

The History of Texas High School Basketball

Volume V

1985-1986

By Mark McKee

Website www.txhighschoolbasketball.com

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Preface

HISTORY OF TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL VOLUME V

By Mark McKee

Sean Gay was my choice for the cover on the 1985-1986 book. Everybody I talked to felt like it was a solid choice. Gay paced Houston Madison to the state championship in 1985. Ricky Winslow and Carven Holcombe graced the 1983-1984 cover. Carven and Ricky were the key players on the 1983 state semi-finalist team from Houston Yates. Kirk Lundblade was easy choice for the 1980-81-82 addition. Lundblade guided Plano High to the state finals, losing by one point to Houston Kashmere. Reggie Roberts also graced the cover with Lundblade. Roberts was All-State and later played for the Aggies. John Schlicher was my choice for the 1975-1979 addition after guiding Ft. Worth Paschal to the state finals in 1975. The original book had Sammy Hervey as the cover boy. Hervey played for Dallas Crozier Tech as a senior and Dallas Booker T. Washington his junior season. All the players guided their high school teams to state with the exception of Hervey and Roberts. All were named first team All-State as well. Hervey, Winslow and Holcombe were also named High School All-Americans. Hervey and Winslow were two time High School All-Americans.

This book is dedicated to the memory of my great friend, Mark White. Mark left us way to young. Everybody that knew Mark were better for having known him. We met in the 6th grade while attending school in McKinney. We were always friends, but became close friends in high school while playing football and baseball. Just before his tragic accident, we had talked and promised to get together and catch-up. He left behind a wife and three young children.

Acknowledgements

Where do you start when naming all individuals that have been so instrumental in making these books possible? Billy Allen, Rick Penny, Charles Freet, Micheal Williams, Mike Kunststadt, Larry Brown, Rick Sherley, Boyce Honea, Ira Terrell, Carven Holcomb, Jim Wall, Jerry Stone, Anthony Allen, Danny Kaspar, Jim Duffer, Mike Smith, Ron Powell, Mike Bridges, Kirk Lundblade, Gary Heyland, “Stretch” Campbell, Reggie Franklin, J.D. Mayo, Tony Mauldin and so many more. Special thanks to the T.A.B.C. and Dave Campbell’s Texas Basketball, along with my great friend, R.V. Baugus. Texas Hoops, with Blue Zertuche and Sam Lowe, have been very supportive. Basketball historians, Dr. Billy Wilbanks and his fabulous website, Ivy McLemore, Bill McMurray and so many more have kept the high school game of basketball interest alive and well in Texas. Thanks also goes to Bob Springer – Founder & Curator of *TEXAS BASKETBALL MUSEUM* now in its 12th year of operation, located in Carmine, Texas. Check it out.

The Great Game of High School

Basketball continued to new heights in 1985. Texas emerged as the only state in the union with three cities in the nation's top ten in terms of population. Houston, Dallas and San Antonio had shown enormous growth during the decade. Athletics and basketball in general would benefit from Texas explosion in growth. The inner-city programs were still dominating, but the game had definitely moved to the suburbs.

Covering the history of Texas basketball has become more difficult, because of the size of the state and so many outstanding teams. I will continue the same format with few changes. Class 5-A will be District by District, playoffs, regionals and state, while the smaller classifications will focus on top programs. Once again, my promise is to bring you the most accurate information possible.

In visiting with Mike Kunstadt of Texas Hoops, who many would describe as the god-father of summer league basketball and camps. Mike conveyed that 1985 was a turning point in summer league basketball. The UIL began allowing more than three kids from the same high school to play together. "Most of the teams were all-star teams from the different summer leagues around the state," Mike said. "It had a very positive effect of the level of play as well as allowing kids to compete against better competition." Spring basketball was still a few years in the future, but Texas basketball had really made some big strides in 1985.

One of the biggest adjustments for Texas High School coaches in 1985 was the new house bill 72 rule. It stated that in order to be eligible, a player had to pass all classes with at least a grade of 70. The effect of the new rule caused teams to play a portion of their season without key players. In 1985, you'll see teams with double digit losses advance deep into the playoffs. Athletes eventually will realize the best way to stay eligible was to take "less" challenging courses. Art became a very popular course. Was it fair to have a player taking advanced courses ineligible for a six week grading period?

Another monster change in the educational landscape in the 1985 was passed by The Texas State Board of Education. Teachers and Coaches across the state were asked to take an examination on their reading and writing proficiency in March of 1986. "House Bill 72," called for Texas public school educators to pass a test in reading and writing as a condition of continued certification (TECAT). Many teachers filed grievances saying the law was unconstitutional. You have no idea how much stress this placed on teachers and especially coaches. The idea was to improve education and make sure all educators could read and write. Out of the 210,000 Texas teachers and administrators who took the Test, 6319 failed and 4,444 refused to take the test. If you failed the test, you were given a second opportunity and could continue taking it until you passed. Many teachers and especially coaches, shop teachers, vocational teachers were affected and left the profession. My head football coach had not been in the classroom in over 15 years and taught physical education. The Texas Teacher associations mounted an

unsuccessful court challenge to the test, arguing that Texas teachers held lifetime teaching certificates.

Many of these educators who were affected had been outstanding in their teaching areas and were leaders in the community. Was their inability to read and write critical to their job? The test eliminated many educators from the profession who had given teachers a bad reputation.

Trivia Question- Who would you put on the Mount Rushmore of Texas High School Basketball in the 1970s. It's a fascinating question for sure. That should give you something to ponder. My selections and others appear later in the book.



1985 AAAAA

As we discussed in the last book, over a six-year period from 1984 to 1989, six teams arrived in Austin in the state's largest classification undefeated. That had not happened before or since. Houston Madison was the second such team following the lead of Ft. Worth Dunbar in 1984. The Marlins climbed in the U.S.A Today national poll higher than any Texas team before, finishing #4 in the final poll. Madison had begun the pre-season at #19 in the nation according to U.S.A. Today. It would take 18 years before Willowridge would rank higher in the final poll. U.S.A. Today's inaugural poll began in 1983. Ft. Worth climbed as high as #3 in the nation during the 1987, but finished at #16.

As far as numbers are concerned, Madison was the most dominate team in the history of Texas high school basketball during the modern era, which began in 1968. If you look at the number of teams that competed at the highest level in the state, Madison is at the top of the heap. Their closest game all season was a 14-point margin. That is an incredible stat when you consider referees, home court, travel, illness and motivation. Madison's point differential came out to +34.4, which was higher than any team in the modern era, including any of the Wheatley and Kashmere teams. Anybody who was lucky enough to witness the Marlins were amazed. I will leave it up the readers to decide their place in history.

The Arlington Classic was an early testing area for teams in the Dallas-Ft Worth area as well as Houston Wheatley(19-11) and Houston Worthing(15-15). Dallas S.O.C.(34-2) advanced to the finals after defeating Duncanville(23-8) 62-60. Terry Talley was big for the Panthers with 26 points, while the balanced attack of South Oak Cliff was too much. Three Golden Bears were in double digits, Rodney

Samuell poured in 21 points, Jeffrey Ralston contributed 16 and Ronnie Morgan finished with 15 points. North Mesquite(22-9) advanced to the finals downing Denton(25-10) 52-50. Miles Haberer topped the scoring for the Stallions with 17 points and the Broncos were paced by Billy Jones with 14 points. In the Championship game, S.O.C.(34-2) defeated North Mesquite(22-9) 48-45. Coach Ron Powell kept the tempo slow to keep his team in the contest. Duncanville(23-8) beat Denton(25-10) in the 3rd place game 46-44, Ft. Worth Southwest(30-9) took consolation 54-51 over Dallas Samuel(23-9). Interesting side note is Houston Wheatley lost twice in the tournament, losing to Denton 81-72 and to Dallas Samuel in consolation 72-70.

Garland(26-5) took the DeSoto Invitational 72-64 over Ferris. Mookie Blaylock was high man for the Owls with 21 points. In the Scot Classic at Highland Park, the Scots remained undefeated beating Carrollton R.L. Turner(5-21) in the finals 58-49. In the Richardson Coca Cola tournament, Richardson Berkner(18-10) took apart Richardson Pearce(12-16) 46-38. In the Halton-Richland Tournament, Dallas Kimball(30-3) disposed of South Garland(27-7) for the title 69-66. Jeffrey Fudge and Carl Love paced the Knights with 16 and 15 points. Kato Armstrong was the leader for the Colonels with 21 points. In the Prairie Classic in Grand Prairie, South Grand Prairie(16-12) defeated Grand Prairie(23-9) in the finals 59-50. "Skeeter" Henry was leading scorer for the Warriors with 18 points. Eules Trinity(12-16) defeated Arlington(13-13) 56-45 for 3rd place and Temple(30-5) knocked out Richardson Pearce(12-16) 66-46 in consolation. One of the top guards in central Texas, 6'2" Anthony Booker of Temple put up 22 points against the Mustangs. In the Lancaster Tiger Classic, Lancaster defeated Rockwall 69-55. Marvin Williams of Rockwall scored 28 points for the losers and Charles Bailey had 24 points for Lancaster.

In the Cowtown Tournament, Denton(25-10) defeated Ft. Worth Wyatt(22-8) 63-53. 6'7" Andre McDade paced the Broncos with 19 points. 6'3" Falanda Newton was top dog for Wyatt with 16 points. In the Jesuit Classic, Dallas Bryan Adams(15-11) won the championship over Richardson(13-13) 74-68. In the Everman Tournament, West Mesquite(21-8) was successful defeating Everman(26-2) in the finals 59-56. West Mesquite defeated Irving MacArthur(21-12) 64-63 to gain the finals.

In the Crowley Tournament, Corsicana(29-4) took down Cleburne(27-6) in the semi-finals 66-45 and Irving High(11-19) 74-55 in the finals. Corsicana continued their impressive play at the A&M Consolidated Tournament in College Station. The Tigers beat Huntsville(23-11) 70-66, Austin L.B.J.(25-10) 54-48, Crowley(10-19) 63-54 and defeated the home team in the finals. A&M Consolidated(20-11) fell to Corsicana 61-52 in the championship game. In the Huntsville win, 5'10" Lamar Wadley led Corsicana with 22 points, 6'2" Terry Winston had a double-double with 18 points and 10 rebounds and 5'8" Ricky

Dotson added 14 points. Huntsville had Tommy Woolley leading the Hornets with 21 points.

In the M.T. Rice Tournament at Waco Midway High school, Corsicana was impressive advancing to the finals defeating Cypress Cove(3-22) 64-47, Waco Jefferson Moore(19-11) 54-43 and Houston Strake Jesuit 55-40. The Tigers faltered in the finals against class AA Grapeland(31-3) 70-68. In Corsicana's game against Jefferson-Moore, 6'7" Calvin Moore of Jefferson-Moore almost single handed propelled his team to victory with a 30-point effort. Wadley led Corsi with 24 points. The Tigers had trailed the entire game. Houston Strake Jesuit eliminated Victoria(18-14) 50-46 from down south.

The finals of the M.T. Rice Tournament saw Corsicana battle the Sandie's of Grapeland. In one of the top games of the season, Grapeland came away with victory after two overtimes. Dotson finished with 18 points and Wadley showed his usual greatness with 20 points. The Tigers were once again battling from behind. 5'8" Tony Jones of Grapeland led his team with 21 points and 6'7" Calvin Tillis threw in 17 points. Jones and Tillis were two phenomenal athletes. Jones signed with Texas to play football as one of the fastest players in the country. He also ran track for the Longhorns, running on the 400-meter relay and 200 meters. He was a three-year letterman in football and an outstanding receiver with the Longhorns. He was the 6th round pick in the N.F.L. draft by the Houston Oilers and played with the Cardinals and Falcons as well. Calvin Tillis signed to play for the Angelina College in Lufkin after graduation. After he completed his two years at the junior college, he signed to play basketball for Drake in Des Moines, Iowa. Tillis averaged 11.7 points and 5.7 rebounds for the Bulldogs his senior year. Two division one athletes on a class AA team was certainly impressive. Grapeland took out Waco Midway in the semi-finals game.

The Clear Creek-Clear Lake Tournament had some nice talent. Pasadena(23-10) beat Texas City(14-18) 64-49, Clear Lake(32-3) downed Baytown Lee(7-21) 61-55, Pasadena Dobie(20-10) got by Cypress Creek(10-21) 62-42, Houston Austin(18-12) beat Kingwood(13-18) 69-64, Baytown Sterling(27-5) brought a strong team into the tournament and defeated class AA Hitchcock 72-45, Friendswood defeated the host Clear Creek(12-13) 68-53. In second round action Friendswood beat South Houston(12-20) 60-59, Baytown Sterling(27-5) continued winning defeating Pasadena(23-10) 73-58, Houston Austin(18-12) beat Pasadena Dobie(20-10) 60-57, Texas City(14-18) took out Clear Creek(12-13) 74-66. In the consolation bracket, Humble Kingwood(13-18) defeated Clear Creek(12-13) 62-58 and Dobie(20-10) downed rival Pasadena(23-10) 60-57 for 5th place. Clear Lake(32-3) won the tournament in convincing style over Houston Austin(18-12) 95-54.

Clear Lake(32-3) also took the Pasadena Invitational Tournament defeating Dulles(14-15) 75-63, Pasadena Sam Rayburn(8-22) 82-50, Pasadena

Dobie(20-10) 73-60 and Alvin(22-12) in the finals 70-58. The Katy Taylor Tournament brought together some real solid talent. Alief Hastings(24-10) defeated Willowridge(20-13) 54-53, Conroe(34-3) took out Alief Elsik(25-8) 66-59. The finals came down to Katy Taylor(27-5) defeating Conroe(34-3) 80-78 in a minor upset. Taylor put four players in double figures led by Steve Baker's 22 points. Rod Jacques paced Conroe with 33 points. In the Spring Branch Tournament, Memorial(29-6) advanced to the finals beating Angleton(25-5) 64-52 and won the championship defeating Spring(22-10) 49-34. Northbrook(20-12) claimed the 3rd place trophy defeating Angleton(25-5) 64-52.

In the Milton Jowers Classic in San Marcos, Houston Milby(19-11) defeated Round Rock Westwood(16-14) 62-53, Houston Northbrook(20-12) beat Abilene Cooper(10-20) 56-47, Harlingen(28-5) traveled up from south Texas and got mugged by Houston Madison(40-0) 84-38. The Marlins continued the whippings defeating Clear Creek(12-13) 102-42 in the next round. In the finals, Bryan(25-11) lost to Madison(40-0) 90-68. Margin of victory for Madison in the tournament was 42 points per game. Just another day at the office for the Marlins. Milby(19-11) was eliminated by Ft. Worth Southwest(30-9) in overtime 54-52. The Buffaloes turned right around after the late-night overtime loss and lost to Angleton(25-5) 73-56. The game was played at 9:30 in the morning.

In the Central Texas Tournament in Killeen, Spring Branch Memorial(29-6) got past Duncanville(23-8) 48-46 in overtime in the first round and defeated Tyler Lee(20-11) 51-40 in the second round. In the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD Tournament, two of the best players in the state locked horns in 6'3" Rod Jacques of Conroe(34-3) and 6'3" Steve Thompson of Pt. Arthur Jefferson(18-9). Thompson won the individual dual 33 to 23, Jacques won the all import game. The final read 94-81 in favor of Conroe. Conroe McCullough(23-10) advanced to the finals, led by All-American Lance Blanks. McCullough faced rival Conroe for the Championship. The Tigers won easily 81-62 over McCullough. Blanks finished with 22 points and Maurice Wright paced Conroe with 22 points. Spring Woods(18-12) fell to McCullough(23-10) earlier in the tournament 53-52. In the Prairie View Tournament, Houston Sam Houston(28-6) defeated Houston Austin(18-12) 72-64 in the finals.

The Beaumont YMBL tournament was always an early showcase for the Golden Triangle schools. In class 5-A, you had Beaumont Westbrook(29-4), Beaumont Pollard(25-9) and Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson(18-9). Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-4) would represent class 4-A well and representing class 3-A was defending state finalist, Hardin Jefferson. Beaumont French(16-12) and Galveston Ball(11-18) had very competitive teams as well.

Earlier in the week before the tournament, Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-4) had already dropped a critical game to Beaumont Pollard(25-9) 52-50 in Beaumont. The Bumblebees were incredibly talented group, paced by the top junior in the

state, 6'7" Anthony Allen. Supporting Allen and coach James Gamble were 6'5" Harold Campbell and 6'4" Donzell Henton. Beaumont Westbrook(29-4) had two talented players as well in 5'10" Michael Young and 6'3" Antonio Wells.

In the semi-finals, P.A. Lincoln(29-4) got revenge against Beaumont Pollard(25-9) with a 56-47 victory. Allen was 8 of 13 from the floor, Campbell 4 of 7 and Henton was 6 of 12. The rest of the team only shot 7 of 22 from the field. In the finals against Beaumont Westbrook(29-4), the Bees faced one of the toughest teams in the state. The Bruins took down Lincoln 54-50 and gained respect as the top team in the triangle for the time being. Michael Young carried Westbrook from the outside hitting 11 of 15 from the field and teammate Bobby Foster hit 3 for 3. Westbrook coach Fred Williams commented on his team's outside shooting, "we had no option, fortunately they went in." Allen was impressive with five blocks and 14 rebounds. Allen would join legendary Lincoln players, Earl Evans and Leonard Allen, as one of the best to ever come out of the Pt. Arthur school.

Beaumont French(16-11) took the consolation finals against Nederland(13-20) 43-40. Lincoln had eliminated Hardin-Jefferson in the quarterfinals 66-43. Hardin-Jefferson was paced by Rocky Rocquemore. Westbrook(29-4) had put Pt. Arthur Jefferson(18-9) into the loser's bracket with 72-58 win in the quarterfinals. 6'3" Steve Thompson of Jefferson put up amazing numbers against the Bruins with 24 points and 15 rebounds. Antonio Wells countered for the Bruins with 20 points and 7 rebounds. Wells was also 8 of 9 from the foul line. Westbrook gained the finals with a win over West Orange Stark(12-20) in the semis.

The next big tournament in the Beaumont-Pt. Arthur area was in Nederland. Many of the same teams traveled to Nederland ten days later. The Bumblebees showed their strength defeating a strong Bridge City(26-6) team in the semi-finals 61-44 and Beaumont Pollard(25-9) for the championship 54-40. The Cardinals entered the tournament undefeated and were a district rivals of Lincoln along with Silsbee. Bridge City(26-6) beat Beaumont French(16-12) in the 3rd place game 58-56.

The Cardinals coach, Jim McDonald commented about the Bees, "I think they're the best basketball team in southeast Texas." 6'4" Tracey Gunter of Bridge City was one of the top performers in the area. In the 67-54 win over Beaumont Kelly, Gunter put up 36 points on 14 of 16 shooting from the floor, 8 of 9 from the foul line. He also managed 14 rebounds.

In the Yellowjacket Holiday tournament in Pt. Arthur the top teams from the area faced off once again over the Christmas holidays. Lincoln's football players had joined the team, which provided added depth. 6'5" 195-pound Arnold Anderson, 6'1" 180 Kenneth McKyer and 6'5" 190 Ronnie Haliburton joined the Bees. McKyer moved into the starting line-up by District. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-4) was impressive defeating crosstown rival P.A. Jefferson(18-9) in the finals 63-42.

The triple towers of 6'7" Allen, 6'5" Haliburton and 6'4" Campbell were very imposing to their opponents. Allen was named the tournament M.V.P. Port Arthur Jefferson had their best team in years the before mentioned Thompson and 6'7" Kerry Hadley pacing the Yellowjackets.

Lincoln snuck by Pollard(25-9) in the semis 60-59 and P.A. Thomas Jefferson(18-9) pulled one of the great upsets of the season knocking off Beaumont Westbrook(29-4) 64-45. Thompson combined with Hadley for 45 points against the Bruins. Thompson hit 28 points and Hadley added 17 points. District and crosstown rivals Westbrook(29-4) and Pollard(25-9) met for the first time in the 3rd place game. Westbrook proved masters over Pollard, as they would all season long 85-63.

Two of the top teams in the state met in the finals of the Baytown Lee College Classic tournament. Aldine MacArthur(30-3) came into the contest undefeated and took down the talented Bruins of Beaumont Westbrook(29-4) 67-49 in the finals. Baytown Sterling(28-6) lost to Westbrook(29-4) in the semis by one point, and defeated Spring Westfield(16-15) in the 3rd place game 95-82. Texas City(14-18) was successful winning the consolation bracket over West Orange Stark(12-20) 65-58. This ended up being the Generals of MacArthur most impressive victory of the season along with their win over Houston Sam Houston(28-6).

The Deer Park Tournament brought together some of the top teams in the Houston area. Houston Milby(18-11) advanced defeating LaPorte(13-18) 69-59 and eventually lost in the semis to Conroe McCullough(23-10) 45-43. Poor shooting contributed to the Buffaloes loss. In the 3rd place game, Milby pulled a big upset defeating state ranked Houston Sam Houston(28-6) 70-69. With three seconds left the Buffaloes went the length of the court and Carlos Sanders drained one from the corner for the victory.

In the Round Rock Westwood Tournament, Austin L.B.J.(25-10) defeated Round Rock Westwood(16-14) 57-50 in the first round and lost in the semi-finals to Killeen(27-6) 35-25. Killeen won the tournament with wins over Abilene Cooper(10-20) 69-38 and San Antonio Highlands(23-10). Highlands advanced to the finals defeating Round Rock(9-20) 97-72 and Austin Lanier(10-18) 68-58. In the Round Rock Tournament, Austin Westlake(26-8) won another tournament 62-57 over Austin Reagan(19-13). Westlake defeated Austin Travis(17-12) in the semi-finals 67-63.

Austin Johnston(20-9) defeated Austin Reagan(19-13) 74-59 in the finals of the Gonzales tournament. Johnston(20-9) downed Eagle Pass(21-9) in early round action 75-61. In the finals of the South San Antonio Tournament, Austin Anderson(15-11) took home three victories and the title over Harlingen(28-5) 68-55, South San Antonio(21-12) 64-49 and South San Antonio West 57-46. In the Victoria Classic, the Black Cats of Bay City(35-1) came away a big win over El

Campo(20-10) 66-53 in the finals. Tournament M.V.P., LaBradford Smith put up 35 points in the finals for the Black Cats. El Campo advanced to the finals defeating Victoria(18-14) 86-75 and Bay City took out Houston Davis(8-17) 72-49 to advance.

Highland Park(26-6) traveled from Dallas to Austin for the 17th consecutive year in a row and came away with the Austin ISD tournament title. Coach Tom Shelton looked to post 6'6" Stephen White and 6'6" Glenn Mack to carry the load. The Scots defeated L.B.J.(21-9) 58-51, Austin Anderson(15-11) 61-52, Austin Johnston(17-7) 61-52 and Austin Westlake(26-8) in the finals 64-62. Sophomore, Thomas Hocker, hit four foul shots in the last 13 seconds to give the Scots the victory over Westlake. Westlake advanced to the championship by beating Austin Crockett(2-23) 74-57, Austin Lanier(10-18) 67-51 and Austin Reagan(19-13) 58-47. Against Reagan in the semi-finals, Richie Dozier poured in 29 points for the Chaparrals of Westlake. Jason Shead had 35 points for Johnston(20-9) in his team's loss to Highland Park.

The Garland Coca Cola Tournament was always one of the bigger tournaments in the Dallas area. Tyler John Tyler(31-2) came in from East Texas undefeated at 13-0 and left unbeaten. The Lions defeated Garland Lakeview(16-15) 73-66, Dallas Lincoln(20-9) 94-73 and defeated highly regarded South Garland(27-7) in the finals 69-59. The inside game of 6'6" James Johnson and 6'9" Fred West was on display for the Lions. In the finals, Johnson put up 32 points and West added 17 points, as the tandem combined for 49 points. For the Colonels of South Garland, their tremendous backcourt combo of Charles Smith and Kato Armstrong put up 32 points. John Tyler got lucky getting by Dallas Skyline(23-8) 63-62. The Lions strong inside game was matched-up against Larry Johnson of Skyline. James Johnson was very impressive finishing with 29 points and West complemented him with 19 points of his own. 6'6" sophomore sensation Larry Johnson showed his greatness scoring 30 points against the Lions twin towers.

Garland(26-5) also entered the tournament unbeaten, but tasted defeated twice. First in the semi-finals against South Garland(27-7) 77-73 and against Dallas Skyline(22-7) 63-60 in overtime for 3rd place. Two future N.B.A. stars were on display in the 3rd place contest as Larry Johnson of Skyline put up 22 points and Mookie Blaylock of Garland finished with 13 points. 6'7" Richard Derrick was high point man for Garland with 16 points, while little brother Neil, finished with 8 points. In the Owls lost to South Garland, Mookie Blaylock got hot for 28 points and Richard Derrick came away with 18 points. For the Colonels and Clayton Brooks, 6'5" Billy Smith finished with 22 points.

It is always debatable the best tournament in Texas each year, but the San Antonio Optimist Tournament was very special. Midland(20-11), Midland Lee(25-8), Killeen(23-7), Bryan(25-11), Temple(30-5), Clear Lake(32-3), Houston Yates(23-9), Houston Kashmere(24-12), Houston Westchester(11-18), Houston Smiley(15-15), Nacogdoches(5-26), Houston Waltrip(5-24) and all of the San Antonio schools

competed. Bryan, Midland, San Antonio Southwest, San Antonio Sam Houston(22-9), Deer Park(15-16), Houston Kashmere(24-12), Midland Lee(25-8) and Clear Lake(32-3) advanced to the quarterfinals. Bryan(25-11) defeated Midland(20-11) 56-52, Kashmere(24-12) beat San Antonio Southwest 86-82, Deer Park(15-16) was too much for San Antonio Sam Houston(22-9) 70-67 and Clear Lake(32-3) took out Midland Lee(25-8) 63-42.

Teams that obviously were missing from the final eight were Fox Tech(30-5) out of San Antonio. The Buffaloes were knocked out of the winner's bracket by Midland Lee(25-8). S.A. Roosevelt(23-11) eliminated Killeen(23-7) 53-51, but lost in the next round to Fox Tech(30-5) 77-71. Converse Judson(23-9) sent Temple(30-5) to the loser's bracket 49-44. Class 4-A San Antonio Southwest was able to get by Judson 56-49 and lost to Kashmere(24-12) 86-82. The Kangaroos of Killeen(23-7) also came away with a solid win over South San Antonio(21-12) 74-55.

In the semi-finals, Kashmere(24-12) defeated Bryan(25-11) 52-46 and Clear Lake(32-3) advanced past Deer Park(15-16) 39-34. In the championship game, Clear Lake(32-3) took home the title over Kashmere(24-12) 72-68. The 3rd place game was won by Bryan(25-11) 52-39 over Deer Park(15-16). Temple(30-5) and Killeen(23-7) fought their way through to the consolation finals with the Wildcats defeating Killeen(26-7) 56-53. In the consolation semi-finals, Temple(30-5) took down a solid San Antonio Lee(29-7) team 70-64 and Killeen(23-7) was able to get past Houston Yates(23-9) 78-71. S.A. Lee(29-7) had lost earlier to Bryan(25-11) 50-48 in one of the top games of the tournament.

The All-Tournament team at the Optimist tournament was made up of M.V.P. Kevin Stiner of Clear Lake, Johnny Robertson of S.A. Southwest, Jeff Priestly of S.A. Sam Houston, Ed Mills of S.A. Roosevelt, Mike Francis of Clear Lake, Derrone Bowdary of Kashmere, Houston Williams of Bryan, Tommy Rush of Temple, Sedrick Evans of Killeen, Clarence King of Houston Yates, Vince Matthews of Midland Lee.

In the little known Greenville Invitational Tournament, Texas High(20-9) defeated Greenville(23-10) 64-63 and went on to take the championship over Irving MacArthur(20-12) 68-65. Greenville(23-10) dominated Sulphur Springs in the 3rd place game 79-46. Plano(17-12) defeated North Mesquite(22-9) in the Plano Invitational 57-56 for a big win.

In the Duncanville Classic, Duncanville(23-8) took down Waco High(21-9) 75-55 in the finals. Houston Marian(29-3) defeated Sweeney(31-3) in the finals of the Holiday Classic 54-49. In the Central Texas Tournament, Spring Branch Memorial defeated Dallas Kimball(30-3). Tyler John Tyler(31-2) remained undefeated and state ranked winning the Waco Optimist Tournament. The Lions were impressive defeating Houston Sterling(11-14) 97-69, Waco University 68-16, San Antonio Central Catholic(20-9) 57-31 and Greenville(23-10) in the finals 66-53. James Johnson of John Tyler(31-2) was named tournament M.V.P. John Tyler climbed to #3 in the state T.A.B.C. polls. Tyler John Tyler(31-2) defeated Tyler

Lee(20-11) in the finals of the Tyler J.C. Tournament at Tyler Junior College 56-39. James Johnson was held to only six points, but the Lions came away with an easy win. In the Oil Bowl tournament in Palestine, Longview(29-9) were successful against Palestine in the finals 72-47. Greg Colbert paced the Lobos with 19 points.

Spring Branch Memorial(29-6) traveled to the King Cotton Classic in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. This tournament was widely known as one of the best in the country. The Mustangs lost to Memphis White Haven in the first round 47-44 and won their next two games.

Of course, the best Tournament in Dallas was usually the Dr. Pepper tournament held by the Dallas Independent School District. Coach Jimmy Gales of South Oak Cliff said coming into the tournament, "I feel fortunate to still be undefeated, I like to play the best teams, but I didn't realize I'd scheduled so many of them on the road. It was a real test." The Bears stood at 11-0 as they entered the tournament. Gales depth had been a real strength during the season playing eight to ten players. Gales discussed his outstanding junior guard, Rodney Samuel. "He's as good as any I've ever had," Gales said, "And he has that championship-caliber heart. When the game is on the line, he wants the ball."

The two favorites were places in opposite brackets, Kimball at 13-1 and S.O.C. at 11-0. The best of the early round games was in the second round between South Garland(27-7) and Dallas Skyline(23-8). The Colonels won a close one in overtime against Skyline 72-69. Billy Smith scored 7 of the 11 overtime points for South Garland. Smith finished with 29 points and 12 rebounds against one of the top players in the state in Larry Johnson. The big sophomore finished with 22 points for the Raiders. Coach Clayton Brooks commented after the game, "Johnson is a great player, and I thought Billy did a great job on him." Dallas Samuel(24-9) took down Garland(26-5) 63-43 in an upset. When looking at the box score you noticed immediately Mookie Blaylock was either sick or did not play, which speaks to the lopsided score.

S.O.C. advanced the early rounds with wins over Seagoville(20-12) 75-68 and Sunset(5-19) 89-32. Kimball(30-3) kept pace downing W.T. White(2-12) 92-41 and Hillcrest(2-18) 74-58. S.O.C.(34-2) advanced to the semis against a tough district rival, Dallas Samuel 74-66. Kimball(30-3) defeated Ft. Worth Dunbar(20-13) 81-45 in the other semi-finals.

In the much-anticipated championship game S.O.C.(34-2) slipped past Kimball(30-3) 65-60. Samuel's finished with 16 points and Ronnie Morgan added 14 points. Kelly led Kimball 15 points and Love was held down to only 12 points for the Knights. Dallas Samuel(24-9) claimed the 3rd place game with a 70-64 victory over Ft. Worth Dunbar(20-13). Floyd Macon of Samuel won tournament M.V.P. award. Arlington Martin(25-9) took consolation with a 70-56 win over Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt(22-8).

Baltimore Dunbar(28-1) was the featured attraction at the Westside Lions Club tournament in Ft. Worth over the holidays. Baltimore Dunbar met S.O.C.(34-2) in the semi-finals and defeated the Golden Bears 68-54. The loss was S.O.C.'s first of the season. Both teams entered the contest undefeated. Highland Park(29-6) entered the finals against Baltimore Dunbar and went down hard in their first loss 74-44. Coach Tom Shelton of Highland commented following the game, "We felt like we had a solid chance to beat them, but the players realize this is a nationally ranked team. Of course, we'd like to keep the momentum of the winning streak going into district. But I don't think there will be any letdown." Kirk Lee was the leading scorer for Baltimore Dunbar vs. Highland Parks with 22 points coming mostly from the outside.

The Poets of Baltimore(28-1) defeated Haltom(11-15) by 40, Grand Prairie(26-9) by 30 and Highland Park(29-6) by 30. Ft. Worth Dunbar(20-13) won consolation and S.O.C.(34-2) downed Denton(25-10) in the 3rd place game 69-62 in overtime. The 6'10" Dozier twins, Terry and Perry, were the key players for Baltimore Dunbar. They combined for 32 points against S.O.C. and Karl James hit 12 points and Kirk Lee added 16 points. For coach Jimmy Gales, Rodney Samuel led the charge with 18 points. The tournament had a smaller attendance figures than the 1984 tourney due to Ft. Worth Dunbar's weak showing. It didn't seem to matter who was invited as the marquee team, everything was depending on the Wildcats. When coach Hughes teams were strong, and in the finals, the fans came out to support. Baltimore Dunbar claimed the national championship by U.S.A. Today publication, which was the most honored at the time. The Poets loss one game all season to Philadelphia Ben Franklin 58-57.

I remember the Poets of Dunbar well. The Dozier twins(*) were awesome, especially their press. One of the 6'10" Dozier twins played on the front of their diamond press and the other defended the bucket. Both were very long and could run the court. Terry was named a McDonald's All-American.

(*) Terry Dozier played at South Carolina and went undrafted by the N.B.A. Terry played nine games in the Association with the Hornets. He later played overseas for 12 years in Australia. Perry Dozier signed with South Carolina, but his career was cut short due to a knee injury. Perry's daughter is Asia Dozier, who won two state titles at South Carolina's Spring Valley High School and was one of the top recruits in the country as a senior. Perry's son, P.J. Dozier, attended South Carolina and was a McDonald's All-America at Spring Valley High School in South Carolina. B.J. went undrafted and played with the Mavericks and Celtics. P.J. was the second cousin of Reggie Lewis, the former Celtic that died of heart failure. P.J. wore the #35 as a tribute to Lewis.

The 45th Annual Jaycees Tournament was the premier tournament around the Christmas Holidays in Houston. Houston Madison(40-0) and Aldine MacArthur(30-3) both came into the tournament unbeaten. Pre-tournament favorites were Madison, MacArthur, Houston Austin(18-12) and Houston Sam Houston(28-6). MacArthur(30-3) defeated Houston Bellaire(14-14) in the first round 70-54. Rusty Thomas led the way with 24 points and Alex Williams helped

with 21 points. Madison(40-0) handled Alvin(22-12) 93-75. Houston Furr(21-8) defeated Houston Austin(18-12) 65-63. Austin had one of the most prolific scorers in the state in Melvin Swift. Swift put up 33 points in the losing effort. Sam Houston(28-6) destroyed a strong A&M Consolidated(21-11) team 92-56, Lufkin(14-16) beat Houston Davis(8-17) 59-43, Houston Westbury((17-15) upset Alief Elsik(25-8) 47-41.

Lufkin(14-16) had a nice win over Houston Lee(22-8) 56-53, Wheatley(19-11) beat Kashmere(24-12) 105-91, Houston Sterling(11-14) dropped Alief Elsik(25-8) 60-59, Sam Houston(28-6) continued their winning ways defeating Wheatley(19-11) 94-92. Houston Yates(23-9) beat Houston Washington(16-13) 75-54, and Yates(23-9) downed Houston Furr(21-8) 72-70. Furr had beaten Houston Austin(18-12) earlier 65-63. Sam Houston(28-6) had a big win on their way to the semi-finals, downing a tough Milby(19-11) team 64-56.

Madison(40-0) advanced in the quarterfinals beating Dulles(14-15) 84-54. The Marlins placed six players in double figures. Westbury(17-15) fell to Madison 109-42 as well. MacArthur(30-3) put Houston St. Thomas in the loser bracket 86-58, along with Lufkin(14-16) 69-55.

Four of the top teams in the state advanced to the semi-finals in classic fashion. Aldine MacArthur(30-3) came in at 17-0 while Houston Sam Houston(28-6) entered with a strong 15-4 mark. Aldine MacArthur remained unbeaten with a 60-56 victory over Houston Sam Houston. Alex Williams put up 19 points, Keith Hill added 18 points and Howard Turner finished with 15 points. Tyrone Mingo paced Sam Houston with 25 points. Houston Madison(40-0) had little trouble with Houston Yates(23-9) 78-61. Ivan Jones led the charge with 21 points and Gay finished with 19 points.

For the first time since Houston Wheatley and Houston Yates met in semi-finals 1970, two undefeated teams were playing each other in the finals of the Jaycees tournament. Houston Madison(40-0) gave Aldine MacArthur(30-3) their first loss of the season 81-62 at Delmar. "I thought they were very good defensively," Mac coach Walt Kaser said. "I know they were a great team, but I didn't know their defense would be that good." Kaser continued, "we didn't play very well tonight, but I think you'd have to give Madison most of the credit for that. We didn't have as much poise as I'd have hoped, but this was a good experience and it will help as in District."

Madison took an early lead 17-3 and led the whole way. Keith Hill paced the Generals with 20 points and Sean Gay put up 24 points for Marlins. Tony Gatlin added 16 points for Madison. Coach Paul Benton took the Marlins to their first title since 1980 and 3rd Jaycee title overall. The third-place game went to Houston Yates(23-9) over Houston Sam Houston(28-6) 79-76. Clarence King had 22 points for Yates and David McDaniels added 16 points for the Lions. Chris Morris, John Lockett and Tyrone Mingo were the leaders for Sam Houston with 24, 20 and 18

points. Alvin(22-12) defeated A&M Consolidated(21-11) 66-60 in the consolation finals.

Tim Hobby of Alvin(22-12) broke the state foul shooting record hitting 66 in a row against Houston Sterling. The previous mark was set by Sonny Benefield at 59 in 1964. Hobby hit his first five foul shots before missing his sixth attempt.

The Jaycees All-Tournament team was impressive. Tim Hobby, Alvin; Edward Jackson, Houston Furr; Tyrone Mingo, Sam Houston; Bruce Sanders, A&M Consolidated; Earl Seals, Milby; David McDaniel, Yates; Keith Hill, MacArthur; Sean Gay and Ivan Jones of Madison.

The Mount Rushmore question "Decade 1970s"- First of all, I found out on the responses I received that if you played in Austin in the state tournament, you were viewed by a much greater number of fans, as opposed to those that didn't. Having said that, I felt it was only fair to divide the listing between those who made the state tournament and those who did not. My choices, Eddie Owens of Houston Wheatley, Dwight Jones of Houston Wheatley, Karl Godine of Kashmere and Rob Williams of Houston Milby.

Others:

Danny Kasper-Texas State Head Coach {Eddie Owens, Ira Terrell, Rob Williams, Dwight Jones}

Phil Bailey-Retired former head coach at Mesquite Poteet, Texas Tech University {Dwight Jones, Ira Terrell, John Schlicher, Rick Bullock}

J.D. Mayo-Dallas Skyline longtime coach {Dwight Jones, Ira Terrell, Alton Lister}

Rick Bullock- Texas Tech legend {Dwight Jones}

Rick Penny- McMurray standout, former head coach at Klein Oak {Sammy Hervey, Eddie Owens, Dwight Jones, Ira Terrell}

Charles McMillan-S.O.C. legend, North State University {Sammy Hervey, Eddie Owens, Earl Evans, Ira Terrell}

Reggie Franklin- Houston Yates, S.M.U., college coach {George Walker, Eddie Owens, Ira Terrell, Dwight Jones}

Boyce Honea-Former Houston Milby legendary coach {Rob Williams}

Jim Vaszauskas-Mansfield Superintendent, Lamesa, Baylor {Rick Bullock, Terry Teagle, Ira Terrell, Dennis Tealer}

Ron Powell-North Mesquite coaching great, assistant at Texas Tech {Ricky Pierce, Eddie Owens, Rick Bullock, Charles McMillan, Sammy Hervey, Dwight Jones}

Charles Breithaupt- Coaching great at Hardin-Jefferson and Beaumont Westbrook, U.I.L. Executive Director {Dwight Jones, Eddie Owens, Ira Terrell, Terry Teagle}

Jimmy Duffield-Yates standout {Dwight Jones, Eddie Owens, George Walker, Leonard Duffield}

Cullen Mayfield-S.O.C. legend, Midwestern University, High School Player of the Year {Ira Terrell, Karl Godine, Charles McMillan, Cullen Mayfield}

Jim Duffer- Milby state champion coach in 2004, longtime coach {Rob Williams, Terry Teagle, Rick Bullock, Rudy Woods}

Carven Holcomb-Yates great, T.C.U. great {Karl Godine, Ira Terrell, Ricky Pierce}

Charles Freet-Longtime coach at Flower Mound, Newman Smith, Lake Travis {Terry Teagle, Ricky Pierce, Ira Terrell, Rob Williams}

Jim Wall- coaching great from Ft. Worth Paschal, Texas Tech Assistant {Eddie Owens, Ricky Pierce, Rick Bullock, John Schlicher}

Mike Kunstadt-Texas Hoops, Godfather of Texas Summer League Basketball, Corpus Christi Carroll and Irving High {Eddie Owens, Ira Terrell, Dwight Jones, Ricky Pierce}

Rick Sherley-Executive Director of TABC, longtime coaching great at Alief Hastings {Dwight Jones, Eddie Owens, Ira Terrell, Karl Godine}

"Stretch" Campbell-Yates great {Eddie Owens, George Walker, Toothpick Johnson, Maurice Presley}

Larry Spruill- High School legend, North Texas State, coached for 35 years {Ira Terrell, Terry Teagle, Eddie Owens, Rick Bullock}
Billy Allen- former Highland Park great, S.M.U., Nevada Reno {Terry Teagle, Ira Terrell, Dwight Jones, Ricky Pierce}
Eddie Fitzhugh- former Kimball great, T.C.U., former Flower Mound Marcus coach-{Ira Terrell, Rick Bullock}
Ray Roberts- former Garland High standout, Texas A&M, long coaching career {Rick Bullock, Gary Brewster, Eddie Owens, Ricky Pierce, John Schlicher}
Larry Brown-Two-time state champion coach at Bryan- {Rudy Woods, Karl Godine, Rick Bullock, Jarvis Williams}
Alvin Brooks-Former Wheatley standout, University of Houston Assistant Coach-{Dwight Jones, Eddie Owens, Karl Godine, Ira Terrell, Rob Williams}
 Receiving the most votes-
State Tournament qualifiers- Ira Terrell-Dallas Roosevelt, Eddie Owens-Houston Wheatley, Dwight Jones-Houston Wheatley, Rick Bullock-SA Jefferson:
Non-State Tournament qualifiers- Ricky Pierce-Garland, Rob Williams-Houston Mlby, Sammy Hervey-Dallas Crozier Tech, George Walker-Houston Yates:

Region I Playoffs

El Paso Andress(23-7)	El Paso Eastwood(24-4)
El Paso Riverside(20-6)	El Paso Burges(18-12)
Midland Lee(25-7)	Lubbock Monterey(27-3)
Abilene(21-9)	Amarillo Palo Duro(22-7)
Ft. Worth Southwest(26-9)	Ft. Worth Dunbar(20-12)
Eules Haltom(11-14)	Irving MacArthur(20-11)
Arlington Sam Houston(20-12)	Grand Prairie(25-8)
Arlington Martin(25-8)	Denton(23-9)

Top Five in Region I

6'5"	Tim Howard	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'2"	Curry Blackwell	Lubbock Monterey
6'2"	Darrell Davis	Midland
6'8"	Robert Newton	El Paso Andress
5'11"	Juric Brown	Grand Prairie

Region I was down in 1985 and there were no dominate teams. Of my top five players named in region I, only one would make it to regionals. Not one team in the region made my final top ten and only two made my final top 25. Lubbock Monterey had been ranked in the top ten by the T.A.B.C. late in the season, but had fallen out. Ft. Worth Dunbar had dominated the region since 1977. Coach Hughes troops were very competitive in 1985, but nothing like in the past. As mentioned early, they were very young and building for the future. Also, there were a lot of double-digit loss teams that advanced to the playoffs. The region was wide open.

District 1-AAAAA

El Paso Andress(23-7) came away with the District title with a strong showing by 6'8" Rob Newton(12.6/11.0/4 bl). Andress finished 12-2 in District competition. Newton was arguably the best player in El Paso. There was little doubt he was the most talented. Fernie Hernandez was the head man at Andress entering his 4th season. Andress averaged 54.6 point a game and gave up 45.7 per contest. Andress was one of the top three teams in El Paso along with Riverside and Eastwood in District 2-5A.

El Paso Burges(18-12) snuck in and took second place with an 8-6 record into the playoffs. Burges averaged 41.8 points on the season and their opponents averaged 41.5. Coach Tony Harper was in his 14th season with Burges and loved the slowdown game. Burges two standouts were 5'10" Dela Cruz(10.1) and 6'1" Mike Lawson. Burges playoff run was short lived.

Standings: Andress(23-7) 12-2, Burges(18-12) 8-6, Jefferson(16-13) 7-7, Bowie(18-12) 7-7, El Paso High(18-12) 7-7, Coronado(16-13) 7-7, Irvin(13-17) 6-8, Austin(5-25) 2-12:

All-City El Paso Times: *Coach of the Year-Bobby Lesley of Eastwood, City MVP- 6'6" Mike Duran(17.6/13.0) from El Paso Riverside. Members of the 1st team were 5'8" Salvador Cruz(19.1)-El Paso Bowie, 6'4" Anthony Ireland(9.2)-E.P. Coronado, 6'0" Steve Lee(11.5)-E.P. Eastwood, 6'3" Frank Loya(11.2)-E.P. Jefferson, 6'1" Mark McCall(11.8)-El Paso High, 6'8" Rob Newton(12.6)-E.P. Andress, 6'5" Larry Thompson(10.6)-E.P. Eastwood, 5'8" Tavo Torres(13.0)-E.P. Riverside, 6'2" Jeff Williams(13.5)-E.P. Bel Air, 5'5" Eric Wilson(12.8)-E.P. Parkland:*

District 2-AAAAA

Eastwood(24-4) was the top team in El Paso during the regular season. Coach Lesley was in his 19th season at the helm of the Troopers and ten straight playoff appearances. Eastwood had more size than anybody in the Sun City and finished the season on a 17-game winning streak. 6'0" Steve Lee(11.5) was considered the top shooter for the Troopers and Brent Ray(8.0) was his running mate. 6'5" Larry Thompson(10.6) was a force inside and 6'2" Wilbur Griffith(8.6) was thought to be one of the top leapers in the area. He was said to have a 40-inch vertical.

El Paso Riverside's(20-6) attack centered around the City M.V.P., 6'6" Mike Duran(17.6/13.0). Coach Jim Forbes was in his first season at Riverside. Riverside averaged 61.0 during the season and allowed 51.8. 5'8" Tavo Torres(13.0) was a key contributor as a ball handler for Coach Forbes.

Standings: Eastwood(24-4) 12-0, Riverside(20-6) 8-4, Parkland(13-12) 6-6, Bel Air(13-12) 6-6, Hanks(12-15) 5-7, Socorro(9-18) 2-10, Ysleta(3-24) 2-10:

District 3-AAAAA

Lubbock Monterey(27-3) won District followed by Amarillo Palo Duro(22-7). The Plainsmen of Monterey were impressive finishing 15-1 in District. Monterey's only loss came at the hands of Palo Duro 97-79. Palo Duro was upset late in the season 52-50 by Plainview, which eliminated any chances the Dons might have had at finishing in a tie with Monterey. Amarillo High came into the last game of the season with an opportunity to tie Palo Duro with a victory. This would have meant a playoff for the right to go to the playoffs. Monterey eliminated

Amarillo hopes 77-66. "They're the best in the district," Amarillo head man Allen Simpson commented. "There's no doubt in my mind. We just can't match-up with their quickness." 6'2" All-State guard, Curry Blackwell, led the charge by Monterey with 27 points. He had poured in 31 points in the Plainsmen's first round victory over the Sandie's. "Curry took command of the game," coach Grady Newton of Monterey said. Koy Eddleman paced Amarillo with 24 points.

Palo Duro was delivered a tough blow with three District games remaining. Ronnie Stiger and Gerry Smith did not suit up for the last three District games for disciplinary action. The two young men were involved with an investigation and left the squad. Two players off the bench moved into the starting lineup for Coach Ed Smith. 6'1" Harry Bowie and 6'2" Jeff Crockett became starters. Sammye Campbell replaced leading scorer Ronnie Stiger. Glenn Hayes moved from off guard to the point replacing Gerry Smith. Hayes had played the position earlier in the season when Smith had been in football.

Amarillo Palo Duro tested their new lineup against one of the top ranked 4-A teams in the state, Borger. The Don's came away with an impressive victory 75-71 over the state power. 6'1" Glenn Hayes seemed right at home in his new position, leading his team with 24 points. Crockett looked good in his new role as well putting up 14 points against Borger.

Palo Duro entered the playoffs for the first time since 1972. Coach Ed Smith had taken over the reins with the Don's in 1976. It was also the first time since 1972 Palo Duro had finished with a twenty-win season.

Standings: Lubbock Monterey(27-3) 15-1, Amarillo Palo Duro(21-7) 13-3, Amarillo High(21-8) 12-4, Lubbock Coronado(22-8) 9-6, Lubbock(14-14) 8-8, Amarillo Tascosa(12-18) 5-11, Plainview(12-17) 6-10, Hereford(9-18) 3-13, Amarillo Caprock(5-23) 1-15:

District 4-AAAAA

The West Texas District was very balanced during the '85 season. Midland Lee and Abilene finally emerged from the pack and were co-champs, both finishing 11-3. Midland had an incredible athlete inside in 6'2" Darrell Davis(26.8/10.0). Davis was one of those rare athletes that was an All-State tight end, finished 5th at the State Track Meet in the Shot Put(63'3 ½) and named District M.V.P. in basketball. He was named All-State in basketball as well as football. Davis played football at T.C.U. and in the N.F.L. for two seasons with the New York Jets at defensive end.

Midland Lee had two key players in 6'2" Brian Marczynski and 6'1" Derek Westbrook. Abilene counted on 6'1" Kirt Robinson, 6'2" Micky Russell, 5'9" Greg Lowery and 6'2" Cliff Johnson.

Midland Lee and Abilene came together to decide the District 4-5A championship at Big Spring. The game was indicative of the District with Lee winning 70-69 in overtime. Abilene had their chances to win the game from the line by failed at the end of regulation and the overtime. Derek Westbrook knocked

down 22 points for the Rebels and Cliff Johnson was the leader for Abilene with 20 points. Midland Lee(25-7) advanced to Bi-District against Amarillo Palo Duro(24-7) at Lubbock Coronado. Abilene(21-9) got the District champion of 3-5A in Lubbock Monterey(27-3) at the Chaparral Center in Midland.

District 4-A AAAA Standings: Midland Lee(25-7) 11-3, Abilene(24-7) 11-3, San Angelo Central(16-13) 9-5, Odessa Permian(18-11) 8-6, Midland High(20-11) 8-6, Abilene Cooper(10-20) 5-9, Odessa High(11-18) 4-10, Big Spring(6-26) 0-14.

4-A AAAA All-District Team: Twelve players were recognized on the first team All-District squad along with 25 players named Honorable Mention. So basically, if you suited up for any of the eight schools, you received an honor of some kind. In my opinion it just cheapens the entire process. So, forty players suited up as starters for the eight schools and 37 were named either 1st team or honorable mention. 6'2" Darrell Davis(26.8/10.0) of Midland was named District M.V.P. and Paul Stueckler of Lee and Gerald Coppedge of Abilene were named "Co-Coach of the Year." Members of the **1st team** were 6'0" Alan Bailey(16.2) of Odessa High, 6'1" Terry Williams(18.0/6.1) from Permian, 6'2" Brian Marczynski of Midland Lee, 6'1" Derek Westbrook of Midland Lee, 6'1" Brian Ross of San Angelo Central, 6'1" Ottoman Perryman of San Angelo Central, 5'9" Greg Lowry from Abilene High, 6'2" Mickey Russell of Abilene High, 5'10" Fred Starks of Abilene Cooper. "Sophomore of the Year" went to 6'1" Bernard Williams(16.1) of Big Spring. The District's leading rebounder was Anthony Dickens of Midland Lee at 10.8. Darrell Davis of Midland was second at 10.0.

District 5-A AAAA

Coach Maurice Evans enjoyed the 1985 season with his strongest team yet. The District was really down over-all and Denton High(23-9) swept through their campaign undefeated. Nobody else in District 5-A had a winning record on the season except Sherman(17-10). The top player in the District was 6'7" Andre McDade of Denton. He teamed up with 6'7" Bryan Stinchcomb to form a strong one-two punch for Coach Maurice Evans. Stinchcomb signed with T.C.U. upon graduation. 5'9" Billy Jones and 6'1" Barry Jackson handled the backcourt duties for the Broncos. Denton was well tested in the pre-season with impressive wins over Ft. Worth Dunbar(20-12) 67-61, Houston Wheatley(19-11) 81-72, FW Wyatt(22-8) 63-53 and L.D. Bell(19-12) 64-33. Losses for the Broncos came against Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt(22-8) 80-73, FW Southwest(30-9) 56-53, Duncanville(23-8) 46-44 and 57-56, North Mesquite(22-9) 52-50, Highland Park(26-6) 53-51 and Dallas S.O.C.(34-2) 69-62.

Denton handled Haltom in their first match-up between the District leaders 58-53. 6'8" Brian Stinchcomb sank six free throws down the stretch for the Broncos. The big senior post finished with 20 points and 6'4" Sam Hahn paced the Buffaloes with 19 points.

Denton continued their mastery over Haltom, wrapping up the District title with a 38-36 win. McDade and Stinchcomb had been completely shut down inside, which allowed the Broncos' David Baker to do damage from the perimeter. Baker scored almost half of Denton's points finishing with 16 points. 6'8" Joey Welborn had nice game for Haltom adding 16 points and 11 rebounds.

Haltom out of the Birdville school District and Sherman were the leading contenders for the runner-up spot along with Wichita Falls High. Haltom had really

struggled in pre-district with a losing record but defeated Sherman 58-51, in a what would eventually be viewed as a pivotal game in District 5-5A race. The game went into overtime and the Buffaloes came away with victory behind Joey Welborn's 16 points. Haltom continued their winning ways defeating Wichita Falls 52-50 in the first round of District.

Haltom pretty much eliminated Sherman in the second round with another victory over the Bearcats 81-77. The Buffaloes continued their winning defeating Wichita Falls once again in another close one 61-60.

In Haltom's game against the Coyotes, 6'4" Sam Hahn(15.0) benefited from the box and one defense that Wichita Falls(11-19) employed against 6'8" Joey Welborn. Welborn continually hit Hahn for easy baskets. Hahn finished with 27 points in his team's victory over the Coyotes. "We couldn't get the ball to Joey, but when we did, he made some unbelievable passes to Sam," Coach Randy Blevins said. "Joey only took four shots."

Haltom lost to city rival Ft. Worth Richland(9-18) 46-44 to close out the regular season. Denton held serve and eliminated Sherman 58-45 to give Haltom the 2nd spot in the playoffs. Haltom(11-14) finished at 6-3 in District and advanced to the playoffs for the first time in 20 years under Coach Randy Blevins.

Standings: Denton(23-9) 9-0, Haltom(11-14) 6-3, Sherman(17-10) 4-5, Ft. Worth Richland(9-17) 3-6, Wichita Falls(11-19) 3-6, Wichita Falls Rider(15-14) 2-7:

All-District: 6'1" Kirk Brock, Wichita Falls; 6'1" Mark Benson, Ft. Worth Richland; 6'5" Steve Hahn, Haltom; 6'3" Reid Welch Wichita Falls Rider; 6'7" Andre McDade, Denton; 6'8" Bryan Stinchcomb, Denton; Ray Houston was named "Sophomore of the Year" from Wichita Falls High and Denton coach Maurice Evans was named "Coach of the Year." McDade of Denton was named "Player of the Year."

District 6-AAAAA

The big story in 6-5A was Ft. Worth Dunbar. After their fabulous season in 1984 finishing 38-1, Coach Robert Hughes underwent his first major rebuilding campaign at Dunbar. The reload had four sophomores and one freshman on the squad and their inexperience was obvious against tough competition. Ft. Worth Paschal was no longer a power since Jim Wall had left for the college ranks. The three best teams in 6-5A were FW Southwest(26-9), Dunbar(20-12) and FW Wyatt(22-8).

The legend, Robert Hughes, had to make some serious decisions during the 1985 season. If you know Coach Hughes you will find out quickly about what he values in a basketball team. I've had the pleasure of sitting with Coach Hughes on a few occasions and he is so knowledgeable about the game. The game was simple for Hughes, **rebouncing, defense, high percentage shots and limited turnovers.** He was fanatical about these areas of the game. Hughes told me one of the most influential players he had ever been around was Hall of Famer, Bill Sharman of Celtic fame. Hughes told me Sharman taught him that small details are the difference in winning and losing. Hughes explained that in his short time with the Celtics, he absorbed all of Sharman's routines: from arrived an hour early for a

shoot around to his regimented practice routine. After his playing days were over, Sharman was such an innovator as the Lakers coach. If you recall the Lakers never could get past the Celtics or the Knicks till Sharman arrived on the scene. Sharman was the first in the league to institute the shoot around and watching film. His team was centered around Wilt Chamberlin, Jerry West, Pat Riley and Gail Goodrich. It's said that Chamberlin didn't go to bed till about 5:00 in the morning, so he was not real keen on a 9 a.m. shoot around. Chamberlin showed up at the first shoot around having just come from the beach, with sand in his hair and sandals. Sharman was a genius blending the team's talents with Chamberlin. The Lakers won 33 in a row that season, which is still a league record and finished with the best over-all record in league history at the time.

On a personal note, I was fortunate enough to have Coach Hughes nephew on my club team for four seasons. Dishon lived a block away from me in Richardson and he and my son grew up together. I coached my sons club team all the way through high school. Because of this relationship, Coach Hughes would attend the games from time to time. I can't tell you how intimidating coaching and looking across the gym seeing Coach Hughes. He was always supportive of our teams and very positive. Dishon ended up playing varsity basketball at Richardson Pearce on a District Championship squad. He played inside and started at only 6'2". To this day, he was one of the finest young men I've ever had the pleasure to coaching. I don't remember ever raising my voice to him during practice or during a game. He was a Warrior and always put the team first. He always guarded the opponent's toughest inside threat. Dishon ended up playing football at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. I remember we were playing in a fall league at Wylie High School and it was in the middle of football season. Dishon shows up ready to play. I said, "what do you think you doing." He responded, "I came to play." I'm sure the football coaches would have died had they known he was playing two games every Wednesday evening in the fall league.

In the 1985 season prior to District, Coach Hughes decided to replace senior guards, Keith Sims and Rodney Freeman, with freshman Derrick Daniels and sophomore Myron Wilson. Hughes said, "we have to do something and we've looked at everything else. You've got to make some adjustments after you've got nine losses." Hughes was very impressed with the young freshman Daniels saying, "he's handled the position better than it's been handled all season." Another real change for the Wildcats was the emergence of 6'3" Fred Williams. Williams scoring average had improved to 24.3 per game due to the guard change. This complimented the best player in Ft. Worth, 6'5" Tim Howard, who paced Dunbar averaging 26.0 per game. Howard had carried the Wildcats early in the season and at times was their only real offensive threat. Howard would go on to be the all-time leading scorer at Angelo State(*). 6'4" Donald Kitchen moved into the starting center position for Coach Hughes.

(*) previously I believe I listed Howard as playing for Abilene Christian-correction he played at Angelo State.

The front runner in District 6-5A had to be Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt. The Chaparrals had been one of the top teams in the District over the last few seasons, but could never get over the hump. The 1985 team really looked like the team to beat with Dunbar in a rebuilding mode. Coach Willie Jones of Wyatt returned three starters from a 19-9 squad and opened season at 16-4 and ran off four straight District wins. As Wyatt prepared for the showdown against unbeaten Ft. Worth Southwest, Coach Jones had a lot of offensive weapons in which to call upon. The previous year the Chaparrals had lost a one-game playoff to Southwest and missed the playoffs. Remember, Southwest advanced to the regional finals before losing to Dunbar by two points in 1984. Donald Massey, 6'3" Frank Holt(22.0) and 6'3" Falanda Newton(21.0) were the returning starters for Wyatt. Coach Jones called Newton his most consistent player. Newton explained, "We want to make amends this year." Coach Wood of Southwest called Wyatt the District front runner based on pre-district performances.

"I'm not one to make prediction," Coach Jones said. "I'd just as soon not remind people about how we're doing, so they can start prepping for us." The best offensive player on Wyatt was Frank Holt, who scored 44 points in the opener against Houston Wheatley and 32 against Trimble Tech. "If Frank's on we just let him go," Jones said. "He'll have some games where he'll shoot a good 70% no matter where he shoots from." Jones said the team's real strength was defense.

Falanda Newton(21.0) was considered by many the top athlete in the Cowtown in 1985. At 6'3", 195 pounds he was a do everything quarterback that was highly recruited and signed with T.C.U. as a defensive back. On the football field Newton went on to make All-Southwest Conference with the Horn Frogs, intercepting 15 passes during his college career. He also set the school record for return yardage with interceptions with 274 yards. He had an 85 yards INT return for a touchdown against the University of Houston. As a safety, he finished his career with 302 tackles and once had 20 tackles in one game. He signed with the New Jersey Knights of the World League of American Football and played two seasons.

Southwest and Wyatt both entered the 1st round match-up undefeated in District action. The game, of course, was played at Wilkerson-Greines Activity Center. Southwest held the dynamic duo of Holt and Newton to a combined 23 points. The result of which was a 69-64 win for the Rebels. "This was a great win for us," Coach Wood said. Wyatt took 30 more shots than Southwest and shot only 38% compared to 70% for the Rebels. Southwest moved to 5-0, Dunbar stood at 4-0 and Wyatt was in third place at 4-1. Mark Watley led SW with 16 points and Fred Hill came away with 15 points. Adam Powell paced the Chaparrals with 21 points.

F.W. Dunbar and F.W. Southwest came together in a big rivalry game with both teams unbeaten in District. Southwest defeated Dunbar 65-57 for the first time since 1982. "There's so much mystique surrounding Dunbar and coach Hughes, there's no way this can't be good for the kid's confidence. It's a great victory and I'm as thrilled as the kids are," Wood said. 6'0" Mark Watley came away with 28 points to lead Southwest. To top off the evening, Watley finished with two tomahawk dunks as icing on the cake. Willie Thomas added 13 points and Matt Hill finished with 10 points for the Rebels.

Coach Hughes was a little ticked off at the officiating. "They ran over us all night," Hughes said. Southwest held a 15-4 edge in foul shooting as evidence. "It got so bad; I told our players to quit trying to take the charge before one of them gets hurt." Hughes continued explaining, "I know some people are going to say he is belly aching because he lost the game, but that's not it. I've lost about 150-160 games and I'll lose some more. A loss is one thing, but this is just disgusting. I'd have to be damn stupid not to know when officials were pitiful, and those two tonight were pitiful."

With F.W. Southwest grasping firm control of first place, Dunbar and Wyatt battled it out for second place in their first-round District contest. In one of the most bizarre games you will ever see, Dunbar came away with a controversial win 64-63 in overtime. Freshman Derrick Daniels hit one of two foul shot with two seconds remaining to give Dunbar the win. The Wildcats moved to 6-1 in District and Wyatt held down the third spot at 5-2. A crowd of 3,000 watched the unusual game.

At the end of regulation, Wyatt trailed 63-62 with 11 seconds on the clock. Derrick Daniels fouled Wyatt's Demery Hill and then Fred Williams of the Wildcats was called for technical foul. Hill of Wyatt went to the line and hit the front end of a one and one situation. Falanda Newton stepped to the line to shoot the technical foul shot. Newton was an 88% foul shooter and missed the shot as it rimmed out. So, the score stood at 63-63 and Wyatt got the ball and ran out the clock. The only problem was that the scoreboard had the score 64-63 in favor of Wyatt. That was the reason the Chaparrals made no effort to score in the final seconds of regulation. Wyatt and the Coach Jones were jumping up and down thinking they had won the game as Rodick Clayton dribbled out the time.

Hughes said after the game, "I really hadn't looked at the scoreboard, I knew they'd only made one and the score should be tied. To be honest, I was thinking defense and was just trying to keep them from scoring."

Coach Jones of Wyatt said, "they had 64 on the board and that's why we didn't shoot the ball. I thought we'd won the game, but then they changed it back to 63 after regulation time was over. No matter what, we still should have won, we can't blame anybody but us," Jones concluded. Wow, how many coaches would

come to that conclusion? Tough loss. Wondering if things would have been reversed, how well the Dunbar fans would have handled to defeat.

In that situation, I feel they should have replayed the final seconds of regulation with the correct score of board. Yes, I know the old rule that the book is official, but that's hog wash, you take for granted the score is correct. What would you have done?

In the second round of District action, Trimble Tech(7-17) really upset the apple cart defeating O.D. Wyatt 76-74. Tech's district record only stood at 3-6, but this was a big upset. Falanda Newton finished with 26 points and three players finished in double figures for Tech. With three losses, Wyatt would now have to win out to make the playoffs. It didn't happen, as Southwest eliminated the Chaparrals 79-60 in the two teams second meeting. At 8-4, Wyatt had no chance to make the playoffs. Matt Hill had 23 points, Willie Thomas hit 18 points and Thomas Green added 15 point for Coach Wood. Almost all of their points came from inside.

Southwest downed Dunbar with the District title at stake and pride 64-58. Although the Rebels had went undefeated in District, they were considered much weaker than last year's version of Southwest. The Rebels team centered around 6'3" Fred Hill(13.0), 6'2" Willie Thomas(15.0) and 6'1" Mark Watley(15.3). The trio could all leap, score inside and handle the ball. Southwest was really hard to match-up with. Coach Wood played the most competitive schedule possible for his troops preparing them for District. Big wins came against Dallas Samuel(23-8) 54-51, Houston Milby(19-11) 54-52, Denton(25-10) 56-53 and L.D. Bell(19-12) 77-68. The Rebels took it on the chin several times to the following teams: S.O.C.(34-2) 61-49, Weatherford(19-8) 74-58, Arlington Martin(25-8) 53-45, Conroe(34-3) 91-68, Grand Prairie(26-9) 52-44, Dunbar(20-13) 81-70 and Haltom(11-15) 69-52.

Standings: FW Southwest(26-9) 14-0, FW Dunbar(20-12) 11-3, FW O.D. Wyatt(22-8) 10-4, FW Paschal(13-17) 7-7, FW Western Hills(9-18) 5-9, FW Trimble Tech(9-18) 5-9, FW Eastern Hills(9-20) 3-11, Ft. Worth Arlington Heights(3-27) 2-12:

All-District: 6'3" Willie Thomas(15.0), FW Southwest; 6'3" Fred Williams(22.0), Dunbar; 6'4" Falanda Newton(21.0), OD Wyatt; 6'0" Mark Watley(15.3) FW Southwest; 6'0" Fred Hill(13.0) FW Southwest; Tim Howard(25.3) of Dunbar was named "Player of the Year", James Wood of Southwest was named "Coach of the Year", Doyle Allen of Dunbar was named "Sophomore of the Year" and Freshman, Derrick Daniels was named "Newcomer of the Year" from Dunbar.

All-Tarrant County named by the State Telegram: "Player of the Year"- 6'5" Tim Howard(25.3/10.8) Dunbar, "Coach of the Year" James Wood, Southwest; "Newcomer of the Year" Daniel Daniels of Dunbar; **1st Team**- Howard(25.3), 6'0" Mark Watley(15.3) Southwest, 6'2" Brian McLaughlin(12.6) Arlington Martin, 6'6" Tim Kaiser(21.5) Euless L.D. Bell, 6'7" Riley Smith(23.2/14.3) Mansfield; **2nd Team**- Willie Thomas(15.0) Southwest, Chris Brooks-Everman, Rodell Smith-Everman, Erik Trumpower(20.6) FW Nolan, Frank Holt(17.8) O.D. Wyatt:

All-Area named by the State Telegram: Player of the Year-Allen Gratts(20.5/11.9) Weatherford, "Coach of Year" Butch Ford-Pilot Point, **1st Team**-Doug Schindler-Pilot Point, Juric Brown(18.0) Grand Prairie, Stephen Hafford- Cleburne, Brandt Lockhart-Justin Northwest, 6'8" Brian Stinchcomb-Denton, Clint Reynolds-Mineral Wells:

District 7-AAAAA

District 7-5A was very balanced and the race came down to three quality teams, Arlington Sam Houston(20-12), Arlington Martin(25-8) and Euless L.D. Bell(19-12). The three teams faced each other twice, with every game coming down to the wire. The teams split with each other giving them two losses apiece. The difference in the end for L.D. Bell was an early season loss to rival Euless Trinity 51-50 in front of 1600 screaming fans. The loss gave the Blue Raiders three losses in District action finishing 9-3. L.D. Bell offense centered around the District M.V.P. 6'6" Tim Kaiser(21.5) and Jeff Kalbfleisch. Coach Ray Deford was at the reigns for L.D. Bell. The Texans and Warriors both came away with 10-2 marks in District and were Co-Champions.

Arlington Sam Houston and Arlington Martin met on the first Tuesday following the season to decide who would take the top seed in the playoffs. Arlington High was selected as the site. Arlington Martin was only in their 2nd season of varsity competition and advanced to the playoffs for the first time in school history in any sport. In the three-year history of the program, they finished 27-4 as a junior varsity and 17-13 in their first varsity campaign. Arlington Martin came out of the pre-season as the District favorite led by 6'5" Joe Curdy, 6'1" Gene Williams, 6'0" Brian McLaughlin(12.6). McLaughlin had transferred in from El Paso Eastwood and played a big role for the Warriors. Arlington Sam Houston relied on Bobby Cartwright and Arthur Oliver. Sam Houston was coached by Don Louis and Danny Husband called the shots for Martin after two years at the helm at Mansfield High. Husband took the Tigers to 18-11 and 28-7 marks during his two years at Mansfield. Before his varsity duty with the Tigers, Husband was the varsity assistant at Arlington High and Grand Prairie.

In Martin and Sam Houston's fourth meeting of the season, Arlington Sam Houston captured the top seed with a 66-65 victory. The Texans Bobby Cartwright hit two big foul shots to give the Sam Houston the victory. Arthur Oliver was the leading scorer for Coach Don Louis and Gene Williams paced the Warriors with 15 points.

Standings: Arlington Sam Houston(20-12) 10-2, Arlington Martin(25-8) 10-2, Euless L.D. Bell(19-12) 9-3, Euless Trinity(12-17) 6-6, Arlington High(14-14), under new coach Robert Gill, came away with 5th place going 5-7. Burleson(6-19) 1-11, Arlington Lamar(2-25) 1-11:

All-District 1st Team- 6'2" Lance Ralston, Arlington; 6'3" Harvey Turner, Euless Trinity; 6'1" Brian McLaughlin, Arlington Martin; 6'3" Jeff Kabfleisch, L.D. Bell; 6'5" Joe Curdy, Arlington Martin; 6'0" Sebastian James, Arlington Lamar; 6'6" Tim Kaiser(21.5) of L.D. Bell was named "Player of the Year," David Hog of Lamar was named, Sophomore of the Year and Danny Husband of Arlington Martin and Don Louis of Sam Houston were named "Co-coach of the year."

District 8-AAAAA

Duncanville(23-8) was seen as the District favorite following a fine pre-season campaign. The Panthers returned almost their entire starting lineup from their District championship team. Duncanville was fueled by one of the top guards in the area in 6'0" Terry Talley(20.4). In the pre-season, Duncanville lost to

S.O.C.(34-2) by only two points and came away with two solid wins over Denton(24-10) 57-56 and Tyler Lee(20-11) 58-46. State ranked Tyler John Tyler(31-2) took down the Panthers in a close one 55-54.

Once District began Duncanville did not have as much success finishing out of the playoffs with a 3rd place finish at 10-4. Coach Stan Hicks of Grand Prairie(25-8) continued to work his magic in District 8-5A, capturing another District title. 5'11" Juric Brown(18.3) was the District's top performer and paced the Gophers to a 13-1 title finish. Irving MacArthur(20-12) came through the back door to take second at 11-3. The Cardinals were able to handle Duncanville in both District games 58-53 and 59-58 in OT. Grand Prairie's only defeat in District action came at the hands of Irving MacArthur(20-11) 57-51.

Standings: Grand Prairie(25-8) 13-1, Irvin MacArthur(20-11) 11-3, Duncanville(23-8) 10-4, South Grand Prairie(17-13) 7-7, Carrollton Newman Smith(15-15) 6-8, Irving(11-19) 4-10, Irvin Nimitz(10-19) 3-11, Carrollton R.L. Turner(5-24) 2-12:

All-District: 5'11" Juric Brown(18.4), Grand Prairie; 6'0" Terry Talley(20.4), Duncanville; 6'1" Brian Love(19.8) Irving MacArthur; 6'5" Herman Henry of South Grand Prairie; Brown was named "Player of the Year," Steve Herndon of R.L. Turner was named "Sophomore of the Year" and Stan Hicks of Grand Prairie won "Coach of the Year."

Playoffs

Ft. Worth Dunbar(20-13) was eliminated in the 1st round, which really opened up the playing field for everybody else. Denton's Andre McDade sealed Dunbar's fate hitting a 15-foot jump shot at the buzzer. The basket gave the Broncos(23-9) a 57-55 overtime win. McDade was impressive for Denton with 19 points. "When I looked up and saw there was only five seconds left, I knew I was going to be the one to shoot it," McDade said. Tim Howard, Dunbar scoring machine, finished with 22 points and fouled out in the 4th quarter.

Dunbar looked to be in control at halftime with a 30-22 lead. The Wildcats had been successful in shutting off the inside combo of 6'7" McDade and 6'8" Bryan Stinchcomb. Denton was forced to shoot from the perimeter in the first half and began to connecting in the second half. Denton took the lead in the 3rd quarter outscoring the Wildcats 18-8 during the period. The Broncos size also enabled Denton to outrebound the Wildcats 13-5 in the 3rd stanza. Denton's David Baker made the front end of a one-on-one with 11 seconds left in regulation to send the game into overtime. In the extra period, with 41 seconds remaining, Denton began to run the clock down waiting for the last shot. This set the stage for McDade's late game heroics.

Grand Prairie(26-8) advanced in the playoffs with a nice 65-55 win over Arlington Martin(25-9). The Gophers dynamic guard, 5'11" Juric Brown, finished with 27 points, on 13 of 15 from the line and came away with five steals. Martin coach, Danny Husband commented, "Brown was tough. He's a major college player. He can make a lot of good high school players look bad. When you get behind, he can control the game, which he did. But the difference was that they

shot 35 free throws and we shot 16,” Husband said. Brian McLaughlin and Joe Curdy paced the Warriors with 16 points each.

Arlington Sam Houston(20-13) seemed to have their Bi-District game against Irvin MacArthur(21-11) well under control. The Texans led by seven points with only 2:35 left to play in regulation. The Cardinals, under coach David Myers, proceeded to outscore the Sam Houston 12-4 down the stretch to advance in the playoffs 62-61. Sam Houston led throughout the game with their press creating 17 turnovers. “We had eight and ten-point leads, but in the 4th quarter we got impatient and careless with the ball,” Sam Houston’s Don Louis said. 6’4” Chris Ratliff was key of MacArthur’s victory finishing with 26 points. Brian Love added 22 points, so Ratliff and Love combined for 48 points.

Lubbock Monterey(27-3) faced Abilene(24-7) in 1st round action. The two teams were very similar in what would prove to be an exciting game. Monterey’s Coach Grady Newton was in the crowd taking notes when the Eagles lost their District playoff game to Midland Lee. Newton came away impressed with Abilene’s outside shooting, especially Cliff Johnson and Micky Russell. “We’ve got to stop them from the outside,” Newton said. “We’ve got to handle their press and not lose our cool and composure. We don’t want to get into a hully-gully game.”

Monterey entered the game state ranked at 27-3 on the season. Two early season losses came at the hands of El Paso Parkland(13-12) and Lubbock Dunbar. In District the Plainsmen lost only once to Palo Duro 95-78. Starters for Coach Newton consisted of 6’4” Pat Tarwater(4.0), 6’2” Brian Christiansen(15.4/8.5), 6’1” Glen Seal(15.1), 5’10” Rob Peterson(6.8) and all-state performer, 6’2” Curry Blackwell(21.1). Blackwell shot 67.7 percent from the floor according to his coach. He was also an exceptional foul shooter, having missed only one shot in the previous six games. “We do shoot the ball well,” Newton said. “When we don’t shoot the ball well, we’re in trouble. We’re not big enough to go inside and we don’t rebound that well.”

Coach Gerald Coppedge of Abilene had been unable to scout Monterey in person, but felt confident he was aware of their skills. Perimeter shooting and fast break basketball.

“We’re not a big team so we have to run,” Newton explained. “Sometimes we have relied too much on our shooting.”

Abilene almost came back to beat Monterey outscoring the Plainsmen’s 33-9 in the 4th quarter. Unfortunately, the Eagles were down 86-60 entering the last period. With one minute remained Abilene trailed 95-93. Glenn Seale and Curry Blackwell ended the comeback hitting eight out of ten foul shots in the final 56 seconds, making the final read 103-99. Both teams combined to shoot 61 foul shots.

“Kid’s showed a lot of heart,” Abilene Coach Coppedge said following the loss.

Curry Blackwell finished with 33 points and Monterey shot 71% in the first half to gain the big lead. The Plainsmen led at halftime 62-46. Abilene High's Greg Lowry, who finished with 21 points and 11 rebounds commented, "the way they shot the ball shocked me." Cliff Johnson added 22 points for the Eagles. Kirt Robinson contributed 23 points and 14 rebounds for Abilene.

It doesn't get any better than West Texas playoff basketball. The two teams that had been doormats for a few years were alive and well in 1985. Amarillo Palo Duro(21-7)was making their first playoff visit since 1972 and Midland Lee(25-7) was making their first appearance since 1975. If you read my earlier books you know Lee's coach, Paul Stueckler, needs no introduction. Stueckler was like a magician. He guided his team to state in 1975 with his famous delay game. Stueckler was impressed with Palo Duro's victory over Borger. "If they beat Borger, it doesn't sound like their drop off is that much." Stueckler was eluding to the players that had been removed for the team late in the season.

Coach Stueckler described his team saying, "we have a bunch of really intelligent kids, they're not great athletes, but they're smart and play well together." 5'5" Tyrone Thurman(6.6) was the man who made the Rebels competitive. He was quick on quick and signed to play football at Texas Tech at running back. "He can break a press by his self," Coach Ed Smith of Palo Duro said. "He's their catalyst and the one that makes them go." Joining Thurman in the starting lineup was 6'2" Bryan Marczynski(17.0), 6'1" Raymond Mororney(12.4), 6'1" David Westbrook(11.8) and 6'5" Anthony Dickens(8.3). "We're a balanced team, and that's a plus," Stueckler said. "We take a lot of pride in our half-court pattern game." Palo Duro really enjoyed a much more up-tempo game having scored in the 90s on a few occasions.

The Bi-District game between Midland Lee and Amarillo Palo Duro was just unfortunate. You hate for anybody to lose this way, let alone a playoff game which ends the season for the loser. "I've coached 31 years and I've never had a loss like that," Midland Lee coach Paul Stueckler said. "They have us celebrating, and then they take it from us."

The unfortunate game occurred because in the small loud gyms they used a starters pistol to end the game, because it was difficult to hear the horn or buzzer. So, as we come to the end of the first overtime, Hayes from Palo Duro sunk a 12-footer with 13 seconds left to give the Dons a 62-61 lead. Lee quickly came up court and Brian Marczynski put up a 25-foot jump shot that was off the mark with only two seconds remaining. 6'5" Anthony Dickens of Lee was the right man in the right spot tipping in the rebound for the winning basket. The pistol had misfired and did not go off, so the referees could not hear any end to the game. The horn went off, but the referees could not hear it. After declaring the bucket good and Lee the winners, the official scorer called referees over and told them about the

mis-fire. He said the basket was after the horn that had ended the game. The referees reversed the call and Palo Duro was now the winner.

"I knew it was a late shot," Palo Duro Coach Ed Smith said. "I was just hoping to get the call. We got the heck out of there." Stueckler was noticeably upset yelling at the time keeper, "that's terrible, that's terrible." Lee finished the season at 25-8. The Dons advanced to the second round with a 23-7 mark.

Lee had led at halftime 33-20 and seemed to definitely be in control. Coach Smith said his team got off to a slow start because they were so tight. "We started getting a lot of steals and the crowd got behind us." Lee was still leading 45-37 with 6:37 remaining in regulation. The Rebels lost a key player at the 1:54 mark of regulation when point guard Tyrone Thurman fouled out. "They're just a different team without Thurman," Coach Smith explained. "He's a great player." Hayes was the hero for Palo Duro hitting the basket that sent the game into overtime with 15 seconds remaining in regulation from 15 foot away. Hayes also hit the bucket with 13 second left in overtime to put the Dons up 62-61 from 12 feet away. Midland Lee finished with balanced scoring, Dickens had 12 points, Westbrook 12 points and Raymond Moroney finished with 15 points. For the victorious Don's, Glenn Hayes put up 22 points and Sammye Campbell knocked down 28 points. The game was played at Lubbock Coronado High School.

Paul Stueckler passed in August of 2017 after winning over 700 games at the high school level. In 2012, he was inducted into the Lee Legacy Wall of Honor, and in 2013, he was inducted into the Midland ISD Hall of Legends. He was a Texas Legend at Midland Lee and his 1975 state Semi-finalist team lost to Houston Kashmere in triple overtime, which was one of the great games in the history of the high school basketball in Texas.

El Paso Eastwood(24-4) entered the playoffs as the top team in El Paso and one of the favorites to come out of region I. El Paso Burges(18-12) was the Troopers first round opponent. Coach Lesley had always had a problem with Coach Tony Harper of Burges slow-down tactics. Coach Lesley made several comments before the game that Harper's style was not real popular with his players or fans. Harper countered that the style enabled his team to have a chance to win.

The two teams had met three previous times, and surprisingly Burges held a two to one edge. Lesley was not impressed, saying that early in the season he was juggling his line-up. As the game unfolded, Eastwood had little trouble with Burges. Coach Lesley was able to set the tempo in his team's favor. Burges fell 65-48 to Eastwood and was unable to play catch-up against the larger Eastwood team. The Troopers were led by Steve Lee, who finished with 13 points and Brent Ray helped with 14 points. Dela Cruz finished with 10 points for Burges.

The second game at the Special Events Center saw a good one between El Paso Andress(23-7) and El Paso Riverside(20-6). In the two teams previous meeting played over the Thanksgiving Holidays, Andress defeated Riverside 64-62. The match-up had showcased the two top players in El Paso, 6'8" Rob

Newton(12.6/11.0/4.0 bl) of Andress and 6'6" Mike Duran(17.4/16.0/5.0 bl) from Riverside. Newton was limited in the two team's first meeting due to foul trouble and Duran managed to score 16 points for Riverside.

Prior to their playoff game, Newton was asked about Duran. Newton commented, "he's nothing special." Duran, on the other hand was very positive about Newton saying, "he's a great player, I have all the respect for him, he does everything good from what I've seen. He's gets up and down the floor, shoots well and intimidates." Assistant coach Bill Rivas of Andress chimed in saying, "those two kids are probably the best two big men in the city."

The game certainly did not disappoint, but the titanic battle did not happen once again. Newton finished with 21 points and led Andress to a 46-45 victory. Duran played a dismissal game finishing with a season low of only 3 points. 5'10" Tevi Torres(13.0) of Riverside kept his team's hopes alive from the outside with bombs. Newton, when asked about defending Duran said, "I just tried to get a hand in his face, that's all I could do."

Ft. Worth Southwest(26-9) was back in the playoffs after their impressive run during the '84 season. The Rebels first round contest was against the lightly regarded Haltom Buffaloes. Haltom(11-15) out of the Birdville I.S.D. had struggled during the season. Southwest on the other hand had went through a tough District undefeated and had a lot of momentum. That momentum came to a halt against the state ranked Temple Wildcats(28-4) 70-61 in a warm-up game.

Against Haltom, Coach James Wood's crew took control early and were leading 51-36 with 5:05 left in the game. "I'd say we got a little complacent," Wood said. That's when Haltom's 5'9" dynamite guard, Antoin Sanders, began making steals and started the Buffaloes comeback. Sanders had five steals in the fourth quarter and scored six of Haltom's final eight points. The outcome was not pretty, as Southwest got away with their life in a 59-58 win. Willie Thomas propelled the Rebels with 32 points. "I can't say enough about Willie Thomas," Coach Wood said. "What hurt us was Watley was 2 of 14 from the floor and Green was only 3 of 9 from the field. Both players usually shoot around 60% from the floor." Thomas Howell led Haltom with 14 points.

Ft. Worth Southwest(27-9) came into the second round facing a team they had lost to earlier in the season, Grand Prairie(26-9). Stan Hick's Grand Prairie Gophers were in familiar territory in the playoffs. The two teams played in the 1st round of the Ft. Worth Westside Lions club tournament over the Christmas holidays. Grand Prairie won that game 54-45, but Coach Wood felt it had little relevance on the playoff game. "That was the first day back after the Christmas Holidays and neither team had been in the gym for five days," Wood said. Southwest had come-up short inside against the larger Gophers. Following the loss Coach Wood moved 6'2" Thomas Green to the guard spot replacing 5'10" Ray Garrett.

The problem now facing Southwest was how were they going to slow down one of the top players in the state, Juric Brown(18.4) of Grand Prairie. "Their point guard is especially dangerous, because he's a good shooter and assist man," Wood said. "We have to concentrate on trying to stop him, but we can't over compensate and let their big buys hurt us inside."

Ft. Worth Southwest(28-9) vs. Grand Prairie(26-9) was played at Daniel-Meyer Coliseum in Ft. Worth. Brown had 10 points early to give Grand Prairie the lead. Coach Wood adjusted to a box and one defense, with Hill chasing Brown and limiting his touches. "I said we won't get out of our regular 2-3 zone defense, but we did it anyway," Wood said. After the Gophers took a 23-20 lead, Grand Prairie went eight minutes without a score. The Rebels gained the lead 32-23. "They took Brown away from us, but I don't think we did enough on the offense to counteract," Coach Stan Hicks said. Southwest won the rebound battle 29-28. The Rebels advanced to regionals for the second year in a row 56-51 over the Gophers. Southwest coach, James Wood commented, "we have exceeded everybody's expectations."

Against Grand Prairie, the Rebels were led by Willie Thomas, who put up 20 points. Mark Watley came away with 11 points and Thomas Green added 10 points for Southwest. 6'3" Matt Hill was the only size that took the court for Southwest against Grand Prairie. Juric Brown still managed to put up 24 points for the Gophers in the disappointing loss. Randy Wade finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds for Coach Hicks. "We're fortunate to win," Wood said. "Grand Prairie is a good team and they came prepared. But so did we." Southwest knocked down 10 of 13 foul shots in the 4th period.

The Irving MacArthur(22-11) had to deal with the twin towers that Coach Evans of Denton put on the court. 6'7" Andre McDade and 6'8" Bryan Stinchcomb were imposing figures and were big factors when facing the Broncos. Both were major college recruits. Chris Ratliff, at 6'4", was the tallest player for McArthur. The Cardinals other key contributors were leading scorer, 6'1" Brian Love, as well as 6'3" John Randall and 6'1" James Dean. When Coach David Myers was asked about the turn-around from pre-district to district he responded, "we lost games simply by poor execution and free throw shooting in tight situations, we're not making the same mistakes."

Denton(25-9) advanced to the regionals in Midland for the first time since 1974 with a 62-56 victory over Irving MacArthur(21-12). Denton came out slow shooting 3 of 17 in the 1st quarter. "We came out in the first half and were a little cautious," Coach Maurice Evans said. Denton began connecting in the 2nd half and took a 45-38 lead entering the 4th quarter. Down the stretch the Broncos connected on 7 of 11 foul shots to come away with the big win. Denton's Super Pit was the site of the 2nd round game.

El Paso Eastwood(25-4) was riding high after their convincing Bi-District victory over El Paso Burges(18-13). Their next challenge was against the District Runner-up in 3-5A, Amarillo Palo Duro(23-7). Palo Duro was coached by Ed Smith, who had faced some rather bad luck at the end of the season. Two of his better guards had got in trouble with the law and were suspended from the team. How Palo Duro would respond was anybody's guess. The Don's had played three games without these two keys performers.

The contest between Eastwood and Amarillo Palo Duro took place in Monahans, which was a long trip for both teams. El Paso Athletic Director, Clay Cox commented, "I just hope a few of our people show up and it won't be an empty gym." Cox continued saying, "we wanted to go home and home, but some people have a different opinion." Palo Duro's line-up was made up of 6'6" Eugene Smith(12.5), Glenn Hayes(13.7) and 6'1" Ronnie Stiger(19.0). These three double digit scorers were impressive, even without their suspended comrades.

Eastwood looked to the same cast of characters of 6'0" Steve Lee(11.5), 6'5" Larry Thompson(10.6), 6'6" Merle Heimer, 6'2" Wilbur Griffith(8.5) and 6'2" Brent Ray(9.8). Eastwood was the dominate program in El Paso with an 18-game winning streak and the top ranked team in El Paso through-out the season. Eastwood continued to have one of the strongest programs in the state.

When Coach Smith was asked if he had seen Eastwood, he said he hadn't. "We haven't played against a real big team this year." Smith said. Coach Lesley also was coming into the game blind. Because of the distance between the two schools, scouting was difficult in West Texas.

Coach Smith obviously got a scouting report from somewhere commenting, "we're going to press them some, and see if they're quick enough to handle that," Smith said. "We'll spread it out and make them play the whole floor. And we'll have to pick up the tempo. We can't play a half-court game with them."

The Dons of Palo Duro(24-7) advanced to regionals with a 57-52 victory over the Troopers of Eastwood. Eastwood seemed to have things under control entering the last quarter up 41-33. Coach Smith of Palo Duro went to a full-court press, noticing Eastwood looked like they were tiring. At the 3:40 mark of the fourth quarter the Dons took the lead and pulled out the victory. Glenn Hayes took up the slack for Coach Smith scoring 17 points to lead the Dons. Hayes had carried the team offensively against Midland Lee and now Eastwood. Eugene Sims kicked in 10 points for the Dons and Sammye Campbell finished with 11 points. Steve Lee paced Eastwood with 12 points and Merle Heimer added 10 points. Only 200 fans were able to attend the game because of the great distance.

Coach Bob Lesley was not real happy with the officials saying, "there were several non-calls that hurt us. Palo Duro is small and quick, and they are as aggressive as any team we've played. They were pushing us, but there were no calls. If they had out played us, I wouldn't feel so bad."

District 3-5A had a chance to send both their representatives to regionals if Lubbock Monterey(28-3) could find a way to stop 6'8" Rob Newton of El Paso Andress(24-7). Monterey was the regional favorite with their impressive record. Monterey had eliminated Abilene in a high scoring affair in Bi-District 103-99. Coach Grady Newton of the Plainsmen did not sound real confident entering the game. On the question of how to handle 6'8" Rob Newton, Coach Newton responded, "I wish I had a clue." Monterey's tallest player was 6'4" Pat Tarwater(4.0/3.0). Both Coach Fernie Hernandez of El Paso Andress and Coach Newton had seen each other play. Hernandez described Monterey saying, "outstanding, they're quick, excellent shooters and they all handle the ball so well." Coach Hernandez fully expected Monterey to collapse and help inside on Rob Newton. "Rodney Wells and Martiz Huff should get some good looks." Hernandez said.

Monterey liked the up-tempo and scored most of their points in transition. Curry Blackwell(21.1) and 6'1" Brian Christiansen(15.0) played outside and were the two leading scorers for the Plainsmen.

In Carlsbad, New Mexico, the 2nd round game took place between Lubbock Monterey(28-3) and El Paso Andress(24-8). The Plainsmen were very fortunate winning 54-52. Rodney Wells of Andress received a technical foul with 44 seconds remaining, which may have turned the contest in the favor of Monterey. Wells was at the foul line, while Monterey was attempting a foul shot. On the missed attempt, Wells believed Brian Christiansen had come over his back for the key rebound. Monterey was up by one point at the time. "He went over my back," Wells said following the game. Glenn Seale of Monterey hit the technical foul giving the Plainsmen a two-point advantage.

After the game, Coach Fernie Hernandez of E.P. Andress was not a happy camper. "The official from the Odessa Basin took the game away from us," Hernandez said. "You can't play against six." The other official was from El Paso and Hernandez felt he did a solid job. Coach Grady Newton of Monterey commented, "It's unfair to say the officials took the game away from anybody." 6'8" Rob Newton proved to be a force once again scoring 22 points for El Paso Andress and 11 rebounds with 4 blocks. "He simply intimidated us," Coach Grady Newton said following the game. The Plainsmen stalled for the last several minutes of the game until 5'11" Rob Peterson was fouled with 44 seconds remaining.

Rodney Wells came away with 14 points for E.P. Andress. Curry Blackwell proved valuable scoring 20 points for Monterey, followed by Christiansen who added 10 points.

Regional Semis

At Christmas time, Coach Wood of Ft. Worth Southwest said this team may be better than last year. With no returning starters from the regional finalist team, most people felt he was crazy. In District, the Rebels were picked fourth in

the pre-season polls. "When the chemistry is there, we have dimensions we didn't have last year," Wood said. "We don't have as much height, but we're more explosive. We can score at every position and we have over all quickness that we've never had before," Wood continued.

Denton(25-9) and Ft. Worth Southwest(28-8) traveled west to Midland and the Chapparral Center to face Amarillo Palo Duro(24-7) and Lubbock Monterey(29-3). Palo Duro and Monterey were District rivals from 3-5A.

Monterey got by Denton 58-57 in a close one. 5'11" Rob Peterson hit a backdoor lay-up with 18 seconds remaining to give the Plainsmen the victory. Curry Blackwell made the critical pass for the Plainsmen. Denton had three opportunities to win the game, but failed to capitalize. For the Broncos, it was their biggest run in the playoffs since their 1974 state tournament appearance. Curry Blackwell(22.0) put up 21 points for the Plainsmen, followed by Glenn Seal with 16 points. 6'7" Brian Stinchcomb paced the Broncos with 20 points and McDade added 12 points. Denton finished their season at 24-10.

In the other regional match-up, Southwest came away with another close victory over Amarillo Palo Duro 54-52. Southwest was down 48-44 with only 3:32 remaining in the game when the Rebels proceeded to score nine straight points, taking a 53-48 lead with only 1:33 left. Coach James Wood of Southwest commented on his late game tactics saying, "we had to go man defense and try to deny the ball and hoped they turned it over. They had a turnover or two, and let us back in the game." Glenn Hayes responded for Palo Duro cutting the lead to one point at 53-52 with 12 seconds left. With four seconds remaining, Palo Duro fouled Matthew Hill of Southwest. Hill went to the line and hit one of two to give the Rebels a 54-52 lead. Southwest held on and advanced to the regional finals for the second year in a row. Hill paced Southwest with 17 points in the win. "Matt didn't have a great shooting night, but he made some key baskets," Wood said.

Hill was also credited with doing a masterful job slowing 6'6" Eugene Sims(15.3) of Palo Duro. Sims only scored two points on 1 of 6 shooting. Palo Duro Coach Ed Smith disagree, saying it was just nerves, and it really had little to do with what Southwest had done defensively against Sims. Either way, it was a big loss offensively for the Dons. Southwest was 16 of 26 from the foul line and Palo Duro was only 6 of 7. Southwest finished with 21 turnovers while the Don's ended up with 17. Hayes and Campbell got it done for Coach Smith, leading the Don's with 21 and 16 points. Coach Smith was emotional following the game saying, "I'll never forget this bunch." Amarillo Palo Duro had not advanced this far in the playoffs since 1961.

Regional Finals

The Regional Finals had a familiar look with another Ft. Worth school represented. The Cow Town had been represented by Paschal in 1983 and Dunbar and Southwest in '84 and '85. The Rebels were back in the regional finals against

the favored Plainsmen of Lubbock Monterey. The Plainsmen had a strong basketball tradition, as well, dating back to the 1970s.

Mark Watley(15.0) of Southwest(30-9) proved to be the difference scoring 29 points and propelled the Rebels to the state tournament. The 67-60 victory over Lubbock Monterey(30-4) sent Southwest to the Austin for the first time in school history. Coach James Wood was in his 18th season with the Rebels. With neither team having any dominate big men on the court, both relied on athleticism and skills. Coach Grady Newton of Monterey commented after the loss, “their size is deceptive, they’re extremely good jumpers-very quick.” “During the course of the game, the fact that they kept getting two, three and four shots on the offensive end just wore us out,” Newton continued.

Southwest won the rebound battle 34-25, as Willie Thomas managed to pull down nine boards and Thomas Green took in 10. Brian Christiansen of Monterey had a big game finishing with 20 points and 14 rebounds. “He’s a fighter and a battler all the way,” Newton said of Christiansen. “He’s done this for us all year.” The Plainsmen’s Glenn Seale kept his team in the game in the first half launching shots from long range. The 6’1” guard finished with 18 points on 8 of 14 from the floor. One of his shots was said to be 25 feet by Loretta Wolske, who was reporting for the Odessa American. 6’2” Curry Blackwell(21.1) was Monterey’s top player having been named All-State by both the Sports Writers and the TABC. The talented senior could only manage eight points in the last game of his career. “Their zone really shut us down,” Newton said. “Their defense was really tough in the second half.”

Helping Watley in the scoring column for Southwest was Matt Hill and Willie Thomas, who combined for 30 points. Southwest only made one substitution the entire game and hit 8 of 10 foul shots down the stretch.

Region II Playoffs

Dallas South Oak Cliff(32-1) #2	Dallas Kimball(26-2) #4
Conroe McCullough(22-9)	Garland(26-4)
Dallas Samuel(24-8)	Klein Oak(27-5)
Greenville(23-9)	Temple(29-4)
Tyler John Tyler(31-1) #5	Conroe(29-2) #3
Bryan(23-10)	Longview(24-8)
Lake Highlands(22-5)	Dallas Pinkston(17-10)
Katy Taylor(27-4)	South Garland(27-6)

Top Five in Region II

6’9”	Reginald Muhammad	Wilmer Hutchins
6’4”	Rodney Samuel	South Oak Cliff
6’3”	Rod Jacques	Conroe
6’4”	Lance Blanks	Conroe McCullough
6’6”	James Johnson	Tyler John Tyler

Region II was so strong in 1985 it was ridiculous, with the Dallas area as competitive as ever. You combine Dallas with the north Houston area and you have quite a talent pool. The Golden Bears of South Oak Cliff(32-1) were back along with Dallas Kimball(26-2). Center Texas continued to produce strong teams as Temple(29-4) emerged from the pack as the best. The Wildcats had their strongest team in years. East Texas produced a powerhouse in Tyler John Tyler(31-1) and from down south came Conroe(29-2) once again. In the background was defending state champion Bryan. According to the state polls region II was the strongest in the state. Five of my final top ten were from region II and 11 of the my final 25 teams played out of this region.

Personally, this was the region I was most familiar with. Having seen all the teams in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, I felt Garland and South Oak Cliff were really going to be tough along with the defensive minded Kimball Knights. I had seen Conroe the year before, and knew they had their whole team returning. I was not familiar with John Tyler or Temple. Playoff days were tough deciding on who to go watch. There was so much talent all over the region.

9-AAAAA

It was unfortunate that only two teams would come out of District 9-5A in 1985. The District was so talented and had five teams that were elite in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. The Garland Owls(26-4) probably had their best team ever, led by the two Derrick brothers, Richard and Neil, along with one of the all-time Texas greats, 6'1" Mookie Blaylock(17.0). I saw the team several times over the course of the season and they had very few weaknesses. 6'7" Richard Derrick(20.4) was a multi-talented player. As a senior, he was one of the top five recruits in the state. 6'2" Neil was only a freshman and ranked with 5'11" Derrick Daniels of Dunbar as one the best freshman in the state. These were two of the best I'd ever seen as freshman. Coach Lane Norsworthy was in his 3rd season with Garland after finishing 6-8 and 17-11 the previous season. The Owls claimed several favorable wins in the pre-season over Dallas Pinkston(17-10) 83-65, Dallas Samuel(23-8) 71-64 and Seagoville(20-12) 85-67. The Owls lost to Dallas Skyline(23-8) 63-60, South Garland(27-7) 77-73 and Dallas Samuel(23-8) 63-43.

South Garland(27-7) was loaded as well with one of the top backcourt combos in the state in 5'11" Kato Armstrong(18.0) and 5'10" Charles Smith(20.2). When your backcourt is almost putting up 40 points a game you are going to be tough to handle. 6'5" Billy Smith was an inside force for the Colonels. Armstrong went on to play at S.M.U. and Billy Smith at Kansas St. Coach Clayton Brook's team played one of the most challenging schedules in the states. Victories included Pinkston(17-10) 83-76, Mansfield(21-8) 80-59, Grand Prairie(26-9) 71-53, L.D. Bell(19-12) 70-59, Lake Highlands(23-6) 68-63 and Dallas Skyline(23-7) 72-69 in OT. Losses were at the hands of several state ranked teams. Dallas Kimball(30-3) 69-66,

S.O.C.(34-2) 92-68, Tyler John Tyler(25-2) 69-59, Garland(26-5) 77-73 and Dallas Samuel(23-8) 64-60 in OT.

In most Districts, South Garland and Garland would usually be enough, but that was not the case with 9-5A. Highland Park(26-6) put their hat in the ring winning their first 17 games of the season. The Scots marched into the finals of the Westside Lions Club tournament against nationally ranked Baltimore Dunbar at 17-0. Although the Scots got blown away by the Poets of Dunbar, it was an impressive feat gaining the finals. Wins in pre-district came against Austin Westlake(26-8) 61-52, Austin Johnston(20-9) 61-52, Austin Anderson(15-11) 61-52, Austin L.B.J.(25-10) 58-51, as well as Waxahachie(17-11) 82-69 and Denton(25-10) 53-51. The Scots were under the direction of Coach Tom Shelton and relied on a balanced attack. Shelton replaced longtime head coach, Bo Snowden, who was promoted to Athletic Director. Shelton had formerly been Head Coach at Iowa Park for two seasons before coaching the junior varsity for 16 seasons. Bart Showalter, Tie Sosnowski, Glen Mack and Stephen White were key contributors for Highland Park.

The Stallions of North Mesquite(22-9) had another tough team under Coach Ron Powell. As usual the team had limited ability and a short bench. The offense was centered around the talents of 6'2" Miles Haberer. North Mesquite came away with some solid pre-season. The Stallions lost to S.O.C.(34-2) 48-45, Dallas Bryan Adams(15-11) 64-59, Dallas Kimball(30-3) 55-48, while beating Denton(25-10) 52-50, Arlington Sam Houston(20-12) 64-61, Irving MacArthur(21-12) 67-52 and Dallas Pinkston(17-10) 69-59.

Wilmer Hutchins(18-13), as always, was talented and very competitive. The Eagles had one of the best big men in the state in 6'10" Reginald Muhammad(20.2), who signed with S.M.U. Muhammad was named All-State by both the T.A.B.C. and Sports Writers. Another standout for Hutch was 6'7" Patrick Durham, who was later drafted by the Mavericks in the N.B.A. Durham had a fine collegiate career at Colorado State. The Eagles may have been the best double-digit loss team in the entire state. The Eagles defeated the likes of Houston Wheatley(19-11) 84-77 and Dallas Samuel(23-8) 58-49 in pre-district, while losing to S.O.C.(34-2) 77-68, North Mesquite(22-9) 60-36, Arlington(13-13) 60-58, and split with Dallas Roosevelt(7-16).

District action, as you may have already gathered, was insane with such competition. Garland was impressive defeating rival South Garland both times in District 61-54 and 63-59. Garland's Richard Derrick came up big with 17 points and 17 rebounds in the Owls first win over the Colonels. Garland High also had North Mesquites number defeating the Stallions twice 60-52 and 53-50. Derrick once again paced his team in their first victory over the Stallions with 19 points and North Mesquite was paced by Miles Haberer with 22 points. Garland was just able to sneak by Wilmer Hutchins in the two teams first District contest with the Owls winning 66-63. Mookie Blaylock led the scoring for Garland with 21 points and

Derrick followed with 18. Reginald Muhammad paced Wilmer Hutchins with 27 points. The second time round Garland ran away with the game in a 90-72 win over the Eagles. Richard Derrick put up 24 points. Neil Derrick, the freshman, finished with 19 and Blaylock added 18 points.

The only team that was able to defeat Garland in District was surprisingly the Highland Park(26-6) Scots. The Scots split with the Owls, losing the first game 65-63, but came back to beat the Owls 73-59 in the re-match. Malcolm Showalter hit six points late to key the victory and finished with 25 points. Garland(26-4) had already clinched the District title going into the game against Highland Park and finished District at 13-1.

South Garland's only two losses in District were at the hands of Garland. The Colonels made the playoffs and finished 2nd at 12-2. The rest of the District contenders were as follows: Highland Park(26-6) 9-5, North Mesquite(22-9) 9-5 and Wilmer Hutchins(18-13) 7-7.

Let's take a quick look at the talent in this District. Garland had three D-1 talents in Richard Derrick who signed with U.T.E.P., brother Neil signed eventually with Washington St., Mookie played in the N.B.A. with the Hawks; South Garland had Kato Armstrong who played at S.M.U., Billy Smith played at Kansas St., Reggie Muhammad of Wilmer Hutchins played at S.M.U., Pat Durham at Colorado State and drafted by the Mavericks.

Standings: Garland(26-4) 13-1, South Garland(27-6) 12-2, Highland Park(26-6) 9-5, North Mesquite(22-9) 9-5, Wilmer Hutchins(18-13) 7-7, Garland Lakeview(16-17) 4-10, North Garland(5-24) 1-13, Mesquite(5-25) 1-13:

All-District: 6'7" Richard Derrick(20.4), Garland; 6'6" Glen Walker(22.8), Garland Lakeview; 6'2" Miles Haberer, North Mesquite; 6'9" Reginald Muhammad(20.2), Wilmer Hutchins; 5'11" Kato Armstrong(18.0) South Garland; 5'10" Charles Smith(20.2), South Garland; Mookie Blaylock(17.0) of Garland and Billy Smith were named, "Players of the Year," Lewis Hicks of Garland Lakeview was named "Sophomore of the Year," Neil Derrick of Garland was named "Newcomer of the year," Lane Norsworthy of Garland was named "Coach of the Year."

10-A-A-A-A-A

Dallas South Oak Cliff was overwhelming District favorite in 10-5A. The Golden Bears arch rival, Dallas Roosevelt, was on a rapid decline. Transfers and recruiting had really hurt coach Ellis Davis' program. At his retirement in 1986, Davis' time at Roosevelt was legendary, going 641-128 in 23 seasons. He passed away in 2013 at the age of 81 and will be remembered as a "**Texas Legend**."

Dallas Skyline had one of the top sophomores in the country in 6'5" Larry Johnson and Dallas Samuel would be a force with the likes 6'4" Floyd Macon and 6'7" Steve Miles. S.O.C. entered District as the second ranked team in the state with their only defeat coming at the hands of Baltimore Dunbar(28-1) 68-54, in the finals of the Westside Lions club tournament.

Coach Jimmy Gales had outstanding talent to work with, 6'0" Jeff Ralston(17.5), 6'4" Rodney Samuel(22.0), 6'6" 225 Ronnie Morgan(15.0), 6'4" John

Godfrey and 5'9" Nathan McCoy, as well as depth. Godfrey was muscular and a strong inside force on the glass. McCoy had cat like quickness and was excellent at pushing the ball up the court. Morgan was a wide-body with a soft touch inside and strong rebounding skills. Morgan was receiving looks from division one schools his senior year. Ralston was one of the best shooting guards in Dallas with ability to handle the ball. Rodney Samuel(*) was an extraordinary talent with unlimited potential. He was not only one of the top recruits in the state his senior year, but considered one of the top recruits in the country. He was one of the best to ever come out of Dallas, an extraordinary talent.

(*)Samuel signed with Oklahoma coming out of college, but was dismissed when he got caught plagiarizing a paper, he attended Odessa J.C. and became a three point specialists. Coach Jimmy Gales called Samuel the most competitive player he ever coached. That is very high praise coming from Gales, who coached in college as well as high school. Samuel averaged 13.5 per game at Odessa and signed with West Virginia and Coach Gale Catlett. "I just want to go somewhere where I can go in fresh," Samuel commented on signing with West Virginia. Samuel had a severe knee injury his senior year at S.O.C. which limited his explosiveness following high school.

Gales was responsible for putting the team together after returning from North Texas State in 1984. Morgan had been at Hillcrest his freshman season, but transferred to S.O.C. because of his father's close relationship with Gales. Samuel stayed at S.O.C. after hearing about Gales returning from the college ranks.

S.O.C. finished the pre-season as the #2 team in the TABC polls. This was the highest ranking the Golden Bears had ever held down. Victims of the S.O.C. were Denton(25-10) 69-62, FW Southwest(30-9) 61-49, Dunbar(20-12) 67-58, Duncanville(23-8) 62-60, North Mesquite(22-9) 48-45, South Garland(27-7) 92-68, Grand Prairie(26-9) 78-59, Dallas Samuel(23-8) 74-66, Bryan(25-11) 83-73, Kimball(30-3) 65-60, Corpus Christi Miller(24-5) 108-61.

S.O.C.(33-1) took down Dallas Samuel in both District games 59-53 and 75-64, and handled Skyline both times as well 89-76 and 68-50. In S.O.C.'s first game against the Spartans, S.O.C. had to outscored Samuel 23-14 in the final quarter to come away with the 59-53 victory. "They controlled the tempo, I think a lot of people feel if they can hold us to the 50s, they can beat us," Coach Jimmy Gales said. Coach Doug Scott of Samuel used a sagging 2-3 zone to slow down the Golden Bears. Ronnie Morgan led S.O.C. with 17 points and Floyd Macon led Samuel with 16 points. The Golden Bears continued their mastery over Samuel in their second contest defeating the Spartans 75-64 at Forester Field House. 6'4" Rodney Samuel put on quite a display finishing with 24/4/2 blocks/3 steals/4 assists. The talented junior, finished off the evening with a two-handed reverse slam. I have always believed that had Samuel not been injured he would have been named a McDonald's All-American.

Skyline's first game against Samuel was one of the biggest wins of the season for Coach Mayo and Raiders, as they pulled off a 53-46 victory. 5'8" Willie Harris(14.0/7 asst) scored 24 for Skyline, while Larry Johnson put up 17/15/5

steals/2 blocks in the victory. Harris was later loss to the team because of grades. Macon again paced the Spartans with 15 points and 6'2" Ernest Neal added 14 points.

Samuel really man-handled Skyline in the re-match defeating the Raiders 59-44. The inside game of the Spartans was handled by 6'7" Steve Miles, 6'5" Cedric Hollins and 6'5" Floyd Macon. 6'5" Larry Johnson was held to only 15 points. Hollins led Samuel with 18 points, Macon added 13 as did Miles.

Skyline had no chance against S.O.C. in the two team's first meeting, losing 89-76 to the Bears. Jeff Ralston paced S.O.C. with 21 points and Rodney Samuel knocked down 21 points. Larry Johnson finished with 33 points for Skyline.

The Golden Bears went 10-0 in District and finished right behind Houston Madison in the state polls. Dallas Skyline(23-8) and Samuel(24-8) tied for the runner-up spot in District both finishing 7-3. The Spartans of Samuel won the playoff between the two teams 68-45 and advanced. 6'7" Steve Mills led Coach Doug Scott's Spartans with 15 points and 6'5" sophomore Larry Johnson led the Raiders with 21 points. You may be asking, what happened to Skyline late in the season? The answer would be that grades hit their backcourt and the team was really strapped.

Larry Johnson was an incredible sophomore for Skyline. He and fellow sophomore, LaBradford Smith from Bay City, were two of the best anywhere regardless of classification. Against Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt, one of the top teams in Cowtown, Johnson put up a triple double with 18/20/10 assists. Against Tyler John Tyler(31-5), who supported two all-state players inside at 6'8" and 6'6", Johnson put up 30/15/7 steals/5 assists. Against 6'11" Rodney Henderson of Bryan Adams, one of the most hotly pursued big men in the state, Johnson dominated with 35/12/3 steals/3 blocks/6 assists. Staggering numbers! Johnson, would leave his stamp on Dallas basketball as one of the best ever. Without question the best sophomore. I repeat, without question the best sophomore. Every player who obtained any success in Dallas will always be compared to L.J.

Standings: Dallas South Oak Cliff(32-1) 9-0, Dallas Skyline(23-7) 7-3, Dallas Samuel(23-8) 7-3, Dallas Bryan Adams(15-12) 3-6; Dallas Roosevelt(7-17) 2-7, Dallas Spruce(6-19) 0-9:

All-District: 5'7" Terrance Lewis, Roosevelt; 5'11" Jeff Ralston, SOC; 6'4" Rodney Samuel(20.4), SOC; 6'4" Floyd Macon(18.5), Samuel; 6'5" Larry Johnson(21.0), Skyline, "Player of the Year" was Floyd Macon from Samuel, Larry Johnson was named "Sophomore of the Year" and Jim Gales was named "Coach of the Year."

11-AAAAA

The Kimball Knights continued turning out talented teams under the leadership of Jimmy Tubbs and assisted by Chris Dyer. Kimball had advanced to regionals two years running and both times eliminated by the evaluate state champion, Bryan. Tubbs described his young team as, "were not very tall." The Knights counted heavily on the backcourt of 6'1" Jeffrey Fudge and 6'1" Eric Kelly. 6'2" 197-pound junior, Carl Love provided the inside game for the Knights. Love

was a three-sport standout in football, basketball and baseball. He was named "Defensive Player of the Year" on the football field and started in the infield as a freshman on the baseball diamond. "Carl could be playing outside," Tubbs said. "But we have to have him inside. He has that flexibility. He's strong and knows how to play against taller players." Love managed almost a double-double on the season with 15.0 points and 9.0 rebounds. Love had missed the second half of the basketball season and all of baseball due to grades his sophomore year. 6'3" Frank Foster, 6'1" Chris Williams and 6'1 Leonard Perry rounded out the Knights lineup.

Kimball came out of the pre-season as one of the top ten teams in the state. Key victories for the Knights came against Dallas Samuel(23-9) 52-50, Grand Prairie(26-9) 59-54, South Garland(27-7) 69-66, Killeen(23-7) 75-57, FW Dunbar(20-13) 81-45 and North Mesquite(22-9) 55-48. One of the Knights two losses came at hands of S.O.C. in the Dr. Pepper tournament 65-60. Their other loss was to state ranked Spring Branch Memorial(29-6).

Dallas Pinkston had a talented group under third year coach, Michael Cotton. The Vikings counted on 6'0" Quentis Roper, 6'4" 215-pound Michael Williams and 6'4" Chris Coffey. All three came off the football field. Williams was one of the top rebounders in the state with 15.1 per game. Williams was also highly recruited in football by Texas and Southern Cal. Longtime Carter coach, Alex Gillum, left Dallas Carter and went to Dallas Lincoln and was replaced by George Roland. Roland took over as the new Cowboys coach.

The District was much weaker than in the two previous years, as the Knights(27-2) finished undefeated at 10-0. Dallas Pinkston(17-10) took the runner-up spot in District at 7-3 and made the playoffs for the first time in forever. Pinkston and Kimball showdowns were really not that competitive. In the first District game at Sprague Field House the Knights were up by 25 points at halftime. Kimball went on to win 83-66.

Standings: Kimball(26-2) 9-0, Dallas Pinkston(17-10) 7-3, Dallas Carter(15-11) 6-4, Dallas Thomas Jefferson(11-15) 5-4, Dallas Sunset(5-19) 1-8, W.T. White(2-12) 1-9:

All-District: 5'11" Jeffrey Fudge, Kimball; 6'0" Ronnie Green, Dallas Carter; 6'4" Chris Coffey(18.8), Pinkston; 6'3" Michael Buckner, WT White; 6'7" Bobby Darnell, Pinkston; 6'3" Carl Love of Kimball was named "Player of the Year," Darren Lewis of Carter was named "Sophomore of the Year," and Jimmy Tubbs was named "Coach of the Year."

(Darren Lewis was an All-American Running Back at Texas A&M and played for the Chicago Bears for three seasons. Carl Love of Kimball played in the minor leagues with the Cubs and played basketball at McLennan J.C. in Waco.)

12-AAAAA

Outside of Richardson High School's great run in 1983 to regionals, this District had always been won by either Plano or Lake Highlands. The Wildcats of Lake Highlands had District titles in 1978, 1981 and 1984. Plano captured the title in 1979, 1980 and 1982 titles. Coach Jack Clark was still at the helm for Lake Highlands and assisted by Jimmy Rowe. Clark had some fine talent returning in

5'10" D'Wayne Tanner and 6'2" Tony Waters along with inside players, 6'4" Greg McGowan and 6'4" LeRoy Rodgers. Plano's leader was Horace Myrick and Greenville had one of the top players in the District in 6'4" Anthony Portley.

In pre-district, Lake Highlands lost to three eventual playoff teams in Dallas Samuel(24-9) 57-47, Irving MacArthur(21-12) 61-59 and South Garland(27-7) 68-63. Once District arrived the Wildcats suffered only one loss and that was to Greenville(23-10) 64-63 in Greenville. Anthony Portley carried the Lions with 19 points, while coach Jack Clark's Wildcats were paced by Watters with 18 points. If you ever played in Greenville, it's a difficult place to win. At home Lake Highlands defeated the Lions 65-54 behind D'Wayne Tanner's 16 points and McGowan's 15. Portley again led the Greenville attack with 16 points.

Greenville(23-9) hung on to second place in District despite losing to Plano(17-12) 61-57, Richardson(14-14) 60-51 and Plano East(14-16). Let me say it again, it's tough to win on Greenville's home court. Been there, done that.

Lake Highlands(22-5) came away with a 13-1 mark, Greenville(23-9) advanced to the playoffs at 10-4 and Berkner(18-10) was 3rd with a 9-5 record. Plano(17-12) continued to struggle holding down the 4th spot at 8-6.

*{On a **personal note**, my first group of seniors graduated in 1985. I had coached this bunch in the 7th, 8th and 9th grade at Parkhill Junior High in Richardson. We went from the cellar to the co-championship over the three-year period. I'd love to take credit for the turnaround, but we had a number of move-ins. In Richardson at the time, freshman attended Junior High. It was awesome to have kids that impressionable for three straight seasons. Looking back, that was as good as it got coaching. It was fun for me and kids, that's what it's all about. Chris Dietsch started at Pearce for Coach Walt Davis along with 6'5" Rod Jeter. Jon Feld transferred to Richardson High School and played for Joe Longino. My most successful player of that team was actually on my 3rd team as a freshman. 6'2" Scott Conrad got stuck on the bench for me, but overcame the trauma and was a two-year starter for Coach Davis on the varsity. Great memories. Dietsch and Feld have been lifelong friends. Both were tremendous leaders and I attribute much of what success we had to them. They were two of the highest character kids I ever coached.}*

Standings: Lake Highlands(22-5) 13-1, Greenville(23-9) 10-4, Richardson Berkner(18-10) 9-5, Plano High(17-12) 8-6, Plano East(14-16) 6-8, Richardson(14-14) 6-8, Richardson Pearce(12-16) 4-10, Lewisville(0-26) 0-14:

All-District: 5'10" D'Wayne Tanner, Lake Highlands, 6'0" Horace Myrick, Plano; 6'4" Anthony Portley, Greenville; 6'4" Greg McGowan, Lake Highlands; 6'4" Bobby Smith, Plano East; 6'2" Tony Watters, Lake Highlands; Tanner was named "Player of the Year," Jack Clark was named "Coach of the Year."

The Times Herald All-Metro

1st team had Mookie Blaylock(17.0) of Garland, 5'11" Juric Brown(18.4) from Grand Prairie, 6'5" Larry Johnson(21.0) from Dallas Skyline, 6'4" Rodney Samuel(21.4) Dallas S.O.C., 6'10" Reginald Muhammad(20.2) from Wilmer Hutchins, 6'4" Floyd Macon(18.5) Dallas Samuel; Norsworthy of Garland was named "Coach of the Year" and Rodney Samuel was named "Player of the Year" as just a junior. Larry Johnson was named "Sophomore of the Year." **2nd Team honors** went to 6'0" Jeff Ralston of Dallas S.O.C., 5'11" Kato Armstrong(18.0) of South Garland, 6'7" Dallas S.O.C., 6'1" Marvin Williams(22.1) from Rockwall:

The Dallas Morning News All-Greater Dallas Team:

1st team 6'4" Floyd Macon(19.0/11.0) Dallas Samuel, 6'1" Daron Blaylock(17.0/5.0) Garland, 6'4" Larry Johnson(21.0/15.0) Dallas Skyline, 6'4" Rodney Samuel(22.0/11.0) Dallas S.O.C., 6'10" Reginald

Muhammad(20.4/13.0) Wilmer Hutchins: 2nd Team-5'11" Juric Brown(18.4) Grand Prairie, 6'1" Eric Kelly of Dallas Kimball, 6'5" Tim Howard(25.3) FW Dunbar, 6'7" Richard Derrick(20.4) Garland, 6'10" Wes Lowe of West Mesquite:

13-AAAAA

Tyler John Tyler returned some key talent from a 24-6 team. The Lions featured District M.V.P. 6'6' James Johnson and potentially the top player in the District in 6'8" Fred West. Both players were back for Coach Billy Lawson. The Lions were going for their third straight District title under Lawson. The Lions inside game was very strong once again along with improved outside shooting. Overall the Lions had lost some of their quickness from the previous season.

In the season opener the Lions pulled out a tough win over a strong Duncanville(23-8) team coach by Phil McNeeley 55-54. Senior post, Fred West, hit some key shots late that provided victory. Coach Lawson commented about West, "he's got a great touch." John Tyler tried to play the most competitive schedule possible facing Dallas Pinkston(17-11) in the third game of the season. The Vikings would be a great challenge for the Lions and made the playoffs as runner-up to Dallas Kimball. 6'6" Johnson and 6'8" West showed their inside dominance combining for 41 points, 19 rebounds and 8 blocks in the win over Pinkston.

The Lions won all three tournaments they were entered during the pre-season. First of these was the Waco Optimist Tournament. John Tyler defeated Waco University 68-16, San Antonio Catholic Central(20-9) 57-31 and Greenville(23-10) in the finals 66-53. James Johnson came away with the M.V.P. The Lions advanced to #3 in the T.A.B.C. polls. Most Tyler native agreed this was the best John Tyler team since the state finalist squad in 1976 led by 6'9" Anthony Lee.

In the Garland Coca Cola Tournament, John Tyler was really tested with some of the top competition the state. Garland(26-5), South Garland(27-7), Dallas Lincoln(21-9) and Dallas Skyline(23-8). The Lions opened with a 94-73 win over Dallas Lincoln(21-9). James Johnson led the charge with 26 points and 19 rebounds, Ingram finished with 22 points, Fred West added 18/16. Newcomer, 6'1" James Williams, kicked in 14 points. Williams had been ineligible and added another dimension to the Lions as a hardnosed scrappy player. Clarence Johnson led Lincoln with a game high 28 points.

Next up was Garland Lakeview(16-17), who went down 73-66. In the much-anticipated semi-finals game, John Tyler got an up-close look at the much talked about sophomore, 6'5" Larry Johnson. James Johnson and Fred West would be matched against one of the top players in the state. The game was really exciting going into overtime. The Lions were able to pull out a 63-62 win. Larry Johnson impressed everybody with his all-around game and finished with 28 points. John Tyler had to overcome 25 turnovers in the game. James Johnson finished with 29 points, while West contributed 19 points for the Lions. Willie

Harris added 15 points for the Raiders effort. "We were playing a very good ball club," Coach Lawson said. "They have good size, shoot well and handle the ball well."

It didn't get any easier for John Tyler(31-2) in the finals of the Coca Cola. The Lions defeated South Garland(27-7) 69-58. This game really solidified the Lions as an elite team in the state. The Colonels supported so much talent in 6'5" Billy Smith, 5'11" Kato Armstrong and many more. Charles Smith scored 18 points for Coach Clayton Brooks, Billy Smith added 18 and Armstrong finished with 14 points. John Tyler placed four players in double figures. James Johnson put up 32 points, West chipped in 17 points, Ingram added 10 and Williams was good for 10 points. In the 3rd place game, Dallas Skyline defeated Garland High 63-60 in OT. South Garland had defeated city rival Garland in the semi-finals 77-73.

The Coca Cola tournament was very impressive for John Tyler. This set the stage for the Lion's first loss of the season against Corsicana(28-4) 52-43. The Tigers were one of the top ranked 4-A teams in the state. Many, including myself, felt they were best class 4-A team in region II. Corsicana's tallest player was 6'2" Terry Winston(16.0/9.0) and 5'10" Lamar Wadley(23.0) was one of top guards in the state in class 4-A. 5'8" Ricky Dotson(14.2) was another contributor from outside for Coach Dale Dotson. The Tigers led the entire way and pulled away at the end to extend their lead. Wadley finished with 26 points, Dotson 11 and Winston came away with six points. For John Tyler, West led the way with 16 points and Ingram finished with 11 points. James Johnson only finished with six points, which probably had a lot to do with the Lions loss.

The last tournament before District was the Tyler Junior College basketball tourney. The tournament had several teams from the smaller classifications entered, as John Tyler breezed to the finals defeating city rival Tyler Lee(20-11) 56-39. The Red Raiders had played a very competitive schedule traveling to the Dallas metroplex area on several occasions. Coach Larry Jones was at the reigns for the Raiders and had formerly coached at Dallas Hillcrest. You might remember Jones took Hillcrest to a 38-1 finish in 1981, losing to Dallas Roosevelt.

Before District began most of the coaches felt John Tyler would be the team to beat. Coach LeRoy Romines of Longview said, "I still feel like we're all chasing John Tyler, I don't know of anybody better than John Tyler. There are four teams with a shot at the other spot, Lufkin, Tyler Lee and Texas High and us. I don't think there's much differences between the four, its whoever is hot."

John Tyler(31-2) opened up District against Texas High(20-9), who finished District at 9-5. But that was very deceiving because they lost most of their games early in District. They got hot late in District action after they were already out of the race. At Texarkana the Lions won 52-43 over Texas High. Mike Lindley paced Texas High with 12 points. Lufkin was up next and always presented problems. The

Panthers were still under the masterful direction of Coach Jesse Walker, who had led the team to the state championship in 1979. The Panthers could have used some help from Larry Davis and Ronnie Blake against John Tyler, losing 66-54. John Williams and Mark Johnson provided outside shooting early to keep the Panthers close. James Johnson was 10 for 10 from the foul line finishing with 20 points. 6'1" James Williams continued to contribute for John Tyler scoring 16 points and 6'1" Robert Ingram had 12 points. Ingram was considered the team's best leaper. Coach Lawson commented that his team was not pulling off as in previous seasons. He felt this had led to his team not playing with the right intensity and forming bad habits late in the season.

Longview and John Tyler came into their first meeting in Tyler unbeaten in District. Longview(24-8) relied on the inside game of 6'5" Greg Colbert. Wayne Haynie was the Lobos main outside threat. Coach Romines emphasized the team leader was point guard, Andy Van Burkleo. Longview relied on depth playing ten players and pressing full-court. "We have more depth than we have had in a while." Coach Romines said, "John Tyler looks awesome, the two big men are very hard to match-up against. I don't think we can match-up against them. For us to win, we'd really have to play as well as we can and hope John Tyler doesn't." Longview had defeated Lufkin 74-73 in triple overtime earlier in District action.

In the Longview-John Tyler game, the Lobos led the entire game, but fell apart late losing to John Tyler 55-50. Greg Colbert shut down James Johnson inside, holding the standout junior to 14 points. John Tyler at one point was down 10 points to Longview. James Williams spearheaded the Lions comeback scoring 11 points. James Johnson was at the foul line with one-minute remaining shooting a one-an-one situation, leading 48-46. Coach Romines called time-out to freeze Johnson. It worked, as Johnson preceded to miss the front-end of the one-an-one situation. The Lobos missed a great opportunity when John Tyler's 6'8" Fred West came away with the rebound and put it back, giving the Lions a four-point lead. Johnson later redeemed himself hitting five straight foul shots late to nail down the victory.

Colbert led Longview with 14 points and West finished with 18 points, while James Johnson put down 13 for the Lions. Longview tried to overcome the size disadvantage by pressing the entire game.

The Tyler Lee(20-11) and John Tyler was going to be intense due to the city rivalry, which was one of the strongest in the state. Lee had been very competitive in pre-district and were 5-1 coming into the game against John Tyler. The Red Raiders only loss had come to Longview 69-61 in District action. Key wins for Coach Jones crew came against Texas High 64-60 and Lufkin 83-65. Otis Ward(12.3) led the Raiders with 26 points and Trey Hughes(12.5) kicked in 24 points in the victory over the Panthers of Lufkin.

Coach Larry Jones had a well-balanced attack with all five starters scoring in double figures. Simone Jones(12.0), Gary Overshown(10.3) and Rusty Hardin(10.0) rounded out the starters. If Lee could knock off John Tyler, they would put the District race in a three-way tie.

The Lions James Johnson came up big against Tyler Lee hitting four key foul shots in the 4th quarter while complying 18 points. The Lions hit 10 of 15 foul shots in the last stanza. Lee ran their 1-3-1 zone, which really gave the Lions trouble. "The game came down to the 4th quarter and they made their free throws and we didn't," Coach Jones said. Curtis Mask finished with 10 points along with West's 12 for John Tyler. Lee was led by Trey Hughes with 17 points. Coach Lawson's thoughts on the game, "their press hurt us more than any team this year."

In the second round of District action, Longview kept pace defeating Tyler Lee 59-50 and Texas High(20-9) 57-53, to take a firm grip on second place. John Tyler(31-2) continued making hay with wins over Texas High(20-9) 61-52, Nacogdoches 79-41, Marshall 72-38 and Lufkin(14-16) 57-48. This set up the climatic second game between Longview and John Tyler. Although the game was for the District title, it looked pretty certain both teams would make the playoffs. Texas High(20-9) had basically eliminated any chances Tyler Lee(20-11) had with a 59-56 win over the Red Raiders.

The re-match was played in Longview and the Lobos didn't fare much better losing 77-67. It was the third consecutive District title for the Lions. 5'7" Billy Lawson Jr. was the hero late for John Tyler knocking down eight straight foul shots in the last 2:17 of the game. Coach Romines commented, "we just don't match-up with West. He's an outstanding player. He was the difference. He really played when he had to." West finished with 22 points and James Johnson contributed 17 points on five for five shooting in the second half. The coach's son, Billy Lawson Jr kicked in 16 points in a winning effort. Ronny Nugent kept Longview ahead early from the outside and finished with 16 points, as did Greg Colbert. James Johnson fouled out with 17 points and 7 rebounds on an offensive foul with 2:59 left in the game. "I was more worried about not having him on the defensive end," Lawson said. West was showing his all-state credentials putting up 21 points and 12 rebounds. "West played an outstanding game, he was the difference," Romines said. "He made shots when he had to." The Lions went to a man to man defense that limited Longview's outside shooting. John Tyler's standout, James Johnson, was battling the flu.

"It's hard enough to win one District title, let alone three," Coach Billy Lawson said after the victory over Longview. John Tyler defeated rival Tyler Lee(20-9) 66-55 to close out District.

John Tyler's Junior Varsity Coach, Don Miller, had quite a run with the Lions, winning their fifth straight District title at 22-1. The J.V. only loss came at the

hands of Longview 53-52. It was the team's first loss since February of 1980 in District. Coach Millers crew had won 67 District games in a row. That's incredible at any level.

The **Tyler Courier Times** ran an interesting article selecting the All-Decade teams from Tyler Lee and Tyler John Tyler from 1976-1985. I figured you would definitely want me to share with you the results: On the **Red Raiders 1st Team**: 6'0" DeBoy Johnson(75-77), 6'3" Shannon Hughes(81-83), 6'6" Kenneth Brown(77-80), 6'5" Virdell Brown(75-78), 6'4" Charles Young(79-82): **2nd Team** 6'2" Brad Richardson(76-78), 6'1" Jeff Kaman(80-82), 6'4" Jesse Jones(80-81), 6'5" Craig Hudeck(75-77), 6'5" James Hood(82-84): **The Lions 1st Team** was made up of-5'11" Dennis Gordon(74-76), 6'0" Perry Edwards(79-82), 6'6" Albert Dixon(81-83), 6'9" Anthony Lee(75-78), 6'6" James Johnson(83-85): **2nd Team**-5'9" Eloys Bowser(75-77), 5'6" Lewis Nicholson(84), 6'9" Fred West(83-85), 6'5" Harold Taylor(73-75), and Vernon George(81-83): From 1975-1984, seven of the 10 years the Lions or Red Raiders had won seven District titles or tied for the title.(Lions tied in 1974)

Standings: Tyler John Tyler(30-1) 14-0, Longview (24-8) 12-2, Texas High(20-9) 9-5, Tyler Lee(20-11) 8-6, Lufkin(14-16) 7-7, Marshall(13-17) 3-11, Longview Pinetree(9-19) 3-11, Nacogdoches(5-26) 0-14:

All-District: Coaches selected 10 players and 13 because of ties. 6'9" Fred West and 6'7" James Johnson of Tyler John Tyler tied for the District MVP. 6'6" Todd Willis was named "Sophomore of the Year". Billy Lawson of John Tyler was named "Coach of the Year." 6'5" Greg Colbert was named to the **1st team** from Longview along with 6'3" Wayne Haynie and 5'10" Andy Van Burloe. 6'3" Jeff Kendrick and 6'3" Charles McDuffy of Texas High, 6'1" Steve Blake and 6'4" Mark Johnson from Lufkin, 6'3" Otis Ward and 6'4" Trey Hughes of Tyler Lee, 6'1" Robert Ingram of John Tyler, 5'7" Barry Brown of Marshall and 6'4" Joel Thompson from Nacogdoches.

{*} **Blast from the Past-** 6'4" Jeff Ragster from the 1981 Longview Lobos squad attended Panola Jr. College and went on to have an outstanding career at Belhaven College in Jackson, Mississippi. He averaged 18.7 points per game and 7.8 rebounds while attending Belhaven College. He teamed up with 6'7" Steffond Johnson to lead Longview to the regional finals against Dallas Roosevelt in 1981. Johnson played at L.S.U. and San Diego State.

14-AAAAA

This tough Central Texas District always produced athletic and talented teams. Bryan and Killeen were still the favorites entering the 1984-85 campaign, but a new contender emerged, the Temple Wildcats. Bryan had lost some amazing talent over the past two seasons, but still had to be considered the front runner in District 14-5A. Coach Larry Brown of Bryan received some bad news as the season arrived. 6'6" senior, Kenny Keller, would be lost for the season after a knee injury on the football field. Keller had played key roles on the Vikings two state championship teams. His loss was a major setback for Coach Brown. 5'6" Dennis Rhodes was a returning starter as well. Rhodes was going to miss the Vikings first 25 games of the season because he was academically ineligible. So that left Gary Caldwell as the only returning player who had played substantial minutes the previous year.

Size was a problem for the Vikings. Coach Brown starting line-up consisted of 5'7" Craig Newton(8.0), 5'6" Dennis Rhodes, 6'0" Derrick Wiggins, 6'1" Chaunsie Harris(9.0) and leading scorer, 5'11" Houston Williams(17.0). Rhodes remember didn't become eligible until January. Robert Morrison came off the bench for the Vikings along with 6'1" Reginald Crenshaw and Gary Caldwell.

The Killeen Kangaroos looked formable as always, returning several key players from a 29-3 campaign. 5'11" Sedrick Evans(12.0) was a three-year starter for Killeen and was the District M.V.P. as a junior. The Kangaroos had a new coach at the helm, C.J. Craft. Coach Craft was counting on 6'1" Mike Nichols(8.0), 6'4" Brian Bolden(16.0), 6'4" Mike Knorr(18.0) and 5'11" Anthony Brooks(10.0) to carry on the Kangaroo tradition.

Temple was picked 4th in the pre-season polls behind Killeen Ellison, but the Wildcats had their strongest team in years. Kirby Johnson was in his third season at Temple, having replaced his mentor, Don Brownlee(*). Coach Brownlee took his coaching talents to Hallsville. Three starters were returning for Coach Johnson from a very competitive 18-13 squad along with five lettermen. Returning starters included, 6'6" Tommy Rush(12.8), 6'3" Johnny Reese(7.3) and a gifted point guard in 6'2" Anthony Booker(14.5). 6'5" Willie Gilmore(7.6) joining the starting line-up as a junior. 6'3" Bruce Mitchell(8.5) rounded out the starting line-up. Rush and Reese both continued their playing days at Temple J.C., while Booker attended McLennan J.C. and played a season at Texas A&M.

(*) Coach Don Brownlee was my football coach at McKinney High School my sophomore year on the junior varsity, as well as the varsity basketball coach. He had been a standout player at Baylor. Brownlee and myself had a special relationship. He was tough as nails as a coach and a lot of players didn't care for him. I started on the junior varsity at quarterback and safety. I will always credit Coach Brownlee with all my success that season, because of my respect for him and the belief he showed in me. Unfortunately, he left McKinney the next year. I always regretted him leaving.

Coach Johnson elaborated on his team's strengths as they entered District action. He felt the team's unselfishness, overall size and experience, were the keys to his team's success. Johnson called 6'2" point guard, Anthony Booker, a major college prospect. "He's the kind of player who impresses you constantly when you see him play," Johnson said. Booker numbers were some of the best in the state, 14.5 points per game, 6.5 assists and 5.5 steals. "He's like all our players in that he doesn't shoot enough to have impressive scoring numbers. I really think Anthony can play Southwest Conference ball-if the recruiters will just come and look at him." Booker had plenty of support with 6'6" Tommy Rush(13.7), who according to Coach Johnson, was another division one prospect. Sixth man, Danny Cansino(9.8), was seen as a key contributor. All six players averaged at least nine points per-game. As a team, Temple averaged 75.0 points during the regular season and allowed only 56.0 per contest.

Temple came into District with only three losses. The Wildcats losses came against Euless Trinity(12-17) by 3 points, Corpus Christi Miller(25-5) by 3

points and a 49-44 loss to Converse Judson(23-9). Interestingly, all three defeats came in the opening round of tournaments. The Wildcats held victories over Richardson Pearce(12-16) 66-46, San Antonio Jefferson(14-17), San Antonio Lee(29-7) 70-64 and Killeen(23-7) 56-53 in tournament action.

Bryan(23-10) opened their District campaign against Killeen Ellison(15-16). Bryan was attempting to win their 5th District title over the previous six seasons. Killeen Ellison was not a team you would want to overlook. Ellison had made the playoffs in 1984, due to Killeen's misfortune of playing ineligible players. Coach Steve Sylestine returned two key performers in 5'8" Tommy Izaguiree and 6'3" Welton Grooms from a 23-6 team.

Bryan destroyed Ellison 71-47 behind 6'6" Sheldon Haliburton's 14 points. Leading scorer Houston William saw limited minutes due to the flu. "Haliburton's a huge difference. They're much improved from the last time we've seen them, which was about a month ago," Ellison Coach Steve Sylestine commented.

The two top contenders in District 14-5A were Bryan(23-10) and Killeen(23-7). The teams had one of the top rivalries in the state. Killeen came in at 14-3 and ranked #20 in the T.A.B.C. rankings. The Kangaroos' losses had come at the hands of Temple(22-4) by 3, San Antonio Roosevelt(23-11) by 2 and Dallas Kimball(30-3) by 18. Coach Brown believed that Killeen's point guard, Sedrick Evans(12.0), would have to be contained in order to be successful against Killeen. Coach Craft of Killeen had an open date prior to the Bryan game and had been able to scout the Bryan-Ellison game. "They play outstanding defense, which I think keeps them in the game," Coach Craft said. "I don't think they have the outside shooting, they need to get the ball inside to be successful."

The Killeen-Bryan game was played at Killeen and the Kangaroos came away with a hard fought 48-43 victory. Bryan was in control leading 41-37 with 5:30 remaining when the wheels came off. The Vikings missed five free throws and nine field goals down the stretch. Killeen only managed to shoot 33% from the floor on the evening. Knorr put up big numbers with 19 points and 19 rebounds, while Evans finished with 10 points. For the Vikings, Houston Williams and Harris both ended up with 12 points apiece. Temple now led the District at 3-0 followed by Killeen at 2-0.

Round Rock was next up for the Vikings and had no chance against Bryan losing 98-47. Williams paced the Bryan with 24 points on 11 of 19 shooting. Derrick Wiggins followed with 15 points. Copperas Cove went down to the Blue and White 86-42. Houston Williams led the way once again for the Vikings with 17 points. District leader, Temple, survived a scare from Killeen Ellison 42-38 and the Kangaroos put away Round Rock Westwood 53-39.

The second meeting between the big three took place in Temple, as the Wildcats took on Killeen. Temple defeated Killeen in the battle between District unbeaten 72-58. The Temple crowd was called the largest in school history.

Temple's Anthony Booker and Tommy Rush led the way for the Wildcats with 16 points apiece. Mike Knorr paced Killeen with 20 points. Temple moved to 5-0, while Killeen stood at 4-1. Temple had previously beat Killeen 56-53 in the consolation finals of the Optimist tournament in San Antonio. Bryan kept pace with Temple and Killeen defeating Round Rock Westwood 56-47.

This set the stage for Bryan's big showdown with the Temple Wildcats. Bryan stood at 4-1 and Temple was holding on to a 5-0 mark. So far in the contest among the big three, the home team had won each encounter. "This is the biggest game we've played this year," Coach Brown said. The return of 5'5" Dennis Rhodes from academic probation provided a big shot in the arm for the Vikings. Rhodes had started the previous season on the state championship team. Brown was hoping Rhodes would improve the Vikings outside shooting, which had been pretty erratic thus far in the season. "I don't know if were as good as Temple. But I think we're a little quicker in some areas," Brown said. This was Brown's sixth season with the Vikings and he felt this might be his best defensive team.

Kirby Johnson commented about his Wildcat squad saying, "We've got some height that we've never had in the past." Temple stood at 22-3 on the season and returned three starters. Temple was also on schedule to make their first playoff trip since 1978. Temple held down the #8 spot in the AP Poll and #9 in the T.A.B.C. rankings.

Temple remained unbeaten in 14-5A with a 57-53 win over Bryan. Temple won the game at the foul line hitting 14 of 15 from the stripe in the 2nd half. Surprisingly, Bryan won the rebound battle over the taller Temple team 38-35. Bryan's offense was doing fine in the 1st half, but when Temple got out of their press, the Vikings struggled offensively. Booker finished with 11 points for Temple and Gilmore led the way with 12 points for Coach Kirby Johnson. For Vikings, Rhodes finished with 8 points and 9 assists in his first game back. Gary Caldwell led the Vikings with 18 points and Williams was held to only 7 points. Bryan had lost on the home court in front of a packed house of 1500 fans.

The big news for the Bryan faithful was Killeen Ellison had pulled a major upset defeating Killeen 43-42. The loss gave the Kangaroos their second District loss. After the first round of District action, Temple stood at 6-0 and Killeen and Bryan were tied at 4-2. Ellison had gotten themselves back contention with a 3-3 record.

As the second round of District action opened, Bryan handled Killeen Ellison(15-16) with ease 70-47, Temple got by Round Rock(9-20) 96-87 and Westwood(16-14) just barely defeated winless Copperas Cove 40-38.

5'11" Houston Williams was an unlikely star for the Vikings during the season averaging 16.7 points and 8.7 rebounds. Houston had played the 6th man role the previous season on the Vikings state championship team. Kenny Keller and Dennis Rhodes had been expected to be the stars of the 1985 team, but things

didn't work out. "Houston's our most consistent player," Coach Brown said. Brown had discovered Williams in his P.E. class two years earlier.

The 2nd round match-up between Bryan and Killeen took on major importance, because it looked as if Temple was going to take one playoff spot. The Vikings came away with a hard fought 60-57 win over Killeen in the Vikings home gym. Killeen was really crippled entering the game with their standout point guard, Sedrick Evans, playing with the flu. Evans had missed school, but played anyway finishing 0 for 8 from the floor. 6'4" Brian Bolden led Killeen with 23 points and 10 rebounds, and 6'4" Mike Knorr hit 12 points and 8 rebounds for the Kangaroos. Coach Brown said, "Stopping Knorr inside was our first priority." In other District action, Temple handled Copperas Cove 84-48 and Round Rock(9-20) took out Ellison(15-16) 62-55. Bryan now stood at 19-9 on the season while Killeen came in at 18-6.

Houston Williams had his season high game with 40 points against Round Rock in the Vikings 91-62 victory. Williams was 19 of 25 from the floor. "He wanted to come out near the end of the first half, but I told him no," Brown said. "He was the only one playing. He couldn't come out." Bryan continued their winning knocking out Copperas Cove 110-39. Temple kept pace pummeling Killeen Ellison 87-52 and Killeen got by Westwood 50-45. Temple now stood atop the standings at 10-0, Bryan followed at 8-2 and Killeen came in at 7-3.

Bryan's big 6'6" Sheldon Haliburton came alive against Round Rock Westwood going 10 of 11 inside to propel the Vikings past Westwood 68-48. Rhodes had his first big scoring game of the season with 18 points.

Killeen got right back into the District race upsetting Temple 69-44. The Kangaroos took advantage of their home court and throttled Temple. Brian Bolden led the way with 19 points, Sedrick Evans followed with 16 points and Mike Knorr put up 15 points for the Kangaroos. Booker led the Wildcats with 14 points. The Kangaroos had dominated inside controlling the glass 39-20 over Temple. Killeen moved to 23-6 on the season and 8-3 in District, while Temple stood at 27-4 and 10-1 in District. Bryan was still in the hunt at 9-2.

Temple's loss to Killeen put a lot more emphasis on the Temple-Bryan clash the second time around. Temple took care of business and defeated Bryan 64-58. The key once again was the glass, as Temple won that battle 33-20. The victory gave the Wildcats their first District title in seven years. Temple again was solid from the foul line hitting 16 of 21. Bryan's Haliburton had his worst game of the season finishing with no points and one rebound. Houston Williams led Bryan with 18 points. The loss put Bryan and Killeen in a tie for 2nd place, both teams finishing at 9-3. The two teams now had to play a one game sudden death eliminate game to see who advanced to the state playoffs.

Killeen(23-6) and Bryan(22-10) were very familiar with one another. There would be few surprises from either team. The game was played at Temple Junior

College. Coach Brown commented, “we don’t have an abundance of talent, we’ve run more gimmick defenses than ever before.” Brown continued saying, “rebounding is the key, they beat Temple so bad on the boards.” Bryan had two players averaging in double figures in Rhodes(13.0) and Houston Williams(18.5). Craig Newton(8.0), Sheldon Haliburton(9.0), Chaunsie Harris(6.0) and Gary Caldwell(8.0) were also key contributors for the Vikings. Killeen relied more on the starters: Sedric Evans(12.0), Anthony Brooks(10.5), Brian Bolden(16.6), Mike Nichols(8.6) and 6’4” Mike Knorr(18.1).

Bryan seemed to have everything under control at the 5:38 mark of the second half up 59-40. That’s when Bryan “Achilles” heel came in play. Foul Shooting! The Vikings hit 19 of 36 foul shots in the 4th quarter, before finally winning 82-79 over the Kangaroos. “What a frustrating evening,” Brown complained. Williams was big for Bryan with 22 points and 14 rebounds. Rhodes also was critical in the Vikings victory with 17 points, 6 rebounds and 7 assists. Gary Caldwell added 12 points for Coach Brown. For the Killeen in his final game, Sedrick Evans, finished with 22 points, Knorr had 23 points and Bolden came away with 18 points. Three players scored 63 of Killeen’s 79 total points. Brian Bolden and Mike Knorr both fouled out for the Kangaroos.

Standings 14-5A: Temple(27-4) 11-1, Bryan(23-10) 9-3, Killeen(23-7) 11-3, Round Rock Westwood(16-14) 5-7, Killeen Ellison(15-16) 4-8, Round Round(9-20) 4-8, Copperas Cove(3-22) 0-12:

Players named **All-Central Texas by the Austin American.** 6’2” Anthony Booker of Temple, 6’4” Mike Knorr of Killeen, 6’4” Morris Collie of Round Rock Westwood, 6’5” Carl Nuckols of Austin Travis, 6’1” Dennis Walker of San Marcos, 5’6” Chris Robinson of Austin L.B.J., 6’1” Duane Rucker of Austin Anderson, 5’10” Richie Dozier(21.0) of Austin Westlake. Chris Robinson, Austin L.B.J. was named “Player of the Year.” Booker was also named to the **Waco Tribune Herald’s Waco Super Cen-Tex Squad.** 5’10” Charles Mayberry of Gatesville, Alvin Jefferson of Waco High, Freddie Williams of Waco High, 6’7” Calvin Moore from Jefferson-Moore, Chris Spears of Waco Midway, Jason Bureson of Hamilton, Reggie Degrate of Waco Richfield and Anthony Booker of Temple.

15-AAAAA

There were two Districts from north of Houston that had to compete in region II. Klein Oak was in the third year of existence led by Coach Rick Penny. As you will recall from Volume I, Penny was a standout player at Richardson High School and McMurray, and one of the top shooters in the state. 6’4” Matt Sonnichsen(15.2) was the key player in the Klein Oak offensive attack. Sonnichsen was one of the top volleyball players in the country and went on to have an outstanding career playing professional volleyball. Another key player for Coach Penny was 6’2” John Hruby.

Katy Taylor had three move-ins prior to the ’85 campaign and became a strong challenger for the District title. Taylor looked to the inside game of 6’6” Mark Arnold(14.6) and 6’5” Norman Peters(16.2).

District seemed to be a two-team race from the start between Klein Oak and Katy Taylor. The two teams split during District. Taylor lost the first game 58-52 and won the re-match 51-37. The third game was for the District Championship,

as both teams finished 13-1. It took overtime to decide the title with Taylor winning 49-47. Vidal Ramirez led Taylor with 16 points and Norman Peters kicked in 11 points. Matt Sonnichsen showed why he was selected District MVP scoring a game high 23 points for Klein Oak.

Katy Taylor held a win over Conroe(34-3) earlier in the season 80-78. Klein Oak also faced Conroe, but lost 83-72. Both teams played mainly schools located north of Houston.

All-District 1st Team-6'4" Matt Sonnichsen(15.2), "District MVP"- Klein Oak, 5'8" Bert Quarfordt(16.5) Klein, 6'6" Mark Arnold(14.6) Katy Taylor, 6'5" Sean Quillivan(21.4) Katy, 6'5" Norman Peters(16.2) Katy Taylor, 5'9" Delrich Gay(11.5) Jersey Village, 6'2" John Hruby-Klein Oak, 6'5" Cliff Richardson-Jersey Village, 6'0" Neil Gonzales-Klein Forest, 6'3" David Floyd-Cypress Fairbanks: "Coach of the Year"- Rick Penny – Klein Oak:

Final Standings: Katy Taylor(27-4) 13-1, Klein Oak(27-5) 13-1, Jersey Village(13-13) 7-7, Klein(16-17) 7-7, Klein Forest(12-18) 7-7, Cypress-Fairbanks(8-20) 5-9, Cypress Creek(10-21) 2-12, Katy(6-23) 2-12:

16-AAAAA

What can you say about the Conroe Tigers? Regional finalist in 1984, they returned almost their entire squad. Coach Harold Wilder had an experienced crew led by three outstanding players. District MVP, 6'3" Rod Jacques(20.0), 6'7" Kelvin Smith(15.9) and 6'5" Maurice Wright(17.8). All three were division one talents.

Conroe McCullough(22-9) had Parade All-American in 6'4" Lance Blanks(22.3). Blanks was supported by Chris Garrett and Jamie McBride. Spring(22-10) had one of the top junior guards in the state in 6'1" Freddie Ricks(19.5). Conroe handled McCullough in District action 73-60 and 58-48 and Spring 101-63 and 72-66. McCullough claimed the District runner-up spot over Spring.

Conroe showed they were a state power in pre-district defeating a plethora of talented teams. The Tigers defeated Baytown Sterling(28-6) 88-75, Houston Yates(23-9) 110-94, Alief Elsik(25-8) 66-59, Klein Oak(27-6) 83-72, McCullough(23-10) 96-80 and 81-62, Pt. Arthur Jefferson(18-9) 94-81, Ft. Worth Southwest(30-9) 81-62 and Bryan(25-11) 98-78. Two teams that snuck up on Conroe and took the Tigers down were Katy Taylor(27-5) 80-78 and Pasadena Dobie(20-9) 68-67. In the playoffs nobody was going to sneak-up on the Conroe Tigers.

All-District 1st Team- 6'4" Tracey White(17.5) Spring, 6'4" Lance Blanks(22.3) Conroe McCullough, 6'1" Freddie Ricks(19.5) Humble, 6'3" Rod Jacques(20.1) Conroe, 6'5" Maurice Wright(17.8) Conroe, 6'0" Steve Moore(13.4) Humble Kingwood, 6'2" Lincoln Minor(24.2) Spring Westfield;

2nd Team-6'7" Kelvin Smith(15.9) Conroe, Chris Garrett-Conroe McCullough, Todd McDearmott(13.9) Spring, Jamie McBride-Conroe McCullough, Steve Oakes-Humble, Jeff Sheperd-Humble Kingwood, Kevin Gilbert, Spring Westfield: "District M.V.P"-Rod Jacques-Conroe, "Coach of the Year"-Harold Wilder-Conroe.

Final Standings: Conroe(29-2) 12-0, Conroe McCullough(22-9) 8-4, Spring(22-10) 7-5, Humble(16-13) 6-6, Spring Westfield(16-15) 6-6, Humble Kingwood(13-18) 3-9, New Caney(6-22) 0-12:

Playoffs

Region II had so many strong teams: Dallas Kimball(26-2), Dallas South Oak Cliff(32-1), Tyler John Tyler(31-1), Conroe(29-2), Temple(29-4) and Garland(26-

4). I had seen Kimball, SOC and Garland High on several occasions during the season. All were very impressive. I was familiar with Conroe from the previous year and John Tyler and Temple were unknowns for me. Regionals would bring together four of the top teams in the state for sure.

John Tyler(31-1) felt they would need a warm-up game as they entered the playoffs and defeated Sabine(24-5) 64-42. Sabine was a state ranked class AA school. The inside combo of 6'6" James Johnson and 6'9" West ended up with 33 points and 11 points respectfully. The Lions had a tough challenge in Bi-District against the defending state champion, Bryan(22-10). The Vikings had defeated Killeen(23-7) in a playoff game to decide who would advance to the state playoffs. Coach Lawson of John Tyler and his assistant David Miller traveled to Temple to scout the playoff game between Bryan and Killeen.

"They are extremely quick," Coach Lawson of John Tyler said. "They are not big, but have leapers and shoot the ball very well." Bryan would try to use their press to offset the Lions size. "Bryan is probably the quickest team we have faced," Lawson said. Vikings standouts included, 5'11" Houston Williams(17.0/7.0), 5'7" Dennis Rhodes(14.0/7 assist) and Gary Caldwell(8.0). Coming off the bench for the Vikings were 6'1" Chaunsie Harris, 6'0" Derrick Wiggins and 6'6" Sheldon Haliburton. "It's a typical Bryan team, they're well balanced and quick and they can score anywhere on the court." Lawson continued saying, "We're going to play our game, this is going to be a very good game."

Historically, District 13-5A representatives had not fared well against District 14-5A. John Tyler lost to Killeen in 1983 and Bryan in 1984. But the Lions were vastly improved in two important areas from previous years, rebounding and shooting. 6'9" West averaged 15.9/12.0 and 6'6" James Johnson averaged 20.9/11.5. Not many teams had a tandem as effective as these two. Wings, 6'1" Robert Ingram(8.0) and 6'1" James Williams(4.0) would be critical to the team's success. 6'0" Curtis Mask(2.0) started at the point and Billy Lawson Jr was his back-up.

Bryan and Coach Larry Brown were not going to be intimidated by John Tyler impressive 31-1 record. These were the type situations Coach Brown lived for, underdog, state ranked team, and all that went with it. The Vikings were used to big games. Bryan had split with the great Houston Yates team in 1983 and dropped Ft. Worth Dunbar from the undefeated ranks in 1984. Both years they captured state titles. John Tyler had an advantage in size, but Bryan held the edge in quickness and playoff experience. And with Brown on the bench, Bryan would be a tough out. "Boards are going to be the big key," Brown said.

The Vikings came out fast with a 11-0 run and held on for one of the biggest upsets in the first round. Bryan had done it again beating the Lions 52-50 at McLennan Junior College in Waco. At the end of the first quarter, Bryan led 20-4 and led at halftime 31-18. The Lions had 12 turnovers in the first half. "Maybe we

were too keyed up at the start,” Lawson said. The Lions missed their first six shots and couldn’t get the ball across mid-court on five straight possessions. John Tyler finished the day with 16 turnovers, while Bryan committed only 10.

“We read in the Tyler paper they were using this game as a warm-up game,” Haliburton said following the big win. Houston Williams paced the Vikings with 17 points. “They didn’t know what we were doing,” Houston said. “We had them frustrated.” John Tyler was able to get within two points at 48-46, but couldn’t get any closer. Dennis Rhodes and Craig Newton created a lot of problems for the Lions defensively. Bryan also outrebounded the taller Lions 27-22. Chauncie Harris came away with 11 rebounds himself. Bryan had a much better day at the line as well hitting 20 of 29 for the game. John Tyler struggled from the line in the 4th quarter hitting only 7 of 13 from the stripe. “We mainly went with man pressure, not zone,” Brown said. “They’re a great team, you don’t go 30-1 without some horses.” Rhodes came away with 11 points for Bryan and James Johnson led the Lions with 18 points and West contributed 12 points.

Longview(24-8) prepared to meet Temple(29-4), the winner of District 14-5A and ranked in the state’s top ten for most of the season. In Temple’s warmup game, the Wildcats defeated Ft. Worth Southwest(30-9) 70-61. Southwest as you recall advanced to state. Coach LeRoy Romines of Longview got a good look at Temple in the warm-up game. “They have real good overall size. They go 6’6”, 6’5”, 6’4” and their guard is 6’2” and is their best player. He’s the best guard I have seen this year,” Romines said. Everything revolved around Anthony Booker(14.8), who penetrates, passes, finishes and shoots from the outside. Romines felt Longview’s advantage would be the Lobos depth. “Temple only plays six or seven players. They have a short bench.” The Wildcats looked to 6’6” Tommy Rush(12.5), 6’3” Bruce Mitchell(8.2) and Daniel Cinseno(8.0) to support Booker. “They’re not as good as John Tyler inside,” Romines said, “but they probably better outside, their guards are strong.” Longview and Temple played the second game of the double hitter at McLennan Community College in Waco, the site of the Regional Tournament.

Temple and Longview were tied in the second quarter at 21 apiece when Temple went on a 15-point run of unanswered points. The Wildcats led at halftime 36-23 and at one point were up 19 points on the Lobos in the fourth quarter. With 2:43 left in the game, Longview trailed by only seven points 64-57, but it was too late. “I didn’t feel like we had one of our better efforts, maybe it was the trip,” Coach Romines said. “The kids got a lot further than I thought they would,” Romines continued. “Last year we were 12-18, but they came and made up their mind they would have a good year.” The Lobos finished the season at 24-9. Booker’s all around talents proved to be the difference scoring 27 points in Temple’s 80-63 victory. Inside for Temple, Bruce Mitchell finished with 17 points and Tommy Rush had 14 points. Kemp Louis paced Longview with 21 points.

The Golden Bears of South Oak Cliff(32-1) entered the playoffs against South Garland with their best record in school history. Their only loss came at the hands of Baltimore Dunbar(28-1), the eventual national champions according to U.S.A. Today publication. South Garland(22-6) had eliminated S.O.C. the previous year, so coach Jimmy Gales had revenge on his mind. S.O.C. defeated South Garland earlier in the season at the Dr. Pepper Tournament 92-68 in December. The Colonels and Coach Clayton Brooks had an impressive crew led by Kato Armstrong, Calvin Smith, Charles Smith and Russ George. 6'5" Billy Smith dominated inside for the Colonels and would have to be contained. R.L. Turner in Carrollton was the site of the Bi-District game.

With so much outstanding talent on the court the S.O.C.-South Garland(27-7) was a good one with the Golden Bears gaining revenge 62-58. 6'4" Rodney Samuel of S.O.C.(32-1) came up with a big steal late and went the length of the court flushing a nice dunk. The dunk gave S.O.C. a 50-47 lead with 5:40 remaining. Even though Samuel had not practiced all week because of the flu, he was able to put 20 points for the Golden Bears. 6'5" Billy Smith led South Garland with 23 points and 5'11" Kato Armstrong helped with 19 points.

"I told you South Garland was tough," Coach Gales said. "When I was reading that they were in 2nd place, I kept hoping that someone else would come in. They got control of the tempo. I wasn't surprised, if I was coaching South Garland and playing just five or so people, that's what I would do," Gales said.

Dallas Kimball(27-2) had become a very familiar face in the playoffs and were facing a newcomer in Greenville(23-9) from East Texas. This was the best team Greenville had put on the court since the days of 6'8" Melvin Davis in 1974. Davis, who went on to star at North Texas State, was probably the best player ever produced by Greenville High. The Lions had faced some tough challenges over the season and felt they were ready for Kimball. Eric Kelly, Chris Williams, Jeff Fudge and Carl Love were key players for Coach Jimmy Tubbs of Kimball. Greenville would be looking to 6'3" Anthony Portley to lead the way.

Kimball(27-2) placed four players in double figures and eliminated the Greenville Lions 74-58 at Forester Field House. 6'2" Carl Love was strong inside scoring 24 points for the Knights, while Leonard Perry put up 11 points along with Eric Kelly's 11 points. Anthony Portley led the Lions with 15 points.

Lake Highlands(23-5) under the leadership of Coach Jack Clark was making their second straight appearance in state playoffs. The Wildcats had won state back in 1968 in class AAA and were making their fourth appearance in eight seasons. The Dallas Pinkston(17-11) Vikings were newcomers to playoff basketball. Lake Highlands came into the game heavily favored with 5'10" D'Wayne Tanner leading the way along with Greg McGowan and Tony Watters. Tanner was a special talent and the key to the Wildcats attack. Personally, he burned my teams on

several occasions. Pinkston was very athletic and after the schedule they had faced, weren't going to be intimidated.

The Lake Highlands(23-5)-Pinkston(17-11) Bi-District game went right down to the wire at Loos Field House. Lake Highlands gave Coach Jack Clark his first playoff victory 59-58. After the Wildcats took a 29-20 lead at halftime, the Vikings came back strong in the second half. "We just didn't play a smart game in the second half," Coach Jack Clark said. D'Wayne Tanner led the Wildcats with 14 points, Tony Watters had 13 and Greg McGowan added 12 points. Chris Coffey paced Pinkston with 26 points and Eric Johnson and Michael Williams came away with 12 points each. Watters and Tanner had key buckets late in the Wildcats victory.

Garland High(26-4) had received a great deal of publicity during the season paced by 6'0" Mookie Blaylock, 6'7" Richard Derrick and freshmen Neil Derrick. The left-handed freshman was special and more than held his own on the talented squad. You would think Dallas Samuel(24-8) would forfeit after reading all of the Garland press clippings, but the Spartans were very confident. Samuel had already beaten Garland by 20 points in the Dr. Pepper tournament in December. Coach Scott looked to two of the best in the city in 6'4" Floyd Macon and 6'7" Steve Miles to carry his team. Remember, Macon was named District M.V.P. in one of the strongest Districts in the state. Between Samuel and Garland, five future Division one talents were represented.

Surprisingly, the game was a disappointment and not very close. Standout Mookie Blaylock(17.0/5.6/8 assist) was in constant foul trouble. He left the Owls at a big disadvantage. Without Blaylock the Owls had trouble playing at a high level. The Garland Owls(26-4) and Coach Lane Norsworthy fell to Dallas Samuel(24-8) 69-54. Blaylock committed several charging calls going to the basket and ended up fouling out with 10 seconds left in the 3rd quarter. "Without Mookie in there, it puts pressure on everyone," Coach Lane Norsworthy of Garland said. "He controls the tempo." To compound the situation, 6'7" Richard Derrick fouled out with only 3:10 left in the game. This left only freshman Neil Derrick to carry the scoring load for the Owls. Derrick did manage to score 23 points, but his team came up short. "Neil had to bring the ball up and shoot," Norsworthy said.

(1) Neil Derrick of Garland and Derrick Daniels of Dunbar were two of the best freshman I've seen in over forty years of the covering the high school game. What a backcourt those two would have made. Daniels as the point guard and Neil shooting from range.

Neil Derrick averaged 15.7 per game his junior season at Washington State after averaging 27.0 per game at Trinity Valley Community College in Athens, Texas. Neil entered the Trinity Valley Hall of Fame in 2015. He was a high flyer at 6'2" with his tremendous dunking ability. His cat like quickness enabled him to lead Washington State in steals.

Coach Lane Norsworthy once said of Neil, "That kid's going to be in the NBA, unless he's shot or killed." Neil's older brother, John, had been shot and killed in Oklahoma City in 1983 at the age of 26, in a what the police said was drug related. The shooting came one week before the N.B.A. draft. His former coach, Clayton Brooks, said he felt confident that John would have been drafted.

John was a small college All-American at Cameron University. Larry, the eldest of the Derrick brothers, was pretty much trouble free. 6'8" Richard Derrick, who was one of the top recruits in the state in 1986, was convicted of possession of a controlled substance. Richard traveled around a lot after originally signing with U.T.E.P.

Neil was not even allowed to play at Garland High his senior after being dismissed from the team. Norsworthy estimated that Neil would have averaged 50 points a game with the new three-point line. Neil had lost his father at an early age and was raised by his mother, who worked multiple jobs. She was supporting six kids. Violence was a part of Neil's life from an early age. This was well documented in my earlier books. While at Trinity Valley, Neil played for assistant coach Kip Motta, who later moved on to Washington State. This explains his signing with Washington State out of Trinity Valley. Neil passed his high school equivalency test and began turning things around at Trinity Valley. He was third team All-American coming out of Trinity and highly recruited.

Derrick Daniels started all four seasons with the Houston Cougars averaging 10.8 his junior season. He set the national High School record for assists while at Dunbar with 1,379. The record still stands. He took Dunbar to the state tournament his junior and senior year and led the Houston Cougars to the NCAA tournament twice. He ranks third all-time in minutes played at Houston and school leader in assists. He signed with the Renegades of the CBA in 1993 and played in the Bucks summer league as a free agent.

Floyd Macon of Samuel was everywhere, inside and outside, finishing with 20 points and 15 rebounds for Coach Scott. "I'll play anywhere-guard sometimes, then forward-anywhere they need me," Macon said. "I was doing what I do best, I was just playing everywhere." Coach Scott added, "Macon just gets the ball in the basket whether you give it to him or not." Macon proved his versatility throughout the game. The 6'4" senior got most of his points off rebounds. "That's what beat us," Norsworthy said. "We were blocking out their big guys, but we couldn't block out Macon. Earnest Neal added 14 points and 10 points for the Spartans.

Samuel's 1-3-1 zone defense gave Garland fits, as they tried to shoot from the perimeter. Blaylock did manage to finish with 13 points. In the two team's previous game earlier in the season, Blaylock had put up 30 points. "We did a lot better job covering him this time," Samuel Coach Doug Scott said.

After the Bi-District games, two of the top six teams in region II had been eliminated. John Tyler's loss was a surprise, but how many times had Bryan upset top ranked teams? The Garland Owls loss to Samuel just took me by surprise, not so much that Samuel won, but rather the final score was a shocker.

South Oak Cliff(33-1) really put it on Lake Highlands(24-5) in the 2nd round of the playoffs 92-69 at Loos Field House. Coach Jack Clark's team never knew what hit them. The Bears went on a 22-6 run two minutes into the 2nd half. When the Golden Bears got it going on all cylinders, they were pretty awesome. "They just started cramming it down our throats inside, and there was nothing we could do," Coach Clark said. "They're taller than us, and outweigh us by 20 pounds a man. We were all doing too much dribbling against their press, instead of looking down court." Ronnie Morgan paced S.O.C. with 22 points, Samuel hit 25 points and Godfrey came up with 20 points, while Ralston connected on 18 points. Tanner

was the only real bright spot for the Wildcats with 16 points along with LeRoy Rodgers 17 points.

I have seen my share of playoff basketball over the years and one thing has always been very clear to me. Come playoff time, you need to shorten your bench because you're facing better teams. I realize you want to stay with what got you to this point, but in the playoffs, you need to be careful. Players with limited athletic ability can be exposed under such pressure and skill level. There are no token minutes in the playoffs. Running weaker players out there to get them some time can lose the game. By the time you get those players out and made mom and dad happy, your down 10 points and the game is over. Yes, I'm aware you have to keep your job, but sometimes it can be the difference in winning and losing. That comes from the, "what it's worth department."

Dallas Kimball(29-2) had to use their speed and quickness to overcome the tremendous size advantage of Dallas Samuel(24-9) at Sprague Field House. The Knights survived a tough game 76-70 running their run and jump defense. Coach Tubbs called it, "24-man jump." Any direction the opposing player goes he is jumped and the other defenders jump into a zone. "Our game plan was pressure, pressure, pressure," Tubbs said. "That's been our bread and butter."

Carl Love finished with 16 points for the Knights, Eric Kelly contributed 22 points and Leonard Perry pitched in 13 points. Cedric Hollins came away with 21 points for the Spartans. 6'5" Floyd Macon ended up with 19 points and 6'7" Kevin Miles finished with 14 points for Coach Scott. "Samuel had such a good team that we more or less had to stick to our game plan, full court pressure." Tubbs continued saying, "they were mainly trying to get the ball inside because of their height advantage, we tried to disrupt that."

Conroe McCullough(23-9) made the playoffs despite four losses to Conroe High. It definitely didn't kill their spirit as the Cavaliers pulled a minor upset beating Katy Taylor(27-4) 63-59. Lance Blanks led the charge with 17 points for McCullough and Chris Garrett added 10. For the new kid on the block, Katy Taylor, Norman Peters came away with 17 points, Steve Baker had 15 and Mark Arnold was good for 14 points.

In the other playoff game between the two Districts, Conroe(30-2) showed the superiority of District 16-5A defeating Klein Oak(27-7) 87-69. The Tigers put four players in double figures as 6'7" Kelvin Smith came away with 23 points against the inside strength of Klein Oak. Rod Jacques supplied 19 points, Maurice Wright kicked in 16 and George Thomas finished with 13 points. Matt Sonnichsen was one of the few bright spots for Coach Rick Penny, finishing with 22 points.

Conroe(31-2) came away with an impressive performance against Temple(30-4) winning 108-87 at A&M Consolidated. The big margin was very surprising, but Conroe was a buzz-saw type team. Big, strong, and physical; Rod

Jacques paced the Tigers with 29 points, Kelvin Smith put up 22 points, Maurice Wright contributed 22 points and George Thomas had 21. That's four players with plus 20 points, which is unheard of in a high school game. Booker was the leader for the Wildcats with 32 points and Cansino finished with 21 points off the bench for Coach Kirby Johnson. How many teams can have four players put up numbers like that?

Conroe McCullough(23-9) and super star, Lance Blanks, came up short against Bryan(24-10) 70-66 at Sam Houston State in Huntsville. Blanks managed 24 points and Jamie McBride helped with 15 points. Houston Williams led the Vikings with 22 points and Dennis Rhodes kicked in 13 points.

Regional Semis

Region II didn't suffer from the upsets that plagued region III, although state ranked John Tyler(31-2) had already been eliminated, along with Temple(30-5) and Garland(26-5). Dallas S.O.C.(34-1), Dallas Kimball(29-2) and Conroe(31-2) were three of the top ten teams in the state. And nobody was going to overlook the giant killers, Bryan(25-10) Vikings. Conroe(31-2) returned to regionals once again having lost in the finals the previous year to Bryan. Traveling to Waco I felt Conroe was strong, but somewhat of a long shot, because they would have to beat South Oak Cliff and Kimball in back to back games. The Dallas schools had the edge in my mind because of the match-ups. Also, I was never going to sell Bryan short either.

The Bryan Viking's tallest starter was 5'11" and they relied on speed, quickness and defensive pressure. Bryan was making their fourth straight visit to Waco. The 1985 version of the Vikings was much weaker than past teams, but were still a force that nobody would be overlooking. Kimball also had a much smaller team as well and relied more on full court pressure and defense than in the past. Coach Tubbs introduced his run and jump full court press, which was supposed to take away height advantages. "We try to take rebounding out of the game," Tubbs said. "We've had problems all season with bigger players."

The Kimball leaders were four double digit scorers with a limited bench. 6'3" Carl Love(14.6/10.0) was a tough inside player, 6'1" Eric Kelly(14.8), Leonard Perry(13.2) and Jeff Fudge(10.0). "You have to adjust your personnel to some extent, and we've more or less gambled defensively." The Knights continued their man defense from years past.

Conroe was just so physically impressive coming onto the court. They looked like a junior college team at times. The Tigers came to Waco with a purpose. 6'3" Rod Jacques(20.0) was their best player on the outside and strong enough to play physical inside. The future T.C.U. Horn Frog had a great all-around game. 6'7" Kelvin Smith(16.0) was one of the top recruits in the state, 6'5" Maurice Wright(18.1) and 6'3" George Thomas(12.2) were very imposing. The fifth starter was 6'1" Keith Oppenhammer(8.0). Coming off the bench was more size in 6'4"

Wayne Little, 6'3" Ralph Arnsworth and 6'4" Rem Beitel. The Tigers averaged 89.0 points per game and busted the century mark on 10 different occasions during the regular season. Coach Harold Wilder's team was very experienced with nine seniors on the roster and only three underclassmen. So, if you have any illusion that S.O.C. would advance to the regional finals without a struggle, you would be mistaken. The Golden Bears would have to play one of their best games of the season to get past Conroe.

The games were played at McLennan Community College in Waco. Dallas S.O.C. had one of the worst efforts of the season as foul trouble hand-cuffed their talented squad. The Bears took a seven-point lead in the 3rd quarter and things were really looking up. "We had the game under control," Coach Jimmy Gales said. "But we started relaxing and let them get rebounds and get some easy baskets." The Tigers had six points in the 2nd half of tip-ins off missed foul shots. Gales two leading scorer, Morgan and Rodney Samuel, both ended up fouling out after knocking down 14 and 25 points respectfully. Samuel left the game at the 4:46 mark of the fourth quarter. The final read, Conroe 81 South Oak Cliff 79. "Ronnie and Rodney fouling out probably beat us," Gales continued. The Golden Bears were only able to connect on 14 of 29 foul shots. "We beat ourselves; they beat us on the boards."

The big three carried Conroe's scoring. Jacques put up 17 points, hitting 9 of 9 from the foul line. Maurice Wright finished with 23 points; Kelvin Smith ended up with 20 points. Ralston finished his career at S.O.C. with 15 points and 6'4" Godfrey added 13 points inside. S.O.C. had led at halftime 44-37 in the up and down contest.

The game was a tremendous display of athletic talent, which included four dunks, several missed dunking attempts, two goaltending calls, a technical foul for hanging on the rim and much more. The loss was only S.O.C.'s second of the season. There was definitely good news on the horizon for Coach Gales. Four of the five starters would be returning for the Bears. 6'0" Jeff Ralston was the only senior that played substantial minutes.

Dallas Kimball had to play their nemesis, Bryan(25-10), in the other regional contest. Coming into the contest Coach Tubbs of Kimball remarked, "every year is different, that's the approach we're taking. It's a challenge. It's not like I don't want to play Bryan. They're still champions until they get beat."

"It's kind of a miracle season," Coach Larry Brown of Bryan said. "Nobody expected us to get out of district. We always have to play out of obscurity." As someone who was going to the games, I have to differ with Coach Brown's interpretation of the situation. As the two-time defending state champion, I hardly thought they were playing in obscurity. They had just beat one of the top teams in the Region in John Tyler.

“We’re one of the smallest teams in the state in any division,” Brown said. “But were pretty quick.” Coach Tubbs of Kimball countered with, “If they’re only 5’11”, then my group is only 5’11”. I’ve seen them.” Tubbs continued saying, “they’re a typical Bryan team, quick, good defense, and average height.” “They might be a shade quicker,” Tubbs said. 5’6” Dennis Rhodes was considered the Vikings leader. The Knights looked to 6’0” Eric Kelly(11.0), 5’10” Jeffrey Fudge(7.5), 6’4” Frank Foster(5.0), 6’2” Carl Love(10.5) and 6’1” Chris Williams(7.0). Coming off the bench was 6’1” Leonard Perry.

“If we played Kimball 10 times, we’d probably lose most. But, in a one-game shot, you never know what can happen,” Brown commented. My assessment in comparing Bryan and Kimball to previous seasons, I believed both teams were weaker with less talent, but they were still two of the top teams in region II.

Revenge was sweet for Kimball as the Knights came away with a 69-64 victory. “I thought, for the most part, we did a good job under extreme pressure. I guess you could say there was more pressure because we wanted to beat Bryan so bad,” Tubbs said. Jeffrey Fudge hit two big foul shots in the final minute. “The way we lost the last two years, I started having flashbacks. But the kids told me before the game, coach we’re going to win.” Carl Love paced the Knights with 18 points, Fudge finished with 13 points, and Kelly had 16. Houston Williams carried the Vikings with 24 points.

Bryan took an early lead at 24-16 in the second quarter only to see Kimball go on a 14-5 run, with Love scoring eight straight points. “We played real smart down the stretch,” Coach Tubbs said. Love came up big once again in the 4th quarter with a big bucket and steal in critical situations. “We were nervous at first,” Love said. Jeffrey Fudge hit five of six from the foul line late to add to the victory.

Bryan’s Houston Williams knocked down three straight baskets at one point to close the gap to 66-64 with just 56 seconds left. Bryan was finally forced to foul with 34 seconds left and put Fudge on the line.

“This was the first team that’s had as much quickness as us,” Coach Brown said. Bryan shot 24 of 43 from the floor and Kimball came away with 28 out of 47. The Vikings hit 16 of 23 from the line and the Knights were 13 of 19. Kimball won the rebound battle 24 to 16. Williams spent much of the 2nd period on the bench due to foul trouble, which limited the Vikings.

At the high school level, 6’2” Carl Love of Kimball, was a very difficult match-up. He had great hands, strong and physical inside and very athletic. He was what I call a freakish athlete. Although Kimball had little size, Love played much bigger than his height.

Regional Finals

In the regional finals you had two teams that were veterans of the regional experience. In another classic, Conroe(32-2) came out on top 86-82 over Kimball(30-2) in double overtime. Leonard Perry of Kimball forced the first overtime hitting a 10-foot jumper with 13 seconds to knot the score. In overtime, Kimball went into a stall for two minutes and finally hit Jeffrey Fudge on a back-door lay-up. The bucket put Kimball in control 76-74 with only 30-seconds remaining. With the lead and the ball, Conroe fouled Carl Love, who went to the line shooting a one-an-one opportunity. Love missed the foul shot, giving the Tigers life. Conroe's George Thomas scored on a lay-up to force another overtime. "We had a two-point lead and the ball," Fudge said, "I thought we had it. But we missed the free-throws." The Tigers were cool under pressure hitting five foul shots in the last 31 seconds to punch their ticket to Austin. For Kimball, it was their second double overtime loss in two seasons, having lost to Bryan the previous year.

Kimball(30-2) had their opportunities to extend the lead right before half, but failed to take advantage. Rod Jacques kept Conroe(33-2) in the game with 26 points. The big three combined for 68 points as Kelvin Smith and Maurice Wright both finished with 21 points. For Coach Tubbs it was another big disappointment. "This was the hardest loss," Coach Tubbs said. "This win would have sent us to Austin." Carl Love led the charge for the Knights with 24 points, Kelly added 22 points and Perry finished with 12 and Fudge had 10.

Region III Playoffs

Spring Branch Memorial(27-5)	Houston Lee(21-9)
Houston Wheatley(18-10)	Houston Sam Houston(28-5) #10
Houston Madison(34-0) #1	Alief Elsik(25-7)
Beaumont Pollard(22-8)	Aldine MacArthur(30-2) #9
LaMarque(17-8)	Pasadena(23-9)
Houston Yates(22-8)	Houston Kashmere(24-11)
Beaumont Westbrook(27-3) #9	Houston Smiley(15-14)
Baytown Sterling(27-5)	Clear Lake(32-3) #6

Top Five in Region III

6'3"	Sean Gay	Houston Madison
6'7"	Andy Gilchrist	Spring Branch Memorial
6'6"	Ronnie James	Alice
6'5"	Chris Morris	Houston Sam Houston
6'4"	Steve Thompson	Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson

In Region III, everybody was chasing undefeated Houston Madison, a team that was highly ranked nationally and loaded. Madison was a "Team for the Ages." But as we have learned through the years, it's very difficult to win the title undefeated. The pressure grows with every game and expectations become unrealistic. Houston Yates discovered in 1983, Houston Madison in 1979 and

Dunbar in '84. Teams just can't overcome the hype and pressure associated with being undefeated season. Houston had so many talented teams with different styles. Whoever advanced out of region III would make a strong bid to win state. Nobody was going to sneak out of the region, as Memorial had the year before.

17-AAAAA

Spring Branch Memorial(27-5), with its incredible basketball tradition was attempting to return to state in 1985. The team was very similar to those of the past with a strong inside game led by 6'7" Andy Gilchrist. The senior post took his talents to Rice University following graduation, and had a nice career. Coach Don Coleman was still in charge at Memorial, and his Mustangs played a tough, slow deliberate style. The Mustangs loses in pre-district came at the hands of Houston Lee(21-10) 44-41, Houston Milby(19-11) 59-50 and Memphis White Haven 47-44. Big victories for the Ponies were against Angleton(25-5) 64-52, Duncanville(23-8) 48-46 in overtime and Tyler Lee(20-11) 51-40.

In District action, Alief Elsik jumped to an early lead after Memorial lost to Spring Woods 44-41. The Mustangs handled Elsik(25-7) both times in District play 38-36 and 40-38. Elsik dropped a critical game to Houston Stratford(13-19) 55-47, which gave them three losses. The Alief Elsik Rams defeated their rival, Alief Hasting(24-10), both times 55-37 and 59-57. Spring Woods(18-12) and Northbrook(20-12) were also very competitive.

The Mustangs had three players named to the nine-man All-District squad, Gilchrist and 6'1" Pete Fink and 6'4" Mark Hendry. Memorial finished ranked #7 in the final Houston Post poll on area teams and Alief Elsik came in at #8. District 17-5A may have been the deepest District in the Houston area.

All-District 1st Team- 6'7" Andy Gilchrist-SB Memorial(MVP), 6'8" Jeff Keene-Alief Elsik, 6'1" Pete Fink-SB Memorial, 6'4" Mark Hendry-SB Memorial, 6'6" Eric Taranto-Spring Woods, 6'0" Rod Shapley-Spring Woods, 6'3" Charlie Triola-Northbrook, 6'6" Roderick Brown-Alief Hastings, 6'0" Neil Beisert-Houston Westchester:

Final Standings: Spring Branch Memorial(27-5) 12-2, Alief Elsik(25-7) 11-3, Alief Hastings(24-10) 9-5, Spring Woods(18-12) 9-5, Northbrook(20-12) 7-7, Houston Westchester(11-18) 3-11, Stratford(13-19) 3-11, Spring Branch(6-22) 1-13:

18-AAAAA

Houston Madison ran through their pre-season campaign much like Sherman's march to the sea. The Marlins throttled ever team they faced; Houston Wheatley(19-11) by 55 points, Houston Yates(23-9) by 16, Clear Lake(32-3) by 25, Harlingen(28-5) by 46, Bryan(25-11) by 22, Alvin(22-14) by 22 and 18, Pasadena Dobie(20-10) by 14, Houston Milby(19-11) by 28, Houston Yates(23-9) by 17 and Aldine MacArthur(30-3) by 19. Not one team came within single digits of Madison. All of these teams advanced to the playoffs with the exception of Dobie. It was frightening how dominating Houston Madison had become entering District.

Houston Lee was the only real challenger to the Marlins in 18-5A. Madison defeated Lee(21-10) easily by 55 and 29 points. Houston Lee took the

runner-up spot into the playoffs in a weak District race. Playing such limited competition in District can prove to be a detriment once the playoffs arrive.

Madison's basketball tradition was second to none dating back to 1977. They had captured eight straight District titles and made one state appearance in 1979. They were accustomed to winning and were always mentioned with the best in Houston.

The 1985 team broke the century mark 17 times during the season. Their closest game in District was 29 points against Lee. Defensively they played the entire court with no big man, everyone could cover their man on the full-court and force the tempo. 6'3" Sean Gay(16.5) was the most recognizable player for Coach Paul Benton. At 6'3", he had unusual long arms and length. Gay went on to start at Texas Tech and joined the Red Raider Hall of Fame in 2018. He is one of just four players in Red Raider history to reach 1,500 points, 350 rebounds, 325 assists and 125 steals. Nearly 30 years later, he's still tied for second in career steals, third in assists and 12th in points. He was named to the Southwest Conference All Defensive Team three years running. In 1988, he was named 2nd team All-SWC. Gay spearheaded the Marlins defensive and relentless style. Gay was named 1st team All-State by both the Sports Writers and the TABC and was named "Player of the Year" in Houston by the Houston Chronicle. Gay is of course my cover boy of Volume V and a remarkable talent.

Gay was the only player on the team that was highly recruited, although Gerry McGee and Ivan Jones both played for major Division One programs. Gay was recruited by Midland J.C., Houston and Texas Tech. He selected the Red Raiders because he had family in Lubbock and it just felt right. Following graduation Gay said, "I played all over the place, CBA, overseas, Germany, Philippines, Global Basketball league to name a few."

The Marlins had incredible depth and the players were interchangeable. Their size was not a disadvantage because of the multiple leapers on the team. 6'5" Pat Crocklin and 6'3" Ivan Jones played inside at the post position. 6'4" Wendall Nibbs, 6'3" Keithley Francis and 6'3" Sean Gay played on the wings. Francis played for Blinn J.C. and was a two year starter, Ivan Jones(11.3) attended Baylor and was a double digit scorer for the Bears, Nibbs was a starter and double digit scorer as well at Alvin J.C., and Crocklin had a fine career at Central Florida. The backcourt consisted 6'1" Gerry McGee(10.8), 6'0" Tony Gatlin and 5'11" Cedric Brown. McGee played major minutes at the University Houston as a freshman and Gatlin was a double-digit scorer at Texas Southern. 6'3" Juan Bibbs of Houston Lee took his talents to Sam Houston State.

All-District 1st Team- 6'3" Sean Gay(16.5) Houston Madison, 6'3" Juan Bibbs(24.7) Houston Lee, 5'10" Stacey Bennett-Houston Bellaire, 6'6" Eric Price-Houston Lamar, 6'4" Chance Thomas-Houston Sharpstown, 6'5" Pat Crocklin- Houston Madison, 6'1" Gerry McGee(10.8) Houston Madison, 6'3" Ivan Jones(11.3) Houston Madison, 6'6" Eric Torgeson(11.1) Houston Lee: **2nd Team-** Alex Coleman(10.1)

Houston Lee, Wendell Nibbs-Houston Madison, Winn Shepard(10.5) Houston Westbury, Brent Hill-Houston Worthing, Kraig Thompson-Houston Worthing, David Callison:

Final Standings: Houston Madison(34-0) 12-0, Houston Lee(22-8) 9-3, Houston Westbury(17-15) 6-6, Houston Lamar(13-16) 5-7, Houston Bellaire(14-14) 4-8, Houston Worthing(15-15) 5-7, Houston Sharpstown(4-18) 1-11:

19-AAAAA

Houston Sam Houston came out of pre-district as the District favorite with everybody else chasing this talented unit. The Tigers placed four players among the top 13 players on the All-District 1st and 2nd teams. 5'7" Tyrone Mingo, 6'5" Chris Morris, Horace Coleman and John Lockett led the Tigers. Sam Houston proved themselves in pre-district losing to Houston Marian(25-3) 72-69 and splitting with a talented Aldine MacArthur(30-3) team. The Generals of MacArthur were considered one of the top five teams in the state. Sam Houston's most impressive victory came against Bay City(35-1) 107-88. The Tigers manhandled the top 4-A team in the state. Sam Houston also took down Houston Smiley(15-14) twice, Houston Austin(18-12) 72-64, A&M Consolidated(21-10) 92-56, Houston Wheatley(19-11) 94-92 and Houston Milby(19-11) 66-56. The two games against MacArthur(30-3) were epic with the Cardinals winning the first game 60-56 and the Tigers claiming victory in the second 61-59. Houston Yates also hung a loss on Sam Houston(23-9) 79-76.

District was not real challenging for the talented group, as they defeated Houston Kashmere(24-12) 91-75 and 73-69. Remember, the Rams had played in the finals of the Optimist Tournament in San Antonio, losing to Clear Lake. Houston Washington(16-13) fell to Sam Houston 73-58 and 57-52. Entering the playoffs, Sam Houston had to be one of the top challengers to Madison in region II along with Aldine MacArthur.

All-District 1st Team- 5'7" Tyrone Mingo-Sam Houston, 6'5" Chris Morris-Sam Houston, 6'3" Rochello Singleton-Houston Reagan, 6'4" Aaron Perkins-Kashmere, 6'4" Brian Walker-Kashmere, 6'4" Billy Smith-Washington: **2nd Team-** James Wright-Houston Waltrip, Tim Jackson-Scarborough, Mac Austin- Houston Washington, Autry Routt-Houston Reagan, Horace Coleman-Sam Houston, Kevin Bade-Houston Waltrip, Darren Thomas-Houston Washington, John Lockett-Sam Houston:

Final Standings: Houston Sam Houston(28-5) 10-0, Houston Kashmere(24-11) 7-3, Houston Washington(16-13) 6-4, Houston Reagan(15-15) 4-6, Houston Scarborough(4-22) 2-8, Houston Waltrip(5-24) 1-9:

20-AAAAA

District 20-5A year in and year out had been the best in Houston. Although the District was down a little bit, it was still deep and stout. Houston Wheatley(18-11) and Houston Yates(23-8) were the frontrunners 5-0 records. The two District leaders came together with the Lions winning a hard fought 88-86 victory. Clemon Jacobs paced Yates with 24 points. Wheatley was led by Greg Bondage's 28 points and Eddie Cumbo's 15 points. With the victory, Yates took an early lead in District at 6-0. Wheatley was close behind at 5-1 and Milby stood at 4-2.

In the second round, Yates took out Wheatley 97-78, but had a much tougher time with Milby. Yates had won their early game against Milby 73-58, but the re-match was something. At the end of regulation, Milby led 51-49 with 11 seconds remaining. Robert Williams of the Buffaloes went the line shooting two. Williams missed both shots and William Wells of Milby came away with the rebound and put up a quick shot, which was blocked. Earl Seals caught the ball around the foul line and dribbled out towards mid-court to run the clock out. Yates intentionally fouled, but instead the referee called a foul on Seals for pushing off. Yates went to the other end and hit both foul shots, forcing the game into overtime. The Lions came away with a 57-51 double overtime win.

"In my 27 years of coaching and watching basketball, it was the most flagrant incorrect call affecting the outcome of a game that I have ever seen," Coach Boyce Honea of Milby said. Honea turned in a letter to the official's association, but nothing came of it.

Milby got right back into the District race with a double overtime win over Wheatley 70-69. The Buffaloes went to four corners in the second overtime and outscored Wheatley 12-2. The loss gave the Wildcats three losses, having lost both games with the Lions of Houston Yates. Milby could force a playoff with Wheatley if they won out. Houston Austin ruined Milby's dreams, upsetting the Buffaloes 62-60. Tracey Dones of Austin hit the winning jumper with two seconds left.

Milby(19-11) might have been the best third place team in the state in 1985. Coach Honea had the Buffaloes playing one of the state's most competitive pre-season schedule. Milby defeated Houston Sam Houston(28-5) 70-69 in overtime and Spring Branch Memorial(27-5) 59-50. Clear Lake(32-3) put down Milby 59-50 in a game that was played at the Summit before the NBA game between the Rockets and the Pistons. Milby ran a triangle and two against Clear Lake trying to contain Kevin Stiner and Mitch Fogel. The strategy worked, with the Buffaloes leading at halftime 24-16. In the third quarter, Clear Lake began pressing and turned the game in their favor. The Falcons outscored Milby 25-12 in the 3rd quarter.

Other big wins for the Buffaloes came against Pasadena Dobie(20-10) 68-58 and Houston Kashmere(24-12) 69-67. Losses were at the hands of Houston Sam Houston(28-5) 66-56, Ft. Worth Southwest(30-8) 54-52 in overtime, Conroe McCullough(22-9) 45-43 and Angleton(25-4) 73-56.

Milby had the unfortunate task of playing Houston Madison in pre-season losing 83-55. Coach Honea commented after the game, "if they are not the best in the history of Texas Basketball, they are certainly close to it as they are undefeated and have not had a close game." Houston Austin also had an outstanding club led by 6'5" Melvin Swift. Swift was one of the most prolific scorers in the state. Houston Austin was able to finish with a 6-6 record.

The Yates Lions looked to 6'6" Clarence King, 6'1" David McDaniel and 5'8" Johnny Bailey. Bailey came right off the football field where he had led Yates to the state championship. Milby looked to 6'0" Earl Seals and 6'3" Carlos Sanders. **All-District 1st Team**- 6'5" Melvin Swift-Houston Austin, 6'6" Clarence King-Houston Yates, 6'3" Carlos Sanders-Milby, 6'0" Earl Seals-Houston Milby, 6'0" Gregory Bondage-Houston Wheatley, 6'1" David McDaniel-Houston Yates, 5'8" Johnny Bailey-Houston Yates: **2nd Team**- 6'2" Eddie Cumbo-Houston Wheatley, Darin Flannagan-Houston Jones, Tracey Dones-Houston Austin, Clemon Jacobs-Houston Yates, Henry Amos-Houston Davis, Keith Miller-Houston Wheatley, William Williams-Houston Wheatley. **Final Standings:** Houston Yates(23-8) 12-0, Houston Wheatley(18-11) 9-3, Houston Milby(19-11) 8-4, Houston Austin(18-12) 6-6, Houston Sterling(11-14) 4-8, Houston Jones(9-20) 1-11, Houston Davis(8-17) 1-11:

21-AAAAA

Aldine MacArthur was undefeated entering the Jaycees Tournament in Houston, but lost in the finals to Houston Madison(35-0) 81-62. The Generals second loss of the season came at the hands of Houston Sam Houston(28-5) 61-59. Chris Morris put up 22 points for the Tigers and 5'7" Tyrone Mingo added 13 points. Rusty Thomas was the leader for Mac with 18 points. The Generals quickly rebounded from the loss defeating the top private score in the state, Houston Marian(25-3) 58-43. MacArthur had beaten Marian early in the season in triple overtime 61-53, and dropped Houston Sam Houston(28-5) in the Jaycee tournament 60-56. Other impressive victories came against Beaumont Westbrook(28-3) 67-49, Houston Lee(22-8) 69-54 and Houston Washington(16-13) 53-44. MacArthur was one of the top five teams in the state entering District action.

The Generals ran away with District. This could also have been their downfall entering the playoffs, a lack of competition. Houston Smiley(15-15) went down to MacArthur both times in District 55-48 and 67-45. 6'4" Keith Hill, 6'3" Alex Williams and Rusty Thomas were key to the Generals attack. Hill played at New Mexico State and had a fine career. Williams signed with Sam Houston State. Smiley advanced to the playoffs with a .500 record.

All-District 1st Team- 6'4" Keith Hill-Aldine MacArthur, Tim McCray-Houston Smiley, 6'3" Alex Williams-Aldine MacArthur, Larry Pink-Aldine Eisenhower, Steve Sides-Aldine: **2nd Team**- Otis Johnson-Aldine Nimitz, Rusty Thomas-Aldine MacArthur, Keith Roysten-Aldine Nimitz, Dennis Green-Aldine, Chris Scott-Houston Smiley: "Player of the Year"- Keith Hill, "Coach of the Year"- Walt Kaser from MacArthur: **Final Standings:** Aldine MacArthur(30-2) 10-0, Houston Smiley(15-15) 7-3, Aldine(10-18) 5-5, Aldine Eisenhower(12-17) 4-6, Aldine Nimitz(12-18) 3-7, Forest Brook(6-22) 1-9:

22-AAAAA

In the hotbed of Texas basketball, the Golden Triangle, there were three teams that emerged as the class of the District. Remember, Pt. Arthur Lincoln was now playing in class AAAA. The contenders were Pt. Arthur Jefferson, Beaumont Westbrook and Beaumont Pollard. P.A. Jefferson and Coach Willie Williams had a three-year starter returning in 6'4" Steve Thompson(23.9/10, 52% FG). "Steve is the best player I've ever coached," was Coach Williams commented. 6'7" Kerry

Hadley and 6'4" Eric Francois provided added size inside for the Yellowjackets. 6'1" lighting quick, Byron Lemmons, proved valuable as well. P.A. Jefferson opened District defeating Beaumont French 76-60. Hadley came away with 21 rebounds, Thompson contributed 14 rebounds and 26 points. West Orange Stark was the next victim of the Yellowjackets 59-38.

This set-up the first big match-up of the District leaders between Beaumont Westbrook and P.A. Jefferson. Thompson was held to only 12 points as the Bruins proved to strong winning 69-47. P.A. Jefferson turned right around and lost another key match-up against Beaumont Pollard 59-58. Thompson missed a spinning jumper at the buzzer that would had been the difference. The 6'4 senior fueled his team's effort with 19 points.

Beaumont Pollard and Beaumont Westbrook entered their first-round match-up undefeated in District play. Pollard had the home court advantage. You may have remembered the two teams had met earlier in the 3rd place game at the Yellowjacket classic. A game in which the Bruins won easily. Once again Beaumont Westbrook won a tough 74-68 victory over Beaumont Pollard. Dencil Wheaton finished with 18 points for Bruins. Pollard was paced by Leonard James with 23 points and Archie Corbin's 21 points.

Pt. Arthur Jefferson received a shot in the arm as District continued from 6'3" Cliff Harmanson joining the team from football. Coach Williams called him the hardest working kid on the team. The defensive end would provide added rebounding strength for the Yellowjackets. P.A. Thomas Jefferson prepared for their 2nd round games against the District's blue bloods, Pollard and Westbrook. T.J. played outstanding against Westbrook, but still came up short 52-49. 6'2" Antonio Wells and Michael Young proved more than equal to the task for the Bruins. Wells knocked down 16 points for the Pollard. Hadley came up big for Jefferson with 15 points and 8 rebounds and Thompson was held well below his average with 12 points.

P.A. Jefferson's last opportunity for the playoffs was ended against Pollard 70-63 in Beaumont. T.J. only shot 7 for 18 from the foul line to give Pollard the victory. 6'4" Thompson showed his talent finishing with 29 points and 6'7 Hadley finished with (12/7/2 blocks). Pollard countered with Archie Corbin's 19 points, Leonard James added 13 points and Prickett hit 13 points.

In the District championship game between Westbrook and Pollard the Bruins continued their mastery over Pollard 71-69. Both teams represented the District well in the playoffs. Pollard and Westbrook finished in my final Top Ten and all three teams made my final top 25 rankings.

Standings: Beaumont Westbrook(28-3) 14-0, Beaumont Pollard(21-8) 12-2, Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson(18-9) 10-4, Beaumont French(16-12) 7-7, West Orange Stark(12-20) 6-8, Nederland(13-20) 4-9, Vidor(5-23) 2-12, Pt. Neches Groves(9-21) 1-13:

All-District 22-5A- 6'4" Steve Thompson(23.9) was named the District M.V.P. by the **Pt. Arthur News**. Thompson was also named All-State. Members of the **1st Team**- 6'2" Antonio Wells(15.6) Beaumont

Westbrook, 5'10" Michael Young(14.3) Beaumont Westbrook, 6'7" Kerry Hadley(12.6) P.A. Thomas Jefferson, 6'2" Archie Corbin(18.7) Beaumont Pollard. **2nd Team**- 6'2" Alfred Minix(14.5) Beaumont Pollard, 6'3" Mike Mayers(15.8) Nederland, 6'1" Darrell Powell(11.5) Beaumont Westbrook, 5'10" Tim Hood(13.1) Beaumont French, 6'0" Charles Lee(13.8) Beaumont Pollard. James White of Pollard was named "Coach of the Year." Coach White was upset that Corbin was not named player of the year, finishing with 18.7/10.0/ 2 assists and shooting 59% from the floor. "In my mind he's the most valuable player," White said. "The guy who pushes his team into the playoffs should get it. We made it to the regional finals and Archie was instrumental in us getting there." Minix also came up big for Pollard with 15/4/8 assists per game. "Alfred was the glue that held us together," White said. "And he was at his best in the playoffs." Coach had graduated all five starters and was able to advance to the regional finals. These are very valid points about Corbin being named M.V.P., but Pollard was 0-3 against Westbrook and just happened to face Houston Madison later than Westbrook in the playoffs.

All-District 22-5A- Coaches- 1st Team-6'2" Alfred Minix(14.5)-Beaumont Pollard, 5'10" Tom Hood(13.1) Beaumont French, 5'10" Michael Young(14.3)- Beaumont Westbrook, 6'4" Steve Thompson(23.9)-PA Jefferson, 6'2" Antonio Wells(15.6)- Beaumont Westbrook: **2nd Team**- 6'0" Chris Lee(13.8)-Beaumont Pollard, 6'6" Kerry Hadley(12.6)-PA Jefferson, 6'4" Patrick Victoria-West Orange Stark, 6'0" Bobby Forter-Beaumont Westbrook, 6'2" David Powell-Beaumont Westbrook, 6'0" Dencil Wheaton-Beaumont Westbrook, 6'3" Mike Mayes-Nederland, "Coach of The Year" Fred Williams-Beaumont Westbrook:

23-AAAAA

The decisive game in District 23-AAAAA was played the second to last game of the regular season between Pasadena and Baytown Sterling. Pasadena took a convincing 56-40 win over Baytown Sterling(27-5). Sterling was held scoreless in the final quarter. The Rangers dropped to 11-2 in District and Pasadena moved to 12-1. Pasadena(23-9) finished the regular season against lowly Baytown Lee, with a 1-12 mark in District. Baytown Sterling on the other hand had to close against Pasadena Dobie(20-10). Dobie stood at 10-3, one game back of Sterling. The Longhorns of Dobie owned an earlier victory over Sterling 48-44. With the pressure of the playoffs riding on the game, Baytown Sterling played their best game of the season defeating Pasadena Dobie 42-41. Paul Roberts was the leader for Sterling with 17 points, followed by Donovan Forbes with 12 points. The Longhorns were paced by Brian Cummings with 14 points.

Standings: Pasadena(23-9) 13-1, Baytown Sterling(27-5) 12-2, Pasadena Dobie(20-10) 10-4, Deer Park(15-16) 7-6, Northshore(15-16) 5-8, South Houston(12-20) 4-9, Pasadena Rayburn(8-22) 2-11, Baytown Lee(7-21) 1-13. The future looked very bright for Sterling winning the Junior Varsity and Sophomore District championships.

All-District 23-5A- Steve Garnett of Pasadena was a Unanimous select and named "Play of the Year", Phil Eaton of Pasadena was named "Coach of the Year." Ten players were named to the first team, Paul Roberts and Donovan Forbes from Baytown Sterling and 6'6" Boyd Fluellen of Pasadena made the 1st unit.

24-AAAAA

District 24 was much weaker in 1985 than in previous seasons. Only two out of the ten District members finished the season with winning records. The Falcons of Clear Lake(32-3) dominated District play finishing 13-1. Standouts for the Falcons were Mitch Fogle(20.0) and Kevin Steiner(16.0). Their only District loss came at the hands of arch rival Clear Creek(12-13) 57-55. Clear Lake had already wrapped the District title when they lost to Clear Creek.

LaMarque(18-8) took second place at 11-3. Lake defeated LaMarque in both meeting 67-49 and 67-66, and finished in the T.A.B.C.'s top ten. In the one-point victory over LaMarque, Clear Lake's Mitch Fogle connected on free throws with seven seconds left in the game to pull out the victory for the Falcons. Fogle scored 25 points for Falcons and Kevin Stiner added 18 points. James Francis was the main man for LaMarque and James Rue added 20 points.

Galveston Ball(11-18) missed the playoffs for the first time in several seasons in 1985. Long-time Coach Tommy Berry resigned at Ball and his assistant Jerry Williams took over the reins. Williams also coached receivers on the gridiron. The Tornadoes advanced deep into the football playoffs, which delayed the transition of several key players to the basketball court. Coach Williams also was set back when he had to dismiss three players from the teams for disciplinary reasons. Ball did manage a late season win over LaMarque 70-67, but Cougars had already secured a playoff spot.

In the pre-season the Falcons came away with wins over Houston Milby(19-11) 50-48, Pasadena Dobie(20-9) 73-60 and 70-57, Alvin(21-12) 70-58, S.A. Roosevelt(23-11) 67-64, Midland Lee(25-8) 63-42, Kashmere(24-12) 72-68, Baytown Sterling(28-6) 61-58, Pasadena High(23-10) 60-53. As you can see most of the games were very close. Losses for Clear Lake came at the hands of Houston Madison(40-0) 84-59 and rival, Clear Creek(12-13) 68-65.

LaMarque made the playoffs for the first time in 11 years. James Francis(*) was the focus of the offense. The 6'4" junior had a strong inside game, was at the heart of the Cougar's offense. Other key players were Clifton Jones, James Roe, Brian Johns, Kenneth Hogan and Anthony Charles. LaMarque was challenged by a tough pre-district schedule losing to Bay City(35-1) twice 59-54 and 65-52, Houston Kashmere(24-14) 87-76 and Friendswood 79-61. The Cougars were able to come back and defeat Kashmere 82-70.

All-District 1st Team- 6'1" Mitch Fogle-Clear Lake, 6'4" Kevin Stiner-Clear Lake, 6'3" Jerald Temple-Galveston Ball, 6'3" James Francis-LaMarque, 6'1" Randy Pryor-Pearland, 6'2" Steve Chambers-LaPorte, 6'1" Sterling Alexander-Clear Creek, 5'7" Faite Williams-Dickinson, 6'0" Jimmy Tolden-Texas City, 6'4" Billy Williams-Galveston Ball. M.V.P. Mitch Fogle, "Coach of the Year"-Bill Krueger

Standings: Clear Lake(32-3) 13-1, LaMarque(18-8) 12-2, Clear Creek(12-13) 8-6, Galveston Ball(11-18) 7-7, LaPorte(13-18) 6-8, Pearland(11-19) 5-9, Texas City(14-18) 4-10, Dickinson(8-21) 2-12.

(*) Cincinnati used their No. 12 overall pick to select Baylor linebacker James Francis, who played for nine seasons for the Bengals with an amazing four-season stretch from 1990-1993 (seven interceptions, 19 quarterback sacks, five forced fumbles, four fumble recoveries and two touchdowns). He concluded his nine seasons in Cincinnati with 11 picks, 33 quarterback sacks and 11 forced fumbles.

Houston Chronicle Final Rankings(Regular Season)

- | | | |
|----|------------------|------|
| 1. | Houston Madison | 34-0 |
| 2. | Conroe | 29-2 |
| 3. | Aldine MacArthur | 30-2 |

4. Clear Lake	32-3
5. Houston Sam Houston	28-5
6. Angleton	29-4
7. Spring Branch Memorial	27-5
8. Alief Elsik	27-5
9. Houston Yates	23-8
10. Pasadena	24-9
11. Baytown Sterling	27-5
12. Conroe McCullough	22-9
13. Katy Taylor	27-4
14. Houston Wheatley	18-11
15. Klein Oak	27-5
16. Houston Lee	22-8
17. Houston Kashmere	24-11
18. LaMarque	18-8
19. Alvin	22-12
20. Pasadena Dobie	20-10

All-Greater Houston Basketball Team named by the Houston Post-

1st Team- 6'4" Lance Blanks(22.3/9.0/6 assists) Conroe McCullough, 6'3" Rod Jacques(20.1) Conroe, 7'1" Tito Horford(14.0/12.0/2 assist/6 bl) Houston Marian Christian, 6'3" LaBradford Smith(20.0/8.6) Bay City, 6'2" Sean Gay(16.5) Houston Madison: "Player of the Year"- Tito Horford, "Coach of the Year"-Paul Benton of Houston Madison. **2nd Team-** 6'4" Keith Hill-Aldine MacArthur, 6'1" Gerry McGee(10.8) Houston Madison, 6'7" Andy Gilchrist-Spring Branch Memorial, 6'5" Chris Morris-Houston Sam Houston, 6'5" Maurice Wright(17.8) Conroe: **3rd Team-** 6'3" Juan Bibbs(24.7) Houston Lee, 6'1" Tim Hobby(21.5) Alvin, 6'5" Pat Crocklin-Houston Madison, 6'5" Jeff Blice-Alice, 6'2" Matt Sonnichsen(15.4) Klein Oak: **Honorable Mention:** Tolbert Roult(15.4) Angleton, Eric Taranto(18.3) Spring Woods, Tito Crawford-Houston Marian, Edward Jackson-Houston Furr, Sean Quillivan(21.0) Katy, 6'6" Mitch Fogle-Clear Lake, 6'2" Lincoln Minor(24.2) Spring Westfield, Alex Williams-Aldine MacArthur, 6'7" Kelvin Smith(15.9) Conroe, 6'5" Ivan Jones-Houston Jones, Rochelloe Singleton(15.5) Houston Reagan, Melvin Swift-Houston Austin, Carlos Sanders-Houston Milby, Earl Seals-Houston Milby, Clarence King-Houston Yates, Steve Garnett(15.5) Pasadena, Mark Arnold(14.6) Katy Taylor, Keithley Francis-Houston Madison:

All-HISD -Chronicle-

1st Team- 6'3" Sean Gay-Madison, 6'5" Pat Crocklin-Madison, 6'1" Gerry McGee-Madison, 6'3" Ivan Jones-Madison, 6'3" Juan Bibbs-Houston Lee, 6'5" Chris Morris-Sam Houston, 6'0" Earl Seals-Milby, 6'5" Melvin Swift-Houston Austin, 6'0" Andre Hensley-Houston Sterling, 6'6" Clarence King-Houston Yates, 5'9" Edward Jackson- Houston Furr: **2nd Team-** 6'4" Wendell Nibbs-Madison, 6'3" Keithley Francis-Madison, 6'0" Tony Gatlin-Madison, 5'11" Cedric Brown-Madison, 6'4" Chance Thomas-Houston Sharpstown, 6'6" Eric Price-Lamar, 5'7" Tyrone Mingo-Sam Houston, 6'0" Greg Bundage-Wheatley, 6'3" Willie Price-Houston Yates: Sean Gay of Madison-"Play of the Year", "Coach of the Year" Paul Benton of Madison.

All-Greater Houston-Chronicle-

1st Team- 6'7" Andy Gilchrist-Memorial, 6'3" Rod Jacques-Conroe, 6'4" Keith Hill-Aldine MacArthur, 6'1" Tim Hobby-Alvin, 6'4" Lance Blanks-Conroe McCullough, 6'5" Maurice Wright-Conroe, 6'5" Jeff Blice-Angleton, 7'1" Tito Horford-Houston Marian Christian, 6'9" Perry Russell-Houston Marian Christian, 6'7" Steve Smith-Houston Marian Christian, 6'4" Hart Lee Dykes-Bay City, 6'4" LaBradford Smith-Bay City, 6'3" Anthony Young- Willowridge, 6'5" Boyd Fluellen-Pasadena, 6'5" Paul Roberts-Baytown Sterling,

6'8" Jeff Keene-Alief Elsik, 6'1" Mitch Fogle-Clear Lake, 6'4" Matt Sonnichsen(15.4) Klein Oak: Player of the Year-Tito Horford, Marian; "Coach of the Year" – Harold Wilder-Conroe: **2nd Team**- Freddie Ricks-Humble, 6'2" Lincoln Minor-Spring Westfield, 6'6" Tracey White-Spring, 6'5" Sean Quillivan-Katy, 6'6" Mark Arnold-Katy Taylor, 6'6" Eric Taranto-Spring Woods, 6'4" Kevin Stiner-Clear Lake, 6'3" Jerald Temple-Galveston Ball, 6'3" James Francis-LaMarque, 6'1"Randy Pryor-Pearland, 6'6" Todd Redmon-Lamar Consolidated, 6'4" Tolbert Routt-Angleton, 6'3" Otha Hayes-Clements, 6'3" Steve Garrett-Purdue:

Playoffs

The 1985 playoffs in the Houston area could be labeled the, "Year of the Upsets." Only three top seeds or District champions came out of the first round of the playoffs. Houston Madison(34-0), Spring Branch Memorial(27-5) and Conroe(29-2) were the only survivors from the Houston area schools and Conroe played in region II. What was the reason? My explanation was the Houston area had so many strong teams with tremendous competition. I also believe some teams played in weaker Districts, which allowed schools to coast somewhat through the ladder part of the schedule. When the playoffs hit, they were not playing at as high a level as they once were. As coach Larry Brown once told me, "there is an art to getting a team prepared for the playoffs."

As Houston Madison(34-0) prepared for their first-round game against Alief Elsik(25-7) they were battling the stigma of "not being able to win the big one." The Marlins had virtually the same team from the previous season that was upset by Houston Sam Houston in the 2nd round of the playoffs. "I think we have that reputation," Gerry McGee of Madison said. "But it's not necessarily so, Houston Sam Houston had a good team last year and we under estimated them. They came out and beat us." McGee continued saying, "It's a new year, last year we didn't have confidence. We return nine players who started at one time or another. I think in the playoffs we'll see a lot more poise."

Coach Benton was nervous about the playoffs because his team had not faced any real close games during the season. "It makes me nervous," Coach Benton said. "I'm worried, but the players don't seem to be worried." Houston Lee's coach, Mike Fergus, who faced Madison twice during the season commented, "He could put Sean Gay at post or point. They're interchangeable. The Marlins have tremendous depth with eleven players seeing action. His number 10 or 11 kid would start for us," Fergus said.

Coach Benton has a rotation made up of three forwards, three guards and two post. Pat Crocklin and Ivan Jones inside combined for 16 points and 18 rebounds a game. "I don't know anybody with that kind of depth to run with them," said Walt Kaser the Coach of Aldine MacArthur. "Madison might have two turnovers a game," Fergus said, "but I'll wager they haven't played a game that they didn't force 25 turnovers." Another important factor in Madison success was their intensity on the defensive end of the court. "They have great quickness," Kaser said.

Parade All-American, Lance Blanks, played at Madison his sophomore season before transferring to Conroe McCullough(22-9). How many teams could recover from losing an All-American?

Madison had little trouble with Alief Elsik(25-7) in Bi-District winning 84-48. Balanced scoring as always with Ivan Jones leading the way with 14 points, McGee finished with 13, Gay produced 12 and Crocklin added 10 points. Jeff Keene paced Elsik with 18 points. Elsik finished the season with a 25-8 record.

Baytown Sterling(27-5) had the unenviable task of playing state ranked Clear Lake(32-3) in the Bi-District, while Pasadena(23-9) took on LaMarque(17-8). Sterling had lost by three points during the regular season to Clear Lake 61-58. The Rangers played the game of the season winning a double-overtime contest over the Falcons 68-65. Mark Morris came through late with eight for eight from the foul line for Sterling. In the 2nd overtime the Rangers jumped out to a 68-61 only to see Clear Lake cut the lead down to three points with only 25 seconds remaining. Sterling was able to run out the clock to seal the victory. Clear Lake shot 13 of 16 from the foul line and Sterling knocked down 14 of 16 attempts.

Coach Woody Walker of Baytown Sterling commented following the big win, "we made a mistake not starting out pressing." Clear Lake took an early lead 25-13, but pulled the ball out going four corners. Sterling proceeded to outscore Clear Lake 16-8 to get back into the game. "I kind of thought that the four corners of theirs helped us out," Walker said. Foyle dominated for Lake with 28 points along with 7 rebounds. Stiner hit 12 points for Lake. Marc Morris led Sterling with 20 points, Donovan Forbes hit 18 points and Paul Roberts connected for 14 points. Clear Lake finished with a 32-4 record and state ranked.

LaMarque(18-9) got behind early 12-0 to Pasadena in their Bi-District contest at Clear Creek High School. Pasadena only played five players and began to fade as the LaMarque's pressure started seeing results. Pasadena was known for what was called an "ultra-deliberate" style of basketball. Pasadena continued to lead at halftime 24-18, and things began to look up for the Eagles when 6'4" James Francis picked up his 3rd foul. Francis was relegated to the bench in the third quarter.

For some unknown reason, Pasadena(24-10) failed to show-up in the 4th quarter, shooting 1 of 9 from the floor. Bryan Johnson of LaMarque knocked down four straight foul shots late to give his team a 51-46 victory. Boyd Fluellen paced the Eagles with 24 points, while Francis led LaMarque with 16 points. District M.V.P. 6'3" Steve Garnett of Pasadena had a hard time explaining his team's demise. "I really don't know what happened against LaMarque, I suppose we beat ourselves; we fell apart in the 4th quarter."

Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(23-7) came in as a big under dog against one of the most highly ranked teams in Houston, Aldine MacArthur(30-2). The Generals had only lost two losses on the season and looked to be on a collision

course with Madison for the regional championship. Beaumont Pollard played an impressive schedule and it paid off, as the Cougars came away with an emotional and dominating performance 73-58. It was Pollard's first appearance in the playoffs since 1979. 5'8" Alfred Minix was the star, as he finished with 24 points and was six for six from the foul line in the 4th quarter. As a team, the Cougars shot 16 of 21 on free shots in the 4th quarter. For the contest they finished 21 of 32, while the Generals could only manage 6 of 10 from the foul line.

"They wanted it a lot more," MacArthur Coach Walt Kaser said following the disappointing loss. "They out rebounded us like crazy. We were taller but didn't hustle. They didn't have to screen out, we weren't going to go get the ball anyway." MacArthur eased out to a nice nine-point lead in the first half, but the second half was a different story. MacArthur began turning the ball over repeatedly as the Pollard's guards stripped them of the ball for easy baskets. "They cranked it up in the 2nd half. They found another gear and pulled away. We put it in another gear and slowed down," Coach Kaser said. The trapping pressure limited MacArthur's ability to get the ball inside. In the 4th quarter, the Generals went seven straight trips without a basket.

Coach James White of Pollard said, "We pressed in the 1st half, but it wasn't effective, what made it effective in the 2nd half was they got tired. They were only playing five or six players." Alex Williams finished with 14 points for MacArthur and Hill added 15. Archie Corbin connected for 15 points for Pollard and Charles Lee contributed 12 points. The game was played at Delmar Field House, which you would have thought would be an advantage for MacArthur, having been more familiar with the arena. MacArthur ended an outstanding season at home in the first round at 30-3.

The experience of Spring Branch Memorial(28-5) paid off as the Mustangs advanced against Houston Lee(22-10) 62-49 at Hofheinz Pavilion. The Ponies had lost the season opener against Lee 47-44. The game was played on a Thursday evening instead of Friday. All-State post Andy Gilchrist was the epicenter of the Mustangs attack putting up 18 points and led Memorial to a 62-49 victory. Juan Bibbs produced 20 points in a losing effort for Lee. The Ponies were in control early leading 34-20 at halftime.

In the 1984 playoffs, Houston Sam Houston(28-6) had been the upset masters advancing to regionals. The Tigers got a little bit of their own medicine in 1985, losing their opening playoff game to Houston Wheatley(19-11) 86-82. With most of their team returning from the previous season, Sam Houston was seen as the favorite. Juniors 6'2" Eddie Cumbo and 6'7" Willie Williams paced the Wildcats with 22 and 17 points respectfully. Chris Morris was key for Sam Houston with 19 points and Tyrone Mingo put up 15 points. According to Jackie Carr, he felt the pressure trapping defense of Wheatley wore down Sam Houston in the second half. Up 81-76 with 2:53 remaining, Wheatley went to a stall to close out the game.

In one of the most heated playoffs rivalries, Houston Yates(23-8) defeated Houston Kashmere(24-14) 87-71. The Lions had a new coach in 1985 by the name of Tom McDongald, the former assistant for twelve years at Houston Madison. The new coach ran a much more up-tempo attack than his predecessor, Tommy Malone. Five players reached double figures in the Lions victory over the Rams. Johnny Bailey led the charge with 16 points, Willie Pierce had 15, Clarence King hit 14, David McDaniel put up 13 points and Darrell Jones finished with 12. For Kashmere, Edward Long and Brian Walker both finished with 18 points.

Beaumont Westbrook(27-3) finished a very impressive run in District action, but was barely able to come away with a win in Bi-District over Houston Smiley(15-16) 54-53. It was very nearly another upset. Michael Young led the Bruins attack with 12 points, David Powell finished with 12 as well, and Antonio Wells had 10 points. For Houston Smiley, Tim McCray poured in 23 points and Leon Elorhn had 19 points.

As LaMarque(19-8) prepared for their 2nd round match-up against Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(24-8), they were facing a team with tremendous speed and very little size. Things did not go well for LaMarque, as they were blasted by Pollard 91-69. 6'2" Archie Corbin went off for Pollard with a 13 of 21 performance from the floor and finished with 32 points and 7 rebounds. Charles Lee added 13 points and 10 rebounds for Pollard. Alfred Minix came away with 12 points and 10 assists in the winning effort. Barber Hills High School was the site of the mugging. Coach James White of Pollard summarized his team saying, "we know every team we're up against is going to be taller than us, so we just try to do the best we can." Francis came up big for LaMarque with 27 points in a losing effort. "We expected an up-tempo game from LaMarque and we were fortunate to be hitting from the outside," White continued. Coach Bill Sinches of LaMarque was impressed with Pollard saying, "that team can go to state, it depends on who gets the breaks. They've got a good ball-club."

Beaumont Westbrook(28-3) and Baytown Sterling(28-5) came together in the regional quarterfinals in LaPorte. Westbrook's coach, Fred Williams, was in the playoffs for the 12th straight season with four different schools, Kountze, Silsbee, Beaumont Hebert and Beaumont Westbrook. That has to be one of the most incredible accomplishments in state history. Remember, only one team advanced during most of those 12 years. Coach Fred Williams is a **TEXAS LEGEND**.

In an interview with Ed Campbell of the Baytown Sun, Coach Williams discussed his preparation for the playoffs. Williams doesn't watch any film, doesn't get to the gym early to get the feel of the foreign environment. "When you get to the playoffs, you don't need to do any of that stuff," Williams shared. "You don't need to do anything different. We don't watch film. Oh, I've been blessed with a lot of good kids through the years," Williams continued. "The thing to remember is just to keep the pressure off them. You have to try to do things like you do on an

everyday basis." Westbrook once again had very little size for Coach Williams to work with. Starters included 6'2" Antonio Wells, 6'2" Dencil Wheaton, 6'2" David Powell, 5'10" Michael Young and 6'0" Bobby Foster, who were all seniors. Tim Hickman and Kelvin Harris came off the bench for the Bruins.

Baytown Sterling and Beaumont Westbrook had met previously on November 23 in the Lee College Classic with the Westbrook coming away with a 67-66 victory. The Bruins ended up losing in the finals to Aldine MacArthur. Westbrook's two other losses had come at the hands of Pt. Arthur Lincoln and Pt. Arthur Jefferson.

Westbrook(28-3) had little trouble with Sterling in the re-match, winning 69-49. The Rangers opened the game shooting 2-13 from the floor and the rest was history. Westbrook took a 18-4 lead early. "We just let the pressure get to us," Coach Walker said. "They were too quick for us, they're a sound team, and a well-coached team. They played a heck of a lot better tonight than they did when I saw them against Smiley Saturday night," Walker continued. "We didn't play as well as we did against Clear Lake on Friday."

Marc Morris led Baytown Sterling with 12 points and 6 rebounds. Westbrook was paced by Dencil Wheaton with 18 points on 9 of 9 shooting, Antonio Wells finished with 12 points, Micheal Young had 15 points and 14 assists and Powell added 10 points. Westbrook shot 32 of 41 from the floor in the victory for 78% shooting.

Coach Walker discussed how much this team had meant to Sterling basketball, "this team had done a lot for Sterling basketball program." Walker was in his 19th season with Sterling and the only head coach in the school's history. "It wasn't so long ago we were 4-28," Walker said. Walker credited his principle with much of the program success, "Four years ago, Ed Wachtel gave us the 4th period freshman basketball class," Walker said. "That one thing put a lot of kids in our basketball program. It gave us a chance to teach the game all year long."

Two traditional powers came together with Houston Madison(35-0) and Houston Yates(24-8) in the second round. Coach Tom McDougald of Yates was facing his former mentor, Paul Benton. The two had been together at Madison for twelve years. "Our game tonight could be a war," Benton said. "We've played Tom's team twice this season and had trouble in both games. In both games, Yates beat us on the boards." Madison had defeated Yates in the semi-finals of the Jaycees Tournament 78-61.

With over 10,000 fans at Hofheinz, Madison downed Yates(24-9) 95-74. The Marlins jumped on Yates quick taking a 38-17 lead with 14 unanswered points in the second quarter. Sean Gay led the scoring for Coach Benton with 28 points. "Sean plays every game, he's been really consistent, but every time we have a big game like this, he seems to give a little extra," Benton said. "We came out real hard on defense and played well early in this game. We knew we had to play well

on defense and keep the ball away from Bailey.” Ivan Jones joined Gay in the scoring column with 19 points and Tony Gatlin added 16 points. Daryl Johnson paced Yates with 21 points.

Spring Branch Memorial(29-5) led the entire way against Houston Wheatley(20-11) and put the Wildcats and Jackie Carr on the sidelines. 6’7” Gilchrist and 6’4” Mark Hendry were a tough combo finishing with a combined 48 points. Gilchrist was 25/12 and Hendry added 23 points. Pete Fink also had 12 points. “I felt it was a good solid basketball game,” Coach Don Coleman said. “This was the first time we’ve played them since Wheatley beat us 52-47 in the 1969 state finals,” Coleman said. “We were of course looking for Wheatley’s press and had worked against it. We got the ball up and down the court in good position and made our shots. Beating the press was certainly the key.” For Wheatley, Greg Bundage finished with 14 points and Eddie Cumbo and James Turk put up 11 each.

“Basically, what we did was slow it down and got the ball inside and took good shots,” Gilchrist said. “They came back in spurts, but we stayed with our game plan.”

Regional Semis

Coach Don Coleman’s scouting report on Beaumont Pollard(25-8) was that they were extremely quick with good shooters and strong rebounders. In 23 seasons at Memorial, Coleman had taken seven teams to regionals. Coach Coleman returned four starters from his state finalist team of the previous season.

At Hofheinz Pavillion, Spring Branch Memorial(29-5) was favored with their fundamental strong inside attack. Beaumont Pollard was somewhat of an after-thought, but once the game began that was not the case. Pollard’s full-court pressure and quickness proved to be the difference against Memorial, as the Cougars advanced to the finals 51-38. Gilchrist was able to score 18 points on 7 of 15 shooting from the floor with 14 rebounds. “Defense was the key,” Pollard Coach James White said. “We Played the kind of defense we wanted to play and got them out of some of the things they like to do.” Because of their big lead at 31-22, Memorial had to get away from their 2-3 zone and go man. Alfred Minix was the key player for Pollard hitting the outside shots drawing Memorial out of their zone. “They just had so much quickness,” Coleman said. “Without question, quickness was the big difference, that and our inability to score during that 12-point stretch.” Coleman continued saying, “they took us out of our own game and made us do some things we didn’t want to do. We didn’t play all that well, but you’ve got to give Pollard some credit. They’ve got a good ball club.” Minix led Pollard with 10 points and Archie Corbin followed with nine points. For the Mustangs, Hendry finished with 13 points. Memorial ended the season at 29-6.

“I felt like it was going to be a slow-down type game the entire game after the first half,” Coach James White of Pollard said. “But I think we were able to get them away from some of the things they like to do in the second half.” White

continued discussing Minix, “when he saw them sagging inside, he did what he was supposed to do—shoot.” The Cougars opened in a full-court press, but abandoned it early because Memorial seemed to be handling it pretty well. Pollard ran a sagging man to man defense and zone trying to contain 6’7” Gilchrist. “Our main goal was to deny him the ball,” White said. “I saw him last year at the state tournament and he can dominate a game. We didn’t want him to do that against us. He had a fine game, but he didn’t dominate it the way we know he can.”

Everybody had their eye on Houston Madison(36-0) and for good reason. Nationally ranked and undefeated, they were heavy favorites. Coach Paul Benton of Madison commented before the game with Beaumont Westbrook(29-3), “we have not seen Westbrook, but I know they’ve got to a good team. They were regional finals last year and Coach Williams always has the type of team that plays well.”

Westbrook would look to the outside shooting of Michael Young and Antonio Wells. In big games, Dencil Wheaton had also come up big for the Bruins, shooting 80% from the floor against Pollard and P.A. Jefferson. Wheaton commented on facing Madison, “people and the papers say how good they are, I’m excited about playing a team like that. I really want to play them. I want to see how good they are.”

For Westbrook(29-4) it would be their second time in three years playing the state’s top ranked team that was also nationally ranked. The Bruins had lost to Houston Yates in the 1983 regional semi-finals. Westbrook again went down in defeat to Madison 87-68. Coach Williams of Westbrook compared the two opponents after his loss saying, “Madison was better than Yates in 1983, they are quicker than any one team I’ve ever seen in 14 years of coaching. They are an outstanding group.” Remember, Coach Williams had won three straight state titles while coaching at Beaumont Hebert. He had tremendous success at Kountze and Silsbee also. He knew his basketball.

Michael Young commented after the loss, “they are one of the best teams to play against Westbrook. They beat us on the boards. And we didn’t do a very good job blocking out. We gave it our best and they came out on top.” Coach Williams continued saying, “we were outmanned, I don’t care what anybody says, I’ve been on both sides now. We’ve outmanned people, and I’ve been outmanned.” Williams finished by saying, “we couldn’t block their shots, but they could block ours.”

Madison jumped out of the gate to a 24-15 lead and went on to a 19-point victory. Gay and Ivan Jones led the Marlins with 15 points each as did Pat Crocklin. The Bruins(29-4) had David Powell put up 15 points, Tim Hickman finished with 15 points and Antonio Wells added 11 points. Michael Young was held to only nine points. Westbrook finished the season as one of the best teams in the state

having beaten Pollard three times and split with Pt. Arthur Lincoln. Their final record stood at 29-4.

Regional Finals

The regional finals had two of the quickest teams in the state going at one another. Houston Madison(37-0) proved to be quicker than Pollard(26-8) with a 90-76 victory. The Marlins scored 8 field goals off turnovers using their presses. "The Press was the key today, as it had been all season," Benton said. "I'm happy for this team because this is what they've worked for all season." Benton continued, "we didn't play as good as we can, but well enough to win. Pollard had some good athletes, and did you notice that they never quit? We did today what we've done all season long, match-up man-to-man on the press and do a lot of running and jumping," Benton said. "We've been able to press all season long and no one has made us come out of it yet. Our defense sets up our fast break offense. We've had the depth to do it without fouls hurting us."

Benton was celebrating nine straight seasons in the playoffs and another state tournament appearance. "They got several back-court turnovers off the press and turned them into points," Pollard coach James White said. "I thought we were quick, but Madison is much quicker. And they've got some jumpers and shooters. They certainly have the talent to win it all." Coach White continued his comments saying, "Their quickness was the difference, they cause a lot of turnovers and they don't let you get into what you're supposed to do on offense. It's frustrating. They have a real good denial-type defense, the best I've seen this year," White explained.

"We didn't expect to blow anybody out," Benton said. "We just wanted to use our quickness and depth to put a lot of pressure on people and take them out of their offense, it worked." Madison led 45-28 at intermission and 63-44 entering the fourth quarter. Madison shot 60% from the floor and Pollard finished shooting 40%.

Madison forced 14 first half turnovers with their full court pressure. "We like to get teams in an upbeat tempo," Sean Gay of Madison commented. "If we can do that, we feel like we can win the game."

Sean Gay led the charge for the Marlins with 27 points on 13 of 17 from the floor. For a guard, those are incredible numbers. Yes, I know many were lay-ups because of the pressure defense, but none the less, impressive. Gerry McGee came away with 17 points, Cedric Brown had 13 and Tony Gatlin kicked in 11 points. For Pollard, Duane Prickett finished with 15, Jon Patton had 14 points, Archie Corbin and Alfred Minix both had 12 points and Leonard James 10. It had to be depressing putting five players in double figures and losing by 14 points. Madison had that effect on their opponents. The 14-point loss was the closest any team came to competing with Madison all season.

Coach Benton discussed his pressing defense which had led to the team's success during the season. "We call it a rover press, that's been the key to our season." Benton said. "We started it in 1979. We played half-court defense most of the year, but with the quickness of our personal, we decided to switch and have been running it ever since. It seems like we get quicker people every year." Coach Benton also discussed Madison's depth saying, "tough man defense in an aggressive manner is possible because foul trouble is not a concern. We have enough depth that fouls really haven't hurt us."

Pollard's Archie Corbin commented about Madison saying, "they have a combination of size and quickness that really makes that defense work well. And it can get you frustrated."

Houston Marian(29-3) won their 3rd straight 3-A Christian Interscholastic league title in 1985. Marian was led by three division one players who all three committed to the University of Houston. McDonald's All-America, 7'1" Tito Horford, was the most publicized, followed by 6'10" Russell Perry and 6'7" Steve Smith. Smith transferred in from Deer Park his senior year. The private school only enrolled 327 students, but defeated 16 class 5-A schools during the season. St. Gerard fell to Marian in the TCIL finals 80-56. The Colts were coached by Bob Gallagher.

It was discussed that Houston Marian might be the best team in Texas regardless of classification. Really that's not a serious discussion. Marian biggest victories of the season came against Houston Sam Houston(28-6) 72-69, Houston Lee(21-10) 57-52, A&M Consolidated(21-10) 41-38, Houston Austin(18-12) 48-47, Houston Northbrook(20-12) 69-62, and Sweeny(31-3) 54-49. Their only three losses came at the hands of Aldine MacArthur(30-3) twice 58-43 and 61-53 in three overtimes, and the third loss was an upset loss to Galveston O'Connell(8-14) in District action.

Head Coach Bob Lewis of O'Connell knew he would have to face Houston Marian in District action three times. In order to get his team ready, he faced as many 4-A and 5-A teams as possible. His team had losses against Spring High, Pasadena Dobie(20-10), Galveston Ball(11-18) and Conroe(34-3) 110-73. Heading into District action O'Connell stood at 4-13. In the first meeting between Marian and O'Connell, Marian had little trouble winning 74-50. In the re-match, Coach Lewis decided his new strategy was to stall the entire game. "I've been preaching all year to these guys they had to be patient and force teams to play at our pace," Lewis said. As Marian arrived at O'Connell, they could see the natives were ready with the band, signs, and the rowdies with their face paint. O'Connell proceeded to pull the upset of the season defeating Marian 18-17. "It feels great to see the fruits of our labor payoff," Coach Lewis said. "I made all the right decisions; the lord was blessing me." O'Connell actually outrebounded Marin 12 to 5.

Jeff Yeatman of O'Connell hit the winning basket and said following the big win, "this is the highlight of my career. It feels good, but I don't have words to really describe it." Michael Kleinecke commented, "I'll remember it for the rest of my life." John Levins of O'Connell joined in saying, "coach really knew what he was doing scheduling all those 5-A schools as a tune up for Marian, because Marian plays like a 5-A school.

In the re-match, Marian took care of business winning 81-57. To make sure they didn't get behind during the game, Marian scored off every jump ball at the start of each quarter. Marian went into the playoffs at 24-3, while O'Connell finished 8-14 and 4-2 in District.

There were rumors about Marian being a farm club for the University of Houston with all three recruits signing with the Cougars. Coach Gallagher tried to dispel the rumors saying, "that's all rubbish, absolute rubbish." Gallagher conveyed that he had never heard of Smith until he enrolled in Marian. "I know it looks nice and makes good copy, but it's just a bunch of bullcorn."

The Texas Association of Private Schools and Texas Christian Interscholastic League began discussions to combine leagues. TAPS had 63 schools and TCIL supported 48 schools.

NBA NOTES-Larry Bird was one steal away a quadruple double in 1985. Against the Jazz, Bird had 30 points, 12 rebounds, 10 assists and 9 steals entering the fourth quarter. Bird had played 42 minutes the night before against the Lakers and with the Celtics having a comfortable lead, he decided to rest the 4th quarter. "If it had been close, I'd have been in there, but when you've ahead by 30 points, what do you have to prove." **Trivia:** Can you name the only four players in NBA history to accomplish the feat. Texan Clyde Drexler came close in 1996 against Sacramento finishing with 25-points, 10-rebounds, 10-steals, and 9-assists. HINT: The answer does not include Michael Jordan, Wilt Chamberlin, Jerry West, Oscar Robertson, Magic Johnson or LeBron James.

Region IV Playoffs

Corpus Christi King(23-9)

Austin L.B.J.(23-9)

San Antonio Lee(28-6)

San Antonio Marshall(18-13)

Austin Johnston(19-8)

South San Antonio(21-11)

San Antonio Highlands(22-9)

Pharr San Juan-Alamo(29-5)

San Antonio Fox Tech(27-4)

Alvin(22-13)

San Antonio Holmes(14-13)

San Antonio Roosevelt(23-10)

Angleton(25-4) #7

Eagle Pass(21-8)

Corpus Christi Miller(24-4)

Harlingen(28-5)

Top Five in Region IV

6'5" Carl Nuckols

6'1" Tim Hobby

6'3" Amaro Hernandez

6'8" Thomas Thames

6'3" Tony Bryant

Austin Travis

Alvin

Eagle Pass

South San Antonio

Corpus Christi King

Region IV had only one state ranked team in the top ten by the T.A.B.C., Angleton(25-4), and they were out in the first round. In my final top 25, not one

team came out of Region IV. All the most competitive teams came from Region II and Region III. As expected, it was a wild and unpredictable playoff run. Representatives from Austin, San Antonio and Corpus Christi battled it out for the right to travel to Austin. Of the top five players I recognized in the region, only one advanced to regionals.

25-AAAAA

Angleton(25-4) was pretty highly thought of by the T.A.B.C. in the state rankings. To be honest, they played a pretty soft schedule and their District was not one of the toughest. Angleton took care of business defeating runner-up Alvin(22-12) both times in District. Angleton came out on top 68-53 and 68-59 to finish undefeated in 25-5A. Alvin(22-12) claimed the runner-up spot coming away with a 11-3 record. Willowridge split with Alvin in District action. Willowridge won the first game 69-53 and lost the return 64-53. Tim Hobby of Alvin won the District M.V.P. honors. 6'5" Jeff Blice and 6'4" Tolbert Routt were named first team All-District for Angleton and Bryan Eason was named to the second team.

All-District 1st Team- Tim Hobby-Alvin, 6'5" Jeff Blice-Angleton, 6'3" Anthony Young-Willowridge, 6'4" Tolbert Routt-Angleton, 6'3" Otha Hayes-Clements, 6'6" Todd Redmond-Lamar Consolidated: **2nd Team-** Bryan Eason-Angleton, John Saladin-Dulles, Charles Arbuckie-Willowridge, Luke Lucky-Rosenberg Terry, Craig McKenzie-Alvin, Darnell Fluellen-Alvin: M.V.P. Tim Hobby, "Coach of the Year"-Phil Reynolds-Angleton:

Standings: Angleton(29-4) 14-0, Alvin(22-12) 11-3, Willowridge(20-13) 9-5, Clements(18-14) 8-6, Dulles(14-15) 6-8, Rosenberg Terry(8-20) 3-11, Lamar Consolidated(7-21) 1-12, Brazoswood(4-23) 1-12:

26-AAAAA

The Austin's District was so large they had to split in into zones. To my knowledge it was the only class 5-A District in the U.I.L. split into zones. Hope you can follow this because it gets somewhat complicated, as we have all these playoff games just to get out of District. Austin L.B.J.(21-9) won the North title outright with a 7-1 record. Austin Anderson(15-11) and Austin Reagan(19-13) finished tied for 2nd place at 5-3. The two teams had a playoff to see who would advance to the zone playoffs. Anderson won the game handily 53-37 and advanced.

Austin Johnston(17-7) won the South zone with a 6-2 record, followed by Austin Travis(17-12) and Austin High(16-15) both at 5-3. Once again, a playoff was needed to decide the zone representative. Austin Travis came away with a 61-55 win, eliminating Austin High. This laid the foundation for the zone playoffs between the winners and runners-up from the opposite zone. The zone winner received a big advantage, because the playoff game was going to be played on their home court. Austin L.B.J.(21-9) defeated Austin Travis(18-12) 72-62 to advance to the state playoffs, while Austin Johnston(18-7) took out Austin Anderson(16-11) 61-55.

This set up the all-important District championship game between Austin L.B.J.(22-9) and Austin Johnston(19-7). The contest was played at the Burger Center and L.B.J. won the District title 63-59. Cedric Tealer hit a 20-footer with 14

seconds remaining to put L.B.J. in control of the game. Ray Marshall hit a layup with two second left to give L.B.J. a four-point advantage. Hopefully you followed all of the games and playoffs. It can get confusing.

Coach Mike McShane guided Austin L.B.J. to the best record in Austin and a District championship. McShane was in his first season with L.B.J. after coaching seven years at Austin Travis under B.J. Wolf. L.B.J. made the playoffs for the first time in school history. The Jaguars relied on speed and quickness and timely outside shooting. 6'3" post Nathan McDonald(10.0) was "Sophomore of the Year" two years early at Austin High and had transferred to L.B.J. McDonald was an integral part of L.B.J.'s balanced offensive attack. Other key players were 6'2" Daryl Wesley(14.0), 6'2" Mike Sweeney(10.0) and 6'2" Ray Marshall(10.0). Wesley and Sweeney provided the outside shooting touch for the Jaguars. Seven of the top eight players were seniors for L.B.J. 5'7" Chris Robinson ran the attack for coach McShane and was named District M.V.P.

Standings: **North Zone** Austin L.B.J.(21-9) 7-1, Austin Anderson(15-11) 5-3, Austin Reagan(19-13) 5-3, Austin McCallum(12-17) 2-6, Austin Lanier(10-18) 1-7:

South Zone: Austin Johnston(17-7) 6-2, Austin Travis(17-12) 5-3, Austin High(16-15) 5-3, San Marcos(14-17) 4-4, Austin Crockett(2-23) 0-8:

All-District: 1st Team-6'5" Carl Nuckols, Austin Travis; 5'7" Chris Robinson, Austin L.B.J.; 6'1" Duane Rucker, Austin Anderson; 6'1" Dennis Walker, San Marcos; 6'8" Kevin Ruffcorn, Austin; 2nd Team-Daryl Wesley, L.B.J.; Ray Marshall, L.B.J.; Jason Shead, Austin Johnston; Cedric Tealer, Austin Johnston; Anthony Wills, Austin Reagan; "Coach of the Year"-Mike McShane of Austin L.B.J.; "Sophomore of the Year"-Reggie Grant, Austin Reagan; "Player of the Year"-Chris Robinson of Austin L.B.J.

27-AAAAA

In the final game of the regular season, S.A. Lee(27-6) took the District championship with a 33-31 victory over the Rough Riders of S.A. Roosevelt(22-10). Jimmy Rehler put in three free throws in the final 11 seconds to give the Volunteers their first District title since 1977. Lee's second year coach, M.T. Williamson, was elated. Roosevelt tried to control the tempo against Lee relying on the inside game of Ed Mills and Mark Juvette. On defense, the Rough Riders played a sagging 2-3 zone on Jimmy Rehler and shaded standout guard, Charles Watson of Lee. The result was a very tough low scoring game. Roosevelt's defense held Rehler to 11 points and Watson to only 2 points. "We were playing not to lose," Coach Williamson said. For Roosevelt, Mills was 7 of 8 from the floor for 14 points and Juvette was 5 of 7 for 11 points. Lee had beaten Roosevelt in the first half of District 58-54.

Lee finished at 10-2 in District action and took first place. Converse-Judson(23-8) looked to be on their way to the playoffs when they were ambushed by the Seguin Matadors(10-19). Seguin was not thought to be a challenge at 2-9, but that's why they play'em. Seguin stunned Judson 53-48 to force a tie between Judson and S.A. Roosevelt at 8-4. A victory by Judson would have put them in the playoffs.

The two teams would have to face off for the right to gain the playoff spot. The San Antonio Light came out with their end of the season rankings which looked as follows:

1. S.A. Fox Tech 27-4
2. S.A. Lee 27-6
3. Shultz-Clemens 23-7
4. S.A. Highlands 22-9
5. Converse Judson 23-8
6. S.A. Roosevelt 22-10
7. S.A. Sam Houston 22-9
8. San Antonio Southwest 20-9
9. S.A. Central Catholic 20-9
10. South San Antonio 21-11
- S.A. East Central 20-12

Converse Judson(23-8) and San Antonio Roosevelt(22-10) would settle things at Alamo Stadium Gym. Coach Jerry Tyson of Roosevelt described his excitement at a second life playing Judson. "We felt like the season had ended, then all of sudden it was Christmas again." On the other side of the coin stood coach Jim Shuler of Judson. "Really over the last four ballgames we didn't play well, we were able to win two of them, but I didn't feel we played well." Judson defeated S.A. MacArthur(12-19) 50-43 and S.A. Churchill(16-9) 56-53, but came up short against S.A. Lee(27-6) 52-50 and Seguin(10-19) 53-48. Judson was going to look to Chris Keith(11.0) on the outside and 6'5" Fred Battles(14.0) inside. 6'6" Torrence Wilkerson, 6'5" Gerald Embry and 6'4" Darrell Henderson dominated the Rockets inside game. Roosevelt looked to senior post, 6'4" Ed Mills(19.5/10.0), to carry the majority of the load shooting 60% from the floor. "Bless his heart he's seen ever defense in the world this year," Tyson said. In the first meeting between the two schools, Mills had contributed 22 points in the Rough Riders 58-56 win. In the re-match, Judson turned the tables winning 60-52, but Mills still came away with 21 points.

S.A. Roosevelt advanced to the playoffs defeating Converse Judson and ending the Rockets season. Roosevelt advanced to the big dance once again. They would face a familiar opponent in S.A. Marshall(17-13) in Bi-District.

Standings: S.A. Lee(27-6) 10-2, S.A. Roosevelt(23-10) 8-4, Converse Judson(23-9) 8-4, S.A. Churchill(16-9) 6-6, S.A. Madison(13-19) 4-8, S.A. MacArthur(12-19) 3-9, Seguin(10-19), 3-9:

28-AAAAA

S.A. Marshall(17-13) took District a game ahead of S.A. Holmes(14-13) and S.A. Jay(11-16), who tied for second place. Marshall went 8-2 in a District 28-5A with only two teams with winning records. Holmes defeated Jay in a District playoff to advance into the state playoffs.

Standings: S.A. Marshall(17-13) 8-2, S.A. Holmes(14-13) 7-3, S.A. Jay(11-16) 7-3, S.A. Clark(12-18) 5-5, Del Rio(9-16) 3-7, S.A. Kennedy(3-26) 0-10.

29-AAAAA

Many viewed Fox Tech as the top team in San Antonio. The San Antonio Light had them rated number one. The Buffaloes were athletic once again and dominated District action going undefeated. Fox Tech finished with regular season on a 19-game winning streak dating back to their loss to Midland Lee in the Optimist tournament in December. Fox Tech was one of the favorites to advance to Austin from region IV.

S.A. Highlands(22-9) returned four seniors from a regional finalist team in 1984. After a 48-47 loss to S.A. Jefferson(14-17), Highlands stood at 12-8 on the season and proceeded to win 11 of their next 12 games. Their only loss came to Fox Tech. The big win for second place was against a familiar foe, S.A. Sam Houston(22-9) 59-54. Highlands split with Sam Houston and bounced twice by Fox Tech.

Standings: S.A. Fox Tech(27-4) 14-0, S.A. Highlands(22-9) 11-3, S.A. Sam Houston(22-9) 10-4, S.A. Jefferson(14-17) 6-8, S.A. Burbank(14-17) 6-8, S.A. Edison(15-19) 4-10, S.A. Lanier(11-18) 4-10, S.A. Wheatley(3-25) 1-13:

30-AAAAA

Eagle Pass(21-8) took the District crown over South San Antonio(21-11) in 30-5A. Both teams had great individuals who paced their teams to the playoffs. 6'3" Amaro Hernandez(23.0) was the key player for Eagle Pass, while 6'8" Thomas Thames(21.5/14.9) of South SA was one of the most dominating players in the state. Thames was only a junior and went on to Texas A&I in Kingsville after high school. Hernandez was named District M.V.P. and coach Bill Batey of Eagle Pass was named "Coach of Year" in his second season with the Eagles. Rene Elizondo and Paul Abrams were also named All-District for Eagle Pass. Their two losses in District came at the hands of S.A. McCollum(12-19) and East Central(20-12).

The District title came down to the last game of the regular season with Eagle Pass taking the title with 54-50 over South San Antonio. Although South was disappointed, second year coach Jimmy Littleton was elated to make the playoffs. The two teams were really battling to see who would have to go up against S.A. Fox Tech in the first round of the playoffs. Coach Littleton said, "there's no doubt, that they're the toughest team in town."

Standings: Eagle Pass(21-8) 12-2, South San Antonio(21-11) 11-3, S.A. East Central(20-12) 9-5, Laredo Nixon(16-16) 8-6, Laredo Martin(12-15) 7-7, S.A. McCollum(12-19) 6-8, Laredo Cigarroa(14-18) 3-12, Harlandale(3-27), 0-14:

31-AAAAA

Corpus Christi Miller lost their only game in District 31-5A in the opener against Corpus Christi King 78-76 in double overtime. Miller returned the favor in the rematch 79-76. Miller took the District title with a 15-1 record. Two players were critical to the success of C.C. Miller during the season. 6'8" Vernon

Perdue(15.8) and 6'0" Michael Howze(11.5) were the catalyst for Miller, both signed division one scholarships. Perdue with S.M.U. and Howze as a senior with Texas State. Howze was only a junior and was an interictal part in Miller's success over a three-year period. Miller was 46-14 during Howze two varsity campaigns. Miller also held a win in Pre-district over a talented Temple team by three points. This was an indication of Miller's strength state wide. Unfortunately, Miller lost to South Oak Cliff 101 to 68 also during the preseason.

Corpus Christi King was able to take the runner-up position in the playoffs, but it was definitely a struggle. One of King's best players was 6'2" Tony Bryant. Bryant had been ineligible for all but the last eight games of District action due to grades. Sophomore, Barry Brin eligibility was also called into question. Brin had transferred in from Incarnate Word in Corpus Christi without the proper paper work. Brin played as a freshman at Incarnate Word and started for the Mustangs as a sophomore. The District committee ruled in Brin's favor and the Mustangs didn't have to forfeit the season. Mustang coach, Sam Odoms, was living on the edge.

Both King and Miller took warm-up games in preparation for the playoffs. C.C. King lost a close one to class AAA regional finalist, West Oso 67-64. The Bears press forced King into 15 turnovers and West Oso went 19 of 29 from the foul line to secure the win. The Mustangs looked like they could comeback against West Oso, but unfortunately, they called a timeout of which they didn't have. The Bears knocked down both foul shots and got the ball back to secure the victory. Darrell McGee finished with 18 points and Tony Bryant managed to put up 20 points for the Mustangs. Gilbert Cantu paced West Oso with 20 points and Roger Fernandez added 13 points. 6'0" Darrell McGee of King played at New Mexico following graduation and had a nice career starting for the Lobos.

C.C. Miller was scheduled to face Gregory Portland, but was forced to cancel because four of their five starters were out with injuries or the flu.

Final Standings-Corpus Christi Miller(25-5) 15-1, Corpus Christi King(25-10) 13-3, Victoria(18-14) 11-5, Victoria Stroman(12-15) 10-6, Corpus Christi Carroll(19-12) 8-7, Corpus Christi Ray(13-16) 7-8, Corpus Christi Moody(8-22) 3-12, Alice(13-17) 2-13, Kingville(9-20) 2-13:

Coaches All-District Team- 6'5" Ronnie James took M.V.P. honors. **1st Team**-6'1" Tom Gant, Victoria; 6'8" Vernon Perdue, CC Miller; 6'1" Michael Howze, CC Miller; 6'1" Norman Clapp, CC Ray; 5'8" Carl Nolan, CC King; **2nd Team**-6'3" Clint Middleton, CC King; 6'1" Lamar Williams, CC Moody; 5'11" Wesley Strait, Victoria Stroman; 6'3" Michael Hobbs, CC Carroll; 6'3" Richard Ray, Victoria: 6'2" Tony Bryant was left off the team because he was ineligible during most of the season. He averaged 20.0 per game and was a key player for Coach Odoms. Hobbs transferred to Clear Lake his senior year and later played at Baylor.

All-District: 6'5" Ronnie James of Alice was named District M.V.P. by the District coaches and the Victoria Advocate and Corpus Christi Times. Unanimous choices were 6'1" Tony Gant(21.8) of Victoria, 6'8" Vernon Perdue(15.8) of C.C. Miller, 6'2" Tim Williams(21.9) from C.C. Carroll. Others named to the 11-man squad were, 5'8" Carl Nolan(16.3) from C.C. King, 6'0" Michael Howze(11.5) from C.C. Miller, 6'3" Norman Clapp(12.5) of C.C. Ray. Vance Heard was named Coach of Year. King's 6'2" Barry Blin(10.6) was named "Sophomore of the Year." Blin was a controversial player because of his transfer being undocumented on time. The team was named March 3, 1985, before regionals.

32-AAAAA

Harlingen(28-5) and Pharr-San Juan Alamo(29-5) tied for District honors, both finishing with 16-2 records. In the District playoff between the two teams, Harlingen took the top seed in the playoffs with a 76-64 victory. PSJA had actually won 29 of 31 games, but ended up losing their last two games of the regular season to Harlingen. The Cardinals star was Johnnie Jackson(17.4), who scored 27 points and finished with 17 rebounds in Harlingen's first victory over PSJA. The Harlingen victory forced the teams into a District playoff. Brownsville Hanna(20-10) finished in 3rd place with a 12-6 record.

6'1" Robert Silva(18.9) of Pharr-San Juan-Alamo was named District M.V.P. as well as, "Player of the Year" in the Valley by the Brownsville Herald. Jaime Gongora(14.7) was another standout for Coach Erasmo Molina of P-SJ-A. Harlingen was making their second straight trip to the state playoffs. Keys for Cardinals were 6'2" Johnnie Jackson(17.4/10.0) and 5'10" Art Rangel(17.1). Coach Carl Owens of Harlingen and Molina shared "Coach of the Year" honors in District 32-5A. 6'2" Steve Alaniz(14.2) of Edinburg and sophomore, Gabriel Valdez(15.2) of Weslaco rounded out the first team All-District squad. Valdez was named "Sophomore of the Year."

Jackson and Alaniz were both big time football recruits with Alaniz signing with Notre Dame and Jackson taking his talents to the University of Houston. Alaniz was a starting wide receiver and considered one of the best wide outs to ever come out of the Valley. He was on the Irish's national championship team in 1988. At Edinburg High, he had hauled in 68 passes his senior year in high school. That total ranked second in the state back in the 1984 season. Tim Brown and "Rocket" Ismail were the primary targets at Notre Dame, which limited Alaniz's touches. Alaniz almost signed with Texas because his father was close with Texas head man, Fred Akers, who was from Edinburg. When Eric Metcalf signed with Texas, Alaniz looked to the Irish. Gerry Faust had one scholarship remaining at Notre Dame and offered it to Alaniz. Alaniz was inducted into the Rio Grande Valley Sports Hall of Fame in 2018.

Jackson played both offense and defense on the gridiron as a quarterback and cornerback in high school. You're probably thinking it would be tough to top Alaniz football exploits, but Jackson went one step further playing four seasons in the N.F.L. at cornerback. He was drafted in the 5th round by the 49ers. While at the University of Houston, Jackson wanted to play quarterback, but quickly learned there were more opportunities on defense at safety.

In a 1987 game against the University of Texas, Jackson intercepted three passes and returned each for a touchdown. It had never been done before or since in a college game. He was named honorable mention All-American.

Standings: Harlingen(28-5) 16-2, Pharr-San Juan Alamo(29-5) 16-2, Brownsville Hanna(20-10) 12-6, Mission(8-21) 3-15, Porter(12-15) 6-12, Brownsville Memorial(7-18) 3-15:

All-District 32-5A: M.V.P. 6'1" Robert Silva(18.9) PSJA, "Coach of The Year" Erasmo Molina, P-SJ-A and Carl Owens of Harlingen, **1st Team-** 5'10" Art Rangel(17.1), Harlingen; 6'2" Johnnie Jackson(17.4/10.0), Harlingen; Jaime Gongora(14.7), P-SJ-A; Steve Alaniz(14.2), Edinburg; Gabriel Valdez, Weslaco: **2nd Team-** David Mayorga, McAllen; Rick Vera, P-SJ-A; Mando Perez, Brownsville Hanna; Derek Dooley, Mission; Gino Trevino, Brownsville Hanna: **3rd Team-** Lupe Aguirre, Weslaco; Xavier Garcia, Brownsville Hanna; Scott Uhlaender, McAllen; Randy Bocanegra, McAllen Memorial; Andy Silva, P-SJ-A:

All-Valley Team as selected by the Brownsville Herald

M.V.P. -6'1" Robert Silva(18.9) P-SJ-A; "Coach of the Year" Carl Owens of Harlingen; **1st Team-** 6'2" Johnnie Jackson(17.4/10.0), Harlingen; 5'10" Art Rangel(17.1), Harlingen; Jaime Gongora(14.7), P-SJ-A; 6'2" Isidro Casanova(25.2), LaJoya; **2nd Team-** Gabriel Valdez(15.2), Weslaco; Jaimie Solis(17.2) Rio Grande City; Billy Stephenson(20.7) Raymondville; Roel Silva(15.6), Roma; Steve Alaniz(14.2), Edinburg; Honorable Mention-Tommy Gonzales(24.1), Donna:

Playoffs

Corpus Christi King(24-9) and Harlingen(28-4) got after it at Corpus Christi Ray High School in their Bi-District game. The Mustangs of King started 6'3" Clint Middleton(16.7), 5'8" Carl Nolan, 6'0" Darrell McGee(12.0), 6'2" Barry Brin(11.9) and standout, 6'2" Tony Bryant(22.9). Middleton was the team's best inside threat, while Nolan was a quick point guard and team leader. McGee and Brin could both stroke it from outside and Bryant was an all-around threat.

King's speed proved to be too much against Harlingen. The Mustangs moved to the second round with a 78-68 victory. Harlingen standout, 6'2" Johnnie Jackson(17.0/10.0), played only six minutes because of foul trouble. "Their quickness and speed got to us," Coach Carl Owens of Harlingen said. "Besides Houston Madison, they are the quickest team we've faced." *(*Harlingen had lost earlier in the season to Madison by 45 points, 83-38. Yes, that is the correct score.*

If referring to Jackson's foul trouble coach Owens said, "Poor officiating, four of the five fouls called on Jackson were poor calls. We need him to stay in the ball game for us," Owens continued. "He's only fouled out one time all season and he comes here and fouls out."

"That's what we wanted to do," explained Tony Bryant. "We figured if we got Jackson in foul trouble, it would be easier on us." Jackson could only manage 4 points.

Coach Odoms of C.C. King felt the difference in the game occurred when the Cardinals switched to man to man defense and began running with the Mustangs. "They got to running and gunning with us and there wasn't much that they could do, they're just not as fast or quick as us." C.C. King had some balanced scoring with Carl Nolan putting up 17 points, Darrell McGee connected on 13 points, Barry Blin finished with 10, Clint Middleton had 21 and Tony Bryant good for 17 points. Art Rangel was the only real scoring threat from the outside putting up 28 points for Harlingen.

Corpus Christi Miller(24-4) traveled to Pharr-San Juan-Alamo(25-4) for their Bi-District match-up. Robert Silva(18.9) and Jaime Gongora(14.7) were the leaders for PSJA. C.C. Miller came in on a 14-game winning streak and a lot of

momentum. Perdue(14.7), Howze(12.8), James Sanders(12.0) and Bobby Robinson(10.4) would try to move the Bucs to the next round.

Corpus Christi Miller(24-4) advanced with a 78-71 win over Pharr-San Juan-Alamo(29-4). Miller had balanced scoring with five players hitting double figures. Bobby Robinson and Micheal Howze led Miller with 17 points apiece. Robert Silva put up 25 points in a losing effort for P-SJ-A along with Jamie Gongora's 22 points. Vernon Perdue was held to 12 points and 10 rebounds. "Every time I got the ball, they fouled me, I was out for blood," Perdue said. Coach Vance Heard of C.C. Miller commented after the game, "We're not what you'd call a good outside shooting ballclub. Our district coaches never figured that out. We like to have a good, physical inside game." Miller dominated the boards with a 36-18 rebounding advantage. PSJA ended the season at 25-5.

Austin L.B.J.(24-9) prepared for the playoffs for the first time against 25-5A runner-up Alvin(22-12). The teams met in Columbia. Guard Tim Hobby was one of the top guards in the state for Alvin. He was the 25-5A District M.V.P. and would have to be contained in order to beat Alvin. Hobby set the state record for consecutive foul shots with 66 in a row during the regular season. Alvin was coached by Bill Erwin and finished 11-3 in District action.

6'3" Nathan McDonald was the star for L.B.J.(24-9) in the team's 75-62 win over Alvin(22-13). McDonald came up with 24 points, as L.B.J. was able to put multiple players in double figures. Alvin was forced to get out of their 2-3 zone early and go man, because of the outside shooting of the Jaguars. Hobby was good for 23 points for Alvin, McKenzie added 17 and Woodson was good for 12 points.

Angleton(29-5) came into the playoffs riding high on an 18-game winning streak. 6'5" Jeff Blice(18.5), 6'4" Tolbert Routt(15.0) and 6'0" Rodney Terry(11.0) carried most of the load for Coach Phil Reynolds, whose team finished 14-0 in District. Reynolds was in his 5th season at Angleton. Austin Johnston(19-8) had playoff experience advantage having made the playoffs three out of the previous four seasons.

Austin Johnston(19-8) came away with a minor upset defeating Angleton(29-5) 65-58. Jerome Moore and Jason Shead paced Johnston to the victory with 19 and 17 points, mostly from the outside. Johnston knocked down 15 of 28 foul shots in the victory. 6'6" Jeff Blice was the leader for Angleton with 22 points and 6'4" Routt added 20 points.

San Antonio Roosevelt(23-10) continued their struggles in the playoffs each year losing to S.A. Marshall(18-13) once again 45-35. Although the Rams were District champ's, they were not viewed as a real challenge to Rough Riders. Marshall had lost twice to Roosevelt in pre-district 71-53 and 69-55. Coach Sheridan Pearce of S.A. Marshall explanation had to do with always getting up for big games. "We peaked a little later than other teams," Pearce explained. Coach Jerry Tyson defended the defeat saying, "I don't think it's a Marshall-Roosevelt

thing, in this particular game, they did not out play us. They shot the ball well and we didn't." Roosevelt shot a miserable 31%, while Marshall shot a blistering 58% from the floor. Garrett Krueger led Marshall with 14 points and 8 boards. Joe Macom added 14 points for the Rams along with Kenny Chandler's 11 points and 5 rebounds. The Rams were 10 of 13 shooting in the second half. "We worked the ball in and were real patient," Coach Pearce said. Marshall ran a combination of man to man and 2-3 zone trying to contain Ed Mills(19.3) inside. Mills was only able to get up seven shots and finished with only nine points. Sophomore Arthur Massey carried the Rough Riders with 12 points. "If you can play five on one...and that's what it was," Tyson said, "we couldn't get anyone to hit from the outside."

Austin L.B.J.(24-9) had expected to be playing S.A. Roosevelt, but were delighted to be going against the Rams of S.A. Marshall(18-13). The Jaguars were under the leadership of first year coach Mike McShane. L.B.J. was playing with a great deal of confidence having won 18 out of their previous 19 games. L.B.J. liked to get up and down the court.

S.A. Marshall enjoyed a very discipline slower pace attack and was considered a very efficient team. Stars for Rams were 6'3" Garrett Krueger and 6'5" Mark Beavals. L.B.J. would need to rely on their quickness and speed to disrupt the Marshall disciplined attack.

The Rams were able to keep the tempo in their favor trailing 34-32 at the end of the 3rd quarter. At the beginning of the 4th quarter things fell apart for Marshall as L.B.J. scored ten straight points and took control of the contest. The Jaguars advanced to regionals with 42-36 victory. Garrett Krueger was leader for Marshall with 16 points. Point guard, Chris Johnson, came through for Jaguars with 12 points. Mike Sweeney followed with 10 points.

San Antonio Lee(28-6) Volunteers prepared for the playoffs playing an unusually high number of close low scoring games. Coach Williamson had a nice squad and called on 6'6" Jimmy Rehler(12.7/7.8) for inside strength and 5'9" Charles Watson(17.5) for athleticism and scoring. 6'2" Vic Matthews(6.2) proved to be a valuable sub after transferring in from West Oso. 6'4" Tony DeLorenzo came off the football field and provided size and strength inside. S.A. Lee had to feel pretty confident entering the playoffs having defeated their potential first round opponents S.A. Jay 60-52 and S.A. Holmes 72-52. The Volunteers also posted some impressive numbers averaging 57.2 points a game and allowing 47.9 defensively for a +9.5 margin of victory.

San Antonio Holmes(15-13) would need to play their best in order to compete with Lee in their playoff game. 5'11" Darium Wright(13.0) and 6'0" David McLaughlin(8.2) were leaders for S.A. Holmes. For the Huskies of S.A. Holmes, the future looked bright with the Cash twins playing big roles as just sophomores. 6'2" Keith Cash(9.0/8.0) and Kerry Cash were two of the top sophomores in San Antonio. S.A. Lee might have been looking past Holmes, having won earlier in the

season 75-52. As we know, all too well, looking past an opponent can prove to be costly. Coach Stanley Menn of Holmes was laying a little bait saying, "they just don't have any weaknesses offensively, they have a strong inside game and strong outside game.

S.A. Holmes and S.A. Lee went at it at Taylor Field House in San Antonio. The Volunteers were lucky to get away with their life winning a double overtime contest 58-55. Lee continued winning the close games. Austin Johnston(19-9) awaited S.A. Lee(29-6) in the second round at the Burger Center. In the two teams first-round games, Johnston had overachieved defeating state ranked Angleton, while S.A. Lee struggled against S.A. Holmes.

San Antonio Lee(28-6) finished the regular as the second ranked team in the Alamo City behind Fox Tech. Lee faced a strong challenge from Austin Johnston(19-8), a team that was playing their best basketball of the season. For the Volunteers of Robert E. Lee, it was their first District title in eight years. Austin Johnston was size challenged against SA Lee with their tallest player standing only 6'2" in George Walker.

Lee's ability to adapt continued to give them life during the playoffs as they switched to a match-up zone defense to off-set Johnston's quickness, rebounding advantage and outside shooting. Once again Lee was in a battle right down to the wire with the score tied 45-45 with only 42 seconds remaining. Roy Nietro of Austin Johnston(19-9) tied the score with two foul shots. The Volunteers ran the clock down to 12 seconds remaining and spent a timeout setting up their final play. "We set the ball up to get it either to Jimmy Rehler inside or Charles Watson on the wing," Coach Williamson said. Watson penetrated and dumped the ball off to 6'6" Rehler, who missed the first attempt inside, but was able to rebound his miss and put it back in for a 47-45 advantage with three seconds left. Lee moved to regionals on another typical last second victory. The Volunteers seemed to have nine lives.

Johnston created all kinds of problems for Lee with their full court pressure, forcing nine turnovers in the first half. Coach Williamson of SA Lee commented, "we felt the slow tempo hurt them more than it hurt us, I think our match-up zone seemed to confuse them." Austin Johnston was paced by George Walker with 14 points. Coach Castillo of Austin Johnston was disappointed, "we didn't get anything inside and was just a question of whether we could win with our perimeter shooting. It's awfully tough to win without an inside game." 6'6" Jimmy Rehler not only hit the game winner, but was high point man for S.A. Lee with 14 points.

San Antonio Fox Tech's(27-4) biggest challenge in Bi-District against South San Antonio(21-11) would be how to slow down 6'8" Thomas Thames(21.5/14.9) inside. The Buffaloes inside strength was centered around 6'5" Roger Wills(17.0/12.0), 6'6" John Rice and 6'2" Javon Blye. Point guard, Robert Harfield

and 6'0" Alvin Brown, manned the backcourt for the Buffaloes. Fox Tech(27-4) had a lot of momentum having won 19 straight. Coach Roland Lopez troops handled South San Antonio(21-11) with little trouble 58-41.

Eagle Pass(21-8) and Coach Bill Batey pinned their hopes on the multi-talented 6'3" Amaro Hernandez(23.0) against S.A. Highlands(22-9) in Bi-District. "He can handle the ball, he can run, he can shoot, he can pass," Batey said. Highlands and Coach John Kemmerzehl looked to 6'2" Elmo Byrd(14.9/10.2), 6'5" Thomas Carson(13.3/8.6), floor leader Charles Ellison and defensive specialist 5'8" Julius Hubbard. Highlands advanced to the 2nd round with a 72-59 victory.

In second round action, Corpus Christi King(24-9) met S.A. Highlands(23-9) at the Alamo Stadium in San Antonio. The Owls were making their 8th playoff appearance in 15 seasons. "I think probably we've played as well as any Highlands ballclub that I've had in the last three weeks. Not to say that their talent is as good as several years ago, or not even the ball club I had last year," Kemmerzehl said. "The talent they do have, they are utilizing to their maximum."

S.A. Highlands looked to 6'2" Elmo Byrd(15.0) and 6'5" Thomas Carson, Pat Hamilton, Charles Ellison and Julius Hubbard.

C.C. King held Highlands to 6 of 29 shooting on the evening in the second half and came away with a 54-44 win. "Rebounding was the key," Sam Odoms of King said following the big win. 6'3" Clint Middleton was impressive with 11 points and 20 rebounds. Highlands defensive strategy centered around controlling guards Barry Blin, Nolan and Tony Bryant. This freed up Middleton and McGee inside. Highlands had a rough third quarter shooting only 3 of 12 from the floor. McGee came away with 13 points, Brin kicked in 10, Nolan 10 and Bryant was held to only 8 points. For Highlands, Elmo Byrd put up 16 points and Thomas Carson put in 11 points.

Two District champions, San Antonio Fox Tech(28-4) and C.C. Miller(24-4) teed it up in the second game at Alamo Stadium. These two teams were considered the top ranked teams in their respective cities. The teams were real familiar with one another, because Fox Tech always played in the Corpus Christi Invitational each year. "They play that transition ball; they get up and down the court. They don't run to many patterns," Fox Tech coach Lopez said.

Coach Vance Heard discussed Tech saying, "They love to go inside. That's their game, they'll press and we'll have to take care of that. They're taller, but not stronger."

SA Fox Tech had not faced C.C. Miller earlier in the season, but did hold a two-point victory over C.C. King. A great individual match-up pitted 6'8" Perdue of C.C. Miller against 6'3" Roger Wills(17.0/12.0) of Fox Tech. Blye was the only returning starter from the Buffaloes state tournament team the previous year. Other key contributors for Coach Lopez included 6'6" John Rice and point guard, Robert Hartfield(13.0).

The Buccaneers and Buffaloes packed Alamo Stadium Gym and played a great game right down to the end. Javon Blye of Fox Tech proved to be the hero hitting an 18-foot baseline jump shot with three second on the clock. The basket gave Fox Tech a 66-64 victory. Coach Lopez and his troops would be making another trip to regionals as defending regional champions.

Things did not look good for the Buffaloes against C.C. Miller as Alvin Brown sprained his ankle and left the game with three fouls. Foul trouble looked like it would sink Fox Tech's hopes as 6'6" John Rice of Fox Tech also went to the bench with his 4th foul. The Buffaloes bench came to the rescue for Fox Tech. Greg King and Keith Hysaw came off the bench for Coach Lopez to spark the Buffaloes. "They were the difference tonight," Lopez said.

Fox Tech's 6'3" Roger Wills had a monster game inside finishing with 23 points for the Buffaloes. C.C. Miller had trouble all evening trying to slow the sophomore sensation down. Fox Tech came away with the advantage on the boards 35-21.

C.C. Miller committed nine turnovers in the 2nd quarter, which allowed Fox Tech to stay close. The scoring breakdown for Miller was as follows, Howze with 9 points, Sanders put up 13 points, and 6'8" Perdue led the charge with 22 points and 9 rebounds. Wills was helped by Harfield's 12 points and Blye finished with 9 points and 8 rebounds.

C.C. Miller actually had the ball in their court with the score tied 48 apiece. Coach Vance Heard of C.C. Miller called timeout to set up the last shot of the game. With 19 seconds remaining, the score tied, the Bucs had the ball. Miller's James Sanders drove in for a lay-up, which he missed and Fox Tech rebounded. Coach Heard commented after the game, "we should have won this game, we should not have taken that shot at that time. It was too early."

Sanders said following the game, "I forced the basket a little too much, I thought I had it for sure."

Regional Semis

As mentioned previously, Fox Tech(30-4) looked like the favorite to advance once again to state. S.A. Fox Tech battled city rival San Antonio Lee(29-6) in one regional match-up, while Austin L.B.J.(25-9) took on Corpus Christy King(25-9) in the other.

Obviously both Austin L.B.J.(25-9) and C.C. King(25-9) were playing well as they arrived in San Antonio for the region semi-finals. Both were really happy to advance this far and were in uncharted waters so to speak. 6'3" Tony Bryant(23.0) was seen as a possible key to victory for the Mustangs. If he played up to his capabilities, King would have the advantage. Since Bryant returned to the squad C.C. King was 11-1, with their only loss coming in the warm-up game against West Oso.

Both teams were almost like looking in a mirror. Both relied on quickness, ran motion offense, pressed and loved to get up and down the court. The only difference was C.C. King liked to fast break, whereas L.B.J. would prefer to set-up their offense. "I hope we can slow them down and get them out of their game plan," Coach Mike McShane of L.B.J. said. "We've got good team quickness and speed, that's what got us here." L.B.J. lineup was made-up of point guard and District M.V.P., 5'7" Chris Robinson. Inside L.B.J. looked to 6'3" Ray McDonald and 6'3" Nathan McDonald, forward Mike Sweeny and guard, 6'2" Daryl Wesley(14.0). 6'6" Leland McCall had been a starter earlier in the season, but because of grades missed some games and lost his starting position.

Corpus Christi King came from behind once again after being down 11 points at halftime. 5'8" Carl Nolan began penetrating in the second half, which led to some easy baskets. Another adjustment in the second half by Coach Odoms was sagging on the "biggs" inside. In an effort to slow down the L.B.J. attack the Mustangs also went to a half-court trap. All these decisions tightened up the game. 5'7" Chris Robinson hit outside shots to bring the Jaguars to within two points with 3:06 left in the game. With 17 seconds remaining, L.B.J. continued to trail and C.C. King went to four corners as 6'3" Mikal Watts was fouled. Watts had replaced Bryant, who had fouled out at the 5:19 mark of the 4th quarter. Watts knocked down one of the two, giving the Mustangs a 67-65 advantage. Daryl Wesley of L.B.J. missed a 15-footer that could have tied the game at the buzzer.

For the Mustangs, Middleton finished with 17 points, Brin had 10 and Bryant poured in a game high 22 points. For the Jaguars, Robinson hit 14 points, Daryl Wesley had 12 points, Mike Sweeney contributed 16 points and Ray Marshall added 17. Austin L.B.J. finished the season with a 25-10 record.

The two top teams in San Antonio met in the other regional semi-finals, S.A. Lee(29-6) and S.A. Fox Tech(29-4). The game was called by San Antonio Light the "Unofficial City Championship." The teams met at the University of Texas at San Antonio Convocation Center. Fox Tech had defeated Lee earlier in late December 62-53. Since the defeat, the Volunteers had ran off 13 wins in next 15 games. Losses came at the hands of Converse Judson and S.A. MacArthur in late January. Ironically, Coach Williamson of S.A. Lee had been the Fox Tech coach on two District championship teams in 1973 and 1975.

The Buffaloes lineup was made-up of Robert Hartfield(8.8), Alvin Brown(14.1), Javon Blye(8.5), John Rice(7.6) and Roger Wills(16.6). Lee would put Charles Watson(17.2), Mike Marvell(4.3), Doug Middleton(4.1), Tony Delorenzo(3.8) and 6'6" Jimmy Rehler(13.5) on the court.

Fox Tech entering the game on a 20-game winning streak. Coach Lopez of the Buffaloes said, "I think Lee is going to try and control the tempo of the ballgame." Coach Williamson confided that he felt Fox Tech had a lot more talent,

“personal-wise Tech is so much better player for player, they have better talent. We’ll have to do other things. We can’t put it up quick and miss.”

It was S.A. Lee’s first regional appearance since winning state back in 1967. For Fox Tech, it was the norm with one of the strongest talent bases in the Alamo City. “We don’t have the athletes Tech has,” Williamson said. “We knew that before tonight, the kids know that.”

Fox Tech took charge late and advanced to the regional finals over the Rebels 55-45. Lee played their usual patient game and took control of the game early, but eventually were taken apart by the Buffaloes full-court pressure and varied defenses. Tech forced Lee into 23 turnovers. “It took its toll on Lee,” Coach Lopez said, “we have so much quickness.” Hartfield and Blye were all over the Volunteer guards creating havoc. Hartfield finished with 13 points and Blye supplied six points and 14 rebounds. Sophomore Roger Wills came away with 10 points and 9 rebounds, while Alvin Brown had nine points.

The Volunteers struggled with 5’9” Charles Watson and 6’6” Jimmy Rehler carrying Coach Williamson’s team. Watson was 8 of 17 for 16 points and Rehler collected 9 points and 13 rebounds.

“We haven’t played anybody that had the quickness, the size, the bench-all combined in one team,” Coach Williamson said. S.A. Lee took the lead early in the second half 32-30 on Watson’s three long jump shots. Javon Blye blocked a break-away layup by a Volunteer player, which got the fans excited. “Tech is the type of team that does something spectacular like that, and it sets them on fire,” Williamson said. Ball-handling Mike Marvell of S.A. Lee picked up his third foul with 5:43 remaining in the 2nd quarter and eventually fouled out of the contest with 6:51 remaining in the game. With Marvell out of the line-up, Fox Tech was able to turn up the heat creating more turnovers. Lee finished their season at 29-7.

Regional Finals

As Fox Tech(30-5) came into the regional finals they were confident and experienced. Their opponent, Corpus Christi King(26-9), was a team with little tradition and hadn’t been on the big stage. C.C. King had last been in the playoffs in 1972. Fox Tech also held a victory over King earlier in the season 68-66 in late November. But what you have to remember when looking at the Mustangs season, 6’2” Tony Bryant was ineligible at the time. Bryant had only played in King’s last eight games of the season averaging 23/12. 6’3” Clint Middleton(10.0/8.0) was solid inside for Coach Sam Odoms as well. Coach Odoms was in his ninth season at the helm.

In discussing the game, Coach Lopez of Fox Tech was concerned about Bryant, “Bryant is a great ball-player.” If your familiar with Coach Lopez, this was high praise. He was a man of few words. “He has moves. He gives them a tremendous offensive weapon,” Lopez continued.

The game pretty much unfolded as expected with Roger Wills taking control inside. The big 6'3" sophomore propelled the Buffaloes to an early lead 32-22 in the second quarter. Bryant led the charge back for the Mustangs and C.C. King closed the gap to 35-30 at halftime. In the 2nd half, Bryant took over hitting 6 of 8 field goals and 5 of 6 free throws for 17 points. Wills on the other, could not get the ball and was basically shut down. C.C. King got away from their usual man to man defense and played a sagging 2-3 zone to contain Wills. "It was the only thing to do," Lopez said. "Wills was killing them inside." Wills had 14 points in the first half on 7 of 9 shooting and five rebounds. He only managed 1 of 4 in the 2nd half with one rebound. "I think it came down to our inability to hit the perimeter shot," Lopez said. C.C. King on the other hand had two fine outside threats in 5'8" Carl Noland(14.0) and 6'2" sophomore Barry Brin(10.4), who were shooting over the Buffaloes zone with success. Noland finished with 14 points and Brin had 13. Bryant had a career game for C.C. King finishing with 21 points and 13 rebounds and was 7 of 8 from the foul line. Corpus Christi King defeated San Antonio Fox Tech 67-62 and became the first team in 12 years from Corpus Christi to advance to state.

Carl Noland, 5'8" senior, was the one who suggested the Mustangs go to the zone in the second half, that turned the game around for C.C. King. "All the guys know he's the boss," Coach Odoms said. Javon Blye was able to keep the Buffaloes in the game in the second half with 9 of his 13 points and 11 rebounds. Robert Hartfield chipped in 12 points for the Buffaloes and Wills finished with 16 points. Surprisingly, King outrebounded the bigger Fox Tech 27-14. Brin was key in the first half keeping his team close scoring 10 points, all from the outside.

It was the first time since 1979 a non-San Antonio team had won region IV, as Corpus Christi King advanced to state. Fox Tech's 21-game winning streak had been snapped. It was pretty simple understanding how King won the game. The Mustangs were 17 of 27 from the line, while Fox Tech managed only 4 of 10.

Coach Sam Odom's discussed his philosophy of letting the players take ownership in their team. Odom's felt with their input he would place the burden on his players to make things work. "That gave them responsibility and the freedom to come up and ask me anything," Odom said. Well, his philosophy had definitely been successful, as the Mustangs marched into Austin.

State Tournament

Houston Madision	38-0	#1	95.3-60.0	+35.3
Corpus Christi King	27-9		70.8-60.3	+10.5
Ft. Worth Southwest	30-9		63.8-59.5	+4.3
Conroe	33-2	#3	88.4-70.1	+18.3

Top Five Players at the State Tournament 5-A

6'3"	Sean Gay	Houston Madison
6'7"	Kelvin Smith	Conroe

6'3"	Rod Jacques	Conroe
6'4"	Ivan Jones	Houston Madison
6'1"	Gerry McGee	Houston Madison

Reflecting back to 1985, I couldn't wait to see Houston Madison up close and personal. I had followed their scores like a little kid followed the baseball scores as a youngster. (I didn't realize major league baseball played 162 games) Anyway, I read everything I could get my hands on to try and get some type of feel for the Marlins from Madison. It felt like Déjà vu, because Coach Paul Benton had come to Austin six years early with an undefeated team, only to be upset by Lufkin. Led by Greg Kite, John Simple and Matt England the Marlins were one of the great teams to ever play in Austin. Would history repeat itself or could Madison become the first 5-A school to go undefeated since the legendary Houston Kashmere team of 1975. The two Madison teams were totally different, outside of the fact they both were big time winners. It was a tribute to Coach Paul Benton to bring two teams with such diverse styles to the state tournament.

Everyone viewed Conroe and Houston Madison as overwhelming favorites to advance, but we had come to expect the unexpected in Austin. Corpus Christi King and Ft. Worth Southwest were both somewhat Cinderella stories making their first trips to the state tournament.

Bryan had an unusual honor of facing three of the four state finalist. The Vikings lost to Conroe by 20 points, to Madison by 22 and beat Ft. Worth Southwest by 32 points.

State Semis

Corpus Christi King(27-9) and Conroe(33-2) match-up was viewed by many as a total mismatch. Conroe had come out of the toughest region in the state an advanced beating Kimball in double overtime. Conroe had been well tested through-out the season. Coach Harold Wilder had an all senior line-up with plenty of experience in big games. Conroe had advanced to the regional finals in 1984 with all the key players returning. Talent was rampant on the Tigers roster. The top performer was 6'3" Rod Jacques. The talented point guard was physical as high school players go and put up some impressive numbers. He averaged 20 points, 7 rebounds, 6 assists, 4 steals and shot 54% from the floor. Following graduation Jacques signed with T.C.U.

Complementing Jacques was 6'3" George Thomas(11.0), 6'1" Keith Opperhammer, 6'7" Kelvin Smith(16.0) and 6'5" Maurice Williams(18.0/10.0). Coach Wilder of Conroe said coming into state, "I think we reached a peak early in district season, but we got way out in front, we won district by four games, and we led down." Wilder continued, "I'd say we have to contain King's quickness." Wilder continued saying, "we don't do too much scouting, but we know they have a good point guard, scorer and big man." (Nolan, Bryant and Middleton)

In discussing the coming contest with Conroe, Coach Sam Odoms of C.C. King said, "They're stronger and quicker than Fox Tech." Well, Coach Odoms was correct, Conroe was much faster and quicker and stronger than Fox Tech, as the Mustangs went down 107-76. "They had more depth and they beat us on the boards," Odoms said. (referring to the 31-15 rebounding advantage for the Tigers) Conroe had total control of the glass as they began snow birding for easy baskets. Their guards would hang around mid-court and release on the shot getting easy lay-ups. The only catch on snow birding is you must dominate inside and your opponent must miss their shots. C.C. King missed 19 shots in the 2nd quarter alone.

"What killed us inside was their height," Clinton Middleton of King said. The most damaging effect was the Conroe press, which created 13 turnovers in the first half alone and led to easy baskets. "We got behind and tried to make things happen and made some bad passes," Darrell McGee said. Jacques was truly impressive making three steals and converted them with two slam dunks. Jacques finished with 38 points on 13 of 23 from the floor and 12 for 12 from the line. "I thought our defense caused them to get out of their offense," Coach Wilder said. At halftime the score stood at 46-26 in favor of the Tigers. The Mustangs were never in the contest.

Foul trouble was a major problem as well for the Mustangs, as 5'8" team leader Carl Nolan collected four fouls before halftime and Tony Bryant ended up fouling out. Both were key to the Mustang's attack. McGee was the only starter who played the entire game. Brin finished with 20 points for the Mustangs, Middleton and McGee both came away with 15 points apiece. For Conroe, Maurice Wright added 16 points and George Thomas put up 13 points. Coach Wilder emptied the bench with eleven Tigers finding their way into the scoring column. The 31-point spread was the largest margin of victory since Houston Jones in 1965 in the largest classification.

Houston Madison entered state with a great deal of pressure being undefeated. If you don't think it carries a big toll, ask Houston Madison and Ft. Worth Dunbar. Both teams entered state undefeated in 1979 and 1984 and lost in the semi-finals. Houston Yates faced the pressure with their upset loss to Ft. Worth Paschal in 1983. The Marlins were well aware of the expectations.

Madison Coach Paul Benton explained, "you can never take anything for granted at the state meet, our players are confident but not overconfident." Benton continued, "we had a chance to see Southwest in the San Marcos tournament and know a little about them. I understand they have improved over the past month and are peaking at the right time. They like an up-tempo game like we do, so it could be interesting."

Southwest's point of reference against Madison came from the previous season when they lost to Madison in overtime in San Marcos. "They've got all their players back from that team. We don't," said Coach Wood. "Willie Thomas was the

only player that saw major minutes, they've improved since last year, but I think we're a better team than we were a year ago," Wood explained. Southwest knew the challenge that laid ahead. Two college scouts called Madison, "the best high school team they had ever seen."

Ft. Worth Southwest received horrible news about 4:00 PM on Friday afternoon right before their semi-final game against Madison. If facing the Marlins weren't bad enough, assistant Coach Gerald Batty was informed three players were ineligible for the game. 6'3" starting post, Matt Hill(13.0/9.0), sixth man Roy Garrett and freshman Oliver Miller, who saw no minutes upon his promotion to the varsity. The Rebels only played seven players with little bench help going into the contest, now Coach Wood would have to rely on two seldom used players, 6'4" Kevin Chupik and 6'2" sophomore, Scott Shapard. Coach Wood was scouting the 4:00 semi-final game between Corpus Christi King and Conroe when he was informed. Wood would have two hours to get his team emotionally ready to face the best team in the state. TOUGH task. "They'd been passing the whole six weeks, but they failed to pass the final grade. I'd like to stress that this isn't a tragedy. The players knew their responsibility to the classroom. They just failed to carry it through," Wood said. "When the players were informed...everyone was in shock," Assistant Coach Batty said.

Madison's depth and pressure forced 27 turnovers in the Marlins 75-47 victory. "They beat us with the press and on the offensive boards," Southwest Coach Wood said. "We were just undermanned."

"Again, the press was effective and got us some big points, but against Conroe we're going to have to play a lot better," Madison Coach Paul Benton said. "It wasn't one of our better games, but we did seem to play well in spurts," Benton continued. Sean Gay paced the Marlins into the state championship game against Conroe with 19 points. McGee finished with 16 points and Ivan Jones was able to score 12 points. "I think we probably had more players than they did," Benton added. "They got a little tired." Coach Wood agreed, "I don't think Madison is any better than Dunbar last year. They beat us with depth and jumping ability."

For Southwest, Greene hit 13 points and Watley finished with 12 points. Replacements, Shapard had 6 points and Kevin Chupik failed to score and had 4 rebounds. "We had to play with what we had and the kids played as hard as they could," Wood said. "I always tell the kids that winning championships is nice, but it's not the most important thing," Wood said. "The important things are the intangibles-to play your hardest and act like winners on and off the court," Coach Wood explained.

In the post-game interview, Coach Benton was already focused on Conroe saying, "I thought Conroe looked extremely good against King. It looked like Jacques might score 50 points for a while. Conroe is bigger, I just hope we're quicker. I think it's going to be a heckuva game."

State Finals

You had to back to 1975 title game between Houston Kashmere and Ft. Worth Paschal the last time two teams came into the contest with a combined two losses. Madison stood at 39-0 and Conroe had a 34-2 record. These two teams had been rated in the top four all season and were clearly the best Texas had to offer. Conroe had put up 107 points in the semis and Madison averaged 95 points a game. The scoring records would be challenged with both team's pressing and running full throttle.

This was a very highly anticipated final. Madison had 17 games over the century mark, while Conroe had gone over 100 nine times. Conroe's two losses came at the hands of Katy Taylor(27-5) and Pasadena Dobie(20-10) by a total of 3 points. Both squads hung their hat on defense. Many felt coming into the finals that Conroe had an advantage having won close games. The Tigers defeated Dallas Kimball in double overtime and South Oak Cliff by two points. Madison had never felt the pressure of a close game. Conroe also had three big time scorers averaging more than Madison's leading scorer Sean Gay. Gay averaged 16.5 points per game, while in the playoffs, Jacques averaged 23.3, Kelvin Smith 22.8 and Maurice Wright 20.8 per game. In games of this magnitude, that could prove to be the difference.

14,000 fans were glued to their seats in the all-Houston area state finals. The game was disappointing from the fan's perspective mainly because of the lopsided score. Houston Madison proved too strong defeating Conroe 89-69. The Marlins outscored the Tigers in every quarter and led at halftime 43-31. Madison held standout, Rod Jacques, to only 12 points before he fouled out. "We had a lot of opportunities in the first half," Benton said, "we didn't take advantage of them. I think they were emotionally drained. It was such a big game." Sean Gay came through like a champion with a 21-point performance shooting a perfect 7 for 7 from the floor and 7 of 12 from the line. The talented senior also had 7 assists and 3 steals.

Conroe lost contact early due to poor foul shooting. 6'6" Kelvin Smith missed several front-end of one and ones that would have kept the Tigers close. When Jacques left the game with 4:15 left in the 3rd quarter, things really looked bleak for Conroe. "We weren't thinking about fouling him out," Benton said, "but after he got three fouls, we did." Benton continued saying, "our defense and depth were big keys to the game. We've used eight players all season and again that was the case tonight."

Conroe's Coach Wilder said following the heartfelt loss, "we were well aware of Madison's tremendous quickness, but tonight they just had more game than we did." Wilder continued, "we knew we had to play a perfect game in order to compete with them."

Madison scoring was balanced with Gay leading the way with 21 points, Crocklin finished with 14 points, Cedric Brown kicked in 14 and Gerry McGee

helped with 13 points. Marlins were 25 of 45 from the line and came away with the rebound advantage over the larger Tigers 58-51. Crocklin was the rebound leader pulling down 11.

Maurice Wright led Conroe with 21 points, Kelvin Smith finished with 17 points and 11 rebounds. Foul trouble was a constant problem for Coach Wilder with three players fouling out. Madison forced 27 Conroe turnovers for several easy buckets.

All-Tournament Team- Gerry McGee, Ivan Jones, Sean Gay* of Houston Madison, Rod Jacques and Maurice Wright of Conroe. (*) Unanimous

How Does Houston Madison Measure-up with Best 1960-1986 (State Qualifiers)

Highest Scoring Teams	1. Houston Wheatley*	1973	108.5	(41-1)
<i>Largest Classification</i>	2. Houston Wheatley	1972	106.2	(39-3)
	3. Houston Wheatley	1971	96.9	(36-5)
	4. Houston Wheatley*	1970	96.1	(39-0)
	5. Houston Madison*	1985	95.3	(40-0)
	6. Houston Kashmere*	1974	95.0	(39-2)
	7. Houston Kashmere*	1975	91.4	(46-0)
	8. Houston Wheatley*	1968	89.4	(36-0)
	9. Dallas S.O.C.*	1977	89.3	(35-8)
	10. Houston Wheatley*	1969	86.8	(27-2)

Largest Margin of Victory	1. Houston Madison*	1985	+34.4	(40-0)
<i>Largest Classification</i>	2. Houston Wheatley*	1968	+33.4	(36-0)
	3. Houston Wheatley*	1970	+32.9	(39-0)
	4. Houston Wheatley*	1973	+27.9	(41-1)
	5. Houston Kashmere*	1975	+27.6	(46-0)
	6. Houston Wheatley	1972	+27.2	(39-3)
	7. Spring Branch Mem.*	1966	+25.9	(34-4)
	8. Houston Wheatley*	1969	+25.5	(27-2)
	9. Ft. Worth Dunbar	1984	+24.6	(38-1)
	10. Houston Wheatley	1971	+23.4	(36-5)

Playoff Margin	1. Dallas Thomas Jeff.*	1962	+29.2	(34-2)
<i>Largest Classification</i>	2. Houston Madison*	1985	+23.0	(40-0)
	3. Houston Kashmere*	1975	+20.0	(46-0)
	4. Houston Wheatley*	1973	+17.0	(41-1)
	5. Houston Wheatley*	1970	+16.8	(39-0)
	6. Houston Wheatley*	1969	+16.6	(27-2)
	7. Dallas Roosevelt*	1972	+15.6	(35-4)
	8. Dallas Roosevelt	1981	+15.2	(40-3)

	9. Dallas S.O.C.*	1977	+13.2	(35-8)
	10. Amarillo*	1986	+13.1	(31-5)
Top Defensive Team	1. SA Fox Tech(33-6)	1984	61.6- 44.2	+17.2
Largest Classification	2. Lubbock Monterey	1966	54.3- 44.3	+10.0
	3. Houston Austin(38-1)*	1964	60.8- 45.7	+15.1
	4. North Mesquite(38-3)	1982	61.3- 46.4	+14.9
	4. Pampa(29-5)	1982	70.6- 46.4	+24.2
	6. SA Burbank(35-5)	1977	64.0- 46.7	+17.3
	7. Dallas T.J.(34-2)*	1962	66.4- 46.9	+19.5
	7. SB Memorial(31-8)	1984	54.6- 46.9	+7.7
	9. Plano(32-4)	1980	58.8- 47.1	+11.7
	10. SA Lee(31-1)*	1967	67.3- 47.1	+20.2

Highest Power Rankings 1. Houston Madison* **1985** **109.93** **(40-0)**

All-Classification(1970-86)

2. Houston Kashmere*	1975	107.62	(46-0)
3. Houston Wheatley	1972	107.41	(39-3)
4. Houston Wheatley*	1973	105.15	(41-1)
5. Pt. Arthur Lincoln* 4-A	1986	104.97	(33-1)
6. Ft. Worth Dunbar	1984	103.64	(38-1)
7. Houston Wheatley*	1970	102.11	(39-0)

(*) State Champions

Comments about Houston Madison:

Mark McKee- Former Head Basketball Coach at Pearce High School;

Club basketball Coach for 25 years; Followed High School for 45 years.

“Madison was without a doubt the best team I had seen up to that time. All the great teams for the next twenty years were always measured against Madison.

Amazingly, Madison was really never tested over their 40-game schedule. Fourteen points was as close as anyone got during the regular season and playoffs. Not one “off night” or “bad game.” My only regret is not seeing them play more. Whenever the best in Texas Basketball are mentioned, Madison will always be near the top of the list.”

Charles Breithaupt- Executive Director of the University Interscholastic League. Breithaupt coached at Hardin-Jefferson High School and Beaumont West Brook High School. Overall his high school varsity coaching record was 392 wins and only 92 losses for a winning percentage of 81%. He was named, “Coach of the Year” by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches in 1991.

“Paul Benton put together one of the best teams in the history of Texas High School basketball. They were a team in every sense of the word. All of the players were about the same size and ability. They utilized a swarming defense and capitalized on turnovers. Paul Benton was one of the best coaches in Texas History.”

Rick Sherley- Executive Director of TABC. Sherley coached 25 years at Alief Hastings with over 700 wins.

"The 1985 Madison team had the best chemistry of any team I have ever seen. It started with their coach, Paul Benton, and their leader Sean Gay. Their eight-man rotation of players were all interchangeable. They never got rattled and they worked like a machine on offense and defense, all moving together."

Danny Kasper- Texas State University Head Basketball Coach. Played in the state semi-finals in 1973 for Corpus Christi Carroll.

"Madison was the only team I've personally seen that I feel could compete with the 1970 and 1973 Houston Wheatley teams for the best ever in Texas High School basketball."

Boyce Honea- Houston Milby coaching legend, member of the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame.

"Madison was just in another class; they were so sound and didn't turn the ball over and Benton did a great job."

Mike Kunstadt- Founded Great American Sports in 1988. In 2013 Mike was Inductee into the Texas High School Basketball Hall of Fame. Former Head Coach at Corpus Christi Carroll and Irving High School.

"Madison was such a talented team led by Sean Gay. They were one of the most dominating teams Texas has produced. They were strong in all phases of the game."

Rick Penny- Former head basketball coach at Klein Oak with over 25 years in the coaching profession.

"Madison was a complete team. They made dominating teams look easy because they excelled in every phase of the game. One of the best all-time."

J.D. Mayo- Former head coach at Dallas Skyline. Over 40 years in coaching at the High School level.

"Awesome! Outstanding coach, terrific team, played together."

Reggie Franklin- Former standout at S.M.U. and college coach at Midland J.C.

"I tried to recruit the starting five to Midland Junior College. They were very good as Sean Gay proved."

Mike Smith- Victoria's long-time coach, took two teams to State.

"They were the complete team with no weaknesses."

Trivia Answer:

Nate Thurmond, Chicago Bulls (October 18, 1974)-22 points, 14 rebounds, 13 assists, 12 blocks:

Alvin Robertson, San Antonio Spurs (February 18, 1986)-20 points, 11 rebounds, 10 assists, 10 steals

Hakeem Olajuwon, Houston Rockets (March 29, 1990)-The Line: 18 points, 16 rebounds, 10 assists, 11 blocks

David Robinson, San Antonio Spurs (February 17, 1994)-The Line: 34 points, 10 rebounds, 10 assists, 10 blocks

1985 State Rankings AAAAA {End of the Regular Season}:

- | | | |
|---------------------|------|---|
| 1. Houston Madison | 34-0 | 6'3" Sean Gay(16.6), 6'1" Gerry McGee(14.0) |
| 2. Dallas S.O.C. | 32-1 | 6'4" Rodney Samuell(21.9), 6'5" Ronnie Morgan |
| 3. Conroe | 29-2 | 6'4" Rod Jacques(20.0), 6'7" Kelvin Smith(16.8) |
| 4. Dallas Kimball | 27-2 | 6'2" Carl Love(15.0), 5'11" Jeffrey Fudge |
| 5. Tyler John Tyler | 29-1 | 6'6" James Johnson(20.3), 6'9" Fred West(17.5) |
| 6. Clear Lake | 32-2 | 6'3" Kevin Stiner(16.0), Mitch Fogle(20.0) |
| 7. Angleton | 29-4 | 6'5" Jeff Blice(18.5), 6'4" Tolbert Routt(15.0) |

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------|---|
| 8. Aldine MacArthur | 29-2 | 6'4" Keith Hill, Alex Williams |
| 9. Beaumont Westbrook | 27-3 | 6'2" Antonio Wells(15.6), 5'10" Michael Young(14.3) |
| 10. Houston Sam Houston | 27-5 | 6'5" Chris Morris(26.4), 5'7" Tyrone Mingo |

All-State Team by the Sports Writers- 1st Team- 6'7" Andy Gilchrist(17.8) of Spring Branch Memorial, 6'6" Ronnie James(26.0) from Alice, 6'9" Reginald Muhammad(20.2) of Wilmer Hutchins, 6'2" Curry Blackwell(21.1) from Lubbock Monterey, 6'3" Sean Gay(16.5) from Houston Madison; **2nd Team-** 6'5" Chris Morris(26.4) from Houston Sam Houston, 6'2" Darrell Davis(26.0) from Midland, 6'6" James Johnson(20.3) from Tyler John Tyler, 6'4" Lance Blanks(22.6) from Conroe McCullough, 6'4" Rod Jacques(20.0) of Conroe; **3rd Team-** 6'9" Fred West(17.5) of Tyler John Tyler, 6'5" Larry Johnson(21.0) of Dallas Skyline, 6'3" Juan Bibbs(25.4) from Houston Lee, 6'4" Steve Thompson(23.9) of Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson, 6'5" Rodney Samuel(21.9) from Dallas South Oak Cliff: James Johnson and Rodney Samuel were juniors and Larry Johnson was a sophomore.

All-State Team by the TABC- 1st Team- 6'4" Lance Blanks(22.6) Conroe McCullough, 6'3" Sean Gay(16.5) Houston Madison, 6'4" Rodney Samuel(21.4) Dallas South Oak Cliff, 6'7" Andy Gilchrist(17.8) Spring Branch Memorial, 6'3" Rod Jacques(21.0) Conroe High; **2nd Team-** 6'7" James Johnson(20.3) Tyler John Tyler, 6'2" Curry Blackwell(21.1) Lubbock Monterey, 6'1" Tim Hobby(21.8) Alvin, 6'3" Juan Bibbs(25.4) Houston Lee, 6'5" Chris Morris(26.4) Houston Sam Houston; **3rd Team-** 5'11" Kato Armstrong(18.0) South Garland, 6'6" Jimmy Rehier(12.7), S.A. Lee; Cliff Johnson, Abilene; 5'10" Alfred Minix(14.5), Beaumont Charlton-Pollard; 6'3" Amaro Hernandez(23.0), Eagle Pass: {The T.A.B.C left Larry Johnson of Dallas Skyline and Steve Thompson from PA Jefferson off their All-State team. These were two of the best in the state. Cliff Johnson of Abilene was not even named to the 12-man All-District team in 4-5A, while two other players from Abilene were named to the All-District squad. Johnson was one of 25 players named honorable mention All-District}

TABC All-Star Game in Waco 4-A and 5-A: North- Coach Dale Brandy, 5'11" Kato Armstrong-South Garland; 6'5" Floyd Macon-Dallas Samuel; 6'8" Fred West-Tyler John Tyler; 6'10" Reginald Muhammad, Wilmer Hutchins; 6'0" Mookie Blaylock(17.0)-Garland; 6'4" Tim Kaiser-L.D. Bell; 6'2" Curry Blackwell-Lubbock Monterey; 5'10" Lamar Wadley(23.2)-Corsicana; 6'3" Chris Mason-Lamesa:

South- Coach Bob Derryberry, 6'4" Lance Blanks(22.0), Conroe McCullough; 6'3" Sean Gay, Houston Madison; 6'4" Keith Hill, Aldine MacArthur; 6'7" Andy Gilchrist, Spring Branch Memorial; 6'4" Chris Morris, Houston Sam Houston; John Roberson, San Antonio Southwest; 6'3" Rod Jacques(20.0), Conroe; Raul Lopez, Laredo United; Tadd Thomas, San Antonio Alamo Heights:

TABC All-Game in Waco 1-A, 2-A, 3-A: North- Coach Carl Love, Terry Bailey-Seminole; Ron Johnson, Whitehouse; Eddie Cunningham, Sanford-Fritch; Rex Young, Phillips; George Connor-Sabine; Ricky Johnson, Morton; Michael Paul, Olney; Kerry Pettie, LaPoyner; Fred Rike-Tulia; Bernard Cooper, Cooper: **South-** Coach Roger Beil, Benneth Fields, Sweeny; Malcolm Townsend, Waelder; Rocky Rocquemore, Hardin-Jefferson; Keith Boyd, Hitchcock; Bobby Hansford-Gonzales; Gary Jones, Blanco; Todd Lisenbe-Academy; Lawrence Wilson, Snook; Greg Sherfield, Brownsboro; Tony Jones, Grapeland:

Recruits: At the time this class was not viewed as real strong, but as time passed a number of players proved to be very successful at the next level. It proved to be a deep class of recruits. 7'1" 240, **Tito Horford**(14.0/12.0/7 blocks) was without question one of the top recruited players to ever come out of Texas. He was named one of the top five recruits by the Louisville Courier-Journal. In the Des Moines Register, he was named one of the top recruits in the country in

“Dyers Top 50.” Horford was named #15 in the country. In the consensus “Top 50” in the country, Horford was listed the #2 recruit in the country. He signed early with the University of Houston in November and was not allowed by Coach Guy Lewis to perform in the B.C.I. tournament in Arizona, which featured several of top recruits in the country.

In the **Sporting News “Top Recruits,”** Horford was #11 in the nation. He was also named **“Freshman of Influence”** by Street & Smith, as one of the top 15 incoming recruits in the country. Tito was also named one of the top 40 freshman recruits in the country by **Bob Gibson of All-Star Sports Publication.**

After high school, Horford enrolled at the University of Houston, when he was ruled ineligible, he proceeded to transfer to Louisiana State University before being kicked off the team. Horford played two seasons with the Miami Hurricanes, averaging almost a double-double. Tito ended up playing in France and Italy after a short time in the NBA. Al Horford is his famous son, who won two NCAA Championships at Florida and has had a tremendous NBA career.

6’4” **Lance Blanks**(22.2/8.0/6.2 asst) came on late in the recruiting wars, did not sign early. Kentucky, Virginia, Houston and North Carolina State were the front runners. He was recruited by 75 schools. The recruiting battle came down between Virginia and North Carolina State. After an intense recruiting battle, Blanks decided on Virginia. Virginia had one of the top programs in the country at the time and 7’4” Ralph Sampson had just graduated. Sampson was a big part of the recruiting push by the Cavaliers. “I think Lance made the right decision,” McCullough Coach Terry Priest said. “Virginia probably fits Lance’s personality the best of any school he visited.” Priest continued, “Lance is an outstanding young man and a tremendous athlete. He would be a plus to anyone’s program. Lance is just like having another coach on the court.” Virginia coach, Terry Holland, echoed Priest saying, “Lance handles the ball well and can play either guard spot. He should have no trouble adjusting to playing guard in the ACC.”

Blanks father was Sid Blanks of the Houston Oilers. When asked about his dad pressuring him to play football, Blanks replied, “no, my dad never pushed me. He told me to pursue whatever I liked, whether it was football, basketball or playing an instrument, he just told me I had to go at it 100 percent.”

Because Texas players were unable to travel during the summer to camps outside of the state, Blanks was under the radar. Jay Parker ran the Texas High School basketball scouting report in Houston. He took a team to the B.C.I. championship in Mesa, Arizona. Blanks was seen by many recruiters for the first time.

Blanks was named the M.V.P. at the Texas Shootout the previous week, which included the top 48 players in the state. He was also named Mr. Basketball for class 5-A by the T.A.B.C. Blanks was the 26th pick in the NBA draft by the Detroit Pistons and played three years in the Association.

All the other top recruits received very little recognition outside the state of Texas. The #3 recruit was 6’4” **Keith Hill**(16.0) from Aldine MacArthur as listed by the Dallas Morning News. He was a starter at New Mexico St. and played four

years averaging 12.9 points per game. 6'3" **Sean Gay**(16.6) from Houston Madison was the #4 recruit and was thought to be going to Houston, but ended up in Lubbock at Texas Tech. Talking at length with the shy and somewhat reserve Jim Wall, I learned that the big question regarding Gay had to do with his grades. Several schools stayed away or he would have been much more hotly pursued. Texas Tech was very fortunate signing Gay. Gay averaged 15.7 per game for the Red Raiders and 4.6 assists per game his senior year and a four-year starter. Gay was named 2nd team All-Southwest Conference as a junior and was named to the conference all-defensive team three straight seasons. Gay had an aunt that lived in Lubbock, which helped his decision to play for the Red Raiders. Houston and Guy Lewis made a strong push late to come away with Gay's signature. 6'4" **Floyd Macon**(18.5) of Dallas Samuel was outstanding and had S.M.U. looking hard at him, but he failed to get eligible. Macon ended up at North Alabama. 6'9" **Fred West**(17.6) out of Tyler John Tyler was #6 on the state recruiting list and signed with Texas Southern. Had a very solid career with 18.6 points and 8.4 rebounds as a senior and 18.4 points and 9.2 rebounds as a junior. 6'7" **Kelvin Smith**(16.8) of Conroe traveled about as far as anybody playing at Minnesota. The Conroe senior led his team to the state finals and with Gophers, Smith averaged 11.2 points and 4.8 rebounds. Smith ended up at the University of Houston with very limited success. 6'5" **Chris Morris**(25.1) from Houston Sam Houston was considered an outstanding prospect and stayed at U. of H., averaging 8.6 points and 3.6 rebounds. 6'8" **John Roberson**(22.0) of San Antonio Southwest held down the #9 spot in Texas. Roberson was a starter at New Mexico St. and averaged 14.1 and 7.2 rebounds as a senior with the Aggies. 6'10" **Perry Russell**(8.0) from Houston Marian signed with Houston staying four years with limited success. 5'11" **Kato Armstrong**(18.0) of South Garland was really over looked by a lot of schools, but S.M.U. and Dave Bliss saw his potential. Kato averaged 16.1 points and 6.0 assists per game, as well as scoring 29 points in the NCAA tournament game vs. Notre Dame. Armstrong went to training camp with the Pacers, but did not last. Armstrong's cousin was Mookie Blaylock of Garland. 6'10" **Reginald Muhammad**(20.2) of Wilmer Hutchins was considered to have a big upside and the Mustangs of S.M.U. signed him. Muhammad stayed four seasons with the Stangs. 6'4" **Tito Crawford** came in at #13 from Houston Marian Christian. Crawford took his talents to Houston Baptist. 6'8" **Bryan Barrier** of Houston Jones landed with the Red Raiders. He played two seasons at Tech. 6'5" **Melvin Swift** of Houston Austin came away at #15 and attended Ranger J.C. 6'10" **Wes Lowe** of West Mesquite was considered a project, but paid off for the Red Raiders averaging 10.0 points and 5.2 rebounds during his best campaign. 6'8" **Vernon Perdue**(14.0) from Corpus Christi Miller signed early with and S.M.U. and had a very average career playing four seasons. #18 was 6'7" **Tracey White** from Spring High. White played four years at Texas Tech and averaged 5.3 points his last season. Coming in at #19 was 6'4" **Anthony Young** of Willowridge who played for McLennan J.C. 6'2" **Rod Jacques**(20.0) of Conroe played three seasons with the Horn Frogs and averaged 11.9 points per game. Big **Rod Henderson** of Dallas Bryan

Adams at 7'0" was the 21st player on the state recruiting list. Henderson also signed with Red Raiders. Henderson stayed three seasons in Lubbock.

What was incredible was how far down the list were the best recruits in the state. So many recruiters missed the boat. At #22 was 6'7" **Patrick Durham** of Wilmer Hutchins. Durham was not even the top recruit on his team. He stepped right in at Colorado St. and made an impact his first season with the Rams. He averaged 18.3 points and 7.6 rebounds as a senior, good enough to be drafted by the Mavericks in the second round of the NBA draft. Durham played two seasons in the NBA before moving on to Europe. Another player under the radar was 6'5" **Tim Howard**(25.3) of Ft. Worth Dunbar. Howard ended up the all-time leading scorer at Angelo State and second in rebounding. 6'7" **Andy Gilchrist**(18.5) of Spring Branch Memorial signed with Rice and averaged 12.6 points per game along with 4.8 rebounds. The best player in the class and one of the best guards to ever come out of Texas came in at #25, 6'0" **Mookie Blaylock**(17.0) of Garland High. Blaylock played at Midland J.C. and later played for the NCAA championship while at Oklahoma. The reason Blaylock wasn't more highly sought had to do with his grades and all the talent on his high school team. He may have been the third best player on the team. He played 13 years in the N.B.A. with his best seasons coming with the Hawks. He was the 12th overall pick by the Bulls in the 1st round. He still holds three-point shooting records with the Hawks, was named to the 1994 All-Star Game, was named to the NBA All-Defensive 1st team twice and led the Association in steals twice. He is one of only five players to have ever accomplished the feat. 6'9" **Ed Cunningham**(29.8) of Sanford-Fritch was highly thought of by Texas, but never played basketball for the Longhorns. Cunningham moved his talents to the football field. With the Longhorns, Cunningham was named Team Captain and Longhorns M.V.P. his senior year. As a freshman, he switched from defensive tackle to offensive tackle. The coaches were asking for volunteers and Cunningham made the switch. He commented on the switch from defense to offense, "I thought I needed more speed on defense, I weighed 275 and ran 40 yards in 5.0 seconds. I didn't think I was fast enough." At U.T., Cunningham earned All-American honors and was a standout academically. He later attended Texas Tech University and received his law degree. His stock fell in the N.F.L. draft because of a knee injury. He signed as a free agent with the New York Giants saying, "he wanted to play for a winner." Coach Bill Parcells commented about Cunningham in camp before the season, "I'm pretty pleased with Cunningham, he's a bit of a fighter. He isn't scared when he bleeds. I'm positive he'll get thru the cuts. He's getting reps at both tackle spots." After a brief career in the N.F.L. with the Giants and the Browns, Cunningham became highly successful in business. Today he is the Chief Executive Officer of U.S. Renewable Energy Group and U.S. Natural Resources Group. He has spent more than a decade working in China. 6'7" **Todd Thomas**(22.7) from S.A. Alamo Heights played three season with the Texas Aggies. 6'1" **Gary McGee**(14.0) of Houston Madison played one season with Houston averaging 5.0 points and 4.4 assists. 6'1" **Tim Hobby**(21.8) of Alvin played two season at Houston averaging 7.4 points and 2.4 rebounds. 6'8" **Bryan**

Stinchcomb from Denton ended up playing three seasons at T.C.U. 6'0" **Terry Talley**(20.4) traveled to Colorado St. and played two seasons. 6'3" **Chris Mason**(26.5) of Lamesa was a fine player and signed with Angelo State, finishing his career as the #3 all-time scorer. Mason played on two conference championship teams while playing at Angelo State. 6'8" **Steve Smith**(13.0) from Houston Marian Christian played one season at Houston. 6'6" **Clarence King**(14.0) of Houston Yates signed with Stephen F. Austin and averaged 16.7 points along with 7.6 rebounds. 6'6" **Mark Arnold**(16.0) joined King with the Lumberjacks and averaged 7.5 points and 4.5 rebounds. Arnold played for Katy Taylor. 6'2" **Dana Gray**(12.0) of Arlington Martin played in the Big Eight at Oklahoma State. Lamar University ended up with four talented recruits. 6'4" **Brian Bolden**(17.5) of Killeen attended Lamar University following two seasons in juco. He averaged 11.2 points for Cardinals. 5'7" **Anthony Robinson**(12.2) from Houston Sam Houston, 6'6" **Tim Hickman**(18.8) from Beaumont Westbrook and 5'7" **Art Prevost**(25.7) of Hull-Daisdetta all played for the Cardinals. Bolden averaged 11.2 as a senior for the Cardinals and Hickman and Prevost played four seasons at Lamar. T.C.U. looked long and hard for 6'0" **Danny Hughes** from Cross Roads and 6'0" **John Lewis** of Lubbock Coronado. Both had fine careers with the Horn Frogs. Lewis averaged 15.1 points and 5.1 rebounds, while Hughes averaged 11.4 points and 3.3 assists. 6'1" **Tony Gatlin** from Houston Madison played four seasons at Texas Southern and was a double-digit scorer. 6'4" **Paul Thomas** and 5'9" **Ed Jackson** joined Gatlin at Texas Southern. 5'11" **Sedrick Evans** of Killeen played at Hardin Simmons and averaged 9.1 points per game and 6.0 assists. 6'5" **Maurice Wright**(18.1) of Conroe ended up at Alvin J.C. 6'4" **Kevin Stiner**(16.3) of Clear Lake took his talents to SW Texas St. in San Marcos. Stiner had a nice career averaging 12.7 points as a senior with 4.1 rebounds. 6'8" **Jeff Keene**(20.0) from Alief Elsik attended Sam Houston St. and played four years. 6'1" **Steve Martin** of Galveston Ball signed with McNeese St. Martin played two seasons at McNeese. 6'4" **Donzell Henton** of Pt. Arthur Lincoln signed with Texas Southern but had a limited career. 6'7" **Kerry Hadley** of Pt. Arthur Jefferson signed with Odessa J.C. and 6'4" **Tracey Gunter** of Bridge City traveled to McLennan Junior College. 6'4" **Steve Thompson** of Pt. Arthur Jefferson was difficult to keep up with. New Orleans was recruiting him, but he never played there. 6'5" **Clamon Jacobs** played his freshmen year at Montana St. The best player in Austin was 6'5" **Carl Nuckols** of Austin Travis. Nuckols pursued a football career at T.C.U. as one of the top recruits in the state at Tigh End. Nuckols was redshirted at T.C.U. and ended up on basketball court at Baytown Junior College. 5'10" **Lamar Wadley**(23.8) of Corsicana took his talents to Texas State Technical Institute in Waco along with teammate, 6'2" **Terry Winston**(14.5). 6'3" **Keith Francis** of Madison was a two-year starter at Alvin J.C. 6'4" **Patrick Crocklin** from Houston Madison averaged double-digits at Central Florida and 6'4" **Wendell Nibbs** of Madison put up double-digits at Alvin J.C., 5'10" **Alfred Minix** from Beaumont Pollard started at Alvin J.C. 6'2" **Bennett Fields**(15.0) of AAA Sweeny took his skills to East Texas State in Commerce and had a very solid career. 6'2" **Keith Boyd**(28.0) from AAA Hitchcock played one year at Panola J.C. and signed

with Southern University in Baton Rouge, La. 5'8" **Tony Jones** of Grapeland played two sports at the University of Texas and neither was basketball. He was a standout wide receiver for the Longhorns and still holds the 200 meters record at U.T. at 20.28. He was a 6th pick in the N.F.L. draft and played with the Cardinals, Falcons and Oilers. 6'2" **Anthony Booker**(14.5/6.5 assist/5.5 steals) of Temple played at McLennan J.C. and played one season with Texas A&M. 6'3" **Johnny Reese** of Temple traveled a short distance to play at Temple J.C. averaging 13.0 points a game. 6'6" teammate **Tommy Rush** of Temple joined Reese at Temple J.C. 6'2" **Juan Bibbs**(24.7) from Houston Lee played for Sam Houston State along with 6'3" **Alex Williams** from Aldine MacArthur. 5'10" **Richie Dozier** of Austin Westlake played one year for Southwestern University and moved on to play for Abe Lemons and Oklahoma City

Top Texas Recruits in 1985 based on their college and pro careers:

Mookie Blaylock 6'1"	Garland High	Midland JC/O.U. 20.0/6.7 asst.	<u>Bulls NBA#12</u>
Lance Blanks 6'4"	Conroe McCullough	Va./Texas 20.3/3.2 asst.	<u>Piston NBA#26</u>
Tito Horford 7'1"	Houston Marian	LSU/Miami 14.2/9.0	<u>Bucks NBA#39</u>
Patrick Durham 6'7"	Wilmer Hutchins	Colorado St. 18.5/7.6	<u>Mavs NBA #35</u>
Sean Gay 6'3"	Houston Madison	Texas Tech 15.7/4.6 asst	
Kato Armstrong 5'11"	South Garland	S.M.U. 16.1/6.0 asst	
Fred West 6'9"	Tyler John Tyler	Texas Southern 18.4/9.2	
John Lewis 6'0"	Lubbock Coronado	T.C.U. 15.1/5.1	
Keith Hill 6'4"	Aldine MacArthur	New Mexico St. 12.9/3.7 asst	
Clarence King 6'7"	Houston Yates	Stephen F. Austin 16.7/7.6	
Rod Jacques 6'2"	Conroe High	T.C.U. 11.9/3.6 asst	
John Roberson 6'8"	SA Southwest	New Mexico St. 14.1/7.2	
Kelvin Smith 6'7"	Conroe High	Minnesota/Houston 11.2/4.8	

All-Americans: Tito Horford of Houston Marian Christian was the most decorated High School player maybe ever to come out of the Lone Star State. Horford was named 1st team on the **Parade All-American**, 1st team **U.S.A. Today** as well as **McDonald's All-American** along with **Adidas All-American**. He was also named pre-season All-American 2nd team by Street & Smith. At 7'1" 240 pounds, he was a physical specimen from the Dominican Republic. He had only been playing basketball four years. He led his team to a 29-3 record averaging 14.0/12.0 with seven blocks per game. The Louisville Courier-Journal came out every year with the top five players in the country. They called it the **"SUPER FIVE"**. Horford became the *3rd Texas player ever named to the squad*. These players were selected after extensive interviews with college coaches, high school coaches, scouting agencies and camp directors as well as the media. The other two Texans previously named to the team were 6'6" **Eddie Owens** of Wheatley in 1973 and 6'11" **Rudy Woods** of Bryan in 1978. **Street & Smith** named Horford on of their **"Freshman of Influence"** as one of the top 15 players in the country in their 1986 pre-season issue. He joined Ira **Terrell**, **Eddie Owens**, **Earl Evans**, **Karl Godine**, **Rudy Woods**, **James**

Griffin and Terry White as the only players ever named by the magazine.

Remember prior to 1973, freshman were ineligible for varsity competition.

In the **Capital Classic All-Star game** in Landover, Maryland, Horford had 16 points, 7 rebounds and 5 blocks. He outplayed the top player in the country, Danny Ferry of DeMatha. In the **McDonald's All-Star** game played in Dallas, Horford was the leading scorer for the west squad with 13 points, as well as rebounding, with nine. Lance Blanks was named to the **Dixie Dozen**, the top 12 players in the area known as Dixie in the southeastern part of the country. Honorable Mention for the Dixie Dozen was Tito Horford, Reggie Muhammad of Wilmer Hutchins, Kato Armstrong from South Garland.

Lance Blanks was named 3rd team All-American by **Parade Magazine**. He was also named Honorable Mention All-American by **Basketball Weekly**, which was basically one of the top 50 players in the country. He was also named Honorable Mention by **U.S.A Today**, which had become one of the more prominent All-American teams named in the country: Other Honorable Mention players were-5'10" Kato Armstrong(18.0) South Garland, 6'4" Lance Blanks(22.6) Conroe McCullough, 6'9" Eddie Cunningham(29.8) Sanford-Fritch, 6'5" Hart Lee Dykes(19.9) Bay City, 6'3" Sean Gay(16.6) Houston Madison, 6'4" Keith Hill(16.0) Aldine MacArthur, 6'4" Rod Jacques(21.0) Conroe High, 6'7" Andy Gilchrist(18.5) Spring Branch Memorial, 6'4" Floyd Macon(18.5) Dallas Samuel, 6'3" Chris Mason(26.5) Lamesa, 6'5" Chris Morris(25.1) Houston Sam Houston, 6'10" Reginald Muhammad(20.2) Wilmer Hutchins, 6'8" Vernon Perdue(14.0) Corpus Christi Miller, 6'8" John Roberson(22.0) San Antonio Southwest, 6'4" Rodney Samuel(22.4) junior from South Oak Cliff, 6'7" Kelvin Smith(16.8) Conroe, 6'4" LaBradford Smith(22.1) Bay City, a sophomore.

In 1984 the T.A.B.C. began giving the "**Texas Mr. Basketball Award**" to the top High School player in the state. Lance Blanks won the award in 1985 and Coyle Winborn of Pampa was named the previous season.

Players invited to play in the **Texas High School Coaches Association All-Star** game coached by Larry Brown and Robert Hughes were as follows: For the **North** squad, Blanks, Macon, Muhammad, 5'10" Richie Dozier(21.0) Austin Westlake, 6'0" Fred Rike(25.1) Tulia, 6'9" Fred West(17.6) Tyler John Tyler, 6'5" Steve Bryant(18.0) Pasadena, 6'5" Paul Hartman(18.0) Wheeler, 6'2" Ronald Johnson(23.0) Whitehouse, 6'4" Shane Hadaway(27.4) Haskell, 6'1" Anthony Lopez(22.2) Ranger and 6'5" Collin Wade from Henderson.

The **South** squad was made up of Gay, Hill, Gilchrist, 6'1" Tim Hobby(21.8) Alvin, 6'6" George Cameron(22.0) Gladewater Sabine, 6'2" Ricky Wiginton(18.9) Ingleside, 6'2" Gary Jones(21.9) Blanco, 6'6" Malcolm Townsend(25.0) Waelder, 6'4" Donzell Henton(13.0) Pt. Arthur Lincoln, 6'1" Lawrence Wilson(7.1) Snook, 6'2" Bennett Field(22.3) Sweeny, 6'7" Tadd Thomas(22.7) S.A. Alamo Heights.

National Rankings: Houston Madison finished the 4th ranked team in the nation by U.S.A. Today newspaper.

State Leaders: **Madison(40-0)** held down and set the record for point difference with +34.4 and were the top scoring team in the state at 95.3 per game. Conroe was right behind Madison at 88.4. **Conroe(34-3)** also had impressive numbers at +18.3 in point differential along with **South Oak Cliff(34-2)** at +18.4. **John Tyler(31-2)** was outstanding averaging 65.4 and allowed 49.0 for a +16.4 difference. The individual scoring leader was very close and as you know coaches turn-in all kinds of numbers. The top five scorers were **6'6" Ronnie James** of Alice at 26.0 per game. Is that number just rounded up or the real average? Because of this, I will include the other numbers. **6'4" Chris Morris** of Houston Sam Houston at 26.4 is the top number turned in. **6'2" Darrell Davis** from Midland averaged 26.0, **6'3" Juan Bibbs** of Houston Lee put up 25.4 points per game and **6'5" Tim Howard** of Ft. Worth Dunbar threw down 25.3 points per game. Take your pick, it's too close to call. Rebounding leader was sophomore **6'6" Larry Johnson** at 15.0 per game. Football player, **6'3" Mike Williams** of Dallas Pinkston, was also pretty imposing and was physical on the basketball court as well pulling down 15.1 boards per game for the Vikings. Williams was hotly pursued as football recruit. **6'8" Thomas Thames** of South San Antonio led the Alamo city with 14.9 boards a game. A close fourth was the junior from South Oak Cliff, **6'6" Ronnie Morgan**, at 14.8. El Paso schools once again dominated the defensive end of the court. **El Paso Burges(18-12)** allowed 41.5 and **El Paso Andress(23-7)** gave up only 45.7 per game. Burgess only averaged 41.8 on the offensive end. **South Oak Cliff** averaged 79.8 per game of the offensive end and were the top scoring team in Dallas.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs: Conroe had the ultimate big three with Maurice Wright, Kelvin Smith and **Rod Jacques** averaging over 18 points per game in the playoffs. In the largest classification that has to be some type of record. I don't recall anybody having three players with those numbers in the playoffs. Jacques led the playoff scoring averaging **23.5** per game. His scoring break-down was as follows- Klein Oak 19, Temple 29, S.O.C. 17, Kimball 26, King 38, Madison 12: Teammates, **Maurice Wright** averaged 19.0 points per game in the playoffs, while **Kelvin Smith** put 18.0. **Sean Gay** led Madison averaging 20.3 per game. Gay came away with 12 vs. Elsik, 28 vs. Yates, 15 vs. Westbrook, 27 against Pollard, 19 against Southwest and 21 in the title game against Conroe.

Power Ratings 1985

1.	Houston Madison	40-0	109.93	State Champs 5-A	def. Conroe 89-69
2.	Conroe	34-3	96.56	State Finals 5-A	loss Madison 89-69
3.	South Oak Cliff	34-2	94.95	Regional Semis 5-A	loss Conroe 81-79
4.	Beaumont Pollard	25-9	94.71	Regional Finals 5-A	loss Madison 90-74
5.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	29-4	94.70	Regional Semis 4-A	loss Bay City 50-44
6.	Bay City	35-1	89.70	State Champs 4-A	def. Lamesa 65-63

7.	Dallas Samuel	24-9	88.87	2 nd round 5-A	loss Kimball 76-70
8.	Bea Westbrook	29-4	88.48	Regional Semis 5-A	loss Madison 85-67
9.	South Garland	27-7	86.42	1 st round 5-A	loss SOC 62-58
10.	Dallas Kimball	30-3	85.52	Regional Semis 5-A	loss Conroe 86-82 2OT
11.	Tyler John Tyler	31-2	85.35	1 st round 5-A	loss Bryan 52-50
12.	Aldine MacArthur	30-3	85.30	1 st round 5-A	loss Pollard 73-58
13.	Corsicana	29-4	85.23	Regional Finals 4-A	loss Seagoville 69-67
14.	H. Sam Houston	28-6	84.77	1 st Round 5-A	loss Wheatley 86-82
15.	Bryan	25-11	84.69	Regional Semis 5-A	loss Kimball 69-64
16.	Temple	30-5	82.28	2 nd Round 5-A	loss Conroe 108-69
17.	Houston Yates	23-9	80.91	2 nd round 5-A	loss H. Madison 95-74
18.	Lamesa	28-6	80.86	State Finals 4-A	loss Bay City 65-63
19.	Clear Lake	32-3	80.62	1st Round 5-A	loss Sterling 68-65 2OT
20.	Ft. W. Southwest	30-9	79.97	State Semis 5-A	loss Madison 75-47
21.	North Mesquite	22-9	78.86	4 th place 5-A	
22.	Garland High	26-5	78.70	1st Round 5-A	loss D.Samuel 69-54
23.	Wilmer Hutchins	18-13	78.05	5th District 5-A	
24.	Denton	25-10	77.91	Regional Semis 5-A	loss Monterey 58-57
25.	Pasadena	23-10	77.75	1st round 5-A	loss LaMarque 51-44
26.	Alief Elsik	25-8	77.27	1st Round 5-A	loss H. Madison 82-48
27.	C.C. King	26-10	76.98	State Semi 5-A	loss Conroe 107-76
28.	Houston Milby	19-11	76.73	3rd place 5-A	
29.	Baytown Sterling	28-6	76.48	2nd Round 5-A	loss Westbrook 85-67
30.	Dallas Skyline	23-8	75.87	3rd place District	
31.	Highland Park	26-6	75.44	3 rd Place District	
32.	SB Memorial	29-6	74.51	Regional Semis 5-A	loss Pollard 59-38
33.	Killeen	23-7	74.33	3 rd Place District	
34.	Seagoville	20-12	73.84	State Semi 4-A	loss Bay City 89-64
35.	Houston Marian	25-3	73.55	State Champs Private	
36.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	20-13	71.70	1st round 5-A	loss Denton 57-55 OT
37.	Lake Highlands	23-6	71.45	2nd round 5-A	loss S.O.C. 92-69
38.	Houston Wheatley	19-11	70.31	2nd Round 5-A	loss Memorial 76-67

1985 5-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso Address(23-7)	46	El Paso Riverside(20-6)	45
	El Paso Eastwood(24-4)	65	El Paso Burgess(18-12)	48
	Denton(23-9)	57	FW Dunbar(20-12)	55
	FW Southwest(26-8)	59	Eules L.D.Bell(11-14)	58
	Irving MacArthur(20-11)	62	Arlington Sam Houston(20-12)	61
	Amarillo Palo Duro(22-7)	62	Midland Lee(25-7) OT	61
Region I Q-Finals	Lubbock Monterey(27-3)	103	Abilene(21-9)	99
	Grand Prairie(25-8)	65	Arlington Martin(25-8)	55
	Lubbock Monterey(28-3)	54	El Paso Address(24-7)	52
	Denton(24-9)	62	Irving MacArthur(21-11)	54
	Amarillo Palo Duro(23-7)	57	El Paso Eastwood(25-4)	52
	FW Southwest(27-8)	56	Grand Prairie(26-8)	51
Region I Semi Finals	FW Southwest(28-8)	54	Amarillo Palo Duro(24-7)	52
	Lubbock Monterey(29-3)	58	Denton(25-9)	57
Regional Finals	FW Southwest(29-8)	67	Lubbock Monterey(30-3)	60

Region II Bi-Dist.	Dallas Samuel(23-8)	69	Garland(26-4)	54
	Dallas South Oak Cliff(32-1) #2	62	South Garland(27-6)	58
	Lake Highlands(22-5)	59	Dallas Pinkston(17-10)	58
	Bryan(23-10)	52	Tyler John Tyler(25-1) #5	50
	Dallas Kimball(27-2) #4	74	Greenville(23-9)	58
	Temple(29-4)	80	Longview(24-8)	63
	Conroe McCullough(22-9)	63	Katy Taylor(27-4)	59
	Conroe(29-2) #3	87	Klein Oak(27-5)	69
	Dallas Kimball(28-2) #4	76	Dallas Samuel(24-8)	70
Region II Q-Finals	Dallas(24-10)	70	Conroe McCullough(23-9)	66
	Dallas South Oak Cliff(33-1) #2	92	Lake Highlands(23-5)	69
	Conroe(30-2) #3	108	Temple(30-4)	69
	Dallas Kimball(29-2) #4	69	Bryan(25-10)	64
Region Semis	Conroe(31-2) #3	81	Dallas South Oak Cliff(34-1) #2	79
	Conroe(32-2) #3	86	Dallas Kimball(30-2) #4 2OT	82
Region III Bi-Dist.	Spring Branch Memorial(27-5)	62	Houston Lee(21-9)	49
	Houston Wheatley(18-10)	86	H. Sam Houston(28-5) #10	82
	Houston Madison(34-0) #1	82	Alief Elsik(25-7)	48
	Beaumont Pollard(22-8)	73	Aldine MacArthur(30-2) #8	58
	LaMarque(17-8)	51	Pasadena(23-9)	44
	Houston Yates(22-8)	87	Houston Kashmere(24-11)	81
	Beaumont Westbrook(27-3)#9	54	Houston Smiley(15-14)	53
	Baytown Sterling(27-5)	68	Clear Lake(32-2) #6 2-OT	65
	Spring Branch Memorial(28-5)	76	Houston Wheatley(19-10)	67
Region III Q-Finals	Beaumont Pollard(23-8)	91	LaMarque(18-8)	69
	Houston Madison(35-0) #1	95	Houston Yates(23-8)	74
	Beaumont Westbrook(28-3)#9	85	Baytown Sterling(28-5)	67
	Beaumont Pollard(24-8)	59	Spring Branch Memorial(29-5)	38
Region III Semis	Houston Madison(36-0) #1	85	Beaumont Westbrook(29-3) #9	67
	Houston Madison(37-0) #1	90	Beaumont Pollard(25-8)	76
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Austin Johnston(19-8)	65	Angleton(25-4) #7	58
	Austin L.B.J.(23-9)	75	Alvin(22-13)	62
	San Antonio Lee(27-6)	58	San Antonio Holmes(15-13) 2OT	55
	San Antonio Marshall(18-13)	45	San Antonio Roosevelt(23-10)	35
	San Antonio Fox Tech(27-4)	58	South San Antonio(21-11)	41
	San Antonio Highlands(22-9)	72	Eagle Pass(21-8)	59
	Corpus Christi Miller(24-4)	78	Pharr San Juan-Alamo(29-4)	71
	Corpus Christi King(22-9)	78	Harlingen(28-4)	68
	San Antonio Lee(28-6)	47	Austin Johnston(20-8)	45
Region IV Q-Finals	San Antonio Fox Tech(28-4)	66	Corpus Christi Miller(25-4)	64
	Austin L.B.J.(24-9)	42	San Antonio Marshall(18-13)	36
	Corpus Christi King(23-9)	54	San Antonio Highlands(23-9)	44
	San Antonio Fox Tech(29-4)	55	San Antonio Lee(29-6)	43
Region IV Semis	Corpus Christi King(24-9)	67	Austin L.B.J.(25-9)	65
	Corpus Christi King(25-9)	67	San Antonio Fox Tech(30-4)	62
State Semi-Finals	Conroe(33-2) #3	107	Corpus Christi King(25-9)	76
	Houston Madison(38-0) #1	75	FW Southwest(30-8)	47
State Finals	Houston Madison(39-0) #1	89	Conroe(34-2) #3	69

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1985 AAAAA Top Teams}

1. Houston Madison 40-0 {Top team of the decade}

2.	Conroe	34-3	{State finals, defeated SOC, Kimball and Temple}
3.	Dallas S.O.C.	34-2	{regional semis, beat S. Garland(2), Kimball, Samuel (3)}
4.	Aldine MacArthur	30-3	{were 2-0 vs. Marian, H. Sam Hou. 1-1, Westbrook +18}
5.	Dallas Kimball	30-3	{regional finals, defeated S. Garland and Samuel twice}
6.	H. Sam Houston	28-6	{beat Bay City 107-88, MacArthur 1-1}
7.	Bea. Westbrook	29-4	{3-0 vs. Pollard, 1-1 vs. PA Lincoln}
8.	Beaumont Pollard	25-9	{beat Aldine Mac.,1-3 vs. PA Lincoln, def. Memorial +21}
9.	Tyler John Tyler	31-2	{defeated S. Garland +11, Skyline +1, Duncanville +1}
10.	Dallas Samuel	24-9	{lost by 6 to Kimball, 2-0 vs. Garland}
11.	Temple	30-5	{beat FW SW +9, Bryan 2-0, Killeen 2-1, SA Lee, Longview}
12.	Dallas Skyline	23-8	{2nd place tie with Dallas Samuel, SOC won the district}
13.	Clear Lake	32-3	{won Optimist Tourn., beat Midland Lee +21, Milby +2}
14.	S.B. Memorial	29-6	{lost in the regional semis to Pollard}
15.	Garland	26-5	{tremendous regular season but faltered in playoffs}
16.	Ft. Worth Southwest	30-9	{got hot in the playoffs and advanced to state}
17.	South Garland	27-7	{knocked out of the playoffs by S.O.C.}
18.	Bryan	25-11	{knocked off John Tyler and lost to Kimball in Regional}
19.	Houston Yates	23-9	{2nd round loss to Madison, Jaycee semi-finalist}
20.	Killeen	23-7	{lost district playoff to Bryan in 14-5A, 3rd in District}
21.	Houston Marian	29-3	{3 consecutive Catholic titles, 0-2 vs. H. MacArthur}
22.	Lubbock Monterey	30-4	{regional finalists losing to Southwest}
23.	Houston Wheatley	19-11	{defeated Sam Houston in bi-district 86-82}
24.	Houston Milby	19-11	{3rd place, lost out to Yates and Wheatley}
25.	PA Thomas Jefferson	18-9	{loss -Conroe, Lincoln, 1-2 vs. Westbrook, 0-2 vs. Silsbee}
26.	Corpus Christi King	27-10	{District runner-up who advanced to state}
27.	S. A. Fox Tech	30-5	{Regional finalist for the 2nd year in a row}
28.	Baytown Sterling	29-6	{Runner-up to Pasadena, beat Clear Lake in Playoffs}
29.	Conroe McCullough	23-10	{eliminated Katy Taylor in playoffs, 0-3 vs. Conroe}
30.	Houston Austin	18-12	{4th place team behind Yates, Wheatley, Milby}
31.	Katy Taylor	27-5	{won a district playoff over Klein Oak, win over Conroe}
32.	Highland Park	26-6	{finished 3rd in District, beat Garland, LBJ, A. Johnston}
33.	Angleton	25-5	{District champs, lost in bi-district to Austin Johnston}
34.	Corpus Christi Miller	25-5	{loss to Fox Tech 66-64, District Champ, beat Temple}
35.	Austin L.B.J.	25-10	{regional semis, 2-point loss to CC King}
36.	Klein Oak	27-6	{lost a district playoff to Katy Taylor 49-47}
37.	S. A. Lee	29-7	{district champion, lost in the regional semis to Fox Tech}
38.	El Paso Eastwood	25-5	{had a 17-games winning streak heading into the playoffs}
39.	Alief Elsik	25-8	{2nd place, split with Memorial}
40.	Houston Kashmere	24-12	{lost in the finals of the S.A. Optimist, District runner-up}
41.	Denton	25-10	{made regionals for the first time since 1974}
42.	Amarillo Palo Duro	24-8	{advanced to regional semi-finals}
43.	Grand Prairie	26-9	{was upended by FW Southwest in the 2nd round}
44.	El Paso Andress	24-8	{1-5A champion, lost in 2nd round to Monterey by 2}
45.	North Mesquite	22-9	{tied for 3 rd with Highland Park}
46.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	20-13	{District runner-up to Southwest, Rebuilding season}
47.	Irving MacArthur	21-12	{advanced to the 2nd round defeating Arl. Sam Houston}
48.	Duncanville	23-8	{finished 3rd in district}
49.	Arl. Sam Houston	20-13	{District runner-up, eliminated in 1st round by Mac.}
50.	Arlington Martin	25-9	{tied with Arlington Sam Houston for district honors}
51.	Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt	22-8	{finished 3rd behind Southwest and Dunbar in district}
52.	Dallas Jesuit	22-6	{4-A state champs, Texas Christian Interscholastic League}
53.	Longview	24-9	{District runner-up, lost in Bi-District to Temple}
54.	Wilmer Hutchins	18-13	{went 7-7 in tough district, behind Garland, SG, HP, NM}
55.	Texas High	20-9	{finished 3 rd District, defeated I. MacArthur & Greenville}

56.	Abilene	21-10	{District champ, eliminated in the 1st round}
57.	Midland Lee	25-8	{eliminated in the 1st round of the playoffs}
58.	Tyler Lee	20-11	{finished 4th in District behind, J.T., Longview, Texas High}
59.	Lake Highlands	23-6	{District champs, 13-1 in District, defeated Pinkston in PO}
60.	LaMarque	18-8	{beat Pasadena-Bi-Dist, District runner-up to Clear Lake}
61.	Pasadena	23-10	{District champions lost to LaMarque in 1st round}
62.	S.A. Highlands	23-10	{late season charge, lost in the 2nd round of playoffs}
63.	Amarillo	21-8	{3rd place in district 3-5A behind Palo Duro & Monterey}
64.	San Angelo Central	16-13	{3rd behind Midland Lee and Abilene}
65.	Odessa Permian	18-11	{4 th place behind Lee, Abilene and San Angelo}
66.	Midland	20-11	{came in 3 rd behind Lee and Abilene, Darrell Davis}
67.	El Paso Riverside	20-7	{lost in Bi-District by one point to Address}
68.	Euless L.D. Bell	19-12	{finished 3 rd in District}
69.	S.A. Central Catholic	20-9	{state finals lost to Dallas Jesuit 46-43 private school 4-A}
70.	Greenville	23-10	{District runner-up to Lake Highlands}
71.	Dallas Pinkston	17-11	{eliminated by Lake Highlands in 1 st round by 1}
72.	Houston Lee	21-10	{win over Memorial, lose to Marian 57-55}
73.	S.A. Roosevelt	23-11	{defeated Judson for a playoff spot, lost to SA Marshall}
74.	Alief Hasting	24-10	{3 rd place tie with Spring Woods, behind Memorial, Elsik}
75.	Spring Woods	18-12	{3 rd place tie, win over Memorial}
76.	Converse Judson	23-9	{lost district playoff to SA Roosevelt, Lee won 27-5A}
77.	R.R. Westwood	16-14	{4 th place behind Temple, Bryan and Killeen}
78.	El Paso Burgess	18-13	{lost in Bi-District to Eastwood, 2-2 vs. the Troopers}
79.	Austin Johnston	20-9	{2 nd round loss to SA Lee}
80.	Spring	22-10	{3 rd place behind Conroe and McCullough}
81.	S.A. Marshall	18-14	{District runner-up, upset SA Roosevelt in Bi-District}
82.	S. A. Holmes	15-14	{District runner-up, lost in OT to Lee in Bi-District}
83.	South San Antonio	21-12	{taken down by Fox Tech in Bi-District, Thomas Thames}
84.	Harlingen	28-5	{District Co-Champ, took top seed over P-SJ-A 76-64}
85.	Pharr San Juan-Al.	29-5	{District co-champ in 32-5A, eliminated in Bi-District}
86.	S.A. Sam Houston	22-9	{finished 3 rd district 29-5A behind Fox Tech & Highlands}
87.	Alvin	23-13	{2 nd place behind Angleton}
88.	Eagle Pass	21-9	{District champs, lost in Bi-District}
89.	S.A. East Central	20-12	{district 30-5A, finished 3 rd behind Eagle Pass & South SA}
90.	Berkner	18-10	{finished 3rd behind Greenville and Lake Highlands}
91.	Plano	17-12	{finished 4th wins over Greenville & North Mesquite}
92.	Victoria	18-14	{3 rd in district 31-5A behind C.C. Miller and King}
93.	Brownsville Hanna	20-10	{3 rd in district 32-5A behind PSJA and Harlingen}
94.	S.A. Churchill	16-9	{4 th place in district 27-5A}
95.	Houston Smiley	15-15	{lost in Bi-District by one point to Westbrook}
96.	Austin Travis	17-12	{zone playoffs in district 26-5A}
97.	Austin Reagan	19-13	{3 rd place in zone behind LBJ and Anderson}
98.	Austin Anderson	15-11	{zone playoffs in district 26-5A}
99.	Pasadena Dobie	20-10	{3 rd place in district 23-5A behind Pasadena & Sterling}
100.	Beaumont French	16-12	{4 th place finish in district behind Pollard, Westbrook, TJ}
101.	Lubbock Coronado	22-8	{4 th place in district 3-5A, Palo Duro, Monterey, Amarillo}
102.	Houston Washington	16-13	{3 rd place behind Sam Houston and Kashmere}
103.	Northbrook	20-12	{5 th place finish in district 17-5A}
104.	South Grand Prairie	16-12	{won the Grand Prairie Classic beating Grand Prairie}

1985 AAAA

Class 4-A had some outstanding talent during the 1985 season. The top three teams were pretty much all from Region III. Bay City, Port Arthur Lincoln and Silsbee were the cream of the crop in 4-A. West Texas was always competitive with their traditional powers, Borger, Lamesa, Hirschi, Everman and Cleburne. Class 4-A also had some big-time talent in Anthony Allen, Hart Lee Dyles, LaBradford Smith and the Mason brothers.

Region III

Pt. Arthur Lincoln entered the '85 season with so much talent and tradition. The Bumblebees may have been the 2nd best team in the state, regardless of classification. The competition the Bumblebees faced on a weekly basis was unmatched in Texas. Lincoln opened the season extending their winning streak to 22 straight with a convincing victory over West Orange Stark(12-20) 79-61. Lincoln were the defending class 4-A state champions. In Beaumont, in their third game of the season, Lincoln went down to Beaumont Pollard(25-9) 52-50. Keep in mind, Pollard finished up their season in the regional finals in class 5-A. Pollard was eliminated from the state playoffs by the 4th ranked team in the country, Houston Madison(40-0). Lincoln came back and faced Pollard three more times, winning all three, 56-47, 54-40 and 60-59.

Beaumont Westbrook(29-4) went through District 22-5A undefeated and advanced to the regional semi-finals losing to Houston Madison. Westbrook was able to split with the Bees. The Bruins won the first game 54-50 and Lincoln came back to win the second 47-46. Lincoln also played a home and home with Houston Washington(16-13). The Purple and Gold took down Washington in both games 65-56 and 82-61. Washington's front line was made up of 6'7" Reginald Pruitt, 6'5" Billy Smith and 6'5" Eddie Williams. Veteran coach, Clarence Stubblefield of Washington, commented about the Bees standout post, Anthony Allen, "in this area-I'm talking about southeast Texas and Houston- he's the best I've seen, without question, he gave our big kids a real lesson around the basket." Continuing Stubblefield said, "those kids can play with anybody, we're not that bad." Allen(15.0/10.0/7 blocks) had nine blocks against Washington and went by the nickname of "Red" because of his red hair. "Red" was of no relation to Leonard Allen of Lincoln, but came from a basketball family. His two uncles were both outstanding players. 7'0" Edmund Lawrence played with the Harlem Globetrotters and 6'10" David Lawrence was a high school All-American and played at McNeese State. He later played professionally in Europe.

Lincoln met cross-town rival Thomas Jefferson(18-9) in the finals of the Yellowjacket Classic in Pt. Arthur over the Christmas Holidays. All-state guard Steve Thompson(23.9) along with 6'7" Kerry Hadley(12.6) were key figures for Thomas Jefferson. The Bees won by 21 points 63-42. If you look at Jefferson's nine losses

during the season and you say they weren't that strong, that would be a mistake. They lost to Silsbee(30-2) twice, Conroe(34-3), Beaumont Westbrook(29-4) twice, Beaumont Pollard(25-9) twice and Pt. Arthur Lincoln. That's eight losses against top ten teams.

As District arrived the Bees were #3 in the state polls behind Bay City and Silsbee. The District showdown between Silsbee and Lincoln did not disappoint, as the two titans battled in out for state supremacy. The Tigers held the home court advantage in the team's first meeting. It meant little to Coach Gamble. His team dominated 74-51. It was the worst defeat delivered the Tigers in five years. Silsbee had been rated ahead of Lincoln in the latest TABC poll, which provided motivation for Lincoln. "Our players all knew the rankings didn't mean that much, because the people that made them had never seen us play," coach Gamble said. For Silsbee, it was their first loss of the season with a 23-point wiping at home, it proved to be pretty humbling.

Lincoln shot 33 of 57 from the floor and 8 of 8 from the foul line. Silsbee struggled shooting 22 of 66 from the field and 7 of 14 at the line. "We shot terribly, but they had something to do with it. Lincoln always seemed to have a hand in our face," Coach Terry Culley of Silsbee said. Lincoln never relinquished the lead allowing the Tigers to go into their four-corner offense, which spread the court. Lincoln dominated the glass 39 to 23 inside.

Bridge City was probably the best 3rd place team in the state in class 4-A, although you might get an argument from West Mesquite and Mansfield. The Cardinals battled Silsbee close in both games, but lost both 48-45 and 47-45. 6'4" Tracey Gunter(20.1/10.6/60% FG) and 6'3" Greg Garriga(14.1/10.4) were two outstanding performers for Coach Jim McDonald and the Cardinals. Coach McDonald commented about Gunter saying, "I can't imagine any kid more valuable to his team. Without Anthony Allen, Lincoln would still have a great team."

Bridge City(26-6) had top ten club in class 4-A with five of their six losses coming against District rivals, Lincoln and Silsbee. The Bees overpowered the Cardinals 61-44, 57-40 and 78-37 by an average of 25 points. Cardinal coach, Jim McDonald said, "it had to be the toughest 4-A league in the state."

The much-anticipated rematch between Lincoln and Silsbee took place on the Bees home court. The Tigers knew they would have their work cut for themselves. Head Coach Terry Culley of Silsbee had won 828 games during his illustrious career. You don't win that many games conceding defeated. The Tigers pulled a monster upset 54-52 over the Bees. It was Lincoln's first loss on their home court in three seasons. "Beating them on their home floor is almost unheard of," Coach Culley remarked. "When they beat us the way they did at our place it hurt the kids' pride, sort a woke us up. We've played a lot better since that game." The Tigers win ended Lincoln's 23-game home streak and 18-game winning streak. 6'4" Darrell McArthur of Silsbee was brilliant with 14 points and 11 rebounds and

proved to be a winner, hitting the two critical foul shots with 10 seconds left. McArthur said, "This is wild. But believe it or not, I knew we could do it. We just had to make them play our game."

Coach Gamble said following the loss, "one thing for sure, we hadn't played a tight ball-game in a long time, but that's no excuse. The bottom line is Silsbee played a fine game." Gamble continued, "our inexperience showed at guard and Silsbee really controlled the inside game."

Many in hearing of the defeat thought Silsbee held the ball the entire game, but that was not the case. Lincoln led 38-32 and the Tigers responded with 6'0" Kevin Dodd hitting three long jump shots over the Bees zone defense. Artie Hunter also added two driving layups to put Silsbee back into control 46-40 early in the 4th period. Lincoln refused to go away pulling within two points 52-50, on Allen's alley-oop pass from Henton in the 10 seconds of play. McArthur knocked down the winning foul shots and Kenneth McKyer of Lincoln went the length of the court for a lay-up, to make the final read 54-52. Allen finished with 17 points, McKyer had 11 points and Harold Campbell was 5 for 5 for 10 points. Dodd and Joe Burris each came away with 12 points in Silsbee's winning cause. In District 9-4A, Lincoln(29-3) and Silsbee(28-1) both finished 11-1, Bridge City(26-6) was impressive at 8-4. Lincoln and Silsbee wanted to avoid another game, so they flipped a coin to see who took the top seed in the playoffs.

Silsbee opened the state playoffs against Houston C.E. King and came away with a 55-46 victory. Next up was Houston Furr(21-7), who had defeated El Campo(20-9) 88-86 on Bi-District. The game was played in Bay City and Silsbee was paced by their all-state guard, Darrell McArthur. The brilliant junior scored 32 points and Jon Burris threw in 18 points along with Kevin Dodd's 17 points. The Tigers advanced to the regionals against the winner of the Bay City-Lincoln contest.

For Pt. Arthur Lincoln, it was their fifth playoff appearance in six seasons. The Bumblebees 1st round opponent was a familiar one for Coach Gamble, the Hornets of Huntsville(23-10). Huntsville had traveled to state in 1977, 78 and 79 and were state champions in 1978 and 1979. The Hornets advanced to the regional finals in 1983, losing to Silsbee. In the 1985 campaign, Huntsville had struggled early in the season with losses to Beaumont Westbrook by 30 points, Silsbee by 12, Corsicana by 4, and a 10-point loss to Snook. "We played a rough schedule and it could have completely wrecked our confidence," Coach Jim McDaniel said. The Hornets got on a roll once District came around winning 13 of 14 games. The 1985 playoffs would be their ninth straight appearance in the post-season. Coach McDaniel spoke some words of wisdom before his playoff game. "Let's face it, we're in a tough situation, even if we jump up and beat Lincoln we've got to turn around and play Bay City. We'd have to beat what would be the two best teams in the state, just to get out of the region."

Coach Gamble didn't take Huntsville lightly having lost a heartbreaker in the 1983 zone playoffs to the Hornet's 65-63. Huntsville took on the #1 class 3-A team in the state Hardin-Jefferson in a warm-up game. The Hornets took it on the chin losing by five points. Coach Gamble got a good look at the Hornets and said, "they have great team speed, they shoot the ball and they're extremely quick. They're a lot like Silsbee, but not as big." 6'0" Joe Bryant(19.0/6.0) was the go to player for the Hornets. Bryant was in his third season as a starter. He was said to have a 35" vertical jump. "Without a doubt he's the best athlete on our team," McDaniel said. 5'11" Tommy Woolley(17.0), point guard Victor Smith(12.0) and 6'3" Gary Houston(12.0) were other key contributors for Huntsville. The only size for the Hornets had came off the bench in 6'4" Trey Wharton.

The game was a total mismatch, as Lincoln completely shut down Huntsville early taking a 13-0 lead after 6 ½ minutes of play. Dayton gym was the site of the Bi-District game as 1,000 fans looked on. The final read 89-61, in favor of the Bees. "I thought we played extremely well," Gamble said. The Bees shot 29 of 56 from the floor and 32 of 39 from the foul line. Lincoln also held the rebounding advantage 32-21. Huntsville missed their first 10 shots from the floor and committed eight turnovers in the first five minutes. Facing Lincoln had that effect on teams. Coach McDaniel conveyed, "We can't run with them, but we couldn't match-up in a half-court game either because of the size advantage." Huntsville finished the season at 23-11.

All-Golden Triangle by the Houston Chronicle:

1st Team- 6'7" Anthony Allen-PA Lincoln, 6'4" Donzell Henton, PA Lincoln, 6'4" Darrell McArthur-Silsbee, 6'4" Steve Thompson-PA Jefferson, 6'3" Archie Corbin-Beaumont Pollard, 6'2" Antonio Wells-Beaumont Westbrook, 5'10" Michael Young, Beaumont Beaumont: **2nd Team-** 6'1" Kevin Dodd-Silsbee, 5'8" Alfred Minix-Beaumont Pollard, 6'0" Tim Hood-Beaumont French, 6'7" Kerry Hadley- PA Jefferson, 6'4" Tracey Gunter-Bridge City, 6'4" Kenneth McKyer-PA Lincoln, "Coach of the Year"-James White-Beaumont Pollard, "Player of the Year"- Anthony Allen:

Joe Bryant scored 24 points for Huntsville followed by sophomore Elzie Ballard, who pumped in 14 points. Henton paced Lincoln with 20 points and McKyer put up 13 points. Allen was dominating as usual with 13 points, 11 rebounds and 4 blocks. Eleven Bees hit the scoring column. The score could have been much worse. "Overall, they've got far more talent than any team we've played or seen," Coach McDaniel said. "The only way we could compete with Lincoln would be to do what Silsbee did-get a one-point lead and hold onto the basketball."

Bay City was the top ranked team in the state in class 4-A and had two of the best athletes that the state has produced, in 6'5" 220 pound Hart Lee Dykes(22.0) and 6'4" 190 pound LaBradford Smith(20.0/8.0). It just so happened they were talented basketball players as well. Smith showed his skills as a professional lighting up the legendary Michael Jordan for 37 points, while playing in the N.B.A. LaBradford was also good enough to be drafted by Blue Jays in major

league baseball. He supposedly had a wicked fastball. Smith and Dallas Skyline's Larry Johnson were considered two of the best sophomores in the entire country. They would be two of the most recognized players ever produced in Texas.

Dykes was named the national "Athlete of the Year" and named U.S.A. Today's, "Offensive Player of the Year" on the football field.

Dykes(19.0/13.0) was also drafted by the White Sox in MLB and the 1st round pick(16th over-all) by the Patriots in the N.F.L. draft. He was more famous for his NCAA investigation coming out of high school than anything else. The news grabbed highlines on the sport pages all over the country. After being granted immunity in the investigation, Texas A&M, Oklahoma, Illinois and Oklahoma State were placed on probation.

Bay City won the Victoria Tournament early in the season defeating District rival, El Campo(20-10) 66-53. LaBradford Smith was named Tournament M.V.P. along with all-tournament selections for the Black Cats, 5'10" Sammy Jackson and 6'3" Floyd Smith. Dykes was still on the football field and missed the tournament. El Campo coach, Brad Barnes, said he knew he was in trouble when he saw the Cats pull the ball out. "They can hit the free throws, and they've got all that quickness, so it's hard to do anything against them when they're trying to keep the ball away from you." Bay City also took the Calhoun Lions Club Tournament with a dominating 87-46 performance over the tournament host, Calhoun. The Black Cats destroyed Corpus Christi Carroll(19-12) in the semis 76-49.

Bay City's only loss of the regular season came against one of the top teams in Houston, Sam Houston(28-6). The Tigers had played the best the state had to offer and were not intimidated by the Black Kats. They had lost to Tito Horford and Houston Marian(25-3) 72-69, and split with Aldine MacArthur(30-3). MacArthur was ranked 2nd in the Houston area and top five in the state rankings.

The Bay City-Sam Houston game was never close and it really showed Coach Nelson's team biggest weakness, depth. Sam Houston led at the end of the 1st quarter 22-12, halftime 44-32, end of the 3rd quarter 68-52 and the final read 107-88. The game was never close because of the tempo. Yes, Bay City had two of the best athletes anywhere, but they could not handle an up-tempo contest like Sam Houston employed. Hart Lee Dykes finished with 30 points and LaBradford added 22 and little brother, Billy Dykes, added 17 points. That's a total of 69 points which is a long way from 107. Sam Houston on the other hand, placed four players in double digits. 6'5" Chris Morris, one of the top players in the state, finished with 30 points. 5'7" Tyron Mingo added 20 points along with John Lockett's 27 points and George Bradford's 20 points. Bay City realized they would have to keep the tempo much slower to be successful.

In 12-4A action, Bay City went undefeated putting away District runner-up El Campo 72-62 and 72-64. Their most challenging game was a one-point victory over Friendswood 44-43.

In Bi-District, Coach Eddie Nelson prepared for 11-4A runner-up, A&M Consolidated(21-10). Consolidated was coached by Jim McManus. A&M finished runner-up to Houston Furr in District and were making their third straight playoff appearance. "We just feel fortunate that we have an opportunity to play the best team in the state of Texas right now," Coach McManus said. "We feel like we've got a legitimate chance to play with them, of knocking them off."

The A&M-Bay City game took place at Lamar Terry High School. The Black Kats starters were 6'5" Hart Lee Dykes(19.9), 6'4" LaBradford Smith(20.1), 6'3" Floyd Smith, 5'9" Gary Reddus(7.0), and 5'9" Sammy Jackson(11.6). Coming into the game Coach Nelson said the obvious, "the key for us is how well Hart Lee an LaBradford play." A&M starters included, 6'4" Brad Grays(8.5), 6'3" Bruce Sanders(13.0), 6'0" Nicky Canto(12.0), 6'0" J.T. McManus(12.4), and 5'11" Glenn Sweed(8.3).

Bay City jumped out to a big 23-9 lead and cruised to a 69-43 victory. LaBradford, on one of his many dunks, left the floor near the foul line and proceeded to ram home a slam dunk. Dykes also got into the act with some nice slams. Bay City dominated inside as well 57-32 on the boards.

LaBradford put-up 20 points and Dykes was good for 17 along with 12 from Gary Reddus. Bay City had taken control early with a 40-25 lead at halftime. Braves Graves paced Consolidated with 11 points.

El Campo(20-9) met perennial playoff contender Houston Furr(20-7) in Bi-District. In a great game, Furr eliminated El Campo in overtime 88-86. Marlin Roberts led El Campo with 26 points, Keith Mannis helped with 22 points and Heath Sherman added 15 points in this high scoring affair. The game was played at Wheeler Field House.

11-AAAA All-District 1st Team- Edward Jackson-Houston Furr, Paul Thomas-Houston Furr, Emanuel Limbrock-Houston Furr, Roderick Martin-Brenham, Keith Odom-Tomball, Lance Pavlas-Tomball, Darrell Hawkins-Waller, J.T. McManus-A&M Consolidated, Alan Hunter-Waller, Carl Sullivan-Brenham:

With Dykes and Smith, Bay City had two players that were more than capable of dominating a high school game. Bay City's Coach, Eddie Nelson, was still seeking revenge from his team's 58-53 loss the previous year to Lincoln. Nelson remembered the game well, "Allen was the difference in the game. He sent shots flying all over the gym. He must have blocked five of Hart Lee's and LaBradford's shots. Just awesome."

At Deer Park, round two of the historic games between **Lincoln(29-3) and Bay City(31-1)** took place. Allen(15.0/12.0/5.5 blocks) was going to be a key player once again in the outcome of the contest. 6'5" Ronnie Haliburton, 6'4" Harold Campbell and 6'5" Donzell Henton were all critical to Coach Gamble. 6'3" Floyd Smith, 5'10" Sammy Jackson(11.0) and Gary Redus made up the starting line-up along with Dykes and LaBradford for Bay City. 6'3" 240 pound, Billy Dykes came off the bench for the Black Kats. Coach Nelson discussed the leadership qualities of

Hart Lee saying, “all the players look up to him, and he is a great leader.” Nelson was in his 13th year with the Black Kats with an impressive 308-94 record.

There was standing room only crowd of 2,300 at Deer Park High school to watch the top two rated teams go at it once again. Bay City made the game physical and came away with a 50-44 victory. Dykes finished with 16 points and 9 rebounds. LaBradford added 18 points. “We like to go out and go wild and have fun,” Dykes said. “We like the game to be called loose. We like to run and take it to the hole. We wanted this one real, bad.” LaBradford said, “our coach told us in practice it was going to be more physical in the playoffs.”

Bay City went ahead 14-6, then frustrated the Bees with similar tactics that Silsbee used to defeat Lincoln. Using the four-corner offense, LaBradford was positioned at the foul line just like Silsbee did with Darrell McArthur. When Smith got the ball, he would kick it out or finish at the basket. “We didn’t get that offense from Silsbee,” Coach Nelson said. “We planned it all along, knowing it was all we could do, Lincoln has a lot of good players, more players than we do.” Nelson continued, “But with Moose(LaBradford) and Hart Lee we have two great individuals they couldn’t match up with.” All 11 of Bay City’s points in the 4th quarter came from the foul line.

Coach Gamble was real disappointed in the officials, who came out of the Waco Chapter. “It was the most physical game I’ve ever played,” Donzell said following the loss. McKyer concurred, “I haven’t played in such a physical game.” Allen and Haliburton both fouled out on what was thought to be questionable calls.

Gamble said, “an old man told me a long time ago that if you stay in coaching long enough, you’re going to win some games you’re not supposed to win, and lose some you’re supposed to lose.” Gamble continued saying, “I still feel we have a better team.”

The game was tied at 40 all with 4:40 remaining. Bay City proceeded to knockdown 10 of 12 foul shots in the final four minutes. LaBradford was a 90% foul shooter, one of the best the state has seen. Gamble summarized the loss saying, “our experience at point guard showed tonight, we couldn’t get into our offense.” Henton was only allowed 11 shots and scored 6 points. “I felt Anthony was getting mauled every time we threw it inside,” Gamble said.

Lincoln season ended at 29-4 and Bay City moved on to face Silsbee at 32-1. “This is our biggest victory of the season and our best overall performance,” Nelson explained. “This was probably our best game in four or five years,” Nelson said. “Pt. Arthur has a super team-they’re the state champions, and to beat them, you know you’ve done something special.

All-District 9-4A: 1st team- 6’4” Darrell McArthur(23.3/11.0) of Silsbee, 6’7” Anthony Allen(15/12/198 blocks and 64.8% from the floor) of Lincoln. The Coaches voted for McArthur as the District M.V.P. and

the Pt. Arthur New voted for Allen. Coach Gamble said, "every team that we played had to change their game plan because of Red(Allen). They knew they weren't going to get anything inside."

The rest of the first team, 6'4" Donzell Henton(16.4) of Lincoln, 6'4" Tracey Gunter(20.1) of Bridge City, 6'1" Kevin Dodd(14.5/9.0) of Silsbee. **2nd Team** honors went to 6'5" Ronnie Haliburton(9.6) of Lincoln, 5'11" Kenneth McKyer(13.5) of Lincoln, 6'2" Joe Burris(11.2) from Silsbee, 6'3" Greg Carriga(13.4/10.4) of Bridge City and 6'3" Harold Campbell(9.8) from Lincoln. Terry Culley of Silsbee was named "Coach of the Year." Culley was in his 34th season.

"Silsbee is tough as nails, so we're not out of the woods yet," Coach Nelson said. "When you come off a win like this, it's very difficult to get your players up for the next game," Nelson continued. "Your kind of skeptical about how you're going to play the next game, and it doesn't matter what you tell your players. The Lincoln game is still on their minds; and after a tremendous game like that you can go flat."

Silsbee and Bay City had a long history against one another. The previous season the Tigers lost in overtime to Bay City 66-65. Silsbee had a 65-63 lead in that game, when LaBradford went to the line shooting a one and one with four seconds left on the clock. Smith hit the first, but missed the second. Hart Lee slid inside Darrell McArthur on the lane and grabbed the rebound for the Black Kats. Dykes scored the winning bucket as the buzzer sounded.

Bay City looked to Dykes(19.0/13.0) and Smith(20.0/9.0) to direct the ship. Other key players for the Black Kats were 5'10" Sammy Jackson(11.0), 5'9" Gary Reus(6.0/10.0 assists), and 6'3" Floyd Smith(2.0/5.0). Silsbee on the other hand could look to 1983 when they were able to defeat Bay City 57-53 in the regional semi-finals. Starters for Coach Terry Culley's crew were McArthur(24.0/12.0) and Michael McCain(11.1) in the backcourt. In the front court were Kevin Dodd(14.0/8.0), Joe Burris(12.0) and Fred Ruckett(7.1).

In the regional finals, Bay City and Silsbee went at it once again in front of 2,100 fans at Delmar Field House. The number one vs. number two teams in the TABC polls. Coach Terry Culley of Silsbee, a 34-year veteran, was not happy following his team's 60-54 loss. Culley said following the loss that he would be calling the U.I.L. and filing a protest about the officials. The 57-year old Culley was noticeably upset with how physical the game was played. "The officiating was terrible, it's a shame when you get the top two teams in the state together, then you get people calling like that. And the U.I.L. is always bragging on how good their officials are, and how they do a good job. Then we got this." Culley continued saying, "I'm going to call the U.I.L. today and I'm going to send them a tape of this game."

Bay City led at halftime 27-26. After a slow first half by LaBradford, Coach Nelson told him at halftime, "it was do or die." The Tigers were really focused on slowing Hart Lee, which opened things up for Smith. The sensational sophomore hit three straight baskets, putting the Black Kats up going into the 4th quarter 41-38. Silsbee was able to close the gap to one point at 49-48 with 2:32 remaining.

Bay City took control leading 60-50 with 15 seconds remaining. The Tigers were able to score two straight buckets to make the final 60-54. Coach Nelson of Bay City commented, "when you're playing Silsbee, an eight or ten-point lead doesn't matter. I told the kids at halftime they were 16 minutes away from Austin." Hart Lee Dykes chimed in saying, "I knew they were a good team, I knew we would have to play one of our best games to win."

In the playoffs, the home team is responsible for getting the officials. Culley, after talking to Coach Gamble of P.A. Lincoln, knew he did not want the officials to come out of the Waco Chapter. Culley told them as much on Wednesday before the game on Friday. "I told them I wanted the officials out of the Austin Chapter," Culley said. "But when I got here tonight, Bay City athletic director, Ron Mills, told me he couldn't get the Austin chapter, and that he had to go with the Waco Chapter."

Dykes and LaBradford combined for 50 points of the team total 60 points in the win. Hart Lee put up some incredible numbers with 28 points, 10 rebounds, 4 blocks and 2 steals. Those numbers make **Dykes a TEXAS LEGEND**. LaBradford had a great game with 22 points and 9 boards. Dykes and Smith also scored 17 of their teams 19 fourth quarter points. Only four players got in the scoring column for Bay City and one of those only scored two points. Darrell McArthur of Silsbee proved why he was considered one of the top players in the state carrying his team with 19 points, while Dodd finished with 15 points and 5 rebounds. There was conflicting information in regards to rebounding. Silsbee had the rebound advantage 30-14 according to one publication, but the Beaumont newspaper had Bay City winning the rebound battle 31-16. Silsbee finished the season at 30-2. Coach Culley of Silsbee summarized his team success, "we didn't have much depth so we knew our kids had to be in good shape, they worked extremely hard."

Region II

Corsicana, located about sixty miles south of Dallas, had their best team since 1974. If you'll recall from my earlier books, Corsicana was 34-0 going into the regional finals and lost handily to future state finalist, Dallas South Oak Cliff. For Corsicana, the '85 season was their first District title since 1975. Under the leadership of Coach Dale Dotson, the Tigers were ranked in the top five in the state. Dale Dotson was a former standout at the University of Texas and later went on to coaching fame at Lon Morris Junior College. Dotson was a defense first coach, who emphasized man to man pressure. The strength of the Tigers in 1985 centered around a tremendous backcourt combo of 5'10" Lamar Wadley(22.0) and 5'8" Ricky Dotson(15.2). The pair of senior guards really complimented one another. Wadley was lightning quick with the ability to penetrate and finish. Dotson was a fine ball-handler, but was known for his outside shooting. He was a typical coach's son. Wadley and Dotson had played their entire career together. In middle

school the tandem only lost two games and were three-year starters on the varsity. The third member of the triumvirate was 6'2" Terry Winston(15.4). The senior post was athletic and had the ability to step out and hit the fifteen-foot jumper. Coach Dotson called Winston, "an outstanding defensive player." 5'10" Anthony McAdams(5.0) and 5'10" Gene Lusk(4.5) were limited scorers, but rebounded well and strong on the defensive end. You can see the Tigers Achilles heel was their lack of size, with three players under six foot tall. 6'1" Cornell Watts(3.4) came off the football field and provided added depth for Coach Dotson.

During the pre-season, Corsicana proved their metal defeating some of the best teams in the state in class 5-A and 4-A. Cleburne(27-6) fell to the Tigers in the Crowley Tournament 66-45. Cleburne advanced to the regional finals. In the A&M Consolidated tournament, Corsicana downed Huntsville(23-11) 70-66, Austin L.B.J.(25-10) 54-48 and A&M Consolidated(21-11) 61-52. All three were playoff teams. Coach Dotson's crew took out Waco Jefferson-Moore(19-11) in the M.T. Rice Tournament in Waco 54-43.

The Tigers master piece during the pre-season was their 53-43 upset victory over the state's 5th ranked class 5-A team, John Tyler(31-2) out of Tyler. The Lions came into Corsicana's gym at 13-0. Corsicana held Tyler's all-state post, 6'6" James Johnson, to six points and 5'10" Lamar Wadley went off for 26 points for the victorious Tigers.

Corsicana only had three losses during the regular season, Palestine 58-55 in triple overtime, Hillsboro 54-52 and Grapeland(32-3) 70-68 in double overtime. Grapeland went on to win state in class AA. The Tigers played the Palestine game without the services of Winston, who had the flu. Corsicana had opened the season with a 68-49 victory over the Wildcats of Palestine. On Hillsboro's home court the Tigers got behind early and Hillsboro went to the spread offense. Hillsboro managed to outscored Corsicana 12-4 in the 3rd quarter. Corsicana came charging back, but were unable to overcome 14 traveling violations and lost.

Honestly, have you ever heard of that many traveling violations in the high school game. Coach Dotson commented after his teams unexpected loss, "It makes you sick when you know you're a better basketball team, but perhaps there's an important learning experience to be gained from this." Corsi had dominated Hillsboro in an earlier game 66-39, so they were clearly a much stronger team.

Corsicana was the top-rated class 4-A team in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area by the Dallas Morning News. There were several strong teams in class 4-A in the area in 1985 and most resided in District 7-4A south zone. When Waxahachie(17-11) finishes 4th in your zone, you know its competitive. The Tigers took down the Indians in both contest 70-51 and 69-52. Lancaster, Waxahachie, Corsicana and West Mesquite were all in the south zone.

Coach Joe Rushing from Grand Prairie fame was building something special in Lancaster, as the demographics of the area were changing. Lancaster had

three starters returning from a 21-9 team and presented an enormous threat to Corsicana. Lancaster counted on 6'2" Barry Baker(14.7), 6'2" Charles Bailey(12.7) and 6'2" Darryl Roberts(8.7). Lancaster was rated #9 in the state polls. Corsicana handed Lancaster two losses, 62-59 in overtime and 65-47 at home.

Corsicana came into their first District game against West Mesquite with both teams undefeated at 4-0. The Wranglers were impressive inside with 6'10" Wes Lowe and 6'8" Ron Harris(18.3) and Stuart Hall(16.0). Lowe went on to star at Texas Tech for the Red Raiders. In one of many comebacks during the season, the Tigers were able to overcome a 14-point lead and steel the victory in overtime 57-54. "They never will quit on you," Dotson said. "Because they were so much bigger, they can control the tempo of the game." Wadley hit the last five points of the regulation sending the game into overtime. It was Corsicana's fifth overtime game in the previous nine games.

In their second meeting with West Mesquite, Corsi came from 12 points down once again to defeat Coach John Banks team 66-63. The loss forced West Mesquite into a playoff with Lancaster for the runner-up spot. Both teams finished the zone with 6-4 records. Lancaster(21-7) defeated West Mesquite for the runner-up spot in the playoffs.

The heart and soul of the Corsicana attack rested in 5'10" Lamar Wadley and 5'8" Ricky Dotson. Wadley was one of the top guards in the state, regardless of classification. Coach Bo Burgess of Fairfield described Wadley saying, "Wadley is the best penetrator we played against all year." Coach Nickols of Waxahachie continued the accolades saying, "I don't believe I've seen any player during my coaching career that's any quicker than Lamar is." Wadley's backcourt mate, Ricky Dotson chimed in saying, "most people don't realize how great a defensive player his is." Every team that faced the Tigers knew Wadley would need to be contained to have any chance. Dotson complemented Wadley's abilities with his outside shooting and outstanding passing ability. "He likes to take big shots late," Coach Burgess said.

In order to advance to the state playoffs, Corsicana had to defeat the north zone runner-up, Rockwall(15-12). As winner of their zone, Corsicana got to play the game on their home court. Hal Cunnyngnam was at the helm with the Yellowjackets. Hal was a great educator and a very spiritual individual. He had begun his coaching career as a Yellowjacket and come up through the system. Coach Cunnyngnam hung his hat on the talents of 6'1" post, Marvin Williams(22.1). Williams was a scoring machine who signed a division one scholarship to play football at Tulane. He was a match-up nightmare because of his inside moves and strength. Other contributors to the Yellowjackets attack were 6'4" Terry Strange, 6'1" Clint Miller and 5'9" Roscoe Brown.

Rockwall did not have the guard play or quickness to stay with the Tigers and lost 73-50. Rockwall commented 20 turnovers in the contest. Wadley finished

with 24 points and Winston kicked in 12 points and 9 rebounds. Lancaster(22-7) won the other zone playoff game defeating Gainesville(17-8) 74-59.

Paris(20-5) won the north zone in District 8-4A with an 9-1 record. The Wildcats faced Jacksonville(19-8), who were the runner-up in the south zone at 8-2. The game was a toss-up over-all with Paris relying on their quickness and athleticism. Key players for a very young Paris squad were 6'3" sophomore, Darrell Mickens(13.1) and Keith Robins(13.6). Jacksonville had very little size with 5'11" Michael Hollie(14.0/7.0) and 6'1" Anthony Chumbley(13.0/7.0) the main cogs for Coach John Alexander.

As expected the game was close with Paris(21-5) winning in overtime 55-53. Jacksonville's Mike Hollie hit a fall away jumper at the buzzer to send the game into overtime. Mickens paced the Wildcats with 16 points and Robins kicked-in 13 points. Chumbley led Jacksonville with 16 points and Hollie followed with 14.

This set-up the Bi-District game between Paris(21-5) and Lancaster(22-7). The Tigers were expected to advance. Coach Mike Long explained, "Lancaster's probably two or three notches better than Jacksonville. They're very similar in a lot of ways... just better." Long continued saying, "they like to crash the boards with all five of the players. They don't run much, play a patterned offense that looks for the high percentage shot, but they like to play man to man defense and will press a lot." Long was very concerned because his point guard, Dexter Williams, was scholastically ineligible for the game. "Hopefully, losing Dexter won't offset us as much as it would some other teams, because we've always used our bench a lot," Long said. Coach Joe Rushing of Lancaster looked to 6'2" Charles Bailey(15.0/8.0), 6'0" Darryl Roberts(14.0/9.0), Barry Baker(17.0/9.0) and 6'0" Frank Sanders for majority of his team's points.

At J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson, Lancaster pulled out a close one 47-44 over Paris. Lancaster went up 28-16 at halftime with Baker finishing 16 points and Bailey adding 12 points for the Tigers. Robins scored 14 points for Paris in a losing cause. "Their pressure gave us some problems early," Coach Long said. The Wildcats finished the season with a fine 21-6 mark.

Henderson(25-4) awaited Corsicana in Bi-District. Coach Brooks Dozier was at the helm at Henderson. The Lions still relied on the inside game of 6'5" Collin Wade. In a warm-up game against Huntsville, Henderson showed their strength defeated a solid Huntsville team 69-56. Gerry Davis led Henderson with 14 points. Henderson also had defeated Sulphur Springs in the zone playoffs 78-58. 6'5" Collin Wade put up 22 points for the Lions in the win. Henderson split with Palestine during District action and defeated District runner-up, Jacksonville in both games.

The Lions line-up looked as follows: 6'5" Collin Wade(17.0/11.0), 6'3" Joe Bradford(12.2), 5'9" Gerry Davis, 5'10" Rod Pollard, point guard Tim Hodge.

Coming off the bench was 6'4" Brooks Dozier the III and Pat Powdrill. Henderson relied on their 2-3 zone to slow down Corsicana.

The Bi-District game between Corsicana and Henderson was played in Athens at Henderson County Junior College. Corsicana took a 52-49 lead late in the game against Henderson and Coach Dotson decided to pull the ball out. He explained later it was necessary to go to four corners because of foul trouble. Winston was solid for Coach Dotson putting up 16 points and Rod Pollard paced Henderson with 16 points. Collin Wade was held to only 10 points. Lamar Wadley knocked down 19 points and Ricky Dotson added 15 for the Tigers in the 58-51 victory over Henderson.

In the regional semi-finals, Corsicana(28-3) prepared for Dallas Lincoln(21-9) and the up-tempo team coached by the personable Alex Gillum, formerly of Dallas Carter. Lincoln had defeated one of the toughest teams in Austin Westlake(26-7) in Bi-District 75-64. This was somewhat surprising because Lincoln had lost a warm-up game to Ft. Worth Nolan 68-60 at Wesleyan College. Austin Westlake was runner-up to Georgetown(16-14) in District 6-4A.

In the Dallas Lincoln-Austin Westlake contest, Richie Dozier once again put up 29 points for the Chaparrals, but his team came up short. Joe Barnes helped with the Westlake cause with 16 points. Lincoln was paced by Rodney Taylor's 23 points. Westlake lost the game at the foul line hitting only 16 of 37 foul shots.

Seagoville(17-11) proved to be a surprise in Region II defeating Georgetown(16-14) 69-67. Seagoville played only six players in the contest. John Tenison, Maurice Woods and Gary Wood combined for 55 points for the Dragons. Tenison led the charge with 26 points. The Dragons were moving on in the playoff hunt with Dallas Lincoln(21-8). The Bulldogs of Georgetown were led by Ricky Rosenblad's 15 points and Eric Anderson added 14.

Both Austin Westlake and Georgetown had to battle just to get out of District. Georgetown defeated Waco Jefferson-Moore(19-11) in a zone playoff 64-57. David Moehring was the leader for Georgetown with 24 points and Ricky Rosenblad finished with 14. 6'7" Calvin Moore led Jefferson-Moore with 24 points in defeat. Austin Westlake also moved on defeating Waco High(21-9) in their zone contest 71-70. Richie Dozier was amazing for Westlake with 32 points. Alvin Jefferson was the scoring leader for the Lions with 20 points.

In Dallas Lincoln(21-8), Corsicana(28-3) would be looking at a team just as athletic as they were. The Lincoln Tigers starting line-up was made up 5'10" Clarence Johnson(20.8), 5'11" sophomore Rodney Tucker(19.0), and 6'2" Darryl Brown(12.0 reb). Lincoln had won District 5-4A over Seagoville and had faced the best teams in Dallas. The game was played at Crowley High School. Corsicana(29-3) advanced to the regional finals beating Lincoln(22-9) 68-59 behind their standout guard, Lamar Wadley. The talented senior put up 27 points in his team's winning effort. 6'2" Terry Winston came through with one of his best efforts of the season

going 11 of 15 from the line and finishing with 21 points, 7 rebounds and 1 block. Lincoln was led by Rodney Tucker's 14 points. Bobby Johnson added with 13 points as did Clarence Johnson for Coach Gillum.

As Corsicana(29-3) approached the regional finals they looked to be overwhelming favorite. The Tigers had won fifteen straight and had a lot of momentum winning close games as well as blow-outs. Both Seagoville and Corsicana knew what was at stake. Corsicana had made two previous trips to state in 1926 and 1969. Jerry Matthews was at the helm the last time Corsi had visited Austin, losing in the semi-finals to Kerrville Tivy in 1969.

Seagoville(19-11) on the other hand had very little basketball tradition. The Dragons had played an incredibly tough schedule against several inner-city schools in Dallas and finished runner-up to Dallas Lincoln in zone play. Losses for Seagoville had come at the hands of Dallas Pinkston(17-11) 67-53, Dallas Skyline(23-8) 64-60, Garland(26-5) 85-67, Dallas Samuel(24-8) 79-55, S.O.C.(34-2) 73-66, Arlington Martin(25-9) 70-62, and Dallas Lincoln(21-9) 72-67. That's a pretty impressive group of opponents. In the playoffs the Dragons were just getting by winning several close contests. They defeated Georgetown(16-15) 69-67 and Lancaster(23-8) 53-50 in overtime in the playoffs. Lancaster had sent the game into overtime on a midcourt shot at the buzzer by Charles Bailey. Lancaster had to overcome a 10-point deficit in the last three minutes of the game to send it into overtime. Tenison was the star for the Dragons putting up 26 points and 6'2" Barry Baker finished with 16 points.

Coach Richard Bacon was a former standout in Dallas as a school boy star. Bacon was in his 4th year with the Dragons. Coach Bacon looked to several key players for his team's late season success. 6'4" John Tenison(20.0), who signed with U.T. Arlington to play football, was his main inside threat. Tenison was strong and teamed up with 6'4" Maurice Woods, 6'3" Victor Gilmore and 6'2" Robert Myers to form a tough athletic team. 6'1" Gary Ward, 6'1" Cedric Foreman and 6'0" Daron Branch also played big minutes. This was Seagoville first playoff appearance since 1966. Seagoville High school was part of the Dallas Independent School District.

Corsicana and Seagoville faced off in Waxahachie. The Dragons had two wins over Lancaster during the course of the season and a 74-71 victory over Dallas Lincoln(21-9). Seagoville looked to be a big underdog because of the record, but that really wasn't the case when you look at the size advantage Seagoville held. Having faced the best teams in Dallas, the Dragons proved to be up to the task defeating Corsicana 69-67. Seagoville took control after halftime and only missed five shots in the second half. Wadley tried his best to bring his team back from the brink of defeat. He hit a floater in the lane with 11 seconds remaining to make the score 67-66. Seagoville came back with a long pass to Tenison for layup making the score 69-66. Wadley immediately pushed the ball up court and was fouled with

five seconds on the clock. He made the first foul shot, but missed the second one on purpose. The plan was to get the rebound and go for the possible tie and overtime. Seagoville pulled down the missed shot and walking off with a 69-67 ticket to Austin.

Coach Bacon was excited following the upset victory. "I'm elated about it, a lot of colleagues told me I could never have a winner here. There were some job openings last year and everyone told me to take them." Bacon continued, "the biggest worry I had was that all my players would be there in the end." Bacon was referring to having several players with foul trouble. Tenison finished with 19 points, Woods, Myers and Gilmore all had 12 points each and Cedric Foreman finished with 10. The Dragons had five players in double figures. Robert Myers was critical in the first half keeping Seagoville in the game from long range. Wadley and Winston were the only double figures scorers for the Tigers with 30 and 16 points respectfully. Cornell Watts and Dotson added 8 each. Dotson struggled during the game with his outside shot, which was really the difference in the game.

Coach Dotson reflected on the season saying, "if I ever have another bunch as good as this one, we'll get there(Austin). Seagoville is a good basketball team and they did a great job," Dotson said.

District Standings 7-4A: South Zone-Corsicana(26-3), 10-0; Lancaster(20-6), 6-4; West Mesquite(21-8), 6-4; Waxahachie(17-11), 5-5; Ennis(7-21), 2-8; DeSoto(11-15), 1-9:

North Zone-Gainesville(17-8), 9-1; Rockwall(15-12), 8-2; Allen(22-7), 7-3; Denison(4-24), 3-7; McKinney(8-17), 2-8; Terrell(4-20), 1-9:

Region I

West Texas had some really strong representatives during the season. Lamesa(28-5) had another quality team along with Borger(28-2), Wichita Falls Hirschi(21-8), Cleburne(27-5) and Everman(28-2) were all state ranked at one time or other. These schools were also traditional powers.

Cleburne(27-5), Everman(28-2) and Mansfield(24-8) represented the toughest District in class 4-A outside of the Golden Triangle. Everman took District finishing 14-0, while Cleburne and Mansfield had to have a playoff for the runner-up spot with both finishing 11-3.

The District title was not any easy road by any means for Everman during the season. To start the '85 campaign they were hard hit by grades. They lost three potential starters for the first 22 games. Octavius Martin, Chuck Allen, and Roger Thomas missed a significant portion of the season. The Bulldogs opened the season with only seven players suiting up for coach Robert Hale. "Starting the year with just seven guys, we had to play more cautious," point guard Rodell Smith explained. "It made us work a lot harder in practice, because we had to prove we could win with just seven players. Now, we can play more aggressively, because we know we've got somebody off the bench who can come in. We were all really happy when those guys came," Smith said. Everman suited up 12 players as they

moved through their schedule late in the season. Starters included Rodell Smith and Brooks in the backcourt, Troy Bell and David Robinzine at the forwards and Broderick President inside at post. President came off the football field and was not a member of the seven players who opened the season.

The Bulldogs have had other struggles that they had to deal with during the season. Late in the season, Ken Zuver broke his thumb and missed the remainder of the season.

The Bulldogs opened their District run against state ranked Mansfield 55-53. Rodell Smith put up a 22-footer giving the Bulldog the victory. Rodell Smith finished with 24 points for Coach Hales crew and John Smith paced Mansfield with 19 points. "It's a big win, it's an honor to be playing in this District this year," Coach Hale said following the game.

Everman next big win came against Cleburne 52-47 to take a firm hold on first place. Cleburne had lost earlier to Mansfield 47-46, which gave the Tigers two District losses. The Bulldogs continued their winning traveling to Mansfield and downed the Tigers in their third showdown game 60-56. Mansfield was forced into 23 turnovers against the Everman pressure. 6'2" Octavius Martin came off the bench and provided solid play as Troy Bell went to the bench due to foul trouble. Everman finished off Cleburne 52-46 in the second time round and captured District.

In pre-season polls, Cleburne had been the District frontrunner, returned four starters from their state semi-final squad. The Yellowjackets had several struggles during the '85 campaign. 6'5" Jeff Kennon missed two weeks with Chick-pox, Steve Hafford missed games due to an ankle injury, and at one point the team had to practice with only five players due to a flu epidemic. Cleburne persevered to put themselves in position for another playoff run.

In the District playoff game for second place, Cleburne eliminated Mansfield 51-50. A crowd of 3,000 saw the contest at Wilkerson-Greines Activity Center in Ft. Worth. Cleburne's Stephen Hafford was the hero hitting a one and one free throw situation with only five ticks left on the clock. Riley Smith had given Mansfield the lead with 11 seconds remaining. Cleburne came back down court and as they crossed midcourt signaled for a timeout. The Jackets set up the last play of the game, inbounding the ball to Hafford. He drove the baseline and was fouled. The call was somewhat controversial for the Mansfield faithful. Coach Rodney Shropshire of Mansfield didn't feel like it was a foul, while Coach Jeff Cody saw it differently. "Jones was not in position to draw a charge and he definitely hacked Hafford," Cody said. "The refs got to call something." For the Yellowjackets, it was the 5th straight playoff team.

The Yellowjackets stayed close by double and triple teaming 6'7" Riley Smith of Mansfield. Smith had been the most dominate player in District all season, although just a junior. At 250-pounds, Smith was a load averaging 23.0

points, 13.0 rebounds, 3 blocks and 2 assists per game. Smith was held to only two points in the first half by Cleburne. John Smith carried Mansfield with 18 points. Greys Frizzell led Cleburne with 15 points. The Jackets outrebounded the bigger Tigers 34-25. Coach Shropshire commented after the loss, "hey, one call is not the whole game, we had them on the ropes and let them slip away. We just got beat."

Cleburne(29-5) opened the playoffs against Wichita Falls Hirschi(20-8). The Yellowjackets lost the flip of the coin and had to travel to Hirschi for their 1st round game. The two teams had a long history of facing each other in the playoffs. Hirschi had eliminated Cleburne 62-47 in 1983, and Cleburne gained revenge in 1984 winning in the regional finals 59-55.

Cleburne came back from 11 down in the 4th quarter to force overtime. Cleburne was able to overcome the Huskies in overtime 54-52. Stephen Hafford led Cleburne once again with 17 points and Al Smith added 15 points. Keith Stevenson was the star for Hirschi with 14 points, while David Robinson went for 11 points. Hafford knocked down two foul shots with three seconds left in overtime to give Cleburne the win. The score was tied at the end of regulation at 48 apiece. The Huskies went into a stall waiting for the last shot in overtime, but they were unsuccessful and missed. Hafford came away with the rebound after the miss and was fouled.

Everman(28-2) looked to be on a mission, but were knocked out of the playoffs in the first round. Grapevine(17-10) came out of nowhere to beat Everman at Wilkerson-Greines Activity center 49-48. Coach Mark Lappa of Grapevine was as shocked as anybody. "I'm very surprised," Lappa said. "We just scrapped the whole game long." The Mustangs outscored Everman 15-4 in the 4th quarter. Broderick President led Everman with 11 points.

Grapevine(17-10) had finished runner-up to Wichita Falls Hirschi(18-8) in District 3-4A. The Huskies finished 11-0 in District while Grapevine went 9-3. Although it was a shocker, Grapevine had lost to Hirschi 68-67 in District competition and the Huskies were state ranked. Grapevine had a history of playing people close and were very capable.

Cleburne(29-5) drew the unenviable task of facing a strong Borger(27-3) team in Vernon in Bi-District. The Yellowjackets continued their playoff magic defeating Borger 66-61. Steve Hafford again made the key play for Coach Cody. Wayne Dickson put up 13 points for Borger and Charles Walker finished with 12 points.

Lamesa(28-5) Golden Tornadoes had another outstanding team in 1985. Coached by Wayne Roberts, Lamesa had several big wins over the season. They had defeated some of the best teams West Texas had to offer. Midland(20-11) split with Lamesa, losing to the Tornadoes 109-87 and coming back to defeat the black and gold 82-78. Lubbock Coronado(22-8) put a whipping on Lamesa 93-68 early in the season. Midland Lee(24-7) also hung a loss on Coach Roberts crew 66-57. Alief

Hastings(24-10), from the Houston area, defeated Lamesa 55-53 and Nacogdoches(5-26) snuck up on Tornadoes winning 55-53. Big victories came against Odessa Permian(18-11) 87-71, Pecos(19-11) three times by double digit numbers, San Angelo Central(16-13) 81-66, and Andrews(18-13) 74-59 and 75-60.

Lamesa had the most sensational tandem in the state this side of Bay City with the Mason brothers, 6'3" Chris(26.5) and 6'3" Jerry. They actually were more productive scoring than Dykes and LaBradford. This was mainly because Lamesa played a much more up-tempo game. 6'4" Aaron Winn, 5'11" Doug Warren and 6'3" Jerry Brown rounded out the starting line-up.

Lamesa entered the playoffs defeating Lubbock Dunbar 71-61. Chris Mason put up 32 points and Jerry came away with 16 points. Sam Collins paced Lubbock Dunbar with 14 points. Lamesa was preparing for Everman(28-2) in second round action only to find out Grapevine(17-10) had pulled a major upset. The Mustangs struggled against Lamesa with the Tornadoes winning easily 84-70. Jerry Mason led the charge this time with 33 points and Chris followed with 28. That's a total of 61 points for the brothers.

The regional finals pitted two very successful programs. Cleburne and Lamesa were well known for their basketball programs. The teams met in Abilene at Hardin-Simmons University. The Golden Tors advanced to state with a 64-60 victory over the defending regional champions, Cleburne. The question coming into the contest was how to slow down or stop the Mason brothers of Lamesa. The answer to that question is, you weren't. The tandem took 41 of the Lamesa's 59 shots during the contest and finished with 48 of their total 64 points. Chris Mason put up 30 points and 11 rebounds, while Jerry managed 18 points.

Cleburne managed to stay close in the first half, due to their rebounding advantage 23-15. Lamesa led at intermission 33-27 and the game was all tied up at 41 apiece with 2:13 left in the 3rd quarter. Jerry Mason proceeded to score six straight points giving the lead back to Lamesa. With two second remaining in the game the Golden Tors hit two foul shots, putting themselves up by two points 62-60. Jerry Mason was fouled and extended the lead to 64-60.

Region IV

South Texas was hard to follow and wide open in class AAAA. There weren't very many favorites you could count on in the region. None of the teams in the playoffs were what you would consider strong programs.

New Braunfels(15-12) took the 13-4A District title with an 8-2 record and Fredericksburg and N.B. Canyon both stood at 7-3. New Braunfels Canyon(15-15) had forced Fredericksburg(24-7) in a playoff for second place by defeating New Braunfels(15-12) at the close of District action.

New Braunfels Canyon(15-15) came up short losing to Fredericksburg(24-7) 47-36 in San Marcos in the District playoff. Randy Glover and Darin Duecker led

Fredericksburg with 18 and 10 points. Fredericksburg's 6'1" standout, Tim Kaman(23.0), only managed 9 points due to strep throat. Kaman did manage 14 assists.

If there was a favorite in Region IV many felt it had to be state ranked Schertz-Clemons(23-7). Schertz had won District 14-4A and San Antonio Southwest took the runner-up spot. Johnny Robinson of Southwest was considered one of the top players in the Alamo City. Southwest(20-10) opened the playoffs against New Braunfels(17-12) at Texas Lutheran. The Unicorns of New Braunfels came away with a solid victory 71-67 over SA Southwest. The inside game of 6'5" Tilo Schmidt was very impressive in the victory finishing with 27 points. David Caddell added 17 point for the Unicorns. Robinson put up 29 points before fouling out for Southwest.

New Braunfels(16-12) was an enigma considering the poor record. Three starters had come out of football and teamed up with 6'4" Tilo Schmidt(21.0) to form a very strong team. Therefore, they were much better than their record indicated. The Unicorns had won nine straight games to capture the District. 6'0" Victor Sierra, 6'2" Damon Millett and 5'10" Leon Sneed had all come off the football field. Sierra played quarterback, Millet at tight end and Sneed was a running back.

State ranked Schertz-Clemens(25-8) didn't last long in the playoffs as Fredericksburg(25-7) pulled a mild upset 62-51. The Billies Randy Glover put up 22 points in a winning effort followed by Tim Kaman's 14 points. Inman led Clemens with 18 points.

Fredericksburg's head man was Dennis Kaman, who was in his first season at the reigns with the Billies. Coach Kaman's team was fueled by his son, Tim. 6'1" Randy Glover provided inside strength for Coach Kaman, although he was at a size disadvantage.

In District 15-4A Gregory-Portland(22-6) and Calallen(22-7) both finished 11-1 and flipped a coin to see who would get the top seed. Gregory-Portland won the toss and faced Roma, the runner-up in District 16-4A. Gregory-Portland counted on one of the top players in South Texas, 6'4" Don Branigan(21.4). Other starters for Gregory-Portland were 6'9" Brian Boney(8.7), 6'4" Jay Gable(7.8) and 6'2" Trey Matthews(6.2).

Gregory-Portland proved too strong for Roma defeating them 64-53. Gregory-Portland moved into the 2nd round against New Braunfels(16-12). Gregory-Portland's Branigan had the flu against Roma and came off the bench and only scored six points.

Calallen(22-6) entered the playoffs for the first time in 30 years in 1985. Calallen looked to 6'4" Greg Wilkes(20.0) and David Bedwell(13.9) to lead the charge. Greg Wilkes was at times a scoring machine, having put up over 20 points in nine out of the previous ten games and had a season high of 43 points.

Calallen(22-6) opened their playoff experience against Rio Grande City(18-8). Rio Grande City finished 14-2 in District 16-4A and were paced by Jaime Soliz(16.0) and Mando Zarate(17.0). Calallen advanced against Rio Grande City 65-52 behind David Bedwell's 15 points.

Next-up for Fredericksburg(25-7) was Corpus Christi Calallen(23-6) in the regional semi-finals. The Battlin Billies of Fredericksburg proved to be too much for Calallen 60-45. Fredericksburg double and tripled teamed 6'4" Greg Wilkes with their 1-1-3 zone defense. "I knew Wilkes was not feeling well, and I really felt bad about doing that," Coach Kaman commented. The defensive strategy paid off as Wilkes only put up 10 points. Tim Kaman(24.0) continued his outstanding play in the playoffs despite facing special defenses. Kaman led Fredericksburg with 26 points, shooting 8 of 16 from the floor with 6 assists.

Tim commented about playing for his father, "He's more of a coach when I'm out on the court, he can't treat me any different than anyone else out there." Opponents main focus was always slowing down Kaman the younger. A box and one was the favorite of most opponents. Calallen ran a triangle and two as well. "We knew he'd be good. We emphasized getting out on him, but he did a good job of getting open. And when he got open, he didn't miss," Calallen Coach John Verner said.

Fredericksburg's inside game was critical in the win over Calallen. Randy Glover and Darin Duecker put of a combined 23 points for the Billies. 6'4" Greg Wilkes of Calallen was only limited to three shots in the second half by Fredericksburg. "We were just hoping they couldn't hit the outside shots," Coach Kaman said. Bill Davenport paced Calallen with 12 points.

In the other regional semi-finals match-up, New Braunfels(17-12) continued their march defeating Gregory-Portland(23-6) 59-56 at San Antonio Kennedy High School. The biggest difference in the contest ended up at the foul line. New Braunfels was able to shoot 26 free throws and Gregory-Portland only managed 9. The Unicorn's Damon Nillett's last second shot put Gregory-Portland away and secured the victory. Coach R.L. Odom of Gregory-Portland was playing without the services of 6'9" Brian Boney, who was out with the flu. Mitch Davis stepped in for Boney. 6'4" All-Stater, Don Branigan, scored 16 points for Gregory Portland and 6'4" Tilo Schmidt again paced New Braunfels with 16 points. New Braunfels forced 15 turnovers during the contest. Gregory Portland finished the season 23-7.

The regional finals in Region IV came down to two teams that were very familiar with one another, New Braunfels(18-12) and Fredericksburg(26-7). Both teams were from District 13-4A. Austin Westlake high school was the site of the regional battle. There was not much separating the two teams. The Unicorns had won the two teams first meeting 55-53 and the Billies had taken the second game 55-54. New Braunfels only two losses since the football players had joined the

team were to Fredericksburg and rival, New Braunfels Canyon, 47-45 in the last game of District. The Unicorns had already wrapped up the District title coming into the contest.

New Braunfels looked to 6'4" Tilo Schmidt(21.0/12.0), 6'2" Damon Millett(10.0), 6'0" Victor Sierra(13.5/7.0), 5'11" David Caddell(13.5) and 5'10" Leon Sneed. For Fredericksburg and the Billies, it was 6'1" Randy Glover on the inside and Tim Kaman(24.0) from the outside. The Unicorns were all too familiar with Kaman's abilities and knew he would have to be contained.

The game was played a very slow pace with both teams trying to limit scoring opportunities for their opponents. Fredericksburg took a 24-15 lead at halftime and then fell apart scoring only 8 points in the second half. The result of which was a 37-32 victory for New Braunfels. 6'5" Schmidt was impressive inside for New Braunfels scoring 15 points and Tim Kaman was held to only 9 points. Two of his nine points came in the anemic second half. 6'1" Randy Glover paced Fredericksburg with 13 points. New Braunfels advanced to the state tournament for the first time in school history.

State Tournament 4-A

Bay City	33-1	#1	74.0-53.9	+20.2
Seagoville	21-11		71.2-68.0	+3.2
Lamesa	27-5	#10	80.5-64.0	+16.5
New Braunfels	19-12		60.8-57.3	+3.5

Top Five Players at the State Tournament 4-A

6'4"	Hart Lee Dykes	Bay City
6'3"	LaBradford Smith	Bay City
6'5"	Tilo Schmidt	New Braunfels
6'2"	Jerry Mason	Lamesa
6'2"	Chris Mason	Lamesa

At state, Bay City was the overwhelming favorite, having disposed of Silsbee(30-2) and Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-4). Coach Eddie Nelson felt fortunate advancing to state after the path his team had to endure. "Playing Lincoln and Silsbee, man that was like playing for the state championship," Nelson said. "It's too bad they can't have any at large teams out of our region, because Lincoln and Silsbee should be here." Nelson continued discussing the Black Kats, "This team, man for man talent wise, isn't as good as the team I had last year. But I'm not going to argue with 33-1." Hart Lee Dykes was excited traveling to Austin for the state champion, "I've been waiting to reach the state tournament ever since I was a freshman," Dykes said.

Seagoville and New Braunfels had something in common as both teams struggled early in the season. Both teams lost 10 of their first 16 games of the season. Both were also considered big underdogs.

The Bay City-Seagoville game was seen as a big mis-match. Seagoville had kept a low profile during the playoffs, kind of backing into the semi-finals. Bay City on the other hand had been the top-rated team all season. But that is the great thing about state, it is a one game elimination, and you had better be ready. Nobody was going to give you credit for your past accomplishments.

LaBradford Smith had a performance for the "Ages," 12 for 12 from the floor and five for five from the line. Perfect! Smith hit jumpers from 12 to 15 feet. The numbers make **Smith a TEXAS LEGEND**. If that weren't enough, Bay City shot 34-44 from the floor for 77.3%. That certainly could be a record. Seagoville was 25 of 56 for 44.6%. With those kinds of numbers, you can see the Dragons didn't have a real chance. The final score read 89-64 as Bay City advanced to the state championship game.

Things did not go well Bay City early, as Dykes picked up his 4th foul with 1:49 left in the first half with Bay City up 37-32. Coach Nelson commented about LaBradford performance saying, "He had to do it for us, because his sidekick was setting beside me most of the game." Smith also had some other highlights, like a reverse dunk to entertain the crowd. As you were watching his performance, you immediately began thinking of the best who had ever graced the U.T. court at the state tournament.

At the end of the 3rd quarter, the Black Kats were up 61-49. Dykes finally got to come back into the contest with 3:53 remaining with his team well in control 71-55. "It was hurting me real bad setting on the bench, but I knew they could play without me, they have done it before," Hart Lee said. Dykes finished with 18 points in limited time on 6 of 8 shooting from the floor and Redus had 15 points. John Tenison was about all Seagoville could muster with 31 points on 12 of 21 from the floor and 7 of 10 from the foul line. Bay City rebound advantage was 29-28.

Coach Richard Bacon of Seagoville had several comments following the loss. "LaBradford Smith is going to be one of the best high school players to touch a basketball in the state of Texas," Bacon insisted. "He has all the tools, he jumps, shoots, he has court sense, he's going to be a big-time player. I was real impressed." In the second half Bacon finally put Maurice Woods on Smith full time and limited LaBradford to 9 second half points. Bacon said, "I've never seen a team shoot that well against us. We're a pretty good defensive team. But they were hitting from everywhere, layups and 20 to 25 footers. Everything was dropping."

Coach Bacon continued, "Our strategy was to get their inside people in four trouble and it worked, but then we didn't score. They went to a delay game and we had to go man-to-man." Bacon said. "I don't think our players were in awe, because Bay City was 33-1 or because it was Hart Lee Dykes out there. We just got out played."

The Bay City Coach Nelson said following the big win, "We don't have a lot of offensive punch besides LaBradford and Hart Lee. With Dykes in foul trouble we pulled out the ball forcing Seagoville to go man to man."

As New Braunfels entered the state tournament, they felt like they were a year ahead of time being a predominantly underclassmen line-up. The Unicorns only started one senior, 5'11" David Caddell. Coach Cliff Wilkins had been to the state tournament with two other schools, Bastrop in 1974 and Columbus in 1980. As discussed earlier, the Unicorns relied heavily on three football players to win District. 6'5" Tilo Schmidt(23.0), with his 30-inch vertical, was key to New Braunfels inside attack. Wilkins felt one of the reasons for his team's early success was his football players playing summer competition in San Antonio.

In the Lamesa-New Braunfels semi-finals contest, the turning point of the game might well have been a 3rd quarter collision between Jerry Mason and Victory Sierra. Following the collision, Sierra left game and failed to return. Sierra was a critical player for the Unicorn attack. Sierra was a leader and nice ball-handler, having quarterbacked the football team to the state quarterfinals. Against the press he would be missed. "Their pressure certainly hurt us a lot in the 2nd half," coach Cliff Wilkins commented. "We were a little out of sync because of personnel problems, either through fouls or Victor's injury."

New Braunfels led at halftime 38-30, but the Mason brothers brought their team back with a combined 44 points and 20 rebounds and at least 7 blocks. Jerry came away with 24 points and Chris had 20 points, which produced a 67-64 victory for the West Texas crew. Schmidt was impressive finishing with 22 points on 10 of 18 from the floor, Sierra hit 12 points before leaving the contest, and Caddell put up 12 points and Millett hit 10. The balanced scoring was not enough to offset the Brother combo from Lamesa.

The state finals between Bay City and Lamesa was rather unusual when you look at the final score, Bay City 65 Lamesa 63. Looks like it was a close game, but that was not the case. Bay City was well in control at halftime 38-24 and up 63-53 with only 1:51 left in the game. The Black Kats dominated the glass 51-32 during the contest. The key play of the game probably came in the game's final seconds when LaBradford Smith blocked Gilbert Arredondo attempt to tie the game.

The game also brought together four of the most dominate players to ever play for the state title in class AAAA. Dykes and LaBradford Smith against the Mason brothers. LaBradford averaged 22.2 in his four playoff games, while Dykes put up a 19.7 average. Chris Mason averaged 27.5 per game in the playoffs and brother Jerry averaged 22.7.

Lamesa coach, Wayne Roberts, felt that the rebounding difference was just too much to overcome for his team. The brilliant Mason brothers combined for 43 points and 21 rebounds. Jerry finished with 25 points and was 10 of 19 from the floor and five of six from the line. Chris Mason went 9 of 18 from the field for

18 points. Lamesa's defense caused numerous problems for Bay City forcing 27 turnovers. Smith and Dykes combined for 43 points in the victory. Smith finished with 23 points and Dykes dominated scoring 20 points with 15 rebounds. Dykes had two dunks and LaBradford finished with one. 6'3" 250-pound sophomore, Billy Dykes, made a big contribution to his team's victory with 12 rebounds. Coach Nelson felt his team had a letdown in the second half. Lamesa forced 27 Bay City turnovers and committed 13 themselves.

All-Tournament Team: LaBradford Smith and Hart Lee Dykes of Bay City, Jerry Mason of Lamesa were all unanimous picks, Chris Mason of Lamesa and John Tenison of Seagoville.

1985 State Rankings AAAA {End of the Regular Season}:

1. Bay City	30-1	6'5" Hart Lee Dykes(19.0) LaBradford Smith(20)
2. Silsbee	28-1	6'4" Darrell McArthur(23.3), Kevin Dodd(14.5)
3. Borger	26-1	Terry Witcher, Wayne Dickson
4. Pt. Arthur Lincoln	26-3	6'7" Anthony Allen(15.0), 6'4" Donzell Henton
5. Corsicana	26-3	5'10" Lamar Wadley(22.0), 5'8" R. Dotson(14.0)
6. Everman	27-2	5'10" Rodell Smith, Broderick President
7. Henderson	24-4	6'5" Collin Wade, Joe Bradford
8. Schertz Clemens	23-7	Inman
9. Wichita Falls Hirschi	21-8	Keith Stevenson, David Robinson
10. Lamesa	24-5	6'3" Jerry Mason, 6'3" Chris Mason

Sports Writers All-State 1st Team-6'4" Hart Lee Dykes(20.0), Bay City; 6'7" Anthony Allen, Pt. Arthur Lincoln; 6'4" LaBradford Smith(22.0), Bay City; 6'3" Darrell McArthur(24.0), Silsbee; 6'3" Chris Mason(26.5), Lamesa; **2nd Team**- 6'3" Jerry Mason, Lamesa; 6'7" Riley Smith(23.0), Mansfield; 6'5" Don Branigan(21.4), Gregory-Portland; 5'10" Lamar Wadley(23.2), Corsicana; 5'10" Richie Dozier, Austin Westlake: **3rd Team**- 6'10" Wesley Lowe, West Mesquite; 6'5" Collin Wade, Henderson; 6'4" Greg Wilks(20.0), Corpus Christi Callallen; 6'4" Donzell Henton, Pt. Arthur Lincoln; 6'5" Tracey Gunter, Bridge City; 6'1" Marvin Williams(22.1), Rockwall:

T.A.B.C. All-State 1st Team-5'10" Lamar Wadley(23.2), Corsicana; 6'4" LaBradford Smith(22.0), Bay City; 6'4" Hart Lee Dykes(20.0), Bay City; 6'3" Chris Mason(26.5), Lamesa; 6'3" Darrell McArthur, Silsbee; **2nd Team**- Raul Lopez, Laredo United; 6'10" Wesley Lowe, West Mesquite; 6'5" Collin Wade, Henderson; 6'4" Terry Witcher, Borger; 6'7" Anthony Allen, Pt. Arthur Lincoln: **3rd Team**- 6'0" Tim Kaman(24.0), Fredericksburg; 6'7" Alvin Jefferson, Waco High; Todd Thomas, San Antonio Alamo Heights; 6'4" Tilo Schmidt(21.0), New Braunfels; Steve Hafford, Cleburne:

Top Scorers in the 4-A State Playoffs: We have never kept the scoring averages in the playoffs before in the lower classifications. This was such an extraordinary season at the tournament with dominate players. LaBradford Smith averaged 22.4 in the playoffs and his teammate, Hart Lee Dykes averaged 19.8. For Lamesa, Chris Mason put up 25.5 per game and brother Jerry knocked down 23.2 in the playoffs. You have to go back to the 1974 season with Gonzales to find such numbers. Tilo Schmidt average 20.0 points a game in New Braunfels four playoff games.

1985 4-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	Borger(26-1) #3	83	Andrews(18-13)	63
	Cleburne(27-5)	54	Wichita Falls Hirschi(21-8)	52
	Lamesa(24-5) #10	71	Lubbock Dunbar	61
	Grapevine(17-10)	49	Everman(27-2) #6	48
Region I Semi Finals	Cleburne(28-5)	86	Borger(27-1) #3	81
	Lamesa(25-5) #10	84	Grapevine(18-10)	70
Regional Finals	Lamesa(26-5) #10	64	Cleburne(29-5)	60
Region II Bi-Dist.	Dallas Lincoln(20-8)	75	Austin Westlake(26-7)	64
	Corsicana(27-3) #5	58	Henderson(25-4) #7	51
	Seagoville(18-11)	69	Georgetown(16-14)	67
	Lancaster(22-8)	47	Paris(21-5)	44
Region Semis	Corsicana(28-3) #5	68	Dallas Lincoln(21-8)	59
	Seagoville(19-11)	53	Lancaster(23-8) OT	50
Region II Finals	Seagoville(20-11)	69	Corsicana(29-3) #5	67
Region III Bi-Dist.	Silsbee(29-1) #2	55	Houston C.E. King	46
	Houston Furr(20-7)	88	El Campo(20-9)	86
	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(28-3) #4	89	Huntsville(23-10)	61
	Bay City(30-1) #1	69	AM Consolidated(21-10)	43
Region III Semis	Silsbee(30-1) #2	77	Houston Furr(21-7)	59
	Bay City(31-1) #1	50	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-4) #3	44
Region III Finals	Bay City(32-1) #1	60	Silsbee(31-1) #2	54
Region IV Bi-Dist.	New Braunfels(16-12)	71	San Antonio Southwest(20-9)	67
	Gregory Portland(22-6)	64	Roma	53
	Fredericksburg(24-7)	60	Schertz-Clemens(23-7)#8	50
	Calallen(22-7)	65	Rio Grande City(18-8)	52
Region IV Semis	New Braunfels(17-12)	50	Gregory Portland(23-6)	45
	Fredericksburg(25-7)	59	Calallen(23-7)	56
Region IV Final	New Braunfels(18-12)	37	Fredericksburg(26-7)	32
State Semi-Finals	Lamesa(27-5) #10	67	New Braunfels(19-12)	64
	Bay City(33-1) #1	89	Seagoville(21-11)	64
State Finals	Bay City(34-1) #1	65	Lamesa(28-5) #10	63

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1985 AAAA Top Teams}

1. Bay City 35-1 {defeated Lincoln, Lamesa, Silsbee-State Champ}
2. Pt. Arthur Lincoln 29-4 {split with Westbrook, Silsbee, 3-1 vs. Pollard}
3. Silsbee 30-2 {split with Lincoln, lost to Bay City -6}
4. Lamesa 28-6 {state finals, defeated Clerger, Cleburne}
5. Corsicana 29-4 {beat John Tyler +10, Cleburne +21, upset by Seagoville}
6. Bridge City 26-6 {five of the Cardinals six losses were to Lincoln & Silsbee}
7. New Braunfels 19-13 {state semi losing to Lamesa by 3 points}
8. Fredericksburg 26-8 {Regional finals losing to district rival New Braunfels}
9. Seagoville 20-12 {state semi-finals, upset Corsicana, district runner-up}
10. Lancaster 23-9 {lost Seagoville in overtime 53-52 in the playoffs}
11. West Mesquite 21-9 {lost to Corsicana 57-54 and 66-63, lost to Lancaster in PO}
12. Everman 28-3 {won district over Mansfield, Cleburne, upset 1st round}
13. Cleburne 27-6 {deep run in the playoffs again, regional finals}
14. Mansfield 24-8 {lost district playoff to Cleburne 51-50}
15. Dallas Lincoln 21-9 {lost to Corsicana in reg. semis 68-59}
16. Borger 28-3 {lost to Cleburne in 1st round 66-61}
17. Wichita Falls Hirschi 21-9 {District champion, loss to Cleburne 54-52 OT}
18. Henderson 25-5 {victory over Huntsville early 78-58, loss to Corsi -7}

19.	Paris	21-6	{loss to Lancaster in PO 47-44}
20.	Schertz-Clemons	25-8	{top rated team in region IV, upset by Fredericksburg}
21.	Gregory Portland	23-7	{loss in regional semis to New Braunfels 59-56}
22.	Georgetown	16-15	{zone champion, lost to Seagoville in first round}
23.	Austin Westlake	26-8	{beat Jeff. Moore +13 in zone PO, 2nd Georgetown-zone}
24.	Grapevine	17-11	{District runner-up behind Hirschi, upset Everman}
25.	Waxahachie	17-11	{tough district, Corsicana, West Mesquite, Lancaster}
26.	Huntsville	23-11	{lost in 1 st round to PA Lincoln}
27.	A&M Consolidated	21-11	{first round loss to Bay City}
28.	Houston Furr	21-8	{lost to Silsbee in the 2 nd round}
29.	Waco High	21-9	{lost in zone playoff to Westlake 71-70}
30.	Waco Jeff-Moore	19-11	{lost in zone playoff to Georgetown 64-57}
31.	El Campo	20-10	{lost in the first round of the playoffs to H. Furr -2}
32.	C.C. Calallen	23-7	{loss to Fredericksburg in playoffs 60-45}

1985 AAA

Class AAA basketball in 1985 looked as if it could be a replay of the previous season, with all four-state semi-finalist returning outstanding ball clubs. Dimmitt, New Boston, Sweeny and Hardin Jefferson were all strong challengers to return to Austin. The only problem was with the new realignment, Hardin-Jefferson and Sweeny were now in the same region. In the final T.A.B.C poll, Hardin Jefferson(27-3) and New Boston(22-1) finished as the top ranked teams in the state. Unfortunately, both teams would fall short in their quest to return to Austin.

Hardin Jefferson(27-3) stood atop the polls having lost three games during the regular season. Coach Charles Breithaupt's team loss to Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-4) and Silsbee(30-2). These two were powerhouse clubs in class 4-A. Hardin-Jefferson also went down to Breithaupt's alma mater, Buna.

Despite replacing four starters, Hardin Jefferson had ambitions to return to the state finals. "We might even be better," Breithaupt said early in the season. "We don't have a big post, but we're much quicker over-all, this team knows its weaknesses and is much more aware of what it takes to win." 6'1" Rocky Rocquemore was putting up phenomenal numbers for Hardin Jefferson with a 31.5 average. Point guard, Andre King, was averaging 10 assist per game. "Our shooting and our press have been the keys," Breithaupt said.

Coach Breithaupt had an unusual task during the season coaching both the boys and girl's teams. The girl's coach had taken a college position in October leaving the team to Breithaupt. The girls finished 31-7 on the season and lost in regionals by one point. The boys were 27-3 and top ranked in the state. Things did not go as planned in Bi-District for the boys, as they were upset by Kountze. Anytime you have an upset of that magnitude you have to ask the question, what happened? Rocquemore had broken his nose in a warm-up game and three starters came up with the flu. Kountze had a quality team coached by Ted Tate and took advantage of the situation. The Lions came away with one of the biggest upsets of the season.

Rocquemore ended his spectacular high school career being named a two-time All-Stater. Rocky took his talents to Odessa Jr. College and unfortunately lost his life in a car accident in later years.

I asked Coach Breithaupt to compare his two outstanding teams, '84 state finals team and his top ranked group in 1985. "The '85 team was solid, but I don't believe they were the same caliber as the '84 team. Sam Williams was a game changer and would have been the difference." Williams went on to play at Hill County in Hillsboro.

Region I

You know how I'm going to start our conversation in discussing West Texas basketball, "Dimmitt." Yes, it starts and ends with the panhandle high school. If you're going to state from this region, you have to get by the Bobcats. Dimmitt had been the regional champions three years running. Throw their record out the window, because it meant little come playoff time.

Dimmitt(24-9) had one of the dominating players in the class 3-A in 6'5" Pat McDonald. In the regional semi-finals, Dimmitt defeated Gatesville(21-8) 51-50 to advance to the regional finals for the fourth consecutive year. McDonald came up big for Coach Cleveland, finishing with 23 points. Gatesville made a strong run at Dimmitt after trailing 36-29. McDonald made the play of the game with a steal and layup with 35 seconds remaining to seal the victory.

Seminole was the highest state ranked team in Region I at #7. Outside of Dimmitt, the Indians had to be the regional favorites. Seminole(26-2) opened the playoffs against Canutillo(12-16) at Carlsbad, New Mexico. Canutillo looked to 6'3" Sergio Aveytia and 5'9" Dennis Marin to lead the way. Coach George Byerly of Seminole explained that Canutillo was much better than their record indicated. They had to forfeit three games and were forced to play several 5-A El Paso schools because of their isolated location. Seminole was focused in the Bi-District contest having been eliminated the two previous seasons in the 1st round to Idalou and Post. 6'4" Terry Bailey(14.0/13.6) was at the centerpiece of the Indians attack. 6'0" Jonathan Bell(16.7) was an explosive scorer for Coach Byerly. 6'2" Rusty Robinson(9.1) was a critical cog and 6'3" Kirby Brooks and 5'9" Brad James rounded out the line-up.

No upset this time, Seminole took care of business winning 77-57. Jonathan Bell put up 27 points on 9 of 15 from the floor and 9 of 13 at the foul line. Rusty Robinson and Kirby Brooks helped with 13 points apiece, and Terry Bailey added 8 points. Next up for the Indians was Floydada(25-5) a 72-57 winner over Perryton.

Seminole ran Floydada out of the gym at Lubbock Coronado High School 90-48. Floydada were District runner-up in 2-3A. 6'4" Bailey(14.0/13.6) came alive for the Indians scoring 32 points from the inside. "It was a big win, there was a lot of pressure on us," Coach Byerly said. Floydada had an outstanding team. The regionals are a big thing, and it will be a great experience for our team." Bailey responded on his big scoring night saying, "I made up my mind I was playing this

game like it was my last.” Jonathan Bell put up 21 points and Rusty Robinson came away with 14 for Seminole.

Iowa Park advanced to regionals with a 51-50 win over Lampasas. Iowa Park proved to be no match for Seminole in regionals losing 73-53. Bell again was on fire with 22 points and Bailey added 16, Robinson and Brad James both came away with 12 points apiece. Gary Allen paced Iowa Park with 21 points. On the All-Tournament team, Seminole was well represented with Robinson, Bailey and Bell.

In the regional finals, Seminole took apart Dimmitt 67-51 to advance to state in front of 3,500 at Lubbock Municipal Coliseum. 6’0” Jonathan Bell and 6’4” Terry Bailey carried the Indians as they had all season with 22 and 16 points. Pat McDonald did his best scoring 26 points. The Indians won the rebound battle 41-29 over Dimmitt.

Region II

The defending state champions, New Boston(22-1), had another strong team in 1985. New Boston came out of the gate fast in the playoffs beating Commerce(10-16) easily 88-67. Brock Sanders scored 24 points for the Lions. Carl Brewer finished with 21, Lynn Gooden knocked down 16 points as did Kim Phillips.

Brownsboro(24-4) was another fine team in Region II, ranked #3 in the state. They had been eliminated by New Boston the previous season in the 2nd round of the playoffs. 6’6” Greg Sherfield of Brownsboro would prove to be one of the most impressive players in the state. In the 61-45 second round win over Marlin, Sherfield led his team with 25 points. Ricky Banks helped with 12 points, while Louis Taylor was the leader for Marlin with 16 points. Against Gilmer(26-6) in Bi-District, Brownsboro won a much closer contest 49-45. Gilmer had been state ranked at #8.

In the premier match-up of the early round games, Cedar Hill(26-4) faced a talented Whitehouse(28-2) squad. All-Stater, Ron Johnson of Whitehouse, tried to keep his team’s hopes alive pouring in 32 points in a losing effort. The Longhorns pulled out a 72-71 victory. Cedar Hill had balanced scoring with Edgar Johnson scored 17 points, Bill McMullen finished with 21 and John Bines came away with 20. Whitehouse was ranked #5 in the state polls and was now on the sidelines for the rest of the playoffs.

Hughes Springs(22-8) made their presence known with impressive victories over Pittsburg(23-7) 69-51 and Kaufman 57-37. They also held the only victory over #2 ranked New Boston during the regular season. Darrin Terry of Hughes Springs dominated against Pittsburg with 23 points and 29 rebounds. 6’5” Reginald Hatton put up 15 points with 15 rebounds in the victory over Kaufman. Hughes Springs controlled the boards 53-28 against Pittsburg.

New Boston(22-1), Brownsboro(27-4), Hughes Springs(23-8) and Cedar Hill(28-4) all showed up in Denton at the North Texas State, “Super Pit.” Brownsboro was looking for revenge against New Boston from the previous year. Brownsboro came away in overtime with a 67-62 win. Trailing 60-58 at the end of regulation, Brownsboro’s Johnny Bell was fouled. Bell came through sinking both shots to send the game into overtime. The Bears outscored the defending champs

in overtime 7-2. 6'6" Greg Sherfield was impressive scoring 23 points and Paul Montgomery kicked in 19 points in the winning effort. For New Boston(22-2), 5'9" Kim Phillips scored 24 points and Carl Brewer ended up with 17 points. Both Phillips and Brewer went on to play major college football at North Texas State University and Phillips played two years in the N.F.L.

Cedar Hill(28-4) outscored Hughes Spring(23-9) 24-14 in the 4th quarter to advance to the regional finals. The final stood at 70-62 in favor of the Longhorns. Edgar Johnson filled it up with 16 points and Bill McMullen knocked down 14 points to lead Cedar Hill. Hughes Springs counted on Darrin Terry's 18 points, Reginald Hatten's 16 points and Danny Terry's 14 points.

In the regional finals, Brownsboro(28-4) ended Cedar Hill's(29-5) season 68-50. Cedar Hill took control early in the contest 17-13, but the Bears proceeded to outscore the Longhorns 55-33 the rest of the way. Brownsboro's 6'6" Greg Sherfield proved tough to handle at the 3-A level, finishing with 25 points in the victory. Paul Montgomery, a T.C.U. football signee, helped his team's cause with 17 points. Bill McMullen paced the Longhorns with 17 points. 6'2" Edgar Johnson(21.0) was held to only four points by the Brownsboro defense. The Bears overcame their District playoff loss to Whitehouse, by eliminating the team that had ousted Whitehouse.

Region III

This region was all about District 22-3A, which housed two powerhouse clubs, Hitchcock(26-8) and Sweeny(25-2). The two teams split during District competition. Sweeny dominated in the team's first meeting 76-47 and Hitchcock pulled out the second game in a close one 62-60 in overtime. Hitchcock's Charlie Davis hit the winning basket with 20 seconds left in overtime. Sweeny seemed to have things under control at the end of regulation up by two points and Donald Lemon at the line shooting one and one. Unfortunately, Lemon stepped over the foul line on the attempt and gave Hitchcock one final shot. The Bulldogs of Hitchcock were unable to connect, but Chester Smith came down with the offensive rebound. He immediately went back up and scored forcing overtime.

Keith Boyd provided 25 points in the winning effort for Hitchcock followed by Jeff Wright, who finished with 14. Bennett Fields led Sweeny with 20 points and Donald Lemon added 19.

The two teams met a third time at Angleton to decide the District title. The Bulldogs of Hitchcock came away with their biggest victory of the season defeating their rival 54-52. Hitchcock Coach, Ken Wilkins, was elated with his team's success. "I knew we could do it all along, we've got the kids to do it and we did it. I thought we were deeper on the bench and that helped us. We can play 9 or 10 people and not lose anything, while they only played 6 or 7. Coach Wilkins commented on his standout guard, Keith Boyd(27.0) saying, "when he made those two long jumpers at the start, I said to myself, Sweeny y'all are in for a long night." Hitchcock took an early lead 11-2 on Bell's four for four shooting. The Bulldogs came back to tie things up at intermission 23-23. Kent Baugh and Donald Lemon brought Sweeny back.

Sweeny had finished the regular season with three losses, two coming at the hands of Hitchcock and a 54-49 loss to Houston Marian. Marian had the McDonald's All-American 7'1" Tito Horford as you recall. Sweeny struggled against Cleveland in Bi-District 61-60 and handled Hearne with ease 46-30 to advance to regionals.

Hitchcock opened the playoffs with a convincing thumping of Coldspring(22-10) 95-71 at Baytown Sterling. Keith Boyd and Charles Davis combined for 68 points. Boyd finished with 36 points, 10 rebounds and 7 assists. Boyd, Davis, Jeff Wright and 6'4" Chester Smith were key performers for Coach Wilkins. Chester Smith pulled down 16 rebounds in the victory. Vincent Bradford paced Coldspring with 14 points.

Cameron Yoe(23-11) was next up for Hitchcock. Cameron Yoe had eliminated Navasota in Bi-District. In what proved to be a great game, the Bulldogs advanced in overtime 81-79. Coach Wilkins was excited once again following the victory, "if we score 95 points and play well, I don't think there are too many things I'm going to change." Eskico Garner was the hero for Coach Wilkins sinking two free throws with 13 seconds left on the clock. Boyd again was incredible putting up 27 points in a winning effort, followed by Jeff Wright with 15 and Chester Smith followed with 13 points. For Cameron Yoeman, Roland Kelly finished with 22 points, Earl Melton hit 17, Emory Canady had 16 points, Hunt Lee 12 and Doyle Duncan 10. The contest was played at Huntsville.

Regionals were held at Blinn Junior College in Brenham. Hitchcock(28-8) went up against Hemphill(28-3) and Sweeny(27-3) battled Center. Hemphill had eliminated Kountze, who beat the state's top ranked AAA team Hardin Jefferson. This was the states toughest region. Can you imagine if a healthy Hardin Jefferson had made the regionals?

Coach Wilkins had played for Hitchcock in 1976 when his team was eliminated in the regional finals. "This is the farthest a Hitchcock team has gone since 1976," Wilkins said. Wilkins had won a state TCIL title at Galveston O'Connell, a private school. He was in his first season at Hitchcock. The Bulldogs played the toughest class AAA schedule in the state. Actually, if you look at the schedule it was stronger than many 5-A and 4-A teams. Losses to 5-A teams include: Baytown Sterling(27-5) 72-45, Pasadena(23-9) 78-58, LaMarque(18-8) 81-76, Willowridge(20-13) 100-58 and 4-A state champion, Bay City(35-1) 84-61. Wins over 5-A schools came against Texas City(14-18) 71-66, Victoria Stroman(12-15) 68-66 in overtime, Klein(16-17) 64-58 and Galveston Ball(11-18) 72-69. Hitchcock was undefeated against 3-A schools.

The scouting report on Hemphill was that they could be pressed according to area coaches. Hemphill and Center represented the same District as did Hitchcock and Sweeny. Hitchcock came into the game having won 21 of their previous 22 games.

Hitchcock continued on the journey to the regional finals defeating Hemphill(28-3) 69-67 in a come from behind victory. Boyd led Hitchcock as usual with 21 points. Hemphill led at halftime 41-34. Boyd had picked up three fouls in

the first half and saw limited action. Hemphill was led by Jeremy Bell and Wilton Parks, who finished with 22 and 19 points respectfully. Bell and Parks carried Hemphill in the first half scoring 29 of the team's 41 total points. The tandem only scored 3 points in the 3rd quarter, as the tide had turned. Scott Vanzant had come off the bench for Boyd and delivered a nice scoring punch for Coach Wilkins, putting up 12 points. Boyd propelled his team to victory with a sensational two-handed dunk late to give Hitchcock a 66-62 lead with 1:43 remaining. Jeff Wright had the opportunity to tie things up for Hemphill with five seconds left shooting a one and one. Wright was unable to connect making the final read 69-67. Sweeny advanced to the regional final with a 54-47 victory over Center.

As expected, the regional finals saw Sweeny(28-3) and Hitchcock(28-9) meet for the fourth and last time. Sweeny took control this time leading at halftime 42-32. Hitchcock got themselves into serious foul trouble. The Bulldogs hit 18 of 22 foul shots in the first half alone. Hitchcock's Keith Boyd picked up three fouls once again in the first half, as did teammate Charles Davis. With less than 10 seconds into the 2nd half, Austin and Boyd picked up their 4th fouls. Both players went to the bench. 6'4" Donald Lemon of Sweeny was held scoreless in the 3rd quarter by Hitchcock after scoring 20 points in the first half. Boyd was finally able to return with 7:33 remaining in the game and left the contest for good with 1:14 left with his team down by 11 points.

The final read, Sweeny 76 Hitchcock 67. Bennett Fields finished with 20 points for the Bulldogs and Troy Wright added 16 points. Charles Davis led Hitchcock with 16 points, Boyd came away with 15 points and Jackson finished with 13 points. "I thought all along we had a better team," Bulldogs Coach Randy Miksch said. "They just played well against us the other two times. We had 27 turnovers in our 2nd loss to them." Coach Wilkins of Hitchcock chimed in saying, "they were the best team tonight, that's for sure."

Region IV

Region IV was all about District 30-3A, where Ingleside(24-3) and West Oso(25-2) battled each other all the way to the regional finals. The two teams came into their final District game having both secured playoff spots. West Oso(25-2) stood at 8-3 in District, while Ingleside(24-3) came in undefeated at 11-0. The Mustangs of Ingleside relied heavily on what Coach Bill Shaw called "snooker." It was the name of his delay game named after Snook High School. The key player in "snooker" was 6'2" Ricky Wiginton. 6'0" Mike Clausewitz of Ingleside discussed his teammate saying, "Rick's what it's all about, he's the best...he's pretty much unstoppable. He can shoot outside, he can shoot inside, he can drive,"

West Oso had their own star in 5'11" Gilbert Canto. The first meeting between the two teams had went into triple overtime with Ingleside winning 60-59. The second meeting was not as close as the Mustangs came away with a 56-46 victory. Canto was held to only 13 points for West Oso and Clausewitz(*) put up 18 points and 9 rebounds for Ingleside. Ricky Wiginton was awesome in the victory scoring 19 points along with 7 rebounds and 6 assists.

(no relation to the military strategist from Prussian, General Carl von Clausewitz 1780–1831. Couldn't resist...*

West Oso(25-3) prepared for the playoffs defeating class 5-A state semi-finalist, Corpus Christi King(23-9) 67-64. Gilbert Cantu did some damage finishing with 20 points for West Oso. Darrell McGee and Tony Bryant led Corpus Christi King with 18 and 20 points. This was really a quality win for the Bears of West Oso.

West Oso(24-3) faced George West(19-9) in the first round of the playoffs. George West's coach, Mike Luce, had led the school to their first District title in school history. As winners of District 29-3A, they faced runner-up West Oso. Coach Luce discussed the game saying, "they run a lot, that's not our type of ball. We like to slow it down." The two teams had met previously in the finals of the Odem Tournament. West Oso had won easily 49-29. We shot 4 for 26 in the second half, Luce explained. Luce played a seven-man rotation paced by two football players inside, 6'4" Pete West(21.0) and 6'1" Craig Clifton(15.0). West signed with Rice and Clifton committed to the Longhorns.

West Oso had a tough time with George West winning 51-46. Inside, Pete West came away with 27 points for George West. 5'5" sophomore, Lance Harper(9.1) was awesome for West Oso with 13 points and Cantu led his team again with 17 points. Ingleside kept pace defeating Cuero at Pt. Lavaca easily 60-30. Ricky Wiginton put up 22 points in the victory.

West Oso's next opponent was Hebbronville paced by 5'11" Danny Gonzalez(18.3), 5'11" Joe Solis(16.8) and 6'2" Rodney Ramirez(10.4). Hebbronville had eliminated Rio Hondo in Bi-District 62-48. The Bears of West Oso relied on Lance Harper, 5'11" Gilbert Cantu and 5'11" Freddie Fillmore(9.7). West Oso took control early winning 72-46 with Cantu putting up 21 points and Fillmore adding 13. Joe Solis led Hebbronville with 15 points. Ingleside continued winning as well defeating Zapata 44-28. The Wiginton brothers combined for 36 of their teams 44 total points. Ricky Wiginton led the Mustangs with 24 points.

Regionals were played at Texas A&I in Kingsville. Gonzales(32-2) played Ingleside(27-3) and West Oso(27-3) prepared for LaGrange(21-12). Gonzales coach, Vic Salazar, was not real excited moving down to class 3-A from 4-A. "I thought it might be a little easier than this, I'd almost rather be in 4-A this year." Gonzales came in as #6 ranked team the state. Gonzales line-up was potent with 5'11" Bobby Hansford(21.0), 6'1" Horace Greathouse(17.0), 6'1" Darren Nelson(11.0), 5'11" Donald Hunt(13.0). Off the bench the Apaches looked to 6'6" sophomore, Darrell Remschell. The Apaches relied on a full-court press and man to man defense.

Coach Bill Shaw of Ingleside felt that Gonzales(32-2) would be favored in the contest. "That Gonzales defense scares the hell out of me," Coach Shaw said. "If he's got the talent to run the man to man, he can win some games on defense alone."

Ingleside put together another great effort winning in overtime 36-32. The Mustangs led at halftime 19-12. Coach Shaw put Dusty Wilson on Gonzales standout guard, Bobby Hansford(21.0). Hansford finished with 18 point on 7 of 17

from the floor and 4 of 8 from the foul line. Ricky Wiginton led Ingleside with 19 points and brother, Chuck added 11 points.

Coach Shaw gave some important advice prior to the Gonzales game that Wiginton shared. "Coach told us whoever gets this far is going to be able to score, defense is going to win the game. That's what we figured."

LaGrange(21-12) came in with double digit losses, but had an impressive group of athletes. 6'3" Wade Schwake was a key player for the Leopards attack. West Oso was able to advance to the regional finals with a 47-42 victory over the stubborn Leopards. LaGrange was impressive early taking the lead over West Oso. Gilbert Cantu finished with 19 points on 9 of 14 from the floor. 5'11" Freddie Fillmore came away with 9 rebounds for the Bears. West Oso forced 18 Apache turnovers led by floor general 5'5" Lance Harper. Harper came up big late hitting key foul shots down the stretch. As only a freshman, Harper also directed his team's spread offense. Greg Weaver led LaGrange with 22 points.

This set the stage for the third and final meeting between two 30-3A rivals, West Oso and Ingleside. With the score tied at 25 apiece, Dusty Wilson of Ingleside hit a 14-footer with two seconds on the clock. The basket sent the Mustangs to the state tournament for the first time since 1960. For Ingleside Coach Bill Shaw, it would be his fourth visit to Austin. Shaw journeyed to the capital with Richards in 1975 and 1976, a class A school, and Sommersville in class 2-A in 1984. West Oso finished the season at 28-4, with three of the losses coming at the hands of the Mustangs.

West Oso defensive strategy entering the game was to try and contain 6'3" Ricky Wiginton(18.9) with 5'11" Richard Tamez fronting him. The trapping zone held Ingleside's leading scorer to only six shots with seven points. West Oso led at halftime 13-11. The Bears had the ball with 23 seconds left in the contest after a Lance Harper steal. A West Oso turnover proved costly as the Bears gave the ball back to Ingleside. Shaw said, "I want to have the ball at the end, if we're behind by one or even. I want it. I want to take that last shot." The last second shot was set up for either 6'3" Ricky Wiginton or brother Chuck to take the last shot. The Bears defensively were focused on the Wiginton brothers, which allowed Wilson to have an open look. Harper's shot from mid-court at the buzzer hit the front of the rim and the Ingleside celebration began.

Ingleside was able to contain 5'11" Gilbert Cantu's drive with their 2-3 zone. Cantu missed his first five shots of the second half and ended up with only 9 points. For the Mustangs, Freddie Fillmore ended up with 6 points and Wilson finished with 8 points. Chuck Wiginton also added 8 points.

Ingleside had an impressive list of victims as they traveled to Austin. The Mustangs had beat West Oso(28-4) three times, Gregory-Portland(23-7), Calallen(23-7) twice and Corpus Christy King(26-10) and Gonzales(32-3). Losses came at the hands of Bay City(35-1) 58-47, Calallen(23-7) 47-37 and Aransas Pass 50-48. The Mustangs had a very impressive resume as they entered Austin.

State Tournament

Coach Bill Shaw of Ingleside knew he would be outmanned by Sweeny in their semi-final game. "We've got to control the tempo of the game," Shaw said. "They may laugh at us and we may get booed off the court, but we're going to try to slow that sucker down. But if the end result is in our favor, we won't care."

The Bulldogs of Sweeny were going to run full-court pressure and half court traps as well as a 1-3-1 zone. The two bell cows for Sweeny were 6'2" Bennett Fields(23.0) from the outside and 6'4" Donald Lemon(19.0) inside. The Bulldogs returned four starters from the year before. Sweeny had lost previously in the state semi-finals to Hardin-Jefferson. "The inside game is going to be a little bit difficult to defend," Shaw said. "We've got to stop those two guys." Other key players for Sweeny were 6'2" post Kent Baugh(15.0), 6'5" freshmen Benford Williams(12.0) and 5'10" Daryl Austin. The Bulldogs put up incredible numbers during the season averaging 69.7 points per game and allowing just 46.0 a game. The point difference was an amazing +23.7 average. At 29-3, Sweeny dominated their opponents, although they faced few larger schools.

Ingleside, as always, counted on 6'3" Ricky Wiginton(19.0), 5'10" Chuck Wiginton(13.0), 6'1" Dusty Wilson and 6'0" Mike Clausewitz. Ricky Wiginton said, "they have a ton of talent, you can't try to stop one or two people, because they have one or two more that could hurt you." Ricky continued, "athletic wise, they've got a lot more talent compared to us."

Wiginton was definitely a prophet as Sweeny showed their talents off in several different ways. Ricky Wiginton was held to six points on 2 of 16 from the floor. His brother, Chuck, took up the slack finishing with 24 points. In the end, that was the difference with Sweeny moving into the finals 58-48. "To me to make it to state, you got to have somebody inside and somebody outside," Coach Shaw said. "They had a lot better inside game than we did." Sweeny took a 28-14 lead using their highly effective press. Lemon's thunderous dunk sure didn't help the Ingleside cause. "I don't think we ever really ran our offense," Coach Shaw said. "We fell too far behind."

The Mustangs closed the gap to 50-46 with 3:43 remaining only to see Sweeny extend the margin to ten with 1:55 left. Lemon led the charge with 19 points, Fields came away with 16 points and Baugh and Austin finished with 8. Ingleside was forced to go to a box and one in the second half after Fields lit them up for 16 points on 8 of 11 in the first half. Fields was held to three shots in the second half. Coach Randy Miksch of Sweeny began going inside to Lemon and Baugh. Daryl Austin was affective shooting from the corner for the Bulldogs.

Interesting side note was the close proximity between Bay City and Sweeny, the two towns are within 30 miles of one another.

The Seminole(30-2)-Brownsboro(29-4) game looked to be a toss-up. Brownsboro had really been challenged in District, ending up co-champions with Whitehouse. They also played in a much stronger region. The Brownsboro Bears started 6'6" Greg Sherfield, 6'3" Clint Brown, 6'3" Richard Bates, 6'3" Paul Montgomery, Johnny Bell and 6'4" Michael Redic coming off the bench. Coached

by Roger Goode, the Bears had defeated Hughes Spring(23-9) 54-52 early in the season. They were 2-1 against Gilmer(26-6), lost to Waxahachie(17-11) 80-51, and went 1-2 against District rival Whitehouse(28-3). Seminole looked as if they might be Brownsboro strongest challenge of the season.

The Indians defeated Andrews(18-13) 53-35 and 50-49. Andrews advanced to the class 4-A playoffs. Seminole lost to Waco High(21-9) 56-54 and Slaton 53-51. Waco High had lost in the class 4-A playoffs to Austin Westlake in zone action.

Coach George Byerly of Seminole gave a scouting report of what to look for in facing Brownsboro. "They've got a physical team, and they're very talented. They have a very simple philosophy; they just try to out physical you. They try to beat everyone on the boards, that's the strength of their team"

Coach Roger Goode of Brownsboro discussed his star player 6'6" Greg Sheffield. "His nickname is the Eraser, he's a great offensive player, he's attracting attention from division one schools. It's hard to stop him. He really dominates. Every team triple team's him and those that don't believe in triple-teaming him before the game, believe it after the game," Goode explained. "I hope Seminole tries to stop him with one man. I would like that." Banks and Montgomery were considered the best outside shooters for the Bears of Brownsboro. Clint Brown, Johnny Bell and Michael Redic all played a lot of minutes. 5'10" Bryan Bragg was the quarterback off the football team and started at point guard. Bragg provided great leadership and confidence. 5'10" Tracey Black proved valuable as a sub and 5'10" Randal Lockwood was considered a zone buster. Coach Goode discussed his team's attitude about tempo, "we let other teams dictate the style. If they want to run, we will run with them. If they want to play slowdown, we can play slowdown."

In a game that had some dramatic changes throughout the contest, Brownsboro came away with a 63-56 victory. Seminole led 27-7 with 3:00 left in the 1st half, shooting against Brownsboro passive zone. The Bears found themselves down 16 points down early in the 3rd quarter. The Indians had been on a 10-0 run sparked by 6'4" Terry Bailey, who finished with 20 points. Things were looking real promising for Seminole. You have to ask yourself, what happened? Well, Bryan Bragg and Ricky Banks took over for the Bears mid-way through the 3rd quarter. They both finished with 16 points and cut the lead to 45-39 entering the last period. Brownsboro would outscore Seminole 56-29 from mid-way through the 2nd quarter to the end of the game.

Coach George Byerly of Seminole had a simple explanation, "It got to be a physical game and when they quit calling fouls, the better athletes are going to win and I think that's what happened." Brownsboro press created 30 turnovers by the Indians. To compound the problem, Terry Bailey, Seminole's best rebounder was in foul trouble. Bailey ended up fouling out.

The state championship game was a little anti-climactic with Sweeny showing their tournament experience winning state 55-43. Sweeny took 32-20 lead at halftime, as Kent Baugh led the way for the Bulldogs. Coach Goode of

Brownsboro felt his team came out flat. I think it's safe to say Sweeny probably had a great deal to do with Brownsboro being flat.

The Bears rallied to close the gap to 37-35 with only 6:14 remaining in the game. 6'6" Greg Sherfield began to exert his dominance with three blocks inside. Finally, a goal tending call went against Sherfield, followed by a technical foul on the Brownsboro bench. Sweeny took control once again and were up 45-35 with only 4:15 remaining.

The Sweeny defense was the difference. Brownsboro 6'6" post Greg Sherfield, who was recruited by Nebraska and Houston, was completely shut down going 1 for 8 from the floor. He finished with two points. Not one Brownsboro player reached double figures in the game. As a team, Brownsboro shot 32% from the field going 17 of 53. Sweeny on the other hand relied on their big three to carry the scoring load. Kent Baugh(15.0) led the charge with 18 points, Bennett Fields(23.0) followed with 15 and Lemon(19.0) was held ten points under his average, scoring only nine points. As a team the Bulldogs shot 50% from the floor. For Sweeny and Coach Randy Miksch is was a very impressive performance. Fields took his talents to East Texas State in Commerce after high school where he led the Lions in scoring.

All-Tournament Team- Kent Baugh, Donald Lemon, Bennett Fields from Sweeny, Ricky Banks of Brownsboro and Terry Bailey of Seminole.

1985 State Rankings AAA {End of the Regular Season}:

1. Hardin-Jefferson	27-3	6'3" Rocky Rocquemore(31.4), Andre King
2. New Boston	20-1	6'1" Carl Brewer(19.0), Brock Sanders
3. Brownsboro	24-4	6'6" Greg Sherfield(25.0), 6'3" Paul Montgomery
4. Sweeny	25-2	6'4" Donald Lemon(28.0), 6'3" Bennett Fields(22.3)
5. Whitehouse	26-2	6'4" Ron Johnson(28.0)
6. Gonzales	29-2	5'11" Bobby Hansford(21.0)
7. Seminole	26-2	6'0" Jonathan Bell(16.0), 6'4" Terry Bailey(14.0)
8. Gilmer	25-5	6'5" Clint Booker(18.5)
9. Hitchcock	25-7	6'2" Keith Boyd(28.0),
10. Ingleside	25-3	6'2" Rick Wiginton(19.5), 5'10" Chuck Wiginton

Sports Writers All-State 1st Team- 6'6" Greg Sherfield(25.0) Brownsboro, 6'4" Donald Lemon(28.0) Sweeny, 6'4" Ron Johnson(28.0) Whitehouse, 6'1" Rocky Rocquemore(31.4) Hardin-Jefferson, 6'3" Bennett Fields(22.3) Sweeny: **2nd Team-**6'3" Kenny Walker(22.5) Crane, 6'1" Carl Brewer(19.0) New Boston, 6'4" Terry Bailey(14.0) Seminole, 6'2" Rick Wiginton(19.5) Ingleside, 6'2" Keith Boyd(28.0) Hitchcock: **3rd Team-** 6'4" Dana Holcomb(24.5) Freer, 6'2" Edgar Johnson(21.0) Cedar Hill, 6'5" Bobby Lilljedahl(16.0) Abilene Wylie, 6'5" Clint Booker(18.5) Gilmer, 6'2" Joe Barnett(19.5) Buna, 6'0" Jonathan Bell(16.0) Seminole:

T.A.B.C. All-State 1st Team- 6'3" Bennett Fields(22.3) Sweeny, 6'4" Terry Bailey(14.0) Seminole, 6'4" Ron Johnson(28.0) Whitehouse, 6'5" Pat McDonald-Dimmitt, 6'1" Carl Brewer(19.0) New Boston: **2nd Team-** 6'1" Rocky Rocquemore(31.4) Hardin-Jefferson, 6'6" Greg Sherfield(25.0) Brownsboro, 6'4" Donald Lemon(28.0) Sweeny, 6'2" Ricky Wiginton(19.5) Ingleside, Kenny Walker-Crane: **3rd Team-**Keith Boyd-Hitchcock, 6'0"

Jonathan Bell(16.0) Seminole, 6'5" Reginald Hatton-Hughes Springs, 5'11" Bobby Hansford(21.0) Gonzales, Fred Rice-Tulia:

Looking at the All-State team its always tough to criticize, but West Oso made the regional finals and lost three times to Ingleside. 5'11" **Gilbert Canto**(20.4) of West Oso would have been a nice selection. He carried his team all season. Hard to believe he made neither of the All-State teams.

1985 3-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	Seminole(26-2) #7	77	Canutillo(12-16)	57
	Dimmitt(22-9)	66	Childress(16-13)	30
	Floydada(24-6)	72	Perryton	57
	Iowa Park	45	Graham	41
	Brownfield			
	Decatur	53	Abilene Wylie	51
	Lampasas		Crane	
	Gatesville(19-9)			
Region I 2 nd Round	Gatesville(20-9)	61	Decatur	53
	Seminole(27-2) #7	90	Floydada(25-5)	48
	Iowa Park	51	Lampasas	50
	Dimmitt(23-9)		Brownfield	
Region I Semi Finals	Seminole(28-2) #7	75	Iowa Park	53
	Dimmitt(24-9)	51	Gatesville(21-9)	50
Regional Finals	Seminole(29-2) #7	67	Dimmitt(25-9)	51
Region II Bi-Dist.	Brownsboro(25-4) #3	49	Gilmer(26-5) #8	45
	New Boston(21-1) #2	54	Clarksville	49
	Cedar Hill(25-4)		Waco Connally	
	Hughes Springs(22-8)	69	Pittsburg(23-6)	51
	Whitehouse		West Rusk	
	Marlin(21-9)		Ferris	
	Kaufman		Sanger	
	Commerce(9-16)		Northwest	
Region II 2 nd Round	Brownsboro(26-4) #3	61	Marlin(22-9)	45
	Hughes Springs(23-8)	57	Kaufman	37
	Cedar Hill(25-4)	72	Whitehouse(28-2) #5	71
	New Boston(21-1) #2	88	Commerce(10-16)	67
Region Semis	Brownsboro(27-4) #3	69	New Boston(22-1) #2 OT	62
	Cedar Hill(26-4)	70	Hughes Springs(24-8)	63
Region II Finals	Brownsboro(28-4) #3	68	Cedar Hill(27-4)	50
Region III Bi-Dist.	Sweeny(26-3) #4	61	Cleveland	60
	Hitchcock(22-8) #9	95	Coldspring(22-9)	71
	Cameron Yoeman(22-10)		Navasota(21-10)	
	Kountze		Hardin Jefferson(27-3) #1	
	Hearne			
	Center			
	Hemphill(26-3)	89	Madisonville(21-9)	75
	Hearne(21-5)	42	Bellville	38
Region III 2 nd Round	Sweeny(27-3) #4	46	Hearne	30
	Hemphill(27-3)		Kountze	
	Center			
Region III Semis	Hitchcock(27-8) #9	81	Cameron Yoeman(23-10) OT	79
	Hitchcock(28-8) #9	69	Hemphill(28-3)	67

	Sweeny(27-3) #4	54	Center	47
Region III Finals	Sweeny(28-3) #4	76	Hitchcock(28-9) #9	67
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Gonzales	52	Pflugerville	35
	Ingleside(26-3) #10	50	Cuero	30
	West Oso	51	George West	46
	Hebbronville	62	Rio Hondo	48
	Zapata	64	Sharyland	47
	Devine			
	Medina Valley			
	LaGrange(19-12)			
Region IV 2nd Round	Ingleside(27-3) #10	44	Zapata	29
	West Oso(26-3)	72	Hebbronville	46
	LaGrange(20-12)	67	Devine	55
	Gonzales(31-2) #6	70	Medina Valley	52
Region IV Semis	Ingleside(27-3) #10	36	Gonzales(32-2) #6	33
	West Oso(27-3)	47	LaGrange(21-12)	42
Region IV Final	Ingleside(28-3) #10	27	West Oso(28-3)	25
State Semi-Finals	Brownsboro(29-4) #3	63	Seminole(30-2) #7	56
	Sweeny(29-3) #4	58	Ingleside(29-3) #10	48
State Finals	Sweeny(30-3) #4	55	Brownsboro(30-4) #3	43

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1985 AAA Top Teams}

1. Sweeny 31-3 {State Champions, beat Brownsboro, Hitchcock, Ingleside}
2. Hitchcock 28-10 {Sweeny's district rival, 2-2 vs Sweeny}
3. Whitehouse 28-3 {defeated state finalist Brownsboro 2 out 3 games}
4. Brownsboro 30-5 {state finals, defeated Cedar Hill, New Boston}
5. New Boston 22-2 {lost a heartbreaker to Brownsboro in overtime}
6. Seminole 30-3 {state semi-finalist lost to Brownsboro}
7. Cleveland {lost in bi-District by one point to Sweeny}
8. Hardin-Jefferson 27-4 {state top ranked team, upset by Kountze in 1st round}
9. Cedar Hill 26-5 {regional finals, beat Whitehouse}
10. Gilmer 26-6 {lost in the 1st round to Brownsboro by 4}
11. Ingleside 29-4 {state semi-finals, three wins over West Oso}
12. West Oso 28-4 {regional finals losing to Ingleside}
13. Hemphill 28-4 {lost to Hitchcock by two, eliminated Kountze}
14. Cameron Yoe 23-11 {lost to Hitchcock in overtime}
15. Gonzales 32-3 {lost to Ingleside by 3}
16. Dimmitt 25-10 {regional finals}
17. Hughes Springs 24-9 {lost in regional semi to Cedar Hill}
18. Kountze {eliminated top ranked Hardin Jefferson}
19. LaGrange 21-13 {eliminated in the regional semi by West Oso}
20. Gatesville 21-10 {regional semi, lost to Dimmitt by one}

1985 AA

Through the years I would have to say I've probably enjoyed covering class 2-A more than any of the other classifications. The reason is because of the great storylines each year. There always seems to be such competitive teams state wide. What is so remarkable is that schools 1/10 the size of their opponents can be competitive. The '85 season was no different. Grapeland(27-3) and Sanford-Fritch(28-0) were the top two ranked teams in the state in class 2-A. Two athletes are going to dominate the class AA landscape during the 1985 season. 6'8" Eddie Cunningham of Sanford-Fritch and 5'8" Tony Jones of Grapeland couldn't have been more different in their effects on the hardwood, but both left their impact on the game.

Cunningham was so physically dominating with his strength and size on the basketball court. At the 2-A level, he was virtually unstoppable. Jones had the same effect as one of the fastest athletes in the state, with quickness being his calling card. The two teams looked like they would have to settle things in Austin.

To fully comprehend the athletic ability that Grapeland possessed you only had to look at their regular season. The Sandie's beat 4-A regional finalists Corsicana(29-4) 70-68 in pre-season tournament action. Grapeland was 4-0 vs. 5-A teams and 2-0 against 4-A teams. Alief Hastings(24-10) went down to Grapeland 51-40. When you have a tremendous athlete like Tony Jones, you were going to be in every contest. As the playoffs began, Grapeland had a target on their back as the state top ranked team. The Sandie's had lost the previous season in Regional finals 70-60 to eventual state champions, Shelbyville.

Grapeland opened the playoffs against Hull-Daisetta 64-47. Next up for the Sandie's was the winner of the Sabine-Shelbyville contest. Outside of Morton in West Texas, these were the two most dominate programs in 2-A ball during the 1980s. Sabine captured titles in 1980 and 1981. Shelbyville took the championship in 1982 and 1984. In 1983 the teams had met in the playoffs with Sabine coming away with the victory 54-51. Shelbyville returned the favor the next season with a 45-44 win. Neither school had the talent they possessed during their state title runs, but tradition is tough to overcome. The kids expect to win.

Sabine finished the season ranked #7 in the state. The Cardinals defeated Troup 62-60 in the finals of the Sabine tournament earlier in the year. In the Oil Bowl Tournament, Sabine dropped two games losing to Longview(29-9) in the semis 52-35, and in the third-place game to Kilgore 54-53. Sabine came back to defeat Kilgore later in the season 52-49. In District, Sabine's biggest challenge was against Troup. The Cardinals were very fortunate on both occasions to come away with victory's 56-53 and 66-65. Shelbyville(25-4) was the 3rd ranked team in the state in the T.A.B.C. poll.

Sabine(25-5) won their Bi-District game over Shelbyville(25-4) in surprising fashion 89-50. Sabine was led by Lawrence Ward with 29 points and 11 rebounds. The Cardinals took a commanding lead 39-19 at halftime. George Cameron was impressive for Coach Carl Allen producing 23 points, 9 boards and 5 blocks. Ronnie

Davis finished with 16 and Charles Boyd kicked in 10 for the Sabine cause. Joe Bolton was the leader for Shelbyville scoring 20 points and Dennis Land hit 11. The Shelbyville faithful were probably asking themselves, "where is Jeff Chumbley when you need him?"

As the prelude to the Sabine/Grapeland clash, Coach Carl Allen discussed his next big game. "Grapeland is a big team," Allen said. "They're ranked #1 in the state, but we feel we are a better team. Shelbyville was ranked #3 and was supposed to beat us, but they didn't. Now we're playing the #1 team. I guess they're supposed to beat us too." Coach continued saying, "if we beat Grapeland, we should have one foot in the door toward the state championship. Whoever wins this game will probably go on to win the state championship. 6'5" George Cameron and Lawrence Ward would play key roles in the Cardinals success.

Grapeland and Sabine(25-6) went at it in Tyler at Tyler Lee High School. With score 62-61 with only 42 seconds remaining, Jeff Chapman and Tony Jones of Grapeland put the game away at the foul line 66-61. The one-two combination of 5'8" Tony Jones and 6'7" Calvin Tillis* dominated, putting up 27 and 13 points. The difference in the game was the inability of 6'5" George Cameron of Sabine to score. Cameron finished up with only nine points.

(*) Tillis, although only a junior, took his skills to Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa upon graduation. Tillis was a double-digit scorer his last season with the Drake Bulldogs.

The big win over Sabine put Grapeland in the regionals for the second year in a row. Joining the Sandie's: Cooper(29-3), Edgewood(25-6) and district rival Elkhart(22-10). Regionals took place in Tyler at Wagstaff Gym. Grapeland had handled Elkhart easily in District 58-29 and 76-41, but as we well know a third time can sometimes be a charm in playoff basketball. Cooper(29-3) was mowing down opponents as they approached the regional finals. In Greenville, Cooper demoralized Whitewright 84-56. Richard Roberts was high point man for Cooper finishing with 22 points. Rodney Morris put up 17 points in the victory and Bernard Cooper hit 18. Troy Ballard paced Whitewright in defeat with 22 points. Cooper's next opponent was Rivercrest, who advanced beating Hawkins 64-60. Rivercrest fell 49-45 to Cooper.

Cooper advanced to the regional finals pulling away late in a close one against Elkhart 62-60. Bernard Cooper came through for his name sake with a 22-foot jump shot from the top of key for the victory. 6'3" Charles Hawkins was the man for Elkhart, finishing with 25 points. Morris, Cooper and Roberts were too much finishing with 16, 19 and 13 points for Cooper. Grapeland also advanced to the regional finals with a close one over Edgewood 55-50.

In the regional finals, Grapeland(30-3) and Cooper(30-4) finally went head to head for a spot in Austin. With 5'8" Tony Jones, 6'7" Calvin Tillis and 6'4" 235 pound, Tony Taylor, hitting on all cylinders. Cooper(30-4) had no chance losing 81-53. Grapeland dominated inside with Taylor scoring 14 points in the first half. At intermission, Grapeland had pretty much rapped things up leading 49-25. 6'1" Davy Hobson showed some high-flying skills for the Sandie's with a thunderous breakaway dunk late. For Cooper, Rodney Morris finished with 17 points and

Bernard Cooper hit 12. In victory, Tillis and Jones both came away with 19 points apiece and Taylor collected 16 points and Hobson added 12.

Out West, the second ranked and undefeated Sanford-Fritch(32-0) crew looked very menacing. They were paced by one of the best big men to ever play AA basketball. At 6'9", Eddie Cunningham was going to be hard to stop.

Four very formable teams came together in the Region I semi-finals. Sanford-Fritch(32-0) was joined by the ever-present Morton(22-9) Indians, Seagraves(25-4) and Paducah(30-2). Seagraves advanced to the regional finals for the second season in a row beating a budding program in Paducah(30-2) 63-58. The Eagles Russell Davis paced Seagraves(25-4) with 25 points in the victory. Russell hit several foul shots down the stretch with the score tied at 58 apiece. Freshman sensation, 6'4" Will Flemons, produced 24 points and 13 rebounds in a losing effort for Paducah.

Not to be disrespectful of the Seagraves-Paducah game, but most knowledgeable fans felt the regional finals would come down to Morton(22-9) and Sanford-Fritch(32-0). The Indians were a team with so much tradition, but seldom had they faced a player with the size and talent of 6'9" Ed Cunningham(29.8).

In one of the great performances in class AA playoff history, Cunningham came away with 43 points and 10 rebounds against Morton vaunted press. Even with the unstoppable Cunningham, the Indians took a 27-14 lead and were up 35-27 at halftime. Cunningham put up 16 of his 43 points in the 3rd quarter and eventually tied Morton at 57-57 with 5:41 remaining. With the score tied at 59 apiece, the big 6'9" senior went to the bench drawing his fifth foul with 3:39 remaining. Morton seized control in little over a minute, taking a 68-61 lead with 1:25 remaining. Morton celebrated a 74-68 victory over Sanford-Fritch. For the Sanford-Fritch Eagles they finished the season at 32-1. Cunningham's numbers would stand the test of time as one of the greatest individual performances in Texas playoff history.

For the second year in a row Seagraves and Morton would decide the regions fate. The District 5-2A rivals were very familiar with one another. Seagraves had lost to Morton by 15 and 28 points during the regular season and held form in the regional finals losing 73-57. 5'10" Keith Hawkins finished with 18 points for Coach Tony Mauldin and 6'0" Ricky Johnson ended up with 16 points. Russell Davis paced the Eagles with 15 points and Steve McKenzie added 10 points.

In Region IV there were no highly ranked teams. Dripping Springs, Blanco, Shiner and Temple Academy emerged as the best the region had to offer. Blanco(26-7) surpassed Shiner in one regional semi-final 52-50, while Academy(24-5) got by Dripping Springs(24-7) 50-45 in the other. 6'4" Todd Lisenbe paced Academy with 19 points in the victory and Pat Leonard did the honors for Dripping Springs with 15 points. Blanco was the favorite as they entered the regional finals. Blanco had put up 102 points in the earlier in the playoffs against Randolph. Paul Upshaw was Blanco's leading scorer.

Temple Academy's(25-5) overcame Blanco(26-8) to advance to state 71-65. The difference in the end was the foul line. Academy hit 23 of 28 foul shots and Blanco could only manage 13 of 25. 6'1" Steve Autrey's 22 points paced the Bumble Bees and Gary Jones finished with 22 points for Blanco.

In region II, Olney and Pilot Point advanced to the finals. Coach Butch Ford of Pilot Point(25-3) showed that they do more than just play football in the North Texas community. Against Franklin in the regional semis, 6'4" Bill Elliott of Pilot Point Bearcats propelled his team into the finals 71-56. The junior post put up 18 points. 6'8" Doug Schindler added 12 points in the Pilot Point victory. 5'6" Joe Brown was the catalyst for the Bearcats with his speed and quickness.

Olney advanced to regional finals defeating Buffalo 65-58. Michael Paul and Greg Mills both put up 17 points apiece in the Olney victory. Reginald Davis came up big for the Bison's with 31 points.

Olney lost a heartbreaker in the regional finals to Pilot Point 65-64. The Bearcats would be making their first appearance in Austin.

At the state tournament there was really nothing Temple Academy(25-5) or Pilot Point (27-3) had accomplished to indicate they would be able to challenge Grapeland(30-3) or Morton(24-9). There was only a hand full of clubs in class AA that could compete with these two teams. For you newcomers to Morton basketball, you need to know Coach Mauldin's philosophy was to play the toughest schedule possible. The Indians played all 4-A and 5-A schools in pre-district getting his team ready for the playoffs. Mauldin was not worried about his team's record.

Pilot Point would need to play their best game of the season to get past Morton. Morton had another buzz-saw team that pressed everywhere with depth. Coach Mauldin had lost four starters from his state semi-finalist team of 1984. That meant little, because the Indians usually just reloaded. 6'0" Ricky Johnson, 5'10" Keith Hawkins, 6'1" Ricky Williams and 6'4" sophomore, Jerry Joyce were the main stays for Morton. Pilot Point looked to 6'8" Doug Schindler, 6'4" Bill Elliott, 5'11" Robby Sims, 5'6" Joe Brown and 5'8" Don Ray Gist.

Pilot Point gave a very good account of the themselves losing 84-70. Joe Brown put up 31 points against the Morton press for Bearcats. Brown was an outstanding running back on the gridiron and showed those same skills against the Indians. The little man hit 14 of 19 field goals in the loss. Morton opened up a 20-6 lead early only three minutes into the contest. Actually, the Bearcats got as close as 56-51 in the 3rd quarter, only to see Morton pull away. The Indians outscored Pilot Point in the 4th quarter 25-9. Jerry Joyce proved to be uncanny hitting 11 of 14 from the floor and finished with 26 points.

Temple Academy had no idea what they were getting into against Grapeland. Their schedule had not prepared them for the Sandie's. Grapeland took an easy 82-50 victory into the finals. Where do you start when discussing the talent of Grapeland? 5'8" All-Stater Tony Jones finished with 10 of 19 from the floor and 5 of 7 from the line scoring 25 points. Jones hit from 20-feet on several occasions as well as being unguardable with his amazing quickness. Coach Jeff Huber of

Academy commented after the loss, "Grapeland speed and jumping ability were critical to the outcome of the game." 6'7" Calvin Tillis finished with 18 points and 12 blocks. 6'4" Todd Lisenbe, the quarterback from the football team, was the only Bumble Bee in double figures with 25 points. Lisenbe shot 10 of 26 from the floor.

In the state championship game, Grapeland was in the first appearance at state and Morton was making their 9th. Grapeland starters were 6'4" Jeff Chapman, 6'4" Tony Taylor, 6'7" Calvin Tillis, 5'8" Tony Jones and 6'4" Ben Walker. 6'1" Davy Hobson came off the bench for the Sandie's.

Experience didn't seem to make any difference as the talent of Grapeland came away with the big prize. The 5'8" lighting bud, Tony Jones of Grapeland, proved to be the difference. The Texas football recruit was everywhere with 27 points, 8 rebounds, 5 assists, 2 steals. With the score 51-50, Grapeland outscored Morton 12-6 in the final 2:59 of the game. Jones again proved to be the man hitting 7 of 9 foul shots under pressure, to give the Sandie's their first state title. Keith Hawkins finished with 16 points for Morton, while Jimmy Moore and Jerry Joyce put up 12 points apiece in a losing effort.

The game was actually tied going into the 4th period at 40 all. Grapeland shot 21 of 54 from the floor and 21 of 35 from the line in the game. Morton countered with 23 of 66 and 10 of 18 from the stripe. Hobson was the only other Grapeland player in double figures besides Jones with 12 points. Jones performance was one of the great games in tournament history.

Although Tony Jones exploits on the basketball court were many, his real future was on the football field and track at the University of Texas. He competed in both sports at U.T. He still holds the 200 meters record at Texas and played in the N.F.L. with the Cardinals, Falcons and Oilers at wide receiver. His appearance at the state basketball tournament was memorable. Morton coach, Tony Mauldin assessed Jones saying, "Jones was just a tremendous athlete, faster and quicker than everybody else. His basketball skills were limited, but he made up for it with his athletic ability."

All-Tournament Team- Tony Jones-Grapeland, Keith Hawkins and Jerry Joyce of Morton, Todd Lisenbe-Temple Academy, Joe Brown- Pilot Point.

1985 State Rankings AA {End of the Regular Season}:

1. Grapeland	27-3	6'7" Calvin Tillis, 5'8" Tony Jones
2. Sanford-Fritch	28-0	6'8" Eddie Cunningham
3. Shelbyville	20-2	Joe Bolton, Dennis Land
4. Paducah	26-1	6'5" Will Flemons
5. Olney	27-3	6'3" Michael Paul
6. Morton	19-8	6'4" Jerry Joyce, 5'10" Keith Hawkins
7. Sabine	25-3	6'6" George Cameron
8. Coleman	26-3	
9. Cooper	29-3	Barnard Cooper, Rodney Morris
10. Haskell	22-1	6'4" Shane Hadaway

T.A.B.C. All-State 1st Team- 6'8" Eddie Cunningham- Sanford-Fritch, 5'8" Tony Jones- Grapeland, 6'6" George Cameron-Sabine, 6'0" Ricky Johnson-Morton, 6'4" Bill Elliott-Pilot Point: **2nd Team**- 6'7" Calvin Tillis-Grapeland, Tim McCain-Somerville, Michael Paul-Olney, Gary Jones-Blanco, Bernard Cooper-Cooper: **3rd Team**- Eugene Dillard-Edgewood, 6'3" Todd Lisenbe-Academy, Johnny Hudson-Clint, 6'4" Shane Hadaway-Haskell, 6'4" Brad Franklin-Henrietta:

Texas Association of Sports Writers 1st Team- 6'3" Michael Paul-Olney, 6'4" Shane Hadaway-Haskell, 5'8" Tony Jones-Grapeland, 6'0" Ricky Johnson-Morton, 6'1" Sammy Gallaway-Abernathy: **2nd Team**- 6'4" Tony Taylor-Grapeland, 6'3" Tony Lisenbe-Temple Academy, 6'4" Brad Franklin-Henrietta, 5'6" Joe Brown-Pilot Point, 6'1" Joe Ulm-San Antonio Randolph: **3rd Team**- 6'7" Calvin Tillis-Grapeland, 6'4" Bill Elliott-Pilot Point, 6'6" George Cameron-Sabine, 6'1" Casey Henderson-Farmersville, 6'2" Gary Jones-Blanco, 5'8" Dan Ray Gist-Pilot Point: {Three players from Pilot Point on the All-State Team and one from Morton? Also, no Ed Cunningham on the Sports Writers All-State team?}

1985 2-A Playoffs

Region I Semis	Morton(23-9) #6	74	Sanford-Fritsch(32-0) #2	68
	Seagraves(24-5)	63	Paducah(31-1) #4	58
Region I Finals	Morton(24-9) #6	73	Seagraves(25-5)	57
Region II Semis	Pilot Point(25-3)	71	Franklin(20-8)	56
	Olney(29-3) #5	65	Buffalo	58
Region II Finals	Pilot Point(26-3)	65	Olney(30-3) #5	64
Region III Semis	Cooper(29-3) #9	62	Elkhart(22-10)	60
	Grapeland(28-3) #1	55	Edgewood (25-6)	50
Region III Finals	Grapeland(29-3) #1	81	Cooper(30-3) #9	53
Region IV Semis	Temple Academy(23-5)	50	Dripping Springs(24-6)	45
	Blanco(25-7)	52	Shiner	50
Region IV Finals	Temple Academy(24-5)	71	Blanco(26-7)	65
State Semi-Finals	Grapeland(30-3) #1	82	Temple Academy(25-5)	50
	Morton(25-9) #6	84	Pilot Point(27-3)	70
State Finals	Grapeland(31-3) #1	63	Morton(26-9) #6	56

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1985 AA Top Teams}

1. Grapeland 32-3 {state champions, defeated Corsicana, Alief Hastings}
2. Morton 25-10 {state finals, defeated Permian, Sanford-Fritch}
3. Sanford-Fritch 32-1 {regional semis, lost to Morton by 6}
4. Sabine 25-6 {lost in 2nd round to Grapeland by 5}
5. Shelbyville 25-4 {eliminated in Bi-District by Sabine}
6. Pilot Point 27-4 {state semi-finalist}
7. Olney 30-4 {regional finals, lost to Pilot Point by one}
8. Seagraves 25-6 {regional finals, defeated Paducah}
9. Paducah 31-2 {regional semi-finals}
10. Edgewood 25-7 {regional semi-finals losing to Grapeland by 5}

1985 A

The Snook Blue Jays were going for their 8th straight state championship. If they succeeded, they would tie the national record for consecutive titles. The Blue Jay's had 952 wins and only 155 losses in capturing 10 state titles since 1960. Former coach, Don Horn, said two factors contributed to Snook's success. Running the same system that was implemented from the 7th grade through 12th grade. The other factor was a complex system of pressing using depth to wear down opponents. Taking high percentage shots with a patient offensive attack was another factor. In the Austin-American Statesmen article by George Breazeale, Coach Horn detailed his programs success. The Blue Jay's last defeat in tournament action came in 1977 in the state semi-finals against Terry Teagle and Broadus.

West Lamar out of East Texas finished the regular season as the top ranked team in class A. Avinger(23-5) was ranked second in the state polls and both teams had to face off in the region III playoffs. West Lamar opened the playoff taking down Avery 71-51 at Prairiland. For West Lamar, the game was sweet revenge, because Avery had eliminated them the previous year.

West Lamar(26-3) had a great tradition having won District nine straight seasons and advanced to regionals eight of those nine campaigns. "Last year was the first time in a longtime that we didn't reach the regional tournament," Leopard Coach Mike Erwin explained. "These kids know that we kind of have a tradition around here, and that we didn't live-up to it last year. They wanted this one pretty bad. We started getting our press going and that made the difference." Bobby Randall paced West Lamar with 20 points and Gary Allen came away with 17 points. Coach Gene Weaver of Avery commented after the loss, "this was probably as bad a game as we've played all year."

Avinger had their way with Detroit(14-10) 69-54. Tommy Savage had an exceptional evening for the Eagles of Detroit scoring 29 points. The problem for Detroit came from the foul line hitting only 6 of 21 free throws. Avinger was led by Moses Hicks 22 points.

The Ector(26-6) Eagles fell to West Lamar Leopards 57-45 in the second round, but not before really causing a scare. After trailing at halftime by one, the Leopards were forced to change their strategy. Coach Erwin called for a much more controlled, slowdown tempo in the second half. "We had no choice, our fast break wasn't working, and we had to get control of the tempo, I'm glad this one is over. Anytime you have to play the other team's game, you are in trouble." Ector's guards, Tony Garcia and Ricky Large had little trouble with the West Lamar press.

West Lamar came out in the 2nd half much more intense and focused. The Leopards hit 7 of 9 foul shots late to secure the victory. "We knew they would be hard to hold," Ector coach Ray Hamilton said. "They just keep putting their pressure on you, and keep coming at you. Sooner or later, they make something

happen.” Coach Hamilton predicted success for West Lamar at regional. “With their speed and strength, they are going to be tough in regional.” Gary Allen came away with 17 points for West Lamar and Mark Whitehead led Ector with 19.

Region III had several state-ranked teams in the eight-team field and only one would advance. The tournament was played at Kilgore Junior College. Coach Mike Erwin of West Lamar said, “there are a lot of tough teams this year.” Joining top ranked West Lamar were #2 Avinger and #8 Tenaha. “This is probably the toughest field we’ve ever seen down here. We’ve got to have three good games in a row, because I just don’t see a weak link in this one,” Erwin said. “We can’t afford to play the way we did against Ector and expect to win.”

West Lamar opened regional action against Leverett’s Chapel(22-3), winning a close one 69-62. Leverett missed several easy buckets late as well as foul shots to give the game to West Lamar. The Leopards took control of the contest early in the 4th period when 6’3” Gary Allen hit three straight buckets. West Lamar never relinquished the 58-44 lead. Chris Gray finished with 16 points and 11 rebounds for West Lamar and Bobby Randall added 15 points. Joe Stephenson finished with 23 points for Leverett’s Chapel and Rodney Elder was impressive in defeat with 17 points and 13 rebounds.

West Lamar’s semi-final opponent was unranked LaPoynor(27-6). The Flyers had taken out Brookeland(22-8) 84-52 earlier. 6’3” Terry Pettie proved to be pretty special at the class A level, putting up 32 points in the victory. Marvin Young was the leader for Brookeland with 24 points.

The Flyers of LaPoynor continued their winning by shocking West Lamar 63-49 and ended the Leopards march to state. Pettie again proved to be the difference with 24 points. West Lamar’s inside game couldn’t contain Pettie. Both of Lamar’s inside post stood only 5’11”. The Flyers took control early and led at halftime 35-17. LaPoynor ended West Lamar’s 25-game winning streak and the Leopards dreams of glory at 28-4. Gary Allen was the leader for the Leopards with 18 points. West Lamar’s inside game was completely shut down by Pettie. Marcus Randall could only manage 3 points.

Tenaha(21-3) presented a much tougher challenge in the regional finals for LaPoynor(28-6). The Flyers came away with a tight 68-65 victory over Tenaha to advance to Austin. Pettie again was key to the Flyers success hitting 37 points. Over three games at regionals the 6’3” senior had accounted for 98 points. On Monday, LaPoynor got the bad news, that they drew Snook in the semi-finals in Austin.

In Austin, #6 Munday(18-5), #3 Snook(33-5) and #4 Nazareth(27-5) all awaited unranked LaPoynor(29-6). LaPoynor and Snook didn’t play football, while Nazareth and Munday played on the gridiron. Munday had actually won the state championship with the pigskin and were unable to start basketball till December 25. Snook’s story has been well documented in the previous books. A 51-game

tournament winning streak would be on the line against LaPoynor. The 1985 tournament bid was Snook's 18th appearance over a 24-year period. Nazareth was making a return visit to Austin having lost the previous season in the finals to Snook 39-30.

The tournament preview in the Austin Statesmen discussed how Snook and LaPoynor were very similar. Snook's standouts were 6'1" Vincent Swain, 5'9" Stanley Kerr and 6'0" Lawrence Wilson. 6'8" Walter Martin(20.0/10.0) was Snook's only returning starter. Martin had been academically ineligible for six weeks. The Flyers would look to 6'3" Kerry Pettie(26.4/10.). Pettie was the state long champion as well as being recruited in basketball by Stephen F. Austin and numerous junior college programs.

Snook had some outstanding wins over A&M Consolidated(21-11) 46-35, Huntsville(23-11) 65-60, Hearne 42-41, Crowley 60-45 and AA state champion, Grapeland(32-3) 47-45. Losses included A&M Consolidated(21-11) 80-76, Eula 34-33, Hearne 40-36 and Waco Midway 57-46.

LaPoynor resume was not as impressive, losing to class 3-A state finalist, Brownsboro(30-5) twice 65-42 and 74-50. Other losses included Class AA Troup 78-57, Frankston 56-51 and Neches 59-56. Victories came against Elkhart(22-11) 52-47, Frankston 64-57, West Lamar(28-4) 53-49 and Tenaha(21-4) 68-65.

Snook played some of its best basketball of the season in their 49-40 win over Big Sandy in the regional semi-finals. Holland was taken completely apart in the finals by Snook 61-28. "This was our best game of the tournament and one of our best games of the season," Coach Donnie Victorick of Snook said. Holland was a surprise entry in the regional finals having finished behind Calvert in District and upset Moulton 42-39 to reach the finals. It was the first time in six years Snook had not faced Moulton in regionals.

In the state semi-finals, LaPoynor half-court trap gave Snook trouble as the Flyers ended Snook's 51 game playoff winning streak 60-52. The Flyers coach Carl Dunklin said, "the success we had with our half-court press helped us force some turnovers and pick-up some relatively easy baskets." Kerry Pettie proved to be impressive once again with a monster dunk mid-way through the 4th quarter, on his way to 24 points. 6'8" Walter Martin finished with 20 points and 9 rebounds for the Blue Jays. "It doesn't shock me, but it hurts. It hurts tremendously, but at the same time I'm thankful for all the years we've won." Snook coach Donnie Victorick said following the loss. "We played apprehensive basketball. They played too tight and never got relaxed." With 11 seconds on the clock, Coach Victorick pulled his starters to a standing ovation. LaPoynor hit 18 of 26 foul shots against Snook. The Blue Jays only managed to force seven turnovers against LaPoynor.

We've improved each of the last four games and this was the best by far, this was the win of a lifetime," LaPoynor Coach Carl Dunklin said. "I thought our press had some effect," Dunklin continued. "I had heard that their ballhandlers

didn't handle the ball as well as in past years." Snook ended another great season at 33-6.

Nazareth(27-5) and Munday(18-6) looked to be a toss-up in the other semi-final game. Standouts for Munday included 6'4" Kregg Sanders, 5'7" Jerry Shields, 6'1" Tim Collier, 6'0" Dent Offutt(18.2/7.0/11 assists). Munday did not have a real impressive pre-season schedule due to football. Offutt was the quarterback on Munday's state championship team. Nazareth looked to 6'5" Chris Gerber, 6'0" Russell Hoelting and 5'11" Ricky Backuss. The Nazareth Swifts lost to some impressive teams; class 5-A regionals finalist, Lubbock Monterey(30-4) 61-59; class 5-A Amarillo Caprock(5-23) 56-52; class 2-A Sanford Fritsch(32-1) 58-41; class 3-A regional finalist Dimmitt(25-10) 60-59; and defeated class 2-A state finalist, Morton 62-59; As you can see Nazareth, played at a very high level. They weren't going to be intimidated by anybody at state. Coach Joe Lombard of Nazareth was attempting to become the first coach in state history to win the state titles as the girls and boys head coach in the same season.

6'1" Chris Gerber and 6'0" Russell Hoelting combined for 21 points in leading Nazareth to a 44-42 victory over Munday. 6'0" Dent Offutt paced Munday with 13 points. Munday trailed 42-40 with only 12 seconds remaining when J.B. Jones tied the contest. Coming back down court, Gerber of Nazareth was fouled and proceeded to hit both foul shots with 8 seconds remaining.

For the first time since 1977 Snook was not playing for the state championship. LaPoynor continued their victory run defeating Nazareth(28-6) 47-43 in overtime. Nazareth ran a collapsing zone trying to contain the ever present 6'3" Kerry Pettie. The Swifts of Nazareth were led by 6'5" Randy Leavitt inside and 5'11" Ricky Backus from long range. For the Flyers, 5'11" Curtis Serger stepped up with 12 points and Darryl Oliver came up big bombing from the perimeter scoring 10 points. Nazareth led at intermission 22-20.

The turning point of the game came at 1:20 left in overtime, with Russell Hoelting at the line for Nazareth shooting a one and one situation. Hoelting hit one of two and Kelvin Street came down court for LaPoynor and hit a fall away shot on the baseline. Street was fouled on the shot and hit the three-point play, putting the Flyers up 45-41. The two teams exchanged baskets making the final 47-43. Pettie entertained the fans with another crowd-pleasing dunk and finished with 12 points. Pettie was 6 of 11 from the floor. Nazareth hit 21 of 43 from the floor while LaPoynor was 23 of 50. Russell Hoelting of Nazareth had a tough game shooting only 1-9 and finished with only 3 points. Interesting side note was Carl Dunkin of LaPoynor was the school's 7th coach over a seven-year span.

All-Tournament Team-Kerry Pettie* and Curtis Steger of LaPoynor, Ricky Backus and Chris Gerber of Nazareth, Walter Martin of Snook: (*) Unanimous

1985 State Rankings A {End of the Regular Season}:

1. West Lamar

25-3

2. Avinger	23-5
3. Snook	27-5
4. Nazareth	20-5
5. Evia	26-4
6. Munday	13-3
7. Moutlon	27-3
8. Tenaha	18-3
9. Valley	21-4
10. Neches	24-4

T.A.B.C. All-State-1st Team- 6'3" Kerry Pettie(26.4)- LaPoynor, 6'6" Malcolm Townsend(24.0)-Waelder, 6'0" Dent Offutt(18.2)-Munday, 6'0" Russell Hoelting-Nazareth, 6'0" Lawrence Wilson(7.0)-Snook: **2nd Team-**Rex Young-Phillips, Dennis Hatten-Avinger, Adam Nieto-Moulton, Keton Morley-Gruver, Glover Milier-Aspermont: **3rd Team-**Jeff Pleasant-Eula, 6'3" Gary Allen(23.0)-West Lamar, Courtney Gothard-Highlands, 6'1" Vincent Swain-Snook, Kevin Reed-Tenaha:

Texas Association of Sports Writers-1st Team- 6'3" Kerry Pettie(26.4)-LaPoynor, 6'8" Walter Martin(17.5)-Snook, 6'6" Malcolm Townsend(24.0)-Waelder, 5'10" Alan Short(28.7)-Lawn, 6'0" Tim Cope(22.3)-Klondike: **2nd Team-** 6'3" Gary Allen(23.0)-West Lamar, 6'0" James Becker(30.0)-Alford, 6'6" David Dry(24.0)-Krum, 6'0" Fitzgerald Thomas(24.3)-Coolidge, 6'0" Dent Offutt(18.2)-Munday: **3rd Team-**6'4" Todd Floyd(19.5)-Huckbay, 6'8" Charles Williams(16.3)-Dawson, 6'2" Mike Durrett(22.3)-Whitharral. 6'1" Lawrence Wilson(7.0)-Snook, 5'8" Dennis Hatten(18.0), Avinger:

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1985 A Top Teams}

1. LaPoynor	31-6	{state champions, defeated Snook and Nazareth}
2. Snook	33-6	{state semis- had a win over AA champion Grapeland}
3. Nazareth	28-6	{state finals, lost in overtime to LaPoynor}
4. Tenaha	21-4	{lost to LaPoynor in regional finals by three}
5. Munday	18-6	{lost to Nazareth by two in the state semis}
6. West Lamar	28-4	{top ranked team most of the season, lost to LaPoynor}
7. Avinger	24-6	{eliminated in regionals}

1986 AAAAA

By 1986 it was fairly obvious there was little difference between class 4-A and class 5-A teams. The top teams in class AAAA could compete with any AAAAA programs in the state. In 5-A ball, the Districts were much deeper with more talent, but the top teams in both classifications were very comparable.

The '86 season was probably the first time in the modern era of Texas High School basketball, that it could be argued the best team in the state was not playing in class 5-A. After watching Pt. Arthur Lincoln in Austin, it became very clear that they would be favored against any team in the state in a series. Could they be beaten in a one game sudden death? Sure, but they would be favored against anybody in a three or five game series. The Bumblebees were so deep and talented. That's not to say there weren't outstanding teams at the 5-A level, because there were several. Pt. Arthur Lincoln would go down in basketball lore as one of the best 4-A teams ever produced by the Lone Star state.

Dallas South Oak Cliff can only image what might have been after losing the top senior in the state, Rodney Samuel, to a knee injury during an early season scrimmage. After being the pre-season #1 team in the T.A.B.C. rankings, the Golden Bears were still able to maintain their top ranking.

Another thing to keep in mind as you review the 1986 campaign is that the two best players in the state were juniors. 6'6" Larry Johnson of Dallas Skyline and 6'4" LaBradford Smith from Bay City were two of the best to ever come out of the Texas. They were phenomenal talents and two of the best in the country. The word "phenomenal" is about the only word I can come up with to describe their talents. They were really the first two players from TEJAS to be widely recognized nationally by the media. Both were future first round picks by the N.B.A.

The Tournament Schedule

Georgetown Tournament was won by Georgetown(26-7) 80-72 over Belton. Round Rock Westwood(20-10) took 3rd place defeating Austin Lanier(5-23) 74-54. Belton defeated Austin Lanier 46-45 in the semis. Georgetown(26-7) had advanced to the finals with a 54-53 win over Waco Jefferson-Moore(20-9) in the first round. Chris Proctor of Georgetown was named Tournament M.V.P. The **Austin I.S.D.** tournament was in its 30th year. Austin Johnston(28-2), Dallas Skyline(25-7) and Killeen High(20-7) all entered the tournament undefeated. Highland Park(19-13) was back in Austin to defend their tournament title. The Scots beat Austin High(20-7) in the quarterfinals 69-55. Dallas Skyline(25-7) took down Austin Westlake(26-7) 54-49. San Antonio Central Catholic(26-6) became the surprise team of the tournament defeating favored Austin Johnston(28-2) in the first round 62-48. The Rams of Johnston(28-2) went on the win consolation with victories over San Antonio Burbank(18-12) 74-58, Austin McCallum(13-13) 60-52

and Austin Travis(15-17) 56-49. Central Catholic(26-6) took care of Austin L.B.J.(18-12) in the 2nd round 71-63. L.B.J.(18-12) defeated SA Burbank(18-12) in consolation 77-58. Killeen(20-7) advanced with wins over Austin McCallum(13-13) 48-41 and Austin Reagan(13-15) 58-49. The semi-finals matched Dallas Skyline(25-7) against Highland Park(19-13) and Killeen(20-7) vs. Central Catholic(26-6). Skyline(25-7) and 6'6" Larry Johnson defeated Highland Park(19-13) 41-40 and Killeen(20-7) advanced to the finals with a 42-40 victory over Central Catholic(26-6). In the 3rd place game, Central Catholic(26-6) continued to show their strength beating Highland Park(19-13) 56-54. In the finals, Larry Johnson and Burnis McFarland paced the Raiders of Skyline(25-7) to a 57-48 victory over the Kangaroos of Killeen(20-7).

The All-Tournament team was made up of Roy Nieto of Austin Johnston, Kelvin Kizzee, Larry Johnson from Skyline, Mark Wolf of Austin Travis, David Knorr and Thomas Miller of Killeen, Burnis McFarland of Skyline, Andy Etnyre and Marcus Best of Central Catholic, Thomas Hocker of Highland Park.

Ft. Worth continued to host the **Ft. Worth 7-UP tournament** bringing in some of the top teams in the state. In the finals, Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-5) topped one of the best 4-A schools in the state, Mansfield 69-65. The loss would be Mansfield's only defeat during the regular season. 6'8" Riley Smith of Mansfield(31-2) took home M.V.P. honors at the tournament averaging 30.7/13.0 per game. Houston Wheatley(21-13) defeated Ft. Worth Southwest(17-16) 79-70, Houston Kashmere(17-11) handled Dallas Lincoln(19-10) 101-76, Dunbar got by Dallas Roosevelt(14-13) 67-60 in early round action. In the semi-finals, Dunbar(30-5) took out Kashmere(17-11) 79-66 and Mansfield(31-2) advanced beating Wheatley(21-13) 74-64. In the 3rd place game, Kashmere(17-11) throttled rival Wheatley 104-77. Interesting side note, the regional finals saw Wheatley and Kashmere go at it and the Wildcats were able to reverse this lop-sided scored 67-54. Funny how things work out. In the **Arlington Sam Houston Tournament**, Everman(29-5) defeated Ft. Worth Richland(20-8) 59-45 in the finals. In the **Scot Classic** at Highland Park, Dallas Jesuit(30-5) top the title defeating Plano East(21-9) 54-50. The **Arlington Classic** on the campus of U.T. Arlington was still a big tournament, although it had lost much of its glamor of the 1970s. In key early round games, Dallas Roosevelt(14-13) defeated FW Southwest(17-16) 61-51, North Mesquite(26-5) was impressive against Dallas Samuell(20-12) 55-34, Samuell beat Wilmer Hutchins(16-12) 46-44, North Mesquite(26-5) handled Arlington(24-9) 66-58, Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-5) was successful against Arlington Sam Houston(22-8) 71-62 and Dallas S.O.C.(28-3) beat Houston Wheatley(17-13) in a close one 60-58. Denton(15-15) upset FW Dunbar(30-5) 54-46 to advance to the semis. Dallas Samuell(20-12) turned right around and beat FW Dunbar(30-5) as well 65-60 in consolation. The Spartans also came away with a 60-59 win over Duncanville(28-7). The Panthers of Duncanville(28-7) had earlier defeated Dallas Roosevelt(14-13) 78-

73. In the Semi-finals, North Mesquite(26-5) took Denton(15-15) completely apart 68-41 and Lake Highlands(26-7) lost to S.O.C.(28-3) 51-50. In the championship game, S.O.C.(28-3) showed their strength defeating North Mesquite(26-5) 59-52. The 3rd place game saw Lake Highlands(26-7) defeat Denton(15-15) 70-48. The Broncos really struggled after their win over Dunbar.

At the **Clear Lake/Clear Creek Classic**, Longview(27-6) made the journey from East Texas and was upset in the opener by Pasadena(25-8) 35-34. Pasadena(25-8) lost to district rival, Baytown Sterling(23-12), 36-31 later in the tourney. Clear Lake(26-10) won the tournament over Baytown Sterling(23-12) 64-61, Pasadena Dobie(25-10) took out Clear Creek(14-15) in the 3rd place game 63-53. It took three overtimes for Clear Lake(26-10) to defeat Pasadena Dobie(25-10) in the semis 65-63. Baytown Sterling(23-12) also needed overtime against Clear Creek(14-15) 70-66. At the **Deer Park Tournament**, Houston Sam Houston(22-8) took home the gold defeating LaPorte(30-6) 62-55. Pasadena Sam Rayburn(20-11) won 3rd place over Deer Park(20-14) 62-58. Houston Milby(20-11) won consolation beating Alvin(13-18) 73-72. Spring Branch Memorial(23-9) won their own tournament, **Spring Branch Classic**, 45-40 over Clements(24-11). Clements(24-11) advanced to the finals defeating Stratford(18-14) 47-35 and Memorial(23-9) got to the finals beating Westbury(21-14) 50-44. Stratford(18-14) came back and took the 3rd place game 47-41 over Westbury(21-14). At the **Cypress-Fairbanks Tournament**, Humble(21-11) defeated Aldine(24-7) in the finals 55-54. Conroe(18-11) captured 3rd place 70-63 defeating Humble Kingwood(15-15). **The Alief Invitational** had some real talented teams. Dulles(29-7) defeated Houston Washington(18-11) early 70-68, Houston Yates(23-2) took down Clements(24-11) 63-56, Deer Park(20-14) got past Houston Sam Houston(22-8) 53-52, Klein Forest(21-11) got a big win over Houston Jones(14-14) 75-69 in overtime.

The **Pasadena Tournament** drew an outstanding cast of teams from the Houston area. Pasadena Dobie(25-10) took the championship over Pasadena Sam Rayburn(20-11) 56-54, Galveston Ball(16-12) downed Clear Lake(26-10) 84-81 in the 3rd place contest. Consolation finals saw two outstanding teams, Austin Johnston(34-3) and Klein Oak(24-3). Both teams went on to win their Districts and make the state playoffs. Austin Johnston(34-3) defeated Klein Oak(24-3) 72-61. Johnston(34-3) had lost in the earlier rounds to Pasadena(25-8) 70-65. In the **Ft. Bend Tournament**, Pasadena Dobie(25-10) got a nice win over Alief Elsik(18-12) 52-42, Spring(12-18) got by Willowridge(23-10) 53-51 and Deer Park(20-14) took down Humble(21-11) 57-53. Dobie(25-10) dropped Humble(21-11) 67-53, Deer Park(20-14) continued winning by defeating Angleton(19-12) 67-53 and Willowridge(23-10) beat Alief Elsik(18-12) 73-56. In the finals, Dulles(29-7) defeated Spring Branch Memorial(23-9) 60-38 and Clements(24-11) took the 3rd place game over Spring(12-18) 49-38. Dobie(25-10) won consolation 56-48 over Deer Park(20-14). In **LaPorte Tournament**, the hometown Bulldogs(30-6) defeated

Baytown Sterling(23-12) in the finals 67-52. The Bulldogs defeated Pasadena Sam Rayburn(20-11) in the semis 48-44. In the other semi-final match-up district rivals, Pasadena(25-8) and Baytown Sterling(23-12), were pitted against one another. Sterling(23-12) conquered Pasadena(25-8) 57-45. Sam Rayburn(20-11) got by Pasadena(25-8) for 3rd place 59-52.

In the **Holiday Classic at Thomas Coliseum**, South Garland(31-3) defeated Ft. Worth Richland(20-8) 72-52 for the title. The Colonels had earlier defeated L.D. Bell(19-11) 64-47 and Plano(15-17) 65-40. In the **Garland Coca Cola**, South Garland continued their undefeated streak beating Dallas Bryan Adams(14-11) in the finals 58-48. Calvin Smith of South Garland(31-3) was named Tournament MVP. The Colonels defeated Richardson(24-6) 72-52 and Dallas Skyline(25-7) and Larry Johnson in the quarterfinals 72-62. Dallas Skyline devastated Bishop Lynch 83-43 and Lake Highlands(26-7) 72-66 in the consolation bracket. Dallas Spruce(11-19) defeated Plano(15-17) 66-58, Bryan Adams(14-11) won a big one against Dallas Samuell(20-12) 50-43, Richardson Berkner(16-11) eliminated Garland(9-15) 60-59 and they turned around and lost to Garland Lakeview(20-13) 71-68. Dallas Samuell(20-12) eliminated Berkner(16-11) in consolation 52-44. North Garland(16-15) came away with a monster upset over Lake Highlands(26-7) 63-62, putting the Wildcats in the losers bracket. Bryan Adams(14-11) was able to defeat Garland 65-64(9-15). The **Grand Prairie Tournament** saw Plano East(21-9) take the championship game over Grand Prairie(20-11) 59-46. In the semi-finals, Grand Prairie(20-11) turned back a strong Temple(26-8) squad 59-45 and Plano East(21-9) was successful against South Grand Prairie(22-12) 61-49. The 3rd place game was won by Temple(26-8) 66-62 over South Grand Prairie(22-12). Temple(26-8) had defeated Eules Trinity in an earlier round 76-55. In the **Humble I.S.D. Tournament**, Aldine(24-7) defeated Humble(21-11) 75-48 in the finals. Cypress-Fairbanks(15-14) downed Humble(21-11) for 3rd place 50-48.

Arlington Martin(22-9) defeated L.D. Bell(19-11) 64-62 in the finals of the **Irving Tournament**. The 3rd Place game was won by Irving MacArthur(15-16) 76-53 over Greenville(12-19). In Waco at the **Waco Optimist tournament**, Dallas Kimball(31-4) defeated Gainesville(18-12) 77-60. In the semis the Knights took out Houston Westbury(21-14) 52-28. In the 3rd place game Houston Westbury(21-14) defeated Waco Midway 47-46. Houston Bellaire(18-16) took consolation over Waco Richfield 75-62.

In **Beaumont's YMBL Tournament** the best from the area were invited. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(33-1) lost their only game of the season in the semi-finals against Lafayette(25-10) out of Louisiana 49-46. The Lions of Lafayette(*) had three exceptional talents in 6'6" David Benoit(15.1/12.0/5 blocks), 6'2" Joe Cormier(16.0) and point guard, 5'11" Kelvin Shelvin(13.9). Coach Gamble was not real happy after the loss. "We just didn't play with any confidence, with any fire," Gamble said. With the exception of Anthony Allen and Keith Hall, Lincoln struggled.

“We need others to contribute, and we just haven’t gotten that. We don’t have any excuses; Lafayette just had an excellent ball club. They played a great game,” Gamble said. In typical Gamble style he failed to say Allen had a 102 fever in the game.

In the championship game at the Beaumont YMBL, Beaumont Westbrook(24-7) took home the prize with a 67-57 win over Lafayette. 6’5” Tim Hickman(17.3) finished with 15 points in the championship game for Westbrook and Benoit paced Lafayette with 24 points. The Bruins had defeated Beaumont Pollard(23-8) in the semi-finals 54-47. The Bumblebees(33-1) came back in the 3rd place game to defeat rival Beaumont Pollard(23-8) 66-63. Allen must have been feeling better finishing with 26 point.

(*) Lafayette(25-10) advanced to the class 4-A state semi-finals defeating unbeaten Airline(30-0) 82-77 and Southwood 74-73. The Lions lost to the eventual state champions, DeLaSalle(40-1) 60-57.

In the **27th annual Yellow Jacket Classic** at Thomas Jefferson High School in Port Arthur, the Bumblebees were looking for some revenge. PA Lincoln came into the action with a 13-1 record and overwhelming favorite. Coach Gamble said, “I never thought we’d be 13-1 at this point of the season. Beaumont Pollard(23-8) would poise a special challenge paced by Archie Corbin, Damon Sweet and Duane Pritchett.

The Bumblebees of Pt. Arthur Lincoln(33-1) dominated defeating Beaumont French(13-15) in the quarterfinals 77-40, Beaumont Westbrook(24-7) once again in the semi-finals 58-42 and Beaumont Pollard(23-8) in the finals 62-51. Hall and Allen both finished with 18 points for Lincoln in the finals. 6’7” Allen was named tournament M.V.P. Coach Gamble called out the role of the seldom recognized point guard, Jeffrey Lewis saying, “I think the key to our success in the tournament was the play of Jeffrey Lewis.”

The **15th annual Lee College Classic** had some talented teams. In the semi-final contest Aldine Eisenhower(14-16) lost to Aldine MacArthur(20-11) 71-66 and LaPorte(30-6) got by a talented Beaumont Westbrook(24-7) squad 71-66. In the finals, Aldine MacArthur(20-11) did a number on LaPorte(30-6) 61-55. Beaumont Westbrook(24-7) dominated in the 3rd place game 68-44 over Aldine Eisenhower. Darrin Babineaux and Howard Turner paced Aldine MacArthur in the finals with 18 points apiece. Both were named All-Tournament. Tommy Washington was the man for LaPorte(30-6) with 14 points. William Gooden and Charles McCovery were named All-Tournament representing LaPorte. Other All-Tournament members were Robbie Jannise of Baytown Sterling(23-12), Junior Thomas of Clear Creek, Cedric Ceasar of West Orange Stark, Jeffrey Jones from Eisenhower, Doug Maraffa of Galena Park Northshore and Bobby Foster of Westbrook. The **Nederland Tournament** always brought together the best teams in the Golden Triangle area. In 1986 nobody really stood a chance against the potent Bumblebees. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(33-1) won the tournament 67-54 over

Beaumont Pollard(23-8). The sensational sophomore, 6'3" Damon Sweet of Pollard, was unstoppable in the first half scoring 18 points and gave the Cougars a four-point halftime lead. 6'7" Anthony Allen had been poked in the eye in the 2nd quarter and went to the bench with an ice-pack over his eye. In the 2nd half the talented senior post took over for Coach Gamble. Allen finished with 16 rebounds and four blocks along with defending Sweet and holding him to only 4 points. In the semi-final game PA Lincoln(33-1) defeated Nederland(13-17) 62-53 and Beaumont Pollard(23-8) beat Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson(12-18) 78-70. Corbin propelled Pollard(23-8) to the finals with 30 points against Jefferson.

Austin Johnston(34-3) had won the **Mission Tournament** with a 86-57 win over Victoria(17-14) in the finals. In the first two rounds, Austin Johnston(34-3) had downed Corpus Christi Moody 94-62 and Houston Davis(16-12) 66-63. The **Milton Jowers Classic in San Marcos** always drew a great crowd. Twelve teams entered from all over the state. Seguin(21-11), Killeen(20-9), Killeen Ellison(18-14), Houston Milby(20-11) and Bryan(27-6) were all there. The Bryan Vikings came into the tournament undefeated. Houston Milby(20-11) was eliminated by Clear Creek(15-16) 71-61 early. In a shocker, defending state champion Houston Madison(19-10) and lost to Seguin(21-11) 68-51. The Matadors showed just how well they were capable of playing with the Madison win. Killeen(20-9) defeated San Marcos(9-19) 64-36 and Houston Northbrook(6-21) 60-30. Clear Creek(15-16) continued winning beating Killeen Ellison(18-14) 62-42. Seguin(21-11) came away with another upset defeating Killeen(20-9) in the semis 45-34. Bryan(27-6) eliminated Clear Creek(15-16) in the other semi-final game to meet Seguin(21-11) in the finals. The Matadors got everyone's attention once again with an impressive 60-56 victory over the Vikings in the finals. Anthony Davis of Seguin was named Tournament M.V.P. Thomas Gipson and Felix Savior were also represented on the All-Tournament team from Seguin. Davis scored 34 points in the finals for Coach Harry Miller. Houston Jones(14-14) took consolation over Clements(24-11) 40-38.

This takes us right into the **Matador Classic in Seguin**. The Matadors(21-11) opened with a 53-39 win over S.A. Alamo Heights(21-11), followed by a 60-42 loss to the Maroons of Austin High(21-9) in the semi-finals. San Antonio East Central(27-2) went to the finals with wins over San Marcos(9-19) and San Antonio Jefferson(7-21) 97-63. In the Championship game, S.A. East Central(27-2) beat Austin High(21-9) 71-64. Seguin(21-11) downed San Antonio Jefferson(7-21) for 3rd place 72-47. In the **Northside Tournament in San Antonio**, S.A. Churchill(24-6) remained undefeated on the season beating district rival Converse Judson(33-5) in the finals 67-64. Lawrence Frazier put up 24 points for the Chargers and Tommy Elliott followed with 13 points. For Judson, Chris Keith led the way with 23 points and Greg Prescott hit 21 points. In the semis, Judson(33-5) disposed of S.A. Roosevelt(21-9) 48-47 and S.A. Churchill(24-6) got past Seguin(21-11) 61-60. In the 3rd place game the Matadors faced another district rival in San Antonio

Roosevelt(21-9). Seguin(21-11) showed their inconsistency losing 64-54. In the earlier rounds, Judson(33-5) beat S.A. Holmes(24-8) 56-51 and S.A. Churchill(24-6) got by S.A. Marshall(19-11) 55-50. S.A. Central Catholic(26-7) continued to beat the public schools in the **Alamo Heights Tournament**. Central Catholic(26-7) defeated New Braunfels(21-10) 63-55. In the **McMurry Tournament** in Abilene, South Garland(31-3) won the tournament defeating Midland Lee(23-10) and Abilene Cooper(16-15) 85-50 in the finals. The best game of the tournament was between South Garland(31-3) and state ranked Lamesa(27-5) , which featured some of the top talent in the state. Billy Smith(20.1/11.8) of South Garland was showcasing his talents along with Lamesa's scoring machine, 6'3" Jerry Mason(30.4). The Colonels proved their metal defeating Lamesa(27-5) 76-72. Abilene Cooper(16-15) advanced to the finals beating Grapevine(17-14) 69-64. Grapevine(17-14) had eliminated Odessa Permian(19-11) earlier 62-59. Lamesa(27-5) won the 5th place game over Grapevine(17-14) 83-74. In the **Victoria Classic**, Bay City(34-1) defeated Houston Davis(16-12) in the finals 62-45. Houston Jefferson-Davis(16-12) was given a technical for failing to force action during the second quarter. Houston Davis(16-12) had led at halftime 20-14. Bay City(34-1) went on a 18-4 run in the 3rd quarter to pull away. The semi-final match-up had the two defending state champions in 4-A and 5-A. Bay City(34-1) got by Houston Madison(19-10) 85-81. 6'5" Ivan Jones of Madison put up 21 points and 10 rebounds. LaBradford Smith of Bay City countered with 29 points, 11 rebounds, 13 assists. Houston Davis(16-12) advanced to the finals beating Victoria(16-14) 71-60. Houston Madison(19-10) took down Victoria(16-14) in the 3rd place game 78-68. Victoria Stroman(18-9) defeated Seagoville(11-14) 76-60 in the consolation finals. Houston Jefferson-Davis(16-12) defeated Seagoville(11-14) in the first round 72-65. In the **South San Tournament**, S.A. East Central(27-2) defeated South San(27-7) in the finals 82-70. S.A. East Central(27-2) took out SA Madison(9-22) in the quarterfinals 76-61.

San Antonio Optimist Tournament was much weaker in 1986 due to several San Antonio schools starting district action earlier than in the past. None the less, it was still an outstanding tournament. Converse Judson(33-5) was impressive defeating S.A. MacArthur(18-7) in the finals 49-48. Semi-Finals results saw Judson(33-5) take down S.A. Highlands(17-15) 63-55 and S.A. MacArthur(18-7) moved to the finals beating S.A. Holmes(24-8) 51-43. The 3rd place game was won by S.A. Holmes(24-8) over S.A. Highlands(17-15) 66-55. The Consolation title went to Killeen(20-9) 51-37 over Killeen Ellison(18-14). Bryan(27-6) lost two games in the tournament to S.A. Southwest(15-12) 82-74 and Killeen Ellison(18-14) 63-53. The All-Tournament team was made up of Lee Dixon, Midland Lee; Anthony Deande, Midland; Dennis Harris, Killeen Ellison; James Langston, Bryan; Raymond Gonzalez, S.A. Highlands, Mark Beauvais, S.A. Marshall; Shun Gilbert, S.A. Holmes; Brian Wiggins, S.A. MacArthur; Rich Achberger, S.A. MacArthur; Chris Keith, Judson; Tournament MVP-Fred Battle of Converse Judson: Key games that you might find

of interest- Midland Lee(23-10) 41 S.A. Fox Tech(16-15) 39, S.A. Marshall(19-11) 59 Houston Smiley 58, Bryan(27-6) 75 Austin Anderson(2-22) 33, Killeen Ellison(18-14) 80 Midland(21-9) 77, Killeen(20-9) 51 S.A. Lee 39, Clear Lake(26-10) 69 S.A. Lee 67, S.A. Holmes(24-8) 67 Midland(21-9) 65, Temple(26-8) 74 S.A. Marshall(19-11) 64, S.A. Sam Houston(23-9) 73 FW Paschal(12-13) 57, S.A. Fox Tech(16-15) 63 Houston Smiley(12-17) 45, South San(27-7) 72 Killeen Ellison(18-14) 63, Judson(33-5) 87 Austin LBJ(18-12) 50, Austin McCallum 50 S.A. Madison(9-22) 48, Midland Lee(23-10) 84 S.A. McCollum 59, S.A. Highlands(17-15) 49 Killeen(20-9) 48, Converse Judson(33-5) 61 Temple(26-8) 56, Converse Judson(33-5) 60 Midland Lee(23-10) 46, Midland Lee(23-10) 41 S.A. Fox Tech(16-15) 39 OT, S.A. Highlands(17-15) 65 Clear Lake(26-10) 61, S.A. Holmes(24-8) 73 S.A. Sam Houston(23-9) 54, S.A. MacArthur(20-11) 69 S.A. Southwest 65, S.A. Holmes(24-8) 62 Austin McCallum 54, S.A. Sam Houston(23-9) 66 South San(27-7) 65:

In **Westside Lions Club Tournament**, Baltimore Dunbar traveled to Texas once again and gained the finals with a 73 to 47 win over Ft. Worth Southwest(17-16). Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-5) also advanced to the finals with a 78-60 win over Eules L.D. Bell(19-11). In the finals, Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-5) faced off against national power, Baltimore Dunbar. "Dunbar vs. Dunbar, that's what everyone's been talking about for two years," said Baltimore Dunbar coach Bob Wade. "I'm excited for the chance to play him.(Robert Hughes) "He is well respected here and outside of Texas," Wade continued.

In the semis, sophomore Derrick Daniels dominated against L.D. Bell(19-11) putting up 20 points, 11 assists and 5 steals. L.D. Bell countered with 6'3" Courtney Jean's 22 points. The Poets of Baltimore Dunbar were paced by Karl James against Southwest(17-16) with 24 points and 10 assists. The Poets 6'6" Brian Hill added 13 points and 14 rebounds to the Baltimore Dunbar cause.

Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-5) and nationally ranked Baltimore Dunbar finally met in the finals with the Texas team winning 66-65. Brian Hill of the Poets had an opportunity to win the game at the foul line shooting a one and one with one second left on the clock. Unfortunately for the Poets, Hill missed the front end.

The win was FW Dunbar's third title in four years at the Westside Lions Club Tournament. Presently called the What-a-Burger tournament. Baltimore Dunbar seemed to have things under control when they went to an ill-advised delay game. Derrick Daniels hit a critical 20-footer to tie the game at 64 apiece with only 56 seconds remaining. Donald Kitchen of the Wildcats knocked down two foul shots, putting the Ft. Worth school up 66-64 with only 37 left. Baltimore was able to pull within one point with 10 seconds remaining. With the ball and down by one, the Poets Karl James missed a jumper, but Brian Hill pulled down the rebound and scored giving the Poets with victory. Prior to the bucket the officials had called a foul on Kitchen, which sent Hill to the line for his ill-fated attempt. "If he was fouled, he was fouled in the act of shooting," Wade said. "They took the basket

away and gave us the one and one. I'm not saying we lost because of it, I'm just saying there were some very unusual calls."

In the 3rd place game, FW Southwest(17-16) defeated L.D. Bell(19-11) out of Eules 64-61. Mark Whatley had 30 points in a winning effort for Southwest. In the 5th place game, George Conner paced Trimble Tech(23-8) over Highland Park(19-13) 75-63. Connor was the top player on Trimble Tech(23-8) and would be lost to grades after semester. In the 5th place semi-final games, Highland Park(19-13) came away with a nice 51-46 win over Grand Prairie(20-11) and Trimble Tech(23-8) beat Corpus Christi King(20-10) 66-54. Karl James of Baltimore Dunbar was named tournament MVP.

In other tournament games Ft. Worth Southwest(17-16) defeating Corpus Christi King(20-10) 56-52 in overtime. Baltimore Dunbar took down Ft. Worth Trimble Tech(23-8) 72-47, Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-5) eliminated Highland Park(19-13) from the winner bracket 67-57, L.D. Bell(19-11) beat Grand Prairie(20-11) 60-39 and Arlington High(24-9) won consolation over Denton(15-15) 73-55. Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt upset Las Vegas Valley 66-58. Valley was the Nevada state champion four out of the previous five seasons. Valley dropped both games in the tournament.

In earlier round games, Baltimore Dunbar defeated Denton(15-15) 50-35, FW Dunbar(30-5) beat Eules Trinity(4-24) 85-56, Grand Prairie(20-11) handled O.D. Wyatt(7-19) 69-59, FW Southwest(17-16) won over Ft. Worth Richland(20-8) 56-55, King(20-10) defeated Western Hills(3-25) 57-42 and L.D. Bell(19-11) took out Las Vegas Valley 60-48. In a game between two eventual playoff teams, Ft. Worth Trimble Tech(23-8) beat Arlington High(24-9) 67-55.

In the **4-A division** of the **Lions Club tournament**, Mansfield(31-2) defeated Everman(29-5) 61-51 in the finals. The Tigers advanced beating Cleburne(23-9) 55-50 in the semis. Cleburne(23-9) did a number on 6'7" Riley Smith(26.0) holding him to only 13 points. John Smith paced the Tigers with 20 points. "We couldn't get the ball inside because they were stacked up so tight," Mansfield coach, Rodney Shropshire said. In the other semifinals game, Everman(29-5) defeated Waxahachie(20-8) 67-61. Troy Bell was the leader for Everman with 18 points. Marcus Finley did high point honors for the Indians with 20 points. The Indians of Waxahachie(20-8) beat Cleburne(23-9) in the 3rd place game 65-64. Waco Richfield beat Ft. Worth Northside(18-9) in the 5th place game 67-60. Everman(29-5) had defeated FW Northside(18-9) in an earlier round 57-55. Mansfield(31-2) beat Waco Richfield 66-57 earlier as well. Waxahachie(20-8) beat Pampa(16-14) 78-59. Pampa had traveled from West Texas for the tournament.

The **Dallas Dr. Pepper tournament** continued as a premier tournament. As always, there were a number of surprises and upsets. The tournament champion was not a surprise. Dallas S.O.C.(28-3) defeated Plano(15-17) in the finals 60-48. Nathan McCoy of S.O.C. was named tournament MVP. In the semi-

finals, Dallas S.O.C. beat Dallas Kimball(31-4) 70-69 and Plano(15-17) defeated Dallas Roosevelt(14-13) 57-49. In the quarterfinals, Dallas S.O.C.(28-3) beat District rival, Skyline(25-7) 78-68, Kimball(31-3) beat Dallas Bryan Adams(14-11) 70-53, Plano(15-17) upset Lake Highlands(26-7) 63-57 in another game between District rivals. Seems to me they could have planned the brackets so these teams would not have to face one another. Dallas Roosevelt(14-13) beat Wilmer Hutchins(16-12) in the last quarterfinal game 85-68.

The best early round games saw Lake Highlands(26-7) eliminate one of the favorites, North Mesquite(26-5), 69-66 in double overtime. It was probably the best game of the tournament. Garland High(9-15) defeated Dallas Spruce(11-19) 68-47, North Mesquite(26-5) recovered to beat Gainesville(18-12) 83-49, Plano(15-17) upset Dallas Samuel(20-12) 44-39, Dallas Skyline(25-7) defeated Duncanville(28-7) 64-51, Sam Houston(12-16) out of Arlington defeated Dallas Jesuit(30-5) 65-64, Bryan Adams(14-11) ended Arlington Sam Houston's dreams of glory 60-50. Members of the All-Tournament team reads like a Who's Who of Dallas basketball. Donnell Hayden of North Mesquite, Herman Henry of S.G.P., Lenzie Howell of Dallas Bryan Adams, Larry Johnson of Skyline, Steve Miles of Dallas Samuel, Ronnie Morgan from Dallas S.O.C., Robert Schmidt of Plano, Arlin White of Dallas Kimball, and Kevin White from Spruce. Look at the colleges that these young men would go on to play at. North Texas State, Oklahoma, Arkansas, U.N.L.V., and Texas Tech.

The **30th annual Jaycees Tournament** in Houston drew 30 of the top teams in the Houston area. Houston Yates(23-2) defeated Houston Wheatley(21-13) in the finals 97-93. The two district rivals were always impressive in the tournament. Emanuel Collier put up 24 points for Yates in the finals. David McDaniel added 22 points to the Yates cause and Daryl Johnson was good for 16 points. Eddie Cumbo was high man for Wheatley with 27 points, while Arthur Thomas came away with 20 points.

In the semi-finals, Wheatley(21-13) dominated Aldine MacArthur(20-11) 86-37. MacArthur came in with a strong 14-3 record and was bounced hard. Several of MacArthur's players were ineligible. Houston Yates(23-2) was just as tough against Houston Jones(14-14) in the other semi-final match-up 97-65. Darryl Johnson put up 26 points for the Lions. Houston Jones(14-14) defeated Aldine MacArthur(20-11) in the 3rd place game 59-54. Houston Jones advanced to the semi-finals defeating Houston Madison(19-10) 70-62 and Houston Worthing(15-16) 65-64. Aldine MacArthur(20-11) came away with a 55-51 win over Houston Washington(18-11). Houston Wheatley(21-13) beat Aldine High(24-6) 73-60 and Houston Yates(23-2) defeated West Orange Stark(21-10) 68-41 and Houston Milby(20-11) 61-51. Houston Kashmere(17-11) was eliminated by Aldine High(24-6) 72-54. Chris Crease showed why he was one of the top guards in the state scoring 28 points against Kashmere.

Region I Playoffs

El Paso Eastwood(26-3)

Amarillo(24-5)

Ft. Worth Richland(19-7)

South Grand Prairie(20-11)

El Paso High(21-8)

Duncanville(27-5)

Ft. Worth Dunbar(27-4) #4

Odessa Permian(18-10)

El Paso Address(27-5)

Midland Lee(24-5)

Ft. Worth Trimble Tech(23-7)

Arlington(24-8)

Plainview(18-9)

Arlington Martin(22-8)

Denton(15-14)

El Paso Bel Air(25-3)

Top Players in Region I

6'9" Robert Newton

6'2" Mark McCall

6'5" Skeeter Henry

6'0" Derrick Daniels

6'2" Sammy Simpson

6'4" Mark Chambers

El Paso Address

El Paso High

South Grand Prairie

Ft. Worth Dunbar

Amarillo High

Ft. Worth Dunbar

Region I looked much stronger during the '86 season due mainly to the emergence of Ft. Worth Dunbar. The Wildcats team was entirely made up of underclassman, but considered very talented. Coach Robert Hughes team was in the driver's seat with speed, size, depth and skill. Dunbar was the only school ranked in the final T.A.B.C. top ten from Region I. The Region placed two teams in my final top ten as well as only two in my final top 25.

The Sun City of El Paso produced more talent than they had in years with 6'2" Mark McCall of El Paso High, 6'9" Robert Newton from E.P. Address and 6'1" Wilbur Griffith of E.P. Eastwood. Unfortunately, only Griffith would make it to regionals.

1-AAAAA

El Paso Address(26-5) took the District title defeating El Paso High(21-8) both times 59-49 and 74-68. 6'9" Rob Newton(16.5) and 6'3" Marvin McBurrows(12.9) were the catalyst of Address success. Both played at the next level at the University of New Mexico and were very productive. E.P. Address only loss during the 1986 District campaign came against El Paso Irvin(20-10) 46-35, in a low scoring affair. The future looked good for Address as their Junior Varsity captured the District title with a 13-1 mark.

El Paso High(21-8) dropped three games in District action. Two of the losses came at the hands of E.P. Address and the third loss was to El Paso Bowie(13-14) 50-49. 6'2" Mark McCall(20.5) was the key performer for El Paso High. Coach Tony Harper felt he had the top player in El Paso. "The guy has unlimited range and his shooting skills are incredible," Harper said. "It's very rare for our city to have that many good players." Harper continued discussing McCall saying, "he really is a team player, he has 40 blocks on the season." Coach Harper

also screened recruiters so his star talent won't be distracted until after the season.

McCall was a rarity in high school basketball. He didn't start playing organized basketball till his sophomore year in high school. "My dad moved a lot," McCall said. "When I was younger, basketball just wasn't what I wanted to do."

McCall traveled to U.T.E.P. following graduation and was the team's leading scorer his senior season with the Miners averaging 13.4 points per game. He was an outstanding three-point shooter. In 1990 U.T.E.P. Coach Don Haskins called McCall the best dunker in U.T.E.P. history. His high school coach, Tony Harper echoed Haskins, "Mark's the best leaper I've ever seen." Harper continued, "I still remember the first day of practice his senior year, Mark told me he could jump up and grab the crossbar that connects the backboard to the wall at El Paso High. And he did, not just touch it, he grabbed it. That crossbar must be 12 ½ feet high. It was amazing," Harper said.

In comparing McCall to some of the great leapers from N.B.A. fame, he compares favorably. McCall's running vertical was measuring at 42" while at U.T.E.P. His vertical with one step or flat was measured at 32". Michael Jordan's flat vertical while at North Carolina was said to be 33". Spud Webb's running vertical was measured at 42", David Thompson was 42", Dee Brown of the Celtics and dunking fame, was measured at 41". Clyde Drexler won a dunk contest in 1989 on a basket elevated to 11'9" while playing with the Blazers. McCall continued his dunking following graduation playing with the "Harlem Globetrotters" for two years.

John Arizmendez and Victor Molina were also key contributors for El Paso High and Coach Harper. El Paso's best win of the season came against Amarillo(24-5) in the Midland Tournament in late November 49-33.

All-El Paso named by the El Paso Times: "City M.V.P."-6'2" Mark McCall(20.5), El Paso; **1st Team-** 6'0" Brad Barth(10.6), El Paso Hanks; 6'1" Wilbur Griffith(11.7), El Paso Eastwood; 6'6" Merle Heimer(13.0), El Paso Eastwood; 6'5" Anthony Ireland(11.5), El Paso Coronado; 6'5" Marvin McBurrows(12.9), El Paso Address; 6'9" Rob Newton(16.5), El Paso Address; 6'1" Perry Ray(12.9), El Paso Irvin; 5'11" Manny Reynoso(14.4), El Paso Burges; 6'3" Fernando Sifuentes(19.2) El Paso Bowie; 6'2" Jeff Williams(15.5) El Paso Bel Air:

All-District: "Co-MVP" Fernando Sifuentes(19.2) El Paso Bowie and 6'2" Mark McCall(20.5) El Paso; **1st Team-** 6'5" Marvin McBurrows(12.9) El Paso Address, 6'9" Robert Newton(16.5) El Paso Address, 6'5" Anthony Ireland(11.5) El Paso Coronado, 6'1" Perry Ray(12.9) El Paso Irvin, 5'11" Manny Reynoso(14.4) El Paso Burges; **2nd Team-** Victor Molina, El Paso; Terrance Evans, El Paso Jefferson; Gabby Lujan, El Paso Burges; John Arizmendez, El Paso; Robert Thomas, El Paso Irvin:

Standings: El Paso Address(26-5) 13-1, El Paso(21-8) 11-3, El Paso Irvin(20-10) 10-4, El Paso Coronado(17-12) 7-7, El Paso Bowie(13-14) 7-7, El Paso Jefferson(13-16) 4-10, El Paso Austin(11-17) 2-12, El Paso Burges(8-20) 2-12:

2-AAAAA

The El Paso Times ranked the top teams in the city at the close of the regular season. They had El Paso Eastwood(25-3) at #1, followed by El Paso

Andress(26-5), El Paso Bel Air(24-6) at #3 and El Paso(21-8) was #4. It's usually a good indicator of who has the top teams in the city. E.P. Eastwood defeated E.P. Bel Air in both District games 54-51 and 66-62 and finished undefeated in District. The Troopers Junior Varsity continued the winning tradition taking District with a 10-1 record.

E.P. Bel Air(24-6) had a solid team, finishing as District runner-up at 9-3. Bel Air owned a victory over El Paso Andress(26-5) in a November tournament 64-56. Since December 7, Bel Air had gone 6-2 with their only two defeats coming at the hands of Eastwood. Eastwood showed their strength earlier in the season defeating El Paso High in a close one 50-48. These games all had playoff implicants, because Eastwood faced El Paso and Bel Air played Andress in the first round.

All-District: "District MVP"- 6'1" Wilbur Griffith(11.3) El Paso Eastwood, **1st Team-** 6'6" Merle Heimer(13.0) El Paso Eastwood, 6'2" Jeff Williams(15.4) El Paso Bel Air, Brett Wagner of El Paso Eastwood, Jesse Garcia of El Paso Highlands, Eric Williams of El Paso Highlands, Brad Barth of El Paso Hanks, Brad Borden of El Paso Hanks, Sid Headen of El Paso Parkland, Victor Gutierrez of El Paso Riverside, Ruben Perez of El Paso Ysleta, Victor Rodriguez of El Paso Socorro: "Coach Of the Year," Bobby Lesley of Eastwood.

Standings: El Paso Eastwood(25-3) 12-0, El Paso Bel Air(24-6) 9-3, El Paso Hanks(18-11) 8-4, El Paso Parkland(11-16) 6-6, El Paso Riverside(17-12) 5-7, El Paso Socorro(3-22) 1-11, El Paso Ysleta(3-25) 1-11:
3-AAAAA

Amarillo Sandies took the District title for the second time in three seasons in 1986. The Sandie's returned no starters and only two players with any varsity experience. Coach Allen Simpson inherited an outstanding junior class that would become the foundation of the Sandie's hopes during the season. The Junior class had some impressive credentials. At Bonham Jr. High the junior class had went undefeated over a three-year period with an impressive 55-0 record. On the junior varsity level, they finished 28-1. This impressive record was without the services of Sammy Simpson, who played on the varsity. The J. V's only loss came against Palo Duro. The two teams met five times over the season with Amarillo winning the first four meetings.

Of the 15 players on the Amarillo varsity roster, nine were underclassmen. A talented trio of guards made up the Sandie's backcourt. Sammy Simpson(11.9) played off guard and could shoot it from range. Ashton Nowak(10.4) ran point and Dod Clapp was an exceptional defender. The common thread between all three was their ability to see the court and pass the ball. Simpson averaged 4.2 assists per game, Nowak had 3.5 assists and Clapp 3.8 per contest. Nowak later played at Eastern New Mexico, Simpson at West Texas State and Clapp played football at Texas Tech. Other juniors included 6'4" Brant Capps and 5'8" Jason Rehm. These two came off the bench and played prominent roles along with 6'5" sophomore Lance Perry.

Amarillo opened the season very cautiously with so many underclassmen. Coach Allen Simpson did not have real high expectations. In the 2nd game of the

season the Sandies faced 4-A state power, Borger(25-4). The Bulldogs weren't at full strength with several of their key players coming out of football. Three of their players were playing their first game of the season, having just finished a Bi-District contest on the gridiron against Sweetwater. 6'4" Wayne Dickson, who was a standout at linebacker, had a nice game for Borger with 15 points and six rebounds. Amarillo was able to win 77-74 in a physical contest in which 51 fouls were called. "I know they missed their guys," Coach Allen Simpson said. Amarillo had defeated Pampa(16-13) in their season opener 60-48.

Borger's standout post, 6'4" Terry Whitcher, got into early foul trouble. This really limited the Bulldogs attack. The talented senior still finished with 23 points even though he sat out much of the 2nd quarter. In Borger's opener against Amarillo Caprock, Whitcher had put up 43 points. "The Sandies have a good ball-club," Borger coach Duane Hunt commented. "I was trying to play a lot of knew kids and we never really got our timing down. We had our chances."

Coach Simpson commented after the win, "when I saw our schedule, I thought we might be 0-3 out of the gate." 6'4" Sherman Ray finished with 16 points for Amarillo while Sammy Simpson added 12 points and Doug Fisher came away with 18 points. Clovis, out of New Mexico, was next up for Amarillo. The Sandies came away a 62-47 win. Over the previous six seasons it was only Amarillo's second win over Clovis. "This club has a lot more talent than any of my other teams," Simpson said. "I don't think foul trouble will be a problem with us, because I can go far down the bench."

In the **Midland tournament**, Amarillo defeated Big Spring(5-22) 64-52 in the first round and lost 81-68 to 2-A power Morton(32-7) in the semis. In the **Plainview Tournament** the Sandies went against another West Texas traditional power in Nazareth(28-6), and came away with a close one 48-46. Morton(32-7) took out 3-5A contender Lubbock Monterey(21-10) 68-65 in the first round to advance to the semis. Andrews(29-3), state ranked in class 4-A, defeated 3-5A contender Plainview(18-10) 81-78. In the semis, Morton(32-7) snuck by Dimmitt(31-7) 66-64 and Andrews(29-3) took down Amarillo(24-5) 60-59. Andrews(29-3) took the championship game over Morton(32-7) 90-77. As you could see Amarillo had a strong outfit, but just one of many tough teams in West Texas.

Going into the last week of the season, Amarillo(24-5) had already wrapped up the District title with a 14-2 mark. In the final game of District action, Plainview backed into the playoffs losing to Amarillo Tascosa(15-13) 53-45. Lubbock Monterey(21-10) could have forced a playoff game, but they went down to Amarillo 65-59. The Sandies were paying back the Plainsmen for their earlier District loss at the hands of Monterey(21-10) 49-44. Amarillo's only other loss in the District came against Lubbock Coronado(18-12) 49-47.

Plainview(18-9) finished second in District with a 12-4 mark beating out Lubbock Monterey(21-10). The Plainsmen finished two games back at 10-6. Amarillo was far from dominate in District action beating Plainview by 10 and 1 point in their two meetings. Amarillo Tascosa(15-13) took Amarillo in double overtime before losing 69-65. As Amarillo prepared for the playoffs, there was nothing on their resume that would indicate they were a team that needed to be watched. They certainly did not strike fear in anybody.

Standings: Amarillo(24-5) 14-2, Plainview(18-9) 11-5, Lubbock Monterey(21-10) 10-6, Lubbock Coronado(18-12) 10-6, Amarillo Tascosa(15-13) 8-8, Lubbock High(15-15) 7-9, Lubbock Caprock(13-15) 6-10, Hereford(8-19) 3-12, Amarillo Palo Duro(8-21) 2-13.

4-A-A-A-A-A

The District race went right down to the wire between Odessa Permian(18-10), Midland High(21-9) and Midland Lee(22-9). Permian pulled out District with two close victories in the last two games of the regular season. The Panthers(18-10) defeated Midland High(21-9) 78-76 in overtime and closed the season with a 58-57 victory over crosstown rival Odessa(8-21). The two wins gave the Panthers the title, coupled with Midland Lee's(22-9) loss to Midland High(21-9) 49-47. Midland Lee and Midland High finished in a tie for second at 11-3. A playoff would be needed to decide the playoff spot.

The Panthers of Odessa Permian were very fortunate to get past Odessa in the season closer. The Panthers were down 57-56 with two seconds remaining on the clock. Permian had to go the length of the court and score in order to pull out the victory. 6'2" Danny Servance threw a perfect pass 87 feet to the out-stretched 6'4" Jimmie Davis, who banked in the winning lay-up. "Oh yeah, this is the most exciting game I've been involved with," Servance said. For Coach Pattillo of Permian it was his second District title in three seasons.

City rivals, Midland High(21-9) and Midland Lee(22-9), met for the fourth time at the Chaparral Center in Midland. At stake was a spot in the state playoffs. A fine crowd of 4,100 showed up to see Lee dominate the glass and come away with a 67-61 victory. 6'5" Anthony Dickens(15.6), 6'2" Greg Johnson and 6'3" Eddie Riley controlled the boards for Lee 39-25. Dickens and Johnson both had 10 rebounds and Riley pulled down eight. "They just beat us on the boards," Bulldog's coach Jack Stephenson said. "They outrebounded us 24-10 at halftime." Midland High relied heavily on the press to off-set the rebounding advantage of Lee. 6'1" Lee Dixon(19.0) of Lee left the game in the 2nd quarter with an injury on his shooting hand. Dixon only managed to score four points before making his exist.

"Midland had a great press at the end, but our key man, Lee Dixon, was on the sideline," Coach Paul Stueckler of Lee said. Matt Sears led the Bulldogs charge with 20 points. Anthony Deande was only 1 of 10 from the field, which hurt the Bulldogs chances. Midland's Elvin Mackey finished with 15 points. For Midland

Lee, Dickens finished 9 of 15 from the floor for 25 points, while Greg Johnson added 15 points. Midland finished the season at 21-10.

Standings: Odessa Permian(18-10) 12-2, Midland Lee(22-9) 11-3, Midland High(21-9) 11-3, Abilene High(13-17) 8-6, San Angelo(13-17) 5-9, Abilene Cooper(16-15) 4-10, Big Spring(5-22) 3-11, Odessa High(8-21) 2-12.

All-District: Charles Pattillo of Odessa Permian- "Coach of the Year", 6'5" Anthony Dickens(15.6) of Midland Lee- "Player of the Year", 6'5" Brian Mayfield of Big Spring- "Sophomore of the Year": **1st Team**- 5'8" Curley Alford(11.3) Odessa Permian, 6'4" Jimmie Davis(14.8) Odessa Permian, 5'8" Paul Chavez(15.2) Odessa High, 5'10" Terriance Bell-Abilene Cooper, 6'1" Lee Dixon(19.0)-Midland Lee, 6'2" Anthony Deande-Midland High, 6'2" Roy Kiser-Abilene High, 6'5" Chris Lowry-San Angelo, 6'5" Elvin Mackey-Midland High, 6'3" Eddie Riley-Midland Lee:

5-AAAAA

Ft. Worth Richland(19-7) came away with the District title edging out Sherman(14-14) and Denton(15-14). As you can tell by the records the District was not real strong. Richland's only losses in District came at the hands of Wichita Falls 67-63 and Sherman 70-67 in overtime. Richland came back to defeat the Coyotes in the rematch 89-52. Needless to say, Wichita Falls is a tough place to play. What is that a 41-point turnaround. In the last week of the season, Sherman defeated Denton 62-56, to give the title to Richland. Sherman lost to Denton for the second playoff spot. Don't shed any tears for the Bearcats, they would be a powerhouse in 1987. Sherman had almost their entire team returning. Neither Richland nor Denton were looking to make a big playoff run. Coach Ken West of Ft. Worth Richland acquired his 614th win over Haltom 44-39. A tremendous accomplishment.

Standings: Ft. Worth Richland(19-7) 8-2, Denton(15-14) 7-3, Sherman(14-14) 7-3, Wichita Falls Rider(11-16) 4-6, Haltom(7-17) 2-8, Wichita Falls(8-19) 2-8:

All-District: 1st Team- Kittredge Evans-Denton, David Cook-FW Richland, Byron Whittfield-Sherman, Mark Benson-FW Richland, Jason Willett-WF Rider, Travis Howell-Haltom: "MVP" David Cook, "Coach of the Year" Ken West-FW Richland, "Sophomore of the Year" Byron Whittfield-Sherman, "Defensive Player of the Year" Antonio Sanderson-Haltom:

6-AAAAA

Ft. Worth Dunbar was back at their familiar spot atop 6-5A. Moving into District the top competition in Ft. Worth seemed to have already conceded the District title to the Wildcats. Coach James Wood of Southwest said, "I don't know who's going to beat Dunbar. I'm not sure anyone will." Coach Gales of Tech chimed in saying, "They're better than the rest of us, especially when their crowd gets involved. Bob utilizes the talent on hand better than any coach I've seen," Gales continued. "He's a living legend. He can take a team with nothing and before the seasons over, he's got a great ball club."

Trimble Tech had some really strong wins in pre-district over Highland Park, Ft. Worth Paschal, and Arlington. Tech also showed their strength defeating two teams that had advanced to state the previous year, Corpus Christi King and Ft. Worth Southwest. Coach John Gales was in his 18th season at Tech, having never made the playoffs. The Bulldogs top players included George Conner, Jerold

Gales, Hardie Lusk, Patrick King, Willie Robinson and Rodney Jackson. Conner and Gales both played in college.

The Dunbar Wildcats were very young and considered one of the best teams in the state. The Wildcats biggest win of the season came against Mansfield 69-65 in pre-district. The Tigers advanced all the way to the state finals in class 4-A. Mansfield was legitimate. They were one of the top ten teams in the state regardless of classification. Dunbar also had an impressive outing against Baltimore Dunbar, winning the Westside Lions Club tournament 66-65. Baltimore Dunbar was considered one of the top 25 teams in the country and defending national champions. But something to keep in mind when discussing Ft. Worth Dunbar, both big wins were in Ft. Worth. The Wildcats had the strongest crowd support in the state and were always tough to beat in Cowtown.

Houston Kashmere(17-11) fell to the Wildcats in the 7-Up Tournament earlier in the season 79-66. The win didn't look that impressive at the time, but the Rams were one of the most talented teams in the state. Kashmere eventually advance to the regional finals and defeated Houston Wheatley three times during the season. Dunbar's four losses came at the hands of top ranked Dallas S.O.C.(28-3) 73-63, Denton(15-15) 54-46, Dallas Samuell(20-12) 65-60 and Dallas Roosevelt(14-13) 67-57.

The Dunbar Wildcats(25-4) sailed through District pretty much untouched and ranked #4 in the TABC rankings. "We figured we'd be on top. That's just how it goes with being Dunbar. We expected to be on top last year when we knew we were terrible," Hughes said. "We've got about 12 people we can run at you without much drop off in ability, we don't have to worry about people fouling out or having an off night," Coach Hughes explained. The Wildcats crew defeated District runner-up Trimble Tech easily both times 75-59 and 95-63 to finish 14-0.

In Tech's 95-63 loss to Dunbar the Bulldogs had no chance from the start. Dunbar built up a 44-13 lead in the second quarter with 2:00 left in the half. Hughes commented after the big District win, "I figured we'd win it, but I never thought we'd be that far in front early, we probably played as well as we have all season in the first half." Coach John Gales of the Bulldogs said following the disappointing loss, "We can't play with Dunbar, it's too big a game." Mark Chambers led Dunbar with 17 points.

In an interview with Jimmy Burch of the Ft. Worth Star Telegram, Gales discussed what it was like facing Ft. Worth Dunbar. "You've got to beat all the legends floating around the gym. All their great players, guys like Andre Allen and Willie Ashley, are legends to these kids. They all come back to watch the games. Then there's the crowd. When the game gets tight, the roof comes off the place when they score, and when you score, you only get polite applause. Around the 4th quarter, it feels like the whole place is closing in on you."

Hughes compared his team to previous Dunbar squads, "I probably grade too hard, but I use some of our other clubs as a yardstick, and frankly, we're not measuring up. We're not even close to the 38-1 team two years ago. We're not in the same state."

The Wildcats were paced by one of the top sophomores in the state in Derrick Daniels(11.0/10.0 assists). Daniels would eventually go on and set the national high school record for assist while with the Wildcats. Other key players for Coach Hughes included, 6'2" Coyle Allen(8.7 rebounds) and 6'3" Mark Chambers(15.3).

Trimble Tech finished 12-2 in District and claimed the school's first playoff spot in 48-year school history of the Bulldogs. "To me, it was a dream come true," Gales said. The veteran coach had to adapt after losing three of his top nine players to grades after the holidays. Winston Johnson, George Conner and Hardie Lusk all were ineligible. "Conner was the team leader and leading scorer, we ran our offense around him," Gales said. Trimble Tech came on with victories over F.W. Southwest 58-57 and F.W. Paschal 62-53.

Mark Whatley(19.3) of F.W. Southwest was dismissed from the team by Coach James Wood for missing too many practices on January 4. His dismissal really hurt Southwest's chances at a playoff spot.

Standings: Ft. Worth Dunbar(27-4) 14-0, FW Trimble Tech(23-7) 12-2, FW Arlington Heights(12-10) 8-6, FW Southwest(17-16) 7-7, FW Paschal(12-13) 6-8, FW O.D. Wyatt(7-19) 5-9, FW Eastern Hills(3-20) 3-11, FW Western Hills(3-25) 1-13:

All-District: 1st Team- Derrick Daniels-FW Dunbar, Willie Thomas(24.3)-FW Southwest, Mark Chambers(15.7)-FW Dunbar, Jerold Gales(15.4)-Trimble Tech, James Hill(19.2) FW Paschal: "Player of the Year" Derrick Daniels, "Coach of the Year" Robert Hughes, "Sophomore of the Year" Greg Bullis-Paschal:

7-AAAAA

This District was very competitive during the season. After the smoke cleared, Arlington Martin(22-7) and Arlington(23-8) tied for first place with 10-2 marks. The Colts of Arlington High suffered two District losses against Euless L.D. Bell 65-64 and Arlington Martin 70-60. In the loss to the Blue Raiders of Bell, Guy Odom scored 13 points and Courtney Jeans put up 20 points for the Blue Raiders. Arlington's 6'6" Trent Tucker showed why he was the District M.V.P. with 30 points in a losing effort. Courtney Jeans of L.D. Bell took the ball in the closing seconds of the game with Tucker guarding him closely. Jeans made a great pass to teammate Guy Odom on a backdoor layup for the win. To make matters worse, Arlington had lost the game on their home court.

Martin's two District losses came at the hands of Arlington 57-53 and L.D. Bell(19-11) 64-62. The Blue Raiders held wins over both the top finishers, but failed to take care of business against Arlington Sam Houston(12-16), losing 84-82.

The District title game took place at Arlington Martin High School between Arlington and Arlington Martin. You would have to assume that the

teams flipped for the home court advantage. Coach Danny Husband of Martin was surprised to be in the title game, having lost nine seniors from a co-championship team the previous year.

Arlington won the big game over Martin 49-47 to advance to the playoffs as the District's top seed. David Weiner was the only Colt in double figures with 16 points. Gary Webb sunk two foul shots with 37 seconds to secure the victory for Coach Robert Gill's Arlington squad.

6'3" Courtney Jeans(14.0/7.0) was one of the top players in 7-5A during the season. Jeans transferred from Eules Trinity to L.D. Bell after his mother switched apartments. Because of lack of transportation, Jeans transferred to Bell. His new coach Ray Debord commented, "Courtney is an excellent ball player."

Standings: Arlington(23-8) 10-2, Arlington Martin(22-7) 10-2, L.D. Bell(19-11) 9-3, Arlington Sam Houston(12-16) 6-6, Arlington Lamar(10-17) 4-8, Burleson(5-18) 2-10, Eules Trinity(4-24) 1-11:

All-District: 1st Team- Bob Cartwright-Arlington Sam Houston, Jamaal Brown-Arlington Sam Houston, David Wiener-Arlington, Courtney Jeans-L.D. Bell, Vernon Radsdale-Arlington Martin: "District MVP" Trent Turner-Arlington, "Newcomer of the Year" Jamaal Brown, "Coach of the Year" Danny Husband of Arlington Martin and Robert Gill of Arlington:

8-A-A-A-A-A

Duncanville really rolled through District going undefeated against a pretty competitive league. The Panthers defeated S.G.P. both times 57-41 and 65-60 and Grand Prairie as well 51-50 and 88-58. South Grand Prairie took down rival Grand Prairie 65-54 to gain the runner-up spot for the playoffs. The Warriors were led by one of the best kept secrets in the state, Herman Henry's 21 points. S.G.P. had won the earlier game against the Gophers 48-38. S.G.P. down fall in District action came at the hands of the Trojans of Carrollton Newman Smith(15-16). South Grand Prairie lost both District games against the Trojans 65-51 and 59-54.

In talking with Coach Phil Bailey of South Grand Prairie, he shed some light on his team. "Skeeter Henry was one of the best players I ever coached, he could go coast to coast and finish with the best," Bailey said. "Coaches and referees didn't always like his demeanor on the court, but he was really competitive. His junior year, I walked him down to the counselor's office to have him removed from basketball, he was hard to handle. About six weeks later he came down and knocked on my door wanting to play. He agreed he'd let me coach." Bailey said. "About once a week he would have meetings with the team asking them, who wanted to go to the playoffs with him." Bailey enjoyed coaching him knowing he gave everything he had to win. "He was so competitive and would get carried away sometimes. One time after hitting the winning basket he did a victory lap around the gym, which the other team didn't appreciate." Bailey said, "he was pretty much black-balled by the opposing District coaches and was left off the All-District 1st team."

In visiting with Jerry Stone, Henry's junior college coach and Coach Bailey, both had nothing but positive things about coaching Skeeter. Henry was later a

standout at Oklahoma and after a few N.B.A. games played professionally in Europe.

Coach Bailey said he lost two key players during the season that really would have made his team stronger. 6'2" Michael Dyer was averaging 16.0/12.0 early in the season when he was "sucker punched" during a game and was out for the season with reconstructive facial surgery. Bailey also played most of the season without one of his top players, Lamont Loudon. Loudon was very gifted and could shoot with range, but broke both bones in his right arm on a dunk and missed the regular season. Loudon was able to return for the playoffs and made a strong contribution. "He was not the same player or shooter upon his return," Bailey said.

So, you advance to regionals and not one player from the Warriors was named to the All-District 1st team. "Skeeter was a real chest beater, which turned a lot of coaches off," Bailey said.

Standings: Duncanville(27-5) 14-0, South Grand Prairie(20-11) 10-4, Grand Prairie(20-11) 9-5, Carrollton Newman Smith(15-16) 8-6, Irving MacArthur(15-16) 7-7, Irving(16-15) 6-8, Carrollton R.L. Turner(5-24) 2-12, Irving Nimitz(3-25) 0-14:

All-District: 1st Team-Russell Hall-Irving, Chris Ratcliff-Irving MacArthur, Jerry Hervey-Grand Prairie, James Burkhalter-Duncanville, Matt Verner-Duncanville: "Player of the Year" James Burkhalter-Duncanville, "Coach of the Year" Phil McNeely-Duncanville, "Sophomore of the Year" Daniel Myers of Irving MacArthur:

Playoffs

Denton(15-15) faced Ft. Worth Dunbar(28-4) in the first round of the playoffs for the third time in four seasons. The game looked pretty much like a mismatch, but during the regular season the two teams had split. Dunbar defeated the Broncos 57-41 in the season opener and Denton took down the Wildcats in the quarterfinals of the Arlington Classic 54-46. The Broncos also had eliminated Dunbar's playoff hopes the previous season. Coach Maurice Evans of Denton knew his team would not be intimidated by Dunbar. Denton was the location of the Bi-District contest at the Super Drum on the campus of North Texas State.

Denton looked to 6'1" Kittredge Evans(13.6), 6'2" Curt Campbell(10.8), 6'4" Rob Seay, 6'3" Allen Dye and David Ditzenberger. Coach Evans felt that rebounding would be the key to the game. "Dunbar is really aggressive on the offense glass," Evans said. Dunbar counted on the usual cast of 6'3" Lionel Hamilton, 6'3" Mark Chambers(15.8), 6'2" Coyle Allen(13.1), 5'10" Myron Wilson(10.0) and 6'2" Derrick Daniels(11.2).

Dunbar dominated the game inside winning 70-64 over Denton. Denton on the other hand shot mostly from the outside. Mark Chambers led Dunbar with 24 points and Coyle Allen finished with 19. The Wildcats came away with a 46-21 advantage on the glass. Denton ability to shoot from long range kept them in the game. With just 51 second remaining Denton had pulled within two points at 66-64, but could get no closer. Curt Campbell was outstanding for Coach Maurice

Evans with 20 points on 8 of 12 shooting. Dunbar overplayed Campbell trying to limit his touches.

Ft. Worth Trimble Tech(23-8) was viewed as the favorite over the lightly regarded Richland Hills(20-7), but the Rebels came away with a 68-57 victory. Trimble Tech's season ended at the Thomas Coliseum in Haltom City. Mark Benson and David Cook carried Richland with 19 points apiece. Gerald Gales led Trimble Tech with 20 points.

The Duncanville(28-5) Panthers triumphed in a heart stopper defeating Arlington Martin 57-56 at Wilkerson-Greines Activity Center in Ft. Worth. Martin seemed to have things under control when the officials called a double technical on David Nied. "The referees stopped calling thing after those two techs," Coach Danny Husband of Martin said. "The kid should have been kicked out and he's the one that came back and beat us," Husband said. David Nied* of Duncanville hit two foul shots with 12 seconds remaining to secure the victory. Nied paced the Panthers with 21 points and Martin ended their season at 22-9. Vernon Ragsdale of Martin failed on an attempt from the corner after stealing an inbounds pass in the final seconds. Gary Freeman finished with 16 points for the Warriors and brother Jerry followed with 12 points. Martin had defeated Duncanville earlier in the season 60-58.

(*) Nied pitched in major leagues for the Braves and Rockies.

Coach Lesley of El Paso Eastwood(25-3) was very surprised at his team's success in 1986. "We lost four good players from last year," Lesley said. 6'1" Wilson Griffith(11.3) was his only returning starter. 6'6" Merle Heimer(13.0) was the Troopers leading scorer. After going 12-0 in District, Eastwood was on a 19-game winning streak entering the playoffs. Coach Lesley's main concern in the playoffs against El Paso(21-8) would be how to contain high flyer, 6'2" Mark McCall(20.2). Lesley had his own leaper in Griffith(11.3), who was considered one of the best in the city. Griffith took his talents to Midland Junior college following graduation.

Eastwood(25-3) defeated El Paso(21-8) 58-57 to advance to the next round. Brett Wagner was the hero hitting two foul shots for the Troopers with eight seconds on the clock.

El Paso Andress(27-5) was going to be tough to match-up in the playoffs with the inside combination of 6'9" Rob Newton(16.5) and 6'5" McBurrows(12.9). The strong inside duo was very tough at the High School level. Andress proved too much against El Paso Bel Air(24-6) 72-60.

Plainview(18-9) faced Odessa Permian(18-10) in Bi-District at Scurry County Coliseum. Coach Pattillo of Permian was in his 7th season with the Panthers. The only common opponent for the two teams was Midland Lee. Permian split with the Rebels, while Plainview defeated Lee 76-67. Plainview had lost three of

the last five games coming into the contest. They were really struggling. Andrew Jackson and Thomas Curry were key players for Plainview.

Permian was able to come away with their 9th consecutive victory 54-45 over Plainview. Coach Pattillo felt better shot selection in the second half was the difference. "We had better shot select in the 2nd half, a lot of times, we weren't running our offense in the first half." Permian only shot 21% from the floor in the first half.

Plainview's coach Carl Irlback said, "the difference in the 2nd half was that we didn't make the easy shots and they did." 5'10" Lance Watkins led Permian with 17 points and Jimmie Davis finished with 14 points and 11 rebounds. Plainview ended the season at 18-10. Thomas Curry was the Bulldogs top dog with 21 points. The win was Permian's first playoff win since 1968.

Following the playoff game, Permian got a big boost winning the coin flip with El Paso Eastwood for a home and home game. The Panthers would be hosting Eastwood in the own gym, the site of eight straight victories by an average margin of 12 points.

Midland Lee(24-8) and Midland(21-9) were forced to have a playoff to see who would meet Amarillo(24-5) in Bi-District. Lee came away with a 67-61 victory and advanced. Instead of sitting around and waiting for the outcome of the District playoff game, the Sandies took a warm-up against Morton. Earlier in the season Morton held a win over Amarillo. This time the 2-A power was no match for Amarillo losing 77-52. The Sandies had shown tremendous improvement over the course of the season. Morton's best player, 6'4" Jerry Joyce(23.0), was ineligible due to grades. He had been sitting out for six weeks.

Amarillo(24-5) and Midland Lee(24-8) came together at Levelland High School. Coach Simpson commented about the up coming game against Lee saying, "I'm afraid we're going to have to play out of our minds to win." Lee had three talented players in 6'5" Anthony Dickens(16.0/12.0), 6'0" Lee Dixon(18.4)and 6'1" Eddie Riley(13.3) and one of the top coaches in West Texas in Paul Stueckler. Yes, the same coach who almost upset Kashmere in double overtime in the 1975 state finals. Dickens was the only returning starter back from a District champion squad. Dickens had put up 25 points in the Rebels win over Midland High in the play-in game. "He's tough, I don't know how we're going to handle him," Simpson said.

Amarillo came away with a convincing win over Midland Lee 62-44. Eight players scored for the Sandies, led by Nowak's 13 points, Craig Brown put up 12 points, Simpson had 10 and Doug Fisher added nine. 6'4" Sherman Ray, the team's second leading scorer, broke his wrist and was lost for the remainder of the season. 6'4" Doug Fisher, 6'4" Brant Capps, and 6'5" Lance Perry were called upon to step up. Lee's coach, Paul Stueckler, made an unusual comment following the loss. "We aren't that bad, that's the worst loss I've had since I've been coaching."

He was insinuating that Amarillo was pretty darn tough. 6'5" Anthony Dickens had 19 points in a losing effort for Midland Lee.

Coach Simpson of Amarillo sent Amarillo Tascosa coach, Russ Gilmore, out to El Paso to scout the Bi-District game between El Paso Andress and El Paso Bel Air. At halftime officials from Amarillo and El Paso had a coin flip. The winner would have home court advantage in the 2nd round of the playoffs. Gilmore represented Amarillo and won the toss, giving the Sandies a home playoff game against El Paso Andress(27-5). The long trip on a yellow dog from El Paso to Amarillo was dreaded by Andress. Usually when schools from El Paso and Amarillo(26-5) face each other its in a remote place with few in attendance. That's why both teams agree to flip for the home and home. Andress Coach, Fernie Hernandez, said he preferred a crowd, whether its negative or for us, it gets the guys pumped up. "Much better than an empty gym."

A capacity crowd was anticipated at Amarillo High School. Coach Simpson once again was scared to death of the size of El Paso Andress. 6'9" Rob Newton(16.2) was one of the top big men in the state and one of the best to come out of El Paso. According to some reports he was called one of the top twelve unsigned seniors in the country. And Newton was not alone with another division I talent in 6'5" Marvin McBurroughs(12.9). Against Bel Air in Bi-District, McBurroughs had put up 25 points for Andress. Newton followed with 15 in the team's 72-60 win. 6'8" Byron Wofford provided depth for E.P. Andress off the bench.

Coach Tony Harper of El Paso High had faced both opponents and felt that if Newton played well, Andress would have a great shot at beating Amarillo. El Paso High had destroyed the Sandies earlier in the season 49-33. Following the defeat Coach Simpson went to a three-guard offense. Since that time Amarillo had a 21-3 record.

"They're talented and very strong inside, and they're going to be hard to press because of their point guard, 6'1" Emilio Pittman," Coach Simpson said. District rival Plainview had a win over El Paso Andress in the Hobbs tournament earlier in the season 74-72. Amarillo held two wins over Plainview in District action, but one was by a mere one point.

Amarillo took a 66-41 victory over El Paso Andress to advance to regionals for the first time in eight years. "They intimidated us at first," Sammy Simpson said. "We were throwing up air balls and not doing much of anything." Amarillo missed 15 of their first 18 field goals attempted. The Eagles of Andress led 17-6 to start the 2nd quarter. Amarillo came back to take the lead at 22-20 and led at halftime 27-20. 6'3" Craig Brown of the Sandies had another fine game. "He had his second super game in a row," Coach Simpson said of Brown. Amarillo proceeded to outscore Andress 48-13 over 2 ½ periods after the slow start. The Eagles finished the season at 27-6.

Andress could only manage to hit 13 of 30 free throw attempts. Sammy Simpson really stepped his game up hitting 9 of 16 field goals. 6'4" Sherman Ray refused to be denied and played the game with a broken wrist.

Coach Fernie Hernandez of El Paso Andress commented after the loss to Amarillo that he didn't think any team in Texas could beat him like that. A prelude of things to come by Amarillo.

El Paso Eastwood(26-3) met on Odessa Permian's home court to decide who would advance to the regionals in Midland. Permian(19-10) starting lineup was made up of 6'4" Jimmie Davis(14.8), 6'1" Greg Anderson(9.0), 6'2" Parker Hager(8.9), 5'8" Corley Alford(11.3) and 5'10" Lance Watkins(11.2). Eastwood's size would be a problem with 6'6" Merle Heimer(12.5), 6'4" Brian Kelly(7.8), 6'1" Wilbur Griffith(11.6), 5'11" Brett Wagner(8.0) and 5'10" Larry Vucan(3.5).

Eastwood had such an incredible tradition on their side having made 11 consecutive playoff appearances. The Troopers had only three losses on their record all season. The last was on December 3 against El Paso Coronado(17-12) 30-28. Coach Bobby Lesley and Eastwood's other losses were to El Paso Bel Air(24-6) 70-69 and to El Paso Andress(26-5) 62-56. Eastwood had won 20 straight entering the 2nd round playoff game against Permian.

The Panthers were counting on the home court advantage to off-set these disadvantages. The game came down to the speed and quickness of Permian against the size of Eastwood. Coach Pattillo had scouted E.P. Eastwood and had heard that most of Eastwood's offense came from the inside. "We'll try to pack it in around their big guards and make their guards shoot from the outside."

El Paso Eastwood once again advanced to regionals with a 60-58 victory over Permian. The Troopers hit five of six foul shots down the stretch. 6'6" Merle Heimer of Eastwood hit a bucket with 20 seconds remaining to put Eastwood up 60-56. Jimmie Davis of Permian came right back down and knocked down a baseline jumper with nine seconds left to put Panthers within two points. The Panthers pulled a little Mojo on Eastwood when Wilbur Griffith was called for traveling, setting up a golden opportunity for the Panthers to tie things up. With no timeouts left, Permian inbounded the ball with eight seconds remaining. After a few perimeter passes, Mudd shot from deep in the corner. The shot missed and with it ended the Panthers hopes.

Coach Pattillo of Permian was disappointed saying, "I'm not taking anything away from Eastwood, but I really don't think the better team won. We can play so much better than we did tonight." Greg Anderson paced Odessa Permian with 16 points.

For Eastwood coach Bobby Lesley, it was another trip to Midland and regionals. "We changed our offense heading into the last period. They were stacking it up inside so we had our guards taking the outside shots," Lesley said. Eastwood guards, Wagner and Vucan, combined for 10 points in the 4th quarter.

Brian Kelly was high man for Eastwood with 19 points, 6'1" Griffith threw down 18 points and 6'6" Heimer finished with 12. The battle of the glass was won by the Troopers 40-28.

South Grand Prairie(21-11) advanced to the second round over Arlington High(24-8) behind Herman Henry's 30 points at Thomas Coliseum in Birdville. The Warriors pulled away to a 63-59 victory in front of an estimated 1100 fans. "It was there quickness, arms, legs- they're just great athletes," Arlington Coach Robert Gill said. "We knew it. That's what you face when you get to the playoffs." The Colts point guard, 5'6" Gary Webb, was struggling against the taller Warriors. Henry scored his 30 points on 12 of 18 from the floor and 6 of 9 from the foul line. 6'5" Henry also broke away for three impressive dunks during the game. 6'6" Trent Tucker was a force for Arlington with 14 points and 6 rebounds, while David Wiener came away with 19 points on 8 for 8 field goal shooting. S.G.P.'s press proved to be the difference in the game according to Coach Gill.

The Warriors(22-11) of South Grand Prairie continued winning in the second round against Ft. Worth Richland(21-10) 65-58. The Warriors jumped out to a big lead and put Richland in the hole early. "What hurt us is that we got rattled early and couldn't get back," Coach Ken West of Richland said. "We lost the game in the second quarter when we got passive and stopped going to the basket."

S.G.P. went on a 12-0 run early in the 2nd quarter and Richland was forced to play catch-up from that point on. Henry scored 8 of the 12 point during the run. "Skeeter" Henry finished the game with 22 points for a team that had finished second to Duncanville in District. The Warriors outrebounded Richland 39-25. Lamont Louden came up big for the Warriors with 16 points. S.G.P. actually had to beat Grand Prairie 65-54 in a District playoff game to even get into the playoffs.

Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-4) eliminated Duncanville(28-6) from the playoffs 79-65 at the Super Pit in Denton. Yours truly was in attendance. The Wildcats were going to make their ninth trip to regionals in ten years. Truly a remarkable accomplishment for any team, but especially in class 5-A.

Duncanville played a great first half limiting Dunbar with their sagging zone defense. The Panthers attempted to shut down the devastating inside game of the Wildcats. 6'3" Mark Chambers was the leading scorer for Dunbar and was completely shut down with the strategy. At intermission the game was tied at 31 apiece. In the second half, Dunbar's Myron Wilson took advantage of the open opportunities hitting 11 jumpers from 15 foot and beyond. Wilson finished the game with 24 points. Four other Wildcats finished in double figures. Coyle Allen came away with 11 points and 16 rebounds, Mark Chambers finished with 10 points and 13 rebounds, Lionel Hamilton added 14 points and Derrick Daniels was good for 14 points.

Duncanville was still in the contest with 2:37 remaining only down four 61-57. Over the next minute, Dunbar extended to lead to 69-57, seizing control of

the contest. Dunbar again dominated inside on the boards with a 44-27 advantage. The Panthers scoring was led by James Burkhalter's 20 points, David Nied added 17 points and Matt Verner also finished with 17. Afterwards Coach Hughes was talking about how he enjoys West Texas in the spring.

Regionals

Midland Chaparral Center was once again the site of the Region I tournament. Two teams that were regulars to the site were El Paso Eastwood(27-3) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-4). You had to feel that the winner of that semi-final game would be favorite to advance to Austin. The two newbies were Amarillo(27-5) and South Grand Prairie(22-11). The Sandies of Amarillo(27-5) were paced by Sammy Simpson and a well-balanced line-up, while S.G.P. was led by one of the top players in the state, 6'5" Skeeter Henry. The Warriors of S.G.P. hadn't made this deep a run in the playoffs since the days of Phil Hale in the mid-1970s. The coach of the Warriors was Phil Bailey, who was former player at Grand Prairie during the early 70s.

Dunbar would be trying to continued the domination of Region I by Ft. Worth schools. The Wildcats were attempting to become the fourth straight representative in Austin from Ft. Worth. Paschal advanced to state in 1983, Dunbar in '84 and Southwest in 1985.

Dunbar was a regular in the regionals averaging 72.9 points per game and allowing 55.1. The points difference was an impressive 17.4, one of the top marks in the state. The Troopers of Eastwood had impressive numbers as well averaged 59.4 points and allowed 49.6 points for a 9.8 margin. The Wildcats lineup was made up of all underclassman, but they were all very experienced having played major minutes the year before. 6'4" Mark Chambers(15.7/8.1) and 6'3" Coyle Allen(13.1,8.3) led the Wildcats inside game. They were joined in the starting line-up by 6'2" Lionel Hamilton and 6'0" Myron Wilson, all juniors. The star of the team was 6'0" sophomore Derrick Daniels. Eastwood countered with 6'6" Merle Heimier(13.0), 6'3" Brian Kelly(9.0), 6'1" Wilbur Griffith(11.0), Brett Wagner and Lance Vucan. Eastwood was used to dominating inside, but against Dunbar that would be difficult. Hughes was very familiar with Eastwood saying, "They're big, I don't want to know anything else." Coach Bob Polhamus of El Paso scouted Dunbar against Duncanville for Coach Lesley. Polhamus commented, "they play a lot differently then El Paso teams."

At the Chaparral Center in Midland, Dunbar advanced to the finals with a 59-50 win over El Paso Eastwood. The Wildcats went on an 18-2 run in the 4th quarter that changed the game in Dunbar's favor. Coach Bobby Lesley of Eastwood was very unhappy, "Loose, lackadaisical officiating and Dunbar took advantage of several no calls down the stretch," Lesley said. Dunbar was able to extend their 59-46 lead with an aggressive full-court press. Eastwood committed six turnovers in the final quarter to open the door for the Wildcats. "We got 3 on 1 situations four

times late in the game and our guy gets knocked flat every time, but there's no call," Lesley said.

"Dunbar's got some good shooters and they're quick, but I felt we out played them the last couple of minutes," Lesley continued. Coach Hughes of Dunbar felt his depth was the difference. "We kept running for the full 32 minutes," Hughes said. "I don't think Eastwood can, their big guys looked like they were dragging a little bit at the end."

South Grand Prairie(22-12) hopes rested with standout 6'5" Herman Henry(21.0/9.2). Henry was a great leaper who had scored 53 points with 20 rebounds in the Warriors two playoff wins. Lamont Loudon(11.6) was another key performer for Coach Bailey.

Amarillo(28-5) came into regionals pretty much as an unknown quantity. Could the Sandies handle the Warriors press and quickness? Amarillo proved to be up to the task eliminating S.G.P. 61-53. Amarillo led 57-53 with 46 seconds left on the clock when SGP's Kelly Babina had a chance to cut the lead to two points, but he came up short. Amarillo's Brant Capps got the rebound and was fouled. Capps knocked down both foul shots extending the Sandies lead to 59-53. SGP came back and turned the ball over and that was the ball game.

Amarillo started slow once again hitting only one out of their first 10 shots and dug a hole for themselves trailing 8-2. The Sandies made a strong run late in the 2nd quarter and took a 29-20 advantage into the locker room at intermission. Eight players scored for the Sandies, led by the coach's son, Sammy Simpson's 20 points. Simpson was 8 of 13 from the floor. He was the only player in double figures. "The bench was the key, that's the name of our game," Coach Simpson said. Henry led the Warriors with 15 points, Chad Twiddle had 15 points as well and Loudon popped in 13 points. "We had a time with Henry," Simpson said. "He's an awesome player." Henry fouled out with 46 seconds remaining.

Regional Finals

Some 1,800 fans in Midland watched as Amarillo(28-5) advanced to state for the first time since 1948 defeating Dunbar(30-4) 72-63. Sammy Simpson put up a career high 26 points for the Sandies. Amarillo went 12 of 12 down the stretch from the foul line. Daniels paced Dunbar with 21 points. The game was very competitive with 23 lead changes and 11 ties over the four quarters. Ashton Nowak commented years later, "we had never played in front of crowd as vocal as the Dunbar fans. They were passionate and loud."

Amarillo finally took control of the game late 62-57. Daniels came down court and hit a jumper cutting the lead to 62-59 with 3:04 remaining. 5'8" Jason Rehm came off the bench for Coach Simpson and delivered a tremendous spark. He hit a 15-foot jumper, stole the ball from Daniels, and hit 2 key foul shots. He also came up with 4 big rebounds in the 4th quarter. Amarillo was able to extend the lead to 68-59 with 2:30 remaining. 6'5" Sophomore Lance Perry was also big

off the bench contributing 11 points and 8 rebounds. Simpson put up 16 points in the 2nd half and four were from long range. The referees called 55 fouls during the contest, which according to Coach Hughes was not enough. Of those 55 fouls called, 30 were called on the Wildcats. Amarillo hit 26 of 33 foul shots and 12 in the 4th period. The Wildcats managed 23 of 35 from the line. "The pressure free throws were the key. We haven't done that all season," Coach Simpson said.

Coach Hughes was extremely upset after his team's loss. "It seems funny to me that the only big guys in foul trouble were mine," Hughes said. Lionel Hamilton and Coyle Allen of Dunbar both ended up fouling out. 6'3" Mark Chambers played nine minutes of the game with four fouls. "Every time Daniels went to the basket he got hit, but we didn't get any calls. It's a shame a guy of his caliber isn't allowed to use his talents in a big game like this. And that's the truth. Anybody who says otherwise is either a damn liar or too stupid to know basketball," Hughes continued. By the way, if you were interested, the officials were both from the Permian basin.

Allen Simpson did not concur with Hughes. "I think he's wrong, I can think of three charging fouls that weren't called on them. I'd bet my wife, my life and my car on it," Coach Simpson said. "In any game, there's some borderline calls you won't agree with. But those aren't important. The important thing is we're going to Austin and they're not. That's what counts," Simpson continued. "It doesn't matter if we deserve to go or not, we hit a lot of pressure free throws, caused a few turnovers and took care of the ball." Amarillo had only one turnover in the 4th quarter after committing seven in the 1st quarter.

Standout Sammy Simpson of Amarillo, the coach's son, said they stayed at the same hotel as Dunbar the night before the finals. "The Dunbar players kept talking about how they were going to beat us," Sammy said. "We didn't say anything. We just proved our point on the court."

Amarillo was 23 of 51 for 45% from the floor and 26 of 34 from the line for 77%. Dunbar put up 20 of 56 for 36% from the floor and 23 of 35 from the line for 66%. Also, Amarillo outrebounded Dunbar for the first time in the playoffs 36-30. Dunbar had dominated their opponents in the playoffs on the boards. Eight players scored for Amarillo, showing the team balance. For the Wildcats, Chambers finished with 17 points behind Daniels 21 points. Daniels was 7 of 10 from the floor. 6'4" Sherman Ray suited up once again, bad wrist and all, and finished with 8 points and 4 rebounds. Dunbar finished the season at 30-5.

Ashton Nowak summarized the Amarillo win over Dunbar saying, "we weren't that intimidated by Dunbar, we just didn't know any better, we didn't know that much about their tradition and didn't care. We were confident we could win. Coach Simpson made us believe we could beat Dunbar. The Dunbar game gave us the confidence we needed at state."

Region II Playoffs

South Garland(30-2) #3
Dallas Kimball(26-3) #8
Temple(24-7)
Klein Oak(24-2) #6
Dallas Pinkston(14-11)
Humble(20-10)
Lufkin(24-7)
Conroe(18-10)

Dallas Skyline(25-6)
Richardson(24-5)
Longview(27-5)
North Mesquite(26-4)
South Oak Cliff(25-2) #1
Lake Highlands(25-6)
Bryan(27-5) #2
Klein Forest(20-10)

Top Players in Region II

6'6"	Larry Johnson	Dallas Skyline
6'6"	Ronnie Morgan	Dallas S.O.C.
6'8"	Richard Derrick	Garland High
6'0"	Donnell Hayden	North Mesquite
6'5"	Billy Smith	South Garland
6'6"	James Johnson	Tyler John Tyler
6'2"	Freddie Ricks	Humble

Dallas South Oak Cliff once against was poised for another deep run in the playoffs along with Dallas Kimball. The top two ranked teams in the state were in the region, S.O.C. and South Garland. The Bryan Vikings were highly ranked but had dropped their last two games in district action. Whoever came out of Region II was going to be one of the favorites in Austin to take in all.

9-AAAAA

District 9-4A could very well have been the toughest District in the state in 1986. The Colonels of South Garland(31-2) won 28 straight games during the regular season before tasting defeat. North Mesquite, Highland Park and Garland were seen as the major threats to earn the runner-up spot.

Garland High ran into all types of problems with standout Neil Derrick being suspended for most of the season, and Highland Park(19-13) was up and down all year. The Scots upset North Mesquite(26-4) 39-38, but fell apart losing to Garland(9-15) and Wilmer Hutchins(16-12). South Garland(31-2) handled Highland Park(19-13) both times 63-51 and 65-58.

After the smoke cleared, North Mesquite(26-4) and South Garland(31-2) stood alone at the top of District. The Colonels entered the big showdown with North Mesquite with the #2 ranking in the state and undefeated on the season. North Mesquite's offense revolved around one of the top scorers in the state, 6'1" Donnell Hayden(25.3). South Garland ran away with an easy win after Donnell got into foul trouble and left the game at the end of the 3rd quarter. Hayden still managed 15 points, while not seeing any minutes in the 4th quarter. South Garland was able to limit North Mesquite to only two points in the 3rd quarter and came

away with a convincing 51-37 victory. The win put the Colonels in the driver's seat in District.

Coach Clayton Brooks of South Garland discussed his team's impressive 21-0 record in the Dallas Morning News. "The first thing we do is emphasizing everything but scoring. There's about 10 or 15 other ways to contribute to winning besides scoring. Going on the star system isn't our way of doing it." After graduating Kato Armstrong and Charles Smith, Coach Brooks felt there would be a little drop off in the Colonels program. Calvin Smith, the younger brother of Charles, replaced Charles. Tony Smith, the younger brother of Billy Smith, replaced Kato. "They're both so strong on defense that it's hard to estimate how many points they take away from the other team," Brooks said. "They've been a very pleasant surprise." Calvin averaged 21.0 points, Billy Smith was good for 24.0 points per game and Tony puts up 16.0 point for Coach Brooks. Russ George handled the point guard duties for the Colonels. Coach Brooks years later said the three best players he ever coached at South Garland were 6'5" Billy Smith, 5'11" Kato Armstrong and 6'7" John Derrick.

As the 2nd round of District approached, North Mesquite(26-4) continued to win defeating Garland Lakeview(20-13) 37-34, Garland(9-15) 76-48, Highland Park(19-13) 47-40 and Wilmer Hutchins(16-12) 57-46. South Garland followed suit setting up the much-anticipated re-match. South Garland had a two-game lead coming into the game and could clinch the District title with a victory. This time South Garland's 28-game winning streak came to halt 51-49. Delayne Dena of North Mesquite hit 2 free throws with seven seconds remaining to give Coach Ron Powell's Stallions the victory.

Coach Brooks discussed the streak following the team's loss. "The streak has never been important to me, we still control our own destiny." Robbie Duck led North Mesquite with 18 points and Calvin Smith finished with 18 points for the Colonels. 6'5" Billy Smith was held to only nine points. Coach Powell was excited following the big win, "I'm just thrilled with our overall effort, it took a great effort on defense to hold them under 50 points."

Garland Lakeview(20-13) pulled off the upset of the season beating South Garland(31-2) 66-64 in the last game of the regular season. 5'8" Lewis Hicks came up big for Lakeview in the win with 19 points. Patriot coach John Paul Fultz discussed the importance to the Lakeview victory, "the game is going to do a lot for our program, we'll have four juniors back next year and all three underclassmen teams won the district." Discussing his 5'8" point guard Lewis Hicks, Coach Fultz commented, "as a high school player, I think Lewis is more of an offensive threat than Spud was."

South's losses put North Mesquite and Colonels in a dead heat at 12-2 and District co-champs. The District had a lot of twist during the season, but none bigger than the collapse of Garland. The Owls got off to a horrible start with 6'2"

Neil Derrick being suspended for several games and 6'7" Richard Derrick(25.0) dealing with an ankle injury. After losing six straight, Garland took down Lakeview 78-68 with Neil hitting 27 and Richard putting up 36 points. The much-anticipated game between Garland and South received a lot of attention due to the return of Neil Derrick. Unfortunately, Richard was out with an ankle injury in the Owls 83-69 loss. Neil was good for 29 points in a losing effort. "I think we probably had a little letdown knowing that one of their top players was out," Brooks said. Coach Lane Norsworthy had anticipated a great season only to finish a dismal 9-15.

North Mesquite and South Garland looked to be the early favorites to advance to regionals. The only problem was they would have to get by S.O.C. and Dallas Skyline in Bi-District. The Colonels three biggest wins in the pre-season came against Longview(27-6) 61-59 in overtime, Richardson(24-6) 72-52 and Lamesa(26-5) 85-69. The Stallions had wins over Dallas Samuell(20-12) 55-34, Arlington(23-9) 66-58 and Gainesville(18-7) 83-49. The Stallions lost only twice in pre-district, to the state's top ranked team, South Oak Cliff 59-52 and Lake Highlands(25-7) 69-66 in double overtime.

Standings: South Garland(30-2) 12-2, North Mesquite(26-4) 12-2, Garland Lakeview(20-13) 9-5, Highland Park(19-13) 8-6, Wilmer Hutchins(16-12) 6-8, North Garland(16-15) 5-9, Garland(9-15) 4-10, Mesquite(0-25) 0-14:

All-District: 1st Team- 6'7" Richard Derrick(23.5)-Garland, 6'2" Thomas Hocker-Highland Park, 5'8" Lewis Hicks-Garland Lakeview, 6'0" Donnell Hayden(25.3)-North Mesquite, 5'10" Calvin Smith-South Garland, Brian Collier-Wilmer Hutchins, "District MVP" 6'5" Billy Smith(20.1)-South Garland, "Coach of the Year" Ron Powell-North Mesquite and Clayton Brooks-South Garland, "Sophomore of the Year" Joel Donaldson-Wilmer Hutchins"

10-AAAAA

Top ranked Dallas S.O.C.(25-2) was heavily favored to capture the District title. Dallas Skyline(25-7), Dallas Samuell(20-12), Dallas Spruce(11-19) and Dallas Roosevelt(14-13) had all seen success during the season. The talent level was the best in the state. And remember, S.O.C. was playing without their best player Rodney Samuel, who was out for the season. And when healthy, Rodney Samuel, may have been the second-best player in the District behind junior Larry Johnson. The representatives from this District were going to have a big impact on the state playoffs.

Dallas Skyline(25-7) had trouble staying with the Golden Bears in District action losing to Dallas Roosevelt(14-13) 60-59 and 54-52. The Raiders also split with Dallas Samuel(20-12) and S.O.C.(25-2) in District, giving them four losses. Skyline's biggest win was a 72-70 win over S.O.C., which was the highlight of the Raider's season. The loss was the Bears first in District in two seasons. The loss also amounted to South Oak Cliff's second of the season. Tyler John Tyler(22-4) had defeated S.O.C. earlier in the season 73-62 in Tyler.

In the big win over S.O.C, Skyline's 6'6" Larry Johnson put up 24 points and 15 rebounds. He also hit the front end of a one and one with four seconds

remaining to give the Raiders a 72-70 lead. The Bear's Ronnie Morgan was unable to get his shot off at the buzzer that could have tied the score. Coach J.D. Mayo was amped up after the big win, "I call him 'Mr. Johnson,' or whatever he wants me to call him. I think he is the best in the world." Skyline hit 9 of 10 foul shots in the 4th quarter to gain the victory.

The key play in the contest occurred with 1:29 remaining with S.O.C. leading 66-65. Morgan was called for a technical foul when he slammed home a dunk after the whistled had blown. "That was the ballgame," Coach Jimmy Gales said. "Ronnie couldn't hear the whistle because of the crowd noise. I don't know what those officials were doing." J.D. Mayo was in agreement that the call was very critical to the outcome of the game. Following the technical, Johnson hit the foul shot, Burnis McFarlin hit a jump shot to put Skyline up 68-66. "S.O.C. has a great team. I play with most them in the summer league. I hope their still my friends," Larry Johnson said.

Rodney Samuel suited up for the Skyline game, but was unable to play. He was the Bears pre-season All-American. He had under-went knee surgery. "He wanted to suit up so I let him," Gales said. "He's on track to be ready for the playoffs in February."

S.O.C.(25-2) opened up District against one of the top talents in the state in 6'6" Lenzie Howell of Bryan Adams(14-11). Howell put up 34 points in a losing effort 78-69. Howell scored on a wide variety of shots, jumpers and slam dunks. Ronnie Morgan paced the Bears with 20 points. At Sprague Field House, S.O.C. also took down Dallas Samuel(20-12)l 62-61. The Bears went to four-corners late trying to run out the clock. The Spartans came away with a couple of steals, making things close. Coach Doug Scott of Samuel commented after the loss, "I was tickled with our effort, they just have so many weapons." 6'8" Steve Miles finished with 18 points for the Spartans and 6'6" Morgan paced S.O.C. with 20 points.

Dallas Roosevelt(14-13) finished off the season with a big victory over Dallas Skyline(25-7) 54-52. Mustang legend, Ira Terrell, showed up before the game and inspired Roosevelt. "I didn't want to jinx them," Terrell said. "Maybe I was their good luck piece." Skyline took an 11-point lead in the 3rd quarter but began turning over the ball. The 14 turnovers got the Mustangs back into the contest. Larry Johnson finished with 30 points and 13 rebounds for the Raiders. Derrick McGee put up 20 points for Coach Ellis Davis. "I lost a starter to grades and three others quit on me this week," Ellis said. "I guess Derrick was trying to take up the slack with our other guards out. He did a good job." Ellis Davis continued, "I'm proud of these kids, we aren't the strongest team in the world. We lost the four people this week and we still came out fighting. That's what it takes to make a man."

Standings: South Oak Cliff(25-2) 9-1, Dallas Skyline(25-6) 6-4, Dallas Samuel(20-12) 5-5, Dallas Roosevelt(14-13) 5-5, Dallas Bryan Adams(14-11) 3-7, Dallas Spruce(11-19) 2-6:

All-District: 1st Team- 6'6" Ronnie Morgan(20.0)-SOC, 6'5" Lenzie Howell(22.0)-Bryan Adams, 6'7" Steve Miles-Samuell, 5'10" Nathan McCoy-SOC, Derrick McGee-Roosevelt, Kevin White-Spruce: "Player of the Year" Larry Johnson, "Coach of the Year" Jimmy Gales-SOC, "Sophomore of the Year" Burnis McFarland-Skiyine:

11-AAAAA

The 1986 version of the Kimball Knights was much different than previous versions. Kimball won seven games by five points or less in pre-district. They were a ball-control team dominated by guard play. 6'5" Marvin Washington was a distant memory of the big physical teams in 1983 and 1984. The Knights relied on quickness and speed playing tenacious defense and with outstanding half-court execution. Kimball was pretty much a selfless team with all players placing the team ahead of the personal goals.

Dallas Pinkston(14-11) was the only challenger in an extremely weak District, comparatively speaking. Kimball took the first game against Pinkston easily 77-44. Pinkston was revitalized in the second game by the return of 6'6" Anthony Snowden, who had been ineligible for six weeks. With Snowden in the line-up, along with Ricky O'Neal, the Vikings were a formidable squad. Surprisingly, the game was not close, as Pinkston knocked off Kimball(26-3) 60-46. Ricky O'Neal paced the Vikings with 19 points and Ronnie Strange added 13 points. 6'2" Leonard Perry was the leader for Kimball with 19 points. Coach Michael Cotton of Pinkston said, "they might have taken us too lightly because they beat us by 33 in our earlier meeting." Cotton continued saying, "we are taller than them. The last time we played them they out quicked us. We forced them to miss a lot of shots and made them play a perimeter game," Cotton said. "I think were the most surprising .500 team in the state," said Cotton. "We're a young team, starting two sophomores, but we're coming together now. We'll be tough in the playoffs."

Standings: Dallas Kimball(26-3) 9-1, Dallas Pinkston(14-11) 8-2, Dallas Sunset(13-13) 6-4, Dallas W.T. White(10-13) 5-5, Dallas Carter(8-16) 2-8, Dallas Thomas Jefferson(2-23) 0-10:

All-District: 1st Team- 6'3" Roderick Hampton-Kimball, Ricky O'Neal-Pinkston, 6'2" Leonard Perry-Kimball, 5'11" Arlin White-Kimball, Ronnie Strange-Pinkston, Steven Revenell-Dallas Carter: "Most Valuable Player" Leonard Perry(14.8)-Kimball, "Coach of the Year" Jimmy Tubbs-Kimball, "Sophomore of the Year" Roderick Watson-Sunset and Derrick Sublet-Dallas Carter:

12-AAAAA

Lake Highlands(25-6) entered District action as overwhelming District favorite. The Wildcats had lost two games in two years of District play. The unquestioned best player in the District was the Wildcats, 5'10" D'Wayne Tanner. The slick senior was an excellent ball-handler, quick with a solid jump shot and was offensive when he needed to be. Although several teams looked as if they would compete for the two top spots, Richardson High(24-5) emerged with Lake Highlands as the top teams in District 12-5A.

In the first game between the Eagles and the Wildcats, Lake Highlands downed Richardson 70-63 behind Tanner's 27 points. Richard Zastoupil paced Richardson with 17 points along with David Patterson's 14 points. 6'4" LeRoy

Rodgers also hit double figures for Lake Highlands Coach Jack Clark as did 6'4" Jamal Young.

The second game between the two contenders was played early in the 2nd round of District. Richardson came in at 5-2 and Lake Highlands was undefeated in District at 7-0. Coach Joe Longino of Richardson explained the importance of the game to his squad, "this is a must game if we are going to stay in the district race." Richardson was able to upset Lake Highlands 55-49 behind four free throws by David Patterson and three turnovers forced by Zastoupil. Tanner came away with 14 points and Zastoupil led the Eagles with 20 points.

"I don't think anybody expected that much out of us," David Patterson said following the big win. "We don't look good on paper, but in athletics you don't win on paper, you have to have heart."

Richardson ended up taking the runner-up spot due to their struggles with Berkner(16-11) and Richardson Pearce(12-18). Both teams split with the Eagles in District. Both of the Berkner games were decided by one point.

In pre-season, Lake Highlands(25-6) probably had their strongest campaign since the late 1960s when they took state. Losses included Dallas Skyline(25-7) 52-50 and 72-66, South Oak Cliff(25-2) 51-50, North Garland(16-15) 63-62 and Plano(15-17) 63-57. The Wildcats defeated Dallas Samuel(20-12) 47-41, Ft. Worth Trimble Tech(23-7) 83-58, Duncanville(27-5) 51-49 and a monster win over North Mesquite(26-4) 67-64 in double overtime. They also handled North Garland(16-15) 60-52 earlier in the season and beat Plano(15-17) twice in District 57-55 in overtime and 68-49. Lake Highlands had little trouble with Berkner(16-11) in District action, winning both games by 26 and 30 point margins.

Although Richardson pre-district schedule was not as impressive, they did show that they were potentially a playoff team. Wins came against Highland Park(19-13) 57-56, Dallas Jesuit(26-5) 68-65, Carrollton Newman Smith(15-16) 70-47 and Garland Lakeview(20-13). South Garland(31-2) really exposed the Eagles 72-52 in pre-district.

Lake Highlands started 5'10" D'Wayne Tanner, 6'4" LeRoy Rodgers, 5'10" Steve Asay, 6'4" Jamal Young and 6'2" Patrick Hurley. 6'3" Merton Hanks came off the bench for the Wildcats. Hanks went on to stardom and super bowl fame with 49ers at corner. Hanks was also a track star at Lake Highlands.

Standings: Lake Highlands(25-6) 13-1, Richardson(24-5) 11-3, Plano East(21-9) 8-6, Richardson Berkner(16-11) 7-7, Plano(15-17) 6-8, Greenville(12-19) 4-10, Richardson Pearce(12-18) 4-10, Lewisville(10-20) 3-11:

All-District: 1st Team- 5'10" D'Wayne Tanner(20.1)-Lake Highlands, 6'4" LeRoy Rodgers(15.8/10.9)-Lake Highlands, 6'5" Pat Youngs(20.0)-Berkner, 6'1" Richard Zastoupil-Richardson, 6'5" Jeff Weisner-Plano East: "Player of the Year" D'Wayne Tanner, "Coach of the Year" Jack Clark of Lake Highlands, "Sophomore of the Year" 5'10" Willie Bigham-Greenville:

Dallas Times Herald All-Metro Team by Kurt Iverson

1st Team-6'6" Larry Johnson(25.0/15.0) Dallas Skyline, 6'5" Billy Smith(20.5/11.8) South Garland, 6'6" Ronnie Morgan(20.1/16.8) South Oak Cliff, 5'10" D'Wayne Tanner(20.1) Lake Highlands, 6'1" Donnell

Hayden(25.3) North Mesquite; **2nd Team-6'7"** Richard Derrick(23.5/13.7) Garland, 6'8" Riley Smith(21.4/12.8) Mansfield, 6'5" Herman Henry(19.5) South Grand Prairie, 5'11" Nathan McCoy(11.0/12.1 assists) South Oak Cliff, 6'0" Leonard Perry(14.8) Dallas Kimball: **HM-** Lenzie Howell(22.0/13.2), Bryan Adams; Steve Miles(19.1/14.5), Dallas Samuell; LeRoy Rodgers(15.8/10.9), Lake Highlands; Lewis Hicks(24.1), Garland Lakeview; Derrick McGee(24.6), Dallas Roosevelt; Roderick Hampton(13.6/10.0 assists), Dallas Kimball; Courtney Jeans(14.0/7.0), L.D. Bell; Calvin Smith(20.0), South Garland; Derrick Daniels(11.0/10.0 assists), FW Dunbar, Matt Verner, Duncanville: "Player of the Year" Larry Johnson, "Coach of the Year" Jimmy Gales-SOC, "Sophomore of the Year" Stephen Howard-Dallas Bishop Lynch:

Dallas Morning News Team by Darryl Richards

1st Team-6'6" Larry Johnson(25.0/15.0) Dallas Skyline, 6'5" Billy Smith(20.5/11.8) South Garland, 6'7" Steve Miles(19.0/14.5) Dallas Samuell, 6'0" Donnell Hayden(25.3) North Mesquite, 5'11" Nathan McCoy(11.0/12.1 assist) S.O.C.; **2nd Team-6'6"** Ronnie Morgan(20.1/16.8) SOC, 6'4" Lenzie Howell(22.0/13.2) Bryan Adams, 6'7" Richard Derrick(23.5/13.7) Garland, 6'2" Thomas Hocker-Highland Park, 6'2" Roderick Hampton(13.0/10.0 assists) Dallas Kimball: "Player of the Year" Larry Johnson, "Coach of the Year" Jimmy Tubbs-Kimball, "Sophomore of the Year" Derrick Daniels-FW Dunbar:

13-AAAAA

John Tyler(22-4) was going after their 4th straight District title in 1986 and returned one of the best players to ever play for the Lions, 6'6" James Johnson. John Thompson of Georgetown fame was said to be interested in Johnson. Coach LeRoy Romines of Longview felt the District was very balanced, "I don't think anybody can go through undefeated. Of course, I didn't think so last year." 6'9" Fred West of John Tyler made it very difficult to double and triple team Johnson last year, but that would not be the case this year due to West's graduation. "His absence can't be over looked," Romines said. Several teams entered District with competitive teams, but John Tyler was undefeated at 15-0 and front runner. The Lions beat top ranked Dallas S.O.C. earlier in the season.

Longview(27-5) was considered a playoff team as well with 6'7" Todd Willis, 6'4" Stevie Johnson and 6'2" Kemp Louis. The Lobos had really shown in pre-district they could compete with anybody in the state with their 61-59 overtime loss to South Garland(31-2). Longview had also claimed the consolation title in Clear Creek during their annual tournament. After losing in the first round to Pasadena(25-8) 35-34, the Lobos came back to defeat Dickinson(13-17) 59-41 and Brazoswood(15-16) 63-57. Longview showed total domination in the Oil Bowl tournament finals defeating Marshall(18-12) 61-38.

Jesse Walker was still at the helm with the Panthers of Lufkin(24-7). Inside he had an outstanding threat in 6'7" Sammie Sexton, while Tyler Lee(19-9) was known for their fine backcourt combo in Simone Jones and Rusty Harden.

The Mavericks of Marshall(18-12) had a new coach in Ken Ivy. Coach Ivy replaced Willie Bean and was the former offensive coordinator for head football coach, Dennis Parker. Ivy brought a new attitude to the Mavericks and they proved to be much more competitive. 5'7" Barry Brown, 5'8" Earl Robertson, 6'3" Calvin Johnson, 6'3" Darrell Franklin and Darrin Talley were all critical to the Marshall attack. Depth was a real problem for the Mavericks. In order to get his troops

ready for District action, Coach Ivy traveled to Hobbs, New Mexico. The tournament had an all-star cast that included Hobbs, Plainview(18-10), El Paso Andress(26-5) and Abilene(13-17). The Mavericks went down in the first round to Plainview(18-10) 69-50 and recovered defeating Buena Vista, Arizona 68-49 and Abilene(13-17) 86-55.

District 13-5A **out did** themselves in deciding their playoff representatives. The District was divided into two halves with winners and runners-up in both halves. This set up a series of playoffs to see who would advance. Although it was very unusual, it kept interest high all the way to the end of the season.

On the opening week of District action just after the Christmas Holiday, Texas High(17-12) shocked everybody defeated frontrunner John Tyler(22-4) 62-51 in overtime. This was just a taste of the wild season that would ensue. Longview(27-5) finished tied with Lufkin(24-7) for the first half title. John Tyler(22-4) defeated Lufkin(24-7) 80-49, only to turn around and lose to Longview(27-5) 55-48, which gave the Lions a 5-2 first round record. The Lobos only loss came at the hands of Lufkin 44-42.

In the premier game of the first round of District, Longview(27-5) downed John Tyler(22-4) at Lobo Gym 55-48. 6'2" Stevie Johnson proved to be the hero for the Lobos hitting some clutch foul shots with only 37 seconds remaining. Johnson was the younger brother of Lobos legend Steffond Johnson, who led Longview to regionals in 1981. Stevie paced Longview with 19 points, while 6'6" James Johnson finished with 24 points for the Lions. After struggling early against the Longview double teams, Coach Billy Lawson of John Tyler moved James Johnson to the outside. The result of which was five straight buckets. 6'7" Todd Willis and Stevie Johnson had been doubling James on the inside.

Marshall(18-12) was considered mostly an afterthought in the District race after finishing 2-5. But with the new format, Marshall had a clean bill starting the 2nd round action. One of the excuses for their dismal 2-5 finish was they were playing without the services of point guard, Darrin Talley. He hit his head on the floor in the District opener against Nacogdoches. Remember, Coach Ivy only suited eight players at times and had no bench support. Talley returned for the 2nd round with a close win over Nacogdoches(8-21) 67-64. Calvin Johnson put up 22 points for Coach Ivy in the win.

Next, Marshall(18-12) shocked everybody with a 73-71 win over first half co-champ Lufkin. The winning points for the Mavericks came on a goal tending call against 6'8" Sammie Sexton of Lufkin with two seconds left. "Biggest win of the season," Coach Ivy said. Lufkin(24-7) played the game without their head man, Jesse Walker, who was out ill.

Marshall(18-12) continued their resurgence with a 57-56 win over Tyler John Tyler(22-4). Darrell Franklin hit an 8-foot bank shot with only 14 seconds left

for the upset win. Marshall had went into a stall in the 3rd quarter. "We held the ball a long time in the 3rd quarter and that made them go back to man, which is what we wanted all along," Ivy said. 6'3" Franklin put up 23 points in the Marshall win. After John Tyler(22-4) throttled the Mavericks 69-46 in first round action, Coach Ivy had called the Lions the best team they had faced all season. "We've got seven kids who have been beaten to death by people in this District for the last 2 ½ years and now they're getting a chance to pay some of the them back," Ivy said.

The 2nd round game between Marshall(18-12) and Longview(27-5) matched two teams with 4-0 marks at the top of the District standings. Once again, Marshall had no chance against Longview losing 62-44. Coach Ivy explained the size disadvantage for the Mavericks, "you can't front a guy like Willis with your best rebounder, because that puts him away from the basket." Coach Ivy was alluding to his 6'3" post Darrell Franklin. Longview outrebounded Marshall 41-25 in the game. 6'7" Todd Willis was dominating with 18 points inside.

Marshall only suited up eight players against Tyler Lee(19-9) and fell 77-62 to the Red Raiders. The Mavericks finished the last three minutes of the game with only four players on the court. Marshall(18-12) closed out the regular with a 59-57 win over Texas High. The win put Marshall in the District playoff hunt for the 2nd half runner-up spot. For Marshall, they finished with their first winning season since the 1982 when Buster Carlisle was at the helm.

Longview(27-5) ended up winning the 2nd round outright with a 6-1 mark. Longview's only set-back came at the hands of John Tyler(22-4) 42-36. Billy Lawson Jr. of John Tyler hit three jump shots down the stretch that was the difference.

Three teams tied for the 2nd round runner-up spot. Marshall(18-12), Tyler Lee(19-9) and Tyler John Tyler(22-4) were all listed at 5-2. Tyler Lee(19-9) went into the last game of the regular season with a chance to tie for the 2nd half title with Longview, but were beaten by crosstown rival John Tyler 44-43. Larry Pettigrew hit a foul shot with three seconds left to give the Lions the win. The Red Raiders of Tyler Lee had been rolling coming into the John Tyler(22-4) game with wins over Lufkin(24-7) 62-60 in double overtime, and a 77-62 victory over the Mavericks of Marshall. Lee's only other loss had come at the hands of Longview(27-5) 61-57.

John Tyler(22-4) was the team that nobody could figure out. The Lions got revenge of Texas High 90-54 after their opening District loss. John Tyler looked like they were ready to take charge of the 2nd round only to fall flat to Lufkin(24-7) 44-43. The Lions had been up by 17 points and let the game slip away. James Johnson was held to only 11 points in the game by the Panthers. Then came the second shocker of the season for John Tyler, losing to Marshall(18-12) 57-56 at home.

Now for you slow learners, you're going to have a hard time keeping up with this playoff system. The three-way tie for the 2nd round would be played off on a Monday evening at Lon Morris Junior College in Jacksonville. At 4:00, Tyler Lee(19-9) went at Marshall(18-12) with the winner facing John Tyler(22-4) at 8:00.

The winner of that game turned right around and played Lufkin(24-7) on Tuesday evening for the playoff spot. Longview just sat back and watched the craziness. Say what you will about the new playoff system, but it did keep the players and fans interested up to the last day of the season. Marshall had no chance under the previous playoff rules to make the playoffs.

The Red Raiders beat Marshall in overtime in the first game 74-72, and eliminated John Tyler(22-4) 45-42 at 8:00 to advance to Tuesday night's game against Lufkin(24-7). Rusty Hardin was key for the Red Raiders with 18 points against Marshall and 19 vs. John Tyler. The Lions had beaten Lee twice previously in District games. Marshall(18-12) finished 18-13, while John Tyler had to be disappointed finishing out of the playoffs at 22-5. James Johnson and Billy Lawson Jr. both finished with 12 points in the loss to Tyler Lee(19-9).

While Lee played a double hitter on Monday, Lufkin(24-7) was able to scout and rest for their playoff game. The results of which proved very beneficial, as Lufkin took down Tyler Lee(19-9) 66-61 to advance. 6'8" Sammie Sexton and 6'4" Mark Johnson were key in the Panthers win finishing with 23 and 12 points for Lufkin. Derrick Pendleton added 10 points for Coach Jesse Walker. Simon Jones and Todd Henderson both came away with 16 points each for Tyler Lee. The Red Raiders finished the season at 21-10.

Standings: Longview(27-5) 12-2(6-1), Lufkin(24-7) 10-4(4-3), John Tyler(22-4) 10-4(5-2), Tyler Lee(19-9) 9-5(5-2), Marshall(18-12) 7-7(5-2), Texas High(17-12) 6-8(2-5), Nacogdoches(8-21) 1-13(0-7), Longview Pine Tree(5-21) 1-13(1-6):

All-District: 1st Team- 6'4" Mark Johnson(15.0/10.0) of Lufkin, 5'9" Derrick Pendland(10.0/3.0) Lufkin, 5'11" Rusty Harden(12.5/4.0) Tyler Lee, 5'10" Simone Jones(16.5/3.5) Tyler Lee, 6'3" Darrell Franklin(14.2/9.6) Marshall, 5'10" Greg Jones(17.1/8.0) Texas High, Stevie Johnson(10.0/10.0) Longview, 6'7" Todd Willis(13.0/11.0) Longview, Kemp Louis(10.0/7.0) Longview, 6'8" Sammie Sexton(16.2/10.1) of Lufkin and 6'6" James Johnson(23.2/12.2) of Tyler John Tyler had to have a run-off for "Player of the Year" Honors. Could have just named co-winners, but Sexton took the honors. Johnson had won District M.V.P. three straight seasons coming into his senior year. "Sophomore of the Year" went to 6'2" Derek Turner of Tyler John Tyler(8.8/2.8) of John Tyler.

All-East Texas Team named by the Longview News-Journal-**1st Team-**6'3" Eddie Jones(23.7/14.0) Hughes Springs, 6'0" Chris Wesley(23.9/5.9) Harleton, 6'3" Charles Boyd(16.8/12.5) Sabine, 6'7" Todd Willis(13.0/11.0) Longview, 6'6" James Johnson(23.2/12.2) Tyler John Tyler:

Named All-Region by the TABC- 6'6" James Johnson(1st) Tyler John and 6'7" Todd Willis(2nd) of Longview:

14-AAAAA

You always look at this District and think of traditional football powers, but these schools were very competitive in basketball as well. The communities demanded excellence. The school districts went out and pulled in three of the top coaches in the state in Larry Brown, Kirby Johnson and Bo Burgess. When you have a one high school town, outstanding facilities, athlete talent, and great coaching, you are going to be very competitive every year. Temple, Bryan and Killeen all fit the mold.

Temple had emerged as the District champion during the 1985 season and were very strong once again under coach, Kirby Johnson. Bryan also looked to continue their winning ways with Coach Larry Brown at the helm. Killeen had a new coach, Bo Burgess. Burgess had moved over from Fairfield, where he won three District titles in six years. Burgess record at Fairfield was 120-60. Killeen would reach new heights under his leadership.

Bryan(27-5) opened District with a strong display of talent beating Killeen Ellison(18-14) 72-52. Bryan had just lost to Ellison in the San Antonio Optimist Tournament two weeks prior. Bryan dropped two games in the Optimist tourney losing to Ellison 63-53 and to San Antonio Southwest(15-12) 82-74. 5'8" Charles Lockett, Bryan's leading scorer, had missed the Optimist because of injury. Lockett was one of the quickest players in the state and really complimented what Bryan was trying to do with their full court pressure defense. 5'8" Charles Lockett made his presence known in the Vikings win over Ellison finishing with 18 points and 7 assists. Bryan had momentum coming into the Ellison game having just capturing the Waco Midway Tournament.

Ellison was not playing at full strength in their second meeting with Bryan. 6'3" Fralisco Poyer was out of action due to a vacation. Poyer had pulled down 14 rebounds against Bryan in the two teams first meeting. 6'3" Dennis Harris led the way Ellison with 24 points. The high-flying Harris was one of the top high jumpers in the state in track having cleared 7'0". Coach Mark Osina was in his first year at Ellison having come in from Waller.

Killeen's coach Bo Burgess was in the stands scouting the Bryan-Ellison game. The Kangaroos had an open date. In other District action, Temple opened with a 99-82 win over Round Rock and Round Rock Westwood took out Copperas Cove 62-56. Temple's(24-7) Willie Gilmore put up 36 points in the Wildcats victory over Round Rock 99-82.

In the first showdown among the big three, Bryan faced Killeen at home with a 17-3 record and Killeen stood at 13-4. Killeen Coach, Bo Burgess commented, "They are going to be tough for us to handle. Another advantage they have is depth. We only play seven people." Bryan looked to numerous combinations throughout the season as far as their lineup. Key players for the Vikings included; 5'9" Scott McGee, 5'11" J.T. McManus, 5'8" James Langston, 5'11" Ira McMillian, 5'8" Broderick Ross, 6'5" Jason Mims, 6'1" James Rogers, Paul Arevalo.

Killeen came into the contest without 6'1" Anthony McDowell. McDowell was the starting point guard, who had been lost due to a separated shoulder in football. "McDonald is the only true point guard in the system," Burgess said. 6'11" Maurice Artis and 6'5" Thomas Miller provided an inside advantage for the Kangaroos. "If we can handle the pressure and quickness, we have an offense good enough to score," Burgess said. "If we can get the ball to them." Coach Brown

responded to Killeen's size advantage inside saying, "we'll have some wrinkles for them, we have some different defenses."

Bryan came away with a big win over Killeen 48-46 on their home court. Charles Lockett hit six straight foul shots down the stretch to seal the Viking victory. Killeen had an opportunity to tie things up with four seconds left on the clock, but failed to get a good look. Thomas Miller(16.0) finished with nine points and 11 rebounds for the Kangaroos. Coach Burgess said following the game, "If Miller doesn't score in double figures, we have a hard time winning." Miller was only 4 of 12 from the floor. 6'11" Maurice Artis came away with 9 points and 5 rebounds.

Coach Brown felt good following the win, "we felt if it came down to a half-court game we'd be in trouble," Brown said. Lockett was a handful for Killeen to handle finishing with 20 points on 6 of 11 field goals and 8 of 10 from the line. "He's the best guard we've played against this year," Burgess said. Lockett was averaging 13.7 points a game and shooting 52% from the floor. The talented junior also hit 69% from the line and averaged 5.2 assists per game on the season. Coach Brown compared Lockett to his previous little men in his program saying, "his offensive talents are ahead of most of the previous guards, especially as a junior. His defense is not nearly as good as previous guards." Lockett said his major concern was containing his temper on the court. 6'5" Jason Mims came up big inside for Coach Brown against Killeen with 10 points and 13 rebounds. Temple kept pace with Bryan by defeating Copperas Cove easily 65-43 and Ellison(18-14) got back on the winning track defeating Round Rock(15-14) 83-77.

With an open date on the District schedule, Bryan faced Waco Richfield and came away with a close win 80-77. 6'1" James Rogers finished with 12 points and 15 rebounds for the Vikings.

As Bryan came into the Round Rock game, the Vikings were well aware of Round Rocks up tempo style. Coach Marv Schmidt was in his second year at the helm with Round Rock and loved up tempo basketball, having come from Hobbs, New Mexico. Round Rock was very formidable team. They lost to Dallas Kimball(30-3) in overtime and had Temple down by 12 points at halftime only to lose 99-82.

Charles Lockett was at his best in an up-tempo game against Round Rock, hitting 9 of 13 field goals and going 9 for 9 from the charity stripe. The talented junior provided 27 points in the 76-58 win. "What can you say, he plays well every night," Brown commented.

Coach Schmidt said following the loss, "with all the turnovers we had, you can't beat a good ballclub like them. For us to beat Bryan we have to have good ball-handling. They press you all the time with that great quickness." Round Rock finished the game with 26 turnovers. Inside, Mims and Rogers failed to score for Bryan. "Our inside game was not very effective," Brown said. In other District

action, Killeen(20-9) easily got by Copperas Cove 63-36 and Ellison(18-14) continued winning defeating Westwood(20-10) 44-38.

Round Rock Westwood(20-10) was coached by Gerald Adams, who was in his 5th year at the school. Coming into the game both teams were riding high with the Vikings clubbing Copperas Cove 88-46 and Westwood's big upset over Killeen(20-9) 75-53. Adams felt this was his best team he had in his five years at Westwood. Coach Brown commented, "We know their good, we saw them in the San Marcos tournament and scouted them against Temple."

Bryan had little trouble with Westwood winning 67-48. With the win the Vikings moved into soul possession of first place due to Temple's 52-32 loss to Killeen. Bryan had one of their best shooting games of the season hitting 61% from the floor and knocking down 15 of 21 foul shots. McGee was high point man with 16 points and finished with 7 assists. J.T. McManus joined in the scoring parade finishing with 16 points. Lockett was unreal going 7 of 7 from the floor for 14 points. Westwood won the rebounding duel 29-23. 6'6" Rob Cunningham only managed 9 points for Westwood and 6'3" Todd Sodema finished with 13 points. David Ohradzansky came away with 10 points.

The Temple(24-7) vs. Bryan(27-5) was one of the top match-ups in the state in 1986. Bryan, Temple and Killeen had captured 12 of the possible 14 playoff spots in District 14-5A since 1975. Bryan had been to the playoffs seven times, Temple on three occasions and Killeen two times. Bryan came in at 5-0 and 22-3 on the season and state ranked. Temple stood at 4-1 and 18-5 on the season. Temple was limited due to the suspensions of two key players. Daniel Casino and Chris Chavers were suspended for disciplinary reasons. The Wildcats would look to 6'5" Willie Gilmore(22.0) and 6'3" Bruce Mitchell(12.0) to carry the load for Temple.

Bryan traveled to Temple and defeated the Wildcats on their home court 82-78. Scott McGee came up with the play of the game stealing the ball at mid-court and dribbling in for the game clinching basket. Bryan had chartered two buses to gain some crowd support. For Temple, it was their second straight loss having just lost to Killeen 52-32.

Temple inside game dominated in the first half with their superior size. Gilmore and Mitchell combined for 24 first half points as the Wildcats led at intermission 39-32. "Willie and Bruce played as well as they have all year," Temple coach, Kirby Johnson said. Charles Lockett, the outstanding point guard for Bryan, was shut out in the first half and finished with only 11 points. 5'8" Broderick Ross and 5'11" James Langston came up big off the bench combining for 32 points in the win. Langston finished with 17 points and Ross added 15 points. Bryan showed their depth by playing 10 players in the rotation.

Down 60-48 late in the 3rd quarter, Temple put Willie McVade and Mitchell on the bench. Bryan responded by scoring ten straight points and closed the gap to 60-58. 6'5" Willie Gilmore finished with impressive numbers, 29 points,

10 rebounds and 6'4" Bruce Mitchell added 25 points and 7 rebounds. Combined they were 19 of 28 from the floor. Killeen(20-9) kept pace defeating Killeen Ellison(18-14) 58-46.

Starting the 2nd round of District action in 14-5A, Bryan took down Killeen Ellison 68-58. Ellison's 6'6" Mike Wertz had a big game with 28 points and 10 rebounds. "Wertz scored every time he could get the ball," Coach Brown said. Bryan was 22 of 31 from the foul line and Lockett hit ten straight and finished with 20 points. The Eagles were forced into 20 turnovers over the course of the game. In other District action, Round Rock really shook things up easily defeating Temple 87-67. For the Wildcats, it was their third straight loss.

In the re-match between Bryan and Killeen, the Vikings could take a firm grip on a playoff spot with another win. Bryan stood at 24-3 and 7-0 in District action, while Killeen came in with 17-6 record and 4-2 in District. "We can lose and still make the playoffs," Coach Burgess said. Temple stood at 4-3 followed by Round Rock and Ellison at 3-4.

Bryan's 5'11" Ira McMillian was moved into the starting lineup by Coach Brown. "We have to put more pressure on the other team," Brown relayed. Standout, Charles Lockett, was questionable entering the game against Killeen and had missed Saturday's practice due to illness. With Lockett out of the line-up the Vikings started 6'0" James Rogers(6.7) and 5'11" Ira McMillian(10.4) inside and 5'8" James Langston(9.4), 5'9" Broderick Ross(8.5) and 5'8" Scott McGee(9.3) on the outside. Killeen countered with the awesome inside game of 6'11" Maurice Artis(12.0), 6'6" Thomas Miller(15.0), 6'2" Mike Goodbary(5.0), 6'1" Cain Coleman(3.0) and 6'1" David Knorr(9.0).

Bryan did a number on Killeen(20-9) once again 53-46. Killeen seemed to have things under control up 39-28 with 7:34 left in the game. The Vikings proceeded to force the Kangaroos into nine turnovers, which turned into seven Bryan points. Bryan went on a 19-4 run during the last five minutes of play. "You can't lose your concentration against them," Burgess said. "They'll pick your pocket in a New York minute."

Brown felt his scramble defense was the reason for Killeen's many difficulties. "It was some of the greatest defense we've played all year," Brown said. Langston led the Vikings with 11 points and Ross came away with 10. Lockett missed nearly three quarters of action due to illness and came away with only six points. Thomas Miller led Killeen with 18 points and 11 rebounds. The Kangaroos also had the rebound advantage 36-23 over the Vikings. Artis only scored 7 points with 2 rebounds, but together Artis and Miller blocked ten shots. Ellison won a key elimination game over Round Rock 74-65. Ellison also pretty much knocked any hopes Killeen had of making the playoffs with a 46-37 win over the Kangaroos. Temple took down Westwood 55-40 in other 14-5A games.

Round Rock Westwood had nothing to lose as they came in the Vikings gym and came away with 55-54 victory over Bryan. Todd Sodoma put in two foul shots with one second left to give Westwood the win. Bryan attempted to distract Sodoma's foul using a timeout before each attempt. The distractions had no effect, as Sodoma hit net on both foul shots.

Bryan had been up by ten points and just gave the game away to Westwood. "I've never had a team that played that poorly mentally," Brown said. "We haven't played since the Killeen game." Westwood earned the victory shooting 13 of 15 from the foul line in the 4th quarter and 21 of 27 for the game. Bryan only managed 4 of 10 from the line for the game. 6'7" Rob Cunningham was impressive with 13 points and 11 rebounds. Westwood held the inside advantage outrebounding Bryan 34-19. Ira McMillian paced Bryan with 17 points.

Before the loss, Bryan climbed to their highest ranking ever in the state polls at #2. Bryan had already wrapped up a playoff spot before the loss, but Coach Brown wanted to gain some momentum entering the playoffs.

Temple gave Killeen their third straight loss 59-53 and eliminated the Kangaroos for good. Gilmore and Mitchell combined for 32 points inside for the Wildcats. Temple was playing some of the best basketball of the season coming into the re-match with Bryan. Coach Kirby Johnson looked to 6'0" Tim Hesse(6.0), 5'10" Varden Grayer(5.0), 6'4" Chris Chavers, 6'5" Willie Gilmore(20.0/9.0), and 6'4" Bruce Mitchell(15.0/11.0) as his starters. Coach Johnson had lost Willie McVade to grades for the rest of the season. Temple stood at 23-7 on the year and 8-3 in District action.

Coach Kirby Johnson had really created a winning tradition on the basketball court in a predominately football culture. The Wildcats finished 16-15 in 1983, 18-13 in 1984, 30-5 in 1985 and 23-7 during the 1986 campaign. Temple really gained momentum going into the playoffs with a 54-53 win over Bryan. The Vikings had now dropped back to back games in District with both coming at home. Remember, Bryan already wrapped up the District title going into the last two games. For the Temple Wildcats, things had really turned around since their mid-season slump due to suspended players.

"We started the game to pumped up," Brown said. "It was a great basketball atmosphere. It's kinda tough knowing we have to do it from the outside," Brown continued. Lockett was back and led the way with 18 points on 8 of 14 from the floor. Chris Chavers, who was suspended the first time against Bryan, led Temple with 16 points and 11 rebounds. "Before, we had to have a great game from Willie or Bruce to win," Coach Johnson said. "Now, we have a chance with Chavers. Bryan had the rebound advantage 39-35. The win put Temple in the playoffs for the second year in a row. The Vikings(27-5) finished District at 10-2, Temple(24-7) came away with a 9-3 mark and Killeen(20-9) finished at 7-5

Standings: Bryan(27-5) 10-2, Temple(24-7) 9-3, Killeen(20-9) 7-5, Killeen Ellison(18-14) 6-6, Round Rock Westwood(20-10) 6-6, Round Rock(15-14) 4-8, Copperas Cove(7-21) 0-12:

All-District: 6'5" Willie Gilmore-Temple was named District M.V.P., **1st Team**- Thomas Miller of Killeen, Mike Wertz of Killeen Ellison, Scott McGee of Bryan, 6'5" Bruce Mitchell of Temple, Dave Ohradzansky of Round Rock Westwood: **2nd Team**-7'0" Maurice Artis of Killeen, Bruce Lofton of Copperas Cove, Broderick Ross of Bryan, Jason Elbers of Round Rock, Tim Hesse of Temple, Ira McMillian of Bryan.

Honorable Mention- David Knorr of Killeen, 6'4" Chris Chavers of Temple, James Langston of Bryan and J.T. McManus of Bryan.

On a sad note, I was informed that one of the greatest big men in the history of Texas, **6'11" Rudy Woods**, passed away in 2016 at the age of 57. Woods had battled diabetes for almost a decade. Woods was a McDonald's All-American in 1978. Possibly the biggest honor of his career was being named the McDonalds All-Star game's first M.V.P. in 1978. He finished with 13 points and grabbed 16 rebounds in only 23 minutes of action. He later teamed up with Vernon Smith and Rynn Wright while at Texas A&M to form "The Wall". Named for their powerful inside game that they displayed. The trio led the 1980 A&M team to a 26-8 record that including a 78-61 double-overtime victory over North Carolina in the NCAA tournament. The eventual national champions, Louisville, ended their final four hopes in overtime 66-55. Woods was picked in the fourth round of the 1982 NBA Draft by the Dallas Mavericks, but he ended up playing a dozen seasons overseas in Italy, France, and Spain. He worked in Denver for a time as a police officer. Rudy drove an 18-wheeler for a trucking company out of Houston for a time. Rudy later worked as a correctional officer at Hamilton Youth State Facility in Bryan. He was called into the ministry in 2005 as a preacher and teacher. Rudy Woods was a **TEXAS LEGEND**.

15-AAAAA

Klein Oak(26-3) only District loss came to rival Klein Forest(20-10) 59-54 after Klein Oak had already rapped up District. Klein Oak(26-3) pre-district schedule was not real challenging. Klein Oak's offense centered around 6'7" Jeff Williams, 6'0" Steve Bennett and 6'3" Charles Milby. All three were named to the 1st team all-district squad. Klein Oak had victories over Conroe McCullough(15-14) 57-53 and Houston Smiley(12-16) 64-57 in overtime. Losses included Alvin(13-18) 58-57 and Austin Johnston(34-3) 72-61.

Klein Forest(20-10) defeated Cypress-Creek(17-13) twice 58-57 and 72-52 to take home the other playoff spot. Klein Forest attack was powered by the District M.V.P. 6'3" Jimmy Hardwick(20.2). The Eagles of Klein Forest(20-10) had losses in pre-district to Houston Jones(14-14) 75-69 in overtime and took it on the chin to Dulles(28-6) 70-54, Humble(20-10) 59-57 and Houston Westbury(21-14) 73-54.

Standings: Klein Oak(26-3) 15-1, Klein Forest(20-10) 14-2, Cypress-Creek(17-13) 11-5, Cypress-Fairbanks(15-14) 9-7, Katy Taylor(12-17) 7-9, Jersey Village(8-17) 7-9, Klein(9-22) 5-11, Langham Creek(3-24) 3-13, Katy(4-22) 1-15:

All-District: 1st Team- "MVP" 6'3" Jimmy Hardwick(20.2/7.4), Klein Forest; 6'7" Jeff Williams, Klein Oak; 6'6" Jeff Rowan(15.3/7.4), Cypress-Fairbanks; 6'4" Todd Thurnston(15.8/8.2), Katy Taylor; 6'3" Vidal Ramirez(19.7), Katy Taylor; 6'5" Dyce McCullough, Cypress-Creek; 6'3" John Brayton, Katy; 6'3" Dwayne Grisbee, Langham Creek; 6'3" Charles Milby, Klein Oak; 6'2" Mark Dempsey, Cypress-Creek; 5'8" Wade Bailey, Klein, 6'0" Steve Bennett, Klein Oak; "Coach of the Year" David Middleton-Klein Forest:

16-AAAAA

The Conroe(18-10) Tigers continued their tradition winning District with a 11-1 mark. The Tigers only suffered one District loss and that was against Spring Westfield(14-16) 69-68. Conroe's impressive inside scoring tandem was made up of 6'3" Terry Jefferson(18.7) and 6'4" Myron Wright(21.0/11.8). Conroe struggled in pre-district losing to Conroe McCullough(15-14) 69-67, Pasadena Dobie(25-10) 79-70 and Bryan(27-5) 80-79.

Humble(20-10), behind District M.V.P. Freddie Ricks(25.2), came away with the runner-up spot. Harold Wilder of Conroe and Larry Cooper from Humble tied for Coach of the Year honors.

Standings: Conroe(18-10) 11-1, Humble(20-10) 9-3, Humble Kingwood(15-15) 7-5, Spring Westfield(14-16) 6-6, Conroe McCullough(15-14) 5-7, Spring High(12-18) 4-8, New Caney(5-22) 0-12:

All-District: "MVP" 6'1" *Freddie Ricks(25.2/8.2), Humble; "Coach of the Year"-Harold Wilder of Conroe and Larry Cooper of Humble; **1st Team**-6'9" *Larry Meyer(15.4/10.0), Conroe McCullough; 6'3" *Terry Jefferson(18.7), Conroe; 6'4" *Myron Wright(21.0/11.8), Conroe; 6'0" Steve Moore(16.2), Humble Kingwood; 6'5" Brant Shaver, Humble Kingwood; 6'1" *Mark Chenoweth, Spring Westfield: (*) Unanimous

Playoffs

Klein Oak(26-4) went down to District runner-up Humble(21-10) in Bi-District 57-44. This was not a shocker, but the score was. Humble had little trouble paced by Freddie Rick's 20 points. Steve Barnett was the man for Klein Oak scoring 16 points.

Temple(25-8) and Longview(27-6) were at it once again in Bi-District as the Lobos were looking to reverse their 1985 loss to the Wildcats. Longview Coach LeRoy Romines felt good about his team's chances. "Were better than we were last year and they aren't as strong," Romines reasoned. "They're real physical," Romines continued, "they're inside oriented like we are, we'll match strength and see how we come out." Longview looked to 6'7" Todd Willis(13.0), 6'3" Stevie Johnson(9.5) and Kemp Louis. Willis was the leading scorer for the Lobos. Temple countered with 6'5" Willie Gilmore(20.0/9.0), 6'4" Bruce Mitchell(15.0/11.0) and 6'4" Chris Chavers. The big difference in the two schools was Temple liked to press and Longview preferred to run a set half-court offensive attack. "They like to press and they storm the boards," Romines noted. "The key is keeping them off the boards and handling their press." The Lobos outside game was very questionable.

Temple(25-8) once again ended the hopes of the Longview(27-6) Lobos 75-69 at Henderson County Jr. College. Temple's Tim Hesse had one of the top shooting performances of the playoffs hitting 9 out 10 from the field. The shots were from 15 feet and beyond, but mostly unchallenged due to the Lobos collapsing defense. Coach Romines felt Temple inside game would need to be shut down. Hesse came away with 19 points, 5 assists and 5 steals. It was a career game for the young man.

"Before we got in the playoffs, we all told Tim he was going to have to shoot the ball more because people would be dropping off on Chris and Bruce and

me,” Willie Gilmore said. “Their big guys were just roaming inside and dropping back on us.” For the game, Temple shot 30-43 from the floor for an incredible 70%. Longview had a pretty nice shooting night as well knocking down 29 of 50 field goal attempts for 58%. “We didn’t play badly-Temple was just hot,” Coach Romines of Longview said.

Willie Gilmore supplied 15 points for the Temple attack. Varden Grayer came away with 12 points and Chris Chavers put up 18 points. 6’7” Todd Willis had 16 points for the Lobos and Wray Wade had 17 points, mostly from the outside. The game was almost lost in the 2nd quarter for Longview when 5’11” Wray Wade came off the bench, bringing the Lobos back to life.

Temple hit 15 of 27 foul shots and the Lobos were good for 11 of 12 from the line. Longview had a small rebound advantage 27-24 and Temple had 3 more turnovers 17-14.

Temple(26-7) brought down Humble(21-11) 51-47 to advance to regionals. The big question for Temple and Coach Kirby Johnson was how to slow down 6’2” Freddie Ricks. “Our plan going into the game was to get a hand in his face and we did. We didn’t want to have to use any kind of special defenses to stop him and we avoided that,” Coach Johnson shared. Ricks finished with 21 points and got very little help from his teammates. 6’4” Derek Smith put up 14 points and was the only other Humble player in double figures. Some 2000 fans crowded into A&M Consolidated High gymnasium to watch the regional qualifier game. Temple extended their 2-3 zone, which limited Ricks shooting range. “He’s definitely the best we’ve played against this year,” Kirby Johnson said.

Chris Chavers of Temple commented about facing the talented Ricks, “Rick’s was really great, coach said he could hit from anywhere on the floor and he did,” Chavers said. Temple’s balanced attack was the difference against Humble. Willie Gilmore and Bruce Mitchell led Wildcats with 12 points each, Chavers and Grayer added 10 each and Tim Hesse had some long-distance shooting and ended up with seven points. The game was not real physical with Temple hitting 7 of 10 foul shots and Humble was only 3 of 5. Temple came away with 22 of 47 from the floor, while Humble was 21 of 44. Rebounding was about the same, but Humble turned the ball over 12 times compared to only 8 for the Wildcats.

The Bi-District games between Dallas Skyline(25-7) and South Garland(31-2) and North Mesquite(26-5) and South Oak Cliff(26-2) were ridiculous. Any one of the four teams could easily have represented the region in Austin. So please, don’t think these were just your normal Bi-District games. Look at the talent, 6’6” Larry Johnson(25.0), 6’5” Billy Smith(20.0), 6’6” Ronnie Morgan(20.1) and 6’0” Donnell Hayden(25.0). All were All-State players and major college talent. Unfortunately, that’s the way the playoffs unfolded, so two of the top ten teams in the state would be eliminated in the first round.

Coach Jimmy Gales of S.O.C. announced entering the playoffs the Rodney Samuel would not be playing. "I felt like if he was not at 100 percent, he might have disrupted our chemistry," Gales said. "Knowing how he is, he would try to do more than he is physically capable of right now. He's disappointed, but he's taking it pretty well." Going into the playoffs S.O.C. had a 25-2 record, paced by 6'6" Ronnie Morgan, 6'4" John Godfrey and 5'11" Nathan McCoy.

The best first round game of the state playoffs took place at Forester Field House in East Dallas. S.O.C.(26-2) defeated North Mesquite(26-4) in double overtime 50-49. Delayne Dona of North Mesquite went to the line shooting a one and one situation with four seconds remaining on the clock. The Stallions were down 50-49. Dona missed and the Golden Bears advanced to play another day. North Mesquite had led at halftime 30-28 and opened the 2nd half in four-corners. "We had to spread them out so the officials could see the fouls," Coach Powell said. North Mesquite did not score in the 3rd quarter and lost momentum as a result of the four-corner offense.

S.O.C. took a 41-34 lead with 5:12 left in the game. The Stallions Robbie Duck came up big for Coach Powell late in the contest. Duck hit a bucket, knocked down two foul shots and had a steal, to pull his team within two points 45-43. Dona was able to tie the score with 1:01 remaining. The winning basket for S.O.C. was provided by Ronnie Morgan with 15 seconds left in the 2nd overtime. Morgan's foul shot gave the Bears a 50-49 lead and the win.

Morgan was a strong physical specimen inside with tremendous athletic ability. He was a hand full on the block. Morgan scored 24 points and Nathan McCoy kicked in 10 points for S.O.C., while Dona was good for 13 points for North Mesquite. Hayden finished with 16 points and Robby Duck added 14 points for Coach Ron Powell. The Stallions finished a fine season with a 26-5 record. There is little doubt the Stallions were one of the top ten teams in the state. Two of North Mesquite's five losses had come at the hands of top ranked S.O.C.

When your facing Larry Johnson(25.0), you are going against one of the most imposing figures to ever grace a Dallas High School basketball court. Names like Sammy Hervey, Charles McMillan, Ira Terrell and Micheal Williams come to mind when watching him play. Coach J.D. Mayo had seen all of these players and knew L.J. was one of the best ever.

The South Garland Colonels(31-2) were very talented as well and were all too familiar with Johnson's game. At Loos Field House, Skyline(25-7) and South Garland(31-2) went at it for the right to advance to the second round. The Smith family proved to be the difference combining for 55 points for Colonels, as South Garland came away with a 71-60 victory. Larry Johnson managed 26 points after his team got down early by 10 points.

Calvin Smith led South Garland with 21 points, Tony Smith finished with 19 points and Billy added 15. South Garland outside shooting proved to be the

difference as the Colonels hit eight of twelve attempts in the first quarter. "Billy and Larry neutralized each other," Brooks said. "The difference was the rest of my team was better than the rest of their team."

Richardson(24-6) was excited advancing to the playoffs for the first time since their trip to the regionals in 1983. Dallas Kimball(27-3) would be one of the most formidable teams the Eagles had faced all year. The Eagles key players were 6'4" Chris Ashford, 6'3" Wilford Johnson, 6'2" Rob Clark, 6'3" Patterson(14.5) and Zastoupil(17.4). 5'10" Chawn Cummings started at point guard. 6'2" Brad Kuhne had been critical for the Eagles coming off the bench. Because of their limited size, the Eagles had to rely on the outside shot. "Our outside game has been the meat of what we've done this year," Longino said. "We've evolved into a 15-foot jump shot team."

Kimball and Richardson had both been regional semi-finalist in 1983. This game was considered another outstanding first round match-up. The question was could the Knights defense stop the perimeter game of the Eagles. At Loos Field House, Richardson went down 53-45 to Kimball. Richardson had trouble with the full court pressure in the first half. The Eagles could only manage to shoot 3 for 12 from the floor in the first quarter. "They have good shooters, and we played them in a man defense the majority of the game," Tubbs said. "We played good defense and were pretty disciplined offensively. I thought we controlled the tempo most of the game."

Richardson was down 29-22 at halftime. Kimball controlled the glass and took a 44-32 advantage going into the final quarter. "We had a chance to get within four or six a couple of times in the game," Longino said. "But we didn't shoot well tonight. We would get close, and then we'd miss or they would steal the ball and score a few baskets." Chris Ashford paced Richardson with 14 points and Anthony Virgil led the Knights with a modest 14 points and Arlin White came away with 12.

Dallas Kimball(29-3) continued on their playoff path facing South Garland(32-2) in the 2nd round of the playoffs. Once again, two of the top ten teams in the state were forced to play early in the playoffs. Coach Jimmy Tubbs of Kimball was the master of close games and a veteran of the playoffs, having taken his Knights to regionals three straight seasons. This was probably his least talented team, but somebody forgot to tell the '86 version of the Kimball Knights.

The game between Kimball(29-3) and South Garland(31-2) was played at Loos Field House in front of a packed house. I was at the game and anticipated a great game. I wasn't disappointed. The Knights took a 10-point lead with 3:30 left remaining in the game. South Garland(31-2) pressed aggressively and got themselves back in the contest, only to miss four shots from 10 feet or less in the last 16 seconds. The final read, Kimball 57 South Garland 55. The most successful season in South Garland school history had come to an end. "We did everything we

were supposed to do,” Coach Clayton Brooks said. “We gave it our best shot like I knew we would. And for 34 games, this team has given it their best effort.”

Billy Smith finished with 17 points and proved to be tough inside. “We couldn’t match-up with Billy,” Coach Jimmy Tubbs said. “He hurt us, especially toward the end. I wasn’t surprised South Garland came back because they are an excellent team. But this is our fourth year in the playoffs, and with a couple of seniors on the team, that helped us out a lot.” Arlin White led the Knights with 20 points.

“Kimball came out with eight or nine good athletes, and that made a difference,” Brooks said. “They played pretty good defense, and you really have to give them credit.”

Lake Highlands(26-6) took their first round game over Dallas Pinkston(14-12) 71-67 behind D’Wayne Tanner’s 26 points. Coach Jack Clark of Lake Highlands felt very fortunate with his team battling the flu all week. The Wildcats took control of the game leading 61-45 late in the 3rd quarter. The Vikings proceeded to outscore Lake Highlands 16-10 in the final quarter. “We ran out of gas in the fourth quarter,” Clark said. “I think us being sick all week had something to do with that.” 6’5” Jamal Young finished with 14 points for the Wildcats and 6’4” LeRoy Rodgers kicked in 13 points. Ricky O’Neal led Pinkston with 14 points and 6’7” Anthony Snowden had 13 points.

As Lake Highlands(26-7) prepared to play top-ranked S.O.C.(27-2) they were confident in their ability to compete against Golden Bears. Earlier in the season the Wildcats had lost in the Arlington Classic to S.O.C. 51-50. The re-match between the two teams didn’t go as planned. Coach Jack Clark’s crew was pummeled, losing in the 2nd round 94-56. Yes, a 38-point difference. Coach Jimmy Gales discussed the difference, “this time we had an outside game to go with our inside game. Last time, we had no outside game.”

Coach Jack Clark of Lake Highlands was impressed, “you can’t beat a team when a team plays like that, I don’t have enough tricks to stop that stuff. They didn’t miss. I’ve never seen them shoot from 20-feet like they did tonight. When they did miss a shot, they had three guys with their hands over the rim, ready to put it back up.”

S.O.C. full court press really gave Lake Highlands trouble forcing 18 turnovers. 5’10” Nathan McCoy was critical to S.O.C.’s success finishing with 15 assists. 6’6” Ronnie Morgan and 6’4” John Godfrey dominated inside with a combined 29 points. 5’10” Tanner ended his brilliant career with the Wildcats with 17 points. D’Wayne took his skills to Rice University after leading Lake Highlands to three straight District titles. He was one of the most decorated players in school history.

Both Temple(24-7) and Bryan(27-5) took warm-up games at Sam Houston State University. Temple(24-7) played a warmup game against Aldine(25-6). Aldine

took down the Wildcats 68-67 behind Chris Crease's 24 points. Willie Gilmore paced Temple with 18 points and Chris Chavers finished with 15. Bryan won their warm-up game breaking their two game losing streak.

Bryan(28-5) and Lufkin(25-7) teed it up at Sam Houston University. The two teams were somewhat familiar with each other having scrimmaged against one another early in the season. Lufkin had a big advantage over Bryan with 6'7" Sammie Sexton(15.0) and 6'4" Mark Johnson(13.0) inside. The two combined averaged 28 points and 24 rebounds per game. "Boards are always a concern with us," Brown said. Coach Brown felt that Lufkin might be the best team the Vikings had faced all season.

Coach Jesse Walker of Lufkin was concerned with his team's ability to handle Bryan's pressure defense. "We've got to get the ball down the floor first," Walker said.

The game proved to be a disaster for the Vikings as their best player and leading scorer, Charles Lockett(15.4), did not play. In discussing the Lockett situation with Coach Brown, he related that Lockett had gotten into some trouble at school the day of the game and he had to suspend the young man.

Bryan had faced challenges throughout the season, but Lockett's absence proved to be fatal. Lufkin took care of business with a 65-58 win over Bryan. Bryan had trouble handling the ball in the first half and trailed 31-18 at halftime. The Lufkin zone also presented some problems for the Vikings. Lufkin's guards were the ones that created problems for Coach Larry Brown and his staff. Derrick Pendland led Lufkin with 17 points on 6 of 9 shooting from the field. Shannon Davis put up 12 points on 6 of 8 shooting for the Panthers. Pendland and Shandon Davis drove to the basket instead of shooting from outside. "They had super quick guards," Brown said.

Lufkin was able to extend their lead to 51-33 with 2:03 left in the 3rd quarter. Lufkin dominated inside on the glass with 6'4" junior Mark Johnson pulling down 17 rebounds and 6'7" Sammie Sexton catching 7 rebounds. Sexton and Mark Johnson both finished the game with 15 points apiece for Coach Jesse Walker's team.

The Vikings began forcing turnovers in the 4th period and cut the lead to 61-56 with 29 seconds remaining. Lufkin inability to convert from the foul line in the 4th quarter opened the door for Bryan. Coach Walker's crew only managed to hit 9 of 23 from the stripe and had eleven 4th quarter turnovers. Lufkin had 25 turnovers for the game and still won. Bryan finished with 17 turnovers.

Scott McGee ended the game for the Vikings with 17 points, James Langston and Ira McMillan both kicked in ten points apiece. Lufkin shot 54% on 28 of 52 from the floor and Bryan managed only 40% on 26 of 64 attempts.

Bryan finished the season losing three out of their last four games after being ranked 2nd in the state. Two of the losses were on their home court by one point each to Round Rock Westwood(20-10) and Temple(24-7).

Lufkin(26-7) eliminated Klein Forest(21-11) 71-58 behind 19 points from 6'4" Mark Johnson. 6'7" Sammie Sexton added 19 points and 8 rebounds for the Lufkin. Jimmy Hardwick paced Klein Forest with 20 points and 8 rebounds. The win advanced Lufkin(26-7) into regionals. Klein Forest(20-10) had advanced to the 2nd round with a 61-57 win over Conroe(18-10).

Regionals

Dallas South Oak Cliff(27-2) traveled to Waco for the second straight season as one of the top ranked teams. Lufkin(25-7) awaited the Golden Bears in regionals. The two teams had played a classic at regionals in 1979. The Panthers won by one point in the final seconds of the game and went on to capture the state championship that year.

This time the game was no contest, as S.O.C. destroyed Lufkin by 25 points 87-62. S.O.C. jumped out to an early 22-8 lead behind the inside game of 6'6" Ronnie Morgan. "We were pretty physical today," said Morgan. "And that's the way we like to play. We knew if we played tough inside and stopped their guards from penetration, we could win." Lufkin got back into the game in the 2nd quarter behind Mark Johnson and Derrick Pendland. Lufkin trailed at one point 30-29 with just two minutes left in the first half. "We just got a big lead and kind of relaxed," Gales said, "just like last year." The Bears took control early in the 3rd quarter up 53-39. Ronnie Morgan was the leader once again for S.O.C. finishing with 21 points and Victor Barnes came away with 19 points. Rodney Jones added 16 points for Coach Gales. Derrick Pendleton was the leader for Lufkin scoring 16 points and Mark Johnson added 17 points for Coach Jesse Walker.

Dallas Kimball(27-3) took on Temple(26-7) from central Texas in the other regional semis. The Wildcats of Temple had a tremendous size advantage over the Knights of Kimball. Temple had three players over 6'4" while Kimball's tallest player stood only 6'3" on a good day. Kimball's quickness would be the deciding factor in the game.

"We got a scouting report that they were 6'4" and 6'5", but when we got on the court and they seemed taller," Tubbs said. "We knew we had to press them. That's what been carrying us all year."

In the 4th quarter up 49-44, Kimball held the ball for 3:31 seconds as Temple stayed in their zone. "I was surprised they didn't come out and play us man-to-man," Tubbs said. "That worked to our advantage." Up 51-47 with only 1:34 remaining, Temple finally came out of their zone and fouled Leonard Perry. Perry sank both foul shots, giving Kimball a comfortable 53-47 lead. "We played good defense, and I really liked our patience on offense, especially down the stretch," Tubbs said.

Arlin White led Kimball with 18 points and Leonard Perry added 14. Temple was paced by Tim Hesse with 12 points and Willie Gilmore finished with 14, Chris Chaves added 15 points and Bruce Mitchell had 10.

Regional Final

Dallas South Oak Cliff(28-2) and Dallas Kimball(28-3) were very familiar with each other having faced one another many times over the years. As two of the top programs in Dallas, there was very little they didn't know about one another. The Golden Bears came into the contest having won 28 out of their previous 29 games. Their last two playoff victories had been blowouts by 38 and 25 points. Kimball was facing a real challenge. At McLennan Community College in Waco the two rivals came together to see who would advance to state.

Kimball(30-3) had been to regionals four straight seasons, losing twice to Bryan and once to Conroe. During the regular season S.O.C. had defeated the Knights twice, 70-69 and 66-60. So out of three losses coming into the game, two had come at the hands of the Golden Bears.

Kimball was able to come away with the big win 56-47 over S.O.C. and advanced to state. Coach Jimmy Tubbs decided to change his strategy after two previous losses to the Bears. "When S.O.C. beat us the first two times, we always lost the first quarter by a big margin," Tubbs explained. "Today we came out in a semi-delay, and after we got a good lead, we slowed down more and kept control of the tempo. You have to give the players credit, they executed everything perfectly."

Coach Gales was well aware of Tubbs game plan, "That's all I was thinking about through the first half, just don't let them go out and get a lead on us," Gales said. "Once they got that lead, they held the ball, and it would have taken a 24-second clock for us to come back."

With 5:06 remaining in the game, S.O.C. only trailed 40-37. Kimball continued their stall. Leonard Perry extended the Knights lead to seven points with 2:40 remaining and S.O.C. was forced to foul. Kimball hit 10 of 12 free throws in the final 1:39 and went 24 of 31 for the game. S.O.C. was only three of 10 from the line for the game.

Perry came away with 16 points and Arlin White had 14. Roderick Hampton added 11 points for Coach Tubbs. S.O.C. was led by Morgan's 14 points, well below his average. S.O.C. finished an incredible season at 28-3. The top ranked team in the state had been eliminated from the state playoffs.

"We knew we could beat South Garland and we knew we could S.O.C.," Perry said. "I think the fans think we've been sneaking up on people, but I expected it. Our starting five has played together since the fourth grade. I know what's inside them. I knew if we could pull it out of each other we'd have a great season."

Coach Tubbs team had finally advancing to state following so many disappointments. "Talentwise, I thought this was the worst team we'd had," Tubbs said. "I was wrong, we still may not be the most talented team, but this team plays better as a group than any I've coached." Kimball continually switched defenses attempting to confuse the Bears and their dominating inside game with Ronnie Morgan. The 6'6" senior hit 7 of 9 for 14 points, but Kimball forced the Bears to shoot from outside. Rodney Jones could only manage to hit 7 of 16 and Nathan McCoy finished 4 of 15 from the floor. "We rushed our shots," Gales said. "When you get in a game like that, the only way to play is to be patient too. We weren't patient." S.O.C. only managed six points off transition baskets.

Region III Playoffs

Alief Hastings(27-5)	Houston Wheatley(17-12)
Houston Kashmere(14-11)	Houston Madison(19-9)
Houston Sam Houston(22-7)	West Orange Stark(21-10)
Aldine(24-6)	Pasadena(25-7)
Clear Lake(24-9)	Houston Worthing(15-16)
Alief Elsik(18-12)	Beaumont Pollard(22-7) #10
Houston Smiley(12-16)	Baytown Sterling(23-11)
LaPorte(28-5)	Houston Milby(20-11)

Top Players in Region III

6'3"	Eddie Cumbo	Houston Wheatley
6'2"	Chris Crease	Aldine
6'3"	Michael Hobbs	Clear Lake
6'5"	Ivan Jones	Houston Madison
6'4"	Archie Corbin	Beaumont Pollard
6'1"	Charles McCovery	LaPorte
6'2"	David McDaniel	Houston Yates
6'5"	Shone Wyatt	Houston Kashmere
6'6"	Darryl Johnson	Houston Yates
6'4"	James Francis	LaMarque

Region III was down in 1986 over-all. Eight of the sixteen teams that advanced to the playoffs had double digit loses. Two teams actually had losing records, if you can believe that. Only one team finished in the T.A.B.C. top ten rankings. Only two schools were listed in my final top ten and one of those was ineligible for the playoffs. Ten out of my final top 25 came from Region III. The state tournament representative had never been this wide open. Houston had no powerhouse teams as in the past.

17-AAAAA

Alief Hastings(27-5) took this very competitive District with an 8-2 record. District M.V.P. 6'7" Roderick Brown was the force behind the Hastings strong inside game along with 6'2" Jamison Johnson. Hastings handled their rival, Alief Elsik(18-12), both times 67-56 and 65-58 to take first place. Hastings had some solid wins in pre-district over Dulles(28-6) 72-61 and Willowridge(23-10) 93-79.

Sister school, Alief Elsik, advanced to the playoffs with 6'2" Tim Schumacher, Darryl Brown and Greg Lockhart pacing Rams. One of the top performers in the District was 6'2" David Klingler(16.8/9.0) from Houston Stratford. Klingler rewrote NCAA passing records while playing quarterback for the University of Houston. He was drafted by the Bengals and was their starter in 1993 and 1994.

Standings: Alief Hastings(27-5) 8-2, Alief Elsik(18-12) 6-4, Spring Branch Memorial(23-9) 5-5, Spring Woods(18-9) 5-5, Houston Stratford(18-14) 5-5, Northbrook(6-21) 1-9:

All-District- 6'7" Roderick Brown(18.5/7.0) of Alief Hastings was named District M.V.P. and 1st team All-Greater Houston by the Houston Post. **1st Team-**6'2" D.J. Brown(20.9/8.3), Spring Woods; 6'2" Jamison Johnson, Alief Hasting; 6'2" David Klingler(16.8/9.0), Houston Stratford, 6'0" Johnny Granmayeh, Memorial; 6'4" Pat Smith, Northbrook; 6'2" Tim Schumacher, Alief Elsik: **2nd Team-**Darryl Brown(13.2), Alief Elsik; Frank Demeris(14.1), Memorial; Jason Klein, Houston Stratford; Greg Lockhart, Alief Elsik; Kevin Lyles, Springs Woods; Mike Obringer, Houston Stratford:

18-AAAAA

Coach Paul Benton of Houston Madison left for Dulles after his state championship season in 1985. Filling Benton's shoes would be a tall order. Coach Walter Yates from Houston Davis had transferred over and taken over the reins with the Marlins. Madison had one of the strongest traditions in the state and were going for their 13th straight playoff appearance.

Madison almost found themselves out in the cold and out of the playoffs as the 1985-86 season came to an end. The Marlins were forced to forfeit three District games due to an ineligible player. The player in question was a division one recruit named Fred Young. The 6'5" 230-pound Young lived in the Forest Brook attendance area. Young had attended Forest Brook as a sophomore and Marian Christian as a junior. Marian was a private school. His mother did not feel comfortable going back to Forest Brook and she no longer could afford to attend Marian. Ivan Jones was a returning standout at Houston Madison and Young's cousin. Jones mother filed for guardianship of Fred, but the paper work was filled out in August. It had to be prior to the start of school for Young to be eligible. Fred and Ivan were close and spent a lot of time together at the Jones household. Coach Walter Yates of Houston Madison was unaware of the situation. He had come into the situation late and was unaware Young didn't live in the Madison attendance area. Young played in 14 games with Madison, of which three were district games. Officials from Houston Westbury filed a complaint with the U.I.L. Although Young was ineligible for the rest of the season, he stayed on with the team as an unofficial member practicing with the team. Several college coaches came by to

see his talents. Because of the forfeits Madison was tied for second place with Houston Westbury.

At Butler Field House, Madison defeated Houston Westbury for the runner-up spot in District 50-43. Patrick Sams paced the Marlins with 14 points and Ivan Jones(13.4/10.0) finished with 13 points. Jones was one of two top recruits that played for Madison, the other was point guard 5'10" Cedric Brown(11.5). Michael Brown(10.7) gave Madison three double digit scorers. Had Young been eligible, the Marlins would have been a top ten ballclub.

Houston Worthing took advantage of Madison misfortune and won District. 5'8" Brent Hill and 6'3" Ernest Prevost(14.0) were leaders of the Colts attack.

All-District- "MVP" 6'5" *Ivan Jones(13.4/10.0), Houston Madison; 5'10" *Elmer Bennett(Soph)(17.0), Bellaire; 5'10" Cedric Brown(11.5), Houston Madison; 6'1" Walter Felder, Houston Lee; 6'4" Scott Harrison(15.8), Sharpstown; 5'8" *Brent Hill, Houston Worthing; 6'3" *Ernest Prevost(14.0), Houston Worthing; 6'2" Bill Ruddell, Houston Lee; 6'4" Winn Shepard, Houston Westbury; 5'11" Larry White, Houston Westbury; "Coach of The Year"- Freddie Maura-Houston Worthing: (*) Unanimous

Standings: Houston Worthing(15-16) 9-3, Houston Madison(18-9) 8-4, Houston Westbury(21-14) 8-4, Houston Bellaire(18-16) 7-5, Houston Lee(17-13) 6-6, Houston Lamar(6-18) 3-9, Houston Sharpstown(4-17) 1-11:

19-AAAAA

Houston Kashmere's record may have not been impressive but many people felt the Rams had one of the most talented teams in the state. Texas scout, Jay Parker said, "Kashmere has the most talent in the state of Texas." When I asked Anthony Allen of Pt. Arthur Lincoln fame, who was the most talented team he faced his senior year he responded, "Kashmere and Wheatley, we faced them before the season in a scrimmage."

Kashmere(14-11) captured the District title finishing 9-1. The Rams split with Houston Sam Houston(22-7). Kashmere took the first meeting 71-59 and lost the re-match 73-72 in overtime. The Tigers of Sam Houston took 2nd place with an 8-2 mark. Houston Washington(18-11) handed Sam Houston their other loss in District 70-65.

The Rams looked to 6'5" Shone Wyatt, 6'6" Brian Walker and 6'4" Nathaniel Curvey, arguably the top front line in the state. All three were named 1st team All-District. Wyatt played at McLennan J.C. and signed with Texas Tech. Curvey played at the University of New Orleans and Walker played at Rhode Island. 6'0" Darren Templeton and 5'11" Anthony Johnson led the Tigers of Sam Houston. Templeton played at St. Edwards in Austin after graduation. Coach Frankie Brazos was in his 14th season with the Rams having won state in 1980.

Kashmere struggled in pre-district losing to Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-5) 79-66, Houston Worthing(15-16) 69-65, LaMarque(15-7) 77-67, Aldine(24-6) 72-54 and Houston Sam Houston(22-7) 56-48. The Rams seemed to have Wheatley's number defeating the Wildcats three straight times, 72-66, 104-75 and 81-80. Sam Houston

had a strong team showing their strength in wins over Pasadena Sam Rayburn(20-11) 64-57, LaPorte(27-5) 62-55, Victoria Stroman(18-9) 72-51, Alief Hastings(27-5) 51-49 and Kashmere(14-11) 56-48. Losses for the Tigers came at the hands of Houston Yates(23-2) 84-71, Humble Kingwood(15-15) 56-55, Deer Park(20-14) 53-52 and Wheatley(17-12) 68-64.

Standings: Houston Kashmere(14-11) 9-1, Houston Sam Houston(22-7) 8-2, Houston Washington(18-11) 7-3, Houston Waltrip(12-16) 4-6, Houston Reagan(7-13) 2-8, Houston Scarborough(0-20) 0-10:

All-District: "MVP" 6'5" *Shone Wyatt-Kashmere; 6'6" *Brian Walker, Kashmere; 6'5" Nathaniel Curvey, Kashmere; 6'0" Darren Templeton(15.6), Sam Houston; 5'11" Anthony Johnson(12.6), Sam Houston; 6'6" *Reginald Pruitt, Houston Washington; 6'4" Shelvin Wilbert, Houston Washington; 6'0" Dometric Somerville(16.2), Houston Reagan; 6'5" Kevin Bade, Houston Waltrip; "Coach of the Year" Frankie Brazos, Kashmere: (*) Unanimous

20-AAAAA

District 20-5A had the state's top ranked team for much of the season in Houston Yates(23-2). One of the Lions starters forged his English grade on his report card, which ended Yates playoff hopes. The student was expelled. Yates was forced to forfeit their first six District games. The student in question had actually received an incomplete grade, not the failing grade.

Standouts for the best team that didn't make the playoffs; 6'2" David McDaniel, 6'6" Darrell Johnson, 6'4" Willie Pierce and Emanuel Collier. McDaniel and Pierce both played ball at Angelina Junior College following graduation and Darrell Johnson was one of the top recruits in the state in 1987. Johnson had a strong college career at the University of San Francisco where almost averaged a double-double. He was pursued by Houston, Arkansas and Oklahoma coming out of High School. Coach Thomas McDougald was at the helm for the Lions.

Yates(23-2) defeated Houston Washington(18-11) 74-70, Clear Lake(24-9) 80-65, Houston Madison(18-9) 73-60, Houston Sam Houston(22-7) 84-71, Clements(24-10) 63-56, West Orange Stark(21-10) 68-41, Houston Milby(20-11) 61-51, Houston Jones(14-14) 97-65 and Houston Wheatley(17-12) 97-93 in the finals of the Jaycees Tournament.

In District action, Yates downed Wheatley twice in 57-55 and 67-65. Milby(20-11) also fell to the Lions both times in District 86-61 and 67-65. Following the forfeits, Milby and Wheatley were to top two dogs and Yates was out in the cold. The District came down to Wheatley and the Buffaloes of Milby. Head to head, Wheatley won the first game against the Buffaloes 65-59 and Milby took the second game 67-52. In Milby's win over Wheatley, Coach Boyce Honea's plan before the game was to get Eddie Cumbo in early foul trouble. The strategy worked, as the Buffaloes won by 15 points. Byrne Drummond was outstanding in the win for Coach Honea, finishing with 21/6/5 steals/4 assists. Wheatley took first place in District due to Milby's untimely loss to Houston Sterling(16-11) 69-64. The Buffaloes were led during the 1986 season by 6'4" Bryan Drummond(12.0), 6'3"

Pat Luttrell(10.2), William Wells(10.0) and one of the top sophomores in the state, Chris Walker.

The legendary Wheatley program went through a transition in 1986. Jackie Carr stepped down as head man with the Wildcats. Word had it that Carr had made a promise to himself that he would not coach past the age of 60. His replacement was Coach Wesley Boyd. "I'm here to direct my players like a father would. If I can't be close to the players, like a dad, I don't want them on my team," Boyd said. Coach Boyd came up through the Houston Junior High system and eventually obtained the head job at Galena Park High School. Boyd said he was fired because he put up 100 points against white teams. In 1979 he took over at Paul Quinn College in Waco and later went to Texas College in Tyler. Wheatley's principal, Forest Henry, was an old friend of Boyd's.

In my interview with Jackie Carr years ago, he indicated to me that he had been given the word of the administration that his assistant would take his place. To his surprise, Boyd was his replacement. Coach Carr was disappointed for his assistant. After 15 seasons at the helm, Carr called it quits. His career total at the time was 532-112 after taking over the reins in 1970. Carr was a TEXAS LEGEND.

Eddie Cumbo commented on his first thoughts about his new coach. "At first we thought he was crazy," Cumbo said. "Boyd is better, because he controls things," Arthur Thomas chimed in.

Coach Boyd dismissed eight players from the team after a visit to Dallas. "I realized then that they weren't the kind of people I wanted on my team," Boyd said. "I had a lot of internal problems, succeeding a legend is difficult. But I decided I was going to do this my way or no way," Boyd continued.

Standings: Houston Wheatley(17-12) 10-2, Houston Milby(20-11) 9-3, Houston Sterling(16-11) 8-4, Houston Yates(17-8) 6-6(Yates was forced to forfeit six games because of ineligible player), Houston Jones(14-14) 5-7, Houston Davis(16-12) 3-9, Houston Austin(3-21) 1-11:

All-District: M.V.P. 6'2" Eddie Cumbo-Houston Wheatley; **1st Team-** *Eddie Cumbo, Wheatley; 6'7" *Willie Williams, Wheatley; 6'2" *David McDaniels, Yates, 6'6" Darrell Johnson, Yates(Jr); 6'5" Isiah Davis, Wheatley; 6'1" Roderick Toliver, Houston Sterling; 6'4" Willie Pierce, Yates; 6'3" Pat Luttrell(10.2), Milby; 6'4" Bryan Drummond(12.0), Milby; 6'4" Vincent Washington, Houston Davis: **2nd Team-** Chris Walker, Milby(Soph); Roger Sanders, Houston Sterling; Wilford Roquemore, Houston Austin; Arthur Thomas, Wheatley; Robert Gables, Houston Jones, "Coach of the Year" Wesley Boyd: (*) Unanimous

All-Houston Area-Houston Post:

M.V.P. -6'3" LaBradford Smith(25.2/14.0/8.3 assists) Bay City-Junior; **1st Team-** LaBradford Smith(25.2/14.0), Bay City; 6'2" Freddie Ricks(25.2/8.2), Humble; Chris Crease(22.3/11.5), Aldine; 6'5" Ivan Jones(13.4/10.0), Houston Madison; 6'7" Roderick Brown(18.5/7.0), Alief Hastings: **2nd Team-** 6'0" Charles McCovery(17.6), LaPorte(Jr); 6'2" Eddie Cumbo(23.0), Houston Wheatley; 6'2" Michael Hobbs(25.0), Clear Lake; 6'5" Boyd Fluellen(17.4/7.7), Pasadena; 6'7" Jeff Williams(13.0/7.2), Klein Oak; **3rd Team-** 6'2" David McDaniel, Houston Yates; 6'4" Mike Yard(14.2), Clements; 6'4" James Francis(25.0/17.6), LaMarque; 6'6" Howard Turner, Aldine MacArthur; 7'0" Johnny Pittman(10.0/11.9), Terry(Jr), "Coach of the Year" Wesley Boyd-Wheatley:

21-AAAAA

Aldine(24-6) captured the District title led by one of the top guards in the state in 6'2" Chris Crease(22.3/11.5). Crease was a move-in from Louisiana and took his talents to University of Houston after graduation. Aldine High lost their point guard, Gary Dean, to injury and Ronnie Burton to grades. Burton was considered their top defensive player. Dennis Green(13.6) proved to be valuable to Aldine throughout the season. Aldine MacArthur had a talented group, but were hit by grades and injuries and failed to make the playoffs. Early in the season MacArthur was one of the top teams in Houston.

Aldine showed potential in the pre-season with wins over Humble(20-10) 65-57 and Kashmere(14-11) 72-54. Losses for Aldine came against Humble(20-10) 55-54 and Wheatley(17-12) 73-69. Aldine(25-6) won a critical warm-up against Temple(24-8) 68-67 behind Chris Crease's 24 points. Willie Gilmore paced the Wildcats of Temple with 18 points and Chris Chavers put up 15 points.

Standings: Aldine(24-6) 8-2, Houston Smiley(12-16) 6-4, Aldine Nimitz(8-19) 5-5, Aldine Eisenhower(14-16) 5-5, Aldine MacArthur(20-11) 4-6, Forest Brook(7-17) 2-8:

All-District: 6'2" Chris Crease(22.3/11.5), Aldine; 6'5" Joffrey Jones, Aldine Eisenhower; Leon Horn, Houston Smiley; 6'1" Keith Royston, Aldine Nimitz; 6'7" Marvin Webb, Forest Brook; "MVP" Chris Crease, "Coach Of The Year" Rick Thompson, Aldine:

22-AAAAA

The big news in District 22-5A came in August when one of the top coaches in the state, Fred Williams of Beaumont Westbrook, decided to take the principal position at a high school in Kountze. Williams had previously been the head basketball coach in Kountze. Replacing Williams would be a difficult task. The three finalists for the job were Charles Breithaupt of Hardin Jefferson, Chris Coleman the assistant coach at Westbrook and Terry Culley of Silsbee. Breithaupt was given the job after seven seasons at Hardin Jefferson and 197-44 coaching record. Williams record was truly incredible. He won three district titles at Westbrook in his three seasons with the Bruins. Prior to that Williams had won three straight state championships at Beaumont Hebert. Williams was not going to be an easy act to follow.

In polling the District coaches before the season, they overwhelming picked Beaumont Pollard and Beaumont Westbrook as District favorites. James Fisher of Beaumont French said, "Pollard has the district's outstanding player in Archie Corbin and they have a lot of talent coming up from the junior varsity." Coach Travis Washington commented, "I look for Pollard to finish on top, with Westbrook right behind them. Nederland's coach Jim Weaver continued the love fest saying, "Pollard will probably be the front runner mainly because of Corbin. Westbrook is bigger than they have ever been and French and T.J. are going to be tough as always too." Coach White of Pollard said, "I only have one kid coming back." But that one player was 6'3" Archie Corbin, who put up some impressive numbers as a junior, 14.2 points and 8.0 rebounds. "Archie Corbin is a great

player” White said. Football quarterback, Duane Pritchett, also played a big role for Coach White. Joining Corbin and Pritchett for Pollard was one of the best sophomores in the state in 6’3” Daimon Sweet. Sweet eventually took his talents to Notre Dame and played professionally in Europe.

Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson looked to a move-in from West Orange-Stark, 6’5” Dennis Mouton, during the 1986 campaign. Joining Mouton in the T.J. line-up were Bobby Rawson, Lee Doucet, Frank Hamilton and Chris Sartin. 6’3” Broderick Lewis was the only returning starter for Beaumont French. West Orange Stark was excited about 6’4” Sam Willis, who transferred in from Jasper. Westbrook returning starters were 6’3” Tim Hickman and 6’1” Bobby Foster. Foster was a long-distance shooter and son of Pat Foster, the head man at Lamar University.

The two front-runners in the 22-5A were Beaumont Pollard(24-7) and Beaumont Westbrook(24-7). Nobody else looked to have the talent to make a run at the playoffs. The Cougars and the Bruins came into their first district contest with matching 5-0 records. Westbrook’s point guard, 6’1” Bobby Foster, made the key steal late and drove to the basket drawing the foul. Foster hit both foul shots to put the Bruins in control 73-69 with only 47 seconds in the second overtime. Westbrook took the lead in District 22-5A with a 74-71 double overtime victory. In the re-match, Pollard came away with their own overtime win over the Bruins 54-51. Archie Corbin put up 20 points for the Cougars.

West Orange-Stark(21-10) came out of nowhere to challenge for a playoff spot when they defeated Westbrook on the Mustangs home court 65-59. Westbrook had a strong inside game which basically overpowered W.O.S. in their loss against the Mustangs. “We did just what we wanted,” Coach Breithaupt of Westbrook said, “We pounded it inside, and they fouled us. We just didn’t come away with points.” The Bruins were only able to hit 29 of 40 foul shot attempts.

The Bruins of Westbrook lost their third District contest against lowly Nederland(13-17) 37-34. W.O.S. lost twice to Pollard(24-7) to give them three District losses as well. West Orange-Stark(21-10) had tied Westbrook(24-7) for 2nd place at 11-3, while Pollard(24-7) took the title at 13-1. It was the Cougars first District title since 1979.

Beaumont Westbrook looked to have the advantage as the Bruins and West Orange-Stark prepared for their District playoff game. Westbrook’s strong inside game looked to be the difference in the two teams. 6’3” Tim Hickman(18.0), 6’4” Talbert Avery(13.0), Bobby Foster(14.0) and 5’9” Michael Denning. Denning was called the backbone of the Bruins defense by Coach Gamble of Pt. Arthur Lincoln. Coach Breithaupt of Westbrook commented, “We’ve got the height advantage, and we’ve got to use it to our advantage.”

West Orange Stark on the other hand relied on their perimeter game led by 6’2” Michael Chavis(20.0) and 6’1” Cedric Caesar(15.0). The backcourt combo had combined for 2/3 of the scoring in the win over Westbrook. “The two shooters

are the key to their game,” Breithaupt explained. “We have got to do a better job covering them.”

The play-in game between West Orange-Stark(21-10) and Beaumont Westbrook(24-7) was played in Port Neches in front of a sparse crowd of 800 fans. 6’2” Michael Chavis(19.8) proved to be the difference with 14 of his 28 points coming the critical 4th quarter. The Mustangs advanced with a 62-56 win over Westbrook. His 6’1” side kick, Cedric Caesar, added 17 points to the W.O.S. cause. Ivory Roberts provided some critical ball-handling for the victorious Mustangs. The win put Coach Travis Weatherspoon’s troops into the playoffs for the first time since 1983. Coach Breithaupt of Westbrook said following the heartbreaking loss, “their quickness just overcame us.” W.O.S. ran a man to man defense which forced the Bruins into 16 second half turnovers. The Mustangs were able to outscore Westbrook 37-24 in the second half. “We found a weakness in their ball-handling, and as a result came up with the turnovers,” Weatherspoon said. “Chavis played great,” Breithaupt said following the game. “He hurt us with those breakaways and steals.” Tim Hickman paced the Bruins with 17 points.

Standings: Beaumont Pollard(24-7) 13-1, Beaumont Westbrook(24-7) 11-3, West Orange-Stark(21-10) 11-3, Beaumont French(13-15) 6-8, Nederland(13-17) 5-9, Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson(12-18) 5-9, Pt.Neches-Groves(9-17) 5-9, Vidor(1-25) 0-14.

All-District Pt. Arthur News: 1st Team- 6’4” Archie Corbin(17.1) Pollard “MVP”, 6’2” Michael Chavis(19.8) WOS, 6’4” Tim Hickman(17.4) Westbrook, 6’3” Damon Sweet(12.0) Pollard, 6’1” Cedric Ceasar(15.5) WOS: 2nd Team- 5’9” Columbus Wise(14.2) French, 6’1” Brian Hefner(13.8) Nederland, 6’5” Dennis Mouton(16.6) Thomas Jefferson, 6’1” Robert Nobles(16.4) PNG, 6’1” Bobby Fisher(12.4) Westbrook. “Coach of the Year” went to Travis Weatherspoon of WOS, named **Honorable Mention**- Ivory Roberts-WOS, Duane Pritchett-Pollard, Robert Johnson-Pollard, Mike Sinclair-Pollard, Talbert Avery-Westbrook:

T.A.B.C. All-Region team: Tim Hickman of Beaumont Westbrook(2nd team), Archie Corbin of Beaumont Pollard(3rd team), Michael Chavis of West Orange Stark(3rd team):

23-AAAAA

Pasadena(25-7) captured the District title defeating Baytown Sterling(22-11) twice 66-61 and 66-55 in overtime. Pasadena Dobie(23-10) handed Pasadena(25-7) their only District loss 50-42. Baytown Sterling(22-11) and Pasadena Dobie(23-10) tied for second place with 10-4 records. The two teams split during the regular season with both games coming down to the final shot. Deer Park was the site of the District Playoff game between Baytown Sterling and Pasadena Dobie according to District minutes. Coach Woody Walker of Baytown Sterling was excited to be back at Deer Park Gym, “we’ve won six in a row there, including bi-district last year over Clear Lake. We feel good about the whole situation. We’ll play our best and have no excuses. A lot of people would like to be in our situation.”

Baytown Sterling(22-11) took a convincing 74-52 win over Pasadena Dobie(23-10) and moved into the playoffs. The turning point in the contest seemed to be when Coach Scott Talton of Dobie went with a bigger line-up for rebounding

purposes. Coach Walker of Sterling immediately went to full-court pressure, which turned the game in the Rangers favor. By halftime, Sterling had a commanding 40-17 lead. "When we saw Dobie go with that tall line-up in the first quarter, we knew we would press," Coach Walker explained.

All-District: District "M.V.P." 6'3" Rob Jannise(16.3/8.5)-Baytown Sterling, **1st Team:** 6'0" Boyd Fluellen(16.0/7.0)-Pasadena, 6'2" Zul-Tan Jackson(16.1/8.8)-Pasadena Dobie, 6'5" Jim Walstead-Baytown Lee, 6'0" Alvin Jones-Baytown Sterling, 6'3" Jeff Wylie-Pasadena, Spencer Cook-Pasadena Rayburn, 6'6" Robbie Wallace-Deer Park, 6'4" James Holcomb(17.9)-South Houston, Frank Garcia-Pasadena: "Coach of Year" Phil Eaton of Pasadena.

Standings: Pasadena(25-7) 13-1, Baytown Sterling(22-11) 10-4, Pasadena Dobie(25-10) 10-4, Pasadena Rayburn(20-11) 8-6, Deer Park(20-14) 6-8, Baytown Lee(12-17) 6-8, South Houston(4-27) 2-12, Galena Park Northshore(6-23) 1-13:

24-AAAAA

The big news in this 24-5A was that Clear Lake didn't win District. The Falcons and Coach Bill Krueger returned only one starter, Junior Glass. Krueger was relying heavily on a transfer from Corpus Christi named Michael Hobbs. The 6'3" Hobbs carried the Falcons during the '86 campaign. The new District kingpin was the Bulldogs of LaPorte.

LaPorte had a very young and talented group coached by Tom Holland. The Bulldogs entered their first meeting with Clear Lake supporting a 5-0 District mark, while the Falcons were 4-1, having lost to LaMarque 76-71. Clear Lake was tough to beat on their home court and ended the Bulldog's 13-game winning streak 77-72. At the end of the first round of District, LaMarque and LaPorte stood atop the standings with 6-1 records, while Clear Lake came in at 5-2, having lost to arch rival Clear Creek 64-60 in the last game of the first round.

In LaMarque's 76-71 victory over Clear Lake, 6'4" James Francis(25.0/17.6) paced LaMarque with 28 points. LaPorte had gotten by LaMarque earlier in District action 71-67 on their home court. LaPorte's dynamite trio of 6'3" Tommy Washington, 6'1" Charles McCovery(17.4/7.7) and 6'6" William Gooden(13.7) combined for 61 of their teams 71 total points in the Bulldog's win over LaMarque.

In the second-round action, Clear Lake got LaMarque on their home court and defeated the Cougars 55-54, behind Hobbs 29 points. Clear Lake went to their spread offense early and often. The Falcons ran four-corners whenever they got the lead. "We wanted to slow things down and fortunately we were able to hold them to 54 points," Krueger said. The Falcons also were able to limit James Francis to just 15 points. LaMarque's head man, Coach Bill Sinches, said he was not surprised that Krueger went to the spread. "He knows me and I know him well," Sinches said. "The difference was they hit their foul shots and we didn't." The loss put LaMarque and Clear Lake tied at 7-2, a game behind LaPorte.

LaPorte faced LaMarque and Clear Lake in back to back games for the District lead. The Bulldogs traveled to LaMarque and handed the Cougars a 72-66

loss. The Bulldogs scoring trio of McCovery, Gooden and Washington produced 20, 15 and 13 points respectfully. Things looked bad for Coach Holland as Gooden and McCovery were both in early foul trouble against LaMarque. Holland left McCovery in the game playing with three fouls. The 6'1" junior responded well carrying his team in the first half. Holland was commenting of the how strong LaMarque was inside with 6'4" James Francis(25.0), 6'5" Clifton Jones and 6'4" Brian Johns(12.7/9.9). Francis played in the N.F.L. for several years, Johns played basketball at Lamar University in Beaumont and Jones played at Midland J.C. How's that for a front line in high school basketball. "We don't have anybody who can guard Francis," Holland said. "So, we played a 2-3, you can't play a half-court game with LaMarque, because they are so big. We're smaller than almost everybody we play, but we're quicker and shoot well." LaPorte dominated the foul line hitting 18 of 24 free throws, while the Cougars managed only 2 of 4 for the game.

For James Francis of LaMarque the season was very distracting. Francis was considered the top football recruit in the state at 6'4" 225 pounds and running 4.7 (40-yard dash). "You saw it when we played LaPorte," Coach Sinches said, "there were college coaches lining the walls of the gym, I would prefer them to be in the stands as not to distract James." Francis followed his older brother, Ron, to Baylor. Ron was an all-conference cornerback with the Bears. James went on to have a brilliant career at Baylor and was the 12th over-all pick in the N.F.L. draft by the Bengals in 1990. He was all-pro and played ten seasons in the league. He was an incredible physical specimen.

After LaPorte's big win over LaMarque, Coach Holland was discussing the last time LaPorte had won a District title. Thirty-four years ago, in 1952, was the last time the Bulldogs took home the title. LaPorte had a chance to win the title outright at home against Clear Lake. The Bulldogs captured the school's first District title in any sport in 34 years defeating Clear Lake 63-59.

That left LaMarque(15-7) and Clear Lake(24-9) forced to face each other a third time to decide who would advance to the playoffs. Coach Sinches commented on coaching a talent like Francis, "it's a once in a lifetime deal, I feel pretty fortunate to have a kid like that. The man gave him some tools to work with and he knows how to use them, we know where to go with the ball." The Cougars starting lineup joining Francis was made up of Brian Johns, Clifton Jones, Kenneth Howard and Thomas Jackson. For Coach Sinches, it was an all senior line-up. In preparing for Clear Lake, Sinches realized they would have to deal with one of the top guards in the state in Michael Hobbs, as well as four corners.

Coach Bill Sinches of LaMarque was not a happy camper after his team's 66-64 loss to Clear Lake. "Cheap-ass fouls," Sinches said. "You can quote me on that, I don't care, you can put it in the paper." The two players that the Cougars could not afford to lose against Clear Lake hardly played in the second half, James Francis and Kenneth Howard. Francis fouled out after picking up four fouls in the

first half. Francis put up 17 points in the first half and 11 in the first quarter alone. The talented Francis sat out the entire 3rd quarter and fouled out 2 minutes 15 seconds into the 4th quarter. He finished the game with only 17 points.

Kenneth Howard, the Cougars point guard, had three first half fouls and was gone 70 seconds into the 3rd period. Brian Johns had his 4th foul with 1:42 left in the 3rd quarter. Clear Lake on the other hand had no players with over two fouls. "I don't let my players get in foul trouble," Krueger said. "When a kid gets two, I take him out so he doesn't get a third." Playing without Francis and Howard in the 3rd quarter, the Cougars only managed 11 points during the period and lost the lead late in the period. Hobbs nailed down the victory for the Falcons hitting two foul shots with 33 seconds remaining in the game. Hobbs finished with 25 points and Junior Glass knocked down 21 points for Coach Krueger. "Hobbs is one of the best athletes I've coached," Krueger said. "I feel fortunate to coach him. I've never had a better move-in, he's a big reason we are where we're at."

All-District: "Most Valuable Player" 6'1" Charles McCovery(17.6)-LaPorte, "Coach Of The Year" Tom Holland-LaPorte: **1st Team-** 6'7" London McWhorter-Clear Creek, 6'3" Michael Hobbs(25.0)-Clear Lake, 6'3" Jerald Temple-Galveston Ball, 6'4" James Francis(25.0/17.6)-LaMarque, 6'1" Randy Pryor(20.5)-Pearland, 5'11" Lawrence Crayton-Texas City, 6'6" William Gooden(13.7/8.2)-LaPorte, 6'1" Junior Glass-Clear Lake, 6'1" Kevin Cooper-Dickinson: **2nd Team-** Tommy Glover, Clear Creek; Aubrey Pearson, Clear Creek; Chris Walker, Galveston Ball; Brian Johns(12.7/9.9), LaMarque; Clifton Jones(7.3 reb), LaMarque; Arron Smith, LaPorte; Freddie Harris, LaPorte; Wade Mangja,, Pearland; F. Williams, Dickinson:

Standings: LaPorte(27-5) 13-1, Clear Lake(24-9) 11-3, LaMarque(15-7) 11-3, Galveston Ball(16-12) 6-8, Clear Creek(15-16) 5-9, Pearland(15-14) 5-9, Texas City(9-21) 3-11, Dickinson(12-19) 2-12:

Playoffs

In what Coach Boyce Honea of Houston Milby called one of the best high school basketball games ever, Houston Milby(20-11) lost in overtime to Houston Kashmere(18-11) 82-79. The Buffaloes led the majority of the contest, but began to tire late in the game. This opened the door for the Rams, as the Kashmere came from five points down with 50 seconds to advance. Kashmere forced four turnovers and scored eight points to pick up the big win. The turning point in the game was a charging foul in overtime on sophomore guard, Chris Walker of Milby. The talented Walker left the game and with him went the Milby hopes of handling the Kashmere press. "We didn't have a plan, I think that was obvious. We didn't have any timeouts left. The kids were on their own and panicked," Coach Boyce Honea said.

Coach Honea told me years later that coaches were coming down to the court to congratulate him late in the contest only to see his team lose... The game was a complete shocker to everyone. 6'6" Brian Walker led the Rams in scoring with 22 points and 6'4" Shone Wyatt finished with 21, Derwin Blackshear added 18 points and 6'5" Nathaniel Curvey had 14 points. Bryne Drummond was the leader for Milby scoring 21 points, Chris Walker added 15 points, as did Pat Lutrell.

Kashmere(18-11) advanced to the second round of the playoffs against a strong Alief Hastings(27-6) squad. Hastings had defeated Houston Madison(19-11) in Bi-District 59-57. 6'7" Roderick Brown was the ace for Hastings and went-off for 23 points against Madison.

The Rams continued their story book season winning another unlikely game over Alief Hastings(28-7) 57-56. The critical play was 6'4" Nate Curvey's block against Roderick Brown late, to preserve the Rams victory with only four seconds remaining. Curvey also hit the game winning bucket for the Rams with 47 seconds remaining. The Rams Shone Wyatt was in foul trouble throughout the game and fouled out in the 4th quarter. Curvey led Kashmere with 22 points and Roderick Brown paced Hastings with 22 points. Hastings had come back after being down 14 points at halftime to take the lead. Kashmere(19-11) advanced to regionals for the first time since 1980.

Clear Lake(27-9) and West Orange Stark(24-10) went at it for the right to advance to the regionals. W.O.S. had beaten Aldine(25-6) in Bi-District 51-47. Clear Lake had advanced with a 53-41 victory over Pasadena(25-8). The Falcons were paced the talented Michael Hobbs. The gifted senior put up 32 points in Clear Lake's win over Pasadena. Against W.O.S., the Falcons had to deal one of the top backcourts in the state in Michael Chavis and Cedric Ceasar. The tandem had a combined 44 points in the Mustangs win over Aldine. In talking with WOS coach, Travis Weatherspoon years later he commented, "Chavis could go coast to coast off the glass and Cedric could really stroke it from outside. Wish we would have had the three-point line." Chavis went on to make small college All-American at Sul Ross.

The Falcons of Clear Lake made 11 of 13 foul shots down the stretch to come away with a 67-63 victory over West Orange Stark. Caesar finished with 20 points and Chavis added 19 in the losing cause for the Mustangs. 6'3" Michael Hobbs showed why he was one of the best to ever play for Coach Bill Krueger finishing with 31 points. Hobbs also made a key steal late to decide the game.

The third member of the regional final four was LaPorte(28-5). The Bulldogs were the new kids on the block not having been in the playoffs since 1952. LaPorte opened playoffs with an opponent they were very familiar with, Baytown Sterling(23-11). Sterling had lost to LaPorte on three previous occasions. Sterling had plenty of playoff experience making their fourth straight trip.

As the game approached, Coach Walker of Baytown Sterling was asked about 6'1" Charles McCovery(17.6) of LaPorte. "I don't think we will stop him," Walker said, "we'll do the best we can to hold him below his average. He's the one you look to first, but Aaron Smith shoots lights out against us." Walker continued, "Freddie Harris is a real team player and gets a lot of assists. You have to watch 6'6" William Gooden on the dunks, they like to hit him with the lob pass. With LaPorte you've got to stop five players, not one." Coach Walker said he planned on

pressing LaPorte even though the Bulldogs have good ball handlers. "The press is part of our game," Walker said.

Coach Holland of LaPorte said he considered Rob Jannise to be Sterling's best player, but Alvin Jones also impressed the head man at LaPorte. LaPorte and Baytown Sterling played their Bi-District clash at Deer Park High School.

LaPorte(29-5) defeat Baytown Sterling(23-12) for a fourth time 81-70 and advanced to the second round against Beaumont Pollard(25-7). The Bulldogs took control of the contest in the 2nd quarter outscoring Sterling 27-11. "It was a disappointing loss," Coach Walker said. "But you'd have to say we lost to a better team. We tried just about everything we knew, but we didn't always execute as well as we could have."

McCoverly finished with 27 points and 10 rebounds, while Gooden put up 19 points and Washington added 15 and Freddie Harris kicked in 10 points. A sobering thought to next year's opponents is all those players were juniors. Rob Jannise and Stanley both scored 16 points for Sterling in a losing cause.

LaPorte's next opponent was Pollard(25-7) out of Beaumont. Pollard had advanced to the regional finals the previous year and had an outstanding program. Pollard downed Houston Smiley(12-17) in the first round of the playoffs 72-66. Duane Pritchett propelled Pollard in their win over Smiley with 26 points. Robert Johnson's outside shooting was a key to Pollard's success and 6'4" Archie Corbin(17.1) was considered Pollard's best player. Corbin had won the District M.V.P. award. 6'4" Michael Sinclair was also a key player inside for Pollard. Coach Holland of LaPorte said that Pollard reminded him a lot of LaMarque, another athletic team LaPorte faced in District. Holland was concerned about the Cougars 1-3-1 zone defense mainly because they had not faced the defense much during the season. "Size-wise we're pretty close. Their guards are taller than ours, but their post are shorter. They're well-balanced and well-disciplined. They'll press a little, not all the time," Coach Holland said.

The game for LaPorte(30-5) was won on the backboards as the Bulldogs outrebounded Pollard 51 to 25. LaPorte's press troubled Pollard and propelled the Bulldogs took a 38-28 advantage. LaPorte advanced with a 81-68 victory. McCoverly was used as a decoy at the foul line hitting teammates underneath for easy baskets. McCoverly finished with 15/15/8 assists and 6'6" Gooden put up 24 points for the Bulldogs with 20 rebounds. Archie Corbin led Pollard(25-8) with 21 points and 11 rebounds and Robert Johnson finished with 22 points.

This was Pollard's last hurrah as the school. Pollard was merged with Beaumont French into a new school called, Beaumont Central. West Orange Stark also left the District, as they moved down to class 4-A. Pollard ended the season with a 25-8 record with four losses coming at the hands of Pt. Arthur Lincoln. For LaPorte, it was on to regionals.

Wheatley(17-12) entered the state playoffs without longtime coach Jackie Carr on the sideline for the first time since 1970. Wheatley's 6'2" Eddie Cumbo brought back images of Eddie Owens and Dwight Jones from years gone by. Cumbo put up 48 points in the Wildcats 92-75 bi-district win over Houston Sam Houston(22-8). This was the top performance of the 5-A playoffs and one of the great scoring outputs of all-time. Cumbo was such a great athlete having passed for 2800 yards on the football field. Anthony Johnson was top man for the Tigers of Sam Houston with 20 points.

Wheatley's second round opponent was an old rival, Houston Worthing(15-17). The Colts had eliminated Alief Elsik(18-13) from the playoffs 73-69 in Bi-District. Troy Jenkins was the leader for Worthing with 22 points and Barry Johnson added 18 in the victory. Darryl Brown paced Elsik with 23 points.

Houston Wheatley(18-12) continued their playoff run defeating Houston Worthing 104-83. Eddie Cumbo came up big once again with 27 points and Isiah Davis threw down 23 points. Ernest Prevost led Worthing's attack with 34 points. Wheatley was reported to put down 12 slam dunks in the contest. **WOW!** Do you love this game?

Regionals Semis

Houston Kashmere(19-11), Houston Wheatley(19-12) and Clear Lake(26-9) represented the old guard in Region III. These three programs had dominated Houston basketball through-out the 1970s and 1980s. LaPorte(30-5), was of course, was a program people really weren't too familiar with. According to Bill McMurray of the Houston Chronicle, LaPorte was considered the regional favorites. Clear Lake and LaPorte were both very familiar with one another having both come out of the same District. The two had split their District games. Clear Lake had to win a District playoff game against LaMarque to advance to the playoffs. Also, the Golden Triangle was left out of regionals for the first time since 1982. It was only the second time in eight seasons the area was not represented. Beaumont Pollard in 1979 and 1985, Pt. Arthur Lincoln in 1980 and 81, West Orange Stark in 1983 and Beaumont Westbrook in 1983, 84 and 85.

The Rams of Kashmere(19-11) had been living on the edge throughout the playoffs. They had defeated Milby in overtime and downed Alief Hasting by one point. They continued their playoff run with an exciting 65-61 win over Clear Lake. With the scored tied at 61, Lake was running their usual delay game. Lake's Michael Hobbs was fouled, putting the talented senior on the line with 34 second remaining. Hobbs missed both attempts, opening the door for some late game heroics by Kashmere's Lee Jackson. With 14 seconds left in the game, Jackson hit a 10-foot jumper to put the Rams up 63-61. Kevin Cohn had an opportunity to tie the score for Clear Lake, but his shot fell short. 6'6" Brian Walker of Kashmere came away with the rebound and was fouled immediately. Walker hit both foul shots, making the final read 65-61.

6'5" Shone Wyatt led Kashmere with 24 points and Nate Curvey added 15. Hobbs paced Clear Lake with 20 points. Kashmere was back in the regional finals for the first time since 1980.

Wheatley(20-12) joined Kashmere(19-12) in the regional finals with a tough double overtime win over LaPorte(30-5) 80-78. The scored was knotted at 72 apiece at the end of regulation. Wheatley held the ball during the first overtime, but failed to score, setting up the second overtime. Cumbo came away with the winning bucket to give coach Wesley Boyd the win. Cumbo was incredible once again finishing with 38 points. 6'5" Isiah Davis and 6'7" Willie Williams were forces inside putting up 18 and 10 points respectfully. Williams also added 10 rebounds. Two juniors spearheaded the Bulldog attack. 6'6" William Gooden paced LaPorte with 19 points and Charles "Smokey" McCovery could only manage 10 points.

Regional Final

Wheatley(21-12) and Kashmere(20-12) battled each other for the fourth time during the 1986 campaign to see who would advance to state. Two of the state's great programs went at it once again. Kashmere had advanced to state in 1974, 1975 and 1980. Wheatley had been a regular participant at state in the 1970s. The team's featured two of the biggest front lines in high school basketball. The difference would be the guard play of Wheatley with standout Eddie Cumbo. The Wildcats advanced to state defeating rival Kashmere 67-54. Although the Rams had won all three of the previous meetings between the two teams, they were unable to win a fourth. First year coach Wesley Boyd of Wheatley said, "It's a dream come true." Unlike the previous teams from Wheatley, Coach Boyd preferred to run a more disciplined offense, using the fast break when possible. Cumbo continued his scoring with 22 points, but struggled from the floor hitting only 6 of 20 field goals. He made up for his slump knocking down 10 of 11 free throws. Big 6'7" Willie Williams had 22 points and 20 rebounds. Yes, those are correct numbers in a 32 minutes high school game. Cumbo finished the evening with 22 points, 10 rebounds and 5 assists. Williams and Cumbo combined for 44 points and 30 rebounds. 6'5" Nathaniel Curvey paced Kashmere with 19 points and 6'4" Shone Wyatt added 11.

Williams was in foul trouble throughout picking up this 4th foul mid-way through the 3rd quarter. Kashmere responded immediately with a 9-2 run, closing the gap to 47-46 with just 1:08 left in the quarter. Kashmere had some great opportunities late to close the gap, but failed. Curvey and Brian Walker both missed front ends of one and one opportunities.

Region IV Playoffs

Strafford Dulles(28-6)

South San Antonio(26-6)

Corpus Christi Miller(21-5)

Austin Johnston(30-2) #7

Austin High(21-8)

S.A. Sam Houston(23-8)

McAllen(22-7)

Shultz-Clements(24-10)

San Antonio Churchill(23-5)
S.A. East Central(27-2)
Converse-Judson(30-4)
Victoria Stroman(18-9)

San Antonio Holmes(25-8)
San Antonio Marshall(19-12)
San Antonio Burbank(18-12)
Harlingen(29-2) #16

Top Players in Region IV

6'2"	Jason Shead	Austin Johnston
6'0"	Darrell McGee	Corpus Christi King
6'7"	Deshone Wingate	Austin Lanier
6'8"	Kevin Ruffcorn	Austin High
6'1"	Mike Howze	Corpus Christi Miller
6'6"	Fred Battles	Converse Judson

Region IV was much more competitive than the previous seasons. Several teams from San Antonio looked very strong along with Austin Johnston from the state capital. Austin Johnston(30-2) was the only state ranked team from region IV, but as we know that means little. S.A. Churchill(23-5), S.A. East Central(27-2) and Converse Judson(30-4) were all very competitive coming out of San Antonio. Remember this region encompassed three major cities, Corpus Christi, Austin and San Antonio. Region II placed three teams in my final top 10 and same three in my top 25.

25-AAAAA

The District was very close with Dulles coming away with the title followed by Clements. Dulles(28-6) anchors were 6'7" Daniel Koenigs(18.5/10.0), 6'0" Randy Kerbow(14.4) and Mike House. Coach Paul Benton had moved to Dulles from Houston Madison and continued his run on District titles winning his 13th straight. Clements(24-10) made the playoffs paced by 6'4" Michael Yard(14.2)

Dulles took out Klein Forest(20-10) 70-54 in the pre-season along with Houston Washington(18-11) 70-68, Memorial(23-9) 60-38 and Alief Elsik(18-12) 68-59. Losses came at the hands of Aldine MacArthur(20-11) 55-54, Alief Hastings(27-5) 72-61 and Pearland(15-14) 79-70.

Standings: Strafford Dulles(28-6) 11-3, Shultz-Clements(24-10) 10-4, Willowridge(23-10) 9-5, Angleton(19-12) 9-5, Terry(17-15) 8-6, Alvin(13-18) 5-9, Brazoswood(15-16), 3-11, Lamar Consolidated(9-21) 1-13:

All-District: 1st Team-6'7" Daniel Koenigs(18.5/10.0), Dulles; 6-4 Michael Yard(14.2), Clements; 7'0" Johnny Pittman(16.1/11.9), Terry; 6'0" Randy Kerbow(14.4), Dulles; 6'6" Bruce Brewer, Angleton; 5'8" Henry Goliightly, Willowridge; **2nd Team-** Rodney Terry, Angleton; Darrell Alexander, Alvin; Joseph Randon, Terry; Mike House, Dulles; Will Wasson, Alvin: "Coach of the Year" Paul Benton-Dulles, "MVP" 6'7" Daniel Koenigs(18.5/10.0)-Dulles; "Sophomore of the Year" Joseph Randon-Terry:

26-AAAAA

Austin Lanier was forced to forfeit 12 games for playing and ineligible player. This was big news, as the schools scrambled to see how the games would affect the District standings. The forfeits allowed L.B.J.(18-12) to take the North Zone title and Austin McCallum(14-13) and Austin Reagan(14-15) were forced to

have a playoff for runner-up spot. Reagan won the playoff game against McCallum 48-43 to advance into the state playoffs. Richard Paxton propelled Reagan to victory with 16 points. 6'5" Calvin Thompson led McCallum with 18 points.

Austin Reagan(15-15) now had to travel to meet Austin Johnston(28-2) in a District semi-final match-up. Johnston won the South Zone and Reagan was the North Zone runner-up. In the other semi-final game, South Zone runner-up Austin High(20-7) faced Austin L.B.J.(18-12). The teams met at the Burger Center.

Austin Johnston(28-2) got by Reagan 72-62 advancing to the District championship game. The Rams placed five players in double figures with their balanced attack. Austin High(20-7) showed the supremacy of the South Zone defeating Austin L.B.J.(18-12) 55-52. 6'8" Kevin Ruffcorn was impressive finishing with 22 points and 17 rebounds for the Austin High Maroons. Austin L.B.J. finished the season 18-13.

The playoffs never ended in District 26-5A. The District championship game was set between Austin Johnston(29-2) and Austin High(21-7). The Rams had defeated Austin High previously fairly easily 79-64 and 81-64 in District action. Johnston Coach Tony Castillo felt pressure on the Maroons guards would be the key to winning coming into the contest.

The Austin Johnston Rams forced 21 turnovers and won a tough 57-52 decision. 6'8" Ruffcorn still managed to dominate for the Maroons finishing with 20 points and 15 rebounds. The game actually came down to the foul line where the Rams hit 14 of 16 free throws and Austin managed only 4 of 6 from the stripe. "It's awfully tough to beat a team three times in one season," Johnston's Coach Tony Castillo said. Balanced scoring was the key for the Rams with Roy Nieto(12.0/10.0) and Jason Shead(17.0) both finishing with 17 points.

Standings: **North Zone**-Austin L.B.J.(18-12) 6-2, Austin McCallum(13-13) 5-3, Austin Reagan(13-15) 5-3, Austin Lanier(5-23) 3-5, Austin Anderson(2-22) 1-7: Lanier was forced to forfeit 12 games due to the transfer of Steve Freeland from Waelder. The proper paperwork was not filled out. Ernie Azies was the Lanier coach. **South Zone**-Austin Johnston(28-2) 8-0, Austin High(20-7) 6-2, Austin Travis(15-17) 2-6, San Marcos(9-19) 2-6, Austin Crockett(6-18) 2-6:

All-Central Texas by the Austin American-Statesman: 6'1" Jason Shead(17.0/7.0 assists), Austin Johnston; 6'8" Kevin Ruffcorn, Austin High; 6'5" Willie Gilmore, Temple; 6'6" Thomas Miller, Killeen; 6'5" Tilo Schmidt, New Braunfels; 6'0" Chris Proctor, Georgetown; 6'3" David Ohradzansky, Round Rock Westwood; 6'2" Pat Leonard(24.0/11.0), Dripping Springs; 6'6" Jay Hobbs(31.7) Johnson City; 6'6" Deshone Wingate, Austin Lanier: Coach of the Year-Tony Castillo-Austin Johnston and Poe Shelton of Dripping Springs:

27-AAAAA

You are always going to get an argument when discussing the state strongest District. District 27-5A had to be in the conversation for sure in 1986. Highly ranked San Antonio Churchill(23-5) came into District undefeated. Converse Judson(30-4) took the Optimist Tournament and their only losses had come to Churchill during pre-district. Seguin(21-11) had so many impressive wins coming into District it's hard to mention all of them. The Matadors beat Bryan(27-6) 60-56,

Killeen(20-9) 45-34, Alamo Heights(22-11) 53-39, New Braunfels(21-9) 69-49, Houston Madison(19-10) 66-54 and East Central(27-2) 78-73. S.A. Roosevelt(21-9) had another outstanding team with a new coach Jim Whatley. Whatley replaced 17-year veteran Jerry Tyson. S.A. MacArthur(18-7) had a very competitive squad as well and would make things interesting.

After the first round of District action five teams were tied for first place at 4-2. S.A. Churchill, Seguin, S.A. Roosevelt, Converse-Judson and S.A. MacArthur all were tied at the top. After the smoke cleared, the two games between Churchill and Judson played key roles in deciding the playoffs representatives.

Coming into the first showdown between SA Churchill and Converse Judson, the Chargers looked to have a definite advantage over the Judson Rockets. Churchill held two previous wins over Judson. The state polls had both teams in the top five in the state rankings. The critical game took place at the Blossom Center. The Chargers continued their mastery over Judson for their third victory 59-53. In one of the most amazing comebacks that I have covered, Churchill out-scored Judson 24-1 in the 4th quarter, after being down 47-30 late in the 3rd quarter. In their big comeback, the Chargers got away from their full-court man defense and went to full-court zone pressure. "We couldn't stop them," Coach Jim Shuler of Judson said. "I don't know what we could have done to stop them. It just got totally out of hand," Shuler said.

Coach Bobby Murphy of Churchill felt the slow start against Judson was due to the previous loss to S.A. MacArthur on Tuesday. "I think we were a little down coming into the game after you win 17 in row and lose in overtime, it's just human nature to be down a little bit," Murphy said.

Coupled between the big victory over Judson, the Chargers lost two games to S.A. MacArthur(18-7) 66-64 in overtime and S.A. Roosevelt(21-9) 69-62. The Rough Riders of Roosevelt got 42 points out of their inside game in Alton Glasco and Mark Juvette in the victory. Coach Whatley of Roosevelt was very complimentary of Churchill after the upset win, "they're stronger than anyone in the district, man to man they're probably got six or seven players who can play tough inside."

Judson second loss in the first half competition came against Seguin 51-50. In front of a sellout crowd in Seguin, the Matadors looked good early jumping out to a 15-8 lead. Seguin's standout forward, Anthony Davis, picked up his 3rd foul with 3:19 remaining in the first half. Judson was able to take advantage and led 29-23 halftime. Judson's resurgence was led by the outside shooting of Greg Prescott and Chris Keith. Late in the 4th quarter, Seguin's Jay Paul Roy led the charge by the Matadors scoring six straight points. This set up the heroics for Johnny Bibbs, who hit the winning foul shot with two seconds on the clock. The Rockets of Judson missed the front end of five one and one situations with-in the last three minutes of the game. For the Matadors, the win was big because other than Churchill,

nobody had beaten Judson on the season. 6'6" Fred Battles and Prescott paced the Rockets in scoring with 15 points each, while Thomas Gipson finished with 15 points for the Matadors and Jay Paul Roy kicked in 16 points. Standout Anthony Davis was held to only nine points by Judson.

Converse-Judson(30-4) returned to the winning column with a 55-52 win over stubborn S.A. MacArthur(18-7). For the Rockets, it was their fourth victory over MacArthur. "I don't know," Coach Shuler of Judson said, "How many times can you beat a good team? I asked myself that before the game." Judson was playing without standout post, 6'6" Fred Battles, who was out with a sprained ankle. 6'6" Torrence Wilkerson replaced Battles and was 10 of 16 from the floor with 17 rebounds.

Seguin(21-11) stayed in the District race with a critical 76-73 overtime victory over S.A. Roosevelt(21-9). Anthony Davis and Thomas Gipson paced the Matadors with 24 and 21 points. Arthur Massey led the Rough Riders with 22 points. S.A. Roosevelt turned right around and defeated S.A. MacArthur(18-7) 67-58 to return to the winning column. The feeling didn't last long as Judson(30-4) snuck away with a heartbreaking 55-54 over Roosevelt(21-9). Torrance Wilkerson was once again big for Judson with his turnaround jumper from the baseline with 22 seconds left, to secure the victory.

Seguin(21-11) fell to 6-3 after their 61-53 loss to Churchill(23-5). Churchill and Judson emerged at the top of the heap with 6-2 records. "It's the most balanced district I've ever been in and it seems anybody we play is tough," Churchill's Bobby Murphy explained.

The 2nd big District show down between Converse-Judson and Churchill and 4th overall, was a tremendous challenge for Judson. Churchill had won the three previous meetings between the two rivals by a total of nine points. Coach Bobby Murphy of Churchill commented, "Well I think it's a plus, we know we can beat them." A big factor in the upcoming game was Judson's home court advantage. The Rockets were undefeated at home. "We have trouble matching up with them," Coach Shuler of Judson said, "their guards are big and quick, ours are little and quick. That's a matchup problem. As big as their guards are, they can really dominate a game."

For Judson, it was déjà vu, having led the District loop the previous season only to miss the playoffs with a late season collapse. Judson finished 23-9 in 1985 and lost a District playoff game against S.A. Roosevelt for a chance to advance to the playoffs. The collapse was in the back of everybody's mind as they entered the Churchill contest.

There was no collapse this time, as Judson(30-4) came through with an impressive 66-64 win over the Chargers. Battles provided 26 points, as the Rockets moved to 8-2 in District and Churchill fell to 7-3. The Chargers had entered District

undefeated and were fighting for their life to make the playoffs. S.A. Roosevelt(21-9) and Seguin(21-11) were close behind at 6-4.

Coach Shuler felt his team's ability to handle the pressure was the difference this time against Churchill. Also, Judson converted 22 of 28 free throws, while Churchill could only manage 12 of 23. Lawrence Frazier was impressive for Churchill finishing with 31 points in a losing effort. "He's some player, I'll tell you. He's just the kind of guy who's going to score. It doesn't matter whether you've got guys all over him," Shuler said. Churchill's record on the season against Judson was now 3-1.

The Chargers corralled a playoff spot with their 60-56 win over S.A. Roosevelt(21-9) after MacArthur(18-7) eliminated Seguin(21-11) 64-54. The Matadors had a late season collapse, which was hard to explain. Seguin lost three straight against lowly S.A. Lee(4-22), S.A. MacArthur(18-7) and Judson(30-4). On the other hand, Converse-Judson ran the table late in the season with wins over S.A. Roosevelt(21-9) 55-54, S.A. Churchill 66-64, S.A. Lee(4-22) in overtime 68-58. In the last game of District, Churchill fell to lowly S.A. Madison(9-21) 70-61 to give them their 4th loss. Judson and Churchill looked to be two of the top teams in the Region IV playoff race.

Standings: Converse Judson(30-4) 10-2, San Antonio Churchill(23-5) 8-4, S.A. MacArthur(18-7) 7-5, S.A. Roosevelt(21-9) 7-5, Seguin(21-11) 6-6, S.A. Madison(9-22) 3-9, S.A. Lee(10-20) 1-11.

San Antonio Light All-City 1st Team- 6'1" Lawrence Frazier(18.1), SA Churchill; 5'9" Al Hardin(16.2) East Central; 6'4" Mark Beauvais(16.0) SA Marshall; 6'2" Chris Keith(15.4) Converse Judson; 6'8" Thomas Thames(19.3) South San; 6'6" Fred Battles(17.1/7.9) Converse-Judson "Player of the Year", Art Gonzales-SA Burbanks-"Coach of the Year": Named **Honorable Mention** from District 27-5A- David Levy, Tom Elliott, SA Churchill; Steve Jones, Alton Glasco, Mark Juvette, SA Roosevelt; Vince Matthews, SA Lee; Rich Archberger, SA MacArthur; Greg Prescott, Torrence Wilkerson, Converse-Judson; Vladimir McCrary, SA Madison:

28-AAAAA

San Antonio Holmes(25-8) and San Antonio Marshall(19-12) both finished at 10-2 in District action and were forced to have a playoff game at Taylor Field House. The Huskies of Holmes were successful winning 47-44 behind 6'5" twins, Kerry and Keith Cash. Kerry put up 17 points, 11 of which came in the critical 4th quarter. 6'5" Mark Beauvais led Marshall with 14 points. Coming into the contest, Holmes first year Coach Bobby Jaklich was very concerned about the double inside threats of the Rams, 6'5" Kelby Gorman and 6'5" Mark Beauvais. The tandem had put up 33 points the last time the two teams met. Holmes was able to hold the combo to a combined 18 points in the re-match.

S.A. Holmes defeated S.A. Marshall only a week earlier 58-45 to put themselves in a tie for first place. S.A. Jay(17-11) had an opportunity to throw their hat in the ring late in the season, but took it on the chin to Holmes(25-8) as well 67-64. The Mustangs of S.A. Jay were only one game back coming into the Holmes game.

Standings: SA Holmes(24-8) 10-2, SA Marshall(19-11) 10-2, SA Jay(17-12) 8-4, SA Clark(18-11) 7-5, SA Kennedy(8-21) 3-9, SA Taft(8-19) 2-10, Del Rio(4-21) 2-10.

All-District 1st Team-M.V.P. 6'4" Mark Beauvais(16.0) SA Marshall; Shun Gilbert, SA Holmes; Kerry Cash, SA Holmes; Mike Laderer(20.7), SA Taft; Mike Houlihan, SA Clark; 2nd Team-Keith Cash, SA Holmes; Kelby Gorman, SA Marshall; Kevin Rochelle, Del Rio; Steve Hyatt, SA Jay:

29-AAAAA

S.A. Sam Houston(23-8) wrapped up another District championship with an 87-71 victory over S.A. Highlands(17-15). The Cherokees finished 13-1 in District and 23-8 on the season. S.A. Burbank faltered against S.A. Wheatley 62-61, giving S.A. Sam Houston the outright title. Burbank looked to be in good shape going into their last two games tied with Sam Houston at 11-1. The Bulldogs of Burbank got by S.A. Highlands(17-15) 60-58, but lost to lowly S.A. Wheatley(8-20).

In the two head to head games between the front runners, S.A. Sam Houston and S.A. Burbank, the Bulldogs pulled out a close 49-48 over Sam Houston. In the second game Sam Houston ran Burbank out of the gym 79-65. Burbank was unable to control the tempo as in the first game. For Sam Houston Coach Wayne Dickey, it was the Cherokees fourth playoff appearance in the previous seven years. Dickey was in his 12th season at Sam Houston. S.A. Burbank Coach Art Gonzales was named the San Antonio Lights "Coach of the Year."

Standings: SA Sam Houston(23-8) 13-1, SA Burbank(18-12) 12-2, SA Highlands(17-15) 9-5, SA Fox Tech(16-15) 7-7, SA Edison(12-17) 7-7, SA Wheatley(8-20) 5-9, SA Jefferson(7-21) 4-10, SA Lanier(5-26) 0-14.

Named **Honorable Mention San Antonio Light News**- Robert Hinderman, William Hobdy, SA Sam Houston; David Tristan, SA Burbank; Carlton Wilson, SA Edison, Cornelius Grant, SA Wheatley:

30-AAAAA

The Hornets of East Central(27-2) finished the regular season as the top ranked team in San Antonio. East Central won the first District match-up against District runner-up South San(26-6) 90-81. The Hornets were fueled by 32 points from Stanley Coleman. In the re-match, East Central lost a close one 80-78 to South San. South San outstanding post, 6'8" Thomas Thames, finished with 24 points and 26 rebounds. South San coach Jimmy Littleton said following the emotional win, "we beat a damn good basketball team. They're good, they were 23-1, so you know they're good." East Central's other loss came at the hands of Seguin(21-11) 78-73. The Hornets had defeated Seguin earlier in the season 84-72.

Richard Gonzales was the star for South San in the victory over East Central, hitting a pair of foul shots with 10 seconds. James Smith finished with 28 points in a losing effort for the Hornets.

"I felt like all three ballgames we've played against them were games that could have gone either way," East Central Coach Stan Bonewitz said. "It's tough to beat a good team three times in a row," Bonewitz explained. South San's other District loss was to Eagle Pass 62-57.

Standings: SA East Central(27-2) 13-1, South San(26-6) 12-2, Eagle Pass(17-13) 9-5, SA McCollum(16-16) 7-7, Laredo Martin(14-12) 6-8, Laredo Nixon(14-17) 6-8, Laredo Cigarros(7-22) 2-12, Harlandale(4-23) 1-13.

Named 1st Team All San Antonio by the Light: 5'9" Al Hardin(16.2) East Central, 6'8" Thomas Thames(19.3) South San: Named **Honorable Mention**- Bobby Sullivan, James Smith, Stanley Coleman, East Central; Rudy Laque, [South San](#);

The **Final San Antonio Light City Rankings:** (1) East Central-27-2, (2) Converse Judson-30-4, (3) Churchill-23-5, (4) Central Catholic-25-6, (5) South San-26-6, (6) S.A. Holmes-24-8, (7) S.A. Roosevelt-21-9, (8) S.A. Marschall-19-11, (9) S.A. Sam Houston-23-8, (10) S.A. MacArthur-18-7, (10) Alamo Heights-20-9:

31-AAAAA

Three teams finished in a three-way tie for the District title, all finishing at 13-3. Corpus Christi Miller(20-5), Corpus Christi King(20-9) and Victoria Stroman(18-8) were forced to play a mini-tournament after the season according to the District minutes. C.C. Miller played C.C. King at 7:30 on a Monday evening with the winner going against Victoria Stroman on Tuesday evening. All the games were to be played at Corpus Christi Ray. Coach Johnny Jernigan of Stroman was not happy about playing in Corpus, but the U.I.L. stated that this was a tournament and all tournament games must be played at the same site. Jernigan was in his seventh season with Stroman. Win or lose, Stroman was in the playoffs due to the district point system. Stroman had a bye into the District title game. Stroman enjoyed the best record among the three contenders facing each other. In the head to head meetings between the contenders, Stroman ended up with a 3-1 record. The Raiders of Stroman took two from Miller and split with King. Miller defeated King in both District meetings.

Kingsville cost C.C. Miller the outright title with a victory over the Bucs in the first round of District 51-41. Miller took no mercy in the re-match winning 64-34. Coach Vance Heard of C.C. Miller commented on the coming tournament following the convincing win, "you don't want to flip a coin. This is the way to settle it-on the court."

Tom Kleckner of the Corpus Christi Caller was calling the mini-tournament the biggest high school basketball happening since the Jerry Davis led West Oso against C.C. Moody in Memorial Coliseum during the late '70s.

In the King-Miller contest, both teams were led by outstanding guards. 6'0" Darrell McGee(16.0) of C.C. King and 6'1" Michael Howze(17.0) of C.C. Miller. Miller had won both District meetings as previously mentioned, 76-67 and 55-52. The rivalry between McGee and Howze went all the way back to the junior high. 6'3" Bobby Robinson(19.0) and 6'3" Reginald Barrett were key contributors for the Bucs, while King relied on McGee and 6'1" Derrick Johnson, 6'2" Barry Blin(12.0) and 6'4" Donnie Stites. "Having faced those guys twice, having defeated those guys twice... you know they're going to be ready for you," Coach Heard of Miller said.

The Bucs came into the game with confidence having won back to back

District title in '84 and '85. King on the other felt pretty good about themselves having advanced to state the previous season. The Corpus Christi Ray gym was packed with 3,500 fans to see the elimination game. The Bucs of Miller led 57-54 with 3:48 left in the game when they went to their spread offense. Reginald Barrett took a back-door layup to put Miller up 59-54. King answered with an inside bucket from McGee. Following a Miller turnover, King was able to cut the lead to 59-58 with only 1:12 remaining. Bobby Robinson went to line for the Bucs looking to extend Millers lead, but missed the front end of the one and one. King came down with the rebound and immediately called timeout. With 16 seconds remaining, Reginald Barrett of Miller ended any hopes King might have had stealing an errant pass.

C.C. Miller(22-5) turned right around the following evening and beat Victoria Stroman 61-59 in another barn-burner. Bobby Robinson was the hero for the Bucs hitting a layup with two second left, on an assist from Michael Howze. It was all Michael Howze for Miller in the victory. "Michael was the difference in the game," Stroman coach Johnny Jernigan said afterward. "He was sensational," Miller's coach echoed Jernigan. Howze numbers were impressive, but did not do him justice. Howze finished with 22 points, 4 rebounds, and 2 steals, while teammate Bobby Robinson added 24 points, 8 rebounds and 2 blocks.

Howze basically took over the game late scoring eight straight points. "I had to," Howze said. "They were sagging on Bobby and the outside shots weren't falling." Howze and Robinson combined to score 23 of Miller final 25 points in the ball-game.

Stroman had taken over the game after being down 34-20 to Miller early. Stroman went on a 19-2 run and gained the lead 39-37. That was before Howze heroics down the stretch hitting 6 of 6 from the floor. Rodney Brown(7.0) had a career night leading for Stroman with 18 points and Vernon Todd added 16 points in a losing effort.

Victoria(16-14) came away with 4th place finishing at 10-6 in this tough District. Victoria had played three close games with the 4-A power Bay City during the pre-season.

32-AAAAA

Harlingen(29-2) captured the District title followed by McAllen(22-7). Harlingen had won 23 consecutive wins after going 18-0 in District. Harlingen's offense centered around the inside game of 6'3" Armand Pointer(16.2/10.7) and 6'3" David Garcia(18.3/11.0). 5'10" Orlando Flores(6.5), Tim Jones(4.6), 5'6" James DeLeon(3.2) round out the starters for the Cardinals. David Villarreal(6.6) proved to be valuable coming off the bench.

McAllen(22-7) finished runner-up in District with a 14-4 record. McAllen relied on 6'1" Scott Uhlaender(17.4), Mario Pulido(11.0) and Greg White(9.3).

Mission finished out of the playoffs at 12-6. The rest of the standings looked as follows: Pharr-San Juan-Alamo(18-12), Brownsville Hanna(18-12) at 10-8, McAllen Memorial(16-16) and Weslaco(18-12) at 8-10 records.

All-District 32-5A- M.V.P. 6'3" David Garcia(18.6/11.0), Harlingen; "Coach Of the Year" Carl Owens-Harlingen; "Soph of the Year"-Cesar Arenas(6.2), McAllen Memorial; **1st Team**- 6'3" Armand Pointer(16.6/10.3), Harlingen; 6'2" Danny Gilpin(19.1), Mission; 6'1" Scott Uhlaender(13.1) McAllen; 6'1" Gabriel Valdez(17.4) Weslaco; Joe Moreno(17.5), Pharr-San Juan-Alamo: **2nd Team**- Michael Rudd(17.3), Brownsville Hanna; Derek Garvin(15.2) Edinburg; Mario Pulido(11.0), McAllen; Andy Silva(13.1), Pharr-San Juan-Alamo; Danny Ramirez(15.7), San Benito: **3rd Team**- Mike Perez, Brownsville Porter; James Kosterhyz(15.6) Brownsville Hanna; Paul Vega(11.6) McAllen Memorial; Greg White(9.3), McAllen:

All-Valley Team by Brownsville Herald- M.V.P.- 6'3" David Garcia(18.6/11.0) Harlingen, "Coach of the Year"-Carl Owens(446-184 record) of Harlingen; **1st Team**- 6'3" David Garcia, Harlingen; 6'3" Armand Pointer(16.6/10.3/ 63 blocks), Harlingen; 6'2" Danny Gilpin(19.1), Mission; 6'1" Gabriel Valdez(17.4), Weslaco; 6'5" Terry Strang(18.6/12.9/4.5 bl), Sharyland: **2nd Team**- Joe Moreno(17.5), Pharr-San Juan-Alamo; Roel Silva(16.1/12.0), Roma; Michael Rudd(17.3), Brownsville Hanna; Joe Patino(16.8), Los Fresnos; Scott Uhlaender(13.2), McAllen: **Honorable Mention**: James Kosterhyz(15.2) Brownsville Hanna; Derek Garvin(15.2) Edinburg; Devon Dooley(10.4), Mission; Mario Pulido(11.0), McAllen: Luis Villanueva(17.3), Mercedes; Rick Guitierrez(16.4) Brownsville Pace; Wade Sales(15.1), Los Fresnos; Rey Alvarez(12.1), Roma; Bestor Sosa(15.5), Rio Hondo; Angel Lozano(16.1), LaFeria; George Townsend(10.9), Sharyland; Mando Villanueva(15.8), Santa Rosa; Danny Meckel(14.5), Santa Rosa:

Playoffs

Austin Johnston(29-2) looked to be one of the strongest teams to represent the city in several years with a 21-game winning streak. It could also be said that the Capital city may have been a little down overall. In Bi-District, Sugar Land Clements(24-10) awaited the Rams. Coach Castillo commented that he had never had a chance to scout Clements. "I know they are very deliberate offensive team," Castillo said. Castillo was only in their third season at a Johnston. Coach James Sharp of Clements was able to get a great scouting report on Johnston after he watched the Rams defeat Austin High in the District playoff game. "The Clements coach saw us against Austin, so he had a line on us," Castillo said. "We'll be going in sort of blind, just hoping we can do what we have been going."

Clements was a veteran ballclub with an all senior lineup. 6'5" Mike Yard, 6'5" Randy Cones, 6'4" Steve Evensen, 6'4" Scott Uptegraph and 6'1" Mike Madden made up the starters. Johnston counted on the guard trio of Shead, Cedric Tealer and George Walker. Inside for the Rams were 6'5" Roy Nieto(15.0) and 6'2" Jeff Schultz(6.5).

Austin Johnston came away with a low scoring 42-35 victory over Clements. Following Johnston's victory Coach Castillo said, "they were even slower about putting up the ball than we expected." Clements standout was 6'4" Michael Yard. Yard finished with only 12 points and was surrounded by defenders most of the game. Yard later played his college ball at Montana State. The turning point of the game came in the last two minutes of the game when Johnston forced Clements into three critical turnovers, led by Jason Shead. "We've seen delay

games before and did what we had to do. It affected us,” said Castillo. Shead paced to Rams with 16 points.

San Antonio East Central(29-2) was rated the top team in San Antonio by the S.A. Light News. They had no playoff history and it showed in their Bi-District game against San Antonio Burbank(18-12). Coach Stanley Bonewitz crew escaped with an 82-80 overtime win over Burbank at the Blossom Center. For Burbank, it was their first playoff appearance since the glory days of Gilbert Salinas in 1977. First year coach, Art Gonzales, had done an outstanding job with the Bulldogs. Gonzales knew the only chance he had was to control the game tempo against the pressing and running style of East Central. The Hornets had unofficially set the San Antonio city record in scoring with 90.8 points per game.

James Smith of East Central hit the winning free throws with two seconds remaining in the game for the victory. Smith finished with 33 points, while Al Hardin added 22 points for Coach Bonewitz. Mark Gomez countered with 33 points of his own for Burbank. Gomez lived at the foul line hitting 12 of 13 for the game. Bert Sarabia actually had a chance to win the game for Burbank at the end of regulation. He was unsuccessful missing on a one and one situation with one second remaining.

Victoria Stroman(18-9) squared off against a tough Harlingen(29-2) team in Bi-District. The Harlingen Cardinals had lost earlier in the season to Bay City 62-52. Victoria Stroman had won nine straight prior to losing to C.C. Miller in the District playoff. Stroman and Harlingen met previously in the Victoria Classic with Stroman giving up a big lead and hanging on to win 61-60. Since the loss to the Raiders, Harlingen had won 23 consecutive wins going 18-0 in District. The game presented a big opportunity for the Cardinals to come away with their first playoff victory in school history. “Our area has never done well in the playoffs,” Coach Carl Owens said. “Were rated 16th in the state and nobody thinks were that good, that monkey has been on our backs for a long time. We hope to shake it off tonight.” Stroman had also never won a playoff game, because they had never been in the playoffs. “This is first time around in the playoffs and we don’t want to go down there too serious,” Jernigan said. “We want to enjoy it. We’ve had enough pressure on us this season.”

Harlingen’s offense centered around the inside game of 6’3” Armand Pointer(16.2/10.7) and 6’3” David Garcia(18.3/11.0). Both had been very effective in the two teams earlier meeting combining for 39 points. “They have those two big guys inside,” Jernigan said. “They’ll keep working the ball until they get it into one of them.”

“Our bench has really come along,” Coach Owens of Harlingen said. “I feel like that’s where we’ve improved the most since the Victoria Tournament.”

Stroman starters were Rodney Brown(17.0), 6’2” Vernon Todd(11.3), 5’11” Roy Thomas(19.9), 6’3” Neal Stevenson(5.8) and 6’3” Bobby Harris(5.3).

Stroman relied heavily on players coming out of football with three starters and two coming off the bench from the gridiron.

The Harlingen(29-2)-Victoria Stroman(19-9) game was played at Flour Bluff and the Raiders defeated Harlingen 76-64. The key to the game was foul trouble for the Cardinals. 6'3" Armando Pointer(16.1) rode the bench for most of the first half and picked up his 4th foul with 6:06 left in the 3rd quarter. With Pointer on the bench, Stroman took the advantage leading 45-36 with 2:32 left in the quarter. Harlingen's David Garcia finished with 28 points and 20 rebounds, but it wasn't nearly enough. Rodney Brown again came away scoring 18 points for Stroman. Roy Thomas contributed 19 points and Neal Stevenson put up 16 points.

"We were lucky they got in foul-trouble with their inside men," Jernigan said. "Pointer couldn't contribute and I'm glad." The Cardinals finished the season at 29-3.

East Central(28-2) was overwhelming favorite in their second round contest against Victoria Stroman(19-9). Of course, after their near-death experience against Burbank, they realized being the favorite meant nothing. Coach Stan Bonewitz liked to use 10 to 12 players and pressed the entire game. East Central was size challenged with their tallest player standing only 6'2". 6'1" James Smith(17.3) had put up 33 points in the Hornets 82-80 overtime win in Bi-District over San Antonio Burbank. Joining Smith in the starting line-up was 5'10" Stanley Coleman(16.2), 5'10" Al Hardin(15.2) and point guard Bobby Sullivan. "I don't think they match-up inside," Jernigan said, "but they might be a step quicker." Coach Jernigan would look to 6'2" Vernon Todd(11.3), 6'3" Bobby Harris and Neal Stevenson.

The game didn't prove to be very close, as East Central won 88-71 at Texas Lutheran College in Seguin. Stanley Coleman scored 31 points for Coach Bonewitz in the Hornets victory. At the 3:56 mark of the 2nd quarter, Coach Jernigan of Stroman was forced to sub in an entire fresh five for the Raiders. "Most teams slow down a little bit, but these jokers didn't, they just kept popping them from 20 feet," Jernigan said. Upon the substitute by Stroman, East Central pretty much ended the game going on a 18-7 run and led at halftime 47-28.

6'2" Vernon Todd led Stroman with 18 points and 11 rebounds. Al Hardin followed Coleman in the scoring column for the Hornets with 19 points. John Smith added 12 points for East Central and sophomore Tony Terrell added 9 points. "We've got three players, Coleman, Smith and Hardin, who can score a lot of points for us," Bonewitz said. "However, all that is just a spinoff of our defense. Our press sets up a lot of points and tonight those points were falling to Coleman." Stroman finished the game with 35 turnovers. "We went a long way with five football players," Jernigan said. Brown, Todd and Harris all came off the football field as did Kevin Young.

Converse Judson(30-4) had been well tested coming out of District 27-5A. The Bi-District game between Judson and San Antonio Marshall(19-12) at the Blossom Athletic Center looked to be a big mismatch. Converse Judson had won the two previous meetings with Marshall winning both by 4 and 18 points. Three-year starter, 6'6" Fred Battles, had injured his ankle against Seguin and was questionable for Converse-Judson. As District M.V.P., Battles play was usually critical to the Rockets success. S.A. Marshall would counter with the inside power game of 6'5" Mark Beauvais(16.1) and 6'5" Kelby Gorman.

Marshall had a disastrous game against Judson shooting only 22% from the floor losing 66-37. "I think now looking back on it, we weren't able to get emotionally prepared to play," first year coach Steve Sylestine said. "We can't compete without playing with 100% effort." Chris Keith propelled the Rockets to victory with 21 points. "Remember last season when Judson lost their last three games and missed the playoffs," Keith said. "It's been two years since I've played in a playoff game."

6'5" Mark Beauvais(16.0) got into early foul trouble for the Rams, which doomed Marshall's hopes. "When Mark leaves the game-especially against, big, strong teams like Judson-it's going to affect us adversely," Coach Sylestine said. The frontline of Judson forced S.A. Marshall into poor shot selection. 6'6" Fred Battles, 6'6" Torrence Wilkerson and 6'5" Greg Prescott were able to dominate due to Marshall's foul trouble.

San Antonio Churchill(23-5) was widely respected around the state as having an outstanding program. San Antonio Holmes(25-8) was their Bi-District match-up. Coach Bobby Murphy of Churchill had a great deal of size and depth inside; 6'4" Tim Small, 6'5" Brad Scott, 6'4" John Friesenhahn and 6'3" Jeff Kennell. The Chargers offense was centered around the outstanding guard play of 6'2" Lawrence Frazier(18.2). Holmes first year coach, Bobby Jaklich, looked to two underclassmen in 6'5" twins, Kerry and Keith Cash(*)

() Kerry and Keith both played college football for the University of Texas. Both were drafted into the N.F.L. Kerry in the 5th round by the Colts. He later played tight end with the Raiders and Bears. Kerry played six years on the league. Keith was drafted by the Chiefs in the 6th round and played six seasons in the N.F.L. with the Chiefs and Steelers.*

Holmes struggled against Churchill's press turning the ball over 29 times, the result of which was a 67-47 victory for the Chargers of Churchill. Coach Murphy's guard play of David Levy, Lawrence Frazier and Joey Pierce really wreaked havoc on S.A. Holmes. "We knew exactly what they were going to do," Bobby Jaklich of Holmes said. "We just didn't execute against them."

Coach Murphy explained his winning strategy, "we used different combinations of presses and I think it confused them a little bit. This is the best we've played in a long time. I thought it was going to be a real close game. I think it kind of got out of hand for them." Frazier finished with 18 points for Churchill, Levy

added 13 and Tim Small put up 12 points. 6'5" Kerry Cash paced Holmes with 12 points and 15 rebounds.

What would the state playoffs be without S.A. Sam Houston(23-8) out of San Antonio. The Cherokees were back after taking the District title over Burbank. South San(26-6) faced S.A. Sam Houston in one of the best first round games in the Alamo city. The Cherokees had a previous victory over South San in the Optimist tournament 66-65. 6'8" Thames Thomas was a force for South San averaging 20 points and 15 rebounds. Other standouts included Gary Durbon and Rudy Lague.

The Bobcats of South San took down S.A. Sam Houston 63-57 at St. Mary's Alamo Gym. For South San, it was their first Bi-District victory since 1970. 6'8" Thomas Thames put up 20 points and 18 rebounds and 6'2" Richard Gonzales added 19 points in the victory. Speaking of Thames, Coach Jimmy Littleton of the Bobcats said, "he's been playing real well all year long, especially in the big games." The key for South San was turning the ball over only nine times as opposed to their 23 turnovers against Sam Houston the previous year. Robert Hinderman kicked in 22 points in a losing effort for the Cherokees.

Dulles(29-6) and Austin High(21-9) faced off in their Bi-District game with two outstanding big men in action. Dulles looked inside to 6'7" Daniel Koenigs(20.0). He was considered an exceptional shooter from 10-feet out. Austin High countered with their own big man in 6'8" Kevin Ruffcorn. Dulles other starters were 6'1" Mike House, 5'9" Randy Kerbow, 6'4" Garnell Sims and 6'2" Spurlin Greer. Dulles was coached by Paul Benton. Coach Dave Patrick of Austin High called on a fine group in 6'5" Richard Dopson, 6'0" Charles Dubra, 6'3" Duncan Barger and 6'3" Scott Montgomery.

Stafford-Dulles(29-6) hit 14 of 19 free throws in the 4th quarter to hang on to a 70-66 victory over Austin High(21-9). "The boys played as hard as they know how to play in the last two quarters, but we just got to far behind in the first half," Austin's Dave Patrick said following the Maroons loss. 6'8" Kevin Ruffcorn had to sit for half the first quarter and the entire 2nd period, after getting into early foul trouble. Even with limited action the 6'8" senior finished with 21 points.

Dulles led at halftime 41-21 and hit 28 of 37 foul shots for the game. Austin could only manage 9 of 21 from the foul line. Duncan Barger was good for 19 points for the Maroons. Randy Kerbow finished with 18 points for Dulles and Daniel Koenigs finished with 17 points in a winning effort.

Converse-Judson(31-4) had a very challenging 2nd round opponent in Sugar Land Dulles(29-6). The teams decided to meet halfway between the two schools in Weimar. Former Houston Madison coach, Paul Benton, was at the helm at Dulles. "I got a lot of respect for Judson," Benton said. "Everyone I've talked to has raved about how good they are. They talk like Judson and Churchill are the two best teams in San Antonio."

Coach Jim Shuler of Judson had concerns coming into the game, "I think the only problem we have is we haven't played anybody outside San Antonio this year, we know they're going to play a different brand of ball." Dulles looked to a strong inside game of 6'7" Daniel Koenigs(18.2/9.0), 6'0" Ron Kerlow(13.5) and Mike Horne(12.5).

The game came right down to the wire as Judson advanced over Dulles with a 64-63 victory. With score tied at 61 apiece Dulles was working for the final shot of the game when Greg Prescott of Judson stole the ball and went in for a layup and was fouled with five seconds remaining. The 6'5" Prescott made two key plays that turned the game in the Rockets favor in the last 13 seconds of the game. Prescott also finished with 24 points to put his team in regionals. "He played a whale of game," Coach Jim Shuler said. "Prescott made a great play to steal it and Chris Keith made a great pass," Shuler continued. "I've never seen a game that was a roller coaster like that." Despite foul trouble, Battles managed to put up 17 points for Judson. Koenig of Dulles countered with 24 points. Dulles finished the season at 29-7.

Corpus Christi Miller(23-5) faced McAllen in their home away from home, Corpus Christi Ray gym. Miller continued living on the edge defeating McAllen 41-38 on Curtis Green's four foul shots in the final 53 seconds. Green came off the bench to win the game for the Bucs. "This game was an uphill battle all the way," Coach Vance Heard of Miller said. Miller came on late outscoring McAllen 21-11 in the final quarter. McAllen did have an opportunity to take the lead when Scott Uhlaender missed with seven seconds on the clock. Green, from C.C. Miller, came away with the rebound and was fouled. Green hit both foul shots making the final 41-38. Uhlaender finished with 12 points for McAllen and Robinson paced Miller with 9 points and Howze put up 9 points.

South San(27-6) had to venture all the way to Corpus Christi facing Corpus Christi Miller(23-5) in the second round game. The game was played at Ray High School in Corpus once again. The Bobcats chartered five buses to give South San the kind of support it would take to win the game. "The community is really wound up," Coach Littleton of South San said. The Corpus Christi Miller Buccaneers had a strong winning tradition having won three straight 31-5A District titles. 6'3" Bobby Robinson(18.2/9.0) and 6'2" Michael Howze(16.9/9.0 assists) were the main stays for Miller. Howze had been one of the top performers in the region for three straight seasons.

The gym at Ray High School was packed with 3,500 fans. In pre-game warmups Howze was impressing the fans with 360-degree dunks. He continued impressing the fans during the game putting up 26 points on 9 of 16 from the floor. The result was a 90-81 victory for Miller and a place in the regional tournament. "I think we were just determined to come play a big basketball game," Miller coach Vance Heard said. South San found it difficult to match-up athletically with the

Bucs. Gary Durbon managed 28 points for South San and 6'8" Thomas Thames was good for 16 points and 14 rebounds, despite his usual foul trouble. South San's Jesse Huerta was also impressive with 22 points. "They kept throwing the long pass, and we didn't get back on defense," South San's Durbon said. "It happened to me a couple of times. Just run-and-gun basketball."

"We saw they were a running team, but we made them play our game. When they missed, we ran it," Howze said. Howze had little trouble with South San's full court press and also handled the half-court trap. But the Bucs fell apart late turning the ball over six times in the final 4:12 of the game up 81-72. Huerta hit three straight buckets late to pull his team within two points at 83-81. The Bucs were able to hit six straight foul shots to close out the game.

Robinson finished with 29 points, Howze followed with 26/7/11 assists for Miller. Kenneth Turner turned in a great performance off the bench for Bucs with 14 points.

Miller shot 64% from the field in the second half to win the game. "It was really rough. I'll tell you what-they're a good basketball team. They're an excellent basketball team," South San Coach Littleton said following the loss. "We knew we couldn't keep up with them on the run," Littleton said. "They're a great running team, and we just don't run like that."

Two of the top teams in Region IV met in the 2nd round at Southwest Texas Strahan Gymnasium in San Marcos. The Austin Johnston(30-2) and San Antonio Churchill(24-5) winner would go a long way to decide the regional champion. Two veteran coaches were matched up in Bobby Murphy of S.A. Churchill and Tony Castillo of Austin Johnston. "Our scouting report indicate Johnston uses and up-tempo offense and very aggressive defense," Murphy said. "Johnston seems to be very quick and very effective at mixing zone and man to man defenses." Murphy continued his scouting report saying, "I figure it will probably take 65 or 70 points to win, although we are hoping to hold Johnston below that. We won't be stalling and I wouldn't expect Johnston to slow things down."

Churchill had one of the strongest perimeter games in the Alamo City in 6'1" Lawrence Frazier(18.4) and 6'3" David Levy(11.5). The Chargers averaged 67 points a game and allowed 56. 6'4" Tim Small and 6'4" John Friesenhahn alternated at post and 6'2" Tommy Elliott and 6'3" Jeff Kennell rounded out the starting line-up for Coach Murphy.

Johnston's outstanding guard combo of 6'2" Jason Shead(17.5), 6'2" George Walker(15.0) and 6'1" Cedric Tealer(16.0) would definitely be challenged by the Chargers. Johnston averaged 75.1 per game and allowed 58.7 per game. "I've told my kids it might take 75 or 80 points to win the ball game," Castillo said. "Churchill has good overall size and quickness."

Cedric Tealer of Johnston put up four critical foul shots in the final minute to give the Rams a 52-51 victory over Churchill. Tealer was shooting a one and one with seven seconds remaining and knocked down both foul shots. The Rams went up 52-49 on his foul shots and the Chargers went the length of the court to score and uncontested layup, making the final 52-51. "Their zone was tough to break, but our boys were aggressive in the last quarter," said Castillo. Johnston put the clamps on the outside shooting of Churchill, limiting Frazier and Levy. Frazier finished with 16 points; Elliott managed 12 points as did Kennell. The Rams were led by their talented guards once again. Tealer finished 16 points, Shead followed with 15 and Walker finished with 14. 6'5" Nieto only managed 4 points from the inside.

Coach Murphy of Churchill was not happy after the game. "Free-throws beat us, that's the name of the game in all the games we've lost this year." Austin Johnston put up 23 foul shots and Churchill only managed nine. "I didn't know they were that quick," Murphy said, "we couldn't press them because they were so quick." Murphy continued saying, "not pressing took a lot out of our game, because we have been scoring a lot of points off transition." The Chargers were eliminated in the second round and finished the season at 24-6.

State Private School Champion-TAPPS

Dallas Jesuit(27-5) took the class 4-A title for the second year in a row over San Antonio Central Catholic(26-7). The Rangers defeated El Paso Cathedral(14-18) in the semis 68-62. Joe Tillotson did high point honors for Jesuit against Central with 17 points and Coach George Coelen. The games were played in San Antonio at Trinity University. Central Catholic was considered one of the top teams in San Antonio during the season. Central Catholic eliminated Bishop Lynch(13-16) out of Dallas in the other semi-final game 55-45. The game wasn't as close as its sounds. Central Catholic was up 20 in the 4th quarter before emptying their bench. Central Catholic Coach, Joe Cortez, said they targeted two scorers for the Friars and let the other players have shooting freedom. 6'7" Sophomore post, Stephen Howard(16.4/12.4), was unstoppable at times inside. Central Catholic began jumping the passing lanes, which changed things in their favor in the second half. Andy Etnyre led Central Catholic with 15 points as well as a 75-foot shot at the end of the 3rd quarter. Howard(*) finished with 24 points. (*) Howard was All-American at DePaul in Chicago and played with the Utah Jazz after going undrafted. Currently he is an announcer for Fox Sports.

In the finals, Dallas Jesuit had a rebound advantage which seemed to be the difference in the end. The Rangers outrebounded Central Catholic 24-17. Coach George Coelen said following the game, "we hit the foul shots down the stretch." Mark Hall paced Jesuit with 16 points and Tillotson finished with 11 points. Hank Dudek came away with 11 points as well and was named to the All-Tournament along with Tillotson, Marcus Best and Andy Etnyre of Central Catholic.

Marcus Best led Central with 15 points and Etnyre added 13 points. Central finished the season at 26-7 while Jesuit was able to compile 27-5 record.

In the 3rd place game, Lynch got by El Paso Cathedral 72-59. Pat Vik put up 17 points for the Friars, and David Alvarez led Cathedral with 27 points. In 3-A Galveston O'Connell took the title defeated Beaumont Kelly 55-54. John Levine did high scoring honors for O'Connell with 15 points and Lionel Moore had 14. Jody Ball paced Kelly with 17 points.

Regionals

The 1986 Region IV semi-finals was one of the stronger groups in the 1980s. Looking at the four teams you felt Converse Judson(32-4) had to be a slight favorite because of their strong inside game. East Central(29-2) and Austin Johnston(32-2) could not be discounted due to their outstanding guard play. Corpus Christi Miller(24-5) came in as the dark horse.

The Rockets of Judson starters included 6'5" Greg Prescott,(10.6), 6'6" Fred Battles(17.1/7.0), Kevin Ussery(4.5), Chris Keith(13.8), Wayne Vore(6.2) and 6'6" Torrence Wilkerson(9.3) providing valuable minutes off the bench. Battles, Prescott and Keith were veterans for the Rockets with three years of varsity experience. That would bode well for Judson in regionals. Ussery was a nice addition after transferring in from Seguin. Coach Shuler led Judson and was in his 19th varsity season. He also had experience in the playoffs having coached San Antonio Jefferson to the playoffs in 1971 and 1972. Judson had to be excited Churchill had been eliminated. Of Judson four losses during the season, three had come at the hands of Churchill.

The question for Austin Johnston was could their inside game compete against the size of Judson. Inside the Rams were thin with 6'5" Roy Nieto(10.8) and 6'2" Jeff Shultz(6.1). The backcourt of George Walker(14.2), Cedric Tealer(15.2) and Jason Shead(17.1) would be counted on to carry a big load against the Rockets.

East Central was another guard oriented group with 6'0" James Smith(18.0), Darryl Singleton(5.1), 6'2" Charles Albert, 5'9" Bobby Sullivan, 5'9" Al Hardin(16.2) and Stanley Coleman(16.6). The Hornets liked to run an aggressive full-court press and spreading the court for dribble penetration.

Corpus Christi Miller may have very well had the top player in the regional in 6'1" Michael Howze(16.9). 6'3" Bobby Robinson(18.4) was another key performer for Miller. 6'3" Reginald Barrett(9.8), Kevin Williams(6.8) and Keith Jones(6.6) filled out the starting line-up. Miller looked to be a little short on fire power compared to the other three teams. Their Achilles heel was their lack of height. Of the three semi-finalist only Judson had size.

Austin Johnston(32-2) had another monumental task ahead in regionals against San Antonio East Central(29-2). The Hornets averaged 90.5 per game and

were very tough to handle. The Rams guard combination would be challenged. As mentioned previously, East Central was very unusual in that they had no players over 6'2". Coach Stan Bonewitz crew had put up 131 points earlier in the season against Laredo Cigarroa and had not scored less than 70 all season.

Coach Castillo of Johnston was very impressed with the Hornets overall quickness. "East Central plays man to man defense and they will press, press, press," Castillo said. "Two of their guards, James Smith and Al Hardin are terrific outside shooters," Castillo continued.

"We've had 6'7" and 6'8" people in the past, but this year we are small, both physically and in height, and thought we'd try this," Coach Bonewitz of East Central said. East Central had finished 20-12 the previous season and missed the playoffs with a 3rd place finish. Coach Bonewitz liked to play ten players and relied on quickness and speed. Coach Castillo of Johnston on the other hand, played almost exclusively five players in their earlier playoff wins. "We're at the stage of the season where our guys are in top physical shape," Castillo said. "If East Central wants to run all night, then we'll run. We're best at a fast pace, and we don't expect to tire."

East Central got into early foul trouble against Austin Johnston and the Rams came away with an 82-72 victory. You hate to say the foul line was the big difference, but when you look at the numbers it was pretty obvious. Johnston shot 20 of 39 from the line and East Central only managed 8 of 10. In a nutshell that pretty much summarized the game. James Smith of East Central fouled out with 5:15 remaining with only six points. For the game, Austin Johnston was 30 of 62 from the floor and SA East Central could only manage 31 of 81 shooting.

The Rams placed five players in double figures securing the win. "They may have us out numbered but we had them out manned," Castillo said. One of the key factors in the win was the play of 6'5" senior post, Roy Nieto. He finished the game with his best effort of the season scoring 20 points and pulling down 17 rebounds. At 165 pounds, the slender Nieto had gone up against the best Austin had to offer all season: 6'8" Kevin Ruffcorn from Austin High, 6'6" Leland McCall of Austin and 6'6" Deshone Wingate of Austin Lanier. "We can play without one of the three guards, but I said before the season started-Nieto is the man we have to have in there to cover the oppositions big man and to give us some equality in rebounding," Castillo said. "Wingate is the only player I've seen in Roy's size range who's as quick. For what we do, it's better to have a quick 6'5" player than a slower 6'8" or 6'9"," Castillo said.

"I didn't play summer basketball. I was in baseball all summer, as a pitcher and first baseman," Nieto said. "He's an excellent shooter from 12 feet on in," Castillo added.

On the big win, Coach Tony Castillo of Johnston said, "I told them to run with them, but keep it under control. That was key. Roy did a great job under the

basket and kept us in the game when our outside shooting was cold," Castillo emphasized. The Rams were up by as much as 14 points in the 4th quarter. Coleman led the Hornets with 22 points and Hardin followed with 18. For Johnston once again, their balance was awesome. Following Nietro in the scoring column for the Rams was Tealer with 19 points, Shead was able adding 14, Walker came away with 15 points and Schultz followed with 14 points. Amazing, Johnston had won with no bench help.

The big different in the other semi-final game between Converse-Judson(32-4) and Corpus Christi Miller(24-5) was 6'6" Fred Battles of Judson. Battles towered over his opposition leading his team to a 76-67 victory. Battles finished with 30 points on 13 or 21 shooting. "We knew we could get it inside," Battles said. "And we did."

"As big as that guy is, you do anything you can to him," Coach Heard of Miller said, "I'm not sure we could have held him to less than 20 points any game we played, because he did his homework." Battles had plenty of support from 6'5" Prescott with 14 points, 6'6" Torrence Wilkerson put up 11 points and Wayne Vore added 10. 6'1" Howze finished with 24 points for CC Miller on 9 of 20 shooting with 6 rebounds and 2 steals. 6'3" Bobby Robinson was impressive as well for Miller with 21 points on 9 of 15 shooting with 9 rebounds. Coach Vance Heard commented, "You can't win a basketball game with two men, two scorers. We can't depend on those two to carry us when we're playing teams at the level of the state playoffs."

With the game tied at 47 apiece, Judson tried to slow down the talented Howze with a series of half-court traps. The results were a 9-0 run by Judson and a confrontable lead. "It was like playing against trees," Bobby Robinson of Miller said following the game. "They were tall, they were tough and they were good," Robinson continued.

Howze finished his brilliant career with three straight District titles at CC Miller. "We had a good season," Howze said. "No one expected us to get this far, but we did. We don't have to apologize for our season."

"We felt we could run with them, and we did," Judson coach Jim Shuler said. "But in the final analysis the difference was our big man denying theirs for easy baskets. Inside, Judson "biggs" combined for 55 points, 24 rebounds and 4 blocks. "They're a good team. Robinson and Howze- they could play anywhere. But we made them work for their points," Shuler commented.

Regional Finals

Austin Johnston(34-2) moved on to state for the first time since 1970 with a 68-61 win over Converse Judson(33-4) at the Texas-SA Convocation Center. It was also the first time since 1979 that a team from Austin would be making an appearance in the state tournament. Austin Lanier lost in the semi-finals against Ft. Worth Dunbar in '79.

“I thought we had the best team in the region, and I guess this proves it,” Castillo said following the big win. “The guys were patient, adjusted to their game plan and then attacked it. We have a very flexible team. They can defend just about any type of game play, and have been doing it all season.”

The Rams struggled in the first half trailing at intermission 38-32. Judson coach, Jim Shuler commented about Shead following the game, “we put two guys on Shead at the point and he played like there was no one guarding him. He is good, and if their next opponent doesn’t stop him, they’ll win again.”

Johnston began forcing turnovers in the third quarter and only trailed by one at the end of three. In the 4th quarter the Rams began to seize control as Judson lost the ball six times. The Rams attacked the basket and shot 15 foul shots in the last period making 11 straight to give the Rams a 64-57 lead. Judson was able to close in with 58 seconds remaining trailing 64-61. Johnston again forced two quick turnovers, which turned into opportunities at the foul line, putting the game away.

Judson had their opportunities at the line as well with Battles missing a free throw with his team down 64-61. The big senior also came up short with 17 seconds left when he missed the front end of one and one with the score 65-61. “We were tense the whole second half,” Coach Shuler said.

The inside post combo of 6’5” Prescott and 6’6” Fred Battle carried the scoring load for Judson, with both players scoring 20 points with several easy baskets. Chris Keith added 15 points in a losing effort. Prescott was 8 for 8 in the 1st half. Judson also came away with the rebounding advantage 42-33. The highlight of the evening was Tealer’s 50-foot bucket to end the 1st quarter for Johnston.

A turned point in the game was in the 2nd quarter when Johnston switched from man to man to a 2-3 zone. The zone defense allowed the Rams to contain the inside game of Judson and rebound much better. 6’6” Battles, 6’5” Prescott and 6’6” Wilkerson were very tough to handle inside for the smaller Johnston team.

The Rams were paced by Shead’s 18 points, Nieto came up big again with 17 points and Tealer finished with 16.

State Tournament

Amarillo	29-5		62.1-53.1	+9.0
Dallas Kimball	30-3	#8	64.8-54.0	+10.8
Houston Wheatley	21-12		74.9-67.7	+7.2
Austin Johnston	34-2	#7	75.1-58.7	+16.4

Top Five Players at the State Tournament 5-A

6’2”	Leonard Perry	Dallas Kimball
6’2”	Roderick Hampton	Dallas Kimball
6’2”	Jason Shead	Austin Johnston

6'7" Willie Williams

Houston Wheatley

6'2" Eddie Cumbo

Houston Wheatley

The tournament was wide out in 1986 with no dominate teams or heavy favorites. Looking at the four finalist you had to question whether these were the four best representatives from each region. With the addition of a second team from each district, upsets were much more prevalent. Wheatley had only beaten Kashmere once in four meetings and Kimball had lost two out of three games with South Oak Cliff. Kashmere would have had to win four straight against the Wildcats to have advanced and S.O.C. had to win three straight against Kimball. Amarillo was playing their best basketball of the season coming into Austin and were impressive in regional. Region IV had several talented teams and Johnston emerged from the talented group.

A good way to judge teams is who they beat to advance to state. Ft. Worth Dunbar was the best team Amarillo defeated to advance. Converse Judson was eliminated by Johnston, Kashmere lost to Wheatley in the regional finals and Kimball took out S.O.C. The Golden Bears were the best of the four teams, which you would think would make Kimball the favorite. To simple, probably, but Kimball would have been my favorite due to who they had eliminated.

Looking at the pre-game match-ups it seemed as though Austin Johnston had momentum and had the advantage over Amarillo High. Dallas Kimball was slight favorites over Houston Wheatley as well. Remember, Jackie Carr was no longer at the helm at Wheatley. What I remember best when the teams hit the court was how impressive Wheatley looked talent wise. 6'7" Willie Williams was a beast and 6'2" Eddie Cumbo was the most talented player in class 5-A. 6'5" Isiah Davis gave Wheatley an impressive inside game. Davis later played at Trinity Valley. Williams played tight end at L.S.U. and went on to play for the Saints and Cardinals in the N.F.L. as well as the Canadian football League. Cumbo was one of the most hotly pursued recruits in the state behind Anthony Allen of Pt. Arthur Lincoln. The other three teams were impressive and talented, but Wheatley stood out to me.

There was a lot of excitement in the state capital with Austin Johnston advancing to the state semis against Amarillo. Ashton Nowak of Amarillo said he could not believe the roar of the crowd at the Drum when Johnston came onto the court. "They definitely had a home court advantage; I just froze when I the heard the applause and crowd support Johnston had." Nowak said. "After we beat Dunbar and their crowd, that gave us a great deal of confidence against Johnston."

Johnston had a thin bench and relied almost exclusively on their three gifted guards. 6'2" Jason Shead was considered the catalyst by which the team operated. Coach Jim Shuler of Converse Judson called Shead, "he's the best point guard I've seen." Shuler was the former college coach at Texas Lutheran and Hardin-Simmons. This spoke volumes about Shead's talent. Coach Tony Castillo of

Johnston felt he had something special when Shead guided the Junior Varsity to an undefeated season his sophomore year. Shead had football offers as a quarterback and defensive back at the college level as well as baseball. The Expos and Orioles were interested in Shead at 2nd base. He played football his freshman year in college at Laney Junior College in Oakland. He was moved from quarterback to wide receiver at Laney. Following a year on the gridiron, Shead came back to the basketball court at Angelina for a season before moving on to Arkansas Monticello.

“He can hit the outside shot, he can drive for the jumper or pass off,” Castillo commented. “He is an excellent rebounder for his size and he’s vital in helping our defense force the turnovers.” The 14-year veteran Castillo elaborated saying, “every one of our starters has had one or more 20-point games this season and Jason’s control of the offense is the big reason.”

Johnston’s big disadvantage was their overall size. The Rams were forced to shoot high percentage shots because of the lack of any type of inside threat. “We target the oppositions personnel, pick out the best scorers and say these are the people we have to shut down to have a chance of winning,” Castillo said.

Getting a look at Amarillo was impossible because of the tremendous distance between the two schools. The Sandies hadn’t faced anybody within 200 miles of Austin. Amarillo on the other hand was able get some tremendous intel on Johnston(34-2) from Gail Simpson of Austin Reagan. Simpson’s brother was Allen Simpson, the head man at Amarillo. This info may have proved to be the difference in the end between the two teams. It is very difficult to measure the effect that scouting can prove, but from experience, it can be the difference when two teams are similar.

Coach Castillo commented, “Amarillo(29-5) is as good a match-up as we could have gotten in the tournament, because they’re closer to our size than either Kimball or Wheatley.” The two top scorers for Amarillo were 6’4” Sherman Ray(11.1) and the coaches son, 6’2” Sammy Simpson(11.9).

Looking at the stats coming into the semi-final game got my attention. On the season, Johnston had a definite advantage on point differently +16 to +9 in favor of the Rams. But looking at the playoffs, Amarillo had been much more dominating with a +14.7 spread compared to Johnston’s +6.2. Well you could counter and say Region IV was much more difficult, but that was not the case. Region I was competitive with Ft. Worth Dunbar back at full strength. El Paso Andress had two division one players, and South Grand Prairie had “Skeeter” Henry, who played at Oklahoma and the N.B.A.

In looking at Amarillo you had to consider the team had really transformed itself in the playoffs. Sammy Simpson had taken his game to another level. The Sandies pounded the glass and had depth both inside and at guard. And lastly, Amarillo played solid man to man defense. “We never ran zone, just tough man to man defense,” Ashton Nowak said years later. Coach Simpson felt his

team's depth would be a big advantage against Johnston, because the Rams only played six kids. "They don't have the depth or over-all height, but possess more quickness," Coach Simpson commented. Johnston looked to have the advantage with Shead, but everything else pointed to Amarillo. 6'5" Roy Nieto(12.0/10.0) would need to have a big game and stay out of foul trouble and George Walker(14.0) needed one of his best games.

The winner in the Amarillo-Johnston game was not a surprise, but the final score was shocking. Amarillo handled the Rams 57-43 in a game that most observers felt would come down to the last shot. The Rams led at halftime 28-23 and everything looked very stable for Coach Castillo squad. Amarillo had 12 first half turnovers. Suddenly, the Rams shooting went cold. Johnston hit only 4 of 15 field goals in the 3rd quarter and managed only 2 of 14 in the 4th quarter. In the second half the Rams only shot 20% from the floor and shot 31% for the game. It was their worst shooting exhibition of the season. To compound their problems the Rams only shot 47% from the foul line.

In discussing the game years later with Jason Shead he said the coach took the ball out of his hands and put him down running the baseline. "They were running a box and one on me and I never got any shots because I was buried down on the baseline," Shead explained. Shead was held to only 2 points in the 2nd half.

Amarillo began taking advantage of Johnston lack of size in the second half with 6'4" Sherman Ray and 6'4" Brant Capp taking control. The Sandies began controlling the game inside outrebounding Johnston 43-37 and getting to the foul line. Amarillo shot 19 of 24 from the foul line and Johnston could only manage 9 of 19.

Coach Castillo's team was paced by Shead with 14 points and Walker finished with 12. Nieto only netted 6 points on 1 of 7 from the floor. Combined the three leading scorers for Johnston were 13 of 35 from the floor for 37%. Sammy Simpson was the leader for Amarillo with 16 points. Ray finished with 11 rebounds, Capps had 10 rebounds and Clapp came away with 9 rebounds, as Amarillo dominated the inside game in the second half.

"Our shooting was off," Castillo said following the game. "There is no doubt about that, we were hurrying our shots too much, but Amarillo was putting good pressure on us from the outside. It was as much Amarillo's defense as it was our being cold." Castillo continued saying, "we got a little tired and nothing went down in the 2nd half." Amarillo had really come out of nowhere to advance to the state finals. Amarillo had to be the most unlikely state finalist of the decade.

Two high profile teams, Dallas Kimball(30-3) and Houston Wheatley(21-11), faced each other in the afternoon semi-final game. The Knights had one of the toughest roads to the state tournament defeating Richardson(24-5), South Garland(31-2), Temple(26-8) and South Oak Cliff(28-2). Kimball had been one of the premier programs in the Dallas-Ft. Worth over the previous four seasons with a

122-15 record. Kimball came into Austin with very little fanfare. Coach Jimmy Tubbs crew had no high-profile players or recruits as in the past. 6'1" Leonard Perry(14.8), 5'9" Arlin White(14.5), 6'2" Roderick Hampton(13.2), 6'3" Anthony Virgil(10.2) and 6'2" Andrea Perry made up the Knights starting line-up. "The team concept, along with the guys sacrificing themselves for the team, is a major reason we have been successful this year," Tubbs said. When S.O.C. coach Jimmy Gales was asked about Kimball he responded, "Smartness, you seldom beat them because of mental mistakes. Between Hampton and Perry, they have two of the smartest players in the area. If you can get a group to play like that, you have a good chance of winning," Gales explained.

Coach Clayton Brooks of South Garland said, "they have eight or nine good athletes, who are quick and play well together. The height is not much of a factor because they can all jump so well. They all handle the ball well, and that makes a big difference on how you press them or when they go into a stall."

Coach Joe Longino of Richardson got to see Kimball up close and personal as well, "they play several different tempos. They can play fast and beat you on the transition game, or they can slow it down and play half court. They're able to control the game because they're patient and play with control."

Tubbs felt his team's defense is what made the difference. South Garland and S.O.C. both were averaging over 74 points a game and were held under 60 by the Knights tough defense. Kimball was not an offensive juggernaut either, having not broken 60 points in the playoffs. Tubbs regularly subs after foul shots, so the Knights could set up their press and prevent long passes. "We've been able to sell defense at the Kimball," Tubbs said.

Coach Wesley Boyd led Houston Wheatley into the state semi-finals against Dallas Kimball. The Wildcats lost 12 games entering the state tournament, which was the highest total maybe in the history of the largest classification. There was an explanation for the Wildcats slow state. Willie Williams and Eddie Cumbo, the two key players for Wheatley, had come out of football. Also, Coach Boyd had dismissed several players from the team due to disciplinary reasons early in the season. These distractions coupled with learning a new system led to a 2-8 record early in the season.

Wheatley offense centered around the multi-talented Cumbo. "Cumbo is the guy," Coach Boyd said. "He does it all." On the season, Cumbo averaged 23.8/5.3/5.4 assists and improved his numbers in the playoffs through four games, 33.7/6.5/7.5 assists with a 54% from the floor. Cumbo caused a lot of excitement from recruiters, but his grades limited his chances of playing at an NCAA school. "He will not have the grades," Coach Boyd said. "Eddie failed some courses his first two years in high school. We have to let him see that he can overcome that and go to college," Coach Boyd explained. Cumbo had put up 48, 38 and 22 points in the previous playoff games.

“My biggest progress came in Jay Parker’s summer league,” Cumbo said. “He taught me to be under control and take what the other team gives me and make things happen. Last year, I tried to force things. Now, I’m thinking better as a floor leader.”

6’7” Willie Williams(12.4) was a beast inside with his physical play for Wheatley and 6’5” Isiah Davis(16.4) was considered one of the top athletes in Houston playing inside as well.

Coach Tubbs discussed his semi-final opponent saying, “I’ve been talking to a couple of coaches about them, and they’re tough inside. They have great rebounding and three division 1 players; we’re going to be facing a very talented and disciplined type team.”

The game was a real contrast of styles with the small explosive Kimball team taking on the physically imposing Wheatley Wildcats. It took overtime to decide the winner and with seconds remaining, Andre Perry of Kimball went to the foul line shooting two foul shots. Perry sunk the foul shots and punched Kimball’s ticket to the state championship game. It was said that Tubbs told Perry a joke during the timeout to get him to relax when shooting the critical foul shots. Perry had previously missed both his free throw attempts.

In overtime, Kimball took the tip and held the ball for 2:27 and with 22 seconds remaining called a time out to set up their plan for their final shot. Wheatley’s Arthur Thomas forced a turnover on the inbounds pass from Cedric Davis and looked to have things under control. The Wildcats called timeout with 17 seconds left in the game. On the defensive play of the season, the Knight’s Roderick Hampton stole the ball from Eddie Cumbo and immediately passed up court to Andrea Perry, who was fouled. It was questioned whether the clock had run out. “Having two shots at the end helped. I knew I would make at least one,” Perry said. Andrea’s cousin, Leonard Perry, put up 32 points to carry the Knights in the biggest game of the season.

In talking the Roderick Hampton recently, he said he remembered the sideline inbounds play like it was yesterday. “I was supposed to go trap on the inbounds and Cumbo just passed me the ball.”

Hampton felt the team’s real strength was that they had grown up playing ball with one another and were a very close-knit group. “We did everything together, we lived within five minutes of one another.”

Things looked bleak for Kimball at the end of the regulation. With Wheatley leading 50-49 with 27 second left on the clock, Leonard Perry was called for a double-dribble violation, giving the ball back to Wheatley. With only 11 seconds remaining, Hampton fouled Cumbo, the Wildcats best foul shooter. The senior guard had hit 43 of 47 foul shots in his four playoff games. Cumbo made one of two to put Wheatley up 51-49. Leonard Perry pulled down the missed foul shot

and went the length of the court hitting an off-balance shot to send the game into overtime.

Hampton did an outstanding job covering the elusive Cumbo. The talented senior held Cumbo to only 11 points on 5 of 17 shooting. Cumbo was only managed 0-6 from the floor in the second half. "I lost my confidence," Cumbo said. "That's something that has never happened to me since I started playing basketball." Cumbo did manage to finish with 9 assists and 6 rebounds. 5'11" Arlin White struggled from the floor for Kimball hitting only one of 12 for the game. Hampton only managed four point for the Knights.

6'5" Isiah Davis and 6'7" Willie Williams scored 12 and 11 points for the Wildcats. Wheatley outrebounded the smaller Knights 41-28. Leonard Perry had the game of a lifetime hitting 15 of 25 field goal attempts. Kimball held Wheatley to their season low output offensively with only 51 points. Prior to the Kimball game, Wheatley had only scored in the 50s on four occasions during the season.

State Championship Game

The state championship game came down to the Amarillo Sandies and the Dallas Kimball Knights. Most observers would immediately feel like the inner-city program would have a big advantage due to competition and experience. Amarillo returned no starters and only 6'4" Sherman Ray(11.1) saw major minutes the year before. The key to the Sandies success has been a group of juniors, 6'4" Brant Capps, 6'1" Dod Clapp, 6'2" Sammy Simpson(11.9) and 6'0" Ashton Nowak(8.0). These young men had been playing together since junior high.

Although Amarillo did not have a lot of big recruits, they had a lot of talent that moved on to the next level after their high school days. Sherman Ray played at Hill County Jr. College after graduation. Simpson signed with U.T. Arlington and later played at West Texas State. Ashton Nowak played in the Lone Star Conference at Eastern New Mexico. Capps played at Temple J.C. before moving on to West Texas State. Lance Berry played basketball at West Texas State, but later played professional sand Volleyball. Jason Rehm went the academic route and became a hand surgeon. Dod Clapp went the football route as quarterback on the football team. Clapp signed with Texas Tech and later transferred to Abilene Christian.

Amarillo managed to come away with a minor upset 68-63 over Kimball. There were several factors that enabled the Sandies to get the win. Kimball trailed for most of the game and was unable to control tempo as usual. The 68 points given up by the Knights was the most they had allowed in the playoffs. Kimball had only allowed more than 68 points twice over the entire season. Kimball had always been able to jump into their stall during the season, but were unable to go to their delay game against Amarillo. Kimball managed to take their biggest lead with 4:56 left in the game at 53-50. "We had to play catch-up the entire game and that hurt us," Coach Tubbs said. "We weren't able to dictate like we wanted to, we just

didn't get off to a good start." Amarillo regained the lead with 2:25 remaining and went into their stall the rest of the way. Amarillo hit 14 of 18 foul shots in the game and 7 of 10 in the critical final minutes. Amarillo outscored Kimball 18-10 over the final 4:03 of the contest.

There were other factors as well that pointed to the Sandies victory. Amarillo managed to shoot 57% from the floor for the game and outrebounded Kimball 31-17. They almost doubled the rebounding total of the Knights. Remember that the Sandies had also outrebounded Dunbar in the regional finals. Amarillo's scoring break-down was as follows: Capps put up 19 points, Ray added 16 points and Nowak came away with 14 points. Sammy Simpson only put up eight points.

Leonard Perry finished with 21 points leading the Knights. White had 17 points and Hampton added 12 points. The Sandies finished with 19 turnovers. "We were totally confused in the 3rd quarter," Coach Simpson said. "Kimball is a strong defensive team, they're extremely quick."

"It's a tremendous feeling having no starters from last year's team and winning the state title," Amarillo coach Allen Simpson said. "That says a lot about the players, they just have something deep inside that you just can't coach." Simpson continued saying, "we were able to handle the pressure most of the game and that was the difference," Simpson said. "We never faced a team that applied so much pressure. We weren't pretty doing it, but we did a fairly good job." Simpson continued saying, "I never thought of winning a state championship in Amarillo because we have to play Dallas, Ft. Worth and El Paso teams. They're too tough."

For Simpson, it was his second state title having taken Canyon to the championship in 1964. The Sandies started the season slow at 7-3 at one point with two of those wins in overtime. "We struggled early," Simpson said "It took awhile to find out who our players were, and what combinations worked best."

The Amarillo victory was probably the most unexpected title of the 1980s. The Sandies came out of no-where to take the title. The way they handled Austin Johnston and Dallas Kimball was really shocking. It was not the fact that they won the games, but rather they were in control most of the way in both games.

How does Amarillo's title run compare to the other title teams of the 1980s. The Sandies don't receive the love that a lot of the other state champions of the decade receive. The largest margin of victory in the playoffs by the class 5-A state champions is interesting. Houston Madison 1985, of course, is at the top a +22.5 advantage per game in the playoffs. The 1989 Clear Lake team finished second with a +15.1 advantage. Third, behind Madison and Clear Lake was, you guessed it, Amarillo at +13.1. The next closest was the 1982 champion, San Antonio Churchill, at +10.0. Amarillo took their game to another level in the playoffs.

In talking with point guard, Ashton Nowak, he discussed some of the team's early success. "Coach Roger Whiteside was our junior high coach and moved up with us to the junior varsity and was the varsity assistant. He really drilled us on fundamentals at an early age. He was really tough on us and instilled early the right way to play the game." As mentioned earlier, the junior class didn't lose a game in junior high, which was 7th, 8th and 9th grade. "I really didn't appreciate Coach Whiteside until I was older," Nowak said. "The things that he did as far as discipline would not have been tolerated in today's environment. Some mama would have complained, but he really made us mentally tough," Nowak continued.

Nowak continued talking about the big upset win over Dunbar. "Coach Simpson never told us a lot about the Dunbar tradition, so we weren't intimidated, we were just playing our game." Nowak continued, "Coach Simpson was a father figure to all of us. He was always up-beat and always kept the game in perspective." Nowak said.

The Sandie's were a very close group and were the first honor team to have all their players return for the 25-year reunion in Austin at the state tournament. That speaks volumes about how close the team was growing up as well as today. Some thirty-three years removed from their glory day's they are still in contact with one another.

For Amarillo it was the towns first state title since Palo Duro's title in 1956. Coach Simpson(*) was elated following the game. "As long as you live, you'll never forget this, you'll never forget this, this is awesome, and I'm so very proud of you."

() Coach Allen Simpson passed at the age of 79 in 2015. He played his high school basketball at Borger High School. He coached 36 years after graduating from West Texas State University. He was named West Texas State M.V.P. in basketball as a senior. Borger, Canyon, Big Spring, Spearman, Perryton and Amarillo High School were his coaching stops. He made four trips to the state tournament at Canyon in 1963 and 1964, Perryton 1981 and Amarillo 1986. He won two titles in 1964 and 1986. He retired in 1994 from coaching(697-372). **Allen Simpson was a TEXAS LEGEND.***

All-Tournament team-6'2" Leonard Perry, Dallas Kimball; 6'1" Dod Capps, Amarillo High; 6'4" Sherman Ray, Amarillo High; 6'2" Sammy Simpson, Amarillo High, 6'7" Willie Williams, Wheatley:

1986 State Rankings AAAAA {End of the Regular Season}:

1. South Oak Cliff	24-2	6'6" Ronnie Morgan(20.1), 5'10" Nathan McCoy
2. Bryan	27-3	Charles Lockett, Scott McGee, Broderick Ross
3. South Garland	29-1	6'6" Billy Smith, Calvin Smith
4. Ft. Worth Dunbar	25-4	6'3" Mark Chambers(15.3), 6'2" Derrick Daniels
5. Houston Yates	15-8	6'2" David McDaniel, Darrell Johnson
6. Klein Oak	24-2	6'7" Jeff Williams, Steve Bennett
7. Austin Johnston	27-2	6'1" Jason Shead(17.5), 6'2" Cedric Tealer(16.4)
8. Dallas Kimball	25-3	6'2" Leonard Perry(14.7), 6'2" Roderick Hampton

9. Longview 26-4 6'7" Todd Willis(13.0, 6'3" Stevie Johnson(10.0)

10. Beaumont Pollard 22-7 6'4" Archie Corbin, 6'3" Damon Sweet

Sports Writers All-State 1st Team-6'6" James Johnson(23.2) Tyler John Tyler, 6'7" Richard Derrick(23.5) Garland, 6'6" Larry Johnson(25.0) Dallas Skyline, 6'2" Eddie Cumbo(23.6)

Houston Wheatley, 6'1" Michael Howze-C.C. Miller: **2nd Team-**6'8" Thomas Thames-South San Antonio, 6'8" Steve Miles(19.1) Dallas Samuel, 5'10" Nathan McCoy(10.0)-South Oak Cliff, 6'1" Leonard Perry(14.8) Dallas Kimball, 6'6" Billy Smith(20.5) South Garland: **3rd**

Team- 7'0" Johnny Pittman(18.1)-Rosenberg Terry, 6'7" Deshon Wingate-Austin Lanier, 6'6" Ronnie Morgan(20.1) South Oak Cliff, 6'6" Fred Battles-Converse Judson, 6'6" Linzie Howell(22.0) Dallas Bryan Adams, 6'1" Jason Shead(17.5) Austin Johnston, 6'1" Sammy Simpson(11.9) Amarillo:

T.A.B.C. All-State 1st Team- 6'2" Eddie Cumbo(23.6) Houston Wheatley, 6'2" David McDaniel-Houston Yates, 6'6" Billy Smith(20.5/11.8) South Garland, 6'6" Larry

Johnson(25.0/15.0) Dallas Skyline, 6'6" Ronnie Morgan(20.1/16.8) South Oak Cliff: **2nd**

Team- 6'1" Jason Shead(17.5) Austin Johnston, 6'1" Michael Howze(17.0)-C.C. Miller, Mark McCall(20.0)-El Paso, 6'6" Fred Battles(17.1/7.9) -Converse Judson, 6'6" Roderick Brown(18.5/7.0)-Alief Hastings: **3rd Team-** 6'2" Chris Crease(22.3/11.5)-Alvin, 6'2" Roderick Hampton(13.2) Dallas Kimball, 6'5" Willie Gilmore-Temple, 6'4" Marvin McBurrows(13.0) El Paso Andress, 6'6" James Johnson(23.2/10.2) Tyler John Tyler:

(*) How do the top three scorers in the state get left off both All-State teams? 6'0" Donnell Hayden(25.3) of North Mesquite was one of the best shooters in the state. Freddie Ricks(25.2/8.2) was a scoring machine for Humble High. James Francis(25.0/17.6) from LaMarque almost put up the top numbers in the state in scoring and rebounding, and was not named on either squad. Donnell proved his ability at North Texas State averaging 22 points a game. He led the Dallas-Ft. Worth area in scoring and lost to South Oak Cliff by one point in the state playoffs. S.O.C. was the #1 team in the state. Ricks had a solid four-year career at A&M. Francis went on to be named first team All-American at Baylor on the gridiron and played ten seasons in the N.F.L. The most obvious reason for these omissions would have to be their limited exposure in the playoffs. Both Ricks and Donnell were eliminated in the first round and Francis was eliminated by Clear Lake in a District play-off game for the runner-up spot. The state had a lot of talent and the media could make and break you.

T.A.B.C. Hall of Fame All-Star Game-Waco: 5-A & 4-A

South-6'7" DeShon Wingate, Austin Lanier; 6'4" Darrell McArthur, Silsbee; 5'10" Alonzo Stephens. Palestine; 6'2" Chris Crease, Aldine; 6'2" Eddie Cumbo, Wheatley; 6'2" David McDaniel, Yates; 6'6" Roderick Brown, Alief Hastings; 6'6" Fred Battle, Converse Judson; 6'5" Willie Gilmore, Temple:

North: 6'3" Jerry Mason, Lamesa; 6'7" Riley Smith, Mansfield; 6'6" Terry Whitcher, Borger; 6'5" Billy Smith, South Garland; 6'6" Ronnie Morgan, SOC; 6'8" Steve Miles, Dallas Samuel, 6'4" Sherman Ray, Amarillo; 6'6" James Johnson, Tyler John Tyler; 6'0" Donnell Hayden, North Mesquite:

Recruits: Nationally several players were on the radar, but only Anthony Allen of Pt. Arthur Lincoln made the top 50 recruits in the country. The 6'7" **Allen** was rated #22 in the country by Gannett News Service and #26 by Dyer's Top 50 High School Prospects. Dick Weiss of the Philadelphia Daily News rated Allen as the #24 recruit in the nation. Needless to say, he was very sought after by college basketball

coaches. Allen had impressive numbers, 20/13/6 blocks/5 assists for the Bumblebees. He considered S.M.U., UTEP, Oklahoma and Kansas. Allen finally decided on Georgetown, coached by John Thompson. "It kind of developed into that decision," Allen said. "I felt like the environment was good. It has great academics and the basketball program is excellent." Allen said he and Thompson discussed mostly academics while visiting Georgetown. Allen was invited to the 22nd annual Dapper Dan Roundball Classic(*) in Pittsburgh along with Houston Wheatley's 6'2" **Eddie Cumbo**(23.6). Before the McDonald's All-American game, it was the premier High School All-Star game. Harry Reid of Fike, North Carolina coached the South squad. Reid was really impressed with Allen after the first practice with some rim-rattling dunks and savage blocks. "Watch that kid," Reid said, "He'll give it back to you, he jumps real quick, when he gets up to shoot it, he's actually shooting it down at the basket. He's a real good one." In the game itself, Allen came away with 12 points, 8 rebounds and 3 blocks. 6'2" Cumbo was named MVP of the South squad finishing with 13 points and 3 assists. "It felt good that Eddie and I played well," said Allen. "I'm sure a lot of people were judging how good a basketball is in our state by the way we played." It had been discussed after Pat Foster left Lamar University for Houston, that James Gamble might have a chance at the Lamar job. Allen said, "I'll definitely consider going to Lamar if Coach Gamble gets the job." At the shootout at Autrey Court in Houston, Allen performed well finishing with 10 points, 13 rebounds and 10 blocks. "I wanted to see if I could perform in a different environment," Allen said. The East defeated the North 73-65 in the championship game. Seven players were named to the All-Tournament squad: **Allen, Eddie Cumbo, Chris Crease**(22.3/11.5) of Aldine, **Jerry Mason**(30.4) of Lamesa, **Deshone Wingate** of Austin Lanier, **Roderick Hampton**(13.0/10.0 assists) of Dallas Kimball. **Donnell Hayden**(25.3) of North Mesquite was named tournament MVP from the North squad. Hayden scored 20 points on Sunday night as well as 16 in the North's victory over the South 97-73 on Saturday evening. One Southwest Conference head coach called Allen, "the top recruit in Texas." Rice's head man, Tommy Suits talked about Allen saying, "he reminds me so much of Kenny Walker of Kentucky." Allen blocked one of his rejections all the back to mid-court during the game. As for Eddie Cumbo of Houston Wheatley, he was academically ineligible and ended up at San Jacinto J.C. playing for Coach Ronnie Arrow. Cumbo was highly recruited by Houston, S.M.U., T.C.U., Tech and Baylor, but didn't have the grades. He played at Houston one season with limited success. **Anthony Allen**(17.5/13.0) played four seasons at Georgetown with very limited playing time. His college career was a big disappointment mainly because of injuries. 6'4" **Rodney Samuel**(22.0) missed his entire senior season at South Oak Cliff after being considered the top recruit in the state. Samuel signed with Oklahoma coming out of college, but was dismissed when he got caught plagiarizing a paper, he attended Odessa J.C. and became a three-point specialists.

Coach Jimmy Gales called Samuel the most competitive player he ever coached. That is very high praise coming from Gales, who coached in college as well as high school. Samuel averaged 13.5 per game at Odessa and signed with West Virginia and Coach Gale Catlett. "I just want to go somewhere where I can go in fresh," Samuel commented on signing with West Virginia. Samuel had a severe knee injury his senior year at S.O.C. which limited his explosiveness following high school. 6'7" **Richard Derrick**(24.3/13.4) from Garland was heavily pursued by Alabama, Arizona State, Washington and Wichita State. Coach Lane Norsworthy said that Derrick was "electrified" by the UTEP fans during his visit during the Sun Bowl basketball tournament. "Neither of us had ever been in an arena like that," Norsworthy said. Derrick signed with the Miners. He later transferred to North Texas but never really played anywhere because of some mis-guided activities. 6'6" **James Johnson**(23.2/12.2) of Tyler John Tyler signed with Texas Tech after looking at Tulsa and UTEP and Stephen F. Austin. Johnson was considered the biggest recruit coming out of East Texas since Steffond Johnson signed with L.S.U. in 1981. Steffond had paced Longview to regionals that year. Also, Carlton Cooper came out of Paris in 1981 and had an outstanding career at Texas. Coach Billy Lawson of John Tyler commented that S.F.A. was definitely in the picture, because Johnson's sister was a Lumberjack and his uncle was a former player for Coach Harry Miller. Johnson attended Tech and averaged 4.3 points his sophomore year. 6'5" **Billy Smith**(20.1/11.8) of South Garland was another top recruit. Tulsa, Tech, Kansas State, Connecticut and Seton Hall all came calling. "Billy was definitely interested in going to the Big East," South Garland coach Clayton Brooks said. "He really liked Connecticut." Smith signed with Tulsa but later transferred to Kansas State. Smith averaged 5.3 during his best season with Kansas State. 6'9" 175 pound **Robert Newton**(16.0/11.0) of El Paso Andress got away from hometown El Paso and signed with New Mexico along with teammate 6'4" **Marvin McBurrows**(13.0/9.0). "I feel like we pulled off a real coup," coach Gary Colson of New Mexico said. "They wanted to play in the WAC. Robert said no to us once, but we hung in there, I thought going after both of them might have been the catalyst," Colson said. Newton had been recruited by UTEP, Arkansas and Alabama. "He's awfully good," said Colson. "It came down to us and UTEP." Newton's high school coach, Fernie Hernandez called Newton, "one of the best to ever come out of El Paso." Newton averaged 5.0 during his sophomore season and McBurrows averaged 6.1 points per game with the Lobos. 6'3" **Jerry Mason**(30.6/16.0) of Lamesa made Gerald Myers very happy signing with Texas Tech. Tech felt they had their backcourt of the future with Sean Gay of Houston Madison and Mason. Jerry surpassed his brother and cousin, Victor Spencer, on the all-time scoring list at Lamesa with 2189 points. Jerry Sr., who graduated in the 1960, is number five on the all-time scoring list. "We're happy to sign a player of Jerry's caliber," said Raider coach Gerald Myers. "I think he is the best player to come out of West Texas in the last five

years. He has a lot of ability, and we look for Jerry to become a good player at Texas Tech during his career.” Jerry had incredible range as a shooter with a 46” vertical. With the introduction of the three-point line, Mason would prove to be a valuable asset for the Red Raiders. Lamesa finished 81-15 over Jerry’s three seasons. Their record was an impressive, 26-4, 28-6, 27-5 and 42-0 in District play. Mason visited Wyoming and Seton Hall, but wanted to stay close to home. First assistant, Rob Evans of Tech commented, “We could have gone all over the country to try to find a better prospect than Jerry-and we wouldn’t have found any better. There’s no doubt in my mind that he’ll be an impact player at Tech.” Mason had a nice career with the Red Raiders averaging double digits his sophomore and junior years (12.5). 6’3” **Michael Hobbs**(25.0) of Clear Lake found his way to the Baylor Bears after transferring from Corpus Christi Carroll his senior year. Baylor’s head man, Gene Iba commented, “In my opinion, Michael is one of the top three guards in the state.” Hobbs was a double-digit scorer for the Baylor during two seasons averaging 10.9. 6’2” **Roderick Hampton**(13.0/10.0 assists) from Dallas Kimball signed with S.M.U. Hampton played four years at the hilltop. 6’4” **Ivan Jones**(13.4/10.0) from Houston Madison signed with Baylor. He averaged 10.3/6.8 his senior year with the Bears. 6’5” **Fred Young**, also from Houston Madison, played at Houston Baptist and averaged 11.5 points per game. 6’8” **Steve Miles**(19.1/14.5) of Dallas Samuel traveled out west to Lubbock, and averaged 16.3 points per game his senior year along with 6.9 rebounds for the Red Raiders. 6’5” **Lenzie Howell**(22.0/13.2) of Dallas Bryan Adams was a player who played under the radar, but Arkansas and Nolan Richardson caught his act. Howell averaged 14.6/7.0 with the Razorbacks. The Razorbacks had four future NBA draft picks on the teams that year and Howell led the team in scoring. 6’6” **Ronnie Morgan**(20.5/16.8) followed the trail over to North Texas State where his former coach, Jimmy Gales, was the head man for the Mean Green. Morgan averaged 15.7/12.6, a double-double in college. 6’0” **Donnell Hayden**(25.3) of North Mesquite took his skills to North Texas State averaging 22.4/4.4 assists for the Mean Green. In talking with Ron Powell, he said Donnell played great defense as well as being a solid rebounder. “Donnell was the best athlete I ever coached,” Powell said. Donnell signed with Baylor and stayed a short time before traveling to Levelland and South Plains J.C. Hayden had a tremendous career at South Plains, but had gained the reputation as difficult to handle. Several high level programs stayed away from Hayden. Jimmy Gales was the new “head man” at North Texas State and knew Donnell. Hayden was originally from South Oak Cliff and transferred to North Mesquite after being cut from the Golden Bears program his freshman season. Coach Powell said that it was hard to get Donnell to pass the ball. “Why would I want to pass the ball to someone who couldn’t score,” was Hayden’s thoughts about passing. “Donnell was the best guard in Dallas his senior year,” Powell conveyed. 6’2” **Mark McCall**(20.3) from El Paso High played four

season with the Miners and Don Haskins. McCall averaged 13.4/4.4 his senior year at U.T.E.P. He was called by Haskins in 1990 the best “dunker” in the school’s long history. “There’s been none like him,” Haskins said. McCall started for the Miners and later traveled the world with the “Harlem Globetrotters. 6’3” **Darrell McArthur**(26.5) of Silsbee signed with Houston. He averaged 5.0 points while playing for the Cougars. 6’2” **Chris Crease**(22.3/11.5) of Aldine High also played at Houston with limited success. 6’7” **Keith Manuel** of Houston Sterling played for Lamar University. He averaged 7.6 per game while playing for the Cardinals. 6’2” **Freddie Ricks**(25.2/8.2) of Humble played four years at Texas A&M averaging 9.7 points during his junior year. 6’0” **Moses Reiner** from Westbury Christian in Houston also signed with Texas A&M. 5’10” **D’Wayne Tanner**(20.1) led Lake Highlands and Coach Jack Clark to three straight District titles while playing for the Wildcats. Tanner set the all-time assists record while playing at Rice University and averaging 7.0/4.8 assists his senior year with the Owls. 6’8” **Kevin Ruffcorn** of Austin High also played at Rice with limited success. Two of the top guards in Dallas were 6’2” **Leonard Perry**(14.8) from Dallas Kimball and 5’10” **Nathan McCoy**(10.0/12.1 assist) of S.O.C. They took their skills to McLennan J.C. in Waco. 6’5” **Roderick President** signed with T.C.U. and ended up at Hardin Simmons. 6’1” **Michael Howze**(18.0/7.0/10.0 assists) of Corpus Christi Miller played for Southwest Texas State along with 6’6” **Greg Frizzell** of Cleburne. Frizzell averaged 8.9 points his senior year. 6’7” **Brian Walker** of Houston Kashmere played at Rhode Island. 6’7” **Deshon Wingate** from Austin Lanier traveled west and played for four years at Stanford and averaged 9.8/7.2 his senior season. 6’8” **Edwin Fromayan**(9.0) of Houston Kashmere played four years at T.C.U. 6’5” **Skeeter Henry**(19.6) of South Grand Prairie was one of the best kept secrets in the Lone Star state. Henry had an outstanding career with Sooners averaging 17.3/5.0/4.4 assists his senior year. He was listed #30 on the top recruits list from Texas by the scouts. Although he wasn’t drafted, he played seven games with the Phoenix Suns. He later played overseas for several years. 6’7” **Reggie Pruitt** from Houston Washington went back east to play for Boston College and was 4-year lettermen. 6’0” **Darrell McGee**(19.0) of Corpus Christi King averaged 8.9/6.2 assists while starting at New Mexico. 6’6” **Calvin Tillis** of Grapeland had to battle the small school syndrome signing with the Drake Bulldogs in Des Moines, Iowa. He averaged 11.5/5.8 his senior year in Des Moines. 6’7” **James Spradling**(13.1_rebounds) of Carrollton Newman-Smith signed with Connecticut playing two years. 6’8” **Brian Johns**(12.7/9.9) of LaMarque played three years at Lamar University in Beaumont. 6’4” **Michael Yard**(14.0) from Sugarland_Clements played three seasons at Montana State. 6’5” **Jamie Weaver** played a season at Hawaii. 5’10” **Al Hunter** had a fine career at Davidson averaging 10.6/2.8 assists his senior year. **Wendall Perkins** played at New Orleans for two seasons as did 6’3” **Nate Curvey** of Houston Kashmere. 6’8” **Anthony Smith** did well at Western Kentucky averaging a double-double 11.2/10.4. 6’0” **Mark Watley**

of Ft. Worth Southwest played a season at Louisiana Tech. 5'9" **Gus Klenkenberg** from El Paso High played for two years for the Horny Frogs of T.C.U. 6'0" **Delayne Dona**(8.9 assists) from North Mesquite started at Stephen F. Austin averaging 8.0/4.3 assists. Coach Ron Powell said, "he was one of the best players I ever coached at North Mesquite, along with Mark Davis." 6'6" **Anthony Dickens** of Midland Lee signed with West Texas State. 6'8" **Riley Smith**(21.4/12.8) of Mansfield played at Odessa J.C. Smith traveled all the way to Idaho following junior college and averaged 22.6/8.8 his senior year at Idaho. He was the 17th selection in the USBL by Philadelphia. The United States Basketball League was formed in 1985 and quickly became a developmental league. The league disappeared in 2007. 6'4" **Troy Bell** of Everman played at Odessa J.C. 6'1" **Jason Shead** of Austin Johnston took his talents to the football field and played at Laney J.C. in California. He later played basketball at Angelina J.C. 6'2" **David McDaniel** of Houston Yates went to Angelina J.C. 6'5" **Willie Gilmore** of Temple played for Oklahoma Baptist. 5'11" **Duane Prickett** of Beaumont Pollard took his skills to Houston Baptist. 6'0" **Joe Tillotson** of Dallas Jesuit had a limited career at Dartmouth. 6'8" **Daniel Koenigs**(18.5/10.6) of Stratford Dulles played for Stephen F. Austin. 6'0" **Lance Linscomb**(18.3) of Fredericksburg played at Southwestern Texas State. 5'8" **Clyde Davis**(22.0) of Cleveland had a nice career at Pan American as did 6'7" **Thomas Miller**(19.0) of Killeen High. Miller attended Cisco J.C. before attending Pan American. Davis went to Blinn J.C. prior to Pan American. 6'6" **Roderick Brown**(18.5/7.0) of Alief Hastings also attended Pan American. 6'7" **Howard Turner**(18.3) of Aldine MacArthur attended McLennan J.C. and later Lamar University. 6'6" **Jeff Blice**(19.5) of Angleton played at Sam Houston for four years. 6'4" **Matt Bohan** of Huntsville also played at Sam Houston for four seasons. 6'5" **Freddie Williams** of Waco played for McLennan J.C. and later at Lamar University. Williams averaged 12.8/5.2 while playing for the Cardinals. 6'3" **Matt Sears** of Midland High traveled to Midland J.C. 6'5" **Clifton Jones** of LaMarque also played at Midland J.C. 6'2" **Wilbur Griffith**(13.1/14.0) was outstanding at El Paso Eastwood and played at Midland J.C. 5'11" **Arlin White** of Dallas Kimball played at North Texas State University for Jimmy Gales. 6'2" **Leonard Perry**(14.0) of Dallas Kimball played at McLennan J.C. 6'6" **Fred Battles** and 6'4" **Greg Prescott** of Converse-Judson played at Texas Lutheran College. This was the first class that I've covered since 1970 where nobody was drafted into the Association and only Skeeter Henry played in the N.B.A. Remember also that the draft was only two rounds as opposed to 14 rounds in the early years. That makes a big difference. 6'8" **Sammy Sexton** of Lufkin decided to stay close to home signing with Angelina JC, turning down Colorado State and Tulsa. 6'8" 220-pound **James Durley** of Pittsburg signed with East Texas State in Commerce. 6'4" **Willie Pierce** of Houston Yates played for Angelina J.C. 6'4" **Shone Wyatt** of Houston Kashmere visited several major colleges before settling on McLennan J.C. Wyatt later signed with

Texas Tech. 5'9" **Henry Golightly** of Willowridge also attended McLennan. 6'4" **Terry Witcher**(21.1) had a brilliant career at Borger and played college at Hardin Simmons.

(*) Previous Texans that participated in the Dapper Dan Roundball Classic reads like a Who's Who of Texas Greats. **Dwight Jones** of Wheatley won the M.V.P. Award for the United States team in 1970 finishing with 17 points and 11 rebounds. 6'11" Tom McMillen from the Pennsylvania All-Stars put up 37 points in the contest. **Eddie Owens** of Houston Wheatley had a double-double with 17 points and 10 rebounds in the 1973 game. **Karl Godine** of Kashmere played in the game in 1975. The short list of other Texans that played in the classic game is impressive. **Gilbert Salinas** of S.A. Burbank(77), **Terry White** of El Paso Eastwood(78), **Greg Kite** from Houston Madison(79) and **Ricky Winslow** of Houston Yates(83).

Top Texas Recruits in 1986 based on their college and pro careers:

Riley Smith 6'8"	Mansfield	Idaho 22.6/8.8	USBL #17
Skeeter Henry 6'5"	S. Grand Prairie	Oklahoma 17.3/5.0/4.4 assists	NBA Suns FA
Ronnie Morgan 6'6"	South Oak Cliff	North Texas St. 15.7/12.6	
Donnell Hayden 6'0"	North Mesquite	North Texas St. 22.4/4.4 assists	
Steve Miles 6'8"	Dallas Samuel	Texas Tech 16.3/6.9	
Mark McCall 6'2"	El Paso High	U.T.E.P. 13.4/4.4	
Lenzie Howell 6'5"	Dallas Bryan Adams	Arkansas 14.6/7.0	
Calvin Tillis 6'7"	Grapeland	Drake 11.5/5.8	
Ivan Jones 6'4"	Houston Madison	Baylor 10.3/6.8	
Jerry Mason 6'3"	Lamesa	Texas Tech 12.5	
Deshon Wingate 6'7"	Austin Lanier	Stanford 9.8/7.2	
Darrell McGee 6'0"	Corpus Christi King	New Mexico 8.9/6.2	

Recruiting History- How does Texas compare. **Ken Mink** of the Knoxville News-Sentinel had one of the most widely accepted Top 100 of the period. Having said that, let me say that on his 1981 Top 100, he had Michael Jordan as the #4 recruit and Patrick Ewing #5. Yes, that does not resonate confidence, but for the most part he was pretty accurate. Let us go down memory lane with Ken Mink. The first list that was published nation wide came out in 1973 and only listed the Top 50 recruits. **Eddie Owens** of Houston Wheatley graced the list at #25, in '74 **Earl Evans** from PA Lincoln came in at #32. In 1975 and list was not published. In 1976 it was expanded to 100 with **Albert Jones** of Houston Worthing coming in at #82 and **Phil Hale** of South Grand Prairie at #96. In 1977 they went back to publishing only the Top 50. **Chuck O'Neal** came in at #36 from Houston Milby, #38 was **Dwayne Scales** of Dallas Carter and #47 was his teammate, **Vernon Smith**. It was the first time in Texas that he listed two players from the same team in the Top 100. Dallas Carter finished third in District behind state champion, Dallas South Oak Cliff and Dallas Roosevelt in '77. Yes, pretty tough District. In 1978 the list that was published went back to the Top 100. **Rudy Woods** of Bryan came in at #2, **Jerry Davis** of West Oso at #18, **James Griffin** of Dunbar at #31 and **Terry White** from El Paso Eastwood was #35. The 1979 list was very impressive as well from the Lone Star state with **Rob Williams** of Houston Milby at #16, **Claude Riley** of Crockett at #19, **George Turner** of Hitchcock at #35 and McDonald's All-American, **Greg Kite** from Houston Madison at #94. In 1980, **Michael Young** led the way at #40, **Mike Wacker** of San

Marcos at #58 and **Kirk Lundblade** of Plano at #75. **Steffond Johnson** was one of the best to ever come out of East Texas and came away at #11 in 1981 out of Longview. **Larry Davis**, also from East Texas, was right behind Johnson at #41. **Herb Johnson** of Midland came in at #55 and **John Brownlee** of Ft. Worth Southwest rounded out the impressive group at #57. The 1982 list had two Texans, **Alvin Franklin** of LaMarque at #31 and **Keenan DeBose** from Killeen at #99. Houston Yates duplicated Carter's accomplishment having two players on the list in 1983, **Ricky Winslow** and **Carven Holcomb**. Both played at Houston Yates and were #39 and #68 on the list. **Raynard Davis** of San Antonio Sam Houston came in at #66. In 1984 Texas placed three players in the top 100 in **Norman Anderson** of Ft. Worth Southwest, **Todd Alexander** from Waxahachie and **Michael Williams** from Dallas Carter. Anderson was #40, Alexander #89 and Williams at #99. In 1985, **Tito Horford** from Houston Marian was very impressive at #2 nationally, and **Lance Blanks** of Conroe McCullough came in at #46.

All-Americans-6'4" **LaBradford Smith** of Bay City was only a junior and named first team All-American by Parade Magazine. Incredible honor for anybody, let alone a junior.

National Rankings: To my knowledge, no school received national ranking exposure.

State Leaders: 6'4" **James Francis** of LaMarque pulled down 17.6 rebounds per game to lead the state. He also averaged 25.0 points a game. That's one of the most awesome double-doubles seen at the 5-A level. LaMarque also had the highest rebounding numbers that I can recall from a trio. 6'4" **Brian Johns** put up 9.9 rebounds per game and **Clifton Jones** produced 7.3 per game. 6'6" **Larry Johnson** averaged 25.0/15.0/4 assist/4 steals/2 blocks for Skyline. Looks like the numbers were rounded up. Junior, 7'1" Johnny Pittman from Rosenberg Terry put of 16.2 rebounds per game. 6'6" **Ronnie Morgan** was second in the state in rebounding at 16.8. 6'4" **Michael Hobbs** was listed at 25.0 points per game from Clear Lake. 6'0" **Donnell Hayden** from North Mesquite had the highest listed scoring average in the state at 25.3. 6'2" Freddie Ricks is right there as well with a 25.2 scoring average. Several players were in the 24-point range. 5'8" **Louis Hicks** of Garland Lakeview came in at 24.1, 6'1" **Derrick McGee** from Dallas Roosevelt was close as well with 24.6. **Willie Thomas** of Ft. Worth Southwest came in at 24.3. Block shots were difficult because the newspapers failed to publish the numbers. The highest number I found was turned in by Pittman with 7 per game. The unofficial assists leaders were 5'11" **Nathan McCoy** of South Oak Cliff with 12.1 and 6'2" **Derrick Daniels** of Dunbar at 10.0. 6'2" **Rod Hampton** of Kimball was also listed at 10.0. Other impressive numbers were **Lesley Booker** of Dallas Spruce at 9.0, Delayne Dona of North Mesquite 8.9 and **Reggie Brown** of Lakeview 8.9. As always, many coaches just round up numbers and others gessamated. Accurate numbers are always difficult. **Dallas South Oak Cliff** averaged 75.5 per game and

allowed 61.3 for a 14.2 points difference. **South Garland(31-3)** put up the top point spread at **+17.6**. The Colonels averaged 72.3 per game and allowed 54.7 a game.

Austin Johnston(34-3) was right behind South Garland averaging 75.1 and allowed 58.7 for a **+16.8** difference. **San Antonio East Central(29-3)** was the state's top offensive team with **90.8** per game. Top defensive numbers that were turned in by **North Mesquite(26-5)**, allowing **44.4** points per game.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs: 6'3" Eddie Cumbo put up incredible numbers. They were some of the decade's highest numbers with 48 points against Sam Houston in Bi-District. Cumbo averaged 29.7 in his four playoff games scoring 38 against LaPorte, 22 against Kashmere and only 11 in the state semi-finals against Dallas Kimball. 6'2" **Jason Shead** of Austin Johnston put up steady numbers scoring 16 against Sugarland Clements, 15 vs. SA Churchill, 14 against East Central, 18 in the regional finals vs. Converse-Judson and 14 in the state semi-finals against Amarillo for a 15.4 averaging in the playoffs.

Power Ratings 1986

1.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	33-1	104.97	State Champs 4-A	def. Mansfield 55-39
2.	Mansfield	31-2	94.12	State Finals 4-A	loss PA Lincoln 55-39
3.	South Garland	31-3	92.65	2 nd Round	loss Kimball 57-55
4.	South Oak Cliff	28-3	90.50	Regional Finals	loss Kimball 56-47
5.	Austin Johnston	34-3	88.93	State Semi-Finals	loss Amarillo 57-43
6.	Amarillo	31-5	88.00	State Champs 5-A	def. Kimball 72-63
7.	Dallas Kimball	31-4	86.93	State Finals	loss Amarillo 72-63
8.	Bay City	34-1	86.36	Regional Finals 4-A	loss PA Lincoln 57-52
9.	Houston Wheatley	21-12	86.29	State Semi-Finals	loss Kimball 53-51
10.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	30-5	85.70	Regional Finals	loss Amarillo 72-63
11.	S.A. Churchill	24-6	84.08	2 nd Round	loss Johnston 52-51
12.	Longview	27-6	83.83	Bi-District	loss Temple 75-69
13.	Lake Highlands	26-7	83.50	Bi-District	loss SOC 94-56
14.	Houston Yates	23-2	82.91	Ineligible	
15.	Temple	26-8	81.49	Regional Semis	loss Kimball 55-52
16.	LaPorte	30-6	81.47	Regional Semis	loss Wheatley 80-78
17.	Converse-Judson	33-5	80.98	Regional Finals	loss Johnston 68-61
18.	Dallas Skyline	25-7	80.84	Bi-District	loss S. Garland 71-60
19.	North Mesquite	26-4	80.61	Bi-District	loss SOC 50-49
20.	Tyler John Tyler	22-4	79.72	3 rd District	lost District playoff
21.	Clear Lake	26-10	78.59	Regional semis	loss Kashmere 65-61
22.	Seguin	21-11	78.53	5 th District	
23.	Duncanville	27-7	77.18	2 nd Round	loss Dunbar 77-65
24.	Pasadena	25-8	76.93	Bi-District	loss Clear Lake 53-41
25.	Houston Milby	20-11	75.94	Bi-District	loss Kashmere 82-79
26.	LaMarque	15-10	74.50	3 rd District	lost playoff -Clear Lake
27.	Richardson	24-6	73.74	Bi-District	loss Kimball 53-45
28.	Cleveland	33-4	72.25	State Champs 3-A	def. Dimmitt 57-56
29.	Dimmitt	31-7	71.81	State Finals 3-A	loss Cleveland 57-56

30. Morton	32-7	70.68	State Champs 2-A	def. Drippings Sp 73-59
31. Bryan	27-6	67.23	Bi-District	loss Lufkin 68-57

Power Ratings were very insightful with two class 4-A team at the top. How much confidence do I have in the power ratings? The answer is a lot. These numbers are a very good indicator of a team's overall ability throughout the season. A great example, is that even with fourteen losses, Houston Wheatley had real solid power rating numbers. It's all about your schedule. Kimball had a much more impressive record than Wheatley with only three losses, but their game went into overtime. Their power ratings were within a point of one another. The two exceptions for power ratings numbers involve rivalry games and when you face an opponent multiple times.

1986 5-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso Andress(26-5)	72	El Paso Bel Air(24-6)	60
	Amarillo(24-5)	62	Midland Lee(23-9)	44
	Ft. Worth Richland(19-7)	86	Ft. Worth Trimble Tech(23-7)	57
	South Grand Prairie(20-11)	63	Arlington(24-8)	59
	El Paso Eastwood(25-3)	58	El Paso(21-8)	57
	Odessa Permian(18-10)	54	Plainview(18-9)	45
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(27-4) #4	70	Denton(15-14)	64
Region I Q-Finals	Duncanville(27-5)	57	Arlington Martin(22-8)	56
	Amarillo(25-5)	66	El Paso Andress(27-5)	41
	South Grand Prairie(21-11)	65	Ft. Worth Richland(20-7)	58
	El Paso Eastwood(26-3)	60	Odessa Permian(19-10)	58
Region I Semi Finals	Ft. Worth Dunbar(28-4) #4	77	Duncanville(28-5)	65
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-4) #4	59	El Paso Eastwood(27-3)	50
Regional Finals	Amarillo(26-5)	61	South Grand Prairie(22-11)	53
	Amarillo(27-5)	72	Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-4) #4	63
Region II Bi-Dist.	South Garland(30-2) #3	71	Dallas Skyline(25-6)	60
	Dallas Kimball(26-3) #8	53	Richardson(24-5)	45
	Temple(24-8)	75	Longview(27-5) #9	69
	Humble(20-10)	57	Klein Oak(24-2) #6	44
	South Oak Cliff(25-2) #1	50	North Mesquite(26-4) 2OT	49
	Lake Highlands(25-6)	71	Dallas Pinkston(14-11)	67
	Lufkin(24-7)	68	Bryan(27-5) #2	57
	Klein Forest(20-10)	61	Conroe(18-10)	57
Region II Q-Finals	Dallas Kimball(27-3) #8	57	South Garland(31-2) #3	55
	Temple(25-8)	51	Humble(21-10)	47
	South Oak Cliff(26-2) #1	94	Lake Highlands(26-6)	56
	Lufkin(25-7)	71	Klein Forest(21-10)	58
Region Semis	Dallas Kimball(28-3) #8	55	Temple(26-8)	52
	South Oak Cliff(27-2) #1	85	Lufkin(26-7)	62
Region II Finals	Dallas Kimball(28-3) #8	56	South Oak Cliff(28-2) #1	47
Region III Bi-Dist.	Alief Hastings(27-5)	59	Houston Madison(19-9)	57
	Houston Wheatley(17-11)	92	Houston Sam Houston(22-7)	75
	Houston Kashmere(14-11)	82	Houston Milby(19-11) OT	79
	West Orange Stark(21-10)	51	Aldine(24-6)	47
	Clear Lake(24-9)	53	Pasadena(25-7)	41
	Houston Worthing(15-16)	73	Alief Elsik(18-12)	69

	Beaumont Pollard(22-7) #10	72	Houston Smiley(12-16)	66
	LaPorte(28-5)	81	Baytown Sterling(23-11)	70
Region III Q-Finals	Houston Kashmere(15-11)	57	Alief Hastings(28-5)	56
	Clear Lake(25-9)	67	West Orange Stark(22-10)	63
	Houston Wheatley(18-11)	104	Houston Worthing(16-16)	83
	LaPorte(29-5)	81	Beaumont Pollard(23-7) #10	66
Region III Semis	Houston Wheatley(19-11)	80	LaPorte(30-5)	78
	Houston Kashmere(16-11)	65	Clear Lake(26-9)	61
Region III Finals	Houston Wheatley(20-11)	67	Houston Kashmere(17-11)	54
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Strafford Dulles(28-6)	70	Austin(21-8)	66
	Converse Judson(30-4)	66	San Antonio Marshall(19-12)	37
	South San Antonio(26-6)	63	S.A. Sam Houston(23-8)	57
	Corpus Christi Miller(21-5)	41	McAllen(22-7)	38
	Austin Johnston(30-2) #7	42	Shultz-Clements(24-10)	35
	San Antonio Churchill(23-5)	67	San Antonio Holmes(25-8)	47
	S.A. East Central(27-2)	82	San Antonio Burbank(18-12) OT	80
	Victoria Stroman(18-9)	76	Harlingen(29-2) #16	64
Region IV Q-Finals	Converse Judson(31-4)	64	Strafford Dulles(29-6)	63
	Corpus Christi Miller(22-5)	91	South San Antonio(27-6)	81
	Austin Johnston(31-2) #7	52	San Antonio Churchill(24-5)	51
	S.A. East Central(28-2)	88	Victoria Stroman(19-9)	71
Region IV Semis	Converse Judson(32-4)	76	Corpus Christi Miller(23-5)	67
	Austin Johnston(32-2) #7	82	S.A. East Central(29-2)	70
Region IV Final	Austin Johnston(33-2) #7	68	Converse Judson(33-4)	61
State Semi-Finals	Amarillo(28-5)	57	Austin Johnston(34-2) #7	43
	Dallas Kimball(30-3) #8	53	Houston Wheatley(21-11) OT	51
State Finals	Amarillo(29-5)	68	Dallas Kimball(31-3) #8	63

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1986 AAAAA Top Teams}

- Amarillo 30-5 {State Champs, defeated Dunbar, Kimball, Johnston}
- Dallas S.O.C. 28-3 {2-1 vs. Kimball, Def. Dunbar, Wheatley, N. Mesquite(2) }
- Dallas Kimball 31-4 {eliminated Temple, S. Garland, Richardson, SOC}
- South Garland 31-3 {Beat Longview, Richardson, Lamesa, Skyline(2), Split NM}
- Ft. Worth Dunbar 30-5 {def. Mansfield, Kashmere, Baltimore Dunbar, Eastwood}
- Austin Johnston 34-3 {beat Judson, Churchill, East Central, Klein Oak}
- Houston Yates(23-2) 17-8 {won Jaycee Tourney, beat Wheatley(3), Milby(2), WOS}
- LaPorte 30-6 {1-1 vs. Clear Lake, def. LaMarque(2), Westbrook, Pollard}
- SA Churchill 24-6 {3-1 vs. Judson, lost to Austin Johnston by 1}
- Converse Judson 33-5 {def. Temple, Midland Lee, Dulles, SA Roosevelt(3)}
- North Mesquite 26-5 {lost to SOC by 1, 1-1 South Garland, beat Arlington}
- Houston Kashmere 17-11 {3-1 vs. Wheatley, beat Clear Lake, Milby, Hastings}
- Houston Wheatley 21-13 {beat LaPorte, Sam Houston(2), Aldine, 1-3 vs. Kashmere}
- Clear Lake 26-10 {split LaMarque & LaPorte, def. Pasadena, 2-0 vs. Milby}
- Houston Milby 20-11 {loss Kashmere OT, 1-1 Wheatley}
- Dallas Skyline 25-7 {1-1 vs. SOC, 2-0 vs Lake Highlands, beat Duncanville}
- LaMarque 15-8 {split Clear Lake, beat Kashmere, lost District PO to Lake}
- Temple 26-9 {1-1 Bryan, beat Longview, Dulles, SGP}
- Bryan 28-6 {1-1 Temple, 2-0 Killeen, 2-0 Ellison}
- Lake Highlands 26-7 {beat North Mesquite, Duncanville, split Richardson}
- Beaumont Pollard 23-8 {1-1 vs. Westbrook, 2-0 WOS, loss Clear Lake in 2nd round}
- Alief Hastings 28-6 {lost to Kashmere by 1, beat Dulles}

23.	Pasadena	25-8	{def. Longview, Austin Johnston, LaPorte}
24.	Longview	27-6	{1-1 vs. Lufkin, 1-1 vs. John Tyler, District Champ}
25.	Duncanville	28-7	{2-0 vs. SGP, Undefeated in District}
26.	Tyler John Tyler	22-5	{beat SOC, split Longview, split Lufkin, finished 3 rd }
27.	Lufkin	26-8	{split John Tyler, split with Longview, beat Bryan}
28.	West Orange Stark	22-11	{2-1 vs. Westbrook, beat Aldine}
29.	Beaumont Westbrook	24-7	{2-1 vs. Pollard, beat LaFayette, 1-2 vs WOS}
30.	S. Grand Prairie	22-12	{Def. FW Richland, Arlington, Grand Prairie, Reg. Semis}
31.	El Paso Eastwood	27-4	{top team in El Paso, def. El Paso(2), Permian, }
32.	Strafford Dulles	29-7	{def. Memorial, Austin High, loss to Judson -1}
33.	Richardson	24-6	{split Lake Highlands, beat Jesuit, Plano East(2)}
34.	Dallas Jesuit	30-5	{beat Duncanville +4, defeated Central Catholic for state}
35.	Houston Jones	14-14	{beat Clements, Houston Madison, Worthing}
36.	SA East Central	27-2	{1-1 Seguin, def. South SA, SA Burbank, Stroman}
37.	Klein Oak	24-3	{finished season ranked #6 in state, upset in 1 st round}
38.	SA Central Catholic	26-7	{def. Highland Park, Johnston, Austin LBJ, }
39.	Dallas Samuel	20-12	{split with Skyline, beat Dunbar}
40.	Corpus Christi Miller	23-6	{regional semis, won district playoff}
41.	Killeen	20-9	{3 rd place behind Bryan and Temple}
42.	Houston Madison	19-10	{lost in the 1 st round to Hastings by 1}
43.	Aldine	24-7	{lost in first round to West Orange Stark}
44.	Grand Prairie	20-11	{lost district playoff to S.G.P.}
45.	SA Roosevelt	21-9	{finished 4 th in district, 1-1 vs. Churchill}
46.	South S.A.	27-7	{lost in the 2 nd round to C.C. Miller}
47.	El Paso Andress	27-6	{lost in the 2 nd round to Amarillo}
48.	Seguin	21-11	{win over Madison, Killeen, E.Central, Bryan}
49.	Alief Elsik	18-13	{district runner-up to Hastings}
50.	H. Sam Houston	22-8	{runner-up in district behind Kashmere}
51.	Houston Worthing	15-16	{District winner over Houston Madison}
52.	S.B. Memorial	23-9	{3 rd in District behind Hastings and Elsik}
53.	Arlington	24-9	{lost in Bi-District to S.G.P.}
54.	Arlington Martin	22-9	{loss in bi-district to Duncanville by 1}
55.	Baytown Sterling	23-12	{district runner-up to Pasadena, lost in 1 st round}
56.	Pasadena Dobie	25-10	{lost a district playoff game to Sterling}
57.	Klein Forest	21-11	{district runner-up to Klein Oak, 2 nd round loss}
58.	SA MacArthur	18-7	{3 rd place finish behind Judson and Churchill}
59.	Shultz Clements	24-11	{lost in Bi-District to Johnston}
60.	Willowridge	23-10	{finished 3 rd in district behind Dulles and Clements}
61.	Conroe	18-11	{another district title, loss in Bi-District}
62.	FW Richland	20-8	{2 nd round lost to S.G.P.}
63.	Dallas Pinkston	14-12	{defeated Kimball in district, loss to LH in playoffs}
64.	Spring Woods	18-9	{4 th place finish in district}
65.	Pasadena Rayburn	20-11	{4 th place finish in district}
66.	SA Sam Houston	23-9	{lost in Bi-District}
67.	Humble	21-11	{district runner-up, lost in 2 nd round to Temple}
68.	Austin High	21-9	{district runner-up to Johnston}
69.	SA Burbank	18-13	{first round loss to East Central in overtime}
70.	El Paso	21-9	{lost in bi-district to Eastwood by 1}
71.	Houston Stratford	18-14	{finished 5 th in district action}
72.	Houston Washington	18-11	{3 rd place behind Kashmere and Sam Houston}
73.	Victoria Stroman	19-10	{lost in the 2 nd round to East Central}

74.	Corpus Christy King	20-10	{lost out on a three-way tie for first}
75.	Odessa Permian	19-11	{lost in the 2 nd round to Eastwood by 2}
76.	Midland Lee	23-10	{lost to Amarillo in 1 st round}
77.	Angleton	19-12	{4 th place finish in district, Dulles, Clements, Willowridge}
78.	Denton	15-15	{win over Dunbar, lost in the 1 st round}
79.	Ft. W. Trimble Tech	23-8	{district runner-up to Dunbar}
80.	Plainview	18-10	{district runner-up to Amarillo}
81.	Garland Lakeview	20-13	{3 rd in district, win over South Garland}
82.	Highland Park	19-13	{4 th place in district, win over North Mesquite}
83.	Dallas Roosevelt	14-13	{2-0 vs. Skyline, 1-1 vs. Dunbar, 4 th place finish}
84.	McAllen	22-8	{lost to CC Miller in Bi-District}
85.	SA Holmes	25-9	{lost in bi-district}
86.	El Paso Bel Air	24-7	{eliminated in 1 st round of playoffs}
87.	Plano East	21-9	{3 rd place in district behind L.H. and Richardson}
88.	Tyler Lee	21-10	{4 th place in district behind, Longview, JT, Lufkin}
89.	Marshall	18-12	{5 th place finish in district, win over John Tyler}
90.	Sherman	14-15	{lost a district playoff game to Denton}
91.	Houston Westbury	21-14	{3 rd place behind Worthing and Madison}
92.	Houston Bellaire	18-16	{4 th place behind Worthing, Madison and Westbury}
93.	Houston Sterling	16-11	{3 rd place in district behind Wheatley and Milby}
94.	SA Marshall	19-11	{lost to Judson in Bi-District}
95.	Killeen Ellison	18-14	{4 th place behind Bryan, Temple, Killeen}
96.	RR Westwood	20-10	{5 th place in district behind Temple, Bryan, Killeen, Ellison}
97.	Houston Smiley	12-17	{district runner-up}
98.	Harlingen	29-3	{first round loss to Victoria Stroman}
99.	Midland	21-9	{3 rd place finish behind Permian and Midland Lee}
100.	Deer Park	20-14	{5 th place in district, Pasadena, Sterling, Dobie, Rayburn}
101.	San Antonio Jay	17-12	{finished 3 rd in district}
102.	Eules L.D. Bell	19-11	{3 rd place finish in district behind Martin and Arlington}
103.	San Antonio Clark	18-11	{finished 4 th in district}
104.	SA Highlands	17-15	{finished 3 rd place behind Sam Houston and Burbank}
105.	SA Fox Tech	16-15	{finished 4 th place behind SH, Burbank and Highlands}
106.	Eagle Pass	17-13	{3 rd place finish in district}
107.	Aldine MacArthur	20-11	{advanced to the semi-finals in the Jaycee tourney}
108.	Austin L.B.J.	18-12	{lost out in the zone playoffs in Austin District}
109.	Galveston Ball	16-12	{4 th place win over Clear Lake}
110.	Richardson Berkner	16-11	{4 th place finish behind, LH, Richardson and Plano East}
111.	Plano	15-17	{went to the finals of the Dr. Pepper in Dallas}
112.	Wilmer Hutchins	16-12	{had a down season behind, SG, HP, NM, Lakeview}
113.	El Paso Irvin	20-10	{3 rd place finish}
114.	El Paso Hanks	18-11	{3 rd place finish}
115.	Victoria	16-14	{had three single digit losses to Bay City, 4, 1 and 7}
116.	Texas High	17-12	{6 th place in district, win over John Tyler}

Best 1980-1986 (Top 99)

<u>Players</u> (5)	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'8" Leonard Allen(81)*	13.1	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	San Diego St.	Draft Mavs #50
6'9" Greg Anderson(83)*	20.0	Houston Worthing	Houston	<u>Spurs NBA #23</u>
6'8" Mike Wacker(80)*	22.2	San Marcos	Texas	Draft Jazz #151
6'10" John Brownlee(81)	26.1	FW Southwest	N. Carolina/Texas	Draft Clip #78
7'1" Tito Horford(85)	14.0	Houston Marian	LSU/Miami	Draft Bucks#39
6'7" Anthony Allen(86)	20.0	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	Georgetown	
6'9" Sylvester Kincheon(83)	23.6	Austin Travis	Oklahoma State	
6'9" James Gulley(84)	22.0	Newton	Lamar	
6'4" James Francis(86)	25.0	LaMarque	Baylor(Football)	N.F.L.
6'7" Norman Anderson(84)	18.0	F.W. Southwest	T.C.U.	
6'8" Andre Ross(81)	17.0	Houston Milby	San Diego St.	
6'7" Riley Smith(86)	21.4	Mansfield	Idaho	
6'6" Randy Samuels(80)	15.4	Beaumont Hebert	Oklahoma	
6'7" Jimmie Gilbert(82)	16.3	Huntsville	Texas A&M	Draft Bulls #98
6'8" Glenn Puddy(84)	21.3	Clear Lake	S.M.U.	
6'8" Ricky Cobb(80)	20.5	Wichita Falls	Midwestern Univ.	
6'7" Connally Brown(83)	17.8	West Orange Stark	Villanova	
6'8" Steve Miles(86)	19.1	Dallas Samuel	Texas Tech	
6'7" Chris Hardin(81)	22.2	W. Orange Stark	McNeese St.	
6'6" Ronnie Morgan(86)	20.5	South Oak Cliff	North Texas State	
6'8" Gilbert Collier(80)	16.0	Ft. Worth Dunbar	T.C.U.	
6'7" Kirk Lundblade(80)	22.0	Plano High	S.M.U.	
6'7" Paul Cunningham(80)	12.6	Houston Milby	U.T.E.P.	
6'9" Raynard Davis(83)	13.8	S.A. Sam Houston	Texas	Draft Spur#142
6'10" Reginald Muhammad(85)	20.2	Wilmer Hutchins	S.M.U.	
6'11" Kelly Blaine(81)	13.0	Austin High	South Alabama	Draft Nets#108
6'7" Eric Poerschke(82)	14.0	S.B. Memorial	Arkansas	
6'9" Fred West(85)	17.6	Tyler John Tyler	Texas Southern	
6'7" Richard Derrick(86)	24.3	Garland High	UTEP	
<u>Players</u> (4/5)				
6'6" Larry Johnson(87)*	29.0	Dallas Skyline	Odessa JC/ UNLV	<u>HornetsNBA#1</u>
6'6" Michael Young(80)*	20.0	Houston Yates	Houston	<u>Celtics NBA#24</u>
6'6" Clyde Drexler(80)*	16.0	Houston Sterling	Houston	<u>BlazersNBA#14</u>
6'8" Ricky Winslow(83)*	22.5	Houston Yates	Houston	<u>Bulls NBA #28</u>
6'7" Steffond Johnson(81)	18.0	Longview	LSU/ San Diego St.	<u>Clip NBA #100</u>
6'9" Herb Johnson(81)	25.0	Midland High	Tulsa	Draft Cavs #55
6'4" Willie Ashley(81)	16.0	Ft. Worth Dunbar	T.C.U.	
6'8" Larry Davis(81)	19.6	Lufkin	S.M.U.	
6'5" Keenan DeBose(82)	27.2	Killeen High	Arkansas	
6'5" Sam Norton(81)	26.7	FW Paschal	U.T. Arlington	
6'6" Andre Allen(80)	18.6	Ft. Worth Dunbar	Illinois/UTA	
6'4" Todd Chambers(80)	22.0	Bay City	Oklahoma	
6'5" Carlton McKinney(83)	27.6	Nixon	S.M.U.	
6'7" Pat Durham(85)	17.0	Wilmer Hutchins	Colorado State	<u>Mavs NBA#35</u>
6'4" Hart Lee Dykes(85)	20.0	Bay City	Oklahoma St.(Foot)	N.F.L. Patriots
6'5" Lenzie Howell(86)	22.0	Dallas Bryan Adams	Arkansas	
6'6" Jules Wells(84)	14.0	Beaumont Pollard	Lamar	
6'6" Tom Grant(84)	28.5	Aldine Nimitz	Houston	
6'5" Tim Howard(85)	25.3	Ft. Worth Dunbar	Angelo State	
6'1" Darrell Mitchell(84)	19.1	Bryan	Tyler J.C.(Knee)	
6'7" Kelvin Smith(85)	16.8	Conroe	Minnesota/Houston	
<u>Players</u> (2/3)				

6'4"	LaBradford Smith(87)*	24.0	Bay City	Louisville	<u>BulletNBA#19</u>
6'4"	Lance Blanks(85)*	22.2	Conroe McCullough	Virginia/Texas	<u>PistonNBA#26</u>
6'4"	Fennis Dembo(84)*	17.0	S.A. Fox Tech	Wyoming	<u>PistonNBA#30</u>
6'4"	Carven Holcombe(83)*	24.4	Houston Yates	T.C.U.	Draft Cavs #80
6'4"	Rodney Samuel(86)	22.0	Dallas S.O.C.	Okla/Odessa JC/W.Va.	
6'3"	Jerry Mason(86)	30.6	Lamesa	Texas Tech	
6'4"	Carl Wright(82)	25.0	Dallas Roosevelt	S.M.U.	Draft 76er#113
6'2"	Eddie Cumbo(86)	23.6	Houston Wheatley	J.C./Houston	
6'4"	Charles Young(82)	25.3	Tyler Lee	Kilgore J.C.	
6'3"	Carlton Cooper(81)	23.1	Paris	Texas	Draft Mav#132
6'5"	David Moss(83)	17.8	S.A. Sam Houston	Tulsa	Draft Blaz#109
6'5"	Skeeter Henry(86)	19.6	South Grand Prairie	Midland JC/O.U.	<u>NBA Suns FA</u>
6'2"	Puntus Wilson(80)	20.1	Dallas S.O.C.	JC/ Ariz. St/Lamar U	
6'5"	Matt England(80)	15.2	Houston Madison	L.S.U./H. Baptist	DraftBullet127
6'2"	Mark McCall(86)	20.3	El Paso High	U.T.E.P.	Globetrotters
6'0"	Donnell Hayden(86)	25.3	North Mesquite	Baylor/North Texas	
6'4"	Gary Heyland(82)	15.4	S.A. Churchill	Baylor/UTSA	
6'3"	Robert Hughes(81)	19.0	Ft. Worth Dunbar	Texas/U.T. Arlington	
6'5"	Dwayne Brown(83)	17.0	Dallas Kimball	Baylor/Lamar Univ.	
6'6"	Reid Gettys(81)	12.6	S.B. Memorial	Houston	Draft Bulls#103
6'3"	Darrell McArthur(86)	26.5	Silsbee	Houston	
6'4"	Gary Swain(83)	24.5	Dallas Jesuit	Creighton	
6'4"	Floyd Macon(85)	18.5	Dallas Samuel	Junior College	
6'3"	Chris Mason(85)	26.5	Lamesa	Angelo State	
<u>Players(1/2)</u>					
6'0"	Mookie Blaylock(85)*	17.0	Garland High	Midland JC/O.U.	<u>Bulls NBA #12</u>
6'1"	Michael Williams(84)*	30.9	Dallas Carter	Baylor	<u>PistonNBA#48</u>
5'4"	Spud Webb(81)*	25.0	Wilmer Hutchins	Midland JC/NC State	<u>PistonNBA#87</u>
6'3"	Sean Gay(85)*	16.5	Houston Madison	Texas Tech	
6'1"	Alvin Franklin(82)	28.0	La Marque	Houston	Draft Kings #80
6'2"	Reggie Roberts(80)	22.6	McKinney High	Texas A&M	
6'1"	Luster Goodwin(81)	16.9	Houston Kashmere	U.T.E.P	Draft War. #71
5'11"	Kato Armstrong(85)	18.0	South Garland	S.M.U.	
5'11"	Todd Alexander(84)	21.0	Waxahachie	Minnesota/SMU	
6'2"	Freddie Ricks(86)	25.2	Humble	Texas A&M	
6'1"	Eric Dickens(81)	17.1	Houston Madison	Houston	
6'2"	Jack Worthington(81)	27.1	Spring High	Texas/Okla. City	
6'3"	Johnny Fuller(83)	24.0	Wilmer Hutchins	S.M.U.	
6'2"	Rod Jacques(85)	20.0	Conroe	T.C.U.	
6'0"	Harold Howard(80)	23.5	Austin Lanier	Texas State	
6'1"	Ricky Grace(84)	15.0	Wilmer Hutchins	Oklahoma	<u>Jazz,NBA#67</u>
6'3"	Ken Walling(81)	13.7	Canyon	West Texas A&M	Draft MLB
5'8"	Ronell Peters(81)	12.0	Dallas Roosevelt	U.T. Arlington	
6'3"	Charlie Harris(80)	14.0	Ft. Worth Paschal	U.T. Arlington	
5'11"	James Stern(81)	27.0	Waxahachie	Baylor	
5'11"	Daryl Derryberry(83)	22.0	San Marcos	S.W. Texas State	
6'0"	Ron Singleton(82)	27.3	Dallas Carter	Ariz. St./Gr. Canyon	Draft Sun#146
5'8"	Deon Hunter(84)	16.0	Dallas S.O.C.	North Texas State	
5'10"	Lamar Wadley(85)	22.0	Corsicana	Texas State Tech Int.	
6'2"	Jason Shead(86)	17.0	Austin Johnston	Angelina JC	

(*) Top 15 players of the Decade

Top Teams 1980-86 "McKee"

1. Houston Madison(85) 40-0 5-A State Champions

2.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(84)	38-1	5-A State Semi-Finals
3.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(81)	36-3	5-A State Champions
4.	San Antonio Churchill(82)	37-3	5-A State Champions
5.	Bryan(83)	34-5	5-A State Champions
6.	Bryan(84)	31-6	5-A State Champions
7.	Dallas Roosevelt(81)	41-3	5-A State Semi-Finals
8.	Galveston Ball(82)	35-6	5-A State Finals
9.	Houston Kashmere(80)	31-5	4-A State Champions
10.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(81)	31-5	5-A State Semi-Finals
11.	Houston Yates(80)	29-2	4-A Bi-District
12.	Houston Milby(80)	30-3	4-A District Runner-up
13.	Plano High(80)	32-4	4-A State Finals
14.	Conroe(85)	34-3	5-A State Finals
15.	Houston Yates(83)	37-3	5-A State Semi-Finals
16.	Dallas South Oak Cliff(85)	34-2	5-A Regional Semis
17.	Houston Madison(81)	35-4	5-A Regional Finals
18.	Clear Lake(81)	38-2	5-A Regional Semis
19.	San Antonio Fox Tech(84)	33-6	5-A State Semi-Finals
20.	Houston Yates(82)	33-4	5-A Bi-District
21.	Houston Washington(81)	30-6	5-A Regional Semis
22.	San Antonio Marshall(81)	29-8	5-A State Finals
23.	Dallas Roosevelt(80)	30-4	4-A Regional Finals
24.	Ft. Worth Paschal(80)	30-5	4-A District Runner-up
25.	Houston Milby(81)	29-8	5-A District Runner-up
26.	San Antonio Roosevelt(81)	35-5	5-A Regional Finals
27.	Dallas Roosevelt(82)	32-2	5-A District Runner-up
28.	Spring Br. Memorial(82)	36-5	5-A Regional Semis
29.	S. A. Sam Houston(82)	31-4	5-A Bi-District
30.	North Mesquite(82)	38-3	5-A State Semi-Finals
31.	Tyler Lee(82)	30-5	5-A Regional Semis
32.	S. A. Sam Houston(83)	32-8	5-A State Semi-Finals
33.	Dallas Kimball(83)	30-5	5-A Regional Finals
34.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(83)	33-3	5-A Regional Finals
35.	Dallas Kimball(84)	32-4	5-A Regional Finals
36.	Amarillo(86)	30-5	5-A State Champions
37.	Killeen(84)	29-3	Ineligible
38.	Dallas South Oak Cliff(86)	28-3	5-A Regional Finals
39.	Houston Madison(84)	29-3	5-A Regional Quarterfinals
40.	Ft. Worth Southwest(84)	27-11	5-A Regional Finals
41.	Aldine MacArthur(85)	30-3	5-A 1 st Round
42.	Houston Memorial(84)	31-8	5-A State Finals
43.	Ft. Worth Paschal(83)	30-9	5-A State Finals
44.	Dallas Kimball(85)	30-3	5-A Regional Finals
45.	Dallas Kimball(86)	31-4	5-A State Finals
46.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(80)	30-8	5-A State Semi-Finals
47.	Houston Madison(80)	26-11	5-A Regional Finals
48.	San Antonio Highlands(84)	35-5	5-A Regional Finals
49.	South Garland(86)	31-3	5-A 2 nd Round
50.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(86)	30-5	5-A Regional Finals

{4-A are not included, also class 5-A was 4-A in 1980}

Power Ratings 1980-86

1.	Houston Madison(85)	40-0	109.93	5-A State Champions
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2.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(86)	33-1	104.97	<u>4-A</u> State Champions
3.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(84)	38-1	103.64	5-A State Semi-Finals
4.	San Antonio Fox Tech(84)	33-6	100.74	5-A State Semi-Finals
5.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(81)	36-3	99.30	5-A State Champions
6.	Bryan(83)	34-5	97.60	5-A State Champions
7.	Galveston Ball(82)	35-6	96.87	5-A State Finals
8.	Dallas Roosevelt(81)	40-3	96.76	5-A State Semi-Finals
9.	Beaumont Hebert(81)	35-2	96.60	<u>4-A</u> State Champions
10.	Conroe(85)	34-3	96.56	5-A State Finals
11.	Clear Lake(81)	38-2	95.49	5-A Regional Semis
12.	Bryan(84)	31-6	95.08	5-A State Champions
13.	Dallas South Oak Cliff(85)	34-2	94.95	5-A Regional Semis
14.	Houston Yates(83)	37-3	94.90	5-A State Semi-Finals
15.	Beaumont Pollard(85)	25-9	94.71	5-A Regional Finals
16.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(85)	29-4	94.70	<u>4-A</u> Regional Semis
17.	San Antonio Churchill(82)	37-3	94.19	5-A State Champions
18.	Mansfield(86)	31-2	94.12	<u>4-A</u> State Finals
19.	Dallas Kimball(83)	30-5	93.97	5-A Regional Finals
20.	Dallas Roosevelt(82)	32-3	93.93	5-A District Runner-up
21.	Waxahachie(83)	35-2	93.87	<u>4-A</u> State Champions
22.	South Garland(86)	31-3	92.65	5-A 2 nd Round
23.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(83)	33-3	92.02	5-A Regional Finals
24.	Beaumont Hebert(80)	35-2	91.95	<u>3-A</u> State Champ*(4-A)
25.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(84)	32-3	91.88	<u>4-A</u> State Champions
26.	North Mesquite(82)	38-3	91.57	5-A State Semi-Finals
27.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(81)	34-5	91.24	5-A State Semi-Finals
28.	Tyler Lee(82)	30-5	90.96	5-A Regional Semis
29.	Silsbee(83)	35-2	90.95	<u>4-A</u> State Semis
30.	Beaumont Hebert(82)	30-3	90.81	<u>4-A</u> State Champion
31.	Longview(81)	33-4	90.68	5-A Regional Finals
32.	Dallas South Oak Cliff(86)	28-3	90.50	5-A Regional Finals
33.	San Antonio Marshall(81)	31-8	90.39	5-A State Finals
34.	Plano(80)	32-4	90.20	4-A State Finals*(5-A)
35.	Ft. Worth Southwest(84)	27-11	90.15	5-A Regional Finals

1986 AAAA

The 1985-86 school year brought about a big change in life for me. I moved from Parkhill Jr. High in Richardson to Rockwall High School. My former offensive coordinator on the football team in high school at McKinney was the head man in Rockwall. I played for Ron Poe in McKinney and Billy Whitman(*) was his offensive coordinator. My playing career with the Lions was pretty solid. I was a two-year starter at safety and 1st team All-District my senior year. We were the top ranked team in the state at one point and lost 7-0 to Plano, the eventual State Champions. Whitman hired me as the junior varsity basketball coach and secondary coach in football. In the classroom, I taught World Geography and U.S. History. Billy treated me like his son, looking out for me at every turn in the classroom and coaching. I will always be deeply indebted to Coach Whitman. His West Texas humor and expressions were priceless. Some of the terms he used are still with me today. Billy always seemed to be intense and under pressure. It was mostly self-imposed, but definitely evident.

() Unfortunately, the world lost Billy Whitman at the age of 62 in 2005. He coached in Plano, McKinney, Rockwall, Mansfield and Wylie. He lived and breathed football 24 hours a day. He had a tremendous impact on my life in so many ways. Billy was raised in West Texas and tough as a corn cob. He was as intense as anybody I ever been around in my life on game day. He had such a passion for the game of football. Coach Whitman was very inventive with his ideas on the passing game and ahead of his time. He will forever be missed by those lives he touched.*

As for basketball, I got my first taste of coaching at the high school level. Rockwall in 1986 was a football town that played basketball. Hal Cunyningham was the head basketball coach and moved up really fast through the system. The main reason was because he worked well with football and was winning in basketball. Marvin Williams was Coach Cunyningham's star player for three straight varsity campaigns. Marvin was a big-time football recruit at tailback. Marvin took his talents to Tulane University in 1986 and the cupboard was bare, so to speak, at Rockwall High School on the basketball court. When I arrived, Cunyningham had never coached a varsity game without Marvin on the court.

As for me, I was informed that the basketball program did not make cuts on the junior varsity level. Nobody had an explanation as to why, just because. Anybody that wanted to play was on the team. This made the program at the sub varsity level really weak. I had 25 players that worked out for me and we rotated the bottom five uniforms for game purposes. We had a lot of what Coach Whitman would call "non-athletes." A term that stayed with my entire career. There was so much truth to his words.

Although it was not a good situation, I made the most of it because it was an opportunity. Practice was a nightmare with so many kids. Coach Whitman once again took care of me and gave me a separate gym over at one of the other schools. I was able to work the kids hard and we had a solid season, finishing behind Gainesville in District play. We were very competitive. I platooned the kids, playing as many as ten kids in my rotation and varied our presses. My starters had good size at 6'3 and 6'4" and lean, with the ability to run the court. I ran a 2-2-1

press and dropped back into a 1-3-1 zone. My second group was just the opposite with no size and quickness and speed. I ran an aggressive diamond press and fell back into a man defense. The difference styles really gave my opponents trouble. I had one exceptional shooter, Chris Crawford. He probably should have been on the varsity. The other kids were definitely limited in their abilities. A lot of times I would play Chris on both groups so I would always have a scorer on the court. Against Gainesville in the second round of district, we cut down on our rotation and gave them their only loss in District action.

As for the varsity, that was a different story. Things did not go well as I had suspected. We had a very limited talent with weak guard play. Although we had some size inside with 6'5" Glen Swain(11.5 Reb.) and 6'4" Terry Strange(11.8 Reb.), we were so limited offensively. Our best player was a swing man, 6'2" Chris Babb. The only athletic players we had came off the football field in quarterback 6'0" Dean Swetnam and Marvin's little brother, 5'10" Keith Williams. Williams was moved up to the varsity and ended up being the team's strongest offensive player as a mere sophomore. We lost to North Mesquite(26-5) and Lancaster(22-8) by 30 in pre-district. Our only District win came over Allen(18-10) 61-54 during the first round of action. We lost to Zone winner Denison by 32 and 14 points and took it on the chin by Gainesville by 12 and 38 points.

The pressure was so intense on Coach Cunyngnam he resigned after the season. He and his wife traveled to the Philippines to do missionary work. My one year at Rockwall was a tremendous learning experience. I left the next year to get a fulltime basketball position as an assistant.

Coach Whitman was a no-nonsense type person. I'll never forget; I was at my desk in the field house. It was football season and I was preparing for my classes the next day. Whitman came over to my desk where I was sitting and said, "you don't get it do you McKee, if we don't win Friday night, we might not be here next year and that crap is meaningless. You need to get your priorities straight." There was so much truth in his words. Society puts those pressures on coaches and education whether we like it or not, especially in one high school towns.

In the spring after the basketball season, Coach Whitman never took up my keys to the other gym. That would be a "big mistake." In my younger days, no open or locked gym was safe with me around. I was always looking for a game. Whether crawling through unlocked windows or asking coaches, whatever it took. Kids from all over the area learned we were playing some awesome basketball every day after school. Many of the kids who played were seniors from the football team. That was one of the benefits of having access to your gym, playing the game you love.

Region II

As for District 7-4A North Zone, I was amazed how little we knew about our future opponents on the varsity level. We knew about some of the key players and if they ran zone or man, but it was pretty sketchy. Even at the junior high level, I had scouted every detail trying to gain a possible advantage. Nothing was left to

chance. After six seasons at the Junior High level I learned leaving anything up to chance meant losing. Preparation was critical. Everybody and every team had weaknesses, find them and exploit them if possible. What was John Wooden's famous statement, "failing to prepare is preparing to fail."

Denison and Gainesville were head and shoulders ahead of the rest of the District. Both were primarily football schools with strong traditions on the gridiron. Interesting enough, both teams were led by two of the top football recruits in the state, 6'6" (*)Shane Krahl(16.8) and 6'1" Eric Harper(16.0). Harper of Denison was named the Zone MVP and later played football at Kansas State. He was the quarterback for the Yellowjackets when they captured the state title in 1984. Harper was an incredible athlete that played in the secondary while at Kansas State. Krahl was a powerfully built young man that was extremely strong and agile for his size. Both teams had a great supporting cast, which made them strong playoff contenders. I had always been aware that athletes give you a big advantage, but this really brought it home. These kids came right off the football field and were the best players in the gym. What they lacked in skills, they made up for it in so many other ways.

The 7-4A North All-District coaches named 15 players to the All-District squad, which was ridiculous with only six teams in the zone. The Newspapers were only listing the first teams, so the coaches said we'll fix this, by naming everybody to the first team. Basically, anybody who "peed a drop" made All-District. Denison started 5'6" Anthony DeHorney, 5'11" Stacey Moore, 6'4" Duane McFadden(soph), 6'1" Ronnie Kelly(15.9) and 6'1" Eric Harper(16.0). Bob Clayton was the head man at Denison.

I personally loved Gainesville team. They had a real balanced team that centered around the inside game of Krahl(16.7). Other starters included 5'10" Robert Adams, 5'10" Todd Wilson, 6'2" John Lanz, 6'3" Malcolm Royal and 6'4" Derrell Comer. Keith Barrick was the head man at Gainesville.

The Gainesville-Denison games went to the home teams on both occasions. At Denison(20-8) the Yellowjackets won with a comfortable margin 75-67 over Gainesville(18-12). At home the Leopards handled Denison easily 87-71. The Leopards were led by Royal, who finished with 31 points, and Krahl came away with 16 points. The Yellowjackets were paced by Moore and Harper, who both finished with 24 points. Gainesville slipped up against Allen 71-65 in overtime to give Denison the zone title.

() Shane Krahl passed away in 2018. He was student body president and played football at Texas A&M. He lettered in football, basketball and track while at Gainesville.*

The 7-4A Zone Playoffs saw Denison(20-7) defeat Lancaster(22-8) 62-55. Stacey Moore(16.0) put up 16 points for Denison and Harper knocked down 22 points in the Yellowjackets victory. In a tremendous game, Waxahachie(19-7) defeated Gainesville(18-11) in overtime 87-82. This was a game I attended with great anticipation with Coach Cunnyngham. I knew as good as the Indians were, they would struggle with the Leopards of Gainesville. 6'6" Shane Krahl(16.8/9.3) was a load at the high school level to contain. Krahl didn't disappoint finishing with

37 points. Hachie really did not have anybody that could match-up with the big post. Krahl went on and played tight end at Texas A&M. Marcus Finley paced the Indians with 33 points and Maurice Alexander added 21 points.

7-AAAA Standings: North Zone-Denison(19-7) 9-1, Gainesville(18-11) 8-2, Allen(18-10) 6-4, McKinney(17-11) 6-4, Terrell(9-18) 1-9, Rockwall(6-18) 1-9:

7-AAAA Standings: South Zone- Waxahachie(17-7) 9-1, Lancaster(22-7) 8-2, DeSoto(14-15) 5-5, Ennis(16-12) 4-6, Corsicana(11-14) 4-6, West Mesquite(8-19) 0-10:

All-District South Zone- Marcus Finley, Maurice Alexander and David Jenkins of Waxahachie, Todd Westbrook of Lancaster, Frank Sanders of Lancaster; Zone MVP was Jeff Freeman of Ennis.

Standing 5-4A-Dallas Lincoln(16-9) 9-3, Dallas Madison(13-13) 9-3, Dallas Hillcrest(14-11) 8-4, Seagoville(11-14) 7-5, Dallas Adamson(9-20) 6-6, North Dallas(6-18) 3-9, Dallas Woodrow Wilson(0-20) 0-12.

Waxahachie was a school steep in tradition and the 1986 version of the Indians was talented and young. The Indians beat Cleburne(23-9) 65-64 in the Lions Club tournament for a solid victory. The Indians only loss in Zone action came against DeSoto(14-15) 76-70. Hachie took down the Eagles in the rematch 63-54. Standouts for the Indians were Daryl Overton, 6'2" Marcus Finley, 6'0" David Jenkins, 6'0" Maurice Alexander, Keith Owens, Greg Centelli and Casey Hughes. Coach John Nickols was still at the helm for the Indians. Waxahachie had won state in 1983.

After Waxahachie's solid win overtime win over Gainesville, they prepared for an old foe in the Paris(23-2) Wildcats from East Texas. The Waxahachie-Paris game was played in Greenville. Coach Mike Long was still in control of the Wildcats, but Carlton Cooper was gone. Paris did have the 8-4A North Zone M.V.P. in 6'3" Darrell Mickens(16.6). Other key players for Coach Long were 5'7" Dexter Williams(11.6) and 6'1" Chubby Garvin(12.6). Both were unanimous choices on the All-Zone team. Paris had not played the strongest schedule and lost early in the season by 22 to state ranked Tyler John Tyler(22-5). The Wildcats were ranked in the state's top ten, but were probably a little over-rated, they had played a weak schedule.

The Bi-District game between Waxahachie and Paris came down to the foul line. Paris shot 29% hitting 5 of 17 from the stripe and Waxahachie shot 68% on 20-29 shooting. Even with the incredible discrepancy from the foul line, Paris led 61-57 with 3:10 remaining. With 10 seconds remaining, Paris only trailed 66-65 on Shorty Edwards lay-up. Waxahachie was fouled on the other end and hit both foul shots for the 68-65 victory. James Garvin put up 17 points for Paris and Darrell Mickens added 16.

Coach Long commented after the tough loss, "I told the kids going into the game that there would be three keys we need to do to win. We need poise under pressure, rebounding, and good foul shooting. We did good on the poise but we didn't do as well on the other two."

In District 5-4A Dallas Lincoln, under the leadership of Alex Gillam, won the District title. The Tigers finished with an 9-3 mark tied with Dallas Madison. Lincoln team centered around the up-tempo style that Gillam loved. 5'6" Bobby Johnson(21.3) and Rodney Tucker(19.5) were the leaders on the guard-oriented

offense. In the District playoff game, Dallas Lincoln killed Dallas Madison 101-74. Bobby Johnson put up 30 points in the Tigers win and Tucker finished with 20. Dallas Lincoln defeated Waco Jefferson-Moore(20-10) in Bi-District 80-67. Bobby Johnson was key to the Lincoln victory once again finishing with 21 points. Tucker chipped in 17 points for Coach Gillam and Charles Nixon added 16. Earl Hamilton led the charge for the Lions of Jefferson-Moore with 20 points.

Georgetown(25-6) defeated Belton in their zone playoff 80-58. It was their fifth win over Belton over the course of the season. The usual crew stood out for Georgetown. The Eagles two sharpshooters were Chris Proctor and Bruce Neitsch. The valuable tandem came away with 20 and 18 points. Proctor also added 18 rebounds in the win. Georgetown opened up the second half on a 12-2 run, which ended any hope Belton might have had. John Thompson led Belton with 15 points.

Georgetown(26-6) brought Dallas Madison's(13-15) season to an end 63-60 in Bi-District. The Eagles at one time were up 57-42 and looked to have things under control. The Eagles of Georgetown took a comfortable lead into the 4th quarter, but were outscored by the Trojans 24-16 during the period. Mike Johnson and Tony Craig both finished with 17 apiece for Madison and were key in the Trojans rally. Madison won the battle of the glass over Georgetown 35-28. Chris Proctor led Georgetown with 22 points followed by Kelly Webb's 14 points and Bruce Neitsch kicked-in 12 points.

Denison(20-7) was not a traditional basketball power. Palestine(26-4) on the other hand had been a regular in the state playoffs. Palestine had another solid team in 1986 and probably their best team of the 1980s. They had went-through District pretty much unscathed. Palestine faced Texarkana Liberty-Eylau in the zone playoffs and advanced with an 85-69 victory.

The Wildcats were led by one of the top scorers in the state, 5'10" Alonzo Stephens(24.0). Stephens took his skills to Tyler J.C. following graduation. The Yellowjackets of Denison hadn't seen anything like Stephens in District action. The Wildcats press looked to be a tremendous challenge for Denison. Palestine came away with a hard fought 81-73 victory. Palestine led 31-24 at intermission and were led by Stephens 31 points and Johnny Davis added 21. Denison got 20 points from Robert Stubbs off the bench and Harper finished his career with 17 points.

The region II semi-finalists saw four very athletic teams scrambling for a trip to Austin. Waxahachie(20-8), Palestine(27-4), Dallas Lincoln(19-9) and Georgetown(26-6) all looked to have a solid chance. Waxahachie went down to Dallas Lincoln in the regional semi-finals 83-77. The Tigers had seemed to catch fire in the playoffs. Rodney Tucker led the Tigers with 21 points and Bobby Johnson came away with 19 points. Maurice Alexander was good for 14 points and Marcus Finley with 17 for the Waxahachie cause.

Palestine(27-4) and Georgetown(26-6) faced each other in the regional semi-finals at McLennan Community College in Waco with Palestine advancing to the regional finals 87-77. The Wildcats opened up the first four minutes of the final

quarter with a 18-2 run. Palestine at one point led 81-61. The Wildcats totally dominated the action inside with a 43-17 advantage on the boards. "Our weakness was rebounding," Georgetown Coach Maurice Varnell said. "They have two of the best shooters I've ever faced," Varnell continued. The two shooters were Alonzo Stephens(24.0), who finished with 26 points and 6'1" Charles Mims(14.5), who added 17 points. Other Wildcats in double figures were John Davis(9.0) with 17 points, 5'11" Robert Anthony(7.0) with 15 points and 6'2" Ivery Brown(12.0) came away with 10 points and 18 rebounds. "Palestine isn't the number four team in the state for nothing," Varnell said. "Their overall talent for the game and their potential is awesome, Palestine was just the better ball club."

Another factor for Coach Varnell was the size of the crowd. Palestine brought a rowdy group of about 1,500 strong to support their troops. They called themselves the Palestinian Army and definitely made the presence known. Wildcats supporters far outnumbering the small Georgetown crowd that traveled up to Waco.

Palestine(27-4) and Dallas Lincoln(19-9) advanced to the Regional Finals with both teams dominating with quickness, shooting and guard play. Both teams had strong basketball tradition for the most part, but neither team had ever made its way to the state tournament. Coach Alex Gillum had formerly coached Dallas Carter. He had developed great talents throughout his coaching career. Michael Williams, Dwayne Scales and Vernon Smith to name a few. He was a strong proponent of up-tempo basketball and new talent when he saw it. His run and gun style was familiar to Dallas area schools and fans.

Running the show for Coach Gillum was 5'6" Bobby Johnson(23.8). Johnson had the ability dunk the ball as he showed against Waxahachie. Rodney Tucker(19.7) was another double-digit scorer for the Tigers along with Fred Herrin(14.1). Herrin had been out for six-weeks due to no-pass no-play. 6'3" Arnulf Mobley was critical to Lincoln's success pulling down 12 rebounds per game. Ennis was the site of the Palestine-Lincoln clash.

Palestine came away with a 71-66 victory over Dallas Lincoln to advance to state. Stephens again propelled the Wildcats with 28 points. Tucker and Bobby Johnson only combined for 26 points in the loss. Herrin came up big for the Tigers with 24 points.

Region I

Several of the top teams in the state were at the Lions Club tournament in Ft. Worth over the holidays. There were two different divisions, the class 5-A and class 4-A. Mansfield proved to be a force with an impressive win over district rival Everman 61-54, ending their 16-game winning streak. At one-point Mansfield was up 22-4 on Everman. "We knew they had a quicker team," John Smith said. "We felt like we had to get an early lead, slow down the pace and play it our way." Smith continued saying, "We waited for good shots, which we got, and worked it in to Riley." Smith said he was not impressed by Everman's undefeated record.

“We watched them play last night and they were awesome,” Coach Rodney Shropshire of Mansfield said. Even with the Tigers big man, 6’8” 240-pound Riley Smith in foul trouble, Mansfield was in total control with 3:38 left leading 54-36. The Bulldogs full-court press closed the margin of victory late. Troy Bell came away with 13 points for the Bulldogs and Broderick President ended up with 12 points. Co-MVP winners for the tournament were both from Mansfield, Riley and John Smith. Remember, they were not related.

Everman had a talented crew in 1986 led by Coach Robert Hale. Hale had built a strong program emphasizing the complete athlete. “We try to be positive; we want to give our kids something more than a letterman’s jacket. We want to give them more out of basketball than just playing a game,” Hale said. “We’re teaching them about life, not just basketball, and to be successful in life, to have a positive mental attitude.” The Bulldogs had improved under Hale’s direction from 9-21 finish in 1984 to one of the top 4-A programs in the state just two years later. Roger Thomas(16.1) and Broderick President(12.0/9.1) had started for Coach Hale as sophomores. As seniors they were team leaders. Octavius Martin(11.4/7.4), Ken Zuyer and Troy Bell(13.0/8.7) were key to Everman’s success. Everman won the Arlington Sam Houston Tournament and the Boswell tourney.

The Morning News Rankings for class 4-A teams were as follows- #1 Mansfield(28-1), #2 Wichita Falls Hirschi(23-2), #3 Everman(27-4), #4 Waxahachie(19-7), #5 Denison(20-7), #6 Gainesville(18-12), #7 Lancaster(22-8), Cleburne(23-9), Dallas Lincoln(16-9). #10 Crowley(20-7):

District 4-AAAA was one of the strongest in the state in 1986 and one of the best regardless of classification. Everman entered District at 16-1, Mansfield came in a 13-1, Crowley stood at 12-2 and Cleburne at 13-5. Crowley was picked 3rd in District pre-season polls and had defeated Waxahachie earlier in the season 78-60. “It’s as tough a District as there is in the state,” Coach Jeff Cody of Cleburne said.

Mansfield handled Cleburne 54-50 in the first round of District action. Anytime you beat Jeff Cody you have done something. Cody always put a tough team on the court. The Tigers 6’4” Terry Clements went off for 22 points on 10 of 19 field goals. Riley Smith was held to a season low of six points against the Cleburne zone. Riley finished with 11 rebounds and John Smith added 14 points.

In the first District match-up between the two top contenders, Mansfield continued their mastery over Everman 55-48. Some 1,500 fans packed into the Bulldogs gym to watch the contest. Everman stood 19-2 following the loss with both defeats coming at the hands of Mansfield. “When we got to the 4th quarter, there was no doubt where the ball was going,” Coach Shropshire said. “Riley, Riley, Riley.” He scored the first eight points of the 4th quarter. “The game was played pretty physical and I like that,” Riley said after the game. Riley Smith hit 11 of 14 free throws and overall the Tigers connected on 19 of 25 from the line. Everman was 2 of 4 from the line. “Because of foul trouble, we weren’t able to do some of the things we wanted,” Coach Hale of Everman said. Mansfield had a rebound advantage of 35 to 32. Riley finished with 31 points and 13 rebounds. John Smith of Mansfield had an off night hitting only one of ten from the floor.

Everman keep pace with Mansfield defeating Cleburne 56-44 with Broderick President supplying the offense scoring 13 points. President played much of the game with four fouls. Everman moved to 5-1 in District and Cleburne fell to 4-2. Everman had been up at one point by 16 points. Calvin Scott finished with 14 points for Cleburne.

Crowley played Mansfield tough losing 66-63. 6'1" Steve Smith of Mansfield finished with 17 points in the victory. Charles Dobbins paced Crowley with 21 points. Crowley was pretty much eliminated from the District race when they lost to Everman 77-55. The Tigers added insult to injury beating Crowley a second time 73-57.

Everman had one last chance at Mansfield and a piece of the District title. The Bulldogs came up short losing 60-53 to the Tigers in Mansfield. Everman got close, trailing 56-53 with only 31 seconds remaining. Riley finished with 22 points and President had 19 for Everman.

As Mansfield prepared for the playoffs, they had a very impressive lineup. 6'7" Riley Smith, 6'5" John Smith, 6'2" Neville Jones, 5'8" Mike Ryan, 6'1" Steve Smith and 6'4" Terry Clements. "We've been looking forward to the playoffs," John Smith said. "When Cleburne beat us last year on a one game playoff for second, we kind of set our mind on this year." The Tigers last District title was in 1983 when they finished 29-3.

Standings District 4-4A: Mansfield(27-1) 14-0, Everman(27-4) 11-3, Cleburne(23-9) 10-4, Crowley(20-8) 8-6, Joshua(10-16) 6-8, Brownwood(10-13) 5-9, Stephenville(6-18) 3-11 and Granbury(14-7) 0-14.

Coach Rodney Shrosphire of Mansfield had come to the Tigers from Grand Prairie Junior High and worked as assistant under Coach Danny Husband at Mansfield. When Husband went into his short retirement, Shrosphire was promoted the head job.

In District 3-4A West Zone, Ft. Worth Northside(17-8) finished first at 11-1 and Burkburnett(15-11) followed at 9-3. In the East Zone, Wichita Falls Hirschi(23-2) took first going undefeated in District action and Grapevine(17-13) was runner-up at 10-2. Hirschi defeating Burkburnett 62-32 to advance to the playoffs. Northside did a number on Grapevine 67-56 to gain the other playoff spot. Marcus Haynes paced Northside with 21 points and Mustangs were led by Bradley Simmons with 19 points. There was not a playoff between the two zone winners for seeding.

Standings 3-4A West Zone- FW Northside(18-8) 11-1, Burkburnett(15-11) 9-3, Mineral Wells(13-11) 8-4, Azle(13-13) 6-6, Weatherford(9-16) 3-9, FW Brewer(7-20) 3-9, FW Carter Riverside(4-17) 2-10.

Standings 3-4A East Zone- Wichita Falls Hirschi(23-2) 12-0, Grapevine(16-13) 10-2, Keller(17-11) 8-4, Boswell(10-17) 5-7, Diamond Hill(14-13) 5-7, FW Poly(4-11) 2-10, FW Castleberry(5-22) 0-12.

In Bi-District, #3 Mansfield drew one of the top teams in the state in #9 Wichita Falls Hirschi(23-2) and 6'7" Darion Newsome. Rebounding ending up being the big advantage for Mansfield, as the Tigers controlled the inside game 50-26. The Huskies had eliminated Mansfield from the playoffs in 1984, but not this time. The Tigers pulled away 61-48 to advance to the 2nd round. Riley finished with 25 points and 3 blocks and John Smith added 20 points. Newsome got his points

finishing with 20 points. One of the key moments occurred when Newsome sprained his ankle in the 2nd quarter. The Huskies sorely missed Newsome in the third quarter being outscored 17-7 during the period. The Huskies had only trailed by one at halftime 44-43. "Losing Newsome took away some of their steam, that was a tough break for them," Coach Shropshire said. Keith Stevenson added to the Hirschi cause with 16 points.

Next up for Mansfield was one of the top programs in the state, Lamesa(27-4). The regional semi-finals contest was played at Abilene Christian University. Lamesa had advanced to state in 1985 and had plenty playoff experience and tradition. The experience showed as the game came down to the final seconds. John Smith drove to the bucket with 43 seconds left for the winning basket. Cedric Mason had an opportunity to tie the game with 12 seconds remaining, but came up short. Mansfield's 6'4" Terry Clements missed the front end of a one and one with five seconds left giving Jerry Mason a half court "hail-mary", which missed.

6'7" Riley Smith put up 30 points, 20 rebounds on 15 of 22 shooting. John Smith was close behind finishing with 27 points on 11 of 21 from the floor. Lamesa was ranked #4 in the state behind Mansfield, Bay City and Pt. Arthur Lincoln. Jerry Mason(30.4) paced Lamesa with 30 points. Mansfield had ended Lamesa's 16-game winning streak.

Another power from West Texas was Borger. Year after year, Borger produced outstanding teams. Borger(26-3) was not state ranked due to a late season loss to Pampa. In Bi-District, Borger had to face state ranked Andrews(23-2). This was the top first round match-up in the state in class 4-A. The Mustangs of Andrews had only tasted defeat twice, which had come at the hands of District champion, Lamesa. Andrews showed their talent with wins over Amarillo High and Plainview in the pre-season. The Mustangs also won three tournaments during the pre-season.

Coach Duane Hunt of Borger was very impressed with Andrews coming into their playoff game. "They've got five people who can score," Hunt said. "They have a lot of quickness and I understand they're all good shooters. 6'0" Bernard Williams(21.0), 6'3" Doodle Woods(19.0), 6'2" Danny Neighbors and 5'8" Lewis Clay were key players in the Mustangs attack. Andrews was well known for their full court pressure.

Borger counted on 6'6" Terry Witcher(21.0/8.9), 6'4" Wayne Dickson(14.2/8.4) and 6'2" Don Coffey(10.5/6.1). The Bulldogs had one of the top front lines in the state with size and strength. Point guard Charles Walker was solid for Coach Hunt along with Robey Hunnicutt, who gave the Bulldogs solid outside shooting. On the wings for Borger were Mark Mahon(8.6) and Roy Salyer(7.2). Witcher and Dickson had been an interictal part of the Borger program since their sophomore year.

Standings-1-4A - Borger(23-3) 11-1, Levelland(14-14) 8-4, Pampa(16-13) 7-5, Lubbock Estacado(14-14) 6-6, Canyon(9-16) 4-8, Lubbock Dunbar(8-17) 4-8, Dumas(9-21) 2-10:

Andrew and Borger played at Lubbock Coronado High School before an estimated crowd of 2,000. Either one of these teams would have represented Region I well at the state tournament, but that is the reality of the state playoffs. In a game that went back and forth, Borger shot an amazing 62% from the floor and came away with an impressive 69-65 victory. The game came right down to the end. With the score at 65 apiece, Borger had the ball running down the clock with 20 seconds remaining. Charles Walker of Borger drove the baseline and put up a layup to put the Bulldogs 67-65 with under 10 seconds remaining. Down by two and with just seconds left Louis Clark of Andrews missed his opportunity at the top of the key for the tie. Borger's Don Coffey pulled down the rebound and was fouled immediately. Coffey converted both foul shots making the final read 69-65 in favor of Borger.

Andrews press was a factor early forcing the Bulldogs into 14 turnovers in the first half. Because of the turnovers, Andrews was able to jump out to a 16-8 advantage. Coach Hunt took a timeout and settled his troops down and Borger soon took a 18-16 lead. "We settled down the second half and started attacking their press more aggressively," Hunt said. Andrew leading scorer, Bernard Williams, struggled during the game going 2 of 8 in the first half.

Borger found themselves down 44-33 in the 3rd period before running off nine unanswered points to get back into the contest. At the end of the 3rd quarter, Andrews seemed to be in control leading 50-44. Coffey of Borger came out blazing to start the 4th quarter and the Bulldogs were able to take a 55-54 advantage with 4:55 remaining.

Andrews had some real balanced scoring with Danny Neighbors hitting 14 points, Doodle Woods 15 and Bernard Williams came away with 14 points. Borger's Terry Whitcher was incredible hitting 11 of 15 from the floor finishing with 29 points. Whitcher was joined in double figures with Walker and Coffey, both finishing with 12 points apiece. Andrews went into the off-season with a fine 27-3 record.

This set-up another excellent contest pitting Everman(29-4) against West Texas kingpin, Borger(25-3), in the regional semi-finals. If the Bulldogs of Everman were going to be successful they were well aware they would have to slow down Borger's, Whitcher. Coach Hunt always seemed to do his homework and the Everman game was no different. 6'5" Troy Bell, 6'5" Broderick President and 6'3" Octavious Martin would need to be dealt with if Borger was to have any chance of winning. Coming off the bench for Everman was 6'8" Ken Zuser. "We don't have anybody who can come off the bench size-wise," Coach Hunt explained.

Borger's inside game centered around 6'2" Don Coffey and 6'4" Wayne Dickson. Coffey was instrumental to Borger's success due to tough minded defensive play and crashing the boards. Dickson was susceptible to fouls, which could be a problem with Borger's short bench.

Everman(29-4) had their season come to end at Vernon against the Bulldogs of Borger 62-51. Borger knocked down 24 of 26 free throws in the victory.

6'6" Terry Witcher was 12 for 12 in the final quarter. Wayne Dickson hit 8 of 12 field goals and was 6 for 6 from the foul line totaling 22 points. Don Coffey added 15 points and Witcher came away with 16 points. Everman was limited during the game by constant foul problems. Borger only committed 11 fouls while Everman had 19 fouls. Troy Bell was good for 16 points and Broderick President added 13 for the Bulldogs.

The two top teams in Region I met in the regional's finals. The Bulldogs of Borger(26-3) against the upstarts from just outside Ft. Worth, the Mansfield Tigers. Mansfield came into the game at 29-1. Borger and Mansfield faced off in front of 1,900 fans at Vernon High School.

Coach Shropshire described Borger, "good overall size, especially at guard. And they're probably a step or two quicker than we are." One of the biggest concerns for the Tigers had was keeping Borger off the foul line. Against Everman they shot 93% from the stripe. "That's unnatural. Nobody should be able to shoot free throws like that," Shropshire said. "They don't have a weak spot, their well-balanced," Shropshire commented. "Were going to have to play our butts off to beat them." Borger would be attempting to return to state for the first time since 1983, when they lost to Waxahachie in the state finals.

Coach Hunt was concerned about Mansfield's size and strength inside. "We've played pretty well against big people all year," Hunt said. "We certainly think we can play with them. We're going to have to make some adjustments, and the degree by which we can do that without getting into foul trouble is going to be critical," Hunt continued. "The defensive job on the two post men is really going to be the key, being able to do it again without getting into foul trouble is important. They've got two 6'4 players that can come off the bench, which gives them quite a bit of depth there. We just don't have an extra body on the bench," Hunt explained.

Witcher was double and triple teamed against Everman, holding him to 16 points, most of which came from the foul line. "They're going to have to come out and cover Terry outside, which we hope will open us up a little bit on the inside," Hunt said.

For Coach Hunt the Mansfield-Borger game was going pretty much as planned until Mansfield made a critical adjustment. The Tigers moved 6'5" John Smith to the high post, which made it very difficult for Borger to double team 6'8" Riley Smith on the inside. John Smith hit 7 of 8 field goals at the foul line and finished with 20 points. Unable to double Riley, the big man had his way underneath scoring 20 points as well. Riley also finished with 16 rebounds and 6'2" Neville Jones collected 11 boards in the Tigers 70-58 regional victory. Mansfield had a 42-34 advantage on the glass. "Once their big guy got in foul trouble, they had to take him out and they didn't have anybody inside who could match-up with our guys," Coach Shropshire said.

The Tigers pulled away late in the 2nd quarter and early in the 3rd period with a 27-11 run. At the end of three quarters, Mansfield had a comfortable lead

57-41. Steve Smith's outside shooting proved vital for Mansfield in the first half. Steve Smith hit 5 of 8 from the floor. The Tigers Neville Jones added 18 points for Mansfield. That's three players putting up 58 points out of a total of 70.

Terry Whitcher finished with 21 points for the Bulldogs. Mansfield had 18 turnovers in the game and Borger only had 11. Borger finished with 23 fouls as opposed to the Tigers 15. Mansfield shot 56 % from the floor on 27 of 48, Mansfield advanced to state with a 21-game winning streak.

Region III

The Bay City Black Kats came into the playoffs on a 53-game winning streak and 32-0 record on the season in 1986. Bay City waltzed through District with all double-digit victories. Wharton(16-13) finished 9-5 in District and was one of three teams with a winning record in District. During the 32-game regular season, Bay City had only five single digit victories and three were against Victoria by 1, 4 and 7 points.

Bay City attack centered around the incredible talents of 6'3" LaBradford Smith. LaBradford was a waterboy at Bay City when his brother played for the Black Kats. Some suggested that Smith should skip college and go right to the N.B.A. Smith responded, "Mostly, they are people I don't even know, but they say you don't need college, just go on to the NBA. But that's hard, that's a one-in-a-million," Smith said. "I've been waiting 16-years, I can wait at least four more years for that." Smith scored 47 point early in the season in Bay City's 69-55 win over Houston Sam Houston(22-8). The Tigers had been the only blemish on the Black Kats record during the 1985 campaign finishing 34-1. "It was payback time," Smith said. Smith averaged 25/14/ 8 assists his junior year. "LaBradford can leave the ground 10 feet from the basket and it's like he's on some type of elevator or something. All he needs is one step, he's like superman up, up, up and away. All he needs is one step." Coach Eddie Nelson said. He high jumped 6'10" as a 14-year old freshman, a national age group record. "He's quite a player, you don't see these guys every day. I don't know anybody who has as much talent as him." Nelson continued. "He can do pretty much anything he wants, and there ain't too much you can do about it if you're guarding him." He began dunking as a 7th grader.

Sammy Jackson and 6'3" 260-pound Billy Dykes were the main contributors to Bay City's undefeated regular season along with LaBradford. Against tough teams, Bay City liked to spread their opponent out and put LaBradford at the foul line. In this way he could work one on one. In Bi-District, Houston Furr(16-11) tried to slow down Bay City losing 71-51. LaBradford put up 34 points and Jackson added 13 and Dykes was good for 12 points.

In front of 2,500 fans at Clear Creek High School, Silsbee(27-3) and Bay City(33-0) went at it again for third year in a row. With their 54-game winning streak on the line the Black Kats advanced to the regional finals 47-38. LaBradford held Silsbee's Darrell McArthur to a mere nine points on 2 of 10 shooting. McArthur was considered one of the top offensive players in the entire state. "I

think LaBradford did a great job in shutting down McArthur,” Coach Eddie Nelson said. “He is an unselfish kid and a total and complete ballplayer.”

Bay City survived Silsbee’s slow-down tactics. The score stood at 22-21 at halftime in favor of Bay City. Smith was the only Black Kat in double figures with 20 points. Silsbee finished another outstanding season short of state at 27-4. Two of their losses were against Pt. Arthur Lincoln in District.

All-District 12-4A: LaBradford Smith-M.V.P, Eddie Nelson, Bay City-“Coach of the Year.” **1st Team-** James Terrell-El Campo, Sammy Jackson-Bay City, Mike Heygood-Santa Fe, Ken McQuillen-Friendswood, Chris Moses-Wharton: **2nd Team-** Billy Dykes-Bay City: **Honorable Mention-** Cory Hix of Bay City:

Pt. Arthur Lincoln put together another incredible team in 1986 led by All-State post, 6’7” Anthony Allen. In pre-district games, Lincoln had faced one of the strongest schedules in the state with several 5-A teams. Lincoln ended Beaumont Westbrook’s 33-home game winning streak 81-54. Yes, by 27 points. The Bruins fell to 9-3 on the season and Lincoln improved to 8-1. In discussing the Westbrook streak Coach James Gamble remarked, “those types of things don’t go on forever. Someone had to break it sometime.” Super star, Anthony Allen, had a heavily bandaged right ankle he sprained earlier in the day getting off the bus. To add excitement to the already great match-up, Coach Billy Tubbs was in the stands. Tubbs was at Oklahoma at the time. Allen finished with 23 points, 11 rebounds and 10 blocks. Good Lord! Coach Gamble remarked following the big win, “I don’t ever have to worry about Anthony, he comes to play every night.” Gamble felt the Bees ability to handle the Bruins press was the difference. “That pressing shouldn’t ever bother us, we’re a pressing ball club ourselves. They are playing right into our game when they try and press us.” Gamble continued, “Westbrook just wasn’t tall enough to do anything inside.” Tim Hickman(18.0/8.0) finished with 24 points for Westbrook. Hickman had one of his shots swatted by Allen during the contest. Allen also entertained the crowd with two tomahawk slams.

Westbrook Coach Charles Briethaupt said prior to his team’s game against Lincoln, “we thought we were going to play them somewhere along the line, they are going to come in here wanting to prove they were the best team in the tournament.” In the **Beaumont YMBL Tournament** if you recall, Lincoln had been upset in the semi-finals against Lafayette and Westbrook defeated LaFayette in the finals. Briethaupt also discussed Allen saying, “we don’t have anybody who can match-up with Allen inside. He’s too tough.” Briethaupt elaborated on playing against a talent like Allen, “we have to prepare ourselves psychologically and physically, we can’t let Allen intimidate us. We know he is going to block some shots, but we can’t let him dictate our offense for us.”

As if Allen wasn’t strong enough, the Bees got three strong inside players off the football team. 6’5” Ronnie Haliburton(*), 6’6” Bryan Sallier and 6’4” Craig Turner made Lincoln’s attack second to none in the state. Sallier went on to star at the University of Oklahoma and was a three-year starter for the Sooners.

(*) Haliburton went on to play at L.S.U. as a tight end and played two years in the N.F.L. with the Broncos.

In the first District show-down between Pt. Arthur Lincoln and Silsbee, both teams were undefeated in 9-4A action. Balanced scoring paced the Bees to a 62-44 victory over Silsbee. Four players reached double figures for Lincoln and Silsbee, as usual, was paced by McArthur with 23 points. The Tigers only played five players and the Bumblebees were 10-deep. Lincoln ran a box and one on McArthur. "We went to the defense to prevent McArthur from getting a fast start," Gamble said. "I knew if we let him do that, they'd go to the spread offense and let him work one-on-one." Silsbee's two other double digit scorers, 6'3" Fred Ruckett(13.6) and 6'2" Anthony Foster(12.5), combined for only 6 points. The Tigers sagging defense limited Allen to only 11 points, as he picked up his 3rd foul in the 3rd quarter. Allen finished the evening with 13 rebounds and 7 blocks. The crowd at Lincoln was ridiculous with 1,200 fans, 400 over capacity.

As the two rivals prepared for their second meeting, Silsbee coach Terry Culley commented, "we don't plan to do anything different from what we usually do." Silsbee stood at 25-2 entering the game and McArthur was averaging 27.8 in District action. "I think he is one of the better ballplayers in the state at his position," Lincoln's coach Gamble said. "I hate to even think about guarding him, we can't overemphasize McArthur, because they have some other good players too."

Allen(17.5/13.0) came into the contest questionable because of a twisted ankle. "We can play without Anthony and Anthony would be the first one to tell you that," Gamble said. "We hate to play without Anthony. He is the man. We just haven't tried to depend on him too much." 6'5" 215 pounds Ronnie Haliburton would be a nice replacement for Lincoln.

Lincoln came away with an impressive 54-45 victory over Silsbee(25-3) in the rematch. At Silsbee, 1200 jammed into the high school gym. Allen played and finished with 14 points and 15 rebounds. Hall followed with 12 points for the Bees. Allen had three fouls and Haliburton had four fouls, as the teams entered the final period. Because of the foul trouble, Lincoln went to four corners to shorten the game. McArthur was only 8 of 23 from the floor and finished with 25 points.

Pt. Arthur News 9-4A All-District Team-1st Team, 6'7" Anthony Allen(17.5) Pt. Arthur Lincoln, 6'3" Darrell McArthur(28.5) Silsbee, 6'4" Greg Garriga(16.8) Bridge City, 6'1" Keith Hall(12.3) Pt. Arthur Lincoln, 6'2" Jeffrey Lewis(5.3) Pt. Arthur Lincoln. **2nd Team**- 6'2" Gary Hunt(10.8) Pt. Arthur Lincoln, 6'2" Doug Agnew(11.2) Lumberton, 6'2" Benny Ellison(12.3) Little Cypress-Mauriceville, 6'1" Curtis Hafford(18.6), 6'3" Fred Ruckett(13.0) Silsbee: **Honorable Mention**- Craig Turner, Lincoln; 6'5" Ronnie Haliburton, Lincoln; Anthony Foster, Silsbee: District M.V.P. -Anthony Allen, "Coach of the Year" James Gamble.

In the Zone playoffs, Livingston(25-5) defeated Huntsville(21-9) 67-65 to take the top seed in the playoffs. Livingston got Silsbee and Huntsville had to face Pt. Arthur Lincoln in Bi-District. Ellie Billard put up 22 points for Huntsville against Livingston and Sammy Gardner led Livingston with 15 points. Craig Davis and Billy Harrell both kicked in 12 points apiece for Livingston.

Huntsville prepared for their old playoff foe the Bumblebees of Lincoln. The Hornets team centered around speed and quickness with very little size. Victor Smith(14.9) and high flying Ellie Billard(20.1) were the leaders for the Hornets

during the season. 6'3" Ray Hoade was Huntsville tallest player, which would put them at a big disadvantage against Lincoln.

Coach Jim McDaniel of Huntsville felt his team had no way of matching up with Lincoln inside. Five of Huntsville nine losses had come against 5-A schools ranked at one time or other in the state's top ten. "We plan on showing up," McDaniel said. "Maybe they'll get lost on the way to the gym."

P.A. Lincoln took out Huntsville(21-9) 71-54 in Bi-District behind Anthony Allen's 22 points on 10 of 12 shooting from the floor and 11 rebounds with 10 blocked shots. Keith Hall got into the action scoring 17 for the Bumblebees. Victor Smith(14.9) led the charge for Huntsville with 21 points.

Friendswood(19-12) was the runner-up in District 12-4A and opened the playoffs with a 52-47 victory over Waller at Pasadena's Phillips Fieldhouse. Unfortunately, Pt. Arthur Lincoln awaited Friendswood in the regional semi-finals. The game was never close, as the Bees advanced with a 59-34 victory at Pasadena in front of 750 fans. Anthony Allen of Lincoln was slowed down with double and triple teams and finished with only 14 points. Allen dominated in other areas finishing with 8 rebounds and 10 blocks. Keith Hall came away with 11 points for Coach Gamble's troops. Friendswood shot 12 of 38 from the floor for 32% and Lincoln was 24 of 39 for 61 %. Coach Dana Drew said following the game, "we have not seen talent like that all year long. Bay City's biggest man is 6'4". Lincoln keeps pulling 6'5" guys off the bench. The kids were intimidated."

Round three of the historic playoff series between **Lincoln(30-1) and Bay City(34-0)** took place at Deer Park high school. For the third straight season the two best teams in class 4-A met in the regional finals. The game featured the top players in the state in the senior and junior classes, in Anthony Allen of Lincoln and LaBradford Smith from Bay City. Anthony Allen led Lincoln to the state title as a sophomore in 1984 and LaBradford came back winning the state title for Bay City in 1985.

Coach Gamble of Lincoln discussed his brilliant post Anthony Allen, "Potentially he's a great player," Coach Gamble said. "He's only scratched the surface for us, but the sky is the limit. One day he's going to be an impact player for some college team," Gamble said.

A Horde of recruiters were in attendance at Deer Park gym to watch the contest. The crowd was estimated at 4,000 and standing room only.

This time Lincoln was prepared for Bay City's heavy-handed game of intimidation. Lincoln team-oriented style against Bay City's one man show. "We said at the beginning of the year we won't be intimidated by anyone, players or officials," Gamble said. 6'5" 220-pound Ronnie Haliburton was verbally going at it with 6'4" 250-pound Billy Dykes of Bay City during the game.

Bay City led 31-30 at intermission. Fatigue began to show late in the game for Bay City as Lincoln took control leading 48-41. The Black Kats made one final run. LaBradford came away with a three-point play with 23 seconds left, pulling

Bay City to only a three-point deficit at 55-52. Bay City was forced to shoot from a distance throughout the game because of Lincoln's zone. "We didn't want to spread out our defense and let Smith work," Gamble said. "That's when he's at his best. We stayed out of those situations as much as we could." The final read, Lincoln 57 Bay City 52, ending the Black Kats 54-game winning streak.

LaBradford finished the game with 28 points on 10 of 19 shooting, but only shot 4 of 11 in the critical second half. "They were a bigger and better team," LaBradford said. "Lincoln is Lincoln," said coach Eddie Nelson. "We knew they were very talented. I don't see how anybody will beat them the rest of the way in the tournament. When you've got the leeway of putting a guy (Haliburton) who started for you last year on the bench, that's talent," said Coach Nelson. Haliburton finished with an impressive 4th quarter. "Haliburton is a heck of an athlete, they all are," Nelson said.

Allen got into early foul trouble playing against two and three defenders. He still finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds. Gamble decided not to put Allen on the bench with four fouls at the 6:23 mark of the 4th quarter. The Bees were only up 42-40 at the time. "If we took him out, we had a chance of getting behind," Gamble said. The Bees were terrible from the line hitting only 11 of 23 free throws. "Free throws kept us from spanking Bay City pretty good," Gamble said.

"They are without a doubt the best team we faced all year," Coach Nelson of Bay City said. "Tall and very talented. I think they are the best regardless of classification," Nelson continued.

Coach Jim McDaniel of Huntsville said, "I thought Bay City played a dirty game," as he commented on the Lincoln-Bay City game. "There were some things I saw out on the floor I didn't like. They were pounding Allen inside, but he didn't let it bother him," McDaniel said. "I thought he did a super job of keeping his composure. And I think Gamble did a good job of preparing his kids to play under those conditions. I don't think my kids could have kept their composure under those circumstances." McDaniel said, "If they have a weakness, I think they might be vulnerable to the full-court press." McDaniel's Hornet team forced 20 turnovers in the game against Lincoln. "I don't think they handle the ball as well as in years past. We caused them some problems on the press and I was surprised at that," McDaniel said. Coach Nelson of Bay City counter, "We pressed them all over the place and they didn't crack. I don't see them falling off anywhere," Nelson continued.

"I think their overall height makes a difference," Coach Dana Drew of Friendswood said. "And I think their guards are quicker now than they were in 1984. But I think the major difference is in the center position. Two years ago, Allen was a sophomore. But anyone can get beat if they come out flat," Drew said.

"The best team won, there's no excuses," Bay City's Nelson said following the loss. "We went out there and played as hard and as good as we can. We did

everything we could humanly do with the players we have. They kept bringing guys off the bench and didn't lose anything when they did."

Bay City was somewhat limited with 6'3" 255-pound Billy Dykes nursing a sore elbow. Without Dykes, Bay City was handcuffed against Lincoln's inside strength. The size of Lincoln made it difficult for LaBradford, Sammy Jackson and Sean Hays to penetrate for the Black Kats.

Region IV

Compared to the other regions, Region IV was the weakest. New Braunfels was the pre-season favorite returning four starters from a state semi-finals team. The Unicorns relied heavily on football players. For this reason, New Braunfels opened the season going 1-7 start. In District, New Braunfels took care of Kerrville Tivy 50-43 to capture another District title. Both teams came into the game with one loss. New Braunfels finished 11-1 and Tivy advanced to the playoffs with a 10-2 mark. New Braunfels only blemish in District action came against Tivy 43-40 in the first round of District. The Unicorns big man, 6'5" Tilo Schmidt, had a poor game against Tivy finishing with just 10 points on 3 of 11 shooting. "When Tilo doesn't get his hands on the ball, our offense is very mediocre. We just never got into any type of offensive consistency," Wilkins said. Jason Warren paced the victorious Tivy Antlers with 14 points.

New Braunfels and San Antonio Southwest met for the second year in a row in Bi-District. Southwest was missing a big piece in 6'8" Johnny Roberson from the previous season. His 27 points would be sorely missed by Southwest, but Coach Wilkins of New Braunfels felt they were even more competitive during the '86 campaign. "They are as good, if not better than they were last year. They don't have anyone 6'8" to catch those long baseball passes under the basket, but now they go in from 28 feet away," Wilkins said.

Southwest's two top players came off the football field, all-state quarterback Ty Detmer and all-state wide receiver 6'2" Kevin Jennings. Detmer(*) handled the point guard position and was the team leader. Jennings was the big hero in Southwest 81-80 overtime win over Laredo United in the zone playoffs. Jennings put up 27 points and Jeff Bell added 18 in the victory. Eloy Ochoa finished with 25 points for Laredo United.

The Dragons preferred a wide-open pressing style. "They'll pressure you all over the court, it's helter shelter. We are not going to slow it down any. We like an up-tempo game, but at our tempo, rather than wide-open, shoot'em up game," Coach Wilkins emphasized.

(*) Detmer won the Heisman Trophy in 1990 while playing quarterback for Brigham Young University (BYU). He won all-state honors in football and baseball in high school as well as All-District honors in basketball. He played 14 seasons in the N.F.L., mainly as a backup.

New Braunfels advanced to regionals with a dominating 75-61 victory over San Antonio Southwest. 6'5" Tilo Schmidt was the leader with 23 points and

Victor Sierra followed with 17. "Victor was the biggest difference in the game. Find any category you want and his name would be there. He's the guts of our team," Wilkins said.

At the beginning of the 4th quarter the Unicorns opened up a 12-point advantage and that was pretty much ball-game. In the up-tempo game, New Braunfels showed they were a little deeper than the Dragons. Early in the game, New Braunfels struggled against the press trailing 18-11, but soon recovered. Detmer finished with nine points and Jennings was the leading scorer for the Dragons with 21 points.

District 13-4A champion, New Braunfels(19-9), faced the 15-4A champion, Tulo-so-Midway(24-6), in the regional semi-finals at West Campus gym in San Antonio. The Unicorns record was very deceiving because they were 19-2 since December 2 and the addition of their football players. If there was a regional favorite other than New Braunfels, it was Tulo-so-Midway. Midway held a three to one game advantage over District rival Gregory-Portland(18-7) over the course of the season. Gregory-Portland made their way to regionals as well.

Tulo-so-Midway enjoyed playing man-to-man defense, which was a delight to Coach Wilkins of New Braunfels. He felt Schmidt and Sierra would have a definite advantage with their athletic ability against man defense.

Against Tulo-so-Midway the Unicorns were behind for most of the game and took their first lead at the 7:22 mark of the 4th quarter 63-62. Late in the game, down one, Sierra drove the middle and dished to a wide-open Schmidt, who knocked down the 10-foot jumper from the corner. Claude Porterie secured the victory with 10 second remaining for the Unicorns hitting two foul shots. The final stood 67-64 in favor of New Braunfels. One of the major reasons for the Unicorns slow start was Schmidt missed his first seven shots. A big adjustment also helped in the New Braunfels victory. Coach Wilkins switched from a zone in the first half to man-to-man in the second half. This was an attempt to shut-down the outside shooting of Midway. "We realized we couldn't lay back in a zone because they just bombed away from the outside," Wilkins said.

Standings: 14-4A- S.A. Alamo Heights(20-9) 9-1, S.A. Southwest(14-11) 8-2, Clements(17-12) 5-5, West Campos(13-17) 3-7, Edgewood(8-20) 2-8, S.A. Memorial(7-21) 2-8:

Schmidt, as always, led the way for New Braunfels with 22 points, Millet added 16 and Sierra came away with 13 points. Matt Oden paced Tulo-so-Midway with 26 points and Steve Torres was good for 16 points. "Victor kept us in the game early and Tilo and Millet played strong for us in the 2nd half," Wilkins explained.

In the other side of the region IV bracket things appeared wide open. Gregory Portland(18-7), Alamo Heights(20-11), Roma(23-7) and Kerrville Tivy(21-11) all had ligament chances to advance to the regional finals to meet New

Braunfels. Gregory-Portland and Kerrville Tivy had both finished as runner-up in District action.

Alamo Height had a nice squad in 1986 defeating Uvalde 68-60 in a zone playoff. Alamo Heights relied on 6'4" Ed Hart on the inside and 6'2" Chris Senn from the outside. Uvalde had to make some adjustments in the playoff game against Alamo Heights. Chris Senn bombed away at the Uvalde zone defense forcing Coach Jim Stewart to switch to man-to-man. Hart's game opened up inside because of the switch and he dominated, leading the Mules to victory with 24 points. Senn added 12 points to the Alamo Heights victory. Jim Stewart of Uvalde said following the game, "He's(Senn) as good as any guard we've played all year." Alamo Heights was coached one of the Alamo Cities all-time greats, Charlie Boggess(*).

Kerrville Tivy(21-11) eliminated the Mules of Alamo Height(21-11) hopes 76-62 in Bi-District. Tivy placed three players in double figures, Scott Delaney finished with 24 points, Pat Baldwin put up 17 points and Daron Allen added 15. Alamo Heights looked to their inside game for scoring with Ed Hart knocking down 20 points and Perry George coming away with 18.

Gregory Portland advanced to regionals beating Roma(23-7) 53-52 in Bi-District at Hebbronville. Ricky Russell hit a one and one situation with 20 seconds remaining to give the Wildcats the victory. Roma missed two attempts in the final 10 seconds that could have won the game. Gregory Portland(19-7) had ended Roma's season for the second year in a row. Joey Deegan paced Gregory-Portland with 18 points in the victory and Mitch Davis followed with 10. Roel Silva led the Gladiators of Roma with 13 points. Gregory-Portland took control early in the game leading at halftime 29-14.

The Wildcats of Gregory-Portland came into the regional semi-finals with some size that got every bodies attention. The Wildcats were one of the tallest teams in the state with 6'10" Brian Boney and 6'7" Mitch Davis inside. Gregory-Portland had finished runner-up to Tuloso-Midway in District action. The Wildcats took down Midway in a meaningless game at the end of the regular season 68-50.

You could easily say Gregory-Portland had some momentum coming into the Tivy game. Against Kerrville Tivy(22-12) and the slow tempo and size proved to be a deadly combination. Gregory-Portland's Boney and Davis combining for 44 points from the inside. The Wildcats were able to get past Tivy 63-61. Scott Delaney once again was the man for Tivy finishing with 23 points.

The regionals finals saw New Braunfels(20-9) facing Gregory-Portland(20-7). Coach Wilkins did not seem overly concerned about Portland's enormous size. "They are by far the biggest team we have ever played. They are real big. They don't seem to be very fast, but they are very smart," Wilkins said. "We are going to have to win this game with defense, if we are going to win. We need to force some turnovers and turn them into points," Wilkins continued. Gregory-Portland came in

with an eight-game winning streak. “The main thing for us is to apply full-court pressure on them and create and up-tempo game and spread them out.

Memorial Gym on the campus of Texas Lutheran in Seguin was the site of the regional finals. New Braunfels advanced to state for the second year in a row 60-44 over the Wildcats of Gregory-Portland. The Unicorns outscored G-P 20-11 in the 2nd quarter and took a 32-21 advantage into halftime. “We felt like we were so much quicker and we tried to take advantage of it,” Wilkins said. New Braunfels switched defenses from man-to-man and zone presses forcing turnovers and increasing a faster tempo. The Wildcats were forced to take quick shots, which really hurt their offensive execution. G-P came out blazing in the 2nd half with nine straight points, behind the shooting of Mitch Davis and Joey Deegan. New Braunfels recovered quickly and had a comfortable lead 57-38 with 1:56 remaining.

New Braunfels had 16 offensive rebounds, which proved to be the difference. “The main thing is we didn’t get the rebounds. Offensive rebounds beat us this game,” Gregory-Portland Coach R.L. Odom said. Mitch Davis and Brian Boney did not start for Coach Odom and the Wildcats, but played the majority of the game. Coach Odom would not elaborate on the reason.

(*) Charles N. Boggess Jr. won more games than any other high school coach in San Antonio history. He went 915-358 in 33 seasons at Alamo Heights. [Boggess is a Texas Legend.](#)

State Tournament 4-A

Palestine	28-4	#8	73.7-60.1	+13.6
Pt. Arthur Lincoln	31-1	#2	70.8-46.4	+24.4
Mansfield	30-1	#3	69.6-55.6	+14.0
New Braunfels	21-10		60.1-55.0	+6.1

Top Five Players at the State Tournament 4-A

6’7”	Anthony Allen	Pt. Arthur Lincoln
6’5”	Tilo Schmidt	New Braunfels
6’7”	Riley Smith	Mansfield
5’10”	Alonzo Stephens	Palestine
6’2”	Jeffrey Lewis	Pt. Arthur Lincoln

As Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-1) came to Austin, they were heavily favored to beat a fine New Braunfels team. New Braunfels(21-9) had a special team advancing to state for the second year in row. The Unicorns returned to state having lost in the semis to Lamesa the previous year. The entire team returned for the most part. So, experience would prove to be very beneficial against the likes of Pt. Arthur Lincoln. 6’3” Damon Millett(11.0 reb), 6’3” Victor Sierra(12.0), 5’11” Leon Sneed(8.0) and 6’0” Alan Walker(6.0) all came off the gridiron. 6’5” Tito Schmidt(24.0) was a fulltime basketballer as was 5’11” Claude Porterie(6.0).

“I believe the last time a 4-A team from Region IV won the state title was 1970, so we know we’ve got our work cut out for us, and we know they’re probably one of the best 4-A teams that’s ever been assembled,” Wilkins explained. “There’s just no end to the superlatives those guys have.” (Wilkins was wrong, but very close. Gonzales was the last team from Region IV in class 4-A to win state in 1974)

Coach Wilkins(*) described his New Braunfels squad. “We are really a team without a truly great player, and as far as being a great ball club, I wouldn’t say we are that either.” Well at this point, I would have to disagree with Coach Wilkins. He did have a star that the whole team revolved around and that was All-Stater, 6’5” Tilo Schmidt(24.0/10.0). Coach Wilkins did concede that if he has a star, Tilo is it. “He’s a great athlete,” Wilkins said. Coach Wilkins called Victor Sierra(12.8) the team leader on the floor. “Just to show you what he means to us, he went down with six minutes left in the 3rd quarter in the semi-finals game against Lamesa. We were up eight points and we ended the quarter down by three,” Wilkins explained. 6’3” post Damon Millet(11.0 rebounds) and 5’10” Leon Sneed(8.0) were two of the five starters. The fifth starter was either 5’11” Claude Porterie(6.0) or 6’1” Alan Walker(6.0). Wilkins said that his squad would have to play their best game of the season to come away with a victory. “We are not accustomed to playing anyone with the caliber of athletes that Lincoln has. We won our league, but I don’t think region IV is in the same class as theirs. We’re on a roll, certainly, but I don’t know what kind of roll it’s going to take to beat those guys,” Wilkins said.

(*) Coach Clifton Wilkins, was born on July 27, 1950 and passed away at the age of 58 on November 27, 2008. He graduated from Bastrop High in 1968 and played basketball at Tarleton State. Over 27 years of coaching he accumulated 438 victories. At the time of his retirement from coaching basketball, he was one of only four high school coaches to take three different high schools to the State Basketball Tournament, each time for the first time in the school’s history. He coached Columbus to state prior to coming to New Braunfels and took Bastrop to state twice. **Clifton Wilkins was a Texas Legend.**

Coach Gamble of Lincoln said he was not real concerned about what New Braunfels had accomplished up to this point. “No, I really don’t know much about them at all,” Gamble said. “The only thing that concerns me right now is how they plan to play us. What kind of defense they will play, how they will attack us and those type of things?”

Gamble discussed his coaching philosophy saying, “We don’t keep anyone happy,” Gamble said. “Everyone is given a fair chance to play.” Gamble felt his team’s real strength was inside, “The depth at post is as good as we’ve ever had.” Jeffrey Lewis, Keith Hall and Gary Hunt played most of the minutes at guard. “We’re not as experienced in the backcourt, but its adequate,” Gamble said. Coach Gamble’s record spoke for itself with a 584-205 record over 25 years at Lincoln.

“The thing that impresses me most about New Braunfels is that they have all those returning players,” Gamble said.

Lincoln was criticized by some sports writers as unemotional and methodical play at time. Coach Gamble explained that emotion could sap an athlete even more than sex. Gamble emphasized that his team needed to concentrate on execution, and not so much on moving around the basketball court at a fevered pitch.

Lincoln jumped out to a 7-0 lead and was in control the entire game. New Braunfels came out cold hitting only 3 of 13 in the 1st period. In the first half they were only six of 23 from the floor and Schmidt hit five of the six. Schmidt picked up his 3rd foul with 3:17 left in the first half, as a result Lincoln led at halftime 36-24.

"They were just too awesome for us inside," coach Wilkins said. "Anytime we got anything going, they just lobbed it into Allen. He's just terrific. Port Arthur is just a great team." Tilo Schmidt fouled out in the 3rd quarter with 6:05 remaining. Schmidt still was able to lead all scorers with 27 points. "I think Tilo had a great ballgame, but it takes more than one in 4-A," Wilkins said. With just 1:31 left in the game, New Braunfels was able to close the margin to six at 65-59. Allen was on the bench in the 4th quarter when New Braunfels began cutting into the lead. At the 3:31 mark of the 4th quarter, Allen returned and scored seven points in the last three minutes of the game. Lincoln pulled away to a 71-59 victory. Allen finished 9 of 15 from the floor for 21 points and 11 rebounds with 4 blocks.

After scouting Lincoln, New Braunfels felt they could press the Bees. "We looked at the game film and we felt if we pressure them, they would turn the ball over," Victor Sierra said. "Their a great ball-club," Sierra said.

"There was just nothing we could do defensively, they play disciplined ball like a college team," Coach Cliff Wilkins said. "We tried to run about six or seven different defenses at him(Allen) just trying to confuse him a little bit," Wilkins said. "But they just sit him down low and it didn't matter what we did," Wilkins continued saying, "Allen is the best we have seen and so is Lincoln. I think they play just hard enough to win. If the pace got a little quicker, they would have gotten a little quicker," Wilkins added. "Whether they beat us by 10 or 25 -it didn't matter to them. All that mattered to them is they won. Allen was just super. He is so quick and has such great timing on blocking shots," Wilkins said.

"I knew that when we came down here, we were going to play a great ballclub," said Wilkins. "But I also knew that we wouldn't get embarrassed, that they would leave their heart's out there on the floor. They're a special group and I love them to death."

Palestine(28-4) came into Austin with a small quick team and an explosive scorer in 5'10" Alonzo Stephens(24.0). The Wildcats were on a 16-game winning streak. Losses included Whitehouse(22-5) 67-58, Tyler John Tyler(22-4), Tyler Lee(21-10) 68-65 and Jacksonville 79-73. Palestine split with Whitehouse on the season at one win apiece. The Wildcats also split with Tyler Lee and had a two to one advantage over District rival Jacksonville.

The starting line-up for the Wildcats was quick and fast. 5'6" Johnny Davis(9.0), 5'11" Richard Anthony(7.0), 6'1" Charles Mims(14.5) and 6'2" Ivory Brown(12.0) made up the attack for Coach Tommy Blake.

Mansfield(30-1) advanced to state with a powerful outfit. They were one of the top teams in the state regardless of classification. 6'7" Riley Smith(20.6/12.5) was an elite player with size, speed and quickness. At 240 pounds, he had a soft touch around the basket. I remember watching the big man in action against Arlington Lamar earlier in the season. He was so impressive with his size and speed. It almost seemed unfair for him to be playing against high school boys.

Rounding out the Tigers lineup for Coach Shropshire, 6'5" John Smith(17.1), 6'2" Neville Jones(8,2), 6'1" Steve Smith(6.7), 5'8" Mike Ryan(2.8), 6'4" Terry Clements(6.1) and 5'11" Robbie Stewart(2.7). The Tigers shot 49.1 % from the floor and 58.1 % from the foul line. Mansfield averaged 70.9 points and gave up 55.4 for 15.5 difference against one of the toughest schedules in the state. I interviewed with Coach Shropshire in 1986 for the varsity assistant position and we visited for about two hours. I really enjoyed talking basketball with him. No, I didn't get the job. Shropshire had previously played at the state tournament as a player his junior year at Austin Johnston. That was a rare double-double making it as a player and a coach.

Guard play was going to be critical for Mansfield(30-1) facing the pressing Wildcats of Palestine(28-4). Going into the game, Palestine felt they needed to limit Riley Smith's ability to score inside. The results of which were leaving John Smith open for much of the game. With little pressure on Smith he was able to finish with 28 points. "A couple of times I was so open I didn't know what to do," John Smith said. "They spent the whole night double teaming Riley and just left me open." Smith came away shooting 13 of 22 from the floor with six rebounds. "I just couldn't believe he was so open all night," Coach Shropshire said referring to John Smith.

Riley was not neutralized either, the big man finished with 29 points on 11 of 13 shooting with 16 rebounds. "I knew we had a height advantage, but I was still surprised we got the ball inside so easy," Riley said. "I thought they would sag back, but once we got the ball inside, they just let us have the shot," Riley continued.

Mansfield's offensive game was totally inside while Palestine relied on outside shooting. The Wildcats used their full-court press affectively and closed the gap to 71-65 in the 4th, but the Tigers pulled away advancing to the finals 74-67. Mansfield had led 25-11 at the end of one.

Alonzo Stephens led the Wildcats with 20 points on 9 of 25 shooting from long range. Stephens missed his first eight shots in the 2nd half. Ivory Brown added

16 points for the Wildcats and Charles Mims put up 13 points. Palestine won the rebound battle 39-33. The attendance was 7,000 at the Drum.

State Final

Coach Wilkins of New Braunfels discussed the Mansfield-Lincoln match-up for the state title. "It's going to be a great game. I think the great team will win. Mansfield has a great team, but they're not quite as strong as Lincoln." The Bees second teamers scored 26 points against New Braunfels. Coach Wilkes felt that would be the difference.

Coach Gamble played 10 players against New Braunfels. "We have kids on the bench who have played every game this year, and I didn't think tonight should be any different," said Gamble. "There are a lot of ways to play basketball, to win at basketball. But I always felt like it was a game of finesse, a game of strategy," said Gamble. "You've got to be able to adapt."

As Mansfield prepared for Pt. Arthur Lincoln, they realized this would be a test the likes of which they had not seen all season. "They're the first team we've played in the playoffs that has a bigger back line than we do," Shropshire said, "and they still run, that's a dangerous combination. Mansfield had a 27-game winning streak entering the state championship game and Lincoln had run off 25-straight.

The attendance was 14,412 for the state championship session. 6"7" Anthony Allen(20.0/13.0/7.0 blocks) was like no player the Tigers had faced all season. His ability to intimidate and close down the inside had been demonstrated many times over the course of his career with the Bumblebees. Allen's three years totals at Lincoln came to 92 wins and only 7 losses. 6'4" Ronnie Haliburton and 6'3" Gary Hunt joined Allen forming one of the strongest inside games in the state, the result of which was another state title for Pt. Arthur Lincoln 55-39.

Riley Smith managed only 2 points during the first three quarters of the game. John Smith did a little better with 12 points. The Tigers strong inside game had been shut down by Lincoln. The Bumblebees led 37-23 at the end of three quarters. "I knew they'd be strong, but not that strong," Riley said. "If you boxed out one guy, two more came in from the other side." Lincoln ended the game with 36 to 28 rebound advantage on the glass. "Size wise and quickness wise they were probably the better team," John Smith said. "They were the first team we've played that could match-up with us inside," John Smith continued.

Lincoln went to their familiar delay game throughout using up large chunks of time on each possession. At one point they held the ball for three minutes in the 2nd quarter. Jeffrey Lewis paced Lincoln with 12 points and nine rebounds, Hall finished with 10 points and Allen put up 7 points.

Mansfield's point guard was not happy with the team's mental attitude entering the game. "To me, it didn't seem like we were ready mentally," Mike Ryan

said. "We were too happy just to be there. Once we got to Austin, it was like, Hey we were finally here."

"Physically, we couldn't match-up with those people," Coach Shropshire said. "There's nothing wrong with being the second-best team in Texas."

Lincoln jumped out once again to an early lead 13-5 before Riley scored. Haliburton put his first field goal attempt in the stands with his block and swatted his next attempt. "They were just everywhere," Riley said. Riley(23.0) finished with 15 points with most of his points coming late after the contest had already been decided. Riley said, "I just couldn't get into the game." Mansfield committed 14 turnovers to 12 for the Bees. "This was one of the first times we didn't press all over the court, because we wanted to them play a half-court game. We wanted them to earn everything they got," Gamble said.

Lewis finished strong for Lincoln in the last two minutes hitting 5 of 7 foul shots and coming away with 12 points, 9 rebounds and 3 steals. Allen added 10 rebounds and 2 blocks. Riley and John Smith had combined for 56 points in the Tigers win over Palestine, were held to a combined 27 against Lincoln vaunted defense. "Mansfield is tough," Gamble said. "They have an excellent club I mean, they made mistakes and turnovers at times, but underneath you could see through all that they still had discipline." We felt like when we concentrated on the inside, he(John Smith) would go to the outside," Gamble said. "We felt like we could handle him from the outside."

Coach Gamble compared two of the top teams he had faced during the season, Mansfield and Bay City. "Bay City's inside game wasn't nearly as tough," Gamble said. "To be honest, I don't know whether Bay City could beat this group. I think I'd rather play Bay City than this group," Gamble continued.

Coach Tony Maudlin of Morton fame was at state and commented that he felt the two best teams in the state in 1986 were PA Lincoln and Morton. Maudlin went on to say that Allen Simpson of Amarillo had just outcoached the other competition in class 5-A.

All-Tournament Team- 6'5" Tilo Schmidt, New Braunfels; 6'7" Riley Smith, Mansfield; 6'5" John Smith, Mansfield; 6'7" Anthony Allen, PA Lincoln; 6'2" Jeffrey Lewis, PA Lincoln:

Interview with Anthony "RED" Allen:

Caught up with the Pt. Arthur legend in Washington D.C. working as a police officer at Georgetown University. Everybody that discussed Red during his basketball career always commented on his leadership and team first attitude. Allen led Lincoln to two state titles in three seasons with the Bumblebees and was the top recruit in the state following his senior year. After a nation-wide hunt for his services on the basketball court, Allen selected Georgetown. "UTEP, Texas and

Lamar University were hard to turn down, but John Thompson was the deciding factor for me," Allen said.

While at Georgetown, Allen started 15 games in his first year until a rash of injuries jeopardized his college career. Both ankle and knee injuries limited his time on the court. Some of the injuries were new and some were old. Allen's versatility enabled him to play four different positions for Coach Thompson while playing for the Hoyas.

Allen teamed up with two future Hall of Famers in 7'2" Dikembe Mutombo and 6'11" Alonzo Mourning his senior year at Georgetown. After starting 14 games as a senior, injuries once again took over for Allen and limited his time on the court. Following graduation, Allen played pro ball in Australia and France. He played for a time in the C.B.A. with Grand Rapids, Michigan as well as Athletes in Action. He obtained his masters in ministry and became an assistant pastor at a local church.

Allen was honored with the "Mr. Basketball" award in the state of Texas his senior year at Lincoln. This award went to the top basketball player in the state named by the T.A.B.C. Anthony came from a basketball family, two of his uncles played at McNeese State, Edmund Lawrence and David Lawrence. Edmund played one season with the Pistons. 6'9" David was a second-round pick in the N.B.A. by the Blazers. David played professionally in Europe. Both played high school ball in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

In my usual style, I fired a number of questions at RED. When asked about John Thompson, Allen almost talked in reverence discussing the legendary coach. "He taught me so much on and off the court. He prepared me for life and the struggles that it holds. He was extremely demanding and you had to come to work every day, both in the classroom and the basketball court," Allen explained. When asked about his high school coach he was just as appreciative. "Coach Gamble was the best man I've met, he coached you on and off the court, he was a lifetime coach. He was a motivator, leader, role model and so much more."

In discussing his high school career, he said the loss to Bay City his junior year was the most disappointing. "I wanted to win three-straight," Allen explained. Asked about Lincoln biggest rival, "it had to be Beaumont Pollard." When asked about the best team he faced his senior year he said, "Wheatley and Kashmere in a scrimmage before the season. They were so talented." On the best player he ever faced at the high school level he said that would have to be LaBradford Smith of Bay City. "Although Dykes was really tough inside." In discussing the great district games against Silsbee, Allen said, "what a great high school atmosphere, it was the best."

Allen explained the Lincoln community, "the high school brought the community together, it was so sad to see the school close down. Lincoln was a family; we took care of each other and all the adults helped me improve my game. We had such a tradition, Leonard Allen lived right down the street from me. We

were so close and supportive. It was a great atmosphere to grow up in." Allen cherished the Bumblebee community that he said helped raise him.

Anthony was well rounded even in high school competing in the U.I.L. for poetry and theater. "YES", I said Poetry. I asked him twice just to make sure. I don't make this stuff up. This athlete, who created fear and dominated on the basketball court with an intensity seldom seen at the high school level, recited a little poetry at U.I.L. competition. Don't you just love it!

1986 State Rankings AAAA {End of the Regular Season}:

1. Bay City	30-0	6'3" LaBradford Smith(20), Sammy Jackson
2. Pt. Arthur Lincoln	26-1	6'7" Anthony Allen(17), Keith Hall(12.3)
3. Mansfield	25-1	6'8" Riley Smith(20.6/12.5), John Smith(17.1)
4. Lamesa	27-4	6'3" Cedric Mason, 6'3" Jerry Mason(30.4)
5. Silsbee	26-2	6'3" Darrell McArthur(26.5), Fred Ruckett
6. Paris	22-2	6'3" Darrell Mickens(16.7), Dexter Williams
7. Everman	26-3	6'5" Broderick President(12.0), Troy Bell(13.0)
8. Palestine	24-4	5'10" Alonzo Stephens(23.3), Charles Mims(14.5)
9. Wichita Falls Hirschi	22-2	6'6" Darion Newsom
10. Andrews	27-2	6'3" Doodle Wood(19.0), 6'0" B. Williams(20.0)

Texas Sports Writers All-State Team 4-A 1986:

1st Team- 6'7" Riley Smith(21.0/12.8), Mansfield; 6'7" Anthony Allen(17.5/13.0), Pt. A. Lincoln; 6'4" LaBradford Smith(25.2), Bay City; 6'3" Darrell McArthur(26.5), Silsbee; 6'3" Jerry Mason(30.4), Lamesa: **2nd Team-** 6'4" Terry Witcher(21.0/8.9), Borger; 6'5" Tilo Schmidt(25.0), New Braunfels; 6'5" Darion Newsom, Wichita Falls Hirschi; 6'4" Billy Dykes, Bay City; 5'10" Alonzo Stephens, Palestine; 6'1" Keith Hall, Pt. A. Lincoln: **3rd Team-** 6'6" Chris Washington, Ft. Worth Northside; 6'3" Doodle Wood, Andrews; 6'6" Pat Santos, Laredo United; 5'9" Bobby Johnson(22.8), Dallas Lincoln; 5'11" Chris Proctor, Georgetown:

T.A.B.C. All-State Team 4-A 1986:

1st Team- 6'4" LaBradford Smith(25.2), Bay City; 6'7" Anthony Allen(17.5/13.0), Pt. Arthur Lincoln; 6'3" Darrell McArthur(26.5), Silsbee; 6'3" Jerry Mason(30.4), Lamesa; 6'7" Riley Smith(21.0/12.8), Mansfield; **2nd Team-** 6'4" Terry Witcher(21.0/8.9), Borger; 6'5" Tilo Schmidt(25.0), New Braunfels; 5'10" Alonzo Stephens(23.0), Palestine; Sammy Jackson, Bay City; 6'5" Broderick President, Everman; **3rd Team-** 5'9" Bobby Johnson(22.8), Dallas Lincoln; Matt Oden, Tulso-Midway, 6'6" Pat Santos, Laredo United; 6'1" Keith Hall, Pt. Arthur Lincoln, 6'5" Darion Newsom(17.1 reb), Wichita Falls Hirschi:

Top Scorers in the 4-A State Playoffs: For the second year we decided to keep track the playoffs performances in class 4-A. Alonzo Stephens of Palestine finished at the top averaging 26.2 through the playoffs. 6'8" Riley Smith of Mansfield was right behind Stephens at 23.8. Tilo Schmidt of New Braunfels was one of the most consistent scorers with 21.7 playoff average. Anthony Allen's numbers are not as impressive due to the constant triple and double teaming from opponents. "Red" still managed to average 16.2 points in the state playoffs.

1986 4-A Playoffs

	Borger(23-3)	69	Andrews(29-2)	65
	Mansfield(27-1)	61	Wichita Falls Hirschi(24-2)	48
	Everman(28-4)	65	Ft. Worth Northside(17-8)	54
Region I Semi Finals	Mansfield(28-1)	66	Lamesa(27-4)	64
	Borger(24-3)	62	Everman(29-4)	51
Regional Finals	Mansfield(29-1)	70	Borger(25-3)	58
Region II Bi-Dist.	Palestine(24-4)	81	Denison(20-7)	73
	Dallas Lincoln(17-9)	80	Waco Jefferson-Moore(20-10)	67
	Georgetown(25-6)	63	Dallas Madison(14-13)	60
	Waxahachie(19-7)	68	Paris(23-2)	65
Region Semis	Dallas Lincoln(18-9)	83	Waxahachie(20-7)	77
	Palestine(25-4)	87	Georgetown(26-6)	77
Region II Finals	Palestine(26-4)	71	Dallas Lincoln(19-9)	66
Region III Bi-Dist.	Friendswood(18-12)	52	Waller(18-8)	47
	Bay City(32-0)	71	Houston Furr(16-12)	51
	Pt. Arthur Lincoln((28-1) #3)	71	Hunstville(21-10)	54
	Silsbee(25-3)	70	Livingston(25-5)	61
Region III Semis	Bay City(33-0) #1	47	Silsbee(26-3)	38
	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-1) #3	59	Friendswood(19-12)	34
Region III Finals	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(30-1) #3	57	Bay City(34-0) #1	52
Region IV Bi-Dist.	New Braunfels(18-9)	75	S.A. Southwest(15-11)	61
	C.C. Tuloso-Midway(23-6)	55	Los Fresnos	48
	Gregory Portland(18-7)	53	Roma(23-7)	52
	Kerrville Tivy(21-11)	76	S.A. Alamo Heights(21-10)	62
Region IV Semis	New Braunfels(19-9)	67	C.C. Tuloso-Midway(24-6)	64
	Gregory-Portland(19-7)	63	Kerrville Tivy(22-11)	61
Region IV Final	New Braunfels(20-9)	60	Gregory-Portland(20-7)	44
State Semi-Finals	Mansfield(30-1) #2	74	Palestine(27-4)	67
	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-1) #3	71	New Braunfels(21-9)	59
State Finals	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(32-1) #3	55	Mansfield(31-1) #2	39

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1986 AAAA Top Teams}

1. Pt. Arthur Lincoln 33-1 {Dominating state champion}
2. Mansfield 31-2 {State finals, only losses to Dunbar and PA Lincoln}
3. Bay City 34-1 {54-game winning streak speaks for itself}
4. Silsbee 26-4 {loss twice to Lincoln and once to Bay City}
5. Lamesa 27-5 {loss to Mansfield by two in the regional semis}
6. Borger 25-4 {regional finals, losing to Mansfield}
7. Wichita Falls Hirschi 24-3 {always one of the top teams in state, lost to Mansfield}
8. Everman 29-5 {three of their losses came at the hands of Mansfield}
9. Andrews 29-3 {lost by four to Borger, beat 5-A State Champs Amarillo}
10. New Braunfels 21-10 {two-time state tournament team}
11. Palestine 27-5 {best 4-A team in region II}
12. Cleburne 23-9 {finished third in District behind Everman and Mansfield}
13. Livingston 25-6 {district champions who lost to Silsbee by 9}
14. C.C. Tuloso-Midway 24-7 {lost a close one to New Braunfels in regional semis}
15. Dallas Lincoln 19-10 {regional finals losing to Palestine}
16. Denison 20-8 {zone winner over Gainesville, lost to Palestine}
17. Waxahachie 20-8 {lost in regional semis to Lincoln}
18. Gainesville 18-13 {lost in the zone playoffs in overtime to Waxahachie}
19. Lancaster 22-8 {lost zone playoff to Denison}

20.	Paris	23-3	{eliminated by Waxahachie in Bi-District}
21.	Waco Jeff.-Moore	20-11	{lost to Dallas Lincoln in the first round}
22.	Georgetown	26-7	{Lost in the regional semis by Palestine}
23.	Crowley	20-8	{finished fourth in this tough district}
24.	Ft. Worth Northside	18-9	{district winner, lost in first round to Everman}
25.	Huntsville	21-10	{knocked out of the playoffs in the first round- PA Lincoln}
26.	Friendswood	19-13	{lost to PA Lincoln in the regional semis}
27.	Gregory-Portland	20-8	{regional finals losing to New Braunfels}
28.	Roma	23-8	{lost by one to Gregory-Portland in Bi-District}
29.	Kerrville Tivy	22-12	{split with New Braunfels in District, Regional semis}
30.	Allen	18-10	{held down a win over Gainesville}
31.	Grapevine	17-14	{lost in a zone playoff}

1986 AAA

The 1986 3-A tournament was so balanced that anyone of several teams could have won state. Dimmitt came out West Texas with a tradition unmatched in the state. Cleveland was the top-rated team for most of the season and dominated region III, while West Oso and Columbus battled it out in region IV. Hughes Springs and Whitehouse both were very talented squads coming out of East Texas. Any one of those teams could have been named state champions. Four one-point games were played between these six teams in the playoffs. Several of the games were decided on last second shots.

Region I

What would the state tournament be without Dimmitt making another run at a title? The Bobcats were led by the coaching genius of Kenneth Cleveland. Cleveland had played at the University of Texas and was the team captain in 1958, he also led Coleman High School to the state tournament in 1949.

The '86 Dimmitt Bobcats were led by 6'3" Pat McDonald(22.5/7.0), who had been a starter since his sophomore season. Joining McDonald were three sophomores, who saw substantial minutes. 6'1" Jeremy Warren(11.6), 6'3" James Alexander(19.0/8.0) and 6'1" Warren McDonald. 5'11" Danny Martinez(10.2) and 6'1" Woody Glass were also key players for Coach Cleveland.

Dimmitt faced their usual juggernaut of a schedule taking on the best in West. The Bobcats faced Levelland(14-15) three times defeating them 51-41, 56-44 and 67-62. Amarillo(31-7), the class 5-A state champions, barely got by Dimmitt 55-53. The Bobcats came away winning one of four against class 2-A state champs, Morton(32-7). Borger was one of the top class 4-A teams in the state. The Bulldogs owned two close wins over Dimmitt by identical scores of 72-68. The second game was a playoff warm-up game that Dimmitt lost in overtime. Coach Cleveland's squad also owned a very impressive win of class 5-A Lubbock Coronado(18-12) 72-63. Remember, Coronado split with Amarillo in District.

As the playoffs started, Seminole was the only other top ten team from region I. Seminole had eliminated Dimmitt in 1985 in the regional finals 67-51, so the Bobcats were looking forward to a possible rematch. Dalhart went down 95-56 to the Bobcats in the first round of the playoffs. McDonald led the scoring with 27 points, followed by Jeremy Warren's 13 points and James Alexander put up 12. The Golden Wolfs coach, Zane Reeves, was not real optimistic prior to the game commenting, "everybody I've talked to said they're unbeatable." Dimmitt struggled from the foul line shooting 56% hitting only 23 of 41 for the game. Poor foul shooting would be a reoccurring theme for the Bobcats throughout the playoffs.

Dimmitt's full court pressure created eight turnovers in the first quarter, which gave the Bobcat's an early 15-10 lead. Seventy-four fouls later the game was

finally over. Coach Cleveland commented after the big win, "I don't like to look up at the scoreboard and see 95 points and say we didn't play well, but we certainly have played better."

Seminole kept pace defeating Kermit and downing River Road(22-5) 86-73. 6'4" Jeremy Johnson was the only real threat inside for River Road against the taller Seminole club. Johnson had little effect on the inside game of Seminole, as they lit up the score board shooting 63% from the floor. "They never missed, and it wasn't like we weren't playing defense," River Road coach Fred Wagner said. "We tried every dang defense we know." 6'4" David Williams put up 24 points on an incredible 14 of 16 from the floor. 6'5" Kirby Brooks joined in for Seminole with 25 points. River Road was led by Jeremy Johnson and Tommy Powell's 18 points each.

Dimmitt pulled out a close one against Lubbock Roosevelt in the second round 68-66. The Bobcats led the entire way, but things got close at the end. Dimmitt led 53-44 going into the 4th quarter. Pat McDonald once again put up big numbers with 27 points followed by James Alexander's 12 points. Roosevelt had balanced scoring with Rodney Dowell scoring 15 points, Jim Miller came away with 14 points and Rob Poyner knocked down 13.

At regionals, Dimmitt eliminated Bowie in the semis 57-46, while Seminole took down Vernon(23-5) 67-57. McDonald came away with 21 points against Bowie to lead the Bobcats. This set up the much-anticipated re-match from the previous year between the Bobcats and the Indians.

Some 4,000 fans were on hand in Lubbock to watch the region finals between Dimmitt(29-7) and Seminole(25-6). The Bobcats gained sweet revenge as they ran away with things 88-51. Dimmitt had been waiting for an entire year. The Bobcats forced 27 turnovers, which was the difference in the game. Kirby Brooks(18.4), the Indians leading scorer, was held in check finishing with only six points in the losing effort. "I sure didn't expect this," Coach Cleveland said. "The kids played with more intensity than they have in a while. I think they remember last year and that Seminole had built a 20-7 first quarter lead on us. The guys said that wasn't going to happen this year." Pat McDonald and James Alexander combined for 51 points in the win with McDonald putting up 27. Randy Jones led Seminole scoring 15 points.

"Seminole's press had been hurting teams all year, but I don't think we had a turnover against it. And that was good to see because we've had our troubles this year handling the basketball," Coach Cleveland said.

Region II

Hughes Springs(28-4) had to battle Brownsboro(27-4) and Whitehouse(25-6) for the right to travel to the state capital. Region II placed three teams in the final T.A.B.C. top ten rankings, Brownsboro at #5, Whitehouse at #6 and Hughes Springs at #7. These three teams were thought to be the class of the region.

Brownsboro(27-4) opened the playoffs with a solid 69-52 victory over Gilmer(16-10) in Tyler. Ricky Banks put up 28 points in the win. Ronald Beasley came away with 19 points for Gilmer followed by Henry Hopkin's 13 points.

Hillsboro(28-5) eliminated Brownsboro(28-4) 54-48 in the 2nd round despite 23 points by Brownsboro's Ricky Banks. Hillsboro was paced by Oscar McGill's 21 points and Billy Lucas added 14 points.

Hughes Springs had a close call against Pittsburg in the opening round. Hughes Springs got away with a 47-43 victory. Hughes Springs had a nice lead 36-21 in the 3rd period, but led by only three points late in the game. Leaders for Pittsburg were Tony Williamson with 17 points and James Durkey with 15. Eddie Jones propelled the Mustangs with 21 points. The game was played in Marshall.

Hughes Springs was nervous about the outside shooting of Commerce as the 2nd round game approached. Eric Grogan and John and Bobby Wilson would need to be controlled in order for the Mustangs to advance to regionals. "They're a little better shooting team than Pittsburg from the outside," Coach Owens said. "We saw them Saturday night against Bonham and their players look like they're pretty good outside shooters."

Hughes Springs(28-4) pummeled Commerce(21-8) 63-30 at Mineola behind Eddie Jones 32 points and 21 rebounds. The 6'3" junior was an dominating shooting 14 of 18 from the floor. Just as amazing were the numbers put up by Commerce. Commerce only scored 3 points in the 1st quarter and shot only 14% from the floor on 10 of 71 shooting. The Mustangs Darrin Terry was in foul trouble most of the way and finished with only 10 points and 11 rebounds. Steve Harrison was good for 11 points for Commerce and Eric Grogan could only manage 3 points.

The Prairieland(25-4) Patriots ended Queen City's playoffs hopes with a 65-53 victory in District. The Patriots hit 17 of 21 foul shots in the 4th quarter. Queen City(23-5) committed 32 fouls in the loss and had four players disqualified. Scott Scudder had 22 points for the winners and Stephen Collier came up with 14 points for Queen City.

Wylie(22-8) took down Prairieland's(26-4) dreams of a trip to regionals 49-46. Wylie had Jason Brown working hard inside and Jaz Millis and Patrick Harvell scoring from the perimeter. Joel Ballard of Prairieland had a great opportunity to tie the game with nine seconds remaining shooting two attempts. Ballard missed the first one, but knocked down the second, which put the Patriots down by one. Prairieland immediately called timeout only to find that they didn't have any more left. A technical foul was called against the Patriots. The Pirate's Jason Brown put the game on ice hitting both foul shots. The Patriot's star, Scott Scudder, was shut down by the shorter Wylie team. The final stood at 49-46. Brown finished with 18 points to lead the Pirates.

Wylie(23-8) ended their most successful season in twenty years with a 63-54 loss to Hillsboro(30-5) in the regional semi-finals. Hillsboro's offense centered

around 6'8" Andrew Fowler and 6'4" Billy Lucas. The size difference proved to be too much for the Pirates of Wylie to handle. Junior post Fowler was impressive with 22 points, 15 rebounds and five blocks. Lucas and Fowler combined to give Hillsboro a big rebound advantage. "We missed a lot of shots inside," said Hillsboro coach Dobie Smith. "We wore them down."

Wylie attack consisted of the outside shooting of Lance Campbell and Taz Millis. Campbell led the scoring for the Pirates with 16 points and Millis added 12. "We battled all day," said Wylie coach Mike Hall. "We had our shots at them, cutting their lead to two and three, but we just couldn't get over the hump."

In the 1st round of the playoffs, Whitehouse had a solid victory over Spring Hill(21-8) 69-43. Billy Brewer of Spring Hill was bothered by the flu and was held to only 16 points on 6 of 16 attempts. The Wildcat's press proved to be a big factor during the game for Whitehouse. Roy Johnson was good for 26 points in the Wildcats win along with Scott Cooper's 19. Whitehouse was runner-up in District 13-AAA. Spring Hill had finished first in District 14-AAA.

In 2nd round action, Whitehouse(26-6) continued their winning ways defeating Cedar Hill 82-65. 6'5" Roy Johnson, as always, paced Whitehouse with 36 points, followed by David Johnston's 17 points. The Wildcats came from 12 points behind in the final eight minutes. Murray put up 30 points for Cedar Hill. Cedar Hill had eliminated Hughes Springs the previous season in the regional semi-finals 70-66.

With Brownsboro eliminated, the two top rated teams remaining in region II were Hughes Springs(28-4) and Whitehouse(26-6). The Mustangs and Wildcats faced off at East Texas State University in Commerce. Both schools had experience winning state titles, but for the most part it was ancient history. Whitehouse won their last title in 1978 and Hughes Springs in 1971. The two teams had met previously in the finals of the Carthage Tournament. The Mustangs won the game over Whitehouse 61-56 on that day. 6'3" Eddie Jones(24.0) had 30 points for Hughes Springs and 6'5" Roy Johnson came away with 28 points for Whitehouse. "It was so early," Coach Mark Owen of Hughes Springs said. "I'm sure they've made changes in their line-up and we've made changes in our line-up. I really don't think that'll be much of a factor." Owens continued saying, "I know Johnson's a good player, we're gonna do something to try to slow him down and keep his points down."

Johnson was pretty much the main scoring options for the Wildcats, while Hughes Springs had another strong scoring threat in 6'4" Darrin Terry(16.0).

The clash between Hughes Springs and Whitehouse certainly lived up to expectations. The Mustangs Eddie Jones(24.0) hit a lay-up with 26 seconds remaining to put his team in front 64-61. David Johnston of Whitehouse came right back and answered with a 25-footer to make the score 64-63 in favor of the Hughes Springs. After a Mustangs miss, Whitehouse had the ball down one with

the seconds clicking off the clock. Chris Moran missed a lay-up and Roy Johnson also missed the easy tip-in. Hughes Springs came down with the rebound, but Darren Bolden of the Mustangs threw an errant pass giving the Wildcats one final opportunity with two seconds left. Whitehouse attempted to get the ball to 6'5" Johnson, but it was deflected into Scott Calloway's hands, who fired it up from the corner hitting the winning bucket. Whitehouse thought they had won the game. The referees conferred for several minutes and proceeded to wave the basket off and with it the victory to Hughes Springs. Tournament director Ernest Hawkins informed the crowd of the referee's decision.

Eddie Jones finished with 23 points, while Whitehouse was led by an awesome effort from Roy Johnson. Johnson pummeled Hughes Springs with 35 points in the losing effort. Darrin Terry of the Mustangs contributed 14 points.

In the regional finals, Hillsboro(31-5) awaited Hughes Springs(29-4). The Eagles of Hillsboro were somewhat of a surprise entry. The Eagles had eliminated the top ranked team in the region II, Brownsboro 54-48. Hillsboro downed Wylie(23-8) in the other semi-final game 63-54. The Hillsboro offense was dominated by the inside game of 6'8" Andrew Fowler and 6'4" Billy Lucas.

The Mustangs advanced to state for the first time since 1972 with a 55-49 victory Hillsboro(31-5). 6'3" Eddie Jones of Hughes Springs showed his dominance finishing with 26 points, 19 rebounds and 3 blocks. For Hughes Springs it was their 16-consecutive victory of the season. The Mustangs had to overcome a dismal performance from Darrin Terry, who was only 2 of 17 from the floor. Terry more than made up for his poor offensive game on the defensive end blocking four shots and pulling down 13 rebounds. His late game block on Hayes was critical down the stretch.

The Hughes Springs fans swarmed the court following the win yelling, "Eddie, Eddie, Eddie." "You have to have a player that can hit that key shot for you," Coach Mark Owen said following the big win. "Eddie is the kind of player you can go to in the clutch. He's done that for us all year." Hayes finished with 13 points in the loss for Hillsboro and 6'8" Andrew Fowler kicked in 14 points.

Region III

Cleveland(28-4) was the top-rated team in the state and deservedly so. The Indians took down 5-A teams such as Beaumont Westbrook(24-7) 80-74 and Nederland(13-17) 69-55. Class 4-A teams that fell to Cleveland were Livingston(25-8) 78-69 and Houston Furr(16-13) 92-72. Losses by the Indians included Beaumont Pollard(23-8) 70-60, Pt. Arthur Jefferson(12-18) 51-46, Galena Park(16-16) 69-68 and Silsbee(27-5) 67-62. Cleveland held two wins over Galena Park(16-16) 72-56 and 66-54. When you're playing competitive games against Westbrook, Pollard, Livingston and Silsbee, you are loaded. The Indians were competitive at any level.

The Indians had four starters that averaged in double figures. 6'4" sophomores, 6'4" Craig Lillie(12.4) and 6'4" Richard Johnson(11.7) gave Cleveland

a great future. Seniors 6'2" Brian Davis(17.0) and 5'11" Clyde Davis(16.0) were the two leading scorers for Coach Davy David. 6'5" Casanova Caldwell rounded out the starting five for the Indians.

As the playoffs unfolded, Cleveland took out Hitchcock(17-15) 64-51 in Bi-District. Lillie had 21 points, Brian Davis finished with 19 and Clyde Davis came away with 17 points. "We had too many turnovers," Coach Kenneth Wilkins of Hitchcock commented. Thirty-one fouls were called against Hitchcock and five players were disqualified. "They are a physical team and I thought we should have got a few over the back fouls and reaching," Wilkins said. Coach Wilkins only had one eligible player on the bench at the end.

Cleveland had little trouble with their next two opponents defeating Brookshire Royal 80-55 and Anahuac 80-53. Against Anahuac the game was pretty much over at halftime with Cleveland leading 44-21. Four Indians scored in double figures. Lillie had 18 points, Richard Johnson finished with 19, Brian and Clyde Davis had 16 and 14 points respectfully.

Center didn't fair much better in the regional finals losing to Cleveland 68-45. Remember this is region III, which is usually the toughest region in the state. Cleveland went unchallenged winning games by an average margin of +22 points in the playoffs. The real challenger in region III looked to be Sweeny(29-3), who was ranked 3rd in the state, but Sweeny was upset in the regional semi-finals by Center(22-12).

Region IV

Columbus was the class of region IV ranked second in the state polls behind Cleveland. West Oso(27-3) and Taft(19-7) out of District 29-3A were thought to be the top challengers. West Oso defeated Taft in both District games 63-47 and 71-52.

The Taft Greyhounds opened the playoffs with a 63-53 win over Refugio(14-7). Taft's full-court press proved to be the difference in the game. "The press didn't hurt them, but I think it bothered them," Taft's Coach Roy Stegall said. "That's what we wanted to do, press and not let'em set-up." Keith Jones paced Taft with 20 points and Kenny Brown was leader for Refugio with 21.

West Oso opened the playoffs having little trouble with out manned George West(18-13) 65-45. 5'7" Lance Harper put up 18 points for the Bears. Chris Armstrong led George West with 18 points as well.

In second round action, Taft(21-7) barely got by Zapata(20-9) 61-60. Taft came from three down with 33 seconds remaining to down Zapata. Taft's offense was led by 6'3" Bryan Vogt who finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds. Jerry Neal was good for 18 for Zapata.

West Oso(29-3) cruised 56-40 over San Diego(20-11). Randy Haywood finished with 18 points for the Bears and Lance Harper added 14 points. Arnold Diaz did what he could for San Diego scoring 20 points.

West Oso made their third straight appearance at regionals having lost to the region's representative for two straight years. In 1984 the Bears went down to Aransas Pass and in 1985 to Ingleside. The Bears had pretty much cruised into regionals, but Gonzales(29-3) was going to present a much tougher test. West Oso brought a 24-game winning streak into Texas A&I University, the site of regionals.

West Oso had not lost to a class 3-A team all season. The Bears three losses had come at the hands of Corpus Christi Miller(20-5) 73-66 and 57-56 and state ranked Temple(26-9) 54-47. Class 4-A and 5-A teams that bit the dust against the Bears were Corpus Christi Ray 63-62, Corpus Christi King(20-9) 64-59, San Antonio Sam Houston(23-9) 62-61, Corpus Christi Moody 73-42 and Flour Bluff 62-40. West Oso was competitive regardless of the level of competition.

Gonzales came into the contest against West Oso with an impressive record and a win over Taft earlier in the season 54-52. The Apaches of Gonzales also had an impressive win over Woodsboro in a warm-up prior to the playoffs. Woodsboro was state ranked in class 2-A. "We intend to make people play our game if we possibly can," Coach Floyd Campbell of West Oso said. "Our game is up-tempo. We don't run all the time, but we can." Coach Campbell was in his second year with the Bears with an impressive 59-7 record.

West Oso had little trouble with Gonzales beating the Apaches 68-54. The Bears forced 20 turnovers in the win. Late in the first half, Richard Tamez made three straight steals, which sparked a 20-point run for the Bears. Haywood led West Oso with 18 points on 9 of 13 shooting. Darren Nelson of Gonzales had the hot hand early until Haywood switched over and took him out of the game. Nelson was able to finish with 29 points, but 14 were in the 4th quarter, well after the game had been decided. "One thing I can say about this team is they like to play defense," Coach Campbell said. "They thrive on it." Fillmore came away with 24 points and 9 rebounds and Tamez finished with 10 points for the Bears.

Taft(22-7) had to face the states 2nd ranked team in Columbus(26-4) in the regional semi-finals. Columbus showed why they were so highly thought of destroyed any thoughts Taft had of advancing 71-42. Columbus outrebounded Taft 64-26 to lock up the victory. Columbus offense was centered around Percy(*) and Greg Waddle. The brothers were two of the top athletes in the state.

(*) Percy Waddle paced Columbus to the AAA State Track championship in 1986 winning the 400-meter run and a leg on the 1600-meter relay. Thanks to Dr. Billy Wilbanks and his track records for the great info. Dr. Billy passed away at the age of 78 in 2018. He is a Texas Legend. His memory lives on with his website and awesome historical records of Texas High School athletics.

This set up a great regional final contest between West Oso and Columbus. The fans were glued to their seats in this one. With seven seconds on the clock, the Bears trailed 48-47 and Haywood of West Oso was called for a double dribble violation. The referee also put a technical foul on Haywood giving Columbus a chance to end the game. Michael Morgan went to the line shooting

the technical and missed. On the inbound pass, Columbus turned the ball over to West Oso.

After the turnover, West Oso's Richard Tamez inbounded the ball and attempted to hit 5'7" Lance Harper. The pass missed its mark and ended up in the hands 6'7" Bryan Yellet. The Bears post ended up with the ball and rather than call time-out, he pivoted and fired away from 35 feet away. The missed shot fell right into the hands of Randy Haywood of West Oso, who put in the lay-up for the win at the buzzer. The final read West Oso 49, Columbus 48.

Yellets said following the exciting finish, "I don't know what I was doing, I just threw it up, I didn't know Randy was down there." Yellets finished with 19 points and 11 rebounds for the Bears. Harper added 13 points. Columbus once again won the rebound battle 40-33 over West Oso. The Bears press kept them in the game forcing 24 turnovers.

Columbus had led 45-41 with 2:52 remaining in the game and opened the door for West Oso by missing critical foul shots. Scott Sieweat and Greg Denley both came up short at the charity line in the last 26 seconds of action, which set the stage for West Oso's late game heroics. After the game, it was pointed out that Tanez should have been called for traveling on a dead ball situation. He was clearly moving side to side throwing the ball inbound. "You can't do that," Columbus Coach Gerik said following the game. "But you can't go back and correct it." Coach Floyd commented, "Oh, Man! That's the ref's fault right there."

For Columbus, Percy Waddle finished with 17 points and 11 rebounds, Greg Waddle had 16 points and 11 rebounds as well and 6'6" Scott Sieweat finished with only five points. 6'1" Percy Waddle was one of the top wide receivers in the state and signed with Texas A&M playing three seasons with the Aggies. His speed and quickness proved to be an asset on the basketball court.

State Tournament

"Anytime you get this far the competition is going to be tough," Hughes Springs coach Mark Owens said. "I think our chances are as good as anybody's."

The turning point of the season for Hughes Springs came in the team's 76-49 victory over Queen City to decide the 12-AAA title. The Mustangs had lost previously 54-48 to Queen City.

Dimmitt(31-6) was back in Austin for the eighth time overall and fourth time in five seasons. The Bobcats won state titles in 1975, 1982 and 1983. "People have asked me how this team compares with the 38-0 team," said Cleveland. "Well, there is no comparison. That was a once in a lifetime team. But this team compares well with any of the seven or eight that I have taken. They are about the same caliber."

In looking at West Oso(31-3), Coach Cleveland commented, "we really need a strong game from Pat, and I don't like to say he's our only offensive weapon, because we got another offensive-minded kid in 6'3" James

Alexander(16.8). But Pat's got to do it, because he's going to get his shots, he's our key." McDonald(22.5) was a three year starter for the Bobcats. 6'1" Jeremy Warren(11.6), 6'1" Woody Glass and 5'11" Danny Martinez(10.2) were all key players for Coach Cleveland.

Coach Cleveland looked close at West Oso and the teams overall speed. "From what I've been able to gather they like to press and they do play fast," Cleveland said. "They sound a lot like Morton." 5'7" Lance Harper and 5'11" Freddy Fillmore(13.0/9.2) were critical to the Bears state tournament hopes. 6'7" Bryan Yellets and 5'11" Richard Tanez would also have their moments for West Oso. The Bears forced 44 turnovers and 19 steals in the regional tournament. The Bears upset 2nd ranked Columbus in the regional finals on a last second tip in. "We almost got beat against Lubbock Roosevelt on the boards and they were not big," Cleveland explained. "We got reports rebounding is one of West Oso's strengths-they really attack and the boards." As for playing a fast pace game Cleveland said, "That's the kind of game I hope to play. They may be much quicker, but if we can play with Morton, we can play with them."

"I've always been a little upset at the newspaper writers who call us experienced," Cleveland said. "You know, these boys I'm fixing to load up and take to Austin haven't seen Austin before. I have, but they haven't."

Coach Campbell felt confident going into the game due to the talents of Freddie Fillmore. "We'll give the ball to Freddie and let him go against anybody. Against the zone we've got some pretty good outside shooters." Coach Campbell commented.

The Dimmitt-West Oso game went right down to the last second before coming up with a winner. With score tied at 57, the Bears had the ball with 51 seconds left on the clock. Harper dribbled away 41 seconds as the Bobcats sat in their 2-3 zone. A timeout by the Bears gave them the chance to set-up their strategy down the stretch. 5'7" Lance Harper hit 5'11" Freddy Fillmore with less than 10 seconds remaining. 5'11" Fillmore went with his hook shot that was blocked by Dimmitt's 6'3" Pat McDonald. Alexander retrieved the rebound close to mid-court for Dimmitt and hit Jeremy Warren running towards the other end, behind the West Oso defense. Fillmore sprinted back and fouled Warren on his lay-up attempt, putting the sophomore on the line for two shots, with three seconds on the clock. After a timeout, Warren missed the first and knocked down second for the go-ahead basket. The Bobcats had previously missed four straight free throws prior to Warren's bucket. "I was still pretty confident, because I knew I could make at least 50% of my free throws," Warren said.

Down 58-57 with two seconds left, West Oso took a time-out. Richard Tanez inbounded the ball to 6'7" Bryan Yellets at mid-court. The ball went through his hands and into Fillmore's hands, who passed the ball to Harper. The 5'7" sophomore mis-fired on a 28-foot prayer at the buzzer.

“Defensively at the end I thought Freddie was fouled,” Campbell said. “Then they call a touch foul on us on the other end. I don’t know how the referee missed it. They have a good team, but I don’t think the best team won,” Coach Campbell continued saying.

The contest was a game of runs. Dimmitt went on a 24-4 run with 1:09 left in the first half and into the second half to take a 31-20 advantage. West Oso came back with 10 straight points and took the lead at the end of the 3rd quarter 42-39. “Like I’ve said before, you’ve got to be lucky and good when you get down here,” Coach Cleveland explained. “West Oso played the wheels off of us, and we feel fortunate to be in the finals.”

McDonald had a disappointing game hitting on 4 of 14 shots and finished with a state playoff low of 12 points. James Alexander put up 17 points for the Bobcats, while Warren finished with 11. James, McDonald and Warren were a combined 16 for 43 from the floor for 37%. West Oso shot 38% from the floor and Dimmitt was about the same at 40%. The Bobcats turned the ball over 20 times and the Bears had 17 turnovers.

Fillmore of West Oso had 12 points on nine shots against the sagging zone of Dimmitt. Napoleon Johnson added 10 and Harper was high man for the Bears with 13 points on 5 of 21 shooting. Harper came away with 5 steals and 4 assists. 6’8” Yellets finished with 8 points and 12 rebounds for the Bears. West Oso managed to outrebound Dimmitt 43-42.

Two very athletic teams took the court in the state semi-finals when Cleveland(32-4) faced off against Hughes Springs(29-4). 6’3” Eddie Jones(23.6/13.8) had carried Hughes Springs to state, but his 26-point effort came up short against the talented Cleveland squad. The Indians balanced attack put them in the state championship game 61-53.

The Mustangs Eddie Jones went 10 of 22 from the floor and his running mate 6’4” Darrin Terry(16.0/14.0) managed only 5 of 14 shooting. Cleveland on the other hand was fueled by the trio of 5’10” Clyde Davis(16.0), 6’4” Craig Lillie(12.4) and 6’4” Richard Johnson(11.7). Davis led Cleveland(32-4) with 17 points on 8 of 15 shooting, Lillie contributed 12 points on 5 of 14 and Richard Johnson kicked-in 13 points shooting 7 of 12. Hughes Springs(29-4) had superior numbers at the foul line hitting 13 of 25 and on the glass with a 53-47 advantage.

State Championship Game

Dimmitt(32-7) played another nail bitter in the state finals against Cleveland(33-4). At the Drum in Austin 8,400 fans looked on as the Bobcats went after their fourth state title. Dimmitt had a lead of five points in the latter stages of the 4th quarter. The Bobcats “Achilles” heel all season had been the foul line. Dimmitt came up short at the charity stripe giving Cleveland life. Sophomore Warren McDonald missed three consecutive front ends of one and one situations in the final 2:37 of the game.

With 8 seconds remaining, Cleveland took the lead 57-56 behind a six foot turn around jumper by 6'4" Richard Johnson. It was the tribes first lead since the 4:03 mark of the 3rd quarter. Dimmitt called timeout to set the table for their final effort. It was no secret where the ball was going to go. Pat McDonald had the ball in the foul area and was surrounded by three Bears, when Clyde Davis stripped the ball from the senior post. Davis came up with the loose ball and was fouled immediately. Davis missed his foul shot with one second remaining ending the game. With it, Cleveland claimed their first state title 57-56.

"These are the hard ones to lose," Coach Cleveland of Dimmitt said. "If you get beat without a chance to win, it doesn't hurt so bad. But we had our chances, and these will keep you awake at night. We wanted to get the ball to Pat and take it as far as he could and shoot his jumper," Coach Cleveland said. "We missed some free throws down the stretch that could have made the difference," Cleveland continued. "But that's all part of the game."

From a spectator's view Dimmitt was at a noticeable height disadvantage. Cleveland height enabled them to score the first five basket of the 4th quarter off offensive rebounds. Dimmitt's 6'1" Woody Glass fouled out at the 4:55 mark of the 4th quarter limiting the Bobcats rebounding hopes. "They were awfully tough inside, I know that," Coach Cleveland said. The Indians owned the rebounding advantage 40-30 over the Bobcats. 6'4" sophomore, Craig Lillie, put up 18 points and 11 rebounds. Dimmitt had a big advantage from the floor hitting 54% to Cleveland's 36 %. The difference was the offensive glass for the Indians, who attempted 63 shots as compared to only 44 for the Bobcats.

James Alexander had some impressive numbers for Dimmitt with 16 points and 12 rebounds. McDonald teamed up with Alexander to score 40 of the 56 total points for Dimmitt, while Cleveland had four players in double digits. There were 12 lead changes during the game and 13 ties. Coach Cleveland as always kept everything in perspective and was nothing but class in defeat. "I can't ask for anymore out them. We just have to understand for every winner there's a loser."

All-Tournament Team- 6'3" Eddie Jones, Hughes Springs; 5'11" Clyde Davis, Cleveland; 6'4" Craig Lillie, Cleveland; 6'3" James Alexander, Dimmitt; 6'3" Pat McDonald, Dimmitt:

1986 State Rankings AAA {End of the Regular Season}:

1. Cleveland	26-4	5'11" Clyde Davis, 6'2" Brian Davis(16.0)
2. Columbus	23-4	Percy Waddle, Greg Waddle
3. Sweeny	28-2	Darryl Austin
4. Dimmitt	25-5	6'3" Pat McDonald(23.2), 6'5" James Alexander
5. Brownsboro	24-4	6'2" Ricky Banks
6. Whitehouse	22-5	6'5" Roy Johnson(24.0)
7. Hughes Springs	24-4	6'4" Eddie Jones(24.0), 6'4" Darrin Terry(16.0)
8. Seminole	21-6	Kirby Brooks

9. C.C. West Oso 25-3 5'11" Freddy Fillmore, 5'7" Lance Harper
 10. Sharyland 26-3 6'5" Terry Strang

Texas Sports Writers All-State Team 3-A 1986:

1st Team- 6'3" Pat McDonald(23.2), Dimmitt; 6'5" Roy Johnson(24.0), Whitehouse; 6'4" Eddie Jones(24.0), Hughes Springs; 6'2" Ricky Banks, Brownsboro; 6'5" Tony Strang, Sharyland: **2nd Team-** 6'5" James Alexander(16.0), Dimmitt; 6'3" Brian Davis(16.0), Cleveland; 6'5" Daryl Duncan, Cameron; 5'11" Clyde Davis, Cleveland; 6'4" Craig Lillie, Cleveland: **3rd Team-** 6'4" Billy Lucas, Hillsboro; 6'8" Jerry Neal, Zapata; 6'4" Darrin Terry(16.0), Hughes Springs; 6'4" Edgar Johnson, Cedar Hill; 5'11" Greg Shields, Grossbeck:

T.A.B.C. All-State Team 3-A 1986:

1st Team- 6'3" Brian Davis, Cleveland; 6'3" Pat McDonald, Dimmitt; 6'4" Eddie Jones, Hughes Springs; 6'5" Roy Johnson, Whitehouse; 5'11" Freddy Fillmore, West Oso: **2nd Team-** 5'11" Clyde Davis, Cleveland; Percy Waddle, Columbus; Kirby Brooks, Seminole; Darryl Austin, Sweeny; Kenny Walker, Crane: **3rd Team-** Todd Duncan, Aledo; Patrick Garrett, Center; Darrin Nelson, Gonzales; Anthony Jackson, Anahuac; 6'5" John Strang, Sharyland:

1986 3-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	Dimmitt(26-7) #4	95	Dalhart(18-9)	56	
	Amarillo River Road(21-5)	60	Idalou(21-5)	50	
	Seminole(23-5) #8		Kermit		
	Lubbock Roosevelt(24-8)		Canutillo		
	Bowie	53	Graham	51	
	Vernon(21-5)		Abilene Wylie		
	Crane	68	Lampasas	64	
	Ballinger	40	Gatesville	37	
	Region I 2 nd Round	Dimmitt(25-7) #4	68	Lubbock Roosevelt(25-8)	66
		Seminole(24-5) #8	86	River Road(22-5)	73
Bowie		49	Ballinger	30	
Vernon(22-5)		57	Crane	49	
Region I Semi Finals	Seminole(25-5) #8	67	Vernon(23-5)	57	
	Dimmitt(28-7) #4	57	Bowie	46	
Regional Finals	Dimmitt(29-7) #4	88	Seminole(26-5) #8	61	
Region II Bi-Dist.	Wylie(21-7)	67	Wills Point	64	
	Commerce(21-7)		Bonham(24-4)		
	Hughes Springs(25-4) #7	47	Pittsburg(13-9)	43	
	Prairieland(25-4)	65	Queen City(23-5)	53	
	Brownsboro(27-5) #5	69	Gilmer(16-10)	52	
	Whitehouse(24-6) #6	67	Spring Hill(21-8)	43	
	Hillsboro(28-5)		Waco Connally		
	Cedar Hill		Marlin		
Region II 2 nd Round	Hughes Springs(27-4) #7	63	Commerce(21-7)	30	
	Hillsboro(29-5)	54	Brownsboro(28-5) #5	48	
	Wylie(22-8)	49	Prairieland(26-4)	46	
	Whitehouse(25-6) #6	82	Cedar Hill	65	
Region Semis	Hillsboro(30-5)	63	Wylie(23-8)	54	
	Hughes Springs(27-4) #7	64	Whitehouse(26-6) #6	63	
Region II Finals	Hughes Springs(28-4) #7	55	Hillsboro(31-5)	49	
Region III Bi-Dist.	Center(19-12)		Grossbeck		
	Newton		Hardin-Jefferson		

	Anahuac		Kirbyville	
	Cleveland(27-4) #1	66	Hitchcock(17-14)	51
	Sweeny(27-2) #3		Cold Springs	
	Brookshire		Cameron Yoe	
	Bellville(27-4)	87	Rockdale(27-4)	80
	Diboll		Crockett	
Region III 2 nd Round	Cleveland(28-4) #1	80	Brookshire Royal	55
	Sweeny(28-2) #3	64	Bellville(28-4)	58
	Anahuac			
	Center(20-12)			
Region III Semis	Cleveland(29-4) #1	80	Anahuac	53
	Center(21-12)		Sweeny(29-2) #3	
Region III Finals	Cleveland(30-4) #1	68	Center(22-12)	45
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Gonzales(27-3)	58	Smithville(22-6)	53
	Columbus(24-4) #2	58	Pflugerville(20-10)	54
	Devine		San Antonio Cole	
	S.A. Southside	46	Hondo	44
	West Oso(27-3) #9	65	George West(18-12)	45
	Taft(20-7)	63	Refugio(14-7)	53
	Zapata(18-8)		Santa Rosa	
	San Diego(19-10)		Sharyland	
Region IV 2 nd Round	West Oso(28-3) #9	56	San Diego(20-10)	40
	Gonzales(28-30)	58	S.A. Southside	49
	Taft(21-7)	61	Zapata(20-8)	60
	Columbus(25-4) #2	75	Divine	69
Region IV Semis	Columbus(26-4) #2	71	Taft(22-7)	42
	West Oso(29-3) #9	68	Gonzales(29-3)	54
Region IV Final	West Oso(30-3) #9	49	Columbus(27-4) #2	48
State Semi-Finals	Cleveland(30-4) #1	61	Hughes Springs(29-4) #7	53
	Dimmitt(30-6) #4	58	C.C. West Oso(31-3) #9	57
State Finals	Cleveland(31-4) #1	57	Dimmitt(31-6) #4	56

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1986 AAA Top Teams}

- Cleveland 32-4 {state champion defeating Dimmitt 57-56}
- Dimmitt 31-7 {state finals losing to Cleveland 57-56}
- West Oso 31-4 {lost a close one to Dimmitt in the semis 58-57}
- Columbus 27-5 {regional finals loss to West Oso on a last second shot}
- Hughes Springs 29-5 {went down to Cleveland in the state semis 61-53}
- Whitehouse 26-7 {lost in the regional finals to Hughes Springs by one}
- Lubbock Roosevelt 25-9 {2nd round loss to Dimmitt 68-66}
- Hillsboro 31-6 {Regional finals, upset Brownsboro 54-48}
- Brownsboro 28-6 {2nd round upset by Hillsboro}
- Sweeny 29-3 {regional semis lost to Center}
- Center 22-13 {regional finals}
- Seminole 26-5 {regional finals}
- Bowie 26-5 {regional semi-final losing to Dimmitt}
- Taft 22-8 {regional semi-finals}
- Gonzales 29-4 {regional semi-finals}
- Sharyland 20-11 {ranked in the top ten, upset in first round}
- Pflugerville 20-11 {eliminated in first round by Columbus}
- Wylie 23-9 {regional semis}

19. Prairieland	25-9	{lost to Wylie in the 2 nd round}
20. Zapata	20-9	{2 nd round loss to Taft by one}

1986 AA

East Texas has always had great representatives in class AA. Gladewater Sabine carried the banner in 1986 making their 5th trip to the state tournament. Sabine(23-3) had to overcome two former state titlists in Grapeland and Shelbyville to gain the regional title. In Bi-District, Sabine's old nemesis over the years awaited, the Shelbyville(19-9) Dragons. Although the Dragons were weaker than in the past, they would always play Sabine tough. Rivalry games are almost always very competitive and intense as you might expect. Kids play on emotion and are capable of taking their game to another level. Shelbyville had finished 2nd in District 22-2A.

Carthage High School in East Texas was the site of the Shelbyville-Sabine clash. Shelbyville jumped out to an early 20-12 advantage at the end of the first quarter. Down 30-18 in the 2nd quarter with 3:22 left, Sabine finally caught fire scoring eleven straight points. The run was highlighted by 6'4" Charles Boyd's two-handed slam dunk. The contest was not decided until the last two seconds of the game. Sabine's Joey Jackson went to the line with his team down 51-50. The Dragons took a time-out in an effort to ice the senior post. Jackson came through for the Cardinals giving his team the 52-51 victory.

Shelbyville was propelled by 6'4" Todd Cartwright, who finished with 26 points and four blocks. Joining Cartwright in double figures was 6'3" Dennis Land with 14 points. Team leader, 6'2" Ronnie Davis(20.0), led Sabine with 24 points and 13 rebounds. Another a big contribution for the Redbirds came from 6'4" Charles Boyd with 18 points. Boyd had been ineligible earlier in the season.

Things didn't get any easier for Sabine, as they prepared to meet the defending state champions, Grapeland(24-8). 6'7" Calvin Tillis would have to be contained in order to get by Grapeland. The Cardinal's collapsing zone did a number on Tillis holding him to a mere eight points. Tillis took his talents to Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa following graduation. Sabine managed to rebound Grapeland 29-21 on their way to a convincing 52-28 victory.

Harleton(20-7), winner of District 19-2A, awaited Sabine in regionals. Harleton's Chris Wesley(24.0) was considered one of the top players in region II and a tremendous outside shooter. Wesley got his points finishing with 28, but his supporting cast came up short. Sabine's balanced attack proved to be the difference in the Cardinals 64-48 win. Sabine had a big advantage on the glass 43-30 over the smaller Harleton squad. The Cardinals placed four players in double figures on their way to the regional finals. 6'4" Charles Boyd finished with 12 points and 9 rebounds, 6'2" Ronnie Davis added 17 points, 6'5" Brad Baker put up 17

points along with 11 rebounds and 6'3 Joey Jackson came away with 13 points and 12 rebounds.

In the other region III semi-finals game, Delmar-West Lamar(28-4) got by Frankston(27-4) 67-66. Frankston finished second in District action behind Sabine. Delmar-West Lamar was a consolidated school joining West Lamar with Delmar. With the size increase Delmar-West Lamar moved up in classification, going from A to AA.

The region III finals were played at Tyler Junior College's Wagstaff Gymnasium. Sabine(26-3) took an early lead 40-23 over West Lamar(28-4) and held on to win 58-53. Sabine's Ronnie Davis put up 20 points to lead the Cardinals in scoring. Boyd proved helpful for the Sabine finishing with 14 points and nine rebounds. Sophomore Brian Allen paced West Lamar with 18 points and eight rebounds. With the win the Cardinals advanced to state for the 4th time during the 80s. Sabine had taken home the gold in 1980 and again in 1981.

Dripping Springs(28-3) opened the state playoffs in Region IV with a convincing win over Lytle 94-71. Joe Cuellar of Lytle proved effect scoring 32 points in a losing effort. The Tigers 6'2" Pat Leonard would be the driving force for Dripping Springs throughout the playoffs. Leonard was good for 29 points in the win over Lytle. Mike Escobar joined Leonard in double figures with 16 points. In second round action the Tigers took down Marion(21-10) 71-58, behind Leonard's 32 points. 5'6" Escobar added 16 points once again. Scott Hennig led Marion with 13 points.

In a marathon game, Dripping Springs(30-3) defeated Shiner(19-2) 70-68 to advance to the regional finals. It took four overtimes to decide the issue. The Tiger's Kelbe Palmer came away the hero for Dripping Springs hitting two foul shots with 11 seconds remaining. Leonard again showed the way for Tigers finishing with 20 points, while Don Childs cashed in 16 points for the winners. Backcourt ace, Escobar, put up 12 points. Steve Price led Shiner with 18 points.

In the other regional semi-finals game in Region IV, Thorndale advanced over Woodsboro 62-47. This set the stage for the region IV finals between Dripping Springs and Thorndale. The two teams had played previously with the Dripping Springs Tigers winning convincingly 54-36. The re-match was a little closer, but not much, with Dripping Springs advancing to state 41-30. Childs was good for 16 points for the Tigers and Leonard came away with 12. Dripping Springs would be making their first appearance at the state tournament.

Morton(27-7) came out of West Texas and Region I with another tremendous squad in 1986. The Indians were making their 9th visit to the capital city. Three double digit players were responsible for majority of the team's success. 6'4" Jerry Joyce(23.0), 6'3" Jimmy Moore(16.0) and 5'10" Keith Hawkins(11.0) were the leaders for the Indians. Joyce went on to play at West Texas State and later Angelo State. Moore played at Lubbock Christian and

Hawkins played for Coach Tony Mauldin at West Texas State and later an NAIA school in Hawaii.

Coach Tony Maudlin faced the most challenging schedule possible. We've been over numerous times his philosophy on scheduling. The Indians tradition was unmatched in Texas basketball history in class 2-A ball. Morton made four straight trips to the state tournament in 1983, 1984, 1985 and 1986. The '86 team matched favorably with any of the great teams of the past. The Indians pre-season record speaks volumes about how strong Morton was against the best the state had to offer, regardless of classification. The Indians were 3-1 against class 3-A state finalist Dimmitt(31-7), split with the class 5-A state champion Amarillo(31-5), split with class 5-A Lubbock Monterey(21-10), split with Lubbock Estacado(14-13), and handled Permian(19-11) twice 81-74 and 82-71. Morton lost seven games, all to class 4-A and 5-A teams. Midland(21-10) took down the Indians 87-65 and Andrews(29-3) defeated Morton 90-77. Other losses came as previously mentioned at the hands of Estacado, Amarillo, Monterey, Dimmitt, and a team out of New Mexico, Lovington 95-81.

Morton's playoff run was impressive with wins over Haskell by 36 points, Clint went down by 27 points, Olton by 33 points and Paducah, in a close one by two points. In a warm-up game prior to the state playoffs, Morton lost to the future 5-A state champion Amarillo 77-52. Earlier in the season the Indians had beaten the Sandies 81-68.

A little background on Morton's loss to Amarillo. Coach Mauldin's standout post, Jerry Joyce, missed the game. He was ineligible because of no pass no play. He had missed the six-week grading period because of a class that he took as an elective. "I had tried to talk him out of taking the course, because the teacher was really down on sports and the importance it held in the community," Coach Tony Mauldin said. "We were not anywhere near as effective inside against Amarillo without Jerry," Mauldin continued. Joyce did not return to the team until the first round of the regional playoffs. "Because of grades, Jerry couldn't even ride the bus. He had to get a ride to the game and played his first game in six weeks. He wasn't eligible to ride the bus because he was not eligible till 4:00." Mauldin explained.

In the regional finals against Paducah, Morton's Kenneth Johnson had a dismal effort at the foul line late in the game. Paducah continued to foul Johnson trying to catch the Indians. Johnson went 0-12 in the late stages of the game from the foul line. "On the bus ride to the game I had caught Kenneth with a playboy magazine in the back of the bus and took it up," Coach Maudlin said. "Kenneth was so tense at the foul line, I called him over and told him I'd give him back the magazine if he hit the foul shots," Mauldin continued. "I was trying to loosen him up at the line, because he was so focused on his last miss. It didn't work, he still missed."

The state tournament brought together a stellar group of teams from around the state. Top ranked Morton(30-7) faced 2nd ranked Grandview(29-1) in one semi-final and Dripping Springs(31-3) played Sabine(27-3) in the other. Anyone of the teams looked capable to taking home the prize, but the smart money was once again on Morton.

Grandview came out of Region II with two dominate scorers in 6'1" Rusty Johnson(24.6) and 6'2" Kai Parkinson(23.2). You would need to go back several years to find two more productive scorers on the same team entering the state semi-finals. The Zebras had been over the century mark four times during the regular season and had a potent offense. Grandview had been unchallenged in the playoffs with their closest game being a 73-67 victory over Coleman in Bi-District. 6'2" Gerald Washington(10.0) and 6'2" Mike Pinkerton(10.1) were two more critical pieces to the Zebras attack. Although Grandview looked impressive, they had played a soft schedule.

Unfortunately, in the state semi-finals Grandview(29-1) drew perennial AA power Morton(30-7). Comparatively speaking the teams had not faced similar schedules on their journey to Austin. The lack of competition showed, as Morton took Grandview to the cleaners leading by 30 points midway through the 3rd quarter. The Indians went on to win 87-69 advancing to the state finals. The Indians were paced by the trio of 6'4" Jerry Joyce(23.0), Jimmy Moore(16.0), and Keith Hawkins(11.0). Joyce finished with 24 points, Moore put up 22 and Hawkins added 17. Morton man-handled Grandview inside and out-rebounding the Zebras 53 to 38. Morton took 31 more shots from the field than Grandview. Gerald Washington was the only real bright spot for Grandview with 31 points.

Dripping Springs(31-3) and Gladewater Sabine(27-3) were well matched in the other semi-final game. 6'2" Pat Leonard played an exceptional game for the Tigers of Dripping Springs going 12 of 17 from the floor and finishing with 31 points and eight rebounds. Sabine had their chances with 18 seconds remaining, down by two points. Brad Baker went to the line shooting a one and one. Baker air balled the first attempt and with it any chances Sabine might of had winning. Dripping Springs closed out the game from the foul line winning 55-48.

One of Dripping Springs top players on the season, 6'4" Kelby Palmer, missed most of the game due to a bout with the flu. Also, 5'9" Don Childs, missed over half the game for the Tigers due to foul trouble. For Sabine, 6'2" Ronnie Davis(20.0) struggled for most of the game and finished with only eight points. Davis was only 3 of 13 from the floor for the Cardinals. 6'4" Charles Boyd picked up the slack for the East Texas group hitting 11 of 22 from the floor for 27 points.

Sabine won the battle of the boards 36-25, but came up short shooting only 19 of 53 for 36%, while Dripping Springs shot and amazing 60% from the floor on 21 of 35 attempts. "We could never dictate the tempo of the game in the 2nd

half because we were never ahead,” Sabine coach Carl Allen said. “The state tournament is the wrong place to shoot poorly.”

The East Texas area and coaching fraternity was hard hit by the news that Henderson’s head basketball coach, Brooks Dozier, had a massive cerebral hemorrhage and was in the hospital. Dozier was at school when he had the Aneurysm. He had coached all over East Texas and had an impressive 505-423 career mark. In March of 1986, Dozier passed away a short time later at the age of 58. He had coached for 35 years.

The state title game pitted Morton against the challenge of Dripping Springs. The Indians came out blazing as usual and took control with an 18-point advantage in the 2nd quarter and went on to claim victory 73-59. It was the Indians second title in four years and fourth overall. Dripping Springs responded to the Indians pressing with a press of their own and were able to close the gap to 44-41 late in the 3rd quarter.

“Morton just had a little too much-in speed and depth-and we got ourselves out of it early, before we adjusted to their press,” Coach Poe Shelton of Dripping Springs said. The Tigers committed 33 turnovers giving Morton a big early lead. Coach Tony Mauldin commented that Morton lost their momentum after jumping out to the big lead.

“We’ve seen defensive presses all year,” Shelton said, “But no team has run the press on us any better than Morton. Our inability to hit free throws in the first half also dug us into a hole.”

Dripping Springs played well on the glass, winning the battle of the boards 42-32 over the Indians. 6’4” Kelby Palmer once again was out for Dripping Springs due to the flu. Morton was 31 of 67 from the floor while Dripping Springs came away with nice numbers hitting 26 of 48 attempts. Jerry Joyce led Morton with 26 points on 11 of 17 shooting and Leonard again paced the Tigers with 24 points hitting 11 of 21.

Years later Coach Tony Mauldin said he felt his 1986 was probably the best of his Morton teams. “I know that’s going to upset some of my former players, but the team was so flexible and mentally tough.”

State All-Tournament Team- 6’4” Charles Boyd, Sabine; 5’6” Mike Escobar, Dripping Springs, 6’2” Pat Leonard*, Dripping Springs; 6’4” Jerry Joyce, Morton; 6’3” Jimmy Moore, Morton: *Unanimous

Morton Indians Dynasty: State 70, 72, 73, 76, 77, 83, 84, 85, 86						
Year	Record	Rank	Playoffs	Last Game		Coach
1983	28-8	#3	State Champs	def. Bartlett	91-69	Mauldin
1984	27-3	#1	State Semis	loss Somerville	72-71	Mauldin
1985	26-10	#6	State Finals	loss Grapeland	63-56	Mauldin
1986	32-7	#1	State Champs	def. Dripping Sp.	73-59	Mauldin

1986 State Rankings AA {End of the Regular Season}:

1. Morton 25-6 6’4” Jerry Joyce, 6’3” Jimmy Moore

2. Grandview	26-0	6'2" Kai Parkinson, 6'1" Rusty Johnson
3. Paducah	26-0	Stan Burns, 6'6" Will Flemons
4. Dripping Springs	25-1	6'2" Pat Leonard, 5'6" Mike Escobar
5. Woodsboro	25-1	Roland Hernandez, Marcus McLemore
6. Delmar-West Lamar	23-4	Brian Allen
7. Ranger	22-3	6'2" Craig Koch
8. Sabine	21-3	6'4" Charles Boyd, 6'2" Ronnie Davis
9. Waskom	20-2	
10. Olney	21-6	

T.A.B.C. All-State Team 2-A 1986:

1st Team- Jay Hobbs, Johnson City; 6'2" Ronnie Davis(20.0), Gladewater Sabine; 6'4" Jerry Joyce(23.0), Morton; 6'2" Kai Parkinson(23.2), Grandview; 6'2" Pat Leonard, Dripping Springs; **2nd Team-** Craig Koch, Ranger; Stan Burns, Paducah; Eugene Dillard, Edgewood; Skeeter Akre, Aubrey; 5'10" Keith Hawkins(11.0), Morton; **3rd Team-** Hardin Camp, Thorndale; Randy Hatten, Frankston; Will Flemons, Paducah; Chuck Phelps, DeLeon; Chris Wesley(24.0), Harleton:

Sports Writers All-State Team 2-A 1986:

1st Team-6'2" Kai Parkinson(23.2), Grandview; 5'10" Keith Hawkins(11.0), Morton; 5'10" Jay Hobbs, Johnson City; 6'6" Calvin Tillis, Grapeland; 6'2" Pat Leonard, Dripping Springs; 6'3" Eugene Dillard, Edgewood; **2nd Team-** 5'8" Tracy Guy, Itasca, 6'3" Ronnie Davis(20.0), Sabine; 6'3" Jimmy Moore(16.0), Morton; 6'6" Skeeter Akre, Aubrey; 6'5" Chuck Phelps, DeLeon; **3rd Team-** 6'1" Rusty Johnson(24.6), Grandview; 6'2" Craig Koch, Ranger; 6'1" Phillip Lenox, Liberty Hill; 6'4" Jerry Joyce(23.0), Morton; 6'6" Will Flemons, Paducah:

1986 2-A Playoffs

Region I Semis	Morton(28-7) #1	100	Olton	77
	Paducah(29-2) #3	76	Hawley	66
Region I Finals	Morton(29-7) #1	63	Paducah(30-2) #3	61
Region II Semis	Nocona	53	Bangs	39
	Grandview(27-1) #2	78	Hubbard	61
Region II Finals	Grandview(28-1) #2	67	Nocona	51
Region III Semis	Sabine(25-3) #8	64	Harleton(20-7)	48
	West Lamar(27-4) #6	67	Frankston(27-4)	66
Region III Finals	Sabine(26-3) #8	58	Delmar West Lamar(28-4) #6	53
Region IV Semis	Dripping Springs(29-3) #4	70	Shiner(19-2) (4OT)	68
	Thorndale(18-9)	62	Woodsboro(27-1) #5	47
Region IV Finals	Dripping Springs(30-3) #4	44	Thorndale(19-9)	30
State Semi-Finals	Dripping Springs(31-3) #4	55	Gladewater Sabine(27-3) #8	48
	Morton(30-7) #1	87	Grandview(29-1) #2	69
State Finals	Morton(31-7) #1	73	Dripping Springs(32-3) #4	59

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1986 AA Top Teams}

1. Morton 32-7 {state champions, dominating}
2. Paducah 30-3 {loss in the regional finals to Morton by two}
3. Dripping Springs 32-4 {state finals loss to Morton 73-59}
4. Shiner 19-3 {Regional Semis, loss a 4 ot contest to Dripping Spr.}
5. Gladewater Sabine 27-4 {State semis losing to Dripping Springs}
6. Grandview 29-2 {State semis, high scoring outfit ranked 2nd in state}
7. Delmar-West Lamar 28-5 {regional finals losing to Sabine}

8.	Frankston	27-5	{finished behind Sabine in District, regional semis}
9.	Shelbyville	19-10	{District runner-up, lost to Sabine in Bi-District}
10.	Thorndale	19-10	{regional finals losing to Dripping Springs}

1986 A

The Nazareth(28-6) Swifts finally claimed the state title in 1986 with a 53-49 victory over Archer City(33-5). Nazareth's victory ended one of the most impressive seasons ever for West Texas basketball. In the five state classifications, West Texas took three of the five state basketball titles with Dimmit going down by one point in the 3-A title game. Class 4-A was not represented by West Texas, but Borger and Lamesa gave a fine account of themselves in the playoffs.

Nazareth was a post-oriented team with a new coach in Johnny Hampton, who had served previously as the assistant to Joe Lombard. The Swifts had some great experience in Austin having lost the state title to Snook 39-30 in 1984 and LaPoynor 47-43 in overtime in 1985. Coach Hampton returned four starters back from the previous year. Everything centered around 6'5" Randy Leavitt(18.0), who teamed up with 6'2" Billy Steffens and 6'2" Kevin Hoelting inside. All three signed to play football at West Texas State. The backcourt was made up of 6'0" Darryl Hoelting(10.0) and 5'10" Chris Schmucker(6.0). Coming off the bench for Coach Hampton were 6'3" Kenny Kern(7.0) and 5'11" Todd Hill(8.2).

To give you an indication of just how formidable Nazareth was during the regular season, they lost the Amarillo(31-5) 48-46, Dimmitt(31-7) 43-38, Plainview(18-10) 54-28, class 2-A regional semi-finalists Olton 59-56 and 47-43, and class 3-A Idalou(21-6) 47-45. The Swifts did not lose to a class A team all season.

Nazareth really waltzed through the playoffs unchallenged. Ft. Davis got pummeled by the Swifts in the regional finals 62-38 at South Plains Junior College in the Texas Dome, which is located in Levelland. A crowd of 500 watched as Ft. Davis attempted to play slow-down basketball against the taller Nazareth squad. The Swifts opened up the game with an 8-0 run. "We would have had a better chance winning if we could have gotten into our delay game," Coach Brent McWilliams of Ft. Davis said. "It was an honor to be on the court with them."

Snook(31-7) was the top rated team in the state according to the T.A.B.C., but fell on hard times in regionals at the Milton Jowers Coliseum on the campus of Southwest Texas State. The Blue Jays struggled just to make it to regionals defeating Calvert in triple overtime 69-62. Edward Macik put up 22 points in the win for Snook.

Coming into regionals, Coach Donnie Victorick said, "I'm concerned, even at the point, we haven't really recovered. The kid's legs are still not where they ought to be." Snook got by Leakey 66-52 in the first round of regionals and slipped

past Moulton 33-29 Saturday morning to gain the regional finals. Big Sandy tripped up Dime Box and was awaited Snook.

Big Sandy ended Snook's attempt at another trip to the state tournament 32-31. Offensively, Snook had their worst performance of the year. "It was the poorest game we played all year," Coach Victorick said. "It was the poorest shooting performance I can ever remember." 6'8" Walter Martin of Snook struggled finishing with 10 points on 4 of 12 shooting. Snook was able to force 17 turnovers, but was unable to capitalize of the mistakes.

Garrison Abbey was the hero for Big Sandy hitting the second of two foul shots with two seconds left in the game. The game was tied at halftime at 12 apiece. "I couldn't have been more pleased with our overall defense," Coach Victorick said. "It was one of the toughest losses I've experienced as a coach. I feel bad for the kids."

Laneville(25-7), Archer City(31-4) and Big Sandy(28-8) awaited Nazareth at the state tournament. Archer City advanced to the finals easily beating Big Sandy 72-41. Nazareth took down Laneville in the other semi-final game 57-47 behind Randy Leavitt's 24 points on 9 of 14 shooting. Leavitt also managed 13 rebounds, as the Swifts controlled the inside game outrebounding Laneville 45 to 35. 5'11" Marcus Anderson of Laneville was named first team all-state and was a scoring machine averaging 30 points per game. Anderson ended up with 19 points on 7 of 27 shooting for only 26 %. Nazareth shot 21 of 43 from the floor and Laneville hit only 17 of 63 for a dismal 27%. Hard to win with that type of shooting effort. Amazingly, Laneville only lost by ten points.

Archer City(32-4) was going to be a different story in the class A finals for Nazareth. The Wildcats of Archer City had some state tournament experience themselves, having made appearances in 1980 and 1981. Archer City's inside was fully capable of matching-up with Leavitt inside. 6'5" Billy Dugan(13.6) and 6'6" Robert Davis(12.2) were the strongest tandem in class A ball. Archer City's leading scorer was 5'11" Robert Starnes(16.1). The Wildcats faced the strongest competition on their way to Austin out of the four regional representatives. Every playoff opponent was state ranked. Bi-District opponent Munday(15-4) was ranked #4, Ponder(24-5) came in at #7, Eula(28-2) finished #8 in the polls and regional finalist, Krum(28-1), stood at #3 in the final T.A.B.C. rankings.

The state title game went right down to the end with Nazareth claiming their first state title 53-49. The game was much closer than it appeared. A controversial call went in Nazareth's favor late with the Swifts up 42-41. The call in question was a charging violation, which allowed Nazareth to go to the foul line and increase their margin to 44-41. The Wildcats were never able to regain the lead following the call.

Archer City's Nicky McCorkle missed a 30-footer with three seconds left with his team down by two. Billy Steffens of Nazareth came up with the rebound

and was fouled immediately, putting Steffens on the line. The 6'2" senior missed the foul shot, but got his own rebound. He immediately put it in at the buzzer, making the final read 53-49.

Nazareth's Leavitt was finally contained finishing only 12 points and Daryl Hoelting came away with 13 points. Robert Starnes was the leader for Archer City with 18 points. Nazareth hit 20 of 45 from the floor and had a small advantage on the glass 33-26. Archer City finished 20 of 49 from the floor.

All-Tournament Team- 5'11" Robert Starnes, Archer City; 6'6" Robert Davis, Archer City; 6'0" Mark Alec, Big Sandy; 6'0" Darryl Hoelting, Nazareth; 6'5" Randy Leavitt, Nazareth:

1986 State Rankings A {End of the Regular Season}:

1. Snook	26-5
2. Archer City	26-2
3. Krum	28-1
4. Munday	15-4
5. Knippa	27-1
6. Nazareth	18-6
7. Ponder	23-5
8. Eula	25-2
9. Moulton	19-6
10. Bronte	22-0

T.A.B.C. Class 1-A All-State 1st Team- 5'11" Robert Starnes(16.0), Archer City; 6'5" Randy Leavitt(18.0), Nazareth; 5'10" Marcus Anderson(30.0), Laneville; 6'9" Walter Martin, Snook; 6'6" David Dry, Krum; **2nd Team-** 6'3" Gene Selzer, Moulton; Patrick Hamilton, Jayton; Derome Rister, Eula; William Titus, Avery; Dennis Ransom, Italy; **3rd Team-** Lane Loyd, Avinger; James Becker, Alvord; 6'0" Will Williams, Valley; Kevin Street, LaRue LaPoynor; 6'0" Marc Alec, Big Sandy:

Sports Writers Class 1-A All-State 1st Team- 5'10" Marcus Anderson(30.0), Laneville; 6'2" Derome Rister, Eula; 6'9" Walter Martin, Snook; 6'6" David Dry, Krum; 6'5" Randy Leavitt(18.0), Nazareth; **2nd Team-** 5'5" Tony Manguia, Avalon; 5'11" Robert Starnes(16.0), Archer City; 6'0" Will Williams, Valley; 6'5" John Lane, Ft. Davis; 6'2" Rodney Elder, Leverett's Chapel; **3rd Team-** 5'10" Matt Glenn, Throckmorton; 5'11" Curtis Steeger, LaRue LaPoynor; 6'4" Dennis Ransom, Italy; 6'0" Kelvin Street, LaRue LaPoynor; 6'1" Wayne Chance, Avalon:

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1986 A Top Teams}

1. Nazareth	28-6	{state champions beating Archer City by four}
2. Archer City	33-5	{knocked Krum, Eula, Ponder, Munday out of the Playoffs}
3. Eula	27-3	{lost to Archer City by one in the regional semis}
4. Krum	31-2	{lost to Archer City in the regional finals}
5. Ponder	24-6	{lost to Archer City in the 2nd round}
6. Munday	15-5	{lost to Archer City in the first round}
7. Laneville	25-8	{state semi-finals}
8. Big Sandy	28-9	{state semi-finals, eliminated Snook}
9. Snook	26-6	{top ranked class A team, lost to Big Sandy by one}
10. Avery		{loss to Laneville by three in the regional finals}

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