Antonio Highlands	(29-12)			

Top Five Players at the State Tournament

6'4" Karl Godine	Houston Kashmere
6'5" Jarvis Williams	Houston Kashmere
6'4" John Schlicher	Ft. Worth Paschal
6'8" Wendall Mays	Ft. Worth Paschal
6'1" Brent Blackwell	Midland Lee
6'5" Junior Miller	Midland Lee

Junior Miller of Midland Lee was the District M.V.P., but during regionals he had come down with the flu. He had only scored 17 points in the two games. As the state tournament approached, Miller was not practicing as late as Tuesday of the state tournament week. Also, Midland Lee was facing Houston Kashmere in the semi-finals. 6'4" Karl Godine(28.5/14.0) was a high school All-American and one of the most heavily recruited players ever in Texas. His running mate was 6'5" Jarvis Williams(18.0/16.0) who in his own right was outstanding. "They were talented and studs who never saw a shot they didn't like," Kunststadt commented. "They were really a handful at the high school level." 6'3" Carl Byrd(23.4/12.0) was also recruited as a division one prospect. 5'11" Madison Lane signed with a division one school as did 6'8" Carl Belcher. 6'4" Henry Small was another big contributor, along with 6'6" Charles Ross off the bench. Coach Weldon Drew rated his team better than the great Wheatley teams of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Kashmere had broken Wheatley's winning streak for most victories in a row at 72, set from 1970 to 1972. Kashmere had extended the record to 76 in a row. Many of Lee's followers were not going to make the trip to Austin because they felt like it would be a waste of time and money. The Rebels had no chance against the talented Rams. Coach Stueckler said, "I feel like we can play with them and I know we can if Junior is feeling ok." Stueckler felt his team could stay with Kashmere because they had played other quick teams like Hobbs, Wichita Falls Rider and El Paso Bowie.

The game was one of the classics in Texas High School basketball history, as David attempted to slay Goliath. Kashmere made it look early like a blowout jumping out to a 11-2 lead. The Rebels came right back, scoring seven straight to go down 11-9. In the second quarter, Blackwell of Lee scored 12 of Lee's 22 points to give Midland Lee a 31-29 halftime lead. Lee ran their domino delay and deliberate offense to perfection, and kept the game close. The score was tied at 39 all at the end of the 3rd quarter. During one stretch, Lee held the ball for 8 minutes. Lee took the lead 41-39 on a basket by Parsons and Kashmere countered with a 20-footer from Byrd. The game ended in regulation 41-41. In the first overtime, there was no scoring by either team. Farish traveled giving Kashmere the last shot

in the first overtime. The Rams All-State guard Godine missed on a 30-footer. In the second overtime, Byrd put Kashmere ahead and Parson scored on a reverse layup to tie the score once again at 43-43. With 1:11 remained, Kashmere had the ball and called timeout. Madison Lane of Kashmere was soon called for traveling, so Lee held for the last shot. Blackwell's shot was off its mark and the game entered a third overtime. Byrd put the Rams ahead 45-43 and Jeffrey Jackson traveled, giving the ball back to Kashmere. With 2:01 remaining in the third overtime Lane hit one of two foul shots to move the Rams up 46-43. Henry Small of Kashmere hit two more foul shots giving his team a 50-43 advantage. The Rebels came back once again with Farish hitting a 20-footer, and Blackwell connecting on a 30-footer. Kashmere finished off the scoring with Lane hitting a jumper, to make the final 52-47. Blackwell led Lee with 16 points while Parsons finished with 11.

Kashmere was held significantly under their average, with Byrd and Williams finishing with 12 apiece, and Godine had 10. Midland Lee was 11 of 11 from the foul line and Kashmere was 6 of 10. The domino delay had been affective once again as Lee shocked the basketball world taking Kashmere into three overtimes.

Looking back at the game, Blackwell had missed a 15-footer that hit the front of the rim with 3 seconds left in regulation. He fired a 25-footer that missed at the buzzer, to end the second overtime. Of course, in games this close and so important you can always talk about what ifs. What if Lee would have lost their triple overtime game against Midland High to win the first half of District? If Midland Lee could have pulled off the upset, it would have been the biggest upset in state tournament history. Coach Wall of Paschal, who was good friends with Stueckler, was rooting for Lee. "I felt much more confident playing Lee than Kashmere. I thought we had a real good chance if Lee could have defeated Kashmere," Coach Wall said.

Coach Drew of Kashmere had nothing but praise for Midland Lee and their domino delay after the game. "It was the smoothest and best ran delay game that I have seen," Drew explained. It was so impressive that Arkansas head coach, Eddie Sutton went to Stueckler's motel room after the game to congratulate the Lee coach personally. Sutton said it was the best high school delay game he had ever seen. Kashmere used 10 players in the game while Lee only used 5.

In the other semi-final game, Paschal had little trouble with San Antonio Highlands winning 82-65. "The first few trips down the court, we hit Wendall inside and he turned around and scored," Wall explained. "We felt really good because they would be unable to double on Schlicher, so we began going inside with the single coverage on Wendall."

In the championship game between Ft. Worth Paschal and Houston Kashmere, it was rematch of a warm-up game played before the playoffs. Paschal was a very talented and dangerous team, but they lost to Kashmere by 32 points.

Coach Wall learned a great deal from the game. Wall knew he would be unable to get up and down the court with the talented Rams. He also learned from how effect Midland Lee was able to slow the game down against Coach Drew's troops. Wall was a master strategist and came up with a great game plan. Paschal's star player, Schlicher, said you could hear a pin drop on the bus ride for the team and cheerleaders from the hotel to Gregory Gym. "We had played them before, we knew what we were up against. We knew we weren't going to get in an up and down game this time," Schlicher said.

In another classic game, Paschal came "oh so close" to pulling off the upset before losing 60-58. Schlicher missed three shots at the end of the game that could have tied the score and sent the game into overtime. With 3:19 remaining, the Rams went into their own stall with the score tied 58-58. Wendall Mays fouled Godine, who hit two foul shots to give Kashmere the lead. Paschal gambled and held the ball till 34 seconds remained on the clock. Schlicher took an off balance 30-footer which missed and the senior guard missed another with 8 seconds remaining, and another with 2 seconds left. Schlicher finished with 16 points, followed by Bruce Baird with 15 points, Gerald Battey hit 14 and Mays had 12 points and 16 rebounds. Godine led Kashmere with 18 points, Lane had 14 and Williams also had 14.

"It was a very intense game," Wall explained. "When Godine was holding the ball at mid-court late in the game a fan came onto the court and things got very heated." The fan came right onto court and into the lane area, a white security officer stepped on to the court to remove the fan, who took a swing at the security guard. The fan was African American. Luckily another fan who was also African American came onto the court to help the security guard remove the fan. "There were fans everywhere, you couldn't see any wood," Wall said. You felt like something might happen because of such cramped conditions. "I think we would have had a much better situation had the game been played in the Erwin Center," Coach Wall said. "This was not a good environment."

Schlicher stood out as an outstanding player, one of the best to come out of Ft. Worth. Coach Wall said he felt like he had a chance to play in the N.B.A. Schlicher was widely recruited and had decided to commit to North Carolina. This was unheard of at the time for a Texas player to be recruited by North Carolina. He had already visited North Carolina and had several visits planned to Kansas and other schools. "I just did not want to play in the Southwest Conference because it was mainly known as a football conference," Schlicher said. Coach Wall wanted his player to at least visit Texas A&M before deciding. In one of the most tragic accidents in the history of NCAA recruiting, John was riding a horse that got spooked and ran him into a tree, shattering his right arm and causing severe head injuries, that almost killed him. Years later, John said he had the people who were with him that day tell him what had happened in detail, because he could not

remember. To say he was lucky to be alive is an understatement. He was kept alive by John Thornton and was taken to Bryan Hospital, but they could not help him so he was flown to Methodist hospital in Houston. He was pronounced dead three times during the transfer, and was in a coma for three days and induced coma for 10 to 12 days because of the pain. The long recovery was hard. John said his short-term memory was affected once he got on campus at A&M, but soon got better. He played for the Aggies and later in South America, but he lost some of his ability because of the accident. He is presently coaching and teaching in Houston. It was said that had he not been in such outstanding physical condition he would have never survived.

Even though the last two games of the season were struggles for Kashmere the team finished 46-0, and had one of the greatest seasons in the state's long history. Coach Jim Wall and Paul Stueckler did amazing jobs getting their teams ready both mentally and physically to face the Rams. Both Midland Lee and Paschal had their opportunities. In a series, Kashmere was unbeatable, but in a one game playoff, anything can happen and did.

How talented was Godine and Kashmere? Kashmere coach, Weldon Drew commented about Godine, who was consensus player of the year. "Karl is so versatile, he can play any position. He has so much natural ability. He's a great shooter with deceptive speed. He's also a great rebounder who can jump with people who are 6'6" and 6'7". The Amarillo Chamber of Commerce names the Outstanding Basketball Player Award at the end of every season and the easy winner in 1975 was Karl Godine. The senior guard led his team to a 78-game winning streak, put up 28.5 points per game, and finished with a career record of 115-13. His sophomore season, the Rams finished 30-11, 39-2 as a junior and 46-0 as a senior, with two state championships. Past winners of the Chamber Award as player of the year were, Jerry Kroll of Spring Branch Memorial in 1966, Gene Phillips of Houston Jones in '67, Dwight Jones of Wheatley was a two-time winner in '69 and '70, Cedric Joseph of Ft. Worth Arlington Heights took home the award in 1971, Ira Terrell of Dallas Roosevelt was the winner in 1972, Eddie Owens of Houston Wheatley in '73 and Earl Evans of Pt. Arthur Lincoln in 1974. Godine played in the Dapper Dan Classic in Pittsburgh after the season which was the premier high school all-star game at the time while Schlicher played in the McDonald's Capital Classic in Washington D.C., which was the forerunner to today's McDonald All-American game.

Several recruiters wanted to take Kashmere's entire starting five. Baylor was one of those schools who wanted the starting five. New Mexico State offered Drew a coaching job in hopes he would bring all his players to Las Cruces. Drew parlayed the titles into a college assistant's job. Seven players signed scholarships, Williams and Godine went to Texas A&M and started on a conference championship as freshmen that finished 21-6. They were later ruled ineligible and

had to transfer. Godine finished up at Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches while Williams stayed at A&M and sat out his sophomore year. Williams saw limited playing time as a junior and senior with the Aggies. Years later, Williams said he wished he would have transferred to Houston to play for Guy Lewis. Carl Belcher signed with Texas, Madison Lane signed Rice, Carl Byrd and Henry Small went the University of Houston and Charlie Ross went the junior college route playing at N.E. Oklahoma J.C. The Rams will be forever in Texas Basketball lore as one of the greatest high school teams ever produced. Whenever the best teams in state history are mentioned they are always in the conversation. Basketball Weekly, the number one high school basketball authority at the time selected them #2 in their national poll behind Verbum Dei out of Los Angeles. Verbum Dei was led by David Greenwood and Roy Holland. The school was located in Watts with only 300 students. Greenwood and Holland both were high school All-Americans and starred at U.C.L.A and had pro careers.

The **All-Tournament team** at state was made up of Karl Godine, Jarvis Williams, Madison Lane all from Kashmere, Wendall Mays and Schlicher of Paschal, and Brent Blackwell of Midland Lee.

1975	State Rankings	AAAA{End of the Regular Season}
1. Houston Kashmere	40-0	6'4" Karl Godine(28.5), 6'5" Jarvis Williams(18.0)
2. Pt. Arthur Lincoln	29-2	6'3" Gregory Keller(18.8), 6'3" Thad Sanders(15.5)
3. Dallas South Oak Cliff	34-3	6'4" Anthony McMillian, 6'3" Wayman Lister(20.0)
4. C.C. Carroll	34-2	6'2" Victor Melton(17.6), 6'8" Preston Bailess(15.4)
5. Houston Forest Brook	34-3	Michael Walter, Zachary West
6. Houston Wheatley	30-6	6'7" Phillip Stroud(17.0), James Hudson(17.4)
7. Ft. Worth Paschal	27-2	6'3" John Schlicher(17.6), 6'8" Wendall Mays(17.1)
8. Midland Lee	29-3	6'5" Junior Miller(14.3), 6'0" Brett Blackwell(16.3)
9. S.A. Jefferson	33-5	6'7" Brian Bryden(11.0), 6'5" Micah Owens(14.0)
10. Deer Park	34-4	6'5" John Failing(18.2), Terry Moore(10.8)
11. E.P. Bowie	27-5	6'1" Jose DeSantiago, 6'0" Francisco Baca
12. Tyler John Tyler	27-5	6'5" Harold Taylor(16.5), 5'11" Dennis Gordon(15.0)
13. S.A. Holmes	30-5	
14. E.P. Burges	26-6	Ron Doyle, Don Fiegel
15. Pampa	24-4	Howie Lewis(20.2), Billy Wilbon(17.0)
16. C.C. Miller	27-7	David Williams
17. Highland Park	29-7	6'8" Tom Somerville(16.0), 6'2" R. Thompson(17.0)
18. Wichita Falls Rider	22-7	6'2" Robert Criner(17.2), 6'0" Will Davis(13.2)
19. Houston Lincoln	28-7	Fred Brown, Elworth Newsome
20. Waco University	24-8	5'10" Bill Deviney

All-State Team: Texas Sports Writers as usual did a great job in their selections. **1st**

Team: 6'10" Allen Windor(19.6) of Arlington High, 6'4" Karl Godine(28.5) Kashmere, 6'4" John Schlicher(23.2) Paschal, 6'6" Jarvis Williams(18.0) Kashmere, 6'5" George Walker(23.2) Dulles; **2nd team** -6'8" Wendall Mays(21.0) Paschal, 6'3" Carl Byrd(23.0) Kashmere, 6'1" Brent Blackwell(16.0) Midland Lee, 6'1" Jose

DeSantiago-El Paso Bowie, Carl Webb-El Paso Address; **3rd team-** 6'5" John Failing(18.2) Deer Park, 6'2" Madison Lane-Kashmere, 6'1" Richard Bacon(23.0) Dallas Pinkston, 6'2" Bobby Sommers-SA Fox Tech, John Colby- SA Highlands, Tom Trevino-Laredo:

In looking back on the season, the three best teams were Houston Kashmere, Ft. Worth Paschal and Dallas S.O.C. The Golden Bears were the top team in Dallas. Big D was one of the largest hot beds of Texas high school basketball in 1975 as well as today. The All-State team should have been represented by 6'3" Waymon Lister(20.0) from S.O.C.

Recruits: 6'4" **Karl Godine**(28.5) was one of the top recruits that the state has ever produced. Godine went the A&M and later Stephen F. Austin and was a 7th round pick by the Bullets in the N.B.A. Godine was a starter on the Aggies as a freshman before transferring. He averaged 21.0 points a game at Stephen F. He did not play in the Association. 6'5" **Jarvis Williams**(18.0) was another highly prized recruit who followed Godine to A&M. He started as a freshman on a conference championship team and saw action as a junior and senior for the Aggies. **John Schlicher**(23.0) of Paschal played at Texas A&M. 6'5" **George Walker**(23.2) of Dulles signed with the Cougars of Houston and was a starter as a junior and senior year and averaged 14.5 per game. Please don't get the two George Walker's confused, one played for Yates and graduated in 1974 the other from Dulles and graduated in 1975. Both were outstanding talents. One of the best kept secrets in the state of Texas was 6'3" **Elbert Darden** of Baytown Lee. Darden was named All-SWC at Rice. Darden was also a scholar, being named a National Merit Semi-Finalist. He became the All-time scoring leader at Rice averaging 20.1 points his senior year. He was also named honorable mention All-American. 6'10" **Allen Windor**(19.6) from Arlington High, signed with Houston and was a starter as a freshman, but finished up at U.T. Arlington. 6'3" **Carl Byrd**(23.0) of Kashmere played at Houston. 6'8" **Wendall Mays**(21.0) of Paschal was an All-American at Tyler J.C. and later played for Baylor. Mays averaged 12.8 for the Bears. 6'8" **Tom Somerville**(16.0) of Highland Park played at S.M.U. and was a four year lettermen. 6'7" **Phillip Stroud**(17.0) of Wheatley played at Texas. Stroud came off the bench for his college coach, Abe Lemons. 6'10" **Kartlon Hurdle** of Ft. Worth Richland played at Oral Roberts and was a four-year lettermen, 6'2" **Bob Sommers** of SA Fox Tech went to U.T.E.P. and later St. Mary's in San Antonio, 6'2" **Madison Lane** of Kashmere played at Rice and was a two year lettermen, 6'8" **Carl Belcher** of Kashmere attended Texas. Belcher was the 6th man on back to back Conference title teams. 6'11" **Doug Ekeroth**(21.0) of Laredo United signed with Rice and was a two year lettermen, 6'9" **Bob Rudolph** of Arlington High chose Texas Tech and was a 3-year lettermen, 6'7" **Bryan Holland**(21.0) of Richardson went to A&M and was a letterman, 6'6" **Danny Ivey**(19.0) of S.A. Central Catholic signed with Tech and was a two-year lettermen, 6'8" **Joe Baxter**(18.0) of Richardson Pearce ended up at

Texas Tech after junior college and started for the Red Raiders. 6'3" **Waymon Lister**(25.3) of S.O.C. took his talents to North Texas State after they signed his coach, Jimmy Gales as one of the assistant coaches. Lister set the school record for most wins during his career at North Texas. He averaged 7.1 points a game. 6'5" **Chris Gonser** of Irving traveled to Baylor and was a one-year lettermen, 6'0" **Tommy Parks** of F.W. Poly played at Texas Tech and was a letterman, 6'10" **Tom Nichols** of Houston Sharpstown signed with Texas and was a four-year lettermen, 5'11" **Kenneth Ciolli** of Houston Sterling played for Houston and started for Guy Lewis as a junior and senior averaging 6.0 points per game. 6'0" **Paul Jackson** of Texas City went to Houston, 6'3" **Henry Small** of Kashmere signed with Houston, 6'8" **Preston Bailess**(15.4) of C.C. Carroll played at Utah St., 6'2" **Victor Melton** of C.C. Carroll to Midwestern, 6'5" **Daniel Wise**(27.0) of Houston Waltrip signed with Texas and later transferred to North Texas and was a 3-year lettermen, 6'6" **Cedric Fears** of Houston Sterling was a big time leaper, who signed with Houston and averaged 7.0 points per game, 6'6" **Reggie Franklin** of Houston Yates played at S.M.U. and was a standout for the Mustangs. Reggie is #4 on the school all-time blocks list and averaged 13.1 per game in conference play, 6'5" **Ovie Dotson** of SA Sam Houston played for Texas and came off the bench for Coach Abe Lemons, 6'4" **Marshall Sauls** of Houston Davis went to Houston, 6'8" **Tracey Scheibel** of Dallas Skyline played at S.M.U., 6'4" **Jim Vaszauskas** of Lamesa took his talents to Baylor where he was a two-year lettermen, 6'1" **Brent Blackwell** of Midland Lee committed to Baylor, 6'5" **Elijah Owens**(14.0) of S.A. Jefferson went to New Mexico St., 6'2" **Cyrus Cormier**(18.0) of Houston Furr went to New Mexico St. and was a reserve, 6'1" **Jose de Santiago** of El Paso Bowie committed to New Mexico, 6'5" **Greg Keller** of P.A. Lincoln played at Stephen F. Austin, 6'7" **Alfred Speights** of Beaumont Charlton-Pollard played at Stephen F. Austin, 6'0" **Melvis Wooten** of Crockett went to Stephen F. Austin, 6'4" **Gerald Battey** of Ft. Worth Paschal went to Texas A&M Commerce, 6'7" **Arthur Ross** of Houston Milby played at San Jacinto J.C., 6'5" **Glenn Minnix** of Houston Austin and 6'1" **James Harris** of Houston Lamar were strong recruits. 6'5" **John Failing (35)** of Deer Park went to Louisiana Tech.

(35)- John Failing had a terrible accident while in Ruston, Louisiana. While attempting to jump a freight train his arm was almost totally severed and the doctors had to insert an artificial artery. It was not clear why he attempted to jump the train. Failing was one of the key players at Deer Park during the decade and named 3rd team All-State. He had a brilliant career at Deer Park.

Top Texas Recruits in 1975 based on their college and pro careers:

#1	Karl Godine 6'4"	Houston Kashmere	A&M/SFA 12.6/1.9	Draft Bullets #151
#2	George Walker 6'5"	Stratford Dulles	Houston 14.5/9.3	
#3	Elbert Darden 6'3"	Baytown Lee	Rice U., All-SWC 19.9/5.8*	
#4	Reggie Franklin 6'6"	Houston Yates	S.M.U. 13.0/6.5	
#5	Jarvis Williams 6'5"	Houston Kashmere	Texas A&M 7.9/5.6	
#6	Wendall Mays 6'8"	Ft. Worth Paschal	Baylor 12.8/7/8	
#7	Waymond Lister 6'3"	South Oak Cliff	North Texas 15.9/4.8	
#8	Preston Bailess 6'9"	C.C. Carroll	Utah St. 10.8/7.3	

#9	Phillip Stroud 6'8"	Houston Wheatley	Texas 9.5/8.8
#10	Ken Ciolli 5'11" (*All-Conference)	Houston Sterling	Houston 6.0/5.0 Asst.

All-Americans: Basketball Weekly-Karl Godine, 3rd team; Scholastic Magazine, Karl Godine; Street & Smith Pre-Season-Karl Godine 6th team; Street & Smith Freshmen of Influence, Karl Godine{Top 15 freshmen in the country}; Popular Sports Pre-Season Top 100-Albert Jones(jr), Karl Godine; Basketball Weekly All-Region: Albert Jones(jr)

National Ranking: Houston Kashmere #2 Basketball Weekly, Houston Kashmere #1 National Sports News Service(Ratings began in 1952), #1 EA Sports:

State Leaders: There were all kinds of numbers thrown around for Karl Godine, anywhere from 31.5 used by Basketball Weekly to 24.5 used by some newspapers. Tommy Parks of Ft. Worth Poly averaged 28.7, Daniel Wise of Houston Waltrip at 27.0, and Waymond Lister of S.O.C. at 25.3. Leading offensive team in the state was probably Houston Wheatley(95.9) although we could not get all their numbers. Kashmere averaged 91.4, S.O.C. came in at 88.1, and Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt at 87.9. Corpus Christi Carroll was outstanding among the top teams with a 49.4 points allowed. Margin of victory also was a surprise, Corpus Christi Carroll at +29.2, Kashmere +27.6, Paschal +21.0 and S.O.C. at +20.4. Remember, C.C. Carroll played almost a fourth of the season without 6'8" Bailess. Kashmere of course had their brilliant senior class that produced numerous players that moved on to major Universities. Reggie Franklin of Yates graduated in 1975 and explained why Godine was one of the best ever. "He was strong and could take you inside and could shoot from the outside. He was so smooth. He was a great finisher, he could do it all. Hell of a player." Remember Franklin was assistant coach for Midland J.C. where several future N.B.A. players played for Coach Jerry Stone, so he was very familiar with talent. 6'3" Carl Byrd(23.0) of Kashmere played at Houston. Franklin remembered Byrd, "As a great perimeter shooter." 6'2" Madison Lane was a smart player who understood the game. Krueger of Clear Lake echoed Franklin when discussing Godine, "Karl Godine was one of the best I have ever seen, great player."

TABC Is Born

April of 1975 was a special date for the development of the Texas Basketball Coaches Association and its formation. Tommy Newman of Ft. Worth Richland and Billy Arnold of Ft. Worth Castleberry had tried to work through the Texas High School Coaches Association, but the Association was run by football coaches. The basketball coaches felt they had no voice in the organization. It got so bad that if you went to a job interview and was asked if you were a member of the TABC, you would say no if you wanted the job. Football coaches did not like the new organization at that time. The Waco Chamber of Commerce had a coach's

clinic each year in which many coaches from all over the state would come. U.C.L.A.'s legendary coach, John Wooden had been scheduled to come to Waco because the publisher of all his books lived in Waco. Wooden was persuaded to speak at the clinic to help increase attendance. A meeting was arranged the night before the clinic and many of the top coaches in the state were encouraged to show up early. The purpose of showing up early was so Newman and Arnold and the rest of the coaches could put together the by-laws for the new coach's organization. Wooden encouraged all the basketball coaches to join the newly formed group for the improvement of high school basketball in Texas. Membership was \$10 and about 250 of the some 750 coaches that were there, signed up. As time went on the TABC knew they needed the help of sports writers and newspapers in general to start putting out basketball polls and help with communication.

Pete Kendall, a Metroplex freelance sports writer, wrote the first newsletter in the spring of 1975. He continued to be the main writer till 1978. By 1981, the organization had grown to 1000 members, both male and female. The TABC enlisted the help of Alton Ballard in 1981, a school teacher at Waco Midway High School. The newsletter continued with scores from all around the state. Ballard wrote the newsletter and mailed it out to members until his death in 2002. Another key to the success of the TABC was the basketball camps that developed. Coach Newman said they wanted to have the best camps possible. With campers coming from all over the state the TABC finally had a revenue source to fund the organization. Also in 1981, the TABC began sending a special liaison to all meetings of the University Interscholastic League Athletic and Legislative Councils in Austin. In 1982, an agreement was forged with both the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal and the Associated Press to carry a weekly, "Top Ten Coaches Poll," in January and February. The TABC provided the poll and the media distributed it throughout the state.

Today, the TABC sends out the top 25 rankings for all classifications, both girls and boys and private and public. In 1988 the TABC became the largest basketball organization in the country with 2250 members. In 2002, Rick Sherley was elected as the second executive director in TABC history, following Ballard. In 2010-11, membership reached 4,543 members. Today the organization has Players of the Year Awards in each classification, all-state teams, all-star games and basketball camps. The TABC works to promote basketball in every way possible. The TABC has also been very supportive of this book and many members were helpful in providing information.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs-Karl Godine of Houston Kashmere averaged 19.2 in the playoffs, Forest Park(21), Beaumont Ch.-Pollard(18), Houston Wheatley(25), Midland Lee(10), Ft. Worth Paschal(18):

Power Ranking:

1.	Houston Kashmere	46-0	107.62	State Champs 4-A	def. FW Paschal 60-58
2.	Ft. Worth Paschal	32-3	95.10	State Finals 4-A	loss to Kashmere 60-58
3.	Lamesa	34-0	94.65	State Champs 3-A	def. S.G.P. 59-55
4.	Dallas S.O.C.	35-4	94.46	Reg. Semis 4-A	loss to Paschal 83-70
5.	Midland Lee	33-3	90.25	State Semis 4-A	loss to Kash. 52-47(3ot)
6.	C.C. Carroll	34-3	89.42	Regional Semi 4-A	Loss to SA Jeff. 51-49

The Power Ratings in 1975 were really very accurate in my opinion. The three best teams in my mind were clearly, Kashmere, Paschal and S.O.C. They were an entire level above everyone else. Kashmere lost zero games, Paschal lost three total, to Kashmere twice and Wheatley, while S.O.C. lost to Kashmere and twice to Paschal. I would put Corpus Christi Carroll in that group, but Bailess was injured the last part of the season. Lamesa ran the table in class 3-A and were outstanding at any level. Although Midland Lee played an excellent game against Kashmere, losing in triple overtime, they struggled with above average opponents. Lee was a good example of a great coach working his magic in a one game elimination game. Although the delay game was a very effective in winning games, it also keeps inferior talent close in games which would not ordinarily be close. Midland Lee just barely won their District. A possible explanation for Lee's surprising success in the playoffs was that teams were not used to playing against their style. In District, Lee's opponents were more familiar with the Rebels basketball style and were much more prepared and shared with one another what would work and not work in defending the delay game. Having coached for many years, being familiar with your opponent is a big advantage. Many coaches didn't scout that much in the playoffs. I interviewed many successful coaches that have said they were not going to worry about their opponent, "we are going to do what we do well. We can only take care of what we do."

Teams that should have advanced to the State Tournament in Austin: It would have been nice for Corpus Christi Carroll to advance to state, but they were not at full strength. Midland Lee did a great job of representing the west and S.A. Highlands was in a little bit in over their head.

1975 4-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso Bowie(28-6) #11	70	El Paso Burgess(24-6) #14	58
	Lubbock Monterey(21-9)	57	Pampa(24-4) #15	52
	North Mesquite(26-7)	52	Arlington(27-10)	47
	Midland Lee(30-3) #8	87	W. Falls Rider(22-7) #18	69
Region I Semis	El Paso Bowie(29-6) #11	63	North Mesquite(27-7)	56
	Midland Lee(31-3) #8	62	Lubbock Monterey(22-9) ot	51
<u>Region I Finals</u>	<u>Midland Lee(32-3) #8</u>	<u>51</u>	<u>El Paso Bowie(30-6) #11 ot</u>	<u>46</u>
Region II Bi-Dist.	Ft. Worth Paschal(28-2) #7	64	Ft. Worth Wyatt(25-7) #13	57
	Dallas S.O.C.(34-3) #3	89	Dallas Lincoln(20-9)	75
	Spring Branch(27-8)	60	Corsicana(21-7)	47
	Tyler John Tyler(27-5) #12	74	Plano(25-6)	62
Region II Semis	Ft. Worth Paschal(29-2) #7	83	Dallas S.O.C.(35-3) #3	70
	Tyler John Tyler(28-5) #12	62	Spring Branch(28-8)	54
<u>Region II Finals</u>	<u>Ft. Worth Paschal(30-2) #7</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>Tyler John Tyler(29-5) #12</u>	<u>59</u>
Region III Bi-Dist.	Houston Wheatley(30-6) #6	89	Houston Lincoln(28-7) #19	87
	Stratford Dulles(28-9)	66	Deer Park(35-4) #10	63
	H. Kashmere(41-0) #1	97	H. Forest Brooks(36-4) #5	73
	Beaumont Pollard(23-8)	65	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-3) #2	51
Region III Semis	Houston Wheatley(31-6) #6	94	Stratford Dulles(29-9)	91
	H. Kashmere(42-0) #1	100	Beaumont Pollard(24-8)	68
<u>Region III Finals</u>	<u>H. Kashmere(43-0) #1</u>	<u>116</u>	<u>Houston Wheatley(32-6) #6</u>	<u>79</u>
Region IV Bi-Dist.	SA Highlands(26-12)	61	SA Burbank(17-15)	53
	Brazoswood(24-9)	57	Austin Lanier(27-5)	54
	SA Jefferson(34-5) #9	60	SA Fox Tech(25-12)	57
	C.C. Carroll(33-2) #4	84	Harlingen(27-7)	53
Region IV Semis	SA Highlands(27-12)	72	Brazoswood(25-9)	68
	SA Jefferson(35-5) #9	51	C.C. Carroll(34-2) #4	49
<u>Region IV Finals</u>	<u>SA Highlands(28-12)</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>SA Jefferson(36-5) #9</u>	<u>68</u>
State Semi-Finals	H. Kashmere(44-0) #1	52	Midland Lee(33-3) #8 3ot	47
	Ft. W. Paschal(31-2) #7	82	SA Highlands(29-12)	65
State Finals	H. Kashmere(45-0) #1	60	Ft. Worth Paschal(32-2) #7	58

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1975 AAAA Top "50"}

1. Houston Kashmere	46-0	{One of the greatest teams to ever}
2. Ft. Worth Paschal	32-3	{beat S.O.C. twice, split with Wheatley}
3. Dallas South Oak Cliff	35-4	{beat Wheatley(2), Roosevelt(3), & Clear Lake}
4. Midland Lee	33-4	{one of the most amazing teams in the history}
5. Houston Wheatley	32-7	{Paschal 1-1, Yates 1-1, PA Lincoln 0-1, SOC 0-1}
6. Corpus Christi Carroll	34-3	{27-0 with Bailess healthy}
7. Houston Yates	26-6	{finishing 2nd to Wheatley, 17-AAAA}
8. Deer Park	35-5	{beat Wyatt 73-67, upset by Dulles}
9. Houston Forest Brook	36-5	{beat PA Lincoln 89-79, lost to Pollard 84-72}
10. Pt. Arthur Lincoln	29-4	{most hyped Bumblebee team, lost to Pollard}
11. Clear Lake	30-5	{defeated Deer Park in district 32-28, 2 nd Dist.}
12. Tyler John Tyler	29-6	{reg. finalist lost to Ft. Worth Paschal 69-59}
13. El Paso Bowie	30-7	{reg. finalist losing to Midland Lee 51-46 in OT}
14. Ft. Worth Wyatt	25-8	{loss to Paschal three times}
15. Beaumont Pollard	24-9	{defeated Forest Brook & PA Lincoln}
16. Spring Branch	28-9	{reg. semi-finalist losing to John Tyler 62-54}
17. Dallas Pinkston	24-7	{finished 2nd to S.O.C. in district action}
18. Houston Waltrip	24-7	{runner-up to Kashmere in district 19-AAAA}
19. Dallas Roosevelt	27-8	{best 3rd place in the district, SOC & Pinkston}
20. Corsicana	21-8	{lost Spring Branch in Bi-District 60-47}
21. Houston Lincoln	28-8	{eliminated in Bi-District by Wheatley 89-87}
22. San Antonio Highlands	29-13	{lost to Paschal in Semis, missing players early}
23. San Antonio Jefferson	36-6	{regional finalist losing to S.A. Highlands 72-68}
24. Stratford Dulles	29-10	{lost in regional semi-finals 94-91 to Wheatley}
25. Pampa	24-5	{lost in Bi-District to Lubbock Monterey 57-52}
26. Houston Worthing	24-11	{lost the district playoff to H. Lincoln 87-85 OT}
27. Lubbock Monterey	22-10	{Reg. semi-finalist losing to Midland Lee 62-51}
28. Corpus Christi Miller	27-7	{finished 2-2 against C.C. Carroll in district}
29. Pasadena	31-6	{3rd in district behind Deer Park & Clear Lake}
30. Waco University	24-9	{lost to Corsicana 66-47 in a district playoff}
31. Wichita Falls Rider	22-8	{lost in Bi-District to Midland Lee 87-69}
32. Galveston Ball	24-10	{lost to Dulles in district and finished 2nd}
33. North Mesquite	27-8	{reg. semi-finalist losing to E.P. Bowie 63-56}
34. Corpus Christi Moody	27-7	{finished 3rd in dist. Carroll and Miller}
35. Odessa Permian	28-6	{tough district with Midland Lee & Midland}
36. Brazoswood	25-10	{reg. semi-finalist losing to SA Highlands 72-68}
37. Abilene	23-7	{2 nd half winner, lost dist. playoff Lee 42-39}
38. Austin Lanier	27-6	{lost to Brazoswood 57-54 in Bi-District}
39. Arlington	27-11	{lost in Bi-District North Mesquite 52-47}
40. Plano	25-7	{lost in Bi-District to John Tyler 74-62}
41. Richardson	22-7	{lost district 8-AAAA title to North Mesquite}
42. San Antonio Holmes	30-5	{one of the top teams in S. A. but no playoffs}
43. El Paso Burges	26-7	{lost to E.P. Bowie in Bi-District 70-58}
44. Highland Park	29-7	{lost 58-57 to Arlington in district playoff game}
45. San Antonio Fox Tech	25-13	{eliminated in Bi-District to SA Jefferson 60-57}
46. Houston Westchester	23-9	{lost out in district 16-AAAA to Spring Branch}
47. Victoria	28-7	{runner-up to Brazoswood in district 25-AAAA}

48. Spring Branch Memorial	25-9	{tough district, Spring Branch & Westchester}
49. Killeen	25-9	{3 rd in district behind Corsicana & Waco Uni.}
50. Midland	21-11	{lost first half of district playoff to Lee 64-62}

1976 AAAA

In 1976, the perennial powers were weaker than in years past and for the first time in many years there were no super teams. Houston Wheatley and Houston Kashmere were both strong, but were unable to make the playoffs. Dallas Roosevelt and Dallas South Oak Cliff were very talented, but both were junior dominated teams. A young talented team emerged onto the high school scene out of Ft. Worth for the first time. The Dunbar Wildcats would have a big impact during the 1976 season and well into the future. The class 4-A state title chase was wide open and was one of the more unpredictable playoff chases in the state's history. Smaller cities dominated the basketball 4-A circuit in 1976.

The unquestioned best player in the state was 6'7" Albert Jones(21.0) from Houston Worthing. He led Worthing to the playoffs for the second time in three years. Worthing was also named by Street & Smith Magazine as one of the top teams in the country at #18 in their pre-season rankings. Other players catching the state spotlight were 6'10" Alton Lister(24.5) of Dallas Woodrow Wilson, who would go on to have an outstanding college and pro career in the N.B.A. 6'4" Phil Hale(22.5) was a highly prized guard out of South Grand Prairie, a 3-A school. 6'6" Micah Owens(19.3) was the top player in San Antonio, playing for Jefferson High. 6'3" Carl Webb(16.9) was a standout from El Paso Andress and 6'1" Kenneth Williams from Houston Milby would go on to have a standout career at the University of Houston.

Clear Lake was the top-rated team in the TABC poll. The final regular season poll by the TABC had Clear Lake(36-3) at #1, #2 Houston Jones(35-6), #3 South Oak Cliff(25-6), #4 Abilene(27-6), #5 Pasadena(33-5), #6 Bryan(30-2), #7 Deer Park(31-7), #8 Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-3), #9 Tyler John Tyler(26-4), and #10 Pt. Arthur Lincoln(30-4). Two interesting things jump out at you as you look at the top ten. Three of these teams were in the same District just south of Houston. Clear Lake, Pasadena and Deer Park battled each other with only one of them advancing to the playoffs. These were the days of the single District champion. With one team advancing, several strong teams failed to make the playoffs. Also, remember that the District called for playing two round robin District slates, with a first half winner facing the second half winner in a playoff. The best team in Houston, Jones did not even make the playoffs and Wheatley was left out for the first time since joining the U.I.L. It was truly a wild and unpredictable season.

The Arlington Classic in 1976 was much weaker than in years past. Spring Branch Memorial and Houston Kashmere did not make the trip from Houston to the tournament. Wheatley lost in the first round and were eliminated in

consolation bracket. Ft. Worth Dunbar lost to Dallas Carter 96-86 in the first round, but won consolation over Houston Worthing and Albert Jones 90-78. Dallas Roosevelt won the 3rd place trophy defeating Corsicana 69-59, Arlington High 57-55 and Dallas Carter 114-102 in the three-day tournament. The Mustangs only loss was in the semi-finals. The Golden Bears of South Oak Cliff won the tournament with an 87-64 win over Dallas Samuel. S.O.C. defeated Houston Worthing in the earlier rounds of the tournament 106-94. It was a down year for the classic, but it would return to its previous glory. The top teams were hard to project in 1976 because there were no super teams in the state and the old powerhouses were really struggling.

In the Dr. Pepper tourney in Dallas, weather became a problem, so the tournament only came up with quarterfinal winners. In the first two rounds, Roosevelt defeated Thomas Jefferson and Richardson 79-71 and 71-70. Roosevelt's leading scorers were Rynn Wright and Michael Battle. Wright had 22 against T.J. and Michael Battle had 19 against Richardson. S.O.C. dropped Carrollton R.L. Turner 85-80 and beat Garland 103-81. David Burns did high point honors in both games with 21 and 37 points for the Golden Bears. Richardson Pearce defeated Plano 75-64 and Dallas Jesuit 67-59. For the Mustangs, Blake Burnham turned in stellar performances in both games with 27 and 13 points. Dallas Carter advanced to the quarterfinals with wins over Dallas Lincoln 77-73 and Dallas Skyline 81-69. For the Cowboys, Vernon Smith was high point man in both games. Dallas Pinkston came away with a 58-50 victory over St. Mary's and beat Dallas Hillcrest 60-59. Thomas Hubbard was the leading scorer for Pinkston in both contest. Dallas Kimball was successful against Bryan Adams 73-63 and South Garland 72-62. For the victorious Knights, Jack Mewbourn and Bill Brooks captured high point honors. Dallas Samuel knocked off North Dallas 79-55 and Rockwall 87-61. North Mesquite beat Dallas Adamson 62-44 and Lake Highlands 55-54. The best performances of the tournament were turned in by Dennis Gordon of Tyler John Tyler with 46 points in a losing effort against Garland. Gordon played for Navarro Junior College after graduation and had a nice career. The Owls turned back the Lions 99-85 behind Donnie Love's 34 points. In the quarterfinals of the Dr. Pepper tournament, S.O.C. defeated Roosevelt 89-82 as David Burns once again led S.O.C. with 30 points and Rynn Wright paced the Mustangs with 23. Kimball beat Pinkston 97-87. Jeff Smallwood was the high man for the Knights with 24 points. Dallas Carter beat Richardson Pearce 83-64 as Dewayne Scales led the way for the Cowboys with 20 points. Samuel defeated North Mesquite 51-49 on 6'4" Leonard Gibson's 22-footer at the buzzer. Not much was proven over the course of the tournament except knocking off some of the basketball rust over the Christmas Holidays.

Louisville Male was the featured team in the fourth annual Dr. Pepper basketball classic in Houston. Louisville Male came in as the #1 team in the country. Male was led by two All-Americans, 6'3" Darrell Griffith and Bobby

Turner. Griffith went on in college to pace Louisville to the NCAA championship in 1980 and was an all-star in the N.B.A. with the Utah Jazz. Griffith was one of the leading scorers in the N.B.A. during his prime. Lake Charles W.O. Boston High, out of Louisiana was the other guess opponent in the two-day affair. Boston supported a 37-game winning streak. Houston Wheatley(12-5) ended the streak with a 90-80 victory over Boston. Dating back to 1968, it was Boston's eighth loss in nine games against the Wildcats. Darrell Crawford was top dog for Wheatley with 25 points followed by Alvin Brooks with 22. Preston Smith added 12 points for Coach Jackie Carr's bunch. A dozen players scored for Wheatley. David Lawrence, Boston's 6'8" All-American was outstanding with 37 points and 12 rebounds, but it was not enough. Lawrence was a second-round draft pick of the Blazers and was one of the great players ever produced at McNeese State. Boston's record now stood at 18-1 and was considered one of the top teams in the country.

Wheatley was not so fortunate against Louisville Male on Friday night, losing to Louisville Male 93-81. Boston defeated Houston Kashmere in Friday nights other contest 108-92. The Rams took it on the chin against Male as well on Saturday evening 84-74. Louisville Male's two standouts, Griffith and Turner both finished with 27 points. Kashmere Coach, Frankie Brazos said following his team's loss to Louisville Male, "We certainly played better tonight than we did Friday. We were at least in this game until the last few minutes. We played with more control than we did against Boston." Rams fell to 10-5 on the season after the two defeats. Marshall Breaux led Kashmere with 18 points while Ervy Cormier followed with 15 and Russell Sublet added 14. Male left town with a 5-0 record.

At the Jaycees Tournament in Houston, Kashmere the defending two-time champion, was eliminated in the 2nd round by Houston Furr 68-59. Keith Gardner, a 6'4" forward for Furr was the key player against Kashmere, scoring 18 points on the inside and Albert Dickey contributed 22 from the outside for Coach McCoy McMomore. In Furr's first round win over Houston Lamar 75-58, Gardner led his team with 29 points. Kashmere coach, Frankie Brazos was upset after the loss, "We just don't play with any consistency," Brazos said. "We play good in spurts. We look good and then we look bad. One game we play good defense and no offense. Nothing went well tonight. We made too many mistakes." Kashmere had defeated Forest Brook to advance to the second round.

Houston Wheatley had two sweet wins over Houston Sharpstown 104-69 and Houston Lamar 85-83. For the Wildcats, Alvin Brooks hit a layup with two seconds left to give Wheatley the win. Wheatley's record moved to 14-8 on the season. Anthony Sullivan tossed in 24 points for Wheatley and Carlos Wilkerson netted 20 for Lamar(11-6). Galveston Ball improved their season record to 18-4 with wins over Houston Sterling 85-72 and Aldine Carver 81-75 in overtime. Carver came into the contest at 16-1 on the season. Andrew Johns of Galveston Ball hit a

pair of free throws to tie the game with Carver at 71-71 at the end of regulation. Darrell Mitchell of Ball led all scorers in the game with 26 points.

Airline of Bossier City, Louisiana came into the tournament undefeated, and one of the tourney favorites. Airline won their first game in overtime over Houston Westbury 68-66. Billy Reed was the hero for Bossier City with his field goal with five seconds left on the clock. After 18 straight victories, Airline went down 61-54 to Houston Reagan in the next round. Ray Smart and Michael Thompson both contributed 16 points in the upset win for Reagan. Houston Jones showed why they were one of the new forces in Houston basketball with wins over Houston Davis 78-59 and one of the top seeded entries, Houston Worthing 88-84. Worthing of course was led by the top player in the state, 6'8" Albert Jones, who finished with 28 points. 6'6" Darnell Roper and 6'5" Byron Gibson countered for Houston Jones with 25 and 18 points respectfully. Roper was Houston Jones top scorer in their opening round win over Houston Davis with 23.

In the top bracket, Reagan, Furr, Waltrip and Deer Park all advanced and in the bottom bracket, Houston Madison, Houston Jones, Galveston Ball and Wheatley advanced. Waltrip advanced with wins over Houston St. Thomas 52-46 and Houston Lincoln 101-82. Deer Park entered the quarterfinals with wins against Houston Williams 74-55 and Houston Sam Houston 68-57. Riley had 22 points for Deer Park in their win over Williams and Frank Dishangh added 15 points for Deer Park against Sam Houston. Houston Madison moved on taking down Houston Austin 76-59 and Houston Milby 66-64. Chuck O'Neal, Houston Milby's brilliant 6'6" junior, was not in the box score in either one of the Buffaloes early round games.

Houston Jones, under the leadership of third year coach Larry Cooper, defeated Houston Madison 83-73 in the quarterfinals of the Jaycee tournament and eliminated Galveston Ball 79-57 in the semi-finals. Cooper, who was a standout at Houston Waltrip in the 1960s, faced his old school in the finals. Waltrip advanced with wins over Deer Park 55-53 and Houston Reagan 68-54. With the win, Waltrip gave coach Foster Martin his 300th high school win in his 17-year career. Waltrip's backline of 6'6" Gary Schramm, 6'6" Jeff Kelly and 6'7" Raymond Dittmar coupled with the outside shooting of Isaac Bozeman, were too much for Reagan. Schramm tossed in 22 points and Bozeman had 20. Reagan had eliminated Houston Furr 63-58 in the quarterfinals. Schramm led Waltrip against Deer Park in scoring with 18 points, Isaac Bozeman had 15, and Kelly finished with 14 for the Rams. Deer Park had an impressive 18-4 record after the loss to Houston Waltrip. Jones had four players in double figures against Houston Madison, Carl Fields had 28, Darnell Roper hit 17. Madison record at the end of the tournament stood at 16-3. Jones improved to 22-3 on the season. In the win over Galveston Ball, Houston Jones had 10 players score and Fields led the Falcons in scoring with 20 points. Galveston Ball had eliminated Houston Wheatley earlier 75-72 in the quarterfinals

on field goals by Michael Venible and Darrell Mitchell, in the last eight seconds of the game. Ball moved to 18-6 on the season.

In the finals, Houston Jones proved they were one of the best in the state, coming away with the Jaycee Championship trophy 81-60. The win was very impressive for the Falcons who put their claim to the top team in Houston. Galveston Ball took the third-place game over Houston Reagan 65-54, and consolation was won by Houston Austin 59-54 over Houston St. Thomas. Waltrip longtime coach, Foster Martin commented after the game against Houston Jones, "Boy they do have some shooters." Waltrip finished the tournament at 18-4 moving into District action. "We tried to do what we've been doing all year, but we just didn't get our shots down and they did," Martin said. The Jones bench contributed 20 of the teams 81 points in the finals. In first five minutes of the third quarter the Falcons jumped out to a 55-42 lead and never looked back. Carl Fields was the leading scorer for Houston Jones once again with 22 points. Most of his points came on 20 footers. Anthony Ragling added 20 points in the winning effort. Byron Gibson followed with 10 points. Schramm led Waltrip with 19 points, Kelly had 15 and Bozeman followed with 14.

Jones closest win in the tournament was their 88-84 win over Houston Worthing, but unfortunately Jones was not seeded and met Worthing much earlier in the tournament than they should have. The All-tournament team was as follows: Carl Fields of Houston Jones, Darnell Roper of Houston Jones, Isaac Bozeman of Houston Waltrip, Greg Wise of Houston Madison, Michael Thompson of Houston Reagan, Jeff Kelly of Houston Waltrip, Michael Venible of Galveston Ball, John McCrutcheon of Houston Austin, Travis O'Banion of Deer Park and Thad Fuller of Houston St. Thomas. The colleges had field day recruiting the talent in the Houston area. 6'1" Kenneth Williams of Milby, 6'6" Darnell Roper and 6'5" Byron Gibson of Houston Jones, 6'6" Jeff Kelly and 6'6" Gary Schramm of Houston Waltrip all signed with the Cougars of Houston. Kelly ended up at Texas St

Region I

Abilene(27-6)

Wichita Falls(24-8)

Lubbock Coronado(24-7)

Pampa(25-6)

Arlington Sam Houston(26-6)

Richardson(26-9)

El Paso Eastwood(26-3)

El Paso Ysleta(23-9)

Top Five in Region I

6'3" Ronnie Newton, Arlington Sam Houston; 6'2" Jim Bowden, El Paso Eastwood; 6'1" Mark Davis, North Mesquite; 6'9" Ricky Ashley, Mineral Wells; 6'3" Greg Webb, El Paso Andress:

In Region I, Abilene was thought to be the favorite followed by El Paso Eastwood and Arlington Sam Houston. Abilene faced the Midland Lee Rebels in the District 5-AAAA playoff. The Eagles came in at 26-6 and Midland Lee, the second

half winners, had a 21-10 mark. Abilene won the first game by five points, but lost the second game to Lee by 29 points. The two teams had met in 1975 in the exact same situation and Midland Lee prevailed 42-39 and advanced to the state semi-finals in Austin, before losing to undefeated Houston Kashmere in overtime. Lee's key contributor during the '76 campaign was 6'5, 235 pounder, Junior Miller(20.1), who would go on to fame in the N.F.L. Miller was also a great basketball player, ranking #2 on the all-time Midland Lee scoring list. The Eagles tried to control Miller with 6'8" Darrell Baxter(20.3), Steve Thomas, and 6'5" Andre Hickman. Abilene backcourt was believed to be the best in the District with the quick Eddie Forkerway and defensive stopper, 6'2" Mike Little(17.3). The sixth man, Willie Stephens, was believed to be one of the fastest sixth men in the state. Rounding out Midland Lee's line-up was 6'5" Steve Reiter, 6'1" Roy Lee Smith, 6'1" Brent Huckabay, 5'10" Robin Todd, Tom Choate and Billy Ray Ennis.

In a thrilling overtime game, Abilene defeated the Rebels 50-46 to advance to the state playoffs. Eddie Forkerway sank two free throws with nine seconds left to secure the victory. Forkerway was only a 53% foul shooter. Little finished with 16 points and Darrell Baxter had 15 points. Junior Miller of Lee was held to only 10 points. Coach James Boynton felt the difference in the game was the defense of Mike Little. The 6'2" senior had not played in the team's earlier loss to Midland Lee. "In my 18 years of coaching, I don't believe I've had a team this good. It's a unique bunch," Coach Boynton explained. Named to the 5-AAAA All-District 1st team were Baxter and Little of Abilene and Miller of Lee. Surprisingly, the District MVP went to 6'3" Arnold McDowell(25.5) of San Angelo.

In District 6-AAAA, Wichita Falls defeated Ft. Worth Richland(16-12) to capture a best of three playoff series between the two schools for the title. The Coyotes won both games 58-53 and 54-48. Richland had won the south zone and Wichita Falls had won the north zone. Richland coach, Tommy Newman's Rebels were attempting to make their third playoff appearance in four years, but came up short. The Rebels were led by Harris Hughey, Todd Albritton and Marion Frye.

Wichita Falls(24-8) faced off in Bi-District against Abilene(27-6) at Irving MacArthur High School. The Eagles held an earlier season victory over the Coyotes 81-56 in Abilene. This can sometimes be hard to overcome when preparing for a playoff opponent. Wichita Falls had played the game without one of their key performers, 5'11" Zack Ellis(13.6), who missed the first nine games of the season. Ellis was the main ball-handler for the Coyotes. Others standouts for Wichita Falls were 6'2" Eddie Manning(16.3), 6'1" Michael Rogers(16.4), 6'2" Mike Page and 6'3" Danny Hunter. The Coyotes were on a roll winning 14 out of their last 16 games.

Wichita Falls advanced to the regionals in Abilene with an exciting double overtime victory 78-72. The Coyotes overcame a 13-point lead by Abilene at one point. Zack Ellis led the scoring for Wichita Falls with 23 points and came up

with several steals late that turned the game around. Mike Little led all scorers for Abilene with 27 points and Steve Thomas added 19 points and Baxter followed with 16 points. Hickman was the leading rebounder for Abilene with 17 boards.

Lubbock Coronado won the second half of District 4-AAAA action and Hereford(15-16) tied for the first half with Plainview(13-20). Plainview defeated Hereford for the first half crown 51-48, and played Coronado for the District title. During the regular season, Coronado had won both meetings between the two clubs 69-53 and 57-44. The game was played at the Texas Dome in Levelland. Coronado won their 1st District championship ever with a hard fought 59-53 victory over Plainview. Coronado's top player, Vic Henry forgot his basketball shoes and had to borrow a pair for the game. Vic still managed to lead his team in scoring with 20 points.

Longtime traditional power Pampa(25-6) made their second playoff appearance in a row in 1976 behind guards, Brian Bailey(14.4/5.5) and 6'0" junior, Rayford Young(9.4/2.8). 6'4" junior post, Donnie Hughes(12.8/8.6) gave support along with 6'1" Richard Lane(8.3) and Jewel Landers(5.3/8.3). Pampa faced Lubbock Coronado(24-7) at the Amarillo Civic Center Coliseum and was a rematch of the 1975 game which was won by Coronado 57-52. The Harvesters of Pampa defeated Borger 68-65 to win District. Two of the top guards in West Texas would be meeting each other in Brian Bailey(14.4) from Pampa, and Vic Henry(14.5) of Coronado. 6'5" Bryan Smith(10.0/5.9) would also be a handful to stop for Pampa, along 6'3" Walter Storrs(12.2/8.1). The Mustangs of Coronado were considered the deeper of the two teams. Pampa Coach, Robert McPherson, felt his team was peaking at the right time. Pampa and Coronado played nine common opponents, with Pampa having a 14-3 record against common opponents and Coronado came away with a 10-4 mark.

Lubbock Coronado outscored Pampa 5-2 in overtime, sinking five of six foul shots to edge the Harvesters 59-56 to advance to Abilene. Standout, Vic Henry of Lubbock Coronado, was in early foul trouble and held to only 7 points. Inside, the Mustangs took control of the game with Storrs finishing with 15 points and Bryan Smith had 13 points. Reserve, Robert Nash also contributed 14 points. Pampa jumped out to an early lead 24-12 lead and handled Coronado's press with little trouble. But the Mustangs strength inside was too much for Pampa as they outscored the Harvesters 34-26. Bailey finished with 15 points for Pampa.

In District 7-AAAA, Arlington Sam Houston(26-6) advanced to Bi-District against the winner of 8-AAAA, the Richardson Eagles(26-9). Both teams had been involved in warm-up games because of the long layoff. Richardson lost to Plano 88-84. Plano had won District 13-AAAA. Sam Houston also lost to Plano 73-72. The Texans team revolved around one of the top players in the state, 6'3" Ronnie Newton(19.0/8.0). In the big games he was going to get the ball and carry Sam Houston. Other starters for the Texans were, 6'0" Joey King(12.0), 6'2" Barry

Inman, 5'11" Paul Riddle and 5'8" Glen Dixon. Richardson relied on a much more balanced attack led by Lance Jagman(12.7/3.8 asst), 6'4" Steve Holland, 6'3" Bernard Scott and Byron Gannaway. The Bi-District contest took place at Berkner High School in Richardson. Sam Houston jumped out to an early lead and took a 37-26 halftime lead. The Texans led by as many as 13 points in the first half. Four players for the Eagles ended up fouling out in the double overtime affair, won by Sam Houston 75-70. With his team depleted and behind, Jagmin took over for Coach Ken Norman's Eagles. Jagmin finished with 20 points with 16 of them coming in the critical 4th quarter and overtimes. Newton, as usual, was dominating for Sam Houston with 29 points and 14 rebounds. He was 13-15 from the free throw line. Richardson held the rebound edge 36-31, but had 20 turnovers. With the exciting victory the Texans of Arlington Sam Houston advanced to the regionals in Abilene.

The El Paso Eastwood(26-3) Troopers opened the playoffs against E.P. Ysleta(23-9) at Memorial Gym on the campus of UTEP. The Troopers were confident having defeated Ysleta earlier in the season 75-60. Eastwood's only three losses had come at the hands of El Paso High(16-17) 45-43, Odessa Permian(25-7) 51-46, and E.P. Andress(24-9) in District 89-87. Eastwood's most impressive win during the regular season was against the Hobbs, New Mexico 85-67. Hobbs had a program that year in and year out was one of the top programs in the country. Eastwood also traveled to Hobbs and handed the Eagles their fourth loss at home in 18 years 82-63. Ysleta also faced Hobbs losing 115-104. Ysleta was paced by one of the top scoring big men in the state, 6'6" Julio Gallardo(29.8/13.5). "A kid like Gallardo is an individual challenge, but we don't plan to play them any different than we have anyone else," Coach Bob Lesley said. The Troopers had one of the top backcourts in the state with 6'2" shooting ace, Jim Bowden(13.0) and super quick, 5'10" Gil Shephard. 6'4" Tim Crenshaw, 6'4" Steve Wohlgemuth and 6'7" Darold Molix rounded out the starting five.

Eastwood had to go to their bench early in the second quarter to survive Ysleta during the first half. The score was tied at halftime 33-33. Gallardo had 21 of his game high 30 points in the first half. Mike Chapman, Ernie Colorado and Eric Smith all came off the bench in the first half for Eastwood, scoring 13 points between them. Southpaw Bowden took over in the second half with 13 points after limited playing time in the first half because of foul trouble. Crenshaw also contributed 12 points in the second half as the Troopers prevailed 73-52. Eastwood lost Molix and Wohlgemuth to fouls with Eastwood up by 21 points and just 3 minutes to play. Crenshaw finished with 16 points and Bowden added 17 points. They were the only troopers in double figures.

Next up for Eastwood was a trip to Abilene and the regional semi-finals. The opponent for Coach Lesley's team would be Arlington Sam Houston(24-6) a team Lesley felt was the class of the region. "They use a shuffle offense and they

press and trap some, but not the whole game, I think they're the toughest of the teams in the tournament." On Saturday, Eastwood played the second game in the morning at Moody Coliseum on the campus of Abilene Christian College. Lubbock Coronado and Wichita Falls teed it up at 9 AM. Eastwood was ranked #14 in the state polls while Sam Houston came in at #19. Sam Houston's star player Ronnie Newton(19.0/13.0) would have to be controlled if Eastwood had any chance of winning. Other key contributors for Sam Houston were 6'0" Joe King, 5'11" John Riddle, 6'3" Barney Inman and 5'8" Glen Dixon. Sam Houston was coached by Don Louis.

Eastwood overcame first half foul trouble once again and blew a 12-point lead, but held on to defeat Arlington Sam Houston 71-68. The Troopers were sparked by Steve Wohlgemuth who came off the bench with 12 points. After four fouls in the first half, Wohlgemuth re-entered the game and finished with 20 points. Newton led Sam Houston with 23 points. Bowden and Molix finished with 16 points apiece. In the other regional semi-finals contest Wichita Falls(24-8) defeated Lubbock Coronado(25-7) 75-72.

In the regional finals, Eastwood faced the running and pressing Coyote team from Wichita Falls. Eastwood's size and experience came up big for the Troopers as they bounced the Coyotes from the playoffs 65-44. Wohlgemuth finished with 22 points and Molix hit 20 to lead the way for Eastwood. The great guard play of Bowden and Gilbert handled the Coyote's press and the game was never close. 6'2" Eddie Manning of Wichita Falls had a big first half, but only finished with 14 points after Molix returned from a first half ankle injury. "After we put Molix on Manning he shut him out, they didn't seem to know what to do," Lesley explained. It was the first time in eleven seasons that an El Paso team had advanced to the state tournament. The last time was 1965 and El Paso High. Eastwood would be trying to become the first team ever from El Paso, other than El Paso High, to win the state championship.

Region II

Plano(23-11)

Dallas Samuel(26-9)

Bryan(30-2) #6

Ft.Worth Dunbar(29-3) #8

Tyler John Tyler(26-7)#9

Dallas S.O.C.(25-6) #3

Spring Branch(30-7)

Ft. Worth Southwest(28-6)

Top Five in Region II

6'10" Alton Lister, Dallas Woodrow Wilson; 6'0" Dennis Gordon, Tyler John Tyler; 6'9" Anthony Lee, Tyler John Tyler; 6'4" Anthony McMillian, S.O.C.; 6'5" Rynn Wright, Dallas Roosevelt:

In Region II, the District winner of 13-AAAA would play against the 14-AAAA champion at Plano Senior High. Plano(23-11), the 13 4-A champion, had a distinct advantage playing on their home court against Tyler John Tyler(26-7). Back

in the mid-70s, football schools liked to use the tartan surface on the gym floor instead of hardwood because you could run football drills during the season when it was raining outside. Of course, this was insane and definitely a football coach's idea of how to improve facility usage. In reality, it just helped the football program and nobody else. If you were ever unfortunate enough to play on the surface it was horrible on the knees and joints. It felt just like playing on concrete. You had no lift off the floor and could easily blow out knees and ankles because it was easy to stub your foot and lose your footing. If you were not used to playing on the surface you were at a big disadvantage.

Plano's two key players were 6'1" Kent Gaddis(18.0), the last in a long line of outstanding basketball brothers who played for Plano and 6'3" Ray Nelson(16.0). Gaddis had brothers, Eugene and Bobby, who were standouts as well in 1968 and 1972. 6'3" Brian Davis(13.0), 5'11" Norman Hall(8.0), and 6'3" Allen Pettit(6.0) made up the Wildcats starting lineup. Coach Reggie Davis' Wildcats had done well in their two practice games defeating two strong ball clubs, Richardson High and Arlington Sam Houston. The Wildcats downed Richardson 88-84 and beat Arlington Sam Houston 73-72. John Tyler was paced by the imposing sophomore, 6'8" 240 pound, Anthony Lee(18.5) and a gifted scoring guard, 5'11" Dennis Gordon(21.1). This tandem was deadly because they complimented each other so well. The Lions had lost the previous season in the regionals finals and were considered stronger because of the addition of Lee. Anthony's older brother, Ronnie had moved on to play football at Baylor. 6'4" Tony Brown(10.0), 6'1" Tyrone Smith(6.0) and 5'9" Royland Black(4.0) rounded out the starting five. The Lions had lost their warm-up game against Beaumont French 49-47 and 6'6" B.B. Davis had held the big sophomore of John Tyler to only 11 points and blocked 5 of his shots. Davis was one of the top junior post in the state. Before the bi-district showdown, Coach Davis of Plano felt that John Tyler was much more imposing than the year before when they beat the Wildcats 72-64. The reason for the statement was obvious, 6'8" sophomore, Anthony Lee.

Well the home court for Plano and the Tartan surface made little difference as John Tyler overcame all obstacles winning 82-75. The difference was Anthony Lee inside for the Lions. The big sophomore dominated and took over in the 2nd half. Plano used two players to try and slow down the big guy and that just wasn't enough as he finished with 26 points. His partner in crime was Gordon, who was left open and finished with 36 points. Combined the tandem finished with 62 of their teams 82 points. Gaddis finished with 25 points for the Wildcats, 18 of which came in the 1st half. Gaddis was in foul trouble the whole 2nd half and this really hurt Plano's chances. The second-best player on the team, Ray Nelson, was knocked out in the 2nd quarter and never regained his competitive edge. He received a broken nose. For Plano, Dwayne Mosley hit 6 points and Tom Quigley and David Little had 4 each.

Quigley was the assistant coach in Plano at East High School for a number of years in the 1980s and 90s before taking the head job at Bryan Adams in Dallas and Naaman Forest in Garland. Quigley was very competitive on and off the court. He would later become a personal rival of mine. He was a tremendous competitor. He was also the assistant for the great Steve Adair in 1994 at Plano East. The Panthers were state finalist against Willowridge that year. Coach Adair was the ultimate student of the game and passed away in 2006. I remember scouting with Steve on many occasions and he was truly incredible. He would know everything about his opponents personal as well as sets. Unfortunately, I had to face the Panthers twice every season. Adair served as the Plano East varsity basketball coach for 16 years, compiling a 342-175 record.

Whenever you talk about Region II, you had to talk about the Dallas area and the prolific programs in the Dallas Independent School District. South Oak Cliff continued their outstanding teams with a younger version than in past seasons. Underclassmen led the way for the Golden Bears. The names for S.O.C. were all new, 5'7" Cullen Mayfield(13.0), 5'8" Ricky Wiseman, 6'2" David Burns(19.1), 6'3" Arthur Williams and 6'4" Ricky Phillips. All of these newcomers were juniors. 6'4" Anthony McMillian was the only senior contributor for new head man, Coach Euril Henson. Henson had coached David Stallworth of Dallas Madison back in 1960. Jimmy Gales had moved to North Texas State University where he began a pipe line from S.O.C. to the Mean Green. Gales would eventually take over as head coach at North Texas. S.O.C. played one of the most formidable schedules in the state defeating, Dallas Roosevelt (26-7) 112-85, 89-82 and 81-75, Dallas Samuel(26-10) 87-64 and 76-75. Roosevelt had an outstanding team as well, but unfortunately was in the same 12-AAAA District as S.O.C. 6'5" Rynn Wright(24.1), a junior, was one of the top players in the state. Although the Mustangs had a 1-3 record against S.O.C., they were tough on everybody else beating, Richardson High(26-10) 71-70 and Arlington(27-8) 57-55.

In the 11-AAAA District playoff between Dallas Samuel and Dallas Woodrow Wilson the game was played at Forester Field House. An interesting twist was the brother combination leading the two teams. Doug Scott coached the Spartans and Steve Scott was the head man at Woodrow. Samuel came away with a 57-49 victory to win the first District title for Samuel since back to back titles in 1966 and 67. Alton Lister of Woodrow Wilson was one of the top players in the state. At 6'10", he was a very imposing figure on the basketball court. Lister finished with 19 points in the first half, but was held down to only five points in the second half. 6'4" Leonard Gibson, 6'3" Bill Walton and 6'2" James Banks did a great defensive job on the big man in the second half. "We did a better job of staying close and sagging back on him," Doug Scott said. Gibson led the Spartans with 15 points and Lister finished with 24 points to lead Woodrow. Lister was the younger brother of James Lister, who played at Dallas Madison in the late 1960s. He was

one of the most celebrated players in Texas during his college career and later played professionally in Europe. James played his college ball at Sam Houston St. from 1970 through 1973. James finished the all-time leading scorer and rebounder with the Bearkats. Alton averaged, 24 points, 20 rebounds and 6 blocks his senior year with the Woodrow Wilson. "Alton would have averaged four or five points more if he would have been allowed to dunk," Coach Steve Scott said. "He didn't get a lot of exposure state wide because we didn't make the playoffs. Alton was a hard worker and great rebounder and shot blocker."

S.O.C. advanced in the playoffs winning a close Bi-District encounter over Dallas Samuel 76-75 in overtime. S.O.C. trailed for 29 of the 32 minutes during regulation. 5'8" Ricky Wiseman hit four foul shots in the final seconds to give the Golden Bears the City Championship. The crowd at Loos was large and extremely vocal and objects from time to time were thrown onto the floor causing delays. The Spartans cost themselves missing 11 foul shots during the game. A key player for Coach Doug Scott was guard, 5'10" Ronny Moore(18.1), who did a great job handling the S.O.C. press all evening. His ability resulted in some high-percentage shots for Samuel. Cullen Mayfield fouled out with 6:55 left in the game and the Spartans lost their key player, 6'5" Leonard Gibson with 4:09 remaining. Gibson had already totaled 20 points on the evening. "After Gibson went out S.O.C. started getting more than one-shot at the bucket," Scott said. "We had been out-rebounding them inside." David Burns had 29 points for S.O.C. and Wiseman finished with 10 points along with Anthony McMillian's 10 points. Burns scored 9 of his team's final 11 points at the end of regulation.

In District 9-AAAA, Ft. Worth Wyatt(24-9) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(28-3) tied for the first half title and Dunbar went unbeaten in the second round winning the title. Wyatt had completely fallen apart late in the season losing four out of five games. Dunbar had a well-balanced attack led by 6'2" Ricky McCain(14.0) and 6'7" James Griffin(12.0). Other big contributors for Coach Robert Hughes were 5'9" Jeffrey Kirven(10.6), 6'1" Cletus Hubbard(10.1) and 6'2" Michael Watley(9.2). All these main stays for the Wildcats were underclassmen except McCain. O.D. Wyatt counted on 6'6" junior, Eddie Davis(14.5). Two of the top scorers in District 9-AAAA were both underclassmen, sophomore 6'8" Mike Fennell(20.0) of Ft. Worth Poly and junior, Teddy Brigham(19.6). The future looked promising for Ft. Worth basketball in 1976. Dunbar advanced to regionals defeating O.D. Wyatt and in Bi-District the Wildcats defeated Ft. Worth Southwest(28-6) 76-61. The main men for Southwest on the season were David Minor(16.3) and Mike Brownlee(15.6)

Throughout the 1970s the inner city players seemed to dominate the high school landscape, but an exception to the rule was 1976. Not only did Tyler John Tyler have a multi-talented big man in Lee but Bryan High School did as well in the name of 6'10" Rudy Woods(17.1). The Vikings also had a deep and talented team led by two football players, Curtis Dickey and Gerald Carter(15.8). Both were

greatly sought after on the football field and were very strong basketball talents as well. Many people, including myself, felt Bryan was probably the best team in the state on most days. Going into District action Bryan was thought to be one of the best teams in the state. Their only loss in pre-district action came at the hands of playoff bound Austin Johnston(26-9) 63-61. Bryan had impressive wins against Houston Kashmere(21-10) 115-79, Austin Johnston 82-73 and District rival Killeen 85-61. In District Bryan won the first round action with an unblemished record, but in the second round of action they were upset by Killeen 64-51. The District championship game between Bryan and Killeen was set for Heart of Texas Coliseum in Waco. Things were not going well for Bryan in their game against Killeen. The Vikings lost both big men to foul troubles in the 3rd quarter. Woods and 6'5" David Harrett left the game and Bryan picked up the pace and was actually playing better, as they pulled away to a convincing 73-54 win. Point guard Curtis Dickey(9.1) inspired his teammates taking control of the game and finished with 19 points. "Dickey rises to the occasion," Perry commented. Tank Hunter also finished with 19 points. "I never lost confidence when we lost Woods and Harrett, but I didn't feel too good," an elated, Coach Bobby Joe Perry said after the victory. Billy Druery played well in the win and backed up Woods.

The 6'1", 200 pounds, Dickey was one of the fastest sprinters in the state and top running back prospects in the country. I remember watching Dickey at the regional track meet in Denton run the 100-yard dash. After forty years it is still vivid in my memory watching a person that large, move so fast. I think he won the race with a 9.3 time over 100 yards. He was just a tremendous physical specimen. Dickey finished #2 on the all-time rushing list at Texas A&M and was the over-all fifth pick in the N.F.L. draft by the Colts. He also won the NCAA championship in the 60-yard dash for three years running during his time at A&M. Dickey was a World-Class sprinter. His 10.11 in the 100 meters was the sixth fastest time in the world in 1978. Dickey was so awesome on the football field, I remember driving over to the mid-cities to watch his top ranked Viking team play his senior year. Dickey's teammate at Bryan was another future professional athlete, Gerald Carter. The 6'1" guard was outstanding on the football field as well, playing eight years in the N.F.L. with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. As a wide-receiver at Texas A&M, Carter was a 9th round selection in the N.F.L. draft. When you throw in 6'10" Rudy Woods in the mix you have a very talented group of athletes at Bryan High School.

In Bi-District, Spring Branch(30-7) awaited Bryan, after winning their own District playoff game over Spring Woods 56-53. The Bears had advanced to the state tournament in 1973 and were making their third playoff appearance in four seasons. 6'1" Mitch Medart(15.0), 6'2" Lemon LeBlanc, 6'4" John Smith, 6'11" Robert Patterson(12.0) and 6'2" Peter Huddleston were the key players for Spring Branch. Bryan jumped out to a quick lead over Spring Branch and ran off 13

straight points in the 2nd quarter and that was the game. The Vikings led 44-29 at halftime. The Bears of Spring Branch used a 2-3 zone to try and slow down Bryan. Spring Branch's 6'11" post, Patterson, fouled out with 3:06 remaining in the 3rd quarter. This almost eliminated any chance Spring Branch still had of winning the game. Gerald Carter was having some big games late in the season putting up numbers like 39 and 36 points in critical contest. Carter had 26 against the Bears while Woods put in 29. The final score read Bryan 83 Spring Branch 61. With Dicky and Carter, Bryan had one of the top backcourts in the state.

In the Region II tournament held in College station, you had one of the more unusual regionals in the states long history. The region featured three of the best sophomore post the state had ever produced all at the same site. 6'7" James Griffin of Ft. Worth Dunbar, 6'8" 240 pound Anthony Lee of Tyler John Tyler and 6'10" Rudy Woods of Bryan. It was a basketball fans dream come true. Dallas South Oak Cliff would be the only team of the four without a giant to rely on inside.

The Bryan-John Tyler clash was greatly anticipated with two of the best young big men in the country going head to head. Bryan had a 26-game winning streak snapped by Killeen in District action and John Tyler had lost only three games all season. Garland High(18-12) had taken down the Lions 99-85, Wilmer Hutchins(23-10) beat them 85-79 and Tyler Lee beat their cross-town rival 65-62. Coach Perry of Bryan revealed that his scouting report called John Tyler the best team they had faced all season.

The Vikings came out with another inspired effort taking it to the dazed Lions. At one point, Bryan was ahead 60-41, which was a 19-point spread. Then things started falling apart for the Vikings. With 27 seconds remaining in the 3rd quarter, Woods left the game because of fouls. With 6:50 left in the game, James Hunter(16.1) fouled out and soon to be followed by Dickey. Still Bryan led 78-69 with 5:42 left in the game. Bill Druery of the Lions came off the bench and drew a foul with 15 seconds remaining and tied the score, hitting one of two foul shots. With 00:9 seconds remaining Anthony Lee of John Tyler took it to the basket and was fouled by Gerald Carter, giving him his fifth foul. Lee hit the first but missed the second foul shot which was rebounded by Tony Brown of J.T. Brown immediately put the ball in the basket for a three-point advantage. Leading 86-83, Gordon of John Tyler stole the inbound pass and hit another basket, making the final 89-83. Bryan had been up 60-45 at halftime and in control till foul trouble decimated the Viking lineup. In the great comeback victory John Tyler hit 14 of 15 foul shots. Coach Perry of Bryan commented after the game, "Dickey is our ball handler and quarterback, when he went out, we made a lot of mistakes with the ball." Anthony Lee had a very impressive performance against Rudy Woods. Lee held the talented sophomore to only 10 points in John Tyler's victory. Dickey had 12 points in the first half and Gerald Carter finished with 34 points in the game.

The Vikings came up short as Bryan could only manage 23 points in the second half. For the Lions of John Tyler, Lee finished with 19 and Gordon hit 28 points.

In the other semi-final contest S.O.C. got a one point victory defeated Ft. Worth Dunbar 69-68. With 18 seconds left in the game David Burns of S.O.C. won a jump ball which was controlled by Cullen Mayfield. Mayfield drove to the basket and was fouled. The 5'7" junior made both foul shots and with it the game. 6'7" James Griffin of Dunbar had 15 points in the first half, but only managed one shot in the third quarter. Griffin played only sparingly in the fourth quarter. "We started sagging on Griffin and maybe that confused him," Henson said. "Ricky Phillips fronted him for a couple of steals, too." Dunbar could have put the game away with a little over two minutes left. Griffin missed a gimme in close and Ricky McCain missed on the two fouls shots, with one second remaining and was 0-5 from the line during the game. Griffin finished with 18 points for Dunbar and Marshall added 19 points. For the Golden Bears, Mayfield finished with 18 points, Burns had 20 points and Anthony McMillian came away with 15 points. This set up the regional final game between Dallas S.O.C. and Tyler John Tyler.

In the regional finals the Golden Bears were in all too familiar territory, having played in regionals for four straight years and their third regional final. 6'5" Anthony McMillian and 6'6" Leslie Evans would be called on to cover 6'8" Anthony Lee, much as they had against Griffin of Dunbar in the regional semi-finals game. Lee proved to be too much once again hauling in 13 rebounds and 28 points against the Golden Bears. Burns and Mayfield outside shooting kept S.O.C. in the game as the Bears led at the end of the first quarter 28-25. But by the end of the 3rd quarter the Lions had taken control 77-63. S.O.C. was pressing trying to get back into the game but couldn't come back. John Tyler(28-4) advanced to the state tournament dropping S.O.C.(27-6) 99-85. Gordon added 26 points for John Tyler and Quintin Biggs had 16 and Brown followed with 15 points. Mayfield was 10 for 10 from the foul line and finished with 24 points for the Golden Bears. Burns followed with 21 points and Williams had 16 and McMillian 12. S.O.C. finished at 27-7 and John Tyler moved on with a 29-4 mark.

Region III

Houston Waltrip(29-8)

Houston Worthing(22-13)

Galveston Ball(35-6)

Beaumont French(25-7)

Klein(22-12)

Houston Milby(22-11)

Clear Lake(36-3) #1

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(30-4) #10

Top Five in Region III

6'8" Albert Jones, Houston Worthing; 6'5" Chuck O'Neal, Houston Milby; 6'4"

Thad Sanders, Port Arthur Lincoln; 6'4" Steve Sylestine, Clear Lake; 6'1" Kenneth Williams, Houston Milby:

In Region III, the most obvious omission from the playoffs in 1976 were two of the top programs in the state, Houston Kashmere and Houston Wheatley. Both the Rams and the Wildcats were regulars since the integration of schools with the U.I.L. in 1968. Wheatley have never missed the playoffs and only missed regionals once in 1974. The Wildcats were regional finalist seven out of the previous eight years and advanced to state six times. Coach Carr and Briggs had four state championships to their credit. Although Kashmere was not as dominate as Wheatley their absence created an enormous void in the playoffs. The Rams had made the playoffs five out of the eight seasons that they had been a member of the U.I.L., and had two state titles. Between the two schools they had won all eight regionals titles during that span and six of the eight state titles.

Kashmere was knockout out of the playoffs with a 74-69 loss to Houston Waltrip for the 19-AAAA District championship. The Rams were very youthful after winning 82 straight games the two previous years. Everybody had graduated, including Coach Drew who moved on to New Mexico St. Wheatley lost out in District to Houston Jones and Houston Milby.

Houston had some of the closest races in the cities long history of outstanding high school basketball in 1976. The closest and most confusing was in District 17-AAAA. Houston Jones(32-4) captured the first half of District, and most followers of high school hoops in Houston felt that Jones was the class of the city. In the second round of District action several teams had a shot at the title. Milby, Houston Furr and Houston Sterling were all tied up with 3-1 marks for the second round. The two perennial powers, Wheatley(10-23) and Yates(9-16), were in the bottom half of District. The Wildcats showed their long tradition in pulling a big upset win over Jones 101-94. The loss gave Jones two losses in the second round. On the same night, Houston Austin knocked Houston Furr out of first place, defeating Furr 102-93. This put the Buffaloes of Milby in the driver's seat after their 69-67 victory over Houston Sterling.

In Wheatley's big upset win over Houston Jones the Wildcats were led by Alvin Brook's 32 points. Darnell Ropers paced Jones with 21 points, Anthony Ragling's finished with 20 points and Byron Gibson's canned 19. In the Milby victory over Houston Sterling the game was decided by two steals in the last 29 seconds. Chuck O'Neal had 22 points and Kenneth Williams had 19 in the Milby victory. Steve Mackey led Houston Sterling with 19 points.

Houston Furr had one more shot to get back into the race against Milby to close out the regular season and the second half of District. Houston Milby ended Furr's hopes with a 72-69 win. O'Neal again led the way with 32 points and Kenneth Williams followed with 17. For Houston Furr, Albert Dickey hit 22 points. The win clinched the second half title for the Buffaloes. Houston Jones and Houston Milby would then have to meet to decide the District championship. Yates defeated Wheatley 82-79 to end the season for both teams. Losing seasons were

very uncommon for both schools. Yates finished a dismal 10-16 mark and 3-9 in District action. Wheatley was not much better finishing 11-24 and 5-7 in District. The Wildcats forfeited several games(15) because of an ineligible player.

In the title game at Jeppeson for the District 17-AAAA title, Milby(22-11) won an exciting 65-57 double overtime victory over Houston Jones. The game knocked Houston Jones(34-6) out of the playoff hunt. The two heroes for Milby were Kenneth Williams clutch shooting, and Stephen Saul's 24 points. Having won the Jaycees Tournament earlier in the season many followers of Houston basketball felt Jones would be the odds-on favorite to advance to Austin. Wheatley and Kashmere had set precedent in the past. Coach Boyce Honea of Milby credited Williams with being a critical part of Milby's delay game which proved to be the difference in the end. Coach Larry Cooper of Houston Jones said following the game, "Saul won that game, we stopped Chuck O'Neal inside but we didn't stop Saul." The Falcons would not come out of the zone defense when Milby went into their delay game. "I just didn't want to go into a man to man and let O'Neal loose under the basket," Cooper said.

In District 18-AAAA, Houston Worthing(22-13) and Houston Lincoln were to decide the championship. Worthing(36) had captured the first half of District, but the second round had a series of playoffs to decide the winner. Houston Lincoln had to beat Houston Lamar on Tuesday 74-72, and then Houston Madison on Wednesday 58-56. While Lincoln was scrambling to advance the Worthing Colts were well rested. 6'8" All-American, Albert Jones of Worthing was ready. Jones was dominating with 20 points and 21 rebounds in his team's 95-88 win over Houston Lincoln. The Panthers led at halftime 54-48, but ran out of gas. This was Lincoln's third game in three nights. Other scorers for Worthing were Kenneth Dawson with 15 points and Fellie Britt with 12. For the Panthers, Fred Brown hit 25 points and Elworth Newsome followed with 23.

The Bi-District match-up between Houston Milby and Houston Worthing brought together two of the best players in the state. 6'5" Chuck O'Neal of Milby and 6'8" Albert Jones of Worthing were both High School All-Americans. Albert Jones had already won All-American honors as a junior and O'Neal would have to wait till his senior year to be named a McDonald's All-American. The game was played at Hofheinz Pavilion and the two players didn't disappoint. O'Neal hit 12 of 19 from the floor and finished with 27 points while Albert "Slab" Jones finished with 26 points and both had 11 rebounds. Oh, the score was Milby 87-74 winner. Coach Honea said following the game, "Chuck is a great shooter, probably the best percentage shooter in the city. But he does several other things well besides just shooting the ball." Milby never trailed in the game and at one point had a 21-point lead. Honea credited Kenneth Williams with being the key to handling the tough Worthing full court press. "Williams had a lot to do with our beating that press," explained Honea. Williams had some incredible passes that excited the crowd. He

followed O'Neal in scoring with 21 points and Saul finished with 19. "We felt all along that if Jones was the only one to do most of the Worthing's scoring we could beat them," Honea related. Worthing won the rebounding battle 42-34 but lost the turnover battle 23-16.

(36) Worthing has produced a long list of High School talent through the years, dating back to David Lattin of Texas Western Fame. The 6'7" Lattin was High School All-American in 1962 and 1963, and played on the NCAA Championship team in 1966 with the Miners. He was drafted by Warriors in the National Basketball Association. Lattin played five years in the N.B.A. and A.B.A. Others who played at Worthing were Dwight Davis, the #3 overall pick in 1972 N.B.A. draft. Davis had an outstanding career at the University of Houston. He played five years in the N.B.A. 6'10" Greg Anderson was the 23rd pick in the 1987 draft. Anderson was also a graduate of the University of Houston. Anderson played 11 seasons in the Association. 6'9" Larry Micheaux was the 29th pick in 1983 by the Bulls and played for the Cougars. Micheaux played two seasons in the N.B.A. Albert Jones was the most prized recruit out of Worthing since Lattin in 1963. After an outstanding career with New Mexico St., Jones was the 106th pick in the draft by the Rockets.

Clear Lake was ranked #1 in the state by the TABC rankings which had become much more legitimate. More and more basketball coaches had joined the organization. Whether the Falcons of Coach Bill Krueger had the best team in the state or not is hard to know. What is known about Clear Lake is they played in the one of toughest Districts in the state with Deer Park(30-6) and Pasadena(30-5). Both teams ranked in the top ten in the state. The Falcons starting lineup was one of the most balanced and team oriented in the state regardless of classification. Krueger had built a program much like he had at Clear Creek and San Marcos before that. Lake was going to have a strong team every season and the 1976 version was his best yet. The starters included, 6'4" Warren Sliger(17.5), 6'5" Steve Sylestine(14.5), John Hinners(12.1), junior 6'7" Rex Johnston(11.8), and Danny Jones. Sliger, Sylestine and Hinners were all named 1st team All-District and Johnston and Jones were named to the 2nd team. Clear Lake averaged 70.5 points per game while giving up 52.1 points while playing one of the toughest schedules in the state. During the regular season, Lake had defeated an impressive group of victims, Houston Milby(24-12) 60-56, Houston Worthing(22-14) 75-73, Dallas South Oak Cliff(27-7) 91-76, regional finalist Pt. Arthur Lincoln(32-5) 53-50, state ranked Pasadena(33-5) 50-43 and 80-67. They also split with District rival and the #7 team in the state, Deer Park, 78-72 and lost 66-53. Others losses included LaMarque(17-18) 57-55 and Klein(26-13) 60-56.

Coach Krueger's troops faced Galveston Ball in Bi-District at Hofheinz Pavilion on the campus of the University of Houston. Ball cancelled a warm-up game against Pt. Arthur Lincoln so other teams would not be able to scout them too much and put them at a disadvantage. Ball entered the contest with a 36-5 record while Clear Lake had a 36-3 mark. Ball was led by 6'0" Darrell Mitchell, the best pure shooter on the team, 6'5" junior, June Washington, and junior 5'10"

point guard Michael Venible. The top defensive performer for Ball was 6'1" Lavan Cooper. 6'6" junior, Andrew Johns would be key against Clear Lake controlling the boards.

Clear Lake defeated the Tornados 49-46 to advance to regionals even though they scored one field goal in the fourth quarter. Ball gained the lead 46-45 with 2:57 remaining but John Hinners came up with a critical steal and a basket to put the Falcons back on top. Steve Sylestine hit two free throws for the final margin of victory. Clear Lake hit seven of eight free throws in the critical fourth quarter. Despite 25 turnovers the Falcons dominated the backboards 45-35. Ball committed only 14 turnovers. "We've certainly played better ball games this year," Coach Krueger said. Clear Lake was 15 of 28 from the foul line and the Tors hit only two of seven.

Ball dominated the 24-AAAA All-District team with 6'5" junior post, June Washington(14.7) being named M.V.P. Venible(9.0) and Mitchell(15.8) were also named to the first team.

Port Arthur Lincoln Bumblebees were one of the leading teams in the state throughout the 1970s. Their 1976 squad may have been their best team during the decade, although many would argue that the 1973 and 1974 teams were every bit as talented, led by All-American Earl Evans. Coach James Gamble returned only two starters back from his 1975 District championship team, 6'4" Thad Sanders and 6'2" Ronald Trahan. In discussing Sanders, Coach Gamble said, "He was a great all-around player who I had for four years, good defender." When the old coach was asked about Trahan years later he commented, "Outstanding player, well rounded, nice all-around game." Trahan signed with U.T.E.P. after high school but was dismissed from the team after an altercation of some kind. He was another three-year starter for the Bumblebees. Gamble stated in the pre-season that with his tallest player only 6'4" that they would have difficulty inside against any real size. Because of the team's lack of depth, Lincoln had to limit their pressing in 1976. Gamble had an impressive record of 260-125 at Lincoln dating back to 1963. Since integration, Lincoln had won six District titles in eight seasons. The loss of Gregory Keller(18.8) and Harold Dennis(12.3) was going to be tough to replace according to Gamble. As a junior, Sanders averaged 15.5 and 14.8 rebounds and was considered an all-state candidate. Trahan averaged 16.8 as a junior. The Beaumont Tournament was a great test for Lincoln with two undefeated teams in the field along with Lincoln's 8-1 mark. Clear Lake was 9-0 and Beaumont French came in at 6-0. In the semi-finals, Lincoln defeated Beaumont French 49-46 and in the finals lost to Clear Lake 52-50. Coach Gamble went into the hospital for a prolonged period of time for a virus infection during this period. In his absence, his capable assistant, Dick Williams took the helm and guided the Bumblebees to a big win against Houston Wheatley(23-15) on their home court 101-88. Although this was the only time during the decade Wheatley

failed to make the playoffs, it was none the less a big win. Lincoln split with one of the top teams in Louisiana, Lake Charles Boston, losing 103-90 and winning 82-78. Boston was powered by All-American, David Lawrence. In the Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson tournament, Lincoln took out Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson 87-71. Jefferson had earlier defeated Spring Branch Memorial 89-81 in overtime.

In District competition, Pt. Arthur Lincoln entered the '76 season with a 40 game District winning streak dating back several seasons. As the regular season ended, Sanders put up some incredible numbers, 19.8 points and 16.2 rebounds. Trahan hit 17.3 points per game and 13.6 rebounds while Whitley had some impressive numbers as well, 11.1 and 10.5. Jackie Mann averaged 9.1 per game and Chester Allen hit 11.0 points per game. The Bumblebees had five players averaging in double figures and almost six. Lincoln averaged an impressive 80.8 per game and allowed 62.0 for an 18.8-point differential. This made Lincoln the #1 offensive team in the state just beating out Victoria, and the 2nd best point differential behind Bryan at 21.6. After taking a beating by the Bumblebees of Lincoln, Nederland coach Johnny Cole, commented that he felt this was the quickest Lincoln team he's seen and probably the best shooters as a group. "I don't know that they're better than when Earl Evans played, but this bunch can do a few things the other ones couldn't."

One of the most intense rivalries in the state occurred in the Golden Triangle area between Beaumont and Pt. Arthur. The two school Districts were in separate Districts from 1969 to 1976. After that they were combined into the same District. The rivals would meet every season in Bi-district. In 1969, Pt. Arthur Lincoln defeated Beaumont Charlton-Pollard 69-67 in overtime. The 1970 Bi-District game pitted Pollard against Pt. Arthur Jefferson with Pollard winning 61-59. In 1971, a new representative from Beaumont won the District title, Hebert and they faced Lincoln losing 63-55. Pollard defeated Lincoln in '72 campaign 76-69 and Lincoln reversed the decision defeating Pollard 75-65 in 1973. Lincoln continued their winning in 1974 taking a 80-78 victory. Pollard won the 1975 match-up between the two schools 65-51. The 1976 representative for District 21-AAAA was Beaumont French(26-7) and they faced off against perennial power Pt. Arthur Lincoln(30-4). Lincoln had advanced to the regional tournament four out of previous seven years. It was French's first trip to the playoffs in ten years which was before integration. Pt. Arthur Lincoln held three regular season victories over French. Lincoln and French offered a great deal of contrast in styles. Lincoln was a fast paced up tempo team that averaged 96 points per game in District action while French was very deliberate, shooting only when a good shot presented itself. With 6'7" B.B. Davis in the middle for French the slowdown tactics enabled the Buffs to get him the ball on a more consistent basis. French Coach, Dick Hastings, said this was the finest Lincoln team he had seen. Coach James Gamble was in agreement. The Bumblebees heart and soul centered around a trio of 6'4" Thad

Sanders(20.6), 6'2" Ronald Trahan(19.2) and 6'3" Eddy Whitley(18.6). The trio's numbers improved in District action. The key to Lincoln's success had been point guard, 5'10" Chester Allen. Allen suffered a knee injury earlier in the season and was still not back to 100 percent. Coach Hastings of French felt the game must be a low scoring affair for his team to have a chance.

Pt. Arthur Lincoln had to overcome three technical fouls, an eight-point deficit, to advance to regionals. Pt. Arthur Lincoln took down Beaumont French 58-52. Seven of the 22 Lincoln field goals came on layups after French turnovers. French also lost the battle of the boards 31-19. Trahan and Jackie Mann were leading scorers for Lincoln with 14 points apiece while B.B. Davis finished with 16 points for French. Trahan, who was named the 22-AAAA Most Valuable Player, was also the leading rebounder with 11. Eddy Whitley, the Kansas St.-bound football player, did a great job on defense against Davis. Davis missed 10 shots and had 4 turnovers. Lincoln point guard, Skeeter Eli, ended up being the hero for the Bumblebees. After going one of nine from the floor, he hit five of six from the foul line in the last 1:29 of the game. As for the technicals, Gamble commented "I've never had a team get that many in one game since I've been coaching." Lincoln's Thad Sanders admitted that B.B. Davis intimidated him a little on defense and said he was a fine player, but not in the class of former Lincoln standout Earl Evans, who graduated in 1974.

Beaumont French Coach Dick Hastings had nothing but praise for the Bumblebees saying, "Not many coaches can say they've lost four times to a state championship team. I definitely think Lincoln has the man power to go all the way. I feel Lincoln can win it all." Hastings took over at French in 1970 and in 1974 his team was 4-22 on the season. "We've come a long way," Hastings stated.

At Hofheinz in the opener of Bi-District action, Houston Waltrip(30-9) had an easy time with Klein(22-11) 78-56. Waltrip took an early lead 28-13 as Gary Schramm scored 15 of his 22 points in the first quarter. Schramm and Jeff Kelly were strong inside forces for Waltrip while Isaac Bozeman was hot from outside scoring 23 points. Kelly finished with 23 points and 14 rebounds and Schramm had 11 boards. Klein only had one player in double figures and that was Darrell Keener with 19.

Most observers were thinking the regional semi-final game between Pt. Arthur Lincoln and Clear Lake would pit the two best teams in the state against one another. "Clear Lake's always been tough and probably always will be," Coach Gamble noted. "Krueger has the finest overall program in Texas and I'd have to think one of the best in the nation." Krueger's teams had won 15 District titles and 12 Bi-District championships over the past 17 years. Pt. Arthur Lincoln and Clear Lake were two perennial powers who had been overshadowed by the Wheatley and Kashmere dynasties over the previous seasons. The Bumblebees only advanced to the regional finals once before and that was in 1973 when they were

bounced by Wheatley. Clear Lake showed a vulnerability to the press in its 49-46 Bi-District win against Galveston Ball. The Falcons had turned the ball over 25 times. Against Lincoln that could be a problem.

Thad Sanders hit some pressure foul shots late to give Lincoln a 63-60 win over the #1 ranked Clear Lake Falcons. Coach Gamble had won a career 293 games, but none bigger than the win over Bill Krueger and Clear Lake. "Considering the fact, we were playing the state's #1 ranked team, what was at stake and who I was coaching against, I'd have to rank this as the most satisfying victory since I've been at Lincoln," Gamble noted. Nobody led by more than six points during the hotly contested game. Lincoln's two star players, Sanders and Trahan were both in foul trouble throughout the game. Lincoln did not use their pressing defense in the first half, but caused several turnovers in the second half using the press. The Falcons were ahead 47-45 at the end of three quarters and Coach Gamble was feeling pretty good with Trahan on the bench. Sanders played the fourth quarter with four fouls and ended up high scorer with 16 points. Whitley followed with 14 points and Trahan finished with 13. Sander's was the game's leading rebounder with nine as Lincoln out rebounded Clear Lake 24-17. Although the Bumblebees were able to hold Sylestine to only eight points, Sliger finished with 21 points. Hinners hit 20 from the outside for Clear Lake. "If we were going to get beat, we wanted somebody other than Sylestine and Sliger to be responsible," Gamble said. Krueger said years later that Sylestine had been sick and lost 15 pounds prior to the game which explained his eight-point output. In the two teams first encounter he had laced the nets for 30 points.

Pt. Arthur Lincoln would have to face the winner of the Houston Milby-Houston Waltrip game in the regional finals. Milby had a very deceptive record at 23-11. They played without one or more starters for a 20-game stretch during the season. Milby's record at one point of the season was an unimpressive 12-9. Sparked by "super junior", 6'5" Chuck O'Neal, Milby has won 11 of 13 games. Waltrip(30-7) boasted a pair of fine post, 6'7" Jeff Kelly and 6'7" Gary Schram. Waltrip won the first half of District and defeated Kashmere in a District playoff game to advance into the playoffs.

Chuck O'Neal's(37) 26 points propelled Milby past Waltrip(30-8) and into the regional finals against Pt. Arthur Lincoln(32-4). The Buffaloes broke a 24-24 tie and took control of the contest 42-28 behind 18 points from Saul and 14 from Juice Williams. The final score was lopsided 66-51 victory for Milby. Waltrip only had four players in the scoring column. Gary Schram had 20 points and Kelly had 17 for Waltrip.

Only Houston Milby stood in the way of Pt. Arthur Lincoln and its first state tournament bid. O'Neal of Milby was arguably the best all-around player in Houston, even as a junior. When he got hot he was a very hard player to stop. If you put someone small on him he could take them inside, and if you put a big on

him he would move away from the basket. If you doubled him, he was surrounded by shooters. After playing the emotional game against Clear Lake in the morning it would be hard for Pt. Arthur Lincoln to reload for the evening contest against Milby.

(37) O'Neal stood 6'6" and was white with a big AFRO. O'Neal was one of the top players in Houston during the 1970s and ranks with the best the city has ever produced.

Against Milby in the regional finals foul trouble once again plagued Pt. Arthur Lincoln. Sanders was a key performer and spent almost half the game on the bench because of fouls. "Having Thad sit out for that long killed us," Coach Gamble said. For Milby it was O'Neal scoring 34 points. He hit 20 in the first half, going nine of twelve from the floor, to give the Buffaloes a 10-point halftime lead. Within the first two minutes of the 3rd quarter Lincoln made a run at Milby 44-39. The Buffaloes went to four corners in the fourth quarter and the closest Lincoln could get was six points. The final read, Milby 75 and Pt. Arthur Lincoln 69. Stephen Saul was second high scorer for Milby and the Buffaloes were 17 of 21 from the foul line. Milby won the regional championship for the first time since 1959. O'Neal's 34 points almost broke the regional scoring record set by Eddie Owens of Houston Wheatley at 37. O'Neal was 16 of 22 from the field, hitting eight of his first ten shots. Honea explained the team's success, "I think our four-corner offense was a key to both games," Honea said. "If we can get one on one with Kenneth Williams we think we can score. Williams is very good at penetrating. Of course, Chuck's shooting and the rebounds of Stephen Saul helped." Saul finished with 20 points and Williams pitched in 12 points. Trahan was the leading scorer for Lincoln with 20 points and tied Whitley as leading rebounder with nine.

Region IV

San Antonio Highlands(28-9)

Austin Johnston(26-8) #20

Corpus Christy Moody(31-4) #17

San Antonio Fox Tech(22-14)

San Antonio Burbank(25-10)

Victoria(33-3) #15

Mission

San Antonio Holmes(26-8)

Top Five in Region IV

6'5" Charles Tryon, C.C. Moody; 6'6" Micah Owens(19.3) SA Jefferson; 6'4" Anthony King, Victoria; 6'1" Billy Bailey, San Antonio McCollum; Ronnie Kubenka, Victoria Stroman:

In Region IV, Victoria and Corpus Christi Moody looked like the cream on the crop in 4-A. Victoria returned four starters and ten lettermen from a District runner-up squad in 1975. Coach Mike Smith felt like he had so much talent that he would platoon players five in at a time and press the entire game. Every four minutes a new group was subbed into the game. Smith felt the strength of the

team was its depth. The Stingarees returned four All-District players, 6'4" Anthony King, 6'5' Charles Spurlin, 6'5" Phil Durrett and 6'3" Danny Webster.

Victoria opened the season against powerhouse Houston Jones in Houston. It was one of the best efforts of the season for the Stingaree's defeating Houston Jones 101-100. Jones would finish the season as the #2 team in the state polls, ahead of Victoria. Austin Reagan was next for the Stingarees as Victoria had another big win 83-63. For Coach Smith, his team's first loss of the season came against Corpus Christi Carroll 69-68. In the semi-finals of the Victoria Invitational the Stingaree's defeated arch rival Victoria Stroman 79-60. In finals, Victoria dropped Houston Jones a second time 82-80. These two victories spoke volumes about the talent on Coach Smith's team. Jones finished 35-6 on the season and two of those loses were to Victoria. Houston Jones was paced by junior, 6'1" Anthony Raglin(24.5) and 6'5" Bryon Gibson.

In another big test for Victoria the always tough Wildcats of Houston Wheatley would challenge the Stingarees like few teams could. The game was played in Houston. The Wildcats won a decisive victory 113-95, but later had to forfeit the victory because of using an ineligible player. Wheatley finished 23-15 on the season, but when you count the forfeits the Wildcats had a losing record. In a return match against Wheatley on their home court, Victoria had another impressive win defeating the Wildcats 106-69. This broke the old-school record of 102 points set in 1970. Victoria's second loss of the season came against Galveston Ball(21-6) 90-71. Inside, Ball was too strong with 6'6" June Washington and 6'6" Andrew Johns. Washington finished with 28 points while Johns totaled 18 points. Victoria had no chance on the glass against Ball. Ball had beat Wheatley, but lost to Houston Jones earlier in the season. Coach Smith called the loss, "This was our worst effort to the season." Coach Smith would be trying to capture his third District title in four seasons after taking over for Jack Cook. Cook became the athletic director after stepping down as head basketball coach. Nobody was really close to Victoria in District except their rival, Victoria Stroman(20-11). Stroman upset Victoria High in the 1st half match-up 71-66 and the Stingarees bounced back in the 2nd round 66-59 to force a District playoff game. Victoria won a close one 65-63, and with it the District championship. Coach Smith varied from his two-platoon system using only seven players against Stroman. He resumed his platoon system once the playoffs began. Smith said after the game, "They are the best shooting team we've played."

In Bi-District Victoria was playing Austin Johnston at Texas Lutheran College in Seguin. Johnston at 26-7, averaged 65.6 points per game and gave up 58.1 points on the season. The school from Austin, was very physical with three of the top six players signing football scholarships with Tulsa University. Johnston's starting group was 6'6" David Falkquay(14.3), 6'3" Frank Wilson(14.3), 6'3" Robert Tennon(11.2), 5'11" Darrell Collins(14.6), 5'11" Johnny Saldana(4.6) and coming off

the bench another strong inside player, 6'5" Barry Crayton. Johnston had split with Bryan during the regular season. Remember the Vikings were one of the top teams in the state. Victoria would counter with 6'4" Anthony King(13.4), 6'3" Danny Webster(12.1), 6'5" Charles Spurlin(10.3), 6'5" Phil Durrett(10.0), 6'2" Mark Mallett. In second group for the Stingarees were 6'1" Mike Brown, 6'5" George English, 6'4" Jimmy Sandburg, 6'2" Jody Norris and 5'9" Steve Thompson. Victoria dominated Austin Johnston and advanced to regionals 73-52.

In the Bi-District round, San Antonio Burbank(25-10) defeated San Antonio Highlands(28-9) 60-53, Corpus Christi Moody(31-4) beat Mission 60-57, and San Antonio Fox Tech(22-14) dropped San Antonio Holmes(26-8). On the All-City team, San Antonio Highlands placed 6'5" John Bowens(19.4) on the first team along with 6'11" Gilbert Salinas(15.1) of Burbank. 6'1" Jack Imselmann(17.8) of S.A. Holmes was also named to the first unit. Other players who played in the state playoffs that were named to the 2nd and 3rd teams were 6'5" Rudy Perez(18.8) of Burbank, 6'3" Greg Blye(18.3) of Fox Tech and 6'1" Edgar Evans(12.9) of Highlands. The M.V.P. of the City was 6'1" Billy Bailey(25.9) of San Antonio McCollum. At regionals, San Antonio Burbank awaited Victoria with an impressive frontline of 6'11" junior, Gilbert Salinas and 6'5" Rudy Perez(18.8). Size had always created problems for Victoria. Burbank also liked to use a slow half court offensive attack which was going to be a big problem. Coach Earl Meyer of Burbank had a very controlled attack centered around his big boy, Salinas. Burbank liked the score in the 40s or 50s so something would have to give against the high scoring Stingarees. Regionals would be played at the S.A. Blossom Athletic Center at noon, with the regional championship game played that evening. Burbank ran a 2-3 zone with Salinas in the middle. Victoria was held to the lowest scoring output of the season, but still won 44-34. The Stings had a five-point lead 39-34 with 58 seconds remaining with the game still in doubt. King hit a layup to push the lead to 41-34. Salinas had gotten into foul trouble with 7:47 remaining in the 2nd quarter and was limited in playing time. Once again the scoring was totally balanced for Victoria.

In the regional finals against Corpus Christi Moody, Victoria faced one of the strongest players of the season in 6'5" Charles Tryon. Moody had won a close one over Fox Tech 62-61 in the semi-finals. Tryon dominated in the finals while in the game, playing only 13 minutes and scoring 23 points against Victoria. He fouled out with 3:35 remaining in the third quarter. Moody had a 13-point lead in the first half over Victoria and led at halftime 42-35. Charles Moore carried Moody with 18 points with Tryon out of the game. The Stings had their usual balanced attack winning 72-65. King led the team on the boards for Victoria. With the win Victoria celebrated a trip to Austin and the State Tournament.

State Tournament

Houston Milby	(25-11)		71.6-68.5	+ 3.1
Tyler John Tyler	(29-4)	#9	77.6-69.1	+ 8.5
El Paso Eastwood	(29-3)	#14	67.7-53.6	+14.1
Victoria	(36-3)	#15	80.6-65.4	+15.2

Top Five Players at the State Tournament

6'5"	Chuck O'Neal	Houston Milby
6'2"	Jim Bowden	El Paso Eastwood
6'0"	Dennis Gordon	Tyler John Tyler
6'9"	Anthony Lee	Tyler John Tyler
6'4"	Anthony King	Victoria

In Austin, Eastwood would face the running and pressing outfit from Victoria(37-3). Victoria was a senior dominated team. Seven of their top ten players were returning from the previous season. The Stingarees had eclipsed the 100-point total four times during the season and were the top the scoring squad at state with 80.6 per game. During his four seasons at the helm, Coach Smith of Victoria had won three District titles. "We play 10 players and this team has the most depth that we have had." Victoria had a very balanced scoring attack with four players in double figures, Anthony King, Danny Webster, Phil Durrett and Charles Spurgin. "They're a solid ball club. We like having to play them first. It'll be good experience," Coach Lesley of Eastwood said. Coach Lesley also said, Victoria's glaring weakness was lack of outside shooting. "Victoria is a lot like us," Coach Lesley continued, "We do like to run and shoot when we get the opportunity and as for the press, we play Hobbs, New Mexico every year and they live by the press. We beat Hobbs twice this year pretty handily in New Mexico, and by 19 points at our place, and were able to beat their press." Eastwood was making its first trip to Austin and traveled 600 miles riding almost two days on buses. "Actually, we should have made it two years ago," said the outspoken Coach Lesley. "Denton beat us in the regional finals and we thought we had the club that could get here." Although the Troopers were very stubborn on the defensive end of the court, they had three double digit scorers in Jim Bowden, Steve Wohlgemuth and junior Tim Crenshaw.

Many observers believed Victoria should be the tournament favorite, but others believed Houston Milby had to be the favorite. The reason was simple, the team that had come out of the Houston had won seven of the previous eight 4-A state titles. Milby came into Austin on a burst of emotion. Although they had lost several games early in the season they were rolling by the time they arrived in the state capital. "Injuries kept us from putting a solid starting unit on the floor until we got into District," Coach Boyce Honea said about his team's up and down

season. Many experts felt Houston Jones would be the representative from Region III, but Milby came together at the right time. Milby lost twice to Jones in District, but captured District in a playoff against Houston Jones. You could call them Cinderella if you like. The Buffaloes were picked fourth in District behind Jones, Wheatley and Furr. Milby's tallest player was 6'5" O'Neal. Honea described his unit as a team of great shooters who love to run and gun. "We're a real small team as basketball teams go and we rely heavily on the outside shot." Milby ran a free-lance offense and was not concerned about working the ball inside. O'Neal led the charge for the Buffaloes and averaged 25.0 points a game. Kenneth "Juice" Williams(18.0) was only 6'1" but went on to make All-SWC at the University of Houston. Williams was a key player along with 6'2" Stephen Saul(18.0), 6'3" Bibby Rhode(8.0) and 5'7" Hernandez(7.0). "They were both(Williams and O'Neal) hurt early in the season and that held us back," said Honea. "Once we started the District though everybody was healthy and we developed well." "Momentum is a very important factor in the state tournament," said Mike Smith of Victoria. Smith's squad had won ten in a row coming into Austin. "All indications are that Milby is at its peak right now."

With all the hoop-la about Milby and Victoria, a team that should not have been overlooked was Tyler John Tyler(29-4) with super-sophomore, 6'9" Anthony Lee(20.0/15.0). Lee came from a family of athletes with his brother Earnest playing football at Texas and his other brother Ronnie playing at Baylor. The Lions would also rely on a terrific guard, Dennis Gordon(25.0). The Lions were coached by Royce Franklin, who spoke very highly of his prize sophomore saying, "I'll guarantee you there aren't any better in the state than Anthony. He's not real quick but he's smooth in his moves, real coordinated and he has a great shooting touch." Joining Gordon and Lee in the starting lineup were 5'8" Eloys Bowser(10.0), 6'0" Quintin Biggs(10.0), and 6'4" Tony Brown(10.0). Off the bench came some talented subs, 6'0" Tyrone Smith, 5'8" Royland Black, and 6'0" Ricky Collier. Franklin called Collier the best 6'0" post in the state. The Lions liked to press and drop back into a zone defense as well as man to man defense. John Tyler only returned one starter from their 1975 campaign, so they were shocked to be playing in the state tournament. The Lions had lost in the regional finals to Ft. Worth Paschal during the '75 season. The Lions shocked everybody in regional action by coming back from 21 points down to beat Bryan.

In an exciting overtime classic, Eastwood advanced to the state finals beating Victoria 69-67. Foul trouble once again plagued Eastwood throughout the game. At one point the Troopers had a 15-point lead only to see it disappear. The Troopers dominated play in the first half, but gave up 19 straight points to Victoria in the third quarter and the Stingarees took a four-point lead over Eastwood. Anthony King was the star for Victoria scoring 18 points of his game high 30 in the second half. Although Coach Smith had used the platoon system all season he did

not take King out of the lineup. The 6'4" senior was too valuable. Shepherd of Eastwood hit a 17-footer with two seconds remaining in regulation to send the game into overtime 65-65. In overtime, Molix and Bowden hit the winning baskets for the Troopers to advance. Victoria's Jimmy Spurlin came up with a rebound off a missed free throw with two seconds left, but came up short on the put back. Spurlin was fouled on the put back. Spurlin missed the first foul shot and then missed the second one on purpose. Eastwood got the rebound and with it the ticket to the state finals 69-67. Durrett had 18 points and Spurlin collected 11 points for Victoria. For Eastwood, Crenshaw had 18 points, Wohlgemuth pumped in 18, Molix finished with 12 points, Bowden hit 11 and Shepherd had 6 points. Victoria placed three players in double figures while Eastwood had four. Attendance was set at 4,500.

In the other state semi-final game Tyler John Tyler advanced by defeating Houston Milby 76-69. At one point Milby trailed John Tyler 69-51 with 3:45 left in the game. Milby rallying to a 73-67 comeback. O'Neal could not be stopped for Milby and ended up with 30 points going 14 of 29 from the floor. John Tyler countered with a tremendous scoring combo of Anthony Lee with 19 points and 18 rebounds, Gordon with 17, Briggs with 15 and Brown with 14. "Tyler's size, our turnovers and their offensive rebounds, which go back to their size, were the key factors in the game," Honea said after the game. "We just couldn't match'em in height. I think if we could have ever got ahead and made them play our game we could have won. But we could never get in front, even early, and had to run all the game. That's not what we wanted." Milby had 10 turnovers in the first half giving John Tyler 10 points. Honea conceded, "But Tyler has a good team. When we got something going, especially there late, they came right back with a key basket. They got so many second and third shots." John Tyler led 52-44 at halftime. Coach Honea remarked, "They've got some good shooters and they're quicker than I thought." The Buffaloes only had four players score. "Juice" Williams hit 24, Saul hit 9 and Eddie Hernandez had 6. Tyler on the other hand put five players in double figures.

Eastwood continued their consistent play in the title game defeating John Tyler 74-62. The Troopers were paced by guard Gilbert Shepherd and his 19 points, followed by Crenshaw with 18, Bowden with 14, Molix had 12 and Wohlgemuth finished with 11 points. The Troopers won playing a sagging defense against 6'9" Anthony Lee who had 19 points and only six in the second half. Gordon was held to his tournament low with only 13 points. Lee could only manage 11 rebounds during the contest, well below his average. "Maybe we will get some respect now. No one thinks El Paso schools are any good. You say you're from El Paso and they turn up their noses like your no good. Not anymore," Coach Lesley said. "We took too many bad shots," said Tyler coach Royce Franklin, "And Eastwood also made us take longer passes late in the game and picked them off." "Then, when we were

down by three, we had a real good opportunity, tipped up the ball four or five times and it just wouldn't drop. That might have changed things, too." Coach Lesley of Eastwood said his team never departed from their fundamentals. "We got down here by executing and we did everything against Tyler that we had thought we could do," said Lesley. "We used a combination zone defense on Lee and took their outside people man-to-man," said Lesley. "Lee is a super player, but we've faced good big ones all year. The kid from Victoria is no slouch." Tyler had forced Milby into 17 turnovers but could only force Eastwood into nine. "We decided to take our offense inside at the half trying to get Lee and Brown in foul trouble," Lesley said.

All-Tournament Team: Shepherd, Crenshaw, and Bowden from Eastwood made the All-Tournament team along with Anthony Lee and Tony Brown from John Tyler, and Anthony King from Victoria, and O'Neal from Milby.

1976	State Rankings	AAAA {End of the Regular Season}:
1. Clear Lake	36-3	6'4" Warren Sliger(17.5), 6'5" Steve Sylestine(14.5)
2. Houston Jones	35-6	6'1" Anthony Raglin(24.5), 6'5" Byron Gibson
3. South Oak Cliff	25-6	6'4" A. McMillian, 5'7" Cullen Mayfield, 6'1" David Burns
4. Abilene	27-5	6'2" Mike Little(17.3), 6'8" Darrell Baxter(20.3)
5. Pasadena	33-5	6'6" Fritz Connally, 6'4" Greg Freeman
6. Bryan	30-2	6'10" Rudy Woods(17.1), 6'2" Gerald Carter(15.8)
7. Deer Park	31-7	6'5" Jon Hughes, 6'4" Byron Tully
8. Ft. W. Dunbar	29-3	6'8" James Griffin, 6'3" Michael Watley
9. Tyler John Tyler	26-4	6'9" Anthony Lee(18.5), Dennis Gordon(25.0)
10. Pt. A. Lincoln	30-4	6'4" Thad Sanders(20.6), 6'2" Ronald Trahan(19.2)
11. Galveston Ball	35-6	6'0" Darrell Mitchell(14.7), 6'5" June Washington(15.8)
12. H. Waltrip	29-8	6'7" Jeff Kelly , 6'7" Gary Schram
13. Bea. Pollard	33-6	
14. El P. Eastwood	26-3	6'3" Steve Wohlgemuth(13.0), 6'2" Jim Bowden(13.7)
15. Victoria	33-3	6'4" Anthony King(13.4), 6'5" Charles Spurlin(10.3)
16. Spring Woods	30-6	
17. C. C. Moody	31-4	6'5" Charles Tryon, 6'6" Charles Moore
18. H. Madison	26-8	6'2" Greg Wise, 6'8" Greg Kite
19. Arl. Sam Hou.	26-6	6'3" Ronnie Newton(19.0), 6'0" Joey King(12.0)
20. A. Johnston	26-8	6'6" David Falkquay(14.3), 6'3" Frank Wilson(14.3)

All-State Team: Texas Sports Writers named its squad: **1st team**, 6'8" Albert Jones(20.4), Houston Worthing; 6'5" Chuck O'Neal(24.0), Houston Milby, 6'10" Alton Lister(24.0) Dallas Woodrow Wilson, 6'2" Jim Bowden(13.7) El Paso Eastwood; 6'0" Dennis Gordon(22.5) Tyler John Tyler. **2nd team**, 6'3" Ronnie Newton(18.8), Arlington Sam Houston; 6'9" Anthony Lee(18.5), Tyler John Tyler; 6'5" Charles Tryon, C.C. Moody; 6'1" Billy Bailey(26.1), S.A. McCollum; 6'1" Mark Davis(20.5) North Mesquite; **3rd team**, 6'3" Steve Wohlgemuth(13.0), Eastwood; 6'9" Ricky Ashley(20.0) Mineral Wells; 6'6" Micah Owens(19.3) SA Jefferson; 6'4" Thad Sanders(19.4) PA Lincoln; 6'3" Greg Webb, El Paso Andress:

The TABC All-State team: 1st team, 6'4" Anthony King(11.0), Victoria; 6'0" Dennis Gordon(22.5), Tyler John Tyler; 6'4" Steve Sylvestine, Clear Lake; 6'3" Greg Webb, El Paso Address; 6'6" Junior Miller(21.1), Midland Lee; **2nd team**, 6'6" Fritz Connally, Pasadena; 6'5" Charles Tryon, C.C. Miller; 6'3" Arnold McDowell(25.5) San Angelo, 6'7" Jeff Kelley, Houston Waltrip; **3rd team**, 6'3" Ronnie Newton(18.8), Arlington Sam Houston; 6'2" Jim Bowden(13.6), El Paso Eastwood; 6'5" Chuck O'Neal(24.3), Houston Milby; 6'5" John Bowens(19.4), SA Highlands; Ronnie Kubenka, Victoria Stroman:

Only six players were named to both teams. I think you see the problem with the TABC All-State team, if your coach failed to nominate you, then you were left off the team. It is insane, but they wanted coaches to be part of their organization. Albert Jones was clearly All-American, named to almost everybody's team yet the TABC failed to name him All-State. Hard to take their All-State team seriously with this type of oversight. Albert Jones was the player of the year in my opinion. Also, Bryan may have had the top team in the state in 1976 and not one player was placed on the All-State teams. 6'1" guard, Gerald Carter(18.2) was putting up 30 points a game late in the season for the Vikings. He should have been selected as All-State.

Recruits: The top recruit in the state by far was 6'7" **Albert "Slab" Jones** of Houston Worthing who played at New Mexico St. and had an outstanding career. "Slab" finished 2nd on the all-time scoring list with 1,758 points and averaged 15.4 points over his career with the Aggies. He was All-Missouri Valley for three straight seasons. He was named to the school's All-Century team. He was the 106th pick by the Rockets. 6'10" **Alton Lister** of Dallas Woodrow Wilson signed San Jacinto J.C. because of grades and later moved on to Arizona St. Alton was the 21st pick of the Bucks and had a long N.B.A. career. His senior year with the Sun Devils his team finished 24-4 and ranked #4 in the nation. He was inducted into the Arizona St. Hall of Fame in 2000. He averaged 15.7 points his senior year and 9.7 rebounds. Lister was a member of the 1980 USA Olympic basketball team that boycotted the games in Moscow. Lister served as assistant coach on Mike Woodson's Atlanta Hawks staff in 2007. 6'4" **Phil Hale** of South Grand Prairie was very heavily recruited and played at S.M.U. 6'6" **Micah Owens**(19.3) of S.A. Jefferson also went to New Mexico St. and was a starter, 6'3" **Carl Webb**(16.9) of E.P. Address joined Owens and Jones at New Mexico St. 6'1" **Kenneth "Juice" Williams**(18.1) of Milby played at Houston and was All-SWC averaging 19.6 per game. He was a late round draft pick of the Mavs(#194). **Steve Sylvestine** of Clear Lake signed with Texas A&M. **Warren Sliger** of Lake went to Sam Houston and **Mark Davis** of North Mesquite joined Hale at S.M.U. 6'7" **Bobby Forest**(30.0) of F.W. Nolan traveled to Rice. **Jim Bowden** of Eastwood continued the pipeline to UTEP. 6'5" **Jim Vaszauskas** of Lamesa committed to Baylor as did 6'6" **Julio Gallardo**(29.8/13.5) of

E.P. Ysleta. Gallardo played for Western New Mexico, Western Texas Junior College and Baylor. He played professionally in Mexico and Puerto Rico as well as being part of the Mexican National Team. He scored 22 points against the U.S.A. in 1983 Pan American games. 6'3" **John Mott** of Houston Bellaire to Rice, 6'4" **Thad Sanders** of PA Lincoln to Texas Tech. Sanders went on to lead the Red Raiders in scoring. 6'5" **Byron Gibson** of Houston Jones traveled to University of Houston; Gibson's son is Daniel Gibson who paced Jones to the 2004 Class 4-A state basketball championship and later played in the N.B.A. with the Cavs. 6'6" **Darnell Roper** of Houston Jones signed with Houston. 6'7" **Jeff Kelley(13.1/11.7)** of Waltrip went to Houston but later played for Texas State, where he was team M.V.P. his senior year; 6'6" **Gary Schramm(21.6/11.7)** of Waltrip signed with Houston, **Arnold McDowell** of San Angelo to T.C.U., 6'9" **Ricky Ashley** of Mineral Wells went to T.C.U./Howard Payne, 6'4" **Cestrakiah Lewis** of Bay City played at Lamar University, **Ronnie Newton** of Arlington Sam Houston stayed close to home at U.T. Arlington, 6'9" **Paul Renfro** of Everman joined Newton at U.T. Arlington. Renfro was named All-Conference and averaged 14.6 points with 8.8 rebounds and 1.6 blocks while at U.T. Arlington. 6'7" **Ronnie Phenix(21.0)** of Lubbock Estacado played at Tech/ Howard Payne, 6'6" **Norvelle Brown(25.0)** of Waxahachie signed with Texas/Dallas Baptist, 6'6" **John Carsey** of Houston St. John's went to Texas, 6'4" **Marshall Sauls** of Houston Davis played for Houston, 6'2" **Kenny Morrison** of Texas City to A&M, 6'4" **Greg Freeman** of Pasadena went to Lamar University. These were some of the major recruits in the state. **Anthony McMillian** of S.O.C. traveled the Lee Junior College. **Charles Tryon** of C.C. Moody went to Kentucky St. and 6'4" **Anthony King** of Victoria signed with Texas State, 6'1" **Billy Bailey** of S.A. McCollum played for Pan American and was drafted by the Spurs. Bailey made a living for many years playing professionally in Mexico. 6'8" **Paul Richards** played at Texas Tech and 6'11" **Bob Patterson** of Spring Branch attended Mississippi. 6'6" **Mike Rutter** of South Grand Prairie played at Lamar University. 6'6" **Randy Walton(16.0)** of Gonzales went to Texas Lutheran.

Top Texas Recruits in 1976 based on their college and pro careers:

Alton Lister 6'10"	Dallas W. Wilson	Arizona St. 15.7/9.7/1.3 Bl.*	<u>Bucks NBA #21</u>
Albert Jones 6'7"	Houston Worthing	New Mex.St 18.0/11.0*	<u>Draft Rock 106</u>
Kenneth Williams 6'1"	Houston Milby	Houston 19.6/ 4.0 Asst.*	<u>Draft Mav#194</u>
Billy Bailey 6'1"	S.A. McCollum	Pan American*	<u>Draft Spur 174</u>
Micah Owens 6'5"	S.A. Jefferson	New Mexico St. 10.1/6.0	
Cestrakiah Lewis 6'4"	Bay City	Lamar University 10.7/7.0	
Phil Hale 6'4"	S. Grand Prairie	S.M.U. 8.4/3.1	
Julio Gallardo 6'6"	El Paso Ysleta	Baylor 7.2/3.1	
Thad Sanders 6'4"	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	Texas Tech 6.2/3.0	
Jeff Kelly 6'7"	Houston Waltrip	Texas State, Team MVP*	

(*All-Conference)

All-Americans: Albert Jones made the Parade 4th team, Basketball Weekly 8th team and Street & Smith 2nd team.

National Ranking: El Paso Eastwood #15 by Basketball Weekly.

State Leaders: Julio Gallardo of El Paso Ysleta was the leading scorer in the state in class 4-A at 29.8 per game. Billy Bailey of S.A. McCollum was next at 26.1 per game. Arnold McDowell of San Angelo was 3rd at 25.5. Lister of Woodrow averaged 24.5 and O'Neal of Milby at 24.3. Rynn Wright of Dallas Roosevelt was the top scorer in Dallas at 24.0 along with Thomas Huffard of Dallas Pinkston at 24.0. The three top offensive teams were Pt. Arthur Lincoln 80.8, Bryan 79.5 and Victoria 80.6. With incomplete totals, S.O.C. averaged 88.2 points per game; Wheatley stats could not be used because of the ineligible player used in several games. Top defensive team was San Antonio Burbank allowing 48.1. The top teams in the state in point differential were Bryan at +21.6 and Pt. Arthur Lincoln was next at +18.2.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs- Chuck O'Neal of Houston Milby averaged 29.2 points per game; Houston Worthing(27), Houston Waltrip(26), Houston Lincoln(34), John Tyler(30):

Power Ranking:

1.	Clear Lake	37-4	92.23	Regional Semis	Loss PA Lincoln 63-60
2.	Bryan	31-3	91.19	Regional Semis	Loss John Tyler 89-83
3.	El Paso Eastwood	31-3	90.23	State Champions	Def. John Tyler 74-62
4.	Dallas S.O.C.	27-7	87.74	Regional Finals	Loss John Tyler 99-85
5.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	32-5	87.15	Regional Finals	Loss H. Milby 75-69
6.	S. Grand Prairie	31-2	86.13	Regional Finals 3-A	Loss Waxahachie
7.	Victoria	37-4	83.12	State Semis	Loss Eastwood 69-67 ot

The power ratings look pretty accurate. No real surprises except for South Grand Prairie not making the state tournament in class 3-A. Eastwood seemed to be the most flexible team by far with the ability to adapt to different styles. Whether playing big teams with strong inside strength or quick pressing teams they were the best all-around team. I think Bryan would have played them a very good game because the Vikings were excellent at pressing and Victoria took Eastwood into overtime with their press. Also, Bryan would have had the advantage inside with sophomore, 6'10" Rudy Woods. Clear Lake had a fine team and were strong all season.

Eastwood was the most talented team with ace Jim Bowden(13.0) and super quick, 5'10" Gil Shephard, 6'4" Tim Crenshaw, 6'4" Steve Wohlgemuth and 6'7" Darold Molix. They had four D-1 players.

Team that should have advanced to the State Tournament in Austin: The most glaring omission was obviously Houston Jones from the playoffs. They were one of the top teams in the state. Personally, as I state previously, I think Bryan had a real strong team and had some really unusual breaks losing to John Tyler.

After Bryan lost to Austin Johnston early in the season the Vikings rattled off 26 straight victories with only three games being single digit victories. Their margin of victory was 21.6 per game which was tops in the state. They were tough to handle because they had tremendous size in Rudy Woods and great athleticism. They avenged their early season loss the Austin Johnston(26-9) 82-73, and defeated Killeen(29-8) three out of four games with convincing victories. Bryan finished 31-3

1976 4-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso Eastwood(26-3) #14	73	El Paso Ysleta(22-9)	52
	Arl. Sam Houston(26-6) #19	75	Richardson(26-9) 2OT	70
	Lubbock Coronado(24-7)	59	Pampa(25-6) OT	56
	Wichita Falls(23-8)	78	Abilene(27-6) #4 2OT	72
Region I Semis	El Paso Eastwood(27-3) #14	71	Arl. Sam Houston(27-6) #19	68
	Wichita Falls(24-8)	75	Lubbock Coronado(25-7)	72
Region I Finals	El Paso Eastwood(28-3) #14	65	Wichita Falls(25-8)	44
Region II Bi-Dist.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-3) #8	76	Ft. Worth Southwest(28-6)	61
	Dallas S.O.C.(25-6) #3	76	Dallas Samuel(26-9) OT	75
	Bryan(30-2) #6	83	Spring Branch(30-7)	61
	Tyler John Tyler(26-4) #9	82	Plano(23-11)	75
Region II Semis	Dallas S.O.C.(26-6) #3	69	Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-3) #8	68
	Tyler John Tyler(27-4) #9	89	Bryan(31-2) #6	83
Region II Finals	Tyler John Tyler(28-4) #9	99	Dallas S.O.C.(27-6) #3	85
Region III Bi-Dist.	Houston Waltrip(29-8) #12	78	Klein(22-12)	56
	Houston Milby(22-11)	87	Houston Worthing(22-13)	74
	Clear Lake(36-3) #1	49	Galveston Ball(35-6)	46
	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(30-4) #10	58	Beaumont French(25-7)	52
Region III Semis	Houston Milby(23-11)	66	Houston Waltrip(30-8) #12	51
	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-4) #10	63	Clear Lake(37-3) #1	60
Region III Finals	Houston Milby(24-11)	75	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(32-4) #10	69
Region IV Bi-Dist.	SA Burbank(26-10)	60	SA Highlands(28-9)	53
	Victoria(33-3) #15	73	Austin Johnston(26-8) #20	52
	C.C. Moody(31-4) #17	60	Mission	57
	SA Fox Tech(23-14)		SA Holmes(26-8)	
Region IV Semis	Victoria(34-3) #15	44	SA Burbank(27-10)	34
	C.C. Moody(32-4) #17	62	SA Fox Tech(23-14)	61
Region IV Finals	Victoria(35-3) #15	72	CC Moody(33-4) #17	65
State Semi-Finals	Tyler John Tyler(29-4) #9	76	Houston Milby(25-11)	69
	El Paso Eastwood(29-3) #14	69	Victoria(36-3) #15 OT	67
State Finals	El Paso Eastwood(30-3) #14	74	Tyler John Tyler(30-4) #9	62

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1976 Top "50"}

1. El Paso Eastwood 31-3 {well balanced team that won the close games}
2. Victoria 36-4 {two wins over Houston Jones and loss to Eastwood in OT}
3. Tyler John Tyler 30-5 {beat Milby 76-69, Bryan 89-83 and S.O.C 99-85}
4. Bryan 31-3 {was 3-1 vs. Killeen, 1-1 against A. Johnston}
5. Houston Milby 25-12 {beat Jones in double overtime to win district 65-57}
6. Houston Jones 35-6 {lost in a district playoff in double OT to Milby 65-57}
7. Ft. Arthur Lincoln 32-5 {1-1 vs. Clear Lake, 2-0 vs. Pollard, loss to Milby}
8. Clear Lake 37-4 {beat Milby, S.O.C., Gal. Ball, split Deer Park & Lincoln}
9. South Oak Cliff 27-7 {3-1 vs. Roosevelt, 2-0 vs. Samuel, beat Dunbar 69-68}
10. Ft. Worth Dunbar 30-4 {defeated Wyatt for district and lost to S.O.C. by one}
11. Deer Park 31-7 {split with Clear Lake, finished 11-3 in 23-AAAA}
12. Galveston Ball 35-7 {beat Victoria 90-71 and 14-0 in Dist., loss to Lake by 3}
13. Pasadena 33-5 {finished 10-4 in 3rd place in district 23-AAAA}
14. Arl. Sam Houston 27-7 {won district 7-AAAA, lost to Eastwood in Reg-semis by 3}
15. Beaumont French 25-8 {defeated Pollard and loss to PA Lincoln in playoffs by 5}
16. Dallas Roosevelt 25-8 {was 1-3 against S.O.C., beat Arlington +2, Richardson +1}
17. Corpus C. Moody 33-5 {regional finals losing to Victoria by 72-65}
18. Dallas Samuel 26-10 {Won 11-AAAA over W. Wilson, lost to S.O.C. by one}
19. Houston Waltrip 30-9 {defeated Kashmere for district 74-69 in OT}
20. Bea. Pollard 33-6 {district runner-up to French}
21. H. Worthing 22-14 {won a district playoff with Lincoln, Lamar and Madison}
22. H. Madison 26-8 {district runner-up to Worthing, lost playoff}
23. Austin Johnston 26-9 {lost to Victoria by 19 in Bi-District and split with Bryan}
24. Wichita Falls 25-9 {defeated Ft.W. Richland twice in district, regional finals}
25. Abilene 27-7 {lost in double overtime in the playoffs to Wichita Falls}
26. Richardson 26-10 {beat Samuel 70-58, split with Plano, lost to Roosevelt}
27. Lub. Coronado 25-8 {beat Pampa in Bi-District, loss to Wichita Falls by 3}
28. Pampa 25-7 {lost to Lubbock Coronado by 3 in overtime}
29. Klein 22-13 {win over Clear Lake 60-56 and beat Smiley to win district}
30. H. Kashmere 21-10 {loss the district playoff to Waltrip in OT 74-69}
31. Marshall {lost the district playoff game to John Tyler}
32. Arlington 27-8 {district runner-up to Sam Houston}
33. Plano 23-11 {split Richardson, beat H.P. +1, loss to John Tyler by 7}
34. Spring Branch 30-8 {defeated Spring Woods to win district, loss Bryan in PO}
35. Spring Woods 30-5 {district runner-up to Spring Branch losing 56-53}
36. Victoria Stroman 24-14 {loss the district showdown against rival Victoria 65-63}
37. Houston Lamar 21-11 {lost a district playoff in 18-AAAA to Worthing}
38. Houston Lincoln 23-13 {lost a district playoff in 18-AAAA to Worthing}
39. Killeen 29-8 {lost a dist. playoff game to Bryan 73-54, 1-3 vs Vikings}
40. Dallas W. Wilson 21-9 {Alton Lister, lost to Samuel in a district playoff 57-49}
41. Houston Smiley 23-12 {lost a district playoff to Klein 42-40 in 20-AAAA}
42. El Paso Ysleta 22-10 {eliminated in Bi-District by Eastwood by 21}
43. Ft. W. Southwest 28-7 {loss to Dunbar twice, district runner-up}
44. S. B. Memorial 24-10 {finished tied for third in district 16-AAAA}
45. Cyp.-Fairbanks 25-12 {finished tied for third in district 16-AAAA}
46. H. Westchester 25-11 {finished tied for third in district 16-AAAA}
47. S. A. Burbank 27-11 {ousted in the regional semis by Victoria 44-34}
48. S. A. Fox Tech 23-15 {lost in the regional semi to Moody by one}
49. S. A. Highlands 28-10 {lost to Burbank by 7 in Bi-District}
50. S A. Holmes 26-8 {lost to Fox Tech in Bi-District}

1977 AAAA

The 1977 state tournament would be the last for Gregory Gym on the Campus of the University of Texas. The legendary court was named after former United States Attorney General, Thomas Watt Gregory, and served as home of the Texas Longhorns and state tournament for 46 years after its opening in 1930. Two things I remember about Gregory gym was the heat and the pigeons in the rafters above the court. On the lower levels you sat on bleachers, and everybody was crammed in tight. The gym only sat 6,000 fans and there was no reserve seating. The gates would open and it was first come first serve. You would be running to your seat trying to get a front row view. The Frank Erwin center opened in 1978 and would be better known as "The Drum", seating 16,231 fans. Texas High School basketball moved into the 21st century with the opening of the Erwin Center. For those lucky fans that got to see the tournament at Gregory it was a real treat. Only hardcore basketball fans enjoyed Gregory. For me it was one of the fondest memories of my years at the state tournament.

I'll never forget I met an older gentleman in 1977 who was watching his 50th state tournament. It was very hard to comprehend but I thought it would be neat to have that much of a passion for something. I never forgot the conversation and it left an impression on me. Last year was my 41st state tournament in a row. I hope I can make it to 50.

In the pre-season rankings for 1977 just a handful of teams would be making a strong bid for the state championship. Dallas and Houston would have the premier teams once again. And although Dallas representatives, South Oak Cliff and Roosevelt, didn't have the hardware to show like the Houston schools, they were strong forces on the basketball landscape. El Paso Eastwood surprised everybody by capturing the 1976 state title, and once again looked like a very formidable foe. Clear Lake would face a strong challenge just to get out of District from their arch rival Deer Park. For just pure talent the Beaumont/Pt. Arthur area had some of the finest athletes in the nation. A new emerging basketball hub surfaced in 1976 in the city of Ft. Worth and Dunbar. Several strong programs would represent the Cowtown over the next several seasons. Dunbar was a magnet school who could draw students from all of Ft. Worth. In 1974, Robert Hughes took over the reins and began molding a dynasty much as he had before at I.M. Terrell High School in Ft. Worth. Dunbar and Hughes would take high school basketball to new heights in the Lone Star state. The Wildcat fan base was the strongest in Texas over the next 30 years. Houston Madison was another program that would really impact Houston basketball. Paul Benton built Madison into the strongest program in Houston over the next ten years. The Marlins would rival

Wheatley, Kashmere, Yates and Milby and eventually become the dominate force in Houston basketball by the mid-1980s. Benton had coached at Dulles high school for 12 years before coming to Madison.

The collection of talent was outstanding at the 1976 Arlington Classic in early December. The Classic pitted the top programs in the state in an early season donnybrook. The Classic began in 1967 the brainchild of Barry Dowd, the U.T. Arlington basketball coach. Arlington Sam Houston's coach, John O'Bannon and Arlington High's coach, Dale Archer were also major contributors. After luring Houston Wheatley to the tournament, they were able to get some of the top programs from around the state to come to the tourney. The Wildcats gave the tournament credibility.

Ft. Worth Dunbar showed its power winning the tournament by defeating Dallas Roosevelt in the semi-finals 82-69, and Arlington High in the finals 76-72. Ralph McPherson of Arlington had one of the performances for the ages scoring 44 points in the championship game. It was one of the top individual performance in the 10-year history of the tournament. McPherson was named tournament M.V.P. and averaged 31 points a game in the tournament. S.O.C. lost a close one to Arlington in the semis 76-75, and defeated Roosevelt in the third-place game 89-74. John Otto of Arlington was the hero in the Colts win over S.O.C. when he hit a free throw after time had expired. Houston Wheatley lost in the first round to Arlington 80-68. So, the three teams that emerged from the tournament as clearly top ten teams were Arlington High, Ft. Worth Dunbar and South Oak Cliff. All-Tournament at the Classic were Griffin and Watley from Dunbar, Anthony Burns and Roshern Amie of Marshall, Cullen Mayfield and Arthur Williams of S.O.C., Rynn Wright of Dallas Roosevelt and Johnny Bautists of Grand Prairie.

In the Dr. Pepper tourney in Dallas the Wildcats of Ft. Worth Dunbar came in undefeated. Some great basketball was played during the tournament. Dallas Pinkston, under Coach James Finnell won their first two games to advance to the quarterfinals. Pinkston defeated Woodrow Wilson 63-48 and Dallas Adamson 72-60. Charles Law was the main stay for Coach Finnell at 6'5" along with Ollie Hoops. Pinkston had beaten Houston Wheatley in Houston 94-82. Their quarterfinal opponent would be Ft. Worth Dunbar. The Wildcats had beaten Highland Park 99-69. One Dallas coach even said Dunbar was the best team in the state. Coach Finnell commented, "We're going to have to compensate somehow for the big man in the middle." In the quarterfinals, Dunbar waltzed by Pinkston easily 96-73. Michael Watley, who later played at Arkansas, finished with 26 points and Ollie Hoops was top man for Pinkston with 25.

In the first day of action, Lake Highlands had two nice wins over Richardson 62-56 and Dallas W.T. White 62-57. Coach Jerry Wells had the Wildcats playing solid basketball. Lake Highlands improved their record to 14-4 and Richardson moved to 15-4. South Oak Cliff always peaked at the Dr. Pepper

tournament. The Golden Bears took out Thomas Jefferson 65-44 and Dallas Hillcrest 105-89. Mayfield led S.O.C. against the Rebels with 14 points and David Burns put up 28 points against Hillcrest. Dallas Carter had two talented twin towers in seniors, 6'6" Dwayne Scales and 6'6" Vernon Smith. The tandem was one of the best two-some to ever play in Dallas. In Dallas Carter's win over Rockwall, Smith hit 21 points in the 113-48 victory. In the Cowboys win over Sunset 76-53, Scales came away with a game high 20 points. Dallas Roosevelt looked good beating Dallas Jesuit 77-54 and Wilmer Hutchins 92-68. Rynn Wright had 13 points against Jesuit and Quinn Andrus led Coach Ellis Davis' team with 21 against Hutchins. Bryan Adams upset Dallas Skyline 67-56 and then took a drumming at the hands of Garland 93-70. The Owls drew Greenhill, a private school in the first round and killed them 98-35. Richardson Pearce surprised everybody coming away with two close wins over Dallas Spruce 58-57 and North Mesquite 65-62. Jim Steensma rattled in 33 points against North Mesquite. Steensma was 6'7" and was a strong inside player with several low post moves. Royce Cooper was still the man in charge with the Mustangs. Their last playoff appearance had been in 1970 in class AAA, and they finished tied for second on one occasion in 1971. Cooper was hoping his 1977 team would change the trend. Pearce shocked everybody defeating Garland High and Ricky Pierce 86-80 in double overtime in the quarterfinals. The Mustangs had trailed Garland at halftime by 15 points. The awesome one two punch for Pearce was made up of 6'3" Johnny Baxter and 6'7" Jim Steensma, both juniors. Both contributed 18 points apiece in the Pearce win. The Mustangs moved their record to 15-4.

S.O.C. continued its winning tradition in the Dr. Pepper beating Lake Highlands 87-59. David Burns had four dunks and led S.O.C. with 27 points. Mayfield was close behind with 23. The dunk was back in high school and college basketball. In a battle of 12-AAAA rivals, Dallas Roosevelt beat Carter 114-78. Michael Battle had 17 points and Rynn Wright added 17 for Roosevelt. Battle would later star at Baylor while Wright was all-conference at A&M. Scales turned in 22 points for Carter and later played with the Knicks and L.S.U. Dallas had never seen the talent that surfaced in 1977. Years later the 1977 crop of talent would be viewed as one of the best groups ever in Dallas school boy history.

In the semi-finals game S.O.C. matched-up against undefeated Dunbar and pulled away with another close win over the Wildcats 80-78. Ricky Phillips hit a 12-footer for S.O.C. with 2 second left in overtime that proved to be the difference. The finals were played at Loos Fieldhouse in front of 4,000 fans. The Golden Bears had called timeout with 8 seconds left to engineer the final basket. The play was actually set up for Phillips according to Coach Henson. With Mayfield and Arthur Williams in the line-up that was hard to believe. Dunbar's Michael Watley had a 1-1 situation with two seconds left in regulation that could have won the game. The Wildcats had been 8 for 8 up to that point from the foul line. "I told my kids that

Dunbar's coach had only defeated me one time since 1959," Coach Henson said. Two keys to the game were Griffin fouling out with 6:14 remaining, and Burns of S.O.C. leaving the game with 6:01 left. S.O.C. moved their record to 17-5. Cullen Mayfield was the smallest player of the court at 5'7" and tallied 24 points. Dunbar suffered their first loss moving their record to 20-1. Dallas Roosevelt manhandled the Mustangs of Pearce in the other semi-finals game winning 77-61. Roosevelt had lost three times during the season to Dunbar by 10, 11 and 14 points. After struggling early against Pearce the Mustangs of Pearce began to slow the tempo, which helped Roosevelt. Roosevelt moved their record to 17-5 on the season. Rynn Wright, the 6'5" powerfully built post finished high man with 24 points and Quinn Andrus added 16. Wright was so strong inside for a high school player. For Coach Cooper's Mustangs, Johnny Baxter had 18 and Steensma added 23.

The finals pitted two very familiar foes against one another in Dallas S.O.C. and Dallas Roosevelt. With the 12-AAAA campaign still ahead the two rivals were somewhat hesitant about going against one another. They had already played each other twice during the season, splitting the two meetings. Rynn Wright led the Mustangs with 33 points as Roosevelt defeated S.O.C. 87-84. David Burns, who would go on to play with the Nets in the N.B.A., contributed 35 points. Burns missed most of the 1st period due to foul trouble.

"It seems like a miracle," said Coach Ellis Davis. "I thought we'd never win one of these championships. I'd like to forget that night in 1972 when we lost to Spruce." S.O.C. trailed 80-68 mid-way through the 4th quarter, but S.O.C. eventually cut into the lead. Cullen Mayfield missed a layup that could have pulled S.O.C. within one point. Mayfield had 18 points and Quinn Andrus had 14 points for Roosevelt along with Battle and Marcus Jones both finishing with 14. "I'll tell you the District is really going to be strong, last season was a junior oriented year and they are all back with experience. I thought a lot about bringing these kids to a peak because I do think you can peak too early," Davis said.

Dunbar took third place defeating Pearce 88-62 with Watley scoring 18 points for the Wildcats and Steensma scoring 30 for the Mustangs. Those are very impressive numbers when you consider Steensma was going against 6'9" James Griffin. Dunbar took control of the game early leading 46-23 at halftime. Woodrow Wilson beat Kimball 67-66 to win consolation. You had to add Dallas Roosevelt to the conversation as one of the top teams in the state with the Dr. Pepper title. All-Tournament at the Dr. Pepper- Rynn Wright won the M.V.P. of the tourney, David Burns and Cullen Mayfield of S.O.C., Jim Steensma of Pearce, Michael Watley and James Griffin, Ricky Pierce of Garland, Stafford Counts of Denton, Dewayne Scales of Carter, Ollie Hoops of Pinkston(best basketball name ever) and Michael Battle of Roosevelt.

At the Houston Jaycee tournament, the city had some unbelievable talent. Everybody would be showcased at the tournament. Deer Park stood at 19-1,

Houston Jones 18-1, Houston Reagan 17-2, and Houston Milby at 17-2. Of course, Wheatley was always formidable as well as Houston Kashmere. In the early rounds, Cypress Fairbanks upset Kashmere(22-9) 66-57, Deer Park beat Houston Furr 90-76, Galveston Ball(27-7) beat Forest Brook 82-75, Houston Austin beat Lamar Consolidated 89-67, Houston Jones dropped Houston Sterling(24-10) 72-64, Wheatley beat Sharpstown 88-85, Milby beat Yates(23-9) 86-76, Houston Austin beat Houston Madison 84-79, Deer Park beat Houston Williams 47-44, Houston Sterling beat Aldine Carver 91-45 and Houston Washington upset Wheatley 79-71. In the quarterfinals, Cypress Fairbanks(31-5) continued its upset streak beating Deer Park 47-41. Deer Park had been the pre-tournament favorite. Houston Stratford(26-9) beat Houston Washington(26-4) 71-57 for another upset, Houston Jones dropped Galveston Ball(27-7) 98-73 and Houston Milby(28-8) continued their winning by defeating Houston Austin(8-24) 86-76. In the semi-finals of the Jaycee tournament, Jones ousted Milby 73-64 and Cypress Fairbanks advanced in low scoring affair over Houston Stratford 38-36. For Jones, some brilliant young talent was emerging. Against Milby, Houston Jones saw 6'4" Ricky Thompson contribute 16 points, Roy Jones finished with 20 and Ed Williams scored 15 points.

In the 3rd place game, Milby dropped Stratford 47-46 and in the finals Houston Jones captured the tournament championship for the second year in a row beating Cy-Fair 63-49. Ricky Thompson once again led all scorers with 21 points while Cy-Fair was led by junior, Alan Howard, with 16 and Robin Hood with 13. Houston Jones came out of the tournament without question one of the top team in Houston with a 24-1 record, while Cy-Fair would be a team that had to be dealt with at 18-3. Young Ricky Thompson of Houston Jones was only a sophomore and one of the top players in the state. Some of the standout performers in the tournament were Larry Hendrix of Stratford, Randy Woodard of Sterling, 6'2" Randy Richards of Sharpstown, Edwin Miles of Kashmere, Don Nottebart of Westbury, Malcolm Edwards of Furr, Mike Thompson of Reagan, Perryman Collins of Lee, Phillip Flores of Worthing, Victor Young of Houston Lincoln, Mike Breslin of Bellaire.

Looking at a closer break down of the state's top teams revealed this was going to be one of the strongest seasons in the state history. Dallas had its strongest group of talent ever and Houston was always well stocked with outstanding players. What made the state so much more competitive than usual was El Paso Eastwood was loaded once again, Dunbar looked like possibly the most talented squad to ever come out of Ft. Worth, and San Antonio Burbank had arguably the best player in the state in 6'11" Gilbert Salinas. Basketball was becoming so competitive in every corner of the state. Not only did the inner-city programs continue to turn out talent, but the schools in the suburbs were now having improved full time basketball programs and straight basketball players in the gym year-round. Coaching was improving by leaps and bounds.

Region I

E.P.Eastwood(31-1) #1

Abilene Cooper(27-7)

Pampa(24-5) #18

Ft. Worth Dunbar(35-1)#2

El Paso Andress(26-7)

Wichita Falls Rider(23-10)

Hereford(22-11)

Arlington(30-2) #6

Top Five in Region I

6'9" James Griffin, Ft. Worth Dunbar; 6'8" Terry White, El Paso Eastwood; 6'3" Michael Watley, Ft. Worth Dunbar; 6'7" Ralph McPherson, Arlington; 6'4" Tim Crenshaw, El Paso Eastwood:

The battle to see who would advance to Austin in Region I was pretty much going to be settled by the states two top ranked teams, Ft. Worth Dunbar and El Paso Eastwood. El Paso Eastwood held down the top spot in the state polls for the entire season. As defending class 4-A state champions it was their right. This was probably a more talented squad than their championship team from the year before. Pacing the Troopers were 6'4" Tim Crenshaw and 6'8" Darold Molix. Joining Molix on the frontline was 6'8" junior, Terry White. All three would join forces during their college careers at U.T.E.P. 6'5" Bill Wilke and 6'4" Eric Smith rounded out a talented starting lineup. Eastwood's inside game just over powered opponents. With no three-point line in 1977 a team's inside game took on a great deal more importance than in today's game. Eastwood's only loss came early in the season in a controversial overtime loss to El Paso Bowie 57-52. Coach Bob Lesley built Eastwood's program into the best in El Paso and one of the top programs in the state. The Troopers were going to be hard to beat for the Region I ticket to Austin. Eastwood dominated opponents by a scoring margin of plus 16.5 per game. The Troopers three year run from 1976 through 1978 was impressive at 89-9. In 1977 Eastwood's record stood at 30-1, as they prepared for the playoffs.

Coach Robert Hughes Wildcats of Dunbar were ranked #2 in state behind Eastwood. Hughes had slowly but surely building a quality program for the Wildcats. Dunbar was 12-12 in 1974 followed by a 19-12 campaign in 1975, and advanced all the way to regionals in 1976, finishing 30-4. Dunbar returned almost their entire squad from the previous season and was one of the favorites to win state. The team was centered around 6'9" junior post, James Griffin(14.7). Griffin was the top big man to ever play at Dunbar, and one of the best big men in the state during the decade. After high school Griffin went on to star at the University of Illinois and was later drafted by the N.B.A. It was not as if Griffin was alone. Michael Watley, a 6'3" guard, was an elite player as was 6'0" Cletus Hubbard. Watley signed with Eddie Sutton and Arkansas upon graduation. The Razorbacks were one of the top programs in the country during the mid-to late 1970s. Although Dunbar was ranked behind Eastwood in the state polls they had played a much more competitive schedule than the Troopers. The Wildcats only loss had

come at the hands of South Oak Cliff at the Dr. Pepper tournament. Once again, the state rankings were very questionable. Dunbar held three wins over Dallas Roosevelt, the top team in Dallas during the regular season. The Wildcat's had beaten the Arlington High during the regular season. The Colts were 11-0 at the time and finished the regular season at 31-2. Dunbar had a solid 72-6 win over Garland High(24-11), who was led by future N.B.A. standout Ricky Pierce and coached by Goree Johnson. The Wildcats were clearly the top team in the state moving into the playoffs.

The only other team given a chance to make it out of Region I were the Arlington Colts. They were led by one of the best offensive players in the state, 6'7" Ralph McPherson(25.0). McPherson would sign with Texas Tech out of high school, but would later go on to star at U.T. Arlington. McPherson was a late round draft pick of the Dallas Mavericks out of college. The Colts had a very talented team with victories over Houston Wheatley(26-9) 80-68, Dallas S.O.C.(35-8) 76-75, and Lake Highlands(21-11) 85-66. Arlington could not be overlooked.

In the first round of the Region I playoffs or what was called then, Bi-District. Today this round would be Regional Quarterfinals. The games were very competitive. With only 32 teams in the entire playoff system every game was going to be impactful. The only real tough matchup in Region I in the first round of course was between Arlington High(30-2) and Dunbar(35-1) at Daniel Meyer Coliseum on the campus of T.C.U. Two of the top teams in the state would battle it out to see who would advance to regionals in Abilene. Arlington, after their early season loss to Dunbar, was on a 20-game winning streak. Dunbar had a 15-game winning streak of their own. The Colts had dominated District defeating District rival, Ft. Worth Richland(23-6) convincingly 75-45 and 71-52. Arlington Coach, Dale Archer commented that the Wildcats were easily the most balanced team he had faced all season. "All five men they have on the court can hurt you. You can't concentrate on just two or three players," Archer commented. Dunbar's problem would be controlling McPherson who averaged 25.0 points per game along with 14 rebounds. The game proved to be no contest as Dunbar raced out to a 50-31 halftime lead and never looked back. McPherson was all the Colts had scoring 31 points, but most his points came late against the Wildcats reserves. Dunbar's balanced attack was too much winning 97-79. Dunbar finished the game with 51 rebounds compared to Arlington's 27. Arlington finished the season at 31-3 with two of the losses coming to Dunbar.

El Paso Eastwood(31-1) advanced over El Paso Andress(25-7) 68-65. The game was much closer game than anticipated. Eastwood forward, 6'4" Tim Crenshaw hit a 15-footer with 22 seconds left with his team down 65-64 for the win. Jerry Krampen added two free throws to make the final 68-65. Andress was coached by Phil Hilliard. Standouts for Andress were 6'3" Thad Hayes(10.2/6.8),

6'5" Allen Bonds(10.5/10.2), 6'4" Jack Bell(9.9/8.8) and 6'2" Coney Luke(10.0/ 5.0). On the All-District team for 1-AAAA only Bonds was named to the first team. Eastwood's starters consisted of 6'8" junior, Terry White(13.5/11.4), 6'7" Darold Molix(12.3/7.0), 6'4" Tim Crenshaw(14.1) and 6'4" Mike Chapman(11.4) and 5'11" Jerry Krampen. The Troopers of Eastwood were led in scoring against Andress by Molix with 23 points, White and Crenshaw finished with 14 points apiece. Unfortunately, Eastwood was hit really hard by the flu bug in the week leading up to regionals. Maybe that explained the close score against Andress. Krampen and Terry White were both questionable prior to the game. Both played but were not at full speed. Andress head coach, Phil Hilliard tried to take advantage of his team overall quickness, "We felt we had to press, to put the accent on our quickness and speed." Allen Bonds, who was Andress best inside player, got into foul trouble and his time was limited in the 2nd half.

Wichita Falls Rider(23-10) defeated Abilene Cooper(27-7) 57-50 at Wisdom Gym at Tarleton State. Rider coach Kenneth West counted on 6'4" Gerrick Stevenson(20.0), 6'5" Anthony Lyons(14.1), Herbert Palmer(14.4) and 6'5" football tackle, David Bush, while Cooper countered with Terry Orr, Doug Flumming, Keith Turner and Sam Houston. Orr was considered one of the top football players in the country his senior year. 5'8" Herbert Palmer was the difference for Rider hitting 20 points, mostly from the outside against Cooper's zone. Cooper Coach, Marc Case said, "Those were the shots you are going to get against the zone and they knocked them down."

In West Texas, Coach Robert McPherson of the Pampa(24-5) Harvesters captured their third straight District title. Their Bi-District opponent would be the Whitefaces of Hereford(22-11) who were making their first appearance in the playoffs since 1960. Hereford had won a District showdown against Plainview 50-39 to capture the District title. Hereford used the delay game to keep the ball away from the taller Plainview players. Hereford Coach, Barry Arnwine, said it was not a delay game as such because his team was trying to score, the only way it would be a delay was if they didn't pick us up defensively. We were just trying to spread the court. Hereford was paced by 6'1" James Mays(18.0) with 12 points and 6'3" Kenneth Mercer finished with 15 points and 16 rebounds in the win over Plainview. Other starters for Hereford were guard, 5'11" Kelly Kitchens(17.1), 6'0" Jim Lawson(6.8), and 5'10" Mike O'Rand(8.1). Kitchen's was the Whitefaces main outside shooting threat. "We have to have the smallest 4-A playoff team in the state," Coach Barry Arnwine stated. Coach McPherson of Pampa felt that Hereford's leaping ability made them play much bigger than they were. For Pampa, they would be paced by one of the top guards in West Texas, 6'0" Rayford Young(19.5). The lightning quick guard was named the 3-AAAA Player of the Year by the District coaches. "We have to do a good job on Young," Coach Arnwine said, "We can't let him bomb us from outside." Other players Coach McPherson would

be counting on would be 6'4" Don Hughes(12.1), 6'4" Rusty Ward(14.0/5.9), 6'4" Ricky Burton(14.3/10.3) and 6'3" Brian Bailey(12.9). Pampa would have a big size advantage in the game. The Harvesters liked the up-tempo game but Coach McPherson feared that late in the game if they were trailing Hereford, the Whitefaces would pull the ball out and go into their delay game. Pampa was looking to get out of the first round of the playoffs for the first time in three seasons. In Coach McPherson's four District titles in the previous seven seasons, his team had never advanced to regionals. The contest was played at West Texas State University Fieldhouse in Canyon.

In front of 3,300 fans, Pampa(24-5) advanced to regionals for the first time since 1965, beating Hereford(22-11) 60-54. Pampa was up 43-42 going into the final quarter. The game was close throughout. James Mays was outstanding for Hereford with 20 points. "That James Mays is some kind of player," Coach McPherson said after the game, "He never did give up." Kitchens finished with 16 points for Hereford, but was 0-5 in the first half and had trouble with the Pampa's pressure. For Pampa, Coach McPherson was excited about his team's guard play. "Rayford and Brian played tremendous for us and Tim Reddell came off the bench and played well." The Harvesters won a close rebound battle 36-34.

The bad news for Pampa is now they would have to travel to Regionals in Abilene. Waiting for Pampa was the #2 team in the state, and #28 in the nation according to Basketball Weekly. Ft. Worth Dunbar at 34-1 was going to be a handful. The Wildcats played in one of the toughest Districts in the state and finished 16-0. District 7-AAAA won 71% of the games outside of District action going 73-29 overall. If Pampa got lucky enough to upset Dunbar the #1 team in the state awaited the Harvesters, El Paso Eastwood at 30-1. The Harvesters would be running the gauntlet, all in the same day. Coach McPherson was more upset about the tournament format than the opponent. "We practice all season to go to the state playoffs and we are looking at playing two games in one day," McPherson said. "All the teams will be in town Friday night, I don't see why we can't play Friday evening."

In the regional Semi-Finals in Abilene, Coach Robert Hughes commented about his preparation for Pampa. "We don't know anything about Pampa outside of the fact that they won their District, they must be pretty good or they wouldn't still be playing." That was typical about Coach Hughes basketball philosophy, he was much more concerned about his team and how they would play than his opponent. Hughes wasn't going to change anything about what the Wildcats would do to adapt to his opponent. No scouting. "We will play our man to man defense and run," Hughes said. The legendary Hughes also was not happy about the format of playing two games in one day, even though his team was extremely deep. "I don't know what the big hurry is all about." Hughes said. Coach McPherson of Pampa said his team would slow the game down and make the Wildcats play

defense. "If we can hold them to 55 or 60 points we'll win the ballgame," McPherson said.

In front of 4000 fans in Abilene, Pampa(25-5) gave a very good account of themselves and West Texas basketball trailing 48-44 with only 2:07 remaining in the game. James Griffin of Dunbar had two slam dunks and the Wildcats pulled away winning by ten 66-56. Griffin finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds, followed by Hubbard with 11 points and 9 rebounds. The leading scorer for Dunbar, Michael Watley was held to only 7 points by Pampa's Brian Bailey. Bailey did an outstanding defensive job guarding the Arkansas recruit. Bailey led the Harvesters in scoring also with 16 points and Young was held to single digits with 9 points. Dunbar had only been out rebounded once all season and won the rebounding battle 48-35. Coach McPherson said after the game, "We played about as well as we could, if we would have run with them they would have run us out of the gym. It's hard to play against people like that – if we would play with people like Dunbar day in and day out in the Panhandle, we'd be as good or better than they are." Coach Hughes commented after the game, "Pampa is one of the better ball clubs we've played this year,"

E.P. Eastwood beat Wichita Falls Rider(24-10) 68-57, scoring the last eight points of the game. Gerrick Stevenson led the Rider attack finishing with 22 points. This set up the matchup between the two top rated teams in the state in the Regional Finals. The game was billed as the real state championship game between El Paso Eastwood and Ft. Worth Dunbar. Eastwood's two 6'8" bookends Molix and Terry White vs. Dunbar's, 6'9" James Griffin and the outstanding guard play of Michael Watley. The 3,800 fans showed up to the regional finals and they were not disappointed. The teams were tied at the end of the 1st quarter 20-20, at halftime 33-33, and at the end of the 3rd quarter Dunbar had moved in front 51-48. The Wildcats pulled away finally for a 68-63 victory and their first trip to Austin and the state tournament. The difference was the outside shooting by Michael Watley and Jeffrey Kirvin of the Wildcats. Most of the fans in Abilene were supporters of Dunbar, which would become a strong tradition for the Wildcats through the years. Dunbar dominated the boards against the larger Eastwood team 48-35. Griffin finished with 13 points and 11 rebounds, Watley had 14 points and 10 rebounds, Thomas Glenn with 13 points and 13 rebounds. High flyer Glenn and Griffin were playing well above the rim. Cletus Hubbard, who finished with 16 points, was the leading scorer for the balanced Wildcat attack. For Eastwood, Terry White led the Troopers with 24 points and 10 rebounds. White had transferred in from New York City and was one of the top players in the state and would have a fine college career at U.T.E.P. White carried Eastwood's offensive effort throughout the regional tournament, finishing with 45 points in two games. Crenshaw poured in 16 points against Dunbar while Molix had 11 and Chapman 10.

Eastwood finished 33-2. With the score 66-61 Dunbar finished up the game in a stall.

Region II

Garland(24-10)

Dallas Hillcrest(17-10)

Tyler Lee(33-2) #10

Bryan(22-6) #17

Irving High(27-4) #20

Dallas S.O.C.(30-8) #14

Richardson(28-6)

Temple(24-4)

Top Five in Region II

5'7" Cullen Mayfield, Dallas South Oak Cliff; 6'8" Vernon Smith, Dallas Carter; 6'5" Rynn Wright, Dallas Roosevelt; 6'2" David Burns, Dallas S.O.C.; 6'4" Ricky Pierce, Garland, 6'6" Dwayne Scales, Dallas Carter:

Region II was so competitive because of all the talented squads in Dallas. Unfortunately for everybody involved only one team would earn the right to advance to the state playoffs. Three of the top teams in the state were in the same District, 12-AAAA. Dallas Roosevelt at 30-6, S.O.C. at 28-8 and Dallas Carter at 24-8 all had outstanding teams. As for talent, Dallas Carter took a backseat to nobody, with two of the top recruits in the state. The talented tandem of 6'6" Vernon Smith and 6'6" Dwayne Scales paced the Carter Cowboys. Cowboy coach Alex Gillum was never short on words describing the gifted twosome. The pair averaged 24 and 20 points per game respectively and Carter scored 88 points a game. Smith teamed up with Rynn Wright from Roosevelt at Texas A&M, winning the Southwest Conference championship in 1980. The Carter Cowboys also played a murderous schedule facing Houston Wheatley(28-6) twice, and Houston Kashmere(22-9). Carter lost all three games. The Cowboys defeated Garland(24-11) 89-88, and split with Dallas Kimball(19-10).

In the state ranking, Roosevelt came in at #6 and S.O.C. at #14 and Dallas Carter Cowboys at #15. I heard there was a more updated ranking, but I was unable to obtain it. I don't know if it wasn't published or what. Roosevelt was paced by two division one talents in 6'5" Rynn Wright(24.9 pts.,19.6 reb.) and 6'4" Michael Battle(19.0). The Mustangs had played a gauntlet of teams during the season. They were 2-1 against Dallas Carter(24-8), 0-3 against Ft. Worth Dunbar, beat Garland High(24-11) 83-72, Richardson High(28-7) 73-72, and seemed to have S.O.C.'s number defeating them three out of four games, leading into the last week of the regular season. Then disaster struck for Coach Ellis Davis' Mustangs. Star post, Rynn Wright rolled his ankle and looked like he was through for the season. Without Wright at full speed, the Mustangs were not the same, losing the last regular season contest to S.O.C. 95-76. With the two teams tied the Golden Bears won the District playoff game, 81-67. Roosevelt would be missing playoffs like so many other outstanding teams.

The Golden Bears at one point during the season had trailed Roosevelt by two full games in the league standings. Cullen Mayfield, the 5'7"-point guard for

S.O.C. admitted that he had thought the season was over until Dallas Carter upset Roosevelt to revive the Bears season. The Cowboys defeated Roosevelt in a very controversial game mid-way through District 86-84. Before 3,500 fans at Loos Field House the Cowboys called timeout with seconds remaining up by two 84-82. On the ensuing play, Michael Battle of Roosevelt stole the ball, and with 11 seconds remaining tied the score 84-84 with a dunk. Tim Freeman of Carter came right back and penetrated the lane and was fouled with five seconds remaining. In all the confusion, it was Vernon Smith who stepped to the foul line and sunk both foul shots. The Roosevelt crowd yelled in disbelief. Freeman had just missed earlier on the front end of a one and one situation. "I'm not going to say who should have been at the line, but we do have films of the game," Coach Ellis Davis said. The game was still not over as Marcus Jones from the Mustangs was fouled by Freeman, and went to the line shooting a one-an-one. Jones missed the front end and the game was over. "It came off just like we wanted," said Cowboy coach, Alex Gillum. Wright got into foul trouble and missed most of the 2nd quarter. Wright still finished with 19 points in the Mustangs losing effort. Battle finished with 14 points and collected his 3rd foul with 4:57 left in the half. Both drew their fourth personals early in the 3rd period. Scales finished with 27 points and 16 rebounds while Vernon Smith had an incredible evening hitting 34 points and 32 rebounds. Roosevelt moved to 24-6 on the season and 6-1 in District action while Carter went to 20-6 and 6-1 in District. S.O.C. was only a game back at 5-2. The Mustangs had earlier defeated Dallas Carter by 36 points in the Dr. Pepper tournament. Earlier in the District campaign, Carter had beat S.O.C. 99-83 at Sprague Field House in East Dallas. Scales had 29 points and Vernon Smith finished with 33. Arthur Williams was high man for the Golden Bears with 33 points. S.O.C. gained revenge later beating the Cowboys 84-76. The score was not as close as it appeared with Coach Henson's crew up at halftime by 20 points. Mayfield had 36 point for S.O.C. and Smith scored 30 for Carter. The three powerhouse teams had played each other twice in District action and split with each other at one game apiece.

The team that would represent District 12-AAAA was the South Oak Cliff Golden Bears, coached by Euril Henson. The Bears were fast and faster with 5'7" point guard, Cullen Mayfield(20.0) at the helm. On the wings was track star, Arthur Williams(16.0/14.0) a 6'3" guard, and 6'2" David Burns(22.0/12.0) who was a leaper and great outside shooter. The backcourt was the best in the state and one of the best in Dallas's long history of high school basketball. I'm not saying that from a recruiting stand point, but rather a combined tandem. Burns and Mayfield averaged 42 points per game together and both could handle the ball. Mayfield would go on to star at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls. Burns played at Navarro JC, St. Louis University, and played a short time in the N.B.A. In the front court was 6'4" Ricky Phillips and 6'2" Mark Coleman. Wing, Arthur Williams played

at North Texas State. The Golden Bears also had a very deep bench. Coach Henson loved to play a lot of players and press the entire game. At 30-8, S.O.C. entered the playoffs with a lot of momentum.

The 12-AAAA All-District squad looked to many like an all-state team. The first team was made up of David Burns and Mayfield from S.O.C., Rynn Wright of Roosevelt, Smith from Dallas Carter and Ollie Hoops from Pinkston. Hoops was considered one of the top scorers in the state at 30 points per game and one of the top outside shooters around. He would later sign with S.M.U. The 2nd team was just as gifted with Scales of Carter, 6'5" Steve Jackson(18.0) of Dallas Kimball, Quinn Andrus and Michael Battle of Roosevelt and Arthur Williams of S.O.C. Honorable mention was an honor in this District. Kevin Jones, and Phillip Crawford of Roosevelt, Harwyn Bradford, Wendall Holmes, Jim Hunter and William Fisher of Kimball, Mark Coleman and Ricky Phillips of S.O.C., Clint Turner and Isaac White of North Dallas, Tony Barrett and Alton Breedlove of Carter, Charles Hunter of Pinkston. Wright and Mayfield tied for player of the year honors. The team was named before the playoffs.

Other contenders for the Region II title included Irving High(27-4), coached by Mike Kunststadt and led by Andy Sears(16.0), Fred Stephenson(19.0) and 6'5" Robert Jones, Fernando King, Bill Beavan, and David Smith. Garland High(24-10) had played one of the most competitive schedules in the state. The Owls were centered around Ricky Pierce(28.0) and his enormous afro. Pierce was a junior, averaged 28 points a game and 18 rebounds. At 6'5", the multi talent Pierce was not alone with a strong supporting cast of 6'1" Donnie Love and 6'6" Sylvester Price. Love averaged 18 points and 12 rebounds and would go on to star on the football field at the University of Houston. On the 9-AAAA All-District team in 1977, Garland was well represented. Pierce was named District M.V.P., Love was named to the first team, Sylvester Price made the 2nd team and Leon Fernandez(12.0) and Ken Watters were named Honorable Mention.

The Bi-District clash between Irving and Garland took place at Moody Coliseum on the campus of S.M.U. The Tigers of Irving trailed most of the game, due in part to Sears having to sit after picking up his 3rd foul in the first quarter. The Tigers came back and tied things at 58 apiece with just 1:44 remaining in the game. Fred Stephenson and David Smith brought Irving back with their outside shooting. Stephenson had eight of his 19 points in the fourth quarter. David Smith ended up with 16 points on the evening. He hit two 20-footers, which moved the Tigers into the lead 62-59 with 48 seconds remaining. Donnie Love of Garland hit two foul shots, but Smith iced the game for Irving with a pair of foul shots. The Irving Tigers eliminated the Garland Owls 64-63. For the Owls, Ricky Pierce was held to only 16 points with everybody denying him the ball. Coach Mike Kunststadt said after the game, "We've got good shooters, we just had to be patient." The Owls led at halftime 36-28. "Garland controlled the tempo early," Kunststadt said. "We had to

make some adjustments late in the game because we finally stopped Love.” Love had 15 points at halftime. “We decided to work on Love, Robert Jones did a fine job in stopping him.” Owls post, Sylvester Price finished with 14 points. For Irving, 6’5” Andy Sears finished with 9 points and 7 rebounds. Irving moved on to regionals with a 28-4 record and Garland finished out the season at 24-11. Tyler Lee(33-2), out of East Texas, had a very impressive team with all five starters averaging in double figures. Very little was known about the East Texas school, but they had 6’4” Uirdell Howland(12.3). Howland was one of the top juniors in the state who signed with Texas his senior year. He was very athletic. 6’5” Craig Hudeck(11.5), 6’2” Fred Marshall(10.2), 6’0” Billy Brown(11.0) and 6’0” D’Boy Johnson(11.2) led a balanced attack. The Red Raiders were #10 in the final state poll. Every year the East Texas schools were overlooked by the state polls, but they made strong runs in the playoffs year after year. Richardson High school had a strong basketball tradition with District titles in 1969, 1971, 1973, 1976 and a co-title in 1970. Former A&M basketball standout Ken Norman was in his fourth season as coach, having replaced Jerry Stone. Stone went on to fame at Midland J.C. with Spud Webb, and a national junior college championship. The Richardson Eagles a very competitive team. The Warbirds had come within one point of Dallas Roosevelt during the regular season. This was a great indication of the talent level with the Eagles. Richardson(28-7) had four players that averaged in double figures, led by 6’5” Ken Ord(18.0) and 6’0” high flyer, Kelly Newsome(13.0).

Richardson was forced to play Denison(25-5) to capture the District title. The Eagles played an exciting game at the new “Super Pit” in Denton against the Yellowjackets. The game came down to a controversial goal tending call, which proved to be the winning basket for the Eagles 47-46. Allen Kernion led the Eagles with 15 points. Charles Jenkins of Denison was one of the top players in North Texas, finished with 20 points, 9 rebounds, 3 steals and 5 blocks. Jenkins was also the player called for the goal tending call.

In Bi-District, Richardson(28-7) faced Tyler Lee(34-2) at Pearce High School in Richardson. This was clearly an advantage for the Eagles. The Eagles were very familiar with the court and didn’t have to travel two hours by bus. Tyler Lee would be entering the playoffs for the first time in 15 years while Richardson had been a regular in the playoffs. The East Texas representative was always tough and Tyler Lee was no exception. Lee had defeated Marshall to represent the District in a close 53-52 win. Marshall had two of the top recruits in the entire state in 6’8” Roshern Amie and 6’8” Anthony Burns. Both enjoyed fine college careers at U.T.E.P. under Don Haskins. Eagles coach, Ken Norman(38) said his team would have to play their best game of the season in order to beat Tyler Lee. The Eagles head man was very impressed with the Rebels balance and point guard, D’Boy Johnson. Johnson had been looked at by a lot of college recruiters. The Rebels dominated the game inside and built up a big lead 56-41 going into the fourth

quarter. Tyler Lee's 2-3 zone gave the Eagles problems, and inside 6'5" Hudeck and 6'4" Howland almost scored at will against Richardson. Tyler Lee closed out the 75-63 win and advanced to regionals. Ken Ord was the tallest Eagle at 6'4", and was at a disadvantage against Tyler Lee's athletic team. Billy Brown finished high scorer for Lee with 19 points and D'Boy Johnson had 15. Kelly Newsome was the leader for Richardson with 19 points.

Bryan high school captured their District title by defeating Cypress-Fairbanks(31-5) 62-51 in a District playoff. Led by one of the top juniors in the nation, 6'10" Rudy Woods, Bryan was a team with experience and talent. In 1976, Bryan had advanced to the regional semifinals losing to Tyler John Tyler 89-83. Bryan was coached by Bobby Perry. Remember Cypress-Fairbanks had played in the finals of the Jaycees tournament in Houston before the Christmas Holidays.

(38) Norman had teamed up with John Paul Fultz of the University of Texas to form one of the top front courts in the state during the 1960s at Dallas Samuell(28-4). Fultz of course was the head man at Samuell.

In Bi-District, Bryan(22-6) was matched up against Temple(25-4), out of Central Texas. The Wildcats of Temple centered their game around 6'7" Maurice McDaniel(16.0) and David James(15). McDaniel was a talented junior. Following his senior year he signed originally with the University of Florida, and later transferred to Texas A&M. McDaniel had turned down scholarship offers from Arkansas and Clemson. The Nuggets took McDaniel with the 153rd pick in the NBA draft. McDaniel would be facing 6'10" Rudy Woods of Bryan. The state of Texas was so loaded with talent during the '77 campaign. The game was played in Waco and the Vikings prevailed 52-48. Kermit Wilson led Bryan with 16 points and Woods contributed 13. Bryan took the lead with four minutes remaining 47-42, and Temple cut the lead to 3 with 51 second remaining. The Wildcats were unable to get any closer.

S.O.C. destroyed Dallas Hillcrest(17-10) 84-57 for the city championship and Bi-District clash. Ricky Phillips, a 6'4" post from S.O.C., put up impressive numbers against Hillcrest with 10 points, 8 rebounds and 7 blocks. "We played right into their hands," Hillcrest coach Larry Jones said. "We didn't want to run with them and we knew we couldn't. We tried to slow it down, but just weren't discipline enough." The Golden Bears jumped out to a 23-6 lead and led at halftime. S.O.C. finished the game with 12 steals with Mark Coleman and Arthur Williams both contributing 3 steals apiece. Mayfield finished with 23 points and Burns had 15 points and Williams added 13. Coach Euril Henson played his bench the last six minutes of the game. Joey Hubbard totaled 20 points for Hillcrest. Coach Jones was missing the talents of point guard Mitch Myers who came to him before game, and said he was too weak to play. Myers was battling the flu. "Sure,

it hurt us," Jones said, "Mitch is the one we count on to work the offense. We needed his quickness out there." Henson confided after the game, "This is a better team than last year, they've been around each other longer and the team is more together." Henson had already announced that he would be retiring at the end of the season.

In the regional semi-finals in College Station, four teams played to see who would advance to Austin. Back in 1977, the regionals were played all in one day with morning games, and the two winners meeting in the evening. S.O.C. was making their 5th consecutive regional visit with their second coach. The Golden Bears would be taking on one of the best coaches in the state in Mike Kunstadt of Irving High. Kunstadt said coming into the contest against S.O.C., "We have the ability to play good defense and we'll have to do that. S.O.C. is a good fast break team, and we must stop their easy baskets, and we'll try to run with them too." Of course, Kunstadt was laying a little bait for S.O.C., saying he would be running with them. Irving opened the game in a four-corner offense, running a slowdown game. Irving trailed most of the game in part because Sears picked up his third foul in the first quarter, and had to sit out much of the early going. S.O.C. cruised to a 57-48 victory over Irving High's slow down tactics. Mayfield led the way in scoring with 18 points, Burn's finished with 10, Ricky Phillips knocked down 11 points and Arthur Williams added 14. For the Tigers, Stephenson had 16 points and Sears put in 12.

Tyler Lee proved they were too strong for Bryan 60-48 in the other regional semi-final contest. The finals were set at 7:30 p.m. Saturday evening. Against Bryan, D'Boy Johnson had a strong game scoring 20 points, 6'6" Craig Hudeck followed with 11 points and 6'4" Virdell Howland had 15. For Bryan, Rudy Woods chipped in 15 points along with David Barrett. Bill Druery added 10 points.

S.O.C. advanced to Austin beating Tyler Lee 66-55 in the regional finals. S.O.C. led going into the fourth quarter 46-41. Mayfield hit 22 points, and Burns had 18 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Golden Bears. Arthur Williams, who finished with 12 points, 5 rebounds and 4 steals, said following the game, "Coach Henson just told us to be ready for the fast break or a slowdown game, like against Irving. Tyler Lee had us in size but they made the mistake of going to their big men, and that really messed them up. We gave them the wing shot all night, but they never took it." S.O.C. was sagging on Hudeck, who finished with 28 points, Brown added 12 points, Howland had 10 and D'Boy Johnson was held to only 5 points. Phillips and Burns got into early foul trouble, but Coach Henson got great support from 6'4" Kenneth McGill and 6'2" Johnny Jefferson. Coach Henson commented, "This team is a lot like my 1962 Dallas Madison team, we weren't very tall but were 25-1, losing only to Houston Worthing for the state championship in overtime."

The Golden Bears would be making their second trip to the State Tournament during the modern era, and first under Coach Euril Henson. Their

eight defeats in the loss column might give the impression S.O.C. was not worthy of a state tournament pass, but you would be mistaken. Many people who followed basketball felt they would be hard to stop. The Golden Bears were battle tested against the best teams in the state, and were deep, talented and well coached.

Region III

Houston Westchester(29-9)

Beaumont French(28-4)

Houston Washington(26-4)

Clear Lake(34-4) #4

Houston Madison(30-5) #9

Houston Smiley(26-6)

Houston Wheatley(24-8)

Galveston Ball(27-7) #11

Top Five in Region III

6'5" Chuck O'Neal, Houston Milby; 6'8" B.B. Davis, Beaumont French; 6'3" Darrell Mitchell, Galveston Ball; 6'0" Alvin Brooks, Houston Wheatley; 6'6" Joe Costello, Houston Westchester:

Region III of course had its usual juggernauts in Houston Wheatley at 24-8 and Clear Lake at 34-4. Wheatley was not ranked by the state poll which indicates that the polls were not real valid. Wheatley unranked in the 1970s is unheard of to anybody who followed high school basketball during the decade. The Wildcats of Wheatley had losses against Arlington High(30-3), Houston Jones(32-5) 92-73, Houston Washington(26-4) 79-71, Houston Yates(24-9) 89-81 and Houston Sterling(24-10) 88-80. But you have to also look at who Wheatley defeated, S.O.C. twice 123-120 and 98-94, Houston Kashmere(22-9) 110-96, Houston Milby(29-8) 90-66, Houston Jones(32-5) twice 85-76 and 80-67 and Houston Yates(24-9) 94-73. How in the world Wheatley was not ranked in the top twenty in the state is anybody's guess, but everybody in region III knew if you were going to win the region, you would have to beat Jackie Carr's Wheatley Wildcats. The perennial power had one of the best guards to ever play at Wheatley, 5'11" Alvin Brooks, who would go on to be a standout performer at Lamar University. He was later the head basketball coach at the University of Houston. He averaged 25.9 points a game along with 5.3 assists and 3 steals.

Defending Region III champion, Houston Milby, finished 28-8 and fifth in District behind Houston Jones(32-5), Houston Sterling(24-10), Houston Yates(24-9) and of course Wheatley. It was almost comical how strong these inner-city basketball teams were during the decade. Wheatley took District 20-AAAA with a 9-3 finish, followed by Houston Jones and Houston Yates at 8-4. A three-team log jam was avoided late in the season when Houston Sterling upset Houston Jones 63-62 and Wheatley beat Yates 94-73. That combination left Wheatley in the driver's seat. The Buffaloes of Milby would be left out of the big dance, but they supported one of the top players in the state in 6'5" Chuck O'Neal. O'Neal had been the catalyst to the state tournament run by Milby his junior year. The season

did prove to be very successful for O'Neal as he was named a McDonald's All-American. This was the first year of the All-American team being named by McDonald's with no game being played at the time. Probably the most dominate player in Houston was Leonard Mitchell of Houston Washington. He was the best big man in Houston in 1977 at 6'7", 250 pounds. Mitchell was an awesome force for Washington, averaging 23.3 points. In college, he became an All-American performer for the Houston Cougars on the football field and also was a three-year letterman on the basketball team. Mitchell was an extraordinary athlete and two sport lettermen in college. Mitchell later played seven seasons in the N.F.L. after being the first-round draft pick of the Eagles in 1981.

Another team omitted from the playoffs was Houston Jones(32-5) who had three of the top players in Houston in Roy Jones(19.0), 5'10" Ed Williams and super sophomore, Ricky Thompson(21.2). Thompson was already being projected as the top recruit in the state in two years. At the state track meet he high jumped 6'11". Greg Wise led Houston Madison(30-5) with 20.1 per game average. Wise would later go on too much greater fame as the head basketball coach at Houston Yates. His son, Nic Wise, was named Texas Player of the Year by yours truly in 2007. I was writing for Texpreps Basketball magazine at the time. Nic went on to star at the University of Arizona. Madison also had two super sophomores in 6'9" Greg Kite and 6'4" John Simple. The Marlins would be a major player in the battle for the Region III title. Bill Krueger's Clear Lake(30-4) team was strong as usual, paced by 6'7" Rex Johnston, 6'7" Burney Wood, 6'7" Mark McCurry, 6'3" Kevin Smith and 5'10" Ricky Fagan. The Falcons were one of the top ranked schools in the state at #4 and as always would be hard to contend with. Deer Park was in the same District as Clear Lake and was ranked #3 in the state polls. Deer Park held down the top ranking in the state for a brief time after compiling 16 straight wins to open the season. Finally, Houston Kashmere(22-9) upset Deer Park 90-89 to end their winning streak. Coached by Ray Landers, Deer Park split with Cypress-Fairbanks and Clear Lake during the regular season. In District 23-AAAA, a playoff was needed between Clear Lake and Deer Park. Hoffienz Pavillion, on the campus of the University of Houston, would host the playoff and Clear Lake prevailed 53-39 to advance to the playoffs. Deer Park was left at home with one of the best teams in the state. Coach Lander's team had gone 13-1 in District and 34-3 on the regular season and could not get past Coach Bill Krueger's Falcons. This was arguably the best team ever produced by Deer Park led by Jon Hughes, Byron Tulley, Robert Riley, Dean Endres and David Simmons. Clear Lake had lost only four games during the regular season. The Falcons had lost an early 50-48 decision to Milby(29-8), Beaumont French(28-4) 62-49, Galena Park NorthShore(14-18) 52-49 and rival Deer Park(34-4) 53-50. Clear Lake's biggest wins were over Deer Park twice 47-45 and 53-39, and Houston Yates(24-9) 80-59.

Houston Yates had a new head coach in 1977, Tommy Malone. Malone was named Coach of the Year by the Houston Post. He had been promoted to the head position from Ryan Junior High in Houston. Malone led the Lions to a 24-9 finish in his first season at the helm. He had compiled a 296-30 record in Junior High which included seven District and two city championships. Standouts for Yates during the season were 6'4" Rolland Milburn and Ken Wallace.

In District 17-AAAA action, Houston Stratford made national headlines during their February 22 game against Spring Woods. Stratford had to lose the game in order to have an opportunity at the District title. Stratford and Westchester had tied for the first half title with 5-1 records. Spring Woods was 5-0 going into their game against Stratford in the second round. If Springs Woods lost they would tie with Westchester for the second-round title, which would put Westchester into the playoffs, because they had tied for both the 1st half and 2nd half titles. That would mean an automatic playoff pass. Stratford had already been eliminated from winning the 2nd round and was playing for nothing. If Stratford lost to Springs Woods that would give Springs Woods the 2nd round outright, and force a playoff between the three schools. Stratford's school sign read, "Watch us lose to Spring Woods tonight at 8:15".

The Spartans lost 72-45 giving Spring Woods the second half title and forcing a playoff between the three schools. Coach Kerry Kroll of Stratford said, "We didn't want to forfeit, so we decided to play our second string the whole way." The following evening Westchester eliminated Stratford and captured the first half of District. The loss ended Stratford's season. Two days later, Westchester defeated Spring Woods(26-10) 68-65 to advance to the playoffs. Since Stratford was in such an awkward situation the two-round format had been eliminated in Texas high school basketball. Thanks to Ivy McLemore, the former Sports Editor of the Houston Post, for his informative account about Stratford. Ivy discussed the district playoff in detail in his book titled, "Texas High School Basketball Scrapbook." The paperback book was written in 1990 and is a great read. Highly recommended to followers of the state tournament. In his book, he follows the state tournament all the way back to its early years in 1921.

Houston Westchester(32-10), led by 6'6" junior, Joe Costello(14.9) and 6'3" Eric Buescher(14.0), did not get much attention following their victory over Spring Woods. The Wildcats from Westchester had nine losses on the season and were not thought to be a strong contender. The Wildcats had lost to Wheatley 47-40 in an early season matchup, to Yates 78-70, and Houston Bellaire(17-19) twice.

Pt. Arthur Lincoln, under Coach James Gamble, had its string of six straight District championships broken in 1977. The Bumble Bees of Pt. Arthur finished with a 17-15 record and well off the pace for the playoffs. Two Beaumont school emerged as the forces in District 22-4A, Beaumont French and Beaumont Charlton-Pollard. Both schools dominated the District with French finally taking the title with

a 58-50 season ending victory on their home court over Pollard. French went 14-0 in District action and 28-4 on the regular season, while Pollard finished 12-2 and 30-6 on the season. French's Coach, Dick Hastings, was emotionally drained after the game and stated that it was a tremendous honor to represent District 22-AAAA. Beaumont French came out of the area with one of the best kept secrets in the state in 6'7" B.B. Davis(20.0/11.5/4 bl). "I waited for B.B. from the time he was in the sixth grade, I knew he was the guy who could turn our program around," Coach Hastings explained. "When he was a freshman, we went 6-24. Since then we've gone 18-11, 26-8 and 28-4, and we've been District champions the last two seasons. My only mistake was not using him as a freshman." Davis would go on to have an outstanding college career at Lamar University. Davis was named District M.V.P., along with teammates, 6'8" Glen Marks(8.4/13.1) and 6'1" junior, Willie Buckley, both named to the second team. From Pollard, 6'3" Andre Jackson(20.4) was named 1st team All-District while 6'3" Danton Wilson was named to the 2nd team. French's omission from the state's top twenty was another glaring oversight by the pollsters. The person or people who were making the polls were obviously not familiar with the basketball talent in the state.

In a real unusual scenario in Pt. Arthur, James Gamble Sr. faced off against his son, James Gamble Jr. The two faced each other when Lincoln played Thomas Jefferson. The Gambles lived in the Thomas Jefferson attendance area so Gamble's son attended Thomas Jefferson high school instead of Lincoln, where his father was the head coach. It turned out James Jr. was the best player on the T.J. team, averaging 13 points, 8 assists and 6 rebounds. It made for an unusual game during their two District encounters, which were both won by James Sr. and the Bumble Bees.

The most knowledgeable basketball experts believed whoever emerged from region III, would be the odds on favorite to win the state championship in Austin. Six out of the previous eight seasons the class 4-A state champion had come out of Region III or the Houston area. Westchester pulled off the first upset of the playoffs knocking off #9 ranked Houston Madison 52-50. The Bi-District match-up between Houston Smiley(26-6) and Beaumont French(28-4) was a game of contrast. French had tremendous advantage inside with size, 6'7", 6'8" and 6'5" while Smiley tallest player stood only 6'3". French came in with a 15-game winning streak, but it wasn't enough, as Smiley pulled the upset 60-53. Wheatley held serve beating Houston Washington(26-4) 77-64. And the best game of the first round was the matchup between #4 ranked Clear Lake(34-4) and #11 Galveston Ball(27-7), led 6'3" Darrell Mitchell. Galveston Ball had another fine team, coached by Bob Woodard. Ball's standout performers were 6'6" Charles Swannegan, Michael Venible, James Jackson and 6'5" June Washington. The Falcons of Clear Lake prevailed in overtime 54-52 when Mark McCurry hit two foul shots with 13 seconds left to advance to regionals.

At regionals, Wheatley defeated Clear Lake in the semi-finals 74-71. The Wildcats won on a last second three-point play by Gilbert Thomas. Thomas retrieved an errant 20-footer by Brooks, made a 180-degree turn at the top of the key and hit nothing but net at the buzzer. Thomas was fouled, but it was a full three minutes before they could clear the court for the foul shot. Rex Johnston led Lake with 19 points. It was Clear Lake's third time in four seasons that they had been eliminated in the regional semi-finals. Westchester continued their winning ways coming from behind in overtime to defeat Smiley 55-50 in another low scoring defensive struggle that Westchester liked to play. Costello scored five of Westchester's eight overtime points, which was two more than the entire Smiley team managed in the three-minute overtime. Buescher, who hit the key bucket to put the game into overtime, finished with 19 points followed by Costello's 16. Smiley was coached by Al Schomber and 6'3" Hiram Harrison was a key contributor. Smiley finished first in District 21-AAAA with a 12-2 mark and Forest Brook had finished second with a 10-4 record. Galena Park and Baytown Sterling(24-10) tied for third at 9-5.

The Regional Finals pitted two programs coming from two totally different directions. Predominately white Westchester from the suburbs and inner city Wheatley. Westchester would be closed in 1985 and merged with Stratford High. Since integration in 1968, Wheatley had made eight out of ten trips to regionals, and six trips to Austin and the State Tournament, with four state titles. You had to figure Wheatley would be favored just on experience alone. Once again, the upset took place as 6'6" post Joe Costello was the difference for Westchester. Costello's ability to handle pressure and his outside shooting led Westchester to a 74-71 victory. In the third quarter, Westchester had opened up a 59-50 margin only to lose it with 4:18 remaining 64-62. Alvin Brooks(39) of Wheatley drew his fifth foul on charging call with 2:13 left in the game with the score tied at 67. He was also assessed a technical foul. Brooks technical was not common for a Jackie Carr coached team. Carr's teams were usually disciplined and took care of business. Westchester won the game at the line hitting 20 of 29 foul shots while Wheatley hit 9 of 16. Westchester's balanced scoring had three players scoring 15 or 16 points. Brooks led Wheatley with 16 points followed by sophomore, Roosevelt McGruder with 15. Costello of Westchester would later go on to play on two final four teams at L.S.U. and had a fine college career. Westchester had crashed the party in Austin for the second year in a row. Milby had been the surprise team the year before. They were the first all-white team to advance to Austin out of region III since 1967 and de-segregation.

(39) Brooks averaged 25.9 points per game and 9.0 assists per game his senior year. He earned All-City honors. After playing at Sam Houston St. and Henderson County Jr. College, he later transferred to Lamar University. He took his team to the NCAA tournament and the Sweet 16. Brooks was named 2nd team All-Southland Conference. He was drafted in the 10th round by the Spurs.

Region IV

Austin Reagan(20-11)

Mission(26-12)

San Antonio Lee(26-9)

Converse Judson(26-9)

Victoria(33-2) #7

Corpus Christi Moody(34-2) #12

San Antonio Burbank(31-3) #8

San Antonio Kennedy(27-11)

Top Five in Region IV

6'11" Gilbert Salinas, San Antonio Burbank; 6'7" Charles Moore, Corpus Christi Moody; 6'6" Keith Edmundson, San Antonio MacArthur; 6'7" Roy Jones, Austin Reagan; 6'5" Charles Bean, San Antonio Sam Houston:

The San Antonio region or Region IV was viewed by most as the weakest region. There was probably little reason to question that conclusion because year in and year out there were not as many outstanding teams in the area. Victoria(33-2), who had been to state the year before, once again was thought to have the best team along with Corpus Christi Moody(34-2). Victoria was ranked #7 in the state and led by 6'5" David Hardesty who would play at Baylor. Moody was an explosive offensive team that was ranked #12. Moody was led by one of the top performers in the state in 6'7" Charles Moore(28.3). Corpus Christi Moody was the top scoring team in the state averaging over 90 points per game. Joining Moore on the talented starting lineup were 6'8" Larry Earls(19.3), 5'10" Joe Phillips(16.2), 6'5" Curtis Bonds(15.2) and 5'7" Joe Garza(11.4). All five starters averaged in double figures. Moody felt confident they would be the first Corpus Christi team to advance to state since Carroll in 1973. Moody was talking about a Moody-Burbank regional final even before the playoffs. San Antonio Burbank and Victoria seemed to be on a collision course in Region IV with nobody wanting to face Moody.

The #8 team in the state and third in the region was San Antonio Burbank(35-4), led by McDonald's All-American, 6'11" Gilbert Salinas(20 pts/16 rebs). The Bulldogs had a very deceptive record losing three of their last four regular season games with Salinas injured. Salinas had surgery to repair ligament damage in a little finger. Burbank played a deliberate and slow tempo game allowing only 46.7 points per game. Salinas average 20 points per game which was almost one third of the team's offense. Rounding out Burbank's starting lineup was 6'4" Ernest Puentes(12.8), 6'1" Steve Gamboa(12.1), 6'1" Leonard Lambert and 5'10" Mike Poole. The only teams Burbank had faced in the state's top twenty had been Corpus Christi Moody(35-2) at #12 and S.A. Sam Houston(28-8). The Bulldogs

of Burbank had defeated Moody 59-49 earlier in the season and were 3-1 against San Antonio Sam Houston. The one loss came with Salinas on the sidelines.

Austin Reagan(20-11) upset Victoria(33-2) in Bi-District 80-74 in overtime. With the victory Reagan had eliminated the defending region IV champions. Austin Reagan was very strong inside with 6'7" Roy Jones(16.4) and 6'6" Darrell Overton. Other starters included 5'11" Mark Taylor, 5'8" Buford Landrum and 6'0" Mike Livermore. Reagan had been down early 19-9 after the 1st quarter and 41-27 at halftime, but rallied to tie the score at the end of regulation 72 -72. Reagan finally won the game with four seconds remaining. Austin Reagan had been known as a football school in the late 1960s and 1970s. Reagan captured the first half of District, but Roy Jones had a bad shoulder during the second half of District action, and Austin Anderson won the 2nd half. Reagan won the District playoff.

Corpus Christi Moody(34-2) defeated Mission(26-12) at Edinburg High School 76-72. Earlier in the season Moody had drummed Mission by 46, 28, and 20 points. Moody took 86 shots compared to Mission's 61. Moody led at halftime 40-34. Moore was high man for C.C. Moody with 25 points followed by Bonds with 23, and Phillips with 14. Unfortunately for Moody, Bonds hurt both ankles, as his team advanced in the playoffs. Mission standouts were 6'5" Steve Fiedler and 6'4" Jaime Pena. Fielder hit 30 points in the loss. Coach Garcia of Mission compared Moody to last year's team, "These guys are a lot better than last year. Last year they had one man -Charles Tryon- this year they have so many." Steve Gonzales was the Corpus Christi Moody coach.

Burbank faced off against San Antonio Lee(26-9) at the Blossom Athlete Center in their Bi-District clash. Burbank had advanced to the playoffs with a 60-57 win over San Antonio Sam Houston for the District 31-AAAA title. The Bulldogs had won 31 out 32 games with Salinas in the lineup. S.A. Lee had also won a District playoff game over Seguin in District 32-AAAA 58-53. Lee averaged 71.6 per game while allowing 58.5 points. S.A. Burbank had an impressive 65.1 average while only giving up a 46.5 average. S.A. Lee looked to 6'6" Chuck Stanley(25.7) to carry the scoring load. Helping Stanley were Jeff Brown and Bill Bond.

Burbank won a close one 52-50 over San Antonio Lee(26-9) to advance to regionals. Salinas was in foul trouble and went to the bench at the end of the first half with four fouls. "We tightened up our defense in the second half and we were able to stay close in the third quarter with Gilbert on the bench," said Coach Earl Meyer. Meyer's continued, "We were determined to run our four corners offense until we felt we could put Gilbert back on the floor. We had to stop Stanley and we had to stay close." The Bulldogs held Stanley to only six points in the second half and only trailed 44-43 after the third period. Salinas entered the game at the start of the fourth quarter. Burbank took the lead for good with 3:26 remaining 51-50. Burbank missed several foul shots in the closing minutes that could have put the game away. Salinas blocked four shots and grabbed nine rebounds and scored 15

points. Most of his scoring came from the outside. S.A. Lee was led by Stanley's 24 points.

San Antonio Kennedy(27-11) met Converse Judson(26-9) in Bi-District at the Alamo Stadium Gym. Kennedy had beaten Judson twice during the season 77-68 and 71-48. Kennedy probably had the smallest team in the playoffs with 6'3" Darryl Bethley(19.2), 6'2" Rick Leggett(18.2), Dale Robinson(15.5), 5'11" William Young(5.4) and 5'10" Vincent Tristan(4.2) as their starters. Kennedy had upset San Antonio Jay 68-61 in the 30-AAAA title game. Judson's lineup was made up of 6'2" Joe Blake(13.9), 6'2" Stacey Bowers(13.2), 6'2" Tracey Bowers(12.1), 5'9" David Nurse(7.6), 6'1" Stan Fike(4.6), 6'3" Edwin Taylor(6.6) and 6'3" Ken Hickey(7.1). As you can see neither team had any size which would be a problem in this region. Kennedy jumped out to a big lead 54-39 only to see Judson mount a tremendous comeback late. With 19 seconds left in the game Judson trailed only 66-65. Judson had several opportunities to win the game, but failed to capitalize. Kennedy hung on to win 70-65. Derryl Bethley of Kennedy hit a three-point play with 14 seconds remaining to give his team the win. "Judson hurt us with the press and used it as a major weapon in their comeback," Coach Armando Balderama of Kennedy said. For Kennedy, the leading scorer was Bethley with 22 points and Leggett and Franklin finished with 13 each. 6'2" Joe Blake was top man for Judson with 20 points. Winning coach, Balderama commented after the game, "This is the farthest we've ever gone, so you know the kids are sky high."

Coming into regionals Austin Reagan had been inconsistent losing four of its last 10 games. Corpus Christi Moody and San Antonio Burbank were both returning to the regionals after being eliminated by Victoria in 1976. Victoria had eliminated C.C. Moody in the finals 72-65 and S.A. Burbank in the semis 44-34. Burbank looked like the regional favorite having beaten S.A. Kennedy twice during the regular season 64-42 and 85-55, and Corpus Christi Moody 59-49. Moody was known as an offensive juggernaut while Burbank relied on tough man to man defense led by 6'11" Salinas.

Austin Reagan pulled one of the biggest upsets in the state playoffs knocking off Corpus Christi Moody 76-58 in regional semi-finals. Reagan jumped out to a 52-33 lead and outscored Moody 25-8 in the third quarter to extend their lead. Jones had 11 rebounds while Overton pulled in 22 rebounds for Reagan. Earls only had 2 rebounds for Moody. With Reagan up 26-22 with 5:16 left in the 2nd quarter, Reagan went into a stall for two minutes trying to conserve energy for the regional finals against S.A. Burbank. Moore led all scorers with 25 points for C.C. Moody. It looked like the Trojans of Corpus Christi Moody had been a little overrated.

Burbank had little trouble with S.A. Kennedy 69-54. Burbank's 6'11" post finished with 26 points against Kennedy. For Kennedy, Dale Roberson hit 17 points

from the outside while Derryl Bethley and Dooley Young added 14 and 10 points respectively.

In the regional finals, S.A. Burbank advanced to the state tournament beating Austin Reagan 46-35 before 5,600 fans. The regional finals were played at the Blossom Athletic Center in San Antonio. Burbank led a low scoring affair 18-14 at halftime. Reagan coach, Gail Simpson remarked after the game, "Burbank isn't a one-man team. Having a 6'11" helps a whole lot, but they played tremendous defense and completely silenced our break. Our kids were intimidated on several occasions when they had to try and shoot over Salinas." Coach Meyers praised Salinas, "Gilbert again showed why he is the most complete player to come out of San Antonio." Salinas presence inside had limited Reagan's tall post combination of 6'7" Roy Jones and 6'6" Darrell Overton to just 23 points. The combination had scored 36 points in their semi-final victory. Salinas finished with 20 points, 2 blocks and 8 rebounds.

State Tournament

Ft. Worth Dunbar	(38-1)	#2	82.4-63.8	+18.6
Houston Westchester	(31-9)		62.1-54.6	+ 7.5
San Antonio Burbank	(34-4)	#8	64.0-46.7	+17.3
South Oak Cliff	(33-8)	#14	89.3-72.3	+17.0

Top Five Players at the State Tournament

6'11"	Gilbert Salinas	San Antonio Burbank
6'9"	James Griffin	Ft. Worth Dunbar
5'7"	Cullen Mayfield	Dallas S.O.C.
6'3"	Michael Watley	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'2"	David Burns	Dallas S.O.C.:

As the state tournament opened for the last time at Gregory Gym on the campus of the University of Texas, it was a beautiful day. The 4:00 p.m. game pitted surprise Cinderella, Houston Westchester, against tournament favorite, Ft. Worth Dunbar. The first thing you noticed when entering Gregory was the old-time clock on the wall and a score board that had been kept by hand in days gone by. Although they were no longer in use they still showed how much the game had changed in the electronic age. As for me and my brother-in-law, we waited for the arrival of the teams to warm-up. We had great seats although it was very cramped. I could not help but laugh as I watched my brother-in-law get sprayed by a hot Dr. Pepper from the fat lady sitting behind us. It was an accident, but it was still a sad way to start the tournament. He handled it much better than I would have as we got ready for the game.

Westchester came out first and Joe Costello stood out as not only the team's best player but also the team's only tall player. We immediately wondered aloud how they would be able to stay with the larger and more talented Dunbar

squad. But if you can beat Wheatley and won the Houston region, you had to be pretty solid. The Westchester coach, Bob Latham seemed confident saying, "The kids get up for the big games, they are a self-motivated group." Dunbar coach, Robert Hughes commented about the possibility of a slow-down game, "We've been fortunate in that we've been able to play our game most of this year." Latham countered, "We're not gonna run with them, but we're certainly not gonna hold the ball. We'll do what we've done all year-pass it when necessary to get our shots."

Wheatley coach, Jackie Carr, who had played both teams predicted Dunbar would win the game because, "They have too much experience up front, especially the Griffin kid." One newspaper had Dunbar about a 10-point favorite. Now how they came to that figure I have no idea. But I would generally agree with that assessment that most knowledgeable fans at the tournament felt Dunbar would win by double figures.

As Dunbar entered the court they were very impressive, all black, with a very confident look about them as they entered circling the court. They looked every bit like a nationally ranked team. As they went through warm-up you could not help but see two freshmen suited up, 6'6" Gilbert Collier and 6'5" Andre Allen. You immediately began thinking that Dunbar might be good for a long time because Big Grif was a junior. Little did we imagine at the time we were looking at a coach who would become the winningest coach in the history of high school basketball before he retired. Although Hughes had a great deal of success in the old African American, Prairie View League, but this was his first taste of the U.I.L. state tournament. And of course, it would not be his last. He would become an integral part of the fabric and fantastic success of the U.I.L. Boys' Basketball tournament. The fan base that evolved at Dunbar became the biggest and most loyal in the states long basketball history. Dunbar became the Duke and North Carolina of Texas High School basketball.

Years later Hughes reflected about his trip to Gregory Gym and the state tournament of 1977. "Depending on what time of day it was, the sun light came through the windows and you had all these different shadows on the court, which made it hard to shoot. You had pigeons in the rafters and it was real hot with no air conditioning. The gym only held about 6,000 fans, so you always had a couple of thousand outside knowing they were not going to be allowed in to the gym." Hughes had some vivid and fond memories of old Gregory.

Dunbar's offensive game was centered around 6'0" junior guard Cletus Hubbard(14.9) and 6'3" Michael Watley(15.0). Defensively everything centered around the imposing 6'9" James Griffin(14.7), who was a natural shot blocker. Griffin was extremely long, playing bigger than 6'9". The Wildcats had very few weaknesses with three division one players in the lineup. Dunbar jumped out to an early lead, but could not pull away from Westchester with their patient and

discipline lineup. At halftime Dunbar led 37-34. At the end of three quarters Westchester took a 54-53 advantage and the game was slipping away from Dunbar. The Wildcats went up 70-62 with 1:29 remaining when Westchester came back with 3 straight baskets to narrow the gap with 34 seconds left. Hubbard went to the foul line with 15 seconds remaining and his foul shots wrapped up the game for Dunbar. Kervin hit a bucket at the buzzer to make the final score 74-68. Watley had taken over in the fourth quarter and scored 11 of his game high 23 points for Coach Hughes. Dunbar outscored Westchester 21-14 in the final quarter. "We blew one last year in College Station and we swore it wouldn't happen again," explained Hughes. Hubbard finished with 15 points, Watley had 23, Kervin 12 and Griffin 20. The 6'9" junior used a soft jumper from the baseline as his major weapon. He blocked five shots and came away with 19 rebounds and had some thunder dunks. Dunbar led in rebounds 46-41. Buescher finished with 21 points, Mike Kloper had 13, Neal Howard finished with 12 and Costello 12, in a losing effort. Costello got into foul trouble early in the 2nd half while trying to guard Griffin. He finished with 19 rebounds. The attendance was estimated at 6,000, while the evening attendance was estimated to be larger at 7,500.

In the evening game, S.O.C. would have to challenge San Antonio Burbank and their 6'11" All-American center, Gilbert Salinas. Sonny Allen, S.M.U.'s head basketball coach, after viewing Salinas in the regional finals against Austin Reagan, said that Burbank would destroy S.O.C. at state. I question the quote, because in an extensive interview in the "San Antonio Light", Coach Allen would not pick a winner, but that was one of the quotes that came out in the Dallas papers the day of the game. Salinas was reportedly mulling over 190 collegiate offers including S.M.U. The Golden Bears head coach, Euril Henson, admitted he knew little about the 6'11" post. Henson didn't seem too worried about the big boy saying, "He will be intimidating but it won't take us long to adjust." In the game you had a total contrast, the top scoring team in the state against the top defensive team. Salinas was the most talked about player to come out of San Antonio since Rick Bullock. Bullock played at Jefferson in 1972 and hit 44 points in the state championship game. Two college scouts chimed in on the Burbank – S.O.C. matchup. "Salinas definitely should intimidate S.O.C.'s players and should give the fans their money's worth if he plays with the same intensity that he did against Reagan," said one college scout. "He does everything you ask of a big man and does it well." Another scout added, "S.O.C. has the ability to blow Burbank out if it is allowed to run." In a great preview of the coming semi-final matchup, Sonny Allen gave an excellent preview of the game. "This game will be a great one because of the contrast of styles," Allen said. Having seen both teams on several occasions, Allen had targeted Salinas as his #1 recruit for the Mustangs of S.M.U. "South Oak Cliff is unusually quick," Allen continued. "They aren't large, but they can all jump. Take forward David Burns for example, at 6'2" Burns can dunk the ball like Julius

Erving.” When asked who he thought had the better team, Allen response, “I couldn’t say that one is better than the other, or even that one or two should be favored. No matter who wins, it won’t be an upset because both teams are so solid. S.O.C. likes to get its running game going, they get the ball down the floor quick and like to take the first shot. I think that is their best game. Sure, they have turnovers, but they are solid. They’ve beaten the best teams in Dallas. Mayfield is a streak shooter and if he gets hot, watch out. S.O.C. is much more explosive than Burbank and can control the game if they can establish their running game. Burbank is one of the most controlled teams that I have ever seen.” Allen pointed to Burbank’s win over Austin Reagan 46-35 in regionals as an example. “I thought Reagan would really score on them, but Burbank held them to 18 points through three quarters. Salinas is capable of winning it by himself. I have never seen a big man pass the ball like he does. He has three qualities necessary to be a super player. He has a great shot, good hands and good quickness. He will intimidate S.O.C.”

Coach Henson of S.O.C. commented, “It was just teamwork and effort that got us this far.” Coach Meyer of Burbank said about the coming game with S.O.C., “The tempo of the game will determine the outcome. I know S.O.C. presses a whole lot and that means they’ll try to force us to speed up our tempo. We will try to cut off their fast break and make them play a half-court game.” Coach Ron Lloyd of San Antonio Wheatley and Coach Roland Lopez of San Antonio Fox Tech provided the scouting report for Coach Meyers. The scouting report said S.O.C. was a very, very quick. “They compared S.O.C. to San Antonio Kennedy, except that S.O.C. is much quicker than Kennedy,” Meyer’s said.

Burbank’s crazy fan base stormed Gregory Gym with an unbelievable buzz of excitement. The Bulldog’s fan base was about 99% Hispanic. Everybody was excited about seeing the big boy in action. I remember going down to the court before the game just to see how big he was and I was very impressed. Burbank’s strategy if Salinas got into foul trouble would be a four-corner stall. That would be really difficult against a pressing team like South Oak Cliff.

Defensively, S.O.C. had relied on a zone defense in the playoffs, which helps everyone rebound because the Bears tallest player was only 6’4”. The heart and soul of the S.O.C.’s attack was the backcourt tandem of Burns and Mayfield and Arthur Williams. Coach Henson played a lot of players and relied heavily on the pressing up tempo game. Remember there was no three-point shot back in 1977. Personally, I felt Burbank would have a hard time, that S.O.C. was too fast and quick. Of course, I was a little prejudice because I had seen S.O.C. and just read about Burbank. I just didn’t think anybody could stay with S.O.C.’s speed and quickness. Mayfield was incredible running the fast break with his teammates. The Bulldogs had nobody who could guard Mayfield. Williams and Burns could finish at the basket and shoot. They were also match-up nightmares. The Golden Bears

weakness was their size, but they had a number of leapers inside. The thing I remember best about Salinas in the game was him using head fakes trying to get his shot off. S.O.C. was just so athletic. Ricky Phillips played like he was 6'8". They were such a cohesive unit where everybody was unselfish and knew their roles. They weren't like the Wheatley teams of the past where you had several players in double figures. Mayfield, Burns and Williams were going to be taking the majority of the shots and would be the leading scorers every game. They also had the ball in their hands the majority of the time.

The game was very even entering the fourth quarter with S.O.C. leading 41-39. In final frame, the Golden Bears extended their lead 66-54 for the win. Coach Henson explained after the game, "Our press wore them out." Burbank had used only five players till the end of the game when sophomore Mike Poole fouled out. Burbank coach, Earl Meyer responded, "I don't think we tired, the whole thing was mental, we just lost our concentration in that span." The "unstoppable" Salinas according to Sonny Allen, finished with 15 points and 6 rebounds, going 7 of 16 from the field. Ernest Puente was Burbank's leading scorer with 16 points and Leonard Lambert added 12 points. S.O.C. did a great job limiting Salinas's touches and his attempts. Burns actually out jumped Salinas on the 2nd quarter center jump. The Golden Bears had great balance as usual with Mayfield finished with 16 points, Burn's had 20, Williams chipped in 8 points and Phillips had 12 points and 8 rebounds. Burns finished with 12 rebounds. Burbank led at half 31-29 and S.O.C. led at the end of the three 41-39. "We were playing their style of game, but I saw our press was tiring them out at the end of the third period," Arthur Williams said. In a 98 second span the game changed in the Golden Bears favor. Four straight errors by Burbank resulted in eight straight points and S.O.C. never looked back. Coach Henson's team built up a 10-point lead 49-39 with 5:55 remaining in the game. "We were forced to play their game at that point," Meyer commented. "Basketball at the state meet level is a game determined by mistakes, and we made too many. We simply didn't play one of our better games. We didn't handle their press as well as we should have and we lost our concentration for a few minutes in the final quarter. We made some bad passes and didn't move the ball the way we should, the breakdown allowed them to gain the momentum," Meyer said. The Burbank coach continued, "You have to do two things to beat S.O.C., you have to beat their press and you have to eliminate their lay-ups. They stay in a game by hitting the long outside bombs, but it's their lay-ups that produce the victories. Mayfield did a great job setting up their inside shots after they got us playing their game." Salinas was held scoreless the last nine minutes of the game. "It wasn't one of his better games," said Meyer. "Gilbert has played better and so has the whole team." The rebound total was 33 apiece and Burbank had 18 turnovers compared to 9 for S.O.C. Burns did most of his damage from outside around the perimeter. Burbank was one of the top defensive teams in the state.

The Bears found out early they could not go down court and just fire quick shots, but rather had to set up their offense. S.O.C. scored 66 points on the game which was 20 points higher than the average allowed by Burbank during the season. "Yeah, they played good defense," admitted Henson, "But I think we made them play defense by being deliberate ourselves."

In looking forward to the finals, Meyers was asked who he favored, "S.O.C. and Dunbar both play the same game, they run and shoot and then run and shoot some more. With the quickness being about the even, Dunbar should have an edge because of their height." Most fans attending the finals felt that way, but my brother-in-law and I both agreed S.O.C. had far superior guard skills with Mayfield. They could play so much faster than anybody else because of their 5'7" dynamo. If it was going to be an up-tempo contest, S.O.C. had the advantage. Griffin would not be as big a factor in the up-tempo contest.

This set the stage for the showdown between South Oak Cliff and Dunbar. At 39-1, Dunbar looked to have the advantage if they could keep Griffin out of foul trouble. Coach Henson's team had nobody who could matchup against him on either end of the court. Griffin was a much more imposing player than Salinas and could easily dominate a game. Remember also that Griffin was surrounded by better teammates than Salinas. Dunbar led at halftime 40-37 and 63-62 at the end of the 3rd period. There were seven ties during the game, the last one coming at 58 apiece. S.O.C. trailed by as many as seven points in the third period but finally took the lead 68-67 with 4:33 left on a 15-footer by Ricky Phillips. Down the stretch South Oak Cliff outscored Dunbar 12-4, and that was the difference as the Golden Bears captured the state title 78-71. Many sportswriters felt that the turning point in the game came in the 4th quarter when Mayfield took two charging fouls. "The two offensive fouls really hurt us," Hughes said. Mark Coleman of S.O.C. said, "The tide turned on the offensive fouls, you could see it. Dunbar got careless and threw the ball away." Griffin picked up his fourth foul with 53 seconds left in the 3rd quarter and fouled out with 43 seconds left in the game. The game had already been decided prior to Griffin's departure from the game. The big junior finished with 24 points and 16 rebounds and added four dunks and two blocks for his efforts. Burns got his 4th foul with 1:14 left in the game. Late in the game, silly turnovers plagued Dunbar. Watley was called for walking with the ball and Thomas Glenn stepped out of bounds on a rebound. Mayfield finished with 23 points and 17 of those were in the 2nd half. Mayfield penetrated the tough Wildcat defense for 3 lay-ups and four jump-shots, one from 22 feet out. S.O.C. pressed the entire game and created 15 turnovers to 7 for S.O.C. Burns had 16 points and 10 rebounds, Williams finished with 16 points and 12 rebounds and Ricky Phillips had 11 rebounds.

It marked the first-time teams from Dallas and Ft. Worth had played for the Class AAAA title. Several hundred fans failed to get in. They broke some

windows and tried to storm the locked gates to gain admission. People inside could not get out until late in the third quarter because all the gates and doors were locked. For a \$2 ticket, you could see two of the top teams in the state go at it for the state championship. The attendance was 7,700 fans, but that didn't count the hundreds trying to gain admittance. Fans peeped in the windows. No wonder a new arena was needed for the tournament.

For Coach Henson, it was his final game, as he retired after the game. Henson had coached 19 years at Madison in Dallas before moving to South Oak Cliff. He had coached one of the greatest players to ever come out of Dallas, John Stallworth. He would leave the game and teach Biology and coach B-team football at S.O.C. For Coach Robert Hughes, it would be the first of many disappointments in Austin. Hughes and his Dunbar teams would always be at the center of Texas High School basketball, especially when they would make it to Austin. The superior guard play by S.O.C. was the difference for Coach Henson's crew. For Hughes, he was upset with his team's inability to get the ball inside to Griffin. "We took too many 30 footers," Hughes commented. "S.O.C. is the quickest team we have played," Hughes said. Dunbar out rebounded S.O.C. 56-47, and at one point in the first half S.O.C. missed 19 straight shots, but Dunbar was unable to take advantage of the cold shooting. Henson said his game plan was to utilize his team's quickness, drive and try to draw the fouls. The team that didn't even look like they would make the playoffs in January became Dallas's first boys champion since Roosevelt in 1972 title. Henson played a lot of players, Mayfield, Burns, Williams, Coleman, Phillips, Elson Darby, Ricky Wiseman, Johnny Jefferson, Kevin Fisher and Kenneth McGill. The deep bench had been so valuable during the season.

Henson finished his career with 482 wins and 118 losses. His coaching stops had taken him to Lincoln in College Station, Dallas Madison, Dallas Woodrow Wilson and S.O.C.

David Burns had some interesting comments after the title game, "When you're used to playing in 12-AAAA with all the pressure and 6,000 fans in the big games, you become accustomed to pressure. But our real indoctrination came against Wheatley and Galveston Ball at the first of the year down there. We counted about 3 people in the stands from S.O.C."

The thoughts I took away from the 1977 state championship game was that the smallest player in the game, with his unusual baggy shorts, was the most dominate player on the court. The 5'7" Cullen Mayfield's quickness, passing, driving, and outside shooting, was one of the best performances I would see over the next 40 years as a visitor at the state tournament. Although he received no major college offers, he was totally dominating in his performance. Mayfield scoring in the playoffs was very consistent, 23 against Hillcrest, 22 against Tyler Lee, 18 against Irving, 16 against Burbank and 23 vs. Dunbar, for a 20.4 average in the playoffs. **Mayfield was a Texas Basketball Legend.**

In discussing Mayfield with his Junior College coach at Midland, Jerry Stone, the old coach enjoyed talking about Mayfield's skills. "Nobody was really after him coming out of high school, but I loved him. He could shoot and penetrate and was fearless in his approach to the game. He was the first little guard I ever recruited and he was the reason I recruited Spud Webb years later. He hurt his leg at the end of his sophomore year which really limited his speed and quickness. If it hadn't been for his injured leg he would have been a division one recruit out of junior college. A lot of coaches were wondering if he would remain as quick as he had before. I had coached at Midwestern before coming to Midland J.C., so he played in Wichita Falls at Midwestern and was all-conference."

Years later I asked Coach Hughes about the 1977 championship game and he said, "The guards shot us out of the championship. My backup guards could not handle the press of South Oak Cliff so I had to leave the starters in the game. Big Grif missed one shot in the first half and none in the second half. We should have won that game."

When I asked Coach Bill Krueger of Clear Lake about Gregory gym and his memories he responded, "It was a great place to play basketball, the fans were right on top of you. I made the trip at least 50 straight years from 1946 to 1996. I saw a lot of basketball during that time. It was a lot better basketball than people think even though they didn't have AAU teams."

For me, my first trip to the state tournament was such a great experience it became a tradition for my family. Every job interview and coaching assignment I ever had, I would ask the same question. "The first week in March, would I be allowed to attend the state basketball tournament?" The response was always yes, to the somewhat unusual request. As for my brother-in-law, he was only going to make trip three more times with me. Those were the best of times.

Interview with Cullen Mayfield:

When talking about his high school experience forty years removed, Mayfield said one of the most memorable things about his career was beating Ft. Worth Dunbar twice. "We were the only team that beat them and we did it twice," Mayfield said. "They had two great players in Griffin and Watley. We were so fast I felt like we could beat anybody in every game my senior year. I felt like we had a better bench than Dunbar." The little former point guard also had a vivid recollection about the Dallas press not thinking S.O.C. could beat Gilbert Salinas and S.A. Burbank. "Nobody gave us a chance." In discussing playing for Coach Henson, Cullen said, "he let us play, we didn't have any plays. I played for Coach Gales my sophomore year and he was much stricter than Coach Henson. Coach Gales was the one who discovered me, so I was really upset when he left after my sophomore year." In discussing his former teammate, David Burns, Cullen said he had a great deal of respect for Burn's talents. "Burns would have averaged 50 points a game had they had the 3-point shot back then. I loved playing with Burns, he was a great player."

“We played against each other in junior high, so I was happy to be playing with him in high school. Dwayne Scales was my junior high teammate, but he attended Carter and I went to South Oak Cliff. I really don’t know how that worked back then.”

“The thing I remember most about Rynn Wright of Roosevelt was we couldn’t stop him. He got hurt late in the season and we beat them in a playoff game for District,” Cullen explained. “It was unfortunate, but we got a big break and took advantage of it. If they would have won District, they would have won state.” “The players I remember the most during my high school days were of course, Wright, Scales and Vernon Smith of Carter, Ollie Hoops of Pinkston, McPherson of Arlington, and Michael Battle of Roosevelt. “A guy I really remember was John Schlicher of Ft. Worth Paschal my sophomore year, he was something. I didn’t get into the regional game, but I saw a lot of his game.” When asked about when he felt S.O.C. could take state, Cullen was quick to respond, “I felt we should have won state all three of my years at S.O.C.” When asked, who inspired his basketball career, Cullen responded, “Williams and Larry Joe Harris and McMillian, they were great and I wanted to be as good as them, so I stayed in the gym.”

In discussing his college career, Cullen said he hurt his leg real bad before the junior college All-Star game. He was unable to play in the junior college All-Star game, which hurt his recruitment out of Midland Jr. College. “Gales wanted me at North Texas State, but Blakely didn’t want any little guards. I could have played against Burns in the all-star game, but was unable to go. That would have really helped my recruitment.” Instead, Mayfield moved on to Midwestern University in Wichita Falls playing for Gerald Stockton. “I talked with Cotton Fitzsimmons of the Kansas City Kings in the N.B.A. following college and I felt like he was going to draft me, but it didn’t happen. He really liked me. He said I would be the quickest guard in the N.B.A.” After that Cullen played with Ira Terrell and several standouts on a Pro-Am team traveling all over the country. “I was hoping I would get another opportunity to play pro.”

Cullen was one of the most memorable players in the long history of high basketball in Texas. Mayfield’s name will always be associated with champions, as basketball’s little man who came up big on the game’s biggest stage. Mayfield presently lives in Dallas and has three children.

Dallas South Oak Cliff 1973-1977 {164-30 84%} Coach Jimmy Gales 73,74,75, Euril Henson 76,77			
1973	30-6	Regional Final	Spring Branch L 59-51 PR 86.91
1974	37-5	State Final #3	H. Kashmere L 91-87 PR 94.48 Pts. 85.9-70.2 +15.7
1975	35-4	Regional Semi #4	FW Paschal L 83-70 PR 93.91 Pts. 88.1-67.7 +20.4
1976	27-7	Regional Final #3	Tyler J.T. L 89-85 PR 87.74
1977	35-8	State Champs #15	FW Dunbar W 78-71 PR 96.97 Pts. 89.3-72.3 +17.0
Best: 6'7" Kenneth Williams(21.0), N.Texas-1974; 6'3" Charles McMillen(24.4), N.Texas-1974; 6'2" Larry Harris(15.0), Tyler JC-1974; 5'7" Cullen Mayfield(20.0), Midwestern-1977; 6'2" David Burns(22.0), St. Louis Uni.-1977; 6'3" Waymon Lister(25.3), N.Texas-1975:			

All-Tournament Team: The UIL All-tournament team as voted on by the sports writers were Burns and Mayfield, Griffin, Watley and Arthur Williams of S.O.C., Buesher of Westchester and Salinas. Mayfield and Griffin were unanimous choices.

1977	State Rankings AAAA {End of the Regular Season}:	
1. El Paso Eastwood	30-1	6'8" Terry White, 6'7" Darold Molix, Tim Crenshaw
2. Ft. Worth Dunbar	35-1	6'9" James Griffin(13.0), 6'3" Michael Watley(17.6)
3. Deer Park	34-4	6'5" Jon Hughes(21.0), 6'4" Byron Tully(13.0)
4. Clear Lake	34-4	6'7" Rex Johnston(21.1), Burney Wood
5. Dallas Roosevelt	30-6	6'5" Rynn Wright(25.0), 6'5" Michael Battle(19.0)
6. Arlington High	30-2	6'7" Ralph McPhearson(25.0), 6'4" Allen Roberts
7. Victoria	33-2	6'5" David Hardesty
8. S.A. Burbank	31-4	6'11" Gilbert Salinas(20.0), 6'1" Steve Gamboa(11.0)
9. Houston Madison	30-5	6'2" Greg Wise(20.1), 6'10" Greg Kite
10. Tyler Lee	33-2	6'4" Uirdell Howland(12.3), 6'5" Craig Hudeck(11.5)
11. Galveston Ball	31-7	6'3" Darrell Mitchell, Mike Venible
12. Corpus Christy Moody	28-7	6'7" Charles Moore(28.3), 6'8" Larry Earls(19.3)
13. Houston Jones	32-5	6'3" Roy Jones(19.0), 5'10" Ed Williams
14. South Oak Cliff	30-8	5'7" Cullen Mayfield(20.0), 6'1" David Burns(22.0)
15. Dallas Carter	24-8	6'7" Vernon Smith(24.0), 6'6" Dwayne Scales(20.0)
16. Houston Reagan	31-5	6'2" Mike Thompson
17. Bryan	22-6	6'11" Rudy Woods
18. Pampa	24-5	6'1" Rayford Young(19.5)
19. S.A. Sam Houston	28-7	6'8" Abraham Davis, 6'5" Charles Bean
20. Irving	27-4	5'11" Fred Stephenson(19.0), 6'5" Andy Sears(16.0)
20. Denison	25-5	5'11" Clint Gentry(16.0), 6'4" Charles Jenkins(16.0)

The All-State Team: Selecting The All-State teams was very difficult because of the size of the state. The Sports Writers did a great job selecting their team's year in and year out. Sometimes you can see a regional bias with the voting, but in 1977 the voting looked pretty fair. **1st Team**, 6'11" Gilbert Salinas 20.0, San Antonio Burbank; 6'7" Ralph McPhearson 25.0, Arlington; 6'5" Chuck O'Neal 23.0, Houston Milby; 6'9" James Griffin 14.6, Ft. Worth Dunbar; 5'7" Cullen Mayfield 20.0, Dallas South Oak Cliff: **2nd Team**, 6'8" Roshern Amie, Marshall; 6'7" Charles Moore 24.4, Corpus Christi Moody; 6'5" Rynn Wright 25.0, Dallas Roosevelt; 6'2" David Burns 22.0, Dallas S.O.C.; 6'3" Michael Watley 17.1, Ft. Worth Dunbar: **3rd Team**, 6'4" Tim Crenshaw 14.1, El Paso Eastwood; 6'7" Darold Molix 12.5, El Paso

Eastwood; 6'6" Keith Edmundson 22.0, San Antonio MacArthur, 6'8" B.B. Davis 21.0, Beaumont French; 6'3" Darrell Mitchell, Galveston Ball:

Were there any omissions to the All-State team in hind sight? Scales and Vernon Smith of Dallas Carter and Alvin Brooks of Houston Wheatley were three of the top fifteen players in the state, but were overshadowed by the tremendous talent pool. All three went on to have great college careers, but when you don't get into the playoffs, you are limited on your visibility. Player of the Year would have to be Gilbert Salinas.

Recruits: Gilbert Salinas was the top recruit in the state. He signed with Notre Dame and was a four-year letterman for the Irish and played backup post behind Bill Laimbeer and Orlando Wooldrige. He was drafted by the Hawks in the 8th round of the NBA draft and #167 overall in 1981. Salinas never played in the NBA. The two standouts from Dallas Carter went their separate ways following high school. Vernon Smith attending Texas A&M while Dwayne Scales played at L.S.U. Smith ended up the all-time leader in scorer and rebounder upon graduation from A&M. He was selected All-Southwest Conference all four years at A&M and 1st team All-SWC three years in a row. He was a 2nd round selection by the 76ers in the NBA draft and #46 overall. He was the last cut of the 76ers in 1981. Scales had a fine career at L.S.U., named freshmen of the year, Honorable Mention All-American in 1979, and named MVP of the 1980 SEC tournament. He skipped his senior season at L.S.U. and entered the NBA draft. He played for the Knicks and the Bullets(Wizards) from 1980 to 1984. He was the 36th overall pick in the 1980 NBA draft. Many locals felt Scales was the most talented player to come out of Dallas since Ira Terrell in 1972. In an interview at L.S.U. during his sophomore season, Scales said he never considered any Texas schools because they never pursued him. "I didn't really consider any schools in Texas, because the coaches there said I was undisciplined and could never be coached." Scales grew two mores inches after arriving on the L.S.U. campus. Rynn Wright of Roosevelt would join Smith at Texas A&M and made 1st team All-SWC on a conference championship squad in 1980 and 1981. He is still in the top ten on the Aggies All-time list in rebounds, points, blocked shots and games started. He was drafted by the 76ers in the 4th round, which was #92 overall. Confused and unsure of himself, Wright did not perform well at the 76ers training camp. He had always played inside as a power forward. In the pros, he would have to change positions and the adjustment was too hard at the pro level. Chuck O'Neal had limited success at the University of Houston after a standout high school career. He was a two-year letterman for the Cougars. Charles Bean out of San Antonio Sam Houston signed with Idaho St. Billy McShane attended Oregon State and had a nice career as mainly a backup player and his son later followed in his footsteps. McShane played for Dallas Jesuit and was 6'6". A lot of hoopla surrounded Ralph McPherson during his high school days.

He signed with Texas Tech but soon realized Gerald Meyers was not a good fit for him. He transferred to the University of Texas at Arlington. As a Maverick, he was 1st team All-Southland Conference and led the conference in scoring. After being drafted by the Dallas Mavericks in the NBA with the 188th overall pick, he opted for the Continental Basketball Association, playing for Phil Jackson. He played 11 years in Europe and was named to the U.T.A. Hall of Fame. Joining McPherson was 6'7" **Albert Culton** of Ennis, who transferred to UTA from Texas A&M. He was named Southland Conference player of the year in 1982 and was also drafted by the Mavericks of the NBA with the 209th overall pick. **Michael Watley** from Dunbar, played one season at Arkansas under Eddie Sutton and played quality minutes on a final four team, but got homesick and returned to Ft. Worth, missing the final four in 1978. Watley later transferred to Evansville. Two outstanding recruits in 1977 came from Marshall in East Texas, 6'8" **Tony Burns** and 6'8" **Roshern Amie**, they both signed with UTEP. Burns was a standout for the Miners averaging 11.4 points and 8.4 rebounds during his career. He finished as UTEP's leading scorer in 1979 and 1980. Amie also had a nice career at UTEP, averaging 14.1 points and 5.8 rebounds. He was named 2nd team All-WAC in 1981. Amie was drafted in the 6th round and #131 overall by the Blazers. Joining them at UTEP was 6'4" **Tim Crenshaw** of Eastwood. All three recruits had successful college careers with the Miners under legendary coach Don Haskins. **Charles Moore** signed with Southern Illinois and averaged 7.5 points and 5.4 rebounds his senior year. **B.B. Davis** attended Lamar and had a tremendous career. Davis actually impacted Lamar University immediately averaging 17.6 points a game and 10.2 rebounds. Lamar earned their first ever invite to the NCAA tournament his sophomore season, as he paced Lamar with 20.2 points and 10.8 rebounds. He set the school record for blocks his junior year. In Davis' junior year, Lamar advanced to the sweet sixteen after knocking off Oregon, the #4 ranked team in the nation. Davis was selected in the 4th round of the NBA draft by the Kansas City Kings, # 82 overall. He was named to the Cardinal Hall of Fame in 1992 and had his number retired. He finished 2nd on the Lamar Universities all-time scoring list and rebound list. Joining Davis at Lamar was standout guard, **Alvin Brooks** from Wheatley. Brooks would go on to be an all-conference performer at Lamar under another outstanding coach, Billy Tubbs. Brooks played at Sam Houston St. and transferred to Henderson County Junior College after his freshmen year. Brooks was named All-conference at Lamar and led the team to the sweet sixteen his junior year. He set the all-time single game, season and career records in assists, while attending Lamar. Brooks later became the head basketball coach at the University of Houston. **Leonard Mitchell** of course played football and basketball at the University of Houston under another Hall of Famer, Guy Lewis. **Rex Johnston** of Clear Lake signed with Baylor; **Ed Gatlin**, one of the top scorers in the state at Lancaster at 32.0 points a game, played at Lamar University. Pinkston's **Ollie Hoops**

took his talents to S.M.U., after leading Dallas in scoring with 30.0 points per game. **David Burns** went to Navarro J.C. and moved on to St. Louis University and had brief stay in the N.B.A. with the Nets. He was the 49th pick in the 1981 NBA draft. He still holds the St. Louis University all-time career scoring average at 19.4 points per game. He was named Metro Conference Co-Player of the Year in 1981. 6'5" **Michael Battle** from Roosevelt started at Baylor, after an outstanding college career at Trinity Valley Community College. Battle was known for his electrifying dunks and was named to the Trinity Valley Hall of Fame. After his career at Baylor, Battle played International ball in South America and Mexico. **Greg Wise** from Houston Madison attended Houston Baptist and was named to the schools Hall of Fame in 2000. **James Gamble** of Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson played at North Texas State, **Pat Nunley** of Ft. Worth Richland took his talents to Baylor. **Arthur Williams** of S.O.C. and **Michael Taylor** of Dallas Carter both ended up at North Texas St. playing for Bill Blakeley. Williams was on a track scholarship. **Cullen Mayfield** signed Midland Jr. College and went on to Midwestern University in Wichita Falls and had a fine career. **Ricky Phillips** from S.O.C. played at Hardin Simmons. 6'8" **Darold Molix** of Eastwood played at UTEP, **Chuck Stanley** of S.A. Lee hooped at Baylor, 6'3" **Phil Spradling** of E.P. Parkland ended up playing for Nolan Richardson in junior college and the University of Tulsa. He was a starter on the Missouri Valley conference championship team. 6'5" **Robert Hubble**(19.0) of Kerrville Tivy played dual sports while attending Rice and later went on to play in the N.F.L. 6'7" **Abe Davis** of S.A. Sam Houston played at the University of Houston; 6'3" **Mike Little** of Abilene played at Baylor; 5'10" **Dwight Williams** of El Paso Austin played at Texas Tech; 6'8" **Ken Robinson** of Paris North Lamar played at North Texas St.; 6'1" **James Walling** of Canyon played at Louisiana Tech; 6'6" **Mike Denny** of Midland Lee played at Wichita St.; 6'0" **Fred Stephenson** of Irving played at Texas A&I; 6'2" **Ervy Cormier** of Houston Kashmere played at U.T. Arlington; 6'2" **Ricky Leggett** of S.A. Kennedy played at U.T. Arlington; 6'4" **John Showman** of Dallas Tyler St. played at Oral Roberts; 6'3" **Mike Jackson** of Borger played for Oklahoma City; 6'1" **Robert Culley** of Center played for Middle Tennessee; 6'3" **Jerry Schaeffer** of Dimmitt played for West Texas St.; 6'6" **Bart Cadenhead**, West Texas St.; 6'1" **Coney Luke** of El Paso Andress played for T.C.U.; 6'4" **Byron Tully** of Deer Park played for T.C.U.; 6'8" **Ralph Brewster** of El Paso Bowie played at Texas Tech: David Lattin, the former U.T.E.P. great, tried to steer 6'4" **Roland Milburn**(23.0/17.0) from Houston Yates, to play for the Miners but was unsuccessful. Milburn was one of the top recruits in the state with over 100 college offers. He ended up at Texas Southern and Alcorn St. Lattin said, "I think he's the top player in Houston." Milburn had a nice career with the Braves of Alcorn St.

Top Texas Recruits in 1977 based on their college and pro careers:

Dwayne Scales 6'7"	Dallas Carter	L.S.U., All-SEC 19.3/9.1*	<u>Knicks NBA #36</u>
David Burns 6'2"	South Oak Cliff	St. Louis U., POY Conf. 21.4/4.7*	<u>Nets NBA #49</u>
B.B. Davis 6'8"	Beaumont French	Lamar U., All-Conf. 20.3/10.8*	Draft Kings #82
Vernon Smith 6'7"	Dallas Carter	Texas A&M, All-SWC 16.0/8.1*	Draft 76ers #46
Rynn Wright 6'5"	Dallas Roosevelt	Texas A&M, All-SWC 13.4/7.4*	Draft 76ers #92
Alvin Brooks 6'0"	Houston Wheatley	Lamar U., 11.7, 8.3 asst., 2.1 st.*	Draft Spurs #219
Ralph McPherson 6'9"	Arlington High	U.T. Arl., All-Conf. 18.2/9.2*	Draft Mavs#188
Albert Culton 6'7"	Ennis High	U.T. Arl., Conf. MVP 18.0/9.6*	Draft Mavs#209
Roshern Amie 6'8"	Marshall High	U.T.E.P., All WAC 2 nd 14.1/5.8*	Draft Blaz #131
Anthony Burns 6'8"	Marshall High	U.T.E.P., 12.6/8.8*	

(*All-Conference)

All-Americans: McDonald's named their first All-American team in 1977 headed by Magic Johnson. Texas had two players named to the prestigious squad, Milby's Chuck O'Neal and Burbank's Gilbert Salinas. Basketball Weekly was highly thought of as a publication, named only Salinas to the 5th team. The Adidas All-American team had Salinas as well. As talented as this group was, not one player was selected on Street and Smith's freshmen of Influence the following season. Basketball Weekly Honorable Mention All-American list: Anthony Lee, Rudy Woods, James Griffin, Ed Gatlin, Billy McShane of Houston Strake Jesuit, Chuck O'Neil, Rynn Wright, Byron Tulley of Deer Park, Jon Hughes of Deer Park, David Burns, Rickie Thompson, Vernon Smith, Dewayne Scales, Albert Culton: 1977 was the year that really began to put Texas on the recruiter's map. The state had so much talent that was not recognized. This is when I began to realize these publications were clueless on the talent coming out of Texas.

National Ranking: In the national polls, Ft. Worth Dunbar and Dallas South Oak Cliff finished #25 and #44 in the country respectively by Basketball Weekly. Yes, I know, Dunbar was the higher ranked team.

State Leaders: The top scorers in the state were Ollie Hoops(30.0) from Dallas Pinkston, Ricky Pierce(28.0) of Garland and Alvin Brooks(25.9) of Houston Wheatley. Jack Melbourn of Duncanville also had to be included averaging 26.0 points a game. Corpus Christi Moody was said to have averaged 90.0 per game, but after the playoffs that number had to have dropped leaving S.O.C. at 89.3 points per game, the top offensive team. Ft. Worth Dunbar led the state with winning margin at +18.6 per game. Arlington was close behind at +18.2 followed by S.A. Burbank +17.3 and S.O.C. at 17.0. On the defensive side, Burbank was the top team allowing only 46.7 per game.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs- Cullen Mayfield of S.O.C. averaged 20.4 in the playoffs; Dallas Hillcrest(23), Irving(18), Tyler Lee(22), S.A. Burbank(16), Ft. Worth Dunbar(23):

Power Rankings:

1.	South Oak Cliff	35-8	State Champs	97.07	beat Dunbar 78-71
2.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	39-2	State Finals	92.58	Loss to S.O.C. 71-78
3.	Houston Wheatley	28-6	Regional Finals	90.82	Loss to Westchester
4.	S.A. Burbank	35-5	State Semis	90.45	Loss to S.O.C. 66-54
5.	Clear Lake	37-5	Regional Semis	88.34	Loss to Wheatley 74-71
6.	Deer Park	34-4	District Runner-up	87.23	
7.	Arlington High	30-2	Bi-District	87.02	Loss to Dunbar 97-79
8.	Houston Jones	32-5	District Runner-up	86.54	
9.	El Paso Eastwood	32-2	Regional Finals	85.63	Loss to Dunbar 68-63

In looking at the power ratings of the top teams, the numbers bare out the pretty much the season. Eastwood did not do well in the power ratings because of the weak schedule they played. According to the numbers, if S.O.C. played Dunbar on a neutral site, the Bears would be five point favorites. They did play on a neutral site and S.O.C. won by seven points. Sometimes it is amazing how accurate the numbers can be when there is a full body of work for both teams. In looking at the top teams in the state in 1977, this was probably a pretty good order of the top teams. It was somewhat disappointing, Houston Westchester(32-10) at 83.06, advanced to Austin instead of the exciting Wheatley team. The Wildcats were really talented and would have made the state tournament much more entertaining. Where is Dallas Roosevelt, shocking, the numbers were not there?

Ft. Worth Dunbar had the most talent according to the college recruiters. Senior, Michael Watley was a top ten recruit, who signed with Arkansas along with juniors, James Griffin(#2) and Cletus Hubbard, who signed with Illinois upon graduation. Eastwood had three also, Tim Crenshaw, Darold Molix and Terry White(#4), a junior, all signed with UTEP. Dallas S.O.C. had David Burns at St. Louis University, Cullen Mayfield at Midwestern and Arthur Williams at North Texas.

Team that should have advanced to the State Tournament in Austin:

Well I don't know how much of an honor this is but my choice would have to be Dallas Roosevelt, Houston Jones and Deer Park. Their schedules were beyond comprehension. Roosevelt played 19 teams on their schedule who were 20 game winners and played S.O.C.(35-8) six times and Dunbar(39-2) twice. They faced Dallas Carter(25-8) three times. The Mustangs of Roosevelt were 6-6 against these three state powers. The Mustangs had three of the best players in Dallas on the squad, 6'5" Rynn Wright(25.0), Michael Battle(19.0) and 5'11" guard Michael Andrus(17.0). This was one of the Coach Ellis Davis's top teams along with his state tournament teams in 1972 and 1981. Had they been able to get by S.O.C. in District, they would have been right there in the title game against Dunbar with a healthy Rynn Wright.

Houston Jones had one of the top teams in the state two years running and never made the playoffs. Deer Park was strong all through the 70s. Both teams would have given Westchester all they could handle.

1977 4-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso Eastwood(31-1) #1	68	El Paso Andress(26-7)	65
	Wichita Falls Rider(23-10)	57	Abilene Cooper(27-7)	50
	Pampa(24-5) #18	60	Hereford(22-11)	54
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(35-1) #2	97	Arlington(30-2) #6	79
Region I Semis	El Paso Eastwood(32-1) #1	68	Wichita Falls Rider(24-10)	57
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(36-1) #2	66	Pampa(25-5) #18	56
Region I Finals	Ft. Worth Dunbar(37-1) #2	68	El Paso Eastwood(33-1) #1	63
Region II Bi-Dist.	Irving(27-4) #20	64	Garland(24-10)	63
	Dallas S.O.C.(30-8) #14	84	Dallas Hillcrest(17-10)	57
	Tyler Lee(33-2) #10	75	Richardson(28-6)	63
	Bryan(22-6) #17	52	Temple(24-4)	48
Region II Semis	Dallas S.O.C.(31-8) #14	57	Irving High(28-4) #20	48
	Tyler Lee(34-2) #10	60	Bryan(23-6) #17	48
Region II Finals	Dallas S.O.C.(32-8) #14	66	Tyler Lee(35-2) #10	55
Region III Bi-Dist.	Houston Wheatley(24-8)	77	Houston Washington(26-4)	64
	H. Westchester(29-9)	52	Houston Madison(30-5) #9	50
	Houston Smiley(26-6)	60	Beaumont French(28-4)	53
	Clear Lake(34-4) #4	54	Galveston Ball(27-7) #11 OT	52
Region III Semis	Houston Wheatley(25-8)	74	Clear Lake(35-4) #4	71
	Houston Westchester(30-9)	55	Houston Smiley(27-6)	50
Region III Finals	Houston Westchester(31-9)	74	Houston Wheatley(25-8)	71
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Austin Reagan(20-11)	80	Victoria(33-2) #7 OT	74
	C.C. Moody(34-2) #12	76	Mission(26-12)	72
	S.A. Burbank(31-4) #8	52	San Antonio Lee(26-9)	50
	S.A. Kennedy(27-11)	70	Converse Judson(26-9)	65
Region IV Semis	Austin Reagan(21-11)	76	C.C. Moody(35-2) #12	58
	S.A. Burbank(32-4) #8	69	S.A. Kennedy(28-11)	54
Region IV Finals	S.A. Burbank(33-4) #8	46	Austin Reagan(22-11)	35
State Semi-Finals	Ft. Worth Dunbar(38-1) #2	74	Houston Westchester(31-9)	68
	Dallas S.O.C.(33-8) #14	66	SA Burbank(34-4) #8	54
State Finals	Dallas S.O.C.(34-8) #14	78	Ft. Worth Dunbar(39-1) #2	71

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1977 Top "50"}

1. South Oak Cliff	35-8	{0-2 vs. Wheatley, 3-3 vs. Roosevelt, 2-0 vs. Dunbar}
2. Ft Worth Dunbar	39-2	{3-0 vs. Roosevelt, 0-2 vs. S.O.C., 2-0 vs. Arlington}
3. Houston Wheatley	26-9	{beat Lake, 2-0 vs. S.O.C., 2-1 vs. Jones, 2-0 vs. Milby}
4. Houston Jones	32-5	{1-2 vs. Wheatley, 2-1 vs. Milby, 2-0 vs. Yates, beat Ball}
5. Clear Lake	35-5	{beat Yates, Cy-Fair, 2-1 vs. Deer Park, 0-1 vs. Wheatley}
6. Arlington	30-2	{defeated Wheatley, S.O.C., Richland by 30 and 19 points}
7. Dallas Roosevelt	30-8	{3-3 vs. S.O.C., 0-2 vs. Dunbar, 2-0 vs. Carter}
8. H. Westchester	32-10	{1-1 vs. Wheatley, 0-1 vs. Yates, 2-1 vs. Spring Woods}
9. S. A. Burbank	34-5	{beat CC Moody 59-49, lost four games with Salinas out}
10. Deer Park	34-4	{beat Smiley, Dulles, Cy-Fair split, 1-2 against Clear Lake}
11. El Paso Eastwood	33-2	{lost to Dunbar 68-63}
12. Houston Yates	23-9	{2-1 vs. Milby, 0-2 vs. Jones, 1-1 vs. Wheatley}
13. Houston Milby	28-8	{1-2 vs. Yates, 0-2 vs. Wheatley, 1-2 vs. Jones, beat Lake}
14. Houston Sterling	24-10	{1-1 vs. Jones, 1-1 vs. Wheatley, 1-0 vs. Yates}
15. Houston Madison	30-6	{lost in bi-district to Houston Westchester 52-50}
16. Tyler Lee	35-3	{lost in regional finals to S.O.C. 66-55}
17. Marshall		{district co-champs, lost playoff game to Tyler Lee 53-52}
18. Houston Smiley	27-7	{lost in the regional semis to Westchester 55-50}
19. H. Washington	26-5	{lost in Bi-District to Wheatley 77-64}
20. Bryan	23-7	{2-1 vs. Cy-Fair, 2-1 vs. Temple}
21. Irving	28-5	{lost in the regional semis to S.O.C. 57-48}
22. Austin Reagan	22-12	{regional finalist losing to Burbank 46-35}
23. C. C. Moody	35-3	{regional semis losing to Austin Reagan 76-58}
24. Beaumont French	28-5	{went 14-0 in district, defeated Pollard 58-50 to win dist.}
25. Galveston Ball	27-8	{beat S.O.C. 116-108, loss Clear Lake in Bi-District 74-71}
26. S. A. Sam Hou.	28-8	{lost a district playoff to Burbank 60-57}
27. Beau. Pollard	30-6	{went 12-2 in district losing both games with French}
28. Victoria	33-3	{lost in overtime to Reagan 80-74 in Bi-District}
29. Dallas Carter	24-8	{0-2 vs. Wheatley, 1-2 vs. Roosevelt, 1-1 vs. S.O.C.}
30. Temple	24-5	{knocked out in Bi-District by Bryan 52-48}
31. San Antonio Lee	26-10	{defeated in Bi-District by Burbank 52-50}
32. Garland	24-11	{lost by one point in Bi-District to Irving, Ricky Pierce}
33. Spring Woods	26-10	{lost the district title to Westchester 68-65}
34. Abilene Cooper	27-8	{lost in Bi-District to Wichita Falls Rider 57-50}
35. Pampa	25-6	{lost in regional semis to Dunbar 66-56}
36. Richardson	28-7	{lost to FW SW, Skyline, Roosevelt; beat Kimball}
37. Denison	25-6	{lost a district playoff game to Richardson 47-46}
38. H. Kashmere	22-9	{defeated Deer Park 90-89, beat D.Roosevelt 98-92}
39. El Paso Andress	26-8	{lost in Bi-District to Eastwood, 68-65}
40. Wich. Falls Rider	24-11	{beat Dallas Carter 77-74, lost to Eastwood 68-57}
41. H. Stratford	27-10	{tough district-Spring Woods, Westchester, Spring Branch}
42. Pasadena	22-13	{finished 3rd in district behind, Clear Lake and Deer Park}
43. Cyp-Fairbanks	31-5	{lost in a playoff to Bryan in district}
44. S. A. Kennedy	28-12	{lost in regional semis to Burbank 69-54}
45. Converse Judson	26-10	{knocked out of the playoffs by S.A. Kennedy 70-65}
46. Hereford	22-12	{lost in Bi-District Pampa 60-54}
47. Ft. W. Richland	23-6	{lost a district playoff game to Arlington 75-45 and 71-52}
48. Eules L.D. Bell	24-8	{district 4-AAAA runner-up to Rider}
49. Wilmer Hutchins	21-12	{district 10-AAAA runner-up to Garland}
50. Mission	26-13	{lost in Bi-District to Corpus Christy Moody}

1978 AAAA

The 1978 Texas High school basketball campaign produced some of the best big men to ever come out of the state. 6'11" Rudy Woods(24.5) was being compared to the legendary Dwight Jones from Houston Wheatley. Coach Hughes of Dunbar had strong feelings that his 6'10" big boy, James Griffin was better on both ends of the court than Woods. 6'9" Anthony Lee of Tyler John Tyler was also named All-American and had multiple skills for a big man of his size. Not to be out done was 6'9" Terry White of traditional power El Paso Eastwood. White was arguably the best player ever produced by El Paso. The same could be said for Griffin in Ft. Worth. With no three-point line in 1978, the big men would have a much greater impact than in today's faster up tempo game. If you didn't have bigs you had no chance, but this theory proved to be wrong, as none of the great inside players were able to crash the big dance in Austin.

Other players of interest were 6'6" Ricki Thompson from Houston Jones, 6'10" Greg Kite of Houston Madison and 6'2" Rob Williams of Houston Milby. All three were juniors and would put their stamp on high school basketball over the next two seasons. Future N.B.A standout, Ricky Pierce returned for his senior year at Garland High. Billy Allen of Highland Park, Brad Friess of Austin Anderson were also standouts.

The top national publication at the time for high school basketball was Street & Smith magazine. I remember I couldn't wait for the yearly issue to hit the newsstand. Street & Smith came out with Ft. Worth Dunbar as the #8 team in the country. Another national publication that was exclusively centered on high school basketball had Dunbar at #3 in the country. Bill McMurray's pre-season basketball magazine was a real source of information each year, centered on Houston basketball. McMurray was a high school sports writer with the Houston Chronicle and his pre-season look at the upcoming season was always a great indicator as to the players and teams to watch out for. Wheatley was picked as number one in greater Houston area with Houston Westbury right behind the Wildcats. 6'7" Tim Williams was the team leader for Westbury. Bryan with Woods came in at number three, and perennial power Kashmere at four. Of the top fifteen players named by the publication, Westbury placed three players in the top fifteen, Williams along with 6'5" Tim Hammond and 6'4" Danny Nottebart.

In the early season polls there was but one team to beat, and that was Ft. Worth Dunbar. Although they had lost Michael Watley from the previous season, everybody else was back and a year older. Coach Hughes years later shared with me that he felt this was one of his best teams at Dunbar. At the Arlington Classic in Arlington Dunbar proved to be the best in the state. They defeated Duncanville 65-34, Marshall High 100-44, Houston Wheatley 95-85 in the semis and Dallas S.O.C.

92-88 in the finals. After attending the tournament, my personal All-Tournament unit was, Griffin and Cletus Hubbard of Dunbar, Terry White of Eastwood, 6'7" newcomer Bobby Davis, a junior from Roosevelt, 6'7" junior, Roosevelt McGruder from Wheatley, 6'7" Larry Micheaux from Houston Worthing, 6'2" Aaron Emery, a junior from S.O.C. and 6'0" Kevin Jones of Roosevelt. Some things never change, as the state's top teams just continued the pipe line of success with talented players emerging year after year. Other games of interest in the Arlington Classic were S.O.C.'s semi-final victory over E.P. Eastwood 89-71, and Wheatley's 85-72 win over Eastwood in the 3rd place game. The best game of the tournament was Wheatley's 109 to 80 victory over Dallas Roosevelt. The Mustangs had a twenty-five-point lead at one point in the contest.

Coming out of the tournament, one had to conclude Wheatley had their deepest and strongest team since 1973. McGruder was listed at 6'4" but was closer to 6'7" or 6'8". It was coach Jackie Carr's way of saying we are Wheatley. Whatever the reason for him missing the height on his players by at least three inches, you never wanted to look at a basketball program before you played Wheatley. I think Carr did this to just mess with their opponents. The Wildcats had a plethora of talent once again in 6'6" Carl Runnels, 6'3" Theodore Harris, 6'2" Gilbert Thomas, 5'10" Tracey Bookman, 6'1" Kenneth Morning, 6'3" Nolan Greenleaf and many more. They were so deep.

At the Dr. Pepper tournament in Dallas it was more of the same as Dallas S.O.C. and Dunbar continued to dominate the big tournaments. Highland Park came into the tournament at 17-1, and looked like they could make a push into the elite status in the state. The Scots were averaging 83 points a game and were feeling really good about themselves. Coach Snowden felt this might be his best team since 1972, when the Scots traveled as far as regionals. The man running the show was 6'0" senior guard, Billy Allen, the son of S.M.U. head basketball coach Sonny Allen. New S.O.C. coach, Henry Warren had his hands full in the quarterfinals against the Scots. S.O.C. really had a tough time against Highland Park winning 78-76, with Billy Allen leading all scorers with 29 points. This game showed that the Scots were for real and could be a force come playoff time. Dunbar at 19-1 had little trouble in the early rounds beating Dallas Lincoln by 32 and Dallas Madison by 26. Griffin had 38 points against Madison.

It was the same as usual in the semi-finalists with Dallas S.O.C., Dallas Roosevelt, Dunbar and Skyline. Dunbar defeated Roosevelt 79-65 and S.O.C. downed Skyline 88-58 in the semi-finals. The finals were a re-match of the Arlington Classic. S.O.C. came into the game at 15-7 while Dunbar was 22-1. Dunbar's only loss was in the El Paso tournament to Eastwood by one point 60-59. In the finals of the Dr. Pepper tournament, Dunbar dumped the Golden Bears 72-60. Griffin was named the tournament's M.V.P. and Roosevelt easily disposed of Skyline for 3rd place 96-61.

The Dr. Pepper tournament in Houston expanded to eight teams in 1977-78 with no guest teams as in the past. The tournament was always held right before Christmas. The big feature in the December tournament was 6'11" Rudy Woods of Bryan, arguably the best player in the state and possibly the country. Woods had visits planned to Kentucky, North Carolina, Hawaii, Southern California, Michigan and Texas A&M. Bryan had started the season at 1-6, but had run off nine straight wins coming into the tournament. "We had injuries and a few other things," Coach Bobby Perry said about the early season slump. "But things are going well now and Rudy is averaging about 27 points per game." In Bryan's biggest win of the season over Houston Jones 68-67 in the finals of the LaPorte tournament, Woods finished with 39 points. The Vikings faced Houston Westchester(13-4) in the first round of the tourney. Westchester had advanced to the state tournament in 1977, and were paced by one of the top players in the state, 6'6" Joe Costello. "We know Woods is tough inside," said Coach Bob Latham. "And were going to have to do something to keep him off the boards." Houston Madison(11-2) entered the tournament with 6'10", 245 pound, Greg Kite. The big junior averaged 18.0 points per game and Marlins had several players returning from a 30-8 record the previous season. Madison had won the Corpus Christi tournament. The Dr. Pepper tournament was made up of a who's who of Houston area basketball powerhouses. Galveston Ball, Houston Wheatley(15-2), Houston Kashmere, Houston Smiley and Houston Washington(8-3). In first round games, Wheatley had little trouble with Smiley 87-53. Kashmere upset Galveston Ball 89-68, Bryan took out Houston Westchester 57-52, and Washington defeated Houston Madison 49-48. Houston Washington continued with the one point victories defeating Bryan 58-57 in the semi-finals. Wheatley blitzed Smiley 30-13 after a slow start. Fifteen players scored for the Wildcats, led by Carl Runnells with 14 points. Michael McQueen paced Smiley with 14 points. In the Westchester-Bryan clash, Costello and Wendell Johnson tried to outscore big Rudy Woods. That was going to be difficult with Woods finishing with 23 points, 11 of 22 from the field, 15 rebounds, 4 dunks and 2 blocks. In Washington's victory over Madison, two free throws by Roy Fitzpatrick with 21 seconds remaining was the difference for the Eagles. Kashmere's pressing defense and speed proved to be the difference against Galveston Ball. Al Reynolds led the Rams with 17 points and Earnest Patterson followed with 16. Clarence Swannegan led Ball's effort with 16 points. In their semi-final game, Kashmere came up with another upset, beating tournament favorite Wheatley 97-90. The 18-3 Wildcats were led once again by Carl Runnel's 26 points. Wheatley missed six layups in the final quarter that could have made the difference.

In the finals of the Houston Dr. Pepper tournament, Kashmere took down Houston Washington 71-56. The Rams had four players in double figures. Lorenzo Scott took the tournament M.V.P. honors for Kashmere with 24 points. Robert

McGowan and Al Reynolds contributed 19 and 13 points respectively. Leonard Van Durning led Washington with 13 points against Kashmere. Van Durning hit only one of 11 free throws in the contest. Houston Madison took consolation 59-56 over Galveston Ball. Greg Kite and 6'6" John Simple were too strong for Clarence Swannegan of Galveston scoring 21 and 14 points respectively. Swannegan had 13 to led the 19-4 Tors. In the consolation semi-finals, Madison beat Westchester 67-60 and Galveston Ball advanced beating Houston Smiley 64-54.

All-tournament honors went Greg Kite of Houston Madison, Rudy Woods of Bryan, John Simple of Madison, Joe Costello of Westchester, Wendell Johnson of Westchester, Van Durning of Washington, Oscar Risher of Washington, Clarence Swannegan of Galveston Ball, Lorenzo Scott of Kashmere, Nolan Greenleaf of Wheatley, Earnest Patterson of Kashmere and Donald Pettaway of Kashmere.

The Jaycee tournament in Houston was made up of 32 teams and would feature the best Houston had to offer. District 20-AAAA was well represented as six of the eight quarterfinalist teams were from 20-AAAA. Jones, Wheatley, Milby, Yates, Sterling and Austin all had won their first and second round games. Kashmere, who came off the Dr. Pepper championship, was eliminated in the second round in a re-match with Wheatley 100-94. Why they had those two rivals meeting so early is beyond me. In one of the featured games of the tournament, Gilbert Thomas led the Wildcats with 22 points and Roosevelt McGruder added 16. Earnest Patterson came off the bench for the Rams and scored 23 points and Lorenzo Scott hit 14 for Kashmere. Surprisingly, Wheatley was eliminated in the next round in a shocker, losing to Houston Sterling,70-69. Sterling's two strong inside post, 6'5" 210 pound, Randy Woodard and 6'6" 215 pound, Reginald Fears were the difference. Wheatley fell behind 48-33 after the exhausting victory over Kashmere earlier. The Wildcats came back in typical fashion to get within two points. Antonio Malveaux of Wheatley was fouled by James Woodard with four seconds left trailing by two. Malveaux hit the first and missed the second, sending Sterling into the semi-finals. Wheatley had beat Sterling earlier in the season to open District 86-69. Fears finished with 23 points, Kenneth Gordon had 19 while Carl Runnels hit 23 for Wheatley.

Joining Sterling in the semi-finals was Houston Milby at 20-1. The Buffaloes beat Houston Lamar 66-55, Clear Creek(17-3) 75-61 and Houston Stratford. Rob Williams, the fantastic junior guard, led the Milby charge. Houston Jones entered the tournament as a top ten team in the state polls at 21-2. Jones downed Forest Brook 71-59, Houston Reagan 57-54, but lost to District rival, Houston Yates 80-68 in the quarterfinals. Ronnie DeJean led the scoring for the Lions with 27 points. Yates had beaten Houston Washington 86-76 and Houston Lincoln 77-70 to reach the quarterfinals. The last semi-finalist was Deer Park, who beat Alief Hasting 65-32 and Houston Davis 68-43. Deer Park eliminated Houston Austin 65-58 to advance to the semis.

Deer Park won a squeaker over Houston Yates(17-4) 43-42 to gain the finals. With 1:21 left, Yates was up 42-41 and was running out the clock. Ricky Snell of Deer Park fouled Gary Wiley with 27 seconds remaining on the clock. Wiley missed the front end of a one and one, giving Deer Park one last opportunity. Ricky Snell was the difference in the end with five seconds remaining, knocking down two foul shots. Robert Shaw led the Deer Park attack with 18 points. Sterling beat Houston Milby in the other semi-final game 53-51 in overtime. Rob Williams missed the back end of two foul shots that could have won the game against Sterling. Instead the game was all tied up at 47-47. In overtime, Gordon knocked down the game winner with 37 seconds remaining to give Sterling the win. Fears finished with 16 points and Gordon had 13 points. Rob Williams led all scorers with 21 points.

The Sterling Raiders continued the Cinderella story beating Deer Park in the finals 49-47. "An outstanding physical team with loads of talent," Coach Ray Landers of Deer Park commented after the game. Woodard had 10 points and Fears added 10 for the Sterling squad. Snell led Deer Park with 12 points. Yates got by Milby 68-63 in the 3rd place game. Ronnie DeJean led Yates with 17 points, Phillip Sapp hit 12 and Gary Wiley and Arnold Blackmon both netted 11 points. Rob Williams paced Milby hitting 27 points. Consolation went to Houston Lamar with a 55-47 win over Houston Washington.

In the first state polls of the season, Dunbar was #1, followed by Eastwood #2, Wheatley #3, Tyler Lee #4, Houston Milby #5, Pampa #6, Bryan #7, Houston Jones #8, Houston Madison #9 and Highland Park coming in at #10. Tyler Lee was coming off an outstanding season finishing 35-3 in '77. The Rebels had advanced all the way to the regional finals before losing to South Oak Cliff. Tyler Lee's Virdell Howland was one of the top players in the state and was committed to the University of Texas.

Region I

El Paso Eastwood(25-3) #2

Eules Bell(29-5) #10

Lubbock Monterey(19-11)

Arlington(25-7)

El Paso Irvin(24-5) #5

Abilene(31-4) #6

Amarillo(22-6)

Ft. Worth Dunbar(32-2) #1

Top Five in Region I

6'9" James Griffin, Ft. Worth Dunbar; 6'6" David Little, Abilene; 6'8" Terry White, El Paso Eastwood; 6'5" Andy Sears, Irving High; 6'7" Victor Mitchell, Amarillo High:

Region I was going to be the toughest region in class AAAA in 1978, with five teams ranked in the top ten in the state. El Paso Irvin #5, Abilene #6, El Paso Eastwood #2, Hurst L.D. Bell #10 and Ft. Worth Dunbar #1.

The District 8-AAAA title came down between Ft. Worth Richland(19-12) and Arlington(24-7). The two teams were to decide the championship at the Super Pit in Denton on the campus of North Texas St. University. Arlington relied on the inside game of 6'6" Eddie McClelen(16.9) and 6'5" Ernest Williams(14.8). Richland would counter with 6'7" Monty Munford(10.6) and 6'5" Tom Curran(10.8). A key player for the Rebels was 6'4" Van Miller(13.6), who played inside and outside. Coach Dale Archer of Arlington felt having a third player on the inside would be an advantage to Richland. The Rebels went 2-4 in the first half of District action but turned things around in the second half finishing 7-0. Richland coach, Ken West felt his team was on a role entering the contest. "We feel we know what Arlington is going to do. It's just a matter of whether we can stop them," West said. Arlington won the team's first encounter 58-51 and Richland rebounded winning the second game in triple overtime 65-58. The winner would get Ft. Worth Dunbar.

The Colts of Arlington won their second straight District title over Ft. Worth Richland 53-41. Coach Dale Archer's team was only able to place one player in double figures and that was Phil Yates with 17 points. McClelen added 9 points. For Richland, Tom Curran put in 15 points and Jamie Pipes tipped in 10.

Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-2) was the top-rated team going into the playoffs. But making the playoffs was not a forgone conclusion. The Wildcats still had to get past the Panthers of Ft. Worth Paschal(26-4), coached by Jim Wall. Wall was one of the top coaches I personally have ever watched work the sidelines. Daniel Meyer Coliseum on the campus of T.C.U. would be the only arena large enough to house the District showdown between Paschal and Dunbar, for the second half title. Both teams entered the game with perfect 7-0 marks in the second round. If Dunbar won, they took the 7-AAAA title, and if Paschal won, it would force a District playoff between the two schools. Dunbar played a fast pace style averaging 80.7 per game while Paschal would turn to four corners at critical times to win games. "We have to control the tempo," Coach Wall explained, "There's no way we can run with them." Dunbar won the first meeting 68-61, but the Wildcats were up at one time 62-44. Dunbar of course was paced by 6'9" James Griffin and outside shooters, 6'1" Cletus Hubbard and 6'3" Lander Johnson. Another key player for Coach Hughes was Joey McDowell, who had missed two days of school because of the flu. The talent level for Dunbar was unending with 6'4" Anthony Ware, 6'8" Gilbert Collier, a sophomore, 6'6" Andre Allen, another sophomore, and 6'5" Terry Brown. Paschal would turn to 6'6" Frank Sullivan and 6'7" Mark Smith for inside strength, and Sam Noel and Kyle Bibb would be handling the ball. Bench strength would come from Greg Shropshire.

Before 6,000 screaming fans, Dunbar pulled out the District title with a 40-39 triple overtime win against Paschal. With the score 37-37 and 3:45 remaining in the third quarter Paschal pulled the ball out, and went to four corners. The tactic came so close to winning the game for the Panthers as they had

eight opportunities to win the game at the end of regulation, and counting the three overtimes. Dunbar's Lander Johnson hit the second of two foul shots for the margin of victory with 2:48 remaining in the third overtime. Big Grif finished with 21 points and 10 rebounds, despite the delay tactics by Paschal. "I felt like if we could stay close going into the last few minutes, we'd be in the game," Coach Wall said after the game. Down one with the clock running down in the third overtime, Wall held for the last shot of the game. "I felt we had momentum on our side," Wall replied when asked about going for the last shot.

The rematch from the previous year between Dunbar(32-2) and Arlington High(25-6) wasn't the same, because the Colts did not seem to pose the quality of opposition as they had during the '77 campaign. Ernest Williams, a 6'4" junior, and 6'6" Eddie McClelen were strong players, who had kept the tradition going for the Colts, but against Griffin they would be giving up several inches inside. The game was played in front of 7,200 fans at Daniel Meyer Coliseum. Dunbar came from behind for the 67-55 victory. Arlington shot 72% from the floor for three quarters to take the lead going into the fourth quarter. Dunbar began pressing and Arlington started turning the ball over. "We couldn't afford to let them sit on it, we had to pick up the action," Coach Hughes said. Hughes called for the press halfway through the 2nd quarter and it began to have its effects on the Colts in the 2nd half. Arlington had 11 of their 15 turnovers in the 2nd half. Griffin prevailed with 32 points as Dunbar pulled away late 67-55. For Arlington, Williams and McClelen scored 22 and 17 respectfully.

In Bi-District action, Eules L.D. Bell squared off against Abilene at Tarleton St. in Stephenville. Eules L.D. Bell was paced by 6'5" Willie Alsup(19.0), 6'4" Kent Davis(18.0) and Curtis Callaway(16.7) and were 29-5 on the season. Abilene also came in with a very impressive record of 32-4, led by the multi-talented 6'6" David Little(23.0). David followed his two older brothers, Richard and Mike to Abilene High. Richard had played for Abilene in 1970 and was 2nd team All-State. He was later a standout performer at Texas Tech. Mike played at Baylor. David was considered a better prospect than either one of his older brothers because of his size and shooting ability. Outside of Little the team did not have any real size, relying on three 6'2" players, Darren Edwards(10.3), Byron Roberts(12.9) and Cisco Smith(17.9). 5'7" senior, Mark Pierce rounded out the starting lineup. The Eagles schedule was not overly impressive, their losses had been to Abilene Cooper 41-38, Waco Richfield 66-64, Hobbs, New Mexico 128-100 and Midland High 76-70. They avenged the Cooper loss twice and split with Midland High. The Eagles had two impressive wins over Temple(23-7) 62-53 and 76-62. The Eagles had a win over the second ranked team in class AAA, Mineral Wells 62-61. This was the strongest Abilene team in years. The Eagles averaged 73.3 per game to their opponents 61.3. That was a difference of 12 points for you math people. Not real impressive, but strong none the less. Abilene had a senior dominated squad and

looked to be a great matchup against L.D. Bell. Coach Ray DeBord of L.D. Bell had received a scouting report that made it tough to get ready for the Eagles. "They run quite a bit, but then they will turn around and use the four-corner delay offense," DeBord stated. "And they will press just about the whole night. They try to keep you off balance."

The game was won by the Eagles 72-63 to advance to regionals, which just happened to be in Abilene. Abilene was able to jump out to a 24-14 lead early in the game due to Bell's cold shooting. "We were so tight and we couldn't shoot at all early," DeBord said. "I give a lot of credit to Abilene. They played well. Clearly, the best team tonight won." Abilene also won the glass with an enormous edge 41-19. Abilene's David Little hurt Bell inside throughout the game and the outside shooting of Byron Roberts, proved to be too much for the Blue Raiders. Little finished with 24 points while Roberts hit 22 points. Eagle's center, Cisco Smith had 21 rebounds and 14 points. For L.D. Bell, Kent Davis was big with 14 points in the first half and finished with 20. Callaway and Alsup both had 14 points on the night. Abilene began slowing the game down in the second half, trying to disrupt Bell's momentum. The Eagles were up at one point in the first half 36-19.

Amarillo(22-6) jumped out to a 14-2 lead early in their Bi-District encounter against Lubbock Monterey(19-11), and went on to grab the victory 54-48. 6'7" Victor Mitchell was the catalyst behind the Amarillo victory with 20 points. 6'6" Craig Ehlo of Monterey was a future N.B.A. star with the Cleveland Cavs.

El Paso Eastwood(25-3) defeated El Paso Irvin(24-5) 63-54 to advance to regionals for the fourth time in five seasons. Although Eastwood was ranked second in the state in class 4-A, they averaged only 61.7 per game and gave up 51.8 per contest for a 10.0 margin. Eastwood had early season losses at the Arlington Classic to S.O.C. 89-71 and Wheatley 84-72, which showed they had trouble with quick pressing teams. Their most impressive wins of the season came against Deer Park out of Houston 54-52, and of course their one-point win over the state's top rated team, Dunbar 60-59. 6'8" All-American Terry White and 6'2" Rick Becerra were the teams go to players.

Regionals in Abilene were filled with excitement because of the highly-anticipated rematch between the top two ranked team in the state, Eastwood and Dunbar. Amarillo(22-5) and Abilene(32-4) were just seen as fluff. Very little was known about Amarillo as they faced off against the powerful Dunbar squad. Size would be a problem for Amarillo with 6'7" Victor Mitchell the only Amarillo player over 6'5". The rest of the starters were 6'1", 6'0", 6'0" and 5'9". Eastwood had the powerful inside game led by Terry White(19.5/16.0). He had 25 points and 27 rebounds in Eastwood's early season victory over Dunbar. Abilene would rely on David Little and 6'2" post Cisco Smith, who had 24 rebounds in Bi-District against L.D. Bell.

In the first contest at Abilene Christian University, a small crowd of about 1,000 showed up to watch the game between Amarillo and the heavily favored Wildcats of Ft. Worth Dunbar. The Sandie's led for the first three and one-half quarters with outstanding play. Amarillo was up 47-45 going into the last quarter. That's when 6'9" James Griffin began to take over the game, finishing with 25 points and 14 rebounds. Griffin paced the Wildcats in their come from behind 60-57 victory. The 6'9" center was five for five from the foul line in the fourth quarter and accounted for 10 of Dunbar's fourth quarter points. Coach Hughes strategy was to get the ball inside to Griffin when Amarillo began to extend on the Dunbar guards. Griffin put in four straight buckets to give Dunbar the lead 55-53 with 3:16 remaining. Dunbar guards, Cletus Hubbard, Furmia Nealy and Darrell Browder ran the clock out to save the win. 6'7" Victor Mitchell(16.6) was the main cog for Amarillo hitting 16 points. Dunbar barely won the rebound edge 39-38. "What makes everybody think we should win by 30 every time we go out," Hughes said after his team's close win. "I think it says something about your ball club when you don't play well and you still win." Coach Barry Arnwine of Amarillo commented after the game, "Griffin's a great, great player. There's no doubt about that. Because of foul trouble we had to play him soft and just hoped he missed." Hughes responded, "That had to be one of the worst games he's had shooting. I can't remember when he's been off that much."

In the second semi-final game, Abilene made 11 consecutive free throws down the stretch to pull the upset of the state playoffs, beating #2 ranked Eastwood 79-67. Terry White was unbelievable hitting 16 of 17 field goals and scoring 34 points. It was one of the top performances in state playoff history in class 4-A. Abilene on the other hand pressed Eastwood and made 25 of 32 free throws, and had four players finish in double figures. Roberts and Little once again led the way for the Eagles, both hitting 20 points. Cisco Smith was actually high man for Abilene with 21 points. Becerra was the only other Trooper in double figures besides White with 12 points. The much-anticipated matchup never happened. In hind sight, you might also come to the conclusion that El Paso Eastwood and Dunbar both may have been a little overrated. Griffin and White were dominant inside, but both teams struggled with their guard play.

The regional final between Dunbar and the Eagles of Abilene was played before 4,600 fans. Abilene of course was coming off a tremendous upset win over El Paso Eastwood and had the home town crowd behind them. The game was very close at the end of the first quarter 18-16 in favor of Dunbar. Abilene took a 36-34 lead into halftime. The Eagles extended their lead to 56-52 going into the fourth quarter. Dunbar was consistently turning the ball over with a total of 17 turnovers. David Little had six steals himself. With 2:36 left in the 3rd quarter, Abilene had expanded their lead to 56-46. With 4:12 remaining in the game Griffin hit three straight baskets pulling the Wildcats within four points 66-62. Coach Boynton of

Abilene called time out and moved Little to the opposite side of the court away from Griffin, and the 6'6" senior hit four field goals down the stretch. With less than a minute to go, Dunbar got the break they were looking for trailing 74-72. Little was called for his fifth foul on a charging call against Griffin. The Eagles were running their delay game at the time. Little left the game with 36 points and with him went the hopes of many Eagles fans. Little's replacement was Ross Sparks, who hadn't been on the court in the playoffs, and had played only 15 minutes total in fourteen District games. Griffin responded with 2 of his 12 fourth quarter points to tie the score at 74 all. Abilene went into its delay once again, but this time the Wildcats did not pressure the Eagles. With five seconds left, Sparks hit a 20-footer to give Abilene the 76-74 victory and a trip to Austin. Nobody ever dreamed that Dunbar and Eastwood would both be eliminated. Abilene would be traveling to state for the first time since 1967. Cisco Smith was supposed to get the last shot but Sparks said he got the ball with little time left and let it go. Griffin finished with 26 points, Hubbard 16 and Browder 10. For Abilene, Roberts hit 16 and Smith added 14. Little was 14 of 27 from the floor and eight of ten from the foul line with five rebounds. He also finished with seven steals and had an outstanding game on the defensive end. Little said after the game, "Dunbar is the toughest team we've played this year." Little also commented about Griffin, "He's really super. White is much more physical," referring to Terry White of El Paso Eastwood, "But I think Griffin is 10 times better. Griffin is much more versatile. He's a better ball handler and he's a pure shooter."

If you look back at Dunbar's season it was not surprising they were upset. Yes, the Wildcats were loaded with division one prospects, but they relied almost entirely on Griffin for offense late in the season. Their last regular season game against Ft. Worth Paschal(26-5), they won a close one in triple overtime 40-39 with Paschal using delay tactics. Even in the win against Arlington, they were very close at the end of the three quarters, and Dunbar trailed Amarillo after three quarters as well. Coach Hughes team was just not playing as well as they had earlier in the season. The Wildcats guard play was not as good as it had been the previous season. Starting a lineup of 6'9" Griffin, 6'7" Gilbert Collier, 6'6" Andre Allen, 6'3" Lander Johnson and 6'0" Cletus Hubbard, Dunbar sometimes had a hard time taking care of the ball. Hughes commented after the game, "I think we had a grand season anyway, we don't have anything to be ashamed of. Actually, we played one of our better ball games."

Years later Hughes commented on the Abilene game with a much different attitude. "That was probably the worst called game I ever remember with the exception of some of the Prairie View League games. They won on a last second shot. The 1978 team may have been my best team at Dunbar," Hughes reflected.

Coach Hughes commented about Griffin years later saying, "He could do it all in high school. What the big guys in the NBA are doing right now, he could do in high school. He could go down low, he could shoot it from the outside, he could bring the ball up the court, and he was quick and had great hands. Grif should have been in the NBA, but his agent sold him out to a team in Turkey where he played about 10 years

Region II

Wilmer Hutchins(28-5)

Lufkin(28-7)

Dallas Bryan Adams(18-11)

Temple(23-7)

Grand Prairie(28-4)

Lake Highlands(21-8)

Dallas Roosevelt(26-6)

Cypress-Fairbanks(22-10)

Top Five in Region II

6'11" Rudy Woods,Bryan; 6'9" Anthony Lee, Tyler John Tyler; 6'1" Billy Allen, Highland Park; 6'5" Alan Howard, Cypress-Fairbanks; 6'5" Ricky Pierce(26.1), Garland:

Highland Park finished second in District 10-AAAA as Wilmer Hutchins captured the District title with an 81-72 win over Garland. Shannon Lilly of Hutch scored 36 points to lead his team to victory. Highland Park got 44 points from Billy Allen in a key District win over Garland 92-71. Ricky Pierce had 34 in the loss. H.P. had lost both District matchups against Hutch 84-78 and 98-91. The Scots finished with an outstanding record of 27-4. Wilmer Hutchins advanced to the state playoffs.

Region II would be just as exciting and as unpredictable as any in the state. Grand Prairie(28-4) faced Wilmer Hutchins(28-5) in Bi-District. This was Coach Stan Hicks best squad at Grand Prairie and was paced by 6'8" David Henson(17.8), 6'5" Reggie Brown(14.8) and 5'7" junior guard, A.J. Dixon. Henson played at Baylor. In a playoff warm-up game against L.D. Bell the Gophers came away with an impressive 80-69 victory. Wilmer Hutchins would counter with 5'7" Shannon Lilly(27.0) and 6'3" David Vasher(21.7). Lilly would go on to star at Bishop College while Vasher played at North Texas. Grand Prairie came out the victor 77-71 in overtime with Henson scoring 21 and Brown following up with 15. For Hutch, Lilly tallied 24 and Vasher finished with 16.

In the Lufkin(28-7) vs. Lake Highlands(21-8) game of District champions, it would come down to Lufkin's press and speed against Lake Highlands ability to handle the pressure. Lufkin's key player was 6'2" Chris Wortham(22.0) while the Wildcats of Lake Highlands were led by District MVP, 6'2" Brett Chumbley(18.0). Coach Jerry Wells of Lake Highlands felt the two teams were very evenly matched with both team's tallest player around 6'4". The game was played at Tyler Junior College. Lake Highlands led going to into the final quarter 50-45 but only managed two points in the final 4:26 of the game losing 70-65. Lufkin's Kenneth Johnson

finished with a game high 28 points and Wortham followed with 16. Lufkin surprised everybody by the winning District 14-AAAA, Tyler Lee was thought to be the best team in East Texas and finished #8 in the state rankings at 32-2. John Tyler high school also was left out of the playoffs with one of the top players in the country in 6'9" Anthony Lee.

Once again in Dallas, the 12-AAAA race came down to two teams, S.O.C. and the Mustangs of Roosevelt. Coach Ellis Davis' team had a whole new young group of athletes, 6'7" Bobby Davis, 6'4" Kenneth Roberson, Kevin Jones, Marcus Jones and 6'6" Jimmy Wright. The Golden Bears handed Dunbar their second loss of the season 92-71 behind 6'4" Chucky McGill and Darrell Fields earlier in the season. Griffin had the flu and was unable to play for Dunbar. This made the victory almost meaningless, but did give Dunbar their second loss going into District action.

In the first big District matchup between Roosevelt and S.O.C., both teams were devastated by the flu and it was anybody's guess how things might turn out. Late in the District 12-AAAA race Kimball became a new threat to capture District under the leadership of Coach Paul Graham. The Knights defeated S.O.C. 67-63 and then turned right around and defeated Roosevelt in overtime 76-74. Darwyn Bradford led Kimball with 23 while Derlyn Gross had 18. Roosevelt defeated Kimball 62-60 in the District title game at Loos Fieldhouse. S.O.C. was left out of the playoffs for the first time since 1972 and finished the season 25-10, and #7 in the state rankings.

Dallas Roosevelt(26-6) won the city title over Dallas Bryan Adams(18-11) 82-67. For the Mustangs, it was a relief to get out of District and away from S.O.C. The last time the Mustangs made the playoffs they captured the state championship in 1972. Big things were expected again by Coach Ellis Davis' talented group. 6'7" Bobby Davis led the scoring against Bryan Adams with 18 points. 6'4" Kenneth Chambers had nine blocks in the win.

District 16-AAAA had come down to a dog fight between the Houston area representative, Cypress-Fairbanks(22-9) and Bryan(23-9). The Vikings of Bryan featured 6'11" All-American post, Rudy Woods. It was almost a foregone conclusion that Bryan would take the District title, but Cypress-Fairbanks had a history of pulling upsets. The Bobcats head coach was Larry Hargett. His team had started the season slowly but following Christmas break had won 12 out of 13 games. In their two District games against Bryan, the Bobcats lost the first game, 65-46 and won the rematch 66-65. Woods had scored a combined 60 points in the two games against Cypress Fairbanks, 36 in the loss and 24 in the victory. "You just don't stop a player like Woods, you just try to slow him down and make him shoot the ball rather than dunk it," Coach Hargett said. The third match-up between the two teams would be for the District title. The decisive game was played at Sam Houston University in Huntsville. "Our depth has been the key," Hargett confessed.

The two key players for the Bobcats were 6'4" Alan Howard(19.3) and Mike Peppercorn. Woods was the top scorer in District action at 24.5 per game for the Vikings. Sophomore Howard Jenkins was the team's second leading scorer at 14.5. Cypress-Fairbanks defeated Bryan 75-59 behind Alan Howard and Mike Peppercorn's 44 points. The Bobcats held Rudy Woods to 23 points and Howard Jenkins finished with 14. Although Cy-Fair won by 16 points, they were only up 48-40 going into the fourth quarter. 6,000 fans watched in Huntsville as the Bobcats and Coach Hargett's team advanced into the state playoffs.

Cypress-Fairbanks(22-10) defeated Temple(23-7) 54-46 in their Bi-District game. Howard and Peppercorn both scored 18 apiece to lead the Bobcats to the victory. After trailing at halftime 23-19, Cy-Fair came back in the third quarter outscoring the Wildcats 18-7. Temple was fueled by 6'7" Maurice McDaniel(17.6), who had a fine career at Texas A&M.

In regionals, everybody was looking toward the Mustangs of Dallas Roosevelt as the team to beat. Coach Davis' team had faced a much tougher schedule than the others schools and had size, speed, shooting and quickness advantage over most teams they played. The regionals once again were played at G. Rollie White Coliseum on the campus of Texas A&M in College Station. The Mustangs knew little about their semi-final opponent, outside of the fact that they liked to slow the game down. 6'6" Mustang post Jimmy Wright(12.0), the brother of Rynn, would be questionable for the game because of a death in the family. Kenneth Roberson and 6'3" Kenneth Chambers played keys roles for Coach Davis. For the Bobcats of Cypress-Fairbanks they were no stranger to the regionals and state tournament, having played in Austin 1970 and 1971. But the seniors were in the 6th grade during that magical run, so the tradition was not real relevant. The 1978 version of the Bobcats was a lot different in many ways, because they lacked the athletic ability of the early squads. 6'5" Alan Howard(20.0) and 6'3" Mike Peppercorn(13.0) were the leaders for the Bobcats attack. In losing 10 games, it was fairly obvious that they were probably a long shot at winning regionals and going to state. They had lost to Clear Lake(31-5) 79-65, Galveston Ball(31-8) 69-65, Austin Lanier(28-7) 64-60, just to name of a few of the more prominent opponents that they had faced. The only real indicator of the team's prowess was winning District over arguably the best player in the state and McDonald's All-American, 6'11" Rudy Woods(25.0) of Bryan. So, it was understood they had to be pretty good beating Bryan and Woods, two out of three times.

In the semi-final game at regionals between Cypress-Fairbanks and Dallas Roosevelt, Coach Hargett was very worried about the rebounding of the Mustangs along with their tremendous depth. He also commented the Bobcats would have to be ready for Roosevelt's full court press. The Roosevelt Mustangs led 48-44 with only 1:30 left in the game when their top rebounder, Bobby Davis fouled out. After Kenneth Chambers hung on the rim on a missed dunk, Roosevelt was given its

second technical of the game for hanging on the rim. The Bobcats had trailed for most of the game. They finally tied the game at 48 all with two foul shots from Paul Gendron, with just 29 seconds remaining. Kenneth Chambers missed a dunk for Roosevelt and Howard missed a layup in the closing seconds of regulation. In overtime, with the score tied 52 apiece, Cypress-Fairbanks went to their delay tactics. The Bobcats held the ball for the last shot with 39 seconds remaining. Adrian Harkey of Cypress-Fair hit an 18-footer for the winner. Howard was held to only 14 points and Peppercorn topped the Bobcats with 15 points. Jimmy Wright overcame his grief and contributed 14 points and was the Mustangs leading scorer. Howard of Cy-Fair played the fourth quarter and overtime with four fouls and had four blocks during that time. Coach Ellis Davis was very upset at the officiating during the entire game and was outspoken after the game about his disapproval. The Bobcats had 32 foul shots and made 20 compared to Roosevelt's six of ten. The 54-52 victory by Cy-Fair was not handled well by the south Dallas team. "It is just my style to remain calm," said Davis. "What can you do?" The upsets continued on the path to Austin in 1978.

In the other semi-final game in College Station, Grand Prairie advanced to the playoffs for the first time in eleven years. The Gophers took a 38-25 advantage into the 2nd quarter when 6'8" Henson received his third foul. From that point on Lufkin began picking away at the lead. Lufkin's press cut the lead to 48-46 midway through the third quarter. With five players in double figures, Grand Prairie got the win 75-68. Wortham was top scorer for Lufkin with 21 points.

In the region II finals, Grand Prairie outside shooting abandoned them as they shot 29% from the floor losing 52-42 to Cypress-Fairbanks. Cypress-Fairbanks trailed 19-17 at halftime after taking only two shots in the second quarter. Cypress-Fair regrouped to score 35 points in the second half. Howard had 19 points and 3 blocked shots. "We knew Grand Prairie's weakness," Howard said after the game, "they could not shoot from the outside. So, we zoned them to stop the inside play." Gopher star David Henson spent most of the 2nd and 3rd quarters on the bench in foul trouble. Cy-Fair out-rebounded Grand Prairie 39-23. Randy Foltin was the leading rebounder for the Bobcats with 11. Howard once again led Cypress-Fairbanks with 19 points while Peppercorn only managed 9 points. Henson had 13 for the Gophers. Cy-Fair coach, Larry Hargett said after the game, "Actually we had three people on their two posts inside," indicating his team was giving Grand Prairie the outside shots. Hargett was in his first year as head coach for the Bobcats, having coached at Houston Jesuit the previous year.

Region III

Houston Madison(24-6)

Houston Kashmere(28-7)

Houston Smiley(19-12)

Galveston Ball(31-7)

Houston Stratford(29-4)

Houston Wheatley(31-6) #4

Beaumont Pollard(22-10)

Deer Park(30-6)

Top Five in Region III

6'8" Roosevelt McGruder(jr), Houston Wheatley; Rob Williams(jr), Houston Milby; 6'10" Greg Kite(jr), Houston Madison; 6'8" Robert Shaw(jr), Deer Park; 6'5" Clarence Swannegan, Galveston Ball;

In the 1970's the very heartbeat of Texas High School basketball was always in and around the Houston area and 1978 was no different. This may have been the city's most dominate season. Houston was so loaded.

In District 24-AAAA the race ended in a three-way tie for the playoff spot. Barnett Field House would be the site of the District playoff game between Galveston Ball(30-7) and Alvin(21-10). Ball won the first half of District while Alvin and LaMarque(23-9) took second half honors. LaMarque drew the bye and would await the winner of the Galveston Ball-Alvin game. Ball eliminated Alvin 76-55 and then prepared themselves for LaMarque, a team they had beaten twice in District action 79-56 and 86-49. The Tornadoes made it three in a row in the decisive third game against the Cougars 64-58. Nal Smith hit 13 points to lead Ball in scoring followed by Leroy Cooper and Robert Walker with 11 each. Coach Bob Woodard's top player was 6'6" Clarence Swannegan, who dominated the glass for Ball. LaMarque was paced by Randy Marshall, who finished with 14 points.

Other District playoff games included District 23-AAAA playoff at the Summit in Houston, the home of the Houston Rockets. Deer Park(29-6) and Clear Lake(31-4) drew 5,000 fans for their third meeting between the two rivals. The Falcons turned the ball over 12 times in the second half against Deer Park's tough full court press and Deer Park came back from an 11-point deficit to beat Clear Lake 45-43. The loss knocked Coach Bill Krueger's team out of the playoffs. Defensive adjustments and two foul shots by Nicky Snell with 15 seconds remaining were the difference for Deer Park. "The change in our defense at halftime was certainly a major factor," said Coach Ray Landers after his team's victory. "Our turnovers, especially those in the final seconds hurt," said Coach Krueger.

In the final minute of play Clear Lake made two critical turnovers, running their delay game, which they ran successfully in the first half. Deer Park's Ricky Fagan stole the ball with 53 seconds remaining and Clear Lake's Kevin Smith committed an offensive charge with 37 seconds remaining. That was the difference in the game. Nicky Snell led Deer Park in scoring with 18 points and Mike Surman had 20 for Lake. Nobody else reached double figures for either team.

Deer Park(30-6) would need their best effort against a strong Galveston Ball(31-7) team. Both teams were talented with 6'8" Robert Shaw, 6'1" Nicky Snell, 6'2" David Simmons, and 6'3" David Lichnerowkz. 6'3" Greg Crawford and 6'8" Byron Moake saw key minutes for long time coach, Ray Landers. Landers record at Deer Park stood at 394-77 dating from 1972 to 1978. His career started at Deer Park Jr. High in 1964. Galveston Ball was very impressive as well with 6'5", 210 pound, Clarence Swannegan, 6'6" Robert Walker, 6'5" Robert Lattimore, 5'7" Danny Simmons, 6'0" Neal Smith and 6'1" LeRoy Cooper. The Tornadoes were coached by Bob Woodard, who's record was an impressive 470-101. Woodard opened his career at Dunbar Jr. High in Beaumont in 1959 before moving on to Pollard Charlton High School in Beaumont. Woodard took over at Galveston Ball in 1974 and finished 26-10 in his first season. In 1973, Deer Park and Galveston Ball had played in the playoffs at Rice Gym and the Tors won the game under former coach, George Hatch. Deer Park featuring a pressing man to man defense and balanced scoring and ball control. They were also known for their slow down tactics.

Deer Park's Nicky Snell hit four free throws in the final 28 seconds of the game to give his team the 62-57 Bi-District win. Ball jumped out early to a 13-2 lead and led at halftime 25-24. Deer Park won the game at the free throw line hitting 22 of 27 foul shots while Ball could only manage 7 of 11. Ball took the lead for the final time at 1:14 remaining in the game. The scoring breakdown for Deer Park was as follows, Simmons 22 points, Snell 12 and Shaw 14. Ball was paced by Walker's 17 points, Swannegan's 16 and Cooper's 10. Deer Park had scored six points in the final 30 seconds.

Houston Stratford(29-4) pushed through District 17-AAAA undefeated, closing out the regular season with a 50-47 win over Spring Branch. Darrell Taylor scored 18 points for Stratford in the win and Ed Sumner had 15. The Spartans finished as the #3 ranked team in the Houston area behind Milby and Wheatley. Stratford played Houston Madison(24-6) in Bi-District. Madison was powered by 6'10" junior, Greg Kite. The Marlins of Madison dominated Stratford 67-38 to advance to regionals. Junior, John Simple scored 30 points for Coach Paul Benton. "We kept our big people out of foul trouble and that was the difference," Benton said. Kite finished with 18 rebounds. "We got kicked," Stratford Coach, Jerry Kroll said following the game. "We couldn't rebound with them and took shots we've been making all year, but didn't hit'em tonight." Stratford did not have one player in double figures. Coach Kroll was considered one of the all-time greats from Houston basketball having played for Spring Branch Memorial's title team in 1966.

In District 21-AAAA, Forest Brook and Houston Smiley decided the title at Autry Court on the campus of Rice University. Smiley won the second straight District title defeating Forest Brook 62-50. Smiley was led by Hiram Harrison, who scored 24 points and Michael Jones finished with 14 and Gary Lockhart

contributing 13 points. Forest Brook had only one player in double figures and that was Steve Spencer with 18. In the final quarter, 13 of Smiley's 15 points came from the foul line. Houston Smiley proved too strong for Beaumont Charlton-Pollard 59-47 in Bi-District. Smiley hit 21 of 29 free throws which was the difference. For the second year in a row Houston Smiley had advanced to regionals.

The two top rated teams in Houston, Milby(30-5) and Wheatley(30-6), went at each other a third time during the season for the 20-AAAA District title. It was incredible to think that one of these two talented teams would not be making the playoffs. Two of the best performers for the Buffaloes weren't at full speed for the game against the Wildcats. The best guard in the state, 6'2" junior, Rob Williams and 6'0" Ronald Turner were both limited for Coach Boyce Honea. Milby was definitely going to be challenged headed into the title game. In front of 5,400 fans at Delmar, Wheatley came away with a tough 70-65 victory. The play of the game came with the score 64-62 in Wheatley's favor with 1:04 remaining. The Wildcats post, 6'7" Roosevelt McGruder drove the lane and appeared to have charged into Ronald Turner. Instead the call went against Milby and McGruder hit both foul shots and increased Wheatley's lead to 66-62. Milby was unable to recover from the four-point deficit. The Buffaloes were the #1 ranked team in the Greater Houston area and finished the season at 30-6 and out of the playoffs. Wheatley was ranked #2 in the Houston area and advanced to the playoffs. Wheatley was #3 in the state rankings. Milby had 31 turnovers in the contest compared to 27 for Wheatley. Noland Greenleaf was the leading scorer for the Wildcats followed by 6'4" Carl Runnels with 17 points and McGruder's had 12. 6'4" John Savoie topped Milby's scoring with 25 and Rob Williams had 19. Milby had won the first round of District with a 65-60 victory over Wheatley and the Wildcats won the second game 56-49.

In the District 20-AAAA race you had the toughest District in the state with Wheatley and Milby tied for first at 10-2, followed by Jones and Sterling at 7-5, and Yates finishing fifth at 5-7. The top five teams in District won 83% of their games against outside competition.

In Bi-District, Wheatley(31-6) and Houston Kashmere(28-7) mirrored each other as the two traditional powers took aim at one another at Hofheinz Pavilion before 10,762 fans. Wheatley won a controversial 92-90 decision over the Rams. The play in question occurred with one second remaining in the first half with the Wildcats leading 52-48. Wheatley's Carl Runnels received a pass under the Wheatley basket and bounced the ball and turned and shot. The basket counted putting Wheatley up at halftime by six points. The basket proved to be the difference in the game. "I think our condition proved to be the difference," said Coach Jackie Carr. The Wildcats had defeated Kashmere three of four meetings during the regular season. Wheatley largest lead was at 40-28. "That one second call didn't beat us, it was turnovers," Coach Frankie Brazos of Kashmere

commented after the game. Carl Runnels was high point man for Wheatley with 20 points followed by 16 for Nolan Greenleaf and 14 for Gilbert Thomas and 13 for McGruder. Earnest Patterson was tops for the Rams with 23 points and teammates Robert McGowan and Donald Pettaway had 18 and 12 respectfully.

In regionals, Wheatley faced Houston Madison at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Deer Park went against Houston Smiley at Hofheinz Pavilion in the late game at 8:30. "We've got to slow the tempo down," Coach Benton of Madison said going into the Wheatley game. "We certainly don't want to get into a running game with them. The tempo, slowing the game down and keeping them off the offensive boards, are the key factors when playing Wheatley. Of course, you've still got to beat Wheatley's press and contend with their depth," Benton said. "We have got to keep Kite in the game." Wheatley was making their 10th regional start in 11 seasons. That statistic is unheard of at the AAAA level, especially in the Houston region. Wheatley's bench had produced 40 of the teams 92 points against Kashmere. And up tempo game was going to definitely be to the Wildcats advantage.

Deer Park(31-6) was making their first trip to regionals since 1972 when they lost in the semis. Inside Deer Park had two fine post in 6'8" Byron Moake and 6'7" Robert Shaw. The guard play was the strength of the team with 6'1" Nicky Snell, 6'2" David Simmons and Tom Fuller contributing most of the team's points. "Our guards were the key in beating Galveston Ball," Deer Park's Head Coach, Ray Landers said. The guard trio of Deer Park had 36 of the teams 62 points against Galveston Ball.

Smiley(20-12) had relied on the foul line down the stretch in their last two games against Forest Brook and Beaumont Charlton Pollard. In the District playoff game and Bi-District games, Smiley scored 36 points in the fourth quarter and 26 on free throws.

In the first semi-final game, Wheatley came from 16 points down to defeat Madison 72-70 in overtime. Gilbert Thomas hit a 20-footer with five seconds left to knock the Marlins from the playoffs. Junior, Greg Kite came up with an incredible rebounding total of 29 boards and added 23 points, but couldn't get it done, as the Wildcats of Wheatley advanced to the regional finals for the 9th time in the previous eleven seasons. Madison was up 31-16 with 1:20 left in the 2nd quarter. "It was terrible, embarrassing the way we shot the ball in the first quarter. I can't ever remember a Wheatley team scoring but six points in one quarter," said Wildcat Coach, Jackie Carr. Wheatley got the ball in overtime with 32 seconds remaining and ran the clock down to seven seconds when Thomas hit the game winner. "We didn't have any one certain player set up to take the last shot. I told them at the timeout to run it down to around five seconds and the player open to shoot. It just happened to be Thomas," added Carr. "Mistakes at the end just killed us," Benton said. "We had the ball and the score was tied at the end of regulation

and we don't get off a shot and then lose it on a turnover in overtime," Madison led at halftime 32-20. Madison had 32 turnovers in the game and 20 in the second half. Wheatley had 12 turnovers in the second half. Wheatley put three players in double figures, Greenleaf with 14, Thomas had 11 and Lindsey Lewis had 10. Wheatley's bench outscored Madison 35 to 7. John Simple had 20 points for Madison behind Kite's 23. A sellout crowd of 11,117 fans were on hand to watch game.

In the nightcap, Deer Park advanced to the finals with a 48-36 win over Houston Smiley. The guard trio of Snell, Simmons and Fuller combined for 32 of the team total of 48 points. Deer Park had lost earlier in the season to Smiley in another low scoring game 39-37. Deer Park took an early lead and never looked back. Deer Park was up 22-10 midway in the second quarter. Hiram Harrison led Smiley with 13 points.

In the regional finals, Wheatley(33-6) led by one 39-38 at halftime, and went on to beat Deer Park(32-6) 55-50. Thomas led Wheatley with 13 points and Greenleaf followed with 12 and Runnels finished with 11. For Deer Park, David Simmons had 20 and David Shaw had 10. Deer Park's team leader, Snell finished with only 4 points. Wheatley hit 26 of 58 from the field for 44% and Deer Park was 20 of 44 for 45%.

Region IV

Austin Lanier(27-6)

Seguin(31-6)

Corpus Christy Moody(28-7)

San Antonio Marshall(27-5)

Brazoswood(22-12)

San Antonio Fox Tech(29-5)

Mission(32-4)

Laredo Nixon(20-14)

Top Five in Region IV

6'6" Keith Edmundson, S.A. MacArthur; 6'7" Roy Jones, Austin Reagan; 6'3" Jay Shakir(15.0), SA Fox Tech; 6'8" Frank Rodriguez, S.A. Marshall; 6'5" Brad Friess, Austin Anderson:

There was really no clear-cut favorite in Region IV in 1978. Everything was viewed as wide open to whichever team got the hot hand. The District 32-AAAA District Championship came down to Seguin(30-6) and San Antonio MacArthur(29-6). 6'5", 215 pound, Lawrence Sampleton was the difference inside for Seguin as Matadors were able to win a close one 44-43. Sampleton was a top recruit for the University of Texas in football. He finished with 23 points and 12 rebounds and defensively completely shut off MacArthur's inside game. MacArthur hit only 14 of 50 from the floor. MacArthur coach, Dan Sponhaltz said after the game, "We just couldn't close off their inside game where Sampleton was the dominating factor." Scott Myers at 6'9", hit a pair of foul shots with 2:36 remaining to cut the Matador lead to 43-41. Sampleton went to the line with 15

seconds remaining and made one foul shot to give his team a three-point lead, with seconds remaining. Standout, Keith Edmonson of MacArthur, hit a field goal with four seconds remaining to make the final 44-43. Edmonson was held to only 9 points after leading the city in scoring at a 27.6 clip. The 6'6" all-state guard, who would later take his talents to Purdue and the N.B.A., scored only 29 points in three games against Seguin. The victory put Seguin in the state playoffs against San Antonio Fox Tech, and left the top player in San Antonio on the sidelines for the playoffs.

In District 29-AAAA, Laredo Nixon defeated Laredo Martin 74-67 at Laredo Jr. College behind the combined efforts of Tony Colunga and Juan Puente. The twosome combined for 45 points. Colunga was the leading scorer with 28 points. Laredo Martin was led by Gerardo Rendon with 16 points and Jeff Siemaker with 13.

The District 30-AAAA showdown was played at Taylor Field House between San Antonio Marshall(26-5) and San Antonio Memorial. The 59-43 victory put S.A. Marshall into the state playoffs against Laredo Nixon. "We tried to get everybody back on defense," said Marshall Coach Frank Runnels. The last time the two teams met, Memorial took a 73-66 victory running fast breaks. "In the second half, we tried to penetrate and go to the boards. We beat them inside and Frank Rodriguez really dominated the boards." Rodriguez of Marshall, was the city's second leading scorer in class AAAA. He paced his team with 24 points, and came away with 12 rebounds.

In District 31-AAAA, San Antonio Fox Tech(28-5) dominated action winning the first half of District outright, and tying San Antonio Jefferson for the second half title. The Buffaloes were the only team in Region IV that did not have to play a District playoff game. Tech's only losses during the season were to S.A. MacArthur, S.A. Jefferson twice and Houston Madison in the Corpus Christi Tournament. "I believe we have one of the better jumping clubs in town," Coach Roland Lopez stated. This is despite the fact Fox Tech has no real tall players. Tech was led by seniors, 5'10" Willie Randall(14.9), 6'3" Melvin White(16.2) and Wendall Woodard. Junior starters include 6'3" Jay Shakir(15.8) and Billy Fuller. 6'6" Billy Summers came off the bench and was the tallest Buffalo. Coach Lopez described Jay Shakir as his all-purpose man. "I use him whenever I need him." Lopez described Randall as his playmaker. Fox Tech's Bi-District opponent was against the "physical" team from Seguin. The game was played at the Blossom Athletic Center. "We've never played against anybody as strong as Lawrence Sampleton," Coach Lopez said. 6'6" Bill Summers started for Fox Tech to give them more size against Sampleton.

Fox Tech fell behind early against Seguin 21-7 with 6:27 remaining in the first half before recovering for a 60-58 win. We let Sampleton dominate inside, Coach Lopez explained. "We came out in the second half in a man-to-man defense

with Shakir on Sampleton and he did an excellent job,” continued Lopez. “Our full court press was a big factor in our comeback.” Seguin failed to score in the last 3:35 of the game because of turnovers. Poor foul shooting also cost the Matadors. Fox Tech was in serious foul trouble with four players finishing the game with four fouls. Sampleton finished with 26 points. Tech was battling the flu bug coming into the game and was led by Melvin White’s 17 points while Randall had 15 and Shakir finished with 12. Six kids had missed school because of the flu during the week leading up to the playoff game.

San Antonio Marshall(27-5) and Laredo Nixon(20-14) battled each other at Corpus Christi Ray gym with the winner advancing to regionals. A major concern for Ram’s Coach, Frank Runnels was 6’4” 220-pound post, Dean Hardy. “He’s very physical,” Runnels stated. Starters for Marshall included, 6’5” Frank Rodriguez(21.4), 6’2” Sean McNelis(14.5), Darin McNelis(10.5), Mike Hatch(8.6), 6’2” Jack Broberg(8.6) and Russ Harris.

Mike Hatch, a 6’3” senior, led the Rams to victory over Laredo Nixon 81-71. Hatch had 22 points for Marshall in the winning effort. Laredo Nixon ended the season with a 20-15 mark. S.A. Marshall hit 17 of 22 from the foul line with Darin McNelis hitting 11 of 12. Twin guards, Darin and Sean McNelis combined for 37 points for Marshall while Rodriguez was held to only 17 points. Nixon’s high point man was Tony Colunga’s at 27.

The San Antonio regional had no teams ranked in the state’s top ten. The top player, without question in San Antonio was 6’6” Keith Edmundson(29.7) of MacArthur, and his team did not make it to the regional tournament. Frank Rodriguez from S.A. Marshall(27-5) led his team to a Bi-District win over Laredo Nixon(17-14) 81-71. The talented guard tandem of Willie Randall(14.6), Jay Shakir(14.9) and Melvin White(17.2) had S.A. Fox Tech playing at a very high level, as they defeated Seguin(31-6) 50-48. Corpus Christi Moody(28-7) advanced 59-46 over Mission (32-4) and Austin Lanier(27-6) had defeated Brazoswood(22-12) 66-58. Lanier outscored Brazoswood 23-14 in the fourth quarter to pull out the victory. Curtis Ellison was the top scorer for Austin Lanier with 21 points and Will Prosser finished with 16. David Miles did the damage for the Bucs with 16 points and Kelly Castleberry finished with 11. Brazoswood had advanced to the playoffs after a District playoff win over Bay City 66-65. David Miles had hit a 20-footer to give the Bucs the District title with one second on the clock.

Austin Lanier(28-6) and Corpus Christi Moody(29-7) were very similar in that they liked to press and push the ball up and down the court. Quickness was the main strength of both schools. Lanier was playing Fox Tech, while Corpus Christi Moody had to face S.A. Marshall. Lanier had no starters taller than 6’2” but they were all leapers. Lanier’s Coach, Harry Masch was well respected and thought to be one of the better coaches in the state. Lanier had defeated Austin Johnston in a District playoff game. Starters for Lanier were, 5’10” Curtis Ellison(18.1), 6’1”

Lawrence Fowler(16.4), 5'6" Junior Davis(11.8), 5'11" Will Prosser(10.3) and 6'2" Ron Wright(2.5). Wright had just returned to the team after missing two months with a broken wrist. "My scouting report tells me Lanier is quicker than we are," Coach Lopez of Fox Tech said. "They shoot extremely well and use several presses effectively on defense." Fox Tech averaged 73.1 points per game and allowed 60.7.

Fox Tech trailed once again against Austin Lanier by five points with 6:49 remaining, but came back to win 61-58. A three-point play by Shakir gave Fox Tech the lead for good 56-54 with 3:16 remaining. Curtis Ellison hit two free throws with 1:52 remaining for Lanier to pull his team within two points. Unfortunately, that was as close as Lanier would get. Reserve, Chuckie Jackson hit three foul shots during the last 54 seconds, to seal the win for Tech. Tech led at one point 27-14, only to lose the lead. White was the leading scorer for the Buffaloes with 26 points and he also grabbed 9 rebounds. Shakir and Billy Fuller both contributed 11 points each. "I definitely feel our height took its toll on Lanier," Lopez said after the game. Senior leader, Willie Randle fouled out late in the game for Fox Tech, which really limited the Buffaloes experience in the last minutes of the game. "Chuckie Jackson came in and did a fine job in a very critical situation," Coach Lopez said.

Corpus Christi Moody(29-7) was shooting for their 15th straight victory against the Rams of San Antonio Marshall(28-5). Moody had outscored their District opponents by an impressive 22.0-point margin. The Trojans averaged 82.1 in District play. Moody liked to run a 2-1-2 press and was coached by Steve Gonzales, who loved to get up quick shots. Starters for the Trojans included, 6'5" Curtis Bonds(19.2), 5'10" Joe Phillips(18.9), 6'4" Robert Goodley(6.9), 5'10" Darrell James(13.2) and 6'3" Alan Thompson(8.0). Phillips was selected District M.V.P. in 27-AAAA. Coach Runnels of Marshall described Moody as, "Big, quick and like to run." Runnels continued, "But we like to run ourselves." The Rams averaged 71.6 and allowed 61.0 for a 10.6-point difference.

Moody scored nine unanswered points in the final quarter to secure the win over S.A. Marshall 68-62. Down the stretch the Trojans were 11 of 13 from the foul line. Moody was led in scoring by Joe Phillips with 24 points while 6'5" junior, Frank Rodriguez was the top man for the Rams with 23 points. "We've been fighting the flu and I was real concerned that we'd fall apart in the fourth period," said Moody coach Steve Gonzales, "but the guys amazed me. They got stronger."

In the regional finals, S.A. Fox Tech dogged Corpus Christi Moody 70-49, in a surprising blowout. "We controlled the tempo of the game, went inside with our offense and played good defense," Coach Lopez said following the victory. Coach Lopez was in his third season at the helm of the Buffaloes. "They seemed to cave in after their good inside man(Curtis Bonds) fouled out early in the final period." Tech led 36-25 at halftime and continued to extend the lead in the second half. Coach Steve Gonzales of Moody felt the rebounding edge by Fox Tech 54-34 as the major difference in the game, along with his team's battle with the flu bug. "It was like a

first aid tent on the bench,” Gonzales said. Standout, Joe Phillips agreed with Coach Gonzales that losing Bonds to fouls pretty much ended any hopes Moody had of coming back. Fox Tech outscored Moody 19-10 in the final quarter. Moody hit only 20 of 73 shots from the floor. Jay Shakir was top man for Tech with 17 points and 17 rebounds, Melvin White had 16 points and 11 rebounds. 6’6” Summers added 13 points and 11 rebounds while point guard, Willie Randle finished with 10 points and several assists. “We didn’t want to run with them,” Lopez said. “The few problems that we did encounter came in situations where we were trying to run. Randle did a fantastic job running the team and keeping us within the bounds of our game play.” Phillips, Darrell James and Bonds all finished in double figures for Moody, led by Phillips with 14 points. Fox Tech was moving on to Austin and the State Tournament for the first time since 1929.

State Tournament

Houston Wheatley	(34-6)	#4	86.8-77.1	+ 9.7
Cypress-Fairbanks	(25-10)		64.4-54.9	+ 9.5
Abilene	(34-4)	#6	73.3-61.3	+12.0
San Antonio Fox Tech	(33-5)		71.6-61.2	+10.4

Top Five Players at the State Tournament

6’8”	Roosevelt McGruder(jr)	Houston Wheatley
6’5”	Alan Howard	Cypress-Fairbanks
6’6”	David Little	Abilene
6’3”	Jay Shakir	SA Fox Tech
6’3”	Melvin White	SA Fox Tech

The season started out with some of the best individual talent the state had ever produced, but none of the top players in the state made the trip to Austin. 6’11” Rudy Woods and 6’9” Anthony Lee were eliminated in District action, 6’9” James Griffin was knocked out in the regional finals, 6’2” Rob Williams was eliminated in a District playoff, 6’9” Terry White and 6’10” Greg Kite both lost out in the regional semi-finals, and Ricky Pierce and 6’6” Keith Edmundson didn’t make it out of District. All eight would be drafted into the N.B.A. and five would have N.B.A. careers. It was definitely the year of the upsets. It looked to be one of the most dynamic group of young men the state had seen battling for the right to play in Austin, only to be left with disappointment. I remember vividly attending the tournament that year thinking what could have been. It could have been historic. I really believe that the rules played a big role in all the upsets. The game was called so close, many the bigger more athletic players were constantly getting into foul trouble.

Fox Tech came into Austin as the great unknown to a lot of observers in 1978. The Buffaloes had struggled against some of the better teams in San Antonio, so it was surprising when they came out of Region IV. Fox Tech had lost both contests

against Keith Edmundson's S.A. MacArthur(29-7) squad 80-69 and 72-66. But MacArthur had not even made the playoffs, being eliminated by Seguin. The Buffaloes were 1-2 against S.A. Jefferson(28-8), another top team in San Antonio in the same District as Fox Tech. It could have been easily argued that they were not the best team in San Antonio, finishing 1-4 against these two opponents.

Abilene was seen as a big favorite over Fox Tech entering the semi-final game. Abilene's resume was much more impressive with one of the state's top recruits in David Little. Abilene had also pulled off two of the biggest upsets in playoff history by defeating Eastwood and Dunbar in regional competition. On paper, most experts picked Abilene to win. But when the two teams took the court it looked like a much more competitive game. Fox Tech's athleticism just jumped out as the two teams went up and down the court. Abilene didn't have anybody like Melvin White and Jay Shakir. These two young men were leapers and could defend and shoot. They were big time athletes. They reminded me a great deal of the triplets from Arkansas that played for Eddie Sutton. They may not have received the publicity, but they could really play. It was pretty obvious they would be playing basketball at the next level and you also realized David Little would have to be great for Abilene to win. Fox Tech's leaping ability was obvious on the boards as the Buffaloes out rebounded Abilene 39-26 on the inside. The talented wings of Shakir and White were an unstoppable tandem for Fox Tech, finishing with 23 and 18 points respectfully. Except for two ties at 47-47 and 49-49 late in the third quarter, Fox Tech led the whole way winning 76-67. Little finished with 22 points, but didn't get enough help from his teammates. Abilene just could not match up inside with Summers, Shakir and White. "As soon as we realized we could go inside that's where we went," said Tech coach, Roland Lopez. Fox Tech was the first San Antonio school to advance to the championship game since 1972 when S.A. Jefferson lost to Dallas Roosevelt.

In the other semi-final game between Houston Wheatley and Cypress-Fairbanks, the Wildcats of Wheatley were just took much for the disciplined Bobcat attack. A crowd 11,500 looked on at the Special Events Center as Jackie Carr's team scored seven straight points turning a 47-47 tie into a 54-47 lead with 1:57 to play. Wheatley went on to win 59-53. Coach Carr commented after the game, "We got 35 turnovers off are press and only won by six. We're just a poor shooting team." Wheatley trailed for much of the first half and was held to their second lowest scoring total of the year. Of his teams that had advanced to Austin, Carr said, "This is the worst team I've brought to state. But they want the trophy. They'll get after it." The Wildcats balanced scoring attack as usual was the difference with several players scoring, while Howard led Cy-Fair with 16 points and 14 rebounds. The Bobcats out rebounded Wheatley 52-40. "It was a good game but the Wheatley press did it again," Coach Hargett said following his team's loss. "I felt Wheatley really played well under pressure." The thing about Wheatley that impressed you

as a spectator was how hard they played every second of the game. It was amazing. I can only reiterate what Coach Hargett said about Wheatley. They played as hard as any team I had ever seen. Unbelievable commitment to defense and hustle and team spirit. Their depth was unreal.

The biggest observation one could make about the finals between Wheatley and Fox Tech was that the Buffaloes only played six players against Abilene. If they continued this, the Wildcats would obviously wear them down as the game progressed with the full court pressing tactics that Wheatley employed. Gilbert Thomas knocked down two foul shots with six seconds left to give Wheatley an 84-83 overtime victory and the state championship. A record crowd of 12,500 watched the state championship in the new Frank Erwin Center or better known as the Drum. Wheatley forced 34 turnovers but committed 30 fouls in the process. Unfortunately for Fox Tech, they converted on only 23 of 37 foul shot attempts. Melvin White of Fox Tech finished with 24 points and 20 rebounds but Wheatley's depth ended up being too much for the Buffaloes. Coach Jackie Carr brought 18 players to Austin and 12 played and 10 scored in the contest. The U.I.L only provides for 14 players, so Carr had to pay for four players out of his own pocket. Wheatley played 12 players during the game while Fox Tech ran mainly with six, and eight got into the game. Fox Tech's other forward, Jay Shakir finished with 23 points and 15 rebounds. Point guard, Willie Randall added 15 points. Shakir fouled out with 2:50 remaining in the game which left Fox Tech shorthanded. The Buffaloes led by as much as six points in the fourth quarter before Theodore Harris' slam dunk gave Wheatley a one-point lead at the 3:35 mark. 5'8" Tracey Bookman led Wheatley in scoring with 15 points, Theodore Harris added 11.

Before the great finals contest, it had been brought to Coach Carr's attention that an Austin shopkeeper had complained that about \$150 worth of jewelry had been taken from his store. He agreed not to press charges if the jewelry was returned. Coach Carr reportedly told his players, "You're going to jail and there'll be no game if the merchandise isn't returned." The team captain talked to the team and seven necklaces were returned along with \$38. The school District also agreed to repay the shopkeeper \$88.32 and forwarded a letter of apology to the store owner. A security guard got the license plate of the bus as it pulled away from the Austin shopping center. After tracing the plates, they contacted Houston ISD.

The 1978 4-A basketball campaign had been a year of upsets. Crazy rules, like hanging on the rim, penalized the more athletic teams and in some cases decided the outcome of several close contests. With all the great big men in the state, not one made it to Austin and the state tournament. It was a very disappointing season in many ways. Even the state championship coach, Jackie Carr, acknowledged the best team in the state was Dunbar. Griffin and Hubbard

signed with Illinois, junior guards Darrell Browder and Furmia Nealy played for T.C.U., and North Texas respectfully, sophomores Andre Allen and Gilbert Collier signed with Illinois and T.C.U. out of high school, and junior Anthony Ware played at Temple J.C. With all their talent, Dunbar couldn't get by Abilene in regionals. Wheatley on the other hand, won two of their playoff games in overtime and three playoff games by a total of five points. The Wildcats almost didn't get out of District, with a close win over Milby. The margin for error for the Wildcats was very small. Games are won and lost on the court and Wheatley was the best when the games meant the most. "This season has been a long hard fight. We lost the first half of our District and then won the second half to get Milby again in the District playoff game," Carr said. "But this team didn't give up. Not for a minute. We're not a good shooting team but they kept on coming back, I guess it was because of the press and the bench. The press was certainly good to us. Of the five state championships, this one is the most satisfying. But one thing is for sure, I still say District 20-AAAA if the toughest District in Texas." Carr continued, "Any time a team comes out of that District, they can go win the state championship. And Gilbert Thomas, he's our money player. He did it against Madison with a 20-footer with five seconds left in a 72-70 win and two free throws with six seconds left in overtime against Fox Tech."

Talking with Coach Carr years after his '78 state championship game he said, "The team had a lot of thugs, we would run about 20 miles out to the Astrodome to get their minds right. They were outlaws." When questioned in 2005 about the five best players ever at Wheatley spanning his playing days and his coaching career from 1947 to 2001, Carr named his five with great hesitation. "Dwight Jones and Eddie Owens were the best players. Those two are no problem. Charlie Matthews was one of the best guards in 1961 or 62, and then Alvin Brooks and Jerry Bonney." "I could give you five more players just about as good as those five."

When asked if anybody would ever make six straight trips to the state tournament and win four titles in the state largest classification, Carr replied, "No I don't, because of the style of play. Most coaches win games by 3 or 4 points. We tried to win by 30 or 40 points so we did not play in as many close games. The more close games you play the more chances you may lose."

All-Tournament Team: The U.I.L. all-tournament team was made up of David Little of Abilene, Jay Shakir, Willie Randall, and Melvin White of Fox Tech, and two juniors from Wheatley, 5'8" Tracey Bookman and 6'7" Roosevelt McGruder. To show the depth of the Wheatley team, five other players received votes for the all-tournament squad. The depth of Wheatley was its most valuable asset.

1978 State Rankings AAAA {End of the Regular Season}:

1. Ft. Worth Dunbar 32-2 6'9" James Griffin(18.1), 6'1" Cletus Hubbard(14.5)
2. El Paso Eastwood 25-3 6'8" Terry White(19.4), 6'3" Rick Becerra
3. Houston Milby 30-6 6'2" Rob Williams(25.0), Ronald Taylor
4. Houston Wheatley 31-6 5'8" Tracey Bookman, 6'7" Roosevelt McGruder
5. El Paso Irvin 24-5
6. Abilene 31-4 6'6" David Little(23.0), 6'2" Cisco Smith(17.9)
7. South Oak Cliff 25-10 6'4" Chucky McGill(17.2), 5'10" Darrell Fields(14.0)
8. Tyler Lee 32-2 6'4" Uirdell Howland, 6'2" Fred Marshall
9. Houston Jones 24-8 6'5" Fred Reynolds, 6'6" Rickie Thompson
10. Eules L.D. Bell 29-5 6'5" Willie Alsup, 6'4" Kent Davis

All-State Teams: The Sports Writers All-State 1st team was as strong as ever and littered with All-Americans. **1st team-** 6'11" Rudy Woods(25.4), Bryan; 6'9" Anthony Lee(25.0), Tyler John Tyler; 6'10" James Griffin(18.1), Ft. Worth Dunbar; 6'3" Nolan Greenleaf(18.0), Houston Wheatley; Rob Williams(25.0), Houston Milby: **2nd Team,** 6'6" David Little(23.0), Abilene; 6'6" Keith Edmundson(29.7), S.A. MacArthur; 6'9" Terry White(19.4), El Paso Eastwood; 6'1" Billy Allen(25.0), Highland Park; 6'5" Alan Howard(19.7), Cypress-Fairbanks; **3rd Team,** 6'10" Greg Kite(20.0), Houston Madison; 6'7" Roy Jones(23.3), Austin Reagan; 6'5" Ricky Pierce(26.1), Garland; 6'3" Jay Shakir(15.0), S.A. Fox Tech; 5'7" Shannon Lilly(28.0), Wilmer Hutchins: Kite, Rob Williams and Shakir were all juniors.

The All-State teams were very well balanced and strong. As usual the Sports Writers did a great job of selecting the top players in the state. In the Dallas Times Herald, All-Metro team, Billy Allen was named player of the year. David Henson(19.8) of Grand Prairie was named first team along with Andy Sears(18.6) of Irving. Others named to the first team were Shannon Lilly, Ricky Pierce and Allen.

In San Antonio, Willie Randall of Fox Tech was named player of the year. Others named to the first team were Shakir, Edmondson, Bill Bond of San Antonio Churchill, Steve Gamboa of S.A. Burbank, Frank Rodriguez of S.A. Marshall, James Ivey of S.A. Jefferson and Mark Bird of St. Gerard's.

Recruits: Recruiting in Texas was wide open in 1978, colleges coming in from all over the country. More recruits signed out of state than in state. It looked like the strongest recruiting class in the state's history. The Knoxville New-Sentinel named the top 100 players in the country the survey had begun 15 years ago, and includes personal scouting tips, contacts with writers, coaches, pro advisors and others. Players are rated from 1 to 100 with top point value assigned the top player(100 points for No. 1, 99 points for No.2, etc.) and colleges then are ranked according to the points they accumulate through signings. **Rudy Woods** was the #2 player in the country according to the recruiting service, behind Dwight Anderson of Dayton, Ohio who signed with Kentucky. Woods signed with Shelby Metcalf of Texas A&M. Woods had a nice career with the Aggies and played on a SWC championship team

and average 11.5 points, 7.7 rebounds and 1.7 blocks per game. The Mavs drafted him with the 73rd pick in the NBA draft. **Jerry Davis** of West Oso was #18 recruit in the country and signed with Detroit University. Davis had a solid career at Detroit and was drafted by the Bulls with the #112 pick. **James Griffin** of Dunbar was ranked #31 recruit and signed with Illinois. At Illinois, he finished fourth on the all-time blocks list and averaged 13.6 points and 7.0 rebounds with 1.9 blocks per game his senior year. He was taken with the #80 pick overall in the NBA draft by the Nets. Grif played professionally for years in Greece and Europe. **Terry White** of Eastwood finished #35 and was one of the few that stayed close to home, committing to U.T. El Paso. While at UTEP, White was a solid contributor and was the 93rd pick in the 1982 NBA draft by the Cavs. **Anthony Lee** of John Tyler signed with Marv Harshman and the University of Washington, but ended up at McLennon J.C. in Waco and finished at Detroit University. **Terry Teagle** of Broadus stayed in state at Baylor, Teagle averaged 22.2 points a game with 7.5 rebounds for the Bears his senior year at Baylor. He was named 2nd team All-American by the Associated Press. Teagle was also the #16 overall pick in the NBA draft by the Rockets. He scored over 7,000 points in his lengthy NBA career. **Brad Friess** of Austin Anderson signed with Arkansas, **Billy Allen** signed with his dad at S.M.U. and transferred to Nevada-Reno, where he was All-Big Sky 1st team his senior year. He set free throw shooting percentage records and assists records while playing for his father. Allen was drafted by the Mavs with the 125th pick in the NBA draft. **Keith Edmundson** traveled all the way to Purdue and averaged 21.2 per game and drafted #10 overall by the Hawks. Edmundson was named All-Big Ten 1st team his senior year. **Ricky Pierce** ended up at Rice by way of junior college, while at Rice he was one of the top scorers in the nation at 26.8 per game. He also averaged 7.5 rebounds. He was named 3rd team All-American while playing for the Owls. Pierce was the 18th overall pick in the NBA draft and played 15 years in the NBA, scoring over 14,000 points. He was twice named NBA 6th man of the Year award and a one-time NBA All-Star. 6'9" **Victor Mitchell** of Amarillo went with Kansas after two seasons in Junior College. Baylor's head coach, Jim Haller received commitments from 6'5" **Andy Sears** of Irving and 6'8" **Mike Fennell**(24.2) of Ft. Worth Poly. Rice signed 6'9" **Larry McCage**(13.0) from Baytown Sterling and he performed well for the Owls. **Cletus Hubbard** of Dunbar signed with Illinois. Coach Lou Henson of Illinois was a longtime friend of Robert Hughes and was able to sign both players from the Wildcats. 6'8" Temple standout, **Maurice McDaniel** was on his way to the University of Florida and transferred to Texas A&M. McDaniel turned down Arkansas and Clemson. The Nuggets took McDaniel with the 153rd pick in the NBA draft.

Other recruits were Houston Westchester's, **Joe Costello** with L.S.U., **Clarence Swannegan**(15.2) of Galveston Ball committed to Texas Tech, Swannegan was named All-SWC 2nd team. **Uirdell Howland** of Tyler Lee signed with Texas, 6'6" **Tim**

Williams(19.7) of Houston Westbury committed to Houston, and 6'6" **Billy Don Hardaway**(27.5) of Lubbock Dunbar and **David Vasher**(21.7) of Wilmer Hutchins signed with North Texas State. **David Little**(23.0) signed with Texas Tech and transferred to Oklahoma, where he was named to the All-Big Eight tournament team his senior year. He averaged 18.7 points and 6.3 rebounds his senior year, and was drafted #61 overall in the NBA draft by the Nuggets. **Darren Tillis** of Dallas Lincoln was a standout at Cleveland St. averaging 17.3 points, 12.8 rebounds and 1.9 blocks. He was the 23rd pick in the first round by the Celtics. 5'6" **Shannon Lilly**(28.0) of Wilmer Hutchins played at Bishop College in Dallas. The amazing thing about the class of '78 was the number of players that were drafted into the N.B.A. Of course back in the 1980s, the NBA draft was 12 rounds deep. It would be a long time before Texas would see such a talented recruiting class.

Top Texas Recruits in 1978 based on their college and pro careers:

Ricky Pierce 6'5"	Garland High	Rice, All-Am. 26.8/7.5*	<u>Pistons NBA #18</u>
Terry Teagle 6'4"	Broadus	Baylor, All-Am. 22.2/ 7.5*	<u>Rockets NBA #16</u>
Keith Edmundson 6'6"	S.A. MacArthur	Purdue, All-Big Ten 1st 21.1*	<u>Hawks NBA#10</u>
David Little 6'6"	Abilene High	T. Tech/OU, 18.7/8.8, 1.6 bl.*	Draft Nuggets #61
Rudy Woods 6'11"	Bryan	Texas A&M, 13.9/8.7, 1.7 bl.*	Draft Mavs #73
James Griffin 6'10"	Ft. Worth Dunbar	Illinois,13.6/7.0 , 1.9 blocks	Draft Nets #80
Terry White 6'8"	El Paso Eastwood	UTEP, All-WAC 10.1/10.2*	Draft Cavs #93
Billy Allen 6'0"	Highland Park	SMU/Nev. Reno 13.4/9.1 asst.*	Draft Mavs #125
Jerry Davis 6'6"	West Oso	Detroit University 13.6/5.0	Draft Bulls #112
Darren Tillis 7'0"	Dallas Lincoln	Cleveland St. 17.3/12.8 , 1.9 bl.	<u>Celtics NBA #23</u>
Clarence Swannegan	Galveston Ball	Texas Tech, All-SWC 13.1/ 7.0*	

(*All-Conference)

All-Americans: In the national media, the state of Texas was slowly getting more recognition. Basketball Weekly was probably the most knowledgeable of the high school publications at the time. Woods was named 3rd team All-American while Griffin was named 7th team, Anthony Lee 8th, and Terry White was named to the 9th team. Parade Magazine, the most recognizable All-American team, only recognized Terry White on the 1st team and Anthony Lee on the 4th team. McDonald's All-American team was in its second year and named Rudy Woods as the only Texan. Woods did Texas proud as he was named the MVP of the first McDonald All-Star game. The long-time Adidas team only had one Texan and that was Griffin. One of the most prestigious and longtime publications was Street and Smith. Every year they picked their Freshmen of Influence for the coming season. In the 1979 issue Texas had three of the top 15 freshmen in the country. White at UTEP, Woods at A&M and Griffin at Illinois. This may have been the best senior class in the state's history. After looking at the list and all of these All-American squads, how did these publications miss on Teagle and Pierce? Basketball Weekly Honorable Mention All-Americans: Brad Friess of Austin Anderson, Greg Kite of Houston Madison, Johnny Simple of Houston Madison,

Rickie Thompson of Houston Jones, Billy Allen of Highland Park, Roy Jones of Austin Reagan, Keith Edmundson of San Antonio MacArthur, David Bunce of Conroe, Ricky Pierce of Garland, Terry Teagle of Broaddus, Rob Williams of Houston Milby, Reginald Fears of Houston Sterling, Jerry Davis of West Oso, Alan Howard of Houston Cypress-Fairbanks, Phil Elders of Houston Lee, Kevin Smith of Clear Lake, Robert Walker of Galveston Ball, Joe Costello of Houston Westchester, Maurice McDaniel of Temple:

National Rankings: As for the national rankings, Texas seldom got any national respect. Dunbar finished #39 in the country according to Basketball Weekly while Houston Wheatley finished #13. At the time, Basketball Weekly was the authority on high school basketball. U.S.A. Today newspaper was still about five or six years away and MaxPreps was a distance dream.

State Leaders: Dunbar led the state in scoring margin at 18.1 per game while Wheatley led the state in scoring at 86.6 per game. Keith Edmondson of S.A. MacArthur was the state's top scorer in 4-A at 29.7 per game followed by Shannon Lilly of Wilmer Hutchins at 28.0. Alan Ferguson of Irving Nimitz also finished with a 28.0 per game average. Ricky Pierce was fourth at 26.1 per game from Garland. Rebounding, Ricky Pierce finished with 18.9 per game to lead the state followed by Terry White of Eastwood with 17.8, Anthony Lee 17.0 of John Tyler and Rudy Woods at 15.4 a game from Bryan.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs- 6'6" David Little of Abilene averaged 25.5 per game in the Playoffs. L.D. Bell(24), El Paso Eastwood(20), Ft. Worth Dunbar(36), S.A. Fox Tech(22):

Power Rankings:

- | | | | | | |
|----|------------------|-------|-------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1. | Houston Wheatley | 31-6 | 91.16 | State Champs | beat SA Fox Tech 83-82 |
| 2. | Ft. Worth Dunbar | 34-3 | 88.72 | Regional Finals 4-A | loss to Abilene 76-74 |
| 3. | South Oak Cliff | 25-10 | 86.00 | District Runner-up | |
| 4. | S.A. Fox Tech | 33-6 | 85.62 | State Finals 4-A | loss Wheatley 82-83 OT |

In the power ratings the numbers seem to tell the truth about strength of schedule, a team's ability to win games early in the season as well as late. You can always question the power rankings because they are based on numbers with very little human element, but what they do tell us is all the teams were pretty even on any given day. And looking at the results of the season the Power Rankings proved to be correct.

Dunbar had the most talent according to the recruiters, James Griffin(#2), Cletus Hubbard, sophomores, Andre Allen(#3) and Gilbert Collier(#14) on the 1980 recruiters list. Four division one players on one team.

Team that should have advanced to the State Tournament in Austin: The answer to that question was simple. Dunbar and South Oak Cliff would have really been an upgrade, but both teams faltered when the games were most critical. SOC had

some unfortunate struggles with Roosevelt and Kimball while Dunbar had the hard luck of facing Abilene on its home court in regionals.

1978 4-A Playoffs			
Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso Eastwood(25-3) #2	63	El Paso Irvin(24-5) #5 54
	Abilene(31-4) #6	72	Hurst Bell(29-5) #10 63
	Amarillo(22-6)	54	Lubbock Monterey(19-11) 48
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(32-2) #1	67	Arlington(25-7) 55
Region I Semis	Abilene(32-4) #6	79	El Paso Eastwood(26-3) #2 67
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(33-2) #1	60	Amarillo(23-6) 57
<u>Region I Finals</u>	<u>Abilene(33-4) #6</u>	<u>76</u>	<u>Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-2) #1 74</u>
Region II Bi-Dist.	Grand Prairie(28-4)	77	Wilmer Hutchins(28-5) OT 71
	Dallas Roosevelt(26-6)	82	Dallas Bryan Adams(18-11) 67
	Lufkin(28-7)	70	Lake Highlands(21-8) 65
	Cypress-Fairbanks(22-10)	54	Temple(23-7) 46
Region II Semis	Grand Prairie(29-4)	75	Lufkin(29-7) 68
	Cypress-Fairbanks(23-10)	54	Dallas Roosevelt(27-6) 52
<u>Region II Finals</u>	<u>Cypress-Fairbanks(24-10)</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>Grand Prairie(30-4) 42</u>
Region III Bi-Dist.	Houston Wheatley(31-6) #4	92	Houston Kashmere(28-7) 90
	Houston Madison(24-6)	67	Houston Stratford(29-4) 38
	Houston Smiley(19-12)	59	Beaumont Pollard(22-10) 47
	Deer Park(30-6)	62	Galveston Ball(31-7) 57
Region III Semis	Houston Wheatley(32-6) #4	72	Houston Madison(25-6) OT 70
	Deer Park(31-6)	48	Houston Smiley(20-12) 36
<u>Region III Finals</u>	<u>Houston Wheatley(33-6) #4</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>Deer Park(32-6) 50</u>
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Austin Lanier(27-6)	66	Brazoswood(22-12) 58
	SA Fox Tech(29-5)	50	Seguin(31-6) 48
	SA Marshall(27-5)	82	Laredo Nixon(17-14) 71
	C.C. Moody(28-7)	59	Mission(32-4) 46
Region IV Semis	SA Fox Tech(30-5)	61	Austin Lanier(28-6) 58
	C.C. Moody(29-7)	68	SA Marshall(28-5) 62
<u>Region IV Finals</u>	<u>SA Fox Tech(31-5)</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>C.C. Moody(30-7) 49</u>
State Semi-Finals	Houston Wheatley(34-6) #4	59	Cypress-Fairbanks(25-10) 53
	SA Fox Tech(32-5)	76	Abilene(34-4) #6 67
State Finals	Houston Wheatley(35-6) #4	83	SA Fox Tech(33-5) OT 82

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1978 Top "50"}

1. Houston Wheatley	36-6	{2-0 vs. SOC, 2-1 vs. Milby, beat Eastwood & Roosevelt}
2. Houston Milby	30-6	{District Co-Champs, lost playoff against Wheatley 70-65}
3. Houston Madison	25-7	{a sign of things to come, lost to Wheatley in overtime}
4. S.A. Fox Tech	33-6	{1-2 vs. SA Jeff, 0-2 vs. SA Mac., beat Abilene, Lanier}
5. Ft. Worth Dunbar	34-3	{beat Wheatley 95-85, 3-0 vs. SOC, 2-0 vs. Paschal}
6. Deer Park	32-7	{beat Clear Lake for district 45-43, made regional finals}
7. Houston Jones	26-8	{3rd in district behind Wheatley & Milby, 1-1 vs Wildcats}
8. Abilene	34-5	{upset Eastwood 79-67, Dunbar 76-74 and 2-0 vs. Temple}
9. Houston Sterling	18-9	{Won Jaycee tourney, beat Deer Park, Wheatley, Milby}
10. Houston Yates	24-11	{beat Milby, Jones, Washington and loss to Deer Park}
11. Clear Lake	31-5	{beat Cy-Fair 79-65, lost district 45-43 to Deer Park}
12. Ft. Worth Paschal	26-4	{beat Grand Prairie, LD Bell, S.O.C., loss to Dunbar in 3 OT}
13. Cyp.-Fairbanks	25-11	{beat Bryan in district 75-59 & 65-46, defeated Roosevelt}
14. El Paso Eastwood	26-4	{losses SOC, Wheatley, Abilene & beat Dunbar, Deer Park}
15. Grand Prairie	29-5	{regional finalists vs. Cypress-Fair}
16. Dallas Roosevelt	27-7	{beat SOC, beat Kimball 62-60, upset by Grand Prairie}
17. South Oak Cliff	25-10	{beat Eastwood 89-71, loss Roosevelt 80-74}
18. Seguin	31-7	{lost in Bi-District to Fox Tech by 2 points}
19. S A. McArthur	29-7	{2-0 vs. Fox Tech, lost to Seguin in district playoff 44-43}
20. Wilmer Hutchins	28-6	{beat H.P. 98-91, beat Garland 81-72, loss G. Prairie in OT}
21. Lufkin	29-8	{lost to Grand Prairie in the regional semi-finals 75-68}
22. H. Kashmere	28-8	{finished 1-3 vs. Wheatley}
23. Galveston Ball	31-8	{beat LaMarque for district 64-58 & Alvin 76-55}
24. Highland Park	27-4	{lost to SOC 78-76, beat Garland 92-71, loss to Hut. 98-91}
25. Dallas Kimball	20-8	{beat S.O.C. 67-63 and split with Roosevelt}
26. Clear Creek	26-7	{3rd in district lost to Lake 47-46 and Deer Park}
27. Bryan	21-9	{lost district playoff to Cypress-Fairbanks 75-59 and 65-46}
28. El Paso Irvin	24-6	{lost in Bi-District to Eastwood 63-54}
29. Tyler Lee	32-2	{District runner-up to Lufkin}
30. Austin Lanier	28-7	{lost in the regional semi-finals to Fox Tech 61-58}
31. S. A. Jefferson	28-8	{2-1 vs. Fox Tech}
32. C. C. Moody	30-8	{lost in the regional finals to Fox Tech 70-49}
33. S. A. Marshall	27-6	{regional semi-Finalist losing to Seguin 68-62}
34. Amarillo	23-7	{lost in regional semi-finals to Dunbar 60-57}
35. H. Stratford	29-5	{Bi-District loss to Madison 67-38, went 14-0 in district}
36. Temple	23-7	{lost to Cypress-Fairbanks in Bi-District 54-46}
37. Eules L.D.Bell	29-6	{lost in Bi-District to Abilene 72-63}
38. Houston Smiley	20-13	{beat Forest Brook 62-50 for district}
39. Forest Brook	23-9	{district runner-up to Houston Smiley losing 62-50}
40. Mission	32-5	{lost in Bi-District to Corpus Christy Moody}
41. Arlington	25-8	{won a district playoff over Richland 53-41}
42. Austin Johnston	27-6	{runner-up to Austin Lanier}
43. LaMarque	23-9	{runner-up to Galveston Ball 64-58, beat Alvin 81-59}
44. S. A. Memorial	26-8	{district 30-AAAA lost playoff game to SA Marshall 59-43}
45. Houston Lamar	23-9	{district runner-up to Houston Madison}
46. H. Washington	22-10	{lost out in district to Kashmere}
47. Beau. Pollard	22-11	{lost in Bi-District to Houston Smiley 59-47}
48. Garland	21-11	{Ricky Pierce, the legend, lost out to Hutchins, HP.}
49. Dallas Pinkston	22-7	{losses to SOC 84-80, beat Wheatley 90-73}
50. Lake Highlands	22-9	{loss to SOC 81-65, H.P., Irving, Lufkin, Richardson}

1979 AAAA

Going into the '79 season, three teams looked like early favorites to capture the state title in class 4-A. Defending champion Houston Wheatley returned several key players from their state championship squad and looked to be strong once again. Houston Madison returned almost their entire team from a regional semi-finalist squad that lost to Wheatley by two points. And Ft. Worth Dunbar was once again a powerhouse just reloading for another run at state. Even with the loss of All-American James Griffin, there was good reason to believe the 1979 team would be a stronger version of the Flying Wildcats. These three teams began the season at the top of the state polls as well as national polls.

Jackie Carr's Wheatley teams had almost reached legendary status, a lot of times they beat teams before they actually took the court. The tremendous defense intensity by which his teams played forced teams to do things they were just not comfortable with on a basketball court. Coach Krueger of Clear Lake told me one time that the referees start out calling fouls on Wheatley and their aggressive style, but as the game wears on they get tired of blowing their whistles. Krueger said many times his guards would have cuts on the arms from all the reaching and fingernails cutting his players arms. With depth, fouls are not as important as it might be with other teams.

Returning for the Wildcats were 6'7" Roosevelt McGruder, one of the best and most athletic big men in the state, along with point guard, 5'8" Tracey Bookman. These were two critical players on the Wildcats state championship team. 5'10" Antonio Melbeaux was another key contributor. There is little doubt that the Wildcats depth helped them at regionals when the tournament was played all in one day. Coach Carr always played 10 to 15 players, so playing twice in one day gave them a big advantage. Wheatley always played the toughest schedule in the state, so come playoff time the Wildcats would be a tough out.

Two teams from Texas had obtained top 25 status in the pre-season polls by Street and Smith Magazine. This was unusual for Texas teams to get pre-season recognition because they didn't participate in the summer camp activities. Houston Madison, led by 6'11" Greg Kite, came in at #8 in the nation and Houston Milby, led by Rob Williams was ranked #14. These two young men were two of the best to ever come out of the city of Houston and Texas. Kite went on to have a fine career at Brigham Young University and was the first-round draft choice of the Celtics. He played on three N.B.A. championship teams with Celtics in the mid-1980s. William's basketball career would have a different twist. In high school, Williams was almost a cult figure with large crowds coming out to see his fabulous basketball skills every time Milby played. In the late 1970s you learned your skills in the rec centers and play grounds, there were no traveling summer teams or

national camps for the kids from Texas. The U.I.L. blocked every chance they could to prevent basketball from stealing great athletes from football. Williams developed his skills at the now famous Fonde Recreation Center in Houston, playing against the likes of Moses Malone, Robert Reid, Calvin Murphy and many other standouts from N.B.A. and college stars from all around Houston.

Williams was so gifted he averaged 25.0 points per game and several assists. He could single handily win a game. Was he the best guard to come out of Texas in the 1970s? That was a tough question to answer, but he had a special talent. Coach Boyce Honea had coached his first All-American in Chuck O'Neal in 1977 and now had his second All-American.

Williams had a distinctive game. If you ever saw him play you never forgot his graceful movements with the ball. To say he was smooth was an understatement. He seemed to just glide on the court with a dribble that was unusually high. The ball seemed to be on a string when he dribbled and his shot had an unusual sideways spin on the ball as it went through the air. He had a real feathery touch and effortless stroke and his ball handling was unmatched. He was very effortless much like Steph Curry and was slender like Curry. Obviously, he never made the transition to the N.B.A. as Curry did, but their college careers were very comparable. Houston had its own High School All-Star game after William's senior season. The promoters brought in the top players from all over the country to face the Texas All-Stars. The U.S. All-Star squad was made up of high school All-Americans. The Texas team had Kite, Williams, 6'9" Claude Riley of Crockett, 6'10" David Bunce of Conroe, 6'0" Ray Turner of Hitchcock, 6'7" Kenneth Perkins of Beaumont Pollard, 6'3" Jay Shakir of S.A. Fox Tech and 5'7" Ronnie Blake of Lufkin. The U.S. All-Stars won a close game in front of 7,449 fans at the Summit, the former home of the Houston Rockets. The M.V.P. trophy went to Williams who was the game's leading scorer with 23 points. "Winning this trophy is one of the highlights of my career," Williams said after the game. In the closing minutes of the game, Williams asked to come out of the game with leg cramps which hurt Texas chances greatly. Sidney Green of New York City won the M.V.P. for the U.S. All-Stars. Green went on to make All-American at U.N.L.V. and had solid career in the N.B.A. Rick Keebler, the coach of the U.S. All-Stars singled out Williams after the game commenting, "Williams is certainly an exciting player. He's very, very quick and has great moves." The biggest crowd reaction came with four minutes remaining in the first half when on a fast-break, Williams went between his legs and behind his back, all in one motion on a pass to Kenneth Perkins, for the slam dunk. To this day, it still rates as one of the top passes I have ever witnessed.

The recruiting battle for Williams was intense with several schools feeling that the Milby standout would attend their University. Williams was planning on attending San Francisco University, but the school looked as if it would go on probation. Williams was also very interested in New Mexico, along with Larry

Micheaux of Houston Worthing, but both decided to stay home and play for Guy Lewis at the University of Houston. Houston had always recruited the Houston area well, and most of their talent had come from the area, but few people realize the Cougars All-Time greats had come from outside the area. Elvin Hayes was from Rayville, Louisiana, Otis Birdsong was from Florida, and Don Chaney was from Baton Rouge. Dwight Jones and Dwight Davis were two great Cougar talents who hailed from Houston. Jones from Wheatley and Davis from Worthing. But in 1973, Guy Lewis had not been able to get Eddie Owens to play for the Cougars. Owens signed with the Running Rebels of U.N.L.V. The Cougar coach had also lost out on Earl Evans of Pt. Arthur Lincoln. In 1975, the Kashmere greats, Godine and Jarvis Williams got away from Lewis, signing with Texas A&M. In 1976, the Cougars had missed on "Slab" Jones of Houston Worthing, who had a great career at New Mexico St. This is not to say that the "Space City" didn't get a lot of fine talent out of Houston through the 1970s, but the very top talent was not attending the University of Houston during the mid to late 70s'. Williams signing would lead to the Golden Age of Houston Cougars basketball. Following the 1979 signing of Williams, the Cougars were able to attract Clyde Drexler of Houston Sterling and Michael Young of Houston Yates in 1980. The future N.B.A. Hall of Famer, "Clyde the Glide" Drexler, said he had went to U. of H. to play with Rob Williams. Reid Getty's of Spring Branch Memorial followed in 1981, Alvin Franklin of LaMarque in 1982, Ricky Winslow of Yates, and of course a young man from Nigeria, named Hakeem Olajuwon. Olajuwon traveled to Houston to play for Guy Lewis and Phi Slatkovic was born. From 1982 to 1984 Houston made three straight final four appearances. The first final four journey was in 1982. It would be Williams only trip to the final four. The junior guard led the team in scoring at 21.1 points per game, and was the M.V.P. of the Southwest Conference, not Olajuwon. Williams was named 3rd team All-American his sophomore year at Houston. After averaging 28 points per game in the NCAA tournament, Williams had the worst game of his career in the Semi-finals of the Final Four. Against North Carolina, Williams went 0-8 from the floor. Coach Dean Smith of North Carolina ran a box and one to slow down the explosive Williams. The Tar heels won the game 68-63 and went on to win their first NCAA championship under Smith. The Tarheels downed Georgetown and Patrick Ewing 63-62 on Michael Jordan's legendary shot.

Everybody who played with or saw Rob Williams had a story about his phenomenal skills. His no-look, behind the back, alley-oop pass, he threw to Clyde Drexler from midcourt at Hofheinz Pavilion, was one of the more memorable. Following his junior season at Houston, Williams decided to declare hardship and entered the N.B.A. draft. Before the draft, rumors had circulated that Williams was involved with drugs. Williams later said he had started smoking weed in junior high on the playground and cocaine came later. As he grew older, cocaine became a big part of his life. The Nuggets took Williams with the 19th over-all pick in the first

round of the N.B.A. draft. The former Houston star showed up for training camp 30 pounds' overweight. The Nuggets, under Coach Doug Moe, were a running fast paced team and running at high altitude. Moe called Williams, "fat little hog." Williams in later years conceded that his lifestyle left a great deal to be desired. After his failure in the N.B.A. Williams soon traveled all over the world playing basketball in the CBA, in Italy, Australia, Spain and the Philippines. He averaged 48 points per game the Philippines. At the age of the 35, his career was over and the money was long gone. Drugs, booze and women were his main addictions. After suffering a stroke in 1998, Williams tried to turn his life around. Blind in the left eye and paralyzed on his left side, he continued on until his death at the age of 52 in 2014. Like so many during that period of time, drugs and drinking cut his career short but the memories he left behind make **Rob Williams a Texas Legend.**

Madison, coached by Paul Benton, would be the pre-season top rated team, because of their experience and 6'11" Greg Kite. Kite had fine career at Brigham Young University and the Boston Celtics during the Larry Bird dynasty years. He was extremely physical and strong inside with great hands for a big man. The emphasis is on big. I remember the first time I saw Kite on the basketball court, he was enormous. Kite was heavy footed, somewhat slow and very strong and durable. He was simply somebody you wanted on your team, he could dominate the boards, score inside and had a team first attitude. He was very unselfish for a great player. Kite put Madison at the head of the pack in class 4-A. I think a lot of people felt like Kite was a great offensive force but he just wasn't that type of player. Sure, he was effective inside, but what made him exceptional was his strength and rebounding ability. If that weren't enough, he was surrounded by talent and experience. 6'6" John Simple was the best forward in Houston along with junior, 6'4" Matt England. England was a big guard and multi-talented. To improve the backcourt from a year before, one of the best guards in Houston transferred in from Strake Jesuit, 6'1" Pat Hicks. That's four division one athletes on one team. As dominate as Kite was at Madison, it was debatable if he was even the best player on the Marlins. Madison also had playoff experience, having advanced to the regional semi-finals the two previous seasons. Coach Paul Benton looked like he would have a team for the ages. Madison would be compared to the great teams in Houston High School basketball lore, Wheatley and Kashmere. Expectations were extremely high for this talented team. The expectations were almost unrealistic.

As talented and gifted as Wheatley and Madison looked on paper you could not over-look the Flying Wildcats of Ft. Worth Dunbar. Just watching Dunbar come onto the court for pre-game warm-up was an awesome site. The Dunbar fans were passionate and crazy and the Wildcats looked like a college team dunking the ball every which way. As good as Wheatley and Madison were in the backcourt, Dunbar had the best backcourt combination in the state in two 6'0"

senior guards, Furmia Nealy and Darrell Browder. Coming off the bench was another talented guard in 5'11" senior, Ricky O'Neal. They were at the heart of a very gifted unit. The backcourt may have been the best in Coach Hughes long history of great teams. The frontcourt got all the publicity, even without big Grif. Two juniors dominated inside for Dunbar, 6'7" Gilbert Collier and 6'6" Andre Allen along with 6'4" high flyer, Anthony Ware. Joining the team was one of the most gifted athletes to ever grace the hardwood at Ft. Worth Dunbar, 6'4" sophomore, Willie Ashley. First of all, he was not a boy, he was a man, chiseled and developed like few athletes you have ever seen. He could literally jump out of the gym, shoot from deep in the corner, post-up inside and block shots and rebound with the best. He was a force. Years later, many who saw all the great Dunbar teams felt this was the most talented player to ever wear a Wildcat uniform. I will tell you from personal experience, they were a sight to behold. They had five D-1 players on the roster plus several junior college players.

As usual, the first big tournament of the season was the Arlington Classic in Arlington on the campus of the University of Texas at Arlington. If you have ever been to their basketball arena or theater or whatever it was, you would never forget it. On one side of the gym floor was a theater seating like you would watch a stage play and on the other side of the court were stands like a gym. It was not unusual for the player to dive for the ball and fall off the stage and into the theater seating. It was weird! But those were the days of basketball in the 1970s and early 1980s.

The tournament in late November and early December of 1978 was going to be one for the ages. From Dallas, came two of the top teams in the state, Dallas Roosevelt and Dallas South Oak Cliff. Representing Ft. Worth were Paschal, Trimble Tech and of course Dunbar. Coming out Houston were perennial powers, Wheatley and Worthing. Arlington was represented by Bowie, Lamar, Sam Houston, and Arlington High. A new member of the tournament field came out of Plano. Football had always been THE sport in Plano. Basketball was almost a second thought as far as the school was concerned. That of course would prove to be a big mistake for Wildcat opponents in 1978-79. Plano was scheduled to be the first-round victim for defending state champion, Houston Wheatley. In a major upset, Plano knocked off Jackie Carr's Wildcats 69-61 to advance against S.O.C. The Golden Bears were always incredibly talented and the '79 team was no different. Plano dropped the Bears 61-56 to advance to the semi-finals against Ft. Worth Dunbar. Of course, the element of surprise was definitely gone as Plano did it again defeating Dunbar 60-53. Dunbar was the two-time defending champion of the classic in 1976 and 1977. In the finals, the Wildcats defeated a tough Ft. Worth Paschal unit 61-48. Four top twenty teams in three days. That would be a great feat for a basketball power, let alone Plano. I remember calling the local newspaper and talked to the sports department, trying to find out what time Wheatley was playing. The Sports Writer

responded that Wheatley was in the loser's bracket because they had been beaten by Plano. I of course asked him to repeat the information and to my amazement, Wheatley had lost.

Let's take a closer look at the new upstarts from Plano. Where did they come from and who were they? Well, Mike Bridges was the new man at the helm for the Wildcats, in his third year as head coach. Bridges had come in from Wichita Falls Hirschi and had a very average record in five seasons, only winning 52% of his games. Bridges followed Coach Reggie Davis at Plano, who had won back to back District titles in 1975 and 1976. Plano lost both years in the Bi-District round to Tyler John Tyler and finished 25-7 in '75 and 23-12 in '76. Bridges took over in 1977 and finished 21-13, followed by a 16-16 campaign in 1978. Looking at the roster there was really nothing that would indicate this type of sudden success against elite state powers. But upon closer examination there were some signs. 6'3" senior, Travis Benke was the team's best player and had missed his junior year because of a broken arm. His return was really a strong upgrade for Coach Bridges. Benke, a tremendous leaper, would later play for Abilene Christian. 6'5" junior post, Kirk Lundblade was another very solid and smart post player as was 6'4" Dan Davis and 6'4" Larry Wallace. Lundblade would sign with S.M.U. after his senior year. Coach Bridges returned 7 seniors, so the team was experienced and the players were familiar with the Wildcat's system. But the team had very little athleticism. The team was all white and Bridges only suited up 10 players on his squad. The team did not strike fear in their opponents during warm-ups. Coach Bridges had brought to Plano a very deliberate and patient offense attack and tough hard-nosed, man to man defense. Every time down court they looked for the high percentage shot and gave up very little on defense. Against pressure defense and pressing teams, the Wildcats would take a layup, but if they didn't have the advantage on the break, they would back the ball out and make you play defense. If you overplayed the passing lanes they would cut back-door for a layup. As for foul shooting, they were excellent. You did not want to put them on the line late in the game. A five-point lead by Plano was much more like a fifteen or twenty-point lead, because every offensive possession was long and drawn out. They very seldom used the dribble, everything was done by way of the pass if possible. The icing on the cake was Bridge's himself. He was a little short runt who was tough as a corn cob. His players took on the same persona as their coach. They were very tough minded players and tried to impose their will on their opponents. The ball was not going to be turned over by the Wildcats very often. They took care of the basketball. I used to sit behind Plano every time I watched them play, so I could be close enough to hear what Bridges was saying to his players when he took them out of the game. To say he was hard on them was an understatement. If his players could endure the mental bashing of playing for Bridges then facing Dunbar and Wheatley wasn't anywhere near as tough. A reality TV program back

then following Bridges on the sidelines and in the locker room, would have been priceless. It was hilarious with his expressions and faces he made. He was a hotdog, but he got his point across. He would get that smirk on his face and put all his weight on one leg and cock his head to the side, with his hand on his hip and tear into his players, yelling at them. The players never said a word and would sit quietly down on the bench. You could tell he had a special relationship with his players and respect. You had to be a special player to endure that type of harassment, but if you survived you were extremely strong minded and composed. I learned a lot watching Bridges practice his trade. Thirty-seven years later, Bridges was one of the most extraordinary coaches I ever witnessed.

Was Bridges a great coach and would most parents put up with this type of coaching style? The answer to the first question is yes, Bridges was one of the top coaches. Was he going to have any type of longevity with this coaching style? Probably not, there would always be some parent that would complain about playing time and that his son was embarrassed by Bridges. If a player or parents had thin skin, they could not play for Mike Bridges. He was not a warm and cuddly figure on the sideline. He got results, and that is what he was paid to do. I heard many coaches say Bridges was a fair coach and he had a lot of talent to work with. I just never bought into that theory, he had talent, but what he was able to accomplish with that talent was amazing. "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts", definitely applied to the Wildcats under Bridges. Plano and Bridge's teams would be a new force on the scene for the next few seasons. After for the Wildcats performance at the 1978 Arlington Classic, every team in the state was now familiar with the Plano program.

All-Tournament team at the Classic was obviously some of the top players in the state. Larry Wallace of Plano took home M.V.P. as a 6'4" post. The high flyer, 6'3" Travis Benke of Plano was also named to the team. 6'4" Greg Shropshire and 6'2" Reginald Robinson of Paschal, 6'0" Darrell Browder of Dunbar, 6'3" Ranny Desso of Houston Wheatley. 6'6" Kenneth Lyons of Ft. Worth Trimble Tech, 6'4" Gary Shuler of San Antonio Wheatley, Curt Freeman of Arlington Bowie, Ernest Williams of Arlington High, Mark Echols of Duncanville.

The Dr. Pepper Christmas tournament in Dallas was a great place to test your talent early in the season prior to District action. For the previous six seasons, South Oak Cliff or Dallas Roosevelt, had made the finals of the Dr. Pepper tourney. The influence of the Ft. Worth schools was really strong during the '78 tournament. "We've been up and down all year," said Ellis Davis of Dallas Roosevelt. "S.O.C. and Dunbar are the teams to watch this year in the tournament for sure." S.O.C. opened with a strong win over Dallas Carter 76-57 but lost in the second round to Paschal 57-56. Dunbar advanced easily with wins over Dallas Spruce 81-52 and Highland Park 95-74. Willie Ashley had 26 points against Spruce and Gilbert Collier hit 42 in the win over Highland Park. Ft. Worth Paschal knocked

out Dallas Bishop Dunne 58-48 and Dallas Woodrow Wilson 68-54. Dallas Madison really proved to be the surprise team of the tournament, sneaking past Ft. Worth Southwest 62-51 and Dallas Roosevelt 78-76. Dunbar continued their winning ways against a tough North Dallas(17-4) team winning 84-70. North Dallas had beaten Plano earlier in the season. Paschal came up with a big overtime win over one of the top teams in Dallas, Wilmer Hutchins 75-72. Paschal, led by coach Jim Wall, marched into the semi-finals with a 17-4 record. The Panthers had loss to South Oak Cliff, Ft. Worth Trimble Tech, Plano and Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt. Javann Dupree, Roland Brown and Greg Shropshire played key roles in Paschal's win over Hutch. North Mesquite quietly moved into the semi-finals beating Dallas Pinkston 71-47. Coach Ron Powell of North Mesquite, was again working his magic with his disciplined, hardnosed basketball. The Stallions stood at 17-4 with their losses coming at the hands of Paschal in double overtime, Lake Highlands by 3, Waxahachie by 2 and Dallas Roosevelt by 2.

In the semi-finals game, Dunbar dominated defeating Dallas Madison 81-65. Collier again went nuts scoring 29 points, while Earnest Milton paced Dallas Madison with 25 points. In the other semi-final match-up, Paschal outlasted North Mesquite in overtime 56-54. David Berning hit a miracle shot with one second remaining for the win. "He shot the ball without looking at the basket," Wall said following the game. Randy Lowery led the Stallions with 22 points. The Wildcats of Ft. Worth Dunbar took the championship game over Paschal 57-51. "We played lousy, but we got the win. That's what we wanted," said coach Robert Hughes of Dunbar. "Paschal plays good defense, so you know you're not going to go out and bury them with one person's scoring." Gilbert Collier, who was the tournament M.V.P., was held to nine points in the finals while teammate, Andre Allen paced the Wildcats with 16 points. Greg Shropshire hit 19 points for the Panthers. "We've improved since the middle of November for sure," Coach Jim Wall said. "Next week we get our 6'7" post back, who has been out all season." "We've got a young team that is just now learning to play," Wall continued. Although Paschal's District record stood at 4-2 going into January, Coach Wall felt strong about his team's chances to get back into the District race. Wall and Hughes said this year's 7-AAAA play is as competitive as ever. Dallas Madison lost to North Mesquite in the third-place game 70-67. Milton continued his scoring with 28 points for Dallas Madison and Richard Whitehead and Lowry scored 20 each for Coach Ron Powell's Stallions.

The Dr. Pepper All-Tournament team was made up of Bobby Davis of Roosevelt, Mookie Smith of Wilmer Hutchins, Ernest Milton of Dallas Madison, Columbus Garrett of Dallas Lincoln, Karl Jones of Dallas Bishop Dunne, Shropshire of Paschal, Randy Lowry of North Mesquite, Robert Essex of Dallas Thomas Jefferson and Keith Thomas of Dallas Skyline.

In the Jaycees tourney in Houston the Marlins of Houston Madison defeated Houston Kashmere in the finals 79-61, and Wheatley in the semi-finals 78-62. Coach Benton's team already had an earlier win over Houston Milby 56-49 to give them a trifecta. The Marlins stood alone at the top to the state rankings at #1. Madison had won the Corpus Christi Tournament as well as the Dulles tournament. Houston Jones came into the tourney at 19-1 and had captured the Victoria and LaPorte tournaments. The Falcons lost two one point games in the Jaycee tournament, Houston Worthing took down Jones 77-76 and District rival Milby, gave them their second loss in the consolation bracket 66-65. 6'8" Larry Micheaux paced Worthing with 20 points in their upset win over Jones, and Rob Williams went off for 37 points for the Milby Buffaloes against the Falcons of Houston Jones. The defended state champion Wheatley won early round games over Houston Lamar 109-72, and Houston Davis 73-60, but lost in the semis to Houston Madison. Kite put up All-American numbers against the Wildcats with 21 points, 17 rebounds, 7 blocks and 4 dunks. Simple added 26 points and England 22. Houston Kashmere advanced to the finals defeating Galveston Ball 73-53 in the semis. 6'6" Leroy Riley of Kashmere was impressive out jumping Kite in the finals and blocking his first shot. He also pinned two fast break lay-ups on the backboard. Against Houston Madison, Riley finished with 21 points, 12 rebounds and 3 blocks. Riley teamed up with Earnest Patterson for Kashmere to power the Rams to the finals. Wheatley beat Galveston Ball for the third-place trophy 92-81. Houston Milby won consolation beating Houston Bellaire 77-47. Williams of Milby broke the tournament record of S.M.U. All-American, Gene Phillips, set in 1967 of 140 points in five games. Phillips played for Houston Jones and won the state title that season. Williams scored 142 points, to set a new scoring mark at the Jaycee tournament. Three All-Americans were in the tourney, Kite of Madison, Williams of Milby and Ricky Thompson of Houston Jones. The All-Tournament team was made up of Kite, Simple and Pat Hicks of Madison, Patterson and Riley of Kashmere, Williams of Milby, Tracey Bookman of Wheatley, Fred Reynolds of Houston Jones, Alton Barton of Houston Lincoln and Michael DeJohnette of Houston Sam Houston.

As the pre-season polls started coming out there were few surprises. One of the best sports writers in the state, Bill McMurray's Greater Houston Basketball magazine, had Houston Milby as the top team in the Houston area followed by Madison, Wheatley, Deer Park, Houston Jones, Kashmere, Memorial, Yates, Washington, Clear Lake, Pasadena Dobie and Houston Smiley. Three of the top five projected players in the Houston area were from Houston Madison. They were Kite, Simple, and Hicks. The top players were Rob Williams of Milby and Rickie Thompson of Jones. Out of the top 22 players listed by the publication, Wheatley only had one player listed at #22, 6'7" Roosevelt McGruder. Pasadena Dobie had the two biggest players in 7'0" Steve Frederick and 6'10" Scott McDonald. Conroe matched their size with the Bunce brothers, David and Dan at 6'10" and 6'11".

The problem with Milby being rated #1 in the area was that they would have to get past Wheatley to get out of their own District. That had only happened once since desegregation of the schools in 1968. Rob Williams gave Milby the edge against almost any opponent, and with one of the best coaches around, Boyce Honea, the Buffaloes would be hard to beat. They had some great young players in 6'7" junior, Paul Cunningham and 6'8" sophomore, Andre Ross. Houston Jones and Houston Yates also had to battle Wheatley and had formidable teams once again. 6'7" Arnold Blackmon led Yates, along with a 6'5" junior Michael Young. Sterling was picked last in the District with a little-known junior named, Clyde Drexler. District 19-AAAA was loaded and whoever came out of the tussle, would be threat to win state.

The battle in District 23-AAAA was going to be interesting as usual as Clear Lake finished 2nd to Deer Park during the 1978 campaign. Deer Park returned another great team and was picked to win District. Robert Shaw, at 6'8", was key to Park's success and Clear Lake only returned one letterman, 5'8" Colin O'Neill. Pasadena Dobie had its best team in years and would challenge for the District honors along with Clear Creek, coming off a 26-7 campaign.

In the Dallas area, Plano of course, took everybody by surprise in the pre-season polls. The probably was in District 13-AAAA, the Wildcats were picked 2nd behind Lake Highlands. Coach Jerry Wells and his Lake Highlands squad had won District the year before, and his team looked much stronger in 1979. 6'6" Kelly Clayton was back after missing the entire season as a junior, along with 6'3" leaper, Raleigh Freeman. Coach Wells would count on three-year starter, Ronnie Marr, to lead the Wildcats for their run at the playoffs. Remember only one team made the playoffs, so many outstanding teams would be left out of the playoffs. Most observers believed this was Lake Highlands strongest squad since their state championship team in 1968 that captured the class 3-A title. Richardson High had one of the top players in District 13-AAAA in 6'4" Paul McKimmey, but he did not have much support.

The big District in Dallas was 12-AAAA. Dallas Roosevelt was the pick to win the District by the Dallas Morning News. Coach Ellis Davis' Mustangs had 6'6" Bobby Davis returning. Davis averaged 17 points and 14 rebounds a game followed by 6'5" Kenneth Roberson. Davis commented, "We have the potential to be as good as last year." Kimball was picked 2nd, after finishing strong in last year's race. Coach Paul Graham was very excited about the coming season, counting on 5'10" Tony Mathis(23.4) and 6'5" Sam Sullivan(20.4). Kimball finished 25-7 in 1978 and planned to make it a three team District race. The third member of the three-team race was the Golden Bears of S.O.C. 6'2" junior, Puntus Wilson was Coach Henry Warren's best player, and he was a special talent. Other talented contributors to Warren's troops were 6'2" Tony Moore and guards Reginald Mosby and Billy Christie.

In Ft. Worth, Dunbar would be challenged by an outstanding Paschal team. Coach Jim Wall reputation as one of the top coaches in the state made Paschal always a threat. Greg Shropshire would lead the Panthers against Dunbar.

In the season's first state polls, Austin Lanier was getting a lot of attention paced by 6'4" Elton Webster, and two tremendous guards, Harold Howard and Will Prosser. Webster was a force inside and the offense basically ran through him. The Pt. Arthur/ Beaumont area always produced great talent and 1979 was no exception. Beaumont Charlton Pollard looked to be the best in the area paced by 6'7" Kenneth Perkins. Conroe also crashed the top ten along with Deer Park.

As the season progressed, Austin Lanier defeated Cypress Fairbanks(35-5) 83-62 and Highland Park 85-72, to show they would be the class of region IV. Houston Madison was undefeated and unquestioned #1 team in the state. With victories over Kashmere, Deer Park, Houston Jones, Milby, and Wheatley, the Marlins were not only looking like the top team in Texas, but maybe one of the best in the country. The Marlins didn't blow people out, but they also had few close games. They were big inside with Kite, and outstanding guard play along with athleticism in England and Simple. The Marlins were going to be hard to beat. Dunbar had struggled in some people's eyes because of the losses to Plano, Milby 64-60 and South Oak Cliff 92-78. But as the season progressed, Coach Hughes got the team moving in right direction and had a 22-game winning stretch going into the playoffs. During the run they had three wins over Paschal including a 30-29 squeaker the last game of District.

In Dallas things were very tight in the race for the playoffs. Lake Highlands finished 23-6 and lost both District matchups against Plano 59-56 and 53-49. The games were very tight, but for Plano those were the type games they wanted, tough low scoring games with few possessions. In the other big District race between Dallas Roosevelt and Dallas S.O.C., the Golden Bears came out on top to everyone's surprise. Coach Ellis Davis Mustang's had so much more experience and were thought to be a strong candidate to advance to Austin, but they could not get past the Golden Bears. Coach Henry Warren's Bears, played a tough schedule beating Ft. Worth Paschal early in the season 59-57 and Wheatley 75-74. They also lost to Wheatley 94-87 and Dunbar 89-74. In District, S.O.C. split with Kimball, but had Roosevelt's number winning all three contest 86-73, 69-54, and 76-68. So, Plano and S.O.C. were on a collision course for the playoffs.

Region I

El Paso Eastwood(16-11)

El Paso Coronado(28-5)

Lubbock Monterey(23-3)#13

Am. Tascosa(21-6)/Amarillo(18-9)

Midland(27-8) #9

Wichita Falls(22-10)

Ft. Worth Dunbar(32-3) #2

Ft. Worth Richland Hills(21-10)

Top Five in Region I

6'0" Darrell Browder, Ft. Worth Dunbar; 5'9" Danny Ray Wright, Odessa; 6'7"

Gilbert Collier, Ft. Worth Dunbar; 6'6" Andre Allen, Ft. Worth Dunbar; 6'6"

Charles Johnson, Midland:

As the playoffs rolled around there were some great matchups and some anticipated games. In Region I, Dunbar showed their dominance defeating and overmatched Ft. Worth Richland(21-10) squad in Bi-District 84-59. Browder scored 22 points while Collier helped with 25 points. Collier hit 11 of 16 shots from the floor and was labeled the "next generation" by the Dallas Morning News. "Our speed was the key for us tonight," Coach Hughes said. "Their team was probably inexperienced at playing a team with our speed and it created a lot of opportunities for us." Hughes continued, "We are playing as well or better than we did last year. Our guards and corners are better and they gave us a better fast break." Dunbar dominated the glass with a 48 to 31 advantage. Coach West of Richland said, "They have a very good team, they intimidated us with their height advantage and we couldn't slow down their fast break." Dunbar was ranked #2 in the state and advanced to Abilene to face Midland in some unfinished business. Midland had beaten Wichita Falls(21-13) in the 1st round 59-56. Midland blew a nine-point lead in the 4th quarter and then rallied in the final two minutes. The Bulldogs turned the game back into their favor with a hard-pressing game and timely foul shooting. Walter Bryson was the leading scorer with 20 points, Charles Johnson hit 18 and Roy Lee Jefferson rounded out the double-digit scorers with 10 points. 6'7" Ricky Cobb led Wichita Falls with 21 points, followed by Dick Woodruff with 14. Two key players for Midland came from the same family, the Johnson family, Charles and Herbert. (40) In the other first round action, El Paso Coronado(30-6) advanced against El Paso Eastwood(16-12), Lubbock Monterey(24-4) also was able to advance against Amarillo Tascosa(21-6).

In the regional Semi-Finals, Midland High came in with a 17-game winning streak after starting the season at 10-8. The Johnson family played a key role for the Bulldogs in their drive to regionals. District M.V.P., 6'5" Charles Johnson(13.0) and his 6'8" little brother Herb(10.0/12.0), were integral parts to the Bulldogs team. 5'11" Walter Bryson, who had been dismissed from the team earlier in the season, was now a key contributor.

Dunbar led all the way against Midland, winning 81-74. The Wildcats only led by four at halftime 42-38. Dunbar extended their lead to ten points twice in the second half. 6'8" Gilbert Collier had one of his best games of the season finishing

with 23 points and 10 rebounds and one block. Collier fouled out with 3:46 remaining in the contest. Browder was steady as usual with 16 points and 10 rebounds, Anthony Ware had 14 points and 10 rebounds, and Andre Allen added 10 points and 9 rebounds. Dunbar had a small rebound advantage of only 45-44. "Midland was a lot better than we expected," Browder said. "I thought we would run off from them, I didn't know they would be able to run with us." Midland took more shots than the Wildcats with an 87-69 advantage, but came up short on the foul line. Dunbar was 17 of 25 from the foul line and the Bulldogs hit only 10 of 16. The Wildcats balance was one of the team's biggest strengths with all five starters finishing in double figures. For the Bulldogs, Roy Lee Jefferson had 17, Charles Johnson 15 and Milton Sanders finished with 14.

In the second game, Lubbock Monterey took a 38-35 lead over El Paso Coronado into the final quarter in a low scoring affair. Monterey went cold and did not score a field goal in the first six minutes of the fourth quarter. Coronado outscored Monterey 23-5 in the final frame. El Paso Coronado came away with a 58-43 win to set up the regional finals between Dunbar and Coronado at Taylor County Coliseum in Abilene.

(40) Midland dominated the All-District team with 6'8" Sophomore, Herb Johnson winning the sophomore of the Year Award, along with his brother Charles, winning the District M.V.P. Award. Bryson and Jefferson were also named to the first team along with Milton Sanders. Danny Wright of Odessa was the District's leading scorer with a 22.3 average, followed by Mark Poss of Big Spring who averaged, 21.7 per game.

Before 4,200 fans in Midland, El Paso Coronado's patient offense brought the running Wildcats of Ft. Worth Dunbar to a stop. At halftime, the score was tied 23-23 and the Dunbar fans were very quiet. Halfway through the 3rd quarter, Dunbar fell behind. Coach Hughes decided to speed things up with a full court press and with it he awoke the Dunbar faithful. The Wildcat fans began chanting and roaring and raising the sound level. El Paso Coronado began to turn the ball over and Dunbar came back from a 29-25 deficit with 2:02 left in the third quarter, to a 36-29 advantage, barely two minutes into the fourth quarter. In a slow-down game, Coronado(30-5) almost pulled off the upset losing 42-37. "This bunch of mine has gotten to the point that they don't want to come out of the dressing room unless they're 3,000 or 4,000 fans in the stands. They ask how many fans are out there and if someone says 200 or 300, they say they won't play. They love to play before big crowds," Hughes said. "I think the crowd and our press was the difference in the game." Browder contributed 6 points, 8 rebounds, 2 steals and 5 assists. The senior guard commented after the game, "It was a big deal for us to see so many people down here. When you see that kind of crowd, you just want to play as hard as you can." Willie Ashley, Dunbar's 6'4" sophomore, was the only player in double figures, replacing Collier late in the first half. Collier hit the floor

and hurt his hip. Ashley did a great job filling in for the talented junior. Ashley led the team in scoring with 14 points and also had 3 rebounds and one block. Coach Hughes said he likes the experience of Collier, who had played on the varsity since his freshmen season, but he never hesitated to use the muscular Ashley. "When we go with Ashley, we don't figure that we lose anything," Hughes said. "Ashley was outstanding." Dunbar went into their own delay game with 1:36 remaining up 42-35. The Wildcats under Coach Robert Hughes were going to state for the second time in three years with only one thing in mind, a state championship.

Region II

Grand Prairie(24-8)

Waco University(28-4) #16

Dallas S.O.C.(28-5) #20

Plano(28-4) #7

Wilmer Hutchins(25-11)

Conroe(27-7) #5

Dallas Hillcrest(24-5)

Lufkin(26-6)

Top Five in Region II

5'7" Ronnie Blake, Lufkin; 6'7" Larry Davis(soph), Lufkin; 6'2" Columbus Garrett, Dallas Lincoln; 6'3" Travis Benke, Plano; 6'2" Steve Washington, North Dallas:

Region II would pit two of the top teams in the state against one another with #7 ranked Plano and #20 ranked South Oak Cliff. How S.O.C. was rated #20 would be anybody's guess, because they were the top team in Dallas. S.O.C. faced Dallas Hillcrest(24-6) in Bi-District at Loos Field House. The Golden Bears advanced regionals for the 6th time in seven years with a 76-61 victory. Tony Moore led the way with 26 points for the Golden Bears. In a great game, Wilmer Hutchins advanced to regionals in overtime beating Grand Prairie(24-9) 68-64. Mookie Smith led Hutch with 23 points followed by Chester Smith with 21. Fifth ranked Conroe was paced by the Bunce brothers beating Waco University(28-5) 57-49. Randy Menefee led Conroe with 21 points while Dan Bunce tossed in 16 points and pulled down 15 rebounds. University's Daryl Baucham paced all scorers with 29 points.

The big shocker of region II was Plano's(28-5) upset loss to Lufkin 71-69 in Tyler. The game was played on a Monday night rather than the usual Tuesday. The Plano Wildcats overcame a 22-17 first-quarter deficit to go ahead 43-34 at the intermission. In visiting with Jesse Walker, the Lufkin Coach, he said his scouting report on Plano said you could not press them. His close friend, Brooks Dozier the Nacogdoches coach, did all the scouting for Coach Walker and he had not seen anybody press Plano successfully. But with his team trailing by nine at halftime, Walker went against his scouting report and changed philosophies. "We press every game against everybody, that's who we are," Coach Walker said. "We had to play to our strengths and we did in the second half." The strategy worked, as Lufkin took the lead in the final minute 67-65. Plano's Coach Bridges called timeout, but was charged with a technical as the Wildcats were out of timeouts.

Lufkin made the technical and scored a bucket on the possession, and took a 70-65 lead. The Wildcats made a late run, but it was too late. The Panthers won it 71-69 to advance to regionals. Travis Benke of Plano, led all scorers with 35 points in a great performance, while the Panthers were led by 5'7" Ronnie Blake with 18 points. Lufkin was not even state ranked and even though they had advanced to regionals the previous season, they did not seem capable of winning against a state power like Plano. Lufkin was thought to be too undisciplined. But numbers can be deceiving and so they were with Lufkin. They had much more size than Plano, with two of the top sophomores in the state, 6'7" Larry Davis and 6'8" Don Bronson. Davis would go on to star at S.M.U. and Bronson played at U.T.E.P. Davis averaged 16.3 points a game and looked nothing like a sophomore. He was strong and powerfully built. Coach Jesse Walker's team was loaded with depth, 6'6" Martines Grimes, 6'0" Michael Mainer, 6'3" Andre Hall, 6'2" Robert Edwards, along with team leader and quarterback Ronnie Blake, who averaged 15.6 per game. Grimes played college ball at McNeese St. in Louisiana, Blake at Baylor, Mainer went to Midwestern University in Wichita Falls and Edwards played football for Lamar University in Beaumont. In reality, Lufkin had the more talented squad, and should have been favored, they were much more athletic and had more size. Was there anything in the Lufkin resume that would indicate this type of success. The answer is yes, they were accustomed to adversity. Matter of fact, if there was ever a team that loved tough situations, this was it. The Panthers lived on the edge, playing several close games against excellent competition. District 14-AAAA was one of the most hotly contested races in the state. Longview(20-8), Tyler Lee(19-11), Nacogdoches(27-6), Marshall(14-11), Tyler John Tyler and Lufkin all made a mad dash for the single playoff spot. Remember back in 1979, the District was divided into halves. You had the first half winner facing the second half winner to see who would advance.

Lufkin's chief rival was Nacogdoches. The Dragons had an outstanding team in 1979 and quite possibly had a better team than Lufkin. The Dragons were 10 deep and in pre-District had shown their grit facing a number of outstanding teams. Nacogdoches had defeated eventual 3-A state champions, Huntsville(27-5) 66-64. They also held a win over Center(29-2) 80-74. Center was a top ten ball club in class 3-A. The Dragons beat regional semi-finalist, Wilmer Hutchins(26-12) 74-62. They were very competitive finishing 27-6 on the season. 6'2" Kelvin Ikner(16.5) was a long-range bomber for Nac and named 1st team All-District. Roland Rocquemore(12.1) played the point, hefty 6'4" A.J. Culbreath(12.0) was very athletic inside. The human highlight film was 6'1" Don Jones(5.4), who came off the bench for the Dragons. Jones would later win the SWC high jump competition in track. Jones attended Texas A&M and was one of the leading receivers for the Aggies in football. The Dragons were very talented but only Ikner was named to the 10-man All-District squad. Craig Deckard and Rocquemore were

named honorable mention. The Dragons also relied on 6'6" Allan Johnston, who averaged 13.7 points and 11.2 rebounds a game. In one game during the season he pulled down 39 rebounds. After junior college, Johnston committed to Indiana St., but soon after blew his knee out and played for St. Mary's in San Antonio. Johnston was an outstanding high school basketball coach for years in East Texas, with his last hurrah being at of all places....Tyler Lee in 2014.

Tyler Lee(19-11) also had a strong team which was centered around 6'5" Kenneth Brown(14.0), 6'6" Neil Franklin, and 6'0" Richard Smith(15.3). Brown and Smith were both named All-District while Franklin was named honorable mention. After finished 32-2 the previous season, the Raiders were supposed to be in rebuilding mode, but somebody forgot to tell first year coach, Ted Gillum. His Raiders were right in the middle of the District race.

East Texas had some outstanding basketball talent in 1979. Three of the top teams in East Texas were on display at the Pineywoods Classic. Huntsville, the defending Class 3-A state champion, met Lufkin in the semi-finals of the tournament and gave the Panthers their first loss of the season 77-69. The next evening in the finals of the tournament, Nacogdoches ran their record to 10-0 with a 66-64 victory over Huntsville. Nacogdoches relied on 6'6" Alan Johnston inside against Huntsville's All-State post, 6'5" Curtis Wallace. Lufkin later played in the Temple tournament against Dallas powerhouse, Dallas Roosevelt, losing 83-68. In the Jacksonville Tournament, the Panthers got another shot at Huntsville and defeated the Hornets 61-54. In the finals of the Jacksonville tournament, Lufkin and Nacogdoches locked horns for the first time during the 1979 campaign. The Dragons dominated winning 80-61. Another East Texas power in 1979 were the Crockett Bulldogs, led by one of the most highly recruited basketball players in the country, 6'9" Claude Riley. Although Riley score 30 points and was dominating, the overall size of Lufkin was too much, as they outrebounded Crockett 58-29, and came away with a solid victory 83-65. 6'6" Martinez Grimes finished with 19 points and 13 rebounds and 6'3" Andre Hall finished with 18 rebounds and 6'8" sophomore, Larry Davis finished with eight rebounds. Already you could see, Lufkin biggest strength was their rebounding ability and physical size and athleticism. Lufkin turned right around and played Crockett a second time defeating the 2-A power 81-59. This time, 6'8" sophomore Don Bronson knocked down 16 points and 12 rebounds. Larry Davis added 20 points and 8 rebounds.

As the 14-AAAA District race opened it was obvious any one of five teams could advance to the playoffs, but the Dragons were the favorite. Nacogdoches at one time was 10-0 and was state ranked. In the first round of District, three teams finished with 5-2 marks. Nacogdoches, Tyler Lee and Lufkin all finished tied for first place. Lee had beaten both rivals, Nacogdoches 76-63 and Lufkin 68-66, but they had two losses to Texas High 74-73 and Longview 66-61. Nacogdoches had lost to

Lee and Lufkin 76-62 in the first round. Lufkin had lost to Marshall 70-69 and to Lee.

The second round of District action started out with Marshall again being the spoiler, beating Tyler Lee 68-62. Nacogdoches also had trouble with Marshall losing 70-68. Marshall key performers were 5'10" Winston Aaron and Sam Knighten. With both Lee and Nacogdoches having one loss apiece, the game between two looked like it might decide the second round of District. In a classic overtime game, Tyler Lee beat the Dragons 59-57, putting them in the driver's seat with Lufkin. The Panthers of Lufkin took care of business as they moved through the second round of District at 5-0, with two overtime wins against Longview 86-84 and Marshall 73-71. So, the Marshall Mavericks were 2-1 against the contenders during the 2nd round of District. Lufkin finished off the regular season against Tyler Lee and Nacogdoches. The Tyler Lee-Lufkin was really for the District title, because Nacogdoches already had two losses in the second round. With only one game to play, Lufkin would be 6-0 if they beat Tyler Lee going into their last regular season game against Nacogdoches. And the Dragons had already been eliminated from the second round. The game was awesome once again, as the cardiac Panthers won 60-59 and with it the District title. With the outright second round title, the Panthers took District.

In the last week of the season, all the schools played their rivals. Nacogdoches hammered Lufkin 90-70 and John Tyler pummeled Tyler Lee 80-51. So, the top two teams in District got beat in their final game of the regular season by a total of 49 points. This loss for Lufkin was deceptive because it was the last game of the regular season, and the Panthers had already captured the District title. Because of this, Coach Walker played everybody on his roster, thus the lopsided loss. "I am not taking anything away from Nac, they played well, but there was nothing on the line for us. We had clinched the District race and beat them when we needed to," Coach Walker said. All you can say is what a competitive District race it was in 1979. Lufkin finished District with a 11-3 mark, playing three overtime games and winning two of them. Nacogdoches finished 10-4 and Tyler Lee finished 3rd at 9-5. The big spoiler in the District race was Marshall, who finished 3-3 against the top three District teams. And in their three losses, they lost by a total of 11 points. Marshall faced Ft. Worth Dunbar in the Arlington Classic earlier in the season and lost, 86-66. I know what you are thinking, but what you have to take into consideration is the East Texas schools had a lot of dual sports athletes. Early in the season they were at a big disadvantage because several players or key players came out of football. The Arlington Classic is played in late November and early December. The East Texas teams are much stronger in January and February than in November and December. So sometimes you can't read a whole lot into early season games depending on whether both teams have all their players.

An interesting side note of this titanic District 14-AAAA race was that Nacogdoches had a season mark of 21-3 going into the Texas High game, which they won 59-50. On the cold bus ride home temperatures were very low and several players got sick. The Dragons lost three out of the next four games they played. They lost to Lufkin 76-62, a team which they had defeated earlier in the season by 14 points and defeated later in the season by 20 points. The Dragons were without their standout point guard, Roland Roquemore, who had been suspended. The other losses were against Marshall 70-68 and Tyler Lee 59-57 in overtime. If the Dragons had won any of those games they would have forced a District playoff. The only win during the four-game stretch was against Longview 85-76. So, after going 21-3 on the season they go through a stretch of 1-3, which basically ends the season for the Dragons. The Achilles heel for Nacogdoches was not Lufkin but rather, Tyler Lee, losing both games to the Rebels. Tyler Lee's record against the top two teams in District action was 3-1 and Lee was only two points away from being 4-0 against them. But Lufkin was the more consistent team of the three advancing to the playoffs.

The 14-AAAA All-District named by the coaches had Ronnie Blake of Lufkin named M.V.P., Larry Davis took Sophomore of the Year, and 6'3" Jeff Glenn(20.2) of Longview and 6'3" Jack Culbertson(20.4) of Longview Pine Tree were unanimous choices. Andre Hall of Lufkin also made All-District, gaining 4 of the possible 8 votes from the coaches. John Tyler had two players represented on the team, 6'3" Joe Turner(10.0) and 6'0" James Hampton(16.3). The All-East Texas team had Davis(16.1) and Blake(15.5) on the 1st team along with 6'5" Warren Everett(17.5) of Daingerfield, 6'3" Kevin Carlisle(18.1) of Whitehouse, and 5'9" Billy Douglas(22.1) of LaPoynor. The team looked pretty legit until I saw the best player in East Texas on the honorable mention list, Claude Riley of Crockett. He did not make the top three teams, which put 15 players ahead of the Crockett sensation. Once again, hard to take it seriously.

After their dog fight getting out of District, Lufkin certainly did not have the look of a team that was going to make a deep run in the playoffs. I think looking back on the season, few people realized just how strong District 14-AAAA had been. Even though Nacogdoches was ranked early in the season at #10, most media thought the only real basketball was played in the urban areas. After the 20-point loss to Nacogdoches to end the regular season, Lufkin tried to get their mojo back in a playoff warm-up against Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(34-3), the #4 team in the state polls. The Athletic director at Beaumont had talked to the Athletic director at Lufkin and discussed playing a warm up game prior to the playoffs. Lufkin was in region II and Beaumont Charlton-Pollard was in region III, so the teams would only meet each other if they advanced to the state tournament in Austin. This was very common at the time to try and play a warm up contest against stiff competition, to get you ready for the playoffs. Lufkin had a history

with Beaumont, they had opened the season in Beaumont against Beaumont French and played Pt. Arthur Jefferson the next evening, winning both games. The Beaumont Charlton-Pollard school officials came up to Lufkin to look at the gym. They remarked at how small the gym was, and that it would not hold all the fans coming from Beaumont to support their team. So, they told Lufkin they would charter a Greyhound bus and pay for their hotel and travel expenses if they would come play the game in Beaumont. Pollard had a big arena which was filled, so they made a lot of money, even though they paid for the Panthers to come all the way to Beaumont. The game was set. Although Lufkin was not ranked in the top 20 in the state, they were confident going against the much higher ranked Pollard squad. The turning point of the game was when the two big men for Pollard, Kenneth Perkins and Mike Jones got in foul trouble. Both were taken out when they received their fourth foul. Down 16 points, Lufkin began their comeback. The Panthers outscored Pollard 24-9 in the fourth quarter and got back into the contest. The game came down to the last possession. The officials for the game were from Beaumont and with the score tied, Lufkin had the ball going for the last shot. As the ball went up, Pollard was called for goaltending and the Panthers were awarded the basket and with it the win 71-69. Coach Walker commented that he was very surprised the officials would make that call-in favor of the visiting team. Most of the time home officials will give their fans the close calls. Walker said that he felt Beaumont Charlton-Pollard was extremely talented and one of the best teams they had faced all season, especially 6'7" Kenneth Perkins. Perkins finished with 25 points and 15 rebounds and four blocks, while sitting out some of the game with foul trouble.

In District 16-AAAA, Conroe(26-7), Jersey Village and Cypress-Fairbanks(35-5) battled things out to see who would make the state playoffs. All three teams finished 12-2 in District action. Conroe took the first half of District and Jersey Village(24-10) won the 2nd round. The Jersey Village lost by one point during the first half to Conroe 42-41. David Bunce hit two last second foul shots to give Conroe the win. 6'3" Henry Kellum of Jersey Village scored only 9 points and fouled out in the second quarter. In the second game between the two teams, Kellum stayed out of foul trouble and hit 21 points in Jersey Village's 47-43 win. In the District playoff game, Conroe was fueled by 6'11" Dan Bunce, who finished with 12 points and 8 rebounds and held the Falcons, Henry Kellum to only 7 points in the 45-38 victory for Conroe. The Tigers improved their record to 27-7 and would face Waco University in Bi-District.

The U.I.L. had overruled the District committee on University's ineligible players, granting them the District title. Conroe represented Greater Houston in the Region II playoffs against Waco University. Randy Menefee and David Bunce were the stars for the Tigers in Conroe's 57-49 against University. Menefee had 21 points and David Bunce hit 16 points and 15 rebounds. University was down to

Conroe 42-31, but turned things around with a 15-2 run to take a 46-44 lead. The Tigers came right back with a run of their own outscoring University 13-3.

In College Station at G. Rollie White Coliseum in the region II semi-finals, Lufkin prepared for Dallas South Oak Cliff, coached by Henry Warren. The Golden Bears were not big but very talented and quick. 6'2" Puntus Wilson was the team's best player, closely followed by 6'3" Tony Moore and 6'3" James Helmich. Coach Warren had tons of talent on which he could call upon, 6'0" Billy Christie, 6'2" Emery Aaron, 5'8" Reginald Mosby, 6'1" Donnye Shelby, 6'1" Kenneth Bizzell, and 6'2" Chris Sowell. Christie and Mosby were outstanding ball handlers. Coach Jesse Walker of Lufkin commented, "What I fear about S.O.C. is the unselfishness of the team." "It appears S.O.C. doesn't care who does the scoring and there's an apparent unity on defense." Coach Warren responded, "Defense won't do anything but win games. I try to sell the kids on that, and I like to think defense is our best offense. We're awfully small and we must play good defense, hustle and rebound to stay with Lufkin." When questioned about the apparent speed of Coach Warren's team, Coach Walker said, "Quickness is the main thing I worry about S.O.C....something I felt we had last year but don't this year. We will try to slow down S.O.C. and unfortunately were not a slowdown team." The key players for Lufkin, 6'8" Larry Davis(20.0/10.0), 6'6" Martinez Grimes, 6'3" Andre Hall, 6'3" Robert Edwards, 6'1" Michael Mainer(16.0), 5'7" Ronnie Blake(20.0), and 6'9" Don Bronson(9.0/9.0). "Yes, we do have some size, but we don't always start the big guys. We choose our starters according to the type team we are playing," Coach Walker said.

Lufkin continued their magic beating S.O.C. 73-72 on 3-point play by Ronnie Blake with 20 seconds left in the game. S.O.C. led 71-70 after Tony Moore missed the front end of a 1 and 1. Blake advanced the ball and scored while getting fouled. Lufkin now led 73-71 and with 11 seconds remaining, and James Helmich of S.O.C. was fouled. He made the first free throw and missed the second. Puntus Wilson tipped the ball back up and the ball rolled around the rim and fell off. Lufkin advanced the ball and ran out the clock. Sports writer, Randall Perry, who wrote for the Lufkin newspaper commented after the game, "SOC made two mistakes, they stopped pressing and they tried to hold the ball on offense." Coach Warren was very upset following the game because of the controversial play with 1:46 left in the game. Tony Moore had a dunk that was disallowed because of an injured Larry Davis of Lufkin on the other end of the court. In reality, Davis was tripped and a foul was called, which caused the basket to be waved off by the officials. "That killed our momentum" Warren said. "We would have been in control, but I knew I should sit down and not complain. It was not time for a technical." S.O.C. had to use 15 players because of foul trouble, which limiting the minutes by Moore and Wilson. Lufkin on the other hand, was behind the entire game, but just kept fighting back. "I think S.O.C.'s game plan was to tire us out, since we played only six

kids, but in the end I think S.O.C. ran out of gas,” explained Coach Walker. Blake finished with 29 points and would not let his team lose. Larry Davis followed with 16 points. S.O.C. inability to make foul shots in the end was what killed them. With 5 minutes remaining in the third quarter, S.O.C. was pulling away with a 48-40 lead. Andre Hall of Lufkin was fouled on the inside by Tony Moore of S.O.C., who complained to the referee and was called for a technical foul. After a Blake steal and layup, momentum had been stopped as the Panthers tied the score 48 apiece. Another factor in the Golden Bears loss, was that late in the game, Wilson and Moore were both playing with four fouls and Helmich had three.

Wilmer Hutchins(26-11) looked to have their work cut out for them against the biggest team in the state, Conroe. Coach Larry Berkman of Conroe looked to 6’11” Dan Bunce(11.0/7.0), 6’10” David Bunce(18.0/15.0), 6’5” Roger Holtkamp, 6’3” Tim O’Neill, 5’10” Randy Menefee and 5’10” Mark McCollum. Berkman only started one of the big Bunce boys. Coach Homer Smith countered with limited size, 6’5” Chester Smith, 6’4” Chris Richardson, 6’1” Mookie Smith(25.7), 6’1” Paul Donaldson, 6’2” Leonard Bange and 6’1” Ricky Grace. Mookie Smith was considered one of the top guards in the state. “Naturally Conroe’s the tallest team we have played all year,” Coach Smith of Wilmer Hutchins said. “But we are hoping our quickness can offset that. We’ve heard Conroe plays a deliberate game, trying to get the ball down low to the big guys and it has had the most trouble this year with fast-break teams like ours.” Coach Berkman of Conroe denied the deliberate tag by Wilmer Hutchins. “Our game plan depends on the other team and we don’t stick to an inside game,” Berkman said. “We can shoot from the outside too, especially if the opposition is sagging inside. We’ve averaged 63 points a game, so that indicates we like to run at times,” Coach Berkman shared.

Wilmer Hutchins carried on Dallas’s bad luck as they came up short against a strong Conroe team 73-59. 6’10” David Bunce of Conroe hit 25 of his 36 points in the 2nd half. The big senior was 16 of 23 from the floor and also pulled in 20 rebounds. His coach called Bunce’s game his best of the season. Conroe won the battle of the glass 41-33 over Hutch. Hutchins Coach, Homer Smith said after the game, “I have never played a team as big and I hope I never play one again.” Wilmer Hutchins led at halftime 35-34. Twice in the second half the Tigers had commanding 15 point leads 56-41. Mookie Smith scored 21 for Hutch while Ricky Grace added 14. Although Smith hit 21 points, he was only 8 of 28 from the floor. Smith and Grace were one of the best backcourts in the state in 1979. Grace went on to play for Oklahoma in the 1988 NCAA Championship game. This set the stage for the regional finals between Conroe(29-8) and Lufkin(30-6) at 4:00 on Saturday afternoon. The winner would advance to Austin.

For the third straight playoff game, Lufkin came up with a miracle to defeat Conroe 58-57. Reporter, David Holland of the Dallas Morning News called

Lufkin a team of destiny. The Panthers trailed 57-52 with 1:34 left. Lufkin appeared to have run out of miracles. With 1:29 left Blake(41) hit two foul shots which were soon followed by Andre Hall hitting two more fouls shot. With 1:01 left in the game, Conroe's David Bunce missed a front end of a one and one, but his brother Dan tipped in the rebound, but the ball rolled out. With six second left Lufkin took the lead for the first time when Michael Mainer hit a layup. Conroe's Tim O'Neill failed to get the ball inbounds against Lufkin's press in the final seconds, to secure the win. Coach Walker commented after the game, "We've had seven overtime games this year and three of them have been in double overtime." For the Panthers, Davis finished with 19 points, Blake 12, while 5'10" guard Randy Menefee led Conroe with 16 points and Mark McCollum added 14. Blake had one of his worst games of the season, hitting on three of 17 from the floor. Lufkin's scouting report said, Conroe was very deliberate, so the Panthers pressed aggressively. The results were a number of easy baskets for Conroe, as they got behind the Panthers press. That's why Conroe's guards were the leading scorers for the Tigers. "I don't know, Conroe wasn't hurt by our press, our defense didn't stop them and we didn't make our free throws. It's just we wound up in the end ahead," Walker said. For Lufkin, it was a magical playoff journey, having trailed in Bi-District to Plano by as many as seven points in the fourth quarter. Against S.O.C. they trailed by five points with 2:51 left before coming from behind. Now it was on to state, their first trip since 1948.

(41) Ronnie Blake was recruited by the University of Texas at Arlington to play quarterback. U.T.A. ran the wishbone offense and Blake was a natural. He went to Kilgore J.C. and later Baylor and played basketball.

Region III

Houston Madison(36-0) #1

Spring Branch Memorial(27-8)

Houston Kashmere(21-9)#10

Houston Wheatley(29-7) #3

Beaumont Pollard(32-2) #4

Houston Forest Brook(24-8)

Stratford Dulles(22-14)

Deer Park(26-6) #9

Top Five in Region III

6'2" Rob Williams, Houston Milby; 6'11" Greg Kite, Houston Madison; 6'6" John Simple, Houston Madison; 6'5" Rickie Thompson, Houston Jones; 6'8" Roosevelt McGruder, Houston Wheatley:

Although Houston Madison was the #1 team in the state they had a dog fight on their hands getting out of Houston. Wheatley used a buzzer tip-in by Randy Desso to edge Houston Jones, and hand Coach Carr his 11th District title in 12 years. While Wheatley had to fight off Houston Jones and Houston Milby, Houston Kashmere made a clean sweep in 19-AAAA and entered the playoffs with a 21-9 record. In Bi-District, #3 Wheatley faced off against #10 Kashmere. The two teams had met during the 1978 playoffs and Wheatley held on to win 92-90 and

moved on and took state. The game was scheduled for 8:30 at Hofheinz. Wheatley held two wins over Kashmere during the regular season. "Just like always, it should be lots of passing, running and scoring," said Coach Jackie Carr. "The records mean nothing in the playoffs. Everybody starts out even, and it seems that the Wheatley-Kashmere games always end up with exciting finishes," Carr said. The Wildcats were led Randy Desso, Antonio Melbeaux, Tracey Bookman, Roosevelt McGruder, Kenneth Morning, Paul Jackson, Jeffrey Brush and sophomore, Phillip Smith. Kashmere counted on 6'6" Leroy Riley and 6'4" Earnest Patterson. In a warm-up game, Wheatley defeated San Antonio Highlands(25-8) 104-88. Wheatley outran Kashmere before an overflow crowd of 11,000 winning 89-78. Coach Carr commented, "We are peaking at the right time." Jeffrey Brush was high point man for Wheatley with 21 points while Patterson led Kashmere with 16.

Houston Madison had an easy time of it in the tune-up game against Dulles 59-45. Lee Gibson led the Marlins with 12 points and Matt England and John Simple followed with 10 each.

In Houston Madison's first round game against Spring Branch Memorial(27-9), the Marlins would be facing one of the most experienced coaches in the state in Don Coleman. This was not one of Coleman's more talented teams, but you could never sell a great coach short in a one game playoff. Memorial leaders were 6'0" Mike Felice, 6'4" Charles Biegel, and 6'2" Matt Strickland. Coach Paul Benton was worried before the game, "We had better not be looking ahead to Wheatley or anybody else or Memorial will beat us. Memorial has the type team that could give us trouble, good shooters and discipline-type team. Coach Coleman does a great job with his kids."

Coach Paul Benton's Madison squad was all over Memorial winning 76-52. After Madison's romp Coleman commented, "I think they may have the best talent of any team I've seen." That is high praise coming from a legend like Don Coleman. He had been around the block several times and was very knowledgeable. Despite four fouls on Kite and Simple the Marlins handled Memorial with ease. Madison won on the boards 42-19. Simple led the Marlins with 17 points, Kite finished with 15. Mike Felice was the only Memorial player in double figures with 16 points.

Houston Forest Brook(24-9) battled Beaumont Charlton-Pollard who came into the game with only two losses and 31 wins. One of those losses was the controversial loss to Lufkin on the goal tending call. The two teams played at Rice University. Forest Brook(23-8) had defeated Houston Smiley(25-9) in a District playoff to make it into the state playoffs. Pollard went on a 21-6 run in the fourth quarter to win 73-57. Kenneth Perkins(16.4/15.7/4.2 bl) came away with 17 points, followed by 16 points from Gerald Darby. Donald Bennett scored 20 in a losing effort for Forest Brook.

Number 9 ranked Deer Park(30-8) made the playoffs for the second year in a row beating out Clear Lake for the playoff spot. There Bi-District opponent was

Stratford Dulles(22-15). The teams met at Spring Branch Coliseum. Deer Park jumped off to an 8-0 lead on Dulles and took care of business. Deer Park was never threatened winning 59-39. Keith Westerman hit 18 points, Tom Fuller had 14 and Ronald Gullihur had 12. Deer Park's goal was to return to the regional finals where they had lost to Wheatley the previous year. Dulles had defeated Pearland 66-52 to win District 24-AAAA.

The region III field was set with three teams making repeat appearances from the previous year, Houston Wheatley(30-7), Houston Madison(37-0), and Deer Park(27-6). The newcomer to the group was Beaumont Pollard(32-2). Defending state champion Wheatley was back for the third year in a row. Coach Carr of Wheatley commented coming into regionals, "From what I've seen Madison is the best team in the state." Madison had defeated Wheatley in the Jaycee tournament 78-62. "They whipped us good in the Jaycee Tournament and now we've got to play'em again. They're No. 1 and deserve to be," Carr said. "We're ready to pray a lot, pray they'll be off and we'll be red hot. But we won't change anything for this game. We'll just play our regular game, the things that got us this far. I know we'll have to hit well from the outside because it's hard to get inside on Madison because of Kite. He's just so big and strong inside," Carr related. Kite had finished with 23 points and 29 rebounds the previous season against Wheatley in regional action. Coach Benton of Madison said, "Wheatley is Wheatley and they're not going to give you anything. You've got to go out and beat Wheatley. Just like last year, Wheatley is very quick, especially quick hands. And their press seems to hurt everybody. We've got to play our game and not let them intimidate us. Antonio Malveaux is one of the best clutch players I've seen in a long time. When Wheatley needs two points they will go to him." Madison was loaded with 6'11" Greg Kite, the McDonald's All-American, 6'6" John Simple, 6'4" Matthew England, 6'1" Pat Hicks, 6'0" Thomas Griffin, 6'5" Lee Gibson, 6'0" Eugene Alford and 6'3" Emmitt Penelton. "Both Arnold and Gibson have had a lot to do with the success of our team. They come in and do a great job. They enter a game and make things happen," Coach Benton said. He continued discussing Hicks, his fine point guard. "Pat is a smart basketball player, has good court sense. I think he sees the floor as good as any high school point guard I've seen this year. Several schools, like Baylor, T.C.U. and Tech, are interested in him." Hicks teamed with Kite and Simple at Pershing Junior High, but spent his first two years at Strake Jesuit. "This is really a very unselfish group of players. They just want to win and don't care who scores the points," Benton added.

Deer Park was counting on 6'8" Robert Shaw and 6'7" Keith Westerman on the inside and guard play from 5'11" Tom Fuller, 6'1" Ronald Gulihur. Pollard had one of the top big men in the state in 6'7" Kenneth Perkins, 6'3" Michael Jones, 6'3" Roger Coleman and 6'4" Gerald Darby.

In the regional semi-finals, two old foes would face off between Houston Madison and Houston Wheatley. With the score tied 70-70 with 1:25 remaining, Madison's John Simple put the Marlins up 72-70 and Matt England hit two foul shots with 11 seconds left to give the Madison a 74-70 victory, and a trip to the regional finals. Simple led the Marlins with 19 points, followed by England with 17 and Kite with 13 points and 12 rebounds. The game was played in front of 11,000 fans at Hofheinz Pavilion on the campus of the University of Houston. The Marlins win was sweet revenge for Benton after his team's 72-70 in overtime loss the previous year in regionals to Wheatley. "This has to be the biggest win for Madison in the history of the school, as this is the deepest we've advanced in the playoffs," Benton said. "Wheatley just doesn't know how to quit," Madison standout, John Simple said. "They just keep coming back." "It was England and Hicks that killed us," Coach Carr said following the game. "We could handle Simple and Kite but England and Hicks controlled the offense and that hurt us. That Hicks holds Madison together. But we had three chances in the last minute to win and just couldn't hit the shots. Poor shooting beat us. I still think we would have won by 10 points if Malveaux hadn't fouled out," Carr said. The Wildcat's point guard, Antonio Malveaux collected four first half fouls, sat out most of the first half. He picked up his fifth foul with 5:08 left in the third period. Wheatley also had Tracey Bookman and Randy Desso foul out. The Marlins won the battle of boards over the Wildcats 45-43.

In the other regional semi-final game, #4 Beaumont Pollard(34-3) battled #9 Deer Park(27-7) to a standstill before winning in overtime 59-58. An estimated crowd of 12,000 fans were on hand to watch the game. Roger Coleman of Pollard, hit two foul shots with eight seconds remaining to give his team the victory. Robert Shaw of Deer Park had just tied the score 58-58 with a bank shot with 15 seconds left of the clock. Pollard immediately pushed the ball up the court and found Coleman wide open underneath the basket. He was fouled and went to the line for the winning free throws. Roger Coleman scored all five of Beaumont Pollard's points in the overtime period.

Both Beaumont Pollard and Houston Madison would go into Saturday's regional finals on emotional highs. Coach James White of Pollard commented, "They have a great ball club and they deserve their top ranking. But our kids are anxious to play 'em. We'll have to play better than we played tonight against Deer Park." Deer Park had taken an early lead against Pollard 16-11 at the end of the first quarter. Pollard bounced back quickly dominating the 2nd quarter and led at halftime 29-24. "I nearly had a heart attack in the fourth quarter. We had momentum early, but we lost it," Coach White said. "Thank goodness we got it back in the overtime period. Coleman really did a super job for us. We're very happy with the victory." Deer Park's talented tandem of 6'8" Robert Shaw and 6'7" Keith Westerman did an outstanding job shutting down 6'7" Kenneth Perkins of

Pollard to only 8 points. The Cougars of Pollard got outstanding play from their two guards, Freddie Coleman and Michael Jones. Freddie Coleman had 17 points and Jones finished with 18.

In the regional finals, Simple of Houston Madison once again came up with two clutch rebounds followed by two pressure free throws with nine seconds left. The Marlins were able to push back the upset minded Pollard squad 62-58. Madison led from start to finish and went up 46-32 only to see Pollard go on a 14-4 run to pull to within four points 50-46. Pollard cut the lead to one 53-52 with 2:40 left on a 15-footer by Roger Coleman. Again, Simple took control with a three-point play. Pollard outrebounded Madison 39-35. "We certainly played ragged and I guess the Friday night game with Wheatley took a lot out of us. I had hoped we wouldn't have a letdown but I guess we did," explained Coach Benton of Houston Madison. "I think we may have gotten a little too conservative in the last five minutes," Simple said. Pat Hicks agreed with Simple, "We didn't play that well but Pollard was a lot better than we thought. I guess we were tired from the Wheatley game." "We must have had five or six good chances to put it away but never could. After we got that 14-point lead we lost Kite with five fouls with 2:56 left to play and made some costly floor mistakes," Benton stated. Simple led the Marlins with 15 points and Hicks added 7 assists. England finished with 10 points and Thomas Gibson followed with 8. Freddie Coleman was the leader for Pollard with 14 points and Michael Coleman followed with 12 and Michael Holmes had 10. At halftime, Wheatley's Jackie Carr commented that Madison looked tired. "But that's the case most of the time after a team plays Wheatley the night before. They may not think so, but their legs are tired because we run so much," added Carr.

Region IV

El Campo(23-7)

Seguin(27-8)

Corpus Christi Carroll(25-9)

San Antonio Memorial(23-6)

Austin Lanier(30-3) #5

San Antonio Highlands(25-9)

Pharr SJ Ala.(28-2)#14

San Antonio McCollum(27-6)

Top Five in Region IV

6'4" Elton Webster, Austin Lanier; 6'2" Stanley Jackson, Seguin; Jay Shakir, SA Fox Tech; 6'6" Frank Rodriguez, S.A. Marshall; 6'3" Leon Upshaw, Corpus Christi Carroll:

Austin Lanier looked as if they were the clear-cut favorite to take the region IV title. Most observers felt Lanier could be the best team to come out of Austin in quite some time. The San Antonio schools were weaker than in past years.

Whatever the case, it didn't mean a great deal to Coach Harry Masch of Lanier. In preparing for the playoffs, Coach Masch scheduled a warm-up game against the always tough Mustangs of Spring Branch Memorial(27-9). The

Vikings(30-3) rallied from behind to capture a 53-52 decision. Lanier's 6'4" post, Elton Webster had a tip-in with 27 seconds left to put his team ahead 51-50. Memorial had taken a commanding 46-33 lead early in the 4th quarter only to let it slip away. Lanier, who won District 26-AAAA, would now face 25-AAAA playoff winner either Victoria or El Campo. El Campo downed Victoria to make the playoffs for the first time ten years.

In Bi-District, Austin Lanier(30-3) broke open a close game against El Campo(23-7) with a 21-9 advantage in the 3rd quarter at the Burger Center in Austin. The 57-52 win gave Lanier its regional ticket. For El Campo, it was a big disappointment. "The third quarter's been our quarter all year," said El Campo coach, Bobby Craig, "And that's what we talked about at halftime. We came in really fired up. We knew that next quarter was going to be ours." Somebody forgot to tell Lanier as the Austin crew made their move to take over the game. El Campo's strong inside forces of Tommie Tyler, who finished with 24 points, and Ralph McAfee had Lanier's standout post, Webster in foul trouble throughout the game. Webster finished with only eight points and fouled out late. "I have no excuse against Tyler. He played a fine game," said Webster following the game. "They had a strong team inside, that's where their strength was but you need an outside game to make a team complete, and they didn't have that." In fact, El Campo's three guards contributed only four points. Larry Lawrence was Lanier leader with 15 points, all from the outside, Harold Howard added 13 and Eric Busboom had 11. "Larry's a streak shooter," said Viking coach, Harry Masch. "He lost it a little in the middle of the year, but he's been coming on strong lately."

In District 32-AAAA, a playoff was needed between Seguin and San Antonio Roosevelt to see who would advance to the state playoffs. The game was played at Alamo gym in front of 1,016 fans. Seguin was paced by balanced scoring and a tough pressing defense which gave S.A. Roosevelt fits. The Matadors advanced defeating the Rough Rider 76-67. Seguin's press had forced S.A. Roosevelt into numerous turnovers and the Matadors led at halftime 42-31. Early in the third quarter, Seguin opened up their largest lead 50-33. The two Stanley's led Seguin in scoring with Stanley Jackson finishing with 24 and Stanley McKinney hitting 18. S.A. Roosevelt was paced by center Kurt Thomas with 23 points and forward Jeff Simmons hit 19. The Rough Riders cut the lead to 8 points on two occasions during the fourth quarter. Seguin's first year coach, Harry Miller said following the win, "First of all we bothered them with the press and secondly, we did a good job defensively. The third factor was good, balanced scoring. They had to respect all of us." Other Matadors contributed big to Coach Miller's victory were, 6'5" Raynard Davis and Howard Sheffield. While discussing Jackson, Coach Miller disclosed, "Not one college coach has contacted him about basketball. He's a sleeping giant. Everyone is missing the boat." Jackson was a 1,000-yard rusher in

football and the state long jump champion. San Antonio Roosevelt finished the season at 23-9.

In District 30-AAAA, San Antonio Memorial(23-6) downed San Antonio Edgewood(21-10) 80-70. The two teams had split their District games with Edgewood winning the first 63-62 and S.A. Memorial taking the second 76-68. The interesting fact about the District race was that the best overall District record in 30-AAAA was not S.A. Memorial or Edgewood, but rather San Antonio Marshall at 14-2. The victory by S.A. Memorial over S.A. Edgewood ended 12 years of misery for the Minutemen of Memorial. The school's first District championship had added significance in that when the school was founded 12 years ago, the Minutemen lost their first 83 basketball games, a state record. The win also avenged the team's loss the previous season to S.A. Marshall 59-43 in a District playoff game. In S.A. Memorial's victory over Edgewood, the Minutemen had three players contribute big to the victory. Mark Saunders, Nook Gustamante and Kenny Simpson combined to 62 of their teams 80 points. Saunders scored 26 points while Gustamante and Simpson both finished with 18 points. John White was the leading scorer for the Red Raiders of Edgewood with 17 points, Gary Murphy added 16 and Robert Wimberly put in 11. The Minutemen improved their record to 23-6 and moved on to play San Antonio McCollum (27-6) in Bi-District. Edgewood closed a fine season at 21-10.

The Bi-District matchup between Seguin(27-8) and San Antonio Highlands(25-10) would come down at the Blossom Athletic Center. Both teams were perceived before the season to have somewhat average talent. The Owls of S.A. Highlands had won 10 of the last 11 games. Coach John Kemmerzehl of Highlands played 10 players getting up and down the court. The Matadors of Seguin were a much more deliberate team in their attack. Four of Seguin's five starters played football, so Coach Miller had slowly unleashed his players giving them more freedom as the season progressed. Because of a slow start, S.A. Roosevelt captured the first half of District and Seguin came on to take the second round. Coming into the Bi-District game the Matadors had won eight straight games. Coach Miller would be calling on his standout guard, 6'2" Stanley Jackson(17.0/9.0) to lead Seguin. Coach Miller commented that Jackson jumped like someone who was 6'6". 6'5" post, Raynard Davis(13.5/15.0), 6'4" Stanley McKinney(9.9/7.5) gave Seguin a decided height advantage over S.A. Highlands. The Owls were led by 5'9" Carl Randle(13.2), 6'4" Blake Partridge(9.2) and Carl Schaumlöffel(9.4). When asked about the Bi-District match-up, Coach Roland Lopez of San Antonio Fox Tech discounted the theory Seguin would manhandle the Owls in rebounding. "If Highlands is shooting like they did against S.A. Sam Houston last week, they are going to be hard to handle." The Owls had defeated Sam Houston 69-65 the previous week. In S.A. Highlands warm-up game against Houston

Wheatley the Owls lost 104-88, but Coach Kemmerzehl commented after the game, "I was well-satisfied, they did a good job."

The Matadors of Seguin got a sweet win over the Owls of Highlands 67-62. The Matadors led almost the entire game and would be making their first trip to regionals. Seguin was paced by 6'5" Raynard Davis, who scored 24 points and grabbed 17 rebounds. Teammate Stanley Jackson contributed 14 points and 12 rebounds and Stanley McKinney had 14 points and 7 rebounds. Carl Randle led S.A. Highlands with 19 points before fouling out with two minutes left in the game. Coach Miller commented after the game, "I feel like our ability to stay out of foul trouble and beat their press, as well as our ability to hit our free throws in pressure situations, were the big things for us." "I told them to challenge every shot from our 2-3 zone, no matter if it was from 50 feet." The difference was the foul line, Seguin put in 21 of 40 and Highlands only had six of nine.

In the Bi-District contest between S.A. McCollum(27-6) and S.A. Memorial, coach Hank Escobedo of S.A. Edgewood said, "You can flip a coin." S.A. McCollum relied on the inside game of 6'6" Alan Martin(19.0), David Covell(14.7) and David Balderrama(12.3) while S.A. Memorial depended on 6'1" Tommie Saunders(21.6) and Willie Clark(13.5). S.A. McCollum was making its first playoff appearance in 13 years and S.A. Memorial was making their first playoff appearance in school history. S.A. McCollum was the only undefeated District champion in San Antonio in 1979 while S.A. Memorial had to win a playoff game with S.A. Edgewood in District 30-AAAA.

In the contest played at the Alamo Stadium gym, S.A. Memorial(23-6) came out on top over S.A. McCollum(27-7) 63-60. Memorial led at halftime 35-28. S.A. Memorial came out running in the second half and pushed the margin to 14 points at one point. 6'3" Kenny Simpson of S.A. Memorial fouled out with 6:12 remaining in the game and the S.A. McCollum Cowboys took full advantage of Memorial's lack of height, and pulled within four points 53-49 with three minutes' left. The outside shooting of Nook Gustamante and inside force of Willie Clark were too much for the McCollum Cowboys attack. Gustamante and Saunders tied for high point honors for S.A. Memorial with 20 points while David Covell led all scoring for S.A. McCollum with 23. Alan Martin of McCollum was held to only 12 points. Corpus Christi Carroll(25-9) drummed Pharr San Juan Alamo(28-3) 66-46 in another Bi-District clash.

At Alamo Stadium Gym in San Antonio the regional semi-finals pitted Austin Lanier(31-3) against Seguin(28-8) at 7:00 p.m. Corpus Christi Carroll(26-9) challenged San Antonio Memorial(24-6) at 4:30 in the afternoon with the two winners facing each other on Saturday at 2 p.m. Austin Lanier(31-3), ranked #5 in the state, was the overwhelming favorite. None of the other teams were ranked in the Ft. Worth Star-Telegram's Top Twenty. Coach Masch of Lanier commented, "I'd just as soon us be favorites as not." For the city of San Antonio, their last hopes

rested with the Minutemen of S.A. Memorial. Memorial carried a 15-game winning streak into the semi-finals contest against Corpus Christi Carroll. The Minutemen's coach, Fernando Moreno said, "I think our whole success has been our balance." Memorial would have to handle Carroll's 6'2" Leon Upshaw(17.0), who scored 37 points in his teams Bi-District victory over Pharr-San Juan Alamo(28-2). C.C. Carroll ended Corpus Christi Moody's three-year stranglehold on District 27-AAAA. Carroll coach, Bubby Greenwood felt, "Team balance and speed and being a senior team," were key factors in the team's playoff run. Carroll had split with Fox Tech and lost to S.A. Roosevelt and S. A. Churchill earlier in the season.

Seguin had played every team in Austin except Austin Lanier. The Lanier Vikings at one point in the season were 21-1, with their only loss coming to S.A. Wheatley by one-point. That loss was later avenged by 40 points. In the Austin Lanier and Seguin match-up, Coach Miller of Seguin came to the conclusion each team is equal on paper. "We don't have any doubts, we feel like we can win the ball game. It is going to be tough." "Lanier has Elton Webster, a 6'4" post man who has been tagged as the "Eraser" for his ability under the basket. Lanier also has two 6'0" guards in Harold Howard and Will Prosser, who can stuff a basketball with any of the big guys. There can't be too many teams in the state better than they are," Miller concluded. Miller's chances of beating Lanier rested in the hands of three key players, 6'5" Raynard Davis, 6'2" Stanley Jackson and 6'0" point guard, Darnell Johnson. Each would have to match the performances of Howard, Webster and Prosser.

Austin Lanier defeated the Seguin Matadors 64-55 as a result of some incredibly poor foul shooting by Seguin. Following his team's 7 of 21 performance from the line, Coach Harry Miller said, "It's been a problem all year, I felt all along that there would come a day when that would be our downfall." Lanier only hit 12 of 25 from the foul line. The Vikings had trouble with Seguin's press for three quarters. The Matadors led 41-38 late in the 3rd quarter. Coach Masch of Lanier, "brought an old press offense out of the closet," to battle Seguin in the fourth quarter. With 6:07 left in the game, Lanier gained the lead 47-43. The Vikings broke the press with long passes down court to Larry Lawrence, but Coach Masch refused to go into detail. "It's just another alignment, one we haven't used in a long time," he said. Webster and Prosser were high point men for Lanier with 13 each. Early in the game, Seguin frustrated the Viking running attack by holding the ball. The strategy worked early as the Matadors led at the end of one 10-6 and 24-20 at half. "We bothered them some with our press, but eventually we just ran out of gas," said Miller. "Everything I've been saying about them all along is true," Miller continued, "Webster's something in the middle. He's an animal." Raynard Davis did a great job on Webster and was Seguin's second leading scorer with 16 points behind Stanley Jackson's 18 points. Raynard Davis came up with only 2 of 10 from the foul line and had two air balls. On the regional finals matchup between

Austin Lanier and Corpus Christi Carroll, Coach Miller felt the advantage was with Lanier, "No apparent weaknesses, they are strong at every position, which is the mark of a championship club."

In the other semi-final game, Leon Upshaw hit a desperation turnaround jumper with two seconds left. The basket gave Corpus Christi Carroll a 72-70 overtime victory against San Antonio Memorial. Carroll's, Leon Upshaw, was the hero once again pumping in 32 points. S.A. Memorial had played for the last shot in regulation as well as overtime. At the end of overtime, Nook Gustamente shot a little early with eight seconds remaining, giving Upshaw his chance to be the hero. The ball had bounced up and hit the wire connecting the basket to the top of the ceiling. Carroll immediately called time out with six seconds remaining. Bill Shireman threw a baseball pass deep to Upshaw on the other end and he proceeded to hit the game winning 15-footer. With three seconds left in regulation Memorial had their chance to end the game when Mark Saunders put one up from the left corner that missed. Memorial trailed most of the game and was down by five 66-61 before coming back to tie things up. When Saunders stole an inbounds pass, and scored, the Memorial fans cheered at what they felt was a 67-66 lead. But the officials ruled that Saunders had walked. Memorial's Willie Clark made a three-point play with 29 seconds left to put his team on top 68-66. Upshaw countered for Carroll, scoring from the baseline with 19 seconds left to force overtime. Following the gut-wrenching loss, Coach Fernando Moreno of S.A. Memorial said, "I had specifically told them not to take a shot or go to the basket until there were five seconds left." Gustamante said the guys told him to take the shot. Although Moreno stressed he did not want to make excuses, he pointed out three Memorial players tried to call time after the winning basket to no avail. For only the third time in the 11-year history of the regional, a San Antonio team would not be making the finals. The other two times came with Corpus Christi Carroll in 1973 and Victoria in 1976.

In the regional finals, Austin Lanier became the first team since the 1970 to advance to the State Tournament from Austin with a 69-59 victory over Corpus Christi Carroll. Webster was the main man against Carroll finishing with 21 points and 16 rebounds. The 6'4" post fouled out with 33 seconds remaining. Lanier took a 38-26 advantage early in the third quarter, which Carroll coach, Buddy Greenwood said, "Broke our backs." "They shut down our inside stuff and Webster killed us on his second shots. We just couldn't box him out." Tiger forward, Leon Upshaw was held to only 15 points. "We didn't do anything special to stop him," Coach Masch said.

Lanier's coach Harry Masch called Friday night's victory over the Seguin Matadors the teams "toughest" of their three playoffs games so far. "It seemed like Seguin was the toughest game for us." The Vikings Coach Masch related, we were "really drained" after Friday night's 64-55 semi-final win over the Matadors.

Carroll coach Buddy Greenwood conceded Lanier was 10 points better Saturday, but the outcome might have been different if his Tigers were at their best. "If we would have played our best game, I think we could have beaten them," he said.

State Tournament

Houston Madison	(39-0)	#1	70.1-53.3	+16.8
Ft. Worth Dunbar	(35-3)	#2	81.1-62.7	+18.4
Lufkin	(30-6)		71.5-63.6	+ 7.9
Austin Lanier	(33-3)	#5	73.7-57.9	+15.8

Top Five Players at the State Tournament

6'11"	Greg Kite	Houston Madison
6'7"	Larry Davis(soph)	Lufkin
6'4"	Elton Webster	Austin Lanier
5'7"	Ronnie Blake	Lufkin
6'0"	Darrell Browder	Ft. Worth Dunbar:

The class 4-A state tournament made for good theater with the #1 and #2 teams in the state in attendance. Highly ranked Austin Lanier and of course Cinderella, Lufkin would make things very interesting. The potential final match-up between Ft. Worth Dunbar and Houston Madison was the talk of the tournament. I remember thinking the finals would be awesome. These were the two top rated teams all season. The game would highlight two of the most talented teams the state had ever produced. I was also very excited to see Houston Madison finally in person. I had read so much about them coming into the game.

Madison was riding a 39-game winning streak and a potential unbeaten season. The pressure was enormous for the Marlins. They would face the upstart Panthers from Lufkin at 4:00 on Friday afternoon. Most followers of Houston Madison knew Coach Benton's team was far from a one-man team. Greg Kite was named a McDonald's All-American, and enormous inside space eater. Coach Carr from Wheatley felt that England and Hicks were the ones that killed his team. The journey to Austin was the realization of a dream for Simple and Kite who had been teammates since their days at Pershing Junior High. Madison was trying to become the seventh team in the tournaments 59-year history to win the title unbeaten. For Lufkin, the Marlins opponent in the semi-finals, they were unfazed by the hoop-la. The Panthers had always been the underdog and came to win, not just be competitive. Most experts felt the game would be a blow-out, but when you looked at Lufkin's resume it was impressive. Wins over Plano, S.O.C., Beaumont Pollard, and Conroe got your attention. Those were three of the top teams in the state. Also, a key stat was Lufkin had not been outrebounded all season. Lufkin was used to close games, playing 12 games during the season decided by 3 points or less and won 10 of those. Conroe and Beaumont Pollard were the two team's common opponents. Houston Madison defeated Conroe by 18 points and Lufkin

beat Conroe by one point. Both teams had beaten Pollard in close games. Coach Benton of Madison compared Lufkin with Pollard. "They both use a lot of double post stuff and Lufkin has a good inside player in 6'7" Larry Davis and a fine point guard in Ronnie Blake. For a sophomore, I understand Davis is quite a player." After listening to the scouting report by Conroe's coach, Larry Berkman on Lufkin, Coach Benton felt he was hearing about Beaumont Pollard again. Berkman said, "We played both Madison and Lufkin and I still think Madison is the best basketball team we played all season. We lost to Madison in the finals of the Dulles tournament and then to Lufkin in the Region II finals." The Conroe coach continued, "Lufkin has a good team and they're deceiving. You don't think they're doing a whole lot but when you look up at the scoreboard, they've beat you. But I just don't think that Lufkin can match up with Madison. I just think Madison has better overall people."

Madison opened up the game in typical fashion taking the lead 23-17 at the end of the first quarter. And of course, this was the norm for Lufkin as well, because they were always trailing in games. In the game, Lufkin's outstanding sophomore, 6'8" Larry Davis outplayed Kite scoring 15 points with 14 rebounds. Kite could only muster 5 points along with 20 rebounds in the contest. The big post was only two of 12 from the floor. The Panthers collapsing zone-described as a three-man front and two-man zone, by Coach Jesse Walker, was more than the Marlins could handle with a poor overall shooting percentage of 33%. Lufkin out rebounded the Marlins 60-45 for the game and trailed Madison 48-45 going into the final quarter. In the end, Madison failed to come up big and lost 62-55 against the upstarts from Lufkin. 5'7" Ronnie Blake wound up as the game's leading scorer with 19 points followed by Davis with 15 and Grimes with 13. Grimes, who came off the bench after losing his starting position earlier in the year, hit five of seven from the floor. Blake played much of the second half with four fouls. Simple and England kept Madison in the game and led the Marlins with 16 and 15 points, respectively. Lufkin was 14 of 26 from the foul line while Madison was only 7 of 19. Coach Benton of Madison responded to his team's poor play saying in the post-game interview, "I don't want to take anything away from Lufkin. They have a good quick team but in single elimination the best team doesn't always win. If we had to play them two out of three, things would have been different. But we weren't looking past them. We have no excuses. It was not one of our better games." Kite also commented, "They're a good team and you can't afford to play poorly up here."

In discussing one of the major upsets in state tournament history with Coach Walker, he said the team got their first look at Madison in a shoot around at the Drum the day before the game. "You only got 15 minutes to shoot and so we flipped a coin, Coach Benton won the flip and wanted to shoot first," Walker said. "We were all in the stands watching Madison shoot around and we didn't think

they looked unbeatable,” explained Walker. Interesting enough, when it came time for Lufkin to shoot, Madison left the court and did not watch the Panthers shoot. “We were a confident team, we had played a lot of close games against all types of teams, we weren’t afraid of anybody,” Walker stated.

In the night cap, Ft. Worth Dunbar(35-3) came into the game against Austin Lanier with almost as much publicity as Houston Madison. Some thought Dunbar had more pressure because they were thought to have the best team in the state the last two seasons, and were unable to live up to the hype. Also, the Dunbar fans were bigger than any group Austin had seen, and they wanted a state title desperately. Replacing the great James Griffin at the post position was 6’8” junior, Gilbert Collier, who averaged 14 points and 8 rebounds. Another junior, 6’6” Andre Allen, was a top recruit while 6’4” Anthony Ware led the team in scoring with 16.0 points a game. High flying sophomore, Willie Ashley, came off the bench and was a tremendous talent. If you’re looking for a difference maker comparing the ‘77 team and the ‘78 team with the 1979 version, you might have to say it was the outstanding backcourt of Darrell Browder(14.6) and Furmia Nealy(12.1). They were not flashy but both really took care of the ball and could shoot from long range. Browder went on to make All Southwest Conference at T.C.U. and was drafted into the N.B.A. while Nealy had a solid career at North Texas State.

Austin Lanier(33-3), one of the top teams in the state all year, would enter the game for the first time all season as an underdog. When Coach Masch looked at Dunbar, he saw a taller version of his own team. This was nothing new to the Vikings, because they had been smaller than most everyone they’ve met during the season. “Everybody I’ve talked to say’s the way to beat Dunbar is to slow them down, but you’ve gotta do what you do best, and what we do best is run,” Masch said. “We might slow down and work a little harder for the good shot, but we’re not going to hold the ball. People I’ve talked to say that Dunbar could beat a pretty good college team,” the coach added. 6’4” Elton Webster, 6’3” Eric Busboom, 6’0” Will Prosser, 6’0” Larry Lawrence, and 6’0” Harold Howard made up Lanier potent lineup.

Dunbar jumped on Austin Lanier early taking a 20-8 first quarter lead. Ashley started in place of Collier, who was still struggling with his hip. Lanier had come too far to quit and came charging back on the Wildcats. Dunbar moved in front at halftime 37-31. Things were all tied up going into the final quarter at 57-57. With the score tied, Nealy, Ware and Browder hit key buckets to give Dunbar the lead 67-61. Dunbar would never relinquish the lead. Dunbar proved that tall and quick will usually beat small and quick, as the Wildcats defeated Lanier 76-69 before a crowd of 11,980. Webster kept Lanier in the game hitting 13 of 20 from the floor and finished with 26 points and 13 rebounds. “He is one of the best we’ve played,” said Dunbar forward, Andre Allen. Coach Hughes was also a fan, “My

stars, he can play. He can hurt you inside or out.” Ashley commented after the game, “They fooled us, we thought they were going to slow it down on us. As long as they run, we like it, that’s our game.” Browder finished with 19 points, Collier 13, Ware 18 points and 9 rebounds and Allen had 12 points and 13 rebounds. Ashley had another fine game with 8 points and 14 rebounds. The Wildcats killed Lanier inside outrebounding them 65 to 45. Hughes said, “We relaxed after we picked up that early lead. Everybody started celebrating before it was over and done with.” Webster said after the game, “Dunbar really has a good team, when we tied it up I thought we were ready to roll. But they had a lot of poise. They were really tall and you couldn’t block them out.” Lanier finished 33-4 on the season. This set up the anticlimactic state championship game between upstart Lufkin and Ft. Worth Dunbar. Once again Lufkin got no respect.

Lufkin was in a familiar role as the underdog against Dunbar, the #2 ranked team in the state. The Panthers had now defeated, #1 Madison, #4 Pollard, #7 Plano, #5 Conroe, and #20 S.O.C., so the rankings meant little to the Lufkin Panthers. Could Lufkin do it one more time against the tall and athletic Dunbar team? Most people at the tournament felt it was a mismatch and gave Lufkin no chance. As the game unfolded, it was a classic. Lufkin(31-6) jumped out to a 10-4 lead in the first four minutes, then raced passed a stunned Dunbar team for a 23-10 first quarter lead. Dunbar came back to only trail 41-36 at halftime. In the second half, Furmia Nealy got hot and Dunbar finally took the lead. Nealy hit four baskets from long range as the Wildcats took a 48-43 lead with 5:28 left in the third quarter. The lead changed hands 12 times over the next nine minutes. Dunbar had seemed to have taken control only to let the game slip away. With 28 seconds left in the game, Dunbar led 74-71 on pair free-throws by Darrell Browder. Larry Davis trimmed the lead to one with 19 seconds left on a short jumper. With the ball and the lead, all the Wildcats had to do was hold onto the ball and get fouled. Andre Allen threw the ball down court wildly and gave Lufkin the ball back with 12 seconds remaining. For the third time in five playoff games, Ronnie Blake would hit the winning bucket. His five-foot left handed bank shot with two seconds left gave the Panthers the championship 75-74. Blake started on the right side coming off a screen by Davis and the defender fell down and nobody picked up the little guard as he hit the game winner, and with it the state championship. Browder led the Cats with 21 points while Larry Davis paced Lufkin with 22 points and 12 rebounds. Blake finished with 21 points.

The miracle season was just that for Lufkin, they had made the playoffs nudging Tyler Lee 60-59 on a shot at the buzzer by Blake. The Panthers were unranked in the final Fort Worth Star-Telegram ratings after being ranked throughout the year. Few prep teams in the annals of High School basketball can match their record for steel nerves. Coach Walker said, “It’s been a miracle

season.” Blake, who was bound for U.T. Arlington to play football, said “I had my eyes on the hoop and that state championship,” after his game-winning field goal.

“They’re tough,” said Dunbar coach Robert Hughes. “They’re state champions! It should have never come down to the last shot.” Browder was upset after the close loss saying, “I let him penetrate too much, I could have done better.” Coach Walker commenting on all the team’s Lufkin had knocked off on their championship run,” on the night we played ‘em, Plano was the best team we played. But Conroe was tough and so was Madison. But the Madison game was a blowout for us, seven points.” Coach Hughes felt losing 6’8” post Collier with 6:11 left to fouls really hurt the Wildcats. With Collier out, Lufkin could push out farther on defense without his inside presence. Dunbar had lost their second state championship game in three years and finished 36-4.

Coach Walker(42) probably summarized the championship season the best after the game. “It was a miracle. No one gave us credit, other than ourselves. When we won, it was always luck. But you gotta have a little talent to go with the luck, and we do.” Ronnie Blake commented about his winning shot, “Coach always says shoot first, pass second. I keep waiting for somebody to wake me up.”

(42) Coach Walker came to Lufkin during the 1976-77 season and his team was a dismal 11-19. The next season the Panthers finished 29-8 and lost in the regional semi-finals to Grand Prairie 75-68. Lufkin had beaten Lake Highlands in Bi-District 70-65 to advance to regionals. Walker ran three different defenses along with several presses. He ran a 2-3, man and 1-3-1, which were the team’s most popular defenses.

In the 59-year history of the tournament it was the largest crowd yet at 13,210. Unlike the Madison game, the Panthers were hot from the start hitting 58% from the field in the first half. Coach Hughes later admitted that the twenty-point swing took a lot out of his team. In retirement, I asked Hughes if this was one of his best teams and he responded by saying, “That team had to be in my top three or four teams.” He also noted that late in the championship game, Ashley goes to the basket and slams home a two-handed dunk, which all but wraps up the game for Dunbar. Instead of getting the bucket, the ref’s call him for a technical foul for hanging on the rim and waves off the basket, giving Lufkin two foul shots and the ball out of bounds. Coach Hughes felt like that killed his team’s momentum. Hughes also added, “Ashley was one of the best dunkers Dunbar ever had. The only guy that could come close to Ashley athletically was Lance Jackson off my state championship team in 2003.” Ashley signed with T.C.U. out of high school, but never had the grades, so he went to a JUCO in Kansas, but he never made it because of grades. He was an unbelievable talent. He was one of the strongest and one of the most physically talented players to ever play in the state tournament. Ashley would make three straight appearances in Austin. A rarity in class AAAA basketball.

Regardless of the Dunbar misfortune, the Lufkin Panthers would go down in 4-A basketball history as one of the greatest Cinderella teams the state of Texas has seen. And with his exploits, **Ronnie Blake became a TEXAS LEGEND**

Reflecting back on the 1979 season it was one of the most remarkable seasons I have ever witness in the last 40 plus years. Houston Madison and Ft. Worth Dunbar were both great teams, even though they lost at state. The Marlins and the Wildcats could play with anybody during the any decade. Danny Kaspar discussed the top teams he saw both as a player, scout and coach during the 1970s. Kaspar said the best he saw during the decade would include, Houston Wheatley of '73, Roosevelt of '72, Kashmere in '74 and '75 and Houston Madison of 1979. High praise for the Marlins, coming from a coach who has 40 years of basketball experience.

All-Tournament Team: Ronnie Blake and Larry Davis and of Lufkin; Elton Webster of Austin Lanier, and Darrell Browder and Anthony Ware of Dunbar:

1979 State Rankings AAAA {End of the Regular Season}:

1. Houston Madison 35-0 6'11" Greg Kite(17.0), 6'6" Johnny Simple(15.9)
2. Ft. Worth Dunbar 32-3 6'6" Andre Allen, 6'0" Darrell Browder
3. Houston Wheatley 27-7 6'8" Roosevelt McGruder, 6'0" Antonio Malveaux
4. Beaumont Pollard 31-1 6'7" Kenneth Perkins(18.0), Freddie Coleman
5. Austin Lanier 28-3 6'4" Elton Webster(15.6), 6'2" Harold Howard
6. Conroe 26-6 6'10" David Bunce(21.0), 6'11" Dan Bunce
7. Plano 25-4 6'3" Travis Benke(22.0), 6'7" Kirk Lundblade
8. Houston Jones 29-5 6'5" Fred Reynolds, 6'6" Rickie Thompson(19.0)
9. Deer Park 25-6 6'8" Robert Shaw, 6'7" Keith Westerman
10. Houston Kashmere 22-6 6'3" Ernest Patterson
11. Cypress-Fairbanks 29-5 6'8" Brad Olson(18.2)
12. Houston Milby 23-5 6'2" Rob Williams(26.3), 6'7" Paul Cunningham
13. Lubbock Monterey 22-3 6'6" Craig Ehlo
14. Pharr S. J. Alamo 28-2
15. S.A. Sam Houston 25-8
16. Waco University 28-4 6'8" Ozell Hall
17. S. Grand Prairie 25-6 6'2" Kirk Koke(18.4)
18. Lake Highlands 23-5 6'4" Raleigh Freeman, 6'0" Jim Vorlop(20.0)
19. Midland High 26-8 6'6" Charles Johnson, 6'6" Herb Johnson
20. Dallas S.O.C. 24-5 6'2" Puntus Wilson, 6'3" Tony Moore

Honorable Mention: E.P. Address(24-7), Harlingen(29-7), Longview(20-8), Amarillo(18-9), SA Roosevelt(21-8), Wichita Falls(22-10), Corpus Christi King(23-9), Dulles(21-13), El Paso Eastwood(16-11), Ft. Worth Richland(20-10), SA Edgewood(21-9), Dallas Roosevelt(23-7), Lufkin(25-6), Laredo Martin(22-4), Waco Richfield(22-6), Spring Branch Memorial(26-7), Amarillo Tascosa(21-6), Nacogdoches(27-6), El Paso Coronado(25-5), Tyler Lee(19-6), North Mesquite(27-8), Ft. Worth Paschal(26-8). Mission(25-8), Seguin(25-8), Houston Washington(26-5), Houston Smiley(24-9), SA Highlands(23-9), Jersey Village(23-10), El Paso

High(19-13), El Paso Irvin(19-11), Austin L.B.J.(25-8), El Campo(22-7), Ft.W. O.D. Wyatt(23-6), SA McCollum(26-6), Houston Forest Park(23-8), Dallas Kimball(24-5), C.C. Carroll(24-8), Ft. Worth Trimble Tech(20-9), San Antonio Memorial(21-6), Grand Prairie(23-8), SA Fox Tech(26-9), Dallas Thomas Jefferson(21-7), Houston Westchester(21-12), Victoria(20-8), SA Roosevelt(21-8):

All-State Team: The Texas Sports Writers did another outstanding job trying to make since of all the talent from around the state in 1979. **1st Team-**5'7" Ronnie Blake(20.0), Lufkin; 6'2" Rob Williams(26.3), Houston Milby; sophomore 6'7" Larry Davis(20.0), Lufkin; 6'11" Greg Kite(16.7), Houston Madison; 6'4" Elton Webster(15.6), Austin Lanier; **2nd team-** 6'2" Columbus Garrett(27.4), Dallas Lincoln; 6'1" Harold Howard(15.0), Austin Lanier; 6'3" Travis Benke(21.9), Plano; 6'6" John Simple(15.9), Houston Madison; 6'5" Rickie Thompson(19.0), Houston Jones; **3rd Team-** 6'0" Darrell Browder(16.0) Ft. Worth Dunbar; 5'9" Danny Ray Wright(20.2), Odessa; 6'2" Steve Washington(31.2), North Dallas; 6'10" David Bunce(21.0), Conroe; 6'4" Paul McKimmey(24.0), Richardson:

Did the Sports Writers miss anybody? Well with only one player on the team from Dunbar, many thought Dunbar should have been better represented on the All-State teams. In hind sight the Wildcats were so balanced and talented it was hard to single any of the players out for individual honors. Kenneth Perkins of Beaumont Pollard and Jay Shakir of Fox Tech out of San Antonio might have been players that should have been on the team, but overall it was pretty fair.

All-State Team: Texas Association of Basketball Coaches(First All-State Team)- Rob Williams(26.3), Houston Milby; 6'11" Greg Kite(16.7), Houston Madison; 6'6" Ricky Thompson(19.0), Houston Jones; 6'4" Elton Webster(15.6), Austin Lanier; 6'0" Darrell Browder(16.0), Ft. Worth Dunbar; 6'6" John Simple(15.9), Houston Madison; 6'7" Travis Salem, El Paso Coronado; 6'4" Travis Benke(21.9), Plano; 6'1" Mark Sanders, S.A. Memorial; 6'5" Craig Ehlo, Lubbock Monterey; 6'4" Greg Shropshire, Ft. Worth Paschal; 5'7" Ronnie Blake(20.0), Lufkin; 6'7" Robert Shaw, Deer Park; 6'2" Charles Nagy, Klein; 6'2" Jay Shakir, S.A. Fox Tech:

Did the Coaches Association miss anybody? Well in their first year, it's not what they missed, it was what they got right. Craig Ehlo out of Lubbock Monterey was a secret and the Coaches Association recognized his talents before the N.B.A. would discover him.

Recruits: Texas was now becoming a hot bed for recruiters from all over the country after the talented groups in 1977 and again in 1978. **Rob Williams** (26.3) was the top recruit in the state and #16 in the nation and he signed with Houston and Guy Lewis. He was named 3rd team All-American at the University of Houston and lead the Cougars to the NCAA final four in 1982. He skipped his senior year to enter the NBA draft and was taken with the 19th overall pick by the Nuggets. He averaged 21.1 points and 4.5 assist his junior year. A surprise recruit

at number two was **Claude Riley**(31.0) of Crockett over Greg Kite(16.7) of Madison. Riley at 6'9" was very long and athletic. He signed with Texas A&M at #19 in the nation, according to Knoxville News Sentinel survey of coaches from all over the country. Riley was drafted #64 in the NBA draft by the 76ers and averaged 14.3 points and 9.2 rebounds his senior year at A&M. He played professionally in Spain and Italy. 6'2" **George Turner**(27.1) of Hitchcock was #3 in the state recruiting and #35 in the nation. He signed with California Irvine and was named 2nd team All-Big Western Conference his senior year and drafted by the Mavericks with their 153rd pick. **Greg Kite** was #4 according to this list and of course he went to B.Y.U. (He was Mormon). Kite did not have that great of a career averaging 7.7 points and 8.8 rebounds at B.Y.U., but his numbers were good enough for the Celtics to draft him with the 21st pick in the first round. He had a long career of 11 years in the NBA and won two NBA titles with the Celtics. His last NBA contract with the Orlando Magic he signed for \$1.1 million. He was a big strong force inside who could defend and rebound at a high level. If you used the Ft. Worth Star Telegram survey the recruiting list was different. Kite was #1, Williams #2, Turner #3, Riley #4, **Jay Shakir**(18.0) #5 from Fox Tech who signed with Baylor. 6'8" **Robert Shaw** of Deer Park was #6 and signed with Rice. At #7 was the high-flying **Rickie Thompson**(19.0) of Houston Jones who signed with UTEP, but ended up at Houston Baptist, and had a very limited career after being projected as one of the top players in the state. The #8 recruit in the state according to the Ft. Worth Star Telegram poll was 7'1" **Steve Frederick** of Pasadena Dobie who committed to Texas. At #9 was **John Grammer** of Rice Consolidated who was signed by Oklahoma. #10 was **James Bailey** of Waco Richfield who stayed at home at Baylor, **David Bunce**(21.0) of Conroe committed to Houston, #12, 6'2" **Charles Negy** of Klein, 6'5" **Fred Reynolds** of Houston Jones went to UTEP and was All-Conference, averaging 14.3 points and 6.7 rebounds. Reynolds from Houston Jones was named first team All-WAC while at UTEP and was the 44th pick in the NBA draft by the Bullets. His senior season he paced UTEP to the NCAA tournament, averaging 13.9 points and 5.2 rebounds. He played professionally in Belgium and Spain. He also played in the 1983 Pan American games and the 1982 World Basketball Championships. 6'7" **Bill Wendlandt**(23.7) of Austin Westlake signed with Texas. Wendlandt had a nice career at Texas and was drafted into the NBA by the Nuggets with the 169th pick. #15 was **Kenneth Lyons**(26.0) from Ft. Worth Trimble Tech who played at North Texas and was a 2nd round pick, and #47 overall selection in the NBA draft by the 76ers. Lyons averaged 20.6 points and 9.2 rebounds for his career with the Mean Green. He was named to the North Texas Hall of Fame in 1993. At #16 on the recruiting list by the Star Telegram was 6'4" **Paul McKimmey**(24.0) of Richardson who signed with San Diego St, and later transferred to Texas Tech. 6'0" **Darrell Browder** of Dunbar came out of nowhere and was #17 and of course went to T.C.U. He would go down as one of the top guards to ever play for the legendary

Robert Hughes. Browder was not heavily recruited and signed late with the Horn Frogs. He ended up as the all-time leading scorer at TCU and was named 1st team All-SWC. He is #4 all-time in assists and #5 in steals with the Frogs. He was inducted into the TCU Hall of Fame in 2013. Coach Hughes called Browder a gym rat. He was drafted by the Rockets with the 71st pick in the NBA draft. #19 **John Simple**(15.9) of Houston Madison, #20 6'7" **Frank Rodriguez** of S.A. Marshall played at New Mexico State. Another outstanding recruit that was overlooked by several recruiting services was 6'7" **Kenneth Perkins**(18.0) of Beaumont Charlton Pollard. He was a three-time all-conference performer at Lamar, and finished his career with 1,299 points and 912 rebounds. Perkins helped the Cardinals to two NCAA Tournaments and two postseason NIT appearances during his playing career. He played professionally in Europe and New Zealand and is the father of Kendrick Perkins of Beaumont Ozen and N.B.A. fame.

You would think the recruiters had a pretty good grip on the top players in the state but they didn't. Texas schools missed a player that had the best pro career out of anybody in the class, 6'6" **Craig Ehlo** of Lubbock Monterey. He traveled all the way to Washington St. and later was the 48th pick in the NBA draft. He averaged 12.0 points and 4.5 assists per game and led the Cougars to the 2nd round of the NCAA tournament, playing for Coach George Ravling. Ehlo had a nice career guarding Michael Jordan with the Cleveland Cavaliers. Another player who slipped under the radar, but Guy Lewis didn't miss him was 6'9" **Larry Micheaux** of Houston Worthing. The University of Houston picked him up and he started in a final four with the Cougars and was the 29th pick in the NBA draft by the Chicago Bulls. He was a four-year starter for the Cougars and averaged 13.8 his senior year. Several others players were recruited in 1979, 6'7" **David Reynolds**(21.2) Perryton signed with Texas Tech, **Ronnie Blake** ended up transferring from UTA to Baylor and played basketball for the Bears, 6'0" **Furmia Nealy**(12.0) had a solid career at N. Texas, 6'4" **Elton Webster**(15.1) of Austin Lanier went to Tulane, 6'5" **Curtis Wallace**(15.2) of Huntsville also attended Tyler Jr. College; Former Kashmere coach, Eldon Drew took over as head coach at New Mexico St. and came into Houston and made a run on talent grabbing 6'3" **Ernest Patterson** of Kashmere, **Arnold Blackman** of Yates, and **Jeff Robertson** of Jones. Patterson had a solid career at New Mexico St., leading the team in scoring his senior year at 19.5, and twice led the team in assists, and led the team in steals three straight seasons. He ranks #11 on the school's all-time scoring list. He was drafted by the Bulls with the 121st pick. 6'7" **Charles Johnson** from Midland signed with Texas Tech and was the older brother of future Midland standout, Herb Johnson. Charles was the leading scorer at Texas Tech and an outstanding player in his own right. Charles later played professionally in Asia. 6'0" **Antonio Malveaux** of Wheatley went to Idaho St and transferred to Texas State. The dynamic tandem from Wheatley, 6'8" **Roosevelt McGruder** and 5'8" **Tracey Bookman** took their talents to North

Carolina A&M. 6'0" **Pat Hicks**(8.1) of Madison joined **Nealy** at North Texas, 6'8" **Ozell Hall** of Waco University and 6'7" **Daryl Baucham** of Waco High both signed with Baylor. The scoring machine, 6'3" **Steve Washington**(31.2) of North Dallas committed to Grambling, and 6'3" **Travis Benke**(21.9) of Plano signed with Abilene Christian. 6'7" **Chester Smith**(14.0) of Wilmer Hutchins played at Midland JC and U.A. Birmingham. 6'1" **Mookie Smith**(27.2) of Wilmer Hutchins played at North Texas. This was by far the deepest group to ever come out of the state of Texas. It was a talented group. Others included, 6'2" Nate Mason of Greenville, who played Quarterback at Nebraska, 6'2" Harold East of Alice, 6'3" Wayne Wallace of Ft. Worth Wyatt, 6'3" Pat Wilson of Nederland, 6'1" Mark Saunders of S.A. Memorial, 5'10" Jamie Pipes and 6'5" Ken Crowder of Ft. Worth Richland, 6'4" Rick Elliot of Austin L.B.J., 6'3" Mark Ross of Big Spring, 6'8" Tom Kerr of Pasadena Sam Rayburn, 6'6" Darvin Butler of S.A. Sam Houston, 6'5" Curt Thomas of S.A. Roosevelt, 6'5" Greg Shropshire of Ft. Worth Paschal, 6'6" Bobby Davis, Dallas Roosevelt, 6'5" Tony Mathis of Dallas Kimball, 6'3" Kyle Money of Dallas Samuell, 6'7" Tom Roe of Halton City.

Top Texas Recruits in 1979 based on their college and pro careers:

Craig Ehlo 6'6"	Lubbock Monterrey	Washington St. 12.0/ 4.5 Asst.	Rockets NBA #48
Greg Kite 6'11"	Houston Madison	B.Y.U. 7.7/8.8	Celtics NBA #21
Rob Williams 6'2"	Houston Milby	Houston, All-Am. 25.0/ 4.5 Ast.*	Nuggets NBA #19
Darrell Browder 6'0"	Ft. Worth Dunbar	T.C.U. All-SWC 17.3/4.2 Asst.*	Draft Rockets #71
Larry Micheaux 6'8"	Houston Worthing	Houston, Final Four 13.8/6.8	Draft Bulls #29
Kenneth Lyons 6'7"	F.W. Trimble Tech	N. Texas St. All-Conf. 24.3/8.4*	Draft 76ers #47
Fred Reynolds 6'5"	Houston Jones	UTEP All-WAC 14.3/6.7*	Draft Bullets #44
Claude Riley 6'9"	Crockett	Texas A&M, All-SWC 14.3/9.2*	Draft Nets #64
George Turner 6'2"	Hitchcock	Cal. Irvine, All-Conf. *	Draft Mavs #153
Ernest Patterson 6'3"	Houston Kashmere	N. Mex. St., All-Conf. 13.9/3/6*	Draft Bulls #121
Kenneth Perkins 6'7"	Beaumont Pollard	Lamar Univ., All-Conf. 12.4/8.8*	

(*All-Conference)

All-Americans: Kite was named the only McDonald's All-American and named 2nd team Parade Magazine All-American. Rob Williams from Milby was named to the 3rd team on the Parade Magazine All-American squad. Adidas named Kite and George Turner to the squad while Basketball Weekly named Kite to their 5th team and Williams to their 9th team. Named Honorable Mention All-Americans by Basketball Weekly were: Pat Hicks, Johnny Simple, Rickie Thompson, Gilbert Collier, Earnest Patterson, Paul Cunningham, Andre Ross, Roosevelt McGruder, David Bunce of Conroe, Don Bunce of Conroe, Tim Hammond of Houston Westbury, Robert Shaw of Deer Park, Jay Shakir, James Bailey of Waco Richfield, Arnold Blackman of Houston Yates, Ralph Gilmore of Ft. Worth Nolan, Larry Davis, Ronnie Blake, William Smith of Wilmer Hutchins. Yes, I know a very heavy flavor from the Houston area. It was like Dallas and Ft. Worth didn't play basketball in 1979.

National Rankings: In the national polls, once again Basketball Weekly was really the only prominent publication ranking national teams. Houston Madison finished #25 and Dunbar finished #38. Lufkin did not make the top "50". What?

State Leaders: The leading scorer in the state was Steve Washington of North Dallas with 31.2 per game average followed by Columbus Garrett at 27.4 of Dallas Lincoln and Mookie Smith of Wilmer Hutchins at 27.2. Rebounding was paced by Kenneth Perkins of Beaumont Pollard with 15.6 per game followed by Kite with 15.0 per game. Number one offensive team was Dunbar at 81.1 and they also had the top scoring margin at +18.4. Houston Madison was next at +16.8 and followed by Austin Lanier at +15.8.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs- Ronnie Blake of Lufkin with a five-game playoff average of 19.8. Blake hit 18 against Plano, 29 vs. S.O.C., 12 against Conroe, 19 on Houston Madison and 21 against Dunbar.

Power Rankings:

1.	Houston Madison	39-1	96.17	State Semis	Loss to Lufkin 62-55
2.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	36-4	95.81	State Finals	Loss to Lufkin 75-74
3.	Austin Lanier	33-4	94.00	State Semis	Loss to Dunbar 76-69
4.	Huntsville	27-5	92.05	State Champs 3-A	Beat M. Wells 48-45
5.	Dallas S.O.C.	29-6	89.96	Regional Semis	Loss to Lufkin 73-72
6.	Lufkin	31-6	89.83	State Champs	Beat Dunbar 75-74
7.	Mineral Wells	33-4	89.60	State Finals 3-A	Loss Huntsville 48-45
8.	Plano High	28-5	89.42	Bi-District	Loss to Lufkin 71-69
9.	Houston Milby	24-6	85.71	District Runner-up	
10.	Nacogdoches	27-6	83.95	District Runner-up	
11.	Houston Wheatley	30-8	83.72	Regional Semis	Loss to Madison 74-70

This was flat out and outstanding season for high school basketball in Texas with several unique and unforgettable teams and the power ratings prove that. Madison and Dunbar were the top ranked teams for the entire state for almost the whole season. Both teams were so talented and gifted but they both loss to a hot streaking Lufkin team. In looking at the numbers it pretty much bares out from the start of the season to the end, Houston Madison and Ft. Worth Dunbar were the two best teams. Also, two really strong schools made the top ten from class 3-A which is unusual.

The top recruits on the top-rated power teams saw Houston Madison with three very impressive players: Greg Kite(#1), John Simple(#19) and junior, Matt England(#6) on the 1980 list. Although Pat Hicks was not on any recruiting list he did play at North Texas State giving Madison four division one players. Hicks finished at North Texas as one of the top assistant men in school history. Dunbar's list was impressive also with, Darrell Browder(#17), juniors, Andre Allen(#3), Gilbert Collier(#14) and sophomore, Willie Ashley(#3) on the 1981 list. Furmia

Nealy also had a fine career at North Texas State. No other schools approached this much talent.

Teams that Should Have Advanced to Austin: None, all the top teams made it to Austin unlike in 1978. The only exception was the team's coming out of region II in which Lufkin beat everybody in their path. Dunbar, Lanier, and Madison were all the best teams in their region.

1979 4-A Playoffs				
Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso Coronado(28-5)		El Paso Eastwood(16-11)	
	Lubbock Monterey(23-3) #13	Amarillo Tascosa(21-6) or Amarillo(18-9)		
	Midland(27-8) #9	59	Wichita Falls(22-10)	56
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(32-3) #2	84	Ft. Worth Richland(21-10)	59
Region I Semis	El Paso Coronado(29-5)	58	Lub Monterey(24-3) #13	43
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(33-3) #2	81	Midland(28-7) #9	74
<u>Region I Finals</u>	<u>Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-3) #2</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>El Paso Coronado(30-5)</u>	<u>37</u>
Region II Bi-Dist.	Wilmer Hutchins(25-11)	68	Grand Prairie(24-8) OT	64
	Conroe(27-7) #5	57	Waco University(28-4) #16	49
	Dallas S.O.C.(28-5) #20	76	Dallas Hillcrest(24-5)	61
	Lufkin(26-6)	71	Plano(28-4) #7	69
Region II Semis	Conroe(28-7) #5	73	Wilmer Hutchins(26-11)	59
	Lufkin(27-6)	73	Dallas S.O.C.(29-5) #20	72
<u>Region II Finals</u>	<u>Lufkin(28-6)</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>Conroe(29-7) #5</u>	<u>57</u>
Region III Bi-Dist.	Houston Wheatley(29-7) #3	89	H. Kashmere(21-9) #10	78
	Houston Madison(36-0) #1	76	S. B. Memorial(27-8)	52
	Beaumont Pollard(32-2) #4	73	H. Forest Brook(24-8)	57
	Deer Park(26-6) #9	59	Stratford Dulles(22-14)	39
Region III Semis	Houston Madison(37-0) #1	74	Houston Wheatley(30-7) #3	70
	Beaumont Pollard(33-2) #4	59	Deer Park(27-6) #9	58
<u>Region III Finals</u>	<u>Houston Madison(38-0) #1</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>Beaumont Pollard(34-2) #4</u>	<u>58</u>
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Austin Lanier(30-3) #5	57	El Campo(23-7)	52
	Seguin(27-8)	67	SA Highlands(25-9)	62
	Corpus Christi Carroll(25-9)	66	Pharr S. J. Alamo(28-2) #14	46
	San Antonio Memorial(23-6)	63	San Antonio McCollum(27-6)	60
Region IV Semis	Austin Lanier(31-3) #5	64	Seguin(28-8)	55
	Corpus Christy Carroll(26-9)	72	San Antonio Memorial(24-6)	70
<u>Region IV Finals</u>	<u>Austin Lanier(32-3) #5</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>C.C. Carroll(27-9)</u>	<u>59</u>
State Semi-Finals	Lufkin(29-6)	62	Houston Madison(39-0) #1	55
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(35-3) #2	76	Austin Lanier(33-3) #5	69
State Finals	Lufkin(30-6)	75	Ft. Worth Dunbar(36-3) #2	74

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1979 AAAA Top "50"}

1. Houston Madison	39-1	{beat Jones, Milby, Wheatley twice, Conroe, Pollard}
2. Ft. Worth Dunbar	36-4	{beat D.P., SOC, Lanier, Roos.; losses Plano, Milby, SOC}
3. Lufkin	31-6	{beat Madison, Plano, SOC, Dunbar, 1-1 vs. Huntsville}
4. Beaumont Pollard	34-3	{lost by one to Lufkin and four to Madison}
5. Plano	28-5	{def. Wheatley 69-61, SOC 61-56, Dunbar 60-53}
6. Houston Wheatley	30-8	{0-2 vs. Madison, 2-0 vs. Jones, 1-1 vs. Milby, 1-1 SOC}
7. Deer Park	27-7	{lost in the regional semis to Pollard 59-58}
8. Houston Jones	29-5	{beat Huntsville 64-61, 2-1 vs. Milby, 0-2 vs. Wheatley}
9. Houston Milby	24-6	{beat Deer Park, Dunbar, 1-2 vs. Jones, 1-1 vs. Wheatley}
10. Dallas S. O. C.	29-6	{1-1 vs. Wheatley, losses Dunbar, Plano, 3-0 vs. Roosevelt}
11. Austin Lanier	33-4	{beat H.P. 85-72, Cy-Fair 83-62, Seguin 64-55}
12. Conroe	29-8	{Regional finalist, lost to Lufkin 58-57}
13. Nacogdoches	27-6	{beat Huntsville 66-64, 2-1 vs. Lufkin, 0-2 vs. Lee}
14. El Paso Coronado	30-6	{lost in regional final against Dunbar 42-37}
15. Cypress-Fair.	29-5	{16-AAAA a three way tie with Conroe and Jersey Village}
16. Dallas Roosevelt	23-7	{beat H.P. 74-64, Hut. 85-73, Kimball 66-62, 0-3 vs. SOC}
17. Ft. W. Paschal	26-8	{beat SOC 57-56, Wilmer Hut. 75-72, Dr. Pepper finals}
18. Wilmer Hutchins	26-12	{beat SOC 61-59, Grand Prairie 68-64, N.Mesquite 47-46}
19. H. Kashmere	21-10	{lost in Bi-Dist. to Wheatley 89-78, 10-0 district 19-AAAA}
20. Grand Prairie	24-9	{lost in bi-district in overtime to Hutchins 68-64}
21. Lake Highlands	23-5	{1-1 vs. North Mesquite, 2-0 vs. H.P., 0-2 vs. Plano}
22. North Mesquite	27-8	{1-1 vs. Lake High, beat Tyler Lee 51-48, loss to Paschal}
23. Midland High	28-9	{lost in the regional semis to Dunbar 81-74}
24. Clear Lake	21-11	{tied for 2nd with Rayburn in 23-AAAA, 9-5 District}
25. S. B. Memorial	27-9	{lost H. Madison in Bi-District, finished 14-0 in 17-AAAA}
26. H. Forest Park	24-9	{lost Bi-Dist. to Pollard 73-57, finished Co-Champs}
27. Houston Smiley	24-9	{co-champs with Forest Brook in District 21-AAAA at 13-3}
28. Seguin	28-9	{lost to Austin Lanier 64-55 in regional semi-finals}
29. Lub. Monterey	24-4	{lost in regional semis to E.P. Coronado 58-43}
30. H. Washington	26-5	{finished 2nd to Kashmere in 19-AAAA, finished 7-3}
31. C.C. Carroll	27-10	{lost in the regional finals to Austin Lanier 69-59}
32. Dallas Kimball	24-5	{3rd in District 12-AAAA behind SOC and Roosevelt}
33. S. A. Memorial	21-6	{lost in the regional semis against C.C. Carroll 72-70}
34. Jersey Village	23-10	{tied with Conroe and Cy-Fair in District 16-AAAA}
35. Amarillo	18-9	{tied for District champs with Amarillo Tascosa}
36. Amarillo Tascosa	21-6	{tied with Amarillo for the District title}
37. Wichita Falls	22-11	{lost to Midland in Bi-District 59-56}
38. El Campo	23-8	{lost in bi-district to Austin Lanier 57-52}
39. Tyler Lee	19-11	{3 rd in District 14-AAAA behind Lufkin and Nacogdoches}
40. S.A. McCollum	27-7	{lost in Bi-District to SA Memorial 63-60}
41. H. Westchester	21-12	{runner-up to SB Memorial in district 17-AAAA at 11-3}
42. Pasa. Rayburn	21-12	{in District 23-AAAA, tied for 2nd with Clear Lake}
43. Highland Park	23-8	{finished 3rd place behind Plano, Lake High. in District}
44. H. Worthing	22-10	{runner-up in District 18-AAAA to Madison at 12-2}
45. H. MacArthur	22-8	{3rd behind Forest Brook and Smiley in 21-AAAA}
46. FW. O.D. Wyatt	23-6	{finished 3rd in District behind Dunbar and Paschal}
47. Waco University	28-5	{lost in Bi-District to Conroe 57-49}
48. S. Grand Prairie	25-6	{finished runner-up to Grand Prairie in District 9-AAAA}
49. S.A. Roosevelt	23-9	{lost a district playoff game to Seguin 76-67}
50. S.A. Highlands	25-10	{lost to Seguin in Bi-District 67-62}

My Top Eighty 4-A Teams of the 1970's

#1 Houston Wheatley(70)	39-0	State Champs	{Dwight Jones, Spider Johnson}
#1 Houston Wheatley(73)	41-1	State Champs	{Eddie Owens, Michael Long}
#1 Houston Kashmere(75)	46-0	State Champs	{Karl Godine, Jarvis Williams}
#4 Dallas Roosevelt(72)	35-4	State Champs	{Ira Terrell, Melvin Moore}
#5 Houston Wheatley(72)	39-3	State Semis	{Eddie Owens, Gaylord Davis}
#6 Houston Kashmere(74)	39-2	State Champs	{Karl Godine, Jarvis Williams}
#7 Houston Madison(79)	39-1	State Semis	{Greg Kite, Matt England}
#8 Ft. Worth Paschal(75)	32-2	State Finals	{John Schlicher, Wendall Mays}
#9 Ft. Worth Dunbar(79)	37-4	State Finals	{Gilbert Collier, Darrell Browder}
#10 South Oak Cliff(74)	37-5	State Finals	{Charles McMillian, Larry Harris}
#11 Cypress-Fairbanks(71)	36-6	State Champs	{Ron Dunlap, Don Dunlap}
#12 South Oak Cliff(77)	35-8	State Champs	{David Burns, Cullen Mayfield}
#13 S. A. Jefferson(72)	34-4	State Finals	{Rick Bullock, Marc Randle}
#14 El Paso Eastwood(76)	31-3	State Champions	{Jim Bowden, Darold Molix}
#15 Ft. Worth Dunbar(77)	39-2	State Finals	{James Griffin, Michael Watley}
#16 Houston Wheatley(71)	37-5	State Finals	{Eddie Owens, C. Johnson}
#17 Corsicana(74)	34-1	Regional Finals	{Donnie Chambers, Ricky Purdy}
#18 Lufkin(79)	36-6	State Champs	{Larry Davis, Ronnie Blake}
#19 Midland(72)	33-3	State Finals	{Ronald Taylor, Gary Brewster}
#20 South Oak Cliff(75)	35-4	Regional Finals	{A. McMillian, Wayman Lister}
#21 Midland(73)	33-4	State Finals	{Ronald Taylor, Eddie Herring}
#22 Houston Yates(70)	25-7	District Runner-up	{Toothpick Johnson, L. Duffield}
#23 Houston Wheatley(78)	36-6	State Champion	{McGruder, Noland Greenleaf}
#24 Houston Milby(78)	30-6	District Runner-up	{Rob Williams, Ronald Taylor}
#25 Houston Yates(72)	30-4	District Runner-up	{Leo Woods, Stretch Campbell}
#26 Clear Creek(70)	36-3	Regional Semi	{Paul Trcka, Hank Bauerschlag}
#27 Port Arthur Lincoln(73)	29-5	Regional Finals	{Earl Evans, Kervin Eli}
#28 Plano(79)	28-5	Bi-District	{Travis Benke, Dan Davis}
#29 Highland Park(72)	37-2	Regional Finals	{David Kimmell, Bob Arnold}
#30 Beaumont Pollard(79)	34-3	Regional Finals	{Kenneth Perkins, Gerald Darby}
#31 Midland Lee(75)	33-4	State Semi	{Brett Blackwell, Junior Miller}
#32 H. Westchester(74)	29-4	Bi-District	{Jeff Swanson, Dirk Hoyt}
#33 Houston Wheatley(79)	30-8	Regional Semi	{McGruder, Antonio Melbeaux}
#34 Houston Madison(78)	25-7	Regional Finals	{Greg Kite, John Simple}
#35 Houston Wheatley(77)	26-9	Regional Finals	{Alvin Brooks, Carl Runnels}
#36 Spring Branch(73)	39-2	State Semi-Finals	{Jim Burton, Mark Kenust}
#37 Bryan(73)	26-5	Bi-District	{Joe Buchanan, Milton Mitchell}
#38 Victoria(76)	36-4	State Semi	{Anthony King, Maurice Callis}
#39 Carrollton RLTurner(70)	38-3	State Finals	{Jimmy Murphy, Steve Allen}
#40 Dallas Kimball(71)	37-2	Regional Finals	{Eddie Fitzhugh, Larry Chesney}

Honorable Mention by Years-Next "40"

Dallas T. Jefferson(70)	30-7	State Semis	{Bill Marcellus, Bob McKey}
Spring Branch Memorial(70)	37-4	Regional Finals	{Bengt Bengtson, Randy Youngling}
Ft. Worth Terrell(70)	27-5	Regional Semi	{Travis Ross, Lindell Houston}
El Paso Austin(70)	31-3	Regional Finals	{Richard Esper, Gabe Nava}
Austin Johnston(70)	31-3	State Semis	{James Price, Larry Moore}
Plainview(71)	33-3	State Semis	{Charlie Bassett, Leroy Buckner}
Houston Lamar(71)	29-7	Regional Finals	{Larry Moten, David Marrs}
Houston Yates(71)	25-5	District Runner-up	{Toothpick Johnson, Leo Woods}
Ft. Worth Arlington Heights(71)	33-1	Bi-District	{Cedric Joseph, Jim Williams}
Houston Washington(72)	31-7	Bi-District	{Oscar Ross, Marvin Jackson}
Houston Sterling(72)	30-7	Regional Finals	{Kenneth Stewart, Ronnie Jackson}
Deer Park(72)	34-5	Regional Semi	{Danny Van Rheen, Jimmy Shelton}
Dallas South Oak Cliff(73)	30-6	Regional Finals	{Larry Harris, Charles McMillian}
Dallas Spruce(73)	30-5	Bi-District	{Steve Dunn, Otis Darrough}
Midland Lee(73)	29-5	District Runner-up	{Melvin Jackson, Steve Cromwell}
Clear Lake(74)	35-5	Bi-District	{David Buchanan, Loddie Naymola}
Pt. Arthur Lincoln(74)	32-6	Regional Semis	{Earl Evans, Kervin Eli}
Houston Wheatley(74)	37-6	Bi-District	{Randy Grimes, James Hudson}
Houston Wheatley(75)	32-7	Regional Finals	{Randy Grimes, Anthony Forch}
Corpus Christi Carroll(75)	34-3	Regional Semi-Finals	{Preston Bailess, Victor Melton}
Houston Yates(75)	26-6	District Runner-up	{Ricky Edwards, Clarence Hill}
Tyler John Tyler(76)	36-4	State Finals	{Anthony Lee, Dennis Gordon}
Bryan(76)	31-3	Regional Finals	{Rudy Woods, Gerald Carter}
Houston Milby(76)	25-12	State Semi	{Chuck O'Neal, Kenneth Williams}
Houston Jones(76)	35-6	District Runner-up	{Anthony Raglin, Byron Gibson}
Pt. Arthur Lincoln(76)	32-5	Regional Finals	{Thad Sanders, Ronald Trahan}
Clear Lake(76)	37-4	Regional Semis	{Warren Sliger, Steve Sylestine}
Dallas South Oak Cliff(76)	27-7	Regional Finals	{David Burns, Anthony McMillian}
Houston Jones(77)	32-5	District Runner-up	{Roy Jones, Ricky Thompson}
Clear Lake(77)	35-5	Regional Semis	{Rex Johnston, Burney Wood}
Arlington(77)	30-2	Bi-District	{Ralph McPhearson, E. McClelen}
Dallas Roosevelt(77)	30-8	District Runner-up	{Rynn Wright, Michael Battle}
Houston Westchester(77)	32-10	State Semi	{Joe Costello, Eric Buescher}
San Antonio Fox Tech(78)	33-6	State Finals	{Jay Shakir, Melvin White}
Ft. Worth Dunbar(78)	34-3	Regional Finals	{James Griffin, Cletus Hubbard}
Deer Park(78)	32-7	Regional Finals	{Robert Shaw, Nicky Snell}
Houston Jones(78)	26-8	District 3 rd place tie	{Fred Reynolds, Rickie Thompson}
Deer Park(79)	27-7	Regional Semi	{Robert Shaw, Keith Westerman}
Houston Jones(79)	29-5	District Runner-up	{Fred Reynolds, Rickie Thompson}
Houston Milby(79)	24-6	District Runner-up	{Rob Williams, Paul Cunningham}

{Wheatley 1970, Wheatley 1973 and Kashmere 1975, all three were the top teams of the Decade}

According to these totals the top programs of the 1970s were as follows- Houston Wheatley(9), Dallas South Oak Cliff(5), Houston Houston Yates(4), Houston Jones(4), Pt. Arthur Lincoln(3), Ft. Worth Dunbar(3), Clear Lake(3), DeerPark(3), Houston Milby(3), Bryan(2), Dallas Roosevelt(2), Houston Madison(2), Houston Westchester(2), Midland Lee(2), Houston Kashmere(2), and Midland(2).

Power Ratings of the 1970's

Top Teams of the 1970s	W/L	Pts-Opp	Margin	Power	Standout
1. H. Kashmere(75)*	46-0	91.4-63.8	+27.6	107.62	Karl Godine
2. Houston Wheatley(72)	39-3	106.2-79.0	+27.2	107.41	Eddie Owens
3. Houston Wheatley(73)*	41-1	108.5-80.6	+28.0	105.15	Eddie Owens
4. Houston Wheatley(70)*	39-0	96.1-63.2	+32.9	102.11	Dwight Jones
5. S. B. Memorial(70)	37-4	67.3-46.2	+21.1	98.97	Randy Younglin
6. Houston Wheatley(71)	37-5	96.9-73.5	+23.4	98.92	Eddie Owens
7. Corsicana(74)	34-1	72.3-46.7	+25.6	98.70	Donnie Chambers
8. South Oak Cliff(77)*	35-8	89.3-72.3	+17.0	97.07	Cullen Mayfield
9. Dallas Roosevelt(72)*	35-4	86.0-66.1	+19.9	96.76	Ira Terrell
10. Cypress-Fair.(71)*	36-6	71.9-61.4	+10.5	96.69	Jerry Mercer
11. Houston Madison(79)	39-1	70.1-53.3	+16.8	96.17	Greg Kite
12. South Oak Cliff(74)	37-5	85.9-70.2	+15.7	95.97	Charles McMillian
13. Ft. Worth Dunbar(79)	37-4	81.1-62.7	+18.4	95.81	Darrell Browder
14. Ft. Worth Paschal(75)	32-3	79.2-58.2	+21.0	95.10	John Schlicher
15. H. Kashmere(74)*	39-2	95.0-71.7	+23.3	94.92	Karl Godine
16. S.A. Jefferson(72)	34-4	70.9-58.0	+12.9	94.47	Rick Bullock
17. South Oak Cliff(75)	35-4	88.1-67.7	+20.4	94.46	Waymon Lister
18. Austin Lanier(79)	33-4	73.7-57.9	+15.8	94.00	Elton Webster
19. Midland(73)	32-4	71.6-54.9	+16.7	93.49	Ronald Taylor
20. Denton High(74)	26-7			92.75	Gary Goodner
21. Ft. Worth Dunbar(77)	39-2	82.4-63.8	+18.4	92.58	James Griffin
22. Huntsville(79)* 3-A	27-5			92.05	Curtis Wallace
23. Dallas Kimball(71)	38-2			91.91	Eddie Fitzhugh
24. Bryan(76)	31-3			91.19	Rudy Woods
25. H. Wheatley(78)*	31-6	86.8-77.1	+ 9.7	91.16	Nolan Greenleaf
26. Carrollton Turner(70)	38-3	74.1-60.0	+14.0	90.95	Jimmy Murphy
27. Houston Wheatley(77)	28-6			90.82	Alvin Brooks
28. Midland(72)	31-3	73.8-53.7	+20.1	90.80	Ronald Taylor
29. S. A. Burbank(77)	35-5	64.0-46.7	+17.3	90.45	Gilbert Salinas
30. Midland Lee(75)	33-3	66.9-53.0	+13.9	90.25	Brett Blackwell

*STATE CHAMPIONS

Top 99 Players of the 1970's in Texas

Players(5)	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'10" Dwight Jones(70)*	28.5	Houston Wheatley	Houston	Hawks #9
6'8" Rick Bullock(72)*	24.1	SA Jefferson	Texas Tech	Knicks #60
6'11" Rudy Woods(78)*	25.4	Bryan	Texas A&M	Mavs #74
6'10" James Griffin(78)	18.1	Ft. Worth Dunbar	Illinois	Nets #80
6'8" Albert Jones(76)	20.4	Houston Worthing	New Mexico	Rockets #106
6'10" Maurice Presley(71)	25.4	Houston Davis	Houston	Blazers #77
6'8" B.B. Davis(77)	21.0	Beaumont French	Lamar Univ.	Kings #82
6'11" Gilbert Salinas(77)	20.0	SA Burbank	Notre Dame	Hawks #167
6'8" Terry White(78)	19.0	El Paso Eastwood	U.T.E.P.	Cavs #93
6'11" Greg Kite(79)	16.7	Houston Madison	Brigham Young	Celtics #21
6'10" Alton Lister(76)	24.0	Dallas Woodrow W.	Arizona St.	Bucks #21
6'11" Tommy Barker(72)	31.2	Weslaco	Minn./Hawaii	Hawks #53
6'8" Gary Brewster(72)	24.2	Midland	U.T.E.P.	Braves #48
6'8" Cedric Joseph(71)	24.6	FW Arlington Hts.	Texas A&M	
6'7" Danny Van Rheen(73)	24.5	Deer Park	Missouri	
6'7" Michael Long(73)	14.0	Houston Wheatley	UTA/Texas Southern	
6'9" Ronald Taylor(73)	23.8	Midland High	Nebraska/Mid.	
6'7" Leonard Mitchell(77)	22.0	Houston Washington	Houston	
6'9" Anthony Lee(78)	25.0	Tyler John Tyler	Wash/Detroit U.	
6'8" Melvin Davis(74)	23.8	Greenville	North Texas St.	
6'7" Kenneth Williams(74)	19.0	Dallas S.O.C.	North Texas St.	
6'10" Allen Windor(75)	19.6	Arlington	Houston/UTA	
6'8" Larry Micheaux(79)		Houston Worthing	Houston	Bulls #29
6'7" Bill Wendlandt(79)	23.7	Austin Westlake	Texas	Nuggets #169
6'7" Maurice McDaniel(78)		Temple	Texas A&M	Nuggets #153
6'7" Ed Lynum(71)	26.4	El Paso Bel Air	U.T.E.P.	
6'8" Preston Bailess(75)	15.4	CC Carroll	Utah State	
6'8" Tony Burns(77)		Marshall	U.T.E.P.	
Players(4/5)	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'8" Ira Terrell(72)*	35.0	Dallas Roosevelt	S.M.U.	Suns #47
6'7" Earl Evans(74)*	28.3	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	USC/UNLV	Pistons #157
6'7" Vernon Smith(77)*	22.0	Dallas Carter	Texas A&M	76ers #46
6'9" Claude Riley(79)	31.0	Crockett	Texas A&M	Nets #64
6'6" Toothpick Johnson(71)	21.0	Houston Yates	Texas Tech	Rockets #101
6'8" David Marrs(73)	20.0	Houston Lamar	Houston	Rockets #78
6'5" Rynn Wright(77)	25.0	Dallas Roosevelt	Texas A&M	76ers #92
6'7" Grasshopper Smith(71)		Dallas S.O.C.	Tulsa	Rockets #65
6'7" Kenneth Lyons(79)		Ft. W. Trimble Tech	North Texas St.	76ers #47
6'7" John Derrick(74)	22.0	South Garland	Cameron University	
6'7" Spider Johnson(70)	21.0	Houston Wheatley	Texas/T. Southern	
6'7" Ralph McPherson(77)	25.0	Arlington	Tech/UTA	Mavs #188
6'5" Jarvis Williams(75)	18.0	Houston Kashmere	Texas A&M	
6'7" Steve Jones(73)	18.0	Houston Wheatley	Texas A&M	
6'8" Roshern Amie(77)		Marshall	U.T.E.P.	Blazers #131
6'5" John Failing(75)	18.2	Deer Park	Louisiana Tech	
6'5" Daniel Wise(75)	27.0	Houston Waltrip	Texas/N. Texas	
6'4" Elton Webster(79)	15.0	Austin Lanier	Tulane	
6'5" Fred Reynolds(79)		Houston Jones	U.T.E.P.	Bullets #144

6'6"	Clarence Swannegan(78)		Galveston Ball	Texas Tech	
6'7"	Kenneth Perkins(79)		Beaumont Pollard	Lamar U.	
6'5"	Arthur Edwards(74)	21.1	SA Brackenridge	Baylor	
6'4"	Jimmy Murphy(71)	26.0	Carrollton R.L. Turner	S.M.U.	
6'6"	Willie Foreman(74)		Houston Furr	Texas A&M	
6'7"	Fred Mitchell(74)	20.8	Amarillo Palo Duro	North Texas St.	
6'6"	John Simple(79)	15.9	Houston Madison		
6'4"	Roland Milburn(77)		Houston Yates	Alcorn State	
	Players(2/3)	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'6"	Eddie Owens(73)*	28.0	Houston Wheatley	U.N.L.V.	Kings #31
6'6"	Sammy Hervey(70)*	37.0	Dallas Crozier Tech	Kilgore JC/SMU	Hawks #97
6'5"	Ricky Pierce(78)*	28.0	Garland	Rice	Pistons #18
6'6"	Keith Edmundson(78)*	29.0	SA MacArthur	Purdue	Hawks #10
6'6"	David Little(78)	23.0	Abilene	Tech/O.U.	Nuggets #61
6'4"	Terry Teagle(78)	30.0	Broaddus	Baylor	Rockets #16
6'5"	Chuck O'Neal(77)	24.0	Houston Milby	Houston	
6'6"	Dewayne Scales(77)	20.0	Dallas Carter	L.S.U.	Knicks #36
6'2"	George Walker(74)		Houston Yates	USC/ Tyler JC	
6'6"	Craig Ehlo(79)		Lubbock Monterey	Washington State	Rockets #48
6'3"	Charles McMillian(74)	24.0	Dallas S.O.C.	N. Texas/Tyler	Kings #136
6'4"	Robert Reid(73)	10.0	Schertz-Clemens	St. Mary's SA	Rockets#40
6'3"	Ernest Patterson(79)		Houston Kashmere	New Mex. State	Bulls #121
6'6"	Ricky Thompson(79)	19.0	Houston Jones	UTEP/H.Baptist	
6'6"	Jerry Davis(78)	37.0	West Oso	Detroit U.	
6'3"	Roy Moore(71)	22.3	Victoria	Angelo St.	
6'4"	Bill Marcellus(71)	25.9	Dallas Thomas Jeff.	S.M.U.	
6'6"	Grant Dukes(73)	23.5	Levelland	Texas Tech	
6'6"	Donnie Chambers(74)	19.6	Corsicana	Lamar University	
6'3"	Wayman Lister(75)	25.3	Dallas S.O.C.	North Texas St.	
6'3"	Jay Shakir(79)	18.0	SA Fox Tech	Baylor	
	Players(1/2)	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'2"	Rob Williams(79)*	26.3	Houston Milby	Houston	Nuggets #19
6'4"	Karl Godine(75)*	31.5	Houston Kashmere	Texas A&M/SFA	Bullets #151
6'3"	John Schlicher(75)*	21.0	Ft. Worth Paschal	Texas A&M	
6'2"	David Burns(77)*	22.0	Dallas S.O.C.	St. Louis U.	Nets #49
6'3"	Tate Armstrong(73)*	26.2	Spring Woods	Duke	Bullets #13
6'2"	George Turner(79)	27.1	Hitchcock	Cal. Irvine	Mavs#153
6'0"	Darrell Browder(79)	16.0	Ft. Worth Dunbar	T.C.U.	Rockets#71
6'0"	Billy Allen(78)	25.0	Highland Park	SMU/Nev.Reno	Mavs #125
6'1"	Billy Bailey(76)	26.1	SA McCollum	Pan American	Surs #174
6'1"	Juice Williams(76)	18.1	Houston Milby	Houston	Mavs#194
6'0"	Alvin Brooks(77)	25.9	Houston Wheatley	Lamar Univ.	Surs #219
5'7"	Cullen Mayfield(77)	20.0	Dallas S.O.C.	Midwestern U.	
6'3"	Phil Hale(76)	22.8	South Grand Prairie	SMU	
6'3"	Allen Batro(70)	18.0	Houston Wheatley	San Jac/Tex. So.	
6'2"	Larry Harris(74)	15.0	Dallas S.O.C.	Navarro JC	
6'3"	Richard Little(70)	18.0	Abilene	Texas Tech	
5'7"	Ronnie Blake(79)	20.0	Lufkin	Baylor	
5'11"	Gaylord Davis(72)	13.7	Houston Wheatley	Texas Southern	
6'3"	Elbert Darden(75)		Baytown Lee	Rice	
6'1"	Huey Smith(73)	30.5	Houston Lincoln	Houston Baptist	

6'2"	Hank Baueerschlag(73)	29.1	Clear Creek	Texas
6'2"	Reginald Harrison(74)	25.7	LaMarque	
6'0"	Kenneth Minkins(73)	23.0	Beaumont Pollard	Lamar University

Top Schools, Wheatley(8), SOC(7), Yates(3), Kashmere(3), Milby(3):

*Top 15 Player {High School Success, Recruited, College & Pro Careers are all taken into consideration}

Best in Abilene 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'6"	David Little(78)	23.0	Abilene High	Tech/Oklahoma	Nuggets #61
6'3"	Richard Little(70)	17.5	Abilene High	Texas Tech	
6'0"	Wayne Williams(72)	25.7	Abilene High		
6'2"	Cisco Smith(78)	17.9	Abilene High		
6'3"	Mike Little(76)	17.3	Abilene High	Baylor	

Best of Amarillo 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'7"	Fred Mitchell(74)	20.8	Palo Duro	North Texas	
6'7"	Victor Mitchell(78)		Amarillo High	Kansas	
6'7"	Claude Harris(72)		Palo Duro		
6'1"	Bill Fountain(73)	15.8	Tascosa		
5'8"	Byron Carter(75)	20.0	Tascosa		

Best of Arlington 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'8"	Craig Bishop(74)		Arlington	Baylor	
6'10"	Allen Windor(75)	19.6	Arlington	Houston/UTA	
6'8"	Bob Rudolph(75)		Arlington	Texas Tech	
6'3"	Ronnie Newton(76)	18.8	Sam Houston	U.T. Arlington	
6'7"	Ralph McPherson(77)	25.0	Arlington	Tech/UTA	Mavs #188

Best in Austin 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'8"	Michael Murphy(74)		Crockett		Texas
6'8"	Skippy Black(74)		Johnston	Texas	
6'5"	Brad Friess(78)	24.0	Anderson	Arkansas	
6'4"	Elton Webster(79)	15.6	Lanier	Tulane	
6'7"	Bill Wendlandt(79)	23.7	Westlake	Texas	Nuggets #16

Best of Beaumont 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'0"	Sherman Joseph(71)	19.8	Pollard		
6'0"	Kenneth Minkins(73)	23.0	Pollard	Lamar U.	
6'1"	Norman Bellard(74)	23.9	Hebert	Lamar U.	
6'8"	B.B. Davis(77)	21.0	French	Lamar U.	Kings #82
6'7"	Kenneth Perkins(79)	18.0	Pollard	Lamar U.	

Best of Corpus Christi

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'3"	Danny Kaspar(73)	14.0	Carroll	North Texas St.	
6'4"	R. Washington(74)	22.2	Miller		
6'8"	Preston Bailess(75)	15.4	Carroll	Utah St.	
6'5"	Charles Tryon(76)		Moody	Kentucky State	

6'7" Charles Moore(77) 28.3 Moody Southern Ill.

Best in Dallas 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'8"	Ira Terrell(72)	35.0	Roosevelt	S.M.U.	<u>Suns #47</u>
6'6"	Sammy Hervey(70)	37.0	Crozier Tech	Kilgore JC/SMU	Hawks #97
6'6"	Dewayne Scales(77)	20.0	Carter	L.S.U.	<u>Knicks #36</u>
6'2"	David Burns(77)	22.0	S.O.C.	St. Louis U.	<u>Nets #49</u>
5'7"	Cullen Mayfield(77)	20.0	S.O.C	Midwestern U.	

Best of El Paso 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'8"	James Forbes(70)	12.2	Bel Air		U.T.E.P.
6'2"	Gabe Nava(70)	10.2	Austin		New Mexico
6'7"	Ed Lynam(71)	26.4	Bel Air		U.T.E.P.
6'2"	Jim Bowden(76)	13.7	Eastwood	U.T.E.P.	
6'8"	Terry White(78)	19.4	Eastwood	U.T.E.P.	Cavs #93

Best in Ft. Worth 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'8"	Cedric Joseph(71)	24.6	Arlington Hts.	Texas A&M	
6'10"	James Griffin(78)	18.1	Dunbar	Illinois	Nets #80
6'4"	Michael Watley(77)	14.0	Dunbar	Ark/Evansville	
6'3"	John Schlicher(75)	21.0	Paschal	Texas A&M	
6'8"	Wayne Wayman(72)		Eastern Hills	T.C.U.	
6'5"	Ed Johnson(73)		Poly	Texas	

Best of Galveston

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'5"	Barry Davis(72)		Ball	Texas A&M	Rockets #116
6'9"	Bill Caldwell(73)	15.1	Ball	Texas Southern	
6'3"	Darrell Mitchell(77)	15.8	Ball		
6'5"	Clarence Swannegan(78)		Ball	Texas Tech	
6'5"	June Washington(77)	14.7	Ball		

Best of Garland 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'3"	Ray Roberts(71)	23.4	Garland High	Texas A&M	
6'7"	John Derrick(74)	24.0	South Garland	Cameron Uni.	
6'5"	Ricky Pierce(78)	26.1	Garland High	Rice	<u>Pistons #18</u>
	Mitchell Huskey(75)	21.3	South Garland		
6'1"	Donnie Love(77)	18.0	Garland High		

Best of Grand Prairie 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'3"	Phil Bailey(71)	28.0	Grand Prairie	Texas Tech	
6'3"	Phil Hale (76)	22.6	South	S.M.U.	
6'8"	David Henson(78)	17.8	Grand Prairie	Baylor	
6'4"	Albert Adams(76)	15.6	South		
6'2"	Kirk Koke(79)	18.4	South		

Best in Houston 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'10"	Dwight Jones(70)	28.5	Wheatley	Houston	<u>Hawks #9</u>
6'6"	Eddie Owens(73)	28.0	Wheatley	U.N.L.V.	<u>Kings #31</u>
6'2"	Rob Williams(79)	26.3	Milby	Houston	<u>Nuggets #19</u>
6'4"	Karl Godine(75)	31.5	Kashmere	A&M/SFA	Bullets #151
6'5"	Chuck O'Neal(77)	24.0	Milby	Houston	

Best of Irving 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'8"	John Saffle(72)		MacArthur	U.T.E.P.	
6'6"	Tommy Weilert(73)	31.0	Irving High	Texas	
6'5"	James Scott(73)	20.4	Irving High		
6'0"	Fred Stephenson(77)		Irving High	Texas A&I	
6'5"	Andy Sears(78)	16.1	Irving High	Baylor	

Best of LaMarque 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'1"	Eddie Evans(73)	15.9	LaMarque		
6'2"	Reginald Harrison(74)	25.7	LaMarque		
5'10"	Royce Reeves(74)		LaMarque		
6'1"	Clarence Bell(74)		LaMarque		
	Randy Marshall(78)		LaMarque		

Best of Lufkin 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'2"	Chris Wortham(78)	22.0	Lufkin		
5'7"	Ronnie Blake(79)	15.6	Lufkin	Baylor	
6'6"	Martines Grimes(79)		Lufkin	McNeese St.	
6'0"	Michael Mainer(79)		Lufkin		Midwestern
6'4"	Austin Chapman(73)		Lufkin		

Best of Lubbock 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'3"	Don Moore(70)	17.0	Monterey	Tech	
6'5"	Grady Newton(72)	22.0	Monterey	Tech	
6'7"	J.C. Eakin(74)		Monterey	Tech	
6'5"	Billy D. Hardaway(78)	27.5	Estacado		
6'6"	Craig Ehlo(79)		Monterey	Washington St.	<u>Rockets #48</u>

Best of McAllen 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'7"	Doug Schneider(70)		McAllen High	Baylor	
6'4"	Micky Uhlaender(72)	19.4	McAllen High		
6'6"	Louis Pack(72)	14.8	McAllen High		
6-7	Eddie Gonzales(74)		McAllen High		
6'0"	Cris Garcia(74)	20.0	McAllen High		

Best of McKinney 1970-79

5'8"	Leonard Harris(79)	12.0	McKinney	Tech(Foot)	
6'2"	Kenny Bird(73)	17.1	McKinney		
6'4"	Benjie Smith(73)	20.0	McKinney		
6'2"	J.T. Hollins(72)	22.0	McKinney	NTSU(Foot)	
6'3"	Charlie McDonald(70)	17.0	McKinney	NTSU(Foot)	

Best of Marshall 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'1"	Glenn Del Jones(71)		Marshall		
5'8"	Louis Manning(74)	17.6	Marshall		
6'2"	R. MacAfee(74)	13.1	Marshall		
6'8"	Roshern Amie(77)		Marshall		U.T.E.P.
6'8"	Anthony Burns(77)		Marshall		U.T.E.P.

Best of Midland 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'8"	Gary Brewster(72)	24.1	Midland High	U.T.E.P.	Braves #48
6'10"	Ronald Taylor(73)	23.8	Midland High	Neb/Midwestern	
6'5"	Junior Miller(76)	21.1	Midland Lee	Texas Tech(Foot)	N.F.L.
6'1"	Brent Blackwell(75)	16.0	Midland Lee		Baylor
6'5"	Charles Johnson(79)	13.0	Midland High		Texas Tech

Best of Odessa 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'5"	Darrell Mitchell(72)	16.0	Ector	Tech	
5'9"	Danny Ray Wright(79)	20.2	Odessa High		
5'9"	Jesse Watkins(72)	16.0	Ector		
6'3"	Joe Davis(72)	19.6	Ector		
5'8"	Dwight Randolph(76)	28.0	Ector		

Best of Pampa 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'5"	Mike Edgar(72)	19.3	Pampa High	Wichita State	
6'6"	Howie Lewis(75)	20.2	Pampa High		
6'2"	Billy Wilbon(75)	17.2	Pampa High		
	Brian Bailey(76)	16.4	Pampa High		
6'0"	Rayford Young(77)	19.5	Pampa High		

Best of Pasadena 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'5"	Steve Trncak	18.0	Pasadena	Tech	
6'6"	Fritz Connally(76)		Pasadena		
7'1"	Steve Frederick(79)		Dobie	Texas	
6'4"	Greg Freeman(76)		Pasadena	Lamar U.	
6'8"	Tom Kerr(79)		Rayburn		

Best of Plano 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'6"	Bill Manafield(72)	30.0	Plano High	Marshall U.	
6'3"	Travis Benke(79)	21.9	Plano High	Abilene Christian	
6'4"	Larry Wallace(79)	10.0	Plano High		
6'1"	Kent Gaddis(76)	18.0	Plano High		
6'3"	Ray Nelson(76)	16.0	Plano High		

Best of Richardson 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'6"	Steve Young(73)	19.0	Richardson		
6'6"	Frank Jackson(74)	24.0	Berkner	Rice	
6'4"	Paul McKimmey(79)	24.0	Richardson	Texas Tech	
6'5"	Andre Tillman(70)	26.3	Lake High	Tech(football)	N.F.L.
6'2"	Rick Penny(71)	21.5	Richardson	McMurray	

Best in San Antonio 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'8"	Rick Bullock(72)	24.1	Jefferson	Texas Tech	Knicks #60
6'11"	Gilbert Salinas(77)	20.0	Burbank	Notre Dame	Hawks #167
6'6"	Keith Edmundson(78)	29.0	MacArthur	Purdue	<u>Hawks #10</u>
6'1"	Billy Bailey(76)	26.1	McCollum	Pan American	Spurs #174
6'8"	Willie Hodge(72)	26.9	Sam Houston	Duke	Kings #71

Best of Temple 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'8"	Maurice McDaniel(78)		Temple High	Texas A&M	
6'3"	Ernest Walker(73)	25.0	Temple High		
6'0"	Isaac Brown(71)	17.2	Temple High		
6'2"	Mike Jenkins(72)		Temple High		

Best of Texas City 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'0"	Paul Jackson(73)	25.6	Texas City	Kilgore JC	
5'10"	Sam Lynch(73)	20.4	Texas City		
	Randolph Lynch(73)		Texas City		
6'2"	Kenny Morrison(76)		Texas City	Texas A&M	
	Ken Wyrwich(72)		Texas City		

Best of Tyler 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'0"	Dennis Gordon(76)	22.5	John Tyler		
6'9"	Anthony Lee(78)	25.0	John Tyler	Detroit U.	
6'4"	Uirdell Howland(78)	12.3	Lee	Texas	
6'0"	D'Boy Johnson(77)	11.2	Lee		
6'2"	Fred Marshall(78)		Lee		

Best of Waco 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'5"	James Weaver(71)	23.9	Richfield	Baylor	
6'2"	Tom Corley(71)		Midway	Baylor	
6'0"	Steve Colwil(72)		Richfield	Baylor	
6'8"	Ozell Hall(79)		University	Baylor	
6'7"	Daryl Baucham(79)		University	Baylor	

Best of Wichita Falls 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'0"	Dennis Wuthrich(71)	19.1	Rider		
6'3"	Carl Jones(71)	25.7	Hirschi	North Texas	
6'1"	Jimmy Emmer(72)	18.5	Wichita Falls		
6'2"	Robert Criner(75)	17.2	Rider		
5'11"	Zack Ellis(76)	13.6	Wichita Falls		
6'4"	Gerrick Stevenson(77)	20.0	Rider		

1970-1979 State Playoffs- Top Scorers 4-A

	Player	Gm	Ave.	Year	Team	High Gm
1.	Charles McMillian 6'3"	5	33.8	1974	S.O.C.	41
2.	Eddie Owens 6'6"	5	30.0	1973	Wheatley	37
3.	Rick Bullock 6'8"	5	29.4	1972	SA Jefferson	44
4.	Chuck O'Neal, Jr. 6'6"	4	29.2	1976	Milby	34
5.	Eddie Owens, Jr. 6'6"	4	27.7	1972	Wheatley	32
6.	Jimmy Murphy, Jr. 6'4"	5	26.8	1970	R.L. Turner	34
7.	Ira Terrell 6'7"	5	26.6	1972	Roosevelt	45
8.	David Little 6'6"	4	25.5	1978	Abilene	36
9.	Dwight Jones 6'9"	5	22.0	1970	Wheatley	34
10.	Charlie Bassett 6'4"	4	21.0	1971	Plainview	24

{Must play a minimum of four games}

Top Ranked 4-A Teams in the Decade 1970's Regular Season

1970	#1 Houston Wheatley	34-0	#2 Spring Branch Memorial	35-3
1971	#1 Dallas Kimball	35-1	#2 Ft. W. Arlington Heights	33-1
1972	#1 Houston Wheatley	33-2	#2 Midland	26-2
1973	#1 Houston Wheatley	36-1	#2 Spring Branch	36-1
1974	#1 Corsicana	32-0	#2 Houston Kashmere	33-2
1975	#1 Houston Kashmere	41-0	#2 Pt. Arthur Lincoln	29-3
1976	#1 Clear Lake	36-3	#2 Houston Jones	35-6
1977	#1 El Paso Eastwood	31-1	#2 Ft. Worth Dunbar	35-1
1978	#1 Ft. Worth Dunbar	32-2	#3 El Paso Eastwood	25-3
1979	#1 Houston Madison	36-0	#2 Ft. Worth Dunbar	32-3

Top Scorers in 4-A in the Decade 1970's

1970	Sammy Hervey, Crozier Tech	37.6	Dwight Jones, Wheatley	28.5
1971	Bobby Ortega, EP Andress	29.6	Frank Keton, EP Coronado	28.6
1972	Bobby Ortega, E.P. Andress	31.3	Tommy Barker, Weslaco	31.2
1973	Earl Evans, Pt. Arthur Lincoln	30.2	Hank Bauerchlag, Clear Lake	29.1
1974	Earl Evans, Pt. Arthur Lincoln	28.3	Reginald Harrison, LaMarque	25.7
1975	Karl Godine, H. Kashmere	31.5	Tommy Parks, Ft. Worth Poly	28.7
1976	Julio Gallardo, El Paso Ysleta	29.8	Billy Bailey, S.A. McCollum	26.1
1977	Ollie Hoops, Dallas Pinkston	30.0	Ricky Pierce, Garland High	28.0
1978	Keith Edmondson, S.A. Mac.	29.7	Shannon Lilly, Wilmer Hut.	28.0
1979	Steve Washington, N. Dallas	31.2	Columbus Garrett, D. Lincoln	27.4

{These were the numbers released by Newspaper accounts, season results}

The Final Four 1970-79

Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV
1970 R.L. Turner(38-3)	Thomas Jeff.(30-7)	Wheatley(39-0)*	Austin Johnston(31-3)
1971 Plainview(33-3)	Cypress-Fair.(36-6)*	Wheatley(37-5)	SA Sam Houston(34-3)
1972 Midland(33-3)	Roosevelt(35-4)*	Wheatley(39-2)	SA Jefferson(34-4)
1973 Midland(33-4)	Spring Branch(39-2)	Wheatley(41-1)*	CC Carroll(32-5)
1974 Denton(29-7)	S.O.C.(37-5)	Kashmere(39-2)*	SA Jefferson(31-7)
1975 Midland Lee(33-4)	Ft. W. Paschal(32-3)	Kashmere(46-0)*	SA Highlands(29-13)
1976 EP Eastwood(31-3)*	John Tyler(30-5)	Milby(25-12)	Victoria(36-4)
1977 Ft. Worth Dunbar(39-2)	S.O.C.(35-8)*	Westchester(32-10)	SA Burbank(34-5)
1978 Abilene(34-5)	Cypress-Fair.(25-11)	Wheatley(36-6)*	SA Fox Tech(33-6)
1979 Ft. Worth Dunbar(36-4)	Lufkin(31-6)*	Madison(39-1)	Austin Lanier(33-4)

[* state champion]

Top Teams by Cities 1970's

Abilene #1 Abilene High, 1978 (34-5)	#2 Abilene High, 1970 (31-6)	#3 Abilene, 1976 (27-7)
Amarillo #1 Amarillo, 1970 (26-6)	#2 Palo Duro, 1972 (24-7)	#3 Amarillo, 1978 (23-7)
Arlington #1 Arlington High, 1977 (30-2)	#2 Sam Houston, 1976 (27-7)	#3 S. H. 1970 (22-13)
Austin #1 Austin Lanier, 1979 (33-4)	#2 Austin Johnston, 1970 (31-3)	#3 Austin, 1971(25-8)
Beaumont #1 Bea. Pollard, 1979 (34-3)	#2 Bea. Pollard, 1970 (32-6)	#3 Pollard, 1971 (33-3)
Borger #1 Borger, 1977 (28-5)	#2 Borger, 1970 (27-6)	#3 Borger, 1974 (23-9)
Bryan #1 Bryan, 1973 (26-5)	#2 Bryan, 1976 (31-3)	#3 Bryan, 1977 (23-7)
C.Creek #1 Clear Creek, 1970 (36-3)	#2 Clear Lake, 1976 (37-4)	#3 Clear Lake, 1974 (34-5)
C. Christi #1 CC Carroll, 1975 (34-3)	#2 CC Carroll, 1973 (32-5)	#3 CC Moody, 1976 (33-5)
Conroe #1 Conroe, 1979 (29-8)	#2 Conroe, 1972 (31-6)	#3 Conroe, 1978 (19-13)
Corsicana #1 Corsicana, 1974 (34-1)	#2 Corsicana, 1973 (22-6)	#3 Corsicana, 1975 (21-8)
Cypress #1 Cypress-Fair, 1971 (36-6)	#2 Cypress-Fair, 1970 (32-5)	#3 Cyp-Fair, 1978 (25-11)
Dallas #1 Roosevelt, 1972 (35-4)	#2 Dallas S.O.C., 1974 (37-5)	#3 S.O.C., 1977 (35-8)
Deer Park #1 Deer Park, 1978 (32-7)	#1 Deer Park, 1979 (27-7)	#1 Deer Park, 1972 (31-5)
Denton #1 Denton, 1974 (29-7)	#2 Denton 1972 (23-7)	#3 Denton, 1973 (19-11)
El Paso #1 EP Eastwood, 1976 (31-3)	#2 EP Eastwood, 1977(31-2)	#3 EP Austin, 1970 (28-7)
Ft. Worth #1 FW Paschal, 1975 (32-3)	#2 FW Dunbar, 1979 (36-4)	#3 Dunbar, 1977 (39-2)
Galveston #1 Galveston Ball, 1976 (35-7)	#2 Galveston Ball, 1978 (31-8)	#3 Gal. Ball, 1977 (27-8)
Garland #1 Garland, 1971 (32-3)	#2 Garland, 1977 (24-11)	#3 Garland, 1978 (21-11)
G. Prairie #1 S. Grand Prairie, 1975 (29-6)	#2 S. Grand Prairie, 1976 (31-2)	#3 G. Prairie, 1978 (29-5)
High. Park #1 Highland Park, 1972 (37-2)	#2 Highland Park, 1973 (30-5)	#3 High. Park, 1978 (27-4)
Houston #1 Wheatley, 1970 (39-0)	#1 Wheatley, 1973 (41-1)	#1 Kashmere, 1975 (46-0)
Irving #1 Irving, 1973 (28-5)	#2 Irving, 1977 (28-5)	#3 Irving, 1972 (28-9)
Killeen #1 Killeen, 1972 (27-6)	#2 Killeen, 1976 (29-8)	#3 Killeen, 1975 (25-9)
LaMarque #1 LaMarque, 1978 (23-9)	#2 LaMarque, 1974 (27-9)	#3 LaMarque, 73 (19-10)
Lufkin #1 Lufkin, 1979 (31-6)	#2 Lufkin, 1973 (32-4)	#3 Lufkin, 1978 (29-8)
Lubbock #1 Monterey, 1970 (28-6)	#2 Monterey, 1979 (24-4)	#3 Monterey, 75 (22-10)
McAllen #1 McAllen, 1974 (28-2)	#2 McAllen, 1972 (30-4)	#3 McAllen, 1973 (30-5)
Marshall #1 Marshall, 1974 (26-4)	#2 Marshall, 1971 (25-6)	#3 Marshall, 1977
Mesquite #1 North Mesquite, 1975 (27-8)	#2 North Mesquite, 1979 (27-8)	#3 N. Mesq., 1976 (22-12)
Midland #1 Midland High, 1972 (33-3)	#2 Midland High, 1973 (33-4)	#3 Midland Lee, 75 (33-4)
Mission #1 Mission, 1978 (32-5)	#2 Mission, 1976	#3 Mission, 1977 (26-12)
Odessa #1 Ector, 1972 (28-5)	#1 Permian, 1971 (23-7)	#2 Permian, 1975 (28-6)

Pampa	#1 Pampa, 1972 (24-6)	#2 Pampa, 1977 (25-6)	#3 Pampa, 1975 (24-5)
Pasadena	#1 Pasadena High, 1976 (33-5)	#2 Rayburn, 1979 (21-12)	#3 Pasadena, 1975 (31-6)
Plainview	#1 Plainview, 1971 (33-3)	#2 Plainview, 1972 (29-6)	#3 Plainview, 70 (29-10)
Plano	#1 Plano, 1979, (28-5)	#2 Plano, 1975 (25-7)	#3 Plano, 1976 (23-12)
Pt. Arthur	#1 Lincoln, 1973 (29-5)	#2 Lincoln, 1974 (32-6)	#3 Lincoln, 1976 (32-5)
Richardson	#1 Lake Highlands, 1979 (23-5)	#2 Richardson, 1973 (25-10)	#3 Richardson, 71 (29-9)
San Ant.	#1 SA Jefferson, 1972 (34-4)	#2 SA Fox Tech, 1978 (33-6)	#3 Sam Houston, 71 (34-3)
Sp. Branch	#1 Westchester, 1974 (39-4)	#2 Spring Branch, 1973 (39-2)	#3 Memorial, 1970 (37-4)
Temple	#1 Temple, 1971 (24-8)	#2 Temple, 1972 (26-5)	#3 Temple, 1978 (23-7)
Texas City	#1 Texas City, 1973 (24-8)	#2 Texas City, 1972 (28-7)	#3 Texas City, 77 (20-13)
Tyler	#1 Tyler John Tyler, 1976 (30-5)	#2 Tyler Lee, 1977 (35-3)	#3 Tyler Lee, 1978 (32-2)
Victoria	#1 Victoria, 1976 (37-4)	#2 Victoria, 1974 (34-5)	#3 Victoria, 1977 (33-3)
Waco	#1 Waco High, 1979 (28-5)	#2 University, 1975 (24-9)	#3 Richfield, 1974 (26-8)
Wich. Falls	#1 Rider, 1970 (29-5)	#2 Rider, 1971 (25-8)	#3 Wich. Falls, 79 (22-11)

Major Tournament Titles

Arlington Classic	1969-70	<u>Houston Wheatley</u>	71	Spring Branch Memorial	47
Early Dec.	1970-71	Dallas Kimball	69	<u>Cypress-Fairbanks</u>	62
	1971-72	<u>Houston Wheatley</u>	91	Ft. Worth Arlington Heights	83
	1972-73	<u>Houston Wheatley</u>	78	Spring Branch Memorial	66
	1973-74	H. Westchester	93	<u>South Oak Cliff</u>	81
	1974-75	<u>Houston Kashmere</u>	105	South Oak Cliff	98
	1975-76	South Oak Cliff	87	Dallas Samuel	64
	1976-77	<u>Ft. Worth Dunbar</u>	76	Arlington	72
	1977-78	Ft. Worth Dunbar	92	South Oak Cliff	88
	1978-79	Plano	61	Ft. Worth Paschal	48
Dallas Dr. Pepper	1969-70	<u>R.L. Turner</u>	63	Dallas Samuel	58
Late Dec.	1970-71	Garland	59	Highland Park	55
	1971-72	Highland Park	59	Dallas Carter	54
	1972-73	Dallas Spruce	97	Dallas Roosevelt	94
	1973-74	<u>South Oak Cliff</u>	96	Highland Park	75
	1974-75	South Oak Cliff	89	Dallas Lincoln	82
	1975-76	Weather			
	1976-77	Dallas Roosevelt	87	<u>South Oak Cliff</u>	84
	1977-78	Ft. Worth Dunbar	72	South Oak Cliff	60
	1978-79	<u>Ft. Worth Dunbar</u>	57	Ft. Worth Paschal	51
Houston Jaycees	1969-70	<u>Houston Wheatley</u>	71	Houston Westbury	58
Late Dec.	1970-71	<u>Houston Wheatley</u>	100	Clear Creek	80
	1971-72	<u>Houston Wheatley</u>	131	Houston Yates	94
	1972-73	<u>Houston Wheatley</u>	104	Houston Yates	85
	1973-74	<u>Houston Kashmere</u>	103	Houston Yates	96
	1974-75	<u>Houston Kashmere</u>	87	Houston Yates	80
	1975-76	Houston Jones	81	Houston Waltrip	60
	1976-77	Houston Jones	63	Cypress-Fairbanks	49
	1977-78	Houston Kashmere	71	Houston Washington	56
	1978-79	<u>Houston Madison</u>	79	Houston Kashmere	61
		<u>Advanced to State</u>			

Biggest Upset- 1979 State Semi-Final:Lufkin(29-6) over Houston Madison(39-0) #1 , 62-55
 1978 Regional Final: Abilene(33-4) #6 over Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-2) #1, 76-74
 1979 State Final: Lufkin(30-6) over Ft. Worth Dunbar(36-3) #2, 75-74
Most State Appearances-Houston Wheatley 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1978
Most State Titles- Houston Wheatley 1970, 1973, 1978
Longest Winning Streak-Houston Kashmere 83 games {1974-1975-1976}
 -Houston Wheatley 72 games {1969-1970-1971}
Best Winning Percentage- Houston Wheatley 333-67 83%

Top AAAA Programs of the 1970's		Top 50	Top 10	Final 4	Titles	Pts.
1.	Houston Wheatley	9/10	9/10	5	3	53
2.	Dallas South Oak Cliff	9/10	6/10	2	1	31
3.	Houston Kashmere	9/10	2/10	2	2	27
4.	Dallas Roosevelt	10/10	3/10	1	1	23
5.	Deer Park	10/10	5/10	0	0	20
6.	Cypress Fairbanks	6/10	2/10	2	1	19
7.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	4/10	4/10	2	0	18
8.	Houston Yates	8/10	5/10	0	0	18
9.	S.A. Jefferson	7/10	1/10	2	0	15
10.	El Paso Eastwood	6/10	1/10	1	1	15
11.	Midland	5/10	2/10	2	0	15
12.	Houston Milby	5/10	3/10	1	0	14
13	Houston Madison	6/10	2/10	1	0	13
13.	Victoria	8/10	1/10	1	0	13
15	Clear Lake	7/7	3/7	0	0	13
15.	Houston Jones	5/10	4/10	0	0	13
15.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	5/10	4/10	0	0	13
18.	Beaumont Pollard	10/10	1/10	0	0	12
19.	San Antonio Fox Tech	6/10	1/10	1	0	11
20.	Highland Park	8/10	1/10	0	0	10
20.	Spring Bra. Memorial	8/10	1/10	0	0	10
20.	Houston Westchester	6/10	2/10	0	0	10
23.	Bryan	5/10	2/10	0	0	9
24.	Corsicana	6/10	1/10	0	0	8
24.	Houston Washington	6/10	1/10	0	0	8

Houston Wheatley Wildcats

1970*	39-0	#1	State Champs	Carrollton RLT 80-108	Jackie Carr
1971	37-5	#2	State Finals	Cypress-Fairbanks 58-72	Jackie Carr
1972	39-3	#2	State Semis	Dallas Roosevelt 109-111	Jackie Carr
1973*	41-1	#1	State Champs	Midland 84-70	Jackie Carr
1974	36-7	#7	Bi-District	Houston Worthing 99-100	Jackie Carr
1975	35-7	#5	Regional Finals	Houston Kashmere 79-116	Jackie Carr
1976	11-24				Jackie Carr
1977	28-6	#3	Regional Finals	H. Westchester 71-74	Jackie Carr
1978	37-6	#1	State Champs	SA Fox Tech 75-74 OT	Jackie Carr
1979	30-8	#6	Regional Semi	Houston Madison 63-68	Jackie Carr
Total	333- 67	83%	(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team		

Best-	1970	6'10"	Dwight Jones(28.0)	Houston	<u>NBA Hawks #9</u>
	1970	6'7"	-Lawrence Johnson(21.4)	U.T./S. Hou. St./Tex. S	
	1970	6'3	-Allen Batro(15.2)	San Jac. JC/Tex. South	
	1971	5'10"	-Clarence Johnson	Drafted into Military	
	1972	5'10"	-Gaylord Davis(13.7)	Texas Southern	
	1973	6'6"	-Eddie Owens(28.0)	U.N.L.V.	<u>NBA Kings #31</u>
	1973	6'6"	-Steve Jones	Texas A&M	
	1973	6'7"	-Michael Long(14.1)	U.T. Arl./Tex. South	
	1977	5'11"	-Alvin Brooks(25.9)	Lamar University	Draft Spurs #219
	1979	6'7"	-Roosevelt McGruder(16.0)	Johnson C. Smith(NC)	

Dallas South Oak Cliff Golden Bears

1970	22-8	#28			Stevens
1971	20-10				Stevens
1972	19-12	#11			Stevens
1973	30-6	#6	Regionals Final	Spring Branch 51-59	Jimmy Gales
1974*	37-5	#2	State Finals	H. Kashmere 87-91	Jimmy Gales
1975	35-4	#3	Regional Semi	Ft. W. Paschal 70-83	Jimmy Gales
1976	27-7	#9	Regional Finals	Tyler John Tyler 85-99	Euril Henson
1977*	35-8	#1	State Champs	Ft. Worth Dunbar 78-71	Euril Henson
1978	25-10	#17			H. Warren
1979	29-6	#10	Regional Semi	Lufkin(31-6) 72-73	H. Warren
Total	279- 76	79%	(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team		

Best	1970	6'1"	-Luther Robertson(20.2)	Schreiner JC/S.M.U.	
	1970	6'6"	-Oscar Roan(20.0)	S.M.U.	NFL Browns #57
	1971	6'6"	-"Grasshopper" Smith	Tulsa	<u>NBA Rockets #65</u>
	1974	6'6"	-Kenneth Williams(21.0)	North Texas State	
	1974	6'2"	-Larry Harris(15.0)	Navarro J.C.	
	1974	6'3"	-Charles McMillian(24.4)	Tyler J.C./N. T. State	Drafted Kings #136
	1975	6'5"	-Waymon Lister(25.3)	North Texas State	
	1976	6'4"	-Anthony McMillian(20)	Tyler J.C.	
	1977	5'7"	-Cullen Mayfield(20.0)	Midwestern U.	
	1977	6'2"	-David Burns(22.0)	Navarro/St. Louis U.	<u>NBA Nets #49</u>

Houston Kashmere Rams

1970	21-9	#18	Bi-District	H. Wheatley(39-0) 68-94	W. Drew
1971	24-10	#30			W. Drew
1972	19-13				W. Drew
1973	27-11	#48	Bi-District	H. Smiley(25-11) 45-47	W. Drew
1974	39-2	#1	State Champs	Dallas SOC(37-5) 91-87	W. Drew
1975*	46-0	#1	State Champs	Ft. W. Paschal(32-3) 60-58	W. Drew
1976	21-10	#30			F. Brazos
1977	22-9	#38			F. Brazos
1978	30-8	#28	Bi-District	H. Wheatley(36-6) 90-92	F. Brazos
1979	21-10	#19	Bi-District	H. Wheatley(30-8) 78-89	F. Brazos
Total	270-82	77%	(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team		

Best-	1973	Danny Thomas	Hardin Simmons	
	1975	6'4" -Karl Godine(31.5)	Texas A&M/S.F.A.	Drafted Bullets 151
	1975	6'5" -Jarvis Williams(18.0)	Texas A&M	
	1975	6'2" -Madison Lane	Rice	
	1975	6'8" -Carl Belcher	Texas	
	1975	6'3" -Carl Byrd(23.0)	NE Oklahoma	
	1975	6'3" -Henry Small	NE Oklahoma	
	1976	6'2" -Kenneth Blake		
	1977	6'2" -Ervy Cormier(20.0)	U.T. Arlington	
	1979	6'3" -Ernest Patterson	New Mexico St.	Drafted Bulls #121
	1979	6'7" -Arnold Blackmon	San Jacinto JC	

Dallas Roosevelt Mustangs

1970	18-6	#37			Ellis Davis
1971	21-4	#22			Ellis Davis
1972*	35-4	#1	State Champs	S.A. Jefferson 68-63	Ellis Davis
1973	27-6	#10			Ellis Davis
1974	26-6	#12			Ellis Davis
1975	27-8	#19			Ellis Davis
1976	25-8	#16			Ellis Davis
1977	30-8	#7			Ellis Davis
1978	27-7	#16	Regional Semi	Cypress-Fairbanks 52-54	Ellis Davis
1979	26-8	#16			Ellis Davis
Total	262-65	80%	(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team		

Best-	1972	6'7" -Ira Terrell(30.6)	S.M.U.	NBA Suns #47
	1972	6'6" -Melvin Moore(16.8)	Sam Houston St.	
	1973	6'2" -Marcellus Abney(26.1)	U.T. Arlington	
	1974	6'3" -James Leffall	Arkansas State	
	1974	6'2" -Harlan Hill		
	1977	6'5" -Rynn Wright(25.0)	Texas A&M	Draft 76ers #92
	1977	6'5" -Michael Battle(19.0)	Baylor	
	1977	5'11" -Quinn Andrus(17.0)		
	1978	6'1" -Kevin Jones(18.0)		
	1979	6'6" -Bobby Davis(23.0)		

Deer Park Falcons

1970	19-14	#27	Bi-District	Clear Creek 53-63	
1971	27-11	#27	Bi-District	Clear Creek 63-78	
1972	34-5	#9	Regional Semi	Houston Sterling 68-78	Ray Landers
1973	24-10	#26	Bi-District	Galveston Ball 52-57	Ray Landers
1974	29-6	#11			Ray Landers
1975	35-5	#8	Bi-District	Stratford Dulles 63-66	Ray Landers
1976	31-7	#11			Ray Landers
1977	34-4	#10			Ray Landers
1978	32-7	#6	Regional Final	Houston Wheatley 50-55	Ray Landers
1979	27-7	#7	Regional Semi	Beaumont Pollard 58-59	Ray Landers
Total	291-75	80%	(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team		

Best-	1972	6'0" -Jimmy Shelton(20.0)	San Jacinto JC
	1973	6'7" -Danny Van Rheen(24.5)	Missouri
	1975	6'5" -John Failing(18.2)	Louisiana Tech
	1975	6'7" -Terry Moore(10.8)	Angelina JC
	1976	6'4" -Frank Dishongh	
	1977	6'5" -Jon Hughes(21.0)	Henderson JC
	1977	6'4" -Byron Tully(13.0)	T.C.U.
	1978	6'2" -Nicky Snell	Lamar University
	1978	6'2" -David Simmons	Stephen F. Austin
	1979	6'8" -Robert Shaw	Rice

Cypress-Fairbanks Bobcats

1970	32-5	#2	State Finals	Kerrville Tivy (3-A)	Ronnie Truitt
1971*	36-6	#1	State Champions	Houston Wheatley 72-58	Ronnie Truitt
1972					
1973					
1974	7-22				
1975	18-14				
1976	25-12	#45			Lloyd Long
1977	31-5	#43			Lloyd Long
1978	25-11	#13	State Semi-Finals	Houston Wheatley 53-59	Larry Hargett
1979	29-5	#15			Blair Murray
Total			(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team		

Best-	1971	6'0" -Ron Dunlap(16.1)	Kilgore JC
	1971	6'0" -Don Dunlap(15.0)	N. Texas St.(Football)
	1971	6'8" -Jerry Mercer(16.7)	Texas A&M
	1971	6'4" -Bobby Metcalf(9.4)	East Texas Baptist
	1977	6'1" -Rudy Williams	Navarro J.C.
	1978	6'5" -Alan Howard	Stephen F. Austin
	1979	6'8" -Brad Olsen(18.2)	Texas

Ft. Worth Dunbar Wildcats

1974	12-12				Robert Hughes
1975	19-12				Robert Hughes
1976	30-4	#10	Regional	S.O.C. 68-69	Robert Hughes
1977*	39-2	#2	State Finals	S.O.C. 71-78	Robert Hughes
1978	34-3	#5	Regionals Finals	Abilene 74-76	Robert Hughes
1979*	37-4	#2	State Finals	Lufkin 74-75	Robert Hughes

Total (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1977	6'3"	-Michael Watley(17.6)	Arkansas/Evansville	
	1978	6'1"	-Cletus Hubbard(14.5)	Illinois	
	1978	6'9"	-James Griffin(18.1)	Illinois	Draft Nets #80
	1979	6'0"	-Furmia Nealy(12.0)	North Texas State	
	1979	6'0"	-Darrell Browder(16.8)	T.C.U.	Draft Rock#71
	1979	6'4"	-Anthony Ware(16.0)	Temple J.C.	

Houston Yates Lions

1970	25-7	#2			"Doc" Evans
1971	25-5	#6			"Doc" Evans
1972	30-4	#5			"Doc" Evans
1973	27-8	#17			"Doc" Evans
1974	21-10	#14			"Doc" Evans
1975	26-6	#7			"Doc" Evans
1976	10-16				"Doc" Evans
1977	24-9	#12			"Doc" Evans
1978	24-11	#10			Tommy Malone
1979	15-16				Tommy Malone

Total **227-92** **71%** (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	6'3"	-Leonard Duffield	Prairie View	
	1971	6'6"	-"Toothpick" Johnson(16.0)	Texas Tech	Draft Rock#101
	1972	6'3"	-Leo Woods(23.6)	South Dakota St.	
	1973	6'5"	-"Stretch" Campbell	Tech/Tyler JC/ Prairie View	
	1973	6'2"	-Jimmy Duffield	Navarro JC/ SW Tex. St.	
	1974	6'2"	-George Walker	USC/Tyler JC/ SW Tex. St/ P.V	
	1975	6'4"	-Ricky Edwards	Alvin Comm. College	
	1975	5'11"	-Clarence Hill		
	1975	6'7"	-James Anderson		
	1975	6'5"	-Reggie Franklin(12.0)	S.M.U.	
	1977	6'4"	-Rolland Milburn(23.0)	Texas Southern/Alcorn State	
	1978	6'5"	-Kenneth Wallace(15.5)	Panola JC	

San Antonio Jefferson

1970	24-5	#31			Jim Shuler
1971	33-2	#11	Regional Final	SA Sam Houston 50-63	Jim Shuler
1972*	34-4	#3	State Finals	Dallas Roosevelt 63-68	Jim Shuler
1973	27-6	#46	Bi-District	SA Fox Tech 69-73	LeGrand
1974	32-7	#13	State Semis	S.O.C. 100-109	LeGrand
1975	36-6	#23	Regional Final	SA Highlands 68-72	LeGrand
1976	22-13				
1977	23-9				
1978	28-8	#31			
1979	21-8				
Total	280-68	81%	(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team		

Best-	1970	5'10"	-Joe Galindo	S.M.U.	
	1971	6'6"	-John Myers	San Antonio JC	
	1971	6'2"	-Sam Jay	Texas Lutheran	
	1972	6'8"	-Rick Bullock(24.1)	Texas Tech	Draft Knicks#58
	1972	6'2"	-Marc Randle	Texas Lutheran	
	1973	6'6"	-David Wayne	Schreiner(SA) JC	
	1973	6'7"	-Brian Bryden(11.0)	St. Mary's, S.A.	
	1974	6'2"	-Mike Jones(12.9)	Texas Lutheran	
	1975	6'5"	-Elijah Owens(14.0)	New Mexico St.	
	1976	6'6"	-Micah Owens(19.3)	New Mexico St.	

El Paso Eastwood Troopers

1970	22-6	#13			Bobby Lesley
1971	26-5	#36			Bobby Lesley
1972					Bobby Lesley
1973	17-9				Bobby Lesley
1974	26-5	#16	Regional Finals	Denton 55-64	Bobby Lesley
1975	22-8				Bobby Lesley
1976*	31-3	#1	State Champs	Tyler John Tyler 74-62	Bobby Lesley
1977	32-2	#11	Regional Finals	Ft. W. Dunbar 63-68	Bobby Lesley
1978	26-4	#14	Regional Semi	Abilene 67-79	Bobby Lesley
1979	16-12		Bi-District	Coronado	Bobby Lesley
Total			(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team		

Best-	1971	6'5"	-Bill Seale	Tennessee	
	1974	6'5"	-Fred Spain	Abilene Christian	
	1974	6'5"	-Jim Crenshaw	South Plains JC	
	1976	6'2"	-Jim Bowden(13.7)	U.T.E.P.	
	1976	5'9"	-Gilbert Shepard		
	1976	6'3"	-Steve Wohlgemuth(13.0)		
	1977	6'8"	-Darold Molix(12.3)	U.T.E.P.	
	1977	6'4"	-Tim Crenshaw(14.1)	U.T.E.P.	
	1978	6'8"	-Terry White(19.4)	U.T.E.P.	Draft Cavs#93
	1978	6'3"	-Rick Becerra		

Houston Madison Marlins

1970	26-9	#33	Bi-District	H. Wheatley(39-0) 68-94	Paul Benton
1971	25-8	#43	Bi-District	H. Lamar(29-7) 56-100	Paul Benton
1972					Paul Benton
1973					Paul Benton
1974	15-14				Paul Benton
1975	18-14				Paul Benton
1976	26-8	#22			Paul Benton
1977	30-6	#15	Bi-District	Westchester(31-10) 50-52	Paul Benton
1978	25-7	#3	Regional Semi	H. Wheatley(36-6) 70-72 OT	Paul Benton
1979*	39-1	#1	State Semis	Lufkin(31-6) 55-62	Paul Benton

Total (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	6'3" -Phil Towse	Sam Houston St.
	1970	5'8" -Robert Cheesman	
	1971	-Mike Davis	
	1976	6'2" -Ron Smith	
	1977	6'2" -Greg Wise(20.1)	Houston Baptist
	1979	6'11" -Greg Kite(17.7)	Brigham Young <u>NBA Celtics #21</u>
	1979	6'6" -John Simple(16.7)	Navarro JC
	1979	6'0" -Pat Hicks(8.3)	North Texas State
	1980	6'4" -Matt England	L.S.U.

Victoria Stingarees

1970	30-3	#34	Regional Semi	SA Brackenridge	Jack Cook
1971	25-9	#33	Regional Semi	SA Sam Houston 43-78	Jack Cook
1972	29-4	#27			Jack Cook
1973	32-5	#18	Regional Semi	C.C. Carroll	Mike Smith
1974	34-5	#19	Regional Semi	SA Jefferson	Mike Smith
1975	29-7	#47			Mike Smith
1976*	37-4	#2	State Semi	EP Eastwood 67-69 OT	Mike Smith
1977	33-3	#28	Bi-District	Austin Reagan 74-80	Mike Smith
1978					Mike Smith
1979	20-8				Mike Smith

Total (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1971	6'3" -Roy Moore(22.3)	Tyler JC/Angelo State
	1972	6'4" -Steve Cook	Victoria College
	1972	6'0" -Warren Milberger	Victoria College
	1973	6'1" -Mike Ehlers(21.7)	
	1974	6'1" -Maurice Callis(17.6)	Baylor
	1974	6'4" -Keith Brown	Blinn JC
	1976	6'4" -Anthony King(11.0)	
	1976	6'5" -Charles Spurlin(14.0)	S.W. Texas St.
	1977	6'5" -David Hardesty	Baylor
	1979	6'3" -Wayne Sneed(15.6)	S.W. Texas St.

Clear Lake Falcons

1973	28-7	#36			Bill Krueger
1974	34-5	#5	Regional Semi	Houston Worthing 82-83	Bill Krueger
1975	30-5	#11			Bill Krueger
1976*	37-4	#8	Regional Semi	Pt. Arthur Lincoln 60-83	Bill Krueger
1977	35-5	#5	Regional Semi	Houston Wheatley 71-74	Bill Krueger
1978	31-5	#11			Bill Krueger
1979	21-11	#24			Bill Krueger

**Total 213 42 83% (Clear Lake was not open for varsity competition till 1973)
 (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team**

Best-	1973	6'3" -Billy Carlisle	Baylor
	1974	6'3" -David Buchanon	
	1974	-Laddie Naymola	
	1976	6'5" -Warren Sliger(17.5)	Sam Houston St.
	1976	6'4" -Steve Sylvestine(14.5)	Texas A&M
	1977	6'7" -Rex Johnston(21.1)	Baylor

Houston Jones Falcons

1970	24-10	#45			
1971	11-20				
1972					
1973					
1974	16-17				
1975	16-19				
1976*	36-6	#6			Larry Cooper
1977	32-5	#4			Larry Cooper
1978	26-8	#7			Larry Cooper
1979	29-5	#8			Larry Cooper

Total (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1976	6'5" -Byron Jones	Houston
	1976	6'6" -Darnell Ropers	Houston
	1976	-Carl Fields	
	1977	6'1" -Anthony Raglin(24.5)	Houston
	1977	6'4" -Roy Jones(15.0)	Houston Baptist
	1977	5'10"-Ed Williams	
	1979	6'5" -Rickie Thompson(19.0)	U.T.E.P.
	1979	6'5" -Fred Reynolds	U.T.E.P.
	1979	6'4" -Jeff Robertson	U.T.E.P.

Pt. Arthur Lincoln Bumblebees

1970					James Gamble
1971	12-16		Reg. Semis	Wheatley 68-105	James Gamble
1972	25-8	#16	Bi-District	Pollard 69-76	James Gamble
1973	29-5	#3	Regional Finals	Wheatley 73-87	James Gamble
1974*	32-6	#6	Reg. Semis	Kashmere 77-82	James Gamble
1975	29-4	#10	Bi-District	Pollard 51-65	James Gamble
1976	32-5	#7	Regional Finals	Milby 69-75	James Gamble
1977	17-15				James Gamble
1978					James Gamble
1979					James Gamble

Total (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	5'9" -Fred "Pooh" Curby	Jackson State	
	1971	6'2" -Melvin Getwood		
	1972	6'7" -Gregory Martin	Texas Southern	
	1972	6'4" -Willard Thompson	Southern U. N.Orleans	
	1974	6'0" -Kervin Eli	Navarro JC	
	1974	6'7" -Earl Evans(28.3)	U.S.C./U.N.L.V	Draft Pistons #159
	1975	6'4" -Gregory Keller	Stephen F. Austin	
	1976	6'3" -Ronald Trahan	U.T.E.P.	
	1976	6'7" -Thad Sanders(19.6)	Texas Tech	
	1976	6'3" -Eddie Whitley	Kansas St.(Football)	

Beaumont Charlton Pollard

1970	33-6	#15	Regional Semi	Waltrip 60-71	Bob Woodard
1971	33-3	#19	Ineligible		Bob Woodard
1972	22-9	#15	Regional Semi	Wheatley 88-111	Bob Woodard
1973	29-7	#11	Bi-District	PA Lincoln 65-75	James White
1974	25-9	#18	Bi-District	PA Lincoln 78-80	James White
1975	25-9	#15	Regional Semi	Kashmere 68-100	James White
1976	33-6	#20			James White
1977	30-6	#27			James White
1978	22-11	#47	Bi-District	Smiley 47-59	James White
1979*	34-3	#4	Regional Final	H. Madison 58-62	James White

Total **286 -69** **80%**(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	-Joseph Womack	
	1970	6'1" -Don Smith	Southern Cal.(Football)
	1971	5'11"-Sherman Joseph	U.T. Arlington
	1973	6'3" -Vernon Minix(16.1)	Morgan State
	1973	6'1" -Mark Durden	Morgan St.(Football) N.F.L.
	1973	6'0" -Kenneth Minkins(22.6)	Lamar University
	1973	6'2" -Charles Jacko	Lamar University
	1974	6'1" -Norman Bellard(23.9)	Lamar University
	1975	6'7" -Alfred Speights	Stephen F. Austin
	1979	6'7" -Kenneth Perkins(18.0)	Lamar University

San Antonio Fox Tech

1970					
1971	17-12				
1972	25-11	#49	Bi-District	SA Jefferson 57-76	
1973	29-4	#24	Regional Finals	CC Carroll 45-48	Franklin Runnels
1974	22-11	#29	Bi-District	SA Jefferson 47-51	
1975	25-13	#45	Bi-District	SA Jefferson 57-60	
1976	23-15	#48	Reg. Semis	C.C. Moody 61-62	
1977	19-15				
1978*	33-6	#4	State Finals	Wheatley 82-83 OT	Roland Lopez
1979	27-9				

Total (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1973	6'4"	-Walter Kemper	St. Philips, SA
	1973	6'4"	-Clarence Simpson	San Antonio JC
	1975	6'2"	-Bobby Sommers	U.T.E.P./St. Mary's SA
	1977	6'6"	-Derrick Coleman	
	1978	6'3"	-Melvin White(16.2)	
	1978	6'6"	-Billy Summers	
	1978	5'10"	-Willie Randle(14.9)	
	1979	6'3"	-Jay Shakir(18.0)	Baylor

Highland Park Scots

1970	22-9	#41			
1971	29-6	#42			
1972*	37-2	#6	Regional Finals	Midland(33-3) 53-58	Bo Snowden
1973	30-5	#16	Bi-District	Irving(28-5) 80-84	Bo Snowden
1974	26-8	#35			Bo Snowden
1975	29-7	#44			Bo Snowden
1976	27-9				Bo Snowden
1977	19-11				Bo Snowden
1978	27-4	#24			Bo Snowden
1979	23-9	#43			Bo Snowden

Total 268-71 79%(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1971	6'0"	-Bowman Williams		
	1971	6'3"	-John Fry		
	1972	6'7"	-David Kimmell(21.0)	Sam Houston St.	
	1972	6'4"	-David DeLatour(17.6)	Texas	
	1972	6'0"	-Max McGee	Texas Tech	
	1972	6'6"	-Neil Lemmon(17.0)	Texas Tech	
	1973	6'3"	-Bob Arnold(23.2)	S.M.U.	
	1975	6'8"	-Tom Somerville	S.M.U.	
	1975	6'2"	-Ronnie Thompson	Richland JC	
	1977	6'3"	-Kyle Dodd(18.0)	Oklahoma	
	1978	6'0"	-Billy Allen(25.0)	S.M.U./Reno	Drafted Mavs #125

Spring Branch Memorial Mustangs

1970*	37-4	#6	Regional Final	Thomas Jefferson 55-59	Don Coleman
1971	24-10	#28	3rd in District		Don Coleman
1972	20-12	#30	2nd in District		Don Coleman
1973	25-7	#31	2nd in District		Don Coleman
1974	22-9	#46	2nd in District		Don Coleman
1975	26-9	#48	3rd in District		Don Coleman
1976	24-10	#44	3rd in District		Don Coleman
1977	20-16				Don Coleman
1978	22-12		2nd in District		Don Coleman
1979	27-9	#25			Don Coleman
Total	247-98	71%	(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team		

Best-	1970	6'7" -Randy Younglin(21.6)	Rice
	1970	6'7" -Bergt Bengston	
	1971	6'5" -Mark Stewart	
	1971	6'2" -Pat McClellan	Texas
	1976	6'5" -Steve Kruger	
	1977	6'5" -Craig Carter	
	1979	6'7" -Cory Van Arsdale	
	1979	6'3" -Ed Young	

Houston Westchester

1970					
1971	25-13	#39			
1972	27-7				
1973					
1974*	29-4	#4	Bi-District	Corsicana 57-61	
1975	23-9	#46			
1976	25-11	#46			
1977	32-10	#8	State Semi-Finals	Ft. W. Dunbar 68-74	Bob Latham
1978	23-12				Bob Latham
1979	21-12	#41			Bob Latham
Total			(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team		

Best-	1974	6'8" -Jeff Swanson(20.0)	S.M.U.
	1974	6'5" -Dirk Hoyt	T.C.U.
	1978	6'6" -Joe Costello(13.2)	L.S.U.
	1977	6'3" -Eric Buescher	
	1978	6'3" -Mike Klorer	

Bryan Vikings

1970	11-16				
1971	18-10				
1972	25-7	#39			
1973	26-5	#5	Bi-District	Spring Branch 42-44	Bob Perry
1974	15-15				Bob Perry
1975	21-14				Bob Perry
1976*	31-3	#4	Reg. Semis	Tyler John Tyler 83-89	Bob Perry
1977	23-7	#20	Reg. Semis	Tyler Lee 48-60	Bob Perry
1978	21-9	#27	District Playoff	Cypress-Fairbanks	Bob Perry
1979	11	18			

Total 202-104 66% (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1971	6'5"	-Glenn Barrett(17.8)	Blinn JC	
	1972		-Clyde Miller(13.5)		
	1973	6'4"	-Joe Buchanon(20.7)	Navarro JC	
	1973	6'1"	-Milton Mitchell(15.4)	T.C.U.(Track)	
	1976	6'2"	-Gerald Carter(18.9)	Texas A&M, N.F.L.	
	1976	6'6"	-Bryan Barrett	Texas A&M	
	1976	6'1"	-Curtis Dickey	Texas A&M, N.F.L.	
	1978	6'11"	-Rudy Woods(25.0)	Texas A&M	Drafted Mavs #73

Corsicana Tigers

1970	30-3	#6	Zone Playoff	Wax. 43-46(AAA)	Jerry Matthews
1971	31-8	#20	Bi-District	Cyp.-Fair. 52-64	Jerry Matthews
1972	26-5	#34			Jerry Matthews
1973	22-6	#13			Jerry Matthews
1974*	34-1	#3	Regional Finals	S.O.C. 64-86	Jerry Matthews
1975	21-8	#20	Bi-District	SB Memorial 47-60	Jerry Matthews
1976	13-14				Jerry Matthews
1977	18-13		{had to forfeit 15 games, ineligible player}		Jerry Matthews
1978					
1979	12-15				

Total (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	6'6"	Jeff Smith(17.6)		
	1971	6'3"	Kim Wyatt	Navarro JC	
	1971	6'2"	Henry Bowie	Navarro JC	
	1972	6'5"	Lynn Walter	North Texas St.	
	1974	6'3"	Ricky Purdy(20.4)	Navarro JC	
	1974	6'4"	Donnie Chambers(22.1)	Navarro JC	
	1974	5'11"	Raymond Hall(10.1)	Navarro JC	
	1976		Tim Wolf		

Houston Washington

1970	21-10	#44			C. Stubblefield
1971	17-8				C. Stubblefield
1972*	31-7	#7	Bi-District	Wheatley 88-91	C. Stubblefield
1973	24-10	#49			
1974	15-11				
1975	7-17				
1976	11-15				
1977	26-5	#19	Bi-District	Wheatley 64-77	
1978	22-10	#46			
1979	26-5	#30			

Total 200-98 67% (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	-Rudy Collins		
	1972	6'5" -David Daniels		
	1972	6'5" -Jeff Downing		
	1972	-Oscar Ross		
	1972	6'6" -Marvin Jackson		
	1977	6'7" -Leonard Washington(22.0/15.0)Houston		N.F.L. Eagles
	1977	6'4" -Richard Parker		
	1977	6'4" -Greg Daniels		
	1978	6'2" -Leonard Van During		
	1979	6'7" -Tim Garrett		
	1979	6'3" -Darrell Brown		

Lubbock Monterey

1970*	28-6	#22	Bi-District	Abilene 60-62 OT	Joe Michalka
1971	24-7	#37			Joe Michalka
1972	22-6	#32			Joe Michalka
1973	24-10	#32	Regional Semi	Irving 42-60	Joe Michalka
1974	23-11	#31	Regional Semi	E.P. Eastwood 38-49	Joe Michalka
1975	22-10	#27	Regional Semi	Midland Lee 51-62 OT	Joe Michalka
1976	19-12				Joe Michalka
1977	15-15				Joe Michalka
1978	19-12		Bi-District	Amarillo 48-54	
1979*	24-4	#29	Regional Semi	E.P. Coronado 43-58	

Total 220-93 70% (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	6'3" -Don Moore(17.0)	Texas Tech	
	1970	6'1" -Joe May		
	1970	6'4" -Mike Davis	Texas Tech	
	1971	6'1" -David Thetford		
	1972	6'5" -Grady Newton(22.0)	Texas Tech	
	1972	6'6" -Dan Irons		
	1973	5'9" -Kevin Taylor		
	1974	6'7" -J.C. Eakin		
	1974	6'4" -Jackson Pace		
	1975	6'6" -Dick Clardy		
	1979	6'6" -Craig Ehlo	Washington State	<u>NBA Rockets #48</u>

Richardson Eagles

1970	26-6	#23			Jerry Stone
1971	29-9	#32	Bi-District	Marshall 55-64	Jerry Stone
1972	24-8	#44			Jerry Stone
1973*	25-10	#27	Regional Semi	Sp. Branch 48-58	Jerry Stone
1974	20-12				Ken Norman
1975	22-7	#41			Ken Norman
1976	26-10	#26	Bi-District	Arl. Sam H. 70-75	Ken Norman
1977	28-7	#36	Bi-District	Tyler Lee 63-75	Ken Norman
1978	23-11				Ken Norman
1979	15-17				Ken Norman

Total 248-97 72%(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	5'11" -Mark LaCroix(19.0)	
	1971	6'1" -Rick Penny(21.5)	McMurray College
	1973	6'3" -Pete Lodwik(16.0)	S.M.U.
	1973	6'6" -Steve Young(19.0)	
	1974	6'7" -Bob Hoebeke(19.7)	U.T.A./ Trinity SA
	1975	6'7" -Bryan Holland(21.0)	Texas A&M
	1976	6'0" -Lance Jagmin(12.7)	
	1977	6'1" -Kelly Newsome(13.0)	
	1977	6'4" -Ken Ord(18.0)	
	1979	6'4" -Paul McKimmey(24.0)	Texas Tech/San Diego St

Ft. Worth Paschal

1970	11-11			Charlie Turner
1971	13-11			Charlie Turner
1972	12-10			Jim Wall
1973	17-11			Jim Wall
1974	21-7	#37		Jim Wall
1975*	32-3	#2	State Finals	Kashmere 58-60
1976	21-13			Jim Wall
1977	23-7			Jim Wall
1978	26-6	#12		Jim Wall
1979	26-8	#17		Jim Wall

Total 202-87 70%(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best	1971	-Kevin Kilpatrick(20.2)	
	1972	6'6" -Mark Wible(17.9)	West Texas St.
	1974	6'0" -Joe Billingsly(12.2)	
	1974	6'5" -Johnny George(17.6)	Tyler J.C.
	1975	6'4" -John Schlicher(19.3)	Texas A&M
	1975	6'8" -Wendall Mays(20.7)	Texas
	1975	6'4" -Gerald Battey	Nesho/East Texas St.
	1975	6'1" -Bruce Baird(13.0)	Navarro JC/Texas A&M
	1979	6'2" -Reginald Robinson	
	1979	6'5" -Greg Shropshire	Virginia Commonwealth

Arlington Colts

1970	13-17				Dale Archer
1971	24-13	#41	Bi-District	Garland 74-77 OT	Dale Archer
1972	23-12				Dale Archer
1973	22-11				Dale Archer
1974	23-8	#39	Bi-District	Denton 42-62	Dale Archer
1975	27-11	#39	Bi-District	N. Mesquite 47-52	Dale Archer
1976	27-8	#32			Dale Archer
1977*	31-3	#6	Bi-District	FW Dunbar 79-97	Dale Archer
1978	25-8	#41	Bi-District	FW Dunbar 55-67	Dale Archer
<u>1979</u>	<u>19-13</u>				

Total 234-104 69% (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1971	6'3" -Bill Kendrick(21.6)		
	1971	6'1" -Bob Smith		
	1974	6'8" -Craig Bishop		
	1975	6'10" -Allen Windor(19.6)	Houston/U.T. Arlington	
	1975	6'9" -Bob Rudolph	Texas Tech	
	1977	6'4" -Allen Roberts(15.0)		
	1977	6'7" -Ralph McPhearson(25.0)	Texas Tech/U.T.A.	Draft Mavs#188
	1978	5'11" -Bill Yates(10.0)		
	1978	6'6" -Eddie McClellan(17.0)		
	1979	6'5" -Ernest Williams(15.0)		

1975 AAA

Lamesa was relentless in West Texas basketball with a awesome basketball program. In 1970 they reached the State Finals, in 1971 they lost in the Regional Finals to Dumas, the eventual state champion. In 1972 Lamesa had a second-place finish in District to Snyder who advanced to the regional finals. In 1973 Lamesa made the State finals, and in 1974 they were upset by Andrews in the Regional finals. Coach O.W. Follis was back in 1975 with his best team yet, although in the pre-season that didn't look to be case. Lamesa was picked fourth in the pre-season polls behind, Snyder, Lubbock Dunbar and Lubbock Estacado. Coach Follis returned three starters, but had lost four-year starter 6'4" Kent McCurley inside. That was a big blow replacing his size and strength of McCurley. The starting five was made up of all seniors. Of the five starters only Bo Robinson had been a starter in junior high. So, all these players were products of the Coach Follis system, team play, and sharing the basketball. The Golden Tornadoes were paced by a well-balanced attack with no super stars, 6'3" Jim Vaszauskas(14.8/9.0), 6'4" Bill Meeks(12.6/8.0), 6'2" Bo Robinson(8.8/ 8.0 assists), 5'11" Eddie Spencer(15.7), and 5'6" Dennis Fleming(10.7). Meeks and Robinson operated mostly on the inside and Vaszauskas played inside or outside. Coach Follis called Spencer the best jumper he had ever coached for his size and called Vaszauskas his most dedicated player. Vaszauskas played at Angelo St. before moving on to play at Baylor. Spencer played at Lubbock Christian, Robinson went on the N.F.L., Meeks played a year at a small school in Colorado called, Gunnison. Meeks had perfected the seldom used hook shot which made him very difficult to guard in the post area.

Lamesa(34-0) entered the playoffs undefeated and in their first playoff game, the Brownwood Lions would be a sacrificial lamb for the Tornadoes. The Lions Coach, Steve Boothe commented before the contest, "It's really tough to catch an undefeated team in the first round. They are so sound defensively that they really scare you. They really force most teams to make a lot of mistakes and we can't afford any." Brownwood entered the game after finishing 14-15 in the regular season. The Lions had been forced to play a District playoff game to enter the state playoffs. Brownwood beat Weatherford 52-45 to advance.

The Brownwood-Lamesa game was a mismatch as Lamesa thumped the Lions 59-42. Brownwood only hit 29% from the floor and only stayed close from the foul line shooting 16 of 21. Vaszauskas was high point man with 18 and Spencer finished with 15 for Lamesa. Sammy Harrell of Brownwood was top dog for the Lions with only 12 points. Coach Follis was not happy after the game, "That was a really a sorry showing."

Lamesa faced in regionals the winner of the Levelland(23-7) and Odessa Ector(24-6) contest. Both Levelland and Ector had outstanding programs, so who

ever won would be a big challenge for the Tornados. The Lobos of Levelland won a high scoring affair 90-86 to advance to regional. Garry Morgan led Levelland with 29 points while James Butler hit 28 for Ector. Levelland and Lamesa would go at it again, this time for the right to go to Austin. The Lobos were a little leery because they had been completely outclassed in the two team's first meeting of the season 81-53. Levelland knew they would have to play much better to have a chance against Lamesa.

The Golden Tornados had to overcome a 13-point deficit to win 68-59. Levelland jumped out to a 17-4 lead with 3:26 left in the 1st period, but spent the rest of the contest hanging on. By halftime Lamesa had taken the lead 38-33. Dennis Fleming of Lamesa, their 5'6" hustling guard, picked up his 4th foul in the 2nd quarter and had to sit most of the 2nd and 3rd quarters. He re-entered the game in the 4th quarter and added 10 more points and finished with game high 24 points. Spencer was next in scoring with 18 points and Vaszauskas had 16. Garry Morgan, a 6'5" post, once again led Levelland with 21 points.

In the 1960s and 1970s the Dallas- Ft. Worth area was growing at an alarming pace. Grand Prairie, located in between Dallas and Ft. Worth, had seen tremendous growth. By 1969 Grand Prairie opened a new high school called South Grand Prairie. The new school picked the Warriors as their mascot and were instantly successful in baseball winning the 6-AAA championship in their first season of competition. Basketball took a little longer, but by 1975 they had arrived in the sport of round ball as well. They were a predominately white team with two African American players on the squad. The Head basketball coach was Pete Thompson who had been an assistant at Grand Prairie High. His coaching staff was impressive during the 1970s. His assistant coach in 1974 was Stan Hicks, who would go on to fame at Grand Prairie High School and Plano High. His freshmen coach was Danny Husband. Husband went on to success at Arlington Martin in the 1980s and 1990s. Joe Rushing, of Lancaster fame, was the freshmen coach under Thompson.

Thompson was a no sense coach who demanded discipline. "He coached out of fear but we knew he cared about us," one of his players commented. The key player on the 1975 Warriors was a junior guard named, Phil Hale. Hale(15.6) stood 6'3" and had tremendous quickness. His first step was amazing. Although he was a solid scorer, his ability to handle the ball was what really made him valuable. Baseball was his best sport as he lead his team to state in baseball twice during his high school career. Hale was a shortstop and pitcher. The Warriors had a balanced lineup made up of 6'4" Albert Adams(17.3), who was very strong inside and the team's leading rebounder. 5'10" David Garner(12.1), 6'1" David Kahle(8.6) and 5'11" Jeff Salyer added a great deal of depth to the team. Adams would later play at Dallas Baptist, Garner went into the military and Kahle took his talents to Texas Lutheran. A key player that came off the bench was 6'2" Harold Wilson(9.4). On

the 6-AAA All-District squad, Hale was named District M.V.P., Adams was named to the first team and Garner and Wilson made the second team.

During the regular season South Grand Prairie was pretty much untested till they took on Lake Highlands(22-9), a strong class 4-A team. It did not go well for the Warriors as they lost 76-58. Another early season loss came at the hands of Wilmer Hutchins 71-66. S.G.P. showed their class at the state level with back to back wins against Waco University(24-8) 80-67 and Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt(25-8) 81-78. Both were 4-A teams, ranked in the top twenty in the state. Wyatt would advance to the state playoffs and ended up losing in Bi-District to Ft. Worth Paschal. Another strong showing for the Warriors of things to come was the warm-up game with 4-A North Mesquite. The class 4-A regional semi-finalist lost to S.G.P. 61-57. These were three quality wins for S.G.P. The Stallions of North Mesquite were led by 5'11" Mark Davis, one of the top guards in the state. Interesting side note is that Davis and Hale would play together at S.M.U. In District 6-AAA the Warriors were never really challenged. They dominated the entire District. The only close game was a 62-58 win over Richardson Berkner late in the season. The rest of the games were all 20 or 30 point blowouts.

Bi-District matched S.G.P. against a traditional basketball power, Everman(25-3). The two teams met at Euless Trinity High School in Hurst. The Warriors pulled out an ugly victory 59-52. "I don't ever recall a start like that," a relieved Pete Thompson said after the game. "They were as bad as we were." A shootout between Hale and Larry Kemp of Everman evolved as S.G.P. led at the end of three quarters 45-42. 6'5" Paul Renfro picked up his fifth foul for Everman in the fourth quarter and from that point on Everman was unable to slow down Adams inside. With 1:41 remaining, the Warriors went into a stall and won it by seven points. Hale finished with 17 points and 15 rebounds, Garner had 11 points and 8 rebounds, Salyer finished with 10 points and 9 rebounds and Adams had 10 rebounds. Kemp led Everman's stats sheet with 22 points and Ricky Peets had a nice evening with 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Waco Jefferson Moore(21-10) awaited S.G.P. in regionals. The game was played in Corsicana at Navarro J.C. The Lions of Jefferson-Moore had defeated Clarksville in Bi-District action 49-45 in Tyler. Clarksville(25-5) had won a District 7-AAA playoff game against Daingerfield(22-4) 57-49 to advance against Jefferson-Moore. For the Lions of Jefferson Moore it was their third straight regional appearance after going to state in 1973. Moore was a very physical and athletic team that liked to put a lot of full court pressure on their opponents. In the regional game the Lions started out pressing the Warriors and took an 8-point lead. S.G.P. turned the ball over 8 times. Moore soon got into foul trouble and by halftime S.G.P. was up 35-32. With 1:55 remaining in the game, Hale picked up his fourth foul and the Warriors lead vanished. S.G.P. went into a stall and pulled the game out 73-69. Salyer was clutch down the stretch with 23 points and 10

rebounds. For Waco Moore, Darrell King finished with 16 points and Larry Mayes tallied 11 rebounds. S.G.P. out rebounded Moore 41-39, but had 19 turnovers to Moore's 10. "I've got to be proud of these kids because they had to overcome the odds to win this one," Coach Thompson explained. "Moore was really a good team." Jefferson Moore was led by Coach Jack Schrader.

Down south, Silsbee has always had one of the top teams in Region III. For the 6th time in seven years, Coach Dan Montgomery had his team in the playoffs. Supporting a 27-7 record the Tigers were faced with a playoff game against the west zone winner of District 10-AAA, Cleveland(21-5). The Tigers starters included 6'2" Michael Dabney(23.2), 6'1" Anthony Brown(14.5), 5'9" Larry Taylor, 5'10" Artie Shankle and 5'10" Derek Shelton. Dabney was named All-State and District M.V.P. and Brown was named first team All-District. Taylor made the second team. In the showdown between zone winners, Cleveland and Silsbee went at it for the third time during the 1975 campaign for all the marbles. Silsbee had won both of the previous meetings. The Tigers were not so fortunate this time losing 74-72. Silsbee let the game get away from them after leading by six points with 1:46 remaining in the contest. It was the second year in a row Silsbee would lose after seemingly having control of the zone playoff game. Dabney did his part scoring 32 points and for Cleveland, Clyde Woods and Roland Reed both managed 19 points apiece. After the loss, Coach Montgomery said, "We just took a shot we never should have taken. Losing like this sure takes the glitter off winning 19 straight." In the '74 zone playoffs Silsbee had been up 17 points going into the final quarter and lost to Crosby 66-65. District 10-AAA was very competitive in 1975 with Little Cypress-Mauriceville(24-6) having a strong team and West Orange-Stark finished 16-11. Cleveland had defeated Kilgore 68-54 in Bi-District to advance to regionals.

In the regional finals Rockdale awaited Cleveland to see who would advance to the big dance. Rockdale had to get out of its on-zone playoff against North Zone winner, Belton. With the 12-AAA title at stake and the score tied 44 all, Danny Randall of Rockdale drove to the basket, but was called for charging. Belton took possession and missed at the buzzer putting the game into overtime. 6'4" Mac Lingo of Belton dominated the backboards and smothered the Tigers twin post attack. 6'2" Ray Locklin of Rockdale was held to only 9 points but Parker Peebles managed to score 20 points. Belton lost Lingo to fouls and Rockdale lost Locklin, also in the fourth quarter. Rockdale went on to win their second straight District title 51-48 over Belton. Brian Sweeney and Johnny Faulk were the leading scorers for Belton.

In Bi-District Rockdale took on Tomball at Stephen F. Austin in Bryan. Rockdale got off to a very fast start leading 10-0 at the end of the first quarter. Tomball was pressing, which hurt the Tigers and lefty, Mike Edwards began to bring Tomball back. Mid-way through the fourth quarter Rockdale still led 41-30 when Edwards hit 4 consecutive jumpers to bring the score to 46-40. The closest

Tomball could get was the three points disadvantage of the final score 49-46, in favor of Rockdale. Edward finished with 25 points, and kept his team in the game throughout while Locklin managed 22 points to lead the Tigers.

The stage was set for Rockdale(33-6) and Cleveland(22-6) in the regional finals. The Indians 6'6" post Ernie Rogers had a big impact on the games interior play. 6'2" Ray Locklin, the inside force for Rockdale, was bothered early in the contest with the size of Rogers, but finished the game with 26 points. The Indians sharpshooter, Clyde Woods went off for 18 points with bombs from long range. Rogers finished with 14 points, Roland Reed added 13, and Richard Brown had 10. The balance of the Indians was too much for Rockdale, who lost for the second season in a row in the regional finals 62-54. Cleveland took a commanding lead 50-35 and led throughout. Rockdale really had nobody to blame but themselves hitting only 6-23 from the foul line. Cleveland shot 70% from the foul line, hitting 14 of 20. Rockdale finished the season 33-7.

At state in the semi-finals, S.G.P. drew Rice Consolidated-Altair. The game was very close in the first half with the Warriors leading 27-26 at halftime. In the second half, Hale began to take over the game, penetrating and going one on one. He put his team in the lead 48-42 at the end of three quarters. Hale had 11 points in the 3rd quarter alone. S.G.P. was up by as many as 19 points in the 4th quarter and went on to win 70-57. Rice Consolidated-Altair turned the ball over 23 times which led to 20 Warrior points. S.G.P. only had 12 turnovers. The Warriors led in rebounding 49-46 and Hale finished with 23 points and 13 rebounds, while Garner added 13 points and Wilson had 12. Don Austin was high man for the Raiders with 18 points and Darrell Dancy had 11. "Phil Hale did a tremendous job and Wilson and Rutter came off the bench to really help again," Thompson said after the game. Raider coach, Jack Grammer said following the loss, "S.G.P. has to be the quickest team we've played this year. Hale is a good shooter, but he's probably more valuable as a passer. He's real smart and seems to know what's going on all the time. Otherwise, we just got out-played. We quit running and moving the ball."

In the other semi-finals game, Lamesa caught a stubborn Cleveland team that evidently had not been reading all the press clippings about how great Lamesa was supposed to be. Cleveland(23-6) was very solid with 6'3" Roland Reed(23.0), 6'4" Richard Brown(18.0), 6'6" Ernie Rogers(16.0) and 6'1" Clyde Woods(17.0). That's four players scoring in not only double figures, but high double figures. Cleveland was a tough team to play against because of their balanced scoring attack. Lamesa came from behind to advance to the state finals with a 64-58 victory. The Indians really put a scare into Lamesa taking an early lead, and led at halftime 34-24. Cleveland finally went cold in the third quarter and were outscored by Lamesa 21 to 10. Spencer led the Tornadoes with 22 points and Meeks followed with 21. Richard Brown was top man for Cleveland with 18 points, Clyde Woods 12, Roland Reed 12 and Ernie Rogers with 14. "I feel fortunate that we won that

one," Coach Follis said. Cleveland had played a much tougher schedule than Lamesa during the season losing to Silsbee 71-61 and 70-61, Beaumont Pollard(24-9) 92-67, and Lufkin 69-64. Once the Indians began playing just 3-A teams and got into District action, it was lights out with 17 straight victories.

So, the state finalists were set, undefeated Lamesa against South Grand Prairie. Five points was the closest anybody had come to the Tornadoes all season, and that was Odessa Ector in the fifth game of the season. Ector lost to Lamesa 49-44. In analyzing the game, S.G.P. was the most talented team Lamesa had faced all season and Hale was the best player they had went up against. In talking with Jim Vaszauskas recently, he shared some of his thoughts about the season. "We were a very close knit team, I still talk with my former teammates once a month," Vaszauskas said. When asked about Phil Hale of South Grand Prairie, Vaszauskas responded, "Amazing player, who could do it all, good player." When asked if Hale was the best player that Lamesa had faced all season, Vaszauskas answered, "No, we had some real strong players in our District like Tommy Williams and Lewis Robertson, they just weren't surrounded by outstanding teammates like Hale." The Championship game was a great match-up. Although many people favored Lamesa, the game in reality was probably a toss-up.

The championship game was very close in the first half with Lamesa leading at halftime 30-28. S.G.P. had a terrible third period, turning the ball over 7 times and Lamesa hit 8 straight points at the start of the period to build a lead of 10 points. At the end of three, it was Lamesa 44, S.G.P 36. Lamesa went to the line 16 times in the fourth quarter and hit 9 foul shots. The Golden Tornadoes went on to win 59-55 and became the first school in state history to win three class AAA titles. S.G.P. had 24 turnovers to 19 for Lamesa. S.G.P. made 5 of 9 from the foul line and Lamesa made 19 of 29. On the boards, S.G.P. had the edge 36-29. Hale finished with 21 points, Salyer had 12 and Wilson put in 10 points. Albert Adams did what he did well and that was rebound, he had 14. As always, Lamesa's scoring was really spread out with 5'6" Dennis Fleming hitting 13 points, Robinson 12 and Spencer with 12. Coach Thompson commented later, "Free throws got us every time. It seemed like every time I looked up they were on the line." Coach Follis said after the victory, "After seeing S.G.P. Friday night, I knew they would be tough. They're well coached and play good basketball. We got control when we finally started penetrating." Vaszauskas summed things up pretty well following the championship, "There's not one super star on the team.",

A little-known member of the S.G.P. roster in 1975 was a 6'3", 165-pound senior, who saw very little playing time. His name was Brad Chasteen. Brad would become an outstanding coach at Coppell High school and Waco Midway. He established a fine program in one of the most affluent areas in the Dallas Metroplex. Chasteen took Coppell to the state tournament in Austin late in his career. He later became very successful coaching AAU or club basketball. He was and still is

well respected among his peers. Coach Chasteen was asked to compare two of the top guards of the era, Phil Hale and John Schlicher of Paschal. Both players were in Austin in 1975 and both would be highly recruited players from all over the state. Chasteen said, "They were two of the best you ever wanted to see, they could really play." "Comparing the two would be tough but I would say Schlicher was probably a little better finisher and a little stronger, while Hale was a better ball handler and passer." Chasteen added, "Be sure Jim Wall doesn't see this, he'll be mad at me." Wall, the former Ft. Worth Paschal coach, of course coached Schlicher. Chasteen also coached Wall's son the year Coppell advanced to state.

A quick recap of Phil Hales career shows his relationship with his father was the reason he attended S.M.U. Hale was probably better at baseball but he choose basketball. He later went on to have a fine coaching career at Lancaster with Joe Rushing and later as the head girls coach for the Tigers. Hale was one of the top recruits in the state during the '76 season.

All-Tournament team- Eddie Spencer, Dennis Fleming and Brian Meeks of Lamesa, Phil Hale of S.G.P., 6'4" Richard Brown of Cleveland and 5'11" Don Austin of Rice Consolidated.

Sports Writers All-State 1st team- 6'1" Tommy Williams(19.1), Lubbock Dunbar; 6'0" Eddie Spencer(16.5), Lamesa; 6'2" Anthony Sanders(27.0/25.0), Clarksville; 6'2" Lewis Roberson of Brownfield; 6'4" Jim Vaszauskas(15.5/12.5) of Lamesa; **2nd Team-** 6'1" Fred Skins of Palestine, 5'11" Stan Warren of Del Valle, 6'3" Richard Brown(18.0) of Cleveland, 6'3" Michael Dabney(23.2) of Silsbee, 6'5" Vanczant Driver of Taft; **3^d Team-** 6'4" Sidney Davis of Lubbock Dunbar; 6'1" Anthony Brown(14.5) of Silsbee, 6'0" Don Alley of Waco Jefferson-Moore, 6'4" Albert Adams of South Grand Prairie, 6'4" William Smith of Daingerfield:

The obvious omission is the best player in class AAA basketball in 1975, junior guard, Phil Hale of South Grand Prairie. The Sports Writers voted Adams on the All-State team but not Hale? How does that happen? Hale being left off the team makes the whole team look very questionable, as to how they were selected. Amazingly, four of the five players on the first team all came from same District. Lubbock Dunbar, Brownfield and Lamesa were all from the same District. This was very disappointing to followers around the state.

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1975 AAA Top Ten}

1. Lamesa	34-0	{numbers were staggering +22.7 point difference}
2. South Grand Prairie	29-6	{state finalist led by Hale}
3. Cleveland	23-6	{had Lamesa down early in the semis}
4. Silsbee	25-8	{lost to Cleveland in the zone playoff game 74-72}
5. Waco Jefferson-Moore	21-10	{three straight years in the regional finals}
6. Levelland	24-8	{eliminated by Lamesa in the regional finals 68-59}
7. Odessa Ector	24-7	{lost in Bi-District to Levelland 90-86}
8. Everman	25-4	{lost in Bi-District to S.G.P. 58-52}
9. Rockdale	33-7	{regional finalist losing to Cleveland}

1976 AAA

The TABC final top twenty rankings had South Grand Prairie at #1 with a 30-1 record in 1976. Samuel Clemens, out of San Antonio, was second at 31-2. Longview Pine Tree was next at 24-2, Rockdale 4th at 31-6, 5th Gonzales at 28-3, 6th Waxahachie 26-6, 7th Hitchcock 27-5, 8th Daingerfield, 9th West Oso 28-5 and 10th Snyder. S.G.P. had made the state finals the year before and had unquestionably the best player in the state in class AAA and maybe any classification, Phil Hale. He was a big guard with tremendous vision. I remember watching Hale play and the thing that caught my eye was his quickness. He was a special player. Other teams that had to be closely watched were Pine Tree. The team out of Longview had won-state in 1973. Gonzales, the 1974 state champion, once again had a very good team. Silsbee, ranked 11th in the state, was always going to be tough. Odessa Ector and Lamesa, two mainstays in the playoffs, were not ranked in the state's final top twenty. Did the pollsters of the TABC follow high school basketball or just guess? The thing you have to keep in mind, to be relevant, the rankings had to be fair. In most cases, especially in the smaller classifications, fair was not good. Sometimes one region had all the best teams competing against one another.

The Warriors of S.G.P.(29-1) came into the 1976 playoffs as possibly the strongest AAA team of the 1970s up to that point. Undefeated Lamesa in 1975 and Levelland in 1973 were about the only other teams that entered the playoffs with this strong a resume and fanfare. Warriors Coach, Pete Thompson, wanted a warm-up game before moving into the playoffs. He looked long and hard and came up with the District 11-AAAA champion, Dallas Samuel(26-8). The Spartans were coached by Doug Scott, who would be at the helm of the East Dallas school for next 25 years. The two teams met at Haltom's Birdville Coliseum. Hale was his usual awesome self scoring 30 points on 11-19 shooting and 8-8 from the foul line. He also picked up 10 rebounds, as the Warriors moved their record to 30-1 with a 74-61 victory. David Kahle added 15 points for the Warriors. Coach Scott had several comments about Hale after the game. Scott compared him to some of the top players in Dallas. "Phil Hale is the best guard in Dallas. He is an outstanding shooter, passer and defender." "S.G.P. is a good team, but I would have to rate two or three teams in Dallas as better. A team like S.O.C. is just too big and strong for them. Of course, S.O.C. has a few more people to pick from," Scott said. 6'6" Warrior post, Mike Rutter sat out most of the game because of illness.

In Bi-District, S.G.P. again had to face Everman(24-4) for the second year in a row. Everman was ranked #18 in the final state rankings and they defeated #17 Burleson to make the playoffs 77-48. Everman's only returning starter was 6'7" Paul Renfro(22.0). Filling out the Bulldog lineup were 6'4" Jeff Crabough, 5'8" Brent Hollingsworth, 5'8" Al Primm, 5'9" Jeff Park and subs, 6'4" Jay Robinson and 6'4"

Mike Campbell. The Warriors of Coach Pete Thompson countered with 6'6" Mike Rutter, 6'4" Albert Adams(15.6), 6'3" Phil Hale(22.6), 6'1" David Kahle and 5'10" Phil Williams. "To win we're going to have to slow down Renfro, he's the offensive core of their team. He's not a good jumper, but he is an excellent shooter. We won't put two guys on him, but we may be helping out as much as we can," Coach Thompson said. Everman's coach was John Nichols, who commented about Hale, "Hale leads them down the court it would take a battalion to stop him. He is tall and can see the court well and he's a good passer. We're not naive, we think he's the best player in the state. He's the one that makes them #1 and even without him they would be a pretty good team."

The game between S.G.P. and Everman was a wild one with three starters fouling out, Kahle, Hale and Rutter. Hale had four offensive fouls. James Wilson of S.G.P. missed a long jump shot at the buzzer at the end of regulation with the score tied 58-58. Sub Gary Whitley was the hero of the evening hitting the winning basket for the Warriors in overtime to give them the win 64-62. Whitley was immediately mobbed by his teammates and fans. Hale finished with 27 points and Adams hit 10 points and 9 rebounds. Renfro had a great game in the loss finishing with 30 points and 11 rebounds. The Bulldogs had won the battle of the boards 30-24.

Waxahachie(29-7) defeated Daingerfield out of East Texas 53-44 to advance to regionals against South Grand Prairie. Waxahachie had defeated Waco Jefferson Moore 87-39 to capture the 5-AAA District title in the zone playoff. The Warriors(31-1) and the Indians of Waxahachie had met earlier in the season in the finals of the Waxahachie tournament with S.G.P. winning 67-63. Waxahachie had lost to Sherman 56-49, Waco High 72-64, S.G.P., Everman(24-5) 72-69, Abilene Cooper 60-51 and Abilene High 68-67. Since the Abilene loss, the Indians had rattled off 19 straight. S.G.P.'s only loss was to Lake Highlands(9-22) 64-62. The regional showdown was played at Loos Fieldhouse in Carrollton. Waxahachie had hired a new coach in 1974. His name was Jack Aldridge and his job was to turn around the program. After two strong seasons in 1970 and 1971 the Indians had been in a decline. The green and white were back in 1976.

With 5:40 remaining in the game, S.G.P. was ahead 50-48, and the Indians scored seven straight points to take a 55-51 lead with 3 minutes to play. 6'5" Norvell Brown put Waxahachie ahead 57-53. Although Hale missed a shot late that could have tied the game, he was a one-man show finishing with 30 points in the 61-57 loss. Hale was hitting all types of shots and was the only Warrior in double figures. For Waxahachie, Chris Reagor finished with 11 points, Norvell Brown had 22 and Darrell Wilson finished with 18 points. S.G.P. led at the half 32-27 and at the end of three quarters 46-42. Waxahachie owned the 4th quarter outscoring the Warriors 19-11. The loss sent shock waves all over the state with the top ranked team being eliminated from the playoffs. But anybody that knew anything was well

aware it was a mild upset because Waxahachie had a strong team with an outstanding program. Every year the Indians were going to have a strong squad. The community demanded it because of their tradition.

In reflecting back on S.G.P.'s season and how tough they really were, under closer inspection you realize they only played 10 teams with winning records. The Warriors District competition was really weak in 1976 with Gainesville(16-9) and Richardson Berkner(21-9) the only teams with winning records. Lake Highlands had a losing record and beat the Warriors for the team's only loss. Regardless, anytime you have a player of the quality of Phil Hale and such a fine supporting cast, you are going to be well respected. On the 6-AAA All-District team, Hale was named M.V.P., Adams made 1st team, Kahle(9.0) and Rutter(8.0) were named to the 2nd team. 6'6" Rutter went on to play college ball at Lamar University in Beaumont.

Out west, Odessa Ector defeated Canyon(26-7) in Bi-District 48-41. Coach B.B. Kendrick of Canyon was real disappointed following his team's loss. "We just didn't play the type of ball game we've played all year," said Kendrick. "We played real poor." Canyon did a great job on defense holding Ector 20 points below their scoring average. They also limited their leading scorer, 5'8" Dwight Randolph to only 6 points, 19 below his average. But in the end, it wasn't enough. Offensively Canyon's big guns had trouble. Hoss Ratliff got into foul trouble and was lost in the 3rd quarter. Mike Flynn could not find the basket. 6'4" John Johnson ended up with a strong evening scoring 23 points and 12 rebounds. Unfortunately for Coach Kendrick, Johnson was the only player in double figures. Kendrick indicated that his team was somewhat intimidated by Ector's speed. "No excuses, they have a good ball club but I feel we had the better team." Ector's speed and quickness and full court press would be a common complaint during the playoffs. The score was tied 36-36 with 4:28 remaining in the game. That's when things began to go south for Canyon. They had 22 turnovers for the game with 9 in the fourth quarter while Ector had only 9 for the entire game. Ector had trouble against the Canyon zone defense. Australia Hobbs finished with 13 points and Travis Ellis had 11 for Ector. The Eagles press was the difference for Ector. The game was played at South Plains College at the Texan Dome in Levelland.

Brownwood eliminated the always tough Lubbock Dunbar 48-42. The bulky Lions of Brownwood played a physical game in Sweetwater. Lubbock Dunbar led at half 24-21 and Brownwood was up 33-31 at the end of the 3rd quarter. With the score tied 35 all, the Panthers of Dunbar went three minutes without scoring. Robert White of Dunbar was the only player in double figures while James Bivins had 13, Jerry Don Gleaton put in 10 and Brad Bowen had 10 for the Lions.

The regional showdown between Brownwood(20-8) and Odessa Ector(22-9) was played in San Angelo, with a trip to Austin at stake. Coach Steve Boothe of Brownwood in discussing the Eagles said, "Do they run and press, they even press

in pre-game warm-up. They're so quick. We'll be in trouble if we don't slow them down and set the tempo." The Lions preferred a more deliberate game, that would be decided by defense, which happened to be the best aspect of the Lions game. In looking at Ector's record they came into the contest with 9 losses. Their losses came at the hands of several 4-A teams, Pampa(25-7) 54-52, Odessa Permian 54-49, Snyder 90-78, Lubbock Coronado 64-58, Brownfield 61-56, El Paso Ysleta(22-10) 76-53, El Paso Bel Air 75-73, El Paso Parkland 50-48 and Borger 82-64. Three of those teams were class 4-A playoff teams. Keys victories were Snyder 68-59, Lamesa 62-46 and 66-52, and Odessa Permian 63-62. The Eagles certainly played a challenging schedule and were battle tested. The Eagles finished 11-1 in District 2-AAA action losing only once to Pecos in overtime 60-58, on Ector's home court. Two common opponents for Brownwood and Ector were Snyder and Ft. Stockton. Ector split with Snyder and crushed Ft. Stockton 74-62 and 116-63. Brownwood lost to Snyder 71-58 and beat Stockton 55-45. Boothe discussed Ector's lineup saying their tallest players were 6'0" Darvin Robinson(7.3) and 6'0" Valentine Washington(6.2). Although listed at 6'0", Coach Boothe felt they were taller. 5'8" Dwight Randolph(24.2) was the key player for the Eagles. Brownwood would try to hold him down running their 2-3 zone defense. 5'9" Australia Hobbs(12.6) and 5'10" Travis Ellis(7.6) rounded out the Eagles starting five. Brownwood counted on a physical lineup made up of 6'3" James Blivens(7.6), 6'2" Kyle Krueger(7.3), 6'2" Jerry Gleaton(7.6), 6'2" Brad Bowen(10.4) and 5'9" Ronnie Thomas(16.1). The game came down to Brownwood's muscle, defense and patience against Ector's blinding speed and press. Ector was headed up by Coach Keith Thompson.

Ector was down 29-28 at the 1:30 mark of the 1st half when the Eagles ran off eight straight points to take a 36-29 halftime advantage. Up 58-53 with 1:45 remaining in the game the Eagles hit 5 of 6 foul shots to win the game 63-53. For Odessa Ector, it was their second trip to the state tournament during the decade. The Eagles had won the state championship in 1972. Brownwood took the rebound advantage 29-18. Bowen led the Lions with 13 points and Randolph was dominating for Ector scoring 30 points with his speed and quickness.

In Region III, Rockdale won their third consecutive District title in 1976 defeating Gatesville 47-33 at Temple Junior College. The Hornets of Gatesville had won their zone title defeating Round Rock 64-63. Against Rockdale, Gatesville tried everything trying to slow down the inside game of 6'2" Ray Locklin. Gatesville began sagging three and four players to contain his inside game. Bill Martin of Rockdale hit 16 points as a result from long range. The Tigers of Rockdale advanced to Bi-District and were matched up against Tomball. The two teams met at Blinn College in Brenham and Rockdale prevailed 56-39 to advance to the regional finals for the third straight season. Martin Stroman of Rockdale came up with some key steals with 6:00 remaining in the game that gave Rockdale a six-point advantage 42-36. Stroman was an outstanding athlete having played quarterback on the

football team. The Rockdale football team had reached the state quarterfinals and Stroman signed with Texas A&I to play football. Tomball came back with a six-possession trip down court, but failed to close the gap on Rockdale. Later, Tomball attempted a half-court trap trying to stop Rockdale from stalling. Tomball was horrible from the line going 1 of 10 while Rockdale hit 18 of 25.

Silsbee(26-7) defeated Cleveland(15-11) in their zone playoff at Beaumont Pollard 97-76. Coach Fred Williams of Silsbee was in his first season with the Tigers. Silsbee's lineup was made up of 6'0" Oliver Lewis, 6'2" Anthony Brown, 5'8" Larry Taylor, 5'10" Artie Shankle and 5'10" Derrick Shelton. 6'1" George Thomas, 6'3" William Bass and 5'9" Larry Davis came off the bench for Tigers. Coach Williams came to Silsbee from Kountze. In Bi-District the Tigers had Longview Pine Tree(24-2) waiting for them, the 1973 state champions. These two teams were really the cream of the crop in Region III. That's not to say I'm discounting Rockdale, but these were both traditional powers. Mark Wright led Pine Tree with 24 points in his teams losing cause. Silsbee won 76-66 and advanced to the finals. Three players fouled out of the contest for Pine Tree, including Mark Wright. Pine Tree had 34 turnovers and 21 in the fourth quarter. Artie Shankle of Silsbee fouled out in the 3rd quarter and Anthony Brown played the last half with three fouls. Brown finished with 18 of his 26 points in the 2nd half. Shankle had 16 points before fouling out. Pine Tree finished the season at 24-3 and 3rd in the final regular season state polls.

The regional finals for Region III came down to Silsbee(28-7) and Rockdale(31-6) playing at Sam Houston University in Huntsville. Rockdale played their slow style and jumped out to a 15-point lead 32-17 at halftime. The Tigers went to an all-out run and gun pressing defense in the 3rd quarter and outscored Rockdale 25-10. With the score tied 48-48 with 1:53 remaining in the game, Coach Gerald Adams of Rockdale elected to go for the last shot of the game. "A win or three-minute overtime, we've worked on it a million times," Adams said following the game. That set up the closing act by Shankle of Silsbee. He made the steal and dribbled the length of the court for the winning layup. His basket gave the Tigers the game 50-48. Key players for Rockdale were Jack Thompson, Danny Kandall and Martin Stroman. Rockdale's 30 game winning streak had come to an end. It was the third season in a row that Adam's Tigers had lost in the regional finals. Rockdale shot 60% from the field and lost the game. You usually don't lose many games shooting 60% from the floor. Locklin had 15 points for Rockdale while Brown finished with 19 for Silsbee and Shankle had 13.

Region IV was really wild with Samuel Clemens(31-2) being the prohibitive favorite to march into Austin. In the regular season, the Buffaloes had lost to Gonzales and San Antonio Sam Houston. Clemens looked to Earl Powell, 6'1" Mitch Huff(13.0), 6'3" Rudy Sanchez, T.J. Jackson and Delvin Harris. Clemens defeated Kerrville Tivy(13-16) 71-56 at Kerrville to wrap up the 14-AAA title. 6'8" Earl Powell

poured in 30 points, Rudy Sanchez hit 18 and for Tivy, Bill Jackson led the way with 14 points. Clemens had earlier defeated Gonzales 53-48 at Straham Gym in San Marcos to win the East Zone title in District 14-AAA. Gonzales standout performer was 6'6" Randy Walton. Walton scored 16 points in the loss to Clemens. Gonzales finished the season with an outstanding 29-4 mark. Tivy had beaten Uvalde to win the west zone title 72-62. Bill Jackson and Sid Michael were key performers for Tivy.

The Hitchcock(29-5) Bulldogs were up next in Bi-District for Clemens. Hitchcock had advanced to Bi-District with a zone playoff victory over Rice Consolidated 77-71. Against Clemens, Kenneth Wilkins of Hitchcock hit a driving bucket to give the Bulldogs their first lead in the second half at 54-53. Clemens came back down court and missed the front end of a one and one situation. Hitchcock upset Clemens 56-55. The Bulldogs out rebounded Clemens 37-28. 6'8" Earl Powell of Clemens, went out on fouls with one-minute left in the contest with 16 points, well below his average. Wilkins of Hitchcock, sat out much of the 2nd quarter and all of the 3rd quarter, before returning for the 4th quarter to score six points and lead the Bulldogs resurgence. Wilkins finished with 18 points and Joe Lee Spiller had 16 points and 9 rebounds for Hitchcock.

After the game, Coach Weldon Beard of Clemens was very upset, "We didn't play well early, and we were hurt a lot by the offensive fouls called by the officials. I've never felt like this before, but I really believe the officials took the game away from us tonight. I was very upset at the officiating. It seemed like every time Earl Powell got the ball and moved they called an offensive foul on him." With a 3-point lead with 1:23 left in the game, Clemens went into a delay game. The Buffaloes lost the ball on a turnover and the Bulldogs scored, then Clemens lost the ball on an offensive foul and Hitchcock converted that into another score to go ahead by one. Another Bulldog basket gave Hitchcock a 3-point lead with 5 seconds remaining in the game. Sanchez of Clemens hit a basket at the buzzer from 30 feet out for the last points of the game. Clemens finished 30-3 while Hitchcock moved on to regional at 29-5. Clemens would return only Powell for next season, graduating 4 senior starters and had 11 seniors on roster.

The regional finals saw Hitchcock(29-6) looking at a young team from West Oso(29-5). West Oso had one of the top sophomores in the state in 6'5" Jerry Davis. Davis averaged 22.0 points per game. Hitchcock led 70-69 with one-minute left in the game when Davis hit a jumper. The shot put West Oso ahead 71-70. After two missed shots by the Bulldogs, Davis hit another bucket to increase West Oso's lead to 73-70 with 30 seconds left. West Oso proceeded to go into and ill-advised stall and Hitchcock fouled the Bears. West Oso missed both foul shots and Hitchcock rebounded the ball with six seconds left. A full court pass led to a basket that left Hitchcock short losing 73-72. Jerry Davis had 33 points for the Eagles, and his brother Larry finished with 14 points. For Hitckcock, Calvin Theus had 12 points

and 16 rebounds while Spiller and Kenneth Wilkins both scored 21 points. A young freshman from Hitchcock named George Turner finished with 10 points. Turner would be one of the top guards in the state over the next three seasons. The Bulldogs point guard, Robert Baltrip contributed 15 assists for Hitchcock. West Oso advanced to state for the first of what would be three straight appearance paced by one of the most dynamic players to ever come out of South Texas, Jerry Davis.

Silsbee(29-7) arrived in Austin and found a very strong Waxahachie(31-7) team waiting for their arrival. The Indians had dominated the All-District squad with Brown making 1st team, Archie Jackson and Chris Reagor were named to the 2nd team and Donald Steele and Darrell Wilson were named honorable mention. Silsbee Coach, Fred Williams, was very impressed with the Indians. "Waxahachie is a team with no weaknesses. I understand that the man to watch is 6'5" Norvell Brown. Anytime he gets within 18 feet of the basket, in any position, he will score. The ball-handler of the team is Darrell Wilson, who is extremely cool under pressure. He's the complete ball player." The Tigers were led by 6'3" Anthony Brown, averaging 25.5 points with 11.8 rebounds. The Indians came away with a very close win 50-47 over Silsbee. Coach Williams of Silsbee commented after the game, "They walked into that gym with all those people packed in and we just never could relax. Worst shooting performance in 37 games at 32 %." Waxahachie's Brown was the only Indian in double figures with 25 points and 19 rebounds. Waxahachie outrebounded Silsbee 43-37. For the Tigers, Brown finished with 18 and Oliver Lewis had 12.

Odessa Ector(24-9) took West Oso(30-5) out in the other semi-finals game 78-65. Ector advantage over West Oso was their amazing quickness and rebounding edge 52-47. Randolph led the scoring as usual with 28 points and Australia Hobbs added 19, along with Travis Ellis putting in 16 points. Jerry Davis was top man for West Oso with 22 points.

The class AAA state championship game saw Waxahachie taking on Odessa Ector. Waxahachie was considered the favorite having finished 6th in the state rankings and having eliminated S.G.P. It was a great game as the Indians overcome a six-point deficit to go ahead 75-73 in the last minute of play. Archie Jackson's field goal put the Indians up. Waxahachie's Chris Reagor traveling violation opened the door for Ector. Dwight Randolph of Ector connected on a foul shot to close the gap to 75-74. With 22 seconds left, Waxahachie's Darrell Wilson threw the ball away and Ector's Travis Ellis grabbed the ball and hit a driving layup, to put the Eagles up one 76-75. Norvell Brown came down court and missed a shot that was rebounded by Randolph(25.0), who was fouled. The 5'8" senior hit both foul shots, making the final score 78-75. The victory gave Ector's their second state championship of the decade, having won the title in 1972. 5'10" Australia Hobbs poured in 26 points for Ector followed by Randolph's 22 and Ellis hit 17. Ector finished the season at 25-9 and supposedly didn't have a player over 6'0" in the

starting line-up. Norvell Brown paced the Indians with 23 points and 16 rebounds, and Chris Reagor had 20 points and 12 rebounds. Brown later was named NAIA All-American at Oklahoma Christian University.

All-Tournament Team-Dwight Randolph, Australia Hobbs and Travis Ellis of Odessa Ector, Norvell Brown of Waxahachie, 6'3" Anthony Brown of Silsbee and 6'4" sophomore, Jerry Davis of West Oso.

The Sports Writers All-State 1st team- 5'8" Dwight Randolph(28.0), Odessa Ector; 6'3" Phil Hale(25.1) South Grand Prairie; 6'3" Anthony Brown(26.0), Silsbee; 6'5" Mike Mick, Sinton; 6'4" Jerry Davis(23.0), West Oso; **2nd team-** 5'9" Australia Hobbs, Odessa Ector; 5'11" Russ Reagan, Perryton; 6'2" Linvel, Pecos; 6'4" Ron Sanfilippo, Round Rock; 6'5" Mark Wright, Longview Pine Tree; **3rd team-** 5'10" Fred Stephens, Palestine; 5'10" Martin Stroman, Rockdale; 5'10" Artie Shankle, Silsbee; 6'1" Eric Carter(25.4), Carthage; 6'3" William Grayson, Orange Stark:

TABC All-State 1st team- 6'3" Phil Hale(25.1), South Grand Prairie; 6'6 Norvell Brown(26.0), Waxahachie; 5'8" Dwight Randolph(26.0), Odessa Ector; 6'7" Paul Renfro, Everman; 6'3" Anthony Brown(26.0), Silsbee: **2nd Team-** Ron San Filippo, Round Rock; Ronnie Phenix, Lubbock Estacado; 6'5" Jerry Davis(23.0), West Oso; Ronald Glover, Rice Consolidated; 5'10" Arthur Shankle, Silsbee: **3rd Team-** Darrell Dancy, Rice Consolidated; Chester Cobb, Snyder; 6'8" Earl Powell, jr. Samuel Clemens; 5'9" Ronnie Thomas(16.1), Brownwood; David Graf, Spring:

It is absolutely incredible for the second year in a row the Sports Writers all-state team left one of the top players off the three teams that were honored. 6'5" Norvell Brown of Waxahachie was probably the 2nd best player in the state in class AAA. He took his team to the state finals. Phil Hale was left off the team as a junior in 1975. When this happens, it is very unfortunate because it questions the whole validity of the process. This was an enormous oversight. The TABC definitely put Brown on the first team where he belonged.

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1976 AAA Top Ten}

- | | | |
|------------------------|------|---|
| 1. Odessa Ector | 25-9 | {surprise state champions-tremendous press} |
| 2. Waxahachie | 32-8 | {defeated #1 S.G.P. and lost in the state finals} |
| 3. Silsbee | 29-8 | {lost in the state semis to Waxahachie 50-47} |
| 4. Samuel Clemens | 31-3 | {upset by Hitchcock in Bi-District by one point} |
| 5. South Grand Prairie | 31-2 | {#1 ranked team for most of the season} |
| 6. Rockdale | 31-7 | {lost in the regional finals to Silsbee 50-48} |
| 7. West Oso | 30-6 | {first of three straight trips to Austin} |
| 8. Hitchcock | 29-7 | {lost to Silsbee and upset Clemens} |
| 9. Longview Pine Tree | 24-3 | {loss to Silsbee in Bi-District} |
| 10. Everman | 24-5 | {lost in overtime to S.G.P. in Bi-District} |

1977 AAA

The final TABC basketball rankings for 1977 had Daingerfield(25-3) at #1, followed by #2 Borger(25-4), #3 Lubbock Dunbar(20-9), #4 Corpus Christy West Oso(25-7), #5 Longview Pine Tree, #6 Huntsville(24-7), #7 Odessa Ector, #8 Ennis(23-8), #9 Kerrville Tivy, #10 Waxahachie, #11 Silsbee and #12 Mineral Wells(27-4).

Borger was a typical West Texas team, well-schooled in fundamentals and played tough defense. The Bulldogs had little trouble in Bi-District handling Pecos(16-11) 88-67 at Lubbock High School. Ricky Dickson led the Borger attack with 26 points, mostly from the outside. Michael Jackson added 23, Winston Sauls 17 and Jason Welch added 12 for Borger. Linvel Mosby contributed 23 for Pecos. "We bothered them early using a box-and-one zone defense that was specifically aimed at Mosby," Coach Duane Hunt said. Mosby came into the game averaging 30 points per game.

In the other Bi-District contest in West Texas, Lubbock Dunbar(21-9) showed why they were ranked #3 in the state with a convincing 79-62 spanking of Mineral Wells(27-5). Sophomore, Wayne Williams led Lubbock Dunbar with 19 points and Billy Hardaway added 14. Lubbock Dunbar was coached by Joe McWilliams.

In the regional final, Borger started 6'3" Mike Jackson(20.9/13.1), 6'7" Jason Welch(12.8/7.3), 6'5" Tom Perry(10.5/6.9), Ricky Dickson(15.6) and 6'0" Winston Sauls(9.8). Lubbock Dunbar countered with Billy Hardaway(16.1), Greg Whitefield(6.8), Wayne Williams(7.0), Dennis Gentry(9.6), Eugene Walker(12.2). Borger trailed throughout the first half 11-2, 19-10, and 21-12 during the first 11 minutes of the game. By halftime, the Bulldogs had gotten the score close and only trailed 27-25. Borger came back in the second half behind 20 of 23 foul shooting to beat Lubbock Dunbar 75-68. "When we changed to the 2-2-1 press we began to force some turnovers," Coach Hunt said. Lubbock Dunbar finished with 26 turnovers compared to Borger's 14. Borger final 14 points came from the foul line. It was the Bulldogs first trip to state since 1960. Dickson paced Borger with 22 points and Perry added 18, Jackson kicked in 18 points and Welch finished 13. Wayne Williams was Lubbock Dunbar's leading man with 17 points while Billy Hardaway was held to only 10 points.

West Oso(27-7) defeated Brownsville and Rice Consolidated to advance to Austin. West Oso had a very formable squad led by one of the top players in the state, 6'5" junior, Jerry Davis(30.0). Davis could score from anywhere and really took shots from just about anywhere. He was athletic and a great leaper, he was nicknamed Doctor J. Joining Davis was his 6'7" brother Larry, who averaged 19.6 points per game. 6'5" Joe Estell(11.9), 5'10" Larry Smith and 5'11" Jaime Rincon rounded out the starters. 6'5", 220 pound Raymond Robinson came off the bench.

Waxahachie(31-8) was looking to return to state during the 1977 season with a fine team. For Indians it was always difficult just to get out the zone. Key players for the Indians were Dwight Cash, Scotty Sawyer and Donald Steele. To compound the struggle for Waxahachie they would have to win a zone playoff to make the state playoffs. Arch rivals Waxahachie and Ennis ended up fighting it out for the zone title. The two teams met at R.L. Turner High School in Carrollton. The Lions and Indians had played each other three times previously. In pre-district action Waxahachie had beaten Ennis 71-61 and in District action 66-65. The Lions won the 2nd round match-up 78-69. In the zone playoffs encounter, Ennis jumped out to a 30-22 halftime lead and going into the fourth quarter were up by 16 points 52-36. The Lions ended up finishing off Waxahachie 76-66. 6'7" Albert Culton of Ennis was viewed by many as one of the top players in the state regardless of classification, and was a prized recruit. Culton(23.0) finished with 29 points and Cranston Jones threw in 15. Waxahachie was paced by Dwight Cash with 22 points and Eric Sargent, who finished with 12 points. For the Lions and Coach Dick Stringfellow, it was reported to be the first District championship in the school's history.

In the north zone playoff in 6-AAA, Gainesville got by Terrell 70-68. This set up the District playoff between Ennis(22-8) and Gainesville. Culton once again proved to be too much, scoring 37 points in leading his team to the 6-AAA title. 6'3" Cranston Jones added 23 points for the Lions. All-state quarterback, Rod Pegues doubled as the point guard on the basketball team and fouled out in the 4th quarter for the Leopards of Gainesville. The 94-72 score was an indication of the differences in the two-team's ability. Greg Lawson, at 5'8" was the top scorer for the Leopards with 28 points. In Bi-District, Ennis hammered Ft. Worth Northside 74-49. Culton and Jones combined for 54 points. Culton showed why he was considered the top player in class AAA with 31 points and 26 rebounds.

Daingerfield finished the regular season as the state's top ranked AAA team. The Tigers were coached by Homer Young, who ran a very deliberate attack. Daingerfield played a very challenging schedule facing some of the best teams in the state in 3-A and class 4-A. An early season match-up against Longview Pine Tree ended with a 62-60 victory. The Marshall Mavericks out of East Texas were always very competitive and athletic. The Mavericks in 1977 were a 4-A school and had two of the top recruits in the state in 6'8" Tony Burns and 6'8" Roshern Amie. Both would go on to have successful careers at U.T.E.P. Amie was drafted into the N.B.A. The Tigers won the first encounter with Marshall 80-78 but lost the re-match 62-57. Without question the toughest game of the season was against future 4-A state champion Dallas South Oak Cliff(35-8), a game which Daingerfield showed they were one of the top teams in the state, regardless of classification. Although Coach Young's team lost 77-70 their performance was impressive. Next up for Daingerfield was Tyler John Tyler, the 1976 class 4-A state finalist. The Lions

of TJ were paced by one of the top juniors in the state, 6'9" Anthony Lee. Daingerfield's inside game more than held its own defeating John Tyler 69-67. The Tigers third loss of the season came against traditional power, Whitehouse 57-52. In District action Daingerfield finished 14-0.

The Daingerfield team was built around the strong post play of 6'6" senior Gary Lewis and 6'3" junior, Sedrick Younger. Another key contributor was 5'9" junior, Carey "Stuff" Bardwell. His job was to get the ball inside to the post and not turn the ball over. Lewis went on to play football for UT Arlington and in the NFL for the Packers. His size and athleticism were difficult to match-up against for opponents. 6'3" Eldret Walker went on to play basketball at Tyler J.C. and was named 1st team All-State.

In the playoffs, Daingerfield had to face the 5th ranked team in the state, Longview Pine Tree. Daingerfield remember had defeated Pine Tree earlier in the season by two points. The two teams met at Wagstaff Gym on the campus of Tyler Junior College. The game was played at Daingerfield's slow pace, as the Tigers came away with a hard fought 44-40 win. Although Pine Tree pressed the entire game they could not get the tempo going. Sedrick Younger paced Daingerfield with 24 points and Gerry Hunt led Pine Tree with 14.

The collision course between Ennis(24-8) and Daingerfield(26-3) finally came together at Greenville High School for the right to see who would advance to State. Culton and Cranston Jones were about all Ennis had against Daingerfield, and against the Tigers you needed several weapons. Daingerfield won by eight 67-59. Culton finished with 15 points and 16 rebounds and Jones had 16. Inside for the Tigers, Younger finished with 13 points and 19 rebounds and Gary Lewis contributed 12 points and 16 rebounds. Eldret Walker claimed high point honors for Coach Young with 22 points. Ennis finished the season at 24-9.

The Silsbee Tigers were always a threat to go all the way to state in Region III. Matter of fact, it seemed like Coach Fred William's team was always a factor in the playoff race. In 1977 the Tigers were athletic and quick and ranked #11 in the final TABC rankings. In what turned out to be a classic game between Silsbee and Beaumont South Park for the East Zone title, Derrick Shelton hit a bucket at the top of the key at the buzzer, to give the Tigers the 82-80 victory. Silsbee's press gave South Park trouble and the Greenies missed 13 straight foul shots in the first three quarters. South Park finished the game 2-15 from the line, while Silsbee hit 10-13. Fobbs had 31 points for Silsbee followed by Shelton's 14. It was the third meeting between the two teams. Beaumont South Park won the first game 70-57 and Silsbee came back to take the second 76-66. Interesting note, is that all of Silsbee's starters came off the football field and four from South Park. The win propelled Silsbee into the District playoff against the West zone champion, West Orange. The two teams met at Thomas Jefferson Gym in Port Arthur.

Silsbee's season came to a sudden stop against West Orange and 6'5" Randy Martell 69-49. "Size disadvantage caught up with us," Coach Fred Williamson said following the loss. Martell contributed to a defensive performance that suffocated the Tigers celebrated fast break. The Tigers had to settle for outside bombs from beyond where Silsbee was used to shooting. On defensive, Silsbee tried to control Martell by running a sagging zone defense, but it only had limited success. Martell towered four inches over the tallest player of the Tigers. Martell finished with 13 points, 14 rebounds and 4 blocks. The Chiefs of West Orange(19-11) led at halftime 30-25. In the fourth quarter, the Chiefs went into a stall in what had already been a very deliberate offensive attack. Silsbee was forced to foul. Ray Dulford and Derrick Shelton each had 10 points for the Tigers.

In the regional finals, West Orange(19-11) faced Huntsville(25-7), one of the more talented and arguably the youngest team in the state. Huntsville had beaten Waco Jefferson-Moore in Bi-District 67-65. The Hornets only had two seniors in their top seven players. Coach Joe Main looked to 6'4" junior, Royce Craft(14.0), 6'2" sophomore, Edgar Crawford, 6'5" junior, Ted Britton, 6'4" sophomore, Curtis Wallace, and 6'1" freshmen, Lloyd Archie(11.0). Two more sophomores were on the bench for Huntsville. The only seniors in the top seven were 6'0" Larry Perry and 5'8" John Kizzee. Coach Joe Main said his team's greatest strength was their depth. "There are some teams that have a better five, but there aren't many that have a better ten." The game was played at Thomas Jefferson Gym in Pt. Arthur. West Orange had to play catch up from the very beginning getting behind by six points less than three minutes into the game. At halftime, the Chiefs had almost caught up 38-32. With the score 67-65 in favor of Huntsville with just 29 seconds remaining, the Chiefs had two opportunities to tie the game. They missed two foul shots and missed a jumper at the buzzer. The win propelled the Hornets to state for the first time since 1944. "They went to their people inside at the end," Coach Weaver of West Orange said, following the game. "The whole key was they were more physical, especially at the end." Martell finished with 19 points but picked up his fourth foul with 1:05 remaining in the third quarter. "They took advantage of that, too," Weaver said. "That's just good coaching. We couldn't put Randy on the man they were going to and that gave them some easy shots underneath." The Hornets hit 17 of 22 from the foul line and West Orange came away with only 3 of 9. Freshmen, Lloyd Archie was the leading scorer for Huntsville with 19 points, followed by Craft with 14. Martel had 19 points and Mike Sterling contributed 18 points in a losing effort for West Orange.

Daingerfield(27-3), West Oso(27-7), Huntsville(26-7) and Borger(27-4) were the final four, competing in Austin for the class AAA title. These were four of the top six ranked teams in the final TABC poll. The coaches did a pretty good job ranking the big state of Texas. Lubbock Dunbar was eliminated by Borger and

Longview Pine Tree was eliminated by Daingerfield. These were the other two teams in the top six that were unable to advance to Austin.

As the Borger – West Oso game approached, Coach Marvin Spears of West Oso broke down the Borger attack. “They are big, but I heard that they are not real quick,” the Coach commented. “Jackson(19.9/11.5), a senior, appears to be Borger’s best all-around player.” Coach Duane Hunt of Borger commented before the game, “We’ve been very successful most of the year. Lubbock Dunbar is about as good as anybody we’ve faced jumping wise.” During the Borger-West Oso contest, Borger took control early and expanded their lead to 15 points on three different occasions. With 2:40 left in the game the Bulldogs were up 76-61, seemingly secure. Jerry Davis led the West Oso comeback and he finished the game with 31 points and 20 rebounds. The Fighting Bears outscored Borger 12-3 in the final two minutes, making the final 79-73. “We just didn’t keep our composure at the end,” Coach Hunt said. “I think our defense was a big factor. We made their other people handle the ball. I think balance was a big factor, all four of our players were scoring,” Coach Hunt said. Jerry Davis was nearly unstoppable when he got the ball scoring inside and out. He played much bigger than 6’5”. Borger switched from a 2-1-2 zone defense to a box-and-one defense to contain Davis. Jackson and Perry took turns guarding the 6’5” junior. Michael Jackson hit 32 points and had 9 rebounds for the Bulldogs. Welch was next for Borger with 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Perry helped with 12 points and 9 rebounds. Dickson put in 13 points for Borger’s well balanced attack. Borger was only the third AAA team to defeat West Oso in the last two seasons. West Oso finished 27-8.

The other semi-final match-up saw two very similar teams take the court. Both teams were quick, fast, and athletic. Huntsville had lost seven games coming into the semi-finals, but had won 14 games in a row. Remember, being a young team you were going to have some growing pains. The Hornets had lost to John Tyler by 20 earlier in the season, a team that Daingerfield had beaten. The inside scoring combination of Lewis and Younger was the difference for the Tigers, as they advanced to the finals 66-55. Daingerfield relied on outstanding foul shooting down the stretch to hold off the Hornets. Lewis led the Tigers with 20 points while his counterpart, Younger had 19 points. Huntsville finished the season 26-7, but Austin was going to be seeing a lot of the Hornets over the next two seasons.

In the finals, you had the top two rated teams in the state, Daingerfield and Borger. The teams had contrasting styles and different philosophies. In the end, it was the same old tandem for the Tigers, 6’6” Gary Lewis and 6’3” Sedrick Younger. They scored 22 points apiece and pulled in 24 rebounds together. This was enough to give Daingerfield the class AAA state championship 72-68 over Borger. Daingerfield led throughout the game and the Bulldogs never got closer than the margin at the end of game. Borger shot an incredible 56% from the floor but it still wasn’t enough. The loss ended Borger’s 20 game winning streak. The

Bulldogs finished 28-5, while Daingerfield ended at 29-3. Mike Jackson of Borger was the leading scorer with 24 points and Ricky Dickson added 20. Coach Duane Hunt, in his 11th season with Borger, said following the game, "I haven't seen many AAA playoff games, but the intensity and effort of both bunches today was of a championship caliber." "They played better than I thought, especially in their shooting. Their big man could shoot outside better than I thought. I didn't expect their big man to hit like that." Borger continued to switch defenses during the game, forcing 6'6" Lewis outside, but Lewis responded by hitting six second half buckets, five of them from 15-feet or farther out. "As physical as they(officials) let it be inside, they out muscled us," Hunt said. 6'7" Jason Welch of Borger, only finished with 10 points and 3 rebounds. Daingerfield Coach Homer Young said following the game, "They were the best team we've played this year, inside and outside shooting." "We play a sinking man to man defense and usually try to give them outside shots. Their shots didn't drop that well in the 2nd half." When asked about his team's strength inside Coach Young said, "We've been strong on the boards all year."

All-Tournament Team- Gary Lewis, Sedrick Younger and Carey Bardwell of Daingerfield, Mike Jackson and Gary Dickson of Borger, Royce Craft of Huntsville and Jerry Davis of West Oso.

On the **Class AAA All-State 1st team-6'7"** Albert Culton(23.0), Ennis; 6'6" Jerry Davis(28.0), West Oso; 6'2" Linvel Mosby(30.0), Pecos; 6'1" Robert Culley(30.6), Center; 6'3" Eldret Walker(11.0), Daingerfield: **2nd Team-6'3"** Sedric Younger(17.0), Daingerfield; 6'6" Gary Lewis(18.0), Daingerfield; 6'3" Mike Jackson(20.9), Borger; 6'1" James Walling, Canyon; Ricky Dickson(15.6), Borger: **3rd Team-** 6'2" David Roberu(24.0), C.C. Calallen; 6'2" Mike Mosley, Humble; 6'5" Billy Don Hardaway(16.0), Lubbock Dunbar; William Hill, Odessa Ector; Rey Valdez, Crystal City; Cranston Jones, Ennis: Mike Mosley of Humble was one of the top quarterbacks in the state.

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1977 AAA Top Ten}

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|--|
| 1. Daingerfield | 29-3 | {no doubt -top team in the state} |
| 2. Borger | 28-5 | {outstanding team, unfortunately loss to the Tigers} |
| 3. Ennis | 24-9 | {Culton was the real deal, tremendous talent} |
| 4. Huntsville | 26-8 | {young team, future was bright} |
| 5. Lubbock Dunbar | 21-9 | {Lost to Borger in the regional finals} |
| 6. West Oso | 27-8 | {Jerry Davis was one of the top players in the state} |
| 7. Mineral Wells | 27-5 | {first season of a great three year run} |
| 8. West Orange | 19-11 | {regional finals, lost to Huntsville} |
| 9. Waxahachie | 31-9 | {were 2-2 against Ennis on the season} |
| 10. Silsbee | | {lost in Bi-District action to West Orange 69-49} |

1978 AAA

The four AAA State Semi-finalists were West Oso(33-4), Mineral Wells(32-3), Terrell(25-8) and Huntsville(27-7) in 1978. West Oso was making their third straight trip to state behind senior post, 6'6" Jerry Davis, one of the best players ever to come out of south Texas. Davis averaged 35.0 per game and 17 rebounds and five blocks. He was one of the top recruits in the state. "Offensively, he has the tools to play on a pro team right now," said Coach Marvin Spears. Only one other player averaged double figures for Coach Spears and that was 6'5" senior, Joe Estell(17.0). The Fighting Bears had faced four AAAA playoffs teams and finished with a 1-3 record against the higher-level competition. West Oso lost to Corpus Christi Moody(29-8) twice 91-65 and 80-71. They also held a victory over Moody 73-70. Moody had advanced to the regional finals in Region IV. West Oso faced San Antonio Marshall and lost 71-57. Marshall lost to Moody in the regional semi-finals 68-62. The Fighting Bears loved to get up and down the court, having broken the century mark five times during the season. They finished 17-3 against class 4-A competition in South Texas. Coach Marvin Spears felt his teams experience could prove to be the difference against their semi-final opponent, Huntsville.

Unfortunately, West Oso had lost both times in the semi-finals on their two previous trips to the State Tournament. To advance to Austin, the Fighting Bears had defeated Rio Grande City 112-67. Jerry Davis scored 58 points in the game. Friendswood(24-8) downed New Braunfels 75-59, to advance to the regional finals against West Oso. Terry Collins paced Friendswood with 23 points and Mark Griffon added 20. In El Campo, West Oso defeated Friendswood 67-62 to win Region IV. Davis poured in 28 points for the Bears. Again, Collins and Griffon were high scorers for Friendswood with 23 and 14 points.

Huntsville had three players who averaged in double figures, 6'5" Royce Craft(11.0), 6'4" Curtis Wallace(12.0) and super sophomore, 6'2" Lloyd Archie(12.0). The other two starters were 5'10" Dallas Williams and 5'9" Patrick Antwi. Craft was recruited to play quarterback at Rice University. The Hornets were also making a return engagement to the State Tournament, having lost to the eventual state champion Daingerfield in 1977. The Hornets were one of the top-rated teams most of the season in class AAA, so they were viewed as a heavy favorite against West Oso, even if the Fighting Bears had Jerry Davis. Coach Joe Main of Huntsville commented about Davis before their semi-final match-up, "There's no way to completely stop a player like Davis. Maybe we can slow him down some and do a good defensive job on the other four West Oso players. Davis is a freelance type of player who scores inside and outside, but he gets most of his points from the outside. He is a good shooter." Huntsville success during the season was expected, because of the return of three starters off last season's 26-8 state semi-finalists squad along with a 25-1 junior varsity. Archie had started as a

freshman and was a standout and top recruit in football. Many locals in Huntsville claimed Archie was one of the most gifted athletes ever to come out of Huntsville. He made Parade All-American in football and signed with the University of Houston following his season year. Unfortunately, Archie never made an impact for the Cougars. He got into some trouble and ended up at Navarro Jr. College. He was also a standout in track. On the basketball court his athleticism proved to be very valuable.

Huntsville had played a much more challenging schedule than West Oso. The Hornets faced many of the toughest teams from the Houston Area. They lost to Conroe(19-14) 70-61, Houston Sterling 75-66, Houston Jones(26-8) 72-59, Bryan(22-9), with All-American Rudy Woods 77-60 and 72-71. The Hornets also lost to Houston Yates 83-80 and Wilmer Hutchins(28-6) 90-88. That schedule put Huntsville at another level playing in class AAA. Huntsville defeated Cleveland 62-59 in Bi-District and Waco High(22-8) 89-70 in regionals. In the game against Cleveland, Dallas Williams came off the bench to lead the Hornets with 19 points, followed by Lloyd Archie with 14 points and Royce Craft finished with 12 rebounds. Cleveland had beaten Silsbee for the 11-AAA crown. In Huntsville win over Waco High, the Hornets were paced by Archie with 23 points and Craft who finished with 19 points and 18 rebounds.

In the state semi-final game, Huntsville just had too many weapons and took West Oso and Jerry Davis apart 86-58. Davis hit 24 points and 13 rebounds in a losing cause while Archie hit 21 points for the Hornets, followed by Edgar Crawford's 17 points. Craft finished with 11 points. Archie also pulled down 13 rebounds. Jerry Davis could only manage to hit 11 of 27 against the Huntsville zone. Coach Main said following the game, "I think the key was the rebounds, we got after Davis, we made it hard for him on every shot. The kids did a great job on him, they kept a hand in his face and made him work. We got a lot of points out of snowbirds and that helped." All five starters were in double figures for Huntsville. The Hornets led at halftime 42-25.

The Terrell Tigers marched into Austin for their first appearance ever at the State Tournament. Terrell had faced two really tough opponents during the regular season, Grand Prairie(28-5) and Dallas Roosevelt(27-7). Grand Prairie had advanced to the regional finalist in class 4-A while Dallas Roosevelt(27-7) was a regional semi-finalist. Terrell lost a close one to Grand Prairie 68-65, but lost by a wider margin to Roosevelt 75-64. Another big loss for the Tigers was a 79-60 loss at the hands of Tyler Lee(32-2). The Tigers finished pre-district at 12-7, but dominated District 6-AAA action going undefeated. In the zone championship game against Ennis the Tigers came away with a 66-65 win. The Lions of Ennis were powered once again by 6'3" Cranston Jones(28.5). Bi-District saw Terrell sneak by Ft. Worth Northside. The game was played in Grand Prairie in front of 1,000 fans. Carl Holland made the decisive drive with 20 seconds remaining in the game, to

give the Tigers the win 61-59. The game was run and gun for three quarters as Northside took an 11-point lead going into the final quarter. With 5:03 left in the game, Terrell took the lead 59-58 and immediately went into a delay game. The delay tactics did not work well for the Tigers. On three different occasions, Terrell had lost the ball in the delay game. With the score tied with 1:13 remaining, Northside Coach, Billy Pigg called for the last shot. Northside's Otis Crump fired a pass instead of shooting and Holland stole the ball and went in for his winning layup. Darryl Kelly of Northside got off a 10-foot jumper and Crump rebounded, but he missed the follow up.

In the regional finals, Terrell was up to the task defeating the defended class 3-A state champions Daingerfield 66-57. The two top dogs for Daingerfield were 5'8" Carey Bardwell(8.3) and 6'3" Johnny Rodgers(21.3). The Terrell Tigers team was centered around speed and quickness in 5'10" Bricky Lewis(19.0) and 6'3" post, Carl Holland(14.0).

Mineral Wells(31-2) was the top-rated team in the state during the season. Coming into Austin, the Rams were favored to bring home the state championship. But the tournament field was too strong to make any team a strong favorite. Mineral Wells two regular season losses had come at the hands of class 4-A powerhouses Ft. Worth Paschal 56-55, and state semi-finalists Abilene 62-61. They were very close to being undefeated. Coach Warren Pruitt's team had incredible balance, with four starters averaging in double figures. The Rams started 6'6" Rory Nowak(11.0), 6'3" Matt Russell(16.8), 6'1" Darrell Milton(11.4), 5'8" Melvin Ray(15.0) and DeArtis Nickerson(8.7). In Bi-District, Mineral Wells faced off against Perryton(17-13). The Rams opened up a 25-16 halftime lead with 5'8" playmaking guard, Melvin Ray scoring 16 points, mainly from the outside. After scoring the first six points of the second half, the Rams went on to win 51-42 over Perryton. Perryton had few bright spots to go with 6'6" David Reynold's 14 points. The Rams faced the winner of the Monahan's(27-6) and Lubbock Dunbar(27-5) contest. The Lobos of Monahan's started 5'6" Bobby Almanza, 6'4" Mike Olgin, 6'3" Lavell Moore, 6'3" Clifton Smith and 5'11" Billy Murphree. The Lobos defeated Odessa Ector(24-10) in the zone playoff for District 2-AAA. Monahan's won the first half of District with a perfect 5-0 mark and lost to Ector and Andrews in the second half, to finish 3-2. Lubbock Dunbar was led by two of the top talents in West Texas, 6'6" Billy Don Hardaway(27.5/13.4) and 6'3" Greg Whitfield. Both were considered college prospects. Monahan's won a barn burner 80-79 over Lubbock Dunbar. Clifton Smith had 22 points for Monahan's along with 20 from Lavell Moore, and 16 points for Bobby Almanza, and Johnny Grimes. Hardaway was held to only 16 points for Lubbock Dunbar, but Whitfield filled in up with 30 points. Dwight Brown added 16 points for Dunbar.

This set the table for the regional finals between Monahans and Mineral Wells. Mineral Wells showed why they were so highly thought of by beating

Monahan's 72-57. At half the Rams led 36-26 and were never in any real danger of losing. Mineral Wells dominated inside with a 48-26 rebound advantage. 6'3" Matt Russell scored 12 of his 14 points in the first half. Rory Nowak finished with 16 points and 7 rebounds for the Rams. Clifton Smith was Monahan's only real bright spot scoring 18 points and contributing 12 rebounds. Almanza shooting performance from the outside was vital in keeping the Lobos in the game.

In the state semi-final game between Mineral Wells(32-2) and Terrell(25-7), the Tigers took an 11-point lead in the first half, but the Rams prevailed over Terrell 61-55. Melvin Ray and Matt Russell each scored 20 points for the victorious Rams. Mineral Wells advanced to the finals as one of the most impressive finalist in class AAA during the decade.

The state championship game pitted the two top teams in the state against one another. Mineral Wells had a 21-game winning streak coming into the title game. Huntsville took a 12-point lead 36-24 over Mineral Wells in the 3rd quarter, but the Rams trimmed that back to one point 48-47 with 1:37 left to play. But a slam dunk by Royce Craft and six points from Edgar Crawford, put the Hornets ahead to stay winning 55-49. The combination of Curtis Wallace and Edgar Crawford were too strong against the Rams, as they combined for 26 points and 23 rebounds. It was Huntsville's 19th consecutive victory of the season. 5'8" Melvin Ray led all scorers for Mineral Wells with 20 points. Archie was held to only 4 points in the finals. Huntsville finished the season averaging 70.0 points per game to their opponents 57.9, while Mineral Wells dominated scoring 71.3 per game and allowing only 48.7, which is an impressive 22.6-point spread. During the decade, these two teams were at the top of the list of the teams that played in the AAA state championship game. Between the two teams combined, they lost one game to a class AAA team and that was Huntsville losing to Cleveland. The Hornets defeated Cleveland twice, avenging that one loss.

All-tournament team was made up of Archie, Craft, and Wallace of Huntsville, from Mineral Wells, Matt Russell and Ray.

The Sports Writers All-State 1st team- 6'6" Billy Don Hardaway(27.5) of Lubbock Dunbar, 6'6" Jerry Davis(35.0) of West Oso, 6'1" Ezelle Smith(19.1) of Palestine, 6'3" Johnny Rodgers(21.3) of Daingerfield, and 6'2" Lance McClain(23.4) of Andrews; **2nd team-** 6'3" Cranston Jones(28.5) of Ennis, 6'6" Tom Perry(24.6) of Borger, 6'5" Arthur Gray(21.5) of Beaumont Southpark, 5'8" Carey Bardwell(8.3) of Daingerfield, 6'0" Jerry Lowe(22.0) of Silsbee; **3rd Team-** 6'3" Carl Holland(16.6) of Terrell, 6'4" Donald Taylor(24.6) of Hallsville, 6'7" Lionel Bluntson(15.0) of Rice Consolidated, 5'9" Ray Valdez (16.3) of Crystal City; 6'1" John Grammer(22.0) of Rice Consolidated:

The Sports Writers really missed the boat in 1978, not one player from the state championship game. Mineral Wells and Huntsville were both unable to get anybody on the squad. Unreal, how does something like that happen. The two

school's local sports writers may not have nominated anybody? Another answer as to why neither team had any representative could have been the balance on both teams and nobody received enough votes. Cleveland is also missing. Those were major flaws in the system obviously. Jerry Davis was a three-time all-state player at West Oso.

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1978 AAA Top Ten}

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|---|
| 1. Huntsville | 27-7 | {very talented state champion} |
| 2. Mineral Wells | 32-3 | {best team of the 70s in AAA not to win the title} |
| 3. Cleveland | | {lost by 3 to the state champions Huntsville} |
| 4. Terrell | 25-8 | {State Semi-finalists} |
| 5. Lubbock Dunbar | 27-5 | {two of the top players in Whitfield and Hardaway} |
| 6. Monahans | 27-6 | {regional finalist against Mineral Wells} |
| 7. Ennis | | {lost in the zone playoff to Terrell by one point} |
| 8. Daingerfield | 25-7 | {lost in the regional finals to Terrell} |
| 9. West Oso | 33-4 | {three straight trips to state} |
| 10. Odessa Ector | 24-9 | {Ector was always strong} |

1979 AAA

Silsbee held down the state's top spot almost the entire season with their only loss coming at the hands of Beaumont Charlton Pollard, a 4-A power. Pollard was ranked #4 in the state and stood 31-1 after the regular season. Pollard's only loss came at the hands of Silsbee. Silsbee key player was 6'6" Dexter Wallace(20.8). But Silsbee had an unusual collapse late the in the season that caught everybody by surprise. They captured the first half title with ease. But in one of the most bizarre episode in state history, Silsbee lost to Beaumont Hebert, to throw the 2nd half zone title into a three-way tie. Silsbee, Jasper and Hebert were tied for the second half title, but then Jasper was upset by Bridge City 77-64. This gave the second half title to Hebert, due to their victory over Silsbee. If Jasper had not lost, Silsbee would have taken the District title based on point spread over District opponents. There wouldn't have been a playoff. In the playoff between zone winners, Hebert won 77-75 on Silsbee's home court. Hebert advanced to the playoffs with an unimpressive 12-14 record. Silsbee finished the season at 30-3 and missed the playoffs, while Jasper ended up at 21-8. So, in Region III, the top team never made it out of Zone play.

Austin Westlake was another entry in Region III, supporting an outstanding 27-1 record. In the Chaparrals Bi-District game against Waco Jefferson-Moore(15-13), Westlake came away with their 21st consecutive win of the season with 61-52 victory. 6'7" Bill Wendlandt(23.0) and 6'4" Calvin Schiraldi(17.0) finally got it going for Westlake coach Dent Taylor. The Chaps only had a four-point led at halftime and struggled against the Lions. Part of the reason was Schiraldi picked up

a third foul and sat out most of the first half. With he and Wendlandt both in the lineup in the second half, Westlake was able to dominate at both ends. After the third quarter Westlake expanded the lead to 40-29, and led by as many as 13 in the fourth quarter. Schiraldi had 19 points, Tony Douglas had 16 and Danny Duff had 10 for Westlake. Joe Danforth had 17 for Waco Jefferson Moore. Wendlandt, who had missed more than a month due to a left ankle injury was a welcomed addition for Coach Taylor.

Huntsville(22-5) was out to defend their state title in 1979. In a zone playoff, Huntsville defeated Houston Furr 79-67. Lloyd Archie paced Huntsville with 18 points and Patrick Antwi added 14. Calvin Eason hit 31 points for Houston Furr. Huntsville faced Katy(23-7) at Spring High School with the 10-AAA crown on the line. Katy had defeated Eisenhower 75-68 to capture the zone title and advanced to the District title game. James Westbrook was high man for Katy with 30 points while Terry Williams was the man for Eisenhower with 26 points. The Hornets knocked out Katy easily 79-47. Edgar Crawford led Huntsville's dynamic attack with 21 points and Patrick Antwi had 12.

In District 9-AAA, Cleveland(25-6) had another strong team as they eliminated Beaumont Hebert 83-50 in Pasadena's Phillips Gym. Cleveland had several players in double figures. Mike Gibson was high man with 21 points, Artie McDuffie had 20, Curtis Brown hit 14 and Wayne Baines knocked down 12. The Indians jumped out to a 21-6 lead and never looked back.

This set the stage for the re-match from the previous year between Huntsville and Cleveland in Bi-District. The Hornets(23-5) took out Cleveland(25-6) at Sam Houston Coliseum in Huntsville 72-65. Lloyd Archie came off the bench to lead the Hornets in scoring with 17 points.

Two of the top teams in the state were going at one another in the regional final match-up between defending state champions, Huntsville(25-5) and Austin Westlake(28-1). With four returning starters from their title team, the Hornets were going to be tough to beat. 6'3" Lloyd Archie(13.0) and 6'6" post, Curtis Wallace(15.2) were returning to lead the Hornets. Coach Taylor of Westlake commented, "The Hornets' quickness, particularly on the defensive press, is awesome." 6'3" Edgar Crawford(14.5) was another key contributor for Huntsville. The rest of the line-up was filled out with 5'9" Patrick Antwi, 5'10" Dallas Williams, and 6'3" Henry Speaker. For Westlake, 6'7" Wendlandt(23.0) would be in the starting lineup for the first time since January 22, when he hurt his ankle. 6'4" Schiraldi(17.0) along with Tom Douglas(13.0) filled vital roles for the Chaparrals attack against Huntsville. The game was played in Bryan and Huntsville wasted little time showing Westlake why they were defending state champions. 6'5" post, Curtis Wallace blocked Wendlandt's first three shots and ended up blocking six of the big man's shots during the game. Westlake committed nine turnovers in the second quarter which led to a 33-16 halftime advantage for Huntsville. The Chaps

finished with 27 turnovers and trailed by 20 points early in the third quarter. Huntsville eventually won 55-41. The game was not close.

In Region II, Daingerfield and Waxahachie were the favorites to march down to Austin. Daingerfield had won the title in 1977 and the Indians were always strong. Waxahachie had a young team in 1979 and were rebounding from a disappointing season in which they had finished 13-16 and 4-4 in District play. Coach Aldridge had some strong wins during the regular season, North Mesquite 56-54, Abilene Cooper 74-71, Everman 75-60 and 73-66, South Grand Prairie 62-61, Wilmer Hutchins 57-45, and McKinney 84-76. Losses included, Corsicana 66-60, Abilene Cooper 61-60, McKinney 72-59, and Ft. Worth Paschal 80-79. The team was dominated by two strong juniors, 6'3" Vance Hughes(15.4/11.0) and 6'3" Ken Cox(14.9/8.0). Two seniors who played a big role for Coach Aldridge were 6'3" Dan McNaughton(12.1) and 5'9" Larry Washington(10.7). The real strength of the Indians attack was their balance and depth. Coming off the bench were Darrell Byrd(5.5), 5'8" Vinie Herford, 6'2" Rod Leaks, 6'2" Eddie McElroy, Victor Guinyard(8.2), Wilson James, James Stern(5.6), Kirk Paschal and 6'2" David McClendon. In a playoff warmup game, Coach Aldridge wanted his Waxahachie team to go up against the best team he could find to prepare for the playoffs, so he scheduled the Ft. Worth Dunbar Wildcats. The game was played at Public Schools Gym in Ft. Worth at 1:00 on Saturday. Dunbar came in at 30-3 and the second ranked team in class AAAA. They were so talented it's hard to mention all their standout players. Waxahachie entered the game at 24-4 on season and a 14-game winning streak. Coach Aldridge said before the game, "I want to see some of our people work against such talent." The game was never close, as Dunbar showed why they were so dominate winning 86-59. One of the Hachie fans said following the game, "I don't say they can't be beat, but I would like to see the team that beats them."

The Indians(26-5) had to contend with McKinney in 6-AAA zone playoff before they could even think about Daingerfield. McKinney had probably their most talented team ever in 1979, finishing 20-7. Coach Bill Justice's Lions had not made the playoffs since 1973. This was a junior dominated team with the only senior contributor being 5'8" Leonard Harris(11.9), the North Zone M.V.P. in District 6-AAA. Other standouts for the Lions were all juniors, 6'2" Reggie Roberts(22.0/13.0), who later started as a freshman for Shelby Metcalf's conference champions with the Aggies, 5'9" Jamie Harris(18.1), 6'4" Johnny Holley(11.1) and his twin brother, Ronny Holley(11.2). Both Harris brothers played college football at Texas Tech and Oklahoma St. and Leonard played for the Oilers in the N.F.L. The Holley twins played football at Texas Southern. This group also ran the 400 meters and mile relay in the state track meet. McKinney had a phenomenal group of athletes. They would win the state championship in football in the fall of 1979. Something that hurt McKinney is only one of the key players

during the 1979 season was a full-time basketball player, the rest came out of football. This really put Coach Justice's team at a disadvantage when playing full-time basketball schools like Plano and Waxahachie. The Lions had some tough opponents during the season, in particular a close loss to class 4-A power Plano. McKinney beat Terrell(20-9), the defending District champion 67-51, to advance to the District playoff between the zone winners. Roberts and Jamie Harris were the leading scorers for the Lions with both finishing with 17 points. Albert Robinson and Audie Green put in 18 points each for the Tigers against McKinney. Coach Justice commented on the crowd, "this was probably the biggest crowd we've ever had for an out of town game." The game was delayed 15 minutes to allow the people who were standing in line outside the gym at North Mesquite High school to filter into the gym.

As Waxahachie recovered from their loss to Dunbar, Coach Aldridge began to focus on the Lions of McKinney. "The key to winning Friday night will be a tough defense and blocking out around the boards." Aldridge continued, "McKinney's backcourt is made up of Leonard and Jamie Harris with Jamie shooting outside and Leonard the ball-handling point guard. Jamie is not the threat Leonard is." "In looking at the multi-talented Reggie Roberts," Aldridge said, "Roberts is an extremely good jumper with fair speed and can hit from the outside, he stuffs the ball anyway he wants to and can shoot with either hand." "Johnny Holley is real physical and a good jumper, he can hit the bank shot pretty good." Ronny Holley was described as a good rebounder who likes it physical with limited range. Kevin Mann and J.R. Holley came off the bench for the Lions. Aldridge felt his team's biggest strength against McKinney would be their depth.

The game between Waxahachie and McKinney was played in Carrollton at R.L. Turner High School in front of an estimated crowd of 2,500 fans. McKinney took the early lead in the 1st quarter 19-12 and led at halftime 37-32. The Lions led going into the 4th quarter 55-51, but began to look tired. The Indians pulled away 81-73 in the 4th quarter for the victory. Coach Aldridge felt rebounding was the difference for his team and conditioning. "McKinney was tired and had more fouls," Aldridge said. McKinney's fatigue showed on the foul line as the Lions hit 9 of 20 for the game and only 4 of 12 in the 4th quarter. Waxahachie was 21 of 26 from the foul line. For the Indians, the junior combination of Cox and Hughes was the show offensively, Hughes had 20 points of his 24 points in the second half, and Cox was playing out of his mind, hitting 11 of 13 field goals for 26 points. Washington had only six points but 14 assists. Waxahachie dominated the glass with Hughes finishing with 13 rebounds, Cox 11 and Washington had 9. Coach Justice said, "The referees didn't beat us, we beat ourselves." McKinney on the other hand, had to deal with Leonard Harris picking up his fourth foul late in the 3rd quarter. With 5:10 left in the game the Lions led 61-57. McKinney was hit with a flagrant foul late, as Waxahachie pulled away for the victory. Justice played his

starting five almost the entire game, while the Indians and coach Jack Aldridge played seven or eight players. Jamie Harris finished with 19 points to top McKinney. Most of Harris' points came from long range. Roberts was next with 18 points.

The Indians of Waxahachie had eliminated a tough McKinney team in the title game for District 6-AAA. Coach Aldridge then began looking at Ft. Worth Northside(23-5), the Indians Bi-District opponent. Northside was described by Coach Aldridge, "as not as tall as McKinney or as physical but they won't be an easy touch." Coach Billy Pigg was in his 4th year with the Steers with three straight playoff appearance. Coach Pigg said, "we don't run a patterned offense it's sorta free-lance." Whatever you wanted to call it, Northside had been very successful. Northside had lost to McKinney by 3 points during the regular season and lost to Everman. Waxahachie was 2-1 against McKinney and beat Everman twice. Northside's other losses were to Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt, Eastern Hills and the top ranked AAA team, Mineral Wells. The Steers ran 2-3 zone and pressed. The starting line-up was made up of 5'9" Joel Rockmore(11.0), 5'10" Kenneth Brown(10.0), 6'0" Calvin Thompson(14.0), 6'3" Richard Davis(8.0), and 6'4" Willie Douglas(15.0).

The game was played at Everman and 2,000 fans showed up, of which 90 percent seemed to be from Waxahachie. The Indians outscored Northside 20-12 in the 4th quarter to take a 70-61 victory. On the Indians, slow start Vance Hughes commented, "Coach told us we weren't going to have an easy time and we had better start playing or we would lose. I think it kind of shook us up." Waxahachie leading scorers against Northside were Vance Hughes and Larry Washington with 13 points apiece. Cox was held to only eight points. The bench made up the difference scoring 24 points for the Indians. Hughes came away with 21 rebounds which was a season high. Waxahachie came away with the advantage inside with a 56-34 rebound margin. With the win, Waxahachie advanced to regional final against Daingerfield. "We underestimated their quickness," Aldridge said. "They had a better team than I thought and we couldn't stay with them several times on defense. Many of our fouls came because of quickness." The smiling Aldridge said after the game, "I'm just happy for the win. The kids knew they didn't play their best game when they came in the locker room tonight. I still believe we haven't played our best game."

Next up for the Indians was the region favorite Daingerfield. The Tigers had been knocked out of the playoffs in 1978 by Terrell in the regional finals, and finished 25-7 on the season. Many people were talking about this Daingerfield team being better than their state championship team. Daingerfield came in with outstanding 26-1 record and #7 ranking in the state polls. Daingerfield had eliminated Center(29-1) in Bi-District 50-42.

In preparing for Daingerfield you had to realize what you were facing. 6'6" Warren Everett(19.8) was a beast inside. He was paired up with 6'5" Darryl

Lewis(12.0), the team's only returning starter. Lewis would go on to the N.F.L. after a college career at U.T. Arlington. Other key players included, 6'0" Ricky Sharp and 5'9" James Austin, who was starting only his second game of the season. Austin was replacing Anthony Robertson who had benched for disciplinary reasons. According to Coach Aldridge of Waxahachie, "Daingerfield will not press or run, they play very, very deliberate style of basketball. We are going to have to be patient." Daingerfield had won the 7-AAA title for the last four seasons and their third straight regional appearance.

The game was a disaster for Waxahachie as they only shot 21% from the floor losing 43-38 to the Tigers. The game was played in Commerce at East Texas State University before 4,200 fans. Everett was dominating scoring 23 points, which was over half his teams point total. Daingerfield moved on to state at 26-1 and Waxahachie finished the season with a 26-6 record. "I'm just sick," a disgusted Aldridge said after the game. "I'll never understand what happened, they didn't intimidate us that much. It's the biggest disappointment of my coaching career." The Indians made a serious run at Daingerfield in the 4th quarter after scoring only 2 points in the 3rd quarter. The Indian scored 19 points in the 4th quarter after trailing 33-19 at the start of the quarter. Daingerfield shot 18 of 46 from the floor for 38% and Everett finished with 10 rebounds while Lewis dominated with 22 rebounds. Everett was 11 of 19 from the floor for his team high 23 points. For the losing Indians, Hughes finished with 15 points and 18 rebounds and Cox only had 2 points and 7 rebounds. Coach Aldridge said following the game, "My biggest disappointment is for the kids. They deserved to go to Austin."

Region I saw Mineral Wells as the overwhelming favorite to advance to Austin. The Rams were the top-rated class AAA team in the state. Mineral Wells eliminated the #3 team in the state rankings, Snyder(26-5), in Bi-District 85-70. Odessa Ector knocked Lubbock Estacado out of the playoffs with a 66-58 win in Bi-District. The Rams put away Ector 66-60 in the regional final to advance.

The Region IV title was up for grabs. Rio Grande City(18-12) defeated Rockport Fulton(25-4) and Bay City(28-2) beat Kerrville Tivy(30-5) 64-57. This put Rio Grande City in the regional finals against Bay City. The Blackcats advanced defeating Rio Grande City in an easy win 85-55. Kyle Chambers paced the Black Cats with 24 points and the victory was Bay City's 26 straight win. Wilson Gee chipped in 16 and Eugene Bowden had 14 for the Black Cats. Bay City had a talented group made up of 6'5" Williams, 6'5" Eugene Bowden, 6'3" Rocky Smith, 6'0" Greg Williams, 5'10" Billy Booker, 6'5" Wilson Gee, and 5'10" Thomas Jackson.

The state semifinal game between Daingerfield(26-1) and Huntsville(25-5) would be a rematch of the '77 semi-final contest between the two schools, which had been won by Daingerfield 66-55. This time, revenge was sweet for Huntsville as they ran away with the game 69-37, leaving no doubt. Many of the players that had lost to Daingerfield in '77 were still on the Huntsville team. At one point in the

first half the score was 31-8 in favor of the Hornets. Edgar Crawford led the scoring for Huntsville with 17 points and finished 7 of 11 from the floor. Curtis Wallace added 14 points for the winners. Daingerfield was paced by Warren Everett with 12 points and 14 rebounds. The halftime score was 33-13.

In the other semi-final contest the Rams of Mineral Wells(29-3) would be pitted against Bay City(28-2). It was the Blackcats first visit to Austin and it would not be their last. Bay City was much better than expected losing to Mineral Wells 57-50. The game was tied 18 times. Darrell Milton scored 18 points for Mineral Wells, including 16 in the 2nd half. Rory Nowak finished with 16 points for the Rams and Jesse Kimbrough added 10. For the Blackcats of Bay City, Todd Chambers and Wilson Gee both contributed 14 points each. "They hurt us with their quickness, said Bay City Coach, Eddie Nelson. "I really didn't think we played that good, far too many mistakes. We were excited and never could get things lined-up. We hurt ourselves with those late turnovers. An interesting side note was that Coach Nelson grew up in Mineral Wells and had a brother on the Rams team.

Mineral Wells(32-3) and Huntsville would be playing for the state title for the second year in a row. Almost identical as the year before Mineral Wells was ranked #1 in the state polls and Huntsville was #2. The Rams came in with another well rounded and balanced squad with starting lineup all averaging in double figures. Starters for the Rams included, 6'6" Rory Nowak(16.0), 6'2" Darrell Milton(17.0), 6'3" Jesse Kimbrough(12.0), 6'2" Tommy Fincher(10.0) and 6'3" Michael Birt(10.0). The Rams had played another challenging schedule. Coach Phil King's team held wins over state ranked, Cleburne(21-7) 71-56, Class 4-A regional semi-finalist, Midland(26-8) 54-43, the #3 team in the state in class 3-A, Snyder(26-5) twice 71-68 and 85-70. There three loses were against quality opponents. Two of their losses came against the #1 team in the state in class 2-A, Bowie 70-53 and 63-62. The Rams third loss was against class 4-A Abilene 58-56. 6'1" Darrell Milton(16.6) was the team's top scorer and would go on to make the All-State team.

Huntsville countered with a very physical team. The Hornets had a lot of dual sport athletes meaning they were successful in many sports. With four starters and eight lettermen returning from the state championship team, the Hornets were strong favorites to repeat. New coach, Gary Surratt was welcoming back 6'6" Curtis Wallace(14.0), 6'2" Lloyd Archie(7.0), 6'2" Edgar Crawford(14.0) and 5'11" Dallas Williams(8.0). Huntsville faced a very formidable schedule including wins over state ranked Cleveland(24-6) 63-41 and 72-65. The Hornets lost to Cleveland in the season opener 74-67. The Hornets had a solid win over class 4-A regional finalist, Conroe (29-8) 61-60, Bryan(11-18) 68-59, and class 4-A state champion, Lufkin(31-6) 77-69. Huntsville played the toughest schedule possible considering their location deep in East Texas. They lost to 4-A powers, Houston Yates(15-16) 54-52, Houston Jones(30-5) 64-61 and Lufkin(31-6) 61-54. In the

playoffs, the Hornets defeated the #4 team in the state in class 3-A Austin Westlake(28-2) 55-41 in the regional finals. Huntsville's record was strong at 25-5 coming into Austin and the team looked even better than their state championship squad of the previous season. Offensively, Huntsville averaged 76.2 points per game while giving up only 55.5 for a plus 20.7-point difference. The Hornets were ready to defend their title.

The much-anticipated rematch between Huntsville vs. Mineral Wells for the class AAA state championship had finally become a reality. The Hornets took the lead with 2:23 left in the game at 45-43. Free throws down the stretch were enough to give Huntsville the victory 48-45. Archie came off the bench with 14 points to spark Huntsville. Archie was one of the top players in the state, but had broken his ankle earlier in the season and had to come off the bench. The Hornets became the first team since the 1969 Kerrville Tivy team to win back to back titles in class 3-A. Curtis Wallace scored 14 points and Edgar Crawford added 6 in the low scoring affair. Jesse Kimbrough was the leading scorer for the Rams hitting 15 points, Darrell Milton had 11 and Rory Nowak added 9.

The Sports Writers All-State in class 3-A 1st team featured Curtis Wallace(15.2) of Huntsville, 6'3" Lance McCain(23.0) of Andrews, 6'5" Warren Everett(18.0) of Daingerfield, 6'1" Jon Chambers(25.1) of Kerrville Tivy, and probably the best player in class 3-A, George Turner(27.1) of Hitchcock. On the **2nd team**, 6'6" Dexter Wallace(20.8) of Silsbee, 6'3" Willie Houston(20.6) of Mt. Pleasant, 6'3" Edgar Crawford(14.5) of Huntsville, 6'1" Darrell Milton(16.0) of Mineral Wells, and 6'3" Stan Cloudy(22.0) of Center. On the **3rd team**, 6'4" Reggie Daniels(17.0) of Center, 6'5" Todd Chambers(18.2) of Bay City, 6'4" Larry Chenevert(26.5) of Crosby, 6'0" Darryl Beasley(21.0) of Beeville and 6'3" Rick Logan(19.0) of Dumas.

Other standouts were 6'1" Winston Gipson(17.8) of Lubbock Estacado and Bill Wendlandt(23.7) of Austin Westlake. Wendlandt had missed much of District action which probably hurt his chances at All-State.

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1979 AAA Top Ten}

1. Huntsville	27-5	{back to back state titles}
2. Mineral Wells	32-4	{back to back state finals}
3. Austin Westlake	28-2	{lost to Huntsville 55-41 in regionals}
4. Silsbee	30-3	{#1 team in the state -collapsed late in the season}
5. Daingerfield	26-2	{outstanding season but lost to Huntsville 69-37}
6. Waxahachie	26-5	{lost in regionals to Daingerfield 43-38}
7. Bay City	28-3	{lost to Mineral Wells 57-50 in the state semi-finals}
8. Cleveland	25-7	{eliminated by Huntsville in Bi-District 72-65}
9. Snyder	26-6	{lost to Mineral Wells in Bi-District 85-70}
10. McKinney	20-7	{eliminated by Waxahachie 81-73}

Best AAA Teams of the 1970s

#	Team	Year	W-L	Playoffs	Standouts
1.	Huntsville(76.2-55.5) +20.7	1979	27-5	State Champs	{C. Wallace, E. Crawford}
2.	Huntsville(70.0-57.9) +12.1	1978	27-7	State Champs	{C. Wallace, Lloyd Archie}
3.	Daingerfield	1977	29-3	State Champions	{Eldret Walker, Younger}
4.	Min. Wells(71.3-48.7) +22.6	1978	32-3	State Finals	{Rory Nowak, M. Russell}
5.	Lamesa(70.6-47.9) +22.7	1975	34-0	State Champions	{E. Spencer, Vaszauskas}
6.	Mineral Wells	1979	32-4	State Finals	{D. Milton, R. Nowak}
7.	Odessa Ector	1972	28-5	State Champs	{D. Mitchell, Joe Davis}
8.	Kerrville Tivy	1970	29-7	State Champs	{J. Vest, B. Scharnber}
9.	Dumas	1971	30-6	State Champs	{McClintock, R. Willis}
10.	Longview Pine Tree	1973	30-2	State Champs	{G. Hughes, R. Stringer}
11.	Borger	1977	28-5	State Finals	{Mike Jackson, Dickson}
12.	Levelland	1973	29-1	Regionals	{G. Dukes, M. Johnson}
13.	Odessa Ector	1976	25-9	State Champs	{D. Randolph, A. Hobbs}
14.	Waxahachie	1976	32-8	State Finals	{Norvell Brown, Reagon}
15.	South Grand Prairie	1975	29-6	State Finals	{Phil Hale, Albert Adams}
16.	Cleveland	1975	23-6	State Semi-finals	{Richard Brown, R. Reed}
17.	Gonzales	1974	29-8	State Champs	{Dennis Tealer, T. Bludau}
18.	Lamesa	1973	30-4	State Semi-finals	{K. McCurley, McCurley}
19.	Snyder	1972	28-4	Regional Finals	{Preston, Washington}
20.	Cypress-Fairbanks	1970	32-5	State Finals	{J. Mercer, R. Dunlap}

Top Players AAA 1970s

Ht.	1st Team	Pts.	High School	College	Pro
6'3"	Phil Hale(76)	25.1	S. Grand Prairie	S.M.U.	
6'2"	George Turner(79)	27.1	Hitchcock	Cal-Irvine	Mavs 153
6'6"	Jerry Davis(78)	35.0	West Oso	Detroit	Bulls #112
6'7"	Albert Culton(77)	23.0	Ennis	U.T. Arlington	Mavs 209
6'6"	Grant Dukes(73)	23.5	Levelland	Texas Tech	
	2 nd Team				
6'1"	Carl Jones(71)	25.7	WF Hirschi	North Texas St.	
5'8"	Dwight Randolph(76)	26.0	Odessa Ector		
6'6"	Norvell Brown(76)	26.0	Waxahachie	Oklahoma Christian	
6'6"	Billy Don Hardaway(78)	27.5	Lubbock Dunbar	North Texas St.	
6'5"	Dennis Tealer(74)	24.6	Gonzales	Texas Lutheran	
	3 rd Team				
6'3"	Johnny Carter(71)	22.0	Carthage		
6'5"	Curtis Wallace(79)	15.2	Huntsville	Tulane	
6'3"	Lance McCain(79)	23.0	Andrews		
6'7"	Jack Vest(70)	19.2	Kerrville Tivy	Texas A&M	
6'3"	Cranston Jones(78)	28.5	Ennis		

Most State Tournament Appearances 1970s AAA

Lamesa	1970, 1973, <u>1975</u>
West Oso	1976, 1977, 1978
Huntsville	1977, <u>1978</u> , 1979

Most State Championships in 1970s AAA

Odessa Ector 1972, 1976
Huntsville 1978, 1979

Power	1975 Lamesa	34-0	94.65
Ratings	1979 Huntsville	27-5	92.05
	1979 Mineral Wells	32-4	89.60
	1976 S. Grand Prairie	31-2	86.13

	Top AAA Programs of the 1970s	Top 10	Final 4	Titles	Pts.
1.	Lamesa	5/10	3	1	23
2.	Huntsville	3/10	3	2	23
3.	Odessa Ector	4/10	2	2	22
4.	Silsbee	5/10	2	0	16
4.	Daingerfield	3/10	2	1	16
6.	Longview Pinetree	4/10	1	1	15
6.	West Oso	3/10	3	0	15
8.	Waxahachie	5/10	1	0	13
9.	Mineral Wells	3/10	2	0	12
9.	Cleveland	4/10	1	0	12

The Final Four 1970-79 AAA

	Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV
1970	Lamesa(32-2)	Carthage(30-4)	Cyp-Fairbanks(32-5)	<u>Kerrville Tivy(29-7)</u>
1971	<u>Dumas(30-6)</u>	FW Como(24-6)	Aldine Carver(27-8)	Del Valle
1972	<u>Odessa Ector(28-5)</u>	Henderson(28-5)	Silsbee(29-5)	Cuero(29-6)
1973	Lamesa(30-4)	Waco Moore(26-5)	<u>Pinetree(30-2)</u>	Rockport-Fulton
1974	Andrews(24-10)	Atlanta(25-5)	Crosby(28-4)	<u>Gonzales(29-8)</u>
1975	<u>Lamesa(34-0)</u>	S. Grand Prairie(29-6)	Cleveland(23-6)	Rice Con.-Altair
1976	<u>Odessa Ector(25-9)</u>	Waxahachie(32-8)	Silsbee(29-8)	West Oso(30-6)
1977	Borger(28-5)	<u>Daingerfield(29-3)</u>	Huntsville(26-8)	West Oso(27-8)
1978	Mineral Wells(32-3)	Terrell(25-8)	<u>Huntsville(27-7)</u>	West Oso(33-4)
1979	Mineral Wells(32-4)	Daingerfield(26-2)	<u>Huntsville(27-5)</u>	Bay City(28-3)

1975 AA

The Dimmitt Bobcats captured the state championship in 1975 with a well-balanced team and tough aggressive pressing defense. They were called a team with "no stars." The Bobcats came out of the toughest District in the state, 3-AA playing against Morton and Friona. Morton was the number one team in the state in class AA up through the month of January. The Indians were finally upset by class AAA powerhouse, Levelland 73-72, to give Morton their first loss of the season at 17-1. Upon winning state, Coach Ken Cleveland and the Dimmitt players agreed the toughest test had come in District. That was pretty high praise for the

two West Texas schools. Two of Dimmitt's three losses came in District action against Morton and Friona.

After the grueling District campaign, the Bobcats opened the playoffs against Abernathy in the Texas Dome at Levelland. The game was not close, as Dimmitt went up at halftime 26-17 and cruised to a 60-38 victory. Jim Birdwell led the scoring for the Bobcats with 16 points, Craig Williams had 10 and Brad Sanders finished with 10 points. High man for Abernathy was Wayne Riley with 12 points. Coach Cleveland's team advanced to regionals in Lubbock with a 30-3 mark.

In Region I, Dimmitt was the favorite over Childress(22-10), Socorro(24-6) and Coahoma(29-5). Childress had advanced defeating Spearman 73-62 and Coahoma beat Post 68-48 to move into regional competition. The Bobcats lineup consisted of 6'4" Steve Myatt, who had missed the entire season before with a broken leg, 6'2" Jim Birdwell, the high post, 6'2" Craig Williams, a perimeter threat along with 5'10" Brad Sanders and 5'10" Wayne McKee. The real strength of the team was their depth which was made up of 5'11" Johnny Hampton, 6'1" Robert Calhoun and Danny Vaughan. Interestingly note was Coach Ken Cleveland returned no starters from the 1974 squad.

In the regional semis against Coahoma the Bobcats jumped out to a 12-point lead at halftime and 15 at the end of three quarters. The final stood at 76-57, as Dimmitt advanced to the regional finals. Junior, Jim Birdwell had a great game inside contributing 31 points, followed by Craig Williams's 18 points.

Childress faced the Bobcats in regional finals. They relied heavily on 6'1" Ivan Johnson(15.0/8.0). Childress had advanced to the finals beating Socorro 81-63. Before 5,000 fans in Lubbock's Municipal Coliseum, Dimmitt came away with a 69-62 victory over Childress. "Ours is a tough District with Friona and Morton and Childress is very much like some of the teams in our District. I really don't understand how they have lost 11 games." Balanced scoring was the difference for Dimmitt. Birdwell, Myatt and McKee all collected 18 points for a total of 54 of the final 69 points scored by the Bobcats. Birdwell and Williams were both named all-tournament for Dimmitt while Mark Lanham and Ivan Johnson were named all-tournament for Childress. Floyd Nickerson scored 19 points in a losing effort and Mark Keys had 15 for Childress.

Four really strong teams advanced to Austin in 1975, New Boston(29-3), Van Vleck(29-4), Kountze(27-4), and Dimmitt(33-3). New Boston had eliminated the defending state champion, Bowie earlier in the playoffs. Coach Cleveland commented before his semi-final game against Kountze, "We hope we can do a good job blocking out and rebounding against Kountze. They played two tall teams in regionals and out rebounded and beat both of them." The Lions losses during the regular season had come at the hands of 4-A teams. Kountze starting lineup consisted of 5'11" Wesley Shaw(18.0), 6'0" Russell Coffee(11.0), 5'11" Alfred Wilson(12.0), Lewis Morgan(11.0) and 6'1" center, Gerald Clemmons(5.0). "We are

a run and shoot team,” Kountze coach, Fred Williams said. “If we are hot we look real good.”

Dimmitt took an early lead against Kountze 12-4 at the end of the 1st quarter. Coach Cleveland had already played 11 players. Kountze returned the favor and began pressing early in the 2nd quarter and closed the gap to just five points. The Bobcats adjusted and took a 28-15 lead into half. With 5:12 remaining, Dimmitt wanted to slow things down and went into a semi-stall with the score 45-36. “We were tired, I am used to relying on the bench more but I was happy our starters were able to play most of the game despite the humidity here,” Coach Cleveland said. Kountze reeled off 12 straight points in a 1:27 span and pulled within one point at 49-48 with 4:26 left in the game. Kountze’s Alfred Wilson and Russell Coffee fouled out late, ending the comeback by the Lions. Dimmitt downed Kountze 67-55 to advance to the state finals. Coach Williams was forced to foul late and Dimmitt hit 12 of 16 foul shots down the stretch. McKee ended up with 20 points, Craig Williams had 14 points and 12 rebounds and Birdwell hit 16 points while Myatt pulled down 11 boards. Coach Williams commented after the game, “Dimmitt is the shortest good team we have played all year.” Kountze had been forced into 28 turnovers. In the other semis, Van Vleck beat New Boston 63-52.

The finals were set with Van Vleck against Dimmitt. Both teams were very similar averaging 74.5 to 74.0 and giving up 49.8 and 49.6 points to their opponents. Both teams had been dominating during the season with a +24.0-point spread. Van Vleck main man was 6’2” Ira Martin(23.0) who was the leading scorer in the class 2-A field. The Bobcats press did not have the success against Van Vleck in the finals as Van controlled a very slow tempo. Van Vleck took a 26-19 lead into halftime and 32-31 margin at the end of three quarters. In the end, Dimmitt pulled away to win 49-43 in front of 4,500 at Gregory Gym in Austin. Williams hitting buckets and Birdwell’s free-throws in the fourth quarter were the difference along with foul shooting. Birdwell finished with 15 points, Williams 16 and Myatt 11 points and 12 rebounds. A key player for Dimmitt, Brad Sanders missed the game because of a knee injury. Coach Cleveland played thirteen players in the game. Cleveland said that the slow pace helped his team down the stretch because they were fresh. Cleveland also said his team’s toughest challenges during the season was winning District 3-AA against Friona and Morton. “Four months ago, I would have never dreamed we’d be here, much less win it.” For Van Vleck, Clifton Johnson scored 12 points and Ira Martin had 14 points.

Looking back on the season, Dimmitt’s real state championship game was its incredible triple overtime District playoff win over Friona 72-67. Friona knew something about winning, having advanced to the state championship the previous season, losing to Bowie. Both teams entered the game with 3 losses, Dimmitt 29-3 and Friona at 28-3. Dimmitt led by as many as nine points during the marathon game and Friona led by 10 at one point. Every time the other team came back

strong to send the game into a third overtime. "It was the first triple overtime I've ever been in," Coach Cleveland said. "This is the victory of all-time, without a doubt and I'll tell you why, we started this year with five rookies and they just played great. I guess it was a classic to watch, but it almost gave me a heart attack." Friona's Gene Strickland led all scorers with 25 points followed by David Hutson with 14 and Dale Cleveland had 10. For Dimmitt, Wayne McKee was tops with 19 points, Williams finished with 14 and Jim Birdwell had 13 and Myatt 11. Little did Coach Cleveland realize at the time that this game would propel his team to the state championship.

District 3-AA had one of the most unusual situations in many seasons because you may have had the three best teams in the state in the same District. Dimmitt was 20-1 at the time they visited Morton, who was 19-1 and the Bobcats won 75-73 in overtime. The Indians of Morton(21-2) would then travel to Friona to face the Chiefs who were 22-1. Friona's only loss of the season had come against Morton in a non-district contest. Morton beat Friona once again 56-54 with 6'1" Mike Williams leading Morton with 18 points and 6'0" Ken Standmire hitting 14. 6'5" Dale Cleveland had 20 points for Friona while 6'0" David Hutson hit 17 points in a losing effort. Friona traveled to Dimmitt next and in front of 1,200 fans the Bobcats defeated Friona 53-50. This gave Dimmitt the 1st half of District title and moved their season mark to 24-2 and Friona's record to 23-3. Dimmitt had finished as the hoops runner-up three years running and was sick of being the bridesmaid. Williams led Dimmitt with 16 points from long range and had 9 rebounds against Friona. Friona had the rebounding edge 56-41 with 6'5" Cleveland pulling in 20 rebounds with 9 points. Gene Strickland had 16 points and Hutson finished with 16 points for the Chiefs.

The second round of District action did not start well for Morton, as they traveled to Dimmitt and lost 56-48, almost eliminating them from the title hunt. Morton had traveled to state three out of the previous five seasons. In a non-district game, Dimmitt stayed sharp taking down one of the top AAA teams in the state, Levelland 76-63. Jim Birdwell poured in 24 points for the Bobcats. Morton was eliminated completely from the District race losing to Friona 65-62 in Morton. The District race would come down to the last game of the regular season with Friona having to beat Dimmitt to stay alive. In what turned out to be one of the largest crowds in the community's history, Friona pulled the upset 57-55. Dee King of Friona was fouled by Craig Williams with seven seconds remaining in the game with Friona up 55-53. King hit both free throws and Wayne McKee of Dimmitt dribbled the length of the court for a meaningless lay-up. Cleveland had 12 points and 23 rebounds for the winners and Hutson assisted him with 20 points. Williams paced Dimmitt with 16 points and Birdwell put in 13. Friona's outstanding guard, Gene Strickland was held without a field goal for the first time all season and had only two points. Coach Cleveland said after the game, "I thought if we could hold

Strickland without a field goal we could win." Friona once again dominated the glass 40-28 against Dimmitt.

Dimmitt finished as the state champion of class AA with a 35-3 record. Friona came in at 28-4 and Morton finished 28-4 on the season. Dimmitt went 2-1 against Friona and 2-0 against Morton for a 4-1 mark between the rivals. Friona of course was 1-2 vs. the Bobcats and 1-2 vs. Morton for a 2-4 mark. Morton was 2-3 against the 3-AA elite. That means that against outside competition during the '75 season the three teams were a combined 83-3 record. Only one game between the 3-AA rivals was decided by more than 3 points.

When the West Texas all-star, all-district and all-state squads were named, District 3-AA dominated. On the Panhandle Plains, Super Team, 6'5" Dale Cleveland(21.0/17.0) of Friona was named Player of the Year and 1st team, 6'0" Craig Williams of Dimmitt and Gene Strickland(24.0) of Friona were named to the 2nd team. When the All-South Plains team came out, 6'1" Jim Birdwell(11.5/5.3) of Dimmitt was named to the 1st team after not even being mentioned on the Panhandle Plains squad. 6'4" Steve Myatt(11.5/9.0) was also named to the first team from Dimmitt. He was not mentioned on the Panhandle Plains unit either. Craig Williams of Dimmitt was named Honorable Mention and he had made the 2nd team Panhandle unit. There are several explanations for the differences, but probably the best was Coach Cleveland. Coaches usually try to get as many players recognized as possible, especially from a state championship squad. Many times, Sport Writers will call the coaches and get their thoughts before their selection of the various All-Star teams. Whatever the reason, it showed the depth and talent of the Dimmitt team. Other players named to the 1st team All-South Plains squad were of course, Dale Cleveland(21.3/17.0) of Friona and 6'1" Mike Williams(24.0/15.0) of Morton. Named honorable mention was junior, 5'10" Ken Standmire of Morton. On the All-State team, Cleveland made 1st team, Williams of Dimmitt was named to the 2nd team, and Myatt was named to the 3rd team. The 3-AA All-District team placed 10 players on the first team. Dimmitt had three, Birdwell, Williams and Myatt; Friona placed three on the team, Cleveland, Hutson and Strickland; Morton also had three players, Mike Williams, Standmire and 5'10" Ray Dean Thompson.

This of course would have been an excellent argument for more teams in the playoffs from each District, but that would-be years away from reality.

All-Tournament team at state consisted of Craig Williams, Jim Birdwell and Wayne McKee of Dimmitt, Ira Martin and Arthur Williams of Van Vleck.

Sports Writers All-State 1st team- 6'3" Robert Barnes(24.0/17.0), San Augustine; 6'5" Dale Cleveland(21.0/17.0), Friona; 6'6" Ricky Fisher(21.1/14.4), New Boston; 6'1" Tim Wlack(24.1), Ganado; 6'2" Jim Rosenbrock(21.7), George West; **2nd Team-** 6'0" Craig Williams(14.0), Dimmitt; 6'5" Paul Van Doorne(23.3), Socorro; 6'11" Doug Ekeroth(19.3), Laredo United; 5'11" Charlie Johnson(19.0),

Lindale; Mike Tidwell(21.5), Northwest; **3rd Team**- 6'4" Steve Myatt(11.5), Dimmitt; 6'3" Junior Williams, Lindale; 6'6" Ronnie Proctor, Freer; 6'1" Tommy Thorn, Denver City; 6'1" Darwin McKinley, Bowie:

Morton not having anybody named to the All-State squad was pretty crazy. Mike Williams of Morton was one of the top players in the state. Robert Barnes was named all-state three straight seasons.

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1975 AA Top Teams}

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|--|
| 1. Dimmitt | 35-3 | {state champion who barely got out of district} |
| 2. Friona | 28-4 | {lost in triple overtime to Dimmitt in district playoff} |
| 3. Morton | 28-4 | {was 2-1 against Friona and finished 3rd in district 3-AA} |
| 4. Van Vleck | 30-5 | {state finalists losing to Dimmitt} |

1976 AA

In looking at class AA basketball in Texas each year you realize pretty quick it revolves around District 3-AA. The 1976 season was no different as Dimmitt, the defending state champion, would battle Morton for District supremacy. Morton was returning their entire starting line-up from the previous season and played the toughest class AA schedule in the state. The Indians had an 18-5 record going into the first show down against Dimmitt and 21 of those games were against class AAA and AAAA schools. Hereford and Lubbock High were two victims of the Indians and Lubbock Monterey beat Morton 42-41 in the Caprock Invitational tournament. The Bobcats of Dimmitt also played a competitive schedule and were 23-0 entering the contest. The game was played at the Texas Dome in Levelland because it was a larger gym which could house the enormous fan support by both schools. The crowd was estimated at 3,300 screaming fans. The Bobcats entered the game on the school's best start in the last 15 seasons. Dimmitt tried to control the pressure and tempo of the Indians throughout the contest. Although the Bobcats never trailed by more than six points, they struggled to contain the Morton attack. Outstanding shooting kept Dimmitt in the game, but it wasn't enough in the end as Morton won 49-42. 6'3" Mike Williams of Morton showed why he was easily considered the top performer in class AA basketball in the state. Williams finished with 19 points, 8 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 blocks. He also received high praise from one of the top coaches in the state, Kenneth Cleveland. "He's the best player we've faced since we played Crane's Tommy Jones in 1969," Cleveland said. "We made too many errors in crucial situations. It seemed like we made five errors in the last five minutes." "I knew if we didn't lose our cool like we did in the last two minutes, we could play with them," Cleveland said. Morton was playing with virtually the same lineup as the previous season, when they dropped two District games to the Bobcats. This time the Indians showed their poise in critical situations. "We wanted to sag in on Birdwell and we

did, but it weakened us on the outside,” Coach Ted Whillock said. “If we hadn’t played all those pressure games, we couldn’t have won. That was the difference,” Whillock conveyed. “The difference between this and last year’s team is that I have about the same bunch back, but they are more mature, more poised and don’t foul as much.” Morton’s Whillock was in his 10th season at the helm of the Indians and knew a lot about pressure packed basketball games. The difference in the contest, Dimmitt had 15 turnovers and Morton had 7. Dimmitt’s Jerry Schaeffer led the Bobcats with 22 points while Jim Birdwell was held to only 9 points and 4 rebounds.

The re-match between the two West Texas powerhouses also took place in Levelland. This time round, Morton used a 14-point burst at the beginning of the 2nd quarter to enable the Indians to come away with a 53-40 victory. Morton was now 22-5 on the season after the win and District champions while Dimmitt came in 29-2, with both losses at the hands of Morton. Mike Williams led the Indians with 25 points and 20 rebounds. Troy Patton added 14 point to the victors. The Bobcats were paced by All-Stater, Jim Birdwell with 19 points and 11 rebounds. 6’5” Danny Vaughn(14.0) added 13 points for Dimmitt. Morton outrebounded Dimmitt 36-31. The Bobcats finished another outstanding season at 31-2, but were unable to advance to the playoffs. Now the question was could anybody contend with Morton on their march towards the state title. Coach Ted Whillock’s club beat Floydada 70-58 in Bi-District. As Morton entered regionals they had a combined 54-9 record over the 1975 and 1976 campaigns.

In regionals, Childress(16-13) faced Hamlin(20-3) while Morton(26-5), matched up against Socorro(18-8). The Indians were overwhelming favorites. Childress had advanced to regionals by beating Spearman(16-10) 66-64 and Socorro reached the regional semis by defeating Reagan County 53-47. The Indians looked to 6’1” all everything, Michael Williams(25.0), to lead the way. 5’10” Ken Standmire was another returning standout for the Indians and one of the top players in West Texas. 6’4” Fouec Grisby, 6’1” Troy Patton, 5’10” Ray Dean Thompson and 6’2” sophomore, Rusty Lamar were the main cast of characters for Coach Whillock.

Against Socorro in the regional semis, Morton ran off 14 straight points to start the 2nd half, and took control of the game 46-28 by the end of the 3rd quarter. The Indians were led Standmire with 17 points and Lloyd Joyce with 13. In the other semi-final contest, Childress beat Hamlin 69-67 in overtime. The regional finals saw Childress making their third straight regional visit, losing to Friona in 1974 and to Dimmitt in 1975. It was not to be for Childress. The Indians ran off 18 straight points after an early 2-2 tie, which enabled Morton to run away with the game 68-42. Mike Williams led Morton with 20 points and Ivan Johnson led Childress with 16. “It’s a great feeling to be going back to Austin,” said Indian

coach, Ted Whillock. Williams and Standmire made all-tournament as did Johnson from Childress.

As Morton rolled into Austin they were facing an over-matched Prairiland(26-8) team in the semi-finals. The Indians charged into the finals with a 69-56 win over the Patriots. Williams again led his team with 19 points and 12 rebounds while Joyce finished with 16 points, which were mainly break away lay-ups in the 2nd half. 6'4" Tom Ray scored 24 points for Prairiland in a losing effort. In the other semi-final game, Mart(33-1) got by Roma 65-50. 6'6" Larry Chase led Mart with 25 points and 15 rebounds. Chase had 19 of his 25 points in the second half. Roma's lineup was small with the starters ranging from 5'8" to 6'1". Javier Gonzales at 5'8", scored 19 points for Roma who finished the season at 28-10. In the 2nd half Roma went 9 minutes without a field goal.

In the finals, Morton was looking at an opponent that was not awed by their hard-aggressive style of play. Mart was athletic and obviously confident, having only lost one game all season. The Panthers playoff run had been every bit as impressive as Morton as they had dominated their opponents. In Mexia in Bi-District, the Panthers came away with a 64-50 victory over Fairfield. In regionals, Mart continued their winning ways by dropping Kirbyville 71-52 and Huffman 74-61. Mart was bigger than Morton with 6'6" Larry Chase(17.0), 6'3" Dwain Jones(16.0), 6'2" Tony Green(19.0) and 6'1" Richard Burns(12.0). There could be little doubt about these two teams being the top AA schools in Texas.

Morton had built up a 17-7 lead in the first quarter against Mart, but the Panthers came back to lead at halftime 32-30. Morton regained momentum in the third quarter, taking a nine-point lead at 50-41. In one of the biggest collapses in state tournament history, Mart outscored the Indians 16-2 in the final quarter and brought home the gold 57-52. Morton finished the season 29-6 and Williams finished with a game high 24 points. Mart's Tony Greene hit a jumper and two free throws to give the Panthers a 55-52 lead they never relinquished. "I just don't know what to say," Mart coach, Gene Ridley said following the championship. "We came back when we were down and we lost our poise for a while there but we never quit." For Coach Whillock of Morton, he said this was a pattern that the Indians had been having late in the season. "You might say we went into a season ending slump," the Morton coach said. "We haven't played in the playoffs at all like we did before. We just lost our consistency here." Joyce again was the second leading scorer for Morton with 14 points. For the state champion Mart Panthers, Tony Green finished with 12 points, Richard Burns put in 10, Dwain Jones 18 and Larry Chase contributed 9 points and 16 rebounds. If you were looking for a difference maker it was Mart's 59-32 rebounds advantage. Morton finished 29-6 on the season.

On the All-South Plains team the entire first team was from District 3-AA. Williams and Standmire from Morton, 6'5" Danny Vaughn(14.0) and 6'1" Jim Birdwell(21.0) of Dimmitt were key players named.

All-Tournament team was Tom Ray of Prairiland, Javier Gonzales of Roma, Mike Williams and Lloyd Joyce of Morton, Chase, Burns and Dwain Jones of Mart.

All-State 1st team by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches(TABC)- 6'3" Mike Williams(24.5), Morton; Russell Coffey, Kountze; Tim Hays, Lamar Consolidated; 6'7" Ken Robinson, North Lamar; 6'1" Jim Birdwell(21.0), Dimmitt:

2nd Team- Mantred Queniel, Huffman; 5'10 Kenneth Standmire(8.0), Morton; Robert Cahnoy, Van; 5'8" Javier Gonzales, Roma; 6'5" Larry Chase(17.0), Mart: **3rd team-** LeRoy King, Weimer; Timmy Lowe, Joshua; 6'2" Tony Green(19.0), Mart; Darwin McKinley, Bowie; 6'5"Tom Ray, Prairiland:

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1976 AA Top Teams}

- | | | |
|------------|------|--|
| 1. Mart | 35-1 | {state championship beating Morton in the finals} |
| 2. Morton | 29-6 | {lost a nine point 4 th quarter lead vs. Mart at state} |
| 3. Dimmitt | 31-2 | {both losses were to Morton 49-42 , 53-40} |

1977 AA

Every season we start the class AA discussion with West Texas basketball and who would represent District 3-AA. The two powerhouses, Morton and Dimmitt were ranked #1 and #3 in state and had to eliminate the other to be able to advance. Both teams won on their home court in District competition. Morton dropped the Bobcats 66-61 and Dimmitt returned the favor 57-53 on their home court. Over the previous seven seasons the District representative had advanced to state. Morton used their explosive and pressing up-tempo style while Dimmitt was more discipline and deliberate. Dimmitt won the last game of the regular season over Morton at the foul line. The Bobcats hit 27-40 foul shots while Morton only hit 7 of 17. With 6:22 remaining in the game, Coach Dan Smith of Morton received a technical foul. "The turning point of the game was when that yo-yo called a technical foul on me. That hurt our momentum." Smith was often off the bench during the varsity game and was sitting in the stands during the junior varsity game earlier in the evening. Smith received a technical while sitting in the bleachers, which Dimmitt won 52-33. For Morton, it was their first loss of the season to a class AA team. The Indians had lost previously to Lubbock Monterey twice and Abilene Cooper.

Two days later, the two rivals would go at it again to see who would represent District 3-AA in the state playoffs. An enormous crowd of 4,000 fans anticipated the game with religious passion. The game went into overtime and once again was decided at the foul line, but this time Morton had the advantage. The Indians outscored the Bobcats 8 to 3 in overtime for the 58-53 victory. Six of

the eight points in overtime came at the free throw line. Morton had rallied from eight points down in regulation with their full court press. Dimmitt had the final shot at the end of regulation. Coach Cleveland called timeout twice while stalling for the final shot. Rocky Rawls of the Bobcats took the shot with 4 seconds remaining from 25 feet, but missed. Dimmitt had led at halftime 27-24. Each team was in severe foul trouble the majority of the contest. 6'2" Jerry Schaeffer picked up his 3rd foul in the first quarter and played little for Dimmitt, fouling out with 3:59 left in the game. Keith Crum, the Bobcats center, fouled out with 1:44 remaining. So, in overtime Dimmitt was playing without two starters. Troy Patton led Morton with 28 points and Loyd Joyce had 11. For the Bobcats, who finished the season with a 28-3 mark, Rocky Rawls led the way with 12 points. When the 3-AA All-District team was named by the coaches, Morton and Dimmitt dominated the squads. 5'7" Rocky Rawls, 5'11" Johnny Hampton, 6'3" Keith Crum and 6'2" Jerry Schaeffer represented Dimmitt on the first team while Bobby Patton, Lonnie Harrison, Rusty Lamar and Troy Patton represented Morton.

Bi-District for the Indians was not real competitive when compared to the wars Morton had with Dimmitt in District. The tough District campaign in District 3-AA always prepared the representative for the state playoffs. The Antelopes of Abernathy came in with an unimpressive 14-18 record and were throttled by Morton 82-62. Loyd Joyce finished with 24 points and Lonnie Harrison added 21. Graylon Hamilton led the Antelopes with 21 points. The Indians took an early 26-14 lead in the first quarter and after that it was over. Morton's starting lineup for first year coach, Dan Smith, looked like 6'3" Troy Patton, 6'0" Ricky Lewis, 5'9" Bobby Patton, 6'0" Lonnie Harrison(12.0), 6'1" Rusty Lamar and 6th man, 6'0" Loyd Joyce(14.0). Troy Patton was the only returning starter from the state finalists of a year ago.

In regionals, Morton had Tahoka(24-7), Kermit(12-18), and Dalhart(28-3) waiting for them. Morton met Tahoka(24-7) in the semis. Morton(32-4) won a relatively close one 65-58. Kermit had advanced to regionals by way of their Bi-District win over Canutillo 69-44. Dalhart had defeated Seymour in Bi-District 72-60. Dalhart defeated Kermit(12-19) in the other regional semi-final game. In the regional finals Morton faced off against Dalhart(29-3). The Indians prevailed 59-48 with Joyce pacing the scoring with 14 points and Bobby Patton, the brilliant sophomore, adding 11. Bert Cadenhead, who ended up making All-State, contributed 12 points for Dalhart. After the game, Dalhart coach Bob Moore said, "Morton is just real strong, they were just too much for us." Coach Dan Smith of Morton added, "I think our press rattled them. At first they broke our full-court press but when we switched to the 1-2-2 it rattled them and improved the effectiveness of our full court press." Dalhart finished the season at 29-4. Morton placed three players on the all-regional tournament, Harrison, Lody Joyce and Rusty Lamar.

In the state semi-finals Morton was back in familiar territory. Morton(35-4) had won the AA state title in 1972 under Coach Ted Whillock and lost in the state finals in 1976. Morton pressed their semi-final opponent, Linden-Kildare into submission winning 68-52. When you faced Morton you were facing a team that was physical, quick, athletic and well prepared and schooled. That's why the Indians were able to compete with high schools twice their size in the pre-district campaign and win the majority of the games. The varied presses really effected Kildare and Morton led at halftime 37-28. "That's the name of the game, pressing, quickness, that's what we wanted to do," Coach Smith said following the game. Loyd Joyce hit 19 points, Bobby Patton 14, and Troy Patton had 14 points mostly on the inside. Morton's goal was to stop the inside game of Kildare's two post, 6'2" Scott Lee and 6'7" Steve Conley. Lee had 22 points and Conley finished with 20, but the rest of the team only produced 10 points.

In the other semi-finals game Kountze put it on Weimar 79-59. Kountze only led 28-25 at halftime. Kountze went off for 51 points in the second half. 5'7" Esker Boykin(15.6) finished with 33 points and 6'2" Russell Coffey(29.4) added 32, for a total of 65 points. Those two players combined for all but 14 of Kountze points. For Weimar, Curtis Carter contributed 19 points and Errol Jones had 18. Kountze had won regionals with wins over Rockdale and McGregor. The Lions defeated Rockdale in the semis 52-41 in Brenham. The Rockdale Tigers were ranked #3 in the state and were ranked, whereas Kountze was not. Rockdale had defeated Marble Falls in Bi-District 66-53. Esker Boykin of Kountze was the difference in the contest with 22 points and several steals. The strong inside game of Rockdale was centered around post, Laurence Kubacak and Kerry Locklin. The strong pair held Coffey to only 16 points and clogged up the middle, but they were only able to score 6 and 5 points respectively. In the regional finals, Kountze took out McGregor 63-50. This time Coffey went off for 36 points and secured their trip to Austin. Coffey and Boykin were obviously named to the region all-tournament team. McGregor finished the season at 20-5 and Rockdale finished up at 24-12. In District, Kountze took the 18-AA title winning both halves of District action. Anahuac finished second in both halves, losing to Kountze in overtime in the first game and 53-40 in the second-round contest. The Lions only loss in District had come at the hands of East Chambers 49-47.

The state finals pitted the two of the top three teams in the state in Kountze and Morton. The team left out but not forgotten was Dimmitt. The championship game came down to a critical steal by sophomore guard, Bobby Patton in the final moments of the game. With 10 seconds on the clock, Kountze had the ball and trailed 61-60. Patton jumped the passing lane for the steal and threw the ball to the other end of the court where teammate Ricky Lewis hit a bank shot with 5 seconds left. The 63-60 win gave Morton their second state title of the decade. Coach Smith commented, "I don't think there's a better sophomore

in the state.” Coach Dan Smith had replaced Red Whillock as the Indians head man and won state in his first season. Interestingly, Morton only returned one starter from the previous season and that was Bobby’s older brother, Troy. The Indians had run their delay game late to pull out the victory. Kountze had 26 turnovers against Morton’s press in the game and the Indians came away with a 48-34 rebound advantage.

Morton was led by 6’0” Loyd Joyce(14.9) and 6’0” Lonnie Harrison(12.0) along with 5’8” sophomore, Bobby Patton. All three were named to the **all-tournament** team along with Boykin and 6’2” Russell Coffey from Kountze. 6’7” junior, Steve Conley of Linden-Kildare and 5’10” junior, Errol Jones of Weimar rounded out the all-tournament squad. Coffey went on to play at Texas Southern.

On the **Sportswriters All-State 1st team-** 6’2” Russell Coffey(29.2/15.0) of Kountze, 6’0” Loyd Joyce(14.9/6.3)of Morton, 6’2” Dwight Pettigrew(25.0/14.0) of Whitehouse, 6’3” Rusty Boone(25.2/11.0) of Anahuac, 6’2” Leartis Simmons(23.6/18.2) of Mineola; **2nd Team-** 6’5” Bart Callenhead(20.3/13.3) of Dalhart, 6’4” Troy Patton(9.3/13.3) of Morton, 6’0” Doug Feagin(19.2/13.6) of Brownsboro, 6’0” David Graves(20.6/5.5) of Tahoka, 6’3” Bill Terry(26.1/14.8) of Hughes Springs; **3rd Team-** 6’6” Herbert Nealy(21.5/10.3) of Madisonville, 5’9” Javier Reyes(24.1) of Zapata, 5’10” Errol Jones(12.0/11.0) of Weimar, 6’3” John Witte(19.4/9.4) of New Braunfels Smithson Valley, 5’10” Mike Solis(23.6/10.0) of Hebronville, 6’3” Keith Crum(20.0, 6.0) of Dimmitt, 6’3” Duke Coates(20.1/12.0) of Anahuac:

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1977 AA Top Teams}

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|--|
| 1. Morton | 35-4 | {state champions, beat Dimmitt two out of three for district} |
| 2. Dimmitt | 28-3 | {lost the district playoff game to Morton in overtime} |
| 3. Kountze | 25-10 | {lost in the state title game to Morton 63-60} |

1978 AA

At the end of the regular season the top ten teams in the state according to the TABC looked as follows: Whitehouse(31-1) out of East Texas was #1 followed by the always tough, Dimmitt(29-4) Bobcats at #2. Morton came in at #3 and #4 was Coleman(28-3), who had one of the best players ever to play in class AA ball, freshmen Reggie Childress. He would be terrorizing the state for the next three years. Lubbock Roosevelt, Fairfield, Kountze(23-9), Friona, Joshua and Bowie rounded out the top ten. Friona was also in District 3-AA with Dimmitt and Morton and had little chance of advancing into the state playoffs.

In regionals, Dimmitt(29-4) advance to the Region I tournament by defeating Brownsboro in Bi-District 68-46. Spearman(19-6), Denver City(21-8) and Scorro(22-8) were waiting for the Bobcats in Lubbock. The Bobcats easily advanced. In Region II, Whitehouse took care of business by beating Coleman(29-3) 54-35 in the regional semis and New Boston(22-5) in the regional finals 65-45.

Whitehouse had earlier defeated Brownsboro in Bi-District 68-46. Region III saw a little-known school called Rosebud-Lott emerge the winner as they turned back Waco Robinson(28-6), Columbus(25-7) and Kountze(24-9) in regionals. Region IV was looking at another little-known school, Mission Sharyland(32-2). They were able to eliminate Mathis(30-4), San Antonio Cole(20-8) and Welmer(22-9).

In state semi-finals, Whitehouse, at (34-1) faced Rosebud-Lott(24-10) in the semi-finals. Mission Sharyland(32-2) would face Dimmitt(31-4) in the other semis. The #1 Wildcat and #2 Bobcats seemed to be on a collision course in the state finals. Whitehouse located just outside of Tyler was a heavy favorite to win the state title. Whitehouse's only loss had come at the hands Tyler Lee(32-2), one of the top 4-A teams in the state 50-49. Whitehouse lost the game on a technical foul when they called a timeout but failed to have any more left. The Wildcats were coached by C.L. Nix who had coached at the school for 18 years. His two sons were critical players on the team, 6'5" Cary Nix and 6'3" Jamie Nix. Other starters were 6'2" Dwight Pettigrew, 6'3" Kevin Carlisle and 6'1" Dwayne Pettigrew.

Rosebud-Lott was a consolidated school just outside Waco. Whitehouse defeated Rosebud-Lott easily 68-42. Dwight Pettigrew and Jamie Nix combined for 41 points. After Coach Tony Brazeal's loss to Whitehouse the Rosebud-Lott head man had this to say. "Whitehouse will probably win it, they have more size than any other team." When asked if Whitehouse was the best team he had played this year, Coach Brazeal didn't hesitate, "Lord no, they're not, Rockdale was probably the best. But they are not as good as we are. I still think we're the best team in the state. 6'5" Raymond Horton of Rosebud didn't show up for Coach Brazeal against Whitehouse. Horton had averaged 22 points and 15 rebounds in the playoffs but only scored 4 points against the Wildcats.

Dimmitt looked very impressive coming into its semi-final matchup against Mission Sharyland, winning their playoffs games by margins of 31, 52 and 17 points. Against Sharyland, Dimmitt scored 14 straight points to take an 18-9 first quarter advantage. Rocky Rawls, who looked more like a book worm than a basketball player wearing his black-rimmed glasses, scored 31 points hitting 13 of 19 shots in the Dimmitt victory 60-50. The Bobcats patient, deliberate offense was led by Rawls. "He doesn't look like a basketball player," Coach Cleveland said. One Lubbock newspaper wrote that he looks like he ought to be playing with a slide rule instead of basketball, and it made him so mad he scored 35 points the next game against Big Spring. Jim Bradford added 13 points for Dimmitt against Sharyland and James Laffoon led Sharyland with 17 points. On facing Whitehouse in the state championship game, Coach Cleveland commented, "They're good, we're going to play'em, they sure look as good as anybody we've played. They're super big and take excellent shots." On whether Dimmitt would have an advantage over Whitehouse in the finals Cleveland said, "People write in the paper that ol' Dimmitt has been here before. But these kids haven't been here before. They're

just as new to this as Sharyland. This is a great place,” in referring to the newly opened Super Drum. “They told me they were building this when I played here in ‘58. They kept saying, we’re going to build it, we’re going to build it. And 1978, here it is.”

In the state championship game, it pitted undoubtedly the two best AA schools and the two top rated teams in the state. Whitehouse trailed Dimmitt by 10 points with 4:05 left in the game and 58-53 with 1:32 left. Dimmitt went into a delay game which took away their aggressiveness and gave Whitehouse momentum. Even with all the things that went wrong for Dimmitt down the stretch they had the ball, and the score was tied 59-59 working for the last shot. With two starters having already fouled out and another with four fouls, overtime did not look real appealing to Dimmitt. Rawls took the shot for the Bobcats from the top of the key with four seconds left and it rimmed out. With a mad scramble for the ball Jamie Nix of Whitehouse was fouled, sending him to the line with one second remaining. Nix, the coach’s son hit the foul shot and with it the state title 60-59. Coach Kenneth Cleveland of Dimmitt said following the game, “I’ve been coaching 20 years and have had bad dreams about losing a game after being ahead like that, this was a nightmare that came true. There were five or six things that had to happen for them to be able to beat us, starting with the four-point play and they all happened.” The Pettigrew brothers, Dwight and Dwayne teamed up to score 16 of the team’s final 19 points to give the Wildcats the win. Dimmitt controlled most of the game against the larger Whitehouse squad and out rebounded Whitehouse 50-41. Whitehouse was 16-26 from the foul line while Dimmitt hit 11 of 20. Dimmitt had 11 turnovers and Whitehouse had 6. Coach Nix commented, “we had only trailed in one game all year and when they had the big lead I thought the door was closed on us.” Dwight Pettigrew finished with 23 points to lead Whitehouse while Jim Bradford led the way for Dimmitt with 22 points and 11 rebounds. Rawls had 15 points, Jeff Bell 11 points and 11 rebounds. With all the close calls down the stretch and everything, the Bobcats still had missed four possible points with foul shots in the last 32 seconds. Bradford had missed the front end of a one-and-one with 22 seconds left with the Bobcats up by two. Dimmitt finished the season at 32-5. Dwight Pettigrew and Cary Nix both played at Stephen F. Austin while Kevin Carlile played at Tyler J.C. and Texas A&M.

All-Tournament honors went to Rawls and Bradford of Dimmitt, and the other three spots were taken by the Pettigrew brothers and Jamie Nix of Whitehouse.

The Sports Writers All-State 1st team-6’3” Dwight Pettigrew(30.0) of Whitehouse, 6’2” Jim Bradford(13.0) of Dimmitt, 5’10” Rocky Rawls(15.6) of Dimmitt, 6’1” Doug Feagin(18.0) of Brownsboro, 6’2” Tim Leigh(17.1) of George West; **2nd Team-** Freshmen, 6’4” Reggie Childress(24.5), Coleman; 6’4” Thomas Baker(20.3), Mathis; 6’7” Herbert Nealy(21.9), Madisonville; 5’8” Esker

Boykin(27.0), Kountze; 6'3" Brent Rasner(18.2), Waco Robinson: **3rd Team**- 6'5" Chris Potter(27.0), Commerce; 6'5" Zenford Jones(19.6), Allen; 6'3" Ira Routt(21.7), Brady; 6'2" Norris Elverton(28.9), Ferris; 5'2" Tommy Twitty(20.9), Littlefield:
{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1978 AA Top Teams}

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------------|--|
| 1. Whitehouse | 36-1 | {comeback victory of Dimmitt in state finals 60-59} |
| 2. Dimmitt | 32-5 | {Coach Cleveland let the state title slip away} |
| 3. Morton | | {runner-up in district 3-AA to state runner-up Dimmitt} |
| 4. Coleman | 29-4 | {lost to Whitehouse in regionals 54-35} |

1979 AA

Claude Riley was considered one of the top players to come out of Texas in the 1970s. Class AA really had never seen anybody like him during the decade. At 6'8" he was special in so many ways. The Crockett Bulldogs had no basketball tradition, but with Riley they had the best player in the state in class AA and possibly any classification. Recruiters came from everywhere to encourage the young man to attend their University. "From what I've seen in Texas he's number one," University of Houston assistant Coach Harvey Pate said. Pate had recruited Elvin Hayes, Don Chaney, Otis Birdsong and many others. He's the only player in Texas we've offered a scholarship to," said Head Coach Shelby Metcalf of Texas A&M. "Personally I think Claude is the best big man in the state, without a doubt," Texas Tech assistant Rob Evans explained. Houston's Pate said, "He can do it all. Claude has the possibility of being one of the best triple threat men that ever played. In my 23 years, I have possibly seen three or four players that are what I would call a triple threat man. Elvin Hayes was one of them, shoot, play defense and rebound.

As the season began Crockett had a big win over class 4-A East Texas power, Nacogdoches. The Dragons defeated the eventual state 4-A champions Lufkin two out of three games. In District 21-AA, the representative in the playoffs would come down to the District tournament at Lon Morris College. Crockett won the west zone and the runner-up had been Fairfield. Crockett had beaten Fairfield two out of three times during the season. In the team's last meeting, Fairfield had embarrassed the Bulldogs, winning by 26 points. In the East Zone, Hudson had taken first place and Rusk was runner-up, so in the semi-finals, 1st played the 2nd place team from the opposite zone. Crockett had little trouble winning the tournament beating Rusk 74-44 in the semis and Fairfield 67-47 in the teams' fourth meeting of the year. The Bulldogs improved their record to 22-7 and had won 16 out of the previous 17 games. Against Rusk, Riley finished with 18 points and Eugene Lockhart had 18. If that name sounds familiar, it's because he played nine years in the N.F.L. with the Dallas Cowboys. His nickname with the Cowboys was the "hitting machine." He played college football at the University of Houston.

Can you image Lockhart playing basketball...me either? Against Fairfield, Riley paced the team with 24 points and Lockhart(47) had 21.

In regionals, Crockett faced Marble Falls in the semis at Blinn Jr. College. The Bulldogs took an early lead and cruised to a halftime lead of 43-24. Riley had picked up his third foul with 2:03 left in the 2nd quarter. Most spectators felt the game was over as Crockett led at the end of three 63-50. Both Riley and Lockhart fouled out in the fourth period. Riley fouled out with 4:46 remaining and with the Bulldogs up 65-56. Lockhart also left with 2:42 remaining and Crockett leading only 66-61. It was only the second time all season Riley had fouled out of a game. At the end of regulation, the score was tied 68-68. In overtime, Crockett was very fortunate to come away with a 75-69 victory. Riley contributed 20 points and Henry had 18 and Lockhart had 13.

In the regional finals, Rice Consolidated awaited the Bulldogs. Rice had the size and the balance and the depth to compete with Crockett and Mr. Riley. They were going to be a tough challenge for Crockett. The key to the game was Riley staying out of foul trouble. It didn't happen, as Claude got into early foul trouble and missed several minutes in the first half. Riley had his third foul with 6:49 left before halftime. Rice led at half 25-22 and Riley was in serious foul difficulty. Many of his fouls had come on rebounds. At the end of three, Rice Consolidated led by ten 44-34. Riley was able to play most of the second half and picked up his fourth foul with 2:55 remaining. During the physical contest fights almost broke out on two occasions. Crockett shot 12 foul shots while Consolidated put up 31. Riley finished with 25 points on limited time and Lockhart added only 6. During the awards ceremony, the fans from Crockett were upset with the officials and the public-address announcer had to call security. Two fans were escorted out of the gym. At one point the announcer had to tell the Crockett fans that they could be placed on probation if their fans did not keep quiet. Crockett finished the season with a 24-7 record and so ended the high school career of Claude Riley. He would go on to star at Texas A&M for Shelby Metcalf and was the 64th pick in the N.B.A. by the 76ers. Claude never played in the Association but he did play professionally in Spain and Italy for several years.

(47) Lockhart was sentenced to four and a half years in federal prison for taking part in a multimillion-dollar scheme to swindle home lenders and potential home buyers with fraudulent mortgages.

The TABC polls at the end of the season had Bowie #1 in the state and undefeated at 30-0. Coleman also finished the regular season undefeated at 24-0 and ranked #2. Rice Consolidated(21-5) at #3, had dropped down from class AAA with two All-State players returning from the 1978 squad. Whitehouse(23-5), the defending state champions came in at #4. Perryton(21-4), another team that dropped down from class AAA was going to be a power in West Texas, came in at

#5. Old reliable Dimmitt(20-5) at #6, Brownsboro(25-1) at #7, Shelbyville(23-2) at #8, Rockdale(23-1) at #9 was another team that dropped down from class AAA. Tulia(20-3) rounded out the top ten. With all the teams dropping down from class AAA, the competition was much stronger in AA ball than any other time during the decade. This was far and away the toughest season of the decade.

Region I was full of surprises as Seminole(25-5) was making their first state playoff appearance since 1966. The Indians had gone through District 14-0 and defeated a tough Odessa Ector(24-9) in a warm-up game 84-77. Seminole's Danny Wrenn led the way with 28 points. Ector had won District 2-AAA and was also preparing for the playoffs. Seminole's first round opponent was Ballinger(22-7), a big team that was making their first playoff appearance in nine years. Ballinger had won their last 18 games and at one point during the season stood at 3-7. Their front line was one of the most imposing in class AA ball. Starters included, 6'7" Terry Willingham(12.7), 6'5" Marty Akins(19.4), 5'11" Bill Brown and 6'0" Ellison Portis(9.6). Seminole was on a roll themselves with their last loss coming against Brownwood in the holiday tournament on December 27. The Indians had won 17 of their last 18 games. The game was a close one with a slow tempo forced by Ballinger. With 2:11 remaining in the game, Ballinger led 49-48. The Indians of Seminole came up with five unanswered points in the last 45 seconds to come away with a 54-49 win. The game was played at Snyder Scurry County Coliseum. Coach Caffey of Seminole went to the full court press in the last two minutes of the game to change the tide in his team's favor. Seminole was 16 of 21 from the foul line and Ballinger was 11 of 15. The lead changed hands 12 times. "I didn't think we played all that well... we weren't sharp," stated Coach Caffey after the game. "I thought Ballinger did a heck of a job against us. I have to give them a lot of credit, because they have a fine ball club." Wrenn was high scorer with 19 points followed by Mike Grass with 10 points and Villalva with 10. Terry Willingham was top man for Ballinger with 21 points and Marty Akins only had 10 points, nine below his average.

Kermit beat Canntillo 67-55 to advance to regionals. Dimmitt(23-5) joined the party as usual defeating Tulia(20-3) 57-44. Perryton, coming down from class AAA defeated Childress 57-55 in their Bi-District match-up. In regionals, Dimmitt(24-5) proved tough as usual beating Perryton 32-29 in a low scoring affair. Seminole was too much for Kermit winning 65-54. Kermit led at halftime 26-25. "We were too tight in the first half," Coach Caffey relayed. Kermit's attack centered around two standout players, Roger King and David Fulbright. Kermit had a tough time penetrating the Indians zone defense. "They shot as well as anybody but you can't shoot from the outside all night, sooner or later everybody knows you going to cool off," Coach Caffey said. Danny Wrenn again was the leader for Seminole with 20 points and 17 rebounds while Mike Grass added 8 assists.

The regional finals saw the old familiar face of the Dimmitt Bobcats and new guys, Seminole. In one of the most unusual endings to a game you will ever see, an Indian sub, Tommy Herring entered the game for the first time with 22 seconds left in the game. Herring's team was down 45-44 and with 10 seconds remaining. The youngster proceeded to hit a 20-footer to give his team a 46-45 victory, and a trip to Austin. Dimmitt was working for the last shot of the game when they committed a crucial turnover. Dimmitt went to the charity line three times in the final 2:22 of the game including once with 22 second left on the clock for a one and one. The Bobcats came away empty every time. It would be the Indians first trip to Austin since 1963 when they were in class AAA. Seminole led at halftime 32-21 but the Bobcats outscored the Indians 16-7 in the 3rd period to tie the game 37-37.

In Region II, Whitehouse(27-5) defeated Pittsburg 60-55 and Bowie(30-0) was impressive against Lake Dallas(24-6), winning 104-48. Bowie was the dominate team in class AA during the season, finishing the regular season at 27-0. Bowie had two strong wins over class 3-A finalist Mineral Wells 70-53 and 63-62. The stage was set for the Region II final contest and show down against the defending state champion, Whitehouse(27-5) and Bowie(30-0). The game proved to be one of the best of the season as Whitehouse pulled out the overtime win 43-39. Bowie was down by five points on two different occasions in the 4th quarter, but rallied back and had their chances to win in the final two minutes. Twice Bowie led by two points. Whitehouse's Jamie Nix hit a bucket with five seconds to play to tie the score at the end of regulation 39-39. Nix was fouled on the shot and had a chance to end the game but missed the foul shot. In overtime, Whitehouse held Bowie scoreless. Nix was 10 of 18 from the field and finished with 20 points. Mark Richardson scored 18 points for Bowie in a losing effort. Richardson went 7 of 13 from the floor. The Wildcats ended Bowie's 30 game winning streak. Bowie coach, Gayno Shelton said after the game, "The loss was the biggest disappointment in my coaching career. It hurts when you know how many chances we had to win it."

In Austin, the class AA tournament was unreal. Any one of the four competitors could walk away with the title. Whitehouse(27-5), Rice Consolidated(27-7), Seminole(29-5) and Boling(27-2). Seminole was riding a 19-game winning streak and was facing Boling. The Indians of Seminole turned in their weakest performance of the season hitting only 2 of 9 free throws but turned around and hit 9 of 10 in the last 1:16 of the game. The results were a 49-42 victory over Boling(27-2). James Greenwood of Boling was outstanding with 18 points and 12 rebounds but his team came up short. "There is no doubt we played bad. We were cold, but we won and that's the main thing," said Coach Caffey in his victory speech. The Indians controlled the glass out rebounding Boling 54-41. Grass and Villalva both turned in 12 points apiece and proved to be a dynamic guard combination for Seminole. Wrenn had 8 points and Stewart added 8 points.

Whitehouse was after their second straight title but they had to get past a talented Altair Rice Consolidated(27-7). Rice pulled the upset in the semi-finals over Whitehouse 72-60. But it was it really an upset? Rice Consolidated was ranked higher in the polls and was moving down from a much tougher caliber of play in class AAA. So, to say it was an upset would be wrong.

Seminole prepared for Rice Consolidated in the title game. Consolidated was favored but when you looked at who Seminole had defeated to get to the finals, you had to say the game was a toss-up. Consolidated offense ran through 6'7" Lonniel Bluntson, who Seminole triple teamed holding him to 11 points. Bluntson had scored 30 points in the win over Whitehouse in the semis. Bluntson would go on to Texas State and lead the team in scoring and rebounding his senior year. The Seminole offense was patient and patterned as the Indians took a 28-17 halftime lead over Rice Consolidated. At the end of three the Indians led 39-37. Seminole went into a stall and won the game at the foul line 47-42. The Indians had the rebounding edge over the bigger Rice Consolidated 43-37. Seminole took 30 fewer shots during the game than Rice Consolidated. It was Seminole first state title since 1955. Interesting side note was that the Indians coach, Leland Caffey was a member of the '55 team. 6'3" Danny Wrenn(17.0) led the Seminole attack in the finals hitting 21 points and had 13 rebounds, 5'11" Mike Grass(10.0) had 12 points and Glenn Moore added 10 while Albert Villalva followed with 7 points. Wrenn went on to coach girls' basketball at Plainview for a quarter century. Another key contributor for Seminole was 6'2" Joe Stewart(13.0). All-Stater, John Grammer from Consolidated led all scorers in the final with 24 points. Grammer also went on to have a long coaching career on the men's side in Victoria.

To show the talent from the 1979 season, five of the top twenty AA teams of the decade came from the '79 campaign. The year was loaded with so many strong teams.

The All-Tournament team was made up of 6'3" Danny Wren and 6'1" Glenn Moore of Seminole and 6'2" John Grammer and 6'7" Lonniel Blunston of Rice Consolidated. Wrenn was later the head basketball coach at Plainview High School in 2008.

The **All-State 1st team**- 6'2" John Grammer(23.4), Rice Consolidated; 6'7" Lonniel Bluntson, Rice Consolidated; 6'1" Dwayne Pettigrew, Whitehouse; 6'4" Mike Richardson, Bowie; 6'3" Danny Wrenn(17.4/12.2), Seminole; 6'7" David Reynolds(21.1), Perryton; **2nd Team**-6'4" Bubba Mathis(20.0), Mathis; Russell Webb, Tulia; Sophomore, Reggie Childress(23.1/14.0), Coleman; Richard Holloway, Coleman; Ted Salone, Taft; **3rd Team**-6'3" Kevin Carlice(18.0) of Whitehouse, 6'0" James Greenwood, Boling; Mark Summers, Dimmitt; Anthony Gonzales, Floresville; Zane Newton, Spearman:

Reggie Childress of Coleman would become one of the top small school players in the history of Texas basketball, making all-state four consecutive years, 1978-1981

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1979 AA Top Teams}

1. Seminole	31-5	{beat Dimmitt in regional semis 46-45}
2. Dimmitt	25-6	{lost in the regional semis to Seminole 46-45}
3. Rice Consolidated	27-7	{lost in the state championship to Seminole 47-42}
4. Whitehouse	27-5	{upset Bowie 43-39 in OT, lost to Rice Con. 72-60}
5. Bowie	30-1	{was upset by Whitehouse 43-39 in OT in regionals}
6. Crockett	24-8	{Riley's team, regional finals lost to Rice Con.}

Top Players of the 1970s Class AA

Ht.	1st Team	Pts.	Team	College	Pro
6'8"	Claude Riley(79)	31.0	Crockett	Texas A&M	76ers #64
6'7"	Lynn Royal(72)	28.0	Hughes Springs	T.C.U.	
6'3"	Mike Williams(76)	24.5	Morton		
5'10"	Jesus Guerra(72)	22.2	Roma	Pan American U.	
6'3"	Dwight Pettigrew(78)	30.0	Whitehouse		
6'7"	David Reynolds(79)	21.1	Perryton	Texas Tech	
6'2"	Russell Coffey(77)	29.2	Kountze		
6'3"	Robert Barnes(75)	24.0	San Augustine		
6'3"	Anthony Manning(71)	23.5	Kountze		
6'6"	Johnny Mayo(70)	28.2	Taft	Texas A&M	

Best 20 Teams of the 1970s Class AA*

Teams	W-L	Playoff	Standouts
Kountze(70)	30-4	State Champions	{Anthony Manning}
Taft(70)	28-3	State Finals	{Johnny Mayo}
Hughes Springs(71)	31-1	State Champions	{Lynn Royal, Willie Bean}
Friendswood(71)	26-1	State Finals	{Kent Ballard, Rodney Unruh}
Morton(72)	32-5	State Champions	{Elton Patton, Keith Embry}
San Augustine(73)	31-4	State Champions	{Robert Barnes, Charlie Harris}
Bowie(74)	25-4	State Champions	{Bobby Brashear, David Prater}
Dimmitt(75)	35-3	State Champions	{Craig Williams, Jim Birdwell}
Friona(75)	28-4	District Runner-up	{Dale Cleveland, G. Strickland}
Morton(75)	28-4	District 3 rd place	{Mike Williams, Ken Standmire}
Mart(76)	35-1	State Champions	{Larry Chase, Tony Green}
Morton(76)	29-6	State Finals	{Mike Williams, Ken Standmire}
Morton(77)	35-4	State Champions	{Lloyd Joyce, Troy Patton}
Whitehouse(78)	36-1	State Champions	{D. Pettigrew, D. Pettigrew}
Dimmitt(78)	32-5	State Finals	{Jim Bradford, Rocky Rauls}
Seminole(79)	31-5	State Champions	{Glenn Moore, Danny Wrenn}
Dimmitt(79)	25-6	Regional Finals	{Mark Summers}

Rice Consol.(79)	27-7	State Finals	{John Grammer, L. Blunston}
Whitehouse(79)	27-5	State Semi-Finals	{D. Pettigrew, Kevin Carlice}
Bowie(79)	30-1	Regional Finals	{Mike Richardson}

{*After a lot of research of statistics and results, in no order}

Most State Tournament Appearances-	Morton	1970, 1972, 1973, 1976, 1977
Most State Championships	Morton	1972, 1977
Best Winning Percentage	Dimmitt	282- 51 85%

Top AA Programs of the 1970s	Top 10	Final 4	Titles	Pts.
1. Morton	9/10	5	2	41
2. Dimmitt	9/10	3	1	31
3. Kountze	5/10	3	1	23
4. Whitehouse	3/10	3	1	19

The Final Four 1970-79

	Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV
1970	Morton(27-6)	<u>Kountze(30-4)</u>	Hughes Spr(25-8)	Taft(28-3)
1971	Dimmitt(33-3)	Friendswood(26-1)	<u>Hughes Spr(31-1)</u>	Luling(31-4)
1972	<u>Morton(32-5)</u>	Whitehouse(36-2)	W. Midway(30-3)	Roma(36-3)
1973	Morton(27-6)	Grand Saline(29-4)	Mathis(19-8)	<u>San Augustine(31-4)</u>
1974	Friona(28-7)	New Boston(29-4)	<u>Bowie(25-4)</u>	Refugio(29-1)
1975	<u>Dimmitt(35-3)</u>	Kountze(27-5)	Bastrop(22-6)	Van Vleck(30-5)
1976	Morton(29-6)	<u>Mart(35-1)</u>	Prairiland(26-9)	Roma
1977	<u>Morton(35-4)</u>	Kountze(25-10)	Linden-Kildare	Weimar
1978	Dimmitt(32-5)	<u>Whitehouse(36-1)</u>	Rose.-Lott 24-11	Mission Shary(33-3)
1979	<u>Seminole(31-5)</u>	Whitehouse(27-5)	Rice Consol.(28-8)	Boling(27-3)

Dimmitt Bobcats

1970	27-7	#5	Bi-District	Morton 59-81	Ken Cleveland
1971	33-3	#3	State Semi-finals	Hughes Spr 45-56	Ken Cleveland
1972	25-6	#4	District Runner-up		Ken Cleveland
1973	20-11				Ken Cleveland
1974	26-5	#5	District Runner-up		Ken Cleveland
1975	35-3	#1	State Champions	Van Vleck 49-43	Ken Cleveland
1976	31-2	#3	District Runner-up		Ken Cleveland
1977	28-3	#2	District Runner-up		Ken Cleveland
1978	32-5	#2	State Finals	Whitehouse 59-60	Ken Cleveland
1979	25-6	#2	Reg. Semi-finals	Seminole 45-46	Ken Cleveland

Total 282-51 85%(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	6'2"	Bobby Baker
	1971	6'2"	Kent Bradford
	1972	5'10"	Danny Ebling
	1974	5'11"	Paul Langford

1975	6'0"	Craig Williams
1976	6'1"	Jim Bridwell
1977	6'3"	Keith Crum
1978	6'2"	Jim Bradford
1978	5'10"	Rocky Rawls
1979		Mark Summers

Morton Indians

1970	27-6	#4	State Semi-Finals	Taft 63-71	Ted Whillock
1971	28-4	#4	District Playoff	Dimmitt 60-61	Ted Whillock
1972	32-5	#1	State Champions	Whitehouse 62-59	Ted Whillock
1973	27-6	#3	State Semi-Finals	Grand Saline 61-62	Ted Whillock
1974	20-8	#6	3rd Place District		Ted Whillock
1975	28-4	#3	3rd Place District		Ted Whillock
1976	29-6	#2	State Finals	Mart 52-57	Ted Whillock
1977	35-4	#1	State Champions	Kountze 63-60	Dan Smith
1978		#3	District Runner-up		Dan Smith
1979					Dan Smith

Total (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1971	5'10"	Terry Harvey
	1972	6'0"	Eddie Patton
	1972	5'10"	Keith Embry
	1973	6'0"	Jimmy Harvey
	1974	6'0"	Larry Thompson
	1975	5'11"	R. Dean Thompson
	1976	6'0"	Ken Standmire
	1976	6'3"	Mike Williams
	1977	6'0"	Loyd Joyce
	1977	6'4"	Troy Patton
	1977	6'0"	Lonnie Harrison
	1979	5'10"	Bobby Patton

1975 A

Brookshire Royal became the front runner in class A when they defeated Snook in the regional finals 55-54. Before eliminating Snook, the Falcons had eliminated Barber Hills in Bi-District 77-73. Barber Hills finished 19-11 on the season while Brookshire Royal moved on to regionals with a 21-5 record. The Falcons out-scored Barber Hills 29-19 in the final quarter after two key players fouled out. Bruce Ford and Terry Elliott both left the game and Brookshire Royal immediately increased their full court press. For the Falcons, 6'0" Ricky Mack(14.0) finished with 26 points, Milton Sampson(10.0) had 19 points and Jimmy Chavez(10.0) hit 16 points. The other two starters were Larry Sampson, a strong football player and Johnny Campbell(11.0). In the regional semi-finals, the Falcons defeated Blanco 69-67.

Brookshire Royal had moved down from class AA and Coach Harold Sparks had a quick and athletic team. The year before the Falcons had lost to Aldine Eisenhower in Bi-District, after winning District 20-AA. Brookshire is located just outside the Houston area and this was going to be their first trip to the big dance in Austin. Joining the Falcons at the state tournament were Whitewright, Shallowater and Broaddus. A 6'3" freshmen, Terry Teagle from Broaddus, was the talk of the tournament. It would be the first of four straight trips to the final four for Teagle, who would later become one of the best to ever come out of the state. Without question, he was the best player ever produced by a class A program.

In the semi-finals, Brookshire Royal(25-5) beat Shallowater(23-9) 76-53 and Whitewright handled Broaddus 66-60. In the semi-finals against Shallowater, Johnny Campbell was the leading scorer for Brookshire Royal with 17 points and Mack added 16. Don Grimes was top man for Shallowater with 20 points. In the finals, Brookshire was up by 17 points when Whitewright made a strong run at the Falcons, outscoring them 15-3 to close out the game. The final read, Brookshire Royal 62 Whitewright 57. Brookshire had to control Joe Ballard in the finals. Ballard had gone off for 37 points in the semi-finals victory over Broaddus. The Falcons of Brookshire-Royal held him to only six points and Walter Daniels was the high point man for Whitewright with 20 points. Whitewright is located just outside the Sherman-Denison area in North Texas, close to Oklahoma. In the finals for Brookshire-Royal, Mack once again led his team in scoring with 23 points and 10 rebounds and Jimmy Chavez finished with 17.

All-Tournament team- 6'0" Ricky Mack, 5'11" Johnny Campbell and 6'1" Jimmy Chavez of Brookshire Royal, Joe Ballard and Walter Daniels of Whitewright and Don Grimes of Shallowater. Also named all-tournament was the freshmen sensation, Terry Teagle.

Sports Writers 1st team All-State- Gary Uhlig of Poth, Joe Ballard of Whitewright, Royce Dorsey of Snook, Jon Gates of Shallowater and 6'6" David Adkinson of Lake Dallas.

David Adkinson would later play football at North Texas State University and later became a big part of the legendary Von Erich family of pro wrestling. He was known as David Von Erich in the ring. His father was the world-famous wrestler, Fritz Von Erich. I saw Fritz in action when I was in the 6th grade. Fritz Von Erich had six sons and five died early deaths including three by suicide. Many believe that David died of a drug overdose in Japan at the age of 26.

1976 A

Broaddus was back for the second of what would be four straight trips to Austin. 6'3" sophomore, Terry Teagle was the premier player in class A and making a name for himself as one of the top players in the class of 1978. He averaged 20 points per game and was athletic and fluid. He was the best kept secret in the state as far as college recruiters were concerned. Broaddus was coached by Marion Neill. The 33-1 record was very impressive. The Bulldogs played mostly small schools in East Texas. Broaddus lost their first game of the season against Brookeland 91-89. Thirty-three straight victories later, they were in the state semi-finals. In the first three rounds of the playoffs they had eliminated Elysian Fields 77-47, Crandall 84-40 and Lovelady 72-44. The starting lineup consisted of Teagle(20.0), 6'2" Sanford Brooks(13.0), 6'2" Samuel Brooks(12.0), 5'10" Donald Wilson(9.0) and 6'2" Bo Sanders(8.0).

In the semi-finals, Broaddus defeated Brazos in close one 71-69 and Crowell 82-46 in the finals. Against Brazos in the semi-finals, Broaddus had a nine-point lead but let it slip away. The 36-point margin in the finals was one point away from the state record for largest margin of victory. Teagle finished with 24 points and 10 rebounds in the finals and Bo Sanders added 22. In the semi-finals, Teagle was again high man with 33 points while Sanders finished with 19.

All-Tournament team- Teagle and 6'2" Sanford Brooks and 6'2" Bo Sanders from Broaddus, 6'3" David Bell and 6'5" Ricky Coleman from Crowell, 6'2" Donnell Banks of Brazos, and 6'0" Pat Brown of Coppell.

All-State 1st team- Terry Teagle, sophomore from Broaddus, Scott Richardson of Sanford-Fritch, Pat Brown of Coppell, Roy Watson of Kennard, Willie Jones of Nevada Community;

1977 A

Broaddus was on the third year of a four-year run to the state tournament with future N.B.A. and Baylor great, Terry Teagle. If they were not the best class A school in the state's long history, they were definitely in the conversation. They culminated the season going 36-1 and their second straight state championship. In the run to state, the Bulldogs defeated Karnack 100-58, Winona 78-72, and Bullard 54-53. Coach Marion Neill had over 600 career wins over 31 years.

Against AAAA or AAA teams, Broaddus was very competitive. They beat 4-A teams Lufkin 79-55 and Nacogdoches 96-68 handily. They scored over 100 points seven times during the season. In regional finals, Broaddus faced Bullard and things did not go well for the Bulldogs. Starting post for the Bulldogs, Sanford Brooks reinjured his bad knee in the first game of the day and had to sit the game out. Sanford was one of the team's leading scorers and rebounders. To compound the problem for Broaddus, Teagle missed most of the game because of foul trouble. Teagle picked up three fouls in the first quarter and went to watch from the bench. He did not touch the court in the second quarter. Bullard hung to a 24-22 lead at halftime and 38-37 lead at the end of three. With a minute remaining in the game with Broaddus up 50-48, Teagle picked up his fourth foul. The 6'4" junior hit four free throws late to secure the win. Teagle finished with 17 points and the Bulldogs advanced with a 34-1 record. In the regional semi-final game against Winona, Teagle had 41 points and 30 rebounds. Broaddus led 67-66 with 3:41 remaining when Teagle scored his team's last eight points. Broaddus pulled away winning 78-72. Teagle scored 17 points in the fourth quarter. Winona finished the season at 27-3. Bullard had defeated Calvert in the morning game 58-51 to advance. The regionals were played in Huntsville, all in one day. Snook, also from East Texas, had another outstanding team going to state at 35-5. Snook lost to Kennard twice, 59-52 and 75-68 during the regular season. They also lost to the Ennis Lions 72-59. Ennis as you will remember lost in the playoffs to eventual state champion in class AAA, Daingerfield. Snook also held down a one-point victory over Huntsville 59-58, another state tournament team in class AAA. In Broaddus semi-final victory over Snook, 6'2" Tommy Garrett scored 25 points and pulled down 16 rebounds overshadowing Teagle with 17 points. The Bulldogs knocked Snook out of the playoffs 56-52.

Broaddus starters were 6'4" Jr. Terry Teagle(28.0.), 6'2" Jr. Tommy Garrett(12.0), 6'2" Sanford Brooks, 6'2" Samuel Brooks, and 5'10" Jr. Mike Parks. Twins, Sanford and Samuel were Teagle's half-brothers. In the state championship, Broaddus would be chasing their second straight state championship and the opponent would be Whitewright. The Tigers had defeated Seagraves in the semi-finals 70-51 and Steve Hodge scored 27 points. In the finals, Whitewright took the early lead 23-17 at the end of the first quarter and led at halftime 39-35. The Bulldogs switched to man to man defense in the second half and outscored Whitewright 28-17 in the 3rd and 21-15 in the 4th, winning the game 84-71. Teagle

finished with 37 points while the Tigers high men were Steve Hodge with 22 points and Walter Daniels had 21. For the two games, Teagle had 52 points and 24 rebounds while Garrett had 41 points and 30 rebounds. Whitewright finished the season at 28-2 and Broaddus had a 36-1 mark. The Bulldogs only loss was by one point to Huntington in a pre-district game.

All-Tournament team was made up of Teagle and Garrett from Broaddus, Steve Hodge and Walter Daniels of Whitewright, George Khrono and David Martin of Snook, and Brad Woods Seagraves.

Only four players have ever been named All-Tournament four straight years in Austin; Teagle, Greg Austin of Troup, Larry Cumby of LaPoynor and Chuck Hall of Krum. Credit Dr. Billy Wilbanks for this credible info; check out his amazing site at www.texasbasketballchamps.com

On the **1st team All-State** squad named by the Sports Writers, Teagle of Broaddus and Terry Lyons of Bullard, Keith Scharnhorst of Blanco, Mike Ray of Archer City and Johnny Campbell of Brookshire were named.

1978 A

In 1978 Class A had two of the premier programs in the state, Broaddus and Snook. The two teams were on course to play each other in Austin in one of the great match-ups in class A history. The favorite was Broaddus, the defending state champion. Paced by one of the top recruits in the state, Terry Teagle. Broaddus was going for their third straight state title. The 6'4" senior led his team to four straight state tournaments, one of the few players in state history to accomplish the feat. His coach, Marion Neill said, "He has no idea how good he is." Because of his relationship with Neill, Teagle has decided to stay at the small school. His numbers were impressive, 30 points, 17 rebounds and four blocks. Teagle would go down in state history as one of the best players to ever come out of the Texas in the smaller classifications. With an impressive 32-3 record, the Bulldogs showed they could definitely play with the big boys. They beat Garland and all-state player, Ricky Pierce 71-64. They split with class 4-A regional semi-finalist Lufkin. The Bulldogs won the first game against Lufkin 74-68 and then lost the re-match 77-72. The Bulldogs lost to 3-A Silsbee 84-82. At the end of the regular season, Broaddus defeated Lufkin(29-8) 81-78 for the second time. This game was to get both teams ready for the playoffs. I remember at the state tournament the talk was that Kentucky was recruiting Teagle. Kentucky was the #1 team in the country and eventually won the NCAA Championship.

Coppell(30-5) under Coach Jim Mudd traveled to Austin for the second time in three years. The Cowboys were paced by Mark Dobecka. The 6'3" senior was Coppell's leading scorer at 18 points per game and was a four-year starter for Coach Mudd. Scott Austin(16.0), 5'10" John Talley(14.0), 5'10" Weldon Hamm(10.0), and 6'4" Aldon Rutherford(10.0) were the other starters for the

Cowboys. "I think this team is more balanced than two years ago," said Coach Mudd, who had led the Cowboys to three straight District 15-A championships.

Against Broaddus in the semi-finals, Coppell led the entire game until Broaddus tied the score with 4:02 remaining. Terry Teagle hit a jumper with eight seconds left to put the game into overtime. With ten seconds remaining in the game and the score tied at 62. Teagle made a costly turnover to give the ball back to Coppell. Scott Austin of Coppell was fouled and the rest is history. Austin made a free throw with four seconds remaining in overtime to give the Cowboys a 63-62 win over the defending state champions. The Cowboys had pulled the upset of the tournament and now they would set their sights on the #1 ranked, Snook Blue Jays. Snook defeated Van Horn 53-49 in the other semi-finals game. Everybody had really been looking forward to the great game between Broaddus and Snook. The game would have been a classic re-match of the previous seasons four-point win for Broaddus.

In facing Snook, the Cowboys would be challenging one of the strongest traditional power houses in the history of Texas High School basketball. Snook was making their 11th appearance in the state tournament since 1962. The Blue Jays were built on speed and quickness. With a record of 36-1, they were going to be tough for any team in Texas, let alone a Class 1-A team. Snook's only loss had come at the hands of class 4-A District champion Temple 55-45 at mid-season. Coach Don Horn's team had a very well balanced attack, with nine players scoring in the win over Van Horn in the semis.

For Snook, it was their fifth trip to the state in the previous seven seasons, as they defeated Coppell 63-62. It was Snook's first title since 1969. The Cowboys gained the lead for the first time with 3:01 remaining in the game after trailing early by eleven. Coppell had a chance to win it on their last possession but turned the ball over. Sophomore Mike Juneke, a 5'11" post, led the Blue Jays with 29 points and 17 rebounds. Dobecka closed out his fine career at Coppell with 23 points and 9 rebounds. Senior guard Scott Austin added 16 points.

The **All-Tournament** team consisted of Myron Palmer and Mike Juneke of Snook, Terry Teagle and Mike Parks of Broaddus, Mark Dobecka of Coppell.

Teagle, a **Texas Legend**, of course was named to the **All-State team** for the fourth year in a row and third time named to the first team. Joining Teagle on the **first team** was Joe Garcia(30.3) from Charlotte, James Washington(12.5) from Snook, Milton Hunter(23.0) of Winona and Myron Palmer(12.0) of Snook.

1979 A

Vega(28-6) defeated LaPoynor(33-7) 52-33 in convincing style to win the Class A state championship. Vega jumped out to a comfortable halftime lead of 31-13 and cruised to the title. In the semi-finals, Vega defeated Reagan County(25-6)

67-60 even though they were out rebounded 54-34. Vega forced Reagan County into 23 turnovers to offset the rebounding difference. LaPoynor advanced to finals by beating Hull-Daisetta(23-9) 81-54. Vega was led to the state title by 6'4" Ronnie Williams(18.0) and 5'10" Les Newbill(15.0). Williams had 13 points and 15 rebounds in the final and contributed 32 points in the semi-finals. Vega playoff wins consisted of Hale Center 61-51, Iraan 74-62, and Stratford 60-57.

The **All-Tournament team-** 6'4" Ronnie Williams of Vega, 5'9" Joe Rodriguez of Vega, 5'9" Billy Douglas of LaPoynor, 5'9" Larry Cumby of LaPoynor and 6'1" Joe Paul Tarrant of LaPoynor,

The **Texas Sports Writers All-State** team was made up 6'4" Ronnie Williams of Vega, Gregory Johnson of Hull-Daisetta, 5'9" Billy Douglas of LaPoynor, Chemmie Terry of Celina and Dwayne Dishman from Crowell. Others top players were, 5'7" Jeff Ray(23.0) of Archer City, 6'1" Monte Driskell(23.4) of Lovelady, Kenny Rivers(18.0) of Three Rivers:

Top Players of the 1970's Class A

Ht.	1st Team	Pts.	Team	College	Pro
6'4"	Terry Teagle(78)	30.0	Broaddus	Baylor	Rockets #16
6'2"	Larry Spruiell(73)	27.0	Petrolia	North Texas St.	
6'6"	Paul Lamb(73)	16.5	Kennard	Houston	
6'3"	Mark Dobecka(78)	18.0	Coppell		
5'11"	Don Wiley(73)	22.5	Snook		
6'3"	Louis Nix(74)		Snook		
6'1"	L. Hutcherson(70)	17.4	Kennard		

Best Teams of the 1970's Class A

Team	Year	W-L	Playoffs	Standouts
Kennard	1970	42-0	State Champions	{L. Hutcherson, James Smith}
Pottsboro	1972	37-0	State Champions	{Larry Spruiell, Jerry Cassell}
Kennard	1973	39-3	State Champions	{Paul Lamb, Edward Marshall}
Broaddus	1976	35-1	State Champions	{Terry Teagle, Samuel Brooks}
Broaddus	1977	36-1	State Champions	{Terry Teagle, Tommy Garrett}
Broaddus	1978	32-4	State Semi-Finals	{Terry Teagle, Mike Parks}
Snook	1978	37-1	State Champions	{Myron Palmer, J. Washington}
Coppell	1978	31-6	State Finals	{Mark Dobecka, Scott Austin}

Most State Tournament Appearances	Snook	1971(B) 1972(B) 1973 1974 1977 1978 1979(B)
	Broaddus	1975 1976 1977 1978
Most State Championships	Kennard	1970 1973
	Broaddus	1976 1977
	Snook	1978 1979(B)

1975 B

LaPoynor finished an undefeated season 42-0 beating Richards in the semi-finals 66-52 and Spade in the title game 52-42. In the finals, the Flyers out rebounded Spade 43-21. The Flyers were led by 6'2" Larry Cumby(22.0), 6'2" Ozell Hambrick(12), 5'11" Billy Clark(12) and 5'11" Jerry Sowell(10.). Hambrick had 22 points in the title game to lead the Flyers. Gaylon Reed led Spade with 15 points. In the semis, Hambrick and Cumby scored 21 and 22 respectfully in LaPoynor's winning effort. Clifford Kroll was the high scorer for Richards.

Bill Ingram was the LaPoynor coach who had suffered a heart attack in November and turned many of his coaching duties over to Dwane Nichols, an elementary school principal for the season's final 30 games.

The **All-Tournament** team consisted of Larry Cumby, Ozell Hambrick and Jerry Sorrells of LaPoynor, Tommy Batson, Gaylon Reed and Marvin Matthews of Spade, and Guy Livingston of Megargel.

For Cumby, it was his 4th consecutive All-tournament selection making him one of only four players ever to accomplish such a feat. The others were Greg Austin of Troup from 1991-1995, Terry Teagle of Broadus, 1975-1978 and Chuck Hall of Krum, 1976-1979. Cumby was also named all-state three consecutive seasons.

1976 B

Richards emerged as the state champion in class B in 1976 after beating Brookeland 57-47 in the championship game. Their biggest accomplishment may have been defeating Krum in the semi-finals 51-42. The Panthers were 44-2 on the season and advanced to state with wins over Axtell 58-49, Round Top 71-54, and Austwell-Tivoli 68-52. Bill Shaw coached Richards to the championship. Key contributors for Richards were 6'4" Merion Dean(17.0), 5'9" Clifford Kroll(14.0), 5'11" Sam Johnson(10) and 5'8" David Dean(10.0). In the title game Dean and Kroll both finished with 14 points. In a losing effort, Jesse Hobson had 20 points for Brookeland. In the semi-finals, Dean was the leader once again with 13 points and 14 rebounds.

The **All-Tournament team-** 6'4" Merion Dean, 5'9" Clifford Kroll and 5'11" Sam Johnson of Richards, 5'8" Clifford Young and 5'11" Jessie Hobson of Brookeland, and freshmen, 5'9" Chuck Hall of Krum. 5'9" Dicky Faught of Brownfield Union was also named to the team.

1977 B

Avinger(36-7) defeated Hedley 68-62 for the class B state championship. It was Coach Ken Lloyd's second title with Avinger. Senior Tim Jones scored 23 points and 13 rebounds in the winning effort. Avinger, according Dr. Billy, only had 17 boys in the high school and 10 played basketball. 6'1" Rufus Mathis(21.0) and 6'3" Tim Jones(16.0) were named 1st team All-State, along with one of the greats of

class B basketball, Chuck Hall of Krum. Hall ranks #4 on the all-time state scoring list with 3550 points. Hall went on to McLennan J.C. in Waco and was a two-time NAIA honorable mention All-American at Midwestern in Wichita Falls.

All-Tournament team- 6'1" Rufus Mathis of Avinger, 5'9" Anthony Hatten of Avinger, 6'3" Tim Jones of Avinger, 5'9" Chuck Hall of Krum, 5'9" John Lemley of Hedley, 5'9" Mike Darnell of Hedley and 6'2" Benny Flournoy of Leggett:

1978 B

In the class A finals, Krum(40-3) had its delay game backfire when they led 64-56 with 4:30 left against defending state champion, Avinger. Avinger cut the lead to 68-66 with a minute left and after a Krum miss with 40 seconds left, Avinger coach David Murphy called time out. At the same time Murphy called time out, his player on the court, Anthony Hatten hit a jumper, but it was negated. Hatten hit two free throws with 16 seconds left to tie the score. Krum went for the final shot when Keith Copp was fouled with one second left on the clock and the score tied 68 all. Copp hit one of two to win the game. He missed the second one on purpose so the clock would start. "When I was standing at the free-throw line all I could think of was the state championship," Copp said. Chuck Hall finished with 25 points and Copp added 19, along with Kenneth Dodd's 18 points.

Krum coach, Bennie Enis had a career record of 421-61 coming into Austin and a 40-3 record on the season. This was Krum's third straight trip to Austin trying to obtain the illusive state championship. The Bobcats go to player was Hall, who at 5'10" was one of the top scorers in the state averaging 26.7 points per game. Hall had scored 38 points the previous season in the state semi-final loss against Hedley. In the semi-final win, Krum defeated Waelder 54-39. Dodd scored 25 and Hall followed with 22 points.

All-Tournament- 5'10" Chuck Hall of Krum, 5'8" Kenneth Dodd of Krum, 6'1" Keith Copp of Krum, 5'9" Anthony Hatten of Avinger, 6'3" Jimmy Powell of Avinger:

1979 B

Snook, the defending Class A state champion, met Krum the defending Class B state champion in the 1979 state championship game. It was the first time in state history, two defending state champions had met for a state title. Snook(45-2) defeated Krum(44-1) on James Washington's jump shot with 25 seconds remaining 57-56. Kenneth Dodd of Krum missed a twenty-footer at the buzzer that would have won the game. The loss ended Krum's 50-game winning streak. Snook was led in the finals by 5'11" Mike Junek with 30 points and 5'11" James Washington's 18 points. For Krum, it was the guard combination of Chuck

Hall(22.1) and Kenneth Dodd(23.4) that carried the team to 50 straight wins. Hall made the All-tournament team in Austin for the fourth year in a row. These two teams were not only the two top rated teams in the state in Class B but they were also two of the most successful programs in Texas High School basketball history. Neither team had much size with the tallest player on Snook only 5'11" and Krum had only one player over 6'0", and that was 6'3" junior, Ricky Jones(8.2). This was Krum fourth straight trip to the state tournament and Snook's third. Don Horn lead Snook to a 333-65 record and two state championships in eight years at Snook. He announced after the game he would be moving into administration. Class B standouts: 6'3" Woody Conrard(23.0) of Lometa, 5'10" Randy Simpson(19.7) of Medina, 5'9" Anthony Hatten(19.0) of Avinger.

Top Players of the 1970s Class B

Ht.	1st Team	Pts.	Team	College	Pro
6'1"	Tommy Johnson(71)	27.1	Krum		Howard Payne
6'2"	Larry Cumby(75)	22.0	LaPoynor		
5'10"	Chuck Hall(79)	26.7	Krum		Midwestern University
6'6"	Randy Spain(74)	22.0	Huckabay		
6'0"	Jimmy Street(72)	25.4	LaPoynor		
5'11"	James Washington(79)	13.0	Snook		
5'11"	Mike Junek(79)		Snook		
5'8"	Kenneth Dodd(79)	23.4	Krum		

Best Teams of the 1970s Class B

Team	Year	W-L	Playoffs	Standouts
Krum	1971	47-1	State Champions	{Steve Sparks, Tommy Johnson}
LaPoynor	1972	43-4	State Champions	{Jimmy Street, W. Stringfield}
LaPoynor	1973	36-4	State Champions	{Larry Cumby, Calvin Sowell}
Huckabay	1974	47-1	State Champions	{Randy Spain, Rex Spain}
LaPoynor	1974	38-4	State Finals	{Larry Cumby, Ozell Hambrick}
LaPoynor	1975	42-0	State Champions	{Larry Cumby, Ozell Hambrick}
Snook	1979	45-2	State Champions	{Mike Junek, J. Washington}
Krum	1979	44-1	State Finals	{Chuck Hall, Kenneth Dodd}

Most State Tournament Appearances-	LaPoynor	1970 1972 1973 1974 1975 1979(A)
	Krum	1971 1976 1977 1978 1979
Most State Championships	LaPoynor	1972 1973 1975
Longest Winning Streak	Krum	50 {1979}

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