

## BASEBALL

Baseball has been a part of Dripping Springs' history almost as long as the school system has been in place. After the Dripping Springs Academy was founded during the 1881-82 school term, for sure there would be enough students that school team's could conceivably have been formed. However, until the UIL officially sponsored baseball in 1948, baseball teams were on their own. This probably meant more community teams than purely school teams.

The newspapers were full of Dripping Springs' baseball games and were usually the main form of entertainment for various celebrations during the baseball season. Since most were played in May, June and July and many on Sundays, the guess is they were made up of community but the players had once been students at Dripping Springs.

The earliest mentioned game was 6-13-1884, when the Dripping Springs picked nine beat the Kyle students 11-9. This team, and for the rest of the century, was the main team from Dripping Springs. It was formed and sponsored by A.L. Davis, Jr. He was the pitcher and the person that would build the two-story merchandise store on Mercer Street in 1891 that presently houses Lone Star Gifts. They would play such teams as Cedar Valley, Round Mountain, Kyle, San Marcos and even teams from San Antonio.

In an 1889 game with the Kyle Lone Stars, the starting lineup for Dripping Springs was given as Charlie Malott 1B, George Cooke SS, A.L. Davis P, Frank Graham C, Garrett CF, Will Graham 3B, Marshall 2B, Roberts LF, Stone RF. In an 1896 photo of the team, the following players were pictured. Rufus Smith, Ed Lindeman, Will Richie, Cal Brown, Jim Eckols, Albert Sprouse, A.L. Davis, Jim Ritchie, Sam Trautwein, Chester Harrison and Arthur Bagby.

Another lineup given was for a game Dripping Springs played against the San Marcos Bearcats and won 4-2. This lineup was John Shelton 2B, Robert Shelton 1B, Shahan 3B, Ratliff LF, Ellison Shelton SS, Searight C, Ralph Shelton RF, Roy Shelton RF, Crenshaw CF, R. Smith P.

As the school system began to grow in the 1930's, it seems more likely that more of the games mentioned were probably school teams, especially games played in April and May before school would let out for the summer. They would be playing all of the places that also had schools, such as Buda, Darden Hill, Driftwood, Fitzhugh, Goforth, Henly, Mt. Gainer and Wimberley,

A tragic accident in a 1938 baseball game played April 26, 1938, is said to have brought an end to school baseball teams. Allen Stephenson, 15, broke a leg when a Wimberley player slid into him at third. Complications in the injury caused gangrene and he died on May 5. No more mention of school baseball games was in the papers, so the report that school baseball was suspended after that may have merit. Baseball at Dripping Springs was reinstated in 1952 under UIL sponsorship. Until then, boys would participate in softball under the County or District Spring meets that also would include tennis, volleyball and track.

Dripping Springs got back into the baseball business with the 1952 season. Teams in Class B could only advance to the bi-district level. In 1957, the Tigers would ride the strong arm of Oran Rippy (8-1) to a District championship and a 5-3 Bi-district victory over Comfort in an 11-1 season. The Tigers would add titles in 1958-59. Rippy would return to coach titles in 1966-67 and the Tigers added a third in 1968.

Interest began to wane as other sports began to make headway in the spring and after the 1974 season, baseball was dropped. After five years on hiatus, the sport was brought back for the 1980 season.

Dennis Seale was the architect of the revival. He led the Tigers for 14 years. He won district titles in 1985; 86 and guided the team to four other playoff years, including 1984 when

they reached the Class A state finals, losing 5-4 to Ore City. He had a record of 189-118-4. Tom Hancock coached five district winners, including the 1998 team that made it to the State 3A finals. The Tigers watched their consecutive playoff streak that began in 1995 come to an end when the 2012 fell short of extending it. Baseball teams have won 18 district championships and 13 other playoff appearances.

**PLAYING FIELDS:** The first field used by all the early baseball teams was located in Blocks one and two of the original plat. It was just east of the present-day Wells Fargo Bank facing north and east. At that time, there was no RR 12 or Wallace Street extended.

By the time baseball had been revived in 1952, the school was located on the 21-acre campus, now occupied by the administrative and Walnut Springs' Elementary campuses. The first field was located on the north end of the property where WSE now stands. Games were played there until 1957.

Just in time for that first championship season a small strip of land was purchased to extend the southwest corner of the property. The football field ran parallel to the acquisition. The idea was to use the football field as the outfield and the added land as the baseball infield. The field would face northeast back toward the gym. Four poles of lights were added to have a lighted field. This combination worked until 1986.

The new high school opened for business in the fall of 1985 and with it, a new baseball field to start the 1986 season. It was located adjacent and just east of the football stadium. Expansion on the campus took its toll as the field was dismantled after the 1997 season to make room for more practice fields.

This necessitated the need for a new field. That field, located in the 40-acres park off RR 12 S, was completed in time for the 1998 season and has been the Tigers home field since. A new high school campus was completed as part of a middle school-high school swap at the start of the 2010 school year. A baseball field was not a part of the original bond issue but a bond passed in 2014 included an on-campus field to be built.

## BASKETBALL (Boys)

The sport of basketball was invented in 1891. The object was to give people a chance to play a sport inside during the winter months between the established football and baseball seasons. Because of the shortage of newspaper articles between 1900-20, it is not known at this time when Dripping Springs began to participate in basketball. The family of Georgia Pound Cavett, a longtime teacher, has a picture of her and a girls' basketball team. This was said to be 1912. Jack Lyle says he has a picture of his dad and his aunt Rose in their basketball uniforms and that would have been three or four years later. Travis Garnett has pictures of the 1912 girls team and another said to be around 1917.

The 1911-12 school year would be the first chance for Dripping Springs to have a high school team. According to the first annual catalog published for the 1910-11 school year, Dripping Springs had only seven grades, but intended to open the curriculum up to high school students and see if they could get some interest. The next year the County School Board designated Dripping Springs as a High School of the third class, meaning they had three high school grades. Dripping Springs continued to have only eleven grades until 1941-42 when the twelfth grade was added.

What we do know is the UIL began to sponsor boys' basketball in 1915. For the next five years of basketball, the season went no further than declaring County champions. During the school year 1920-21, the UIL held its first state championship tournament. There was only one division. For the next 21 years the format was the same. All the schools within a county that wanted to, could enter a tournament for the purpose of crowning a county champion. The next

level would be the district championship. Each district would be composed of 14 or 15 counties. The winner of the district tourneys would then advance to a regional tourney composed of a given number of district winners. The regional winners competed for the state championship.

This format was changed during the 1941-42 season. At this time, districts were formed and state championships crowned in three classes, B, A and AA. In 1949, the UIL added a City Conference to the mix. This lasted through the 1951 season. The next year it was back to three state champions. However, this time there was a Class B, A-AA division and AAA-AAAA division. The next year there were champions in all five classifications. In 1955, a bi-district game was added to reduce the number of teams at regional.

The first game involving Dripping Springs found in the papers was a 13-3 victory over Driftwood in February, 1922. Most likely, Dripping Springs entered the County tourneys from the 20's on, if not before then. The main entrants were probably Buda, Dripping Springs, Kyle and San Marcos for those years. The first team actually acknowledged in the papers was the 1927-28 one. It was composed of forwards Howard Brack and John Ferrell, center Leon Moffett, guards Malcolm Lindsey and Wallace Horner, plus substitutes Norman Breed and Darrell Lindsey. This team lost 17-13 to Kyle in the finals of the County tourney.

Low scoring games were the norm due to the early rules of the game, which made it a defensive game. Two guards stayed on one end guarding their goal. The center stayed outside and around mid-court and would pass the ball around or to his forwards so they could try to score. There was no time limit in getting the ball across the half court line. Many times the guards would keep it on their end for long periods of time. Each time a basket was made, there would be a jump ball at center court. The clock would not stop except for foul shots, timeouts and jump balls. Usually about 15-minute halves. Eventually the eight-minute quarter was settled on but it would not be until the early 60's the clock would stop each time the whistle blew.

Several changes took place over the years to allow scoring to pick up. In the 20's a new rule allowed a "running guard" to go to the other end and participate in the scoring process. The other guard was known as the "standing guard" and he could not go past halfcourt at anytime, which meant only four players were involved in the scoring. That was dropped in the mid-20's. The jump ball after each point was eliminated to take away the advantage of the team with the tall center in 1938. It also gave more time for scoring. The rule that only one player shot all free throws was changed. The coaches also began to use their centers under the basket for more scoring and more defense. Most, if not all, teams used zone defenses.

It might be well to mention another fact. Basketball was supposed to be played indoors but very few gyms were ever available in the early years. Dripping Springs would not get to play in their own gym until January, 1953. This would mean most games would take place outside during the months when weather is least favorable. The backboards were usually made of wood and the framework was rickety at best. Few of the gyms available met standard dimensions, giving home teams decided advantages.

The first effort to get a gym built in Dripping Springs was in 1938. At the January board meeting, W.R. Robbins was given permission to solicit funds to build a gym. Times were hard and nothing became of the effort. Finally, Superintendent Robert Shelton was able to push through a bond issue in 1952, that would include a cafeteria, restrooms and a much-needed gymnasium on the west end of the school building. It was completed in December, 1952, and a big dedication ceremony was held to honor Dr. E. P. Shelton, by naming it for him. It had fan-shaped wooden backboards and bleachers that would hold approximately 300. It would not be until 1969, that fan donations were used to purchase square, glass backboards. A tourney in early January, 1953, christened the gym with the Tigers winning that initial tourney.

That gym would witness many dramatic games until 1985. At that time the new high school campus was built that included a bigger gym. In 1999, a much larger gym was a part of a

big wing on the west side of the campus. This has been the home of Tiger basketball since. The E.P. Shelton gym was used for the middle school games until 1995 and is still being used for team practices. In 2010, the new high school was completed and the Tigers are now playing in their fourth gym in the history of Dripping Springs basketball.

For Dripping Springs, winning a district title seemed to be a matter of bad luck and bad timing for the first four decades. Until 1941-42, basketball used the county tourney to determine a county champion. All the schools within the county were eligible to enter, regardless of size. San Marcos was the large school and usually any title had to go through them.

Behind the scoring of Norman Breed and P.D. (Darrell) Lindsey, the Tigers reached the finals and lost to San Marcos in 30-31. The next three years, no tourney results were found given as the tourney was using a round robin format. Kyle sandwiched a win between San Marcos wins. The Dudley Lindsey led team of 34-35 lost in the finals 20-12. The next year Lindsey gave it another shot and the Tigers fell 15-7 in the finals.

In 36-37, Lindsey was joined by Leroy Johnson and E.E. "Nookie" Myers. Judged the "best two teams in the tourney", DS dropped a 32-20 decision to San Marcos in the semifinals. Success finally came in 37-38 when Myers, Johnson and Damon Hollingsworth joined forces to defeat San Marcos in OT 24-21 in the semis and went on to defeat Wimberley 32-25 for the championship. Buda would keep the Tigers from reaching the finals opposite San Marcos in 38-39. Hollingsworth and Ed Gray led the Tigers back to the finals in 39-40 only to have San Marcos repel them once again 41-17. Jay Spillar was the high point man in the 40-41 tourney but a 52-8 loss to San Marcos in the semis left them with a third place finish over Henly.

After going to the district format in 41-42, the Tigers were in the district with Prairie Lea, a team that had back-to-back state championships in the mid-40's. Beginning in 48-49, the district was zoned with the Tigers playing against Buda, Kyle and Prairie Lea. It looked like the Tigers would be poised to break the jinx in 49-50. They had a team loaded with good athletes. It was led by J.F. Glosson, James "Tootie" Felps, Buddy White, Harvey Goslin and Bobby Needham, they went 8-1 in zone play and prepared to play Sam Houston in the first round of zone play. Unfortunately, in the first game of a warmup tourney at Buda, and just after scoring 30 points in the previous game, J.F. Glosson broke his foot and was not available for the playoffs and the team lost two straight to Sam Houston. The next year the Tigers repeated as zone champs behind the play of Felps, Goslin, Buzzy Needham and Perry Roberts. They would defeat Dowdy 51-44 in the first but dropped the next two to miss out again. Felps would play in the coach's All-Star game

The rest of the 50's the Tigers had to deal with a dynasty program from Kyle, that included several trips to the state tourney. The 58-59 Tiger team, led by Bobby Shelton, Clinton Crumley and Harrell Robinson, was definitely one of the best ever. The two teams split wins in district play and it looked like the Tigers might be capable of toppling Kyle's stranglehold. Just days prior to the playoff game, Shelton, the all-time school scorer, severely turned an ankle and could not perform at top speed as the team dropped the game and finished the year at 32-8.

Finally in 68-69, with the help of good luck and another Shelton, that elusive first district championship became a reality. Liberty Hill, who had won the district, was found to have an ineligible player. This necessitated a playoff with Florence for the title. The skills and floor leadership of Poe Shelton, with almost flawless accuracy from the free throw line when the going got tough late in the game, nailed down the first title ever as the team made it to regional. Other members of that championship year were Joe Williamson, Pat Lyle, Dennis Sansom, Ricky Schieffer, Cecil McIntyre, Ray Whisenant, Leon McIntyre and Paul Freitag. After a near miss the next year, the Tigers returned to the throne in 70-71 behind Lyle, Williamson, Terry Sansom and Teddy Draper.

Poe Shelton would return to his alma mater to lend his leadership skills to the basketball

program as a coach. He was just as successful from the sidelines as he was on the court. His teams won four district championships and eight more playoff teams in 22 years. The 1985-86 team, paced by the play of Pat Leonard, Don Childs and Michael Escobar, lost to Morton in the state finals. In his 22 years as head coach, his teams accrued 441 wins to become the Tigers all-time winning coach. Mark Engeling would coach the Tigers to a district championship in 2000-01 and Craig Swannack in 2013-14. The Tigers have won 9 titles and 11 other playoff appearances.

## BASKETBALL (Girls)

The road for girls basketball was most assuredly a very rocky one before smoothing out. The major obstacle from the beginning was the belief that girls were not capable and should not be involved in vigorous activities, such as sports. This was reflected in the evolution of the playing rules. The early rules were further modifications of the rules the boys were playing. First there were six players on the floor at a time. The playing court was divided into three sections. Two forwards played under the opponent's basket and were the only scorers. Two guards were stationed under the opponent's basket to prevent scoring. The two centers were limited to the middle third of the court. After each basket, the ball would be brought back to the center circle and given to one of the other team's centers. A player could not dribble more than once before having to pass the ball.

Later, the court was divided in half. There were three forwards and three guards and no one could cross the half court line. Players were now allowed two dribbles before passing. Beginning with the 51-52 season, the UIL went to unlimited dribbling. Until the rule was dropped in the mid-50's, the ball was still brought out to the center jump circle after each basket to be put in play. This put more emphasis on the ball-handling skills and guarding techniques of all players, plus the pace of the game picked up. Finally, the 78-79 season ushered in five-girl, full court basketball, after colleges had embraced the change a few years earlier.

As mentioned in the boys' basketball history, the girls got into basketball as early as possible at Dripping Springs. The 1912 picture of the girls' team with Georgia Pound Cavett as the coach was the first year Dripping Springs had high school grades to qualify.

The UIL started sponsoring girl's basketball in 1918, with play going no further than county championships. By 1928, the increasing pressure about the validity of girls playing sports, mostly from the women's physical education associations, caused the UIL to drop their sponsorship in 1928. This meant that if the girls wanted to continue playing basketball, it would be under other sponsorships. There were three organizations that offered this opportunity. The largest was the Texas High School Basketball Coaches Association with as many as 400 teams. The San Antonio Express newspaper sponsored the South Texas League and the Amateur Athletic Union. Each presented problems, mostly the lack of any strong oversight or governing body, with very few uniform rules to play by which would allow for a level playing field. It did not take long for schools to start lobbying for the UIL to once again sponsor girls' basketball. Finally, in the 40's the campaign began in earnest. For one thing, the group that most opposed girls in sports was now convinced it was not all that bad after all. Groundwork started being laid in the mid-40's and it culminated in 1950 with the sponsorship of girls basketball by the UIL. It would be several years before all the other groups would drop their sponsorship and give their blessings to the UIL.

Most of the schools playing girls basketball were from the rural towns. Because of the work ethic of all members of farm families, there was little stigma about girls participating in perceived strenuous activities. Therefore, the first year had three classes B, A and AA. Not that many AA schools played, so when it got to the state tourney, the A-AA divisions were combined

and two state champions were crowned. That lasted until 1955 when all three divisions played to state championships. The larger schools started to get in on the fun and by 1965, AAA was added and finally in the late 70's, the last classification was added.

Dripping Springs played girls basketball all through the years, although very few games were reported in the newspapers. The first game reported was an 11-0 whitewash of Driftwood on 2-11-22. It is not known at this time whether Dripping Springs joined any of the three organizations after the UIL dropped girls' basketball in 1928 or just scheduled games. Most likely, if they did it was the THSBCA.

During the 30-31 season there were scores given for eight games. Players listed on the team were guards Clell Basket and Angeline Lindsey, centers Alberta Puryear and Louella Johnson and forwards Lillie Susan Miles and Ethel Lindsey. The sub named was Ila Mae Miles. There was very little mention of games played. San Marcos hosted an invitational tourney in February, 1939. Dripping Springs lost 45-19 in the finals to San Marcos. Making the all-tourney team were Edith Goslin, Lois Huey and Juanita Schneider. Goslin was named to the all-tourney team the next year at Dowdy. Since Dripping Springs did not have a gym most of the scheduled games were played in tourneys around the area or away at schools that did have gyms. Delores Haster Conn (1934) can remember playing on the dirt courts and always keeping skinned knees for the season.

The girls seemed to have full schedules in the 40's and they were ready for entry into the UIL in 50-51. During that decade, the Tigerettes could not get past the likes of Prairie Lea, Navarro and Marion, who dominated the titles. Finally, in 59-60 there was a breakthrough. Led by leading scorer, Becky Shelton, and teammates Patricia Puryear, Sue Thompson, Gussie Myers, Mickey Davidson and Clara Rippy, the Tigerettes had their first district championship.

Oran Rippy, a 1957 DSHS graduate, became the girls' coach in 1964. Donna Pittman, the schools all-time scorer, would enter the picture in 1965. In 67-68, the Tigerettes tied Navarro but lost the playoff game. The next year, Dripping Springs would not be denied and started a string of four titles. It would be 20 years, which spanned the change to five-girl basketball and a name change (Lady Tigers) before reaching the throne room again. Jerry English would enter the scene in 1987 and began a resurgence of girls' basketball in the 90's. His teams would win seven district titles and make it to the state finals five times, winning it all in 93-94. Members of that team were Cassell Puryear, Sandi Bourland, Sarah Strait, Melanie McMullin, Tamara Crane, Katie Stienke, Chandra Moore, Jinni Touchstone, Angie Ketch, Dusty Eickenloff and Dawn Phillips. Despite competition from other sports for players, Lady Tigers' basketball has remained strong. Pecos McDaniel would be the coach a team that would reach the state semifinals in 2001-2. Girls basketball has copped 17 titles and an additional 7 playoff appearances.

## CROSSCOUNTRY

Although the sport of cross country running had been in existence for sometime, the UIL did not sponsor the sport until 1972. Dripping Springs got involved in 1971. Interest in track was expanding at Dripping Springs under track coach, Carl Waits. Schools were using it as a way to keep track prospects interested in the off-season before spring track. It was especially beneficial for the distance racers and Dripping Springs was pushing that phase of track events. It came about when the school received a brochure concerning the cross country meet in San Marcos sponsored by San Marcos Baptist Academy. It was billed as a state cross country meet. Schools came from all over to participate. At the urging of Duane Hendrickson, who had moved to Dripping Springs and had run crosscountry before, the track coach decided to give it a try and found good interest. Milers, Stuart Overton and Eldon Grumbles really enjoyed running and formed the core of the teams for their time in high school. That first year also included Gary

Draper, Gene Czimskey and Bo Henry. Others that joined along the way in the early years included Barry McNair and Tem McCutchen. Team members also found the sport fun as they traversed the course. This course, located on the old SMBA campus, was best known for a killer hill near the finish of the two-mile course. The sport evolved from an off-season type of activity to a full-blown sport with a season of its own. It now takes place in the fall and runs concurrently with football and volleyball seasons. Most athletes that participate do so because they are solely interested in that sport, but others do so as a prelude to getting ready for other sports. They put in hours of practice, go to quite a few invitational meets and vie for district, regional and state championships. The two-mile run in spring track was added because of the popularity of cross country running and giving the sport another distance event.

From 1972-79, there were only two divisions. Class A composed of the larger schools and Class B for the smaller classifications. During the 1980-83 seasons, it was expanded to 3A-4A-5A with 3A including Classes A-AA-AAA. Class 2A was added to the state championship divisions in 1984 and finally beginning with 1988, all classifications had their own champions. Girls began competing in 1975.

Until 1976 Zilker Park in Austin was the site of the state championships. Southwestern University in Georgetown provided the course for the state competition from 1977-95. Old Settlers Park in Round Rock has provided the site since 1996.

In the early years the participation was light at Dripping Springs because of the shortage of athletes that could devote full-time to the sport but nevertheless, Dripping Springs entered a team each year. It was still a sport that really did not have a coach designated for full time emphasis, as they were involved in other sports during the same season. So you would have several that would work out on their own and then others that would like to run and would take time from their other sport to run in the few meets available in the 70's. Trey Wilson could remember, he and Ernest Villareal would go out and run around the countryside, getting in shape, and then Harvey Bryant would go with the team and beat them all without a lot of workout time.

That was more or less the formula throughout the 80's as well. Usually, the track coach had the title responsibility. Missy Odom was one of the first girls to really show an interest and had such a work ethic that she would work hard on her own time. Her diligence earned her a spot in the state meet her last three years 88-90. The sport notoriety really got its jump start when Kjersten Diltz came on the scene in the early 90's. She was already an established runner and got the enthusiasm started for boys and girls. As a sophomore in 1992, she placed fourth in the state meet. The next two years she would be state runner-up. Starting with the new century, participation in quantity and quality, has really picked up. Leading this surge was Jenny Hill, who would qualify for the state meet all four years with a fourth place finish her freshmen year being the best. She was also joined by talented teammates that as a team, were ranked high in state, while winning district (2005) and earning a berth at the state meet.

The boys have not had the success at the top levels but have never been short on enthusiasm during the season. That enthusiasm was never more evident than in the mid-90's when Shawn Sultemier, Erik and Jason Hernandez were pushing for excellence in the sport. Brandon Chiuminetta placed 12<sup>th</sup> at the state meet in 2006.

The first person to be hired strictly for cross country was Steve Krupp in the early 90's. His enthusiasm for anything he did quickly rubbed off as he had his teams fired up for competition. He liked to run himself and often ran with his athletes. Anchored by Sultemier and the Hernandez brothers, the Tigers netted their first title in 1995. Upon his retirement, the mantel was passed to Marisa Maher and no beat was lost. The girls won their first district title in 2005 and in 2008 & 2009 both the boys and girls won district. The girls won the title again in 2014 & 2015, making it to state. The boys have won 3 titles and 5 other teams making it to regional

while the girls have won 5 times with 6 other teams making it to regionals.

## FOOTBALL

Unlike some of the other sports at Dripping Springs, the start of football is well documented. Eleven-man football, mostly in the colleges, was being played in the late 1800's. It is said the first schoolboy football team in Texas was Dallas High School in 1900. They got their mothers to sew their uniforms, since the school was not anxious to foot the bill for this new sport. The first claimed state title was in 1913 when Houston defeated Comanche 20-0. Until 1920, there were no official races. The champions were claimed on the basis of their record. The first official UIL state championship was played in 1920 and ended in a scoreless tie between Houston Heights and Cleburne.

All of this was well and good for the larger schools but not for the hundreds of small rural schools that dotted the state. The cost of the sport and finding enough players to field an eleven-man team was the major obstacles that could not be overcome. The UIL came up with a plan that would alleviate part of the problem and provide those schools with a chance to play football.

In other parts of the country, a game of six-man football was being played. Coach Stephen Epler of Chester High School in Nebraska invented the game in 1934. Martindale and Prairie Lea was asked to study the rules and play a demonstration game in the spring of 1938 before UIL officials to become the first six-man game played in Texas. The UIL decided to sponsor that sport in the fall of 1938. Dripping Springs would be one of 48 to answer the call but not without problems. The school principal, W.R. Robbins, went to the school board to ask for permission to enter the six-man ranks. They said it was all right with them as long as it did not cost the school anything. They asked how he proposed to pay for it and his reply was to "just take it out of my salary." Whether true or not, he was able to purchase the necessary equipment on credit from C & S Sporting Goods in Austin and the sport was up and running. The Tigers were assigned to District 3, which included Dale, Kyle, Lytton Springs, Martindale, Prairie Lea, Uhland and Wimberley.

The Tigers opened the season with the Prairie Lea Indians. The game played at Prairie Lea was attended by UIL heads, R.J. Kidd and Roy Bedicek, to give added credence to the start of a new era in football. It was an inauspicious beginning for the Tigers as they suffered a 74-6 defeat in their very first game. The demonstration game probably gave Prairie Lea a decided advantage. However, that ship was righted in a hurry with their stellar running back, E.E. "Nookie" Myers. This stoutly built senior with 10.0 speed in the 100, saw to it there would be no more district losses. They even defeated San Marcos Academy in the process. When they defeated Martindale, who had beaten Prairie Lea, the Tigers earned a share of the very first title. When Prairie Lea refused a rematch, the Tigers traveled to Victoria and played St. Joseph. In a driving rain during Thanksgiving, the Tigers lost 24-6 to finish their first season at 7-2.

To date, it is not known exactly how many touchdowns that Elbert Earl Myers scored in that initial season. In the five games where scorers were named, he had 13 scores, which accounted for about two-thirds of the scoring. The other four games, Dripping Springs scored 263 points, including 105 against Dale and another 98 against Wimberley. Probably, his scoring reached double-digits in those games. One sportswriter referred to him as "Sea Biscuit" and the fastest person he had seen on two legs. He was named to the first All-District team.

The next year was just as successful. The new marquee name was quarterback, Damon Hollingsworth. Dale and SMA were dropped from the schedule with Dowdy and Harwood taking their place. Although narrowing the gap, Dripping Springs could not solve the battle with Prairie Lea, a fate not resolved until the mid-40's. This year, the Tigers would travel to San Angelo on a Tuesday to play an exhibition game with Van Horn to show off six-man football. It



was billed as a state championship. Van Horn would come from behind to nip the Tigers 23-22 to leave Dripping Springs with a repeat 7-2 record. Hollingsworth and his end, Cecil Maxey would be named to the All-District team. Hollingsworth also received honorable mention All-American honors.

Until 1941, conferences only played to a district championship. In 1941, winners played a bi-district game. Beginning with the 1949 season, the season was extended to a regional championship. That would not change for several decades, when all classes would be allowed to play to a state championship.

The football fortunes of Dripping Springs would falter the first half of the 40's. 1946 would mark the first time Dripping Springs would hire a person, specifically, as the coach. Until that time, it was usually the principal that also acted as the coach. G. A. Pringle, Jr., with the help of some outstanding athletes, molded the program into a power to be reckoned with. Behind the leadership of Billy Breed, the 1947 team would go undefeated until losing the bi-district game. The next year was an almost champion. 1949 would be the glory team as they rode the talent of J.F. Glosson, Harvey Goslin, Thomas Johnson, Buddy White and others to an undefeated 12-0 regional championship. Glosson and Johnson would play in the six-man all-star game held at San Marcos. Goslin would play in the all-star game after the 1950 season.

After the 1950 season, Dripping Springs would make another major decision concerning football. It was put to a vote and the decision was made to take the team to the next level. Eleven-man football. The first two years had enough talent for competitive 5-5 seasons. The bottom dropped out in 1954, when injuries to key players relegated the Tigers to a 0-9 season and only six points scored. The decade would end badly as well. Dripping Springs was found to have played an ineligible player in a 1957 game and were kicked out of the UIL for the 1958 season. Their schedule was composed of five private schools.

The 1961 team had the best record in eleven man history at 6-4. Finally in 1968, Oran Rippy would coach the team to the regional finals and a 9-3 record. Dennis Sansom, Ray Whisenant, Randy Garnett and Paul Freitag headed up the leadership. Whisenant would become the first and only Tiger to play in the THSCA All-Star game. After a near-miss season in 1969, Carl Waits and the Tigers had an enjoyable first half of the 70's with titles in 1970; 73; 75. The 1970 team was headed up by Pat Lyle, the only first team all-state player in the history of the school, Joe Williamson and John Murray. The 1973 team featured the only pair of thousand yard rushers in the same season, Jay Pittman and Allen Spence, plus a solid team from top to bottom. Tem McCutchen, Daryll Keeling and Val Sanchez were three of the leaders found on the 1975 team that shared the title. The rest of the decade was made tougher by moving up to the 2A classification.

The second place team was added to the playoffs in 1982. Rick Eickenloff coached the 1985 team to a co-championship and lost out in bi-district. Don Childs, Kevin Glass and Pat Leonard were among the leaders. Glen Jones's second place 1988 team made it to the area game. Glenn Davis did likewise with the 1995 team, losing at bi-district. Howard Ballard's 1996 team was the first outright champion since the 1973 team. His 1999 and 2000 teams also made the playoffs. The 2008 team under Bob Schultz posted a 10-2 record for the most wins recorded by a Dripping Springs eleven-man team. His 2011 team (9-4) made Tiger football history by playing into the third round of playoffs. 2016 was a historic year for the Tigers under the tutelage of Galen Zimmerman. They shared the district title with Alamo Heights and Boerne Champion with a 9-1 record and then proceeded to the quarterfinals round before losing to Richmond Foster. Their 12-2 record was the most wins in a season and the farthest a Tiger team had ever advanced in the playoffs. The Tigers have had 10 titles and 6 other playoff appearances.

## GOLF

The UIL first sponsored golf in 1949, but it was limited to only a City Conference division. The next year, the UIL added the AA division. In 1951, the City Conference was dropped and the three classifications of B, A, and AA were instituted.

Dripping Springs would not be a participant until 1953. At this time, Jack Lyle, who has had a life-long interest in the game, became the first golfer to compete. He made it to regional and almost qualified for the state tourney. It would be thirteen years later before golf would be taken up. In 1966, a couple of players professed interest in the game and Carl Waits gathered up five players and entered district play, winning the title. That first team included Olen Wardlaw, Poe Shelton, Bill Crisp, Greg Phillips and Gary Garnett. The sport took off in the 70's as a trip to the regional tourney in Victoria was an annual event. Titles were garnered in 1971; 72; 76 and 79. The better players of this era were Randy Hutto, Dean Vandehey, Danny Crowder, Mike McQuiddy and Doug Cauthen.

Poe Shelton took over the reigns of the program in 1981. He coached teams to titles in 1983; 84; 86 and 88. The 86 and 88 teams earned berths to the state tourney. Heading up those years were Don Childs, Chris Childs, Jason Childs, Trent Lyle, Bruce Boggs and Clint Baty.

Since that time competition in district has gotten progressively tougher as the sport draws more specialists, limiting the chance for team honors. There have been plenty of good golfers coming through the ranks and the teams are getting better and better as more time is being spent at the sport. Patrick Rose has been among the best since the 90's. The Tigers were back-to-back champions in 2009-10. The Tigers have won 11 titles and 4 other regional appearances.

The UIL began to sponsor girls' golf in 1973. Kathy Glosson became the first girl to play the game for Dripping Springs in 1974. Very seldom since then has the program had enough girls out to qualify for a team for district play. One of those years was 1987 when the only district title was won. Despite the lack of quantity, there has not been a lack of quality. Jamie Settemeyer held all the golfing records during her stint at DSHS until Alyssa Lefevre and Lindsey Koppell arrived to rewrite them. Other golfers that made their mark were Kathryn Hawkins, Dana Higgs, Rebekah Wright and Christina Bertram. The Lady Tigers have that one title and three other appearances.

## POWERLIFTING

Powerlifting is one of those sports that evolved naturally from another activity. As coaches began to realize the benefits being derived from weightlifting, more were setting up programs for their teams. To help develop more interest in the activity and bring out the competitiveness of the athletes, contests became the natural off-shoot. It is definitely one of the fairest of competitions. Each participant is put in a class according to their weight. The weight divisions are mostly in increments of nine pounds. The contestant weighs in prior to each meet. Diet must be closely watched to be able to maintain the weight class desired.

Each contestant is required to perform three types of lifts. The dead lift, bench press and the military press. The total of your three lifts are compared to the others in your class for places. There can be quite a bit of strategy within one of these events, as well as drama as the adrenalin flows. This sport has found popularity with the boys and girls.

In 1987, Dripping Springs hired Randy Rockhold as the volleyball coach and trainer. As the trainer he set up a weightlifting program for all the athletics. It would be the first concerted effort with free weights. Rockhold would leave after two years. Kelly Broussard would come on board as a coach in 1991. He brought knowledge of the powerlifting program. He convinced head coach, Glenn Davis, that such a program would instill greater interest in the kids toward gaining strength and interest in weightlifting. Coach Davis agreed and Coach Broussard had the

program up and running for the 1992 season. After he left in 1997, Coach Brian Parks took over the program and really escalated it in numbers and excellence. They presently have a long winning streak of invitational meets and yearly send athletes to the state meet in the boys and girls divisions.

## SOCCKER

The UIL picked up the sponsorship of boys and girls soccer in 1983. Until 1999, there was only 5A playing to a championship. Schools in the other classifications had to play in that division to compete in the UIL.

Dripping Springs actually got a head start on the UIL in soccer. In 1979, a new superintendent, Jeffrey K. Lindzey, came to Dripping Springs. He was an avid soccer player and fan and pushed for a soccer program. With his urging, a soccer team was formed with Larry LeCompte as the coach. They matched up with teams in and around Austin with the games being played mostly at Zilker Park. They were 0-7 that first season. The next year they rebounded with a 6-2 record. After the school district split in 1981, Lindzey was gone and so was the soccer program. It was revived again in 1987-89 when someone thought it would be a good off-season activity for football. Outside people handled the teams.

The soccer fans of Dripping Springs began to put pressure on the school to have a soccer program. Because you still had to play outside your classification, the move was resisted. When it became evident, the school would move into 4A in the next couple of years and the UIL was going to add 4A in 1999, plans were put into effect to have a soccer program up and running for that first year. In 1997-98, the school would field an intramural-type program that would play games among themselves, as well as outside teams to get ready for the next year. Steve Krupp, who had long been a soccer supporter, was put in charge of overseeing this program.

The first UIL coach ended up being George Hamilton for the 98-99 season. There was only a boys team the first year, even so, some girls played on the team. Girls would be added the next year. The program has quickly taken off with both teams under Brian Ormande (boys) and Brandon McCallum (girls) making the playoffs every year with the 2008 girls making it to the state tournament. The boys earned that honor in 2010. The boys have 5 titles and 9 other appearances, while the girls have 8 and three.

Unfortunately, it has been a struggle to get complete individual season stats for all the years. Both teams have had some very good soccer players and among the leading scorers for the girls were Inge Harding, Angela Davis, Emily Gross and Amy Davis while the boys could boast of Joel Gross, Adam Gross, Nathan Boardman, Hayden Fowlkes and Kris Tyrpak.

## SOFTBALL

Softball was a popular sport at Dripping Springs for many decades beginning in the 1930's. It was mostly a part of the county or district spring meets, although match games were noted in some newspaper articles. Both boys and girls fielded teams. Several times during the 1940's, the girls placed high in the county meets. Softball was dropped from the program in the early 1960's.

After the colleges started reviving an interest in fastpitch softball by playing the sport, it was no surprise the high schools would soon follow. The UIL began to sponsor the sport in 1993 for 5A schools only. The next year a 3A division was added. By 1996 all but Class A was playing to a state championship. Now everyone does.

Dripping Springs got in the mix for the 1994 season. Dennis Seale, the longtime baseball

coach, was tabbed to start this program. The Lady Tigers had success from the very beginning, winning district the first three years and going to the state tournament in 1995. After Keith Tuck took over the program in 2005, he took the team to the state finals in 2006 and the semis in 2008.

The baseball field at the old high school was converted into the first softball field. It was dismantled after the 1998 season to make room for the Walnut Springs Elementary campus. By the 1999 season, the new field had been constructed at the 40-acre park and the Lady Tigers still play their home games there. A field at the new campus is planned in the near future.

The success of any fastpitch program starts with pitching and Dripping Springs has been blessed in that department. It started with Erin Fasel, followed by Keely Tucker, Tiffanie Ohnheiser, Sara Kinney, Nikki Brown, Paige Sandahl and Brandi Needham. However, the domination of the pitcher has been reduced since 2011 when the distance was extended to 23 feet. The Lady Tigers have won 13 titles and four other appearances.

## SWIMMING

Although there had been some pressure to start up a swim program at Dripping Springs during the 1990's, it was still left up to outside interests to carry on programs using local pools at Founders Park and the Springs. Part of the reason was so few schools were participating around the area, perceived interest and budgetary considerations.

Quite by accident, Dripping Springs got into the swim business in 2000. It seems Rachel Parmer moved to Dripping Springs to start the school year and was an accomplished diver. The sophomore went to Athletic Director, Poe Shelton, to look for someone from the school to go with her to meets so she could compete. That is all she asked for. Knowing that Coach Howard Ballard had swimming experience in his background, Coach Shelton asked if he would be willing to do this for Rachel. He agreed. A short while later, another student, Nikki Richburg, asked to join as a swimmer and just like that, Dripping Springs started up the swim program.

For a couple of years, Eric Capalupo coached the swim team and then Andrea McCarthy, who had run the Founders Park pool program for a few years, took over and has taken the program to another level with strong contingencies making runs for state championships each year. The boys team won the district championship in 2009 and 2012 and the girls in 2011 and 2012 under McCarthy. Lindsey Rock took over and both teams won the district title in 2013.

Even though the sport has not been at Dripping Springs that long, it has had some real quality in the program. Timothy Wylie (2010) and Jessica Shepard (2012) were state champions in the 100 Backstroke. while Jessica Shepard was also second in the 200 Individual Medley. Timothy Wylie (2011) placed third in the 100 Freestyle and 100 Backstroke. Aidan Fumagalli (2012) also picked up a third in the 100 Breaststroke. Madie Locus made it to state as a freshman, then moved to Houston.

Since the school does not have a pool, the team uses the pool at the YMCA Springs for their practices. The boys and girls teams have won four district titles each.

## TEAM TENNIS

Team tennis is another sport that just kind of happened at Dripping Springs. Team Tennis had been around for some time. The UIL began sponsoring the sport in 1983. Just like many sports under the UIL, it was limited to classes. Only the 5A and 4A classifications were allowed to play to state championships. The smaller schools that had active tennis programs were left out unless they wanted to go against the larger schools.

Team tennis adds a new dimension to the sport of tennis. The focus is not on individual performance but of team points versus the team you are playing. Participants get to play singles

and doubles, as well as mixed, unlike tennis, which limits numbers and events. Each match contributes to the final point totals. More players get to play because there are more matches.

In the early 90's, Howard Ballard and Melissa Koopman were the tennis coaches. Dripping Springs has always had a good interest in tennis. While playing in a tourney that included Mason during the 93-94 season, they were approached by the Mason coach and he noted they had a good program and wondered if they would be interested in team tennis. Coach Ballard said this was the first time he had even heard of the sport. Mason and others, being smaller schools, did not want to compete with the larger schools. So they had formed an organization for the smaller schools to be able to compete in team tennis. Because they were smaller schools, the rules had to be adjusted to account for the fact, good athletes had to play in many sports for the smaller schools. The schools would play tournaments around during the fall season and then just prior to the tennis season would have the district, regional and state tournament with the thought that the tennis players would then be free to give full time to tennis.

Dripping Springs decided to give it a try in 94-95. Until the hiring of Greg Howard in 1996, tennis coaches at Dripping Springs were basically part-time, with other school duties. Coach Howard took over the tennis program and was able to give his time to full seasons in the fall and spring. Team tennis reached the state tourney in 1998 under the 3A system and then entered the UIL version in 1998 when Dripping Springs moved up to 4A. Since that time, Dripping Springs has won district titles in 2000, 2008 and 2009, as well as, making seven other appearances at the regional tourney.

## TENNIS

Spring tennis has always been a sport of interest for Dripping Springs. The UIL began sponsoring the sport in 1914 and then added doubles and girls in 1919 and 1920. Tennis was a part of the county and district spring meets. The earliest anyone can remember Dripping Springs playing tennis was 1940. The first mention in the newspaper was Wilma and Edith Goslin winning the county doubles title in 1941 and advancing to a third place finish at the district meet. Since then the yearbooks all mention tennis teams. Unlike today, because of time and coaching constraints, players were mostly left to their own devices for practice and the official season was short, consisting mostly of the district tourney and beyond.

Facilities have not always been the best or adequate. In the 40's, they had a caliche court at the Dripping Springs Academy location. When they moved the campus in 1948, they still had to play on dirt until they were able to come up with an asphalt court. Practical practice during the 60's and early 70's took place in the gym or other courts. Two courts were built in 1976. By this time Lakeway was going strong and students from that area had the added advantage of courts available there. Private courts around were still needed to accommodate the players practice schedules. Four courts came with the new 1985 high school campus and four more when the Middle School came on line in 1995. The high school added another four to help alleviate some of the shortage. The new campus will have top of the line courts available in early 2011.

Like most other sports, as the school system grows and participants become available, people are hired specifically for that purpose when they have enough people to make a full-time season feasible. Barbara Lewis and other interested people handled the duties for many years. Greg Howard, in 1996, was the first person that was hired specifically to be the tennis coach and not have other coaching duties. Since that time, all the coaches hired have had tennis backgrounds. Despite having a good program and good players, Dripping Springs has had to contend with being in the same district with tennis hotbeds from Lake Travis, New Braunfels and now the Leander schools, to keep them out of district championships. A list of Dripping Springs'

individual district champions can be found in the athletic records section.

### TRACK (Boys)

Track was the first sport sponsored under the UIL. This was done in 1911. Previous to that time, the University of Texas had begun to sponsor an invitational track meet in 1905 and had billed it as the state meet. The UIL took over from there. A scarcity of papers during the early days left a void as to whether Dripping Springs entered any of the early competitions or not. The earliest mention of the county meet was in 1922 and it gave some of the events that would be held. For the boys, it was the 50, 100, 440 relay, high jump, broad jump and chinning. We do know that W.A. Lyle received a medal for winning the pole vault in 1917 at the county meet.

The next year, 1923, Dripping Springs was a part of the county meet and had participants place in all the years mentioned in the papers. Those results and many others through the years can be found in the Track-District Meet results found in the athletic records division. Like other sports, track had several levels of competition. It would start with the county meets. The winners there would advance to a district meet made up of a given number of county meets. From there a regional meet and on to the state meet. From 1931-41, before districts replaced county meets, the smaller schools were put in a Class B designation and the state qualifiers had their state meet at the campus of North Texas State College in Denton, Texas instead of Austin like the rest of the schools.

Under that plan, E.E. "Nookie" Myers, placed fourth in the 100 at regional and qualified for state in 1939, his senior year. Illness prevented him from making the trip. The next year, Damon Hollingsworth went there in the javelin throw. Myers has been the most dominant man in Dripping Springs' track history. He won the 100 and 220 dashes all four years with best times of 10.0 and 23.5. A second place in the broad jump his senior year kept him from sweeping that event as well. Raymond Whisenant, in the mid-40's was another one-man gang with 46 converted points in the 1946 district meet. The next year he would again be the high point man with 32 converted points.

Scoring in the meets in the early years was usually 5-3-2-1 for four places and relays were valued at the same points. That is why many talented track individuals were never used in the relays. They could score more points for their team as individuals. Later in the mid-40's the scoring went up to 10-8-6-4-2-1 and relays 16-10-6-4-2-1. Eventually, the relay points were doubled, enticing the better individuals to be members of the relay teams and those records started plummeting.

Dripping Springs used a few good individuals to win the county meet in 1940 and district titles in 1946; 47 and 1950. District titles were missing in the 50's and 60's. Finally, the strategy of mass participation over individual talent worked for Carl Waits. He was able to coax 40-50 participants out for track, usually having 25-30 entered in the varsity district meet. Three people would be entered in every event. Place points would be gotten in most events and big totals in the stressed events of high and intermediate hurdles, 880 and mile runs. 20-25 people would score points. One district meet, only two first places were garnered yet the team won going away. The Tigers placed second in 1970, then won district titles in 71; 72; 73; 74 and second in 1975. During that span, many athletes qualified for regional but only a mile relay (Russell Andrus, Tem McCutchen, Val Sanchez, Barry McNair) in 1975 and Tem McCutchen, 880, who placed fourth in the state meet in 1976, made it to state. Others that really pushed track during the late 60's and early 70's were Thomas Combs, Sonny Knutson, Roy Gay, Teddy Draper, Stuart Overton, Eldon Grumbles (qualified for regional all four years in the mile) and Harvey

Bryant.

The sport of track has taken some hits since that time. In those days, football coaches were using the track as off-season programs and were able to get more participants involved in the sport. As Dripping Springs moved up in classification, so did the quality of the other programs. This meant the other schools would have good athletes in every event and being able to get multiple places in events was not as likely. The sport evolved into one that only involved those with good ability or a strong interest. Another problem was the competition for the good athlete from the other sports. As each sport had coaches with that specific interest, the push to choose and specialize became prevalent with few encouraging multi-sport athletes during the spring season. Given the choice of going through strenuous two-hour workouts or taking a lesser strenuous sport, many that could help strengthen the sport opt out. Regardless, track is still the best way to find out what one is really made of, as a competitor and a person.

Seldom in the past three decades has Dripping Springs had enough depth to seriously contend for a district title. However, that did not mean the Tigers did not have quality. They have consistently sent athletes to the state meet each year. Travis Couey (1997) and Brandon Chuiminetta (2007) were state champions in the 800 meter dash. Others making their mark include Richard Johnson, John Russell, Kevin Adrian and Steven Galli (2014) second at state in the 1600 run. Bill Greene was able to change the fortunes when his teams took titles in 2009, 2010 and 2014. The Tigers have eleven titles.

### TRACK (Girls)

Girls track has been around for a long time but the same belief that girls should not be participating in strenuous activities struck a nerve in track as well. The 1922 county meet listed these events for girls. They included the 30 dash, 50 dash and 220 relay, plus the potato race, shuttle race, basketball throw and standing broad jump. Any actual competition never made it past the county meet level. During research only one mention of girls in track was a fourth place finish in the 50 by Thelma Glosson in 1923. There were pictures of a girls' track team in the 1954 and 1956 yearbooks.

In the early 60's, the Texas High School Girls Coaches Association started sponsoring track. Dripping Springs got involved in 1966-67 and with the exception of the next year, began to compete in track each year. They sent a good contingency to the state meet in each of the early years. Some of the early participants that did well in track were Betty Odell, Donna Pittman, Cherry Boone, Vickie Brotherton, Debra Spillar, Johnna Nichols, Kathy Pittman, Diane White, and Tina Gillis. Finally, the UIL began to sponsor girls track in 1971-72. Like the boys, seldom has participation in numbers been enough to contend for district titles. It takes the enthusiasm of the coach to get them excited about the working willingness it takes to compete well. The team did so in placing second in 1976. Marisa Maher is doing that in the 2000's by getting more interest. They won the first district title ever in 2005 and followed that up with titles in 2009-10. Even so, girls track has always had good representation at the regional and state meets in most years. Always, one has to have those individuals that show the way by example. Those that come to mind are Missy Odom, Kjersten Diltz, the Stewart girls, Carrie, Ticer, Meagan and Dakota, Christyn Schumann, Jenny Hill, Bethany Hogan, Kate Hassman and Bailey Johnson.

### VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball has been as popular with the girls as any sport during the history of Dripping

Springs' sports. It may have been started as early or even earlier than basketball. Do know that in some newspaper articles during the years when basketball was not being sponsored by the UIL, while the boys were playing a basketball opponent, the girls would be playing that same school in volleyball. Up until the UIL sponsored volleyball during the school year 1966-67, volleyball was a part of the spring meet but did not go beyond that level. It was first played in the county meets until districts were formed in 1941-42. Boys and girls had teams and both played softball as well. This would also be the time the track meet, tennis tourney and literary events were held. Schools got points for all the events and it was a big deal to be the overall champion of the county or district.

The earliest documented championship was the 1941 county meet. The team composed of Wilma Goslin, Edith Goslin, Cleo Nell Gage, Lillian Hollingsworth, Joyce Huey, Lula Sanders and Louella Williamson won that first title. Dripping Springs won several other titles in the 40's and another in the 50's. Volleyball has collected more district championships (27) than any other sport and earned another six playoff appearances.

Although Dripping Springs had always fielded a volleyball team, a glitch kept them from being entered in the very first year that it was UIL-sponsored. This was 1966-67. Oran Rippy, the girls coach, said he fully expected to be entered in district play but found out the superintendent had sent in the acceptance card with the No checked without conferring with him. Dripping Springs had decided to start up a track program that same year and he assumed that sport had been chosen over volleyball, instead of the possibility of doing both. Even so, Dripping Springs had a volleyball team, as well as the next year. Paul Allen, the new high school principal in 1968-69, decided he would coach the girls volleyball team that year. He did not enjoy the experience and Dripping Springs did not field another team until the 1972-73 season. At that time Barbara Nixon Ernst was hired to start up the volleyball program and volleyball was up and running again. Volleyball had always been played in the spring because of the spring meet format and so stayed in that time slot for the first few years. The problem was that Title IX was passed in 1972 that mandated the girls should have equal opportunity in sports in the schools. This means most sports had to be offered for boys and girls or the equivalent. This caused a glut of sports in the spring time slot with track, tennis, baseball and golf competing. Finally, in 1975-76, the sport was moved to the time slot opposite football in the fall.

This allowed the sport to have a pre-school practice schedule, just like football and actually started play before the first football game of the year. That way, the season did not overlap very much with basketball. Even so, it was met with opposition from the basketball programs. Many schools early on, did not play volleyball at all. Mostly, this came from the schools with well-established basketball programs and did not want any interference with their time and players. When they could not stop the program, some coaches were able to get off-season workouts during the fall in their favor during the school day. Most of the larger schools had volleyball before they played basketball, so the resistance was less.

There was no hesitation for Dripping Springs because it was just a continuance of a sport they had played for decades. The zenith was 1994 when the Lady Tigers prevailed as the 3A State Champs. This occurred during Melissa Koopman's reign of seven consecutive district championships (89-95). Leading that team was Jinni Touchstone. She was joined by Tamara Crane, Amanda Carter, Darby Broussard, Brenda Johnston, Jesse McIlvain, Angie Ketch and Caitlin Rhodes.

Success did not stop there. Jeff Coward took his 2004 team to the regional finals and Michael Kane made it to the state semi-finals in 2013 and state finals in 2014. It was back to the ultimate in 2015 when the third time was the charm and the Lady Tigers behind the play of Morgyn Greer, Ashley Waggle, Madison Green, Autumn Rounsaville, and others defeated Lucas Lovejoy for the 5A state championship. Volleyball has the most sport titles with 27, plus another



six playoff appearances.

## WRESTLING

Wrestling got its start like most recent sports at Dripping Springs. A group of people showed interest and made inquiries to the school about adding the sport. The school, not wanting to jump into something that had a chance to bomb out in a few years, was sympathetic but required proof there was to be sustainable interest to justify the monetary support that would be needed. In 2009, parent, Richard McLemore approached athletic director, Howard Ballard, about the possibility of adding wrestling to the list of school sports. At the time, the school was not interested in adding any sports because of financial restrictions but did allow the group to use the school facilities as a school club by the name of Team Elite and Mark Ribera helped run it for a couple of years. The DSYSA organization is now sponsoring wrestling under their umbrella for the youngsters. Many of the older wrestlers train at the 3F Fitness Club at Bee Cave.

In 2012, DSISD petitioned the UIL to be put in a wrestling district and were assigned the district that included the Austin schools. Tracy Neef agreed to be the surrogate coach for the three boys that wanted to enter, including her son, George. The other two were Ben Silliman and Scott Hodsden. 2013 was the year Dripping Springs would get serious by having a program. As it turned out, the coaching staff already had a coach that had some wrestling experience when he was in school and knew a little bit about it. He was Jonathan Hayhurst. There was still the problem of a place to practice and the money for necessary items such as the official mat. The place was solved when the old elementary gym on the school administration campus was secured. It was built for the elementary students in the early 1980's, just after the split, before the elementary schools were built elsewhere. It was then used for the sixth grade PE classes. After the move away in 1995, it was mostly used as a storage barn. It was then cleared to use as part of the school day care center play area. It was agreed the wrestling team could use the facility early in the morning before the kids would be using it. Now, it was time to solve the monetary issue. A presentation by Coach Hayhurst and interested parents to the Athletic Booster Club was made and the Booster Club agreed to fund the start up, including the official mat that was needed to practice on. It was allowed to stay attached to the gym floor rather than having to roll it up and stow it away each day and reinstall the next day.

The confidence shown by the school and booster club was rewarded by the result of that first full year of the school-sponsored sport. Around fifteen students, who compete by weight divisions, greeted Coach Hayhurst for that first season and four qualified for the state tourney. They were Jonah Ribera (126), Jordan Ribera (152), Luke Hodsden (160) and Noah Embry (220). To top that off, Jonah Ribera was crowned the state champion in his division. So the bar has been set pretty high already for this sport.

## Dripping Springs Adult Slowpitch Softball History

The sport of adult slowpitch softball started to become popular in the mid-1960's and really caught fire in the early 70's. The popularity of community adult baseball was waning in the 60's and fastpitch softball did not appeal to many regular baseball enthusiasts due to it being a pitcher-dominated sport with little hitting and little need of defensive skills. Slowpitch's popularity stemmed from the fact everyone could get in on the act of hitting the ball and good defensive skills were a must. It also gave the graduates of little league baseball an outlet to continue a game they had participated in and knew the basic rules of.

The founder of the Dripping Springs league, Carl Waits, was first introduced to the game in the summer of 1970 and he would play with a team from Temple, Texas, where he spent his

summers working for his uncle. Finally, an opportunity occurred in 1975 and the Dripping Springs league was formed. For a few years in the early 70's, the interest in high school baseball had waned and the sport was dropped after the 1974 season when the coach would have to draft a player or two to make nine and finish the season. This would leave the baseball field vacant for the spring months. It was unavailable for the summers because that is when the Dripping Springs Little League program played their games on the field.

So with just a little talking it up, eight teams were quickly signed up and there would be four games played each Tuesday and Thursday night from March to May. There were 126 charter members play in the league that year. The league took off and has never looked back with thousands of people having played in the league since. Today, there are usually 15-20 teams that play each year.

From the very beginning, the softball league was deemed a recreational league for the community. Since the field to be used was the high school field, eligibility rules were put in place so that players had to meet these rules to be able to play in the league. Basically, all of the rules had something to do with the DSISD system. Most notably, a person had to either live in the district, pay school taxes, work within the district or had attended school here to play. There were other rules passed for special situations, such as for church teams, over the years, but for the most part, the league has always been for the people of the Dripping Springs community and their enjoyment.

In 1980, baseball was reinstated at the high school level. The little league was still using the field in the summers, so the softball and baseball teams worked it out to where the softball league could continue to use the field in the spring alongside the baseball team, with the high school team having the priority on scheduling. This would last until 1986 when the high school team moved over to the new campus and played on a new field, leaving the old high school field to the softball league again. Meanwhile, the little league had decided to play their season in the spring instead of the summers and therefore developed fields of their own. In 1984, the softball league decided to add a summer league to the program. Teams were a little skeptical that first year as only four teams entered and most games were combined efforts as teams did not have enough to show up for the scheduled games. That was never a problem beginning in 1985 and since that time, except for a few circumstances that will be described later, there has remained a spring and summer league each year. More teams usually enter in the summer leagues because the little league program is over and more people have the time to enjoy the game themselves.

It was back to a shared format in 1994, when high school girls fastpitch softball was installed and had to use the old baseball field as their home field. For a couple of years they played with the open baseball field but later decided to put in a temporary 200-foot fence for their season. The men's league would have to wait until the final home game in April to take down the fence and hold their two league seasons. As it turned out, 1997 would be the final year to use the old baseball field for league play. It had been decided to build Walnut Springs Elementary on that campus and it would include the land now occupied by the field, so as soon as the 1998 high school season was ended, construction began and the field came down.

This left the men's league in a quandary. There did not appear to be any place big enough to have adult games. The DSYSA came to the rescue. They had one baseball field that would work out and since the little league season was over before the summer, it was offered to the league for the summer and league play was limited to the summer for 1998-99. During the 1999 season, the City had acquired a donation of land from Brown-Karhan for a park and turned it into a place where the adults would be able to have two fields, something they had never had, for the growing program. The adults got busy clearing the area and the school agreed to pay for excavation of the fields in exchange for not taking a field spot in the new 40-acre park. The adults were able to get one playing field ready for action by the end of May, 2000 for another

summer league only. Finally, in 2003, enough money was available to complete the second field, which allowed for twice as many games each night of play.

Just when it looked like the adults had an ideal spot to play their games for years to come, another bump in the road. The school had decided to convert the middle school into a new high school campus by adding another 50 acres to it. In addition, they decided they wanted the 14 acres of Karhan Park as well for the eventual football stadium. The City and DSISD made a deal to swap properties and the Dripping Springs Adults Softball Association was once again without fields to play on. The school agreed to finance the building of two fields at the Sports and Recreation Park, one to be carved out of the hillside and the other being the unused JV baseball field.

As bureaucratic agencies go, even though the two entities had over a year of warning before the fields had to be vacated in August, 2009 and knowing the start of the 2010 season was around March 1, foot-dragging took place. The school finally made an agreement to give the city a sum of money to hopefully cover the work ahead. It was near the end of 2009 and bids had to be let and work did not begin until early February, 2010, which did not leave enough time to successfully complete the project by season start, even in good weather. However, it was a rainy season delaying work on one field. The JV field was finally completed in to time to have one field ready two weeks after the season should have begun. Money and supplies ran short on the upper field and it was not available for the spring season at all. It was made playable for part of the summer season but still needed work and dirt that would also delay its use for the spring of 2011 as well. Both fields have been in full use since the summer of 2011, with improvements continuing to be made to improve what has turned out to be a very good location for adult softball once again. Everyone hopes this will be a permanent move for adult softball.

During the 39 years of this league's existence, there have been many changes take place in the game. First was the dimensions of the playing fields. In the early days, fastpitch fields were converted to slowpitch. This meant the bases were 60 feet between and the pitcher tossed the ball from 46 feet away and the fences were short. It soon became obvious the ability to hit the ball in slowpitch needed some changes in the ball parks. Sixty feet proved too short and in the early 1980's, bases were extended to 65 feet, the pitcher back to 50 and regulation fences were a minimum of 300 feet. In 2013, the bases were moved back to 70 feet but the pitching plate remained the same 50 feet.

In the beginning the ball was the cork-centered one used by fastpitch. Usually, the leagues would furnish the balls. It did not take long for everyone to realize that type of ball did not last very well with all the hitting that takes place in this game. Leagues started requiring the teams to furnish their own balls to hit and later manufacturers made a hard plastic core that made balls more durable and would go much farther. Because of the danger the more high-powered balls represented, the national organization has taken steps to rectify this by requiring ball manufactures to make balls with a built-in cushion that slows down the ball and gives more reaction time to the fielders.

Bats also entered into the equation. The first bats were wooden but like balls, manufacturers started to make metal bats for durability and the ability to hit a ball harder and farther. It got to the point, again for the safety of the players, the national organization had to put standards on the bats produced to cut down the distance and speed of the ball and to put defense back into the game.

The DSASA league has kept complete records on all the players that have competed in the league over the years. This would not have been possible without competent and loyal scorekeepers. Carolyn Sue "Susie" Waits has been the scorekeeper from day one. In the beginning, she and Louise Prescott shared the duties and worked for free in the early years. Louise got involved with other activities and the full duty fell to Susie until the league got two

fields in 2003 and Louise came back on duty.

## Women's History

It did not take long into the men's inaugural season for the women to make it known they wanted in on the fun as well. So, in 1976 the women had a league of their own and they would play on Monday nights. That first year four teams answered the bell. For some reason, the scorebooks of that first year were lost and we do not have any records of individuals but fortunately, the school yearbook thought enough of the sport to include it and we do know the names and records of the four teams. It caught on just like the men in enthusiasm. The women have not been as prolific in forming teams as the men. The peak year was 1984 when eight teams entered. There were a few years with seven teams but for most years it has been six and under with four being the norm for many years, but it may be making progress in the last few years as a few more teams have entered. 1990 was a pivotal year. As the deadline neared for the start of the season, no team had entered. Susan Mock, an enthusiastic player from early on, decided she was not ready to give up playing and would have none of it. She got on the phone and lined up at least 50 people that wanted to play. They had a meeting and drew for four teams and the league continued.

Much of the problem lies with finding people willing to be a manager and hold a team together. It can take a lot of one's time trying to keep a team on the field. Many want to play but not manage. Two of the early managers that stayed with it for a good while were Joe Spillman and Ira Ruston. Joe, along with Swede Burklund, managed a team that first represented Fitzhugh Baptist, then later changed sponsors. Ira led the Friendship Baptist teams for many years until his death. He just loved the game. Later, Sheryl Brown put together a dominant team, Who Knows, that won all seven years they played in the league during the 1990's. Glenn Bryant brought in the Wild Wimberley Women in 2002. They won that first year, lost the second and have not lost since.

The history of the league has always been one of the haves and the have nots. Usually, one or, at most, two teams would work toward putting the best team possible together while the rest were more interested in the recreational side of having fun and playing with friends. Unfortunately, except for only a couple of times, there have not been the opportunity to split the league for better competition among like teams. The shell-shock of difference in competition has caused many teams over the years to give it up after a season or two and that makes it hard to build up the program. Nevertheless, the league has always had its core of players that really enjoy the game and have managed to play year after year to assure that the league will continue until a revitalization of teams will occur.

One of the most amazing things that occurred in the women's league did so in 1981. That was the year that June Collins participated in the league for the Lady Outlaws. She attended Dripping Springs in the early 1960's. What was so special about June. Well, June was legally blind. She was able to memorize where everything at the field was. She would measure off the steps to all bases. The only help she required was to have someone give a voice signal when the ball left the pitcher's hand. She was uncanny in her ability to hit the ball and run the bases. She would even slide at the appropriate time and never missed a base. She would hit .381 on the season. She was the catcher and seldom missed a pitch and threw the ball accurately back to the pitcher every time. She was a real pleasure to watch and it was a disappointment that she did not play after that year. Over the years, the women's league has had some very outstanding players compete but they would be hard-pressed to match the accomplishments of June Johnson Collins.

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Others giving their time to past history were Delores Conn, Willie May Haydon, Beulah Needham, Mike Davidson, Bill Breed, Buzzy Needham, Richard Stark, Mickey Kroll, Betty White, Nancy Glosson, LaVerne Gage, Poe Shelton, Lila Gillespie, Betty and Clarence Cobb,