

The History of Texas High School Basketball

Volume III

1980-1982

Revised

By Mark McKee

Website www.txhighschoolbasketball.com

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Preface

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By Mark McKee

By the 1980 season I was completely engrossed in the high school basketball seen. I was following the local high schools and going to every clinic I could make. Learning the game was so much fun and I was able to see some of the great coaches. I saw the legendary John Wooden of U.C.L.A. and got his autograph, which is still on my wall. Jimmy Valvano was by far the most entertaining. He was the most charismatic and I could see why players enjoyed playing for him. I never laughed so hard at a clinic.

Several of the great coaches during that time frame spoke at the clinics I attended. Bobby Knight, Mike Krzyzewski, Denny Crum of Louisville, Don Coleman of Houston Memorial and Hubie Brown to name a few.

The 1981 state tournament was sad in some ways because it was the last year my brother-in-law traveled to the tournament with me. I never had that much fun again at the tournament. I began going with my coaching friends. Austin was such a great town back in the late 70s and 80s. Every season had so many great memories and stories. I hope you enjoy a look back at the memorable players and teams from the early part of the decade.

This book is dedicated to my mother. I will always be grateful to her for the hard work and dedication to her family. She has been a champion every day of her life. She took on life's struggles with her faith and a devotion to her principles. The determination and strength she has shown through her life will always be an inspiration to all the lives she has touched. She is presently ninety-five years young.

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Welcome Back

High School basketball went to new heights during the 1980s due to the popularity of the pro and college game. Dallas acquired an N.B.A. franchise in 1980. The Mavericks increased interest not only in Dallas but throughout the Lone Star state. Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, and Michael Jordan took the game to new heights as the Celtics/Lakers rivalry captured the countries interest. ESPN was introduced in 1980 and the sports landscape changed forever.

At the high school level summer leagues began to emerge, which enabled more specialization and improved skills. By the end of the decade the Drum in Austin reached new attendance records. Dunbar, out of Ft. Worth, had a following the likes of which the state had never seen. The TABC increased its power and influence during the decade. Coaching at the largest classifications were now very specialized. The larger schools in the latter part of the decade had fulltime assistant basketball coaches. It was a period of real change as Texas began to catch up with the rest of the country.

The NCAA tournament expanded from 25 teams in 1974 to 64 teams just eleven years later in 1985. The popularity of the game had a tremendous effect on the high schools as it filtered down all the way to the junior highs. The N.B.A. added four new franchises during the decade. As for high school basketball, the game in Texas was booming as never before.

1980 AAAA

The 1980 season saw tremendous talent throughout the state. The major cities continued to produce the top talent and teams, but the suburbs had made enormous gains as the football dominated communities began to emphasize basketball. I think you'll find that the 1980 season ushered in the new decade with some great basketball. These were special times in the development of the high school game in Texas.

Two old school teams, Houston Yates(29-1) and Houston Milby(30-3), emerged from the shadows of Houston Wheatley in 1980. The Lions and the Buffaloes were the two top teams in the state as the season got underway. Ft. Worth Dunbar had a lot of talent returning but were going to be challenged by Ft. Worth Paschal for District supremacy. Dallas Roosevelt had its most gifted team since their great teams of '72 and '77. The Bulldogs of Midland were playing at new

heights in 1980 and the Beaumont/Pt. Arthur Golden triangle produced two outstanding teams, Pt. Arthur Lincoln in class 4-A and Beaumont Hebert in class 3-A.

Individual talent spanned every corner of the state, but the two top recruits were 6'6" Michael Young(1) of Houston Yates and 6'8" Mike Wacker of San Marcos. These were two of the best players to ever come out of Texas. Both were big, strong, gifted and skilled. These guys were for real. Both could have played anywhere in the country as freshmen. Reggie Roberts of McKinney was close behind as a top recruit. The 6'2" guard was an explosive leaper and had a nice outside stroke. He reminded people of the triplets from Arkansas in the late 70s.

A player that really played his high school days in total obscurity was Clyde Drexler(2). Very few recruiters and sports writers were aware of his unreal skills. His team finished 5th in District and it wasn't until he produced a 34-point and 27-rebound performance against Sharpstown(21-12) in the 1979 Jaycee tournament, that anybody realized his ability. Although he was a phenomenal rebounder at the high school level, most scouts worried about his ability to move outside away from the basket.

Danny Kaspar, who is presently coaching at Texas State University in San Marcos, was scouting for a division one program at the time. He witnessed the young Drexler and was impressed, but his superiors questioned his ability to play outside at the college level. "He was a tremendous athlete, one of the best I had ever seen," Kaspar said. Luckily for the University of Houston, in their recruitment of Michael Young, Drexler's name came up. Young was asked by Guy Lewis, the head coach at Houston, who was the best player he had faced all season. Michael responded that Drexler was the best he had faced. If just so happened Young and Drexler were good friends as well. The two became Cougars and Phi Slamma Jama was born. **Clyde Drexler and Michael Young were TEXAS LEGENDS.**

(1) Michael Young attended the University of Houston and started four straight seasons, making three final four appearances. Young holds a number of Cougar records: most NCAA games at 16, the career record for most starts and one of only three players to ever score over 2,000 points for the Cougars. The others were two NBA greats, Elvin Hayes and Otis Birdsong. Young averaged 17.3 per game as a junior and 19.8 his senior season. Many people don't realize that the leading scorer on the "Phi Slama Jama" team was Michael Young in 1983 and 1984, not N.B.A. Hall of Famers, Akeem Olajuwon or Clyde Drexler. In college, Young was named to several All-American teams, 2nd team by the Sporting News and 3rd team by the A.P. and U.P.I. He was consensus All-Southwest Conference. In 2004, he was inducted into the University of Houston Hall of Honor and in 2007 his #42 jersey was retired.

(2) After three seasons with the Cougars and two final four appearances, Drexler was named 1st team All-American. Giving up his senior eligibility, Drexler took his talents to the NBA. He was the only player in school history with combined totals of at least 1,000 career points, 900 rebounds and 300 assists, in addition to being Houston's all-time steals leader with 268.

The Blazers took him with the 14th pick in the 1st round. Drexler led the Trailblazers to two N.B.A. finals, losing to the Pistons in 1990 and the Bulls in 1992. He combined with Olajuwon to win the NBA title in 1995 with the Rockets. He was runner-up in the M.V.P. voting to Michael Jordan in 1992, and played on the original dream team, as well as an Olympic Gold medalist in 1992. He played in 10 NBA All-

Star games and was named All-NBA on five different occasions. In 1995, he was named one of the 50 greatest players in the history of the NBA during their 50th year celebration.

In looking at Drexler's career numbers with the best players ever produced in the Lone Star State, only Shaquille O'Neal out of San Antonio Cole surpasses his accomplishments. Shaq ranks first in NBA points with 28,596, followed by Drexler with 22,195 points. Chris Bosh of Dallas Lincoln is 3rd, Rashard Lewis of Alief Elsik is 4th, LaMarcus Aldridge of Seagoville comes in at 5th and Ricky Pierce rounds out the top six. Pierce played for the Owls at Garland High.

In the Pre-season magazines, Street & Smith had two teams once again from Texas in their top 25. Ft. Worth Dunbar(25-7) came in at #15 in the nation and Lufkin(24-11) at #18. These were the two teams that had played in the 1979 state championship game. Both squads had many of their key performers returning.

In late November and early December of 1979 the **Arlington Classic** kicked thing's off for the coming season. There was only one first round match-up worth noting and that was between Houston Wheatley(21-13) and Dallas Roosevelt(28-3). When Coach Jackie Carr faced off against Coach Ellis Davis it was always going to draw attention. Wheatley was led by two outstanding talents in 6'8" Phillip Smith and 6'6" Kenneth Morning. The Wildcats didn't have the depth of past seasons or the guard play.

Coach Ellis Davis' Mustangs were loaded. He didn't have anybody like Ira Terrell or Rynn Wright, but he enjoyed more depth than any of their previous teams. 6'0" Johnny Henderson was one of the best guards in Dallas along with his running mate, 5'11" Nathaniel Sparks. Also, in the backcourt coming off the bench was a gifted and exciting player named Ronell Peters. At 5'8" he was quick, fast, athletic and a fabulous passer and penetrator. This was the deepest and best backcourt the Mustangs had ever enjoyed. The front court was strong as well with 6'6" Kenneth Roberson(19.0/16.0), 6'6" Michael Bell along with 6'5" Billy Wright coming off the bench. Another budding star of the team was sophomore, 6'4" Carl Wright. He was part of the Wright family and the most talented of all the brothers. A leaper with unbelievable hang time, he would have a strong impact on Texas Basketball over the next three seasons. He also possessed the ability to defend guards as well as post. He gave Coach Davis one of the most talented players in his illustrious career. In a low scoring game at the Arlington classic the Mustangs(28-3) survived to beat Wheatley(21-13) 62-57.

In the second-round games, Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5) showed they were an elite power in the state by not only beating Plano(28-3) but thumping them badly 37-23. Paschal(30-5) liked to play the same style as Plano(28-3) but had more talent. Playing half-court basketball was right up their alley. They were not a good match-up for Plano. Paschal had a truly great coach in Jim Wall and talented "biggs" along with great guard play. Wall had a great basketball mind and could assess a situation very quickly. Facing Dunbar(25-7) as many times as he did during his career, he would need every ounce of those skills.

The Panthers were built around a pair of talented juniors, 6'7" Sam Donnell and 6'4" Sam Norton. The two Sam's gave Wall a big advantage if you wanted to play a slowdown, half-court basketball. 6'4" Javann Dupree was the most highly prized player as far as recruiting was concerned, while 6'3" Charlie Harris was probably the most skilled of all the Paschal players.

Plano countered with another great team led by senior 6'7" post, Kirk Lundblade(20.0/9.0). He had limited athletic ability but was deadly from 15-feet away and was very fundamental. 5'8" Jack Crain(8.0) was a scrappy, tough point guard that was also very limited in talent, but was effective. Coach Bridge's team had a number of great role players and were one of the top teams in the state once again. There was always the "Bridges factor" when facing Plano. His teams never deviated from intense half-court defense, precision half-court offense with back cuts, and passing with very little dribbling. Nothing like today's modern game. If you were foolish enough to press the Wildcat's that would be a mistake. The ball would never touch the floor on their press offense. Plano never wasted a dribble, which was something I took with me throughout my coaching career. They had several weaknesses that could be exploited, like a lack of depth, size, quickness and foot speed. But few teams were fortunate enough to take advantage of the Wildcat's short comings.

In the semi-finals, Paschal(30-5) faced their rival Dunbar(25-7) in a great game. The Wildcats of Dunbar had one of the best front courts in the state in 1980 with 6'4" Willie Ashley, 6'7" Gilbert Collier(16.0/10.0), and 6'6" Andre Allen(18.6/13.0). All three were top recruits, but they were questionable in the backcourt relying on 6'3" Vernon Newton, 5'11" Ricky Rollerson, 6'2" Robert Hughes Jr., and 6'2" Darrell Reed. Rollerson was a fine guard but hurt his ankle and left the team shorthanded. The back court struggled early in the season until the Wildcat's began playing at a slower pace. Paschal was too skilled and experienced for the Wildcats and won a hard fought 66-60 victory. Senior guard, Charlie Harris, hit 32 points for Paschal. Late in the game Paschal went to four corners and put the game on ice. The loss was Dunbar's third of the season. The Wildcats had lost to Dallas Roosevelt(28-3) by one and Dallas South Oak Cliff(22-7) by ten. Teams with strong guard play gave them trouble. Even with the young backcourt, Dunbar was extremely talented, and was going to make a lot of noise over the course of the season.

Roosevelt(28-3) won their quarterfinals game over Ft. Worth Nolan 72-46 and semi-finals matchup against Ft. Worth Trimble Tech 90-66. Trimble Tech had an outstanding talent in 6'6" John Gales, the coach's son.

In the finals, Dallas Roosevelt(28-3) and Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5) were clearly the two best teams in the tournament, and I was thinking at the time the two best teams in the state. It was a classic, Dallas Roosevelt(28-3) beat Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5) 75-73. It was kind of like the changing of the guard, Roosevelt

replacing S.O.C.(22-7) at the top in Dallas, and Paschal replacing Dunbar(25-7) in Ft. Worth. But early season basketball can sometimes be misleading. It was too early to write off the Golden Bears and the Wildcats.

My all-tournament team was made up of Willie Ashley of Dunbar, 6'6" Kenneth Roberson and 6'0" Johnny Henderson of Roosevelt, 6'4" Javann Dupree and 6'3 "Charlie Harris of Paschal. It was another great tournament. I remember it well and enjoyed every second. It was going to be a fun season.

The third annual **Sun Bowl Prep Basketball tournament** in El Paso was without question one of the top tournaments in the state in 1980. Unfortunately, this would be the last year for the tourney. Four outside teams were brought into challenge the four best teams from El Paso. Ft. Worth Dunbar(25-7), Houston Milby(30-3) and Houston Madison(26-10) were all flown into town and put up in a nice hotel.

Hobbs, out of New Mexico, was close enough to travel by bus. This tournament was like none other in the state. Because of the cost and lack of support the tournament failed, which was so disappointing because it was so well run and a first-class tournament.

Ft. Worth Dunbar(25-7) came in ranked #11 nationally by the National Sports News Service and Houston Milby(30-3) was #17, while Hobbs came in at #19. The Buffaloes of Houston Milby(30-3) were the defending champions of the tournament having created a lot of excitement, with tourney M.V.P., Rob Williams the previous season. Even without Williams, Coach Boyce Honea's team was going to be one of the favorites, along with Ft. Worth Dunbar(25-7).

The tournament directors changed the format for the 79-80 tourney with the first-round games being played at four different high school sites. The semi-finals and finals were going to be played at the Special Events Center. The directors were trying to increase attendance playing at the four local home gyms. To try and increase revenue the Sun Carnival Association went out and got commercial sponsors which raised \$12,000. Even with this much money being brought into the tournament they were going to have a hard time breaking even.

El Paso Coronado(28-6) had one of the top teams in El Paso during the 1979-80 season. The Thunderbirds had advanced to the regional finals in 1979 losing to Dunbar 42-37. They were one game away from advancing to state. Larry Jones was a standout performer and his teammate, Wayne Salem, could score in bundles. 6'4" Gary Helsten and 6'5" Kurt Spier were two other major contributors.

El Paso Coronado(28-6) faced Houston Madison(26-10) in the quarterfinal match-up. Madison was slowed by injuries and playing without standout Matt England(15.2), who was battling injuries as they entered the tournament. The Thunderbirds came in with an impressive 8-1 record while the Marlins were 4-4.

Coronado(28-6) came away with a 59-51 victory to advance to the semis. The guard combo of Salem and Jones was tough. Salem hit 23 points while Jones

had several assists against Madison's zone. "They have a good team," Coronado Coach Sergio Guerrero said. "But our guys decided to play. I think we were kind of jittery at first." The Thunderbirds went to their spread offense late and Salem connected five foul shots. Houston Madison(26-10) was 22 of 52 from the floor while Coronado hit 23 of 37. Eric Dickens led the Marlins in scoring with 15 points followed by 6'6" Lee Gibson with 10. Coach Paul Benton of Madison commented after the game, "We just didn't play very good on defense, when you lose the kids we lost, it takes a little time. We have to be patient."

Houston Milby(30-3) opened against perennial El Paso power Eastwood(24-3) in their 1st round match-up. The Troopers were strong once again with a 9-1 mark. The obvious problem facing a team like Milby(30-3) was their size advantage. Although Eastwood came in with some nice size of their own, they would be small comparatively speaking. 6'4" Doug McNeely, 6'3" Matt Miertshin, 6'0" Randy Romaguera, and 6'2" Fred Wofford were the player's Coach Bob Lesley's team would be looking to make the difference. Eastwood had won the Midland Tall City tournament the previous week. The Midland(28-6) Bulldogs were one of the strongest teams in West Texas led by junior, 6'8" Herb Johnson. Milby's size was awesome with 6'8" Andre Ross, 6'7" Paul Cunningham, 6'8" Randy Hamilton, 6'4" Raymond Walkup and 6'2" Barron Honea.

Milby(30-3) prevailed over Eastwood(24-3) 68-56 with 6'8" Andre Ross and 6'7" Paul Cunningham each contributing 17 points apiece. 6'4" Doug McNeely was in early foul trouble and was Eastwood's top rebounder. He fouled out with 3:22 remaining and finished with only 8 points. "Eastwood could play with any team we've played this year. We were bigger and that's the main difference," Coach Honea said following the win. "I thought it was real fortunate for us when the McNeely kid got his 4th foul," Honea continued.

The El Paso Riverside Rangers came into the tourney with a 3-3 record and looked to Chris Apodaca to do most of the damage. Robert Lopez, Rudy Rangel and Frank Aguilar were three other major players for Coach Ralph Ornelas.

Hobbs, New Mexico countered with the legendary coach Ralph Tasker and his up-tempo offense. In 20 years of coaching, Tasker had acquired 735 victories against only 200 losses. Before his career would end, he would become one of the winningest coaches in the history of high school basketball. Hobbs downed Riverside 110-97 paced by 5'9" Wallace Williams and 6'2" James Dabney. Both players had 22 points for Coach Tasker. Five Hobbs players reached double figures. Chris Apodaca kicked in 32 points for Riverside and Frank Aguilar knocked down 17 points. It was only Hobbs second game of the season.

One of the big favorites got knocked out in the first round. The Dunbar(25-7) Wildcats lost to El Paso Irvin(24-8) 61-59. As expected, Robert Hughes was not a happy camper. "I think everyone was still enjoying the plane ride." Hughes said. "I didn't expect them to beat us on the boards." Irvin(24-8) jumped out to a big 34-18

halftime lead before the Wildcats made a strong run at the end of the game. Down 51-49, Dunbar(25-7) had the ball and ran the clock down to 20 seconds. Senior post, Gilbert Collier put up a five-foot jumper that rolled out and 6'5" Brian Mansour rebounded and was fouled immediately. Mansour in turn missed the front end of a one-an-one and Dunbar missed two more attempts at the basket. "We played so well for most of the game," Irvin Coach Alvis Glidewell said. "Then we succumbed to the press. But we gutted it out and held on." Dunbar(25-7) came into the game at 6-2 and Irvin(24-8) at 3-1. Standouts of Irvin for Craig Beshears, Tony Harvey, Mansour, 6'5" Tony Waters, and 6'4" Larry Henderson.

El Paso Coronado(28-6) downed Hobbs in the semi-finals 65-51. Wayne Salem put up 37 points in the Thunderbirds victory. "The turning point came when we started pressing them," Coronado standout Larry Jones said. Jones finished with 19 points along with 12 assists.

"It was a great win," Coach Guerrero said. "Coach Tasker is a tremendous coach. We knew they would pressure us real hard, so we look to go behind them." The difference in the contest was Coronado(28-6) outrebounded Hobbs 34-20. Helsten was key for the Thunderbirds with 14 points and 14 rebounds. James Dabney led Hobbs with 14 points. Milby(30-3) advanced to the finals with an easy win over El Paso Irvin(24-8) in the other semi-final game.

In the finals, Milby(30-3) took home the gold defeating the Thunderbirds 54-42. Coronado(28-6) finished the tournament at 9-2 and Milby continued undefeated at 12-0. 6'7" Paul Cunningham was named tournament M.V.P. "It's hard to stop their inside game, at the end we started gambling and it didn't pay off," Guerrero said. A big plus for the Buffaloes was the play of the coach's son, Barron Honea. "I'll have to brag on my son," Coach Honea said with pride. "He held Salem to one basket. That was key. He blocked two of his shots, he stayed with him like glue." Salem had scored 22 and 37 points in the first two games of the tournament and could only manage six against Milby. He was held scoreless in the 2nd half. Helsten led the Thunderbirds with 16 points while Kurt Spier hit 10 points. Raymond Walkup led Milby with 20 points in the finals.

In the losers bracket, Houston Madison(26-10) beat Riverside 74-67 paced by Eugene Alford's 18 points and Lee Gibson's had 13. Apodaca put up impressive numbers with 24 points and 9 rebounds. Riverside out rebounded Madison 45-33.

Ft. Worth Dunbar(25-7) came back from their disappointing loss in the first round to defeat El Paso Eastwood(24-3) 56-51. Collier was hot hitting 12 of 15 from the floor for 24 points and added 14 rebounds. Matt Miertschin led the Troopers with 17 points and McNeely added 13. Dunbar(25-7) dominated inside with a 46-24 advantage on the glass.

Hobbs took the third-place game over El Paso Irvin(24-8) convincingly, 122-91. 5'9" Wallace Williams had 22 points and Jay Willman added 22. Irvin counted on

two key players that had some awesome numbers in the loss. Tony Waters had 30 points and Mansour finished with 28 points and 17 boards.

In the consolation finals Dunbar(25-7) was impressive defeating Houston Madison(26-10) 84-72. Andre Allen put up a career high 38 points in the Wildcats victory.

El Paso Eastwood(24-3) beat their district rival Riverside in the 7th place game 57-53. Eastwood(24-3) was now 10-3 on the season with two of the losses coming in the Sun Bowl Classic. Eastwood would run the table in District action and finish the season with only three defeats.

The All-Tournament was made up of Eric Dickens of Houston Madison(26-10), Wallace Williams from Hobbs, Brian Mansour of El Paso Irvin(24-8), 6'6" Andre Allen and Gilbert Collier of Ft. Worth Dunbar(25-7), Chris Apodaca of El Paso Riverside and Larry Jones and 6'5" Wayne Salem from Coronado(28-6).

In the **40th annual Dr. Pepper tournament in Dallas** the top teams included Ft. Worth Dunbar(25-7) and Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5), along with Dallas S.O.C.(22-7) and Dallas Roosevelt(28-3). Other strong teams included South Garland(30-4) and Dallas Hillcrest(26-6).

In first-round action Dallas Roosevelt(28-3) eliminated South Garland(30-4) 71-60. South Garland guard, Kyle Jones, led all scorers with 28 points. The Colonels of South Garland(30-4) entered the game with a 16-2 mark. Roosevelt(28-3) improved their record to 13-2 on the season. "This team has the potential to be one of the better ones I've had," Coach Ellis Davis exclaimed. This was high praise coming from Davis, who had won the state championship in 1972, and his 1977 squad split three games apiece with the eventual state champion S.O.C.

In the second day of the tournament, Dallas Roosevelt(28-3), Dallas S.O.C.(27-7) and Dallas Hillcrest(26-6) were all eliminated. Lake Highlands(25-8) showed they were a force knocking off the Mustangs of Roosevelt 78-77 in the second round. Todd Kirkpatrick of Lake Highlands hit two foul shots with 14 seconds left to give the Wildcats the win. Lake Highlands moved their record to 13-5, as Kirkpatrick was also the leading scorer with 21 points. Point guard, Philip O'Neal had a strong game contending with the Roosevelt(28-3) pressure. He also added 17 points while Johnny Henderson had 22 points for Roosevelt. Wilmer Hutchins(23-13) defeated Dallas Hillcrest(26-6) 60-58 behind 6'6" William Smith. Ricky Grace also played a critical role down the stretch for Hutch. "Everything went our way at the end," said Eagle Coach Homer Smith, whose team improved its record to 15-5. Darron Horton paced Hillcrest with 26 points. Dallas Thomas Jefferson upset S.O.C.(27-7) 75-73 when Stevie Jefferson hit a 17-footer with nine seconds remaining.

In the semi-finals, Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5) had the Wildcats number beating Lake Highlands(25-8) 64-60 behind 22 points by Sam Norton. The big men combination of Norton and Sam Donnell was just too talented for Lake Highlands.

“Norton’s doing a great job,” said Coach Wall. The Panthers upped their record to 17-2. “He’s got a lot of confidence. He thinks he can score when he has to.” The Panthers stretched their lead to 48-30 in the third quarter. “We got a little conservative with the big lead,” Wall commented. Paschal played without their best player, Javann Dupree, who had a sore shoulder. District 7-AAAA looked a great deal like it might be one of the toughest Districts in the state with Dunbar(25-7), Paschal(30-5), Southwest, and Trimble Tech all challengers.

Wilmer Hutchins(23-13) advanced 67-57 over Thomas Jefferson to gain the finals. It was very unfortunate that Thomas Jefferson, once pride of the Dallas Independent School District in basketball, was having its last hurrah. Following this semi-final appearance, the T.J. Rebels would seldom be heard from in future years because of changing demographics.

The finals saw Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5) face off against upstart Wilmer Hutchins(23-13). The Panthers had beaten Hutch earlier in the season at the Arlington Classic by 30 points. This time Hutch played a great game before losing 49-48 at Loos Fieldhouse. Wilmer Hutchins only started one player taller than 6’1”. That was 6’6” William Smith. Hutchins collapsing zone defense did a great job controlling the inside game of the Panthers. This was Paschal’s second straight Dr. Pepper finals appearance, having lost to Dunbar in the previous year.

Named to the All-Tournament team were William Smith from Hutch(23-13), 6’3” Puntus Wilson of S.O.C.(22-7), Kenneth Roberson of Roosevelt(28-3), Charles Harris, Sam Donnell and Sam Norton of Paschal(30-5), Phillip O’Neal and Todd Kirkpatrick of Lake Highlands(25-8), Craig Robertson of T.J., Darron Horton of Hillcrest(26-6) and Sheldon Kelly of North Dallas(20-12). Charles Harris was named the tournament M.V.P. Paschal improved their season record to 18-2 and were the team to beat in District 7-AAAA. The Panthers were also considered one of the top five teams in the state.

*A new dominant tournament emerged in 1979-80 season out of San Antonio. It was called the **Optimist Classic** and would feature 34 teams from across the state, twenty from San Antonio and 14 of the top teams in the state. The 17 Optimist clubs across San Antonio sponsored the tournament paying all expenses. All of the previous state champions from 1967 to 1980 in the class 4-A, were in attendance except Cypress-Fairbanks and El Paso Eastwood(24-3). Houston Wheatley(21-13) committed first, just like in the early days of the Arlington Classic, and the other top teams followed. Wheatley gave the tournament immediate credibility.*

The list of teams was the most impressive ever assembled in Texas at the time. Lufkin(24-11) was coming from East Texas with a 10-4 mark with a fine talent in 6’7” Larry Davis. Also playing for the Panthers was 6’8” Don Bronson and 6’3” Robert Evans. Lufkin had won the Temple Tournament and were in the pre-season national rankings published by Street & Smith, which was the Gospel of Basketball

for years. Nacogdoches(25-7) also came in at 10-1 from East Texas with a very talented 6'7" post, A.J. Culbreath, putting up 18.7 per game. The Dragons had beaten Lufkin in the Piney Woods tournament earlier in the season.

Dallas Roosevelt(28-3) had a 12-0 mark and entered the tournament with impressive credentials after beating Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5) in the finals of the Arlington Classic. Houston Westchester(31-8) had a strong team once again at 10-3 with 6'1" Kevin Cunningham, 6'4" Rick Hosto, and 6'1" Gary Gist. Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5) entered the tourney with one loss, and as you previously heard was for real. Irving(25-9) had an impressive 11-2 record and was fueled by 5'11" Jeff Barnett, Houston Waltrip was paced by 6'5" Paul Clark and 6'2" Marion Harrison. Deer Park was also strong along with perennial power Houston Wheatley(21-13). Deer Park(9-5) was paced by 6'8" Daryl Moore, 6'4" Terry McHenry, and 6'3" Wayne Karisch. Houston Kashmere(26-5) was loaded along with South Oak Cliff(22-7). Corpus Christi Carroll(29-6) came at 13-2 with one of the top teams in Region IV and was led by 6'4" Randy Moff, who would set the tournament record for scoring in its first year at 38 points. Midland High(28-6) came in from West Texas looking for competition with a 10-1 mark, and also showcased one of the top juniors in the state, 6'9" Herb Johnson.

Well, without going through all the scores, the favorites did not do as well as expected. You had to think Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5), Dallas Roosevelt(28-3), S.O.C.(22-7), Houston Wheatley(21-13) or Houston Kashmere(26-5) would walk away with the title. All of them were eliminated early and didn't make the semi-finals. Houston Wheatley(21-13) eliminated Dallas Roosevelt(28-3) 84-75 to gain some revenge from the Arlington Classic, and then Wheatley forfeited to San Antonio Roosevelt. The reason for the forfeit? Coach Carr did not feel like he had been given enough time to warm-up. Their bus had been late, and the tournament official called the game. Carr said afterwards he was not upset and would return next year. FW Paschal(30-5) was eliminated in the 2nd round by San Antonio Highlands(26-8) 72-67 and Highlands was knocked out in the quarterfinals by the eventual champion, Midland(28-6) 51-46. South Oak Cliff(22-7) was retired in the quarterfinals losing to Houston Westchester(31-8) 73-57. Westchester(31-8) was another finalist, defeating Converse Judson(27-9) in the semis 75-64. Houston Kashmere(25-5) was ousted in the second round in an overtime lost to Irving(25-9) 82-80. The Tigers lost in the quarterfinals to Converse Judson(27-9) 78-66. The tournament was a shocker to say the least. Midland(28-6) beat Westchester(31-8) in the finals 58-48.

The all-tournament team was impressive, Herb Johnson of Midland(28-6) was named M.V.P., John Fitzgerald of S.A. Roosevelt, Omar Lozano of Converse Judson(27-9), Joe Rogers of S.A. Highlands(26-8), Steve Wright of S.A. Holmes, Vern Vittatoe of S.A. Marshall(22-10), Kevin Cunningham of Westchester(31-8), Perry Bolger of Midland(28-6), Randy Moff of Corpus Christi Carroll(28-6), Larry Davis of

Lufkin(24-11), A.J. Culbreath of Nacogdoches(25-7), Jeff Barnett of Irving(25-9), and Wayne Johnson of Houston Kashmere(26-5).

Wheatley, Paschal, S.O.C., or Dallas Roosevelt had nobody named to the squad. Tournament director Jim O'Brien said the sponsoring Optimist clubs of San Antonio lost \$4,000 after paying expenses. For 14 team's they had to pay traveling expenses and hotels. O'Brien commented that the 1980-81 would even be bigger.

The **32-team Houston Jaycee Tournament** as usual, would showcase the top teams in the state. Houston Yates(29-1) and Houston Milby(30-3) were seeded in the top bracket while Ft. Worth Dunbar(25-7) and Houston Sterling(18-12) were seeded in the bottom bracket. Yates came into the tournament at 17-0, while Milby had an impressive 14-1 record. The Buffaloes only loss came at the hands of Yates 32-29 in District action.

In the early round game's there were some interesting match-ups. Houston Sterling(18-12) advanced by beating Houston Sharpstown(21-12) 77-66 and Houston Lincoln 82-64. A young man by the name of Clyde Drexler registered 33 points for the 12-3 Raiders against Sharpstown, while Joe Cotton poured in 21 in both games. Houston Sterling(18-12) met Houston Madison(26-11), the defending tournament champion in the quarterfinals. The Marlins had two easy wins over Houston Jones 65-47 and Houston Westbury 63-30. Houston Sterling(18-12) took out Houston Madison(26-11) 58-47 led by Drexler's 24 points. Sterling improved their record to 13-3. Six-time champion, Houston Wheatley(21-13), was still around and a force to be reckoned with. The Wildcats eliminated La Marque 108-68 and West Orange-Stark 78-61. Wheatley had seven players in double figures against La Marque with Douglas Jackson and Kenneth Manning each with 14 points. Jackson was top man for Wheatley against West Orange with 19 points. This put the 12-7 Wheatley squad directly in the path of the much-feared Wildcats of Ft. Worth Dunbar(25-7) in the quarterfinals. Dunbar(25-7) had advanced to the quarterfinals defeating a strong Houston Austin(13-16) team 73-52 and Houston Worthing 76-60.

The inside game of Dunbar(25-7) carried the Wildcats in the first two rounds of the tournament. 6'8" Gilbert Collier scored 24 points against Worthing and 18 vs. Austin. In the quarterfinals, Houston Milby(30-3) advanced defeating a very talented Houston Kashmere(25-5) team 61-57. 6'8" Andre Ross led Milby in scoring with 25 points and 6'6" Paul Cunningham helped contributing 15. The Rams were paced by Alfred Godine with 14 points. Milby(30-3) improved to 18-1 on the season and Kashmere(25-5) had an impressive 12-4 mark. Houston Wheatley(21-13) proved to be deadly with their press forcing Dunbar into numerous turnovers in the Wildcats 85-82 victory over the Ft. Worth school. Brush led Wheatley with 26 points and Gilbert Collier paced Dunbar with 21 points and Andre Allen finished with 18 points. Houston Yates(29-1) was eliminated by Houston Washington(25-7) 47-45 in the upset of the tournament. The Lions had been overwhelming favorites entering the tournament undefeated. Washington(25-7) lost in the quarterfinals to Galveston

Ball(23-8) 52-44. The Tornadoes had a strong club during the 1979-80 campaign led by Reggie Wilcox, Rob Simmons and Phillip Harris. Wilcox led the scoring against Houston Washington(25-7) with 27 points. In a losing cause, Jerome Scott had 21 points for Washington.

The semi-finals match-ups were set between Houston Milby(30-3) and Galveston Ball(23-8) in the upper bracket, and Houston Sterling(18-12) fighting it out with Houston Wheatley(21-13) in the lower bracket. The games were played at Delmar with 7:00 and 8:30 start times. In the week leading up to the tournament, Houston Wheatley(21-13) had defeated Houston Sterling(18-12) 48-42 in District 20-AAAA action and as mentioned earlier, Houston Yates(29-1) had beaten Houston Milby(30-3).

Milby(30-3) emerged victorious against Ball(23-8) 75-65. Once again 6'8" Andre Ross led the Buffaloes with 27 points and 6'6" Paul Cunningham chipped in 24 points. Reggie Wilcox was the man for Ball with 27 points followed by Rob Simmons and Phillip Harris, both with 15 points. Milby was ahead early at the end of the first quarter 20-4 and Ball was never able to really recover. Milby's inside game dominated.

Houston Sterling(18-12) advanced to the finals beating Houston Wheatley(21-13) 83-65 in the other semi-final game. Will Blackmon paced Sterling with 20 points and Clyde Drexler also added 20 points. Wheatley's high man was Tyrone Evans with 12 points. Sterling exploded in the 1st quarter and jumped out to a 28-18 lead and was ahead at halftime 46-40. In the second half, Coach Carr started his second group and at the end of three quarters the score stood 65-50.

In the finals of the Jaycee tournament, Milby(30-3) took home the Jaycee title over Sterling(18-12) 61-53 at Delmar Field House. Coach Boyce Honea's Milby team believed in a deliberate style of basketball, especially with his team's strong post play. There were 11 lead changes in the contest and late Milby(30-3) took control of the contest with their inside game of 6'8" Ross and 6'6" Cunningham(14.0). Ross had 12 points in the fourth quarter and Cunningham added seven as the Buffaloes pulled away. Raymond Walkup(3) had some fancy passing as he ended up with 17 points for Milby. Other key contributors for Coach Honea's team were Barron Honea and Creon Dorsey. Both were key handling the pressure and passing the ball inside to the two big boys. Drexler ended up fouling out with 3:55 remaining with his team trailing 48-47. This really hurt Sterling's chances down the stretch. Drexler was held to a tournament low of only 10 points. Glenn Gordon ended up with 14 points and Darrell Julks chipped in 10 points for Sterling(18-12).

In the 3rd place contest, Galveston Ball(23-8) jumped out to a 49-34 lead against Wheatley(21-13). In typical Wheatley fashion, the Wildcats recovered outscoring Ball by 15 points, and gained the 71-65 win. Coach Carr's team had three players in double figures, Jeffrey Brush had 17 points, Ken Morning with 11 and

Tyrone Ervin finished with 11. Reggie Wilcox again led Galveston Ball(23-8) with 21 points and Phillip Smith added 16.

- (1) Walkup had two talented sons who played for Deer Park. Thomas played at Stephen F. Austin and was player of the year and later played in the N.B.A. developmental league.

In the early season polls, Houston Yates(29-1) was the #1 team in the Star-Telegram Poll. Yates only blemish was the loss to Houston Washington(23-8). Yates was led by arguably the best player in the state, 6'6" Michael Young. Young was probably the best player to ever come out of Yates. He was a lefty with a soft touch from the outside, but strong enough to finish inside. Young also had the ability to put the ball on the floor and was outstanding off the dribble. The Lions coach, Tommy Malone, liked a very controlled pace and low scoring, just the opposite of the Wheatley and Kashmere teams. Yates had one of the biggest front lines in the state with 6'5" Darrell Jackson and 6'7" Joseph Green. Yates held early season victories over Kashmere 83-64, Wheatley(20-14) 75-61 and 66-54, and Huntsville(24-4) 42-34.

Houston Milby(30-3) was second in the state polls at 24-1, followed by Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5) coming in with an impressive 22-2 mark and Dallas Roosevelt(28-3) stood at 14-3. Stafford-Dulles(35-2) stood at #6 with a 24-2 mark, San Antonio Churchill(28-5) check in at 23-2 at #7, El Paso Eastwood(24-3) held down the 8th spot at 17-3, Midland(28-6) handled #9 at 21-4 and Dallas South Oak Cliff(22-7) rounded out the top ten with a 14-4 record.

Region I Playoffs

El Paso Eastwood(25-3) #2

Wichita Falls(25-8)

Lubbock Monterey(25-6) #19

Ft. Worth Dunbar(26-8) #10

El Paso Burges(27-7)

Odessa Permian(24-9)

Pampa(16-13)

Ft. Worth Richland(17-14)

Top Players in Region I

6'8"	Ricky Cobb	Wichita Falls
6'6"	Brad Kerley	Odessa Permian
6'8"	Gilbert Collier	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'10"	John Brownlee*	Ft. Worth Southwest
6'6"	Andre Allen	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'9"	Herb Johnson*	Midland High
6'5"	Doug McNeely	El Paso Eastwood
6'4"	Sam Norton*	Ft. Worth Paschal
6'2"	Charles Harris	Ft. Worth Paschal

***Junior**

Region I was viewed by many as Dunbar's territory. The Wildcats had a number of key players returning and had a strong reputation. The Wildcats biggest

challenge would be making it out of their own District. This was by far their weakest team in the previous five campaigns. The guard play was very suspect when you compare this squad to the past teams. Michael Watley, Cletus Hubbard, Darrell Browder just to name a few. El Paso Eastwood(25-3) was #2 in the state polls, but they were way overrated. They were rated on name alone in many cases. The Troopers had losses to El Paso Burges(27-8), Houston Milby(30-3) and Dunbar(25-7).

District 1-AAAA had an unusual set-up in determining the District representative. You played District, which was a double round robin, and then you took the top four finishers and played a tournament. Whoever came up with this scenario was not playing with a full deck. As you may have suspected the best team didn't make the playoffs. The District had three real quality teams in El Paso Coronado(28-6), El Paso Burges(27-8) and El Paso Irvin(24-8). Coronado had finished District at 13-1 with their only loss coming at the hands of Burges in triple overtime 40-38. The Thunderbirds had twice defeated El Paso Burges previously. Coronado downed Burges in the finals of the El Paso tournament 57-37 and in the first round of District action 40-35. Coronado(28-6) had advanced to the regional finals in 1979 and were missing two outstanding players, 6'7" Travis Salem and 6'8" Harry Hussmann, from a 30-6 squad.

The Thunderbirds of Coronado(28-6) took the top seed in the tournament and El Paso Irvin(24-8) took the second seed at 12-2. Coronado taken down Irvin twice in District 49-45 and 56-54. Coronado Coach, Sergio Guerrero, stated the obvious, "We hate to see the tournament, I hate to see a team do so well all year, have a bad night and you have nothing." Unfortunately, Guerrero proved to be a prophet. Irvin Coach, Alvis Glidewell, also disliked the tournament set-up having almost lost the 1978 playoff spot after finishing 13-1 in District. Coach Guerrero also had another problem to deal with as his star shooting guard, Wayne Salem, had to undergo surgery and miss 10 days of action. "Wayne has had a tremendous season," Guerrero remarked.

El Paso Burges(27-8) got the third seed going 10-4 in District action. Coronado(28-6) easily handled El Paso Jefferson in the semis 44-31, while Burges(27-8) upset Irvin(24-8) 47-40 on the strength of 6'4" Brad Laraba and 6'6" 210-pound post Manny Vasquez. Interestingly, Vasquez had not played in the team's earlier season loss to Irvin 51-37. Vasquez and Laraba both put up 17 points apiece. Coach Harper of Burges(27-8) felt good about Laraba's effort, "I can't say enough about Laraba." Tony Harvey led Irvin with 15 points. Remember, El Paso Irvin(24-8) had defeated Ft. Worth Dunbar(25-7) 61-59 in the Sun Bowl tournament earlier in the season. This was an impressive win for Burges(27-8).

In the 1-AAAA finals El Paso Burges(27-8) upset El Paso Coronado(28-6) with a 46-32 outcome. Coronado(28-6) had lost to Milby(30-3) in the finals of the Sun Bowl tournament. Coronado was one of the top two teams in El Paso and were now done for the season. With the score 26-23 in favor of Burges, Manny Vasquez

and Brad Laraba were on the bench with four fouls. Todd Lehman and Chris Parra both stepped up for Burges and Coach Harper to nail down the playoff spot against El Paso Eastwood(25-3). Larry Jones was the only Coronado player in double figures with 10 points followed by Wayne Salem with 9.

The 1-AAAA All-District team was led by 6'4" Brad Laraba(16.5/5.4) of Burges(27-8), who was named M.V.P. Larry Jones(10.6/5.4 assists) and 6'5" Gary Helsten(11.1/6.6) from El Paso Coronado(28-6), 6'5" Tony Waters(14.0) and 6'5" Brian Mansour(14.5) from El Paso Irvin(24-8) were all named 1st team as was Orlando Andrade of El Paso Jefferson.

Wayne Salem(11.7) and Kurt Spier(8.6) from Coronado(28-6) were both named to the 2nd team along with Manny Vasquez of Burges(27-8). Coach Harper of Burges was named Coach of the Year.

In **District 2-AAAA** El Paso Eastwood(25-3) went undefeated in loop action at 14-0. The Troopers had wins over Midland(30-7) 57-48, El Paso Coronado(28-6) 68-67, El Paso Irvin(24-8) 62-55 and Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-9) 58-56 in a tough pre-season campaign. Eastwood(25-3) losses came at the hands of Houston Milby(30-3) 68-56 and El Paso Burges(27-8) 54-51.

The Troopers faced Burges(27-8) in the first round of the state playoffs. The two teams had met twice previously. Burges(27-8) won the first meeting 54-51 and Eastwood(25-3) came back to take the second game 56-45. Eastwood(25-3) entered the contest on a 16-game winning streak. "Their slow down tempo worries me," Coach Lesley said about Burges. "Who would have believed Coronado would only score four points in the second quarter against Burges," Lesley continued. "We have some super players, if our kids play to their capabilities I won't have to worry. There is absolutely no pressure for us to win," Lesley stated.

El Paso Burges(27-8) was playing their best ball of the season with a lineup made up of 6'4" Brad Laraba(16.5), 5'11" Todd Lehman(3.9), 6'6" Manny Vasquez, 6'2" Chris Parra and 6'3" Blake Goodwin. Burges(27-8) losses during the season had come at the hands of El Paso Irvin(24-8) twice, El Paso Coronado(28-6) twice, El Paso Austin once, Midland(28-6) High once and El Paso Eastwood(25-3) once. "We have a mental edge knowing we're the only team in town to have beaten Eastwood," Coach Harper said. Both coaches, Lesley and Harper, were former products of U.T.E.P. basketball and Don Haskins.

The game was played at the Special Events Center on the campus of U.T.E.P. Eastwood(26-3) won 45-36 over Burges(27-8) in a low scoring affair. After a slow start the Troopers led only 13-11 at halftime. In the second half Eastwood(26-3) began taking control behind the play of Doug McNeely and Matt Miertschin. The win gave Eastwood another run at the regional tournament in Abilene.

The All-City team named by the El Paso Times had Doug McNeely(16.5) as the M.V.P. Doug McNeely signed with Duke following graduation. Eastwood(26-3) had won six district titles in seven years. Other players named to the first team were

Randy Romaguera of Eastwood(26-3), 6'4" Brad Laraba of Burges(27-8), 6'1" Larry Jones of Coronado(28-6), 6'0" Rudy Rangel of Riverside and 6'5" Brian Mansour(14.5) of Irvin(24-8). Named to the second team were Matt Miertschin of Eastwood, Wayne Salem of Coronado, 6'1" Many Ortega(13.8) of Ysleta(12-11), 6'5" Tony Waters of Irvin and 6'6" Manny Vasques of Burges.

The District race that consumed the state of course was ~~7-AAAA~~. Ft. Worth Dunbar(25-7) struggled early in the season against Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5), losing the team's first meetings 66-60. Point guard Ricky Rollerson of Dunbar only played one minute in the contest, because of an earlier ankle injury. Ft. Worth Paschal had what Coach Jim Wall called his most talented team in 1980. In my opinion they were one of the top five teams in the state. The Panthers lineup was made up of 6'2" Red Robinson, 6'3" Charlie Harris, 6'4" Sam Norton, 6'7" Sam Donnell, and 6'4" Javann Dupree. One of Coach Wall's most talented players was never able to see the court during the season. His name was Fred Spencer and at 6'5" he was really talented, but unfortunately never saw the court because of an injury.

After Paschal's 66-60 victory over Dunbar in the Arlington Classic, Coach Wall felt a mental hurdle had been cleared. His team had not defeated Dunbar since 1976. In an early season District match-up Dunbar defeated Eastern Hills 72-64 at Public Schools Gym. Coach Hughes showed up with the wrong uniforms and had to return to school and pick-up the other uniforms. The game started late, which did not sit well with Eastern Hills coach, Bill Mann. "He's had the same kind of information we've had. Maybe he can't read. They're 30 minutes late. Anywhere else they'd cancel the game and forfeit." "We were standing around for an hour and a half waiting to play," Mann said.

6'8" Gilbert Collier led the flying Wildcats with 22 points, Andre Allen came away with 19 points and Robert Hughes finished with 18. Tim Franks paced Eastern Hills with 20 points and 6'7" Robin Gray followed with 15. Ricky Rollerson made his presence known late in the game with a key steal and bucket.

Paschal(30-5) followed suit defeating a strong Western Hills(18-9) squad 57-49. Charles Harris had 18 points, Juan Dupree chipped in 17, and Sam Norton followed with 12. Ronnie Webb led Western Hills with 20 points and Lenwood Anderson added 19. Coach Mark Levels of Western Hills said after the game he wasn't real impressed with the officiating.

During the Christmas break Dunbar(25-7) traveled south to play in the Jaycees tournament in Houston and Paschal(30-5) went to the Dr. Pepper in Dallas. Dunbar was eliminated early by Houston Wheatley(21-13) in Houston and Paschal defeated Wilmer Hutchins(23-13) to win the Dr. Pepper tournament. In the Dallas Morning News early season rankings Paschal was #1 and Dunbar came in at #10.

The Panthers continued their winning defeating Eastern Hills 68-47 in District competition. Sam Norton poured in 31 points and Harris had 23. The junior post, Sam Norton, was becoming more and more the center of the Panthers offense.

Eastern Hills scoring was mostly from long range with 6'7" Robin Gray and Mike Diggs being fronted by Paschal sagging 2-3 zone. Paschal held the combo to only 12 points. Tim Franks and Roger Kennard had to carry the offensive attack from long range with 18 and 10 points.

Next up, Paschal(30-5) faced one of the top juniors in the state in 6'10" John Brownlee of Ft. Worth Southwest. The big man scored 19 points, but his team lost to the Panthers 58-39. Sam Norton had 18 points and Charles Harris kicked in 16 points. Norton and 6'7" Donnell double teamed Brownlee, who averaged 26.7 per game on the season. Midway through the 4th quarter, Coach Wall went to four corners, which made the Rebels chase. "I like to spread out," Wall said. "If run properly it opens up a lot of holes."

In the preview leading up to the first-round game between Dunbar and Paschal, Coach Wall commented, "Dunbar has done much to promote basketball in Ft. Worth. They've done more than any school in the area to promote the city. We started it in '75 when we reached the finals, and then Dunbar picked it up after that." Even though Paschal had finished 26-8 and 28-5 the two previous seasons most of the recognition in the city had been on Dunbar. "People don't realize," said Wall, "that if you finish second in this District, you might have the second-best team in the state. Two years ago, we beat seven District champions and I still can't get out of my own District." State rankings had Paschal at #3 at 21-2 and Dunbar came in at #12 and 16-6. Both entered the game with a perfect 6-0 mark in District. One of the key match-ups in the contest was between point guards Red Robinson of Paschal going against Ricky Rollerson of Dunbar.

"We feel like this, we've been there before," Hughes said. "There's very little you can do in basketball in the state of Texas that we haven't been involved in. You can check all the records-attendance records included-and you'll find that Dunbar is gonna be on one side of the ledger. We've been to the mountain top. When I came here seven years ago, we wanted to be the team that everybody points at," Hughes continued.

Dunbar's 59-consecutive game winning streak in District was snapped by the Panthers 47-40. Some 4000 fans enjoyed the game at Public Schools gym. Another 1,000 outside were trying to get in. I remember sitting underneath the basket, two feet from the court. The doors were locked outside, and we felt like sardines. It was one of the most intense experiences that I had been a part of in my career that spanned 40 years. The fans were intense and crazy. It was unforgettable. Me and my buddy were just there to watch some great basketball. We had no dog in the fight. We ate at Joe T. Garcia's and made are way to the game. We were living the dream. Great food and unreal basketball hoops. We both agreed recently that it was one of the most memorable sporting events we ever attended.

"This shows them they can be beat," Robinson said following the victory. "I guess they thought they were supernatural or something. But they played a great

game.” Norton and Donnell finished with 15 and 12 points while Dunbar was paced by Andre Allen with 14 points. Sam Norton finished with 14 rebounds.

At the 5:25 mark of the 2nd quarter, Collier picked up his 4th foul which spelled doom for Dunbar. The Wildcats had jumped out to a 14-4 lead. During a five-minute period, the Wildcats were outscored 17-4 by Paschal with Collier on the bench. Coach Wall went to the spread with Robinson doing a great job in the final minutes of the game.

Paschal(30-5) finished the first half of District at 8-0 and 22-2 on the season. The state rankings had the Panthers at #3. Paschal was also the top ranked team in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area by the Dallas Morning News. The second round of District action would have many surprises, the first of which was Eastern Hills win over Dunbar(25-7) 67-66. Then Western Hills(18-9) defeated Paschal(30-5) 26-24, using a delay game. Lenwood Anderson scored over half of Western Hills points with 14 points. Sam Norton had 11 for the Panthers in a losing effort. The upset took place at the Public Schools Gym.

Western Hills(18-9) moved to 2-0 in District and 13-8 on the season. “I’ve got to go to the trainer and get some medication,” Coach Levels said following the exciting victory. Paschal came back from 7 down to make things close, but the Panthers missed six foul shots during the last 3 minutes of the game. Red Robinson came up empty missing two foul shots with seven seconds remaining. “I felt like we had the ball handlers to do it,” Levels said. Ronnie Webb, Petty Brigham and Brent Barker were outstanding controlling the game. With the two titans dropping key games early, the whole 2nd half changed complexion.

Western Hills(18-9) defeated Eastern Hills in the battle for first place 51-49, putting them alone in first place. Paschal recovered whipping Eastern Hills soundly 68-50. 6’7” Robin Grays was Eastern Hills only big boy and was doubled every time he got the ball. 6’1” Michael Diggs and 6’0” Mark Zamora were forced to shoot from the outside for Eastern Hills.

This set the stage for the 2nd round game between Dunbar and Paschal which was moved to Daniel-Meyer Coliseum on the campus of T.C.U. In discussing Sam Norton, coach Jim Wall of Paschal said, “He thrives on pressure, he seems to come up big in pressure situations.” Norton admitted that part of the all-consuming desire to beat Dunbar was brought on by doubting of fans who still wonder if Paschal was for real. “Before I leave Paschal, I want to be an All-American. That’s my goal, that’s all I dream about,” Norton shared.

Dunbar used slow down tactics to upset Paschal 43-42. “We have to go to a slower game,” Hughes said. “The first two times we lost to them, we shot ourselves out of it. It was something I just sprung on them before the game,” Hughes said. The guard play of the Wildcats had been questionable throughout the season.

A capacity crowd of 7,166 watched the intense rivalry continue. Dunbar had opened up a 30-19 lead early and hung on to win. Collier had 15 points for

Dunbar and Norton countered with 15 for Paschal. Both Dunbar(25-7) and Western Hills(18-9) finished the 2nd round action at 7-1.

Paschal(30-5) would now wait for the winner of the Western Hills-Dunbar game to decide the District championship. While waiting for the winner, Paschal took a practice game and defeated Ft. Worth Carter-Riverside(27-5) 79-71. The Panthers pulled off after going up by 19 points at one point. Javann Dupree had several dunks and scored 26 points followed by Harris with 23. Vincent Wilson led Carter-Riverside with 27 points and Charles Hibbler followed with 19.

Paschal had defeated Western Hills twice during District 70-60 and 68-55. Inside Western Hills(18-9) looked to 6'4" Lenwood Anderson(19/13) and 6'7" Richard Henderson. "He's not as big or as tall as Collier, Allen or Brownlee," Coach Levels said of Anderson. "But I feel like he's one of the best around." Hughes added, "He plays like he's 6'9". The Cougars relied heavily on their fine backcourt aces, 5'9" Ronnie Webb(15.0) and 5'11" Petty Bingham(11.0). Because of the lack of crowd support by Western Hills, the game was played at the Public Schools Gym, which was a disappointment to Hughes. The Cougars were only 3-5 in the first half of District action, so they did not have a strong following. Dunbar was not going to be surprised by Western Hills slowdown tactics.

Dunbar prevailed 45-42 with 6'7" Gilbert Collier hitting 13 points, 6'6" Andre Allen had 11 points, 6'4" Willie Ashley added 10 and Ricky Rollerson contributed 9 points. Brigham was the leader for the Cougars with 16 points and Anderson had 12. At one-point Western Hills was down by 11 points but fought back to come within one with :08 second remaining. Ronnie Webb missed a 25-footer and Lenwood Anderson missed the put back. Andre Allen of Dunbar hit two foul shots with only five seconds remaining. The Cougars had come out nervous and missed their first 11 shots. Dunbar led entering the fourth quarter up 37-27.

Ft. Worth Dunbar(25-7) advanced to play against their bitter rival, Ft. Worth Paschal. Paschal had won the first game 47-40 and Dunbar pulled out a squeaker 43-42 in the second. Daniel Meyer was the only location even close to handling the crowd for the District title. "Whoever wins Ft. Worth," Jim Wall said, "has a good chance to get to the Drum." I've seen a lot of teams play this year and I haven't seen anybody play that I can't beat. About the only ones I haven't seen are San Marcos(25-4), Houston Yates(29-1) and Houston Milby(30-3). Everybody else in the state I've seen play and we've got a better basketball team," Wall continued.

"Don't fool yourself, the top four or five in Ft. Worth are a lot better than other team's that are still playing," Hughes said. "We're playing are best ball right now," Hughes added. In discussing the talented Willie Ashley, Hughes said, "there are a lot of things no one in town can do but Ashley. There are some things he can do that no one else in the state can do." As author of this book I can definitely agree with Hughes. After watching Ashley on countless occasions, he was one of the most exciting players I've seen in high school basketball in over 40 years.

Hughes also raved about his leading scorer Andre Allen, "Andre is more or less the yardstick." "We measure our level of ball playing by him because he can do so many things, he is so consistent."

Paschal figured to have the backcourt advantage with Charlie Harris and Red Robinson. The Wildcats would look to Ricky Rollerson and Vernon Newton along with Robert Hughes Jr. to have strong games. "If Sam and Charlie don't play well, it doesn't matter what the other cats do," Wall said.

A crowd of 7,166 jammed into Daniel Meyer to watch Dunbar advance to the playoffs with a 40-37 victory. The entire season had come down to one emotional game with the entire city watching. High School basketball doesn't get any better than this. Sam Norton led Paschal with 15 points and Willie Ashley led the Wildcats with 14 points. The victory ended another vicious District 7-AAAA campaign won by Dunbar(26-7) and Robert Hughes. Paschal had a great season and would be staying home.

The 7-AAAA All-District team resembled an All-State squad. 6'6" Andre Allen(18.6) of Dunbar was named 1st team and M.V.P. Other member of the first team included, 6'5" Sam Norton(16.0) of Paschal, 6'10" John Brownlee(26.7) of Southwest, 6'3" Charlie Harris(19.0) of Paschal and 6'1" Tim Franks(15.5) of Eastern Hills. 2nd team was made up 6'4" Lenwood Anderson(19.4) of Western Hills, 6'4" Javann Dupree(11.2) of Paschal, 6'8" Gilbert Collier(15.0) of Dunbar, 5'9" Ronnie Webb(14.4) of Western Hills, and 5'10" Ricky Rollerson(8.5) of Dunbar. Look at the 3rd team, 6'6" John Gales(20.0) of Trimble Tech, 6'4" Willie Ashley(9.4) of Dunbar, 6'7" Robin Grays(12.7) of Eastern Hills, 6'0" Red Robinson(7.8) of Paschal and 6'0" Petty Bingham(9.8) of Western Hills. Ashley was just a junior. Basketball in Ft. Worth in the 1980s was in their golden era.

Midland High(30-7) had won the prestigious Optimist tournament in San Antonio and was an overwhelming favorite to capture **District 5-AAAA**. To everybody's surprise, Odessa Permian(24-9) did not just concede the title to the Bulldogs. After the first half of District the two teams finished tied at 6-1. In the second round, Permian took control with a victory over the Purple Pack of Midland High(30-7). Both teams swept through the 2nd round of District until San Angelo(22-12) upset the Panthers 69-64. The loss put Midland and Permian in another tie for the second half title at 6-1.

The District title would be decided at the Dorothy Garrett Coliseum in Big Spring. The Panthers counted on Robert Roland, Duane Adams, Ken Wigley, Scott Wynne, and 6'6" Brad Kerley. A crowd of 3,500 packed into watch one of the most intense games of the season played by the two rivals. 6'9" Herb Johnson of Midland(30-7) was spectacular scoring 36 points. In the end, Permian coach Charles Patillo made a calculated gamble with five seconds remaining and his team up by one point. "We decided to foul him(Johnson), I'd rather have him at the line than underneath the basket," explaining his tactic. Johnson was fouled on the floor and

went to the line with a one and one situation. The big 6'9" junior missed the front end and Ken Wigley rebounded the ball for Permian(24-9) and was fouled immediately. Wigley missed his foul shot and the game was over.

The Panthers advanced to the state playoffs with a hard fought 83-82 win. This left one of the top teams in the state, the Midland Bulldogs at home. Permian hit 19-23 foul shots while Midland could only muster 6 for 14 from the charity stripe. Midland(30-7) would join Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5) watching the state playoffs from the sidelines.

The Panthers were led by Brad Kerley's 27 points, Duane Adams had 20 points and Ken Wigley kicked in another 19 points. For Midland, Darrin Matlock finished with 21 points and Perry Bolger added 15 points. Midland was coached by the former assistant Jack Stephenson, who had been on staff during the Bulldogs state tournament trips in 1972 and 73.

What about Coach Patillo's decision to foul Herb Johnson with five seconds remaining and putting the big junior on the foul line. Wow, tough decision. He looked like a genius because it worked out. How about you, what would you have done in that situation?

Wichita Falls(26-8) in **District 6-AAAA** captured the first round of action with a 56-55 win over Wichita Falls Rider((20-11). Rider came back in the 2nd round and downed the Coyotes 56-52 in overtime. Craig Stevenson finished with 23 points for Rider and Richard Kramer led the Coyotes with 14 points. The Coyotes won the District playoff over Rider(20-11) 66-50 to advance to the playoffs. "We had a pretty good fight just getting out of district," Coach Steve Middleton explained.

Odessa Permian(24-9) advanced to face Wichita Falls High(25-8) in Bi-District in Abilene at the Taylor County Coliseum. The Coyotes dominated in the first half as 6'8" Ricky Cobb was a force inside. Cobb drew his fourth foul in the third quarter and Permian began to comeback. The Panthers got within three points 48-45 going into the fourth quarter. Richard Kramer of Wichita Falls High hit six foul shots in the last minute to give the Coyotes the 71 to 66 win. Ricky Cobb led all scorers with 32 points. Permian finished the season at 24-10 and Wichita Falls at 26-8 moved on to regionals in Abilene. Brad Kerley led the Panthers with 24 points.

On the 5-AAAA All-District unit, Brad Kerley(25.3) of Permian led the circuit in scoring and was named the M.V.P. Midland led the 10-man squad with three players being named. 6'8" Herb Johnson, 5'8" Perry Bolger, and 6'2" Darrin Matlock led the Bulldogs on the first team. Others who were named included 5'11" Mike Cobb of Odessa High, 6'1" P.W. McGee from Abilene, 6'1" Charles Bishop and 6'4" Paul Hayes of San Angelo, 5'10" Kenny Henry and 5'7" Reggie Cruse from Abilene Cooper, and Scott Wynne of Permian. First year coach, Charles Patillo of Permian, was named Coach of the Year. Honorable mention for Midland went to Pat Hickey and Duane Adams and Ken Wigley from the Permian Panthers.

Lubbock Monterey(25-6), ranked #17 in the state polls, got by Pampa(16-13) easily 52-40 in Bi-District. Dunbar(26-7) faced off against Ft. Worth Richland(17-14) in the 1st round once again and the Wildcats won a nail biter 61-58. Coach Ken West's traditionally tough Rebels team led much of the first half, and stayed in contention late in the game, and even had a chance to win in the final minutes. The game was played at Daniel Meyer and Rebel coach had some interesting comments before the game. "I feel like teams spot them 10 points just because of the name. But I have also seen the little team upset the biggies," Coach Ken West said.

Richland's success was centered around 6'6" Ken Crowder, who averaged 20 points during the season. He had only 16 against Dunbar(27-7) in Bi-District, while guard Don Click led the scoring with 18 points. Dunbar countered with a well-balanced scoring attack with three players in double figures.

El Paso Eastwood's(25-3) starting line-up for their **regional semi-final** game was outstanding. 6'4" Doug McNeely, 6'2" Fred Wofford, 5'11" Randy Romaguera, 6'3" Matt Miertschin and 6'5" Steve Carpenter gave the Troopers a legitimate chance to advance to state. Remember, Eastwood(25-3) had lost earlier in the season to Dunbar(28-7) in the Sun Bowl tournament 56-51, and the Wildcats were playing much better going into the regional. The question was how much had Eastwood improved?

Coach Steve Middleton of Wichita Falls(26-8) felt like his Coyotes would have a big say in who advanced out of the region. Middleton was in his 7th season and looked to 6'8" Ricky Cobb(20.0), 6'2" Anthony Mayze, 6'0" Van Anderson, 6'1" Tory Knight and 5'10 Richard Kramer. Cobb was named the District M.V.P. Coach Middleton commented on facing a Bobby Lesley coached team, "I know they're not going to beat themselves. They have an extremely good program out there." In 1978 Wichita Falls lost to state semi-finalist Abilene and in 1979 they were knocked out of the playoffs by Midland in Bi-District.

Coach Lesley commented about Wichita Falls(26-8). "They're 6'8" player jumps and shoots well. They have four guys who can dunk the ball." All four-regional semi-finalist had outstanding talent and size.

The regional semi-final action between Wichita Falls(26-8) and El Paso Eastwood(25-3) was a real barnburner as the Coyotes came out on top 44-42. The Troopers had the ball and trailed with 30 seconds left. With 20 seconds remaining Coach Lesley called timeout to set up the last play. Doug McNeely, the El Paso Times, "Player of the Year," took the last shot which missed. Matt Miertschin rebounded the ball but was out of bounds, giving the ball back to Wichita Falls. Ricky Cobb of the Coyotes was fouled and added a foul shot for the victory. "We wanted them to make a choice between fouling us or giving us a basket," Coach Lesley said following the loss. The game was played at the Taylor County Coliseum at 5:00. This was the first game of the regional double hitter.

The muscular McNeely was in early foul trouble which really hurt the Troopers against the inside strength of 6'8" Ricky Cobb. McNeely and Miertschin only scored 4 points apiece. Cobb led the Coyotes with 17 points while Eastwood was led by 6'5" Steve Carpenter with 11 points and Randy Romaguera with 15 points. "They were a lot more physical and aggressive than we were prepared for," Coach Bobby Lesley said. Wichita Falls finished 12 of 22 from the foul line while Eastwood could only manage 4 of 7.

In the second contest at regionals it seemed like Dunbar's home court. The Wildcat's were making their fourth straight appearance in Abilene. In 1976 Dunbar had been in region II in College Station. The Wildcats had a 5-1 record in the Abilene region over a three-year span. Hughes commented about his team, "this bunch here can dance to any music you play, fast, or slow, or moderate. I think we are playing our best basketball right now," Hughes said.

Lubbock Monterey(26-6), the opponent of Dunbar(28-7) in the regional semi-finals, was a patient, deliberate team. They were willing to pass the ball 40 times to shoot a lay-up.

Dunbar(28-7) had a small lead throughout the contest and beat Monterey(26-7) to advance to the regional finals 52-45. The Wildcats led at halftime 29-24 and the game continued at an incredible slow pace with both teams putting up only 8 points in the third period. Clardy led Monterey with 14 points and Steve Wooten finished with 12. The Wildcats had balanced scoring with four players in double figures. Andre Allen, Gilbert Collier, Robert Hughes Jr. and Willie Ashley carried the Wildcats. The crowd was estimated at 3,700.

*In the **regional finals**, Dunbar(30-7) had the size to matchup against the Coyotes inside. 6'8" Ricky Cobb had to battle 6'8" Collier and 6'6" Andre Allen as well as 6'4" Willie Ashley. Cobb hit 25 points, but nobody else from Wichita Falls scored in double figures. Dunbar(30-7) advanced to Austin for the third time in four seasons 51-43.*

At times Cobb was surrounded by four players and he still could not be stopped. "We were still looking to go to him even with three and four people on him because of his shooting ability and his passing ability," Wichita Falls Coach Steve Middleton said of Cobb. "All year long we have either gone to him or through him to score."

In talking to Bob Hughes, who was a junior guard at Dunbar, he said, "I remember I'd never heard a white player talk as much trash as the big man from Wichita Falls." "After every bucket, he would talk trash. He was something."

Gilbert Collier was impressive scoring 25 points for Dunbar. Coach Hughes team had been through a lot during the 1980 campaign. After being highly rated in all of the pre-season polls nationally, the Wildcats had survived. Coach Hughes and the Wildcats had adapted and changed their style to be successful. This was truly one of Coach Hughes finest coaching jobs of his brilliant career.

Region II Playoffs

Grand Prairie(25-9)

Dallas Roosevelt(28-3) #6

Plano(28-3) #4

Cypress Creek(28-5) #15

South Garland(29-4) #9

Dallas Lincoln(21-5)

Longview(28-6)

Bryan(25-11)

Top Players in Region II

6'7"	Kirk Lundblade	Plano
6'8"	Larry Davis	Lufkin
6'7"	John Briggs	Highland Park
6'3"	Puntus Wilson	South Oak Cliff
6'4"	Howard Jenkins	Bryan
6'6"	Steffond Johnson	Longview
6'3"	Carl Wright	Dallas Roosevelt
6'4"	Sheldon Kelly	North Dallas
5'9"	Darron Horton	Dallas Hillcrest
6'5"	A.J. Culbreath	Nacogdoches

Region II was dominated by Dallas I.S.D. schools just as in the 1970s. Dallas Roosevelt(28-3) and Dallas South Oak Cliff(22-7) had one of the best rivalries ever seen in the state. Ellis Davis continued to lead the Mustangs while S.O.C. was looking at their fourth coach over a ten-year span. Both teams played in the Dr. Pepper tournament and were upset, but that didn't negate the fact that they were two of the top-five teams in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area. During the 1970s both programs were in the top ten in the state repeatedly.

In 1980, the Roosevelt Mustangs were so deep and talented. Coming off the bench was one of the most talented guards to ever where the Blue and white, sophomore Ronell Peters. He was quick and could penetrate and create havoc. In comparing him to former S.O.C. great Cullen Mayfield, he was not the shooter or scorer that the former Golden Bear was, but he was a better passer and had tremendous vision. He was a pass first point guard. Both had incredible quickness.

Inside for Coach Ellis Davis were 6'6" Michael Bell, 6'3" Marcus Bradford, 6'6" Kenneth Roberson, 6'5" Billy Wright, and 6'3" Carl Wright. Roberson was a three-year starter for Coach Ellis Davis. One of the reasons Roosevelt(28-3) was so deep was the abundance of talent coming up from an undefeated junior varsity.

The Golden Bears of S.O.C.(22-7) had a storied history that dated back to the late 1960s. The bar was high at the south Dallas school having made the state playoffs six out of the previous seven seasons, with two state final appearances.

Coach Henry Warren had one of the top players, not only in Dallas, but the state in 6'3" Puntus Wilson. John Eisenberg of the Times Herald called Wilson the most complete high school basketball player in the Dallas area during the 1980 campaign. He averaged 20 points and 14 rebounds and would take over late in games. "He could be averaging 30 for us easily if he wanted to," Coach Warren said. "He scored 35 points against L.D. Bell and 38 against Dunbar and we won both games." "Puntus is a shooter," Warren said, "his potential is unlimited." "He's just so natural, I saw him stuff in a missed free throw last year in a game. Have you ever seen a 6'3" high school player do that?" In John Eisenberg's article in the Times Herald, Coach Warren continued to talk about his star player. "He does so many things I could never teach him. He surprises me all the time."

Other standouts for the Golden Bears were 6'0" Billy Christie, 5'9" Reginald Mosby, 6'1" Donnye Shelby, 6'0" Reginald Hurd, 6'3" Gerald Jones, and 6'2" Reginald McGill. Roosevelt was picked by both the Dallas Morning News and Times Herald to win a close race over the Golden Bears. Roosevelt(28-3) opened the season at 12-0 and were the only team to beat Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5) prior to District. The Mustangs had also defeated Houston Wheatley(21-13) 62-57 in the Arlington classic. Wheatley turned the tables on Roosevelt in San Antonio at the Optimist tournament.

In the first area rankings by the Dallas Morning News, Roosevelt(28-3) came in at #3 and S.O.C.(22-7) opened at #8. Early in the 12-AAAA campaign, Coach Warren's team had a nice win over Dallas Kimball 68-58 at Sprague Field House. Puntus Wilson scored 23 points and Donnye Shelby lit it up with 18 points, while the Knights were led by 6'7" Guy Gierczak with 16 points and Reginald Pink scoring 14. 6'3" Gerald Jones of S.O.C. had little trouble going against the larger Gierczak.

In the first state rankings by the Star-telegram, Roosevelt(28-3) came in at #4 and S.O.C.(22-7) at #9. Roosevelt squeaked by Kimball 61-60 to show the balance of the 12-AAAA teams. Kenneth Roberson had 19 points and Reginald Pink scored 21 for Kimball.

Dallas Roosevelt(28-3) continued their winning ways against Dallas Carter 92-87 and North Dallas(20-12) 79-73, both games were at Cobb Field House. S.O.C. was not so fortunate against North Dallas losing 82-81. 6'3" Sheldon Kelly went ballistic scoring 29 points with 20 rebounds and 10 blocks. "We knew we could break the press, it just took a few tries," Coach Samuel West of North Dallas said following the game. North Dallas(20-12) had split with Plano(28-3) earlier in the season, so they were definitely a quality opponent. S.O.C.(22-7) fell all the way to #12 in the state rankings and Roosevelt(28-3) came in at #2. North Dallas(20-12) turned right around and lost to Dallas Sunset in their next game 59-56.

Dallas S.O.C.(22-7) and Dallas Roosevelt(28-3) finally met for the regular season title and Coach Warren's team came away with a 78-71 victory. Puntus Wilson went off for 35 points and Kenneth Roberson was the leading man for

Roosevelt with 19 points. Wilson scored 10 points over a three-minute span, which enabled his team to get a nice lead. At the time, S.O.C. had been behind 64-62.

Puntus showed he was one of the best once again against the top competition in the state. Roosevelt(28-3) had come into the game at #2 in the state and 21-2 on the season, while S.O.C. was 19-5 and unranked. "With these two teams, it doesn't really matter who is supposed to be good and who isn't," Coach Ellis Davis remarked. Billy Christie ran a great delay game for S.O.C. in the closing minutes of the game. S.O.C. won the 1st half title because the two teams tied for District, but the Golden Bears had won the head to head match-up and therefore the title.

Next up, was the District tournament in which Roosevelt would have to win the tourney, and then turn around and win a playoff to make the playoffs. It was a daunting task to say the least. In the state rankings, S.O.C.(22-7) now moved in at #6 and Roosevelt(28-3) was down to #5.

In first round action at Sprague, North Dallas(20-12) eliminated Dallas Carter 89-70 behind Sheldon Kelly's 20 points and 15 rebounds. "I think he is the best all-around player in the area this year," Coach West said. West had turned the North Dallas basketball program around in just his fourth season. "We had kids show-up for games with no socks and half a uniform," West said. The early season win over S.O.C.(22-7) was so big for the Bulldogs program.

Roosevelt(28-3) barely survived in the semi-finals against North Dallas(20-12) 89-85. Kelly went off for 35 points and almost led his team to the upset win. Sophomore, Carl Wright, had a season high effort for the Mustangs with 25 points and brother Billy chipped in 19 points. Kenneth Roberson contributed 17 points to show the balance of the Roosevelt attack. "It looks good for the future when you have two underclassmen contribute like that," Davis said.

S.O.C.(22-7) got by Kimball(18-9) easily 87-70 in the other semi-final game. Puntus Wilson was dominant as always leading the way with 27 points and 11 of 14 from the floor with 3 blocks and 8 rebounds. Reginald Pink was the leader for Kimball with 28 points. Pink would later play at S.M.U. Wilson would take his talents to Arizona St.

Coach Ellis Davis was not excited about the new format to decide the District Champion. Davis called the new situation, "nearly impossible." "We both finished with the same record in District the first half, but now we have to play four games in a row to take the title. And two against S.O.C.," Davis said.

In the tournament finals, Roosevelt(28-3) came from behind after trailing by 11 points in the 1st half to defeat S.O.C.(22-7) 74-70. Carl Wright, the brilliant sophomore, led Roosevelt once again with 22 points and Wilson paced S.O.C. with 18. Roosevelt played a sagging defense to contain Wilson and hold him down in the 4th quarter. "We didn't play a good ballgame," Warren shared. "We got intimidated. Roosevelt has a great team, and you have to play well to beat them."

The 12-AAAA finals did not disappoint as the two rivals battled down to the last second. Roosevelt(28-3) came from behind on Billy Wright's two free throws with 17 seconds remaining, to put the Mustangs up 67-66. The junior turned right around and stole the ball with 9 seconds remaining and passed it down court to his brother for the final basket. The final read, Roosevelt 69 S.O.C. 66. The Golden Bears had led late and went into a stall only to call an ill-advised timeout with 37 seconds remaining. S.O.C.(22-7) mishandled the inbounds pass giving the ball to Roosevelt. "They were into the stall and then he called a timeout which broke the pace," Ellis Davis said following the game.

Wilson struggled from the floor scoring 23 points on 10 of 31 from the floor. Carl Wright led Roosevelt with 14 points. "Roosevelt is a super team. I've never seen them play like they did tonight. I've never seen them shoot that well from the inside," Coach Warren said. Sophomore Ronell Peters made key contributions with 8 assists and created a lot of dribble penetration. The two south Dallas schools had come into the contest ranked #2 and #3 in the metro-plex. Their rankings were well deserved.

The All-District team was always fun to look at in 12-AAAA. In the Times Herald, Puntus Wilson(20), 6'4" Sheldon Kelly(27.0), 6'6" Kenneth Roberson(14.6), 5'10" Ron Singleton(26.8), and 6'0" Billy Christie(11.1) of S.O.C. were named to the 1st unit. Singleton and Kelly were two of the scoring leaders in the state. The 2nd team was made up 6'6" Billy Wright of Roosevelt, Greg Williams of Dallas Madison, 6'3" Carl Wright of Roosevelt, Willie Williams of North Dallas and 5'11" Reginald Mosby of S.O.C. Kelly was named the player of the year in the District.

The Dallas Morning News named Greg Williams of Madison, Billy Christie(11.1) and Puntus Wilson(20.0) of S.O.C., Sheldon Kelly(27.0) from North Dallas and Billy Wright of Roosevelt to the 1st team. The 2nd team was made up of 5'10" Nathaniel Sparks of Roosevelt, Ron Singleton(26.8) of Carter, Kenneth Roberson of Roosevelt, 6'4" Reginald Pink of Kimball and 6'3" Marcus Ritch of Dallas Carter. M.V.P. went to Puntus Wilson of S.O.C.

District 11-AAAA *was stronger than in years past with three quality teams battling for the single playoff spot. Dallas Thomas Jefferson(13-16) beat S.O.C.(22-7) in the Dr. Pepper tournament. This was a quality win for Thomas Jefferson(13-16). T.J. returned four starters from a '79 campaign that finished 21-9. Starters included 6'5" Craig Robertson, 6'0" Stevie Jefferson, 5'8" Greg Sweeney, 6'3" Jim Schuessler, and 6'0" Jimmy Hogg. Hogg was the catalyst of the team. When he was on his game T.J. could be tough.*

In the Arlington Classic the Patriots loss two close ones to Trimble Tech(12-16) 70-69 and Arlington Sam Houston(12-15) 43-42. In the first two rounds of the Dr. Pepper tournament, T.J. eliminated Richardson Pearce, led by 6'5", 230-pound future N.F.L. great Ray Childress. The Patriots won a close one in a slow deliberate attack against the Mustangs. Earl Meyer had taken over the reins at Pearce and was

implementing the same style he had employed at San Antonio Burbank. Thomas Jefferson defeated Pearce(8-18) 43-40 and Denton(15-17) 52-45, setting up to their biggest win of the season over state ranked S.O.C.(22-7) 75-73. Hogg led the scoring for Thomas Jefferson putting up 18 points. In the semi-finals, Wilmer Hutchins(24-10) dropped T.J. 67-57. In the third-place game Lake Highlands(25-8) took down the Pats(13-16) 76-68.

With eight one-point losses Thomas Jefferson moved into District action with a 8-11 record. The Pats were picked second in the District behind Hillcrest(25-5) by the pre-season picks of the Times Herald and the Dallas Morning News. Hillcrest coach Larry Jones said, "I certainly feel we've got the best chance we've ever had to win the city, as long as I've been here." Jones had been at Hillcrest four years.

With eight returning lettermen and four starters back, Hillcrest looked to have depth and experience. A transfer from Florida, 6'8" Brannon Craig, was going to be the tallest player to ever suit up for the Panthers. Craig would be joined by D-1 football recruit 6'6", 235-pound Ricky Bolden giving Hillcrest a tremendous advantage inside. Otho Fields, a junior was another inside force at 6'4". "We like to get the ball inside as much as possible," Jones said.

The Panthers entered District with an impressive 12-3 mark and two of the top guards in Dallas. 5'9" Darron Horton and 5'9" Ricky Nelson combined for 36 points per game with 13 assists. "They make us go," Coach Jones said. Horton had an outstanding outside shot averaging 23 points a game. The tandem looked to be the best the school had ever produced. Both had point guard skills and quick and strong outside shooters. "When our guards are shooting well, we'll be hard to beat," Jones said. Coach Andy Cargile of T.J. added, "those guards will kill you at that speed, you have to stop them, or you won't win." Both Horton and Nelson transferred from south Dallas schools where they were told they were too little to play. "Hillcrest is big, strong, quick, talented and without a weakness," said Thomas Jefferson Coach Andy Cargile.

In the Dr. Pepper tournament Hillcrest(25-5) opened with wins over Garland Lakeview(24-9) 82-67 and beat North Mesquite(22-10) 78-53. Those were two strong wins against quality opponents. Wilmer Hutchins(23-13) took the Panthers down 60-58 in the quarterfinals.

A team that was definitely overlooked by both newspapers were the Tigers of Dallas Lincoln(21-6). They were picked eighth by the Dallas Morning News and fifth by the Times Herald in District. I really don't understand how Lincoln got ranked so low coming into the 1979-80 season. I saw Lincoln in the Dr. Pepper tournament and was really impressed with their team. The Tigers beat a tough North Dallas(20-12) team 74-73 and were ousted by the #3 team in the state at the time, Paschal(30-5) 71-53. Lincoln had two quality players in junior guard, 5'10" David Chriesman and 6'5" Larry Hollins. Other starters included 6'10"(4) John Wheeler, 6'3" Avery Lovely and 5'10" Billy Sanders. David Chriesman hit 30 points in the win over North Dallas.

Thomas Jefferson(13-16) continued losing the close games as they opened District with an overtime loss to the favored Hillcrest Panthers 73-71. Darron Horton paced Hillcrest with 23 points and Ricky Bolden followed with 15. Jimmy Hogg and Craig Robertson were the leaders as usual for the Pats with 20 and 16 points respectively. Big Ricky Bolden sat most of the 4th quarter in foul trouble. Hillcrest came in at #9 in the first area ranking by the Dallas Morning News. Thomas Jefferson was losing ground fast as they lost their next game to Dallas Skyline 60-56. Lincoln ended any hope the Pats may have had in the first round of District eliminating T.J. 72-62. Chriesman again went for 31 points for the Tigers.

Dallas Hillcrest(25-5) and Dallas Lincoln(21-6) faced off to decide the first half title at Loos Field House. The Panthers came in undefeated and the Tigers had one loss in District action. Hillcrest(25-5) had a number of issues to deal with coming into the contest. Darron Horton was coming off a hand injury he had received two weeks earlier and Ricky Bolden twisted his knee. At first, Horton's hand was thought to be broken, but the cast was finally taken off.

Lincoln(21-6) scored the last 17 points of the game to beat Hillcrest(25-5) 89-73. Lincoln was ignited by a technical foul called against Coach Jones of Hillcrest. Lincoln hit both foul shots and proceeded to score seven straight points. With a victory over Woodrow Wilson(15-14), the Tigers took the first half title. Hillcrest(25-5) would have to win the season ending tournament and then beat Lincoln(21-6) in a District playoff to advance out of District. Hollins hit 24 points, David Chriesman had 18 and Avery Lovely added 19 points in the Lincoln victory.

"People say that we sneak up on teams because no one ever mentions us or notices us," Lincoln coach George Roland said following the big win. In talking about Hillcrest, Roland said, "I tell you they are quick and smart." Darron Horton was the man for Hillcrest again scoring 21 points in his team's loss. Big Ricky Bolden did not play and was expected to return for the city tournament.

The 11-AAAA tournament started with all the favorites advancing. Coach Jones felt really good about his team's chances with Bolden returning to the lineup. "Bolden is back and playing at about 90%. "We didn't really expect to get competition from Lincoln," Jones said. Thomas Jefferson and Woodrow Wilson were viewed as the major challenges in District action. In the tournament finals against Lincoln(21-6), Hillcrest grabbed the lead with nine seconds left on the clock on Ricky Nelson's driving lay-up 70-69. Lincoln pushed the ball up the court quickly and Billy Sanders drove the lane and hit an eight-foot bank shot at the buzzer. The bucket gave Lincoln the win 71-70 and the District title at Loos Field House. It was Lincoln's first District title since 1975. Hillcrest(25-5) led at one point by 16 points before the Tigers came charging back. David Chriesman led Lincoln with 18 points, mostly from the outside and Larry Hollins dropped in 14. Darron Horton paced Hillcrest with 27 points.

The Dallas Morning News All-District squad for 11-AAAA consisted of Jimmy Hogg of T.J., Darron Horton and Ricky Bolden of Hillcrest, Robert Haynie of Dallas Spruce and Larry Hollins of Dallas Lincoln. The second team was made up of David Chrisman of Lincoln, Mike Curtis of Samuel, Anthony Hollins of Woodrow Wilson, David Jordon of Skyline and Joe Jones of Spruce. Darron Horton was named player of the year. The Times Herald named Anthony Hollins and David Chrisman to the first team instead of Bolden and Haynie. Ricky Nelson and Ricky Bolden of Hillcrest were named to the second team. Darron Horton once again was named player of the year.

(4) John Wheeler attended Baylor University and ended Coach Jim Haller's career with the Bears. Haller was said to have made three car payments for Wheeler's automobile. Wheeler made a secret tape recording of Haller. When Wheeler returned to Dallas, he told police he had received death threats from Baylor fans. In 1991, Wheeler filed a lawsuit in Dallas claiming that Jim Haller, his college coach, induced him with steroids and his mother said the steroids contributed to her son needing two-open heart operations in 1986 and 1991. It was a \$3 million lawsuit. Wheeler was diagnosed at the age of 27 as having MARFAN syndrome, which was a hereditary disorder. Wheeler said he took steroids for 18 months while at Baylor. Wheeler died at the age of 29.

In 9-AAAA Eules Trinity(26-8) was thought to have a good grasp of the District title behind 6'3" Barry Wethington. Coach Stan Hick's Grand Prairie(26-10) team proved they were still a team to deal with, as they captured the title beating Trinity twice 42-36 and 44-41. 6'6" Harry Spivey was the driving force for Grand Prairie(26-10) along with 6'1" David McKinzie.

Highland Park(26-5) was picked over Lake Highlands(24-8) and Plano(27-3) in District 13-AAAA by the Dallas Times Herald and John Eisenberg. Most of that was predicated on the fact that 6'7" post, John Briggs(18.6/13.0) was the best big man the Scots had enjoyed since David Kimmell in 1972. "John plays his best basketball this year against other good big centers," Coach Bo Snowden said. To go with Briggs you had two fine guards in 6'2" Buzz Showalter(14.8) and 6'0" Charlie McKinney. Coach Snowden commented, "We have one big guy and a lot of little guards who can shoot." Other key contributors for Highland Park were 6'3" Tod Kimball, 6'1" Todd Herrscher and 6'1" Scott Canon.

The Scots played two state ranked teams prior to District action and ended up one and one against them. Highland Park(26-5) lost to Austin Lanier(31-6), state semi-finalists the year before 68-65, and beat Eules Trinity(26-6) 61-58. The Scots other two losses were to Austin High(26-6) 62-55 and R.L. Turner(19-11) out of Carrollton 51-50. Austin High(26-6) had a real strong team in 1980, finishing tied for second with Austin Anderson(23-8) in District. Austin Lanier(31-6) won District and were regional finalists.

Lake Highlands(24-8) made a living with one of the top front lines in the Dallas area in, 6'8" Ronny Keele, 6'6" Gary Wilson, and 6'5" Todd Kirkpatrick. These

seniors would present problems for all the 13-AAAA opponents. Coach Jerry Wells also had one of the top guards in the District in 5'11" Philip O'Neal, who was outstanding against Dallas Roosevelt in the Wildcats 78-77 win over the Mustangs in the Dr. Pepper tournament. Other key games for Lake Highlands was a split against Irving(25-8), a 66-43 win over Garland Lakeview(24-9), and of course their Dr. Pepper semi-finals loss to Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5) 64-60.

Plano(27-3) was picked third in District, if for no other reason than they were just not an impressive looking basketball team. Nobody appeared to jump out at you as real talented. The multi-gifted Travis Benke had graduated, and nobody seemed ready to step up and take his place. The Wildcats lost their season opener against North Dallas(20-12) 74-70 in overtime and lost in the Arlington Classic to Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5) 37-23. Some impressive wins came against Tyler Lee 45-43, Dallas Kimball(19-9) 75-62 and 59-52, Grand Prairie(25-10) 53-52 and 59-44, Ft. Worth Richland(17-14) 48-46, and Reggie Roberts and McKinney(18-7) 67-58. Plano also gained revenge against North Dallas(20-12) winning the rematch 67-57. The Wildcats had an impressive victory over R.L. Turner(19-11) 90-47. The Lions remember had defeated Highland Park(26-5) earlier in the season. Standouts for the Wildcats were 6'7" Kirk Lundblade and 5'9" Jack Crain. The lineup was very limited talent wise.

In the first poll released by the Dallas Morning News, Highland Park(26-5) came in at #2, Plano(27-3) #4, and Lake Highlands(24-8) held down the #7 spot. The first District game between the titans of 13-AAAA was played at Highlander Gym between Plano(27-3) and Highland Park(26-5). The big matchup between 6'7" Kirk Lundblade and 6'6" John Briggs went to Lundblade, who dominated with 33 points and 11 rebounds. The big Plano senior was 18 of 19 from the foul line and paced the Wildcats to an impressive 68-63 victory. Briggs finished with 18 points and 6 rebounds.

Plano had built up a 12-point lead in the first half. "Lundblade is a very good basketball player," Coach Mike Bridges of Plano said. "He plays with intelligence and makes very few mistakes. He never forces things. I've read a lot about other centers this year, and I feel Kirk belongs with the top group."

H.P. coach, Bo Snowden agreed, "Lundblade played a great ballgame, passing and shooting. When a guy plays a good game like that, you have to have someone play with him, we didn't." Plano was 32 of 36 from the foul line. "We're a deliberate team and with that lead in the second half, we got a little too conservative," Bridges added. Charlie McKinney was the second leading scorer for Highland Park with 17 points.

The second battle between the District favorites was played at Lake Highlands between the Wildcats of Plano(27-3) and Lake Highlands(24-8). Plano was up by 11 points 39-28 at the start of the fourth quarter and Coach Bridges squad went into its usual delay game. A technical foul late in the game against

Bridges turned Lake Highlands fortunes around as the red and white came away with a nail-biting 44-43 win.

Todd Kirkpatrick was the man of the hour as his tip-in with two seconds remaining was the difference for Lake Highlands. Actually, Kirkpatrick was fortunate to be in the right place at the right time as he put back Philip O'Neal's miss with four seconds remaining. When questioned about his delay tactics, Coach Bridges responded, "we use the delay every game, we just didn't execute well this time." "I don't second-guess going into the delay. I never second-guess myself. It's worked for us before almost always." Bridges said.

Coach Wells of Lake Highlands commented, "they got cautious too early, we stayed in a zone and could still pressure them." Momentum really changed in the fourth quarter according to Wells on a technical foul on Coach Bridges of Plano. "The technical foul really was a key swinging point," Wells said.

Todd Kirkpatrick finished with 22 points for Lake Highlands and Ronny Keele added 10. David Hinnrichs was the leading scorer for Plano with 17. Lake Highlands sagging zone defense was able to hold Lundblade to only six points. It was the big post low point output of the season.

Bridges added, "it didn't matter that they stopped Kirk. We still had a big lead going into the fourth quarter." Coach Wells was very complimentary of Plano saying, "they play great defense, they're so precise, you have to score against them to have a chance." The sellout crowd at Lake Highlands enjoyed their team's victory.

The state rankings came out for the first time by the Ft. Worth Star-telegram the following week and it showed all three teams ranked in the top twenty in the state. Plano(18-3) at #10, Lake Highlands(18-5) at #12, and Highland Park(18-4) came in at #15.

This set the stage for the third big game of the first half of District 13-AAAA. Highland Park(26-5) traveled to Lake Highlands(24-8) and had little trouble with the Wildcats winning 46-36. It was surprising from the standpoint that the game was not that close. With the Scots up 17-14, Coach Snowden's team held the ball for three minutes during one stretch. "We were trying to make them come out of their zone," Snowden said.

Charlie McKinney led the way for Highland Park with 17 points going six of seven from the floor, while John Briggs followed with 15 points. Todd Kirkpatrick paced Lake Highlands with 13 points. With the loss the District ended the first round of action in a three-way tie. Plano, Highland Park, and Lake Highlands all finished at 7-1. Richardson Berkner was fourth with a 5-3 record.

Steve Tracey of the Dallas Morning News did an in-depth article on the Plano Wildcats basketball program. Bridges shared in the article that before he arrived in Plano the basketball team didn't even work out on Friday's when the football team played. He said the Wildcats now workout till 7:30 on football days. Bridges also said, "some people think our style of play is boring, but once they got

more of a grasp of the game, became more educated in the sport, they realize it's a very polished attack." Bridges also said that when he arrived at Plano the booster club was non-existent, but the Wildcats had really increased the crowd size as a result of the winning.

As the second round of District began, Plano(27-3) had a big advantage because they caught both opponents on their home court. If you weren't used to playing on the tartan-surface, it would be a problem. Highland Park(26-5) was focused on slowing down Lundblade after his 33 point performance in the team's first outing. John Briggs ended up blocking six of Lundblade's shots. The Scots held Lundblade to only 10 points, but the big senior continually passed out of double teams. Jack Crain hit 9 of 9 from the floor and 5 of 6 from the foul line for 23 points and David Hinnricks finished with 20 points along with Dale Pearce's 13 points.

The Wildcats cruised to a convincing 68-51 victory. "Crain played a super game," Bridges said. "I've kept him tied down sometimes this season, but he can go play, he can shoot and score." Surprisingly the halftime score was close with the Scots leading 27-26. Plano(27-3) was 14-16 from the foul line and Highland Park(26-5) was only 4 for 6. Plano only committed nine fouls the entire game.

"We felt if we could hold their two top scorers to under 25 points combined, we could beat them," Bridges said. John Briggs finished with 11 points and Charlie McKinney ended up with 8 points, while Buzz Showalter was high man with 20 points. With the victory Plano(27-3) moved to #6 in the state rankings and #2 in the area. Highland Park(26-5) was #16 in the state and #5 in the area, and Lake Highlands was #15 and #7.

Plano(27-3) pretty much ended the District race with their 48-42 win at home against Lake Highlands. Lundblade was awesome with 33 points after scoring only 6 points in the two teams first encounter. Plano had no fouls in the second half and finished 12 of 14 from the foul line. Coach Well's team did not shoot a foul shot in the second half. Plano had 3 fouls the entire game playing man defense. Often times Plano would hold the ball for a minute or more against Lake Highlands zone defense. Lundblade hit 10 baskets and was 13 of 14 free throws for the game. "Last time we posted him up and pretty much let him stand there. That was my fault as a coach," Bridges explained. "This time we moved him around a lot more, he played a super game." Plano advanced to #1 in the area and while the Scots were #5 and Lake Highlands dropped out of the top ten.

The Scots(26-5) continued their mastery over Lake Highlands(24-8) taking second place in District action with a 58-39 win. The Scots and the Wildcats would both be staying home after a tough District campaign. Plano did District 13-AAAA proud in the playoffs. In the final state polls by the Star-telegram, Plano reached its highest ranking at #4, Highland Park finished #16 and Lake Highlands dropped out of the rankings all together.

The 13-AAAA All-District was dominated by the three rivals. Kirk Lundblade and Jack Crain were named first team from Plano, John Briggs and Buzz Showalter of Highland Park and Todd Kirkpatrick of Lake Highlands. 2nd team was made up of Charlie McKinney of Highland Park, David Himmrichs of Plano, Ray Childress of Richardson Pearce, Philip O'Neal of Lake Highlands and Bubba Wesch of Plano. M.V.P. went to Kirk Lundblade and Ken Stephenson of Richardson Pearce was sophomore of the Year.

*South Garland(29-5) was seen as the favorite in **District 10-AAAA** with 6'1" Kyle Jones. Wilmer Hutchins(23-12) was picked second, after making the finals of the Dr. Pepper tournament. The Colonels dropped Hutch both times 59-55 and 81-73 but split with Garland Lakeview(24-8). The Colonels lost their first meeting against Lakeview(24-8) 51-44 and came back to win the 2nd game 71-63. In the District playoff South(30-5) beat Lakeview(24-8) 63-57.*

*Spring(28-6) and Cypress-Creek(26-5) tied for the **16-AAAA** title with Spring(28-6) going undefeated in the 2nd half of District and Cypress-Creek sweeping the first round. The two teams met at Dulles after splitting their two District games against one another. Cypress-Creek(26-5) won the third meeting between the two teams 66-54, and with it the playoff spot.*

In region II, Plano(27-3) and Dallas Roosevelt(28-3) were class of the region. Both coaches and teams knew that being favored meant little. The previous season Plano had gotten upset in bi-district and denied a place in the regional field. Roosevelt had been the regional favorite in 1978 only to lose a disappointing two-point game to the eventual winner of region II, Cypress-Fairbanks.

For Grand Prairie(25-9), it was the Gophers third straight season in the playoffs after a regional final bid in 1978, and a first-round overtime loss to Wilmer Hutchins in 1979. Coach Stan Hicks team was focused around the inside game of Harry Spivey.

Against South Garland(29-5) in Bi-District, Spivey iced the game with three seconds left with a pair of free throws. The 53-50 victory over the Colonels(29-5) sent Grand Prairie to regionals for the second time in three seasons. The Colonels were the #9 rated team in the state, but their season ended with the loss.

The game was won on the inside by Grand Prairie with a tremendous rebounding edge of 38-14. "We are playing as good as we have all year," Hicks said afterwards. Hicks put his team into the state rankings after the game by stating "I guess that makes us #8."

Dallas Roosevelt(28-3) won their second city championship in three years by defeating Dallas Lincoln(21-6) 83-75 in Bi-District. The Wright brothers dominated for the Mustangs with Billy scoring 31 points and Carl had 13. Larry Hollins was the leading scorer for Lincoln hitting 19 points. When asked to compare this year's version of the Mustangs to their 1972 state championship squad, Davis said, "the bench is stronger, and we are more balanced...no superstars."

Coach Davis also had a nice problem to contend with as Billy Wright had replaced Marcus Bradford in the lineup, but with the return of Bradford he had a tough decision to make. Was he going to remove Wright from the line-up? He said it would be a game time decision in regionals, saying he doesn't like to change horses in the middle of the stream, indicating he would stay with Wright.

The Plano(27-3) Wildcats entered the playoffs as one of the top ranked teams in the state, but they knew that meant little in the playoffs. After their learning lesson against Lufkin in 1979 they prepared to meet the District 14-AAAA representative.

District 14-AAAA was tough with a great deal of balance. All the schools were athletic and had many dual athletes. Early in the season in the finals of the Piney Woods tournament, Nacogdoches(10-1) defeated Lufkin(10-4). Nacogdoches had one of the top players in East Texas in 6'5" A.J. Culbreath and Lufkin countered with 6'8" Larry Davis.

The Panthers and the Dragons were two of the early season favorites. Both teams ventured to San Antonio for the Optimist tournament looking for stiff competition, and they found it. S.A. Marshall(22-10) put a "whippin" on Lufkin(24-11) in their opener 83-57.

"They out hustled us and deserved to win. We just were not ready to play," Coach Jesse Walker of Lufkin said after the game. S.A. Highlands(26-8) continued the Alamo City onslaught defeating the Dragons(25-7) 66-50. So that put both teams into the consolation bracket. The East Texas combo advanced to the finals of the consolation bracket and Lufkin(24-11) took down Nac(25-7) 54-53. Nacogdoches(25-7) defeated S.A. MacArthur in the semis 66-44 and Lufkin(24-11) dropped S.A. Lee 43-29. Davis was named All-Tournament as well as Culbreath.

In the Gladewater tournament in the 3rd place game, Lufkin(24-11) took down Longview(28-7) 66-60. Nacogdoches(25-7) had beaten the Lobos in the semi-finals 58-52. In the finals of the Kilgore Oil Belt tournament, Longview defeated another District rival Tyler John Tyler(15-14) 61-57. Steffond Johnson of Longview was named the tournament M.V.P.

Another AAAA tournament deep in East Texas was the Longview Pine Tree tournament. Center won the tournament. In the first round Center defeated Marshall High 77-76 in overtime, they took down Pine Tree in the semis 78-61, and won the finals over Waco Jefferson-Moore 63-56. Longview(28-7) lost to Jefferson-Moore in the semis 50-47. Craig Garrett of Center was named the tournament M.V.P.

As the District opened, Lufkin(24-11) won a key match-up over Longview(28-7) 55-54 in overtime. The Lobos won the rest of their 1st round games finishing at 6-1. Lufkin(24-11) lost to Tyler Lee(15-16) 63-59 and Nacogdoches(25-7) 52-47 to finish 5-2.

Coach Brooks Dozier returned to his coaching duties after open-heart surgery at Nacogdoches, and his team responded well. Nacogdoches(25-7) came away with a big win over Longview(28-7) 54-48 early in the 2nd round action. It was the Dragons second victory of the season over Longview(28-7). The Lobos finally beat Lufkin in a close one 54-53 and beat Tyler Lee(15-16) in overtime 69-67. Longview won the 14-AAAA outright with their 51-48 victory over cross town rival Pine Tree. The Dragons were knocked out of the 2nd half chase after their 62-61 loss to Lufkin(24-11). The loss gave Nacogdoches(25-7) a 5-2 record the 2nd round and finished the season with an impressive 25-7 mark. The Dragons were 10-4 in District action.

So, Longview(28-7) had a very rough road against their East Texas rivals. Interestingly, Longview(28-7) finished 1-2 against Nacogdoches(25-7) on the season and 1-2 vs. Lufkin. They were 14-0 against everybody else in District 14-AAAA during the season and finished the regular season at 27-6.

In preparing for Plano(27-3), Coach LeRoy Romines of Longview(28-7) decided to take a warm-up game against Paris(24-1). The Wildcats were one of the top-class AAA schools in the state. "We're going to try to win, but it's not a must situation," Romines said. Paris' lone loss during the season had come at the hands of Texas High, who finished 0-14 in District 14-AAAA. Paris and Longview had two of the top juniors in the state in 6'6" Steffond Johnson and 6'3" Carlton Cooper of Paris. Matter a fact, if you add 6'8" Larry Davis of Lufkin these were probably the best three players to ever come out of East Texas. Cooper had a standout career at Texas, Steffond Johnson at L.S.U. and Larry Davis at S.M.U. All would be coming out in the class on '81.

Paris(24-1) was no match for Longview(28-7) as the Lobos won 77-68. Longview's second leading scorer, John Witt(12.6), did not play and Johnson sat out most of the fourth quarter.

On the 14-AAAA All-District squad, Steffond Johnson(16.1/9.5) was named District M.V.P. with 67 steals. Perry Edwards of Tyler John Tyler(15-14) was named sophomore of the Year. The Sports Writers named five players to the first team and seven to the 2nd unit because of the ties. Other players named to the first unit were A.J. Culbreath(13.3/9.6) from Nacogdoches, 5'6" Kelvin McKind(12.6) from Nacogdoches, 6'1" Kriss Myers(14.4) from Pine Tree, Jon Witt(12.7) of Longview, and 6'8" Larry Davis(17.0) from Lufkin.

Two names to focus on were named to the second team, Charles Young and Kenneth Brown of Tyler Lee. The Raiders would be one of the top teams in the state during the '81 campaign. Other players named to the second team were Calvin Deason of Lufkin, Jerome Ingram of Longview, Kyle Johnson of Nacogdoches, Michael Woolridge of John Tyler and Bobby Jones of Marshall.

As Longview(28-7) entered the state playoffs, they were looking at their first outright District Championship in the history of the school. While preparing for

Plano(28-3), Coach Romines commented, "They'll probably slow it down on us. Our biggest worry will be whether we can keep them from holding the ball on us. We've played their type of team before and we'll hope for the same results."

When asked about Witt, Romines replied, "Witt is ok, we just chose to hold him out." Referring to Witt not playing in the Paris game. When asked about Plano's weaknesses, Coach Romines said, "they don't have any." Three players stood out for the Wildcats, 6'7" Kirk Lundblade(20.9), David Hinnrichs(10.3), and point guard Jack Crain. "We're going to have to stop the big guy," said the second-year coach Romines.

District 14-AAAA had some outstanding big man talent in 6'6" A.J. Culbreath of Nacogdoches, 6'8" Larry Davis(17.0), and 6'5" Kenneth Brown of Tyler Lee. Steffond Johnson(16.4) was looking forward to the challenge of stopping Lundblade. Coach Romines would count on 6'0" Jon Witt(12.7), 6'4" Jerry Ragster(10.2/7.8), 6'4" Jerome Ingram(8.0/7.5), and point guard, 5'9" Ronnie Taylor(4.0). 6'4" Chris Hollins was a key contributor for the Lobos coming off the bench. Romines described Plano(28-3) as a taller version of Pine Tree, scrappy and very deliberate. Longview(28-7) would play their usual pressing and zone defense against the Wildcats. Plano played man to man defense.

Coach Bridges commented about his Bi-District opponent saying that Longview's personnel is a lot like Lufkin's last year, "except they don't have a guard that is as dominant as Blake," Bridges said.

Plano's lineup was made up of 6'7" Lundblade(20.9), 6'3" David Hinnrichs(10.3), 5'8" Jack Crane(8.5), 6'1" Dale Pearce(7.6), and 6'3" Bubba Wesch(3.9). In discussing his team, Bridges said, "for us to win we have to give the ball inside to Lundblade and get percentage shots. We don't change what we do for any club."

The Wildcat's at times looked like a machine with very little emotion, just efficiency. From early in the 2nd quarter to a few minutes into the 4th quarter, the Wildcats went on a 24-2 run against the Lobos. The result was a 48-38 victory over the Lobos and a ticket to the regionals in College Station. During that stretch, Longview was 1 for 11 from the floor. "Lundblade was the difference. He really took charge in the 3rd quarter," Romines said. "They took the lead and from then on we were trying to play catch-up." Plano(28-3) was 8 for 8 during the 3rd quarter from the floor. Lundblade finished with 21 points, while Steffond Johnson finished with 16 points for Longview and Ragster had 12.

In the game between the Houston area schools that were in region II, Cypress Creek(29-5) handled Bryan(25-11) to advance to College Station 56-54. Creek outscored Bryan 16-9 in the fourth quarter to wipe out a 45-40 Bryan lead. Mark Peppercorn hit three critical baskets in the last two minutes including free throws with 39 seconds remaining. Mike Loerch led the charge for Cypress-Creek

with 16 points and Peppercorn followed with 15. Howard Jenkins, one of the top guards in the state, was high man for Bryan(25-12) with 23 points.

On the All-District squad for 15-AAAA Jenkins was named M.V.P. Coach of the Year was Larry Brown from Bryan. The first team was made up of five players, George Kash of Round Rock, Mike Evans of Killeen Ellison, Mike Scott of Waco University, Ronald Carter of Waco Richfield, and Fred Nichols of Killeen. Named to the second team from Bryan were Ronald Caldwell and Chucky Hanks.

In discussing Bryan High School after coming over from Hearne, Coach Larry Brown said the number one thing he tried to overcome was being able to compete with the Houston schools. "We had our own tournament and invited as many strong programs as possible from the Houston area to get us used to playing that type of competition," Brown said. "We won two state titles and made four regional appearances, but our record at the Viking Invitational was 1-13. Yes, we lost a lot of games, but we learned how to compete with the best teams in the state."

Cypress-Creek(29-5) averaged 59.0 points per game and allowed only 47.0 as they advanced to regionals in College Station. Cypress-Creek liked a controlled tempo. Coach Norman Pasche was in charge of the Cougars.

Key players for Cypress-Creek were 6'3" Mark Peppercorn(15.3/6.3), 6'4" Mike Loerch(12.0/8.7), 6'4" Doug George(6.4/5.9), 6'0" Paul Dillard, 6'0" Jeff Shreve, 6'3" Mark Lange and 5'11" Todd King.

In the regional semi-finals, Grand Prairie(26-9) faced the Mustangs from Dallas Roosevelt. Both teams were accustomed to the regional pressures presented. Roosevelt proved to be too much for Grand Prairie as the Mustangs won 60-49. This was sweet revenge from the loss in 1978. Roosevelt held Harry Spivey to only 13 points. The Wright brothers combined for 30 points while Kenneth Roberson added 20.

Plano(29-3) finished the #1 ranked team in Dallas by the Morning News and #4 in the TABC rankings. Needless to say, the Wildcats were favored against little known Cypress Creek(29-5). Plano won with patience and free-throw accuracy 55-41. The Wildcats were 23 of 28 from the foul line. This was the furthest advancement for Plano in the state playoffs since the Wildcat's 1955 team, when they were a very small class AA program. Plano(30-3) scored 23 points from the charity stripe while Cypress Creek had only one point. Lundblade again had 21 points for Plano with nobody else scoring in double figures. Cypress-Creek finished the season at 29-6. Mike Peppercorn led the scoring for Creek with 18 points and Mike Loerch added 16.

The clash of clearly the two best teams in the region and Dallas area, faced off in the region II finals. Interestingly, Plano(30-3) Coach Mike Bridges was cheering for Roosevelt(30-3) in their game against Grand Prairie. The Wildcats had already beaten Grand Prairie(26-10) in their two earlier meetings during the regular season.

Bridges thinking was that it would be difficult to beat anybody three times in the same season.

After Plano(31-3) 60-55 victory over Dallas Roosevelt(30-4), "The Dallas Morning News" headlines in the sport section read, "Plano ends inner-city reign 60-55." The game was definitely a clash of cultures and styles. Whatever the case, the Wildcats were headed to state for the first time since 1955.

Kirk Lundblade hit 27 points for the Cats. "We had a great team last year, "Lundblade explained after the game. But we lost in bi-district to the eventual state champion. This year we felt we could take District, but I had no dreams of going to state. This is amazing."

In the first quarter, Coach Bridges received two technical fouls giving Roosevelt(30-4) a 15-6 advantage. This unified the Wildcats as they rallied around their coach according to Lundblade, and the team responded with 12 straight points. Plano(31-3) went on to lead at halftime 29-23. Jack Crain added 12 points for the winners. In a losing effort, Kenneth Roberson was the leading scorer with only 12 points. "We have the advantage when we play a team that likes to run," Bridges said. "We will break them down defensively."

The All-Greater Dallas team named by the Dallas Morning News was made up of 5'8" Jack Crain(10.0) and 6'7" Kirk Lundblade(20.6) of Plano, 5'11" Jeff Barnett(20.4 of Irving, 6'3" Puntus Wilson(23.0) of S.O.C. and 6'3" Sheldon Kelly(27.0) of North Dallas. The 2nd team included Darron Horton(24.5) of Hillcrest, 6'3" Todd Warren of R.L. Turner, 6'4" Vance Hughes(18.3) of Waxahachie, 6'5" Larry Hollins of Dallas Lincoln, 6'4" Harry Spivey of Grand Prairie and 6'1" Kyle Jones of South Garland. Player of the Year was Sheldon Kelly(27.0). Coach of the Year went to Mike Bridges and Ron Singleton of Dallas Carter was named sophomore of the Year.

I hate to be critical, it's just not my nature, but did they go to the games or just listen to some of the coaches critique the players over the phone. Nobody from Dallas Roosevelt was on the first or second team. The Mustangs had advanced to the regional finals. The top player in the area was without question, Reggie Roberts(22.6) of McKinney, and he was named honorable mention. Lundblade(20.6) should have been player of the year, he took his team to the state. Your picking Jack Crain over Reggie Roberts. Billy Wright and Kenneth Roberson of Roosevelt were named honorable mention?

The All-Metro team from the Times Herald was much more on target. Puntus Wilson(23.0) South Oak Cliff, Sheldon Kelly(27.0) from North Dallas, Kirk Lundblade(20.6) Plano, Reggie Roberts(22.6) of McKinney and 5'9" Darron Horton(24.5) of Hillcrest were named first team. 6'5" Anthony Hollins(24.5) of Woodrow Wilson, Hughes(18.3) of Waxahachie, 6'2" Mark Smith(26.4) of Garland High, 5'9" Jack Crain(9.0) of Plano, 5'11" Jeff Barnett(20.4) were named 2nd team. Third team was made up 6'5" Todd Kirkpatrick(16.5) of Lake Highlands, 6'6"

Kenneth Roberson(19.6) of Roosevelt, 6'7" John Briggs(18.5) of Highland Park, 6'0" Victor Guinyard(14.0) of Waxahachie and 5'10" David Chriesman(21.0) of Dallas Lincoln. Hard to criticize these selections. Lundblade was player of the year, Bridges took home coaching honors and Singleton was sophomore of the year.

Region III Playoffs

Houston Madison(24-10)

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(23-8) #18

Houston Kashmere(26-5) #13

Clear Lake(26-8)

Houston Westchester(31-7)

Aldine MacArthur(26-7)

Houston Yates(29-1) #1

Galveston Ball(23-8) #14

Top Five in Region III

6'6"	Michael Young	Houston Yates
6'5"	Matt England	Houston Madison
6'7"	Paul Cunningham	Houston Milby
6'5"	Kevin Cunningham	Houston Westchester
6'3"	Reggie Wilcox	Galveston Ball
6'6"	Micheal Scott	Houston Washington
6'4	Clarence Robertson	Aldine MacArthur
6'6"	Kenneth Cook	Houston Kashmere

The Houston area was very competitive every season with the top talent in the state. Houston Yates(29-1) looked to be the class of the city along with Houston Milby(30-3). Unfortunately, the Lions and the Buffaloes were in the same District.

Houston Washington(25-5) took an early lead in the Houston area as one of the top teams, but faded as the season continued. Remember, Washington(25-5) was the only team to have notched a victory over Houston Yates(29-1). 6'2" Jerome Scott(17.0), 6'6" Michael Scott(19.0) and Scott Washington were the key players for Washington. Their rival in District 19-AAAA was Houston Kashmere(24-5). The Rams lost to Houston Washington(25-5) 73-59 in their first District meeting. Jerome Scott poured in 22 points from long range to lead Washington in the victory, and Michael Scott assisted with 20 points.

In the team's second meeting the Rams gained revenge 63-61, which set the stage for a playoff to see who would advance. Wayne Bennett of Kashmere(25-5) hit a bucket at the buzzer to give Kashmere the win. Washington finished a dismal 2-3 during the second round of District action.

The Kashmere(26-5) and Washington(25-6) District playoff game was played at Delmar on a Wednesday evening to decide who would advance. The Rams had been gaining momentum as the season continued and won convincingly 70-58. Luster Goodwin came off the bench for the Rams and scored 17 points in front of 2,300 at Delmar. With the win, Kashmere cracked the final state polls at #13.

Wayne Johnson(10.0) of Kashmere and 6'6" Kenneth Cook(15.0) were named 1st team All-District on the 10-man squad. 6'2" Alfred Godine(12.0), Gerald Sublet and Carl Clay were named to the 2nd team for the Rams. For Washington, Jerome Scott(18.0) and Michael Scott(15.0) were both named 1st team All-District.

In **District 20-AAAA** action, Houston Yates(29-1) faced the toughest District schedule in the state with Houston Wheatley(21-13), Houston Milby(30-3), Houston Sterling(18-12), and Houston Davis(19-13). The two head to head matchups between Yates and Milby would undoubtedly decide District and the playoff representative.

In the first game between the two powers, Yates(29-1) prevailed 32-29. Yates jumped out to a 10-2 lead in the first quarter and Milby(30-3) immediately went into a stall, eventually tying the game at 16-16. With 3:39 remaining in the game, Milby took their last lead at 27-25 on Paul Cunningham's free throw. Michael Young led Yates(29-1) in scoring with seven of his game high 12 points in the fourth quarter. Michael Harris of Yates made a key steal late to give his team a 29-27 lead. Milby(30-3) moved to 14-1 on the season and Yates remained undefeated. This game was prior to the Jaycee tournament in which Yates(29-1) lost to Houston Washington(25-7).

In the second-round game it was even worse with both teams employing the delay tactics. 3,000 fans showed up at Barnett to see the unexciting brand of basketball. Hundreds of fans were outside and unable to get inside. Milby(30-3) was even whistled for a technical foul at one stage for not coming out to contest the Lions in the second quarter. Yates led at halftime 5-4. With 2:17 remaining in the game, Michael Young(20.0/12.0) hit two free-throws to put Yates(29-1) up 10-8. Yates won 14-10 and with it the District title. Michael Young commented on the Yates-Milby rivalry in later years, "everybody in District were rivals, especially Wheatley and Milby, but I think sometimes it was more between Coach Boyce Honea and Coach Malone. Coach Malone wanted to beat Honea at his own game."

Houston Yates(29-1) took care of the other District contenders beating Wheatley(21-13) 69-54 and 68-63, and Houston Sterling(18-12) 64-53 and 49-44. It was the first time in fifteen seasons that the Lions had swept the series against the Wildcats of Wheatley. Actually, Yates(29-1) was 3-0 vs. Wheatley(21-13) after winning an early season game 75-61. The Lions finished the season as the #1 team in the state in the Star Telegram Poll.

Following the loss to Yates, Milby(30-3) continued their winning ways defeating Houston Wheatley(21-13) 64-62. Guard Creon Dorsey hit two free throws with 11 seconds left for the Buffaloes. Milby(30-3) dropped all the way down to #11 at 30-3 following the loss to Yates. That was crazy with two of their losses coming against #1 Yates. Go figure when it comes to the polls.

Interesting information came to light after discussing with Coach Boyce Honea of Milby about the Yates-Milby games. Coach answered the question as to

why both teams ran the spread and the low score. "I developed an offense when I coached Rob Williams. We would isolate Rob at the foul line and everybody else was above the free throw line extended. Nobody could stop Rob, he would drive or pull up and hit the short jumper" Coach Honea said. "The way to stop the offense was help off the guards and play behind Williams or the isolated player. Well, Yates took the offense and isolated Michael Young at the foul line. We had Cunningham at the foul line in 1980. So, both teams were running the same offense and both teams helped on the isolated player, so both teams held the ball," Honea continued.

Next, Coach Honea shared with me the climate that he felt existed during the 1970s and early 1980s in inner city basketball. "All the top black players in Houston always played for Wheatley until Juice Williams attended Milby. We went to state in '76 and then the best player in Houston, Rob Williams, followed his cousin to Milby," Honea said. "I know this sounds like sour grapes, but there was a Prairie View connection with Jackie Carr. They were upset Rob didn't go to Wheatley and the black referees were not going to let us win. They were bitter Rob didn't attend Wheatley. The Prairie View connection was made up of a small group of basketball officials that refereed all the key games during the 70s and early 80s," Honea continued. "I told my A.D. that I would pay for officials out of my own pocket if we could use another chapter to officiate the games, he said that was not happening. In the first Yates-Milby game, a black official, Charles Spencer made two critical calls against us that cost us the game. So, in the rematch we had an official that I felt confident would not be bias towards Yates, but he failed to show up. We waited 30 minutes for him to arrive, but my A.D. forced me to take an official from the earlier Sterling game," Coach Honea said. "There was standing room only with several 100 people outside trying to get in so we played, couldn't wait any longer. I heard Coach Malone say to the ref before the game, I need a little help brother. I was convinced we weren't going to get any calls at the end. I had been down that road so many times through the years, so I decided to pull it out, and not let the referees take the game away from me," Coach Honea said. "I felt that was our only chance was too shorten the game. I was paranoid by 1980, it had happened so many times. During the 70s and early 80s it was hard to get a game called fairly with the small group of black referees in Houston. The pool of officials increased during the mid-eighties, so the situation improved a great deal," Coach Honea explained.

Houston Yates(29-1) was really a talented squad made up of 6'6" Michael Young(20.0), Michael Green, 6'8" Joseph Green, Darryl Jackson, Michael Harris, and General Taylor(10.0). Young was named player of the Year by the Post and Taylor made honorable mention. On the All-District squad, Michael Young(20.0) and General Taylor were named first team on a squad of nine 1st team All-District members. Willie Dykes, Darrell Jackson and Michael Harris were all named to the 2nd team.

For the Buffaloes of Houston Milby, 6'6" Paul Cunningham(12.6/11.5) was named All-Greater Houston, 6'8" Andre Ross(15.0) and Raymond Walkup were honorable mention. Andre Ross, Paul Cunningham and Barron Honea(8.0) were named 1st team All-District while Raymond Walkup was named to the 2nd unit.

Some recruiters felt Cunningham was one of the top talents to come out of Houston. He was very highly thought of by recruiters. Jeffrey Brush(19.0) of Wheatley(21-13) and Clyde Drexler(16.0) of Sterling were named 1st team All-District. Joseph Cotton and Glen Cotton were named to the 2nd team from Sterling and Wheatley was well represented on the 2nd team with Douglas Jackson and Kenneth Morning.

The District standings were well worth looking at because this was probably the top District in the state top to bottom. The Lions were 6-0 in both halves of District action and 29-1 on the regular season. Milby finished 5-1 and 4-2 in District and 30-3 on the season. Wheatley finished 3-3 in both halves and 21-13 on the year, followed by Houston Austin at 2-4 and 3-3. Austin was 13-16 on the season, and Sterling finished 4-8 in District, and 18-12 on the '80 campaign. Houston Sterling was 14-4 coming into District action. Houston Davis finished 6th in District with a 5-7 mark and 19-14 during the 1980 campaign. Milby had several close calls in District. The Buffaloes defeated Sterling 59-55, Davis 34-30, Austin 47-46, Wheatley 64-62, and lost the second time around against Austin 63-59. Milby was already out of the District race and was playing for nothing.

*Region III seemed to have the toughest road to Austin in 1980. In District **17-AAAA**, Houston Westchester(30-7), Spring Branch Memorial(27-6), and Alief Hastings(22-12) all ended up tied for the first-round title, and Memorial and Westchester took the 2nd half crown.*

On a Thursday, Spring Branch Memorial(27-6) met Alief Hastings(22-12), with the winner facing Houston Westchester(30-7) on Friday. Memorial and Hastings played at Katy in a game that was slow and very deliberate. Jim Itin of Memorial missed a jumper from the foul line in the final seconds allowing Alief Hastings(22-12) to come out with a 32-31 decision. Hastings(22-12) held a 13-11 halftime edge. Mike Broadhead led Hastings with 13 points and Corie Gowland tossed in 9 points. Future Houston Cougar great, Reid Gettys, paced the Mustangs with 10 points and Jim Itin finished with 9.

Alief Hastings(22-12) played Houston Westchester(30-7) in Katy to decide the 17-AAAA District crown and a playoff spot. Westchester took the District title in a 41-37 decision over Hastings. 6'5" Kevin Cunningham(12.6) was the leader for Westchester.

With the victory, Houston Westchester(30-7) moved on to face Houston Houston Madison(22-10) in Bi-District. Kevin Cunningham(12.6) was named to the All-Post Greater Houston Schoolboy Team by Ivy McLemore. Ivy was one of the most knowledgeable writers of the period and knew the talent well in the Houston area.

His All-Post team was a great representation of the best the Houston area had to offer. 6'6" Reid Gettys(10.7) of Memorial was named honorable mention. 6'4" Rick Hosto(15.8) of Westchester was one of the top tight ends in the state that was signed by the University of Texas. At 6'4" 210, he also doubled as a fine basketball player and was named honorable mention by the Houston Post.

*Houston Madison(23-10) captured the **District 18-AAAA** title for the fourth season in a row, but lost their last District contest to Houston Worthing(14-14) 73-55. The loss ended the Marlins 27-game winning streak in District competition. Madison had lost the previous year in the state finals to Lufkin. The Marlins were so talented with several division one players led by 6-5 Matt England(15.2/9.6), who signed with L.S.U. 6'6" Lee Gibson was another fine talent. England, Gibson and 6'0" Eugene Alford were all named 1st team All-District on a 10-man squad.*

The Bi-District game between Westchester(30-7) and Houston Madison(23-10) was the opening round of a double header, which was played at Hofheinz Pavilion. Madison was the defending Region III champion and was able to handle Westchester 50-47. Coach Benton's troops were down early by eight-points but came back for the victory behind two late foul shots by Matt England with 17 seconds remaining. "We were lucky to win this ball game," Benton said. "Our press helped us in the second half, especially the third period. I'm just glad to be still playing." England scored all 12 of his points in the second half and was helped by Eric Dickens and Lee Gibson. Kevin Cunningham led Westchester(30-7) along with Rick Hosto. The duo scored 31 of Westchester's total 47 points.

*In **District 21-AAAA**, Aldine MacArthur(25-7) captured the 1st round action and Houston Smiley(22-8) forced a District playoff defeating MacArthur 60-50 for the 2nd half title. With the win, Smiley snapped the Generals 15-game winning streak in 21-AAAA action. The Eagles were led by Charles Butler with 23 points and 14 from Jeffrey Phillips, while Clarence Roberson put in 18 points for MacArthur. The decisive third game was played at Barnett. The Generals came away with a nice 60-46 victory hitting 15 of 17 foul shots in the fourth quarter. MacArthur had five players in double figures, led by Clarence Roberson with 16 points, while Marcus Jones was the man for Smiley with 14 points.*

On the All-Post squad, 6'4" Clarence Robertson(18.0) was named to the 10 men first unit and was the only junior on the all-star squad. Charles Butler was named honorable mention.

If there was a team of the 1980s in Texas Basketball, it was probably Pt. Arthur Lincoln. The Bumblebees had always been good, but they began a tradition that was unmatched during the decade. It is so sad that the school closed down in recent years, but the Bees basketball legacy will always survive through publications like this one.

Lincoln coach James Gamble had an incredible front line in '80 that was so imposing. 6'4" Barron Prevost, 6'6" Barry Ford, 6'8" Rueben Prevost(10.3), and 6'7"

Leonard Allen. His guard play was outstanding as well with 5'11" District M.V.P., Michael Jaco(10.9), 6'2" Bonnie Hall(10.9) and point guard, Darrell Thomas. The bench was composed of Milton Benson, Bernard Whitaker, and Ronnie Jones. Rueben Prevost and Bonnie Hall were named 2nd team All-District. The bad news for opponents was Leonard Allen, Michael Jaco, and Barron Prevost were all juniors.

The Beaumont tournament was one of the strongest in the state, and was highlighted by Galveston Ball(23-8), Clear Lake(27-9), Pt. Arthur Lincoln(26-9), Forest Park(23-9), Beaumont French(17-12), Beaumont Pollard and a power-house AAA program, Beaumont Hebert(35-2). Beaumont French(17-12) defeated Forest Park(23-9) 52-51, Hebert(30-3) eliminated Galveston Ball(23-8) 68-56, and PA Lincoln(26-9) downed Clear Lake(27-9) 60-52. Lake(27-9) came back and defeated Pollard by 20 points in the consolation bracket 60-40. In the semis, Hebert(35-2) beat Pollard bad 77-53 and PA Lincoln(26-9) advanced by beating Beaumont French(17-12) 75-64. In the finals, Hebert(35-2) took down PA Lincoln(26-9) rather easily 69-52. The two teams had met a week earlier and Beaumont Hebert(35-2) had won that contest as well 70-67. After the game Gamble said, "I honestly feel our turnovers weren't the result of their press, our mistakes were from poor passing, our mistakes were from shot selection. Our ball movement on offense was bad and that accounted for the bad shots. We had physically, grueling games and they took their toll," Gamble said.

In the finals, 6'5" Randy Samuels of Beaumont Hebert(35-2) finished with 11 points and 11 rebounds while Donald Mickens added 15 points and 10 rebounds. Rueben Prevost was tops for the Bees with 18 points.

The Nederland tourney was next for Port Arthur Lincoln(26-9) and the Bees took home the gold with a convincing 67-50 win over the home team in the finals. Nederland(11-19) was not that strong and pretty much had placed all the top teams in the opposite bracket. Mike Jaco of PA Lincoln was named tournament M.V.P. Rueben Prevost was also named all-tournament for Lincoln.

PA Lincoln(26-9) defeated Houston Stratford, Silsbee 67-62 and Beaumont Hebert(35-2) 50-48. The Panthers of Hebert had come into the semi-finals game undefeated at 10-0. So, this was a real big win for the Bees. Hebert shot only 16 of 49 from the floor against Lincoln's man to man defense. "When we were in a zone, we allowed Hebert to be patient. If we missed a shot or made a mistake it could be two or three minutes before we'd get the ball back. We're getting the ball more on offense," Gamble said.

Randy Samuels ended up with only 8 points and 7 rebounds for Hebert(35-2). 6'6" Barry Ford and 6'4" Barron Prevost did a number on Samuels, one of the top players in the state. "Lincoln played us the perfect way," Coach Fred Williams of Hebert said following the game. "They cut off our big man, but they cut off the guards too. Rueben Prevost led Lincoln with 17 points and 18 rebounds.

In the 3rd place game between Bridge City and Beaumont Hebert, the Panthers decided to forfeit so their kids could support the football team, who were playing in the state semi-finals. Bridge City got the win but little else and gave Hebert(35-2) its second loss of the season.

In the holiday Yellowjacket Classic in Pt. Arthur, Lincoln took down Pollard in the first round 66-61, which was the first win over the Beaumont school since 1976. Hebert(35-2) defeated Beaumont French(17-12) 75-62 and in the semi-finals killed Pt. Arthur Lincoln(26-9) 81-57. In the final's the Panthers drummed hometown Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson 82-58. Andre Boutte and Warren Green were named all-tournament for Beaumont Hebert. The Panthers were 3-1 on the season against PA Lincoln with two dominating wins. This was a warning to every AAA team in the state.

***District 22-AAAA** campaign opened for Lincoln with a rivalry game against Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson(17-8). T.J. under the leadership of Coach Willie Williams took down Lincoln(26-9) 50-49. Another old rival did a number on Lincoln in the third game of the first round, Beaumont Pollard(16-15) 50-47. Lincoln had just defeated Pollard in the Yellowjacket classic. Beaumont French(17-12) was having their way with everybody in the 1st round beating Forest Park(23-9) 57-53, Thomas Jefferson 71-48, and entered the last game of the first round at 7-0. Beaumont French's final opponent of the first round was Pt. Arthur Lincoln at 5-2. The Bees took no mercy as they ripped French 71-51. Regardless, French(17-12) won the first round at 7-1 followed by Lincoln(26-9) and Forest Park(23-9) at 5-2.*

In the second round of District, Pt. Arthur Lincoln(26-9) ran the table with a three-point win over Beaumont Pollard(16-15) and a six-point victory over Forest Park(23-9). The rest of their District wins were double digit.

As PA Lincoln(26-9) prepared for their last District game against Beaumont French(17-12) they had a daunting task. The Bees would have to beat the Buffaloes twice in back to back games in one week. French came into the contest at 4-3 during the second round and 17-12 on the season. Lincoln handled French for the third time during the season 58-51.

Before the varsity contest a little ruckus broke-out during the junior varsity game, which PA Lincoln(26-9) was forced to forfeit. A player from Beaumont French(17-12) pushed the player from Lincoln and the Lincoln player responded by throwing a punch. The stands began to empty, and things got pretty ugly before order was restored. French was talking about not playing the varsity game until Pt. Arthur police dispatched three officers for crowd control inside, and several patrols outside. Things like this can escalate in a crowded gym really fast. Order was restored and the game was played.

The District playoff game between Beaumont French(17-12) and Pt. Arthur Lincoln(26-9) was played at McDonald Gym on the campus of Lamar University. Lincoln at one point was up by 18 points midway through the 3rd period 45-27. In a

furious comeback, French got the lead down to six points with one-minute remaining, and a chance to get in down to four. The Buffaloes missed some key foul shots and 65-59 was as close as they could get to the Bees. The final read, Lincoln 68 and French 59.

"We talked about going inside at halftime. There is no use in being big and not using it. Our big men came out and did the job they needed to," Coach Gamble said following the contest. Michael Jaco finished with 19 points and 12 rebounds. "We played much better defense than we did the other night," Gamble said. "In fact, it was one of our best defensive games all year." It was PA Lincoln's first District crown since 1977 and Lincoln's fourth win over French(17-12) during the '80 campaign.

The All-District teams are always interesting to look at and District 22-AAAA was no different. Michael Jaco of PA Lincoln won M.V.P., and named to the first team were 6'2" Roderick Riley(12.5) of French, 6'6" Kevin Austin(19.9) of Nederland, 6'2" Roger Coleman(13.3) from Pollard, and Monte Wainwright(18.2) from Port-Neches Groves. On the second unit, Lincoln placed 6'2" Bonnie Hall(10.9) and 6'8" Rueben Prevost(10.3) on the team along with 6'2" Tony Pattio(10.1) from Thomas Jefferson, 5'9" Larry Titus(10.9) from T.J., and 5'11" Tommy Tubbs(12.0) from Forest Brook. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(24-9) finished 14-2 in District action, French(17-12) and Thomas Jefferson(17-9) were 11-5, Forest Park(24-9) and Beaumont Pollard(16-15) finished at 10-6, and West Orange Stark(11-15) came in at 8-8, Port Neches Groves(9-20) finished 5-11, Nederland(11-19) 3-13 and Vidor(4-27) 0-16.

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(24-9) entered Bi-District on a roll winning 12 straight games. Aldine MacArthur(26-7) had beaten Houston Smiley(21-9) in a District playoff to advance to the state playoffs. The Generals lineup consisted of 6'3" Clarence Robertson(18.0), 6'2" Doug Hall, 6'1" Tracey James, 5'9" James Smith, and 6'0" Tim Phillips. Coach Walt Kaiser said his troops would be giving up six inches each inside to the giants from Lincoln.

Aldine MacArthur(26-7) opened the game in a delay in an attempt to pull Lincoln's "biggs" away from the basket. The Bees were patient and won easily 71-52 before a standing room only crowd. Lincoln limited the Generals to only 18 of 57 shooting from the floor for 32% and out rebounded them 35-28.

"They were taller and better than I thought," Coach Kaiser said following the game. "I heard they were beatable but not for us. Lincoln is by far the best team we've played this year," Kaiser continued. "We played very close to our potential." Lincoln led at halftime 29-20. Big Leonard Allen had four dunks during the contest. The crowd really responded to the Allen dunks. "I just try to give the crowd what they ask for," Allen said. "When the crowd gets going it gets me all fired up."

6'7" Leonard Allen finished with 15 points, 5 rebounds and 3 blocks and was a non-starter. Aldine MacArthur finished the season with a strong 26-8 record and were paced by Doug Hall and Clarence Robertson with 12 points each.

Clear Lake(26-8) was finally back in the state playoffs after a two-year absence. This was a young team and not one of their stronger groups, but none the less they had a strong tradition. The Falcons had really struggled early in the season losing their first three games to Houston Madison(26-11), Milby(30-3) and Houston Waltrip. This was indicative of Clear Lake(26-8) during the '80 campaign, they were up and down all season. The Falcons lost by 8 points to Pt. Arthur Lincoln(26-9) and lost three more times before they got to District.

Pasadena Dobie(22-11) was thought to be the favorite in District 23-AAAA. In the two games against Dobie, Lake(26-8) lost the first 59-53 and won the second 65-51. Dobie(22-11) tied with Clear Lake(26-8) for the first half title but fell completely apart in the 2nd half of District finishing 3-4. The Falcons took the second round with a perfect 7-0 record, and with it the District title. Lake was a junior dominated team with Greg Singleton(13.1/10.7), Russ Capps(13.1), Bernie Lang and senior, Colin O'Neill. 5'8" O'Neill(10.0) was one of the top ten players named to the All-Post squad. Greg Singleton was named honorable mention. Singleton, Capps and O'Neill were all named 1st team All-District, while Bernie Lang was named 2nd team. Kenneth Shortsleeve of Dobie was one of the Districts top performers.

Galveston Ball(23-7) won the first round of District 24-AAAA and faced off against Alvin for the second half title. Both teams entered the game with perfect 6-0 records. Alvin(20-12) had one of the top juniors in the state in 6'7" Gary Orsak. Orsak signed with Houston following his senior year.

The Tornadoes avoided a District playoff scenario defeating Alvin(20-13) 64-61. Alvin hit an incredible 27 of 27 foul shots but still could not manage to pull the victory out. Late in the game, George Murphy was the hero for Ball making a key steal and hitting a lay-up. Ball moved on into the playoffs with a 23-7 record.

6'3" Reggie Wilcox(18.0) of Ball was named to the All-Post team. Wilcox was also named District M.V.P. Dulles(32-5) was highly thought of during the earlier season but faded losing twice to Galveston Ball(23-7) 64-54 and 42-38, and lost to Alvin(20-12) 55-52. 6'4" Scott Woolley(17.0) was named to the All-Post unit and Charles Clays made honorable mention for Dulles.

Alvin Franklin was a name to remember for the future from La Marque. Franklin was named to the six-man 1st team All-District squad. Rounding out the All-District squad was 6'7" Gary Orsak(19.2) of Alvin, 5'9" Diego Gutierrez(12.6) of Alvin, 6'4" Scott Woolley(17.0) of Dulles, and 6'2" Darrell Sredic(16.0) of Texas City. 6'5" Robert Simmons(10.0) of Ball was named to the second team.

The Clear Lake(26-8) Falcons defeated Galveston Ball(23-9) 56-52 in the team's Bi-District playoff at Autrey Court on the campus of Rice University. Clear

Lake hit 28 free throws to decide the game's outcome. Reggie Wilcox(18.0) kept Ball in the contest from long range bombing away and finished with 24 points.

"He's one of the best shooters I've ever seen from long range, he can play anywhere." Coach Krueger said following the game. The Falcons led at half 25-18. With the score 52-44 Clear Lake went to the spread offense led by Colin O'Neill. The Tors closed the margin down to 52-50 with only 27 seconds left. Carl Hilton of Ball scored eight points during the stretch. Ball had several players in early foul trouble, and was unable to catch Clear Lake, who hit a high percentage of their foul shots.

Region III was going to revolve around Houston Yates(29-1), the #1 team in the state. The Lions averaged 55.3 points per game and gave up 44.3. Yates opening round game was at Hofheinz Pavilion against #13 ranked Houston Kashmere(26-5) in the second game of a double hitter. In the two team's first meeting of the season, which was an early season game, Micheal Young came away with 30 points and pulled down 12 rebounds in the Lions 83-64 romp. Kashmere(26-5) had improved a great deal since their early season losses.

The Rams shocked Yates before 8,000 fans at Hofheinz Pavilion 47-45. Kashmere(27-5) had used 10 players to defeat Yates(29-2) with Wayne Johnson and Alfred Godine running the balanced Rams attack. Luster Goodwin hit a driving layup with four seconds remaining to give Kashmere(27-5) the win. Coach Frankie Brazos had planned the strategy waiting for the last shot. "It was our spread red play and Luster was the one we wanted with the ball," Brazos said.

6'6" Michael Young(20.0) was superb as he scored 31 of Yates 45 points, and ended up with 14 rebounds. The future Houston Cougar great was 9 of 12 from the line. Young tied the game at 45-45 with 33 seconds remaining on a layup. The Rams called time-out to set up the game-winning play. With four seconds left, Luster Goodwin of Kashmere(27-5) scored a layup to win the game. The Lions loss really opened up the region to everybody in the Houston area. The game produced 16 lead changes and 10 ties.

Years later Michael Young said, "it was hard to single out the good players on Kashmere's team because they had so many. Everybody wanted to play at Hofheinz back in those days, it was the goal of every player." On the loss to Kashmere, Young responded, "it was very disappointing, but it was one of those things that builds character, you learn from it and look to the future."

"This was the biggest win for Kashmere(27-5) in a long, long time, I guess since the 1975," said Coach Brazos. "I think the key was defense. Young had a great game, but we made him work on both ends, play defense and then work for his shots. The field goal by Luster was just the way it was planned."

Michael Young was another in a long line of standouts who played for the Lions. He was the 24th pick in the N.B.A. draft by the Celtics and played in three consecutive final fours with the University of Houston and Phi Slama Jama. Yates played a very controlled tempo and won a number of games by single digits. The

Lions beat Worthing(14-15) by four and one, Ft. Worth Southwest(17-14) by five, Waco University(19-10) by two, Huntsville(24-4) by seven, and San Antonio Edison by five. My point of showing all the close games they played was to show that the Kashmere game was more the norm than the exception. Yates was far from a dominating force in class AAAA. Yes, they were an outstanding team, but not dominating. They played a controlled slow tempo game keeping opponents close.

Clear Lake(26-8) was matched up against the Rams of Kashmere(27-5) in **regional** action. "I consider Kashmere the #1 team right now," Coach Bill Krueger of Clear Lake said. "They beat Yates Tuesday, so they ought to be the best. I didn't think it was a fluke. They had a lot of things go wrong for them and they still won."

Coach Frankie Brazos of Kashmere(27-5) felt a key to beating Clear Lake(26-8) would be keeping them off the foul line. "That's going to be almost impossible since we play aggressive on defense and Clear Lake knows how to draw fouls and shoot free throws."

Kashmere's pressing and aggressive style gave Clear Lake(26-9) fits as the Rams won another close one 75-71. Coach Frankie Brazos team advanced into the regional finals. An uncontested fast break layup by Kashmere's Stefon Chandler with 16-seconds left to play, put the last nail in the coffin against Clear Lake. "I think our speed and depth was a big factor in winning this game," said Brazos following the win. The Rams speed definitely was the difference in the game.

The Rams reserves scored 38 points to only four for the non-Falcons starters. Clear Lake(26-9) had cut the Rams(27-5) nine-point lead down to two with 50 seconds remaining. Wayne Johnson responded with two free-throws with 42 seconds left for a four-point margin. Chandler's layup finished off the Falcons.

"We weren't trying to stall or delay," Brazos added, "just trying to spread things out and open up our offense." Kenneth Cook led the scoring parade for the Rams coming off the bench for 20 points. Alfred Godine followed with 18 and both Johnson and Luster Goodwin finished with 10. Russ Capps paced Clear Lake with 20 points and Greg Singleton followed with 18 points. Both Capps and Singleton were juniors making the 1981 season look very promising for the Falcons.

Many sportswriters were calling Pt. Arthur Lincoln the regional favorite. Coach Gamble responded, "Since Yates didn't make the regional tournament, maybe those people are underestimating the quality of the other teams. It's really difficult to establish a favorite."

Houston Madison(25-10) was talented with 6'6" Lee Gibson, 6'5" Matt England, 6'2" Eric Dickens, and 6'0" Eugene Alford. PA Lincoln(26-8) stayed overnight in Houston to try and become more relaxed with their surroundings and the atmosphere of the regional tournament. Coach Benton commented about Lincoln, "I heard they were tough, tall, and outstanding jumpers. They also play outstanding defense and have an excellent bench."

Houston Madison(26-10) had experience and loads of talent on their side as they advanced to the regional finals 65-63. "We lost our poise in the first half and we panicked," Coach Gamble said. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(26-9) had 15 turnovers to 7 for Houston Madison(26-10) in the first half. The halftime score stood at 37-26 in favor of the Marlins. PA Lincoln had balanced scoring with Bonnie Hall hitting 10 points along with Darrell Thomas and Milton Bennett finished with 9. For Houston Madison Matt England had 18 points, Eric Dickens hit 17 points and Lee Gibson finished with 15 points. Gamble said following the game, "Madison was used to the big city atmosphere, they had played before 9 or 10,000 people at Hofheinz in Bi-District. They were as comfortable as they could be."

Early foul trouble for Madison(26-10) almost cost them the game, but they recovered nicely to take a 17-point fourth quarter advantage. "The key to this game was our ability to rebound with those big guys. We knew it was going to be difficult, but we managed to hold our own," Coach Paul Benton of Madison said following the game. "I thought Lee Gibson did a great job on the boards tonight, just great." At 6'7" Gibson had to battle 6'8" Ruben Prevost, 6'7" Leonard Allen, and 6'6" Barry Ford. After PA Lincoln(26-9) got within seven points with 3:15 remaining, Madison went to a four-corner delay game and held on to claim victory. The guard play of Eugene Alford, Emmitt Penelton, Robert Norman and Jacque Morris proved to be the difference for the Marlins.

Houston Madison(26-10) and Houston Kashmere(27-5) met in the **Region III finals**. It was the Rams third regional finals over a seven-year span, and it was the Marlins second straight appearance. Madison(26-10) was down by 16 points and came back to take a 61-59 lead with 2:40 remaining in the game. Kashmere came right back with baskets by Luster Goodwin and Alfred Godine, along with two free-throws by Kenneth Cook. With 1:54 left, Kashmere took a 65-61 lead. With 35 seconds remaining in the contest, Alfred Godine of the Rams went to the foul line and missed the front end of a one-and-one situation. Godine and Matt England were tied up for a jump ball with eight seconds remaining. 6'3" Emmitt Penelton of Madison got the tip from England and missed the possible game-tying field goal from the corner with two seconds left on the clock. Eric Dickens of Madison came up with rebound and put the ball in for two points, but the buzzer had sounded.

Houston Kashmere's depth was a key in defeating Houston Madison(26-11) 65-63 once again. It was the Ram's first return to the state tournament since 1975. Inside, 6'6" Kenneth Cook, 6'4" Wayne Bennett, Gerald Sublet, 6'0" Luster Goodwin, Alfred Godine and 6'0" Wayne Johnson all were major contributors to the Ram pressing defense. Kenneth Cook, Gerald Sublet, and Luster Goodwin were all juniors. Although Kashmere did not have the big names like the '75 team, they were going to be hard to beat in Austin. I remember my brother-in-law and I commenting on several occasions that the best team at state was Kashmere's third team. It seemed

like they were constantly running in players that you had never seen before that were talented.

"It took us five years but we finally made it," Coach Brazos said following the victory. "We just seem to relax when we get a big lead, as we did today, and it almost cost us. But we just seem to thrive under pressure. All those turnovers in the fourth period hurt," added Brazos. Kashmere(28-5) took off to a 16-2 lead and then moved to a 20-5 margin. "They came back on us good, but we got it when we had to have it." Godine commented. Alfred Godine was the nephew of Karl Godine, a member of the 1975 state championship team at Kashmere.

Kashmere's balance continued as they only placed two players in double figures. Kenneth Cook had 15 points and Wayne Johnson hit 10. Lee Gibson had 17 points for Madison and Penelton put in 13 while Eric Dickens followed with 12. "We did a bad job of handling the press," Benton said. "We finally got untracked a little but then got beat at the end.

According to none other than Houston Chronicle sportswriter, Bill McMurray, the two premier players in Houston during the 1980 season were 6'6" Michael Young of Yates and 6'5" Matt England of Madison. This was pretty much a consensus of the college recruiters. Interestingly, Houston Kashmere(28-5) eliminated both their teams in the playoffs. The Rams beat Yates 45-43 and Madison 65-63.

In talking to Coach Benton of Madison in later years, he said England was one of the best players he ever coached. During his senior year England hurt his thumb in an early season scrimmage and missed most of the season. That definitely explains all of the early season losses by the Marlins. Benton had opened up Madison High School in 1965 and coached football right along with basketball up until he left after the 1985 season. "I needed the money, so I started coaching football at the 7th grade level and ended up the offensive coordinator on the varsity. I went from the football field right on to the basketball court," Benton said.

Region IV Playoffs

Austin Lanier(29-5) #12
Converse Judson(27-8)
Mission(24-7)
San Marcos(27-4) #8

Lamar Consolidated(18-14)
San Antonio Clark(25-12)
Corpus Christi Carroll(30-6)
San Antonio Sam Houston(29-8)

Top Five in Region IV

6'8"	Mike Wacker	San Marcos
6'2"	Harold Howard	Austin Lanier
6'2"	Doug Moe Jr.	S.A. Clark
6'7"	Lowell McHenry	S.A. Sam Houston
6'5"	Randy Moff	Corpus Christi Carroll
6'7"	Reuben McDaniel	Austin Anderson

In region IV, Austin Lanier(31-6) was attempting a return to the big dance in Austin. The top-rated team in the region was 8th ranked San Marcos(27-4). The Rattlers of San Marcos(27-4) had their best squad since the 1965 state championship team. San Marcos also had the top-rated recruit in the state of Texas in 6'8" Mike Wacker(23.4/10.2). Wacker signed with the University of Texas and became one of the top high school coaches in the state at Converse Judson.

The Rattlers of San Marcos(27-4) really got some great news in the spring of 1979 when a 6'8" post named Mike Wacker arrived on campus. Mike was the son of the new Texas State football coach, Jim Wacker. Mike had come in from North Dakota and was one of the top players in the country. The Rattlers instantly were contenders for the state championship. Wacker was a sensational talent, big, quick, great moves and a nice touch.

San Marcos(27-4) got off to a great start early in the season with a 14-2 record. The Rattlers new coach was Larry Dunaway, and he was very excited about his team as he entered District action. The teams two pre-district losses had come at the hands of San Antonio Churchill(30-6) 49-39 and Austin Lanier(29-5) 61-60. Both Lanier and Churchill were top ranked teams and contenders to win region IV.

The Clemens(26-12) Buffaloes were the Rattlers opening District game. Clemens came in at 17-6, and three of their six losses came at the hands of Converse Judson(27-9). Following the loss to Lanier, Coach Dunaway made a key adjustment moving 6'3" Rudell Sanders from the outside to the high post. Dunaway felt 5'7" Larry Sowards and Clarence Cephias were ready to handle the perimeter themselves. Sanders teamed up with Wacker to form a strong inside scoring combo.

Also, Dunaway introduced some different defensive schemes to add to his man to man base defense. San Marcos(27-4) started District blazing with Wacker and Sanders combining for 51 points. Wacker contributed 32 points in his team's 67-47 win over Clemens(26-12).

Next up, the Rattlers just snuck by a quick Seguin team 43-42. The Matadors press almost got San Marcos and Wacker again led the scoring with 26 points. Seguin had played an overtime game earlier against a talented Austin Lanier(29-5) team.

San Antonio Churchill(30-6) stood at 23-2 and really created a lot of problems for San Marcos. The Chargers already owned a pre-season victory over the Rattlers. In a very low scoring game, Churchill(30-6) got the victory 37-34. The victory gave the Chargers a 12-game winning streak. Churchill ran a match-up zone, so Coach Dunaway spread offense was trying to pull Churchill out of their zone. "They can't stop us man to man," Dunaway said after the game. San Marcos stalled the whole 2nd quarter with a one-point lead, trying to draw Churchill out of the zone and match-up man to man.

The opponents didn't get any weaker as San Marcos prepared for San Antonio Roosevelt. Remember, the Roughriders had advanced to the semi-finals in the Optimist tournament earlier in the season and held a one-point win over Corpus Christi Carroll(31-7) and defeated Converse Judson(27-9).

The Roughriders had San Marcos' number, giving the Rattlers their second straight loss 52-50. Wacker got 24 points, but it wasn't enough. San Marcos wrapped up the first round of District action with convincing wins over San Antonio Lee, S.A. MacArthur, and Alamo Heights. Clemens(26-12) won the first round with their win over S.A. Churchill(30-6).

The second half of District action, San Marcos ran the table defeating S.A. Churchill(30-6) 42-41, Clemens(26-12) 57-46, and convincing wins over Lee, Roosevelt, MacArthur and Seguin.

The surprise team of the second round of District was Alamo Heights, who upset Churchill(30-6), Clemens(26-12) and Roosevelt. In talking to Alamo Heights coach Charlie Boggess, he said he was the assistant the previous season at Churchill and he knew their personnel really well. "I was calling all the Churchill players by name during the game and knew many their strengths and weaknesses. I felt that really gave my team an advantage." Against San Marcos(27-4), Alamo Heights had no luck, as the Rattlers finished up District with an 86-69 win.

The District showdown between Clements(26-12) and San Marcos(27-4) took place at Alamo Stadium. San Marcos(27-4) had won all the previous three meetings between the two schools. Lenny Draper was the Clemens coach, and he was convinced he would have to contain Wacker to have a chance.

Because of the sagging defense employed by Clements, Larry Sowards carried San Marcos(27-4) to a 67-50 victory. The little 5'7" guard got some great looks at the basket, and came away with 20 points, and Rudell Sanders also hit 20 points. The Buffaloes double and triple teamed Wacker. "I've said all along that we're not a one man show," Dunaway said. "This is the proudest I've ever been with a ball-club. I've coached three all-state teams, and this is the best." "It's also great when you have an all-state player that scores 4 points and you win by 17. I like that," Dunaway continued. John Teasley led Clemens(26-12) with 15 points and Kenny Draper had 13.

At 27-4 San Marcos entered the playoffs as one of the top teams in the state. Unfortunately, the Rattlers faced a tough San Antonio Sam Houston(28-8) squad coached by Wayne Dickey. Coach Dunaway was very impressed with the Cherokees in his scouting. "I feel that the winner of this game will go to the state tournament," Dunaway said. "Nobody in the region has as much talent as Sam Houston. We haven't played a team of the caliber yet." Dunaway was really impressed saying, "We'll have to have our best game ever rebounding. If they go to the boards, they can simply overpower you with their talent. They play in spurts. I don't think anybody else in this region will be going to state. The only other team

that might could be Austin Lanier(28-5),” Dunaway said. “I don’t think there’s anybody in this region with the same talent as S.A. Sam Houston(28-8).”

So, listening to Coach Dunaway, he did not sound too optimistic on his team’s chances against Sam Houston(28-8). The coach proved to be correct. The Cherokees defeated San Marcos(27-4) 74-63 in front of 2,000 fans at the Blossom Athletic center. At one point, Sam Houston led 67-46 before a late comeback by the Rattlers. The highly rated San Marcos(27-4) squad proved to be no match for Sam Houston. Wacker finished with 16 points and 13 rebounds while Rudell Sanders led the Rattlers with 19 points, of which 11 were in the final stanza. “Sam Houston is a very, very talented team,” Coach Larry Dunaway said following his team’s loss. “Even if they(the officials) would have officiated the game perfectly, Sam Houston would have won by five or six. They have so much talent and depth....they just kept putting guys in there that were good ball-players.”

S.A. Sam Houston(28-8) Coach Wayne Dickey said following the game, “we’re not a good slow-down kind of ball club, we don’t handle the ball real well and when we get to the foul line we stink.” In handling big Wacker, Dickey commented, “We felt if we allowed them to set the tempo and get the ball to 6’9” Wacker with their inside game, we were hurting. What helped us more than anything was Larry Sowards getting into foul trouble early. That took away some of their ball handling,” Dickey said.

Larry Sowards picked up his 3rd foul with 7:57 left in the 2nd quarter and his 4th foul with 2:58 remaining in the half. Freshmen Ray Davis at 6’9” and Lowell McHenry at 6’7” kept Wacker in check on the inside while David Glasco, Mark McNeil and reserve Thomas Rodriguez held down the perimeter.

San Marcos Coach, Larry Dunaway, made some strong comparisons, “I kind of told some people the last few days that I hadn’t seen a team with so much talent since the Houston Kashmere team in 1975 that went 46-0. They don’t have an individual star like Karl Godine, but they have so much depth it’s incredible.”

In later years, Coach Dickey commented on playing the number one recruit in the state, Mike Wacker. “He had great foot work, strong and good ball-handler, great leader and handled himself with such poise. He really knew how to use his body, great team player, very tough.” Coach Charlie Boggess of Alamo Heights said he went to scout Wacker and the big 6’8” post came down court and went behind his back and between his legs, finishing with a tomahawk dunk. Boggess turned to his assistant and said, “what are we going to do with that.” Boggess continued, “Wacker was the best player I had seen come through San Antonio up to that time, he was a hell of a player.” Wacker and Michael Young of Yates were widely accepted as the two best players in the state followed closely by Reggie Roberts of McKinney.

Mike Wacker commented following the season, "I thought we could have played with any of them, I think we could have played with the teams in Austin.(State tournament) I always wanted to win it all.

The Cherokees of S.A. Sam Houston(29-8) had a very talented program. Coach Dickey was pretty dominating at Sam Houston and had one of the most successful runs in the history of the Alamo city. He came to the Cherokees in 1976 and took Sam Houston to state for the first time since 1971, when they lost to Houston Wheatley in the semi-finals. The 1980 version of the Green and Orange was led by 6'7" Lowell McHenry(13.0), 6'0" Mark McNeil(7.0), 6'1" David Glasco(6.0), 6'3" Alan Luckey(12.0), and 6'6" Tony Trigg(8.0). The bench played a big role for Coach Dickey. He liked to play 10 or 11 players each game to wear down his opponents. "The type kids we had at Sam Houston were tough and physical and athletic almost every year, so I pressed the entire game and played a lot of kids," Dickey said. Players that came off the bench were 6'5" Arthur Williams(11.0), 6'9" 240 pound freshman, Raynard Davis(7.0), 5'10" Eddie Williams(6.0), and 5'10" Claudius Williams.

"McHenry couldn't pass his courses because he never went to class," Coach Dickey said. "The athletic director put him in basketball, and I told McHenry he would have to attend class and make grades in order to be part of the program," Dickey continued. "He probably ended up being our best player on the '80 squad." McHenry attended Hill Jr. College and his coach there got the assistants job at Texas A&M, so he played his last two years for the Aggies. Dickey had two very athletic guards in Mark McNeil and David Glasco. McNeil won the 100-yard dash and 220-yard dash at the state track meet at 6'1", 210 pounds. McNeil signed with U.N.L.V. to play football, but later ended up at SW Texas State in San Marcos. (Presently-Texas State) David Glasco was the team's best ballhandler. Glasco also played football at U.N.L.V. and SW Texas State. "I always encouraged my players to play as many sports as possible," Dickey said. "I always encouraged them to compete and I wanted my players to be good students and even better citizens as well as athletes."

The best shooter on the team was Alan Luckey. He had a nice stroke from long range. Arthur Williams played inside or outside and later played at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. 6'7" Tony Trigg only weighed 170 pounds, but was a nice shot blocker, who went on to a very artistic career in Chicago. Trigg played the back to the 3-1-1 press while McHenry played on the ball. The Cherokees ran a complex series of presses that Dickey learned from his high school coach, Herman Humble at S.A. Highlands. 6'9" Raynard Davis also provided depth up front for Sam Houston. "In my thirty years as a head coach I only had three freshmen play on the varsity," Dickey said.

San Antonio Sam Houston(29-8) had defeated Fox Tech(20-12) in a District playoff game 61-54 at the Alamo Stadium Gym. S.A. Sam Houston had won a non-district game over Fox Tech 95-57 and the first round of District 65-61. S.A. Fox Tech

took the second-round contest 76-68, setting up the decisive third District game. The Cherokees ended the season with a 3-1 record vs. Fox Tech. Coach Roland Lopez of Fox Tech had the surprise team of District, having been picked seventh in the pre-season polls. Sam Houston's third year coach, Wayne Dickey said, "last year we did not have nearly the depth we have now. We suit up 16 kids on all three levels and play 12-14 a game. Tech is a scrappy bunch. We felt like Daryl Pitts and Tommie Lee were their keys. We tried to make Pitts shoot on the run and hope Lee didn't hit every time he shot."

The Sam Houston press was a key factor in the Cherokees success, keeping a fast tempo. Daryl Pitts finished with 15 points and Tommie Lee hit 13 for Fox Tech in their 61-54 loss to Sam Houston. For Sam Houston the scoring was balanced as usual, Arthur Williams hit 14 points, Allen Luckey came away with 12 points and Lowell McHenry finished with 12.

When I asked Coach Dickey about scouting his opponents, he said he really didn't worry that much about what his opponents were going to do. It was more about how his team played. "I always liked to see my opponents and how quick they were, but we were going to press you as you came out of the locker room, and would press you at halftime if we got a chance. 95% of the time we were going to play man defense, so when we played Wacker, we did not make any major adjustments."

District 26-AAAA had three strong teams in 1980. Austin Lanier(27-4) was going for their third straight District title and Regional appearance. The Vikings won the first half of District with a 7-1 record. The definitive contest during the first round was a 55-54 win by Lanier(27-4) over Austin High(24-6). Pat Maxwell of Austin Lanier(27-4) hit a hook shot over 6'10" Kelly Blaine of Austin High(26-6) with 11 seconds left. Unfortunately for Coach Masch of Lanier, Maxwell broke his wrist soon after and was out for the remainder of the season.

The three key players for the Vikings were 6'1" Harold Howard(20.8), point guard Chet Stevenson(14.2) and post Robert Johnson. Howard was named District M.V.P. and Chet Stevenson was named to the first team and Robert Johnson made the second team. There were five players named on both teams.

The second round of District was a donnybrook between Austin High(24-6), Austin Anderson(21-7) and Austin Lanier(27-4). All three teams were 5-1 during second round action. The Trojans of Austin Anderson High relied on two of the top scorers in the District. 6'2" Kevin Dukes(21.4) and 6'7" Ruben McDaniel(19.4) fueled the Anderson Trojans attack. Both were named first team All-District. For the Maroons of Austin High, 6'10" Kelly Blaine(13.0) was key along with Derrick Harris(16.6). Harris was named first team All-District while Blaine was named to the 2nd team.

Austin High(24-6) knocked Austin Lanier(27-4) out of contention in the second round with a 54-52 victory. The Maroons were paced by an unexpected hero,

Boone Almanza, who scored 21 points for Austin High(24-6). Almanza said he was the "Benjamin Breiger" of Austin High. Breiger had been a key figure in Lanier's first round victory over Austin High, but later quit the team. On driving to the basket late in the game, Almanza said, "I love doing that because Coach Patrick doesn't think I'm quick enough to do it and I like to show him I am,"

Against Austin High(24-6), the only Viking in double figures was Harold Howard with 24 points. Austin Lanier(27-4) had some chances late to win, but was unable to take advantage. Derrick Harris of Austin High was fouled intentionally and missed both foul shots, only to see Kelly Blaine get the rebound. Blaine turned the ball over to Lanier on a traveling violation. With nine seconds left, Austin High doubled Howard, who was forced to give up the ball to Chet Stevenson, but his errant pass never got to its intended target. Blaine and Harris were both held under 12 points, which gave several opportunities to Almanza. The win put Austin Anderson(21-7) and Austin High(24-6) in the driver's seat for the second round of District.

With Anderson(21-7) and Austin High(24-6) tied for the second half lead, Anderson held a big advantage, because they had defeated Austin High, which was the District tie breaker. Anderson(21-7) now faced Lanier(27-4) for the District title. Austin High Coach Dave Patrick was not at all excited about the District playoff solution. "Look at the District record," Patrick said, "If we all win our last games, we'll all have 13-3 overall records with each of us splitting our two games. They need to playoff these ties, rather than by who beat whom in what round. Basketball Championships should be decided that way when you can easily have a playoff. We got time to have one. It would mean more publicity for local high schools, more money and more interest. The way it's set up now, we'd be better off in a four-way tie with two losses each than a two-way tie with one loss."

Austin Anderson(22-7) only had to defeat Austin Reagan(9-19) and Austin Travis(5-23) to close out the 2nd half. Austin Travis had the advantage of having beaten Austin Lanier(27-4) in first round action 46-45. The Trojans easily won both games with a 75-54 win over Reagan, and a 85-62 win over Travis.

Austin High(24-6) poured it on Austin L.B.J. trying to keep pace with Austin Anderson(22-7). At one point the Maroons were up by 51 points in their closeout win 93-54. Lanier(27-4) did not fare so well in their last game, losing their second game in a row 63-62 to Austin Johnston. "We're not playing as well as we were earlier," said Coach Harry Masch of Lanier, "but I've seen a lot of sorry playoff teams. We really miss Pat Maxwell," Masch continued. Maxwell was a defensive specialist and added needed depth and quickness to the depleted Viking lineup. Lanier finished the second round at 5-3, losing their last two District games.

Austin Lanier(27-4), the first half winner prepared for the District Playoff game against the 2nd half winner, Austin Anderson(23-7). Momentum looked to be on the Trojans side as they approached the District playoff game. The two teams

had split during District action with Lanier winning a close one 66-65 in the first round, and Anderson(23-7) came back with a 69-63 win in the second round.

The District playoff game was really close for three quarters, with a one point separating the two teams as they entered the fourth quarter. Kevin Dukes and Reuben McDaniel had scored 26 of Anderson's 30 points at the end of the 3rd period. Lanier's Coach Masch went to a special defense in which Howard guarded Dukes, and Steve Cutrer stayed with Reuben McDaniel, and everybody else would help on those two. "We tried to keep at least two guys around them all the time," Masch said. The result was Lanier outscored Anderson 20-5 in the fourth quarter to give the Vikings a 71-55 victory. Reuben McDaniel finished with 24 points followed by Kevin Dukes with 18 points and Terry White counted 7 points. That was 49 of the Anderson total 55 points among three players. Coach Bill Thompson, who was a former assistant of Masch, said following the game, "We just didn't have anyone else who could hit." Lanier, as usual had no bench, relying on only six players and suiting up only seven. Chet Stevenson finished with 22 points and Harold Howard had 24 points to lead the Vikings. Howard finished his scoring on the evening with a drive through the lane and a slam dunk with 57 seconds remaining.

Austin Lanier's(29-4) luck finally ran out as they lost a coin flip and had to travel to Rosenberg in their Bi-District clash. Lamar Consolidated(18-13) was the surprise opponent and were underdogs to the Vikings. In Lamar's warm-up game against Houston Madison(26-11), Consolidated lost 69-51. Things continued to look bleak for Lanier, as point guard Chet Stevenson woke up with a 103 temperature on game day. The already depleted Vikings would be missing one of their best players. Stevenson played, but it was not one of Lanier's stronger performances, as they made numerous turnovers.

Lamar Consolidated tried to go inside to 6'7" Alfred Becan to get the Vikings in foul trouble. "We knew they were shorthanded, and we hoped to take advantage of that," Lamar's coach, Glenn Arnold said. The Vikings advanced 62-59 with a depleted squad. Coach Arnold commented about Lanier following the game. "That Howard is a player though. He's so blasted deceiving, he doesn't look like he's doing that much, but he's always a step ahead of you. Their whole team is like that. They may be undermanned, but they've got five good ball players and that's all you need."

Next up for Austin Lanier(30-4) was another surprise team, San Antonio Clark(26-12). Coach Masch received some more bad news prior to the Clark contest. His star player, Harold Howard, had hurt his back-playing table tennis. The Vikings were already only suiting up seven players.

San Antonio Clark(26-12) was a second-year school and had numerous players out earlier in the season and were 11-9 at one point. S.A. Clark(26-12) would be suiting up 16 players as opposed to seven for Lanier. Clark really came on strong late in the year beating one of the top teams in San Antonio, Marshall(22-10) in

back to back District games. The S.A. Marshall(22-10) vs. S.A. Clark(26-12) second round game was a good one. The game ended the regular season with all kinds of implications. With the score 62-61 in favor of Marshall, Kevin Hamilton hit a 20-footer for Clark, followed by two free-throws by Doug Moe Jr. This made the score 65-62 in favor of Clark with 28 seconds on the clock. Marshall missed a long shot that could have tied the game at the buzzer. The final read S.A. Clark(26-12) 66, S.A. Marshall(22-10) 64.

Rick Soat was the top scorer for Clark with 25 points and Moe was held to only 13 points. The Vittatoe twins led Marshall with Vern contributing 23 points and Vince adding 16. Remember the twins were only juniors.

At Taylor Gym in the District playoff game, S.A. Clark(26-12) defeated San Antonio Marshall(22-10) 64-59 to capture the **District 30-AAAA title**. "We played a heck of a game," Clark's coach Newton Grimes said, "We got ahead and then controlled the tempo of the game. We got them out of their game by going to our delay game." Doug Moe Jr led the way with 26 points followed by his brother with 10. Kevin Hamilton also added another 10 points.

San Antonio Marshall finished the season going 22-10 and were first half champs while Clark took the 2nd half at 7-1. Coach Bobby Murphy's team was led by David Nobles with 16 points, Louis Espinar had 14 points, Vince Vittatoe 13, and George Rodriguez pulled down 12 rebounds in the loss to Clark.

Following the game Coach Murphy said, "We have no excuses. They just played better than we did tonight. We got into foul trouble early and that hurt our aggressiveness." David Nobles of Marshall was denied the ball in the second half by Clark. "Their defense was good tonight," Coach Murphy said.

Converse Judson(27-8) had a strong team during the '80 campaign but struggled getting out of a tough **29-AAAA District** scramble. Laredo Nixon(21-11) downed Judson 50-49 during the 2nd half of District action, sending everybody scrambling in a three-way tie. Ricky Garza was the hero hitting from the top of the key with two seconds on the clock for Nixon.

Laredo Nixon(21-11), Converse Judson(27-8) and Laredo Martin(22-5) were all tied for the 2nd half lead at 5-1. Converse Judson(27-8) had won the first half title. Judson also would get the bye in the 2nd half playoff. If needed, another game would be played between the 1st half winner and the 2nd half champion.

Laredo Martin(22-5) took down Laredo Nixon(21-11) 44-40 to see who would go against Converse Judson(27-8) for the 2nd half crown. Laredo Martin(23-5) had the unfortunate task of having to defeat Judson(27-8) in back to back games. Laredo Martin(22-5) would not get the opportunity as they lost to Judson(27-8) 81-67. David Hohensee scored 28 points in the win over Laredo Martin(22-5). The victory gave Judson(27-8) the District title. Martin finished with a 23-6 mark on the season and Ricardo Escamilla led Martin in scoring against Judson with 15 points.

S.A. Clark(25-12) played Converse Judson(27-8) as part of a double hitter played at the Blossom Athletic Center. The second game was Sam Houston(29-8) against San Marcos(27-4). Tickets were \$2 for adults and \$1 for students. Those were the days!

Converse Judson's last appearance in the playoffs had been in 1977, San Antonio Sam Houston in 1972, and San Marcos way back in 1969. Clark was a new school as we mentioned previously. Judson was paced by a double whammy in David Hohensee(18.3) and George Lewis(16.8). Doug Moe Jr. was the key for Clark with 20.5 per game. In the second game, Lowell McHenry was bringing a solid average at 14.8, and Wacker from San Marcos was very impressive averaging 23.4.

San Antonio Clark(26-12) made their first trip to regionals with a 80-79 win over Converse-Judson((27-8) on Hal Prickett's two foul shots with 11 seconds remaining in overtime. Prickett had begun the season on the junior varsity. The Cougars overcame a four-point deficit in overtime. A crowd of 3,000 showed up to watch the double hitter. Doug Moe Jr. once again was special with 31 points and was 13 of 14 from the foul line. Lamar Lozano attempted a last shot, but it was deflected by Robby Byam, to give the Cougars the win. "We don't win with five, we win with eight or nine, who can come in and play in any kind of situation," Clark coach Kevin Hamilton said. Both teams spent a great deal of time on the foul line, Clark(26-12) hit 32 of 37 and Judson was 25 of 29. This was a real upset in most people's opinion, because Judson(27-9) was viewed as one of the top contenders for the Region IV title.

In the second game San Marcos(27-4) committed 29 turnovers against the San Antonio Sam Houston(29-8) press. The Cherokees had a 21-point lead at one point in the 4th quarter as previously discussed. Sam Houston was not a good match-up for San Marcos(27-5) as their coach had indicated.

San Antonio Clark(26-12) was not dominating opponents on their way to regionals. Starters for Clark were 6'2" Doug Moe(20.8), 6'3" Kevin Hamilton(10.4), 6'2" Rick Aderbolt(8.1), 6'3" Robby Byam(6.9), and 6'4" Soat(9.9). Austin Lanier(30-5) started 6'2" Harold Howard(20.8), 5'9" Chet Stevenson, 6'3" Steve Cutrer(8.3), 6'3" Robert Johnson(11.9), and 6'3" Kenneth Hill(7.8). Lanier averaged 69.1 per game on the season.

*In the **regional semi-final** game Lanier hit 63% from the foul line in the second half and destroyed San Antonio Clark(26-13) 107-84. To add insult to misery, Lanier only suited up seven players. Harold Howard tallied 35 points and finished the evening with back to back slam dunks late in the game. Chet Stevenson had 22 points, Robert Johnson added 18 and Steve Cutrer had 18. "If they shoot like that, I don't know who can stay with them," Coach Newton Grimes of Clark said. Doug Moe(21.1) was the man as usual for Clark with 31 points.*

Coach Harry Masch of Austin Lanier discussed his outstanding guard, Harold Howard. "Harold's one of the best I've seen in terms of pure, overall

basketball talent. He's not excellent at any one thing, but he's damn good at everything. He's such a good player it would have been stupid of me not to use him as much as I did. I put a lot of pressure on him to produce," Masch said. In his playoff run Howard scored 24 points against Anderson, 20 on Converse-Judson, 35 verses S.A. Clark and 29 points against S.A. Sam Houston. That's a 27-point average against the top teams in the region.

Corpus Christi Carroll(30-6) defeated Mission(29-8) to advance to regionals in a close game 57-56. Craig Kockless led the scoring for Carroll hitting 21 points and 6'4" Randy Moff(17.9/12.7) added 17. Mission was led by Hector Gonzalez with 18 and Jerry Farias added 14.

Mission(29-8) played a battle royal in district finally defeating the Harlingen(29-9) Cardinals 42-35. The two teams had met four times previously. The Eagles of Mission had won three out of the four. The Cardinals came into the contest on a seventeen-game winning streak. Harlingen liked to pull the ball out and go into their delay offense. Coach Roy Garcia of Mission said, "a real turning point came in the second quarter when we went ahead, as soon as we went ahead, we went to a ball control game of our own." Coach Carl Owens of Harlingen(29-9) said, "they just did a better job defensively than we did."

Corpus Christi Carroll(31-6) drew San Antonio Sam Houston(30-8) in the other semi-final game. Starters for Carroll included 6'5" Randy Moff(17.9/12.7), 5'10" Craig Knockless(15.1), 6'1" Orlando Garcia(9.9), 5'9" Pee Wee Smoots(9.4), and 5'11" Loyd Neal(3.1). All the starters were juniors with the exception of Neal. Defense was Carroll's calling card allowing only one team to score over 60 in the previous 19 games.

San Antonio Sam Houston(30-8) dropped Corpus Christi Carroll(31-6) 71-68 to reach the regional finals. "We had a five-point lead there at the end and almost blew it," Dickey said following the big win. "We had a little hot-dogging out there. It's the same problem we've had all year." Sam Houston led at halftime 39-34. "We've going to have to quit making mistakes or we won't have a chance," Dickey continued.

Lowell McHenry finished with 16 points, Tony Trigg 12 and Allen Luckey 11. Randy Moff was held to 18 points and Roberts finished with 17, Craig Knockless 10 and Pee Wee Smoots 10. Looking ahead to the **regional finals** against Austin Lanier(31-5), Dickey said, "we haven't had that experience in big games and Lanier has."

The top player at the regional tournament was Harold Howard(23.5/7.5) of Austin Lanier(31-5). One of the top recruiters in the state back in the 1980s said he felt Howard was probably the second-best guard in the state behind Roberts of McKinney. Howard would need a great game if Lanier was going to get by Sam Houston. Howard went on to play in college at Evansville and Texas State.

San Antonio Sam Houston's(31-9) size and depth proved to be the difference as the Cherokees advanced to Austin with a 71-68 victory over Lanier. Allen Luckey hit two foul shots late for Sam Houston, which proved to be the difference with three seconds remaining. "I just wanted it so bad," Luckey said. "I said to myself that this chance would never come again in my life. I knew that if I would make them we would win."

The key play to the game, which basically decided the winner, came with 8 seconds remaining and the score was 69-68 in favor of Sam Houston. Howard of Lanier grabbed a rebound off a missed shot by Paul Aaron. Howard was called for an offensive foul which sent Luckey to the line. Howard said, "I still can't believe that last call, I never will." Howard had finished with 35 points in the semis and 29 in the regional finals, which sparked Lanier's late rally.

Down by eight with 2:25 remaining, Howard hit five points, giving his team a chance at the end. Sam Houston was stalling when Tony Trigg was fouled and missed the front end of a one and one situation. Lanier got the rebound and Aaron put up a 15-footer that was taken in by Howard with 8 seconds on the clock. There was a lot of contact inside and Lanier's Coach Harry Masch said from where he was sitting, "I was ecstatic because I thought Harold would be going to the line to shoot two."

The Vikings finished the game with five players after Steve Cutrer and Robert Johnson had fouled out. Discipline problems had forced Coach Masch to dismiss some players from the squad earlier in the season.

Lowell McHenry had 23 points for Sam Houston and Allen Lucky followed with 22 points. "I've been waiting six years for this day," Coach Dickey said. "The potential was here to be the best Sam Houston team ever."

The Cherokees had jumped out to a big lead at 28-15 with 6:02 left in the 1st half. The Vikings closed the gap to 33-32 by halftime. Austin Lanier had only one lead in the second half and the last tie occurred at 51 in the 3rd quarter. Howard finished with 29 points, Robert Johnson kicked in 19 points and Stevenson was solid with 8 points. Austin Lanier(31-6) finished one game away from state and ended up 31-6 on the season.

San Antonio Sam Houston(32-8) joined Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-8), Plano(31-3), and Houston Kashmere(29-5) in Austin.

The All-Centex team named the top sixteen players in Central Texas in 1980. 6'8" Mike Wacker of San Marcos, 6'7" Reuben McDaniel of Austin Anderson, 6'8" George Kash of Round Rock, 6'5" Vincent Banks of Rockdale, 6'4" Calvin Schiraldi of Austin Westlake, 6'3" Danny Lambert of Georgetown, 6'3" Eric Miles of Prairie Lea, 6'2" Kevin Dukes of Austin Anderson, 6'2" Derrick Harris of Austin High, 6'2" Stanley McKinney of Seguin, 6'2" John Kimbro of Hays, 6'2" Wes Moore of Burnet, Don Storm of Hutto, 6'2" Harold Howard of Lanier, 6'1" John Nicholson of Georgetown, 5'11" Anthony Smith of Bartlett, and 5'7" Sammy Jones of Manor.

State Tournament

Houston Kashmere	(29-5)	#13	79.6-70.6 + 9.0	PR 87.45
Ft. Worth Dunbar	(29-8)	#10	64.3-57.2 + 6.9	PR 86.64
Plano	(31-3)	#4	58.8-47.1 +11.7	PR 90.20
S.A. Sam Houston	(32-8)		75.1-65.1 +10.0	PR 84.13

Top Players at the State Tournament:

6'8"	Gilbert Collier	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'6"	Andre Allen	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'4"	Willie Ashley	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'7"	Kirk Lundblade	Plano
6'2"	Alfred Godine	Houston Kashmere
6'6"	Kenneth Cook	Houston Kashmere
6'7"	Lowell McHenry	SA Sam Houston
6'1"	Luster Goodwin	Houston Kashmere

As me and my brother-in-law arrived in Austin we were excited as usual about the coming matchups. We read every newspaper available to prepare for the games. It was not unusual for us to purchase six or seven newspapers from different areas around the state. I had seen Plano(31-3) several times as well as Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-8). We couldn't wait to see Houston Kashmere(29-5) and San Antonio Sam Houston(32-8). We knew very little about the team's, so we did our research. I have never gone into a game and been uninformed about who I was about to watch. Even as a spectator, I always wanted to know who the key players were, and the style of play employed by both teams. The more info the better. I always scout the game I'm going to watch.

When the matchups for the State Tournament were announced Coach Robert Hughes of Dunbar was surprised to be playing Plano, because they were both from the Metroplex. For Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-8) it was their third appearance in Austin in four years. Following a twelve-game win streak, the Wildcats were returning to the State Tournament playing a much different style of play. This team was built around the inside game of 6'8" Gilbert Collier, 6'6" Andre Allen, and 6'4" Willie Ashley, more so than guard play in the past. Hughes felt this was his most solid team, fundamentally, that he had coached at Dunbar(29-8). He said that the Dunbar faithful did not care for the 1980 version of the Wildcats.

Plano(31-3) also liked a slow, methodical style of play, passing the ball around several times before shooting. One college scout said in comparing the two teams that this was more a matchup between the two coaches than players. The programs also had major differences, inner-city primarily black school facing suburban, predominately white school. A traditional basketball power facing a traditional football power. Both teams had survived intense District campaigns with

Plano(31-3) outlasting Lake Highlands(25-8) and Highland Park(27-6) while Dunbar(29-8) survived Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5) and Ft. Worth Western Hills(18-9).

Plano(31-3) was the biggest high school in the state with 6000 students while Dunbar had only 1400 students. I remember coming into the game, I felt confident the Plano would prove to be too much for Dunbar. You may ask why? Plano was just so tough to beat unless you could force them into playing from behind. All the players new and excepted their roles for the good of the team. They were also much better athletes than most fans perceived.

In four seasons at Plano, Bridges had finally taken the program to the big dance. Many newspapers credited Bridges with bringing the program out of the dark ages of basketball, but that was not true at all. Under Reggie Davis, Plano had won District titles in 1975 and again in 1976. So, although Bridges didn't transform the Plano basketball program like many writers at the time would have you believe, he was able to take the Wildcat's program to another level. This was a tremendous accomplishment.

In preparing for Ft. Worth Dunbar, Bridges shared, "We're going to front their post man like we always do and keep him from getting the ball. We will be relying on our offside help." Bridges discussed Dunbar's strength saying, "They are real strong inside and they realize it." On Dunbar's weaknesses he said, "If they have a weakness it is their outside shooting."

The semi-final showdown between Plano(31-3) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-8) took place at 4:00 Friday in the Super Drum on the campus of the University of Texas. In facing Plano, Dunbar was looking at a team that was very similar to their earlier playoff opponents. Ft. Worth Richland(17-15) and Lubbock Monterey(26-7) were very deliberate much like Plano. Hughes was confident his team would be ready for Plano's methodical approach. "That wouldn't bother this team because there have been any number of occasions when we've been in a situation like that," Hughes related. Hughes had watched Plano in the Arlington Classic in early December and commented, "I saw them, but that was long ago," Hughes said. Anytime you're 31-3, you gotta be good. Any time you're in the final four in Austin, you gotta be good."

Most observers felt the matchup inside between 6'8" Gilbert Collier and 6'7" Kirk Lundblade(20.6) would be the deciding factor in the game's outcome. It proved to be the difference. Lundblade hit nine of 14 shots from the floor scoring 25 points, while Collier finished with 7 points and Andre Allen tallied only 8 points. Lundblade was the only Wildcat in double figures. The big senior was deadly from the foul line on in, and extremely good at up fakes. He was a magician getting to the line. Lunblade forced you to stay on the floor. The result was a 46-39 victory for Plano, as they advanced to the state championship game. "He didn't have a good shooting night," insisted Bridges on Lundblade's performance.

Dunbar(29-8) coach, Robert Hughes, commented after the game, "Lundblade can play, I am convinced. He is a player." The Wildcats of Plano were giving away size, speed and leaping ability to Dunbar's larger squad, but more than made up for their lack of talent with fundamentals and tough half-court defense. "Our style of play has brought us here, and we're going to play everybody that way," said Bridges, whose team took only eight shots from the field in the second half and committed only six personal fouls the entire game. The Wildcats stretched their margin steadily in the 4th quarter with a semi delay game holding the ball for minutes at a time.

Plano shot 54% from the floor while Dunbar could only manage 37%. Dunbar out rebounded Plano 31-28. Both teams had 11 turnovers apiece. Hinrichs pulled down 11 rebounds for Plano. Willie Ashley finished with a team high 12 points and 12 rebounds for the blue and white Wildcats.

"All five kids did a great job today," Bridges said. "It was our defense, especially on the inside, that was really important. We knew they would try to get the ball inside, so we sagged pretty much. They got frustrated because they couldn't get the ball inside," Lundblade said. "When they couldn't get it inside, they got impatient and started shooting from the outside. I would rather play a run and gun team than a ball control team such as ours," Lundblade continued. "That way, if we control the game, we get them out of their game plan, and it frustrates them." Impatience against Plano was suicide.

"We didn't play well at all today," said Coach Hughes. "I'm not taking anything away from Plano. They probably would have won anyway. But we didn't play the way we were supposed to play." By losing, Dunbar missed the opportunity to play in the state finals for the third time in four years. In my opinion, this was clearly the weakest Dunbar team in the previous four seasons. Coach Hughes felt this Wildcat team could be his first team to capture a U.I.L. championship. In the end, they came up short.

Hughes later summarized the season. He lost Collier early in the season to a knee injury and he never played at full speed. Hughes also lost his only experienced guard in Ricky Rollerson, and never obtained full speed either. "It was harder this year," Hughes said. "The kids responded. But it was hard on the old coach." On being critical of his players, Hughes said, "I just always remind my ballplayers that, first, I made it all the way to the N.B.A. #2, if you name any of the top players out of Ft. Worth in the last 20 years they probably played for me. #3, I'm not afraid to coach talented players. #4, If you make a mistake, you're gonna hear about it and, #5 if you don't like it, it's your problem."

In the other semi-final game in class 4-A, Sam Houston(32-8) out of San Antonio faced Houston Kashmere(29-5). "Kashmere is almost a carbon copy of us," says Sam Houston coach Wayne Dickey. "The game has to be rated a tossup because we are so similar."

The Cherokees relied on 6'7" Lowell McHenry and 6'6" Tony Trigg on the inside and speedy guard Mark McNeil. Kashmere would counter with 6'6" Kenneth Cook and two outstanding guards, Wayne Johnson and Alfred Godine. The major difference in the two teams is that Sam Houston(32-8) used zone presses while Kashmere(29-5) preferred man to man. Both teams were very deep with 6'9" Ray Davis and 6'5" Arthur Williams coming off the bench for Sam Houston.

In referring to 6'6" Kenneth Cook from Kashmere, Coach Dickey commented, "We've never faced anybody of that stature before. 6-9 Mike Wacker of San Marcos was big, but Cook is more physical according to our scouting reports." Other front liners for the Rams were 6'6" Stephan Chandler and 6'4" Gerald Sublet. Lowell McHenry led Sam Houston with 15.1 per game while Tony Trigg followed at 12.7.

Houston Kashmere(29-5), of course became a Texas household name with their legendary state championship teams in 1974 and 1975. Although the 1980 version of the Rams was nowhere near as strong as the two-time champion in the mid-1970s, they were a team to be reckoned with. Kashmere had won their titles under Coach Weldon Drew, who had moved on to college at New Mexico State. Coach Frankie Brazos was the new man at the helm of the Rams and was confident his team would be up to the task. Kenneth Cook had led the Rams in regionals with 21 points in the semis against Clear Lake(27-9) and 15 against Madison(25-11) in the regional finals. "We seem to be peaking at the right time," commented Brazos. The big Bi-District win over the #1 team in the state, Houston Yates(29-2), had propelled the Rams to Austin.

The game was never in doubt as Houston Kashmere(29-5) proved too strong for San Antonio Sam Houston(29-8) running them out of the gym 81-57. The Rams forced 24 turnovers in the first half alone. Kashmere attempted an incredible 47 free throws in the contest. Alfred Godine scored eight first quarter points as the Rams jumped out to a 18-12 lead. Kenneth Cook finished with 7 points and 12 rebounds, 6'4" Gerald Sublet 11 points and 8 rebounds. "They just couldn't handle the press," guard Wayne Johnson commented after the game.

In talking to Coach Dickey years later he said Kashmere threw the ball over the top against the press several times and attacked the basket quickly, which he had not seen before. "They were very physical and athletic," Dickey said. "Probably the one player I could not live without, David Glasco, got into early foul trouble picking up his third foul in the first half. He sat six minutes of the first half and came right back early in the second half and picked up his fourth foul," Coach Dickey said. Glasco was the Cherokees best ballhandler, which was critical against a press like Kashmere's. "We were down by 16 points with about three minutes left and I emptied the bench letting my subs play. I wanted everybody to say they had played in the state tournament," Dickey said.

The Class 4-A state championship game in 1980 was going to have to go some to surpass the classic state title games of 1978 and 1979. In '78 Wheatley defeated S.A. Fox Tech in overtime, and in '79 Lufkin defeated Dunbar on a last second shot. The 1980 finalists were total opposites, with Houston Kashmere(30-5) pressing and pushing the ball up the court playing 15 players, while Plano(32-3) was methodical and patient playing six or seven players.

In a way, Plano(32-3) felt like they should have been in the state finals the previous season. The Wildcats had lost to Lufkin by one point in Bi-District in 1979 and defeated Dunbar by seven points in their earlier season matchup. But it was not to be.

The '80 title game didn't disappoint, Kashmere trailed the entire game and with 2:21 remaining in the contest, Plano was leading and in control of the game 67-59. The Wildcats of Plano were attempting to become the first all-white starting lineup to win the 4-A championship since 1967.

Wayne (PeeWee) Johnson sparked the Rams rally with a layup with 2:16 to play. He then hit a 10-foot baseline shot that pulled Kashmere within four 67-63. Jack Crain of Plano hit one foul shot to push the lead back to five. Luster Goodwin of Kashmere followed with a 20-foot jumper and fouled Lundblade with 28 seconds remaining. The big 6'7" post hit one of two to give the Wildcats a four-point edge. Johnson again got into the act hitting a layup and was fouled which brought Kashmere(30-5) within one point 69-68 with 20 seconds to play. With 14 seconds left in the game, Johnson stole an inbound pass and quickly flipped the ball to Alfred Godine for the game-winning basket. Plano(32-3) called time out to set up one last play, but Goodwin intercepted the pass intended for Lundblade. The 70-69 win gave the Rams their third state title in seven years. They finished with an impressive 31-5 record facing one of the toughest schedules in the state.

"I still don't believe it," said Godine of the Rams' miracle comeback. "I'm going to have to read about it tomorrow to make sure it really happened."

"They're as good a team as we've played all year," said Wayne Johnson about Wildcats. "If we hadn't hustled the whole game, we wouldn't have won it."

Plano(32-4) had built up a 14-point lead 37-23, late in the second quarter. The coaches in the lower level seats applauded loud and gave the Wildcats a standing ovation for their phenomenal play. To this day, I've still never seen an impartial crowd stand and applaud a team's performance. Kashmere's pressing produced 24 Plano turnovers, but failed to shake the Wildcats from their conservative style of play. Dale Pearce, David Hinrichs and Bubba Wesch shut down the Kashmere inside game and out rebounded the Rams 38-29. The Wildcats also shot 65% from the field led by Lundblade's 30 points. The big senior post hit 10 of 14 shots and 10 of 13 foul shots with 13 rebounds. It was truly one of the great performances in 4-A state tournament history. Dale Pearce was the next closest contributor with 12 points.

Houston Kashmere(31-5) on the other hand took 38 more shots from the floor than Plano, while the Wildcats took 23 more foul shots. Kashmere only shot 44% from the floor. Luster Goodwin led Kashmere with 18 points followed by Pee Wee Johnson with 17 points. One of the top scorers for the Rams in the playoffs had been 6'6" Kenneth Cook, was held to a mere 2 points.

"We were the underdogs all the way," said Kashmere Coach Frankie Brazos. "We weren't even picked to win our District. They got tired toward the end. They were playing only five players and we used 10." Bridges was complementary of Kashmere after the game, "They're the best team we've played all year, they keep coming at you. They're the quickest team we've played all year."

Plano had given Kashmere opportunities late in the game missing four foul shots and some critical turnovers. This was totally out of character for a Bridges coached team to make these types of mistakes. Coach Bridges troops surprised everybody by running with Kashmere in the first half getting layup after layup in their controlled fast break. "Why slow down when you are getting lay-ups," was Bridge's response when asked about slowing the tempo. At one point in the 2nd quarter, Plano had a commanding lead 35-21.

Bridges discussed Kashmere following the heartbreaking defeat, "The difference in the ball game was their quickness," Bridges said. "In every aspect, we were a better basketball team totally, but then there is their quickness. We missed a few inbounds passes late, but that is a compliment to their quickness."

Looking back on the Kashmere(31-5) season and their success, the Rams played a strong schedule. They had early season wins over Houston Madison(26-11) 76-64, Galveston Ball(25-8) 80-75, Deer Park(20-15) 93-65 and Houston Wheatley(20-14) 99-86 while losing only five games all season. Losses included Houston Yates(29-2) 83-64, Houston Sterling(18-12) 85-65, Irving(25-9) 82-80, Houston Milby(30-3) 60-56 and Houston Washington(25-7) 73-59.

The talent was also very impressive. Wayne Johnson played at North Texas State, Alfred Godine played for Paul Quinn, Gerald Sublet at New Mexico St., Kenneth Cook played at Lamar University, Arthur Gray played for Lamar University, Luster Goodwin was a standout at U.T.E.P. and was the 71st pick by the Golden State Warriors. The Rams were loaded with talent and it sure showed at the next level of competition.

All-Tournament Team: Wayne Johnson, Luster Goodwin and Alfred Godine of Kashmere, Jack Crain and Kirk Lundblade of Plano:

1980 State Rankings AAAA {End of the Regular Season}:

1. Houston Yates	29-1	6'7" Michael Young(20.0), General Taylor
2. El Paso Eastwood	24-3	6'4" Doug McNeely(16.5), Eric Bijole
3. Ft. Worth Paschal	29-4	6'4" Juan Dupree(11.2), 6'2" Charlie Harris(19.0)
4. Plano	29-3	6'7" Kirk Lundblade(20.0), 5'9" Jack Crain(9.0)
5. Dallas South Oak Cliff	20-5	6'3" Puntus Wilson(23.0), 6'1" Billy Christie
6. Dallas Roosevelt	23-3	6'6" K. Roberson(19.6), 6'3" Carl Wright(12.0)
7. Spring High	28-6	6'2" Jack Worthington, 6'1" David Jenkins
8. San Marcos	25-4	6'8" Mike Wacker(22.0), 6'3" Rudell Sanders
9. South Garland	28-4	5'11" Kyle Jones(18.0), 6'2" Anthony Hunt
10. Ft. Worth Dunbar	24-8	6'7" Gilbert Collier(15.0), 6'6" Andre Allen(18.0)
11. Houston Milby	30-3	6'7" Paul Cunningham(12.6), 6'9" Andre Ross(14.0)
12. Austin Lanier	27-5	6'2" Harold Howard(23.5), 6'3" Robert Johnson(11.9)
13. Houston Kashmere	25-5	6'2" Alfred Godine(12.0), 6'0" Wayne Johnson(10.0)
14. Galveston Ball	25-8	6'3" Reggie Wilcox(18.0), 6'5" Robert Simmons
15. Cypress Creek	26-5	6'4" Mike Loerch, 6'3" Mark Peppercorn
16. Highland Park	26-5	6'7" John Briggs(18.5), 6'3" Buzz Showalter
17. El Paso Coronado	26-5	6'1" Larry Jones(10.6), 6'0" Wayne Salem(11.7)
18. Pt. Arthur Lincoln	23-8	6'7" Leonard Allen(13.0), 6'8" Ruben Prevost
19. Lubbock Monterey	24-6	Clardy, Steve Wooten
20. Midland	29-6	6'8" Herb Johnson, Perry Bolger

Sports Writers All-State Team

1st Team. 6'6" Michael Young(20.0) of Yates, 6'8" Mike Wacker(23.0) of San Marcos, 6'7" Kirk Lundblade(20) of Plano, 6'2" Harold Howard(22.0) of Austin Lanier and 6'6" Matt England(16.5) of Houston Madison.

2nd Team, 6'8" Ricky Cobb(20.3) of Wichita Falls, 6'8" junior, Larry Davis(24.0) of Lufkin, 6'6" Brad Kerley(25.9) of Odessa Permian, 6'8" Gilbert Collier(15.0) of Dunbar, 6'2" Alfred Godine(15.0) of Kashmere and 6'2" Doug Moe Jr.(20.5) of S.A. Clark.

3rd Team, 6'10" John Brownlee(26.7) of Ft. Worth Southwest a junior, 6'4" Sheldon Kelly(25.0) of North Dallas a junior, 6'6" Steffond Johnson(16.4) of Longview a junior, 6'4" Howard Jenkins(21.9) of Bryan and 6'0" Pee Wee Johnson(10.0) of Houston Kashmere.

4th Team, 6'6" Andre Allen(18.6) made the 4th team. 6'7" Lowell McHenry(14.8) of S.A. Sam Houston, 6'7" Paul Cunningham(12.6) from Milby, 6'2" Puntus Wilson(20) of S.O.C. and 5'11" Jeff Barnett(20.9) of Irving High.

Unusual in 1980, the Ft. Worth Star Telegram named a **fourth team**. Probably because one of the Dunbar players was listed.

Texas Association of Basketball Coaches All-State Team

1st Team-6'8" Mike Wacker(23.0), San Marcos; 6'6" Michael Young(20.0), Houston Yates; 6'2" Harold Howard(22.0), Austin Lanier; 6'8" Ricky Cobb(20.3), Wichita Falls; 6'7" Kirk Lundblade(20.0), Plano; 6'8" Paul Cunningham(12.7), Houston Milby; 6'6" Andre Allen(16.0), Ft. Worth Dunbar; 6'5" Matt England(16.5), Houston Madison; 6'4" Howard Jenkins(21.9), Bryan; 6'0" Wayne Johnson(10.0), Houston Kashmere; 6'6" Brad Kerley(25.9), Odessa Permian; 6'2" Jack Worthington, Spring; 6'7" John Briggs, Highland Park; Doug McNealey, El Paso Eastwood; 6'0" Jeff Barnett, Irving; 6'3" Puntus Wilson, Dallas S.O.C.; Doug Moe, S.A. Clark; 6'8" Larry Davis(18.0), Lufkin:

T.A.B.C. All-Star Game in Waco-Doug Moe, SA Clark; Kirk Lundblade, Plano; Brad Kerley, Odessa Permian; Reggie Roberts, McKinney; Jeff Barnett, Irving; Paul Cunningham, Houston Milby; Matt England, Houston Madison; Harold Howard, Austin Lanier; Randy Samuels, Beaumont Hebert; Howard Jenkins, Bryan; Kenneth Robertson, Dallas Roosevelt; Andre Allen, FW Dunbar; Charles Harris, FW Paschal; Michael Young, Houston Yates; Scott Horstman, Waco Midway; Vance Hughes, Waxahachie; Ricky Cobb, Wichita Falls:

Recruits: According to recruiting expert, Bill Cronauer, "this was really a bad recruiting year. There just weren't enough good players to go around, especially pure post people." Cronauer ran Blue Chip Report out of St. Petersburg, Florida. Before Mike Kunstadt of Texas Hoops, Cronauer was consider one of the top authorities on high school recruiting. "I pick a high school top 40 and no one from the SWC region was in the first 37," said Bill Brill, who's been evaluating prep recruiting for the past dozen years for Roanoke, Va., Times and World News. "But I've only picked four players from school's west of the Mississippi," Brill said. "Going into the season we had Andre Allen of Dunbar ranked as the best player in Texas," Cronauer said. "Wacker came out as the best senior in Texas. I had to do a lot of calling around to get my top 50 before the season. I won't have to do that for the coming year," Joe Terranova said. The coming season was already being billed as super.

Responding to the experts can sometimes be tricky, but I would have to disagree with their assessment of the Texas talent. The reason the talent in Texas was thought to be non-existent was because the lack of camp exposure. Remember, Clyde Drexler and Michael Young were intricate parts of Houston's three final four appearances. Let me repeat, they were all-conference as freshmen. Phi Slama Jama was one of the most talented teams in the history of the NCAA. And Wacker, the state's top recruit, got much of his exposure prior to coming to Texas. While in North Dakota he was able to attend camps. Granted three players does not make a recruiting class, but there was plenty more to talk about. Michael Young and Clyde Drexler were both first round draft picks and Wacker would have been had he not been injured. The Dallas Times Herald ran their usual college coaches recruiting

poll and it was no surprise that the two top recruits in the state were **6'6" Michael Young**(20.0/12.0) of Yates and **6'8" Mike Wacker**(22.2/10.2) of San Marcos. The same two finished at the top of the Ft. Worth Star Telegram recruiting poll as well. Wacker finished first in both polls. When his father was informed that Mike would be one of the top recruited players in the state he actually laughed and questioned some of the recruiters' credibility. Wacker's father was the head football coach at Southwest Texas State in San Marcos, Jim Wacker. Mike ended up leading his team in steals with 71, blocks with 45 and led the team shooting 61 % from the field. Mike visited Iowa and Texas and was scheduled to visit Alabama, Texas Tech, Baylor and either Arkansas T.C.U. A&M, or Minnesota. Wacker was the only unanimous selection in the Dallas Times Herald confidential poll of nine SWC schools and North Texas State. Texas was said to be in the lead for his services. Even on the last days leading up to Wacker signing his father had little indication of where he was going to go. "Mike told me that he wanted to hear one last shot from everyone, then he would isolate himself Wednesday and make his decision," Jim Wacker said. "I honestly don't know what he's going to do. Iowa was here Sunday night, and the Southwest conference schools are coming in." In the end, the deciding factor would be playing alongside 6'10" freshmen post, LaSalle Thompson at Texas. "Texas gave me an overall feeling I liked, but LaSalle Thompson was a big plus in my decision," young Wacker explained. "He is a great center and it would be really good to play alongside him." In the Knoxville recruiting list poll put out each year by the college recruiters, Michael Young was **#40**, Mike Wacker **#58**, Matt England **#68**, and Kirk Lundblade **#75** nationally. Wacker would go on to sign with Abe Lemons and the University of Texas and had a very promising career till he blew out his knee his sophomore season at U.T. Young, out of Houston Yates, led the Lions to the top ranking in the state with his dominant play. He went on to play at the University of Houston with Rob Williams, Clyde Drexler, Akeem Olajuwon and Phi Slama Jama. Young was the 24th pick in the first round by the Celtics and spent time with the Suns, 76ers and played 45 games with the Clippers. He was named the C.B.A Player of the Year in 1986 with the Detroit Spirit. He averaged 26.0 points a game. Big Michael later played in the Philippines, Spain, Italy, France and Israel. He had a great deal of success at every stop on the international seen. He won "Best Import" Honors in Europe and his 1993 Limoges team in the French league won the European club championship in 1993. Young earned his Bachelor's Degree from U. of H. in 2002. He has five children and Joseph is active in the N.B.A. with the Pacers. Joseph had a great college career at the University of Oregon and won two state titles with Yates. Jacob is presently playing at the University of Texas. On why he attended U. of H. Michael said, "everybody wanted to play for Houston." Young was recruited by Washington and New Mexico St., but because of a fear of flying he decided that was enough visits. He was persuaded by colleges all over the country but knew where he wanted to play. "Me and Clyde wanted to play together,"

Michael said. "If I went to Houston, I didn't have to change the landscape, I lived right across the street. Rob Williams and Larry Micheaux made it easy for me because I really wanted to play with these guys," Young said. "Me and Clyde committed the same day. Drexler had talked to Stephen F. Austin and visited New Mexico State, but he wanted to play with me and Rob. We wanted to show the nation that Houston had great basketball, so it was an easy decision to stay home," Michael continued. The #5 recruit according to the Star-Telegram was a multi-talented jumping jack out of McKinney named 6'2" **Reggie Roberts**(22.6/10.1/7.5 assists/2.6 steals/1.1 blocks). Roberts transferred to McKinney from overseas, so he was immediately eligible his junior year. He was named to the All-Europe all-star team while playing ball in Madrid. To this day he is still one of the most gifted players to ever suit up for the Lions. "He came out that first day and just handled the ball a few times," said Coach Bill Justice, "but I knew he was something else. I knew right away we had a college prospect." He was considered the top guard in the state in 1980 by the Star-Telegram. "I talked to my parents and tried to get them to let me come back to the states so I would have a better chance to get noticed by the colleges," Roberts said. "They didn't want me to be a burden to my relatives," Roberts continued. He finally moved in with his aunt and uncle in McKinney. "We have looked at A&M, S.M.U., Texas Tech, and Oklahoma State," Reggie said. Reggie had been contacted by all the SWC schools, most of the Big Eight, North Carolina, Notre Dame, and dozens of others. Early in the recruiting faze Roberts was said to be leaning towards A&M. A Southwest Conference recruiter said, "Reggie is the best guard we have seen this season." One Big Eight recruiter commented, "He is capable of starting at the major college level as a freshman." "Reggie reminds me of another Sidney Moncrief." "He's the best player I've ever coached, he can do it all," Coach Bill Justice of McKinney said. "I've never seen a point guard who averaged one dunk a game, but he did. He had two or three off rebounds where he just dunked it on the way down," Justice said. The 6'2" Roberts was signed by Texas A&M and started for A&M as a freshman. "He's got exactly what we're looking for in a replacement for David Britton," Shelby Metcalf of Texas A&M said. "He had good speed, good quickness and good jumping ability." Unfortunately, Roberts was expelled his senior year from McKinney High School for disciplinary reasons. Superintendent, Jack Faubion, did not elaborate about the incident. "Classroom conduct violation," Faubion said. "This does not change his status at all," Coach Metcalf said. "I know Reggie and I know he'll take care of his business. "Reggie never gave me one minute of problem in two years," Coach Bill Justice said. Later he got in trouble with the police and was released from the program at Texas A&M. Coach Justice said Reggie's problem at A&M was he was running around with the older players who were not attending class. Shelby called Justice and told him Reggie did not have the credits to be eligible. "His problem was he stepped in as a freshman and played immediately and didn't have good work

habits. If he would have gone to a different program, he may have played in the N.B.A.," Justice said. "The Mavericks called me about Reggie, he had that type of talent. He played in Spain professionally for a few years after A&M." The #8 recruit was 6'7" **Kirk Lundblade**(22.0/9.0) who had a tremendous state tournament, which really upped his stock. S.M.U., Texas, Texas Tech, and T.C.U. were all actively recruiting him. Sources close to Abe Lemons would have you believed that Lundblade was his top recruit. I considered S.M.U. and Arkansas and then I talked to Briggs, and he really wanted me to join him at S.M.U.," Lundblade said. Lundblade signed with S.M.U., but had a very limited career with the Mustangs. Many recruiters felt Lundblade was a product of the Plano system and would have trouble making the transition to a Major University. 6'6" **Randy Samuels**(15.4/10.2) from Beaumont Hebert drew a lot of attention because of his shot blocking ability. He blocked 162 in 36 games for a 4.5 per game average. A&M, Houston, Lamar, New Mexico St., T.C.U. North Texas, and Tulsa were all in hot pursuit. Samuels committed to Oklahoma and later transferred to Bethany Nazarene in Oklahoma. Samuels was one of the top athletes in the class of 1980 but was somewhat raw on the offensive end of the court for division one programs. The #4 recruit, 6'8" **Ricky Cobb**(20.5/14.0/ 5 steals/ 5 blocks) of Wichita Falls caused a lot of interest by Arkansas, Baylor, T.C.U. and Texas Tech. Cobb was considered a versatile player with strong inside moves. Cobb signed with Midwestern University. Cobb scored over 1400 points while attending Midwestern and was all-conference. Many recruiters felt Cobb was going to Texas Tech, so they backed off some. Cobb had the potential to play at a major college but preferred to stay close to home according to one scout. 6'6" **Andre Allen**(18.6/13.0) of Dunbar was said to have been very high on Texas recruiting list but was said to be heading for the Big Ten. Allen signed with Illinois and later transferred to U.T. Arlington. Allen averaged 11.6/5.1 with the U.T.A. Mavericks. Allen only stayed at Illinois two weeks, had gotten married over the summer and ended up at Weatherford Junior College. Allen commented, "I want to play big-time ball." After a short stay at Weatherford he made the move to U.T. Arlington. 6'7" **John Briggs** (19.0/12.0) of Highland Park was the most recruited big man in the Dallas area. Dave Bliss recruited him heavily while coaching at Oklahoma. Because of this interest he had an advantage while taking the head job at S.M.U. Arkansas and S.M.U. were said to be the front runners. Briggs played at S.M.U. and put up 8.0/3.6 numbers with the Mustangs. 6'8" **Gilbert Collier** (16.0/10.0) committed to T.C.U. but later struggled to stay eligible. Coach Killingsworth of T.C.U. commented after the signing. "The only time I've seen Daniel-Meyer filled was when Dunbar came in. If I can get enough Dunbar guys, maybe I can get it filled too." Killingsworth continued, "I think Gilbert Collier showed a lot of courage this year, playing on a hurt knee most of the time. And when it came down in the stretch, he's the one who carried them to Austin." Killingsworth said. "T.C.U. had been in my mind all along. The fact Darrell (Browder)

is already here kind of helped me decide, I think together we can be tough,” Collier said. 6’7” **Paul Cunningham**(12.6/11.5) of Milby blocked 73 shots while at Milby and was said to have been leaning towards Texas Tech early in the recruiting process. Cunningham went to UTEP, his best season he was 5.3/5.4 with the Miners. 6’4” **Matt England** (15.2/9.6) of Houston Madison visited B.Y.U. where former teammate Greg Kite was attending college. He was also considering New Mexico St., Rice, L.S.U. and U.T.E.P. England went to L.S.U./Houston Baptist. While at Houston Baptist, England teamed with **Larry Hollins** of Dallas Lincoln to pace his team to the NCAA tournament. It was the only time in school history. England averaged 12.0/3.4 while Hollins chipped in 12.8/5.0. 6’0” **Harold Howard** (23.5/7.5) of Austin Lanier went to Texas State where he led the team in scoring at 16.0 in his only season. Howard had visited Oklahoma but decided not to play for the Sooners. 6’3” **Puntus Wilson**(20.1/9.5) of S.O.C. had Sonny Allen after him while he was at S.M.U., but Allen changed coaching jobs and left for Nevada Reno. Lamar, North Texas, Prairie View and Southern contacted him. Puntus verbally committed to T.C.U. on the national signing day. “I told him I wasn’t ready to sign,” Wilson said in referring to T.C.U. assistant Charlie Fenske. “I told him I hadn’t talked to nobody but T.C.U. and Midland Jr. College. I wanted to wait a little and see what else might come up. But he told me if I didn’t sign then, I’d blow my chance to go to T.C.U.” When Coach Killingsworth was asked about Puntus and the situation he was not happy, “I’m sick and tired of talking about Puntus. I already told you all I’m going to say about it.” Wilson visited St. Louis University, where former Golden Bear David Burns played. Puntus was in contact with U.N.L.V., Oklahoma and North Texas were interested earlier, but backed off when Wilson committed to T.C.U. Grades were the hold-up and he attended Junior College. Wilson had a fine college career playing at multiple schools. He was outstanding at Midland J.C. and transferred to Arizona and ended up at Lamar University in Beaumont. While at Arizona, Puntus had 11.3 per game average. 6’11” **Dan Bunce** (13.5/8.1) of Conroe went to Houston, 6’8” **George Kash**(17.1/10.0) of Round Rock was uncommitted, 6’2” **Howard Jenkins**(21.9/14.7) of Bryan signed with Tulane, 6’6” **Lee Gibson**(16.2/10.0) of Houston Madison was looking at four SWC schools as well as Lamar. He ended up signing with Oklahoma. Billy Tubbs moved from Lamar to Oklahoma that season so a lot of players that had been interested in Lamar were taken by Tubbs when he moved to O.U. Danny Kaspar was one of his recruiters at the time. 6’3” **Charlie Harris**(14.0/4.0) of Paschal played at U.T. Arlington. Harris had a solid career managing at 13.9 average as a senior. 6’6” future N.B.A. Hall of Famer, 6’5” **Clyde Drexler**(16.0/8.5) of Houston Sterling, was way down the list of top recruits. Coach Guy Lewis said upon signing Drexler, “he could be the biggest sleeper in the entire class.” *That could be the biggest understatement of all-time.* 6’4” **Doug McNeely**(16.5/10.0) of E.P. Eastwood went to Duke and had a solid career with the Blue Devils. 6’6” **John Gales** (20.0/11.5) and 6’4” **Javan Dupree**(10.0/7.0) of Ft.

Worth Trimble Tech and Paschal, both played at North Texas St. Dupree put up nice numbers with the Mean Green 12.3/6.5. 6'4" **Todd Chambers**(22.0) of Bay City had been originally said to be headed to L.S.U. but recanted later. "I probably would have signed with L.S.U., I always wanted to play for them when I was growing up. They were my number 1 choice through my senior year," Chambers said. "But they never contacted me. I didn't even get a letter from them. I was really disappointed that I didn't hear from them. I don't know where the report came out that I signed with them." Chambers ended up at Oklahoma and only stayed one season averaging 7.7 points per game. Todd ended up at San Jacinto JC and later Midwestern University. 6'6" **Kenneth Roberson**(19.6/16.0/6 blocks) of Dallas Roosevelt looked at several schools. Coach Ellis Davis said more than 80 schools were after him. Most SWC schools, New Mexico St., Southern California, and North Carolina. Roberson went to Louisiana Tech and averaged 11.2/5.4. He was considered one of the top athletes in the class of 1980. 6'3" **Vance Hughes**(18.3) of Waxahachie was considered a sleeper in the area. He was considered a great jumper with a nice jump shot. T.C.U., Arkansas, Texas, Lamar, and Oklahoma State all showed interest. Hughes signed with Centenary, 6'0" **Pee Wee Johnson**(10.0) of Kashmere played at North Texas St., 6'4" **Brad Laraba** of E.P. Burgess to Tulsa, 6'6" **Chester Smith** of Wilmer Hutchins to U.A. Birmingham, 6'7" **Warren Everett** of Daingerfield to Arizona St., 5'10" **Reginald Mosby** of S.O.C. to Centenary, 6'7" **Danny Whitteaker** of Ennis to U.T. Arlington, and 6'3" **Sheldon Kelly**(27.0) of North Dallas was considered by many as the top all-around player in Dallas. University of California at Berkeley showed a great deal of interest along with L.S.U. Other schools interested were North Texas, Bradley, and several smaller schools. Kelly attended Dallas Baptist. 5'11" **Jeff Barnett** of Irving was listed by one scouting combine as the top point guard in Texas. Considered a fine ballhandler, solid shooter and a solid student. He was heavily pursued by Lamar University in Beaumont. Barnett went to Hardin-Simmons and averaged 9.2 his freshmen season. 6'2" **Doug Moe Jr.**(21.4/5.0) ended up at Texas, Arthur Gray of Houston Kashmere played at Lamar, 6'8" **Bill Coon**(12.3/9.3) of Humble ended up at Presbyterian College in South Carolina. Coon was selected by the Rockets with the 188th pick after averaging 15.2/7.2 with the NAIA school. Others standouts were 6'6" **Brad Kerley**(25.9/11.0) of Odessa Permian and 6'5" **Ray Carroll**(21.7/11.5) of South S.A.-West ended up at Texas State. 6'0" **Victor Guinyard** of Waxahachie joined Dallas Baptist, 6'8" **Reuben McDaniel** of Austin Anderson played four seasons at North Carolina Charlotte. 6'4" **Cletus Clark** of Denton was a three-year starter for the Broncos and considered a tremendous athlete, as one of the top hurdlers in the state. Lamar's Billy Tubbs was said to be interested. 6'5" **Anthony Hollins**(24.0/12.0/ 3 blocks) was a very productive player at Dallas Woodrow Wilson and a fine athlete. As you can see, he put up big numbers. 6'8" **Ethan Glass** of Houston St. John's signed with Texas A&M.

6'10" **Woody Martin**(21.0/4.0) of Abilene Cooper was called by one recruiter, "one of the states two best talents." Martin went to Dixie JC, caused a lot of stir. John Eisenberg of the Dallas Times Herald wrote an in-depth article explaining his unusual dismissal from the Cooper team. At 6'10", 235 pounds he was considered by some the top prospect in Texas. He could 360 dunk, dunk behind his head, shoot from outside, handle the ball. His high school coach, Marc Case said, "I've never seen a high school player with as much potential as Woody."

"I could've been playing at Virginia or Purdue or Texas next year," Woody said. "You should see these letters I've got these promises from everywhere." Joe Galloway of Abilene was Woody's legal guardian and a rich businessman and Texas Booster. After Woody's mother died, Galloway took care of the young man. Martin had his own apartment, drove a black Corvette, all the money he supposedly wanted. "I gave him all the advantages I would give my own child. In retrospect, that was all a mistake. I just gave it to him he didn't have to work for it...I gave him too much security. He thought everything would always work out. Any chance he had to learn how to fight for himself disappeared," Joe Galloway said.

Woody's father died when he was 11 and his mother was diabetic and died at the beginning of Martin's junior year. Galloway eventually took away everything because of Martin's grades and lack of discipline. Martin returned to his old address and stayed home and watched TV all day and did not attend classes.

He failed to graduate from High School and was looking for his GED. He was kicked off the team at Cooper after only 10 games, which hurt his recruitment, but many schools were still very interested. At the time, he was putting up 29 points per game. The dispute that ended Martin's high school career was over alcohol that was purchased and the coach was witnessing the purchase. Martin said it would be his word against the coaches. "You're off the team," Case said. Martin jumped around a lot but did not have much of a college career.

Top Texas Recruits in 1980 based on their college and pro careers:

Clyde Drexler 6'7"	Houston Sterling	Houston, All-Am. 15.2/8.8	<u>Blazers NBA #14</u>
Michael Young 6'6"	Houston Yates	Houston, All-Am. 19.8/6.2	<u>Celtics NBA #24</u>
Mike Wacker 6'8"	San Marcos	Texas, injury 15.3/9.2	Draft Jazz #151
Matt England 6'5"	Houston Madison	LSU/H. Baptist 12.0/3.0 Asst.	Draft Bullets #127
Bill Coon 6'8"	Humble High	Presbyterian College 15.2/7.2	Draft Rockets #188
Reggie Roberts 6'2"	McKinney	Texas A&M, 11.7/2.6	
Puntus Wilson 6'2"	Dallas S.O.C.	Mid. JC/ Ariz.St.,Lamar 11.3/3.6	
Javan Dupree 6'4"	Ft. Worth Paschal	North Texas St. 12.3/6.5	
Charlie Harris 6'2"	Ft. Worth Paschal	U.T. Arlington 13.9/1.0 Asst.	
Ricky Cobb 6'8"	Wichita Falls	Midwestern Uni.	
Howard Jenkins 6'0"	Bryan	Tulane 10.9/2.9	

All-Americans: *The only player to be named All-American was Mike Wacker by Parade Magazine. He was named to the third team. Interesting that Basketball Weekly published their All-American squad and listed 65 players from all over the country and not one Texan. Wow, how does that happen? One of the most populated states in the union and no representatives. Yet you have the University of Houston travel to three straight final fours with mainly players from the Houston area. I know Akeem wasn't, but what the heck it sounded good. The Cougars were thought to be the most talented team in not only the 1980s, but one of the greats of all-time. Go figure. Named Honorable Mention All-American for Basketball Weekly were: Gilbert Collier of Ft. Worth Dunbar, Andre Allen of Ft. Worth Dunbar, Andre Ross of Milby, Paul Cunningham of Milby, Kenneth Morning of Wheatley, Jeff Brush of Wheatley, Don Bunce of Conroe, Howard Jenkins from Bryan, Mike Wacker from San Marcos, Larry Davis from Lufkin, Matt England from Houston Madison, Mike DeJohette of Houston Sam Houston, Ricky Cobb from Wichita Falls High, Woody Martin(played only 10 games) from Abilene Cooper, Reuben McDaniel of Austin Anderson, George Kash of Round Rock, Ken Roberson-Dallas Roosevelt, Charles Harris-Ft. Worth Paschal, John Gales of Trimble Tech, John Brownlee-Ft. Worth Southwest, Michael Young-Houston Yates, General Taylor of Houston Yates, Kirk Lundblade-Plano, Kenneth Cook-Kashmere, Lester Goodwin-Kashmere, John Briggs-Highland Park.*

National Rankings: *In the only prominent national poll, Basketball Weekly, Houston Kashmere finished #32 and the state's top ranked Houston Yates finished #43. In the 1970s and 1980s the Houston area got a lot more national recognition than the Dallas/Ft. Worth area and the rest of Texas.*

State Leaders: *Sheldon Kelly led the scoring in the state at 27 points per game followed by Ron Singleton of Dallas Carter at 26.8. Junior, John Brownlee average 26.7 for Ft. Worth Southwest. Brad Kerley hit 25.9 at Odessa Permian. Rebounding leaders were Harold Jenkins of Bryan with 14.7 boards, Ricky Cobb 14.0 from Wichita Falls, and Andre Allen 13.0 from Dunbar. Top scoring offense was Kashmere at 79.6 and top defense went to Houston Yates at 44.3 per game. Largest scoring margin surprisingly was Paschal at +13.0 per game. The stats are totally unofficial, but they are pretty accurate.*

Top Scorer in the Playoffs: *Kirk Lundblade of Plano averaged 25.0 per game in the playoffs; Longview(22), Cypress Creek(21), Dallas Roosevelt(27), Ft. Worth Dunbar(25), Houston Kashmere(30): Those are very impressive numbers when you figure Plano did not average a lot of points. If you figure the percentage of a team's total points it is real impressive.*

Kirk Lundblade -High School Player of the Year in 1980

As previously mentioned, Kirk Lundblade, led the state in scoring during the Wildcats run to state, putting up 25 points per playoff game. Of course, are conversation centered around playing for his coach, Mike Bridges. "He was extremely demanding, practices were so hard, we worked on fundamentals constantly. The games were easy after going through his practices," Lundblade said. "He told us that if he coached Lake Highlands that he would beat Plano by 20 points," Lundblade laughed. "And he was probably right. You always knew how you stood with Bridges, he was very fair and up front about everything." When I asked Lundblade about his verbal outburst during games he said, "He was harsh but fair, he never berated you just for no reason. He once told us that if he wasn't getting on to you about your play, you should start worrying." Lundblade said that the Plano offense was nothing but an old Hank Iba offense that was run back in the 1950s. "We would turn it over and over again until we got the shot we wanted," Kirk said. "We really had a smart team, most of the players were outstanding students."

Lundblade's older brother had played for Bridges, so he was familiar with his coaching style. Coach Bridges arrived from Wichita Falls Hirschi and was not real successful with the Wildcats his first couple years. It wasn't until Plano's incredible run in the Arlington Classic during Lundblade's junior year that the kids began buying into his defense first philosophy. "If you couldn't play defense you won't see the court," Lundblade shared. Looking back on District action, he felt Highland Park and Lake Highlands both had more talent than the Wildcats. "Lake Highlands frontline was incredible, so big and strong, and Highland Park had great guards and Briggs. We were so fortunate to get by both teams in District. We should have finished about fourth in District. We only had one returning starter from our District championship team and that was me. Jack Crane had played very little on the varsity as a junior." Lundblade felt Bridges best coaching job of the season came against the Wildcats of Lake Highlands in the team's second meeting. "We lost the first game we played them, and Bridges made some adjustments to get me open more inside and we won easily in the re-match."

Lundblade felt strongly that the '79 squad his junior year was much more talented than the team that went to state. "Travis Benke was the most talented player at Plano my junior and senior year. He was All-State and could really shoot. He would have had a great college career at Abilene Christian if he would have wanted it more. He only lasted about a month there." Killingsworth was another player on the '79 team that played for The University of Texas on the National Champion baseball team. Another important player during Lundblade's junior season was 6'4" Danny Davis, who played at Lon Morris Junior College and later Oklahoma City University.

“Lufkin had so much talent when we played them in Bi-District, we knew very little about them,” Lundblade said. “They were big and quick and athletic. I just wish we could have avoided them longer in the playoffs.”

At a traditional football power, the football team was the number one supporter of the basketball team. “Billy Ray Smith was the student body president and came to all our games. We had tremendous support from the student body and parents,” Lundblade said. Smith later was All-American at Arkansas and played in the N.F.L.

Kirk was recruited by Tech, S.M.U., T.C.U., Texas, Arkansas and Rice in the Southwest Conference. He visited S.M.U., T.C.U., Baylor and Arkansas. “S.M.U. felt like the natural fit for me because I went to several games growing up watching Sammy Hervey and Ira Terrell. I really felt comfortable in Dallas and as far as the future outside of basketball, Dallas would be a great place to get a job,” Lundblade said. Sonny Allen was in his last year with the Mustangs and was not interested in Lundblade’s style of play. “When Dave Bliss came in from Oklahoma, he recruited me, and I signed.”

As soon as he began his career with the Mustangs, he figured out he did not have some of the physical tools it would take to play at a high level in college. “That was OK with me, I loved my experience at S.M.U., I got a great education and was around great people, couldn’t ask for more than that,” said Kirk. “The great education that I received opened a lot of doors for me.”

In discussing the Wildcats run during the ‘80 playoffs, Kirk said his team did not want to face Grand Prairie for a third time in regionals. They were coached by Stan Hicks and very disciplined. “We had faced them twice during the season and they were tough games, we were hoping Roosevelt would beat them in regionals.”

*Anybody that saw Plano and Kirk Lundblade during the 1979 and 1980 seasons won’t soon forget their precision passing and total team commitment to success. Bridges worked his magic to perfection and was only two points away from the state championship. As for Lundblade and Bridges, they are still close today and talk on a regular basis. Lundblade was a **TEXAS LEGEND**.*

Following graduation from Plano, Kirk graduated first in his class at S.M.U. and went on to Stanford, where he got his MBA. Kirk sent Coach Bridges a letter following his graduation from Stanford, telling him that the lessons he learned on the court regarding discipline, determination and hard work enabled him to do well in the classroom. “He taught me to never accept anything less than my absolute best in any endeavor and that still benefits me today.” Presently, Kirk lives in Southlake and is an investment banker in Dallas.

Interview with Mike Bridges-

Mike was raised in Catoosh, Oklahoma playing all sports. He said he was always a disciple of the great Hank Iba of Oklahoma State. Fundamentals, defense and ball-control, these were the cornerstones of Bridges basketball. His teams were a thrill to watch with their aggressive half-court man defense and back door layups. Bridges early years in coaching, he did it all, football, basketball, baseball and track.

"That was one of the things that attracted many athletic directors to me was my background in all sports. I supported and shared athletes," Bridges said. Bridges moved into Texas coaching at Burkburnett, where he was the head baseball coach and later moved onto Seymour. Eventually, Bridges ended up at Reagan Middle School in Wichita Falls. Finally, Bridges gained the head basketball job at Wichita Falls Hirschi High School. "I had to make some hard decisions at Hirschi. We were right in the middle of a tough district race and four of my starters walked out of school in a demonstration. I had told them if they did, they would be gone. It cost us district, but you have to hold to your beliefs. I felt the kids had an obligation to the team and were letting their teammates down," Bridges said. "I used to carry a paddle with me to games, discipline and commitment were important."

"I really enjoyed coaching football and basketball, but my first opportunity to get a head job came in basketball. I didn't see myself as just a basketball coach," Bridges said. Mike finally moved into the Plano job in 1977 with no immediate success. The Wildcats finished 21-13 his first season and 16-16 the following year. His 1979 squad won the Arlington Classic beating Houston Wheatley, Ft. Worth Dunbar, Dallas S.O.C. and Ft. Worth Paschal in consecutive games. All were ranked in the state's top twenty. "I had better athletes at Hirschi but my kids at Plano were so smart. We had a real high basketball I.Q. They made you look good as a coach a lot of times. You only had to tell the kids something once, I had 10 sound basketball players." Coach Bridges shared that he had a little man syndrome his entire life, where he really wanted to prove himself. "My kids thought we could beat anybody and so did I," Bridges explained.

The amazing thing about Bridge's Wildcats when you think about it, was that they lost in back to back seasons by one point to the eventual state champion. "We make our foul shots against Kashmere and were state champions," Bridges said. I remember when we played, we would see all the pre-game dunking and high flying, I would tell my players, "that's great stuff but they wouldn't be doing any of that against us. We spent hours in block out drills and taking charges." "We were always very confident; we understood what we needed to do to be competitive."

When asked about the Plano-Lufkin game in 1979 for Bi-District, Bridges said, "we played about as good as we could play. I was not surprised they won state, they had a great team and Coach Walker did a great job." Bridges continued saying, "we were more talented in '79 than the team that went to state the following year." The Wildcats had 6'3" Travis Benke, who Bridges described as his most talented

player. "He could play- tough, I remember doubling up my knuckles and hitting him between the eyes to get him to stop looking up in the stands at his father. If he would have loved the game the way Kirk did, he would have been very successful at the college level. He was that good," Bridges continued. Bubba Wesch was another player who could really get up, who played on the '80 team. "Bubba was about 6'3" and was a leaper like Benke. He couldn't dunk off one leg but could stand right under the basket and jump straight up off two feet and dunk." Bridges said he gave Wesch strict instructions not to dribble the ball and pass. "I told him to get rid of the ball as soon as possible, without dribbling. He had a real nice shot, great defender and could of course rebound with the big boys." Dan Davis was only 6'4 in high school but grew to 6'7" in college and played at Oklahoma City University. 6'4" Larry Wallace was another very competitive player for the Wildcats that was named M.V.P. at the Arlington Classic. The most influential player during the 1979 season was probably point guard, Kirk Killingsworth. "He was really an outstanding athlete, played baseball at Texas on the national championship team and was the starting quarterback on the football team as a freshman. When he went straight basketball that really changed the basketball program in Plano," Bridges said.

The Wildcats had very little coming back in 1980 besides Lundblade, but Bridges was confident his team would compete. Graduation had taken Benke, Killingsworth, Dan Davis and Larry Wallace. "The kids were not as talented, but they knew how to win and were confident in our system, they knew exactly what to do." Jack Crain stepped up and had very limited athletic ability, but had a great senior year being named All-Greater Dallas. "At 5'9" he was a tough competitor," Bridges said.

On the Wildcats great run to the state finals in 1980, the Wildcats opened against Longview out of East Texas, with future N.B.A. player 6'6" Steffond Johnson. Gary Mosley was Bridges assistant coach and did all the scouting for the team. Mosley would later take the head position at Plano East. He told Bridges that Johnson would be a handful to control and would be difficult to stop. Plano dropped Longview and went on to play Cypress Creek in regionals. "We knew nothing about Cypress-Creek when we played them, we were going to play our game. We usually knew in the first quarter if an opponent knew what they were doing against our offense, the shuffle cut. If you didn't know how to defend it you were in trouble," Bridges shared. The Wildcats defeated Creek with ease and was sweating who they would play in the regional finals. "We did not want to play Grand Prairie, we had faced them twice in two very tough games. We wanted Dallas Roosevelt as stupid as that sounds, we wanted no part of Grand Prairie. We had already beaten Grand Prairie twice and did not feel comfortable playing them a third time."

After beating Dallas Roosevelt, Plano advanced to state with the unenviable task of playing the talented Ft. Worth Dunbar Wildcats. "We were glad to be playing Dunbar, because we felt confident, we could beat them, we were more

disciplined. We wore Houston Wheatley out previously, if you weren't patient and disciplined against us, you were going to have trouble. I was hard on my kids, but my players knew I wasn't there to make a good impression."

Years later, Bridges became the Athletic Director in Leander. He held the position for over twenty years. Bridges said a woman came up to him after a game one time and said, "you think you're a sergeant in the military, you make all your coaches shave and wear short hair," Bridges said laughing. Bridges said he grew up poor as heck and admits he always had a chip on his shoulders. "One of the most influential individuals in my coaching career had to be John Clark in Plano." Bridges said. He still talks to Clark on a regular basis. The former football coaching legend in Plano, taught him a great deal about how to deal with players and coaching. "I tried to model myself after John Clark." Wichita Falls athletic director, Joey Golding, was also a big influence on Bridges early in his coaching career. Golding had won four state football championships in Wichita Falls and was a coaching legend. "He influenced me in so many different ways," Bridges said.

*When I asked Bridges about some of the tough coaching situations, he had found himself in during his great coaching career. He said he was coaching Seymour High School in Texas in a game against Munday High School. The game was played in Munday. The home crowd was very vocal and didn't care a great deal for Bridges coaching style. Bridges had that type of effect on his opponents, he would definitely get under your skin. Munday was running a 2-3 zone and was not coming out of the zone to guard Bridges players. With Seymour up 4-2 at halftime, Bridges had his team hold the ball for long periods of time. Well, that really infuriated the Munday home crowd, who began yelling obscenities and heckling him. Bridges of course was unaffected by it all and ended up winning 25-20. The fans were after him following the game. His big post player put him up on his shoulders and carried him off the court to safety. Mike Bridges was a **TEXAS LEGEND**.*

In the recruitment of Kirk Lundblade, Bridges said Arkansas and Eddie Sutton really wanted Kirk. "I believe that if Kirk had gone to a school that played a more deliberate game, he would have been much more effective at the college level." Bridges said.

Power Ratings 1980

1.	Beaumont Hebert	35-2	91.95	State Champs 3-A	Defeated Snyder 88-53
2.	Plano High	32-4	90.20	State Finals 4-A	Lost to Kashmere 70-69
3.	Houston Yates	29-2	89.38	Bi-District 4-A	Lost to Kashmere 47-45
4.	Ft. Worth Paschal	30-5	89.07	District Runner-up	
5.	Houston Kashmere	31-5	87.45	State Champs 4-A	Defeated Plano 70-69
6.	Waxahachie	32-4	86.68	State Semi 3-A	Lost to Snyder 65-63
7.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	30-9	86.64	State Semis 4-A	Lost to Plano 46-39
8.	San Marcos	27-5	86.25	Bi-District 4-A	Lost to SA SH 74-63
9.	El Paso Coronado	28-6	84.20	District Runner-up	
10.	S.A. Sam Houston	32-9	84.13	State Semis 4-A	Lost to Kashmere 81-57
11.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	24-9	84.08	Regional Semis 4-A	Lost to Madison 63-56
12.	Dallas Roosevelt	30-4	83.80	Regional Finals 4-A	Lost to Plano 60-55
13.	Grand Prairie	26-10	83.59	Regional Semis 4-A	Lost to Roosevelt 60-49
14.	Houston Milby	30-3	83.17	District Runner-up	
15.	Dallas S.O.C.	22-7	82.66	District Runner-up	
16.	South Garland	30-5	82.64	Bi-District	Lost Grand Prairie 53-50
17.	Odessa Permian	24-10	81.29	Bi-District	Lost Wichita Falls 71-66
18.	Lake Highlands	25-8	81.26	3 rd Place	
19.	El Paso Eastwood	26-4	81.10	Regional Semis 4-A	Lost Wichita Falls 44-42
20.	North Dallas	20-12	81.91	District 3 rd place	
21.	Austin Lanier	31-6	79.71	Regional Finals	Lost to SA SH 71-68
22.	Irving	25-9	78.92	District Runner-up	
23.	Longview	28-7	78.44	Bi-District	Lost to Plano 48-38
24.	Highland Park	27-6	77.66	District Runner-up	
25.	McKinney	18-7	76.64	Zone Playoffs	Lost Waxahachie 57-52
26.	Euless Trinity	26-8	74.62	District Runner-up	
27.	Irving	25-9	73.54	District Runner-up	
28.	Clear Lake	27-9	63.28	Bi-District	Lost to Kashmere 55-41

Surprisingly the top-rated team according to power ratings was the 3-A state champion, Beaumont Hebert. How did Hebert match up against the top 4-A teams in the state? The Panthers faced class 4-A regional semi-finalists, Pt. Arthur Lincoln and defeated the Bumble Bees 70-67, 69-52 and 81-57. They did taste defeat once against Lincoln 50-48. The Panthers also faced another AAAA playoff team, Galveston Ball(23-9) and defeated them 68-57. Beaumont French(17-12) tasted defeat at the hands of Hebert twice 75-62 and 74-54. Against the twelve class 4-A teams that faced Beaumont Hebert during the season, the Panthers averaged 73.0 points and allowed 56.0 points for an impressive 17 points difference. Hebert was fueled by 6'6" Randy Samuels(17.0), 6'1" Donald Mickens(13.0) and 6'1" Andre Boutte(11.0). Samuels was known as possibly the best shot blocker in the state with 162 blocks in only 36 games. He averaged an incredible 4.5 blocks per game along with 10 rebounds. Samuels signed with Oklahoma out of high school. Hebert averaged 76.0 points per game along with giving up only 53.7, which is a 22.3 point

differential against all opponents. One of the most knowledgeable coaches of the period was James Gamble of Pt. Arthur Lincoln. He had played Hebert four times during the 1980 season and was confident they were one of the top teams in the state regardless of classification. "They definitely could have beaten Kashmere," Gamble said.

Behind Hebert comes a cluster of teams separated by a very small margin. Another 3-A school made the top ten in Waxahachie.

Of the top teams in 1980 according to Power Ratings, Dallas Roosevelt had four players that were on recruiter's radar. Kenneth Roberson a senior, Billy Wright a junior and two sophomores, Ronell Peters and Carl Wright. That is not to say these young men were recruited as underclassmen, but rather that as seniors they were pursued by several division one schools. Hebert had three, Randy Samuels and two juniors, Andre Boutte and Donald Mickens. Paschal had four, Charlie Harris, Juvan Dupree, and juniors Sam Donnell and Sam Norton. This was an extraordinary group from Paschal that had a lot of success at the next level. Kashmere was very talented with Wayne Johnson, who played at North Texas State, Alfred Godine played for Paul Quinn, Gerald Sublet at New Mexico St., Kenneth Cook played at Lamar University, Arthur Gray played for Lamar University, Luster Goodwin was a standout at U.T.E.P. and was the 71st pick by the Golden State Warriors.

***Reflecting on my final rankings** I had to expand the list. There were just too many strong teams to eliminate. Houston again had the strongest teams placing eight in the Top "25" and Dallas was second with three. The talent in Texas was so much more spread out than it had been just ten years earlier.*

***Teams that should have advanced to Austin:** Looking at the state results and the power ratings it doesn't appear anybody was left out of the big dance. But reflecting back on how I felt at the time, I really felt Ft. Worth Paschal was the best team I saw in 1980. Of course, I saw them early in the season and only once late. They were very talented and could play any style. Remember they beat Plano by 14 points in the Arlington Classic, which was the worst defeat issued to Plano over the two-year period. Paschal had four division one players and lost five games. The Panthers lost two games to Dunbar by one and three points, Western Hills by 2 and Dallas Roosevelt by 2. They were a tough team to beat. I have always held that this was Wall's best club while he was at Paschal, even better than his two state tournament teams in 1975 and 1983. Wall said they were his most talented team.*

1980 4-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso Eastwood(25-3) #2	45	El Paso Burges(27-7)	36
	Wichita Falls(25-8)	71	Odessa Permian(24-9)	66
	Lubbock Monterey(25-6) #19	52	Pampa(16-13)	40
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(27-8) #10	61	Ft. Worth Richland(17-14)	58
Region I Semis	Wichita Falls(26-8)	44	E. Paso Eastwood(26-3) #2	42
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(28-8) #10	52	Lubbock Monterey(26-6) #19	45
Region I Finals	Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-8) #10	51	Wichita Falls(27-6)	43
Region II Bi-Dist.	Grand Prairie(25-9)	53	South Garland(29-4) #9	50
	Dallas Roosevelt(28-3) #6	83	Dallas Lincoln(21-5)	75
	Plano(28-3) #4	48	Longview(28-6)	38
	Cypress-Creek(28-5) #15	56	Bryan(25-11)	54
Region II Semis	Dallas Roosevelt(29-3) #6	60	Grand Prairie(26-9)	49
	Plano(29-3) #4	55	Cypress-Creek(29-5) #15	41
Region II Finals	Plano(30-3) #4	60	Dallas Roosevelt(30-3) #6	55
Region III Bi-Dist.	Houston Madison(24-10)	50	H. Westchester(31-7)	49
	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(23-8) #18	71	Aldine MacArthur(26-7)	58
	Houston Kashmere(26-5) #13	47	Houston Yates(29-1) #1	45
	Clear Lake(26-8)	56	Galveston Ball(23-8) #14	52
Region III Semis	Houston Madison(25-10)	63	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(24-8) #18	56
	Houston Kashmere(27-5) #13	55	Clear Lake(27-8)	41
Region III Finals	Houston Kashmere(28-5) #13	65	Houston Madison(26-10)	63
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Austin Lanier(29-5) #12	62	Lamar Consolidated(18-14)	59
	San Antonio Clarke(25-12)	80	Converse Judson(27-8)	79
	Corpus Christi Carroll(30-6)	57	Mission(24-7)	56
	San Antonio Sam Houston(29-8) 74		San Marcos(27-4) #8	63
Region IV Semis	Austin Lanier(30-5) #12	107	San Antonio Clark(26-12)	84
	San Antonio Sam Houston(30-8) 71		Corpus Christi Carroll(31-6)	66
Region IV Final	San Antonio Sam Houston(31-8) 71		Austin Lanier(31-5)	68
State Semi-Finals	Houston Kashmere(29-5) #13	81	S. A. Sam Houston(32-8)	57
	Plano(31-3) #4	46	Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-8) #10	39
State Finals	Houston Kashmere(30-5) #13	70	Plano(32-3) #4	69

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1980 AAAA Top Teams}

1. Houston Kashmere 31-5 {beat Plano, Yates, Madison in capturing state}
2. Houston Yates 29-2 {1-1 vs. Kashmere, 2-0 vs. Milby, Wheatley 3-0}
3. Houston Milby 30-3 {beat Kashmere 61-57, won Sun bowl and Jaycee Tourneys}
4. Plano 32-4 {beat Dallas Roosevelt, FW Dunbar, state finals}
5. Dallas Roosevelt 30-4 {beat Paschal, 1-1 vs Wheatley, Dunbar, 3-1 vs. SOC}
6. Ft. Worth Paschal 30-5 {2-2 vs. Dunbar, def. Plano by 14, beat Lake High.}
7. Ft. Worth Dunbar 30-9 {2-2 vs. Paschal, def. H. Madison, EP Eastwood}
8. Houston Madison 26-11 {0-2 vs. Kashmere, def. Westchester, PA Lincoln}
9. Pt. Arthur Lincoln 26-9 {1-3 vs. Beaumont Hebert, beat Clear Lake +8, Reg. Semi}
10. Houston Westchester 31-8 {lost to Madison -1, Alief Hastings 3-0, def. SOC 73-57}
11. South Oak Cliff 22-7 {def. Dunbar, Wheatley, 1-3 vs. Roosevelt}
12. Houston Washington 25-7 {def. Yates 47-45, 1-2 vs. Kashmere, District runner-up}
13. Houston Wheatley 21-13 {3rd Dist. 20-AAAA, def. Dunbar 85-82, 1-1 vs. Roosevelt}
14. S.A. Sam Houston 32-9 {Def. Austin Lanier, CC Carroll, San Marcos, Harlingen}
15. Houston Sterling 18-12 {finals of Jaycees Tournery, wins vs. Madison & Wheatley}
16. Austin Lanier 31-6 {def. Highland Park +3, San Marcos +1 Regional Finals}
17. San Marcos 27-5 {lost in Bi-District to Sam Houston, beat Clear Lake +35}

18.	Wichita Falls	27-9	{regional finals loss to Dunbar, def Eastwood +2}
19.	El Paso Eastwood	26-4	{lost to Wichita Falls -2, Dunbar -4, Milby -12, Burges -3}
20.	Odessa Permian	24-10	{loss to Wichita Falls in Bi-District, def. Midland in district}
21.	Midland	30-7	{Winner -Optimist Tournament, lost playoff to Permian}
22.	Clear Lake	27-9	{regional semis, def. Galveston Ball +4}
23.	Galveston Ball	23-8	{Bi-District loss to Clear Lake}
24.	S.A. Churchill	30-6	{two wins over San Marcos, finished 3rd in Dist. 32-AAAA}
25.	Austin High	26-6	{def. Highland Park 62-55, tied for the 2nd round title}
26.	Highland Park	27-6	{def. Trinity 61-58, Lake High. 2-0, def. Austin Anderson}
27.	Austin Anderson	23-8	{lost the district playoff to Austin Lanier 71-55}
28.	Houston Austin	13-16	{def. Milby, 4th place in District 20-AAAA}
29.	Dallas Lincoln	21-6	{2-0 vs. Hillcrest, lost to Roosevelt in 1st round}
30.	Dallas Hillcrest	26-6	{11-AAAA District runner-up to Dallas Lincoln}
31.	Lake Highlands	25-8	{1-1 vs. Plano, def. Roosevelt, 1-1 vs. Irving}
32.	Cypress Creek	29-6	{lost to Plano in regional semis}
33.	Spring	28-7	{District 16-AAAA runner-up to Cypress-Creek}
34.	Longview	28-7	{lost in Bi-District to Plano 48-38}
35.	Corpus Christi Carroll	31-7	{lost to Sam Houston 71-66 in Regional semi-finals}
36.	San Antonio Clark	26-13	{lost to Austin Lanier in regional semis 107-84}
37.	Mission	29-8	{Lost in Bi-District to C.C. Carroll 57-56}
38.	S.A. Clemens	26-12	{lost district playoff game to San Marcos}
39.	S.A. Marshall	22-10	{def. H. Smiley 58-54, won 1st round of district}
40.	El Paso Burges	27-8	{split with Eastwood, 2-2 vs Coronado}
41.	Converse Judson	27-9	{def. Irving 78-66, loss in Bi-District to SA Clark -1}
42.	Nacogdoches	25-7	{District runner-up in 14-AAAA, 2-1 vs. Longview}
43.	E.P. Coronado	28-6	{Finals Sun Bowl tournament, lost Dist. Playoff to Burges}
44.	Aldine MacArthur	26-8	{loss in Bi-District to PA Lincoln}
45.	Houston Smiley	21-9	{2nd in District 21-AAAA, lost playoff to MacArthur}
46.	Grand Prairie	26-10	{2-1 vs. Irving, 2-1 vs. Trinity, regional semis}
47.	Irving	25-9	{1-1 vs. Lake Highlands, def. Kashmere, 1-2 vs. G.P.}
48.	North Dallas	20-12	{def. Plano 74-70, S.O.C. ,S. Garland}
49.	South Garland	30-5	{Bi-District lost to Grand Prairie}
50.	Lubbock Monterey	26-7	{regional semis, loss to Dunbar}
51.	S.A. Fox Tech	20-12	{lost District playoff to Sam Houston 61-54}
52.	S.A. Highlands	26-8	{def. Paschal 72-67, loss to Midland 46-51}
53.	Eules Trinity	26-8	{1-2 vs. Grand Prairie, 1-1 vs. Irving}
54.	Alief Hasting	23-13	{three-way playoff in District 17-AAAA}
55.	S. B. Memorial	27-7	{three-way playoff in District 17-AAAA}
56.	Wichita Falls Rider	20-11	{District runner-up to Wichita Falls High}
57.	Stratford Dulles	32-5	{finished 3rd in District 24-AAAA}
58.	Laredo Martin	23-6	{tied for 2nd half title with Judson and Laredo Nixon}
59.	Lufkin	24-11	{3rd in District 14-AAAA, 2-1 vs. Longview, 2-2 vs. Nac.}
60.	Alvin	20-13	{beat Clear Lake, beat Dulles 55-52}
61.	Laredo Nixon	21-11	{3-way title for 2nd half in district with Judson and Martin}
62.	Bryan	25-11	{lost in Bi-District to Cypress-Creek 56-54}
63.	Ft. W. Western Hills	18-9	{1-1 vs. Paschal, Lost in Dist. playoff to Paschal and Dunbar}
64.	Beaumont French	17-12	{tied for District title, lost playoff to P.A. Lincoln}
65.	El Paso Irvin	24-8	{defeated Dunbar 61-59, District runner-up in 1-AAAA}
66.	Victoria	27-5	{2-0 vs. Bay City, def. SA Sam Houston}
67.	Harlingen	29-9	{District runner-up to Mission}
68.	Lamar Consolidated	18-15	{Bi-District loss to Austin Lanier 62-59}

69.	Ft. Worth Richland	17-15	{Bi-District loss to Ft. Worth Dunbar 61-58}
70.	Garland Lakeview	24-8	{lost a district playoff to South Garland 63-57}
71.	Wilmer Hutchins	23-13	{finals of the Dr. Pepper tournament losing to Paschal by 1}
72.	Forest Park	23-9	{finished 3 rd behind Pt. Arthur Lincoln and Bea. French}
73.	Pasadena Dobie	21-11	{tied for 1 st half title with Clear Lake}
74.	Houston Davis	19-14	{played in the best District in the state 20-AAAA}
75.	Houston Sharpstown	21-12	{runner-up to Houston Madison}
76.	San Angelo Central	22-12	{District 3 rd place}
77.	Dallas Kimball	18-9	{tough district with Roosevelt, SOC and North Dallas}
78.	Dallas Thomas Jeff.	13-16	{Defeated S.O.C. in the Dr. Pepper tournament}
79.	Tyler Lee	15-16	{defeated Lufkin twice and loss to Longview in overtime}
80.	Tyler John Tyler	15-14	{strong team in a very competitive district}
81.	Beaumont Pollard	16-15	{defeated PA Lincoln in District}
82.	PA Thomas Jefferson	17-8	{held a win over PA Lincoln in District}

1981 AAAAA

In his pre-season picks for the 1981 season, Mike Smith of Victoria had Longview(33-4) at #1 and Midland(32-5 #2. These two programs were paced by two of the best in the Texas in 6'7" Steffond Johnson(18.0) and 6'9" Herb Johnson(25.0). Smith published a Basketball Forecast every season with all the District picks along with the top players in each District. The coaches each season submitted their questionnaire and contact info for scheduling and tournaments. It was awesome connecting the coaches throughout the state in class 5-A. Some coaches, of course, did not respond so the Basketball Preview had some gaps. In looking at the pre-season issue of the top players it was obvious the 1981 season was going to be a special season. Arguably the most talented class Texas had produced up to that time.

Also, in 1981, we saw the changing of the classification system once again. Class B schools were behind the change. The smaller schools did not like being referred to as B schools, so everybody was bumped up a classification. No more class B schools, enter class 5-A, which was the old class 4-A and so on down the line. It won't be for another 35 years before the classifications would change once again for the smaller schools. In 2014-15 school year class A would be split creating a class 6-A with everybody moving up a division. So really today's class 6-A is the pre-1981 4-A. Simple enough.

Some of the biggest news during the season took place off the court as the U.I.L. decided to add a second playoff team for the 1982-83 school year. In other big news, the transfer rule was changed giving underclassmen the opportunity to transfer and become eligible to play. Parents and coaches alike had to sign a waiver stating the player was not recruited. J.D. Mayo of Skyline was not a big fan saying, "It might work in a smaller city or community but in a metropolitan area such as this, I think it will just encourage recruiting to an even greater extent than goes on now. Even when recruiting is investigated, the results are not always found, such as the Roosevelt case."

An investigation was made by District 11-AAAAA in January of 1981 about Carl and Billy Wright of Roosevelt, who lived in the S.O.C. attendance area. Mrs. Wright moved in November 1978 from the Roosevelt district to the South Oak Cliff area. "While she and the family were living with their grandmother in the Roosevelt district, the two older brothers enrolled at Roosevelt. So, we ruled the two older brothers were eligible at Roosevelt," Committee chairman, D.D. Richardson said.

*The **Arlington Classic** got the year kicked off for the 1980-81 season. The tournament was in its 14th year and had been the unquestioned best tournament in the state. But with more and more outstanding teams it became harder to project which teams would be the best in Texas each year. None the less, the Classic was the first major high school tournament and the premier teams in the state usually*

were on hand to compete. Plano(24-8) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-5) were at the head of the list of teams competing. Both were coming off state tournament berths the previous season. The Arlington Classic also welcomed back Dallas S.O.C.(21-12), Houston Worthing, Houston Wheatley(27-13), Duncanville(23-10), Dallas Roosevelt(41-3), F.W. Paschal(29-7) and Wilmer Hutchins(27-9). The best first round match-up once again was between Dallas Roosevelt(41-3) and Houston Wheatley(27-13). It was hard to believe, but Roosevelt looked better than it had the year before with 6'4" Carl Wright, 5'7" Ronell Peters, 6'5" Billy Wright(16.0), 6'4" Kent Tillman, and 6'3" Reginald Martin all returning. Houston Wheatley(27-13) would count on three seniors, 6'9" Phillip Smith, 5'10" Larry Smith, 6'2" Larry Brownlow and 5'11" Edward Davis. In a great game Roosevelt came out on top 93-86. Wilmer Hutchins(27-9) showed they were a force in the Dallas area defeating S.O.C.(21-12) in a first round upset 78-63. 5'4" Spud Webb(25.0) would eventually become a basketball legend in the N.B.A., but in 1981 he was simply the best player on Wilmer Hutchins team. Hutch had 11 seniors on their 15-man roster. The Golden Bears had their usual dynamic team led by 6'1" senior, Reginald Hurd(20.6).

All the favorites advanced making for some great quarterfinal games. Duncanville(23-10) upset Hutch(27-9) 69-66, Keith Johnson and Billy Stapleton put the Panthers on the basketball map. Dallas Roosevelt(41-3) barely got by Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-5) 68-66 in a battle of two of the top five teams in the state. Ronell Peters led Coach Davis' team with 16 points and Robert Jones had 17 for Dunbar. Ft. Worth Paschal(29-7) and Plano(24-8) also advanced to the semi-finals. Paschal of course, had the two Sam's back, Donnell and Norton, carrying the load, while Plano had a whole new influx of talent for Coach Bridge's troops. 6'1" Ryant Green(16.0) and Rod Green were the new forces for Plano basketball. Neither Ft. Worth Paschal(29-7) or Plano(24-8) were as strong as they had been the season before. Dallas Roosevelt(41-3) defeated Duncanville(23-10) 65-56 in the semis while Paschal(29-7) continued its magic over Plano(24-8) 31-28. Plano(24-8) defeated Duncanville(23-10) in the 3rd place game 38-26 and S.O.C(21-12) beat Wheatley(27-13) in the consolation semi-finals 69-63 and dropped Houston Worthing in the consolation finals 106-79. Roosevelt(41-3) won the tournament again beating Paschal(29-7) for the championship 72-62. Sam Norton showed why he was considered an elite offensive talent scoring 35 points in a losing effort. Norton was 17 of 25 from the field. The Wright brothers dominated for Coach Davis' offense with Carl finishing with 18 points and 10 rebounds and Billy adding 17 points and 13 rebounds. Roosevelt(41-3) in the Arlington Classic had taken on the gauntlet during the tournament. The Mustangs defeated Wheatley(27-13) 93-86, Dunbar(31-5) 68-66 and Paschal(29-7) 72-62. To show the talent of this team they had a different leading scorer in each game. Interesting side note about the Wheatley(27-13) game, Roosevelt was down 24 points before turning things around. 6'5' Sam Norton of Paschal was named tournament M.V.P.

This Arlington Classic was always a precursor for the season. Paschal(29-7) guard play was weaker than in 1980, but with 6'8" Sam Donnell and 6'5" Sam Norton inside, they were really potent. Plano(24-8) had another real solid team that would get stronger as the season progressed. South Oak Cliff(21-12) was not as strong as in previous seasons, but still managed to take down Wheatley 115-105 in an early December contest at Sprague Field House. Wheatley(27-13) was still very talented, but just didn't have the depth as in years past. Dunbar(31-5) was really solid with a veteran crew. Coach Hughes had gone with playing fewer players and was not as up tempo as his teams from 1977-79.

I was a spectator at the Classic and came away thinking Dallas Roosevelt(41-3) was one of the most talented team's I had seen. They would be especially tough to beat.

In an early season tournament at Highland Park, 6'4" Charles Young of Tyler Lee(22-11) became one of the elite players in the state hitting 31 points in Lee's 68-65 loss to Highland Park(23-10). The talented junior turned right around and put up 41 points against Dallas Carter in a 104-89 win.

*El Paso Eastwood(34-5) showed their early season strength in the **El Paso tournament** defeating Amarillo Palo Duro 84-58, El Paso Austin 60-54, El Paso Coronado 48-43, and El Paso Andress in the finals. Louis Clark led the scoring for the Troopers against Coronado with 17 points and Steve Carpenter had 16 against Palo Duro. Mark Wagner led Coach Lesley's team against E.P. Austin with 17 points. Andress was led to the finals by 5'9" Mike Martinez, who put up 23 points in his team's victory over El Paso Hanks in the semi-finals. Going into the Championship game, Andress supported a 5-2 record while Eastwood had won eight out of nine games.*

*Another tournament in El Paso made up of mainly El Paso schools was the **Andress Tournament**. Eastwood(34-5) continued their domination taking the title from El Paso Irvin 53-43. Steve Carpenter again was the leading scorer with 16 points. Carlos Morales and David McDowell put in 16 and 13 points in a losing cause. Irvin had defeated El Paso Andress in the semi-finals 79-70, while Eastwood advanced beating El Paso Jefferson 67-59. The third-place game was won by Andress over El Paso Jefferson 64-58.*

*The **Ysleta Invitational** was won by El Paso Riverside(26-6) 50-43 over El Paso Burges(26-9). Riverside was paced by 6'5" Robert Lopez. Burges defeated El Paso Bel Air in the semi-finals 34-32 to advance to the finals.*

*Ft. Worth Southwest(25-9) showed the promise of the things to come by winning the **Temple tournament** defeating Lufkin(27-6) 61-60, Waco University 68-63 and Temple in the finals 60-56. Temple had advanced to the title game defeating Waco Jefferson-Moore 48-43. Brownlee of Southwest had 17 points against Waco University in the win. Coach James Woods had high praise for the Rebels, "This is the*

best ball club we've ever had at Southwest." If you think about that statement, that was a mouth full.

*San Antonio in 1981 proved to be stronger than it had been in previous years with several very competitive teams. In the **North Loops tournament**, some of the best teams in the Alamo City collided. San Antonio Marshall(29-8) played San Antonio Churchill(34-5) in the semis and came away with a 49-40 victory. The Vittatoe twins, Vince and Vern led the charge for Marshall(29-8) with a combined 38 points. Paul Wimp and Pat Hymel paced Churchill(34-5) with 14 points each. In the other semi-final game, San Antonio Roosevelt(35-5) dropped San Antonio Clark(24-12) 41-40. 6'6" Oscar Woods finished with 16 points and 6'5" Kelvin Moore contributed 11 points in the win. In the finals, S.A. Roosevelt(35-5) claimed an impressive 74-61 win over S.A. Marshall(29-8). 6'0" Bubba Mangan led Roosevelt in the win with 27 points and Moore kicked-in 20. George Rodriguez led Marshall with 21 points and the Vittatoe twins had 29 combined points. The 3rd place game was won by Churchill(34-5) easily 76-63 over S.A. Clark(24-12). Wimp had 22 for the Chargers.*

*In the **Corpus Christi Association Invitational**, Houston Madison(35-4) won the championship for the fifth time in six seasons. The Marlins defeated Corpus Christi Carroll(27-8) in the finals 77-71. "They deserved to win," Tiger Coach Buddy Greenwood said. "We got beat by the best team. We missed some easy buckets in the third quarter, and they got ahead. We made too many mistakes against a good team." Madison's Eric Dickins was named the M.V.P. of the tournament scoring 30 points in the finals. "This was a big game for us. It was important to stay with a quality team like Madison," Greenwood said. "Our main worry was that they are so fast, but we stayed with them.*

*San Antonio had its **2nd annual Optimist Classic** drawing some of the top ranked teams in the state and matching them against the best San Antonio had to offer. Midland High(32-5) made the trip to San Antonio as one of the top teams in the state at 11-0. 6'9" Herb Johnson, who won the tournament M.V.P. the previous year, was one of the featured players at the tournament. Houston Kashmere(27-8), the defending class 4-A state champion was in attendance at 8-4. The Rams returned an outstanding senior guard, 6'1" Luster Goodwin and 6'6" Kenneth Cook. San Antonio Roosevelt(35-5), at 13-1 was the top-rated team in the Alamo city. 6'6" senior Oscar Woods was S.A. Roosevelt's go to player. Spring Branch Westchester(27-8) came in at 13-3. 6'4" Charles Kelley was the man for Westchester. S.A. Sam Houston(22-13) at 9-6, Houston Smiley(25-7) at 9-2, Ft. Worth Paschal(29-7) at 15-1, and Corpus Christy Carroll(27-8) at 9-4, would all have a big impact on the outcome of the tournament. Sam Norton from Paschal came into the tournament averaging 31 points a game. Originally S.O.C.(21-12) and Dallas Roosevelt(41-3) were supposed to attend, but had to drop out because of the DISD rules against missing two consecutive days of school.*

Converse Judson(18-12) upset Midland(32-5) 74-63 in the quarterfinal action and held Herb Johnson(25.0) to only 16 points. After the Rockets big win over the Bulldogs of Midland, all-tournament selection, Omar Lozano conveyed his excitement in facing the West Texas team. "In my three years here, I've never seen anybody so pumped up for a game as we were for Midland. That game boosted our confidence so that we knew we could play with anybody in the state," Lozano said. Judson coach, Don Perkins commented, "we were all out, we were scared of their press, but we did a good job handling it, our guards played well."

Houston Kashmere(27-8) showed their talents as they defeated S.A. Marshall(29-8) in the quarterfinals 67-61 and knocked off top seeded Ft. Worth Paschal(29-7) 80-69 in the second round. Luster Goodwin led the Rams with 30 points against S.A. Marshall(29-8) and went for 25 points against Ft. Worth Paschal(29-7). Goodwin was showing why he was considered one of the top guards in the state. S.A. Roosevelt(35-5) won its quarterfinal game over Temple(20-7) 76-71 and earlier had defeated Houston Waltrip 78-35. Kelvin Moore had 30 points for S.A. Roosevelt(35-5) in the win over Temple. S.A. Churchill(34-5) advanced to the semi-finals defeating Houston Yates(20-12) 74-63.

In the semi-finals, S.A. Roosevelt(35-5) came in at 16-1 and defeated Converse Judson(18-12) 83-79. S.A. Churchill was impressive with a 17-2 mark and upset Houston Kashmere(27-8) 50-46, paced by Pat Hymel's 16 points. The finals, it was an all San Antonio affair between S.A. Roosevelt(35-5) and S.A. Churchill(34-5). The tournament showed that the San Antonio schools would be a force to be reckon with during the coming season. Churchill(34-5) took the finals 57-42 and advanced to 18-2 on the season and #4 in the state rankings. S.A. Roosevelt(35-5) suffered their second loss of the season and moved to 17-2. The game took place at the Trinity Sams Center Gym. S. A. Roosevelt(35-5) had two dynamite players in 6'4" Kelvin Moore and 6'6" Oscar Woods. Moore was very strong and played inside while Woods was very long and athletic playing inside or out. Moore was held down by Churchill(34-5) in the finals, scoring 11 points while Woods only put in 12 points. Bubba Mangan led the Rough Riders in scoring with 14 points. Roosevelt had two of the top talents in the Alamo City in Moore and Woods. "They are a very good team," Churchill Coach Gerald Adams said. "We're just thankful we could stay on the floor with them." Judson head coach, Don Perkins chimed in saying, "Churchill is big and strong, and they can match-up with Roosevelt."

Paul Wimp of Churchill won the tournament M.V.P Award. He paced his team in the finals with 12 points. Other members of the All-Tournament team were as follows: John Williamson, Churchill; Omar Lozano, Judson; Luster Goodwin, Kashmere; Ralph Green, SA Highlands; Mark Dechard, Nacogdoches; Kelly Coates, Deer Park; Sam Norton, Paschal; Randy Moff, C.C. Carroll; James Malone, Temple; Herb Johnson, Midland; Vince Vittatoe, SA Marshall; Kelvin Moore, SA Roosevelt:

Other significant games saw Houston Yates(20-12) beaten in the quarterfinals by Churchill(34-5) 74-63. S.A. Roosevelt(35-5) eliminated Temple 76-72, S.A. Marshall(29-8) put down Corpus Christi Carroll(27-8) 72-62. Houston Westchester(27-8) had a tough time against S.A. Marshall(29-8) losing 83-55. Houston Yates(20-12) came back to defeat S.A. Fox Tech(22-12) 54-49. Houston Yates(20-12) had earlier lost in the finals of the Temple Tournament to the Wildcats of Temple.

In the Houston Yates(20-12) win over St. Gerard, the Lions slipped away with a close 40-35 margin in the early round of the Optimist Classic. Coach Gerry Pollock of St. Gerard's commented about his team's game with Yates, "believe it or not, Yates slowed the ball down, we played excellent ball, the best we've played all year." Gerard's tallest player was 6'4" David Glazener, while Yates had nine players 6'4" or taller on their roster.

The **Dr. Pepper tournament** in Dallas had an all-star cast. In reality Dallas was really down overall in talent and had very few powerhouse teams. Because they used a blind draw in the tournament pairings, you usually had some great first round games. The Dallas Roosevelt Mustangs(41-3) at 15-1 faced the top player in the state in 6'10" John Brownlee. The big senior from Southwest(25-9) put on a one-man show hitting 47 points, but his team lost 77-73. Of course, I was on the front row taking it all in. Brownlee was for real. He was truly outstanding and unstoppable. He was the most dominant player I would see all season. The Rebels from Southwest were now 15-3 on the season. Dallas Madison(10-16) upset S.O.C.(21-12) 80-79 to force the Golden Bears into the loser's bracket. Dallas Lincoln(16-5) upset Wilmer Hutchins(27-9) and Spud Webb 87-85 in the second-round match-up. Webb had 33 points. Paschal(29-7) and Dunbar(31-5) both won their games and advanced.

In the semi-finals, Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-5) took down Ft. Worth Paschal(29-7) 66-60 and Dallas Roosevelt(41-3) drummed Dallas Lincoln(19-5) 96-73. For Dunbar, Robert Hughes was the top scorer with 36 points while 6'5" Sam Norton hit 19 points for Paschal. Robert Hughes hit nine straight field goals for 30 first half points and 28 in the second quarter from long range. It was one of the greatest shooting exhibitions I have ever witnessed. Hughes had some unreal range on his game. This set up the finals between Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-5) and Dallas Roosevelt(41-3), which was a rematch of the Arlington Classic finals. It was pretty obvious these two teams were among the best in Texas, as well as the nation.

Roosevelt(41-3) stood at 20-1 and squeaked out the win 66-63 over the Wildcats. 5'7" Ronell Peters had 24 points for the Mustangs followed by Carl Wrights 18 points and Robert Hughes dropped in 20 points for Dunbar(31-5). It was Roosevelt's first Dr. Pepper title since the 1976-77 season when Carl Wright's older brother, Rynn was a senior. The three brother's games were so drastically different. Rynn was powerfully built and was dominant inside, Billy was tall and slender and

slithered inside with his moves relying on quickness. Carl was one of the best athletes you could ever want to see. He could hang in the air all day and had a great inside game along with his major ups. If he would have had more range on his shot, he would have been N.B.A. ready.

Dunbar(31-5) had won the titles during the 1977-78 and 1978-79 seasons. In looking at the top teams that Dallas had produced up until 1981, there were very few teams as strong as the Mustangs from Roosevelt. The '81 unit was the best team Dallas had produced since the 1977 South Oak Cliff state championship team and rated right up there with the best the city had ever produced.

In the 3rd place game Dallas Lincoln(16-5) upset Paschal(29-7) 71-70. David Chriesman of Lincoln was emerging as one of the top guards in Dallas. He led Lincoln with 25 points. Paschal was weaker than the previous season but still had the tough inside game of 6'9" Sam Donnell and 6'5" Sam Norton.

The Dr. Pepper All-Tournament team was made-up of Carl Wright and Billy Wright from Dallas Roosevelt, 6'10" John Brownlee of Ft. Worth Southwest, Ron Singleton of Dallas Carter, Sam Norton of Paschal, David Chriesman(21.0) of Lincoln, Anthony "Spud" Webb(25.0) from Wilmer Hutchins, David Jordon of Skyline, Ronzell Brewer of Dallas Madison and 6'4" Willie Ashley(16.0) and Robert Hughes(19.0) from Dunbar.

Midland High, with All-American Herb Johnson in tow, went out to Hobbs, New Mexico to play in their **Holiday tournament**. The Bulldogs record stood at an impressive 14-1 mark. On the season, Johnson averaged 25.0 points per game, 12 rebounds and six assists. Johnson was called by his coach the best passer he had ever seen in high school.

Hobbs(26-0) High School Basketball program was widely known as one of the top programs in the country coached by the legendary, Ralph Tasker. Hobbs faced off against Midland High at the Ralph Tasker Arena. Hobbs(8-0) was undefeated and averaged over 100 points per game. They had defeated Odessa Permian(17-13) earlier in the season 131-77. They also had a victory over Abilene Cooper earlier in the season by 80 points. "It's a pleasure to play a team like Hobbs in an atmosphere like they have for high school basketball at Hobbs. We're not backing off from anybody," Coach Jack Stephenson of Midland said before the big game. Midland(32-5) had defeated Kofa Yuma, Arizona in the quarterfinals 66-63. Herb Johnson scored 33 points in the Bulldog win.

Hobbs finished the 1980 season winning the New Mexico state title and a 26-0 record on the season. The Eagles were carrying a 52-game winning streak into the 1982 season.

Midland(32-5) and Hobbs(26-0) went at it like two heavyweight boxers battling it out in the semi-finals. The game turned out to be a classic with the Bulldogs losing to Hobbs 115-102. They had to lock the doors in order to keep the crowd from spilling onto the court. Legend has it that Hobbs can't be beat at home.

Hobbs defense was centered on stopping Herb Johnson, which they were able to do holding the 6'9" guard to 11 points, but he did manage 14 assists. Horace Brown was the scoring leader for Midland with 28 points. Midland Coach, Jack Stephenson, said, "I think it was the best basketball game I've seen in 20 years of coaching. Our kids learned a lot about themselves out there tonight," Stephenson said. "They were not intimidated by the crowd,"

Midland(32-5) was the taller team but 6'5" Vince Taylor of Hobbs finished with 28 points. Taylor would become a standout player at Texas Tech and played in the N.B.A. Other standouts for Hobbs were 6'2" Tony Benford and 6'0" Kenny Smith. The pair finished with 18 points apiece while 5'9" Zac Sharp added 17 points. Tony Benford went on to star at Texas Tech and began coaching at the college level. He eventually became the head coach at North Texas State University.

Hobbs(26-0) played Amadore Valley, California in the finals while Midland prepared to play Altus, Oklahoma in the 3rd place game. Many felt they had already seen the championship game.

*The **41st annual "Jaycee" tournament** in Houston brought together the best Houston had to offer. The seeded teams were Houston Wheatley(27-13), Houston Washington(30-6), Houston Madison(35-4), Houston Kashmere(27-8), and Houston Milby(29-8). Everything went pretty much as expected as Houston Washington(30-6) defeated Wheatley in the semi-finals 83-73. Washington was paced by Carl Clay with 13 points, Michael Scott pitched in 10 and Anthony Wade led the scoring with 18. The Wildcats were led by Larry Smith's 14 points, Edward Davis had 11 and Burnet Williams kicked in 12 points. Washington's standout guard, Jerome Scott missed practice and was forced to come off the bench and pumped in 14 points from long range.*

In the quarterfinals, Washington(30-6) got by their tough district rival Houston Scarborough(23-5) 46-43. Scott again came off the bench to fuel the Eagles with 15 points. Alan Chambers was high man for Scarborough with 16 points. Scarborough was undefeated coming into the game. In the Northshore tournament, earlier in the season, Scarborough(23-5) had shown their talent beating Washington by 15 points. District action was going to be a blood fest with Houston Kashmere(27-8), Houston Washington(30-6) and Houston Scarborough(23-5) knocking heads. Wheatley defeated Houston Bellaire in the quarterfinals to advance 78-75 in overtime. Jeff Applewhite led Bellaire(22-12) with 17 points and 6'7" Phillip Smith hit 14 points for Wheatley(27-13) followed by Larry Smith with 15.

The other semi-final game saw Houston Madison(35-4) take out Houston Yates(20-12) 52-44. Eric Dickens of Madison had a great tournament and led Coach Benton's Marlins with 20 points, followed by Kirk Simple with 14. Michael Martin led Yates with 16 points. The Lions wanted to slow the game down with their delay game but were unable to get the lead. Yates had won in the earlier rounds against Deer Park(23-12) 23-17 and Peabody out of Alexandria, Louisiana 44-30. Yates(20-

12) had also defeated district rival Milby(29-8) 35-34 in triple overtime, in probably the best game of the tournament. The two coaches, Tommy Malone of Yates and Boyce Honea of Milby, almost got into a fight as the two teams battled. The two coaches had no love for one another.

Houston Madison(35-4) had eliminated the defending state champs, Houston Kashmere(27-8) 75-72 in the quarterfinals. Eric Dickens showed why he was the premier guard in Houston knocking down 28 points while Kirk Simple followed with 21. Houston Kashmere(27-8) had the usual trio of balanced scoring with Sublet, Kenneth Cook and Luster Goodwin hitting 11 apiece.

The championship game saw Houston Madison(35-4) show their dominance in "the Bayou city" defeating Houston Washington(30-6) 58-53. Eric Dickens again provided the firepower for the Marlins with 26 points and Kirk Simple followed with 17 points. Carl Clay led Washington with 14 and 6'2" Jerome Scott hit 13 from long range. The 3rd place game was won by Yates(20-12) 84-78 over rival Wheatley(27-13). The game was a foul fest with Yates hitting 34-39 from the line and Wheatley came away with 32 of 45. Yates scoring break down looked unusual because they usually employed a delay game. Michael Martin led the Lions with 23 points, Cary Sowens had 12, Calvin Godine 11 and Elihue Williams finished with 11 points. Larry Brownlow led the Wildcats with 14 points followed by Edward Davis with 13 points.

Houston Madison(35-4) and Houston Washington(30-6) were both included in the early season rankings in the state's top ten at #5 and #8 respectively. Clear Lake(38-2) held down the top spot at 24-1 followed by unbeaten Austin High(37-1) at 22-0 and Longview(33-4) came in at 18-2. 6'7" Steffond Johnson paced the Lobos'. Austin High's schedule was somewhat questionable while Longview(33-4) held a win over Clear Lake(38-2) 67-56. The Lobos had losses to South Garland(23-12) 41-40 and Paris(25-6) 69-58. Whether that explains the state polls and their rankings is not real clear, but it does lend some type of reasoning behind why Clear Lake was rated ahead of Longview and why Austin High was not #1.

Coach Wayne Dickey of San Antonio Sam Houston had some real-good insight to the state playoffs, which is good to keep in mind as you read the book. He commented that in a best of 3 or 5 series, the best team will win about 80% of the time. But in a one game elimination, many factors come into play. Injuries, players having career games, coaching, foul trouble, and refs are just some of the factors that play a role in the game's outcome. At Richardson Pearce during my coaching days, my talent was always very limited. We had kids that worked hard and for the most part, super coachable. Personally, my winning percentage was much better the first time I faced an opponent as opposed to the re-match. I scouted a great deal and usually had a few wrinkles that the opposing team was not expecting. I remember we beat Plano West at the buzzer at their place and was blown out in the rematch at home. West adjusted and was clearly the better team. If we would have

played a third time they would have won again easily. I share this to make my point that the best team does not always advance in a one game elimination, much like Coach Dickey explained.

Region I Playoffs

El Paso Eastwood(31-3) #12

Pampa(22-11)

Denton(19-12)

Arlington(23-7)

El Paso Burges(26-8)

Plainview(18-16)

Midland(31-3) #9

Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-4) #6

Top Players in Region I

6'5" Willie Ashley

6'3" Robert Hughes

6'9" Herb Johnson

6'10" John Brownlee

6'5" Sam Norton

6'9" Sam Donnell

6'5" Robert Lopez

6'7" Mark Bishop

Ft. Worth Dunbar

Ft. Worth Dunbar

Midland High

Ft. Worth Southwest

Ft. Worth Paschal

Ft. Worth Paschal

El Paso Riverside

Arlington High

As you may have gathered there were some outstanding teams in 1981 throughout the state. I would venture to say in the first half of the decade the '81 season had the most talent and best teams overall. Sure, there were exceptions, but overall there can be little doubt.

Coming out of West Texas was another juggernaut in the Bulldogs from Midland High(31-3). District 5-AAAAA always had strong representatives in the playoffs, but the 1981 Midland(31-3) team might have been the best team to come out of the District since Midland in 1972 and 1973. Those two teams both advanced to Austin. In the form of 6'9" Herb Johnson, they had one of the best all-around players ever produced in West Texas. Yes, a mouthful but none the less he was a good one. The Bulldogs finished pre-district at 17-3 and looked to be unchallenged for the District title. The Bulldogs came in at #9 in the state polls. Even with Johnson and Horace Brown both averaging around 20 points a game, the real strength of the team might have been their depth.

Midland(31-3) opened District against defending District champion Odessa Permian(17-13). The Bulldogs got revenge beating the Panthers in both District games 68-59 and 81-65. San Angelo Central(23-8) was the only real challenge in District for Midland(31-3). In their first game against San Angelo Central(23-8), Midland was taken to the limit winning in three overtimes 80-78. The Bulldogs dominated the re-match 63-45. Midland(31-3) showed their offensive skills in a pre-district contest exploding for 113 points against Odessa Ector(21-11).

{Longtime Midland Lee Coach, Paul Stueckler passed away on August 11 of 2017 at the age of 84. Stueckler and his Midland Lee teams were detailed in my earlier books. He was famous for his domino

delay game that almost upset Houston Kashmere in the 1975 state finals. Few will ever forget him wearing a tuxedo on the sidelines in Austin. He is survived by his bride of 63 years, Marion, and 2 children and 4 grandchildren. One of the true coaching greats of Texas high school basketball. Stueckler was a true TEXAS LEGEND.}

In the Texas Panhandle most of the really competitive teams state-wide were in the lower classifications. In the largest classification the Panhandle schools were sometimes facing schools with three and four times their school's attendance. Remember in 5-A, there was no limit to the size of the schools. It was difficult to compete with urban teams. Pampa(22-11) made the playoffs for the second year in a row behind their outstanding coach, Garland Nichols. The Harvesters had a fine team paced by a cast of underclassmen. 6'2" sophomore, Mike Nelson, was one of the top talents in the Panhandle along with his 6'3" brother, Charles. Mike led Pampa in scoring, rebounding and assists. 6'3" Terry Faggins and Charles Nelson were both double digit scorers and juniors.

Plainview(18-16) was Pampa's Bi-District opponent paced by 6'4" Gilbert Wright. Plainview(18-16) got off to a slow start during the season because Wright was unable to play because he was a transfer. The Bulldogs were making their first appearance in the playoffs since 1972. Second year coach, Bob Moore, had been picked 5th in the pre-season polls. Coach Moore returned only one senior lettermen, 6'3" Ritchie Norrell. Plainview finished 16-13 in 1980 but graduated eight of the eleven lettermen. Lubbock Monterey(24-8) was their main competition in District action. "I think Gilbert Wright is the key to their ball club," Pampa's(22-11) coach Garland Nichols said, "We are going to have to contain him if we are going to come away with the win."

{Coach Garland Nichols passed away on February 20, 2014 in Amarillo, TX at the age of 67. He grew up in Byers and attended Dallas Baptist University, where he played basketball. Head coaching stops included, Petrolia High School 1968-1977, Rush Springs High School in Oklahoma from 1977-80, Pampa High School 1981-85, and South Garland High School from 1986-2009. He finished his brilliant career with 957 wins. He took three teams to the state tournament, Petrolia twice and Pampa once. Nichols will be remembered as a TEXAS LEGEND}

The game didn't disappoint, as Pampa(22-11) came from 15 points behind in the second half to defeat the Bulldogs 53-52. Mike Nelson scored 13 of his game high 16 points in the 2nd half with four key buckets late. The game was played before 2,100 fans at Canyon High School. Plainview(18-16) helped Pampa as much as they could with five turnovers late and missed four front ends of one and one opportunities. Plainview was led by Gilbert Wright's 22 points and finished the '81 campaign at 18-17. Nichols conveyed the obvious after the close win, "We were pretty fortunate to win."

*Things were done a little differently out in El Paso during the '81 season. The teams played a double round robin for the seeding in the **District 2-5A** tournament at the end of the season. So, it was not uncommon to play the same*

team three times in District action. Perennial power, El Paso Eastwood(31-3) had trouble early in District losing to El Paso Riverside(26-6) 76-63 and El Paso Ysleta 55-53. Eastwood(31-3) handled Riverside(22-5) 65-50 and Ysleta(14-11) 88-78 during the second round of action. Eastwood(31-3), Riverside(22-5) and Ysleta finished tied for the District title at 8-2. Ysleta(14-11) split with Riverside(22-5), which gave both teams two losses. For the District tournament, the three teams flipped a coin to see who, would be third seed. After that was decided then the top two teams would play each other for the top seed. Riverside turned over tails while Ysleta and Eastwood(31-3) turned up heads. This put Riverside being the third seed. This meant Riverside would have to win four straight games on four consecutive days to capture the playoff spot for District 2-5A. "It doesn't feel good," said Riverside Coach Ralph Ornelas, "but I feel we can win four in a row." If you are confused, welcome to the club. What a mess. The saving grace for Riverside(22-5) is prior to the season they were selected to host the tournament on their home court by a blind draw.

El Paso Ysleta(14-11) had to meet Eastwood(31-3) in a playoff to decide the top seed in the tournament. The game was played at U.T.E.P. Special Events Center in front of 1,000 fans. Eastwood(32-3) won 74-66 to gain the number one seed in the tournament format. "We started the season with a lot of young kids that were inexperienced, we had only one returning starter. Honestly, we have been improving the last eight or nine games," Eastwood Coach Bob Lesley said. Ysleta was led by 6'4" Dewayne Gabriel, 6'3" Clayton Wells, and 6'5" Edward Elliott.

Eastwood(32-3) starters included 5'10" Louis Clark, 6'1" John Shepherd, 6'4" Steve Carpenter, 5'8" Mark Wagner and 6'5" Rick Clark. Rick and Louis were brothers. Coach Lesley discussed his top player Rick Clark, "He loves to block shots, he considers blocking shots and rebounding his major responsibility and so he gets after it pretty good." Assistant Coach, Gary Pippen said, "He's what I consider by far to be the best rebounder in the town. He's a team player. He combines tremendous leaping ability with great speed. He's about the fastest player we have on the team, and he is probably the only kid in town who plays above the rim."

Riverside's(22-5) starting lineup consisted of 6'5" Robert Lopez, 6'6" Frank Aguilar, 5'9" David Perez, 6'0" Edgar Fino, and 6'1" Bobby Calzada. Lopez was named the El Paso Times Player of the Year averaging 18.3 points with 10.5 rebounds. Aguilar and Fino were also named All-City. Rick Clark and John Shepherd were named 1st team from Eastwood.

El Paso Riverside(22-5) advanced to the finals defeating El Paso Socorro 75-55 and El Paso Ysleta(14-12) 77-62. Eastwood(32-3) defeated El Paso Bel Air 73-60 in the semi-finals after receiving a bye in the quarterfinals.

Remember in order for Riverside(25-5) to represent the District they had beat Eastwood in back to back games on consecutive evenings. The first game would be on their home court with the second, if needed, would be played at a neutral site. Eastwood(32-3) faced Riverside(25-5) for the third time after the two

teams split in District. Coach Lesley said, "I hate to play them in their gym so we'll have to play tough."

El Paso Riverside(26-5) won a hard fought 56-55 game over El Paso Eastwood(32-4) to force a fourth meeting between the two teams. Bel Air High School played host to the District championship game with Eastwood(33-4) winning a 59-57 decision over Riverside(26-6). The victory gave Eastwood their sixth District title dating back to 1976.

In the victory, Coach Lesley had to call on his bench for major point production. 6'3" Al White came off the bench for 6'5" Rick Clark, who got into foul trouble. White proceeded to score 19 points including a three-point play with six seconds remaining to win the game. Clark was held scoreless.

Steve Carpenter was another starter who was held scoreless while two other starters, Louis Clark and Mark Wagner combined for six points. 6'0" Bill Butterfield and 5'6" Alan Armijo played critical minutes to give Coach Lesley the District title. 6'1" John Shepherd was the only Eastwood(33-4) starter who came up big for the Troopers scoring 22 points.

Coach Lesley came into the season with 12 of his 15-man roster having no previous varsity experience. Yet the team was able to finish the regular season at 32-4 with another District title. Sub Alan Armijo, a senior guard, discussed why Eastwood has had such a solid program. "It's year-round over here," Armijo said, who played two years on the B-team waiting for his opportunity to play varsity. "I've been playing basketball since I was eight. I watched the varsity when I was on J.V. and wanted to be just like them. This is what I've worked for all summer, all the basketball and weight lifting, it's all paying off," Armijo said. Eastwood has very few players in other sports. They mainly focus on basketball year-round.

In **District 1-5A** things seemed even more confusing as they tried to settle the playoff representative. The District was stronger top to bottom than District 2-5A. El Paso Andress(24-9) and El Paso Burges(23-7) emerged as the two top teams after a heated double round robin battle. El Paso Jefferson(23-9), El Paso Coronado(19-12) and El Paso Irvin(20-9) were also very competitive. El Paso Andress(24-9) played an aggressive full court pressing style of defense. Andress(24-9) defeated Burges(23-7) in the first District encounter 75-56. Burges(23-7) liked a very slow and controlled tempo almost looking like a delay game. In the re-match Burges(23-7) took a 45-42 decision.

As you can see, whoever controlled the tempo, won. Burges Coach Tony Harper commented after the big win, "without question, this was our biggest win in District, those guys go 90 miles an hour. About the best way to contain them is to score on them." Harper continued saying, "we don't have any great players, we have the combination of a football player(Eric Anderson), a sophomore(Tom Shukitt) and a skinny senior(Blake Goodwin)...but we keep winning... in the true sense of the word we're a team." Both teams finished District action at 11-3.

El Paso Burges(23-7) and El Paso Andress(24-9) had to flip a coin to see who would receive the top seed. Andress(24-9) won the toss but took the second seed by choice. Coach Phil Hilliard of Andress(24-9) wanted to face the third seed El Paso Coronado(20-13). "I know people felt I was crazy," Hilliard said. "Coronado was the hottest team in District. But I felt like I know my team." In the semi-finals, El Paso Andress(27-9) defeated El Paso Coronado(20-13) 81-66 and El Paso Burges(23-7) advanced to the 1-5A finals by beating El Paso Irvin(21-10) 43-36.

As the two teams approached the finals, Burges came in with a 25-8 record and Andress at 27-9 on the season. Coach Harper said coming in, "I feel like these players have a mission-to win District, all of them have been champs, either on the varsity or B-team last year."

El Paso Andress(27-9) started one of the smallest contending teams in the state with their fast pace up tempo game. 6'1" David Ortega, 5'10" Ruben Cadena, 5'11" Raul Hernandez, 5'9" Mike Martinez, and 6'3" Aubrey Kennedy. Ortega was named All-City.

On facing the Andress(27-9) press, Coach Harper said, "We'll have to control the half-court game and not make a full-court game out of it like they want. We're going to try and score even though they think we'll try to hold it." Coach Hilliard responded, "We have to keep as much pressure on them as we can without fouling because they are good at the line."

El Paso Burges(25-8) became the first team in the District since El Paso Austin a decade earlier to win back to back District titles. Burges(25-8) defeated Andress(27-9) 56-44. What won it for the Mustangs was, "just our tempo," said leading scorer Brian Stafford. "We played like we like to. We controlled the tempo."

The Mustangs were 18-24 from the foul line while Andress(27-9) was only 6-11. Burges(25-8) shot 56% from the floor hitting 19 of 34 and the Eagles were 19 of 49 for 39%. For the Mustangs, it was their fourth title in 10 years under Coach Harper. "This was by far the most satisfying one ever," Tony Harper said.

The El Paso city championship pitted El Paso Eastwood(33-4) against El Paso Burges(26-8) in a Bi-District clash. The Troopers had won the earlier meeting between the two teams at Eastwood 47-34. "Anytime you play Burges, you have to be aware of the game plan they have in mind," Coach Lesley said. "I've got a lot of confidence in everyone," Lesley said. "Especially when someone holds your big men scoreless and you still win."

Both teams were ready for Bi-District having been through a tough tournament schedule. "They've got a lot more size than we do and we can't get in a game of catch-up with them," Harper of Burges said. "Their talent is the best in town." Burges looked to 5'11" Nate Rogers, 6'1" Brian Stafford, 6'3" Robbie Cyprus, 6'2" Tom Shukitt, and 6'4" Blake Goodwin(15.4).

In one of the lowest scoring playoff games in years and one of the most controversial as well, Eastwood(34-4) ended Burges(26-9) season 31-30.

Eastwood(34-4) was able to come back from 3 points down with only 36 seconds remaining on the clock. The play in question was when 6'5" Rick Clark of Eastwood tipped-in and game winner with four seconds remaining. Coach Tony Harper of Burges was obviously not happy because he felt the ball was not out of the cylinder. "I don't care what anybody says, I saw it was on the rim and nobody will ever convince me it wasn't. In a championship game, it shouldn't have to go down to that," Coach Tony Harper said.

El Paso Burges(26-9) was in control and really had the game won late only to self-destruct. Nate Rogers of Burges was at the foul line with the score 30-27 in Coach Harper's favor. Rogers missed the front end of the one and one with 36 ticks on the clock. Bill Butterfield of Eastwood(34-4) comes down and hits a 15-footer with 23 seconds left to make the score 30-29. Burges(26-9) got the ball up court against the Troopers press, but was forced into a backcourt violation giving the ball back to Eastwood with 9 seconds left. Eastwood's Mark Wagner put it up from 15-foot and Al White came up with the rebound for the Troopers and missed which set up Clark's tip-in.

"As far as I'm concerned, we won the game. We won't be going to Midland, but I know we won," Coach Harper said in discuss. "I thought we'd be able to run the clock out. They panicked a bit toward the end," Harper said.

Eastwood(34-4) had nobody in double figures. John Shepherd finished with eight points and Rick Clark also had eight. For Burges(26-9), Robbie Cyprus finished with 11 points and Blake Goodwin had nine points.

The El Paso Times honored the top players in the city. 6'5" Robert Lopez(18.5/10.5) of Riverside was named the City M.V.P. Joining Lopez on the first team were teammates, 6'6" Frank Aguilar and 6'0" Edgar Fino. 6'5" Rick Clark represented Eastwood along with 6'1" John Shepherd, from Burges 6'4" Blake Goodwin and 5'7" Beto Rodriguez. 6'1" Orly Andrade of EP Jefferson and 6'5" Donald Roger from Coronado were also named 1st team all-city along with being named District 1-5A Most Valuable Player. 5'11" David McDowell of Irvin, 6'1" David Ortega of Andress and 5'10" Pete Acosta of EP Ysleta were also named to the 1st team. Rudy Alvarez of Ysleta was named coach of the year.

In **District 6-AAAAA** Wichita Falls was going to have a little trouble replacing Ricky Cobb. Cobb was one of the most dominating players the school had ever produced. Would the Coyotes be able to advance to the Regional Finals again? Probably not, Wichita Falls Rider was considered the District favorite followed by Denton(19-13). Rider had the size with 6'7" Scott Jacob inside with 6'0" John Dudley at point guard. 6'5" Melvin Cole was counted on big for the Broncos inside. Denton(19-13) had lost by only two points to Ft. Worth Paschal(29-7) in the Dr. Pepper Tournament in Dallas.

District 8-AAAAA was looking to overthrow Ft. Worth Richland, who seemed to have a strangle hold on the District title. The Arlington(23-7) Colts were

looking to return to the playoffs paced by 6'8" Mark Bishop(12.0), 6'4" Mark Childers(14.0), Rick Risenhoover(13.0) and 5'10" Gary Gray. Richland started the season at 2-14 entering District and looked to be in a major rebuilding mode. Arlington(23-7) took the District title as expected winning the title outright. District 8-AAAAA was not real competitive during the season with only two teams having winning records.

The Colts lost to Arlington Sam Houston(19-12) 55-53 to tie with Arlington(23-7) for the 2nd half crown. Arlington took the District title having won the first round of District. Burluson(19-10) was the only other team in District with a winning record.

6'7" Mark Bishop, Mark Childers and Gary Gray were named first team All-District by the Dallas Times Herald along with 6'5" Steve O'Day of Richland and 6'2" David Carter of Arlington Bowie. Sam Houston had two players named to the 2nd team, Ned Frederick and Ozzie Harris. Gray was named District MVP. Five players were named to the first team and five to the second.

Ft. Worth became a hot spot of Texas High School basketball in 1981 for several reasons. Outstanding competition, talent, great coaching, tremendous high school facilities, fan base and financial support. The Cowtown didn't have a professional franchise and T.C.U. is a small private school that many people in the city did not identify with. High School basketball in Ft. Worth had a following that was unseen anywhere else in the state. In the early 1980s the Ft. Worth ISD built a new basketball facility called the Wilkerson-Grimes Activity center, which would seat 4,759 fans. It was one of the best places in the country to watch high school basketball. In early season tournaments around the state, high school basketball crowds are small and made up of mainly family members. That was not the case in Ft. Worth. Dunbar had a strong following and Paschal was a great rival for the Wildcats.

A new school emerged in 1981, Ft. Worth Southwest(25-9), led by the unquestioned top recruit in the state, 6'11" John Brownlee(26.0). Over 100 college scouts had made contact and expressed interest in Brownlee before the season. Brownlee let his father handle all calls and letters until it was time to decide where he was attending.

Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-5), dating back to 1976, had made deep runs into the playoffs. For the 1981 season they had lost two real key players, 6'8" Gilbert Collier and 6'6" Andre Allen to T.C.U. and Illinois respectfully. That would cripple a lot of programs, but not Dunbar. 6'3" Robert Hughes Jr.(19.0) showed tremendous growth from his junior to senior season. He was considered one of the top outside shooters in the state his senior year. Hughes was extremely long and had unlimited shooting range. Teaming up with Hughes was one of the best athletes I have seen in over 40 years of following high school basketball, 6'5" Willie Ashley. Ashley was faster than any guard, he could out jump most post inside, had a deadly shot from deep in the

corner, and could post up inside. Physically he was intimidating to opponents. Many people ask the obvious question, if Ashley was so talented why was he unable to pursue the game in college? The answer came from his teammate, Robert Hughes Jr., who shared that Willie suffered from dyslexia. This is a learning disability that limited his opportunities in the college classroom.

With these two talents, Dunbar was ready to roll again with another solid supporting cast. Even without Ashley and Hughes, Dunbar would have been very competitive at the highest levels. The thing that really made this team so tough to match up against is that they were very flexible about which style they wanted to play. Slow down half-court basketball or getting up and down the court, either style fit the flying Wildcats.

How good were they in comparing them to the Dunbar teams of the past? In answering that question, you really had to look at the guard play. The '77 team had solid guard play. The 1978 team really struggled against tough competition because they were unable to handle pressure or get the ball inside to Griffin. The '79 backcourt was outstanding and the '80 team really needed to keep the pace of the game slow because of the lack of outstanding guard play. The '81 backcourt was on par with the '79 team. Robert Hughes Jr. was teamed up in the backcourt with 6'2" Darryl Reed(7.0). He was a no-nonsense point guard who took care of the ball. On the inside, Ashley got the ball on almost every possession and was really hard to stop. I think it was fair to say the roles of this team were much more clearly defined than the previous Dunbar teams. 6'4" Robert Jones(11.0) and 6'4" Zol Singleton(14.0) were both seniors that blended in nicely into the Dunbar attack. In my opinion that's what made them one of the best of all the Dunbar teams. Everybody knew their role and the stars played like stars.

The Wildcats in 1981 faced the toughest challenges of any previous teams having to battle Ft. Worth Paschal(29-7) and Ft. Worth Southwest(25-9) in District.

As the season progressed 7-A-A-A-A-A was one of the most hotly contested Districts in Texas. In the early season state polls, Southwest(25-9) came in at #11, Dunbar(31-5) at #16 and Paschal(29-7) at #20. Dunbar barely won their opener in District action 54-51 over Trimble Tech. In the first big clash of the three titans in District action, Paschal(29-7) and Sam Norton came out on top 49-41 over Southwest(25-9). Brownlee was held to only 14 points in the losing effort. He was double and triple teamed by the Panthers. Late in the game Paschal employed their four corners to delay the game.

Southwest(25-9) turned right around and beat Dunbar(31-5) 57-51. 6'10" John Brownlee(26.0) of Southwest scored 31 points in the winning effort. Other key players for Coach James Woods were 6'2" Greg McCain, Lonnie Simmons and a 6'4" transfer from Everman, Rick Stone.

In the big showdown between archrivals Dunbar(31-5) and Paschal(29-7) the Wildcats showed they still had the magic as they held on to win 67-65 over

Coach Jim Wall's team. Paschal star player, Sam Norton missed nine layups, several of which were uncontested. The game was played once again at Daniel-Meyer on the campus of T.C.U.

As the second half of District 7-AAAAA got under way the District looked wide open. The 2nd round game between Southwest(25-9) and Dunbar(31-50 pitted two of the top players in the state against one another, Brownlee(26.0) of Ft. Worth Southwest and 6'5" Willie Ashley(16.0) of Dunbar. Southwest Coach, James Wood commented before the game, "regardless of who wins our district, two of the best teams in the state are going to be staying home." This time the game was no contest as the Wildcats ran away with the game 83-57.

Southwest(25-9) turned right around and lost again in District action to Western Hills 63-61. With the two early losses on their record, Southwest fell out of the 2nd half race. To make matters worse Ft. W. Southwest(25-9) lost to Paschal(29-7) 55-49 to give them three losses in the 2nd round. The Panthers front line of 6'8" Sam Donnell, 6'6" Sam Norton and 6'5" Bobby Shropshire were too much.

The big game between Paschal(29-7) and Dunbar(31-5) was set for Daniel-Meyer Coliseum on the campus of T.C.U. Everything came down to one game. In front of 7,241 fans the Dunbar Wildcats pulled out a hard fought 59-50 win to capture the District title. For Coach Hughes team, it was their sixth straight District title and another run at the state championship. Hughes commented about his '81 team, "This is my type of team I've always had, it's my kind of team."

Region I had the same faces it had seen in the past with El Paso Eastwood(34-4) ranked #12 in the state polls. The Troopers were making their seventh playoff appearance in the previous eight seasons. Remember you had to win district in order to make the playoffs back in the 1970s and early 1980s. Midland(31-3) led by Herb Johnson was one of the favorites in the region and ranked #9 in the polls.

The Colts of Arlington High(23-6) became the first round victim for Dunbar. The Wildcats were the Region I favorite. Dunbar(28-4) went against Arlington High at the Tarrant County Convention Center which seated 12,497. The Arlington school officials felt this venue would be an advantage for Dunbar(28-4), so they reserved the Super Pit in Denton on the campus of North Texas State University. Dunbar won the coin toss and that is how the playoff ended up at Tarrant County Convention Center.

"Arlington is good, but I don't think any of our fans are cancelling their reservations in Midland," Coach Hughes said prior to the game. In discussing his son's ability to shoot Coach Hughes responded, "let's face it the boy can put the ball in the basket."

The Colts of Arlington(23-6) liked to run a patient offense centered around 6'7" Mark Bishop and point guard Gary Gray, Mark Childers, and Scott Hughes.

Coach Dale Archer of Arlington said in discussing Dunbar(28-4), "You're going against one of the finest basketball programs in the state of Texas."

Before 10,100 crazy fans and the largest crowd to ever see a high school basketball game in Tarrant County, Dunbar pulled out a close victory over the Colts 56-53. Hughes commented after the game, "This was one of the worst games we played."

Willie Ashley(16.0) led Dunbar with 17 points and 6'7" Mark Bishop led Arlington with 19 points. Years later Robert Hughes Jr commented that this was one of the best games he ever played in during his career at Dunbar.

Midland(31-3) advanced defeating Denton(19-12) 67-53 behind Herb Johnson's 31 points. Midland(31-3) employed a full court press most of the game. 6'6" Doyle Franklin was the leading scorer for the Broncos with 12 points. The Bulldogs had lost a playoff warm-up game against Dimmit ending their 17-game winning streak entering the playoffs.

In the **Region I semi-finals**, Dunbar(29-4) took on Midland(32-3) at 6:30 at the Chaparral Center on the Midland Jr. College Campus. The late game pitted El Paso Eastwood(33-4) vs. Pampa(23-11) at 8:30.

The pre-game hype for the Midland-Dunbar game was as big as it gets in high school basketball. "The first time I scouted them I said to myself, oh, the fans are going to get their money's worth on this one," Hughes said. Also, with the game being played in Midland, the Bulldogs had a definite advantage. But remember, the Dunbar fans are some of the best and most vocal and travel well. Herb Johnson was a local legend and the locals came out in droves to support the 6'9" guard. "He is the best big man I've seen since Griff," said Coach Hughes, referring to the former Dunbar standout, James Griffin. Ray Meyer, the DePaul coach called Johnson the previous week. DePaul was the number one ranked team in the country at the time. Johnson's older brother, 6'6" Charles, played for Midland J.C. and many recruiters thought the brothers would be interested in playing in college together. Tulsa was trying to get both players to attend their campus. Johnson was one of eight brothers and sisters with a father serving time in prison. Coach Stephenson talked about his struggle to keep Johnson on the team because of his many discipline problems.

In what turned out to be a great game in front of standing room only 6,000 fans, the tandem of Willie Ashley(16.0) and Robert Hughes Jr.(19.0) came out on top, as Dunbar took down Midland and Herb Johnson 80-76. Ashley scored 24 points and Hughes was high man with 25 points. Hughes said following the win, "we never cracked." Hughes continued, "it has something to do with the fact that for the last six seasons we've been in the state playoffs. That makes a difference. The tradition makes a difference."

Herb Johnson of Midland scored 23 points for the Bulldogs. Dunbar's defense played Johnson hard and soft everywhere else, and the Bulldogs struggled at times without Johnson. Dunbar jumped out to a 14-0 lead early but Midland was

able to come back and tie things up at halftime 45-45. Dunbar's press created a lot of problems for Midland.

Coach Bobby Lesley was entering his 13th year at the helm of El Paso Eastwood(34-4). Another regional match-up this time against the Pampa(23-11) Harvesters. Pampa(22-11) had advanced to regionals with a 53-52 win over Plainview(18-17).

After a close 62-61 win over Pampa, Eastwood started looking at their toughest test of the season, Ft. Worth Dunbar. "It's a privilege to get to play them," Coach Lesley said. "It's a good time to find out just how good we are." When asked about Willie Ashley and Robert Hughes Jr. of Dunbar, Lesley responded, "They're super athletes, they both have All-American potential. Ashley can play with anyone and Hughes is a super ball-handler."

Against Pampa, Eastwood(35-4) was paced by Mark Wagner with 13 points, Rick Clark's 11 points and John Shepherd with 10. Pampa(22-11) was led by Mike Nelson with 18 points and Charles Nelson had 16.

Against Dunbar(30-4) in the regional finals, Coach Lesley felt a critical technical foul early in the game was a turning point for the Troopers. With 3:07 left in the first quarter the Troopers were only down by two points. They were trying to control the tempo and keep it slow. One of the coaches on the Eastwood bench said, "blow your whistle," toward the ref and he was Tee'd up. Hughes hit both foul shots and proceeded to drain a 25-footer on the inbounds pass, which put the Wildcats up six.

At half, Dunbar(30-4) had expanded their lead to 38-27, and 51-37 at the end of three. The Wildcats biggest margin over Eastwood(35-4) came at the 2:42 mark of the final quarter 63-45. That's an 18-point difference before Eastwood mounted a panicked comeback that closed the gap. The final read Dunbar 65, Eastwood 57.

"I feel like we did El Paso proud," Coach Lesley said. "A lot of people thought we'd lay down to Dunbar(30-4), but we didn't fall dead. We intended to slow it down from the beginning. Maybe that was a mistake because when we started running on them we were able to catch-up. I feel like the technical on one of my coaches put us in a hole and we could never recover," Lesley said.

Dunbar was paced by their two strong scorers, Robert Hughes Jr. with 24 points and Willie Ashley with 16. Steve Carpenter was the only Eastwood player in double figures with 11 points. Rick Clark finished with only eight points.

The Wildcats were emotionally drained from the tough win over Midland on Friday night. The team just did not have its usual intensity against Eastwood(35-5). "We had no emotion. We were sore and tired and just wanted to win the game," Coach Hughes explained. Eastwood(35-5) was unable to matchup inside against 6'4" Willie Ashley. Robert Hughes Jr. scored 20 points in the first half alone. Hughes finished with 24 points and was named the Region I M.V.P. Eastwood coach, Bobby

Lesley said his team lacked board muscle and that was the key to the game. For Dunbar(31-4), they would be making their fourth state tournament in five seasons.

Region II Playoffs

Dallas Hillcrest(38-0) #7

Spring(32-6) #11

Grand Prairie(25-9)

Lake Highlands(22-9)

Dallas Roosevelt(37-2) #2

Killeen(27-8)

Wilmer Hutchins(26-8)

Longview(31-3) #8

Top Players in Region II

6'4"	Carl Wright	Dallas Roosevelt
6'5"	Keenan DeBose	Killeen High
6'3"	Jack Worthington	Spring High
5'7"	Spud Webb	Wilmer Hutchins
6'7"	Steffond Johnson	Longview
6'7"	David Jordon	Dallas Skyline
6'9"	Larry Davis	Lufkin
5'8"	Ronell Peters	Dallas Roosevelt

Dallas Roosevelt(41-3) had two of the top players in the state in 1981. They were both juniors and would lead Coach Ellis Davis' Mustangs. 6'4" Carl Wright(18.0) and 5'8" Ronell Peters(10.0) were two of the best players ever produced by the south Dallas school. And what is hard to believe is that the Mustangs had more depth and a better supporting cast than Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-5). Dating back to the '77 season, Coach Ellis Davis' teams were always one of the top two or three teams in Dallas. In 1977 the Mustangs had the unfortunate luck of losing their best player at the end of district action and not making the playoffs. In 1978, they were weaker but still had a great chance at making it to Austin before being upset in regionals by Cypress-Fairbanks. The 1979 team returned their entire squad, but the Mustangs could not get past South Oak Cliff. The 1980 Mustangs went to the regional finals and lost to the disciplined Plano team in a heartbreaker. Clearly the 1981 team had the potential to accomplish greatness and was one of the top teams in the state. This was Roosevelt's best team since the Ira Terrell era and the days of Rynn Wright and Michael Battle.

In the Dallas Times Herald sport section, they selected the "Fabulous Five" in the area and three juniors were on the pre-season list. 6'4" Carl Wright of Roosevelt, Ron Singleton(27.5) of Carter, 6'4" Reginald Pink(21.6) of Kimball, James Sowels of Duncanville and 6'2" Kevin Murray of North Dallas. Murray would go onto fame at Texas A&M on the football field. Sowels was said to have a 41" vertical jump. In the District picks, Roosevelt was considered the top team in Dallas.

In describing his team, Coach Ellis Davis said, "Basically I would have to say this team is ahead of most of the teams I've coached, we've won three tournaments, we've never had a record this good in pre-district." Davis also added, "this is probably the deepest team I've had here." Davis played 16 players in the Dr. Pepper

semi-finals. In the Dallas Morning News early season rankings, Roosevelt was first followed by Ft. Worth Southwest(18-4), Hillcrest(23-0) and Dunbar(16-4). Plano came in at a distant #8 with a 16-5 mark.

The Mustangs of Roosevelt(41-3) went into District action heavily favored to win 11-A for the third time in four years. Their old nemesis, South Oak Cliff(21-12), was lurking in the shadows. Roosevelt entered District with a 23-2 record with their only losses coming to Dunbar 67-65 and Kimball. The Mustangs held a two game to one edge over Dunbar during the regular season.

The Golden Bears were not ranked in the state's top twenty for the first time in years and picked to finish 3rd in District behind Roosevelt and Dallas Skyline. Dallas Roosevelt(41-3) held wins over Wilmer Hutchins(27-9), Houston Wheatley(27-13) twice, Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-5) twice, Ft. Worth Paschal(29-7), Tyler Lee(21-12), Dallas South Oak Cliff(21-12), Houston Yates(20-12), Houston Milby(29-7), FW Southwest(24-9), Dallas Skyline(23-8), and Plano(28-9).

South Oak Cliff(21-12) was paced by 6'4" Gerald Jones and shooting guard, Reginald Hurd. Skyline(23-8) looked to 6'8" David Jordon and Phillip Hollie to lead the way.

Dallas Roosevelt's(41-3) first showdown in District action came against Skyline(23-8) and with it a 59-49 victory. At Forester Field House, the Raiders took an 11-point lead. The slow pace really gave Roosevelt trouble. In the 3rd quarter the Wright brothers got the Mustangs out and running and Roosevelt soon took the lead. Billy hit 20 points and Carl added 17 in front of 1,500 fans.

"Once we took the lead, we were able to get back more into our type of game," Ellis Davis said. "Slower games like this one, can rattle you a bit, but we've played a few that way this year." Carl Wright had an awesome dunk late over 6'7" David Jordon of Skyline. Carl had some of the most impressive dunks of any player to ever come out of Dallas. Phillip Hollie led Skyline in the game with 14 points, Basil Brown had 12, Cedric Walker kicked in 10, and one of the top players in Dallas, David Jordon was held to only 3 points.

Dallas South Oak Cliff(21-12) met Roosevelt(41-3) for the first half crown with both teams unbeaten in District. Many felt Roosevelt(41-3) was heavily favored, but in this rivalry, you should throw the records out the window. The Mustangs knew S.O.C. would be at their best in the contest. In another of the many classics in the long history between the two schools, Roosevelt pulled out a 77-73 overtime victory. Carl Wright hit the key bucket with 5 seconds remaining to send the game into overtime at Loos Field house. Roosevelt(41-3) finished the first round of District at 6-0 and S.O.C.(21-12) was next at 5-1. Carl Wright led the scoring with 18 points and his side kick, Ronell Peters had 14. For the Golden Bears, Jesse Connors and Reginald Hurd both put up 14 points.

S.O.C.(21-12) was upset by Dallas Skyline(23-8) in the 2nd round action 66-60 and 6'1" Phillip Hollie of the Raiders went off for 25 points and Basil Brown

added 20 at Sprague Field House. This put Skyline ahead of everyone else in challenging Roosevelt for the 2nd half crown.

Skyline(23-8) came into the game against Roosevelt at 22-7 and ranked #4 in the area by the Times Herald. The Mustangs looked to their talented junior guard Ronell Peters to run the show averaging 11 points, 8 assists and three steals per game.

Dallas Skyline(23-8) just didn't have the fire power to stay with Roosevelt, as the Mustangs jumped out to a 36-14 lead. The game looked somewhat close by the final score 83-72, but the game was never in doubt. Coach J.D. Mayo of Skyline said, "They just have too much talent." Roosevelt came up with four dunks to the delight of the crowd at Sprague with 4,500 fans in attendance. Jordon was a non-factor on the glass for Skyline and Brown was the leading scorer with 17 points. Hollie added 16 points and Jordon finished with 15.

Carl Wright had 23 points, 11 rebounds, four blocks, four dunks and one alley-oop for Roosevelt, while Reginald Martin had a big night scoring 18 points. Billy Wright collected 14 points for the Stangs.

Dallas Roosevelt(41-3) closed out the regular season with a victory over arch rival, South Oak Cliff 81-60 at Loos Field House before 3,000 fans. "S.O.C. really didn't play as well as they have been," Davis said. "They came out and played us a man-to-man, which we like."

Carl Wright contributed 23 points and 16 rebounds with Reginald Martin scoring 14 points. Gerald Jones led S.O.C. with 12 points. S.O.C. finished 21-12 on the season. For the Golden Bears this was considered a down year.

The All-District team selected by the Dallas Times Herald had Billy Wright, Carl Wright and Ronell Peters of Dallas Roosevelt named to the first team. Reginald Hurd was selected from South Oak Cliff and Phillip Hollie of Dallas Skyline. On the second unit, Basil Brown and David Jordon were selected along with Gary Sabatini from Bryan Adams, Edward Vation of Woodrow Wilson and Charles Allen of Dallas Spruce.

As the District races evolved a surprising team emerged from **District 12-A**. The Dallas Hillcrest Panthers under Coach Larry Jones had rattled off a 22-0 record with some pretty impressive wins. The team's success was very surprising because they returned only one starter from the previous season that finished 26-8. The 1980 team lost out to Dallas Lincoln in District action and failed to make the playoffs. Hillcrest graduated 10 of 12 lettermen, with 6'4" Otho Fields(18.0) the only returning starter. 6'0" Danny Timmons(16.0) was the only other returning lettermen. This was viewed as a rebuilding season after losing such standouts as, 6'6" Ricky Bolden and 6'0" Darron Horton.

After early season wins over North Mesquite(28-9) 63-59 and 56-52, Richardson Pearce(22-14) 56-54, Dallas Skyline(23-8) 96-72, Waxahachie(30-9) 75-69, and Lake Highlands(25-10) 69-61, Hillcrest was getting some real attention. "We

haven't played Roosevelt, but we have played some very good teams," Coach Jones admitted.

Prior to the start of District action, Hillcrest was ranked #7 in the state polls. Dallas Kimball(20-13) was Hillcrest's chief competition in District play led by Reginald Pink(25.0). Kimball(20-13) was fresh off an upset over Dallas Roosevelt(41-3) 58-56, which was a great indicator of their talent level. Pink had 38 points against the Mustangs.

In the first District meeting between Hillcrest(37-1) and Kimball(20-13) at Loos Field House the Panthers won an impressive 45-38 decision. Kimball had been upset by Thomas Jefferson(18-16) 51-50 prior to the meeting with Hillcrest. Coach Jones continued the Panthers winning ways defeating Dallas W.T. White(6-27) 89-55.

Two of the top scorers in Dallas were 6'4" Reginald Pink and 6'0 Ron Singleton. The two talented players faced off when Dallas Kimball played Dallas Carter. Singleton put up 25 points for the Cowboys and Pink came away with 30 points for Kimball. The Knights also won the game over the Carter Cowboys 79-72.

Dallas Hillcrest(37-1) continued winning with their showdown game against Thomas Jefferson(18-16). The Panthers remained undefeated winning 22-18. The game was played at Loos Field House. Thomas Jefferson coach, Andy Cargile, feared the transition game of Hillcrest, so he decided to slow things down. Both teams came into the contest unbeaten in District first round action. "I knew it would be coming sometime this season," Hillcrest coach Larry Jones commented, "but I've never played a game where a team stalled from the very beginning. It was a good plan to try and get us flustered."

Hillcrest led 6-5 at halftime and 13-9 at the end of the third quarter. With 1:54 remaining T.J. pulled close at 18-16 on Russell Wallace's slam-dunk. The Patriots had their chances late but were unable to convert. Hillcrest went into their own stall late for the victory.

The Dallas Morning News sportswriter Steve Tracey put a great quote in the paper following his article on the game that came from the legendary Abe Lemons. "If they didn't want you to score in this game, they wouldn't have invented the hoop."

Hillcrest(37-1) captured the 2nd half of District with a convincing win over Dallas Kimball(20-13) 69-59. Hillcrest nailed the coffin shut on the District title against Thomas Jefferson(18-16) 57-49. The Panthers finished the regular season at 37-0. Nobody could remember the last time anybody in the DISD had went undefeated during the regular season. "If nobody can remember, it means that it's been a long time," Coach Jones said. "If you were sitting up in the stands and watched this team...would you rank them first in the state? We don't have a player taller than 6'4," Coach Jones commented.

The All-District team by the Times Herald place Danny Timmons and Otho Fields on the first unit along with James Wright from Dallas Thomas Jefferson, Reginald Pink from Dallas Kimball and Ron Singleton of Dallas Carter. Henry Chun and Alvin Washington of Hillcrest were named to the second team.

*Plano(27-9) looked to be very relevant once again in **District 13-5A** still ranked in the state polls. Although the Wildcats were much weaker than the previous two seasons, Coach Bridges crew would be the team to beat. After losing all five starters from a state finalist's team the Wildcats stood at 16-6 on the season.*

Starters for Coach Bridges were 5'11" Neil Schlech, 6'0" Rod Greene, 6'1" Ryant Green, 6'3" Rod Steging, and 6'4" Tom Wainwright. Coach Mike Bridges commented, "I think the season we had last year has carried us as much as anything has this year." Bridges team continued their disciplined ball control approach to the game, which had proved so successful.

The Wildcats of Lake Highlands(24-10) continued to challenge for the District title after making the playoffs in 1978 and a runner-up finish in '79. Jack Clark was the new mentor at Lake Highlands after Jerry Wells went into administration. Clark was a very strong-willed coach who knew exactly what he wanted to do in a game and was excellent at conveying those ideas to his players. His teams played with intensity and discipline. He had the ability to get the most out of the wide variety of kids he coached. The Wildcats had very little experience returning in 1981. The lone returning letterman was 6'4" Mike Micarelli, who saw little playing time as a junior. 6'2" David Benchot, 6'1" Scott Fiddler and 6'3" Carl Hittle rounded out the starting lineup. Sophomore guard Stu Graham was a critical piece to the team's success.

Richardson Pearce(22-14), a second level team, was on the move in 1981 behind second year coach Walt Davis. Pearce was a predominantly affluent white school located in north Richardson. 6'6" Ray Childress(2) was the star for the Mustangs and one of the most imposing figures anyone had ever seen on a basketball court. Davis had been the assistant at Richardson High School under Ken Norman. When Earl Meyer returned to San Antonio after one season coaching the Mustangs, Davis took over the reins at Pearce(22-14). He ran a very slow and deliberate offense which centered around the double low post. The focus of the offense was to get the ball inside to Childress. 6'0" Ken Stephenson kept Pearce's opponents honest with his ability to shoot from the perimeter.

- (2) Childress was a football All-American with Texas A&M and All-Pro with the Oilers in the N.F.L.

Plano(27-9) worked their magic once again defeating District rival Lake Highlands(24-10) in the team's first showdown. Plano dropped Lake Highlands 49-44 to grab control of the 1st half of District action in 13-AAAAA. Rod Steging led

Coach Bridges team with 16 points and eight rebounds, while Ryant Greene added 16. "Inexperience has hurt us," Bridges said, "but we play good defense...maybe better than last year's team." David Benschot led Lake Highlands with 12 points.

Plano(27-9) dropped a tough loss in District action to R.L. Turner(16-16) out of Carrollton 43-39. Eddie Brand hit 18 points for the Lions. Lake Highlands(24-10) turned right around and beat Turner(16-16) 55-51 and Richardson Pearce(22-14) nipped Plano(27-9) 59-58. Ryant Greene of Plano put up 24 points in the loss. Pearce(22-14) took down Lake Highlands in the first round action as well 50-38.

With all the upsets, Lake Highlands, Plano, Richardson Pearce and R.L. Turner tied for the first-round title. The Mustangs of Pearce only lost to one team during both rounds of District and that was their nemesis, Richardson Berkner(18-14). The Rams defeated Pearce 49-47 and 61-37.

Lake Highlands(24-10) had a big showdown with Plano(27-9) for the 2nd half lead in District. Lake Highlands came away with the victory against Plano 51-45 in front of a packed gymnasium at Lake Highlands. The game was called an upset, but Plano became more and more beatable the more you saw them. The Wildcats were limited offensively. It was only the second time Lake Highlands had beaten Plano over the previous five seasons. David Benschot led the Red and White Lake Highlands squad in scoring with 19 points followed by Scott Fiddler with 12. Ryant Greene paced Plano with 14 points. Lake Highlands size seemed to be the difference as Coach Clark went with a big line-up against Plano, who only had one player on the court taller than 6'1" for most of the game. Fourteen of Lake Highlands(24-10) nineteen baskets came from the paint area.

After taking control of the second round of District, Lake Highlands(24-10) turned right around and lost to Greenville(14-14) 74-69 to throw the race into a tie with Plano(27-9). Both teams had one loss in the 2nd half of District action. A playoff finally developed to figure out who would represent the District.

Lake Highlands(24-10) defeated Pearce(22-14) 59-45 with Micarelli scoring 19 points for the Wildcats. Childress led Pearce(22-14) with 14 points. Plano(27-9) advanced to the finals with a 48-27 shellacking of R.L. Turner(16-16). In the finals, Lake Highlands(24-10) defeated Plano(27-9) to advance to the playoffs 39-36. The game was played at Halton City and Plano led at halftime by two points. Stu Graham and Scott Fiddler were key to the Lake Highlands(22-9) victory after trailing by nine points in the third quarter.

The All-District team by the Times Herald was dominated by the front runners: First team-Mike Micarelli and David Benschot from Lake Highlands, Rod Green and Ryant Green from Plano along with John Marangelli of Berkner. Ray Childress and Chris Ross highlighted the 2nd team from Richardson Pearce along with Kraig Hollingsworth of RT Turner, Scott Fiddler of Lake Highlands and Richard Wahl of Plano. Stuart Graham of Lake Highlands was named sophomore of the year.

South Garland(23-12) Colonels began the 1981 campaign trying to build on their District title the year before. The big feather in their cap during the season was their victory over the #1 ranked Longview Lobos 41-40, who had been undefeated at the time at 16-0. South Garland(23-12) lost the season opener to Longview in a close one 60-57. Coach Clayton Brooks counted on 6'2" Kerry McIlroy, 6'2" Anthony Hunt, 6'4" Jerome Crowe and 6'5" Mike Gafford.

North Mesquite(29-8) was always salty with Ron Powell on the bench. The Stallions looked to 6'3" Mitch Nelson, who was averaging 26 points and 16 rebounds coming into District. Nelson contacted mononucleosis, which shot the Stallions hopes down during the '81 campaign.

Wilmer Hutchins(27-9) emerged as the leader in 10-AAAAA and took the first half title with a 71-69 victory over Highland Park(23-10). Anthony "Spud" Webb hit a shot at the buzzer to give the Eagles the win on the Wilmer-Hutchins(28-9) home court.

North Mesquite(29-8) put their hat in the ring with a convincing 73-56 win over Wilmer Hutchins(27-9) to open the 2nd half of District action. Mitch Nelson led the Stallions with 24 points. North Mesquite turned right around and lost to Highland Park(23-10) 54-49 to clutter-up the District race. Eventually North Mesquite(29-8) fell completely out of the race losing to South Garland(23-12) 49-35.

Wilmer Hutchins(27-9) seized control of District once again with a drumming of South Garland(23-12) 80-58. "Spud" Webb came away with 32 points for Hutch. Wilmer Hutchins(27-9) captured the District 10-AAAAA title defeating Highland Park(23-10) 66-63. "We have achieved our goal," said Hutchins coach, Homer Smith. "Anything else from here on is extra." Anthony Webb led the way with 23 points. The game was played at Highlander Fieldhouse on the campus of Highland Park(23-10).

The All-District team named by the Times Herald had only one player from Wilmer Hutchins named to the first team and that was "Spud" Webb. Also named to the first team was 6'8" Jeff Culbreth of Garland Lakeview, Mike Gafford of South Garland, Anthony Hunt of South Garland and Mitch Nelson from North Mesquite.

At Duncanville(23-10) the Panthers hadn't won a District title in 19 years. To compound problems, the Panthers were moving up in divisions with a growing population. They were 1-26 three years before in 1979. With a talented team made up of 6'1" Keith Johnson, 6'1" James Sowels and 6'5" Billy Stapleton they hoped to change the basketball climate in Duncanville. District 9-AAAAA was considered down by the Dallas Times Herald, which gave Duncanville(23-10) an edge.

It was not to be for the Panthers as Grand Prairie(25-9) pulled the 9-5A title out late in the season with several teams involved in a close race. Of the eight teams in the District, seven had winning records and four were twenty game winners. The Gophers dropped two games early against L.D. Bell(18-17) 50-48 and Irving Nimitz(17-16) 56-52. Grand Prairie began to put things together defeating Eules

Trinity(20-15) 51-42, Irving MacArthur(25-10) 48-46, South Grand Prairie(18-16) 58-52 and Duncanville(23-10) 45-44. MacArthur and Grand Prairie tied for the first-round title after the Cardinals lost their second game to Euleless Trinity(20-15) 72-61. Grand Prairie took the second-round finishing with only one blemish against Trinity(20-15) 49-47. Coach Stan Hicks crew got past L.D. Bell(18-17) 53-42, Nimitz(17-16) 61-59, MacArthur(25-10) 36-33, Duncanville(23-10) 60-59 in overtime and South Grand Prairie(18-16) 75-57.

All-District players were 6'5" Billy Stapleton of Duncanville, David McKenzie from Grand Prairie, Gerald West of Grand Prairie, Mark Adams of Irving MacArthur and Keith Johnson of Duncanville. Kevin Lynch and Kenny Ames of LD Bell were named to the second unit. Levitt Chambers of South Grand Prairie, Jim Miller of MacArthur and Phillip Fuller of Irvin Nimitz were also named to the second team.

In East Texas **District 14-5A** was loaded with athletes. Lufkin(27-6) looked to be the odds on favorite with 6'9" Larry Davis returning. Davis had paced the Panthers to the state title as a sophomore and was one of the top five recruits in the state depending on who you talked to. Teaming up with Davis was 6'9" Don Bronson and 6'0" Calvin Deason. In pre-district Lufkin(27-6) defeated Huntsville(22-10) 43-38. Losses came at the hands of Beaumont French(21-9) 59-52 and Ft. Worth Southwest(25-9) 61-60. The Panthers looked very strong entering District with a 17-2 mark.

Longview(33-3) had impressive credentials as well with a 16-2 record paced by one of the state's top players, 6'7" Steffond Johnson. Coach LeRoy Romines was the head man for the Lobos after a nice career at Henderson High school. Longview(33-4) came into District as the defending champions.

The Lobos played South Garland(23-12) twice, winning the first game 60-57 and losing the re-match 41-40. Longview also split with Paris(23-7), taking the first game 66-47 and losing the second 69-58. The big trophy of the '81 season for the Lobos was their early season win over Clear Lake(38-1) 67-56 in the Clear Creek-Clear Lake Classic. The tournament was in its 48th year. Clear Lake finished the season as the top-rated team in class 5-A at 38-1. The Falcons only loss during the regular season came at the hands of Longview. After sixteen straight wins the Lobos finally tasted defeat right before the Christmas holiday, losing to South Garland. With four seconds remaining the Colonels Anthony Hunt hit foul shots to put his team up 41-38. Longview threw a full court pass to Steffond Johnson, who dunked the ball. The Lobos second loss came at the hands of Paris(23-7) 69-58. Carlton Cooper and Joel McCray both put in 20 points for the victorious Wildcats. Paris was one of the top ranked 4-A teams in the state.

Tyler John Tyler(23-10) was a quick full court pressing team that entered District at 16-3 after opening the season with 12 straight wins. The Lions won one out of three games against Wilmer Hutchins(27-9), downed Jacksonville(19-11) 73-52 and 65-52 and Dallas Adamson(25-8) 65-58. Coach Billy Lawson would rely

heavily on 6'1" Perry Edwards(19.0/7.0) during the season. Edwards was a 6'10" high jumper who won "Sophomore of the Year" the previous season. The Lions were 15-14 during the '80 campaign. Joining Edwards in the starting lineup; 6'0" John Starks(11.0), 6'3" sophomore Chris Bates(14.0), 6'4" Jesse Williams(4.0) and 5'4" Kevin Jennings(5.0).

Tyler Lee(20-13) also was going to be very competitive during the District run. The Rebels lost to Dallas Roosevelt(41-3) 67-58, North Garland 52-51, Highland Park(23-10) 68-65 and Nacogdoches(19-12) 66-61 in overtime. The Lee attack centered around the talented junior, 6'3" Charles Young(24.5). In Lee's 104-89 victory over Dallas Carter, Young put up 41 points. Other starters for Coach Ted Gillum included 6'2" Richard McFarland(11.5), 6'3" Grey Gay(10.0), 5'8" Ronnie McElmurry(4.0) and 6'0" Kennis Bell(8.0).

Coach Ted Gillum of Tyler Lee(20-13) announced during District he was taking an assistant principal position following the season in Mansfield. Gillum took over the Rebels in 1979 finishing 19-11 and 15-16 in 1980. Asked what he would remember the most about his time in Tyler he commented, "I'll remember the crowd, the competition and the Lee-John Tyler rivalry, this is the greatest rivalry I've ever been associated with."

In the first half of District action, Longview(33-3) and Tyler Lee(20-13) finished at 6-1. Charles Young managed 15 points leading the Rebels to a 47-37 victory over the Lobos. Longview(33-3) handled John Tyler(23-10) 66-57 and Lufkin 60-44 in the first round action. Tyler Lee(20-13) downed John Tyler(23-10) 52-45 and Lufkin 53-52 in overtime.

In the second round Longview(33-3) ran the table defeating John Tyler(23-10) 59-52, Tyler Lee(20-13) 51-42 and Lufkin(27-6) 59-32. The Lobos finished with an impressive 13-1 record in District. Tyler Lee(20-13) fell apart during the second round finishing a dismal 3-4. Lufkin(27-6) actually came up second with a 10-4 record losing to Longview twice and splitting with John Tyler and Tyler Lee.

In District action, outside of the loss to Tyler Lee(22-11), Longview(33-4) only had one close game and that was against Marshall(13-19) 53-50. As the Lobos prepared for the playoffs, they played a warm-up game against Waxahachie(30-9). The Indians were small, quick and talented. Waxahachie was led by one of the top guards in the state in 6'0" James Stern(28.0). The Lobos came away with a solid win 79-71 over Waxahachie. "They were the quickest team we have played all year," Romines said.

Just outside of Houston, **District 16-5A** had a playoff between Spring(31-6) and Conroe(28-6) for all the marbles. 6'2" Jack Worthington of Spring High School was considered a multi-talented guard averaging 27 points per game. Worthington was highly recruited and selected the University of Texas to attend after graduation. He was also named District M.V.P. and first team All-Greater Houston by the Houston Post, along with Jerome Scott of Houston Washington, Eric Dickens of

Houston Madison, Andre Ross of Houston Milby, and Bernie Lang of Clear Lake. Worthington and Ross were named Co-Player of the Year. Worthington teamed up with 5'11" Steve Sykes in giving Spring one of the top backcourts in the Houston area. 6'4" Steve Wicmandy played inside for Coach Worthington. 6'5" Paul Fry, 6'1" Bruce Simmons, and 5'10" Rick Morrison were key players for the Tigers of Conroe(28-6).

Conroe(28-6) and Spring(31-6) played at Sam Houston State in Huntsville with Spring winning a close one 57-55. Standout Jack Worthington drew his 5th foul with 5:07 remaining and his team down to Conroe by nine points. Steve Sykes stepped up with a great game scoring 12 points in the closing minutes and finished with 20. Worthington added 20 points before fouling out. Steve Wicmandy pulled down 11 rebounds for Spring. Bruce Simmons kicked in 19 points and Paul Fry finished with 15 points and 16 rebounds for the losing Tigers of Conroe(28-6).

Spring(32-6) and Killeen(27-8) collided in Bi-District for the right to advance to regionals in College Station. 6'6" Keenan DeBose led Killeen and 6'2" Jack Worthington was the key player for Spring.

Killeen's first year coach, Wayne Howard, had survived a District playoff against Temple(20-7). Against Spring(32-6) the Kangaroos made two key plays that ended up making the difference. Dana Bradford of Killeen made a critical steal from Worthington to put his team up 65-62. Spring came back only to have DeBose knock down two foul shots with two seconds remaining to make the final score 67-64. Killeen advanced to regionals to face Dallas Roosevelt. DeBose was the difference with 32 points and Dana Bradford pitched in 12 points. They were the only two Kangaroos in double figures. Spring was led by Worthington with 26 points and followed by Wicmandy's 13 points and Sykes had 14 before fouling out. Worthington was sitting out most of the 3rd quarter with foul trouble. Killeen hit an incredible 21 of 22 foul shots during the game. 6'5" junior Keenan DeBose was one of the top recruits in the state in 1982 and signed with Arkansas.

As the playoffs unfolded Dallas Roosevelt(41-3) was a team you wanted to avoid. Dallas Hillcrest at 37-0 looked to have a good shot at upsetting the Mustangs. Before 7,000 fans at Loos Field House, Roosevelt ended Hillcrest season with a 79-60 dominating performance. Mustang guard, Ronell Peters, put on a show with behind the back passes and alley-oop passes for his teammate, Carl Wright. After leading only 36-32 at halftime, Coach Davis made some second half adjustments. Peters ended up with 18 assists, 6 points and 5 steals. Hillcrest two standout players, Otho Fields(16.0/13.0) and Danny Timmons, ended with 16 and 14 points respectively. Roosevelt had 10 different players in the scoring column.

"That's called getting your tail beat," Hillcrest's coach Larry Jones said. "I never thought a press would bother us like it did tonight. They switched their press from the one we had scouted them, and I'm afraid we made the adjustments too late," Jones said. "We tried to deny Carl Wright the ball and I thought we did a good

job in the first half but not in the second half." Wright got loose on three unreal slam dunks that got the crowd going. "When they started dunking the crowd goes wild and they get fired up," Jones continued. Coach Ellis Davis of the Mustangs said, "I'm pretty happy with the performance, Hillcrest has a good team and you have to be happy to win like we did. Ronell was very tough."

Coach Jones discussed the Mustangs, "they have so much depth, it is awesome. There is no doubt Roosevelt has a great team and I hope they go on and win the state title."

With the victory, the Mustangs made their third trip to the regionals in the previous four seasons. This was the best run for Roosevelt in the school history. "We can play better," Davis said. "The fact that Hillcrest was undefeated didn't bother us. We've played other teams when they were undefeated this season. Duncanville and Houston Yates to name two, and we beat them. I don't worry about the other team's record. I just want our team to play well."

In another Bi-District encounter, two familiar foes faced off as Wilmer Hutchins(26-8) played Grand Prairie(26-11). The two teams had met previously in the first round of the playoffs in 1978 and again in 1979. Grand Prairie won the first contest and Wilmer Hutchins(26-8) won the second. Hutch was led by 5'4" Anthony Webb or better known as Spud Webb. This was the best team Coach Homer Smith had brought into the playoffs with their best player.

Grand Prairie(26-11) under the leadership of Stan Hicks captured another District title winning 11 of their last 12 games. Wilmer Hutchins also claimed to be on a roll winning 13 of 14 games.

The game took place at Sprague Field House. Webb scored a game high 30 points even though he sat out four minutes of the 2nd quarter, because of foul trouble. Spud led the Eagles to a 78-62 win over Stan Hick's Grand Prairie Gophers. The Eagles hit 30 of 34 foul shots during the game. Gerald West led Grand Prairie with 16 points. Coach Homer Smith of Wilmer-Hutchins commented, "the key to the game was the way we pressured them with man to man defense."

In Bi-District action Longview faced Lake Highlands(24-10) at Lon Morris Jr. College in Jacksonville. "We're going to try and run the ball. I feel like they're going to keep it slow and deliberate. That's the way they play," Coach Romines said.

Coach Jack Clark of Lake Highlands said, "that's the only way we can stay up with them." The Wildcats of Lake Highlands(24-10) were led by 6'4" Mike Micarelli(17.0/10.0) and David Benchot(12.5/5.0). Coach Clark knew he would have his hands full trying to contain 6'7" Steffond Johnson.

The game was not close as the Lobos moved on to regionals with a 61-42 win. Johnson picked up his 4th foul with 6:45 left in the 3rd quarter. He still managed to finish with 24 points and Jerry Ragster added 15. "Steffond was definitely the difference in the game," Coach Clark said. "He's the best inside man we've played against. Once he gets inside its history." Abe Lemons, the head coach

at the University of Texas commented after watching Johnson saying, "he's one of the best I've seen, I'd take him right now." The Wildcats leader, Mike Micarelli, paced Lake Highlands with 19 points.

In the **regionals** at G. Rollie White Coliseum in College Station, Wilmer Hutchins(27-8) played Longview(32-3) at 6:30 followed by Dallas Roosevelt(39-2) and Killeen(28-8) at 8:30. Killeen was going to hang its hat on the skills of DeBose, who averaged 23.0 points per game. The junior had come up big all season for the Kangaroos. He paced Killeen in the district playoff victory over Temple with 27 points and 31 against Spring in Bi-District. 5'10" Kirk Johnson and 5'7" Dana Bradford were also key contributors. The Kangaroos lack of depth was viewed as a big weakness against the deep Roosevelt team. "Roosevelt's quickness and offensive pace pose a challenge to us," Coach Wayne Howard of Killeen said before the Roosevelt game.

Dallas Roosevelt(40-2) advanced to the regional finals with an 83-66 win over Killeen(27-9) in front of 3,000 fans at G. Rollie White Coliseum. A total of 15 players were used by the Mustangs before the end of the third quarter. DeBose finished with 32 points but it wasn't enough against the balanced Roosevelt attack. Carl Wright had 20 points and 14 rebounds and 5 steals. Billy Wright and Kent Tillman both contributed 14 points each and Jerald Russell finished with 11. Peters controlled the game and had 10 assists. Roosevelt(40-2) would now prepare to make their third attempt in four seasons at the elusive regional title.

If anyone could upset Roosevelt(40-2) most observers felt like #8 ranked Longview((32-3) had the best chance. Remember, Longview was the only team in the state to have defeated top ranked Clear Lake(38-2). The Lobos post, 6'7" Steffond Johnson, was being widely recruited all over the nation and eventually decided on L.S.U. He averaged 17.0 points and 15.0 rebounds a game. Another strong player for Longview was 6'4" Jerry Ragster.

The biggest story of the regional tournament was the 5'4 ½" Spud Webb of Wilmer Hutchins, who could dunk a basketball. **Spud Webb was a TEXAS LEGEND.** People were coming out of the woodwork to see this kid play and could he really dunk a basketball. Of course, Spud could and would go on to win the slam dunk contest in the N.B.A. all-star game. Spud said he was only 4'11" his junior year and grew five inches his senior season. Coach Smith said, "coaches thought I was crazy keeping the little guy around so what else could I do than list him at 5'4" his junior year." Spud averaged 25.0 points a game with many of his points coming inside. Spud would elevate and hang in the air while the taller players would return to earth. It was an unusual site.

Wilmer Hutchins(27-8) had been to regionals before and were looking to 6'4" Gil Williams, 6'3" Gordon Thurmond(8.0/9.0), 6'4" Dexter Dabney(11.0/7.0), Greg Cunningham and Spud to direct the team. Coach LeRoy Romines of Longview said Wilmer Hutchins(27-8) was the quickest team they had played all year other

than Waxahachie. Wilmer Hutchins liked to play a 2-3 zone. "Probably the best thing they do is penetrate," Romines said. "They look for the break more than any other team we've played except Waxahachie."

Longview(33-3) handled Wilmer Hutchins(27-9) 83-71. Dexter Dabney led Hutch with 23 points and "Spud" Webb was next with 16 points. 6'7" Steffond Johnson paced Longview with 21 points. Jerry Ragster went nuts putting in 39 points for the Lobos. Wilmer Hutchins finished the season at 27-9.

The **regional final** was set with two of the top ranked teams facing off for the right to go to Austin. In the region final, it was obvious that Longview coach LeRoy Romines was not going to try and slow down the pace of the game against Roosevelt. With 5'7" Ronell Peters running the fast break, few teams would stand a chance against the Mustangs with all their depth and athletes. Late in the 2nd quarter the Mustangs had ran out to a 34-14 lead of which the Lobos were never able to recover from losing 72-46.

Steffond Johnson, the All-American from Longview, scored only 11 points. "They have so much speed and quickness that they make you play bad," Coach Romines said. "They're the best team we've played all year. They have to be ranked number one in the state. It is going to take a mighty good team to beat them," explained Romines. "Their depth is what makes them so tough," Romines continued.

Ronell Peters finished with 10 points and 14 assists. Carl Wright contributed 18 points and 10 rebounds along with 3 steals. Roosevelt went on a 20-2 run in the second quarter, which featured some awesome alley-oop dunks that got the crowd into the game. The Mustangs made their first appearance in Austin since their 1972 state championship team riding a 21-game winning streak.

A big addition to the Roosevelt's success during the season was the outside shooting touch of 6'4" Kent Tillman. The designated zone buster ripped Longview with five long range bombs to shred the Lobos zone defense. Tillman finished with 14 points and Reginald Martin added 11 points.

Steffond reflected on the season saying, "We got the privilege to lose in the post-season play. And that's the only time I consider losing meaningful. Because in the playoffs, you're already a winner and a champion. I've enjoyed every step of the way." Coach Romines said, "we set a new standard at Longview."

Region III Playoffs

Spring Branch Memorial(32-5) #16

Houston Madison(33-3) #5

Houston Wheatley(27-12)

Houston Washington (29-5) #13

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-3) #4

Aldine MacArthur(32-5)

Clear Lake(37-1) #1

Deer Park(23-11)

Top Players in Region III

6'8"	Leonard Allen	Pt. Arthur Lincoln
6'8"	Andre Ross	Houston Milby
6'4"	Russ Capps	Clear Lake
6'1"	Eric Dickens	Houston Madison
6'2"	Jerome Scott	Houston Washington
6'1"	Creon Dorsey	Houston Milby
6'4"	Bernie Lang	Clear Lake
6'6"	Kenneth Cook	Houston Kashmere
6'2"	Luster Goodwin	Houston Kashmere
6'6"	Reid Gettys	Spring Branch Memorial
6'7"	Chris Hardin	West Orange Stark
6'7"	Gary Orsak	Alvin
6'5"	Gerald Sublet	Houston Kashmere

Region III was loaded with talent as usual. Top ranked Clear Lake(37-1) looked to finally have a team strong enough to advance to state. Challenges were many led by 4th ranked Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-3), 5th ranked Houston Madison(33-3), 13th ranked Houston Washington(29-5) and many more. Houston Wheatley(27-12) also snuck into the playoffs and couldn't be counted out.

For the legendary Coach Bill Krueger, he had another outstanding team at Clear Lake(37-1). Krueger's 1976 squad was highly ranked but this team looked to be even more talented. Lake started the season against the always tough, Houston Milby(29-7) Buffaloes, winning a close one 59-58 at home. Milby was led by two of the top players in Houston, 6'8" Andre Ross and 5'11" Creon Dorsey. Both had outstanding college careers at San Diego State. Russ Capps scored 18 points for the Falcons and Bernie Lang hit 17, including the game winner.

In the Clear Lake-Clear Creek Classic tournament the Falcons finished second losing to East Texas power, Longview(33-4) 67-56. The Milton Jowers Classic in San Marcos was next for the Falcons. San Marcos was where Bill Krueger began his coaching career winning state in 1965. Krueger was a hometown favorite. The Milby(29-8) Buffaloes were waiting for Clear Lake.

In a very controversial game Clear Lake(37-1) won with two seconds remaining 46-44. Coach Boyce Honea was adamant after the game that the clock had been delayed giving Greg Singleton time to hit the winning bucket. Honea and the clock keeper had to be separated following the game. Singleton hit a bucket

with two seconds left for the win. Milby(29-8) had lost twice to Clear Lake with both games ending in a last second shot. Milby defeated one of the top teams in San Antonio in the semi-finals in Churchill((34-5) 48-39. 6'8" Andre Ross of Milby(29-8) had a monster game going 11 for 11 from the floor with six slam-dunks and ended with 26 points and won MVP honors. Texas' Coach Abe Lemons was in the stands hoping Andre might become a Longhorn. Ross did not have the grades to attend a division one college out of high school.

Houston Madison(32-3) awaited the Falcons in the next round of the Jowers Classic and was the top ranked team in Houston. In a very emotional win Clear Lake(37-1) pulled out a 74-71 victory. Russ Capps led all scorers with 26 points for the Falcons.

Moving on to the Cypress-Fair Tournament, Clear Lake(37-1) again took home the championship trophy beating Lamar Consolidated(28-6) in the finals 79-69. Rival Deer Park(23-11) lost big to Clear Lake(37-1) 86-46 in one of the last games of pre-district action.

Clear Lake(37-1) opened **District 24-5A** as the team to beat. Galveston Ball(21-12) always had a competitive team and the '81 team was no different. Lake came away with a 59-56 win over Galveston Ball and with it the first-round title. Alvin had a strong team paced by future Houston Cougar, 6'7" Gary Orsak(18.2). In the first round the Falcons downed Alvin 71-62 and won in overtime the second time around 68-66. Russ Capps was the leader for Coach Krueger with 18 points and 14 rebounds. The Falcons blew out Galveston Ball in their rematch 68-50. Clear Lake finished the regular season with a 37-1 record and #1 in the state rankings.

Clear Lake's(37-1) lineup was made up of three outstanding players, who were very fundamental and talented. All three were named to the 24-5A All-District 1st team made up of ten players. 6'4" Bernie Lang(17.0/6.0), 6'5" Russ Capps and 6'4" Greg Singleton were named 1st team and Lang was named District M.V.P. 6'3" Pete Olsen was named to the 2nd team and named honorable mention All-District was 6'7" Brent Harrison. Lang was also named 1st team All-Greater Houston, while Capps was named to the 2nd team. Singleton was named honorable mention. Capps was named All-State by the Sports Writers and T.A.B.C. Bernie Lang, Russ Capps, and Greg Singleton were all potential division one recruits. Coach Krueger was confident this was finally going to be the season that Clear Lake would be making their first trip to the state tournament in Austin.

District 20-AAAAA was probably the most competitive Districts in Houston as well as the state. Coming together were Houston Wheatley(27-13), Houston Milby(29-8) and Houston Yates(20-12). All three schools were rich in basketball tradition and were Top 20 teams in 1981.

6'8" Andre Ross of Milby(29-8) was one of the top five players in the state and the most talented player in the District. The Buffaloes also could count on 5'11" Creon Dorsey. "Dorsey was a good high school player but was a late bloomer and

developed into a fine college player at San Diego St.," Coach Honea said. Wheatley(27-13) and Jackie Carr looked to 5'10" Larry Smith and 6'7" Phillip Smith along with 6'2" Larry Brownlow and 5'11" Edward Davis. Tommy Malone of Houston Yates(20-12) loved the slow-down game with a gifted group of players. 5'11" Calvin Godine, 6'7" Joseph Green and 6'6" Darryl Jackson were key contributors

Houston Milby(29-8) did not have the depth that Yates(20-12) and Wheatley(27-13) had and it ended up hurting them in the playoff race. The Buffaloes were clearly one of the top teams in the state defeating Spring(32-7) in the finals of the Deer Park tournament 71-54.. The Buffaloes rattled Bryan's cage in the finals of the Bryan tournament 73-62. In their only real decisive loss of the season against Dallas Roosevelt(41-3), Ross had rolled his ankle and was out most of the game. Milby(29-8) lost to Roosevelt 64-51. With Ross and Dorsey on the court, Coach Honea's team could beat anybody in the state. Foul trouble or a serious injury really limited the Buffaloes chances in District action.

Houston Milby(29-8) opened strong in the first-round of District defeating Yates(20-12) 42-39 and Wheatley(27-13) 83-79 in overtime at Barnett in front of 2,000 fans. Andre Ross was awesome putting up 25 points, 20 rebounds and 7 assists. Dexter Ceaser added 20 points for Milby along with 16 for Creon Dorsey. The Wildcats were led by Larry Smith with 18 points and Phillip Smith with 16.

Andre Ross was injured in the second round of District action with a high ankle sprain. Milby(29-8) took care of Yates(20-12) for the second time in three meetings 47-29. But against Wheatley(27-13), Ross was on crutches and was unable to go. The Wildcats and Jackie Carr took advantage winning 69-56 over the Buffaloes. Wheatley closed out the 2nd half of District with an 80-75 win over Yates and with the victory forced Milby(29-8) into a District playoff.

Going into the 20-AAAAA District playoff Ross was still about half speed but would be playing. He had not practiced in three weeks. Andre was a three-year starter and his career record at Milby(29-8) was 88-17. The big man turned in a nice performance, but Milby came up short and lost to Wheatley(27-13) 60-59. Creon Dorsey missed a long jumper at the buzzer that fell short. Andre Ross finished with 17 points and 14 rebounds playing hurt.

Coach Carr said, "and this one was tougher than any of the others," referring to another District championship. Wheatley had won their 13th title in fifteen years. Larry Brownlow was the leading scorer for Wheatley hitting 17 points followed by Larry Smith with 10. Honea commented after the game, "Andre played much better than I thought he would after being out so long."

Houston Washington(30-6), Houston Kashmere(27-8) and Houston Scarborough((23-5) all had very competitive teams in **District 19-5-A**. Houston Washington and Houston Kashmere were top ten teams by most accounts. Washington(30-6) had advanced to the finals of the Jaycees tournament losing to

Houston Madison(35-4). The Eagles had lost in a District playoff with Kashmere in 1980 and the Rams went on to win state.

Houston Washington's team was coached by Clarence Stubblefield and centered around 6'2" Jerome Scott(16.0). Scott was considered one of the best long-range shooters in the state along with Robert Hughes Jr. of Dunbar and Jack Worthington of Spring. 6'4" Carl Clay and 6'4" Michael Scott were two other standouts Coach Stubblefield looked to for big minutes.

Kashmere(27-8) had three of the top talents in Houston in 6'6" Kenneth Cook, 6'1" Luster Goodwin and 6'5" Gerald Sublet. All three were division one players. Scarborough(23-5) also had a strong line-up with 6'2" Alan Chambers, 6'2" Ken Gibson and 5'11" Kevin Overstreet.

In front of 3,500 fans at Delmar, Kashmere(27-8) won the first head to head between the Eagles and Rams 66-64. Kenneth Cook made two key plays late that was the difference. Kashmere proceeded to capture the first-round title by defeating Houston Scarborough(23-5) 78-63. Washington(30-6) also defeated Scarborough 55-37.

The last game of the second round pitted Kashmere(27-8) and Washington(30-6) for the 2nd half title. The Eagles jumped out to a big lead of 25 points. The final stood at 73-57 and set up the District playoff between the two rivals. In front of 10,000 fans at Hofheinz Pavilion, Houston Washington once again handled Kashmere(27-8) and ended their season 80-67. "I felt as long as we didn't let Kashmere hurt us with their press and rebounding we would be in good shape." Stubblefield said. "When this bunch is playing and wants to play, they can beat anybody."

Kashmere ended the season at 27-9 and was quiet possibly the best team in the state not to make the playoffs along with Houston Milby(29-8). Jerome Scott finished with 22 points and Carl Clay knocked down 11 points for the Eagles. Kashmere lost four players to foul trouble including Kenneth Cook, Luster Goodwin and Graylon Burton. Goodwin finished with 27 points and Sublett had 12. Scarborough finished the season at 23-5 with all five of the losses coming at the hands of Kashmere(27-9) and Washington(30-6).

Deer Park(23-11) was somewhat weaker than in years past but they still had that strong tradition that carried them to the **23-5A title**. Deer Park finished the regular season at 23-11 and won both halves of District. Pasadena(20-9) and Galena Park Northshore(19-13) finished District in 2nd and 3rd place.

6'6" Scott Beeler of Deer Park was named District M.V.P. along with 6'5" Brian Eanes of Northshore. Beeler was one of the top football recruits in the state and signed with Texas. The big senior put up 31 points in a District game against Baytown Sterling. Other contributors for Deer Park were 6'2" Troy Thames, 6'2" David Moore, Robert Buras and Kelly Coates. Deer Park was knocked out of the Jaycees tournament by Houston Yates(20-12) and the delay game 23-17.

*In **District 21-5A**, Houston Smiley(25-7) and Aldine MacArthur(31-5) battled it out once again for the right to represent. MacArthur had a strong team winning the second half of District with a season record of 31-5. Smiley took the first round and accumulated a season mark of 25-7. The District Playoff took place at Aldine Eisenhower High School. It came down to free throws for The Generals of MacArthur(31-5) as they defeated Smiley(25-7) 66-60. MacArthur hit 12 of 13 while Smiley connected on 6 of 11. 5'9" Jack Smith was the man for MacArthur with 28 points. Mac was up at halftime 40-21 while Smiley made a tremendous come-back. 6'3" Clarence Robertson added 16 points for MacArthur. 6'0" Tim Phillips was another standout for the Generals. Smiley was paced by 6'3" Marcus Jones' 21 points and got 13 points from 6'3" Charles Butler.*

*In **17-AAAAA** 6'6" Reid Gettys and 6'6" Eric Poerschke paced a strong team at Spring Branch Memorial(32-6). Gettys was named 2nd team All-Greater Houston by the Houston Post and was a member of Phi Slatka Jama at the University of Houston. The biggest challenge for Memorial(32-6) came from their rival Houston Westchester(27-8). Memorial(32-6) took both meetings 36-31 and 57-42. The victories gave the Mustangs the first and second rounds of District. Westchester(27-8) looked to 6'3" Charles Kelley and 6'0" Chris Price for leadership. The Mustangs and Coach Don Coleman won their 9th District title in nineteen seasons.*

Houston Madison(35-4) was propelled by 6'1" guard Eric Dickens(18.3), who signed with Houston after graduation. Madison Coach Paul Benton had coached some fine guards through the years and said he wouldn't trade any of them for Dickens. That was extremely high praise coming from the legendary coach. Other standout performers for Madison were 6'6" Kirk Simples and 6'4" Demorial Ferguson. All three performers were unanimous choices on the 18-5A All-District squad. After winning the Jaycees tournament, Madison went on to win 16 straight games in District. Their only blemish coming at the hands of Houston Milby(29-8) 70-61 in a non-district game. The Marlins had made the regional tournament four straight seasons and felt good about their chances in '81. In the state polls Madison finished #5 in the state.

Two other teams that really got every bodies attention in region III was Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-3) and Beaumont Hebert(33-2), a class AAAA team. Lincoln had been strong for several seasons and the '81 team was their best team. Hebert returned several key players from the 1980 state title team and were balanced and athletic once again. The national media viewed Texas basketball a little different. The National Sports News Service Newsletter had only two teams from Texas nationally ranked in their publication that came out in December, Lufkin at #11 and Midland at #20. Street & Smith had Lufkin at #19.

The talent base in the Golden Triangle area was unmatched anywhere in the country. Football and basketball recruiters for a generation had known the talent level produced year after year by the Pt. Arthur and Beaumont areas. Because

the two cities were in such close proximity to one another they were constantly running into each other in tournaments and alike. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-3) had a history of basketball tradition making the playoffs seven times in eight seasons from 1969 through 1976.

In 1980 Pt. Arthur Lincoln returned to the playoffs losing in the regional semi-finals to Houston Madison. The Bumblebees were coached by the storied James Gamble, who served at Lincoln from 1962-1988. Gamble's 1981 team was paced by 6'8" Leonard Allen, one of the best kept secrets in the state. He had not received the publicity that several other players in the state had received, but none the less he was the real deal. He may have been the top player in the state. He signed with San Diego State and was a 3rd round draft pick of the Dallas Mavericks. Most of his pro basketball career was played overseas. 6'4" Michael Jackson came off the bench and played his college ball at Southern University and St. Thomas. 6'1" guard Mike Jaco signed with Houston but ended up playing for Willis Reed at Creighton. 5'4" Kirk Jones, 6'5" Barron Prevost and 6'0" Darrell Thomas rounded out the starting lineup.

Several of the players on the team went on to fame in pro-football such as, Tim McKyer and R.C. Mullin with the 49ers and the Rams; Warren Trahan played football at T.C.U. This was such a talented group of athletes with a great deal of potential. Coach Gamble had a exceptional group.

The Bumblebees made a lot of noise in the Golden Triangle during the '81 season. Their number one nemesis was Beaumont Hebert(33-2), the defending class AAAA state champions. The two rivals met four times during the pre-season. The first of the encounters took place in a match game held at Lincoln High School before standing room only. Both teams came in at 3-0 with impressive wins. The Bumblebees ended the Panthers 28-game winning streak 72-62. 6'8" Leonard Allen and 6'4" Prevost dominated the inside game. Allen finished with 21 points on nine for nine from the floor, five rebounds and 5 blocks. Prevost made his presence felt scoring 19 points and nine rebounds. Coach Fred Williams of Hebert said, "In my opinion they're number one. The thing is he has two big guys who can play. We just got out played." Williams continued, "we doubled him wanting somebody else to shoot the ball. But he and the other big kid were too much. It's hard to stop one, but we couldn't stop both. Donald Minkins showed why he was considered one of the top guards in the state, leading the Panthers with 24 points on 9 of 16 shooting. At one point with less than two minutes left in the game, Lincoln had a commanding 70-52 advantage.

One of the first tournaments of the season was the 29th YMBL tournament at the McDonalds Gym in Beaumont. Beaumont Hebert(33-2) took the title dominating Beaumont French(21-9) 85-66 and defeated arch rival Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-3) 58-54 in the semis. In the third-place game, Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-3)

took down Port Neches-Groves(23-13) 62-50. Beaumont French(21-9) put down Port Neches-Groves(23-13) in the other semi-final game 69-51.

Against Lincoln(31-3), Hebert(33-2) had to come from behind trailing by 10 points in the first half and four points in the 3rd quarter. The Panthers point guard, Calvin Harris began penetrating the Lincoln's zone, which gave Hebert some good looks inside. "The way we played in the 2nd half, we didn't deserve to win," Gamble said.

In the finals between Hebert(33-2) and Beaumont French(21-9), Mickins and Andre Boutte went off for 21 and 16 points, followed by Rahn Bailey with 16 points. French was paced by Solomon Denson and Gerald Williams with 24 and 14 points. The All-tournament team was named with Donald Mickins and Rahn Bailey from Hebert, Denson and Williams from French, Jaco from Lincoln, Monte Wainwright from PNG's and Brad Watson from Nederland's.

The **Nederland tournament** was next for the Golden Triangle area. Spring Branch Memorial(32-6) from Houston was imported to give the tourney a little different flavor. Memorial opened against Silsbee winning 55-44. Beaumont Hebert(33-2) handled Forest Park 46-39 and Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-3) had their way with Kountze 53-36. Memorial brought with them a reputation of a solid program and had their best team in over a decade. Their overall size was very impressive. The Mustangs were led by future Houston Cougar, 6'6" Reid Gettys. The Mustangs left their 6'8" post at home with a sprained ankle. "Memorial presents a problem other teams haven't presented," Gamble said. "We've faced teams that were disciplined, have a lot of speed and were good shooters. But none that have all those qualities like Memorial."

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-3) had some nice size as well with 6'8" Leonard Allen, 6'5" Barron Prevost, 6'3" Michael Jackson, and 6'7" sophomore, R.C. Mullins. The guards for the Bees included Darrell Thomas, Kirk Jones and Michael Jaco. "Whoever controls the tempo will be vital. If they are able to play methodically, then we're in a world of trouble," Gamble said.

Lincoln came out hot with a 11-0 run early and held on to beat Memorial 59-54. Late in the 3rd quarter, Lincoln looked as though they would walk away with a nice easy victory. That is when Mark Krog of Memorial started launching shots from long range, scoring 12 of his 16 points in the 4th quarter. The Mustangs got as close as 49-46. Andrew Adair hit four foul shots closing the gap to 53-52. Michael Jaco of Lincoln came through with a key lay-up, and two foul shots to bump the Bees up to a 57-54 margin with 12 seconds remaining. Leonard Allen finished with 13 points and 15 rebounds. Michael Jaco led the scoring for Lincoln with 15 points. Mark Krog finished with 16 points to lead Memorial and Reid Gettys had 12 and Andrew Adair hit 10.

In the finals of the **Nederland tournament**, The Bumblebees had an easy win over Pt. Neches-Groves(23-13) 58-44. Allen came away with 13 points and 14

rebounds and was named the tournament M.V.P. In the semi-finals, Lincoln(31-3) got a little revenge against Beaumont Hebert(33-2) winning a big one 48-46. The critical play in the game was a turnover late by Mickins as he drove the baseline with his team down by two. The ball fell off his leg out of bounds. Lincoln had trailed late 46-43 when Allen pulled down a big rebound, and scored closing the gap to 46-45 with 1:25 left. Down 47-46 with 38 ticks on the clock, Hebert's Rahn Bailey went to the line and missed a front end of a one and one. 6'8" Allen made his presence felt with 15 points and 14 rebounds. Jaco added 15 points for the Bees. The Panthers were led by the usual cast of Donald Mickins with 11 points, Crosslay had 12 and Andre Boutte finished with 10. Beaumont Hebert(33-2) took down Nederland 79-63 in the 3rd place contest.

In the Yellowjacket holiday classic, Beaumont Hebert(33-2) and Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-3) would go at it for the fourth and final time. The Panthers downed the Bees 53-45 to tie the series at two wins apiece. Gamble had an explanation for his team's lack luster game. "We didn't get to the pressure game soon enough because I thought my kids didn't have the stamina to play that way after a game Tuesday night and a game this morning," Gamble said. "If we would have come out and played our game, I think we would've won." Hebert was sagging defensively trying to shut off the inside passes to 6'8" Leonard Allen and 6'5" Barron Prevost. Allen had no attempts in the first half and was only able to score four points for the game. He was able to come away with 11 rebounds. Barron Prevost was held to eight points and six boards.

Coach Fred Williams of Hebert said following the game, "when you play a team like Lincoln you have to stop their big people. We gambled on their outside shooting, if they had hit those shots it would've forced us to make an adjustment." Gamble countered by saying, "I think part of our poor shooting was due to wear and tear of the other two ballgames against Beaumont French and Thomas Jefferson."

Donald Mickins took home the M.V.P. honors and Darrell Thomas made the all-tournament team from Lincoln. Mickins put the game away at the foul line and finished with 20 points. Jaco led Lincoln with 15 points.

In the 3rd place game, Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson(18-14) lost to Houston Smiley(25-7) 52-42. Hebert(33-2) defeated a strong Houston Smiley(25-7) team in the semi-finals 66-52 and Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-3) handled Thomas Jefferson(18-14) 61-53 in the other semi-final game.

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-3) really challenged themselves during the pre-district campaign facing Beaumont Hebert(33-2) four times, Spring Branch Memorial(32-6) and Houston Washington(30-6) twice. The Eagles of Houston Washington(30-6) were one of the top five squads in the Bayou city. Both games against the Eagles were tremendous. Lincoln(31-3) traveled to Houston to face the imposing task of defeating one of the top teams in the state on their home turf. The 70-68 overtime victory was the first for the Bees in Houston since 1976. Allen hit 14 points with 14

rebounds and added seven blocks, Darrell Thomas followed with 14 points and Barron Prevost contributed 11 points. Michael Jaco once again hit the key bucket at the end of regulation to send the game into overtime. The game was played in late November.

Two weeks later Houston Washington(30-6) traveled to Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-3) and lost another heartbreaker 60-59. Once again, Michael Jaco hit a 25-footer at the buzzer for the win. Jaco finished with 18 points and 5'7" Kirk Jones kicked in 15 points. "Washington is a great defensive team. They play a swarming man to man that forced us to take a lot of our shots from the outside," Gamble said. Washington enjoyed a 59-58 advantage with seven seconds remaining when their standout guard Jerome Scott went to the line shooting a one and one. Scott missed and the rebound came down to Allen, who handed the ball off to Jaco, who did the rest.

The Bumblebees ran through a tough District campaign with a 15-1 record. Beaumont Charlton-Pollard(21-8) and Beaumont French(21-9) finished tied for second place at 12-4. Pt. Neches Groves(23-13) finished with their first twenty-win season since 1967-68 season. PNG and Pt. Arthur Jefferson(18-14) were tied for fourth in District action. In looking at these teams you have to realize they competed against each other in pre-district as well as District because of travel. The real indicator of the strength of these schools is how well their District representative played in the post season. Very seldom did teams venture outside the triangle.

Whenever you look at Lincoln's District record you immediately wonder who beat the Bumblebees in District competition. Surprisingly, it was not one of the top contenders. West Orange Stark(10-19) was the only team to beat Lincoln in District action. WOS finished in sixth place with a 7-9 record. Playing for WOS was a phenomenal offensive talent, 6'7" Chris Hardin(22.2). Hardin was the leading scorer in District and named to the first team All-District unit. With nine schools in the District only five players were named to the first team. Five were named to the second team also. Can you imagine the simplicity of only the top five players being named first-team? No superlatives? A little attempt at sarcasm.

WOS(10-19) was at home and finished the first round of District a dismal 3-5 record and was 0-1 in the second round when the Bees came to town. Hardin put on an incredible offensive display scoring 35 points and had help from teammate Ronald Foster, who managed 18 points. Foster was 9-15 from the floor and his points came from the 17-22-foot range. "You look at the way they played and it's hard to figure how they're 6-17," Gamble said. WOS outrebounded Lincoln 41-35. Hardin got loose against the Bees press a few times with some awesome slam-dunks. Late in the game Hardin put on a show with a behind the head slam. WOS coach, Billy Brown said, "What I wanted tonight was for Lincoln to go man to man on defense because when they did, I knew no one could handle Chris one on one."

In what was a showdown of big men in the District between Leonard Allen and Chris Hardin, Coach Gamble of Lincoln chimed in, "He(Hardin) might be the best scoring big man in the District, he's basically a forward type, while Leonard is more of a true inside player. But Leonard can do other things better than he can." Gamble continued. "We didn't play that poorly. We just never got settled back into our offense after the first quarter."

"It doesn't bother me if I don't score a lot if I play my best," Allen conveyed early in the season. "What other people think doesn't matter. Life in the stands is easy. If I'm satisfied and the team's satisfied that's all that matters," the big senior post said. When asked about the state tournament in Austin, Allen replied, "We're going to be there, that's at the top of my list. This team has the power to do it."

The All-District team was talented as you might have expected. The 1st team was made up of 6'8" Leonard Allen(13.1) and 6'1" Michael Jaco(13.4) of Lincoln, 6'4" Monte Wainwright(13.7) from Port Neches-Groves, 6'2" Gerald Williams(20.0) from Beaumont French and 6'7" Chris Hardin(22.2) from West Orange Stark. The 2nd unit members included 6'5" Barron Prevost(9.3) from Lincoln, 6'7" Kevin Austin(15.9) from Nederland, 5'10" Cass Jones(15.4) from Forest Park, 6'3" Theo Reado(12.1) of Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson, and 6'4" Reginald Broussard(12.0) from Beaumont Pollard. Allen was named M.V.P. and Cass Jones was the only junior named. Darrell Thomas, Kirk Jones and Mechael Jackson were named honorable mention from Lincoln. John Mouton from French and Lester Well were also named H.M. In comparing Allen and Jaco, Coach Gamble said, "It would be difficult to choose between the two, I'm glad I'm not the one who had to decide. You could pick either one and you can't go wrong." Jaco was the District M.V.P. his junior year.

Aldine MacArthur(32-5) had the unenviable task of playing the Bees in Bi-District for the second year in a row. The only player for MacArthur with any size was standout 6'4" Clarence Robertson. The team was guard oriented and strong outside shooters.

Leonard Allen was intimidating against Aldine MacArthur(32-5) with 14 points, 11 rebounds and 6 blocks. Barron Prevost was right behind Allen with 13 points and 8 rebounds. The results of the inside domination resulted in another impressive win 67-50. "I got some sleep for a change last night," Allen said following his strong performance. College recruiters were cutting into his sleeping time. "We were the dominant club from the beginning. We were just too tall for them," Gamble said. "We wanted to intimidate MacArthur(32-5) so they would put up some bad shots, even when we didn't block them," Gamble continued. Jack Smith of MacArthur was held to only 10 points after hitting 28 in a key district game against Houston Smiley. MacArthur's leading scorer, Tim Phillips, had only 6 points on 3 of 10 shooting and Robertson finished with 16 points on five of 17. "That hasn't happened to us all year," Mac coach Walt Kaser said. When you get your shot

rejected like our kids did it starts playing on your mind," Kaser said. "We haven't played a kid that size this season."

Aldine MacArthur(32-5) was only 19 of 58 from the floor for 32%. The Bees were 31 of 65 from the floor for 47%. Lincoln(31-3) won the battle of the boards 44 to 38. MacArthur was forced into 20 turnovers. Jaco finished with only 12 points for Lincoln.

Rivals Clear Lake(36-1) and Deer Park(23-11) met once again in front of 5,000 fans at Hofheinz Pavilion for the right to advance to regionals. The Falcons were heavily favored and dominated Deer Park for the second time during the season 71-45. Earlier in the season Coach Krueger's crew had won 86-46 over Deer Park. "I was extremely surprised it got out of hand so early," Krueger said. "I thought it would be a lot closer." Deer Park came out in a 2-2-1 spread offense trying to hold the ball, but the strategy didn't work as Clear Lake jumped out to a 13-4 lead. 6'5" Scott Beeler was the only Deer Park player that managed double figures with 15 points. The Falcons won the boards battle early but only managed a 31-29 advantage at the end of the game. Clear Lake(36-1) was paced by their trio of Russ Capps, Greg Singleton and Bernie Lang. All three talented seniors put up 12 points.

What would the playoffs be without Houston Wheatley(27-12)? The Wildcats were not as dominant but could beat any team in the state on any given day. In a warm-up game against Houston Madison(35-4), the Marlins won a close game 80-77. Eric Dickens and Demorial Ferguson as usual were top dogs for Madison with 17 and 25 points. The Wildcats were led by Mike Jones's 17 and Phillip Smith's 15 points.

In Wheatley's(27-12) Bi-District contest against Houston Washington(29-5) the Wildcats were the underdog. Washington(29-5) showed why they were so highly thought of jumping out to a comfortable 14-2 lead. "I knew we had better keep on playing good basketball," Coach Clarence Stubblefield said, "because I've seen Wheatley come from behind more than once. That was no lead, not against Wheatley."

The final stood at 69-61 in favor of the Eagles. "We've used 10 players all season and they've done well. I was proud of our defense and our people who came off the bench," Stubblefield said. Jerome Scott finished with 20 points for Washington and Michael Jones had 15 points, while Phillip Scott finished with 13. Stubblefield called out Clear Lake as the team to beat at regionals. The Falcons were #1 in the state and 37-1 on the season and brought a 29-game win streak into regionals.

In the Spring Branch Memorial(32-5) Bi-District contest against Houston Madison(33-3), you had two of the most storied programs in the history of the state. Madison(33-3) had become a strong force in Houston basketball, and Don Coleman's Memorial team had been tough dating all the way back to the mid-

1960s. This was Memorial's strongest team since the 1970 regional finalist squad that lost to Dallas Thomas Jefferson. Memorial(32-5) lost a warm-up game to undefeated Austin High(36-0) to get ready for the playoffs. The Mustangs were always tough and well prepared and disciplined. Flat-out, coaches did not like to play the Mustangs.

A final score in the 40s or 50s was always indicative of a Memorial game. The Mustangs liked to control tempo and if you were going to beat Memorial you had to play at their pace. The Marlins jumped up and looked comfortable with a 49-40 lead early in the 4th quarter. Memorial came back to close the gap to 53-52 with only 2:21 left in the game. Kirk Simple hit a key bucket late to secure the victory 56-54.

The **Regionals** pitted three of the top five ranked teams in the state. #5 Houston Madison(34-3) would be facing a rematch against #13 Houston Washington(30-5). Madison had defeated Washington in the finals of the Jaycee tournament 58-53 in December. Madison and Washington would tangle at Hofheinz Pavilion at 7:00, followed by the titanic battle between Clear Lake(38-1) and Pt. Arthur Lincoln(32-3).

In my final top ten over the course of the season, all four of these teams ended up in my top ten, which is really rare. That was remarkable when you consider all the talent in Texas. Coach Benton felt that the earlier contest between the two teams had little relevance stating, "when we played Washington they had just gone against Wheatley in a running game and we caught'em a little tired, but they won't be tired tonight and they've got the hot hand right now." Houston Washington(30-5) had eliminated Kashmere(27-8) 80-67 in a District playoff and Wheatley(27-12) 69-63 in Bi-District. Anytime and in any season when you eliminate those two heavyweights you have some ballers. The Falcons were in their fourth straight regional tournament.

Houston Madison(34-3) took a 13-0 lead early in their semi-final game against Houston Washington(30-5) and raced to a 40-23 halftime advantage. Washington was not finished as they came back to pull close at 53-43 after a 10-0 run. The Eagles got as close as 59-54 with 4:28 remaining only to see Dickens and Ferguson step-up for the Marlins. Madison(35-3) was able to hold on and claim victory 74-66. The win gave Coach Benton's team their third straight regional finals appearance. "I felt if we played good defense and didn't get beat on the defensive boards, we had a chance to win," Benton said. "That quick start surprised me, certainly helped, I had felt it would be a close game all the way."

Demorial Ferguson finished with 20 points, Kirk Simples helped with 16 and Eric Dickens added 13 for Houston Madison(35-3). Ferguson and Simples were almost unstoppable inside for Madison. Jerome Scott paced Washington with 21 points and Carl Clay had 17. Scott and Clay combined for only six points in the first half. Madison shot 64% from the floor while Washington only shot 42%. The Marlins

won the battle of the glass 27-20. 12,000 fans watched the first game of the double header at Hofheinz Pavilion.

Clear Lake(38-1) and Pt. Arthur Lincoln(32-3) had two of the most dominating performances in Bi-District with the Falcons eliminating Deer Park by 26 points and Lincoln putting away MacArthur by 17 points. Both teams were coming in to the contest with impressive credentials with momentum. Clear Lake returned four starters from their regional semi-finals unit who had lost to Houston Kashmere 75-71 the previous year. The Rams, as you will recall won state. 6'7" Brent Harrison, 6'4" Greg Singleton, 6'4" Russ Capps, 6'3" Pete Olsen and 6'4" Bernie Lang were ready for another opportunity to advance.

Coming into the nightcap, Coach Gamble knew he was up against one of the great programs and coaches in the history of Texas High School basketball. To make matters worse the '81 squad may have been the best Clear Lake(38-1) team up to that time. Years later Krueger said they could have been one of the best teams he ever coached. Gamble commented coming into the big game, "Clear Lake has more tools than most team's we've faced."

Coach Bill Krueger was really impressed with the talented Bumblebees team. "Allen is the biggest, most dominating individual player we've faced this year," Krueger said. The two schools had met previously on six different occasions with the two teams even at three games apiece.

In front of 10,000 fans at Hofheinz Pavilion, Pt. Arthur Lincoln harassed the Falcons into 23 turnovers. Allen showed his talent early with two blocks and two slam dunks in the first quarter to set the tempo for the rest of the game. 6'8" Allen was incredible hitting nine of ten from the floor for 21 points, 8 rebounds and 2 blocks. The big boy intimidated Clear Lake's players to the point where they refused to challenge him on fast breaks. Jaco hit six of ten for 17 points and Kirk Jones had a nice game with five steals and three assists. The game was not close, at the end of one it was 28-14 in favor of Lincoln, 38-22 at half and 53-44 at the end of the 3rd quarter. The final read Lincoln 78 Clear Lake 63. The Falcons were forced to foul when the Bees began running their spread offense late.

Clear Lake shot 24 of 64 from the floor for 38 % while Lincoln was an impressive 30 of 52 for 57%. Bernie Lang of Lake and Harrison were the only players in double figures with 18 and 10 points. For the Bees, Leonard Allen had 21 points, Kirk Jones 12, Smith 10 and Michael Jaco 17.

"We got hurt with the press and ours didn't seem to affect them. And the big boy was very mobile under the boards. We just didn't have anyone to stay with him, they're good and they played well in several areas," Coach Krueger said following the loss. "I felt the big boy played extremely well." Coach Gamble agreed, "and our defense did a good job, the press certainly helped as it created a few turnovers."

In an interview with Bill Krueger in 2007 he felt strongly that this was one of his best teams at Clear Lake. "Yes, they were the best team I ever coached. Russ could dunk with anyone and Singleton was big and strong. We beat Milby in the finals of the San Marcos tournament and they had 6'8" Andre Ross." Krueger went on to explain, "Capps and Singleton got hurt going into the playoffs and we were not the same team in the playoffs that we had been during the regular season." Krueger continued,

*In the **regional finals**, Pt. Arthur Lincoln(33-3) faced a Houston Madison(35-3) school that was making its third straight trip to the finals. The Marlins had now successfully replaced Houston Wheatley and Houston Kashmere as the premier program in Houston schoolboy basketball. What Madison did not have to show for their efforts, much like Wheatley and Kashmere, was a state title. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(33-3) stood between Coach Benton's team and another trip to Austin. Unfortunately, Leonard Allen would have a lot to say about who would be making the journey to Austin.*

In front of 4,200 fans at Hofheinz Pavilion on the campus of the University of Houston the two top teams from region III battled it out. The Marlins defensive scheme was successful in holding Leonard Allen to only 11 points on three of ten from the floor with eight blocked shots and 13 rebounds. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(33-3) finished hitting only 18 of 54 from the floor for 33%. "We knew we had to be patient because we didn't want Madison(35-3) to run us to death like they did Washington last night," Coach Gamble explained.

Houston Madison(35-3) led at the end of the 3rd quarter 36-35. Lincoln went ahead 43-36 late and Coach Gamble went to four corners for a 53-46 victory. Madison's standout guard, Eric Dickens, hit three buckets in the final minutes for the Marlins. Michael Jaco hit key free throws in the last minute to nail down the victory. Jaco commented following the big win, "I've put basketball before everything else and it made me feel good that I was going to see all that hard work pay off." Jaco was a three-year starter for Coach Gamble.

A key contributor in the fourth quarter came off the bench for Coach Gamble. 6'1" Warren Traham sparked the Bees with seven points late in the game. The All-District defensive end was filling in for 6'3" Michael Jackson, who had twisted his ankle and wasn't playing. "This doesn't compare to football," Traham said. "I enjoyed football, but I enjoyed this better. This was our dream." Michael Jaco was the Bees leading scorer with 14 points and Leonard Allen had 11 points and Kirk Jones added 10.

Eric Dickens had 21 points for Madison. 6'6" Kirk Simples had been a key player for Coach Benton all year and he left the game with 4:29 remaining. "With Kirk on the bench it hurt any hopes we had to catching up," Benton said. Allen finished the tournament with 32 points, 21 rebounds, 14 blocked shots and eight

slam dunks. Jaco finished the state tourney with 22 points, six assists and eight steals.

According to Mr. Reliable, Bill McMurray of the Houston Chronicle, it was the first time since 1961 that a Houston team had not won the regional. Beaumont South Park in 1960 and Pt. Arthur Jefferson in 1957 and 58 were the most recent regional champions from the Golden Triangle. "I know I've brought teams here seven times and never won before today," Coach James Gamble said. "I don't know how long, but I do know it's been a long, long time since a team from down our way has won this thing." The Bees were ranked #3 behind Clear Lake and Houston Madison in the Chronicle's final area rankings. "We beat the #1 ranked team in Clear Lake. I think our poise and confidence were big things against Madison," Gamble said.

The difference in the game outside of Leonard Allen was that the Marlins went a full nine minutes without scoring. "We never recovered from that," said coach Paul Benton of Madison. "We tried to catch-up after that and just couldn't hit the shots when we needed them. But Lincoln played well when they had too. They just beat us, beat us on the boards and hit some big free-throws down the stretch," Benton said.

Years later when I questioned Coach Gamble about his '81 squad he said Allen was probably the best shot blocker he had coached at Lincoln. "The thing that made him special was he was an outstanding foul shooter, he shot around 85% from the line. I've had so many players that it's hard to single out the best ones. Anthony Allen, Earl Evans, B.J. Tyler, Bryan Sallier, Michael Jaco and Leonard Allen just to name a few."

Region IV Playoffs

Corpus Christi Carroll(26-7)	Mission(30-8)
San Antonio Marshall(27-7)	Laredo Nixon(23-12)
Victoria(29-8)	Austin High(37-0) #2
San Antonio Highlands(25-13)	San Antonio Roosevelt(33-4) #14

Top Players in Region IV

6'3"	Vince Vittatoe	San Antonio Marshall
6'3"	Vern Vittatoe	San Antonio Marshall
6'4"	Kelvin Moore	San Antonio Roosevelt
6'11"	Kelly Blaine	Austin High
6'5"	Rusty McDowell	Victoria
6'5"	Randy Moff	Corpus Christi Carroll
6'6"	Oscar Woods	San Antonio Roosevelt
6'5"	John Williamson	San Antonio Churchill

Region IV was stronger in 1981 than at any time over the previous 10 seasons. Three schools were highly thought of state wide in the polls, #3 Austin High(37-0), #10 S.A. Churchill(33-4) and #14 S.A. Roosevelt(33-4). 6'5" Randy Moff of C.C. Carroll was one of the top players in the region, averaging 21.3 points per game. 6'11" Kelly Blaine from Austin High brought his team into the playoffs on a 37-game winning streak. 6'5" Rusty McDowell of Victoria(29-8) was an outstanding player for the tradition rich school. 6'6" Oscar Woods along with 6'4" Kelvin Moore made San Antonio Roosevelt(33-4) the favorite in the region. Roosevelt's district rival, S.A. Churchill(34-5) would also be a contender. Two players that were overlooked in the pre-season were the Vittatoe twins from S.A. Marshall(27-7), Vince and Vern. The 6'3" twins were athletic, quick and great shooters.

*San Antonio Churchill(34-4) and San Antonio Roosevelt(32-4) were the dominant teams in city during the season, having made the finals of the Optimist tournament in December. This was arguably the top tournament in the state. In the **32-5A** title game, two of the top teams in San Antonio faced off for the 4th time during the season. S.A. Churchill(34-4) took the first game and the championship at the Optimist tournament 57-42. In the first round of District, Roosevelt gained sweet revenge beating Churchill 53-50. The two big men for S.A. Roosevelt(33-4) were 6'6" Oscar Woods and 6'4" Kelvin Moore. The tandem combined for 39 points, 18 rebounds and 64% shooting in the win over Churchill. 6'6" John Williamson led Churchill with 15 points. "This was our best game against a good ball club," Roosevelt Coach Jerry Tyson said following the game. "We haven't played anybody as good as Churchill this year and I doubt if there are many schools that good in the state." With the win, S.A. Roosevelt took control of the first half of District 32-AAAAA action. Churchill(34-4) had lost to S.A. MacArthur early in the second round of District action, but were able to defeat Roosevelt 39-38 in the team's District rematch. Perry Deckard hit the front end of a one and one with 37 seconds*

remaining to give the Chargers the victory. Williamson led the Chargers with 14 points and Oscar Woods was the leading scorer for the Rough Riders with 12 points. Both Roosevelt(33-4) and Churchill(34-4) tied for the 2nd half title at 7-1, but Churchill took the title by virtue of the head to head game.

In the fourth and decisive District championship game, The Rough Riders(33-4) played one of their best games of the season beating the talented Churchill(34-4) team 44-42. S.A. Churchill and S.A. Roosevelt played at the Blossom Center on a Thursday evening. The game gave Roosevelt and Coach Jerry Tyson the playoff spot.

San Antonio Roosevelt(33-4) took control early with a 38-26 advantage with only 3:53 left in the game on a bank-shot by Kelvin Moore. The Chargers were able to outscore the Rough Riders 16-6 in the remaining minutes. With 38 seconds left in the game, Churchill(34-4) came within five points 43-38 on a steal by Perry Deckard. Pat Hymel of Churchill hit a lay-up with five seconds left after Rocky Kile of Roosevelt missed the front end of a one and one.

"The difference in this game was David Ambrose," Coach Jerry Tyson of Roosevelt said following the game. "He did everything right. He got the ball to people who were open, played great defense and always seemed to be where the ball was." The Rough Riders man to man defense, controlled Churchill to gain the victory. "Our defense has done that all year," said Tyson. "We're an aggressive defensive basketball team."

Oscar Woods of Roosevelt(33-4) showed why he was one of the top performers in San Antonio with four blocked shots and came away with 10 rebounds. Roosevelt finished 17 of 35 from the floor while Churchill(34-4) finished 17 of 41. The Rough Riders were better from the foul line hitting 10 of 18 compared to Churchill's 8 of 18. Kelvin Moore came away with high point honors with 18 and Bubba Mangan hit 16 points. Churchill's balance was obvious with Pat Hymel hitting 11 points, John Williamson had 10, Paul Wimp 10 and Gary Heyland with 6 points. Roosevelt led at halftime 19-14.

Coming into the contest against San Antonio Roosevelt(33-4), Churchill coach Gerald Adams said, "we have good depth and it is an advantage for us to keep fresh people in the game, it is unusual because of the quality of the depth." The Chargers had nine players that played on a regular basis. 6'5" John Williamson, 6'5" Paul Wimp, 6'4" Pat Hymel, 6'4" Gary Heyland, Perry Deckard, Joe Reedy, 6'2" Jon Moseley, and 5'10" Gary Voelker gave Coach Adams one of the deepest line-ups in the state. Churchill's two-year record was 64-11 without a playoff appearance. Arguably, the best team in the state not to make the playoffs along with Houston Kashmere(27-8) and Houston Milby(29-8).

In **District 30-5A**, former Trinity star Bobby Murphy had it going on with San Antonio Marshall(27-7), as he came away with the District title against San Antonio Clark(24-12) 46-42. S.A. Marshall(27-7) had forced a District playoff with a

late season victory over Clark 46-39. Murphy had taken over the reins at Marshall in the 1978-79 school year and led his team to a 25-9 season total and 14-2 District mark. Marshall had the best District record but did not capture either half of the District races and was left-out of the playoffs. In 1980 Marshall lost a District playoff against San Antonio Clark and finished 22-10. Murphy's two-year total was impressive going 47-19 with two near playoff misses.

S.A. Clark advanced to the regional finals in 1980 but had no returning starters. Former S.A. Burbank coach, Earl Meyer, was selected at S.A. Clark as their new head man. Meyer had coached one season in Richardson at J.J. Pearce High school before returning to the Alamo city. Clark finished the regular season 24-12 and captured the first round of district action. Clark had an impressive 16-game win streak before dropping their last two games of the season to S.A. Marshall(27-7). Coach Murphy said the key to the win was defense. "They only had four field goals in the first half," Murphy said. Clark was 13 of 33 from the floor while Marshall came away with a 19 of 46. "I just felt like if we kept a lot of pressure on them, they would turn it over," Murphy said. Clark turned the ball over 21 times compared to 13 for Marshall. "The last two minutes I told them to shoot nothing but lay-ups." Murphy said. Vince and Vern Vittatoe led San Antonio Marshall(27-7) with 13 and 12 points while George Rodriguez was big inside with 10 rebounds. Pickett had 14 points and 10 rebounds for Clark.

Austin High(37-0) out of **District 26-5A** was causing quite a stir in the state capital during the 1981 season. Early in the year the Maroon's were very impressive moving up the state rankings. A 70-48 beat down of Killeen Ellison was an indication of the team's talent, as Austin High(37-0) prepared for the Round Rock Invitational. In the early rounds of the tournament, Coach Dave Patrick's team beat a strong Killeen High(28-9) 66-42. In the semis the Maroons defeated their old nemesis Austin Lanier(23-11) 48-41. Boone Almanza paced the winners with 16 points followed by 6'5" David Farber with 14 and Kenny Hill had a big game finishing with 20 points. The contest had been tied at the end of three quarters at 34.

In the finals, Austin High took down Temple(20-7) 61-47. Temple was one of the top teams in Central Texas. The Wildcats would eventually miss the playoffs in a District playoff against Killeen.

Two other impressive early season wins for the Maroons were against San Antonio Wheatley 65-51 and Alief Hastings 36-23. Austin High(37-0) relied defensively on a 2-3 zone with tremendous size and length. Alief Hastings coach, Rick Sherley said after his team's loss to Austin, "sometime, they will be forced to get out of the zone and play man and when they do, they will be in trouble."

The Austin Invitational Tournament was next for Austin High(37-0). Austin Lanier(23-11) had dominated the tournament for three years running. Coach Harry Masch of Lanier couldn't remember the last time they had lost at the tournament. "Earlier in the year, I thought Austin Anderson might have been the best team in the

city-but then we played Austin High at the Kerrville Tournament. I'd have to say they're probably the best team here. They have no apparent weaknesses," Masch said. "You know, I really didn't think they would be that good, but I can say now that they are the best basketball team I've seen in the district in the nine years I coached here."

Coach Patrick of Austin High expressed how he felt about being favored, "we certainly don't object to the favorite role, in fact we consider it a compliment." Coach Patrick talked about his big 6'11" center Kelly Blaine, "the finest big man I have ever coached, the only way to stop him is to foul him. He's extra quick, agile and coordinated, when he gets the ball and turns around, suddenly you see him flying out of bounds." Patrick was conveying that he felt referees were not calling fouls on opponents with the consistency that he would like. "The only way people can stop him is to push, touch and hold, but if Kelly retaliates, they'll blow the whistle on him." Patrick continued saying, "he has spent most of four games sitting on the bench with foul trouble and fouled out two other times in nine games. I don't think you can call this sour-grapes after all, we're 9-0. If they can find a legal way to stop Kelly, fine. But no one has yet."

Austin High(37-0) opened the Austin Invitational tournament handling Eagle Pass easily 76-45, led by Keith Harris and his 19 points and Kelly Blaine also contributed 19 points. Eagle Pass opened the game in a stall with little success. In the quarterfinals, the Maroon's pummeled Austin Lanier(23-11) once again 60-36. In the semis, Austin Travis fell 71-38. Austin Anderson challenged Austin High in the finals, losing to the Maroons 46-44. Almanza finished with 13 points, Blaine kicked in 11 and Saul had 12 points. For Anderson, Kevin Dukes was high man with 12 points. After the game Austin's star player, Boone Almanza stated, "but actually, I think this game will bring our heads down a little bit. I think that tonight, we learned that we can't beat everyone the way we've been doing the last few weeks." Anderson even led entering the 4th quarter 36-30 and Terry White of Anderson missed a 35-footer at the buzzer that would have sent the game into overtime. Austin Travis took 3rd place over Austin Crockett 64-60 in overtime. Other scores of note were Austin Johnston 51 Austin Lanier 48, and Austin Reagan 69 Dallas Highland Park(23-10) 55. Austin Lanier(23-11) rebounded after the tournament with a solid win over Killeen(28-9) 59-55.

Austin High(37-0) continued their winning ways in District defeating Waco University 84-57 and Kerrville 76-49. The Maroons had finished behind Austin Lanier the previous three seasons in District action. Austin Lanier(23-11) came into the first round District match-up against Austin High(37-0) having already lost twice and a 16-8 record. The game proved to be no-contest as Austin High won handily 58-41 and improved their record to 4-0 in District action. Head Coach Dave Patrick got point guard Joey Guedea back into the lineup after missing several games with a broken arm. Guedea replaced the injured Keith Harris, who Coach Patrick believed

was the best point guard in the District. "The thing that makes this one so special is that we did it without Keith Harris," Coach Patrick said. 6'11" Kelly Blaine led the Maroons scoring 17 points with four blocks and two dunks. Baron Sauls and Boone Almanza combined to score 24 points. Austin High ended the regular season running off a record of 37-0 and winning 38 straight victories over two seasons. One national rating system had them plugged in at #15 in the nation. A District list of scores were as follows, Austin Reagan(21-16) 47-42 and 75-63, Austin Anderson 81-53 and 68-45, Austin Lanier(23-11) 58-41 and 39-33, and Austin L.B.J. 59-46.

Coach Patrick key contributors were 6'11" Kelly Blaine(12.2/11.3), 6'4" Boone Almanza(15.1), 6'6" David Farber, Keith Harris(8.4), Baron Sauls(9.6) and coming off the bench were 6'5" Stan Shealy and Joey Guedea(6.2).

In a warm-up game prior to the state playoffs, Austin High(37-1) put their unblemished record on the line against Spring Branch Memorial(32-4). Against a tough challenging program, The Maroons pulled out a big overtime win 58-51. Boone Almanza was high man with 17 points and Keith Harris followed with 12 points. Eric Poersche and Reid Gettys led Memorial with 13 and 12 points. Austin High was ready for their run at the state tournament.

In **District 25-5A**, Lamar Consolidated(26-5) and Victoria(28-7) had to settle the playoff spot in a one game playoff. The first half winner facing the second-round winner. The two teams battled to a 44-39 score at the end of three quarters, with Consolidated in the lead. That's when 6'5" senior Rusty McDowell of Victoria came up big scoring 12 of his game-high 20 points in the 4th quarter. McDowell gave his team a 60-52 victory and a playoff spot. 5'10" Hanky Porter put in 14 points in the winning cause while 5'10" Larry Jackson and 5'10" Dwight Williams had 17 and 14 points respectfully for Consolidated. 6'4" Frank Rainer was another standout for Consolidated.

As the playoffs opened Austin High came in at 37-0 and the #3 ranked team in the state. Clear Lake was #1 and Dallas Roosevelt held down the #2 spot. Victoria(29-8) rolled into the playoffs after a three-year absence. Few schools had the basketball tradition that Victoria brought to the table. The Stingarees were predominately a strong outside shooting team that would help them against the Austin Highs feared zone defense. Victoria liked a double low post offense with good quickness and discipline. Victoria had won six district titles in nine seasons under Coach Mike Smith. When the Austin school officials came together with Victoria officials to decide where their Bi-District encounter would take place, the Austin High officials were pushing for the new Burger Center in Austin. Coach Mike Smith of Victoria made it clear he did not want to play Austin High at the Burger Center. One of the Austin officials responded that it would not matter where the game was going to be played, "you are going to lose." The teams ended up flipping for a home and home and Victoria won the flip. The game was played at the 1,500-seat gymnasium at Victoria High School.

Coach Mike Smith had known that his team would be facing Austin High in the playoffs, so he was able to scout the Maroons. He watched Austin High(36-0) defeat Spring Branch Memorial(31-5) 57-51 in overtime in a warm-up contest. Smith also knew beating the Austin High 2-3 zone with 6'10" Blaine in the middle would be very difficult. Smith felt the key to defeating The Maroons would be getting them out of their 2-3 zone. His best chance to beat Austin High was to force them to play man defense, which they were not familiar with. He put in a new offense to combat the Austin High zone. Smith got the offense from Milby High School and coach Boyce Honea. You placed two guards high, close to mid-court and two wings very wide about the time line. At the foul line would be 6'5" Rusty McDowell, who was very difficult to handle one on one. This is where Honea had placed Rob Williams when he played for the Buffaloes. Because Austin High was unfamiliar with playing man defense, this would put the Maroons at a distinct disadvantage.

Austin High was unaware as they approached the game that Coach Smith. Victoria(29-8) would unveil this offense for the first time against the Maroons. Coach Patrick's team was taken completely by surprise, because Victoria had never used the offense before. Also, it was probably unknown by most of the Austin High supporters that Victoria had won 37 games in a row at home. Coach Smith's team was tough at home in the 23-year old gym. Actually, Victoria had won 74 out of the previous 75 games at home. Banners hung all over the gym as reminders of past failures of Stingarees opponents. Students created extra noise stomping their feet on the wooden bleachers. When Austin High arrived at 4:30 for the game the gym was already packed, standing room only. This limited the Austin High fans from getting seats. Another 1,000 fans were watching on close circuit in the Victoria auditorium. Coach Mike Smith said coming into the game, "this is a basketball town-no doubt about it." "Believe me the Maroons are truly awesome, I do believe they are one of the best teams ever to come out of the Austin district," Smith continued. "They definitely have a chance to win the state championship-they have all the ingredients."

Austin High(37-0) standout Boone Almanza commented before the game, "All this about that gym being the Snake Pit of America, I just don't know," Almanza said. "Sure, they may not have lost a home game in three years, in a few hours they will have lost one game in three years and one day." Coach Patrick was not worried either about the gym, "I'm not worried about the gym," Coach Patrick said. "The game is basketball. It will be played on a wooden floor. The baskets will be 10 feet high with glass backboards. I've found that if you worry too much about the little things, where the game's played, what ball you use, who the referees are-you end up losing. People tend to forget that the people who win games are the players," Patrick said. "We've got too many good shooters to be shut down," Patrick said, who had won his first district title in his nine years at the helm. "If we play our

game, I really don't think they can beat us because other teams better than Victoria have already tried."

If given the option of playing home and home against Victoria, probably not a good idea. Victoria(29-8) had won little better than 50% of their games on the road during district finishing 4-3, but were undefeated at home. They were clearly pretty average out of the comfortable confines of the Victoria Gym. Remember in a one game playoff anything can happen. The best team does NOT always win. Coach Masch of Austin Lanier said, "there's no way I'd flip home and home against Victoria." Mike Smith commented on a neutral court, "No, he(Patrick) never brought it up."

The Stingaree's came out blazing taking a 10-2 lead hitting their first five shots. The Maroon's had to abandon their zone defense and go man early. The Stingaree's spread the offense just as they had planned. Austin was forced to go man to man on defense, which they were unaccustomed to. That is when the fouling began, as Victoria(29-8) began a parade to the foul line shooting a total of 49 free throws hitting 39. In the 2nd quarter, Victoria went on a 18-0 run, which put Austin(37-0) down by twenty points 32-12. Ten of those points came from the foul line. Victoria controlled the tempo with their strong guard play. The crowd was so loud according to Brad Buchholz of the Austin Statesman, that you could not even hear the opening introduction of the players. The result was the upset of the playoffs, Victoria won going away 77-63. The Victoria(29-8) crowd began to chant, "thirty-seven and one...thirty-seven and one." Early in the game the Austin crowd showed their strong following yelling on even terms with the Victoria locals.

Rusty McDowell proved to be a match-up nightmare, finishing with 23 points going 15 of 17 from the foul line. In the 4th quarter, Victoria hit 17 of 22 free throws. Boone Almanza was the first of four Maroons to foul out at the 2:24 mark with only nine points. Keith Harris finished with 13 points and Kelly Blaine had 10 for Coach Patrick.

"I truly believe this has to be the toughest place in the state of Texas to play a basketball game," Mike Smith said. "I think Austin High was kind of caught by surprise when they came down here, it shook them up." Coach Smith continued to give more insights into the big upset, "we could play Austin five more times and not win again. Under any other circumstances they would have won this game." The gym was so loud that Patrick's players could not hear him. Coach Smith used signs that he would flip up to communicate with his team.

The Bi-District showdown between San Antonio Roosevelt(33-4) and San Antonio Highlands(25-13) took place at the Trinity Sams Center before 2,300 fans. Highlands had a small quick line-up with their tallest player at 6'3". Roosevelt was a much more powerful inside team which would win in a half-court type game.

The Rough Riders found themselves down 40-32 with 4:32 remaining in the 3rd quarter when they were able to run off 13 unanswered points to take a 45-40

lead. Moore had two nice dunks during the stretch. After Kelvin Moore fouled out with 3:44 remaining in the game, Roosevelt went on another 10-2 run to increase their lead 67-58. San Antonio Roosevelt(33-4) advanced to regionals with a 68-60 victory. Coach Tyson of Roosevelt was excited about the inside play of Brad Peak coming off the bench to help the Rough Riders cause. Coach John Kemmerzehl of Highlands summarized his game plan saying, "We thought if we could run them enough, we could win." S.A. Roosevelt(33-4) was 25 of 58 from the field and S.A. Highlands(25-13) shot 29 of 65. The foul line was where the game was really won for Coach Tyson with his ball club holding a 18-25 advantage over Highlands 2-5 from the stripe.

Oscar Woods finished with 13 rebounds and Kelvin Moore added 11 for the Rough Riders. Scoring for Roosevelt(33-4) was paced by Moore with 21 and Woods with 16. For Highlands, Milton Potter finished with 16 points, followed by Ralph Green's 14 and Clark Sheppard added 12 points and 10 rebounds.

In **District 29-5-A**, Laredo Nixon(23-12) defeated South San(30-5) 70-63 to capture their 2nd District title in the previous four seasons. 6'6" Jamie Gonzalez played a critical role in the win for Nixon with 31 points, as his team outscored South San 23-12 in the 4th quarter. "The big man made the difference," South San Coach Johnny Guzman said. "I thought we played well with the exception of guarding him, he had the best game I've seen for a big man in a long time. We couldn't stop him." Gonzales range was 10 to 12 feet from the basket. Jesse Cadena was the key man for South San coming into the ballgame. "We had to stop him, we had to slow him down any way we could," said Laredo Nixon Coach Bill Groogan. "We doubled him every chance we could get." Cadena still finished with 23 points in a losing cause.

San Antonio Marshall(27-7) continued their winning ways by defeating Laredo Nixon(23-12) 65-58 in Bi-District. When attempting to defeat Laredo Nixon you had to slow down 6'6" post, Jamie Gonzalez. Coach Murphy realized this as he approached the contest. "We had Vince on Gonzalez in the first half and he was on Vince's side of our zone in the second half, when we were forced to go to a zone because of foul trouble," Coach Murphy explained. "We called the press off and went to a zone in the 2nd half." This was done because of foul trouble. The Vittatoe twins were once again the leading scorers with Vince finishing with 16 points and Vern had 12. For Laredo Nixon, Ricky Garza put in 16 points and Archie Ramos kicked in 10. Coach Bill Groogan of Nixon said following the game that Marshall's quickness and jumping ability were the difference.

The Region IV final four looked very impressive with anyone of the four teams looking like good representatives. S.A. Marshall(27-7) was facing Corpus Christy Carroll(27-7), a team they had beaten in the Optimist Tournament in December 72-62. "We ran a 1-3-1 zone because they were a lot bigger," Coach Murphy said, "but we didn't have the depth we have now." David Nobles, Chris Nowak, and Rolf Butler were now major contributors off the bench. 6'5" Randy Moff

had poured in 25 points against S.A. Marshall(27-7) in the first meeting. Moff averaged 25 points and 11 rebounds and could be called the most explosive player in region IV. "He has set every record we have in scoring and rebounding," Coach Buddy Greenwood said. Moff also held the Optimist scoring record at the time with 38 points during his junior year.

Corpus Christi Carroll(26-7) had defeated Mission(30-8) 61-52 to advance to regionals. The game was played in Edinburg at the Pan American Field House. It was the 12th straight year that the Valley representative had lost in the Bi-District contest. Carroll was led in scoring by Craig Knockless with 18 points, Randy Moff had 17 and Greg Boyd finished with 16 points. Missions(30-8) outstanding guard, Jerry Farias, led the way with 16 points and Joe Puento finished with 10 points.

As Carroll(27-7) prepared for the regional tournament their starting lineup consisted of Moff, 6'0" Chuck Knockless(15.5), 6'2" Orlando Garcia(12.0), and 5'8" PeeWee Smoots. Completing the line-up was 6'2" Greg Floyd and 6th man, 6'0" Richard Ocanas.

The Tigers of Carroll held a victory over Victoria(30-8) during the regular season 75-69. Carroll(27-7) lost to S.A. Highlands(25-14) and S.A. Marshall(27-7) also during the season and defeated S.A. Jefferson and South San(30-5). Victoria's losses included S.A. Highlands and S.A. Churchill(34-5). The Stingaree line-up was made up of 6'5" Rusty McDowell(21.0), 5'10" Hanky Porter(15.0), 6'4" Steve Spurlin(13.0), 6'2" Stand Southers(12.0) and 6'2" Robert Heinrich and 6'6" Glenn Graves splitting time as the other starter.

Mission(30-8) had won **District 28-5A** for the second year in a row in a three-way playoff situation. Mission went undefeated in the 1st round of District but fell apart in the second half losing three games. The 2nd round was shared by Harlingen(17-17) and McAllen, both tied with 7-1 records. The two teams flipped a coin for the home and home and Harlingen won the flip and also won the game. Mission(29-8) faced Harlingen(17-17) in Mercedes. Mission came away with a 64-54 victory to take District. 5'9" Jerry Farias(22.7), the Districts leading scorer put up 17 points to lead Mission. The Eagles lead grew to 21 points in the 3rd quarter. Harlingen's key players were Greg Yates, Tony Lucio, and David Longhofer. The game was won at the foul line with Mission, putting in 26 of 41 and Harlingen only managed 8 of 17.

The question coming into the playoffs was who had the best team in the Alamo City in '81. It was generally agreed upon that the best teams in no particular order, were S.A. Marshall(28-7), S.A. Roosevelt(35-4) and S.A. Churchill(34-5). S.A. Marshall(28-7) had wins over Churchill(34-5) and beat Roosevelt(35-4) once in four attempts. Churchill and Roosevelt were in the same district, and battled each other frequently with neither team having an advantage at two wins apiece.

So, against the toughest talent the city had to offer, S.A. Marshall had a 2-3 record, S.A. Roosevelt 5-3 and S.A. Churchill 2-3. Two of these three teams were at

regionals and would be the favorites to advance to Austin. The big obstacle in the playoffs, Austin High(37-1) had been eliminated by Victoria(30-8).

Alamo Stadium Gym was the site of the **regional tournament**. At 4:30 S.A. Marshall(28-7) faced C.C. Carroll(27-7) with Marshall being a slight favorite. At 7:00, San Antonio Roosevelt(34-4) went against Victoria(29-8). After the emotional game against Austin High it would be difficult for Victoria to focus. The Stingarees were in their 6th regional appearances while Carroll was making their 5th trip since 1969. Both teams had experience winning the region and advancing. Carroll made the journey to Austin in 1973 and Victoria in 1976. C. C. Carroll(27-7) was making their third straight regional appearance.

S.A. Marshall's pressing game gave Carroll(27-7) fits as Coach Murphy's team was able to jump out early on Carroll 26-12. "We called off the press and it hurt our aggressiveness. We quit going to the basket and weren't blocking out. We put the press back on and it got us running again," Murphy said. S.A. Marshall(29-7) advanced to the regional finals with the 82-63 win. Randy Moff paced C. C. Carroll with another impressive performance scoring 29 points, but he didn't have enough help. Orlando Garcia was the only other Carroll player in double figures. The Vittatoo twins combined for 42 points leading Marshall in scoring while Reggie Simmons added 19 points and George Rodriguez hit 13. That's four players in double figures if your counting.

As Victoria(30-8) prepared to face S.A. Roosevelt(35-4) they were still on a high from their big win over Austin High. Coach Mike Smith of Victoria said, "we were lucky against Austin, they seemed flat against us." Coach Jerry Tyson of S.A. Roosevelt said, "they forced Austin out of the zone it played all year and they took advantage of the situation. Roosevelt's two big inside weapons, Kelvin Moore(18.2), Oscar Woods(13.7) and guard Bubba Mangan(11.3) would present major obstacles for Victoria.

S. A. Roosevelt(35-4) advanced to the regional finals 78-69 over Victoria(30-8). Oscar Woods of Roosevelt had an enormous effect on the game. Woods drew his third foul before half and Victoria responded by scoring the last nine points of the half. Victoria trailed by only one point at the intermission 32-31. Woods took over in the second half hitting seven of eight buckets and seven rebounds. Coach Tyson of Roosevelt commented, "When Oscar was in the game we dominated. Losing him made a world of difference. We got what we wanted a big lead early. Our work on the boards was our best in a while."

Kelvin Moore and Woods gave Roosevelt a great one-two punch. Moore finished with 28 points and Woods had 27. That's 56 of the Rough Riders total 78 points. Bubba Mangan added 12 points for Coach Tyson. Rusty McDowell showed why he was one of the top players in Region IV carrying his team with 31 points. Hank Porter had 16 and Stan Southers added 10. Coach Tyson started Brad Peak on McDowell. "He did a good job and I'm proud of him," Tyson said. "Board domination

was what did it and we held our poise when our big guys got into foul trouble,” said guard Bubba Mangan of the Rough Riders.

*The **regional finals** brought together two of the top three teams in San Antonio. S. A. Marshall(29-8) had only one victory against S.A. Roosevelt(35-4) during the regular season out of four head to head meetings. In the regional finals, Roosevelt’s standout post 6’6” Oscar Woods got into serious foul trouble and left the game for good with 6:50 remaining. Without Woods in the line-up, Roosevelt was nowhere near as affective on the inside, which was the team strength. Even in a limited role Woods finished with 14 points and 15 rebounds. “When Woods went out, we wanted to keep pressure on their defense and take the ball inside, work it around and look for the easy basket underneath,” Murphy said. “It allowed our defense to collapse around Kelvin and made it harder for him to use his turn-around shots,” George Rodriguez said.*

Two key plays occurred late by the Rams which ended up giving Marshall a ticket to the state tournament 61-57. With 2:30 remaining, George Rodriguez of S. A. Marshall(30-7) hit a set shot from 16 feet and Reggie Simmons stole an inbounds pass and went the length of the floor for and easy lay-up. Those two plays put Marshall up 55-51. After an exchange of four shots Marshall was up 58-53 with 34 seconds remaining. Simmons(1) commented on his big steal saying after the game, “it was just a lucky play.”(2)

(1) Simmons went on to have an outstanding career in the secondary at New Mexico St.

(2) Simmons joined George Rodriguez older brother, Frank at New Mexico St. Frank set the San Antonio scoring record while attending Marshall with 53 points and led the city in scoring in 1979.

Vince Vittatoe fouled out for Marshall(30-7) with 3:30 remaining and finished the game with only 10 points. His brother led the scoring for the Rams with 17 points and Reggie Simmons had 14, Vince Mery had 10. For the Rough Riders, Mangan had 16 points, Moore 16 and Woods 14. Moore also added 15 rebounds. In the stats category, Marshall was 17 of 25 from the foul line and Roosevelt(35-4) countered with 19 of 25. From the floor, the Rams hit 22 of 53 and the Rough Riders had 19 of 54. The rebound advantage belonged to Roosevelt 38-27. The two teams were tied at halftime at 27 and at the end of the third quarter at 43.

Coach Bobby Murphy led the Rams to the state tournament for the first time since 1966 when Marshall captured the Class AAA state title. The Rams victory over Roosevelt by 13 points earlier in the season really gave Marshall(31-7) the confidence that they could come away with the big win. “We’ve had a lot of confidence in our press the second half of district and into the playoffs,” Murphy said. Murphy was very complimentary of his point guard, Vince Mery. “Mery has taken over and jelled us together. He is setting things up like a point guard is supposed to and did a good job.”

San Antonio Marshall(31-7) became the fourth team of a very strong field competing for the state title. Generally speaking, most observers including myself, felt Marshall would struggle against the likes of Dunbar(31-4), Dallas Roosevelt(41-2) and Pt. Arthur Lincoln(34-3). In 1981, Region IV was much stronger and balanced than in years past. There were several very competitive teams of which any would have represented the region well. Austin High, San Antonio Churchill(34-5) and San Antonio Roosevelt(35-5) could have won any of the three other regions on any given day. Victoria(30-9) and Corpus Christi Carroll(27-8) gave the region more depth than south Texas had seen in years.

Following the season, one of the top coaches in the state, Harry Masch of Austin Lanier, resigned from Lanier due to fatigue of working both basketball and football seasons. At a young age of 38, Masch had high blood pressure. "I really love basketball, but combined with football it totally drains you by the end of the school year," Masch said. "I had to be treated for high blood pressure during football season. It went away when basketball started but I was coaching six nights a week since August 1 and I'm just worn out. I'm tired of going through it every year." Masch felt Austin was the only large school district in the state with the basketball coach still working football. "They tell us you have to coach football if you want the privilege of coaching basketball," Masch continued.

The athletic director, Ellie Noack, responded that coaching one sport would run against the districts total program orientation. Coach Bill Thompson of Austin Anderson said, "let me just say that the thing that bugs us more than anything else is to go to a place like Victoria. Not only does the head basketball coach not have to deal with football – but neither does his assistant coach." B.J. Wolf of Austin Travis pointed out that some basketball coaches have greater football responsibilities than others. Some are required to attend booster club meetings on Monday night, huddle with football coaches, Saturday morning film sessions and handle scouting duties. In a vote of District coaches, most voted to only coach basketball if given the choice. The ones that voted to keep coaching football wanted to for the added income.

The 1981 San Antonio Express-News All City Cage team was impressive. 6'3" Vince Vittatoe(16.8) of Marshall took M.V.P. honors and his brother, 6'3" Vern(18.2) was named to the 1st team. Other players honored on the first team were 6'4" Kelvin Moore(18.5) and 6'6" Oscar Woods(14.2) from S.A. Roosevelt, 6'6" John Williamson(12.9) of Churchill, 6'2" Tommie Lee(16.4) from S.A. Fox Tech, and 6'2" Ralph Green(23.1) from S.A. Highlands. Honorable mention went to Lenny Draper of Clemens, Herb Moore of Cole, David Ortiz of Edison, Jesse Codena and Jerry Johnson from South San, Doug Henry of Antonian, Bubba Mangan of Roosevelt, L.Z. Wiley of Holmes, Omar Lozano of Judson, David Glanener of St. Gerard, Kenny Simpson of Edgewood, Edwin Peilot-Rosa of Fox Tech, Gerald Brown of Kennedy, Thomas McVea of S.A. Wheatley, and David Patterson of Harlandale.

State Tournament

Pt. Arthur Lincoln	(34-3)	#4	70.2-54.0	+16.2	PR	99.30
Ft. Worth Dunbar	(31-4)	#6	73.2-61.4	+11.8	PR	91.24
Dallas Roosevelt	(40-2)	#2	78.0-62.7	+15.3	PR	96.75
San Antonio Marshall	(31-7)		71.2-58.9	+12.3	PR	90.39

Top Players at the State Tournament

6'8"	Leonard Allen	Pt. Arthur Lincoln
6'1"	Michael Jaco	Pt. Arthur Lincoln
6'5"	Willie Ashley	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'3"	Robert Hughes	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'4"	Carl Wright	Dallas Roosevelt
5'8"	Ronell Peters	Dallas Roosevelt
6'3"	Vince Vittatoe	San Antonio Marshall
6'3"	Vern Vittatoe	San Antonio Marshall

Dallas Roosevelt(41-2) advanced to Austin as the favorite to bring home the big prize, but three tremendous teams awaited the challenge of beating the Mustangs. After the brackets were announced most fans felt Roosevelt would be heavily favored over S.A. Marshall(31-7) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-4) should take care of Pt. Arthur Lincoln(34-3). This would set up the much-anticipated Dunbar-Roosevelt final. In the state final polls, you had the #2, #4 and #6 teams in the state all advancing. San Antonio Marshall was unranked. "I really don't know much about the San Antonio and Pt. Arthur teams," Coach Ellis Davis of Roosevelt said, "I always thought it was football country."

Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-4) was not going to be overlooked by anybody. This was their third consecutive trip to the state tournament. Coach Hughes felt his team's experience in Austin should prove to be beneficial. As you look at the four teams, Dunbar had two of the top players in the state in 6'5" Willie Ashley and 6'3" Robert Hughes Junior. Dallas Roosevelt(41-2) countered with 6'6" Billy Wright, 6'4" Carl Wright and 5'7" Ronell Peters. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(34-3) matched up with 6'8" Leonard Allen and 6'1" Michael Jaco while S.A. Marshall(31-7) had the Vittatoe brothers, who combine for an average of 35 points and 20 rebounds. Vern averaged 18.2 per game and Vince averaged 17.1. Going into the tournament I don't think anybody was aware just how good Leonard Allen of Lincoln(34-3) was and how impactful he would be. I know I hadn't really heard that much about him and I read everything available.

In a one game match-up, preparation is sometimes overlooked. Great coaches are tough to beat when given similar talent and time to scout an opponent. Several of the more talented programs weren't worried about what their opponent was going to do during a game. They are only concerned with doing what they do best and establishing their style of play. The numbers definitely indicate one thing, that all four teams could score and had several offensive weapons.

Word got out to San Antonio Marshall(31-7) that Dallas Roosevelt felt they got a good draw in the pairings. "They say they got the best draw because we're not in the top ten, but they are underestimating us completely. I hope we can certainly prove that," one of the Marshall players stated.

Starters for the Rams were 6'5" George Rodriguez, 6'4" Vince Vittatoe, 6'3" Vern Vittatoe, 6'2" Reggie Simmons, 5'8" Vince Mery with 6'2" Chris Nowak and 6'1" David Nobles coming off the bench. Dallas Roosevelt(41-2) and Coach Ellis Davis had been kicking butt in the playoffs and looked very impressive as they traveled to state. 5'7" Ronell Peters, 6'6" Billy Wright(20.0), Carl Wright(25.0), 6'5" Kent Tillman and 6'3" Reginald Martin. I felt confident the Mustangs were one of the strongest entries to come out of Dallas. The Mustangs average margin of victory in the playoffs was 20.6 per game. Their opponent's combined record in the playoffs was an impressive 96-11 record with a winning percentage of 90%. Roosevelt brought a 28-game winning streak into Austin and was not looking to go home without another state title. The Mustangs really looked like a team of destiny. Personally, I felt Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-4) was the only team with a realistic chance to beat Roosevelt. But of course, I had not seen Pt. Arthur Lincoln(34-3) or San Antonio Marshall(31-7).

The first game between Dallas Roosevelt(41-2) and S.A. Marshall(31-7) seemed to be really just a formality. There was nothing to indicate that S.A. Marshall(31-7) could play with the talented Mustangs. But as I mentioned previously, that would be a mistake looking at Marshall's victims. At the time, I was totally unaware how many strong teams were in region IV during the season.

In front of 8,500 screaming fans at the Super Drum, leading 63-59, the Mustangs were unable to connect on three one and one situations. The Rams came back to tie things up at 69 apiece with 3:07 remaining. George Rodriguez responded with a 12-foot baseline shot to give Marshall a short-lived lead. Billy Wright scored two straight buckets to regain the lead for Roosevelt at 73-71 off a Ram turnover. With 39 seconds remaining the Mustangs looked to be in control. Vince Vittatoe had kept Marshall in the game late hitting five points from the foul line. With 18 seconds left Vittatoe fouled Reginald Martin, who missed both free throw attempts on an intentional foul. The missed opportunity left the door open for Simmons and some late game heroics.

George Rodriguez of Marshall rebounded the missed foul shot by Martin. "I saw Reggie(Simmons) breaking down court and he was real open. A defensive player was sitting back and Reggie took it to him," Rodriguez said. Reggie Simmons of S.A. Marshall hit the most important lay-up of his young life, giving the Rams a 74-73 lead with 12 seconds left. Dallas Roosevelt called a quick timeout to set up their last play, but passed the ball around the perimeter and failed to get a good look. With the win, Marshall came from ten down to advance to the state finals, and ended Roosevelt's state championship dreams. "If anyone was to go for the winning

shot, it would probably have been Reggie, because he can make those off-balance shots,” point guard Vince Mery said. “It helped that Roosevelt kept attacking the basket late instead of running a delay. We were afraid they might stall but they kept missing, giving us a chance to come back,” Coach Murphy noted.

On Roosevelt’s last shot, Martin’s jumper from the corner bounced off the rim. Coach Ellis Davis of Roosevelt said the difference in the game was the officiating. But Marshall was called for 23 fouls while Roosevelt was called for only 18. Ellis also felt Carl Wright was fouled on the final possession. Ellis complained that his team was tight from the poor officiating and couldn’t make foul shots. The Mustangs only converted 15 of 26.

The win gave San Antonio its first victory over a school from Dallas, Ft. Worth or Houston in 14 years, and ended a nine-game losing streak according to John Hines of the San Antonio Express.

David Nobles of S.A. Marshall had said earlier in the week that Roosevelt was looking past the Rams. Chris Nowak, another key reserve for Marshall said, “When we came up here and read the sports pages, it showed that they truly underestimated us. That got us pumped up to go out and play the fastest and best we could.”

A critical point in the game for Coach Bobby Murphy’s squad came at the 5:30 mark with the Rams trailing 67-61. Vern Vittatoe fouled out with only 4 points. “I thought it was over when Vern fouled out, but that meant we had to play doubly hard. They had a tremendous press but we broke it the majority of the time,” Mery said. Coach Murphy pointed out that Roosevelt went from a full-court press to a three-quarter press, “because Mery was too quick. He had some penetrating passes and drives that were unbelievable,” said Coach Murphy.

Vince Vittatoe took up the slack for his brother with 23 points and 23 rebounds. These numbers were some of the highest the state tournament had seen in several years. George Rodriguez had a nice game with 16 points and 13 rebounds also. Reggie Simmons hit 17 points and Vince Mery contributed 10 points.

For the Mustangs of Roosevelt, Kent Tillman led the way with 20 points, Billy Wright finished with 12, Martin had 10 points and the Mustang’s leading scorer, Carl Wright finished with only 9 points. S. A. Marshall won the battle of the boards with a 58-46 advantage. Roosevelt was 29 of 75 for 38% from the floor while Marshall was 29 of 72 for 40%. What was interesting as a fan is Dallas Roosevelt had a tremendous tradition and S. A. Marshall had very little. Those are usually big factors in tournament games like this one.

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(34-3) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-4) were two of the most storied programs in Texas High school basketball history. Many writers considered the game a toss-up. When Coach Hughes was asked about Lincoln he commented, “It doesn’t matter if it’s a team’s first time or 21st. If they’re from the Houston regional, they can play. From what I hear of Allen, we’re going to have to pay close

attention to him," Hughes said. When Gamble was asked about Dunbar he responded, "Dunbar is a lot like Houston Madison, except they're bigger and stronger."

Their semi-final game was a good one. Michael Jaco of Lincoln hit the second of two foul shots in overtime to give his team the win 60-59. In overtime Lincoln controlled the tip and ran a delay game for the entire overtime frame with Coach Gamble using two timeouts. With 18 seconds remaining Gamble called his second time-out. Jaco was fouled with three seconds remaining by Zol Singleton on his 10-foot jumper. "We either wanted to get the ball inside to Allen or have Jaco penetrate and put the ball up," Gamble described his last second strategy. "When they fouled Jaco I knew the game was over," Gamble added. Hughes attempted a desperation shot that fell short.

Gamble commented after the game, "it looks like the two teams which got the least respect here are going to play for the championship. But I'll tell you one thing we'll have plenty of respect for Marshall, anybody that can beat Dallas Roosevelt is a good team."

At halftime with Dunbar up 37-30, Coach Gamble came up with some changes defensively trying to slow down the Ashley and Hughes scoring combination. Gamble ran a one-three zone with the top player covering the corners and the three baseline players focusing on Ashley(17.0/14.0) inside. This would also enable the Bees to rebound. The fifth player would play Hughes man for man and never help off him on dribble penetration. "When we got out of the first half only seven points down, I felt we were in pretty good shape," Gamble said. "We hadn't played well." Gamble told Allen to be much more aggressive in the second half defensively. He finished with four blocks. "He cut off all that stuff they'd been getting inside," Gamble said. Allen was only able to finish with seven points and two rebounds. "I wasn't mentally ready to play," Allen said. "I have to give Ashley credit, but I could've played better, this was my worst playoff game, but I'm happy we won," Allen said.

The defensive scheme worked as Ashley scored 16 points and had 10 rebounds in the first half but was held to only seven points in the 2nd half. Hughes had 10 points at half but only managed five in the 2nd half. Hughes was five of nine at halftime and was only two of eight in the second half. "With either Smith or Thomas guarding him, we sagged off the wings and let the top man cover in the corner," Jackson said. "They're a real physical team under the boards, but I like to play like that. Dunbar's got a real nice club, but we made them play our game," Jackson continued. Lincoln took a 55-47 lead and opened the critical 4th period in a delay game. Dunbar came back scoring eight straight points to tie things up at 55 apiece at the 3:28 mark of the 4th quarter.

At the end of regulation, Lincoln went for the last shot missing from deep in the corner. "Once we got the tip to start the overtime, the plan was to hold the ball.

They did not come out and force us. I was really surprised they sat back like they did," Gamble said. Dunbar could have won the game in regulation but Ashley and Hughes both missed foul shots.

After the emotional win over Dunbar the Lincoln locker room was very loud and had a lot of celebrating. Gamble was not happy and yelled, "This is over." The celebrating ended quickly. "We've got film of this game and we can look at it after the season is over. We've got to get ourselves ready for the next one," Gamble said. Jaco led his team in scoring once again with 27 points and seven rebounds.

With 11,000 fans watching the championship contest, San Antonio Marshall went on a 24 to 11 run in the fourth quarter to take a 68-60 lead over the favored Bumblebees. With his team behind 70-68, Michael Jaco returned to the game after sitting out with foul trouble and made his presence known immediately with six minutes left in the contest. Jaco came away with three drives up the middle that tied the score at 79 with 2:22 left. "Toward the end of the game, when we were in the huddle, all he(Gamble) talked about was poise. Coach Gamble told us to keep our heads and execute. I was so confident, that even if we had lost, I wouldn't have believed it," Jaco said.

S.A. Marshall led by five points 84-79 with 1:27 to go in the contest. What in the world happened? The answer is Leonard Allen happened. The 6'8" post for the Bumblebees just took over the game like few players have ever done. Allen of Lincoln scored the next 11 points in 73 seconds while adding two rebounds and a blocked shot. The Bees scored 13 unanswered points. Once again Marshall's coach, Bob Murphy, put the opponent on the foul line down the stretch. Against Roosevelt the strategy worked, but against the Bumblebees things did not go as well. Allen hit 10 of 12 foul shots for the Bees, which led to a 92-84 victory. The key play of the game according to Coach Bobby Murphy of S.A. Marshall was Michael Jaco missed foul shot that was tipped in by Allen. The basket brought Pt. Arthur Lincoln within one point at 84-83 with 52 seconds left. Marshall turned the ball over and Allen put his team ahead 85-84 on a short baseline shot.

"It was probably our worst day at the free throw shooting," said Coach Murphy. The Rams were 16 of 29 for the game but in the critical fourth quarter they could only hit 3 of 9 from the foul line in the last four minutes. The game was much closer than the final score indicated.

Lincoln had led halfway through the third quarter 60-48 before Marshall turned things around in the fourth quarter. Lincoln shot 37-71 for 52% from the floor and Marshall hit 34-70 for 48%. Rebounds were even and Lincoln had a small edge at the foul line hitting 18 of 27 while the Rams managed 16 of 29.

Vern Vittatoe scored 26 points, Vince followed with 18 points and 10 rebounds, George Rodriguez added 13 points and 11 rebounds, Simmons hit 16 points and Mery had 10. Marshall ended up with five players in double figures and

lost. For Coach James Gamble, it was his first U.I.L. championship after years of frustration battling against the likes of Kashmere and Wheatley.

“Allen came through when we needed him most,” praised Coach Gamble. “He knew we needed him down the stretch and he went to work,”

*“He played super tonight,” Coach Bobby Murphy said. “It was a complete turnaround. I’ve never seen anything like the performance he gave in the final minute.” For the game, Allen had 26 points and 15 rebounds and 4 blocks. “I didn’t think the game would come down to that,” Allen said. “I never lost my confidence.” Michael Jaco expressed what his coach had told the team when they were behind late, “Coach Gamble told us that once we think we’ve lost, then everything is lost. If I panicked then I would’ve lost. You have to stay cool.” Because of his heroics on the biggest stage in high school basketball **Leonard Allen became a TEXAS LEGEND.***

In talking with Coach Gamble years after his title run he said, “we probably had more talented teams than the ’81 group but just didn’t get it done.” He also said he felt the Dallas Roosevelt was the best team coming into the state tournament and would have created the most trouble for his Bumblebees. Coach Gamble compared two of his great big men from Lincoln, Leonard Allen and 6’7” Anthony Allen. Anthony led the ’86 squad to the state title in class 4-A and later played at Georgetown. Gamble said, “both were very talented, Anthony was better on the offensive end and not as tall as Leonard, who was stronger on the defensive end.” The two standouts were no relation to one another.

Leonard’s son, Jarrett was a standout performer at Texas as a freshman in 2017 averaging 13.4/8.4 and 1.5 blocks per game. Jarrett was the 22nd pick by the Nets after his freshman season. Jarrett graduated from St. Stephen’s Episcopal school in Austin. His older brother, Leonard Jr. has committed to Baylor after graduating from Round Rock High in 2013. Leonard Jr. sat out a couple years and re-emerged at San Diego City College before committing to Baylor. Both of Allen’s sons are 6’11”, taller than pops.

When I talked to Michael Jaco recently about his state championship season, he was very proud to be on the team that won Lincoln’s first U.I.L. state title. He shared with me his admiration for Coach Gamble both as a coach and as a father figure growing up and playing for the Bumblebees. “Coach Gamble was so important to us growing up and we had so much confidence in his leadership and coaching. I was very lucky to have played for him at Lincoln.” Following graduation Jaco traveled to Omaha, Nebraska and played for Willis Reed at Creighton University. After two seasons he finished his career at Lamar University in Beaumont.

State All-Tournament team: Willie Ashley-Ft. Worth Dunbar, Leonard Allen-Pt. Arthur Lincoln, Vince Vittatoe- SA Marshall, Vern Vittatoe-SA Marshall, Michael Jaco-PA Lincoln :

Dallas Roosevelt 1976-1981 {178-38 82%} Coach Ellis Davis

1976	25-8	2 nd District		
1977	30-8	Co-Champions #5		PR 84.10
1978	27-7	Regional Semi	Cypress-Fair. L 54-52	PR 78.96
1979	26-8	2 nd District		PR 76.72
1980	30-4	Reg. Finals #6	Plano L 60-55	PR 83.80
1981	40-2	State Semi #2	SA Marshall L 74-73	PR 96.75

Best: 6'5" Ryan Wright(25.0), A&M-1977; 6'4" Carl Wright(25.0),SMU-1982; Ronell Peters(12.0),UTA-1982; 6'1" Kevin Jones(18.0),1980; 6'5" Michael Battle(19.0), Baylor-1977:

Clear Lake Falcons 1976-1981 {188-36 84%} Coach Bill Krueger

1976	37-4	Regional Semi #1	PA Lincoln L 63-60	PR 92.23
1977	32-5	Regional Semi	H. Wheatley L 74-71	PR 88.34
1978	31-5	Co-Champions		
1979	21-11	2 nd District		
1980	29-9	Regional Semi	H.Kashmere L 55-41	PR 69.23
1981	38-2	Regional Semi #1	PA Lincoln L 78-63	PR 95.49

Best: 6'7" Rex Johnston(21.1), Baylor-1977; 6'4" Steve Sylvestine , A&M-1976; 5'8" Colin O'Neal(10.0), 1980; 6'4" Bernie Lang(17.0), 1981; 6'4" Russ Capps(18.6), Baylor-1981:

El Paso Eastwood 1976-1981 {165-30 85%} Coach Bobby Lesley

1976	31-3	State Champs #15	Tyler J.T. W 74-62	PR 90.23
1977	32-2	Regional Final #1	FW Dunbar L 68-63	PR 85.63
1978	26-4	Regional Semi #2	Abilene L 79-67	PR 88.23
1979	16-12			
1980	26-4	Regional Semi #2	Wichita Falls L 44-42	PR 81.10
1981	34-5	Regional Finals #12	FW Dunbar L 67-57	PR 83.30

Best: 6'2" Jim Bowden(13.7), UTEP-1976; 6'8" Terry White(19.4), UTEP-1978; 6'3" Steve Wohlgemuth, 1976; 6'8" Darold Molix, UTEP-1977; 6'4" Tim Crenshaw, UTEP-1977:

Fort Worth Dunbar 1976-1981 {204-27 88%} Coach Robert Hughes

1976	30-4	Regional Semi #8	S.O.C. L 69-68	
1977	39-2	State Finals #2	S.O.C. L 78-71	PR 92.58
1978	34-3	Regional Final #1	Abilene L 76-74	PR 88.72
1979	37-4	State Finals #2	Lufkin L 75-74	PR 95.81
1980	30-9	State Semi#10	Plano L 46-39	PR 86.64
1981	34-5	State Semi#6	PA Lincoln L 60-59 OT	PR 91.24

Best: 6'9" James Griffin(18.1), Illinois-1978; Michael Watley(17.6), Arkansas-1977; 6'4" Willie Ashley(16.0), TCU-1981; Robert Hughes Jr.(19.0), Tex/UTA-1981; 6'0" Darrell Browder(16.8), TCU-1979:

1981 State Rankings AAAA{End of the Regular Season}

1. Clear Lake	36-1	6'4" Bernie Lang, 6'4" Russ Capps
2. Dallas Roosevelt	35-2	6'4" Carl Wright, 5'8" Ronell Peters
3. Austin High	35-0	6'11" Kelly Blaine, 6'3" Boone Almanza
4. Pt. Arthur Lincoln	31-3	6'8" Leonard Allen, 6'2" Michael Jaco
5. Houston Madison	32-3	6'5" Matt England, 6'1" Eric Dickens
6. Ft. Worth Dunbar	28-4	6'5" Willie Ashley, 6'3" Robert Hughes Jr.
7. Longview	31-3	6'7" Steffond Johnson, 6'4" Jerry Ragster
8. Dallas Hillcrest	37-0	6'4" Otho Fields, 6'1" Danny Timmons
9. Midland High	31-3	6'9" Herb Johnson, Horace Brown
10. S.A. Churchill	33-4	6'5" John Williamson, 6'4" Pat Hymel
11. Spring	31-6	6'3" Jack Worthington, 5'11" Steve Sykes
12. El Paso Eastwood	31-3	6'6" Steve Carpentier, John Shepard
13. Houston Washington	27-5	6'2" Jerome Scott, 6'4" Carl Clay
14. San Antonio Roosevelt	32-4	6'6" Oscar Woods, 6'6" Kelvin Moore
15. Ft. Worth Paschal	29-7	6'9" 6'8" Sam Donnell, 6'5" Sam Norton(26.7)
16. Spr. Branch Memorial	30-4	6'6" Reid Gettys, 6'6" Eric Poerschke
17. Houston Milby	29-7	6'8" Andre Ross(17.0), 5'11" Creon Dorsey
18. Conroe	28-6	6'4" Paul Fry, 6'1" Bruce Simmons
19. Aldine MacArthur	31-5	6'0" Tim Phillips, 6'3" Clarence Robertson
20. Lamar Consolidated	27-5	6'4" Frank Rainer, 5'10" Larry Jackson

The Sports Writers All-State

1st Team- 5'4" Anthony Webb(25.5) of Wilmer Hutchins, 6'5" Willie Ashley(16.0) of Dunbar, 6'8" Leonard Allen(13.0) of Pt. Arthur Lincoln, 6'3" Jack Worthington(27.0) of Spring and 6'8" Andre Ross(17.7) of Houston Milby.

2nd Team- 6'8" Larry Davis(19.6), Lufkin; 6'7" Steffond Johnson(18.0), Longview; 6'7" Sam Norton(26.0), Ft. Worth Paschal; 6'9" Herb Johnson(25.0), Midland; 6'1" Mike Jaco, Pt. Arthur Lincoln;

3rd Team- 6'3" Vern Vittatoe, S.A. Marshal; 6'6" Billy Wright, Dallas Roosevelt; 6'6" Oscar Woods, S.A. Roosevelt; 6'3" Robert Hughes Jr.(19.0), Ft. Worth Dunbar; 6'4" Russ Capps, Clear Lake:

Texas Association of Basketball Coaches All-State

1st Team-6'10" John Brownlee(26.0) of Ft. Worth Southwest, 6'8" Andre Ross of Houston Milby, 6'9" Herb Johnson(25.0) of Midland, 6'3" Jack Worthington(27.1) of Spring, 6'3" Robert Hughes(19.0) of Ft. Worth Dunbar.

2nd Team- 6'7" Steffond Johnson(18.0) of Longview, 6'4" Kelvin Moore(18.0) of S.A. Roosevelt, 6'4" Carl Wright(22.0) of Dallas Roosevelt, 6'1" Eric Dickens(18.3) of Houston Madison, 6'2" Jerome Scott(16.0) of Houston Washington and 6'8" Leonard Allen(13.0) of Pt. Arthur Lincoln.

3rd Team-6'5" John Williamson of S.A. Churchill, 6'3" Vern Vittatoe(19.0) of S.A. Marshall, 6'8" Larry Davis(19.6) of Lufkin, 6'5" Rusty McDowell of Victoria, 6'4" Russ Capps(18.6) of Clear Lake.

Why was Willie Ashley of Dunbar not named to the T.A.B.C. All-State team? Ashley had played in three straight final fours in the state's largest classification. Do you have any idea how rare that is? He was named 1st team by the Sports Writers. The Sports Writers missed John Brownlee of Southwest who was widely recognized as the top player in the state. T.A.B.C. had him on the their 1st team.

T.A.B.C All-Star game in Waco. The **South** squad featured Leonard Allen, PA Lincoln; Wendall Martin, Bridge City, Donald Mickins, Beaumont Hebert; Jack Worthington, Spring; Eric Dickens, Houston Madison; Russ Capps, Clear Lake; Vern Vittatoe, SA Marsahall, Andre Ross, Houston Milby; Kelly Blaine, Austin High. The **North** had Spud Webb, Wilmer Hutchins; James Stern, Waxahachie; Reginald Pink, Dallas Kimball; Vincent Green, Waco Jefferson Moore; Carlton Cooper, Paris; Robert Hughes Jr., Dunbar; Greg Bolton, Borger; Dwight Phillips, Levelland; Herb Johnson, Midland High:

Recruits: One Southwest Conference recruiter in discussing the class of 1981 said, "this looks like a good year, one of the best we've had, there might be as many as 20 players from Texas high schools getting major college scholarships. The problem is there aren't enough big guys to go around." In the Dallas Times Herald's annual "Blue Chip list", John Brownlee and Larry Davis received 10 votes, as the top recruits. Following those two stars were Herb Johnson with nine votes and Steffond Johnson with eight, along with Carlton Cooper. Andre Ross was next with five. Results depended a great deal on who was answering the questionnaire and could vary a great deal. There was no way any recruiter could see all the top players in the state. But it is a really good sample of what the recruiters were thinking in 1981. 6'10" **John Brownlee** (26.0/12.0) of Ft. Worth Southwest was generally agreed upon as the #1 recruit in the state and signed with North Carolina. He was the only Texas player listed in the top 40 in the country by the Associated Press, Roanoke Times and World-News. T.C.U. coach Jim Killingsworth commented about the prize recruit, "I think he's a great prospect, boy, I wish we had a chance to get him. He's mobile, strong and a great shooter." Brownlee was a little different than most recruits saying, "I'm going to school to get a degree." His father had played with Dean Smith while at Kansas and it was a no brainer. Brownlee committed early to North Carolina and of course was in the same recruiting class as Michael Jordan. He and his family actually flew to El Paso to watch the Tarheels in the 1st and 2nd round games of the NCAA tournament in 1981. Coach Bobby Knight visited the big guy in person. That's pretty impressive. Duke, Arkansas, Indiana, Virginia and Kansas were just a few of the schools that wanted his services. Brownlee commented and said, "the opportunity to play as a freshman really isn't a very good reason for picking a school. I want to go to a school where I'll be happy. I'm sure I'll make a contribution before I'm finished. I don't think the school would offer me a scholarship if they didn't think I could play and contribute." Brownlee stayed at North Carolina his first

two years in college and saw limited minutes behind Sam Perkins and Sam Worthy. He transferred to Texas and was named "Player of the Year" in the Southwest conference his senior season averaging 17.0 per game. He was selected with the 78th pick in the NBA draft by the Clippers. He played professionally in France. 6'9" **Herb Johnson** of Midland was rated second on the Times Herald Blue Chip List and signed with Tulsa. He was rated #1 in the state by the Star Telegram. At 6'9", he could hit from long range and was nicknamed "Magic" for his passing skills. Johnson was one of the best to ever come out of West Texas. He averaged 25 points, 12 rebounds and six assists. Hundreds of schools were after his services. Johnson's brother, Charles, was a standout performer and highly recruited out of Midland J.C. Most recruiters felt they would go to the same school. Tulsa and Texas A&M agreed to take both of them. Baylor and Texas recruited only Herb. Charles was going to have some difficulties being admitted at some schools. One recruiter described Herb saying, "Herbert is a different type of player, a different breed. He's got an ear-ring in one ear. But he can play." Remember this was pre-Jordon, where if you had an ear-ring you were considered an outlaw. Herbs other brother was Rufus, who was a walk-on tight end at Texas Tech. The Red Raiders were thought to be the leader in signing Herb, but he wanted to get out of the Southwest Conference. He played for Nolan Richardson in college. While at Tulsa he helped the Hurricanes advance to three straight NCAA appearances. He finished his career at Tulsa in the top ten in rebounds, steals and top 15 in scoring. He was the 55th overall pick in the NBA draft by the Cavaliers. He played professionally in France, Spain, Japan, Turkey and Switzerland. His brother signed with Texas Tech after playing junior college. 6'9" **Leonard Allen**(13.1/11.0) of Pt. Arthur Lincoln was listed as the #5 recruit by the Star-Telegram. He hit an incredible 70% from the floor in high school. In the regional finals against Clear Lake he had six blocks and was nine of ten from the floor. "He's the best big man we've had since Earl Evans," James Gamble said. "He's definitely in Earl's class." Allen played at San Diego St. and finished as the all-time single season leader in blocks and seventh on the rebound list. His senior year at San Diego St., Allen led his team to the NCAA tournament. Allen was drafted by the Mavericks with the 50th over-all pick. 6'1" **Gerald Sublett** of Houston Kashmere signed with New Mexico St. and head coach Weldon Drew. Drew was the former coach at Kashmere in 1975. He only played his freshman year at New Mexico St. 6'2" **Jack Worthington**(27.1) of Spring signed with Texas. The Star-Telegram had him the #2 recruit in the state. One recruiter called him the, "best guard in the state." Considered the best pure shooter in the state. A money player who's best in the clutch according to one college scout. He averaged 27 points per game along with six steals and six assists. Worthington scored 30 or more points 16 times during his high school career and hit 52% from the floor. He selected Texas over Missouri in the recruiting battles. Worthington played one year under Abe Lemmon's at Texas and was a starter. Lemmons was released as coach and replaced

by Bob Weltlich. Worthington played 14 games for Weltlich and decided to transfer to Oklahoma City University, where Abe Lemons was the new coach. 6'8" **Larry Davis**(19.6/12.9) of Lufkin had more than 250 colleges after his signature. He was slow in deciding as he looked at Marquette, Texas, A&M, UTEP, New Mexico St., Houston, Tulane, Oklahoma, Baylor and S.M.U. He weighed 230 pounds and had been dominant since his sophomore year when he paced his team to the state championship. His high school career record was 81-24 over the three seasons with the Panthers. Davis ended up at S.M.U. Upon signing with S.M.U. coach Bliss said, "Davis is one of the top players in the Southwest and somebody we really need at S.M.U.- a power forward who is a strong rebounder and excellent shooter." While with the Mustangs, Davis teamed up with Carl Wright and Jon Koncak to advance to the NCAA tournament two years running. Davis was named 2nd team All-SWC his junior and senior years. If you want to have some fun go to "Youtube" and watch Davis out jump Pat Ewing of Georgetown, on the center jump during the 1984 NCAA tournament. He was strong, athletic, physical and a leaper. His inability to shoot from the outside limited his ability at the next level. Following his college career Davis played pro ball in France, Germany and Canada. 6'7" **Steffond Johnson**(18.0/15.0) of Longview averaged 4.5 blocks per game with the Lobos. That is one of the highest numbers I have ever seen at the high school level. "He handles the ball like a guard," said his coach LeRoy Romines. He received more than 250 college offers. More than 40 recruiters called on him personally. He narrowed his selections down to Texas A&M and L.S.U. Johnson was another in the long line of outstanding players from East Texas. He was a very impressive athlete with speed and quickness and major ups. Johnson went to L.S.U. After three seasons at L.S.U., Johnson transferred to San Diego St where his career really took off averaging 15.7 points and 8.4 rebounds. He was selected with the 100th overall pick in the NBA draft by the Clippers. After his one season in the NBA he played professionally in Turkey, Cyprus, Uruguay, Italy, Venezuela, Philippines and Puerto Rico. He was at the center of a 1986 investigation into the L.S.U. basketball program and Coach Dale Brown. 6'3" **Carlton Cooper**(23.1/14.5) of Paris committed to Texas. He was the #4 recruit listed by the Star-Telegram. He hit an amazing 63% from the floor in high school. In one game, he had 25 assists against Terrell and only scored 2 points. Cooper was one of the top track athletes in the state, high jumping 6'6" and a state champion in the hurdles. His 41" vertical made him explosive around the basket. "He's far and away the most exciting player in the state," said one SWC coach. "He's a forward now, but his future might be at big guard. He hasn't worked much on his guard skills, but he improves every time he goes on the floor." Another recruiter added, "he's 6'4" but he plays much bigger and stronger than that." Bill Cronauer of the Blue-Chip Report, which was a major recruiting service at the time, called Cooper, "my sleeper of the year in Texas. He was one kid who was virtually unknown but who made a name for himself." He visited Arkansas, S.M.U., Baylor

and of course Texas. Late in recruiting Cooper was being compared to Terry Teagle of Baylor and was drawing attention nationwide. Carlton had a big-time career at Texas and was named All-SWC and was drafted by the Mavs with the 132nd pick. He played professionally in the Netherlands, New Zealand and the Philippines. He later became the athletic director at Texas A&M Commerce. 6'4" **Reginald Pink**(21.6/8.0) of Dallas Kimball was the most prized recruit in Dallas in '81. He listed Texas, Nevada-Reno, L.S.U. and S.M.U. as schools he was interested in attending. Pink signed with S.M.U. but played limited minutes. 6'8" **Andre Ross**(17.0/12.7) of Milby at 6'9" 230 pounds was a physical specimen. Grades were the big question mark about Ross. He hit 56% from the floor against the toughest competition in the state. In the San Marcos tournament Ross was 36 of 39 from the floor in three games. His high school coach, Boyce Honea said, "sure that's good, but the dunk is a high percentage shot." "He might be the best player in the state," said one recruiter. In talking with Coach Honea about Ross he commented, "when he brought his game he was as good as anybody, but he would get distracted from time to time." Ross took his talents to San Diego St. after attending San Jacinto J.C. and averaged 9.4 points and 5 rebounds a game. Creon Dorsey joined Ross at San Diego St. Ross was the #6 recruit in the state listed by the Star-Telegram. His high school coach, Boyce Honea added, "Yes, he was one of the BEST players to come out of the Houston area." He played in South America for six to eight years. He passed away in 2015 of congested heart failure. 6'5" **Willie Ashley**(16.0/14.0) of Dunbar was expected to follow the pipeline to T.C.U., but grades would be a road block and only played limited minutes as a freshman. Ashley came in at #3 in the Star-Telegram recruiting list. A sprinter in track and powerfully built, Ashley led his team to three straight state tournaments. Although only 6'5", his ability to play inside was not diminished because of his leaping ability. Ashley was one of the all-time great dunkers in Texas High School basketball history. He was one of those players that would hit his head on the rim. He averaged 16 points and 14 rebounds playing for Robert Hughes. He had offers from everywhere but liked T.C.U. He still lives and works in Ft. Worth. 6'5" **Randy Moff** (21.3/11.7/3.5 steals/2.5 assists) of C.C. Carroll, shot 53% from the floor and was considered a fine prospect but walked on at Texas A&M. As you can see by his numbers, Moff was a very productive high school player. He later transferred to Midwestern University in Wichita Falls. He presently lives in Corpus. **Robert Hughes Jr.** was the son of Coach Robert Hughes. He averaged 19.0 points mostly from long range along with five assists. Considered one of the top shooters in the class of '81. The schools he looked at were Texas and Baylor, U.T. San Antonio, West Virginia and Washington State. One of the big reasons Hughes considered Texas was for health reasons. He was plagued with sinus and respiratory problems. During high school, he spent time in the hospital on two occasions for respiratory inflammation. He was under strict medical supervision during the state tournament in Austin. If he attended a cold climate school this could create even a

greater health risk. Hughes was looking forward to playing for Abe Lemons, who had given Jim Krivacs the green light from the outside during his playing days for the Longhorns. Hughes signed with Texas, but ended up at U.T. Arlington. His relationship with the new head coach at Texas, Bob Weltlich, was not good. Weltlich was a defensive coach and Lemons had recruited all these offensive players. Hughes said, "I wasn't a bad kid, nothing a little running wouldn't have helped. If I had to do it over again, I would just have pulled the ball out and slowed it down and kept my mouth shut. I'm a coach now and I understand that the coach sometimes is going to ask you to do things you don't want to do." Hughes averaged 7.1 points per game his last season with the Mavericks of U.T.A. Interesting in looking at the coaching change at Texas. The Longhorns went 16-11 under Lemons his last season and 6-22 and 7-21 under Weltlich in his first two years. Weltlich's best season at Texas was 19-12 and the Horns made the NCAA tournament. Lemons on the other hand never had a losing season with the Longhorns. After six seasons at the helm Weltlich was replaced by another offensive coach, Tom Penders. **Spud Webb** (25.0) of Wilmer Hutchins signed with Midland J.C. and later went on to North Carolina St. and the N.B.A. At Midland J.C., Spud led his team to the 1982 national championship. Out of high school the only major college looking at Spud was Bill Blakeley of North Texas State, because of the entertainment value. Coach Jerry Stone of Midland JC said one of the reasons he recruited Spud was because of his success with small guards, most notably Cullen Mayfield. Stone said, "I recruited Spud because I wanted him to lead my team on the court." After Spud played at North Carolina St. for Jim Valvano, he was drafted by the Pistons with the 87th overall pick. At the NBA all-star game in Dallas in 1986, Spud won the Slam Dunk contest. He will forever be linked to the Slam Dunk contest. He played 13 years in the NBA for several teams. In 1992, he averaged 16.0 points a game with the Kings. 5'11" **James Stern** (27.0) of Waxahachie had a great state tournament which created a lot of interest in his outside shooting ability. Texas and Baylor were both looking at him pretty hard. Stern ended up a Baylor Bear and averaged double figures at Baylor. His numbers included, 13.2 pts, 2.4 reb, 3.2 assist; 6'5" **Sam Norton** (26.7/11.0) of Paschal scored over 30 points in 28 games his senior year. He was expected to sign with DePaul but ended up at U.T. Arlington, where he became the school's all-time single season leader with 21.4 points per game. His senior year, Norton was a double-double man at U.T. Arlington with 21.4 pts, 10.9 rebounds, 6'10" **Mike Gray** (27.6) of Keller was pursued by Oregon St., Baylor, and Weber State but committed to Colorado State, where he had a nice career. He averaged 13.2 pts, 6.7 rebounds, 1.1 assists, 6'4" **Otho Fields** of Dallas Hillcrest went to Stephen F. Austin, 6'1" **Eric Dickens** (17.1) of Houston Madison committed to Houston. His High School coach, Paul Benton, ranked Eric with his best players ever at Madison, which included LSU's Matt England, North Texas State's Pat Hicks and B.Y.U.'s Greg Kite. Dickens had 10 steals in two different games in High School.

Houston was considered the favorite to land his talents with Baylor on the outside. Dickens played on three final four teams, but really never played major minutes until his senior year in which he averaged 13.0 pts, 2.4 reb, 3.6 assists for the legendary Guy V. Lewis. 7'0" **John Wheeler** of Dallas Lincoln traveled to Cleveland St. and then transferred to Baylor. "He's a project," one scout said. Following Wheeler's career at Baylor he filed a \$3 million lawsuit in Dallas, accusing former Baylor coach Jim Haller of helping him purchase steroids and inducing him to take the drugs. His mother contended that steroids contributed to her son's needing two open-heart operations. Wheeler had a hereditary disorder with blood circulation. He passed away at the age of 28. 6'6" **Reid Gettys**(12.6) of Houston Memorial signed with Houston and started for Phi Slama Jama at the University of Houston playing in three final fours. He was drafted by the Bulls with their 103rd pick. Although he averaged 4 points per game with the Cougars, he was a key player. 6'2" **Michael Jaco** of Pt. Arthur Lincoln signed with Creighton and transferred to Lamar. He had a very limited college career. 6'1" **Luster Goodwin** of Kashmere was considered a slick ball-handler and a fine outside shooter. Goodwin signed with UTEP and led his team his senior year to the 2nd round of the NCAA tourney. He averaged 16.9 points per game and was named All-WAC. In the 1985 NBA draft Goodwin was selected with the 71st pick by the Warriors. In talking to Goodwin, he said he was recruited by New Mexico St., Houston and Baylor. He said he attended U.T.E.P. because of the relationship he had with Tim Floyd and Don Haskins. He saw Coach Brazos of Kashmere as a father figure, who taught him discipline and prepared him for life. Goodwin played the pre-season with the Warriors, but was finally cut and played a couple of seasons in the D-league. Goodwin is presently a principle at a junior high in the Houston area. He was a key figure on the 1980 state championship team his junior year. **6'8" Don Bronson**(15.1/10.1) teamed up with Larry Davis at Lufkin to form one of the most imposing front lines in high school basketball. Bronson went to UTEP and had a limited career with the Miners playing all four years, 6'10" **Dwight Phillips**(16.2/16.9) of Levelland was a sleeper who signed with Texas Tech and had a limited success with the Red Raiders, 6'4" **Kent Tillman** of Dallas Roosevelt committed to Midwestern, 6'7" **Chris Hardin**(22.2) of West Orange Stark signed with McNeese St. and finished with nice numbers his senior year at McNeese, 10.3 pts, 8.4 reb, 1.0 assist. 5'11" **Creon Dorsey** of Houston Milby traveled to San Diego St. Because San Diego St. was on probation, Dorsey was the only recruit that year by the Aztecs. Dorsey joined the pipe line of Texas players at San Diego St., with Leonard Allen and Andre Ross. Dorsey averaged 8.6 points and 5.6 assists a game for the Aztecs. San Diego St. lost in the first round of the NCAA tournament and finished 23-8 on the season. Dorsey was a late bloomer according to Coach Honea. 6'2" **Andre Boutte** of Beaumont Hebert attended Temple Jr. College and transferred to North Texas State. Boutte went on to become and outstanding high school coach at Pt. Arthur Lincoln and later Beaumont Ozen.

His teams won numerous state championships and made an unbelievable eight trips to the state tournament with two great programs. When Houston scout Donnie Schverak was asked if there was another Clyde Drexler in this year's class he replied, "I'm not going to mention any names, but there is one in Houston not many people know about who can play for anybody. That would-be Kenneth Cook of Kashmere, who was named on most SWC coaches lists of top prospects. 6'6" **Kenneth Cook** of Houston Kashmere went to Lamar University and later St. Mary's in San Antonio but did not have a glamorous career. The 6'3" **Vittatoe twins**, Vern and Vince, traveled to Hardin Simmons. Vince played all four years and Vern just played his freshmen year. 6'11" **Kelly Blaine** of Austin High led the Maroons to an unbelievable season. One recruiter put it this way in discussing Blaine, "he's a good thinking man's big man and he'll be better off if he gets into the right system, because he's a finesse center and not a physical player." Blaine played at South Alabama where he was drafted by the Nets with the 108th pick in the NBA draft. His numbers at South Alabama, 8.4 pts, 5.3 reb, 0.9 assists, 6'9" **Sam Donnell** of Paschal signed with Reno Nevada after considering the University of Detroit and Fresno State, but he ended up with his buddy, Sam Norton at U.T. Arlington. His numbers were 9.8 points and 5.2 rebounds for a solid career. 6'5" **Bobby Shropshire** of Paschal went to Virginia Commonwealth after considering Fresno State and T.C.U., he followed his brother to Virginia Commonwealth. **Greg Grissom** of Gladewater went to North Texas and played his freshmen year. Clear Lake had a trio of recruits, 6'4" **Russ Capps**(18.6/5.5 assist) was one of the best to play for Krueger at Clear Lake. Capps shot 49% from the floor, mostly from the outside. Capps went to Baylor and played two seasons for the Bears, 6'3" **Bernie Lang** of Clear Lake played a SW Texas St., which has since changed its name to Texas St., 6'4" **Jeff Applewhite** of Houston Bellaire played one season at Houston Baptist, 6'0" **Reginald Hurd** of SOC went to Centenary and played two years of college ball averaging 10.0 points per game his second year. 6'7" **Gary Orsak**(18.2/11.8) of Alvin hit 60.5 % from the floor and set 11 school records at Alvin. He drew 43 charging calls his senior year. Orsak attended Houston and had a very limited career although he did attend three straight final fours, 6'6" **Billy Wright** of Roosevelt attended Louisiana Tech and played one year, 6'7" **David Jordon** of Dallas Skyline signed with Louisiana Tech and had limited success playing all four years, 6'7" **Baron Provost** of Pt. Arthur Lincoln committed to Southern University, 6'1" **Donald Mickens** of Beaumont Hebert went to Tyler J.C. 6'1" **James Sowels** of Duncanville was a move-in from Wilmer Hutchins. 6'5" **Merrit Williams** of North Lamar to North Texas State. 6'0" **Martin Wendall**(20.3) of Bridge City signed with Angelina J.C. in Lufkin. 6'6" **Kirk Simple** of Houston Madison went to Navarro J.C. and ended up at Sam Houston. Coach Benton said his '81 team had the best delay game because of Simple. Kirk would play at the top of the key handling the ball and hitting his teammates on backdoor cuts. "I never had as much success after Kirk graduated with the delay game, he

could really handle the ball and was a great passer.” Kirk was the younger brother of John, the talented forward who played on Madison’s state finalist team in 1979. John unfortunately had fainting spells on the court that really limited his future in basketball. John wanted to play for Abe Lemons at Texas and played junior college ball at Navarro J.C. with the understanding he would play at Texas. His condition did not improve, so he played at Sam Houston. **Demorial Ferguson** of Houston Madison went to Angelina J.C. 6’3” **Ken Walling**(13.7/6.7 assists) from Canyon played two years at Western Texas A&M and was drafted by Major League Baseball. 6’4” **Harry Banks** of Navasota played at W. Texas J.C. and later North Texas.

Top Texas Recruits in 1981 based on their college and pro careers:

Spud Webb 5’7”	Wilmer Hutchins	N. Carolina St. 11.1/5.2 Ast.	Pistons NBA#87
Herb Johnson 6’9”	Midland	Tulsa, 3-NCAA 16.4/9.5	Draft Cavs #55
Steffond Johnson 6’7”	Longview	LSU/S.D. State 15.7/8.4	Clipp NBA#100
Leonard Allen 6’8”	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	San Diego St., 14.6/8.1 2.6 Bl	Draft Mavs #50
John Brownlee 6’10”	Ft. W Southwest	N. C./Texas SWC POY 17.0/8.2	Draft Clipp #78
Luster Goodwin 6’11”	Houston Kashmere	UTEP, 2-NCAA 17.4/ 3.4 Ast.	Draft War #71
Reid Gettys 6’6”	S.B. Memorial	Houston, 3-Final Fours 4.0/2.5	Draft Bulls #103
Carlton Cooper 6’4”	Paris	Texas, All-SWC 10.2/5.6	Draft Mavs#132
Kelly Blaine 6’11”	Austin High	S. Alabama 8.3/5.2/2.7 Bl	Draft Nets #108
Larry Davis 6’8”	Lufkin	SMU, NCAA tourn. 12.9/7.8	
Sam Norton 6’5”	Ft. Worth Paschal	U.T. Arlington 21.4/10.9	

All-Americans: *Basketball Weekly* was well represented by Texas players; **Steffond Johnson** was named to the 10th team, **Herb Johnson** named to the 11th team along with **John Brownlee**. Named to the Adidas All-American squad was **Steffond Johnson** and **Brownlee**, the Roanoke Times, Parade and McDonalds all had **Brownlee** on their All-American teams. Surprisingly, the player that was omitted was Leonard Allen of Pt. Arthur Lincoln. He may have been the most dominant player in the state. Named **Honorable Mention All-American** by *Basketball Weekly*: **Andre Ross, Larry Davis, Jack Worthington, Willie Ashley, Carlton Cooper, Sam Norton, Sam Donnell, Billy Wright, Mike Gray and Reggie Childress of Coleman.**

National Rankings:

State Leaders: **Ron Singleton** of Dallas Carter led the state in scoring with 27.5 average followed by **Jack Worthington** of Spring at 27.0. **Sam Norton** of Paschal averaged 26.7 and **John Brownlee** finished at 26.0. Rebounding was not real accurate but as best we could tell **Steffond Johnson** pulled in 15 per game followed by **Ashley of Dunbar** with 13. **Andre Ross** of Houston Milby had 12.7 and **Larry Davis** of Lufkin at 12.3. Dallas Roosevelt looked like the top scoring team in the state at 78.0 per game and point difference at 17.3 with Clear Lake close behind at 17.1.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs- **Willie Ashley** of F.W. Dunbar averaged **20.5** in the playoffs. His scoring breakdown in the playoffs, Arlington(17), Midland(24), E.P. Eastwood(16), Pt. Arthur Lincoln(25). In looking at great state tournament

*performances, Leonard Allen may have set a new standard. Playing against the highest level in the state he turned in some awesome numbers averaging, **15.8** points, **10.2** rebounds and **5.6** blocks per game in five playoff games.*

Power Ratings 1981

1.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	36-3	99.30	State Champs 5-A	Def. S.A. Marshall 92-84
2.	Dallas Roosevelt	40-3	96.75	State Semis 5-A	Loss to S.A. Marshall 74-73
3.	Beaumont Hebert	35-2	96.60	State Champs 4-A	Def. Canyon 59-57
4.	Clear Lake	38-2	95.49	Regional Semis 5-A	Loss to PA Lincoln 78-63
5.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	34-5	91.24	State Semis 5-A	Loss to PA Lincoln 60-59 OT
6.	Longview	33-4	90.68	Regional Finals 5-A	Loss to D. Roosevelt 72-46
7.	S.A. Marshall	31-8	90.39	State Finals 5-A	Loss to PA Lincoln 92-84
8.	Houston Washington	30-6	88.83	Regional Semi 5-A	Loss to H. Madison 74-66
9.	Austin High	37-1	88.26	Bi-District 5-A	Loss to Victoria 77-63
10.	S.A. Roosevelt	35-5	87.01	Regional Finals 5-A	Loss to SA Marshall 61-57
11.	Houston Kashmere	27-8	86.85	District Runner-up	
12.	Houston Milby	28-7	86.80	District Runner-up	
13.	Waxahachie	29-9	85.84	State Semis 4-A	Loss to Hebert 81-64
14.	S.A. Churchill	34-5	85.67	District Runner-up	
15.	Houston Madison	35-4	85.58	Regional Finals 5-A	Loss to Pt. A. Lincoln 53-46
16.	Paris	23-7	84.26	Regional Finals 4-A	loss to Wax. 83-82
17.	El Paso Eastwood	35-5	83.30	Regional Finals 5-A	Loss to Dunbar 67-57
18.	Ft. Worth Paschal	29-7	82.26	District Runner-up	
19.	Tyler John Tyler	23-10	82.12	4 th Place finish	
20.	Midland High	32-5	81.00	Regional Semis 5-A	Loss to Dunbar 80-76
21.	Wilmer Hutchins	27-9	77.46	Bi-District 5-A	Loss to Longview 83-71
22.	Dallas Hillcrest	38-1	76.82	Bi-District 5-A	Loss to Roosevelt 79-60
23.	Lake Highlands	24-10	74.84	Bi-District 5-A	Loss to Longview 61-42
24.	Ft. Worth Southwest	25-9	73.55	3 rd Place finish	
25.	South Oak Cliff	21-11	73.22	3 rd Place finish	
26.	Tyler Lee	20-13	72.35	3 rd Place finish	
27.	Plano	27-9	71.75	Lost District Playoff	
28.	Lufkin	27-6	69.66	District runner-up	
29.	Grand Prairie	25-10	69.62	Bi-District 5-A	Loss to Wilmer Hut 78-62
30.	Highland Park	23-10	69.05	3 rd Place finish	
31.	Richardson Pearce	22-14	68.02	Lost District Playoff	
32.	Duncanville	24-11	67.66	District 4 th Place	
33.	Irving MacArthur	26-11	63.79	District Runner-up	

Power Rankings: *It is always fun to see who tops the list in the state by power ratings. Looking at the top **seven** teams according to the power ratings, they all have over 90.0 rating. This was the first time Texas produced seven teams over the 90 mark. The previous high was four in 1972 and 1979. This is a great indicator of the talent that abounded in 1981. According to the numbers this was the most talented group of teams in Texas up to 1981.*

Reflecting on the state playoffs *and how things evolved during the season. First off, I had to expand my state rankings. There were to many strong teams being left off had I remained picking only fifty. The Houston area placed nine schools in my final **Top "25"** and Dallas had one. San Antonio had three as did Ft. Worth. The*

conclusion you can come to is the Dallas area was really down during the 1981 season and Houston was by far the toughest region.

Teams that Should Have Advanced to Austin: Looking at the power ratings and how competitive the games were in the State Tournament, this was one of the few times when the best teams from each region all arrived in Austin.

1981 5-A Playoffs				
Region I Bi-Dist.	Midland(31-3) #9	67	Denton(19-12)	53
	El Paso Eastwood(32-4) #12	31	El Paso Burges(26-8)	30
	Pampa(22-11)	53	Plainview(18-16)	52
	Ft. Worth Dunbar((28-4) #6	56	Arlington(23-7)	53
Region I Semis	Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-4) #6	80	Midland(32-3) #9	76
	El Paso Eastwood(33-4) #12	62	Pampa(23-11)	61
Region I Finals	Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-4) #6	67	El Paso Eastwood(34-4) #12	57
Region II Bi-Dist.	Wilmer Hutchins(26-8)	78	Grand Prairie(25-9)	62
	Dallas Roosevelt(38-2) #2	79	Dallas Hillcrest(38-0) #7	60
	Longview(31-3) #8	61	Lake Highlands(22-9)	42
	Killeen(27-8)	67	Spring(32-6) #11	64
Region II Semis	Dallas Roosevelt(39-2) #2	83	Killeen(28-8)	66
	Longview(32-3) #8	83	Wilmer Hutchins(27-8)	71
Region II Finals	Dallas Roosevelt(40-2) #2	72	Longview(33-3) #8	46
Region III Bi-Dist.	Houston Madison(33-3) #5	56	Spring B. Memorial(32-5) #15	54
	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(31-3) #4	67	Aldine MacArthur(32-5)	50
	Houston Washington(29-5) #13	68	Houston Wheatley(27-12)	63
	Clear Lake(37-1) #1	71	Deer Park(23-12)	45
Region III Semis	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(32-3) #4	78	Clear Lake(38-1) #1	63
	Houston Madison(34-3) #5	74	Houston Washington(30-5) #13	66
Region III Finals	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(33-3) #4	53	Houston Madison(35-3) #5	46
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Victoria(29-8)	77	Austin High(37-0) #3	63
	S. A. Roosevelt(33-4) #14	68	San Antonio Highlands(25-13)	60
	Corpus Christi Carroll(26-7)	61	Mission(30-8)	52
	San Antonio Marshall(27-7)	65	Laredo Nixon(23-12)	58
Region IV Semis	San Antonio Marshall(28-7)	82	Corpus Christi Carroll(27-7)	63
	S.A. Roosevelt(35-4) #14	78	Victoria(30-8)	69
Region IV Final	S. A. Marshall(29-8)	61	S.A. Roosevelt(34-4) #14	57
State Semi-Finals	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(34-3) #4	60	Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-4) OT	59
	San Antonio Marshall(29-7)	74	Dallas Roosevelt(41-2) #2	73
State Finals	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(35-3) #4	92	San Antonio Marshall(30-7)	84

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1981 AAAAA Top Teams}

1. Pt. Arthur Lincoln 36-3 {def. H. Washington twice, Clear Lake, H. Madison, Dunbar}
2. Dallas Roosevelt 41-3 {2-1 vs. Dunbar, def. Milby, Longview, 2-0 Wheatley}
3. Ft. Worth Dunbar 31-5 {loss in the state semis in overtime to Lincoln 60-59}
4. Houston Madison 35-4 {regional finals for 3rd consecutive year, won Jaycees}
5. Clear Lake 38-2 {ranked #1 most the season, lost to Lincoln in Reg. Finals}
6. Houston Washington 30-6 {lost to Madison in the Regional Semis & Jaycee Finals}
7. S.A. Marshall 29-8 {came on late to defeat Dallas Roosevelt and SA Roosevelt}
8. Houston Milby 29-8 {losses Clear Lake by 2 & buzzer, def. H. Madison, Churchill}
9. S.A. Roosevelt 35-5 {finished 3-2 on the season vs. SA Marshall}

10.	S.A. Churchill	34-5	{district runner-up to S.A. Roosevelt lost playoff 44-42}
11.	Houston Kashmere	27-8	{Runner-up to H. Washington in District 19-5A}
12.	Longview	33-4	{beat Clear Lake, Waxahachie, Wil. Hutch., Split with Paris}
13.	Austin High	37-1	{beat Memorial, Austin Lanier, loss to Victoria 77-63}
14.	S B. Memorial	32-6	{lost a tough 2-point game to Madison in Bi-District}
15.	Midland	32-5	{Regional semis, Lost Judson, Dimmit and Dunbar}
16.	Ft. Worth Paschal	29-7	{District runner-up to Dunbar}
17.	Houston Wheatley	27-13	{won a tough district, lost 1st round to Washington}
18.	Beaumont Pollard	21-8	{tied with French as Runner-up in District 22-5A}
19.	Houston Yates	20-12	{Finished in 3rd place behind Wheatley and Milby, 20-5A}
20.	Austin Lanier	23-11	{beat Killeen 59-55, Seguin 66-56}
21.	Killeen	28-9	{solid team, lost to Dallas Roosevelt in regionals 84-66}
22.	Corpus Christi Carroll	27-8	{regional semi-finals losing to SA Marshall 82-63}
23.	Victoria	30-9	{pulled a major upset over Austin High in Bi-District 77-63}
24.	Spring	32-7	{lost first round game to Killeen in the playoffs 67-64}
25.	Ft. Worth Southwest	25-9	{finished 3rd in District, beat Dunbar in District}
26.	Dallas Hillcrest	37-1	{undefeated season ended by Dallas Roosevelt 79-60}
27.	Arlington	23-8	{played Dunbar a close game in bi-district losing by 3}
28.	Wilmer Hutchins	27-9	{advanced to regional semi-finals, lost to Longview 83-71}
29.	El Paso Eastwood	34-5	{regional finals losing to Dunbar 67-57}
30.	H. Scarborough	23-5	{Finished behind Washington and Kashmere in 19-5A}
31.	Aldine MacArthur	32-6	{lost in Bi-District to the eventual state champions}
32.	Conroe	28-7	{District runner-up in District 16-5A to Spring}
33.	Beaumont French	21-9	{tied for runner-up with Pollard in District 22-5A}
34.	S. A. Clark	24-12	{lost district playoff to SA Marshall 46-42}
35.	Dallas Kimball	20-13	{lost in District to Dallas Hillcrest, defeated D. Roosevelt}
36.	Dallas Skyline	23-8	{finished behind Dallas Roosevelt in District}
37.	Galveston Ball	21-12	{Runner-up to Clear Lake in District in 24-5A}
38.	El Paso Riverside	26-6	{tied for District, lost playoff to Eastwood 59-57}
39.	Deer Park	23-12	{lost in Bi-District to Clear Lake by 26 points}
40.	Lamar Consolidated	26-6	{lost District Playoff to Victoria in 25-5A}
41.	Cypress-Creek	27-7	{finished 3rd place in District 16-5A to Spring, Conroe}
42.	El Paso Burges	26-9	{lost a heartbreaker in bi-district to Eastwood 31-30}
43.	Houston Smiley	25-7	{Lost District playoff to Aldine MacArthur in District 21-5A}
44.	H. Westchester	27-8	{District Runner-up to Memorial in District 17-5A}
45.	Alief Elsik	26-11	{Runner-up in District 17-5A to SB Memorial}
46.	Lufkin	27-6	{Runner-up to Longview in District 15-5A}
47.	Temple	20-7	{lost district playoff to Killeen}
48.	Houston Bellaire	22-12	{District Runner-up to Madison in District 18-5A}
49.	Dallas S.O.C.	21-12	{down season for the Golden Bears}
50.	Mission	30-9	{advanced to Bi-District losing to CC Carroll 61-52}
51.	Grand Prairie	25-10	{Bi-District loss to Wilmer Hutchins 78-62}
52.	Highland Park	23-10	{finished behind Wilmer Hutchins in District}
53.	Lake Highlands	24-10	{won 13-5A playoff, 1st round loss to Longview}
54.	Plano	27-9	{lost out in District 13-5A, playoff against Lake Highlands}
55.	Pasadena	20-9	{District Runner-up to Deer Park in 23-5A}
56.	Tyler Lee	20-13	{Finished tied 3rd in 14-5A beat Longview 47-37}
57.	San Angelo Central	23-8	{lost in 3 overtimes to Midland 80-78, District runner-up}
58.	Pampa	22-12	{advanced to regionals, lost to Eastwood 62-61}
59.	Denton	19-13	{lost in Bi-District to Midland 67-53}
60.	Plainview	18-17	{lost in the 1st round to Pampa by 1}

61.	Tyler John Tyler	23-10	{Finished tied 3 rd in 14-5A behind Longview and Lufkin}
62.	Ft .Worth O D Wyatt	19-13	{finished fourth in District with Dunbar, Paschal, SW}
63.	Texas City	21-11	{3rd place to Clear Lake and Galveston Ball in 24-5A}
64.	Lubbock Monterey	24-8	{runner-up in district to Plainview}
65.	S. A. Highlands	25-14	{lost in bi-district to SA Roosevelt 68-60}
66.	Laredo Nixon	23-13	{lost in Bi-District to the state finalist SA Marshall 65-58}
67.	South San West	30-5	{lost in District playoff 29-5A to Laredo Nixon 70-63}
68.	Duncanville	24-11	{battled in District 9-5A, District runner-up}
69.	S. A. Fox Tech	22-12	{traditional power, ranked in the top ten in San Antonio}
70.	Pt. Neches Groves	23-13	{Finished 4 th in 22-5A behind, Lincoln, Pollard, French}
71.	S.A. Sam Houston	22-13	{traditional power, ranked in the top ten in San Antonio}
72.	South Garland	23-12	{gave Longview their first loss of the season 41-40}
73.	North Mesquite	29-8	{finished tied for 3rd in district to Hutch and H.P.}
74.	Eules Trinity	21-14	{9-5A, finished behind G. Prairie, Irving Mac., Duncanville}
75.	Converse Judson	18-12	{defeated Midland 74-63, lost to Kashmere in OT}
76.	El Paso Andress	27-10	{lost district playoff to EP Burges 56-44}
77.	Irving MacArthur	26-11	{took first half of District 9-5A, finished behind G. Prairie}
78.	Richardson Pearce	22-14	{lost out in playoff to Plano and Lake Highlands, 13-5A}
79.	Pasadena	20-9	{finished runner-up to Deer Park in District}
80.	Galena Park NS	19-13	{placed 3 rd behind Deer Park and Pasadena in District}
81.	El Paso Ysleta	14-12	{lost in three way tie with Eastwood and Riverside}
82.	Carrollton RL Turner	16-16	{lost a District playoff with Lake Highlands, Plano, Pearce}
83.	Pt. Arthur Jefferson	18-14	{finished tied for 4 th behind Lincoln, French, Pollard}

1982 AAAAA

The 1982 season in class 5-A was very reminiscent of the 1976 season. Many of the premier teams in the state were rebuilding, especially in Dallas and Ft. Worth and the Houston areas. Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-9) had its weakest team in years, Clear Lake(29-5) was down and didn't make the playoffs, Houston's strongest inner-city schools like Wheatley(29-7), Milby, Madison(24-10) and Jones were having down seasons. Dallas South Oak Cliff(21-10) had one of its weaker teams and Dallas Roosevelt(32-3), the top team in Dallas throughout the season, didn't make the playoffs.

Having said all of this, the '82 season was one of the most entertaining of the decade as new teams emerged to grab the spotlight. More and more the inner-city teams were losing their grasp on the higher classifications. Coaching, facilities, money, camps, fan support, all played critical roles in the dramatic improvements of the game and its popularity.

In pre-season magazines, Houston Yates(33-4) was picked #18 in the nation by Street & Smith Magazine. The Lions were a junior dominated team and would really hit their stride during the 1983 campaign.

*The **Arlington Classic** was still relevant, but it was losing its glamor as more and more quality tournaments continued to appear. Also, there were so many more strong teams than in years past. The Classic still attracted the perennial powers such as Dallas Roosevelt(32-3), South Oak Cliff(21-10), Houston Wheatley(29-7) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-9). Two-time defending tournament champ, Dallas Roosevelt returned as the favorite to win their third title in a row. In an early season game prior to the tournament Dallas S.O.C.(21-10) lost to Houston Wheatley(29-7) 108-96. It was S.O.C.'s only loss during the early season. S.O.C. coach Henry Warren felt Wheatley was the favorite in the Arlington Classic, "I'm telling you those guys can play." Warren continued, "I think they're as good as the team Wheatley won the state title with three or four years ago, maybe better." Dallas Carter(24-7) pulled out of the tournament giving Plano(29-5) a first round bye. In other first round action, Dunbar(30-9) beat Arlington High 69-59, Wheatley(29-7) downed Wilmer Hutchins(25-10) 108-93, and S.O.C.(21-10) beat Denton(26-9) by one point 52-51. Teams advancing were Dallas Roosevelt(32-3), Ft. Worth Paschal(26-10) and Duncanville(28-7). In the second round, Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-9) upset Wheatley(29-7) 89-87, Duncanville(28-7) upset S.O.C.(21-10) 75-60 and Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) advanced against Ft. Worth Paschal(26-10) 87-66. Keith Johnson of Duncanville had 33 points in the win over S.O.C.(21-10) and Deon Hunter poured in 21 points for the Golden Bears. Deon Hunter is a name you need to remember for the Golden Bears of S.O.C., he is going to have an impact on Dallas basketball. As just a sophomore, he was a difference maker. In the semis, Plano(29-5) continued their mastery over Ft.*

Worth Dunbar(30-9) 55-53 and Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) dominated everybody beating Duncanville(28-7) 62-46.

In the finals, Plano(29-5) played Roosevelt(32-3) close losing 39-35. For the Mustangs it was their third title in a row. It took Ronell Peters two foul shots late in the action to gain the victory. Carl Wright was named tournament MVP. The Wildcats of Plano out rebounded Roosevelt 35-27 in the finals. Dunbar(30-9) won the third-place game over Duncanville(28-7) 69-57 and Denton(26-9) won consolation. Wheatley(29-7) won the fourth-place game beating Dallas S.O.C.(21-10) 107-104.

Historically, winners of the Arlington Classic made big runs in the state playoffs. Past winners included Ft. Worth Dunbar in 1976-77 and 1977-78, Plano took the title in the 1978-79 season and Dallas Roosevelt came away with three straight titles, 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82.

The Stallions of North Mesquite(38-3) were beginning to grab some attention early in the season after an 8-0 start. The Stallions had a big win over South Garland(27-6) 62-50 in the finals of the **Pearce-Berkner tournament** in Richardson. 6'1" Matt Nelson scored 24 points and 6'4" Brian Essary put in 22 for the Stallions. Coach Ron Powell's team were considered one of the favorites in the **Pepsi-Cola in Mesquite**. Waxahachie(30-7) came in to the tournament undefeated along with a talented team from East Texas, Tyler Lee(30-5). This was a very formidable field. Other strong teams in the field were, Lake Highlands(23-10), Dallas S.O.C.(21-10) and defending champion Dallas Hillcrest(24-8).

Tyler Lee(30-5) was very impressive taking down Waxahachie(30-7) 56-54 in overtime. Jeff Kaman hit an off-balanced shot with two seconds left to end things after a second overtime. Charles Young was the key performer for the Raiders scoring 19 points against the Indians, while Jeff Kaman had 18 points. For the Indians of Waxahachie, Todd Alexander had 23 points. Lake Highlands shocked S.O.C.(21-10) 72-51, advancing to the semi-finals and Dallas Hillcrest(24-8) made the semis as well beating Mesquite 53-39. Coach Jack Clark's Wildcats came away with a quality win over North Mesquite(38-3) and Tyler Lee(30-5) advanced beating Hillcrest(24-8). In the finals, Charles Young of Tyler Lee(30-5) put on an exhibition scoring 30 points with 11 rebounds in the Raiders 59-39 win over Lake Highlands(23-10).

Earlier in the season Tyler Lee(30-5) had won the **Scots Classic in Highland Park** beating Highland Park(20-12) 83-69, along with the **DeSoto Invitational** beating DeSoto 62-56. With the impressive wins Tyler Lee(30-5) was considered one of the top teams in the state. Also, Charles Young was impressing everyone who watched him play.

Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) met Waxahachie(30-7) in an early season showdown between 5-A and 4-A powers. The Mustangs remained undefeated

beating Hachie(30-7) 74-68. Carl Wright had 35 points while Alexander hit 20 for Waxahachie. Plano(29-5) had another solid win over Grand Prairie(20-14) 50-46.

In the **Clear Creek tournament**, the defending tourney champ Longview(22-11), knocked off one of the top teams in the state, San Antonio Sam Houston(31-4) 70-68 in overtime. The game was a first-round match-up, but none the less a big win for the Lobos. Coach LeRoy Romines commented, "We went into the game thinking we couldn't press. People had told me they thrive on the press but after we got going, we felt we could do it and it worked." Longview(22-11) turned right around and had an emotional let down against West Orange Stark(19-11) losing 58-53. The Lobos recovered against Austin Reagan(23-10) 64-55 and lost to Pasadena Dobie(30-6) 48-47.

The **San Marcos Bobcat Classic** showcased some of the top teams in the state once again. Galveston Ball(35-6) advanced all the way to the finals defeating San Marcos(21-12) 83-53, Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-9) 63-52, Spring Branch Memorial(36-5) 68-62 and lost in the finals to San Antonio Churchill(36-3) 60-55. John Moseley and Gary Heyland led the way for the Chargers of Churchill with 19 and 17 points in the title game. Ball was paced by John Chaney and Carl Hilton, both with 16 points. The win by the Chargers elevated them as not only the top team in San Antonio, but also Texas. Churchill(36-3) played two out of state teams while advancing to the finals. The Chargers defeated Fayetteville, Arkansas 45-42 and Crowley, Louisiana 52-42. Churchill also came away with a big win in semis defeating the always strong Falcons of Clear Lake(29-5) 49-38.

Other key games in San Marcos were as follows: Spring Branch ran down Victoria(25-10) 59-53, Clear Lake(29-5) defeated Abilene Cooper 72-42, Crowley, La. beat Houston Milby(17-12) 61-49, and Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-9) defeated Houston Westchester 52-46.

The All-Tournament team was led by M.V.P. Gary Heyland of Churchill, Brad Meyer of Clear Lake, Brett Harrison of Lake, Matt Minnis from Spring Branch Memorial, Eric Poerschke of S.B. Memorial, Sedic Walker from Dallas Skyline, Lawrence Hudson from Dunbar, Carl Hilton and Oscar White from Galveston Ball and Pat Hymel from Churchill.

The **Optimist Classic Tournament in San Antonio** was the top tournament in the state in 1981-82. The Dallas schools were able to make the trip after being forced to sit out the previous season. This really added to the tournament excitement having the top teams in Dallas, Ft. Worth, Houston and San Antonio. Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) and Houston Yates(33-4) both entered the tournament undefeated. Houston Yates(33-4) showed their talent defeating a future playoff team, South San Antonio(24-10) 100-55 in the first round. Carvin Holcombe was the leader for the Lions with 22 points and Joe Green and Ricky Winslow added 19 and 18 points. Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) won easily over St. Gerard's 84-67. Carl Wright led the Mustangs with 28 points and Gary Rogers added 15. James Friday paced St.

Gerard's with 16 points. Coach Ellis Davis of Roosevelt said, "we've got some great talent but not great height." Other first round winners were S.A. Churchill(37-3) defeating Midland(22-9) 71-64, S.A. Sam Houston(31-4) dropped Houston Waltrip 50-42, and S. A. MacArthur beat Deer Park 64-42.

In second round action, Houston Yates(33-4) defeated Irving 58-47 and S.A. Jefferson(24-9) 54-45. Two of the top teams in the state faced off when Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) got by San Antonio Sam Houston(31-4) 73-71 in three overtimes. David Moss was high man for the Cherokees with 16 points and Don Royster finished with 16 as well. Gary Rogers was top scorer for the Mustangs with 23 points. Ronell Peters made a big steal and drove in for a lay-up for the victory. Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) also defeated S.A. MacArthur 60-59 in another close victory. Peters had 18 points and Carl Wright knocked in 16 points. S.A. Churchill(37-3) came away with a very impressive victory over Houston Kashmere(23-10) 70-63. The Rams were always strong and talented. Gary Heyland led the Chargers with a season high 34 points and Paul Lattin paced Kashmere with 16 points. Churchill(37-3) beat another future playoff team in Bryan(29-7) 84-60. Pat Hymel paced Churchill with 28 points. Nacogdoches(21-12) did East Texas proud defeating Houston Smiley(21-9) 54-44 and Ft. Worth Paschal(26-10) 59-53. The Paschal Panthers came back to defeat S. A. Lee(19-16) 57-53. Waymon Brown put in 25 points for Coach Wall. Midland(22-9) had a good win over S.A. Fox Tech 77-74.

The semi-final dream match-up between Houston Yates(33-4) and Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) didn't disappoint. Yates won a hard fought 54-50 victory. The incredible aspect of the win for the Lions was they played three quarters without one of the top juniors in the state, 6'8" Ricky Winslow. Winslow had to get some stitches in his mouth and returned for the 4th quarter. The championship pitted probably the two best teams in the state, with the possible exception of Galveston Ball. Churchill(37-3) vs Houston Yates(33-4), for a showdown of not only the Optimist championship, but the top ranking in the state. Churchill(37-3) showed their ball control and consistency leading from start to finish, winning 54-51. At one point the Chargers were up 50-35 before they began to get conservative. Yates closed the gap to 52-49 with only 10 seconds remaining. Wally Kennell of Churchill knocked down two free throws to seal the victory. The Lions were undefeated and had been on a 16-game winning streak. "We felt that overall, they were bigger, stronger and quicker than us," Coach Bobby Murphy of Churchill said. "We wanted to control the tempo, but we weren't going to be afraid to run if the fast break was there. We got the fifteen-point lead and we just seemed to quit."

6'4" Gary Heyland won another tournament M.V.P. and led Churchill with 17 points and John Moseley helped with 13 points, while Pat Hymel and Kennell finished with 10 points apiece. For Yates, Winslow and Holcombe each had 15 points. "Our kids have accepted their roles," Murphy said.

All-Tournament was a who's who of the top players in the state. David Moss of San Antonio Sam Houston, Glenn MacLeay from S.A. MacArthur, Paul Lattin of Houston Kashmere, Glenn Sullivan of Irving, Dwight Green of S.A. Highlands, Ray Danielak from San Antonio Jay, Corley Frost of Converse Judson, Mark Deckerd of Nacogdoches, Darin Knowlton from Deer Park, Carl Wright of Dallas Roosevelt, Joe Green from Yates and Moseley from Churchill.

The Beaumont/Pt. Arthur area had their usual three tournaments in which the top teams in the area all participated. Beaumont Hebert(30-3) dominated the scene having defeated Beaumont French(27-7), Pt. Arthur Lincoln(21-9), and Beaumont Pollard(13-15). Early in the season the Panthers stood 4-0 against these top contenders. Hebert(30-3) downed Lincoln(21-9) by 14 points, French(27-7) by 13 and Pollard(13-15) by 19. Coach Gamble of Lincoln said, "I think they are as good as last year's club." In the annual **YMBL tournament** in Beaumont, the top schools in the area were all invited. Hebert defeated Beaumont French(27-7) with a 35-foot desperation shot by Nate Crossley to get the win 61-59 in overtime. State ranked Galveston Ball(35-6) traveled down the coast to really add some more quality to the already outstanding line-up. The Tornados went back home with two losses. Pollard(13-15) squeezed by Ball(35-6) with a 52-49 win, and in the consolation bracket, Ball(35-6) suffered their second loss to Beaumont French(27-7) 74-59. The Tornados had come into the tourney undefeated.

In the semi-finals, Pt. Arthur Lincoln(21-9) clipped Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson(17-16) 56-54. In the finals against Lincoln(21-9), Hebert(30-3) continued the longest winning streak in the state in class 4-A with a 61-34 win. The win improved the Panthers 32-game winning streak and moved their record to 9-0. Coach Williams of Hebert said following the lopsided win, "Lincoln fought a great battle with Thomas Jefferson and after that they were physically and mentally exhausted for our game. We had the opportunity to get some rest. Plus, we are older. My kids are juniors and seniors, while his kids are primarily sophomores and juniors." 6'3" Rahn Bailey hurt Lincoln inside with 21 points and 10 rebounds. Nate Crossley added 10 points. Pollard(13-15) won the 3rd place game over Thomas Jefferson(17-16) 70-55. Pt. Neches Groves(25-8) showed their talent defeating Beaumont French(27-7) 48-47 in the consolation bracket finals.

John Mouton and Troy Dodd were also named All-Tournament from French along with Donald Guillory of Pollard. 6'1" Tim McKyer came off the football field and was named All-Tournament for Pt. Arthur Lincoln(21-9). McKyer had an incredible football career in the N.F.L. He was a two-time Super Bowl winner the 49ers and one with the Broncos. He played twelve years in the league. His college career was at U.T. Arlington.

Pt. Arthur Lincoln(21-9) played a home and home with Houston powerhouse Washington High(23-8). The Bumblebees lost both games 61-45 and by 18 points. 6'8" Victor Richardson of Houston Washington(23-8) finished with 18

points, 13 rebounds, 5 blocks in the second win over the Bumblebees. Lincoln(21-9) was paced by 6'6" R.C. Mullins and 6'3" Marcus Gipson. "Washington is the biggest and most physical team we've played this year," Coach Gamble explained. Lincoln could only manage 19 of 57 from the floor against Washington(23-8). Richardson had transferred in from Corpus Christi.

The next big tourney in the Golden Triangle was at **Nederland**. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(21-9) pulled the upset of the tourney knocking off previously unbeaten Hebert(30-3) 75-67 in the finals. "This game wasn't a do-or-die situation for us," Coach Fred Williams of Hebert conveyed. "I thought we played well Lincoln just played a little better. You have to lose some time," Williams said. "We have won 35 consecutive games, now that we've been beat, we're just going to go back and work harder." Barry Scuggs and McKyer were named All-Tournament for Lincoln.

The Christmas holiday tournament in Pt. Arthur was sponsored by Thomas Jefferson. The **Yellowjacket Basketball Tournament** brought all the top teams in the area together once again. Beaumont Hebert(30-3) was the team to beat and advanced to the semi-finals with a nice 74-66 win over Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson(17-16). Beaumont French(27-7) was waiting for Hebert in the semi-finals and came away with a 77-74 upset win. Coach Mike Mitchell of French was in his third year with the Buffaloes. Mitchell was elated with the win. Jetsen Egins, Gary Patton and John Mouton paced Beaumont French. Mouton led the scoring with 18 points. "This was a revenge game for us because we haven't beaten them since I've been here," Coach Mitchell said. French had lost twice earlier in the season to the Panthers. Nate Crossley finished with 19 points and Rahn Bailey contributed 17 for Hebert. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(21-9) took down Beaumont Pollard(13-15) in the other semi-finals game 72-61. In the championship game French(27-7) beat district rival Lincoln(21-9) 52-48, and Hebert(30-3) won the 3rd place game 92-81 over Pollard(13-15).

One of the biggest turn arounds in the area happened at Vidor, who finished 0-26 the previous season. Mark Weir was named the new coach and did an outstanding job getting things turned in the right direction by making Vidor competitive. Weir would later coach at McKinney High and produce several powerhouse teams in the 1990s.

The **West Side Lions Club** Tournament went out and brought in a national power, DeMatha out of Washington D.C. DeMatha was one of the elite programs in the country. DeMatha's appearance brought a great deal of attention to the tournament for the first time. Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-9) and Ft. Worth Paschal (26-10) decided to stay in Ft. Worth over the holiday's instead of traveling to Dallas for the Dr. Pepper tournament. These two schools had been the top drawing cards in Ft. Worth for several years. With DeMatha in the tournament, Cowtown basketball was going to another level. West Side Lions Club tournament or better known as the "Whataburger Tournament" is still one of the premier tourneys in the country.

If you are familiar with DeMatha, please bear with me. DeMatha was a national basketball power coached by the legendary Morgan Wootten. A lot of the players received scholarships out of high school and the school was located in Hyattsville, a suburb of Washington D.C. The Stags recruited the entire northeast area and drew the best players from the D.C. area. Actually, they didn't have to recruit because everybody wanted to attend the school. It was a privilege because of their reputation. Dematha was a Catholic institution and very small with a strong educational background. Wootten had been there for 26 years and won several titles at many different levels. Their most famous win was ending Lew Alcindor's 71 game winning streak at Power Memorial in New York City. Alcindor became the N.B.A.'s all-time scoring leader as Kareem Abdul Jabbar. Alcindor, Wilt Chamberlin, Connie Hawkins and LeBron are considered some of the greatest high school players ever.

Ft. Worth Paschal(26-10) met DeMatha High in the first round and trailed at intermission 37-33. Keith Buckley paced the Panthers with 16 points in their 70-59 loss to the Stags. DeMatha put Paschal(26-10) in the loser's bracket and the Panthers went on to win the consolation bracket 68-67 over Ft. Worth Eastern Hills. Followers of Wildcat basketball were looking forward to a Dunbar-DeMatha final. Dunbar(30-9) won their first two rounds over Ft. Worth Richland(24-8) 54-49 and Eules Trinity(22-12) 65-43, but were upset in the semis 47-46 by Ft. Worth Southwest. Dunbar(30-9) defeated Grand Prairie(20-14) in the third-place game 53-49. DeMatha beat Grand Prairie(20-14) 58-51 in the other semi-finals game.

In the finals Patrick Smith hit two foul shots with 10 seconds left to give DeMatha(10-0) 52-49 over Ft. Worth Southwest in front of 4,000 fans. DeMatha trailed the entire game due to the defense of 6'9" Anthony Fobbs and 6'6" Norman Anderson of Ft. Worth Southwest. Fobbs got into serious foul trouble in the 3rd quarter which changed the game. "If the big guy doesn't get into foul trouble, then we lose by 10 or 12," Wootten said following the game.

Fobbs went on to play ball at the University of Tulsa for Nolan Richardson and had a nice career. He grew to 6'11" after his college career. He opened a popular BBQ restaurant in Tulsa called Big Anthony's BBQ after college.

*In the **Dr. Pepper Tournament** in Dallas, Roosevelt(32-3) entered the tournament with one loss, which came at the hands of Houston Yates(33-4) by three points in the San Antonio tournament. "They have an excellent team, probably the best in the state," Coach Davis said about Yates. The Mustangs also held a big win over Tyler Lee(30-5) 67-65. North Mesquite(38-3) brought a 13-1 record into the Dr. Pepper while Denton((26-9) came in at 10-4 led by 6'6" Doyle Franklin. High scoring Dallas Carter(24-7) had an explosive line-up as well.*

In the opening round the three favorites, Dallas Roosevelt(32-3), Dallas Carter(24-7) and North Mesquite(38-3) advanced. Roosevelt(32-3) beat North Dallas 103-59. Dallas Carter(24-7) beat Dallas Madison 101-86 with Ronnie Singleton

hitting 38 points. Dallas Bishop Dunne upset Dallas Carter 80-78 behind Donald Morton and Mark Norman in the 2nd round. Morton had 28 points and Norman added 21. Roosevelt(32-3) advanced destroying Denton(26-9) 65-36 and North Mesquite(38-3) continued to win beating Dallas Samuel 58-45. Wilmer Hutchins(25-10) gained the finals by beating Bishop Dunne 68-67 and Roosevelt(32-3) was too much for North Mesquite(38-3), winning 67-50. North Mesquite's leading scorer, Brian Essary got into early foul trouble and that was it for the Stallions. Coach Powell said after the game, "Roosevelt has an outstanding team and probably the best team in the state. They have a lot of talent and a lot of depth." For North Mesquite, it was their second loss of the season. Roosevelt(32-3) easily defeated Wilmer Hutchins(25-10) in the finals 73-56. "I would have to say it is one of the strongest and most balanced Roosevelt teams I have faced," Coach Homer Smith of Wilmer Hutchins said after the game.

Houston Yates(33-4) was the top team in Houston as the **Jaycee Tournament** approached. The Lions had one of the most talented teams the state had seen in a while. Big, strong, fast, skilled... Yates had a record of 18-1 as the holiday approached. The only blemish on the record was a 54-51 loss at the hands of San Antonio Churchill(37-3) in the finals of Optimist Tournament in San Antonio. Right before the tournament, Yates(33-4) played a non-District contest against arch rival Houston Wheatley(29-7). The Wildcats won a close one 88-87 to give the Lions two losses. Roy Waddy led Wheatley with 20 points. In the 32-team Jaycee tournament the seeded teams were as follows: Houston Yates(33-4), Houston Madison((24-10), Houston Milby(17-12), Houston Washington(23-8), Houston Wheatley(29-7), Houston Kashmere(23-10), Bryan(29-7) and Galveston Ball(35-6).

Houston Wheatley(29-7) won their first-round contest 130-62 over Corpus Christi King. King committed 64 turnovers in the game. All fifteen players scored for Coach Jackie Carr's team. Peabody, out of Alexandria, Louisiana did much better against the Wildcats attack, losing 110-98 in the second round. La Marque(25-8) eliminated the tournament favorite, Houston Yates(33-4) in the second round 62-58. The Lions fell to 18-3 on the season having lost three of their last four games. Alvin Franklin ripped the nets for 26 points for La Marque(25-8). Yates(33-4) had defeated Houston Bellaire in the opener 68-48. Houston Madison(24-10) lost two straight and was knocked out of the tournament. Madison(24-10) lost to Houston Sharpstown 68-60 and Houston Jones 70-64.

Houston Furr(26-7) was led by Troy Alexander's 15 points and Kenneth Clark's 17 points in their team's 69-67 win over Houston Jones in the semis. Galveston Ball(35-6) defeated Houston Wheatley(29-7) 89-86 in the other semi-finals matchup. Redell Morris hit 26 points and Oscar White added 19 for the Tornadoes in the win. Fred Demerson paced Wheatley(29-7) with 24 points. Houston Furr(26-7) had eliminated La Marque(25-8) in a squeaker 73-72 in the quarterfinals.

Franklin was high man with 26 points for La Marque(25-8), while Furr had Kenneth Clark, Jesse Green and Troy Alexander all in double figures.

In the finals, Houston Furr(25-8) defeated the Tornadoes(35-6) 73-69. Furr became the first smaller school to ever win the Jaycee Tournament. 5'7" Kenneth Clark led the pack scoring 27 points for Furr from long range. Clark also was 11 of 13 from the foul line. 6'5" Wilfred Howray was key for Furr coming off the bench for some big minutes. Oscar White led Ball with 18 points. Wheatley(29-7) took the 3rd place game over Houston Jones 96-85. Houston Sam Houston(23-9) was the winner of the consolation bracket 54-50 defeating Forest Park(19-14).

The **Jaycees All-Tourney team** was made up of Alvin Franklin of La Marque, Odelle Roberts of Forest Park, Lincoln Jones of Houston Sam Houston, Fred Demerson from Houston Wheatley, George Badineaux from Houston Jones, Kenneth Clark from Houston Furr, John Solomon from Wheatley, Rudell Morris from Galveston Ball, Troy Alexander from Houston Furr and Oscar White of Ball.

There was a lot to take away from the Jaycee tournament. One thing that was for certain was Galveston Ball(35-6) was going to be dealt with in Region III. This was clearly Ball's best team and they were battle tested. In the early rounds of the tournament, Galveston Ball(35-6) had defeated Houston St. Thomas 98-79, Bryan(29-7) 95-75, Houston Kashmere(23-10) 86-63 and Houston Wheatley(29-7) 89-86. Ball(35-6) came into the tournament with an impressive 12-4 record. Carl Hilton of Ball was putting up some dominating numbers during the tourney. Against Bryan he produced 24 points and 18 rebounds and against Kashmere(23-10) he continued with 12 points and 18 rebounds. Hilton was one of the top football recruits in the state and signed with the University of Houston. An exceptional athlete, Hilton moved on to the N.F.L. as a tight end for the Minnesota Vikings. He played four seasons as a professional.

Another holiday tournament that created interest was the **Plano Invitational** with Dallas Kimball(23-5) and Duncanville(28-7) in the field of eight teams. Plano(29-5) advanced to the finals beating Texarkana 81-48 and Duncanville(28-7) beat Dallas Kimball(23-5) 61-55. In the finals Plano(29-5) took down Duncanville(28-7) 34-33.

In the first state polls, Dallas Roosevelt(17-1) came in at #1, Jersey Village(18-1) #2, S.A. Churchill(14-2) #3, Houston Wheatley(16-6) #4, Houston Yates(19-3) #5, S.A. Sam Houston(17-3) #6, Clear Lake(17-2) #7, Beaumont French(14-4) #8, Plano(15-3) #9 and Killeen(19-2) #10. North Mesquite(20-2) came in at #12 and Tyler Lee(15-3) came in at #13.

Region I Playoffs

Denton(25-8)

El Paso(26-8)

Plainview(18-10)

Ft. W. Dunbar(29-8) #14

Abilene (25-7)

El Paso Eastwood(25-9)

Pampa(26-4) #9

Ft. W. Richland(26-7) #19

Top Players in Region I

6'3"	Mike Nelson	Pampa
6'1"	John Dudley	Wichita Falls Rider
6'4"	Gil Wright	Plainview
6'1"	Ricky Speed	Ft. Worth Dunbar
6'5"	Mark Perkins	Ft. Worth Richland
6'1"	Rick Arce	El Paso High
6'4"	Terry Faggins	Pampa
5'10"	Ahmad Holmes	El Paso High

Anytime you discuss Region I in class 5-A the first team that comes to mind is the "Flying Wildcats" of Ft. Worth Dunbar. Over-all the region was down and so was Dunbar. There were no super talents, which left the door open for teams that had not been able to advance in years past. Some of the names were the same, but Ft. Worth Dunbar and El Paso Eastwood were rebuilding and not as strong as previous seasons.

One of the shockers of Region I came out of El Paso. Coach C.D. Jarvis of El Paso High(26-8) was well known for his teams deliberate and patient offensive attack. Jarvis had not been blessed with a great deal of talent dating back to his team's last appearance in the playoffs in 1973. The Tigers '82 season had been a roller-coaster ride. Five players were dismissed from the team after a road trip to Amarillo in pre-district. The players had violated team rules and were punished with two players eventually returning. "We lost four games after that," senior Rick Arce said. The first game back El Paso Eastwood dominated(25-10) the Tigers 67-40. A key player on the 1982 squad for Coach Jarvis was 6'3" Steve Cortez, who had been ineligible the previous season after moving in from out of state. His inside game gave the Tigers a new dimension. In the El Paso Jefferson tournament El Paso High(26-8) got revenge against Eastwood(25-10) 44-43.

In District, El Paso was very shaky losing to E.P. Jefferson, E.P. Bowie, E.P. Austin, E.P. Coronado and E.P. Burges. The Tigers finished 9-5 in District action but defeated El Paso Coronado 37-29 and El Paso Irvin 35-28 to win the District 1-5A tournament.

In pre-district El Paso High(26-8) lost to Amarillo Tascosa(21-7) 42-38, Eastwood(25-10) and El Paso Hanks 49-46. Three players were key to the ball control attack of Coach Jarvis. 6'1" Rick Arce, who was named the District M.V.P., Steve Cortez and lightning quick 5'10" Ahmad Holmes. Holmes had also moved into El Paso from St. Louis. The other two starters were 5'7" Mike Cervin and 6'0" Darryl

Davidson. The Tigers were not state ranked but rather just an afterthought entering Region I competition.

El Paso Eastwood(25-9) always turned heads because of their long winning tradition. The Troopers had won their 7th straight 2-5A District title. Coach Bob Lesley's '82 squad looked to two dominating players inside, 6'5" Rick Clark and 6'7" David Singh. Eastwood's other starters were 6'3" Nate Shepherd, 6'3" Johnny Gipson and 6'4" Jeff Watts. Remember the Troopers had advanced all the way to the regional finals the year before, eventually losing to Ft. Worth Dunbar. Eastwood's season had been very difficult overall during the 1982 season. Eastwood lost twice to El Paso Bel Air in District, but won a playoff against Bel Air to win the regular season. In the District tournament, Eastwood lost in the semi-finals to El Paso Hanks. So, Eastwood faced the tournament champion Hanks for the playoff spot. Coach Lesley's team took down Hanks 57-49 to advance to the playoffs.

The playoffs were set with E.P. Eastwood(25-9) facing the surprising Tigers from El Paso High. Both coaches had claimed state titles earlier in their careers, with Lesley winning the title in 1976, and Jarvis taking the championship way back in 1947. Jarvis was in his 37th season at El Paso High. In looking at the upcoming game between El Paso and Eastwood(25-9) Coach Lesley said, "It boils down to one thing, we're going to be trying to go inside. Our inside game is solid. If we're successful, I have confidence." Coach Jarvis was very worried about the game with his team being off for so long before the playoffs began. Bench strength was another area of concern for the Tigers. Eastwood(25-9) could bring six players off the bench compared to only two for El Paso. Coach Jarvis said, "We have to control tempo, we can't come down with one pass and put it up. I pray we don't get into foul trouble."

The El Paso city championship was played U.T.E.P. Special Events Center. In a low scoring affair, the Tigers(27-8) downed Eastwood(25-10) 45-35 in an upset. Eastwood had been up and down all season. "We got their big men in foul trouble and that was the difference. They had to go bring in their reserves and when they went to their bench, it was over because they're not as good without their big men," Arce said.

Rick Clark was held to only 9 points while David Singh was in constant foul trouble, leaving the game with only 2 points. Nate Shepherd was the only double-digit scorer for Eastwood with 11 points. Rick Arce finished with 19 points going 9 of 12 from the floor to lead El Paso High(27-8). Steve Cortez added 14 points while Holmes hit 10. The Tigers hit six straight foul shots late to nail down the victory.

"With those big men they have, we had to front them instead of playing behind, we gambled on interceptions," Coach Jarvis said. Coach Lesley was really upset with the physical play inside, which limited his team's ability to score. "The ball went inside and they were pushing and shoving, which they have to do because we're bigger."

Denton High(25-8) advanced to the playoffs for the second year in a row by defeating Sherman 69-41. Tim Duryea scored 21 points for the Broncos and 6'6" post, Doyle Franklin, blocked six shots in the victory. Coach Maurice Evans had really established a winning attitude with the Broncos. Evans himself was a former player for the Broncos.

Denton(25-8) looked to play Abilene(25-8) in Bi-District. For Abilene(25-8), it was their first playoff appearance since their miracle run to state in 1978 with David Little. Denton(25-8) and Abilene(25-8) met in Stephenville. Abilene was led by Coach Dub Pierce and had a very balanced scoring attack. Brett Enzor(12.7) led the scoring for the Eagles and was named sophomore of the year in District. John Chalk(12.3) was named to the 11 man 1st team on the 5-5A All-District squad, while Shannon Daniel(12.1) and Mike Simmons(12.2) were named honorable mention. The game was very close the entire way with Denton pulling out a 54-52 victory. Tim Duryea hit 18 points for Denton(26-8) while Les Hines had 14 points to lead Abilene(25-9).

Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-9) prepared for another playoff run in 1982. The Wildcats had made the journey to state four times in the previous five years. Their only omission came in 1978 with the upset loss to Abilene. Only Houston Wheatley back in the late 1960s and early 1970s had shown this type of dominance in the state's largest classification. But for Coach Hughes, the Wildcats had lost most of their high flyers of the past. Robert Hughes Jr. was at Texas and Willie Ashley was with T.C.U. Very little was returning from their state semi-finalist squad. While in the rebuilding mode, Rickey Speed and Wayne Mathis were the only key players returning for Dunbar. Lacking the overpowering size of their teams in the past, Dunbar(30-9) wrapped up their seventh straight District title with a 91-61 win over Ft. Worth Paschal(26-10). A perfect 14-0 record by the Wildcats was impressive. Ft. Worth Paschal(26-10) finished runner-up at 11-3. Ft. Worth Western Hills had a fine season going 20-13 and was 9-5 in District action taking 3rd place.

As the Wildcats prepared for the playoffs, they once again took on Waxahachie(30-7) in a warm-up game. The Indians were talented and presented a real test for the Wildcats. The game was played at Wilkerson-Greines in Ft. Worth. The Indians had beaten Dunbar(30-9) earlier in the season 62-57. Waxahachie was not so fortunate this time losing 73-60. At one-point Dunbar(30-9) was up 47-28 and were paced by junior guard Lawrence Hudson with 27 points. William Johnson added 15 for the Wildcats and Ricky Speed had 13. For Waxahachie(30-7), Todd Alexander finished with 15 points and Lloyd Price knocked in 13 points. Both team's rosters were dominated by underclassmen. The Indians and Wildcats would be two of the strongest teams in the state in 1983.

*In **8-5A**, Haltom(15-18) defeated Ft. Worth Richland(24-8) in the final District contest 61-54, which threw the District race into a three-way playoff.*

Haltom was in the Birdville school District. It was the first time in 29 meetings over a period of 13 years that a Haltom(15-18) team had beaten Richland(24-8).

The Buffaloes John Wygle hit 8 of 10 foul shots down the stretch to seal the victory for Haltom. Wygle finished with 18 points and Jay Crane had 21. The victory by the Buffaloes put Richland and Haltom in a tie for the 2nd round of District.

Arlington Bowie had tied Richland for the 1st half title. This meant that Arlington Bowie would play Haltom and the winner would play Richland for District.

Haltom had an impressive inside game of 6'8" Jay Crane and 6'7" Bill Wirskye. An inexperienced backcourt plagued the Buffaloes against stronger competition. Haltom defeated Arlington Bowie to advance to the District title game against Richland 46-44. Crane was the leader for the Buffaloes with 15 points. With a playoff spot on the line along with the 8-5A District Championship, Richland defeated Haltom(15-18) 52-42 at Billingsley Field House. 6'5" Mark Perkins led the winners with 13 points, followed by Zack Carroll with 11. Crane scored 21 points for the Buffaloes.

Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-8) was in their familiar place in the state playoffs for the seventh year in a row against Ft. Worth Richland. Richland(26-7) was making their third playoff appearance in four years. Unfortunately, they always faced Dunbar in the first-round match-up. Dunbar had the shortest team since Hughes had taken over at Dunbar in 1974. Coach Hughes had no real dominating players inside for the first time. "This is my kind of team," Hughes said. "Short, quick, they play good defense, they can run or walk." 6'1" Ricky Speed, 6'3" John Johnson and 6'4" Elliott Allen were key contributors for the Wildcats. Dunbar had one of the top backcourts in the state with 5'10" Lawrence Hudson and Wayne Mathis.

Ft. Worth Richland(26-7) enjoyed running as well and counted on the inside game of 6'5" Mark Perkins(20.0). "Perkins is the key," Coach West said. "If Perkins has a good game, we'll have a good game." Other players for Coach West were 6'3" Kris Keller, Kirk Hamm, 6'0" Zack Carroll and 5'10" Cliff Farmer.

The Wildcats took a convincing 82-58 playoff win over Richland. Ricky Speed led the Wildcats with 21 points, Lawrence Hudson had 17 and Elliott Allen finished with 11. For Richland, 6'5" Mark Perkins was high point man with 22 points. "We were not ready to play Dunbar," said Ken West, the Richland coach. "We were intimidated by them. Their quickness just tore us up. Dunbar's got a better ball club than anybody has given them credit." The Wildcats dominated the glass with a 48-35 advantage. Dunbar took an early lead at 29-13 over Richland and the Rebels never got untracked. The crowd of 7,000 at the Tarrant County Convention Center was a problem for both teams. "The crowd definitely had an effect," West said. Wayne Mathis, Lawrence Hudson and Fred Hamilton did a great job penetrating the Richland matchup zone defense.

Pampa(26-4) advanced to the playoffs against Plainview(18-10) in Bi-District at West Texas State Field House. Pampa got past Amarillo Tascosa(22-7) in

District action 71-55 to make the playoffs. Plainview(18-10) on the other hand went undefeated in District action with a perfect 8-0 record. The two teams had met the previous year in Bi-District with Pampa winning a close one 53-52. Plainview held a win over Pampa in pre-district action 63-61.

Two of the top players in West Texas were on display in the game between Pampa(26-4) and Plainview(18-10). 6'3" Mike Nelson(18.2) was outstanding for Pampa and Gil Wright(21.0) would lead Plainview. Nelson was a three-year starter for Coach Garland Nichols and scored 22 points in the Harvesters win over Amarillo Tascosa. Nelson also had pumped in 40 points earlier in the season against Clovis, New Mexico in a 105-61 win. He's their big gun," Coach Dan Hamrick of Plainview said.

As good as Nelson was he was not as dominating as 6'4" Gil Wright(21.0) of Plainview. Facing double teams against every Plainview opponent, Wright was very strong inside. His strength was demonstrated by his 47-point performance against Lubbock Coronado. "He has a real good touch and great concentration," Hamrick said. He's a very physical player," Garland Nichols said. "He's tremendously strong and we don't have anyone quite as strong as Wright. He's just and excellent player." Nichols continued.

Pampa's team centered around the brother combo of Mike and Charles Nelson, along with the multitalented 6'4" Terry Faggins. Plainview's leading scorer in District action was 6'2" Alvin Jackson(14.7). 6'3" Jerry Walker(11.0) was another key contributor for the Bulldogs. "Their inside game is excellent, they resemble Tascosa in a lot of ways," Nichols said.

The game surprisingly ended up no-contest in favor of Pampa(26-4) 76-47. An excited crowd of 3,200 watched the Harvesters dismantle the Bulldogs. "Everything fell into place for us," Coach Nichols said. "We were just super, Plainview(18-10) is a much better team than they showed, but I'd like to think we had something to do with their play."

Pampa shot 33 of 48 for 69% from the floor. "That's probably as good a team as I've seen this year," Plainview Coach Dan Hamrick said. Pampa led at one point by 30 points and took most of their shots in an around the bucket. Terry Faggins led the scoring for Pampa with 20 points, going 9 of 10 from the floor. Mike Nelson had 19 points, hitting 8 of 12. 6'6" Coyle Winborn added 14 points along with Charles Nelson's 12 points. Gil Wright was double and triple teamed all evening and was only able to score 20 points, while Alton Jackson added 10. Plainview(22-11) was unable to shoot from the outside, which compounded the pressure that Pampa(26-4) could put on Wright inside.

*With the **regional** set for Midland Junior College, Pampa(27-4) looked like the favorite, but everybody was looking to Dunbar(30-8) because of their reputation. Pampa(27-4) and Denton(26-8) would go at it in one semi-final game,*

while new comer El Paso High(26-8) faced Dunbar in the other. It was a foregone conclusion that Pampa(27-4) and Dunbar(30-8) would meet in the regional finals.

Denton(26-8) coach Maurice Evans was very concerned about the overall height of Pampa, their regional opponent. 6'6" Coyle Winborn(10.4) a sophomore, 6'4" Charles Nelson(18.7), 6'4" Terry Faggins(16.4) and 6'3" Mike Nelson(19.5) made up an impressive line-up. Pampa had three future division one players on their squad. Faggins played at Oklahoma St., Mike Nelson at Texas Tech and Winborn was the top recruit in the state his senior year and played at SMU. For the Broncos(26-8), their tallest starter was 6'6" Doyle Franklin. Pampa averaged 70.6 points per game and allowed 54.6 for an impressive 16-point margin of victory.

Denton(26-8) felt good about their chances having won eight in a row and 14 of their previous 16 games. Their only losses had been at the hands of Sherman by one point and Denison by two. 6'2" Tim Duryea(12.7) and 6'6" 230 pound Doyle Franklin(13.4) were the major concerns for Pampa(27-4). Tim Duryea had scored 18 points in the win over Abilene(25-7). Duryea said, "We don't have any scouting report on them we'll adjust during the game to what they're doing." Pampa would be pushing the pace while the Broncos would be trying to get Franklin under the basket because of his size and strength.

The Harvesters fell behind at halftime 20-18, but outscored Denton(26-8) in the 3rd quarter 24-18 to take the lead moving into the final quarter. In the 4th quarter Pampa(27-4) took control of the game for a convincing 51-35 victory.

As Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-8) prepared for El Paso High(27-8) they had no idea the challenge that lay ahead of them facing the Tigers legendary coach, C.D. Jarvis. He was a coaching master. Dunbar looked to have several advantages in speed and quickness. The Tigers would rely on a slow controlled tempo. "I think we've done a pretty good job this season," Coach Hughes said. "But we won't be world beaters, we won't be remembered in 10 years, except maybe for being the smallest team ever at Dunbar, because that's what we are."

In one of the biggest upsets of the state playoffs, El Paso(27-8) won a tough 37-34 victory over the Wildcats. The Tigers were the first El Paso school to defeat the Dunbar Dynasty. El Paso's controlled offense gave Dunbar fits. The Tigers defense centered around stopping the guard play of Mathis and Hudson. "We knew those two outside guards were good, and going to score their points," Jarvis said. "We shut them down inside. Our rebounding was good, and we shut down their lob."

El Paso High(27-8) only took 20 shots the entire game hitting 13 for 65%. 6'3" post, Steve Cortez, led the Tigers with 19 points. Dunbar's Ricky Speed was ineffective because of foul trouble. The senior guard fouled out with seven minutes remaining in the game. During one stretch of the fourth quarter, Dunbar went seven minutes without a score. Lawrence Hudson hit two long range bombs to close the gap, but it was too late.

*"We weren't ready to play, we beat us," Hughes said. "I think we controlled the tempo," Jarvis said. "We cut their running game out. I also knew they had a terrific press. If you can bring the ball down the court, you can beat them. I thought we did that," the Tiger coach said. Jarvis passed away in 1999 and his legacy lives on with the gym that bears his name. His funeral was so large that they got permission to move it to C.D. Jarvis Gymnasium. C.D. Jarvis was a **TEXAS LEGEND**.*

*In the **regional finals**, things did not go well for El Paso High(28-8), losing 59-51. Pampa(28-4) Coach, Garland Nichols, summarized things well with, "We wanted to make them play our game. We saw how well they played by slowing it down, so we knew we had to make them run." Pampa got the lead early and tried to force the Tigers to come out of their zone and play man defense. El Paso would not abandon their zone, but did come out and pressure the Harvesters, only to give up a lot of easy buckets. "We wanted to get the lead because they are such a good slow-down team," Nichols said. "When we got the lead, it was OK, come play us." Coach Nichols did not feel anybody could guard Mike Nelson playing man defense. "Mike Nelson is the best one-on-one player in the state- I really believe that."*

"You don't lose to many games when you shoot over 50% from the floor," Coach Jarvis said following his team's loss. Pampa shot 22 of 44 for 55% while El Paso(28-9) hit 20-47 for 42%. The two players that El Paso couldn't afford to play without were Rick Arce and Perez. Both were in foul trouble during the game. Ahman Holmes led the Tigers with 20 points followed by Steve Cortez with only 11 and Rick Arce had a mere 8 points.

Pampa(29-4) had balanced attack with Mike Nelson finishing 16 points, Faggins had 10 and Charles Nelson added 18. El Paso came back late to close the gap to 55-51 with 50 seconds left in the game behind Ahman Holmes 12 points in the 4th quarter.

Pampa(29-4) was the first team from the Panhandle to advance to Austin in the state's largest classification since Amarillo Palo Duro in 1961. It was also Pampa's first appearance at state since 1959. "I feel like we've got a good chance to win the tournament," Nichols said.

Region II

North Mesquite(35-2) #5

Dallas South Oak Cliff(21-9)

Plano(29-4) #8

Bryan(27-6)

Duncanville(28-6)

Dallas Carter(23-6)

Tyler Lee(29-4) #7

Cypress Creek(30-6)

Top Players in Region II

6'5"	Keenan DeBose	Killeen
6'5"	Charles Young	Tyler Lee
6'5"	Brian Essary	North Mesquite
6'4"	Carl Wright	Dallas Roosevelt
6'1"	Ron Singleton	Dallas Carter
6'1"	Jeff Kaman	Tyler Lee
5'8"	Ronell Peters	Dallas Roosevelt
5'8"	Deon Hunter	Dallas South Oak Cliff
6'1"	Ryant Greene	Plano
6'4"	Cedric Walker	Dallas Skyline
6'6"	Mike Clifford	Round Rock

Clearly the top ranked team in the Dallas area was Roosevelt(32-3) with two exceptional players surrounded by a multitude of talent. The Mustangs had been so strong for so long, it was hard to believe they could continue to put powerhouses on the court. Coach Ellis Davis of Roosevelt(32-3) returned 5'8" Ronell Peters and 6'4" Carl Wright. Peters was one of the most complete point guards I've seen in high school. He reminded me a lot of Rajon Rondo with is ability to pass and get everybody involved. He was not a great scorer but could penetrate and dish with the best. He was the perfect player running your fast break. Carl Wright was as talented and gifted a player as Dallas has seen in the high school ranks. Wright would be the top recruit in the state in 1982 along with Alvin Franklin of La Marque. Wright's son, Bracey Wright, was even more decorated than his father. He was named a McDonald's All-American as one of the top recruits in the country, signing with Indiana. He later went on to play in the N.B.A.

Coach Ellis Davis' team advanced all the way to the state tournament in 1981 and fully expected to return. 6'6" Gary Rogers was another key player for the Mustangs on the inside and was named 2nd team All-District. In the pre-district picks, Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) was the overwhelming pick in 11-A with Dallas Samuel(18-9) second and South Oak Cliff(21-10) third.

Dallas Roosevelt dominated in the preseason defeating Tyler Lee(30-5) 67-65, Ft. Worth Paschal(20-11) 87-66, Duncanville(28-7) 62-46, Plano(29-5) 39-35, Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-9) 82-60, Waxahachie(30-7) 74-68, Denton(26-9) 65-36, North Mesquite(38-3) 67-50 and Wilmer Hutchins(25-10) 73-56. Houston Yates(33-4) was the only team to defeat the Mustangs in pre-district 54-50.

Coach Ellis Davis started 6'4" Gary Rogers, 6'4" Carl Wright(25.0), 6'4" Ronnie Harris, 6'3" Ben Smith and 5'8" Ronell Peters(12.0). Coming off the bench were 6'4" Jeffrey Jacobs and 5'7" Thomas Peters. Wright had an outstanding career on the basketball court at S.M.U., Ronell Peters had a fine career at U.T. Arlington as well. Gary Rogers was one of the top football recruits in the country and signed with Texas A&M at defensive end. Rogers was at the center of a recruiting scandal with the Aggies and never made it on the gridiron. Jacobs was a standout on the football field at S.M.U. at wide receiver. He failed to complete his senior year with S.M.U. due to the death penalty. Wright was named District MVP, Peters was named to the first team and Rogers made the 2nd team.

Dallas Skyline(20-11), Dallas Samuel(18-9) and South Oak Cliff(21-10) were all very competitive in District action. Skyline was mentored by Coach J.D. Mayo. The Raiders looked to 6'4" Cedric Walker and Andre Jones. Samuel was under the leadership of longtime coach, Doug Scott. The Spartans were paced by Mike Higgins and Larry Davis. The Golden Bears were led by Deon Hunter(16.0).

In the first half of District, Roosevelt(32-3) was upset by S.O.C.(21-10) 76-75 in double overtime. You know as an experienced reader of my books that in rivalry games, there are never upsets. "It was the greatest win for us since I've been at S.O.C.," said Coach Henry Warren. It was the first loss for Roosevelt in two years in District action. Anthony Smith hit an 18-footer with nine seconds remaining for the win. Peters missed a 25-footer at the buzzer.

The turning point in the contest was in the second quarter, Roosevelt had four starters on the bench having taken a comfortable lead in the 1st frame. S.O.C. led at halftime 34-32. Deon Hunter finished with 15 points, Jesse Connors added 15 points and Troy Dixon came away with 16 points. Carl Wright led Roosevelt with 25 points.

South Oak Cliff(21-10) took down Skyline 65-61 and finished at 6-0 in the first half of District. The Golden Bears struggled through the 2nd round of District losing to Dallas Samuel(18-9) 75-74, Dallas Spruce 64-63 and Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) 100-75.

Roosevelt(32-3) dominated Skyline(20-11) in the two teams first contest 64-42. The Raiders slipped up on the Mustangs in the rematch taking them down 81-74 in overtime. The win put Skyline in the driver's seat in second round action. Coach J.D. Mayo was excited following the game as his team moved to 3-0 in the second round of District action. 6'3" junior, Cedric Walker, had 25 points and 17 rebounds in the win for Skyline. Skyline lost once again to South Oak Cliff 79-66 to finish in a tie with Roosevelt for the 2nd half title. Because Skyline(20-11) won the head to head, they were considered the 2nd round winners. Roosevelt was out in the cold having lost the first round to S.O.C.(21-10) and the 2nd round to Skyline(20-11).

In the showdown in 11-5A, S.O.C. defeated Skyline 69-67 on Deon Hunter's foul shots with six seconds left. DeWayne Lister had a solid game for the Golden

Bears with 16 points. 6'2" Terrance Mosby contributed 20 points for Coach J.D. Mayo's Skyline troops. With the victory the Golden Bears were District champions and the Roosevelt Mustangs were out of the playoffs. Roosevelt had won the Arlington Classic and the Dr. Pepper tournament but weren't going to the big dance. The Mustangs were probably one of the best teams ever to not make the playoffs at 32-3. Coach Alex Gillum of Dallas Carter commented about Roosevelt not making the playoffs, "Now the weak sisters get a chance to go to the ball."

South Oak Cliff had advanced to the playoffs in 1969, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 79, and 1982. Roosevelt had filled in the gaps winning the playoff spots in 1972, 78, 80 and 1981. This was one of the best rivalries in the state dating back to 1970.

Dallas Carter(24-7) had a talented group led by the scoring tandem of Ronnie Singleton(27.3) and the Wagner twins, Rodney and Roger. 6'4" Ervin Williams was another big contributor for the Cowboys. Dallas Kimball(23-5) returned three starters, including one of the top juniors in the state, 6'4" DeWayne Brown. Kimball had finished 22-10 the previous year and felt they would be able to challenge the top teams in the state. Coach Paul Graham of Kimball had been building an outstanding program for several years. Kimball(23-5) was picked to win 12-AAAAA, followed by Dallas Carter(24-7) and W.T. White(14-16).

Dallas Carter(23-6) grabbed the District 12-AAAAA title and their first playoff spot in 10 years with a 68-67 win over Dallas Hillcrest(23-9). The Carter Cowboys won the first half of District and Hillcrest took the second half. Surprisingly, Dallas Kimball was unable to win either half of District. The key to Carter's victory over Hillcrest was the Cowboys standout guard Ronnie Singleton. Singleton got hot in the second half and led the Cowboys to victory with 23 points. Singleton had a sore shoulder in the first half and put some liniment on it at halftime. Rodney Wagner added 19 points for the Cowboys. Alvin Washington of Hillcrest was outstanding for Coach Jones in the loss with 26 points and 11 rebounds.

Carter(23-6) split with Dallas Kimball(23-5), taking the first game 80-74 and losing the rematch 77-66. The Knights had one of the top young teams in the state. 6'4" Dwayne Brown, 6'5" Marvin Washington and 6'3" Chuckie Graves were all underclassmen and would form the nucleus of Kimball's future.

In 13-AAAAA Plano(29-4) looked like they were back to being one of the elite teams in the state. Coach Ellis Davis of Roosevelt put everything into perspective, "The thing about Plano is that you can't get them out of their game, they play such a deliberate type of basketball and get a lot of backdoor plays." Plano(29-4) was picked to win District followed by Lake Highlands(23-10). Mike Bridges was still at the helm for the Wildcats. Bridges would be looking to 6'1" Ryant Green and 6'3" Richard Steging to rekindle the force for the Wildcats.

Lake Highlands under coach Jack Clark had two strong wins in pre-district defeating state ranked North Mesquite(35-2) 50-41 in the Coca Cola tournament in Mesquite and a 72-51 win over South Oak Cliff(21-11). The Wildcats were very

capable. Losses came at the hands of Grand Prairie(24-10) 50-39, North Mesquite(35-2) 65-52, Thomas Jefferson 57-47, Tyler Lee(28-3) 59-39 and Dallas Samuel(18-9) 63-61.

In the first big game in District 13-AAAAA Lake Highlands(23-10) beat Plano(29-4) 40-33. The two District rivals had competed for supremacy for five years running. Lake Highlands took titles in '78 and '81, while the Maroon and White of Plano captured the crown in '79 and '80. Plano(29-4) went into the game at 18-3 and looked unbeatable. Ryant Green was held to only six points for Plano as they lost to Lake Highlands(23-10). Coach Bridge's squad ended up winning the first half of District anyway because Lake Highlands dropped two games to Richardson(17-16) 53-41 and Carrollton R.L. Turner(18-15) 54-40.

In the 2nd round, Plano gained revenge 63-42 over Lake Highlands(23-10) and captured District. The only real challenge for Plano in the 2nd half of District came from R.L. Turner(18-15) 52-51. The Wildcats of Lake Highlands finished 4-3 losing to Turner once again 61-60 and Berkner(14-17) 62-51.

The top five players in 13-AAAA according to the District coaches were as follows. On the first team, 6'1" Ryant Greene of Plano, 6'0" Scott Fiddler of the Lake Highlands, 6'6" George Warren of Greenville, 6'2" John Farr of RL Turner, 6'0" Ken Stephenson of Richardson Pearce and 5'10" Steve Jarvie of Richardson. Plano had three players named to the second unit, Dan Majors, Rod Steging and Mike Ford. Greene was selected District MVP.

In District 10-AAAAA, North Mesquite(35-2) was easily the top choice followed by South Garland(27-6) and Wilmer Hutchins(25-10). The South Garland Colonels continued their winning ways year after year. 6'3" Kerry McIlroy and 6'4" Greg Crowe were Coach Clayton Brooks top players in 1982. In a matchup of titans in 10-AAAAA, North Mesquite(35-2) defeated the South Garland(27-6) Colonels 40-34. The Stallions handled South Garland easily the second time around also winning 64-50. Other District contenders were taken down by the Stallions as they defeated Wilmer Hutchins(24-10) 67-52 and 69-46, Highland Park(20-12) 61-54 and 66-36. With the wins the Stallions wrapped up the District title.

Brian Essary of North Mesquite won several postseason honors. He was named All-Metro and All-State. Other players named to the All-District team were 6'3" Kerry McIlroy of South Garland, 6'2" Matt Nelson of North Mesquite, 6'4" Roger Terrell of Wilmer Hutchins, 6'5" Steve Lyons of Highland Park and 6'4" Kevin Kinnart of Mesquite. Greg Crowe of South Garland was named sophomore of the year. Kevin Adams and Steve Harwert of North Mesquite were named to the second team.

In 9-AAAAA Duncanville(28-7) was seen as the favorite followed by Grand Prairie(24-10). Eulless Trinity(22-11) and South Grand Prairie(19-12) were also very competitive. The Gophers returned two of the top players in District 9-AAAAA, 6'2"

Gerald West and 6'5" Jay Brown. Coach Stan Hick's group was always ready to make a strong push at the playoffs.

The Panthers of Duncanville(28-7) relied on Keith Johnson and Des McCumbee. Duncanville played a very challenging schedule during the preseason. They loss twice to Tyler Lee(28-3) 76-61 and 90-63, Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) 62-46, Plano(29-4) 34-33, Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-9) 69-57 and North Mesquite(35-2) 56-51. Two big wins came against Dallas Kimball(23-5) 55-51 and South Oak Cliff(21-11) 75-60.

Duncanville(28-7) got past Grand Prairie(24-10) in both District contest 43-38 and 42-37. The Panthers only loss in District was to Irving(15-16) 48-47. Duncanville captured the District title.

In the first Dallas area polls that came out, Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) held down the top spot followed by Plano(29-4), North Mesquite(35-2), Waxahachie(30-7), Duncanville(28-7), Dallas Kimball(23-5), South Garland(27-6), Ft. Worth Southwest(16-15), Grand Prairie(24-10) and Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-9) at #10.

It was always difficult to understand why some Houston area schools were included in Region II. The answer is simple, Houston is too big for all the schools to be included in one Region. Just like Dallas in recent years with several districts in Region I and Region II. District 16-5A came down to Cypress-Creek(28-6) and Jersey Village(31-2) battling it out. The two teams met at Spring Branch Coliseum in Houston to decide the champion. Creek had won the first round of District and Jersey Village took the second round. Cypress-Creek won their second District title with a 48-45 win. The game was decided at the foul line as Cypress-Creek(30-6) hit 18 of 24 foul shots while Jersey Village could only manage 7 of 16. Dee Clinch finished with 13 points along with Steve Baker for Cypress. R.A. Stephens led Jersey Village(31-3) with 17 points.

On the All-Metro team announced by the Dallas Times Herald, Peters(12.0) and Wright(25.0) were both named to the first team. 6'0" Ronnie Singleton(27.3) of Dallas Carter, 6'5" Brian Essary(20.0) of North Mesquite and Ryant Greene(21.0) filled out the first team. 6'2" Keith Johnson of Duncanville, 6'2" Matt Nelson of North Mesquite, 6'4" Cedric Walker of Dallas Skyline, 6'5" Mark Perkins of Richland and sophomore Deon Hunter of S.O.C. made up the 2nd unit. Todd Alexander of Waxahachie was named Sophomore of the Year.

District 14-5A had five teams that made my final state ranking. That is the highest number I can ever remember. The District was loaded with talent with all five contending for the playoff spot. Tyler John Tyler(25-7) looked to be the early season favorite with only three pre-season losses to Marshall 53-52, Plano(29-5) 43-40 and Garland(9-24) 65-61. 6'1" Perry Edwards was the team leader along with 6'3" Calvin Turner and 6'3" William Oliver. The Lions were coached by 4th year coach Billy Lawson. John Tyler loved to press and get up and down the court.

Crosstown rival Tyler Lee(28-3) was also loaded for bear during the 1982 season. The Red Raiders returned one of the top players in the state in 6'4" Charles Young(25.3). If Young weren't enough Tyler Lee had two transfers that made the starting line-up. 6'4" Jesse Jones came in from Tyler John Tyler and Jeff Kaman(18.0) arrived from Round Rock. Kaman's father was the new assistant coach under first year coach, Harry Masch, formerly of Austin Lanier. Kaman had been first team all-district the previous season and third team all-area as a junior.

6'0" Kennis Bell was a returning starter along with Young from a 15-14 team. 6'1" Fred Elder and 5'9" Clay Thompson were others looking to compete for playing time. Coach Lawson of John Tyler said he felt the Red Raiders were the team to beat due to the scoring ability of Charles Young.

Lufkin(21-7) was still under the leadership of coach Jesse Walker. After losing 6'9" Don Bronson and 6'9" Larry Davis to graduation, coach Walker looked to reload with a small quick lineup. Two outstanding players would lead the Panthers in the coming season, Calvin Deason(23.0) and Darrel Ivey(18.0). Lufkin lost to Huntsville(25-10), Beaumont French(27-7) and Diboll in the preseason by a combined five points. "We're not as big as we've been in the past. We'll be awful small, but this bunch is quicker," said Coach Walker. "I'd have to say John Tyler has the edge because of experience."

Coach Harry Masch of Tyler Lee commented about Lufkin(21-7), "I haven't seen them play, but I know they're extremely quick and they have good outside shooters."

Mark Morehead took over the reins at Nacogdoches(21-12) in 1982. Morehead was an assistant for Lewis Orr at Navarro J.C. the previous year. The Dragons entered District with a 12-7 mark and only one returning starter, Mark Deckard(18.0).

The Lobos of Longview(22-11) were the defending District champions over the two previous seasons, but Steffond Johnson had graduated. 6'2" Carl Snoddy and 6'4" Melvin Johnson were counted on by Coach Leroy Romines to uphold the Lobos tradition.

As the season opened, Tyler John Tyler and Tyler Lee were both gaining statewide recognition. The Lions stood at 14-3 and held two wins over Wilmer Hutchins(25-10) 76-73 and 79-67. John Tyler also took down 4-A powerhouse, Palestine(25-6) 69-65 and 78-70.

Tyler Lee(28-3) held the states top ranking for a short time after several impressive wins. Coach Harry Masch's crew downed Duncanville(28-7) 77-61 and 90-62. The Panthers of Duncanville went on to win their District. Lee also had the rare distinction of facing three top ranked teams in three different classifications.

The Red Raiders played Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) in Dallas and lost in the final seconds 67-65. Two of the top players in the state went at it in 6'4" Carl Wright(25.0) of Roosevelt and 6'4" Charles Young(25.3) from Tyler Lee. Young came

away with 35 points on 17 of 32 from the floor and 14 rebounds. Wright finished the evening hitting 34 points. Wright hit a basket with 25 seconds remaining to give the Mustangs the win.

For Coach Harry Masch of Tyler Lee he was very relaxed before the critical game. "The Roosevelt game is a fun game we're just playing for fun. I think it will be a good game. I can't see them blowing us out," Masch said. "We're certainly looking forward to it, I think we can beat them."

Coach Masch accumulated a 228-79 record in his nine seasons at Austin Lanier with three district titles. In 1979 Lanier advanced to the state tournament. Masch was excited about his new school saying, "this is one of the best groups I've ever coached. They just don't ever quit."

The Red Raiders traveled to Highland Park in Dallas and captured the Scots Classic defeating Carrollton R.L. Turner 32-31 and Highland Park(20-12) 83-69. Turner used stall tactics the entire contest against Lee(28-3).

Next up for Tyler Lee was the Mesquite Coca Cola tournament featuring some of the top teams in the state. North Mesquite(38-3), Lake Highlands(23-10), Waxahachie(30-7) and Dallas Hillcrest(24-8). After defeating a strong Dallas Samuel(20-9) in the first round 49-45, Lee met the top ranked team in class 4-A, Waxahachie(30-7). In a classic in double overtime the Red Raiders took down the Indians 56-54. In the semi-finals Dallas Hillcrest(24-8) fell to Tyler Lee(28-3) 48-44.

In the opposite bracket Lake Highlands(23-10) pulled a major upset defeating state ranked North Mesquite(38-3). In the finals Tyler Lee easily handled Lake Highlands(23-10) 59-39.

Coach Masch's crew captured their third tournament title at the Tyler JC tournament over the Christmas holidays. The Red Raiders took the championship beating District rival Marshall in the finals 73-51. The Mavericks had upset Tyler John Tyler(25-7) in the semi-finals 53-52.

The Red Raiders lost three games in pre-district. One to Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) as previously mentioned and to Ft. Worth Paschal(26-10) 73-61. Against Paschal, coach Masch held 6'4" Young and 6'4" Jesse Jones out of the contest because they had missed practice earlier in the week. The third loss was to the top ranked class AA school in the state, Sabine(31-2). The game was played at Liberty City with Sabine taking a 68-65 victory.

Coach Masch commented after his team's loss, "Sabine has a very fine team and they played well tonight. I thought we played one of our better games tonight, too. The game was won at the line. They hit 28 free throws and we only hit seven. You can draw your conclusion from that," Masch said. Tyler Lee(28-3) came into the game at 12-1 and Sabine was undefeated.

John Tyler(25-7) had only one close contest in the first round of District and that was against Nacogdoches(21-12) 47-45. The Lions handled Longview(22-11) 57-47 and Lufkin(21-7) fairly easily 91-60.

Lee(28-3) was not so lucky beating Longview(22-11) in three overtimes 55-38 and Nacogdoches(21-12) 63-62. Jeff Kaman hit a lay-up on a full court pass with no time remaining for the win against the Dragons. Lufkin(21-7) fell 67-57 to the Red Raiders.

Longview struggled as they attempted to repeat as District champions for the third year in a row. Nacogdoches dropped Longview in overtime 43-42, Lufkin beat Longview 57-56 and Lee took them down 55-48 in three overtimes. The three losses eliminated any hopes the Lobos had at winning the first round.

Coach Romines of Longview commented on Charles Young of Lee before the Lobos 55-48 triple overtime loss. "Young is one of the best players I've seen in high school. It'll be hard to stop him. I feel like if we can hold him to 20 points, we've done a good job."

Young hit a turn-around jumper with four seconds remaining to send the game into overtime. Romines continued, "when you have a kid like Young, when the pressure's on, he wants the ball and the last shot and will usually make it." This was typical of every coach that faced Young during the season. He was an outstanding talent and a tremendous shooter. Young, Carl Wright and Alvin Franklin were three of the best in Texas in 1982.

In the first half of the 14-5A campaign Lee and Tyler John Tyler ran the table both finishing 6-0 going into their big match-up. The winner of the game would take the first round District title and assure themselves of being part of a District playoff.

TV crews and radio stations were there to broadcast the game. The Lee/John Tyler rivalry was always intense but doubly because of what was at stake.

Starting lineups looked as follows: John Tyler- 6'3" Calvin Turner(16.1), 6'2" William Oliver(10.7), 6'1" Perry Edwards(11.0), 6'3" Chris Bates(13.0) and 5'8" John Whitemore(3.1). Tyler Lee countered with 6'4" Charles Young(25.3), 6'1" Jeff Kaman(16.0), 6'4" Jesse Jones(13.0), 6'0" Kennis Bell(5.7) and 6'2" Shannon Hughes(6.0).

John Tyler opened playing a combination of zone defenses in an attempt to contain Young(25.3). Jeff Kaman stepped up knocking down critical outside shots bringing the Lions out of their zone. Coach Billy Lawson of John Tyler commented, "we got behind and had to go man." This opened up things for Young who scored 16 of his 20 points in the second half to lead the Red Raiders to a 58-54 victory. Young also finished the evening with 13 rebounds. Kaman was good for 14 points and 6'4" Jesse Jones came away with a double-double with 11 points and 11 rebounds. The win put Tyler Lee(28-3) in the driver's seat in District.

John Tyler(25-7) had their balanced attack with Perry Edwards and William Oliver finishing with 14 points and Calvin Turner closing with 13 points. "We were cold from the outside and didn't shoot well for three quarters," said Coach Lawson.

In second round action, Tyler Lee(28-3) struggled against Longview(22-11) once again winning 61-59. Jeff Kaman was good for 20 points and Young put up 17 in the Red Raiders win. Young had earlier established a new school record scoring 47 points against Pine Tree in his team's 95-51 victory. The Red Raiders also took down Nacogdoches(21-12) 78-65 and John Tyler(25-7) 53-47.

Lufkin(21-7) was undefeated going into the Tyler Lee(28-3) game in the 2nd round. If the Panthers downed Lee, they would force a one game playoff for District. Once again Young and Kaman combined for 53 points and the Red Raiders took the District title 76-69. Tyler Lee had captured the District campaign going 14-0. "I didn't think we would win 14 straight in a district like this, it's just too tough," Coach Masch said.

Lufkin put up 70 shots compared to only 48 for Lee. The Panthers were only able to shoot 39% from the floor and Lee managed an impressive 63%. Darrell Ivey(18.1) finished with 18 points for Lufkin and Calvin Deason(23.7) had a game high of 32 points. Lufkin went 4-3 the first round of District and 6-1 in the second round.

John Tyler(25-7) really struggled the last halve of District losing to Lee(28-3), Nacogdoches(21-12) 57-43 and Lufkin(21-7) 69-64. The Lions were 10-4 in District tied with Lufkin.

All-District 14-5A: 1st Team- 6'1" Perry Edwards-John Tyler, 6'1" Jeff Kaman(16.0)-Lee, 6'1" Calvin Deason(23.7)-Lufkin, 5'10" Darrell Ivey(18.1)-Lufkin, 6'2" Mark Deckard(18.0)-Nacogdoches. MVP- Charles Young(25.3)-Lee: **2nd Team-** 6'3" Calvin Turner-John Tyler, 6'3" William Oliver-John Tyler, 6'2" Carl Snoddy-Longview, 6'4" Melvin Johnson-Longview, 5'8" Calvin Grisby(21.0)-Texas High. Sophomore of the Year -6'3" James Waters of Nacogdoches. Grisby was the only junior named.

The Tyler Lee(28-3) Red Raiders took over the mantel in District 14-5A after a two-year run by Longview(22-11). Tyler Lee had went out and hired one of the top coaches in the state in Harry Masch from Austin Lanier to replace Ted Gillum who went into administration in Grapevine. In an interview in the Austin American with Lou Maysel, Masch discussed the differences between the two school Districts. Masch had made no bones about his displeasure of coaching football while at Lanier. Life as a full-time basketball coach was much easier for the veteran coach. Masch went out and hired Dennis Kaman as his junior varsity coach. Kaman's son was one of the top guards in class 5-A at Round Rock High School. The addition of Kaman was a definite upgrade for the Lee Rebels.

Masch said his team had more depth than his teams at Lanier but lack the quickness and speed as well as the outside shooting his Lanier players possessed. Basketball interest is much greater in Tyler than in Austin. "When Lee played John Tyler the game was sold out and on local T.V. live," Masch said. With the greater interest brings more pressure as well.

In a warm up game against Houston Memorial(36-5), Lee lost their fourth game of the season 62-55 in the final minutes. Charles Young(25.3) finished with 24 points on 17 of 22 shooting. Coach Masch commented, "he draws a lot of attention

because he's such a great scorer, but if he had his way, he'd be leading the team in assists. He wants very much to be a team player, but in our scheme, we depend on him to score."

Once again the foul line was the big difference with Memorial(36-5) hitting 22 of 27 and Lee connecting on only 3 of 4. Lee was called for 19 fouls and Memorial for only seven. The game was close with things tied up at 53 apiece with 1:12 left in the contest. The turning point of the game was an offensive foul on Kaman which gave Memorial the ball. 6'8" Matt Minnis(13.0) had 11 points, 6'7" Eric Poerschke(13.0) came away with 19 points and Andrew Adair added 15.

"There was just nothing riding on the game," Coach Masch said. "The gym was so big, and the crowd noise wasn't there. We were ahead by nine at one point and I thought we were going to win. I learned a valuable lesson. Next time, they'll play at our place with our officials."

The big showcase game in Region II was between Tyler Lee(29-4) and Plano(29-4) in Bi-District. Lee took over in the T.A.B.C. rankings as the #1 team in the state after the fall of Dallas Roosevelt. In the Sports Writers rankings, Lee was rated #7 and Plano came in at #9. Tyler Lee had three key talents in 6'4" senior, Charles Young(25.0/9.0), 6'1" Jeff Kaman(13.0) and 6'5" Jesse Jones.

Harry Masch of Lee said, "Right now I would say this is the best team I have ever coached. We're not as good outside shooters as some of my other teams, but we can go into Young and I've never had a player like him," the coach explained. That's a surprising statement when you consider all the great players Masch coached in Austin. Harold Howard and Elton Webster were two standouts at Lanier. "Charles is the best shooter I've ever coached, he's got perfect form," Masch related. Young was shooting 67% on the season.

Plano's(29-4) reputation as a spoiler and a tough team to beat in the playoffs would be tested by the talented Tyler Lee(29-4) team. Starters for the Wildcats were 6'1" Ryant Greene(19.6), 5'11" Jim O'Reilly(5.5), 5'11" Dan Majors(6.1), 6'3" Rod Steging(10.0) and 6'4" Mike Ford(6.0).

Coach Masch discussed Plano saying, "Greene is good, but he's not awesome." Coach continued, "Plano isn't as tall, but they probably shoot better than Memorial. They both play a deliberate game. "Plano's style of play is not my preference," Masch said about the Wildcats deliberate play, "but they are successful."

The game was televised and played at John Tyler. Lee was attempting to return to regionals for only the second time in school history. The Red Raiders made the regional finals in 1977 losing to eventual state champion South Oak Cliff.

Plano(29-4) lost four games coming into Bi-District. Twice to Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) 39-35, Dallas Kimball(23-5) 62-48 and Lake Highlands(23-10) 40-33. Remember Tyler Lee(29-4) had defeated Lake Highlands by 20 points in the finals of the Coca Cola tournament in Mesquite. The Red Raiders averaged 71 points per

game on the season and allowed only 52. Plano average 61 points and gave up 46 per contest.

Coach Mike Bridges said before the game, "they may have a better ballclub than we've got, we're really not that strong. We play hard and try not to make mistakes. From what I understand, the two people we have to stop are Kaman and Young."

Whenever Coach Mike Bridges of Plano was involved in a basketball game, he had an impact. He was one of my favorites to watch and he always worked the sidelines hard. He knew what a critical role the referees played in the outcome of a game. He was like a mad-scientist walking the bench area. And sometimes he got more involved than he should have. With 4:23 remaining in Plano's Bi-District contest with Tyler Lee, Bridges was hit with a technical foul. The technical turned a close game into a solid lead for the Raiders and Tyler Lee went on to win 71-59.

The game was played at Tyler John Tyler High School. Lee took a 36-21 halftime lead only to see it slip away. With the Wildcats down by only four points 51-47, Bridges argued a call and was hit with the technical. Jeff Kaman of Lee then hit a one and one and both technical fouls to give the Raiders a 55-47 lead. "I thought we had a good chance to win until the technical. That turned the game around," said Bridges. "People told me that they didn't have much support for Young and Kaman, but they were wrong. They are a well-balanced team," Bridges explained. "I thought we did a good job on Young and Kaman in the first half, but they hurt us at the line. I felt like Jones hurt us the most, he's stronger than Young inside. They were a well balanced ballclub." Bridges continued saying, "I think they have an excellent chance to win regionals. I thought coming into the game the winner would have a good chance to go the state tournament."

Ryant Greene led Plano with 24 points and Kaman led Lee with 21. Kaman was 11 of 11 from the foul line. Young followed with 16 points as did Jones. Tyler Lee came away hitting 25 of 29 foul shots for 86%. Plano hit only 5 of 12 and missed numerous one and one opportunities.

The Red Raiders were basically a man defensive team for most of the season. Lee opened against Plano in an uncharacteristic zone defense. Plano also changed things up pushing the ball up the court instead of their usual deliberate attack. This played into Lee's offensive scheme.

"They scared the heck out of me," coach Masch said. "They are a good team and they're very physical. They frustrated Charles who didn't shoot well, but we came through at the foul line." Coach Masch continued, "Jesse hurt them tonight, I was pleased that we never got behind. If they get ahead, they slow down and get very deliberate. Our press got them early and we got some quick baskets."

Tyler Lee Red Raiders

1977 Regional Finals 35-3

6'5"	<u>Craig Hudeck</u>	11.5
6'4"	<u>Virdell Howland</u>	16.4
6'2"	<u>Fred Marshall</u>	10.2
6'0"	<u>Billy Brown</u>	11.0
6'0"	<u>D'Boy Johnson</u>	13.7

TABC #10 Final #16 PR 87.7

Coach Ned Fowler

Virdell Howland-Texas

B'Boy Johnson-Henderson Cty

1982 Regional Semis 30-5

6'4"	<u>Jesse Jones</u>	13.0
6'4"	<u>Charles Young</u>	25.1
6'2"	<u>Shannon Hughes</u>	6.0
6'0"	<u>Kennis Bell</u>	5.7
6'1"	<u>Jeff Kaman</u>	16.0

TABC #1 Final #8 PR 91.54

Coach Harry Masch

Charles Young-Kilgore JC

Jeff Kaman-Southwestern U.

The Region II playoffs continued with one of the classic games in Dallas playoff history. The Carter Cowboys took a 104-102 double overtime win in Bi-District over the Golden Bears. Carter took a 103-102 lead on sophomore Michael Williams jumper with eight seconds remaining. "SOC made a big mistake," Carter coach Alex Gillum said, "They tried to run with us, and nobody can do that. You can't run with the Cowboys." S.O.C. took a 69-56 lead midway through the third quarter but Carter began a comeback behind Ron Singleton and Rodney Wagner. Junior Jeff Gipson came up big for Carter off the bench to score 31 points. Coach Alex Gillum became famous for what he called "run and gun" basketball and his talking and entertaining style on the sidelines during games. He would talk to his players, the crowd, the officials, the other team's players, anybody. Gillum was always very upbeat about his players and his teams. Kids loved playing for Gillum and his style of play. Gillum learned this "run and gun" style from the legendary Jackie Carr from Houston Wheatley. Wheatley dominated teams with their pressing fast break basketball. Gillum had played with the Harlem Globetrotters and brought their antics to his coaching style. Dallas Carter during the 1970s and into the 1980s produced some of the top scorers and players the city of Dallas has ever seen, Dewayne Scales, Vernon Smith, Ron Singleton and Michael Williams. Gillum unfortunately was sentenced to 15 years in prison for sexual misconduct in 1997 and dismissed from his coaching duties at Roosevelt High School at the time. He passed in June of 2013. Coach Ron Powell of North Mesquite later got to know Gillum and commented, "Gillum was generous and always helping kids." As disappointing as his imprisonment was for many of his former players and fans, the memory of his teams won't soon be forgotten. He will go down as one of the more entertaining coaches to grace the sidelines of Texas high school basketball. He never met a stranger. Gillum was one of a kind.

R.L. Turner High School was the site of so many playoff games over the years. The North Mesquite-Duncanville game was another of the many games in the historic structure. Duncanville(28-6) met their maker against the #5 ranked team in

the state 56-41. The Stallions had a 16-game winning streak after two early season losses to Lake Highlands(23-10) and Dallas Roosevelt(32-3).

Things did not go well for Coach Powell's troops early against Duncanville. They lost their top guard, Matt Nelson, to foul trouble and were behind by as many as eight points in the first half. North Mesquite(35-2) finally took the lead for good mid-way through the third quarter. Their methodical and controlled game was too much for Duncanville down the stretch. The Stallions extended their lead to fifteen points in the end.

North Mesquite was led by mainstays, 6'5" Brian Essary hit 21 points and Matt Nelson complimented Essary with 16 points. Duncanville Coach, James Cagle, had guided the Panthers to the playoffs for the first time in 21 years. Cagle was upset with the foul situation. North Mesquite went to the line 34 times and his team shot only 9. This would be a recurring theme throughout the playoffs for North Mesquite. They don't foul and attack the basket. North Mesquite was at times like watching a clinic.

Larry Brown was named head coach at Bryan High school in 1981. He was of no relation to the man with the same name who coached in college and the N.B.A. Brown inherited a program that had enjoyed a great deal of success under former coach, Bobby Perry. Under Perry the Vikings had won four district titles in seven seasons with three playoff appearances. Bryan had advanced to regionals twice in 1976 and 1977 with the talented Rudy Woods leading the way. With Coach Brown coming on the scene the Vikings would not only continue the winning established by Perry but take their success to a whole new level.

Brown's '82 team was his second season at Bryan(26-6) and the Vikings were very strong. They had two wins over Huntsville(25-10) 77-66 and 69-67 and beat Cypress-Creek(30-7) 87-75 during the regular season. Bryan faced a very challenging schedule losing to some of the top programs in the state. Losses included such state powers as Houston Madison(24-10) 78-61, #6 ranked Houston Yates(33-4) 68-29, #1 ranked S.A. Churchill(37-3) 84-60 and #3 ranked Galveston Ball(35-6) 95-75. None of these games were close, but it got the Vikings ready for the playoffs. Coach Brown employed a hard nose full court up tempo type game that could play fast or slow equally well. He has been viewed by many, including myself, as one of the top coaches ever to coach High School basketball in the state.

Bryan's(26-6) leading scorer was Milt Elarms at 13.0 points per game. The Vikings came away with a big win over Killeen(31-5) 84-73 to win District. Remember, the Killeen Kangaroos had one of the top five players in the state in 6'5" Keenan DeBose. DeBose put up 39 points in the Kangaroos 79-65 win over arch rival Killeen Ellison(22-11).

Starters for the Vikings included 5'7" Billy Chambers, 5'9" Pat Stephey, 6'0" Milt Elarms(12.0), 6'4" Steve Reddell and 6'1" sophomore, Darrell Mitchell(10.8).

In Bi-District the Cougars of Cypress-Creek(30-6) awaited the Vikings. Cypress Creek was attempting to go to regionals for the second time in the schools' short three-year history. Cypress Creek relied on Steve Franks and Gary McGuire on the inside and Dee Clinch and Steve Baker on the outside. At point guard was Alex Harris, the son of Houston Rockets Coach, Del Harris.

Bryan's(27-6) speed and quickness were too much as the Vikings advanced to regionals 57-51. Willie Dixon paced Bryan and Steve Franks led Cypress Creek with 16 points. This was a typical game for Bryan, tough defense, full-court pressure, balanced scoring leading to the victory. The Vikings bench outscored the starters 30-27 in the game. Coming off the bench for Bryan were 5'10" Larry Nellums, 6'0" Leslie Lewis, 5'11" William Dixon and 5'11" Perry Mitchell.

*At **Region II** in Waco at the Heart O' Texas Coliseum, Dallas Carter(24-6) took on North Mesquite(36-2) in the early game followed by Bryan(27-6) and Tyler Lee(30-4) in the night cap. These four teams were considered pretty even. Dallas Carter averaged 83.0 points per game and allowed 75.7 for a 7.3-point difference. Defensive minded, North Mesquite, averaged 62.3 points and allowed 46.5 for a 15.8 difference, which was the top point differential in the state in class 5-A. Bryan averaged 71.7 per game while allowing 63.7, which is an 8.0 difference. Tyler Lee had impressive numbers averaging 71.0 per game and allowing 52.0. Remember Lee went through District undefeated, something Lufkin had been unable to do in their state title run in 1979. Longview, the District champion in 1980 and 81 were also unable to go through District undefeated. Most knowledgeable basketball fans were anticipating a final with North Mesquite(36-2) going against Tyler Lee(30-4). The lesson here is DO NOT ever sell a Larry Brown coached team short. EVER...*

Dallas Carter(24-6) was led by a plethora of guards, Ronnie Singleton, Jeff Gipson and the twins, Rodney and Roger Wagoner and a future N.B.A. standout, sophomore Michael Williams. I am here to tell you these guys could go... North Mesquite(35-2) counted on 6'5" Brian Essary, 5'8" Keith Adams, 6'1" Matt Nelson, 6'3" Steve Harwerth and Dale Patterson. Many fellow coaches in Dallas when asked, "who was the top coach in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area," would answer, Ron Powell of North Mesquite. His Stallions were solid defensively, executed in the half court both offensively and defensively and were disciplined. Many fans sometimes underestimated the impact the coach could have on a team's success or failure.

Coach Alex Gillum's teams at Carter loved to run and play fast. Gillum predicted his team would be too much for North Mesquite with their running style. Gillum said his team would be running all the way to state.

The Cowboys proved to be no match for the highly rated Stallions losing 76-62. North Mesquite shot 61% from the floor while Carter hit only 47%. North Mesquite had 9 fouls and Carter countered with 28. Those are the correct numbers. Coach Powell did not make a substitution until there were 29 seconds left in the game, while Carter substituted freely throughout the game. Coach Gillum

commented after the game, "he proved to me you don't have to run to win. They're too tough for me."

North Mesquite took a 32-21 lead at halftime and in total control of the contest. Essary was the leading scorer with 31 points and 27 rebounds, Harwerth had 18 points and Nelson hit 9 for the Stallions.

In the other regional semi-final game, Bryan(27-6) was down nine points in the fourth quarter, but ended up winning 67-66 over Tyler Lee(30-4). The upset win by Bryan destroyed the much-anticipated game between Tyler Lee(30-4) and North Mesquite(37-2). For Bryan's upset victory, Pat Stepney hit two foul shots with 13 seconds remaining to clinch the win. The leading scorer for Bryan was Milton Elarms with 20 points, Stepney with 16, and Darrell Mitchell with 11.

Tyler Lee was in big foul trouble in the 4th quarter and was outscored by Bryan 24-14 during the period. All-Stater, Charles Young, led Lee with 22 points and Jeff Kaman and Jesse Jones finished with 12 and 13 points respectfully. Both were in foul trouble.

When I asked Coach Brown about his adjustments in playing against Young he responded, "we just doubled him every time he got the ball, outside of that nothing special." When I asked Brown about his team's late season success during 1982, he said he always tried to peak late in the season with all his teams. "We want to be playing our best basketball come playoff time."

In the **regional finals**, Bryan(28-6) had trouble with the patient Stallions as North Mesquite(37-2) won 62-49. Brian Essary was once again the leading scorer for North Mesquite with 27 points. Essary said after the game that the only team they had played that was quicker than Bryan was Dallas Roosevelt. Coach Powell commented, "the most important thing for us was to control the tempo. We were afraid of fatigue," Coach Powell explained. The Stallions only played five players. Matt Nelson was the second leading scorer with 19 points. Bryan coach, Larry Brown, received a technical foul which hurt his team in the second half. Darrell Mitchell was the leading scorer for Bryan with 12 points, Elarms followed with 11. Remember Mitchell's name, you'll be hearing more from him, he was only a sophomore.

Region III Playoffs

Spring Branch Memorial(34-4) #13	Houston Madison(24-9)
Beaumont French(27-6)	Aldine(24-6)
Houston Kashmere(22-9) #16	Houston Yates(33-3) #6
Pasadena Dobie(30-5)	Galveston Ball(31-5) #3

Top Players in Region III

6'1"	Alvin Franklin	LaMarque
6'2"	Oscar White	Galveston Ball
6'7"	Ricky Winslow	Houston Yates
6'7"	Eric Poerschke	Spring Branch Memorial
6'8"	Joseph Green	Houston Yates
6'7"	Melvin Stewart	Houston Wheatley
6'9"	Victor Richardson	Houston Washington
6'9"	Victor Morris	Houston Kashmere
6'7"	Terrace Cashaw	Houston Lamar
6'0"	Joe Molo	Pasadena Dobie
6'2"	Billy Reece	Aldine High
6'1"	Joe Mouton	Beaumont French
6'2"	Steve Westbrook	Port Neches Groves
6'1"	Tim McKyer	Pt. Arthur Lincoln

Talent was plentiful in Region III with 6'1" Alvin Franklin(28.0) being considered the premier player. Franklin went on to glory at the University of Houston and Phi Slama Jama. Other outstanding players from the Houston area were 6'7" Eric Poerschke of Spring Branch Memorial, 6'8" Joe Green of Houston Yates, 6'8" Matt Minnis of Spring Branch Memorial, 6'9" Victor Richardson of Houston Washington, 6'7" Melvin Stewart of Wheatley, 6'7" Terrence Cashaw of Houston Lamar, and 6'8" Brett Harrison of Clear Lake. You can see all the size in the state was really centered in the Houston area. The top team in Houston was Houston Yates(33-3) although Spring Branch Memorial(34-4) had another really strong team. Houston Madison(24-9) was always tough, but this may have been their weakest team since 1977.

***District 22 5-A** looked imposing as usual as the same cast of characters came out of pre-district very familiar with one another. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(21-9), the defending state champions, had very little left in the cupboard. Beaumont French(28-7) was considered the District favorite along with Lincoln and Beaumont Pollard. Pt. Neches Groves(25-8) had their strongest team in school history and West Orange Stark(19-11) would be very competitive.*

The Bumblebees opened the District campaign with a big one-point win over West Orange Stark 67-66. Coach James Gamble commented following the victory, "French seems capable of beating everybody. French has the advantage in

experience.” Coach Willie Williams of Thomas Jefferson agreed saying, “I think French has the best talent overall.”

Beaumont French(28-7) came away with a big first round win over Pollard 81-62 in District action. Pt. Arthur Lincoln(21-9) kept pace defeating their rival Pollard 94-73. Lincoln relied on a pressing fast pace game. James White of Pollard was asked to compare Lincoln and French following his team’s loss, “I think French is still a better team. Lincoln(21-9) has certainly improved a heck of a lot.” 6’6” R.C. Mullins had 17 points and 11 rebounds in Lincoln’s win over Pollard.

In the first-round clash between Pt. Arthur Lincoln(21-9) and Beaumont French(28-7), the Bumblebees were successful with a monster effort winning 61-59. Both teams came into the game unbeaten in District action. “French has the big shot blockers and they’re intimidating around the basket,” Gamble said. “It was to our advantage to push the ball up the court as quick as we could.” In the rematch between the two front runners, French(28-7) came back strong winning 60-55. The win gave the Buffaloes the second-round title while Pt. Arthur Lincoln(21-9) lost to Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson and finished 6-2. French(28-7) ran the table going 8-0 in second round action.

The District 22 5-A playoff was set for McDonald Gym in Beaumont on the campus of Lamar University. French looked to 6’5” Troy Dodd(17.4), 6’3” John Mouton(15.4), 6’4” Robert Noel(8.3), Jetson Egins(10.3), and Brisco Piper(9.2). Coach Gambles team was made up of 6’1” Tim McKyer(14.1), Barry Scruggs(10.0), 6’6” R.C. Mullins(7.3), 6’3” Ricky Williams, and Anthony Johnson.

In front of 4,500 fans, Beaumont French(28-7) won their first District championship since 1977 and the glory days of B.B. Davis. The 67-60 win over Pt. Arthur Lincoln(21-9) propelled the Buffaloes into Bi-District against Aldine. Gamble was very complimentary of French following the game. “They are an extremely talented team. When it came down to who could jump the highest and run the fastest, they had the edge.”

Tim McKyer was outstanding for Lincoln with 8 of 12 performance from the floor scoring 25 points with 7 rebounds. Barry Scruggs, one of the top scorers for Coach Gamble, was limited with a muscle pull in his back and was only able to score four points. Scruggs was a double-digit scorer. Coach Mitchell said following the game, “Lincoln’s defense gave us trouble, we wanted to get the ball to our big men, but they were sagging back.” Gamble was impressed by Piper saying, “Everybody talks about Dodd and Mouton, but Piper is their most poised, clutch player. Every time we’ve played them, he’s made the difference.”

Jetson Egins ended up with 16 points and Troy Dodd added 12 points for French. Lincoln surprisingly won the rebound war 29-24. John Mouton added 16 points and 10 rebounds for the victorious Buffaloes. Tim McKyer was the only Lincoln player in double digits. Lincoln finished the season at 21-10 and French moved on with a 28-6 mark.

Coach Mitchell of Beaumont French(28-7) was in his fifth season with the Buffaloes. Coach of the Year honors in 22-5A went to Don Bryson of Pt. Neches Groves, whose team finished 3rd in District play at 11-5 and 25-8 on the season. This was the best finish in school history for the Indians. 6'1" John Mouton of French was named M.V.P. with an unreal 40-inch vertical jump. "John's the best all-around player we've had at French. The thing is that he's not so much concerned whether he contributes the points or rebounds, he just wants to do the best he can. We haven't had anyone that concerned about total effort," Coach Mitchell said.

Rounding out the All-District first team; Troy Dodd(17.4) of French, Tim McKyer(14.1) of Lincoln, 6'2" Steve Westbrook(21.5/8.6/ 3.8 assists) of Pt. Neches Groves, and Joe King(19.1) of West Orange Stark. Second team honors went to Donald Reed of Pt. Arthur Thomas Jefferson, Cass Jones of Forest Park, Kevin Peckham of PN-G, Jules Wells of Pollard, and Barry Scruggs of Lincoln.

Houston Madison(24-9) advanced to the playoffs for the sixth year in a row and attempted to make their fourth straight appearance in the regional finals. The last team to accomplish that feat was the legendary Wheatley teams from 1968 thru 1973. Madison(24-9) finally had their 48-game District winning streak snapped by Houston Worthing. Madison gained the playoffs in a one game playoff win over Houston Worthing 77-72. Sidney Williams led the Marlins with 19 points while Vincent Alexander kicked in 17 points. Raymond Poe led Houston Worthing with 19 points. Coach Benton's team came from 14 down to gain the victory.

The Marlins faced traditional power Spring Branch Memorial(34-4) in Bi-District. Memorial was making their third appearance in the playoffs over the previous four seasons. The Mustangs had a tough time in District winning two overtime games and defeated rival Spring Branch(18-13) for the 2nd round title 49-46. Spring Branch was the only team to defeat Memorial in District action 53-50.

Coach Don Coleman's team had a nice 62-55 win over Tyler Lee(28-3) in a practice game. The Red Raiders were thought to have one of the best teams in the state, so the victory got everybody's attention in Houston. As previously mentioned, 6'4" Charles Young played for Lee. Young got his points ripping the nets for 34 points, while Memorial(34-4) was paced by Eric Poerschke with 19 points and Andrew Adair knocked down 15.

In another warm-up game, Memorial(34-4) took on arguably the strongest team in San Antonio, Sam Houston(23-9). The Mustangs had another big win over the Cherokees 58-57. Those two wins put Memorial(34-4) in an elite status in Texas basketball. Andrew Adair led the Mustangs against S.A. Sam Houston(23-9) with 21 points.

Earlier in the season at the San Marcos tournament the Mustangs had beaten state power Clear Lake(29-5) 62-57. Memorial leaders were 6'7" Eric Poerschke(13.0), 6'8" Matt Minnis(13.0) and Chris Ochs. Poerschke signed with Arkansas and Minnis played at North Texas St.

In Bi-District, Memorial(35-4) proved to strong inside beating Houston Madison(24-9) 63-53. Eric Poerschke continued his offensive showcase scoring 29 points in the Mustangs win. Poerschke and Matt Minis dominated around the basket for Coach Don Coleman. "We controlled the tempo of the game," Coleman said. "That fact and our inside game was the difference."

*Houston Yates(33-3) had been the bridesmaid for so many years in District **20-5A**. The Lions advanced to the state playoffs for the second time in three seasons. Ellis Davis of Dallas Roosevelt had labeled the Lions, "one of the most talented teams in the state," after his Mustangs had suffered an early season loss to Yates(33-3). The Lions had strong wins in non-district action. Houston Kashmere(23-9) 63-53 and Houston Washington(23-8) 46-45 both fell to Yates. Kashmere and Washington were the two top teams in District 19-5A.*

Houston Yates stood at 33-3 on the season and ranked 6th in the state polls. Yates won both halves of District with two critical wins over arch-rival Houston Wheatley(29-7). Yates(33-3) took a 15-point lead in the teams' first meeting at Barnett Field House in front of 3,200 fans. The Lions came away with a 77-70 victory over the Wildcats. "This could be very well be the best Yates team we've faced in a long, long time," Coach Jackie Carr said following the game. Ricky Winslow led Yates with 20 points while Carven Holcombe added 23 and Terry Fox hit 24 points. Ray Waddy and Larry Brownlow paced the Wildcats with 20 and 14 points respectfully.

The rematch was pretty much the same as Yates(33-3) size controlled the tempo and Coach Tommy Malone's Lions seized a 78-68 win, and with it the District title. Holcombe again was key with 25 points while Brownlee did the scoring honors for Wheatley(29-7) with 18 points.

Awaiting the Lions was an old foe and rival, Houston Kashmere(22-9). The last time the two schools met in the playoffs was 1980 when Yates(33-3) held down the top ranking in the state polls. The Rams had upset the Lions 47-45 and went on to capture the state championship. Yates already owned two wins over the Rams during the '82 campaign. Remember that old adage, "tough to beat a good team three times." The Rams were definitely talented.

Houston Kashmere(21-9) was the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of the 1982 season in Houston. The Rams had beaten La Marque(25-8) by 28 points and lost to Galveston Ball(35-6) by 23. The Rams had started slowly but were gaining momentum as the playoffs arrived. Late in the season, you did not want to be playing Kashmere(21-9).

*In **District 19-5A**, Houston Washington(22-7) took on Houston Sam Houston(23-8), with the winner playing Kashmere(21-9) for the District title. Washington had an impressive team, but their two best players missed the Sam Houston game because an altercation they were involved with at school. Both 6'8" Victor Richardson and 6'4" Anthony Wade were suspended for one game and missed the Houston Sam Houston(23-8) contest. Houston Washington(22-7) came*

away with the win anyway 61-53 to advance against the Rams. Jeffrey Evans and Gerald Jones filled in for Coach Clarence Stubblefield. "Under the circumstances, the team we had on the court tonight played extremely well."

Houston Kashmere(21-9) beat their old rival Washington(22-7) 64-62 to advance to the playoffs. Paul Lattin led Kashmere with 26 points. Coach Frankie Brazos had his team go into a stall trailing 62-61 late in the game. With six seconds remaining in the game, Lattin hit a spinning, falling layup for the win. Wilson Paris added a foul shot with two seconds remaining to give the Rams the two-point win. Just like the '80 season, Washington was left out of the playoffs finishing 24-8. Victor Richardson came off the bench to lead Washington with 17 points against Kashmere.

Houston Yates(33-3) employed a great front line in 6'8" Joe Green, 6'7" Ricky Winslow and 6'4" Carven Holcombe. To put things into perspective, Holcombe led T.C.U. to the 1987 SWC championship and NCAA tournament his senior year. He was drafted into the NBA with the 80th overall pick by the Cavs. Winslow was a high school McDonald's All-American and a member of Phi Slamma Jama. He was taken by the Bulls with the 20th overall pick in the NBA draft. Green went on to play at McNeese St., and was considered one of the top big men in the state. 6'7" Stacey Belcher played at Houston well. Belcher, Winslow and Holcomb were all juniors. Coach Brazos would have to rely on his team's speed and pressing to neutralize the Lions size.

The Kashmere(21-9) and Yates(33-3) game was epitome of what Texas High School basketball playoffs are all about. One game for all the marbles, do or die. With the two legendary programs playing each other, would you expect anything less. The Lions led 51-48 with 1:33 left on the clock and proceeded to have two costly turnovers trying to stall. For the Rams, Michael Gibson hit a short jumper with 11 seconds remaining in front of a wild crowd of 9,000 at Hofheinz Pavilion. The result was another one-point victory for the Rams over Yates 54-53. *Déjà vu!* "I had made up my mind I was going to shoot the ball not pass it off," Gibson said following the wild victory. "They had beaten us twice this season. We couldn't let it happen three times in a row," Coach Brazos said.

Lattin led Kashmere with 14 points. Joseph Green finished with 18 points and Winslow hit 12 points for the Lions. Yates finished an outstanding season at 33-4 and would return almost their entire squad for another run at the state championship. The Lions were ranked as one of the top teams in the country during the 1982-83 campaign.

Aldine(24-6), led by Billy Reece(20.0) and Clyde Foster(13.0), entered the playoffs for the first time since 1962. Aldine lost one District contest against Houston Smiley(21-9) 54-45. Aldine got revenge the second round of District action with a 44-42 victory. Billy Reece was the District M.V.P. and dominated. Smiley was able to hold him to only eight points in their loss.

Aldine(24-6) lost a warm-up contest against 4-A Huntsville(24-10) 61-58. Remember, Huntsville(24-10) had won their District race with Houston Furr finishing as runner-up. Houston Furr(26-7) had won the Jaycees tournament against the top schools in Houston.

Aldine(24-6) drew Beaumont French(27-6) in Bi-District. French had defeated defending state champion, Pt. Arthur Lincoln(21-10) 67-60 in a District playoff to advance. In an upset of sorts, Aldine(24-6) beat French(27-6) 55-49 to advance to regionals. French was fueled by Troy Dodd with 16 points and Brisco Piper with 10 points.

Aldine(24-6) had the unenviable task of playing Spring Branch Memorial(35-4) in regionals. If you are keeping up with these playoffs, there are no weak sisters in the region II playoffs. Memorial Coach, Don Coleman, had been the coach in Aldine the last time Aldine experienced the playoffs. Both teams liked a slow tempo, but against Memorial that would be dangerous. The Mustangs of Memorial were big and strong inside with tremendous half-court execution. The Mustangs were 6'7" and 6'8" inside and also had 6'4" Andrew Adair and 6'4" Mike Harger. 6'0" Chris Ochs rounded out the starting line-up. Elvin Hayes Jr. was a 6'3" freshman who also saw minutes. Poerschke was a monster inside on the offensive end.

In a very close game, Memorial(35-4) won 52-48 over a tough Aldine team. Surprise, Eric Poerschke led his team in scoring with 19 points and Billy Reece led Aldine(24-6) with 27 points. Memorial had to come from 11 points behind to claim victory. Spring Branch Memorial(35-4) was once again in the regional finals.

Galveston Ball(31-5) had overcome Clear Lake(29-5) to advance to the playoffs. Ball(31-5) ended Clear Lakes 31-game District winning streak dating back to 1980 with a 64-52 count. In the second round of District, Galveston Ball played the Falcons at home and destroyed them 80-53. The victories put Ball all the way up to #3 in the state polls, and Ball(31-5) finished District with a perfect 16-0 record.

Another challenge for Ball in District was arch-rival, La Marque(25-8), led by the talented 6'1" Alvin Franklin. The Cougars were one of the top teams in the state as indicated by their victories. La Marque(25-8) held wins over Pasadena Dobie(30-6) 76-75, Houston Sam Houston(23-9) 88-85 in double overtime, and a big win over the top ranked team in the state at the time, Houston Yates(33-4) 62-58. Losses included Houston Kashmere(23-10) 102-74, Pt. Neches Groves(25-8) 58-54 in overtime. The Kashmere loss was at La Marque....wow.

In the first half of the District, La Marque(25-8) battled it out with Ball(31-5) with Tornados winning a close one 70-68. Franklin carried his team finishing with 30 points. Oscar White of Ball tipped in 24 points in front of 1,200 fans. In the rematch and the last game of the regular season, Ball once again came away with the "W" 67-62. John Chaney hit four free throws in the final 25 seconds to give Ball the victory. A real tragedy occurred in pre-game warm-up for Galveston Ball. The

Tornadoes all-state guard and the team's leading scorer, Oscar White, twisted his ankle. His contributions were very limited in the state playoffs.

Clear Lake finished the season at 29-5. Coach Bill Krueger failed to advance to the playoffs for one of the few times during his brilliant career. In District the Falcons finished in a second-place tie with La Marque(25-8) at 13-3. La Marque(25-8) and Clear Lake(29-5) split during District with the Falcons losing the first game 77-71 and winning the second game 45-38. Clear Lake's early season losses came at the hands of two of the toughest teams in the state, S.A. Churchill(37-3) 49-38 and Spring Branch Memorial(36-5) 62-57. Both defeats were at the Bobcat Classic in San Marcos.

The 24-5A All-District team was led by 6'1" Alvin Franklin(28.0) of La Marque. Franklin was named District M.V.P. and named All-American by Converse. He was one of five players named from Texas. Galveston Ball had three players named to the 1st team All-District unit which was made up of ten players. 6'4" Carl Hilton, 6'2" Oscar White and 6'1" John Chaney were the representatives from Ball. Clear Lake had two representatives, 6'2" Brad Meyer and 6'8" Brent Harrison. The rest of the squad was made up of 6'6" Phillip Howard of Alvin, 6'6" John Clark of LaPorte, Tom Ebeling of Pearland, and 6'3" Danny Cannon of Clear Creek. Named to the second team from Ball were James Petteway, Rudolph Morris, and 5'10" Harold Dergin.

T. Berry was in his second season as coach at Galveston Ball(31-5). He had been the assistant previously. He was all too familiar with Ball's previous struggles in the playoffs. The Tors had advanced to the playoffs five times in the previous seven seasons and lost every time in the 1st round. Pasadena Dobie awaited the Tornadoes with a 29-4 record and undefeated in District action. First year Coach, Scott Talton, had the Longhorns playing some outstanding basketball. Dobie held down the 8th spot in the Houston rankings and held a victory over La Marque(25-8) earlier in the season by one point. Coach T. Berry of Ball commented, "They're a good team, they won 30 games."

In a warm-up game against Houston Yates(33-3) the Longhorns lost a little momentum losing to the Lions 66-53. The Yates combo of Ricky Winslow and Carven Holcomb combined for 46 points in the win. Coach Berry of Ball wanted to let his troops rest rather than play a warm-up game.

Dobie's lineup centered around two solid players, 6'5" Bill Cole(16.5/10.0) and 6'0" Joe Molo(18.5). Molo was considered the main man for the Longhorns. Dobie's main rival in District was South Houston at 22-10. If you were going to beat Dobie, Molo and Cole were the men to stop. 6'3" David Lierman also was a key player for Coach Talton. "We're not as quick as they are, so I expect they'll try to force us into their type of game," Talton said.

As Galveston Ball(31-5) prepared for the playoffs they would be doing so without their leading scorer, Oscar White(18.7). The talented senior was unavailable

for the Dobie game. "White is recovering from the twisted ankle," Coach Berry shared. Rudell Morris(12.0) and John Chaney(11.0) would have to step up for Coach Berry. Inside, Ball counted on the strong tandem of 6'4" Carl Hilton(11.7 rebounds) and 6'4" James Petteway(9.5 rebounds). Key bench strength for Ball came from Mark Robbins, 6'3" Terrance Wilson and Kenneth Whitaker.

The Dobie-Ball match-up took place at Hofheinz Pavilion on the campus of the University of Houston. The Longhorns were hurt when 6'5" Bill Cole got into early foul trouble and was held to only 12 points. Against the inside strength of Ball, you needed everybody you could get or the Tornadoes would miss use you. Ball took a 41-30 lead into halftime. Coach Berry commented later that Dobie looked tired. The game got closer in the second half, but Ball(32-5) eventually pulled away 80-67. Hilton finished with 17 points, while Chaney stepped up in White's absence and scored 14 points. David Stanton finished with 20 points for Dobie(30-6) and Joe Molo put in 16 points. When Coach Berry was questioned about the availability of White for regionals, he responded that he hoped he would be ready to play on Friday.

Ball's first round opponent in regional was an opponent they had already beaten twice during the regular season, Houston Kashmere(23-9). In the Jaycees tournament, Ball(32-5) downed Kashmere 86-63 and on the Rams home court the Tornadoes won a second time 75-68. The Rams had opened District at 2-3 and ran off five straight wins to capture the second round of District. "We peaked kind of late," was Coach Frankie Brazos response.

Houston Kashmere(23-9) defeated Houston Yates(33-4) in Bi-District after losing twice during the regular season to the Lions. Coach Berry of Ball watched the Yates-Kashmere game and said Yates had played too conservative. Coach Berry's team was practicing under the assumption White would not be available in regional action.

Houston Kashmere(23-9) had a tradition that was unmatched by almost any team in the state. The '82 version of the Rams was very talented and centered around 6'9" Victor Morris. The big guy averaged 10 rebounds per contest. Paul Lattin(18.0) was considered the most explosive talent on the team and 6'5" Darrin Stublely and 6'3" Wilson Paris were key players.

Galveston Ball had to be one of the most unusual teams I have covered in my books. During the regular season the team's strength had been an athletic pressing up tempo team led by phenomenal outside shooters. 6'2" Oscar White was the team's top scorer in 26 of the team's first 35 games of the season. That all ended when he twisted his ankle in the last regular season game against La Marque. White saw limited action in Bi-District and regionals because of his injury and disciplinary action. John Chaney replaced White in the lineup and Ball never missed a beat. The Tornadoes had to overcome a late 16-3 run by the Rams to defeat Houston Kashmere(23-9) 77-76. Harold Dergin of Ball sank a foul shot with nine

seconds remaining for the winning points. What was really unusual was that Dergin had just missed two foul shots. James Petteway and Carl Hilton combined on the inside for Ball hitting 37 points, while Rudell Morris followed with 12 points and John Chaney added 11 points. Kashmere(23-9) was paced by Lattin's 21 points and Michael Gibson finished with 16. Kashmere finished the season at 23-10.

The **regional finals** were a great contrast of styles and wills. Galveston Ball(33-5) had to overcome the size and discipline of Memorial(36-4). In another down to the wire finish in Region II, Ball came out on top 61-60. The tremendous size of Memorial did not bother Hilton, as he dominated the game with 32 points. If you recall the Mustangs had 6'8" Matt Minnis and 6'7" Eric Poerschke inside. Hilton hit 12 of 14 from the floor and 8 of 14 from the line. Hilton also knocked down the winning free throw with four seconds left to give his team the win. With 1:55 remaining Ball held the ball for the last shot. With five seconds remaining, Hilton missed a shot from deep in the corner, but got his own rebound and was fouled putting him on the line. Coach Coleman of Memorial called two consecutive time-outs trying to freeze Hilton. The big senior hit the first and missed the second for the win. Memorial missed from mid-court on their final attempt.

In Memorial's one-point loss to Ball, 6'7" Poerschke was incredible once again scoring 31 points with 10 rebounds. "We began rotating people on him(Poerschke) and double teaming him in the 4th quarter," Coach Berry said. The plan worked holding Poerschke scoreless in the quarter. "Hilton just played magnificently," Coach Berry said. Hilton commented about Poerschke following the win, "He was very mobile, they would set picks for him and he was always moving without the basketball, but we began to sag in on him." Hilton also said, "This was the best basketball I've ever played." Memorial Coach Don Coleman added, "The pressure Ball put on us at the end and some of the calls that went there way killed us." The attendance was listed at 4,513.

In the three playoff games, Galveston Ball(34-5) had completely changed the makeup of their team. Hilton was high scorer in the three playoff games averaging 22.3 points per game, Petteway was next with 13.7, Morris at 10.0, Chaney with 9.3. Oscar White was averaging only 2 points in the three games after leading the team during the regular season with 19.4 points per game. The Tornados were talented and versatile.

Region IV Playoffs

San Antonio Churchill(32-3) #1
Austin Johnston(21-9)
Kingsville(27-8)
San Antonio Jay(27-6)

S. A. Sam Houston(31-3) #4
Victoria(24-8)
McAllen(27-6)
South San Antonio(24-9)

Top Players in Region IV

6'4"	Gary Heyland	San Antonio Churchill
6'4"	Pat Hymel	San Antonio Churchill
6'2"	Thor Dekker	Kingsville
5'10"	Hanky Porter	Victoria
6'9"	Sylvestor Kincheon	Austin Travis
6'4"	David Moss	San Antonio Sam Houston
6'8"	Raynard Davis	San Antonio Sam Houston
6'4"	Thomas Gummings	Kingsville
6'6"	Ray Danielak	San Antonio Jay
6'6"	Don Royster	San Antonio Sam Houston
6'1"	Wali Jones	San Antonio Marshall
6'4"	Milton Potter	San Antonio Highlands

San Antonio Churchill(32-3) returned an outstanding group from 1981 losing only one key player. They also had a new coach as Gerald Adams resigned to pursue job opportunities. The new coach was former San Antonio Marshall Coach, Bobby Murphy. His younger brother was the assistant at Churchill. The Chargers felt like they could challenge Tyler Lee(28-3), Dallas Roosevelt(32-3) or anybody else in the state for the top spot. The Chargers had been very competitive the previous two seasons. S.A. Roosevelt had eliminated Churchill during the '81 campaign and San Marcos in 1980.

San Antonio Churchill(35-3) was the #1 rated team in the state and prohibitive favorite to win Region IV. Of course, San Antonio Roosevelt and Austin High had been overwhelming favorites the previous season. So being the favorite only took you so far in the playoffs. S.A. Marshall emerged out of the shadows to advance to the state finals in 1981.

San Antonio Churchill(35-3) had a very balanced team led by 6'4" Gary Heyland(15.6), 6'4" Pat Hymel(13.2), 6'6" Jim Gallagher(6.2), 6'4" sophomore, Paul Myer(5.9) and point guard, 6'3" Jon Moseley(9.5). Great overall size and unselfish play were team strengths. Late in the season the Chargers were almost upset by Converse Judson with their slow-down tactics. Churchill shot only 6 of 27 from the floor and won a close one 24-23. The victory clinched the District championship for the Chargers. "The kids thought that they had District in the bag. They didn't show enthusiasm," Coach Murphy said. Heyland was in foul trouble early and finished with zero points. Coach Perkins of Judson defended his delay game saying, "that was the only way we could have played with them. I hated to hold the ball. It's against

my grain. That's not the way the game should be played, but they would have beaten us by 30 or more if we tried to run with them"

"I don't think anybody else we face will slow the ball down against us," Murphy said. "From here on out the teams we face will match-up with bigger personnel than we have." Judson didn't even finish District in the top five. San Marcos(21-12) finished tied with San Antonio Roosevelt(25-5) for runner-up spot and San Antonio Lee(19-16) took 4th place.

San Antonio Sam Houston(31-4) had another outstanding team in 1982 and faced one of the top teams in Houston in a warm-up contest. The Cherokees took on Don Coleman's Spring Branch Memorial crew and lost to the Mustangs 58-57. Andrew Adair and Eric Poerschke combined for 33 points for Memorial in the win. John Franklin led Sam Houston with 14 points. Following Sam Houston in the District 31-5A race was S.A. Highlands(24-9) and S.A. Jefferson(22-9).

In San Antonio Churchill(33-3) and San Antonio Sam Houston(31-4) you had two of the best teams in the state squaring off. In visiting with Coach Dickey of Sam Houston he said going into the game, he knew who ever won the game would win state. The game did not disappoint, as Coach Dickey brought out a new offense and immediately trailed the Chargers 10-0. "I called timeout and told them to forget the new offense and run our old offense," Coach Dickey said. With his star player, 6'4" David Moss, having the worse game of his career, Sam Houston struggled early. Moss finished with four points and hit 2 of 12 from the floor.

At halftime, the Cherokees switched to the inside game of 6'9" Raynard Davis and 6'6" Don Royster. The strategy worked, an eventually Sam Houston tied the game up at 43 apiece with 7:00 remaining. Eight ties and five lead changes occurred in the last seven minutes of the game. The trio of Moss, Davis and Royster were all gifted juniors. Moss played for Nolan Richardson at Tulsa, Davis played at U.T. an Royster started out a Mississippi, and later played with Moss at Tulsa.

Because of the big size advantage that Sam Houston held, Coach Murphy felt rebounding would be the difference in the game. The Cherokees had the ball with 30 seconds remaining with the score tied at 57. Sam Houston focused on going inside to Davis for the last shot if possible. The big junior was the only Sam Houston player in double figures on the evening with 20 points. Things appeared to be clear breaking the huddle following the timeout, but John Franklin had a wide-open look at the foul line and missed. The Chargers got the rebound with 13 seconds remaining. Churchill put the ball in the hands of their star Gary Heyland. As Heyland penetrated the middle of the Sam Houston defense, Heyland desperately put up an off balance shot from 18 feet for the game winner. The bucket came with one second remaining. "We're fortunate to have a great athlete like Gary Heyland to take that kind of shot," Coach Murphy said following the big win.

The crowd of 4,400 erupted at the Blossom Athletic Center and Churchill advanced to regionals. "I was trying to pass the ball off to Moseley, but I couldn't. I

didn't have any choice other than putting it up," Heyland said. Coach Murphy had explained that they did not want any shots before the 10 second mark unless it was a lay-up. "I was surprised they shot that early," Coach Murphy said. "I thought they'd go for the last shot, probably to 6'9" Davis down on the baseline."

The Chargers out rebounded Sam Houston 40-35 with Gallagher pulling in 11 rebounds for Churchill. The 6'6" post said following the game, "we knew we had to control the boards if we were going to have a chance." Churchill was 23 of 49 from the floor for 47% and Sam Houston hit on 25 of 64 for 39%. The Chargers came away going 13 of 19 from the foul line while the Cherokees hit only 7 of 14. Heyland finished with 22 points and Hymel 13. Sam Houston finished the season at 31-5. Coach Dickey would be loaded in 1983 returning all five starters.

In **District 25-5A** Dulles(18-12) faced Angleton at Wheeler Field House for the right to face Victoria for the title. C. A. Roberts hooped it for 22 points to give Dulles a tight 54-53 win. The Victoria Stingarees were such a dominant force in District 25-5A.

The Dulles Vikings had upset Victoria in the District's first round action, while Victoria came back and won the second round. In the playoff game between the two teams Victoria won a hard fought 69-60 victory. With the win Victoria advanced to Bi-District against Austin Johnston. Hanky Porter paced Victoria against Dulles with 28 points followed by Pat Erskine with 13. C. A. Roberts scored 19 points to lead Dulles and Pete Tinelli chipped in 14.

On the All-District team, Coach Mike Smith of Victoria took coach of the year honors, and 5'10" Hanky Porter(21.9) was named District M.V.P. by unanimous vote. Porter went on to play at Texas A&I in college. 6'2" co-captain, Robert Heinrich(7.3) was named to the 2nd team for Coach Smith along with 6'3" Pat Erskine(8.8). Named honorable mention for the Stingarees were 6'6" Glenn Graves(6.6), 6'2" Wayne Barefield(5.2), 6'3" David Slover(8.0), and 6'4" Jeff Drost(9.5). The top recruit in the District was 6'8" Tony Papa of Angleton, who was named first team all-district and had a fine career at T.C.U.

Midway through the season Victoria Coach Mike Smith had come up with a big defensive change for the Stingarees. He switched from zone defense to man to man. Coach Smith felt a great deal of his team's success could be attributed to two things. Switching to man defense and the return of Porter, who had missed eight games due to an injury earlier in the season. "The teams that run man to man are more successful," Smith said. "Most teams avoid it because it takes more practice time and effort."

District 26-5A was wild and woolly with five teams looking at a playoff possibility going into the last game of the season. Austin Johnston(21-10) took the first half of District with a 7-1 record. In the second half, Austin Travis(20-15) came away with the crown after a disastrous first round going 3-5. In the last game of the regular season Travis(20-15) defeated Austin Johnston(21-10) 68-66 to wrap up the

second round. 6'5" DeNell Davis(20.2) was impressive finishing with 37 points and 11 rebounds in a losing effort. 6'3" Kirk Jones(16.1) of Johnston was held to only 10 points by Austin Travis. Davis scored all his points in and around the bucket.

Austin Travis(20-15) looked to one of the top juniors in the state in 6'9" Sylvester Kincheon(20.9). Austin Travis had a starting lineup made up of all underclassmen. In the win over Johnston, Kincheon paced his team to victory with 27 points and 14 rebounds. Travis felt sweet revenge having lost to Johnston in the first round of District with an embarrassing score of 78-47. There were several Austin schools that were unhappy about the win by Travis. Austin High(25-8), Austin LBJ(26-8) and Austin Reagan(23-10) were all eliminated finishing 6-2 in the second half of District.

This put the first and second round winners, Austin Johnston(20-9) and Austin Travis(20-14), playing for all the marbles at the Burger Center in Austin. The game was a runaway for Johnston as Kirk Jones hit 7 of 8 jump shots in the third quarter to fuel his team's 71-51 win. Jones had a tremendous dunk which energized the Rams along with a total of 26 points. DeNell Davis was strong once again inside with 23 points for the Rams. 6'9" Kincheon continued carrying his team's playoff hopes finishing with 20 points, 13 rebounds and 4 blocks. Johnston's press really was the turning point in the game giving Travis fits. Travis finished their 1982 campaign at 20-15. Johnston was advancing to the playoffs for the first time since 1976. The Rams had advanced to state back in 1970.

In Bi-District Victoria(24-9) staged one of the great comebacks in state playoff history. After trailing by 13 points with less than three minutes remaining, Victoria came from behind to beat Austin Johnston(21-9) 76-70 in Bi-District. The Stingarees(24-9) never led in regulation play and only tied the game once at 60 with one second remaining. "To tell you the truth, I thought we had lost the game when we were down by 14 points," Coach Mike Smith said. Porter scored 33 points in the double overtime win and only shot 11 of 40 from the floor. Asked if he ever gave a second thought to telling Porter to stop shooting, Coach Smith replied, "you have to go with who brought you here. Hanky was shooting because I wanted him to shoot."

Austin Johnston(21-9) was paced by 6'5" DeNell Davis, who led the scoring parade with 22 points, 6'2" Kirk Jones helped with 16 points and guard Sherman Williams kicked in 21 points. The Rams led at halftime 34-25. Erskine was the second leading scorer for Coach Smith with 12 points.

The season came to a screeching halt when Victoria had to play San Antonio Churchill, the top ranked team in the state by the Sports Writers. In **regionals**, Churchill put a whipping on Victoria 88-65. Gary Heyland finished with 21 points for the Chargers and Hymel had 14 while Kennell had 11 points. Porter was the high man for Victoria as usual with 22 points and Erskine had 12 points. Porter was only 8 of 31 from the floor. In discussing Heyland after the game, Coach Smith said, "I think he's a super player, I just wished we would have played a little better.

The Chargers have a real fine team. They are very disciplined and they have enough talent to stay with anybody.” Churchill out rebounded Victoria 42-26 and at one point had a 31-point lead.

*Down in the valley of South Texas, McAllen(27-6) was having a fine season winning **District 28-5A**. The Bulldogs finished up the regular season on a fourteen-game winning streak. During the first round of District, McAllen dropped two games losing to Mission 55-53 and Edinburg 54-48. That created a three-way tie for the first-round title with all three teams finishing at 7-2. In the second-round, McAllen defeated Mission 70-58 and Edinburg in triple overtime 41-38, to take the title. Mission was paced by District M.V.P. 6’2” junior, Noel Cavazos(20.1). Four key players for Coach Jim Cox of McAllen were 5’11” Julian Garza, a transfer from California, 6’4” Ben Dowdy(11.5/10.) a transfer from Montana, 6’1” Gary Rademacher(14.0), and 6’1” Ramiro Gonzalez(10.3). Coach Cox was in his 4th season with the Bulldogs. Raul Betancourt rounded out the starting line-up. McAllen would be fighting the odds with their District representative having not advanced past the first round in 13 years.*

*McAllen’s(27-6) opponent in Bi-District was a high-octane team out of Kingsville(27-8), The Brahmas. The McAllen-Kingsville Bi-District game was played on the home court of the Brahmas. This had to be a big advantage for Kingsville, but McAllen’s two District losses had come at home. Kingsville(27-8) had won the earlier meeting between the two teams 69-66. Kingsville had not made the playoffs since 1965. The Brahmas had a great District battle with Corpus Christi Moody to take **District 27-5A**. Kingsville(27-8) took the first round of District and Corpus Christi Moody came back in the second half of District with a 52-48 win. The Brahmas managed to defeat Moody 69-68 in the critical title game. Kingsville had two really strong players in 6’4” Thomas “Dolly” Gummings(17.6) and 6’3” Thor Dekker(20.2). Gummings had range from all over the court while Dekker could put the ball on the floor and penetrate as well as shoot. Both were named All-State and considered outstanding recruits. Rounding out Coach Ed Caro’s starting five were 6’2” Brad Hopkins(12.7), 5’10” Tony Gonzalez(6.6) and Todd Roepelle.*

Coach Jim Cox of McAllen(27-6) commented before the big game with Kingsville(27-8), “We won 14 in a row and we are 27-6 on the year, it didn’t really matter who we played, I think we can play with anybody.” In discussing Kingsville Coach Cox said, “If we can handle the press and stay with them on the boards, we’ll do ok.” Coach Caro of Kingsville countered, “I felt all along we would win the district. I think we can beat McAllen. I don’t worry much about them.”

Kingsville(27-8) ended McAllen’s season with a 51-47 victory. “I was disappointed in the way the officiating went,” Coach Cox said following the loss. “I’m not blaming the officials for the loss, but I thought most of the calls went against us.” A technical foul for waving a towel from the bench after a teammate took an offensive foul really hurt the Bulldogs of McAllen. Kingsville hit 11 of 16 foul

shots in the fourth quarter alone to win the game. McAllen had three players foul out. Ben Dowdy went to the bench with 5:07 left after scoring 13 points, Manuel Garcia joined Dowdy with 3:03 left and Ramiro Gonzalez left with 1:37 remaining. Nobody fouled out for Kingsville. The Brahmas led at halftime 25-23. Gary Rademacher led McAllen with 18 points while Brad Hopkins was leader for Kingsville with 18.

South San Antonio(24-9) finished in a tie with S.A. McCollum(21-12) for the 2nd round title in District 29-5A, after winning the first round. South won the head to head battle with both team's finishing at 6-1. San Antonio Alamo Heights(23-9) had a very competitive campaign finishing third in District action.

In Bi-District, San Antonio Jay(27-6) prepared to meet South San Antonio(24-9) for the right to move on to regionals. Jay won the earlier meeting between the two teams 84-78. 6'6" Ray Danielak of Jay had been the catalyst in the game with 30 points. Coach Johnny Guzman of South S.A. said, "We've played a tougher schedule."

Coach Scott Etnyre of Jay commented, "we're going to match up with them just like everybody else, man to man." S.A. Jay was counting on the inside strength of 6'6" Ray Danielak(15.0), 6'3" Mike Guidry(10.2), and 6'4" Dennis Perryman. "In the second round of District, teams have backed down on our guards and collapsed on our big men," Etnyre said.

South San Antonio(24-9) started 5'9" Ernest Sanchez(14.7), 6'3" Hector Hernandez(16.3), 6'2" Ray Neal(10.0), and 5'9" Rene Cueller(4.8). The South San Antonio Bobcats averaged 65.5 and allowed 61.5 during the season. One player Coach Guzman could not afford to lose was Ernest Sanchez, who went out with an injury earlier in the season and his team dropped five in a row.

The San Antonio Jay Mustangs had a 15-game winning streak going into the playoffs. 5'9" Mike Hodo(6.9), 5'10" Robbie Avendano(11.2) and 5'9" Willie Bowers(7.0) would need to step up if the Mustangs were to advance.

San Antonio Jay(27-6) was able to come together with a 69-62 win over South San Antonio. "They showed some of the best man to man defense I've seen in a long while," Coach Guzman of South said. "The defense played by their guards surprised us. We knew they were strong inside, but we just didn't think their guards could do that to us." Guzman continued saying, "when Sanchez fouled out with 6:09 remaining, Jay caught fire." Danielak of Jay finished with 25 point and Hernandez led South with 24 points.

San Antonio Jay(27-6) made the first of what would be many trips to **regionals** in 1982. Their opponent was Kingsville(28-8), a team that centered around two dynamic players, 6'4" Thomas Gummings and 6'2" Thor Dekkar.

Kingsville(28-8) advanced to the regional finals with a 81-77 victory. Kingsville's big combo finished with a combined 50 points against Jay scoring 25 apiece in the regional semi-final game. Gummings also pulled in 12 rebounds. Jay

was led by Willie Bowers with 18 points and Danielak had 16 points and 9 rebounds. The numbers were very similar from the floor for both teams, while Kingsville had the advantage from the foul line hitting 17 of 28 compared to Jay's 13 of 16. Jay out rebounded Kingsville 40-34.

In the regional finals, Churchill(34-3) faced an upstart from deep south Texas, Kingsville(29-8). The Brahmas were not intimidated by Churchill or their reputation. Churchill came away with a tough 69-65 victory. Heyland said following the game, "they did surprise me a bit. They are a heck of a team."

6'4" Thomas Gummings and 6'2" Thor Dekkar led Kingsville to a 10-point lead early in the second quarter 22-12. Coach Murphy's team came right back to take the lead at half 32-28. Pat Hymel led the Chargers comeback before half scoring 12 of his 23 points. Churchill built on their lead in the 3rd quarter and finally gained separation 45-32. Most teams would have folded tent at that point but Kingsville came back behind Brad Hopkins, Dekker, Bruce Roberts and Anthony Gonzales. The score stood at 45-41 with 1:22 remaining in the 3rd quarter in favor of Churchill. With 2:53 left in the game the Chargers had a four-point lead which was closed to two points by Dekker. Churchill finished out the game from the foul line. Both teams had similar numbers from the floor with the Chargers hitting 28 of 55 and the Brahmas going 28 of 56. Murphy of Churchill came up with some of his coaching magic by bringing in a third guard to help against the Kingsville press. Up 61-59 with 2:17 remaining Churchill turned to their reliable delay game to close things out. Kingsville was not happy with the physical play that was allowed by the officials out of Waco. "They were letting the kids play, and that was probably to our advantage," Murphy said. "The game was called more like a college game than a high school game." Remember Churchill was considered one of the most physical teams in the state in 1982.

Thor Dekker paced Kingsville with 24 points and Thomas Gummings had 19. Coach Curo of Kingsville said the main difference in the contest was Churchill's superior size. The Chargers were once again fueled by Heyland's 21 points and Hymel's 23.

State Tournament:

Pampa	(29-4)	#9	70.6	54.6	+16.0	PR 86.80
Galveston Ball	(34-5)	#3	73.8	61.2	+12.6	PR 96.87
North Mesquite	(38-2)	#5	62.3	46.5	+15.8	PR 91.57
S.A. Churchill	(35-3)	#1	63.3	50.5	+12.8	PR 94.19

Top Players at the State Tournament:

6'2"	Oscar White	Galveston Ball(injury)
6'4"	Gary Heyland	San Antonio Churchill
6'3"	Mike Nelson	Pampa
6'5"	Brian Essary	North Mesquite
6'4"	Carl Hilton	Galveston Ball

In Austin, there was no clear favorite. #1 San Antonio Churchill(35-3), #3 Galveston Ball(34-5), #5 North Mesquite(38-2) and #9 Pampa(29-4) were all playing their best basketball. The styles of play were also very contrasting and made for very interesting games.

As I arrived in Austin the only team, I had seen was North Mesquite. So, I didn't have any preconceived notions as to who would win. North Mesquite and Galveston Ball was a great match-up because of the contrasting styles. North Mesquite had been facing pressing athletic teams all season and had done very well for themselves. Ball came into Austin riding a 16-game winning streak. Coach Powell said, "Ball is a lot like Dallas Roosevelt, a fast break team, real physical and real quick. They're supposed to have good outside shooters, too."

The two teams had one common opponent, Bryan(29-7). North Mesquite(38-2) beat Bryan 62-49 and Ball(34-5) beat the Vikings 95-75. Ball relied heavily on the inside strength of James Petteway(8.3)and 6'4" Carl Hilton(12.0) in regional action. Both weighed about 215 and brought size and power to their inside game. 6'2" Oscar White(19.4) and 6'1" John Chaney(11.0) were two outstanding guards for the Tors, while 6'3" Rudell Morris(12.8) was the team's fourth double digit scorer. White was considered questionable because of his ankle and replaced in the starting line-up with Chaney. Ball played the toughest schedule of all the teams in Austin. The Tors beat Dunbar(30-9) 63-52, Wheatley(29-7) 88-77 and 89-86, Spring Branch Memorial(36-5) 68-62 and 61-60, Kashmere(23-10) 86-63, 79-68 and 77-76, Clear Lake(29-5) 64-52 and 80-53, LaMarque 67-62 and 70-68. Their five losses were at the hands of Beaumont Charlton Pollard 53-45, Beaumont French(27-7) 74-59, San Antonio Churchill(37-3) 60-55, Houston Washington(23-8) 79-72 and Houston Furr(26-7) 73-69.

In my final rankings of the top teams in the state in the '82 campaign, Ball faced nine teams in my top 30. In the playoffs they had two one-point wins to advance. The Tornadoes were a senior dominated team with all five starters being upper classmen.

“People think we’re not that good, but anybody who has ever seen us will tell you differently,” Coach Ron Powell of North Mesquite said. In discussing his team, Coach Powell described them this way. “What we have is one tall player underneath, one player who could be physical, one player who could shoot from the outside, one utility player who could do just about everything, and Keith Adams, our point guard, who is probably the most consistent player I’ve ever seen.” With this combination I’m not surprised we have a good team. As for depth, Powell said, his first team would beat his second team by 80 or 100 points. “We had a little depth but two players quit.” 6’4” Brian Essary(25.0), 6’3” Steve Harworth, 6’2” Matt Nelson, 6’1” Dale Patterson and 5’9” Keith Adams made up the starters for Coach Powell. “Teams get over confident when they play us,” Powell said.

As you can tell by his comments, Powell was a straight shooter. Not a whole lot of fluff in his statements. As the two teams faced off in the semi-finals, neither team was playing at full strength. The leading scorer for Ball, Oscar White(18.2) was not a full speed and would see only limited action. For North Mesquite, Keith Adams, came down with the flu. Three days later he was still in bed. Mike Davis, his first sub had cut his foot and was confined to crutches up until game time. Matt Nelson, the outside shooter and second leading scorer pulled a muscle in his back, which limited his ability to play at full speed.

In Galveston Ball, North Mesquite faced a group of exceptional athletes which used a tough full court press, swarming defense and tremendous outside shooting. North Mesquite lost a close one 55-48 to the Tornadoes from Galveston Ball. The outside shooting for Ball was supplied by John Chaney who hit 10 of 15 from the floor and many came from beyond 20 feet. Remember there was no three-point line in 1982. Even at that Ball was down at halftime 23-22. North Mesquite had to make several adjustments in the second half because of foul trouble and fatigue. With two starters with three fouls, Powell said he had to lay back and not play their usual pressure half-court defense and hope Ball would miss. “We went into four corners a few times because of fatigue,” Powell stated. “We were fatigued both mentally and physically.” In fact, with 4:32 remaining, North Mesquite still led 43-40. Perhaps the game’s most pivotal play came with 2:42 left when 6’4” Carl Hilton stole the ball and went in for a layup and was fouled. The blue-chip football recruit hit the free throw putting the Tornadoes up 49-45. Hilton scored 7 of his 11 points in the fourth quarter and had also made a key steal and layup in Ball’s 61-60 win over Memorial in the regional finals. His foul shot with four seconds left won the game against Memorial. Hilton later went on to make All-SWC at the University of Houston and played for the Vikings in the N.F.L.

Galveston Ball led by four points till the final seconds when the Stallions began fouling. Ball had three players in double figures, Chaney with 22 points, Hilton chipped in 11 points and Rudell Morris had 10. The Tors were 24 of 47 from the floor while North Mesquite was 14 of 25. The foul line was the big difference as usual for

the Stallions hitting 20 of 29 while Ball hit seven of 15. North Mesquite finished 38-3 on the season. "This was a fine basketball team, a lot like Memorial, and it's easy to see why they won in the Dallas area." Coach T. Berry said.

In the other semi-finals, Churchill(35-3) carried the hopes of San Antonio to become the first team since 1967 to capture the state championship in the largest classification. Pampa(29-4) came into the game shooting 57% from the floor and Churchill shot 52%.

Both coaches had experience at state with Garland Nichols of Pampa having coached Petrolia to state in 1973 and again in 1974. Murphy had taken S.A. Marshall to state the previous season. Both coaches also felt their teams were reaching state at their peaks. "We are playing as good as we have all year," Murphy said. "I've been told Churchill should be the favorite," Coach Nichols said, "They're a big strong club, and a physical team on the boards." Murphy agreed with Nichols but pointed out, "We're not quick and that's where a team might hurt us." Coach Murphy continued, "I don't know just a whole lot about them, I understand they have a couple of brothers who are pretty good."

The brothers were floor leader Mike Nelson(19.3) and Charles(16.9), who provided outside shooting. The very versatile Terry Faggins(13.6) was so valuable in several areas. 6'6" Coyle Winborn started for Coach Nichols as a sophomore and was a direct link to the great Pampa(29-4) teams of the past. Winborn's father and uncle had both played on the 1959 state championship team. Nichols pointed out the difference in the size of the schools. Churchill(35-3) had 2,922 students compared to only 1,200 for Pampa. Unfortunately, this is the way the divisions had been drawn up.

The game was never close as the Chargers jumped out to a 11-2 lead and was up 22-8 over Pampa(29-4) at the end of the first quarter. Churchill(35-3) never looked back winning 76-56. Pat Hymel led Churchill with 24 points and Gary Heyland followed with 22. Mike Nelson led the Harvesters with 20 points while 6'6" sophomore, Coyle Winborn added 15 points.

6'4" Terry Faggins of Pampa picked up his 3rd foul in the 2nd quarter and shortly after Nichols was called for a technical foul which took the Churchill lead from 32-17 to a 38-17 advantage. Losing Faggins really hurt the Harvesters because of his ability to play effectively inside. Faggins fouled out with 7:04 left in the game with four points. Charles Nelson had a dreadful game hitting only 2 of 13 shots and finished with only six points. Personally, I remember the game well, it was one of the best played games I'd seen a team play at the state tournament, Churchill played flawless. "They're good -that's the best shooting team we've seen all year," Nichols commented. "Churchill just whipped us to be truthful about it."

The Chargers led 71-40 with 3:49 remaining and Coach Murphy only began to take his starters out at the 1:43 mark. Pampa was able to narrow the gap to 76-56, which made it look more respectful.

The thing that made Churchill so tough is they did not have any leapers or real size but they were extremely thick and strong with the ball and very fundamental. They looked like a beach volleyball team that had been pumping iron all day. They were physical and very impressive. Although Heyland stood out as the best all-around player, the team meshed together so effortlessly. I knew they would be tough to beat in the finals even by the multi-talented Ball team. Sometimes when watching Churchill, the ball would never touch the floor. Churchill had physical limitations in that team speed and quickness were not that strong. The team had depth, but they only went about eight-deep. Churchill was an all-white team, which was very unusual to see in Austin in the years following desegregation. Yes, there had been other all white squads, but not many in the larger classifications.

Galveston Ball(34-5) and Churchill(36-3) of course had met earlier in the season in the finals of the San Marcos Bob Cat Classic. In that game Ball had led 43-38 going into the final quarter and were outscored 22-12 by the Chargers and lost 60-55.

In the state championship game Carl Hilton of Galveston Ball missed a 15-footer at the buzzer to give San Antonio Churchill a 75-74 win and the state championship. Churchill led early by as many as 13 points in the 2nd quarter. At halftime the lead had been cut down to 41-34. Ball was still trailing 63-54 with 7:15 remaining in the contest when the tremendous guard tandem of Chaney and Oscar White began finding their range from 15 to 25 feet. The two guards combined for 12 of Ball's final 20 points to get the game within range. With 1:13 remaining Chaney left the game on fouls. White immediately hit a 25-footer to pull his team even closer. Point guard, John Moseley of Churchill missed the front end of a one and one with 14 seconds that would have clinched the win. Churchill also became the first team with an all-white starting lineup since the UIL was integrated in 1968 to win it all. Plano almost did the trick in 1980 against Houston Kashmere, but lost by one point. For Churchill Coach, Bobby Murphy, it was his second state final in a row having brought S.A. Marshall to the finals in '81. Heyland had 22 points in the finals and Chaney again led Ball with 18 points followed by White's 17 and Hilton had 14 points.

"Free throws did us in," Coach Berry said. Ball was 10 of 19 from the foul line. The Chargers were 15 of 26 from the line. Petteway and Chaney both got into early foul trouble which hurt Ball. The Chargers had little trouble with the full court pressure. "Churchill proved to us they are a great team," Berry said. Oscar White had scored only 2 points in the semi-finals seeing limited action. In the final's, White came up big for the Tors with 17 points.

Churchill(32-3) had three unexpected losses during the season to San Antonio Jay(28-7) 61-58, San Marcos(21-12) 55-53 and San Antonio Highlands(24-9) 64-63. The Chargers lost three games by six points. Also, all three teams were very competitive teams but not considered powerhouses. Teams that lost to Churchill

looks like a who's who of high school basketball in 1982. Placed next to each team is my end of season final ranking. #18 Clear Lake(29-5) 49-38, #2 Galveston Ball(35-6) 60-55 and 75-74, #79 Midland(22-9) 71-64, #32 SA Jay(28-7) 61-52, #9 Houston Kashmere(23-10) 70-65, # 13 Bryan(29-7) 84-60, #46 Nacogdoches(21-12) 52-41, #3 Houston Yates(33-4) 53-51, #22 SA Roosevelt(25-5) 66-58 and 67-50, #71 San Marcos(21-12) 59-50, #6 SA Sam Houston(31-4) 59-57, #23 Kingsville(29-9) 69-65, #49 Victoria(25-10) 88-65, # 12 Pampa(29-5) 76-56:

When looking at the schedule you realize the Chargers had faced the best the state had to offer with all kinds of different styles and coaching strategies. Churchill finished 11-0 against teams ranked in the top 25. They didn't run up big scores, that was not their style of play. Almost 40 years later the Chargers are still considered one of the best teams to ever come out of the Alamo City.

All-Tournament team: Gary Heyland and Pat Hymel of Churchill, John Chaney of Ball, Mike Nelson of Pampa and Brian Essary of North Mesquite.

Interview with the Murphy Brothers:

After the 1981 season Coach Gerald Adams left San Antonio Churchill to pursue some business opportunities. His assistant was a young 24-year old coach named Danny Murphy. The Chargers were returning four starters from one of the top teams in the state. The forecast for the Chargers was very impressive as the team prepared for the '82 campaign. Danny was called in by the administration and informed he just didn't have enough experience to take over the reins at Churchill. But he was asked if he knew anybody that he could recommend. "My brother, Bobby," Danny said. Bobby Murphy had just advanced to the state finals with San Antonio Marshall in class 5-A. After a lot of encouragement from Danny and their father, Pete Murphy, Bobby took the job.

"It was a great situation with talent and experience returning. We had a lot of intangibles like unselfishness and high basketball IQ. The team maximized their talent. I introduced multiple defenses and the match-up zone which kept teams off balance. We changed defenses on made and missed baskets. We had the type kids who could adjust on the fly, making me look good," Bobby said. Bobby shared that one of the selling points of moving from Marshall to Churchill was having a basketball man as his assistant coach. "Having my brother as the assistant was monumental to the team's success, because I could delegate so much of my coaching responsibilities to Danny." The young Murphy handled all the scouting and the countless preparation needed before each game. Both had played college ball for their father at Trinity University in San Antonio. "Churchill had been primarily a post-oriented offense the previous season getting the ball inside to John Williamson." Bobby said. "Everybody had the green light for me and we had so much balance with good size ranging from 6'3" to 6'6".

When I asked Bobby about his 1981 state finals loss to Pt. Arthur Lincoln while coaching at San Antonio Marshall, he quickly responded, "had we not lost our point guard late in the game we would have won the game," Bobby said. "We had the lead with two minutes left when my point guard fouled out, which Lincoln took advantage of." As for preparing for teams during the playoffs during Marshall's run to the title game, Bobby said he did all the scouting himself. "I got most of my information from other coaches, I never had any film on anybody," Bobby said.

In discussing the 1982 title game against Galveston Ball both brothers said the same thing, "thank god, they didn't have the three-point line, we would have been in trouble against Ball." Bobby shared that Churchill had faced Ball earlier in the season in a tournament and were well aware of Ball's talent. "Ball could really shoot the ball from long distance."

When asked about the most memorable play of the championship season both brothers agreed, it was Gary Heyland's bank shot from the top of the circle with only seconds remaining. The "big shot" defeated San Antonio Sam Houston and put the Chargers into regionals. "I feel confident Sam Houston would have won state had we not beaten them, they were really talented," Murphy said.

Pete followed his boy's championship run in 1982 with pride. Pete had led Trinity University as basketball coach from 1972 till his death in 1986. Pete unfortunately passed in 1986 at the age of 60, losing his battle with cancer. The family was originally from Indiana, the hotbed of high school basketball. The passion and love for the game passed from father to his boys and Texas basketball was the beneficiary. Over the last 50 years only three other schools have won state titles in the largest classification from San Antonio. Lee in 1967, East Central in 1995, and Jay in 2002. Churchill will always rank as one of the best ever to come out of the Alamo City.

Coach Bobby Murphy finished his coaching career at Churchill in 1998 after sixteen years. "The parents were tough the last few years, I was ready to step down. I could have started over someplace else but I really liked teaching P.E. and didn't want to go back into the classroom and have to coach football again." Bobby moved into administration and is presently retired. He still enjoys watching his younger brother coach and loves his golf.

Gary Heyland- "On A Mission"

Gary Heyland never lacked confidence during his championship season at Churchill in 1982. "We expected to win and that was our attitude, yes you could call us cocky, but I would say we were just confident," Heyland said. At the beginning of his senior season, one of his teachers asked him how the team would do in the coming season, his response was, "state champions." His teacher felt he would take that bet wagering a Saturday night drive in his new Mazda RX-7. Heyland wagered

an evening at one of the best restaurants in town. After the state title, the teacher weaseled his way out of the wager saying, "I can't let you drive my knew car."

If Heyland was confident, he definitely never wanted Coach Bobby Murphy to notice. After taking over the top ranking in the state polls, the team was showing a little emotion with high fives and cutting up and celebrating. That afternoon in practice, Coach Murphy made his point. "It was hell, he ran the smiles off our faces," Heyland said. For three hours the team ran lines up and down until some players began vomiting. Murphy walked off the court saying, "don't ever get cocky on me again." Coach Murphy said. "We got the message," Heyland said.

When discussing the championship season, Heyland discussed his young 31-year-old coach, Bobby Murphy. "He drilled us and conditioned us beyond what most people would expect, or even believe possible. We never looked beyond our next opponent. Coach Murphy was brilliant in the way he dealt with us on a sociological level. He was tough and expected perfection, but at the same time made it a lot of fun and we loved him," Heyland said. "Both Bobby Murphy and his brother made us believe the only acceptable outcome of the season was the state championship," Heyland shared. "We all bought in. We fully expected to win every game."

Heyland said, Coach Murphy never worried about the opponent. "He would come out and tell the newspapers about how tough the next opponent was and how worried he was, but then came out to practice and told us that it was just ploy, "we're going to run them out of the gym." Coach Murphy's attitude was that we are going to do what we do and not worry about who were playing. We really never had any idea who was on the other team or even which players were their top scorers," Heyland continued. Gary had a tremendous respect for Coach Murphy's family and his past accomplishments and where he had come from.

Heyland also mentioned that his former coach, Gerald Adams, was a key figure on his development, as well as the rest of the team. "Adams just worked on fundamentals by the hour with us, he drove into our heads playing a very slow deliberate attack and man defense. Fifteen passes before you shoot type attitude. Murphy came in and just turned us loose with up tempo and multiple defenses, changing every time down court with hand signals. We played the fast tempo, but Coach Adams had engrained fundamentals into our game. He drilled us constantly." Adams retired to his ranch opening the door for Coach Murphy to move from Marshall High to Churchill.

The turning point of Heyland's basketball career occurred his junior year in the district playoff game against San Antonio Roosevelt. Coach Adams had a one on one ladder that he used to improve individual skills. You could challenge players on the ladder each week. Heyland was at the top of ladder and late in the game against S.A. Roosevelt, he was isolated on several occasions. In his mind he came up short and took full responsibility for the team's loss. Nobody ever came out and said as

much, but Heyland felt he had let his team down. "From that point on I was totally dedicated to basketball and being the best player I could be, no dates, nothing, just focused on basketball," Heyland said.

Football was king at Churchill High school in the early 1980s. Heyland broke his leg his freshmen year, which ended his career on the gridiron. There was a lot of resentment from the football players and coaches towards the basketball team because we had all quit to focus on basketball. "We played with a chip on our shoulders because we felt we had something to prove. Also, being an all-white team also pushed us to prove ourselves as well. Race was never an issue with the team, but we felt the pressure to prove we could run with the best."

At 6'4", Heyland's dunking ability was described by Coach Murphy as incredible, "he could throw it down anyway you wanted." Heyland would sometimes hit his head on the rim on his dunks. When questioned about how he developed his dunking ability, Heyland said, "every day after practice I would get on the leaper and work till I could barely walk, I would push my dad's car three miles to build up my leg strength."

Murphy described Heyland as one of the best players he had ever coached, "he was money from 15 to 22 feet and could post-up, great leader, I thought he was the best player in the state, heck he was named "Player of the Year" in Texas. He could do it all, very athletic, just a pleasure to coach. The whole team was great to be around and very smart, as well as talented."

In discussing the season, Heyland felt they had a very tough schedule facing some of the top teams in the state, Houston Yates, Houston Kashmere, and Galveston Ball. "These were all strong team's, but the best team we played all season was San Antonio Sam Houston, they would have won state had we not beaten them." On his game winning shot in Bi-District game against Sam Houston, Heyland explained, "the score was tied with the clock running down and I told Moseley to shoot the ball, I was yelling at him, he passes me the ball and I just threw it up from the top of the circle and it banked in." After the game, Sam Houston's players came into the Churchill locker room and encouraged the victors to bring back the state championship.

Following the big win over Sam Houston, Heyland didn't feel like there was a lot of competition, as they advanced to state. Once at state, Churchill knew very little about Pampa, although assistant coach, Danny Murphy had scouted the Harvesters and felt confident about the game's outcome. "I don't remember watching the other semi-final game between North Mesquite and Galveston Ball," Heyland said. "We were confident and had played Ball previously, we knew they were good."

As I look back some 35 years ago my memory of Churchill was that of the ultimate team. Although Heyland received many accolades following the season, he was barely the leading scorer on the team with all five players averaging in double

figures. Whether finishing on the end of a fast break or running their half-court offense, the Chargers were smooth and limited their mistakes. The teams nickname was the "Clones" as they all had similar builds and their heights ranged from 6'3" to 6'6". Heyland said the key to the team's success was their hours upon hours of playing with one another. "We played every Saturday and Sunday in the offseason for several hours at the Castle Hill Baptist church. Don Harris opened up the gym and we refined our skills."

Coach Murphy felt that the multiple defenses that the Chargers ran gave his team an edge. It was not unusual to change defenses on the first pass to man or match-up. "We pressed but it was more of a containment type press. While I was at Marshall we had more quickness, and would press full-court aggressively. Quickness was probably one of our weaknesses at Churchill, but we more than made up for it with execution and physical size inside," Murphy said.

After graduation, Heyland looked to his college career as one of the top recruits in the state. His uncle was Jay Arnette, former All-American at Texas. Gary's grandfather had taught at Texas. It was a given he would attend Texas. In the 8th grade he and his cousin attended the Longhorns basketball camp and Heyland was caught hanging on the rim by Head Coach, Abe Lemons. Lemons took down his name and the recruiting began over the next few years. Lemons was eventually released as head coach with the Horns and the recruitment was wide open. "I was raised Baptist and had and still do have strong beliefs, so Baylor was the next choice under Coach Jim Haller," Heyland said. "I was not real social and didn't want to go through all the recruitment hassle, so I just signed with Baylor." After a year and half, Gary moved on to U.T.S.A for family reasons. "Baylor didn't really have that strong a program at the time and U.T.S.A. had a good program," Heyland said. As a college player, Heyland received a fine education playing four years, and today is married and lives in Dallas as a financial advisor.

Coach Wayne Dickey of San Antonio Sam Houston lost to Churchill on the final shot of the game in 1982. In 1983, Dickey's team lost to the eventual state champions Bryan in the state semi-finals by one point. I put the question to him as to who was better, Churchill or Bryan. "I would have to go with Churchill because they were so physical and strong. Physically they were all the same size and thick. Bryan was much quicker and very talented, but I would have to go with Churchill. Coach Brown of Bryan was such an outstanding coach and got so much out of his kids. He was able to beat a lot of teams just on his coaching ability," Dickey explained.

1982 State Rankings AAAA{End of the Regular Season}

1.	S.A. Churchill	31-3	6'4" Gary Heyland(15.4), 6'4" Pat Hymel(13.2)
2.	Dallas Roosevelt	31-3	6'4" Carl Wright(25.0), 5'8" Ronell Peters(10.0)
3.	Galveston Ball	30-5	6'2" Oscar White(18.7), 6'4" Carl Hilton(12.0)
4.	S.A. Sam Houston	31-3	6'8" Raynard Davis, 6'5" David Moss
5.	North Mesquite	32-3	6'4" Bryan Essary(18.0), 6'2" Matt Nelson(18.0)
6.	Houston Yates	32-3	6'7" Ricky Winslow(18.0), 6'8" Joe Green
7.	Tyler Lee	29-3	6'4" Charles Young(25.3), 6'1" Jeff Kaman(15.3)
8.	Plano	28-4	6'1" Ryant Greene, 6'0" Rod Greene
9.	Pampa	25-4	6'3" Mike Nelson(19.5), 6'4" Charles Nelson(18.7)
10.	Houston Wheatley	29-7	6'8" Phillip Smith, 6'2" Frederick Demerson
11.	Jersey Village	32-2	R.A. Stephens
12.	Bryan	24-6	Milt Elarms, Willie Dixon
13.	Spring B. Memorial	32-4	6'7" Eric Poerschke(14.0), 6'8" Matt Minnis
14.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	28-8	5'10" Lawrence Hudson, 6'2" Ricky Speed
15.	Killeen	30-4	6'5" Keenan DeBose(27.2)
16.	Kingsville	25-7	6'4" Thomas Gummngs, 6'3" Thor Dekker(20.2)
17.	Amarillo Tascosa	21-6	
18.	Cypress Creek	28-6	Steve Franks, Steve Baker
19.	Ft. Worth Richland	23-7	6'5" Mark Perkins, Zack Carroll
20.	Duncanville	25-6	Keith Johnson

HM- Clear Lake(28-5), Waco University(26-6), Corpus Christi Miller(23-8), Corpus Christi Moody(25-5), Pasadena Dobie(29-4), LaMarque(24-7), South Garland(27-5)

All-State Team: The Sports Writers

1st Team, 6'5" Keenan DeBose(27.2), Killeen; 6'5" Charles Young(25.3), Tyler Lee; 6'1" Alvin Franklin(28.0), La Marque; 6'4" Gary Heyland(15.4), SA Churchill; 6'3" Mike Nelson(19.3), Pampa

2nd Team, 6'4" Pat Hymel(13.2), S.A. Churchill; 6'5" Brian Essary(21.0), North Mesquite; 6'4" Carl Wright(25.0), Dallas Roosevelt; 6'2" Oscar White(18.5), Galveston Ball; 6'2" Thor Dekker(21.4), Kingsville

3rd Team, 6'6" Mike Clifford(21.6), Round Rock, 6'4" Thomas Gummings(17.0), Kingsville; 6'7" Ricky Winslow(15.0), Houston Yates; 6'2" Hanky Porter(20.7), Victoria; 6'1" Wali Jones(17.7), S.A. Marshall; 6'1" Jeff Kaman(15.3), Tyler Lee;

Honorable Mention-Mark Perkins, Ft. Worth Richland; Gil Wright, Plainview; Keith Johnson, Duncanville; Gilbert Cruz, Laredo Nixon, Charles Nelson, Pampa

Texas Association of Basketball Coaches All-State Team

1st Team, 6'1" Alvin Franklin(28.0), La Marque; 6'4" Gary Heyland(15.4), SA Churchill; 6'4" Charles Young(25.3), Tyler Lee; 6'4" Carl Wright(25.0), Dallas Roosevelt; 6'7" Eric Poerschke(14.0), SB Memorial; 6'1" John Dudley, Wichita Falls Rider; 6'4" Milton Potter S.A. Highlands; 6'3" Mike Nelson(19.5), Pampa; 6'7" Ricky Winslow(15.0), Houston Yates; 6'10" Raynard Davis S.A. Sam Houston; 6'5" Brian Essary(21.0), North Mesquite, 6'7" Ray Danielak, S.A. Jay, 5'9" Hamad Holmes, El Paso High; 6'5" Keenan DeBose(27.2), Killeen; Billy Reece(23.0), Aldine;

T.A.B.C. All-Star Game in Waco-Oscar White, Galveston Ball; Alvin Franklin, La Marque; Keenan DuBose, Killeen; Eddie Cuellar Laredo United, Bobby Deaton, Waco Midway; Gary Heyland, S.A. Churchill, Joe Green, Houston Yates; Matt Minnis Memorial; Jimmy Gilbert, Huntsville; Ronnie Singleton, Dallas Carter; Keith Johnson, Duncanville; John Dudley, Wichita Falls Rider; Scott Hunt of Borger; Brian Essary, North Mesquite; Terry Faggins, Pampa; Charles Young, Tyler Lee, John Chalk, Abilene High; Brian Mattson, Carl Wright, Dallas Roosevelt:

Recruits: The 1982 season was probably the hardest of all seasons to figure because there were really so few top recruits. One recruiter referring to the class of 1982 saying, "There's not any real great talent this year, there's a lot of good talent, but there's not much in the way of super talent." One recruiter went as far as to say, "once you get past the top seven or eight players, you have to look out of state or at junior college players." The Times Herald of Dallas ran its usual poll and 6'4" **Carl Wright**(25.0/15.0) of Dallas Roosevelt, 6'1" **Alvin Franklin**(28.0) of La Marque and 6'5" **Keenan DeBose**(27.2) of Killeen were the three top recruits in no particular order. Nine out of the ten Southwest Conference Coaches who participated voted for these three players as the top recruits. They were regarded as the top Blue Chippers. Wright and Franklin were thought to be "can't miss" recruits. Wright said, "I think the only difference between the players in New York and Chicago and the players in Texas is that they get a lot more exposure up there." Wright was considered an exceptional athlete as well having run the 100 meters in track at 10.4 seconds. Wright narrowed his choices down to S.M.U., Texas A&M, and Louisiana Tech. One of the reasons Wright was not widely recruited is most colleges felt Texas A&M and S.M.U. had him wrapped up. Wright had a fine career as a three-year starter at S.M.U. before turning pro. Wright had made it clear he really wanted to play at Georgetown, but was told they had used all their scholarships at his position. Ironically, S.M.U. almost upset Georgetown in the NCAA tournament in 1984 and Wright was the key player doing the damage for the Mustangs along with 7'0" John Koncak. He was drafted by the 113th pick in the NBA draft by the 76ers. **Alvin Franklin's** high school coach, Bill Sinches said that Franklin's leaping ability is what makes him so popular with recruiters. Franklin signed with Houston over San Diego State, Tulsa and Baylor. Franklin had a fine career with the Cougars, he started on a final four team his freshmen year. He was taken in the NBA draft with

the 80th pick by the Kings. **Keenan DeBose**(27.2) had some tremendous offensive games during the season scoring a career high 39 points against rival Ellison. He also put up 34 points in his team's playoff loss to Bryan. DeBose list of teams included Baylor, S.M.U., Arkansas, and Texas A&M. DeBose went to Arkansas and had a limited career playing only two seasons. Number four on the Blue-Chip list was 6'4" **Charles Young**(25.3) from Tyler Lee. Young was a fine shooter and managed 47-points in a District contest against Longview PineTree. Longtime Longview coach, LeRoy Romines called Young, "one of the best players I've seen in high school. When you have a kid like Young, when the pressure's on, he wants the ball and the last shot and will usually make it." Coach Harry Masch said, "I've never had a player like him." Young signed with Kilgore J.C. and averaged 18.0 points a game his freshmen year. Young later attended East Texas State University in Commerce. He had some run ins with the law and returned to Tyler where he was arrested and served 10 years in prison for assault. Following his release he found the lord and is a deacon in his church. Tyler J.C., coached by J.D. Menasco, was said to have the inside track on Young's talents. "In Texas, this is probably the weakest year for recruiting overall, I've seen," Menasco said. "I've seen some outstanding players but not many of them major college material." Coach Leon Spencer of Henderson J.C. commented, "We're interested in the Sabine kids and Young if he doesn't get a major college offer or doesn't go to Tyler JC." Kilgore's coach, Carter Williams commented, "I feel like the Sabine kids can play and most definitely Young and Donald Craver of Linden-Kildare look like pretty good prospects." 6'7" **Eric Poerschke**(14.0) of Spring Branch Memorial signed with Arkansas. He missed a lot of the senior season at Memorial with a stress fracture, but scored at 25.0 points a game at the end of the season when he was finally healthy. Poerschke was called a scoring machine by his high school coach, Don Coleman. Eric had a supportive role at Arkansas, but was never a front-line player. He did have an award at Arkansas named after him, which had to do with recognizing hard work off the court like community activities. In the Dallas Morning News list, **Gary Heyland** from Churchill was the #6 recruit in the state with a strong physical body and nice shot. Quickness would be a concern playing division one. Heyland went to Baylor and later transferred to UT San Antonio playing from 1984-87. 6'7" **Jimmie Gilbert** of Huntsville signed with Texas A&M and finished #7 on the all-time rebounding list for the Aggies. Gilbert averaged 12.1 and 7.3 rebounds a game his senior year. He was the 98th pick in the NBA draft by the Bulls. 6'9" **Victor Richardson** of Houston Washington committed to New Mexico St. 6'1" **Darryn Shearmine** of Archer City had to overcome the label of a small school recruit, which was always risky. Shearmine played for Abilene Christian from 1983-86. He later became a successful high school coach. 6'3" **Tim Ford** of Graford also had the small school label. Ford signed with Texas Tech, but left the squad for personal reasons. He later ended up at Texas State. 6'8" **Joseph Green** of Houston Yates was viewed as one of the top

big men in the state and signed with McNeese State. Green played with Joe Dumars while at McNeese. He ranked 16th in his class academically which enabled him to be highly sought after. 6'8" **Mike Woolley**(20.2) of Odessa Permian had Tech, New Mexico State, West Texas State and Baylor looking at him; 6'5" **Brian Essary**(21.0) of North Mesquite played at Midland Junior College. Essary was considered a long shot because he would have to move outside at the next level. 6'1" **John Dudley** of Wichita Falls Rider signed with Colorado State. 5'10" **Deon Alexander**(8.0) of Waxahachie played at North Texas. 5'8" **Ronnell Peters**(12.0) of Dallas Roosevelt played at UT Arlington after receiving consideration from T.C.U., Oklahoma State, and Oklahoma City. 5'11" **Bernard Walker** of Corsicana was considered a fine outside shooter with his size being a major concern, 6'1" **Ryant Green**(21.0) of Plano signed with San Angelo State. Green had to make the transition to guard after playing inside in high school. 6'1" **Matt Nelson** of North Mesquite received looks from Midwestern and East Texas State. 6'2" **Keith Johnson** of Duncanville, 6'4" **John Massey** of Mansfield were players who would have to move outside at the next level. **Kerry McIlroy** of South Garland committed to Stephen F. Austin, 6'4" **Ivan Pettitt** of Bay City played at Rice, 6'10" **Tony Papa** of Angleton signed with TCU and was a starter on the SWC championship team in 1987. 6'6" **Mike Clifford** of Round Rock signed with Texas A&M and was a four-year letterman. 6'1" **Ron Singleton**(27.3) of Dallas Carter played at San Jacinto JC and Arizona. He was the 146th pick in the NBA draft by the Suns. Coming out of Dallas Carter the recruiters were leery of his size. 6'5" **Tim Price** of Amarillo High committed to UT Arlington. 6'0" **Scott Hunter** of Border signed with Oklahoma St. 6'2" **Ken Gibson** of Houston Scarborough committed to South Alabama. 6'0" **Rodney** and **Roger Wagner** of Dallas Carter signed with Centenary, 6'7" **Melvin Stewart** of Houston Wheatley committed to Texas Southern, 6'9" **Victor Morris** of Houston Kashmere played at Georgetown and transferred to Alcorn St., 6'7" **Terrance Cashaw** of Houston Lamar played four years at Rice. 6'4" **Rahn Bailey**(20.0) of Beaumont Hebert signed with Morehouse St., 6'4" **Terry Faggins**(16.4) of Pampa played at Oklahoma St. and was a four year lettermen and starter. 6'8" **Matt Minnis** of Spring Branch Memorial played at T.C.U. 5'10" **Hanky Porter** of Victoria played at Texas A&I. **Thor Dekker** of Kingsville played for Texas A&I. Of course, Dennis Rodman would have been the best player out of this class but he did not play basketball at South Oak Cliff, his sisters were the basketball stars in High School. 6'6" **Merritt Williams** of North Lamar averaged 21.1 points a game his freshmen year at Paris J.C. 6'7" **Johnny Mumphrey** of Sabine attended Tyler J.C. and 6'4" **Jerry Ragster** of Longview played for Panola J.C.

Top Texas Recruits in 1982 based on their college and pro careers:

Alvin Franklin 6'1"	LaMarque	Houston, 20.0/ 4.5 Ast.	Draft Kings#80
Carl Wright 6'4"	Dallas Roosevelt	SMU, 16.1/ 5.3 Ast.	Draft76ers#113
Jimmie Gilbert 6'8"	Huntsville	Texas A&M 12.1/7.3	Draft Bulls #98
Ron Singleton 6'0"	Dallas Carter	Arizona St./ Grand Canyon C.	Draft Suns#146
Terrance Cashaw 6'7"	Houston Lamar	Rice 13.9/6.4	
Terry Faggins 6'4"	Pampa	Oklahoma St. 14.5/4.5	
Tony Papa 6'10"	Angleton	TCU starter	
Mike Clifford 6'6"	Round Rock	Texas A&M 4-yr. let	
Victor Morris 6'9"	Houston Kashmere	Georgetown/Alcorn St. 4.6	
Ivan Pettitt 6'4"	Bay City	Rice 7.5	

All-Americans: Ricky Winslow of Houston Yates was named 2nd team Parade All-American as only a junior. Winslow was very athletic and tough inside but had limited range on his shot, which hurt him as he elevated through the ranks of college and pro basketball. Alvin Franklin of La Marque was named All-American by Basketball Weekly, 10th team. The Orlando Sentinel named the All-South Prep team and four players were named honorable mention. Carl Wright of Dallas Roosevelt, Keenan DeBose of Killeen, Charles Young of Tyler Lee, and Gary Heyland of Churchill.

National Rankings: Churchill finished #32 in the country by Basketball Weekly.

Stats Leaders: Alvin Franklin was the leading scorer in the state in 5-A with a 28.0-point average followed by Ron Singleton of Dallas Carter at 27.3 per game. Keenan DeBose of Killeen High was next at 27.2 and Charles Young of Tyler Lee finished with a 25.3 average. No real reliable numbers in rebounding or assist. Many coaches sometimes just estimated the numbers, which unless they are reliable, I don't use. The state scoring leader was Houston Wheatley at 96.1 and the top defensive team was North Mesquite at 46.5, followed by Plano at 47.2. Roosevelt was also the leader in point difference at +18.4.

Top Scorer in the Playoffs- Brian Essary of North Mesquite averaged 25.7 per game in the playoffs; Duncanville(22), Dallas Carter(31), Bryan(27), Galveston Ball(23). Gary Heyland of Churchill had impressive numbers averaging 21.6 in five playoff games with his low game being 21.

Power Ratings 1982

1.	S.A. Churchill	37-3	97.50	State Champs 5-A	Def. Ball 75-74
2.	Galveston Ball	35-6	96.87	State Finals 5-A	Loss SA Churchill 75-74
3.	Dallas Roosevelt	32-3	94.71	District Runner-up	
4.	North Mesquite	38-3	91.57	State Semis 5-A	Loss to Ball 55-48
5.	Tyler Lee	30-5	91.54	Reg. Semis 5-A	Loss to Bryan 67-66
6.	Beaumont Hebert	30-3	90.81	State Champs 4-A	Def. Waxahachie 76-71
7.	S. Branch Memorial	36-5	87.13	Regional Finals 5-A	Loss to Ball 61-60
8.	Houston Yates	33-4	86.95	Bi-District 5-A	Loss to Kashmere 54-53
9.	Pampa	29-5	86.80	State Semis 5-A	Loss to Churchill 76-56
10.	Waxahachie	30-7	86.04	State Finals 4-A	Loss to Hebert 76-71
11.	Andrews	32-3	84.25	State Semis 4-A	Loss to Waxahachie 62-56
12.	Houston Washington	23-8	83.99	District Runner-up	
13.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	30-9	83.83	Regional Semi 5-A	Loss to El Paso 37-34
14.	Tyler John Tyler	25-7	82.75	District Runner-up	
15.	Beaumont French	27-7	82.11	Bi-District 5-A	Loss to Aldine 55-49
16.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	21-9	81.91	District Runner-up	
17.	La Marque	25-8	81.47	Tied 2 nd District	
18.	Houston Wheatley	29-7	80.94	District Runner-up	
19.	Bay City	27-5	80.18	State Semis 4-A	Loss to Hebert 66-60
20.	Houston Kashmere	23-10	80.16	Reg. Semis 5-A	Loss to Gal. Ball 77-76
21.	Dallas Kimball	23-5	79.44	District Runner-up	
22.	Dallas Carter	24-7	78.63	Reg. Semis 5-A	Loss N. Mesquite 76-62
23.	Clear Lake	29-5	78.05	Tied 2 nd District	
24.	Plano	29-5	76.80	Bi-District 5-A	Loss to Tyler Lee 71-59
25.	South Oak Cliff	21-10	76.79	Bi-District 5-A	Loss to Carter 104-102
26.	Duncanville	28-9	75.80	Bi-District 5-A	Loss to N. Mesquite 56-41
27.	Wilmer Hutchins	25-10	70.78	District Runner-up	
28.	Ft. Worth Paschal	26-10	70.43	District Runner-up	
29.	Lake Highlands	23-10	70.34	District Runner-up	
30.	Highland Park	20-12	67.30	4 th Place	

San Antonio Churchill beat Galveston Ball twice during the season 60-55 and 75-74 winning the state title. After reviewing the numbers more closely Churchill came away with 97.50 and Galveston Ball finished 96.87. That means if the two teams played on a neutral court, Churchill would be a one-point favorite. Go Figure.

Houston Yates was probably the most talented team in the state with 6'8" Joe Green, who went to McNeese St., All-American junior, 6'8" Ricky Winslow, who signed with the University of Houston, 6'5" Carven Holcomb also a junior, would end up at T.C.U. Both Winslow and Holcomb would be drafted into the N.B.A. Also, on the team was 6'7" Stacey Belcher, who was another junior and played at Houston. 6'7" Keldred Martin, another junior played at T.C.U. Yates finished 33-4 and was eliminated by their old nemesis Kashmere(23-10) 54-53 in Bi-District.

Teams that should have advanced to Austin: *The Dallas Roosevelt Mustangs not making the playoffs was one of the biggest omissions in the 1980s and beyond. They were dominating opponents. The Mustangs beat Ft. Worth Dunbar(31-9) by 22 points, state finalists Waxahachie(30-6) by 6, Plano(29-5) by 4,*

Duncanville(28-7) by 16, Tyler Lee(30-5) by 2, Denton(26-9) by 29, Wilmer Hutchins(25-10) by 17, state semi-finalists North Mesquite(38-3) by 17. The Mustangs were sailing along with only one loss and were upset by S.O.C. in double overtime 76-75, and then shocked by Skyline in overtime 81-74, which knocked them out of the playoffs. Dallas Roosevelt finished 32-3.

1982 5-A Playoffs

Region I Bi-Dist.	El Paso High(26-8)	45	El Paso Eastwood(25-9)	35
	Pampa(26-4) #9	76	Plainview(22-10)	47
	Denton(25-8)	54	Abilene(25-7)	52
	Ft. Worth Dunbar(29-8) #14	83	Ft. Worth Richland(26-7) #19	58
Region I Semis	El Paso High(27-8)	37	Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-8) #14	34
	Pampa(27-4) #9	51	Denton(26-8)	35
Region I Finals	Pampa(28-4) #9	59	El Paso High(28-8)	51
Region II Bi-Dist.	North Mesquite(35-2) #5	56	Duncanville(28-6) #20	41
	Dallas Carter(23-6)	104	South Oak Cliff(21-9) (2 OT)	102
	Tyler Lee(29-4) #7	71	Plano High(29-4) #8	59
	Bryan(27-6) #12	57	Cypress Creek(30-6) #18	51
Region II Semis	North Mesquite(36-2) #5	76	Dallas Carter(24-6)	62
	Bryan(28-6) #12	67	Tyler Lee(30-4) #7	66
Region II Finals	North Mesquite(38-2) #5	62	Bryan(29-6) #12	49
Region III Bi-Dist.	S. Branch Memorial(34-4) #13	63	Houston Madison(24-9)	53
	Houston Kashmere(22-9)	54	Houston Yates(33-3) #6	53
	Aldine High(24-6)	55	Beaumont French(27-6)	49
	Galveston Ball(31-5) #3	80	Pasadena Dobie(30-5)	67
Region III Semis	Galveston Ball(32-5) #3	77	Houston Kashmere(23-9)	76
	S. Branch Memorial(35-4) #13	52	Aldine High(25-6)	48
Region III Finals	Galveston Ball(33-5) #3	61	S. Branch Memorial(36-4) #13	60
Region IV Bi-Dist.	Victoria(24-9)	76	Austin Johnston(21-9)	70
	Kingsville(27-8) #16	51	McAllen(27-6)	47
	San Antonio Jay(27-6)	69	South S.A.(24-9)	62
	S.A. Churchill(32-3) #1	59	S.A. Sam Houston(31-3) #4	57
Region IV Semis	Kingsville(28-8) #16	81	San Antonio Jay(28-6)	77
	S.A. Churchill(33-3) #1	88	Victoria(25-9)	65
Region IV Final	S.A. Churchill(34-3) #1	69	Kingsville(29-8) #16	65
State Semi-Finals	Galveston Ball(34-5) #3	55	North Mesquite(38-2) #5	48
	S.A. Churchill(35-3) #1	76	Pampa(29-4) #9	56
State Finals	S.A. Churchill(36-3) #1	75	Galveston Ball(35-5) #3	74

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1982 AAAAA Top Teams}

- S. A. Churchill 37-3 {beat Ball(2), Lake, Yates, Bryan, Sam Houston}
- Galveston Ball 35-6 {beat N.Mesquite, Memorial(2), Kashmere(3), Lake(2)}
- Houston Yates 33-4 {lost to Kashmere -1, Churchill -3, beat Roosevelt +3}
- Dallas Roosevelt 32-3 {beat N. Mesquite, Tyler Lee, Plano, Waxahachie}
- S.B. Memorial 36-5 {beat Tyler Lee by 7, SA Sam Houston, lost to Ball(2)}
- S.A. Sam Houston 31-4 {lost to Churchill by 2 in bi-district}
- North Mesquite 38-3 {state semis, beat Bryan, Carter, S. Garland(3)}
- Tyler Lee 30-5 {beat Waxahachie, Duncanville(2), Plano, John Tyler(2)}
- Houston Kashmere 23-10 {lost in regional semis to Ball 77-76, beat Yates by 1}
- Houston Washington 23-8 {runner-up to Kashmere in district, beat Ball 79-72}
- La Marque 25-8 {runner-up to Galveston Ball, defeated Yates 62-58}

12.	Pampa	29-5	{State Semis, beat Borger three times, El Paso, Denton}
13.	Bryan	29-7	{beat Tyler Lee, regional finals}
14.	Ft. Worth Dunbar	30-9	{reg. semi-beat Wheatley, Duncanville, Richland(2), SOC}
15.	Houston Wheatley	29-7	{beat Yates in pre-district, lost twice to Yates in district}
16.	Aldine	25-7	{regional semis, lost to Memorial by 4}
17.	Beaumont French	28-7	{lost in bi-district to Aldine, beat Ball by 15}
18.	Clear Lake	29-5	{runner-up to Galveston Ball, tied with LaMarque at 13-3}
19.	Pasadena Dobie	30-6	{lost in Bi-District to Galveston Ball}
20.	Houston Sam Hou.	23-9	{lost a 1st round district playoff to Washington in 19-5A}
21.	Killeen High	31-5	{lost to Bryan in a district playoff in 15-5A}
22.	S. A. Roosevelt	25-5	{runner-up in district to Churchill}
23.	Kingsville	29-9	{regional finalist, lost to Churchill by 4}
24.	Corpus Christi Moody	25-5	{lost in a district playoff to Kingsville 69-68}
25.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	21-10	{lost a district playoff to Beaumont French 67-60}
26.	Plano	29-5	{beat John Tyler, Dunbar, Duncanville, split with LH}
27.	Pt. Neches Groves	25-8	{finished third in district behind Lincoln and French}
28.	Dallas Carter	24-7	{beat SOC, split with Kimball, beat Hillcrest 3 times}
29.	Dallas Kimball	23-5	{beat Plano, Skyline, Paschal, split with Carter}
30.	Houston Madison	24-10	{lost in bi-district to Spring Branch Memorial}
31.	Cypress Creek	30-7	{lost to Bryan in bi-district}
32.	San Antonio Jay	28-7	{split with Churchill, lost in regional semis}
33.	Lake Highlands	23-10	{split with Plano, beat SOC by 21, beat N. Mesquite by 9}
34.	Tyler John Tyler	25-7	{District runner-up, lost to Tyler Lee by 4 and 6 points}
35.	Dallas S.O.C.	21-10	{shocked everybody by winning district over Roosevelt}
36.	Amarillo Tascosa	21-7	{runner-up to Pampa in District and state ranked}
37.	El Paso	28-9	{beat Dunbar, Eastwood, regional finalist}
38.	Dallas Hillcrest	24-8	{beat Kimball, lost district playoff to Dallas Carter}
39.	S. A. Highlands	24-9	{runner-up to S.A. Sam Houston in district}
40.	Ft. Worth Paschal	26-10	{runner-up to Dunbar in 7-5A at 11-3}
41.	Dallas Skyline	20-11	{beat Roosevelt, lost district playoff to SOC}
42.	Borger	24-6	{district runner-up to Pampa}
43.	Jersey Village	32-3	{runner-up to Cypress Creek in District}
44.	Denton	26-9	{lost in Regional semis to Pampa}
45.	Lufkin	21-7	{3 rd in District, Split with John Tyler, beat Longview(2)}
46.	Nacogdoches	21-12	{split with John Tyler, and Longview, loss to Lee 63-62}
47.	Houston Worthing		{lost District playoff to H. Madison 77-72}
48.	Abilene	25-9	{lost to Denton in bi-district}
49.	Victoria	25-10	{regional semi-finals, lost to Churchill}
50.	Duncanville	28-7	{beat SOC, Kimball, Grand Prairie, S. Grand Prairie}
51.	Austin Johnston	21-10	{lost in Bi-District to Victoria in overtime}
52.	South Garland	27-6	{beat Skyline and Highland Park}
53.	Longview	22-11	{finished 5 th in District, defeated SA Sam Houston 70-68}
54.	Waco University	29-7	{finished 3 rd in district 15-5A behind Bryan and Killeen}
55.	Austin High	26-8	{tied for 2 nd behind Austin Johnston in 26-5-A}
56.	S. A. Jefferson	22-9	{finished 3 rd in district behind SA Sam Houston, Highlands}
57.	McAllen	27-7	{lost in bi-district to Kingsville}
58.	South San Antonio	24-10	{lost in bi-district to S.A. Jay}
59.	Plainview	22-11	{lost in Bi-District to Pampa}
60.	Austin L.B.J.	26-8	{tied for 2 nd behind Austin Johnston in 26-5A}
61.	West Orange Stark	19-11	{finished 4 th in tough 22-5A, behind French, Lincoln, PNG}
62.	Houston Smiley	21-9	{district runner-up to Aldine in 21-5A}

63.	Austin Travis	20-15	{won the 2 nd round of 26-5A, lost playoff to Johnston}
64.	Wilmer Hutchins	25-10	{finished 3 rd in 10-5A, behind N. Mesquite, South Garland}
65.	Ft. Worth Richland	24-8	{lost in Bi-District to Ft. Worth Dunbar}
66.	El Paso Eastwood	25-10	{District playoff over Hanks, lost in Bi-Dist. to El Paso High}
67.	San Angelo	17-13	{finished runner-up to Abilene in 5-5A}
68.	Killeen Ellison	22-11	{finished 3 rd in district behind Bryan and Killeen}
69.	Dallas Samuel	18-9	{4 th in 11-5A, behind SOC, Roosevelt, Skyline}
70.	Austin Reagan	23-10	{finished 5 th in district 26-5A}
71.	San Marcos	21-12	{had a solid win over Churchill}
72.	Mission	21-15	{tied with McAllen for the first half title in district 28-5A}
73.	Edinburg		{tied with McAllen for the first half title in district 28-5A}
74.	Highland Park	20-12	{finished 4 th in District 10-5A behind, N.M., S.G., Hutch.}
75.	South Grand Prairie	19-13	{Runner-up to Duncanville in 9-5A}
76.	Eules Trinity	22-12	{finished in 4 th in district 9-5A, Duncanville, SGP, G.P.}
77.	Dulles	19-10	{lost a district playoff game to Victoria 69-60}
78.	FW Western Hills	20-13	{finished 3 rd in district 7-5A, 9-5 behind Dunbar & Paschal}
79.	Midland	22-9	{finished 3 rd behind San Angelo, Abilene in 5-5A}
80.	Grand Prairie	20-14	{finished tied for 3 rd in District 9-5A}
81.	San Antonio Lee	19-16	{finished 4 th behind Churchill, SA Roosevelt, San Marcos}
82.	Houston Milby	17-12	{always tough in a strong district with Yates and Wheatley}
83.	Houston Jones		{Milby, Yates and Wheatley finished ahead of them}
84.	South Houston	22-10	{lost in a District playoff}
85.	Corpus Christi Moody		{lost in District playoff}
86.	S.A. McCollum	21-12	{runner-up to South San Antonio}

Best 1980-1982 (50)

<u>Players(5)</u>	<u>Pts.</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>Pros</u>
6'8" Leonard Allen(81)	13.1	Pt. Arthur Lincoln	San Diego St.	Draft Mavs #50
6'8" Mike Wacker(80)	22.2	San Marcos	Texas	Draft Jazz #151
6'10" John Brownlee(81)	26.1	FW Southwest	N. Carolina/Texas	Draft Clip #78
6'8" Andre Ross(81)	17.0	Houston Milby	San Diego St.	
6'6" Randy Samuels(80)	15.4	Beaumont Hebert	Oklahoma	
6'7" Jimmie Gilbert(82)	16.3	Huntsville	Texas A&M	Draft Bulls #98
6'8" Ricky Cobb(80)	20.5	Wichita Falls	Midwestern Univ.	
6'7" Chris Hardin(81)	22.2	W. Orange Stark	McNeese St.	
6'8" Gilbert Collier(80)	16.0	Ft. Worth Dunbar	T.C.U.	
6'7" Kirk Lundblade(80)	22.0	Plano High	S.M.U.	
6'7" Paul Cunningham(80)	12.6	Houston Milby	U.T.E.P.	
6'11" Kelly Blaine(81)	13.0	Austin High	South Alabama	Draft Nets #108
6'10" Tony Papa(82)	14.0	Angleton	T.C.U.	
6'7" Eric Poerschke(82)	14.0	S.B. Memorial	Arkansas	
<u>Players(4/5)</u>				
6'6" Michael Young(80)	20.0	Houston Yates	Houston	<u>Celtics NBA #24</u>
6'6" Clyde Drexler(80)	16.0	Houston Sterling	Houston	<u>Blazers NBA #14</u>
6'4" Willie Ashley(81)	16.0	Ft. Worth Dunbar	T.C.U.	
6'7" Steffond Johnson(81)	18.0	Longview	LSU/ San Diego St.	<u>Clip NBA #100</u>
6'9" Herb Johnson(81)	25.0	Midland High	Tulsa	Draft Cavs #55
6'8" Larry Davis(81)	19.6	Lufkin	S.M.U.	
6'5" Keenan DeBose(82)	27.2	Killeen High	Arkansas	
6'5" Sam Norton(81)	26.7	FW Paschal	U.T. Arlington	
6'6" Andre Allen(80)	18.6	Ft. Worth Dunbar	Illinois/UTA	
6'4" Todd Chambers(80)	22.0	Bay City	Oklahoma	
6'4" Doug McNeely(80)	16.5	El Paso Eastwood	Duke	
6'6" Kenneth Roberson(80)	19.6	Dallas Roosevelt	Louisiana Tech	
<u>Players(2/3)</u>				
6'4" Charles Young(82)	25.3	Tyler Lee	Kilgore J.C.	
6'4" Carl Wright(82)	25.0	Dallas Roosevelt	S.M.U.	Draft 76er #113
6'2" Puntus Wilson(80)	20.1	Dallas S.O.C.	JC/ Ariz. St/Lamar U	
6'5" Matt England(80)	15.2	Houston Madison	L.S.U./H. Baptist	Draft Bullet#127
6'3" Carlton Cooper(81)	23.1	Paris	Texas	Draft Mavs #132
6'4" Gary Heyland(82)	15.4	S.A. Churchill	Baylor/UTSA	
6'3" Robert Hughes(81)	19.0	Ft. Worth Dunbar	Texas/U.T. Arlington	
6'6" Reid Gettys(81)	12.6	S.B. Memorial	Houston	Draft Bulls #103
6'1" Donald Mickens(81)	23.0	Beaumont Hebert	Tyler J.C.	
6'4" Terry Faggins(82)	16.4	Pampa	Oklahoma State	
6'3" Vern Vittatoe(81)	17.0	San Antonio Marshall	Hardin Simmons	
6'3" Vince Vittatoe(81)	19.0	San Antonio Marshall	Hardin Simmons	
<u>Players(1/2)</u>				
5'4" Spud Webb(81)	25.0	Wilmer Hutchins	Midland JC/NC State	Pistons NBA#87
6'1" Alvin Franklin(82)	28.0	La Marque	Houston	Draft Kings #80
6'2" Reggie Roberts(80)	22.6	McKinney High	Texas A&M	
6'1" Luster Goodwin(81)	16.9	Houston Kashmere	U.T.E.P	Draft War. #71
6'1" Eric Dickens(81)	17.1	Houston Madison	Houston	
6'2" Jack Worthington(81)	27.1	Spring High	Texas/Okla. City	
6'0" Harold Howard(80)	23.5	Austin Lanier	Texas State	
6'3" Ken Walling(81)	13.7	Canyon	West Texas A&M	Draft MLB

5'8" Ronell Peters(81)	12.0	Dallas Roosevelt	U.T. Arlington
6'3" Charlie Harris(80)	14.0	Ft. Worth Paschal	U.T. Arlington
5'11" James Stern(81)	27.0	Waxahachie	Baylor
6'0" Ron Singleton(82)	27.3	Dallas Carter	Ariz. St./Gr. Canyon Draft Sun#146

Top Teams 1980-82 "McKee"

1.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(81)	36-3	5-A State Champions
2.	San Antonio Churchill(82)	37-3	5-A State Champions
3.	Dallas Roosevelt(81)	41-3	5-A State Semi-Finals
4.	Galveston Ball(82)	35-6	5-A State Finals
5.	Houston Kashmere(80)	31-5	4-A State Champions
6.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(81)	31-5	5-A State Semi-Finals
7.	Houston Yates(80)	29-2	4-A Bi-District
8.	Houston Milby(80)	30-3	4-A District Runner-up
9.	Plano High(80)	32-4	4-A State Finals
10.	Houston Madison(81)	35-4	5-A Regional Finals
11.	Clear Lake(81)	38-2	5-A Regional Semis
12.	Houston Yates(82)	33-4	5-A Bi-District
13.	Houston Washington(81)	30-6	5-A Regional Semis
14.	San Antonio Marshall(81)	29-8	5-A State Finals
15.	Dallas Roosevelt(80)	30-4	4-A Regional Finals
16.	Ft. Worth Paschal(80)	30-5	4-A District Runner-up
17.	Houston Milby(81)	29-8	5-A District Runner-up
18.	San Antonio Roosevelt(81)	35-5	5-A Regional Finals
19.	Dallas Roosevelt(82)	32-2	5-A District Runner-up
20.	Spring Br. Memorial(82)	36-5	5-A Regional Semis
21.	S. A. Sam Houston(82)	31-4	5-A Bi-District
22.	North Mesquite(82)	38-3	5-A State Semi-Finals
23.	Tyler Lee(82)	30-5	5-A Regional Semis
24.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(80)	30-8	5-A State Semi-Finals
25.	Houston Madison(80)	26-11	5-A Regional Finals

{4-A are not included}

Power Ratings 1980-82

1.	Pt. Arthur Lincoln(81)	36-3	99.30	5-A State Champion
2.	San Antonio Churchill(82)	37-3	97.50	5-A State Champions
3.	Galveston Ball(82)	35-6	96.87	5-A State Finals
4.	Dallas Roosevelt(81)	40-3	96.76	5-A State Semi-Finals
5.	Beaumont Hebert(81)	35-2	96.60	4-A State Champion
6.	Clear Lake(81)	38-2	95.49	5-A Regional Semis
7.	Dallas Roosevelt(82)	32-3	94.71	5-A District Runner-up
8.	Beaumont Hebert(80)	35-2	91.95	3-A State Champions
9.	North Mesquite(82)	38-3	91.57	5-A State Semi-Finals
10.	Tyler Lee(82)	30-5	91.54	5-A Regional Semis
11.	Ft. Worth Dunbar(81)	34-5	91.24	5-A State Semi-Finals
12.	Beaumont Hebert(82)	30-3	90.81	4-A State Champion
13.	Longview(81)	33-4	90.68	5-A Regional Finals
14.	San Antonio Marshall(81)	31-8	90.39	5-A State Finals
15.	Plano(80)	32-4	90.20	5-A State Finals

1980 AAA

Class AAA still only managed to have sixteen districts, most of them with zone playoffs. Huntsville(24-6) had won back to back state titles in 1978 and 1979 and defeated Mineral Wells(19-8) in both championship games. Both teams were back in 1980 with lesser versions of their previous teams. Waxahachie continued their impressive tradition and a new power emerged from the Golden Triangle region in Beaumont Hebert. The talent was immense in class AAA in 1980 with high profile players like Reggie Roberts(22.6) of McKinney, 6'6" Randy Samuels(15.4/10/2) out of Beaumont Hebert and 6'5" Todd Chambers(22.0) from Bay City.

***Region III** took on a whole new look as the two-time defending state champion, Huntsville(24-6) was knocked out of the playoffs. Huntsville lost in overtime 74-73 to Aldine Eisenhower(25-5). Huntsville standouts were 6'2" Lloyd Archie(20.0) and 6'1" Anthony Antwi(12.0). Both were named 1st team All-District. 6'6" Jammie Gilbert was named sophomore of the Year and 6'3" Terry Hoague was named 2nd team All-District for Huntsville. Archie had been a four-year starter who played in the state tournament three straight seasons.*

Aldine Eisenhower(25-5) now had the unenviable task of playing the #1 team in the state, Beaumont Hebert(33-2). The Panthers of Hebert had little trouble with Eisenhower disposing of them 88-64. In the zone playoff, Hebert eliminated Livingston(14-16) easily 65-45. Former Garland High and A&M standout Ray Roberts coached Livingston and probably should have suited up. The Panthers won the 9-AAA championship with Randy Samuels leading the way with 19 points. "You get a team with a lot of talent and is disciplined like they are and they're going to be tough to beat," Coach Roberts said. It was Coach Fred Williams first District title in his second season at Hebert.

Austin Westlake(25-7) from District 12-AAA was back in the playoffs led by Coach Dent Taylor. In a District playoff game against Georgetown, the Chaparrals won a close game in overtime 51-48. Georgetown(23-5) had three previous victories over Westlake and forced 25 turnovers with their aggressive pressing defense. Westlake came back from 11 points down in the 3rd quarter to send the game into overtime. 6'6" Randy Richardson of Westlake hit two free throws with eight seconds remaining at the end of regulation to send the game into overtime. Richardson was the hero once again in overtime with 35 seconds remaining knocking down foul shots to give the Chaparrals a 49-47 advantage.

Waco(21-10) awaited Austin Westlake(25-7) in Bi-District at Temple High School. The Tigers ended the regular season with a 73-68 victory over Waco Midway(23-9), a team that they had lost to previously by 20 and 18 points. The

victory enabled Waco to get homecourt advantage in the first round of the 11-AAA tournament featuring the South Zone and North Zone. Waco came out on top beating Brownwood 87-52 and Waco Midway again 65-50.

The Tigers entered the playoffs for the second time in three seasons. In 1978, Waco lost to Huntsville in the regionals and in 1979 the Tigers lost in the District tournament in overtime to Waco Jefferson-Moore 62-60. Starters for the Tigers included, 6'0" Rodney Belcher, 6'3" Victor Hicks(22.5/14.0), William McKamey(6.4), Mance Zachary(6.9), and Melvin Carter(17.4).

Westlake's top scorer was 6'4" post, Calvin Schieraldi. Against the Waco Tigers, Schieraldi put in 20 points on 8 of 12 shooting and 4 of 6 from the foul line. Victor Hicks(22.5) was the leading scorer for the Tigers with 17 points and 15 rebounds. Hicks hit his most important basket of the evening with 41 seconds remaining to give Waco a 51-49 advantage. The Chaps held the ball and called timeout with 12 seconds remaining to set up their final shot. Mark Varner of Westlake took a 20-footer with three seconds remaining and missed. Waco moved into the regional finals against Hebert with a 52-49 win. "We knew we couldn't run with them," Coach Dent Taylor of Westlake said. In the 3rd quarter, Waco surrounded Schieraldi and held him to 5 points. Eventually the Tigers had to go to a zone to contain the big man.

Waco High(22-10) knew they would have their hands full with Beaumont Hebert(33-2). "Yeah, we got us a tough one here," Coach Jesse Williams of Waco said looking at the match-up against Hebert. "They're an exceptionally good team," Williams said. "We're playing as well as we have all year right now." Waco's focus would be to slow down 6'6" Randy Samuels of Hebert. Belcher and Hicks would draw the unenviable task of guarding Samuels. Samuels was a physical talent who rebounded and block shots, but was somewhat raw offensively. Physically he was imposing and looked very much like a football player.

Waco High(22-10) played Hebert very close before losing contact late. The 65-50 victory put the Panthers in the state semi-finals. Beaumont Hebert(33-2) was only up 54-50 with 1:47 remaining and ended up going to the foul line to extend the margin of victory to fifteen. Hebert finished with a 11-0 run. Samuels missed his first six shots but ended up with 19 points, going 7 of 18 from the floor. He also added 7 rebounds and 2 blocks. He intimated countless Tigers attempts at the basket as Waco finished 20 of 59 from the floor. "He was definitely the best big man we played against this year," Coach Jesse Williams of Waco said. Hicks finished with 17 points and 8 boards. William McKamey and Melvin Carter added 12 points each. Waco finished the season at 22-11. Hicks of Waco was asked about how he felt Hebert would do at state, his reply was, "I think they'll win it because of the big man."

Hebert's schedule had been laced with top competition throughout the season. Coach Fred William's team had faced Pt. Arthur Lincoln(24-8), one of the top

teams in the state in class 4-A, four times during the season. The Bumble Bees of Pt. Arthur were ranked #18 and regional semi-finalists before losing to Houston Madison. Hebert defeated Lincoln three out of the four games they played. The Panthers also defeated the #14 team in the state in class 4-A, Galveston Ball(23-9) 68-57. The Panthers only other loss was not on the basketball court. It came by way of forfeit. The Hebert football team had a playoff game and the basketball team schedule conflicted, so the basketball team forfeited to Bridge City. "It's no big deal," Coach Williams commented. "It was in a tournament and wasn't something we had to do. But since the football team was playing in the state semi-finals and everything, we just decided to let everyone go and see the game."

Hebert had impressive numbers over the season averaging 76.0 points per game and allowing only 53.7 for a 23.3-point advantage. The team's strength was on the inside with 6'6" Randy Samuels(17.0) doing most of the damage. Samuels had plenty of help from 6'1" Andre Boutte(11.0) and 6'1" Donald Mickens(13.0). Hebert was the overwhelming favorite in class AAA to win state.

Coach Fred Williams had taken over the coaching duties at Hebert in 1978 after a successful run at Silsbee, about 20 miles north of Beaumont. In that short period of time he had completely rebuilt the program. Being the #1 ranked team in the state had been very positive for the Hebert squad. They took pride in the ranking and wanted to prove they were the best. Bay City(27-8) awaited Hebert(33-2) in Austin.

In **Region IV** Bay City(27-8) had defeated a strong West Campus(26-6) squad in Bi-District 88-82. Some of the highest scoring numbers that the state had ever seen were thrown around in the game. 6'6" Ray Carroll(20.2) of West Campus(26-7) put up 46 points in the loss. Not a miss print. If that weren't impressive enough, 6'5" Todd Chambers of Bay City almost matched the numbers hitting 41 points. You have to go all the way back to 1974 and Dennis Tealer of Gonzales to come up with those type of numbers. Chambers had help in the scoring column with Ivan Pettit hitting 17 points and Greg Williams going for 17. West Campus won their zone title over New Braunfels 55-40 and Carroll scored 22 points in the win.

Bay City(33-2) had advanced to the state finals in football and got a real positive addition from the gridiron in quarterback, 6'1" Greg Williams, who signed with Texas A&M in football. 6'1" Craig Estinbaum and 5'10" Ivan Pettit were key performers for the Blackcats. In the regional finals, Bay City took down West Oso(22-6) 68-61. West Oso(21-6) had advanced with a 50-49 win over Roma(25-6) in Bi-District.

As Bay City(27-8) prepared for Beaumont Hebert(33-2) in **the state semi-finals**, they were fully aware of the talent the Panthers possessed. "They've been ranked #1 in the state most of the season," said Bay City Coach Eddie Nelson. "And I've seen none better. We certainly can't get into a running match with them. We

have got to play under control, try and set the tempo of the game, run our plays and hope for the best." Bay City(27-8) had an 18-game winning streak entering the game. One of the scouts from Waxahachie reported back to Coach Aldridge that Hebert looked like a college team coming onto the court.

The Beaumont Hebert's starting lineup consisted of 6'6" Randy Samuels, 6'3" David Green, 6'2" Donald Mickens, 5'10" Gable Duffy, and 6'0" Alton Bridges. Coach James Gamble of Pt. Arthur Lincoln said one of the problems was trying to match-up with their size and quickness. "Our big men had to move outside and try and guard them, which was a real problem," Gamble said.

Hebert(33-2) led at halftime 36-34 in a close ball-game against Bay City. The Panthers jumped on the Blackcats early in the second half with a 10-0 run in the opening 3:15 of the 3rd quarter. "We just seemed to lose our poise in the early stages of the third period," Coach Nelson remarked. The result was a 69-57 victory for Hebert. "I would say we played about as good as we could but they just had more stuff, they were the better team," Nelson said. Hebert had four players in double figures, Samuels with 17 points, George Welford finished with 14, Andre Boutte hit 13 and Alton Bridges contributed 10 points. Chambers was high man for Bay City with 28 points and carried his team in the second half scoring 19 of Bay City's 23 points. Samuels was dominating for Hebert with 17 points, 9 rebounds and four blocks. Both players signed with the Sooners of Oklahoma. Helping Samuels on the inside was Boutte with 9 boards. Foul trouble for Bay City changed the game in the second quarter as numerous Blackcats went to the bench in foul trouble. Bay City only shot 21% from the floor in the second half. Hebert forced 28 turnovers while Bay City forced 27. The rebounding edge went to Hebert 49-39.

One of my favorite quotes by a player was credited to Randy Samuels of Hebert who said following the Bay City game, "I made Bay City think I was the devil and they were in hell."

If you read my earlier books you realize the Waxahachie(31-3) Indians had a basketball tradition few schools have ever duplicated in the state. Coach Jack Aldridge and the Indians had a great run through the 1980s **in Region II**. In 1979, if you recall, Waxahachie had their hopes dashed in the regional finals against Daingerfield 43-38. The two best players for the Indians returned for the 1979-80 campaign, 6'4" Vance Hughes(18.0/10.1) and 6'4" Ken Cox(11.0/8.6). Joining the talented duo was a 6'1" guard named Victor Guinyard(14.0/5.1), who was a more explosive scorer than Hughes or Cox. The trio gave Coach Aldridge a stronger team than the '79 version of the Indians with more depth and talent. Other players who made major contributions were 6'0" Lyndon Wilson(5.3), James Stern(6.5/4.1), 6'3" Kirk Paschall(6.0/4.1), Mike Cox, David Wrzesinski, Glenn Pruitt, Gary Davis, Gene Calvert, and Tom Reynolds.

District 6-AAA was divided into zones in 1980 once again, and McKinney(18-6) captured the north zone going undefeated, while Hachie took the

south. The Lions returned almost their entire team from the year before, but they would be missing the teams M.V.P., 5'8" point guard Leonard Harris. Coach Bill Justice had plenty of talent returning, led by one of the top players in the country, 6'2" Reggie Roberts(19.0/9.6). I was living in McKinney during that period and saw Reggie play on several occasions. Roberts was an incredible talent who was so smooth and was a highlight film with his 360 dunks and tomahawk dunks. He could pull up off the dribble as well as shooting from range. He was an outstanding talent with a great deal of potential.

McKinney(18-6) had won the class AAA state football championship in 1979 defeating Bay City 21-7. Three key players came in off the football field. 5'9" Jamie Harris(19.0/6.2/5.0 assists) was all-state in football on both sides of the ball. Harris was the best outside shooter on the team and was a tremendous leaper as well. He later played wide receiver at Oklahoma State and was drafted by the Redskins. 6'4" Johnny Holley(14.0/10.3) was the quarterback and three-year starter in basketball along with Harris. Johnny signed with Texas Southern in football, but was also recruited in basketball. Johnny's twin brother was Ronnie, who was a strong inside player on the boards. Ronny was ineligible after the first district game, which really hurt the Lions. Ronny was real strong inside and a capable scorer. 6'5" John Rodney Holley(8.0/7.1) moved into the starting lineup after coming off the bench as a junior. John Rodney was a cousin of the twins(5). Unfortunately, John Rodney had hurt his knee in football and could only play limited minutes. 5'9" John Shelton rounded out the starting lineup. Shelton was slightly built and somewhat limited athletically, but was a very heady player who made good decisions. He fit in good with the talented group. Coach Justice's problem with the '80 team were some of the same problems as the year before. No depth and he had to wait till after football was over to get his key players. To compound the problems, Harris and the twins, Ronny and Johnny were highly recruited in football and were constantly being called away from practice. Even on the night of the playoff game against Waxahachie walking down the tunnel, recruiters were a distraction. "I had been waiting for this group since they entered junior high," Coach Justice said. "It was the toughest season of my career. We only played eleven games as a team during the season because of the football playoffs." Justice was the head man with the Lions from 1971-1982.

(5) When I was sixteen I coached a little league baseball team in McKinney and my star players were the Holley brothers, Huck, Potty and Joe Bob. Needless to say, we didn't lose a game and to this day I really believe it was coaching. I coached these kids up. They had a rule in the league that all the brothers had to play on the same team and Joe Bob was already on our roster, so the other brothers wanted to play with us, I said, "come on." The team was so unfair it was ridiculous. I think Huck hit a home-run every time up and Potty was a vacuum at shortstop. Joe Bob was our ace pitcher. All had impressive high school careers and Huck went on to play wide receiver at Texas A&M Commerce. Their twin brothers came to every practice and hung around, Johnny and Ronny. They were in the fourth grade and into everything. Great memories.

McKinney came into the zone playoff game with a 18-6 record, but had lost to Greenville, Dallas Carter, Ft. Worth Poly, Ft. Worth Carter-Riverside and Dallas Hillcrest prior to the return of the football players. After the football players joined the team the Lions lost only twice to Plano(32-4) and Carrollton R.L. Turner. McKinney averaged 74.8 points per game and gave up 51.3 on defense. Waxahachie(28-3) came in at 78.2 per game and allowed their opponents an average of 55.7.

The Indians had lost to South Garland(27-6) 63-52, Abilene Cooper 70-69 in overtime and Everman(23-6) 73-70. Waxahachie(28-3) came back and avenged the losses to the Colonels and Everman. They beat Everman(23-6) twice badly 70-45 and 69-50 in their rematch and downed South Garland(27-6) 65-62. Everman(23-6) won their zone in District action and South Garland(28-5) advanced to the playoffs in class 4-A. Everman was ranked #13 in class 3-A while South Garland was ranked #9 in class 4-A and lost in bi-district. Waxahachie(28-3) also had an early season victory over regional finalists Waco(21-10) 70-65.

The zone playoff game was played at Moody Coliseum on the campus of S.M.U. Waxahachie(28-3) had some of the most avid fans of any school in the state. A crowd of 4,000 showed up to watch the two teams go at it once again for the District crown. Waxahachie proved too much for the Lions as they came away with a 57-52 victory. The deciding factor in the contest was a 46-25 rebound edge for Waxahachie. I think most knowledgeable basketball fans would agree you are not going to win many games with that type of discrepancy on the glass. Hughes finished with 12 rebounds, Ken Cox had 9, Mike Cox finished with 8, Paschall 7, and Victor Guinyard had 6 boards. Roberts was 13 of 22 from the floor scoring 28 points. Aldridge commented after the game, "Roberts(22.6) is the best we have played against this year." Roberts picked up his 4th foul midway through the 3rd quarter. Waxahachie led 47-37 entering the final period and Roberts scored 10 of his team's 15 points during the quarter. The foul line was not kind to McKinney as they finished 6 of 14 and Roberts missed front ends of one and ones, three times in the final quarter. Waxahachie finished 7 of 10 from the charity stripe. With 47 seconds remaining Coach Aldridge spread the court and went into a delay game. "We didn't see anything near their quickness in our zone," Aldridge said. Guinyard led the Indians in scoring with 13 points and Mike Cox had 12 points on 6 of 8 shooting from the foul line.

Coach Aldridge wanted a practice game before their Bi-District game against Ft. Worth Carter-Riverside(27-4). After contacting almost every playoff team within a 200-mile radius of Dallas he finally agreed to play Rockdale. Located 130 miles away, Rockdale was a member of District 23-AA and were 27-4 on the season. Coach Jerry Franklin of Rockdale looked to 6'5" post, Vincent Banks(15.0/10.0) to carry the scoring load for his team. Every Indian saw action in the 74-52 victory over Rockdale. Guinyard led the scoring parade with 14 points while Hughes, Ken Cox,

and Wrzesinski put up 10 points apiece. Banks led Rockdale with 22 points on 9 of 13 from the floor and 8 rebounds. Waxahachie(28-3) dominated the glass once again 39-22. Aldridge commented following the game, "the game was one hundred percent better than scrimmaging among ourselves." Shooting continued to be a major area of concern for Coach Aldridge.

Waxahachie(28-3) turned their attention toward Carter-Riverside(27-4) next, who was facing Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5) in a warm-up game. The game was played at Birdville Coliseum and the Panthers dominated winning 79-71. Coach Aldridge said, "Paschal toyed with the Eagles." Paschal remember was preparing for their District playoff game with Dunbar(30-8).

Ft. Worth Carter-Riverside(27-4) averaged 79.8 points per game and allowed only 61.3 for an impressive 18.5 difference. Coach Aldridge felt they were tougher than McKinney. Remember, McKinney(18-7) had lost to Carter-Riverside by five earlier in the season. The Eagles were back in the playoffs for the first time in four years. Coach Jess Hall was in his 9th season at the controls at Carter-Riverside(27-4). "We don't concentrate much on defense," was Hall's comment on his team's defensive preparation. "We just try to outscore everybody."

The Eagles had a potent line-up made up of 6'2" Vincent Wilson(23.3/11.0), 6'4" John White(18.2/14.0), 6'1" Charles Hibbler(13.8), 6'2" Anthony Lewis, and 6'2" Vonn Calloway(9.0 reb). Key bench performers were 6'0" Darryl Fields and 6'3" Williams Laws. The Eagles ran zone much like everybody else the Indians had faced. On offense, Carter-Riverside had no set plays and tried to get the ball inside as much as possible to Wilson and White. The Eagles losses during the season had come at the hands of Borger(29-4) and Mineral Wells(19-8). Both were highly rated AAA programs. The two other losses were in District against Ft. Worth Northside and the warm-up game against Ft. Worth Paschal(30-5). The losses to Borger and Mineral Wells came just after the football players had joined the team.

In front of 3,800 rowdy fans Waxahachie(28-3) came away with a tough win 61-57 at Birdville Coliseum. Victor Guinyard had another outstanding game with eight steals and 18 points and 4 rebounds. For the Carter-Riverside(27-4) Eagles, Vincent Wilson put in 21 points followed by Charles Hibbler with 15 and White knocked down 13. Vance Hughes and Ken Cox followed Victor Guinyard for Waxahachie with 15 and 10 points. Hughes was doubtful before the game with a stomach virus but played almost the entire game.

"We made too many mistakes tonight," Aldridge said. "We lost are composure out there a couple of times and turned the ball over needlessly. They were every bit as good as I thought they would be, we are not used to going against that much quickness and good jumpers," Aldridge said. "I'll guarantee Paris(24-2) is much, much better than Carter-Riverside(27-4), our defense is the only reason we won the game." Waxahachie went into four corners up 58-55 with 2:16 left to play and ran out the clock.

Paris(24-2) High School out of East Texas had a long history of great athletes but basketball had never been real successful. Coach Mike Long changed all that in 1980 who had been coaching Paris for eight years. Coach Long had led his team to a 14-10 season in 1979. The Wildcats(24-1) won their first District championship in 1980 in 17 years dating back to 1963. They captured their first playoff win since 1953.

To prepare for the playoffs, Coach Long wanted a tough practice game to get ready for Kilgore(24-3), their Bi-District opponent. He selected the Longview(28-7) Lobos, who captured their East Texas class AAAA title over Lufkin and Nacogdoches. The Lobos were led by one of the top juniors in the state, Steffond Johnson. The game was played in Longview. The Lobos front line stood at 6'8", 6'5", and 6'4".

Longview(28-7) came away with a 77-68 victory over the Wildcats. "We didn't do that badly, except for one quarter," Coach Mike Long said. "They blew us out in the third quarter 26-14, but we did some things real well. I really didn't think we played that well overall," Long continued. "They've won 28 games and they were big and long. We played in a strange place, strange surface and we played a good team," Long said. "I think they'll be ready Tuesday, that's all this game was for anyway." Carlton Cooper(5) paced the Wildcats with 17 points and 18 rebounds. Glenn Bennett had 14 points and Mike Johnson kicked in 12 for Paris.

(5) Cooper was one of the best athletes in the state, he was one of the fastest hurdlers in the nation along with a stand-out basketball career at Texas. He was later drafted by the N.B.A.

The Kilgore-Paris game was played at North Mesquite High School. Kilgore(24-4) had won District as recently as 1975. Starters for Kilgore(24-3) were 6'6" Melvin Templeton(10.0), 6'1" Larry Morgan(11.9), 6'4" Ronnie Ausborne(11.5), 6'2" Eddie Palmer, and 5'11" Thomas Williams(12.9).

The Wildcats(24-2) looked to 6'3" Cooper(17.7/17.0), 6'3" Mike Johnson(12.0/12.0), 5'11" Glenn Bennett(14.5), 5'11" Joel McCray(10.8), and a combination of guards, Leonard Thomas, Mike Bell, and Nelson Loud. 6'4" Greg Smith came off the bench for depth inside. Coach Long had lost his two starting point guards earlier in the season and was now using a committee system.

"Kilgore's strength is balance. They are a very good rebounding team and Williams is an excellent point guard," Long said. Kilgore ran a 1-3-1 zone defense. "They're real physical inside and it won't be easy." Paris pulled out a win 73-70 after trailing by 16 points in the first half. Paris changed presses putting more pressure on the ball. The Wildcats scored 13 straight points to get back into the game. It was the first time in 28 years and second time in school history that Paris advanced to regionals.

Next up for Paris(25-2) was a very talented Waxahachie(29-3) team. "We're going to have to play our best game of the season in order to win," Mike

Long said. Victor Guinyard, a 6'1" guard, was considered the player that Paris would have to contain. "He's their stud," Long said. "He's a major college prospect and good ballhandler and shooter." Long had a brief history at Waxahachie as head coach for the Indians in 1972-73. He was fully aware of the basketball tradition that had been developed in Waxahachie. "I think a lot of Waxahachie and I'm glad we get an opportunity to play the Indians," Coach Long expressed.

Paris had only lost one game during the regular season to Texarkana. Texarkana as you will recall had been winless in District action playing the likes of Lufkin, Nacogdoches and Longview. Paris relied on a zone defense and aggressive pressing running style.

The much-anticipated **regional final** took place at Loos Field House in Farmers Branch. Waxahachie(30-3) proved to be as good as advertised defeating Paris(25-3) 77-69. A large crowd of 2,500 came to see the two top teams in region II face off. The balance of the Indians was evident with four players in double figures. Guinyard hit 17 points, Vance Hughes 13, Mike Cox finished with 14 and Ken Cox ended up with 17 points. Glenn Bennett topped Paris with 23 points and Cooper added 20 points. Paris hit 17 of 28 from the foul line and Waxahachie countered with 15 of 24. "They are the best team we've played all year," Long said. "I thought we had a super effort." Waxahachie dominated the boards 35-26. Ken Cox had 10 rebounds, Mike Cox finished with 9 and Hughes added 7 boards. "Our pressure free-throws at the end were very important," Aldridge said. Waxahachie's James Stern had a nice game with 10 points, six steals and six assists. It would be a sign of things to come for the talented junior. Waxahachie had a positive game from the floor shooting 31 of 61 while the Wildcat's shot 41% from the floor.

"That was some game, wasn't it," Aldridge said. "Guinyard is our take-charge guy. He has so much confidence he wants the ball in those frantic situations when we were trying to beat their press." Aldridge continued discussing his team saying, "Ever since Daingerfield last year. You could see it on their faces when they were introduced."

Coach Aldridge scattered scouts out to the three other regional finals. Region I final saw Snyder(26-4) win a close one over Borger(30-3) 68-66. Region III had the #1 team in the state, Beaumont Hebert(32-2) advance 65-50 over Waco High(22-10) in Huntsville. Two teams with experience in Austin fought it out in region IV. West Oso(22-6), who had advanced to state in 1976, 1977, and 1978 faced Bay City(26-8), the defending region IV champion. Bay City Blackcats proved to strong winning 67-61.

Waxahachie(32-3) was back in Austin for the first time since their semi-final run in 1976 in which they fell in the finals 78-75 to Odessa Ector. Waxahachie coach Jack Aldridge said this team is quicker and jumps better than the 1976 version of the Indians. Ten of the thirteen players on the team were seniors and nine could dunk.

Ken Cox commented on his state tournament experience, "As a senior, it's the greatest thing in my life. I've never had an experience like this.

In **Region I**, the Tigers of Snyder opened the playoffs against Weatherford(21-10) and jumped out to a 26-10 lead and never looked back winning 86-54. The game was played at Abilene Christian University. Weatherford's tallest player was 5'11", which explained the lopsided score.

Andrews(27-4) prepared for their Bi-District showdown with Borger by winning two warm-up games against Hamlin and Reagan County 69-57. Andrews clinched the District championship with a 77-74 win over Odessa Ector(17-11).

Borger(29-3) had one of the top programs in the state in class AAA. Coach Duane Hunt had another outstanding team in 1980. Inside the Bulldogs had two strong big post in 6'5" Brett Smith(20.7/11.5) and 6'5" Greg Belton(10.4/8.9) in a double low post set. 5'9" Chester Williams(17.2), 6'3" Jerry Ray(6.5/5.5), and 6'1" Dirk Sullivan(6.5) were talented guards for the Bulldogs. Depth for Borger came from 6'6" Shawn Harrington(4.0/4.7), 5'10" Scott Hunt, and 5'9" Quentin Sheppard. Coach Hunt said, "Andrews is a lot like Dumas in our district, they're good shooters and they press well, so they're similar in that respect in our district, though everybody had a big man and the game was always physical."

Andrews(27-4) looked to 6'2" Van Pearcy and 5'11" post, Keith Brooks(13.5) for point production. Brooks was named to the All-District team along with 5'7" Jerry Alaniz(19.2) and 5'11" Brian Templeton(19.5).

Borger's All-District players were 5'9" Chester Williams and 6'5" Brett Smith. Smith was also named, "Player of the Year" in the District. Brett would go on to be named, All South Plains, "Player of the Year", and 1st team All-State by the TABC, and 2nd team All-State by the Sports Writers.

Coach Frank Bice of Andrews discussed the match-up, "we're almost completely opposite. Borger(29-3) likes to slow the tempo, they're very selective on their shots. They run a very patterned offense. We've played against bigger team's all year, but nothing quite like this."

Borger(29-3) advanced to the regional finals with a 73-70 win over Andrews(27-4). The inside combo of Smith and Belton combined for 40 points. Brian Templeton of Andrews had a nice game with 28 points. With only two minutes remaining in the game was tied at 66 apiece. Free throws by Ray and Smith from Borger ended up being the difference for the Bulldogs. Against Snyder(26-4) in the regional finals, Borger was not so fortunate losing 68-66. Kyle Short had 23 points and Brad Richardson put up 18 points for Snyder.

Snyder(27-4) was very highly thought of state wide and were ranked #2 in the final state polls. The West Texas school was making their first trip to state. Snyder had a new coach in George Byerly and had not lost to a Class 3-A team all year. Guard play was the team's strength led by 5'11" Kyle Short(12.0) and 6'1"

Brad Richardson(14.0). Richardson was the son of Nolan Richardson of Arkansas Razorback fame.

Starters for Snyder included Richardson, Short, Mark Preston, and post Kris Seale and Barry Blackman. Bench players for Snyder were 6'3" Eric Arnold, 5'8" Thomas Selmon, and 6'3" Dayton Robertson. Waxahachie and Snyder had one common opponent, Abilene(25-9). The Indians took down Abilene by 13 points while Snyder won by 8 points.

Snyder's record was very impressive over the season. The Tigers split games with Midland Lee, Midland High(29-6) and Odessa Permian(24-10). They also lost to Lubbock Christian. Two big wins came against class 4-A teams, Midland High(29-6) and Odessa Permian(24-10), which was a real indicator of their ranking. Their other wins were over Big Spring, Amarillo Palo Duro, Haltom City, and San Angelo Central. All of these teams were in class 4-A.

***The state semi-final** between Waxahachie(31-3) and Snyder(27-4) was a close one. Physically, Waxahachie was larger and quicker. The Indians played one of the worse games of the season losing to Snyder(27-4) 65-62. In an unusual game, Snyder was down 47-30 in the third quarter, but the Tigers mounted a comeback. Snyder was desperate and began to full-court press in the third quarter. The games momentum swung early in the fourth quarter when the senior dominated Indians looked raddled and lost the lead midway through the fourth quarter. "I don't know what happened," said Coach Aldridge after the game. "We made mistakes we haven't made since the start of the season. You can't come to the state tournament and hope to win playing like that."*

Although Waxahachie(31-4) did not turn over the ball, the quicker pace saw the Indians began taking bad shots and making poor decisions. Fouling became the norm on the defensive end as they sent Snyder to the foul line. The Tigers converted 19 of 21 foul shots in the fourth quarter. For the game, Snyder was 25 of 31 while Waxahachie was 12 of 20. Mark Preston led the Tigers with 18 points and forward Eric Arnold converted 14. Ken Cox finished with 18 points, Vince Hughes added 14 points, Guinyard hit 11 points and Lyndon Wilson knocked down 10 points. Four players scored in double figures in Waxahachie's losing effort. The Indians once again won the battle of the boards 44-37. Waxahachie blocked 11 shots on the inside showing their dominance. It was one of the biggest fourth quarter collapses in state history. Even with falling apart in the end the game was close. It was even a bigger disappointment for Coach Aldridge than the Indians lost to Daingerfield the previous season in the regional finals.

Snyder(28-4) now had to deal with Beaumont Hebert(34-2). The Panthers had been dominating on their way to the state finals. "Hebert is faster than us, shoots better than us and bigger than us, but then Waxahachie had the same advantages over us. We're fortunate, but we're there," Snyder coach George Bylerly commented.

Coach Bylerly proved to be a profit because he was right. Snyder had no chance against the more gifted and talented Hebert squad. The Panthers went up 44-22 at halftime in a game that was never close. The Panthers were up 64-33 entering the 4th quarter. Hebert played the bench in the fourth quarter winning 88-53. They also set a new state tournament record for class 3-A teams for most points in a championship game. Hebert's 35-point victory margin was the largest since 1953 when they first went to the new five classifications format. Samuels was swarmed by Snyder and held to a season low of two points on 1 of 5 shooting. Mickens led Hebert with 24 points on 9 of 14 shooting and six of eight from the foul line, George Welford had 11, and Boutte finished with 9 points. Richardson led Snyder with 12 points after drawing his fourth foul in the first half.

Beaumont Hebert(35-2) joined the long list of different schools from Beaumont that had won state titles. Beaumont High School in 1925, South Park 1953 and 1960. Andre Boutte later played at North Texas while Randy Samuels signed with Oklahoma, Donald Mickens at Tyler J.C., and Alton Bridges at Lee College. In comparing Hebert to some of the best teams that have won the AAA title, Hebert is one of the strongest. Huntsville's 1979 state title squad was my top-rated team of the 1970s with a playoff difference of +20.7. Hebert beat that impressive total at +21.5 in the playoffs. The Panthers had one of the most dominant runs the state would ever see in class AAA.

The **All-Tournament Teams** selected by Texas Sports Writers Association. Randy Samuels and George Welford from Beaumont Hebert, Todd Chambers from Bay City, Ken Cox of Waxahachie, and Mark Preston from Snyder.

AAA All-State team

1st Team-6'5" Todd Chambers(22.0) of Bay City, 6'6" Randy Samuels(17.0) of Hebert, Lloyd Archie(20.0) of Huntsville, 6'4" Vance Hughes(18.3), 6'2" Reggie Roberts(22.6) of McKinney.

2nd Team-Raymond Carroll(22.0) of South San Antonio West, Brett Smith of Borger, Darryl Bacy of Ft. Worth Northside, Polo Botello of Laredo United, and Alton Bridges of Beaumont Hebert;

3rd Team-August Benson of Kerrville, Vincent Wilson of Ft. Worth Carter Riverside, Donald Mickens of Beaumont Hebert, Jaime Saenz of Roma, and Brian Templeton of Andrews.

Beaumont Hebert placed three players on the All-State squads.

Power Ratings 1980

- | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|------|-------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Beaumont Hebert | 35-2 | 91.95 | State Champs 3-A | Defeated Snyder 88-53 |
| 2. | Waxahachie | 32-4 | 86.68 | State Semi 3-A | Lost to Snyder 65-63 |

My Power Ratings for 1980 found two 3-A teams that made the top ten. Beaumont Hebert finished #1 overall between class 4-A and 3-A schools at 91.95, and Waxahachie was #6 with an 86.68 power rating.

Teams that were ranked in the final top twenty in the state but failed to make the state playoffs: #12 Georgetown(23-5), #13 Everman(23-6), #14 McKinney(18-7), #17 Mineral Wells(19-8), Waco Midway(22-8), #20 Navasota(24-5):

State Playoffs AAA 1980

Region I Bi-District	Borger(29-3) #7	73	Andrews(27-4) #11	70
	Snyder(25-4) #2	86	Weatherford(21-10)	54
Region I Final	Snyder(26-4) #2	68	Borger(30-3) #7	66
Region II Bi-District	Waxahachie(29-3) #4	61	Carter-Riverside(27-4) #9	57
	Paris(24-2) #5	73	Kilgore(24-3) #6	70
Region II Final	Waxahachie(30-3) #4	77	Paris(25-2) #5	69
Region III Bi-District	Beaumont Hebert(31-2) #1	88	Aldine Eisenhower(25-5) #8	64
	Waco High(21-10) #18	51	Austin Westlake(25-7)	49
Region III Final	Beaumont Hebert(32-2) #1	65	Waco High(22-10) #18	50
Region IV Bi-District	Bay City(25-8) #10	88	South SA West(26-6) #16	82
	West Oso(21-6)	55	Roma(26-6) #15	49
Region IV Final	Bay City(26-8) #10	68	West Oso(22-6)	61
State Semis	Snyder(27-4) #2	65	Waxahachie(31-3) #4	62
	Beaumont Hebert(33-2) #1	69	Bay City(27-8) #10	57
State Finals	Beaumont Hebert (34-2) #1	88	Snyder(28-4) #2	53

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1980 AAA Top Ten}

1. Beaumont Hebert 33-2 {may have been the best team in the entire state}
2. Snyder 27-4 {state finalist losing to Hebert 88-53}
3. Waxahachie 32-4 {State semi-finalist, lost to Snyder 65-62}
4. Borger 28-4 {lost in the regional final to Snyder 68-66}
5. Bay City 27-8 {State semi-finalist, lost to Hebert 69-57}
6. Paris 24-3 {regional finalists, lost to Waxahachie 77-69}
7. FW Carter-Riverside 27-5 {lost to Waxahachie in Bi-District 61-57}
8. Kilgore 24-4 {lost to Paris in Bi-District 73-70}
9. Andrews 27-5 {lost to Borger in Bi-District 73-70}
10. Huntsville 24-6 {lost a zone playoff to Eisenhower in OT 74-73}
11. Aldine Eisenhower 25-6 {lost in Bi-District to Hebert 88-64}
12. Waco High 22-11 {lost in Regionals to Hebert 65-50}
13. South S. A. West 26-7 {lost in Bi-District to Bay City 88-82}
14. McKinney 18-7 {lost in a Zone playoff to Waxahachie 57-52}
15. Everman 23-6 {lost in a Zone playoff to FW Northside}
16. Austin Westlake 25-8 {lost in Bi-District to Waco 51-49}
17. Georgetown 23-6 {lost in a Zone playoff to Westlake 51-49}
18. West Oso 21-7 {lost in regionals to Bay City 68-61}
19. Roma 25-7 {lost in Bi-District to West Oso 55-49}
20. Mineral Wells 19-8 {District runner-up}
21. Waco Midway 22-8 {could not get past Waco High}
22. Navasota 24-5 {state ranked}
23. Odessa Ector 17-11 {district runner-up to Andrews}
24. Weatherford 21-10 {lost in bi-district to Snyder 86-54}
25. Livingston 14-16 {lost a zone-playoff to Hebert}

1981 AAAA

The 1981 season had a lot of the old regulars battling it out for supremacy in Class AAAA. Don't be confused by 4-A, it's just the same as the old class 3-A. Region I had several outstanding teams in the Texas panhandle. Region II had two real strong teams in Paris(23-7) and Waxahachie(29-9), both returning outstanding players. Beaumont Hebert owned Region III, but were challenged by a District foe Bridge City. Region IV was wide open.

Beaumont Hebert(33-2) returned two starters from their 1980 state championship team. Coach Fred Williams welcomed back 6'2" Andre Boutte(22.0) and 6'2" Donald Mickens(22.0) to lead the Panthers. Hebert used a very deliberate offense taking very few outside shots. Coach Fred Williams team pressed hard full court with tremendous athleticism. Two more key players for the Panthers were junior, 6'2" Rahn Bailey(16.0) and 5'11" Michael Darkins.

Hebert(33-2) went toe to toe with Pt. Arthur Lincoln(36-3), the class 5-A state champion and gave the Bees two of their three losses during the season. The two rivals split their series at two games apiece. The Hebert-Lincoln games are detailed in the Class 5-A section of the book, if you would like to read more. Hebert defeated the Bees 58-54 and 63-55. And PA Lincoln(36-3) won 72-62 and 48-46. Hebert(33-2) beat Beaumont French(21-9) twice by 29 points and 19. Houston Smiley(25-7) also went down to the Panthers 66-52.

In District action Hebert defeated Bridge City(29-5) three times by nine, three and four points. The Cardinals were ranked #2 in the state in class 4-A. Bridge City was led by 6'0" Wendall Martin(20.3), who paced his team to an impressive 29-5 record. Martin was named All-State. Bridge City was without question one of the top Class 4-A teams during the '81 campaign.

In the team's first District meeting there was a lot of hype as the Cardinals entered the game at 22-3 and Hebert stood at 21-2. The Cardinals lost a close one 62-59. Wendall Martin of Bridge City finished with 18 points and Donald Minkins of Hebert had 26 points. Coach Al Barbre commented on Minkins saying, "Minkins isn't overrated, when they get in trouble, he's the one that gets them through the rough waters." Minkins finished 12 of 19 from the floor. Outside shooting by Roger Griffin kept the Cardinals close.

The District 9-4A East Zone was tough and unfortunately Bridge City came up short. Coach Al Barbre had a great deal of success following his years at Bridge City. He coached at the college level as assistant at Stephen F. Austin and Lamar University. He later moved over to the girl's side and was the head coach at Stephen F. Austin from 1988 to 1991.

The Marlin Bulldogs(26-9) came out of nowhere under the leadership of Coach Lonnie Gaylor. The Bulldogs challenged Waco Jefferson-Moore(26-7) and defending District champion, Waco High, in District 11-AAAA.

In pre-district, the Bulldogs lost six games. Losses included LeVega 56-53, Austin Westlake(26-10) 57-56, Waco University 59-58, Lufkin(27-6) 48-40, Killeen(28-9) 69-53, and Alief Elsik(26-11) 57-54. Marlin had wins over Westlake(26-10) 86-73 and A&M Consolidated twice 63-56 and 52-47. The challenging schedule prepared the Bulldogs for District.

The District race came down to Waco Jefferson-Moore(26-7), Waco High and Marlin(26-9). The Bulldogs defeated Jefferson-Moore(26-7) 47-45 and Waco High in five overtimes 75-74, to take the first round of District. The Lions of Jefferson-Moore came back with vengeance in the rematch and beat the Bulldogs 60-43 to take control of the 2nd round of District action. Marlin again beat Waco High 69-64 to finish 5-1. Waco Midway upset Jefferson-Moore(26-7) to give Marlin(26-9) the District title.

Coach Gaylor's team was athletic and quick, paced by 6'3" Keith Jordon(18.0), 6'5" Bernard Giddings(17.0), 6'5" Lawrence Leonard, Roderick Alexander, 5'5" Willie Washington, and 5'4" James Taylor. Leonard was a shot blocker and Alexander was a sophomore with unreal quickness. In talking to Rodney Belcher of Waco High in later years he said, "Jordon and Giddings were ballers and the team was very talented." Belcher was kicked out of the five-overtime loss against Marlin, arguing with the referees. Imagine that, Rodney arguing with a referee.

In Bi-District, Marlin(25-8) advanced to the regional finals downing Georgetown 66-56. Georgetown(28-5) was led by 6'3" Danny Lambert(19.0) during the season. Bernard Giddings finished with 25 points and Keith Jordon canned 14 and Lawrence Leonard finished with 10 points. Giddings went on to the University of Houston and played wide receiver while Jordon played junior college basketball. For Georgetown, Bulba was high man with 25 points and Danny Lambert had 16.

On the 11-AAAA All-District squad, 6'4" Vincent Green of Waco Jefferson-Moore was named "Player of the Year." 6'2" Keith Jordon and 6'4" Bernard Giddings of Marlin were named 1st team along with 5'10" Willie Perkins of Waco Jefferson-Moore, 6'2" Fitzgerald Mims of Waco High, and 6'2" Larry Brown of Waco Midway. Roderick Alexander of Marlin was named "Sophomore of the Year" and 5'8" Willie Washington of Marlin was named 2nd team along with 6'1" Rodney Belcher of Waco High.

Del Valle(22-7) ended Austin Westlake's three-year run as District winners with a 56-53 win. 6'0" Scott Gossett was the key figure for Del Valle and 6'6" Randy Richardson and Sterling Hornbuckle carried the load for Westlake(26-10). Del Valle lost to Georgetown(25-9) in the District zone playoff.

In District 10-4A Huntsville(22-10) advanced with a tough 47-46 win over Navasota(26-3). Navasota had an outstanding player in Harry Banks who was named all-state by both the TABC and Sports Writers. Huntsville unfortunately had to face Beaumont Hebert(33-2) in Bi-District, who had eliminated Cleveland in zone

action. In District 14-4A, Wharton(28-5) won a dog fight over Friendswood(19-14) and El Campo(20-12) to advance to the playoffs.

Beaumont Hebert(33-2) finished the regular season at 31-2, and prepared themselves for Huntsville(22-10) in Bi-District. Huntsville was the 4th ranked team in the state and were accustomed to success having won the state title in 1978 and again in 1979. The Panthers ended the Hornets season 67-48. In the regional finals Hebert(33-2) took out Marlin 79-51. The Bulldogs Cinderella season had ended.

Beaumont Hebert(33-2) once again returned to Austin as the top-rated team in Class 4-A. With a 33-2 record, they appeared to be just as strong as in their 1980 campaign. Hebert's point differential was even better than the 1980 title team. They averaged 75.1 and allowed 50.7 for a difference of plus 24.4. Hebert Coach Fred Williams believed in playing as competitive a schedule as possible. The Panthers ended up facing nine teams ranked in the top five in the state in either class 5-A or 4-A. Facing such a demanding schedule was always challenging, but especially when you faced the same teams repeatedly. Coach Williams was successful at Kountze and Silsbee before coming to Hebert.

Hebert(33-2) and Pt. Arthur Lincoln(36-3) faced a lot of the same teams during the regular season and district. Of the common opponents they faced, Pt. Arthur Lincoln went 14-1 and had a +17.7-point advantage, while Beaumont Hebert went 9-0 with a 22.8 spread. Looking at the stats and records, there is little question that the Panthers were one of the best teams in the state regardless of classification.

Coach Williams talked about his Hebert team prior to the state tournament. "Frankly, I didn't expect us to be here this year. Last year we had an outstanding team. It was hard to say that about this team. Five of the top seven players graduated including 6'6" Randy Samuels, who is now at Oklahoma." Williams continued referring to his four games against Pt. Arthur Lincoln, "the first time they dominated us inside and really hurt us with their press. They beat us by ten points, but it easily could have been twenty-five. When we beat them in the semi-finals of the YMBL tournament, our kids gained a lot of confidence." Williams continued explaining, "there is no doubt playing such strong competition helped. We never expected to beat Lincoln with the talent they have. We'd like to win it again(state), and we'll be disappointed if we don't. I don't think we'll be crying if we don't win it all because we've already exceeded our expectations this year."

In Region II, Waxahachie(28-8) and Paris(22-6) were on a crash collision course to the regional finals for the second year in a row. Paris came into the playoffs with the best Wildcat team in school history along with the best player the school had ever produced. Having said that, the team got off to a real slow start during the season because their football team had won the class AAAA state championship. Paris(22-6) was very average before the Christmas break with a 7-5 record. The Wildcats went 16-2 the rest of the season.

Three players came off the football team that really added depth to the Wildcat team. 6'4" Greg Smith(8.0/9.0), Paul Bailey and Joel McCray were key additions to the team. All three were starters and made enormous contributions to the team. Paul Bailey had been named 2nd team All-State linebacker in football and Greg Smith was All-District tight end. Coach Mike Long liked to press and get up and down the court using quickness and speed. 6'4" Carlton Cooper(23.0/18.0) and his ability made Paris an elite team across the state. Paris showed their strength by defeating Longview(33-4) 69-58 right before the Christmas Holidays. The game was a rematch with the top ranked team in class 5-A. Before football had ended the Wildcats had lost to Longview by 12 points. Cooper dominated the Lobos with 20 points and 21 rebounds. Joel McCray added 20 points from the outside. Longview's standout was 6'7" Steffond Johnson, who later played at San Diego State. Coach Romines of Longview said, "Everyone thinks we're so good, but if we keep playing like we did tonight, then we won't even be the best team in Longview.

District 7-AAAA was really weak with only one school supporting a winning record coming into District, outside of Paris. Rockwall(17-8), under Coach Dick Swetnam, came in at 14-5 and had two talented players in 6'2" Steve Stout(21.0) and Greg Woodall. Terrell(16-16), Sulphur Springs(7-12), Bonham(11-17), and McKinney(4-16) just did not present any challenge to the Wildcats. Paris ran the table going 10-0 in District. The highlight of District action was Gerald Myers, the head coach at Texas Tech, coming to the Rockwall game to watch Cooper. Sulphur Springs coach, John Russell commented after his lost to Paris saying, "they have to be the best team in the state right now, they don't have much to worry about to get there."

To compare Paris(22-6) before the holidays and after is to look at the Mt. Pleasant(13-14) game. Paris beat the Tigers 68-28 after the Christmas break and had lost prior to the holidays 53-48. That's a difference of 45 points. The Wildcats were wanting a warm-up game after District action and found it facing the Denton Broncos. Paris defeated class 5-A Denton(19-13) 66-60. Coach Long said, "they're the 2nd best team we've faced this year and we needed to have a close game instead of a blowout." Carlton Cooper posted 20 points and 15 rebounds.

Coach Long continued looking for a challenging warmup game to get his team ready for the playoffs. Dallas Hillcrest was 37-0 and looked to be one of the top teams in the Dallas area as well as the state. Paris even traveled to Dallas and played Hillcrest in their back yard at Loos Field House. The game was all tied up at the end of regulation 63 all. In the extra period, the Panthers went into their delay game and came away with at 74-67 victory. Paris had to foul late. Cooper proved his skill with 27 points and 25 rebounds against Hillcrest. The Panthers leading scorer was 6'4" Otho Fields with 24 points, Danny Timmons had 14 points and Alvin Washington added 11. Coach Larry Jones of Hillcrest said, "that was a great basketball team we played tonight, that's the best game we've had to play. I was

glad we were able to get out alive.” Coach Long commented, “it’s the first time we’ve been in a close game in a long time.”

As Paris(22-6) went to the playoffs they faced the winner of District 8-AAAA. In a four-team tournament, Jacksonville(19-10) defeated Palestine on a last second shot. The Fighting Indians had defeated Daingerfield in triple overtime in the semi-finals.

Jacksonville(19-10) played Paris(22-6) in Mineola. Coach Long’s scouting report said, “Jacksonville is just a solid team, they like to play a slow, patient game. They really don’t have a great player. I’ve only seen them play once, so I don’t know much about them.” Two standouts for Jacksonville were Greg Alexander and 5’5” David Hanna. “They’ll be wanting to play a low scoring game,” Long said. Coach John Alexander of Jacksonville agreed, “we’ll be at a little disadvantage in size, for us to beat Paris, we’ll have to be patient and hit good percentage shots, and above all, we’ve got to try to keep them from running.”

Paris(22-6) dominated Jacksonville(19-10) 75-57 as 6’4” Cooper put in 20 points. 6’4” Paul Bailey finished with 14 points. Texas A&M’s head coach Shelby Metcalf was in attendance watching Cooper in action. “They’ve just got so much talent...we just couldn’t stay with them,” Coach Alexander said. Greg Alexander(18.5) was held to only five points.

University of Texas coach, Abe Lemons, commented after watching Carlton Cooper play said, “he’s one of the finest players I’ve seen in high school, he could play for us any time.”

Waxahachie(28-8) had a much more challenging ride to the regional finals. The Indians had all their players in the gym prior to the basketball season unlike Paris. Waxahachie(28-8) had some really solid wins over South Garland(23-12) 68-66, and Ft. Worth Carter-Riverside(21-11) 91-84 and 82-72. Key losses in pre-district were to Waco Midway 58-53, Dallas Hillcrest(38-1) 75-69, North Garland 64-55, and Cleburne(24-13) 64-49. The Indians split with Garland High(16-18), winning the first game 70-46 and losing the rematch 69-61. Playing this tough pre-district schedule prepared Waxahachie for a strong District campaign. The Green and White had played all types of opponents and could adapt as different situations presented themselves. District 6-AAAA was one of the more challenging in the entire state.

In 6-AAAA you had two different zones and they were strong on basketball talent. The East Zone was made up of Dallas Madison(15-13), Dallas Lincoln, Corsicana, Ennis, Athens, and Seagoville. The West Zone was loaded with five of the six teams coming into District with winning records. North Dallas(13-9), Waxahachie(16-6), Mansfield(21-2), Lancaster(20-3), Dallas Adamson(19-4), and DeSoto(11-12). Four of the six teams were state ranked, Waxahachie(28-8), Mansfield, Lancaster26-7, and Adamson25-8.

Two young coaches were in the District and would become two of the best in the state in years to come. Joe Rushing was in his 2nd year at Lancaster and built

the program into a juggernaut. Danny Husband was at Mansfield and would gain success at Arlington Martin. He was a match-up guru, who always gave his teams a great chance to win.

Surprisingly, Waxahachie(28-8) captured the Zone title without a playoff. Their only loss came at the hands of Lancaster(26-7) 60-56. Next up was the Zone playoffs against Dallas Madison(15-13) at Carrollton R.L. Turner High School. Madison(15-13) came at you with one of the most physical teams in the state. Two of their starters had signed division one football scholarships. Waxahachie's Achilles heel was their lack of size, so Madison really presented some serious problems for Coach Aldridge and company.

The Trojans(15-13) started 5'9" Howard Williams(10.5), 6'5" 230 pound Walter Mikel(17.1), 6'4" 195 pound Phillip Brown(10.7), 6'2" 190 pound Rodney Rollins(5.7), and 6'3" 220 pound Ronzell Brewer(21.7). If that wasn't enough they came at you with 6'4" 235 pound Winfred Jones(5.7) off the bench. Ellis Kidd was in his 5th year at Dallas Madison. Coach Aldridge was concerned, "if the officials let it get to physical, it's going to hurt us. They are the stronger team."

Waxahachie had one of the strongest basketball traditions in the state. Aldridge had led the Indians to the playoffs six times in eight seasons while in Waxahachie. His starters for the '81 campaign were 5'10" James Stern(27.0), 5'9" freshmen Todd Alexander(12.4), 5'9" sophomore Deon Alexander(4.3), 6'3" Ken Roberts(8.6), and 6'1" Jeff Walker(9.7). Eight of the eleven players on the roster were underclassmen. This was supposed to be a rebuilding season for Hachie.

Ronzell Brewer(21.7) and Walter Mikel(17.1) were the keys to the offensive attack by Madison and were both moving on to higher education on the football field. Brewer signed with T.C.U. and Mikel with Texas Tech. Madison's poor season record was due to the fact that they had so many football players and had to play several games early without these key players.

In a great game, Waxahachie(28-8) came away with an exciting 96-91 victory over Dallas Madison(15-13). James Stern(27.0) hit 32 points and Jeff Wallace added 18 for the Indians. Todd Alexander, one of the top freshmen in the country, put up 12 points. For the Trojans, Ronzell Williams(21.7) put on a clinic demonstrating the fall away jump shot for 30 points, going 14 of 20 from the floor. Walter Mikel(17.1) was 12 of 17 for 24 points.

The 6-AAAA West Zone All-District team was impressive. James Stern(27.0) of Waxahachie was named M.V.P. 6'3" John Massey of Mansfield, 6'2" Ricky Miskimon of Lancaster, 6'7" Harold Harris and 6'2" Charles McElroy of Dallas Adamson, and 6'1" Kevin Murray of North Dallas were all named to the 1st team. Kevin went to star at Texas A&M at quarterback in football. (His son is Kyler Murray who won the Heisman Trophy at Oklahoma at Quarterback and played in the N.F.L. with the Cardinals. He led Allen High School to three straight state titles.)

For Waxahachie(28-8), they were real disappointed only one player was named to the first team, but it was a talented District. When your only selecting six players it's tough to get two players named. Jeff Wallace and Todd Alexander were named to the 2nd team from the Indians.

The East Zone 1st team All-District unit consisted of 6'6" Walter Mikel of Dallas Madison, 5'10" Bernard Walker of Corsicana, 5'10" David Chrisman of Dallas Lincoln, 6'2" Ronzell Brewer of Madison, 6'4" Jimmy Evans of Seagoville, and 6'1" Kenneth Givens of Athens. Mikel was named M.V.P. of the Zone.

Coach Aldridge, just like previous seasons wanted to play a couple of warm-up games following District. Denton(19-13) had won their 5-A District and were ready for the Indians. In a close one, Coach Aldridge's team pulled out a 69-68 win at North Texas State University in Denton. Ken Roberts of Waxahachie was fouled with no time remaining on the clock and his team down by one. He had two foul shots and knocked down both for the win.

James Stern hit 22 points, Wallace 16 and Deon Alexander 13. In the Indians second warm-up contest, Coach Aldridge picked one of the top teams in 5-A, the Longview Lobos. Steffond Johnson and Longview showed their size advantage by defeating Waxahachie 79-71 in Athens.

Next up for the District champions were state playoffs and Ft. Worth Carter-Riverside. Riverside(23-9) had lost twice previously to Waxahachie in pre-district. To win their District, Riverside had to get by Weatherford, who had defeated Boswell 49-48 in a zone playoff. Riverside's line-up was not imposing and that was usually a positive for Waxahachie, who had one of the quickest and fastest teams in the state. Size gave them problems, speed and quickness did not.

Carter Riverside's lineup consisted of 6'1" William Lane(17.0), 6'2" Anthony Lewis(11.0/10 assists), 6'2" Eric Blair, 6'0" Mike Holley, and 6'3" Vincent Wilson(19.0/11.0). Riverside(23-9) liked to run a 1-2-2 zone and the entire team was capable of hitting the outside shot according to Coach Aldridge's scouting report. Stern had scored 40 and 30 points in the two team's previous meetings and would have to be contained for Riverside to have any type of chance. "We're going to put our best man on him to try and slow him down," said Carter-Riverside coach Willie Jones. "We need to hold him to 20."

Waxahachie had little trouble winning 86-69. Stern once again proved he was one of the top guards in the state with 26 points, Wallace added 10 and Todd Alexander put up nine points. William Lane(17.0) was the leader for Carter-Riverside scoring 21 points and Anthony Lewis(11.0) topped that with 23 points. Coach Aldridge was so proud of his young team saying, "they play as hard as any team I've ever had."

Paris(23-6) and Waxahachie(29-8) were clearly the two best teams in class 4-A in region II. Paris had two strong inside post in 6'4" Greg Smith(8.0/9.0) and 6'4" Carlton Cooper(23.0/18.0) and a solid backup in 6'3" sophomore, Carl

Bradford(6.0/9.0). Point guard 5'10" Mike Bell(8.0) would have to play his best game of the season against the fastest team the Wildcats had faced all year. Paul Bailey(13.0) and Joel McCray(13.0) supplied scoring on the wings. McCray, the shooter and Bailey the penetrator. Coach Aldridge said his main concern would be, "to slow down their fast break, keep them off the boards and play our type of game. It'll be real exciting because they are #2 in the state and were #3."

Waxahachie had never faced a talent as physically gifted as Cooper all season. Cooper had a 40-inch vertical. The challenge would be tough for both teams. Coach Long of Paris said, "I've talked with other people who have seen Waxahachie, they say they are a totally different club than last year. On paper, they can't be as good as last year. There aren't any Vance Hughes, Victor Guinyards or Ken Cox's out there." Long continued saying, "we will probably have to play our best game of the year against them to win."

"Waxahachie's good...very good...they're not big, but they like to run, press and shoot. They've lost the big kids off last year's team, all they really try to do is outscore you," Coach Long said describing the Indians. In discussing 5'10" James Stern of Waxahachie Coach Long said, "we've got to keep him under some kind of control or we're going to be in trouble." The deciding factor might be that Paris had only played 18 games as a team and Waxahachie had 37 games under their belt.

The regional finals between Waxahachie(29-8) and Paris(23-6) was played at Wagstaff Gymnasium on the campus of Tyler Junior College before standing room only. In another classic game between the two schools, Waxahachie's Deon Alexander went 7 of 11 from the foul line, to give his team an 83-82 win over the Paris Wildcats. Carlton Cooper was virtually unstoppable scoring 36 points in the loss. Joel McCray added 15 points and Paul Bailey contributed 14. For Waxahachie, it was their speed and James Stern scoring 26 points, followed by the freshmen Todd Alexander with 16 points.

"The thing that amazes me is that we missed 16 free throws, didn't shoot well, Waxahachie shoots the lights out, and we still lose by just one point," Coach Long said. Paris hit 16 of 32 from the foul line and the Indians hit 23 of 31. Leading 57-49, Waxahachie looked to have things under control until Paris cut the lead to two with just 1:09 left to play. Cooper at one point scored seven points during a nine second stretch. Deon Alexander's ball-handling was critical down the stretch for the Indians. Waxahachie returned to the state tournament for the third time in six years and their fourth regional final game during the six-year stretch.

District 1-4A was another very talented and tough District. One of the top players in the state in class AAAA played in 1-4A for Levelland. His name was Dwight Phillips and at 6'9", Phillips was a force and highly recruited. He ended up having a nice career at Texas Tech. Levelland wasn't able to break into the top three teams in District action. Borger was the unquestioned District favorite and spent most of the season ranked in the top three in the state. Borger(27-4) was paced by 6'7" Gregg

Belton(15.0/12.0), 6'6" Shawn Harrington, Dirk Bush, Scott Hunt and 5'9" Quinton Sheppard(12.0). The Bulldogs were overwhelming favorite to take the District crown until they were upset by Lubbock Estacado. Estacado turned right around and lost to Canyon(25-8) 62-55. The loss gave both teams one loss in the first half of District action. The big show down between Canyon and Borger took place on the Bulldogs home court. Unfortunately for Borger, they were missing two key players, Quinton Sheppard and John Meyer. The result was an easy win for the Eagles 57-43. "I thought we would win the game, but I never dreamed we would dominate them the way we did," Coach Jody Richardson of Canyon said.

6'8" Butch Bearden finished with 21 points and 16 rebounds for the Eagles, followed by David Harbin's 18 points and 12 rebounds. Kendall Walling finished with 9 points and 6 assists. Canyon shot 22 of 43 for 51% from the floor and Borger managed only 13 of 45 for 29%. The only reason for bringing these numbers up is that they were very typical of Canyons defensive ability. During District, they held all opponents to a very low shooting percentage. As someone who ran the match-up defense during my coaching days, it takes time to perfect the match-up zone. This could explain the reason the Eagles started off the season somewhat slow. Another factor was star point guard Walling suffered a severe ankle sprain during pre-district. When he was not on the court, Canyon had a lot of trouble with turnovers. Canyon(25-8) entered District with an unimpressive 14-8 record. Canyon swept through the 1st round of District at 6-0, followed by Borger(27-4) and Estacado at 4-2.

Canyon's coach, Jody Richardson, had played in two state championship games during his playing days with the Eagles. Canyon lost to Buna in 1962 and in 1963 won the state title his senior year. The Canyon boys also had added pressure because the girl's team had just won state.

Of the eleven-man roster for the Eagles they had eight seniors and only one underclassman received major minutes. They were an experienced team. Two standout performers were named to the first team All-District squad. 6'8" Butch Bearden(15.6/12.0) was physical inside for Coach Richardson and the key to the team's success was point guard 6'3" Kendall Walling(14.3/9.0 assists). He was one of the top guards in West Texas. Other starters for Canyon were 6'5" David Harbin(12.4/10.0), 6'2" Steve Beck(11.6), and 6'0" Mike Watson.

In the second round of District, Canyon ran the table again with only two close games. They defeated Borger 76-73 on the Eagles home court and got past a strong Lubbock Estacado team beating the Matadors 84-80. Walling was dominating against Borger scoring 16 of his 34 total points in the 3rd quarter to lead the Bulldogs to the District title. "He was just unconscious tonight," Richardson said. Against the Matadors, David Harbin(12.4) finished with 27 points, Butch Bearden(15.6) had 25 points and Steve Beck(11.6) finished with 22. That is some offensive firepower when you can put three players over 20 points. Kendall

Walling(14.3) had one of his better games again scoring eight points with 14 assists. Coach Richardson commented after the game, "Walling's passes were phenomenal." With a 26-8 record, Canyon moved into the playoffs with a 14-game winning streak. "I figured all along there would be a playoff simply because there are teams like Borger, Lubbock Estacado, and Levelland," Richardson said.

Borger(27-4) had another strong team that would have made the playoffs in almost any other District in the state. 6'7" Greg Belton made All-State, All-Region, All South Plains for the Bulldogs. Scott Hunt was named All-District 2nd team, All-Region 2nd team and All South Plains. 6'6" Shawn Harrington was named honorable mention All-District. As previously mentioned, Borger was the #1 team in the state in the early polls and finally dropped in the rankings after their losses to Canyon and Estacado.

Against Lubbock Dunbar in Canyons last game of District, Kendall Walling(13.7/ 6.7 assists) had 26 points and 14 assists, which at that time were personal best. Walling was the son of former Western Texas A&M coach, Dennis Walling, who was there from 1967-73. Walling sister went on to start at the University of Texas at point guard. Walling was drafted twice by major league baseball and played for a short time in the minor leagues. He was the 25th pick in the major league draft by the Angels coming out of high school. Kendall was a shortstop. He played two years of basketball at West Texas A&M and specialized as a long-range bomber. Walling hit eight 3-pointers against Southern Illinois and nine against Indiana State. He played baseball for Santa Ana J.C. in California and Lubbock Christian as well. An ankle injury ended his career in baseball.

Snyder(20-13) faced Canyon(25-8) in Bi-District at Levelland High School. Coach Richardson had not seen Snyder but communicated with three coaches from District 2-AAAA who shared information. "I've talked to three coaches from their district and all of them have told me that Snyder just out-hustled, out played, and outsmarted them. Snyder doesn't have any one outstanding player," Richardson said. "They like to mix-up their defenses and they run a controlled, patient offense." Snyder had played in the state finals the previous season.

Snyder(20-13) started 6'4" Eric Arnold(12.0), 6'0" John Wilson, 6'3" Barry Blackman, 6'3" Charles Seale and 6'1" Curtis Gafford.

Coach Richardson's scouting report did not prove to be real reliable. "They were more talented than I thought," Richardson said following the game. Ken Walling once again came through for the Eagles with two foul shots with seven seconds remaining. Walling finished with 25 points and propelled his team to regionals 58-56 win. With 1:25 left in the game Snyder(20-13) tied the game up at 56. With only 1:06 remaining Walling missed a shot and Snyder got the rebound and was going to run the clock down, taking the last shot of the game. With 13 seconds left, Snyder called timeout to set-up their last play for the winner. As happens so many times, a turnover occurred on the inbounds pass. Walling, once again was the

hero stealing the inbounds pass and was fouled immediately. Canyon shot 25 of 36 from the floor for 69% while Snyder was 22 of 39 for 56%. Barry Blackman and Eric Arnold finished with 18 points apiece for the Tigers.

Cleburne(22-12) met Canyon(26-8) in the regional finals for the right to play in Austin. Cleburne(22-12) had lost in the first round of District to Everman and Stephenville. In the second-round they came back to defeat Everman 50-45, but lost to Brownwood. In the District playoff with Everman, Cleburne(23-12) won a tight one 44-43.

Cleburne(23-12) defeated Iowa Park(17-11) 62-43 in Bi-District. Cleburne had outscored Iowa Park 40-25 in the fourth quarter. Xavier Warren led Cleburne with 16 points and Steve Smith and Steve Page both finished with 14 points for Iowa Park.

The Canyon-Cleburne game was played in Wichita Falls. The Eagles played outstanding once again and won 64-46. Coach Jeff Cody of Cleburne commented, "They have a good chance to go all the way. The Eagles are big, we knew we'd have to play ball control and get inside. We just couldn't do it."

Coach Richardson of Canyon(26-8) and his team were surprised with the strong support from the community for a game that far away. "The kids expected 50 or 60 people and we had 300 maybe," Richardson said. In Canyon, nineteen local businessmen helped pay for three buses for the trip.

Kendall Walling finished with 18 points from long distance which Butch Beardon and David Harbin dominated inside. Beardon finished with 18 points and Harbin had 17 points and 13 rebounds. Steve Harper was the leader for Cleburne with 12 points and Xavier Warren with 11. The 1-3-1 matchup defense of Canyon held Cleburne to only 29% from the floor while Canyon was at 61%.

Leaving West Texas basketball and moving to South Texas, the race to Austin was up for grabs. A District tournament was held in District 16-4A to decide which team would advance to the playoffs against West Oso(23-8). Edcouch-Elsa had defeated Roma in one semi-final game and Laredo United clipped Raymondville in the other. Laredo United(30-6) had an outstanding guard in 6'1" Eddie Cuellar(21.2) that had to be contained in the finals if Edcouch-Elsa was to have a chance. In the District championship game Laredo United held off Edcouch-Elsa 47-36 to advance.

West Oso(24-8) advanced in the playoffs defeating Laredo United(30-6) 80-77 in Kingsville. West Oso was a veteran of the state playoffs and were strong once again. Freshmen, Willie Harper scored 35 points in the victory for West Oso. Harper(13.7) had started the season on the junior varsity. Ray Williams put up 17 points and Richard Jackson added 12 points. For United, Eddie Cuellar had 29 points, Kurt Harwerth 20 points and Romino Molina was held to only two points.

In Region IV, South San West Campus(33-4) faced West Oso(24-9) in the regional finals. West Campus had eliminated Wharton(27-5) in Bi-District action 73-

68. Jerry Johnson led the scoring for the winners with 27 points and Greg Durbon(18.4) hit 19 points. Wharton lost their big man, 6'7" Leslie Battles in the 3rd quarter, which eliminated their chance to advance. Battle had scored only four points for Wharton. Abe Allen was the leading scorer for Wharton with 17 points while Cercy Greek and Billy Balsen both kicked in 16 points each. Starters for West Campus were Mike Rogers, Charles Boykins, 6'3" Jerry Johnson(16.7/12.4), 6'2" sophomore Albert Williams, 5'10" Marlan Jones and 6th man, 6'3" Chris Walker.

In the regional IV finals West Campus(31-4) came away with the victory 59-53 over West Oso(23-7). For West Campus it was on to the state tournament. 6'2" Greg Durbon(18.6) knocked down 21 points and Jerry Johnson finished with 15 for the winners. The West Campus Coach was Alan Rheaume, who was a guard on the last South San I.S.D. school to make the state tournament in 1967. Coach Rheaume played for Ronnie Durbon on the 1967 team. Rheaume star player on his '81 team was Durbon's son, Greg.

S.A. West Campus had finished 27-7 in 1980 and had been eliminated by Bay City in Bi-District. Coach Rheaume was in his 3rd season at West Campus. Greg Durbon was an offensive juggernaut having put up an incredible 50 points in a single game earlier in the season against Crystal City. West Campus' four losses on the season had come at the hands of St. Gerard's, S.A. Roosevelt(35-5), S.A. Highlands(25-14), and Corpus Christy Carroll(27-8).

The stage was set for the **state tournament** with West Campus(33-4) joining Waxahachie(30-8), Canyon(29-8) and Beaumont Hebert(31-2). You could throw the teams records out the window, they meant little. The talent and tradition of these four schools would be tested.

In Austin, Canyon(29-8) played South San West Campus(33-4) in the **semi-finals**. The game looked to be a toss-up. West Campus came in with a 20-game winning streak and Canyon had won 16 in a row. The game ended up being a major disaster for the San Antonio school. Nothing went right as Jerry Johnson(16.0) went scoreless and fouled out with six minutes left. Ken Walling had 22 points for Canyon in the Eagles lopsided 76-49 victory. Most of Walling's points were from long range. 6'5" David Harbin and guard Steve Beck added 16 and 14 points respectfully.

Greg Durbon was the only player in double figures for West Campus scoring 15 points. "We held them outside and off the boards and got their big boy(Durbon) frustrated," Coach Jody Richardson said. "It is what we call a match-up zone and it sure did work. They are a better team than what they showed tonight though." South West Campus was 20 of 70 for 28% from the floor and Canyon hit 26 of 51 for 51%. Canyon led the rebound battle 52-49.

Coach Rheaume commented after the game, "but they were more physical than we expected, Bearden was very physical." "Walling handled himself very well. He is probably the best guard we've seen all year," Rheaume said. The Eagles led at halftime 36-21. At one point in the 4th quarter Canyon led 77-38. "Being 30 points

ahead, well I just didn't know what to do, one of my assistants had to pull me back down in my chair and said it's all right coach, we're ahead by 30 now." Richardson said.

In the other **semi-finals**, Hebert(31-2) matched up against one of the quickest teams in the state in Waxahachie(29-8). The Indians were the #3 ranked team in the state. Waxahachie had one of the top scorers in the state in 5'11" James Stern(28.0). Stern went onto play at Baylor in college. He was the leading scorer for the Bears his junior year in college at 13.2 points per game. Also, a young freshmen guard named, Todd Alexander, was the second leading scorer on the team with 12 points a game. Although they were not a real balanced team and lacked size, with their tallest starter at 6'3", they posed a challenge for Hebert. Remember the tallest player on Hebert's team was only 6'2". Yes, I know, you ask yourself how in the world did they handle Pt. Arthur Lincoln with 6'8" Leonard Allen during the regular season. Hebert was very physical and patient inside and could elevate.

Hebert's dreaded full-court press was something that every opponent had to learn to deal with. Waxahachie counted on their own full-court press for scoring. For Hebert, the inside post play of Donald Mickens(22.0) and Andre Boutte(20.0) combined for 60 points and 28 rebounds against Waxahachie. Hebert broke away after a 20-20 tie with an 18-2 run early in the second quarter. Waxahachie got within nine at halftime at 39-30 due to forcing turnovers. The Indians got as close as eight late in the third quarter. The final read, Hebert 81 Waxahachie 64.

The Indians coach, Jack Aldridge said after the game, "I really thought if we were going to lose it would be because of their press, but I was pleased with the way we handled that part of the game. They beat us with rebounding." James Stern led Hachie with 24 points and Ken Roberts had 10. The rest of the team was only six of 23 from the floor. "We knew we had to play our best game of the season to come down here and win," Aldridge said, "and we did not. They are one of the best if not the best basketball team in the state." Waxahachie only started two seniors and it showed against the veteran Hebert squad.

Hebert won the battle of the boards 50-34 and only took three out of 31 field goals from outside of three feet from the basket. The Indians on the other hand forced 25 turnovers. Andre Boutte and Rahn Bailey combined for 32 rebounds. Waxahachie played a collapsing zone trying to contain the inside game of Hebert. Mickins finished 12 of 20 from the floor for 29 points and 8 rebounds. Boutte hit 12 of 19 for 31 points with 20 rebounds. Bailey finished with 6 points and 12 rebounds. Mickins said following the game, "they broke our press more than anybody has all year. We haven't played anybody that quick all year." Coach Fred Williams said he wasn't real impressed with his team's performance. "Maybe we had tournament jitters."

In the **finals**, Canyon(29-8) came into the game as a big underdog even though they had been very impressive in the semi-finals. Canyon was ranked #7 in

the state polls by the Ft. Worth Star Telegram. Snyder, another West Texas team, had completely fallen apart the previous season in the finals against the Panthers.

Beaumont Hebert(32-3) took a commanding 20-point lead 51 to 31 with 3:32 left in the 3rd quarter. Canyon mounted one of the great comebacks in state tournament history outscoring Hebert 19-6 in the fourth quarter. Hebert did not score for the first 5:38 of the 4th quarter. Canyon pulled within one point at 58-57 with 33 seconds left in the game, with David Harbin at the line shooting two foul shots. He missed both attempts. With 11 second remaining Canyon had another chance to win the game, but Butch Bearden was called for traveling. Bearden immediately fouled Mickens, who hit one of two foul shots to give Hebert the 59-57 win.

“Fatigue makes cowards out of men,” Coach Williams explained quoting the great Vince Lombardi. “The reason we went to four corners is because our kids needed a rest, were not a four corners team.” Hebert had 17 turnovers in the second half which helped Canyon get back into the game. “We played with tremendous intensity in the first half to get that big lead, and we just ran out of gas,” Williams said.

“We saw Hebert play the first night and talked about how quick they were and the boys believed it. In the first half, we were intimidated by their quickness. At half, we realized that they were no quicker than Estacado,” Coach Richardson said. The Eagles had 10 turnovers in the first half. Six of those occurred after Walling was forced to the bench with three fouls with 3:30 remaining in the half.

6’2” Andre Boutte(20.0) finished with 22 points and 11 rebounds and 6’2” Donald Mickens(22.0) ended up with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Many of the fans left the contest at halftime with Beaumont Hebert in command 41-23. Ken Walling of Canyon was the leader of the charge in the second half hitting 12 points from the ozone. “He was shooting from N.B.A. range,” Boutte said years later. Walling also contributed 10 assists, while Harbin managed 16 points and 13 rebounds. The Panthers had won their second straight state championship and although it wasn’t what they had envisioned, it still counted.

All-Tournament Team- Donald Mickens and Andre Boutte of Beaumont Hebert, James Stern of Waxahachie, Ken Walling and David Harbin of Canyon.

AAAA Sports Writers All-State Team-

1st Team-James Stern(28.0) of Waxahachie, 6’2” Kevin Murray of North Dallas, 6’10” Mike Gray(27.6) of Keller, 6’4” Carlton Cooper(21.3) of Paris and 6’2” Donald Mickens of Beaumont Hebert.

2nd Team- 6’2” Andre Boutte of Beaumont Hebert, Gregg Belton of Borger, Harry Banks of Navasota, Jerry Alaniz of Andrews, Sterling Hornbuckle of Austin Westlake.

3rd team-Wendell Martin of Bridge City, Vincent Green of Waco Jefferson-Moore, Kevin Butler of Odessa Ector, Billy Bahnsen of Wharton, Eddie Cuellar of Laredo United:

Texas Association of Basketball Coaches All-State

1st Team- 5'11" James Stern(28.) of Waxahachie, 6'2" Donald Mickens(22.0) of Hebert, 6'4" Carlton Cooper(21.3) of Paris, 6'9" Dwight Phillips of Levelland, 6'7" Greg Belton of Borger.

2nd Team- 6'2" Andre Boutte(20.0) of Hebert, Larry Banks of Navasota, Vincent Green of Waco Jefferson-Moore, 6'2" Kevin Murray of North Dallas, Chris Bentley of Tulso-Midway.

3rd Team- 6'3" Jerry Johnson of South San Antonio West, Jerry Alaniz of Andrews, Billy Bahnsen of Wharton, James Barnett of Lubbock Estacado, Danny Lambert of Georgetown.

Looking at the All-State teams of 1981 there was a glaring oversight on the team. There was not one player from Canyon. Canyon almost won the state title and did not have anybody on the TABC All-State squad or the Sports Writers All-State teams. 6'3" Ken Walling of Canyon should have made the All-State squad, so 43 years removed I am putting him on my All-State team along with Cooper, Stern, Mickens and Murray. I'm sure he feels honored. I think I have "the power." I'll have to check with Rick Sherley, TABC's top man.

Top 4-A scoring in the Playoffs went to James Stern from Waxahachie with 27.0. Stern hit 32 in the zone playoff against Dallas Madison, 26 vs. Carter Riverside, 26 vs. Paris, and 24 in the state semi-finals against Beaumont Hebert.

Power Ratings 1981

1.	Beaumont Hebert	33-2	96.60	State Champs 4-A	Defeated Canyon 59-57
2.	Waxahachie	30-9	85.84	State Semis 4-A	Loss Hebert 81-64
3.	Paris	23-7	84.26	Regional Finals 4-A	Loss Wax 83-82

State Playoffs AAAA 1981

Region I Bi-District	Cleburne(23-12)	62	Iowa Park(17-11)	43
	Canyon(25-8) #7	58	Snyder(20-13) #16	56
Region I Final	Canyon(26-8) #7	64	Cleburne(24-12)	46
Region II Bi-District	Waxahachie(28-8) #3	86	FW Carter Riverside(21-10) #20	69
	Paris(22-6) #9	75	Jacksonville(19-10)	57
Region II Final	Waxahachie(29-8) #3	83	Paris(23-6) #9	82
Region III Bi-District	Beaumont Hebert(30-2) #1	67	Huntsville(22-9) #4	48
	Marlin(25-8)	66	Georgetown(25-8)	56
Region III Final	Beaumont Hebert(31-2) #1	79	Marlin(26-8)	51
Region IV Bi-District	San Antonio West(30-4) #6	73	Wharton(27-5) #11	68
	West Oso(22-7) #10	80	Laredo United(30-6) #12	77
Region IV Final	San Antonio West(31-4) #6	59	West Oso(23-7) #10	53
State Semis	Canyon(27-8) #7	76	San Antonio West(32-4) #6	49
	Beaumont Hebert(32-2) #1	81	Waxahachie(30-8) #3	64
State Finals	Beaumont Hebert(33-2) #1	59	Canyon(28-8) #7	57

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1981 AAAA Top Ten}

1. Beaumont Hebert 33-2 {back to back state titles, split with PA Lincoln}
2. Canyon 28-9 {tough district with Borger, Estacado, lost in finals 59-57}
3. Borger 27-4 {runner-up in to Canyon in district 1-4A}
4. Waxahachie 29-9 {advanced to state back to back seasons, 3rd regional finals}
5. Paris 23-7 {lost in regional finals two years in a row, Carlton Cooper}
6. Snyder 20-14 {lost in Bi-District to Canyon 58-56, state finalist in 1980}
7. Bridge City 29-5 {lost three close games to Beaumont Hebert in District}
8. Huntsville 22-10 {taken down by Hebert in Bi-District 67-48}
9. Navasota 26-3 {lost a zone playoff 47-46 to Huntsville}
10. Marlin 26-9 {beat Jeff.-Moore and Waco High in District, regional finals}
11. S.A. West Campos 32-5 {state semi-finalist, had trouble with Canyon in the semis}
12. Wharton 27-6 {won a close district race over El Campo and Friendswood}
13. West Oso 23-8 {lost to West Campos 59-53 in regional finals}
14. Laredo United 30-7 {lost to West Oso in Bi-District 80-77}
15. Waco Jeff-Moore 26-7 {split with Marlin in District losing 45-47 & winning 60-43}
16. Dallas Adamson 25-8 {runner-up in East Zone 6-4A to Waxahachie}
17. Lancaster 26-7 {runner-up in East Zone 6-4A to Waxahachie}
18. Mansfield 25-8 {finished 4th in East Zone 6-4A}
19. Georgetown 25-9 {defeated Del Valle in District playoff}
20. Austin Westlake 26-10 {eliminated by Del Valle in Zone playoff}
21. Del Valle 23-7 {lost District playoff with Georgetown}
22. Jacksonville 19-11 {lost in Bi-District to Paris}
23. Cleburne 24-13 {regional finals losing to Canyon 64-46}
24. FW Carter-Riverside 21-11 {lost in Bi-District to Waxahachie 86-69}
25. Iowa Park 17-12 {lost in Bi-District to Cleburne 62-43}
26. Beeville 27-5
27. Andrews 26-5 {tough district losing out to Snyder}

1982 AAAA

The Andrews(30-2) Mustangs were coming out of West Texas as the top ranked team in the state in class 4-A in 1982. Coach Frank Bice had a very short squad that relied on speed and quickness. 6'1" Mike Murry paced the Mustangs with a 20.6 average and he was not the team's top scoring threat. That honor went to 6'1" Keith Brooks(21.3/16.0), who was the focus of most teams trying to slow down the Mustangs. Brooks was said to be able to dunk with either hand. Coach Bice was in his 14th season at Andrews.

Andrews(30-2) was in a very competitive District with Odessa Ector(18-12), Snyder(23-6) and Lamesa(26-6). Snyder(23-6) was also the only team to defeat Andrews 53-49 in District action and finished third. Lamesa had beaten Andrews during non-district action but dropped both District games. Andrews closed out District defeating runner-up Odessa Ector(18-12) 91-85.

In a warm-up game against Plainview(22-10), Andrews(30-2) continued their momentum with a 94-87 victory. Mike Murry hit 31 points in the win over Plainview.

Bi-District was going to be challenging for Andrews(30-2) as they faced perennial power Borger(26-6), out of the Panhandle. The Bulldogs were ranked #10 in the TABC rankings. Coach Duane Hunt of Borger(26-6) just reloaded every season. The coaches son, Scott Hunt(18.1), was one of the top guards in the state and led the Bulldogs assault on the state tournament. Other standouts for Borger(26-6) were Stanley Davis(12.6/9.7) and Terrance Sheppard(8.7). Andrews countered with an impressive line-up as well. Murry, Keith Brooks(21.3), Scott Sears(13.9), James Justice(8.1) and Jaime Gonzales(7.3).

The Andrews-Borger game was scheduled for Lubbock Coronado High School. Coach Hunt of Borger had a lot of praise for Andrews saying, "They are very quick, they run the press well, they have an excellent fast break club and they shoot the ball extremely well. I don't see many weaknesses. They've got two super scorers and three other players that are solid," Hunt said. The game was a re-match of the 1980 contest won by Borger 73-70 in their Bi-District clash.

Andrews coach Frank Bice countered, "We're going to have to rebound with them, you put their 6'1" and 6'3" good jumpers against our 6'0" good jumpers and you can see we could have trouble."

The contest did not disappoint. With five minutes remaining, the Mustangs trailed 42-34 and outscored Borger 11-2 to advance to regionals with an exciting 45-44 win. Scott Sears was the hero for Andrews(31-2) when he hit a 15-footer with 52 seconds left that ended up being the winning basket. Borger(26-6) came back down court and turned the ball over on a double dribble violation. The Mustangs, Keith

Brooks, had a chance to end things, but missed a foul shot with 21 seconds remaining. The Bulldogs were unable to get a shot off to close out the game.

Andrews(31-2) full-court pressure caused major concerns for Borger forcing several turnovers late. Scott Hunt kept the Bulldogs in the game with his outside shooting hitting 20 points. Terrance Sheppard finished with 12 points for Borger, mostly on the inside. Andrews momentum late corresponded with Hunt leaving the game with fouls at the 2:27 mark of the 4th quarter. "Scott got his 5th foul with about 2 ½ minutes left, and that hurt," Coach Hunt said. Borger was up at the time 42-40. Borger had six straight turnovers late against the Mustangs press that had changed from zone to man to man. "We were in control, then had a couple of turnovers in the last three minutes, and they got momentum," Coach Hunt said. "I felt like more fouls should have been called, it got much more physical at the end, and I felt we should have went to the line more," Hunt continued. Borger(26-6) was called for 16 fouls while Andrews(31-2) was only called for 8 team fouls.

"The key to beating a good team is to get them into foul trouble," Coach Bice said. "We were able to get Hunt on several charging fouls and that is something that is hard to do on him. He is a super athlete." Coach Hunt of Borger shared his grief, "this is a hard one to except. We came into this game feeling we had to press them. It worked for about 24 minutes, but then turnovers killed us." Mike Murry finished with 16 points while Keith Brooks and Scott Sears finished with 10 apiece.

Cleburne(30-4) came roaring into regionals with a lot of momentum as the #9 rated team in the state. Cleburne had won the Ft. Worth Lions Club tournament for the class 4-A schools and was a top ten team. The Yellowjackets had an outstanding squad with two inside threats, 6'4" Steve Harper and 6'1" Xavier Warren as well as two strong guards in 6'1" Greg Young and 6'0" Scott Rosser. 6'1" Phil Young and 6'2" Chris Hall also saw big minutes for Coach Jeff Cody. Coach Cody singled out Harper as a definite All-State caliber player.

Cleburne(30-4) held a win over state ranked Borger(26-7) in their tournament earlier in the season by two points. In the playoffs, the Yellowjackets downed Everman in a District playoff and came from behind to defeat Wichita Falls Hirschi 61-48 in Bi-District.

Cleburne(30-4) was back for a second run in the regionals having lost the previous season to Canyon in the regional finals. In District, Cleburne was dominating after their opening loss to Everman. The Yellowjackets won every game by eleven points or more. "We are very team oriented and have been consistent," Coach Cody said. "Four of our players are averaging in double figures." The Andrews-Cleburne contest was played at Hardin-Simmons University field house.

For the first time since 1973 Andrews(31-2) was going back to Austin with a 56-46 win over the Yellowjackets. "Our defense was the key to victory," Bice said. Andrews(31-2) led the contest start to finish. Scott Sears was outstanding with 20

points, Mike Murry finished with 12 and Keith Brooks had 18. Murry was held back because of early foul trouble.

“Scott really played well,” Bice said. “His ability to hit those shots in the first half really helped.” Cleburne’s zone defense had surrounded Brooks and limited his touches. Scott Rosser led Cleburne(31-4) with 15 points with Steve Harper adding 14.

In defeat Coach Cody discussed the Mustangs success. “They wouldn’t let us make it a half-court game. They took us out of our game and turned it into a full-court game.” Cody continued, “They had every bit as much speed and quickness as we heard they had. They had four excellent athletes on the floor and the fifth wasn’t bad.”

Andrews(32-2) came into state with a great deal of confidence and they would need every ounce of it as they arrived in Austin. The Mustangs had the ranking, but most knowledgeable fans had to feel against Waxahachie or Beaumont Hebert, they would be underdogs. Waxahachie(29-6) was making their third straight trip to the final four, Beaumont Hebert(28-3) was the two-time defending champion in class 4-A and Bay City(27-4) was back at state for the second time in three seasons. Coach Bice knew the competition was going to another level.

Waxahachie((29-6) was actually making their fourth visit to Austin in the previous seven seasons. Andrews drew the Indians as their semi-final opponent. This was a great match-up with both teams averaging over 70 points a game. Andrews was a pressing team that relied on quickness and great shooting while starting no player over 6’1”. The Indians countered with more size and a press of their own. Andrews had an unusual honor of having two players averaging over 20 points per game, 6’0” Keith Brooks(21.3) and 6’0” Mike Murry(20.0). 5’11” Scott Sears averaged 14.0 while post 6’1” James Justice averaged 10.0 points per game. Andrews(32-2) had only been held under 50 points three times all season and two of those games ended up as losses for the Stangs.

Coach Jack Aldridge of Waxahachie(29-6) was not going to a slow-down game against anybody. He liked the “up tempo” game and the Indians had a well-balanced attack. Sophomore, Todd Alexander(12.8) was the Indians leading scorer. Alexander could have easily averaged twenty per game if he wanted. As a senior, he would be the top recruit in the state. Inside is where Waxahachie had a big advantage with 6’5” Lloyd Price(10.2) and 6’3” Ken Roberts(10.8). Other key players for the Green and White of Waxahachie were Mike Byrd(8.8) and Deon Alexander(8.0/3.7 asst) who was the primary ballhandler. Hachie had lost six games, but had played a much more challenging schedule, losing to some of the top programs in the state.

Losses included, Tyler Lee(30-5) 56-54, Dallas Roosevelt(31-3) 74-68, Abilene(25-8) 71-60, Mansfield(23-8) 61-59, Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-9) 73-60 and Lancaster 51-49. Big wins included South Garland(27-6) 81-80, Ft. Worth Dunbar(30-

9) 62-57, Cleburne(26-5) 74-71, and Palestine(22-6) 77-74. The only common opponent the two teams had faced was Cleburne(26-5). Andrews defeated Cleburne by 10 in the regional finals and Hachie by 3.

In the playoffs Waxahachie ran the gauntlet playing all types of different teams. In the District zone playoff game Waxahachie(29-6) went up against Dallas Madison(11-17) for the second year in a row. Dallas Madison had defeated Ennis(20-12) 64-60 in the zone playoff to see who would represent the western zone.

Ennis(20-12) actually had finished behind Corsicana in the 2nd round of District action only to see the Tigers being declared ineligible. Two Corsicana players had attended a basketball camp in Mississippi during the summer and were declared ineligible by the District committee.

The Trojans Coach, Ellis Kidd, had no returning players, which limited their chances. Madison's key players for Coach Kidd were 5'11" Willie Stepney, 5'9" Jerry Hartford, 5'11" Eddie Beasley and senior post, 6'6" Winfred Jones.

Dallas Madison(11-17) was no match for Waxahachie(29-6) in the Zone playoffs, as the Indians dominated 94-74. The Indians victory was fueled by the inside combo of Lloyd Price and Ken Roberts, who combined for 46 points off dribbled penetration. Roberts was 9 of 11 from the floor while Price hit 9 of 14. Waxahachie at one time had a 26-point lead.

In Bi-District the Indians took down Ft. Worth Poly(19-6). They were described by Coach Aldridge as a very physical team with a number of leapers. Poly posed a problem with two talents in 6'3" Fred Taylor and point guard, 6'0" Victor Bates. Poly(19-6) had defeated Ft. Worth Northside(21-10) in the zone playoff 82-71 to capture District 5-4A. Fred Taylor had been dominant scoring 26 points along with 17 rebounds in the Parrots win.

Against the Indians, Taylor finished with 17 points and Bates added 17 more, but the Parrots came up short losing to Waxahachie(29-6) 85-71. The Waxahachie sagging defense gave Taylor trouble on the inside. Taylor fouled out with 2:30 remaining in the game. With his disqualification, Poly(19-6) had lost their inside game. In the final four minutes, the Indians spread the court and hit key foul shots down the stretch. Ken Roberts and Todd Alexander led Coach Aldridge's team with 15 points apiece, while Deon Alexander kicked in 14, Lloyd Price hit 12 and Mike Washington finished with 12. If you are counting that's five players in double figures ranging from 12 to 15 points. Waxahachie was 21 of 25 from the foul line and 11 of 12 in the last two minutes of the game.

Sulphur Springs(22-9) advanced to the state playoffs for the first time in 18 years with their 66-59 victory over Paris(11-12) in a District playoff. Prior to defeating Paris in the District playoff, the Wildcats of Sulphur Springs had to eliminate Terrell 53-51. The Tigers and Wildcats had tied for the 2nd half championship. Coach Jim Russell said, "We were very fortunate to get out of Terrell alive."

In Bi-District, Sulphur(23-9) went up against Palestine(24-5) in Minola. Coach Russell of Sulphur Springs counted on Tyrone Dial(15.0/10.0), Jordon Stanley(10.0), and F. B. Mosley(14.0). Coach Russell commented about the season, "We really hadn't hit our stride then. At one time there, we were 8-7 and lost six of eight until we got Jordon Stanley back." Palestine(24-5) was able to escape with a 61-60 victory in the Sulphur Springs(23-9) game. Stanley was drafted into pro baseball by the Texas Rangers organization.

Palestine(24-5) had defeated Liberty Eylau(22-4) 69-61 in a zone playoff for the District 8-AAAA title. Palestine had to comeback from seven down to score 15 straight points in the win over Liberty Eylau. Harlan Lovings played a key role during that stretch with several offensive tip-ins. Also, Liberty Eylau(22-4) didn't help their cause missing the front end of four one and one situations. Kenneth Abrams paced Palestine with 22 points in the victory, Lovings added 20 and Jeffrey Carter scored 16 points. James Carson and Terry Lockhart led Liberty Eylau.

Palestine(24-5) had a very talented crew with three double digit scorers along with a great deal of athleticism. Big wins for the Wildcats included Corsicana and state ranked Silsbee(30-6). Losses included Tyler John Tyler(25-7) twice, Temple, Lufkin(21-7) 79-78 in the Jacksonville tournament and Corsicana 51-49 in the Palestine tournament.

6'4" Harlan Lovings(16.3), 5'11" Jeffrey Carter(16.2), and 6'0" Kenneth Abrams(12.2) formed the talented trio for Palestine(24-5) as the Waxahachie showdown approached. Jeffrey Carter(16.2) had tremendous range on his shooting while Harlan Lovings(16.3) operated inside. Kenneth Abrams(12.2) was considered the best all-around talent and was the primary ball-handler. The offense revolved around getting the ball inside to Lovings. Carter was later named honorable mention All-State by the Texas Sports Writers, and also named 8-AAAA South zone M.V.P. Harlan Lovings was a unanimous selection on the All-District team.

The Wildcats had finished 18-15 as runner-up to Jacksonville during the '81 campaign. Palestine(24-5) averaged 71.0 points a game while giving up 60.0. Palestine eliminated the always pesky Daingerfield(11-16) Tigers 87-53 late in the season. Daingerfield finished 2nd in District action to Palestine(24-5). The Tigers record was deceiving due to the fact the 6'1" post, Niel Roney, had missed much of the early season because of an infected finger. Palestine(24-5) counted on an aggressive full-court press for a lot of their buckets. Jim Glass was the coach of the Palestine Wildcats. Glass had played for Coach Aldridge's brother at Wall in 1957. Coach Glass commented about facing Waxahachie, "It's a privilege to be playing Waxahachie, they have a class organization."

Palestine's season came to an end in Tyler against the talented Waxahachie(29-6) Indians, but not without a battle. The game was close throughout with Palestine(24-5) moving into the lead in the 3rd quarter 51-45. That did not last long though, as the Indians regrouped and outscored Palestine 18-3 in the 4th

quarter. The Green and White hung on to win 77-74 in front of 3,500 screaming fans. Todd and Deon Alexander combined for 42 points for Waxahachie in the win, and Palestine's Jeffrey Carter was outstanding finishing with 29 points. The Indians had the edge from the foul line hitting 23 of 32 while Palestine managed 18 of 27 free throws. Coach Aldridge commented after the big win, "Palestine was a little bit better than I realized."

Both Waxahachie(29-6) and Andrews(32-2) had challenging roads to Austin. The semi-final match-up was highly anticipated. Waxahachie was larger than Andrews and Coach Bice took solace in the fact that Cleburne and Borger had both been bigger than the Mustangs. "If we play as well as we did against Cleburne then we have a good chance," Bice said. "It's difficult preparing for a team you have not seen." Bice continued saying, "In both of our games previously in the playoffs, we saw a certain thing, that if we did, would help us win. But that is not the case against Waxahachie(29-6), they are a solid team and they have super balance. They won't be easy to beat."

The Indians beat the #1 ranked Mustangs 62-56 despite Keith Brooks and Mike Murry hitting a combined 39 points. "I was surprised at how well Brooks could hit from the outside," Coach Aldridge said. "We moved our quick-post on him in the second half to try to defend him better." 6'5" junior post, Mike Washington came off the bench for the Indians and had 9 points, 3 rebounds, 4 blocks while sophomore Adrian Frazier added 6 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists and 2 blocks. Waxahachie got 25 points from their bench scoring. With that type of production, it is easy to see why Waxahachie was able to advance.

Todd Alexander led Waxahachie(30-6) with 14 points. Ken Roberts finished with 12 points and played outstanding defense on Brooks in the second half. Brooks went on to play football at S.M.U. "Waxahachie really could jump," Coach Bice said. "I think they rejected like six of our shots in one quarter and that was the first time in quite a while something like that has happened." Bice was impressed with the Indians, "Their depth really hurt us. They had so many people that they could use, while we just had five or six. When they got tired, it was no problem in putting someone else in there."

Keith Brooks finished his tremendous high school career on the basketball court hitting 20 points and 18 rebounds followed by Murry with 19. The Mustangs shot 36% from the floor while Waxahachie hit on 44%.

In the **other semi-finals** game Beaumont Hebert(28-2) attempted a threepeat against Bay City(27-4). Three players dominated the scoring for Coach Fred Williams Panthers. 6'4" Rahn Bailey(27.0), 6'1" Michael Darkins(17.0), and 6'0" Nat Crossley(13.0). All three were seniors with loads of experience and Bailey was a three-year letterman. Both teams liked to get up and down averaging 73 points per game. The Panthers averaged 73.9 on offense and allowed 57.6 of defense. The Blackcats had very similar numbers with 73.1-58.9.

Bay City(27-4) had lost three out of the first five games of the season and had won 25 out of the next 26 games. The Blackcats faced Houston Yates(33-4) early in the season losing 68-56. Their first two games of the season were against the talented La Marque(25-8) squad paced by Alvin Franklin. Bay City(27-4) lost 73-65 and 80-67. La Marque finished in my final top fifteen in the state. In District, Coach Eddie Nelson's team split with Wharton(22-11) winning the first game 70-59 and lost the rematch 74-72.

In the playoffs Bay City(27-4) got by Corpus Christi Flour Bluff(29-9) 72-57 and West Campus(28-7) out of San Antonio 67-60. It was the Blackcat's third trip to state in four seasons. Bay City was at a disadvantage against Hebert with a very short team paced by 6'1" Ivan Pettit.

Beaumont Hebert(28-3) had faced a litany of outstanding opponents on their journey to state. They were 2-1 against Beaumont French(27-7), 2-1 against Pt. Arthur Lincoln(21-9) and 2-1 against Silsbee(29-6). Silsbee was a perennial power in the state but could not get past the Panthers. Silsbee beat Hebert in pre-district 49-47, but lost both games in District 69-59 and 66-51.

Hebert's pre-district campaign was covered in detail in class 5-A section. The Panthers faced Huntsville in Bi-District and were able to overcome the tremendous size of the Hornets. Between Hebert(28-3) and Huntsville(24-9) the two schools had won four straight state titles in class 4-A. Huntsville(24-9) had the top big man in the state in class 4-A in 6'8" Jimmy Gilbert(16.3). Gilbert went on to have an outstanding college career at Texas A&M. The game was very close for the first half but Hebert gained separation with a 12-4 run at the start of the 3rd quarter. The Panthers went on to victory 72-63. Hebert's Rahn Bailey chipped in 16 points and 11 rebounds and Michael Darkins finished the top scorer with 20 points.

Beaumont Hebert(28-3) matched-up against Del Valle(23-10) in Regionals. Del Valle had been riding a 16-game winning streak as they prepared to play Hebert(27-3). Former Nederland coach Johnny Cole led Del Valle. Kevin Benford(21.0) was the lead horse for Del Valle. Nine of their ten losses had come at the hands of class 5-A opponents, so they had played a very challenging schedule. Coach Johnny Cole of Del Valle stated, "Hebert's tallest player is 6'3", but the quickness and the defensive press are exceptional. We didn't play well in beating Waco Midway Tuesday in Bi-District, but we'll need an outstanding performance to stay with Hebert."

The Panthers once again did not blow anybody out but were able to win comfortably 68-57 at Katy Taylor High School. Del Valle's 6'5" post, Kevin Benford(21.0) was held to only 11 points as Hebert(28-3) forced numerous turnovers.

Del Valle(23-10) had eliminated Waco Midway(24-10) in Bi-District 52-48 with Benford(21.0) scoring 15 points for his team. Earlier in the season Kevin Benford knocked down 22 points with 12 rebounds in an elimination game against

Austin Westlake 67-59 in District action. Benford hit 41 points with 15 rebounds in another win over Georgetown 91-56. So, Hebert's ability to hold him to a mere 11 points was impressive.

In an absolute rarity in high school basketball, Beaumont Hebert(28-3) and Bay City(27-4) had been in Austin six times out of eight combined seasons. Probably not a record for the larger classifications, but it was impressive. Neither team would be awed by the state tournament or the big crowds. After six lead changes Hebert went ahead for good 34-33 midway through the third period. Hebert hit 16 of 20 foul shots in the final four minutes.

Michael Darkins led the Panthers with a balanced scoring attack with 20 points. Nat Crossley finished with 12 points along with Rahn Bailey's 12 points. 6'1" Clint DeQuir also added 13 points for Hebert. The Black Cats were paced as usual by Ivan Pettit and his 15 points along with 5'9" Shawn Gaskins, who also had 15 points. 6'1" Leonard Eaton was the leading scorer for Bay City with 16 points.

The **state finals** were set between Waxahachie(30-6) and Hebert(29-3). They were clearly the two best class 4-A teams in the state. Both schools were making their third straight trip to the state tournament. Hebert's lone returning starter off last year's state championship, Rahn Bailey(27.0), scored 31 points and grabbed an incredible 17 rebounds to propel the Panthers to the title 76-71 victory. That is one of the best lines ever in a state championship game. The Panthers shot 61% from the floor in the second half. Bailey's three-point play with 38 seconds remaining sealed the victory for Hebert. Todd Alexander was the leading scorer for Waxahachie with 24 points while Deon added 15 and Ken Roberts finished with 12.

The deciding factor was clearly from the foul line. These are the totals. Waxahachie shot 5 of 9 from the stripe. Hebert was 30 of 42. That's right, have you ever seen such a discrepancy? Hebert only had 11 fouls in the game. Waxahachie won the boards 39 to 36 over the Panthers. Waxahachie was not happy with the officiating to say the least.

Beaumont Hebert(30-3) left a legacy that few teams will ever be able to match. Although the Panthers were not as dominant as in the previous two seasons their formula for success was too much for their opponents. During their three-year run Hebert had lost only one game against 4-A teams. The question always arises which of the three title teams were the best. The power ratings are always a good indicator with surprising results. The 1981 squad was tops at 96.60. The 1980 and 82 teams were close at 91.95 and 90.81. Records were very similar with 35-2 in '80 and '81 and 30-3 in '82. Waxahachie's teams finished 32-4, 29-9 and 30-7 during that stretch with power ratings almost exactly the same. The Indians were 86.68, 85.84 and 86.04. How much credence do I give the power ratings? The answer is a great deal. I have found over the years that they are incredibly accurate.

Beaumont Hebert closed their doors at the end of the 1982 school year and merged into Beaumont Westbrook. Coach Williams took over as head man in 1983.

Forest Park High School had remained almost entirely white, while Hebert was all black. A federal judge ordered both Hebert and Forest Park to close their doors with a new high school, Westbrook opened for 11th and 12th grades, while Hebert would be a 9th and 10th grade center. The new school, Westbrook was in the old Forest Park building. South Park school district, which was predominately white, took over the Beaumont district, which was mostly black. South Park, which had all the oil money, voted against a merger so the Beaumont I.S.D. dissolved their district, leaving South Park to take over the schools. No this is not 1883 but rather 1983. Hard to believe in this country change comes so slowly and at such a cost. Athletics more than any other endeavor has promoted equality of the races throughout this country's history dating all the way back to the early pioneers of sports, Joe Louis, Jackie Robinson and Jesse Owens.

Beaumont Hebert Panthers

1980	33-2	#1 3-A	State Champs	Snyder 88-53	PR 91.95
1981	33-2	#1 4-A	State Champs	Canyon 59-57	PR 96.60
1982	30-3	#1 4-A	State Champs	Waxahachie 76-71	PR 90.81

All-State

1980	6'6"	Randy Samuels	15.4	All-State 1 st team	Oklahoma
	6'0"	Alton Bridges	9.0	All-State 2 nd team	
	6'2"	Donald Mickens	13.0	All-State 3 rd team	Tyler JC
1981	6'2"	Donald Mickens	22.0	All-State 1 st team	Tyler JC
	6'2"	Andre Boutte	20.0	All-State 2 nd team	North Texas
1982	6'4"	Rahn Bailey	27.0	All-State 1 st team	Morehouse St.

* Only one team has won three straight class 4-A or 5-A(second largest classification) in a row since Hebert. Dallas South Oak Cliff captured three straight in 2006, 2007 and 2008, but had to relinquish the 2006 title.

All-State Teams: The Sports Writers

1st Team- 6'1" Keith Brooks(21.3) Andrews, 6'4" Rahn Bailey(27.0) Beaumont Hebert, 6'3" Kraig Thome(17.9) Boswell, 6'0" Scott Hunt(18.0) Borger, 6'1" Ivan Pettit(21.0) of Bay City:

2nd Team-6'4" John Massey(24.3) Mansfield, 6'2" Joe Washington(19.5) Flour Bluff, 6'5" Fred Taylor(22.1) Ft. Worth Poly, 6'1" Mike Murry(20.0) Andrews, 5'9" Walt Montet(23.7) Bridge City:

3rd Team- 6'8" Jimmy Gilbert(16.3) Huntsville, 6'4" Steve Harper(15.0) Cleburne, 6'4" Fred Johnson(19.5) Brazosport, 6'4" Jerry Johnson(18.3) South SA West, 6'2" Eddie Cueller(26.6) Laredo United, 5'11" Todd Alexander(13.0) of Waxahachie:

Honorable Mention- Jay Houtsma, Stephenville; Bobby Deaton, Waco Midway; Benny Bryant, Huntsville; Deon Alexander, Waxahachie; Jeffrey Carter, Palestine; Marion Jones, South S.A.:

The TABC All-State

1st Team- 6'0" Scott Hunt(18.0) of Borger, 6'2" Eddie Cueller(26.6) of Laredo United, 5'10" Deon Alexander(8.0) Waxahachie, 6'4" Rahn Bailey(27.0) of Hebert, 6'8" Jimmy Gilbert(16.3) of Huntsville:

2nd Team- Keith Brooks(21.3) of Andrews, 6'1" Ivan Pettit(21.0) of Bay City, 6'4" John Massey(24.3) of Mansfield, 6'4" Steve Harper(15.0) of Cleburne and 6'4" Fred Johnson(19.5) of South SA West:

3rd Team- 5'10" Bernard Walker of Corsicana, Mike Murry(20.0) of Andrews, 6'5" Devin Benford(21.0) of Del Valle, 6'5" Bobby Denton of Waco Midway, 6'3" Chuck Downe of Kerrville.

Remember the big difference in the two teams is that if your high school coach was not a member and failed to nominate you, the TABC would not consider voting for you. Several coaches failed to nominate their players. The organization was growing and becoming more influential in making policies that benefited Texas Basketball. Membership was essential to continued growth of the game statewide.

Power Ratings 4-A 1982

1.	Beaumont Hebert	30-3	90.81	State Champs	Defeated Wax 76-71
2.	Waxahachie	30-7	86.04	State Finals	Loss Hebert 76-71
3.	Andrews	32-3	84.25	State Semi	Loss Wax 62-56
4.	Bay City	27-5	80.18	State Semi	Loss Hebert 66-60

State Playoffs AAAA 1982

Region I Bi-District	Andrews(30-2) #1	45	Borger(26-6) #10	44
	Cleburne(30-4) #9	61	Wichita Falls Hirschi	48
Region I Final	Andrews(31-2) #1	56	Cleburne(31-4) #9	46
Region II Bi-District	Waxahachie(27-6) #3	85	Ft. Worth Poly(18-6) #15	71
	Palestine(24-5) #8	61	Sulphur Springs(23-9) #20	60
Region II Final	Waxahachie(28-6) #3	77	Palestine(25-5) #8	74
Region III Bi-District	Beaumont Hebert(26-3) #2	72	Huntsville(25-9) #6	63
	Del Valle(21-10)	52	Waco Midway(24-11)	48
Region III Final	Beaumont Hebert(27-3)	68	Del Valle(23-11)	57
Region IV Bi-District	C.C. Flour Bluff(28-7) #14	63	Laredo United(31-5) #7	59
	Bay City(25-4) #11	67	West Campus S.A. (28-7) #5	60
Region IV Final	Bay City(26-4) #11	72	C.C. Flour Bluff(29-8) #14	57
State Semis	Waxahachie(29-6) #3	62	Andrews(32-2) #1	56
	Beaumont Hebert(28-3) #2	66	Bay City(27-4) #11	60
State Finals	Beaumont Hebert(29-3) #2	76	Waxahachie(30-6) #3	71

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1982 AAAA Top Ten}

1.	Beaumont Hebert	30-3	{three in a row class 4-A titles}
2.	Waxahachie	30-7	{three straight trips to the state tournament}
3.	Andrews	32-3	{top ranked team out of West Texas}
4.	Silsbee	30-5	{only 4-A team to beat Hebert over a three year period}
5.	Borger	26-7	{bi-district lost to Andrews 45-44}
6.	Bay City	27-5	{State semi-finals losing to Hebert 66-60}
7.	Snyder	23-6	{split in district action with Andrews}
8.	Palestine	25-6	{regional finals lost to Waxahachie 77-74 in a close one}
9.	Cleburne	31-5	{regional finals lost to Andrews 56-46}
10.	Huntsville	25-10	{bi-district lost to Hebert 72-63}
11.	Houston Furr	26-7	{lost to Huntsville in zone action, Jaycees winner}
12.	Sulphur Springs	23-10	{bi-district winner lost to Palestine 61-60}
13.	Mansfield	23-8	{runner-up to Waxahachie, split with the Indians}
14.	Lamesa	26-6	{West Texas power, had a win over Andrews in pre-district}
15.	Odessa Ector	18-12	{tied Andrews for the 2 nd half at 7-1, runner-up in district}
16.	Del Valle	23-12	{regional finals, lost to Hebert 68-57}
17.	Wichita Falls Hirschi		{bi-district losing to Cleburne 61-48}
18.	South San West	28-8	{bi-district lost to Bay City 67-60}
19.	Laredo United	31-6	{bi-district lost to Flour Bluff 63-59}
20.	Liberty-Eylau	22-5	{lost in a zone playoff against Palestine 69-61}
21.	C.C. Flour Bluff	29-9	{regional finalist losing to Bay City 72-57}
22.	Ft. Worth Poly	18-6	{bi-district losing to Waxahachie 85-71}
23.	Waco Midway	24-11	{bi-district losing to Del Valle 52-48}
24.	Wharton	21-11	{split in district with Bay City in district}
25.	West Oso	23-6	{another strong team in region IV}
26.	C.C. Callallen	24-5	{state ranked most of the season}
27.	Ft. W. Northside	21-10	{lost a zone playoff to Ft. Worth Poly}
28.	Kilgore	19-7	{runner-up to Palestine in district}

Top Teams 1980-82 AAAA

1. Hebert(33-2) State Champs 1981, 2. Hebert(33-2) State Champs 1980, 3. Hebert(30-3) State Champs 1982, 4. Canyon(28-9) State Finals 1981, 5. Waxahachie(30-7) State Finals 1982, 6. Andrews(32-3) State Semi 1982, 7. Silsbee(30-6) District Runner-up to Hebert, only 4-A team to defeat Hebert over three seasons 1982, 8. Borger(27-4) District Runner-up to Canyon 1981, 9. Borger(26-7) Bi-District loss to Andrews 45-44 1982, 10. Snyder(27-4) State Finals 1980, 11. Waxahachie(32-4) State Semi 1980, 12. Borger(28-4) Regional Finals losing to Snyder by 2 in 1980, 13. Waxahachie(30-9) State Semi 1981, 14. Paris(23-7) Regional Finals 1981, 15. Bay City(27-8) State Semi 1980, 16. Paris(24-3) Regional Finals 1980:

Power Ratings 3-A 1980 4-A 1981-82

1.	Beaumont Hebert	33-2	96.60	State Champs(81)	Defeated Canyon 59-57
2.	Beaumont Hebert	35-2	91.95	State Champs(80)	Defeated Snyder 88-53
3.	Beaumont Hebert	30-3	90.81	State Champs(82)	Defeated Wax 76-71
4.	Waxahachie	32-4	86.68	State Semi(80)	Lost to Snyder 65-63
5.	Waxahachie	30-7	86.04	State Finals(82)	Loss Hebert 76-71
6.	Waxahachie	30-9	85.84	State Semis(81)	Loss Hebert 81-64
7.	Paris	23-7	84.26	Regional Finals(81)	Loss Wax 83-82
8.	Andrews	32-3	84.25	State Semi(82)	Loss Wax 62-56
9.	Bay City	27-5	80.18	State Semi(82)	Loss Hebert 66-60

Top Players 1980-82 AAAA

1 st Team	6'2"	Reggie Roberts	22.6	1980	McKinney	Texas A&M
	6'4"	Carlton Cooper	21.3	1981	Paris	Texas
	6'0"	James Stern	28.0	1981	Waxahachie	Baylor
	6'6"	Randy Samuels	17.0	1980	Beaumont Hebert	Oklahoma
	6'5"	Todd Chambers	22.0	1980	Bay City	Oklahoma
2 nd Team	6'9"	Dwight Phillips	16.2	1981	Levelland	Texas Tech
	6'8"	Jimmie Gilbert	16.3	1982	Huntsville	Texas A&M
	6'3"	Ken Walling	13.7	1981	Canyon	W. Texas A&M
	6'1"	Keith Brooks	21.3	1982	Andrews	SMU(Football)
	6'2"	Donald Mickens	23.0	1981	Beaumont Hebert	Tyler JC

1980 AA

In the 1979 state playoffs the Coleman Bluecats were undefeated entering the playoffs at 27-0. Bowie eliminated the Bluecats in the first round of the Class AA playoffs. Coach Jack Baucom returned two starters off the '79 squad and began to rebuild for the 1980 campaign. Coach Baucom had won 410 games over his 18-year career with the Bluecats. "We've been in three different regions in my time at Coleman and they've all been tough," Baucom said. "Last year, for example, we were 27-0 going into the state playoffs, but Bowie, which was also undefeated beat us in Bi-District," Baucom continued. "So, it's awfully tough to get to Austin sometimes."

The 1980 season looked similar to the previous year as the Bluecats went undefeated during the regular season. But this time Coleman made it all the way to the state tournament with a 32-0 mark and the state's #1 ranking in class AA.

"Our primary goal was to win District," Baucom said. "It's so unusual for a team to go undefeated and we didn't want to put that kind of pressure on ourselves." As far as commenting on his star player Reggie Childress, "Overall, he's the best I've had. I've never had anyone with his height and his ability." After 18 years at the helm in Coleman, Coach Baucom had finally taken his team to state.

Waiting for Coleman in Austin was Abernathy(21-7). Abernathy was out of West Texas and had beaten Dimmitt(20-12) in the playoffs 75-69, Seminole(24-8) 64-60 and Childress(22-2) 66-59. Seminole as you recall were the defending state champs. Abernathy had a modest ranking of #17 in the state polls and weren't thought to be able to get out of region I. Childress was the heavy favorite and ranked #4 in the state. Top players for Abernathy(21-7) were 6'4" Joey Garcia(19.0), 5'10" Scott Morrison(13.0) and 6'3" Dean McGuire(10.0).

In the state semi-finals a major upset took place as Abernathy(24-7) escaped with a 58-57 victory over Coleman(32-0). Childress missed a desperate shot at the end from 30-foot away. "It was so close," Coleman coach Jack Baucom said. "Those are the ones that really hurt." With nine seconds remaining in the game and trailing by one point. Abernathy's Scott Morrison moved the ball down court and hit Joey Garcia, who banked in a bucket to give Abernathy a 58-57 victory. Coleman

threw the ball the length of the court with one second on the clock to Childress for his desperation shot. Garcia finished with 24 points on 12 of 18 shooting and Childress led Coleman with 22 points and 14 rebounds.

In the other 2-A **semi-final game**, Boling(29-2) turned back Columbus(23-8) 56-53 behind a 25 point game by James Greenwood. Boling had defeated Columbus earlier in the season 54-50. Boling held Columbus to only one basket over a five-minute stretch to secure the win. Columbus was led by John Johnson with 22 points.

In the finals, Abernathy's standout post 6'4" Garcia was playing on two bad ankles. Garcia sat out the entire second quarter, but his team managed to build up a 14-point gap 46-32, and held off Boling(30-2) late to take a 64-58 victory. The Bulldogs had outscored Abernathy(25-7) 16 to 4 during one stretch. Boling pulled as close as 53-52 but Abernathy was able to survive on Roger Pinson's 14-foot shot and Roger Mitchell's basket off a steal by Scott Morrison.

Boling(30-2) was led by James Greenwood with 16 points, Hobbs added 14 points and Ronnie Whalon hit 14. Abernathy(26-7) won the rebound battle 45-39. Boling finished the season at 29-3 and Abernathy was 27-7.

Garcia still was the scoring leader for Abernathy with 15 points. Mitchell hit 12 points and Pinson had 12 as well. "The reason we won was because we played together so well all year," Coach Carl Irlbeck of Abernathy said. "The difference was our kids played like a team."

Abernathy had three players named All-South Plains by the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. Joey Garcia was named to the 1st team along with Dean McGuire. Scott McGuire was named to the 2nd team. Other players named to the 1st team were Mike Grass of Seminole, Vicente Salinas of Dimmitt, and Will Richey of Frenship. Joe Bob Wynn of Morton was also named to the 2nd team.

All-Tournament Team selected by the Texas Sports Writers-James Greenwood and Alonzo Moore of Boling, Joey Garcia and Scott Morrison of Abernathy, Reggie Childress of Coleman, John Johnson of Columbus.

Reggie Childress(27.0) of Coleman was named all-state four straight seasons for the Bluecats and finished in the top ten on the all-time Texas High School scoring list. The **Class AA All-State** team of course was going to be strongly influenced by the state tournament players: Reggie Childress with Coleman, Joey Garcia from Abernathy, John Johnson of Columbus, James Greenwood of Boling, Craig Adair of Brownsboro and Blake Brown of Jacksboro.

Teams that finished in the state top twenty but were unable to make the playoffs: #6 Fairfield(19-5), #7 Boerne(25-5), #8 Refugio(23-2), #12 Bowie(24-7), #14 East Chambers(27-5), #15 Taft(23-5), #18 Tulia(20-6), #19 Whitehouse(21-6), #20 Lake Dallas(23-5):

Class AA State Playoffs 1980

Region I Bi-District	Childress(20-2) #5	61	Perryton(24-6) #9	60
	Abernathy(21-7) #17	75	Dimmitt(20-12)	69
	Seminole(23-8)	65	Ballinger(22-7)	52
	Canutillo(18-12)	65	Crane(14-17)	59
Region I Semis	Abernathy(22-7) #17	64	Seminole(24-8)	60
	Childress(21-2) #5		Canutillo(19-12)	
Region I Finals	Abernathy(23-7) #17	66	Childress(22-2) #5	59
Region II Bi-District	Coleman(29-0) #1	49	Jacksboro(26-4) #11 43	
	Cedar Hill(17-10)	56	Ferris(22-7)	54
	Brownsboro(27-3) #3	73	Wills Point(19-7)	52
	Pittsburg(21-5) #10	48	Prairieland(24-6) #4	42
Region II Semis	Brownsboro(28-3) #3	73	Pittsburg(22-5) #10	71
	Coleman(30-0) #1	83	Cedar Hill(18-10)	71
Region II Finals	Coleman(31-0) #1	49	Brownsboro(29-3) #3 43	
Region III Bi-District	Hardin Jeff.(26-4) #13	46	Shelbyville	41
	Columbus		Huffman	
	Mexia(23-3)	65	Hudson(20-7)	47
	Rockdale(27-5) #16	62	Manor(18-8)	50
Region III Semis	Columbus(24-7)	56	Rockdale(28-5) #16	54
	Hardin Jeff.(27-4) #13	60	Mexia(24-3)	57
Region III Finals	Columbus(25-7)	60	Hardin-Jeff.(28-4) #13	50
Region IV Bi-District	Boling(25-2) #2	68	LaGrange(19-7)	47
	Hays Consolidated(23-5)	62	Medina Valley(19-7)	58
	Refugio(24-2) #8	56	Hallettsville	38
	Premont	57	Lyford	46
Region IV Semis	Boling(26-2) #2		Hays Consolidated(24-5)	
	Refugio(25-2) #8		Premont	
Region IV Finals	Boling(27-2) #2	63	Refugio(26-2) #8 OT	56
State Semis	Boling(28-2) #2	56	Columbus(26-7)	53
	Abernathy(24-7) #17	58	Coleman(32-0) #1	57
State Finals	Abernathy(25-7) #17	64	Boling(29-2) #2	58

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1980 AA Top Ten}

1. Abernathy 26-7 {State Champion, defeated #1 Coleman by one}
2. Coleman 32-1 {lost heartbreaker to Abernathy by one point in the semis}
3. Boling 29-3 {State Finals losing to Abernathy 64-58}
4. Brownsboro 29-4 {Regional finals losing to Coleman by six}
5. Childress 22-3 {Regional finals losing to Abernathy 66-59}
6. Perryton 24-7 {lost in Bi-District to Childress by one}
7. Columbus 26-8 {State semis losing to Boling by 3 points}
8. Jacksboro 26-5 {lost in Bi-District to Coleman 49-43}
9. Refugio 26-3 {Regional finals losing to Boling in overtime}
10. Rockdale 28-6 {Regional semis losing to Columbus by 2 points}

1981 AAA

West Texas basketball was dominating the class AAA landscape through most of the season in '81. But in the end, two teams with 9 and 10 losses apiece faced off for the state championship. The two teams had one thing in common, dominating inside games. The season was full of upsets and surprises.

Class AAA has always seemed to be dominated by West Texas basketball. Perryton(28-4) in District 1-3A held down the top spot most of the season in the polls at 27-1. Perryton(28-4) defeated highly ranked Borger(27-4) from class 4-A by one point to gain the lofty perch. Perryton(28-4) was going to have to go up against Dimmitt in Bi-District. Remember, Dimmitt(32-2) had defeated Midland High(32-5) in a warmup game the previous week. The Dimmitt-Perryton game was one of the premier 1st round games in the state regardless of classification.

Perryton was the favorite, but there were so many strong teams that they were far from a shoe-in. Perryton decided they needed some warm-up games to prepare for the tough task that lay ahead. Morton(28-11) in class AA was their first opponent and the West Texas power dropped Perryton 79-72 in overtime. Next up, for Perryton(28-4) was state ranked Pampa(23-12) from class 5-A. The Harvesters were successful beating Perryton as well 65-50. Charles Nelson scored 24 points in Pampa's victory and his brother Mike, knocked down 14. Gary Rinker led Perryton with 20 points and Jeff Greenway added 10 along with Ricky Herring hitting 10 points.

Perryton(28-4) rolled into Bi-District looking at a Dimmitt(32-2) team that could sometimes intimidate opponents. The top two ranked teams in the state in class AAA were meeting in the 1st round. The contest was played at Pampa High School in front of 3,000 wild fans. Perryton had a very balanced scoring attack led by Gary Rinker(19.5/12.5), Russell Osborne(11.3), Jeff Greenway(10.6), Mark Buck(10.5) and Ricky Herring(9.2).

Dimmitt countered with two twenty point scorers in the coaches son, sophomore Kevin Cleveland(21.0) and Randy Washington(20.0). Other key contributors to Coach Ken Cleveland's troops were Jeff Watts, Phil King and Joe Nino.

Perryton came into the game losing three straight warm-up games to Morton, Pampa and Garden City, Kansas. Coach Allen Simpson of Perryton said, "For the last two weeks we've set out to find the toughest competition we could find to get ourselves ready for Dimmitt.

Perryton(28-4) and Dimmitt(32-2) played one of the best games of the season. For that matter any season. Perryton was having a hard time scoring inside against Dimmitt, so the Rangers began just launching outside shots after trailing 50-33 with 7:42 remaining in the game. Down 17 points, Perryton Coach Allen Simpson said, "I told them to quit trying to work the ball inside and start shooting from the

outside, we weren't having any luck from short range." The Rangers began their comeback and took the lead with 1:02 remaining in the contest. Dimmitt's Phil King came right back and hit a 12-foot shot which put the Bobcats back in the lead 58-57. Down one with more than a minute remaining, Perryton held the ball for the last shot of the game. That is really a gutsy move trailing by one point. Perryton's Jeff Greenway took the shot from 22-feet away and missed, but the rebound came off to the Rangers Gary Rinker, who knocked down a 12-foot turnaround jumper with five seconds on the clock. After a timeout by Dimmitt, Randy Washington missed a 17-foot shot that would have won the game. The Rangers came away with a 59-58 victory and a trip to regionals. In one of the biggest turnarounds in state playoff history, Perryton had overcome a 17-point lead. Perryton forced six Dimmitt turnovers in the final quarter along with several offensive rebounds. Lance Simpson and Jeff Greenway led the comeback hitting 20-footers.

"Our turnovers in the final quarter killed us," Dimmitt coach, Ken Cleveland said. "I can't remember losing in this kind of situation after being that far ahead, I guess I'll remember this one for a long time."

"I'm not sure there was any difference in the two teams," Simpson explained. Greenway finished with 20 points to lead Perryton and Rinker and Simpson finished with 10 each. King had 19 points for Dimmitt and Coach Cleveland, while Washington added 15 and the coach's son, Kevin Cleveland finished with only eight points. I mention Kevin's point total because he came into the contest averaging twenty points per game. Another surprising stat came from the foul line. The Bobcats were 16 of 23 from the foul line and Perryton was only 5 of 7.

Coleman(32-1) won their Bi-District contest against Abilene Wylie in Brownwood 50-37. Coleman showcased the top player in class AAA ball, Reggie Childress. Childress scored 31 of his team's total 50 points in his team's victory. Kevin Smith had 14 in a losing cause for Abilene Wylie.

Reggie Childress put defending state champion Abernathy out of their misery with a tough 47-45 victory. 6'2" David Tucker, one of the top football talents in West Texas, hit two foul shots with five seconds on the clock. He was shooting a one and one situation. Childress as a team had been only 9 of 25 from the foul line during the game. As a team they had missed the front end of eight one and one attempts. The game was a re-match between the two-regional finalist in 1980. "I felt the difference was the fact we stopped Garcia," Childress coach, Dan Hamrick said, referring to Abernathy's Andy Garcia. The All-Stater was held to only nine points. With the loss Abernathy had been eliminated from the playoff picture.

Tulia(23-4) won the first half of District 3-3A and Childress(26-4) captured the second round. The two teams faced off for District honors. Childress won 63-49 and advanced against Slaton(19-11) in regionals. Once again David Tucker was the key player for Childress with 20 points. Coahoma(20-8) went against Kermit(24-9) in the last of the Bi-District games in Region I.

Childress(26-4) prepared for their Bi-District encounter with little known Slaton(19-11). Childress looked to Rice Nippert and David Tucker for leadership. "This is the year we have kind of pointed for," Coach Dan Hambrick of Childress said. "This is the first time I've ever had five seniors starting." Childress was making their third straight appearance in the playoffs. "We probably had the toughest 3-A district in the state," Hambrick said. Slaton on the other hand had started very slowly at 4-10, but then proceeded to win 15 of the next 16 games. It was the school's first trip to the playoffs in history. Ronald Nedd(18.0), Lonnie Phenix(12.0/11.0), and Michael Watley(9.0) were team leaders for the Tigers.

At Plainview High School in front of 800 fans Slaton(19-11) pulled the upset 55-51 over Childress(26-4). "Yes, I guess it is kind of a Cinderella story," Coach Rick Tiffin said after the win. "We went 10-14 last year with the same kids." Tiffin continued saying, "I think we snuck up on them." Ronald Nedd led Slaton with 12 points, Whaley had 11 and Lonnie Phenix pitched in 11 also. Childress was led by Barry Johnson with 12 points and David Tucker had 12. Coahoma(20-8) beat Kermit(24-9) 68-53 to advance to regionals along with Perryton and Slaton.

Unfortunately the regionals were not re-seeded, because the two top teams met in the semi-finals, Perryton(29-4) and Coleman(33-1). Coleman had been in Region II in 1980 and advanced to playoffs undefeated only to lose to the eventual state champion, Abernathy by one point. Coleman(33-1) was back again trying to make their second trip to Austin. In their path stood the talented and tested Perryton team. The game was played before 2,800 fans at the Lubbock Coronado gym. 6'4" Reggie Childress was so dominating scoring 29 points on the inside. He took 23 of his team's 35 total field goal attempts. He sank 14 of the 17 baskets the Rangers scored in his team's 44-43 loss. The Perryton Rangers led late 44-38 only to miss two one and one situations in the games last 40 seconds. Perryton ran the clock out to hold on to the victory. Perryton was led to the regional finals by Russell Osborne's 18 points and Gary Rinker finished with 10. Alan Davis was the only other player other than Childress to score a field goal for Coleman(33-2) with 8 points.

The other semi-finals game was very anti-climactic with Slaton(20-11) winning over Coahoma(21-9) 45-42. Most fans knew that the Perryton vs. Coleman game was for all the marbles. But stranger things have happened in the playoffs. After defeating Dimmitt(32-2) and Coleman(33-1) by one point each, Perryton finally had a breather in the regional finals, taking out Slaton(21-11)57-38. Long range bomber, Ricky Herring, finished with 20 points, while Gary Rinker chipped in 16 points. Slaton had a dismal performance shooting only 2 of 14 from the floor in the 4th quarter. Phenix finished with 16 points and Michael Watley added 11 points for Slaton. Slaton shot only 26 % from the floor. Perryton hit 52% for the floor. It was the first time since 1969 that the Perryton Rangers had advanced to the state

tournament. For Coach Simpson, it was his 21st season at Perryton, with an impressive 407-232 record.

One of the most hotly contested District races in 1981 was 13-3A race in East Texas between #3 Prairiland(30-1) and #10 ranked North Lamar(20-9) out of Paris. North Lamar surprisingly took the first half of District action while Prairiland took the 2nd round in a double overtime marathon. Prairiland head man Lloyd Simmons said, "this was a great basketball gameas good as any I've ever had a part in." Richard Williams of Prairiland was thinking he had won the game at the end of regulation with a 25-foot shot which was waved off. Williams was still the hero hitting two foul shots at the end of the second overtime. The 66-64 victory forced a District title game between the two rivals. Williams finished with 10 points and Brad Burks added 16 for Prairiland's win. Steve Crawford poured in 25 points for Prairiland. Prairiland defeated Clarksville 58-55 in their last regular season game to force a playoff between Prairiland and North Lamar.

Prairiland(30-1) and North Lamar(20-9) would decide matters at East Texas State University field house in Commerce. North Lamar came into the decisive game with three losses and one win against Prairiland. North Lamar looked to 6'6" Merritt Williams, 6'5" David Birdsong, Cliff Chadwick, Kent Morris and Rodney Green. The Pats counted on Richard Williams, Brad Burks, Randy Connot, Carl Vaughn and three-year starter, Steve Crawford.

Prairiland had won three straight District titles. #10 ranked North Lamar(20-9) pulled off the upset 56-51 to advance to the state playoffs. North Lamar's coach Roy Tom Stone made an interesting comment after the game, "Coach Simmons has forgotten more about basketball than I know, it's just a shame that both teams couldn't keep playing past this game." Coach Simmons of Prairiland said, "the kind of height North Lamar has is a real problem for us." 6'6" Merritt Williams finished with 19 points and 11 rebounds and 6'5" David Birdsong added 12 rebounds. Williams cousin, Richard, of Prairiland hit 13 points. "This could be the biggest game I've ever coached," Stone said. For North Lamar, it was their first District title in five years.

Next up for North Lamar(21-9) was the Bi-District match-up against 14-AAA champion Linden-Kildare(28-5), the #5 ranked team in the state. Coach Stone's team came away with a 54-50 victory and moved to regionals in Denton. The game was played in Marshall in deep East Texas. "This is the first time North Lamar has ever gone to regionals," Stone said. "Having played Prairiland Friday night hurt us. It sapped our strength." Kildare put up 60 shots as compared to 41 for North Lamar. Merritt Williams put in 17 points and Ken Morris added 13 while Birdsong hit 12. Donald Craver led Linden-Kildare with 22 points. Stone continued saying, "I felt like we had the better inside game, we had the best two big men and that eventually was the difference."

In the Region II semi-finals in Denton, Whitehouse(27-8) stood in the path of North Lamar(22-9) and the regional finals. Whitehouse had a great basketball tradition and advanced to regionals defeating Van 56-48. "They aren't very big, but they're fundamentally sound and shoot well," Stone said. "They press three quarter court and run a 1-2-2." "We didn't play well against Linden Kildare, but that Prairiland game took so much out of us."

Once again, the inside game of 6'6" Merritt Williams and 6'5" David Birdsong were too strong for Whitehouse 64-53. The tandem finished with 28 and 20 points respectively, propelling North Lamar(22-9) to the regional finals. Eric Williams was the leader for Whitehouse.

In the other semi-final game Bowie(29-5) advanced taking down Ferris(26-5) 55-53 in overtime. Matt Hill led Bowie with 12 points and Darryl Spears paced Ferris with 14 points. Bowie had advanced with a 58-49 Bi-District clash over Northwest in Denton. Dennis Johns paced Northwest with 17 points and Kent Fluit finished with 20 for the Bowie Jackrabbits while Matt Hill added 14 points. The game was not pretty to watch. It was called a foul feast with Bowie hitting 10 of 22 and Northwest connecting on 13 of 27.

Bowie(29-5) was another strong traditional power that was going to be trying to stop the inside game of North Lamar. Bowie(29-5) was unsuccessful losing to North Lamar(23-9) 64-61 in overtime. The win put Coach Stone in Austin for the second straight season after leading the girl's team to state the previous season. It looked as though North Lamar had the game won at the end of regulation when Matt Hill hit a shot from mid-court, to send the game into overtime. Most teams would be let down after coming so close to victory, but North Lamar regrouped and pulled out the win. North Lamar led at halftime 30-27 and were in control of the contest with 56 seconds left 57-48. For Lamar, Merritt Williams led the charge scoring 20 points and Steve Hankins was top scorer for the Jackrabbits with 20 points.

In Region III, Rockdale(27-8) squared off against Warren(22-13) in the regional semi-finals at Blinn Jr. College in Brenham. 6'3" Buck White led Warren while Rockdale looked to Kim Locklin, Blair Franklin, and Darren Martin. Rockdale came away with the victory 55-51, fueled by James Woods 20 points.

Altair Rice gained the regional finals with their 76-58 win over Waco LaVega. LeVega(21-5) was led by All-State performer Vonzell Baucham, and had finished with an impressive 14-0 mark in District action. The Pirates defeated Fairfield in Bi-District 61-56 to reach regionals. Altair Rice advanced to Austin out of Region III taking out Rockdale in a close one 42-40.

Region IV saw Van Vleck take their first step to the state tournament with a 77-70 victory of Luling(23-8) in Bi-District. Eric Martin led the charge with 26 points for Van Vleck and 5'8" Russell Spears finished with 23 points for Luling.

Pearsall advanced to regionals with a 67-60 victory over Medina Valley in the teams' bi-district game. 5'11" Clay Stacey finished with 20 points for Pearsall and 6'5" Jim Heliums knocked in 16 points. For Medina Valley, Daryl Haby scored 19 points and Mike Mangold came through with 15 points.

In the semi-final games at Region IV, Taft(26-7) found it very difficult to derail the talented Van Vleck squad, losing 61-58. Zapata tripped up Pearsall in the other semi-final contest 68-61. The Region IV finals saw Van Vleck move on to state with a convincing 75-50 victory over Zapata.

Perryton(30-4) was the overwhelming favorite entering the state tournament. They had earned their ranking beating some of the top teams in the state. In the state semi-finals, Perryton(30-4) was out rebounded 40 to 28 by Altair Rice Consolidated(26-10) and were upset 58-54. The difference in the game was the inside strength of Rice Consolidated(26-10). 6'5" Larry Haynes finished with 11 rebounds and 6'6" Kenneth Blunston finished with 13 rebounds. Perryton(30-4) was shut out for a three-minute period late in the game, which led to Altair Rice's victory. Ricky Herring was high point man for Perryton with 18 points while Altair Rice was led by Larry Haynes with 14.

Starters for Rice Consolidated(26-10) were 6'5" Larry Haynes(16.0), 6'6" Kenneth Blunston(11.0), 6'3" Earnest Fields(11.0), 6'3" David Grammer(10.0), and 5'9" Vic Davis(10.0). If there was a sure-fire favorite to win the state title in 1981 it was Perryton(30-4). This was a major upset.

North Lamar(23-9) would be challenged by the athletic Van Vleck(17-2) squad in the other Semi-final clash. "They are bigger overall than we are," Stone said. Van Vleck started 6'1" Eric Martin(20.0), 6'2" Jimmy Smith(12.0), 6'2" Alfred Blackmon(11.0), and 6'4" Kenneth Price(11.0).

North Lamar(23-9) looked to the same old cast of characters, 6'6" Merritt Williams(24.0), 6'5" Birdsong(16.0), Kent Morris(19.0), Cliff Chadwick(6.0), and Rodney Green(8.0). The major concern for the Panthers of North Lamar was beating Van Vleck's press. "We'll have to make good, quick, accurate passes, we can't afford to lob the ball because of their quickness," Coach Stone said.

North Lamar(23-9) advanced to the state finals with an exciting overtime game against Van Vleck(17-2) 65-62. Merritt Williams as usual took control for North Lamar(23-9) supplying 31 points. Jimmy Smith was high man for Van Vleck with 26 points from long range. Lamar was waiting to take the last shot in regulation when Van Vleck's Alfred Blackmon stole the ball with seven seconds remaining. Smith was off on his 35-foot shot that could have won the game. In the overtime, Merritt Williams scored five of his teams seven points to fuel Lamar's victory. Van Vleck(17-2) multi-talented athlete, Eric Martin, tore a ligament in his right knee during the game and was looking at surgery. Martin had gained over 2,000 yards on the football field. He had signed with L.S.U. Van Vleck had won the state football championship.

In the state finals, Rice Consolidated(27-10) continued their dominance on the boards out rebounding Powderly North Lamar(24-10) 43-37 and capturing the state championship 56-52. The Raiders went on an 8-2 spurt in the final three minutes of the first half to take a 29-20 lead into intermission. Larry Haynes led the way for Rice Consolidated with 19 points and 15 rebounds while Earnest Fields scored 15. Nine of Fields points came in the decisive fourth quarter. The Raiders had the advantage at the foul line hitting 10 of 15 while North Lamar hit 4 of 11. Lamar missed the front end of four consecutive one and one situations late in the contest.

Merritt Williams was the leading scorer for North Lamar with 18 points. One of North Lamar's leading scorers, David Birdsong was held to only five points after averaging 16 points over the course of the season. Rice Consolidated lineup of 6'5", 6'6", 6'3" and 6'3" just seemed to overwhelm some of the smaller teams in the playoffs.

6'6" Merritt Williams signed with North Texas following graduation. Altair Rice Consolidated was coached by Jack Grammer. Rice Consolidated was 23 of 62 from the floor for 37% while North Lamar hit 24 of 53 for 45%.

Rice Consolidated(27-10) had lost in the state finals in 1979 to Seminole and had a very solid program. Two All-State players produced during the '79 season were 6'7" Lonnie Bluntson and John Grammer. The '81 team had two more All-State players as well in 6'5" Larry Haynes and 6'3" David Grammer. Earnest Fields was named All-Tournament.

All-Tournament Teams- *Larry Haynes and Earnest Fields of Altair Rice Consolidated, Merritt Williams of North Lamar, Jimmy Smith of Van Vleck, Ricky Herring of Perryton.*

The Sports Writers All-State

1st Team- 6'3" Reggie Childress of Coleman, 6'5" Larry Haynes(16.0) of Rice Consolidated, 6'6" Merritt Williams(24.0) of North Lamar, Tim Reynolds of Taft and Kerry Zastoupil of Huffman.

2nd Team- Lee Ray of Jacksboro, 6'2" Jimmy Smith(12.0) of Van Vleck, Gary Rinker of Perryton, Rocky Emery of Allen, 6'1" Eric Martin(20.0) of Van Vleck.

3rd Team- Kenneth Johnson of Columbus, George Washington of Yoakum, Joey Garcia of Abernathy, 6'3" David Grammer(10.0) of Rice Consolidated, Vozell Baucham of Waco LaVega.

T.A.B.C. All-Star Game- smaller classifications- Roger Pinson, Abernathy; Danny White, Avinger; Rice Nippert, Childress; Reggie Childress, Coleman; Andrew Griffin, Fairfield; Greg Grissom, Sabine; Mark Tackitt, Happy; Jeff Wynn, Henrietta Midway; Kerry Zastroupil, Huffman Hargraves; Greg MaAskill, Jourdanton; Dwayne Gerlich, LaVernia; Ray Young, Miami; Pat Brown, Nalalia; Merritt Williams, North Lamar; Larry Haynes, Rice Consolidated; Robert Sanders, Shallowater; Al Jackson, Snnok; Tim Reynolds, Taft; Eric Martin, Van Vleck; Vonzell Baucham, Waco LeVega:

Class AAA State Playoffs 1981

Region I Bi-District	Coahoma(20-8)	68	Kermit(24-9)	54
	Perryton(28-4) #1	59	Dimmitt(32-2) #2	58
	Coleman(32-1) #4	50	Abilene Wylie	37
	Slaton(19-11)	55	Childress(30-4)	51
Region I Semis	Perryton(29-4) #1	44	Coleman(33-1) #4	43
	Slaton(20-11)	45	Coahoma(21-9)	42
Region I Finals	Perryton(30-4) #1	57	Slaton(21-11)	38
Region II Bi-District	Bowie(27-5)	58	Northwest	49
	Ferris(25-4)	49	Allen	46
	North Lamar(20-9) #10	54	Linden-Kildare(28-6)	50
	Whitehouse(28-7)	56	Van(24-9)	48
Region II Semis	Bowie(28-5)	55	Ferris(26-4)	OT 53
	North Lamar(21-9) #10	64	Whitehouse(29-7)	53
Region II Finals	North Lamar(22-9) #10	64	Bowie(29-5)	OT 61
Region III Bi-District	Rice Consolidated(23-10)	79	Coldspring	50
	Waco LeVega(20-4)	61	Fairfield	56
	Warren(21-13)		Diboll	
	Rockdale(26-8)	48	Manor(25-5)	45
Region III Semis	Rockdale(27-8)	55	Warren(22-13)	51
	Rice Consolidated(24-10)	76	Waco LeVega(21-4)	58
Region III Finals	Rice Consolidated(25-10)	42	Rockdale(28-8)	40
Region IV Bi-District	Pearsall	67	Medina Valley	60
	Zapata		Lyford	
	Van Vleck(14-2)	77	Luling(23-7)	70
	Taft(25-7)		Edna	
Region IV Semis	Zapata	68	Pearsall	61
	Van Vleck(15-2)	61	Taft(26-7)	58
Region IV Finals	Van Vleck(16-2)	75	Zapata	50
State Semis	North Lamar(23-9) #10	65	Van Vleck(17-2) OT	62
	Altair Rice(26-10)	58	Perryton(31-4) #1	54
State Finals	Altair Rice(27-10)	56	North Lamar(24-9) #10	52

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1981 AAA Top Ten}

1. Altair Rice 28-10 {state champion, took down favorite Perryton by 4 points}
2. North Lamar 24-10 {eliminated Prairiland in district a playoff}
3. Perryton 31-4 {defeated Dimmitt and Coleman on their way to Austin}
4. Dimmitt 31-3 {beat Midland High, lost to Perryton by one point}
5. Coleman 31-2 {eliminated by Perryton by one point, Reggie Childress}
6. Prairiland 30-2 {finished 3-2 vs. North Lamar, lost playoff 56-51 to Lamar}
7. Van Vleck 17-3 {lost in overtime at state against North Lamar}
8. Bowie 29-6 {lost in overtime in regional finals}
9. Rockdale 28-9 {went down in regional final 42-40 to Altair Rice}
10. Linden-Kildare 28-7 {lost to North Lamar 54-50 in Bi-District}

1982 AAA

Coach Kenneth Cleveland and his Dimmitt Bobcats were back at it in 1982 after disappointing one-point loss to Perryton in Bi-District the previous season. The Bobcats numbers were not overwhelming, but they were a strong traditional power. Dimmitt(28-10) played rival Morton(22-10) three times during the regular season and finished 1-2 against the Indians, split with Lorenzo, lost to 5-A Amarillo Palo Duro 57-55, lost to 5-A Big Spring 43-42, lost to Levelland 78-63, and Abernathy(20-15) 68-60.

Victories were plenty with solid wins over 5-A El Paso Bowie 64-60, Lubbock Dunbar 59-58, 5-A San Angelo(17-13) 61-58, 5-A Wichita Falls 65-59, and 4-A Lubbock Estacado 75-70. Dimmitt was more than ready for AAA competition entering District action. Littlefield awaited the Bobcats, the teams split their two District contests, which set up a playoff for the 2-AAA title. The Bobcats were very fortunate pulling out a 74-73 win over Littlefield(26-3) to advance to the state playoffs.

Dalhart(26-5), with three 6'5" players inside awaited Dimmitt(28-10) in Bi-District. "We haven't played anybody with three of them 6'5"," Coach Cleveland said. The Bobcats were in their fifth straight Bi-District game. 6'4" Phil King and 6'4" Jeff Watts would have to carry the load for the Bobcats if they were to advance against Dalhart. The big men for Dalhart(26-5) were Rick Stepp, Mike Hyer, and Jerry Vinson. Coach Zane Reeves of Dalhart said, "they've had that playoff experience and that's hard to beat." His team's last playoff appearance was in 1977. "I've been talking to a lot of people and they don't know anybody that can stop Kevin Cleveland," Reeves continued. "Watts is another outstanding player. Their advantage is their quickness and their fast break."

Dimmitt(28-10) jumped on Dalhart(26-5) quickly to advance to regionals 82-53. Watts hit 21 points and Cleveland knocked down 26 for Coach Cleveland. Rick Stepp was top dog for Dalhart with 24 points. The fans turned out in larger numbers to see the game at the Amarillo Civic Center as part of a double header. A crowd of 2,800 fans enjoyed the action. Dalhart finished the season at an impressive 26-6. The Golden Wolves led a halftime 31-26. Kevin Cleveland scored 20 of his 26 points in the second half.

As Dimmitt(29-10) showed up for regionals, Coach Cleveland realized his team would be tested. "Abernathy has already beaten us by eight at our place, so it's going to be tough. Denver City also is going to be tough. I think the state champion will come out of the region," Cleveland said.

Abernathy coach, Carl Irlbeck said, "I think it will be a heck of a game, won or lost in the last minute." Dimmitt's Kevin Cleveland hit six key foul shots in the last 38 seconds to secure a 61-57 victory for the Bobcats. Kevin was held to only 16 points, but he came through in the stretch for his father. The game was played in

front of 4,000 fans at the Lubbock Municipal Coliseum. Abernathy finished the season at 20-15.

In the first half, Jeff Watts was dominating scoring 19 of Dimmitt's total 25 first half points. Abernathy still was able to hold the lead at 27-25. Watt shot 8 of 9 in the first half action and finished with 27 points. Rodney Cannon and Sammy Galloway paced Abernathy with 14 and 17 points respectfully.

Dimmitt(29-10) continued to live on the edge with a triple overtime win over Denver City in the regional finals 74-67. The young Bobcats had four juniors in the starting lineup. 6'4" Phil King(11.0), 6'4" Jeff Watts(12.0), 5'11" Kevin Cleveland(22.0), 6'0" John Smith(8.0) and 5'8" Fermin Gonzales(5.0) made up Coach Cleveland's starting lineup. King was the only senior.

Dimmitt(29-10) was traveling to state for their fifth time in school history. The Panhandle school had a strong tradition having won state in 1975 and a finalist in 1978. At 29-10, the Bobcats did not strike fear in their opponents, but knowledgeable fans knew Dimmitt would bring a strong fundamental team to Austin ready to play.

Diboll(32-2) led by Coach Mark Wimberley was not underestimating the Bobcats because of their ten losses. "Dimmitt is a basketball town," Wimberley said. "Having been in the playoffs for several years is enough to get anybody's respect-I don't care what their record is." The Lumberjacks had an impressive team with a 32-2 record.

Coach Wimberley looked to 6'4", 210 Edwin Mitchel(15.9) to set the pace for his team. Help would come from 6'4" Kevin Hurley(12.2), 5'10" Bay Bay Gibson(11.8), 6'2" Andre Vinson(11.0), and 5'10" David Johnson(7.5). Mitchell was described by his coach as a smart player who can play inside or out. "Edwin's our leader on the court," Coach Wimberley said. "Besides balance, depth is one of our strengths. We had four starters on the bench against 4-A Huntsville and still won."

The Lumberjacks played a very challenging schedule with wins over 5-A Lufkin(21-7) 75-74, state ranked Huntsville(25-10) 49-36 in class 4-A, 5-A Nacogdoches(21-12) 51-49 and split with Center. Their losses were to Lufkin and Center. In the playoffs Diboll defeated Hardin Jefferson by 33 points. Hardin Jefferson had previously been ranked number one in the state polls.

Coach Cleveland was worried about his team following the exhausting triple overtime win in regionals. "We were mentally exhausted after that, it gives us a lot of confidence to know we can hang on during a close game against a good team," Cleveland said. Coach singled out John Smith for his play against Denver City, "If John haven't shinned against Denver City we would have stayed home." Smith pulled down 17 rebounds in his teams win. "If we don't shoot better than we did in regionals, we won't be playing long," Cleveland shared. "We only shot 40 and 39 percent in the two games. We missed a lot of shots we normally make."

Diboll(32-2) led by 10 points early and in the third quarter looked as if they were going to take control of their semi-final game against Dimmitt(29-10). Up 62-58 at the 3:07 mark of the final quarter, Diboll began to turn the ball over leaving an opportunity for the Bobcats from Dimmitt(30-10). With 30 seconds remaining Kevin Cleveland hit the biggest shot of his young basketball career, putting his father's team ahead 63-62. The young Cleveland hit three more foul shots to advance the Bobcats to the state championship game 66-64.

Kevin Cleveland(30-10) finished with 23 points, followed by Jeff Watts with 11 and Fermin Gonzales with 12. Diboll(32-20) was paced by Edwin Mitchell with 21 points, Kevin Hurley added 17 points along with Bay Bay Gibson's 17 points.

*The other **semi-final game** pitted Linden-Kildare(32-3) out of East Texas against Luling from South Texas. Luling(26-5) counted on a hot-shot guard named Ronnell Spears to lead the Eagles. Spears(20.0) was only a junior, but was the focal point of the team. 6'4" Gary Threadgill(16.0) was also critical to the Eagles success along with 6'5" Dale Weeks(13.0) and 6'2" Richard Clack(11.0).*

Gary Threadgill put up some impressive numbers in Luling's win over Hitchcock in Bi-District. The senior post had 23 points and 19 rebounds in the 62-58 victory. Coach John Moring of Luling(26-5) knew they would have to play well to compete with Linden-Kildare. The Tigers of Linden-Kildare(32-3) had been the top ranked team in the state earlier in the season.

6'5" Donald Craver(21.0) had 23 points and 15 rebounds in the Tigers regional finals win over Joshua 62-50. Craver was not the only player Coach John Crane could count on for point production. 6'1" David Green and 5'11" Winfred Gardner(13.2) were standouts for the Tigers as well. Kildare liked to control tempo, not a running outfit.

The talented 6'5" Donald Craver(21.0) proved to be the difference with 34 points and 19 rebounds for Linden-Kildare(33-3) in the semi-final win over Luling(26-6) 67-47. The athletic Craver supposedly had turned down a football scholarship to Arkansas to concentrate on basketball. The Tigers took charge early leading 33-18 at halftime. Luling was 16 of 58 from the floor for 27% while Kildare put up 82 shots making 27 for 33 %.

"It's absolutely the worst game we've played all year," said Coach John Moring of Luling. "We just played awful and it was a team effort."

Kildare coach John Crane said, "We know Luling is a good team that just had a bad day. We were able to hold down Spears pretty well." Spears finished with 18 points and Gary Threadgill added 18 rebounds. Kildare won the battle of the boards 64-44.

*The **state championship** game in class AAA saw Linden-Kildare(33-3) and Dimmitt(30-10) go for the title in a great contest. With a five-point lead and only 1:35 remaining in the game, Dimmitt felt good about their chances. Kildare did an about face scoring six straight points to take the lead 59-58. Donald Craver hit the*

key bucket with 34 seconds remaining on the clock. Coach Cleveland called timeout to work for the last shot of the game. Kevin Cleveland pulled the trigger with six seconds left from long range, which was rebounded by teammate Phil King. The only senior in the starting lineup for Dimmitt proceeded to put the ball up for the winning basket with two seconds on the clock. The 60-59 win gave the Bobcats a hard-fought state title. Craver once again was tough for Kildare scoring 26 points while Kevin Cleveland led Dimmitt with 24 points.

Dimmitt(31-10) had an incredible run in winning the state title. The Bobcats had to survive a one-point win over Littlefield to get out of District. In the playoffs Dimmitt took down Abernathy by four points, Denver City in three overtimes, Diboll by two and Linden-Kildare by one. You would have to agree, Dimmitt had a magical touch and a team of destiny.

All-Tournament Teams-Kevin Cleveland and Phil King of Dimmitt, Donald Craver of Linden-Kildare, Edwin Mitchell of Diboll.

The Sports Writers All-State

1st Team-6'5" Donald Craver(21.0), Linden-Kildare; 5'10" Kevin Cleveland(22.0), Dimmitt; Calvin Carrier, Hardin Jefferson; Kenneth Johnson, Columbia; Patrick Murphree, Decatur

2nd Team- Kenneth Blunston-Rice Consolidated; Ed Mitchell, Diboll; Barry Kimball, Kermit; Clyde Brimer, Kaufman; Alvin Edwards, Lindale; Noal Shaw, Refugio

3rd Team- Jim Hellums-Pearsall; Gary Rinker, Perryton; 6'4" Gary Threadgill(16.0), Luling; James Randel, Littlefield; Brian Hinds, Joshua

Class AAA State Playoffs 1982

Region I Bi-District	Dimmitt(28-10) #8	82	Dalhart(26-5) #20	53
	Abernathy(19-14)	82	Slaton	67
	Denver City(25-5) #9	91	Kermit(24-5) #17	65
	Clyde	56	Ballinger	45
Region I Semis	Dimmitt(27-10) #8	61	Abernathy(20-14)	57
	Denver City(26-5) #9		Clyde	
Region I Finals	Dimmitt(28-10) #8	74	Denver City(27-5) #9 3OT	67
Region II Bi-District	Joshua(27-2) #7	46	Allen(29-4) #14	41
	Bowie(14-16)	61	Decatur(25-5) #19	60
	Linden-Kildare(27-3) #5		Clarksville	
	Kaufman(29-4) #18		Brownsboro(24-7)	
Region II Semis	Joshua(28-2) #7	39	Bowie(15-16)	37
	Linden-Kildare(28-3) #5	47	Kaufman(30-4) #18	42
Region II Finals	Linden-Kildare(29-3) #5	62	Joshua(29-2) #7	50
Region III Bi-District	Rosebud-Lott(19-9)	49	Manor(22-2) #4	48
	Diboll(29-2) #3	86	Hardin Jefferson(29-1) #2	53
	Columbus(27-2) #1		Coldspring-Oahurst	
	Crockett		Groesbeck	
Region III Semis	Diboll(30-2) #3	64	Rosebud-Lott(20-9)	59
	Columbus(28-2) #1	68	Crockett	62
Region III Finals	Diboll(31-2) #3	62	Columbus(29-2) #	59
Region IV Bi-District	Luling(23-5) #12	62	Hitchcock(27-5) #16	58

	Smithson Valley(26-4) #13	62	Pearsall(25-6)	60
	Edna(21-5)	67	Refugio(23-4) #11	55
	Los Fresnos		Zapata	
Region IV Semis	Edna(22-5)	64	Smithson Valley(27-4) #13	59
	Luling(24-5) #12	74	Los Fresnos	58
Region IV Finals	Luling(25-5) #12	76	Edna(23-5)	58
State Semi-Finals	Linden-Kildare(32-3) #5	67	Luling(26-5) #12	47
	Dimmitt(29-10) #8	66	Diboll(32-2) #3	64
State Finals	Dimmitt(30-10) #8	60	Linden-Kildare(33-3) #5	59

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1982 AAA Top Ten}

1. Dimmitt 31-10 {State champions with a one-point win}
2. Linden-Kildare 33-4 {state finalist losing by one point to Dimmitt}
3. Denver City 27-6 {lost to Dimmitt in the regional finals in 3-OT}
4. Littlefield 26-3 {lost a district playoff to Dimmitt by one point}
5. Diboll 32-3 {semi-finalist losing by two to Dimmitt}
6. Columbus 29-3 {regional finals losing to Diboll}
7. Joshua 29-3 {regional finals losing to Linden-Kildare}
8. Luling 26-6 {state semi-finalist}
9. Abernathy 20-15 {lost to Dimmitt by four and defeated them earlier}
10. Hardin Jeff. 29-2 {lost big in the first round to Diboll}

1980 A

The state rankings in class A were pretty accurate in 1980 as the #1 team in the state, Archer City(27-1), advanced to Austin along with the #2 team in the state, Gladewater Sabine(24-2). Joining the big dance was #3 ranked Memphis(24-2) and Bartlett(18-2) coming in at #13. It was a wide open final four with each team having drastically different styles.

Gladewater Sabine(24-2) relied on the inside game of 6'6" Johnny Stone(22.0) and sophomores, 6'6" Johnny Mumphrey(15.0) and 6'2" Mark Johnson. They were the key contributors for the Bulldogs attack. In an unusual twist of fate, Sabine had to face Archer City, the #1 team in class A ball in **the semi-finals**.

Greg Giddings(20.4) was Archer City's only returning starter from the 1979 campaign. Giddings blended well with sophomore, Danny Shearmire(15.7), David York(14.4), Vernon Geis(11.1), and Max Schlegel(10.3). The tallest player for Archer City was Geis at only 6'3", which would prove to be the team's downfall. Archer City's only loss during the regular season came at the hands of Snyder(28-5) in class 3-A 69-56. Snyder as you will recall was ranked #2 in AAA ball and state finalists.

Archer City(27-1) was out rebounded by Gladewater Sabine(24-2) 46-17 in the semi-final match-up. That is not a miss print. The game wasn't close either as Sabine blew Archer City out of the drum 73-50. Mark Johnson led Sabine to the victory with 23 points, Johnny Stone had 20 points and Mumphrey added 12 points. The 6'6" combo post of Stone and Mumphrey were dominating against Archer City. Stone was a dual athlete having signed a letter of intent to play football at Baylor.

In the **other semi-final game**, Bartlett came in at 21-2 and played a pressing full court style of basketball. Bartlett's coach was Franklin Jones. Coach Jones remarked that, "our quick people can jump with people 6'3" and 6'4". Charles Smith, Leslie Williams, Gary Fischer will be challenged," Jones added. Bartlett had put up 100 or more points on five different occasions during the season.

The Bulldogs faced Memphis(24-2), paced by 6'2" post Wesley Johnson(21.0) and 6'3" Rodney Guy.

Bartlett(21-2) moved into the state finals with a convincing 59-44 victory over Memphis(24-2). Anthony Smith finished with 21 points, Fischer knocked down 12 and Charles Smith had 20 points. Freshmen, Ronnie Smith, had 16 points for Memphis along with Rodney Guy's 16 points. "We're still a fairly young team and we were awfully tight," Coach Franklin Jones said. The Cyclones of Memphis went up 39-35 on Rodney Guy's two foul shots with 4:53 remaining, when Bartlett scored 12 consecutive points. Of those 12 points, 10 were scored by the brother combination of Anthony and Charles Smith. Bartlett forced nine Memphis turnovers in the 4th quarter which proved to be the difference.

This pitted the Bartlett(22-2) press against Gladewater Sabine's(25-2) inside strength in the **class A state championship game**. The game proved to be very competitive and entertaining. Sabine was 23 of 37 from the foul line for the game. Bartlett coach, Franklin Jones said his team's demise came ultimately because of fouls. "We just put them at the foul line too many times and our big people got into foul trouble which caused us to back off a little bit on the defensive press." 6'4" sophomore Reginald Cobb, 6'5" sophomore Louis Walker and leaper Anthony Smith all got into foul trouble."

The Bulldogs came up short losing 69-68, even though they went on a 18-1 run at one point in the game over a six-minute stretch. The run came about mainly off turnovers. At one point, Bartlett led 44-36. Bartlett still led 56-52 with 5:30 remaining in the game. 6'6" Johnny Stone(22.0) and 6'6" Johnny Mumphrey came back to give their team a 58-56 lead that they never relinquished.

Sabine was paced by 6'6" Johnny Stone with 26 points and 12 rebounds. "If I'd known going in how many turnover's we'd have, I'd have known it would be a close game," said Sabine coach Carl Allen. Sabine finished with 26 turnovers. Coach Allen said they usually averaged around 10 turnovers per game.

"Bartlett's big people hurt us more than we thought they would, but when they got into foul trouble, we tried to go inside to Stone and Mumphrey as much as we could. And I was proud that we could hit pressure free-throws in the last few minutes," Allen said. "Bartlett was extremely quick, as quick as anybody we've played all year," Allen continued. "Bartlett's press didn't surprise us-but it darn near beat us." Bartlett was 29-76 from the floor for a 38% while Sabine hit 23-44. Sabine held the rebounding advantage 46-41. Johnny Stone finished with 12 rebounds,

Johnny Mumphrey had 10 rebounds and Mark Johnson finished with 10 rebounds. Gladewater Sabine's only losses on the season were to Snook 58-53 and White Oak.

For Bartlett, Charlie Smith kept his team in the game. "Charlie Smith played an outstanding game for us," Jones said. Smith finished with 30 points on 13 of 29 from the floor and four for four from the line. "With as many young people as we have, we may be back next year," Coach Jones said. The Bulldogs started three underclassmen with Charlie Smith being only a sophomore.

All-tournament team included Charlie Smith* of Bartlett, Johnny Stone* of Gladewater Sabine, Ronnie Smith, a freshman from Memphis, Greg Giddings of Archer City and Anthony Smith from Bartlett, Johnny Mumphrey of Gladewater Sabine and Mark Johnson of Gladewater Sabine. Anthony Smith, Mumphrey and Johnson all tied for the last spot on the squad. Charlie Smith and Stone were unanimous.

The **Sports Writers All-State 1st** team selected 6'6" Johnny Stone(22.0) from Gladewater Sabine, 6'6" Johnny Mumphrey(15.0) from Gladewater Sabine, Wesley Johnson of Memphis, Greg Giddings(20.4) of Archer City and Anthony Smith of Bartlett. All five all-state performers had played in the state tournament.

State ranked teams that were unable to make the playoffs were as follows: #4 Ganado(26-1), #7 Hale Center(24-4), #9 Reagan County(23-5), #12 Lubbock Christian(21-6), #15 Broadus(26-5), #16 LaPoynor(25-5), #18 Petersburg(20-4):

Class A State Playoffs 1980

Region I Bi-District	Memphis(25-2) #3		Gruver(24-1) #6	
	Vega(19-11)	56	Shallowater(24-5) #17	54
	Seagraves(13-1) #19		Marfa	
	Quanah(22-7)	71	Hamlin(23-7)	61
Region I Semis	Vega(20-11)	47	Seagraves(14-1) #19	46
	Memphis(26-2) #3	47	Quanah(23-7)	41
Region I Finals	Memphis(27-2) #3	45	Vega(21-11)	37
Region II Bi-District	Dublin(22-7)	60	Reagan County(24-5) #9	54
	Meridan(20-9)		Whitney	
	Archer City(27-2) #1	74	Sanger(23-7) #20	71
	Wolfe City(25-3) #5	55	Coppell(22-8) #20	48
Region II Semis	Wolfe City(26-3) #5	82	Meridan(21-9)	56
	Archer City(28-2) #1	72	Dublin(23-7)	60
Region II Finals	Archer City(29-2) #1	75	Wolfe City(27-3) #5	73
Region III Bi-District	Laneville(25-5) #11	43	Frankston(27-5) #8	42
	Gladewater Sabine(25-2) #2	55	Ore City(21-6) #10	42
	Tenaha(21-9)		Waskon(15-5)	
	Centerville(23-5)		Montgomery	
Region III Semis	Gladewater Sabine(26-2) #2	69	Centerville(24-5)	38
	Tenaha(22-9)	59	Laneville(26-5) #11	50
Region III Finals	Gladewater Sabine(27-2) #2	61	Tenaha(23-9)	44
Region IV Bi-District	Hull-Daisetta	74	Ganada(26-2) #4 OT	73
	Bartlett(19-2) #13	68	Burton	48
	Natalia(21-7)	46	Nixon(20-6)	44
	Jourdanton(25-3) #14		Woodsboro	

Region IV Semis	Jourdanton(26-3) #14	67	Hull-Daisetta	64
	Bartlett(20-2) #13	65	Natalia(22-7)	57
Region IV Finals	Bartlett(21-2) #13	53	Jourdanton(27-3) #14	50
State Semis	Bartlett(22-2) #13	59	Memphis(28-2)	44
	Gladewater Sabine(28-2) #2	73	Archer City(30-2) #1	50
State Finals	Gladewater Sabine(29-2) #2	69	Bartlett(23-2) #13	68

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1980 A Top Ten}

1. Glade. Sabine 30-2 {State Champion, defeated Bartlett 69-68}
2. Bartlett 23-3 {State finals losing to Sabine 69-68}
3. Jourdanton 27-4 {Regional finals lost to Bartlett 53-50}
4. Archer City 30-3 {State semis losing to Sabine 73-50}
5. Memphis 28-3 {State semis losing to Bartlett 59-44}
6. Wolfe City 27-4 {Regional finals losing to Archer City 75-73}
7. Tenaha (23-10) {eliminated by Sabine in the regional finals}
8. Natalia (22-8) {regional semi-finalist losing to Bartlett}
9. Gruver {lost in Bi-District to Memphis}
10. Hull-Daisetta {regional semi-finalist losing to Jourdanton}

1981 AA

Gladewater Sabine finished the season undefeated at 34-0 and back to back state titles. The Cardinals had to be one of the best teams ever for a class AA basketball team. They really went through the season unchallenged. They were behind once in the playoffs at halftime, but other than that Sabine was in control throughout all 34 games.

The Cardinals playoff run began in awesome fashion taking the Rivercrest(11-13) Rebels apart 70-36. Rivercrest tallest player was James Strickland at 5'11". Sabine came at you with 6'10 ½ Greg Grissom(15.0), 6'6" Johnny Mumphrey(15.0), 6'4" Mark Johnson(18.0), Mark Allen(13.0), Zeb Strong, and bench players Reginald Richards and Mitch Mitchell. Grissom transferred in from Big Sandy. Mumphrey and Johnson were three-year lettermen.

Sabine advanced to regionals for the third straight season. In 1979, they had lost to LaPoynor by two points and in 1980 they were state champions. The Cardinals came in with a 35-game winning streak and a 30-0 mark. The other three teams joining Sabine in the Region III tournament were undefeated Trinity(29-0), Shelbyville, and Frankston. The Region III tourney was held in Huntsville.

Trinity(29-0) defeated Centerville in Bi-District and presented the biggest obstacle of the season for Sabine. Both teams entered the game undefeated. In the first half, Trinity's quickness forced numerous turnovers and the Cardinals trailed at halftime 36-32. Sabines depth played a big role in the 2nd half comeback by Gladewater. Jarron Harvey fueled Trinity with 29 points but Sabine came back to win 74-63. Mark Johnson finished with 18 points, Mumphrey had 14, Grissom 10 and Allen 13. This was very typical scoring for Sabine with four players in double figures.

The regional finals saw Frankston(29-9) stay with Sabine for a half trailing 32-29 at intermission. Frankston had defeated Shelbyville 56-51 in overtime to advance against the Cardinals. 6'10" ½ 240-pound Grissom led Sabine to a 64-49 victory and another ticket to Austin. 6'6" 210-pound Johnny Mumphrey finished with 23 points. For Frankston, 6'5" Mike Hatton was the leading scorer with 14 points.

As Gladewater Sabine arrived in Austin, they realized immediately this was not going to be a cake walk with three teams returning to Austin from the previous season. "Three out of four teams are back so that ought to tell you something," Sabine coach Carl Allen said. Archer City(36-2), Bartlett(24-4) and Gladewater Sabine(32-0) all returned to battle it out again for the class AA title.

Sabine(32-0) faced Bartlett(24-4) in the **semi-finals**, while newcomer Shallowater(24-6) played Archer City(36-2). "I expect Archer City to be in the finals because this year we were #1 and they were #2 most of the year until they lost a couple of games. They were 33-0 at one time," Allen said. Bartlett had lost to Sabine by one point in the '80 finals.

Bartlett(24-4) defeated Lexington 22-10 in Bi-District after Lexington coach, Rick Spence, attempted a stall. "I'm awfully proud of our kids, they adjusted to what Lexington tried tonight," Coach Franklin Jones of Bartlett said.

In the regional semi-finals in Victoria, Bartlett continued their march to Austin defeating LaVernia(26-8) 44-36. Charles Smith was the leader for Bartlett with 20 points. In the regional finals, Comfort(24-4) went down 47-42 to Bartlett. Charles Smith again paced his team with 17 points and Comfort saw Brian Herbst and Phillip Spenrath both chip in 10 points apiece.

Starters for the Bulldogs of Bartlett included 6'6" Reginald Cobb, 6'6" Louis Walker, 6'0" Charles Smith, 5'5" Robert Mack and 6'1" Greg Turner. The re-match between Bartlett(24-4) and Gladewater Sabine(32-0) was widely anticipated by state tournament followers. "They've got three of their top hands back too, so I imagine revenge would be on their minds," Sabine coach Carl Allen said.

"We'll have our hands full with Sabine, especially on the boards," Coach Jones of Bartlett said. "We may not be as quick overall as last year and perhaps our overall youth leaves us with a little less court sense than last year, but we're a better offensive team," Coach Franklin Jones said.

The Bulldogs(24-4) had been over the century mark six times during the season and finished the season #10 in the state rankings. Charles Smith averaged 28.0 per game. Their playoff opponents were only able to score 36 and 42 points apiece against them. The other opponent only scored 10 points, but that was due to a stall. "Our kids were so intense on defense in fact, that our offense was down a little," Coach Jones added.

In facing Gladewater Sabine(32-0), you were looking at a team that had four players averaging in double figures. The Cardinals had four starters returning

from their state championship team. "We'll have to keep it slowed down or we'll be trouble vs. Bartlett," Coach Allen stated.

Sabine returned to the state finals defeating Bartlett 65-51. The Cardinals size was just too much for Bartlett. Grissom finished with 7 points, 4 blocks and 11 rebounds. 6'6" Johnny Mumphrey collected 17 points, 10 rebounds and two blocks despite foul trouble. Mark Johnson contributed 16 points. Sabine had several turnovers early but Bartlett was unable to take advantage. Bartlett received a tremendous blow when standout guard, Charles Smith(28.0), hurt his ankle in the first quarter and had to play on the sore ankle the rest of the way. Smith still managed to lead his team with 21 points on 10 of 23 from the floor. Sabine's rebound advantage was 53-34 while committing 23 turnovers. "In the first three or four minutes, we had every opportunity in the world to blow out Sabine, but we didn't capitalize," Bulldog Coach Jones said. "I thought it was our best game all year," Coach Carl Allen said.

Shallowater(24-6) stole the other semi-final game against favored Archer City(36-2) 57-54. Shallowater was ranked #15 in the state and is located in the panhandle. The Mustangs were led by two strong players in 6'5" Willie Ray Johnson and 6'2" Robert Sanders.

Archer City(36-2) took the lead at halftime 30-25 and led 50-49 with 2:45 left to play. That's when Johnson and 6'2" Robert Sanders took over for Shallowater putting their team in control 56-50. Sanders finished with 29 points while Darryn Shearmire(25.0) of Archer City matched Robert Sanders for game high honors with 29 points. Darryn Shearmire was considered the top player in class 2-A. Robert Sanders went on to play at Texas Tech.

The Morton Indians were always making waves in class 3-A over the years. Morton had moved down to class 2-A during the 1980 season. Morton also had a new coach named Tony Maulden. Maulden would be one of the top coaches in Texas for a number of years, culminating with back to back state final appearances in class 5-A while at Garland Lakeview. Morton was ranked #2 in the state at the end of the '81 season and was the only team to defeat Perryton during the regular season. As you recall, Perryton(31-4) was the top ranked class 3-A team in the state. Morton(26-11) struggled in Bi-District against a weak Marfa(17-12) team 61-60. Billy Cadenhead and Todd Willingham led Morton with 14 points apiece. Coach Mauldin explained the poor effort saying, "we didn't take Marfa seriously enough. When things started going wrong, it just snowballed, and we got frustrated. We have beaten such teams as Perryton and Plainview(18-17) this season and we felt we'd have an easy time of it tonight. Marfa(17-12) is really a scrappy team." Shallowater(24-6) ended Morton's(26-12) season 57-54 in the regional finals to advance to Austin.

The state finals weren't close as Gladewater Sabine(35-0) took it to Shallowater(25-6) 62-43 to capture their second state title. The Cardinals were up at

halftime 46-29 and led at one time by 25 points. Robert Sanders was once again the bright spot for the Mustangs with 20 points. Sanders later took his skills to Texas Tech. Coach Allen said, "He's a good ball player, one of the best I've seen up here," in referring to Sanders.

Sabine's balanced scoring was the difference as four players achieved double figures for the Cardinals. Mark Johnson was the leading scorer with 15 points, Mark Allen finished with 13, Greg Grissom 10 and Johnny Mumphrey 10. Mark Allen, the coach's son, had a nice effort handling the ball for the Cardinals. The guard combination of Bo Barrow, Mark Allen and Zeb Strong did a fine job handling the pressure of Shallowater. The rebounding edge went to Sabine 31-27. Sabine's winning streak was extended to 38 games.

At intermission, Gladewater had already seized control of the game at 32-16. The Mustangs went to an aggressive full court press in the second half trying to cut into the Sabine lead.

"It feels especially good to win the state championship with an undefeated record-there's not too many teams who will ever be able to say that," Allen said. "I think we've got a better team this year, a team with much more balance. And I think that had a lot to do with us winning today." In discussing his team's strengths, Allen said, "we can go 10-deep and that's unusual for our size school. I can't recall seeing anyone with as much height as we have," Allen continued. A crowd of 5,600 attended the championship game.

All-Tournament Team- Johnny Mumphrey and Mark Johnson of Gladewater Sabine, Charles Smith of Bartlett, Darryn Shearmire of Archer City, Robert Sanders of Shallowater.

1981 Sports Writers All-State Team

1st Team-6'7" Johnny Mumphrey(15.0), Mark Allen(13.0) and 6'4" Mark Johnson(18.0) of Sabine, Darryn Shearmire(25.0) of Archer City, Charles Smith(28.0) of Bartlett.

2nd Team- 6'10 Greg Grissom(15.0) of Sabine, Todd Washington of Sanford Fritch, Keith Langston of Bullard, Alex Martine of Comfort, and Frank Griffin of Trinity.
{Robert Sanders was not named All-State}

Class AA State Playoffs 1981

Region I Bi-District	Morton(26-10) #2	61	Marfa(17-12)	60
	Shallowater(21-6) #15	64	Vega(30-5)	47
	Sanford-Fritch(25-4)	69	Canadian(24-8)	58
	Crowell(29-4)	77	Winters(26-7)	62
Region I Semis	Morton(27-10) #2	59	Sanford-Fritch(26-5)	52
	Shallowater(22-6) #15	55	Canadian(25-8)	46
Region I Finals	Shallowater(23-6) #15	57	Morton(28-10) #2	54
Region II Bi-District	Temple Academy(27-5)		Clifton	
	Dublin(25-6)	44	Wall	37
	Archer City(33-2) #5	54	Pottsboro(25-5)	37
	Coppell(20-9)		Wolfe City	

Region II Semis	Temple Academy(28-5)	77	Dublin(26-6)	75
	Archer City(34-2) #5	70	Coppell(21-9)	62
Region II Finals	Archer City(35-2) #5	74	Temple Academy(29-5)	52
Region III Bi-District	Shelbyville(26-3)		Waskom	
	Gladewater Sabine(29-0) #1	70	Rivercrest(11-14)	36
	Trinity(28-0) #12		Centerville(29-4) #9	
	Frankston(27-8)		Edgewood	
Region III Semis	Gladewater Sabine(30-0) #1	74	Trinity(29-0) #12	63
	Frankston(28-8)	56	Shelbyville(27-3) OT	51
Region III Finals	Gladewater Sabine(31-0) #1	64	Frankston(29-8)	49
Region IV Bi-District	LaVernia(25-8)	75	Three Rivers	38
	Bartlett(25-4) #10	22	Lexington	10
	Comfort(23-4)	68	Jourdanton(25-6) #6	54
	Ganado(26-6)		Hull-Daisetta	
Region IV Semis	Comfort(24-4)	58	Ganado(27-6)	50
	Bartlett(26-4) #10	44	LaVernia(26-8)	36
Region IV Finals	Bartlett(27-4) #10	47	Comfort(24-4)	42
State Semis	Shallowater(24-6)	57	Archer City(36-2) #5	54
	Gladewater Sabine(32-0) #1	65	Bartlett(28-4)	51
State Finals	Gladewater Sabine(33-0) #1	62	Shallowater(25-6)	43

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1981 AA Top Ten}

1. Glade. Sabine 34-0 {State Champion, 38 straight back to back champions}
2. Trinity 29-1 {derailed in regional semis by Sabine 74-63}
3. Bartlett 28-5 {state two years running, lost both times to Sabine}
4. Shallowater 25-7 {state finalist losing to Sabine}
5. Morton 26-11 {defeated Perryton during the regular season}
6. Archer City 36-3 {state semi-finalist for the 2nd year in a row}
7. Sanford-Fritch 26-6 {knocked out of the playoffs by Morton}
8. Centerville 29-5 {eliminated by Trinity in the playoffs}
9. Comfort 24-5 {regional finalist losing to Bartlett}
10. Frankston 29-9 {regional finalist losing to Sabine}

1982 AA

Gladewater Sabine(29-1) was so good coming into the '82 season it was ridiculous. They had won back to back state titles and were on a 42-game win streak beating Whitehouse 70-46. Sabine(29-1) could play with anybody regardless of classification. Sabine was the top ranked team not only in the state polls in class AA, but also in East Texas, including all the big boys in 4-A and 5-A. Three key performers returned for Coach Allen as his team continued to extend their winning streak. 6'6" Johnny Mumphrey, 6'5" Mark Johnson and the coach's son, guard Mark Allen. Other key players were 6'4" Mitch Mitchell, 5'11" Zeb Strong, 6'7" Tony Stone and 6'7" David Grissom.

The Oil Belt Tournament in Kilgore had plenty of competition in 4-A and 5-A. Longview(22-11) came into the tourney at 7-2 and Kilgore(19-7) at 6-1. Sabine was 7-0 on the season. Sabine defeated 5-A Longview Pine Tree in the first round 65-

45. "They just have super talent," Coach Rex Ray of Pine Tree said following the loss. "They are tall and physical. I know they intimidated us in the first half."

Next up was Center, who lost to Sabine 58-45. Longview(22-11) defeated Kilgore 56-42 to advance to the finals against Sabine. The Bulldogs of Sabine rattled off their 49th straight victory with a 55-40 over Longview. In Longview(22-11) you are talking about a team that was #1 in the state the previous season for a period of time in class 5-A. Mumphrey, Mark Johnson, and Mark Allen were all named all-tourney for Sabine.

Tyler Lee(30-5) held down the top ranking in the state in class 5-A for the sports writers at one point during the season and were ranked in the top ten by the T.A.B.C. Sabine defeated Tyler Lee 68-65 at Sabine High School in front of 1500 fans. Other than the two state championships win's this was the schools biggest win ever. Charles Young, one of the top five players in the state from Tyler Lee finished with 28 points on 14 of 21 from the floor. Sabine at one time was up 46-29 in the impressive win. Coach Carl Allen commented about Young after the contest, "Lee is every bit as good as I thought and Young is as good as I've seen, I couldn't ask the kids to play any better."

Ballard fell victim to Sabine 72-41 for the Bulldogs 52nd win in a row. In the Tyler Junior College tournament, Sabine defeated Brownsboro 83-61 and Whitehouse 63-45 in Division II. Sabine's streak finally ended at 54 in Louisiana against Logansport 52-46. The streak had begun against Snook in a warmup loss prior to the 1980 playoffs. How fitting that Snook was a part of the streak. The Blue Jays own the longest winning streak in state history regardless of classification. In the East Texas ranking published by the Longview newspaper, Sabine held down the top spot followed by Tyler Lee at 24-3, Linden-Kildare at 24-2, New Diana at 24-1, John Tyler at 22-5, Whitehouse at 18-6, Lufkin at 18-6, Palestine at 18-5 and Longview at 20-8.

Sabine had won their fourth straight District title as they entered the playoffs. Their first-round playoff opponent was #4 ranked New Diana(27-2), who returned their entire starting line-up from a 19-11 squad. In a warm-up game, New Diana wanted to be prepared for the Sabine Bulldogs by facing Shelbyville. Shelbyville(28-1) defeated New Diana 69-57. 6'5" sophomore, Jeff Chumbley hit 20 points for Shelbyville. Wendell Cleaver had 14 points and Mike Lord hit 13.

The Shelbyville Dragons defeated Karnack(21-2) in their Bi-District game 76-60. Chumbley dominated both ends of the court finishing with 10 points. The Dragons jumped out to a comfortable lead 35-18 and with 4:30 left in the first half they went into their delay game. Curtis Williams finished with 23 points to lead Karnack, while Marlon Suell put in 18 points and Mike Land had 16 for Shelbyville.

The Dragons had not drawn the attention that Sabine had statewide, but they were well known in East Texas. Much like Sabine, their only loss had come at the hands of Logansport, Louisiana. Karnack had also lost to Logansport. The

Dragons returned four starters from a 27-4 team. "We had four starters coming back, so I expected to have a good team, but Chumbley is a big surprise. I knew he could play I just didn't know he would go wild like he has," Coach Joe Tom Shillings said. Shillings had sat out the previous season after a fifteen-year run as head man at Shelbyville.

In the Sabine(29-1) vs. New Diana(27-2) Bi-District game, you couldn't have had two more competitive teams meeting each other in the first round. New Diana's other loss during the regular season had come at the hands of New Boston. Coach Phoney Harrell of New Diana said prior to the game, "if I won state two years in a row, I'd be a little overconfident, but they've got to realize at this stage of the year, anybody can beat you on a given night." Coach Harrell said, "there are three or four good AA schools around here, I don't know if Sabine could handle the ball as well as Shelbyville does."

Coach Allen of Sabine said, "our region is the strongest in the state, it may be stronger than last year." Coach Allen continued, "sure everybody thinks we're #1 and the kids have shown they can play with anybody in any class. We've improved over the year and we're healthy and 100%. That's all you can ask."

New Diana looked to David Phillips, Jerry Smith and Steve Ford to match-up against Sabine's big three. The game ended up being no contest with the Bulldogs winning 51-27 before 2,100 fans. Mark Johnson won high point honors with 20 points and 10 rebounds, Mumphrey finished with 5 points, 8 rebounds and 3 blocks and Mark Allen added 16 points. New Diana finished an outstanding season at 27-3.

The Region II playoffs in Huntsville had Sabine on a collision course with Shelbyville(28-1). #1 Sabine(30-1) played Bullard(28-4) in the semis, a team they had defeated earlier in the season by 20 points. The re-match was much closer as the Bulldogs won by only eight points 52-44. Mark Johnson had 13 points, Mark Allen 13 and Johnny Mumphrey put in 12.

Keith Langston led the scoring for Bullard with 18 points. Shelbyville(30-1), ranked #5, moved into the finals with a 72-56 victory over Centerville(24-8). Jeff Chumbley and Marion Shell combined for 46 points in the victory. 6'5" Chumbley was only a sophomore and finished with 25 points and 16 rebounds. Chumbley took his career to Angelina College in Lufkin after high school. Tony Reed led Centerville with 28 points.

In the game of the season in class AA, Sabine(30-1) finally came up short against Shelbyville(30-1) 45-44. With just seconds remaining in the game Mark Allen of Sabine drove and was fouled with only one second on the clock. The game went into overtime after Allen missed the front end of the one and one. Sabine had opportunities late in the game, but missed closing shots by Mumphrey and Johnson. Sabine coach Carl Allen said after the game that losing Zeb Strong for the game was critical. Strong had twisted his ankle and was unavailable. Turnovers and missed foul shots were also sighted by Coach Allen as reasons for the loss.

There were other teams in the state besides Sabine(30-2) and Shelbyville(31-1) in the 1982 season. Morton(22-10) was back with another strong team. It had been a long drought for the Indians. They were back with a new coach, Tony Mauldin. The Indians came out of District 5-AA and held a 2-1 edge over the eventual class AAA champion, Dimmitt(31-10). Morton won the first two games 93-80 and 73-63, losing the third meeting 67-55. Morton had wins over class AAA regional finalist Denver City(27-6) 78-75, state ranked Littlefield(26-3) 91-89, and Lubbock Estacado 86-81.

Losses were many and included, Lubbock Dunbar 61-60 and 69-67, Levelland 78-70, Snyder(23-6) 50-45, Lubbock Estacado 74-50, Amarillo High 75-48, Littlefield(26-3) 71-62 and 77-71, Lubbock Monterey 64-63.

Morton(22-10) had to get by Sanford-Fritch(30-4) in the regional finals to advance. At Lubbock Municipal Coliseum 1100 fans showed up to see Morton defeat Sanford-Fritch 66-58. Sanford had lost the previous season in the regional semi-finals to Morton 59-52. Foul trouble plagued Sanford as they faced the intense full court pressure of the Indians. 6'7", 220-pound freshman, Eddie Cunningham, 6'3" Todd Washington and 5'7" Randy Rockhold all collected their fourth foul prior to halftime. Morton led at intermission 35-29. Cunningham left the game at the 4:44 mark of the fourth quarter with his team tied at 51. "We felt there was no tomorrow, and we had to play the guys we had with four fouls," Coach Bill Duncan of Sanford said. Todd Washington finished with an impressive double-double scoring 17 points and 12 rebounds. Tracey Summers led Sanford with 22 points.

"I think our running game threw them off their game," Mauldin said. "I didn't think they could play over 95 feet of basketball. And if we let them play half court, with their size, they would have beat us." Mauldin continued saying, "Our scouting report said they didn't have much bench strength, so we were trying to get them in to foul trouble." Coach Mauldin got his wish and a little revenge after losing the previous year to Shallowater in the regional finals. Coach Duncan of Sanford-Fritch was not done with his comments saying, "As far as we're concerned, the best team did not win the game. I heard one official say that Morton will be the regional champion, and we weren't supposed to be here. I'm not saying the officials calls made the difference, but the game was taken away from both teams. The attention was turned to the officials, and there's something wrong with that," Duncan said.

For the Indians, 5'9" Ronnie Patton(11.0) scored 10 points, 6'2" Billy Cadenhead(14.0) finished with 16 points and Jerry Williams added 12. 6'2" Kelly Taylor(15.0) was also critical to the Indians success.

Coppell took Region II with a 54-42 win over Eastland. "We knew we had to contain Thomas Sanders and keep them off the boards. I thought we did all that just fine," Coach Pat Brown of Coppell said. The Cowboys played hard defensively and were patient on the offensive end of the court. The regional finals were played at the Super Pit in Denton. Tim Schones led Coppell with 18 points, Bill Castillas finished

with 10 points as did Barry Adams. Eastland was led by James Norton with 14 points. Thomas Sanders was held to only 10 by the victorious Cowboys.

In the **state semi-finals**, Nixon(31-1) had little trouble running past Coppell(28-3). Nixon was paced by one of the top players in the state regardless of classification, 6'4" Carlton McKinney(23.0). McKinney was physically developed and far too developed for AA basketball. He signed with Tulsa out of college and eventually played for S.M.U. McKinney was impressive against Coppell scoring 23 points and coming away with 16 rebounds to lead Nixon to a 53-44 win. Nixon had eliminated the #2 team in the state, Bartlett(30-1) in the regional finals 67-66. Bartlett was shooting for their third straight state tournament appearance.

The Nixon Bobcats starters included McKinney, 6'3" Richard McKinney(12.0), 5'9" Ronnie Gay(10.0), 5'10" Micky Medina(10.0), 5'8" Henry Benavidez(7.6). Coppell's teams was centered around three double digit scorers, 6'1" Derek Jett(14.3), 6'0" Bill Casillas and 6'3" Tim Schones(12.6).

In the showdown between Morton(25-10) and Shelbyville(29-1) in the **semis**, the two titans battled right down to the wire. The Dragons won the rebounding battle 36-28 over Morton, and also came away with the win 67-61. Suell led the Dragons in scoring with 16 points followed by Chumbley with 13. Ronnie Patton was the leader for Morton with 16 points.

The **state finals** pitted two outstanding teams against one another in Shelbyville(30-1) and Nixon(30-1). Shelbyville dominated inside coming away with the rebounding margin over Nixon 52-33. The rebounding edge propelled the Dragons to the title 46-39. 6'1" Marion Suell was a gamer for Shelbyville finishing with 22 points and 10 rebounds as teammate, 6'5" Jeff Chumbley, came through with 12 points and 11 rebounds.

Nixon countered with another great performance from their own standout, 6'4" Carlton McKinney. The talented junior finished with 21 points and 13 rebounds. Coach Daniel McGovern of Nixon summarized his team effort saying, "we've played some class 4-A teams this year and Shelbyville is the best we've been up against. On some of the rebounds, we got the ball, they were quick enough to strip us of the ball."

Shelbyville had won their first state championship in one of the most competitive state playoffs on record. The top six ranked teams in the final Ft. Worth Telegram poll had a total of six losses at the end of the regular season. #1 Sabine(29-1) was eliminated in regionals by Shelbyville, #2 Bartlett(27-1) lost in the regional finals by one point to Nixon, #3 Nixon(27-1) lost in the state finals against the Dragons. New Diana(27-1), unfortunately lost early in Bi-District to #1 Sabine. #5 Shelbyville, of course won state and Nocona(26-1) came in at #6 and lost in regionals in overtime.

All-Tournament team 1982-Jeff Chumbley, Mike Land, Marion Suell of Shelbyville, Ronnie Patton of Morton, Carlton McKinney of Nixon.

Sports Writers All-State:

1st Team- 6'6" Johnny Murphrey, Sabine; 6'4" Carlton McKinney(23.0), Nixon; Darryn Shearmine, Archer City; 6'0" Mark Allen, Sabine; Charles Smith, Bartlett

2nd Team- 6'5" Jeff Chumbley, Shelbyville; 6'1" Martin Suell, Shelbyville; 6'5" Mark Johnson, Sabine; Jerry Smith, New Diana

3rd Team- Craig Sladek, Stratford; 6'3" Todd Washington, Sanford-Fritch; Mike Hatton, Frankston; Keith Langston, Bullard; Frank Griffin, Trinity; 6'2" Billy Cadenherd, Morton:

Class AA State Playoffs 1982

Region I Bi-District	Sanford-Fritch(27-4) #12	71	Clarendon(19-5) #20	69
	Lorenzo(28-4) #11	76	Vega(22-8)	42
	Baird	49	Munday	48
	Morton(22-10) #8		Clint	
Region I Semis	Morton(23-10) #8	104	Baird	61
	Sanford-Fritch(29-4) #12	45	Lorenzo(29-4) #11	42
Region I Finals	Morton(24-10) #8	66	Sanford-Fritch(30-4) #12	58
Region II Bi-District	Coppell(25-3)	49	Wolfe City(28-5) #9	47
	Axtell(22-6)		Grandview	
	Nocona(26-1) #6		Whitewright	
	Eastland(21-5)		Big Lake Reagan County	
Region II Semis	Coppell(26-3)	48	Axtell(23-6)	45
	Eastland(22-5)	61	Nocona(27-1) #6 OT	57
Region II Finals	Coppell(27-3)	52	Eastland(23-5)	42
Region III Bi-District	Gladewater Sabine(29-1) #1	51	New Diana(27-2) #4	27
	Shelbyville(27-1) #5	76	Karnack(21-2) #15	60
	Bullard(27-4) #7		Edgewood	
	Centerville(24-8) #16		Trinity	
Region III Semis	Gladewater Sabine(30-1) #1	52	Bullard(28-4) #7	44
	Shelbyville(28-1) #5	72	Centerville(25-8) #16	56
Region III Finals	Shelbyville(29-1) #5	45	Gladewater Sabine(31-1) #1	44
Region IV Bi-District	Nixon(27-1) #3	86	Orange Grove(16-9)	40
	Blanco(18-3)	60	Jourdanton(22-7) 4OT	56
	Barnett(28-1) #2	72	Somerville(25-6)	64
	Brookshire Royal(17-7) #19		Hull-Daisetta	
Region IV Semis	Nixon(28-1) #3	70	Blanco(19-3)	50
	Barnett(29-1) #2	58	Brookshire Royal(18-7) #19	53
Region IV Finals	Nixon(29-1) #3	67	Barnett(30-1) #2	66
State Semis	Shelbyville(30-1) #5	67	Morton(25-10) #8	61
	Nixon(30-1) #3	67	Coppell(28-3)	44
State Finals	Shelbyville(31-1) #5	46	Nixon(31-1) #3	39

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1982 AA Top Ten}

1. Shelbyville 32-1 {Eliminated Sabine, Nixon and Morton to the title}
2. Sabine 31-2 {lost by one to Shelbyville in the regional finals}
3. Morton 25-11 {state semis losing to Shelbyville by six}
4. Nixon 31-2 {state finalist losing to Shelbyville by seven}
5. Bartlett 30-2 {lost in the regional finals to Nixon by one}
6. Coppell 28-4 {state semi-finalist losing to Nixon}
7. Nocona 27-2 {lost in the regional semis to Eastland}

8.	Bullard	28-5	{went down to Sabine in regional semis}
9.	Wolfe City	28-6	{lost by two to Coppell in bi-district}
10.	Sanford-Fritch	30-5	{regional finalist losing to Morton}

1980 B

Snook(40-1), a perennial winner in basketball, is located just 12 miles west of College Station and once again appeared as the top team in the state in class B. At 40-1, their only loss was to class 4-A Killeen Ellison. After two state championships Don Horn stepped down as the Snook head basketball coach. The new coach for the 1980 season was a former player at Snook, Donnie Victorick. Victorick had been a sub on the 1965 and 1966 state championship teams and was assistant under Don Horn for three years. Coach Horn moved into the superintendent's job after his 1979 state title.

The system developed at Snook was formulated by Buna coach "Cotton" Robinson from 1955 to 1963. During that span Buna won seven state championships. In 1962 his assistant was Jimmy Horn who became Snook's head basketball coach in 1963. With him he brought the same basketball techniques that had been emphasized by Robinson. Tough man to man defense, full court pressure and a patterned offensive attack were all key components in the Blue Jay's attack. In 1965 and 1966 the school established a record winning streak of 90 games and completed the two seasons with a remarkable 102-1 record. And if Snook took the lead late in the game it was not unusual for Snook to run a delay game.

In 1980 Snook was looking for their 6th state championship having won two straight titles. Their titles came in two different classifications. In '78 they won in class A and in 1979 in Class B. Coach Victorick said, "We're doing just about the same thing Snook has always done. Our senior post, Mike Junek, broke his ankle in the regional quarterfinals last week at San Marcos, but we came through the next two games all right. Walter Bell moved inside and we brought in Al Jackson at the guard spot. I figure we have about as good a chance as any of the others to win the championship." When questioned about losing Junek to injury, Victorick responded, "I've relived that decision a hundred times and I still don't think I would have done anything different." Victorick had played Junek in the final minutes of the regional quarterfinals game against Axtell leading 85-45. That is right, they were up by 40 points and their star player was still on the court. "Mike wasn't having one of his better games and I wanted to build his confidence," Victorick explained. "It was a real freak thing. An Axtell player accidently pinned his foot to the floor and it snapped when Mike tried to twist away. The doctor said the odds of that happening were real slim. It was the Lord's will," Coach Victorick said.

The Blue Jays wanted to prove they were more than a one-man team as the season began. When star post Mike Junek broke his ankle, the Blue Jays would get their chance to prove it.

Snook(43-1) opened the state tournament against Goree and continued their tough man to man defense holding the Wildcats to 13 shots in the first half of which they hit six. Snook coasted to a 21-13 halftime advantage and pulled away with a 56-38 victory.

Goree(33-4) was only 14 of 46 from the floor for 30% shooting. The Blue Jays shot 23 of 44 for 52%. Bell hit 13 points for Snook, Felder followed with 10 as well as Hezekiah Carter and Kerr with 10 points each. Goree was led by Richardson in scoring. Goree finished 33-5 on the season.

Waiting for Snook(43-1) in the finals was Petty West Lamar(33-3), a team who had lost to Krum in 1979 at state. West Lamar had a very talented fast paced pressing outfit that loved to get up and down the court. Their offense centered around the Washington family. Richard averaged 22.0 points per game while younger brothers, Jerry and Kenneth averaged 19.0 and 11.0 respectively.

West Lamar's journey back to state started at regionals against Maypearl(13-15). West Lamar had little trouble with the Panthers in the first round winning 85-59. In the semis, the Leopards ran into a much stronger foe in the Milford Bulldogs(21-4). The game went back and forth until finally West Lamar(33-3) pulled out a tough 61-56 win.

"Milford was the toughest team we played," Coach Erwin of West Lamar said. "They had been here before our press didn't hurt them that much and they had some really fine athletes." Erwin continued saying, "We're just really lucky to have gotten into the finals."

Milford's standouts were Stanley Cook with 22 points and Terran Carter with 16 points. Carter got in foul trouble, which hurt the Bulldogs chances late.

The regional finals were a romp for West Lamar as they advanced to state with an 80-50 thrashing of the Harleton Wildcats. The Washington clan scored 50 of their teams 80 points. Jerry finished with 22 points, Richard threw in 17 and freshman Kenneth had 11 points. "When our press began working it rattled them. We never took pressure off because we wanted to go to Austin," Erwin said.

West Lamar(33-3) welcomed back three starters from their state tournament squad in 1979. Jerry and Richard Washington along with Gary Blake. Gary Drew saw action and was in the lineup in the 1980 campaign. Coach Erwin of West Lamar commented, "I think it's our best chance, the experience we've got should be a factor. Our kids are excited, but they're more settled this year, we were shell shocked at state last year." In facing Nazareth, their semi-final opponent, Erwin said, "we will try to get Nazareth to play West Lamar's game, which is running and gunning."

When was the last time you remember a player who did not score a point having a big effect on a game? The answer to that question is Calvin Shulte of Nazareth. Shulte recorded no points but left the game with 3:29 remaining and the game changed dramatically in West Lamar's favor. The Leopards had their hands

full with Shulte in the game. He had been very effective against Lamar's pressure. In the fourth quarter, West Lamar outscored Nazareth(28-7) 24-13 and took home a 53-50 victory to move on to the finals. The Leopards came back from nine points down against the Swifts.

West Lamar(33-3) hit 10 of 11 foul shots in the fourth quarter, while Nazareth could only manage to put down five of nine foul shots down the stretch. All four of the misses were front ends of one and one situations.

In the first-half the slow-paced Swifts shot over the West Lamar zone and in the second half Nazareth continued their success against the Leopards man defense. Jeff Schmucker was high man for Nazareth(28-7) with 29 points, while West Lamar countered with their usual balanced scoring. Jerry Washington hit 11 points along with Richard Washington contributing 12 points, and Kenneth Washington hitting 14.

When asked about Snook(43-1), Erwin smiled and said, "they were very impressive, they're real good and we'll have to play a lot better against them."

Snook(43-1) captured the state title 59-58 over East Lamar(33-3) on a driving layup by Billy Felder, as he hit an uncontested layup at the buzzer. Felder dribbled the length of the court and put up a shot at the final buzzer for the win. Felder went 90 feet for his lay-up. "They were afraid to foul. They thought the clock would run out. Either way, it was a gamble. It was awfully close," Coach Erwin said.

Billy Felder was a two-time All-tournament selection and the hero. Snook had a 13-point lead heading into the 4th quarter and let it slip away. After a missed free throw by West Lamar with 7 seconds remaining, Walter Bell rebounded the ball and passed it to Felder who did the rest. It was the school's third straight state title and sixth in the last 15 years.

6'1" Hezekiah Carter led the Blue Jay's with 29 points going 13 of 19 from the floor. Felder finished with 11 points and 14 rebounds. Snook proved they were definitely not a one-man team winning the title without their leading scorer, 6'1" center Mike Junek. West Lamar was led by 5'11" Jerry Washington with 18 points and 5'10" Richard Washington with 14.

"Whoever got the ball was supposed to take it and make something happen," Felder said. "The main thing I had on my mind was penetration and putting up a good shot." Van Hilburn put the Leopards up with only 33 seconds left in the game 58-57. The Leopards had several opportunities to win the game. West Lamar failed to convert on four possible free throws in the final 20 seconds. Junior Gary Dean missed a two-shot free throw situation with 23 seconds remaining and then failed on the front end of a one-and-one with seven seconds left. "It's not Gary's fault. No ones to blame. It just happened Coach Erwin said. "We made mistakes throughout the game... enough to lose, so it wasn't just the free-throws."

In front of 4,500 fans Snook finished 44-1 on the season and another state title. The Blue Jay's averaged 70.3 points per-game and allowed 40.3 per contest.

Yes, for you mathematicians that's a plus 30. The Blue Jays were 13 of 26 from the foul line in the title game and Lamar finished 18 of 34. From the field, Snook finished 23 of 43 while Lamar hit 20 of 40 shots. Lamar had 22 turnovers and Snook had 16.

All-tournament team was made-up of Hezekiah Carter and Billy Felder of Snook, Jerry Washington of Petty West Lamar, Jeff Schmucker of Nazareth, and Richard Washington of Petty West Lamar and Kenneth Washington of West Lamar tied for the last spot.

Some of the top ranked teams that did not make the playoffs were, #6 Spade(27-4), #9 Brock(24-7), #11 Graford(26-6), #13 Anderson(22-7), #17 Avinger(24-5), #20 Kendlelton(21-5):

Class B State Playoffs 1980

Region I Bi-District	Nazareth(25-6)	36	Greenwood(28-4) #2	34
	Channing(21-9)	56	Southland(23-4)	52
	San Elizario(26-4) #19	81	Sands(31-3) #15	62
	Motley County(22-1)	67	Hedley(30-4) #14	63
Region I Semis	Nazareth(26-6)		Channing(22-9)	
	Motley County(23-1)		San Elizario(27-4)	
Region I Finals	Nazareth(27-6)	50	Motley County(24-1)	49
Region II Bi-District	Huckabay(32-3) #8	69	Priddy(25-9)	52
	Goree(30-4) #4	79	Kopperi((27-7)	51
	Krum(36-4) #7	65	Midway Henrietta(24-10)	53
	Santa Anna(23-10)	54	Bronte(26-10)	52
Region II Semis	Krum(37-4) #7		Santa Anna(24-10)	
	Goree(31-4) #4		Huckabay(33-3) #8	
Region II Finals	Goree(32-4) #4	60	Krum(38-4) #7	56
Region III Bi-District	Harleton(20-4) #10	64	Trenton(27-6) #16	58
	Saltillo	54	Woden(23-12)	53
	Milford(21-5) #18	52	Kennard	48
	West Lamar(30-3) #3	85	Maypearl(13-15)	59
Region III Semis	Harleton(21-4) #10		Saltillo	
	West Lamar(31-3) #3	61	Milford(22-5) #18	56
Region III Finals	West Lamar(32-3) #3	80	Harleton(22-4) #10	50
Region IV Bi-District	Snook(38-1) #1	85	Axtell	47
	Moulton	51	Leakey(26-1) #12	46
	McMullen County(27-3) #5	84	D'Hannis	55
	Brookeland	76	Hutto	65
Region IV Semis	Brookeland		McMullen County(28-3) #5	
	Snook(39-1) #1	46	Moulton	33
Region IV Finals	Snook(40-1) #1	82	Brookeland	35
State Semis	West Lamar(33-3) #3	53	Nazareth(28-6)	50
	Snook(41-1) #1	56	Goree(33-4) #4	38
State Finals	Snook(42-1) #1	59	West Lamar(34-3) #3	

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1980 B Top Ten}

1. Snook 44-1 {State Champions again even losing their top player}
2. W. Lamar Petty 34-4 {Lost a heartbreaker to Snook in the state finals 59-58}
3. Nazareth 28-7 {State Semi-Finalist losing to West Lamar by 3 points}
4. Motley County 24-2 {Regional finals loss to Nazareth by one}
5. Milford 22-6 {lost in the Regional semis against West Lamar by five}

1981 A

For the class A fans, it was nice not being called class B anymore. The new classification had arrived with the same old teams making their way to Austin. Top ranked Avinger(34-3) and #2 Snook(35-4) were on a crash collision for the finals. Unfortunately, things did not work out for the top rivals. Snook was making their fifth trip in a row to Austin and trying to make it four straight state titles, while Avinger was making its first trip since losing in the finals in 1978 by one point to Krum. Avinger(34-3) faced #18 ranked Henrietta Midway(33-5) in the semi-finals and Snook(35-4) went against #6 ranked Midland Greenwood(32-4).

Midway(33-5) upset Avinger(34-3) 61-50 and advanced to face Snook(35-4), who beat Greenwood(32-4) 53-27. Burton Shepherd was 7 of 9 from the floor and finished with 17 points to spark Midway. Danny White was the top scorer for Avinger with 17 points. Midway shot 60% from the floor while Avinger could only manage 34%.

Snook(38-4) had little trouble in regionals defeating two overmatched teams, McMullen County 57-32 and Milano 86-30. Midland Greenwood(33-4) did not fare much better in the state semi-finals losing by 26 points 53-27. Hezekiah Carter was the leading scorer for the Blue Jays with 22 points.

*In **the finals**, Snook (39-4) captured their fourth consecutive title 41-33 over Henrietta Midway. Coach Donnie Victorick's team tied the state record set by Bowie back in the early 1950s. It was the Blue Jay's seventh title overall, tying the record held by Buna back in the early 1960s. Snook captured state titles in 1965, 1966, 1969, 1978, 1979, 1980 and 1981. Not bad for a town with a population of only 365 people.*

The championship game was very close, but Midway missed eight free throws in the last four minutes of the game, which could have made the difference. Snook went to their usual delay tactics late which drew boos from the drum crowd. Midway was called for a technical foul when they refused to come out and play defense because they were trailing. Sophomore Clint Thomas powered Snook with 20 points and 10 rebounds. High scoring Hezekiah Carter was held to only five points after hitting 22 in the semi-finals. Jay Don Powell was high man for Midway with 13.

"We underestimated Midway's quickness," Coach Victorick said following the game. Our playoff experience was a big factor. Al Jackson, our playmaker, was the most overlooked player in the game. Our postman, Clint Thomas, hit nine of eleven from the field."

All-Tournament team-Hezekiah Carter, Clint Thomas and Al Jackson of Snook, Jay Don Powell of Henrietta Midway, Danny White of Avinger.

Sports Writers All-State 1st team, Hezekiah Carter of Snook, Ray Young of Miami, Mike Jones of Trenton, Willie Sandusky of Forestburg and Danny Hilburn of Mobeetie. Al Jackson of Snook was named to the 2nd team.

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1981 A Top Teams}

- | | | |
|----------------------|------|---|
| 1. Snook | 39-4 | {four straight state championships} |
| 2. Henrietta Midway | 34-6 | {state finals, defeated Avinger in the semis} |
| 3. Avinger | 34-4 | {finished the regular season as top-rated team} |
| 4. Krum | 33-4 | {ranked #3 in the state for most of the season} |
| 5. Midland Greenwood | 32-5 | {state semis, lost to Snook} |
| 6. Nazareth | 26-4 | {ranked in the top five most of the season} |

1982 A

Snook's state title hopes were supposed to end in 1982. Blue Jay coach, Donnie Victorick, had only three seniors returning from his state title team in '81 and one returning starter, 6'2" Clint Jones. Nine sophomores dotted the Snook roster. "I've got to accept some of the mental mistakes this year that I couldn't accept last year," Victorick said. "Even if we come out on the short end, if we've done our best, that's all I ask." To make matters even worse, senior Clarence Robertson, left the team in December. Robertson was the team's second leading rebounder and scorer.

The 1982 season was Victorick's 2nd with Snook(30-5) as head coach, after three years as an assistant under Don Horn. Snook was going for their 5th straight title and their 15th trip to Austin.

In the semi-finals, Graford(21-2) would pose a real challenge for Snook. Graford was led by one of the top players to come out of Class A basketball since Terry Teagle back in 1978. 6'3" Tim Ford led Graford out of West Texas with a 21-2 mark. He averaged 23.0 points a game and signed with Texas Tech out of High School.

Against Snook(30-5), Ford came away with 28 points in his team's 44-38 loss to the Blue Jays. Senior Matthew Washington had a strong game for Snook with 10 points and 7 rebounds along with the team's leading scorer Clint Jones. Jones hit 17 points and collected 10 rebounds to pace the Blue Jays into the finals against Midland Greenwood(29-3).

The Rangers of Greenwood(29-3) defeated Petty West Lamar(30-5) in the other semi-finals 57-56. Midland Greenwood was led by 5'9" Homer Lopez with 19 points and 6'1" Larry Dickerson and 6'5" Jim Lee, who combined for 24 rebounds.

West Lamar fell apart late after leading 50-45 with 3:23 remaining in the contest. Turnovers, steals and missed opportunities gave the game to Greenwood.

The state's top ranked teams were well represented at the state tournament. In the semi-finals, Snook(30-5) came in at #3, Graford(21-2) was ranked #5, West Lamar(30-5) at #9 and Midland Greenwood(29-3) had a #12 ranking. Second ranked, Dime Box(25-4) was eliminated by Snook in the first round

of the playoffs 59-48. Fourth ranked Ponder lost to Graford(21-2) in the regional finals 60-54.

Anderson(22-7) had a blood bath in District against Snook, losing the first game 72-58, winning the second 54-52 and losing the District playoff game to the Blue Jays 42-36. Anderson was the only class A school to defeat Snook. The other losses for Snook were to Bartlett 74-69 in class AA, Rosebud-Lott 41-40 in AAA, Brenham 68-67 in AAAA, and Killeen Ellison 67-64 in AAAAA. These are remarkable scores when you consider some of these schools had over 1000 or 2000 students and the Blue Jays were sitting there with 121 kids in the whole school.

The **state title game** was a re-match of the semi-finals from the previous season in which Snook(31-5) beat Greenwood(30-3) 53-27. But this was a different Snook team with very little experience. 6'1" Stuart Burleson went nuts in the finals for Midland Greenwood putting up 31 points, but the Rangers could not overcome the team work of Snook. The Blue Jays won their fifth title in a row 52-45.

Snook(31-5) shot 26 of 41 from the floor for 63% for the game, and opened the second half knocking down 13 of their first 15 field goal attempts. Coach Victorick's team led 50-36 with 4:40 on the clock and hung on to win. "This was the year we weren't supposed to win," Victorick said. "But this one's the sweetest." Three players put in 12 points each in Snook's balanced scoring attack, Clint Thomas, Daron Benford and Richard Long. Long came off the bench and hit six of seven from the field. Long expressed his team's feelings following the big win, "nobody thought we could do it."

All-Tournament team-6'1" Stuart Burleson and 5'9" Homer Lopez of Midland Greenwood, 6'2" Clint Thomas and 6'0" Daron Benford of Snook, and 6'3" Tim Ford of Graford.

Sports Writers All-State 1st team, 6'1" Stuart Burleson of Midland Greenwood; Todd Ethridge, Roby; Steve Thomas, Fall City; 6'2" Clint Thomas, Snook; 6'3" Tim Ford, Graford:

{After reviewing the entire season and the playoffs this would be my 1982 A Top Teams}

1.	Snook	32-5	{5 th state title in a row}
2.	Anderson	22-7	{only class A school in the state to beat Snook}
3.	Graford	21-3	{top player in the state in class A, Tim Ford}
4.	Midland Greenwood	30-4	{state finals losing to Snook 52-45}
5.	West Lamar Petty	30-6	{lost by one point in the state Semi-Finals}
6.	Dime Box	25-5	{lost in 1 st round to Snook 59-48}
7.	Ponder	30-4	{regional finalist losing to Graford 60-54}
8.	Brookeland	26-3	{top rated team in the state in regular season}
9.	Nazareth	26-9	{regional finals losing to Greenwood 49-46}
10.	Moulton	29-4	{regional finals losing to Snook 56-34}

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