

The History of Texas High School Basketball

Volume II

1975-1979

Revised

By Mark McKee

Dedicated to my sister,

Sandy Herring

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

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1975 AAAA

Houston Kashmere grabbed all the headlines entering the '75 season. It was as if nobody else had a chance in class 4-A. The Rams were returning several key players from their state championship team. Two of the top players in the state were back in 6'5" Jarvis Williams(18.0) and 6'4" Karl Godine(28.5). The scary thing about this team is even without Williams and Godine, Kashmere would have been one of the top teams in the state.

To follow the 1975 season was to follow Kashmere. The numbers they put up were staggering and soon became one of the top teams in the entire country. Many knowledgeable followers of the game were making strong comparisons to the great Wheatley teams of the past. Would Kashmere lose any games? Would they repeat as state champions? Was it all hype or were they really as strong as advertised? These were the questions that the '75 season would answer in exciting fashion. I was living in Houston at the time and the Rams were always in the newspaper. This was one of the high points for high school basketball during the 1970s.

*The **Arlington Classic** in early December on the campus of U.T. Arlington set the stage for Kashmere's first real test of the season. Ft. Worth Dunbar(19-12), W.T. White(18-11) out Dallas, Houston Worthing(24-11), Dallas Roosevelt(27-8), Dallas S.O.C.(35-4), Houston Wheatley(32-7), Denton, and Ft. Worth Paschal(32-3) presented a challenging field. Kashmere(46-0) opened against a strong Arlington(27-10) team that captured their District title in February. The Rams totally demolished the Colts 104-59. Ft. Worth Dunbar(19-12) was next up and lost by twenty 102-82. In the semis, Dallas W.T. White(18-11) played Kashmere(46-0) close losing only 73-63. For the Longhorns, Walter and Alex Lewis led the charge and were named all-tournament. In the other bracket, Dallas Roosevelt(27-8) beat a tough Houston Worthing(24-11) team and Albert Jones 90-81. The Golden Bears of S.O.C.(35-4) destroyed Denton 102-49. Houston Wheatley(32-7) advanced and played Ft. Worth Paschal(32-3), who had received a first-round bye. The Wildcats dropped Paschal(32-3) 78-75 to advance to the semis against S.O.C.(35-4). Coach Jimmy Gales team had beaten rival Roosevelt(27-8) 86-73 in the 2nd round. The semi-final game between Houston Wheatley(32-7) and Dallas S.O.C.(35-4) was much anticipated. The outcome got everybody's attention, not by who won but*

rather the score. The Golden Bears beat the Wildcats 116-80, in what was being called the worst defeat for a Jackie Carr's team in many years. Dallas W.T. White(18-11) surprised Wheatley(32-7) in the 3rd place game 89-75 and Houston Worthing(24-11) defeated Arlington Sam Houston in the consolation finals 80-76. Worthing had the top junior in the state in 6'7" Albert Jones. The championship game was a rematch of the state championship game the previous season. Kashmere's(46-0) strength and experience showed as they took down S.O.C.(35-4) 105-98. Karl Godine(28.5) and Carl Belcher were named all-tournament along with Wayman Lister of S.O.C., Albert Jones of Worthing, Stanley Carr of Wheatley, 6'10" Allen Windor(19.6) of Arlington High, sophomore Michael Watley of Dunbar and Ronnie Newton of Arlington Sam Houston. Ft. Worth Dunbar had a very young team and would be the team of the future under the leadership of Coach Robert Hughes.

In the **Jaycees Tournament in Houston**, Houston Kashmere(46-0) defeated Houston Yates(26-6) for the second year in a row 87-80 to capture the tournament title. In the 2nd round Kashmere(46-0) thrashed Galveston Ball(24-10) 95-54 with Karl Godine showing the way. His 27 points came from a wide assortment of shots. Houston Lee won their two first round games 53-50 against Houston Williams and 54-46 against Houston Waltrip. Waltrip had previously beaten Houston Lee prior to the tournament. James Harris of Houston Lamar set a single-game Jaycee scoring record with 49 points in last year's tournament. Harris filled it up once again with 33 points against Hancock, Mississippi in a 114-70 route in the consolation bracket. Houston Furr also advanced to the quarterfinals with two wins over Houston Sam Houston 65-49 and Houston Westbury 97-65. Houston Washington knocked off Houston Worthing(24-10) in the first round 69-68 but lost in the 2nd round 72-61 to Houston St. Thomas. Houston Reagan eliminated Houston Milby 59-58 in overtime, while Deer Park(35-5) beat Houston Wheatley's junior varsity 87-60. Wheatley's varsity was in Israel playing a holiday tournament overseas. John Falling scored 25 points for Deer Park and Frank Dishongh added 18 in Deer Park's 64-60 win over Houston Lamar in first round action. James Harris of Lamar was held to only 15 points in the loss against Deer Park(35-5). Houston Yates(26-6) defeated Houston Madison 85-83 in overtime and Houston Jones 78-69 in their 2nd round match-up. James Anderson and Ricky Edwards led Yates in scoring against Houston Madison with 15 points each and Clarence Hill was top dog for the Lions against Houston Jones. Yates had a fine 14-3 record, as they entered the quarterfinals. Houston Lincoln(28-8) advanced beating Houston Davis 101-88 in a great game and dropped Houston Sterling 73-68 in a 2nd round game. The Panthers of Lincoln improved their record to 15-3. For Lincoln, Edison Smith led the charge with 26 points against Houston Davis, and Fred Brown poured in 24 points for Houston Lincoln against Houston Sterling.

In the quarterfinal and semi-final match-ups Kashmere(46-0) eliminated Houston Lee 87-50 and Houston St. Thomas 87-58. 6'5" Jarvis Williams(18.0) showed his all-state credentials against St. Thomas hitting 22 points with a dozen rebounds. Carl Byrd(23.0) of Kashmere ripped the nets for 19 points from the corner and Godine(28.5) was limited to just 14 points because of early foul trouble. Against Houston Lee, Byrd finished with 16 points, Godine followed with 15 points and Jarvis Williams and Henry Small finished with 12 each. St. Thomas had beaten Houston Furr 77-58 to advance to the semis. Gerald Jozwiak had 23 points for St. Thomas and Pete Kesser hit 22 points. In the game against Kashmere, Pete Kesser had 19 points and Gerald Jozwiak had 15 for St. Thomas. The Houston Yates(26-6)-Deer Park(35-5) semi-final game was a rematch of the San Jacinto tourney finals in which Yates won 94-90 in overtime. In that contest Deer Park's John Failing scored 45 points and had 30 rebounds. How is that possible in a 32-minute high school game? John was definitely a baller. In the rematch, Failing was double and triple teamed and was limited to only 15 points as Yates came away with a 73-62 victory. Seven of Failing's points came from the foul line. With the loss, Deer Park's record stood at 18-3. For the Lions of Houston Yates they improved their record to 16-3. Clarence Hill came off the bench and ignited Yates(26-6) against Deer Park(35-5) with 16 points, while James Anderson and Johnny Donahue each hit 12 points. Travis O'Banion led Deer Park(35-5) with 17 points. In the quarterfinals Yates(26-6) proved too much for Houston Lincoln(28-8) 92-89. James Anderson led the Lions with 24 points and Edwards finished with 20. For Houston Lincoln(28-8), Jerrell Miller was high man with 28 points and Edison Smith had 22. Deer Park(35-5) beat Houston Reagan 67-52 in the other quarterfinal game.

In the championship game Karl Godine(28.5) was spectacular scoring 34 points and coming away with a dozen rebounds. In front of a crowd of 4000 spectators Kashmere(46-0) turned back Houston Yates(26-6) 87-80. The Rams improve their record to 24-0. Kashmere led at halftime 52-49. Madison Lane followed Godine in scoring with 21 points, while Carl Byrd(23.0) had 11. Jarvis Williams(18.0) scored only six points but pulled down 16 rebounds. For the Red and Gold of Houston Yates(26-6), Clarence Hill led the way with 17 points, Edwards added 17 and James Anderson finished with 15. Yates and Kashmere had met previously in the semi-finals of the "Super 16" tournament in Huntsville, with the Rams topping the Lions 110-87. Deer Park(35-5) won the third-place game defeating Houston St. Thomas 71-62. Once again John Failing proved to be unstoppable scoring 28 points, with 12 coming in the final quarter. Gerald Jozwiak added 22 points for the St. Thomas attack. Forest Brook took th consolation bracket defeating Houston Lamar 76-68. Forest Brook finished the tournament with a nice 18-3 record. Forest Brook had four players finish in double figures in their win over Lamar. Barry Ross had 21 points, Michael Walters finished with 14, Calvert Shelley

had 13 and Zachary West had 11. James Harris had 30 points for Lamar and was the top scorer in the tournament with 131 points.

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

In Dallas at the **Dr. Pepper tournament**, South Oak Cliff(35-4) was trying to repeat as champion. The Golden Bears had another outstanding club. On the first day of the tournament, Dallas Sunset pulled the biggest upset of the 1974 holiday tournament with a 75-72 win over heavily favored Dallas Roosevelt(27-8). For Sunset coach Joe Huey, this was a landmark victory for the hard-working coach. Huey loved the game and had certainly paid his dues. Coach Ellis Davis of Roosevelt said later that he was missing starter, Walter Crawford, who was out with a shoulder separation, and several other players that had been affected by the flu. W.T. White(18-10) defeated Carrollton R.L. Turner 62-50, Lake Highlands defeated Dallas Hillcrest 64-46. Marion Lewis scored 22 points for the Wildcats of Lake Highlands. North Mesquite(27-8), led by Mark Davis, downed North Garland 42-39. Dallas Pinkston(24-7), paced by Richard Bacon's 21 points, defeated Dallas Thomas Jefferson 70-65. Dallas Roosevelt(27-8) dropped Dallas Adamson 67-59 led by Rynn Wright's 22 points. Richardson Pearce was paced by 6'7" Joe Baxter's 36 points in the Mustangs victory over North Dallas 82-76 in overtime. Denton beat Dallas Jesuit 57-56, S.O.C.(35-4) dropped Highland Park(29-7) easily 87-68. Irving beat Mesquite 64-51. South Garland defeated Dallas Carter 60-58, Dallas Bishop Dunne had an easy win over Rockwall 55-30, Garland defeated Dallas Kimball 57-54, Dallas Lincoln got by Dallas Spruce 72-55 and Dallas Skyline downed Dallas Samuel 82-59. Richardson(22-7) continued their success beating Dallas Bryan Adams 50-45, Bishop Lynch was too much for Woodrow Wilson 72-68, W.T. White(18-10) eliminated Lake Highlands from the tournament with a 74-67 win, North Mesquite(27-8) eliminated Dallas Pinkston(24-7) in a close one 68-67. Richard Bacon of Pinkston continued his scoring with 27 points. S.O.C.(35-4) beat Plano(25-7) handily 92-57. The Wildcats of Plano went on to win their District and make the playoffs. The Golden Bears handled Plano by 35 points.

Garland advanced to the quarterfinals and defeated South Garland 75-63, to take on South Oak Cliff(35-4) in the semi-finals. Football star, Randy Love, was the leading scorer for the Owls with 21 points. Mitchell Huskey led the Colonels with 20 points. Dallas Lincoln took an early lead against Richardson(22-7) with their press and hung on to win 74-71. Ronald Forge paced Dallas Lincoln with 25 points and Elton Garrett finished with 23. Craig Nedrow led the Eagles with 18 points. Dallas Sunset was coming off their big upset of Dallas Roosevelt(27-8) but fell flat against Denton 67-56 in the quarterfinals. Greg Boyd paced Denton with 21 points and Bill Hardy and Steve Wilks led Sunset. W.T. White(18-10) had a nice win over

North Mesquite(27-8) in the quarterfinals 79-66. Donald Banks led White with 24 points.

In the semi-finals Dallas S.O.C.(35-4) once again showed why they were considered the top team in Dallas beating the Garland Owls 82-74. Lister led SOC with 16 points while Randy Love had 17 for Garland. Coach Jimmy Gales of SOC saved most of his starters for the finals. In the finals SOC(35-4) took down Dallas Lincoln 89-82 in overtime. The Golden Bears led 23-17 at the end of the first quarter and 43-38 at half and 57-42 at the end of the 3rd quarter. Waymond Lister was the leader for SOC with 26 points and sophomore David Burns added 14. Elton Garrett led the Tigers of Lincoln with 20 points and Kenneth Stubblefield contributed 17 points. Lister scored five of the nine SOC points in the overtime period. Dallas Lincoln had advanced to the finals by defeating the Denton Broncos 77-57. Elton Garrett was the man for the Tigers scoring 24 points and Greg Boyd took high game honors for Denton with 17.

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

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

Region I

EP Burgess(24-6) #14

Lubbock Monterey(21-9)

Midland Lee(30-3) #8

North Mesquite(26-7)

El Paso Bowie(28-6) #11

Pampa(24-4) #15

Wichita Falls Rider(22-7) #18

Arlington(27-10)

Top Five in Region I

6'5"	Junior Miller	Midland Lee
6'10"	Allen Windor	Arlington High
6'1"	Brent Blackwell	Midland Lee
6'1"	Jose DeSantiago	El Paso Bowie
	Carl Webb	El Paso Andress

In Region I a great story developed during the 1975 season with Midland Lee. Lee was coached by Paul Stueckler and his fine assistant, Jack Stephenson. Lee had an impressive record of 29-3 and were ranked #8 in the state polls. Even with the ranking and fine record they were not an imposing team. In the pre-season Midland Lee(30-3) lost to Hobbs, New Mexico 101-75, but they were playing without their physical post and District M.V.P., 6'5" Junior Miller. Miller was still on the football field. Later in a rematch with Hobbs, Lee came up with their best effort of the regular season beating Hobbs in Midland 72-49.

The only other significant pre-season victory was over Lubbock Monterey(21-10) 70-67. Once again that was before the arrival of Miller. In District action, Lee(29-3) lost to Midland High(21-10) in the first half of District 71-66. The two rivals tied for the first half title. In the second round of District, Midland Lee(29-3) lost to Abilene High(23-7) 51-50 and finished second. As these scores indicate, Lee played everybody close, win or lose. Stueckler was described by Mike Kunstadt as a heck of a coach. You did it, "my way or the highway" was his philosophy according to Kunstadt.

Midland High(21-10) and Lee(28-3) were forced to play to decide the 1st half winner. The result was a 64-62 triple overtime win for Lee(29-3). Midland(21-11) never led in the game and did not tie the game until 1:06 left in the contest. The game was played in Odessa and with the victory, Midland Lee(30-3) advanced to the District championship game against Abilene High(23-7). Brent Blackwell was good for 18 points, Ron Farish followed with 14 points and Junior Miller was high point man for Lee with 20 points. The District 5-AAAA title game was played in Snyder between Midland Lee(30-3) and Abilene(23-7), with the winner advancing and the loser going home. The two teams had split their District meetings and the game was a toss-up.

Midland Lee(30-3) and Coach Paul Stueckler won the District title in 1965 and lost to El Paso High 56-41 in Bi-District. In 1974 Lee captured the District title and were eliminated in Bi-District by Ft. Worth Richland 82-66.

Abilene(23-7) had a stronger basketball tradition. In 1970 the Eagles captured District led by Richard Little. The Eagles advanced to the regional semi-finals that year losing to El Paso Austin 102-88 in a classic. Richard Little went on to star at Texas Tech and his little brother, Mike, was a junior on the 1975 Eagles squad. Abilene had also won District titles in 1966 and 1967.

In typical Midland Lee(30-3) fashion, the Rebels downed Abilene High 42-39 in another low scoring affair. Other District playoff games included Ft. Worth Richland being eliminated by Wichita Falls Rider(20-7) in two straight games 48-47 and 57-36. The teams were playing the best two out of three series, which was not that uncommon at the time. Richland had an imposing front line of 6'10", 6'6", and 6'6". Unfortunately, they were unable to match-up with the quickness of Rider. Wichita Falls Rider's only loss in District had come at the hands of arch-rival Wichita Falls Hirschi 66-60.

In the Bi-District match-up against Rider(22-7), Coach Stueckler was looking at a team that would be a big challenge to defeat because of the team's overall quickness. Lee's lineup was not overly quick, but they were athletic and played extremely well together. With 6'5" Junior Miller inside, Lee was always strong on the boards.

Midland Lee(30-3) averaged 66.9 points per game, while giving up 53.0 per contest for a nice 13.9-point differential. Lee had a strong tandem inside in 6'5" Junior Miller(14.3) and 6'5" Jeffrey Jackson(8.9). The guard play was really strong with 6'0" Brett Blackwell(16.3) leading the way as a team leader and taking the big shots for the Rebels. 6'1" Gary Parson(8.5) and 6'2" Ron Farish(12.9) were also very capable. Blackwell was second on the all-time scoring list at Lee and a three-year starter.

Wichita Falls Rider(22-7) countered with 6'2" Robert Criner(17.2), 6'0" Will Davis(13.2), 6'4" James McKee, 6'5" Mike Simonds and leaper, 6'1" Brian Nelson. The Raiders liked to get up and down the court with their quickness.

The Bi-District game between Midland Lee(30-3) and Wichita Falls Rider(22-7) was played at Abilene Moody Coliseum on their tartan surface. Regionals were also played in Abilene. Going into the contest Coach Stueckler commented, "Rider has to be by far the quickest team we have faced all year." That was saying a lot considering Lee had faced Hobbs twice during the regular season. Rider(22-7) split with Abilene(23-8) during the regular season. The Raiders were state ranked at #18.

Midland Lee's guard play was outstanding against Rider combining for 53 points in Lee's 87-69 victory over the Raiders. Ron Farish(12.9) and Blackwell handled the pressure with Farish finishing with 29 points and Brent Blackwell(16.3) adding 24 points, mostly from long range. Robert Criner paced his team with 25 points for Rider. The difference was the foul line, as the Rebels were 21 of 31 from the line and the Raiders were only 7 of 10.

The Pampa Harvesters(23-3) were making waves in 1975 and were forced into a District playoff against Amarillo Tascosa(18-11). Tascosa had defeated Pampa 60-58 at home to capture the District first half title with a 5-0 mark. The Harvesters downed Tascosa on their home court 70-57 to win the second half of District.

The District championship game was going to be decided on a neutral court at the Amarillo Civic Center. Pampa started 6'0" Robert Young(14.5), Nick Slaymaker(9.0/9.0), 6'6" Howie Lewis(20.2/12.0), 6'2" Billy Wilbon(17.0) and Richard Lane.

Amarillo Tascosa countered with 5'8" Byron Carter(20.0), Dwight Cleveland, Mike Lorene, 6'5" Dwight Gilbreath, Kurt Reinbold and sophomore, Dave Gilbreath. In front of 4,500 fans, Pampa captured District with Howie Lewis's 27 points and 20 rebounds, Wilbon's 26 points and Young's 23. The final score wasn't close 92-76. Byron Carter led Tascosa with 19 points.

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

In another Bi-District encounter, El Paso Bowie(27-5) faced El Paso Burges(26-6) at UTEP. El Paso Bowie(27-5) had beaten Hobbs, New Mexico earlier in the season 75-74 and Midland High(21-10) had beaten Burges earlier in the season 62-52. Burges(26-6) was ranked #14 in the state rankings and took District 1-AAAA over El Paso Eastwood(22-8) with a 9-1 finish and Eastwood finished 8-2.

District 2-AAAA champion, El Paso Bowie(27-5), relied on a strong inside game that was paced by two sophomores, 6'4" Melvin Patridge and 6'6" Ralph Brewster. Brewster had missed 22 games due to an ankle injury during the season. Patridge was one of the top sophomores in the state. Senior captain, Jose DeSantiago, was the team leader and top player for the Bears. The other two starters were, 5'11" Alfredo Ferniza and 6'0" Alfredo Tovar, both seniors. "Size is our biggest difference this season," Coach Nolan Richardson said. "We've got some

inside people who can go get the ball and take pressure off our guards. I said last year after we won the District championship that if we ever got a little talent around here, we'd really be tough. We've got 10 kids that can go out there and do a job. We play both man and zone defense, but our best defense is the 1-3-1 zone trap," Richardson said. "We haven't lost to a pressing team all year," Richardson was quick to point out. "Full-court pressure doesn't bother this club I will assure you. Last year we had no competition in District," Nolan laughed, "And this year we had too much talent people said, I didn't have to do any coaching, I guess I just can't win."

El Paso Bowie(27-5) faced El Paso Burges(26-6) in Bi-District. Coach Tony Harper of El Paso Burges pressed full court and liked to use 12 players. Bowie(27-5) came into Bi-District with a 21-game winning streak.

El Paso Bowie(27-5) advanced to regionals with a 70-58 victory over El Paso Burges(26-6). Sophomore Melvin Patridge led the Bears charge with 21 points. Bowie jumped out to a big lead with Aurelio Castro getting behind the defense on the press and hit seven uncontested layups. Castro finished with 15 points, Jose DeSantiago and Ralph Brewster both added 10 points. "This is one of finest late game clubs I've ever been associated with," Richardson said. After the game, Richardson said, "Just say this is a start. I think we have the horses to go all the way to state."

The Arlington(26-10) Colts defeated a tough Highland Park(29-7) team in a 7-AAAA District playoff 58-57 in overtime, to march on to the playoffs. Arlington(26-10) was led by 6'10" Allen Windor(18.4) and 6'9" Bob Rudolph(14.0). Highland Park was ranked at #17 in the state polls and were paced by 6'2" Ronnie Thompson(16.0), 6'8" Tom Somerville(17.0/19.0) and 6'3" Bob Pirtle(14.0).

Allen Windor(18.4) was considered one of the top recruits in the state according to several scouts and coaches. Baylor Coach Jim Haller called Windor the premier big man in the country. His high school coach, Dale Archer said, "I think he shows more college potential at his position than anyone I have seen in a long while." Every college in the state along with teams from the Southeastern conference, Missouri Valley and Big Eight were recruiting the big man. Windor decided to only visit four schools with Baylor and Houston at the front of the list.

Arlington High(26-10) faced North Mesquite(24-7) at Carrollton R.L. Turner in Bi-District. North Mesquite had a hot shot guard named Mark Davis(16.0). Other starters for the Stallions were, 6'5" Mike Nelson(14.0), Van Ogden(13.0) and 6'2" David Crumpton(13.0).

The Stallions of North Mesquite(25-7) came out ahead of Richardson(22-7) to capture the District 8-AAAA title. The Richardson(22-7) Eagles lost a close one to South Garland 64-63 to give North Mesquite the District honors. The two teams had split during the regular season with both teams winning on their opponent's

home court. Richardson beat North Mesquite in the first round 70-61 and North Mesquite came back in the 2nd half to down the Eagles 66-59.

North Mesquite(26-7) moved on to regionals with a 52-47 victory over Arlington(26-10). Coach Ron Powell was the head man for the Stallions of North Mesquite. He didn't look anything like a coach. He looked more like a hairdresser. He was very small and slim, and his hair was perfect. A good friend of mine was the Richardson Coach, Ken Norman, who didn't pass out complements very often about other coaches. But Powell was an exception, Norman felt he was one of the best coaches around. I learned through the years that was a pretty good assessment. If you looked over at the opposing bench and Ron Powell was sitting there, you better get ready for a battle. Powell's teams were very limited in terms of talent throughout most of his career, but he ranked as one of the top coaches in the state.

The victory over Arlington(26-10) was typical. Powell said following the contest, "The main thing we were trying to do in the latter part of the game was to get a lead and go into a delay game, hoping they would have to come out of the zone into a man to man. When that happened, they began fouling and that made the difference." Powell continued, "Our press kept them off balance, causing several turnovers."

The height disadvantage was staggering. North Mesquite's tallest player was 6'5" and the rest of the Stallions, 6'0", 6'1", 6'0" and 6'2". Arlington was 6'10" and 6'9" up front. 6'0" Mark Davis was the leading scorer with 18 points for North Mesquite. Davis won the District 8-AAAA M.V.P. award and played at S.M.U. Other players that were named to the 8-AAAA All-District squad were, Mitchell Huskey(21.3/12.2) of South Garland, 6'7" Bryan Holland(20.0/15.0) of Richardson, Scott Kirkpatrick of Lake Highlands and 6'5" Mike Nelson of North Mesquite.

E.P. Bowie(27-5) came into regionals with a lot of confidence. Their coach, Nolan Richardson(32), sure didn't lack for confidence. He commented, "Two games in one day won't bother us at all."

E.P. Bowie(27-5) Bears took out North Mesquite(27-7) 63-56 to advance to the regional finals. North Mesquite(27-7) missed seven straight FG attempts in the game's final minutes. Bowie(27-5) outscored North Mesquite 13-2 in a four-minute span. The score went from 49-47 in the Stallions favor to 62-51 in favor of Bowie. North Mesquite(27-7) had three players foul out during the contest. Bowie came into the game well known for their inside game, led by their two big sophomores. North Mesquite was able to shut off the inside game only to see Bowie sub in shooters who began hitting from the perimeter. El Paso Bowie(25-7) hit nearly 60%, while North Mesquite(27-7) could manage only 38%. Mark Davis was the only threat late for the Stallions, scoring seven of his 22 points late in the game. Mike Nelson had 11 points and Van Ogden finished with 10 for North Mesquite. Alfredo Ferniza finished with 16 points to lead E.P. Bowie along with the consistent play of sophomore Melvin Patridge with 14 points.

Midland Lee(31-3) had become known as the cardiac kids. If you didn't know who they were before regionals, you definitely knew who they were after the tournament. At the Moody Coliseum in Abilene the Rebels made believers of everyone as they defeated Lubbock Monterey(22-10) 62-51 in the semi-finals and El Paso Bowie(26-7) in overtime 51-47. Midland Lee(33-3) had played six overtime games during the season, winning all of them. Against Monterey(22-10), the Rebels jumped out to an early lead 21-11 and controlled the lead throughout. Gary Parson(8.5) led the well-balanced scoring attack with 17 points, Ron Farish(12.9) put up 14 points, Jeffrey Jackson(8.9) hit 14 points and Brett Blackwell(16.3) finished with only 9 points. For Monterey(22-10), Jackson Pace(15.9/8.3) hit 17, Dice Clardy(16.0/9.0) knocked down 14 point.

Against E.P. Bowie(25-7) in the regional finals, it was a nail-biter as Midland Lee(31-3) went into their famous domino delay with 5:12 left in the contest leading 43-40. Brett Blackwell was back in his customary role leading the scoring with 18 points and Ron Farish put in 14 points. For E.P. Bowie, Francisco Baca knocked down 15 points, Jose DeSantago came away with 10 points and Aurelio Castro added 10.

The Rebels coach Stueckler commented after the game, "It seemed like no matter what we did, Nolan had those guns coming right back at us. They had tremendous poise and they never started to panic. With all those sophomores, you know they'll be back." At the end of regulation, Bowie's Patridge missed a 10-footer that hit the front of the rim, that would have won the game for the Bears. The colorful Stueckler said after the game that he had used the domino delay 117 times and had won 110 of those games. Stueckler was dressed in his mod super fly outfit in black and white and with a white hat. Asked if he would be dressing like that in Austin he replied, he didn't know.

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

Region II

Ft. Worth Paschal(28-2) #7

Dallas Lincoln(20-9)

Plano(25-6)

Corsicana(21-7)

Ft. Worth Wyatt(25-7) #13

Dallas South Oak Cliff(34-3) #3

Tyler John Tyler(27-5) #12

Spring Branch(27-8)

Top Five in Region II

6'4"	John Schlicher	Ft. W Paschal
6'8"	Wendall Mays	Ft. W. Paschal
6'1"	Richard Bacon	Dallas Pinkston
6'3"	Waymon Lister	Dallas South Oak Cliff
6'4"	Anthony McMillian	Dallas South Oak Cliff

There were some great games in the first round of the Region II playoffs in 1975. One of those took place between Plano High(25-6) and Tyler John Tyler(27-5). John Tyler(27-5) advanced into the playoffs with a 58-52 victory over Marshall in a District playoff contest.

Plano was making its first playoff appearance since 1965, when they were in class AA and football coaching legend John Clark was their basketball coach. The game between John Tyler(27-5) and Plano(25-6) took place at Forester Field House in Dallas.

*The Plano(25-6) Wildcats lineup was centered around 6'5" Mike Escher(15.7/11.3) and his inside strength. Filling out the rest of the starting lineup for Plano was Randy Newton(11.1), Kent Gaddis(11.1), King Nelson(9.1) and Chuck Vaughn, who was a defensive specialist. Other players contributing to the playoff run were 6'3" Sammy Bickham(6.0/5.1), **(33)** the #1 quarterback in the state, playing dual sports and Tom Blizzard(5.9). Bickham was also a standout in baseball and was drafted by major league baseball. Gaddis was part of one of the most athletic families in Plano High school history both on the football field and basketball court. Reggie Davis was in his first year as coach with the Wildcats and had begun to turn the program around. Plano in the 1970s was one of the fastest growing cities not only in Texas but in the country. They were adding new students daily with only one high school in Plano.*

John Tyler countered with 6'5" Harold Taylor(16.5), 6'3" 240-pound football standout, Ronnie Lee(9.5), 6'2" Buster Rettig(13.7), 6'0" Terrance McDaniel(9.7) and 5'11" junior, Dennis Gordon(15.0). Ronnie Lee would go on to star on the football field at Baylor. Others who contributed to the team's success were, Tony Brown, Danny Ward and Ben Brooks.

Going into the final quarter Plano and John Tyler were all tied up at 53, but the Lions from John Tyler dominated the final period with a 21-9 advantage. Rebounding was the difference, as John Tyler repeatedly had second chance opportunities. The score had been tied at halftime 35-35. Buster Rettig led all

scorers with 23 points, followed by Dennis Gordon with 20 points and Ronnie Lee added 12 points. For the Wildcats, Kent Gaddis finished with 20 points, Blizzard came away with 10 points and Randy Newton finished with 9 points. Plano finished with an impressive 26-7 mark on the season.

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

Bickham ended up filing a \$2 million lawsuit accusing Baylor of fraudulent recruiting practices, broken promises and causing physical damage. He complained he suffered "irreparable physical damage." After he was given pain-killing drugs and sent back on the field, "without medical supervision." Bickham played football and baseball at Baylor before transferring to S.M.U. in 1977. His left leg was permanently disabled, which required extensive medical and surgical treatment. Richard "Racehorse" Haynes filed the suit. Staph infection resulted from a 1977 operation.

Ft. Worth Paschal(28-2) was back in the playoffs for the first time since 1970, when the legendary Charlie Turner was coach of the Panthers. Coach Turner stepped down in December of 1971 and Jim Wall was named the new head man. Wall had big shoes to fill. Turner had won District 22 out of 26 years he had been at Paschal. Wall played at Ft. Worth at Trimble Tech and had a great deal of success on the high school level and later Midwestern University. Wall worked in the feeder system for Paschal at the 7th grade level early in his coaching career. There was a youngster in the 7th grade that lived right across the street from Coach Turner's house. This young man would later become one of the best players ever to play for the Panthers. His name was John Schlicher(Cover Boy). Wall left the middle school to get his master's degree and when he returned, Schlicher was a freshman at Paschal in 1971-72. This young man would be the foundation of the 1975 squad. "Everything we did revolved around John, he was a great player with the ability to handle the press from the point guard position, able to finish and had a great shot. He was a special talent," Wall commented. Asked about the program he inherited at Paschal from Coach Turner, Wall said, "It was like finding a Cadillac with the keys left in it."

In an early season game between two of the top teams in the state, Dallas S.O.C.(33-3) and Ft. Worth Paschal(28-2), the Panthers hit a mid-court shot at the buzzer to beat the Bears 95-94. An interesting stat from the game was that S.O.C. took twice as many shots from the floor as Paschal.

The Panthers starting line-up of 6'3" John Schlicher(17.6), 6'8" Wendall Mays(17.1), 6'1" Bruce Baird(13.0), 6'4" Gerald Battey and 6'0" Clay Bibb. Coming off the bench was 6'7" Brian DeCoverly and 6'2" Michael Roberts. According to

Mike Kunststadt of Texas Hoops, "Schlicher was really a good ball player, smooth as glass." He was the centerpiece of the Paschal attack. Mays, who eventually became an inside force for the Panthers, stood 5'8" in middle school and Wall kept trying to get him to be his manager, but the young man wanted to play on the team. By the time Mays was a sophomore, he stood 6'4" and as a senior stood 6'8", 170 pounds. Mays went on to Tyler Junior College, where he was named All-American and had a nice career at Baylor. Coach Wall got Battey out of his P.E. class. Battey got a lot of easy buckets because teams were always focused on stopping Schlicher. Battey played at Navarro J.C. and later played at Texas A&M at Commerce. DeCoverly was a real physical player, who gave Paschal some size off the bench. Michael Roberts was very athletic and a good defensive player.

During the regular season, the Panthers had lost to Houston Wheatley(31-8) 78-75. Important wins included, F.W. Wyatt(25-9) 79-77 and 75-67, South Oak Cliff(35-4) 95-94 and F.W. Southwest(23-9) 63-53 and 45-29.

Before Paschal played their playoff game, Coach Wall wanted to have two warm-up games. His team traveled to Houston to face Kashmere(41-0) with the understanding that the Rams would come to Ft. Worth in a 2nd warm-up game. The game didn't go well for the Panthers, as the officiating was very questionable, and his team got run out of the gym 100-68. Mays and Schlicher had both fouled out and both were under the weather and got fatigued very easily. After the contest, Coach Drew of Kashmere informed Wall that they would not be able to make the journey to Ft. Worth in the 2nd game. Wall was very upset and ran into Jackie Carr after the game, the Wheatley coach. Carr said Wheatley(30-5) would travel to Ft. Worth and face the Panthers. Paschal(28-2) won the game easily 104-86. The two teams played at a local gym there in Ft. Worth. Ft. Worth ISD paid Wheatley \$1,800 to travel up from Houston. Wall had wanted to play Kashmere in a re-match at Daniel Meyer Coliseum. "That probably cost us \$20,000," Wall explained. "Everybody wanted to see Kashmere play us play in Ft. Worth. I was upset, but what could you do?" Coach Drew of Kashmere(41-0) had told Wall that his team was coming up on the state record for number of wins in a row and did not want to risk a loss against such a tough team as Paschal.

After the convincing win over Wheatley, the Panthers were very confident moving into Bi-District. Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt(25-7), the Panthers opponent, was a team Paschal had already beaten twice during the regular season. In a close game, Coach Wall's kids moved on with a 64-57 win.

The Golden Bears of South Oak Cliff(32-3) were once again one of the best teams in the state finishing #3 in the state polls. Coach Jimmy Gale's crew had beaten Plano(25-7) by 35 points, Richardson(22-7) by 23, Dallas Roosevelt(27-8) by 20, by 3 and by 11, Highland Park(28-8) by 19, Clear Lake(30-5) by 6 in overtime, and Wheatley 116-80. Their three losses coming into the playoffs were against, Houston Kashmere(46-0) 105-98, Ft. Worth Paschal(28-2) 95-94 and against

Houston Worthing(24-12) led by Albert Jones. The seven-point loss to Kashmere was one of the closest games the Rams had all year.

The Golden Bears actually played better in the regular season than their state finalist squad of the previous year. Dallas South Oak Cliff(32-3) had two 1st team All-District players, 6'3" Waymond Lister(20.0) and 6'4" Anthony McMillian(17.0). Other standouts included Charlie Webb, Bervin Faggett, Kenneth Burns, Roderick Gerald and two sophomores, Arthur Williams and David Burns. The Bears averaged 88 points per game and were thought to be the best team in the Dallas area.

Coach Gales team ran through District action at 14-0 and their closest game was against archrival, Dallas Roosevelt. In front of 2,700 at Sprague Fieldhouse the Golden Bears downed the Mustangs in a close one 78-75. Sophomore Rynn Wright paced Roosevelt with 19 points, along with James Parker's 24. Other key contributors for Coach Ellis Davis's team were sophomore Michael Battle, Kenneth Crowe and Keith Baker. Anthony McMillian led SOC with 23 points.

The All-Greater Dallas squad selected by the Dallas Morning News was made up of some familiar names and some not so familiar. Members of the First team included, 6'0" Richard Bacon(23.0) of Pinkston, 5'11" James Mashburn(21.0) of Skyline, 6'10" Allen Windor(18.0) of Arlington, 6'3" Waymond Lister(20.0) of S.O.C., 6'4" Elton Garrett(19.0) of Dallas Lincoln. On the second team, 6'1" Mark Davis(16.0) of North Mesquite, 6'3" Greg Boyd(18.0) of Denton, 6'6" Ricky Rand(15.0) of Hillcrest, 6'4" Anthony McMillian(17.0) of S.O.C., and 6'6" Bryan Holland(20.0) of Richardson. Davis and McMillian were both juniors. Rand signed to play football with Baylor. On the 3rd team, 5'9" Kenneth Stubblefield(14.0) of Dallas Lincoln, 6'3" Phil Hale(16.0) of South Grand Prairie, 6'8" Tom Somerville(16.0) of Highland Park, 6'5" Mike Eschler(16.0) of Plano, 6'4" Steve Wilks(18.0) of Dallas Sunset. Rynn Wright of Roosevelt was named Sophomore of the Year.

Some 7000 fans showed up at Loos field house to watch Dallas S.O.C. and Dallas Lincoln face each for the Bi-District and City Championship. Lincoln had lost the previous two meeting between the schools. The Tigers had lost to S.O.C. in Bi-District the previous year 102-90. They had also lost in the finals of the Dr. Pepper tournament 89-82 in overtime. Dallas Lincoln(20-9) was looking to change their fate in 1975, jumping out to a nice lead 26-19 at the end of one quarter of play. At halftime, Lincoln(20-9) continued to lead the Golden Bears 43-36. Lincoln stud backcourt ace, Kenneth Stubblefield, missed the 3rd quarter due to foul trouble and S.O.C. regained the lead 62-57 entering the 4th quarter. Lincoln soon closed the gap to 76-73. Coach Gales team turned it on once again winning a comfortable 89-75 victory. Lincoln finished 20-10 on the season.

District 15-AAAA proved to be a tremendous dog fight in 1975. The final standings had Corsicana(20-7) and Waco University(24-8) finishing tied atop the District at 12-2. Killeen(25-9) finished 8-6, Temple(20-15) went 7-7, Waco High(21-

11) finished 7-7, Bryan(21-14) was 7-7 in District action. If you were counting, that's five teams with twenty plus wins, very impressive. This District also had some of the top athletes in the state and their season records were a definite indication of the District's over-all strength.

Corsicana(20-7) and Waco University(24-8) squared off for the District title at R.L. Turner in Carrollton. How Waco ended up driving all the way to Carrollton was unusual, but it was probably the best gym situation they could find.

Surprisingly, the score was not close as Corsicana won 66-47. The Tigers outscored University 46-19 in the second half.

The last Bi-District game pitted Spring Branch High(28-8) against Corsicana(21-7). Both teams had been recent visitors to the regionals in College Station, Spring Branch in 1973 and Corsicana in 1974. The teams were not as strong as the previous entries. The Tigers were attempting to win their third Bi-District title in five seasons. Corsicana returned no starters from their top ranked team of the previous year. Coach Jerry Matthews played nine players in the Bi-District game against Spring Branch. Marvin Livingston, Ken Walter, Don Jessie, Tim Wolf, Bubba Lewis, Eddie Hatten, Ronnie Hood and Mike Matthews all contributed to the Tigers 1st round playoff game.

The Bears 2-3 zone shut Corsicana's offense down, as Spring Branch dominated the game from the foul line, hitting 22 of 29, while the Tigers could manage only 7 of 9. Spring Branch advanced 60-47. Tim Wolf was high scorer for Corsicana with 15 points and Mitch Medart led the Bears with 19 points. The game was played at G. Rollie White Coliseum in College Station.

In College Station the semi-final games at regionals were scheduled for 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM in the morning. The winners were to meet at 2:00 P.M. in the finals. All eyes were focused on the S.O.C.(35-3)-Paschal(30-2) game, with the winner having a good shot at capturing the regional title. Paschal(30-2) had won the earlier meeting between the two teams on a mid-court shot. Coach Jimmy Gales of S.O.C. was quick to point out that in the first meeting between the two teams, S.O.C. did not have their sophomores and Lister was out of the line-up. Gales had high praise for Schlicher calling him, "One of the best guard's I have ever seen."

The game surprisingly was not that close as Ft. Worth Paschal(31-2) downed Dallas South Oak Cliff(35-3) 83-70. Paschal got 28 points from Gerald Battey while Schlicher contributed 24 points. The talented Schlicher went 7 for 8 from the foul line in the last 1:30 in the game. "We played a smart game and tried to control tempo. We wanted to get Anthony McMillian and Waymon Lister into foul trouble early and did," Coach Wall said following the game. The Golden Bears were not very smart in the contest, with six goal tending calls and one technical by Lister, for hanging on the rim.

S.O.C.'s defensive stopper, Roderick Gerald, guarded Schlicher and the Golden Bears were able to take a 60-53 advantage. S.O.C. had the lead 68-66 with 3:51 remaining but committed two straight goal tending calls, to give Paschal the lead. Lister fouled out with 2:18 left in the game. Anthony McMillian and Wayman Lister led S.O.C. with 14 and 16 points respectfully. Schlicher scored the last 13 points of the game for the victorious Panthers.

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

Tyler John Tyler(28-5) continued winning and advanced beating Spring Branch 62-54. Terrance McDaniel led the scoring for John Tyler with 15 points. Texas A&M wanted to play Texas in the afternoon, so the game could be televised. This moved the starting time of the regional final back to 6:00 PM. Coach Wall said, that was great because it gave his team more time to rest, having just played S.O.C. Paschal needed the extra rest.

John Tyler battled the Panthers on even terms for three quarters, but in the fourth, Paschal pulled away for the win 69-59. Paschal jumped out to a 17-8 lead and led at halftime 36-34. At the end of the three, it was all tied up at 51 apiece. Schlicher again was the key for Paschal's success, finishing with 20 points and Mays added 16.

Region III

Deer Park(35-4) #10

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-2) #2

Beaumont Charlton Pollard(24-8)

Houston Kashmere(41-0) #1

Dulles(27-9)

Houston Wheatley(30-6) #6

Forest Brook(34-3) #5

Houston Lincoln(28-7) #19

Top Five in Region III

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

In Region III Galveston Ball(24-9) and Dulles(27-9) went toe to toe for the 24-AAAA District title in Alvin, at the end of the regular season. The winner faced Deer Park(32-4), one of the top teams in the state and rated #10 in the polls. Coach Bob Woodard of Galveston Ball main goal was to stop 6'5" George Walker of Dulles. (34) Woodard called on Mike Venible, Darrell Mitchell, 6'4" June

Washington, 6'3" Andrew Webb, 5'11" Lee Paul, 6'2" Perry Nelson and 5'7" Michael Lindsey.

Dulles(28-9) countered with 6'5" Arthur Washington, 6'4" Steve Patterson, and 6'0" Charles Williams. At half the score was tied 39-all and at the end of regulation it was knotted at 73. Roy Lee Hayes of Dulles scored all his teams points in overtime to give Dulles(28-9) the 77-75 win. Lee Paul led Ball with 12 points while June Washington hit 19 points and Walker had 18 for Dulles.

Next up for Dulles(28-9) was Deer Park(35-4), a perennial power in Texas basketball during the decade. Deer Park's strong lineup included, John Failing(18.2/13.0), Terry Moore(10.8/8.0), Jimmie Griffey(11.5), Geetus Crew(8.0) and Travis O'Banion. Failing, Moore and Griffey were all named to the 1st team on the All-District team by the coaches. In a playoff warm-up game, Deer Park(35-4) defeated a fine O.D. Wyatt(25-7) team out of Ft. Worth 73-67.

George Walker led Dulles(28-9) in a furious comeback against Deer Park in their first-round playoff game. With 12 seconds left, Walker put in a basket off a rebound to tie the score 59-59 and force the game into overtime at Spring Branch Coliseum. Walker's field goal with 30 seconds left in overtime, put Dulles(29-9) ahead to stay and eliminated Deer Park(35-5) from the playoffs in a mild upset 66-63. Walker finished with 25 points for Dulles and John Failing led Deer Park(35-5) with 18 points and Terry Moore put in 14 points.

Houston Wheatley(32-7) was in their customary place in the playoffs. Their starting lineup was talented as usual with 6'6" Randy Grimes(14.1), 6'4" Anthony Forch(16.6), 6'7" Phillip Stroud(17.0), Sheelie Lee, James Hudson(17.4) and Anthony Sullivan. The Wildcats were always in demand for tournaments and games because they were a big draw. Key wins for Coach Jackie Carr's team included, Ft. Worth Paschal(32-3) 78-75, Houston Yates(26-6) 105-94, Stratford Dulles(29-10) 94-91, and Galveston Ball(24-10) 99-98. Losses came at the hands of Paschal 104-86, South Oak Cliff(35-4) 116-80, Kashmere(46-0) 96-70 and 116-79, Yates 89-77, and PA Lincoln(29-4) 101-88.

The Wildcats biggest win of the season was over nationally ranked Elk Grove, California and 7'0" Bill Cartwright, the #1 recruit in the country. Cartwright averaged 46 points a game coming into the contest but got into early foul trouble. He picked up his 3rd foul at the 3:05 mark of the 3rd quarter and had to sit. 6'6" Bill Job tried to keep Elk Grove going hitting 27 points, but it was not enough as Wheatley(32-7) won 89-81 in double overtime. Cartwright fouled out with 38 seconds left in regulation, but still finished with 35 points.

The Wildcats(32-7) lost their last regular season game to rival Houston Yates(26-6) 89-77 which ended an eight-game losing skid for the Lions against Wheatley. It was Yates first District win over Jackie Carr since 1971. The game was played at Delmar in front of 3,100 fans. Clifton Deal led the way for the Lions with 20 points, 6'4" Ricky "Cigar" Edwards followed with 19 and Roland Milburn had 13

points off the bench. Clifton Deal was a 6'3" left hand shooter who could really stroke it from the outside. Others who played for Yates were 6'5" Reggie Franklin, 6'7" James Anderson, and 6'7" Johnny "Boo" Donahue. Donahue was a three-sport athlete who later played in the N.F.L. for the Falcons. 5'11" Clarence Hill was another player who contributed to the Lions cause. For Wheatley, Randy Grimes ended the game with 16 points and was a force inside blocking shots. The Wildcats had already won the District title, so the game had no effect on the District results.

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

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

Franklin's journey to basketball success and fame was very similar to a lot of players during that period. Reggie said, "I barely made the starting line-up while at Yates, I just wasn't that good in high school. I had no offers following high school and attended junior college at the New Mexico Military Institution. I had some great coaching, and they developed my talent. I had over 100 offers coming out of junior college and visited Tech, UTEP, Utah St., Tulsa and S.M.U." When asked if Sonny Allen was the reason he chose the Mustangs Reggie replied, "It was more S.M.U. than anything, great education, great city, I wanted to get back to Texas, and they ran an honest program. I was a big Cowboy fan and loved being in Dallas." Following his days at S.M.U. and a very successful career with the Mustangs, Reggie traveled with the Harlem Globe Trotters for a period.

In District 18-AAAA a playoff was needed to decide the winner between Houston Lincoln(28-7) and Houston Worthing(24-10). Lincoln won the second half and Worthing took the first half of District.

Houston Lincoln's starting lineup consisted of Fred Brown, who was a great shooter, Edison Smith, Elsworth Newsome, Roger Jones, and Jerrell Miller. Worthing's leader was the sensational junior, 6'8" Albert Jones, who had taken his team all the way to the regional finals the previous season and knocked Wheatley

out of the playoffs in '74. Albert Jones averaged 29 points a game against Lincoln in the two team's District games.

Worthing(24-10) won the first matchup against Lincoln(28-7) in District 96-91 and lost the second 94-86. The Panthers of Lincoln won an overtime thriller 87-85 and with the win a ticket to the state playoffs. Foul shots by Elsworth Newsome and Roger Jones won the game in overtime. Lincoln(28-7) was down 73-63 with 5:29 remaining in regulation and came back and took the lead 79-73 with 2:00 remaining. That was a 16-point run by Lincoln. Roger Jones was top scorer for Lincoln with 26 points while Fred Brown and Newsome each had 20. Albert Jones, the big man for Worthing, was held to 20 points and fouled out with 1:56 remaining in the overtime period.

Wheatley(32-7) opened the playoffs with a tough win over Houston Lincoln(28-7) 89-87. Shellie Lee hit a 25-foot bucket with two seconds left giving the Wildcats the win. "I can't stand many more games like that one," Jackie Carr commented. Houston Lincoln's comeback forced Wheatley(32-7) into a delay game with two minutes remaining. Roger Jones of Lincoln went to the foul line with his team down 87-84. He made the first foul shot and missed the second, but got the rebound and tied the score with 20 seconds remaining. Carr called timeout to set up the last shot, which was made by Lee. James Hudson scored 24 points for Wheatley, Lee added 18 points and Anthony Forch knocked down 16 points. Coach Carr lost 6'8" Phillip Stroud and Anthony Sullivan to fouls during the fourth quarter. For the Panthers, Roger Jones and Elsworth Newsome both had 20 points while Fred Brown added 19 points and Edison Smith put in 12.

In Pt. Arthur many people were talking about Lincoln having its best team ever, as they climbed the rankings. The Bumblebees went all the way to #2 in the state polls. Coach James Gamble's team was sitting with an impressive 29-2 record and ranked right behind Kashmere.

In a warm-up game against 5th ranked Houston Forest Brook(35-4) the Bumblebees(29-2) did not look very strong losing 89-79. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-2) was devastated by the Forest Brook(35-4) press, creating 33 turnovers. "They have the best foot speed of any team I've seen," Coach Gamble said after the game. Gregory Keller had 26 points for Pt. Arthur Lincoln and Michael Walter had 24 for Forest Brook. The loss snapped Pt. Arthur Lincoln's long winning streak. "We haven't had a game like that since our other game against Wheatley(32-7) in November," Gamble said.

Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(24-8) also played a warm-up game against Forest Brook(35-4) and won 84-72.

Beaumont Pollard(24-8) and Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-3) prepared for their big Bi-District clash with the winner advancing to regionals. Lincoln(29-3) and Pollard(24-7) were common opponents, being in such close proximity to one another. They were also big rivals. Lincoln(29-3) had dominated the series. The

Bumblebees held three straight wins over Pollard during the season 73-71, 73-61 and 91-78 and six straight victories over a two-year span.

The Bulldogs of Pollard(24-8) started 6'7" Alfred Speight(14.0), 6'7" Al Whittington, 6'4" Gregory Johnson(13.5), Charles Malonson and Johnny Walker. Coming off the bench were Greg Garrett, Tommy Minix, Jimmy Briscoe, Dwight Benoit and Frank Johnson.

Coach Gamble's Lincoln squad was under sized in comparison, starting 6'3" Gregory Keller(18.8), 6'3" Thad Sanders(15.5), 6'3" Harold Dennis(12.3), 6'2" Ronald Trahan(16.8) and 6'3" Mike Milstead. In discussing Gregory Keller in later years, Coach Gamble said, "Gregory could shoot the ball, he was what you would call today a spot-up shooter. He played two years at Stephen F. Austin. If they would have had the three-point line he would have been something, very agile, average defender."

Key subs for the Bumblebees were 6'5" Eddie Whitley and guards Chester Allen, Murray Evans, and Jackie Mann.

In a big upset Charlton-Pollard(25-8) beat Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-4) 65-51, behind a great performance by 6'7" Alfred Speight's 26 points and 16 rebounds. 6'7" Whittington was starting only his second game of the season and really had an effect on the game. Lincoln could not shoot from the outside and the inside was dominated by the two 6'7" Bulldogs. The outside shooting of senior Gregory Keller was the only offense for Lincoln(29-4). Gregory Keller finished with 16 points and 7 rebounds. For Lincoln it was one of the school's best seasons ever and their highest ranking at #2 in the polls, only to lose their last two games of the season and finish 29-4.

Coach James White of Pollard(25-8) said, "This helps make-up for last year. I know this is my most satisfying victory personally. We beat a great basketball team, one of the best in the state." The Bulldogs out rebounded the Bumblebees 45 to 32 before an estimated crowd of 4,000 fans. The loss was especially bitter for Lincoln's Keller. He was a member of the regional finalists as a sophomore and Bi-District winner as a junior. Both times his team lost to the eventual state champions.

The #1 team in the state and one of the top teams in the country was Houston Kashmere(41-0). The Rams had been dominating during the season. They destroyed Houston Wheatley(30-8) 96-70, Houston Yates(26-6) 110-87 and 87-80, Houston Worthing(24-12) 108-71, Arlington High(27-11) 104-59, Dallas S.O.C.(35-4) 105-98, Houston Waltrip(24-7) 87-63, Corsicana(21-8) 73-48.

The Rams biggest win of the season came against nationally ranked Elk Grove, California 66-64. This big win gave a big boost to Texas High School basketball on the national stage. The game was played in Houston with Wheatley and Kashmere meeting the national power in back to back games. 7'0" Bill Cartwright was the premier player in the country. Elk Grove took a 44-34 lead early

in the 3rd quarter. Kashmere began double-teaming Cartwright with Jarvis Williams, Carl Belcher, Charlie Ross, Karl Godine and Carl Byrd all guarding the All-American. Cartwright was held to 22 points by the group. This was 15 points under his average of 37 points and 23 rebounds. Karl Godine finished with 16 points against Elk Grove to lead the Rams.

Cartwright went on to gain All-American honors at the University of San Francisco and was the number three overall pick by the Knicks. Cartwright was named to one all-star team and won three NBA titles with Michael Jordon and the Bulls.

In a very interesting scenario, Kashmere(41-0) faced two warm-up opponents that both advanced to the State tournament. Kashmere(41-0) played Ft. Worth Paschal(29-1) and San Antonio Highlands(26-11) winning both games convincingly 100-68 and 114-76. The Rams also faced the 19-AAAA District champion Houston Lincoln(27-6) prior to their District playoff game against Houston Worthing(22-10). The Rams obliterated Houston Lincoln(27-6) 122-77. That was a victory margin of 38.3 points per game over three state playoff teams. These are staggering numbers and indicated the total dominance of Kashmere(41-0). As the Rams entered the playoffs, they were playing their best basketball of the season.

Kashmere outscored Houston Lincoln(27-6) 71-33 in the second half of their 122-77 victory placing five players in double figures. Karl Godine(28.5) put up 22 points to lead the way, Carl Byrd scored 18 points, Jarvis Williams added 18 points, Belcher finished with 17 and Henry Small had 12. Coach Drew was looking for somebody who would run with his talented team and Houston Lincoln(27-6) had agreed.

The Rams first warm-up game was against 3rd ranked Ft. Worth Paschal(29-1). The Panthers had only one loss on the season which had come at the hands of Houston Wheatley(32-7) 78-75 at the Arlington Classic. Coach Jim Wall of Paschal said after the Kashmere game, "They just wore us out," with a blistering pace that few teams can survive. "We just couldn't stop Godine. He's without a doubt the best we've played against this year," Wall continued.

The win tied the class 4-A state record of 72 wins in a row set by Houston Wheatley in 1969 and 1970. Snook, a class B school, holds the state overall record of 90 consecutive wins. Coach Drew realized Paschal(29-1) was not at its best by saying, "I don't think the score indicates what type of club they have."

The game was played at a familiar setting for Kashmere while Paschal had never played at Delmar. Karl Godine finished with 31 points and 15 rebounds, Madison Lane had 19 points, Carl Byrd put in 16 points and Jarvis Williams finished with 10. Schlicher only had 10 points for Paschal and Wall said later that his standout senior guard had been playing a little under the weather. Wendall Mays put up 21 points in the loss along with Baird's 15.

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

Karl Godine again was dominating scoring 26 points and coming away with 16 rebounds. Belcher also had a big evening with 12 points and 20 rebounds. For Highlands, Jim Matheny and John Colby both finished with 17 points. The number one problem for the Rams in the playoffs would be overconfidence and staying focused. Kashmere only had three single digit wins during the regular season, Houston Sterling(19-11) 77-72, Elk Grove 66-64 and Houston Yates.

Houston Kashmere(41-0) opened the playoffs against 5th ranked Houston Forest Brook. Forest Brook(36-3) remember had a convincing win over #2 ranked Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-4) in a warm-up game 89-79. Forest Brook had a strong record of 36-3 and had a lineup full of quickness and athleticism. Coach Monroe Doyle of Forest Brook(36-3) said before their Bi-District encounter with the Rams, "You don't completely stop them, not Kashmere. You just try to outscore'em, force turnovers and run."

For the Jaguars it was the second year in a row meeting Kashmere in the first round of the playoffs. Kashmere(41-0) came in riding a 73-game winning streak. The last team to beat the Rams was Clear Lake early in the 1973-74 season. Kashmere owned an early season victory over Forest Brook(36-3) 87-75.

Forest Brook(36-3) looked to Michael Walter, Zachary West and Calvert Shelley to carry the scoring load. In Forest Brook's tune-up win over Pt. Arthur Lincoln, Michael Walter had scored 24 points.

Houston Kashmere(42-0) was impressive running Forest Brook(36-4) out of the gym 97-73. "We didn't play a good game out there tonight," Karl Godine of Kashmere said after the game. A standing room only crowd of 13,000 watched the contest at Hofheinz Pavilion. Everybody wanted to get a glimpse of the Kashmere show. The Rams extended their record setting class AAAA winning streak to 74 games in a row. The crowd tied a state attendance record set in 1973 in a double header between Wheatley and Kashmere and Worthing playing Smiley. More than 2,000 people were turned away at the gate. The Rams were the hottest ticket in town.

*The three **regional semi-finalists** were ready to take on the state's defending champion. Dulles (29-9) was a newcomer to regionals while Charlton-Pollard (24-8) had made trips to the regionals in 1970 and 1972. Wheatley(31-7) advanced to regionals six straight seasons before missing in 1974. Beaumont Charlton-Pollard was such a surprise entry that Coach Drew of Kashmere said, "We*

didn't even scout Pollard." Drew was certain Pt. Arthur Lincoln(29-4) would be coming out of the Golden triangle area." We really don't know a lot about Pollard. We do know Pollard has the good big boy(Speights) and a strong, physical type team."

Houston Kashmere(42-0) and Beaumont Pollard(24-8) faced off at 10 a.m. and Dulles(29-9) and Houston Wheatley(32-7) would mix it up at 11:30 at Hofheinz Pavilion. The title game was played at 8:00 p.m. Saturday evening. "If us and Wheatley can both win this morning, there should be another big crowd on hand tonight for the finals," Coach Drew explained. "That's the game everybody wants to see." Drew continued, "From what I've heard from college coaches and others, I would guess Midland Lee(30-3) will be favored in Region I, Dallas S.O.C.(34-3) in Region II, and either San Antonio Jefferson(35-5) or Corpus Christi Carroll(34-2) in Region IV. "I know South Oak Cliff is good. We beat them 105-98 in the Arlington Classic and had to do some good shooting. Paschal is another tough team. That game at College Station should be a good one," said Coach Drew.

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

The other semi-finals game was much more competitive between Dulles(29-9) and Wheatley(31-7). The score was tied 12 times during the game. Wheatley was down by 12 points and came back to take the lead 84-75 midway through the fourth quarter. With 15 seconds to play Dulles took the lead 91-90 on George Walker's three-point play. Six seconds later Philip Stroud gave Wheatley back the lead on a pair of free throws. Dulles had handled the Wheatley press pretty well through-out the game, but in the final seconds they turned the ball over. The Wildcats advanced to the regional finals against Kashmere with a 94-91 win.

James Hudson was high man for Wheatley with 25 points, followed by Anthony Forch with 23, Phillip Stroud had 18 points and 15 rebounds while Randy Grimes finished with 16. George Walker proved he was special recording 34 points and 10 boards against the talented Wheatley team.

The regional final between Kashmere(43-0) and Wheatley(32-7) was greatly anticipated, but proved to be anti-climactic as Kashmere won 116-79. The sellout crowd of 10,045 saw the Rams stretch their winning streak to 76 games. For Wheatley(32-8) it was one of their worst defeats in school history. Kashmere(44-0) had six players in double figures with Karl Godine leading the way with 25 points. Madison Lane was good for 24 points, Carl Byrd tossed in 20 points, Jarvis Williams added 15 and Henry Small and Carl Belcher contributed 12 each. Jarvis Williams was strong inside with 15 rebounds.

Coach Drew of Kashmere commented after the game, "You could tell Wheatley was tired and I'm sure that had a lot to do with the one-sided score." Coach Carr of Wheatley responded, "Sure we were tired, after that morning game, we had to go all out in that one and it took something out of us. Kashmere played earlier and got a little rest." For the losing Wildcats, Grimes hit 16 points, Hudson knocked down 16 points, Phillip Stroud followed 11 points, Carr added 13 and Forch finished with 10.

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

Region IV

Corpus Christi Carroll(33-2) #4

Brazoswood(24-8)

Austin Lanier(27-5)

San Antonio Jefferson(34-5) #9

San Antonio Fox Tech(26-12)

San Antonio Highlands(26-12)

San Antonio Burbank(18-15)

Harlingen(27-7)

Top Players in Region IV

6'8"	Preston Bailess	Corpus Christi Carroll
6'2"	Bobby Summers	S.A. Fox Tech
5'9"	John Colby	S.A. Highlands
6'3"	David Williams	Corpus Christi Miller
6'2"	Victor Melton	Corpus Christi Carroll
6'5"	Micah Owens	San Antonio Jefferson

The overwhelming favorite in Region IV was Mike Kunstadt's Corpus Christi Carroll(33-2) team. The Tigers had defeated the top ranked team in San Antonio in Catholic Central(34-4) 69-48 and held a win over San Antonio Highlands(26-12). The Tigers averaged 78.6 per game and allowed only 49.4 for and incredible 29.2-point differential. Carroll had lost their 6'8" post, Preston Bailess(16.0/14.0), with a broken elbow on January 24 with six weeks remaining in the season. The big post was valuable for the Carroll squad if they were to have any hope of advancing to Austin. Bailess was athletic and only weighed 165 pounds. He affected shots all over the court with his defensive length. With Bailess out of the lineup, Carroll lost twice to Corpus Christi Miller(27-7) 68-64 and 85-81.

Three players stepped in for Bailess, 6'4" Steve Hook, 6'1" Jerome Powell and 6'2" Randy Baker. 6'2" Victor Melton(17.6) was the team's key scoring threat. Other starters included 6'3" Randy Feemster, 6'3" Kenneth Robichaux, and 5'9" Mark Kein. Over the previous ten years, Carroll had made six playoff appearances.

The District playoff spot came down to Corpus Christi Carroll(33-2) and Corpus Christi Miller(27-7). David Williams was key for Miller in their attempt to capture the District title. Williams had put up 27 points previously against Carroll in Miller's 85-81 victory. Encouraged by assistant coach Jim Creech, head coach Mike Kunstadt decided to take a different approach in guarding Williams. Carroll's all-purpose defender, Randy Feemster, would stay with Williams guarding him man to man. The rest of Carroll's defense was set up in a 1-3 zone defense. "He could shoot lights out," Kunstadt said referring to Williams. The plan worked as Carroll advanced to the playoffs 68-64. Ken Robichaux led Carroll with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

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

With Bailess still out Corpus Christi Carroll(34-2) faced Harlingen(27-7) in the first round of the playoffs. Carroll had dominated Harlingen earlier in the Corpus Christi Invitational Tournament 84-44. That game was before Harlingen got their football players.

Corpus Christi Carroll(35-2) dominated Harlingen (27-7) on the boards 59-32 and won easily 84-53. Victor Melton had a big game with 30 points and 17 rebounds followed by Jerome Powell with 17 points and 17 rebounds. Harlingen was making their first appearance in the playoffs since 1955 under Coach Eloy Salinas. Ramiro Lucio was the leader for Harlingen with 16 points.

The Ragin Redbirds had won a District playoff game against Mission(24-12) 50-46. Harlingen's two key players were 6'5" junior Billy Banks(21.6) and Ramiro Lucio.

San Antonio Jefferson(34-5) met San Antonio Holmes(30-6) in a District playoff in 31-AAAA. Jefferson avenged two previous losses to Holmes with a 53-42 victory. The contest was played at the Blossom Center in front of 4190 fans. Jefferson looked to their inside game of Micah Owens(13.7) and 6'7" Brian Bryden to lead the Mustangs charge. Bryden finished with 16 points and Owens added 15 points. Mike Schelpher put up 13 points. Jack Islelmann paced the Huskies with 22 points. Double digit scorer Mac Garrett was shut down by the Mustangs.

Jefferson finished 21 of 43 from the floor for 48% and connected on 11 of 17 from behind the stripe. Holmes was 20 of 52 from the field for 38% and only 2 of 9 from the line.

San Antonio Fox Tech(25-12) also played a District playoff game with Edgewood(22-12) at Taylor Gym. Both teams finished District at 11-1. In the first meeting Edgewood came away with a 48-44 victory over Fox Tech. Bobby Summers(23.7) and Derrick Cloman both missed the contest for Fox Tech due to injuries. The rematch was all Fox Tech 89-68.

The Fox Tech(25-12) Buffaloes took care of business defeating Edgewood(22-12) 77-65 behind the talents of Bobby Summers. The victory gave Fox Tech the District 32-AAAA title. The talented Summers was 9 of 10 from the foul line and finished with 33 points. Gregory Blye added 19 points and Derek Cloman threw in 16 points. Edgewood had a gallant effort led by 29 points from Anthony Robinson. Michael Nobels was good for 15 points.

San Antonio Wheatley(26-12) faced San Antonio Burbank(17-15) in a showdown for the District title. Burbank defeated Wheatley 68-58 to close out the regular season and force the District playoff. Wheatley won the first round matchup with a 60-55 win. Wyatt McVea(19.5) put up 26 points in the Wheatley victory. In Burbank's win over Wheatley, 6'8" Gilbert Salinas(16.3) showed the way with 28 points.

Burbank(18-15) advanced to the state playoffs with a 53-50 win over Wheatley(26-13). Gerardo Marquez hit both ends of a one-and-one with four seconds left to nail down the win. Coach Earl Meyer of Burbank was relieved having lost 10 of 11 games during the season in the closing seconds of a game. Meyers was in his fourth season with the Bulldogs having suffered from the growing pains. In 1972 Burbank managed a 4-26 record, 7-23 in 1973 and 17-13 during the '74 campaign.

Gilbert Salinas(16.3) came up big with 16 points in the win and Raymond Puente closed with 12 points. Burbank only played five players during the win. Leading scorer, Rudy Perez(18.6), was held to single digits by Wheatley. San Antonio Wheatley(26-12) saw Nathaniel Daniel finish with 20 points and Vance Starks(16.2) follow with 11 points.

In Bi-District San Antonio Jefferson(34-5) seemed to have San Antonio Fox Tech's(26-12) number having won five straight over the Buffaloes. Jefferson also held two wins over Fox Tech during the pre-season. In the finals of the San Antonio Invitational tournament in late December, Jefferson won 82-68 and on January 2 the Mustangs won 64-55. Coach Snake LeGrand commented, "just because we beat them twice, don't let that fool you. It's not fooling us." LeGrand continued saying, "I feel like the Tech/Jefferson games are like neighborhood matches, you see, a lot of these guys live in the same neighborhood and are very good friends."

Fox Tech's coach, Will Williamson, was assistant under Snake LeGrand back in 1973. The Buffaloes relied on one of the best pure shooters in the city in Bobby Summers(23.7). 6'6" Derick Cloman was also going to be critical inside for Coach Williamson. "We're going to have to play a great game to beat them." Williamson said.

San Antonio Jefferson(35-4) came away with their sixth straight win over San Antonio Fox Tech(26-13) 60-57. The game took place at the Alamo Gym in front of a crowd of 4189. Micah Owens had a big game for the Mustangs finishing with 26 points. Fox Tech looked to Bobby Summers(23.7) who was held to 19 points.

"The difference in the ball game was our defense and in-particular Sam Butler's defense on Summers," LeGrand said. Late in the game with Jefferson leading 57-53 Malcolm Freeman delighted the crowd with his dribbling exhibition, as he attempted to run out the clock. Freeman was fouled with 31 seconds left. He missed the front end of a one-and-one, but Owens pulled down the rebound and scored making the score 59-53 with 29 seconds remaining.

Fox Tech came right back to close the gap to 59-57 with only 11 seconds in the contest when Bryden was finally fouled with one second remaining. Bryden hit the front end of the one-and-one to make the final 60-57.

San Antonio Highlands(26-12) took down San Antonio Burbank(18-15) at the Blossom Athletic Center 61-53 in Bi-District. 6'8" sophomore, Gilbert Salinas, led Burbank with 23 points and 6 blocks. Coach Kemmerzehl of Highlands commented after the game, "he really came to play. I have great respect for that young man." Edgar Evans hit 18 points in the win for Highlands.

In other first round games, Brazoswood(24-8) downed Austin Lanier(27-6) 57-54. In a very physical game, Lanier had three key players foul out. Rodney Fedell played in only the 1st and 4th quarters and scored three points before fouling out. Joe Abraham(17.0) was held to only 10 points and also fouled out along with Richard Whited. Whited was the leading scorer for the Vikings with 10 points. Both teams pressed aggressively forcing a combined 51 turnovers. The foul line was really the Achilles heel for Lanier(27-7) hitting only 10 of 21 from the line.

The standing room crowd of 1100 saw Donnie Stephens lead the charge for Brazoswood with 18 points and Chesley Brown followed with 15 points.

*As **regionals** approached, the big news was the return of Bailless to the line-up for the Corpus Christi Carroll(34-2) Tigers. With his return things looked very promising for Carroll to advance to Austin. "I don't plan to start him, but I won't hesitate to put him in though," Kunstadt said. "If this kid is able to play like he's capable, he's one of the finest big men in the state. He dominates the boards and plays super defense," said Kunstadt.*

The Tigers had a great run under the tremendous leadership of Mike Kunstadt. His career record was very impressive, 1969 (24-7), 1970 (22-12), 1971 (19-15), 1972 (25-9), 1973 (32-5), 1974 (23-9) and 1975 (35-3). The '75 season would be his last at Carroll as coaching football and basketball were taking their toll. Kunstadt moved up to the Dallas area and took over at Irving High School, where he continued their fine program and coached only basketball.

San Antonio Highlands(26-12) had big plans as they entered regionals. Highlands had won 18 of their previous 20 games. They were the hottest team entering regionals even though their record was a poor 26-12. Coach John Kemmerzehl's crew had missed their leading scorer, 6'4" James Matheny(19.4), for the first nine games of the season because of football. Another leading standout for Highlands was junior Johnny Bowens(15.4). Bowens had been named sophomore of

the year the previous season and missed the first 12 games of the season because of a tragic accident. Bowens had a forklift fall on him during the summer, which slit his throat and punctured his lung. With the return of these two key players, Highlands felt they had a great shot at advancing to state. Floor leader for Coach Kemmerzehl was 5'8" John Colby(11.0). Colby had also missed the first 12 games of the season due to the football playoffs.

The other guard position was held by 5'9" Darrell Williams(11.5), who also averaged in double figures. The fifth starter was 6'1" junior Edgar Evans.

S.A. Jefferson(34-5) was making its third trip to regionals in a row for Coach Robert "Snake" LeGrand. LeGrand was a former star at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. Jefferson had pressed early in the season, but after losses to Central Catholic(34-4) and Highlands(29-12) they found they were much more effective running a more deliberate style of play with 6'7" Brian Bryden(11.0) and 6'5" Micah Owens(14.0) under the basket. Owens was one of the top players in San Antonio, even as a junior. Other starters were 5'8" Mac Freeman(6.2), 6'1" Sam Butler, and 6'3" Mike Schelper(10.0). Butler was a great leaper and usually drew the other team's best offensive player.

Brazoswood(25-9) felt great about their chances as well having broken Victoria's 37 game home winning streak during the season. Brazoswood(25-9) ran a double low post with three guards. 6'5" James Bell(11.5) and 6'4" Chesley Brown(8.0/11.3) were the inside forces and Donnie Stephens(13.5/5.0), 5'11" Nick Lorette(3.0/3.0) and 5'11" Terry Forse(6.2) held down the perimeter. "We don't have outstanding talent that I can put my finger on," said Coach Middleton of Brazoswood, "We just plod along with everybody contributing a little bit."

The first regional semi-final game was between C.C. Carroll(34-2) and S.A. Jefferson(34-5). "It's hard to make a prediction," Carroll coach Mike Kunststadt said. "We feel confident, Jefferson's coach saw us play the last three games and we haven't seen him at all, although we are aware of their post play." Kunststadt compared his '75 squad to his 1973 state semi-finalist team, "the big difference is that two years ago we were healthy."

The San Antonio Jefferson(34-5)-Corpus Christi Carroll(34-2) game took an unusual turn in the 4th quarter. Jefferson pulled the ball out with 6:00 remaining in the contest. With the score tied 49-49, point guard Mac Freeman dribbled the ball for the next 5 ½ minutes with no pressure from Carroll. Finally with 36 seconds left Carroll came out of their zone and Jefferson called timeout with 30 seconds remaining. The Mustangs of Jefferson ran the clock down to nine seconds and called another timeout. With four seconds left Freeman was fouled at mid-court by Mark Keim. The Tigers used three consecutive timeouts to freeze Freeman. He hit both shots to give Jefferson the win 51-49.

Jefferson was paced by Grant with 16 points and Mac Freeman with 12 points. Randy Feemster was the leader for Carroll with 16 points.

Jefferson's coach, Snake LeGrand, commented, "I never thought they would stay in the zone that long, all we were trying to do was get them out of the zone."

Coach Mike Kunstadt of Carroll later commented, "it was one of those block/charge calls that could have gone either way." Carroll had made no attempt to put pressure on Freeman. Instead, they protected the basket. Coach Kunstadt cited two reasons for not coming out and guarding Freeman. Bailess had really affected Jefferson's outside shooting and he could rest during the stall, rather than putting him on the bench, he could stay in the game. Following the winning foul shots Freeman was carried off the floor by his teammates.

Victor Melton of C.C. Carroll would go on to play at Midwestern State in Wichita Falls and 6'8" Preston Bailess had a standout career at Utah State. Bailess later played professionally in Europe. Bailess is presently a rancher in Utah.

Reflecting back on the season, Kunstadt said he felt with a healthy Bailess they would have had a shot at Kashmere. "We were 27-0 before he got hurt and would have matched up well against Kashmere, but we'll never know." With Bailess out of the lineup the Tigers were 6-3 on the season. In comparing his 1975 Carroll squad with his 1973 state semi-finalist team that lost by ten points to Wheatley, Kunstadt hesitated a great deal but finally commented, "With a healthy Bailess, I would have to lean towards the '75 team, but I don't know if Danny Kaspar would have let the '73 team lose. He was the most competitive player I ever coached. Both teams had so much character and such high-quality young men. I was very fortunate to have coached such fine teams in Corpus." Of course, Kunstadt is one of the foremost authorities on basketball talent in the country having run his scouting service for twenty-five years called, Texas Hoops.

In the other semi-final contest in Region IV, San Antonio Highlands(26-12) advanced defeating Brazoswood(25-9) 72-68. In an amazing comeback effort, Highlands trailed Brazoswood by ten points with seven minutes left and by eight with five minutes remaining. John Colby scored 14 points in the last four minutes, including four baskets and six straight free throws. The foul shots were one and one situations. During that stretch Highlands outscored the Bucs 17-3 to advance to the regional finals.

5'9" John Colby finished with 16 points, Bowen added 14 points and Matheny came away with 12 points for Highlands. James Bell led the Bucs with 25 points and Donnie Stephens added 15 points.

*The **regional finals** were played later in the afternoon. S.A. Highlands(27-12) defeated S.A. Jefferson(35-5) 72-68 to move on to Austin. The game was played at the Alamo Stadium Gym. Some 4368 fans watched the contest. Jefferson and Highlands had played four times previously with Jefferson winning the first three and Highlands with the fourth encounter.*

Highlands biggest lead was 11 points as the Owls led all the way. Jefferson(35-6) pulled within four points with 31 seconds left on tip-ins by Micah Owens and 6'7" Brian Bryden. With 20 seconds remaining the Mustangs had the opportunity to cut into the lead once again only to miss a lay-up.

John Colby(12.0) led the charge for the Owls with 19 points and Darrell Williams(11.5) pitched in 16 points, along with James Matheny's(19.4) 11 points. Edgar Evans added 10 points to the Highlands cause. San Antonio Jefferson relied on their inside game with Brian Bryden hitting 24 points and Micah Owens with 14 points.

Coach LeGrand of Jefferson said after the game it was too much for his big men playing two games in one day. He commented that in the second half, his big men were having a hard time getting up and down the floor, after their emotional win over Carroll in the morning. Regardless of the loss, LeGrand pushed to have the regional tournament a two-day affair.

San Antonio Central(34-4) defeated Houston St. Thomas 58-53 to capture the TCIL AAA state championship. Central was the top ranked team in the Alamo city in 1975 and defeated Houston Strake Jesuit 59-53 in the semi-Finals. Danny Ivey(19.7) was the key performer in both games finishing with 24 points against Strake Jesuit and 20 against St. Thomas. Ivey later played at Texas Tech. Morgan Woolverton was also critical for Coach Joe Cortez, who captured his 7th state title at Central. Woolverton put up 16 points against St. Thomas and 13 against Strake Jesuit. St. Thomas advanced to the finals by defeating Dallas Bishop Dunne 59-53.

State Tournament

Midland Lee	(33-3)	#8	66.9-53.0	+13.9	PR	90.25
Houston Kashmere	(44-0)	#1	91.4-63.8	+27.6	PR	107.62
Ft. Worth Paschal	(31-2)	#7	79.2-58.2	+21.0	PR	95.10
San Antonio Highlands	(29-12)				PR	74.36

Top Players at the State Tournament

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

Junior Miller of Midland Lee was the District M.V.P., but during regionals he had come down with the flu. He had only scored 17 points in the two games. As the state tournament approached, Miller was not practicing as late as Tuesday of the state tournament week. Midland Lee(33-3) drew Houston Kashmere(44-0) in the semi-finals.

6'4" Karl Godine(28.5/14.0) was a high school All-American and one of the most heavily recruited players ever in Texas. His running mate was 6'5" Jarvis Williams(18.0/16.0) who in his own right was outstanding. "They were talented and studs who never saw a shot they didn't like," Kunstadt commented. "They were really a handful at the high school level." 6'3" Carl Byrd(23.4/12.0) was also recruited as a division one prospect. 5'11" Madison Lane signed with a division one school as did 6'8" Carl Belcher. 6'4" Henry Small was another big contributor, along with 6'6" Charles Ross off the bench. Coach Weldon Drew rated his team better than the great Wheatley teams of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Kashmere had broken Wheatley's winning streak for most victories in a row at 72, set from 1970 to 1972. Kashmere had extended the record to 76 in a row.

Many of Midland Lee's followers were not going to make the trip to Austin because they felt like it would be a waste of time and money. Some fans felt the Rebels had no chance against the talented Rams. Coach Stueckler said, "I feel like we can play with them and I know we can if Junior is feeling ok." Stueckler felt his team could stay with Kashmere because they had played other quick teams like Hobbs, Wichita Falls Rider and El Paso Bowie.

The game was one of the classics in Texas High School basketball history, as David attempted to slay Goliath. Kashmere(44-0) made it look early like a blowout jumping out to a 11-2 lead. The Rebels came right back scoring seven straight buckets to make the score 11-9.

In the second quarter, Blackwell scored 12 of Lee's 22 points to give Midland Lee a 31-29 halftime lead. Lee ran their domino delay and deliberate offense to perfection and kept the game close. The score was tied at 39 all at the end of the 3rd quarter. During one stretch, Lee held the ball for 8 minutes. Lee took the lead 41-39 on a basket by Parsons and Kashmere countered with a 20-footer from Byrd. The game ended in regulation 41-41.

In the first overtime, there was no scoring by either team. Farish traveled giving Kashmere the last shot in the first overtime. Godine came up short on a 30-footer.

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

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

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

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

San Antonio Highlands(29-12) was not getting a great deal of respect as the entered the game with Ft. Worth Paschal(31-2). The school was making their first appearance at state since 1970. "We're going up there to win," said Coach Kemmerzehl. "Records don't mean a thing when you play a big game like this. The strength of this team is playing as a unit." Kemmerzehl continued saying, "they're completely unselfish, it doesn't matter who scores."

Coach Kemmerzehl's team loved to press full-court man and really had a 20-2 record with three starters missing the first 12 games. 6'5" John Bowers(15.1), 6'4" Jim Matheny(18.4) and 5'9" John Colby(11.0) returning to the team made all the difference in the world. 6'1" Edgar Evans and 5'10" Darrell Williams were the other two starters for Highlands(29-12). Highlands had finished 31-5 the previous season and returned two starters in 1975. The '75 district title was the schools fourth in the last 15 years. "When we got Colby back it made all the difference in the world. He's the only four sport lettermen ever at Highlands and we need him. With the pressure off, Williams has played better," Coach Kemmerzehl said. Highlands(29-12) biggest weakness was their lack of depth.

Remember, Highlands(29-12) had lost to Houston Kashmere(44-0) in a warmup game prior to the playoffs 114-76. "They are definitely the class of the tournament," Coach Kemmerzehl commented. When asked about Ft. Worth Paschal(31-2), their semi-final opponent, Coach Kemmerzehl said, "I don't know a

whole lot about them but if they didn't lose a ball game to anyone from the DFW area they must be pretty good."

Coach Kemmerzehl had a detailed scouting report on the Panthers of Paschal. 6'0" Clay Bibb-quick and a good shooter; 6'1" Bruce Baird-good defender and takes only good shots; 6'3" John Schlicher-regarded as the best player, Coach Leon Black of Texas called him the best prospect in the state, drives well and shoots with accuracy; 6'5" Gerald Battey-very strong inside, excellent offensive rebounder; 6'7" Wendall Mays-smooth, good turn-around jumper:

Coach Wall discussed his scouting report saying, "I have a rough scouting report but they must play well to get this far."

Ft. Worth Paschal(31-2) had little trouble with San Antonio Highlands(29-12) winning 82-65. Wendall Mays put in 18 first half points to give Paschal a 41-27 halftime advantage. "I didn't see much height inside, so I figured that was the place to go," Coach Wall said. "The first few trips down the court, we hit Wendall inside and he turned around and scored," Wall explained. "We felt really good because they would be unable to double on Schlicher, so we began going inside with the single coverage on Wendall."

Wendall Mays finished with 26 points and 12 rebounds. Gerald Batty came away with 11 rebounds and John Schlicher came away with 15 points, 10 rebounds and 7 steals. Bruce Baird was good for 20 points. "We expected them to press more than they did," Wall explained. Paschal had 22 turnovers and Highlands finished with 20 turnovers. Paschal won the battle of the boards 46-42. For Highland's John Colby hit 11 of 18 field goals for 25 points.

In the championship game between Ft. Worth Paschal(32-2) and Houston Kashmere(45-0), it was a rematch of a warm-up game played before the playoffs. Paschal was a very talented and dangerous team, but they lost to Kashmere by 32 points. Coach Wall learned a great deal from the game. Wall knew he would be unable to get up and down the court with the talented Rams. He also learned from how effective Midland Lee was able to slow the game down against Coach Drew's troops. Wall was a master strategist and came up with a great game plan. Paschal's star player, Schlicher, said you could hear a pin drop on the bus ride for the team and cheerleaders from the hotel to Gregory Gym. "We had played them before we knew what we were up against. We knew we weren't going to get in an up and down game this time," Schlicher said.

In another classic game, Paschal came "oh so close" to pulling off the upset before losing 60-58. Schlicher missed three shots at the end of the game that could have tied the score and sent the game into overtime. With 3:19 remaining, the Rams went into their own stall with the score tied 58-58. Wendall Mays fouled Godine, who hit two foul shots to give Kashmere the lead. Paschal gambled and held the ball till 34 seconds remained on the clock. Schlicher took an off balance 30-footer which missed, and the senior guard missed another with 8 seconds

remaining, and another with 2 seconds left. Schlicher finished with 16 points, followed by Bruce Baird with 15 points, Gerald Battey hit 14 and Mays had 12 points and 16 rebounds. Godine led Kashmere with 18 points while Lane and Williams kicked in 14 points.

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

Schlicher stood out as an outstanding player, one of the best to come out of Ft. Worth. Coach Wall said he felt like he had a chance to play in the N.B.A. Schlicher was widely recruited and had decided to commit to North Carolina. This was unheard of at the time for a Texas player to be recruited by North Carolina. He had already visited North Carolina and had several visits planned to Kansas and other schools. "I just did not want to play in the Southwest Conference because it was mainly known as a football conference," Schlicher said. Coach Wall wanted his player to at least visit Texas A&M before deciding. In one of the most tragic accidents in the history of NCAA recruiting, John was riding a horse that got spooked and ran him into a tree, shattering his right arm and causing severe head injuries, that almost killed him. Years later, John said he had the people who were with him that day tell him what had happened in detail, because he could not remember. To say he was lucky to be alive is an understatement. He was kept alive by John Thornton and was taken to Bryan Hospital, but they could not help him, so he was flown to Methodist hospital in Houston. He was pronounced dead three times during the transfer and was in a coma for three days and induced coma for 10 to 12 days because of the pain. The long recovery was hard. John said his short-term memory was affected once he got on campus at A&M, but soon got better. He played for the Aggies and later in South America, but he lost some of his ability because of the accident. He is presently coaching and teaching in Houston. It was said that had he not been in such outstanding physical condition he would have never survived.

Even though the last two games of the season were struggles for Kashmere the team finished 46-0 and had one of the greatest seasons in the state's long history. Coach Jim Wall and Paul Stueckler did amazing jobs getting their teams ready both mentally and physically to face the Rams. Both Midland Lee and

Paschal had their opportunities. In a series, Kashmere was unbeatable, but in a one game playoff, anything can happen and did.

How talented was Godine and Kashmere? Kashmere coach, Weldon Drew, commented about Godine, who was consensus player of the year. "Karl is so versatile he can play any position. He has so much natural ability. He's a great shooter with deceptive speed. He's also a great rebounder who can jump with people who are 6'6" and 6'7".

The Amarillo Chamber of Commerce names the Outstanding Basketball Player Award at the end of every season and the easy winner in 1975 was Karl Godine. The senior guard led his team to a 78-game winning streak, put up 28.5 points per game, and finished with a career record of 115-13. His sophomore season, the Rams finished 30-11, 39-2 as a junior and 46-0 as a senior, with two state championships.

Past winners of the Chamber Award as player of the year were, Jerry Kroll of Spring Branch Memorial in 1966, Gene Phillips of Houston Jones in '67, Dwight Jones of Wheatley was a two-time winner in '69 and '70, Cedric Joseph of Ft. Worth Arlington Heights took home the award in 1971, Ira Terrell of Dallas Roosevelt was the winner in 1972, Eddie Owens of Houston Wheatley in '73 and Earl Evans of Pt. Arthur Lincoln in 1974.

Karl Godine played in the Dapper Dan Classic in Pittsburgh after the season which was the premier high school all-star game at the time. Schlicher played in the McDonald's Capital Classic in Washington D.C., which was the forerunner to today's McDonalds All-American game.

Several recruiters wanted to take Kashmere's entire starting five. Baylor was one of those schools who wanted the starting five. New Mexico State offered Drew a coaching job in hopes he would bring all his players to Las Cruces. Drew parlayed the titles into a college assistant's job as New Mexico State.

Seven players signed scholarships Kashmere. Jarvis Williams and Karl Godine went to Texas A&M and started on a conference championship as freshmen that finished 21-6. They were later ruled ineligible and had to transfer. Godine finished up at Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches while Williams stayed at A&M and sat out his sophomore year. Williams saw limited playing time as a junior and senior with the Aggies. Years later Williams said he wished he would have transferred to Houston to play for Guy Lewis.

Carl Belcher signed with Texas, Madison Lane signed with Rice, Carl Byrd and Henry Small went to the University of Houston and Charlie Ross went the junior college route playing at N.E. Oklahoma J.C. The Rams will be forever in Texas Basketball lore as one of the greatest high school teams ever produced. Whenever the best teams in the state's history are mentioned they are always in the conversation.

Basketball Weekly, the number one high school basketball authority at the time selected them #2 in their national poll behind Verbum Dei out of Los Angeles. Verbum Dei was led by David Greenwood and Roy Holland. The school was located in Watts with only 300 students. Greenwood and Holland both were high school All-Americans and starred at U.C.L.A and had pro careers.

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

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

Sports Writers All-State Team: First Team: 6'10" Allen Windor(19.6) of Arlington High, 6'4" Karl Godine(28.5) Kashmere, 6'4" John Schlicher(23.2) Paschal, 6'6" Jarvis Williams(18.0) Kashmere, 6'5" George Walker(23.2) Dulles; **Second team** - 6'8" Wendall Mays(21.0) Paschal, 6'3" Carl Byrd(23.0) Kashmere, 6'1" Brent Blackwell(16.0) Midland Lee, 6'1" Jose DeSantiago-El Paso Bowie, Carl Webb-El Paso Andress; **Third team-** 6'5" John Failing(18.2) Deer Park, 6'2" Madison Lane-Kashmere, 6'1" Richard Bacon(23.0) Dallas Pinkston, 6'2" Bobby Sommers-SA Fox Tech, John Colby- SA Highlands, Tom Trevino-Laredo: Texas Sports Writers as usual did a great job in their selections.

In looking back on the season, the three best teams were Houston Kashmere, Ft. Worth Paschal and Dallas S.O.C. The Golden Bears were the top team in Dallas. Big D was one of the largest hot beds of Texas high school basketball in 1975 as well as today. 6'3" Waymon Lister(25.3) from S.O.C. should have been represented on the All-State team.

Recruits: 6'4" **Karl Godine**(28.5) was one of the top recruits that the state has ever produced. Godine went to Texas A&M and later Stephen F. Austin and was a 7th round pick by the Bullets in the N.B.A. Godine was a starter on the Aggies as a freshman before transferring. He averaged 21.0 points a game at Stephen F. He did not play in the Association. 6'5" **Jarvis Williams**(18.0) was another highly prized recruit who followed Godine to A&M. He started as a freshman on a conference championship team and saw action as a junior and senior for the Aggies. **John Schlicher**(23.0) of Paschal played at Texas A&M. 6'5" **George Walker**(23.2) of Dulles signed with the Cougars of Houston and was a starter as a junior and senior and averaged 14.5 per game. Please don't get the two George Walker's confused, one played for Yates and graduated in 1974 the other from Dulles and graduated in 1975. Both were outstanding talents. One of the best kept secrets in the state of Texas was 6'3" **Elbert Darden** of Baytown Lee. Darden was named All-SWC at Rice. Darden was also a scholar, being named a National Merit Semi-Finalist. He became the All-time scoring leader at Rice averaging 20.1 points his senior year. He was also named honorable mention All-American. 6'10" **Allen Windor**(19.6) from Arlington High, signed with Houston and was a starter as a freshman, but finished up at U.T. Arlington. 6'3" **Carl Byrd**(23.0) of Kashmere played at Houston. 6'8" **Wendall Mays**(21.0) of Paschal was an All-American at Tyler J.C. and later played for Baylor. Mays averaged 12.8 for the Bears. 6'8" **Tom Somerville**(16.0) of Highland Park played at S.M.U. and was a four year lettermen. 6'7" **Phillip Stroud**(17.0) of Wheatley played at Texas. Stroud came off the bench for his college coach, Abe Lemons. 6'10" **Kartlon Hurdle** of Ft. Worth Richland played at Oral Roberts and was a four-year letterman, 6'2" **Bob Sommers** of SA Fox Tech went to U.T.E.P. and later St. Mary's in San Antonio, 6'2" **Madison Lane** of Kashmere played at Rice and was a two-year letterman, 6'8" **Carl Belcher** of Kashmere attended Texas. Belcher was the 6th man on back-to-back Conference title teams. 6'11" **Doug Ekeroth**(21.0) of Laredo United signed with Rice and was a two year letterman, 6'9" **Bob Rudolph** of Arlington High chose Texas Tech and was a 3-year letterman, 6'7" **Bryan Holland**(21.0) of Richardson went to A&M and was a letterman, 6'6" **Danny Ivey**(19.0) of S.A. Central Catholic signed with Tech and was a two-year letterman, 6'8" **Joe Baxter**(18.0) of Richardson Pearce ended up at Texas Tech after junior college and started for the Red Raiders. 6'3" **Waymon Lister**(25.3) of S.O.C. took his talents to North Texas State after they signed his coach, Jimmy Gales as one of the assistant coaches. Lister set the school record for most wins during his career at North Texas. He averaged 7.1 points a game. 6'5" **Chris Gonser** of Irving traveled to Baylor and was a one-year letterman, 6'0" **Tommy Parks** of F.W. Poly played at Texas Tech and was a letterman, 6'10" **Tom Nichols** of Houston Sharpstown signed with Texas and was a four-year letterman, 5'11" **Kenneth Ciolli** of Houston Sterling played for Houston and started for Guy

Lewis as a junior and senior averaging 6.0 points per game. 6'0" **Paul Jackson** of Texas City went to Houston, 6'3" **Henry Small** of Kashmere signed with Houston, 6'8" **Preston Bailess**(15.4) of C.C. Carroll played at Utah St., 6'2" **Victor Melton** of C.C. Carroll to Midwestern, 6'5" **Daniel Wise**(27.0) of Houston Waltrip signed with Texas and later transferred to North Texas and was a 3-year letterman, 6'6" **Cedric Fears** of Houston Sterling was a big time leaper, who signed with Houston and averaged 7.0 points per game, 6'6" **Reggie Franklin** of Houston Yates played at S.M.U. and was a standout for the Mustangs. Reggie is #4 on the school's all-time blocks list and averaged 13.1 per game in conference play, 6'5" **Ovie Dotson** of SA Sam Houston played for Texas and came off the bench for Coach Abe Lemons, 6'4" **Marshall Sauls** of Houston Davis went to Houston, 6'8" **Tracey Scheibel** of Dallas Skyline played at S.M.U., 6'4" **Jim Vaszauskas** of Lamesa took his talents to Baylor where he was a two-year letterman, 6'1" **Brent Blackwell** of Midland Lee committed to Baylor, 6'5" **Elijah Owens**(14.0) of S.A. Jefferson went to New Mexico St., 6'2" **Cyrus Cormier**(18.0) of Houston Furr went to New Mexico St. and was a reserve, 6'1" **Jose de Santiago** of El Paso Bowie committed to New Mexico, 6'5" **Greg Keller** of P.A. Lincoln played at Stephen F. Austin, 6'7" **Alfred Speights** of Beaumont Charlton-Pollard played at Stephen F. Austin, 6'0" **Melvis Wooten** of Crockett went to Stephen F. Austin, 6'4" **Gerald Battey** of Ft. Worth Paschal went to Texas A&M Commerce, 6'7" **Arthur Ross** of Houston Milby played at San Jacinto JC., 6'5" **Glenn Minnix** of Houston Austin and 6'1" **James Harris** of Houston Lamar were strong recruits. 6'5" **John Failing (35)** of Deer Park went to Louisiana Tech. 6'6" **Danny Ivey**(19.7) of San Antonio Central Catholic played at Texas Tech for two seasons and transferred to Trinity University in San Antonio averaging 23.4 points a game. Was called by Gerald Myers, "his most impressive ability is his outside shooting. He's one of the best outside shooters for a big man I've ever seen."

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

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

#1	Karl Godine 6'4"	Houston Kashmere	A&M/SFA 12.6/1.9	Draft Bullets #151
#2	George Walker 6'5"	Stratford Dulles	Houston 14.5/9.3	
#3	Elbert Darden 6'3"	Baytown Lee	Rice U., All-SWC 19.9/5.8*	
#4	Reggie Franklin 6'6"	Houston Yates	S.M.U. 13.0/6.5	
#5	Jarvis Williams 6'5"	Houston Kashmere	Texas A&M 7.9/5.6	
#6	Wendall Mays 6'8"	Ft. Worth Paschal	Baylor 12.8/7/8	
#7	Waymond Lister 6'3"	South Oak Cliff	North Texas 15.9/4.8	
#8	Preston Bailess 6'9"	C.C. Carroll	Utah St. 10.8/7.3	
#9	Phillip Stroud 6'8"	Houston Wheatley	Texas 9.5/8.8	
#10	Ken Ciolli 5'11"	Houston Sterling	Houston 6.0/5.0 Asst.	

(*All-Conference)

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

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

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

TABC Is Born

April of 1975 was a special date for the development of the Texas Basketball Coaches Association and its formation. Tommy Newman of Ft. Worth Richland and Billy Arnold of Ft. Worth Castleberry had tried to work through the Texas High School Coaches Association, but the Association was run by football coaches. The basketball coaches felt they had no voice in the organization. It got so bad that if you went to a job interview and was asked if you were a member of the TABC, you would say no if you wanted the job. Football coaches did not like the new organization at that time. The Waco Chamber of Commerce had a coach's clinic each year in which many coaches from all over the state would come. U.C.L.A.'s legendary coach, John Wooden had been scheduled to come to Waco because the publisher of all his books lived in Waco. Wooden was persuaded to speak at the clinic to help increase attendance. A meeting was arranged the night

before the clinic and many of the top coaches in the state were encouraged to show up early. The purpose of showing up early was so Newman and Arnold and the rest of the coaches could put together the by-laws for the new coach's organization. Wooden encouraged all the basketball coaches to join the newly formed group for the improvement of high school basketball in Texas. Membership was \$10 and about 250 of the some 750 coaches that were there, signed up. As time went on the TABC knew they needed the help of sports writers and newspapers in general to start putting out basketball polls and help with communication.

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

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

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

Power Ranking 1975:

- | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|-------|--------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Houston Kashmere | 46-0 | 107.62 | State Champs 4-A | def. FW Paschal 60-58 |
| 2. | Ft. Worth Paschal | 32-3 | 95.10 | State Finals 4-A | loss to Kashmere 60-58 |
| 3. | Lamesa | 34-0 | 94.65 | State Champs 3-A | def. S.G.P. 59-55 |
| 4. | Dallas S.O.C. | 35-4 | 94.46 | Reg. Semis 4-A | loss to Paschal 83-70 |
| 5. | Midland Lee | 33-3 | 90.25 | State Semis 4-A | loss to Kash. 52-47(3ot) |
| 6. | C.C. Carroll | 34-3 | 89.42 | Regional Semi 4-A | Loss to SA Jeff. 51-49 |
| 7. | South Grand Prairie | 29-6 | 82.70 | State Finals 3-A | loss to Lamesa 59-55 |
| 8. | S.A. Highlands | 29-13 | 74.36 | State Semis 4-A | loss to Paschal 92-65 |

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

San Antonio Highlands(29-13) numbers that were used only came from District and the playoffs. The Owls record was 20-3 with their team intact. One player returned from injury and the other two from football.

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

1975 4-A Playoffs

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

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

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

50. Killeen	25-9	{3 rd in district behind Corsicana & Waco Uni.}
51. Midland	21-11	{lost first half of district playoff to Lee 64-62}

1976 AAAA

In 1976 the perennial powers were weaker than in years past and for the first time in many years there were no super teams. Houston Wheatley dominated the Texas High School landscape from 1968 to 1975. Houston Kashmere captured state titles in 1974 and 1975. These two schools won six titles over an eight-year period. During the 1976 season neither team was able to make the playoffs. Dallas Roosevelt and Dallas South Oak Cliff were very talented, but both were junior dominated teams. A young talented team emerged onto the high school scene out of Ft. Worth for the first time. The Dunbar Wildcats began making and big impact during the 1976 season and well into the future. The class 4-A state title chase was wide open and was one of the more unpredictable playoff chases in the state's history. Smaller cities dominated the basketball 4-A circuit in 1976.

The unquestioned best player in the state was 6'7" Albert Jones(21.0) from Houston Worthing. He led Worthing(22-14) to the playoffs for the second time in three years. Worthing was also named by Street & Smith Magazine as one of the top teams in the country at #18 in their pre-season rankings.

Other players catching the state spotlight were 6'10" Alton Lister(24.5) of Dallas Woodrow Wilson(21-9). Lister went on to have an outstanding college and pro career in the N.B.A. 6'4" Phil Hale(22.5) was a highly prized guard out of South Grand Prairie, a 3-A school. 6'6" Micah Owens(19.3) was the top player in San Antonio playing for Jefferson High. 6'3" Carl Webb(16.9) was the best from El Paso Andress and 6'1" Kenneth Williams from Houston Milby(25-12) would go on to have a standout career at the University of Houston.

Clear Lake was the top-rated team in the TABC poll. The final regular season poll by the TABC had Clear Lake(36-3) at #1, #2 Houston Jones(35-6), #3 South Oak Cliff(25-6), #4 Abilene(27-6), #5 Pasadena(33-5), #6 Bryan(30-2), #7 Deer Park(31-7), #8 Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-3), #9 Tyler John Tyler(26-4) and #10 Pt. Arthur Lincoln(30-4).

Two interesting things jump out at you as you look at the top ten. Three of these teams were in the same District just south of Houston. Clear Lake(36-3), Pasadena(33-5) and Deer Park(31-7) battled each other with only one of them advancing to the playoffs. These were the days of the single District champion. With one team advancing, several strong teams failed to make the playoffs. Also, remember that the District called for playing two round robin District slates, with a first half winner facing the second half winner in a playoff. The top team in Houston was Jones(35-6) and they failed to make the playoffs. Houston Wheatley missed the playoffs for the first time since joining the U.I.L. in 1968. It was truly a wild and unpredictable season.

The **Arlington Classic** in 1976 was much weaker than in years past. Spring Branch Memorial(24-10) and Houston Kashmere(21-10) did not make the trip from Houston to the tournament. Houston Wheatley lost in the first round and were eliminated in the consolation bracket. Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-4) lost to Dallas Carter 96-86 in the first round, but won consolation over Houston Worthing(22-14) and Albert Jones 90-78. Dallas Roosevelt(25-8) took the 3rd place trophy defeating Corsicana 69-59, Arlington High(27-8) 57-55 and Dallas Carter 114-102 in the three-day tournament. The Mustangs of Roosevelt(25-8) only loss came in the semi-finals. The Golden Bears of South Oak Cliff (27-7) won the tournament with an 87-64 win over Dallas Samuel(26-10). S.O.C.(27-7) defeated Houston Worthing(22-14) in the earlier rounds of the tournament 106-94. It was a down year for the classic, but it would return to its previous glory. The top teams were hard to project in 1976 because the inner-city powerhouses of previous years were really struggling.

In the **Dr. Pepper tourney** in Dallas weather became a problem, so the tournament only came up with quarterfinal winners. The semi-finals and finals were cancelled due to weather. In the first two rounds Dallas Roosevelt(25-8) defeated Dallas Thomas Jefferson and Richardson(26-10) 79-71 and 71-70. Roosevelt's leading scorers were Rynn Wright and Michael Battle. Wright had 22 against T.J. and Michael Battle had 19 against Richardson. S.O.C.(27-7) dropped Carrollton R.L. Turner 85-80 and beat Garland 103-81. David Burns did high point honors in both games with 21 and 37 points for the Golden Bears. Richardson Pearce defeated Plano(23-11) 75-64 and Dallas Jesuit 67-59. For the Mustangs, Blake Burnham turned in stellar performances in both games with 27 and 13 points. Dallas Carter advanced to the quarterfinals with wins over Dallas Lincoln 77-73 and Dallas Skyline 81-69. For the Cowboys, Vernon Smith was high point man in both games. Dallas Pinkston came away with a 58-50 victory over St. Mary's and beat Dallas Hillcrest 60-59. Thomas Hubbard was the leading scorer for Pinkston in both games. Dallas Kimball was successful against Bryan Adams 73-63 and South Garland 72-62. For the victorious Knights, Jack Mewbourn and Bill Brooks captured high point honors. Dallas Samuel(26-10) knocked off North Dallas 79-55 and Rockwall 87-61. North Mesquite beat Dallas Adamson 62-44 and Lake Highlands 55-54. The best performances of the tournament were turned in by Dennis Gordon of Tyler John Tyler with 46 points in a losing effort against Garland. Gordon played for Navarro Junior College after graduation and had a nice career. The Owls turned back the Lions 99-85 behind Donnie Love's 34 points. In the quarterfinals of the Dr. Pepper tournament, S.O.C.(27-7) defeated District rival Dallas Roosevelt(25-8) 89-82 as David Burns once again led S.O.C. with 30 points and Rynn Wright paced the Mustangs with 23. Kimball beat Pinkston 97-87. Jeff Smallwood was the high man for the Knights with 24 points. Dallas Carter beat Richardson Pearce 83-64 as Dewayne Scales led the way for the Cowboys with 20 points. Samuel(26-10)

defeated North Mesquite 51-49 on 6'4" Leonard Gibson's 22-footer at the buzzer. Not much was proven over the course of the tournament except knocking off some of the basketball rust over the Christmas Holidays.

Louisville Male was the featured team in the fourth annual **Dr. Pepper basketball classic** in Houston. Louisville Male came in as the #1 team in the country. Male was led by two All-Americans, 6'3" Darrell Griffith and Bobby Turner. Griffith went on in college to pace Louisville to the NCAA championship in 1980 and was an all-star in the N.B.A. with the Utah Jazz. Griffith was one of the leading scorers in the N.B.A. during his prime. Lake Charles W.O. Boston High, out of Louisiana, was the other guess opponent in the two-day affair. Boston supported a 37-game winning streak entering the tournament. Houston Wheatley ended the streak with a 90-80 victory over Boston. Dating back to 1968, it was Boston's eighth loss in nine games against the Wildcats. Darrell Crawford was top dog for Wheatley with 25 points followed by Alvin Brooks with 22. Preston Smith added 12 points for Coach Jackie Carr's bunch. A dozen players scored for Wheatley. David Lawrence, Boston's 6'8" All-American, was outstanding with 37 points and 12 rebounds, but it was not enough. Lawrence was a second-round draft pick of the Blazers and was one of the great players ever produced at McNeese State. Boston's record now stood at 18-1 and were considered one of the top teams in the country.

Wheatley was not so fortunate against Louisville Male on Friday night, losing to Louisville Male 93-81. Boston defeated Houston Kashmere(21-10) in Friday night's other contest 108-92. The Rams took it on the chin against Male as well on Saturday evening 84-74. Louisville Male's two standouts, Griffith and Turner both finished with 27 points. Kashmere(21-10) Coach Frankie Brazos said following his team's loss to Louisville Male, "We certainly played better tonight than we did Friday. We were at least in this game until the last few minutes. We played with more control than we did against Boston." The Rams fell to 10-5 on the season after the two defeats. Marshall Breaux led Kashmere with 18 points while Eryv Cormier followed with 15 points and Russell Sublet added 14. Louisville Male left town with a 5-0 record.

At the **Jaycees Tournament in Houston**, Kashmere(21-10) was the defending two-time champion. They were eliminated in the 2nd round by Houston Furr 68-59. Keith Gardner, a 6'4" forward for Furr, was the key player against Kashmere scoring 18 points on the inside and Albert Dickey contributed 22 from the outside for Coach McCoy McLemore. In Furr's first round win over Houston Lamar 75-58, Gardner led his team with 29 points. Coach Frankie Brazos of Kashmere was upset after the loss, "We just don't play with any consistency," Brazos said. "We play good in spurts. We look good and then we look bad. One game we play good defense and no offense. Nothing went well tonight. We made too many mistakes." Kashmere(21-10) had defeated Forest Brook to advance to the second round.

Houston Wheatley had two sweet wins over Houston Sharpstown 104-69 and Houston Lamar 85-83. For the Wildcats, Alvin Brooks hit a layup with two seconds left to give Wheatley the win. Wheatley's record moved to 14-8 on the season. Anthony Sullivan tossed in 24 points for Wheatley and Carlos Wilkerson netted 20 for Lamar(11-6). Galveston Ball improved their season record to 18-4 with wins over Houston Sterling 85-72 and Aldine Carver 81-75 in overtime. Aldine Carver came into the contest at 16-1 on the season. Andrew Johns of Galveston Ball(35-7) hit a pair of free throws to tie the game with Carver at 71-71 at the end of regulation. Darrell Mitchell of Ball led all scorers in the game with 26 points.

Airline of Bossier City, Louisiana came into the tournament undefeated and one of the tourney favorites. Airline won their first game in overtime over Houston Westbury 68-66. Billy Reed was the hero for Bossier City with his field goal with five seconds left on the clock. After 18 straight victories, Airline went down 61-54 to Houston Reagan in the next round. Ray Smart and Michael Thompson both contributed 16 points in the upset win for Reagan. Houston Jones(35-6) showed why they were one of the new forces in Houston basketball with wins over Houston Davis 78-59 and one of the top seeded entries, Houston Worthing(22-14) 88-84. Worthing was paced by 6'8" Albert Jones, who finished with 28 points. 6'6" Darnell Roper and 6'5" Byron Gibson countered for Houston Jones with 25 and 18 points respectfully. Roper was Houston Jones top scorer in their opening round win over Houston Davis with 23.

In the top bracket, Houston Reagan, Houston Furr, Houston Waltrip(30-9) and Deer Park(31-7) all advanced and in the bottom bracket, Houston Madison(26-8), Houston Jones(35-6), Galveston Ball(35-7) and Wheatley advanced. Waltrip(30-9) advanced with wins over Houston St. Thomas 52-46 and Houston Lincoln(23-13) 101-82. Deer Park(31-7) entered the quarterfinals with wins against Houston Williams 74-55 and Houston Sam Houston 68-57. Riley had 22 points for Deer Park in their win over Williams and Frank Dishangh added 15 points for Deer Park against Sam Houston. Houston Madison(26-8) moved on taking down Houston Austin 76-59 and Houston Milby(25-12) 66-64. Chuck O'Neal, Houston Milby's brilliant 6'6" junior, was not in the box score in either one of the Buffaloes early round games.

Houston Jones(35-6), under the leadership of third year coach Larry Cooper, defeated Houston Madison(26-8) 83-73 in the quarterfinals of the Jaycee tournament and eliminated Galveston Ball(35-7) 79-57 in the semi-finals. Cooper, who was a standout at Houston Waltrip(30-9) in the 1960s, faced his old school in the finals. Waltrip(30-9) advanced with wins over Deer Park(31-7) 55-53 and Houston Reagan 68-54. With the win, Waltrip(30-9) gave coach Foster Martin his 300th high school win in his 17-year career. Waltrip's backline of 6'6" Gary Schramm, 6'6" Jeff Kelly and 6'7" Raymond Dittmar coupled with the outside shooting of Isaac Bozeman, were too much for Reagan. Schramm tossed in 22

points and Bozeman had 20. Reagan had eliminated Houston Furr 63-58 in the quarterfinals. Schramm led Waltrip(30-9) against Deer Park(31-7) in scoring with 18 points, Isaac Bozeman had 15, and Kelly finished with 14 for the Rams. Deer Park(31-7) had an impressive 18-4 record after the loss to Houston Waltrip(30-9). Houston Jones(35-6) placed four players in double figures against Houston Madison(26-8), Carl Fields had 28 points and Darnell Roper hit 17 points. Houston Madison's record at the end of the tournament stood at 16-3. Houston Jones improved to 22-3 on the season. In the win over Galveston Ball(35-7), Houston Jones had 10 players score and Fields led the Falcons in scoring with 20 points. Galveston Ball(35-7) had eliminated Houston Wheatley earlier 75-72 in the quarterfinals on field goals by Michael Venible and Darrell Mitchell in the last eight seconds of the game. Ball moved to 18-6 on the season.

In the finals, Houston Jones(35-6) captured the Jaycee Tournament with a 81-60 win over Houston Waltrip(30-9). The win solidified the Falcons claim as one of the top teams in the state. Galveston Ball(35-7) took the third-place game over Houston Reagan 65-54 and consolation was won by Houston Austin 59-54 over Houston St. Thomas. Waltrip's longtime coach, Foster Martin, commented after the game against Houston Jones, "Boy they do have some shooters." Waltrip finished the tournament at 18-4 moving into District action. "We tried to do what we've been doing all year, but we just didn't get our shots down and they did," Martin said. The Jones bench contributed 20 of the teams 81 points in the finals. In the first five minutes of the third quarter the Falcons jumped out to a 55-42 lead and never looked back. Carl Fields was the leading scorer for Houston Jones(35-6) once again with 22 points. Most of his points came on 20 footers. Anthony Ragling added 20 points in the winning effort. Byron Gibson followed with 10 points. Schramm led Waltrip with 19 points, Kelly had 15 and Bozeman finished with 14.

Houston Jones(35-6) closest win in the tournament was their 88-84 win over Houston Worthing(22-14), but unfortunately Jones was not seeded and met Worthing much earlier in the tournament than they should have. The All-tournament team was as follows: Carl Fields of Houston Jones, Darnell Roper of Houston Jones, Isaac Bozeman of Houston Waltrip, Greg Wise of Houston Madison, Michael Thompson of Houston Reagan, Jeff Kelly of Houston Waltrip, Michael Venible of Galveston Ball, John McCrutcheon of Houston Austin, Travis O'Banion of Deer Park and Thad Fuller of Houston St. Thomas. The colleges had a field day recruiting the talent in the Houston area. 6'1" Kenneth Williams of Milby, 6'6" Darnell Roper and 6'5" Byron Gibson of Houston Jones, 6'6" Jeff Kelly and 6'6" Gary Schramm of Houston Waltrip all signed with the Cougars of Houston. Kelly ended up at Texas State.

Region I

Abilene(27-6)

Lubbock Coronado(24-7)

Arlington Sam Houston(26-6)

El Paso Eastwood(26-3)

Wichita Falls(24-8)

Pampa(25-6)

Richardson(26-9)

El Paso Ysleta(23-9)

Top Players in Region I

6'3"	Ronnie Newton	Arlington Sam Houston
6'2"	Jim Bowden	El Paso Eastwood
6'1"	Mark Davis	North Mesquite
6'9"	Ricky Ashley	Mineral Wells
6'3"	Greg Webb	El Paso Address
6'6"	Julio Gallardo	El Paso Ysleta

In Region I Abilene(27-6) was thought to be the favorite followed by El Paso Eastwood(26-3) and Arlington Sam Houston(26-6). Abilene(27-6) faced Midland Lee(21-10) Rebels in the District 5-AAAA playoff. The Eagles came in at 26-6 and Midland Lee, the second half winners, had a 21-10 mark. Abilene won the first game by five points but lost the rematch to the Rebels by 29 points. The two teams had met in 1975 in the exact same situation and Midland Lee prevailed 42-39 and advanced to the state semi-finals in Austin. Midland Lee eventually lost to undefeated Houston Kashmere in triple overtime.

Midland Lee's key contributor during the '76 campaign was 6'5, 235 pounder, Junior Miller(20.1), who would go on to fame in the N.F.L. Miller was also a great basketball player, ranking #2 on the all-time Midland Lee scoring list. Rounding out Midland Lee's line-up was 6'5" Steve Reiter, 6'1" Roy Lee Smith, 6'1" Brent Huckabay, 5'10" Robin Todd, Tom Choate and Billy Ray Ennis.

The Eagles tried to control Miller with 6'8" Darrell Baxter(20.3), Steve Thomas, and 6'5" Andre Hickman. Abilene's backcourt was believed to be the best in the District with the quick Eddie Forkerway and defensive stopper, 6'2" Mike Little(17.3). The sixth man, Willie Stephens, was believed to be one of the fastest sixth men in the state.

In a thrilling overtime game Abilene(27-6) defeated the Rebels(21-10) 50-46 to advance to the state playoffs. Eddie Forkerway sank two free throws with nine seconds left to secure the victory. Forkerway was only a 53% foul shooter. Mike Little(17.3) finished with 16 points and 6'8" Darrell Baxter(20.3) had 15 points. Junior Miller(20.1) of Lee was held to only 10 points.

Coach James Boynton felt the difference in the game was the defense of Mike Little. The 6'2" senior had not played in the team's earlier loss to Midland Lee. "In my 18 years of coaching, I don't believe I've had a team this good. It's a unique bunch," Coach Boynton explained. Named to the 5-AAAA All-District 1st team were 6'8" Darrell Baxter(20.3) and Mike Little(17.3) of Abilene and Junior Miller(20.1) of

Lee. Surprisingly, the District MVP went to 6'3" Arnold McDowell(25.5) of San Angelo.

In District 6-AAAA the Wichita Falls(24-8) Coyotes defeated Ft. Worth Richland(16-12) to capture a best of three playoff series between the two schools for the title. The Coyotes won both games 58-53 and 54-48. Ft. Worth Richland(16-12) had won the south zone and Wichita Falls(24-8) had won the north zone. Coach Tommy Newman of the Richland Rebels were attempting to make their third playoff appearance in four years. The Rebels were led by Harris Hughey, Todd Albritton and Marion Frye.

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

Wichita Falls advanced to the regionals in Abilene with an exciting double overtime victory 78-72. The Coyotes overcame a 13-point lead by Abilene at one point. Zack Ellis led the scoring for Wichita Falls with 23 points and came up with several steals late that turned the game around. Mike Little led all scorers for Abilene with 27 points and Steve Thomas added 19 points and Darrell Baxter followed with 16 points. Andre Hickman was the leading rebounder for Abilene with 17 boards.

Lubbock Coronado(24-7) won the second half of District 4-AAAA action and Hereford(15-16) tied for the first half with Plainview(13-20). Plainview(13-20) defeated Hereford(15-16) for the first half crown 51-48 and met Lubbock Coronado(24-7) for the District title. During the regular season, Coronado had won both meetings between the two clubs 69-53 and 57-44.

The game was played at the Texas Dome in Levelland. Lubbock Coronado(24-7) won their 1st District championship ever with a hard fought 59-53 victory over Plainview(13-20). Coronado's top player, Vic Henry, forgot his basketball shoes and had to borrow a pair for the game. Vic still managed to lead his team in scoring with 20 points.

Longtime traditional power Pampa(25-6), made their second playoff appearance in a row in 1976 behind guards, Brian Bailey(14.4/5.5) and 6'0" junior, Rayford Young(9.4/2.8). 6'4" junior post, Donnie Hughes(12.8/8.6), gave support along with 6'1" Richard Lane(8.3) and Jewel Landers(5.3/8.3). The Harvesters of Pampa had defeated Borger 68-65 to win District.

Pampa(25-6) faced Lubbock Coronado(24-7) at the Amarillo Civic Center Coliseum and was a rematch of the 1975 game which was won by Coronado 57-52. Two of the top guards in West Texas were facing one another in Brian Bailey(14.4) from Pampa and Vic Henry(14.5) of Lubbock Coronado. 6'5" Bryan Smith(10.0/5.9) was considered a handful to stop for Pampa, along with 6'3" Walter Storrs(12.2/8.1). The Mustangs of Lubbock Coronado(24-7) were considered the deeper of the two teams.

Pampa(25-6) Coach, Robert McPherson, felt his team was peaking at the right time. Pampa and Lubbock Coronado played nine common opponents with Pampa having a 14-3 record and Coronado came away with a 10-4 mark.

Lubbock Coronado(24-7) outscored Pampa(25-6) 5-2 in overtime, sinking five of six foul shots to edge the Harvesters 59-56 to advance to Abilene. Standout, Vic Henry of Lubbock Coronado, was in early foul trouble and held to only 7 points. Inside the Mustangs took control of the game with Walter Storrs finishing with 15 points and Bryan Smith had 13 points. Reserve, Robert Nash, also contributed 14 points.

Pampa(25-6) jumped out to an early lead 24-12 and handled Coronado's press with little trouble. But the Mustangs strength inside was too much for Pampa as they outscored the Harvesters 34-26. Brian Bailey finished with 15 points for Pampa.

In District 7-AAAA Arlington Sam Houston(26-6) advanced to Bi-District against the Richardson Eagles(26-9) winner of 8-AAAA. Both teams had been involved in warm-up games because of the long layoff. Richardson(26-9) lost to Plano(23-11) 88-84. The Wildcats of Plano(23-11) had won District 13-AAAA. Sam Houston(26-6) also faced Plano(23-11) in a warmup game and lost 73-72.

The Texans team revolved around one of the top players in the state 6'3" Ronnie Newton(19.0/8.0). In the big games he was going to get the ball and carry Sam Houston. Other starters for the Texans were 6'0" Joey King(12.0), 6'2" Barry Inman, 5'11" Paul Riddle and 5'8" Glen Dixon.

Richardson(26-9) relied on a much more balanced attack led by Lance Jagman(12.7/3.8 asst), 6'4" Steve Holland, 6'3" Bernard Scott and Byron Gannaway.

The Bi-District contest took place at Berkner High School in Richardson. Arlington Sam Houston(26-6) jumped out to an early lead and took a 37-26 halftime advantage. The Texans led by as many as 13 points in the first half. Four players for the Eagles ended up fouling out in the double overtime affair which was won by Sam Houston(26-6) 75-70. With his team depleted and behind, Lance Jagmin took over for Coach Ken Norman's Eagles. Jagmin finished with 20 points with 16 of them coming in the critical 4th quarter and overtimes.

Ronnie Newton was dominating for Sam Houston with 29 points and 14 rebounds. He was 13-15 from the free throw line. Richardson held the rebound

edge 36-31 but had 20 turnovers. With the exciting victory the Texans of Arlington Sam Houston(26-6) advanced to the regionals in Abilene.

The El Paso Eastwood(26-3) Troopers opened the playoffs against E.P. Ysleta(23-9) at Memorial Gym on the campus of UTEP. The Troopers were confident having defeated Ysleta earlier in the season 75-60. Eastwood's only three losses had come at the hands of El Paso High(16-17) 45-43, Odessa Permian(25-7) 51-46 and E.P. Andress(24-9) in District 89-87. Eastwood's most impressive win during the regular season was against the Hobbs, New Mexico 85-67. Hobbs had a program that year in and year out was one of the top programs in the country. Eastwood also traveled to Hobbs and handed the Eagles their fourth loss at home in 18 years 82-63. El Paso Ysleta(23-9) lost to Hobbs during the season 115-104.

El Paso Ysleta(23-9) was paced by one of the top scoring big men in the state 6'6" Julio Gallardo(29.8/13.5). "A kid like Gallardo is an individual challenge, but we don't plan to play them any different than we have anyone else," Coach Bob Lesley said. The Troopers had one of the top backcourts in the state with 6'2" shooting ace, Jim Bowden(13.0) and super quick 5'10" Gil Shephard. 6'4" Tim Crenshaw, 6'4" Steve Wohlgemuth and 6'7" Darold Molix rounded out the starting five.

Eastwood(26-3) had to go to their bench early in the second quarter to survive Ysleta during the first half. The score was tied at halftime 33-33. Gallardo had 21 of his game high 30 points in the first half. Mike Chapman, Ernie Colorado and Eric Smith all came off the bench in the first half for Eastwood scoring 13 points between them. Southpaw Jim Bowden(13.0) took over in the second half with 13 points after limited playing time in the first half because of foul trouble. Tim Crenshaw also contributed 12 points in the second half as the Troopers prevailed 73-52. Eastwood lost 6'7" Darold Molix and Steve Wohlgemuth to fouls with Eastwood up by 21 points and just 3 minutes to play. Crenshaw finished with 16 points and Bowden added 17 points. They were the only troopers in double figures.

Next up for Eastwood(27-3) was a trip to Abilene and the regional semi-finals. The opponent for Coach Lesley's squad was Arlington Sam Houston(24-6), a team Lesley felt was the class of the region. "They use a shuffle offense, and they press and trap some, but not the whole game, I think they're the toughest of the teams in the tournament."

On Saturday the Troopers of Eastwood(27-3) played the second game in the morning at Moody Coliseum on the campus of Abilene Christian College. Lubbock Coronado(25-7) and Wichita Falls(25-8) teed it up at 9 AM. Eastwood(27-3) was ranked #14 in the state polls while Sam Houston(24-6) came in at #19. Sam Houston's star player Ronnie Newton(19.0/13.0) had to be controlled if Eastwood had any chance of winning. Other key contributors for Sam Houston(24-6) were 6'0" Joe King, 5'11" John Riddle, 6'3" Barney Inman and 5'8" Glen Dixon. Sam Houston was coached by Don Louis.

Eastwood(28-3) overcame first half foul trouble once again and blew a 12-point lead and held on to defeat Arlington Sam Houston(24-7) 71-68. The Troopers were sparked by Steve Wohlgemuth who came off the bench with 12 points. After four fouls in the first half, Wohlgemuth re-entered the game and finished with 20 points. Ronnie Newton led Sam Houston with 23 points. Jim Bowden and Darold Molix finished with 16 points apiece. In the other regional semi-finals contest Wichita Falls(24-8) defeated Lubbock Coronado(25-7) 75-72.

In the regional finals Eastwood(28-3) faced the running and pressing Coyote team from Wichita Falls(25-8). Eastwood's size and experience came up big for the Troopers as they bounced the Coyotes from the playoffs 65-44. Steve Wohlgemuth finished with 22 points and Darold Molix hit 20 to lead the way for Eastwood. The great guard play of Jim Bowden and Gilbert Shephard handled the Coyote's press, and the game was never close.

6'2" Eddie Manning of Wichita Falls had a big first half, but only finished with 14 points after Molix returned from a first half ankle injury. "After we put Molix on Manning he shut him out, they didn't seem to know what to do," Lesley explained. It was the first time in eleven seasons that an El Paso team had advanced to the state tournament. The last time was 1965 and El Paso High. Eastwood was trying to become the first team ever from El Paso, other than El Paso High, to win the state championship.

Region II

Plano(23-11)

Dallas Samuel(26-9)

Bryan(30-2) #6

Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-3) #8

Tyler John Tyler(26-4)#9

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

Spring Branch(30-7)

Ft. Worth Southwest(28-6)

Top Five in Region II

6'10"	Alton Lister	Dallas Woodrow Wilson
6'0"	Dennis Gordon	Tyler John Tyler
6'9"	Anthony Lee(soph)	Tyler John Tyler
6'4"	Anthony McMillian	Dallas S.O.C.
6'5"	Rynn Wright	Dallas Roosevelt
6'2"	David Burns	Dallas S.O.C.

Region II had perennial powers Dallas Roosevelt(25-8) and Dallas South Oak Cliff(25-6) waiting to advance once again to Austin. S.O.C made the finals in 1974 and Roosevelt captured state in 1972. Bryan(30-2) could not be overlooked with one of the top teams in the state along with a brilliant sophomore in 6'8" Rudy Woods. Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-3) had a young team led by Coach Robert Hughes and Tyler John Tyler(26-7) was somewhat of a great unknown coming out of East Texas.

Tyler John Tyler(26-4) met Plano(23-11) in Bi-District on their home court at Plano Senior High. Back in the mid-70s, football schools like Plano used the tartan surface on the gym floor instead of hardwood, because you could run

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

Plano's two key players were 6'1" Kent Gaddis(18.0) and 6'3" Ray Nelson(16.0). Gaddis had two brothers who previously played for the Wildcats. Eugene Gaddis and Bobby Gaddis were standouts in 1968 and 1972. 6'3" Brian Davis(13.0), 5'11" Norman Hall(8.0), and 6'3" Allen Pettit(6.0) made up the Wildcats starting lineup. Coach Reggie Davis' Wildcats had done well in their two practice games defeating two strong ball clubs, Richardson High(26-10) and Arlington Sam Houston(27-7). The Wildcats downed Richardson 88-84 and beat Arlington Sam Houston 73-72.

John Tyler(26-3) was paced by the imposing sophomore, 6'8" 240 pound, Anthony Lee(18.5) and a gifted scoring guard 5'11" Dennis Gordon(21.1). This tandem was deadly because they complimented each other so well. The Lions had lost the previous season in the regional finals and were considered stronger because of the addition of Lee. Anthony's older brother, Ronnie, had moved on to play football at Baylor. 6'4" Tony Brown(10.0), 6'1" Tyrone Smith(6.0) and 5'9" Royland Black(4.0) rounded out the starting five. Coach Royce Franklin described Brown as one of the best post in the District and the most underrated player on the team.

The Lions entered District with some very impressive wins. John Tyler(26-3) defeated Waco Richfield 83-62, Corsicana(13-14) twice 59-58 and 59-57, Wilmer Hutchins(23-10) 94-63 and 79-66, Daingerfield(21-6) 74-62, Denton(18-15) 75-71, Sherman 90-83 and Lufkin(21-13) 78-61. John Tyler played in the Dr. Pepper tournament in Dallas before the holiday's but was without their big post, Anthony Lee. Lee was ineligible because he had played with the junior varsity earlier in the season and the U.I.L. set a three-tournament limit. The Lions lost in the first round to Garland High 99-85 in Dallas at the Dr. Pepper Tournament. They came back in the 2nd round and defeated Carrollton R.L. Turner 75-46.

In the Tyler Junior College Tournament Anthony Lee made his presence known with some impressive basketball. Remember, Lee was only a sophomore and was improving with every game. The Lions loss to Wilmer Hutchins(23-10) 85-79 in the opening round and came back and defeated Gladewater 72-57 and District rival Lufkin(21-13) 78-61.

John Tyler(26-4) opened District with a 105-80 win over Texas High(17-11). Texas High was coached by Larry Guinn. Next up for the Lions was one of the most imposing lineups in class 5-A basketball, the Marshall(17-11) Mavericks. 6'7"

Rashern Amie, 6'6" Anthony Burns, 6'6" S.A. Lee and 6'5" Durrell Johnson made up the talented frontline of Marshall. The Lions snuck by the Mavericks with a 73-72 win. Longview(13-16) fell to John Tyler next 58-55.

The Tyler Lee Red Raiders(26-7) were keeping pace with the Lions at 4-0 with a solid win over Marshall(17-11) 75-64. Tyler Lee(26-7) was coached by Ned Fowler, who was in his second season with the Raiders. Tyler Lee finally slipped up against Nacogdoches(14-15) 55-50. Coach Ned Fowler had an impressive line-up made up of 6'4" Virdell Howland, 6'0" Brad Strong, 6'0" DeBoy Johnson, Kenny Graham, 6'6" Don Bright, 6'5" Kelly Cunningham, 6'3" Craig Hudeck, 6'3" Vernon Tirey and 6'5" David Massad.

John Tyler(26-4) continued their winning ways taking down Lufkin(21-13) 72-70, Nacogdoches(14-15) 69-63 and Tyler Lee(26-7) 79-67. The Lions won the first half of District with a 6-0 record. The Blue and Gold opened the 2nd round with a 88-78 win over Texas High(17-11). As the Lions prepared for the matchup against Marshall(17-11) the game took on a special importance following the Mavericks 54-52 win over Tyler Lee(26-7).

John Tyler(26-4) was up to the challenge defeating Marshall(17-11) 79-74 to remain in the District lead. The District changed considerably with the Rebels of Tyler Lee(26-7) losing their second game in the second round to Lufkin(21-13) 52-51. This set-up the second round showdown between John Tyler(26-4) and Lufkin(21-13), who both entered the game unbeaten in the 2nd round of action.

John Tyler(26-4) took care of business downing the Panthers 79-76 and went on to defeat Nacogdoches(14-15) 87-76 and Longview(13-16) 79-75. In the District's last game, Tyler Lee(26-7) was successful in pulling the upset defeating their arch rival the Lions 65-62. The Lions ended up tied with Lufkin for the 2nd round title and having won the first half, advanced to the playoffs.

John Tyler(26-3) had lost their warm-up game against Beaumont French(25-8) 49-47. French's 6'6" B.B. Davis had held the big sophomore of John Tyler to only 11 points and blocked 5 of his shots. Davis was one of the top juniors in the state. In another warmup contest the Lions came away with a win over Daingerfield(21-6) 58-56.

Before the bi-district showdown, Coach Davis of Plano felt that John Tyler was much more imposing than the year before when they beat the Wildcats 72-64. The reason for the statement was obvious, 6'8" sophomore Anthony Lee. Coach Royce Franklin of John Tyler(28-4) was not real confident as he entered the playoffs having lost two of the last three games. "Plano has momentum right now, they have won about 15 games in a row and did a complete turnaround in district this year," Franklin explained. Plano had entered District supporting an 8-10 mark.

Well, the home court for Plano and the Tartan surface made little difference, as John Tyler overcame all obstacles winning 82-75. The difference was Anthony Lee(18.5) inside for the Lions. The big sophomore dominated and took

over in the 2nd half. Plano used two players to try and slow down the big guy and that just wasn't enough as he finished with 26 points and 21 rebounds. His partner in crime was Gordon(22.6), who was left open and finished with 36 points. The combined tandem finished with 62 of their teams 82 points.

Gaddis came away with 25 points for the Wildcats, 18 of which came in the 1st half. Gaddis was in foul trouble the whole 2nd half and this really hurt Plano's chances. The second-best player on the team, Ray Nelson, was knocked out in the 2nd quarter and never regained his competitive edge. He received a broken nose. For Plano, Dwayne Mosley hit 6 points and Tom Quigley and David Little had 4 each.

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

Whenever you talk about Region II you had to talk about the Dallas area and the prolific programs in the Dallas Independent School District. South Oak Cliff(25-6) continued their outstanding teams with a younger version than in past seasons. Underclassmen led the way for the Golden Bears. The names for S.O.C. were all new, 5'7" Cullen Mayfield(13.0), 5'8" Ricky Wiseman, 6'2" David Burns(19.1), 6'3 Arthur Williams and 6'4" Ricky Phillips. All of these newcomers were juniors. 6'4" Anthony McMillian was the only senior contributor for new head man, Coach Euril Henson. Henson had coached David Stallworth of Dallas Madison back in 1960. Jimmy Gales had moved to North Texas State University where he began a pipeline from S.O.C. to the Mean Green. Gales eventually took over as head coach at North Texas. S.O.C. played one of the most formidable schedules in the state defeating, Dallas Roosevelt (26-7) 112-85, 89-82 and 81-75, Dallas Samuel(26-10) 87-64 and 76-75.

Dallas Roosevelt(26-7) had an outstanding team as well, but unfortunately played in the same 12-AAAA District as S.O.C. 6'5" Rynn Wright(24.1), a junior, was one of the top players in the state. Although the Mustangs had a 1-3 record against S.O.C., they were tough on everybody else beating Richardson High(26-10) 71-70 and Arlington(27-8) 57-55.

In the 11-AAAA District playoff between Dallas Samuel(25-9) and Dallas Woodrow Wilson(21-8) the game was played at Forester Field House. An interesting twist was the brother combination leading the two teams. Doug Scott coached the Spartans and Steve Scott was the head man at Woodrow. Both were graduates of Samuel.

Samuel(26-9) came away with a 57-49 victory to win the first District title for Samuel since back to back titles in 1966 and 67. Alton Lister of Woodrow Wilson was one of the top players in the state. At 6'10" he was a very imposing figure on the basketball court. Lister finished with 19 points in the first half but was held down to only five points in the second half. 6'4" Leonard Gibson, 6'3" Bill Walton and 6'2" James Banks did a great defensive job on the big man in the second half. "We did a better job of staying close and sagging back on him," Doug Scott said. Leonard Gibson led the Spartans with 15 points and Alton Lister finished with 24 points to lead Woodrow. Lister was the younger brother of James Lister, who played at Dallas Madison in the late 1960s. He was one of the most celebrated players in Texas during his college career and later played professionally in Europe. James played his college ball at Sam Houston St. from 1970 through 1973. James finished the all-time leading scorer and rebounder with the Bearkats. Alton averaged 24 points, 20 rebounds and 6 blocks his senior year with Woodrow Wilson. "Alton would have averaged four or five points more if he would have been allowed to dunk," Coach Steve Scott said. "He didn't get a lot of exposure statewide because we didn't make the playoffs. Alton was a hard worker and great rebounder and shot blocker."

S.O.C. advanced in the playoffs winning a close Bi-District encounter over Dallas Samuel(26-9) 76-75 in overtime. South Oak Cliff(25-6) trailed for 29 of the 32 minutes during regulation. 5'8" Ricky Wiseman hit four foul shots in the final seconds to give the Golden Bears the City Championship. The crowd at Loos was large and extremely vocal and objects from time to time were thrown onto the floor causing delays. The Spartans cost themselves missing 11 foul shots during the game. A key player for Coach Doug Scott was guard 5'10" Ronny Moore(18.1), who did a great job handling the S.O.C. press all evening.

Cullen Mayfield fouled out with 6:55 left in the game and the Spartans lost their key player, 6'5" Leonard Gibson, with 4:09 remaining. Gibson had already totaled 20 points on the evening. "After Gibson went out S.O.C. started getting more than one-shot at the bucket," Scott said. "We had been out-rebounding them inside."

David Burns finished the evening with 29 points for S.O.C.(25-6) and Wiseman finished with 10 points along with Anthony McMillian's 10 points. Burns scored 9 of his team's final 11 points at the end of regulation.

In District 9-AAAA Ft. Worth Wyatt(24-9) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(28-3) tied for the first half title and Dunbar went unbeaten in the second round winning the

title. Wyatt(24-9) had completely fallen apart late in the season losing four out of five games.

Ft. Worth Dunbar(28-3) had a well-balanced attack led by 6'2" Ricky McCain(14.0) and 6'7" James Griffin(12.0). Other big contributors for Coach Robert Hughes were 5'9" Jeffrey Kirven(10.6), 6'1" Cletus Hubbard(10.1) and 6'2" Michael Watley(9.2). All these main stays for the Wildcats were underclassman except McCain.

O.D. Wyatt(24-9) counted on 6'6" junior Eddie Davis(14.5). Two of the top scorers in District 9-AAAA were both underclassmen, sophomore 6'8" Mike Fennell(20.0) of Ft. Worth Poly and junior Teddy Brigham(19.6). The future looked promising for Ft. Worth basketball in 1976.

Dunbar(28-3) advanced to regionals defeating Ft. Worth Southwest(28-6) 76-61 in Bi-District. The main men for Southwest on the season were David Minor(16.3) and Mike Brownlee(15.6)

Throughout the 1970s the inner-city players seemed to dominate the high school landscape, but an exception to the rule was 1976. Not only did Tyler John Tyler have a multi-talented big man in Lee but Bryan High School did as well in 6'10" Rudy Woods(17.1). The Vikings also had a deep and talented team led by two football players, Curtis Dickey(9.1) and Gerald Carter(15.8). Both were greatly sought after on the football field and were very strong basketball talents as well. Many people, including myself, felt Bryan(29-2) was probably the best team in the state on most days. Going into District action Bryan was thought to be one of the best teams in the state. Other starters for the Vikings were 6'1" James Hunter and 6'0" point guard Kermit Wilson. Their only loss in pre-district action came at the hands of playoff bound Austin Johnston(26-9) 63-61. Bryan(29-2) had impressive wins against Houston Kashmere(21-10) 115-79, Austin Johnston 82-73 and District rival Killeen 85-61.

In District, Bryan(29-2) won the first-round action with an unblemished record, but in the second round the Vikings were upset by Killeen 64-51. The District championship game between Bryan(29-2) and Killeen was set for Heart of Texas Coliseum in Waco.

Things were not going well for Bryan(29-2) in their game against Killeen. The Vikings lost both big men to foul troubles in the 3rd quarter. Woods and 6'5" David Harrett left the game and Bryan picked up the pace and was actually playing better, as they pulled away to a convincing 73-54 win. Point guard Curtis Dickey(9.1) inspired his teammates taking control of the game and finished with 19 points. "Dickey rises to the occasion," Coach Bobby Joe Perry commented. Tank Hunter also finished with 19 points. "I never lost confidence when we lost Woods and Harrett, but I didn't feel too good," an elated Bobby Joe Perry said after the victory. Billy Druery played well in the win and backed up Woods.

The 6'1" 200-pound Curtis Dickey was one of the most impressive athletes you ever wanted to see. He was a world class sprinter and the top running back prospect in the country. I remember watching Dickey at the regional track meet in Denton run the 100-yard dash. After forty years it is still vivid in my memory watching a person that large, move so fast. I think he won the race with a 9.3 time over 100 yards. He was just a tremendous physical specimen. Dickey finished #2 on the all-time rushing list at Texas A&M and was the over-all fifth pick in the N.F.L. draft by the Colts. He also won the NCAA championship in the 60-yard dash for three years running during his time at A&M. His 10.11 in the 100 meters was the sixth fastest time in the world in 1978. Dickey was so awesome on the football field. I remember driving over to the mid-cities to watch his top ranked Viking team play his senior year.

Dickey's teammate at Bryan was another future professional athlete, Gerald Carter. The 6'1" guard was outstanding on the football field as well, playing eight years in the N.F.L. with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. As a wide receiver at Texas A&M, Carter was a 9th round selection in the N.F.L. draft. When you throw in 6'10" Rudy Woods in the mix you have a very talented group of athletes at Bryan High School. Three athletes that not only played division one sports but were professionals on the next level.

In Bi-District, Houston Spring Branch(30-7) awaited Bryan. The Bears won a District playoff game over Spring Woods 56-53 to advance to the playoffs. Spring Branch had advanced to the state tournament in 1973 and were making their third playoff appearance in four seasons. The Bears had a very solid program.

Key players for Spring Branch were 6'1" Mitch Medart(15.0), 6'2" Lemon LeBlanc, 6'4" John Smith, 6'11" Robert Patterson(12.0) and 6'2" Peter Huddleston.

Bryan(30-2) jumped out to a quick lead over Spring Branch and ran off 13 straight points in the 2nd quarter and that was the game. The Vikings led 44-29 at halftime. The Bears of Spring Branch used a 2-3 zone to try and slow down Bryan. Spring Branch's 6'11" post Robert Patterson fouled out with 3:06 remaining in the 3rd quarter. This almost eliminated any chances Spring Branch had of winning the game.

Gerald Carter was having some big games late in the season putting up numbers like 39 and 36 points in critical contest. Carter again was solid with 26 points against the Bears while 6'10" Rudy Woods put in 29 points. The final score read Bryan(31-2) 83 Spring Branch(30-8) 61. With Curtis Dickey and Gerald Carter the Vikings had one of the top backcourts in the state.

*In the **Region II tournament** held in College station, you had one of the more unusual regionals in the state's long history. The region featured three of the best sophomore post the state has ever produced all at the same site. 6'7" James Griffin of Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-3), 6'8" 240-pound Anthony Lee of Tyler John Tyler(27-4) and 6'10" Rudy Woods of Bryan(31-2). It was a basketball fans dream*

come true. Dallas South Oak Cliff(26-6) was the only team of the four without a giant to rely on inside.

The Bryan(31-2)-John Tyler(27-4) clash was greatly anticipated with two of the best young big men in the country going head-to-head. Bryan had a 26-game winning streak snapped by Killeen in District action and John Tyler had lost only four games all season, but two of the previous four games. Garland High(18-12) had taken down the Lions 99-85, Wilmer Hutchins(23-10) beat them 85-79 and Tyler Lee(26-7) downed their cross-town rival 65-62. The Garland loss was played minus Anthony Lee. Remember, the Lions also lost a warm-up contest against Beaumont French 49-47 .

Coach Perry of Bryan revealed that his scouting report called John Tyler(27-4) the best team they had faced all season.

The Vikings came out with another inspired effort taking it to the dazed Lions. At one point Bryan(31-2) was ahead 60-41, which was a 19-point spread. Then things started falling apart for the Vikings. With 27 seconds remaining in the 3rd quarter, 6'10" Rudy Woods left the game because of fouls. With 6:50 left in the game James Hunter(16.1) fouled out and soon after was followed by point guard Curtis Dickey. Still Bryan led 78-69 with 5:42 left in the game.

Bill Druery of the Lions came off the bench and drew a foul with 15 seconds remaining and tied the score, hitting one of two foul shots. With nine seconds remaining Anthony Lee of John Tyler(27-4) took it to the basket and was fouled by Gerald Carter giving him his fifth foul. Lee hit the first but missed the second foul shot, which was rebounded by Tony Brown of John Tyler. Brown immediately put the ball in the basket for a three-point advantage. Leading 86-83 Dennis Gordon of John Tyler stole the inbounds pass and hit another basket making the final 89-83.

Bryan(31-2) had been up 60-45 at halftime and in control till foul trouble decimated the Viking lineup. In the great comeback victory John Tyler(27-4) hit 14 of 15 foul shots. Coach Perry of Bryan commented after the game, "Dickey is our ball handler and quarterback, when he went out, we made a lot of mistakes with the ball." Anthony Lee had a very impressive performance against Rudy Woods. Lee held the talented sophomore to only 10 points, 9 rebounds and 4 blocks in John Tyler's victory. Dickey had 12 points in the first half and Gerald Carter finished with 34 points in the game. The Vikings came up short as Bryan(31-3) could only manage 23 points in the second half. For the Lions of John Tyler(28-4), Anthony Lee finished with 21 points, 20 rebounds and four blocks, while Dennis Gordon hit 28 points. The tandem combined for 47 points.

In the other semi-final contest S.O.C.(26-6) got a one-point victory defeating Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-2) 69-68. With 18 seconds left in the game, David Burns of S.O.C. won a jump ball which was controlled by Cullen Mayfield. Mayfield

drove to the basket and was fouled. The 5'7" junior made both foul shots and with it the game.

6'7" James Griffin of Dunbar had 15 points in the first half, but only managed one shot in the third quarter. Griffin played only sparingly in the fourth quarter. "We started sagging on Griffin and maybe that confused him," Henson said. "Ricky Phillips fronted him for a couple of steals, too."

Dunbar(30-2) could have put the game away with a little over two minutes left. Griffin missed a gimme in close and Ricky McCain missed on the two foul shots with one second remaining and was 0-5 from the line during the game. 6'7" James Griffin finished with 18 points for Dunbar and Marshall added 19 points.

For the Golden Bears, 5'7" Cullen Mayfield finished with 18 points, David Burns had 20 points and Anthony McMillian came away with 15 points. This set up the regional final game between Dallas S.O.C.(27-6) and Tyler John Tyler(28-4).

In the regional finals the Golden Bears were in all too familiar territory, having played in regionals for four straight years and their third regional final. 6'5" Anthony McMillian and 6'6" Leslie Evans, were assigned to cover 6'8" Anthony Lee, much as they had against 6'7" James Griffin of Dunbar in the regional semi-finals game.

Anthony Lee proved to be too much once again hauling in 13 rebounds and 28 points against the Golden Bears. "He's unbelievable to watch," Coach Royce Franklin said, "Anthony did it all today and was one of the main reasons we won."

David Burns and Cullen Mayfield's outside shooting kept S.O.C. in the game as the Bears led at the end of the first quarter 28-25. But by the end of the 3rd quarter the Lions had taken control 77-63. S.O.C. was pressing trying to get back into the game but couldn't come back.

John Tyler(29-4) advanced to the state tournament dropping S.O.C.(27-7) 99-85. Dennis Gordon added 26 points for John Tyler and Quintin Biggs had 16 points and 6'4" Tony Brown followed with 15 points. Cullen Mayfield was 10 for 10 from the foul line and finished with 24 points for the Golden Bears. David Burns followed with 21 points and Arthur Williams had 16 points while Anthony McMillian put up 12 points. S.O.C. finished at 27-7 and John Tyler moved on with a 29-4 mark.

"This was the greatest thrill of my career," Coach Franklin said. "I thought we would win the South Oak Cliff(27-7) game if we could get past Bryan, who I thought was the better team."

Super Sophs of 1976

James Griffin, Ft. Worth Dunbar 6'9"

1976	30-4	#10		Regional Semis	loss South Oak Cliff 69-68
1977	39-2	#2	92.58	State Finals	loss South Oak Cliff 78-71
1978	<u>34-3</u>	<u>#5</u>	<u>88.72</u>	<u>Regional Finals</u>	<u>loss Abilene 76-74</u>
Total	103-9	All-American Basketball W., Street & Smith Freshman of Influence, Adidas All-American Team:			

Signed with the University of Illinois (Career Totals and Best Season Ave)

Started 68/123, Points 1124 (13.6), Rebounds 578 (7.0), Blocks 156 (1.9), FG 51%

NBA Draft #80 overall pick Nets

Anthony Lee, Tyler John Tyler 6'9" 25.9/17.0

1976	30-5	#3	85.95	State Finals	loss Eastwood 74-62
1977	14-14				
1978	<u>12-17</u>				
Total	56-36	All-American Basketball Weekly, Parade All-American:			

Signed Washington State but played two years at McLennan

CC(19.3/14.0/5.3 blocks), Highland Park CC in Detroit, University of Detroit:

Started 10/14, Points 98 (7.0), Rebounds 40 (2.9), Blocks 18 (1.3), 54%

Rudy Woods, Bryan 6'11"

1976	31-3	#4	91.19	Regional Semis	loss John Tyler 89-83
1977	23-7	#20		Regional Semis	loss Tyler Lee 60-48
1978	<u>22-10</u>	<u>#27</u>		<u>District 2nd</u>	<u>Cypress-Fairbanks</u>
Total	76-20	McDonald's All-American, Street & Smith Freshman of Influence:			

Signed with Texas A&M (Career Totals and Best Season Ave)

Started 111/--, Points 1272 (13.9), Rebounds 853 (8.7), Blocks 192 (2.0), FG 62%

NBA Draft #74 overall by the Mavs(Played five years in Europe)

Region III

Houston Waltrip(29-8)

Klein(22-12)

Houston Worthing(22-13)

Houston Milby(22-11)

Galveston Ball(35-6)

Clear Lake(36-3) #1

Beaumont French(25-7)

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(30-4) #10

Top Players in Region III

6'8"	Albert Jones	Houston Worthing
6'5"	Chuck O'Neal	Houston Milby
6'4"	Thad Sanders	Port Arthur Lincoln
6'4"	Steve Sylestine	Clear Lake
6'1"	Kenneth Williams	Houston Milby
6'6"	B.B. Davis	Beaumont French
6'6"	Darnell Roper	Houston Jones
6'5"	Byron Gibson	Houston Jones

The most obvious omission from the Region III playoffs in 1976 was the absence of perennial powers Houston Wheatley(10-23) and Houston Kashmere(21-10). Both the Rams and the Wildcats were regulars since the integration of schools with the U.I.L. in 1968. Wheatley had never missed the playoffs and only missed regionals once in 1974. The Wildcats were regional finalist seven out of the previous eight years and advanced to state six times. Coach Carr and Coach Briggs had four state championships to their credit. Although Kashmere was not as dominant as Wheatley their absence created an enormous void in the playoffs.

Kashmere(21-10) was knocked out of the playoffs with a 74-69 loss to Houston Waltrip(29-8) for the 19-AAAA District championship. The Rams were very youthful after winning 82 straight games the two previous years. Everybody had graduated, including Coach Drew who moved on to New Mexico State. Houston Wheatley(10-23) lost out in District to Houston Jones(32-4) and Houston Milby(22-11).

Houston had some of the closest races in the city's long history of outstanding high school basketball in 1976. The closest and most confusing was in District 17-AAAA. Houston Jones(32-4) captured the first half of District and most followers of high school hoops in Houston felt that Jones was the class of the city.

In the second round of District action several teams had a shot at the title. Houston Milby(22-11), Houston Furr and Houston Sterling were all tied up with 3-1 marks for the second round. The two perennial powers, Wheatley(10-23) and Yates(9-16), were in the bottom half of District. The Wildcats showed their long tradition in pulling a big upset win over Jones 101-94. The loss gave Jones(32-4) two losses in the second round. On the same night, Houston Austin knocked Houston Furr out of first place defeating Furr 102-93. This put the Buffaloes of Milby(22-11) in the driver's seat after their 69-67 victory over Houston Sterling.

In Wheatley's big upset win over Houston Jones(32-4) the Wildcats were led by Alvin Brook's 32 points. Darnell Ropers paced Jones with 21 points, Anthony

Ragling's finished with 20 points and Byron Gibson's canned 19. In Milby's victory over Houston Sterling the game was decided by two steals in the last 29 seconds. Chuck O'Neal had 22 points and Kenneth Williams had 19 points in the Milby(22-11) victory. Steve Mackey led Houston Sterling with 19 points.

Houston Furr had one more shot to get back into the race against Houston Milby to close out the regular season and the second half of District. Houston Milby ended Furr's hopes with a 72-69 win. Chuck O'Neal again led the way with 32 points and Kenneth Williams followed with 17 points. For Houston Furr, Albert Dickey put up 22 points. The win clinched the second half title for the Buffaloes.

Yates(10-16) defeated Wheatley(10-23) 82-79 to end the season for both teams. Losing seasons were very uncommon for both schools. Yates finished a dismal 10-16 mark and 3-9 in District action. Wheatley was not much better finishing 11-24 and 5-7 in District. The Wildcats forfeited several game's(15) because of an ineligible player.

Houston Jones(32-4) and Houston Milby(22-11) met to decide the District championship. In the title game at Jeppeson for the District 17-AAAA title, Milby(22-11) won an exciting 65-57 double overtime victory over Houston Jones. The game knocked Houston Jones(34-6) out of the playoff hunt. The two heroes for Milby were Kenneth Williams clutch shooting and Stephen Saul's 24 points.

Coach Boyce Honea of Milby credited Kenneth Williams with being a critical part of Milby's delay game, which proved to be the difference in the end. Coach Larry Cooper of Houston Jones said following the game, "Saul won that game, we stopped Chuck O'Neal inside, but we didn't stop Saul." The Falcons would not come out of the zone defense when Milby went into their delay game. "I just didn't want to go into a man to man and let O'Neal loose under the basket," Cooper said.

In District 18-AAAA Houston Worthing(22-13) and Houston Lincoln(23-13) ended up deciding the championship. Worthing(36) had captured the first half of District, but the second round had a series of playoffs to decide the winner. Houston Lincoln(23-13) had to beat Houston Lamar(21-11) on Tuesday 74-72 and then Houston Madison on Wednesday 58-56. While Lincoln was scrambling to advance the Worthing(22-13) Colts were well rested. 6'8" All-American Albert Jones of Worthing was ready. Jones was dominating with 20 points and 21 rebounds in his team's 95-88 win over Houston Lincoln(23-13). The Panthers led at halftime 54-48 but ran out of gas. This was Lincoln's third game in three nights. Other scorers for Worthing(22-13) were Kenneth Dawson with 15 points and Fellie Britt with 12. For the Panthers, Fred Brown hit 25 points and Elworth Newsome followed with 23.

The Bi-District match-up between Houston Milby(22-11) and Houston Worthing(22-13) brought together two of the best players in the state. 6'5" Chuck O'Neal of Milby and 6'8" Albert Jones of Worthing were both High School All-Americans. Albert Jones had already won All-American honors as a junior and

O'Neal would have to wait till his senior year to be named a McDonald's All-American.

The game was played at Hofheinz Pavilion and the two players didn't disappoint. O'Neal hit 12 of 19 from the floor and finished with 27 points while Albert "Slab" Jones finished with 26 points and both had 11 rebounds. Oh, Milby came away with the 87-74 win.

Coach Honea said following the game, "Chuck is a great shooter, probably the best percentage shooter in the city. But he does several other things well besides just shooting the ball." Milby never trailed in the game and at one point had a 21-point lead. Honea credited Kenneth Williams with being the key to handling the tough Worthing full court press. "Williams had a lot to do with our beating that press," explained Honea. Williams had some incredible passes that excited the crowd.

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

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

Clear Lake(36-3) was ranked #1 in the state by the TABC rankings which had become much more legitimate. More and more basketball coaches had joined the organization. Whether the Falcons of Coach Bill Krueger had the best team in the state or not is hard to know. What is known about Clear Lake is they played in one of the toughest Districts in the state with Deer Park(30-6) and Pasadena(30-5).

Both teams ranked in the top ten in the state. The Falcons starting lineup was one of the most balanced and team oriented in the state regardless of classification. Krueger had built a program much like he had at Clear Creek and San Marcos before that. Lake was going to have a strong team every season and the 1976 version was his best yet.

The starters included, 6'4" Warren Sliger(17.5), 6'5" Steve Sylestine(14.5), John Hidders(12.1), junior 6'7" Rex Johnston(11.8), and Danny Jones. Sliger, Sylestine and Hidders were all named 1st team All-District and Johnston and Jones

were named to the 2nd team. Playing one of the most competitive schedules in the state, Clear Lake averaged 70.5 points per game while giving up 52.1 points.

During the regular season Lake had defeated an impressive group of victims, Houston Milby(24-12) 60-56, Houston Worthing(22-14) 75-73, Dallas South Oak Cliff(27-7) 91-76, regional finalist Pt. Arthur Lincoln(32-5) 53-50, state ranked Pasadena(33-5) 50-43 and 80-67. They also split with District rival Deer Park 78-72 and lost 66-53. Others losses included LaMarque(17-18) 57-55 and Klein(26-13) 60-56.

Coach Krueger's troops faced Galveston Ball(35-6) in Bi-District at Hofheinz Pavilion on the campus of the University of Houston. Ball cancelled a warm-up game against Pt. Arthur Lincoln, so other teams would not be able to scout them too much and put them at a disadvantage. Ball entered the contest with a 36-5 record while Clear Lake had a 36-3 mark.

Galveston Ball(36-5) was led by 6'0" Darrell Mitchell, the best pure shooter on the team, 6'5" junior June Washington and junior 5'10" point guard Michael Venible. The top defensive performer for Ball was 6'1" Lavan Cooper. 6'6" junior Andrew Johns was critical against Clear Lake for controlling the boards.

Clear Lake(36-3) defeated the Tornadoes(36-5) 49-46 to advance to regionals even though they scored one field goal in the fourth quarter. Ball gained the lead 46-45 with 2:57 remaining. John Hinnars of Lake came up with a critical steal and a basket to put the Falcons back on top. Lake's Steve Sylestine hit two free throws for the final margin of victory.

Clear Lake hit seven of eight free throws in the critical fourth quarter. Despite 25 turnovers the Falcons dominated the backboards 45-35. Ball committed only 14 turnovers. "We've certainly played better ball games this year," Coach Krueger said. Clear Lake was 15 of 28 from the foul line and the Tors hit only two of seven.

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

Port Arthur Lincoln(30-4) Bumblebees were one of the leading teams in the state throughout the 1970s. Their 1976 squad may have been their best team during the decade, although many would argue that the 1973 and 1974 teams were every bit as talented, led by All-American Earl Evans. Coach James Gamble returned only two starters back from his 1975 District championship team, 6'4" Thad Sanders and 6'2" Ronald Trahan. In discussing Sanders, Coach Gamble said, "He was a great all-around player who I had for four years, good defender." When the old coach was asked about Trahan years later, he commented, "Outstanding player, well rounded, nice all-around game." Trahan signed with U.T.E.P. after high school but was dismissed from the team after an altercation of some kind. He was another three-year starter for the Bumblebees.

Coach Gamble stated in the pre-season that with his tallest player only 6'4" that they would have difficulty inside against any real size. Because of the team's lack of depth, Lincoln had to limit their pressing in 1976.

Gamble had an impressive record of 260-125 at Lincoln dating back to 1963. Since integration, Lincoln had won six District titles in eight seasons. The loss of Gregory Keller(18.8) and Harold Dennis(12.3) was going to be tough to replace according to Gamble. As a junior, Sanders averaged 15.5 and 14.8 rebounds and was considered an all-state candidate. Trahan averaged 16.8 as a junior.

The Beaumont Tournament was a great test for Lincoln with two undefeated teams in the field along with Lincoln's 8-1 mark. Clear Lake(36-3) came in at 9-0 and Beaumont French(25-7) stood at 6-0. In the semi-finals Pt. Arthur Lincoln(30-4) defeated Beaumont French(25-7) 49-46 and in the finals lost to Clear Lake(36-3) 52-50.

Coach Gamble went into the hospital for a prolonged period of time for a virus infection during this period. In his absence, his capable assistant, Dick Williams took the helm and guided the Bumblebees to a big win against Houston Wheatley(23-15) on their home court 101-88. Although this was the only time during the decade Wheatley failed to make the playoffs, it was none the less a big win. PA Lincoln(30-4) split with one of the top teams in Louisiana, Lake Charles Boston, losing 103-90 and winning 82-78. Boston was powered by All-American David Lawrence.

In the Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson tournament, PA Lincoln(30-4) took out Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson 87-71. PA Jefferson had earlier defeated Spring Branch Memorial(24-10) 89-81 in overtime.

In District competition, Pt. Arthur Lincoln entered the '76 season with a 40 game District winning streak dating back several seasons. As the regular season ended, Thad Sanders put up some incredible numbers with 19.8 points and 16.2 rebounds. Ronald Trahan hit 17.3 points per game and 13.6 rebounds while Eddie Whitley had some impressive numbers as well going 11.1 and 10.5. Jackie Mann averaged 9.1 per game and Chester Allen hit 11.0 points per game. The Bumblebees had five players averaging in double figures and almost six. Lincoln averaged an impressive 80.8 per game and allowed 62.0 for an 18.8-point differential.

The numbers put Port Arthur Lincoln(30-4) as the #1 offensive team in the state just beating out Victoria(36-4). The Bumblebees also came away with the 2nd best point differential behind Bryan at +21.6. After taking a beating by the Bumblebees of Lincoln, Nederland coach Johnny Cole commented, that he felt this was the quickest Lincoln team he's seen and probably the best shooters as a group. "I don't know that they're better than when Earl Evans played, but this bunch can do a few things the other ones couldn't."

One of the most intense rivalries in the state occurred in the Golden Triangle area between Beaumont and Pt. Arthur. The two school Districts were in separate Districts from 1969 to 1976. After that they were combined into the same District. The rivals met every season in Bi-district.

In 1969 Pt. Arthur Lincoln defeated Beaumont Charlton-Pollard 69-67 in overtime. The 1970 Bi-District game pitted Pollard against Pt. Arthur Jefferson with Pollard winning 61-59. Beaumont Hebert won the District title in 1971 and lost to PA Lincoln 63-55. Beaumont Pollard defeated Lincoln in the '72 campaign 76-69 and the Bumblebees reversed the decision defeating Beaumont Pollard 75-65 in 1973. Pt. Arthur Lincoln continued their winning in 1974 taking a 80-78 victory. Beaumont Pollard won the 1975 match-up between the two schools 65-51.

The 1976 representative for District 21-AAAA was Beaumont French(26-7) and they faced off against perennial power Pt. Arthur Lincoln(30-4). The Bumblebees had advanced to the regional tournament four out of the previous seven years. It was French's first trip to the playoffs in ten years, which was before integration. Pt. Arthur Lincoln held three regular season victories over French.

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(30-4) and Beaumont French(26-7) offered a great deal of contrast in styles. The Bees were a fast paced up tempo team that averaged 96 points per game in District action while French(26-7) was very deliberate, shooting only when a good shot presented itself. With 6'7" B.B. Davis in the middle for French, the slowdown tactics enabled the Buffs to get him the ball on a more consistent basis. French Coach, Dick Hastings, said this was the finest Pt. Arthur Lincoln(30-4) team he had seen. Coach James Gamble was in agreement.

The Bumblebees heart and soul centered around a trio of 6'4" Thad Sanders(20.6), 6'2" Ronald Trahan(19.2) and 6'3" Eddy Whitley(18.6). The trio's numbers improved in District action. The key to Lincoln's success had been point guard, 5'10" Chester Allen. Allen suffered a knee injury earlier in the season and was still not back to 100 percent. Coach Hastings of Beaumont French(26-7) felt the game must be a low scoring affair for his team to have a chance.

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(30-4) had to overcome three technical fouls, an eight-point deficit, to advance to regionals. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(30-4) took down Beaumont French(26-7) 58-52. Seven of the 22 Lincoln field goals came on layups after French turnovers. French also lost the battle of the boards 31-19. Ronald Trahan(19.2) and Jackie Mann(9.1) were leading scorers for the Bees with 14 points apiece, while B.B. Davis finished with 16 points for French. Trahan, who was named the 22-AAAA Most Valuable Player, was also the leading rebounder with 11. Eddy Whitley, the Kansas State-bound football player, did a great job on defense against B.B. Davis. Davis missed 10 shots and had 4 turnovers.

PA Lincoln(30-4) point-guard, Skeeter Eli, ended up being the hero for the Bumblebees. After going one of nine from the floor, he hit five of six from the foul line in the last 1:29 of the game. As for the technical fouls, Gamble commented,

"I've never had a team get that many in one game since I've been coaching." Lincoln's Thad Sanders admitted that B.B. Davis intimidated him a little on defense and said he was a fine player, but not in the class of former Lincoln standout Earl Evans, who had graduated in 1974.

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

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

Most observers were thinking the **regional semi-final** game between Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-4) and Clear Lake(37-3) pitted the two best teams in the state against one another. "Clear Lake's always been tough and probably always will be," Coach Gamble noted. "Krueger has the finest overall program in Texas, and I'd have to think one of the best in the nation." Krueger's teams had won 15 District titles and 12 Bi-District championships over the previous 17 years. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-4) and Clear Lake(37-3) were two perennial powers who had been overshadowed by the Houston Wheatley and Houston Kashmere dynasties over the previous seasons. The Bumblebees only advanced to the regional finals once before and that was in 1973 when they were bounced by Wheatley. Clear Lake showed a vulnerability to the press in its 49-46 Bi-District win against Galveston Ball. The Falcons had turned the ball over 25 times. Against PA Lincoln that could be a problem.

Thad Sanders of Pt. Arthur Lincoln hit some pressure foul shots late to give Lincoln(30-4) a 63-60 win over the top ranked Clear Lake(37-3). Coach Gamble had won a career 293 games, but none bigger than the win over Bill Krueger and Clear Lake. "Considering the fact, we were playing the state's #1 ranked team, what was at stake and who I was coaching against, I'd have to rank this as the most satisfying victory since I've been at Lincoln," Gamble noted.

Nobody led by more than six points during the hotly contested game. Lincoln's two-star players, Thad Sanders(20.6) and Ronald Trahan(19.2) were both in foul trouble throughout the game. Lincoln did not use their pressing defense in the first half but caused several turnovers in the second half using the press. The Falcons were ahead 47-45 at the end of three quarters and Coach Gamble was feeling pretty good with Trahan on the bench. Thad Sanders played the fourth

quarter with four fouls and ended up high scorer with 16 points. Eddie Whitley(18.6) followed with 14 points and Ronald Traham finished with 13. Sander's was the game's leading rebounder with nine, as Lincoln out rebounded Clear Lake 24-17.

Although the Bumblebees were able to hold 6'5" Steve Sylestine(14.5) to only eight points, Warren Sliger(17.5) finished with 21 points. John Hinners(12.1) hit 20 points from the outside for Clear Lake. "If we were going to get beat, we wanted somebody other than Sylestine and Sliger to be responsible," Gamble said. Krueger said years later that Sylestine had been sick and lost 15 pounds prior to the game which explained his eight-point output. In the two teams first encounter he had laced the nets for 30 points.

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-4) faced the winner of the Houston Milby(23-11)-Houston Waltrip(30-7) game in the regional finals. The Buffaloes had a very deceptive record at 23-11. They played without one or more starters for a 20-game stretch during the season. Milby's record at one point of the season was an unimpressive 12-9.

Sparked by "super junior", 6'5" Chuck O'Neal, Milby had won 11 of 13 games. Waltrip(30-7) boasted a pair of fine post, 6'7" Jeff Kelly and 6'7" Gary Schramm. Waltrip won the first half of District and defeated Kashmere in a District playoff game to advance into the playoffs.

Chuck O'Neal's(37) 26 points propelled Milby(23-11) past Waltrip(30-8) and into the regional finals against Pt. Arthur Lincoln(32-4). The Buffaloes broke a 24-24 tie and took control of the contest 42-28 behind 18 points from Stephen Saul and 14 from Juice Williams. The final score was a lopsided 66-51 victory for Milby(23-11). Waltrip(30-7) only had four players in the scoring column. Gary Schramm had 20 points and Jeff Kelly had 17 for Waltrip.

Only Houston Milby(23-11) stood in the way of Pt. Arthur Lincoln(32-4) and its first state tournament bid. Chuck O'Neal of Milby was arguably the best all-around player in Houston, even as a junior. When he got hot, he was a very hard player to stop. If you put someone small on him, he could take them inside, and if you put a big on him, he would move away from the basket. If you doubled him, he was surrounded by shooters. After playing the emotional game against Clear Lake(37-4) in the morning it would be hard for Pt. Arthur Lincoln to reload for the evening contest against Milby(23-11).

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

Against Milby(23-11) in the **regional finals** foul trouble once again plagued Pt. Arthur Lincoln(32-4). Thad Sanders was a key performer and spent almost half the game on the bench because of fouls. "Having Thad sit out for that long killed us," Coach Gamble said. For Milby(23-11) it was Chuck O'Neal's show

finishing with 34 points. He hit 20 in the first half, going nine of twelve from the floor, to give the Buffaloes a 10-point halftime lead. Within the first two minutes of the 3rd quarter, the Bees made a run at Milby 44-39. The Buffaloes went to four corners in the fourth quarter and the closest PA Lincoln(32-4) could get was six points. The final read, Houston Milby 75 and Pt. Arthur Lincoln 69.

Stephen Saul was second high scorer for Milby and the Buffaloes were 17 of 21 from the foul line. Milby(23-11) won the regional championship for the first time since 1959. Chuck O’Neal’s 34 points almost broke the regional scoring record set by Eddie Owens of Houston Wheatley at 37. O’Neal was 16 of 22 from the field and hit eight of his first ten shots.

Coach Honea explained the team’s success,“ I think our four-corner offense was a key to both games,” Honea said. “If we can get one on one with Kenneth Williams, we think we can score. Williams is very good at penetrating. Of course, Chuck’s shooting and the rebounds of Stephen Saul helped.” Saul finished with 20 points and Juice Williams pitched in 12 points. Ronald Trahan was the leading scorer for Lincoln with 20 points and tied Eddie Whitley as leading rebounder with nine.

Region IV

San Antonio Highlands(28-9)

Austin Johnston(26-8) #20

Corpus Christy Moody(31-4) #17

San Antonio Fox Tech(22-14)

San Antonio Burbank(25-10)

Victoria(33-3) #15

Mission

San Antonio Holmes(26-8)

Top Five in Region IV

6’5”	Charles Tryon	Corpus Christi Moody
6’6”	Micah Owens(19.3)	San Antonio Jefferson
6’4”	Anthony King	Victoria
6’1”	Billy Bailey	San Antonio McCollum
	Ronnie Kubenka	Victoria Stroman
6’10”	Gilbert Salinas	San Antonio Burbank

Victoria(33-3) and Corpus Christi Moody(31-4) looked like the cream of the crop in Region IV. Victoria returned four starters and ten lettermen from a District runner-up squad in 1975. Coach Mike Smith felt like he had so much talent that he would platoon players five in at a time and press the entire game. Every four minutes a new group was subbed into the game. Coach Smith felt the strength of the team was its depth. The Stingarees returned four All-District players, 6’4” Anthony King, 6’5’ Charles Spurlin, 6’5” Phil Durrett and 6’3” Danny Webster.

Victoria(33-3) opened the season against powerhouse Houston Jones(35-5) in Houston. It was one of the best efforts of the season for the Stingaree’s as they defeated Houston Jones(35-5) 101-100. Jones finished the season as the #2 team in the state polls, ahead of Victoria.

Austin Reagan was next for the Stingarees as Victoria(33-3) had another big win 83-63. For Coach Smith, his team's first loss of the season came against Corpus Christi Carroll 69-68.

In the semi-finals of the Victoria Invitational the Stingaree's defeated arch-rival Victoria Stroman 79-60. In the finals, Victoria(33-3) dropped Houston Jones(35-5) a second time 82-80. These two victories spoke volumes about the talent on Coach Smith's team. Jones finished 35-6 on the season and two of those losses were to Victoria. Houston Jones was paced by junior, 6'1" Anthony Raglin(24.5) and 6'5" Byron Gibson.

In another big test for Victoria the always tough Wildcats of Houston Wheatley challenged the Stingarees like few teams could. The game was played in Houston. The Wildcats won a decisive victory 113-95, but later had to forfeit the victory because of using an ineligible player. Wheatley finished 23-15 on the season, but when you count the forfeits the Wildcats had a losing record. In a return match against Wheatley on their home court, Victoria had another impressive win defeating the Wildcats 106-69. This broke the old-school record of 102 points set in 1970.

Victoria's second loss of the season came against Galveston Ball(35-7) 90-71. Inside, Ball was too strong with 6'6" June Washington and 6'6" Andrew Johns. June Washington finished with 28 points while Andrew Johns totaled 18 points. Victoria had no chance on the glass against Ball. Ball had beat Wheatley(23-15) earlier in the season but lost to Houston Jones(35-5). Coach Smith called the loss, "This was our worst effort of the season."

Coach Smith was going after his third District title in four seasons after taking over the reigns for Jack Cook. Cook became the athletic director after stepping down as head basketball coach. Nobody was really close to Victoria in District except their rival, Victoria Stroman(20-11). Stroman upset Victoria High in the 1st half match-up 71-66 and the Stingarees bounced back in the 2nd round 66-59 to force a District playoff game. Victoria won a close one 65-63 and with it the District championship. Coach Smith varied from his two-platoon system using only seven players against Stroman. He resumed his platoon system once the playoffs began. Smith said after the game, "They are the best shooting team we've played."

In Bi-District Victoria was playing Austin Johnston(26-7) at Texas Lutheran College in Seguin. Johnston at 26-7, averaged 65.6 points per game and gave up 58.1 points on the season. The school from Austin was very physical with three of the top six players signing football scholarships with Tulsa University. Johnston's starting lineup included 6'6" David Falkquay(14.3), 6'3" Frank Wilson(14.3), 6'3" Robert Tennon(11.2), 5'11" Darrell Collins(14.6), 5'11" Johnny Saldana(4.6) and coming off the bench another strong inside player 6'5" Barry Crayton. Johnston(26-7) had split with Bryan(30-2) during the regular season. Remember the Vikings were one of the top teams in the state.

Victoria(34-3) countered with 6'4" Anthony King(13.4), 6'3" Danny Webster(12.1), 6'5" Charles Spurlin(10.3), 6'5" Phil Durrett(10.0), 6'2" Mark Mallett. In second group for the Stingarees were 6'1" Mike Brown, 6'5" George English, 6'4" Jimmy Sandburg, 6'2" Jody Norris and 5'9" Steve Thompson. Victoria dominated Austin Johnston(26-7) and advanced to regionals 73-52.

In the Bi-District round San Antonio Burbank(25-10) defeated San Antonio Highlands(28-9) 60-53, Corpus Christi Moody(31-4) beat Mission 60-57 and San Antonio Fox Tech(22-14) dropped San Antonio Holmes(26-8).

On the San Antonio All-City team, San Antonio Highlands placed 6'5" John Bowens(19.4) on the first team along with 6'11" Gilbert Salinas(15.1) of San Antonio Burbank. 6'1" Jack Imselmann(17.8) of S.A. Holmes was also named to the first unit. Other players who played in the state playoffs that were named to the 2nd and 3rd teams were 6'5" Rudy Perez(18.8) of Burbank, 6'3" Greg Blye(18.3) of Fox Tech and 6'1" Edgar Evans(12.9) of Highlands. The M.V.P. of the City was 6'1" Billy Bailey(25.9) of San Antonio McCollum.

At regionals San Antonio Burbank(26-10) awaited Victoria(34-3) with an impressive frontline of 6'11" junior Gilbert Salinas and 6'5" Rudy Perez(18.8). Size had always created problems for Victoria. Burbank(26-10) also liked to use a slow half court offensive attack which was going to be a big problem. Coach Earl Meyer of Burbank had a very controlled attack centered around his big boy, Salinas. Burbank liked the scores in the 40s or 50s so something would have to give against the high scoring Stingarees.

Regionals were played at the S.A. Blossom Athletic Center at noon with the regional championship game played that evening. San Antonio Burbank(26-10) ran a 2-3 zone with Salinas in the middle. Victoria was held to their lowest scoring output of the season but still managed to win 44-34. The Stings had a five-point lead 39-34 with 58 seconds remaining with the game still in doubt. Anthony King hit a layup to push the lead to 41-34. Salinas had gotten into foul trouble with 7:47 remaining in the 2nd quarter and was limited in playing time. Once again, the scoring was totally balanced for Victoria.

In the **regional finals** against Corpus Christi Moody(32-4), Victoria(35-3) faced one of the strongest players of the season in 6'5" Charles Tryon. C.C. Moody(32-4) had won a close one over San Antonio Fox Tech(22-14) 62-61 in the semi-finals. Tryon dominated in the finals while in the game, playing only 13 minutes and scoring 23 points against Victoria. He fouled out with 3:35 remaining in the third quarter. C.C. Moody(32-4) had a 13-point lead in the first half over Victoria and led at halftime 42-35. Charles Moore carried Moody with 18 points with Tryon out of the game. The Stings were balanced in their scoring attack winning 72-65. Anthony King led the team on the boards. With the win Victoria(35-3) celebrated a trip to Austin and the State Tournament.

State Tournament

Houston Milby	(25-11)		71.6-68.5	+ 3.1	
Tyler John Tyler	(29-4)	#9	77.6-69.1	+ 8.5	PR 85.95
El Paso Eastwood	(29-3)	#14	67.7-53.6	+14.1	PR 90.23
Victoria	(36-3)	#15	80.6-65.4	+15.2	PR 83.12

Top Players at the State Tournament

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

As discussed earlier the 1976 season was fun because several new teams emerged as the top programs in the state. Most coaches traveled to the tournament feeling there was no clear-cut favorite. Most knowledgeable fans felt Houston Milby(25-11) would be the odds on favorite coming out of what was viewed as the toughest region. The atmosphere made for a great tournament at Gregory Gym on the campus of the University of Texas.

In Austin, El Paso Eastwood faced the running and pressing outfit from Victoria(37-3). Victoria was a senior dominated team. Seven of their top ten players were returning from the previous season. The Stingarees had eclipsed the 100-point total four times during the season and were one of the top offensive teams in the state with 80.6 per game. During his four seasons at the helm, Coach Mike Smith of Victoria had won three District titles. "We play ten players and this team has the most depth that we have had." Victoria had a very balanced scoring attack with four players in double figures, Anthony King, Danny Webster, Phil Durrett and Charles Spurgin.

"They're a solid ball club. We like having to play them first. It'll be good experience," Coach Bobby Lesley of Eastwood said. Coach Lesley also said Victoria's glaring weakness was a lack of outside shooting. "Victoria is a lot like us," Coach Lesley continued, "We do like to run and shoot when we get the opportunity and as for the press, we play Hobbs, New Mexico every year and they live by the press. We beat Hobbs twice this year pretty handily in New Mexico and by 19 points at our place and were able to beat their press."

Eastwood was making its first trip to Austin and traveled 600 miles riding almost two days on buses. "Actually, we should have made it two years ago," said the outspoken Coach Lesley. "Denton beat us in the regional finals, and we thought we had the club that could get here." Although the Troopers were very stubborn on the defensive end of the court, they had three double digit scorers in Jim Bowden, Steve Wohlgemuth and junior Tim Crenshaw.

Many observers believed Victoria should be the tournament favorite, but others believed Houston Milby(25-11) had to be the favorite. The reason was simple. The team that had come out of Houston had won seven of the previous eight 4-A state titles. "I think Milby is the team to beat," Tyler coach Royce Franklin said. "Milby has a much better team than its record indicates," Franklin continued. When you can win the district they're in you've done something. We have got to get a great performance out of Gordon and Lee," Franklin said. "They've brought us this far and I believe they can take us all the way but they're not the only ones."

Milby came into Austin on a burst of emotion. Although they had lost several games early in the season, they were rolling by the time they arrived in the state capital. "Injuries kept us from putting a solid starting unit on the floor until we got into District," Coach Boyce Honea said about his team's up and down season. Coach Honea of Milby commented about his preferred state tournament opponent saying, "I'd rather play El Paso in the first game than either John Tyler or Victoria."

Many experts felt Houston Jones(35-6) would be the representative from Region III, but Milby(25-11) came together at the right time. Milby lost twice to Jones in District but captured the District title in a playoff against Houston Jones(35-6). You could call them Cinderella if you like. The Buffaloes were picked fourth in District behind Jones, Wheatley and Furr. Milby's tallest player was 6'5" O'Neal. Honea described his unit as a team of great shooters who love to run and gun. "We're a real small team as basketball teams go and we rely heavily on the outside shot." Milby ran a free-lance offense and was not concerned about working the ball inside. O'Neal led the charge for the Buffaloes and averaged 25.0 points a game. Kenneth "Juice" Williams(18.0) was only 6'1" but went on to make All-SWC at the University of Houston. Williams was a key player along with 6'2" Stephen Saul(19.5), 6'3" Bibby Rhode(8.0) and 5'7" Eddie Hernandez(7.0). "Rhodes is a superb defensive player and he usually draws the toughest play to guard," Honea said. "They were both(Williams and O'Neal) hurt early in the season and that held us back," said Honea. O'Neal suffered a separated shoulder and Williams had to overcome a broken wrist. "Once we started the District though everybody was healthy, and we developed well." "Momentum is a very important factor in the state tournament," said Mike Smith of Victoria. "All indications are that Milby is at its peak right now."

With all the hoop-la about Houston Milby(25-11) and Victoria(36-3), a team that could not be overlooked was Tyler John Tyler(29-4) with super-sophomore 6'9" Anthony Lee(20.0/15.0). Lee came from a family of athletes with his brother Earnest playing football at Texas and his other brother Ronnie playing at Baylor. The Lions also had a terrific guard in Dennis Gordon(25.0). The Lions were coached by Royce Franklin, who spoke very highly of his prize sophomore saying, "I'll guarantee you there aren't any better in the state than Anthony. He's

not real quick, but he's smooth in his moves, real coordinated and he has a great shooting touch."

Joining Dennis Gordon and Anthony Lee in the starting lineup were 5'8" Eloys Bowser(10.0), 6'0" Quintin Biggs(10.0), and 6'4" Tony Brown(10.0). Off the bench came some talented subs, 6'0" Tyrone Smith, 5'8" Royland Black, and 6'0" Ricky Collier. Coach Franklin called Collier the best 6'0" post in the state.

The Lions liked to press and drop back into a zone defense as well as man to man defense. John Tyler(29-4) only returned one starter from their 1975 campaign, so they were shocked to be playing in the state tournament. The Lions had lost in the regional finals to Ft. Worth Paschal during the '75 season. The Lions shocked everybody in regional action by coming back from 21 points down to beat Bryan(30-2).

In an exciting overtime classic, El Paso Eastwood(29-3) advanced to the state finals beating Victoria 69-67. Foul trouble once again plagued Eastwood throughout the game. At one point the Troopers had a 15-point lead only to see it disappear. The Troopers dominated play in the first half but gave up 19 straight points to Victoria(36-3) in the third quarter and the Stingarees took a four-point lead over Eastwood(29-3). Anthony King was the star for Victoria scoring 18 points of his game high 30 points in the second half. Although Coach Mike Smith had used the platoon system all season, he did not take King out of the lineup. The 6'4" senior was too valuable.

Gilbert Shepherd of Eastwood hit a 17-footer with two seconds remaining in regulation to send the game into overtime 65-65. In overtime, Darold Molix and Jim Bowden hit the winning baskets for the Troopers to advance. Victoria's Charles Spurlin came up with a rebound off a missed free throw with two seconds left but came up short on the put back. Charles Spurlin was fouled on the put back. Spurlin missed the first foul shot and then missed the second one on purpose. Eastwood got the rebound and with it a ticket to the state finals 69-67. Phil Durrett had 18 points and Charles Spurlin collected 11 points for Victoria.

For Eastwood(30-3), Tim Crenshaw had 18 points, Steve Wohlgemuth pumped in 18 points, Darold Molix finished with 12 points, Jim Bowden hit 11 and Gilbert Shepherd followed with 6 points. Victoria placed three players in double figures while Eastwood had four. Attendance was set at 4,500.

In the other state semi-final game, Tyler John Tyler(29-4) advanced by defeating Houston Milby(25-11) 76-69. At one point, Houston Milby(25-11) trailed John Tyler 69-51 with 3:45 left in the game. Milby rallied to a 73-67 comeback. O'Neal could not be stopped for Milby and ended up with 30 points going 14 of 29 from the floor. John Tyler countered with a tremendous scoring combo of Anthony Lee with 19 points, 15 rebounds and 3 blocks while Dennis Gordon finished with 17 points. Quintin Briggs came away with 15 points and Tony Brown added 14.

“Tyler’s size, our turnovers and their offensive rebounds, which go back to their size, were the key factors in the game,” Coach Royce Honea said after the game. “We just couldn’t match’em in height. I think if we could have ever got ahead and made them play our game, we could have won. But we could never get in front, even early, and had to run all the game. That’s not what we wanted.”

Milby(25-11) had 10 turnovers in the first half giving John Tyler 10 points. Honea conceded, “But Tyler has a good team. When we got something going, especially there late, they came right back with a key basket. They got so many second and third shots.”

John Tyler(29-4) led 52-44 at halftime. Coach Honea remarked, “They’ve got some good shooters and they’re quicker than I thought.” The Buffaloes only had four players score. “Juice” Williams hit 24, Stephen Saul hit 9 points and Eddie Hernandez had 6. Tyler on the other hand put five players in double figures.

*In the **state championship** game El Paso Eastwood(30-3) continued their consistent play defeating Tyler John Tyler(30-4) 74-62. The Troopers were paced by Gilbert Shepherd and his 19 points, followed by Tim Crenshaw with 18 points, Jim Bowden put up 14 points, Darold Molix had 12 and Steve Wohlgeomuth finished with 11 points.*

The Troopers won playing a sagging defense against 6’9” Anthony Lee, who had 19 points and only six in the second half. Dennis Gordon was held to his tournament low with only 13 points. Anthony Lee could only manage 11 rebounds during the contest, well below his average. “Maybe we will get some respect now. No one thinks El Paso schools are any good. You say you’re from El Paso and they turn up their noses like your no good. Not anymore,” Coach Bobby Lesley said.

“We took too many bad shots,” said Tyler coach Royce Franklin, “And Eastwood(30-3) also made us take longer passes late in the game and picked them off.” “Then, when we were down by three, we had a real good opportunity, tipped up the ball four or five times and it just wouldn’t drop. That might have changed things, too.”

Coach Bobby Lesley of Eastwood said his team never departed from their fundamentals. “We got down here by executing and we did everything against Tyler that we had thought we could do,” said Lesley. “We used a combination zone defense on Lee and took their outside people man-to-man,” said Lesley. “Lee is a super player, but we’ve faced good big ones all year. The kid from Victoria is no slouch.”

John Tyler had forced Milby into 17 turnovers but could only force Eastwood into nine. “We decided to take our offense inside at the half trying to get Lee and Brown in foul trouble,” Lesley said.

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

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

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

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

Only six players were named to both teams. I think you see the problem with the TABC All-State team, if your coach failed to nominate you, then you were left off the team. It is insane, but they wanted coaches to be part of their organization. Albert Jones was clearly All-American, named to almost everybody's team yet the TABC failed to name him All-State. Hard to take their All-State team

seriously with this type of oversight. Albert Jones was the player of the year in my opinion. Also, Bryan may have had the top team in the state in 1976 and not one player was placed on the All-State teams. 6'1" guard Gerald Carter(18.2) was putting up 30 points a game late in the season for the Vikings. He should have been selected as All-State.

Recruits: The top recruit in the state by far was 6'7" **Albert "Slab" Jones** of Houston Worthing, who played at New Mexico State. Jones had an outstanding college career. "Slab" finished 2nd on the all-time scoring list with 1,758 points and averaged 15.4 points over his career with the Aggies. He was All-Missouri Valley for three straight seasons. He was also named to the school's All-Century team. He was the 106th pick by the Rockets. 6'10" **Alton Lister** of Dallas Woodrow Wilson signed with San Jacinto J.C. because of grades and later moved on to Arizona State. Alton was the 21st pick of the Bucks and had a long N.B.A. career. His senior year with the Sun Devils his team finished 24-4 and ranked #4 in the nation. He was inducted into the Arizona St. Hall of Fame in 2000. He averaged 15.7 points his senior year and 9.7 rebounds. Lister was a member of the 1980 USA Olympic basketball team that boycotted the games in Moscow. Lister served as assistant coach on Mike Woodson's Atlanta Hawks staff in 2007. 6'4" **Phil Hale** of South Grand Prairie was very heavily recruited and played at S.M.U. 6'6" **Micah Owens**(19.3) of S.A. Jefferson also went to New Mexico St. and was a starter, 6'3" **Carl Webb**(16.9) of El Paso Andress joined Owens and Jones at New Mexico State. 6'1" **Kenneth "Juice" Williams**(18.1) of Milby played at Houston and was All-SWC averaging 19.6 per game. He was a late round draft pick of the Mavs(#194). **Steve Sylvestine** of Clear Lake signed with Texas A&M. **Warren Sliger** of Lake went to Sam Houston and **Mark Davis** of North Mesquite joined Hale at S.M.U. 6'7" **Bobby Forest**(30.0) of F.W. Nolan traveled to Rice. **Jim Bowden** of Eastwood continued the pipeline to UTEP. 6'5" **Jim Vaszauskas** of Lamesa committed to Baylor as did 6'6" **Julio Gallardo**(29.8/13.5) of E.P. Ysleta. Gallardo played for Western New Mexico, Western Texas Junior College and Baylor. He played professionally in Mexico and Puerto Rico as well as being part of the Mexican National Team. He scored 22 points against the U.S.A. in the 1983 Pan American games. 6'3" **John Mott** of Houston Bellaire to Rice, 6'4" **Thad Sanders** of PA Lincoln played four seasons with the Red Raiders of Texas Tech. 6'5" **Byron Gibson** of Houston Jones traveled to the University of Houston; Gibson's son is Daniel Gibson who paced Jones to the 2004 Class 4-A state basketball championship and later played in the N.B.A. with the Cavs. 6'6" **Darnell Roper** of Houston Jones signed with Houston. 6'7" **Jeff Kelley**(13.1/11.7) of Houston Waltrip went to Houston but later played for Texas State, where he was team M.V.P. his senior year; 6'6" **Gary Schramm**(21.6/11.7) of Houston Waltrip signed with Houston, **Arnold McDowell** of San Angelo to T.C.U., 6'9" **Ricky Ashley** of Mineral Wells went to T.C.U./Howard

Payne, 6'4" **Cestrakiah Lewis** of Bay City played at Lamar University, **Ronnie Newton** of Arlington Sam Houston stayed close to home at U.T. Arlington, 6'9" **Paul Renfro** of Everman joined Newton at U.T. Arlington. Renfro was named All-Conference and averaged 14.6 points with 8.8 rebounds and 1.6 blocks while at U.T. Arlington. 6'7" **Ronnie Phenix**(21.0) of Lubbock Estacado played at Tech/Howard Payne, 6'6" **Norvelle Brown**(25.0) of Waxahachie signed with Texas/Dallas Baptist and later was an NAIA All-American at Oklahoma Christian University. 6'6" **John Carsey** of Houston St. John's went to Texas, 6'4" **Marshall Sauls** of Houston Davis played for Houston, 6'2" **Kenny Morrison** of Texas City to A&M, 6'4" **Greg Freeman** of Pasadena went to Lamar University. These were some of the major recruits in the state. **Anthony McMillian** of S.O.C. traveled the Lee Junior College. **Charles Tryon** of C.C. Moody went to Kentucky St. and 6'4" **Anthony King** of Victoria signed with Texas State, 6'1" **Billy Bailey** of S.A. McCollum played for Pan American and was drafted by the Spurs. Bailey made a living for many years playing professionally in Mexico. 6'8" **Paul Richards** played at Texas Tech and 6'11" **Bob Patterson** of Spring Branch attended Mississippi. 6'6" **Mike Rutter** of South Grand Prairie played at Lamar University. 6'6" **Randy Walton**(16.0) of Gonzales went to Texas Lutheran. 5'8" **Dwight Randolph**(24.5) of Odessa Ector signed with Midland Junior College.

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

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

(*All-Conference)

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

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

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

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

1976 Power Ranking:

1.	Clear Lake	37-4	92.23	Regional Semis	Loss PA Lincoln 63-60
2.	Bryan	31-3	91.19	Regional Semis	Loss John Tyler 89-83
3.	El Paso Eastwood	31-3	90.23	State Champions	Def. John Tyler 74-62
4.	Dallas S.O.C.	27-7	87.74	Regional Finals	Loss John Tyler 99-85
5.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	32-5	87.15	Regional Finals	Loss H. Milby 75-69
6.	S. Grand Prairie	31-2	86.13	Regional Finals 3-A	Loss Waxahachie 61-57
7.	Tyler John Tyler	30-5	85.95	State Finals	Loss Eastwood 74-62
8.	Waxahachie	32-8	83.68	State Finals 3-A	loss Odessa Ector78-75
9.	Victoria	37-4	83.12	State Semis	Loss Eastwood 69-67 ot
10.	Odessa Ector	25-10	82.75	State Champs 3-A	Def. Waxahachie 78-75

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

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

Team that should have advanced to the State Tournament in Austin: The most glaring omission was obviously Houston Jones(35-6) from the playoffs. They were one of the top teams in the state. Personally, as I stated previously, I think Bryan had a real strong team and had some really unusual breaks losing to John Tyler. After Bryan(31-3) lost to Austin Johnston early in the season, the Vikings

rattled off 26 straight victories with only three games being single digit victories. Their margin of victory was 21.6 per game, which was tops in the state. They avenged their early season loss to Austin Johnston(26-9) 82-73 and defeated Killeen(29-8) three out of four games with convincing victories. Bryan finished the season at 31-3.

1976 4-A Playoffs

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

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

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

48. S. A. Fox Tech	23-15	{lost in the regional semi to Moody by one}
49. S. A. Highlands	28-10	{lost to Burbank by 7 in Bi-District}
50. S. A. Holmes	26-8	{lost to Fox Tech in Bi-District}
51. Midland Lee	21-11	{lost to Abilene in a District playoff}
52. FW O.D. Wyatt	24-9	{tied with Dunbar for the 1 st half title}
53. Odessa Permian	25-7	{held a regular season win over Eastwood}
54. El Paso Andress	24-9	{defeated Eastwood during the regular season}
55. Ft. W. Richland	16-13	{lost a District playoff against Wichita Falls}

1977 AAAA

The 1977 state tournament would be the last for Gregory Gym on the Campus of the University of Texas. The legendary court was named after former United States Attorney General, Thomas Watt Gregory, and served as home of the Texas Longhorns and state tournament for 46 years after its opening in 1930. Two things I remember about Gregory gym was the heat and the pigeons in the rafters above the court. On the lower levels you sat on bleachers, and everybody was crammed in tight. The gym only sat 6,000 fans and there was no reserve seating. The gates would open, and it was first come first serve. You were running to your seat trying to get a front row view.

The Frank Erwin center opened in 1978 and was better known as "The Drum", seating 16,231 fans. Texas High School basketball moved into the 21st century with the opening of the Erwin Center. For those lucky fans that got to see the tournament at Gregory it was a real treat. Only hardcore basketball fans enjoyed Gregory. For me it was one of the fondest memories of my years at the state tournament.

I'll never forget I met an older gentleman in 1977 who was watching his 50th state tournament. It was very hard to comprehend but I thought it would be neat to have that much of a passion for something. I never forgot the conversation and it left an impression on me. Last year was my 44th state tournament in a row. I hope I can make it to 50.

The great news for fans of the high school and college game was the dunk was back in basketball. The most exciting play in the game had been eliminated due to Lew Alcindor's(Kareem Abdul Jabbar) dominance during the 1967 season as a sophomore at U.C.L.A. The Bruins finished 30-0 and won the national championship. Alcindor had put up 53 points in his first varsity basketball game.

In the pre-season rankings for 1977 just a handful of teams were making a strong bid for the state championship. Dallas and Houston had the premier talent once again. And although Dallas representatives, South Oak Cliff and Roosevelt, didn't have the hardware to show like the Houston schools, they were strong forces on the basketball landscape. El Paso Eastwood surprised everybody by capturing the 1976 state title, and once again looked like a very formidable foe. Clear Lake faced a strong challenge just to get out of District from their archrival Deer Park.

For just pure talent the Beaumont/Pt. Arthur area had some of the finest athletes in the nation.

A new emerging basketball hub surfaced in 1976 in the city of Ft. Worth and the Dunbar Wildcats. Several strong programs were represented by the Cowtown over the next several seasons. Dunbar was a magnet school who could draw students from all over Ft. Worth. In 1974 Robert Hughes took over the reins and began molding a dynasty much as he had before at I.M. Terrell High School in Ft. Worth. Dunbar and Hughes took high school basketball to new heights in the Lone Star state. The Wildcat fan base was the strongest in Texas over the next 30 years.

Houston Madison was another program that really impacted Houston basketball. Paul Benton built Madison into the strongest program in Houston over the next ten years. The Marlins rivaled Wheatley, Kashmere, Yates and Milby and eventually became the dominant force in Houston basketball by the mid-1980s. Benton had coached at Dulles high school for 12 years before coming to Madison.

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

Ft. Worth Dunbar(39-2) showed its power winning the Arlington classic by defeating Dallas Roosevelt(30-8) in the semi-finals 82-69 and Arlington High(30-2) in the finals 76-72. Ralph McPherson(25.0) of Arlington had one of the performances for the ages scoring 44 points in the championship game. It was one of the top individual performances in the 10-year history of the tournament. McPherson was named tournament M.V.P. and averaged 31 points a game in the classic. S.O.C.(35-8) lost a close one to Arlington(30-2) in the semis 76-75, and defeated Dallas Roosevelt(30-8) in the third-place game 89-74. John Otto of Arlington was the hero in the Colts win over S.O.C. when he hit a free throw after time had expired. Houston Wheatley(26-9) lost in the first round to Arlington(30-2) 80-68. So, the three teams that emerged from the tournament as clearly top ten teams were Arlington High(30-2), Ft. Worth Dunbar(39-2) and South Oak Cliff(35-8). The All-Tournament at the Classic were James Griffin and Michael Watley from Dunbar, Anthony Burns and Roshern Amie of Marshall, Cullen Mayfield and Arthur Williams of S.O.C., Rynn Wright of Dallas Roosevelt and Johnny Bautists of Grand Prairie.

*In the **Dr. Pepper tourney** in Dallas the Wildcats of Ft. Worth Dunbar came in undefeated. Some great basketball was played during the tournament. Dallas*

Pinkston, under Coach James Finnell, won their first two games to advance to the quarterfinals. Pinkston defeated Woodrow Wilson 63-48 and Dallas Adamson 72-60. Charles Law was the main stay for Coach Finnell at 6'5" along with Ollie Hoops. Pinkston had beaten Houston Wheatley(26-9) in Houston 94-82. Their quarterfinal opponent was Ft. Worth Dunbar(39-2). The Wildcats defeated Highland Park 99-69. One Dallas coach even said Fort Worth Dunbar was the best team in the state. Coach Finnell commented, "We're going to have to compensate somehow for the big man in the middle." In the quarterfinals, Dunbar(39-2) waltzed by Pinkston easily 96-73. Michael Watley, who later played at Arkansas, finished with 26 points and Ollie Hoops was top man for Pinkston with 25.

In the first day of action, Lake Highlands had two nice wins over Richardson(28-7) 62-56 and Dallas W.T. White 62-57. Coach Jerry Wells had the Wildcats playing solid basketball. Lake Highlands improved their record to 14-4 and Richardson moved to 15-4. South Oak Cliff(35-8) always peaked at the Dr. Pepper tournament. The Golden Bears took out Thomas Jefferson 65-44 and Dallas Hillcrest 105-89. 5'7" Cullen Mayfield led S.O.C. against the Rebels with 14 points and David Burns put up 28 points against Hillcrest. Dallas Carter(24-8) had two talented twin towers in seniors, 6'6" Dwayne Scales and 6'6" Vernon Smith. The tandem was one of the best two-some to ever play in Dallas. In Dallas Carter's win over Rockwall, Vernon Smith hit 21 points in the 113- 48 victory. In the Cowboys win over Sunset 76-53, Dwayne Scales came away with a game high 20 points. Dallas Roosevelt(30-8) looked good beating Dallas Jesuit 77-54 and Wilmer Hutchins(21-12) 92-68. Rynn Wright had 13 points against Jesuit and Quinn Andrus led Coach Ellis Davis' team with 21 against Hutchins. Bryan Adams upset Dallas Skyline 67-56 and then took a drumming at the hands of Garland(24-11) 93-70. The Owls drew Greenhill, a private school, in the first round and killed them 98-35. Richardson Pearce surprised everybody coming away with two close wins over Dallas Spruce 58-57 and North Mesquite 65-62. Jim Steensma rattled in 33 points against North Mesquite. Steensma at 6'7" was a strong inside player with several low post moves. Royce Cooper was still the man in charge with the Mustangs. Their last playoff appearance had been in 1970 in class AAA, and they finished tied for second on one occasion in 1971. Cooper was hoping his 1977 team would change the trend. Pearce shocked everybody defeating Garland High and Ricky Pierce 86-80 in double overtime in the quarterfinals. The Mustangs had trailed Garland at halftime by 15 points. The awesome one two punch for Pearce was made up of 6'3" Johnny Baxter and 6'7" Jim Steensma, both juniors. Both contributed 18 points apiece in the Pearce win. The Mustangs moved their record to 15-4.

S.O.C.(35-8) continued its winning tradition in the Dr. Pepper beating Lake Highlands 87-59. David Burns had four dunks and led S.O.C. with 27 points. Cullen Mayfield was close behind with 23 points. The dunk was back in high school and college basketball. In a battle of 12-AAAA rivals, Dallas Roosevelt(30-8) beat Dallas

Carter(24-8) 114-78. Michael Battle had 17 points and Rynn Wright added 17 for the Mustangs of Roosevelt. Battle would later star at Baylor while Wright was all-conference at A&M. Dwayne Scales turned in 22 points for Carter, who later played with the Knicks and L.S.U. Dallas had never seen the talent that surfaced in 1977. Years later the 1977 crop of talent was viewed as one of the best groups ever in Dallas schoolboy history.

In the semi-finals game S.O.C.(35-8) matched-up against undefeated Ft. Worth Dunbar(39-2) and pulled away with a close win over the Wildcats 80-78. Ricky Phillips hit a 12-footer for S.O.C. with 2 seconds left in overtime that proved to be the difference. The finals were played at Loos Fieldhouse in front of 4,000 fans. The Golden Bears had called timeout with 8 seconds left to engineer the final basket. The play was actually set up for Phillips according to Coach Henson. With Mayfield and Arthur Williams in the line-up that was hard to believe. Dunbar's Michael Watley had a 1-1 situation with two seconds left in regulation that could have won the game. The Wildcats had been 8 for 8 up to that point from the foul line. "I told my kids that Dunbar's coach had only defeated me one time since 1959," Coach Henson said. Two keys to the game was Griffin fouling out with 6:14 remaining, and David Burns of S.O.C. leaving the game with 6:01 left. S.O.C.(35-8) moved their record to 17-5. Cullen Mayfield was the smallest player of the court at 5'7" and tallied 24 points. Dunbar(39-2) suffered their first loss of the season moving their record to 20-1. Dallas Roosevelt(30-8) manhandled the Mustangs of Pearce in the semi-final game winning 77-61. Roosevelt had lost three times during the season to Dunbar(39-2) by 10, 11 and 14 points. After struggling early against Pearce, the Mustangs of Pearce began to slow the tempo, which helped Roosevelt. Roosevelt moved their record to 17-5 on the season. Rynn Wright, the 6'5" powerfully built post, finished high man with 24 points and Quinn Andrus added 16. Wright was so strong inside for a high school player. For Coach Cooper's Mustangs, Johnny Baxter had 18 points and Steensma added 23 points.

The finals pitted two very familiar foes against one another in Dallas S.O.C.(35-8) and Dallas Roosevelt(30-8). With the 12-AAAA campaign still ahead the two rivals were somewhat hesitant about going against one another. They had already played each other twice during the season, splitting the two meetings. Rynn Wright led the Mustangs with 33 points as Roosevelt defeated S.O.C. 87-84. David Burns, who would go on to play with the Nets in the N.B.A., contributed 35 points. Burns missed most of the 1st period due to foul trouble.

"It seems like a miracle," said Coach Ellis Davis. "I thought we'd never win one of these championships. I'd like to forget that night in 1972 when we lost to Spruce." S.O.C. trailed 80-68 mid-way through the 4th quarter, but S.O.C. eventually cut into the lead. Cullen Mayfield missed a layup that could have pulled S.O.C. within one point. Mayfield had 18 points and Quinn Andrus had 14 points for Roosevelt along with Battle and Marcus Jones both finishing with 14. "I'll tell you

the District is really going to be strong, last season was a junior oriented year and they are all back with experience. I thought a lot about bringing these kids to a peak because I do think you can peak too early," Davis said.

Dunbar(39-2) took third place defeating Pearce 88-62 with Michael Watley scoring 18 points for the Wildcats and Jim Steensma scoring 30 for the Mustangs. Those are very impressive numbers when you consider Steensma was going against 6'9" James Griffin. Dunbar took control of the game early leading 46-23 at halftime. Woodrow Wilson beat Kimball 67-66 to win consolation. You had to add Dallas Roosevelt(30-8) to the conversation as one of the top teams in the state with the Dr. Pepper title.

All-Tournament at the Dr. Pepper- Rynn Wright won the M.V.P. of the tourney, David Burns and Cullen Mayfield of S.O.C., Jim Steensma of Pearce, Michael Watley and James Griffin, Ricky Pierce of Garland, Stafford Counts of Denton, Dewayne Scales of Carter, Ollie Hoops of Pinkston(best basketball name ever) and Michael Battle of Roosevelt.

At the **Houston Jaycee tournament** the city had some unbelievable talent. Everybody would be showcased at the tournament. Deer Park(34-4) stood at 19-1, Houston Jones(32-5) 18-1, Houston Reagan 17-2 and Houston Milby(28-8) at 17-2. Of course Wheatley(26-9) was always formidable as well as Houston Kashmere(22-9). In the early rounds Cypress Fairbanks(31-5) upset Kashmere(22-9) 66-57, Deer Park(34-4) beat Houston Furr 90-76, Galveston Ball(27-7) beat Forest Brook 82-75, Houston Austin beat Lamar Consolidated 89-67, Houston Jones(32-5) dropped Houston Sterling(24-10) 72-64, Wheatley(26-9) beat Sharpstown 88-85, Milby(28-8) beat Yates(23-9) 86-76, Houston Austin(8-24) beat Houston Madison(30-6) 84-79, Deer Park(34-4) beat Houston Williams 47-44, Houston Sterling beat Aldine Carver 91-45 and Houston Washington(26-4) upset Wheatley(26-9) 79-71. In the quarterfinals Cypress Fairbanks(31-5) continued its upset streak beating Deer Park(34-4) 47-41. Deer Park had been the pre-tournament favorite. Houston Stratford(26-9) beat Houston Washington(26-4) 71-57 for another upset, Houston Jones(32-5) dropped Galveston Ball(27-7) 98-73 and Houston Milby(28-8) continued their winning by defeating Houston Austin(8-24) 86-76. In the semi-finals of the Jaycee tournament, Houston Jones(32-5) ousted Milby(28-8) 73-64 and Cypress Fairbanks(31-5) advanced in a low scoring affair over Houston Stratford(26-9) 38-36. For Jones(32-5) some brilliant young talent was emerging. Against Milby(28-8), Houston Jones saw 6'4" Ricky Thompson contribute 16 points, Roy Jones finished with 20 and Ed Williams scored 15 points.

In the 3rd place game Milby(28-8) dropped Stratford(26-9) 47-46 and in the finals Houston Jones(32-5) captured the tournament championship for the second year in a row beating Cy-Fair(31-5) 63-49. Ricky Thompson once again led all scorers with 21 points while Cy-Fair was led by junior, Alan Howard. Howard finished with 16 points and Robin Hood came away with 13 points. Houston

Jones(32-5) came out of the tournament without question one of the top teams in Houston with a 24-1 record, while Cy-Fair(31-5) really improved their stock at 18-3. Young Ricky Thompson of Houston Jones was only a sophomore and one of the top players in the state. Some of the standout performers in the tournament were Larry Hendrix of Stratford, Randy Woodard of Houston Sterling, 6'2" Randy Richards of Houston Sharpstown, Edwin Miles of Houston Kashmere, Don Nottebart of Houston Westbury, Malcolm Edwards of Houston Furr, Mike Thompson of Houston Reagan, Perryman Collins of Houston Lee, Phillip Flores of Houston Worthing, Victor Young of Houston Lincoln, Mike Breslin of Houston Bellaire.

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

Region I

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

Abilene Cooper(27-7)

Pampa(24-5) #18

Ft. Worth Dunbar(35-1)#2

El Paso Andress(26-7)

Wichita Falls Rider(23-10)

Hereford(22-11)

Arlington(30-2) #6

Top Players in Region I

6'9"	James Griffin	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'8"	Terry White	El Paso Eastwood
6'3"	Michael Watley	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'7"	Ralph McPherson	Arlington
6'4"	Tim Crenshaw	El Paso Eastwood
6'0"	Rayford Young	Pampa
6'8"	Darold Molix	El Paso Eastwood

Ft. Worth Dunbar(35-1) moved to region I in 1976-77 season and was ranked #2 overall in the TABC rankings. El Paso Eastwood(31-1) had another outstanding team. Pampa(24-5) felt really good about their squad and Arlington High(30-2) was definitely a team that could not be overlooked. This was the first time in forever for region I to have the top two ranked teams in the state.

El Paso Eastwood(31-1) held down the top spot in the state polls for the entire season. As defending class 4-A state champions it was their right. This was probably a more talented squad than their championship team from the year before. Eastwood looked stronger inside and maybe a little weaker at the guard position than the '76 version of the Troopers.

Pacing the Troopers were 6'4" Tim Crenshaw and 6'8" Darold Molix. Joining Molix on the frontline was 6'8" junior Terry White. All three joined forces during their college careers at U.T.E.P. 6'5" Bill Wilke and 6'4" Eric Smith rounded out a talented starting lineup. Eastwood's inside game just overpowered opponents. With no three-point line in 1977 a team's inside game took on a great deal more importance than in today's game.

Eastwood's only loss came early in the season in a controversial overtime game to El Paso Bowie 57-52. Coach Bob Lesley built Eastwood's program into the best in El Paso and one of the top programs in the state. The Troopers were going to be hard to beat for the Region I ticket to Austin. Eastwood dominated opponents by a scoring margin of plus 16.5 per game. The Troopers three year run from 1976 through 1978 was impressive at 89-9. In 1977 Eastwood's record stood at 30-1 as they prepared for the playoffs.

Coach Robert Hughes Wildcats of Dunbar were ranked #2 in the state behind Eastwood. Hughes had slowly but surely built a quality program for the Wildcats. Dunbar was 12-12 in 1974 followed by a 19-12 campaign in 1975. In 1976 the Wildcats took it to another level advancing all the way to regionals with a 30-4 mark. Dunbar returned almost their entire squad from the previous season and was

one of the favorites to win state. The team was centered around 6'9" junior post, James Griffin(14.7). Griffin was the top big man to ever play at Dunbar, and one of the best big men in the state during the decade. After high school Griffin went on to star at the University of Illinois and was later drafted by the N.B.A. It was not as if Griffin was alone. Michael Watley(17.1), a 6'3" guard, was an elite player as was 6'0" Cletus Hubbard. Watley signed with Eddie Sutton and Arkansas upon graduation. The Razorbacks were one of the top programs in the country during the mid-to late 1970s. Although Dunbar was ranked behind Eastwood in the state polls, they had played a much more competitive schedule than the Troopers. The Wildcats only loss had come at the hands of South Oak Cliff at the Dr. Pepper tournament. Once again, the state rankings were very questionable. Dunbar held three wins over Dallas Roosevelt, the top team in Dallas during the regular season. The Wildcat's had beaten Arlington High during the regular season. The Colts were 11-0 at the time and finished the regular season at 31-2. Dunbar had a solid 72-60 win over Garland High(24-11), who was led by future N.B.A. standout Ricky Pierce and coached by Goree Johnson. The Wildcats were clearly the top team in the state moving into the playoffs.

The Arlington Colts were one of the front runners in region I. They were led by multi-talented 6'7" Ralph McPherson(25.0). McPherson signed with Texas Tech out of high school, but later transferred to U.T. Arlington where he was all-conference. McPherson(25.0) was a late round draft pick of the Dallas Mavericks out of college. The Colts had a very talented team with victories over Houston Wheatley(26-9) 80-68, Dallas S.O.C.(35-8) 76-75, and Lake Highlands(21-11) 85-66.

In the first round of the region I playoffs or what was called then, Bi-District. With only 32 teams in the entire playoff system every game was going to be impactful. The only real tough matchup in Region I in the first round was between Arlington High(30-2) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(35-1) at Daniel Meyer Coliseum on the campus of T.C.U. Two of the top teams in the state battled it out for the opportunity to advance to the regionals in Abilene.

Arlington(31-2) had lost earlier in the season to Dunbar which snapped their 20-game winning streak. Dunbar(35-1) had a 15-game winning streak of their own. The Colts had dominated District defeating rivals Ft. Worth Richland(23-6) convincingly 75-45 and 71-52. Arlington Coach Dale Archer commented that the Wildcats were easily the most balanced team he had faced all season. "All five men they have on the court can hurt you. You can't concentrate on just two or three players," Archer commented. The Wildcat's problem would be controlling McPherson, who averaged 25.0 points per game along with 14 rebounds.

The game proved to be no contest as Ft. Worth Dunbar(35-1) raced out to a 50-31 halftime lead and never looked back. McPherson was all the Colts had scoring 31 points, but most of his points came late against the Wildcats reserves. Dunbar's balanced attack was too much winning 97-79. Dunbar finished the game

with 51 rebounds compared to Arlington's 27. Arlington finished the season at 31-3 with two of the losses coming to Dunbar.

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

Standouts for El Paso Andress(25-7) were 6'3" Thad Hayes(10.2/6.8), 6'5" Allen Bonds(10.5/10.2), 6'4" Jack Bell(9.9/8.8) and 6'2" Coney Luke(10.0/ 5.0). On the All-District team for 1-AAAA only Allen Bonds was named to the first team.

Eastwood's starters consisted of 6'8" junior Terry White(13.5/11.4), 6'7" Darold Molix(12.3/7.0), 6'4" Tim Crenshaw(14.1), 6'4" Mike Chapman(11.4) and 5'11" Jerry Krampen.

The Troopers of Eastwood were led in scoring against El Paso Andress(25-7) by Darold Molix(12.3) with 23 points, Terry White(13.5) and Tim Crenshaw(14.1) finished with 14 points apiece.

Unfortunately, Eastwood(32-1) was hit really hard by the flu bug in the week leading up to regionals. Maybe that explained the close score against El Paso Andress. Jerry Krampen and Terry White were both questionable going into the game. Both played but were not at full speed.

El Paso Andress head coach, Phil Hilliard, tried to take advantage of his teams overall quickness, "We felt we had to press, to put the accent on our quickness and speed." Allen Bonds, who was Andress best inside player, got into early foul trouble and his time was limited in the 2nd half.

Wichita Falls Rider(23-10) defeated Abilene Cooper(27-7) 57-50 at Wisdom Gym at Tarleton State. W.F. Rider coach Kenneth West counted on 6'4" Gerrick Stevenson(20.0), 6'5" Anthony Lyons(14.1), 5'8" Herbert Palmer(14.4) and 6'5" football tackle, David Bush, while Cooper countered with Terry Orr, Doug Flumming, Keith Turner and Sam Houston. Terry Orr was considered one of the top football players in the country his senior year. He later went on to play football at the University of Texas. Orr later played in the N.F.L. with the Redskins.

5'8" Herbert Palmer was the difference for W.F. Rider(23-10) hitting 20 points, mostly from the outside against Abilene Cooper's zone. Cooper Coach Marc Case said, "Those were the shots you are going to get against the zone and they knocked them down."

Coach Robert McPherson of the Pampa(24-5) Harvesters captured their third straight District title in West Texas. In Bi-District Pampa met the Whitefaces of Hereford(22-11). Hereford was making their first playoff appearance since 1960. Hereford had won a District showdown against Plainview 50-39 to capture the District title. Hereford used the delay game to keep the ball away from the taller Plainview players. Hereford Coach, Barry Arnwine, said it was not a delay game as

such because his team was trying to score, the only way it would be a delay was if they didn't pick us up defensively. "We were just trying to spread the court," Arnwine said.

Hereford(22-11) was paced by 6'1" James Mays(18.0) with 12 points and 6'3" Kenneth Mercer finished with 15 points and 16 rebounds in the win over Plainview. Other starters for Hereford were 5'11" Kelly Kitchens(17.1), 6'0" Jim Lawson(6.8) and 5'10" Mike O'Rand(8.1). Kitchen's was the Whitefaces main outside shooting threat. "We have to have the smallest 4-A playoff team in the state," Coach Barry Arnwine stated.

Coach McPherson of Pampa(24-5) felt that Hereford's leaping ability made them play much bigger than they were. Pampa was paced by one of the top guards in West Texas in 6'0" Rayford Young(19.5). The lightning quick guard was named the 3-AAAA Player of the Year by the District coaches. "We have to do a good job on Young," Coach Arnwine said, "We can't let him bomb us from outside."

Other players Coach McPherson would be counting on were 6'4" Don Hughes(12.1), 6'4" Rusty Ward(14.0/5.9), 6'4" Ricky Burton(14.3/10.3) and 6'3" Brian Bailey(12.9). Pampa(24-5) had a big size advantage in the game. The Harvesters liked the up-tempo game. Coach McPherson feared that late in the game the Whitefaces(22-11) might pull the ball out and go into their delay game.

Pampa(24-5) was looking to get out of the first round of the playoffs for the first time in three seasons. In Coach McPherson's four District titles in the previous seven seasons, his team had never advanced to regionals. The contest was played at West Texas State University Fieldhouse in Canyon.

In front of 3,300 fans, Pampa(24-5) advanced to regionals for the first time since 1965 beating Hereford(22-11) 60-54. Pampa was up 43-42 going into the final quarter. The game was close throughout. James Mays was outstanding for Hereford with 20 points. "That James Mays is some kind of player," Coach McPherson said after the game, "He never did give up." Kelly Kitchens finished with 16 points for Hereford but was 0-5 in the first half and had trouble with the Pampa's pressure.

Coach McPherson of Pampa was excited about his team's guard play. "Rayford Young and Brian Bailey played tremendous for us and Tim Reddell came off the bench and played well." The Harvesters won a close rebound battle 36-34.

The bad news for Pampa(25-5) is now they would have to travel to Regionals in Abilene. Waiting for Pampa was the #2 team in the state and #28 in the nation according to Basketball Weekly. Ft. Worth Dunbar at 34-1 was going to be a handful. The Wildcats played in one of the toughest Districts in the state and finished 16-0. District 7-AAAA won 71% of the games outside of District action going 73-29 overall. If Pampa got lucky enough to upset Dunbar, the #1 team in the state awaited the Harvesters. El Paso Eastwood held down the state's top ranking at 30-1. The Harvesters would be running the gauntlet, all in the same day. Coach

McPherson was more upset about the tournament format than the opponent. "We practice all season to go to the state playoffs and we are looking at playing two games in one day," McPherson said. "All the teams will be in town Friday night I don't see why we can't play Friday evening." Coach McPherson of Pampa said his team would slow the game down and make the Wildcats play defense. "If we can hold them to 55 or 60 points, we'll win the ballgame," McPherson said.

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

In front of 4000 fans in Abilene, Pampa(25-5) gave a very good account of themselves and West Texas basketball trailing 48-44 with only 2:07 remaining in the game. 6'9" James Griffin(14.6) of Dunbar had two slam dunks and the Wildcats pulled away winning by ten 66-56. Griffin finished with 14 points and 12 rebounds, followed by Cletus Hubbard with 11 points and 9 rebounds. Dunbar's Michael Watley(17.1) was held to only 7 points by Pampa's Brian Bailey. Bailey did an outstanding defensive job guarding the Arkansas recruit.

Brian Bailey led the Harvesters in scoring also with 16 points and Rayford Young was held to single digits with 9 points. Dunbar dominated the glass 48-35. Dunbar had only been out rebounded once all season.

Coach McPherson said after the game, "We played about as well as we could, if we would have run with them, they would have run us out of the gym. It's hard to play against people like that – if we would play with people like Dunbar day in and day out in the Panhandle, we'd be as good or better than they are." Coach Hughes commented after the game, "Pampa is one of the better ball clubs we've played this year,"

E.P. Eastwood(33-1) scored the last eight points of the game and came away with a 68-57 victory over Wichita Falls Rider(24-10). Gerrick Stevenson led the Rider attack finishing with 22 points.

This set up the matchup between the two top rated teams in the state in the Regional Finals. The game was billed as the real state championship game between El Paso Eastwood(34-1) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(37-1). Eastwood's two 6'8" bookends Darold Molix and Terry White vs. 6'9" James Griffin of Dunbar(37-1).

The 3,800 fans showed up to the regional finals and they were not disappointed. The teams were tied at the end of the 1st quarter 20-20, at halftime

33-33 and at the end of the 3rd quarter Dunbar had moved in front 51-48. The Wildcats pulled away finally for a 68-63 victory and their first trip to Austin and the state tournament. The difference was the outside shooting by Michael Watley and Jeffrey Kirvin of the Wildcats. With the score 66-61, Dunbar pulled the ball out and went into a stall.

Most of the fans in Abilene were supported by Dunbar during the game. Dunbar eventually had one of the strongest followings in the state. Dunbar dominated the boards against the larger Eastwood team 48-35. James Griffin finished with 13 points and 11 rebounds, Michael Watley had 14 points and 10 rebounds, Thomas Glenn with 13 points and 13 rebounds. Highflyer Glenn and Griffin were playing well above the rim. Cletus Hubbard, who finished with 16 points, was the leading scorer for the balanced Wildcat attack.

Terry White led the Troopers with 24 points and 10 rebounds. White had transferred in from New York City and was one of the top players in the state and eventually a fine college career at U.T.E.P. White carried Eastwood's offensive effort throughout the regional tournament. He finished with 45 points in two games. Tim Crenshaw poured in 16 points against Dunbar while Darold Molix had 11 and Chapman 10. Eastwood finished another incredible season at 33-2.

Region II

Garland(24-10)

Dallas Hillcrest(17-10)

Tyler Lee(33-2) #10

Bryan(22-6) #17

Irving High(27-4) #20

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

Richardson(28-6)

Temple(24-4)

Top Players in Region II

5'7"	Cullen Mayfield	Dallas South Oak Cliff
6'8"	Vernon Smith	Dallas Carter
6'5"	Rynn Wright	Dallas Roosevelt
6'2"	David Burns	Dallas South Oak Cliff
6'4"	Ricky Pierce	Garland
6'6"	Dewayne Scales	Dallas Carter
6'5"	Michael Battle	Dallas Roosevelt
6'10"	Rudy Woods	Bryan
6'9"	Anthony Lee	Tyler John Tyler

Region II was very competitive in 1977 with several talented schools in the Dallas area as well as East Texas and the north Houston area. Three of the top teams in the state were in the same District. District 12-AAAA had Dallas Roosevelt(30-6), South Oak Cliff(28-8) and Dallas Carter(24-8) all with outstanding teams.

Dallas Carter(24-8) finished third in the District with two of the top talents in the state in 6'6" Vernon Smith and 6'6" Dewayne Scales. The Cowboys were coached by the colorful Alex Gillum and loved the up-tempo game. The pair

averaged 24 and 20 points per game respectively and Carter scored 88 points a game. The Carter Cowboys also played a murderous schedule facing Houston Wheatley(28-6) twice, and Houston Kashmere(22-9). Carter lost all three games. The Cowboys defeated Garland(24-11) 89-88, and split with Dallas Kimball(19-10).

Dallas Roosevelt(30-6) was propelled by two standout performers in 6'5" Michael Battle(19.0) and 6'5" Rynn Wright(24.9/19.6). Coach Ellis Davis had his best squad since his state title team with Ira Terrell in 1972. They were 2-1 against Dallas Carter(24-8), 0-3 against Ft. Worth Dunbar, beat Garland High(24-11) 83-72, Richardson High(28-7) 73-72, and seemed to have S.O.C.'s number defeating them three out of four games, leading into the last week of the regular season. Then disaster struck for Coach Ellis Davis' Mustangs. Star post, Rynn Wright rolled his ankle and looked like he was through for the season. Without Wright at full speed, the Mustangs were not the same, losing the last regular season contest to S.O.C. 95-76. With the two teams tied the Golden Bears won the District playoff game 81-67. Roosevelt(30-8) missed playoffs like so many other outstanding teams.

In the state rankings, Dallas Roosevelt(30-6) came in at #6 and S.O.C. at #14 and Dallas Carter Cowboys at #15. I heard there was a more updated ranking, but I was unable to obtain it. I don't know if it wasn't published or what. The Mustangs had played a gauntlet of teams during the season.

The Golden Bears(28-8) at one point during the season had trailed Dallas Roosevelt(30-8) by two full games in the league standings. Cullen Mayfield of S.O.C. admitted that he had thought the season was over until Dallas Carter(25-8) upset Roosevelt(30-8) to revive the Bears season.

The Cowboys defeated Roosevelt in a very controversial game mid-way through District 86-84. Before 3,500 fans at Loos Field House the Cowboys called timeout with seconds remaining up by two 84-82. On the ensuing play, Michael Battle of Roosevelt stole the ball, and with 11 seconds remaining tied the score 84-84 with a dunk. Tim Freeman of Carter came right back and penetrated the lane and was fouled with five seconds remaining. In all the confusion, it was Vernon Smith who stepped to the foul line and sunk both foul shots. The Roosevelt crowd yelled in disbelief. Freeman had just missed earlier on the front end of a one and one situation. "I'm not going to say who should have been at the line, but we do have films of the game," Coach Ellis Davis said. The game was still not over as Marcus Jones from the Mustangs was fouled by Tim Freeman and went to the line shooting a one-an-one. Marcus Jones missed the front end, and the game was over. "It came off just like we wanted," said Cowboy coach, Alex Gillum. Rynn Wright got into foul trouble and missed most of the 2nd quarter. Rynn Wright(24.9/19.6) still finished with 19 points in the Mustangs losing effort. Michael Battle(19.0) finished with 14 points and collected his 3rd foul with 4:57 left in the half. Both drew their fourth personals early in the 3rd period. Dewayne Scales(20.0) finished with 27 points and 16 rebounds while Vernon Smith(24.0) had an incredible evening hitting

34 points and 32 rebounds. Dallas Roosevelt moved to 24-6 on the season and 6-1 in District action while Carter went to 20-6 and 6-1 in District. S.O.C.(28-8) was only a game back at 5-2. The Mustangs had earlier defeated Dallas Carter by 36 points in the Dr. Pepper tournament.

Earlier in the District campaign Dallas Carter(25-8) had beaten S.O.C.(28-8) 99-83 at Sprague Field House in East Dallas. Dewayne Scales(20.0) had 29 points and Vernon Smith(24.0) finished with 33. Arthur Williams was high man for the Golden Bears with 33 points. S.O.C. gained revenge later beating the Cowboys 84-76. The score was not as close as it appeared with Coach Henson's crew up at halftime by 20 points. Cullen Mayfield(20.0) had 36 points for S.O.C. and Vernon Smith(24.0) came away with 30 points for the Cowboys. The three Dallas powerhouse teams had played each other twice in District action and split with each other at one game apiece.

The team that would represent District 12-AAAA was the South Oak Cliff Golden Bears. S.O.C. was coached by Euril Henson who had replaced Jimmy Gales after the 1975 season. The Bears were fast and faster with 5'7" point guard, Cullen Mayfield(20.0), at the helm. On the wings was track star, Arthur Williams(16.0/14.0), a 6'3" guard and 6'2" David Burns(22.0/12.0). Burns was a tremendous leaper and shot from deep. The backcourt was the best in the state and one of the best in Dallas's long history of high school basketball. I'm not saying that from a recruiting standpoint but rather a combined tandem. David Burns and Cullen Mayfield averaged 42 points per game together and both could handle the ball. Mayfield went on to star at Midwestern University in Wichita Falls playing for Coach Jerry Stone. Coach Stone always credited Mayfield's success with him taking "Spud" Webb several years later. Burns played at Navarro JC, St. Louis University, and played a short time in the N.B.A. In the front court was 6'4" Ricky Phillips and 6'2" Mark Coleman. On the wing was the superfast Arthur Williams who played at North Texas State. The Golden Bears also had a very deep bench. Coach Henson loved to play a lot of players and press the entire game. At 30-8, S.O.C. entered the playoffs with a lot of momentum.

The 12-AAAA All-District squad looked to many like an all-state team. The first team was made up of 6'2" David Burns(22.0) and 5'7" Cullen Mayfield(20.0) from S.O.C., 6'5" Rynn Wright(24.9/19.6) of Roosevelt, 6'6" VernonSmith(24.0) from Dallas Carter and Ollie Hoops(30.0) from Dallas Pinkston. Hoops was considered one of the top scorers in the state at 30 points per game and one of the top outside shooters around. He would later sign with S.M.U. The 2nd team was just as gifted with 6'6" Dewayne Scales(20.0) of Carter, 6'5" Steve Jackson(18.0) of Dallas Kimball, Quinn Andrus and Michael Battle of Roosevelt and 6'3" Arthur Williams(16.0) of S.O.C. Honorable mention was an honor in this District. Kevin Jones and Phillip Crawford of Roosevelt, Harwyn Bradford, Wendall Holmes, Jim Hunter and William Fisher of Kimball, Mark Coleman and Ricky Phillips of S.O.C.,

Clint Turner and Isaac White of North Dallas, Tony Barrett and Alton Breedlove of Carter, Charles Hunter of Pinkston. Wright and Mayfield tied for player of the year honors. The team was named before the playoffs.

Other contenders for the Region II title included Irving High(27-4). Irving was coached by Mike Kunstadt and led by two standouts, 6'5" Andy Sears(16.0) and 5'10" Fred Stephenson(19.0). Irving High also looked to 6'5" Robert Jones, Fernando King, Bill Beavan, and David Smith.

Garland High(24-10) had played one of the most competitive schedules in the state. The Owls attack was centered around Ricky Pierce(28.0) and his enormous afro. Pierce was a junior averaging 28 points a game and 18 rebounds. At 6'5" the multitalented Pierce was not alone with a strong supporting cast of 6'1" Donnie Love and 6'6" Sylvester Price. Love averaged 18 points and 12 rebounds and went on to star on the football field at the University of Houston. On the 9-AAAA All-District team in 1977, Garland was well represented. Pierce was named District M.V.P., Love was named to the first team, Sylvester Price made the 2nd team and Leon Fernandez(12.0) and Ken Watters were named Honorable Mention.

The Bi-District clash between Irving(27-4) and Garland(24-10) took place at Moody Coliseum on the campus of S.M.U. The Tigers of Irving trailed most of the game, due in part to Sears having to sit after picking up his 3rd foul in the first quarter. The Tigers came back and tied things at 58 apiece with just 1:44 remaining in the game. Fred Stephenson and David Smith brought Irving back with their outside shooting. Stephenson had eight of his 19 points in the fourth quarter. David Smith ended up with 16 points on the evening. He hit two 20-footers, which moved the Tigers into the lead 62-59 with 48 seconds remaining. Donnie Love of Garland hit two foul shots, but David Smith iced the game for Irving with a pair of foul shots. The Irving Tigers eliminated the Garland Owls 64-63.

For the Owls, Ricky Pierce was held to only 16 points with everybody denying him the ball. Coach Mike Kunstadt said after the game, "We've got good shooters, we just had to be patient." The Owls led at halftime 36-28. "Garland controlled the tempo early," Kunstadt said. "We had to make some adjustments late in the game because we finally stopped Love." Love had 15 points at halftime. "We decided to work on Love, Robert Jones did a fine job in stopping him." Owls post, Sylvester Price, finished with 14 points. For Irving, 6'5" Andy Sears finished with 9 points and 7 rebounds. Irving moved on to regionals with a 28-4 record and Garland finished out the season at 24-11.

Tyler Lee(33-2), out of East Texas, had a very impressive team with all five starters averaging in double figures. Very little was known about the East Texas school, but they had 6'4" Virdell Howland(16.4). Howland was one of the top juniors in the state who signed with Texas his senior year. He was very athletic. 6'5" Craig Hudeck(11.5), 6'2" Fred Marshall(10.2), 6'0" Billy Brown(11.0) and 6'0" D'Boy Johnson(13.7/8 asst) led a balanced attack.

D'Boy received high praise from his coach, Ned Fowler. "D'Boy is the most complete basketball player I have ever coached in my 11 seasons. He has a great attitude. His strong points are his quickness, speed and jumping ability," Coach Fowler said. On the Sports Writers District MVP Award, Virdell Howland was named, but on the Coaches All-District team D'Boy Johnson was named MVP. Johnson finished second on the Tyler Lee all-time scoring list following Dick Denson in 1973. Johnson finished with 12 dunks on the season. The '77 team also broke the school record for most wins in a season set back in 1963 at 29.

The Red Raiders were #10 in the final state poll. Every year the East Texas schools were overlooked by the state polls, but they made strong runs in the playoffs year after year. Tyler Lee won the Berkner-Pearce Tournament in late November defeating Dallas Skyline in the finals 45-40. The Red Raiders won the Mesquite Pepsi Cola tournament defeating Denison(25-6) 79-52, North Mesquite(17-14) 52-43 and in the finals Mesquite High(14-18) 72-59. Other nice wins came against Dallas Pinkston 69-68 and Plano(21-13) 72-49.

Tyler Lee(33-2) had finished runner-up to state finalist Tyler John Tyler the previous season in District and finished 26-7. The Raiders ran through the first half of District going 6-0 with a 52-48 win over Marshall(24-8). In the second round of District action the Mavericks of Marshall upset Lee(33-2) 46-44 to capture the 2nd half title.

Marshall's team centered around two division one talents, 6'8" Roshern Amie(22.9/14.8) and 6'8" Anthony Burns(21.5/10.1). Both of these young men were highly recruited and had fine careers at U.T.E.P. Amie was drafted by the Blazers. Others starters for the Mavericks were Freddie Jenkins, Perry Johnson and Dennis Jackson.

The Mavericks faced all the top teams in East Texas. They split with class 3-A powers Daingerfield(29-3) and Longview Pinetree(23-5). Daingerfield defeated the Mavericks 80-78 and Marshall(24-8) came back with a 62-57 victory over the Tigers. Longview Pinetree(23-5) downed Marshall(24-8) 66-61 in the team's first game. Coach Terry Richter of Marshall called it his team's worst effort of the season. The Mavericks recovered to beat Pinetree 77-68 in the rematch. Marshall's losses came at the hands of Tyler John Tyler(14-14) 77-75 and 66-64 in double overtime, Tyler Lee(33-2) 52-48 and 53-52, Longview 63-62, Dallas South Oak Cliff(35-8) 91-84 and Texas High(19-10) 81-78. The Mavericks loss to the class 4-A and 3-A state champions, S.O.C. and Daingerfield(29-3). None of the losses were double digits. Big wins came against Texas High(19-10) 72-70, Longview 83-68, Tyler Lee(33-2) 46-44, John Tyler(14-14) 67-54, Arlington Sam Houston 64-58, Denton 90-70, Houston Worthing 92-84, Palestine 70-47 and Greenville 88-79.

The District championship game in 14-4A between Tyler Lee(33-2) and Marshall(24-8) took place in Kilgore at Master's Gym. In another low scoring affair Tyler Lee's Virdell Howland knocked down a high towering 20-footer with one

second remaining to give the Raiders a 53-52 victory. The win put Tyler Lee(33-2) in the playoffs. Roshern Amie finished with 16 points to lead Marshall and Howland came away with 23 points for the Raiders. Craig Hudeck added 14 points for the winners.

Richardson High school had a strong basketball tradition with District titles in 1969, 1971, 1973, 1976 and a co-title in 1970. Former A&M basketball standout Ken Norman was in his fourth season as coach having replaced Jerry Stone. Stone went on to fame at Midland J.C. with Spud Webb and a national junior college championship. The Richardson Eagles were a very competitive team. The Warbirds had come within one point of Dallas Roosevelt(30-8) during the regular season. This was a great indication of the talent level with the Eagles. Richardson(28-7) had four players that averaged in double figures, led by 6'5" Ken Ord(18.0) and 6'0" high flyer, Kelly Newsome(13.0). Other starters for the Eagles included Allen Kernion(12.0), Paul McKimmey(7.6) and Mark Horan.

Richardson(28-7) was forced to play Denison(25-5) to capture the District title. The Eagles played an exciting game at the new "Super Pit" in Denton against the Yellowjackets. The game came down to a controversial goal tending call, which proved to be the winning basket for the Eagles 47-46. Allen Kernion led the Eagles with 15 points. Charles Jenkins of Denison was one of the top players in North Texas finishing with 20 points, 9 rebounds, 3 steals and 5 blocks. Jenkins was also the player called for the goal tending.

In Bi-District, Richardson(28-7) faced Tyler Lee(34-2) at Pearce High School in Richardson. This was clearly an advantage for the Eagles. The Eagles were very familiar with the court and didn't have to travel two hours by bus. Tyler Lee(34-2) entered the playoffs for the first time in 15 years while Richardson had been a regular in the playoffs. The East Texas representative was always tough, and Tyler Lee was no exception. Lee had defeated Marshall to represent the District in a close 53-52 win. Marshall had two of the top recruits in the entire state in 6'8" Roshern Amie and 6'8" Anthony Burns. Both enjoyed fine college careers at U.T.E.P. under Don Haskins.

Ken Norman(38) of Richardson(28-7) said his team would have to play their best game of the season in order to beat Tyler Lee(34-2). The Eagles head man was very impressed with the Rebels balance and point guard, D'Boy Johnson. Johnson had been looked at by a lot of college recruiters. "I can't get over a team as disciplined as Lee." Coach Norman said. "They take only good shots and there is no way in the world to press them, they are tough."

The Rebels dominated the game inside and built up a big lead 56-41 going into the fourth quarter. Tyler Lee was up at halftime 38-19 and extended the lead to 45-23 with 5:57 left in the 3rd period. Tyler Lee's 2-3 zone gave the Eagles problems and inside 6'5" Craig Hudeck and 6'4" Virdell Howland almost scored at will against Richardson(28-7). Tyler Lee(34-2) closed out the 75-63 victory and

advanced to regionals. Ken Ord was the tallest Eagle at 6'4" and was at a disadvantage against Tyler Lee's athletic team. Billy Brown finished high scorer for Tyler Lee(34-2) with 19 points and D'Boy Johnson had 15. Kelly Newsome was the leader for Richardson with 19 points and Ken Ord added 12.

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

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

In Bi-District Bryan(22-6) was matched up against Temple(25-4). Temple came out of Central Texas and were led by 6'7" Maurice McDaniel(16.0) and David James(15). McDaniel was a talented junior. Following his senior year, McDaniel signed originally with the University of Florida and later transferred to Texas A&M. McDaniel had turned down scholarship offers from Arkansas and Clemson. The Nuggets took McDaniel with the 153rd pick in the NBA draft. 6'7" Maurice McDaniel faced 6'10" Rudy Woods of Bryan in the Bi-District contest. The state of Texas was so loaded with talent during the '77 campaign.

The Temple/Bryan matchup was played in Waco and the Vikings prevailed 52-48. Kermit Wilson led Bryan with 16 points and Rudy Woods contributed 13 points. Bryan took the lead with four minutes remaining 47-42 and Temple cut the lead to three with 51 seconds remaining. The Wildcats were unable to get any closer.

Dallas S.O.C.(28-8) destroyed Dallas Hillcrest(17-10) 84-57 for the city championship and Bi-District clash. 6'4" post Ricky Phillips of S.O.C. put up impressive numbers against Hillcrest with 10 points, 8 rebounds and 7 blocks. "We played right into their hands," Hillcrest coach Larry Jones said. "We didn't want to run with them and we knew we couldn't. We tried to slow it down, but just weren't discipline enough."

The Golden Bears jumped out to a 23-6 lead and led at halftime. S.O.C. finished the game with 12 steals with Mark Coleman and Arthur Williams both contributing 3 steals apiece. Cullen Mayfield finished with 23 points and David Burns had 15 points and Arthur Williams added 13 points. Coach Euril Henson played his bench the last six minutes of the game.

Joey Hubbard totaled 20 points for Hillcrest. Coach Jones was missing the talents of point guard Mitch Myers who came to him before the game, and said he

was too weak to play. Myers was battling the flu. "Sure, it hurt us," Jones said, "Mitch is the one we count on to work the offense. We needed his quickness out there."

Coach Henson confided after the game, "This is a better team than last year, they've been around each other longer and the team is more together." Henson had already announced that he would be retiring at the end of the season.

In the **regional semi-finals** in College Station, four teams played to see who would advance to Austin. Back in 1977 the regionals were played all in one day with morning games, and the two winners meeting in the evening. S.O.C.(31-8) was making their 5th consecutive regional visit with their second coach. The Golden Bears would be taking on one of the best coaches in the state in Mike Kunstadt of Irving High. Kunstadt said coming into the contest against S.O.C., "We have the ability to play good defense and we'll have to do that. S.O.C. is a good fast break team, and we must stop their easy baskets, and we'll try to run with them too." Of course, Coach Kunstadt was laying a little bait for S.O.C., saying he would be running with them. Irving opened the game in a four-corner offense, running a slowdown game. Irving trailed most of the game in part because Andy Sears picked up his third foul in the first quarter and had to sit out much of the early going. S.O.C. cruised to a 57-48 victory over Irving High's slow down tactics. Cullen Mayfield led the way in scoring with 18 points, Burn's finished with 10 points, Ricky Phillips knocked down 11 points and Arthur Williams added 14. For the Tigers, Fred Stephenson had 16 points and Andy Sears put in 12 points.

The Tyler Lee(34-2) matchup against the Vikings of Bryan(23-6) was very similar to the previous season when John Tyler faced Bryan in regionals. The Vikings were not as strong but they still were a solid ballclub. 6'10" Rudy Woods(20.5) led the charge for the Vikings followed by 6'3" Bill Druery(8.0), 6'5" David Barnett(10.1), 6'2" Kermit Wilson(11.9) and 6'0" Darren Cooks(9.0). Bryan had very little depth and it proved to be a problem against Tyler Lee. "Bryan has tremendous size, speed and quickness," Coach Fowler of Tyler Lee said.

Tyler Lee(34-2) was having the best season in the schools 19 year history advancing to regionals for the first time. At one point during the season the Raiders had won 21 games in a row.

Tyler Lee(34-2) proved they were too strong for Bryan(23-6) 60-48 in the other regional semi-final contest. The Raiders outscored Bryan 16-4 in the final quarter led by 10 points from D'Boy Johnson. Bryan was faced with a foul problem throughout and Rudy Woods left the game with 2:56 remaining. "Woods is a great intimidator," Coach Fowler of Lee said. "But I don't think it meant that much to Bryan losing him. The momentum had already shifted in our favor."

At the start of the 4th quarter with the score tied at 44 apiece, Lee went to four corners. D'Boy Johnson had a strong game scoring 20 points for Tyler Lee, 6'6" Craig Hudeck followed with 11 points and 6'4" Virdell Howland threw in 15. For

Bryan, Rudy Woods chipped in 15 points along with David Barrett. Bill Druery added 10 points. Coach Fowler commented on how physical the game was facing Bryan. "It was the roughest game we have played this season," Fowler said.

The finals were set at 7:30 p.m. Saturday evening. Dallas South Oak Cliff(32-8) advanced to Austin beating Tyler Lee(35-2) 66-55. S.O.C. led going into the fourth quarter 46-41. Cullen Mayfield hit 22 points and David Burns had 18 points and 10 rebounds to lead the Golden Bears. Arthur Williams, who finished with 12 points, 5 rebounds and 4 steals, said following the game, "Coach Henson just told us to be ready for the fast break or a slowdown game, like against Irving. Tyler Lee(35-2) had us in size, but they made the mistake of going to their big men, and that really messed them up. We gave them the wing shot all night, but they never took it." S.O.C.(32-8) was sagging on Craig Hudeck, who finished with 28 points. Billy Brown added 12 points, Virland Howland had 10 points and D'Boy Johnson was held to only 5 points.

Ricky Phillips and David Burns got into early foul trouble, but Coach Henson got great support from 6'4" Kenneth McGill and 6'2" Johnny Jefferson. Coach Henson commented, "This team is a lot like my 1962 Dallas Madison team, we weren't very tall but were 25-1, losing only to Houston Worthing for the state championship in overtime."

The Golden Bears were making their second trip to the State Tournament during the modern era and first under Coach Euril Henson. Their eight defeats in the loss column might give the impression S.O.C. was not worthy of a state tournament pass, but you would be mistaken. Many people who followed basketball felt they would be hard to stop. The Golden Bears were battle tested against the best teams in the state, deep and talented and well coached.

Region III

Houston Westchester(29-9)

Beaumont French(28-4)

Houston Washington(26-4)

Clear Lake(34-4) #4

Houston Madison(30-5) #9

Houston Smiley(26-6)

Houston Wheatley(24-8)

Galveston Ball(27-7) #11

Top Players in Region III

6'5"	Chuck O'Neal	Houston Milby
6'8"	B.B. Davis	Beaumont French
6'3"	Darrell Mitchell	Galveston Ball
6'0"	Alvin Brooks	Houston Wheatley
6'6"	Joe Costello	Houston Westchester
6'5"	Roy Jones	Houston Jones
6'6"	Rickie Thompson	Houston Jones
6'7"	Leonard Washington	Houston Washington

Region III of course had its usual juggernauts in Houston Wheatley at 24-8 and Clear Lake at 34-4. Wheatley was not ranked by the state poll, which indicates that the polls were not real valid. Wheatley(24-8) unranked in the 1970s is unheard of to anybody who followed high school basketball during the decade. The Wildcats of Wheatley had losses against Arlington High(30-3), Houston Jones(32-5) 92-73, Houston Washington(26-4) 79-71, Houston Yates(24-9) 89-81 and Houston Sterling(24-10) 88-80. But you have to also look at who Wheatley defeated, S.O.C.(35-8) twice 123-120 and 98-94, Houston Kashmere(22-9) 110-96, Houston Milby(29-8) 90-66, Houston Jones(32-5) twice 85-76 and 80-67 and Houston Yates(24-9) 94-73. How in the world Wheatley was not ranked in the top twenty in the state is anybody's guess, but everybody in region III knew if you were going to win the region, you would have to beat Jackie Carr's Wheatley Wildcats. They played the toughest schedule in the state and a strong tradition on their side. The perennial power had one of the best guards to ever play at Wheatley, 5'11" Alvin Brooks. Brooks went on to be a standout performer at Lamar University. He was later the head basketball coach at the University of Houston. He averaged 25.9 points a game along with 5.3 assists and 3 steals while playing for Wheatley.

Defending Region III champion, Houston Milby, finished 28-8 and fifth in District behind Houston Jones(32-5), Houston Sterling(24-10), Houston Yates(24-9) and of course Wheatley(24-8). It was almost comical how strong these inner-city basketball teams were during the decade. Wheatley(24-8) took District 20-AAAA with a 9-3 finish, followed by Houston Jones(32-5) and Houston Yates(24-9) at 8-4. A three-team log jam was avoided late in the season when Houston Sterling upset Houston Jones(32-5) 63-62 and Wheatley(24-8) beat Yates(24-9) 94-73. That combination left Wheatley in the driver's seat.

The Buffaloes of Milby were left out of the big dance, but they supported one of the top players in the state in 6'5" Chuck O'Neal. O'Neal had been the catalyst to the state tournament run by Milby his junior year. The season did prove to be very successful for O'Neal as he was named a McDonald's All-American. This was the first year of the All-American team being named by McDonald's with no game being played at the time.

Probably the most dominant player in Houston was Leonard Mitchell of Houston Washington. He was the best big man in Houston in 1977 at 6'7", 250 pounds. Mitchell was an awesome force for Washington averaging 23.3 points. In college, he became an All-American performer for the Houston Cougars on the football field and also was a three-year letterman on the basketball team. Mitchell was an extraordinary athlete and two sport lettermen in college. Mitchell later played seven seasons in the N.F.L. after being the first-round draft pick of the Eagles in 1981.

Another team omitted from the playoffs was Houston Jones(32-5) who had three of the top players in Houston in Roy Jones(19.0), 5'10" Ed Williams and

super sophomore, Ricky Thompson(21.2). Thompson was already being projected as the top recruit in the state in two years. At the state track meet he high jumped 6'11".

Greg Wise led Houston Madison(30-5) with 20.1 per game average. Wise would later go on too much greater fame as the head basketball coach at Houston Yates. His son, Nic Wise, was named Texas Player of the Year by yours truly in 2007. I was writing for Texpreps Basketball magazine at the time. Nic went on to star at the University of Arizona. Houston Madison(30-5) also had two super sophomores in 6'9" Greg Kite and 6'4" John Simple. The Marlins were considered a major player in the battle for the Region III title.

Bill Krueger's Clear Lake(30-4) team was strong as usual, paced by 6'7" Rex Johnston(21.1), 6'7" Burney Wood, 6'7" Mark McCurry, 6'3" Kevin Smith and 5'10" Ricky Fagan. The Falcons were one of the top ranked schools in the state at #4 and as always, would be hard to contend with. Deer Park(34-4) was in the same District as Clear Lake and was ranked #3 in the state polls. Deer Park(34-4) held down the top ranking in the state for a brief time after completing 16 straight wins to open the season.

Houston Kashmere(22-9) upset Deer Park(34-4) 90-89 to end their winning streak. Coached by Ray Landers, Deer Park split with Cypress-Fairbanks(31-5) and Clear Lake(30-4) during the regular season. In District 23-AAAA a playoff was needed between Clear Lake(30-4) and Deer Park(34-4). Hofheinz Pavilion on the campus of the University of Houston hosted the game. Clear Lake(30-4) prevailed 53-39 to advance to the playoffs. Deer Park(34-4) was left at home with one of the best teams in the state. Coach Lander's team had gone 13-1 in District and 34-3 on the regular season and could not get past Coach Bill Krueger's Falcons. This was arguably the best team ever produced by Deer Park led by Jon Hughes, Byron Tulley, Robert Riley, Dean Endres and David Simmons.

Clear Lake(30-4) lost only four games during the regular season. The Falcons were taken down 50-48 by Houston Milby(29-8), Beaumont French(28-4) 62-49, Galena Park NorthShore(14-18) 52-49 and rival Deer Park(34-4) 53-50. Clear Lake's biggest wins were over Deer Park(34-4) twice 47-45 and 53-39 and Houston Yates(24-9) 80-59.

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

In District 17-AAAA action, Houston Stratford(27-9) made national headlines during their February 22 game against Spring Woods(26-10). Stratford

had to lose the game in order to have an opportunity at the District title. Stratford and Westchester(32-10) had tied for the first half title with 5-1 records. Spring Woods was 5-0 going into their game against Stratford in the second round. If Spring Woods lost, they would tie with Westchester for the second-round title, which would put Westchester into the playoffs, because they had tied for both the 1st half and 2nd half titles. That would mean an automatic playoff pass. Stratford had already been eliminated from winning the 2nd round and was playing for nothing. If Stratford lost to Spring Woods(26-10) that would give Spring Woods the 2nd round outright, and force a playoff between the three schools. Stratford's school sign read, "Watch us lose to Spring Woods tonight at 8:15".

The Spartans lost 72-45 giving Spring Woods the second half title and forcing a playoff between the three schools. Coach Kerry Kroll of Stratford(29-9) said, "We didn't want to forfeit, so we decided to play our second string the whole way." The following evening Westchester(30-10) eliminated Stratford and captured the first half of District. The loss ended Stratford's season. Two days later, Westchester(31-10) defeated Spring Woods(26-10) 68-65 to advance to the playoffs. Since Stratford was in such an awkward situation the two-round format had been eliminated in Texas high school basketball.

Thanks to Ivy McLemore, the former Sports Editor of the Houston Post, for his informative account about Stratford. Ivy discussed the district playoff in detail in his book titled, "Texas High School Basketball Scrapbook." The paperback book was written in 1990 and is a great read. Highly recommended to followers of the state tournament. In his book, he follows the state tournament all the way back to its early years in 1921.

Houston Westchester(32-10), led by 6'6" junior Joe Costello(14.9) and 6'3" Eric Buescher(14.0), did not get much respect following their victory over Spring Woods. The Wildcats from Westchester had nine losses on the season and were not thought to be a strong contender. The Wildcats had lost to Wheatley(24-8) 47-40, Yates(23-9) 78-70 and Houston Bellaire(17-19) twice.

Pt. Arthur Lincoln, under Coach James Gamble, had its string of six straight District championships broken in 1977. The Bumble Bees of Pt. Arthur finished with a 17-15 record and well off the pace for the playoffs. Two Beaumont schools emerged as the forces in District 22-4A. Beaumont French(28-4) and Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(30-6) battled it out for the District title. Both schools dominated the District with French(28-4) finally taking the title with a 58-50 season ending victory on their home court over Pollard(30-6). French(28-4) went 14-0 in District action and 28-4 on the regular season, while Pollard finished 12-2 and 30-6 on the season.

French's coach, Dick Hastings, was emotionally drained after the game and stated that it was a tremendous honor to represent District 22-AAAA. Beaumont French(28-4) came out of the area with one of the best kept secrets in

the state in 6'7" B.B. Davis(20.0/11.5/4 bl). "I waited for B.B. from the time he was in the sixth grade. I knew he was the guy who could turn our program around," Coach Hastings explained. "When he was a freshman, we went 6-24. Since then, we've gone 18-11, 26-8 and 28-4, and we've been District champions the last two seasons. My only mistake was not using him as a freshman." Davis went on to have an outstanding college career at Lamar University. B.B. Davis was named District M.V.P. His teammates, 6'8" Glen Marks(8.4/13.1) and 6'1" junior Willie Buckley, both were named to the second team.

From Beaumont Pollard(30-6), 6'3" Andre Jackson(20.4) was named 1st team All-District while 6'3" Danton Wilson was named to the 2nd team. French's omission from the state's top twenty was another glaring oversight by the pollsters. The person or people who were making the polls were obviously not familiar with the basketball talent in the state.

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

The most knowledgeable basketball experts believed whoever emerged from region III, would be the odds-on favorite to win the state championship in Austin. Six out of the previous eight seasons the class 4-A state champion had come out of Region III or the Houston area.

Houston Westchester(29-9) pulled off the first upset of the playoffs knocking off #9 ranked Houston Madison(30-5) 52-50. The Bi-District match-up between Houston Smiley(26-6) and Beaumont French(28-4) was a game of contrast. French had a tremendous advantage inside with size, 6'7", 6'8" and 6'5", while Smiley's(26-6) tallest player stood only 6'3". French(28-4) came in with a 15-game winning streak, but it wasn't enough, as Smiley(26-6) pulled the upset 60-53.

Houston Wheatley(24-8) held serve beating Houston Washington(26-4) 77-64. And the best game of the first round was the matchup between #4 ranked Clear Lake(34-4) and #11 Galveston Ball(27-7), led by 6'3" Darrell Mitchell. Galveston Ball(27-7) had another fine team, coached by Bob Woodard. Ball's standout performers were 6'6" Charles Swannegan, Michael Venible, James Jackson and 6'5" June Washington. Swannegan had an outstanding college career at Texas Tech. The Falcons of Clear Lake(34-4) prevailed in overtime 54-52 when Mark McCurry hit two foul shots with 13 seconds left to advance to regionals.

At **regionals**, Wheatley(25-8) defeated Clear Lake(35-4) in the semi-finals 74-71. The Wildcats won on a last second three-point play by Gilbert Thomas.

Thomas retrieved an errant 20-footer by Brooks, made a 180-degree turn at the top of the key and hit nothing but net at the buzzer. Thomas was fouled, but it was a full three minutes before they could clear the court for the foul shot. Rex Johnston led Lake with 19 points. It was Clear Lake's third time in four seasons that they had been eliminated in the regional semi-finals.

Houston Westchester(30-9) continued their winning ways coming from behind in overtime to defeat Smiley(27-6) 55-50 in another low scoring defensive struggle that Westchester liked to play. Joe Costello scored five of Westchester's eight overtime points, which was two more than the entire Smiley team managed in the three-minute overtime. Eric Buescher(14.0), who hit the key bucket to put the game into overtime, finished with 19 points, followed by Joe Costello's 16. Smiley(27-6) was coached by Al Schomber and 6'3" Hiram Harrison was a key contributor. Smiley(27-6) finished first in District 21-AAAA with a 12-2 mark and Forest Brook had finished second with a 10-4 record. Galena Park and Baytown Sterling(24-10) tied for third at 9-5.

The **Regional Finals** pitted two programs coming from two totally different directions. Predominately white Houston Westchester(31-9) from the suburbs and inner city Wheatley(26-8). Westchester (31-9) closed in 1985 and merged with Stratford High. Since integration in 1968, Wheatley(26-8) had made eight out of ten trips to regionals, and six trips to Austin and the State Tournament, with four state titles. You had to figure Wheatley would be favored just on experience alone.

Once again, the upset took place as 6'6" post Joe Costello was the difference for Westchester(31-9). Costello's ability to handle pressure and his outside shooting led Westchester(31-9) to a 74-71 victory. In the third quarter, Westchester had opened up a 59-50 margin only to lose it with 4:18 remaining 64-62. Alvin Brooks(39) of Wheatley drew his fifth foul on a charging call with 2:13 left in the game with the score tied at 67. He was also assessed a technical foul. Brooks technical was not common for a Jackie Carr coached team. Carr's teams were usually disciplined and took care of business.

Westchester(31-9) won the game at the line hitting 20 of 29 foul shots while Wheatley(26-8) hit 9 of 16. Westchester's balanced scoring had three players scoring 15 or 16 points. Alvin Brooks led Wheatley with 16 points followed by sophomore, Roosevelt McGruder with 15. Joe Costello of Westchester would later go on to play on two final four teams at L.S.U. and had a fine college career. A team out of Houston had crashed the party in Austin for the second year in a row. Houston Milby had been the surprise team the year before. They were the first all-white team to advance to Austin out of region III since 1967 and de-segregation.

(39) Brooks averaged 25.9 points per game and 9.0 assists per game his senior year. He earned All-City honors. After playing at Sam Houston St. and Henderson County Jr. College, he later transferred to Lamar University. He took his team to the NCAA tournament and the Sweet

16. Brooks was named 2nd team All-Southland Conference. He was drafted in the 10th round by the Spurs.

Region IV

Austin Reagan(20-11)

Mission(26-12)

San Antonio Lee(26-9)

Converse Judson(26-9)

Victoria(33-2) #7

Corpus Christi Moody(34-2) #12

San Antonio Burbank(31-3) #8

San Antonio Kennedy(27-11)

Top Players in Region IV

6'11" Gilbert Salinas

6'7" Charles Moore

6'6" Keith Edmundson

6'7" Roy Jones

6'5" Charles Bean

San Antonio Burbank

Corpus Christi Moody

San Antonio MacArthur

Austin Reagan

San Antonio Sam Houston

The San Antonio region or Region IV was viewed by most as the weakest region. There was probably little reason to question that conclusion because year in and year out there were not as many outstanding teams in the area. Victoria(33-2), who had been to state the year before, once again was thought to have the best team along with Corpus Christi Moody(34-2). Victoria was ranked #7 in the state and led by 6'5" David Hardesty, who played at Baylor. C.C. Moody(34-2) was an explosive offensive team that was ranked #12. Moody was led by one of the top performers in the state in 6'7" Charles Moore(28.3). Corpus Christi Moody was the top scoring team in the state averaging over 90 points per game. Joining Moore on the talented starting lineup were 6'8" Larry Earls(19.3), 5'10" Joe Phillips(16.2), 6'5" Curtis Bonds(15.2) and 5'7" Joe Garza(11.4). All five starters averaged in double figures. Moody felt confident they would be the first Corpus Christi team to advance to state since Carroll in 1973. Moody was talking about a Moody-Burbank regional final even before the playoffs. San Antonio Burbank(31-3) and Victoria(33-2) seemed to be on a collision course in Region IV with nobody wanting to face Moody(34-2).

The #8 team in the state and third in the region was San Antonio Burbank(31-3), led by McDonald's All-American, 6'11" Gilbert Salinas(20 pts/16 rebs). The Bulldogs had a very deceptive record losing three of their last four regular season games with Salinas injured. Salinas had surgery to repair ligament damage in a little finger. Burbank played a deliberate and slow tempo game allowing only 46.7 points per game. Salinas average 20 points per game, which was almost one third of the team's offense. Rounding out Burbank's starting lineup was 6'4" Ernest Puente(12.8), 6'1" Steve Gamboa(12.1), 6'1" Leonard Lambert and 5'10" Mike Poole.

The only teams Burbank had faced in the state's top twenty had been Corpus Christi Moody(35-2) at #12 and S.A. Sam Houston(28-8). The Bulldogs of

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

Austin Reagan(20-11) upset Victoria(33-2) in Bi-District 80-74 in overtime. With the victory Reagan had eliminated the defending region IV champions. Austin Reagan was very strong inside with 6'7" Roy Jones(16.4) and 6'6" Darrell Overton. Other starters included 5'11" Mark Taylor, 5'8" Buford Landrum and 6'0" Mike Livermore.

Reagan had been down early 19-9 after the 1st quarter and 41-27 at halftime but rallied to tie the score at the end of regulation 72 -72. Reagan finally won the game with four seconds remaining. Austin Reagan had been known as a football school in the late 1960s and 1970s. Reagan captured the first half of District, but Roy Jones had a bad shoulder during the second half of District action, and Austin Anderson won the 2nd half. Reagan won the District playoff.

Corpus Christi Moody(34-2) defeated Mission(26-12) at Edinburg High School 76-72. Earlier in the season Moody had drummed Mission by 46, 28, and 20 points. Moody took 86 shots compared to Mission's 61. Moody led at halftime 40-34. Moore was high man for C.C. Moody with 25 points followed by Bonds with 23, and Phillips with 14. Unfortunately for Moody, Bonds hurt both ankles, as his team advanced in the playoffs.

Mission standouts were 6'5" Steve Fielder and 6'4" Jaime Pena. Fielder hit 30 points in the loss. Coach Garcia of Mission compared Moody to last year's team, "These guys are a lot better than last year. Last year they had one man –Charles Tryon- this year they have so many." Steve Gonzales was the Corpus Christi Moody coach.

Burbank faced off against San Antonio Lee(26-9) at the Blossom Athletic Center in their Bi-District clash. Burbank had advanced to the playoffs with a 60-57 win over San Antonio Sam Houston for the District 31-AAAA title. The Bulldogs had won 31 out 32 games with Salinas in the lineup.

S.A. Lee had also won a District playoff game over Seguin in District 32-AAAA 58-53. Lee averaged 71.6 per game while allowing 58.5 points. S.A. Burbank had an impressive 65.1 average while only giving up a 46.5 average. S.A. Lee looked to 6'6" Chuck Stanley(25.7) to carry the scoring load. Helping Stanley were Jeff Brown and Bill Bond.

Burbank won a close one 52-50 over San Antonio Lee(26-9) to advance to regionals. Salinas was in foul trouble and went to the bench at the end of the first half with four fouls. "We tightened up our defense in the second half and we were able to stay close in the third quarter with Gilbert on the bench," said Coach Earl Meyer. Meyer's continued, "We were determined to run our four corners offense until we felt we could put Gilbert back on the floor. We had to stop Stanley and we had to stay close." The Bulldogs held Stanley to only six points in the second half and only trailed 44-43 after the third period. Salinas entered the game at the start

of the fourth quarter. Burbank took the lead for good with 3:26 remaining 51-50. Burbank missed several foul shots in the closing minutes that could have put the game away. Salinas blocked four shots and grabbed nine rebounds and scored 15 points. Most of his scoring came from the outside. S.A. Lee was led by Stanley's 24 points.

San Antonio Kennedy(27-11) met Converse Judson(26-9) in Bi-District at the Alamo Stadium Gym. Kennedy had beaten Judson twice during the season 77-68 and 71-48. Kennedy probably had the smallest team in the playoffs with 6'3" Darryl Bethley(19.2), 6'2" Rick Leggett(18.2), Dale Robinson(15.5), 5'11" William Young(5.4) and 5'10" Vincent Tristan(4.2) as their starters. Kennedy had upset San Antonio Jay 68-61 in the 30-AAAA title game.

Converse Judson's(26-9) lineup was made up of 6'2" Joe Blake(13.9), 6'2" Stacey Bowers(13.2), 6'2" Tracey Bowers(12.1), 5'9" David Nurse(7.6), 6'1" Stan Fike(4.6), 6'3" Edwin Taylor(6.6) and 6'3" Ken Hickey(7.1). As you can see neither team had any size which would be a problem in this region. Kennedy jumped out to a big lead 54-39 only to see Judson mount a tremendous comeback late. With 19 seconds left in the game Judson trailed only 66-65. Judson(26-9) had several opportunities to win the game, but failed to capitalize. Kennedy(27-11) hung on to win 70-65. Derryl Bethley of Kennedy hit a three-point play with 14 seconds remaining to give his team the win. "Judson hurt us with the press and used it as a major weapon in their comeback," Coach Armando Balderama of Kennedy said.

For Kennedy, the leading scorer was Bethley with 22 points and Leggett and Franklin finished with 13 each. 6'2" Joe Blake was top man for Judson with 20 points. Winning coach, Balderama commented after the game, "This is the farthest we've ever gone, so you know the kids are sky high."

Coming into regionals Austin Reagan(21-11) had been inconsistent losing four of its last 10 games. Corpus Christi Moody(35-2) and San Antonio Burbank(32-3) were both returning to the regionals after being eliminated by Victoria in 1976. Victoria had eliminated C.C. Moody in the finals 72-65 and S.A. Burbank in the semis 44-34. Burbank looked like the regional favorite having beaten S.A. Kennedy(28-11) twice during the regular season 64-42 and 85-55, and Corpus Christi Moody(35-2) 59-49. Moody was known as an offensive juggernaut while SA Burbank(32-3) relied on tough man to man defense led by 6'11" Gilbert Salinas.

Austin Reagan(21-11) pulled one of the biggest upsets in the state playoffs knocking off Corpus Christi Moody(35-2) 76-58 in the regional semi-finals. Reagan(21-11) jumped out to a 52-33 lead and outscored Moody 25-8 in the third quarter to extend their lead. 6'7" Roy Jones had 11 rebounds while 6'6" Darrell Overton pulled in 22 rebounds for Reagan. 6'8" Larry Earls(19.3) only had 2 rebounds for Corpus Christi Moody(35-2). With Austin Reagan(21-11) up 26-22 with 5:16 left in the 2nd quarter, Reagan went into a stall for two minutes trying to conserve energy for the regional finals against S.A. Burbank. Moore led all scorers

with 25 points for C.C. Moody. It looked like the Trojans of Corpus Christi Moody had been a little overrated.

San Antonio Burbank(32-3) had little trouble with S.A. Kennedy(28-11) 69-54. Burbank's 6'11" post finished with 26 points against Kennedy. For Kennedy, Dale Roberson hit 17 points from the outside, while Derryl Bethley and Dooley Young added 14 and 10 points respectively.

In the regional finals, S.A. Burbank(33-3) advanced to the state tournament beating Austin Reagan(22-11) 46-35 before 5,600 fans. The regional finals were played at the Blossom Athletic Center in San Antonio. Burbank led a low scoring affair 18-14 at halftime. Reagan coach Gail Simpson remarked after the game, "Burbank isn't a one-man team. Having a 6'11" helps a whole lot, but they played tremendous defense and completely silenced our break. Our kids were intimidated on several occasions when they had to try and shoot over Salinas." Coach Meyers praised Salinas, "Gilbert again showed why he is the most complete player to come out of San Antonio." Salinas presence inside had limited Reagan's tall post combination of 6'7" Roy Jones and 6'6" Darrell Overton to just 23 points. The combination had scored 36 points in their semi-final victory. Salinas finished with 20 points, 2 blocks and 8 rebounds.

State Tournament

Ft. Worth Dunbar	(38-1)	#2	82.4-63.8	+18.6	PR 92.58
Houston Westchester	(32-9)		62.1-54.6	+ 7.5	PR 83.83
San Antonio Burbank	(34-4)	#8	64.0-46.7	+17.3	PR 90.45
South Oak Cliff	(33-8)	#14	89.3-72.3	+17.0	PR 97.07

Top Players at the State Tournament

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

As the state tournament opened for the last time at Gregory Gym on the campus of the University of Texas, it was a beautiful day. The 4:00 p.m. game pitted surprise Cinderella, Houston Westchester(32-9), against the tournament favorite, Ft. Worth Dunbar(38-1). The first thing you noticed when entering Gregory was the old-time clock on the wall and a score board that had been kept by hand in days gone by. Although they were no longer in use, they still showed how much the game had changed in the electronic age. As for me and my brother-in-law, we waited for the arrival of the teams to warm-up. We had great seats although it was very cramped. I could not help but laugh as I watched my brother-in-law get sprayed by a hot Dr. Pepper from the fat lady sitting behind us. It was an accident,

but it was still a sad way to start the tournament. He handled it much better than I would have as we got ready for the game.

Westchester(32-9) came out first and 6'6" Joe Costello stood out as not only the team's best player, but also the team's only tall player. We immediately wondered aloud how they would be able to stay with the larger and more talented Dunbar(38-1) squad. But if you can beat Wheatley and win the Houston region, you had to be pretty solid. The Westchester coach, Bob Latham seemed confident saying, "The kids get up for the big games, they are a self-motivated group."

Ft. Worth Dunbar(38-1) coach, Robert Hughes, commented about the possibility of a slow-down game, "We've been fortunate in that we've been able to play our game most of this year." Latham countered, "We're not gonna run with them, but we're certainly not gonna hold the ball. We'll do what we've done all year-pass it when necessary to get our shots."

Houston Wheatley(26-9) coach, Jackie Carr, who had played both teams predicted Dunbar would win the game because, "They have too much experience up front, especially the Griffin kid." One newspaper had Dunbar about a 10-point favorite. Now how they came to that figure I have no idea. But I would generally agree with that assessment. Most knowledgeable fans at the tournament felt Dunbar would win by double figures. If you looked at the power rating figures the Wildcats were 11-point favorites.

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

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

Dunbar's offensive game was centered around 6'0" junior guard Cletus Hubbard(14.9) and 6'3" Michael Watley(15.0). Defensively everything centered around the imposing 6'9" James Griffin(14.7), who was a natural shot blocker. Griffin was extremely long, playing bigger than 6'9". The Wildcats had very few weaknesses with three division one players in the lineup.

Ft. Worth Dunbar(38-1) jumped out to an early lead, but could not pull away from Westchester(32-9) with their patient and discipline lineup. At halftime Dunbar led 37-34. At the end of three quarters Westchester took a 54-53 advantage and the game was slipping away from Dunbar. The Wildcats went up 70-62 with 1:29 remaining when Westchester came back with 3 straight baskets to narrow the gap with 34 seconds left. Hubbard went to the foul line with 15 seconds remaining and his foul shots wrapped up the game for Dunbar. Jeffrey Kervin hit a bucket at the buzzer to make the final score 74-68.

6'3" Michael Watley(15.0) had taken over in the fourth quarter and scored 11 of his game high 23 points for Coach Hughes. Dunbar outscored Westchester 21-14 in the final quarter. "We blew one last year in College Station and we swore it wouldn't happen again," explained Hughes. Cletus Hubbard finished with 15 points, Michael Watley had 23, Jeffrey Kervin 12 and James Griffin finished with 20. The 6'9" junior used a soft jumper from the baseline as his major weapon. He blocked five shots and came away with 19 rebounds and had some thunder dunks.

Dunbar led in rebounds 46-41. Eric Buescher finished with 21 points, Mike Kloper had 13, Neal Howard finished with 12 points and Joe Costello added 12 in a losing effort. Costello got into foul trouble early in the 2nd half while trying to guard Griffin. He finished with 19 rebounds. The attendance was estimated at 6,000, while the evening attendance was estimated to be larger at 7,500.

In the evening game, Dallas South Oak Cliff(33-8) would have to challenge San Antonio Burbank(34-4) and their 6'11" All-American center, Gilbert Salinas(20.0). Sonny Allen, S.M.U.'s head basketball coach, after viewing Salinas in the regional finals against Austin Reagan, said that Burbank would destroy S.O.C. at state. I question the quote, because in an extensive interview in the "San Antonio Light", Coach Allen would not pick a winner, but that was one of the quotes that came out in the Dallas papers the day of the game.

6'11" Salinas was reportedly mulling over 190 collegiate offers including S.M.U. The Golden Bears head coach, Euril Henson, admitted he knew little about the 6'11" post. Henson didn't seem too worried about the big boy saying, "He will be intimidating but it won't take us long to adjust." In the game you had a total contrast, the top scoring team in the state against the top defensive team. Salinas was the most talked about player to come out of San Antonio since Rick Bullock. Bullock played at Jefferson in 1972 and hit 44 points in the state championship game. Two college scouts chimed in on the Burbank – S.O.C. matchup. "Salinas definitely should intimidate S.O.C.'s players and should give the fans their money's

worth if he plays with the same intensity that he did against Reagan," said one college scout. "He does everything you ask of a big man and does it well." Another scout added, "S.O.C. has the ability to blow Burbank out if it is allowed to run."

In a preview of the coming semi-final matchup, Sonny Allen gave an excellent preview of the game. "This game will be a great one because of the contrasting of styles," Allen said. Having seen both teams on several occasions, Allen had targeted Salinas as his #1 recruit for the Mustangs of S.M.U. "South Oak Cliff is unusually quick," Allen continued. "They aren't large, but they can all jump. Take forward David Burns for example, at 6'2" Burns can dunk the ball like Julius Erving." When asked who he thought had the better team, Allen responded, "I couldn't say that one is better than the other, or even that one or two should be favored. No matter who wins, it won't be an upset because both teams are so solid. S.O.C. likes to get its running game going, they get the ball down the floor quick and like to take the first shot. I think that is their best game. Sure, they have turnovers, but they are solid. They've beaten the best teams in Dallas. Mayfield is a streak shooter and if he gets hot, watch out. S.O.C. is much more explosive than Burbank and can control the game if they can establish their running game. Burbank is one of the most controlled teams that I have ever seen." Coach Allen explained. Allen pointed to Burbank's win over Austin Reagan 46-35 in regionals as an example. "I thought Reagan would really score on them, but Burbank held them to 18 points through three quarters. Salinas is capable of winning it by himself. I have never seen a big man pass the ball like he does. He has three qualities necessary to be a super player. He has a great shot, good hands and good quickness. He will intimidate S.O.C."

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

Burbank's crazy fan base stormed Gregory Gym with an unbelievable buzz of excitement. The Bulldog's fan base was about 99% Hispanic. Everybody was excited about seeing the big boy in action. I remember going down to the court before the game just to see how big he was and I was very impressed. Burbank's(32-4) strategy if Salinas got into foul trouble would be a four-corner stall. That would be really difficult against a pressing team like South Oak Cliff(33-8).

Defensively, S.O.C. had relied on a zone defense in the playoffs, which helps everyone rebound because the Bears tallest player was only 6'4". The heart and soul of the S.O.C.'s attack was the backcourt tandem of 6'2" David Burns(22.0) and 5'7" Cullen Mayfield(20.0) and 6'3" Arthur Williams(15.0). Coach Henson played a lot of players and relied heavily on the pressing up tempo game. Remember, there was no three-point shot back in 1977. Personally, I felt Burbank would have a hard time, that S.O.C. was too fast and quick. Of course, I was a little prejudice because I had seen S.O.C. and just read about Burbank. I just didn't think anybody could stay with S.O.C.'s speed and quickness. Mayfield was incredible running the fast break with his teammates. The Bulldogs had nobody who could guard Mayfield. Williams and Burns could finish at the basket and shoot. They were also match-up nightmares. The Golden Bears weakness was their size, but they had a number of leapers inside. The thing I remember best about Salinas in the game was him using head fakes trying to get his shot off. S.O.C. was just so athletic. Ricky Phillips played like he was 6'8". They were such a cohesive unit where everybody was unselfish and knew their roles. They weren't like the Wheatley teams of the past where you had several players in double figures. Mayfield, Burns and Williams were going to be taking the majority of the shots and would be the leading scorers every game. They also had the ball in their hands the majority of the time.

The game was very even entering the fourth quarter with S.O.C. leading 41-39. In the final frame, the Golden Bears extended their lead 66-54 for the win. Coach Henson explained after the game, "Our press wore them out." Burbank had used only five players till the end of the game when sophomore Mike Poole fouled out. Burbank coach, Earl Meyer responded, "I don't think we tired, the whole thing was mental, we just lost our concentration in that span." The "unstoppable" Salinas according to Sonny Allen, finished with 15 points and 6 rebounds, going 7 of 16 from the field. Ernest Puente was Burbank's leading scorer with 16 points and Leonard Lambert added 12 points. S.O.C. did a great job limiting Salinas's touches and his attempts. Burns actually out jumped Salinas on the 2nd quarter center jump. The Golden Bears had great balance as usual with Mayfield finishing with 16 points, David Burn's had 20 points, Arthur Williams chipped in 8 points and Ricky Phillips had 12 points and 8 rebounds. David Burns finished with 12 rebounds.

San Antonio Burbank(34-4) led at half 31-29 and S.O.C. led at the end of the third quarter 41-39. "We were playing their style of game, but I saw our press was tiring them out at the end of the third period," Arthur Williams said. In a 98 second span the game changed in the Golden Bears favor. Four straight errors by Burbank resulted in eight straight points and S.O.C. never looked back. Coach Henson's team built up a 10-point lead 49-39 with 5:55 remaining in the game. "We were forced to play their game at that point," Coach Earl Meyer commented. "Basketball at the state meet level is a game determined by mistakes, and we made too many. We simply didn't play one of our better games. We didn't handle

their press as well as we should have and we lost our concentration for a few minutes in the final quarter. We made some bad passes and didn't move the ball the way we should, the breakdown allowed them to gain the momentum," Meyer said. The Burbank coach continued, "You have to do two things to beat S.O.C., you have to beat their press and you have to eliminate their layups. They stay in a game by hitting the long outside bombs, but it's their layups that produce the victories. Mayfield did a great job setting up their inside shots after they got us playing their game." Salinas was held scoreless the last nine minutes of the game. "It wasn't one of his better games," said Meyer. "Gilbert has played better and so has the whole team."

The rebound total was 33 apiece and Burbank had 18 turnovers compared to 9 for S.O.C. Burns did most of his damage from outside around the perimeter. Burbank was one of the top defensive teams in the state. The Bears found out early they could not go down court and just fire quick shots, but rather had to set up their offense. S.O.C. scored 66 points on the game, which was 20 points higher than the average allowed by Burbank during the season. "Yeah, they played good defense," admitted Henson, "But I think we made them play defense by being deliberate ourselves."

*In looking forward to the **finals**, Coach Meyer was asked who he favored, "S.O.C.(34-8) and Dunbar(39-1) both play the same game, they run and shoot and then run and shoot some more. With the quickness being about even, Dunbar should have an edge because of their height." Most fans attending the finals felt that way, but my brother-in-law and I both agreed S.O.C. had far superior guard skills with Cullen Mayfield. They could play so much faster than anybody else because of their 5'7" dynamo. If it was going to be an up-tempo contest, S.O.C. had the advantage. 6'9" Griffin would not be as big a factor in the up-tempo contest.*

This set the stage for the showdown between South Oak Cliff and Dunbar. At 39-1, Dunbar looked to have the advantage if they could keep Griffin out of foul trouble. Coach Henson's team had nobody who could matchup against him on either end of the court. Griffin was a much more imposing player than Salinas and could easily dominate a game. Remember also that Griffin was surrounded by better teammates than Salinas. As for the power rating, S.O.C. was a 4 and one-half point favorite.

*Dunbar led at halftime 40-37 and 63-62 at the end of the 3rd period. There were seven ties during the game, the last one coming at 58 apiece. S.O.C. trailed by as many as seven points in the third period but finally took the lead 68-67 with 4:33 left on a 15-footer by Ricky Phillips. Down the stretch South Oak Cliff outscored Dunbar 12-4, and that was the difference as the Golden Bears captured the state title **78-71**. Many sportswriters felt that the turning point in the game came in the 4th quarter when Mayfield took two charging fouls. "The two offensive fouls really hurt us," Hughes said. Mark Coleman of S.O.C. said, "The tide turned on the*

offensive fouls, you could see it. Dunbar got careless and threw the ball away.” Griffin picked up his fourth foul with 53 seconds left in the 3rd quarter and fouled out with 43 seconds left in the game. The game had already been decided prior to Griffin’s departure from the game. The big junior finished with 24 points and 16 rebounds and added four dunks and two blocks for his efforts. David Burns(22.0) got his 4th foul with 1:14 left in the game. Late in the game, silly turnovers plagued Dunbar. Michael Watley(17.6) was called for walking with the ball and Thomas Glenn stepped out of bounds on a rebound.

Cullen Mayfield(20.0) finished with 23 points and 17 of those were in the 2nd half. Mayfield penetrated the tough Wildcat defense for 3 layups and four jump-shots, one from 22 feet out. South Oak Cliff(34-8) pressed the entire game and created 15 turnovers to 7 for the Golden Bears. Burns had 16 points and 10 rebounds, Williams finished with 16 points and 12 rebounds and Ricky Phillips had 11 rebounds.

It marked the first-time teams from Dallas and Ft. Worth had played for the Class AAAA title. Several hundred fans failed to get in. They broke some windows and tried to storm the locked gates to gain admission. People inside could not get out until late in the third quarter because all the gates and doors were locked. For a \$2 ticket, you could see two of the top teams in the state go at it for the state championship. The attendance was 7,700 fans, but that didn’t count the hundreds trying to gain admittance. Fans peeped in the windows. No wonder a new arena was needed for the tournament.

For Coach Henson, it was his final game, as he retired after the game. Henson had coached 19 years at Madison in Dallas before moving to South Oak Cliff. He had coached one of the greatest players to ever come out of Dallas, John Stallworth. He would leave the game and teach Biology and coach B-team football at S.O.C.

For Coach Robert Hughes, it would be the first of many disappointments in Austin. Hughes and his Dunbar teams would always be at the center of Texas High School basketball, especially when they would make it to Austin. The superior guard play by S.O.C. was the difference for Coach Henson’s crew. For Hughes, he was upset with his team’s inability to get the ball inside to Griffin. “We took too many 30 footers,” Hughes commented. “S.O.C. is the quickest team we have played,” Hughes said.

Dunbar out rebounded S.O.C. 56-47, and at one point in the first half S.O.C. missed 19 straight shots, but Dunbar was unable to take advantage of the cold shooting. Henson said his game plan was to utilize his team’s quickness, drive and try to draw the fouls. The team that didn’t even look like they would make the playoffs in January became Dallas’s first boys champion since Roosevelt’s 1972 title.

Coach Euril Henson played a lot of players, Mayfield, Burns, Williams, Coleman, Phillips, Elson Darby, Ricky Wiseman, Johnny Jefferson, Kevin Fisher and Kenneth McGill. The deep bench had been so valuable during the season.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Interview with Cullen Mayfield:

When talking about his high school experience forty years removed, Mayfield said one of the most memorable things about his career was beating Ft. Worth Dunbar twice. "We were the only team that beat them and we did it twice," Mayfield said. "They had two great players in Griffin and Watley. We were so fast I felt like we could beat anybody in every game my senior year. I felt like we had a better bench than Dunbar." The little former point guard also had a vivid recollection about the Dallas press not thinking S.O.C. could beat Gilbert Salinas and S.A. Burbank. "Nobody gave us a chance."

In discussing playing for Coach Henson, Cullen said, "he let us play, we didn't have any plays. I played for Coach Gales my sophomore year and he was much stricter than Coach Henson. Coach Gales was the one who discovered me, so I was really upset when he left after my sophomore year." In discussing his former teammate, David Burns, Cullen said he had a great deal of respect for Burn's talents. "Burns would have averaged 50 points a game had they had the 3-point shot back then. I loved playing with Burns, he was a great player. We played against each other in junior high, so I was happy to be playing with him in high school. Dwayne Scales was my junior high teammate, but he attended Carter and I went to South Oak Cliff. I really don't know how that worked back then," Cullen said.

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

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

Cullen was one of the most memorable players in the long history of high school basketball in Texas. Mayfield's name will always be associated with champions, as basketball's little man who came up big on the game's biggest stage.

Mayfield presently lives in Dallas and has three children.

Dallas South Oak Cliff 1973-1977 {164-30 84%}				Coach Jimmy Gales 73,74,75, Euril Henson 76,77
1973	30-6	#6	Regional Final	Spring Branch L 59-51 PR 86.91
1974	37-5	#2	<u>State Final</u>	H. Kashmere L 91-87 PR 94.48 Pts. 85.9-70.2 +15.7
1975	35-4	#3	Regional Semi	FW Paschal L 83-70 PR 93.91 Pts. 88.1-67.7 +20.4
1976	27-7	#9	Regional Final	Tyler J.T. L 89-85 PR 87.74
1977	35-8	#1	<u>State Champs</u>	FW Dunbar W 78-71 PR 97.07 Pts. 89.3-72.3 +17.0
Best: 6'7" Kenneth Williams(21.0), N.Texas-1974; 6'3" Charles McMillen(24.4), N.Texas-1974; 6'2" Larry Harris(15.0), Tyler JC-1974; 5'7" Cullen Mayfield(20.0), Midwestern-1977; 6'2" David Burns(22.0), St. Louis Uni.-1977; 6'3" Waymon Lister(25.3), N.Texas-1975: (McKee Final Rankings)				

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

1977**State Rankings AAAA {End of the Regular Season}:**

1. El Paso Eastwood	30-1	6'8" Terry White, 6'7" Darold Molix, Tim Crenshaw
2. Ft. Worth Dunbar	35-1	6'9" James Griffin(13.0), 6'3" Michael Watley(17.6)
3. Deer Park	34-4	6'5" Jon Hughes(21.0), 6'4" Byron Tully(13.0)
4. Clear Lake	34-4	6'7" Rex Johnston(21.1), Burney Wood
5. Dallas Roosevelt	30-6	6'5" Rynn Wright(25.0), 6'5" Michael Battle(19.0)
6. Arlington High	30-2	6'7" Ralph McPhearson(25.0), 6'4" Allen Roberts
7. Victoria	33-2	6'5" David Hardesty
8. S.A. Burbank	31-4	6'11" Gilbert Salinas(20.0), 6'1" Steve Gamboa(11.0)
9. Houston Madison	30-5	6'2" Greg Wise(20.1), 6'10" Greg Kite
10. Tyler Lee	33-2	6'4" Uirdell Howland(12.3), 6'5" Craig Hudeck(11.5)
11. Galveston Ball	31-7	6'3" Darrell Mitchell, Mike Venible
12. Corpus Christy Moody	28-7	6'7" Charles Moore(28.3), 6'8" Larry Earls(19.3)
13. Houston Jones	32-5	6'3" Roy Jones(19.0), 5'10" Ed Williams
14. South Oak Cliff	30-8	5'7" Cullen Mayfield(20.0), 6'1" David Burns(22.0)
15. Dallas Carter	24-8	6'7" Vernon Smith(24.0), 6'6" Dwayne Scales(20.0)
16. Houston Reagan	31-5	6'2" Mike Thompson
17. Bryan	22-6	6'11" Rudy Woods, 6'2" Kermit Wilson(11.9)
18. Pampa	24-5	6'1" Rayford Young(19.5)
19. S.A. Sam Houston	28-7	6'8" Abraham Davis, 6'5" Charles Bean
20. Irving	27-4	5'11" Fred Stephenson(19.0), 6'5" Andy Sears(16.0)
20. Denison	25-5	5'11" Clint Gentry(16.0), 6'4" Charles Jenkins(16.0)

The All-State Team: Selecting The All-State team was very difficult because of the size of the state. The **Sports Writers** did a great job selecting their team's year in and year out. Sometimes you can see a regional bias with the voting, but in 1977 the voting looked pretty fair. **1st Team**, 6'11" Gilbert Salinas(20.0), San Antonio Burbank; 6'7" Ralph McPherson(25.0), Arlington; 6'5" Chuck O'Neal(23.0), Houston Milby; 6'9" James Griffin(14.6), Ft. Worth Dunbar; 5'7" Cullen Mayfield(20.0), Dallas South Oak Cliff: **2nd Team**, 6'8" Roshern Amie(22.9/14.8), Marshall; 6'7" Charles Moore(24.4), Corpus Christi Moody; 6'5" Rynn Wright(25.0), Dallas Roosevelt; 6'2" David Burns(22.0), Dallas S.O.C.; 6'3" Michael Watley(17.1), Ft. Worth Dunbar: **3rd Team**, 6'4" Tim Crenshaw(14.1), El Paso Eastwood; 6'7" Darold Molix(12.5), El Paso Eastwood; 6'6" Keith Edmundson(22.0), San Antonio MacArthur, 6'8" B.B. Davis(21.0), Beaumont French; 6'3" Darrell Mitchell, Galveston Ball:

Were there any omissions to the All-State team in hind sight? Dewayne Scales and Vernon Smith of Dallas Carter and Alvin Brooks of Houston Wheatley, 6'7" Leonard Mitchell(23.3) from Houston Washington were four of the top fifteen players in the state, but were overshadowed by the tremendous talent pool. All four went on to have great college careers, but when you don't get into the playoffs, you are limited on your visibility. Player of the Year would have to be Gilbert Salinas(20.0/16.0).

Recruits: Gilbert Salinas(20.0/16.0)) was the top recruit in the state. He signed with Notre Dame and was a four-year letterman for the Irish and played backup post behind Bill Laimbeer and Orlando Woolridge. He was drafted by the Hawks in the 8th round of the NBA draft and #167 overall in 1981. Salinas never played in the NBA. The two standouts from Dallas Carter went their separate ways following high school. Vernon Smith(24.0) attending Texas A&M while Dwayne Scales(20.0) played at L.S.U. Smith ended up the all-time leader in scorer and rebounder upon graduation from A&M. He was selected All-Southwest Conference all four years at A&M and 1st team All-SWC three years in a row. He was a 2nd round selection by the 76ers in the NBA draft and #46 overall. He was the last cut of the 76ers in 1981. Scales had a fine career at L.S.U., named freshmen of the year, Honorable Mention All-American in 1979, and named MVP of the 1980 SEC tournament. He skipped his senior season at L.S.U. and entered the NBA draft. He played for the Knicks and the Bullets(Wizards) from 1980 to 1984. He was the 36th overall pick in the 1980 NBA draft. Many locals felt Scales was the most talented player to come out of Dallas since Ira Terrell in 1972. In an interview at L.S.U. during his sophomore season, Scales said he never considered any Texas schools because they never pursued him. "I didn't really consider any schools in Texas, because the coaches there said I was undisciplined and could never be coached." Scales grew two mores inches after arriving on the L.S.U. campus. Rynn Wright(24.9/19.6) of Dallas Roosevelt joined Vernon Smith at Texas A&M and made 1st team All-SWC on a conference championship squad in 1980 and 1981. He is still in the top ten on the Aggies All-time list in rebounds, points, blocked shots and games started. He was drafted by the 76ers in the 4th round, which was #92 overall. Confused and unsure of himself, Wright did not perform well at the 76ers training camp. He had always played inside as a power forward. In the pros, he had to change positions and the adjustment was too hard at the pro level. Chuck O'Neal(25.0) had limited success at the University of Houston after a standout high school career. He was a two-year letterman for the Cougars. Charles Bean out of San Antonio Sam Houston signed with Idaho State. Billy McShane attended Oregon State and had a nice career as mainly a backup player and his son later followed in his footsteps. McShane played for Dallas Jesuit and was 6'6". A lot of hoopla surrounded Ralph McPherson(25.0) during his high school days. He signed with Texas Tech but soon realized Gerald Meyers was not a good fit for him. He transferred to the University of Texas at Arlington. As a Maverick, he was 1st team All-Southland Conference and led the conference in scoring. After being drafted by the Dallas Mavericks in the NBA with the 188th overall pick, he opted for the Continental Basketball Association, playing for Phil Jackson. He played 11 years in Europe and was named to the U.T.A. Hall of Fame. Joining McPherson was 6'7" Albert Culton(23.0) of Ennis, who transferred to UTA from Texas A&M. He was named Southland Conference player of the year in 1982 and was also drafted by the Mavericks of the

NBA with the 209th overall pick. **Michael Watley**(17.1) from Ft. Worth Dunbar, played one season at Arkansas under Eddie Sutton and played quality minutes on a final four team, but got homesick and returned to Ft. Worth, missing the final four in 1978. Watley later transferred to Evansville. Two outstanding recruits in 1977 came from Marshall in East Texas, 6'8" **Tony Burns**(21.5/10.1) and 6'8" **Roshern Amie**(22.9/14.8), they both signed with UTEP. Burns was a standout for the Miners averaging 11.4 points and 8.4 rebounds during his career. He finished as UTEP's leading scorer in 1979 and 1980. Amie also had a nice career at UTEP, averaging 14.1 points and 5.8 rebounds. He was named 2nd team All-WAC in 1981. Amie was drafted in the 6th round and #131 overall by the Blazers. Joining them at UTEP was 6'4" **Tim Crenshaw**(14.0) of El Paso Eastwood. All three recruits had successful college careers with the Miners under legendary coach Don Haskins. **Charles Moore**(28.3) of Corpus Christi Moore signed with Southern Illinois and averaged 7.5 points and 5.4 rebounds his senior year. **B.B. Davis**(20.0/11.5/4 bl) of Beaumont French attended Lamar and had a tremendous career. Davis actually impacted Lamar University immediately averaging 17.6 points a game and 10.2 rebounds. Lamar earned their first ever invite to the NCAA tournament his sophomore season, as he paced Lamar with 20.2 points and 10.8 rebounds. He set the school record for blocks his junior year. In Davis' junior year, Lamar advanced to the sweet sixteen after knocking off Oregon, the #4 ranked team in the nation. Davis was selected in the 4th round of the NBA draft by the Kansas City Kings, # 82 overall. He was named to the Cardinal Hall of Fame in 1992 and had his number retired. He finished 2nd on the Lamar Universities all-time scoring list and rebound list. Joining Davis at Lamar was standout guard, **Alvin Brooks**(25.9/3 steals) from Wheatley. Brooks went on to be an all-conference performer at Lamar under another outstanding coach, Billy Tubbs. Brooks played at Sam Houston St. and transferred to Henderson County Junior College after his freshman year. Brooks was named All-conference at Lamar and led the team to the sweet sixteen his junior year. He set the all-time single game, season and career records in assists, while attending Lamar University. Brooks later became the head basketball coach at the University of Houston. **Leonard Mitchell**(23.3) of course played football and basketball at the University of Houston under another Hall of Famer, Guy Lewis. **Rex Johnston**(21.1) of Clear Lake signed with Baylor; **Ed Gatlin**(32.0) was one of the top scorers in the state at Lancaster and played at Lamar University. Pinkston's **Ollie Hoops**(30.0) took his talents to S.M.U., 6'2" **David Burns**(22.0) went to Navarro J.C. and moved on to St. Louis University and had brief stay in the N.B.A. with the Nets. He was the 49th pick in the 1981 NBA draft. He still holds the St. Louis University all-time career scoring average at 19.4 points per game. He was named Metro Conference Co-Player of the Year in 1981. 6'5" **Michael Battle**(19.0) from Roosevelt started at Baylor, after an outstanding college career at Trinity Valley Community College. Battle was known for his electrifying dunks and was

named to the Trinity Valley Hall of Fame. After his career at Baylor, Battle played International ball in South America and Mexico. **Greg Wise** from Houston Madison attended Houston Baptist and was named to the schools Hall of Fame in 2000. **James Gamble**(13.0) of Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson played at North Texas State, **Pat Nunley** of Ft. Worth Richland took his talents to Baylor. **Arthur Williams**(16.0) of Dallas S.O.C. and **Michael Taylor** of Dallas Carter both ended up at North Texas St. playing for Bill Blakeley. Williams was on a track scholarship. 5'7" **Cullen Mayfield**(20.0)_signed Midland Jr. College and went on to Midwestern University in Wichita Falls and had a fine career. **Ricky Phillips** from S.O.C. played at Hardin Simmons. 6'8" **Darold Molix**(12.3/7.0) of Eastwood played at UTEP, 6'7" **Chuck Stanley**(25.7)_ of San Antonio Lee hooped at Baylor, 6'3" **Phil Spradling** of E.P. Parkland ended up playing for Nolan Richardson in junior college and the University of Tulsa. He was a starter on the Missouri Valley conference championship team. 6'5" **Robert Hubble**(19.0) of Kerrville Tivy played dual sports while attending Rice and later went on to play in the N.F.L. 6'7" **Abe Davis** of S.A. Sam Houston played at the University of Houston; 6'3" **Mike Little** of Abilene played at Baylor; 5'10" **Dwight Williams** of El Paso Austin played at Texas Tech; 6'8" **Ken Robinson** of Paris North Lamar played at North Texas St.; 6'1" **Jamie Walling** of Canyon played at Lon Morris J.C.; 6'6" **Mike Denny** of Midland Lee played at Wichita State; 6'0" **Fred Stephenson**(19.0) of Irving played at Texas A&I; 6'2" **Ervy Cormier** of Houston Kashmere played at U.T. Arlington; 6'2" **Ricky Leggett** of S.A. Kennedy played at U.T. Arlington; 6'4" **John Showman** of Dallas Tyler St. played at Oral Roberts; 6'3" **Mike Jackson** of Borger played for Oklahoma City; 6'1" **Robert Culley** of Center played for Middle Tennessee; 6'3" **Jerry Schaeffer** of Dimmitt played for West Texas St.; 6'6" **Bart Cadenhead** took his skills to West Texas State; 6'1" **Coney Luke** of El Paso Andress played for T.C.U.; 6'4" **Byron Tully** of Deer Park played for T.C.U.; 6'8" **Ralph Brewster** of El Paso Bowie played at Texas Tech; David Lattin, the former U.T.E.P. great, tried to steer 6'4" **Roland Milburn**(23.0/17.0) from Houston Yates to play for the Miners but was unsuccessful. Milburn was one of the top recruits in the state with over 100 college offers. He ended up at Texas Southern and Alcorn St. Lattin said, "I think he's the top player in Houston." Milburn had a nice career with the Braves of Alcorn State. 6'0" **D'Boy Johnson**(13.7) from Tyler Lee played at Henderson County.

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

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

(*All-Conference)

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

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

State Leaders: The top scorers in the state were **Ollie Hoops**(30.0) from Dallas Pinkston, 6'7" **Charles Moore**(28.3) of Corpus Christi Moore, 6'4" **Ricky Pierce**(28.0) of Garland and 6'11" **Alvin Brooks**(25.9) of Houston Wheatley. **Jack Melbourn** of Duncanville also had to be included averaging 26.0 points a game. Rebounding leader may have been 6'8" **Roshern Amie** from Marshall at 14.8 per game. 6'5" **Rynn Wright** of Dallas Roosevelt came in at 19.6 rebounds per game. 6'11" **Gilbert Salinas** had a rounded-up number of 16.0 rebounds per game. Blocks were definitely unofficial, but the highest I found was 6'6" **B.B. Davis** of Beaumont French at 4 per game. The highest steals number was **Alvin Brooks** of Wheatley with 3, **Corpus Christi Moody** was said to have averaged 90.0 per game, but after the playoffs that number had to have dropped leaving **South Oak Cliff** at 89.3 points per game, the top offensive team. **Ft. Worth Dunbar** led the state with winning margin at +18.6 per game. **Arlington** was close behind at +18.2 followed

by **S.A. Burbank** +17.3 and **S.O.C.** at 17.0. On the defensive side, San Antonio **Burbank** was the top team allowing only 46.7 per game.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs- Cullen Mayfield of S.O.C. averaged **20.4** in the playoffs; Dallas Hillcrest(23), Irving(18), Tyler Lee(22), S.A. Burbank(16), Ft. Worth Dunbar(23): Gilbert Salinas averaged **19.0** points per game in his four playoff games.

Power Rankings 1977

1.	South Oak Cliff	35-8	State Champs	97.07	beat Dunbar 78-71
2.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	39-2	State Finals	92.58	Loss to S.O.C. 71-78
3.	Houston Wheatley	28-6	Regional Finals	91.29	Loss to Westchester
4.	S.A. Burbank	35-5	State Semis	90.45	Loss to S.O.C. 66-54
5.	Clear Lake	37-5	Regional Semis	88.34	Loss to Wheatley 74-71
6.	Tyler Lee	35-3	Regional Finals	87.71	loss to S.O.C. 66-55
7.	Deer Park	34-4	District Runner-up	87.23	
8.	Arlington High	30-2	Bi-District	87.02	Loss to Dunbar 97-79
9.	Houston Jones	32-5	District Runner-up	86.54	
10.	Borger	28-5	State Finals 3-A	86.73	Loss Daingerfield 72-68
11.	Marshall	24-9	District Runner-up	86.18	Loss to Tyler Lee 53-52
12.	Dallas Roosevelt	30-8	District Runner-up	86.52	Loss to S.O.C. 81-67
13.	Daingerfield	29-3	State Champs 3-A	85.95	def. Borger 72-68
14.	El Paso Eastwood	32-2	Regional Finals	85.63	Loss to Dunbar 68-63
15.	Huntsville	26-8	State Semis 3-A	84.74	Loss Daingerfield 66-55
16.	H. Westchester	32-10	State Semis	83.83	Loss to Dunbar 74-68

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

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

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

Well, I don't know how much of an honor this is but my choice would have to be Dallas Roosevelt(30-8), Houston Jones(32-5) and Deer Park(34-4). Their schedules were beyond comprehension. Roosevelt played 19 teams on their schedule who were 20 game winners and played S.O.C.(35-8) six times and Dunbar(39-2) twice. They faced Dallas Carter(25-8) three times. The Mustangs of Roosevelt were 6-6 against these three state powers. The Mustangs had three of the best players in Dallas on the squad, 6'5" Rynn Wright(25.0), Michael Battle(19.0) and 5'11" guard Michael Andrus(17.0). This was one of Coach Ellis Davis's top teams along with his state tournament teams in 1972 and 1981. Had they been able to get by S.O.C. in District, they would have been right there in the title game against Dunbar with a healthy Rynn Wright.

Houston Jones(32-5) had one of the top teams in the state two years running and never made the playoffs. Deer Park(34-4) was strong all through the 70s. Both teams would have given Westchester all they could handle.

1977 4-A Playoffs

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

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

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

1978 AAAA

The 1978 Texas High school basketball campaign produced some of the best big men to ever come out of the state. 6'11" Rudy Woods(24.5) from Bryan was being compared to the legendary Dwight Jones from Houston Wheatley. Coach Robert Hughes of Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-3) had strong feelings that his 6'10" big boy, James Griffin(18.6), was better on both ends of the court than Woods. 6'9" Anthony Lee(25.0/17.0) of Tyler John Tyler was also named All-American and had multiple skills for a big man of his size. Not to be out done was 6'9" Terry White(19.0/16.3) from traditional power, El Paso Eastwood(26-4). White was arguably the best player ever produced by El Paso. The same could be said for Griffin in Ft. Worth. With no three-point line in 1978, the big men had a much greater impact than in today's faster up-tempo game. If you didn't have big's you had no chance, but this theory proved to be wrong, as none of the great inside players were able to crash the big dance in Austin.

Other players of interest were 6'6" Ricki Thompson from Houston Jones(26-8), 6'10" Greg Kite of Houston Madison(25-7) and 6'2" Rob Williams of Houston Milby(30-6). All three were juniors and would put their stamp on high school basketball over the next two seasons. Future N.B.A standout, Ricky Pierce(26.1), returned for his senior year at Garland High(21-11). Billy Allen(25.0) of Highland Park(27-4) and Brad Friess(24.0) of Austin Anderson were also standouts.

The top national publication at the time for high school basketball was Street & Smith magazine. I remember I couldn't wait for the yearly issue to hit the newsstand. Street & Smith came out with Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-3) as the #8 team in the country. Another national publication that was exclusively centered on high school basketball had Dunbar at #3 in the country.

Bill McMurray's pre-season basketball magazine was a real source of information each year, centered on Houston basketball. McMurray was a high school sports writer with the Houston Chronicle and his pre-season look at the upcoming season was always a great indicator as to the players and teams to watch out for. Houston Wheatley(36-6) was picked as number one in the greater Houston area with Houston Westbury right behind the Wildcats. 6'7" Tim Williams was the team leader for Westbury. Bryan, led by Rudy Woods, came in at number three, and perennial power Houston Kashmere(28-8) was number four. Of the top fifteen players named by the publication, Westbury placed three players in the top fifteen, Williams along with 6'5" Tim Hammond and 6'4" Danny Nottebart.

In the early season polls, there was but one team to beat, and that was Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-3). Although they had lost Michael Watley from the previous season, everybody else was back and a year older. Coach Hughes years later shared with me that he felt this was one of his best teams at Dunbar.

At the **Arlington Classic** in Arlington, Dunbar proved to be the best in the state. The Wildcats defeated Duncanville 65-34, Marshall High 100-44, Houston Wheatley(36-6) 95-85 in the semis and Dallas S.O.C.(25-10) 92-88 in the finals. After attending the tournament, my personal All-Tournament unit was, James Griffin and Cletus Hubbard of Ft. Worth Dunbar, Terry White of Eastwood, 6'7" newcomer Bobby Davis, a junior from Roosevelt, 6'7" junior Roosevelt McGruder from Wheatley, 6'7" Larry Micheaux from Houston Worthing, 6'2" Aaron Emery, a junior from S.O.C. and 6'0" Kevin Jones of Roosevelt.

Some things never change as the state's top teams just continued the pipe line of success with talented players emerging year after year. Other games of interest in the Arlington Classic were S.O.C.'s(25-10) semi-final victory over E.P. Eastwood(26-4) 89-71, and Wheatley's(36-6) 85-72 win over Eastwood in the 3rd place game. The best game of the tournament was Wheatley's 109 to 80 victory over Dallas Roosevelt(27-7). The Mustangs had a twenty-five-point lead at one point in the contest.

Coming out of the tournament, one had to conclude Houston Wheatley(36-6) had their deepest and strongest team since 1973. Wheatley's McGruder was listed at 6'4" but was closer to 6'7" or 6'8". It was coach Jackie Carr's way of saying we are Wheatley. Whatever the reason for him missing the height on his players by at least three inches, you never wanted to look at a basketball program before you played Wheatley. I think Carr did this to just mess with their opponents. The Wildcats had a plethora of talent once again in 6'6" Carl Runnels, 6'3" Theodore Harris, 6'2" Gilbert Thomas, 5'10" Tracey Bookman, 6'1" Kenneth Morning, 6'3" Nolan Greenleaf and many more. They were so deep.

The biggest tournament of the year didn't take place in Dallas, Houston or San Antonio, but rather El Paso. The **Sun Bowl Tournament** in early December assembled a star-studded collection of teams from around the state to compete against El Paso's top teams. Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-3) was the top ranked team and had one of the best in the state in 6'9" James Griffin(18.1). The Wildcats and Coach Hughes were ready to take the flight to El Paso to test their skills. Tyler John Tyler(12-17) had 6'9" Anthony Lee(25.9/17.0) leading the charge for the Lions. The defending state champions, Dallas South Oak Cliff(25-10), were young but a talented team. Deer Park(32-7) had another outstanding club coming out of the Houston area. These teams traveled to take on the best teams from El Paso, Eastwood(26-4), El Paso Irvin(24-6) and El Paso Andress.

In the first round of the tournament Dallas S.O.C.(25-10) snuck by El Paso Irvin(24-6) 58-56. South Oak Cliff was rebuilding and had a new coach, Henry Warren, but were still one of the best in the state. 6'5" Kenneth McGill, 6'3" Timothy Shelby, 6'0" Virgil Slay, 6'3" Puntus Wilson 5'10 Darrell Fields and 6'3" James Helwich were key Bears. El Paso Irvin(24-6) relied on their inside game of 6'5" Travis Salem(14.4) and 6'4" Glen Adams(11.7). Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-3) behind

the incredible performance by James Griffin downed El Paso Andress 84-79. Griffin put up 42 points in the Wildcats victory. El Paso Eastwood(26-4) captured a big win over Deer Park(32-7) 54-52. These were two top ten teams meeting in a first-round matchup. Eastwood was led by 6'9" 215 pound Terry White(19.0/16.3) and 6'3" Rick Becerra(11.3). Other starters for the Troopers were 6'2" Bill Thomson, 6'5" Bill Wilke, and 5'11" Ben Bijole. Terry White led Eastwood with 26 points in the win. Deer Park(32-7) came at you with some real size of their own with 6'7" Robert Shaw, 6'7" Byron Moake, 6'2" David Simmons and 6'1" Nicky Shell. Against Eastwood, Shaw fouled out with 7:48 remaining, which really limited Deer Park's opportunities. El Paso Bel Air(23-7) advanced with a win over Tyler John Tyler(12-17) 59-50. Bel Air was paced by the leading scorer in El Paso in Richard Munoz(22.8) and 6'4" Alden Wren(12.8).

In the semi-finals of the consolation bracket, El Paso Irvin(24-6) took down Tyler John Tyler(12-17) 80-61. 6'9" Anthony Lee showed why he was considered one of the top recruits in the country putting up 30 points and 13 rebounds in the Lions loss. 6'5" Travis Salem of Irvin(24-6) countered with 28 points and 11 rebounds. Deer Park(32-7) beat El Paso Andress 86-69. Deer Park got back in the winning column behind 6'7" Robert Shaw's 32 points. Gilbert Reyes paced Andress with 21 points. In the winners bracket El Paso Bel Air(23-7) upset South Oak Cliff(25-10) 74-73.

The state's highest ranked teams came together in El Paso Eastwood(26-4) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-3). Eastwood escaped with a 60-59 victory over the previously undefeated Wildcats. James Griffin picked up three quick fouls and left the contest with 1:13 left in the first quarter. The big man finally returned with two minutes remaining in the 3rd quarter. In his absence Dunbar showed their depth leading at halftime 37-31 over the Troopers. Eastwood led 58-57 with 1:40 remaining in the game. The Troopers Eric Smith was fouled with 19 seconds remaining. He connected on both foul shots making the score 60-57. Griffin hit a layup with 10 seconds left to pull the Wildcats within one point. Eastwood's Ben Bijole missed the front end of a one and one situation with two seconds remaining. Dunbar pulled down the rebound but was unable to get a shot off.

Terry White of Eastwood finished with 25 points and 27 rebounds and Griffin scored 15 points playing limited minutes.

In the 7th place game, John Tyler(12-17) went back to East Texas with an impressive 87-58 win over El Paso Andress. Lee was strong once again with 32 points and 11 rebounds. Deer Park(32-7) took the consolation finals defeating El Paso Irvin(24-6) 70-62. The 3rd place was won by Dunbar(34-3) over Dallas South Oak Cliff(25-10) 84-74. Griffin again was impressive with 32 points and 19 rebounds. Kenneth McGill added 25 for the Golden Bears in the loss. El Paso Bel Air and El Paso Eastwood faced off in the finals. It would be the first of what would be four times over the course of the season. Eastwood(26-4) took the championship

easily 66-46 over El Paso Bel Air(23-7). Terry White again led the Troopers with 17 points and 22 rebounds in the finals. White was named M.V.P. of the tournament. Other players receiving All-Tournament honors were Rick Becerra of Eastwood, Richard Munoz of Bel Air, Tom Fuller of Deer Park, Anthony Lee of John Tyler, Gilbert Reyes from Andress, Puntus Wilson of S.O.C., Travis Salem of El Paso Irvin, Robert Shaw of Deer Park and James Griffin from FW Dunbar.

At the **Dr. Pepper tournament** in Dallas, it was more of the same as Dallas S.O.C.(25-10) and Dunbar(34-3) continued to dominate the big tournaments. Highland Park(27-4) came into the tournament at 17-1, and looked like they could make a push into the elite status in the state. The Scots were averaging 83 points a game and were feeling really good about themselves. Coach Snowden felt this might be his best team since 1972, when the Scots traveled as far as regionals. The man running the show was 6'0" senior guard, Billy Allen, the son of S.M.U. head basketball coach Sonny Allen. New S.O.C. coach, Henry Warren, had his hands full in the quarterfinals against the Scots. S.O.C. really had a tough time against Highland Park winning 78-76, with Billy Allen leading all scorers with 29 points. This game showed that the Scots were for real and could be a force come playoff time. Dunbar at 19-1 had little trouble in the early rounds beating Dallas Lincoln by 32 and Dallas Madison by 26. Griffin had 38 points against Madison.

It was the same as usual in the semi-finals with Dallas S.O.C.(25-10), Dallas Roosevelt(27-7), Dunbar(34-3) and Dallas Skyline. Dunbar defeated Roosevelt 79-65 and S.O.C. downed Skyline 88-58 in the semi-finals. The final was a re-match of the Arlington Classic. S.O.C.(25-10) came into the game at 15-7 while Dunbar(34-3) was 22-1. Dunbar's only loss was in the El Paso tournament to Eastwood by one point 60-59. In the finals of the Dr. Pepper tournament, Dunbar(34-3) dumped the Golden Bears(25-10) 72-60. Griffin was named the tournament's M.V.P. and Roosevelt(27-7) easily disposed of Skyline for 3rd place 96-61.

The **Dr. Pepper tournament in Houston** expanded to eight teams in 1977-78 with no guest teams as in the past. The tournament was always held right before Christmas. The big feature in the December tournament was 6'11" Rudy Woods of Bryan, arguably the best player in the state and possibly the country. Woods had visits planned to Kentucky, North Carolina, Hawaii, Southern California, Michigan and Texas A&M. Bryan had started the season at 1-6 but had run off nine straight wins coming into the tournament. "We had injuries and a few other things," Coach Bobby Perry said about the early season slump. "But things are going well now, and Rudy is averaging about 27 points per game." Bryan's(22-10) biggest win of the season came against Houston Jones(26-8) 68-67 in the finals of the LaPorte tournament, Woods finished with 39 points. The Vikings faced Houston Westchester in the first round of the tourney. Westchester had advanced to the state tournament in 1977 and were paced by one of the top players in the state,

6'6" Joe Costello. "We know Woods is tough inside," said Coach Bob Latham. "And we were going to have to do something to keep him off the boards."

Houston Madison(25-7) entered the tournament at 11-2. 6'10", 245-pound, Greg Kite was one of the top players in the state. The big junior averaged 18.0 points per game and the Marlins had several players returning from a 30-8 record the previous season. Madison had won the Corpus Christi tournament. The Dr. Pepper tournament was made up of a who's who of Houston area basketball powerhouses. Galveston Ball(31-8), Houston Wheatley(36-6), Houston Kashmere(28-8), Houston Smiley(20-13) and Houston Washington(22-10).

In first round games, Wheatley(36-6) had little trouble with Smiley(20-13) 87-53. Kashmere(28-8) upset Galveston Ball(31-8) 89-68, Bryan(22-10) took out Houston Westchester 57-52, and Washington(22-10) defeated Houston Madison(25-7) 49-48. Houston Washington(22-10) continued with the one-point victories defeating Bryan(22-10) 58-57 in the semi-finals. Fifteen players scored for the Wildcats against Smiley, led by Carl Runnells with 14 points. Michael McQueen paced Smiley(20-13) with 14 points. In the Westchester-Bryan clash, Costello and Wendell Johnson tried to outscore big Rudy Woods. That was going to be difficult with Woods finishing with 23 points, 11 of 22 from the field, 15 rebounds, 4 dunks and 2 blocks. In Houston Washington's(22-10) victory over Houston Madison(25-7), two free throws by Roy Fitzpatrick with 21 seconds remaining was the difference for the Eagles. Kashmere's(28-8) pressing defense and speed proved to be the difference against Galveston Ball(31-8). Al Reynolds led the Rams with 17 points and Earnest Patterson followed with 16. Clarence Swannegan led Ball's effort with 16 points. In their semi-final game, Kashmere(28-8) came up with another upset, beating tournament favorite Wheatley(36-6) 97-90. The 18-3 Wildcats were led once again by Carl Runnel's 26 points. Wheatley missed six layups in the final quarter that could have made the difference.

In the finals of the Houston Dr. Pepper tournament, Houston Kashmere(28-8) took down Houston Washington(22-10) 71-56. The Rams had four players in double figures. Lorenzo Scott took the tournament M.V.P. honors for Kashmere with 24 points. Robert McGowan and Al Reynolds contributed 19 and 13 points respectively. Leonard Van During led Washington(22-10) with 13 points against Kashmere(28-8). Van During hit only one of 11 free throws in the contest. Houston Madison(25-7) took consolation 59-56 over Galveston Ball(31-8). Greg Kite and 6'6" John Simple were too strong for Clarence Swannegan of Galveston scoring 21 and 14 points respectively. Swannegan had 13 to lead the 19-4 Tors. In the consolation semi-finals, Madison(25-7) beat Westchester 67-60 and Galveston Ball(31-8) advanced beating Houston Smiley(20-13) 64-54.

All-tournament honors went to Greg Kite of Houston Madison, Rudy Woods of Bryan, John Simple of Madison, Joe Costello of Westchester, Wendell Johnson of Westchester, Van During of Washington, Oscar Risher of Washington,

Clarence Swannegan of Galveston Ball, Lorenzo Scott of Kashmere, Nolan Greenleaf of Wheatley, Earnest Patterson of Kashmere and Donald Pettaway of Kashmere.

*The **Jaycees tournament** in Houston was made up of 32 teams and would feature the best Houston had to offer. District 20-AAAA was well represented as six of the eight quarterfinalist teams were from 20-AAAA. Jones(26-8), Wheatley(36-6), Milby(30-6), Yates(24-11), Sterling(18-9) and Austin all had won their first and second round games. Kashmere(28-8), who came off the Dr. Pepper championship, was eliminated in the second round in a re-match with Wheatley(36-6) 100-94. Why they had those two rivals meeting so early is beyond me. In one of the featured games of the tournament, Gilbert Thomas led the Wildcats with 22 points and Roosevelt McGruder added 16. Earnest Patterson came off the bench for the Rams and scored 23 points and Lorenzo Scott hit 14 for Kashmere(28-8). Surprisingly, Wheatley(36-6) was eliminated in the next round in a shocker, losing to Houston Sterling 70-69. Sterling's two strong inside post, 6'5" 210 pound, Randy Woodard and 6'6" 215 pound, Reginald Fears were the difference. Wheatley fell behind 48-33 after the exhausting victory over Kashmere(28-8) earlier. The Wildcats came back in typical fashion to get within two points. Antonio Malveaux of Wheatley(36-6) was fouled by James Woodard with four seconds left trailing by two. Malveaux hit the first and missed the second, sending Sterling(18-9) into the semi-finals. Wheatley had beat Sterling earlier in the season to open District 86-69. Fears finished with 23 points Sterling(18-9) and Kenneth Gordon had 19 while Carl Runnels hit 23 for Wheatley.*

Joining Sterling(18-9) in the semi-finals was Houston Milby(30-6) at 20-1. The Buffaloes beat Houston Lamar 66-55, Clear Creek(26-7) 75-61 and Houston Stratford(29-5). Rob Williams, the fantastic junior guard, led the Milby charge. Houston Jones(26-8) entered the tournament as a top ten team in the state polls at 21-2. Jones(26-8) downed Forest Brook(23-9) 71-59, Houston Reagan 57-54, but lost to District rival, Houston Yates(24-11), in the quarterfinals 80-68. Ronnie DeJean led the scoring for the Lions with 27 points. Yates(24-11) had beaten Houston Washington(22-10) 86-76 and Houston Lincoln 77-70 to reach the quarterfinals. The last semi-finalist was Deer Park(32-7), who beat Alief Hasting 65-32 and Houston Davis 68-43. Deer Park(32-7) eliminated Houston Austin 65-58 to advance to the semis.

Deer Park(32-7) won a squeaker over Houston Yates(24-11) 43-42 to gain the finals. With 1:21 left, Yates(24-11) was up 42-41 and was running out the clock. Ricky Snell of Deer Park(32-7) fouled Gary Wiley with 27 seconds remaining on the clock. Wiley missed the front end of a one and one, giving Deer Park(32-7) one last opportunity. Ricky Snell was the difference in the end with five seconds remaining, knocking down two foul shots. Robert Shaw led the Deer Park attack with 18 points.

Sterling(18-9) beat Houston Milby(30-6) in the other semi-final game 53-51 in overtime. Rob Williams missed the back end of two foul shots that could have won the game against Sterling(18-9). Instead, the game was all tied up at 47-47. In overtime, Kenneth Gordon knocked down the game winner with 37 seconds remaining to give Sterling the win. Reginald Fears finished with 16 points and Kenneth Gordon had 13 points. Rob Williams led all scorers with 21 points.

The Sterling(18-9) Raiders continued the Cinderella story beating Deer Park(32-7) in the finals 49-47. "An outstanding physical team with loads of talent," Coach Ray Landers of Deer Park commented after the game. Randy Woodard had 10 points and Reginald Fears added 10 for the Sterling(18-9) squad. Nicky Snell led Deer Park with 12 points. Yates(24-11) got by Milby(30-6) 68-63 in the 3rd place game. Ronnie DeJean led Yates with 17 points, Phillip Sapp hit 12 and Gary Wiley and Arnold Blackmon both netted 11 points. Rob Williams paced Milby(30-6) hitting 27 points. Consolation went to Houston Lamar(23-9) with a 55-47 win over Houston Washington(22-10).

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

Region I

El Paso Eastwood(25-3) #2

Eules Bell(29-5) #10

Lubbock Monterey(19-11)

Arlington(25-7)

El Paso Irvin(24-5) #5

Abilene(31-4) #6

Amarillo(22-6)

Ft. Worth Dunbar(32-2) #1

Top Players in Region I

6'9" James Griffin

6'6" David Little

6'8" Terry White

6'5" Andy Sears

6'7" Victor Mitchell

Ft. Worth Dunbar

Abilene

El Paso Eastwood

Irving High

Amarillo High

Region I was the toughest region in class AAAA in 1978, with five teams ranked in the top ten in the state. El Paso Irvin(24-5) #5, Abilene(31-4) #6, El Paso Eastwood(26-3) #2, Hurst L.D. Bell(29-5) #10 and Ft. Worth Dunbar(32-2) #1.

The District 8-AAAA title came down between Ft. Worth Richland(19-12) and Arlington(24-7). The two teams were to decide the championship at the Super Pit in Denton on the campus of North Texas St. University. Arlington(24-7) relied on the inside game of 6'6" Eddie McClelen(16.9) and 6'5" Ernest Williams(14.8). Richland(19-12) countered with 6'7" Monty Munford(10.6) and 6'5" Tom

Curran(10.8). A key player for the Rebels was 6'4" Van Miller(13.6), who played inside and outside. Coach Dale Archer of Arlington(24-7) felt having a third player on the inside would be an advantage to Richland. The Rebels went 2-4 in the first half of District action but turned things around in the second half finishing 7-0. Richland coach, Ken West, felt his team was on a role entering the contest. "We feel we know what Arlington is going to do. It's just a matter of whether we can stop them," West said. Arlington(24-7) won the team's first encounter 58-51 and Richland(19-12) rebounded winning the second game in triple overtime 65-58. The winner would get Ft. Worth Dunbar(32-2).

The Colts of Arlington(24-7) won their second straight District title over Ft. Worth Richland(19-12) 53-41. Coach Dale Archer's team was only able to place one player in double figures and that was Phil Yates with 17 points. McClelen added 9 points. For Richland(19-12), Tom Curran put in 15 points and Jamie Pipes tipped in 10.

Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-2) was the top-rated team going into the playoffs. But making the playoffs was not a forgone conclusion. The Wildcats still had to get past the Panthers of Ft. Worth Paschal(26-4), coached by Jim Wall. Wall was one of the top coaches I personally have ever watched work the sidelines.

Daniel Meyer Coliseum on the campus of T.C.U. would be the only arena large enough to house the District showdown between Paschal(26-4) and Dunbar(31-2), for the second half title. Both teams entered the game with perfect 7-0 marks in the second round. If Dunbar(31-2) won, they took the 7-AAAA title, and if Paschal(26-4) won, it would force a District playoff between the two schools. Dunbar played a fast pace style averaging 80.7 per game while Paschal would turn to four corners at critical times to win games. "We have to control the tempo," Coach Wall explained, "There's no way we can run with them."

Dunbar(31-2) won the first meeting 68-61, but the Wildcats were up at one time 62-44. Dunbar(31-2) of course was paced by 6'9" James Griffin and outside shooters, 6'1" Cletus Hubbard and 6'3" Lander Johnson. Another key player for Coach Hughes was Joey McDowell, who had missed two days of school because of the flu. The talent level for Dunbar(31-2) was unending with 6'4" Anthony Ware, 6'8" Gilbert Collier, a sophomore, 6'6" Andre Allen, another sophomore, and 6'5" Terry Brown.

The Panthers of Paschal(26-4) had a strong resume with wins over Mineral Wells(32-3) 56-55, Grand Prairie(29-5) 65-62, Euless L.D. Bell(29-6) 70-63 and South Oak Cliff(25-10) 85-76. All were state ranked teams. Losses for Coach Walls troops were Ft. Worth Trimble Tech(18-11) 71-61 and Ft. Worth Eastern Hills(12-1) 70-60. Paschal would turn to 6'6" Frank Sullivan(15.3), 6'4" Greg Shropshire(10.3) and 6'7" Mark Smith(6.7) for inside strength, and 6'0" Sam Noel(10.1) and 6'1" Kyle Bibb(7.5) would be handling the ball.

Before 6,000 screaming fans, Dunbar(31-2) pulled out the District title with a 40-39 triple overtime win against Paschal(26-4). With the score 37-37 and 3:45 remaining in the third quarter, Paschal(26-4) pulled the ball out, and went to four corners. The tactic came so close to winning the game for the Panthers as they had eight opportunities to win the game at the end of regulation, and counting the three overtimes.

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

The rematch from the previous year between Dunbar(32-2) and Arlington High(25-7) wasn't the same, because the Colts did not seem to pose the quality of opposition as they had during the '77 campaign. Ernest Williams, a 6'4" junior, and 6'6" Eddie McClelen were strong players, who had kept the tradition going for the Colts, but against Griffin they would be giving up several inches inside.

The game was played in front of 7,200 fans at Daniel Meyer Coliseum. Dunbar came from behind for the 67-55 victory. Arlington(25-7) shot 72% from the floor for three quarters to take the lead going into the fourth quarter. Dunbar began pressing and Arlington started turning the ball over. "We couldn't afford to let them sit on it, we had to pick up the action," Coach Hughes said. Hughes called for the press halfway through the 2nd quarter and it began to have its effects on the Colts in the 2nd half. Arlington(25-7) had 11 of their 15 turnovers in the 2nd half. Griffin prevailed with 32 points as Dunbar pulled away late 67-55. For Arlington(25-7), Earnest Williams and Eddie McClelen scored 22 and 17 respectfully.

In Bi-District action, Eules L.D. Bell(29-5) squared off against Abilene(31-4) at Tarleton St. in Stephenville. Eules L.D. Bell was paced by 6'5" Willie Alsup(19.0), 6'4" Kent Davis(18.0) and Curtis Callaway(16.7) and were 29-5 on the season.

Abilene also came in with a very impressive record of 31-4, led by the multi-talented 6'6" David Little(23.0). David followed his two older brothers, Richard and Mike, to Abilene High. Richard had played for Abilene in 1970 and was 2nd team All-State. He was later a standout performer at Texas Tech. Mike played at Baylor. David was considered a better prospect than either one of his older brothers because of his size and shooting ability. Outside of Little the team did not have any real size, relying on three 6'2" players, Darren Edwards(10.3), Byron Roberts(12.9) and Cisco Smith(17.9). 5'7" senior, Mark Pierce, rounded out the starting lineup. Little was named District MVP in 5-4A and Cisco Smith and Byron

Roberts were named first team. Abilene Cooper(26-5) had an outstanding sophomore prospect in 6'6" Woody Martin.

The Eagles schedule was not overly impressive, their losses had been to Abilene Cooper(26-5) 41-38, Waco Richfield 66-64, Hobbs(26-3), New Mexico 128-100 and Midland High(20-12) 76-70. They avenged the Cooper(24-5) loss twice in District 51-49 and 66-59. The Eagles also came back against the Bulldogs of Midland High(20-12) 69-50. The Eagles had two impressive wins over Temple(23-7) 62-53 and 76-62. The Eagles had a win over the second ranked team in class AAA and state finalist, Mineral Wells(32-3) 62-61.

This was the strongest Abilene team in years. The Eagles averaged 73.3 per game to their opponents 61.3. That was a difference of 12 points for you math people. Not real impressive, but strong none the less. Abilene had a senior dominated squad and looked to be a great matchup against L.D. Bell. Coach Ray DeBord of L.D. Bell had received a scouting report that made it tough to get ready for the Eagles. "They run quite a bit, but then they will turn around and use the four-corner delay offense," DeBord stated. "And they will press just about the whole night. They try to keep you off balance."

The game was won by the Eagles 72-63 to advance to regionals, which just happened to be in Abilene. Abilene was able to jump out to a 24-14 lead early in the game due to Bell's cold shooting. "We were so tight and we couldn't shoot at all early," DeBord said. "I give a lot of credit to Abilene. They played well. Clearly, the best team tonight won."

Abilene also won the glass with an enormous edge 41-19. Abilene's David Little hurt Bell inside throughout the game and the outside shooting of Byron Roberts, proved to be too much for the Blue Raiders. Little finished with 24 points while Roberts hit 22 points. Eagle's center, Cisco Smith, had 21 rebounds and 14 points.

For L.D. Bell, Kent Davis was big with 14 points in the first half and finished with 20. Callaway and Alsup both had 14 points on the night. Abilene began slowing the game down in the second half, trying to disrupt Bell's momentum. The Eagles were up at one point in the first half 36-19.

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

El Paso Eastwood(25-3) defeated El Paso Irvin(23-7) 66-58 to advance to regionals for the fourth time in five seasons. The decisive fourth game between the two schools was played at the Special Events Center in front of 4745 spectators. 6'9" Terry White put up staggering numbers with 26 points and 26 rebounds. White was 11 of 27 from the floor for 40%.

Although Eastwood(25-3) was ranked second in the state in class 4-A, they averaged only 61.7 per game and gave up 51.8 per contest for a 10.0 margin. Eastwood had early season losses at the Arlington Classic to Dallas S.O.C.(25-10) 89-71 and Houston Wheatley(36-6) 84-72, which showed they had trouble with quick pressing teams. Their most impressive wins of the season came against Deer Park(32-7) out of Houston 54-52 and of course their one-point win over the state's top-rated team, Dunbar(34-3) 60-59. 6'8" All-American Terry White and 6'2" Rick Becerra were the teams go to players.

In District the Troopers of Eastwood(25-3) dominated losing only to El Paso Bel Air(23-7) 70-69. Alden Wren(12.8) of Bel Air hit a bucket with two seconds left to give the Highlanders the win. "I told them to get it to Wren," said Bel Air coach Charles Quisenberry. "I'm proud of the kids, losing Oscar Ortiz and Richard Munoz(22.8), they never quit." Coach Quisenberry was in his 10th season with the Highlanders. Remember Bel Air(23-7) had defeated South Oak Cliff(25-10) earlier in the season.

Eastwood's Terry White was incredible with a career high 42 points in the loss. Unfortunately, White was a poor foul shooter, missing two one and one situations late in the game. The loss was the first for the Troopers since December of 1975 on their home court. "We made too many turnovers and too many mistakes," Coach Bobby Lesley said. Earlier in the season Eastwood had defeated Bel Air(23-7) 65-55 and 66-46.

In District 2-4A El Paso Irvin(24-5) captured the title with an impressive 13-1 record. El Paso High(22-10) finished second with a 9-5 mark and El Paso Coronado(24-9) tied for 2nd at 9-5 as well.

In Bi-District El Paso Eastwood(25-3) and El Paso Irvin(24-5) played for the right to advance to regionals in Abilene. The game was played once again at the Special Events Center. Irvin's two bell-cows were 6'5" Travis Salem(14.4) and 6'3" Glen Adams(11.7). Both were named first team All-City by the El Paso Times.

Glen Adams and Travis Salem combined for only 14 points as Eastwood took them apart 63-54. 6'9" Terry White was dominating inside on 16 of 24 for 67% from the floor finishing with 32 points. 6'5" Bill Wilke was 5 of 6 shooting for 11 points and Becerra came away with 14 points. Eastwood was impressive from the floor hitting 31 of 55 for 56 % while Irvin managed only 21 of 63 for a dreadful 33%.

On the All-City team named by the El Paso Times, Terry White was named M.V.P. from Eastwood. Members of the first team were 6'3" Glen Adams(11.7) of Irvin, 5'11" Jimmy Claunch(13.8) and 6'7" Harry Hussman(12.4) from El Paso Coronado, 6'3" Julius Matthews(16.9) of El Paso Bowie, 6'4" Richard Munoz(22.8) from Bel Air and 6'5" Travis Salem(14.4) from El Paso Irvin. Rick Becerra(11.3) of Eastwood was named to the 2nd team. Coach of the Year was Sergio Guerrero from El Paso Coronado(24-10).

Regionals in Abilene were filled with excitement because of the highly-anticipated rematch between the top two ranked teams in the state, El Paso Eastwood(26-3) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(33-2). Amarillo(23-5) and Abilene(32-4) were just seen as fluff. Very little was known about Amarillo as they faced off against the powerful Dunbar(33-2) squad. Size would be a problem for Amarillo with 6'7" Victor Mitchell the only Amarillo player over 6'5". The rest of the starters were 6'1", 6'0", 6'0" and 5'9".

In the first contest at Abilene Christian University, a small crowd of about 1,000 showed up to watch the game between Amarillo(23-5) and the heavily favored Wildcats of Ft. Worth Dunbar(33-2). The Sandie's led for the first three and one-half quarters with outstanding play. Amarillo was up 47-45 going into the last quarter. That's when 6'9" James Griffin began to take over the game, finishing with 25 points and 14 rebounds. Griffin paced the Wildcats in their come from behind 60-57 victory. The 6'9" center was five for five from the foul line in the fourth quarter and accounted for 10 of Dunbar's fourth quarter points. Coach Hughes strategy was to get the ball inside to Griffin when Amarillo began to extend on the Dunbar guards. Griffin put in four straight buckets to give Dunbar the lead 55-53 with 3:16 remaining. Dunbar guards, Cletus Hubbard, Furmia Nealy and Darrell Browder ran the clock out to save the win.

6'7" Victor Mitchell(16.6) was the main cog for Amarillo hitting 16 points. Dunbar barely won the rebound edge 39-38. "What makes everybody think we should win by 30 every time we go out," Hughes said after his team's close win. "I think it says something about your ball club when you don't play well and you still win. That had to be one of the worst games he's(Griffin) had shooting. I can't remember when he's been off that much."

Coach Barry Arnwine of Amarillo commented after the game, "Griffin's a great, great player. There's no doubt about that. Because of foul trouble we had to play him soft and just hoped he missed

In the second semi-final game, Eastwood(26-3) and Abilene(32-4) came together. The Troopers were big favorites due to their inside strength. Eastwood's inside game centered around All-American Terry White(19.5/16.3). White had put up 25 points and 27 rebounds in Eastwood's earlier season victory over Dunbar.

Abilene relied on the talents of 6'6" David Little(23.0) and 6'2" post Cisco Smith(17.9), who had 24 rebounds in Bi-District against L.D. Bell. The game drew the biggest crowd in the seven years the tournament had been held in Abilene. Some 5000 fans were in attendance because the game took place in Abilene on the campus of Abilene Christian University at Moody Coliseum. The Eagles had a tremendous advantage with the home court.

The Abilene Eagles did not have a deep bench but attempted to press the entire game. Coach James Boynton was in his 4th season with the Eagles. Boynton had formerly coached at Huckleby and took them to state in 1969.

Eastwood came out hot shooting 74% from the floor in the first half but only led 41-38 at halftime. Things began to come apart for the Troopers with 1:30 remaining in the 2nd quarter when 6'3" Rick Becerra(11.3) picked up his 3rd foul. Sixteen seconds later he collected his 4th foul. Becerra was considered a key player for the Troopers attack.

Abilene(32-4) connected on 11 consecutive free throws down the stretch to pull the upset of the state playoffs, beating #2 ranked Eastwood 79-67. Abilene knocked down 25 of 32 free throws and placed four players in double figures. Cisco Smith(17.9) was high man for Abilene with 21 points. Byron Roberts(12.9) and David Little(23.0) were good for 20 points apiece.

Terry White was unbelievable hitting 16 of 17 field goals and scoring 34 points. It was one of the top performances in state playoff history in class 4-A.

Rick Becerra(11.3) was the only other Trooper in double figures besides White with 12 points.

The **regional final** between Ft. Worth Dunbar(33-2) and the Eagles of Abilene(33-4) was played before 5,500 standing room only fans. Abilene of course was coming off a tremendous upset win over El Paso Eastwood and had the home town crowd behind them. The game was very close at the end of the first quarter 18-16 in favor of Dunbar. Abilene took a 36-34 lead into halftime. The Eagles extended their lead to 56-52 going into the fourth quarter. Dunbar was consistently turning the ball over with a total of 17 turnovers. 6'6" David Little(23.0) had six steals himself.

With 2:36 left in the 3rd quarter, Abilene had expanded their lead to 56-46. With 4:12 remaining in the game Griffin hit three straight baskets pulling the Wildcats within four points 66-62. Coach Boynton of Abilene called time out and moved Little to the opposite side of the court away from Griffin, and the 6'6" senior hit four field goals down the stretch. With less than a minute to go, Dunbar got the break they were looking for trailing 74-72. Little was called for his fifth foul on a charging call against Griffin. The Eagles were running their delay game at the time. Little left the game with 36 points and with him went the hopes of many Eagles fans. Little's replacement was 6'4" Ross Sparks, who hadn't been on the court in the playoffs, and had played only 15 minutes total in fourteen District games. Griffin responded with 2 of his 12 fourth quarter points to tie the score at 74 all. Abilene went into its delay once again, but this time the Wildcats did not pressure the Eagles. With five seconds left, Sparks hit a 20-footer to give Abilene the 76-74 victory and a trip to Austin. Nobody ever dreamed that Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-3) and El Paso Eastwood(26-4) would both be eliminated. Abilene(33-4) would be traveling to state for the first time since 1967.

6'2" Cisco Smith(17.1) was supposed to get the last shot but Sparks said he got the ball with little time left and let it go. James Griffin finished with 26 points and 10 rebounds, Cletus Hubbard added 16 points and Darrell Browder collected 10

points. Dunbar out rebounded the Eagles 36-25. The Wildcats shot 33 of 59 from the floor for 55 % and 8 of 11 from the line. Abilene managed 31 of 61 from the field for 52% and 14 of 16 from the line.

For Abilene, Byron Roberts hit 16 and Cisco Smith added 14. David Little was 14 of 27 from the floor and eight of ten from the foul line with five rebounds. He also finished with seven steals and had an outstanding game on the defensive end. Little said after the game, "Dunbar is the toughest team we've played this year." Little also commented about Griffin, "He's really super. White is much more physical," referring to Terry White of El Paso Eastwood, "But I think Griffin is 10 times better. Griffin is much more versatile. He's a better ball handler and he's a pure shooter."

If you look back at Dunbar's season it was not surprising, they were upset. Yes, the Wildcats were loaded with division one prospects, but they relied almost entirely on Griffin for offense late in the season. Their last regular season game against Ft. Worth Paschal(26-5), they won a close one in triple overtime 40-39 with Paschal using delay tactics. Even in the win against Arlington(25-7), they were very close at the end of the third quarter, and Dunbar trailed Amarillo(23-6) after three quarters as well. Coach Hughes team was just not playing as well as they had earlier in the season. The Wildcats guard play was not as good as it had been the previous season. Starting a lineup of 6'9" Griffin, 6'7" Gilbert Collier, 6'6" Andre Allen, 6'3" Lander Johnson and 6'0" Cletus Hubbard, Dunbar sometimes had a hard time taking care of the ball. Hughes commented after the game, "I think we had a grand season anyway we don't have anything to be ashamed of. Actually, we played one of our better ball games."

James Griffin had a fine career at Illinois, Collier signed with T.C.U., Andre Allen signed with Illinois as did Cletus Hubbard. Darrell Browder was all conference at T.C.U. and Furmia Nealy started at North Texas State. The Wildcats were loaded.

The much-anticipated matchup never happened. In hind sight, you might also come to the conclusion that El Paso Eastwood and Dunbar both may have been a little overrated. I also don't think you can underestimate the home court advantage for Abilene. 6'9" James Griffin and 6'9" Terry White were dominant inside, but both teams struggled with their guard play.

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

Coach Hughes commented about Griffin years later saying, "He could do it all in high school. What the big guys in the NBA are doing right now, he could do in high school. He could go down low, he could shoot it from the outside, he could bring the ball up the court, and he was quick and had great hands. Grif should have

been in the NBA, but his agent sold him out to a team in Turkey where he played about 10 years

Region II

Wilmer Hutchins(28-5)

Lufkin(28-7)

Dallas Bryan Adams(18-11)

Temple(23-7)

Grand Prairie(28-4)

Lake Highlands(21-8)

Dallas Roosevelt(26-6)

Cypress-Fairbanks(22-10)

Top Players in Region II

6'11"	Rudy Woods	Bryan
6'9"	Anthony Lee	Tyler John Tyler
6'1"	Billy Allen	Highland Park
6'5"	Alan Howard	Cypress-Fairbanks
6'5"	Ricky Pierce	Garland
6'7"	Bobby Davis	Dallas Roosevelt
6'8"	David Henson	Grand Prairie
5'8"	Shannon Lilly	Wilmer Hutchins
6'5"	Alan Ferguson	Irvin Nimitz
6'4"	Virdell Howland	Tyler Lee
6'2"	Chris Wortham	Lufkin
6'4"	Chucky McGill	Dallas South Oak Cliff

This was such an exciting region with two of the top big men in the state in 6'11" Rudy Woods(24.5/15.4) and 6'10" Anthony Lee(25.9/17.0). Woods and Lee made Bryan(22-10) and Tyler John Tyler(12-17) early favorites to advance to Austin from region II. Dallas Roosevelt(26-6) and Dallas South Oak Cliff(25-10) were definitely big time contenders as well. Several other teams would come out of competitive District races to challenge for the top spot in region II.

Highland Park(27-4) finished second in District 10-AAAA as Wilmer Hutchins(28-5) captured the District title with an 81-72 win over Garland(21-11). Shannon Lilly of Hutch scored 36 points to lead his team to victory. Highland Park(27-4) got 44 points from Billy Allen(25.0) in a key District win over Garland(21-11) 92-71. Garland's Ricky Pierce had 34 points in the loss. The Scotts lost both District matchups against Hutch 84-78 and 98-91. Highland Park finished with an outstanding record of 27-4. Wilmer Hutchins(28-5) advanced to the state playoffs.

The Gophers of Grand Prairie(28-4) faced Wilmer Hutchins(28-5) in Bi-District. This was Coach Stan Hicks best squad at Grand Prairie and was paced by 6'8" David Henson(17.8), 6'5" Reggie Brown(14.8) and 5'7" junior guard, A.J. Dixon(7.3). Henson later went on to play at Baylor.

The Gophers of Grand Prairie(28-4) defeated Garland(21-11) 79-72 in pre-district along with Arlington(25-8) 61-55. Losses included Plano(16-16) 64-51, Ft. Worth Paschal(26-4) 65-62 and Corsicana 68-63. In District action the Gophers

battled a strong Irving High(25-4) team coached by Mike Kunstadt and Irving Nimitz(20-9).

Irving's leaders were 6'5" Andy Sears(15.0) and sophomore 6'0" Jeff Barnett(10.7). Irving Nimitz was paced by 6'3" Alan Ferguson(26.5) and 6'4" David Nentwig(12.2). Grand Prairie(28-4) took down Irving High(25-4) 67-57 and 65-63. Irving Nimitz(20-9) split with the Gophers defeating Grand Prairie(28-4) 45-42 and losing the 2nd round game 66-60. Grand Prairie(28-4) shared the first round title with Nimitz and won the 2nd round outright to advance to the playoffs.

In a playoff warm-up game against L.D. Bell(29-5) the Gophers came away with an impressive 80-69 victory.

Coach Stan Hicks of Grand Prairie was very worried about facing Wilmer Hutchins, "they really like to go up and down the floor. They have good shooters and if they get hot, they can blow you right out of the game in a hurry." Hicks continued, "we have to make them play defense."

Wilmer Hutchins(28-5) looked to 5'7" Shannon Lilly(27.0), 6'3" David Vasher(21.7) and 6'0" William Smith(18.0). Lilly went on to star at Bishop College while Vasher played at North Texas. 6'5" footballer Michael Clark and 6'5" Norton Diggles rounded out the Eagles starters. 6'5" Tim Walker transferred in from North Dallas and provided depth for Coach Homer Smith. "I took over this program four years ago and all these kids came in with me and have stayed," Coach Smith explained.

The Gophers and Eagles faced each other at R.L. Turner in Carrollton. Grand Prairie took a late lead 67-65 and tried to go into a stall for the remainder of the game. Hutch's William Smith made the big steal to tie the game up at 67 apiece on a lay-up. Following a Grand Prairie missed shot, Norton Diggles of Wilmer Hutchins was fouled by Reggie Brown. Diggles knocked down both foul shots putting the Eagles in charge at the end of regulation 69-67. Jerry Burnap tied things up for the Gophers with 11 seconds remaining. Wilmer Hutchins played for the final shot. The Eagles William Smith was fouled putting him at the line with a one and one opportunity. Smith missed the first attempt which was rebounded by David Henson.

The overtime was dominated by the Gophers who outscored Hutch 8-2. Grand Prairie came out with the victory 77-71 with David Henson scoring 21 points and Reggie Brown following up with 15 points. For Hutch, Shannon Lilly tallied 24 points and David Vasher finished with 16.

Lufkin(28-7) pulled a shocker in District 14-AAAA gaining the playoff spot over state ranked Tyler Lee(33-1). Tyler Lee had put together an impressive pre-season record defeating Whitehouse(36-1) 50-49. Whitehouse went on to win the class AA state championship. The Raiders downed class AAA regional finalist Daingerfield(25-7) twice 63-44 and 50-44. Other teams that fell to Tyler Lee(33-1) were Richardson Pearce(17-11) 57-52 and North Mesquite(18-12) 61-57. Although

the schedule was not that challenging, Tyler Lee(33-1) was considered the top team in East Texas. The Red Raiders had met all challenges. They won the Pearce/Berkner Tournament, Mesquite Tournament and the Tyler Junior College tournament.

The Red Raiders hopes were built around 6'5" Virdell Howland(20.0/10.5), who later played at the University of Texas. Coach Ned Fowler had very little experience returning from his regional finalist team from the previous season. Other starters for Tyler Lee were 6'2" Brad Richardson, 6'0" Herb Johnson, 6'2" Fred Marshall, 6'1" Victor Waters and 5'9" Richard Smith. Virdell Howland was named Player of the Year in the District by the coaches and Brad Richardson was named 1st team. 6'5" Kenneth Brown(10.0) was named 1st team by the Sports Writers. Other outstanding members of District 14-AAAA were Anthony Lee(25.0/17.0) from John Tyler, 6'7" Tommy Robinson(19.2/10.1) of Longview and 5'11" Jimmy Walton(26.0) of Texas High.

In 14-4A action Tyler Lee sailed through District unblemished with the exception of Lufkin. The Red Raiders had their 23-game winning streak ended by the Panthers in Lufkin 63-61. Lufkin took the first half of District with a perfect 6-0 record. In the 2nd half the Panthers slipped up against Tyler John Tyler(12-17) 74-72. The Lions All-American 6'10" post, Anthony Lee, posted 25 points and 17 rebounds in the victory. This set the stage for the second-round match-up between Tyler Lee and Lufkin played on the Red Raiders home court. Tyler Lee came away with a 53-46 victory forcing a District playoff between first and second half winners.

Lufkin was under the watchful eyes of Coach Jesse Walker. The Panthers started 6'2" Chris Wortham(20.0), 6'2" Andre Hall, Elroy Edwards, 5'10" Ken Johnson and 6'0" Danny Hartsfield. Wortham was named District MVP by the Sports Writers and Andre Hall was named 1st team All-District by the coaches as was Wortham.

The Lufkin/Tyler Lee series was hard fought with both teams looking to advance to the playoffs. In the first game played at Lufkin the Panther's Danny Hartsfield hit a 30-footer off the glass to win the game at the buzzer 63-61. The Raiders had their opportunities late when Richard Smith missed the front end of a one and one situation. Lee actually looked to blow things open early with a 31-14 advantage in the second quarter. Lufkin came back and outscored the Raiders 22-2 in the 3rd period.

Lufkin's(28-7) full court press caused a lot of problems for Tyler Lee(33-1). Virdell Howland came away with high game honors with 20 points for Lee with Victor Waters putting up 14 points. Kenneth Johnson finished with 16 points and Chris Wortham added 13 points for Lufkin.

The rematch was played late in the second round of District action at Tyler Lee. The doors were locked 15 minutes before tipoff with some 2000 fans in attendance. Lufkin's tenacious full-court pressure set the tempo. Tyler Lee took a

24-23 advantage at intermission and went on to win 53-46. Tyler Lee continued their 26-game winning streak at home. Howland again led the way with 14 points and Victor Waters followed with 13 points. Chris Wortham came away with high point honors finishing with 20 points.

The third and decisive game between Tyler Lee(33-1) and Lufkin(28-7) was played at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches. Danny Hartsfield of Lufkin was once again the hero hitting an uncontested lay-up with eight seconds remaining. The basket gave the Panthers a 64-62 victory and a ticket to the state playoffs.

Tyler Lee seemed to have things under control with 1:16 left with the score tied at 62 apiece. The Red Raiders went to four corners waiting to take the last shot. Fred Marshall of Lee was tied up at midcourt by Elroy Edwards of Lufkin with 45 seconds remaining. Edwards won the tip and the Panthers were able to go for the last shot. Interestingly, Tyler Lee had no field goals in the final quarter and went 10 of 14 from the foul line.

The Raiders were 23 of 46 from the field for 50% while Lufkin finished 28-52 for 54%. Lee turned the ball over 23 times and Lufkin had 18 miscues. Lee had the rebounding edge 36-29. The big difference in the game for Tyler Lee was standout, Virdell Howland, sat out much of the game with foul trouble. Howland picked up two quick fouls in the first quarter. 6'5" sophomore, Kenneth Brown, quickly came in and made his presence known finishing with a team high 17 points. Howland still managed to finish with 16 points. Hartsfield paced Lufkin with 18 points and Chris Wortham added 14 points.

For Tyler Lee(33-2) it was a very disappointing season. Coach Ned Fowler discussed turning the program around in his brief stay of four seasons with the Red Raiders. He told the Tyler Morning Telegraph that when he came to Lee people told him the program was a losing cause, that Lee could never win in basketball. In the previous 16 seasons under two different coaches the Raiders had a 259-217 mark. In the five seasons prior to Fowler's arrival, they had only managed to win 69 out of 165 games. In Fowler's first season they were a competitive 17-14 followed by 26-7 in 1976, 35-3 and regional finalist in 1977, and a 33-2 record in 1978. During that stretch the Raiders had managed a 21-game winning streak in 1977 and 23 straight in 1978.

When asked to compare the two teams, Fowler said, "this team has done so much more than I expected. It has really been a surprise. We were able to break the winning streak that I thought at the time would never be broken." On the question of the pressure of winning with the streak and all, Fowler said, "it might have been better, to lose earlier in the season, maybe in the Tyler JC tournament. We might have lost some of our edge before district because of our success."

In the Lufkin(28-7) vs. Lake Highlands(21-8) game of District champions, it would come down to Lufkin's press and speed against Lake Highlands ability to

handle the pressure. Lufkin's key player was 6'2" Chris Wortham(22.0) while the Wildcats of Lake Highlands were led by District MVP, 6'2" Brett Chumbley(18.0).

Coach Jerry Wells of Lake Highlands felt the two teams were very evenly matched with both team's tallest players around 6'4". The game was played at Tyler Junior College. Lake Highlands led going into the final quarter 50-45, but only managed two points in the final 4:26 of the game losing 70-65. Lufkin's Kenneth Johnson finished with a game high 28 points and Chris Wortham followed with 16 points.

Once again in Dallas the 12-AAAA race came down to two teams, Dallas S.O.C.(25-10) and the Mustangs of Roosevelt(26-6). Coach Ellis Davis' team had a whole new young group of athletes, 6'7" Bobby Davis, 6'4" Kenneth Roberson, 6'1" Kevin Jones, Marcus Jones and 6'6" Jimmy Wright.

The Golden Bears handed Dunbar(34-3) their second loss of the season 92-71 earlier in the season. 6'4" Chucky McGill and Darrell Fields paced the Golden Bears to victory. It should be mentioned that big James Griffin(18.1) had the flu and was unable to play for Dunbar. This made the victory almost meaningless, but did give Dunbar their second loss going into District action.

In the first big District matchup between Roosevelt(26-6) and S.O.C.(25-10), both teams were devastated by the flu and it was anybody's guess how things might turn out. Late in the District 12-AAAA race Dallas Kimball(20-8) became a new threat to capture District under the leadership of Coach Paul Graham.

The Knights defeated Dallas S.O.C.(25-10) 67-63 and then turned right around and defeated Dallas Roosevelt(26-6) in overtime 76-74. Darwyn Bradford led Kimball(20-8) with 23 points while Derlyn Gross collected 18 points. Dallas Roosevelt(26-6) defeated Kimball(20-8) 62-60 in the District title game at Loos Fieldhouse. S.O.C.(25-10) was left out of the playoffs for the first time since 1972 and finished the season 25-10 and #7 in the state rankings. All things considered the ranking was a little inflated.

Dallas Roosevelt(26-6) won the city title over Dallas Bryan Adams(18-11) 82-67. For the Mustangs, it was a relief to get out of District and away from S.O.C.(25-10). The last time the Mustangs made the playoffs they captured the state championship in 1972. Big things were expected again by Coach Ellis Davis' talented group. 6'7" Bobby Davis led the scoring against Bryan Adams with 18 points. 6'4" Kenneth Chambers had nine blocks in the win.

District 16-AAAA was dominated in pre-season talk by Bryan(22-10) and 6'11" All-American Rudy Woods(25.4). Woods was one of the most hotly recruited players in the state's history. After facing an incredible early season schedule the Vikings prepared for District with a 9-7 record. Bryan(22-10) split with highly ranked Houston Jones(26-8) 68-67 and losing 84-70. Woods put up 39 points in the win and 19 points and 15 rebounds in their loss. Sophomore sensation, 6'3"

Howard Jenkins(15.8), proved himself finishing with 27 points in the loss to Houston Jones(26-8).

The Vikings faced several playoff teams in the pre-season gauntlet. Bryan(22-10) took down Temple(23-7) 54-50. Woods went up against one of the top big men in the state in Temple's 6'8" Maurice McDaniel. Woods finished with 26 points and McDaniel came away with 14/15.

Bryan(22-10) played the eventual class 3-A state champions, Huntsville(27-7) twice. The Vikings easily handled the Hornets 77-60 in their first match-up and lost the rematch 72-71. Bryan(22-10) took it on the chin losing Houston Kashmere(28-8) 81-57 and Houston Washington(22-10) 58-57. Coach Bobby Perry's crew defeated Forest Brook(23-9) twice 58-51 and 74-68, Galveston Ball(31-8) 52-46, and lost twice to Austin Johnston(27-6) 96-80 and 64-59. Bryan(22-10) also split with Austin L.B.J., winning 86-50 and losing 76-74. Austin Anderson took down the Vikings 76-75.

District 16-AAAA had come down to a dog fight between two Houston area representatives, Cypress-Fairbanks(22-9) and Bryan(22-10). The Bobcats of Cypress-Fairbanks were coached by Larry Hargett. His team had started the season slowly but following Christmas break had won 12 out of 13 games.

In their two District games against Bryan(22-10), the Bobcats lost the first game 65-46 and won the rematch 66-65. Woods scored a combined 60 points in the two games against Cypress Fairbanks, 36 in the loss and 24 in the victory. "You just don't stop a player like Woods, you just try to slow him down and make him shoot the ball rather than dunk it," Coach Hargett said. Bryan(22-10) took the first half of District with a 6-0 mark and Cypress-Fairbanks(22-9) captured the second round.

In Bryan's first round victory over the Bobcats, the game was marred with five technical fouls. Coach Larry Hargett was ejected with his 3rd technical in the 3rd quarter. At halftime, Bryan(22-10) led 39-24 and Bryan had seven fouls and Cypress-Fairbanks had been whistled for only one foul. Alan Howard of Cy-Fair was held to only 10 points for the Bobcats. Sophomore Howard Jenkins was the difference putting up 28 points for the Vikings. Woods and Jenkins had combined for 42 points in the victory.

Hargett knew in the rematch he would have to contain Woods and Jenkins in order to win. Cypress-Fairbanks(22-9) held Jenkins to only seven points while Woods finished with 37 points and 7 blocks. The Bobcats were led to victory by 6'5" Alan Howard with 21 points and 6'3" Mike Peppercorn with 23 points.

The rubber match between the two teams was for the District title at Sam Houston University in Huntsville. Cypress-Fairbanks defeated Bryan 75-59 behind Alan Howard and Mike Peppercorn's combined 44 points. The Bobcats held Rudy Woods to 23 points with 14 rebounds and Howard Jenkins finished with 14 points. Although Cy-Fair won by 16 points, they were only up 48-40 going into the fourth

quarter. 6,000 fans watched in Huntsville as the Bobcats and Coach Hargett's team advanced into the state playoffs. Our depth has been the key," Hargett confessed.

Coach Bobby Perry commented after the loss, "they got things going their way and kept it. We've had a good season and we've been through a lot."

On the 16-AAAA All-District team named by the coaches, Rudy Woods(24.5) and Howard Jenkins(16.0) were named to the first team from Bryan and Jerry Debose and Randy Shirley were named 2nd team. Peppercorn(11.4) and Alan Howard(18.6) made the first team for the Bobcats.

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

In regionals all four teams looked to have an opportunity to advance. Lufkin(29-7) and Dallas Roosevelt(27-6) looked to be favorites. Grand Prairie(29-4) was impressive and Cypress-Fairbanks(23-10) looked to be a team hitting its stride.

Coach Davis' team had faced a much tougher schedule than the others schools and had size, speed, shooting and quickness advantage over most teams they played. The regionals once again were played at G. Rollie White Coliseum on the campus of Texas A&M in College Station. The Mustangs knew little about their semi-final opponent, outside of the fact that they liked to slow the game down. 6'6" Mustang post Jimmy Wright(12.0), the brother of Rynn, was questionable for the game because of a death in the family. Kenneth Roberson and 6'3" Kenneth Chambers played key roles for Coach Davis.

For the Bobcats of Cypress-Fairbanks they were no stranger to the regionals and state tournament, having played in Austin in 1970 and 1971. But the seniors were in the 6th grade during that magical run, so the tradition was not real relevant. Also, the Bobcats were under new direction. The 1978 version of the Bobcats was a lot different in many ways, because they lacked the athletic ability of the earlier squads. 6'5" Alan Howard(20.0) and 6'3" Mike Peppercorn(13.0) were the leaders for the Bobcats attack. In losing 10 games, it was fairly obvious that they were probably a long shot at winning regionals and going to state. They had lost to Clear Lake(31-5) 79-65, Galveston Ball(31-8) 69-65, Austin Lanier(28-7) 64-60, just to name a few of the more prominent opponents that they had faced. The only real indicator of the team's prowess was winning District over arguably the best player in the state and McDonald's All-American, 6'11" Rudy Woods(25.0) of Bryan. So, it was understood they had to be pretty good beating Bryan two out of three times.

In the semi-final game between Cypress-Fairbanks(23-10) and Dallas Roosevelt(27-6), Coach Hargett was very worried about the rebounding of the

Mustangs along with their tremendous depth. He also commented the Bobcats would have to be ready for Roosevelt's full court press.

The Roosevelt Mustangs led 48-44 with only 1:30 left in the game when their top rebounder, Bobby Davis, fouled out. After Kenneth Chambers hung on the rim on a missed dunk, Roosevelt was given its second technical of the game for hanging on the rim. The Bobcats trailed for most of the game. They finally tied the game at 48 all with two foul shots from Paul Gendron, with just 29 seconds remaining. Kenneth Chambers missed a dunk for Roosevelt and Howard missed a layup in the closing seconds of regulation.

In overtime, with the score tied 52 apiece, Cypress-Fairbanks went to their delay tactics. The Bobcats held the ball for the last shot with 39 seconds remaining. Adrian Harkey of Cypress-Fair hit an 18-footer for the winner. Alan Howard was held to only 14 points and Peppercorn topped the Bobcats with 15 points.

Jimmy Wright overcame his grief and contributed 14 points for Dallas Roosevelt(27-7). 6'4" Alan Howard of Cy-Fair played the fourth quarter and overtime with four fouls and had four blocks during that time. Coach Ellis Davis was very upset at the officiating during the entire game and was outspoken after the game about his disapproval. The Bobcats had 32 foul shots and made 20 compared to Roosevelt's six of ten. The 54-52 victory by Cy-Fair was not handled well by the south Dallas team. "It is just my style to remain calm," said Davis. "What can you do?" The upsets continued on the path to Austin in 1978.

In the other semi-final game in College Station, Grand Prairie(29-4) advanced to the playoffs for the first time in eleven years defeating Lufkin 75-68. The Gophers took a 38-25 advantage into the 2nd quarter against Lufkin when 6'8" Henson received his third foul. From that point on Lufkin began picking away at the lead. Lufkin's press cut the lead to 48-46 midway through the third quarter. Grand Prairie placed five players in double figures. Wortham was the top scorer for Lufkin with 21 points.

*In the **region II finals**, Grand Prairie(30-4) outside shooting abandoned them as they shot 29% from the floor. The Gophers went down 52-42 to Cypress-Fairbanks(24-10). The Bobcats trailed 19-17 at halftime after taking only two shots in the second quarter. Cypress-Fair regrouped to score 35 points in the second half with Howard finishing with 19 points and 3 blocked shots. "We knew Grand Prairie's weakness," Howard said after the game, "they could not shoot from the outside. So, we zoned them to stop the inside play." Gopher star David Henson spent most of the 2nd and 3rd quarters on the bench in foul trouble. Cy-Fair out-rebounded Grand Prairie 39-23. Randy Foltin was the leading rebounder for the Bobcats with 11. Howard once again led Cypress-Fairbanks with 19 points while Mike Peppercorn only managed 9 points. David Henson had 13 points for the Gophers.*

Cy-Fair coach, Larry Hargett, said after the game, "Actually we had three people on their two posts inside," indicating his team was giving Grand Prairie the outside shots. Hargett was in his first year as head coach for the Bobcats, having coached at Houston Jesuit the previous year. "Our strengths are shooting and rebounding along with depth," Coach Hargett said.

Region III

Houston Madison(24-6)

Houston Kashmere(28-7)

Houston Smiley(19-12)

Galveston Ball(31-7)

Houston Stratford(29-4)

Houston Wheatley(31-6) #4

Beaumont Pollard(22-10)

Deer Park(30-6)

Top Players in Region III

6'8"	Roosevelt McGruder	Houston Wheatley
6'2"	Rob Williams	Houston Milby
6'10"	Greg Kite	Houston Madison
6'8"	Robert Shaw	Deer Park
6'5"	Clarence Swannegan	Galveston Ball
6'6"	John Simple	Houston Madison
6'1"	Nicky Snell	Deer Park
6'5"	Ernest Patterson	Houston Kashmere
6'6"	Rickie Thompson	Houston Jones
6'5"	Fred Reynolds	Houston Jones

In the 1970's the very heartbeat of Texas High School basketball was always in and around the Houston area and 1978 was no different. This may have been the city's most dominant season. Houston was so loaded. In my final rankings of 1978 seven of the top ten teams were from the Houston area. Houston Wheatley(36-6), Houston Milby(30-6) and Houston Madison(25-7) held down the top three spots. Deer Park(32-7), Houston Jones(26-8), Houston Sterling(18-9) and Houston Yates(24-11) rounded out the top ten. Yates, Milby, Wheatley and Jones were all in the same District.

In District 24-AAAA the race ended in a three-way tie for the playoff spot. Galveston Ball(30-7), Alvin(21-10) and LaMarque(23-9) were forced to have a playoff to see who would advance. Ball(30-7) won the first half of District while Alvin(21-10) and LaMarque(23-9) took second half honors.

Barnett Field House was the site of the District playoff game between Galveston Ball(30-7) and Alvin(21-10). Galveston Ball(30-7) had fallen apart during second round of District losing to Texas City 70-62, Dulles 42-41 and Alvin(21-10) 48-37. LaMarque(23-9) drew the bye and awaited the winner of the Galveston Ball-Alvin game.

Galveston Ball(31-7) eliminated Alvin(21-10) 76-55 and then prepared themselves for LaMarque(23-9), a team they had beaten twice in District action 79-56 and 86-49. The Tornadoes made it three in a row in the decisive third game

against the Cougars 64-58. Nal Smith hit 13 points to lead Ball in scoring followed by Leroy Cooper and Robert Walker with 11 each. Coach Bob Woodard's top player was 6'6" Clarence Swannegan, who dominated the glass for Ball. LaMarque was paced by Randy Marshall, who finished with 14 points.

The Ball Tornadoes were probably one of the strongest teams in the state led by the talented inside game of 6'6" 210-pound Clarence Swannegan(18.0/12.0) and 6'6" Robert Walker(14.0/15.0). 6'5" Robert Lattimore teamed up with the gifted duo to give Ball one of the top front lines in the state. 6'1" LeRoy Cooper, 5'9" David Simmons and 6'2" Donald Johnson were key players in the backcourt for Coach Bob Woodard.

Galveston Ball(31-7) faced one of the most challenging schedules in the state with wins over Beaumont Pollard(22-11) 87-59, 81-61 and 62-50, state semi-finalist Cypress-Fairbanks(25-11) 69-65, Clear Lake(31-5) 68-57, Houston Smiley(20-13) 64-54, 81-50 and 68-57, Houston Washington(22-10) 91-76 and Houston Yates(24-11) 55-54. The list looks like a who's who of south Texas basketball. Losses included Bryan(22-10) 72-51, Houston Wheatley(36-6) 74-64, Houston Madison(25-7) 59-54 and Houston Kashmere(28-8) 89-68.

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

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

Deer Park(30-6) would need their best effort against a strong Galveston Ball(31-7) team. Both teams were talented and gifted. Deer Park looked to 6'8" Robert Shaw, 6'1" Nicky Snell, 6'2" David Simmons, Tom Fuller and 6'3" David Lichnerowkz. 6'3" Greg Crawford and 6'8" Byron Moake saw key minutes for long time coach, Ray Landers. Landers record at Deer Park stood at 394-77 dating back to 1972. His career started at Deer Park Jr. High in 1964.

Nicky Snell went on to play at Lamar University in Beaumont, Shaw played at Rice University, David Simmons took his talents to Stephen F. Austin and Tom

Fuller played at Lon Morris. Simmons, Snell and Fuller made up the top backcourt in the state. Snell played three years at Lamar and Shaw was a four-year letterman with the Owls.

The Tornadoes were coached by Bob Woodard, who's record was an impressive 470-101. Woodard opened his career at Dunbar Jr. High in Beaumont in 1959 before moving on to Beaumont Pollard Charlton High School. Woodard took over at Galveston Ball in 1974 and finished 26-10 in his first season. In 1973, Deer Park and Galveston Ball had met in the playoffs at Rice Gym and the Tors won the game under former coach, George Hatch. Deer Park featured a pressing man to man defense and balanced scoring and ball control. They were also known for their slow down tactics.

Deer Park's(30-6) Nicky Snell hit four free throws in the final 28 seconds of the game to give his team the 62-57 Bi-District win. Ball(31-7) jumped out early to a 13-2 lead and led at halftime 25-24. Deer Park won the game at the free throw line hitting 22 of 27 foul shots while Ball could only manage 7 of 11.

Ball(31-7) took the lead for the final time with 1:14 remaining in the game. The scoring breakdown for Deer Park(30-6) was as follows; David Simmons put up 22 points, Nicky Snell added 12 points and Robert Shaw came away with 14 points. Ball(31-7) was paced by Robert Walker's 17 points, Clarence Swannegan's 16 points and LeRoy Cooper's 10 points. Deer Park finished scoring six points in the final 30 seconds of the contest.

Houston Stratford(29-4) pushed through District 17-AAAA undefeated, closing out the regular season with a 50-47 win over Spring Branch. Darrell Taylor scored 18 points for Stratford in the win and Ed Sumner chipped in 15 points. The Spartans finished as the #3 ranked team in the Houston area behind Houston Milby(30-6) and Houston Wheatley(36-6).

Stratford(29-4) ran into Houston Madison(24-6) in Bi-District. Madison(24-6) was powered by 6'10" junior, Greg Kite. The Marlins of Madison dominated Stratford 67-38 to advance to regionals. Junior, 6'6" John Simple scored 30 points for Coach Paul Benton. "We kept our big people out of foul trouble and that was the difference," Benton said. Kite finished with 18 rebounds.

"We got kicked," Stratford Coach Jerry Kroll said following the game. "We couldn't rebound with them and took shots we've been making all year, but didn't hit'em tonight." Stratford did not have one player in double figures.

Coach Jerry Kroll was considered one of the all-time greats from Houston basketball having played for Spring Branch Memorial's title team in 1966. He later went on to star at Davidson University. Kroll and Mike Maloy led Davidson to the Eastern Regional finals in back-to-back seasons under the leadership of the legendary coach Lefty Driesell.

In District 21-AAAA Forest Brook(23-8) and Houston Smiley(19-12) decided the title at Autry Court on the campus of Rice University. Smiley(19-12) won their

second straight District title defeating Forest Brook 62-50. Smiley was led by Hiram Harrison, who scored 24 points, Michael Jones finished with 14 points and Gary Lockhart contributing 13 points. Forest Brook had only one player in double figures and that was Steve Spencer with 18 points. In the final quarter 13 of Smiley's 15 points came from the foul line.

Houston Smiley(20-12) proved too strong for Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(22-10) 59-47 in Bi-District. Smiley hit 21 of 29 free throws which was the difference. For the second year in a row Houston Smiley(20-12) had advanced to regionals.

The two top rated teams in Houston were the Buffaloes of Milby(30-5) and the Wildcats of Wheatley(30-6). Unfortunately, the two titans were in the same District. Milby and Wheatley went at each other a third time during the season for the 20-AAAA District title. It was incredible to think that one of these two talented teams would not be making the playoffs. Two of the best performers for the Buffaloes weren't at full speed for the game against the Wildcats. The best guard in the state, 6'2" junior, Rob Williams and 6'0" Ronald Turner were both limited for Coach Boyce Honea. Milby(30-5) was definitely going to be challenged heading into the title game.

In front of 5,400 fans at Delmar, Wheatley(30-6) came away with a tough 70-65 victory. The play of the game came with the score 64-62 in Wheatley's favor with 1:04 remaining. The Wildcats post, 6'7" Roosevelt McGruder, drove the lane and appeared to have charged into Ronald Turner. Instead, the call went against Milby and McGruder hit both foul shots and increased Wheatley's lead to 66-62. Milby was unable to recover from the four-point deficit.

The Buffaloes were the #1 ranked team in the Greater Houston area and finished the season at 30-6 and out of the playoffs. Wheatley was ranked #2 in the Houston area and advanced to the playoffs. Wheatley was #3 in the state rankings. Milby had 31 turnovers in the contest compared to 27 for Wheatley.

Noland Greenleaf was the leading scorer for the Wildcats followed by 6'4" Carl Runnels with 17 points and McGruder's 12 points. 6'4" John Savoie topped Milby's scoring with 25 points and Rob Williams delivered 19 points. Milby(30-6) had won the first round of District with a 65-60 victory over Wheatley(31-6) and the Wildcats won the second game 56-49.

In the District 20-AAAA race you had the toughest District in the state with Wheatley(31-6) and Milby(30-6) tied for first at 10-2, followed by Houston Jones(26-8) and Houston Sterling(18-9) at 7-5, and Yates(24-11) finishing fifth at 5-7. The top five teams in District won 83% of their games against outside competition.

In Bi-District the Wheatley(31-6) Wildcats got no reprieve facing Houston Kashmere(28-7). The two powers mirrored each other as they took aim at Hofheinz Pavilion before 10,762 fans. Wheatley(31-6) won a controversial 92-90 decision

over the Rams. The play in question occurred with one second remaining in the first half with the Wildcats leading 52-48. Wheatley's Carl Runnels received a pass under the Wheatley basket and bounced the ball and turned and shot. The basket counted putting Wheatley up at halftime by six points. The basket proved to be the difference in the game.

"I think our conditioning proved to be the difference," said Coach Jackie Carr. The Wildcats defeated Kashmere(28-7) twice during the regular season 100-94 and 88-85. The Rams downed Wheatley in the regular season 97-90.

Coach Frankie Brazos commented on the critical call just before halftime saying, "that one second call didn't beat us, it was turnovers." Carl Runnels was high point man for Wheatley with 20 points followed by 16 for Nolan Greenleaf and 14 points for Gilbert Thomas and 13 for Roosevelt McGruder. Ernest Patterson was tops for the Rams with 23 points and teammates Robert McGowan and Donald Pettaway had 18 and 12 respectfully. Carl Runnels went on to play at Midland Jr. College and McGruder traveled to Johnson C. Smith College in North Carolina. Ernest Patterson of Kashmere went on to star at New Mexico State and led the Aggies in scoring averaging 19.5 per game. Patterson was one of the best ever to play for the Rams.

In regionals, Wheatley(32-6) faced Houston Madison(25-6) at 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening. Deer Park(31-6) went against Houston Smiley(20-12) at Hofheinz Pavilion in the late game at 8:30.

"We've got to slow the tempo down," Coach Paul Benton of Madison said going into the Wheatley game. "We certainly don't want to get into a running game with them. The tempo, slowing the game down and keeping them off the offensive boards, are the key factors when playing Wheatley. Of course, you've still got to beat Wheatley's press and contend with their depth," Benton said. "We have got to keep Kite in the game."

Houston Wheatley(32-6) was making their 10th regional start in 11 seasons. That statistic is unheard of at the AAAA level, especially in the Houston region. Wheatley's bench had produced 40 of the teams 92 points against Kashmere. And up-tempo game was going to definitely be to the Wildcats advantage.

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

Houston Smiley(20-12) had relied on the foul line down the stretch in their last two games against Forest Brook and Beaumont Charlton Pollard. In the District

playoff game and Bi-District games, Smiley scored 36 points in the fourth quarter and 26 were on free throws.

In the first semi-final game, Houston Wheatley(32-6) came from 16 points down to defeat Houston Madison(25-6) 72-70 in overtime. Gilbert Thomas hit a 20-footer with five seconds left to knock the Marlins from the playoffs. Junior, Greg Kite came up with an incredible rebounding total of 29 boards and added 23 points. As dominant as Kite's play was, he couldn't get it done, as the Wildcats of Wheatley advanced to the regional finals. The Wildcats were making their 9th appearance in the finals over an eleven-year period.

Houston Madison(25-7) took a comfortable lead 31-16 with 1:20 left in the 2nd quarter. "It was terrible, embarrassing the way we shot the ball in the first quarter. I can't ever remember a Wheatley team scoring but six points in one quarter," said Wildcat Coach, Jackie Carr.

Wheatley(32-6) got the ball in overtime with 32 seconds remaining and ran the clock down to seven seconds when Thomas hit the game winner. "We didn't have any one certain player set up to take the last shot. I told them at the timeout to run it down to around five seconds and the player open to shoot. It just happened to be Thomas," added Carr.

"Mistakes at the end just killed us," Benton said. "We had the ball and the score was tied at the end of regulation and we don't get off a shot and then lose it on a turnover in overtime." Madison(25-7) led at halftime 32-20. Madison had 32 turnovers in the game and 20 in the second half. Wheatley(32-6) had 12 turnovers in the second half.

Wheatley put three players in double figures, Nolan Greenleaf paced the Wildcats with 14 points, Gilbert Thomas added 11 points and Lindsey Lewis finished with 10. Wheatley's bench outscored Madison 35 to 7. John Simple came away with 20 points for Madison behind Kite's 23. A sellout crowd of 11,117 fans were on hand to watch the game.

In the nightcap, Deer Park(31-6) advanced to the finals with a 48-36 win over Houston Smiley(20-13). The guard trio of Nicky Snell, David Simmons and Tom Fuller combined for 32 of Deer Park's 48 points. Deer Park(31-6) had lost earlier in the season to Smiley in another low scoring game 39-37. Deer Park(31-6) took an early lead and never looked back. Deer Park(31-6) was up 22-10 midway in the second quarter. Hiram Harrison led Smiley(20-13) with 13 points.

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

Region IV

Austin Lanier(27-6)

Seguin(31-6)

Corpus Christi Moody(28-7)

San Antonio Marshall(27-5)

Brazoswood(22-12)

San Antonio Fox Tech(29-5)

Mission(32-4)

Laredo Nixon(20-14)

Top Players in Region IV

6'6"	Keith Edmundson	San Antonio MacArthur
6'7"	Roy Jones	Austin Reagan
6'3"	Jay Shakir	San Antonio Fox Tech
6'8"	Frank Rodriguez	San Antonio Marshall
6'5"	Brad Friess	Austin Anderson
6'3"	Melvin White	San Antonio Fox Tech
6'5"	Lawrence Sampleton	Seguin
5'10"	Joe Phillips	Corpus Christi Moody

There was really no clear-cut favorite in Region IV in 1978. Everything was viewed as wide open to whichever team got the hot hand. Three major cities were included in region IV, Austin, San Antonio, Corpus Christi and the Valley.

The District 32-AAAA District Championship came down to Seguin(30-6) and San Antonio MacArthur(29-6). 6'5" 215 pound, Lawrence Sampleton, was the difference inside for Seguin as Matadors were able to win a close one 44-43. Sampleton was a top recruit for the University of Texas in football. He finished with 23 points and 12 rebounds and defensively completely shut off SA MacArthur's inside game. MacArthur hit only 14 of 50 from the floor. MacArthur coach, Dan Sponhaltz said after the game, "We just couldn't close off their inside game where Sampleton was the dominating factor."

Scott Myers at 6'9" hit a pair of foul shots with 2:36 remaining to cut the Matador lead to 43-41. Sampleton went to the line with 15 seconds remaining, and made one foul shot to give his team a three-point lead with seconds remaining. Keith Edmonson of MacArthur hit a field goal with four seconds remaining to make the final 44-43. Edmonson was held to only 9 points after leading the city in scoring at a 27.6 clip. The 6'6" all-state guard, who would later take his talents to Purdue and the N.B.A., scored only 29 points in three games against Seguin. The victory put Seguin in the state playoffs against San Antonio Fox Tech, and left the top player in San Antonio on the sidelines for the playoffs.

In District 29-AAAA, Laredo Nixon(19-14) defeated Laredo Martin 74-67 at Laredo Jr. College behind the combined efforts of Tony Colunga and Juan Puente. The twosome combined for 45 points. Colunga was the leading scorer with 28 points. Laredo Martin was led by Gerardo Rendon with 16 points and Jeff Siemaker with 13.

The District 30-AAAA showdown was played at Taylor Field House between San Antonio Marshall(26-5) and San Antonio Memorial(26-8). The 59-43 victory put S.A. Marshall into the state playoffs against Laredo Nixon(20-14).

The last time the two teams met, San Antonio Memorial(26-8) took a 73-66 victory running fast breaks. "We tried to get everybody back on defense," said Marshall Coach Frank Runnels. "In the second half, we tried to penetrate and go to the boards. We beat them inside and Frank Rodriguez really dominated the boards." Rodriguez of Marshall, was the city's second leading scorer in class AAAA. He paced his team with 24 points and came away with 12 rebounds.

San Antonio Fox Tech(28-5) dominated action in District 31-AAAA winning the first half of outright, and tying San Antonio Jefferson(28-8) for the second half title. The Buffaloes were the only team in Region IV that did not have to play a District playoff game. Tech's only losses during the season were to S.A. MacArthur(29-7), S.A. Jefferson(28-8) twice and Houston Madison(25-7) in the Corpus Christi Tournament. "I believe we have one of the better jumping clubs in town," Coach Roland Lopez stated. This is despite the fact Fox Tech had no real tall players.

Fox Tech(28-5) was led by seniors, 5'10" Willie Randall(14.9), 6'3" Melvin White(16.2) and Wendall Woodard. Junior starters include 6'3" Jay Shakir(15.8) and Billy Fuller. 6'6" Billy Summers came off the bench and was the tallest Buffalo. Coach Lopez described Jay Shakir as his all-purpose man. "I use him whenever I need him." Lopez described Randall as his playmaker.

Fox Tech's Bi-District opponent was against the "physical" team from Seguin(30-6). The game was played at the Blossom Athletic Center. "We've never played against anybody as strong as Lawrence Sampleton," Coach Lopez said. 6'6" Bill Summers started for Fox Tech to give them more size against Sampleton.

Fox Tech(28-5) fell behind early against Seguin 21-7 with 6:27 remaining in the first half before recovering for a 60-58 win. "We let Sampleton dominate inside," Coach Lopez explained. "We came out in the second half in a man-to-man defense with Shakir on Sampleton and he did an excellent job," continued Lopez. "Our full court press was a big factor in our comeback." Seguin failed to score in the last 3:35 of the game because of turnovers. Poor foul shooting also cost the Matadors.

Fox Tech(28-5) was in serious foul trouble with four players finishing the game with four fouls. Sampleton was high point man in the game with 26 points. The Buffaloes were led by Melvin White's 17 points while Willie Randall added 15 points along Shakir's 12 points. Fox Tech(28-5) was battling the flu bug coming into the contest. Six kids had missed school because of the flu during the week leading up to the playoff game.

San Antonio Marshall(27-5) and Laredo Nixon(20-14) battled each other at Corpus Christi Ray gym with the winner advancing to regionals. A major concern for Ram's Coach, Frank Runnels, was 6'4" 220-pound post, Dean Hardy. "He's very physical," Runnels stated. Starters for Marshall included, 6'5" Frank

Rodriguez(21.4), 6'2" Sean McNelis(14.5), Darin McNelis(10.5), Mike Hatch(8.6), 6'2" Jack Broberg(8.6) and Russ Harris.

Mike Hatch, a 6'3" senior, led the Rams(28-5) to victory over Laredo Nixon(20-14) 81-71. Mike Hatch had 22 points for San Antonio Marshall(28-5) in the winning effort. Laredo Nixon ended the season with a 20-15 mark.

S.A. Marshall(28-5) hit 17 of 22 from the foul line with Darin McNelis hitting 11 of 12. Twin guards, Darin and Sean McNelis, combined for 37 points for Marshall while Rodriguez was held to only 17 points. Nixon's high point man was Tony Colunga's at 27.

Corpus Christi Moody(28-7) advanced to regionals with a 59-46 victory over Mission (32-4) and Austin Lanier(27-6) defeated Brazoswood(22-12) 66-58 to advance. Austin Lanier(27-6) outscored Brazoswood(22-12) 23-14 in the fourth quarter to pull out the victory. Curtis Ellison was the top scorer for Austin Lanier(27-6) with 21 points and Will Prosser finished with 16. David Miles did the damage for the Bucs with 16 points and Kelly Castleberry finished with 11. Brazoswood(22-12) had advanced to the playoffs after a District playoff win over Bay City 66-65. David Miles had hit a 20-footer to give the Bucs the District title with one second on the clock.

The talented guard tandem of Willie Randall(14.6), Jay Shakir(14.9) and Melvin White(17.2) had S.A. Fox Tech(29-5) playing at a very high level, as they defeated Seguin(31-6) 50-48. Frank Rodriguez from S.A. Marshall(27-5) led the Rams to a Bi-District win with a 81-71 win over Laredo Nixon(17-14).

The **San Antonio regional** had no teams ranked in the state's final top ten. Austin Lanier(28-6), Corpus Christi Moody(29-7), San Antonio Fox Tech(29-5) and San Antonio Marshall(27-5) all had very impressive squads.

Austin Lanier(28-6) and Corpus Christi Moody(29-7) were very similar in that they liked to press and push the ball up and down the court. Quickness was the main strength of both schools. Austin Lanier(28-6) was facing Fox Tech(29-5), while Corpus Christi Moody(29-7) challenged S.A. Marshall(27-5).

Austin Lanier(28-6) had no starters taller than 6'2", but they were all leapers. Lanier's Coach, Harry Masch, was well respected and thought to be one of the better coaches in the state. Austin Lanier(28-6) had defeated Austin Johnston(27-6) to gain the playoff berth. Starters for Lanier were, 5'10" Curtis Ellison(18.1), 6'1" Lawrence Fowler(16.4), 5'6" Junior Davis(11.8), 5'11" Will Prosser(10.3) and 6'2" Ron Wright(2.5). Ron Wright had just returned to the team after missing two months with a broken wrist.

"My scouting report tells me Lanier is quicker than we are," Coach Lopez of Fox Tech said. "They shoot extremely well and use several presses effectively on defense." Coach Lopez continued saying, "Lanier(28-6) looks like the quickest team we have faced all year. I asked the scouts to compare them to somebody in town,

and they couldn't do it." Fox Tech(29-5) averaged 73.1 points per game and allowed 60.7.

Fox Tech(29-5) trailed once again against Austin Lanier(28-6) by five points with 6:49 remaining, but came back to win 61-58. A three-point play by Jay Shakir gave Fox Tech the lead for good 56-54 with 3:16 remaining. Curtis Ellison hit two free throws with 1:52 remaining for Austin Lanier(28-6) to pull his team within two points. Unfortunately, that was as close as Lanier would get. Reserve, Chuckie Jackson, hit three foul shots during the last 54 seconds, to seal the win for Tech.

Tech led at one point 27-14, only to lose the lead. Melvin White was the leading scorer for the Buffaloes with 26 points and he also grabbed 9 rebounds. Jay Shakir and Billy Fuller both contributed 11 points each. "I definitely feel our height took its toll on Lanier," Lopez said after the game. Senior leader, Willie Randle, fouled out late in the game for Fox Tech(30-5), which really limited the Buffaloes experience in the last minutes of the game. "Chuckie Jackson came in and did a fine job in a very critical situation," Coach Lopez said.

Austin Lanier's coach Harry Masch felt Fox Tech's size was a big factor. "They could all jump. We could drive by their guys, but they always had somebody inside to block the shots."

Corpus Christi Moody(29-7) was shooting for their 15th straight victory against the Rams of San Antonio Marshall(28-5). Moody(29-7) had outscored their District opponents by an impressive 22.0-point margin. The Trojans averaged 82.1 in District play. Moody liked to run a 2-1-2 press and was coached by Steve Gonzales, who loved to get up quick shots.

Starters for the Trojans included, 6'5" Curtis Bonds(19.2), 5'10" Joe Phillips(18.9), 6'4" Robert Goodley(6.9), 5'10" Darrell James(13.2) and 6'3" Alan Thompson(8.0). Phillips was selected District M.V.P. in 27-AAAA.

Coach Runnels of San Antonio Marshall(28-5) described Moody as, "Big, quick and like to run." Runnels continued, "But we like to run ourselves." The Rams averaged 71.6 and allowed 61.0 for a 10.6-point difference.

Corpus Christi Moody(29-7) scored nine unanswered points in the final quarter to secure the win over S.A. Marshall(28-5) 68-62. Down the stretch the Trojans were 11 of 13 from the foul line. Moody was led in scoring by Joe Phillips with 24 points while 6'5" junior, Frank Rodriguez, was the top man for the Rams with 23 points. "We've been fighting the flu and I was real concerned that we'd fall apart in the fourth period," said Moody coach Steve Gonzales, "but the guys amazed me. They got stronger."

In the **regional finals**, S.A. Fox Tech(30-5) dogged Corpus Christi Moody(30-7) 70-49, in a surprising blowout. "We controlled the tempo of the game, went inside with our offense and played good defense," Coach Lopez said following the victory. Coach Lopez was in his third season at the helm of the Buffaloes.

“They seemed to cave in after their good inside man(Curtis Bonds) fouled out early in the final period.” Tech led 36-25 at halftime and continued to extend the lead in the second half. Coach Steve Gonzales of Corpus Christi Moody(30-7) felt the rebounding edge by Fox Tech 54-34 as the major difference in the game, along with his team’s battle with the flu bug. “It was like a first aid tent on the bench,” Gonzales said. Standout, Joe Phillips, agreed with Coach Gonzales that losing Bonds to fouls pretty much ended any hopes Moody had of coming back.

Fox Tech(31-5) outscored Moody(30-7) 19-10 in the final quarter. Moody hit only 20 of 73 shots from the floor. Jay Shakir was top man for Tech with 17 points and 17 rebounds, Melvin White had 16 points and 11 rebounds. 6’6” Summers added 13 points and 11 rebounds while point guard, Willie Randle, finished with 10 points and several assists. “We didn’t want to run with them,” Coach Lopez said. “The few problems that we did encounter came in situations where we were trying to run. Randle did a fantastic job running the team and keeping us within the bounds of our game play.”

Joe Phillips, Darrell James and Bonds all finished in double figures for Moody, led by Phillips with 14 points. Fox Tech was moving on to Austin and the State Tournament for the first time since 1929.

State Tournament

Houston Wheatley	(34-6)	#4	86.8-77.1	+ 9.7	PR 91.16
Cypress-Fairbanks	(25-10)		64.4-54.9	+ 9.5	PR 76.63
Abilene	(34-4)	#6	73.3-61.3	+12.0	PR 91.54
San Antonio Fox Tech	(33-5)		71.6-61.2	+10.4	PR 85.62

Top Players at the State Tournament

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

The season started out with some of the best individual talent the state had ever produced, but none of the top players in the state made the trip to Austin. 6’11” Rudy Woods and 6’9” Anthony Lee were eliminated in District action, 6’9” James Griffin was knocked out in the regional finals, 6’2” Rob Williams was eliminated in a District playoff, 6’9” Terry White and 6’10” Greg Kite both lost out in the regional semi-finals, and Ricky Pierce and 6’6” Keith Edmundson didn’t make it out of District. All eight were drafted into the N.B.A. and five had N.B.A. careers.

It was definitely the year of the upsets. It looked to be one of the most dynamic group of young men the state had seen battling for the right to play in Austin, only to be left with disappointment. I remember vividly attending the tournament that year thinking what could have been. It could have been historic. I

really believe that the rules played a big role in all the upsets. The game was called so close, many the bigger more athletic players were constantly getting into foul trouble. Also, the athletic teams were penalized for hanging on the rim following dunks. Many times, they were just trying to protect themselves. Delay games were a big part of every team's arsenal where small little players had the advantage.

Fox Tech(33-5) came into Austin as the great unknown to a lot of observers in 1978. The Buffaloes had struggled against some of the better teams in San Antonio, so it was surprising when they came out of Region IV. Fox Tech had lost both contests against Keith Edmundson's S.A. MacArthur(29-7) squad 80-69 and 72-66. But MacArthur had not even made the playoffs, being eliminated by Seguin(31-7). The Buffaloes were 1-2 against S.A. Jefferson(28-8), another top team in San Antonio in the same District as Fox Tech. It could have been easily argued that they were not the best team in San Antonio, finishing 1-4 against these two opponents.

Coach Roland Lopez of Fox Tech said prior to the game, "Abilene compares favorably to Austin Lanier in shooting ability and quickness but has the added dimension of a 6'6" player with good shooting ability around the perimeter."

Abilene(34-4) was seen as a big favorite over SA Fox Tech(33-5) entering the semi-final game. Abilene's resume was much more impressive with one of the state's top recruits in David Little. Abilene(34-4) had also pulled off two of the biggest upsets in playoff history by defeating El Paso Eastwood(26-3) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-2) in regional competition. The Eagles had a pretty impressive list of victims prior to their upset wins. Abilene(34-4) defeated Mineral Wells(32-3), Temple(23-7), Abilene Cooper(26-5) Midland Lee(22-10) and Waco(22-9).

On paper, most experts picked Abilene(34-4) because of their wins over the two top ranked teams in the state. But keep in mind the Eagles also had a home court advantage in both those games. Personally, I was thinking Abilene was going to have little trouble with the Buffaloes.

But when the two teams took the court it looked like a much more competitive game. Fox Tech's athleticism just jumped out as the two teams went up and down the court. Abilene didn't have anybody like 6'3" Melvin White(16.0) and 6'3" Jay Shakir(15.0). These two young men were leapers and could defend and shoot. They were big time athletes. They reminded me a great deal of the triplets from Arkansas that played for Eddie Sutton. They may not have received the publicity, but they could really play. It was pretty obvious they would be playing basketball at the next level. You also realized David Little would have to have a great game for Abilene to win.

Fox Tech's leaping ability was obvious on the boards as the Buffaloes out rebounded Abilene(34-4) 39-26 on the inside. The talented wings of Shakir and White were an unstoppable tandem for Fox Tech, finishing with 23 and 18 points

respectfully. White ended up with 12 rebounds and Shakir came away with 11 boards.

Except for two ties at 47-47 and 49-49 late in the third quarter, Fox Tech(33-5) led the whole way winning 76-67. David Little finished with 22 points and 9 rebounds but didn't get enough help from his teammates. Cisco Smith pitched in 17 points and 7 rebounds.

Fox Tech(33-5) took advantage of Abilene(34-4) when they went from their 2-3 zone to man-to-man defense. Abilene just could not match up inside with 6'6" Billy Summers, 6'3" Jay Shakir and 6'3" Melvin White. "As soon as we realized we could go inside that's where we went," said Tech coach Roland Lopez. Fox Tech was the first San Antonio school to advance to the championship game since 1972 when S.A. Jefferson lost to Dallas Roosevelt.

Coach James Boynton of Abilene sited after the game the biggest difference was rebounding, "they did a real good job of going to the boards and that's what beat us."

In the other semi-final game between Houston Wheatley(34-6) and Cypress-Fairbanks(25-10), the Wildcats of Wheatley were just to much for the disciplined Bobcat attack. The contest looked like a mismatch from the beginning but Cypress-Fairbanks(25-10) never lost contact.

A crowd of 11,500 looked on at the Special Events Center as Jackie Carr's team scored seven straight points turning a 47-47 tie into a 54-47 lead with 1:57 to play. Wheatley(35-6) went on to win 59-53. Coach Carr commented after the game, "We got 35 turnovers off are press and only won by six. We're just a poor shooting team." Wheatley trailed for much of the first half and was held to their second lowest scoring total of the year. Of his teams that had advanced to Austin, Carr said, "This is the worst team I've brought to state. But they want the trophy. They'll get after it." The Wildcats balanced scoring attack as usual was the difference with several players scoring, while Howard led Cy-Fair(25-10) with 16 points and 14 rebounds.

The Bobcats out rebounded Wheatley 52-40. "It was a good game but the Wheatley press did it again," Coach Hargett said following his team's loss. "I felt Wheatley really played well under pressure." The thing about Wheatley that impressed you as a spectator was how hard they played every second of the game. It was amazing. I can only reiterate what Coach Hargett said about Wheatley. They played as hard as any team I had ever seen. Unbelievable commitment to defense and hustle and team spirit. Their depth was unreal.

The biggest observation one could make about the finals between Wheatley(35-6) and Fox Tech(34-5) was that the Buffaloes only played six players against Abilene(34-5). If they continued this, the Wildcats would obviously wear them down as the game progressed with the full court pressing tactics that Wheatley employed.

A record crowd of 12,500 watched the state championship game in the new Frank Erwin Center or better known as the Drum. Gilbert Thomas knocked down two foul shots with six seconds left to give Wheatley an 84-83 overtime victory and the state championship. Wheatley(36-6) forced 34 turnovers but committed 30 fouls in the process. Unfortunately for Fox Tech, they converted on only 23 of 37 foul shot attempts. Had they sunk their free shots they would have been state champions.

Melvin White of Fox Tech finished with 24 points and 20 rebounds and Shakir finished with 23 points and 15 rebounds. Point guard Willie Randall added 15 points.

In the end Wheatley's depth proved to be too much for the Buffaloes. Coach Jackie Carr brought 18 players to Austin and 12 played and 10 scored in the contest. The U.I.L only provides for 14 players, so Carr had to pay for four players out of his own pocket.

Wheatley(36-6) played 12 players during the game while Fox Tech(33-6) ran mainly with six, and eight got into the game. Shakir fouled out with 2:50 remaining in the game which left Fox Tech shorthanded. The Buffaloes led by as much as six points in the fourth quarter before Theodore Harris' slam dunk gave Wheatley a one-point lead at the 3:35 mark. 5'8" Tracey Bookman led Wheatley in scoring with 15 points, Theodore Harris added 11 points.

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

Coach Jackie Carr made an interesting statement following his state championship run. Coach Carr acknowledged the best team in the state was Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-3). With all their talent, Dunbar couldn't get by Abilene(34-5) in regionals. Wheatley(36-6) on the other hand, won two of their playoff games in overtime and three playoff games by a total of five points. The Wildcats almost didn't get out of District, with a close win over Milby. The margin for error for the Wildcats was very small. Games are won and lost on the court and Wheatley was the best when the games meant the most. "This season has been a long hard fight. We lost the first half of our District and then won the second half to get Milby again in the District playoff game," Carr said. "But this team didn't give up. Not for a minute. We're not a good shooting team but they kept on coming back, I guess it

was because of the press and the bench. The press was certainly good to us. Of the five state championships, this one is the most satisfying. But one thing is for sure, I still say District 20-AAAA is the toughest District in Texas.” Carr continued, “Any time a team comes out of that District, they can go win the state championship. And Gilbert Thomas, he’s our money player. He did it against Madison (25-7) with a 20-footer with five seconds left in a 72-70 win and two free throws with six seconds left in overtime against Fox Tech.”

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

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

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

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

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------|-------|--|
| 1. | Ft. Worth Dunbar | 32-2 | 6’9” James Griffin(18.1), 6’1” Cletus Hubbard(14.5) |
| 2. | El Paso Eastwood | 25-3 | 6’8” Terry White(19.4), 6’3” Rick Becerra |
| 3. | Houston Milby | 30-6 | 6’2” Rob Williams(25.0), 6’2” Ronald Taylor |
| 4. | Houston Wheatley | 31-6 | 5’8” Tracey Bookman, 6’7” Roosevelt McGruder |
| 5. | El Paso Irvin | 24-5 | 6’5” Travis Salem(14.4), 6’4” Glen Adams(11.7) |
| 6. | Abilene | 31-4 | 6’6” David Little(23.0), 6’2” Cisco Smith(17.9) |
| 7. | South Oak Cliff | 25-10 | 6’4” Chucky McGill(17.2), 5’10” Darrell Fields(14.0) |
| 8. | Tyler Lee | 32-2 | 6’4” Virdell Howland, 6’2” Fred Marshall |
| 9. | Houston Jones | 24-8 | 6’5” Fred Reynolds, 6’6” Rickie Thompson |
| 10. | Eules L.D. Bell | 29-5 | 6’5” Willie Alsup, 6’4” Kent Davis |

All-State Teams: The Sports Writers All-State 1st team was as strong as ever and littered with All-Americans.

1st team- 6'11" Rudy Woods(25.4), Bryan; 6'9" Anthony Lee(25.9/17.0), Tyler John Tyler; 6'10" James Griffin(18.1), Ft. Worth Dunbar; 6'3" Nolan Greenleaf(18.0), Houston Wheatley; Rob Williams(25.0), Houston Milby:

2nd Team, 6'6" David Little(23.0), Abilene; 6'6" Keith Edmondson(29.7), S.A. MacArthur; 6'9" Terry White(19.4/16.3), El Paso Eastwood; 6'1" Billy Allen(25.0), Highland Park; 6'5" Alan Howard(19.7), Cypress-Fairbanks;

3rd Team, 6'10" Greg Kite(20.0), Houston Madison; 6'7" Roy Jones(23.3), Austin Reagan; 6'5" Ricky Pierce(26.1), Garland; 6'3" Jay Shakir(15.0), S.A. Fox Tech; 5'7" Shannon Lilly(28.0), Wilmer Hutchins:

Greg Kite, Rob Williams and Jay Shakir were all juniors.

The All-State teams were very well balanced and strong. As usual the Sports Writers did a great job of selecting the top players in the state. In the Dallas Times Herald All-Metro team, Billy Allen(25.0) was named player of the year. David Henson(19.8) of Grand Prairie was named first team along with Andy Sears(18.6) of Irving. Others named to the first team were Shannon Lilly from Wilmer Hutchins, Ricky Pierce(26.1) from Garland High and Billy Allen from Highland Park.

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

Recruits: Recruiting in Texas was wide open in 1978 with colleges coming in from all over the country. More recruits signed out of state than in state. It looked like the strongest recruiting class in the state's history. The Knoxville New-Sentinel named the top 100 players in the country. The survey had begun 15 years ago and included personal scouting tips, contacts with writers, coaches, pro advisors and others. Players were rated from 1 to 100 with top point value assigned the top player(100 points for No. 1, 99 points for No.2, etc.) and colleges then are ranked according to the points they accumulate through signings. **Rudy Woods**(25.4/15.4) was the #2 player in the country according to the recruiting service, behind Dwight Anderson of Dayton, Ohio, who signed with Kentucky. Woods signed with Shelby Metcalf of Texas A&M. Woods had a nice career with the Aggies and played on a SWC championship team and averaged 11.5 points, 7.7 rebounds and 1.7 blocks per game. The Mavs drafted him with the 73rd pick in the NBA draft. **Jerry Davis**(36.0) of West Oso was the #18 recruit in the country according to the survey and signed with Detroit University. Davis had a solid career at Detroit and was drafted by the Bulls with the #112 pick. **James Griffin**(18.1) of Dunbar was ranked as the #31 recruit and signed with Illinois. At Illinois, he finished fourth on the all-

time blocks list and averaged 13.6 points and 7.0 rebounds with 1.9 blocks per game his senior year. He was taken with the 80th pick overall in the NBA draft by the Nets. Griff played professionally for years in Greece and Europe. **Terry White**(19.0/16.3) of Eastwood finished #35 and was one of the few that stayed close to home, committing to U.T. El Paso. "There is no question about it, we have recruited Terry every bit as hard as any basketball prospect in the 17-years I've been at UTEP," Coach Don Haskins said. While at UTEP, White was a solid contributor and was the 93rd pick in the 1982 NBA draft by the Cavs. **Anthony Lee**(25.9/17.0) of John Tyler signed with Marv Harshman and the University of Washington, but ended up at McLennon J.C. in Waco and finished at Detroit University. Lee played well at McLennon J.C. averaging 19.3/14.0/5.3 blocks but was a bust at the University of Detroit. Coach Marv Harshman was overjoyed with the signing of Lee. "Lee is the most imposing physical player I've signed since I've been here," Harshman said. Joe B. Hall of the University of Kentucky was so enamored with Lee that he made four visits to Tyler and had an assistant coach at all his District games. **Terry Teagle**(30.0) of Broadus stayed in state at Baylor, Teagle averaged 22.2 points a game with 7.5 rebounds for the Bears his senior year at Baylor. He was named 2nd team All-American by the Associated Press. Teagle was also the #16 overall pick in the NBA draft by the Rockets. He scored over 7,000 points in his lengthy NBA career. **Brad Friess** of Austin Anderson signed with Arkansas, **Billy Allen**(25.0) signed with his dad at S.M.U. and transferred to Nevada-Reno, where he was All-Big Sky 1st team his senior year. He set free throw shooting percentage records and assists records while playing for his father. Allen was drafted by the Mavs with the 125th pick in the NBA draft. **Keith Edmundson**(29.7) of San Antonio MacArthur traveled all the way to Purdue and averaged 21.2 per game and was drafted #10 overall by the Hawks. Edmundson was named All-Big Ten 1st team his senior year. **Ricky Pierce**(26.1) of Garland ended up at Rice by way of junior college, while at Rice he was one of the top scorers in the nation at 26.8 per game. He also averaged 7.5 rebounds. He was named 3rd team All-American while playing for the Owls. Pierce was the 18th overall pick in the NBA draft and played 15 years in the NBA, scoring over 14,000 points. He was twice named NBA 6th man of the Year award and a one-time NBA All-Star. 6'9" **Victor Mitchell** of Amarillo went with Kansas after two seasons in Junior College. Baylor's head coach, Jim Haller received commitments from 6'5" **Andy Sears** of Irving and 6'8" **Mike Fennell**(24.2) of Ft. Worth Poly. Rice signed 6'9" **Larry McCage**(13.0) from Baytown Sterling and he performed well for the Owls. **Cletus Hubbard** of Dunbar signed with Illinois. Coach Lou Henson of Illinois was a longtime friend of Robert Hughes and was able to sign both players from the Wildcats. 6'8" Temple standout, **Maurice McDaniel** was on his way to the University of Florida and transferred to Texas A&M. McDaniel turned down

Arkansas and Clemson. The Nuggets took McDaniel with the 153rd pick in the NBA draft.

Other recruits were Houston Westchester's, **Joe Costello** played at L.S.U., **Clarence Swannegan**(15.2) of Galveston Ball committed to Texas Tech, Swannegan was named All-SWC 2nd team. **Virdell Howland** of Tyler Lee signed with Texas, 6'6" **Tim Williams**(19.7) of Houston Westbury committed to Houston and 6'6" **Billy Don Hardaway**(27.5) of Lubbock Dunbar and **David Vasher**(21.7) of Wilmer Hutchins signed with North Texas State. **David Little**(23.0) signed with Texas Tech and transferred to Oklahoma, where he was named to the All-Big Eight tournament team his senior year. He averaged 18.7 points and 6.3 rebounds his senior year, and was drafted #61 overall in the NBA draft by the Nuggets. 7'0" **Darren Tillis** of Dallas Lincoln was a standout at Cleveland St. averaging 17.3 points, 12.8 rebounds and 1.9 blocks. He was the 23rd pick in the first round by the Celtics. 5'6" **Shannon Lilly**(28.0) of Wilmer Hutchins played at Bishop College in Dallas. The amazing thing about the class of '78 was the number of players that were drafted into the N.B.A. Of course, back in the 1980s, the NBA draft was 12 rounds deep. It would be a long time before Texas would see such a talented recruiting class. 6'5" **Roy Jones** of Austin Reagan played Houston Baptist averaging 16.4 points and 5.3 rebounds. 6'1" **Nicky Snell** of Deer Park took his skills to Lamar University and played three seasons. 6'10" **Eddie Kerr**(18.0) of Lamesa played at Jacksonville College.

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

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

(*All-Conference)

All-Americans: *In the national media, the state of Texas was slowly getting more recognition. Basketball Weekly was probably the most knowledgeable of the high school publications at the time. Rudy Woods was named 3rd team All-American while James Griffin was named 7th team, Anthony Lee 8th, and Terry White was named to the 9th team. Parade Magazine, the most recognizable All-American team, only recognized Terry White on the 1st team and Anthony Lee on the 4th team. McDonald's All-American team was in its second year and named Rudy Woods as the only Texan. Woods did Texas proud as he was named the MVP of the first McDonald's All-Star game. The long-time Adidas team only had one*

Texan and that was James Griffin. One of the most prestigious and longtime publications was Street and Smith. Every year they picked their Freshmen of Influence for the coming season. In the 1979 issue Texas had three of the top 15 freshmen in the country. 6'9" Terry White at UTEP, 6'11" Rudy Woods at A&M and 6'9" James Griffin at Illinois. This may have been the best senior class in the state's history. After looking at the list and all of these All-American squads, how did these publications miss on Terry Teagle and Ricky Pierce? Basketball Weekly Honorable Mention All-Americans: Brad Friess of Austin Anderson, Greg Kite of Houston Madison, Johnny Simple of Houston Madison, Rickie Thompson of Houston Jones, Billy Allen of Highland Park, Roy Jones of Austin Reagan, Keith Edmundson of San Antonio MacArthur, David Bunce of Conroe, Ricky Pierce of Garland, Terry Teagle of Broadus, Rob Williams of Houston Milby, Reginald Fears of Houston Sterling, Jerry Davis of West Oso, Alan Howard of Houston Cypress-Fairbanks, Phil Elders of Houston Lee, Kevin Smith of Clear Lake, Robert Walker of Galveston Ball, Joe Costello of Houston Westchester, Maurice McDaniel of Temple:

Houston Big Brothers Roundball Classic was played in Houston at the Summit featuring the Texas All-Stars against the United States All-Stars. The U.S. All-Stars came away with a 91-82 victory. Texas had all the size with 6'11" Rudy Woods, 6'9" James Griffin, 6'9" Anthony Lee and 6'9" Terry White. Rudy Woods finished with high point honors for Texas with 16 points and Jerry Davis of West Oso knocked down 14 points. Anthony Lee played sparingly with an injury and finished with 4 points. For the United States, Darryl Mitchell led the way with 25 points and Clarence Tillman came away with 16 points.

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

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

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

1978 Power Rankings:

1.	Abilene	34-5	91.54	State Semis	loss Fox Tech 76-67
2.	Houston Wheatley	31-6	91.16	State Champs	beat Fox Tech 83-82
3.	Galveston Ball	31-8	89.71	Bi-Districtloss	loss Deer Park 62-57
4.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	34-3	88.72	Regional Finals 4-A	loss Abilene 76-74
5.	El Paso Eastwood	26-4	88.23	Regional Semis	loss Abilene 79-67
6.	Grand Prairie	30-5	86.49	Regional Finals	loss Cyp-Fair 52-42
7.	Ft. Worth Paschal	26-5	86.07	District Runner-up	loss Dunbar40-39 (3OT)
8.	South Oak Cliff	25-10	86.00	District Runner-up	
9.	S.A. Fox Tech	33-6	85.62	State Finals 4-A	loss Wheatley82-83 OT
10.	Mineral Wells	32-2	84.16	State Finals 3-A	loss Huntsville 55-49
11.	Huntsville	27-7	82.69	State Champs 3-A	beat Min. Wells 55-49
12.	Terrell	25-8	82.26	State Semis 3-A	loss Min. Wells 61-55
13.	Tyler Lee	33-2	81.20	District playoff	loss Lufkin 64-62
14.	Dallas Roosevelt	27-7	78.96	Regional Semis	loss Cyp-Fair 54-52
15.	Bryan	22-10	77.69	District playoff	loss Cyp-Fair 75-59
16.	Highland Park	27-4	77.60	District Runner-up	
17.	Cypress-Fairbanks	25-11	76.63	State Semis	loss Wheatley 59-5

Out of all the years I put together the power rankings, the 1978 season results have been the most surprising. Remember the results are based on the entire season. Abilene ended up at the top with their big upset wins of #1 Ft. Worth Dunbar and #2 El Paso Eastwood. In figuring Abilene's power ranking, I actually did not count those two games because of the home court advantage the Eagles enjoyed. Even without those games Abilene came out on top. Both Coach Hughes and Coach Lesley felt there was a little home cook'in against Abilene.

Galveston Ball finishing at #3, which was also very surprising. But when you look at their schedule its not. Fox Tech finished at #9 having started slowly during the season. The Buffaloes finished strong winning 19 of their last 20 games before losing in overtime to Wheatley in the state finals.

Dunbar had the most talent according to the recruiters with James Griffin(#2) and Cletus Hubbard joining Illinois. Sophomores Andre Allen(#3) and Gilbert Collier(#14) were top recruits in 1980 signing with Illinois and TCU. Furmia Nealy and Darrell Browder were juniors and later played at North Texas State and T.C.U. Griffin and Browder were both drafted by the N.B.A. Six division one players on one team. Incredible talent!

Team that should have advanced to the State Tournament in Austin: *The answer to that question was simple. Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-3) and Dallas South Oak Cliff(25-10) would have really been an upgrade, but both teams faltered when the games were most critical. SOC had some unfortunate struggles with Roosevelt(27-7) and Kimball(20-8) while Dunbar(34-3) had the hard luck of facing Abilene(34-5) on its home court in regionals.*

1978 4-A Playoffs

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

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

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

51. El Paso Bel Air	23-7	{wins over SOC and EP Eastwood}
52. Abilene Cooper	24-5	{finished runner-up to Abilene and 1-2 against the Eagles}
53. Alvin	21-10	{loss a three-way playoff with LaMarque and Gal. Ball}
54. Midland	20-12	{defeated Abilene in District}
55. Midland Lee	22-10	{faced Abilene High, Abilene Cooper and Midland in Dist.}

1979 AAAA

Going into the '79 season, three teams looked like early favorites to capture the state title in class 4-A. Defending champion Houston Wheatley(30-8) returned several key players from their state championship squad and looked to be strong once again. Houston Madison(39-1) returned almost their entire team from a regional semi-finalist squad that lost to Wheatley by two points. And Ft. Worth Dunbar(36-4) was once again a powerhouse just reloading for another run at state. Even with the loss of All-American James Griffin, there was good reason to believe the 1979 team would be a stronger version of the Flying Wildcats. These three teams began the season at the top of the state polls as well as national polls.

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

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

Two teams from Texas had obtained top 25 status in the pre-season polls by Street and Smith Magazine. This was unusual for Texas teams to get pre-season recognition because they didn't participate in the summer camp activities. Houston Madison, led by 6'11" Greg Kite, came in at #8 in the nation and Houston Milby, led by Rob Williams, was ranked #14. These two young men were two of the best to ever come out of the city of Houston and Texas. Kite went on to have a fine career at Brigham Young University and was the first-round draft choice of the Celtics. He played on three N.B.A. championship teams with the Celtics in the mid-1980s.

William's basketball career would have a different twist. In high school, Williams was almost a cult figure with large crowds coming out to see his fabulous basketball skills every time Milby played. In the late 1970s you learned your skills in the rec centers and play grounds, there were no traveling summer teams or national camps for the kids from Texas. The U.I.L. blocked every chance they could to prevent basketball from stealing great athletes from football. Williams developed his skills at the now famous Fonde Recreation Center in Houston, playing against the likes of Moses Malone, Robert Reid, Calvin Murphy and many other standouts from the N.B.A. and college stars from all around Houston.

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

Williams had a distinctive game. If you ever saw him play you never forgot his graceful movements with the ball. To say he was smooth was an understatement. He seemed to just glide on the court with a dribble that was unusually high. The ball seemed to be on a string when he dribbled and his shot had an unusual sideways spin on the ball as it went through the air. He had a real feathery touch and effortless stroke and his ball handling was unmatched. He was very effortless much like Steph Curry and was slender like Curry. Obviously, he never made the transition to the N.B.A. as Curry did, but their college careers were very comparable.

Houston had its own High School All-Star game after William's senior season. The promoters brought in the top players from all over the country to face the Texas All-Stars. The U.S. All-Star squad was made up of high school All-Americans. The Texas team had Kite, Williams, 6'9" Claude Riley of Crockett, 6'10" David Bunce of Conroe, 6'0" Ray Turner of Hitchcock, 6'7" Kenneth Perkins of Beaumont Pollard, 6'3" Jay Shakir of S.A. Fox Tech and 5'7" Ronnie Blake of Lufkin. The U.S. All-Stars won a close game in front of 7,449 fans at the Summit, the former home of the Houston Rockets. The M.V.P. trophy went to Williams who was the game's leading scorer with 23 points. "Winning this trophy is one of the highlights of my career," Williams said after the game. In the closing minutes of the game, Williams asked to come out of the game with leg cramps which hurt Texas chances greatly. Sidney Green of New York City won the M.V.P. for the U.S. All-Stars. Green went on to make All-American at U.N.L.V. and had a solid career in the N.B.A. Rick Keebler, the coach of the U.S. All-Stars, singled out Williams after the game commenting, "Williams is certainly an exciting player. He's very, very quick and has great moves." The biggest crowd reaction came with four minutes remaining in the first half when on a fast-break, Williams went between his legs

and behind his back, all in one motion on a pass to Kenneth Perkins, for the slam dunk. To this day, it still rates as one of the top passes I have ever witnessed.

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

Everybody who played with or saw Rob Williams had a story about his phenomenal skills. His no-look, behind the back, alley-oop pass, he threw to Clyde

*Drexler from midcourt at Hofheinz Pavilion, was one of the more memorable. Following his junior season at Houston, Williams decided to declare hardship and entered the N.B.A. draft. Before the draft, rumors had circulated that Williams was involved with drugs. Williams later said he had started smoking weed in junior high on the playground and cocaine came later. As he grew older, cocaine became a big part of his life. The Nuggets took Williams with the 19th over-all pick in the first round of the N.B.A. draft. The former Houston star showed up for training camp 30 pounds' overweight. The Nuggets, under Coach Doug Moe, were a running fast paced team and running at high altitude. Moe called Williams, "fat little hog." Williams in later years conceded that his lifestyle left a great deal to be desired. After his failure in the N.B.A. Williams soon traveled all over the world playing basketball in the CBA, in Italy, Australia, Spain and the Philippines. He averaged 48 points per game in the Philippines. At the age of 35, his career was over, and the money was long gone. Drugs, booze and women were his main addictions. After suffering a stroke in 1998, Williams tried to turn his life around. Blind in the left eye and paralyzed on his left side, he continued on until his death at the age of 52 in 2014. Like so many during that period of time, drugs and drinking cut his career short but the memories he left behind make **Rob Williams a Texas Legend.***

Houston Madison(39-1), coached by Paul Benton, would be the pre-season top rated team, because of their experience and 6'11" Greg Kite. He was extremely physical and strong inside with great hands for a big man. The emphasis is on big. I remember the first time I saw Kite on the basketball court, he was enormous. Kite was heavy footed, somewhat slow and very strong and durable. He was simply somebody you wanted on your team, he could dominate the boards, score inside and had a team first attitude. He was very unselfish for a great player. Kite put Madison at the head of the pack in class 4-A. I think a lot of people felt like Kite was a great offensive force but he just wasn't that type of player. Sure, he was effective inside, but what made him exceptional was his strength and rebounding ability. If that weren't enough, he was surrounded by talent and experience. 6'6" John Simple was the best forward in Houston along with junior, 6'4" Matt England. England was a big guard and multi-talented. To improve the backcourt from a year before, one of the best guards in Houston transferred in from Strake Jesuit, 6'1" Pat Hicks. That's four division one athletes on one team. As dominant as Kite was at Madison, it was debatable if he was even the best player on the Marlins. Madison also had playoff experience, having advanced to the regional semi-finals the two previous seasons. Coach Paul Benton looked like he would have a team for the ages. Madison would be compared to the great teams in Houston High School basketball lore, Wheatley and Kashmere. Expectations were extremely high for this talented team. The expectations were almost unrealistic.

As talented and gifted as Houston Wheatley(30-8) and Houston Madison(39-1) looked on paper you could not over-look the Flying Wildcats of Ft.

Worth Dunbar(37-4). Just watching Dunbar come onto the court for pre-game warm-up was an awesome site. The Dunbar fans were passionate and crazy and the Wildcats looked like a college team dunking the ball every which way. As good as Wheatley and Madison were in the backcourt, Dunbar had the best backcourt combination in the state in two 6'0" senior guards, Furmia Nealy and Darrell Browder. Coming off the bench was another talented guard in 5'11" senior, Ricky O'Neal. They were at the heart of a very gifted unit. The backcourt may have been the best in Coach Hughes long history of great teams. The frontcourt got all the publicity, even without big Grif. Two juniors dominated inside for Dunbar, 6'7" Gilbert Collier and 6'6" Andre Allen along with 6'4" high flyer, Anthony Ware. Joining the team was one of the most gifted athletes to ever grace the hardwood at Ft. Worth Dunbar, 6'4" sophomore, Willie Ashley. First of all, he was not a boy, he was a man, chiseled and developed like few athletes you have ever seen. He could literally jump out of the gym, shoot from deep in the corner, post-up inside and block shots and rebound with the best. He was a force. Years later, many who saw all the great Dunbar teams felt this was the most talented player to ever wear a Wildcat uniform. I will tell you from personal experience, they were a sight to behold. They had five D-1 players on the roster plus several junior college players.

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

The tournament in late November and early December of 1978 was going to be one for the ages. From Dallas, came two of the top teams in the state, Dallas Roosevelt(23-7) and Dallas South Oak Cliff(29-6). Representing Ft. Worth were Paschal(26-8), Trimble Tech and of course Dunbar(37-4). Coming out Houston were perennial powers, Wheatley(30-8) and Worthing. San Antonio was represented by San Antonio Wheatley.

Arlington was represented by Bowie, Lamar, Sam Houston, and Arlington High. A new member of the tournament field came out of Plano(28-5). Football had always been THE sport in Plano. Basketball was almost a second thought as far as the school was concerned. That of course would prove to be a big mistake for Wildcat opponents in 1978-79. Plano was scheduled to be the first-round victim for defending state champion, Houston Wheatley(30-8). In a major upset, Plano(28-5) knocked off Jackie Carr's Wildcats 69-61 to advance against Dallas S.O.C.(29-6).

The Golden Bears were always incredibly talented and the '79 team was no different. Plano(28-5) dropped the Bears 61-56 to advance to the semi-finals

against Ft. Worth Dunbar(37-4). Of course, the element of surprise was definitely gone as Plano(28-5) did it again defeating Dunbar(37-4) 60-53. Dunbar was the two-time defending champion of the classic in 1976 and 1977. In the finals, the Wildcats defeated a tough Ft. Worth Paschal(26-8) unit 61-48. Four top twenty teams in three days. That would be a great feat for a basketball power, let alone Plano(28-5).

Plano was led by Dan Davis in the finals with 18 points and Travis Benke put up 12 points. Paschal looked to Greg Shropshire with 14 points.

I remember calling the local newspaper and talked to the sports department, trying to find out what time Wheatley was playing. The Sports Writer responded that Wheatley was in the loser's bracket because they had been beaten by Plano. I of course asked him to repeat the information and to my amazement, Wheatley had lost.

Let's take a closer look at the new upstarts from Plano. Where did they come from and who were they? Well, Mike Bridges was the new man at the helm for the Wildcats, in his third year as head coach. Bridges had come in from Wichita Falls Hirschi and had a very average record in five seasons, only winning 52% of his games. Bridges followed Coach Reggie Davis at Plano, who had won back-to-back District titles in 1975 and 1976. Plano lost both years in the Bi-District round to Tyler John Tyler and finished 25-7 in '75 and 23-12 in '76. Bridges took over in 1977 and finished 21-13, followed by a 16-16 campaign in 1978. Looking at the roster there was really nothing that would indicate this type of sudden success against elite state powers. But upon closer examination there were some signs. 6'3" senior, Travis Benke, was the team's best player and had missed his junior year because of a broken arm. His return was really a strong upgrade for Coach Bridges. Benke, a tremendous leaper, would later play for Abilene Christian. 6'5" junior post, Kirk Lundblade, was another very solid and smart post player as was 6'4" Dan Davis and 6'4" Larry Wallace. Lundblade signed with S.M.U. following his senior year. Coach Bridges returned 7 seniors, so the team was experienced and the players were familiar with the Wildcat's system. But the team had very little athleticism and unimpressive looking. The Wildcats were all white and Bridges only suited up 10 players on his squad. The team did not strike fear in their opponents during warm-ups. Coach Bridges had brought to Plano a very deliberate and patient offense attack and tough hard-nosed, man to man defense. Every time down court they looked for the high percentage shot and gave up very little on defense. Against pressure defense and pressing teams, the Wildcats would take a layup, but if they didn't have the advantage on the break, they would back the ball out and make you play defense. If you overplayed the passing lanes they would cut back-door for a layup. As for foul shooting, they were excellent. You did not want to put them on the line late in the game. A five-point lead by Plano was much more like a fifteen or twenty-point lead, because every offensive possession was long and drawn out.

They very seldom used the dribble everything was done by way of the pass if possible. The icing on the cake was Bridge's himself. He was a little short runt who was tough as a corn cob. His players took on the same persona as their coach. They were very tough-minded players and tried to impose their will on their opponents. The ball was not going to be turned over by the Wildcats very often. They took care of the basketball. I used to sit behind Plano every time I watched them play, so I could be close enough to hear what Bridges was saying. To say he was hard on them was an understatement. If his players could endure the mental bashing of playing for Bridges then facing Dunbar and Wheatley wasn't anywhere near as tough. A reality TV program back then following Bridges on the sidelines and in the locker room, would have been priceless. It was hilarious with his expressions and faces he made. He was a hotdog, but he got his point across. He would get that smirk on his face and put all his weight on one leg and cock his head to the side, with his hand on his hip and tear into his players, yelling at them. The players never said a word and would sit quietly down on the bench. You could tell he had a special relationship with his players and respect. You had to be a special player to endure that type of harassment, but if you survived you were extremely strong minded and composed. I learned a lot watching Bridges practice his trade. Thirty-seven years later, Bridges was one of the most extraordinary coaches I ever witnessed.

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

Other games at the tournament that were impactful were the following: Ft. Worth Paschal(26-8) advanced to the finals defeating Arlington Sam Houston 60-52, Houston Worthing 60-59 and Ft. Worth Trimble Tech(10-18) 69-61. Wheatley(30-8) won consolation defeating Arlington Lamar 105-51, San Antonio Wheatley and Arlington High 89-49. Dunbar(37-4) took the 3rd place game over Ft. Worth Trimble Tech(10-18) 90-84.

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

The Dr. Pepper Christmas tournament in Dallas was a great place to test your talent early in the season prior to District action. For the previous six seasons, South Oak Cliff(29-6) or Dallas Roosevelt(23-7), had made the finals of the Dr. Pepper tourney. The influence of the Ft. Worth schools was really strong during the '78 tournament. "We've been up and down all year," said Ellis Davis of Dallas Roosevelt(23-7). "S.O.C.(29-6) and Dunbar(37-4) are the teams to watch this year in the tournament for sure." S.O.C.(29-6) opened with a strong win over Dallas Carter 76-57 but lost in the second round to Ft. Worth Paschal(26-8) 57-56. Ft. Worth Dunbar(37-4) advanced easily with wins over Dallas Spruce 81-52 and Highland Park(23-8) 95-74. Willie Ashley had 26 points against Spruce and Gilbert Collier hit 42 points in the win over Highland Park(23-8). Ft. Worth Paschal(26-8) knocked out Dallas Bishop Dunne 58-48 and Dallas Woodrow Wilson 68-54. Dallas Madison really proved to be the surprise team of the tournament, sneaking past Ft. Worth Southwest 62-51 and Dallas Roosevelt(23-7) 78-76. Dunbar(37-4) continued their winning ways against a tough North Dallas team winning 84-70. North Dallas(20-8) had beaten Plano(28-5) earlier in the season. Paschal(26-8) came up with a big overtime win over one of the top teams in Dallas, Wilmer Hutchins(26-12) 75-72. Paschal(26-8), led by coach Jim Wall, marched into the semi-finals with a 17-4 record. The Panthers had lost earlier in the season to South Oak Cliff(29-6), Ft. Worth Trimble Tech, Plano(28-5) and Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt(23-6). Javann Dupree, Roland Brown and Greg Shropshire played key roles in Paschal's win over Hutch. North Mesquite(27-8) quietly moved into the semi-finals beating Dallas Pinkston 71-47. Coach Ron Powell of North Mesquite, was again working his magic with his disciplined, hardnosed basketball. The Stallions stood at 17-4 with their losses coming at the hands of Paschal(26-8) in double overtime, Lake Highlands(29-6) by 3, Waxahachie(26-5) by 2 and Dallas Roosevelt(23-7) by 2.

In the semi-finals game, Dunbar(37-4) dominated defeating Dallas Madison 81-65. Collier again went nuts scoring 29 points, while Earnest Milton paced Dallas Madison with 25 points. In the other semi-final match-up, Paschal(26-8) outlasted North Mesquite(27-8) in overtime 56-54. David Berning hit a miracle shot with one second remaining for the win. "He shot the ball without looking at the basket," Wall said following the game. Randy Lowery led the Stallions with 22 points. The Wildcats of Ft. Worth Dunbar(37-4) took the championship game over Paschal(26-8) 57-51. "We played lousy, but we got the win. That's what we

wanted," said coach Robert Hughes of Dunbar. "Paschal plays good defense, so you know you're not going to go out and bury them with one person's scoring." Gilbert Collier, who was the tournament M.V.P., was held to nine points in the finals while teammate, Andre Allen paced the Wildcats with 16 points. Greg Shropshire hit 19 points for the Panthers. "We've improved since the middle of November for sure," Coach Jim Wall said. "Next week we get our 6'7" post back, who has been out all season." "We've got a young team that is just now learning to play," Wall continued. Although Paschal's District record stood at 4-2 going into January, Coach Wall felt strong about his team's chances to get back into the District race. Wall and Hughes said this year's 7-AAAA play is as competitive as ever. Dallas Madison lost to North Mesquite(27-8) in the third-place game 70-67. Milton continued his scoring with 28 points for Dallas Madison and Richard Whitehead and Lowry scored 20 each for Coach Ron Powell's Stallions.

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

In the Jaycees tourney in Houston the Marlins of Houston Madison(39-1) defeated Houston Kashmere(21-10) in the finals 79-61, and Houston Wheatley(30-8) in the semi-finals 78-62. Coach Benton's team already had an earlier win over Houston Milby(24-6) 56-49 to give them a trifecta. The Marlins stood alone at the top of the state rankings at #1. Madison(39-1) had won the Corpus Christi Tournament as well as the Dulles tournament. Houston Jones(29-5) came into the tourney at 19-1 and had captured the Victoria and LaPorte tournaments. The Falcons lost two one point games in the Jaycee tournament. Houston Worthing(22-10) took down Houston Jones(29-5) 77-76 and District rival Milby(24-6), gave them their second loss in the consolation bracket 66-65. 6'8" Larry Micheaux paced Worthing(20-10) with 20 points in their upset win over Houston Jones(29-5), and Rob Williams went off for 37 points for Milby(24-6) against the Falcons of Houston Jones(29-5). The defending state champion Wheatley(30-8), won early round games over Houston Lamar 109-72, and Houston Davis 73-60, but lost in the semis to Houston Madison(39-1). 6'11" Greg Kite put up All-American numbers against the Wildcats with 21 points, 17 rebounds, 7 blocks and 4 dunks. 6'6" John Simple added 26 points and Matt England threw in 22 points. Houston Kashmere(21-10) advanced to the finals defeating Galveston Ball 73-53 in the semis. 6'6" Leroy Riley of Kashmere(21-10) was impressive out jumping Kite in the finals and blocking his first shot. He also pinned two fast break lay-ups on the backboard. Against Houston Madison(39-1), Leroy Riley finished with 21 points, 12 rebounds and 3 blocks. Leroy Riley teamed up with Earnest Patterson for Kashmere(21-10) to power the Rams to the finals. Wheatley(30-8) beat Galveston Ball for the third-place trophy 92-81.

Houston Milby(24-6) won consolation beating Houston Bellaire 77-47. Rob Williams(25.0) of Milby broke the tournament record of S.M.U. All-American, Gene Phillips. Phillips set in 1967 of 140 points in five games. Gene Phillips played for Houston Jones and won the state title that season. Williams scored 142 points, to set a new scoring mark at the Jaycee tournament. Three All-Americans were in the tourney, Greg Kite of Madison(39-1), Rob Williams of Houston Milby(24-6) and Rickie Thompson of Houston Jones(29-5). The All-Tournament team was made up of Greg Kite, John Simple and Pat Hicks of Madison, Ernest Patterson and Leroy Riley of Kashmere, Rob Williams of Milby, Tracey Bookman of Wheatley, Fred Reynolds of Houston Jones, Alton Barton of Houston Lincoln and Michael DeJohnette of Houston Sam Houston.

The biggest tournament once again was held in El Paso at the **Sun Bowl Prep Basketball Classic**. Sonny Yates was the executive director of the Sun Carnival Association which sponsored the event. The previous season it was reported the tournament had lost \$6,000 with all the expenses of bringing in outside teams.

From El Paso came Bel Air, Irvin(21-12), Coronado(30-6) and Eastwood(18-12). The teams that were showcased came from all over the state, Ft. Worth Dunbar(37-4), Deer Park(27-7), San Antonio Marshall and Houston Milby(24-6). Dunbar, Deer Park and Milby were ranked in the top five in the state.

In the opening round, Coronado was the only El Paso school that advanced in the winner's bracket defeating San Antonio Marshall 52-38. Dunbar(37-4) made the second round defeating Bel Air 81-73, Houston Milby(24-6) got by Irvin(21-12) 62-57 and Deer Park(27-7) showed their strength with a convincing 62-46 win over Eastwood(18-12). In the semi-finals Coronado out rebounded Deer Park 35-25 and advanced to the finals with a 53-47 win. Travis Salem led the way for the Thunderbirds with 20 points.

Two of the top ranked teams in the state met in the other semi-finals with Houston Milby(24-6) taking down the talented Dunbar Wildcats(37-4) 64-60. With the victory the Buffaloes took over the top ranking in the state. Milby had the inside game to match-up with Dunbar with 6'9" Andre Ross, who finished with 15 points on 6 of 9 shooting. Rob Williams led the charge for the Buffaloes with 29 points on 11 of 18 field goals. Darrell Browder was high man for Dunbar with 22 points. Milby entered the finals with a perfect 10-0 mark.

The Buffaloes of Houston Milby(24-6) captured the title with a 62-49 win over El Paso Coronado(30-6). Third place was won by Dunbar(37-4) 89-69 over Deer Park(27-7) and Bel Air captured consolation with a 68-54 win over Eastwood(18-12). By January 4 Houston Milby(24-6) was ranked 11th nationally and Houston Madison(39-1) was 15th.

Region I

El Paso Eastwood(18-11)

Lubbock Monterey(23-3)#13

Midland(27-8) #9

Ft. Worth Dunbar(32-3) #2

El Paso Coronado(28-5)

Am. Tascosa(21-6)21-6

Wichita Falls(22-10)

Ft. Worth Richland Hills(21-10)

Top Players in Region I

6'0"	Darrell Browder	Ft. Worth Dunbar
5'9"	Danny Ray Wright	Odessa
6'7"	Gilbert Collier	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'6"	Andre Allen	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'6"	Charles Johnson	Midland
6'6"	Travis Salem	El Paso Coronado
6'6"	Craig Ehlo	Lubbock Monterey

Ft. Worth Dunbar(33-3) was clearly the favorite to win region I in 1979.

Although they had struggled in some people's eyes with their losses to Plano(28-5), Houston Milby(24-6) 64-60 and Dallas South Oak Cliff(29-6) 92-78, the Wildcats were impressive. As the season progressed, Coach Hughes got the team moving in the right direction and had a 22-game winning streak going into the playoffs.

Robert Hughes commented about his team, "I like this ball club, we may be better than last year. We have better corner men and our guards are quicker and score better." Hughes continued, "and we have four or five guys who can play in the middle."

Dunbar won the first half title defeating Paschal(26-8) 84-59 at the Public Schools Gym. Anthony Ware and Darrell Browder paced the Wildcats with 22 and 17 points. Charles Harris was high man for Paschal with 18 points and Greg Shropshire finished with 13 points.

Paschal(26-8) was led by Coach Jim Wall and were very formable. Fred Spencer's presence was felt on the inside as a shot blocker, Greg Shropshire was Paschal's leading scorer. The Panthers lost to Plano(28-4) in the finals of the Arlington Classic 61-48, and fell to Dunbar(37-4) in tournament action 57-51. Paschal(26-8) loss to Ft. Worth Trimble Tech(10-18) in District action 81-66 behind Kenneth Lyons 26 points and 10 rebounds. Lyons went on to have a brilliant career at North Texas State University. Paschal took the other two contests over Tech 67-53 and 69-61 with Reginald Robinson and Charles Harris showing the way.

Paschal(26-8) defeated a strong Ft. Worth Wyatt(23-6) team 68-57 and downed Houston Worthing(22-10) in tournament action 60-59. Other solid wins came against North Mesquite(27-8) 56-54, Ft. Worth Eastern Hills(22-8) 70-46 and 54-37. The Panthers split with Ft. Worth Western Hills in District winning 64-55 and losing the 2nd game 45-41.

Dunbar(37-4) and Paschal(26-8) met for a third time for the 2nd round title. The game was a classic with the Wildcats winning 30-29. Paschal had lost twice

previously to Dunbar, so Coach Wall went to his slow down tactics. Going into the 4th quarter the Panthers were up 27-24. Anthony Ware hit the game winner for Dunbar with 6:30 remaining in the contest. Neither team was able to score the remainder of the game. Down 30-29 with 30 seconds remaining Paschal came out of their stall working for the last shot. Charles Harris of Paschal was fouled by Anthony Ware with 7 seconds remaining, but unfortunately the Panthers were not in the one and one and took the ball out on the side. The Panthers strategy now was to penetrate and dish to Shropshire. Darrell Browder of Dunbar came away with the steal to give Coach Robert Hughes the District championship. Furmia Nealy led the Dunbar attack with 12 points on 6 of 13 shooting.

"I think they(Dunbar) have a great shot at winning it all this time," Paschal coach Jim Wall explained. "I think they might be better than they were last year."

El Paso was controlled pretty much by the Troopers from Eastwood(16-11) throughout the decade, but 1979 was one of their weaker teams. They were deprived of size but were still formidable. The Troopers started 6'2" Emmett Bell(6.8/8.5), 5'11" Randy Romaguerra(16.4), 6'1" Matt Mierschin(8.8), 5'11" Ben Bejole(11.2) and 5'9" Stanley Johnson. Bejole was the only returning starter for Coach Bobby Lesley.

Eastwood came away with an early season win over El Paso Coronado(28-5) 53-48 by forcing 21 Coronado turnovers. The Troopers only finished with nine miscues. *"Our only hope was to have a super defensive game," Lesley said. "That was the difference in the ballgame. We were able to shut down their inside game."*

Early in the season it was pretty obvious the best team in El Paso was Coronado(28-5). Their physical size made them a mismatch for anybody in El Paso. 6'8" Harry Hussman, 6'7" Travis Salem, 6'4" Gary Helsten, 6'1" Larry Jones and 6'2" John Williams. Salem had previously played for El Paso Irvin and was generally considered the top big man in the Sun City. Salem played one season at Weber State and later played at Texas Tech. Salem's transfer gave the Thunderbirds a big lift. Coronado returned 6'8" Harry Hussmann who averaged 19.0 points a game for a 24-10 squad the previous season. Coach Sergio Guerrero was very excited with the addition of Salem because of his ability to move outside and create room for Hussman. Guerrero commented, *"we have a good inside game, and we don't outside. I'm not saying they're not good, just inexperienced."* Coronado also looked to the addition of a talented junior varsity that had finished 26-2 the previous year and a perfect 14-0 in District.

Midland(27-8) was viewed as an outstanding team in West Texas during the season and fell to the Thunderbirds 59-57. Another bigtime win for Coronado(28-5) came against Amarillo Tascosa(21-6) 52-48 in overtime. Coronado (28-5) advanced all the way to the finals in the Sun Bowl tournament. The Thunderbirds downed San Antonio Marshall 52-38, state ranked Deer Park(27-7)

out of Houston 53-47, and lost in the finals to the top ranked team in the state, Houston Milby(24-6) 62-49.

At the Southern New Mexico tournament in Las Cruces, El Paso Coronado(28-5) took the tournament title, but lost Travis Salem with an ankle injury. At the Tasker Field House in Hobbs, New Mexico, the Thunderbirds took it on the chin losing 75-62 to Hobbs. Wallace Williams and Jay Williams paced Hobbs with 15 and 11 points. In early December, Coronado(28-5) took the El Paso tournament with a 54-37 win over Amarillo Tascosa(21-6) 54-37 and El Paso Andress(25-8) 61-51.

El Paso Coronado(28-5) won their first District title in sixteen seasons. At the end of District, El Paso Irvin(20-11) took a 42-41 win over El Paso(19-14) to tie for third place in District behind Coronado(28-5) and El Paso Irvin(20-11). In the District tournament, Irvin(20-11) snuck by El Paso High(19-14) 34-33 and Coronado(28-5) took down El Paso Andress(25-7) for the fourth time 62-47. The Thunderbirds had defeated Andress(25-7) twice in District competition 78-71 and 67-44. Coronado(28-5) took the finals 50-46 over El Paso Irvin(20-11) 50-46.

The Thunderbirds only losses in District was at the hands of El Paso Austin and El Paso Irvin(21-12) 68-54.

As Bi-District approached, Coronado(28-5) would be facing the little and quick Eastwood(18-11) team who had beaten them earlier in the season. 6'0" Larry Jones(6.9/3.7 asst) had become critical to the success of the Thunderbirds with his ability to handle the ball. "We have the quickness and the speed, and they have the size," Eastwood's Bobby Lesley said. "They're so big and physical," Lesley continued. Eastwood had won four out of the previous five city championships. The Troops finished 9-1 in conference play.

Coach Sergio Guerrero of Coronado(28-5) was in his 5th season with the Thunderbirds after a stellar career as a high school star in El Paso. "We haven't been going to Harry as much with Salem playing forward," Guerrero said. "Larry had been the key to everything for us, when he goes out, we hurt."

When discussing his star player, 6'6" 185 pound Travis Salem(15.4/7.7/46% FG), Coach Guerrero felt he was the difference for Coronado. "Travis brought something to the team it never had before, he brought a winning tradition to the team. In a way, he's helped a lot of the guys do things they weren't doing," Guerrero said. Offensively Coronado averaged 54.8 compared to 44.6 points allowed.

In front of 4000 fans El Paso Coronado(29-5) advanced to regionals with a 74-53 victory over El Paso Eastwood(18-12). The turning point in the game was when Emmett Bell of Eastwood picked up his 4th foul at the 5:06 mark of the 3rd quarter. Ten seconds later Bell went to the bench with his 5th foul. "We didn't even have time to send in a substitute," Coach Lesley said. The Thunderbirds increased the lead from 34-32 when Bell departed to 54-36. "We had to change our game

plan with Bell out,” said Coach Lesley. “Bell was the difference in the first ball game.”

Coronado finished with four players in double figures led by Travis Salem with 18 points and 8 rebounds along with Harry Hussman’s 13 points and 9 rebounds. The Thunderbirds hit 22 of 48 for 46 % from the floor, while Eastwood managed 22 of 61 for 36%. Coronado hit 29 of 40 foul shots and the Troopers came away with 10 of 17.

As the playoffs rolled around there were some great matchups and some highly anticipated games. Ft. Worth Dunbar(33-3) showed their dominance defeating and overmatched Ft. Worth Richland(21-10) squad in Bi-District 84-59. Darrell Browder scored 22 points while Gilbert Collier kicked in with 25 points. Collier hit 11 of 16 shots from the floor and was labeled the “next generation” by the Dallas Morning News. “Our speed was the key for us tonight,” Coach Robert Hughes said. “Their team was probably inexperienced at playing a team with our speed and it created a lot of opportunities for us.” Hughes continued, “We are playing as well or better than we did last year. Our guards and corners are better, and they gave us a better fast break.” Dunbar dominated the glass with a 48 to 31 advantage. Coach West of Richland said, “They have a very good team, they intimidated us with their height advantage, and we couldn’t slow down their fast break.” Dunbar was ranked #2 in the state and advanced to Abilene to face Midland with some unfinished business.

Midland(27-8) got by Wichita Falls(21-13) in the 1st round 59-56. Midland(27-8) blew a nine-point lead in the 4th quarter and then rallied in the final two minutes. The Bulldogs turned the game back into their favor with a hard-pressing game and timely foul shooting. Walter Bryson was the leading scorer for the Bulldogs with 20 points, Charles Johnson(40) hit 18 points and Roy Lee Jefferson rounded out the double-digit scorers with 10 points. 6’7” Ricky Cobb led Wichita Falls(21-13) with 21 points, followed by Dick Woodruff with 14.

Midland(27-8) got off to a slow start over the season when Walter Bryson was dismissed from the team. The Bulldogs stood at 10-8 at one point. Bryson returned to the team and Midland ran off 17 straight wins.

Lubbock Monterey(25-3) was no stranger to the playoffs and advanced to regionals with a 43-38 victory over Amarillo Tascosa(21-6). Veteran coach Joe Michalka of Monterey, had won eight District titles in 12 seasons with the Plainsmen. “Defense and rebounding have been are bright spots,” Coach Michalka said.

Starters for the Plainsmen included future NBA standout, 6’4” Craig Ehlo(18.0), 6’6” Chuck Perry(13.0), 6’4” Trav Clardy(12.5), 6’4” Kevin Kirkman(9.5) and 5’9” Frank Malone(5.7). “Craig has been the most consistent player,” Michalka pointed out. Monterey’s three season losses had been to Canyon, Ft. Worth Haltom and Midland by five points. Monterey returned the favor against Midland defeating

the Bulldogs in a rematch by four. Against El Paso Coronado(29-5), Coach Joe Michalka felt whoever controlled the boards would come away with the win.

Lubbock Monterey(25-3) took a 38-35 lead over El Paso Coronado(29-5) into the final quarter in a low scoring affair. Monterey(25-3) went cold and did not score a field goal in the first six minutes of the fourth quarter. During one stretch the Thunderbirds were down 38-35 and scored 12 straight points to take the lead 47-38. Coronado(29-5) outscored Monterey(25-3) 23-5 in the final frame. El Paso Coronado came away with a 58-43 win to set up the regional finals between Dunbar and Coronado at Taylor County Coliseum in Abilene.

Monterey committed nine turnovers in their last 11 possessions. Monterey(25-3) finished with 23 turnovers on the game. "I've got to credit Coronado," Coach Joe Michalka said, "they closed the side-pass play which was so effective during the first three quarters."

Larry Jones and 6'7" Travis Salem put up 14 points apiece for Coronado(30-5) and 6'8" Harry Hussman contributed 11 points. Salem was 7 of 12 on field goal shooting mostly from the perimeter. Craig Ehlo led Monterey with 17 points and Trav Clardy added 12 points. Monterey had an advantage on the glass 22-16. Coronado had traveled 10 hours on the bus ride from El Paso to Abilene.

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

Ft. Worth Dunbar led all the way against Midland winning 81-74. The Wildcats were only up by four at halftime 42-38. Dunbar extended their lead to ten points twice in the second half.

6'8" Gilbert Collier had one of his best games of the season finishing with 23 points and 10 rebounds and one block. Collier fouled out with 3:46 remaining in the contest. Browder was steady as usual with 16 points and 10 rebounds, Anthony Ware had 14 points and 10 rebounds, and Andre Allen added 10 points and 9 rebounds. Dunbar had a small rebound advantage of only 45-44. "Midland was a lot better than we expected," Browder said. "I thought we would run off from them, I didn't know they would be able to run with us." Midland took more shots than the Wildcats with an 87-69 advantage, but came up short on the foul line. Dunbar was 17 of 25 from the foul line and the Bulldogs hit only 10 of 16. The Wildcats balance was one of the team's biggest strengths with all five starters finishing in double figures. For the Bulldogs, Roy Lee Jefferson had 17 points, Charles Johnson put up 15 points and Milton Sanders finished with 14.

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

Before 4,200 fans in Midland at the Taylor County Coliseum, El Paso Coronado's(30-5) patient offense brought the running Wildcats of Ft. Worth Dunbar(35-3) to a stop. At halftime, the score was tied 23-23 and the Dunbar fans were very quiet. Halfway through the 3rd quarter, Dunbar fell behind. Coach Hughes decided to speed things up with a full court press and with it he awoke the Dunbar faithful. The Wildcat fans began chanting and roaring and raising the sound level. El Paso Coronado began to turn the ball over and Dunbar came back from a 29-25 deficit with 2:02 left in the third quarter, to a 36-29 advantage, barely two minutes into the fourth quarter. In a slow-down game, Coronado(30-5) almost pulled off the upset losing 42-37.

"This bunch of mine has gotten to the point that they don't want to come out of the dressing room unless they're 3,000 or 4,000 fans in the stands. They ask how many fans are out there and if someone says 200 or 300, they say they won't play. They love to play before big crowds," Hughes said. "I think the crowd and our press was the difference in the game." Browder contributed 6 points, 8 rebounds, 2 steals and 5 assists. The senior guard commented after the game, "It was a big deal for us to see so many people down here. When you see that kind of crowd, you just want to play as hard as you can."

Willie Ashley, Dunbar's 6'4" sophomore, was the only player in double figures, replacing Collier with 5:53 left in the first half. Collier hit the floor and hurt his hip. Ashley did a great job filling in for the talented junior. Ashley led the team in scoring with 14 points and also had 3 rebounds and one block. Coach Hughes said he likes the experience of Collier, who had played on the varsity since his freshmen season, but he never hesitated to use the muscular Ashley. "When we go with Ashley, we don't figure that we lose anything," Hughes said. "Ashley was outstanding, he's a sophomore but he thinks he's a senior," Hughes continued, "our press and our defense were much more effective in the second half." Dunbar(36-3) shot 19 of 43 from the floor for 44%. Dunbar won the rebound battle 27-19.

Travis Salem led Coronado(30-6) with 14 points on 6 of 12 shooting and finished with six rebounds. Larry Jones added 11 points.

Coach Guerrero of Coronado commented, "the pressure came when Jones got his 4th foul, we controlled the tempo as much as we could." "They got momentum and it hurt us," Steve Jones said.

Dunbar went into their own delay game with 1:36 remaining up 42-35. Furmia Nealy and Darrell Browder killed Coronado down the stretch. Browder

finished with five assists and Nealy came away with five. Nealy had missed 22 games over the course of the season with a wrist injury.

The Wildcats under Coach Robert Hughes were going to state for the second time in three years with only one thing in mind, a state championship.

Region II

Grand Prairie(24-8)

Waco University(28-4) #16

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

Plano(28-4) #7

Wilmer Hutchins(25-11)

Conroe(27-7) #5

Dallas Hillcrest(24-5)

Lufkin(26-6)

Top Players in Region II

5'7"	Ronnie Blake	Lufkin
6'7"	Larry Davis	Lufkin
6'2"	Columbus Garrett	Dallas Lincoln
6'3"	Travis Benke	Plano
6'2"	Steve Washington	North Dallas
6'1"	Charles Negy	Klein
6'4"	Paul McKimmey	Richardson

Region II was historically dominated by the Dallas area schools but was not always the case with East Texas and Central Texas producing powerhouses with an abundance of athletes. Areas just north of the Houston area also produced strong programs.

In the Dallas area, Plano(28-5) took everybody by surprise in the pre-season polls. Plano was not even the favorite to win District 13-AAAA, the Wildcats were picked 2nd behind Lake Highlands. Coach Jerry Wells and his Lake Highlands squad had won District the year before, and his team looked much stronger in 1979. 6'6" Kelly Clayton(12.0) was back after missing the entire season as a junior, along with 6'3" leaper, Raleigh Freeman(15.0/10.0). Coach Wells counted on three-year starter, Ronnie Marr, to lead the Wildcats for their run at the playoffs. 6'0" Jim Vorlop(20.0) was the team's top talent and leading scorer. 6'0" Bob Thompson rounded out the starting lineup. Freeman signed with Midland JC and Vorlop played at Texas A&M.

The Wildcats split with Dallas Woodrow Wilson during pre-district, lost to North Mesquite(29-9) 54-53 and Grand Prairie(23-10) 60-55. Big wins came over Dallas Thomas Jefferson(21-8) 78-63, Irving(18-12) 67-52 and 68-60, Garland(19-15) 72-66 and North Mesquite(29-9) 54-51.

Remember only one team made the playoffs, so many outstanding teams were left out of the big dance. Most observers believed this was Lake Highlands strongest squad since their state championship team in 1968 that captured the class 3-A title. Richardson High had one of the top players in District 13-AAAA in 6'4" Paul McKimmey(24.0/14.0), but he did not have much support.

In 13-4A Lake Highlands(23-6) and Plano(28-5) stood above everybody else in District action. Plano was state ranked and led by 6'3" sky walker, Travis Benke(22.0). Benke later signed to play at Abilene Christian. 6'4" Dan Davis, 6'1" Kirk Killingsworth, Kirk Lunblade and 6'4" Larry Wallace rounded out the starters for Coach Mike Bridges. The Wildcats ran a very disciplined attack with several passes on each possession. Plano(28-5) split with North Dallas(20-8) defeating the Bulldogs 74-61 in the season opener and lost at mid-season 76-74 in overtime. The Wildcats loss and early season game to Irving(18-12) 69-65 and gained revenge defeating Irving(18-12) easily 70-56. Other teams that loss to Plano included Grand Prairie(23-10) 57-56, Arlington(19-13) 71-50, South Grand Prairie(26-6) 71-68. Plano downed a tough McKinney(19-7) team in the Plano Tournament 73-70. Garland(19-15) upset Plano 66-64 as the Wildcats prepared for District. In the Arlington Classic, as previously mentioned, Plano came onto the center stage defeating Houston Wheatley(30-8) 69-61, Dallas South Oak Cliff(29-6) 61-56, Ft. Worth Dunbar(37-4) 60-53 and Ft. Worth Paschal(26-8) 61-48. All of the teams were state ranked.

District was played in a round robin in the first half action and a tournament decided the District representative at the end of the season. Lake Highlands and Plano both entered their round robin showdown undefeated. Coach Mike Bridges was concerned about running with the talented Lake Highlands crew. "You can't let a running team get away from you or you'll find yourself blown out in a hurry," Bridges said. The Plano Wildcats kept a slow tempo and came away with a 53-49 victory.

Coach Jerry Wells of Lake Highlands commented, "you can't get a running game going when all their shots are falling in and when you're not getting any turnovers." Dan Davis of Plano held 6'6" Kelly Clayton to only four points and Lundblade shut down 6'3" Raleigh Freeman(15.0/10.0) to only 12 points.

Despite the defensive effort Lake Highlands was within one point with the ball with only 22 seconds left on the clock. Lake Highlands was unable to convert and committed a turnover. With 4:45 remaining in the game Lake Highlands had taken a 45-44 lead.

Jim Vorlop(20.0) led Lake Highlands with a game high 22 points. Plano placed three players in double figures. Travis Benke finished with 16 points, Dan Davis came away with 13 points and Killingsworth added 10.

"Our shooting percentage, we think, is always going to be better than a running team," Bridges said. "They may get more shots, but we'll make more of ours. We just think it's important to take a few good ones. When we stalled, we just wanted to get Benke one-on-one, but that didn't work out." Both coaches complained about the officials, but Coach Wells commented, "That's not what beat us. Plano beat us. But it didn't help any.

In the 13-4A tournament to close out the season, Lake Highlands(23-5) advanced to the finals with a 57 to 56 win of the Scots of Highland Park(23-8). Jim Vorlop(20.0) knocked down a short jumper with six seconds remaining to give the Wildcats the win. Vorlop finished with 19 points and Freeman put in 18 points. Buzz Showalter paced the Scots with 17 points. In the other semi-final game Richardson fell to Plano 53-38.

This set up the finals between Lake Highlands(23-5) and Plano(27-4). An overflow crowd of 2500 crammed into Lake Highlands gym and Plano came away with another close victory 59-56. The Plano victory ended Lake Highlands 17-game winning streak at home that dated back to December of 1977. Plano finished with an impressive 61% from the floor and Lake Highlands only managed 44 % shooting. Travis Benke was high point man with 19 points, while Vorlop and Freeman came away with 12 and 14 points respectfully.

The big District in Dallas was 12-AAAA. Dallas Roosevelt(23-7) was the pick to win the District by the Dallas Morning News. Coach Ellis Davis' Mustangs had 6'6" Bobby Davis returning. Davis averaged 17 points and 14 rebounds a game followed by 6'5" Kenneth Roberson. Davis commented, "We have the potential to be as good as last year." Kimball was picked 2nd, after finishing strong in last year's race. Coach Paul Graham was very excited about the coming season, counting on 5'10" Tony Mathis(23.4) and 6'5" Sam Sullivan(20.4). Kimball(24-5) finished 25-7 in 1978 and planned to make it a three team District race.

The third member of the three-team race was the Golden Bears of S.O.C.(29-6). The Bears were paced by 6'2" junior Puntus Wilson. Coach Henry Warren's best player was a special talent. Other contributors to Warren's troops were 6'2" Tony Moore and guards Reginald Mosby and Billy Christie.

In the 12-4A race between Dallas Roosevelt(23-7) and Dallas S.O.C.(29-6), the Golden Bears came out on top to everyone's surprise. Coach Ellis Davis Mustang's had so much more experience and were thought to be a strong candidate to advance to Austin, but they could not get past the Golden Bears. Coach Henry Warren's Bears, played a tough schedule beating Ft. Worth Paschal(26-8) early in the season 59-57 and Houston Wheatley(30-8) 75-74. They also lost to Wheatley(30-8) 94-87 and Ft. Worth Dunbar(37-4) 89-74. In District, S.O.C.(29-6) split with Dallas Kimball(24-5), but had Roosevelt's number winning all three contest 86-73, 69-54, and 76-68.

Region II pitted two of the top teams in the state against one another with #7 ranked Plano and #20 ranked South Oak Cliff. How S.O.C. was rated #20 would be anybody's guess, because they were the top team in Dallas.

The Golden Bears faced Dallas Hillcrest(24-6) in Bi-District at Loos Field House. South Oak Cliff(29-6) advanced to regionals for the 6th time in seven years with a 76-61 victory. Tony Moore led the way with 26 points for the Golden Bears.

In a great game, Wilmer Hutchins advanced to regionals in overtime beating Grand Prairie(24-9) 68-64. Mookie Smith led Hutch with 23 points followed by Chester Smith with 21.

Fifth ranked Conroe was paced by the Bunce brothers beating Waco University(28-5) 57-49. Randy Menefee led Conroe with 21 points while Dan Bunce tossed in 16 points and pulled down 15 rebounds. University's Daryl Baucham paced all scorers with 29 points.

The big shocker of region II was Plano's(28-5) upset loss to Lufkin(31-6) 71-69 in Tyler. The game was played on a Monday night rather than the usual Tuesday. The Plano Wildcats overcame a 22-17 first-quarter deficit to go ahead 43-34 at the intermission.

In visiting with Jesse Walker, the Lufkin Coach, he said his scouting report on Plano said you could not press them. His close friend, Brooks Dozier the Nacogdoches coach, did all the scouting for Coach Walker and he had not seen anybody press Plano successfully. But with his team trailing by nine at halftime, Walker went against his scouting report and changed philosophies. "We press every game against everybody, that's who we are," Coach Walker said. "We had to play to our strengths and we did in the second half." The strategy worked, as Lufkin(31-6) took the lead in the final minute 67-65. Plano's Coach Bridges called timeout, but was charged with a technical, as the Wildcats were out of timeouts. Lufkin(31-6) made the technical and scored a bucket on the possession, and took a 70-65 lead. The Wildcats made a late run, but it was too late. The Panthers won it 71-69 to advance to regionals. Travis Benke of Plano(28-5) led all scorers with 35 points in a great performance, while the Panthers were led by 5'7" Ronnie Blake with 18 points.

Lufkin(31-6) was not even state ranked and even though they had advanced to regionals the previous season, they did not seem capable of winning against a state power like Plano. Lufkin was thought to be too undisciplined. But numbers can be deceiving and so they were with Lufkin. They had much more size than Plano, with two of the top sophomores in the state in 6'7" Larry Davis and 6'8" Don Bronson. Davis went on to star at S.M.U. and Bronson played at U.T.E.P. Davis averaged 16.3 points a game and looked nothing like a sophomore. He was strong and powerfully built. Coach Jesse Walker's team was loaded with depth, 6'6" Martines Grimes, 6'0" Michael Mainer, 6'3" Andre Hall, 6'2" Robert Edwards, along with team leader and quarterback Ronnie Blake, who averaged 15.6 per game. Grimes played college ball at McNeese St. in Louisiana, Blake at Baylor, Mainer went to Midwestern University in Wichita Falls and Edwards played football for Lamar University in Beaumont. In reality, Lufkin had the more talented squad, and should have been favored, they were much more athletic and had more size.

Was there anything in the Lufkin resume that would indicate this type of success? The answer is yes, they were accustomed to adversity. Matter of fact, if

there was ever a team that loved tough situations, this was it. The Panthers lived on the edge, playing several close games against excellent competition. District 14-AAAA was one of the most hotly contested races in the state. Longview(20-8), Tyler Lee(19-11), Nacogdoches(27-6), Marshall(14-11), Tyler John Tyler and Lufkin(31-6) all made a mad dash for the single playoff spot. Remember back in 1979, the District was divided into halves. You had the first half winner facing the second half winner to see who would advance.

Lufkin's chief rival was Nacogdoches(27-6). The Dragons had and outstanding team in 1979 and quite possibly had a better team than Lufkin. The Dragons were 10 deep and in pre-District had shown their grit facing a number of outstanding teams. Nacogdoches defeated eventual 3-A state champions, Huntsville(27-5) 66-64. They also held a win over Center(29-2) 80-74. Center was a top ten ball club in class 3-A. The Dragons beat regional semi-finalist, Wilmer Hutchins(26-12) 74-62. Nacogdoches(27-6) was very competitive finishing 27-6 on the season. 6'2" Kelvin Ikner(16.5) was a long-range bomber for Nac and named 1st team All-District. Roland Rocquemore(12.1) played the point, hefty 6'4" A.J. Culbreath(12.0) was very athletic inside. The human highlight film was 6'1" Don Jones(5.4), who came off the bench for the Dragons. Jones would later win the SWC high jump competition in track. Jones attended Texas A&M and was one of the leading receivers for the Aggies in football. The Dragons were very talented but only Ikner was named to the 10-man All-District squad. Craig Deckard and Rocquemore were named honorable mention. The Dragons also relied on 6'6" Allan Johnston, who averaged 13.7 points and 11.2 rebounds a game. In one game during the season he pulled down 39 rebounds. After junior college, Johnston committed to Indiana St., but soon after blew his knee out and played for St. Mary's in San Antonio. Johnston was an outstanding high school basketball coach for years in East Texas, with his last hurrah being at of all places...Tyler Lee in 2014.

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

East Texas had some outstanding basketball talent in 1979. Three of the top teams in East Texas were on display at the Pineywoods Classic. Huntsville(27-5), the defending Class 3-A state champion, met Lufkin(31-6) in the semi-finals of the tournament and gave the Panthers their first loss of the season 77-69. The next evening in the finals of the tournament, Nacogdoches(27-6) ran their record to 10-0 with a 66-64 victory over Huntsville(27-5). Nacogdoches relied on 6'6" Alan Johnston inside against Huntsville's All-State post, 6'5" Curtis Wallace.

Lufkin(31-6) later played in the Temple tournament against Dallas powerhouse, Dallas Roosevelt(23-7), losing 83-68. In the Jacksonville Tournament, the Panthers got another shot at Huntsville(27-5) and defeated the Hornets 61-54.

In the finals of the Jacksonville tournament, Lufkin(31-6) and Nacogdoches(27-6) locked horns for the first time during the 1979 campaign. The Dragons dominated winning 80-61. Another East Texas power in 1979 were the Crockett Bulldogs, led by one of the most highly recruited basketball players in the country, 6'9" Claude Riley. Although Riley scored 30 points and was dominating, the overall size of Lufkin was too much, as they out rebounded Crockett 58-29, and came away with a solid victory 83-65. 6'6" Martinez Grimes finished with 19 points and 13 rebounds and 6'3" Andre Hall finished with 18 rebounds and 6'8" sophomore, Larry Davis finished with eight rebounds.

Already you could see Lufkin's biggest strength was their rebounding ability and physical size and athleticism. Lufkin turned right around and played Crockett a second time defeating the 2-A power 81-59. This time 6'8" sophomore Don Bronson knocked down 16 points and 12 rebounds. Larry Davis added 20 points and 8 rebounds.

As the 14-AAAA District race opened it was obvious any one of five teams could advance to the playoffs, but the Dragons were the favorite. Nacogdoches(27-6) at one time was 10-0 and was state ranked.

In the first round of District, three teams finished with 5-2 marks. Nacogdoches(27-6), Tyler Lee(19-11) and Lufkin(31-6) all finished tied for first place. Tyler Lee(19-11) had beaten both rivals, Nacogdoches(27-6) 76-63 and Lufkin(31-6) 68-66, but they had two losses to Texas High 74-73 and Longview(20-8) 66-61. Nacogdoches(27-6) lost to Tyler Lee(19-11) and Lufkin(31-6) 76-62 in the first round. Lufkin(31-6) had lost to Marshall 70-69 and to Tyler Lee(19-11).

The second round of District action started out with Marshall again being the spoiler, beating Tyler Lee(19-11) 68-62. Nacogdoches(27-6) also had trouble with Marshall losing 70-68. Marshall's key performers were 5'10" Winston Aaron and Sam Knighten. With both Tyler Lee(19-11) and Nacogdoches(27-6) having one loss apiece, the game between the two looked like it might decide the second round of District. In a classic overtime game, Tyler Lee(19-11) beat the Dragons(27-6) 59-57, putting them in the driver's seat with Lufkin(31-6).

The Panthers of Lufkin(31-6) took care of business as they moved through the second round of District at 5-0, with two overtime wins against Longview(20-8) 86-84 and Marshall(14-11) 73-71. So, the Marshall Mavericks were 2-1 against the contenders during the 2nd round of District. Lufkin(31-6) finished off the regular season against Tyler Lee(19-11) and Nacogdoches(27-6).

The Tyler Lee(19-11)-Lufkin(31-6) was really for the District title, because Nacogdoches(27-6) already had two losses in the second round. With only one game to play, Lufkin(31-6) would be 6-0 if they beat Tyler Lee(19-11) going into

their last regular season game against Nacogdoches(27-6). And the Dragons had already been eliminated from the second round. The Tyler Lee-Lufkin game was awesome once again, as the cardiac Panthers won 60-59 and with it the District title. With the outright second round title, the Panthers took District.

In the last week of the season, all the schools played their rivals. Nacogdoches(26-7) hammered Lufkin(31-6) 90-70 and John Tyler pummeled Tyler Lee(19-11) 80-51. So, the top two teams in District were beaten in their final game of the regular season by a total of 49 points. This loss for Lufkin(31-6) was deceptive because it was the last game of the regular season, and the Panthers had already captured the District title. Because of this, Coach Walker played everybody on his roster, thus the lopsided loss. "I am not taking anything away from Nac, they played well, but there was nothing on the line for us. We had clinched the District race and beat them when we needed to," Coach Walker said.

All you can say is what a competitive District race it was in 1979. Lufkin(31-6) finished District with a 11-3 mark, playing three overtime games and winning two of them. Nacogdoches(26-7) finished 10-4 and Tyler Lee(19-11) finished 3rd at 9-5. The big spoiler in the District race was Marshall(14-11), who finished 3-3 against the top three District teams. And in their three losses, they lost by a total of 11 points. Marshall(14-11) had faced Ft. Worth Dunbar(37-4) in the Arlington Classic earlier in the season and lost 86-66. I know what you are thinking, but what you have to take into consideration is the East Texas schools had a lot of dual sport athletes. Early in the season they were at a big disadvantage because several players or key players came out of football. The Arlington Classic is played in late November and early December. The East Texas teams are much stronger in January and February then in November and December. So sometimes you can't read a whole lot into early season games depending on whether both teams have all their players.

An interesting side note of this titanic District 14-AAAA race was that Nacogdoches(27-6) had a season mark of 21-3 going into the Texas High game, which they won 59-50. On the cold bus ride home temperatures were very low and several players got sick. The Dragons lost three out of the next four games they played. They lost to Lufkin(31-6) 76-62, a team which they had defeated earlier in the season by 14 points and defeated later in the season by 20 points. The Dragons were without their standout point guard, Roland Roquemore, who had been suspended. The other losses were against Marshall(14-11) 70-68 and Tyler Lee(19-11) 59-57 in overtime. If the Dragons had won any of those games they would have forced a District playoff. The only win during the four-game stretch was against Longview(20-8) 85-76. So, after going 21-3 on the season they go through a stretch of 1-3, which basically ends the season for the Dragons. The Achilles heel for Nacogdoches(26-7) was not Lufkin(31-6) but rather, Tyler Lee(19-11), losing both games to the Rebels. Tyler Lee's record against the top two teams in District action

was 3-1 and Tyler Lee(19-11) was only two points away from being 4-0 against them. But Lufkin(31-6) was the more consistent team of the three advancing to the playoffs.

The 14-AAAA All-District named by the coaches had Ronnie Blake of Lufkin named M.V.P., Larry Davis took Sophomore of the Year and 6'3" Jeff Glenn(20.2) of Longview and 6'3" Jack Culbertson(20.4) of Longview Pine Tree were unanimous choices. Andre Hall of Lufkin also made All-District, gaining 4 of the possible 8 votes from the coaches. John Tyler had two players represented on the team, 6'3" Joe Turner(10.0) and 6'0" James Hampton(16.3).

The All-East Texas team had Larry Davis(16.1) and Ronnie Blake(15.5) on the 1st team along with 6'5" Warren Everett(17.5) of Daingerfield, 6'3" Kevin Carlisle(18.1) of Whitehouse, and 5'9" Billy Douglas(22.1) of LaPoynor. The team looked pretty legit until I saw the best player in East Texas on the honorable mention list, Claude Riley of Crockett. He did not make the top three teams, which put 15 players ahead of the Crockett sensation. Once again, hard to take it seriously.

After their dog fight getting out of District, Lufkin(31-6) certainly did not have the look of a team that was going to make a deep run in the playoffs. I think looking back on the season, few people realized just how strong District 14-AAAA had been. Even though Nacogdoches(26-7) was ranked early in the season at #10, most media thought the only real basketball was played in the urban areas.

After the 20-point loss to Nacogdoches to end the regular season, Lufkin(31-6) tried to get their mojo back in a playoff warm-up game against Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(34-3), the #4 team in the state polls. The Athletic director at Beaumont had talked to the Athletic director at Lufkin and discussed playing a warm up game prior to the playoffs. Lufkin(31-6) was in region II and Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(34-3) was in region III, so the teams would only meet each other if they advanced to the state tournament in Austin. This was very common at the time to try and play a warm up contest against stiff competition, to get you ready for the playoffs. Lufkin(31-6) had a history with Beaumont(34-3), they had opened the season in Beaumont against Beaumont French and played Pt. Arthur Jefferson the next evening, winning both games. The Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(34-3) school officials came up to Lufkin to look at the gym. They remarked at how small the gym was, and that it would not hold all the fans coming from Beaumont to support their team. So, they told Lufkin(31-6) they would charter a Greyhound bus and pay for their hotel and travel expenses if they would come play the game in Beaumont. Pollard(34-3) had a big arena which was filled, so they made a lot of money, even though they paid for the Panthers to come all the way to Beaumont. The game was set. Although Lufkin(31-6) was not ranked in the top 20 in the state, they were confident going against the much higher ranked Pollard squad.

The turning point of the game was when the two big men for Pollard, 6'7" Kenneth Perkins and Mike Jones got in foul trouble. Both were taken out when they received their fourth foul. Down 16 points, Lufkin(31-6) began their comeback. The Panthers outscored Pollard 24-9 in the fourth quarter and got back into the contest. The game came down to the last possession. The officials for the game were from Beaumont and with the score tied, Lufkin(31-6) had the ball going for the last shot. As the ball went up, Pollard(34-3) was called for goaltending and the Panthers were awarded the basket and with it the win 71-69.

Coach Walker commented that he was very surprised the officials would make that call-in favor of the visiting team. Most of the time home officials will give their fans the close calls. Walker said that he felt Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(34-3) was extremely talented and one of the best teams they had faced all season, especially 6'7" Kenneth Perkins. Perkins finished with 25 points and 15 rebounds and four blocks, while sitting out some of the game with foul trouble.

In District 16-AAAA, Conroe(26-7), Jersey Village(24-10) and Cypress-Fairbanks(35-5) battled things out to see who would make the state playoffs. All three teams finished 12-2 in District action. Conroe(26-7) took the first half of District and Jersey Village(24-10) won the 2nd round. Jersey Village lost by one point during the first half to Conroe 42-41. David Bunce hit two last second foul shots to give Conroe the win. 6'3" Henry Kellum of Jersey Village scored only 9 points and fouled out in the second quarter.

In the second game between the two teams, Kellum stayed out of foul trouble and hit 21 points in Jersey Village's 47-43 win. In the District playoff game, Conroe was fueled by 6'11" Dan Bunce, who finished with 12 points and 8 rebounds. The Falcons Henry Kellum could only manage 7 points in the 45-38 loss to Conroe. The Tigers improved their record to 27-7 and faced Waco University(28-3) in Bi-District.

The U.I.L. had overruled the District committee on University's ineligible players, granting them the District title. Conroe represented Greater Houston in the Region II playoffs against Waco University(28-3). Randy Menefee and David Bunce were the stars for the Tigers in Conroe's 57-49 win against University. Menefee had 21 points and David Bunce hit 16 points and 15 rebounds. University(28-3) was down to Conroe(27-7) 42-31, but turned things around with a 15-2 run to take a 46-44 lead. The Tigers came right back with a run of their own outscoring University 13-3.

In College Station at G. Rollie White Coliseum in the region II semi-finals, Lufkin(31-6) prepared for Dallas South Oak Cliff(29-6), coached by Henry Warren. The Golden Bears were not big but very talented and quick. 6'2" Puntus Wilson was the team's best player, closely followed by 6'3" Tony Moore and 6'3" James Helmich. Coach Warren had tons of talent on which he could call upon, 6'0" Billy

Christie, 6'2" Emery Aaron, 5'8" Reginald Mosby, 6'1" Donnye Shelby, 6'1" Kenneth Bizzell, and 6'2" Chris Sowell. Christie and Mosby were outstanding ball handlers.

Coach Jesse Walker of Lufkin(31-6) commented, "What I fear about S.O.C. is the unselfishness of the team." "It appears S.O.C. doesn't care who does the scoring and there's an apparent unity on defense." Coach Warren responded, "Defense won't do anything but win games. I try to sell the kids on that, and I like to think defense is our best offense. We're awfully small and we must play good defense, hustle and rebound to stay with Lufkin."

When questioned about the apparent speed of Coach Warren's team, Coach Walker said, "Quickness is the main thing I worry about S.O.C....something I felt we had last year but don't this year. We will try to slow down S.O.C. and unfortunately were not a slowdown team." The key players for Lufkin, 6'8" Larry Davis(20.0/10.0), 6'6" Martinez Grimes, 6'3" Andre Hall, 6'3" Robert Edwards, 6'1" Michael Mainer(16.0), 5'7" Ronnie Blake(20.0), and 6'9" Don Bronson(9.0/9.0). "Yes, we do have some size, but we don't always start the big guys. We choose our starters according to the type team we are playing," Coach Walker said.

Lufkin(31-6) continued their magic beating S.O.C.(29-6) 73-72 on a 3-point play by Ronnie Blake with 20 seconds left in the game. S.O.C.(29-6) led 71-70 after Tony Moore missed the front end of a 1 and 1. Blake advanced the ball and scored while getting fouled. Lufkin now led 73-71 and with 11 seconds remaining. James Helmich of S.O.C. was fouled. He made the first free throw and missed the second. Puntus Wilson tipped the ball back up and the ball rolled around the rim and fell off. Lufkin advanced the ball and ran out the clock.

Sports writer, Randall Perry, who wrote for the Lufkin newspaper commented after the game, "SOC made two mistakes, they stopped pressing and they tried to hold the ball on offense." Coach Warren was very upset following the game because of the controversial play with 1:46 left in the game. Tony Moore had a dunk that was disallowed because of an injured Larry Davis of Lufkin on the other end of the court. In reality, Davis was tripped and a foul was called, which caused the basket to be waved off by the officials. "That killed our momentum" Warren said. "We would have been in control, but I knew I should sit down and not complain. It was not time for a technical."

S.O.C.(29-6) had to use 15 players because of foul trouble, which limited the minutes by Tony Moore and Puntus Wilson. Lufkin on the other hand, was behind the entire game, but just kept fighting back. "I think S.O.C.'s game plan was to tire us out, since we played only six kids, but in the end I think S.O.C. ran out of gas," explained Coach Walker. 5'8" Ronnie Blake finished with 29 points and would not let his team lose. 6'8" Larry Davis followed with 16 points. S.O.C.(29-6) inability to make foul shots in the end was what killed them.

With five minutes remaining in the third quarter, S.O.C. was pulling away with a 48-40 lead. Andre Hall of Lufkin was fouled on the inside by Tony Moore of

S.O.C., who complained to the referee and was called for a technical foul. After a Blake steal and layup, momentum had been stopped, as the Panthers tied the score 48 apiece. Another factor in the Golden Bears loss, was that late in the game, Puntus Wilson and Tony Moore were both playing with four fouls and James Helmich had three.

Wilmer Hutchins(26-11) looked to have their work cut out for them against the biggest team in the state, Conroe(28-7). Coach Larry Berkman of Conroe looked to 6'11" Dan Bunce(11.0/7.0), 6'10" David Bunce(18.0/15.0), 6'5" Roger Holtkamp, 6'3" Tim O'Neill, 5'10" Randy Menefee and 5'10" Mark McCollum. Berkman only started one of the big Bunce boys.

Coach Homer Smith of Wilmer Hutchins countered with limited size, 6'5" Chester Smith, 6'4" Chris Richardson, 6'1" Mookie Smith(25.7), 6'1" Paul Donaldson, 6'2" Leonard Bange and 6'1" Ricky Grace. Mookie Smith was considered one of the top guards in the state. "Naturally Conroe's the tallest team we have played all year," Coach Smith of Wilmer Hutchins said. "But we are hoping our quickness can offset that. We've heard Conroe plays a deliberate game, trying to get the ball down low to the big guys and it has had the most trouble this year with fast-break teams like ours."

Coach Berkman of Conroe denied the deliberate tag by Wilmer Hutchins. "Our game plan depends on the other team and we don't stick to an inside game," Berkman said. "We can shoot from the outside too, especially if the opposition is sagging inside. We've averaged 63 points a game, so that indicates we like to run at times," Coach Berkman shared.

Wilmer Hutchins(26-11) carried on Dallas's bad luck as they came up short against a strong Conroe(29-7) team 73-59. 6'10" David Bunce of Conroe hit 25 of his 36 points in the 2nd half. The big senior was 16 of 23 from the floor and also pulled in 20 rebounds. His coach called Bunce's game his best of the season. Conroe won the battle of the glass 41-33 over Hutch(26-11). Hutchins Coach, Homer Smith, said after the game, "I have never played a team as big and I hope I never play one again."

Wilmer Hutchins(26-11) led at halftime 35-34. Twice in the second half the Tigers had commanding 15 point leads 56-41. Mookie Smith scored 21 for Hutch while Ricky Grace added 14. Although Mookie Smith hit 21 points, he was only 8 of 28 from the floor. Mookie Smith and Ricky Grace were one of the best backcourts in the state in 1979. Ricky Grace went on to play for Oklahoma in the 1988 NCAA Championship game.

The stage was now set for the regional finals between Conroe(29-8) and Lufkin(30-6) at 4:00 on Saturday afternoon. The winner would advance to Austin.

For the third straight playoff game, Lufkin(31-6) came up with a miracle to defeat Conroe(29-8) 58-57. Reporter, David Holland of the Dallas Morning News, called Lufkin a team of destiny. The Panthers trailed 57-52 with 1:34 left. Lufkin(31-

6) appeared to have run out of miracles. With 1:29 left Blake(41) hit two foul shots which were soon followed by Andre Hall hitting two more free throws. With 1:01 left in the game, Conroe's David Bunce missed a front end of a one and one, but his brother Dan tipped in the rebound, but the ball rolled out. With six seconds left Lufkin took the lead for the first time when Michael Mainer hit a layup. Conroe's Tim O'Neill failed to get the ball inbounds against Lufkin's press in the final seconds, to secure the win.

Coach Walker commented after the game, "We've had seven overtime games this year and three of them have been in double overtime." For the Panthers, Larry Davis finished with 19 points, Ronnie Blake put in 12 points, while 5'10" guard Randy Menefee led Conroe with 16 points and Mark McCollum added 14.

Ronnie Blake had one of his worst games of the season, hitting on three of 17 from the floor. Lufkin's scouting report said, Conroe was very deliberate, so the Panthers pressed aggressively. The results were a number of easy baskets for Conroe, as they got behind the Panthers press. That's why Conroe's guards were the leading scorers for the Tigers. "I don't know, Conroe wasn't hurt by our press, our defense didn't stop them and we didn't make our free throws. It's just we wound up in the end ahead," Walker said.

For Lufkin, it was a magical playoff journey, having trailed in Bi-District to Plano by as many as seven points in the fourth quarter. Against S.O.C. they trailed by five points with 2:51 left before coming from behind. Now it was on to state, their first trip since 1948.

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

Region III

Houston Madison(36-0) #1

Houston Kashmere(21-9)#10

Beaumont Pollard(32-2) #4

Stratford Dulles(22-14)

Spring Branch Memorial(27-8)

Houston Wheatley(29-7) #3

Houston Forest Brook(24-8)

Deer Park(26-6) #9

Top Players in Region III

6'2"	Rob Williams	Houston Milby
6'11"	Greg Kite	Houston Madison
6'6"	John Simple	Houston Madison
6'5"	Rickie Thompson	Houston Jones
6'8"	Roosevelt McGruder	Houston Wheatley
6'7"	Kenneth Perkins	Beaumont Pollard
6'7"	Robert Shaw	Deer Park

As the pre-season polls started coming out there were few surprises. One of the best sports writers in the state, Bill McMurray's Greater Houston Basketball

magazine, had Houston Milby(24-6) as the top team in the Houston area followed by Madison(39-1), Wheatley(30-8), Deer Park(27-7), Houston Jones(29-5), Kashmere(21-10), Spring Branch Memorial(21-6), Houston Yates, Houston Washington(26-5), Clear Lake(21-11), Pasadena Dobie and Houston Smiley(24-9).

Three of the top five projected players in the Houston area were from Houston Madison. They were 6'11" Greg Kite, 6'6" John Simple, and 6'0" Pat Hicks. 6'5" Matt England was one of the top underclassmen in the state for the Marlins. Kite played at Brigham Young, England to L.S.U. and Hicks at North Texas State University. Simple was highly regarded and was said to be headed to the University of Texas. Simple had a rare blood disorder which limited his college career.

The top players were 6'2" Rob Williams of Houston Milby and 6'6" Rickie Thompson of Houston Jones. Out of the top 22 players listed by the publication, Wheatley(30-8) only had one player listed at #22, 6'7" Roosevelt McGruder. Pasadena Dobie had the two biggest players in 7'0" Steve Frederick and 6'10" Scott McDonald. Conroe(29-8) matched their size with the Bunce brothers, David and Dan at 6'10" and 6'11".

The problem with Milby(24-6) being rated #1 in the area was that they would have to get past Wheatley(30-8) to get out of their own District. That had only happened once since desegregation of the schools in 1968. Rob Williams gave Milby the edge against almost any opponent. The Buffaloes also had one of the best coaches around, Boyce Honea. Milby had some great young talent in 6'7" junior Paul Cunningham and 6'8" sophomore, Andre Ross. Houston Jones(29-5) and Houston Yates also had to battle Wheatley(30-8) and had formidable teams once again. 6'7" Arnold Blackmon led Houston Yates, along with a 6'5" junior Michael Young. Houston Sterling was picked last in the District with a little-known junior named Clyde Drexler. District 19-AAAA was loaded and whoever came out of the tussle, would be a threat to win state.

The battle in District 23-AAAA was going to be interesting as usual as Clear Lake(21-11) finished 2nd to Deer Park(27-7) during the 1978 campaign. Deer Park(27-7) returned another great team and was picked to win District. Robert Shaw, at 6'8", was key to Park's success and Clear Lake(21-11) only returned one lettermen, 5'8" Colin O'Neill. Pasadena Dobie had its best team in years and would challenge for the District honors along with Clear Creek, coming off a 26-7 campaign.

Houston Madison(39-1) was undefeated and unquestioned #1 team in the state. With victories over Kashmere(21-10), Deer Park(27-7), Houston Jones(29-5), Milby(24-6), and Wheatley(30-8), the Marlins were not only looking like the top team in Texas, but maybe one of the best in the country. The Marlins didn't blow people out, but they also had few close games. They were big inside with Kite, and outstanding guard play along with athleticism in England and Simple. The Marlins were going to be hard to beat.

Although Houston Madison(39-1) was the #1 team in the state, they had a dog fight on their hands getting out of Houston. Houston Wheatley(30-8) used a buzzer tip-in by Randy Desso to edge Houston Jones(29-5), and hand Coach Carr his 11th District title in 12 years. While Wheatley(30-8) had to fight off Houston Jones(29-5) and Houston Milby(24-6), Houston Kashmere made a clean sweep in 19-AAAA and entered the playoffs with a 21-9 record.

In Bi-District third ranked Wheatley(30-8) faced off against #10 Kashmere(21-9). The two teams had met during the 1978 playoffs and Wheatley held on to win 92-90 and moved on and took state. The game was scheduled for 8:30 at Hofheinz. Wheatley held two wins over Kashmere during the regular season. "Just like always, it should be lots of passing, running and scoring," said Coach Jackie Carr. "The records mean nothing in the playoffs. Everybody starts out even, and it seems that the Wheatley-Kashmere games always end up with exciting finishes," Carr said.

The Wildcats were led by Randy Desso, Antonio Melbeaux, Tracey Bookman, 6'7" Roosevelt McGruder, Kenneth Morning, Paul Jackson, Jeffrey Brush and sophomore, Phillip Smith. Houston Kashmere(21-9) counted on 6'6" Leroy Riley and 6'4" Earnest Patterson. In a warm-up game, Wheatley defeated San Antonio Highlands(25-8) 104-88.

Wheatley(30-8) outran Kashmere(21-10) before an overflow crowd of 11,000 winning 89-78. Coach Carr commented, "We are peaking at the right time." Jeffrey Brush was high point man for Wheatley with 21 points while Earnest Patterson led Kashmere with 16.

Houston Madison(39-1) had an easy time of it in the tune-up game against Dulles(22-14) 59-45. Lee Gibson led the Marlins with 12 points and Matt England and John Simple followed with 10 each.

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

Coach Paul Benton's Madison(39-1) squad was all over Memorial(27-9) winning 76-52. After Madison's romp Coleman commented, "I think they may have the best talent of any team I've seen." That is high praise coming from a legend like Don Coleman. He had been around the block several times and was very knowledgeable. Despite four fouls on Kite and Simple the Marlins handled Memorial(27-9) with ease. Madison(39-1) won on the boards 42-19. Simple led the

Marlins with 17 points, Kite finished with 15. Mike Felice was the only Memorial player in double figures with 16 points.

Houston Forest Brook(24-9) battled Beaumont Charlton-Pollard who came into the game with only two losses and 31 wins. One of those losses was the controversial loss to Lufkin on the goal tending call. The two teams played at Rice University. Forest Brook(23-8) had defeated Houston Smiley(25-9) in a District playoff to make it into the state playoffs.

Beaumont Pollard(31-2) went on a 21-6 run in the fourth quarter to win 73-57. Kenneth Perkins(16.4/15.7/4.2 bl) came away with 17 points, followed by 16 points from Gerald Darby. Donald Bennett scored 20 in a losing effort for Forest Brook.

Ninth ranked Deer Park(27-7) made the playoffs for the second year in a row beating out Clear Lake(21-11) for the playoff spot. Their Bi-District opponent was Stratford Dulles(22-15). The teams met at Spring Branch Coliseum. Deer Park(27-7) jumped off to an 8-0 lead on Dulles(22-15) and took care of business. Deer Park was never threatened winning 59-39. Keith Westerman hit 18 points, Tom Fuller had 14 and Ronald Gullihur had 12. Deer Park's goal was to return to the regional finals where they had lost to Wheatley the previous year. Dulles had defeated Pearland 66-52 to win District 24-AAAA.

The **region III field** was set with three teams making repeat appearances from the previous year, Houston Wheatley(30-7), Houston Madison(37-0), and Deer Park(27-6). The newcomer to the group was Beaumont Pollard(32-2).

Beaumont Pollard(32-2) faced a very challenging schedule defeating Houston Wheatley(30-7) 67-51 and Galveston Ball 59-52. 6'7" Kenneth Perkins was one of the top big men in the state and finished with 22 points, 25 rebounds and 7 blocks against the Wildcats of Wheatley. Perkins was just as impressive against Ball with 16 points, 16 rebounds and 6 blocks. Other big wins in pre-district came against Forest Brook(24-9) by +16 and Deer Park(27-7) by one. Charlton-Pollard's only loss prior to District was to Silsbee(30-3) 75-74. Silsbee advanced to state in class AAA. David Green and Tim Peters led the Tigers to victory.

Perkins(16.6/16.5) was named District MVP for Pollard. Other starters were 6'3" Michael Jones(12.1), 6'3" sophomore, Monte Wainwright(13.7), John Young, Gerald Darby and Freddie Coleman. Jones was named to the first team All-District squad and Wainwright made the 2nd unit.

Pollard took the District title with a perfect 16-0 mark followed by West Orange Stark(19-9) and Port Arthur Lincoln(14-14). Stark finished 13-3 in District and the Bumblebees were 11-5. Pollard took down Lincoln 55-44 and 74-63 in District action. Pollard faced WOS(19-9) on three occasions during the season winning 55-41, 61-42 and 69-61.

Following District Charlton-Pollard(32-2) faced Lufkin(31-6) in a warm-up and lost on a questionable call 71-69. It was their second loss of the season.

Defending state champion Houston Wheatley(30-8) made the playoffs for the third year in a row. Coach Jackie Carr of Wheatley commented coming into regionals, "From what I've seen Madison is the best team in the state." Madison had defeated Wheatley in the Jaycee's tournament 78-62. "They whipped us good in the Jaycee Tournament and now we've got to play'em again. They're No. 1 and deserve to be," Carr said. "We're ready to pray a lot, pray they'll be off and we'll be red hot. But we won't change anything for this game. We'll just play our regular game, the things that got us this far. I know we'll have to hit well from the outside because it's hard to get inside on Madison because of Kite. He's just so big and strong inside," Carr related. Kite had finished with 23 points and 29 rebounds the previous season against Wheatley in regional action.

Coach Benton of Madison said, "Wheatley is Wheatley and they're not going to give you anything. You've got to go out and beat Wheatley. Just like last year, Wheatley is very quick, especially quick hands. And their press seems to hurt everybody. We've got to play our game and not let them intimidate us. Antonio Malveaux is one of the best clutch players I've seen in a long time. When Wheatley needs two points they will go to him." Madison was loaded with 6'11" Greg Kite, the McDonald's All-American, 6'6" John Simple, 6'4" Matthew England, 6'1" Pat Hicks, 6'0" Thomas Griffin, 6'5" Lee Gibson, 6'0" Eugene Alford and 6'3" Emmitt Penelton. "Both Arnold and Gibson have had a lot to do with the success of our team. They come in and do a great job. They enter a game and make things happen," Coach Benton said. Benton continued discussing Hicks, his fine point guard. "Pat is a smart basketball player, has good court sense. I think he sees the floor as good as any high school point guard I've seen this year. Several schools, like Baylor, T.C.U. and Tech, are interested in him." Hicks teamed with Kite and Simple at Pershing Junior High, but spent his first two years at Strake Jesuit. "This is really a very unselfish group of players. They just want to win and don't care who scores the points," Benton added.

Deer Park(27-7) was counting on 6'8" Robert Shaw and 6'7" Keith Westerman on the inside and guard play from 5'11" Tom Fuller and 6'1" Ronald Gulihur. Beaumont Charlton Pollard(32-2) had an outstanding team with 6'7" Kenneth Perkins, 6'3" Michael Jones, 6'3" Roger Coleman and 6'4" Gerald Darby.

In the regional semi-finals, two old foes would face off between Houston Madison(37-0) and Houston Wheatley(30-7). With the scored tied 70-70 with 1:25 remaining, Madison's John Simple put the Marlins up 72-70 and Matt England hit two foul shots with 11 seconds left to give the Madison a 74-70 victory, and a trip to the regional finals.

John Simple led the Marlins with 19 points, followed by Matt England with 17 and Greg Kite with 13 points and 12 rebounds. The game was played in front of 11,000 fans at Hofheinz Pavilion on the campus of the University of Houston. The Marlins win was sweet revenge for Benton after his team's 72-70 in overtime loss

the previous year in regionals to Wheatley. "This has to be the biggest win for Madison in the history of the school, as this is the deepest we've advanced in the playoffs," Benton said. "Wheatley just doesn't know how to quit," Madison standout, John Simple said. "They just keep coming back."

"It was England and Hicks that killed us," Coach Carr said following the game. "We could handle Simple and Kite, but England and Hicks controlled the offense and that hurt us. That Hicks holds Madison together. But we had three chances in the last minute to win and just couldn't hit the shots. Poor shooting beat us. I still think we would have won by 10 points if Malveaux hadn't fouled out," Carr said. The Wildcat's point guard, Antonio Malveaux, collected four first half fouls and sat out most of the first half. He picked up his fifth foul with 5:08 left in the third period. Wheatley also had Tracey Bookman and Randy Desso foul out. The Marlins won the battle of boards over the Wildcats 45-43.

In the other regional semi-final game, #4 Beaumont Pollard(33-2) battled #9 Deer Park(27-6) to a standstill before winning in overtime 59-58. An estimated crowd of 12,000 fans were on hand to watch the game. Roger Coleman of Pollard hit two foul shots with eight seconds remaining to give his team the victory. Robert Shaw of Deer Park had just tied the score 58-58 with a bank shot with 15 seconds left on the clock. Pollard immediately pushed the ball up the court and found Coleman wide open underneath the basket. He was fouled and went to the line for the winning free throws. Roger Coleman scored all five of Beaumont Pollard's points in the overtime period.

Both Beaumont Pollard(34-2) and Houston Madison(38-0) went into Saturday's regional finals on emotional highs. Coach James White of Pollard commented, "They have a great ball club and they deserve their top ranking. But our kids are anxious to play'em. We'll have to play better than we played tonight against Deer Park." Deer Park had taken an early lead against Pollard 16-11 at the end of the first quarter. Pollard bounced back quickly dominating the 2nd quarter and led at halftime 29-24. "I nearly had a heart attack in the fourth quarter. We had momentum early, but we lost it," Coach White said. "Thank goodness we got it back in the overtime period. Coleman really did a super job for us. We're very happy with the victory."

Deer Park's talented tandem of 6'8" Robert Shaw and 6'7" Keith Westerman did an outstanding job shutting down 6'7" Kenneth Perkins of Pollard to only 8 points. The Cougars of Pollard got outstanding play from their two guards, Freddie Coleman and Michael Jones. Freddie Coleman had 17 points and Jones finished with 18.

In the **regional finals**, Simple of Houston Madison once again came up with two clutch rebounds followed by two pressure free throws with nine seconds left. The Marlins were able to push back the upset minded Pollard squad 62-58. Madison led from start to finish and went up 46-32 only to see Pollard go on a 14-4

run to pull to within four points 50-46. Pollard cut the lead to one 53-52 with 2:40 left on a 15-footer by Roger Coleman. Again, Simple took control with a three-point play.

Pollard out rebounded Madison 39-35. "We certainly played ragged and I guess the Friday night game with Wheatley took a lot out of us. I had hoped we wouldn't have a letdown but I guess we did," explained Coach Benton of Houston Madison. "I think we may have gotten a little too conservative in the last five minutes," Simple said. Pat Hicks agreed with Simple, "We didn't play that well but Pollard was a lot better than we thought. I guess we were tired from the Wheatley game." "We must have had five or six good chances to put it away but never could. After we got that 14-point lead we lost Kite with five fouls with 2:56 left to play and made some costly floor mistakes," Benton stated.

6'6" Johnny Simple led the Marlins with 15 points and Pat Hicks added 7 assists. England finished with 10 points and Thomas Gibson followed with 8. Freddie Coleman was the leader for Pollard with 14 points and Michael Coleman followed with 12 and Michael Holmes had 10. At halftime, Wheatley's Jackie Carr commented that Madison looked tired. "But that's the case most of the time after a team plays Wheatley the night before. They may not think so, but their legs are tired because we run so much," added Carr.

Region IV

El Campo(23-7)

Seguin(27-8)

Corpus Christi Carroll(25-9)

San Antonio Memorial(23-6)

Austin Lanier(30-3) #5

San Antonio Highlands(25-9)

Pharr SJ Ala.(28-2)#14

San Antonio McCollum(27-6)

Top Players in Region IV

6'4"	Elton Webster	Austin Lanier
6'2"	Stanley Jackson	Seguin
6'4"	Jay Shakir	San Antonio Fox Tech
6'6"	Frank Rodriguez	San Antonio Marshall
6'3"	Leon Upshaw	Corpus Christi Carroll

In the season's first state polls, Austin Lanier(30-3) was getting a lot of attention paced by 6'4" Elton Webster, and two tremendous guards, Harold Howard and 5'11" Will Prosser. Webster was a force inside and the offense basically ran through him. As the season progressed, Austin Lanier defeated Cypress Fairbanks(35-5) 83-62 and Highland Park(23-8) 85-72, to show they were the class of region IV. Most observers felt Lanier could be the best team to come out of Austin in quite some time. The San Antonio schools were weaker than in past years.

Whatever the case, it didn't mean a great deal to Coach Harry Masch of Austin Lanier(30-3). In preparing for the playoffs, Coach Masch scheduled a warm-

up game against the always tough Mustangs of Spring Branch Memorial(27-9). The Vikings(30-3) rallied from behind to capture a 53-52 decision. Lanier's 6'4" post, Elton Webster, had a tip-in with 27 seconds left to put his team ahead 51-50. Memorial had taken a commanding 46-33 lead early in the 4th quarter only to let it slip away. Lanier(30-3), who won District 26-AAAA, now faced 25-AAAA playoff winner either Victoria or El Campo. El Campo(23-7) ended up downing Victoria(20-8) to make the playoffs for the first time in ten years.

In Bi-District, Austin Lanier(30-3) broke open a close game against El Campo(23-7) with a 21-9 advantage in the 3rd quarter at the Burger Center in Austin. The 57-52 win gave Lanier its regional ticket. For El Campo, it was a big disappointment. "The third quarter's been our quarter all year," said El Campo coach, Bobby Craig, "And that's what we talked about at halftime. We came in really fired up. We knew that next quarter was going to be ours." Somebody forgot to tell Lanier as the Austin crew made their move to take over the game.

El Campo's strong inside forces of Tommie Tyler, who finished with 24 points and Ralph McAfee held down Lanier's standout post to only eight points. Webster was in foul trouble throughout the game and fouled out late. "I have no excuse against Tyler. He played a fine game," said Webster following the game. "They had a strong team inside, that's where their strength was but you need an outside game to make a team complete, and they didn't have that." In fact, El Campo's three guards contributed only four points. Larry Lawrence was the Lanier leader with 15 points, all from the outside, Harold Howard added 13 points and Eric Busboom contributed 11 points. "Larry's a streak shooter," said Viking coach, Harry Masch. "He lost it a little in the middle of the year, but he's been coming on strong lately."

In District 32-AAAA, a playoff was needed between Seguin(26-8) and San Antonio Roosevelt(23-8) to see who would advance to the state playoffs. The game was played at the Alamo gym in front of 1,016 fans. Seguin(26-8) was paced by a balanced scoring attack and a tough pressing defense which gave S.A. Roosevelt(23-8) fits. The Matadors advanced defeating the Rough Riders 76-67. Seguin's press had forced S.A. Roosevelt into numerous turnovers and the Matadors led at halftime 42-31.

Early in the third quarter, Seguin(26-8) opened up their largest lead 50-33. The two Stanley's led Seguin in scoring with Stanley Jackson finishing with 24 points and Stanley McKinney hitting 18 points. S.A. Roosevelt(23-9) was paced by center Kurt Thomas with 23 points and forward Jeff Simmons hit 19.

The Rough Riders cut the lead to 8 points on two occasions during the fourth quarter. Seguin's first year coach, Harry Miller said following the win, "First of all we bothered them with the press and secondly, we did a good job defensively. The third factor was good, balanced scoring. They had to respect all of us." Other Matadors contributed big to Coach Miller's victory were, 6'5" Raynard Davis and

Howard Sheffield. While discussing Jackson, Coach Miller disclosed, "Not one college coach has contacted him about basketball. He's a sleeping giant. Everyone is missing the boat." Jackson was a 1,000-yard rusher in football and the state long jump champion. San Antonio Roosevelt finished the season at 23-9.

In District 30-AAAA, San Antonio Memorial(23-6) downed San Antonio Edgewood(21-10) 80-70 in a District playoff to advance. The two teams had split their District games with Edgewood winning the first 63-62 and S.A. Memorial taking the second 76-68. The interesting fact about the District race was that the best overall District record in 30-AAAA was not S.A. Memorial or Edgewood, but rather San Antonio Marshall at 14-2. The victory by S.A. Memorial(23-6) over S.A. Edgewood(21-10) ended 12 years of misery for the Minutemen of Memorial. The school's first District championship had added significance in that when the school was founded 12 years ago, the Minutemen lost their first 83 basketball games, a state record. The win also avenged the team's loss the previous season to S.A. Marshall 59-43 in a District playoff game.

In S.A. Memorial's(23-6) victory over Edgewood(21-10), the Minutemen had three players contribute big to the victory. Mark Saunders, Nook Gustamante and Kenny Simpson combined for 62 of their teams 80 points. Saunders scored 26 points while Gustamante and Simpson both finished with 18 points. John White was the leading scorer for the Red Raiders of Edgewood(21-10) with 17 points, Gary Murphy added 16 and Robert Wimberly put in 11. The Minutemen improved their record to 23-6 and moved on to play San Antonio McCollum (27-6) in Bi-District. Edgewood closed a fine season at 21-10.

The Bi-District matchup between Seguin(27-8) and San Antonio Highlands(25-10) would come down at the Blossom Athletic Center. Both teams were perceived before the season to have somewhat average talent. The Owls of S.A. Highlands(25-10) had won 10 of the last 11 games. Coach John Kemmerzehl of Highlands played 10 players getting up and down the court. The Matadors of Seguin were a much more deliberate team in their attack. Four of Seguin's five starters played football, so Coach Miller had slowly unleashed his players giving them more freedom as the season progressed. Because of a slow start, S.A. Roosevelt(23-9) captured the first half of District and Seguin(27-8) came on to take the second round. Coming into the Bi-District game the Matadors had won eight straight games. Coach Miller would be calling on his standout guard, 6'2" Stanley Jackson(17.0/9.0), to lead Seguin. Coach Miller commented that Jackson jumped like someone who was 6'6". 6'5" post Raynard Davis(13.5/15.0), 6'4" Stanley McKinney(9.9/7.5) gave Seguin a decided height advantage over S.A. Highlands(25-10). The Owls were led by 5'9" Carl Randle(13.2), 6'4" Blake Partridge(9.2) and Carl Schaumlöffel(9.4). When asked about the Bi-District match-up, Coach Roland Lopez of San Antonio Fox Tech discounted the theory Seguin(27-8) would manhandle the Owls in rebounding. "If Highlands is shooting like they did against S.A. Sam

Houston last week, they are going to be hard to handle." The Owls had defeated Sam Houston 69-65 the previous week.

In S.A. Highlands(25-10) warm-up game against Houston Wheatley(30-8) the Owls lost 104-88, but Coach Kemmerzehl commented after the game, "I was well-satisfied, they did a good job."

The Matadors of Seguin(27-8) got a sweet win over the Owls of Highlands 67-62. The Matadors led almost the entire game and were making their first trip to regionals. Seguin(27-8) was paced by 6'5" Raynard Davis, who scored 24 points and grabbed 17 rebounds. Teammate Stanley Jackson contributed 14 points and 12 rebounds and Stanley McKinney had 14 points and 7 rebounds. Carl Randle led S.A. Highlands(25-10) with 19 points before fouling out with two minutes left in the game.

Coach Miller commented after the game, "I feel like our ability to stay out of foul trouble and beat their press, as well as our ability to hit our free throws in pressure situations, were the big things for us." "I told them to challenge every shot from our 2-3 zone, no matter if it was from 50 feet." The difference was the foul line, Seguin put in 21 of 40 and Highlands only had six of nine.

In the Bi-District contest between S.A. McCollum(27-6) and S.A. Memorial(23-6), coach Hank Escobedo of S.A. Edgewood said, "You can flip a coin." S.A. McCollum relied on the inside game of 6'6" Alan Martin(19.0), David Covell(14.7) and David Balderrama(12.3) while S.A. Memorial depended on 6'1" Tommie Saunders(21.6) and Willie Clark(13.5). S.A. McCollum(27-6) was making its first playoff appearance in 13 years and S.A. Memorial(23-6) was making their first playoff appearance in school history. S.A. McCollum(27-6) was the only undefeated District champion in San Antonio in 1979 while S.A. Memorial(23-6) had to win a playoff game with S.A. Edgewood(21-10) in District 30-AAAA.

In the contest played at the Alamo Stadium gym, S.A. Memorial(23-6) came out on top over S.A. McCollum(27-7) 63-60. Memorial led at halftime 35-28. S.A. Memorial came out running in the second half and pushed the margin to 14 points at one point. 6'3" Kenny Simpson of S.A. Memorial(23-6) fouled out with 6:12 remaining in the game and the S.A. McCollum(27-7) Cowboys took full advantage of Memorials lack of height, and pulled within four points 53-49 with three minutes' left.

The outside shooting of Nook Gustamante and inside force of Willie Clark were too much for the McCollum Cowboys attack. Gustamante and Saunders tied for high point honors for S.A. Memorial(23-6) with 20 points while David Covell led all scoring for S.A. McCollum(27-7) with 23 points. Alan Martin struggled for McCollum and was held to only 12 points. Corpus Christi Carroll(25-9) drummed Pharr San Juan Alamo(28-3) 66-46 in another Bi-District clash.

At Alamo Stadium Gym in San Antonio the **regional semi-finals** pitted Austin Lanier(31-3) against Seguin(28-8) at 7:00 p.m. Corpus Christi Carroll(26-9)

challenged San Antonio Memorial(24-6) at 4:30 in the afternoon with the two winners facing each other on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Austin Lanier(31-3), ranked #5 in the state, was the overwhelming favorite to win the region. None of the other teams were ranked in the Ft. Worth Star-Telegram's Top Twenty. Coach Masch of Lanier commented, "I'd just as soon us be favorites as not." For the city of San Antonio, their last hopes rested with the Minutemen of S.A. Memorial(24-6). Memorial carried a 15-game winning streak into the semi-finals contest against Corpus Christi Carroll(26-9). The Minutemen's coach, Fernando Moreno said, "I think our whole success has been our balance."

San Antonio Memorial(24-6) would have to handle Carroll's 6'2" Leon Upshaw(17.0), who scored 37 points in his teams Bi-District victory over Pharr-San Juan Alamo(28-2). C.C. Carroll(26-9) ended Corpus Christi Moody's three-year stranglehold on District 27-AAAA. Carroll coach, Bubby Greenwood felt, "Team balance and speed and being a senior team," were key factors in the team's playoff run. Carroll(26-9) had split with San Antonio Fox Tech(26-9) and lost to S.A. Roosevelt(23-9) and S. A. Churchill earlier in the season.

Seguin(28-8) had played every team in Austin except Austin Lanier(31-3). The Lanier Vikings at one point in the season were 21-1, with their only loss coming to S.A. Wheatley by one-point. That loss was later avenged by 40 points.

In the Austin Lanier(31-3) and Seguin(28-8) match-up, Coach Miller of Seguin came to the conclusion each team is equal on paper. "We don't have any doubts, we feel like we can win the ball game. It is going to be tough." "Lanier has Elton Webster, a 6'4" post man who has been tagged as the "Eraser" for his ability under the basket. Lanier also has two 6'0" guards in Harold Howard and Will Prosser, who can stuff a basketball with any of the big guys. There can't be too many teams in the state better than they are," Miller concluded. Miller's chances of beating Lanier rested in the hands of three key players, 6'5" Raynard Davis, 6'2" Stanley Jackson and 6'0" point guard, Darnell Johnson. Each would have to match the performances of Howard, Webster and Prosser.

Austin Lanier(32-3) defeated the Seguin(28-9) Matadors 64-55 as a result of some incredibly poor foul shooting by Seguin. Following his team's 7 of 21 performance from the line, Coach Harry Miller said, "It's been a problem all year, I felt all along that there would come a day when that would be our downfall." Lanier only hit 12 of 25 from the foul line. The Vikings had trouble with Seguin's press for three quarters. The Matadors led 41-38 late in the 3rd quarter.

Coach Masch of Lanier, "brought an old press offense out of the closet," to battle Seguin in the fourth quarter. With 6:07 left in the game, Lanier gained the lead 47-43. The Vikings broke the press with long passes down court to Larry Lawrence, but Coach Masch refused to go into detail. "It's just another alignment, one we haven't used in a long time," he said. Webster and Prosser were high point men for Lanier with 13 each.

Early in the game, Seguin(28-9) frustrated the Viking running attack by holding the ball. The strategy worked early as the Matadors led at the end of one 10-6 and 24-20 at half. "We bothered them some with our press, but eventually we just ran out of gas," said Miller. "Everything I've been saying about them all along is true," Miller continued, "Webster's something in the middle. He's an animal." Raynard Davis did a great job on Webster and was Seguin's second leading scorer with 16 points behind Stanley Jackson's 18 points. Raynard Davis came up with only 2 of 10 from the foul line and had two air balls.

On the regional final's matchup between Austin Lanier and Corpus Christi Carroll(26-9), Coach Miller felt the advantage was with Lanier, "No apparent weaknesses, they are strong at every position, which is the mark of a championship club."

In the other semi-final game, Leon Upshaw hit a desperation turnaround jumper with two seconds left. The basket gave Corpus Christi Carroll(26-9) a 72-70 overtime victory against San Antonio Memorial(24-6). Carroll's, Leon Upshaw, was the hero once again pumping in 32 points. S.A. Memorial had played for the last shot in regulation as well as overtime. At the end of overtime, Nook Gustamente shot a little early with eight seconds remaining, giving Upshaw his chance to be the hero. The ball had bounced up and hit the wire connecting the basket to the top of the ceiling. Carroll(26-9) immediately called time out with six seconds remaining. Bill Shireman threw a baseball pass deep to Upshaw on the other end and he proceeded to hit the game winning 15-footer.

With three seconds left in regulation SA Memorial(24-6) had their chance to end the game when Mark Saunders put one up from the left corner that missed. Memorial(24-6) trailed most of the game and was down by five 66-61 before coming back to tie things up. When Saunders stole an inbounds pass, and scored, the Memorial fans cheered at what they felt was a 67-66 lead. But the officials ruled that Saunders had walked. Memorial's Willie Clark made a three-point play with 29 seconds left to put his team on top 68-66. Upshaw countered for Carroll(26-9), scoring from the baseline with 19 seconds left to force overtime.

Following the gut-wrenching loss, Coach Fernando Moreno of S.A. Memorial(24-7) said, "I had specifically told them not to take a shot or go to the basket until there were five seconds left." Gustamante said the guys told him to take the shot. Although Moreno stressed he did not want to make excuses, he pointed out three Memorial players tried to call time after the winning basket to no avail. For only the third time in the 11-year history of the regional, a San Antonio team would not be making the finals. The other two times came with Corpus Christi Carroll in 1973 and Victoria in 1976.

In the **regional finals**, Austin Lanier(32-3) became the first team since the 1970 season to advance to the State Tournament from Austin with a 69-59 victory over Corpus Christi Carroll(27-9). Webster was the main man against Carroll

finishing with 21 points and 16 rebounds. The 6'4" post fouled out with 33 seconds remaining.

Austin Lanier(33-3) took a 38-26 advantage early in the third quarter, which Carroll coach, Buddy Greenwood said, "Broke our backs." "They shut down our inside stuff and Webster killed us on his second shots. We just couldn't box him out." Tiger forward, Leon Upshaw, was held to only 15 points. "We didn't do anything special to stop him," Coach Masch said.

Lanier's coach Harry Masch, called Friday night's victory over the Seguin(28-9) Matadors the teams "toughest" of their three playoff games so far. "It seemed like Seguin(28-9) was the toughest game for us." The Vikings Coach Masch related, we were "really drained" after Friday night's 64-55 semi-final win over the Matadors.

Corpus Christi Carroll(27-9) coach Buddy Greenwood conceded Lanier was 10 points better Saturday, but the outcome might have been different if his Tigers were at their best. "If we would have played our best game, I think we could have beaten them," he said.

It's always fun to look at the power rating numbers of the teams that represented region IV from the decade. How did Austin Lanier stack up?

1972 San Antonio Jefferson(34-4)	State Finals	94.47	6'9" Rick Bullock
1979 Austin Lanier(33-4)	State Semis	94.00	6'4" Elton Webster
1977 San Antonio Burbank(35-5)	State Semis	90.45	7'0" Gilbert Salinas
1973 Corpus Christi Carroll(32-5)	State Semis	88.06	6'3" Danny Kaspar
1978 San Antonio Fox Tech(33-5)	State Finals	85.62	6'3" Jay Shakir
1976 Victoria(37-4)	State Finals	83.12	6'4" Anthony King

State Tournament

Houston Madison	(39-0)	#1	70.1-53.3	+16.8	PR 96.17
Ft. Worth Dunbar	(36-3)	#2	81.1-62.7	+18.4	PR 95.81
Lufkin	(29-6)		71.5-63.6	+ 7.9	PR 89.83
Austin Lanier	(33-3)	#5	73.7-57.9	+15.8	PR 94.00

Top Players at the State Tournament

6'11"	Greg Kite	Houston Madison
6'7"	Larry Davis(soph)	Lufkin
6'4"	Elton Webster	Austin Lanier
5'7"	Ronnie Blake	Lufkin
6'0"	Darrell Browder	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'7"	Gilbert Collier	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'0"	Harold Howard	Austin Lanier
6'0"	Will Prosser	Austin Lanier
6'0"	Furmia Nealy	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'6"	John Simple	Houston Madison
6'1"	Pat Hicks	Houston Madison
6'5"	Matt England	Houston Madison
6'6"	Andre Allen	Ft. Worth Dunbar

The class 4-A state tournament made for good theater with the #1 and #2 teams in the state in attendance. Highly ranked Austin Lanier(33-3) and of course Cinderella, Lufkin(29-6) would make things very interesting. The potential final match-up between Ft. Worth Dunbar(36-3) and Houston Madison(39-0) was the talk of the tournament. I remember thinking the finals would be awesome. These were the two top rated teams all season. The game would highlight two of the most talented teams the state had ever produced. I was also very excited to see Houston Madison finally in person. I had read so much about them coming into the game. The Marlins were the first undefeated team to gain state in class 4-A since the 1975 Houston Kashmere squad. I also remember knowing very little about Austin Lanier. I thought they would be over-matched, I was wrong. Lufkin(29-6) in my mind was just a warm-up for the talented Houston Madison(39-0) squad.

Houston Madison was riding a 39-game winning streak and a potential unbeaten season. The pressure was enormous for the Marlins. They faced the upstart Panthers from Lufkin at 4:00 on Friday afternoon. Most followers of Houston Madison knew Coach Benton's team was far from a one-man team. Greg Kite was named a McDonald's All-American, and enormous inside space eater. Coach Carr from Wheatley felt that Matt England and Pat Hicks were the ones that killed his team.

The journey to Austin was the realization of a dream for 6'6" John Simple and 6'11" Greg Kite who had been teammates since their days at Pershing Junior

High. Madison was trying to become the seventh team in the tournaments 59-year history to win the title unbeaten.

For Lufkin, the Marlins opponent in the semi-finals, they were unfazed by the hoop-la. The Panthers had always been the underdog and came to win, not just be competitive. Most experts felt the game would be a blow-out, but when you looked at Lufkin's resume it was impressive. Wins over Plano(28-5), Dallas S.O.C.(29-6), Beaumont Pollard(34-3), and Conroe(29-8) got your attention. Those were three of the top teams in the state. Also, a key stat was Lufkin had not been out rebounded all season. Lufkin was used to close games, playing 12 games during the season decided by 3 points or less and won 10 of those. Conroe(29-8) and Beaumont Pollard(34-3) were the two team's common opponents. Houston Madison defeated Conroe by 18 points and Lufkin beat Conroe by one point. Both teams had beaten Pollard in close games. Coach Benton of Madison compared Lufkin with Pollard. "They both use a lot of double post stuff and Lufkin has a good inside player in 6'7" Larry Davis and a fine point guard in Ronnie Blake. For a sophomore, I understand Davis is quite a player." After listening to the scouting report by Conroe's coach, Larry Berkman on Lufkin, Coach Benton felt he was hearing about Beaumont Pollard again. Berkman said, "We played both Madison(39-0) and Lufkin(29-6) and I still think Madison is the best basketball team we played all season. We lost to Madison(39-0) in the finals of the Dulles tournament and then to Lufkin in the Region II finals." The Conroe coach continued, "Lufkin(29-6) has a good team and they're deceiving. You don't think they're doing a whole lot but when you look up at the scoreboard, they've beat you. But I just don't think that Lufkin can match up with Madison. I just think Madison has better overall people."

Houston Madison(39-0) opened up the game in typical fashion taking the lead 23-17 at the end of the first quarter. And of course, this was the norm for Lufkin(29-6) as well, because they were always trailing in games. In the game, Lufkin's outstanding sophomore, 6'8" Larry Davis outplayed Kite scoring 15 points with 14 rebounds. Kite(16.6) could only muster 5 points along with 20 rebounds in the contest. The big post was only two of 12 from the floor. The Panthers collapsing zone-described as a three-man front and two-man zone, by Coach Jesse Walker, was more than the Marlins could handle with a poor overall shooting percentage of 33%. Lufkin(29-6) out rebounded the Marlins 60-45 for the game and trailed Madison 48-45 going into the final quarter. In the end, Madison failed to come up big and lost 62-55 against the upstarts from Lufkin.

5'7" Ronnie Blake wound up as the game's leading scorer with 19 points followed by Larry Davis with 15 points and Grimes with 13 points. Grimes, who came off the bench after losing his starting position earlier in the year, hit five of seven from the floor. Ronnie Blake played much of the second half with four fouls.

6'6" John Simple and 6'4" Matt England kept Madison in the game and led the Marlins with 16 and 15 points, respectively. Lufkin was 14 of 26 from the foul line while Madison was only 7 of 19. Coach Benton of Madison responded to his team's poor play saying in the post-game interview, "I don't want to take anything away from Lufkin. They have a good quick team but in single elimination the best team doesn't always win. If we had to play them two out of three, things would have been different. But we weren't looking past them. We have no excuses. It was not one of our better games." Kite also commented, "They're a good team and you can't afford to play poorly up here."

In discussing one of the major upsets in state tournament history with Coach Walker, he said the team got their first look at Madison in a shoot around at the Drum the day before the game. "You only got 15 minutes to shoot and so we flipped a coin, Coach Benton won the flip and wanted to shoot first," Walker said. "We were all in the stands watching Madison shoot around and we didn't think they looked unbeatable," explained Walker. Interesting enough, when it came time for Lufkin to shoot, Madison left the court and did not watch the Panthers shoot. "We were a confident team, we had played a lot of close games against all types of teams, we weren't afraid of anybody," Walker stated.

In the night cap, Ft. Worth Dunbar(36-3) came into the game against Austin Lanier(33-3) with almost as much publicity as Houston Madison. Some thought Dunbar had more pressure because they were thought to have the best team in the state the last two seasons, and were unable to live up to the hype. Also, the Dunbar fans were bigger than any group Austin had seen, and they wanted a state title desperately. Replacing the great James Griffin at the post position was 6'8" junior, Gilbert Collier, who averaged 14 points and 8 rebounds. Another junior, 6'6" Andre Allen, was a top recruit while 6'4" Anthony Ware led the team in scoring with 16.0 points a game. High flying sophomore, Willie Ashley, came off the bench and was a tremendous talent. If you're looking for a difference maker comparing the '77 team and the '78 team with the 1979 version, you might have to say it was the outstanding backcourt of Darrell Browder(14.6) and Furmia Nealy(12.1). They were not flashy but both really took care of the ball and could shoot from long range. Browder went on to make All Southwest Conference at T.C.U. and was drafted into the N.B.A. while Nealy had a solid career at North Texas State.

Austin Lanier(33-3), one of the top teams in the state all year, would enter the game for the first time all season as an underdog. When Coach Masch looked at Dunbar, he saw a taller version of his own team. This was nothing new to the Vikings, because they had been smaller than most everyone they've met during the season. "Everybody I've talked to says the way to beat Dunbar(36-3) is to slow them down, but you've gotta do what you do best, and what we do best is run," Masch said. "We might slow down and work a little harder for the good shot, but we're not going to hold the ball. People I've talked to say that Dunbar could beat a

pretty good college team," the coach added. 6'4" Elton Webster, 6'3" Eric Busboom, 6'0" Will Prosser, 6'0" Larry Lawrence, and 6'0" Harold Howard made up Lanier's potent lineup.

Dunbar(36-3) jumped on Austin Lanier(33-3) early taking a 20-8 first quarter lead. 6'4" sophomore Willie Ashley started in place of 6'8" Gilbert Collier, who was still struggling with his hip. Austin Lanier(33-3) had come too far to quit and came charging back on the Wildcats. Dunbar(36-3) moved in front at halftime 37-31. Things were all tied up going into the final quarter at 57-57. With the score tied, Furmia Nealy, Anthony Ware and Darrell Browder hit key buckets to give Dunbar the lead 67-61. Dunbar(36-3) would never relinquish the lead. The Wildcats proved that tall and quick will usually beat small and quick, as the Wildcats defeated Lanier 76-69 before a crowd of 11,980. Elton Webster kept Lanier in the game hitting 13 of 20 from the floor and finished with 26 points and 13 rebounds. "He is one of the best we've played," said Dunbar forward, Andre Allen. Coach Hughes was also a fan, "My stars, he can play. He can hurt you inside or out."

Willie Ashley commented after the game, "They fooled us, we thought they were going to slow it down on us. As long as they run, we like it, that's our game."

Darrell Browder finished with 19 points, Gilbert Collier 13 points, Antony Ware 18 points and 9 rebounds and Andre Allen had 12 points and 13 rebounds. The Wildcats balance and depth was incredible. Ashley had another fine game with 8 points and 14 rebounds. The Wildcats killed Austin Lanier(33-3) inside out rebounding them 65 to 45.

Coach Robert Hughes said, "We relaxed after we picked up that early lead. Everybody started celebrating before it was over and done with."

Elton Webster said after the game, "Dunbar really has a good team, when we tied it up, I thought we were ready to roll. But they had a lot of poise. They were really tall and you couldn't block them out." Lanier finished 33-4 on the season. This set up the anticlimactic state championship game between upstart Lufkin(30-6) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(37-3). Once again Lufkin got no respect.

Lufkin(30-6) was in a familiar role as the underdog against Dunbar, the #2 ranked team in the state. The Panthers had now defeated, #1 Madison, #4 Pollard, #7 Plano, #5 Conroe, and #20 S.O.C., so the rankings meant little to the Lufkin Panthers. Could Lufkin do it one more time against the tall and athletic Dunbar team? Most people at the tournament felt it was a miss match and gave Lufkin no chance. As the game unfolded, it was a classic. Lufkin(31-6) jumped out to a 10-4 lead in the first four minutes, then raced passed a stunned Dunbar team for a 23-10 first quarter lead. Dunbar came back to only trail 41-36 at halftime.

In the second half, Furmia Nealy got hot and Dunbar finally took the lead. Nealy hit four baskets from long range as the Wildcats took a 48-43 lead with 5:28

left in the third quarter. The lead changed hands 12 times over the next nine minutes. Dunbar had seemed to have taken control only to let the game slip away.

With 28 seconds left in the game, Dunbar(37-3) led 74-71 on a pair free-throws by Darrell Browder(14.0). 6'8" Larry Davis trimmed the lead to one with 19 seconds left on a short jumper. With the ball and the lead, all the Wildcats had to do was hold onto the ball and get fouled. Andre Allen threw the ball down court wildly and gave Lufkin the ball back with 12 seconds remaining. For the third time in five playoff games, Ronnie Blake would hit the winning bucket. His five-foot left handed bank shot with two seconds left gave the Panthers the championship 75-74. Blake started on the right side coming off a screen by Davis and the defender fell down and nobody picked up the little guard as he hit the game winner, and with it the state championship.

Darrell Browder led the Cats with 21 points while Larry Davis paced Lufkin with 22 points and 12 rebounds. Ronnie Blake finished with 21 points.

The miracle season was just that for Lufkin, they had made the playoffs nudging Tyler Lee 60-59 on a shot at the buzzer by Blake. The Panthers were unranked in the final Fort Worth Star-Telegram ratings after being ranked throughout the year. Few prep teams in the annals of High School basketball can match their record for steel nerves. Coach Walker said, "It's been a miracle season." Blake, who was bound for U.T. Arlington to play football, said "I had my eyes on the hoop and that state championship," after his game-winning field goal.

"They're tough," said Dunbar coach Robert Hughes. "They're state champions! It should have never come down to the last shot." Browder was upset after the close loss saying, "I let him penetrate too much, I could have done better." Coach Walker commenting on all the team's Lufkin(31-6) had knocked off on their championship run," on the night we played 'em, Plano(28-5) was the best team we played. But Conroe(29-8) was tough and so was Madison(39-1). But the Madison game was a blowout for us, seven points."

Coach Hughes felt losing 6'8" post Collier with 6:11 left to fouls really hurt the Wildcats. With Collier out, Lufkin could push out farther on defense without his inside presence. Dunbar had lost their second state championship game in three years and finished 37-4.

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

(42) Coach Walker came to Lufkin during the 1976-77 season and his team was a dismal 11-19. The next season the Panthers finished 29-8 and lost in the regional semi-finals to Grand Prairie 75-68. Lufkin had

beaten Lake Highlands in Bi-District 70-65 to advance to regionals. Walker ran three different defenses along with several presses. He ran a 2-3, man and 1-3-1, which were the team's most popular defenses.

In the 59-year history of the tournament it was the largest crowd yet at 13,210. Unlike the Madison(39-1) game, the Panthers were hot from the start hitting 58% from the field in the first half. Coach Hughes later admitted that the twenty-point swing took a lot out of his team. In retirement, I asked Hughes if this was one of his best teams and he responded by saying, "That team had to be in my top three or four teams." He also noted that late in the championship game, Ashley goes to the basket and slams home a two-handed dunk, which all but wraps up the game for Dunbar. Instead of getting the bucket, the ref's call him for a technical foul for hanging on the rim and waves off the basket, giving Lufkin two foul shots and the ball out of bounds. Coach Hughes felt like that killed his team's momentum. Hughes also added, "Ashley was one of the best dunkers Dunbar ever had. The only guy that could come close to Ashley athletically was Lance Jackson off my state championship team in 2003." Ashley signed with T.C.U. out of high school, but never had the grades, so he went to a JUCO in Kansas, but he never made it because of grades. He was an unbelievable talent. He was one of the strongest and one of the most physically talented players to ever play in the state tournament. Ashley would make three straight appearances in Austin. A rarity in class AAAA basketball.

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

Reflecting back on the 1979 season it was one of the most remarkable seasons I have ever witness in the last 40 plus years. Houston Madison(39-1) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(37-4) were both great teams, even though they lost at state. The Marlins and the Wildcats could play with anybody during any decade. Danny Kaspar discussed the top teams he saw both as a player, scout and coach during the 1970s. Kaspar said the best he saw during the decade would include, Houston Houston Wheatley of '73, Dallas Roosevelt of '72, Houston Kashmere in '74 and '75 and Houston Madison of 1979. High praise for the Marlins, coming from a coach who has 40 years of basketball experience.

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

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

1. Houston Madison 35-0 6'11" Greg Kite(17.0), 6'6" Johnny Simple(15.9)
2. Ft. Worth Dunbar 32-3 6'6" Andre Allen, 6'0" Darrell Browder
3. Houston Wheatley 27-7 6'8" Roosevelt McGruder, 6'0" Antonio Malveaux
4. Beaumont Pollard 31-1 6'7" Kenneth Perkins(18.0), Freddie Coleman
5. Austin Lanier 28-3 6'4" Elton Webster(15.6), 6'2" Harold Howard
6. Conroe 26-6 6'10" David Bunce(21.0), 6'11" Dan Bunce
7. Plano 25-4 6'3" Travis Benke(22.0), 6'7" Kirk Lundblade
8. Houston Jones 29-5 6'5" Fred Reynolds, 6'6" Rickie Thompson(19.0)
9. Deer Park 25-6 6'8" Robert Shaw, 6'7" Keith Westerman
10. Houston Kashmere 22-6 6'3" Ernest Patterson
11. Cypress-Fairbanks 29-5 6'8" Brad Olson(18.2)
12. Houston Milby 23-5 6'2" Rob Williams(26.3), 6'7" Paul Cunningham
13. Lubbock Monterey 22-3 6'6" Craig Ehlo
14. Pharr S. J. Alamo 28-2
15. S.A. Sam Houston 25-8
16. Waco University 28-4 6'8" Ozell Hall
17. S. Grand Prairie 25-6 6'2" Kirk Koke(18.4)
18. Lake Highlands 23-5 6'4" Raleigh Freeman(15.0), 6'0" Jim Vorlop(20.0)
19. Midland High 26-8 6'6" Charles Johnson, 6'6" Herb Johnson
20. Dallas S.O.C. 24-5 6'2" Puntus Wilson, 6'3" Tony Moore

Honorable Mention: E.P. Address(24-7), Harlingen(29-7), Longview(20-8), Amarillo(18-9), SA Roosevelt(21-8), Wichita Falls(22-10), Corpus Christi King(23-9), Dulles(21-13), El Paso Eastwood(16-11), Ft. Worth Richland(20-10), SA Edgewood(21-9), Dallas Roosevelt(23-7), Lufkin(25-6), Laredo Martin(22-4), Waco Richfield(22-6), Spring Branch Memorial(26-7), Amarillo Tascosa(21-6), Nacogdoches(27-6), El Paso Coronado(25-5), Tyler Lee(19-6), North Mesquite(27-8), Ft. Worth Paschal(26-8). Mission(25-8), Seguin(25-8), Houston Washington(26-5), Houston Smiley(24-9), SA Highlands(23-9), Jersey Village(23-10), El Paso High(19-13), El Paso Irvin(19-11), Austin L.B.J.(25-8), El Campo(22-7), Ft.W. O.D. Wyatt(23-6), SA McCollum(26-6), Houston Forest Park(23-8), Dallas Kimball(24-5), C.C. Carroll(24-8), Ft. Worth Trimble Tech(20-9), San Antonio Memorial(21-6), Grand Prairie(23-8), SA Fox Tech(26-9), Dallas Thomas Jefferson(21-7), Houston Westchester(21-12), Victoria(20-8), SA Roosevelt(21-8):

All-State Team: The **Texas Sports Writers** did another outstanding job trying to make since of all the talent from around the state in 1979. **1st Team-**5'7" Ronnie Blake(20.0), Lufkin; 6'2" Rob Williams(26.3/8.1), Houston Milby; sophomore 6'7" Larry Davis(20.0), Lufkin; 6'11" Greg Kite(16.7), Houston Madison; 6'4" Elton Webster(15.6), Austin Lanier; **2nd team-** 6'2" Columbus Garrett(27.4), Dallas Lincoln; 6'1" Harold Howard(15.0), Austin Lanier; 6'3" Travis Benke(21.9), Plano; 6'6" John Simple(15.9), Houston Madison; 6'5" Rickie Thompson(19.0/13.0), Houston Jones; **3rd Team-** 6'0" Darrell Browder(16.0) Ft. Worth Dunbar; 5'9" Danny

Ray Wright(20.2), Odessa; 6'2" Steve Washington(31.2), North Dallas; 6'10" David Bunce(21.0/14.5), Conroe; 6'4" Paul McKimmey(24.0), Richardson:

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

All-State Team: Texas Association of Basketball Coaches{First All-State Team}- Rob Williams(26.3), Houston Milby; 6'11" Greg Kite(16.7), Houston Madison; 6'6" Ricky Thompson(19.0), Houston Jones; 6'4" Elton Webster(15.6), Austin Lanier; 6'0" Darrell Browder(16.0), Ft. Worth Dunbar; 6'6" John Simple(15.9), Houston Madison; 6'7" Travis Salem, El Paso Coronado; 6'4" Travis Benke(21.9), Plano; 6'1" Mark Saunders, S.A. Memorial; 6'5" Craig Ehlo, Lubbock Monterey; 6'4" Greg Shropshire, Ft. Worth Paschal; 5'7" Ronnie Blake(20.0), Lufkin; 6'7" Robert Shaw(15/12), Deer Park; 6'2" Charles Nagy(26.2), Klein; 6'2" Jay Shakir(18.5/11.3/5.8 ast), S.A. Fox Tech:

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

Recruits: Texas was now becoming a hot bed for recruiters from all over the country after the talented groups in 1977 and again in 1978. One SWC coach said, "the year was not as good as overall as last year, but the Houston area has a bunch of players. There is no one like Rudy Woods but there are a lot guards and wing men who can play. **Rob Williams** (26.3) was the top recruit in the state and #16 in the nation and he signed with Houston and Guy Lewis. He was named 3rd team All-American at the University of Houston and led the Cougars to the NCAA final four in 1982. He skipped his senior year to enter the NBA draft and was taken with the 19th overall pick by the Nuggets. He averaged 21.1 points and 4.5 assist his junior year. A surprise recruit at number two was **Claude Riley**(31.0/12.5) of Crockett over Greg Kite(16.7) of Houston Madison. Riley at 6'9" was very long and athletic. He signed with Texas A&M at #19 in the nation, according to Knoxville News Sentinel survey of coaches from all over the country. Riley was drafted #64 in the NBA draft by the 76ers and averaged 14.3 points and 9.2 rebounds his senior year at A&M. He played professionally in Spain and Italy. 6'2" **George Turner**(27.1/13.9) of Hitchcock was #3 in the state recruiting and #35 in the nation. He signed with California Irvine and was named 2nd team All-Big Western Conference his senior year and drafted by the Mavericks with their 153rd pick. Coach Robert Perry of Hitchcock called Turner, "the greatest high school player I've seen during my 15 years of coaching." One national service had Milby's Rob

Williams rated as one of the top five in the country early in the year, but many coaches agree that Turner has at least caught Williams, if not passed him. **Greg Kite**(16.7/15.1) was #4 according to this list and of course he went to B.Y.U. (He was Mormon). Kite did not have that great of a career averaging 7.7 points and 8.8 rebounds at B.Y.U., but his numbers were good enough for the Celtics to draft him with the 21st pick in the first round. He had a long career of 11 years in the NBA and won two NBA titles with the Celtics. His last NBA contract with the Orlando Magic he signed for \$1.1 million. He was a big strong force inside who could defend and rebound at a high level. If you used the Ft. Worth Star Telegram survey the recruiting list was different. Kite was #1, Williams #2, Turner #3, Riley #4, **Jay Shakir**(18.0) #5 from Fox Tech who signed with Baylor. 6'8" **Robert Shaw**(15.0/12.0) of Deer Park was #6 and signed with Rice. At #7 was the high-flying **Rickie Thompson**(19.0/13.0) of Houston Jones who signed with UTEP, but ended up at Houston Baptist, and had a very limited career after being projected as one of the top players in the state. The #8 recruit in the state according to the Ft. Worth Star Telegram poll was 7'1" **Steve Frederick**(16.5/8.2) of Pasadena Dobie who committed to Texas. At #9 was **John Grammer**(23.7/10.0) of Rice Consolidated who was signed by Oklahoma. #10 was **James Bailey**(23.6/16.0) of Waco Richfield who stayed at home at Baylor, **David Bunce**(21.0/14.5) of Conroe committed to Houston, #12, 6'2" **Charles Negy**(26.2/9.0) of Klein, 6'5" **Fred Reynolds**(19.4/10.0) of Houston Jones went to UTEP and averaged 14.3 points and 6.7 rebounds. Reynolds from Houston Jones was named first team All-WAC while at UTEP and was the 44th pick in the NBA draft by the Bullets. His senior season he paced UTEP to the NCAA tournament, averaging 13.9 points and 5.2 rebounds. He played professionally in Belgium and Spain. He also played in the 1983 Pan American games and the 1982 World Basketball Championships. 6'7" **Bill Wendlandt**(23.7) of Austin Westlake signed with Texas. Wendlandt had a nice career at Texas and was drafted into the NBA by the Nuggets with the 169th pick. #15 was **Kenneth Lyons**(26.0/12.0) from Ft. Worth Trimble Tech who played at North Texas and was a 2nd round pick, and #47 overall selection in the NBA draft by the 76ers. Lyons averaged 20.6 points and 9.2 rebounds for his career with the Mean Green. He was named to the North Texas Hall of Fame in 1993. At #16 on the recruiting list by the Star Telegram was 6'4" **Paul McKimmey**(24.0/12.6) of Richardson who signed with San Diego St, and later transferred to Texas Tech. 6'0" **Darrell Browder**(16.0/8.0) of Dunbar came out of nowhere and was #17 and of course went to T.C.U. He would go down as one of the top guards to ever play for the legendary Robert Hughes. Browder was not heavily recruited and signed late with the Horn Frogs. He ended up as the all-time leading scorer at TCU and was named 1st team All-SWC. He is #4 all-time in assists and #5 in steals with the Frogs. He was inducted into the TCU Hall of Fame in 2013. Coach Hughes called Browder a gym rat. He was drafted by the Rockets with the 71st pick in the NBA draft. #19

John Simple(15.9/14.6) of Houston Madison committed to Texas early but was unable to play due to health reasons. #20 6'7" **Frank Rodriguez**(27.5/11.9) of S.A. Marshall played at New Mexico State. Another outstanding recruit that was overlooked by several recruiting services was 6'7" **Kenneth Perkins**(18.0/16.5) of Beaumont Charlton Pollard. Perkins originally committed to Baylor but later signed with Lamar University. He was a three-time all-conference performer at Lamar and finished his career with 1,299 points and 912 rebounds. Perkins helped the Cardinals to two NCAA Tournaments and two postseason NIT appearances during his playing career. He played professionally in Europe and New Zealand and is the father of Kendrick Perkins of Beaumont Ozen and N.B.A. fame.

You would think the recruiters had a pretty good grip on the top players in the state but they didn't. Texas schools missed a player that had the best pro career out of anybody in the class, 6'6" **Craig Ehlo** of Lubbock Monterey. He traveled all the way to Washington St. and later was the 48th pick in the NBA draft. He averaged 12.0 points and 4.5 assists per game and led the Cougars to the 2nd round of the NCAA tournament, playing for Coach George Ravling. Ehlo had a nice career guarding Michael Jordan with the Cleveland Cavaliers. Another player who slipped under the radar, but Guy Lewis didn't miss him was 6'9" **Larry Micheaux** of Houston Worthing. The University of Houston picked him up and he started in a final four with the Cougars and was the 29th pick in the NBA draft by the Chicago Bulls. He was a four-year starter for the Cougars and averaged 13.8 his senior year. Several other players were recruited in 1979, 6'7" **David Reynolds**(21.2) Perryton signed with Texas Tech, **Ronnie Blake** ended up transferring from UTA to Baylor and played basketball for the Bears, 6'0" **Furmia Nealy**(12.0) of Dunbar had a solid career at North Texas State University, 6'4" **Elton Webster**(15.1) of Austin Lanier went to Tulane, 6'5" **Curtis Wallace**(15.2) of Huntsville also attended Tyler Jr. College; Former Kashmere coach, Eldon Drew, took over as head coach at New Mexico St. and came into Houston and made a run on talent grabbing 6'3" **Ernest Patterson**(19.0/10.0) of Houston Kashmere, **Arnold Blackman** of Houston Yates, and **Jeff Robertson** of Houston Jones. Patterson had a solid career at New Mexico St., leading the team in scoring his senior year at 19.5, and twice led the team in assists, and led the team in steals three straight seasons. He ranks #11 on the school's all-time scoring list. He was drafted by the Bulls with the 121st pick. 6'7" **Charles Johnson** from Midland signed with Texas Tech and was the older brother of future Midland standout, Herb Johnson. Charles was the leading scorer at Texas Tech and an outstanding player in his own right. Charles later played professionally in Asia. 6'0" **Antonio Malveaux** of Wheatley went to Idaho St and transferred to Texas State. The dynamic tandem from Wheatley, 6'8" **Roosevelt McGruder** and 5'8" **Tracey Bookman** took their talents to North Carolina A&M. 6'0" **Pat Hicks**(8.1) of Madison joined **Nealy** at North Texas, 6'8" **Ozell Hall** of Waco University and 6'7" **Daryl Baucham** of Waco High both signed with Baylor. The scoring machine,

6'3" **Steve Washington**(31.2) of North Dallas committed to Grambling, and 6'3" **Travis Benke**(21.9/8.0) of Plano signed with Abilene Christian. 6'7" **Chester Smith**(14.0) of Wilmer Hutchins played at Midland JC and U.A. Birmingham. 6'1" **Mookie Smith**(27.2) of Wilmer Hutchins played at North Texas. 5'11" **Tom Fuller** played at Lon Morris and was also from Deer Park. 6'3" **Raleigh Freeman**(18.0) of Lake Highlands signed with Midland JC. 6'5" **Greg Shroshire**(17.5) from Ft. Worth Paschal. 5'10" **Kenneth Dodd**(23.4) from Krum. 6'9" **Brad Olson**(17.6) from Cypress-Fairbanks. 6'9" **Randy Pickett**(16.4/15.2) from Humble. 6'8" **Tommy Kerr**(20.7/11.9) of Pasadena Rayburn, 6'6" **Darwin Butler**(16.5/14.1) of San Antonio Sam Houston, 6'4" **Anthony Ware**(16.0) from Ft. Worth Dunbar traveled to Temple JC.

This was by far the deepest group to ever come out of the state of Texas. It was a talented group. Others included, 6'2" **Nate Mason** of Greenville, who played Quarterback at Nebraska, 6'2" **Harold East** of Alice, 6'3" **Wayne Wallace** of Ft. Worth Wyatt, 6'3" **Pat Wilson** of Nederland, 6'1" **Mark Saunders** of S.A. Memorial, 5'10" **Jamie Pipes** and 6'5" **Ken Crowder** of Ft. Worth Richland, 6'4" **Rick Elliot** of Austin L.B.J., 6'3" **Mark Ross** of Big Spring, 6'5" **Curt Thomas** of S.A. Roosevelt, 6'6" **Bobby Davis**, Dallas Roosevelt, 6'5" **Tony Mathis** of Dallas Kimball, 6'3" **Kyle Money** of Dallas Samuell, 6'7" **Tom Roe** of Halton City.

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

Craig Ehlo 6'6"	Lubbock Monterrey	Washington St. 12.0/ 4.5 Asst.	<u>Rockets NBA #48</u>
Greg Kite 6'11"	Houston Madison	B.Y.U. 7.7/8.8	<u>Celtics NBA #21</u>
Rob Williams 6'2"	Houston Milby	Houston, All-Am. 25.0/ 4.5 Ast.*	<u>Nuggets NBA #19</u>
Darrell Browder 6'0"	Ft. Worth Dunbar	T.C.U. All-SWC 17.3/4.2 Asst.*	<u>Draft Rockets #71</u>
Larry Micheaux 6'8"	Houston Worthing	Houston, Final Four 13.8/6.8	<u>Draft Bulls #29</u>
Kenneth Lyons 6'7"	F.W. Trimble Tech	N. Texas St. All-Conf. 24.3/8.4*	<u>Draft 76ers #47</u>
Fred Reynolds 6'5"	Houston Jones	UTEP All-WAC 14.3/6.7*	<u>Draft Bullets #44</u>
Claude Riley 6'9"	Crockett	Texas A&M, All-SWC 14.3/9.2*	<u>Draft Nets #64</u>
George Turner 6'2"	Hitchcock	Cal. Irvine, All-Conf. *	<u>Draft Mavs #153</u>
Ernest Patterson 6'3"	Houston Kashmere	N. Mex. St., 19.5/4.2/4.2 asst*	<u>Draft Bulls #121</u>
Kenneth Perkins 6'7"	Beaumont Pollard	Lamar Univ., All-Conf. 12.4/8.8*	

(*All-Conference)

All-Americans: 6'11" Greg Kite was named the only McDonald's All-American and named 2nd team Parade Magazine All-American. Rob Williams of Milby was named to the 3rd team on the Parade Magazine All-American squad. Adidas named Greg Kite and George Turner to the squad while Basketball Weekly named Kite to their 5th team and Rob Williams to their 9th team. Named Honorable Mention All-Americans by Basketball Weekly were: Pat Hicks and Johnny Simple from Houston Madison, Rickie Thompson of Houston Jones, Gilbert Collier from Dunbar, Earnest Patterson of Houston Kashmere, Paul Cunningham of Houston Milby, Andre Ross from Houston Milby, Roosevelt McGruder from Houston Wheatley, David Bunce of Conroe, Don Bunce of Conroe, Tim Hammond of Houston Westbury, Robert Shaw of Deer Park, Jay Shakir from San Antonio Fox Tech, James

Bailey of Waco Richfield, Arnold Blackman of Houston Yates, Ralph Gilmore of Ft. Worth Nolan, Larry Davis and Ronnie Blake from Lufkin, William Smith of Wilmer Hutchins. Yes, I know a very heavy flavor from the Houston area. It was like Dallas and Ft. Worth didn't play basketball in 1979.

National Rankings: *In the national polls, once again Basketball Weekly was really the only prominent publication ranking national teams. Houston Madison(39-1) finished #25 and Dunbar(37-4) finished #38. Lufkin did not make the top "50". What?*

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

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

1979 Power Rankings:

1.	Houston Madison	39-1	96.17	State Semis	Loss to Lufkin 62-55
2.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	37-4	95.81	State Finals	Loss to Lufkin 75-74
3.	Huntsville	27-5	95.69	State Champs 3-A	def. Min. Wells 48-45
4.	Austin Lanier	33-4	94.00	State Semis	Loss to Dunbar 76-69
5.	El Paso Coronado	30-6	92.91	Regional Finals	Loss to Dunbar 42-37
6.	Beaumont Pollard	34-3	90.18	Regional Finals	Loss H. Madison 62-58
7.	Dallas S.O.C.	29-6	89.96	Regional Semis	Loss to Lufkin 73-72
8.	Lufkin	31-6	89.83	State Champs	def. FW Dunbar 75-74
9.	Mineral Wells	33-4	89.75	State Finals 3-A	Loss Huntsville 48-45
10.	Plano High	28-5	89.42	Bi-District	Loss to Lufkin 71-69
11.	Tyler Lee	19-11	86.19	3 rd Place District	
12.	Houston Milby	24-6	85.71	District Runner-up	
13.	Daingerfield	26-2	84.51	State Semis 3-A	loss Huntsville 69-37
14.	Nacogdoches	27-6	83.95	District Runner-up	
15.	Houston Wheatley	30-8	83.72	Regional Semis	Loss to Madison 74-70
16.	Ft. Worth Paschal	26-8	82.86	District Runner-up	
17.	Lake Highlands	23-6	81.92	District Runner-up	
18.	Houston Jones	29-5	81.12	District Runner-up	
19.	Waxahachie	26-6	80.97	Regional Finals 3-A	loss Daingerfield 43-38
20.	McKinney	20-7	79.88	Bi-District 3-A	loss Waxahachie 81-73
21.	Dallas Roosevelt	26-8	76.72	District Runner-up	

This was flat out and outstanding season for high school basketball in Texas with several unique and unforgettable teams and the power ratings prove that.

Houston Madison(39-1) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(37-4) were the top ranked teams for the entire state for almost the whole season. Both teams were so talented and gifted but they both loss to a hot streaking Lufkin team. In looking at the numbers it pretty much bares out from the start of the season to the end, Houston Madison and Ft. Worth Dunbar were the two best teams. Also, two really strong schools made the top ten from class 3-A, which is unusual.

The top recruits on the top-rated power teams saw Houston Madison with three very impressive players: Greg Kite(#1), John Simple(#19) and junior, Matt England(#6) on the 1980 list. Although Pat Hicks was not on any recruiting list he did play at North Texas State giving Madison four division one players. Hicks finished at North Texas as one of the top assist men in school history. Dunbar's list was impressive also with, Darrell Browder(#17), juniors, Andre Allen(#3), Gilbert Collier(#14) and sophomore, Willie Ashley(#3) on the 1981 list. Furmia Nealy also had a fine career at North Texas State. No other schools approached this much talent.

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

1979 4-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso Coronado(28-5)	74	El Paso Eastwood(16-11)	53
	Lubbock Monterey(23-3)	42	Amarillo Tascosa(21-6)	38
	Midland(27-8) #9	59	Wichita Falls(22-10)	56
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(32-3) #2	84	Ft. Worth Richland(21-10)	59
Region I Semis	El Paso Coronado(29-5)	58	Lub Monterey(24-3) #13	43
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(33-3) #2	81	Midland(28-7) #9	74
<u>Region I Finals</u>	<u>Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-3) #2</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>El Paso Coronado(30-5)</u>	<u>37</u>
Region II Bi-Dist.	Wilmer Hutchins(25-11)	68	Grand Prairie(24-8) OT	64
	Conroe(27-7) #5	57	Waco University(28-4) #16	49
	Dallas S.O.C.(28-5) #20	76	Dallas Hillcrest(24-5)	61
	Lufkin(26-6)	71	Plano(28-4) #7	69
Region II Semis	Conroe(28-7) #5	73	Wilmer Hutchins(26-11)	59
	Lufkin(27-6)	73	Dallas S.O.C.(29-5) #20	72
<u>Region II Finals</u>	<u>Lufkin(28-6)</u>	<u>58</u>	<u>Conroe(29-7) #5</u>	<u>57</u>
Region III Bi-Dist.	Houston Wheatley(29-7) #3	89	H. Kashmere(21-9) #10	78
	Houston Madison(36-0) #1	76	S. B. Memorial(27-8)	52
	Beaumont Pollard(32-2) #4	73	H. Forest Brook(24-8)	57
	Deer Park(26-6) #9	59	Stratford Dulles(22-14)	39
Region III Semis	Houston Madison(37-0) #1	74	Houston Wheatley(30-7) #3	70
	Beaumont Pollard(33-2) #4	59	Deer Park(27-6) #9	58
<u>Region III Finals</u>	<u>Houston Madison(38-0) #1</u>	<u>62</u>	<u>Beaumont Pollard(34-2) #4</u>	<u>58</u>
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Austin Lanier(30-3) #5	57	El Campo(23-7)	52
	Seguin(27-8)	67	SA Highlands(25-9)	62
	Corpus Christi Carroll(25-9)	66	Pharr S. J. Alamo(28-2) #14	46
	San Antonio Memorial(23-6)	63	San Antonio McCollum(27-6)	60
Region IV Semis	Austin Lanier(31-3) #5	64	Seguin(28-8)	55
	Corpus Christy Carroll(26-9)	72	San Antonio Memorial(24-6)	70
<u>Region IV Finals</u>	<u>Austin Lanier(32-3) #5</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>C.C. Carroll(27-9)</u>	<u>59</u>
State Semi-Finals	Lufkin(29-6)	62	Houston Madison(39-0) #1	55
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(35-3) #2	76	Austin Lanier(33-3) #5	69
State Finals	Lufkin(30-6)	75	Ft. Worth Dunbar(36-3) #2	74

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

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

51. S.A. Fox Tech	26-9	(one of the top players in the state Jay Shakir)
52. El Paso Irvin	20-12	{defeated Coronado in District 68-54}
53. Victoria	20-8	{missed the playoffs, lost out to El Campo}
54. Austin Johnson	25-8	(runner-up to Austin Lanier)
55. FW Richland	21-11	{Bi-District loss to Dunbar 84-59}
56. Longview	20-8	{toughest District in the state}
57. North Dallas	20-8	{loss to Plano 74-61 and won in OT 76-74}
58. FW Eastern Hills	22-8	{tough District}
59. El Paso Andress	25-8	{four of their losses came at the hands of Coronado}
60. El Paso Eastwood	18-12	{defeated Coronado early in the season 53-48}
61. Marshall	14-11	{held down wins over Tyler Lee, Lufkin, Nacogdoches}

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

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

Honorable Mention by Years-Next "40"

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

{Wheatley 1970, Wheatley 1973 and Kashmere 1975, all three were the top teams of the Decade}
 According to these totals the top programs of the 1970s were as follows- Houston Wheatley(9), Dallas South Oak Cliff(5), Houston Houston Yates(4), Houston Jones(4), Pt. Arthur Lincoln(3), Ft. Worth Dunbar(3), Clear Lake(3), DeerPark(3), Houston Milby(3), Bryan(2), Dallas Roosevelt(2), Houston Madison(2), Houston Westchester(2), Midland Lee(2), Houston Kashmere(2), and Midland(2).

Power Ratings of the 1970's

Top Teams of the 1970s	W/L	Pts-Opp	Margin	Power	Standout
1. H. Kashmere(75)*	46-0	91.4-63.8	+27.6	107.62	Karl Godine
2. Houston Wheatley(72)	39-3	106.2-79.0	+27.2	107.41	Eddie Owens
3. Houston Wheatley(73)*	41-1	108.5-80.6	+28.0	105.15	Eddie Owens
4. Houston Wheatley(70)*	39-0	96.1-63.2	+32.9	102.11	Dwight Jones
5. S. B. Memorial(70)	37-4	67.3-46.2	+21.1	98.97	Randy Younglin
6. Houston Wheatley(71)	37-5	96.9-73.5	+23.4	98.92	Eddie Owens
7. Corsicana(74)	34-1	72.3-46.7	+25.6	98.70	Donnie Chambers
8. South Oak Cliff(77)*	35-8	89.3-72.3	+17.0	97.07	Cullen Mayfield
9. Dallas Roosevelt(72)*	35-4	86.0-66.1	+19.9	96.76	Ira Terrell
10. Cypress-Fair.(71)*	36-6	71.9-61.4	+10.5	96.69	Jerry Mercer
11. Houston Madison(79)	39-1	70.1-53.3	+16.8	96.17	Greg Kite
12. South Oak Cliff(74)	37-5	85.9-70.2	+15.7	95.97	Charles McMillian
13. Ft. Worth Dunbar(79)	37-4	81.1-62.7	+18.4	95.81	Darrell Browder
14. Huntsville(79)* 3-A	27-5	76.2-55.5	+20.7	95.69	Curtis Wallace
15. Ft. Worth Paschal(75)	32-3	79.2-58.2	+21.0	95.10	John Schlicher
16. H. Kashmere(74)*	39-2	95.0-71.7	+23.3	94.92	Karl Godine
17. Lamesa(75)* 3-A	34-0			94.65	Jim Vaszauskas
18. S.A. Jefferson(72)	34-4	70.9-58.0	+12.9	94.47	Rick Bullock
19. South Oak Cliff(75)	35-4	88.1-67.7	+20.4	94.46	Waymon Lister
20. Austin Lanier(79)	33-4	73.7-57.9	+15.8	94.00	Elton Webster
21. Midland(73)	32-4	71.6-54.9	+16.7	93.49	Ronald Taylor
22. El Paso Coronado(79)	30-6			92.91	Travis Salem
23. Denton High(74)	26-7			92.75	Gary Goodner
24. Ft. Worth Dunbar(77)	39-2	82.4-63.8	+18.4	92.58	James Griffin
25. Clear Lake(76)	37-4			92.23	Steve Sylestine
26. Dallas Kimball(71)	38-2			91.91	Eddie Fitzhugh
27. Abilene(78)	34-5	73.3-61.3	+12.0	91.54	David Little
28. Houston Wheatley(77)	28-6			91.29	Alvin Brooks
29. Bryan(76)	31-3			91.19	Rudy Woods
30. H. Wheatley(78)*	31-6	86.8-77.1	+ 9.7	91.16	Nolan Greenleaf
31. Carrollton Turner(70)	38-3	74.1-60.0	+14.0	90.95	Jimmy Murphy
32. Midland(72)	31-3	73.8-53.7	+20.1	90.80	Ronald Taylor
33. S. A. Burbank(77)	35-5	64.0-46.7	+17.3	90.45	Gilbert Salinas
34. Midland Lee(75)	33-3	66.9-53.0	+13.9	90.25	Brett Blackwell
35. El Paso Eastwood(76)	31-3	67.7-53.6	+14.1	90.23	Jim Bowden
36. Beaumont Pollard(79)	34-3			90.11	Kenneth Perkins

By Year: 1979(6), 1972(4), 1974(4), 1975(5), 1977(4), 1970(3), 1971(3), 1976(3), 1973-(2), 1978(2):

*STATE CHAMPIONS

Top 100 Players of the 1970's in Texas

All-Star Team of the Decade

1st Team

6'10" Dwight Jones(70)	28.5	Houston Wheatley	Houston
6'8" Ira Terrell(72)	35.0	Dallas Roosevelt	S.M.U.
6'6" Eddie Owens(73)	28.0	Houston Wheatley	U.N.L.V.
6'2" Rob Williams(79)	26.3	Houston Milby	Houston
6'4" Karl Godine(75)	31.5	Houston Kashmere	Texas A&M

2nd Team

6'11" Rudy Woods(78)	25.4	Bryan	Texas A&M
6'7" Sammy Hervey(70)	37.0	Dallas Crozier Tech	S.M.U.
6'7" Earl Evans(74)	28.3	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	U.N.L.V.
6'4" Ricky Pierce(78)	28.1	Garland	Rice
6'4" Keith Edmondson(78)	29.7	San Antonio MacArthur	Purdue

3rd Team

6'8" Rick Bullock(72)	24.1	San Antonio Jefferson	Texas Tech
6'7" Vernon Smith(77)	22.0	Dallas Carter	Texas A&M
6'3" Tate Armstrong(73)	26.2	Spring Woods	Duke
6'4" John Schlicher(75)	21.0	Ft. Worth Paschal	Texas A&M
6'2" David Burns(77)	22.0	Dallas South Oak Cliff	St. Louis U.

Player Ranking 1970s

Players(5)	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'10" Dwight Jones(70)*	28.5	Houston Wheatley	Houston	Hawks #9
6'8" Rick Bullock(72)*	24.1	SA Jefferson	Texas Tech	Knicks #60
6'11" Rudy Woods(78)*	25.4	Bryan	Texas A&M	Mavs #74
6'10" James Griffin(78)	18.1	Ft. Worth Dunbar	Illinois	Nets #80
6'8" Albert Jones(76)	20.4	Houston Worthing	New Mexico	Rockets #106
6'10" Maurice Presley(71)	25.4	Houston Davis	Houston	Blazers #77
6'8" B.B. Davis(77)	21.0	Beaumont French	Lamar Univ.	Kings #82
6'11" Gilbert Salinas(77)	20.0	SA Burbank	Notre Dame	Hawks #167
6'8" Terry White(78)	19.0	El Paso Eastwood	U.T.E.P.	Cavs #93
6'11" Greg Kite(79)	16.7	Houston Madison	Brigham Young	Celtics #21
6'10" Alton Lister(76)	24.0	Dallas Woodrow W.	Arizona St.	Bucks #21
6'11" Tommy Barker(72)	31.2	Weslaco	Minn./Hawaii	Hawks #53
6'8" Gary Brewster(72)	24.2	Midland	U.T.E.P.	Braves #48
6'8" Cedric Joseph(71)	24.6	FW Arlington Hts.	Texas A&M	
6'7" Danny Van Rheen(73)	24.5	Deer Park	Missouri	
6'7" Michael Long(73)	14.0	Houston Wheatley	UTA/Texas Southern	
6'9" Ronald Taylor(73)	23.8	Midland High	Nebraska/Mid.	
6'7" Leonard Mitchell(77)	22.0	Houston Washington	Houston	
6'9" Anthony Lee(78)	25.0	Tyler John Tyler	Wash/Detroit U.	
6'8" Melvin Davis(74)	23.8	Greenville	North Texas St.	
6'7" Kenneth Williams(74)	19.0	Dallas S.O.C.	North Texas St.	
6'10" Allen Windor(75)	19.6	Arlington	Houston/UTA	
6'8" Larry Micheaux(79)		Houston Worthing	Houston	Bulls #29
6'7" Bill Wendlandt(79)	23.7	Austin Westlake	Texas	Nuggets#169
6'7" Maurice McDaniel(78)		Temple	Texas A&M	Nuggets#153
6'7" Kenneth Perkins(79)	20.0	Beaumont Pollard	Lamar University	

6'7"	Ed Lynum(71)	26.4	El Paso	Bel Air	U.T.E.P.	
6'8"	Preston Bailess(75)	15.4	CC	Carroll	Utah State	
6'8"	Tony Burns(77)		Marshall		U.T.E.P.	
	Players(4/5)	Pts.	Team	College	Pros	
6'8"	Ira Terrell(72)*	35.0	Dallas	Roosevelt	S.M.U.	Suns #47
6'7"	Earl Evans(74)*	28.3	Pt. Arthur	Lincoln	USC/UNLV	Pistons #157
6'7"	Vernon Smith(77)*	22.0	Dallas	Carter	Texas A&M	76ers #46
6'9"	Claude Riley(79)	31.0	Crockett		Texas A&M	Nets #64
6'6"	Toothpick Johnson(71)	21.0	Houston	Yates	Texas Tech	Rockets #101
6'8"	David Marrs(73)	20.0	Houston	Lamar	Houston	Rockets #78
6'5"	Rynn Wright(77)	25.0	Dallas	Roosevelt	Texas A&M	76ers #92
6'7"	Grasshopper Smith(71)		Dallas	S.O.C.	Tulsa	Rockets #65
6'7"	Kenneth Lyons(79)		Ft. W.	Trimble Tech	North Texas St.	76ers #47
6'7"	John Derrick(74)	22.0	South	Garland	Cameron University	
6'7"	Spider Johnson(70)	21.0	Houston	Wheatley	Texas/T. Southern	
6'7"	Ralph McPherson(77)	25.0	Arlington		Tech/UTA	Mavs#188
6'5"	Jarvis Williams(75)	18.0	Houston	Kashmere	Texas A&M	
6'7"	Steve Jones(73)	18.0	Houston	Wheatley	Texas A&M	
6'8"	Roshern Amie(77)		Marshall		U.T.E.P.	Blazers#131
6'5"	John Failing(75)	18.2	Deer	Park	Louisiana Tech	
6'5"	Daniel Wise(75)	27.0	Houston	Waltrip	Texas/N. Texas	
6'4"	Elton Webster(79)	15.0	Austin	Lanier	Tulane	
6'5"	Fred Reynolds(79)		Houston	Jones	U.T.E.P.	Bullets #144
6'6"	Clarence Swannegan(78)		Galveston	Ball	Texas Tech	
6'7"	Kenneth Perkins(79)		Beaumont	Pollard	Lamar U.	
6'5"	Arthur Edwards(74)	21.1	SA	Brackenridge	Baylor	
6'4"	Jimmy Murphy(71)	26.0	Carrollton	R.L. Turner	S.M.U.	
6'6"	Willie Foreman(74)		Houston	Furr	Texas A&M	
6'7"	Fred Mitchell(74)	20.8	Amarillo	Palo Duro	North Texas St.	
6'6"	John Simple(79)	15.9	Houston	Madison		
6'4"	Roland Milburn(77)		Houston	Yates	Alcorn State	
	Players(2/3)	Pts.	Team	College	Pros	
6'6"	Eddie Owens(73)*	28.0	Houston	Wheatley	U.N.L.V.	Kings #31
6'6"	Sammy Hervey(70)*	37.0	Dallas	Crozier Tech	Kilgore JC/SMU	Hawks #97
6'5"	Ricky Pierce(78)*	28.0	Garland		Rice	Pistons #18
6'6"	Keith Edmundson(78)*	29.7	SA	MacArthur	Purdue	Hawks #10
6'6"	David Little(78)	23.0	Abilene		Tech/O.U.	Nuggets #61
6'4"	Terry Teagle(78)	30.0	Broadus		Baylor	Rockets #16
6'5"	Chuck O'Neal(77)	24.0	Houston	Milby	Houston	
6'6"	Dewayne Scales(77)	20.0	Dallas	Carter	L.S.U.	Knicks #36
6'2"	George Walker(74)		Houston	Yates	USC/ Tyler JC	
6'6"	Craig Ehlo(79)		Lubbock	Monterey	Washington State	Rockets #48
6'3"	Charles McMillian(74)	24.0	Dallas	S.O.C.	N. Texas/Tyler	Kings #136
6'4"	Robert Reid(73)	10.0	Schertz	Clemens	St. Mary's SA	Rockets#40
6'3"	Ernest Patterson(79)		Houston	Kashmere	New Mex. State	Bulls #121
6'6"	Ricky Thompson(79)	19.0	Houston	Jones	UTEP/H.Baptist	
6'6"	Jerry Davis(78)	37.0	West	Oso	Detroit U.	
6'3"	Roy Moore(71)	22.3	Victoria		Angelo St.	
6'4"	Bill Marcellus(71)	25.9	Dallas	Thomas Jeff.	S.M.U.	
6'6"	Grant Dukes(73)	23.5	Levelland		Texas Tech	
6'6"	Donnie Chambers(74)	19.6	Corsicana		Lamar University	

6'3"	Wayman Lister(75)	25.3	Dallas S.O.C.	North Texas St.	
6'3"	Jay Shakir(79)	18.0	SA Fox Tech	Baylor	
	Players(1/2)	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'2"	Rob Williams(79)*	26.3	Houston Milby	Houston	Nuggets #19
6'4"	Karl Godine(75)*	31.5	Houston Kashmere	Texas A&M/SFA	Bullets #151
6'3"	John Schlicher(75)*	21.0	Ft. Worth Paschal	Texas A&M	
6'2"	David Burns(77)*	22.0	Dallas S.O.C.	St. Louis U.	Nets #49
6'3"	Tate Armstrong(73)*	26.2	Spring Woods	Duke	Bullets #13
6'2"	George Turner(79)	27.1	Hitchcock	Cal. Irvine	Mavs#153
6'0"	Darrell Browder(79)	16.0	Ft. Worth Dunbar	T.C.U.	Rockets#71
6'0"	Billy Allen(78)	25.0	Highland Park	SMU/Nev.Reno	Mavs #125
6'1"	Billy Bailey(76)	26.1	SA McCollum	Pan American	Spurs #174
6'1"	Juice Williams(76)	18.1	Houston Milby	Houston	Mavs#194
6'0"	Alvin Brooks(77)	25.9	Houston Wheatley	Lamar Univ.	Spurs #219
5'7"	Cullen Mayfield(77)	20.0	Dallas S.O.C.	Midwestern U.	
6'3"	Phil Hale(76)	22.8	South Grand Prairie	SMU	
6'3"	Allen Batro(70)	18.0	Houston Wheatley	San Jac/Tex. So.	
6'2"	Larry Harris(74)	15.0	Dallas S.O.C.	Navarro JC	
6'3"	Richard Little(70)	18.0	Abilene	Texas Tech	
5'7"	Ronnie Blake(79)	20.0	Lufkin	Baylor	
5'11"	Gaylord Davis(72)	13.7	Houston Wheatley	Texas Southern	
6'3"	Elbert Darden(75)		Baytown Lee	Rice	
6'1"	Huey Smith(73)	30.5	Houston Lincoln	Houston Baptist	
6'2"	Hank Baueerschlag(73)	29.1	Clear Creek	Texas	
6'2"	Reginald Harrison(74)	25.7	LaMarque		
6'0"	Kenneth Minkins(73)	23.0	Beaumont Pollard	Lamar University	

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

By Years: 1970(4), 1971(8), 1972(5), 1973(13), 1974(12), 1975(8), 1976(5), 1977(16), 1978(11), 1979(18):

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

Best in Abilene 1970-79

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

Best of Amarillo 1970-79

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

Best of Arlington 1970-79

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

Best in Austin 1970-79

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

Best of Beaumont 1970-79

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

Best of Corpus Christi

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'3"	Danny Kaspar(73)	14.0	Carroll	North Texas St.	
6'4"	R. Washington(74)	22.2	Miller		
6'8"	Preston Bailless(75)	15.4	Carroll	Utah St.	
6'5"	Charles Tryon(76)		Moody	Kentucky State	
6'7"	Charles Moore(77)	28.3	Moody	Southern Ill.	

Best in Dallas 1970-79

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

Best of El Paso 1970-79

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

Best in Ft. Worth 1970-79

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

Best of Galveston

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

Best of Garland 1970-79

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

Best of Grand Prairie 1970-79

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

Best in Houston 1970-79

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

Best of Irving 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'8"	John Saffle(72)		MacArthur	U.T.E.P.	
6'6"	Tommy Weilert(73)	31.0	Irving High	Texas	
6'5"	James Scott(73)	20.4	Irving High		
6'0"	Fred Stephenson(77)	19.0	Irving High	Texas A&I	
6'5"	Andy Sears(78)	16.1	Irving High	Baylor	

Best of LaMarque 1970-79

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

Best of Lufkin 1970-79

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

Best of Lubbock 1970-79

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

Best of McAllen 1970-79

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

Best of McKinney 1970-79

5'8"	Leonard Harris(79)	12.0	McKinney	Tech(Foot)	
6'2"	Kenny Bird(73)	17.1	McKinney		
6'6"	Spike Jones(74)	23.0	McKinney	Dallas Baptist	
6'2"	J.T. Hollins(72)	22.0	McKinney	NTSU(Foot)	
6'3"	Charlie McDonald(70)	17.0	McKinney	NTSU(Foot)	

Best of Marshall 1970-79

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

Best of Midland 1970-79

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

Best of Odessa 1970-79

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

Best of Pampa 1970-79

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

Best of Pasadena 1970-79

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

Best of Plano 1970-79

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

Best of Richardson 1970-79

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

Best in San Antonio 1970-79

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

Best of Temple 1970-79

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

Best of Texas City 1970-79

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

Best of Tyler 1970-79

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

Best of Waco 1970-79

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

Best of Wichita Falls 1970-79

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

1970-1979 State Playoffs- Top Scorers 4-A

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

{Must play a minimum of four games}

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

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

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

1970	Sammy Hervey, Crozier Tech	37.6	Dwight Jones, Wheatley	28.5
1971	Bobby Ortega, EP Andress	29.6	Frank Keton, EP Coronado	28.6
1972	Bobby Ortega, E.P. Andress	31.3	Tommy Barker, Weslaco	31.2
1973	Earl Evans, Pt. Arthur Lincoln	30.2	Hank Bauerchlag, Clear Lake	29.1
1974	Earl Evans, Pt. Arthur Lincoln	28.3	Reginald Harrison, LaMarque	25.7
1975	Karl Godine, H. Kashmere	31.5	Tommy Parks, Ft. Worth Poly	28.7
1976	Julio Gallardo, El Paso Ysleta	29.8	Billy Bailey, S.A. McCollum	26.1
1977	Ollie Hoops, Dallas Pinkston	30.0	Ricky Pierce, Garland High	28.1
1978	Keith Edmondson, S.A. Mac.	29.7	Shannon Lilly, Wilmer Hut.	28.0
1979	Steve Washington, N. Dallas	31.2	Columbus Garrett, D. Lincoln	27.4

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

The Final Four 1970-79

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

[* state champion]

Top Teams by Cities 1970's

Abilene	#1 Abilene High, 1978 (34-5)	State Semi	91.54	David Little
	#2 Abilene High, 1970 (31-6)	Regional Semis		Richard Little
	#3 Abilene, 1976 (27-7)	Bi-District		Mike Little
Amarillo	#1 Amarillo, 1970 (26-6)			Kyle Pipkin
	#2 Palo Duro, 1972 (24-7)	Regional Semis		Fred Mitchell
	#3 Amarillo, 1978 (23-7)	Regional Semis		Victor Mitchell
Arlington	#1 Arlington High, 1977 (30-2)	Bi-District	87.02	Ralph McPherson
	#2 Sam Houston, 1976 (27-7)	Regional Semis		Ronnie Newton
	#3 Sam Houston, 1970 (22-13)	Bi-District		Charles Talley
Austin	#1 Austin Lanier, 1979 (33-4)	State Semis	94.00	Elton Webster
	#2 Austin Johnston, 1970 (31-3)	State Semis		James Price
	#3 Austin High, 1971(25-8)	Bi-District		Tyron Johnson
Beaumont	#1 Beaumont Pollard, '79 (34-3)	Bi-District	90.11	Kenneth Perkins
	#2 Beaumont Pollard, '70 (32-6)	Regional Semis		Donald Smith
	#3 Beaumont Pollard, '71 (33-3)			Sherman Joseph
Borger	#1 Borger, 1977 (28-5)	State Semi-finals		Mike Jackson
	#2 Borger, 1970 (27-6)			
	#3 Borger, 1974 (23-9)			
Bryan	#1 Bryan, 1976 (31-3)	Regional Semis	91.16	Rudy Woods
	#2 Bryan, 1973 (26-5)	Bi-District		Joe Buchanan

	#3 Bryan, 1977 (23-7)	Regional Semis		Rudy Woods
C.Creek	#1 Clear Creek, 1970 (36-3)	Regional Semis		Paul Trcka
	#2 Clear Lake, 1976 (37-4)	Regional Semis	92.23	Warren Slinger
	#3 Clear Lake, 1974 (34-5)	Regional Semis		David Buchanon
C. Christi	#1 CC Carroll, 1975 (34-3)	Regional Finals	89.42	Victor Melton
	#2 CC Carroll, 1973 (32-5)	State Semis	88.06	Danny Kaspar
	#3 CC Moody, 1976 (33-5)	Regional Finals		Charles Tryon
Conroe	#1 Conroe, 1979 (29-8)	Regional Finals		David Bunce
	#2 Conroe, 1972 (31-6)	Bi-District		Uriah Barnaby
	#3 Conroe, 1978 (19-13)			
Corsicana	#1 Corsicana, 1974 (34-1)	Regional Finals	98.70	Donnie Chambers
	#2 Corsicana, 1973 (22-6)	District Runner-up		Donnie Chambers
	#3 Corsicana, 1975 (21-8)	Bi-District		Tim Wolf
Cypress	#1 Cypress-Fair, 1971 (36-6)	State Champs	96.69	Jerry Mercer
	#2 Cypress-Fair, 1970 (32-5)	State Finals 3-A		Jerry Mercer
	#3 Cypress-Fair, 1978 (25-11)	State Semis	76.63	Alan Howard
Dallas	#1 Roosevelt, 1972 (35-4)	State Champions	96.76	Ira Terrell
	#2 Dallas S.O.C., 1974 (37-5)	State Finals	95.97	Charles McMillian
	#3 Dallas S.O.C., 1977 (35-8)	State Champions	97.07	Cullen Mayfield
Deer Park	#1 Deer Park, 1978 (32-7)	Regional Finals		David Simmons
	#2 Deer Park, 1979 (27-7)	Regional Semis		Robert Shaw
	#3 Deer Park, 1972 (31-5)	Regional Semis		Danny Van Rheen
Denton	#1 Denton, 1974 (29-7)	State Semis	92.75	Gary Goodner
	#2 Denton 1972 (23-7)			Maurice Evans
	#3 Denton, 1973 (19-11)			
El Paso	#1 EP Eastwood, 1976 (31-3)	State Champions	90.23	Jim Bowden
	#2 EP Eastwood, 1977(31-2)	Regional Finals	85.63	Terry White
	#3 EP Austin, 1970 (28-7)	Regional Finals		Gabriel Nava
Ft. Worth	#1 FW Paschal, 1975 (32-3)	State Finals	95.10	John Schlicher
	#2 FW Dunbar, 1979 (36-4)	State Finals	95.81	Darrell Browder
	#3 Dunbar, 1977 (39-2)	State Finals	92.58	James Griffin
Galveston	#1 Galveston Ball, 1976 (35-7)	Bi-District		Darrell Mitchell
	#2 Galveston Ball, 1978 (31-8)	Bi-District		Clarence Swanegan
	#3 Galveston Ball, 1977 (27-8)			
Garland	#1 Garland, 1971 (32-3)	Regional Semis	85.75	Ray Roberts
	#2 Garland, 1977 (24-11)	Bi-District		Ricky Pierce
	#3 Garland, 1978 (21-11)			Ricky Pierce
G. Prairie	#1 S. Grand Prairie, 1975 (29-6)	State Finals 3-A		Phil Hale
	#2 S. Grand Prairie, 1976 (31-2)	Regional Finals 3-A	86.13	Phil Hale
	#3 Grand Prairie, 1978 (29-5)	Regional Finals	86.49	David Henson
High. Park	#1 Highland Park, 1972 (37-2)	Regional Finals	88.00	David Kimmell
	#2 Highland Park, 1973 (30-5)	Bi-District		Bob Arnold
	#3 Highland Park, 1978 (27-4)		77.60	Billy Allen
Houston	#1 Wheatley, 1970 (39-0)	State Champions	102.11	Dwight Jones
	#1 Wheatley, 1973 (41-1)	State Champions	105.15	Eddie Owens
	#1 Kashmere, 1975 (46-0)	State Champions	107.62	Karl Godine
Irving	#1 Irving, 1973 (28-5)	Regional Finals	86.60	Tommy Weilert
	#2 Irving, 1977 (28-5)	Regional Semis		Andy Sears
	#3 Irving, 1972 (28-9)	Bi-District		Tommy Weilert
Killeen	#1 Killeen, 1972 (27-6)	Regional Semis		Gary Boydston
	#2 Killeen, 1976 (29-8)			

	#3 Killeen, 1975 (25-9)			
LaMarque	#1 LaMarque, 1978 (23-9)			
	#2 LaMarque, 1974 (27-9)			
	#3 LaMarque, 1973 (19-10)			
Lufkin	#1 Lufkin, 1979 (31-6)	State Champions		Ronnie Blake
	#2 Lufkin, 1973 (32-4)	Bi-District		MacArthur Richards
	#3 Lufkin, 1978 (29-8)	Regional Semis		Chris Wortham
Lubbock	#1 Monterey, 1970 (28-6)	Bi-District		Don Moore
	#2 Monterey, 1979 (24-4)	Regional Semis		Craig Ehlo
	#3 Monterey, 1975 (22-10)	Regional Semis		Jackson Pace
McAllen	#1 McAllen, 1974 (28-2)	Bi-District		Eddie Gonzales
	#2 McAllen, 1972 (30-4)	Bi-District		Micky Uhlaender
	#3 McAllen, 1973 (30-5)	Bi-District		
Marshall	#1 Marshall, 1974 (26-4)	Regional Semis		Louis Manning
	#2 Marshall, 1971 (25-6)	Regional Semis		James Jenkins
	#3 Marshall, 1977 (24-9)	District Playoff	86.18	Roshern Amie
Mesquite	#1 North Mesquite, 1975 (27-8)	Regional Semis		Mark Davis
	#2 North Mesquite, 1979 (27-8)			Randy Lowery
	#3 North Mesquite 1976 (22-12)			Mark Davis
Midland	#1 Midland High, 1972 (33-3)	State Semi-Finals	90.80	Gary Brewster
	#2 Midland High, 1973 (33-4)	State Finals	93.49	Ronald Taylor
	#3 Midland Lee, 1975 (33-4)	State Semi-Finals	90.25	Junior Miller
Mission	#1 Mission, 1978 (32-5)	Bi-District		
	#2 Mission, 1976	Bi-District		
	#3 Mission, 1977 (26-12)	Bi-District		
Odessa	#1 Ector, 1972 (28-5)	State Champions		
	#2 Permian, 1971 (23-7)			
	#3 Ector 1978 (25-9)	State Champions		
Pampa	#1 Pampa, 1972 (24-6)			
	#2 Pampa, 1977 (25-6)	Regional Semis		Rayford Young
	#3 Pampa, 1975 (24-5)	Bi-District		Howie Lewis
Pasadena	#1 Pasadena High, 1976 (33-5)			Fritz Connally
	#2 Rayburn, 1979 (21-12)			
	#3 Pasadena, 1975 (31-6)			
Plainview	#1 Plainview, 1971 (33-3)	State Semi-Finals		Charles Bassett
	#2 Plainview, 1972 (29-6)	Bi-District		Wille Carreathers
	#3 Plainview, 1970 (29-10)			Charles Bassett
Plano	#1 Plano, 1979, (28-5)	Bi-District	89.42	Travis Benke
	#2 Plano, 1975 (25-7)	Bi-District		Mike Escher
	#3 Plano, 1976 (23-12)	Bi-District		Kent Gaddis
Pt. Arthur	#1 PA Lincoln, 1973 (29-5)	Regional Finals		Earl Evans
	#2 PA Lincoln, 1974 (32-6)	Regional Semis	87.64	Earl Evans
	#3 PA Lincoln, 1976 (32-5)	Regional Finals	87.15	Thad Sanders
Richardson	#1 Lake Highlands, 1979 (23-5)		81.92	Jim Vorlop
	#2 Richardson, 1973 (25-10)	Regional Semis		Steve Young
	#3 Richardson, 1971 (29-9)	Bi-District		Rick Penny
San Ant.	#1 SA Jefferson, 1972 (34-4)	State Finals	94.47	Rick Bullock
	#2 SA Fox Tech, 1978 (33-6)	State Finals	85.62	Jay Shakir
	#3 SA Sam Houston, 1971 (34-3)	State Semi-Finals		Willie Hodge
Sp. Branch	#1 Westchester, 1974 (39-4)	Bi-District		Jeff Swanson
	#2 Spring Branch, 1973 (39-2)	State Semi-Finals	88.88	Jim Burton

	#3 SB Memorial, 1970 (37-4)	Regional Finals	98.97	Randy Younglin
Temple	#1 Temple, 1971 (24-8)			Ernest Walker
	#2 Temple, 1972 (26-5)			Ernest Walker
	#3 Temple, 1978 (23-7)	Bi-District		Maurice McDaniel
Texas City	#1 Texas City, 1973 (24-8)			Paul Jackson
	#2 Texas City, 1972 (28-7)			Ken Wyrwich
	#3 Texas City, 1977 (20-13)			
Tyler	#1 Tyler John Tyler, 1976 (30-5)	State Finals	85.95	Anthony Lee
	#2 Tyler Lee, 1977 (35-3)	Regional Finals	87.71	D'Boy Johnson
	#3 Tyler Lee, 1978 (32-2)		81.20	Uirdell Howland
Victoria	#1 Victoria, 1976 (37-4)	State Semis	83.12	Anthony King
	#2 Victoria, 1974 (34-5)	Regional Semis		Maurice Callis
	#3 Victoria, 1977 (33-3)	Bi-District		Jimmy Sandburg
Waco	#1 Moore, 1973 (26-5)	State Semis 3-A		Archie Roberts
	#2 University, 1979 (28-4)			
	#3 University, 1975 (24-9)	Bi-District		Bill Deviney
Wich. Falls	#1 WF Rider, 1970 (29-5)	Regional Semis		Frank Donaldson
	#2 WF Rider, 1971 (25-8)	Regional Finals		Dennis Wuthrich
	#3 Wichita Falls, 1979 (22-11)	Bi-District		Ricky Cobb

Major Tournament Titles

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

Biggest Upsets- 1979 State Semi-Final:Lufkin(29-6) over Houston Madison(39-0) #1 , 62-55
 1978 Regional Final: Abilene(33-4) #6 over Ft. Worth Dunbar(34-2) #1, 76-74
 1979 State Final: Lufkin(30-6) over Ft. Worth Dunbar(36-3) #2, 75-74

Most State Appearances-Houston Wheatley 1970, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1978

Most State Titles- Houston Wheatley 1970, 1973, 1978

Longest Winning Streak-Houston Kashmere 83 games {1974-1975-1976}
 -Houston Wheatley 72 games {1969-1970-1971}

Best Winning Percentage- Houston Wheatley 333-67 83%

Top AAAA Programs-1970's		Record	Top 50	Top 10	Final 4	Titles	Pts.
DECADE TOTALS		W-L Pct.	X 1	x 2	x 3	x 4	
1.	Houston Wheatley	<u>{333-67 83%}</u>	9/10	9/10	5	<u>3</u>	54
2.	Dallas South Oak Cliff	<u>{279-76 79%}</u>	9/10	6/10	2	<u>1</u>	31
3.	Houston Kashmere	<u>{270-82 77%}</u>	9/10	2/10	2	<u>2</u>	27
4.	Dallas Roosevelt	<u>{262-65 80%}</u>	10/10	3/10	1	<u>1</u>	23
5.	Deer Park	<u>{291-75 80%}</u>	10/10	5/10	0	0	20
6.	Cypress Fairbanks		6/10	2/10	2	<u>1</u>	19
7.	Ft. Worth Dunbar		4/10	4/10	2	0	18
8.	Houston Yates	<u>{227-92 71%}</u>	8/10	5/10	0	0	18
9.	S.A. Jefferson	<u>{280-68 81%}</u>	7/10	1/10	2	0	15
10.	El Paso Eastwood	<u>{242-62 79%}</u>	6/10	1/10	1	<u>1</u>	15
11.	Midland	<u>{225-111 67%}</u>	5/10	2/10	2	0	15
12.	Houston Milby		5/10	3/10	1	0	14
13.	Houston Madison		6/10	2/10	1	0	13
13.	Victoria	<u>{283-65 81%}</u>	8/10	1/10	1	0	13
15.	Clear Lake	<u>{213-42 83%}</u>	7/7	3/7	0	0	13
15.	Houston Jones		5/10	4/10	0	0	13
15.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	<u>{218-107 67%}</u>	5/10	4/10	0	0	13
15.	Houston Westchester		6/10	2/10	1	0	13
18.	Beaumont Pollard	<u>{286-69 80%}</u>	10/10	1/10	0	0	12
19.	San Antonio Fox Tech		6/10	1/10	1	0	11
20.	Highland Park	<u>{268-71 79%}</u>	8/10	1/10	0	0	10
20.	Spring Bra. Memorial	<u>{247-98 71%}</u>	8/10	1/10	0	0	10
22.	Bryan	<u>{202-104 66%}</u>	5/10	2/10	0	0	9
22.	Ft. Worth Paschal	<u>{202-87 70%}</u>	4/10	1/10	1	0	9
22.	Clear Creek		3/10	3/10	0	0	9
25.	Corsicana		6/10	1/10	0	0	8
25.	Houston Washington	<u>{200-98 67%}</u>	6/10	1/10	0	0	8
25.	Arlington High	<u>{234-104 69%}</u>	6/10	1/10	0	0	8
25.	Abilene		3/10	1/10	1	0	8
25.	Denton		3/10	1/10	1	0	8
30.	Lubbock Monterey	<u>{220-93 70%}</u>	7/10	0/10	0	0	7
30.	Richardson	<u>{248-97 72%}</u>	7/10	0/10	0	0	7
31.	Corpus Christi Carroll		3/10	1/10	1	0	8

Houston Wheatley Wildcats

1970*	39-0 (#1) 102.11	State Champs	Carrollton RLT 80-108	Jackie Carr
1971	37-5 (#2) 98.92	State Finals	Cypress-Fairbanks 58-72	Jackie Carr
1972	39-3 (#2) 107.41	State Semis	Dallas Roosevelt 109-111	Jackie Carr
1973*	41-1 (#1) 105.15	State Champs	Midland 84-70	Jackie Carr
1974	36-7 (#7) 90.08	Bi-District	Houston Worthing 99-100	Jackie Carr
1975	35-7 (#5)	Regional Finals	Houston Kashmere 79-116	Jackie Carr
1976	11-24			Jackie Carr
1977	28-6 (#3) 90.82	Regional Finals	H. Westchester 71-74	Jackie Carr
1978	37-6 (#1) 91.16	State Champs	SA Fox Tech 75-74 OT	Jackie Carr
1979	30-8 (#6) 83.72	Regional Semi	Houston Madison 63-68	Jackie Carr

Total 333- 67 83% (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

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

Dallas South Oak Cliff Golden Bears

1970	22-8 (#28)			Stevens
1971	20-10			Stevens
1972	19-12 (#11)			Stevens
1973	30-6 (#6) 86.91	Regionals Final	Spring Branch 51-59	Jimmy Gales
1974*	37-5 (#2) 95.97	State Finals	H. Kashmere 87-91	Jimmy Gales
1975	35-4 (#3) 94.46	Regional Semi	Ft. W. Paschal 70-83	Jimmy Gales
1976	27-7 (#9) 87.74	Regional Finals	Tyler John Tyler 85-99	Euril Henson
1977*	35-8 (#1) 97.07	State Champs	Ft. Worth Dunbar 78-71	Euril Henson
1978	25-10 (#17) 86.00			H. Warren
1979	29-6 (#10) 89.96	Regional Semi	Lufkin(31-6) 72-73	H. Warren

Total 279- 76 79% (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

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

Houston Kashmere Rams

1970	21-9 (#18)	Bi-District	H. Wheatley(39-0) 68-94	W. Drew
1971	24-10 (#30)			W. Drew
1972	19-13			W. Drew
1973	27-11 (#48)	Bi-District	H. Smiley(25-11) 45-47	W. Drew
1974	39-2 (#1) 94.92 State Champs		Dallas SOC(37-5) 91-87	W. Drew
1975*	46-0 (#1) 107.62 State Champs		Ft. W. Paschal(32-3) 60-58	W. Drew
1976	21-10 (#30)			F. Brazos
1977	22-9 (#38)			F. Brazos
1978	30-8 (#28)	Bi-District	H. Wheatley(36-6) 90-92	F. Brazos
1979	21-10 (#19)	Bi-District	H. Wheatley(30-8) 78-89	F. Brazos
Total	270-82 77%	(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team		

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

Dallas Roosevelt Mustangs

1970	18-6 (#37)			Ellis Davis
1971	21-4 (#22)			Ellis Davis
1972*	35-4 (#1) 96.76 State Champs		S.A. Jefferson 68-63	Ellis Davis
1973	27-6 (#10)			Ellis Davis
1974	26-6 (#12) 85.86			Ellis Davis
1975	27-8 (#19)			Ellis Davis
1976	25-8 (#16)			Ellis Davis
1977	30-8 (#7) 86.52			Ellis Davis
1978	27-7 (#16) 78.96	Regional Semi	Cypress-Fairbanks 52-54	Ellis Davis
1979	26-8 (#16) 76.72			Ellis Davis
Total	262-65 80%	(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team		

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

Deer Park Falcons

1970	19-14 (#27)	Bi-District	Clear Creek 53-63	
1971	27-11 (#27)	Bi-District	Clear Creek 63-78	
1972	34-5 (#9)	Regional Semi	Houston Sterling 68-78	Ray Landers
1973	24-10 (#26)	Bi-District	Galveston Ball 52-57	Ray Landers
1974	29-6 (#11)			Ray Landers
1975	35-5 (#8)	Bi-District	Stratford Dulles 63-66	Ray Landers
1976	31-7 (#11)			Ray Landers
1977	34-4 (#10)			Ray Landers
1978*	32-7 (#6)	Regional Final	Houston Wheatley 50-55	Ray Landers
1979	27-7 (#7)	Regional Semi	Beaumont Pollard 58-59	Ray Landers

Total 291-75 80% (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1972	6'0" -Jimmy Shelton(20.0)	San Jacinto JC
	1973	6'7" -Danny Van Rheen(24.5)	Missouri
	1975	6'5" -John Failing(18.2)	Louisiana Tech
	1975	6'7" -Terry Moore(10.8)	Angelina JC
	1976	6'4" -Frank Dishongh	
	1977	6'5" -Jon Hughes(21.0)	Henderson JC
	1977	6'4" -Byron Tully(13.0)	T.C.U.
	1978	6'2" -Nicky Snell	Lamar University
	1978	6'2" -David Simmons	Stephen F. Austin
	1979	6'1" Tom Fuller	Lon Morris
	1979	6'8" -Robert Shaw	Rice

Cypress-Fairbanks Bobcats

1970	32-5 (#2)	State Finals	Kerrville Tivy (3-A)	Ronnie Truitt
1971*	36-6 (#1) 96.69	State Champions	Houston Wheatley 72-58	Ronnie Truitt
1972				
1973				
1974	7-22			
1975	18-14			
1976	25-12 (#45)			Lloyd Long
1977	31-5 (#43)			Lloyd Long
1978	25-11 (#13) 76.63	State Semi-Finals	Houston Wheatley 53-59	Larry Hargett
1979	29-5 (#15)			Blair Murray

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

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

Ft. Worth Dunbar Wildcats

1974	12-12			Robert Hughes
1975	19-12			Robert Hughes
1976	30-4 (#10)	Regional	S.O.C. 68-69	Robert Hughes
1977*	39-2 (#2) 92.58	State Finals	S.O.C. 71-78	Robert Hughes
1978	34-3 (#5) 88.72	Regionals Finals	Abilene 74-76	Robert Hughes
1979*	37-4 (#2) 95.81	State Finals	Lufkin 74-75	Robert Hughes

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

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

Houston Yates Lions

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

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

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

San Antonio Jefferson

1970	24-5 (#31)			Jim Shuler
1971	33-2 (#11)	Regional Final	SA Sam Houston 50-63	Jim Shuler
1972*	34-4 (#3)	94.47 State Finals	Dallas Roosevelt 63-68	Jim Shuler
1973	27-6 (#46)	Bi-District	SA Fox Tech 69-73	LeGrand
1974	32-7 (#13)	State Semis	S.O.C. 100-109	LeGrand
1975	36-6 (#23)	Regional Final	SA Highlands 68-72	LeGrand
1976	22-13			
1977	23-9			
1978	28-8 (#31)			
1979	21-8			
Total	280-68	81%	(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team	

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

El Paso Eastwood Troopers

1970	22-6 (#13)			Bobby Lesley
1971	26-5 (#36)			Bobby Lesley
1972	24-8			Bobby Lesley
1973	17-9			Bobby Lesley
1974	26-5 (#16)	Regional Finals	Denton 55-64	Bobby Lesley
1975	22-8			Bobby Lesley
1976*	31-3 (#1)	90.23 State Champs	Tyler John Tyler 74-62	Bobby Lesley
1977	32-2 (#11)	85.63 Regional Finals	Ft. W. Dunbar 63-68	Bobby Lesley
1978	26-4 (#14)	88.23 Regional Semi	Abilene 67-79	Bobby Lesley
1979	16-12	Bi-District	Coronado	Bobby Lesley
Total	242-62	79%	(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team	

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

Midland Bulldogs

1970	17-15			James Cagle
1971	27-7 (#17)	Bi-District	WF Rider 66-82	James Cagle
1972*	33-3 (#4) 90.80	State Semi-Finals	SA Jefferson 52-54	James Cagle
1973*	33-4 (#2) 93.49	State Finals	Wheatley 78-84	James Cagle
1974	20-13			
1975	22-11 (#50)	District Runner-up		
1976	14-18			
1977	10-20			
1978	21-11			
1979	28-9 (#23)	Regional Semis	FW Dunbar 74-81	

Total 225-111 67% (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	6'8" -Randy Prince		
	1971	6'5" -John Mason(11.5)		
	1972	6'4" -Danny Wood(11.5)		
	1972	6'8" -Gary Brewster(24.1)	U.T.E.P.	Draft Braves #48
	1973	6'10"-Ronald Taylor(24.1)	Nebraska/Midwestern	
	1973	6'4" -Eddie Herring(10.1)		
	1973	6'2" -Kenneth Ray(13.0)		
	1979	6'5" -Charles Johnson(13.0)	Texas Tech	
	1979	5'11"-Walter Bryson		

Houston Milby Buffaloes

1970	20-14			S. Dowling
1971	21-13 (#35)			S. Dowling
1972				S. Dowling
1973				Boyce Honea
1974	13-17			Boyce Honea
1975	19-12			Boyce Honea
1976*	25-12 (#5)	State Sem-Finals	Tyler John Tyler 69-76	Boyce Honea
1977	28-8 (#13)			Boyce Honea
1978	30-6 (#2)			Boyce Honea
1979	24-6 (#9) 85.71			Boyce Honea

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

Best-	1972	6'5" -Jeff Downing(16.9)		
	1974	6'6" -Richard Stone	Stephen F. Austin	
	1975	6'7" -Arthur Ross	San Jacinto JC	
	1976	6'3" -Stephen Sauls		
	1976	6'1" -Kenneth "Juice" Williams	Houston	Draft Mavs #194
	1977	6'6" -Dennis Johnson		
	1977	6'5" -Chuck O'Neal(22.8)	Houston	
	1978	6'4" -John Savoie		
	1979	6'2" -Rob Williams(25.0)	Houston	<u>Nuggets NBA #19</u>

Houston Madison Marlins

1970	26-9 (#33)	Bi-District	H. Wheatley(39-0) 68-94	Paul Benton
1971	25-8 (#43)	Bi-District	H. Lamar(29-7) 56-100	Paul Benton
1972				Paul Benton
1973				Paul Benton
1974	15-14			Paul Benton
1975	18-14			Paul Benton
1976	26-8 (#22)			Paul Benton
1977	30-6 (#15)	Bi-District	Westchester(31-10) 50-52	Paul Benton
1978	25-7 (#3)	Regional Semi	H. Wheatley(36-6) 70-72 OT	Paul Benton
1979*	39-1 (#1) 96.17	State Semis	Lufkin(31-6) 55-62	Paul Benton

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

Best-	1970	6'3" -Phil Towse	Sam Houston St.	
	1970	5'8" -Robert Cheesman		
	1971	-Mike Davis		
	1976	6'2" -Ron Smith		
	1977	6'2" -Greg Wise(20.1)	Houston Baptist	
	1979	6'11" -Greg Kite(17.7)	Brigham Young	<u>NBA Celtics #21</u>
	1979	6'6" -John Simple(16.7)	Navarro JC	
	1979	6'0" -Pat Hicks(8.3)	North Texas State	
	1980	6'4" -Matt England	L.S.U.	

Victoria Stingarees

1970	30-3 (#34)	Regional Semi	SA Brackenridge	Jack Cook
1971	25-9 (#33)	Regional Semi	SA Sam Houston 43-78	Jack Cook
1972	29-4 (#27)			Jack Cook
1973	32-5 (#18)	Regional Semi	C.C. Carroll	Mike Smith
1974	34-5 (#19)	Regional Semi	SA Jefferson	Mike Smith
1975	29-7 (#47)			Mike Smith
1976*	37-4 (#2) 83.12	State Semi	EP Eastwood 67-69 OT	Mike Smith
1977	33-3 (#28)	Bi-District	Austin Reagan 74-80	Mike Smith
1978	14-17			Mike Smith
1979	20-8			Mike Smith

Total **283-65 81%** (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1971	6'3" -Roy Moore(22.3)	Tyler JC/Angelo State	
	1972	6'4" -Steve Cook	Victoria College	
	1972	6'0" -Warren Milberger	Victoria College	
	1973	6'1" -Mike Ehlers(21.7)		
	1974	6'1" -Maurice Callis(17.6)	Baylor	
	1974	6'4" -Keith Brown	Blinn JC	
	1976	6'4" -Anthony King(11.0)		
	1976	6'5" -Charles Spurlin(14.0)	S.W. Texas St.	
	1977	6'5" -David Hardesty	Baylor	
	1979	6'3" -Wayne Sneed(15.6)	S.W. Texas St.	

Clear Lake Falcons

1973	28-7 (#36)				Bill Krueger
1974	34-5 (#5)		Regional Semi	Houston Worthing 82-83	Bill Krueger
1975	30-5 (#11)				Bill Krueger
1976*	37-4 (#8)	92.23	Regional Semi	Pt. Arthur Lincoln 60-83	Bill Krueger
1977	35-5 (#5)	88.34	Regional Semi	Houston Wheatley 71-74	Bill Krueger
1978	31-5 (#11)				Bill Krueger
1979	21-11 (#24)				Bill Krueger

Total **213-42** **83%** (Clear Lake was not open for varsity competition till 1973)
 (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1973	6'3" -Billy Carlisle	Baylor
	1974	6'3" -David Buchanan	
	1974	-Laddie Naymola	
	1976	6'5" -Warren Slinger(17.5)	Sam Houston St.
	1976	6'4" -Steve Sylvestine(14.5)	Texas A&M
	1977	6'7" -Rex Johnston(21.1)	Baylor

Houston Jones Falcons

1970	24-10 (#45)			
1971	11-20			
1972				
1973				
1974	16-17			
1975	16-19			
1976*	36-6 (#6)			Larry Cooper
1977	32-5 (#4)	86.54		Larry Cooper
1978	26-8 (#7)			Larry Cooper
1979	29-5 (#8)	81.12		Larry Cooper

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

Best-	1976	6'5" -Byron Jones	Houston
	1976	6'6" -Darnell Ropers	Houston
	1976	-Carl Fields	
	1977	6'1" -Anthony Raglin(24.5)	Houston
	1977	6'4" -Roy Jones(15.0)	Houston Baptist
	1977	5'10"-Ed Williams	
	1979	6'5" -Rickie Thompson(19.0)	U.T.E.P.
	1979	6'5" -Fred Reynolds	U.T.E.P.
	1979	6'4" -Jeff Robertson	U.T.E.P.

Pt. Arthur Lincoln Bumblebees

1970	17-15			James Gamble
1971	12-16	Regional Semis	Wheatley 68-105	James Gamble
1972	25-8 (#16)	Bi-District	Pollard 69-76	James Gamble
1973	29-5 (#3)	Regional Finals	Wheatley 73-87	James Gamble
1974*	32-6 (#6) 87.64	Reg. Semis	Kashmere 77-82	James Gamble
1975	29-4 (#10)	Bi-District	Pollard 51-65	James Gamble
1976	32-5 (#7) 87.15	Regional Finals	Milby 69-75	James Gamble
1977	17-15			James Gamble
1978	11-19			James Gamble
1979	14-14			James Gamble

Total 218-107 67% (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	5'9" -Fred "Pooh" Curby	Jackson State	
	1971	6'2" -Melvin Getwood		
	1972	6'7" -Gregory Martin	Texas Southern	
	1972	6'4" -Willard Thompson	Southern U. N.Orleans	
	1974	6'0" -Kervin Eli	Navarro JC	
	1974	6'7" -Earl Evans(28.3)	U.S.C./U.N.L.V	Draft Pistons #159
	1975	6'4" -Gregory Keller	Stephen F. Austin	
	1976	6'3" -Ronald Trahan	U.T.E.P.	
	1976	6'7" -Thad Sanders(19.6)	Texas Tech	
	1976	6'3" -Eddie Whitley	Kansas St.(Football)	
	1978	6'5" -Bryon Smith		

Beaumont Charlton Pollard

1970	33-6 (#15)	Regional Semi	Waltrip 60-71	Bob Woodard
1971	33-3 (#19)	Ineligible		Bob Woodard
1972	22-9 (#15)	Regional Semi	Wheatley 88-111	Bob Woodard
1973	29-7 (#11)	Bi-District	PA Lincoln 65-75	James White
1974	25-9 (#18)	Bi-District	PA Lincoln 78-80	James White
1975	25-9 (#15)	Regional Semi	Kashmere 68-100	James White
1976	33-6 (#20)			James White
1977	30-6 (#27)			James White
1978	22-11 (#47)	Bi-District	Smiley 47-59	James White
1979*	34-3 (#4) 90.18	Regional Final	H. Madison 58-62	James White

Total 286 -69 80% (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	-Joseph Womack		
	1970	6'1" -Don Smith	Southern Cal.(Football)	
	1971	5'11" -Sherman Joseph	U.T. Arlington	
	1973	6'3" -Vernon Minix(16.1)	Morgan State	
	1973	6'1" -Mark Durden	Morgan St.(Football) N.F.L.	
	1973	6'0" -Kenneth Minkins(22.6)	Lamar University	
	1973	6'2" -Charles Jacko	Lamar University	
	1974	6'1" -Norman Bellard(23.9)	Lamar University	
	1975	6'7" -Alfred Speights	Stephen F. Austin	
	1979	6'7" -Kenneth Perkins(18.0)	Lamar University	

San Antonio Fox Tech

1970			
1971	17-12		
1972	25-11 (#49)	Bi-District	SA Jefferson 57-76
1973	29-4 (#24)	Regional Finals	CC Carroll 45-48 Franklin Runnels
1974	22-11 (#29)	Bi-District	SA Jefferson 47-51
1975	25-13 (#45)	Bi-District	SA Jefferson 57-60
1976	23-15 (#48)	Reg. Semis	C.C. Moody 61-62
1977	19-15		
1978*	33-6 (#4) 85.62	State Finals	Wheatley 82-83 OT Roland Lopez
1979	27-9		

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

Best-	1973	6'4" -Walter Kemper	St. Philips, SA
	1973	6'4" -Clarence Simpson	San Antonio JC
	1975	6'2" -Bobby Sommers	U.T.E.P./St. Mary's SA
	1977	6'6" -Derrick Coleman	
	1978	6'3" -Melvin White(16.2)	
	1978	6'6" -Billy Summers	
	1978	5'10" -Willie Randle(14.9)	
	1979	6'3" -Jay Shakir(18.0)	Baylor

Highland Park Scots

1970	22-9 (#41)		
1971	29-6 (#42)		
1972*	37-2 (#6) 88.00	Regional Finals	Midland(33-3) 53-58 Bo Snowden
1973	30-5 (#16)	Bi-District	Irving(28-5) 80-84 Bo Snowden
1974	26-8 (#35)		Bo Snowden
1975	29-7 (#44)		Bo Snowden
1976	27-9		Bo Snowden
1977	19-11		Bo Snowden
1978	27-4 (#24) 77.60		Bo Snowden
1979	23-9 (#43)		Bo Snowden

Total **268-71 79%** (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1971	6'0" -Bowman Williams	
	1971	6'3" -John Fry	
	1972	6'7" -David Kimmell(21.0)	Sam Houston St.
	1972	6'4" -David DeLatour(17.6)	Texas
	1972	6'0" -Max McGee	Texas Tech
	1972	6'6" -Neil Lemmon(17.0)	Texas Tech
	1973	6'3" -Bob Arnold(23.2)	S.M.U.
	1975	6'8" -Tom Somerville	S.M.U.
	1975	6'2" -Ronnie Thompson	Richland JC
	1977	6'3" -Kyle Dodd(18.0)	Oklahoma
	1978	6'0" -Billy Allen(25.0)	S.M.U./Reno Drafted Mavs #125

Spring Branch Memorial Mustangs

1970*	37-4 (#6)	98.97	Regional Final	Thomas Jefferson 55-59	Don Coleman
1971	24-10 (#28)		3rd in District		Don Coleman
1972	20-12 (#30)		2nd in District		Don Coleman
1973	25-7 (#31)		2nd in District		Don Coleman
1974	22-9 (#46)		2nd in District		Don Coleman
1975	26-9 (#48)		3rd in District		Don Coleman
1976	24-10 (#44)		3rd in District		Don Coleman
1977	20-16				Don Coleman
1978	22-12		2nd in District		Don Coleman
1979	27-9 (#25)				Don Coleman

Total 247-98 71%(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	6'7" -Randy Younglin(21.6)	Rice
	1970	6'7" -Bergt Bengston	
	1971	6'5" -Mark Stewart	
	1971	6'2" -Pat McClellan	Texas
	1976	6'5" -Steve Kruger	
	1977	6'5" -Craig Carter	
	1979	6'7" -Cory Van Arsdale	
	1979	6'3" -Ed Young	

Houston Westchester

1970				
1971	25-13 (#39)			
1972	27-7			
1973				
1974*	29-4 (#4)	Bi-District	Corsicana 57-61	
1975	23-9 (#46)			
1976	25-11 (#46)			
1977	32-10 (#8)	83.83	State Semi-Finals Ft. W. Dunbar 68-74	Bob Latham
1978	23-12			Bob Latham
1979	21-12 (#41)			Bob Latham

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

Best-	1974	6'8" -Jeff Swanson(20.0)	S.M.U.
	1974	6'5" -Dirk Hoyt	T.C.U.
	1978	6'6" -Joe Costello(13.2)	L.S.U.
	1977	6'3" -Eric Buescher	
	1978	6'3" -Mike Klorer	

Bryan Vikings

1970	11-16				
1971	18-10				
1972	25-7 (#39)				
1973	26-5 (#5)	Bi-District	Spring Branch 42-44		Bob Perry
1974	15-15				Bob Perry
1975	21-14				Bob Perry
1976*	31-3 (#4)	91.19 Reg. Semis	Tyler John Tyler 83-89		Bob Perry
1977	23-7 (#20)	Reg. Semis	Tyler Lee 48-60		Bob Perry
1978	21-9 (#27)	77.69 District Playoff	Cypress-Fairbanks		Bob Perry
1979	11-18				Bob Perry

Total **202-104 66%** (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1971	6'5"	-Glenn Barrett(17.8)	Blinn JC	
	1972		-Clyde Miller(13.5)		
	1973	6'4"	-Joe Buchanon(20.7)	Navarro JC	
	1973	6'1"	-Milton Mitchell(15.4)	T.C.U.(Track)	
	1976	6'2"	-Gerald Carter(18.9)	Texas A&M, N.F.L.	
	1976	6'6"	-Bryan Barrett	Texas A&M	
	1976	6'1"	-Curtis Dickey	Texas A&M, N.F.L.	
	1978	6'11"	-Rudy Woods(25.0)	Texas A&M	Drafted Mavs #73

Corsicana Tigers

1970	30-3 (#6)	Zone Playoff	Wax. 43-46(AAA)	Jerry Matthews
1971	31-8 (#20)	Bi-District	Cyp.-Fair. 52-64	Jerry Matthews
1972	26-5 (#34)			Jerry Matthews
1973	22-6 (#13)			Jerry Matthews
1974*	34-1 (#3)	Regional Finals	S.O.C. 64-86	Jerry Matthews
1975	21-8 (#20)	98.70 Bi-District	SB Memorial 47-60	Jerry Matthews
1976	13-14			Jerry Matthews
1977	18-13	{had to forfeit 15 games, ineligible player}		Jerry Matthews
1978				
1979	12-15			

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

Best-	1970	6'6"	Jeff Smith(17.6)	
	1971	6'3"	Kim Wyatt	Navarro JC
	1971	6'2"	Henry Bowie	Navarro JC
	1972	6'5"	Lynn Walter	North Texas St.
	1974	6'3"	Ricky Purdy(20.4)	Navarro JC
	1974	6'4"	Donnie Chambers(22.1)	Navarro JC
	1974	5'11"	Raymond Hall(10.1)	Navarro JC
	1976		Tim Wolf	

Houston Washington

1970	21-10 (#44)			C. Stubblefield
1971	17-8			C. Stubblefield
1972*	31-7 (#7)	Bi-District	Wheatley 88-91	C. Stubblefield
1973	24-10 (#49)			
1974	15-11			
1975	7-17			
1976	11-15			
1977	26-5 (#19)	Bi-District	Wheatley 64-77	
1978	22-10 (#46)			
1979	26-5 (#30)			

Total 200-98 67% (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	-Rudy Collins		
	1972	6'5" -David Daniels		
	1972	6'5" -Jeff Downing		
	1972	-Oscar Ross		
	1972	6'6" -Marvin Jackson		
	1977	6'7" -Leonard Washington(22.0/15.0)	Houston	N.F.L. Eagles
	1977	6'4" -Richard Parker		
	1977	6'4" -Greg Daniels		
	1978	6'2" -Leonard Van During		
	1979	6'7" -Tim Garrett		
	1979	6'3" -Darrell Brown		

Lubbock Monterey

1970*	28-6 (#22)	Bi-District	Abilene 60-62 OT	Joe Michalka
1971	24-7 (#37)			Joe Michalka
1972	22-6 (#32)			Joe Michalka
1973	24-10 (#32)	Regional Semi	Irving 42-60	Joe Michalka
1974	23-11 (#31)	Regional Semi	E.P. Eastwood 38-49	Joe Michalka
1975	22-10 (#27)	Regional Semi	Midland Lee 51-62 OT	Joe Michalka
1976	19-12			Joe Michalka
1977	15-15			Joe Michalka
1978	19-12	Bi-District	Amarillo 48-54	
1979*	24-4 (#29)	Regional Semi	E.P. Coronado 43-58	

Total 220-93 70% (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	6'3" -Don Moore(17.0)	Texas Tech	
	1970	6'1" -Joe May		
	1970	6'4" -Mike Davis	Texas Tech	
	1971	6'1" -David Thetford		
	1972	6'5" -Grady Newton(22.0)	Texas Tech	
	1972	6'6" -Dan Irons		
	1973	5'9" -Kevin Taylor		
	1974	6'7" -J.C. Eakin		
	1974	6'4" -Jackson Pace		
	1975	6'6" -Dick Clardy		
	1979	6'6" -Craig Ehlo	Washington State	<u>NBA Rockets #48</u>

Richardson Eagles

1970	26-6 (#23)			Jerry Stone
1971	29-9 (#32)	Bi-District	Marshall 55-64	Jerry Stone
1972	24-8 (#44)			Jerry Stone
1973*	25-10 (#27)	Regional Semi	Sp. Branch 48-58	Jerry Stone
1974	20-12			Ken Norman
1975	22-7 (#41)			Ken Norman
1976	26-10 (#26)	Bi-District	Arl. Sam H. 70-75	Ken Norman
1977	28-7 (#36)	Bi-District	Tyler Lee 63-75	Ken Norman
1978	23-11			Ken Norman
1979	15-17			Ken Norman

Total 248 -97 72% (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	5'11"-Mark LaCroix(19.0)	
	1971	6'1" -Rick Penny(21.5)	McMurray College
	1973	6'3" -Pete Lodwik(16.0)	S.M.U.
	1973	6'6" -Steve Young(19.0)	
	1974	6'7" -Bob Hoebeke(19.7)	U.T.A./ Trinity SA
	1975	6'7" -Bryan Holland(21.0)	Texas A&M
	1976	6'0" -Lance Jagmin(12.7)	
	1977	6'1" -Kelly Newsome(13.0)	
	1977	6'4" -Ken Ord(18.0)	
	1979	6'4" -Paul McKimmey(24.0)	Texas Tech/San Diego St

Ft. Worth Paschal

1970	11-11			Charlie Turner
1971	13-11			Charlie Turner
1972	12-10			Jim Wall
1973	17-11			Jim Wall
1974	21-7 (#37)			Jim Wall
1975*	32-3 (#2)	95.10 State Finals	Kashmere 58-60	Jim Wall
1976	21-13			Jim Wall
1977	23-7			Jim Wall
1978	26-6 (#12)	82.86		Jim Wall
1979	26-8 (#17)	86.07		Jim Wall

Total 202-87 70%(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best	1971	-Kevin Kilpatrick(20.2)	
	1972	6'6" -Mark Wible(17.9)	West Texas St.
	1974	6'0" -Joe Billingsly(12.2)	
	1974	6'5" -Johnny George(17.6)	Tyler J.C.
	1975	6'4" -John Schlicher(19.3)	Texas A&M
	1975	6'8" -Wendall Mays(20.7)	Texas
	1975	6'4" -Gerald Battey	Nesho/East Texas St.
	1975	6'1" -Bruce Baird(13.0)	Navarro JC/Texas A&M
	1979	6'2" -Reginald Robinson	
	1979	6'5" -Greg Shropshire	Virginia Commonwealth

Arlington Colts

1970	13-17			Dale Archer
1971	24-13 (#41)	Bi-District	Garland 74-77 OT	Dale Archer
1972	23-12			Dale Archer
1973	22-11			Dale Archer
1974	23-8 (#39)	Bi-District	Denton 42-62	Dale Archer
1975	27-11 (#39)	Bi-District	N. Mesquite 47-52	Dale Archer
1976	27-8 (#32)			Dale Archer
1977*	31-3 (#6)	87.02 Bi-District	FW Dunbar 79-97	Dale Archer
1978	25-8 (#41)	Bi-District	FW Dunbar 55-67	Dale Archer
1979	19-13			

Total 234-104 69% (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1971	6'3" -Bill Kendrick(21.6)		
	1971	6'1" -Bob Smith		
	1974	6'8" -Craig Bishop		
	1975	6'10"-Allen Windor(19.6)	Houston/U.T. Arlington	
	1975	6'9" -Bob Rudolph	Texas Tech	
	1977	6'4" -Allen Roberts(15.0)		
	1977	6'7" -Ralph McPhearson(25.0)	Texas Tech/U.T.A.	Draft Mavs#188
	1978	5'11"-Bill Yates(10.0)		
	1978	6'6" -Eddie McClellan(17.0)		
	1979	6'5" -Ernest Williams(15.0)		

Corpus Christi Carroll Tigers

1970	22-12			Mike Kunstadt
1971	19-15			Mike Kunstadt
1972	25-9			Mike Kunstadt
1973*	32-5 (#9)	88.06 State Semis	Wheatley 60-70	Mike Kunstadt
1974	23-9			Mike Kunstadt
1975*	35-3 (#6)	89.42 Regional Semi	SA Jefferson 49-51	Mike Kunstadt
1976	24-9			B. Greenwood
1977	12-18			B. Greenwood
1978				
1979	27-10 (#31)	Regional Finals	A. Lanier 59-69	B. Greenwood

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

Best-	1973	6'3" -Danny Kaspar(14.0)	North Texas State
	1973	6'10"-Steve Frontz(11.8)	Texas State
	1975	6'8" -Preston Bailess(15.4)	Utah State
	1975	6'2" -Randy Feemster	
	1975	6'2" -Victor Melton(17.0)	Midwestern University
	1979	6'2" -Leon Upshaw(17.0)	Laredo JC

Irving Tigers

1970	6-24				Paul Ingle
1971	10-21				Paul Ingle
1972	28-9 (#24)	Bi-District	High. Park 63-78		Jim Puryear
1973*	28-5 (#14) 86.60	Regional Finals	Midland 57-71		Jim Puryear
1974	17-11				Jim Puryear
1975	25-8				Mike Kunstadt
1976	20-12				Mike Kunstadt
1977*	28-5 (#21)	Regional Semis	S.O.C. 48-57		Mike Kunstadt
1978	24-4				Mike Kunstadt
1979	17-12				Mike Kunstadt

Total 203-111 65% (State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1973	6'8"	-Tommy Weillert(31.0)	Texas
	1973	6'5"	-James Scott	
	1974	6'0"	-Don Pannell(13.2)	
	1974	6'6"	-Butch Bagby(10.3)	
	1975	6'1"	-Chris Gonser(18.9)	
	1977	6'0"	-Fred Stephenson(19.0)	
	1978	6'5"	-Andy Sears	

1975 AAA

Region I

Lamesa(34-0) was relentless in West Texas basketball with an awesome program. In 1970 they reached the State Finals, in 1971 they lost in the Regional Finals to Dumas, the eventual state champion. In 1972 Lamesa had a second-place finish in District to Snyder, who advanced to the regional finals. In 1973 Lamesa made the State finals, and in 1974 they were upset by Andrews in the Regional finals. Coach O.W. Follis was back in 1975 with his best team yet, although in the pre-season that didn't look to be the case. Lamesa was picked fourth in the pre-season polls behind, Snyder, Lubbock Dunbar and Lubbock Estacado.

Coach Follis returned three starters, but had lost four-year starter 6'4" Kent McCurley inside. That was a big blow replacing the size and strength of McCurley. The starting five was made up of all seniors. Of the five starters, only Bo Robinson had been a starter in junior high. So, all these players were products of the Coach Follis system. Team play and sharing the basketball was emphasized by Follis. The Golden Tornadoes were paced by a well-balanced attack with no super stars. 6'3" Jim Vaszauskas(14.8/9.0), 6'4" Bill Meeks(12.6/8.0), 6'2" Bo Robinson(8.8/ 8.0 assists), 5'11" Eddie Spencer(15.7), and 5'6" Dennis Fleming(10.7) made up the starting lineup for Lamesa. Meeks and Robinson operated mostly on the inside and Vaszauskas played inside or outside. Coach Follis

called Spencer the best jumper he had ever coached for his size and called Vaszauskas his most dedicated player. Vaszauskas played at Angelo St. before moving on to play at Baylor. Spencer played at Lubbock Christian, Robinson went on to the N.F.L., Meeks played a year at a small school in Colorado called, Gunnison. Meeks had perfected the seldom used hook shot, which made him very difficult to guard in the post area.

Lamesa(30-0) entered the playoffs undefeated. The Brownwood Lions were the sacrificial lamb for the Tornadoes. The Lions Coach, Steve Boothe, commented before the contest, "It's really tough to catch an undefeated team in the first round. They are so sound defensively that they really scare you. They really force most teams to make a lot of mistakes and we can't afford any." Brownwood entered the game after finishing 14-15 in the regular season. The Lions had been forced to play a District playoff game to enter the state playoffs. Brownwood(14-15) beat Weatherford 52-45 to advance.

The Brownwood-Lamesa game was a mismatch as Lamesa(31-0) thumped the Lions 59-42. Brownwood only hit 29% from the floor and only stayed close from the foul line shooting 16 of 21. Jim Vaszauskas was high point man with 18 points and Eddie Spencer finished with 15 for Lamesa. Sammy Harrell of Brownwood was top dog for the Lions with only 12 points. Coach Follis was not happy after the game, "That was a really a sorry showing."

Region I Finals

Lamesa(31-0) faced in regionals the winner of the Levelland(23-7) and Odessa Ector(24-6) contest. Both Levelland and Odessa Ector had outstanding programs, so who ever won would be challenging for the Tornadoes.

The Lobos of Levelland(23-7) won a high scoring affair 90-86 to advance to regional. Garry Morgan led Levelland with 29 points while James Butler hit 28 for Odessa Ector(24-6).

Levelland(23-7) and Lamesa(31-0) would go at it again for a second time for the right to go to Austin. The Lobos were a little leery because they had been completely outclassed in the two team's first meeting of the season 81-53. Levelland(23-7) knew they would have to play much better to have a chance against Lamesa.

The Golden Tornadoes had to overcome a 13-point deficit to win 68-59. Levelland(23-7) jumped out to a 17-4 lead with 3:26 left in the 1st period, but spent the rest of the contest hanging on. By halftime Lamesa had taken the lead 38-33. Dennis Fleming of Lamesa, their 5'6" hustling guard, picked up his 4th foul in the 2nd quarter and had to sit most of the 2nd and 3rd quarters. He re-entered the game in the 4th quarter and added 10 more points and finished with a game high 24 points. Eddie Spencer was next in scoring with 18 points and Jim Vaszauskas added 16 points. Garry Morgan, a 6'5" post, led Levelland with 21 points.

Region II

In the 1960s and 1970s the Dallas-Ft. Worth area was growing at an alarming pace. Grand Prairie, located in between Dallas and Ft. Worth, had seen tremendous growth. By 1969 Grand Prairie opened a new high school called South Grand Prairie. The new school picked the Warriors as their mascot and were instantly successful in baseball winning the 6-AAA championship in their first season of competition. Basketball took a little longer, but by 1975 they had arrived in the sport of round ball as well. They were a predominately white team with two African American players on the squad. The Head basketball coach was Pete Thompson, who had been an assistant at Grand Prairie High. His coaching staff was impressive during the 1970s. His assistant coach in 1974 was Stan Hicks, who went on to fame at Grand Prairie High School and Plano High. His freshmen coach was Danny Husband. Husband went on to success at Arlington Martin in the 1980s and 1990s. Joe Rushing, of Lancaster fame, was the freshmen coach under Thompson.

Pete Thompson was a no non-sense coach who demanded discipline. "He coached out of fear but we knew he cared about us," one of his players commented.

The key player on the 1975 Warriors was a junior guard named, Phil Hale. Hale(15.6) stood 6'3" and had tremendous quickness. His first step was amazing. Although he was a solid scorer, his ability to handle the ball was what really made him valuable. Baseball was his best sport, as he led his team to state in baseball twice during his high school career. Hale was a shortstop and pitcher.

The Warriors had a balanced lineup made up of 6'4" Albert Adams(17.3), who was very strong inside and the team's leading rebounder. 5'10" David Garner(12.1), 6'1" David Kahle(8.6) and 5'11" Jeff Salyer added a great deal of depth to the team. Albert Adams later played at Dallas Baptist, David Garner went into the military and David Kahle took his talents to Texas Lutheran. A key player off the bench was 6'2" Harold Wilson(9.4). On the 6-AAA All-District squad, Hale was named District M.V.P., Adams was named to the first team and Garner and Wilson made the second team.

South Grand Prairie played in three preseason tournaments in Waxahachie, Grand Prairie and Duncanville. The majority of teams in these tournaments were class 4-A schools.

In the Waxahachie tournament the Warriors downed Terrell in the first round 81-44, but lost to Wilmer Hutchins in the semi-finals 71-66. In the 3rd place contest South Grand Prairie took apart Diamond Hill-Jarvis 75-36.

The Warriors really got things going in the Grand Prairie tournament beating the Gophers of Grand Prairie(17-16) in the finals 69-60. This avenged an earlier loss to Grand Prairie 83-66. In the opening round the Warriors downed Waco University(24-8) 80-67 and Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt(25-8) 81-78 in the semi-finals. Wyatt advanced to the state playoffs and ended up losing in Bi-District to Ft.

Worth Paschal(32-3). The Waco University and Wyatt wins were both quality wins for the Warriors.

S.G.P.(29-6) fell apart in the Duncanville tournament losing two of three games. Lake Highlands(22-9) mauled the Warriors in the opening round 76-58. Dallas Woodrow Wilson piled on in the consolation finals defeating S.G.P. 63-55. In the consolation semis the Warriors defeated Waxahachie 73-56.

Arlington Lamar fell to S.G.P. 79-59 in the preseason as did DeSoto 89-46. Others wins for South Grand Prairie came against Terrell 72-42 and 73-37, Duncanville 66-62, Grand Prairie 47-42 and Ft. Worth Brewer 99-48. Their fifth loss of the season came against Irving MacArthur 69-68.

District 6-3A was very unchallenging for the Warriors as they rolled to a perfect 12-0 record. Most of the wins were by double digit except for the 2nd round game against Richardson Berkner(13-15). S.G.P. won a close one 62-58 over the Rams.

Heading into the playoffs Coach Pete Thompson knew he would need a challenging game to prepare his squad for the rigors of playoff basketball. The Warriors(29-6) took on North Mesquite(27-9) and came away with an impressive 61-57 win over the class 4-A team. Defeating the Stallions showed the potential of the Warriors against a class 4-A regional semi-finalist. Mark Davis was the leader of North Mesquite and later played at S.M.U. with Phil Hale. Hale(15.6) did most of the damage for the Warriors against North Mesquite finishing with 21 points and 9 rebounds.

Rolling into the playoffs S.G.P. faced the Everman(25-3) Bulldogs. Everman was an experienced playoff contender having won district in 1972 and again in 1973. The Bulldogs finished behind Grapevine during the '74 campaign. Coach John Nichols had built an impressive program. 5'10" Larry Kemp(17.0) was the lead dog for the Bulldogs, and was joined in the starting lineup by 6'4" Ricky Peets, 6'5" Paul Renfro, 6'0" Robert Bell and 5'9" Kermit Grandberry. Everman's only loss in District action came at the hands of the Mustangs of Grapevine. The Bulldogs other two losses were to Duncanville in overtime in the season opener and Ft. Worth Eastern Hills at the Cleburne tournament.

Coach Nichols commented about the challenge of facing S.G.P., "I'm very impressed with them, they play pretty much a 4-A schedule and they could beat a very good 4-A team. Our district is probably a good deal stronger than 6-3A, but I don't think we have anyone team as strong as South Grand Prairie." District 5-3A had four teams that were 20 game winners as compared to only S.G.P. in 6-3A.

In discussing Hale, Nichols said, "He'll get the ball to somebody in position to do something with it."

Everman(25-3) was going to run a 1-3-1 zone defense and attempt to get the ball inside to 6'5" Paul Renfro.

The Bi-District contest between Everman(25-3) and South Grand Prairie(26-5) was played at Trinity High School in Euless. The game was rather a low scoring affair with Everman leading at the end of the first period 7-6. By halftime, S.G.P. had taken a 23-20 lead and were up 45-42 entering the final frame. "I don't ever recall a start like that," a relieved Pete Thompson said after the game. "They were as bad as we were."

At the 4:45 mark of the 4th quarter Paul Renfro fouled out, which really hurt the Bulldogs inside. The Warriors went into a stall at the 1:41 mark and pulled away to a 59-52 victory. 6'5" Paul Renfro picked up his fifth foul for Everman in the fourth quarter and from that point on Everman was unable to slow down Adams inside. Renfro had only managed nine points before leaving the action.

Larry Kemp(17.0) led the Everman stats sheet with 22 points and Ricky Peets finished with 11 points and 11 rebounds. Phil Hale(15.6) was the man for the Warriors coming away with 17 points and 15 boards. David Garner(12.1) added 11 points and 8 rebounds. S.G.P. shot 33% from the floor, while Everman managed 34%. The Warriors ended up with 21 turnovers and Everman had 19.

Region II Finals

Waco Jefferson Moore(22-9) awaited S.G.P. in regionals. The game was played in Corsicana at Navarro J.C. The Lions of Jefferson-Moore had defeated Clarksville in Bi-District action 49-45 in Tyler. Clarksville(25-5) won a District 7-AAA playoff game against Daingerfield(22-4) 57-49 to advance against Jefferson-Moore.

For the Lions of Jefferson Moore it was their third straight regional appearance after going to state in 1973. Moore was a very physical and athletic team that liked to put a lot of full court pressure on their opponents.

Coach Jack Schrader was at the helm for Waco Moore(22-9). Coach Schrader looked to 6'5" William Lee, Darrell King, Michael Long, Don Alley and Larry Mayes. The Lions only loss in district was at the hands of Marlin. Waco Moore downed Ennis in the zone playoffs 69-58.

Coach Thompson had Joe Rushing and David Jones scout Waco Moore as he prepared for the regional finals. Rushing and Jones both coached at Jackson Middle school in Grand Prairie.

In the regional game the Lions started out pressing the Warriors and took an 8-point lead. S.G.P. turned the ball over 8 times in the first eight minutes of the game. Waco Moore soon got into foul trouble and by halftime S.G.P. was up 35-32.

With 1:55 remaining in the game, Hale picked up his fourth foul and the Warriors lead vanished. South Grand Prairie went into a stall and pulled the game out 73-69. Salyer was clutch down the stretch with 23 points and 6 rebounds. Despite foul trouble, Hale came away with 15 points and 10 rebounds. Wilson added 14 points. 6'5" Mike Rutter proved to be valuable for the Warriors coming off the bench in the 4th quarter to score eight points in the final period.

For Waco Moore, William Lee put up 28 points and finished with 10 rebounds. "He ate us alive," Coach Thompson said following the game. Darrell King connected for 16 points and Larry Mayes tallied 11 rebounds. S.G.P. out rebounded Moore 41-39, but had 19 turnovers to Moore's 10. S.G.P. shot 41 % from the field while Waco Moore managed 37 %. The Warriors finished with 10 turnovers and Moore had 19.

"I've got to be proud of these kids because they had to overcome the odds to win this one," Coach Thompson explained. "Moore was really a good team." Coach Schrader of Waco Moore commented after the game, "it could have gone either way. That's all I can say."

Region III

Down south, Silsbee has always had one of the top teams in Region III. For the 6th time in seven years, Coach Dan Montgomery had his team in the playoffs. Supporting a 27-7 record the Tigers were faced with a playoff game against the west zone winner of District 10-AAA, Cleveland(21-5). The Tigers starters included 6'2" Michael Dabney(23.2), 6'1" Anthony Brown(14.5), 5'9" Larry Taylor, 5'10" Artie Shankle and 5'10" Derek Shelton. Dabney was named All-State and District M.V.P. and Brown was named first team All-District. Taylor made the second team.

In the showdown between zone winners, Cleveland(21-5) and Silsbee(27-7) went at it for the third time during the 1975 campaign for all the marbles. Silsbee had won both of the previous meetings. The Tigers were not so fortunate this time losing 74-72. Silsbee let the game get away from them after leading by six points with 1:46 remaining in the contest. It was the second year in a row Silsbee would lose after seemingly having control of the zone playoff game.

Michael Dabney(23.2) did his part scoring 32 points and for Cleveland, Clyde Woods and Roland Reed both managed 19 points apiece. After the loss, Coach Montgomery said, "We just took a shot we never should have taken. Losing like this sure takes the glitter off winning 19-straight."

In the '74 zone playoffs Silsbee had been up 17 points going into the final quarter and lost to Crosby 66-65.

District 10-AAA was very competitive in 1975 with Little Cypress-Mauriceville(24-6) having a strong team and West Orange-Stark finished 16-11. Cleveland(22-5) defeated Kilgore 68-54 in Bi-District to advance to regionals.

*In **the regional finals**, Rockdale(32-6) awaited Cleveland(22-5) to see who would advance to the big dance. Rockdale(32-6) had to get out of its own zone playoff against North Zone winner, Belton. With the 12-AAA title at stake and the score tied 44 all, Danny Randall of Rockdale drove to the basket, but was called for charging. Belton took possession and missed at the buzzer putting the game into overtime. 6'4" Mac Lingo of Belton dominated the backboards and smothered the Tigers twin post attack. 6'2" Ray Locklin of Rockdale was held to only 9 points but Parker Peebles managed to score 20 points. Belton lost Lingo to fouls and Rockdale*

lost Locklin, also in the fourth quarter. Rockdale(32-6) went on to win their second straight District title 51-48 over Belton. Brian Sweeney and Johnny Faulk were the leading scorers for Belton.

In Bi-District Rockdale(32-6) took on Tomball at Stephen F. Austin in Bryan. Rockdale(32-6) got off to a very fast start leading 10-0 at the end of the first quarter. Tomball was pressing, which hurt the Tigers and lefty, Mike Edwards began to bring Tomball back. Midway through the fourth quarter Rockdale still led 41-30 when Edwards hit 4 consecutive jumpers to bring the score to 46-40. The closest Tomball could get was the three point disadvantage of the final score 49-46, in favor of Rockdale. Mike Edwards finished with 25 points, and kept his team in the game throughout, while Ray Locklin managed 22 points to lead the Tigers.

The stage was set for Rockdale(33-6) and Cleveland(22-6) in the regional finals. The Indians 6'6" post Ernie Rogers had a big impact on the games interior play. 6'2" Ray Locklin, the inside force for Rockdale, was bothered early in the contest with the size of Rogers, but finished the game with 26 points. The Indians sharpshooter, Clyde Woods, went off for 18 points with bombs from long range. Rogers finished with 14 points, Roland Reed added 13 and Richard Brown had 10. The balance of the Indians was too much for Rockdale(33-7), who lost for the second season in a row in the regional finals 62-54. Cleveland(23-6) took a commanding lead 50-35 and led throughout. Rockdale(33-7) really had nobody to blame but themselves hitting only 6-23 from the foul line. Cleveland shot 70% from the foul line, hitting 14 of 20. Rockdale finished another disappointing season 33-7.

At **state in the semi-finals**, South Grand Prairie(28-5) drew the Rice Consolidated-Altair Raiders(24-9). Rice Consolidated-Altair(24-9) was a consolidated school in its fifth year. South Grand Prairie was in its sixth year of existence. Coach Jack Grammer was the leader of Rice Consolidated. Most of his team's losses came earlier in the season with several of his players recovering from football injuries. In the playoffs the Raiders had defeated defending state champion, Gonzales, 65-64 in Bi-District. In regional Rice Consolidated won another close one 56-52 over Rockport Fulton. The Raiders only loss in District came at the hands of Sweeny.

Rice Consolidated was a young team with only two seniors seeing major minutes. Starters included 5'11" Don Austin(11.0), 6'1" Allan Higgins(9.0), 6'2" Darrell Dancy(12.0), 6'5" Ronald Glover(12.0) and 6'4" 200 pound Kenneth Dawson(11.5).

Coach Grammer commented coming into the South Grand Prairie game, "we try to play good defense, basically a man to man." Grammer continued, "we have a predominately black team, but we don't play the type of game most associate with this kind of team."

Coach Thompson of S.G.P. said, "I don't know how we'll play them exactly. I guess we'll just start playing and adjust from there."

The game was very close in the first half with the Warriors leading 27-26 at halftime. In the second half, Hale began to take over the game, penetrating and going one on one. He put his team in the lead 48-42 at the end of three quarters. Hale had 11 points in the 3rd quarter alone. S.G.P. was up by as many as 19 points in the 4th quarter and went on to win 70-57.

Rice Consolidated-Altair turned the ball over 23 times which led to 20 Warrior points. S.G.P. only had 12 turnovers. The Warriors led in rebounding 49-46 and Hale finished with 23 points and 13 rebounds, while Garner added 13 points and Wilson had 12. S.G.P. won the rebound battle 49 to 46 and out shot the Raiders taking 73 attempts compared to only 58 for Rice Consolidated.

Don Austin was high man for the Raiders with 18 points and Darrell Dancy had 11. "Phil Hale did a tremendous job and Wilson and Rutter came off the bench to really help again," Thompson said after the game.

Raider coach, Jack Grammer said following the loss, "S.G.P. has to be the quickest team we've played this year. Hale is a good shooter, but he's probably more valuable as a passer. He's real smart and seems to know what's going on all the time. Otherwise, we just got out-played. We quit running and moving the ball." Grammer continued saying, "we were trying to get the ball inside, but S.G.P. was too quick."

In the other semi-finals game, Lamesa(32-0) caught a stubborn Cleveland team that evidently had not been reading all the press clippings about how great Lamesa was supposed to be. Cleveland(23-6) was very solid with 6'3" Roland Reed(23.0), 6'4" Richard Brown(18.0), 6'6" Ernie Rogers(16.0) and 6'1" Clyde Woods(17.0). That's four players scoring in not only double figures, but high double figures. Cleveland was a tough team to play against because of their balanced scoring attack.

Lamesa came from behind to advance to the state finals with a 64-58 victory. The Indians really put a scare into Lamesa taking an early lead, and led at halftime 34-24. Cleveland finally went cold in the third quarter and were outscored by Lamesa 21 to 10. Spencer led the Tornadoes with 22 points and Meeks followed with 21.

Richard Brown was top man for Cleveland with 18 points, Clyde Woods 12, Roland Reed 12 and Ernie Rogers with 14. "I feel fortunate that we won that one," Coach Follis said. Cleveland had played a much tougher schedule than Lamesa during the season losing to Silsbee 71-61 and 70-61, Beaumont Pollard(24-9) 92-67, and Lufkin 69-64. Once the Indians began playing just 3-A teams and got into District action, it was lights out with 17 straight victories.

*So, **the state finalists** were set, undefeated Lamesa(33-0) against South Grand Prairie(29-5). Five points was the closest anybody had come to the Tornadoes all season, and that was Odessa Ector in the fifth game of the season. Ector lost to Lamesa 49-44.*

In analyzing the game, S.G.P.(29-5) was the most talented team Lamesa had faced all season and Hale was the best player they had went up against. In talking with Jim Vaszauskas recently, he shared some of his thoughts about the season. "We were a very close-knit team, I still talk with my former teammates once a month," Vaszauskas said. When asked about Phil Hale of South Grand Prairie, Vaszauskas responded, "Amazing player, who could do it all, good player." When asked if Hale was the best player that Lamesa had faced all season, Vaszauskas answered, "No, we had some real strong players in our District like Tommy Williams and Lewis Robertson, they just weren't surrounded by outstanding teammates like Hale." The Championship game was a great match-up. Although many people favored Lamesa(33-0), the game in reality was probably a toss-up.

The championship game was very close in the first half with Lamesa(33-0) leading at halftime 30-28. S.G.P.(29-5) had a terrible third period, turning the ball over 7 times and Lamesa hit 8 straight points at the start of the period to build a lead of 10 points. At the end of three, it was Lamesa 44, S.G.P 36. Lamesa went to the line 16 times in the fourth quarter and hit 9 foul shots. The Golden Tornadoes went on to win 59-55 and became the first school in state history to win three class AAA titles.

S.G.P. had 24 turnovers to 19 for Golden Tornadoes. The Warriors made 5 of 9 from the foul line and Lamesa made 19 of 29. On the boards, S.G.P. had the edge 36-29. Hale finished with 21 points, Salyer had 12 and Wilson put in 10 points. Albert Adams did what he did well and that was rebound, he had 14 rebounds. As always, Lamesa's scoring was really spread out with 5'6" Dennis Fleming hitting 13 points, Robinson 12 and Spencer with 12. Lamesa shot 49% from the field and the Warriors hit 46%.

Coach Thompson commented later, "Free throws got us every time. It seemed like every time I looked up they were on the line."

Coach Follis said after the victory, "After seeing S.G.P. Friday night, I knew they would be tough. They're well coached and play good basketball. We got control when we finally started penetrating." Vaszauskas summed things up pretty well following the championship, "There's not one super star on the team."

A little-known member of the S.G.P. roster in 1975 was a 6'3", 165-pound senior, who saw very little playing time. His name was Brad Chasteen. Brad would become an outstanding coach at Coppell High school and Waco Midway. He established a fine program in one of the most affluent areas in the Dallas Metroplex. Chasteen took Coppell to the state tournament in Austin late in his career. He later became very successful coaching AAU or club basketball. He was and still is well respected among his peers.

Coach Chasteen was asked to compare two of the top guards of the era, Phil Hale and John Schlicher of Paschal. Both players were in Austin in 1975 and both were highly recruited players nationally. Chasteen said, "They were two of the

best you ever wanted to see, they could really play. Comparing the two would be tough, but I would say Schlicher was probably a little better finisher and a little stronger, while Hale was a better ball handler and passer." Chasteen added, "Be sure Jim Wall doesn't see this, he'll be mad at me." Wall, the former Ft. Worth Paschal coach, of course coached Schlicher. Chasteen also coached Wall's son the year Coppell advanced to state.

A quick recap of Phil Hales career shows his relationship with his father was the reason he attended S.M.U. Hale was probably better at baseball but he chose basketball. He later went on to have a fine coaching career at Lancaster with Joe Rushing and later as the head girls coach for the Tigers. Hale was one of the top recruits in the state during the '76 season and one of the best to ever come out of Grand Prairie.

All-Tournament team- *Eddie Spencer, Dennis Fleming and Brian Meeks of Lamesa, Phil Hale of S.G.P., 6'4" Richard Brown of Cleveland and 5'11" Don Austin of Rice Consolidated.*

Sports Writers All-State 1st team- *6'1" Tommy Williams(19.1), Lubbock Dunbar; 6'0" Eddie Spencer(16.5), Lamesa; 6'2" Anthony Sanders(27.0/25.0), Clarksville; 6'2" Lewis Roberson of Brownfield; 6'4" Jim Vaszauskas(15.5/12.5) of Lamesa; **2nd Team-** 6'1" Fred Skins of Palestine, 5'11" Stan Warren of Del Valle, 6'3" Richard Brown(18.0) of Cleveland, 6'3" Michael Dabney(23.2) of Silsbee, 6'5" Vanczant Driver of Taft: **3^d Team-** 6'4" Sidney Davis of Lubbock Dunbar; 6'1" Anthony Brown(14.5) of Silsbee, 6'0" Don Alley of Waco Jefferson-Moore, 6'4" Albert Adams of South Grand Prairie, 6'4" William Smith of Daingerfield:*

The obvious omission was Phil Hale of South Grand Prairie. He was one of the top players in the state in 1975 and the top player in AAA basketball. The Sports Writers voted Albert Adams on the All-State team but not Hale? How does that happen? Hale being left off the team makes the whole team look very questionable, as to how they were selected. Amazingly, four of the five players on the first team all came from the same District. Lubbock Dunbar, Brownfield and Lamesa were all from the same District. This was very disappointing to followers around the state.

Power Ranking 1975:

1.	Lamesa	34-0	94.65	State Champs 3-A	def. S.G.P. 59-55
2.	S. Grand Prairie	29-6	82.70	State Finals 3-A	loss to Lamesa 59-55

1975 3-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	Lamesa(30-0)	59	Brownwood(14-15)	42
	Zone: Brownwood(13-15)	52	Weatherford	45
	Levelland(23-7)	90	Odessa Ector(24-6)	86
Region I Finals	Lamesa(31-0)	68	Levelland(24-7)	59
Region II Bi-Dist.	South Grand Prairie(26-5)	59	Everman(25-3)	52
	Waco Jeff-Moore(21-9)	49	Clarksville(25-5)	45
	Zone: Clarksville(24-5)	57	Daingerfield(22-4)	49
Region II Finals	South Grand Prairie(27-5)	73	Waco Jeff-Moore(22-9)	69
Region III Bi-Dist.	Cleveland(22-5)	68	Kilgore	54
	Zone: Cleveland(21-5)	74	Silsbee(27-7)	72
	Rockdale(32-6)	49	Tomball	46
Region III Finals	Cleveland(23-5)	62	Rockdale(33-6)	54
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Rice Consolidated Altair(22-9)	65	Gonzales	64
	Rockport-Fulton			
Region IV Finals	Rice Consolidated Altair(23-9)	56	Rockport-Fulton	52
State Semi-Finals	Lamesa(32-0)	64	Cleveland(24-5)	58
	South Grand Prairie(28-5)	70	Rice Consolidated(24-9)	57
State Finals	Lamesa(33-0)	59	South Grand Prairie(29-5)	55

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1975 AAA Top Ten}

1.	Lamesa	34-0	{numbers were staggering +22.7 point difference}
2.	South Grand Prairie	29-6	{state finalist led by Hale}
3.	Cleveland	23-6	{had Lamesa down early in the semis}
4.	Silsbee	27-8	{lost to Cleveland in the zone playoff game 74-72}
5.	Waco Jefferson-Moore	22-10	{three straight years in the regional finals}
6.	Levelland	24-8	{eliminated by Lamesa in the regional finals 68-59}
7.	Odessa Ector	24-7	{lost in Bi-District to Levelland 90-86}
8.	Everman	25-4	{lost in Bi-District to S.G.P. 58-52}
9.	Rockdale	33-7	{regional finalist losing to Cleveland}
10.	Clarksville	25-6	{loss to Waco Jeff. Moore in Bi-District}

1976 AAA

The TABC final top twenty rankings had South Grand Prairie(29-1) at #1, with a 30-1 record in 1976. Samuel Clemens, out of San Antonio, was second at 31-2. Longview Pine Tree was next at 24-2, Rockdale 4th at 31-6, 5th Gonzales at 28-3,

6th Waxahachie 26-6, 7th Hitchcock 27-5, 8th Daingerfield 20-5, 9th West Oso 28-5 and 10th Snyder.

South Grand Prairie(29-1) had gained the state finals the year before and had unquestionably the best player in the state in class AAA and maybe any classification, 6'3" Phil Hale(22.0). He was a big guard with tremendous vision. I remember watching Hale play and the thing that caught my eye was his quickness. He was a special player.

Other teams that had to be closely watched were Pine Tree(24-2). The school out of Longview had won-state in 1973. Gonzales(28-3), the 1974 state champion, once again had a very good team. Silsbee(27-7), ranked 11th in the state, was always going to be tough. Odessa Ector(21-10) and Lamesa(15-14), two mainstays in the playoffs, were not ranked in the state's final top twenty.

Did the pollsters of the TABC follow high school basketball or just guess? The thing you have to keep in mind, to be relevant, the rankings had to be fair. In most cases, especially in the smaller classifications, fair was not good. Sometimes one region had all the best teams competing against one another.

Region II

The Warriors of S.G.P.(29-1) came into the 1976 playoffs as possibly the strongest AAA team of the 1970s up to that point. Undefeated Lamesa in 1975 and Levelland in 1973 were about the only other teams that entered the playoffs with this strong a resume and fanfare.

The Warriors faced a challenging schedule for a class 3-A team facing several 4-A schools. Early in the season S.G.P. met Dallas Woodrow Wilson(21-9). Woodrow had one of the top players in the state in 6'10" Alton Lister. The big man had an outstanding career at Arizona State following graduation and later had a lengthy stay in the National Basketball Association. With Phil Hale and Lister facing one another, you had two of the top recruits in the state going at it.

South Grand Prairie(31-1) got past Woodrow Wilson(21-9) 58-54. Lister was in foul trouble and only managed nine points and seven rebounds. Hale was impressive with 20 points and 11 rebounds.

In the Waxahachie tournament the Warriors took the title defeating Greenhill 76-45, Wilmer Hutchins 82-54 and Waxahachie(32-8) 67-63. In the Grand Prairie tournament, South Grand Prairie had little trouble downing Denton 71-51, Lewisville 50-39 and DeSoto(17-11) 61-59.

The Warriors final tournament was in Duncanville where South Grand Prairie(31-1) lost to Lake Highlands(9-22) 64-62. It was the second season in a row that the Wildcats had defeated the Warriors. The loss ended S.G.P.'s 13 game winning streak. In the consolation bracket S.G.P. defeated Woodrow Wilson(21-9) once again 71-62. Lister put up impressive numbers with 18 points and 17 rebounds in a losing cause. Hale ended up with 24 points against Woodrow. In the consolation finals, Mineral Wells fell to the Warriors 49-39.

Other pre-district wins came over DeSoto(17-11) 72-58 and 69-55, Grand Prairie(15-18) 52-51 and 70-52, Duncanville 68-60, Arlington Bowie 80-45, Arlington Lamar 68-39 and Terrell 85-45.

District was a little more challenging for the Warriors than the previous season with Richardson Berkner(21-9) and Gainesville(16-9) the only real challenges. The Rams of Berkner fell to S.G.P. 76-60 and 61-52, while Gainesville went down 81-64 and 78-56. Most of the District games were 40 point blow-outs.

Warriors Coach, Pete Thompson, wanted a warm-up game before moving into the playoffs. He looked long and hard and came up with the District 11-AAAA champion, Dallas Samuel(26-8). The Spartans were coached by Doug Scott, who would be at the helm of the East Dallas school for the next 25 years. The two teams met at Haltom's Birdville Coliseum. Hale was his usual awesome self, scoring 30 points on 11-19 shooting and 8-8 from the foul line. He also picked up 10 rebounds, as the Warriors moved their record to 30-1 with an impressive 74-61 victory. David Kahle added 15 points for the Warriors.

Coach Scott had several comments about Hale after the game. Scott compared him to some of the top players in Dallas. "Phil Hale is the best guard in Dallas. He is an outstanding shooter, passer and defender." "S.G.P. is a good team, but I would have to rate two or three teams in Dallas as better. A team like S.O.C. is just too big and strong for them. Of course, S.O.C. has a few more people to pick from," Scott said. 6'6" Warrior post, Mike Rutter, sat out most of the game because of illness.

"The game was good for us. We needed to play a good team before the playoffs," Coach Pete Thompson said.

In Bi-District, S.G.P.(30-1) faced Everman(24-4) for the second year in a row at Birdville Coliseum in Haltom. Everman(24-4) was ranked #18 in the final state rankings and they defeated #17 Burleson to make the playoffs 77-48. Everman's only returning starter was 6'7" Paul Renfro(22.0). Filling out the Bulldog lineup was 6'4" Jeff Crabough, 5'8" Brent Hollingsworth, 5'8" Al Primm, 5'9" Jeff Park and subs, 6'4" Jay Robinson and 6'4" Mike Campbell.

The Warriors of Coach Pete Thompson countered with 6'6" Mike Rutter, 6'4" Albert Adams(15.6 reb.), 6'3" Phil Hale(22.6), 6'1" David Kahle and 5'10" Phil Williams.

"To win we're going to have to slow down Renfro, he's the offensive core of their team," Coach Pete Thompson said. "He's not a good jumper, but he is an excellent shooter. We won't put two guys on him, but we may be helping out as much as we can," Coach Thompson continued.

Everman's coach, John Nichols, commented about Hale, "Hale leads them down the court it would take a battalion to stop him. He is tall and can see the court well and he's a good passer. We're not naïve, we think he's the best player in the state. He's the one that makes them #1 and even without him they would be a

pretty good team." Nichols continued saying, "I don't think we can use the press except to keep the pressure on South Grand Prairie. To beat the Warrior's we're going to have to hold our own on the boards."

The game between S.G.P.(31-1) and Everman(24-5) was a wild one with three starters fouling out, Kahle, Hale and Rutter. Hale had four offensive fouls. James Wilson of S.G.P. missed a long jump shot at the buzzer at the end of regulation with the score tied 58-58. Sub Gary Whitley was the hero in overtime hitting the winning basket for the Warriors to give them the win 64-62. Whitley was immediately mobbed by his teammates and fans.

Hale finished with 27 points and Adams hit 10 points and 9 rebounds. Renfro had a great game in the loss finishing with 30 points and 11 rebounds. Renfro also sunk two free throws with 14 seconds left in regulation to send the game into overtime.

David Kahle fouled out with a little over a minute left in regulation and Hale left the contest with 49 seconds remaining in regulation. Rutter fouled out in overtime.

Brett Hollingsworth and Renfro hit key buckets in overtime to tie the score at 62 all. This set up Whitley's winning basket. The Warriors passed the ball around in the closing seconds and the crowd was yelling shoot, Whitley put up the shot from 15 feet.

Both teams shot 47% from the floor and the Bulldogs won the rebound battle 30-24. Everman had 25 turnovers while S.G.P. committed only 15 turnovers.

In region II Daingerfield(21-5) was always strong coming out of East Texas. The Tigers were coached by Homer Young. Daingerfield(21-5) had taken out Pittsburg in zone action winning the series in two straight 52-43 and 53-42. Pittsburg was led by first year coach, Frank Hornsby, while Daingerfield was coached by Homer Young.

Starters for Daingerfield included 5'10" James Jenkins, 6'0" Ricky Smith(11.5), 6'4" Eldret Walker(8.0), 6'3" Rodney Lewis(13.9) and 6'5" Gary Lewis(12.0/10.0). Gary Smith was considered the team's best all-around athlete.

Daingerfield(21-5) had also lost a warmup contest against one of the top teams in East Texas, Tyler John Tyler(30-5) 58-56. John Tyler advanced all the way to the class 4-A state finals losing to El Paso Eastwood(31-3). 6'5" Gary Lewis and 6'3" Rodney Lewis paced Daingerfield with 16 points and Dennis Gordon led John Tyler(30-5) with 18 points.

Daingerfield's losses came at the hands of Tyler John Tyler twice, Texas High, Carthage and Longview Pine Tree. Daingerfield averaged 59 points per game and allowed only 48 points.

Daingerfield(21-5) faced Waxahachie(29-7) in Bi-District. The Indians of Waxahachie were a traditional power and had one of their best teams in several years. Waxahachie had hired a new coach in 1974. His name was Jack Aldridge and

his job was to turn around the program. After two strong seasons in 1970 and 1971 the Indians had been in a decline. The green and white were back in 1976.

Waxahachie(29-7) losses over the season were to Sherman 56-49, Waco High 72-64, Everman(24-5) 72-69, Abilene Cooper(16-15) 60-51 and Abilene High(22-7) 68-67. Since the Abilene loss, the Indians had rattled off 16 straight wins.

District was somewhat challenging for the Indians with DeSoto(17-11) and Lancaster(19-12) having respectable clubs. Waxahachie(29-7) had little trouble with DeSoto(17-11) 67-62 and 65-51. The Indians got by Lancaster(19-12) 73-57 and 74-58. Lancaster(19-12) was propelled by some really strong young talent in 6'4" Ed Gatlin(28.0) and 6'4" Kevin Kalmus(15.0).

Following the regular season, Waxahachie played a home and home warmup game against Ft. Worth Nolan(21-8). The Indians took the first game 68-65 but played very lethargic in the second game losing 86-61. Nolan's Bobby Forest put up 36 points against Hachie. Forest later played at Rice University.

Waxahachie(29-7) defeated Waco Jefferson Moore 87-39 to capture the 5-AAA District title in the zone playoff. Jefferson-Moore had lost their first 16 games of the season before turning things around and winning the zone.

Jefferson-Moore had advanced to the zone playoffs by surprising Waco Midway(18-12) 60-52 to capture the 2nd half of District. Waco Midway(18-12) downed LaVega 81-66 to take the first round title, setting up the rematch with Waco Jefferson-Moore for all the marbles. Jefferson-Moore again dropped Waco Midway(18-12) in a close one 50-49.

Coach Aldridge discussed Daingerfield(21-5), "Daingerfield puts five good athletes on the floor and they will be tough to beat." Aldridge continued, "the Tigers are very smooth, well-disciplined team and will play their game. They just will not run. They bring the ball down the court very slowly against the press. They never hurry on offense and don't have a weak player on offense." The Tigers had only played five players in their win over Pittsburg.

The Waxahachie(29-7)-Daingerfield(21-5) game was a Bi-District contest played in Greenville. The Indians defeated Daingerfield(21-5) 53-44 to advance to regionals against South Grand Prairie. 6'5" Norvell Brown(26.0) led the way for the Indians finishing with 26 points and 20 rebounds. "Norvell had a tremendous night," Daingerfield coach Homer Young said. Darrell Wilson complemented Brown with 12 points. Ricky Smith paced Daingerfield with 16 points.

One of the keys to the game was when 6'5" Gary Lewis fouled out with 4:37 remaining with the Indians leading 43-40. Coach Aldridge of Waxahachie said he felt that was the turning point of the game.

"We did what we had to on offense, Daingerfield was a lot tougher on defense than I thought they would be against us," Coach Jack Aldridge of Waxahachie explained.

Daingerfield was 21 of 45 from the field for 46% and Waxahachie shot 23 of 54 for 42%. Waxahachie actually out rebounded Daingerfield 38-19.

Region II Finals

This pitted the two best teams in region II, South Grand Prairie(31-1) and Waxahachie(29-7) against one another at Loos Field House in Carrollton. The two teams had met earlier in the season in the finals of the Waxahachie tournament with S.G.P.(31-1) winning 67-63. The two teams knew each other well. There would be very few surprises. S.G.P. had a 19-game winning streak coming in and Waxahachie had won 16 of their previous 17 games. There only loss coming at the hands of Ft. Worth Nolan(21-8) in a warm-up contest.

Coach Aldridge of Waxahachie was very concerned about S.G.P.'s 6'4" Albert Adams coming into the big game, "he is a dominating force on the boards. If we can keep him off the boards it would mean the ballgame for us."

The Waxahachie starters were 6'5" Norvell Brown, 5'11" Darrell Wilson, 6'3" Chris Reagor, 5'11" Archie Jackson and 5'10" Donald Steele.

The S.G.P.-Waxahachie contest went back and forth and with 5:40 remaining in the game, S.G.P. was ahead 50-48. The Indians scored seven straight points to take a 55-51 lead with 3 minutes to play. 6'5" Norvell Brown put Waxahachie ahead 57-53 and Darrell Wilson added to the lead with two foul shots. The Indians were in control 59-53 with only 1:17 left in the ball game. Hale quickly scored two baskets to put the Warriors in range at 59-57 with only 49 seconds on the clock. The Indians turned the ball over giving S.G.P. one last chance. The Warriors immediately called time out to set up their last play. Hale missed and with 15 seconds remaining Adams fouled Darrell Wilson, who connected on both foul shots making the final 61-57. Wilson was 6 of 6 for the game from the line and Norvell Brown hit 4 of 5.

Hale came up short on the final shot but he was spectacular throughout the game keeping the Warriors close. The talented senior was a one-man show finishing with 32 points in the 61-57 loss. Hale was hitting all types of shots and was the only Warrior in double figures. Adams contributed 13 rebounds.

For Waxahachie, Chris Reagor, finished with 11 points, Norvell Brown had 22 points and 12 rebounds, while Darrell Wilson finished with 18 points. S.G.P. led at the half 32-27 and at the end of three quarters 46-42. Waxahachie owned the 4th quarter outscoring the Warriors 19-11.

Waxahachie was 24 of 54 from the field for 44% compared to the Warriors 23 of 55 for 42%. Waxahachie won the battle of the glass 32 to 24.

Coach Aldridge was excited following the big win and a trip to Austin. "This is the most wonderful and exciting thing that has ever happened to me."

Coach Aldridge told his team prior to the game, "you can beat them, because of your defense, they don't play defense." Coach Aldridge was very happy with the play of his guard, Darrell Wilson, "He has to be the classiest guard in the

state of Texas and he proved it Friday night. He came through in the clutch in the 4th quarter.”

The loss sent shock waves all over the state with the top ranked team being eliminated from the playoffs. But anybody that knew anything was well aware it was a mild upset because Waxahachie(29-7) had a strong team with an outstanding program. Every year the Indians were going to have a strong squad. The community demanded it because of their tradition.

The Indians had dominated the All-District squad with Norvell Brown making 1st team, Archie Jackson and Chris Reagor were named to the 2nd team and Donald Steele and Darrell Wilson were named honorable mention.

In reflecting back on S.G.P.'s season and how tough they really were, under closer inspection you realize they only played 10 teams with winning records. The Warriors District competition was really weak in 1976. Gainesville(16-9) and Richardson Berkner(21-9) were the only teams with winning records in 6-AAA. Lake Highlands(9-22) had a losing record and beat the Warriors for the team's only loss.

Having said that you could argue they deserved their top billing defeating two of the strongest 4-A programs in Dallas in Samuel(26-10) and Woodrow Wilson(21-9). They also took down an outstanding Waxahachie(29-7) club on the Indians home court.

Regardless, anytime you have a player of the quality of Phil Hale and such a fine supporting cast, you are going to be well respected. On the 6-AAA All-District team, Hale was named M.V.P., Adams made 1st team, Kahle(9.0) and Rutter(8.0) were named to the 2nd team. 6'6" Rutter went on to play college ball at Lamar University in Beaumont. Hale played at S.M.U.

Region I

Canyon(26-7) and Odessa Ector(21-10) met in Bi-District at the Texas Dome in Levelland. The game pitted Canyon's controlled offense against the up-tempo pressing attack of the Eagles. Canyon averaged 59.2 and allowed 45.6 points per game. Canyon came in with an 11-game winning streak and had won 18 of their previous 19 games. Their only loss came at the hands of 2-A Dimmitt.

Starters for Canyon were 6'2" Ken Cooper(9.0), 6'3" Hoss Ratliff(18.0), 6'4" John Johnson(18.0), 5'10" Mike Flynn(13.0) and 5'10" Mark Nelson(8.0). Johnson had played the last 12 games with a broken bone in his foot and Cooper needed knee surgery following the season.

Coach B.B. Kendricks had been coaching at Canyon for eight seasons with three playoff appearances. He discussed Ector saying, "Randolph is a good shooter, he hits from 20-feet. It looks as if he will be the best shooter we have faced this year." Kendricks continued, "it's going to be our inside game against their outside game and our controlled game against their pressure and fast break."

Ector averaged 72.7 and allowed 63.7 per game. The Eagles countered with 5'8" Dwight Randolph(24.8), 5'9" Australia Hobbs(12.6), 5'10" Travis Ellis(7.8),

6'0" Darvin Robinson(7.4) and 6'0" Valentine Washington(6.2). Ector was headed up by Coach Keith Thompson.

Odessa Ector(21-10) defeated Canyon(26-7) in Bi-District 48-41. Super quick Dwight Randolph, Ellis and Australia Hobbs were too much for Canyon. Ector had a lot of trouble against Canyon's zones but made up for their shooting woes with full court pressure. Randolph was held to a season low six points but came up big with several steals in the 2nd half to give the Eagles a 36-34 lead with 5:13 left.

Coach Keith Thompson of Ector commented, "the gym could have bothered them some." Alluding to the spacious gym.

Coach B.B. Kendrick of Canyon was real disappointed following his team's loss. "We just didn't play the type of ball game we've played all year," said Kendrick. "We played real poor."

Canyon did a great job on defense holding Ector 20 points below their scoring average. Offensively Canyon's big guns had trouble. Hoss Ratliff got into foul trouble and was lost in the 3rd quarter. Mike Flynn could not find the basket. 6'4" John Johnson ended up with a strong evening scoring 23 points and 12 rebounds. Unfortunately for Coach Kendrick, Johnson was the only player in double figures. Kendrick indicated that his team was somewhat intimidated by Ector's speed. "No excuses, they have a good ball club but I feel we had the better team." Ector's speed and quickness and full court press would be a common complaint during the playoffs.

The score was tied 36-36 with 4:28 remaining in the game. That's when things began to go south for Canyon. They had 22 turnovers for the game with 9 in the fourth quarter while Ector had only 9 for the entire game. Ector had trouble against the Canyon zone defense. Australia Hobbs finished with 13 points and Travis Ellis had 11 for Ector. The Eagles press was the difference for Ector. The Eagles only managed to shoot 21 of 55 from the floor against Canyon for 38%.

Next up in the regional finals for the Eagles of Odessa Ector(22-10) was the Brownwood(19-8) Lions. Brownwood(19-8) had eliminated the always tough Lubbock Dunbar squad 48-42. The bulky Lions of Brownwood played a physical game in Sweetwater. Lubbock Dunbar led at half 24-21 and Brownwood was up 33-31 at the end of the 3rd quarter. With the score tied 35 all, the Panthers of Dunbar went three minutes without scoring. Robert White of Dunbar was the only player in double figures while James Bivins had 13, Jerry Don Gleaton put in 10 and Brad Bowen had 10 for the Lions.

The regional showdown between Brownwood(20-8) and Odessa Ector(22-10) was played in San Angelo, with a trip to Austin at stake. Coach Steve Boothe of Brownwood in discussing the Eagles said, "Do they run and press, they even press in pre-game warm-up. They're so quick. We'll be in trouble if we don't slow them down and set the tempo."

The Lions preferred a more deliberate game, that would be decided by defense, which happened to be the best aspect of the Lions game. In looking at Ector's record they came into the contest with 10 losses. Their losses came at the hands of several 4-A teams, Pampa(25-7) 54-52, Odessa Permian(25-7) 54-49, Snyder 90-78, Lubbock Coronado(25-8) 64-58, Brownfield 61-56, El Paso Ysleta(22-10) 76-53, El Paso Bel Air 75-73, El Paso Parkland 50-48 and Borger(25-7) 82-64. Key victories were Snyder 68-59, Lamesa 62-46 and 66-52, and Odessa Permian(25-7) 63-62. The Eagles certainly played a challenging schedule and were battle tested.

The Eagles finished 11-1 in District 2-AAA action losing only once to Pecos in overtime 60-58, on Ector's home court. Two common opponents for Brownwood(20-8) and Ector(22-10) were Snyder and Ft. Stockton. Ector split with Snyder and crushed Ft. Stockton 74-62 and 116-63. Brownwood lost to Snyder 71-58 and beat Ft. Stockton 55-45.

Coach Steve Boothe discussed Ector's lineup saying their tallest players were 6'0" Darvin Robinson(7.3) and 6'0" Valentine Washington(6.2). Although listed at 6'0", Coach Boothe felt they were taller. 5'8" Dwight Randolph(24.2) was the key player for the Eagles. Brownwood(20-8) would try to hold him down running their 2-3 zone defense. 5'9" Australia Hobbs(12.6) and 5'10" Travis Ellis(7.6) rounded out the Eagles starting five.

Brownwood(20-8) counted on a physical lineup made up of 6'3" James Blivens(7.6), 6'2" Kyle Krueger(7.3), 6'2" Jerry Gleaton(7.6), 6'2" Brad Bowen(10.4) and 5'9" Ronnie Thomas(16.1). The game would come down to Brownwood's muscle, defense and patience against Ector's blinding speed and press. Brownwood came in with a 9-game winning streak.

Ector(22-9) was down 29-28 at the 1:30 mark of the 1st half when the Eagles ran off eight straight points to take a 36-29 halftime advantage. Up 58-53 with 1:45 remaining in the game the Eagles hit 5 of 6 foul shots to win the game 63-53. Ector ran a 2-1-2 zone defense against Brownwood. Up 54-47 with five minutes remaining Ector pulled the ball out and went into a delay game. "We didn't want to take any chances. They had to come out of their zone and guard us man to man. They had to get out of their 3-2 zone."

Dwight Randolph finished with 30 points and Travis Ellis added 10 points. Hobbs, Randolph and Darvin Robinson sank five charity shots in the final 47 seconds. Brownwood finished with 22 turnovers and hit 23 of 49 from the floor for 49%. Ector only had 10 turnovers and knocked down 28 out of 58 attempts for 48%. Brownwood(20-8) took the rebound advantage 29-18. Bowen led the Lions with 13 points.

For Odessa Ector(23-10), it was their second trip to the state tournament during the decade. The Eagles had won the state championship in 1972.

*In **Region III**, Rockdale(28-6) won their third consecutive District title in 1976 defeating Gatesville 47-33 at Temple Junior College. The Hornets of Gatesville had won their zone title defeating Round Rock 64-63. Against Rockdale, Gatesville tried everything trying to slow down the inside game of 6'2" Ray Locklin. Gatesville began sagging three and four players to contain his inside game. Bill Martin of Rockdale hit 16 points as a result from long range.*

The Tigers of Rockdale(29-6) advanced to Bi-District and were matched up against Tomball. The two teams met at Blinn College in Brenham and Rockdale(29-6) prevailed 56-39 to advance to the regional finals for the third straight season.

Martin Stroman of Rockdale came up with some key steals with 6:00 remaining in the game that gave Rockdale a six-point advantage 42-36. Stroman was an outstanding athlete having played quarterback on the football team. The Rockdale football team had reached the state quarterfinals and Stroman signed with Texas A&I to play football. Tomball came back with a six-possession trip down court, but failed to close the gap on Rockdale. Later, Tomball attempted a half-court trap trying to stop Rockdale from stalling. Tomball was horrible from the line going 1 of 10 while Rockdale hit 18 of 25.

Silsbee(26-7) defeated Cleveland(15-11) in their zone playoff at Beaumont Pollard 97-76. Coach Fred Williams of Silsbee was in his first season with the Tigers. Silsbee's lineup was made up of 6'0" Oliver Lewis, 6'2" Anthony Brown, 5'8" Larry Taylor, 5'10" Artie Shankle and 5'10" Derrick Shelton. 6'1" George Thomas, 6'3" William Bass and 5'9" Larry Davis came off the bench for the Tigers. Coach Williams had come to Silsbee from Kountze.

In Bi-District the Silsbee(26-7) Tigers had Longview Pine Tree(24-2) waiting for them, the 1973 state champions. These two teams were really the cream of the crop in Region III. That's not to say I'm discounting Rockdale(29-6), but these were both traditional powers. Pine Tree was coached by Rex Ray.

Kilgore(16-8) and Longview Pine Tree(24-2) tied for the 9-AAA East Zone title, with Pine Tree winning the playoff. Jacksonville(15-7) and Palestine(17-8) tied for the West Zone title with Jacksonville winning the playoff 57-53 to advance.

In the Zone playoff between Jacksonville(16-7) and Pine Tree(24-2) the Pirates ran Jacksonville out of the gym 71-50. Jimmy Butler paced Pine Tree(24-2) with 20 points and Mark Wright added 16 points. Jacksonville(16-7) looked to Brian Holcomb with 14 points and Danny Scott with 16 points.

Pine Tree's starting lineup was as follows" 6'5" Mark Wright(20.1/11.4), 6'6" Jimmy Butler(11.2), 6'2" James Hunt(14.2), 5'6" Alan Goodman(4.9) and 6'0" Mark Hughes(3.2).

The Pine Tree(24-2)-Silsbee(26-7) game was played in Nacogdoches. Pine Tree had four players foul out in the final quarter as Silsbee registered a 76-66 win. The Pirates of Pine Tree had 33 turnovers and were called for 29 fouls in the loss. The Pirates had 21 turnovers in the final quarter alone. Silsbee had only 16

turnovers and were whistled for 20 fouls. Coach Rex Ray of Pine Tree was not happy with the officials and was hit with two technicals.

Mark Wright led Pine Tree with 24 points and 17 rebounds in his team's losing cause. Artie Shankle of Silsbee fouled out in the 3rd quarter and Anthony Brown played the last half with three fouls. Anthony Brown(26.0) finished with 18 of his 26 points in the 2nd half on 7 of 8 shooting. Shankle had 16 points before fouling out. Pine Tree finished the season at 24-3 and 3rd in the final regular season state polls. The Pirates achilles heel all season had been poor foul shooting.

Silsbee coach, Fred Williams, talked about his team, "we're not the gunning team everyone accuses us of being, we like to fast break, but we don't force the Fastbreak." All seven of Silsbee's losses were at the hands of 4-A teams.

The **regional finals for Region III** came down to Silsbee(28-7) and Rockdale(31-6) playing at Sam Houston University in Huntsville. Rockdale played their slow style and jumped out to a 15-point lead 32-17 at halftime. The Tigers went to an all-out run and gun pressing defense in the 3rd quarter and outscored Rockdale 25-10. With the score tied 48-48 with 1:53 remaining in the game, Coach Gerald Adams of Rockdale elected to go for the last shot of the game. "A win or three-minute overtime, we've worked on it a million times," Adams said following the game. That set up the closing act by Shankle of Silsbee. He made the steal and dribbled the length of the court for the winning layup. His basket gave the Tigers the game 50-48.

Key players for Rockdale were Jack Thompson, Danny Kandall and Martin Stroman. Rockdale's 30 game winning streak had come to an end. It was the third season in a row that Adam's Tigers had lost in the regional finals. Rockdale shot 60% from the field and lost the game. You usually don't lose many games shooting 60% from the floor. Locklin had 15 points for Rockdale while Brown finished with 19 for Silsbee and Shankle had 13.

Region IV was really wild with Samuel Clemens(31-2) being the prohibitive favorite to march into Austin. In the regular season, the Buffaloes had lost to Gonzales(28-3) and San Antonio Sam Houston. Clemens looked to 6'8" Earl Powell, 6'1" Mitch Huff(13.0), 6'3" Rudy Sanchez, T.J. Jackson and Delvin Harris. Clemens defeated Kerrville Tivy(13-16) 71-56 at Kerrville to wrap up the 14-AAA title. 6'8" Earl Powell poured in 30 points, Rudy Sanchez hit 18 and for Tivy, Bill Jackson led the way with 14 points.

Clemens(31-2) had earlier defeated Gonzales(29-3) 53-48 at Straham Gym in San Marcos to win the East Zone title in District 14-AAA. Gonzales standout performer was 6'6" Randy Walton. Walton scored 16 points in the loss to Clemens. Gonzales finished the season with an outstanding 29-4 mark. Kerrville Tivy had beaten Uvalde to win the west zone title 72-62. Bill Jackson and Sid Michael were key performers for Kerrville Tivy.

The Hitchcock(29-5) Bulldogs were up next in Bi-District for Clemens(32-2). Hitchcock had advanced to Bi-District with a zone playoff victory over Rice Consolidated 77-71.

Against Clemens(32-2), Kenneth Wilkins of Hitchcock(29-5) hit a driving bucket to give the Bulldogs their first lead in the second half at 54-53. Clemens came back down court and missed the front end of a one and one situation. Hitchcock(29-5) upset Clemens(31-2) 56-55. The Bulldogs out rebounded Clemens 37-28. 6'8" Earl Powell of Clemens, went out on fouls with one-minute left in the contest with 16 points, well below his average. Kenneth Wilkins of Hitchcock, sat out much of the 2nd quarter and all of the 3rd quarter, before returning for the 4th quarter to score six points and lead the Bulldogs resurgence. Wilkins finished with 18 points and Joe Lee Spiller had 16 points and 9 rebounds for Hitchcock.

After the game, Coach Weldon Beard of Clemens was very upset, "We didn't play well early, and we were hurt a lot by the offensive fouls called by the officials. I've never felt like this before, but I really believe the officials took the game away from us tonight. I was very upset at the officiating. It seemed like every time Earl Powell got the ball and moved, they called an offensive foul on him."

With a 3-point lead with 1:23 left in the game, Clemens went into a delay game. The Buffaloes lost the ball on a turnover and the Bulldogs scored, then Clemens lost the ball on an offensive foul and Hitchcock converted that into another score to go ahead by one. Another Bulldog basket gave Hitchcock a 3-point lead with 5 seconds remaining in the game. Sanchez of Clemens(32-2) hit a basket at the buzzer from 30 feet out for the last points of the game. Clemens finished 30-3 while Hitchcock moved on to regionals at 29-5. Clemens would return only Powell for next season, graduating 4 senior starters and had 11 seniors on the roster.

*The **region IV finals** saw Hitchcock(29-6) looking at a young team from West Oso(29-5). The Bears of West Oso were led by the three Davis brothers. 6'5" sophomore Jerry Davis was one of the top players in south Texas. Davis averaged 23.0 points per game and 15 rebounds. His brothers were 6'5" Larry Davis, 6'2" Frank Davis(13.0) and the other starters were 5'11" Joel Anderson(10.0) and 6'2" Ricky Simon(10.0).*

West Oso(29-5) liked to really push the pace with fast break basketball and snow birding. The never hesitated in shooting quickly. The Bears were said to pass the ball well but limited in their ball-handling skills.

Hitchcock led 70-69 with one-minute left in the game when Jerry Davis hit a jumper. The shot put West Oso ahead 71-70. After two missed shots by the Bulldogs, Davis hit another bucket to increase West Oso's lead to 73-70 with 30 seconds left. West Oso proceeded to go into an ill-advised stall and Hitchcock fouled the Bears. West Oso missed both foul shots and Hitchcock rebounded the ball with six seconds left. A full court pass led to a basket that left Hitchcock short losing 73-72.

Jerry Davis had 33 points for the Eagles, and his brother Larry finished with 14 points. For Hitchcock(29-6), Calvin Theus had 12 points and 16 rebounds, while Spiller and Kenneth Wilkins both scored 21 points. A young freshman from Hitchcock(29-6) named George Turner finished with 10 points. Turner would be one of the top guards in the state over the next three seasons.

The Bulldogs point guard, Robert Baltrip, contributed 15 assists for Hitchcock. West Oso advanced to Austin for the first of what would be three straight appearances at state. The Eagles would be paced by one of the most dynamic players to ever come out of South Texas, Jerry Davis.

State Tournament

Silsbee(29-7) arrived in Austin and found a very strong Waxahachie(31-7) team waiting for their arrival. Most observers saw Waxahachie as the odds on favorite to bring home the state title.

Coach Fred Williams was very impressed with the Indians. "Waxahachie is a team with no weaknesses. I understand that the man to watch is 6'5" Norvell Brown. Anytime he gets within 18 feet of the basket, in any position, he will score. Brown had lettered at Waxahachie as a freshman only to move to California as a sophomore. While in California he broke his leg and returned to Texas his junior year. Because of the eligibility ruling Brown had to play on the junior varsity as a junior. He led the J.V. to a 28-3 campaign.

The ball-handler of the team is Darrell Wilson, who is extremely cool under pressure. "He's the complete ball player," Coach Aldridge said.

The Tigers were led by 6'3" Anthony Brown, averaging 25.5 points with 11.8 rebounds. Other starters included 6'0" Oliver Lewis, 5'8" Larry Taylor, 5'10" Artie Shankle, 6'0" George Thomas and 5'10" Derrick Shelton. Silsbee's game was pressing and a run and shoot offense. They had won District 10-3A with an impressive 13-0 record.

The Indians(31-7) came away with a very close win 50-47 over Silsbee(29-8). Chris Reagor hit the decisive bucket with seven seconds remaining to give Waxahachie the game. Norvell Brown was incredible leading Waxahachie with 25 points and 19 rebounds.

Coach Williams of Silsbee commented after the game, "They walked into that gym with all those people packed in and we just never could relax. It was the Tigers worst shooting performance in 37 games at 32%." Waxahachie hit on 22 of 50 shots for 44%. Waxahachie out rebounded Silsbee 43-37. For the Tigers, Anthony Brown finished with 18 points and Oliver Lewis had 12 points.

Most observers favored West Oso (30-5) over Odessa Ector(23-10) in the other semi-final contest. Ector was not getting a whole lot of respect. West Oso averaged 78 points per game and allowed only 57. The Bears loved to throw long passes and ran no real pattern against the press, just get it and go. Ector averaged 70 points and allowed 63.

The Eagles had a small and quick lineup led by the quickest player at the state tournament in 5'8" Dwight Randolph(24.5). Other starters included 5'9" Australia Hobbs, 6'0" Valentine Washington, 6'0" Darvin Robinson and 5'9" Travis Ellis.

Odessa Ector(23-9) took West Oso(30-5) out 78-65. Ector's advantage over West Oso was their amazing quickness and rebounding edge 52-47. With six minutes remaining Ector had built up a 71-56 lead and went to their delay game.

Randolph led the scoring as usual with 28 points and Australia Hobbs added 19, along with Travis Ellis putting in 16 points. Jerry Davis was top man for West Oso with 22 points and Larry Davis added 14 points.

Ector shot 37 of 85 from the field for 44% and 11 of 16 from the line. West Oso shot 22 fewer attempts with 27 of 63 from the floor for 43% and only 4 of 14 from the line.

*The class AAA **state championship game** saw Waxahachie(32-7) taking on Odessa Ector(24-9). Waxahachie(32-7) was considered the favorite having finished 6th in the state rankings and having eliminated South Grand Prairie(31-2).*

It was a great game as the Indians overcame a six-point deficit to go ahead 75-73 in the last minute of play. Archie Jackson's field goal put the Indians up. Waxahachie's Chris Reagor's traveling violation opened the door for Ector(24-9). Dwight Randolph of Ector connected on a foul shot to close the gap to 75-74. With 22 seconds left, Waxahachie's Darrell Wilson threw the ball away and Ector's Travis Ellis grabbed the ball and hit a driving layup, to put the Eagles up one 76-75. Norvell Brown came down court and missed a 15-foot shot that was rebounded by Valentine Washington of Ector, who passed the ball to Randolph(25.0). The talented senior guard was fouled with one second remaining. Randolph hit both foul shots, making the final score 78-75. The Eagles scored five points in the final 36 seconds in a come from behind win.

The game did not start well for the Eagles as 5'8" Dwight Randolph(24.8) had to go to the bench with three first quarter fouls. "When you have a man, who can shoot like he does, things slow down a little bit," Coach Thompson said. "Plus, the kids got a little worried with him out of there."

Ellis, Randolph and Hobbs combined for 68 points of the team's 75 points. Hobbs(12.6) took up the slack with 26 points on 11 of 19 shooting and finished with 8 rebounds. Randolph(24.8) still managed 23 points and 9 rebounds and Travis Ellis(7.4) hit 19 points and 6 rebounds.

Coach Thompson's said, "I bet we we're the only team in the world that uses its guards as much as we do. They shoot, they rebound, they play defense...they do it all."

Ector finished the season at 25-10 and supposedly didn't have a player over 6'0" in the starting line-up. The victory gave Ector their second state championship of the decade, having won the title in 1972.

"The Brown kid was the key," Coach Keith Thompson said. "We just tried to front-and-back him and not let them pass inside, we figured we could win by forcing them to shoot from the outside," Thompson continued.

Norvell Brown paced the Indians with 23 points and 16 rebounds, and Chris Reagor had 20 points and 12 rebounds. Brown hit only 8 of 24 from the floor against the stingy Ector defense. Coach Aldridge discussed Brown's execution during the game, "there were countless times when he had two or three people on him and he didn't see men wide open under the basket. I didn't think he hit the open man like we wanted him to." Brown later was named NAIA All-American at Oklahoma Christian University.

Ector(25-10) had 18 turnovers and shot 33 of 69 from the floor for 47% and 12 of 19 from the charity stripe. Waxahachie had 16 turnovers and hit 31 of 75 shots for 41 %. The Indians were 13 of 17 from the free throw line.

Randolph had an incredible season averaging 28.2 points in District and broke the school single scoring record and single game record with 44 points against Seminole. He was named first team all-district along with Australia Hobbs(15.4). Ten players were named to the 2-3A All-District team by the coaches. Valentine Washington was named honorable mention.

All-Tournament Team-Dwight Randolph, Australia Hobbs and Travis Ellis of Odessa Ector, Norvell Brown of Waxahachie, 6'3" Anthony Brown of Silsbee and 6'4" sophomore, Jerry Davis of West Oso.

The Sports Writers All-State 1st team- 5'8" Dwight Randolph(28.0), Odessa Ector; 6'3" Phil Hale(25.1) South Grand Prairie; 6'3" Anthony Brown(26.0), Silsbee; 6'5" Mike Mick, Sinton; 6'4" Jerry Davis(23.0), West Oso; **2nd team**- 5'9" Australia Hobbs(15.1), Odessa Ector; 5'11" Russ Reagan, Perryton; 6'2" Linvel, Pecos; 6'4" Ron Sanfilippo, Round Rock; 6'5" Mark Wright, Longview Pine Tree; **3rd team**- 5'10" Fred Stephens, Palestine; 5'10" Martin Stroman, Rockdale; 5'10" Artie Shankle, Silsbee; 6'1" Eric Carter(25.4), Carthage; 6'3" William Grayson, Orange Stark:

TABC All-State 1st team- 6'3" Phil Hale(25.1), South Grand Prairie; 6'6 Norvell Brown(26.0), Waxahachie; 5'8" Dwight Randolph(26.0), Odessa Ector; 6'7" Paul Renfro, Everman; 6'3" Anthony Brown(26.0), Silsbee: **2nd Team**- Ron San Filippo, Round Rock; Ronnie Phenix, Lubbock Estacado; 6'5" Jerry Davis(23.0), West Oso; Ronald Glover, Rice Consolidated; 5'10" Arthur Shankle, Silsbee: **3rd Team**- Darrell Dancy, Rice Consolidated; Chester Cobb, Snyder; 6'8" Earl Powell, jr. Samuel Clemens; 5'9" Ronnie Thomas(16.1), Brownwood; David Graf, Spring:

*It is absolutely incredible for the second year in a row the **Sports Writers** all-state team left one of the top players off the three teams that were honored. 6'5" Norvell Brown of Waxahachie was probably the 2nd best player in the state in class AAA. He took his team to the state finals. Phil Hale was left off the team as a junior in 1975. When this happens, it is very unfortunate because it questions the*

whole validity of the process. This was an enormous oversight. The **TABC** definitely put Brown on the first team where he belonged.

Power Ranking 1976:

- | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------|-------|-------|---------------------|-----------------|-------|
| 1. | S. Grand Prairie | 31-2 | 86.13 | Regional Finals 3-A | Loss Waxahachie | 61-57 |
| 2. | Waxahachie | 32-8 | 83.68 | State Finals 3-A | Loss Ector | 78-75 |
| 3. | Odessa Ector | 25-10 | 82.75 | State Champs 3-A | Def. Waxahachie | 78-75 |

1976 3-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	Odessa Ector(21-10)	48	Canyon(26-7)	41
	Brownwood(19-8)	48	Lubbock Dunbar	42
Region I Finals	Odessa Ector(22-10)	63	Brownwood(20-8)	53
Region II Bi-Dist.	South Grand Prairie(30-1)	64	Everman(24-4) OT	62
	Zone: Everman(23-4)	77	Burleson	48
	Zone: Waxahachie(28-7)	89	Waco Jefferson-Moore	39
	Waxahachie(29-7)	53	Daingerfield(21-5)	44
	Zone: Daingerfield(19-5)	52	Pittsburg	43
	Daingerfield(20-5)	53	Pittsburg	42
Region II Finals	Waxahachie(29-7)	61	South Grand Prairie(31-1)	57
Region III Bi-Dist.	Zone: Silsbee(26-7)	97	Cleveland(15-11)	76
	Zone: Long. Pine Tree(23-2)	71	Jacksonville	50
	Silsbee(27-7)	76	Longview Pine Tree(24-2)	66
	Zone: Rockdale(28-6)	47	Gatesville	33
	Rockdale(29-6)	56	Tomball	39
Region III Finals	Silsbee(28-7)	50	Rockdale(30-6)	48
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Zone :Samuel-Clemens(31-2)	53	Gonzales(28-3)	48
	Zone : Hitchcock(27-5)	77	Rice Consolidate	71
	Hitchcock(28-5)	56	Samuel-Clemens(33-2)	55
	West Oso(28-5)	81	Rio Grande City	58
Region IV Finals	West Oso(29-5)	73	Hitchcock(29-5)	72
State Semi-Finals	Waxahachie(31-7)	50	Silsbee(29-7)	47
	Odessa Ector(24-10)	78	West Oso(30-5)	65
State Finals	Odessa Ector(25-10)	78	Waxahachie(32-7)	75

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1976 AAA Top Ten}

- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|-------|---|
| 1. | Odessa Ector | 25-10 | {surprise state champions-tremendous press} |
| 2. | Waxahachie | 32-8 | {defeated #1 S.G.P. and lost in the state finals} |
| 3. | Silsbee | 29-8 | {lost in the state semis to Waxahachie 50-47} |
| 4. | Samuel Clemens | 31-3 | {upset by Hitchcock in Bi-District by one point} |
| 5. | South Grand Prairie | 31-2 | {#1 ranked team for most of the season} |
| 6. | Rockdale | 31-7 | {lost in the regional finals to Silsbee 50-48} |
| 7. | West Oso | 30-6 | {first of three straight trips to Austin} |
| 8. | Hitchcock | 29-7 | {lost to Silsbee and upset Clemens} |
| 9. | Longview Pine Tree | 24-3 | {loss to Silsbee in Bi-District} |
| 10. | Everman | 24-5 | {lost in overtime to S.G.P. in Bi-District} |

1977 AAA

The final TABC basketball rankings for 1977 had Daingerfield(25-3) at #1, followed by #2 Borger(25-4), #3 Lubbock Dunbar(20-9), #4 Corpus Christy West Oso(25-7), #5 Longview Pine Tree(23-5), #6 Huntsville(24-7), #7 Odessa Ector(23-9), #8 Ennis(23-8), #9 Kerrville Tivy, #10 Waxahachie(21-8), #11 Silsbee(16-8) and #12 Mineral Wells(27-4).

Region I

Borger(24-4) was a typical West Texas team, well-schooled in fundamentals and played tough defense. Borger(24-4) had moved down from class 4-A with most of their team returning from a 25-7 District runner-up squad. Coach Duane Hunt commented on being named District favorite, "with the personnel we have back, I'm sure we're favored."

Hunt was entering his 11th season as head coach at Borger, all of which were in class 4-A. The Bulldogs rambled through pre-district with a 15-4 mark. Losses came against Lawton Eisenhower 81-67, Lubbock High(15-14) 73-70 in overtime, Clovis, New Mexico and Pampa(23-5) 80-74.

Big pre-district wins were against Lubbock Coronado 65-47, Abilene 91-66, Amarillo Tascosa 81-57, Hereford(22-12) 91-74 and 82-68, Pampa(25-6) 72-68 and 84-65.

Key players for the Bulldogs of Borger were 6'3" Mike Jackson(20.2/10.6), 6'7" Jason Welch(17.4/7.7) and 6'5" Tony Perez(10.2/5.8). Coach Hunt discussed Jackson saying, "he has the potential to be as good as any we've had here. He has quickness, the shooting ability and the jumping ability to be a great player." Hunt continued saying, "he has tremendous spring and timing in rebounding, which is one of his most important strengths."

In discussing Welch, Coach Hunt said, "Jason is an excellent shooter for a big man, he has a good touch on the ball for any sized player. He can come outside to 15 to 20 feet." Two other starters for Borger were 6'0" Ricky Dickson(13.3) and 6'4" Winston Sauls(6.4). Jackson shot 68% from the floor and Dickson managed 43% shooting.

Coach Hunt had no football players on the team. "The skills in basketball require a lot of time and a lot of work," Hunt said. "The reason we're able to shoot the ball like we are is that the kids have put a lot of time in on it. I don't believe they could have been this good if they had played football," Hunt said.

On the drop down into class 3-A Coach Hunt said, "the switch to AAA will be a help there's no question about that, but we still have to play well to win. Our problems in the past against 4-A schools have been depth." Hunt continued, "the

AAA competition will be just as tough, but there's just not as many teams in 3-A that will be able to give you competition. You won't have to be on your game every night in 3-A.

District was a real challenge for Borger against the talented team from Canyon(25-7). The two clashes between Borger(24-4) and Canyon(25-7) were both for the first and second rounds of District. 6'0" James Walling(21.5) was the key performer for Canyon having played the previous season in New Mexico. The Bulldogs took care of the Eagles in the first contest 62-54 and again in the second round 74-63. Walling put up 22 points for Canyon the second time around and Ricky Dickson pitched in 22 points to lead Borger.

Borger and Canyon were well represented on the All-South Plains team named by the Lubbock Avalanche Journal.

	1 st Team		
6'2"	Linvel Mosby	28.5	Pecos
6'5"	Billy Hardaway(MVP)	16.0	Lubbock Dunbar
6'3"	Mike Jackson	19.8	Borger
6'0"	James Walling	21.5	Canyon
5'11"	William Hill	12.3	Odessa Ector
	2 nd Team		
5'11"	Ricky Dickson	14.9	Borger
6'0"	Aubrey Todd	17.0	Sweetwater
6'2"	Clifton Smith	25.6	Monahans
6'2"	Tony Cobb	20.0	Snyder
6'2"	Bobby Riggins	17.0	Pecos

Borger(24-4) was originally suppose to tangle with the defending state champions, Odessa Ector(23-9) in Bi-District. Unfortunately for the Eagles, they were ruled ineligible for the playoffs after it was discovered they had been playing with an ineligible player, who had played in too many tournaments during the season. Ector went undefeated in District action. Borger's last playoff appearance had been in 1974.

Pecos(16-14) replaced Odessa Ector(23-9) in the playoffs. They were making their first playoff appearance in 20 years since 1957. Pecos finished tied with Fort Stockton and Seminole for the first half title, and won the second round outright. Coach Charles Pattillo looked to all-world guard, 6'2" Linvel Mosby(30.9), to carry the load. Mosby averaged 26.2 per contest during the season. 6'0" Bobby Riggins(17.4) and 5'9" Butch Rogers(15.7) were other key players for Coach Pattillo.

Coach Pattillo said coming into the game, "the only team we've played this year that compares with their size is El Paso Eastwood." This was a game in which Pecos lost 80-43.

The Bulldogs of Borger had little trouble in Bi-District handling Pecos(16-14) 88-67 at Lubbock High School. Ricky Dickson led the Borger attack with 26

points, mostly from the outside. Michael Jackson added 23, Winston Sauls 17 and Jason Welch added 12 for Borger. Linvel Mosby contributed 23 for Pecos.

"We bothered them early using a box-and-one zone defense that was specifically aimed at Mosby," Coach Duane Hunt said. Mosby came into the game averaging 30 points per game in district action.

In the other Bi-District contest in West Texas, Lubbock Dunbar(21-8) showed why they were ranked #3 in the state with a convincing 79-62 spanking of Mineral Wells(27-5).

Sophomore, Wayne Williams, led Lubbock Dunbar with 19 points and Billy Hardaway added 14 for coach Joe McWilliams.

Mineral Wells(27-5) had defeated Sanger 73-39 in a warm up game prior to the playoffs. Mineral Wells was viewed as a real contender having moved down from class 4-A. 5'7" Melvin Ray(14.0) was considered the spark plug for the Rams with his ball handling and shooting ability. Mineral Wells also counted on 6'2" Johnny Gonce(10.8), 5'10" De artis Nickerson(10.2), 6'3" Matt Russell(17.3) and sophomore 6'1" Darrell Milton(5.1).

*The **regional finals** saw Borger(25-4) matched up against Lubbock Dunbar(21-8). Borger started 6'3" Mike Jackson(20.9/13.1), 6'7" Jason Welch(12.8/7.3), 6'5" Tom Perry(10.5/6.9), Ricky Dickson(15.6) and 6'0" Winston Sauls(9.8). The Panthers of Lubbock Dunbar(21-8) returned four starters from last year's team that went down to Brownwood in Bi-District 48-42. Starters for Lubbock Dunbar included 6'5" Billy Hardaway(16.1), Greg Whitefield(6.8), Wayne Williams(7.0), Dennis Gentry(9.6), Eugene Walker(12.2).*

Coach McWilliams of Lubbock Dunbar commented on the Borger game, "we're probably going to have to play our best game of the year. We don't know a lot about them, but I understand that they are great rebounders." McWilliams continued saying, "I think they are quicker than anyone in our district."

Coach Duane Hunt of Borger(27-4) discussed Lubbock Dunbar, "We've been very successful most of the year. Lubbock Dunbar(20-9) is about as good as anybody we've faced jumping wise."

Borger trailed throughout the first 11 minutes of the game 11-2, 19-10, and 21-12. By halftime, the Bulldogs had gotten the score close and only trailed 27-25. Borger came back in the second half behind 20 of 23 foul shooting to beat Lubbock Dunbar 75-68. The Bulldogs shot 21 of 25 from the line for the game for 85%. Coach Hunt said. "I didn't realize that our final field goal in the game came with 4:23 remaining. Borger's final 14 points came from the foul line.

Lubbock Dunbar finished with 26 turnovers compared to Borger's 14. "When we changed to the 2-2-1 press, we began to force some turnovers," Coach Hunt said. "Turnovers were the difference in the game."

It was the Bulldogs first trip to state since 1960. Ricky Dickson(15.6) paced Borger with 22 points and Tony Perry(10.5) added 18, Mike Jackson(20.9/13.1)

kicked in 18 points and Jason Welch(12.8/7.3) finished with 13 points. Wayne Williams was Lubbock Dunbar's leading man with 17 points while Billy Hardaway was held to only 10 points.

Region IV

West Oso(25-7) was attempting to make a return visit to Austin in 1977 led by the incredible talents of 6'6" Jerry Davis(30.0). The Bears were averaging 79.6 points per game and allowing only 50.6 on the season. Coach Marvin Spears of West Oso said, "Davis has been carrying us in the last 10 games." In eight of the 14 District games the Bears scored over 90 points in eight of the contest.

Brownsville Pace(17-9) became the first team from Brownsville to make Bi-District since 1941. Even more incredible was the fact that they finished 2-33 the previous season. Coach Marcelo Gutierrez commented that they had not played anybody of the caliber of West Oso(25-7). Pace relied on the one two punch of 6'2" Joey Garza and 5'11" Tommy Friedel for success during the season. Garza entered the contest with a sprained ankle.

Four bus loads of students were transported from Brownsville to Edinburg for the big game. Coach Marvin Spears said, "They're(Pace) pretty good outside shooters. If we can stop their outside shooting, we can shut them down."

West Oso(25-7) was in control for most of the game advancing with a 73-53 win over Brownsville Pace(17-9). Jerry Davis led the charge for West Oso with 30 points followed by Larry Smith with 14 points. Tommy Friedel was the main man for Pace finishing with 19 points and Joey Garza came away with only 10 points.

Rice Consolidated(21-8) snuck past Gonzales for the second year in a row with a 48-47 victory in Bi-District. Consolidated prepared for the regional final paced by four double digit scorers. 6'6" sophomore Lonniel Blunston(13.0), 6'0" James Parker(15.0), 6'1" David Banks(15.0) and John Grammer(14.0) would all be tested against West Oso(26-7).

The Regional Finals saw West Oso(27-7) beat Rice Consolidated(22-8) 75 to 74 in double overtime at Victoria High School. Jerry Davis put on another amazing performance finishing with 48 points. Larry Davis hit a foul shot with 29 seconds left in the second overtime to send the Bears to Austin. Consolidated led by as much as 11 points in the 2nd half before Jerry Davis led his teams comeback.

West Oso(27-7) had a very formable centered around Jerry Davis(30.0). Davis could score from anywhere and literally took shots from just about anywhere. He was athletic and a great leaper, he was nicknamed Doctor J. Joining Davis was his 6'7" brother Larry, who averaged 19.6 points per game. 6'5" Joe Estell(11.9), 5'10" Larry Smith and 5'11" Jaime Rincon rounded out the starters. 6'5", 220 pound, Raymond Robinson, came off the bench for the Bears.

Region II

Waxahachie(22-9) was looking to return to state during the 1977 season with a fine team. For the Indians it was always difficult just to get out of their own

zone. Key players for the Indians were 5'11" Dwight Cash(9.6), 6'3" Scotty Sawyer(8.1) and 5'10, Donald Steele(9.3) and 6'4" Chris Reagor(21.7). To compound the struggle for Waxahachie they would have to win a zone playoff to make the state playoffs.

Arch rivals Waxahachie(22-9) and Ennis(22-8) ended up fighting it out for the zone title. The two teams met at R.L. Turner High School in Carrollton. The Lions and Indians had played each other three times previously. In pre-district action Waxahachie(22-9) had beaten Ennis(22-8) 71-61 and in District action 66-65. The Lions won the 2nd round match-up 78-69.

In the zone playoff encounter, Ennis jumped out to a 30-22 halftime lead and going into the fourth quarter were up by 16 points 52-36. The Lions ended up finishing off Waxahachie(22-9) 76-66.

6'7" Albert Culton of Ennis was viewed by many as one of the top players in the state regardless of classification and was a prized recruit. Albert Culton(23.0) finished with 29 points and 6'3" Cranston Jones(18.3) threw in 15 points for the Lions. Waxahachie(22-8) was paced by 5'10" Dwight Cash with 22 points and 5'7" Eric Sargent, who finished with 12 points. For the Lions and Coach Dick Stringfellow, it was reported to be the first District championship in the school's history.

In the north zone playoff in 6-AAA, Gainesville(12-12) got by Terrell 70-68. This set up the District playoff between Ennis(22-8) and Gainesville(12-12). Albert Culton once again proved to be too much, scoring 37 points and 33 rebounds in leading his team to the 6-AAA title. 6'3" Cranston Jones added 23 points for the Lions. Gainesville's All-state quarterback, Rod Pegues, doubled as the point guard on the basketball team and fouled out in the 4th quarter for the Leopards. The 94-72 score was an indication of the differences in the two-team's ability. Greg Lawson, at 5'8" was the top scorer for the Leopards with 28 points.

In Bi-District, Ennis hammered Ft. Worth Northside(17-10) 74-49. Albert Culton and Cranston Jones combined for 54 points. Albert Culton was incredible finishing with 31 points and 26 rebounds. 6'5" Bobby Mann was the leader for Northside with 11 points. The game was played in Waxahachie of all places.

Daingerfield(25-2) finished the regular season as the state's top ranked AAA team. The Tigers were coached by Homer Young, who ran a deliberate attack. Daingerfield played a challenging schedule facing some of the best teams in the state in 3-A and class 4-A. Coach Young was in his ninth season at Daingerfield(25-2) winning a District title in 1969. The Tigers lost in a District playoff to Clarksville in 1975 and went down to Waxahachie in 1976 in Bi-District. Dangerfield finished with a 22-4 mark in 1975 and 21-6 in 1976. The Tigers worst season during Young's tenure was a 14-12 finish in 1973.

Returning starters for Daingerfield included 6'6" Gary Lewis(16.0/14.0), 6'2" Rodney Lewis(11.6) and 6'3" Eldret Walker(11.0). 6'3" Sedrick Young(17.5/10.0) and point guard 5'9" Carey Bardwell(6.5) were first year starters

in '77. Coach Young was very complimentary of the Tigers saying, "this bunch is the easiest group I've had to coach, they take coaching better than any other group I've had." Young continued saying, "I think we're a little better than we've been. Our ball-handling is a little sounder. We might not be as quick, but we've got fair outside shooting and we're pretty strong inside."

Daingerfield faced Longview Pine Tree(23-5) in an early season match-up that ended with a 62-60 overtime victory for Daingerfield. Daingerfield(25-2) defeated the Pirates in the finals of the Gladewater Invitational tournament. The Tigers enjoyed balanced scoring with Gary Lewis(16.0/14.0) putting up 14 points, Rodney Lewis(11.6) added 14 points, Sedrick Younger(17.5/10.0) threw in 13 points and Eldret Walker(11.0) came up 12 points as well. Longview Pine Tree(23-5) was strong even at the 4-A level taking down one of the top teams in East Texas, Marshall(24-9) High, in the Mavericks own gym 66-61.

The Mavericks in 1977 were talented and had two of the top recruits in the state in 6'8" Tony Burns(17.2) and 6'8" Roshern Amie(21.4). Both would go on to have successful careers at U.T.E.P. Amie was drafted into the N.B.A. Marshall eventually lost to Tyler Lee(35-3) in a District playoff 53-52 and missed the playoffs.

In the ETBC tournament, Daingerfield(25-2) ran into Marshall(24-9) in the semi-finals winning 80-78. Sedrick Younger(17.5) of Daingerfield hit two free throws with four seconds remaining to give the Tigers the victory. Rodney Lewis led the charge for the Tigers with 21 points, Younger poured in 18 points with Gary Lewis kicking in 15 points. Eldret Walker and Carey Bradwell helped the Daingerfield cause with 14 and 12 points. This was very common for all five Daingerfield starters to score in double figures. 6'8" Anthony Burns(17.2) led the charge for the Mavs with 27 points. "Beating Marshall was a Big Boost to our program," Coach Young of Daingerfield said.

In the finals of the ETBC tournament Daingerfield(25-2) met the eventual state champions in class 4-A, Dallas South Oak Cliff(35-8). Without question this was the toughest game of the season for Daingerfield. The Tigers showed their grit dominating early. Although Coach Young's team lost 77-70 their performance was impressive. Daingerfield led at halftime 39-26 only to fall apart in the 2nd half being outscored 51-21 by the Golden Bears. The Tigers depth hurt them against the much deeper S.O.C.(35-8) team.

5'7" Cullen Mayfield led the charge for the Bears with 22 points, mostly from long range. 6'3" Arthur Williams followed Mayfield with 19 points and 6'2" David Burns came away with 12 points. Carey Bardwell walked away with tournament M.V.P. honors for Daingerfield. Bardwell had 12 points, Younger scored 18 points, Gary Lewis kicked in 15 points with Eldret Walker finishing with 14 points.

"I didn't make any speech after the S.O.C. game," Coach Young said. "I just told our kids they didn't have anything to be ashamed of and they had lost to probably one of the better teams in the state." Young continued.

Next up for Daingerfield was Tyler John Tyler(14-14), the 1976 class 4-A state finalist. The Lions of TJ were paced by an outstanding junior, 6'9" Anthony Lee. Daingerfield's inside game more than held its own defeating John Tyler 69-67.

In the opening round of the Tyler Junior College tournament, Marshall(24-9) came from behind to defeat Daingerfield 62-57. The Mavericks relied on their full-court press to outscore the Tigers 23-11 in the final frame. Daingerfield(25-2) had a limited bench and usually only played five players. 6'8" Anthony Burns(17.2) of Marshall went for 24 points on 10 of 17 shooting from the floor. Roshern Amie(21.4) complimented Burns with 22 points of his own with 11 of 18 from the field.

For the Tigers of Daingerfield, Eldret Walker(11.0) finished with 19 points and Gary Lewis put up 16 points. Daingerfield took the consolation bracket defeating Gorman 72-28 and Bullard 64-44. "Our lack of depth hurt us in the losses to South Oak Cliff and Marshall," Coach Young said.

The Daingerfield team was built around the strong post play of 6'6" senior Gary Lewis and 6'3" junior, Sedrick Younger. Another key contributor was 5'9" junior, Carey "Stuff" Bardwell. His job was to get the ball inside to the post and not turn the ball over. Lewis went on to play football for UT Arlington and in the NFL for the Packers. His size and athleticism were difficult to match-up against for opponents. 6'3" Eldret Walker went on to play basketball at Tyler J.C. and was named 1st team All-State.

As a playoff warmup game Daingerfield(25-2) tangled with 2-A Whitehouse and lost 57-52 at Wagstaff Gym in Tyler. Eldret Walker(11.0) was high point man for the Tigers with 16 points and Gary Lewis(16.0/14.0) followed with 14 points. Dwight Pettigrew did the damage for Whitehouse with 14 points.

In the playoffs, Daingerfield(25-3) had to face the 5th ranked team in the state, Longview Pine Tree(23-4). Daingerfield remember had defeated Pine Tree earlier in the season by two points. Pine Tree(23-4) advanced to the playoffs defeating Palestine 54-45 in a zone playoff at Wagstaff. James Hunt paced Pine Tree against Palestine with 18 points and Gerry Hunt put up 12 points.

Starters for the Pirates of Longview Pine Tree(23-4) were 6'2" Gerry Hunt(15.8), 6'3" James Hunt, 6'6" Ricky Goleman, 5'9" Mike Pirtle and 5'10" Brad Wiggins. 6'5" Boomer Conrad played a great deal as well.

The Longview Pine Tree(23-4) and Daingerfield(25-3) game was played at Wagstaff Gym on the campus of Tyler Junior College. The game was played at Daingerfield's slow pace, as the Tigers came away with a hard fought 44-40 win. Although Pine Tree pressed the entire game, they could not get the tempo going.

Sedrick Younger(17.5/10.0) was the leader for Daingerfield with 24 points and Gerry Hunt(15.8) led Pine Tree with 14 points.

The collision course between Ennis(24-8) and Daingerfield(26-3) finally came together at Greenville High School in the **regional finals**. 6'6" Albert Culton(23.0) and 6'2" Cranston Jones(18.0) were about all Ennis had against Daingerfield, and against the Tigers you needed several weapons. Other starters for the Lions were 6'4" Troy Vyers(8.0), 5'11" Don Herford(10.0) and 5'8" Reggie Hill(5.0).

Coming into the contest Coach Stringfellow of Ennis said he had not seen Daingerfield in action. "My scouts say they are real tough and play extra good defense. They seem to have a lot of size and quickness as well as discipline," Stringfellow said. "They play a slower game than we do,"

Daingerfield(26-3) won by eight 67-59. Culton drew his 2nd foul with 2:20 left in the first quarter. Culton went to the bench and the Tigers immediately scored six straight points to go up 19-12. Culton finished with 15 points and 16 rebounds and Cranston Jones had 16 points.

Inside for the Tigers, 6'3" Sedrick Younger(17.5/10.) put up 13 points and 19 rebounds and Gary Lewis(16.0/14.0) contributed 12 points and 16 rebounds. Eldret Walker claimed high point honors for Coach Young with 22 points. Ennis finished the season at 24-9.

The Longview News-Journal came out with their All-East Tex Cagers squad.

1 st Team			
6'0"	Robert Culley(MVP)	30.9	Center
6'1"	Rufus Mathis	21.3	Avinger
6'5"	Gary Lewis	16.0	Daingerfield
6'4"	Bill Terry	26.1	Hughes Springs
6'8"	Roshern Amie	21.4	Marshall.
2 nd Team			
6'0"	D'Boy Johnson	13.7	Tyler Lee
6'2"	Gerry Hunt	15.8	Longview Pine Tree
6'8"	Anthony Burns	17.2	Marshall
6'2"	Craig Conwright	22.4	Ore City
5'8"	Eloys Brewer	20.4	Tyler John Tyler

Honorable Mention went to Anthony Lee of Tyler John Tyler, James Hunt of Pine Tree, Rick Goleman from Pine Tree, Sedrick Younger(17.5) of Daingerfield, Eldrot Walker(11.0) of Daingerfield, Virdell Howland from Tyler Lee.

Region III

The Silsbee(16-9) Tigers were always a threat to go all the way to state in Region III. Matter of fact, it seemed like Coach Fred William's team was always a factor in the playoff race. In 1977 the Tigers were athletic and quick and ranked #11 in the final TABC rankings. In what turned out to be a classic game between Silsbee and Beaumont South Park(19-10) for the East Zone title, Derrick Shelton hit a bucket at the top of the key at the buzzer, to give the Tigers the 82-80 victory.

Silsbee's press gave South Park trouble and the Greenies missed 13 straight foul shots in the first three quarters. South Park(19-10) finished the game 2-15 from the line, while Silsbee(16-9) hit 10-13. Dwight Fobbs had 31 points for Silsbee followed by Derrick Shelton's 14.

It was the third meeting between the two teams. Beaumont South Park won the first game 70-57 and Silsbee came back to take the second 76-66. Interesting note, is that all of Silsbee's starters came off the football field and four from South Park. On the 9-3A West All-District team, 6'5" Randy Martell and Mike Sterling made first team from West Orange. Kenneth James was named to the second unit for West Orange. On the East Zone All-District squad, Rickey Thomas and Arthur Gray were first team from South Park, while Dwight Fobbs was named from Silsbee. The Tigers had two players place on the second team, Derrek Shelton and Ray Dulford.

The win propelled Silsbee into the District playoff against the West zone champion, West Orange(18-11). The two teams met at Thomas Jefferson Gym in Port Arthur.

Silsbee's season came to a sudden stop against West Orange(18-11) and 6'5" Randy Martell 69-49. "Size disadvantage caught up with us," Coach Fred Williamson said following the loss. Randy Martell contributed to a defensive performance that suffocated the Tigers celebrated fast break. The Tigers had to settle for outside bombs from beyond where Silsbee was used to shooting. On defense, Silsbee tried to control Martell by running a sagging zone defense, but it only had limited success. Martell towered four inches over the tallest player of the Tigers. Martell finished with 13 points, 14 rebounds and 4 blocks.

The Chiefs of West Orange(19-11) led at halftime 30-25. In the fourth quarter, the Chiefs went into a stall in what had already been a very deliberate offensive attack. Silsbee was forced to foul. Ray Dulford and Derrek Shelton each had 10 points for the Tigers.

In Bi-District, West Orange(19-11) faced Huntsville(25-7), one of the more talented and arguably the youngest team in the state. West Orange's last playoff appearance was in 1967 and Huntsville's was 1966. The Hornets only had two seniors in their top seven players. Coach Joe Main looked to 6'4" junior, Royce Craft(14.0), 6'2" sophomore Edgar Crawford, 6'5" junior Ted Britton, 6'4" sophomore Curtis Wallace, and 6'1" freshmen Lloyd Archie(11.0). Two more sophomores were on the bench for Huntsville. The only seniors in the top seven were 6'0" Larry Perry and 5'8" John Kizsee.

Coach Joe Main said his team's greatest strength was their depth. "There are some teams that have a better five, but there aren't many that have a better ten."

West Orange had to play catch up from the very beginning getting behind by six points less than three minutes into the game.

At halftime, the Chiefs had almost caught up 38-32. With the score 67-65 in favor of Huntsville with just 29 seconds remaining, the Chiefs had two opportunities to tie the game. They missed two foul shots and missed a jumper at the buzzer. The win propelled the Hornets to state for the first time since 1944.

"They went to their people inside at the end," Coach Weaver of West Orange said, following the game. "The whole key was they were more physical, especially at the end." Martell finished with 19 points but picked up his fourth foul with 1:05 remaining in the third quarter. "They took advantage of that, too," Weaver said. "That's just good coaching. We couldn't put Randy on the man they were going to and that gave them some easy shots underneath."

The Hornets hit 17 of 22 from the foul line and West Orange came away with only 3 of 9. Freshmen, Lloyd Archie, was the leading scorer for Huntsville with 19 points, followed by Royce Craft with 14 points. Randy Martel had 19 points and Mike Sterling contributed 18 points in a losing effort for West Orange.

Waco Jefferson-Moore(18-12) was once again in the playoff hunt after winning a 11-3A playoff game against Gatesville(26-3) 55-51. Jim Bob Kafer(14.0) got into early foul trouble for Gatesville which limited his success on the evening. Mike Fisher led Gatesville with 14 points. LeRoy Johnson was the leader for the Lions of Jefferson-Moore with 17 points, Erwin Smiley came away with 15 points and Dwayne Johnson followed with 10 points.

Waco Jefferson Moore(19-12) advanced to the regional final by beating Del Valle(29-6) 70-61. Dwayne Johnson led the Lions with 22 points and was named to the TABC all region team. Ervin Smiley came up big for Jefferson-Moore with 29 points, followed by Michael Kennedy and LeRoy Johnson. Jimmy Carter paced Del Valle with 20 points.

Huntsville(25-7) bounced Waco Jefferson Moore(20-12) by 31 points in the regional finals 86-55 to advance to state for the first of what would be three straight trips to Austin.

Daingerfield(27-3), West Oso(27-7), Huntsville(26-7) and Borger(27-4) were the **final four**, competing in Austin for the class AAA title. These were four of the top six ranked teams in the final TABC poll. The coaches did a pretty good job ranking the big state of Texas. Lubbock Dunbar(21-9) was eliminated by Borger(27-4) and Longview Pine Tree(23-5) was eliminated by Daingerfield(27-3). These were the other two teams in the top six that were unable to advance to Austin.

As the Borger(27-4)– West Oso(27-7) game approached, Coach Marvin Spears of West Oso broke down the Borger attack. "They are big, but I heard that they are not real quick," the Coach commented. "Jackson(19.9/11.5), a senior, appears to be Borger's best all-around player." Spears felt his previous experience at state would help the Bears against Borger. "We are used to playing in front of big crowds."

In preparation for Borger, Coach Spears said, "We will probably switch our defenses up to confuse them. I've heard they don't adjust to changes very well and that the coach has to call timeout to realign things after a change."

West Oso's starters were as follows: 6'7" Larry Davis(19.6), Estell(11.9), 5'10" Larry Smith, 5'11" Jaime Rincon and 6'5" 220 pound, Ronnie Richards.

Coach Duane Hunt commented about West Oso, "from what we can find out about them they'll be the best ball club we've faced." Hunt continued, "from what we have been able to find out, Jerry Davis is a super individual talent. They say he is an excellent shooter, who plays inside or outside." Hunt continued, "our balance has been our salvation all year in the tough games."

During the Borger-West Oso contest, Borger took control early and expanded their lead to 15 points on three different occasions. With 2:40 left in the game the Bulldogs were up 76-61, seemingly secure. 6'5" Jerry Davis(30.0) led the West Oso comeback and he finished the game with 31 points and 20 rebounds. The Fighting Bears outscored Borger 12-3 in the final two minutes, making the final 79-73.

"We just didn't keep our composure at the end," Coach Hunt said. "I think our defense was a big factor. We made their other people handle the ball. I think balance was a big factor, all four of our players were scoring," Coach Hunt said. Jerry Davis was nearly unstoppable when he got the ball scoring inside and out. He played much bigger than 6'5". "I think our defense was a big factor, we made their other people handle the ball," Coach Hunt commented.

Borger switched from a 2-1-2 zone defense to a box-and-one defense to contain Davis. Michael Jackson and Tom Perry took turns guarding the 6'5" junior. Michael Jackson hit 32 points and had 9 rebounds for the Bulldogs and finished 14 of 22 from the floor for 64%. Jason Welch was next for Borger with 16 points and 10 rebounds, and Perry helped with 12 points and 9 rebounds. Ricky Dickson put in 13 points for Borger's well-balanced attack. West Oso out rebounded Borger 62-44. Borger was only the third AAA team to defeat West Oso in the previous two seasons. West Oso finished 27-8.

The other semi-final match-up saw two very similar teams take the court. Both teams were quick, fast, and athletic. Huntsville(26-7) had lost seven games coming into the semi-finals, but had won 14 games in a row. Remember, being a young team, you were going to have some growing pains. The Hornets had lost to John Tyler(14-14) by 20 earlier in the season, a team that Daingerfield had beaten.

The Tigers took control of the game early and jumped out to a 43-26 halftime lead, much like they had against South Oak Cliff. Daingerfield let Huntsville back into the contest and only led the Hornets 57-53 with 5:28 remaining in the game. Daingerfield turned right around and scored nine straight points to put the game out of reach. "We didn't play the caliber of ball we are capable of playing in

the second half," Coach Young explained. "I warned them about being complacent at halftime," Young said.

The inside scoring combination of 6'6" Gary Lewis(16.0/14.0) and 6'3" Sedrick Younger(17.5/10.0) was the difference for the Tigers, as they advanced to the finals 66-55. Daingerfield relied on outstanding foul shooting down the stretch to hold off the Hornets. Lewis led the Tigers with 20 points and 17 rebounds while his counterpart, Younger had 19 points and 11 rebounds. Walker was good for 15 points and 12 rebounds.

6'4" Royce Craft put up 15 points and 7 rebounds for the Hornets. Larry Perry contributed 12 points off the bench. Daingerfield shot 44% from the field while Huntsville managed 40%. Huntsville finished the season 26-7, but Austin was going to be seeing a lot of the Hornets over the next two seasons.

In the **state finals**, you had the top two rated teams in the state, Daingerfield(28-3) and Borger(28-4). The teams had contrasting styles and different philosophies. In the end, it was the same old tandem for the Tigers, 6'6" Gary Lewis and 6'3" Sedrick Younger. They scored 22 points apiece and pulled in 24 rebounds together. Gary Lewis finished with 22 points on 11 of 25 attempts with two blocks and 13 rebounds himself. Walker came away with 13 points. This was enough to give Daingerfield the class AAA state championship 72-68 over Borger. Gary Lewis combined in two games for 42 points and 30 rebounds.

Daingerfield led throughout the game and the Bulldogs never got closer than the margin at the end of the game. Borger shot an incredible 56% from the floor but it still wasn't enough. The loss ended Borger's 20 game winning streak. The Bulldogs finished 28-5, while Daingerfield ended at 29-3.

Mike Jackson of Borger was the leading scorer with 24 points and Ricky Dickson added 20. Coach Duane Hunt, in his 11th season with Borger, said following the game, "I haven't seen many AAA playoff games, but the intensity and effort of both bunches today was of a championship caliber." "They played better than I thought, especially in their shooting. Their big man could shoot outside better than I thought. I didn't expect their big man to hit like that."

Borger continued to switch defenses during the game, forcing 6'6" Gary Lewis outside, but Lewis responded by hitting six second half buckets, five of them from 15-feet or farther out. "As physical as they(officials) let it be inside, they out muscled us," Hunt said.

6'7" Jason Welch of Borger, only finished with 10 points and 3 rebounds. Welch and Perry only managed 16 combined points after scoring 28 in the Semi-finals. Daingerfield Coach Homer Young said following the game, "They were the best team we've played this year, inside and outside shooting." "We play a sinking man to man defense and usually try to give them outside shots. Their shots didn't drop that well in the 2nd half." When asked about his team's strength inside Coach Young said, "We've been strong on the boards all year."

A crowd of 5200 saw the 3-A state championship game. Daingerfield had a 38 to 29 rebounding advantage over the Bulldogs. Borger hit 31 of 55 for 56% from the floor and Daingerfield took 16 more shots from the field thanks to their offensive rebounding. The Tigers were 34 of 71 for 47%. Borger only had 8 turnovers and Daingerfield committed only six.

"We are not going to play much better than that. We kept waiting for them to make a mistake, but they never did," Coach Duane Hunt of Borger said. "Every time we would make an adjustment they would adjust also," Hunt said. "It never seemed to bother them whether we played a zone or man-to-man defense. They controlled the boards on us and no one has ever done that to us this season," Hunt continued.

"Borger was fronting our ball side forward every time down the court, thus we were able to get the lob into Gary Lewis or Younger," Coach Young said. "The last four minutes of the 2nd half decided the ball game," Coach Young said. "They went to a zone and we were just able to get the ball inside to get some easy points. It was a defensive mistake by them to try to front us," Young commented.

Coach Young said after the big win, "you can't make a living on 25 and 30 foot shots and that's what they were doing in the first quarter."

Coach Young summarized his outstanding season talking about his team's unselfish attitude. "You have to have unselfish players with desire and character to have a good team, and I was fortunate this season to have just such a group," Coach Young remarked with tears rolling down his cheeks.

All-Tournament Team- Gary Lewis, Sedrick Younger and Carey Bardwell of Daingerfield, Mike Jackson and Gary Dickson of Borger, Royce Craft of Huntsville and Jerry Davis of West Oso.

On the **Class AAA All-State 1st team-6'7"** Albert Culton(23.0), Ennis; 6'6" Jerry Davis(28.0), West Oso; 6'2" Linvel Mosby(30.0), Pecos; 6'1" Robert Culley(30.6), Center; 6'3" Eldret Walker(11.0), Daingerfield: **2nd Team-6'3"** Sedric Younger(17.0), Daingerfield; 6'6" Gary Lewis(18.0), Daingerfield; 6'3" Mike Jackson(20.9), Borger; 6'1" James Walling, Canyon; Ricky Dickson(15.6), Borger: **3rd Team-** 6'2" David Roberu(24.0), C.C. Calallen; 6'2" Mike Mosley, Humble; 6'5" Billy Don Hardaway(16.0), Lubbock Dunbar; William Hill, Odessa Ector; Rey Valdez, Crystal City; Cranston Jones, Ennis: Mike Mosley of Humble was one of the top quarterbacks in the state.

Power Ranking 1977:

1.	Borger	28-5	86.73	State Finals 3-A	loss Daingerfield 72-68
2.	Daingerfield	29-3	85.95	State Champs 3-A	def. Borger 72-68
3.	Huntsville	26-8	84.74	State Semis 3-A	loss Daingerfield 66-55

1977 3-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	Borger(25-4)	88	Pecos(16-14)	67
	Lubbock Dunbar(20-8)	79	Mineral Wells(27-5)	62
Region I Finals	Borger(26-4)	75	Lubbock Dunbar(21-8)	68
Region II Bi-Dist.	Zone: Ennis(22-8)	76	Waxahachie(22-8)	66
	Zone: Gainesville(11-11)	70	Terrell	68
	Zone: Ennis(23-8)	94	Gainesville(12-11)	72
	Daingerfield(25-3)	44	Longview Pine Tree(23-4)	40
	Ennis(24-8)	74	FW Northside(17-11)	49
Region II Finals	Daingerfield(26-3)	67	Ennis(25-8)	59
Region III Bi-Dist.	Zone: Silsbee(16-9)	82	Beaumont SouthPark(19-11)	80
	Zone: Waco Moore(18-12)	55	Gatesville(26-3)	
	West Orange(18-10)	65	Silsbee(17-9)	49
	Huntsville(24-7)	67	West Orange(19-10)	65
	Waco Jeff-Moore(19-12)	70	Del Valle(29-6)	61
Region III Finals	Huntsville(25-7)	86	Waco Jeff- Moore(20-12)	55
Region IV Bi-Dist.	West Oso(25-7)	73	Brownsville Pace(17-9)	53
	Rice Consolidated(21-8)	48	Gonzales	47
Region IV Finals	West Oso(26-7)	75	Rice Consolidated(22-8)	74
State Semi-Finals	Daingerfield(27-3)	66	Huntsville(26-7)	55
	Borger(27-4)	79	West Oso(27-7)	73
State Finals	Daingerfield(28-3)	72	Borger(28-4)	68

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1977 AAA Top Ten}

1. Daingerfield 29-3 {no doubt -top team in the state}
2. Borger 28-5 {outstanding team, unfortunately loss to the Tigers}
3. Ennis 24-9 {Culton was the real deal, tremendous talent}
4. Huntsville 26-8 {young team, future was bright}
5. Lubbock Dunbar 21-9 {Lost to Borger in the regional finals}
6. Longview Pine Tree 24-5 {lost to Daingerfield twice by 2 and 4 points}
7. West Oso 27-8 {Jerry Davis was one of the top players in the state}
8. Mineral Wells 27-5 {first season of a great three year run}
9. West Orange 19-12 {regional finals, lost to Huntsville}
10. Waxahachie 22-9 {were 2-2 against Ennis on the season}
11. Silsbee 17-10 {lost in Bi-District action to West Orange 69-49}
12. Waco Jefferson-Moore 20-13 {lost in the regional finals to Huntsville}

1978 AAA

Daingerfield(21-6), West Oso(31-3) and Huntsville(23-7) all looked to make strong plays to return to the big dance in Austin in 1978. Borger went down to Perryton(17-13) in District and was eliminated from the playoffs. A look at the final TABC Poll is as follows:

1. Mineral Wells 29-2
2. Mt.Pleasant 27-2
3. West Oso 31-3
4. Lubbock Estacado
5. Lubbock Dunbar 27-5
6. Huntsville 23-7
7. Monahans 25-5
8. Daingerfield 22-6
9. Borger
10. Ennis 18-7

Region I

Perryton(17-13) was the surprise representative from District 1-3A defeated Borger twice in District action. Borger handled Canyon on both occasions in District 60-54 and 69-47. 6'6" Tim Perry(24.6) was still a key player for the Bulldogs along with Tim Johnstone and Steve Caitcer. Canyon upset Perryton(17-13) in the last game of District 51-45, but Perryton had already captured the title.

Mineral Wells(29-2) was the top ranked team in class 3-A an had a dynamite team coached by Warren Pruitt. Pruitt was in his second season with the Rams. Mineral Wells(29-2) defeated Iowa Park in a zone playoff 52-44 to advanced to Bi-District against Perryton(17-13). Iowa Park was led by coach Jimmy Hogan and relied on Jim Dooley, Jimmy Rowell and Anthony York.

The Rams team centered around the skilled play of 6'4" Matt Russell(17.0/11.0). The talented senior was named District 3-3A MVP. Coach Pruitt discussed Russell's skills saying, "he's a very tough player inside, he's very aggressive on the boards and is certainly a good college prospect."

5'8" Melvin Ray(15.0) was another key contributor along with 6'1" Darrell Milton(14.0). 6'2" Jessie Kimbrough played inside at 6'2" and was named the District's sophomore of the year. DeArtis Nickerson(8.7) rounded out the balanced starting five.

The Rams were unchallenged in District with one team leaving the court at halftime down 35-18. The Lions of Brownwood actually left the court at the intermission. "I think their coach was complaining about one of our players wearing a headband or something," Coach Pruitt said. "There coach said there was a rule against it but I think he was confused with track."

Mineral Wells(29-2) was very impressive in the preseason losing to two of the top teams in the state in class 4-A, Ft. Worth Paschal(26-4) 56-55 and state semi-finalist Abilene(34-5) 62-61.

In Bi-District, Mineral Wells(29-2) faced off against Perryton(17-13). The Rams opened up a 25-16 halftime lead with 5'8" playmaking guard, Melvin Ray scoring 16 points. Matt Russell added 13 points and Darrell Milton threw in 13 points. After scoring the first six points of the second half, the Rams went on to win 51-42 over Perryton(17-13). Perryton had few bright spots to go with 6'6" David Reynold's 14 points. Perryton(17-13) was coached by the great Allen Simpson, who would later go on to win a state title with Amarillo in 1986.

The winner of the Monahans(26-5) and Lubbock Dunbar(27-4) game awaited Mineral Wells in the regional finals. Lubbock Dunbar(27-4) was a familiar name and returned two starters from their regional finalist team. 6'6" Billy Don Hardaway(27.5/13.4) was one of the top performers in West Texas for the Panthers. Wayne Williams(11.0) was also back for Lubbock Dunbar.

Monahans coach, T.J. Loafman, commented on prepared for Lubbock Dunbar. "I understand that they are pretty good, they are bigger than we are and Hardaway and Greg Whitfield can score real well. It's going to be hard to get inside, so we will have to hit well from the outside again," Loafman said.

The Lobos of Monahans(26-5) ran a double low post with 6'3" Clifton Smith(18.3) and 6'3" Lavell Moore(11.8). Other starters included Bobby Almanza(16.3), Johnny Grimes(10.5) and Craig Harris. 6'4" Mike Olgin and 5'11" Billy Murphree also saw action.

Joining Hardaway and Williams in the starting lineup for Lubbock Dunbar(27-4) were Dwight Brown, Whitfield and Michael Baldwin. The Panthers were coached by Joe McWilliams. "We need to keep Monahans off the boards," McWilliams said. "Grimes is as good an outside shooter as any player that we went against in District play."

In zone action Monahans(26-5) had eliminated Odessa Ector(24-10) 85-84 to advance to Bi-District. Clifton Smith hit a bank shot with three seconds left for the Lobos win. The Lobos defeated Odessa Ector(24-10) in the zone playoff for District 2-AAA. Monahan's won the first half of District with a perfect 5-0 mark and lost to Ector and Andrews in the second half, to finish 3-2.

Lubbock Dunbar(27-4) had advanced out of a District playoff over Lubbock Estacado 63-62 in overtime. Estacado took the first half title with an 81-79 overtime win over Dunbar at DHS. The Panthers countered in the 2nd round defeating Estacado 73-72 on their home court.

Scurry County Coliseum in Snyder was the site of the Monahans(26-5)-Lubbock Dunbar(27-4) Bi-District game. Lavell Moore of Monahans was the hero for the Lobos hitting two foul shots with 12 seconds remaining, which gave his

team an 80-79 victory. Monahans had a comfortable 66-57 lead entering the final frame, but the Panthers came back to take a 77-76 lead with only 1:00 remaining.

Clifton Smith paced Monahans with 22 points and Moore followed with 20 points. Almanza and Johnny Grimes added 16 points apiece to the Lobos cause. For Lubbock Dunbar, Dwight Brown showed the way with 15 points and Hardaway added 14 points. Hardaway(27.5/13.4) was in early foul trouble and sat out much of the first half. Greg Whitfield had a strong finishing with 30 points for the Panthers.

Monahans(27-5) advanced to the regional finals having won 15 of the previous 17 games. "Now we get Mineral Wells," Coach Loafman said. "I really don't know what to expect from them, but if we play our kind of game we will be in good shape."

This set the table for the **regional finals** between Monahans(27-5) and Mineral Wells(30-2). Mineral Wells showed why they were so highly thought of by beating Monahan's 72-57. At half the Rams led 36-26 and were never in any real danger of losing.

Mineral Wells dominated inside with a 48-26 rebound advantage. 6'3" Matt Russell scored 12 of his 14 points in the first half. Rory Nowak finished with 16 points and 7 rebounds for the Rams. 6'3" Clifton Smith was Monahan's only real bright spot scoring 18 points and contributing 12 rebounds. Bobby Almanza(16.0) shooting performance from the outside was vital in keeping the Lobos in the game.

Coach Loafman commented after the loss, "I don't think it was a case of us playing so badly, but it was just that their defense was so good. We weren't getting open shots. They really are impressive and it will be very hard for anybody to beat them in the state tournament."

The outside shooting of DeArtis Nickerson and Melvin Ray was critical to the Rams success.

Region II

Daingerfield(23-6) looked to have a good chance of defending their state title in class 3-A. The first task was to win District 7-AAA. The major obstacle was second ranked, Mt. Pleasant(27-2). Mt. Pleasant(27-2) captured the West Zone and Daingerfield(23-6) came away with the East Zone. The schools decided to play a best of three series to see who would represent the District.

The first two games were played on a home and home basis and the third game if needed would be at a neutral site. Daingerfield(23-6) easily handled Mt. Pleasant(27-2) 73 to 53 in the opener in Daingerfield. 6'3" John Rodgers put up 33 points on 11 of 25 field goal attempts and 11 of 14 from the line. Rodgers also added 10 rebounds to dominate Mt. Pleasant inside. Some 1200 fans crammed into a gym that only had a seating capacity of 900. Mt. Pleasant ran into trouble with both of their inside players fouling out. 6'3" Willie Houston and 6'6" Richard Brewer had to leave the contest.

“Daingerfield controlled the tempo from the very start and we never could stop their inside game. We’ve got to slow down Rodgers in the rematch,” Coach Willie Williams of Mt. Pleasant said. Daingerfield was fueled by Rodgers and 6’5” Darren Lewis. Lewis came away with 17 rebounds along with Warren Everett’s 11 boards. Rodgers played the sixth man role the previous season and Lewis was a returning starter from their state championship team.

In the rematch at Mt. Pleasant(27-3) the Mt. Pleasant Tigers played much better but still lost 56-46 to Daingerfield(23-6). Rodgers was held to only 15 points, but Daingerfield forced 20 turnovers and committed only seven. “I think the key for us,” Coach Homer Young of Daingerfield said, “was Chris Smith and Carey Bardwell hitting from the outside. Mt. Pleasant doubled and triple teamed Rodgers so we had to go outside, Chris and Carey responded.”

Willie Houston paced Mt. Pleasant with 16 points and 14 rebounds but fouled out with 4:40 left in the game. 6’6” Richard Brewer of Mt. Pleasant did not start the game because of the flu. He had missed school on the Monday prior to the game. Brewer entered the contest at the 2:32 mark of the first quarter.

For Daingerfield(24-6) it was their third District title in a row. Mt. Pleasant finished with their best record in school history at 27-4. John Rodgers of Daingerfield signed to play football with Louisiana Tech.

In District 8-AAA the title came down to Henderson(15-8) and Palestine(23-7). Henderson(15-8) won the East zone and Palestine(23-7) took the West zone. The Lions of Henderson(15-8) took the District with a 49-47 triple overtime victory over Palestine(23-7). Henderson advanced to Bi-District against Daingerfield(24-6).

Henderson(16-8) was playing their first playoff game in six seasons. Coach Tommy Alexander of Henderson commented about the up coming game against Daingerfield(24-6), “There’s not much to say about Daingerfield that hasn’t already been said, we’re playing probably the strongest team in East Texas but we’re not awed.”

Coach Homer Young discussed Henderson saying, “Henderson(16-8) has the toughest 3-A defense we’ve played.” Daingerfield(24-6) entered the game with a 12 game-winning streak. Henderson(16-8) had been picked last in District in the preseason polls by the coaches.

Coach Young compared his present squad to the 1977 state championship team. He said he didn’t feel his team was as good as last year. “We’re much shorter, don’t have as many good shooters and overall a bit weaker in all facets of the game. About the only thing we have going for us over last year is quickness,” Young said. “John (Rodgers) has really taken up a lot of the slack. He’s done a tremendous job for us this year.”

Daingerfield(25-6) and Henderson(16-8) played a very slow deliberate game with the Tigers advancing 43-31 at Gladewater. John Rodgers came through

with 21 points for Daingerfield(25-6) and Bobby Terry was the leader for Henderson(16-8) with 10 points.

In District 6-AAA the Terrell(23-7) Tigers and Ennis(18-6) Lions looked to be the cream of the crop. Terrell(23-7) finished 20-9 the previous season and had a strong nucleus returning in 1978. Coach Mark Hudson's team took the North Zone and Ennis(18-6) was back in the playoffs winning the South zone. The Lions of Ennis were paced by one of the top players in the state in 6'3" Cranston Jones(28.5). Ennis had lost twice during the season to Wilmer Hutchins(28-6) 94-92 and 122-99. The Eagles of Hutch had advanced to regional in class 4-A ball.

Terrell had faced two really tough opponents during the regular season, Grand Prairie(28-5) and Dallas Roosevelt(27-7). Grand Prairie made the regional finals in class 4-A while Dallas Roosevelt(27-7) was a regional semi-finalist. Terrell lost a close one to Grand Prairie(28-5) 68-65, but lost by a wider margin to Roosevelt(27-7) 75-64. Another big loss for the Tigers was a 79-60 loss at the hands of Tyler Lee(32-2). All three schools were state ranked. The Tigers finished pre-district at 12-7, but dominated District 6-AAA action going undefeated.

Coach Hudson discussed facing Ennis, "Jones(28.5) has to be their sparkplug and they do a lot of pressing. It should be a wide-open game." "We've got a lot of quickness not much else," Coach Dick Stringfellow of Ennis said. Neither team had an over abundance of size.

Starters for Ennis(18-6) were Chris Jones, Gary Roberts, Rufus Manning, Scott Kinzie and Cranston Jones(28.5).

In one of the most unusual finishes you will see, Ennis looked to have things under control leading 65-62 with nine seconds remaining. Terrell guard, Kenny Beadle, hit a jumper to close the gap to one point 65-64. Surprisingly time out was called by one of the Ennis players. With one second showing on the clock, Terrell stole the inbounds pass and Willie Pegram hit the winner at the buzzer. The Tigers of Terrell advanced to Bi-District with a 66-65 win.

Bi-District saw Terrell(23-8) sneak by Ft. Worth Northside(19-8). The game was played in Grand Prairie in front of 1,000 fans. Carl Holland made the decisive drive with 20 seconds remaining in the game, to give the Tigers the win 61-59.

The game was run and gun for three quarters as Northside took an 11-point lead going into the final quarter. With 5:03 left in the game, Terrell took the lead 59-58 and immediately went into a delay game. The delay tactics did not work well for the Tigers. On three different occasions, Terrell had lost the ball in the delay game. With the score tied with 1:13 remaining, Northside Coach, Billy Pigg called for the last shot. Northside's Otis Crump fired a pass instead of shooting and Holland stole the ball and went the length of the court for his winning layup. Darryl Kelly of Northside got off a 10-foot jumper and Crump rebounded, but he missed the follow up.

Terrell(24-8) had a lot of momentum as they entered the regional finals against Daingerfield(25-6) winning 19 straight. Against Daingerfield, Terrell would be challenged trying to slow down the inside game of 6'3" John Rodgers and 6'6" Richard Brewer. Coach Tommy Alexander of Henderson discussed facing Daingerfield following his team's loss, "the first thing you have to do is stop Rodgers, if that's possible."

The two top dogs for Daingerfield were 5'8" Carey Bardwell(8.3) and 6'3" Johnny Rodgers(21.3). The Terrell Tigers team was centered around speed and quickness in 5'10" Bricky Lewis(19.0) and 6'3" post, Carl Holland(14.0).

In the **regional finals**, Terrell(24-7) was up to the task defeating the defending class 3-A state champions Daingerfield(25-6) 66-57. The game was played at Wagstaff Gym in Tyler. Some 4000 fans were in attendance. Terrell placed three players in double figures. Dewayne Sheffield finished with 13 points, Carl Holland was high man with 16 and Kenny Beadle came away with 13 points. Rodgers showed the way for Daingerfield with 17 points and Darrell Lewis ended up with 15 points.

Region III

Huntsville had three players who averaged in double figures, 6'5" Royce Craft(11.0), 6'4" Curtis Wallace(12.0) and super sophomore, 6'2" Lloyd Archie(12.0). The other two starters were 5'10" Dallas Williams and 5'9" Patrick Antwi. Craft was recruited to play quarterback at Rice University. The Hornets were also attempting a return engagement to the State Tournament, having lost to the eventual state champions Daingerfield in 1977.

Huntsville's(23-7) success during the season was expected, because of the return of three starters off last season's 26-8 state semi-finalists squad along with a 25-1 junior varsity. Lloyd Archie had started as a freshman and was a standout on the football field. He was named high school All-American his senior year. Many locals in Huntsville claimed Archie was one of the most gifted athletes ever to come out of Huntsville. He made Parade All-American in football and signed with the University of Houston following his senior year. Unfortunately, Archie never made an impact for the Cougars. He got into some trouble and ended up at Navarro Jr. College. He was also a standout in track. On the basketball court his athleticism proved to be very valuable.

The Hornet's defeated Cleveland in Bi-District 62-59 in a close one to advance to regionals. In the game against Cleveland, Dallas Williams came off the bench to lead the Hornets with 19 points, followed by Lloyd Archie with 14 points and Royce Craft finished with 12 rebounds. Cleveland had beaten Silsbee for the 11-AAA crown.

Waco(21-8) and Round Rock(25-10) faced each other for the right to meet Huntsville(24-7). Allen Laday of Waco hit a 22-foot jumper with seconds left to give Waco the win 51-50. Round Rock sophomore 6'7" George Kash put up 16 points

and 8 rebounds. Bob McNerney missed a one and one opportunity with 13 seconds left which could have put Round Rock up. Waco's Bruce Hudlin pulled down the rebound and kicked the ball to Laday who hit a 20-foot basket for the win.

Waco won the rebound battle 35-26 and were led by Jimmy Watson with 20 points and 9 rebounds. The Dragons had several one and one opportunities in the fourth quarter but failed to convert.

Huntsville(25-7) downed Waco(22-8) easily 89-70 to **advance to state**. The Hornets hit 65% from the floor. Lloyd Archie hit 23 points for Huntsville followed by Royce Craft with 19 points and 12 rebounds and Curtis Wallace hit 11 points. Jimmy Watson again led Waco(22-8) with 27 points. Most of the Hornets were on the bench in the 4th period when Waco ran up 35 points. "We were just too big for them underneath the boards," Coach Joe Main said.

Region IV

West Oso(31-3) was the front runner for region IV attempting to make their third straight trip to Austin. The Bears were led by the top scorer in the state in 6'6" Jerry Davis(35.0/17.0/5 bl). "Offensively, he has the tools to play on a pro team right now," said Coach Marvin Spears. Only one other player averaged double figures for Coach Spears and that was 6'5" senior, Joe Estell(17.0).

The Fighting Bears had faced four AAAA playoffs teams and finished with a 1-3 record against the higher-level competition. West Oso lost to Corpus Christi Moody(29-8) twice 91-65 and 80-71. They also held a victory over Moody 73-70. Moody had advanced to the regional finals in Region IV. West Oso faced San Antonio Marshall(27-6) and lost 71-57. Marshall(27-6) lost to Moody(29-8) in the regional semi-finals 68-62.

The Fighting Bears loved to get up and down the court, having broken the century mark five times during the season. They finished 17-3 against class 4-A competition in South Texas.

The Bears advanced defeating Rio Grande City 112 to 67 in Bi-District. Davis put up 58 points. Yes, 58! Friendswood(24-8) downed New Braunfels 75-59, to advance to the regional finals against West Oso(32-3). Terry Collins paced Friendswood(24-8) with 23 points and Mark Griffon added 20.

In El Campo, West Oso(32-3) defeated Friendswood(24-8) 67-62 to win **the regional finals**. Davis poured in 28 points for the Bears. Again, Collins and Griffon were high scorers for Friendswood(24-8) with 23 and 14 points.

State Tournament

The Huntsville(25-7) Hornets were one of the top-rated teams most of the season in class AAA, so they were viewed as a heavy favorite in the semi-final game against West Oso(33-3). Coach Joe Main of Huntsville commented about Davis before their semi-final match-up, "There's no way to completely stop a player like Davis. Maybe we can slow him down some and do a good defensive job on the

other four West Oso players. Davis is a freelance type of player who scores inside and outside, but he gets most of his points from the outside. He is a good shooter.”

Coach Marvin Spears felt his teams experience could prove to be the difference against their semi-final opponent, Huntsville. Unfortunately, West Oso had lost both times in the semi-finals on their two previous trips to the State Tournament.

Huntsville(25-7) had played a much more challenging schedule than West Oso(33-3). The Hornets faced many of the toughest teams from the Houston Area. They lost to Conroe(19-14) 70-61, Houston Sterling(18-9) 75-66, Houston Jones(26-8) 72-59, Bryan(22-9), with All-American Rudy Woods 77-60. The Hornets also lost to Houston Yates(24-11) 83-80 and Wilmer Hutchins(28-6) 90-88. Huntsville gained revenge against Bryan(22-10) 72-71. That schedule put Huntsville at another level playing in class AAA.

In the state semi-final game, Huntsville(25-7) just had too many weapons and took West Oso(33-3) and Jerry Davis apart 86-58. Davis(35.0) hit 24 points and 13 rebounds in a losing cause while Lloyd Archie hit 21 points and 13 rebounds for the Hornets, followed by Edgar Crawford's 17 points. Royce Craft finished with 11 points.

Jerry Davis(35.0) could only manage to hit 11 of 27 against the Huntsville zone. Coach Main said following the game, “I think the key was the rebounds, we got after Davis, we made it hard for him on every shot. The kids did a great job on him, they kept a hand in his face and made him work. We got a lot of points out of snowbirds and that helped.” All five starters were in double figures for Huntsville. The Hornets led at halftime 42-25.

In the state semi-final game between Mineral Wells(32-2) and Terrell(25-7), the Tigers took an 11-point lead in the first half, but the Rams prevailed over Terrell 61-55. Melvin Ray and Matt Russell each scored 20 points for the victorious Rams. Mineral Wells advanced to the finals as one of the most impressive finalists in class AAA during the decade.

The **state championship** game pitted the two top teams in the state against one another. Mineral Wells(32-2) had a 21-game winning streak coming into the title game.

Huntsville(26-7) took a 12-point lead 36-24 over Mineral Wells(32-2) in the 3rd quarter, but the Rams trimmed that back to one point 48-47 with 1:37 left to play. But a slam dunk by 6'3" Royce Craft and six points from Edgar Crawford, put the Hornets ahead to stay winning 55-49. The combination of 6'4" Curtis Wallace and 6'2" Edgar Crawford were too strong against the Rams, as they combined for 26 points and 23 rebounds. It was Huntsville's 19th consecutive victory of the season.

5'8" Melvin Ray led all scorers for Mineral Wells(32-2) with 20 points. Lloyd Archie was held to only 4 points in the finals. Huntsville(26-7) finished the

season averaging 70.0 points per game to their opponents 57.9, while Mineral Wells(32-2) dominated scoring 71.3 per game and allowing only 48.7, which is an impressive 22.6-point spread.

During the decade, these two teams were at the top of the list of the teams that played in the AAA state championship game. Between the two teams combined, they lost one game to a class AAA team and that was Huntsville's loss to Cleveland. The Hornets defeated Cleveland twice, avenging that one loss.

All-tournament team was made up of Lloyd Archie, Royce Craft, and Curtis Wallace of Huntsville, from Mineral Wells, Matt Russell and Melvin Ray.

The Sports Writers All-State 1st team- 6'6" Billy Don Hardaway(27.5) of Lubbock Dunbar, 6'6" Jerry Davis(35.0) of West Oso, 6'1" Ezelle Smith(19.1) of Palestine, 6'3" Johnny Rodgers(21.3) of Daingerfield, and 6'2" Lance McClain(23.4) of Andrews; **2nd team-** 6'3" Cranston Jones(28.5) of Ennis, 6'6" Tom Perry(24.6) of Borger, 6'5" Arthur Gray(21.5) of Beaumont Southpark, 5'8" Carey Bardwell(8.3) of Daingerfield, 6'0" Jerry Lowe(22.0) of Silsbee; **3rd Team-** 6'3" Carl Holland(16.6) of Terrell, 6'4" Donald Taylor(24.6) of Hallsville, 6'7" Lionel Bluntson(15.0) of Rice Consolidated, 5'9" Ray Valdez (16.3) of Crystal City; 6'1" John Grammer(22.0) of Rice Consolidated:

The Sports Writers really missed the boat in 1978, not one player from the state championship game. Mineral Wells and Huntsville were both unable to get anybody on the squad. Unreal, how does something like that happen. The two school's local sports writers may not have nominated anybody? Another answer as to why neither team had any representative could have been the balance on both teams and nobody received enough votes. Cleveland is also missing. Those were major flaws in the system obviously. Jerry Davis was a three-time all-state player at West Oso.

Power Ranking 1978

1.	Mineral Wells	32-3	84.16	State Finals	loss Huntsville 55-49
2.	Huntsville	27-7	82.69	State Champions	def. Min. Wells 55-49
3.	Terrell	25-8	82.26	State Semi-Finals	loss Min. Wells 61-55

1978 3-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	Zone: Mineral Wells(28-2)	52	Iowa Park	44
	Mineral Wells(29-2)	51	Perryton(17-13)	42
	Dist. Playoff: Lub. Dunbar	63	Lubbock Estacado OT	62
	Zone: Monahans(25-5)	85	Odessa Ector(24-10)	84
	Monahans(26-5)	80	Lubbock Dunbar(27-4)	79
Region I Finals	Mineral Wells(30-2)	72	Monahans(27-5)	57
Region II Bi-Dist.	Zone: Terrell(22-7)	66	Ennis(18-6)	65
	Terrell(23-7)	61	Ft. Worth Northside(19-8)	59
	Zone: Henderson(15-8)	49	Palestine(23-7) 3-OT	47
	Zone: Daingerfield(22-6)	73	Mt. Pleasant(27-2)	53
	Daingerfield(23-6)	56	Mt. Pleasant(27-3)	46
	Daingerfield(24-6)	43	Henderson(16-8)	31
Region II Finals	Terrell(24-7)	66	Daingerfield(25-6)	57
Region III Bi-Dist.	Zone: Cleveland		Silsbee(23-7)	
	Huntsville(23-7)	62	Cleveland	59
	Waco High(22-9)	51	Round Rock(25-9)	50
Region III Finals	Huntsville(24-7)	89	Waco High(22-8)	70
Region IV Bi-Dist.	West Oso(31-3)	112	Rio Grande City	67
	Friendswood(24-8)	75	New Braunfels	59
Region IV Finals	West Oso(32-3)	67	Friendswood(25-8)	62
State Semi-Finals	Mineral Wells(31-2)	61	Terrell(25-7)	55
	Huntsville(25-7)	86	West Oso(33-3)	58
State Finals	Huntsville(26-7)	55	Mineral Wells(32-2)	49

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1978 AAA Top Ten}

1.	Huntsville	27-7	{very talented state champion}
2.	Mineral Wells	32-3	{lost to Abilene in OT by 1 and Paschal by 1}
3.	Cleveland		{lost by 3 to the state champions Huntsville}
4.	Terrell	25-8	{State Semi-finalists, loss to Mineral Wells}
5.	Monahans	27-6	{regional finalist against Mineral Wells}
6.	Lubbock Dunbar	27-5	{two of the top players in Whitfield and Hardaway}
7.	Ennis	18-6	{lost in the zone playoff to Terrell by one point}
8.	Daingerfield	25-7	{lost in the regional finals to Terrell}
9.	West Oso	33-4	{three straight trips to state}
10.	Odessa Ector	24-9	{loss in a playoff to Monahans 85-84}

1979 AAA

Final State Ranking 1979

1.	Mineral Wells	27-3
2.	Huntsville	21-5
3.	Snyder	26-5
4.	Austin Westlake	25-1
5.	Bay City	25-2
6.	Center	29-1
7.	Daingerfield	24-1
8.	Silsbee	30-3
9.	Waxahachie	23-5
10.	Kerrville Tivy	29-5
11.	Cleveland	24-6
12.	Ft. Worth Northside	23-5
13.	Gonzales	27-4
14.	Rockport Fulton	25-4
15.	Odessa Ector	24-9
16.	South San Antonio West	26-6
17.	Cleburne	21-7
18.	Lamesa	18-6
19.	McKinney	20-6
20.	Andrews	25-6

Honorable Mention

	San Antonio SW	22-7
	Uvalde	21-10
	Beaumont South Park	22-9
	Borger	18-10
	Jasper	21-8
	Terrell	21-9
	Katy	23-7
	Lubbock Dunbar	19-8
	Levelland	15-8
	Mt. Pleasant	18-9
	Henderson	18-6
	Everman	19-9
	Roma	23-11
	Kilgore	18-9
	Beaumont Hebert	12-14
	Donna	19-10
	Rio Grande City	14-12

Mineral Wells(27-3) and Huntsville(21-5) both returned outstanding clubs and were the top ranked teams in the state. Actually, both teams looked stronger than the previous season. The race to Austin had several strong candidates but

these were the two teams to beat. Daingerfield(24-1) looked tough coming out of East Texas and would pose a problem for any of the top ranked schools.

Region III

Silsbee(30-2) held down the state's top spot almost the entire season with their only loss coming at the hands of Beaumont Charlton Pollard(34-3), a 4-A power. Pollard was ranked #4 in the state and stood 31-1 after the regular season. Pollard's only loss had come at the hands of Silsbee. Silsbee's key player was 6'6" Dexter Wallace(20.8).

But Silsbee(30-2) had an unusual collapse late in the season that caught everybody by surprise. They captured the first half title with ease. But in one of the most bizarre episodes in state history, Silsbee lost late in the season to Beaumont Hebert(12-14). This threw the 2nd half zone title into a three-way tie. Silsbee(30-2), Jasper(21-8) and Beaumont Hebert(12-14) were tied for the second half title, but then Jasper(21-8) was upset by Bridge City 77-64. This gave the second half title to Hebert(14-12), due to their victory over Silsbee(30-2). If Jasper(21-8) had not lost, Silsbee(30-2) would have taken the District title based on point spread over District opponents.

In 90 percent of the Districts in the state, if you win the first half of District and tie for the 2nd round, you represent the District in the playoffs. There wouldn't have been a playoff. This was not the case in the District minutes. In the playoff for the zone title, Beaumont Hebert(12-14) won 77-75 on Silsbee's home court. Hebert advanced to the playoffs with an unimpressive 12-14 record. Silsbee finished the season at 30-3 and missed the playoffs, while Jasper ended up at 21-8. So, in Region III, the top team never made it out of Zone play.

Austin Westlake(25-1) was another entry in Region III, supporting an outstanding 25-1 record. In the Chaparrals Bi-District game against Waco Jefferson-Moore(15-13), Westlake came away with their 21st consecutive win of the season with a 61-52 victory. 6'7" Bill Wendlandt(23.0) and 6'4" Calvin Schiraldi(17.0) finally got it going for Westlake's coach Dent Taylor. The Chaps only had a four-point lead at halftime and struggled against the Lions. Part of the reason was Schiraldi picked up a third foul and sat out most of the first half. With he and Wendlandt both in the lineup in the second half, Westlake was able to dominate at both ends. After the third quarter Westlake expanded the lead to 40-29, and led by as many as 13 in the fourth quarter.

Calvin Schiraldi(17.0) had 19 points, Tony Douglas had 16 points and Danny Duff had 10 points for Westlake. Joe Danforth had 17 points for Waco Jefferson Moore. 6'7" Bill Wendlandt(23.0), who had missed more than a month due to a left ankle injury, was a welcomed addition for Coach Dent Taylor.

Huntsville(21-5) was out to defend their state title in 1979. In a zone playoff, Huntsville(21-5) defeated Houston Furr 79-67. Lloyd Archie paced

Huntsville with 18 points and Patrick Antwi added 14. Calvin Eason hit 31 points for Houston Furr.

The Hornets had a new coach with Gary Surratt coming in to take over the reins. Gary's brother was Robby Surratt who was the head baseball coach. Surratt had previously coached in Lindale.

Huntsville(22-5) faced Katy(23-7) at Spring High School with the 10-AAA crown on the line. Katy had defeated Eisenhower 75-68 to capture the zone title and advanced to the District title game. James Westbrook was high man for Katy with 30 points while Terry Williams was the man for Eisenhower with 26 points. The Hornets(22-5) knocked out Katy(23-7) easily 79-47. Edgar Crawford led Huntsville's dynamic attack with 21 points and Patrick Antwi had 12.

In District 9-AAA zone playoff, Cleveland(24-6) had another strong team as they eliminated Beaumont Hebert(13-14) 83-50 in Pasadena's Phillips Gym. Cleveland had several players in double figures. Mike Gibson was high man with 21 points, Artie McDuffie had 20, Curtis Brown hit 14 and Wayne Baines knocked down 12. The Indians jumped out to a 21-6 lead and never looked back.

Two familiar foes faced each other in Bi-District. Huntsville(23-5) and Cleveland(25-6) were meeting for the 2nd year in a row in the first round of the playoffs. The Hornets(23-5) took out Cleveland(25-6) at Sam Houston Coliseum in Huntsville 72-65. Lloyd Archie came off the bench to lead the Hornets in scoring with 17 points.

This set the stage for two of the top teams in the state meeting in the **regional final**. The defending state champions, Huntsville(25-5), and 4th ranked Austin Westlake(28-1). Huntsville(25-5) had four returning starters from their title team, the Hornets were going to be tough to beat. 6'3" Lloyd Archie(13.0) and 6'6" post Curtis Wallace(15.2) were returning to lead the Hornets. 6'3" Edgar Crawford(14.5) was another key contributor for Huntsville. The rest of the line-up was filled out with 5'9" Patrick Antwi, 5'10" Dallas Williams, and 6'3" Henry Speaker.

Coach Dent Taylor of Austin Westlake(28-1) commented, "The Hornets' quickness, particularly on the defensive press, is awesome." For Westlake, 6'7" Wendlandt(23.0) would be in the starting lineup for the first time since January 22, when he hurt his ankle. 6'4" Calvin Schiraldi(17.0) along with Tom Douglas(13.0) filled vital roles for the Chaparrals attack against Huntsville.

The game was played in Bryan and Huntsville(25-5) wasted little time showing Westlake(28-1) why they were defending state champions. 6'5" post, Curtis Wallace, blocked Wendlandt's first three shots and ended up blocking six of the big man's shots during the game. Westlake(28-1) committed nine turnovers in the second quarter, which led to a 33-16 halftime advantage for Huntsville(25-5). The Chaps finished with 27 turnovers and trailed by 20 points early in the third quarter. Huntsville eventually won 55-41. The game was not close.

Region II

Daingerfield(24-1) and Waxahachie(24-4) were on a crash course once again in this region. Daingerfield(24-1) had won the state title in 1977 and the Indians were always strong. Waxahachie(24-4) had a young team in 1979 and were rebounding from a disappointing season in which they had finished 13-16 and 4-4 in District play.

Coach Jack Aldridge and Waxahachie(24-4) had some strong wins during the regular season defeating North Mesquite(27-8) 56-54, Abilene Cooper 74-71, Everman(19-9) 75-60 and 73-66, South Grand Prairie(25-6) 62-61, Wilmer Hutchins(26-12) 57-45, and McKinney(20-7) 84-76. Losses included, Corsicana 66-60, Abilene Cooper 61-60, McKinney(20-7) 72-59, and Ft. Worth Paschal(26-8) 80-79.

The team was dominated by two strong juniors, 6'3" Vance Hughes(15.4/11.0) and 6'3" Ken Cox(14.9/8.0). Two seniors who played a big role for Coach Aldridge were 6'3" Dan McNaughton(12.1) and 5'9" Larry Washington(10.7).

The real strength of the Indians attack was their balance and depth. Coming off the bench were Darrell Byrd(5.5), 5'8" Vinie Herford, 6'2" Rod Leaks, 6'2" Eddie McElroy, Victor Guinyard(8.2), Wilson James, James Stern(5.6), Kirk Paschal and 6'2" David McClendon.

In a playoff warmup game, Coach Aldridge wanted his Waxahachie(24-4) team to go up against the best team he could find to prepare for the playoffs, so he scheduled the Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-3) Wildcats. The game was played at Public Schools Gym in Ft. Worth at 1:00 on Saturday. Dunbar came in at 30-3 and the second ranked team in class AAAA. They were so talented it's hard to mention all their standout players. Waxahachie entered the game at 24-4 on the season and a 14-game winning streak.

Coach Jack Aldridge said before the game, "I want to see some of our people work against such talent." The game was never close, as Dunbar(30-3) showed why they were so dominant winning 86-59. One of the Hachie fans said following the game, "I don't say they can't be beat, but I would like to see the team that beats them."

The Indians(24-5) had to contend with McKinney(19-6) in the 6-AAA zone playoff before they could even think about Daingerfield(24-1). McKinney(20-6) had probably their most talented team ever in 1979, finishing 20-7. Coach Bill Justice's Lions had not made the playoffs since 1973. This was a junior dominated team with the only senior contributor being 5'8" Leonard Harris(11.9). Harris won the North Zone M.V.P. in District 6-AAA. He was an incredible athlete who later played in the N.F.L. with the Houston Oilers.

Other standouts for the Lions were all juniors. 6'2" Reggie Roberts(22.0/13.0) was one of the top talents in the state. Reggie later started as a freshman for Shelby Metcalf's conference champions with the Aggies. 5'9" Jamie Harris(18.1) was probably the best outside shooter and top athlete on the team, which is saying something. 6'4" Johnny Holley(11.1) led the football team to the state championship his senior year at quarterback and was recruited in basketball even as a sophomore. His twin brother, Ronny Holley(11.2) was very physical inside at 6'4". Both Harris brothers played college football at Texas Tech and Oklahoma State. The Holley twins played football at Texas Southern.

This group also ran the 400 meters and mile relay in the state track meet. McKinney had a phenomenal group of athletes. Something that hurt McKinney is only one of the key players on the 1979 team was a full-time basketball player, the rest came out of football. This really put Coach Justice's team at a disadvantage when playing full-time basketball schools like Plano(28-5) and Waxahachie(24-5).

The Lions had some tough opponents during the season, in particular a close loss to class 4-A powerhouse Plano 73-70. McKinney(19-6) beat Terrell(20-9), the defending District champion 67-51, to advance to the District playoff between the zone winners. Roberts and Jamie Harris were the leading scorers for the Lions with both finishing with 17 points. Albert Robinson and Audie Green put in 18 points each for the Tigers against McKinney(20-6).

Coach Bill Justice commented on the crowd, "this was probably the biggest crowd we've ever had for an out-of-town game." The game was delayed 15 minutes to allow the people who were standing in line outside the gym at North Mesquite High school to filter into the gym.

As Waxahachie(24-5) recovered from their loss to Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-3), Coach Aldridge began to focus on the Lions of McKinney. "The key to winning Friday night will be a tough defense and blocking out around the boards." Aldridge continued, "McKinney's backcourt is made up of Leonard and Jamie Harris with Jamie shooting outside and Leonard the ball-handling point guard. Jamie is not the threat Leonard is." In looking at the multi-talented Reggie Roberts, Aldridge said, "Roberts is an extremely good jumper with fair speed and can hit from the outside, he stuffs the ball anyway he wants to and can shoot with either hand." Aldridge continued saying, "Johnny Holley is real physical and a good jumper, he can hit the bank shot pretty good." Ronny Holley was described as a good rebounder who likes it physical with limited range. Kevin Mann and 6'5" John Rodney Holley came off the bench for the Lions. Aldridge felt his team's biggest strength against McKinney would be their depth.

The game between Waxahachie(24-5) and McKinney(20-6) was played in Carrollton at R.L. Turner High School in front of an estimated crowd of 2,500 fans. McKinney took the early lead in the 1st quarter 19-12 and led at halftime 37-32. The Lions led going into the 4th quarter 55-51, but began to look tired. The Indians

pulled away 81-73 in the 4th quarter for the victory. Coach Jack Aldridge felt rebounding was the difference for his team and conditioning. "McKinney was tired and had more fouls," Aldridge said. McKinney's fatigue showed on the foul line as the Lions hit 9 of 20 for the game and only 4 of 12 in the 4th quarter. Waxahachie was 21 of 26 from the foul line.

For the Indians, the junior combination of Ken Cox and Vance Hughes was the show offensively, Hughes had 20 of his 24 points in the second half. Cox was playing out of his mind, hitting 11 of 13 field goals for 26 points. Larry Washington had only six points but 14 assists. Waxahachie(24-5) dominated the glass with Vance Hughes finishing with 13 rebounds, Ken Cox pulled down 11 boards and Washington had 9 rebounds.

Coach Bill Justice said, "The referees didn't beat us, we beat ourselves." McKinney(20-6) on the other hand, had to deal with Leonard Harris picking up his fourth foul late in the 3rd quarter. With 5:10 left in the game the Lions led 61-57. McKinney was hit with a flagrant foul late, as Waxahachie pulled away for the victory. Justice played his starting five almost the entire game, while the Indians and coach Jack Aldridge played seven or eight players. Jamie Harris finished with 19 points to top McKinney. Most of Harris' points came from long range. Reggie Roberts was next with 18 points.

The Indians of Waxahachie(24-5) had eliminated a tough McKinney(20-7) team in the title game for District 6-AAA. Coach Aldridge then began looking at Ft. Worth Northside(23-5), the Indians Bi-District opponent. Northside was described by Coach Aldridge, "as not as tall as McKinney or as physical but they won't be an easy touch."

Coach Billy Pigg was in his 4th year with the Steers with three straight playoff appearances. Coach Pigg said, "we don't run a patterned offense it's sorta free-lance." Whatever you wanted to call it, Northside had been very successful. Northside(23-5) lost to McKinney(20-7) earlier in the season by 3 points and lost to Everman(19-9). Waxahachie(24-5) was 2-1 against McKinney and beat Everman(19-9) twice. Northside's other losses were to Ft. Worth O.D. Wyatt(23-6), Eastern Hills and the top ranked AAA team, Mineral Wells(33-4). The Steers ran 2-3 zone and pressed.

The starting line-up for Ft. Worth Northside(23-5) was made up of 5'9" Joel Rockmore(11.0), 5'10" Kenneth Brown(10.0), 6'0" Calvin Thompson(14.0), 6'3" Richard Davis(8.0), and 6'4" Willie Douglas(15.0).

The game was played at Everman and 2,000 fans showed up, of which 90 percent seemed to be from Waxahachie(25-5). The Indians outscored Northside(23-5) 20-12 in the 4th quarter to take a 70-61 victory. On the Indians slow start Vance Hughes commented, "Coach told us we weren't going to have an easy time and we had better start playing or we would lose. I think it kind of shook us up."

Waxahachie(25-5) leading scorers against Northside(23-6) were Vance Hughes and Larry Washington with 13 points apiece. Ken Cox was held to only eight points. The bench made up the difference scoring 24 points for the Indians. Vance Hughes came away with 21 rebounds, which was a season high. Waxahachie(25-5) had a big advantage inside with a 56-34 rebound margin.

"We underestimated their quickness," Coach Aldridge said. "They had a better team than I thought and we couldn't stay with them several times on defense. Many of our fouls came because of quickness." The smiling Aldridge said after the game, "I'm just happy for the win. The kids knew they didn't play their best game when they came in the locker room tonight. I still believe we haven't played our best game."

Next up for the Indians was the **regional favorite** Daingerfield(25-1). The Tigers had been knocked out of the playoffs in 1978 by Terrell in the regional finals, and finished 25-7 on the season.

Many people were talking about the '79 Daingerfield team being better than their state championship team. Daingerfield(25-1) came in with an outstanding 26-1 record and #7 ranking in the state polls.

Coach Homer Young of Daingerfield discussed his programs success with a five-year run of 121-21 record. "It's been the material mostly," Coach Young explained. "we've had a pretty good run of big boys and some good ball handlers." Young had spent 11 years with the Tigers. Neither of his junior high coaches played basketball. "The real secret is defense," Young said. "I think some of the older kids have convinced them. I'm sure they tell them how important it is to play defense and we work hard at it." Daingerfield allowed only 41 points per game on the season.

In comparing his team to the state title team in 1977 Young said, "we don't have as much height and we're not near as experienced. Our inside game is not as strong. Lewis is the only returning full time starter."

Coach Homer Young discussed the team's only loss on the season to Jefferson(19-6) 51-47, "after defeating Tyler Lee we just thought we would walk out their and win against Jefferson. That loss probably helped us a great deal."

Daingerfield(24-1) prepared for the playoffs defeating class 2-A Prairiland 55-45 in a warm-up game.

Daingerfield's(25-1) first test of the playoffs was a Bi-District clash with Center(30-1) at Wagstaff Gym in Tyler. Daingerfield(25-1) represented 7-3A, while Center came out of District 8-3A.

"I haven't seen Center play, but I know they're a real balanced team," Young commented.

Center looked to their All-State wing, 6'3" Stan Cloudy(22.0). Other starters were 6'4" Reggie Daniels(16.0), 6'4" Craig Garrett(12.0), 6'3" Melvin Garrett(10.0) and 5'10" Tommy Johnson a defensive specialist. "We knew we could

have a good team," Center coach Terry Culley said, "but there's no way we thought we would be 30-1. It was Center's first District title.

Center's only loss on the season was to Nacogdoches by four points in the Lufkin tournament. Coach Culley said a big confidence builder for his team was the win over Longview Pine Tree in the finals of the Pine Tree tournament. Center(30-1) finished 17-13 during the 1978 campaign.

In the approaching contest with Daingerfield, Coach Culley said, "we play different styles, but it should be one good ball game."

Daingerfield(25-1) eliminated Center(30-1) in Bi-District 50-42 and ended Center's 26-game winning streak. The Tigers took an early 17-8 lead and led at halftime 26-20 by controlling the boards.

Coach Terry Culley said following the game, "it was our first time in Bi-District and we choked. I don't know whether it was the gym or the pressure of the game but we didn't play our type of game."

Early foul trouble really hurt the Center Roughriders against the strong inside game of Daingerfield. 6'5" Warren Everett finished with a game high 24 points on 10 of 17 shooting and 11 rebounds. 6'5" Darryl Lewis(12.0) ended up with 9 rebounds. Stan Cloudy(22.0) led Center with 17 points and Reggie Daniel added 13 points.

In the game totals Daingerfield shot 20 of 45 from the floor for 44% and Center managed 18 of 53 shooting for only 34%. Daingerfield also had the upper hand at the line hitting 10 of 17, while Center only converted on 6 of 14 from behind the stripe. The Roughriders finished a strong season at 30-2.

Daingerfield(25-1) and Waxahachie(26-6) were clearly the two top teams in region II. In preparing for Daingerfield(25-1) you had to realize what you were facing. 6'6" Warren Everett(19.8) was a beast inside. He was paired up with 6'5" Darryl Lewis(12.0), the team's only returning starter. Lewis went on to the N.F.L. after a college career at U.T. Arlington. Other key players included, 6'0" Ricky Sharp and 5'9" James Austin. Austin was starting only his second game of the season. Austin was replacing Anthony Robertson who was benched for disciplinary reasons. The Tigers entered the regional finals on a 26-game winning streak.

According to Coach Jack Aldridge of Waxahachie(26-5), "Daingerfield will not press or run, they play very, very deliberate style of basketball. We are going to have to be patient." Daingerfield(26-1) had won the 7-AAA title for four straight seasons and were making their third straight regional finals appearance.

The game was a disaster for Waxahachie(26-5), as they only shot 21% from the floor losing 43-38 to the Tigers. The game was played in Commerce at East Texas State University before 4,200 fans.

6'6" Warren Everett was dominating scoring 23 points, which was over half his teams point total. Daingerfield moved on to state at 26-1 and Waxahachie finished the season with a 26-6 record. "I'm just sick," a disgusted Aldridge said

after the game. "I'll never understand what happened, they didn't intimidate us that much. It's the biggest disappointment of my coaching career."

The Indians made a serious run at Daingerfield(26-1) in the 4th quarter after scoring only 2 points in the 3rd quarter. Waxahachie was outscored 12-2 in the quarter. The Indians scored 19 points in the 4th quarter after trailing 33-19 at the start of the quarter. With three minutes to play the Tigers were up ten and went to their delay game. "For three to six minutes there in the middle we were delaying and we kept missing the one and one free throws," Coach Young said. "We played our game though, when you keep a run and run team down, they're not going to hurry with their shooting and rebounding." Young continued, "we had five in the middle and wouldn't give them the second shot."

Daingerfield shot 18 of 46 from the floor for 38% and Warren Everett finished with 10 rebounds while 6'5" Darryl Lewis dominated with 24 rebounds. Warren Everett was 11 of 19 from the floor for his team high 23 points. Ricky Sharp hit some clutch foul shots down the stretch for the Tigers.

For the Indians, Vance Hughes finished with 15 points and 18 rebounds and Ken Cox only produced 2 points and 7 rebounds. Coach Jack Aldridge said following the game, "My biggest disappointment is for the kids. They deserved to go to Austin."

Region I

Mineral Wells was the overwhelming favorite to return to Austin. The Rams were the top-rated class AAA team in the state. Mineral Wells was led by Darrell Milton(16.6/8.0), a three year starter. 6'6" Rory Nowak(15.1/8.0) also proved valuable as did 6'3" Jesse Kimbrough(14.5/11.3). Others starters for the Rams were 6'3" Mike Birt(9.3) and 6'2" Tommy Fincher 9.4. The Rams had won their third straight District title and won 32 straight District contest dating back to 1977. Milton was one of two returning starters for Coach Phil King. The other was 6'6" Rory Nowak.

Mineral Wells wrapped up District with a tough 62-61 victory over Wichita Falls Hirschi. The Rams three losses over the course of the season were at the hands of 2-A Bowie and Abilene High.

Mineral Wells(29-3) faced Snyder(26-5) in Bi-District. The two teams had played earlier in the season with the Rams winning 71-68. Two key players for Snyder had just come out of the state football playoffs prior to the game. Coach Jack Stephenson of Snyder(26-5) didn't think it had played a big role.

Snyder(26-5) looked to 6'3" Greg Hinton(17.0/10.0), Sid Everton(14.0), Richard Crayton(10.0) and 6'5" Mike Hicks(9 reb).

Mineral Wells eliminated 3rd ranked Snyder(26-5) in Bi-District 85-70. The Rams went on a 15-0 run late in the first quarter to lead 32-16 at the end of one. Darrell Milton(16.6) finished with 22 points, Rory Nowak(15.1) also kicked in 22

points and Tommy Fincher(9.4) put up 19 points mostly from the outside. "They left me open for a lot of shots," Fincher said. "This game meant a lot to us."

Milton was 8 of 12 from the floor for the game. Mineral Wells finished 35 of 69 shooting, while Snyder came away with 33 of 66 from the field.

Odessa Ector(24-9) knocked Lubbock Estacado out of the playoffs with a 66-58 win in Bi-District at Angelo State University Gymnasium. Coach Keith Thompson of Ector watched the Mineral Wells-Snyder game and came away very impressed with the Rams. "I was very impressed with Mineral Wells, they have a super team and there's no doubt about it -they will be tough to handle," Coach Thompson said.

Mineral Wells really killed Snyder with the press," Thompson commented. "It's similar to ours, but they really like to trap at half court." Thompson continued saying, "I feel they will try to take the ball inside against us, but everybody we play does that. I think we have an advantage over them because of our bench," said Thompson.

Coach Phil King of Mineral Wells had his assistant scout the Ector-Estacado game. He was real impressed with the Eagles quickness and fastbreak. "I feel we will have to play ball control if we are to beat them," said King.

Against Lubbock Estacado, Ector had three players in double figures. 6'1" George Cooper(13.0) was high man with 24 points, Marcus Bracy(16.0) and Raul Larez(11.0) both finished with 12 apiece. Alvin Richardson(11.0) was also a key player for the Eagles of Ector.

The Rams put away Odessa Ector(24-9) 66-60 in the **regional final** to advance. The inside game of the Rams was too much for the Eagles fighting off a late rally by Ector. The win was Mineral Wells 18th in a row.

"Our turnovers early in the game hurt us a lot," Ector coach Keith Thompson explained. "It just caused us to get behind early and we never were able to make up the deficit."

The Eagles never led trailing 38-29 at half and 50-41 heading into the final period. Mineral Wells had built up a 60-45 lead with 4:20 left in the contest. Ector was able to get within eight points with 3:04 left when the Rams ran the clock out.

"We made a few adjustments at halftime," Thompson said. "We decided to go with a 3-2 zone instead of the 2-1-2."

Rory Nowak led the scoring for the Rams with 18 points, Jesse Kimbrough and Milton put up 14 points each and Fincher added 10 points as did Birt. For Ector Alvin Richardson was impressive with 18 points, George Cooper followed with 15 points, Edward Williams had 12 along with Raul Larez.

Region IV

The Region IV title was up for grabs. Jerry Davis had graduated from West Oso after dominating the region for three straight seasons.

Rio Grande City(18-12) defeated Rockport Fulton(25-4) 67-63 to advance to the regional finals. Bay City(28-2) beat Kerrville Tivy(30-5) 64-57 to continue their 25-game winning streak. Bay City(28-2) trailed for the majority of the evening and finally took the lead in the 4th quarter over Tivy. The Blackcats press really hurt Tivy. Bay City also held 6'8" Robert Wilbourn of Tivy to only three points. Gene Bowder, Rocky Smith and Todd Chambers all 6'5" combined to contain Wilbourn.

Thomas Jackson led Bay City in the game with 15 points, Gene Bowder came away with 12 points and Wilson Gee and Todd Chambers both added 10 points. Kerrville Tivy(30-6) was led by Jon Chambers with 21 points and Jesse Brown hit 19 points.

This put Rio Grande City(19-12) in the regional finals against Bay City(28-2) at Victoria Stroman. The Blackcat's only two losses came early in the season when several starters were still in football.

The Blackcats advanced to state defeating Rio Grande City(19-12) in an easy win 85-55 in the **regional finals**. Bay City's press created havoc for Rio Grande City(19-12) forcing several turnovers during the contest.

Todd Chambers paced the Black Cats with 24 points, 6'5" Wilson Gee chipped in 16 points and 6'5" Eugene Bowden had 14. Bay City had a talented group made up of 6'5" Eugene Bowden, 6'3" Rocky Smith, 6'0" Greg Williams, 5'10" Billy Booker, 6'5" Wilson Gee, and 5'10" Thomas Jackson. For Rio Grande City Johnny Acevedo put up 14 points and Bobby Garcia followed with 12 points.

State Tournament

The state semifinal game between Daingerfield(26-1) and Huntsville(25-5) was a rematch of the '77 semi-final contest between the two schools, which Daingerfield won 66-55. The Tigers returned two players off that club, Darryl Lewis and Tony Favors. Favors was the 6th man and Lewis didn't play.

According to Coach Homer Young the tournament had improved due to straight basketball coaches and straight basketball players. "We haven't come to that in Daingerfield," Young said. The only non-football players were Warren Everett and Ricky Sharp. "It's awfully hard to make a basketball player in two months," Young said.

The only final four team Coach Young had scouted was Mineral Wells(32-3). That was because that is who he thought he would be playing. "They are extremely well-disciplined but had a tough time with Odessa Ector's press," Young said. "But I think anyone would have a problem with Ector."

After discovering that Daingerfield would meet defending state champion Huntsville, Young commented, "I don't think Huntsville has any revenge motive on its mind, they don't need revenge with their success and talent."

Coach Young said, "I would say our defense is the main reason why we are here today." Daingerfield had not given up over 60 points in a contest all year. "If they are good outside shooters, we'll play tight or if they are tough inside, we'll

sag," Young conveyed. "We've done a good job this season, but of course having a couple of 6'5" post who can block shots and intimidate someone helps a lot too. It makes coaching easier."

Coach Gary Surratt of Huntsville discussed facing Daingerfield. "In order to beat Daingerfield, we're going to have to stop their inside game. They have tremendous tradition."

Daingerfield started 6'5" Warren Everett, the District MVP. 6'5" Darrell Lewis and 6'0" Artie Rodgers, both were named first team All-District. 6'0" Ricky Sharp was another key starter for the Tigers.

Huntsville had size as well with 6'5" Curtis Wallace(15.2), 6'2" Edgar Crawford(14.5), 5'9" Patrick Antwi, 5'10" Dallas Williams, 6'3" Henry Speaker. 6'2" Lloyd Archie(13.0) came off the bench having broken his ankle earlier in the season.

Revenge was sweet for Huntsville(25-5) as they ran away with the game 69-37, leaving no doubt. At one point in the first half the score was 31-8 in favor of the Hornets.

6'2" Edgar Crawford(14.5) led the scoring for Huntsville with 17 points and finished 7 of 11 from the floor. 6'5" Curtis Wallace(15.2) added 13 points and 14 rebounds for the winners. Standout Lloyd Archie rode the bench with an inflamed tendon.

Daingerfield was paced by 6'6" Warren Everett with 12 points and 14 rebounds and Lewis managed only 7 points. Everett and Darryl Lewis were a combined 7 of 33 from the field. Lewis exited the game early in the final period on fouls. The Tigers only managed 24% from the field shooting. The halftime score was 33-13.

"No way did I think we would beat Daingerfield that bad. It was just one of those nights when nothing went right for them and we were hot," Coach Surratt said.

In the other semi-final contest the Rams of Mineral Wells(32-3) was pitted against Bay City(28-2). Mineral Wells felt the previous experience at state would prove helpful against Bay City. Darrell Milton and Rory Nowak were starters the previous season in the state finals against Huntsville and Jesse Kimbrough was the sixth man.

Bay City was very athletic with three players standing 6'5". "They have a real aggressive team and we'll need to play our best, but the kids have a good attitude and I think we'll be tough to beat," Coach King of Mineral Wells said.

It was the Blackcats first visit to Austin and it would not be their last. Bay City(28-2) proved to be very competitive losing to Mineral Wells(32-3) 57-50. The game was tied 18 times.

6'2" Darrell Milton(17.0) scored 18 points for Mineral Wells, including 16 in the 2nd half. Several were long jumpers. Milton struggled in the first half hitting only 1 of 6 from the floor. "I just prayed a little and that helped me," Milton

confessed. He hit eight of his first nine shots in the second half. Both teams only shot 27% in the first half. The Rams hit 17 of 27 in the second half to finish 26 of 60 for the game and 43%. Bay City came away shooting 21 of 63 from the field for 33%.

6'6" Rory Nowak(16.0) finished with 16 points and 7 rebounds for the Rams and 6'3" Jesse Kimbrough(12.0) added 10 points. "I think being here last year helped us. We were used to the bright lights and I think they kind of bothered Bay City," Nowak explained.

For the Blackcats of Bay City(28-2), 6'5" Todd Chambers(18.0) and 6'5" Wilson Gee(11.2) both contributed 14 points each. Chambers exited the game with 5:14 remaining due to fouls. "They hurt us with their quickness," said Bay City(28-2) Coach Eddie Nelson. "I really didn't think we played that good, far too many mistakes. We were excited and never could get things lined-up. We hurt ourselves with those late turnovers." An interesting side note was that Coach Eddie Nelson grew up in Mineral Wells(32-3) and had a brother on the Rams team.

On the 14-3A All-District team, 6'1" George Turner(31.0/18.0) of Hitichcock was named District MVP. 6'5" Todd Chambers(18.0) and 6'5" Wilson Gee(11.2) from Bay City were named to the first team. 6'2" Rocky Smith(11.5) and 6'5" Eugene Bowden(13.4) of the Blackcats were named to the second team. Bay City's point guard, Thomas Jackson(8.0), was named honorable mention.

State Finals

Mineral Wells(33-3) and Huntsville(26-5) were playing for the state title for the second year in a row. Almost identical situation as the year before with Mineral Wells(33-3) ranked #1 in the state polls and Huntsville(26-5) was #2.

The Rams came in with another well rounded and balanced squad with the starting lineup all averaging close to double figures. Starters for the Rams included, 6'6" Rory Nowak(15.1/8.0), 6'2" Darrell Milton(16.6/8.0), 6'3" Jesse Kimbrough(14.5/11.3), 6'2" Tommy Fincher(9.4) and 6'3" Michael Birt(9.3).

The Rams had played another challenging schedule. Coach Phil King's team held wins over state ranked Cleburne(21-7) 71-56, Class 4-A regional semi-finalist Midland(26-8) 54-43, 3rd ranked Snyder(26-5) twice 71-68 and 85-70. There three losses were against quality opponents. Two of their losses came against the #1 team in the state in class 2-A, Bowie 70-53 and 63-62. The Rams third loss was against class 4-A Abilene 58-56. The Rams averaged 69.9 points and allowed 53.6 for a 16.3-point difference.

Huntsville(26-5) countered with a very physical team. The Hornets had a lot of dual sport athletes meaning they were successful in many sports. With four starters and eight lettermen returning from the state championship team, the Hornets were strong favorites to repeat. New coach, Gary Surratt, was welcoming back 6'6" Curtis Wallace(14.0), 6'2" Lloyd Archie(7.0), 6'2" Edgar Crawford(14.0) and 5'11" Dallas Williams(8.0).

Huntsville(26-5) faced a very formidable schedule including wins over state ranked Cleveland(24-6) 63-41 and 72-65. The Hornets lost to Cleveland(24-6) in the season opener 74-67. The Hornets had a solid win over class 4-A regional finalist Conroe (29-8) 61-60, Bryan(11-18) 68-59 and class 4-A state champion Lufkin(31-6) 77-69. Huntsville(26-5) played the toughest schedule possible considering their location in East Texas. They lost to 4-A powers, Houston Yates(15-16) 54-52, Houston Jones(30-5) 64-61, Nacogdoches(27-6) 66-64 and Lufkin(31-6) 61-54.

Offensively, Huntsville averaged 76.2 points per game while giving up only 55.5 for a plus 20.7-point difference. The Hornets were ready to defend their title.

The much-anticipated rematch between Huntsville(26-5) vs. Mineral Wells(33-3) for the class AAA state championship had finally become a reality. The Hornets took the lead with 2:23 left in the game at 45-43. Free throws down the stretch were enough to give Huntsville(27-5) the victory 48-45.

Lloyd Archie(13.0) came off the bench with 14 points to spark Huntsville. Archie was one of the top players in the state. The Hornets became the first team since the 1969 Kerrville Tivy team to win back to back titles in class 3-A.

6'5" Curtis Wallace(15.2) scored 14 points and 6'2" Edgar Crawford(14.5) added 6 in the low scoring affair. 6'3" Jesse Kimbrough(14.5) was the leading scorer for the Rams hitting 15 points and 7 rebounds, 6'2" Darrell Milton(16.6) followed with 11 points and 8 rebounds and 6'6" Rory Nowak(15.1) added 9 points and 15 rebounds.

The biggest margin in the game was held by Huntsville 34-26 in the 3rd quarter. Huntsville shot 38% from the floor, while Mineral Wells managed 33%. The Hornets won the battle of the glass 48 to 40. Attendance figures came in at 6500. The state tournament attendance record was set at 69,121.

It is interesting to compare the 1978 Mineral Wells and Huntsville teams to the 1979 versions. Of course, the best indicators are the power rankings. The Rams were five points better in 1979 with an 89.75 rating compared to 84.16 in 1978. The Hornets were much stronger according to the power rankings in 1979, 95.69 to 82.69. That's a 13-point difference.

Also, if you look closely the difference between Mineral Wells and Huntsville in the 1979 championship game, Huntsville was favored by six points, 95.69 to 89.75. The final score was 48-45.

All-Tournament Team: Curtis Wallace from Huntsville, Jessie Kimbrough of Mineral Wells, Darrell Milton of Mineral Wells, Wilson Gee of Bay City, Lloyd Archie of Huntsville and Rory Nowak of Mineral Wells.

The 1979 Sports Writers All-State in class 3-A 1st team featured Curtis Wallace(15.2) of Huntsville, 6'3" Lance McCain(23.0) of Andrews, 6'5" Warren Everett(18.0) of Daingerfield, 6'1" Jon Chambers(25.1) of Kerrville Tivy, and probably the best player in class 3-A, George Turner(27.1) of Hitchcock. On the **2nd team**, 6'6" Dexter Wallace(20.8) of Silsbee, 6'3" Willie Houston(20.6) of Mt.

Pleasant, 6'3" Edgar Crawford(14.5) of Huntsville, 6'1" Darrell Milton(16.0) of Mineral Wells, and 6'3" Stan Cloudy(22.0) of Center. On the **3rd team**, 6'4" Reggie Daniels(17.0) of Center, 6'5" Todd Chambers(18.2) of Bay City, 6'4" Larry Chenevert(26.5) of Crosby, 6'0" Darryl Beasley(21.0) of Beeville and 6'3" Rick Logan(19.0) of Dumas.

Other standouts were 6'1" Winston Gipson(17.8) of Lubbock Estacado and Bill Wendlandt(23.7) of Austin Westlake. Wendlandt signed with Texas and was drafted by the NBA with the 169th pick by the Nuggets. Wendlandt had missed much of District action which probably hurt his chances at All-State.

The 1979 Texas Association of Basketball Coaches All-State 1st Team-6'2" George Turner(27.0), Hitchcock; 6'5" Curtie Wallace(15.2), Huntsville; 6'2" Darrell Milton(16.0), Mineral Wells; 6'3" Lance McCain, Andrews; 6'7" Bill Wendlandt(23.7), Austin Westlake: **2nd Team-** 6'4" Kelly Edwards, Wichita Falls Hirschi; 6'5" Vance Hughes, Waxahachie; 6'5" Warren Everett, Daingerfield; 6'2" Bruce Hudlin, Waco, 6'5" Todd Chambers, Bay City; **3rd Team-** 6'1" John Chambers(18.2), Kerrville Tivy; 6'1" Winston Gibson(17.8), Lubbock Estacado; 6'3" Sean Cloudy(22.0), Center; 6'6" Art McDuffie, Cleveland; 6'3" Greg Hinton, Snyder:

Power Ranking 1979

1.	Huntsville	27-5	95.69	State Champions	def. Min. Wells 48-45
2.	Mineral Wells	33-4	89.75	State Finals	loss Huntsville 45-48
3.	Daingerfield	26-2	84.51	State Semis	loss Huntsville 69-37
4.	Waxahachie	26-6	80.97	Regional Finals	loss Daingerfield 43-38
5.	McKinney	20-7	79.88	Zone Playoff	loss Waxahachie 73-81

1979 3-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	Mineral Wells(31-3)	85	Snyder(26-5)	70
	Odessa Ector(24-9)	66	Lubbock Estacado	58
Region I Finals	Mineral Wells(32-3)	66	Odessa Ector(25-9)	60
Region II Bi-Dist.	Zone: McKinney(19-6)	67	Terrell(20-9)	51
	Zone: Waxahachie(24-6)	81	McKinney(20-6)	73
	Waxahachie(25-6)	70	Ft. Worth Northside(23-5)	61
	Daingerfield(24-1)	50	Center(29-1)	42
Region II Finals	Daingerfield(25-1)	43	Waxahachie(26-5)	38
Region III Bi-Dist.	Zone: Bea. Hebert(12-14)	77	Silsbee(30-2)	75
	Zone: Katy(23-7)	75	Aldine Eisenhower	68
	Zone: Huntsville(21-5)	79	Houston Furr	67
	Zone: Huntsville(22-5)	79	Katy(23-7)	47
	Zone: Cleveland(24-6)	83	Beaumont Hebert(12-14)	50
	Austin Westlake(24-1)	62	Waco Jeff-Moore(15-13)	51
	Huntsville(23-5)	72	Cleveland(24-6)	65
Region III Finals	Huntsville(24-5)	55	Austin Westlake(25-1)	41
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Rio Grande City(18-12)	67	Rockport Fulton(25-4)	63
	Bay City(26-2)	64	Kerrville Tivy(29-5)	57
Region IV Finals	Bay City(27-2)	85	Rio Grande City(19-12)	55
State Semi-Finals	Mineral Wells(32-3)	57	Bay City(28-2)	50
	Huntsville(25-5)	69	Daingerfield(26-1)	37
State Finals	Huntsville(26-5)	48	Mineral Wells(33-3)	45

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1979 AAA Top Ten}

1. Huntsville 27-5 {powerhouse 3-A school}
 2. Mineral Wells 33-4 {back to back state finals}
 3. Austin Westlake 28-2 {lost to Huntsville 55-41 in regionals}
 4. Silsbee 30-3 {#1 team in the state -collapsed late in the season}
 5. Daingerfield 26-2 {outstanding season but lost to Huntsville 69-37}
 6. Waxahachie 26-6 {lost in regionals to Daingerfield 43-38}
 7. Bay City 28-3 {lost to Mineral Wells 57-50 in the state semi-finals}
 8. Cleveland 25-7 {eliminated by Huntsville in Bi-District 72-65}
 9. Snyder 26-6 {lost to Mineral Wells in Bi-District 85-70}
 10. McKinney 20-7 {eliminated by Waxahachie 81-73}
-

Best AAA Teams of the 1970s

#	Team	Year	W-L	Playoffs	Standouts
1.	Huntsville(76.2-55.5) +20.7	1979	27-5	State Champs	{C. Wallace, E. Crawford}
2.	Lamesa(70.6-47.9) +22.7	1975	34-0	State Champions	{E. Spencer, Vaszauskas}
3.	Mineral Wells(69.9-53.6) +16	1979	32-4	State Finals	{D. Milton, R. Nowak}
4.	Huntsville(70.0-57.9) +12.1	1978	27-7	State Champs	{C. Wallace, Lloyd Archie}
5.	Daingerfield	1977	29-3	State Champions	{E. Walker, Gary Lewis}
6.	Mineral Wells(71.3-48.7) +22	1978	32-3	State Finals	{Rory Nowak, M. Russell}
7.	Odessa Ector	1972	28-5	State Champs	{D. Mitchell, Joe Davis}
8.	Kerrville Tivy	1970	29-7	State Champs	{J. Vest, B. Scharnber}
9.	Dumas	1971	30-6	State Champs	{McClintock, R. Willis}
10.	Longview Pine Tree	1973	30-2	State Champs	{G. Hughes, R. Stringer}
11.	Borger	1977	28-5	State Finals	{Mike Jackson, Dickson}
12.	Levelland	1973	29-1	Regionals	{G. Dukes, M. Johnson}
13.	Odessa Ector	1976	25-9	State Champs	{D. Randolph, A. Hobbs}
14.	Waxahachie	1976	32-8	State Finals	{Norvell Brown, Reagon}
15.	South Grand Prairie	1975	29-6	State Finals	{Phil Hale, Albert Adams}
16.	Cleveland	1975	23-6	State Semi-finals	{Richard Brown, R. Reed}
17.	Gonzales	1974	29-8	State Champs	{Dennis Tealer, T. Bludau}
18.	Lamesa	1973	30-4	State Semi-finals	{K. McCurley, McCurley}
19.	Snyder	1972	28-4	Regional Finals	{Preston, Washington}
20.	Cypress-Fairbanks	1970	32-5	State Finals	{J. Mercer, R. Dunlap}

Power Rating Class AAA 1970s

1.	Huntsville(79)	27-5	95.69	State Champs	Curtis Wallace
2.	Lamesa(75)	34-0	94.65	State Champs	Eddie Spencer
3.	Mineral Wells(79)	33-4	89.75	State Finals	Darrell Milton
4.	Borger(77)	28-5	86.73	State Finals	Mike Jackson
5.	S.Grand Prairie(76)	31-2	86.13	Regional Finals	Phil Hale
6.	Daingerfield(77)	29-3	85.95	State Champs	Gary Lewis
7.	Huntsville(77)	26-8	84.74	State Semis	Royce Craft
8.	Daingerfield(79)	26-2	84.51	State Semis	Warren Everett
9.	Mineral Wells(78)	32-3	84.16	State Finals	Matt Russell
10.	Waxahachie(76)	32-8	83.68	State Finals	Norvell Brown
11.	Odessa Ector(76)	25-10	82.75	State Champs	Dwight Randolph
12.	S.Grand Prairie(75)	29-6	82.70	State Finals	Phil Hale
13.	Huntsville(78)	27-7	82.69	State Champs	Lloyd Archie
14.	Terrell(78)	25-8	82.26	State Semis	Bricky Lewis
15.	Waxahachie(79)	26-6	80.97	Regionals Finals	Vance Hughes
16.	McKinney(79)	20-7	79.88	Zone-Playoff	Reggie Roberts

Top Players AAA 1970s

Ht.	1st Team	Pts.	High School	College	Pro
6'3"	Phil Hale(76)	25.1	S. Grand Prairie	S.M.U.	
6'2"	George Turner(79)	27.1	Hitchcock	Cal-Irvine	Mavs 153
6'6"	Jerry Davis(78)	35.0	West Oso	Detroit	Bulls #112
6'7"	Albert Culton(77)	23.0	Ennis	U.T. Arlington	Mavs 209
6'6"	Grant Dukes(73)	23.5	Levelland	Texas Tech	
2nd Team					
6'1"	Carl Jones(71)	25.7	WF Hirschi	North Texas St.	
5'8"	Dwight Randolph(76)	26.0	Odessa Ector	Midland JC	
6'6"	Norvell Brown(76)	26.0	Waxahachie	Oklahoma Christian	
6'6"	Billy Don Hardaway(78)	27.5	Lubbock Dunbar	North Texas St.	
6'5"	Dennis Tealer(74)	24.6	Gonzales	Texas Lutheran	
3rd Team					
6'3"	Johnny Carter(71)	22.0	Carthage		
6'5"	Curtis Wallace(79)	15.2	Huntsville	Tulane	
6'3"	Lance McCain(79)	23.0	Andrews		
6'7"	Jack Vest(70)	19.2	Kerrville Tivy	Texas A&M	
6'3"	Cranston Jones(78)	28.5	Ennis		

Best of Lamesa 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'2"	Floyd Jenkins(70)	20.2	Lamesa		
6'3"	Jim Vaszauskas(75)	15.5	Lamesa	Baylor	
6'3"	Cecil Davis(71)	16.6	Lamesa		
6'0"	Eddie Spencer(75)	16.5	Lamesa		
6'4"	Kent McCurley(74)	19.5	Lamesa		
Best Teams:		1975 34-0	<u>State Champions</u>	94.65	
		1973 30-4	<u>State Finals</u>		
		1970 32-2	State Semi-Finals		
		1974 29-3	Regional Finals		
		1971 28-4	Regional Finals		

Best of Waxahachie 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'6"	Joe Wakeland(71)	18.7	Waxahachie		
6'5"	Norvell Brown(76)	26.0	Waxahachie	Oklahoma Christian	
5'11"	Darrell Wilson(76)	10.0	Waxahachie		
6'4"	Chris Reagor(77)	21.7	Waxahachie		
5'10"	Phil Turner(70)	19.4	Waxahachie		
Best Teams:		1976 32-8	<u>State Finals</u>	83.68	
		1979 26-6	Regional Finals	80.97	
		1970 24-5	Bi-District		
		1971 28-3	Zone Playoffs		
		1977 22-9	Zone Playoffs		

Best of Odessa Ector 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'6"	Darrell Mitchell(72)	16.1	Ector		
6'3"	Joe Davis(72)	19.6	Ector		
5'9"	Jesse Watkins(72)	16.0	Ector		
5'8"	Dwight Randolph(76)	28.4	Ector	Midland JC	
5'9"	Australia Hobbs(76)	15.1	Ector		
5'11"	William Hill(77)	12.3	Ector		
	Best Teams:	1972 28-5	<u>State Champions</u>		
		1976 25-10	<u>State Champions</u>	82.75	
		1971 25-9	Regionals		
		1975 24-7	Bi-District		
		1979 25-10	Bi-District		
		1978 24-10	Zone Playoff		
		1977 23-9	District title (Inelig)		

Best of Silsbee 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'2"	Michael Dabney(75)	23.2	Silsbee		
6'3"	Anthony Brown(76)	26.0	Silsbee		
5'10"	Artie Shankle(76)		Silsbee		
6'0"	Jerry Lowe(78)	22.0	Silsbee		
6'6"	Dexter Wallace(79)	20.8	Silsbee		
	Best Teams:	1972 29-5	<u>State Semi</u>		
		1976 29-8	<u>State Semi</u>		
		1975 27-8	Zone Playoff		
		1979 30-3	Zone Playoff		
		1977 17-10	Zone Playoff		

Best of McKinney 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'1"	J.T. Hollins	22.0	McKinney	North Texas(Foot)	FA Vikings
6'4"	Charlie McDonald(70)	17.0	McKinney	North Texas(Foot)	
6'2"	Kenny Bird(73)	17.1	McKinney		
6'5"	Spike Jones(74)	23.0	McKinney	Dallas Baptist	
5'8"	Leonard Harris(79)	11.9	McKinney	Texas Tech(Foot)	NFL Oilers
	Best Teams:	1973 18-7	Regionals		
		1979 20-7	Zone Playoff		
		1972 15-14	District Playoff		
		1971 16-8			

Best of Waco Jefferson Moore 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'5"	Glen Murphy(72)		Moore		
6'2"	Robert Rice(73)	17.1	Moore		
6'7"	Archie Roberts(73)	14.1	Moore		
6'0"	Don Alley(75)		Moore		
6'2"	Dwayne Johnson(77)		Moore		
Best Teams:		1973 26-5	<u>State Semi-Finals</u>		
		1975 21-10	Regional Finals		
		1974	Regional Finals		
		1977 20-13	Regional Finals		
		1976	Zone Playoff		
		1979 15-14	Bi-District		

Best of Daingerfield 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'4"	William Smith(75)		Daingerfield		
6'5"	Warren Everett(79)	18.0	Daingerfield		
6'3"	Johnny Rodgers(78)	21.3	Daingerfield		
5'8"	Carey Bardwell(78)	8.3	Daingerfield		
6'6"	Gary Lewis(77)	16.0	Daingerfield	UT Arlington(Foot)	NFL Packers
6'3"	Eldret Walker(77)	11.0	Daingerfield	Tyler JC	
6'3"	Sedric Younger(77)	17.5	Daingerfield		
Best Teams:		1977 29-3	<u>State Champions</u>	85.95	
		1979 26-2	<u>State Semi-Finals</u>	84.51	
		1978 25-7	Regional Finals		
		1976 21-6	Bi-District		
		1975 22-4	Zone playoff		

Best of Longview Pine Tree 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'6"	Glen Hughes(73)	13.3	Pine Tree		
5'7"	Richard Stringer(73)	9.5	Pine Tree		
6'3"	Rick Dowdle(74)	17.1	Pine Tree		
6'5"	Mark Wright(76)		Pine Tree		
6'2"	Gerry Hunt(77)	15.8	Pine Tree		
Best Teams:		1973 30-2	<u>State Champions</u>		
		1974	Bi-District		
		1976 24-3	Bi-District		
		1977 24-5	Bi-District		
		1972	District 2 nd		

Best of Huntsville 1970-79

Ht.	Player	Pts.	Team	College	Pros
6'4"	Royce Craft(78)	14.0	Huntsville		
6'5"	Curtis Wallace(79)	15.2	Huntsville		
6'3"	Edgar Crawford(79)	14.5	Huntsville		
6'3"	David Hightower(75)	25.2	Huntsville		
5'8"	John Kizzee(77)	9.0	Huntsville		
Best Teams:		1979 27-5	<u>State Champions</u>	92.05	
		1978 27-7	<u>State Champions</u>	82.69	
		1977 26-8	<u>State Semi-Finals</u>	84.74	

30.3 Playoff Ave. -Dennis Tealer -Playoff 3-A Scoring Record 1974 at Gonzales

<i>Zone playoff</i>	<i>Clemens</i>	<i>46-44</i>	<i>Tealer 24 points</i>
<i>District playoff</i>	<i>Kerrville Tivy</i>	<i>59-58</i>	<i>Tealer 25 points</i>
<i>Bi-District</i>	<i>Columbus</i>	<i>58-54</i>	<i>Tealer 25 points</i>
<i>Regionals</i>	<i>Taft</i>	<i>77-59</i>	<i>Tealer 30 points</i>
<i>State Semi-Finals</i>	<i>Atlanta</i>	<i>68-67</i>	<i>Tealer 41 points</i>
<i>State Finals</i>	<i>Crosby</i>	<i>77-62</i>	<i>Tealer 37 points</i>

36.3 Playoff Ave. -Jerry Davis -Playoff 3-A Scoring Record 1977 at West Oso

<i>Bi-District</i>	<i>Brownsville Pace</i>	<i>73-52</i>	<i>Davis 30 points</i>
<i>Regionals</i>	<i>Rice Cons.</i>	<i>75-74</i>	<i>Davis 48 points</i>
<i>State Semi-finals</i>	<i>Borger</i>	<i>73-79</i>	<i>Davis 31 points</i>

36.6 Playoff Ave. -Jerry Davis -Playoff 3-A Scoring Record 1978 at West Oso

<i>Bi-District</i>	<i>Rio Grande City</i>	<i>112-67</i>	<i>Davis 58 points</i>
<i>Regionals</i>	<i>Friendswood</i>	<i>67-62</i>	<i>Davis 28 points</i>
<i>State Semi-Finals</i>	<i>Huntsville</i>	<i>58-86</i>	<i>Davis 24 points</i>

Most State Tournament Appearances 1970s AAA

Lamesa	1970, 1973, <u>1975</u>
West Oso	1976, 1977, 1978
Huntsville	1977, <u>1978</u> , <u>1979</u>

Most State Championships in 1970s AAA

Odessa Ector	1972, 1976
Huntsville	1978, 1979

Top AAA Programs of the 1970s		Top 10	Final 4	Titles	Pts.
		X 2	X 3	X 4	
1.	Lamesa	5/10	3	1	23
2.	Huntsville	3/10	3	2	23
3.	Odessa Ector	4/10	2	2	22
4.	Silsbee	5/10	2	0	16
4.	Daingerfield	3/10	2	1	16
6.	Longview Pinetree	5/10	1	1	16
6.	West Oso	3/10	3	0	15
8.	Waxahachie	5/10	1	0	13
9.	Mineral Wells	3/10	2	0	12
9.	Cleveland	4/10	1	0	12

The Final Four 1970-79 AAA

	Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV
1970	Lamesa(32-2)	Carthage(30-4)	Cyp-Fairbanks(32-5)	<u>Kerrville Tivy(29-7)</u>
1971	<u>Dumas(30-6)</u>	FW Como(24-6)	Aldine Carver(27-8)	Del Valle
1972	<u>Odessa Ector(28-5)</u>	Henderson(28-5)	Silsbee(29-5)	Cuero(29-6)
1973	Lamesa(30-4)	Waco Moore(26-5)	<u>Pinetree(30-2)</u>	Rockport-Fulton
1974	Andrews(24-10)	Atlanta(25-5)	Crosby(28-4)	<u>Gonzales(29-8)</u>
1975	<u>Lamesa(34-0)</u>	S.Grand Prairie(29-6)	Cleveland(23-6)	Rice Con.-Altair(24-10)
1976	<u>Odessa Ector(25-9)</u>	Waxahachie(32-8)	Silsbee(29-8)	West Oso(30-6)
1977	Borger(28-5)	<u>Daingerfield(29-3)</u>	Huntsville(26-8)	West Oso(27-8)
1978	Mineral Wells(32-3)	Terrell(25-8)	<u>Huntsville(27-7)</u>	West Oso(33-4)
1979	Mineral Wells(32-4)	Daingerfield(26-2)	<u>Huntsville(27-5)</u>	Bay City(28-3)

1975 AA

The Dimmitt(30-3) Bobcats captured the state championship in 1975 with a well-balanced team and tough aggressive pressing defense. They were called a team with "no stars." The Bobcats came out of the toughest District in the state. District 3-AA saw Morton(28-4), Friona(28-4) and Dimmitt(30-3) battle it out for the District title. Morton was the number one team in the state in class AA up through the month of January. The Indians were finally upset by class AAA powerhouse, Levelland 73-72, to give Morton their first loss of the season at 17-1.

Upon winning state, Coach Ken Cleveland and the Dimmitt players agreed the toughest test had come in District. That was pretty high praise for the two West Texas schools. Two of Dimmitt's three losses came in District action against Morton and Friona.

After the grueling District campaign, the Bobcats opened the playoffs against Abernathy in the Texas Dome at Levelland. The game was not close, as Dimmitt went up at halftime 26-17 and cruised to a 60-38 victory. Jim Birdwell led the scoring for the Bobcats with 16 points, Craig Williams had 10 and Brad Sanders finished with 10 points. High man for Abernathy was Wayne Riley with 12 points. Coach Cleveland's team advanced to regionals in Lubbock with a 30-3 mark.

In Region I, Dimmitt was the favorite over Childress(22-10), Socorro(24-6) and Coahoma(29-5). Childress had advanced defeating Spearman 73-62 and Coahoma beat Post 68-48 to move into regional competition. The Bobcats lineup consisted of 6'4" Steve Myatt, who had missed the entire season before with a broken leg. 6'2" Jim Birdwell, the high post, 6'2" Craig Williams, a perimeter threat along with 5'10" Brad Sanders and 5'10" Wayne McKee. The real strength of the team was their depth which was made up of 5'11" Johnny Hampton, 6'1" Robert Calhoun and Danny Vaughan. Interesting side note was Coach Ken Cleveland returned no starters from the 1974 squad.

In the regional semis against Coahoma the Bobcats jumped out to a 12-point lead at halftime and 15 at the end of three quarters. The final stood at 76-57, as Dimmitt advanced to the regional finals. Junior, Jim Birdwell, had a great game inside contributing 31 points, followed by Craig William's 18 points.

Childress faced the Bobcats in the regional finals. They relied heavily on 6'1" Ivan Johnson(15.0/8.0). Childress had advanced to the finals beating Socorro 81-63. Before 5,000 fans in Lubbock's Municipal Coliseum, Dimmitt came away with a 69-62 victory over Childress. "Ours is a tough District with Friona and Morton and Childress is very much like some of the teams in our District. I really don't understand how they have lost 11 games." Balanced scoring was the difference for Dimmitt. Birdwell, Myatt and McKee all collected 18 points for a total of 54 of the final 69 points scored by the Bobcats. Jim Birdwell and Craig Williams were both named all-tournament for Dimmitt while Mark Lanham and Ivan

Johnson were named all-tournament for Childress. Floyd Nickerson scored 19 points in a losing effort and Mark Keys had 15 points for Childress.

Four really strong teams advanced to Austin in 1975, New Boston(29-3), Van Vleck(29-4), Kountze(27-4), and Dimmitt(33-3).

New Boston(29-3) had eliminated the defending state champion, Bowie, earlier in the playoffs. Coach Ken Cleveland of Dimmitt commented before his semi-final game against Kountze, "We hope we can do a good job blocking out and rebounding against Kountze. They played two tall teams in regionals and out rebounded and beat both of them." The Lions losses during the regular season had come at the hands of 4-A teams.

Kountze starting lineup consisted of 5'11" Wesley Shaw(18.0), 6'0" Russell Coffee(11.0), 5'11" Alfred Wilson(12.0), Lewis Morgan(11.0) and 6'1" center, Gerald Clemmons(5.0). "We are a run and shoot team," Kountze coach, Fred Williams said. "If we are hot we look real good."

Dimmitt took an early lead against Kountze 12-4 at the end of the 1st quarter. Coach Cleveland had already played 11 players. Kountze returned the favor and began pressing early in the 2nd quarter and closed the gap to just five points. The Bobcats adjusted and took a 28-15 lead into half. With 5:12 remaining, Dimmitt wanted to slow things down and went into a semi-stall with the score 45-36. "We were tired, I am used to relying on the bench more but I was happy our starters were able to play most of the game despite the humidity here," Coach Cleveland said. Kountze reeled off 12 straight points in a 1:27 span and pulled within one point at 49-48 with 4:26 left in the game. Kountze's Alfred Wilson and Russell Coffee fouled out late, ending the comeback by the Lions. Dimmitt downed Kountze 67-55 to advance to the state finals. Coach Williams was forced to foul late and Dimmitt hit 12 of 16 foul shots down the stretch. Wayne McKee ended up with 20 points, Craig Williams had 14 points and 12 rebounds and Jim Birdwell hit 16 points while 6'4" Steve Myatt pulled down 11 boards.

Coach Williams commented after the game, "Dimmitt is the shortest good team we have played all year." Kountze had been forced into 28 turnovers. In the other semis, Van Vleck(29-4) beat New Boston(29-3) 63-52.

The finals were set with Van Vleck(29-4) against Dimmitt(34-3). Both teams were very similar averaging 74.5 to 74.0 and giving up 49.8 and 49.6 points to their opponents. Both teams had been dominating during the season with a +24.0-point spread.

Van Vleck's main man was 6'2" Ira Martin(23.0) who was the leading scorer in the class 2-A field. The Bobcats press did not have the success against Van Vleck in the finals as Van controlled a very slow tempo. Van Vleck took a 26-19 lead into halftime and 32-31 margin at the end of three quarters. In the end, Dimmitt pulled away to win 49-43 in front of 4,500 at Gregory Gym in Austin.

Craig Williams knocked down some critical buckets and Birdwell hit big free-throws in the fourth quarter which ended up being the difference. Jim Birdwell finished with 15 points, Craig Williams 16 and Steve Myatt 11 points and 12 rebounds. A key player for Dimmitt was Brad Sanders who missed the game due to a knee injury. Coach Cleveland played thirteen players in the game. Cleveland said that the slow pace helped his team down the stretch because they were fresh. Cleveland also said his team's toughest challenges during the season was winning District 3-AA against Friona(28-4) and Morton(28-4). "Four months ago, I would have never dreamed we'd be here, much less win it." For Van Vleck, Clifton Johnson scored 12 points and Ira Martin had 14 points.

Looking back on the season, Dimmitt's real state championship game was its incredible triple overtime District playoff win over Friona 72-67. Friona knew something about winning, having advanced to the state championship the previous season, losing to Bowie. Both teams entered the game with 3 losses, Dimmitt 29-3 and Friona at 28-3. Dimmitt led by as many as nine points during the marathon game and Friona led by 10 at one point. Every time the other team came back strong to send the game into a third overtime. "It was the first triple overtime I've ever been in," Coach Cleveland said. "This is the victory of all-time, without a doubt and I'll tell you why, we started this year with five rookies and they just played great. I guess it was a classic to watch, but it almost gave me a heart attack."

Friona's Gene Strickland led all scorers with 25 points followed by David Hutson with 14 and Dale Cleveland had 10.

For Dimmitt, Wayne McKee was tops with 19 points, Craig Williams finished with 14 and Jim Birdwell had 13 and Steve Myatt 11. Little did Coach Cleveland realize at the time that this game would propel his team to the state championship.

District 3-AA had one of the most unusual situations because you may have had the three best teams in the state in the same District. Dimmitt was 20-1 at the time they visited Morton, who was 19-1 and the Bobcats won 75-73 in overtime.

The Indians of Morton(21-2) would then travel to Friona to face the Chiefs who were 22-1. Friona's only loss of the season had come against Morton in a non-district contest. Morton beat Friona once again 56-54 with 6'1" Mike Williams leading Morton with 18 points and 6'0" Ken Standmire hitting 14.

6'5" Dale Cleveland had 20 points for Friona while 6'0" David Hutson hit 17 points in a losing effort. Friona traveled to Dimmitt next and in front of 1,200 fans the Bobcats defeated Friona 53-50. This gave Dimmitt the 1st half of District title and moved their season mark to 24-2 and Friona's record to 23-3. Dimmitt had finished as the hoops runner-up three years running and was sick of being the bridesmaid. Craig Williams led Dimmitt with 16 points from long range and had 9 rebounds against Friona.

Friona had the rebounding edge 56-41 with 6'5" Dale Cleveland pulling in 20 rebounds with 9 points. Gene Strickland had 16 points and David Hutson finished with 16 points for the Chiefs.

The second round of District action did not start well for Morton, as they traveled to Dimmitt and lost 56-48, almost eliminating them from the title hunt. Morton had traveled to state three out of the previous five seasons. In a non-district game, Dimmitt stayed sharp taking down one of the top AAA teams in the state, Levelland 76-63. Jim Birdwell poured in 24 points for the Bobcats. Morton was eliminated completely from the District race losing to Friona 65-62 in Morton.

The District race would come down to the last game of the regular season with Friona having to beat Dimmitt to stay alive. In what turned out to be one of the largest crowds in the community's history, Friona pulled the upset 57-55. Dee King of Friona was fouled by Craig Williams with seven seconds remaining in the game with Friona up 55-53. King hit both free throws and Wayne McKee of Dimmitt dribbled the length of the court for a meaningless lay-up. Dale Cleveland had 12 points and 23 rebounds for the winners and David Hutson assisted him with 20 points.

Craig Williams paced Dimmitt with 16 points and Jim Birdwell put in 13 points. Friona's outstanding guard, Gene Strickland, was held without a field goal for the first time all season and had only two points. Coach Cleveland said after the game, "I thought if we could hold Strickland without a field goal we could win." Friona once again dominated the glass 40-28 against Dimmitt.

Dimmitt finished as the state champion of class AA with a 35-3 record. Friona came in at 28-4 and Morton finished 28-4 on the season. Dimmitt went 2-1 against Friona and 2-0 against Morton for a 4-1 mark between the rivals. Friona of course was 1-2 vs. the Bobcats and 1-2 vs. Morton for a 2-4 mark. Morton was 2-3 against the 3-AA elite. That means that against outside competition during the '75 season the three teams were a combined 83-3 record. Only one game between the 3-AA rivals was decided by more than 3 points.

When the West Texas all-star, all-district and all-state squads were named, District 3-AA dominated. On the Panhandle Plains, Super Team, 6'5" Dale Cleveland(21.0/17.0) of Friona was named Player of the Year and 1st team, 6'0" Craig Williams of Dimmitt and Gene Strickland(24.0) of Friona were named to the 2nd team. When the All-South Plains team came out, 6'1" Jim Birdwell(11.5/5.3) of Dimmitt was named to the 1st team after not even being mentioned on the Panhandle Plains squad. 6'4" Steve Myatt(11.5/9.0) was also named to the first team from Dimmitt. He was not mentioned on the Panhandle Plains unit either. Craig Williams of Dimmitt was named Honorable Mention and he had made the 2nd team Panhandle unit. There are several explanations for the differences, but probably the best was Coach Cleveland. Coaches usually try to get as many players recognized as possible, especially from a state championship squad. Many times,

Sports Writers will call the coaches and get their thoughts before their selection of the various All-Star teams. Whatever the reason, it showed the depth and talent of the Dimmitt team. Other players named to the 1st team All-South Plains squad were of course, Dale Cleveland(21.3/17.0) of Friona and 6'1" Mike Williams(24.0/15.0) of Morton.

Named honorable mention was junior, 5'10" Ken Standmire of Morton. On the All-State team, Dale Cleveland(21.0/17.0) of Friona made 1st team, Craig Williams(14.0) of Dimmitt was named to the 2nd team, and Steve Myatt(11.5) was named to the 3rd team. The 3-AA All-District team placed 10 players on the first team. Dimmitt had three, Jim Birdwell, Craig Williams(14.0) and Steve Myatt(11.5); Friona placed three on the team, Dale Cleveland, David Hutson and Gene Strickland; Morton also had three players, Mike Williams, Standmire and 5'10" Ray Dean Thompson.

This of course would have been an excellent argument for more teams in the playoffs from each District, but that would-be years away from reality.

***All-Tournament** team at state consisted of Craig Williams, Jim Birdwell and Wayne McKee of Dimmitt, Ira Martin and Arthur Williams of Van Vleck.*

***Sports Writers All-State 1st team-** 6'3" Robert Barnes(24.0/17.0), San Augustine; 6'5" Dale Cleveland(21.0/17.0), Friona; 6'6" Ricky Fisher(21.1/14.4), New Boston; 6'1" Tim Wlack(24.1), Ganado; 6'2" Jim Rosenbrock(21.7), George West; **2nd Team-** 6'0" Craig Williams(14.0), Dimmitt; 6'5" Paul Van Doorne(23.3), Socorro; 6'11" Doug Ekeroth(19.3), Laredo United; 5'11" Charlie Johnson(19.0), Lindale; Mike Tidwell(21.5), Northwest; **3rd Team-** 6'4" Steve Myatt(11.5), Dimmitt; 6'3" Junior Williams, Lindale; 6'6" Ronnie Proctor, Freer; 6'1" Tommy Thorn, Denver City; 6'1" Darwin McKinley, Bowie:*

Morton not having anybody named to the All-State squad was pretty crazy. Mike Williams of Morton was one of the top players in the state. Robert Barnes was named all-state three straight seasons.

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1975 AA Top Teams}

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|--|
| 1. Dimmitt | 35-3 | {state champion who barely got out of district} |
| 2. Friona | 28-4 | {lost in triple overtime to Dimmitt in district playoff} |
| 3. Morton | 28-4 | {was 2-1 against Friona and finished 3rd in district 3-AA} |
| 4. Van Vleck | 30-5 | {state finalists losing to Dimmitt} |

1976 AA

In looking at class AA basketball in Texas each year you realize pretty quick it revolves around District 3-AA. The 1976 season was no different as Dimmitt(31-2), the defending state champion, would battle Morton for District supremacy. Morton(23-5) was returning their entire starting line-up from the previous season and played the toughest class AA schedule in the state. The Indians

had an 18-5 record going into the first show down against Dimmitt(31-2) and 21 of those games were against class AAA and AAAA schools. Hereford and Lubbock High were two victims of the Indians and Lubbock Monterey beat Morton 42-41 in the Caprock Invitational tournament.

The Bobcats of Dimmitt(31-2) also played a competitive schedule and were 23-0 entering the contest. The game was played at the Texas Dome in Levelland because it was a larger gym which could house the enormous fan support by both schools. The crowd was estimated at 3,300 screaming fans. The Bobcats entered the game on the school's best start in the last 15 seasons.

Dimmitt tried to control the pressure and tempo of the Indians throughout the contest. Although the Bobcats never trailed by more than six points, they struggled to contain the Morton attack. Outstanding shooting kept Dimmitt in the game, but it wasn't enough in the end as Morton won 49-42. 6'3" Mike Williams of Morton showed why he was easily considered the top performer in class AA basketball in the state. Williams finished with 19 points, 8 rebounds, 4 assists and 2 blocks. He also received high praise from one of the top coaches in the state, Kenneth Cleveland. "He's the best player we've faced since we played Crane's Tommy Jones in 1969," Cleveland said. "We made too many errors in crucial situations. It seemed like we made five errors in the last five minutes." "I knew if we didn't lose our cool like we did in the last two minutes, we could play with them," Cleveland said. Morton was playing with virtually the same lineup as the previous season, when they dropped two District games to the Bobcats. This time the Indians showed their poise in critical situations. "We wanted to sag in on Birdwell and we did, but it weakened us on the outside," Coach Ted Whillock said. "If we hadn't played all those pressure games, we couldn't have won. That was the difference," Whillock conveyed. "The difference between this and last year's team is that I have about the same bunch back, but they are more mature, more poised and don't foul as much." Morton's Whillock was in his 10th season at the helm of the Indians and knew a lot about pressure packed basketball games. The difference in the contest, Dimmitt had 15 turnovers and Morton had 7. Dimmitt's Jerry Schaeffer led the Bobcats with 22 points while Jim Birdwell was held to only 9 points and 4 rebounds.

The re-match between the two West Texas powerhouses also took place in Levelland. This time round, Morton(22-5) used a 14-point burst at the beginning of the 2nd quarter to enable the Indians to come away with a 53-40 victory. Morton was now 22-5 on the season after the win and District champions while Dimmitt(29-2) came in 29-2, with both losses at the hands of Morton. Mike Williams led the Indians with 25 points and 20 rebounds. Troy Patton added 14 points to the victors.

The Bobcats were paced by All-Stater, Jim Birdwell, with 19 points and 11 rebounds. 6'5" Danny Vaughn(14.0) added 13 points for Dimmitt. Morton out

rebounded Dimmitt 36-31. The Bobcats finished another outstanding season at 31-2, but were unable to advance to the playoffs. Now the question was could anybody contend with Morton(25-5) on their march towards the state title. Coach Ted Whillock's club beat Floydada 70-58 in Bi-District. As Morton(25-5) entered regionals they had a combined 54-9 record over the 1975 and 1976 campaigns.

In regionals, Childress(16-13) faced Hamlin(20-3) while Morton(26-5) matched up against Socorro(18-8). The Indians were overwhelming favorites. Childress had advanced to regionals by beating Spearman(16-10) 66-64 and Socorro reached the regional semis by defeating Reagan County 53-47.

The Indians of Morton looked to 6'1" all everything, Michael Williams(25.0), to lead the way. 5'10" Ken Standmire was another returning standout for the Indians and one of the top players in West Texas. 6'4" Fouec Grisby, 6'1" Troy Patton, 5'10" Ray Dean Thompson and 6'2" sophomore, Rusty Lamar were the main cast of characters for Coach Whillock.

Against Socorro in the regional semis, Morton(27-5) ran off 14 straight points to start the 2nd half, and took control of the game 46-28 by the end of the 3rd quarter. The Indians were led by Ken Standmire with 17 points and Lloyd Joyce with 13.

In the other semi-final contest, Childress(16-13) beat Hamlin(20-3) 69-67 in overtime. The regional finals saw Childress(17-13) making their third straight regional visit, losing to Friona in 1974 and to Dimmitt in 1975. It was not to be for Childress. The Indians ran off 18 straight points after an early 2-2 tie, which enabled Morton(28-5) to run away with the game 68-42. Mike Williams(25.0) led Morton with 20 points and Ivan Johnson led Childress with 16. "It's a great feeling to be going back to Austin," said Indian coach, Ted Whillock. Mike Williams and Ken Standmire made all-tournament as did Johnson from Childress(16-14).

As Morton(28-5) rolled into Austin they were facing an over-matched Prairiland(26-8) team in the semi-finals. The Indians charged into the finals with a 69-56 win over the Patriots. Mike Williams(25.0) again led his team with 19 points and 12 rebounds while Joyce finished with 16 points, which were mainly break away lay-ups in the 2nd half. 6'4" Tom Ray scored 24 points for Prairiland(26-9) in a losing effort.

In the other semi-final game, Mart(33-1) got by Roma(28-9) 65-50. 6'6" Larry Chase led Mart with 25 points and 15 rebounds. Chase had 19 of his 25 points in the second half. Roma's lineup was small with the starters ranging from 5'8" to 6'1". Javier Gonzales at 5'8", scored 19 points for Roma who finished the season at 28-10. In the 2nd half Roma went 9 minutes without a field goal.

In the finals, Morton(29-5) was looking at an opponent that was not awed by their hard-aggressive style of play. Mart(34-1) was athletic and obviously confident, having only lost one game all season. The Panthers playoff run had been every bit as impressive as Morton as they had dominated their opponents.

In Mexia in Bi-District, the Panthers came away with a 64-50 victory over Fairfield. In regionals, Mart continued their winning ways by dropping Kirbyville 71-52 and Huffman 74-61. Mart(34-1) was bigger than Morton(29-5) with 6'6" Larry Chase(17.0), 6'3" Dwain Jones(16.0), 6'2" Tony Green(19.0) and 6'1 Richard Burns(12.0). There could be little doubt about these two teams being the top AA schools in Texas, although you might get an argument from Dimmitt(31-2)

Morton(29-5) had built up a 17-7 lead in the first quarter against Mart(34-1), but the Panthers came back to lead at halftime 32-30. Morton(29-5) regained momentum in the third quarter, taking a nine-point lead at 50-41. In one of the biggest collapses in state tournament history, Mart outscored the Indians 16-2 in the final quarter and brought home the gold 57-52. Morton finished the season 29-6 and Mike Williams(25.0) finished with a game high 24 points. Mart's Tony Greene hit a jumper and two free throws to give the Panthers a 55-52 lead they never relinquished.

"I just don't know what to say," Mart(35-1) coach, Gene Ridley said following the championship. "We came back when we were down and we lost our poise for a while there but we never quit." For Coach Whillock of Morton(29-6), he said this was a pattern that the Indians had been having late in the season. "You might say we went into a season ending slump," the Morton coach said. "We haven't played in the playoffs at all like we did before. We just lost our consistency here." Joyce again was the second leading scorer for Morton(29-6) with 14 points.

For the state champion Mart(35-1) Panthers, Tony Green finished with 12 points, Richard Burns put in 10, Dwain Jones 18 and Larry Chase contributed 9 points and 16 rebounds. If you were looking for a difference maker it was Mart's 59-32 rebounds advantage. Morton finished 29-6 on the season.

On the All-South Plains team, the entire first team was from District 3-AA. Mike Williams(25.0) and Ken Standmire from Morton, 6'5" Danny Vaughn(14.0) and 6'1" Jim Birdwell(21.0) of Dimmitt were key players named.

All-Tournament team was Tom Ray of Prairiland, Javier Gonzales of Roma, Mike Williams and Lloyd Joyce of Morton, Chase, Burns and Dwain Jones of Mart.

All-State 1st team by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches(TABC)- 6'3"

Mike Williams(24.5), Morton; Russell Coffey, Kountze; Tim Hays, Lamar Consolidated; 6'7" Ken Robinson, North Lamar; 6'1" Jim Birdwell(21.0), Dimmitt:

2nd Team- Mantred Queniel, Huffman; 5'10 Kenneth Standmire(8.0), Morton;

Robert Cahnoy, Van; 5'8" Javier Gonzales, Roma; 6'5" Larry Chase(17.0), Mart: **3rd**

team- LeRoy King, Weimer; Timmy Lowe, Joshua; 6'2" Tony Green(19.0), Mart;

Darwin McKinley, Bowie; 6'5" Tom Ray, Prairiland:

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1976 AA Top Teams}

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|--|
| 1. Mart | 35-1 | {state championship beating Morton in the finals} |
| 2. Morton | 29-6 | {lost a nine-point 4th quarter lead vs. Mart at state} |
| 3. Dimmitt | 31-2 | {both losses were to Morton 49-42, 53-40} |

1977 AA

Every season we start the class AA discussion with West Texas basketball and who would represent District 3-AA. The two powerhouses, Morton(30-4) and Dimmitt(28-3), were ranked #1 and #3 in the state and had to eliminate the other to be able to advance. Both teams won on their home court in District competition. Morton dropped the Bobcats 66-61 and Dimmitt returned the favor 57-53 on their home court. Over the previous seven seasons the District representative had advanced to state. Morton(30-4) used their explosive and pressing up-tempo style while Dimmitt(28-3) was more discipline and deliberate.

Dimmitt won the last game of the regular season over Morton at the foul line. The Bobcats hit 27-40 foul shots while Morton only hit 7 of 17. With 6:22 remaining in the game, Coach Dan Smith of Morton received a technical foul. "The turning point of the game was when that yo-yo called a technical foul on me. That hurt our momentum." Smith was often off the bench during the varsity game and was sitting in the stands during the junior varsity game earlier in the evening. Smith received a technical while sitting in the bleachers during the JV- game, which Dimmitt won 52-33.

For Morton's varsity, it was their first loss of the season to a class AA team. The Indians had lost previously to class 4-A power Lubbock Monterey twice and Abilene Cooper.

Two days later, the two rivals would go at it again to see who would represent District 3-AA in the state playoffs. An enormous crowd of 4,000 fans anticipated the game with religious passion. The game went into overtime and once again was decided at the foul line, but this time Morton(30-4) had the advantage. The Indians outscored the Bobcats 8 to 3 in overtime for the 58-53 victory. Six of the eight points in overtime came at the free throw line. Morton had rallied from eight points down in regulation with their full court press. Dimmitt(28-3) had the final shot at the end of regulation. Coach Cleveland called timeout twice while stalling for the final shot. Rocky Rawls of the Bobcats took the shot with 4 seconds remaining from 25 feet but missed.

Dimmitt(28-3) had led at halftime 27-24. Each team was in severe foul trouble the majority of the contest. 6'2" Jerry Schaeffer picked up his 3rd foul in the first quarter and played little for Dimmitt, fouling out with 3:59 left in the game. Keith Crum, the Bobcats center, fouled out with 1:44 remaining. So, in overtime Dimmitt was playing without two starters.

Troy Patton led Morton(30-4) with 28 points and Loyd Joyce had 11. For the Bobcats, who finished the season with at 28-3, Rocky Rawls led the way with 12 points.

When the 3-AA All-District team was named by the coaches, Morton and Dimmitt dominated the squads. 5'7" Rocky Rawls, 5'11" Johnny Hampton, 6'3" Keith Crum and 6'2" Jerry Schaeffer represented Dimmitt on the first team while Bobby Patton, Lonnie Harrison, Rusty Lamar and Troy Patton represented Morton.

Bi-District for the Indians was not real competitive when compared to the wars Morton had with Dimmitt in District. The tough District campaign in District 3-AA always prepared the representative for the state playoffs. The Antelopes of Abernathy came in with an unimpressive 14-18 record and were throttled by Morton(31-4) 82-62. Loyd Joyce finished with 24 points and Lonnie Harrison added 21. Graylon Hamilton led the Antelopes with 21 points.

The Indians took an early 26-14 lead in the first quarter and after that it was over. Morton's starting lineup for first year coach, Dan Smith, looked as follows: 6'3" Troy Patton(9.3/13.3), 6'0" Ricky Lewis, 5'9" Bobby Patton, 6'0" Lonnie Harrison(12.0), 6'1" Rusty Lamar and 6th man, 6'0" Loyd Joyce(14.0). Troy Patton was the only returning starter from the state finalists team from a year ago.

In regionals, Morton(32-4) had Tahoka(24-7), Kermit(12-18), and Dalhart(28-3) waiting for them. Morton met Tahoka(24-7) in the semis. Morton(32-4) won a relatively close one 65-58. Kermit(12-18) had advanced to regionals by way of their Bi-District win over Canutillo 69-44. Dalhart(28-3) had defeated Seymour in Bi-District 72-60. Dalhart defeated Kermit(12-19) in the other regional semi-final game.

In the regional finals Morton(32-4) faced off against Dalhart(29-3). The Indians prevailed 59-48 with Joyce pacing the scoring with 14 points and Bobby Patton, the brilliant sophomore, adding 11. Bert Cadenhead, who ended up making All-State, contributed 12 points for Dalhart. After the game, Dalhart coach Bob Moore said, "Morton is just real strong, they were just too much for us."

Coach Dan Smith of Morton added, "I think our press rattled them. At first they broke our full-court press but when we switched to the 1-2-2 it rattled them and improved the effectiveness of our full court press." Dalhart finished the season at 29-4. Morton placed three players on the all-regional tournament team, Lonnie Harrison, Lody Joyce and Rusty Lamar.

In the state semi-finals Morton(32-4) was back in familiar territory. Morton(35-4) had won the AA state title in 1972 under Coach Ted Whillock and lost in the state finals in 1976. Morton pressed their semi-final opponent, Linden-Kildare, into submission winning 68-52.

When you faced Morton(32-4), you were facing a team that was physical, quick, athletic, and well prepared and schooled. That's why the Indians were able to compete with high schools twice their size in the pre-district campaign and win the majority of the games. The varied presses really effected Kildare as Morton led at halftime 37-28.

"That's the name of the game, pressing, quickness, that's what we wanted to do," Coach Smith said following the game. Loyd Joyce hit 19 points, Bobby Patton put up 14 points, and Troy Patton had 14 points mostly on the inside. Morton's goal was to stop the inside game of Kildare's two post, 6'2" Scott Lee and 6'7" Steve Conley. Lee had 22 points and Conley finished with 20, but the rest of the team only produced 10 points.

In the other semi-finals game Kountze(24-9) put it on Weimar 79-59. Kountze only led 28-25 at halftime. Kountze went off for 51 points in the second half. 5'7" Esker Boykin(15.6) finished with 33 points and 6'2" Russell Coffey(29.4) added 32, for a total of 65 points. Those two players combined for all but 14 of Kountze points.

For Weimar, Curtis Carter contributed 19 points and Errol Jones had 18. Kountze had won regionals with wins over Rockdale and McGregor(20-4). The Lions defeated Rockdale in the semis 52-41 in Brenham. The Rockdale Tigers were ranked #3 in the state, whereas Kountze(25-9) was unranked. Esker Boykin of Kountze was the difference in the contest with 22 points and several steals. The strong inside game of Rockdale was centered around post, Laurence Kubacak and Kerry Locklin. The strong pair held Russell Coffey to only 16 points and clogged up the middle, but they were only able to score 6 and 5 points respectively. Rockdale(24-12) had defeated Marble Falls in Bi-District 66-53.

In the regional finals, Kountze(25-9) took out McGregor 63-50. This time Russell Coffey(29.2/15.0) went off for 36 points and secured their trip to Austin. Russell Coffey and Esker Boykin were obviously named to the region all-tournament team. McGregor finished the season at 20-5 and Rockdale finished up at 24-12.

In District, Kountze(25-9) took the 18-AA title winning both halves of District action. Anahuac finished second in both halves, losing to Kountze in overtime in the first game and 53-40 in the second-round contest. The Lions only loss in District had come at the hands of East Chambers 49-47.

The state finals pitted two of the top three teams in the state in Kountze(25-9) and Morton(32-4). The team left out but not forgotten was Dimmitt(28-3). The championship game came down to a critical steal by sophomore guard, Bobby Patton, in the final moments of the game. With 10 seconds on the clock, Kountze(25-9) had the ball and trailed 61-60. Bobby Patton jumped the passing lane for the steal and threw the ball to the other end of the court where teammate Ricky Lewis hit a bank shot with 5 seconds left. The 63-60 win gave Morton their second state title of the decade. Coach Smith commented, "I don't think there's a better sophomore in the state."

Coach Dan Smith had replaced Red Whillock as the Indians head man and won state in his first season. Interestingly, Morton(33-4) only returned one starter from the previous season and that was Bobby's older brother, Troy. The Indians had run their delay game late to pull out the victory. Kountze(25-10) had 26 turnovers

against Morton's press in the game and the Indians came away with a 48-34 rebound advantage.

Morton(33-4) was led by 6'0" Loyd Joyce(14.9/6.3) and 6'0" Lonnie Harrison(12.0) along with 5'8" sophomore, Bobby Patton. All three were named to the **all-tournament** team along with Boykin and 6'2" Russell Coffey from Kountze. 6'7" junior Steve Conley of Linden-Kildare and 5'10" junior Errol Jones of Weimar rounded out the all-tournament squad. Russell Coffey went on to play at Texas Southern.

On the **Sportswriters All-State 1st team**- 6'2" Russell Coffey(29.2/15.0) of Kountze, 6'0" Loyd Joyce(14.9/6.3)of Morton, 6'2" Dwight Pettigrew(25.0/14.0) of Whitehouse, 6'3" Rusty Boone(25.2/11.0) of Anahuac, 6'2" Leartis Simmons(23.6/18.2) of Mineola; **2nd Team**- 6'5" Bart Callenhead(20.3/13.3) of Dalhart, 6'4" Troy Patton(9.3/13.3) of Morton, 6'0" Doug Feagin(19.2/13.6) of Brownsboro, 6'0" David Graves(20.6/5.5) of Tahoka, 6'3" Bill Terry(26.1/14.8) of Hughes Springs; **3rd Team**- 6'6" Herbert Nealy(21.5/10.3) of Madisonville, 5'9" Javier Reyes(24.1) of Zapata, 5'10" Errol Jones(12.0/11.0) of Weimar, 6'3" John Witte(19.4/9.4) of New Braunfels Smithson Valley, 5'10" Mike Solis(23.6/10.0) of Hebronville, 6'3" Keith Crum(20.0, 6.0) of Dimmitt, 6'3" Duke Coates(20.1/12.0) of Anahuac:

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1977 AA Top Teams}

1. Morton 35-4 {state champions, beat Dimmitt two out of three for district}
2. Dimmitt 28-3 {lost the district playoff game to Morton in overtime}
3. Kountze 25-10 {lost in the state title game to Morton 63-60}

1978 AA

At the end of the regular season the top ten teams in the state according to the TABC looked as follows: Whitehouse(31-1) out of East Texas was #1 followed by the always tough, Dimmitt(29-4) Bobcats at #2. Morton came in at #3 and #4 was Coleman(28-3), who had one of the best players ever to play in class AA ball, freshmen Reggie Childress. He would be terrorizing the state for the next three years. Lubbock Roosevelt, Fairfield, Kountze(23-9), Friona, Joshua and Bowie rounded out the top ten. Friona was also in District 3-AA with Dimmitt and Morton and had little chance of advancing into the state playoffs.

In regionals, Dimmitt(29-4) advance to the Region I tournament by defeating Brownsboro in Bi-District 68-46. Spearman(19-6), Denver City(21-8) and Scorro(22-8) were waiting for the Bobcats in Lubbock. The Bobcats easily advanced.

In Region II, Whitehouse(31-1) took care of business by beating Coleman(29-3) 54-35 in the regional semis and New Boston(22-5) in the regional finals 65-45. Whitehouse had earlier defeated Brownsboro in Bi-District 68-46.

Region III saw a little-known school called Rosebud-Lott emerge the winner as they turned back Waco Robinson(28-6), Columbus(25-7) and Kountze(24-9) in regionals.

Region IV was looking at another little-known school, Mission Sharyland(32-2). They were able to eliminate Mathis(30-4), San Antonio Cole(20-8) and Welmer(22-9).

In the state semi-finals, Whitehouse at 34-1 faced Rosebud-Lott(24-10) in the semi-finals. Mission Sharyland(32-2) would face Dimmitt(31-4) in the other semis. The #1 Wildcat and #2 Bobcats seemed to be on a collision course in the state finals. Whitehouse(34-1) located just outside of Tyler was a heavy favorite to win the state title. Whitehouse's only loss had come at the hands of Tyler Lee(32-2) 50-49. Tyler Lee was one of the top 4-A teams in the state. Whitehouse(34-1) lost the game on a technical foul when they called a timeout but failed to have any more left. The Wildcats were coached by C.L. Nix who had coached at the school for 18 years. His two sons were critical players on the team, 6'5" Cary Nix and 6'3" Jamie Nix. Other starters were 6'2" Dwight Pettigrew, 6'3" Kevin Carlisle and 6'1" Dwayne Pettigrew.

Rosebud-Lott(24-10) was a consolidated school just outside Waco. Whitehouse(34-1) defeated Rosebud-Lott(24-10) easily 68-42. Dwight Pettigrew(30.0) and Jamie Nix combined for 41 points. After Coach Tony Brazeal's loss to Whitehouse(35-10) the Rosebud-Lott head man had this to say. "Whitehouse will probably win it, they have more size than any other team." When asked if Whitehouse was the best team he had played this year, Coach Brazeal didn't hesitate, "Lord no, they're not, Rockdale was probably the best. But they are not as good as we are. I still think we're the best team in the state."

6'5" Raymond Horton of Rosebud didn't show up for Coach Brazeal against Whitehouse(35-1). Horton had averaged 22 points and 15 rebounds in the playoffs but only scored 4 points against the Wildcats.

Dimmitt(31-4) looked very impressive coming into its semi-final matchup against Mission Sharyland(32-2), winning their playoff games by margins of 31, 52 and 17 points. Against Sharyland, Dimmitt(31-4) scored 14 straight points to take an 18-9 first quarter advantage. Rocky Rawls(15.6), who looked more like a book worm than a basketball player wearing his black-rimmed glasses, scored 31 points hitting 13 of 19 shots in the Dimmitt(32-4) victory 60-50.

The Bobcats patient deliberate offense was led by Rawls. "He doesn't look like a basketball player," Coach Cleveland said. One Lubbock newspaper wrote that he looks like he ought to be playing with a slide rule instead of basketball, and it made him so mad he scored 35 points the next game against Big Spring. Jim Bradford added 13 points for Dimmitt(32-4) against Sharyland and James Laffoon led Sharyland with 17 points.

On facing Whitehouse(35-1) in the state championship game, Coach Ken Cleveland commented, "They're good, we're going to play'em, they sure look as good as anybody we've played. They're super big and take excellent shots." On whether Dimmitt(32-4) would have an advantage over Whitehouse in the finals Cleveland said, "People write in the paper that ol' Dimmitt has been here before. But these kids haven't been here before. They're just as new to this as Sharyland. This is a great place," in referring to the newly opened Super Drum. "They told me they were building this when I played here in '58. They kept saying, we're going to build it, we're going to build it. And 1978, here it is."

In the state championship game, it pitted undoubtedly the two best AA schools and the two top rated teams in the state. Whitehouse(35-1) trailed Dimmitt(32-4) by 10 points with 4:05 left in the game and 58-53 with 1:32 left. Dimmitt went into a delay game which took away their aggressiveness and gave Whitehouse momentum. Even with all the things that went wrong for Dimmitt down the stretch they had the ball, and the score was tied 59-59 working for the last shot. With two starters having already fouled out and another with four fouls, overtime did not look real appealing to Dimmitt. Rawls took the shot for the Bobcats from the top of the key with four seconds left and it rimmed out. With a mad scramble for the ball Jamie Nix of Whitehouse was fouled, sending him to the line with one second remaining. Nix, the coach's son, hit the foul shot and with it the state title 60-59.

Coach Kenneth Cleveland of Dimmitt said following the game, "I've been coaching 20 years and have had bad dreams about losing a game after being ahead like that, this was a nightmare that came true. There were five or six things that had to happen for them to be able to beat us, starting with the four-point play and they all happened."

The Pettigrew brothers, Dwight(30.0) and Dwayne teamed up to score 16 of the team's final 19 points to give the Wildcats the win. Dimmitt controlled most of the game against the larger Whitehouse squad and out rebounded Whitehouse 50-41. Whitehouse was 16-26 from the foul line while Dimmitt hit 11 of 20. Dimmitt had 11 turnovers and Whitehouse had 6.

Coach Nix commented, "we had only trailed in one game all year and when they had the big lead, I thought the door was closed on us."

Dwight Pettigrew finished with 23 points to lead Whitehouse while Jim Bradford(13.0) led the way for Dimmitt with 22 points and 11 rebounds. Rocky Rawls(15.6) had 15 points, Jeff Bell 11 points and 11 rebounds. With all the close calls down the stretch and everything, the Bobcats still had missed four possible points with foul shots in the last 32 seconds. Jim Bradford(13.0) had missed the front end of a one-and-one with 22 seconds left with the Bobcats up by two.

Dimmitt finished the season at 32-5. Dwight Pettigrew and Cary Nix both played at Stephen F. Austin while Kevin Carlile played at Tyler J.C. and Texas A&M.

All-Tournament honors went to Rawls and Bradford of Dimmitt, and the other three spots were taken by the Pettigrew brothers and Jamie Nix of Whitehouse.

The Sports Writers All-State 1st team-6'3" Dwight Pettigrew(30.0) of Whitehouse, 6'2" Jim Bradford(13.0) of Dimmitt, 5'10" Rocky Rawls(15.6) of Dimmitt, 6'1" Doug Feagin(18.0) of Brownsboro, 6'2" Tim Leigh(17.1) of George West; **2nd Team-** Freshmen, 6'4" Reggie Childress(24.5), Coleman; 6'4" Thomas Baker(20.3), Mathis; 6'7" Herbert Nealy(21.9), Madisonville; 5'8" Esker Boykin(27.0), Kountze; 6'3" Brent Rasner(18.2), Waco Robinson: **3rd Team-** 6'5" Chris Potter(27.0), Commerce; 6'5" Zenford Jones(19.6), Allen; 6'3" Ira Routt(21.7), Brady; 6'2" Norris Elverton(28.9), Ferris; 5'2" Tommy Twitty(20.9), Littlefield:
{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1978 AA Top Teams}

1. Whitehouse	36-1	{comeback victory of Dimmitt in state finals 60-59}
2. Dimmitt	32-5	{Coach Cleveland let the state title slip away}
3. Morton		{runner-up in district 3-AA to state runner-up Dimmitt}
4. Coleman	29-4	{lost to Whitehouse in regionals 54-35}

1979 AA

Claude Riley(31.0) was considered one of the top players to come out of Texas in the 1970s. Class AA really had never seen anybody like him during the decade. At 6'8" he was special in so many ways. The Crockett(22-7) Bulldogs had no basketball tradition, but with Riley they had the best player in the state in class AA and possibly any classification.

Recruiters came from everywhere to encourage the young man to attend their University. "From what I've seen in Texas he's number one," University of Houston assistant Coach Harvey Pate said. Pate had recruited Elvin Hayes, Don Chaney, Otis Birdsong and many others. He's the only player in Texas we've offered a scholarship to," said Head Coach Shelby Metcalf of Texas A&M. "Personally I think Claude is the best big man in the state, without a doubt," Texas Tech assistant Rob Evans explained. Houston's Pate said, "He can do it all. Claude has the possibility of being one of the best triple threat men that ever played. In my 23 years, I have possibly seen three or four players that are what I would call a triple threat man. Elvin Hayes was one of them, shoot, play defense and rebound.

As the season began Crockett(22-7) had a big win over class 4-A East Texas power, Nacogdoches(27-6). The Dragons defeated the eventual state 4-A champions Lufkin(31-6) two out of three games.

In District 21-AA the representative in the playoffs would come down to the District tournament at Lon Morris College. Crockett won the west zone and the runner-up had been Fairfield. Crockett had beaten Fairfield two out of three times during the season. In the team's last meeting, Fairfield had embarrassed the Bulldogs, winning by 26 points.

In the East Zone, Hudson had taken first place and Rusk was runner-up, so in the semi-finals, 1st played the 2nd place team from the opposite zone. Crockett had little trouble winning the tournament beating Rusk 74-44 in the semis and Fairfield 67-47 in the teams' fourth meeting of the year. The Bulldogs improved their record to 22-7 and had won 16 out of the previous 17 games. Against Rusk, Riley finished with 18 points and Eugene Lockhart had 18. If that name sounds familiar, it's because he played nine years in the N.F.L. with the Dallas Cowboys. His nickname with the Cowboys was the "hitting machine." He played college football at the University of Houston. Can you imagine Lockhart playing basketball...me either? Against Fairfield, Claude Riley paced the team with 24 points and Eugene Lockhart(47) had 21.

In regionals, Crockett(22-7) faced Marble Falls in the semis at Blinn Jr. College. The Bulldogs took an early lead and cruised to a halftime lead of 43-24. Riley had picked up his third foul with 2:03 left in the 2nd quarter. Most spectators felt the game was over as Crockett led at the end of three 63-50. Both Riley and Lockhart fouled out in the fourth period. Riley fouled out with 4:46 remaining and with the Bulldogs up 65-56. Lockhart also left with 2:42 remaining and Crockett leading only 66-61. It was only the second time all season Riley had fouled out of a game. At the end of regulation, the score was tied 68-68. In overtime, Crockett was very fortunate to come away with a 75-69 victory. Claude Riley contributed 20 points and Henry had 18 and Lockhart had 13.

In the regional finals Rice Consolidated(21-5) awaited the Bulldogs. Rice had the size and the balance and the depth to compete with Crockett and Mr. Riley. They were going to be a tough challenge for Crockett. The key to the game was Riley staying out of foul trouble.

It didn't happen, as Claude got into early foul trouble and missed several minutes in the first half. Riley had his third foul with 6:49 left before halftime. Rice led at half 25-22 and Riley was in serious foul difficulty. Many of his fouls had come on rebounds.

At the end of three, Rice Consolidated(21-5) led by ten 44-34. Riley was able to play most of the second half and picked up his fourth foul with 2:55 remaining. During the physical contest fights almost broke out on two occasions. Crockett(24-6) shot 12 foul shots while Consolidated put up 31. Riley finished with 25 points on limited time and Lockhart added only 6.

During the awards ceremony, the fans from Crockett(24-6) were upset with the officials and the public-address announcer had to call security. Two fans were escorted out of the gym. At one point the announcer had to tell the Crockett fans that they could be placed on probation if their fans did not keep quiet. Crockett finished the season with a 24-7 record and so ended the high school career of Claude Riley. He would go on to star at Texas A&M for Shelby Metcalf and was

the 64th pick in the N.B.A. by the 76ers. Claude never played in the Association but he did play professionally in Spain and Italy for several years.

(47) Lockhart was sentenced to four and a half years in federal prison for taking part in a multimillion-dollar scheme to swindle home lenders and potential home buyers with fraudulent mortgages.

The TABC polls at the end of the season had Bowie #1 in the state and undefeated at 30-0. Coleman also finished the regular season undefeated at 24-0 and ranked #2. Rice Consolidated(21-5) at #3, had dropped down from class AAA with two All-State players returning from the 1978 squad. Whitehouse(23-5), the defending state champions came in at #4. Perryton(21-4), another team that dropped down from class AAA was going to be a power in West Texas, came in at #5. Old reliable Dimmitt(20-5) at #6, Brownsboro(25-1) at #7, Shelbyville(23-2) at #8, Rockdale(23-1) at #9 was another team that dropped down from class AAA. Tulia(20-3) rounded out the top ten. With all the teams dropping down from class AAA, the competition was much stronger in AA ball than any other time during the decade. This was far and away the toughest season of the decade.

Region I was full of surprises as Seminole(25-5) was making their first state playoff appearance since 1966. The Indians had gone through District 14-0 and defeated a tough Odessa Ector(24-9) in a warm-up game 84-77. Seminole's Danny Wrenn led the way with 28 points. Ector had won District 2-AAA and was also preparing for the playoffs.

Seminoles(25-5) first round opponent was Ballinger(22-7), a big team that was making their first playoff appearance in nine years. Ballinger had won their last 18 games and at one point during the season stood at 3-7. Their front line was one of the most imposing in class AA ball. Starters included, 6'7" Terry Willingham(12.7), 6'5" Marty Akins(19.4), 5'11" Bill Brown and 6'0" Ellison Portis(9.6).

Seminole(25-5) was on a roll themselves with their last loss coming against Brownwood in the holiday tournament on December 27. The Indians had won 17 of their last 18 games.

The Seminole-Ballinger game was a close one with a slow tempo forced by Ballinger. With 2:11 remaining in the game, Ballinger led 49-48. The Indians of Seminole came up with five unanswered points in the last 45 seconds to come away with a 54-49 win. The game was played at Snyder Scurry County Coliseum. Coach Caffey of Seminole went to the full court press in the last two minutes of the game to change the tide in his team's favor. Seminole was 16 of 21 from the foul line and Ballinger was 11 of 15. The lead changed hands 12 times. "I didn't think we played all that well... we weren't sharp," stated Seminole coach Caffey after the game. "I thought Ballinger did a heck of a job against us. I have to give them a lot of credit, because they have a fine ball club."

Danny Wrenn was high scorer with 19 points followed by Mike Grass with 10 points and Albert Villalva with 10. Terry Willingham was top man for Ballinger with 21 points and Marty Akins only had 10 points, nine below his average.

Kermit beat Canntillo 67-55 to advance to regionals. Dimmitt(23-5) joined the party as usual defeating Tulia(20-3) 57-44. Perryton, coming down from class AAA defeated Childress 57-55 in their Bi-District match-up.

In regionals, Dimmitt(24-5) proved tough as usual beating Perryton 32-29 in a low scoring affair. Seminole(25-5) was too much for Kermit winning 65-54. Kermit led at halftime 26-25. "We were too tight in the first half," Coach Caffey relayed. Kermit's attack centered around two standout players, Roger King and David Fulbright. Kermit had a tough time penetrating the Indians zone defense. "They shot as well as anybody but you can't shoot from the outside all night, sooner or later everybody knows you going to cool off," Coach Caffey said. Danny Wrenn again was the leader for Seminole with 20 points and 17 rebounds while Mike Grass added 8 assists.

The regional finals saw the old familiar face of the Dimmitt(25-5) Bobcats and new guys on the block, Seminole(26-5). In one of the most unusual endings to a game you will ever see, an Indian sub, Tommy Herring entered the game for the first time with 22 seconds left in the game. Herring's team was down 45-44 and with 10 seconds remaining. The youngster proceeded to hit a 20-footer to give his team a 46-45 victory, and a trip to Austin. Dimmitt was working for the last shot of the game when they committed a crucial turnover. Dimmitt went to the charity line three times in the final 2:22 of the game including once with 22 seconds left on the clock for a one and one. The Bobcats came away empty every time. It would be the Indians first trip to Austin since 1963 when they were in class AAA. Seminole led at halftime 32-21 but the Bobcats outscored the Indians 16-7 in the 3rd period to tie the game 37-37.

In Region II, Whitehouse(27-5) defeated Pittsburg 60-55 and Bowie(30-0) was impressive against Lake Dallas(24-6), winning 104-48. Bowie(30-0) was the dominant team in class AA during the season, finishing the regular season at 27-0. Bowie had two strong wins over class 3-A finalist Mineral Wells 70-53 and 63-62.

The stage was set for the Region II final contest and show down against the defending state champion, Whitehouse(27-5) and Bowie(30-0). The game proved to be one of the best of the season as Whitehouse pulled out the overtime win 43-39. Bowie was down by five points on two different occasions in the 4th quarter, but rallied back and had their chances to win in the final two minutes. Twice Bowie led by two points. Whitehouse's Jamie Nix hit a bucket with five seconds left to tie the score at the end of regulation 39-39. Nix was fouled on the shot and had a chance to end the game but missed the foul shot. In overtime, Whitehouse held Bowie scoreless. Nix was 10 of 18 from the field and finished with 20 points.

Mark Richardson scored 18 points for Bowie in a losing effort. Richardson went 7 of 13 from the floor. The Wildcats ended Bowie's 30 game winning streak. Bowie coach, Gayno Shelton said after the game, "The loss was the biggest disappointment in my coaching career. It hurts when you know how many chances we had to win it."

In Austin, the class AA tournament was unreal. Any one of the four competitors could walk away with the title. Whitehouse(27-5), Rice Consolidated(27-7), Seminole(29-5) and Boling(27-2). Seminole was riding a 19-game winning streak and was facing Boling. The Indians of Seminole turned in their weakest performance of the season hitting only 2 of 9 free throws but turned around and hit 9 of 10 in the last 1:16 of the game. The results were a 49-42 victory over Boling(27-2).

James Greenwood of Boling was outstanding with 18 points and 12 rebounds, but his team came up short. "There is no doubt we played bad. We were cold, but we won and that's the main thing," said Coach Caffey in his victory speech. The Indians controlled the glass out rebounding Boling 54-41. Mike Grass and Albert Villalva both turned in 12 points apiece and proved to be a dynamic guard combination for Seminole. Danny Wrenn had 8 points and Stewart added 8 points.

Whitehouse(28-5) was after their second straight title but they had to get past a talented Altair Rice Consolidated(27-7) squad. Rice pulled the upset in the semi-finals over Whitehouse 72-60. But was it really an upset? Rice Consolidated was ranked higher in the polls and was moving down from a much tougher caliber of play in class AAA. So, to say it was an upset would be wrong.

Seminole(30-5) prepared for Rice Consolidated(28-7) in the title game. Consolidated was favored but when you looked at who Seminole had defeated to get to the finals, you had to say the game was a toss-up. Consolidated offense ran through 6'7" Lonniel Bluntson, who Seminole triple teamed holding him to 11 points. Bluntson had scored 30 points in the win over Whitehouse(28-5) in the semis. Bluntson would go on to Texas State and lead the team in scoring and rebounding his senior year.

The Seminole(30-5) offense was patient and patterned as the Indians took a 28-17 halftime lead over Rice Consolidated(28-7). At the end of three the Indians led 39-37. Seminole went into a stall and won the game at the foul line 47-42. The Indians had the rebounding edge over the bigger Rice Consolidated 43-37. Seminole took 30 fewer shots during the game than Rice Consolidated. It was Seminole's first state title since 1955. Interesting side note was that the Indians coach, Leland Caffey, was a member of the '55 team. 6'3" Danny Wrenn(17.0) led the Seminole attack in the finals hitting 21 points and had 13 rebounds, 5'11" Mike Grass(10.0) had 12 points and Glenn Moore added 10 while Albert Villalva followed with 7 points. Wrenn went on to coach girls'

basketball at Plainview for a quarter century. Wren was later the head basketball coach at Plainview High School in 2008.

Another key contributor for Seminole was 6'2" Joe Stewart(13.0). All-Stater, John Grammer from Consolidated, led all scorers in the final with 24 points. Grammer also went on to have a long coaching career on the men's side in Victoria.

To show the talent from the 1979 season, five of the top twenty AA teams of the decade came from the '79 campaign. The year was loaded with so many strong teams.

The All-Tournament team was made up of 6'3" Danny Wren and 6'1" Glenn Moore of Seminole, and 6'2" John Grammer and 6'7" Lonniel Blunston of Rice Consolidated.

The Sports Writers All-State 1st Team- 6'2" John Grammer(23.4), Rice Consolidated; 6'7" Lonniel Blunston, Rice Consolidated; 6'1" Dwayne Pettigrew, Whitehouse; 6'4" Mike Richardson, Bowie; 6'3" Danny Wrenn(17.4/12.2), Seminole; 6'7" David Reynolds(21.1), Perryton: **2nd Team-**6'4" Bubba Mathis(20.0), Mathis; Russell Webb, Tulia; Sophomore, Reggie Childress(23.1/14.0), Coleman; Richard Holloway, Coleman; Ted Salone, Taft: **3rd Team-**6'3" Kevin Carlice(18.0) of Whitehouse, 6'0" James Greenwood, Boling; Mark Summers, Dimmitt; Anthony Gonzales, Floresville; Zane Newton, Spearman:

Reggie Childress of Coleman would become one of the top small school players in the history of Texas basketball, making all-state four consecutive years, 1978-1981. No Claude Riley? He was the best player to come out of class AA basketball in the decade.

The **Texas Association of Basketball Coaches All-State 1st Team-** 6'9" Claude Riley(31.2), Crockett; 6'2" John Grammer(23.4), Rice Consolidate; 6'3" Kevin Cartile(18.0), Whitehouse; 6'6" David Reynolds(21.1), Perryton; 6'4" Mark Richardson, Bowie; 6'7" Lionel Blunston, Rice Consolidated; **2nd Team-** 6'4" Mark Summer, Dimmitt; Rich Washington, Mexia; 6'2" James Greenwood, Boling; 6'8" Dean Lamert, Boerne; 6'3" Danny Wrenn, Seminole: **3rd Team-** 6'0" David Massey, Bowie; 6'3" Kevin Mackey, Alpine, 6'5" Kenneth Reeves, Pittsburg; 6'7" Russell Webb, Tulia; 5'7" Craig Adair, Brownsboro:

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1979 AA Top Teams}

- | | | |
|----------------------|------|--|
| 1. Seminole | 31-5 | {beat Dimmitt in regional semis 46-45} |
| 2. Dimmitt | 25-6 | {lost in the regional semis to Seminole 46-45} |
| 3. Rice Consolidated | 27-7 | {lost in the state championship to Seminole 47-42} |
| 4. Whitehouse | 27-5 | {upset Bowie 43-39 in OT, lost to Rice Con. 72-60} |
| 5. Bowie | 30-1 | {was upset by Whitehouse 43-39 in OT in regionals} |
| 6. Crockett | 24-8 | {Riley's team, regional finals lost to Rice Con.} |
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Top Players of the 1970s Class AA

Ht.	1st Team	Pts.	Team	College	Pro
6'8"	Claude Riley(79)	31.0	Crockett	Texas A&M	76ers #64
6'7"	Lynn Royal(72)	28.0	Hughes Springs	T.C.U.	
6'3"	Mike Williams(76)	24.5	Morton		
5'10"	Jesus Guerra(72)	22.2	Roma	Pan American U.	
6'3"	Dwight Pettigrew(78)	30.0	Whitehouse		
6'7"	David Reynolds(79)	21.1	Perryton	Texas Tech	
6'2"	Russell Coffey(77)	29.2	Kountze		
6'3"	Robert Barnes(75)	24.0	San Augustine		
6'3"	Anthony Manning(71)	23.5	Kountze		
6'6"	Johnny Mayo(70)	28.2	Taft	Texas A&M	

Best 20 Teams of the 1970s Class AA*

Teams	W-L	Playoff	Standouts
Kountze(70)	30-4	State Champions	{Anthony Manning}
Taft(70)	28-3	State Finals	{Johnny Mayo}
Hughes Springs(71)	31-1	State Champions	{Lynn Royal, Willie Bean}
Friendswood(71)	26-1	State Finals	{Kent Ballard, Rodney Unruh}
Morton(72)	32-5	State Champions	{Elton Patton, Keith Embry}
San Augustine(73)	31-4	State Champions	{Robert Barnes, Charlie Harris}
Bowie(74)	25-4	State Champions	{Bobby Brashear, David Prater}
Dimmitt(75)	35-3	State Champions	{Craig Williams, Jim Birdwell}
Friona(75)	28-4	District Runner-up	{Dale Cleveland, G. Strickland}
Morton(75)	28-4	District 3 rd place	{Mike Williams, Ken Standmire}
Mart(76)	35-1	State Champions	{Larry Chase, Tony Green}
Morton(76)	29-6	State Finals	{Mike Williams, Ken Standmire}
Morton(77)	35-4	State Champions	{Lloyd Joyce, Troy Patton}
Whitehouse(78)	36-1	State Champions	{D. Pettigrew, D. Pettigrew}
Dimmitt(78)	32-5	State Finals	{Jim Bradford, Rocky Rauls}
Seminole(79)	31-5	State Champions	{Glenn Moore, Danny Wrenn}
Dimmitt(79)	25-6	Regional Finals	{Mark Summers}
Rice Consol.(79)	27-7	State Finals	{John Grammer, L. Blunston}
Whitehouse(79)	27-5	State Semi-Finals	{D. Pettigrew, Kevin Carlice}
Bowie(79)	30-1	Regional Finals	{Mike Richardson}

{*After a lot of research of statistics and results, in no order}

Most State Tournament Appearances-	Morton	1970, 1972, 1973, 1976, 1977
	Dimmitt	1971, 1975, 1978
	Whitehouse	1972, 1978, 1979
	Kountze	1970, 1975, 1977
Most State Championships	Morton	1972, 1977
Best Winning Percentage	Dimmitt	282- 51 85%

Top AA Programs of the 1970s		Top 10	Final 4	Titles	Pts.
1.	Morton	9/10	5	2	41
2.	Dimmitt	9/10	3	1	31
3.	Kountze	5/10	3	1	23
4.	Whitehouse	3/10	3	1	19

The Final Four 1970-79

	Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV
1970	Morton(27-6)	<u>Kountze(30-4)</u>	Hughes Spr(25-8)	Taft(28-3)
1971	Dimmitt(33-3)	Friendswood(26-1)	<u>Hughes Spr(31-1)</u>	Luling(31-4)
1972	<u>Morton(32-5)</u>	Whitehouse(36-2)	W. Midway(30-3)	Roma(36-3)
1973	Morton(27-6)	Grand Saline(29-4)	Mathis(19-8)	<u>San Augustine(31-4)</u>
1974	Friona(28-7)	New Boston(29-4)	<u>Bowie(25-4)</u>	Refugio(29-1)
1975	<u>Dimmitt(35-3)</u>	Kountze(27-5)	Bastrop(22-6)	Van Vleck(30-5)
1976	Morton(29-6)	<u>Mart(35-1)</u>	Prairiland(26-9)	Roma
1977	<u>Morton(35-4)</u>	Kountze(25-10)	Linden-Kildare	Weimar
1978	Dimmitt(32-5)	<u>Whitehouse(36-1)</u>	Rose.-Lott 24-11	Mission Shary(33-3)
1979	<u>Seminole(31-5)</u>	Whitehouse(27-5)	Rice Consol.(28-8)	Boling(27-3)

Dimmitt Bobcats

1970	27-7	#5	Bi-District	Morton 59-81	Ken Cleveland
1971	33-3	#3	State Semi-finals	Hughes Spr 45-56	Ken Cleveland
1972	25-6	#4	District Runner-up		Ken Cleveland
1973	20-11				Ken Cleveland
1974	26-5	#5	District Runner-up		Ken Cleveland
1975	35-3	#1	State Champions	Van Vleck 49-43	Ken Cleveland
1976	31-2	#3	District Runner-up		Ken Cleveland
1977	28-3	#2	District Runner-up		Ken Cleveland
1978	32-5	#2	State Finals	Whitehouse 59-60	Ken Cleveland
1979	25-6	#2	Reg. Semi-finals	Seminole 45-46	Ken Cleveland

Total 282-51 85%(State rankings are the end of season ratings by McKee) (*) Best Team

Best-	1970	6'2"	Bobby Baker
	1971	6'2"	Kent Bradford
	1972	5'10"	Danny Ebling
	1974	5'11"	Paul Langford
	1975	6'0"	Craig Williams
	1976	6'1"	Jim Bridwell
	1977	6'3"	Keith Crum
	1978	6'2"	Jim Bradford
	1978	5'10"	Rocky Rawls
	1979	6'4"	Mark Summers

Morton Indians

1970	27-6	#4	State Semi-Finals	Taft 63-71	Ted Whillock
1971	28-4	#4	District Playoff	Dimmitt 60-61	Ted Whillock
1972	32-5	#1	State Champions	Whitehouse 62-59	Ted Whillock
1973	27-6	#3	State Semi-Finals	Grand Saline 61-62	Ted Whillock
1974	20-8	#6	3rd Place District		Ted Whillock
1975	28-4	#3	3rd Place District		Ted Whillock
1976	29-6	#2	State Finals	Mart 52-57	Ted Whillock
1977	35-4	#1	State Champions	Kountze 63-60	Dan Smith
1978		#3	District Runner-up		Dan Smith
1979					Dan Smith

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

Best-	1971	5'10"	Terry Harvey
	1972	6'0"	Eddie Patton
	1972	5'10"	Keith Embry
	1973	6'0"	Jimmy Harvey
	1974	6'0"	Larry Thompson
	1975	5'11"	R. Dean Thompson
	1976	6'0"	Ken Standmire
	1976	6'3"	Mike Williams
	1977	6'0"	Loyd Joyce
	1977	6'4"	Troy Patton
	1977	6'0"	Lonnie Harrison
	1979	5'10"	Bobby Patton

1975 A

Brookshire Royal became the front runner in class A when they defeated Snook in the regional finals 55-54. Before eliminating Snook, the Falcons had eliminated Barber Hills(19-11) in Bi-District 77-73. Barber Hills finished 19-11 on the season while Brookshire Royal moved on to regionals with a 21-5 record. The Falcons out-scored Barber Hills 29-19 in the final quarter after two key players fouled out. Bruce Ford and Terry Elliott both left the game and Brookshire Royal immediately increased their full court press.

For the Brookshire Royal Falcons, 6'0" Ricky Mack(14.0) finished with 26 points, Milton Sampson(10.0) had 19 points and Jimmy Chavez(10.0) hit 16 points. The other two starters were Larry Sampson, a strong football player and Johnny Campbell(11.0). In the regional semi-finals, the Falcons defeated Blanco 69-67.

Brookshire Royal(21-5) had moved down from class AA and Coach Harold Sparks had a quick and athletic team. The year before the Falcons had lost to Aldine Eisenhower in Bi-District, after winning District 20-AA.

Brookshire(25-5) is located just outside the Houston area and this was going to be their first trip to the big dance in Austin. Joining the Falcons at the state tournament were Whitewright, Shallowater(23-9) and Broaddus. A 6'3" freshman, Terry Teagle from Broaddus, was the talk of the tournament. It would be the first of four straight trips to the final four for Teagle, who would later become one of the best to ever come out of the state. Without question, he was the best player ever produced by a class A program.

In the semi-finals, Brookshire Royal(25-5) beat Shallowater(23-9) 76-53 and Whitewright handled Broaddus 66-60. In the semi-finals against Shallowater, Johnny Campbell was the leading scorer for Brookshire Royal with 17 points and Ricky Mack(14.0) added 16. Don Grimes was top man for Shallowater with 20 points.

In the finals, Brookshire(25-5) was up by 17 points when Whitewright made a strong run at the Falcons, outscoring them 15-3 to close out the game. The final read Brookshire Royal 62 Whitewright 57. Ricky Mack once again led his team in scoring with 23 points and 10 rebounds and Jimmy Chavez finished with 17.

Brookshire had to control Joe Ballard in the finals. Ballard had gone off for 37 points in the semi-finals victory over Broaddus. The Falcons of Brookshire-Royal held him to only six points and Walter Daniels was the high point man for Whitewright with 20 points. Whitewright is located just outside the Sherman-Denison area in North Texas, close to Oklahoma.

All-Tournament team- 6'0" Ricky Mack, 5'11" Johnny Campbell and 6'1" Jimmy Chavez of Brookshire Royal, Joe Ballard and Walter Daniels of Whitewright

and Don Grimes of Shallowater. Also named all-tournament was the freshmen sensation, Terry Teagle.

Sports Writers 1st team All-State- Gary Uhlig of Poth, Joe Ballard of Whitewright, Royce Dorsey of Snook, Jon Gates of Shallowater and 6'6" David Adkinson of Lake Dallas.

David Adkinson would later play football at North Texas State University and became famous as a big part of the legendary Von Erich family of pro wrestling. He was known as David Von Erich in the ring. His father was the world-famous wrestler, Fritz Von Erich. I saw Fritz in action when I was in the 6th grade. Fritz Von Erich had six sons and five died early deaths including three by suicide. Many believe that David died of a drug overdose in Japan at the age of 26.

1976 A

Broaddus(33-1) was back for the second of what would be four straight trips to Austin. 6'3" sophomore, Terry Teagle, was the premier player in class A and making a name for himself as one of the top players in the class of 1978. He averaged 20 points per game and was athletic and fluid. He was the best kept secret in the state as far as college recruiters were concerned. Broaddus was coached by Marion Neill. The 33-1 record was very impressive. The Bulldogs played mostly small schools in East Texas. Broaddus(33-1) lost their first game of the season against Brookeland 91-89. Thirty-three straight victories later, they were in the state semi-finals.

In the first three rounds of the playoffs, they had eliminated Elysian Fields 77-47, Crandall 84-40 and Lovelady 72-44. The starting lineup consisted of Teagle(20.0), 6'2" Sanford Brooks(13.0), 6'2" Samuel Brooks(12.0), 5'10" Donald Wilson(9.0) and 6'2" Bo Sanders(8.0).

In the semi-finals, Broaddus defeated Brazos in a close one 71-69 and Crowell 82-46 in the finals. Against Brazos in the semi-finals, Broaddus had a nine-point lead but let it slip away.

The 36-point margin in the finals was one point away from the state record for largest margin of victory. Teagle finished with 24 points and 10 rebounds in the finals and Bo Sanders added 22. In the semi-finals, Teagle was again high man with 33 points while Sanders finished with 19.

All-Tournament team- Teagle and 6'2" Sanford Brooks and 6'2" Bo Sanders from Broaddus, 6'3" David Bell and 6'5" Ricky Coleman from Crowell, 6'2" Donnell Banks of Brazos, and 6'0" Pat Brown of Coppell.

All-State 1st team- Terry Teagle, sophomore from Broaddus, Scott Richardson of Sanford-Fritch, Pat Brown of Coppell, Roy Watson of Kennard, Willie Jones of Nevada Community;

1977 A

Broaddus(32-1) was on the third year of a four-year run to the state tournament with future N.B.A. and Baylor great, Terry Teagle. If they were not the best class A school in the state's long history, they were definitely in the conversation. They culminated the season going 36-1 and their second straight state championship. In the run to state, the Bulldogs defeated Karnack 100-58, Winona 78-72, and Bullard 54-53. Coach Marion Neill had over 600 career wins over 31 years.

Against AAAA or AAA teams, Broaddus was very competitive. They beat 4-A teams Lufkin 79-55 and Nacogdoches 96-68 handily. They scored over 100 points seven times during the season.

In the regional semi-final game against Winona(27-2), Teagle had 41 points and 30 rebounds. Broaddus led 67-66 with 3:41 remaining when Teagle scored his team's last eight points. Broaddus pulled away winning 78-72. Teagle scored 17 points in the fourth quarter. Winona finished the season at 27-3.

In the other semi-finals contest Bullard had defeated Calvert 58-51 to advance. The regionals were played in Huntsville, all in one day.

In the regional finals, Broaddus(32-1) faced Bullard and things did not go well for the Bulldogs. Starting post for the Bulldogs, Sanford Brooks, reinjured his bad knee in the first game of the day and had to sit the game out. Sanford was one of the team's leading scorers and rebounders. To compound the problem for Broaddus, Teagle missed most of the game because of foul trouble. Teagle picked up three fouls in the first quarter and went to watch from the bench. He did not touch the court in the second quarter. Bullard hung to a 24-22 lead at halftime and 38-37 lead at the end of three.

With a minute remaining in the game with Broaddus up 50-48, Teagle picked up his fourth foul. The 6'4" junior hit four free throws late to secure the win. Teagle finished with 17 points and the Bulldogs advanced with a 34-1 record.

Snook(35-5), also from East Texas, had another outstanding team going to state at 35-5. Snook lost to Kennard twice, 59-52 and 75-68, during the regular season. They also lost to the Ennis(24-9) Lions 72-59. Ennis as you will remember lost in the playoffs to eventual state champion in class AAA, Daingerfield(29-3). Snook also held down a one-point victory over Huntsville(26-8) 59-58, another state tournament team in class AAA.

In Broaddus(35-1) semi-final victory over Snook, 6'2" Tommy Garrett scored 25 points and pulled down 16 rebounds overshadowing Teagle with 17 points. The Bulldogs knocked Snook(35-5) out of the playoffs 56-52.

Broaddus(35-1) starters were 6'4" Jr. Terry Teagle(28.0.), 6'2" Jr. Tommy Garrett(12.0), 6'2" Sanford Brooks, 6'2" Samuel Brooks, and 5'10" Jr. Mike Parks. Twins, Sanford and Samuel were Teagle's half-brothers.

In the state championship, Broaddus would be chasing their second straight state championship and the opponent would be Whitewright(28-1). The Tigers had defeated Seagraves in the semi-finals 70-51 and Steve Hodge scored 27 points. In the finals, Whitewright(28-1) took the early lead 23-17 at the end of the first quarter and led at halftime 39-35. The Bulldogs switched to man to man defense in the second half and outscored Whitewright 28-17 in the 3rd and 21-15 in the 4th, winning the game 84-71.

Teagle finished with 37 points while the Tigers high men were Steve Hodge with 22 points and Walter Daniels had 21. For the two games, Teagle had 52 points and 24 rebounds, while Tommy Garrett had 41 points and 30 rebounds. Whitewright finished the season at 28-2 and Broaddus had a 36-1 mark. The Bulldogs only loss was by one point to Huntington in a pre-district game.

***All-Tournament team** was made up of Teagle and Tommy Garrett from Broaddus, Steve Hodge and Walter Daniels of Whitewright, George Khron and David Martin of Snook, and Brad Woods Seagraves.*

Only four players have ever been named All-Tournament four straight years in Austin; Teagle, Greg Austin of Troup, Larry Cumby of LaPoynor and Chuck Hall of Krum. Credit Dr. Billy Wilbanks for this credible info; check out his amazing site at www.texasbasketballchamps.com

On the 1st team All-State squad named by the Sports Writers, Terry Teagle of Broaddus and Terry Lyons of Bullard, Keith Scharnhorst of Blanco, Mike Ray of Archer City and Johnny Campbell of Brookshire were named.

1978 A

In 1978 Class A had two of the premier programs in the state, Broaddus(32-3) and Snook(33-1). The two teams were on course to play each other in Austin in one of the great match-ups in class A history. The favorite was Broaddus, the defending state champion. Paced by one of the top recruits in the state, Terry Teagle. Broaddus was going for their third straight state title.

The 6'4" senior led his team to four straight state tournaments, one of the few players in state history to accomplish the feat. His coach, Marion Neill said, "He has no idea how good he is." Because of his relationship with Neill, Teagle has decided to stay at the small school. His numbers were impressive, 30 points, 17 rebounds and four blocks.

With an impressive 32-3 record, the Bulldogs showed they could definitely play with the big boys. They beat Garland(21-11) and all-state player, Ricky Pierce(28.0) 71-64. They split with class 4-A regional semi-finalist Lufkin. The Bulldogs won the first game against Lufkin(29-8) 74-68 and then lost the re-match 77-72. The Bulldogs lost to 3-A Silsbee(23-8) 84-82. At the end of the regular season, Broaddus defeated Lufkin(29-8) 81-78 for the second time. This game was to get both teams ready for the playoffs. I remember at the state tournament the

talk was that Kentucky was recruiting Teagle. Kentucky was the #1 team in the country and eventually won the NCAA Championship.

Coppell(30-5) under Coach Jim Mudd traveled to Austin for the second time in three years. The Cowboys were paced by Mark Dobecka. The 6'3" senior was Coppell's leading scorer at 18 points per game and was a four-year starter for Coach Mudd. Scott Austin(16.0), 5'10" John Talley(14.0), 5'10" Weldon Hamm(10.0), and 6'4" Aldon Rutherford(10.0) were the other starters for the Cowboys. "I think this team is more balanced than two years ago," said Coach Mudd, who had led the Cowboys to three straight District 15-A championships.

Against Broaddus(32-3) in the semi-finals, Coppell led the entire game until Broaddus tied the score with 4:02 remaining. Terry Teagle hit a jumper with eight seconds left to put the game into overtime. With ten seconds remaining in the game and the score tied at 62. Teagle made a costly turnover to give the ball back to Coppell. Scott Austin of Coppell was fouled and the rest is history. Austin made a free throw with four seconds remaining in overtime to give the Cowboys a 63-62 win over the defending state champions. The Cowboys had pulled the upset of the tournament and now they would set their sights on the #1 ranked Snook Blue Jays.

Snook(35-1) defeated Van Horn 53-49 in the other semi-finals game. Everybody had really been looking forward to the great game between Broaddus(32-4) and Snook(35-1). The game would have been a classic re-match of the previous seasons four-point win for Broaddus.

In facing Snook(36-1), the Cowboys would be challenging one of the strongest traditional power houses in the history of Texas High School basketball. Snook was making their 11th appearance in the state tournament since 1962. The Blue Jays were built on speed and quickness. With a record of 36-1, they were going to be tough for any team in Texas, let alone a Class 1-A team. Snook's only loss had come at the hands of class AAAA District champion Temple(23-7) 55-45 at mid-season. Coach Don Horn's team had a very well-balanced attack, with nine players scoring in the win over Van Horn in the semis.

For Snook(36-1), it was their fifth trip to the state in the previous seven seasons, as they defeated Coppell(30-5) 63-62. It was Snook's first title since 1969.

The Cowboys gained the lead for the first time with 3:01 remaining in the game after trailing early by eleven. Coppell(30-5) had a chance to win it on their last possession but turned the ball over. Sophomore Mike Junek, a 5'11" post, led the Blue Jays with 29 points and 17 rebounds. Mark Dobecka closed out his fine career at Coppell with 23 points and 9 rebounds. Senior guard Scott Austin added 16 points.

*The **All-Tournament** team consisted of Myron Palmer and Mike Junek of Snook, Terry Teagle and Mike Parks of Broaddus, Mark Dobecka of Coppell.*

*Teagle, a **Texas Legend**, of course was named to the **All-State team** for the fourth year in a row and third time named to the first team. Joining Teagle on*

the **first team** was Joe Garcia(30.3) from Charlotte, James Washington(12.5) from Snook, Milton Hunter(23.0) of Winona and Myron Palmer(12.0) of Snook.

1979 A

Vega(28-6) defeated LaPoynor(33-7) 52-33 in convincing style to win the Class A state championship. Vega jumped out to a comfortable halftime lead of 31-13 and cruised to the title.

In the semi-finals, Vega defeated Reagan County(25-6) 67-60 even though they were out rebounded 54-34. Vega forced Reagan County into 23 turnovers to offset the rebounding difference.

LaPoynor advanced to the finals by beating Hull-Daisetta(23-9) 81-54.

Vega was led to the state title by 6'4" Ronnie Williams(18.0) and 5'10" Les Newbill(15.0). Williams had 13 points and 15 rebounds in the final and contributed 32 points in the semi-finals. Vega's playoff wins consisted of Hale Center 61-51, Iran 74-62, and Stratford 60-57.

*The **All-Tournament team**- 6'4" Ronnie Williams of Vega, 5'9" Joe Rodriguez of Vega, 5'9" Billy Douglas of LaPoynor, 5'9" Larry Cumby of LaPoynor and 6'1" Joe Paul Tarrant of LaPoynor,*

The **Texas Sports Writers All-State** team was made up 6'4" Ronnie Williams of Vega, Gregory Johnson of Hull-Daisetta, 5'9" Billy Douglas of LaPoynor, Chemmie Terry of Celina and Dwayne Dishman from Crowell. Others top players were, 5'7" Jeff Ray(23.0) of Archer City, 6'1" Monte Driskell(23.4) of Lovelady, Kenny Rivers(18.0) of Three Rivers:

Top Players of the 1970's Class A

Ht.	1st Team	Pts.	Team	College	Pro
6'4"	Terry Teagle(78)	30.0	Broaddus	Baylor	Rockets #16
6'2"	Larry Spruiell(73)	27.0	Petrolia	North Texas St.	
6'6"	Paul Lamb(73)	16.5	Kennard	Houston	
6'3"	Mark Dobecka(78)	18.0	Coppell		
5'11"	Don Wiley(73)	22.5	Snook		
6'3"	Louis Nix(74)		Snook		
6'1"	L. Hutcherson(70)	17.4	Kennard		

Best Teams of the 1970's Class A

Team	Year	W-L	Playoffs	Standouts
Kennard	1970	42-0	State Champions	{L. Hutcherson, James Smith}
Pottsboro	1972	37-0	State Champions	{Larry Spruiell, Jerry Cassell}
Kennard	1973	39-3	State Champions	{Paul Lamb, Edward Marshall}
Broaddus	1976	35-1	State Champions	{Terry Teagle, Samuel Brooks}
Broaddus	1977	36-1	State Champions	{Terry Teagle, Tommy Garrett}
Broaddus	1978	32-4	State Semi-Finals	{Terry Teagle, Mike Parks}
Snook	1978	37-1	State Champions	{Myron Palmer, J. Washington}

Coppell	1978	31-6	State Finals	{Mark Dobecka, Scott Austin}
Most State Tournament Appearances	Snook	1971(B)	1972(B)	1973 1974 1977 1978 1979(B)
	Broaddus		1975 1976 1977 1978	
Most State Championships	Kennard		1970 1973	
	Broaddus		1976 1977	
	Snook		1978 1979(B)	

1975 B

LaPoynor finished an undefeated season 42-0 beating Richards in the semi-finals 66-52 and Spade in the title game 52-42. In the finals, the Flyers out rebounded Spade 43-21. The Flyers were led by 6'2" Larry Cumby(22.0), 6'2" Ozell Hambrick(12), 5'11" Billy Clark(12) and 5'11" Jerry Sowell(10.).

Hambrick had 22 points in the title game to lead the Flyers. Gaylon Reed led Spade with 15 points. In the semis, Hambrick and Cumby scored 21 and 22 points respectively in LaPoynor's winning effort. Clifford Kroll was the high scorer for Richards.

Bill Ingram was the LaPoynor coach who had suffered a heart attack in November and turned many of his coaching duties over to Dwane Nichols for the season's final 30 games. Nichols was an elementary school principal.

*The **All-Tournament** team consisted of Larry Cumby, Ozell Hambrick and Jerry Sorrells of LaPoynor, Tommy Batson, Gaylon Reed and Marvin Matthews of Spade, and Guy Livingston of Megargel.*

*For **Larry Cumby**, it was his 4th consecutive All-tournament selection making him one of only four players ever to accomplish such a feat. The others were Greg Austin of Troup from 1991-1995, Terry Teagle of Broaddus 1975-1978 and Chuck Hall of Krum, 1976-1979. Cumby was also named all-state three consecutive seasons.*

1976 B

Richards(44-2) emerged as the state champion in class B in 1976 after beating Brookeland 57-47 in the championship game. Their biggest accomplishment may have been defeating Krum in the semi-finals 51-42. The Panthers were 44-2 on the season and advanced to state with wins over Axtell 58-49, Round Top 71-54, and Austwell-Tivoli 68-52.

Bill Shaw coached Richards to the championship. Key contributors for Richards were 6'4" Merion Dean(17.0), 5'9" Clifford Kroll(14.0), 5'11" Sam Johnson(10) and 5'8" David Dean(10.0).

In the title game Merion Dean and Clifford Kroll both finished with 14 points. In a losing effort, Jesse Hobson had 20 points for Brookeland. In the semi-finals, Merion Dean was the leader once again with 13 points and 14 rebounds.

*The **All-Tournament team**- 6'4" Merion Dean, 5'9" Clifford Kroll and 5'11" Sam Johnson of Richards, 5'8" Clifford Young and 5'11" Jessie Hobson of Brookeland, and freshmen, 5'9" Chuck Hall of Krum. 5'9" Dicky Faught of Brownfield Union was also named to the team.*

1977 B

Avinger(36-7) defeated Hedley 68-62 for the class B state championship. It was Coach Ken Lloyd's second title with Avinger. Senior Tim Jones scored 23 points and 13 rebounds in the winning effort. Avinger, according to Dr. Billy, only had 17 boys in the high school and 10 played basketball.

6'1" Rufus Mathis(21.0) and 6'3" Tim Jones(16.0) of Avinger were named 1st team All-State, along with one of the greats of class B basketball, Chuck Hall of Krum. Hall ranks #4 on the all-time state scoring list with 3550 points. Hall went on to McLennan J.C. in Waco and was a two-time NAIA honorable mention All-American at Midwestern in Wichita Falls.

***All-Tournament team**- 6'1" Rufus Mathis of Avinger, 5'9" Anthony Hatten of Avinger, 6'3" Tim Jones of Avinger, 5'9" Chuck Hall of Krum, 5'9" John Lemley of Hedley, 5'9" Mike Darnell of Hedley and 6'2" Benny Flournoy of Leggett:*

1978 B

In the class A finals Krum(40-3) had its delay game backfire after leading 64-56 with 4:30 left against defending state champion Avinger. Avinger cut the lead to 68-66 with a minute left and after a Krum miss with 40 seconds left, Avinger coach David Murphy called time out. At the same time Murphy called time out, Anthony Hatten hit a jumper, but it was negated. Hatten hit two free throws with 16 seconds left to tie the score. Krum went for the final shot when Keith Copp was fouled with one second left on the clock and the score tied 68 all. Copp hit one of two to win the game. He missed the second one on purpose so the clock would start. "When I was standing at the free-throw line all I could think of was the state championship," Copp said. Chuck Hall finished with 25 points and Keith Copp added 19 points along with Kenneth Dodd's 18 points.

Krum coach, Bennie Enis, had a career record of 421-61 coming into Austin and a 40-3 record on the season. This was Krum's third straight trip to Austin trying to obtain the illusive state championship. The Bobcats go to player was 5'10" Chuck Hall, who was one of the top scorers in the state averaging 26.7 points per game. Hall had scored 38 points the previous season in the state semi-final loss against Hedley. In the semi-final win, Krum defeated Waelder 54-39. Kenneth Dodd scored 25 and Chuck Hall followed with 22 points.

All-Tournament- 5'10" Chuck Hall of Krum, 5'8" Kenneth Dodd of Krum, 6'1" Keith Copp of Krum, 5'9" Anthony Hatten of Avinger, 6'3" Jimmy Powell of Avinger:

1979 B

Snook was the defending Class A state champion. Krum the defending Class B state champion. The two titans met in the 1979 state championship game. It was the first time in state history two defending state champions had met for a state title.

Snook(45-2) defeated Krum(44-1) on James Washington's jump shot with 25 seconds remaining 57-56. Kenneth Dodd of Krum missed a twenty-footer at the buzzer that would have won the game. The loss ended Krum's 50-game winning streak.

Snook was led in the finals by 5'11" Mike Junek with 30 points and 5'11" James Washington's 18 points. For Krum it was the guard combination of Chuck Hall(22.1) and Kenneth Dodd(23.4) that carried the team to 50 straight wins.

Chuck Hall made the All-tournament team in Austin for the fourth year in a row. These two teams were not only the two top rated teams in the state in Class B, but they were also two of the most successful programs in Texas High School basketball history. Neither team had much size with the tallest player on Snook only 5'11" and Krum had only one player over 6'0" which was 6'3" junior, Ricky Jones(8.2).

This was Krum's fourth straight trip to the state tournament and Snook's third. Don Horn led Snook to a 333-65 record and two state championships in eight years at Snook. He announced after the game he would be moving into administration. Class B standouts: 6'3" Woody Conradt(23.0) of Lometa, 5'10" Randy Simpson(19.7) of Medina, 5'9" Anthony Hatten(19.0) of Avinger.

Top Players of the 1970s Class B

Ht.	1st Team	Pts.	Team	College	Pro
6'1"	Tommy Johnson(71)	27.1	Krum		Howard Payne
6'2"	Larry Cumby(75)	22.0	LaPoynor		
5'10"	Chuck Hall(79)	26.7	Krum		Midwestern University
6'6"	Randy Spain(74)	22.0	Huckabay		
6'0"	Jimmy Street(72)	25.4	LaPoynor		
5'11"	James Washington(79)	13.0	Snook		
5'11"	Mike Junek(79)		Snook		
5'8"	Kenneth Dodd(79)	23.4	Krum		

Best Teams of the 1970s Class B

Team	Year	W-L	Playoffs	Standouts
Krum	1971	47-1	State Champions	{Steve Sparks, Tommy Johnson}
LaPoynor	1972	43-4	State Champions	{Jimmy Street, W. Stringfield}
LaPoynor	1973	36-4	State Champions	{Larry Cumby, Calvin Sowell}
Huckabay	1974	47-1	State Champions	{Randy Spain, Rex Spain}
LaPoynor	1974	38-4	State Finals	{Larry Cumby, Ozell Hambrick}
LaPoynor	1975	42-0	State Champions	{Larry Cumby, Ozell Hambrick}
Snook	1979	45-2	State Champions	{Mike Junek, J. Washington}
Krum	1979	44-1	State Finals	{Chuck Hall, Kenneth Dodd}

Most State Tournament Appearances-	LaPoynor	1970 1972 1973 1974 1975 1979(A)
	Krum	1971 1976 1977 1978 1979
Most State Championships	LaPoynor	1972 1973 1975
Longest Winning Streak	Krum	50 {1979}

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Galveston Daily News
Gonzales Inquirer
Houston Chronicle
La Marque Times
Lamesa Press Reporter
Lubbock Avalanche Journal
McKinney Daily Courier Gazette
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