

**The material below on the “pre-U.I.L.” (e.g., before 1951) girls basketball champions is not found elsewhere as Dr. Wilbanks researched the three pre-U.I.L. leagues described below via newspaper archives and interviews with team members. The current A.A.U. was not even aware that it crowned state girls champions from 1925-1950 and had no records. Narratives of the pre-U.I.L. champions are given below and later files give photos of teams from the pre-1951 era.**

## **Waco, Dimmitt & Mesquite dominated TX girls basketball in 1920’s, 1930’s & 1940’s**

**The history of girls basketball in Texas is well documented after 1951 when the University Interscholastic League (U.I.L.) held its first state tournament in Austin. Most fans are aware that schools such as Nazareth (18 state titles), Canyon (13 titles) and Levelland (7) have dominated girls basketball in recent years and that earlier such schools as Claude (6), Waco Midway (6), Duncanville (6) and Abernathy (6) were dominant. But what about the “pre-U.I.L.” years of 1920-1950?**

**In the 25 years from 1925-1950 there were two organizations that held state tournaments to decide state championships for high school girls. In 1925 the Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) held its first state tournament in Texas for high school girls teams in Waco with the host school, Waco H.S., winning the first state title. Waco also claimed to have been “state champions” in five of the six previous years (1919, 1920, 1921, 1922 & 1924) by virtue of compiling the best record in its region (Central Texas) and defeating teams with the best records in other regions (e.g., North TX, East TX) in “match games.” Canton and Munday both claimed the 1923 state title after playing to a tie in a match game at Munday.**

**From 1925 to 1950 the high school team from the host city won 11 of the 25 state A.A.U. championships and 19 different schools won a state title. Mesquite won 3 state A.A.U. titles and Breckenridge, Dimmitt, Allison and**

**Quinlan won 2 each. The TX state A.A.U. high school champion and runner-up were invited each year to the national A.A.U women's tournament in Missouri (or Kansas).**

**In 1939 the “High School Girls Basketball League of Texas” (HSGBLT) was organized by L.C McKamie of Abbott and held state tournaments in Hillsboro and Waco from 1939-1954. Aquilla and Dimmitt each won 3 HSGBLT state titles and East Chambers and Seagoville each won 2. For 4 years from 1948-1951, the Texas HSGBLT champion played a match game(s) against the Iowa girls high school champion.**

**There was some “overlap” between the two “old” leagues and the U.I.L. as both the A.A.U. and the HSGBLT crowned “state” champions in 1939-1950 and the HSGBLT and the U.I.L. both crowned champions in 1951-1954. Considering the A.A.U. and HSGBLT together a total of 42 state champions were named in 25 years. Dimmitt won a total of 5 AAU/HSGBLT state titles over the 25 years while Mesquite won a total of 4. A total of 255 state champions were named by the U.I.L. from 1951-2008.**

**To complicate matters further, a third “state” tournament –The Golden Girls Tournament--was held in San Antonio from 1948-1953. This tournament was sponsored by Perry Winkle of the San Antonio Express News and crowned 15 “state” champions from 1948-1953 with the 3 years from 1951-1953 overlapping with the UIL Tournament in Austin. Thirty schools from the San Antonio area participated in a playoff format that sent four teams to a “final four” in San Antonio on Feb. 14, 1948. The last Golden Girls Tournament was held in 1953 and included 28 teams deciding champions in 4 classifications. The tournament might accurately be described as “a” state tournament but certainly not “the” state tournament. In fact, in 1951-53 it appears that most of the entries also played in the UIL playoff system. In retrospect the Golden Girls was more akin to a regional tournament. A description of the 15 championship teams will be given later in this chapter. Photos of and narratives about the championship teams from the Texas AAU, the HSGBLT and the Golden Girls will be presented later files.**

**See File #10 in Girls Folder for total wins for girls in UIL, HSGBLT and AAU from 1925-2011**

## **THE "HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL LEAGUE OF TEXAS"**

**The University Scholastic League (UIL) began its girls state high school tournament in 1951 in Austin but was not the first organization to crown state high school girls champions. From 1939-1954 the "High School Girls' Basketball League of Texas" (HSGBLT) held a state high school girls tournament in Waco**

(1939-41; 1950-1954) and Hillsboro (1942-1949) and crowned 17 state champions in 15 years. For the first 15 years there was only one champion for all classes but in the last two years there were 1A & 2A champions. L.C. McKamie of Abbott (and later Hillsboro) was the founder and director of the League for its 17 years. He was later Supt. at Hillsboro and Gatesville where he spent the last 24 of his 50 years as a school administrator/coach. The football field at Gatesville remains today, "McKamie Stadium."

Few records of that League survive but the summary below was researched and prepared by Dr. Billy Wilbanks for his website:

[www.TexasBasketballChamps.com](http://www.TexasBasketballChamps.com) --a non-profit venture. The information comes largely from the Waco Tribune-Herald supplemented by information provided by surviving members of the teams.

## GIRLS STATE CHAMPIONS FROM HSGBLT FOR 1939-1954

Year	Class	Champion	Runner-up	Score	Season	Coach	All Tournament/Other
1939	All	<a href="#">Gatesville</a>	Meadow	52-25	40-2	Fred G. Schwartz	Margaret Weaver/Zoriada Thon
1940	All	<a href="#">Wayside</a>	Mobeetie	41-24	36-0	Leroy Roberts	Lahoma Payne/Neva Moore/Lu
1941	All	<a href="#">Ennis</a>	Anton	34-29		J.D. Warren	Maydean Armstrong/Doris Nell
1942	All	<a href="#">Borger</a>	Emory	38-33	32-1	Faye Langford	Dolores Vann/Helen Miller/Paul
1943	All	No Tournament					
1944	All	<a href="#">Aquilla</a>	Friona	20-17	31-0	John Cox	Myra Jean Burleson/Mary Fran
1945	All	<a href="#">Aquilla</a>	Hermleigh	34-29	26-1	John Cox	Myra Jean Burleson/Pauline O
1946	All	<a href="#">Aquilla</a>	Friona	29-26	35-0	John Cox	Audine Odom/Edith Gerick/Pau
1947	All	<a href="#">East Chambers</a>	Stanton	24-22	44-0	J.D. Hutson	Mary Ann Wilson/Emily McBrid
1948	All	<a href="#">Mesquite</a>	Maydelle	37-35	37-2	S.H. Shipley	Joan Miller/Dora Davis/NanTho
1949	All.	<a href="#">Seagoville</a>	East Chambers	26-24(2OT)	35-5	Jimmy Phillips	Patsy Pharr/Patsy Anderson/W
1950	All	<a href="#">Dimmitt</a>	Seagoville	42-32	33-2	J.W. Blaine	Lometa Odom/Maurene Smiths
1951	All	<a href="#">Dimmitt</a>	Cotton Center	36-30	35-2	J.W. Blaine	Lometa Odom/Johnny Godfrey
1952	All	<a href="#">Dimmitt</a>	New Deal	32-21	37-0	J.W. Blaine	Lometa Odom/Mitzi Wilson
1953	1-A	<a href="#">Maydelle</a>	Bullard	44-43	37-3	Floyd Dotson	Freida Hanson/Helen Jenkins
1953	2-A	<a href="#">East Chambers</a>	Gatesville	38-23	44-1	J.D. Hutson	Margaret Menard/Wanda Regia
1954	1-A	<a href="#">Penelope</a>	Midway-McLenn	56-55		R.E. McAfee	Evelyn Kolar/Charlene Hodde/N
1954	2-A	<a href="#">Seagoville</a>	Abbott	30-29		Jimmy Phillips	Patsy Akin/Joann Dickerson/Ap

HSGBLT-1	<b>1939</b>	<b>Gatesville wins its only title</b>
All classes	<b>GATESVILLE</b>	<b>in first year of HSGBLT</b>

**Gatesville defeated Meadow, 52-25, in the final; Rising Star, 30-23, in the semi-final; Bullard, 23-21, in the quarter-final and Courtney, 39-21, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the first annual "High School Girls' Basketball League of Texas" (HSGBLT) tournament in Waco at the McLean gym at Baylor on March 16-18, 1939. Eighteen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their district titles—Gatesville defeated Jonesboro, 48-12, in the district tournament final. The League operated from 1939-1954 and was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards. Before the state tournament the Hornettes were named the champions of Central Texas after defeating West, Abbott and Aquilla. As Cen-Tex champions, Gatesville then defeated Mesquite, the champion of North Texas and Taylor, the champion of South Texas in "match games."**

**Gatesville "seemed to have the jitters" in the 1<sup>st</sup> round game at the state tournament against Courtney and missed most of its shots trailing 9-8 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter . However, an 11-3 run gave the Hornettes a 20-11 lead and turned the game into a rout as Gatesville won by 18 points. Courtney went on to win the consolation championship. The Hornettes trailed Bullard in the semi-final by five points with 3 minutes left but Shoaf made 2 FGs and Weaver made a "crip shot" to give the Hornettes the lead. The game was tied with one minute left when Shoaf made the winning FG and Gatesville "played keepaway" until the game ended. Meadow jumped out to an 8-0 lead in the final but Gatesville led 21-17 at the half and blew the game open in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half winning by 27 points. The taller Hornettes dominated the inside and received outstanding defensive play by Zoriada Thomason who "shackled" the diminutive but "elusive" Jamie Ruth Deckard of Meadow who scored 19 points including all of her team's points in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. Gatesville finished the year at 40-2.**

**The Gatesville Messenger reported that girls basketball was "dormant" until the arrival of coach Fred G. Scwartz for the 1937-38 season. The Hornettes won the**

Central Texas championship that year and the state title the next season under Coach Swartz. Gatesville made the 16-team state tournament the next three years (1940-42) under Coach Swartz but failed to make the semi-finals. The Hornettes did finish 2<sup>nd</sup> (to East Chambers) at state in 1953 in the newly created Class 1A and finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1954 in 1A. Gatesville began playing under the UIL in 1955 but the girls team has never again made the finals. The Hornettes were and remain the only Coryell County basketball team (boys or girls) to ever win a state championship.

The 1938-39 Gatesville players were forwards Margaret Weaver, Leta Bell Shoaf, Ruth Rutherford, Madelene Patterson and the starting guards Zoriada ("Ollie") Thomason, Odell James and Sr. Capt. Sarah Hinson (who was voted the "prettiest brunette" in the tournament). Reserves were Treva Davis, Bessie Faye Clemons, Flogene Martin, Mary Evelyn Eubanks, and Edith Cole. The Gatesville" Messenger reported after 21 games in 1939 that the Hornette's leading scorer was forward Leta Bell Shoaf with 192 points (9.1 ppg) followed by forward/guard Margaret Weaver with 187 points (8.9ppg) though she played only parts of 15 games at forward, forward Ruth Rutherford with 152 points (7.2 ppg) and Sr forward Madelene Patterson with 99 points (4.7 ppg). It should be noted that these ppg averages came in an era of much lower scoring than today as Gatesville averaged (before the state tournament) 33 ppg to opponents' 17. The Hornettes were led in scoring in the state final by the tall and "rangy" forward Margaret Weaver who scored 29 points (including 13 FGs) and totaled 60 points for the three state tournament games. Weaver was moved from guard to forward before the state tournament as Shoaf had an injured ankle. The top Hornette scorers in the qt. final against Bullard were Rutherford with 9, Shoaf with 6 and Weaver and Patterson with 4 each.

The 1939 All State Tournament Team included forwards Margaret Weaver of Gatesville, Z. Crain of Mesquite and Jamie Ruth Deckard of Meadow who was voted MVP of the tournament. The guards were Zoriada Thomason of Gatesville, Doris Clyburn of Bullard and Mary Davis of Ireland. Much credit for the championship went to the Gatesville defense which had the "best set of guards" in the tournament with Zoriada Thomason, Sarah Hinson and Odell James. Thomasson was praised for her rebounding and for her "consistently great game, time after time making phenomental interceptions and blocking shots." Forward Margaret Weaver "bewildered" Meadow in the final with her "swift passing and uncanny shooting" from "every angle of the floor." Margaret Weaver, Zoriada Thomason and Odell James later played for the Galveston Anicos, a semi-pro team that earlier won the 1938 and 1939 National A.A.U. Championship in Wichita KS.

The 1939 state championship was soon forgotten in Gatesville and at the high school though the memory of the 1939 team was maintained by members of the team living in the area. In 2007 Gatesville H.S. had no memorial (e.g., trophy, banner) to the 1939 team and was not aware that any Gatesville girls team had ever won state. Ironically, the founder of the "High School Girls Basketball League of TX" which had Gatesville as its first champion in 1939 existed from 1939-1954 and was founded by L.C. McKamie who later served as Supt. of Schools in Gatesville in the 1940's (the Gatesville H.S. football field is named after him). In 2007 the story of the 1939 team was kept alive by three Gatesville residents: Mary Evelyn Eubanks Voss who played on the 1938 team and 1939 team members Madalene Patterson (Mrs. John) Gilmer and Treva Davis (Mrs. John) Post.

The 1939 state champions were honored at the 1953 HSGBLT tournament in Waco with a Saturday night banquet and were introduced at halftime of the 2A championship game between East Chambers and Gatesville. The Waco Tribune-Herald noted that "all are married and some have children." The seven players attending were Zoriada Thomason of Galveston, Margaret Weaver Belcher of Galveston, Madelene Patterson Quicksall of Ames, Ruth Rutherford Kopec of Gatesville, Sarah Henson Carrothers of Copperas Cove, Leta Bell Shoaf Nichols of Austin and Odell James of Galveston.

HSGBLT-2	<b>1940</b>	<b>Wayside, a 12-girl school, wins HSGBLT</b>
All classes	<b>WAYSIDE</b>	<b>&amp; AAU state titles, 5th at national AAU</b>

Wayside defeated Mobeetie, 41-24, in the final; Plano, in the semi-final; Lott, 31-11, in the quarterfinal; and Dennis, 23-8, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the second annual "High School Girls' Basketball league of Texas" (HSGBLT) tournament in Waco at the McLean gym at Baylor on March 7-9, 1940. Seventeen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their district titles. The League operated from 1939-1954 and was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the

**HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards. The AAU format allowed girls to play full-court offense and defense.**

**According to the Waco Tribune-Herald, Wayside "swept through the tournament like a golden sandstorm brewed in the west Texas plains and did not have a close game" in the four games at state. Billie Harral scored 11 points to lead the Wayside "Hustlers" in the 1<sup>st</sup> round against Dennis as the 15-point margin came from great defense. Wayside was described by the WacoNews as being too "tall and fast" after its 20-point win against Lott in the qt. final. Beatrice Stephens led Wayside with 14 points. The 17-point win over Mobeetie in the final became a rout in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half as Wayside led at the half by 27-12 and after 3 qts. by 35-20. Wayside was led by 25 points by Lucille Moore ("who was sensational in her accuracy") and 12 by Billie Harral and by the defensive work of guard Lahoma Payne. Mobeetie was led by Smith and Ferguson with 11 points each.**

**Wayside also won the state AAU championship at Greenville in 1940 becoming the only high school team to win both the state HSGBLT and state AAU titles in the same year. The Hustlers went on to the national AAU tournament in St. Joseph MO where they finished 5th. Wayside's Lucille Moore was the team's leading scorer on the year and was voted the "Beauty Queen" of the national AAU tournament. Wayside finished the year at 36-0 against high school competition but lost five times to the Galveston Anicos, the national AAU champions in 1938 & 1939. The Hustlers traveled from the TX panhandle to Colorado to play an independent team and to the TX Gulf Coast (to play Galveston) traveling more than 4,000 miles during the 1939-40 year. Their only (five) losses on the year were to the Anicos (the last loss being at the national AAU tournament).**

**The record of the 1940 Wayside Hustlers is even more remarkable in light of the size of the town and school. Wayside H.S. had only 25 students and 10 of the 11 girls in the high school played on the basketball team. Wayside H.S. had a short history as it was established in 1937-38 in a community of only 40 people and closed in the late 1940's. Its great "shining moment" was undoubtedly the 1940 state girls basketball championship as the Hustlers never again made the 16-team state tournament before the school closed merging into the Tulia ISD. The 1940 title was the first boys or girls state basketball title in the history of Armstrong County. Claude, the county seat, later won six state girls' titles (1951-1972). The 1939 Wayside championship coach was Leroy Roberts whose tenure began in 1938 but was suspended by his service in World War II. He later**



coached at Darrouzett. The 1940 championship trophy and other "memorials" to the state championship were given to the Armstrong County Museum in Claude.

The Wayside players in 1940 were: Forwards Neva Moore, 5'8" Fr; Co-Capt. Lucille Moore, 5'7" Sr; Billie Harral, 5'4" Sr; and Co-Capt. Beatrice Stephens, 5'6" Sr; and Guards Lahoma Payne, 5'10" Sr; Lorene Payne, 5'8"; Jesse Chloe Payne, Sr; Eula Johnson, 5'8" Sr; Wanda Harral, 5'5"; and Frances Partlow, 5'6" Sr. The 1940 All State Tournament Team included forwards Smith of Mobeetie, Williams of Plano and Kimbrell of Kopperl and guards Lahoma Payne of Wayside, Neal of Lott and Garrett of Highland.

The Wayside team had its first reunion 18 years after the 1940 state title. In 1958 the team members were Lucille Moore Culwell of Tulia; Lahoma Payne Brown of Orlando FL; Eula Johnson McGavock of Tulia; Billie Harral Byrd of Tulia; Bee Stevens Davis of San Antonio; Wanda Harral Wharton of Amarillo; Frances Partlow Milner of Friona; Jesse Chloe Payne Lane of Wayside; Neva Moore Priest of Plainview; and Lorene Payne Mefford of Dallas.

In 2007 Lucille Moore Culwell, Billie Harral Byrd and Beatrice Stephens still lived in the Wayside/Tulia area. Cheryl Culwell, the daughter of Lucille Moore, played on the 1962 Tulia team that the UIL state tournament in 1962 and later played for the Wayland Baptist Flying Queens.

<b>HSGBLT-3</b>	<b>1941</b>	<b>Ennis wins its 1<sup>st</sup> and only</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>ENNIS</b>	<b>State HSGBLT state title</b>

Ennis defeated Anton, 34-29, in the final; Mobeetie, 37-27, in the semi-final; Trent, 28-19, in the qt. final; and Van Horn in the 1<sup>st</sup> round at the third annual "High School Girls' Basketball league of Texas" (HSGBLT) tournament at the Baylor gym in Waco on March 7-9, 1941. The tournament was held in Waco from 1939-1941 and 1950-53 (and in Hillsboro from 1942-49) and was founded by L.C. McKamie of Abbott (and later Hillsboro). Sixteen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their district titles. The League operated from 1939-1954 and was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards.

**The 1941 final between Ennis and Anton of Hockley County (just north of Lubbock) was described by the Austin Tribune-Herald as a "sensational duel" won by Ennis as the "large crowd roared in glee." The Lady Lions trailed early (14-10 at the half) but took the lead in the 3<sup>rd</sup> qt. after a 15-6 run and never trailed again. Ennis led 25-20 after 3 qts. and "stalled" the ball until game's end. Betty Jo Armstrong was the top scorer for Ennis followed by Maydean Armstrong, "a very tall girl," with 11 and Nancy Idlett with 3. Stephenson led Anton with 19 points. The Lady Lions' top defenders (guards) were Doris Nell Dyess, Nannie Armstrong and Lerlene Merritt. Betty Jo Armstrong (13 points) and Maydean Armstrong (12) were also the top Ennis scorers in the 10-point semi-final win. The score was tied 11-11 at the half before Ennis outscored Mobeetie 26-16 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half. Ennis led 11-1 in the 1<sup>st</sup> half at 16-9 at the half of the 9-point qt. final win over Trent. Maydean Armstrong (13) and Betty Jo Armstrong (10) again led Ennis scorers.**

**The Ennis championship coach in 1940 was J.D. Warren who retired from coaching after the 1942 season and joined the TX Highway Patrol. The Waco Tribune-Herald reported that Ennis "sponsored" girls basketball for the first time in the 1940-41 school year after Coach Warren became the superintendent of schools. Warren came to Ennis from Bynum where he had coached "a number of fine teams in the past." The 1941 championship season was the only time that Ennis made the 16-team state field at the HSGBLT from 1939-1954. Also, the Ennis girls' team has never qualified??? for the UIL state tournament from 1951-2007. Thus the 1941 "magical" season that resulted in a state championship has never been approached by later teams.**

**The 1941 Ennis players were: Doris Nell Dyess, Nannie Armstrong, Betty Jo Armstrong, Maydean Armstrong, Mary Bates, Lerlene Merritt, Nancy Idlett, Nettie Brown, M. Alexander, and M. Daniels (these names are inscribed on the championship trophy still displayed at Ennis H.S.). Betty Jo and Maydean Armstrong were sisters and Nannie Armstrong was their aunt.**

**The 1941 All State Tournament Team included forwards Maydean Armstrong of Ennis, Grubb of Mesquite and B. Stephenson of Anton and guards Doris Nell Dyess of Ennis, Puckett of Mobeetie and Schilling of Anton. By 2007 the 1941 championship team had been largely forgotten at Ennis H.S. though the championship trophy is still displayed at the H.S. However, Nan Armstrong, a member of the 1941 team who lives in Italy, has not forgotten and provided information for this narrative. Maydean Armstrong Fincher lives in CA and her grandson, Jacob Ranger, will play at Cal-Davis in 2008.**

<b>HSGBLT-4</b>	<b>1942</b>	<b>Borger wins its only state title</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>BORGER</b>	<b>in boys or girls basketball</b>

**Borger defeated Emory, 38-33, in the final; Aquilla, 36-31, in the semi-final; LaPoynor, 47-17, in the quarterfinal; and Pyron, 46-27, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round; of the fourth annual "High School Girls' Basketball league of Texas" (HSGBLT) tournament at the Doughty Hall (gym) in Hillsboro on March 6-8, 1942. The tournament was held in Waco from 1939-1941 but was moved to Hillsboro in 1942 when the founder and director, L.C. McKamie, became supt. of Hill County. Sixteen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their district titles. The League operated from 1939-1954 and was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards. Borger trailed the Emory "Lassies" in the final at 8-11 but led at the half, 18-17, and after 3 qts. at 24-22 and won by 5 points.**

**The Red Birds were 33-1 on the year with only a loss to the Friona "Squaws" (whom they defeated in a rematch) marring their perfect record for 1941-42. Borger won eight tournaments on the year and averaged 38 ppg to their opponents' 19 ppg. The Red Birds won their the District 20 championship to qualify for the state tournament with wins over Stratford, 35-11; Dimmitt, 47-16; and Dumas, 32-16. Borger made their only appearance in their championship year of 1942 at the 16-team state tournament (HSGBLT) from 1939-1954. The 1942 state girls' championship remains in 2007 the only state (boys or girls) title won by Borger H.S. in basketball though the boys teams was the state runner-up in 1952, 1977 & 1983. The only other Hutchinson County basketball title was won by Phillips in 1976 at the UIL tournament in Austin with the great Jill Rankin.**

**Faye Langford was the 1942 Borger championship coach and became the only woman to ever coach a state championship team in the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (1939-1954). Ina Wolfenberger of Breckenridge was the first woman to coach a girls team to a state championship in an A.A.U state tournament (1925-1950) and Marguerite Ross of Comanche in 1951 became the first woman to coach a UIL state girls champion. Langford played at Breckenridge H.S. in 1928 and graduated from the Sam Houston State Teachers**

College at Huntsville. After H.S. Langford played semi-pro basketball in 1929 & 1930 for the Dallas Golden Cyclones who were national A.A.U. champions in 1931 and runner-up in 1929, 1932 & 1933. She coached at Borger from 1938-1942 and had an overall record of 96-23. Her first team won the District and lost in the quarterfinals of the state AAU tournament. She won 27 consecutive games in the championship year of 1941-42. In 1942 Faye Langford played professional baseball with the Rockford IL Peaches, the team made famous in the movie, "A League of Their Own." She and her friend and former teammate, Babe Didrikson, were the only women to play in a professional men's Class D league in Dallas where Langford was a pitcher. She and Babe later toured California playing professional baseball with the Wichita Thurstons. She turned down an offer to play professional golf from her friend, Babe Didrikson Zaharias. Like Zaharias, Langford was also a track star and held the national A.A.U. record in the softball throw in 1929 at 247 ft. (only "five feet off the world record"). She "practically single-handed" won 4th place for her team, the Dallas Cyclones, at the A.A.U.'s 1929 track meet in Chicago in 1929 finishing 2nd in the baseball throw at 234' 8" (to 1st place and world record 258 ft. by Glora Russell of CA) and the javelin at 98 ft. Faye was a member (with Babe Zaharias) of the 1932 U.S. Olympic Team in the javelin. After serving in the Women's Army Corps in England, France & Germany in World War II, Langford later became a lab technician for Phillips Petroleum. Lillian Faye Langford was born on 5/8/1908 and died in Dallas on 3/28/1996 at the age of 87 and is buried at Restland Memorial Park in Dallas. She deserves to be "in the discussion" of the greatest all-around athletes in the history of Texas and the U.S.

The 1942 Borger players were: Dolores Vann, Sr; Helen Miller, Sr; Pauline Taylor (voted "queen of the tournament"), Sr; Pauline Boylan, Sr; Vernell Roberts, Sr; Joyce Taylor, Jr; Julia Ensor, Jr; Margret Newman, Jr; Laurella Ford, Soph; Erlene Atchley, Soph; and Lavonne Bell, Fr. Vann was the Red Birds' leading scorer on the year at 14.3 ppg followed by Pauline Taylor at 12.6. Vann led Borger in the final with 18 points and scored 68 points in the 4 state tournament games for an average of 17.0 ppg. Taylor scored 51 points in the 4 final games for 12.8 ppg. The Borger newspaper noted that the Red Birds were led by a "trio of dead-eye goal shooters who can hit the baskets with alarming regularity" and scored at state at a rate of 41 ppg and by a "threesome of guards" who held 4 state opponents to an average of only 28 ppg.

The 1942 All State Tournament Team included forwards Delores Vann of Borger, Dorothy Godwin of Emory and Estelle Vrana of Aquilla and guards Helen Miller of Borger, Camille Lester of Gatesville and Mary Asbill of Emory. Pauline Taylor of Borger was voted "Queen of the Tournament" after the

awards for "prettiest redhead," etc. Each Borger player received a gold engraved basketball. At the earlier District 20 tournament the Red Birds placed four girls (forwards Vann, Boylan and Taylor and guard Miller) on the 12-girl all-tournament team.

HSGBLT-5	<b>1944</b>	<b>Aquilla wins 1<sup>st</sup> of 3</b>
All classes	<b>AQUILLA</b>	<b>consecutive state titles</b>

Aquilla of Hill County defeated Friona, 20-17, in the final; Quail, 48-32, in the semi-final; Lott, 34-18, in the quarter-final; and Brock, 40-35, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round; of the fifth annual "High School Girls' Basketball League of Texas" (HSGBLT) held in Hillsboro on March 9-11, 1944. Sixteen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their district titles. The League operated from 1939-1954 and was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards.

The Aquilla Cougarettes 3-point win in the final was due to a great defensive effort holding Friona to 6 points in the second half while Aquilla scored 12. The Cougarettes controlled the ball for three-fourths of the game with strong rebounding compensating for poor shooting. Allyne Lowry led the champions with 8 points. She was also the top scorer in the qt. final with 15 points.

Aquilla won three consecutive state titles in 1944-1946 and was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 16-team state tournament in 1942 & 1954 making the Cougarettes one of the most successful teams in the history of the "High School Girls' Basketball League of Texas" (HSGBLT). The Aquilla championship coach for all three titles was John Cox who was in his 16<sup>th</sup> year as coach at Aquilla. Aquilla finished the 1946 championship season undefeated at 35-0; the 1945 championship season at 26-1; and the 1944 championship season at 31-0. Thus in its 3-year championship run, the Cougarettes were 92-1.

The 1944 Aquilla players were: Leta Law Brown, Sr; Louise Lee, Sr; Dorene Butcher, Sr; Mary Frances Gerik, Sr; Betty Ruth Jordan, Sr; Allyne Lowry, Jr; Myra Jean Burleson, Jr; Betty Fay Looper, Jr Edith Gerik, Soph; Juanita Kennedy, Soph; Pauline Odom, Soph; Audine Odom, Soph; Doris Jean Padgett, Soph; Marcella Nors, Soph; and Betty Paula Tanner, Fr.

The 1944 All State Tournament Team included forwards Myra Jean Burleson of Aquilla, Alpha Neeley of Quail and Betty Mae Massey of Friona and guards Mary Frances Gerik of Aquilla, Loris Gene McFarland of Friona and Tattie Tittle of Trent. Aquilla's Juanita Kennedy was voted the "prettiest blonde."

In 2007 the Aquilla gym is named for Coach John Cox. The trophies and other memorials to the team were burned in a fire. A 60<sup>th</sup> reunion of the 1944-46 teams was held in Ft. Worth in 2006 organized by Edith Gerik Cernosek and Marcella Nors Kaska of West; Juanita Kennedy Erwin of Hillsboro; and June Padgett Winter and twins Audine Odom Loften and Pauline Odom Anderson of Ft. Worth. An article about the 1944-46 teams appeared in Texas Highways in Jan of 2005.

There were a total of 20 girls on the three Aquilla state championship teams of 1944, 1945 & 1946: Dorene Butcher Sandlin (1944); Mary Frances Gerik Trice (1944); Betty Ruth Jordon Griffith (1944); Myra Jean Burleson Gatlin (1944-45); Alyne Lowry Meads (1944-45); Doris June Padgett Winter (1944-46); Edith Gerik Cernosek (1944-46); Juanita Kennedy Erwin (1944-46); Audine Odom Loften (1944-46); Pauline Odom Anderson (1944-46); Marcella Nors Kaska (1944-46); Nell Payne Smith (1944-46); Betty Paula Tanner Schoffield (1944-46); Frances Latham Aubuschon (1945-46); Betty Faye Looper Davis (1945-46); Glenda Bessire Horn (1946); Edra Frances Gatlin (1946); Betty Gerik Bledsoe (1946); Geneva Noel (1946); and Betty Ruth Padgett Davis (1946).

<b>HSGBLT-6</b>	<b>1945</b>	<b>Aquilla wins 2<sup>nd</sup> of 3</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>AQUILLA</b>	<b>consecutive state titles</b>

Aquilla of Hill County defeated Hermleigh, 34-29, in the final; Friona, 46-26, in the semi-finals; LaPoyner, 49-29, in the quarter-finals; and Comfort, 35-21, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round at the sixth annual "High School Girls' Basketball league of Texas"

**(HSGBLT) state tournament in Hillsboro on March 8-10, 1945. Sixteen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their district titles. The League operated from 1939-1954 and was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards.**

**Aquilla cruised to three easy wins in the first three rounds but encountered a tough game against Hermleigh (33-4) which had upset the pre-tourney favorite, China, 36-34, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round—China had won 97 games in a row but lost both of its two games at the state tournament. The final was a "rip-roaring game played before an overflow crowd with hundreds having to be turned away." Aquilla led early but its lead was cut to 2 points in the last minute before Myra Jean Burleson, violating a "freeze," made a long shot with 10 seconds to go to secure the victory. Aquilla, "a team without stars," was led by Burleson and Allyne Lowry with 12 points each and Pauline Odom with 10. Nors and Kenedy were the two defensive (guards) stars for the Cougarettes. In the semi-final Aquilla was led by Burleson and Odom with 16 and Lowry with 14 while M. Taylor had 18 for the Friona "Squaws."**

**Aquilla won three consecutive state titles in 1944-1946 and was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 16-team state tournament in 1942 & 1954 making the Cougarettes one of the most successful teams in the history of the "High School Girls' Basketball League of Texas" (HSGBLT). The Aquilla championship coach for all three titles was John Cox who was in his 17<sup>th</sup> year as Aquilla's coach. Aquilla finished the 1946 championship season undefeated at 35-0; the 1945 championship season at 26-1; and the 1944 championship season at 31-0. Thus in its 3-year championship run, the Cougarettes were 92-1.**

**The 1945 Aquilla players were: Capt. Allyne Lowry, Sr; Myra Jean Burleson, Sr; Betty Fay Looper, Sr; Pauline Odom, Jr; Audine Odom, Jr, Juanita Kennedy, Jr; Nell Payne, Jr; Doris Jean Padgett, Jr; Marcella Nors, Jr; Frances Latham, Jr; Edith Gerik, Jr; and Betty Paula Tanner, Soph.**

**The 1945 All State Tournament Team included forwards Myra Jean Burleson of Aquilla, Barbara Self of China and Betty Mae Massey of Friona and guards Pauline Odom of Aquilla, Joye Clements of Hermleigh and Izora Williams of Hermleigh. Odom was named to the Waco Tribune-Herald's 10-person all-time HSGBLT team for 1939-1954.**

In 2007 the Aquilla gym is named for Coach John Cox. The trophies and other memorials to the team were burned in a fire. A 60<sup>th</sup> reunion of the 1944-46 teams was held in Ft. Worth in 2006 organized by Edith Gerik Cernosek and Marcella Nors Kaska of West; Juanita Kennedy Erwin of Hillsboro; and June Padgett Winter and twins Audine Odom Loftin and Pauline Odom Anderson of Ft. Worth. An article about the 1944-46 teams appeared in Texas Highways in Jan of 2005.

There were a total of 20 girls on the three Aquilla state championship teams of 1944, 1945 & 1946: Dorene Butcher Sandlin (1944); Mary Frances Gerik Trice (1944); Betty Ruth Jordon Griffith (1944); Myra Jean Burleson Gatlin (1944-45); Alyne Lowry Meads (1944-45); Doris June Padgett Winter (1944-46); Edith Gerik Cernosek (1944-46); Juanita Kennedy Erwin (1944-46); Audine Odom Loftin (1944-46); Pauline Odom Anderson (1944-46); Marcella Nors Kaska (1944-46); Nell Payne Smith (1944-46); Betty Paula Tanner Schoffield (1944-46); Frances Latham Aubuschon (1945-46); Betty Faye Looper Davis (1945-46); Glenda Bessire Horn (1946); Edra Frances Gatlin (1946); Betty Gerik Bledsoe (1946); Geneva Noel (1946); and Betty Ruth Padgett Davis (1946).

HSGBLT-7	<b>1946</b>	<b>Aquilla wins its 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive title</b>
All classes	<b>AQUILLA</b>	<b>and finishes year undefeated at 35-0</b>

Aquilla of Hill County defeated Friona, 29-26, in the final; Cooper of Lubbock in the semi-finals, 34-26; Follett, 36-35, in the quarter-finals; and Sweeny, 42-21, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round at the seventh annual "High School Girls' Basketball league of Texas" (HSGBLT) state tournament in Hillsboro on March 7-9, 1946. Sixteen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their district titles. The League operated from 1939-1954 and was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards.

The Cougarettes led early & 21-19 after 3 qts. of the final and held on for a 3-point win after Audine Odom made a FG in the last 2 minutes. Friona defensive star, Lila Robason, held Aquilla's leading scorer, Odom, to 11 points but Edith



Gerik took up the slack and led the team with 18 points. M. Taylor led the Friona "Squaws" with 11 points. The semi-final pitted Aquilla's "well-oiled machine" against Cooper's, one-girl team, Mary Wilks who dominated the boards and scored 18 of the team's 26 points. The Cougarettes extended their 4-point lead after 3 qts. to 10 points in the 4<sup>th</sup> qt. and won by 8. Odom led Aquilla with 19 points while Gerik added 9 and Kennedy, 6. Aquilla came back from 5 points down in the qt. finals with 3 minutes left and went ahead by one point with 30 seconds left. Follett was fouled with 21 seconds remaining but chose to take the ball out of bounds and to go for a FG to win the game rather than attempt a game-tying FT. The choice backfired when Aquilla tied the ball, won the jump, and held on for the win. Belva Sperry scored 22 points for Follett and dominated the boards while Aquilla got balanced scoring from J. Kennedy (13), Odom (12) and Gerik (11). A week later Follett won the state A.A.U. girls high school basketball tournament in Celeste by defeating Penelope, 37-34, in the final.

Aquilla won three consecutive state titles in 1944-1946 and was 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 16-team state tournament in 1942 & 1954 making the Cougarettes one of the most successful teams in the history of the "High School Girls Basketball League of Texas" (HSGBLT) The Aquilla championship coach for all three titles was John Cox who was Supt. and Coach at Aquilla for 32 years (1927-1959). Aquilla finished the 1946 championship season undefeated at 35-0; the 1945 championship season at 26-1; and the 1944 championship season at 31-0. Thus in its 3-year championship run, the Cougarettes were 92-1.

The 1946 Aquilla players were: Audine Odom, Sr; Pauline Odom, Sr; Juanita Kennedy, Sr; Nell Payne, Sr; Doris Jean Padgett, Sr; Marcella Nors, Sr; Frances Latham, Sr; Edith Gerik, Sr; Betty Paula Tanner, Jr; Glenda Bessire, Soph; Geneva Noel, Soph; and Betty Fay Looper, Soph.

The 1946 All State Tournament Team included forwards Audine Odom of Aquilla, Belva Sperry of Follett and Mary Wilks of Cooper and guards Lila Robason of Friona, Marie Walton of Seagoville and Louise Graham of East Chambers. Edith Gerik later played two years at Hill J.C.

In 2007 the Aquilla gym is named for Coach John Cox. The trophies and other memorials to the team were burned in a fire. The names of the coach and players on the 1944-46 championship teams are included on memorial bricks at the flagpole at Aquilla H.S. A 60<sup>th</sup> reunion of the 1944-46 teams was held in Ft. Worth in 2006 organized by Edith Gerik Cernosek and Marcella Nors Kaska of West; Juanita Kennedy Erwin of Hillsboro; and June Padgett Winter and twins Audine Odom aLoften and Pauline Odom Anderson of Ft. Worth. An article about the 1944-46 teams appeared in Texas Highways in Jan of 2005.

There were a total of 20 girls on the three Aquilla state championship teams of 1944, 1945 & 1946: Dorene Butcher Sandlin (1944); Mary Frances Gerik Trice (1944); Betty Ruth Jordon Griffith (1944); Myra Jean Burleson Gatlin (1944-45); Alyne Lowry Meads (1944-45); Doris June Padgett Winter (1944-46); Edith Gerik Cernosek (1944-46); Juanita Kennedy Erwin (1944-46); Audine Odom Loften (1944-46); Pauline Odom Anderson (1944-46); Marcella Nors Kaska (1944-46); Nell Payne Smith (1944-46); Betty Paula Tanner Schoffield (1944-46); Frances Latham Aubuschon (1945-46); Betty Faye Looper Davis (1945-46); Glenda Bessire Horn (1946); Edra Frances Gatlin (1946); Betty Gerik Bledsoe (1946); Geneva Noel (1946); and Betty Ruth Padgett Davis (1946).

HSGBLT-8	<b>1947</b>	<b>East Chambers wins its 1<sup>st</sup></b>
All classes	<b>EAST CHAMBERS</b>	<b>of 2 HSGBLT state titles</b>

Winnie East Chambers defeated Stanton, 24-22, in the final; Penelope, 40-34, in the semi-finals; Maydelle, 46-42, in the quarter-finals; and Fredericksburg, 34-18; of the eighth annual "High School Girls' Basketball League of Texas" (HSBGLT) tournament in Hillsboro on March 13-15, 1947. Sixteen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their district titles. The League operated from 1939-1954 and was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards.

The East Chambers vs. Stanton final was a "stormy and tumultuous" as the noise of the overflow crowd which "stood ten deep in the lobby" and "drowned out the whistles of the officials. The Buccaneers of East Chambers trailed the Buffaloes of Stanton by 7 points early in the 4<sup>th</sup> qt. but Stanton (31-2) cut the lead to one with 2 minutes left. East Chambers missed a shot with a minute left but a short time later made a FT and chose to take the ball out of bounds in lieu of the 2<sup>nd</sup> FT and "froze" the ball with "marvelous passing skill" until game's end. Mary Ann Wilson and Maxine Pate led the well-balanced Buccaneer team with 9 points each and Velta Bouillon added 6. Betty Blissard led Stanton with 12 points. The semi-final matched 42-0 East Chambers against 37-1 Penelope. The

**Wolverines led 18-15 at the half but the Buccaneers made a 2<sup>nd</sup> half surge to gain the lead and Penelope never got closer than 2 points in the 4<sup>th</sup> qt. Wilson led with 17 points followed by Pate with 15 while Regina Prikyrl scored 21 for the Wolverines. Both East Chambers (42-0) and Maydelle (25-0 & the 1947 AAU state champion) were undefeated before the qt. final match-up. The Buccaneers came from 6 points back in the 3<sup>rd</sup> qt. and went on a 10-6 run after a 36-36 tie to win by 4 points. Bouillon led East Chambers with 28 points and Pate added 14. East Chambers won its 1<sup>st</sup> round game against Fredericksburg by 16 points despite playing without five of the six starters who were hospitalized with the flu. Bouillon was the top Buccanner scorer with 20.**

**East Chambers was the most successful girls team at the HSGBLT from 1939-1954 making the 16-team state tournament 8 consecutive years from 1947-1953. The Buccaneers were state champs in 1947 & 1953, finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1949 (losing in sudden death OT to Seagoville), 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1948 & 1950, and won the consolation title in 1946, 1951 & 1952. The Buccaneers had at least one player on the All State Tournament Team every year from 1946-1953 and had a 32-6 record at state from 1946-1953. East Chambers finished 45-0 in 1947 as the win in the final marked the team's 45th consecutive victory.**

**In 1951-1954 both the HSGBLT and the UIL had "state champions" in girls basketball. In 1953 New Deal was the Class A-AA state champion of the UIL while East Chambers was the 2A state champion of the HSGBLT. East Chambers joined the UIL in 1954 and won the Class B state championship giving the East Chambers girls their 3<sup>rd</sup> state title in 8 years. J.D. Hutson was the East Chambers championship coach for all three state titles (1947, 1953 & 1954). The Buccaneers did not reach the UIL finals again from 1955-2007. The only other (boys or girls) teams from Chambers County to win a state basketball championship were the 1982 & 1983 Barbers Hill girls.**

**The 1947 East Chamber players were: Mary Ann Wilson, Maxine Pate, Velta Bouillon, Emily McBride, Ozell Collins, Barbara Jones, Rena Bertrand, Betty Hebert, Melba Rowland, Wanda Jean McAdams, Joyce Okervall, Marie Devillier, Delores Devillier, Beatrice LeBlanc and Betty Flowers.**

**The 1947 All State Tournament Team included forwards Mary Ann Wilson of East Chambers, Betty Blissard of Stanton and Regina Prikyrl of Penelope and guards Emily McBride of East Chambers, Lurlene Guerin of Stanton and Lila Robason of Friona. McBride was named by the Waco Tribune-Herald to its 10-person all-time HSGBLT team for 1939-54. Maxine Pate and Emily McBride also made All State Tournament in 1948, Ozell Collins and Wanda Jean**

McAdams in 1949 and McAdams again in 1950. Thus five members of the 1947 team made All State Tournament during their career.

Banners in the East Chambers gym remind Buccaneer fans of the 1947 and 1953 state championships.

<b>HSGBLT-9</b>	<b>1948</b>	<b>Mesquite wins its first</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>MESQUITE</b>	<b>&amp; only HSGBLT state title</b>

Mesquite defeated Maydelle, 37-35, in the final; East Chambers, 23-20, in the semi-final; Yantis, 32-25, in the quarter-final; and Cotton Center, 41-26, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round; of the ninth annual "High School Girls' Basketball League of Texas" (HSGBLT) state tournament in at Doughty Hall in Hillsboro on March 10-12, 1948. Sixteen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their district titles (Mesquite defeated Frisco, the state AAU champion, 47-17, in the Dallas district). The League operated from 1939-1954 with 287 girls teams operating in 1948. The League was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards.

"Unheralded" Mesquite was not one of the favorites before the tournament began and was an "underdog" to the last three teams (Yantis, East Chambers and Maydelle) it played. The 15-point win over Cotton Center in the 1<sup>st</sup> round was led by Jo Ann Miller with 16 points and Nan Thompson with 15. The win in the qt. final over the "towering" (two 6' ft forwards) Yantis was never in doubt as the Skeeters led by 8 (21-13) at the half and cruised to a 7-point win with Thompson leading the way with 20 points followed by Miller with 10. Mesquite upset the defending champion, East Chambers, in the semi-final in a "rough, nip-and-tuck game" that saw the Buccaneers lose three players to 5 fouls. The game was tied at 16-16 at the end of 3 qts. before Mesquite, leading ahead 21-20, went into a "freeze" until Miller made a FG for the final 3-point margin. Thompson led the scoring with 13 points followed by Miller with 6 and Dorothy Yates with 4. However, Mesquite's 3 guards, Dora Davis, Jeanette Seabourn and

**Betty Flo Lewis "were the real stars of the upset victory." The Skeeters had lost handily to East Chambers in an early season game in Mesquite and thus the win at state was especially sweet.**

**The 2-point victory over Maydelle in the final came after a close game that saw the lead change 18 times. Mesquite led 23-22 at halftime and the score was tied at 31-31 after 3 qts. Nan Thompson made a lay-up with 1:30 remaining to give Mesquite a 2-point lead at 37-35 with 1:30 remaining and then "froze" the ball for the remainder of the game. Thompson led Mesquite with 21 points while Miller scored 16. The Skeeters' 3 guards, Dora Davis, Jeanette Seabourne and Betty Flo Lewis "provided the margin of victory" as they "battled Mayfield for every point and enabled the Skeeters to control the ball." Letha Nell Loper led Maydelle with 15. Mesquite finished the year at 37-2; Maydelle at 36-3; East Chambers 38-4; and Yantis, 31-3. The Skeeters also won the Texas AAU tournament (H.S. division) in 1948 by defeating Yantis in the final becoming the only HSGBLT champion to also take the AAU title in the same year.**

**Mesquite was one of the most successful teams in the 15-year history of the HSGBLT state tournament making the 16-team field seven times from 1939-1948. Mesquite was the state champion in 1948, 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1941, 4<sup>th</sup> in 1944 and lost in the quarter-finals in 1939, 1942, 1945 & 1947. The Mesquite championship coach in 1948 was Sam H. Shipley who had won District 10 of 11 years and made the HSGBLT state tournament 7 times in 9 years. He was also coach of the 1949 Mesquite team that won the Texas AAU state tournament. He later coached at Cotton Center and Abbott. Mesquite had statewide success earlier than 1939 as its 1933 team was the TX AAU H.S. champion and was state runner-up in the TX AAU in 1934. The 1934 team also finished 5th in the national AAU tournament. The Mesquite girls and boys teams have never reached the state finals while in the UIL from 1951-2007.**

**The 1948 Mesquite players were: Nan Thompson, 5'5" Sr; Jo Ann Miller, 5'5" Jr; Dorothy Yates, 5'4" Sr; Dora Davis, 5'3" Sr; Jeanette Seabourne, 5'7" Jr; Betty Flo Lewis, 5'10" Soph; Anna Jo Lewis, 5'10" Soph; Lucille Bryan, 5'11" So; Martha Paschall, 5'6" Jr; Loraine Kenner, 5'7" Jr; Louise DeArment, Jr.; and Pat Kinsala.**

**The 1948 All State Tournament Team included forwards Jo Ann Miller of Mesquite, Maxine Pate of East Chambers and Elene Lusk of Maydelle and guards Dora Davis of Mesquite, Emily McBride of East Chambers and Phylis Henslee of West Columbia.**

Mesquite, the TX state champion (over 287 teams) played Kamrar, the Iowa state champion with only 53 H.S. students who won the state title over 625 teams, in Des Moines Iowa on March 27, 1948, before over 7,000 fans. The sold-out game was broadcast over statewide radio. Kamrar, 32-0 on the year while averaging 58 ppg, won 37-34 before a capacity crowd of 8,000 (20,000 fans sought tickets) in the first of a series of two-state championship match-ups from 1948-1951. The Iowa-TX match-up was sponsored by the Iowa girls union (which began girls basketball in Iowa in 1926) and was supported by "big business," and "all the big newspapers." The Skeeters trailed 24-10 at halftime and but outscored the Iowa team 24-13 in the second half coming within one point with one minute remaining. Mesquite made only 16 of 63 FG attempts compared to 16 of 39 for Kamrar. Sr Arlys Van Langren (who averaged 35.5 ppg) and Fr Dorothy Welp of Kamrar were later inducted into the Iowa H.S. Basketball Hall of Fame. The 1949 Mesquite team went 4-4 in an international tournament in Mexico July 12-21, 1949, against semi-pro teams.

The 1948 Mesquite state champs held a 45th reunion in Mesquite and was pictured in the Dallas Morning News on Nov. 19, 1993. Attending were: Louise DeArment Feuerbacher, Jeanette Seabourne Peters, Dorothy Rutherford Richardson, Betty Lewis Williamson, Anna Jo Lewis, Lucille Bryan McColm, Pat Kinsala McFalin, Jo Ann Miller Wagoner, Dorothy Yates Smith, Dora Davis Epperson, Martha Paschall Futrell, Loraine Kenner Thompson and Rosella Kenner Sutton. Miller was named SW AAU player of the year in 1949. Feuerbacher later played for the Dallas Queens, a Dallas semi-pro team. Nan Thompson became president of Phillips J.C. Martha Futrell's family has played in the Mesquite H.S. basketball program for four generations.

The 1948 team was honored again on Dec. 9, 2008---the 60th anniversary of their championship---at Mesquite H.S. The team was honored with a reception before the girls game on that evening and during the halftime of the game. The five members of the team attending that ceremony were Martha Paschall Futrell, Dorothy Yates Smith, Jeanette Seabourne Peters, Anna Jo Lewis and Dr. Wilbanks attended the ceremony and spoke briefly to the audience about the team.

HSGBLT-10	<b>1949</b>	<b>Seagoville wins FIRST title in sudden</b>
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All  
classes

## SEAGOVILLE

death OT on "last shot" by Anderson

Seagoville of Dallas County defeated East Chambers, 26-24, in sudden death OT; Dalhart, 32-24, in the semi-final; McLean, 38-25, in the quarter-finals; and Post, 30-26, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round; of the 10<sup>th</sup> annual "High School Girls' Basketball League of Texas" (HSGBLT) state tournament in the Hillsboro gym on March 10-12, 1949. Seagoville finished the year at 34-5; East Chambers at 48-5; Dalhart at 18-7; and McLean at 23-6. Sixteen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their county and district titles. Seagoville upset defending state champion Mesquite in the county finals at Garland. The League operated from 1939-1954 and had 350 participating teams in 1949. It was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards.

The Seagoville-East Chambers final is perhaps the most memorable of all the 19 finals in the 15-year history of the HSGBLT as it ended in a second—and sudden death—overtime before a capacity crowd of 2,000 fans. The game was close throughout and was tied at 22-22 after Wanda Nelson of Seagoville made a FG & FT with a few seconds left and then East Chambers missed a FT that would have won the game. Both teams scored one FG in the OT sending the game to a second "sudden-death" (i.e., the first team to score 2 points) OT. East Chambers missed "several" shots in the first possession that would have won the game but then lost the ball. Patsy Anderson of Seagoville then "broke loose from a wild tangle" under the basket and "sank the winning goal." The Dallas Morning News published an article on the final with the heading: "Patsy's Pay-off Shot--Tiny Seagoville Brunette Heroine of Title Contest." Patsy had only become a starter two weeks before the state tournament and though she started the final at forward she was on the bench for most of the 3rd and 4th quarters.

Anderson and Nelson led the well balanced Dragonette scoring in the final with 8 points each followed by Madge Sorrels with 7. Jo Ann Ryan led the Buccaneers with 17 of her team's 24 points. The "stars" of the game were the defensive players (guards) for both teams. Patsy Pharr and the other Seagoville guards held Ozell Collins, East Chamber's top scorer, to 7 points.

The "remarkable" Seagoville guards were also credited with the semi-final win over Dalhart as the Waco Tribune Herald noted they were "wonders on the

defense and in hawking the ball." Sorrels was the top Dragonette scorer in the semi-final with 14 points followed by Nelson with 12 and Anderson with 6. Nelson led the Seagoville scorers in the qt. finals against McLean with 18 while Anderson had 12 and Sorrels, 8. Seagoville broke open a close game with Post in the 1<sup>st</sup> round with a 9-1 run in the 4<sup>th</sup> qt and held on for a 4-point win. Nelson was the top scorer with 11 points and Sorrels had 10.

Seagoville was one of the most successful teams in the HSGBLT in its 15-year existence from 1939-1954 as the Dragonettes made the 16-team state tournament field 7 times in 15 years under Coach Jimmy Phillips winning the state championship in 1949 & 1954, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1950 (to Dimmitt), 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1946, 1951 & 1952, and the quarter-finals in 1953. Coach Phillips retired after the 1954 final with a 16-year record of 426-78 (including a 109-11 record in 1950-52). The Seagoville success in the HSGBLT was not repeated in the UIL as the Dragonettes made only one appearance in a state final from 1951-2007 losing in the 1956 final to Angleton. In 2007 Seagoville remains the only Texas state championship basketball team—boys or girls—to ever (from 1921-2007) win a state championship with a "walk off" field goal in sudden death overtime to win a championship. The only other sudden death overtime victory in a championship game was the Belton boys victory over New London in 1958 which ended with two FTs.

The 1949 Seagoville players were: Patsy Pharr, Patsy Anderson, Wanda Nelson, Madge Sorrels, and Monita Swaim, Lucy Dickerson, Melba Lanier, Bobby Sue Page, Derethe Satterwhite, Pat Anderson, Vera Patterson, Jeanine Smith, Doris Krone and Lola Landess.

The 1949 All State Tournament Team included forwards Ozell Collins of East Chambers, Bertha Jones of Roosevelt-Lubbock and Joyce Davis of Dalhart and guards Patsy Pharr of Seagoville, Wanda Gene McAdams of East Chambers and Lillian Upchurch of Forrester. McAdams and Pharr were named by the Waco Tribune-Herald to its 10-person all-time HSGBLT team for 1939-1954. Pharr, a So in 1949, was named All State Tournament for three years (1949-50) and later played for the Dallas Queens in the AAU.

Seagoville and Wellsburg, Iowa, played in a two-state championship match-up at the end of the 1949 season with the two teams splitting a two-game series in Iowa with Seagoville winning the first game, 39-35 at Des Moines on April 1 and Wellsburg winning the 2<sup>nd</sup> game, 35-19, at Waterloo on April 2. The game was organized by the Iowa girls union and L.C. McKamie. The 13 girls, their coach and over 100 supporters made the trip to Iowa. Since these two states were



considered the best in the nation for girls H.S. basketball, the Seagoville and Wellsburg girls split the (mythical) "national championship" for 1949.

In 2007 Patsy Pharr Smith and Lola Landess Wilson still lived in Seagoville. The school planned to (belatedly) recognize the 1949 state champs with a banner in the school gym.

<b>HSGBLT-11</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>Dimmitt wins its 1<sup>st</sup> of 3</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>DIMMITT</b>	<b>consecutive state HSGBLT titles</b>

The Dimmitt Bobbies defeated the Seagoville Dragonettes, 42-32, in the final; Cotton Center, 49-43, in the semi-final; Avery, 54-18, in the qt. final; and Bynum, 35-28, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual "High School Girls' Basketball League of Texas" (HSGBLT) state tournament in the Baylor gym at Waco on March 9-11, 1950. The Bobbies finished the year at 33-2. Sixteen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their district titles. The League operated from 1939-1954 and was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards.

Dimmitt, with "superior height," led all the way in the final with leads of 19-12 at the first qt., 28-24, at the half and 37-28 after 3 qts. 5'11" soph Lometa Odom led the Bobbies in scoring in the final with 22 points despite being closely guarded by All State Tournament Patsy Pharr of Seagoville. Pat Tate added 16 points and Mona Simmons, 4. Odom scored 20 in the 6-point semi-final win despite being double-teamed by Cotton Center as Tate scored 21 points while "she was allowed to roam around loose with the guards on Odom." Ruth Cannon led Cotton Center with 29 points. Tate was the top scorer in the qt. final with 30 points while Odom added 24. Bynum (42-4) led Dimmitt by 7 points at the half but was outscored 12-2 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> qt in its 7-point 1<sup>st</sup> round win. Odom was the top scorer again with 22 points. Bynum went on to "easily" win the consolation title.

**Dimmitt won three consecutive state HSGBLT titles in 1950-52 before joining the UIL and winning three more titles in 1954, 1955 & 1993. J.W. Blaine was the Dimmitt championship coach for all three titles in 1950-52 while Leo A. Fields was the coach in 1954-55 and Richard Wood in 1993. Blaine coached football and girls and boys basketball and won both a boys (UIL) and girls (HSGBLT) state title for Dimmitt in 1952 becoming the only coach in TX history to win both a boys and girls state basketball championship. He had a career coaching record in basketball of 559-64 for a 90% winning percentage.**

**The Dimmitt girls won back-to-back state A.A.U. titles in 1930-1931 which became the first two of an amazing 35 state titles won by "tiny" (total population of less than 9,000) Castro County as the Dimmitt girls have won 8 total titles (in the 3 leagues); the Dimmitt boys have won 4 titles; the Nazareth boys, 5 titles; and the Nazareth girls, 18 titles. Only Dallas County (with 47 state titles) has won more state basketball titles than Castro County (Harris County is 3rd at 32 titles) and ranks ahead of Levelland (7), Duncanville (6), Abernathy (6), Claude (6) and Waco Midway (6).**

**The 1950 Dimmitt champions were: Lometa Odum, So; Pat Tate, Sr; Mona Simmons, Sr; Phyllis Behrends, Sr; Mauriene Smithson, Jr; Lanelle Walthall, Sr; Peggy Messenger, Jr; Johnny Godfrey, So; Katy Coke, Fr; Connie McRee, So; Mitzi Wilson, Fr; Decimae Dennis, Fr; Yvonne Bearden, Fr; and Mary Smith, Sr.**

**The 1950 All State Tournament Team included forwards Lometa Odom of Dimmitt, Ruth Cannon of Cotton Center and Joyce Davis of Dalhart and guards Mauriene Smithson of Dimmitt, Patsy Pharr of Seagoville and Wanda McAdams of East Chambers. The Waco Tribune-Herald named Dimmitt's Odom (1950-52), Pat Tate (1950) and Maurienne Smithson (1950-51) to its 10-person "all-time" HSGBLT team for 1939-54.**

**Dimmitt, the Texas state champion, defeated Slater, the Iowa state champion, 47-20, at Waco on March 18 in a match-up of state champions. Slater, the "lone survivor in a field of 694 teams," was no match for Dimmitt, "perhaps the best in the history" of the (HSGBLT) league. Lometa Odom topped the Bobbies with 24 points though double-teamed the entire game. Tate added 20 points. Dimmitt's outstanding guard, Phyllis Behrends, held Iowa's leading scorer (at 23 points per game) without a FG for the entire game as she and fellow guards Mauriene Smithson and Lanelle Walthall held the Iowa champs to only 6 FGs and 20 points. The Iowa-TX state championship match-up began in 1948 with Mesquite losing to Kamrar, Iowa, 37-34, in Des Moines. In 1949 Seagoville and Wellsburg, the Iowa state champion, split a two game series at Waterloo, IO.**

Dimmitt's Pat Tate, a Sr in 1950, played for the Wayland Flying Queens in 1951 and was named on the 10-person A.A.U. All-American team as a Fr. Mauriene Smithson of Dimmitt and Ruth Cannon of Cotton Center, also played for the Queens in 1951. Lometa Odom, who set a state record of 78 points in one game in 1952 that still stands today, was a 4-time All-American at Wayland Baptist in 1953-56 and was a member of 3 national AAU championship teams. She played on Wayland teams that won 131 consecutive games and is a member of the Helms Foundation College Hall of Fame, the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, the Panhandle Hall of Fame and the Wayland Baptist Hall of Fame. Odom coached at Gruver, Spearman and White Deer, retiring in 1994.

<b>HSGBLT-12</b>	<b>1951</b>	<b>Dimmitt wins its second of 3</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>DIMMITT</b>	<b>Consecutive HSGBLT state titles</b>

Dimmitt defeated Cotton Center, 36-30, in the final; Seagoville, 38-23, in the semi-final; Knott, 46-23, in the qt. final; and Aledo, 69-29, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual "High School Girls' Basketball League of Texas" (HSGBLT) state tournament in the Baylor gym at Waco on March 9-11, 1951. The Bobbies finished the year at 33-2 with two-point losses to Cotton Center and Springlake—but Dimmitt was 4-1 on the year against Cotton Center and 3-1 against Springlake. Sixteen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their district titles. The League operated from 1939-1954 and was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards.

The Bobbies trailed early in the final over Cotton Center but then went on a "scoring spree" in the 2<sup>nd</sup> qt. and held off a 4<sup>th</sup> qt. rally for the 6-pt win. Lometa Odom, though double-teamed, scored 25 points in the 15-pt. semi-final win over Seagoville while Johnny Godfrey added 9 and Mary Nelson, 4. Knott gave Dimmitt an early scare in the qt. final but the Bobbies pulled away in the 3<sup>rd</sup> qt. for a 23-pt. win as Odom, though double-teamed, scored 24 points and Godfrey and Nelson added 10. Guard Mauriene Smithson held Knott's star to 9 points.

**Odom, though double-teamed, set a new state scoring record in the 1<sup>st</sup> round win over Aledo with 47 points on 22 of 27 FG attempts.**

**In 1951-1954 both the HSGBLT and the UIL had "state champions" in girls basketball. In 1951 Claude was the Class B state champion of the UIL while Dimmitt was the state champion of the HSGBLT. Dimmitt won three consecutive state HSGBLT titles in 1950-52 before joining the UIL and winning three more titles in 1954, 1955 & 1993. J.W. Blaine was the Dimmitt championship coach for all three titles in 1950-52 while Leo A. Fields was the coach in 1954-55 and Richard Wood in 1993. Blaine coached football and girls and boys basketball and won both a boys (UIL) and girls (HSGBLT) state title for Dimmitt in 1952 becoming the only coach in TX history to win both a boys and girls state basketball championship. He had a career coaching record in basketball of 559-64 for a 90% winning percentage.**

**The Dimmitt girls won back-to-back state A.A.U. titles in 1930-1931 which became the first two of an amazing 35 state titles won by "tiny" (total population of less than 9,000) Castro County as the Dimmitt girls have won 8 total titles (in the 3 leagues); the Dimmitt boys have won 4 titles; the Nazareth boys, 5 titles; and the Nazareth girls, 18 titles. Only Dallas County (with 47 state titles) has won more state basketball titles than Castro County (Harris County is 3rd at 32 titles) and ranks ahead of Levelland (7), Duncanville (6), Abernathy (6), Claude (6) and Waco Midway (6).**

**The 1951 Dimmitt players were: Forwards, Lometa Odom, Jr; Peggy Messenger, Sr; Yvonne Bearden, So; Johnny Godfrey, Jr; Mary Nelson, Fr; and Johnny Godfrey, Jr; and guards, Katy Coke, So; Mitzi Wilson, So; Decimae Dennis, So; Mauriene Smithson, Sr; Connie McRee, Jr; Peggy Alley, Fr; and Barbara Clark, So.**

**The 1951 All State Tournament Team included forwards Lometa Odom of Dimmitt, Ruth Cannon of Cotton Center, Jo Ann Ryan of East Chambers, Wanda Arant of New Deal, Betty Griffin of Slocum and Jo Head of Aledo and guards Mauriene Smithson of Dimmitt, Patsy Pharr of Seagoville, Jimmy Shanks of Knott, Millie Bennett of Stratford, Vera Patterson of Seagoville and Kathryn Shadden of Cotton Center. The Waco Tribune-Herald named Dimmitt's Odom (1950-52), Pat Tate (1950) and Maurienne Smithson (1950-51) to its 10-person "all-time" HSGBLT team for 1939-54. Pharr was also named to the all-time team.**

**The 1951 Dimmitt state champions played the Iowa champion, Hansell, in Des Moines on March 24, 1951, with the Texas champions defeating the Iowa**

champions, 38-30. Dimmitt led at the half 26-9 and “stalled” most of the second half to avoid foul trouble. The Dimmitt strategy angered the more than 9,000 Iowa fans who “booed lustily.” The 1951 TX-Iowa program indicated that 22 states played girls H.S. basketball "with some regularity" and that 9 states (TX, IO, AR, GA, LA, MS ND, OK & SC) held a state tournament.

Lometa Odom was a 4-time All-American at Wayland Baptist in 1953-56 and was a member of 3 national AAU championship teams. She played on Wayland teams that won 131 consecutive games and is a member of the Helms Foundation College Hall of Fame, the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, the Panhandle Hall of Fame & the Wayland Baptist U. Hall of Fame. Odom coached at Gruver, Spearman and White Deer, retiring in 1994. Mauriene Smithson also later played for the Flying Queens as did Ruth Cannon of Cotton Center.

HSGBLT-13	<b>1952</b>	<b>Dimmitt wins its 3<sup>rd</sup> state title;</b>
All classes	<b>DIMMITT</b>	<b>Lometa Odom scores 78 in one game</b>

Dimmitt defeated New Deal, 32-21, in the final; Penelope, 92-51, in the semi-final; Aledo, 47-29, in the qt. final; and East Chambers, 46-34, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the 13<sup>th</sup> annual

"High School Girls' Basketball League of Texas" (HSGBLT) state tournament in the Baylor gym at Waco on March 13-15, 1952. Sixteen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their district titles. The League operated from 1939-1954 and was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards.

Dimmitt's 41-pt. win over Penelope in the semi-finals set a record for most points ever scored (92) in a tournament game and in a championship game and her 78 points in the game shattered the previous state record of 49 set the night before by Barbara Ray of Bullard. Odom had held the previous record with 47 in 1951. The 78 points (38 FGs & 2 FTs) was more than any team had ever scored in a tournament game and is greater than the UIL record (from 1951-2007) of 68

points made in 1956 by Juvean McWhorter of Collinsville. Odom had scored only 16 points in the 1<sup>st</sup> round that matched Odom with Margaret Menard of East Chambers---both were later named to the TX H.S. Basketball Hall of Fame. The Bobbies led the Buccaneers by 2 points at the half, after 3 qts. and at game's end.

In 1951-1954 both the HSGBLT and the UIL had "state champions" in girls basketball. In 1952 Claude was the Class B state champion of the UIL while Dimmitt was the state champion of the HSGBLT. Dimmitt won three consecutive state HSGBLT titles in 1950-52 before joining the UIL and winning three more titles in 1954, 1955 & 1993. J.W. Blaine was the Dimmitt championship coach for all three titles in 1950-52 while Leo A. Fields was the coach in 1954-55 and Richard Wood in 1993. Blaine coached football and girls and boys basketball and won both a boys (UIL) and girls (HSGBLT) state title for Dimmitt in 1952 becoming the only coach in TX history to win both a boys and girls state basketball championship. He had a career coaching record in basketball of 559-64 for a 90% winning percentage. Blaine's boys team won the 1A state UIL championship in 1952 to complete a "double" by winning both the girls and boys titles. The girls ended their year undefeated at 37-0 and the boys were undefeated at 34-0----thus the Dimmitt boys and girls were 71-0 for the 1952 season with two state championships. Blaine is the only coach to ever win both a boys and girls title and he did it for the same school and in the same year. Blaine almost made a "basketball-football double" as his 1951-52 football team lost to Abernathy, 20-19, in the regional finals.

The Dimmitt girls won back-to-back state A.A.U. titles in 1930-1931 which became the first two of an amazing 35 state titles won by "tiny" (total population of less than 9,000) Castro County as the Dimmitt girls have won 8 total titles (in the 3 leagues); the Dimmitt boys have won 4 titles; the Nazareth boys, 5 titles; and the Nazareth girls, 18 titles. Only Dallas County (with 47 state titles) has won more state basketball titles than Castro County (Harris County is 3rd at 32 titles) and ranks ahead of Levelland (7), Duncanville (6), Abernathy (6), Claude (6) and Waco Midway (6).

The 1952 Dimmitt players were: Lometa Odom, Sr; Darlene Cates; Mary Ann Witt; Katy Coke, Jr; Connie McRee, Sr; Mary Nelson, So; Yvonne Bearden, Jr; Decimae Dennis, Jr; Shirley Markley; Dalvia Howard; Jacqueline Cartwright; Braunita Cole; Mitzi Wilson, Jr; Peggy Alley, So; and Barbara Clark, Jr.

The 1952 All State Tournament Team included forwards Lometa Odom of Dimmitt, Barbara Ray of Bullard, Wanda Arant of New Deal, Margaret Menard of East Chambers, Peggy Pharr of Seagoville and Bonnie Hall of Aledo and

guards Mitzi Wilson of Dimmitt, Vera Patterson of Seagoville, Virginia Nicholson of New Deal, Betty Martin of Meadow, Patsy Anderson of Meridian and Mary Ann Looney of New Deal. The Waco Tribune-Herald named Dimmitt's Odom (1950-52), Pat Tate (1950) and Maurienne Smithson (1950-51) to its 10-person "all-time" HSGBLT team for 1939-54.

Lometa Odom, who set a state record of 78 points in one game in 1952 that still stands today, was a 4-time All-American at Wayland Baptist in 1953-56 and was a member of 3 national AAU championship teams. She played on Wayland teams that won 131 consecutive games and is a member of the Helms Foundation College Hall of Fame, the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, the Panhandle Hall of Fame & the Wayland Baptist U. Hall of Fame. Odom coached at Gruver, Spearman and White Deer, retiring in 1994. Mauriene Smithson also later played for the Flying Queens as did Ruth Cannon of Cotton Center.

HSGBLT-14	<b>1953</b>	<b>Maydelle wins its only</b>
<b>1-A</b>	<b>MAYDELLE</b>	<b>state girls title</b>

Maydelle of Cherokee County defeated Bullard, 44-43, in the final; Tarkington, 58-37, in the semi-finals; Evant, 51-40, in the quarterfinals and drew a bye in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual "High School Girls' Basketball League of Texas" (HSGBLT) tournament in Waco at the Baylor gym on March 12-14, 1953. Sixteen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their district titles. The League operated from 1939-1954 and was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards. In 1951-1954 both the HSGBLT and the UIL had "state champions" in girls basketball. In 1953 Claude was the Class B state champion of the UIL while Maydelle was the 1-A state champion of the HSGBLT.

The Maydelle Bullard final was described by the Waco Tribune-Herald as one of the "wildest" and "roughest" in tournament history between "two bitter rivals" who had played three games against each other earlier in the year (with Maydelle winning 2 of the 3). The Lions jumped out to a 12-point lead but led by

only 12-10 after 1 qt and 27-22 at the half before the Pantherettes took a 37-35 lead after 3 qts. The game was tied at 35-35 with 1:30 remaining when Bullard went ahead by one with 1:15 left. Maydelle's Yvonne Odom made a 15-ft FG with 2 seconds remaining to give the Lions the state title. The final was billed as a "duel" between two high scoring forwards, Frieda Hanson of Maydelle and Barbara Ray of Bullard but the Lions held Ray to 15 points while her teammate, Barbara Clyburn scored 24. Hanson scored 26 points for Maydelle and Odom added 10.

The Waco Tribune-Herald angered the Maydelle supporters with its headline that "Bullard Comes from Far Behind, Should Have Won." Also, the tournament award for the top scorer went to Bullard's Ray with 112 points to 94 for Hanson though Bullard played 4 games to 3 for Maydelle (which drew a bye in the first round). Hanson averaged 31.3 ppg to 28.0 for Ray. Hanson scored 40 points in the semi-final victory over Tarkington followed by Helen Jenkins with 14. Hanson was also the top Lion scorer in the quarterfinal win against Evant with 28 points followed by Jenkins with 15 and Odom with 8 as Maydelle led by only 6 until the 4<sup>th</sup> qt. when the the Lions turned a close game into a rout winning by 11 points.

The Lions finished the year at 37-3 and became the second Cherokee County girls team to ever win a state basketball championship as Maydelle also won the state AAU girls title in 1947 under coach J.G. Hobson who was also the boys coach for the 1948 UIL title.

Four Cherokee County boys teams have won state (Maydelle in 1948, Jacksonville in 1956 and Troup in 1992 & 1993).

Floyd Dotson was the 1953 Maydelle championship coach. Maydelle made the 16-team field at the HSGBLT three times losing in the quarterfinals in 1947 to champion East Chambers, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> to Mesquite in 1948 and winning the 1A state title in 1953.

The 1953 Maydelle players were: Melba Parrish, Sue Lassiter, Corine Johnson, Joan Sanford, Helen Jenkins, Betty Ezell, Eloise Meador, Yvonne Odom, Mary Ivy Cohagen, Clara Belle Spurger, Lucy Main, Melva Ferguson, Virginia Ezell and Freida Hanson.

The 1953 1A All State Tournament Team included Forwards Freida Hanson of Maydelle, Barbara Ray of Bullard and Maxine Dunning of Lipan and Guards Barbara Warren of Midway, Nell Langford of Tarkington and Barbara Neighbors of Matador. Ray held the tournament scoring record in 1952 for 24



hours with her 48 points against Penelope before Dimmitt's Lometa Odom scored 78 against Penelope.

Maydelle's trophies and memorials to its basketball success are displayed at the Trading Post in Maydelle. Maydelle alumni of the school and the championship teams meet each year in Jacksonville for a reunion.

HSGBLT-15	<b>1953</b>	<b>East Chambers wins its</b>
2-A	<b>EAST CHAMBERS</b>	<b>second title</b>

Winnie East Chambers defeated Gatesville, 38-23, in the final; Penelope, 55-31, in the semi-final; Cranfills Gap, 72-36, in the qt. final; and Post, 37-14, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round; of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual "High School Girls' Basketball League of Texas" (HSBGLT) tournament in Waco at the Baylor gym on March 12-14, 1953. East Chambers finished the year at 44-1 with its only loss being to Bullard. Sixteen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their district titles. The League operated from 1939-1954 and was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSBGLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards.

In the final the Buccaneers led 9-5 after one qt. and 17-15 before a late 3<sup>rd</sup> qt. surge put the game out of reach for Gatesville. Margaret Menard led East Chambers with 20 points and Irene Honeycutt added 16 while guard Wanda Regian was the Buccaneer defensive star. Barbara Wilson led Gatesville with 12 points. Menard also led the Buccaneers in the semi-final with 32 points while Valarie King added 12 and Honeycutt, 10. Penelope star Evelyn Kolar was held to 12 points by East Chambers' defensive ace, Wanda Regian. The Buccaneers took an early lead and built it to 24 points by the end of the game. East Chambers' 36-point win in the qt. finals began with an 18-3 1<sup>st</sup> qt. lead that stretched to 36-14 at halftime and 46-21 after 3 qts. Menard led the Buccaneers with 28 points while Honeycutt added 24 and King, 13. The 23-point 1<sup>st</sup> round victory over Post included 19 points by Menard.

**East Chambers was the most successful girls team at the HSGBLT from 1939-1954 making the 16-team state tournament 8 consecutive years from 1947-1953. The Buccaneers were state champs in 1947 & 1953, finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1949 (losing in sudden death OT to Seagoville), 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1948 & 1950, and won the consolation title in 1946, 1951 & 1952. East Chambers had at least one player on the All State Tournament Team each year from 1946-1953 and had a 32-6 record at state over that period. The 1953 team was 44-1 with its only loss to Bullard (whom they defeated in a rematch).**

**In 1951-1954 both the HSGBLT and the UIL had "state champions" in girls basketball. In 1953 New Deal was the Class A-AA state champion of the UIL while East Chambers was the 2A state champion of the HSGBLT. East Chambers joined the UIL in 1954 and won the Class B state championship giving the East Chambers girls their 3<sup>rd</sup> state title in 8 years. J.D. Hutson was the East Chambers championship coach for all three state titles (1947, 1953 & 1954). The Buccaneers did not reach the UIL finals again from 1955-2007. The only other (boys or girls) teams from Chambers County to win a state basketball championship were the 1982 & 1983 Barbers Hill girls.**

**The 1953 East Chambers players were: Forwards Margaret Menard, Rosemary McAdams, Valarie King, and Irene Honeycutt and Guards Helen Bettis, Rita Breaux, Lola Duhon, Wanda Regian and Earline Abshire. The team was comprised of three seniors, one junior & seven sophomores.**

**The 1953 2-A All State Tournament Team included forwards Margaret Menard of East Chambers, Peggy Pharr of Seagoville and Barbara Wilson of Gatesville and guards Wanda Regian of East Chambers, Wanda Williams of Gatesville and Pat Jarrett of Leverett's Chapel. Margaret Menard of East Chambers was the top 2-A scorer in the tournament with 99 points in 4 games (24.8 ppg) and was later elected to the Texas H.S. Basketball Hall of Fame. Both Menard and Emily McBride (1947-48) made the all-time (1939-1954) All State Tournament Team as selected by Waco sportswriter Jinx Tucker in 1954.**

**Margaret Menard LaFleur lived in the Winnie area in 2007 as did Rosemary McAdams Dale who still teaches in Winnie. Irene Honeycutt lives in Kuntz and Valarie King and Rita Breaux in the Livingston area.**

HSGBLT-16	<b>1954</b>	<b>Penelope wins its only state ti</b>
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## **PENELOPE**

**in boys or girls basketball**

**Penelope defeated Waco Midway, 56-55, in the final; Brock, 40-38, in the semi-final; Cayuga, 40-38, in the qt. final and Mosheim, 48-25, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round at the 15<sup>th</sup> annual (and last) "High School Girls' Basketball league of Texas" (HSGBLT) tournament at the Heart of Texas Coliseum in Waco on March 12-14, 1954. Penelope ended the year at 45-5.**

**Sixteen teams qualified for the state tournament by winning their district titles. The League operated from 1939-1954 and was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards. In 1951-1954 both the HSGBLT and the UIL had "state champions" in girls basketball. In 1954 East Chambers was the Class B state champion of the UIL while Penelope was the 1-A state champion of the HSGBLT.**

**The final between Penelope and Midway was billed by the Waco Tribune-Herald as a duel between the two top scorers in the state---Evelyn Kolar of Penelope and Sheila Rice of Midway. Kolar scored 35 of her team's 56 points while Rice scored 43 of Midway's 55 points. Penelope trailed by 2 points after 3 qts. and the lead changed hands five times in the 4<sup>th</sup> qt. before Kolar made a FG to give her team a 3-point lead with 15 seconds remaining. Joyce Thompson of Midway made a FG to close the gap to one point but "the game ended with the girls in a mad scramble for the ball at midcourt." Other Penelope scorers in the final were forwards Naomi Stepp with 14 and Shirley Latimer with 7. Kolar scored 39 points against Mosheim in the 1<sup>st</sup> round game.**

**The 2-point win over Brock in the semi-final was close the entire game with Penelope leading 12-11 after 1 qt, 22-20 at the half and 26-24 after 3 qts. All State guard Charlene Hodde fouled out with 5:58 remaining but the Wolverines held on to win after going ahead on a FT with 30 seconds left and rebounding a desperation shot by Brock before the buzzer. Kolar led Penelope with 19 points and Stepp scored 15. The Wolverines' 2-point win over Cayuga in the qt. final came after a great comeback by the Wildkittens who trailed 25-18 at halftime and 34-30 after 3 qts. Cayuga tied the score with 17 seconds left but Penelope's Kolar made a FG with 6 seconds remaining to win the game. Kolar scored 20 points for Penelope and Stepp and Latimer added 10 each. Mary Johnson led Cayuga with 30 points.**

The Penelope Wolverines had considerable success in the HSGBLT as it made the 16-team state tournament five times winning 4<sup>th</sup> in 1947, qt. finals in 1951, 4<sup>th</sup> in 1952, 4<sup>th</sup> in 1953 and were champions in 1954. In 1948 the Penelope girls team was defeated 18-13 by Frisco in the high school state finals at the Southwestern AAU Basketball Tournament. Penelope started the game with only 6 girls because of injuries and ended the game with only 4 girls due to fouls. Frisco went on to the National AAU Tournament in St. Louis. Penelope joined the UIL in 1955 after the demise of the HSGBLT but never made the finals of the UIL in the girls or boys state tournaments from 1955-2007. The 1954 Penelope championship coach was R.E. McAfee.

The 1954 Penelope players were: Jeannette Walker, Albertine Cernosek, Faye Dollins, Evelyn Kolar, Sandra Walker, Shirley Latimer, Charlene Hodde, Naomia Stepp, Patsy Stepp, Mildred Ondrej, Georgia Ondrey, Ella Enders, Mary Muncy, Francis Holub and JoAnn Campbell, mgr.

The 1954 Class 1A All State Tournament Team included forwards Evelyn Kosar of Penelope, Sheila Rice of Midway, Joyce Thompson of Midway (voted most outstanding player in 1A) and Sue Phillips of Brock (voted most outstanding forward in 1A) and guards Charlene Hodde of Penelope (voted most outstanding guard in 1A), Joyce Pelper of Crawford and Ina Jean Nicholson of Brock. Midway's Rice was the leading scorer in the 4 games at state with 127 points followed by Penelope's Kolar with 113 points. Penelope's Stepp had 46 points while Midway's Thompson had 38. Kolar averaged 26 points per game on the season.

In 2007 the 1953 state championship trophy was displayed at Penelope H.S. Naomi and Patsy Stepp and Mary Muncy still lived in Penelope; Faye Dollins in Chandler; Charlene Hodde in Hubbard; Mildred Ondrej in Burleson; Ella Enders in Arlington; and Francis Holub in West.

HSGBLT-17	<b>1954</b>	<b>Seagoville wins its 2<sup>nd</sup> of 2</b>
<b>2-A</b>	<b>SEAGOVILLE</b>	<b>state HSGBLT titles</b>

Seagoville of Dallas County defeated Abbott, 30-29, in the final; Gatesville, ??-?, in the semi-final; Cranfills Gap, 48-26, in the qt. final in the 15<sup>th</sup> annual (and last) "High School Girls' Basketball league of Texas" (HSGBLT) tournament at the Heart of Texas Coliseum in Waco on March 12-14, 1954. Ten teams qualified for

**the 2-A state tournament by winning their district titles. The League operated from 1939-1954 and was eventually displaced by the University Interscholastic League (UIL) which began its girls' tournament in 1951. Both the HSGBLT and the UIL (from 1951-1978) played a "half-court" format with three offensive players ("forwards") on one end matched against three defensive players ("guards") on the same end. All scoring was by the three forwards. In 1951-1954 both the HSGBLT and the UIL had "state champions" in girls basketball. In 1954 Dimmitt was the 3A (large school) state champion of the UIL while Seagoville was the 2-A (large school) state champion of the HSGBLT.**

**A "frenzied" crowd of over 3,000 watched the 1954 Seagoville-Abbot 2-A final as Abbott was behind for most of the game and trailed 28-23 going into the last qt and then lost its top three guards to 5 fouls in an effort to break the Buccaneer "freeze." Patsy Akin and Joann Dickerson each made a FT—the team's only points in the 4<sup>th</sup> qt. but that was enough for a one-point victory as the Seagoville "classy ball handlers dribbled out the remaining time." Seagoville was led by Akin and Dickerson with 10 points each, Appling with 6 and Horton with 5. JaLuan (Sissy) Corbin scored 15 for Abbott. Wanda Houston and Mynon Davis the top defensive players for Seagoville. The 22-point win over Cranfills Gap in the qt. final featured 24 pnts and strong rebounding by 6'0" Patsy Akin and stellar defensive play by Wando Houston.**

**In 1951-1954 both the HSGBLT and the UIL had "state champions" in girls basketball. In 1954 Dimmitt A-AA state champion of the UIL while Seagoville was the 2-A state champion of the HSGBLT. Seagoville was one of the most successful teams in the HSGBLT in its 15-year existence from 1939-1954 as the Dragonettes made the 16-team state tournament field 7 times in 15 years under Coach Jimmy Phillips winning the state championship in 1949 & 1954, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1950 (to Dimmitt), 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1946, 1951 & 1952, and the quarter-finals in 1953. Coach Phillips retired after the 1954 final with a 16-year record of 426-78. The Seagoville success in the HSGBLT was not repeated in the UIL as the Dragonettes made only one appearance in a state final from 1951-2007 losing in the 1956 final to Angleton.**

**The 1954 Seagoville Dragonettes were: Wanda Houston, Jane Appling, Phyllis Anderson, Jerry Newton, Mignon Davis, Patsy Akin, Louise Travis, Joyce Sims, Marlene Horton, ?? Pickeral and Joann Dickerson.**

**The 1954 2-A All State Tournament Team included forwards Patsy Akin of Seagoville, Audrey Meixner of Connally and Joyce Mouton of Little Cypress and guards Wanda Williams of Gatesville, Mary Ann Strahan of Connally and Jean**

**Stamphill of Abbott. Akin, who scored 60 points in the tournament, was voted the outstanding forward of Class 2-A.**

**In 2007 Jerry Newton Waldrum lived near Seagoville; Patsy Akin Oschner lived in Midland; Jane Apprling Siegler lived in ?? Others?**

**ALL STATE TOURNAMENT AT HSGBLT, 1939-1954**

#denotes championship team

Year	Div	School	Name	Position	Class
1939	All	Gatesville#	Margaret Weaver	Forward	
1939	All	Meadow	Jamie Ruth Deckard	Forward	
1939	All	Mesquite	Z. Crain	Forward	
1939	All	Gatesville#	Zoraida Thomasson	Guard	
1939	All	Bullard	Doris Clyburn	Guard	
1939	All	Ireland	Mary Davis	Guard	
1940	All	Plano	Williams	Forward	
1940	All	Kopperl	Kimbrell	Forward	
1940	All	Mobeetie	Smith	Forward	
1940	All	Wayside#	Lahoma Payne	Guard	
1940	All	Lott	Neal	Guard	
1940	All	Highland	Garrett	Guard	
1941	All	Ennis#	Maydean Armstrong	Forward	
1941	All	Mesquite	Grubb	Forward	
1941	All	Anton	B. Stephenson	Forward	
1941	All	Ennis#	Doris Nell Dyess	Guard	
1941	All	Mobeetie	Puckett	Guard	
1941	All	Anton	Schilling	Guard	
1942	All	Borger#	Delores Vann	Forward	
1942	All	Emory	Dorothy Godwin	Forward	
1942	All	Aquilla	Estelle Vrana	Forward	
1942	All	Borger#	Helen Miller	Guard	
1942	All	Gatesville	Camille Lester	Guard	
1942	All	Emory	Mary Asbill	Guard	
1944	All	Aquilla#	Myra Jean Burleson	Forward	
1944	All	Quail	Alpha Neeley	Forward	
1944	All	Friona	Betty Mae Massey	Forward	
1944	All	Aquilla#	Mary Frances Gerick	Guard	
1944	All	Friona	Loris Gene McFarland	Guard	

1944	All	Trent	Tattie Tittle	Guard
1945	All	Aquilla#	Myra Jean Burluson	Forward
1945	All	China	Barbara Self	Forward
1945	All	Friona	Betty Mae Massey	Forward
1945	All	Hermleigh	Joye Clements	Guard
1945	All	Aquilla#	Pauline Odom	Guard
1945	All	Hermleigh	Izora Williams	Guard
1946	All	Aquilla#	Audine Odom	Forward
1946	All	Follett	Belva Sperry	Forward
1946	All	Cooper	Mary Wilks	Forward
1946	All	Friona	Lila Robason	Guard
1946	All	Seagoville	Marie Walton	Guard
1946	All	East Chambers	Louise Graham	Guard
1947	All	Stanton	Betty Blissard	Forward
1947	All	Penelope	Regina Prikryl	Forward
1947	All	East Chambers#	Mary AnnWilson	Forward
1947	All	Friona	Lila Robason	Guard
1947	All	East Chambers#	Emily McBride	Guard
1947	All	Stanton	Kurlene Guerin	Guard
1948	All	Mesquite#	Joan Miller	Forward
1948	All	East Chambers	Maxine Pate	Forward
1948	All	Maydelle	Elene Lusk	Forward
1948	All	Mesquite#	Dora Davis	Guard
1948	All	East Chambers	Emily McBride	Guard
1948	All	West Columbia	Phylis Henslee	Guard
1949	All	East Chambers	Ozell Collins	Forward
1949	All	Roosevelt-Lubb	Bertha Jones	Forward
1949	All	Dalhart	Joyce Davis	Forward
1949	All	East Chambers	Wanda McAdams	Guard
1949	All	Forreston	Lillian Upchurch	Guard
1949	All	Seagoville#	Patsy Pharr	Guard
1950	All	Dimmitt#	Lometa Odom	Forward
1950	All	Cotton Center	Ruth Cannon	Forward
1950	All	Dalhart	Joyce Davis	Forward
1950	All	Dimmitt#	Maurene Smithson	Guard
1950	All	Seagoville	Patsy Pharr	Guard
1950	All	East Chambers	Wanda McAdams	Guard
1951	All	Dimmitt#	Lometa Odom	Forward
1951	All	Cotton Center	Ruth Cannon	Forward
1951	All	East Chambers	Jo Ann Ryan	Forward
1951	All	New Deal	Wanda Arant	Forward

1951	All	Slocum	Betty Griffin	Forward
1951	All	Aledo	Jo Head	Forward
1951	All	Dimmitt#	Mauriene Smithson	Guard
1951	All	Seagoville	Patsy Pharr	Guard
1951	All	Knott	Jimmy Shanks	Guard
1951	All	Stratford	Millie Bennett	Guard
1951	All	Seagoville	Vera Patterson	Guard
1951	All	Cotton Center	Kathryn Shadden	Guard
1952	All	Dimmitt#	Lometa Odom	Forward
1952	All	Bullard	Barbara Ray	Forward
1952	All	New Deal	Wanda Arant	Forward
1952	All	East Chambers	Margaret Menard	Forward
1952	All	Seagoville	Peggy Pharr	Forward
1952	All	Aledo	Bonnie Hall	Forward
1952	All	Dimmitt#	Mitzi Wilson	Guard
1952	All	Seagoville	Vera Patterson	Guard
1952	All	New Deal	Virginia Nicholson	Guard
1952	All	Meadow	Betty Martin	Guard
1952	All	Meridian	Patsy Anderson	Guard
1952	All	New Deal	Mary Ann Looney	Guard
1953	A	Maydelle#	Freida Hanson	Forward
1953	A	Bullard	Barbara Ray	Forward
1953	A	Lipan	Maxine Dunning	Forward
1953	A	Midway-McL	Barbara Warren	Guard
1953	A	Tarkington	Nell Langford	Guard
1953	A	Matador	Barbara Neighbors	Guard
1953	AA	East Chambers#	Margaret Menard	Forward
1953	AA	Seagoville	Peggy Pharr	Forward
1953	AA	Gatesville	Barbara Wilson	Forward
1953	AA	East Chambers#	Wanda Regian	Guard
1953	AA	Gatesville	Wanda Wilson	Guard
1953	AA	Leverett's Chapel	Pat Jarrett	Guard
1954	A	Penelope#	Evelyn Kolar	Forward
1954	A	Brock	Sue Phillips	Forward
1954	A	Midway-McL	Sheila Rice	Forward
1954	A	Midway-McL	Joyce Thompson	Forward
1954	A	Penelope#	Charlene Hodde	Guard
1954	A	Brock	Ina Jean Nicholson	Guard
1954	A	Crawford	Joyce Peiper	Guard
1954	AA	Seagoville#	Patsy Akin	Forward
1954	AA	Connally	Audrey Meixner	Forward



1954	AA	Little Cypress	Joyce Mouton	Forward
1954	AA	Gatesville	Wanda Williams	Guard
1954	AA	Connally	Mary Ann Strahan	Guard
1954	AA	Abbott	Jean Stamphill	Guard

### AAU GIRLS' STATE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENTS IN TEXAS FROM 1925-1950

\*Info below is based on newspaper accounts as the A.A.U. has no records for these state tournaments

\*\*research by Dr. Billy Wilbanks for www.TexasBasketballChamps.com

\*\*\*The AAU state tournament was eventually supplanted by the UIL State tournament (1951-2007) and the H.S. Girls Basketball

Year	Date	Host City	Champion	Runner-up	Score	3rd Place	4th Place
1925	M-28	Waco	<a href="#">Waco</a>	Breckenridge	39-13	Cisco	S. Bosque
1926	M-21	Cisco	<a href="#">Breckenridge</a>	Cisco	22-19	Celeste	Atlanta
1927	M-20	Breckenridge	<a href="#">Cisco</a>	Breckenridge	25-10	Dublin	Sardis
1928	M-18	Dublin	<a href="#">Dublin</a>	Addison	40-29	Breckenridge	Cisco
1929	M-17	Breckenridge	<a href="#">Breckenridge</a>	Cisco	30-23	Mingus	Seagoville
1930	M-16	Celeste	<a href="#">Athens</a>	Dimmitt	46-41	Seagoville	Celeste
1931	M-14	Plainview	<a href="#">Dimmitt</a>	Mingus	30-26	Perryton	Dalhart
1932	M-19	Celeste	<a href="#">Dimmitt</a>	Celeste	42-33	Bailey	Howard
1933	M-18	Mesquite	<a href="#">Mesquite</a>	Roby	25-19	Grand Saline	Dublin
1934	M-25	Celeste	<a href="#">Conlen</a>	Mesquite	38-34	Winnsboro	Blue Ridge
1935	M-15	Plainview	<a href="#">Ropesville</a>	Winnsboro	44-43	Irene	Plainview
1936	M-7	Plainview	<a href="#">Plainview</a>	Winnsboro	42-40	Emory	Channing
1937	M-12	Hillsboro	<a href="#">Emory</a>	Celeste	24-21	Allison	Bullard
1938	M-12	Greenville	<a href="#">Allison</a>	Miller Grove	22-7	Celeste	Meadow
1939	M-11	Greenville	<a href="#">Allison</a>	Miller Grove	30-12	Quinlan	Celeste
1940	M-17	Greenville	<a href="#">Wayside</a>	Quinlan	19-17	Merit	Bonham
1941	M-15	Quinlan	<a href="#">Quinlan</a>	Merit	22-13	Emory	Wolfe
1942	M-7	Quinlan	<a href="#">Quinlan</a>	Jayton	27-13		
1943		<b>No Tournament Due to War Gas Rations</b>					
1944	M-11	Dallas-SMU	<a href="#">Point</a>	Plano	29-20	Garland/Bailey	Garland
1945	M-10	Dallas	<a href="#">Highland Park</a>	Point	37-27	Seagoville/Allen	Seagoville
1946	M-16	Celeste	<a href="#">Follett</a>	Penelope	37-24	Savoy	Grand
1947	M-8	Dallas-SMU	<a href="#">Maydelle</a>	Cranfills Gap	41-21	Yantis	Mesquite
1948	M-6	Dallas-FPK	<a href="#">Frisco</a>	Penelope	18-13	Maydelle	Teneha
1949	M-18	Dallas-FPK	<a href="#">Mesquite</a>	Yantis	31-18	Penelope	Cotton
1950	M22	Dallas-FPK	<a href="#">Mesquite</a>	Maydelle	26-24	Plano	Frisco

A.A.U.-1	1925	The Waco Tigerettes win the first
All classes	WACO H.S.	ever state A.A.U. H.S. Tournament

The Waco H.S. Tigerettes defeated the Breckenridge Buckarettes, 39-13, in the final of the first annual Texas Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state high school basketball tournament held in Waco on March 26-28, 1925.

Before 1925 there was no statewide tournament to determine a state champion though Waco H.S. and the Waco Times Herald declared that in five of the previous six years (i.e., 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922 & 1924) Waco H.S. won the “state championship” by compiling the best record in its region (Central Texas) and defeating the teams with the best records in other regions (e.g., North Texas, East Texas) in “match games.” The Waco newspaper reported that the Tigerettes, the “Central and South Texas champions,” won the 1924 “state championship” by defeating undefeated Canton, the “East Texas champion,” 20-19, in a match game to complete an undefeated season. Canton had won the “state championship” the prior year by defeating Waco in Canton to break a string of four consecutive state titles by Waco. The “Tigresses” won the 1922 state title by defeating Munday, the “West Texas champion,” on an outdoor court in Munday. In retrospect, the “state championships” by Waco and Canton from 1919 to 1924 were “unofficial” in that the titles were “self-proclaimed” and were not “awarded” by an official organization after a state-wide tournament. However, the Waco newspaper reported that the 1923 victory of Canton over Waco “decided the championship of south, east, north and central Texas.”

The initial “state” high school tournament was organized by the Southern A.A.U. and held at the new Waco H.S. gym on March 26-28, 1925. Teams from throughout the state of Texas were invited to apply for a berth in the state tournament and a record number of entries applied (but only 16 were accepted). The Dallas Morning News reported that the tournament was the “first contest of its kind ever staged in Texas and it will decide the state girls basketball championship.” Plans were to have the winner “meet some out-of-state team in an elimination contest for the national championship.” Waco businessmen “put up \$500 worth of trophies to be awarded to various

winners. The sixteen teams “from the far corners of the state” who played in the first state tournament were Waco, Breckenridge, Cisco, Denton, Beaumont, Atlanta, Blooming Grove, Rosebud, China Springs, Chilton, South Bosque, China Springs, Roane, Cement City, Arcadia. Receipts less expenses were to be refunded to the visiting teams “in the form of prorated rebates.”

In the semi-finals Waco defeated Cisco, 28-16, and Breckenridge defeated South Bosque, 32-23. Cisco defeated South Bosque, 30-15, for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Atlanta defeated Beaumont, 27-12, for the consolation title. Waco defeated Atlanta, 60-20, in the first round; Denton, 33-8, in the quarterfinal; Cisco, 28-16, in the semi-final; and Breckenridge, 39-13, in the final. Waco’s 26-point win in the final was due to “brilliant team work”; stellar defense by the Waco guards Lillian McKethan, Sarah Riddle and Florence Lawson (no team scored more than 20 points against Waco all season; “splendid goal shooting accuracy” by the Tigerette forwards, Capt. Mona Johnson and Eva Youngblood; and the play of “side center” Kate Johnson and “jumping center” Evelyn Gay. The top scorers for the Tigerettes in the 1<sup>st</sup> round were Youngblood with 35 points and Mona Johnson with 20. Waco’s Eva Youngblood was the leading scorer for the tournament with 104 points in 4 games with Allday of Atlanta 2<sup>nd</sup> at 63 points in 4 games.

The A.A.U. All State Tournament team included four Waco girls: F Eva Youngblood, jumping center Evelyn Gay, G Lillian McKethan and side center Dixie Lynn Wood. The Waco team was coached by W.E. Sturgeon who led the Tigerettes to “unofficial” state titles in 1919, 1920, 1921, 1922 & 1924 & a fifth and “official” state championship in 1925.

The 1925 Waco H.S. yearbook devoted three pages to the 1925 state championship team and indicated that the team’s record for the year was 21-1. Each of the 13 “first squad” members were profiled in the yearbook and were: Mona Johnson, Sr F; Eva Youngblood, Sr F; Evelyn Gay, Jr jumping center; Kate Johnson, Jr side center; Sarah Riddle, Jr G; Lillian McKethan, Jr G; Florence Lawson, G; Dixie Lynn Wood, Sr side center; Myrtle Lee Peterson, Jr F; Gladys Ernest, Sr F; Mildred Maynard, Jr jumping center; Mollie Ruth Bailey, G; and Inez Ingram, F.

Unfortunately, the memory of the great championship year of 1925 was soon forgotten in Waco as no banner, plaque, etc. was hung to commemorate Waco’s first state title. In fact, when the Richfield girls won state in 1984 & 1985 the Waco ISD and the media announced that this was Waco’s first state

basketball championship. Dr. Billy Wilbanks called this omission to the attention of the Waco ISD in 2007 as he included the 1925 Waco title team on his website ([www.TexasBasketballChamps.com](http://www.TexasBasketballChamps.com)) after researching 25 Texas AAU champs. It should be noted that even the A.A.U. in 2007 had no records of the state tournaments it held in 1925-1950 and was not aware of the 25 “forgotten” state champions.

A.A.U.-2	1926	The Buckarettes win 1 <sup>st</sup> of 2 state titles--
All classes	BRECKENRIDGE	the only titles in history of Stephens County

The Breckenridge Buckarettes of Stephens defeated the Cisco Lobo Queens of Eastland County, 22-19, in the final of the second annual Texas Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state basketball tournament held March 18-20 in Cisco. Breckenridge’s “golden era” of girls basketball began in 1925 and ended in 1929 in a remarkable five-year run during which Breckenridge won two state titles (1926 & 1929), finished as the state runner-up twice (1925 & 1927) and was 3<sup>rd</sup> once (1925). These two state titles remain the only ones ever won by a boys or girls team in Stephens County thru 2007.

In the semi-finals Breckenridge beat Celeste, 27-25, and Cisco defeated Atlanta 28-26. Celeste won 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the tournament and Atlanta, 4<sup>th</sup> while Dublin was the consolation champion. The champion Buckarettes defeated Foster, 42-10, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round, Canton, 39-23, in the qt. final; Celeste, 27-25, in the semi-final and long-time rival Breckenridge, 22-19, in the final. Other entries in the 1926 state tournament were Texarkana, China Springs, Pecos, Lamesa, Potosi, Munday, Handley and Thalia.

Names and profiles of each player are given in the 1926 Breckenridge Yearbook and included Capt. Ruby Mansfield, F; Sylvia Thurman, G; Thelma Russell, G; Irene Sullivan, running center; Lucille Dunham, running center; Frances Henderson, jumping center; Helen Speer, F; Grace Corbett, G; Durelle Gooch; Cleo Damron; Pearl Teddlie; Geneva Haney; Edna Ogletree; Dora Arlosoroff; Frances Owen; Corinne Lester; Elma Middleton;

**Odessa Pratt; and Ruth Alexander. All State Tournament selections from Breckenridge were Ruby Mansfield, F; Thelma Russell, G; Frances Henderson, jumping center; Helen Speer, F; and Grace Corbett, G. Mansfield was also voted the top Forward in the state tournament. The 1926 state championship team was coached by Ina Wolfenberger, a “physical training” teacher at the H.S. who coached the team for entire “Golden Era” of 1925-1929. She became the first woman to coach a girls team to a Texas state basketball championship.**

**Ruby Mansfield and Sylvia Thurman were the stars in Breckenridge’s 2-point semi-final win over Celeste. The Breckenridge 3-point win in the final over the host city Cisco was a “hard-fought affair from start to finish” and was “the most thrilling game of the tournament.” Cisco held a lead until “almost the end of the game” but Breckenridge was able to win at the end. The school yearbook (“The Buckaroo”) published photos and profiles of the top Breckenridge players and indicated that five---Forwards Ruby Mansfield and Helen Speer, guards Thelma Russell and Grace Corbett and jumping center Frances Henderson---were “all-state” (i.e., were named to the All State Tournament Team). Speer was “high point girl of the Buckaretttes” (i.e., the leading scorer on the year)**

<b>A.A.U.-3</b>	<b>1927</b>	<b>Cisco girls win only state girls basketball</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>CISCO</b>	<b>title in history of Eastland County</b>

**The Cisco Lobo Queens of Eastland County defeated the Breckenridge Buckaretttes of Stephens County, 25-10, in the final of the third annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state basketball tournament played at Breckenridge 17-19. Twenty-one teams entered the state tournament and included Newcastle, West-Rayland, Cisco, Cedar Springs of Reagan, Breckenridge, Lone Star, Handley, Ysleta, Roane, Caddo, Champion, Trinidad, Sardis, Frankell, Dublin, Aledo, Mingus, Loraine, Cross Plains, Roscoe, and Muleshoe. In the semi-finals Cisco defeated Sardis, 25-12, and Breckenridge defeated Dublin, 19-16. Champion Cisco defeated Cedar**

Springs of Reagan, 40-23, in the first round and beat Sardis, 26-12, in the semi-finals. Breckenridge edged Dublin, 19-16, in the other semi-final. Cisco finished the year 14-4 with two of its losses being to semi-pro teams and one of its wins was over Randolph College (later called Cisco J.C.), 33-13.

The Lobo Queens had a remarkable 5-year run at the State A.A.U. from 1925-1930 winning the state title in 1927, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> (to rival Breckenridge) in 1926 & 1929 and placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in 1925 and 4<sup>th</sup> in 1929. The Cisco girls never again (thru 2007) made the state finals but remain the only Eastland County girls basketball team to win a state title. The Cisco boys also won the 1927 A.A.U. championship and remain the only Eastland County boys team to ever win state. See: My Heroes Have Always Been Loboes by Duane Kendall Hale. Aline Walker was the 1927 Cisco championship coach and became the second woman to coach a girls team to a state championship.

Cisco was led in the final by Bates who scored 21 of her team's 25 points as her individual total of points was more than double that of the Breckenridge team. Swindle scored the other 4 Cisco points. The Lobo Queens' top defenders were guards Parsons and Holmes. Freeman was the top Buckarett scorer with 4 while the top defenders were Russell and Johnson. According to the Cisco H.S. Yearbook the players on the 1927 state championship team were Capt. Irene Parsons, F/G; Tommie Swindel, F; Mary Powell, center; Maynette Holmes, G; Doris Bates, F; Edith Qualls, center; Velma Morrison, G; Bobbye Bryant, side center; Charlie Mildred Taylor, G; Beatrice Garrett, F and Ruby Toll. Dot Bates made All State Tournament in 1926 and 1927 and Mary Powell won the same honor in 1929. Bates was the "high scorer" in the entire tournament with 113 points in 4 games.

A.A.U.-4	<b>1928</b>	<b>Dublin wins its only state title</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>DUBLIN</b>	<b>&amp; 1<sup>st</sup> of 3 Erath County titles</b>

Dublin of Erath County defeated Addison, 40-29, in the final of the fourth annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state high school basketball

tournament held in Dublin on March 14-16, 1928. The Dallas Morning News reported that the 1928 AAU girls state tournament had a record 28 entries including Frankell, Newcastle, Morgan, Putnam, Ysleta, Snyder, Breckenridge, Maverick, Loraine, Hedley, Trent, Mingus, Caddo, Dublin, Marlin, Selden, Champion, Cisco, McCamey, Addison, Roscoe, Trent, Corsicana, Marlin, Muleshoe, Celeste, Champion, Selden, Maverick and Handley. According to the Dublin Progress Ysleta of El Paso County traveled over 600 miles to the tournament. The total attendance for all the games was 3,500. Breckenridge defeated Cisco for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Selden defeated Handley for the consolation title. Dublin defeated Hedley, 59-20, in the first round of the state tournament; Loraine in the qt. final; Breckenridge, 33-25, in the semi-final and Addison, 40-29, in the final.

The 1928 Dublin championship team included forwards Pauline Maness, Pansy Langford, Delma Warren, Alma Langford and Red Lowery; centers Delma Fulford, Waurine Chafin, Irene Fulford, Huldah Tidwell and Frances Ray; and guards Ellen Easley, Allene Knox, Mildred Shaddox, Doris Rucker and Zelma Maness. Alma Langford and Pansy Langford were from the community of Frankell while Pauline Maness, Zelma Maness and Huldah Tidwell were from Alexander. Delma Fulford was later a two-time (1930 & 1931) A.A.U. All-American with Cisco's Randolph College and led her team to 3rd place at the A.A.U. national tournament in 1931.

The Dublin Lady Lions were coached in 1928 by D.C. Arthur, a math teacher at the high school. Delma Warren was the captain of the 1928 Dublin championship team and Delma Fulford was the leading scorer. In these early years (at least thru 1928) high school girls in Texas played on a court with 3 divisions as each team had 3 forwards on one end and 3 guards on the other with a 3rd area in the center of the court for the "jumping center" and the "running center." By 1930 there were only 2 divisions of the court with this structure lasting until 1979 when Texas went to five-on-five on the full court.

The Dallas newspaper also noted that six Langford girls were "star players" on their respective teams. Four were the daughters of Mr. & Mrs. J.E. Langford of Frankell as Faye Langford was a forward for Breckenridge, Ida Bell Langford was a "running center" and Wilma a forward for Frankell and Alma Langford was a forward for Dublin. The other two Langford girls were cousins to the four sisters---Ardelle Langford was a forward for Snyder and Pansy Langford was a forward for Dublin. There was some talk of a challenge match of an "All Langford" team playing the winners of the

**tournament. Faye Langford later coached Borger to a state championship in 1942 in the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas; played semi-pro basketball for the Dallas Cyclones--the 1930 national A.A.U. champions; played for the Rockford Peaches, a professional baseball team made famous in the movie, "A League of Their Own"; set a national A.A.U. record in the softball throw; made the 1932 Olympic Team in the javelin; and became a "world class" golfer.**

**The Dallas Morning News later (April 18, 1928) published a photo and story about the 1928 A.A.U. runner-up team---Addison of Dallas County. Addison finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the tournament despite the fact that their school was a “three-year high school competing against the best four-year high schools in the State.” Also, the Addison girls had been playing outdoors all year and were not used to playing indoors as they did at the state meet. The News reported that “the Addison girls have not been defeated by a team in their class during the last five years.”**

**The 1928 Dublin Lady Lions (also known as the "Dublin Famous Girls" and as the "Lassies") finished the year with a record of 23-1 losing only to Cisco whom they later defeated in a rematch. The team averaged 36.9 ppg on offense while holding its opponents to 16.5 ppg. The margins of victory in the five state tournament games were 39, 33, 12, 10 & 11. The leading scorers on the season were forwards Alma Langford, Pauline Maness and Delma Warren. The 1928 Dublin girls became the first Erath County team to win a state basketball title as the only other Erath County teams to win a state title were the Huckaby boys in 1974 and the Stephenville girls in 1968. The Dublin girls were successful at two other AAU tournaments placing 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1927 and 4<sup>th</sup> in 1933. The members of the 1928 teams were given small gold basketballs for a charm bracelet and purple and white letter sweaters as mementoes of the championship year.**

**All of the team members married and had families. Pansy Langford had a son who graduated from Harvard Law School, Huldah Tidwell's two sons became physicians, Allene Knox and her husband totaled 85 years together as teachers, and Ellen Easley became a national official in the Girl Scouts. Roy Neff has been Supt. of Schools for 22 years at Dublin and understands what it means to be on a state championship team as his 1963 & 1964 McAdoo teams were Class B state champs.**

**Before the Dublin girls went to the state tournament in 1992 their coach asked Delma Warren Hair to speak to the team. Team members Allene Knox and Delma Warren Hair refurbished the 1928 championship trophy and donated it to the Dublin Museum in 1995. In 2004 Delma donated the basketball used in the championship game and other**



memorabilia to the museum. In 2007 Delma Warren Hair, 97, was the only living member of the 1928 state championship team and resided in Pawnee TX. The Dublin Citizen published an article in 2008 about the 80th anniversary of Delma's team. Dr. Wilbanks donated a plaque about the 1928 Dublin championship team to the Dublin Museum.

<b>A.A.U.-5</b>	<b>1929</b>	<b>In 5-year period Breckenridge is</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>BRECKENRIDGE</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> twice, 2<sup>nd</sup> twice and 3<sup>rd</sup> once</b>

The Breckenridge Buckarettes of Stephens County defeated the Cisco Lobo Queens of Eastland County, 30-23, in the final of the fifth annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state basketball tournament held in on its home court in Breckenridge on March 15-17, 1929. The 1929 state championship ended a remarkable five-year run in the “Golden Era” from 1925-1929 during which Breckenridge won two state titles, finished as the state runner-up twice and was 3<sup>rd</sup> once. These two state titles remain the only ones ever won by a boys or girls team in Stephens County thru 2007.

Teams entered were Mingus, Rose Hill of Haskell, Celeste, Newcastle, Cisco, Dalhart, Breckenridge, Corsicana, Roby, Seagoville, Post, Frankell, O’Brien, Rankin, Parks, Throckmorton, South Bend, Selden, Dublin, Sherman, Eula and Colony. In the semi-finals Breckenridge defeated Mingus, 59-39, and Cisco defeated Seagoville, 25-14. Mingus defeated Seagoville for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Dalhart won the consolation title over Newcastle. Breckenridge defeated Eula, 50-5, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round; Roby, 66-20, in the qt. final; Mingus, 59-20, in the semi-final and Cisco, 30-23, in the final. The champion’s average margin of victory for the four games at state was 34 ppg (45, 46, 39 and 7).

Myra Germany was the 1929 Breckenridge championship coach. Her team also won the A.A.U. West Texas girls High School tournament at Snyder on Feb. 16 defeating Cisco, 31-12, in the final and also defeated several semi-pro teams as the Walkover Shoe Company, the industrial champions of Ft. Worth; Sun Oil of Dallas; and Randolph College of Cisco, winners of the Southern A.A.U. tournament in Dallas. Their only two losses were to Cisco (the team they defeated in the West TX and state AAU final).

The “Buckaroo” (yearbook) listed the 1929 players as seniors Mattie Bess Russell, Wilma Langford, Capt. Irene Sullivan, Gladys Cook, Latrice Corbett and Annie Greenlee and by Evelyn Sullivan, Lucille Stogner, Hazel Davis,

**Jeannette Ross, Opal Craig, Ida Bell Langford and Ima Franklin. The Buckaretttes were led by four seniors, Captain Irene Sullivan, the “running center”; Annie Greenlee, the “jumping center” who “was proclaimed the greatest girls player in the state”; Gladys Cook, the “high-point forward”; and Mattie Bess Russell, the “all-state guard.” The 1929 championship coach was Myra Germany who became the 3rd woman to coach a girls team to a state basketball championship (Ina Wolfenberger of Breckenridge was the first in 1926 and Aline Walker of Cisco was the 2nd in 1927).**

**According to the Breckenridge newspaper the 1<sup>st</sup> Team All State Tournament Team included forwards Hair of Mingus, Ammons of Roby, Goes of Frankell and Petty of Seagoville; centers Annie Greenlee and Irene Sullivan of Breckenridge, Rogers of Dalhart and Smith of Cisco; and guards Rasmussen of Dublin, Patterson of Dalhart, Cornelison of Seagovile and Powell of Cisco. Gladys Cook (forward) and Mattie Bess Russell (guard) of Breckenridge were named 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All State Tournament.**

**Mattie Bess Russell (Pou) later played for the Sunoco Oilers of Dallas which won the 1930 national A.A.U. championship and was named an A.A.U. All-American. Faye Langford played for Breckenridge in 1928 and thus missed playing on the 1929 Buckarette championship team that did include two of her sisters, Wilma and Ida Bell Langford. Faye "Lefty" Langford later coached Borger to a state girls title in 1942 in the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas; played semi-pro basketball for the Dallas Cyclones--1931 national A.A.U champions; played for the Rockford Peaches, a professional baseball team made famous in the movie, "A League of their Own"; set a national A.A.U. record in the softball throw; made the 1932 U.S. Olympic Team in the javelin; and became a "world-class" golfer.**

<b>A.A.U.-6</b>	<b>1930</b>	<b>Athens wins the only state</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>ATHENS</b>	<b>girls title in school history</b>

**The Athens Hornet Lassies of Henderson County defeated Dimmitt of Castro County, 46-41, in the final of the sixth annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state basketball tournament held on March 14-16, 1930, in Celeste. Thirty-one teams entered the 1930 tournament: Athens, Dimmitt, Seagoville, Celeste, Selden, Cooper, Cross Roads, Pike, Mesquite, Tehaucana, Frankell, Blue Ridge, Dublin, Rankin, Mingus, Plano, Leesburgh, Bailey,**

**Celeste, Floyd, Breckenridge, Throckmorton, Dalhart, Cleveland, Sherman, Vickery, Cooper, Selden, Caddo Mills and South Bosque. Dimmitt traveled the 550 miles to the state tournament at Celeste in a “special Pullman at the expense of its city business men.”**

**Seagoville won 3<sup>rd</sup> place over Celeste by a score of 32-30 while Selden defeated Cooper, 45-7, for the consolation title. Athens entered the tournament as the favorite after winning the East Texas A.A.U. championship over Cayuga in the final and the first annual North Texas A.A.U. championship in Dallas by defeating the favorite, Celeste, easily in the final.**

**Athens was coached by Granville Knight and entered the state tournament as the favorite due to their undefeated record and two tournament titles (the East Texas Lassie tournament and the North Texas A.A.U. tournament). The Lassies did lose one (exhibition) game to the Sunoco Oilers, a Dallas semi-pro team, by a score of 55-13. Sunoco was the national A.A.U. champion in 1930 and three of its stars (Babe Haden, Lipman and McElvey) were named to the 10-member A.A.U. All American Team along with Babe Didrikson of the Dallas Golden Cyclones (who was later acclaimed the U.S.’s greatest athlete of all time for her feats in track (3 medals at the 1932 Olympics), basketball (A.A.U. All American), softball (All American) and golf (she began the women’s pro golf tour).**

**Athens defeated South Bosque, 68-34, in the first round; Breckenridge, 43-41, in the second round; Celeste, 52-31, in the semi-final; and Dimmitt, 46-41, in the final. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round win over Breckenridge came in the last two minutes of play after Freeman, the Buckarett star, fouled out. The semi-final win over Celeste was due to the Athens “jumping center” getting nearly every tip-off (teams had a jump-ball after every basket and at the beginning of each qt.)---“which is a great advantage in the three-division court” (in 1930 the court was divided into three areas). In the final against Dimmitt the Lassies trailed 12-7 after the first qt. and 19-18 at the half. The 3<sup>rd</sup> qt. ended at 25-25 but Dimmitt jumped out to a 10 point lead with 5 minutes remaining and seemed certain to win the state title. However, Athens rallied and won the game in the “last few seconds of play” in one of the most remarkable comebacks in memory of the fans in attendance.**

**The Lassies were led in the final by forwards Roma Lee McGehee with 26 points and Oleta Ellis with 19; by the play of "jumping center" Marie Russell; and the defensive play of Everett "Texas" Elrod and Ratha Bell McKay.**

**Finalist Dimmitt (described by the Dallas newspaper as the “tri-state champion in 1930”) was led by Effie Elder with 23 points and V. Smith with 18. McGehee scored 105 points in the 4 state tournament games while Ellis (who shot all the team’s FTs) had 103.**

**Forward Oleta Ellis and jumping center Marie Russell were named 1<sup>st</sup> team All State Tournament while guards Texas Elrod and forward Roma Lee McGehee were named to 2<sup>nd</sup> team All State Tournament. Russell, the “big blonde center,” was considered the best center in the state and held her own against All American Babe Haden of the Sunoco Oilers in the earlier exhibition. Other members of the 1930 championship team were the “running centers” Sydney Cross and Eloise Reynolds; guard Geneva Denton; forwards Blanche Crossley and Lura Crossley; and Beatrice Spivy, Oleta Ellis and Jewel Rhodes Thompson. Finalist Dimmitt had two 1st team all-state players in guard Lillie Bell Harp and jumping center Zonell Brooks.**

**The 1930 Athens Hornet Lassies’ state championship received relatively little attention at a time when the Athens boys’ team won a state and national title in 1929 and, though upset at the 1930 state tournament by champion Denton, went on to win a second consecutive national title in 1930 and 5 state titles (1927, 1929, 1931, 1933 & 1934) in 8 years. A brief narrative about the 1930 girls state championship team is included in a book ([Athens Day in the Sun: The Story of an Early High School Basketball Dynasty](#)) by Ron Hendry who interviewed one living member of the team (Ratha Bell McKay Blew) in 2005. Hendry also includes two photos of the team in his book.**

**Athens finished the year at 35-0-1 against high school competition with only a tie to Tyler H.S. and one defeat to the Sunoco Oilers, 3-time state AAU (commercial & independent) champion and national AAU champion in 1930. Randolph College of Cisco finished 3rd in the 1930 national tournament and recruited Roma Lee McGehee of the Athens team to play for them in 1931. Ratha Bell McKay later played for the Dallas Shoe Shop, a semi-pro team.**

**The 1930 Athens championship team received little attention in Athens until Ron Hendry's book was published in 2006. Also, in 2006 Jacquetta Brown, the Athens girls' coach and her team celebrated Ratha Bell McKay's 95th birthday at her home and honored her at the half-time of the last home game in 2006. Dr. Wilbanks also interviewed Ratha Bell McKay Blew for this website in 2008 and gave a plaque about the team for display at Athens H.S.**

A.A.U.-7	<b>1931</b>	<b>Dimmitt wins 1<sup>st</sup> of back-to-back state titles;</b>
All classes	<b>DIMMITT</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> of 8 girls titles; &amp; 1<sup>st</sup> of 35 titles for county</b>

**Dimmitt of Castro County defeated Mingus of Palo Pinto County, 30-26, in the final of the seventh annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state basketball tournament held in Plainview on March 12-14, 1931. Dimmitt won back-to-back state A.A.U. titles in 1931-1932 and has won 8 girls state high school championships as they later won three consecutive state titles in 1950-1952 in the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas and 3 state championships (1954, 1955 & 1993) in the U.I.L. The two back-to-back titles in 1930-31 were the first two of an amazing 35 state titles won by “tiny” Castro County as the Dimmitt girls have won 8 titles; the Dimmitt boys, 4 titles; the Nazareth boys, 5 titles; and the Nazareth girls, 18 titles. Only Dallas County (with 47 state titles) has won more state titles than Castro County (Harris County is 3<sup>rd</sup> at 32 titles). ). Dimmitt’s total of 8 girls’ titles is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state after Nazareth (18) and Canyon (13) and ahead of Levelland (7) and Duncanville (6), Abernathy (6), Claude (6) and Waco Midway (6).**

**Thirty-two teams entered the 1931 AAU state tournament including Athens, Dimmitt, Mingus, Mesquite, Celeste, Vickery, Dalhart, Perryton, Shallowater, Quanah, Childress, Ropesville, Rankin, Pampa, Five-In-One, Southland, Sherman, Tulia, Centerpoint, Shamrock, Dalhart, Flynt, Slaton, Eliasville, Bovina, Quanah, Lazbuddie, Ira, Quitaque, Hale Center, Foster, Plainview, Roby, Perryton and O’Brien. Perryton won 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Dalhart was 4<sup>th</sup>. In the semi-finals Dimmitt defeated Dalhart and Mingus defeated Perryton.**

**The All State Tournament team included Dimmitt's Zonell Brooks, the jumping center; Frankie Senters, a forward; and Evelyn Blanton, a guard. According to the team photo, the rest of the roster included Pauline Hembree, Ona Faye Smith, Louise Houtchens, Ruth Waggoner, Irene Waggoner, Elaine Dyer, Gertie Wesson, Grace Winkle, Lillie Mae Smith, Georgia Bills and Ruth Wright. The Dimmitt team was known as the "Whirlwinds" and later the "Bobbies" and was coached by Henry D. Loter in both championship years (1931-32).**

Mingus (which was undefeated at 33-0 before its loss to Dimmitt in the 1931 final) then to Dallas for the national A.A.U. Tournament (which included college, independent or semipro and high school teams) and defeated undefeated Prairie View of Kansas by a score of 47-44 in the 1st round before losing to the Wichita Thurstons in the quarterfinals. Mingus was led by 5'10" "jumping center" Oma Thornburg (who later played for the Dallas Cyclones at a position vacated by Babe Didrikson) and Dotty Marine (who was named an A.A.U. All-American at the 1931 national tournament. Dimmitt qualified for but did not enter the national tournament.

A.A.U.-8	1932	Dimmitt wins 2 <sup>nd</sup> of back-to-back titles;
All classes	DIMMITT	2nd of 8 girls titles; & 2nd of 35 county titles

Dimmitt of Castro County defeated Celeste of Hunt County, 42-33, in the final of the eighth annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state basketball tournament in Celeste on March 17-19, 1932. Dimmitt won back-to-back state A.A.U. titles in 1931-1932 and has won 8 girls state high school championships as they later won three consecutive state titles in 1950-1952 in the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas and 3 state championships (1954, 1955 & 1993) in the U.I.L. The two back-to-back titles in 1930-31 were the first two of an amazing 35 state titles won by "tiny" Castro County as the Dimmitt girls have won 8 titles; the Dimmitt boys, 4 titles; the Nazareth boys, 5 titles; and the Nazareth girls, 18 titles. Only Dallas County (with 47 state titles) has won more state titles than Castro County (Harris County is 3<sup>rd</sup> at 32 titles). Dimmitt's total of 8 girls' titles is 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state after Nazareth (18) and Canyon (13) and ahead of Levelland (7) and Duncanville (6), Abernathy (6), Claude (6) and Waco Midway (6).

Twenty-three teams entered the 1932 AAA state tournament including Dimmitt, Farmersville, Valdasta, Dublin, Morton Valley, Hickory Creek, Celeste, Floyd, Childress, Cooper, McKinney, Plainview, Westminster, Bailey, Pike, Dimmitt, Leesburg, Elkhart, Howard, Graford, Emory, Slaton, Thurber, Howard and Newsome. In the semi-finals Dimmitt defeated Howard, 59-20, and Celeste defeated Bailey, 33-31. Bailey won 3<sup>rd</sup> place and

Howard, 4<sup>th</sup>. Leesburg won the consolation championship over Plainview, 48-16. Dimmitt defeated Pike, 54-10, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round; Dublin, 37-27, in the qt. final; Howard, 59-20, in the semi-final; and Celeste, 42-33, in the final. The Bobcats never trailed in the final leading 10-7 after the 1<sup>st</sup> qt, 20-13 at the half and winning by 19 points.

The box score of the indicated that all of Dimmitt's points were made by two forwards, Ona Fay Smith (with of the 26) and Frankie Senters (with 16). Others listed were Waggoner, the "jumping center," Wright, the "running center," and guards Hembrick, Elaine Dyer, Wright and Waggoner. Celeste was led by Norris with 22 points. Smith (42 points) and Senters (17) also combined for all of Dimmitt's 59 points in the semi-final against Howard.

The All State Tournament team included forwards Ona Fay Smith and Frankie Senters of Dimmitt; Bickwall of Bailey; and Banks of Leesburg. The centers were Lone Mae Johnson of Celeste, Edna Landers of Newsome, Katherine Hughes of Dublin and Felty of Hickory Creek. The guards were Lois Hoover of Plainview, Todd of Bailey, Elaine Dyer of Dimmitt and Bernice Sumroe of Celeste.

A.A.U.-9	1933	Mesquite wins 1 <sup>st</sup> of 4 state
All classes	MESQUITE	titles from 1933-1950

Mesquite of Dallas County defeated Roby of Fisher County, 25-19, in the ninth annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state basketball tournament in Mesquite on March 16-18, 1933. Sixteen teams were entered in the 1933 AAU state tournament including Mesquite, Howard, Canton, Celeste, Rotan, Dublin, Dickens, Haslet, Grand Saline, Roby, Robinson Springs, Lancaster, Pioneer, Croton, Van, Grapeland and Sardis. " Grand Saline defeated Dublin for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Robinson Springs won the consolation title over Brushy.

Mesquite defeated Sardis, 51-21, in the first round; Pioneer, 43-18, in the qt. final; Grand Saline, 30-19, in the semi-final; and Roby, 25-19, in the final.

**Roby defeated Dublin, 45-24, in the other semi-final. Mesquite jumped out to an 8-0 lead in the final against Roby and led 13-9 at the half. The game was tied at 17 after 3 qts. but Mesquite “pulled itself together in the fourth period to completely outclass its West Texas opponents.”**

**Mesquite was led in the final by forward Sallie Terry with 14 points, Claudia King with 6 and Dottie Mae Jones with 5 and by the defense of guards Florine Dean, Virginia Anderson, Louise Cole and Emaline Miller. King, a Mesquite center, also "fed her teammates consistently." Terry led the scoring in the first round against Sardis with 14 points followed by King with 12. Jones was Mesquite’s top scorer in the qt. final against Pioneer with 19 points while Terry added 14 and King, 10. The Skeeters’ guards, “Cole, Dean and Miller were sensational.” The complete roster was comprised of Louis Cole, Claudia King, Dottie Mae Jones, Ernestine Stark, Sallie Terry, Florene Dean, Ray Whitley, Julia Dickey, Ruby Wimbish, Regina Rowley, Emaline Miller and Virginia Anderson.**

**The All Tournament Team included forwards Sallie Terry of Mesquite, Adina Kimmell of Robinson Springs, Fay Thompson of Grand Saline and Sunshine Kinney of Roby; guards Louise Cole of Mesquite, Emaline Miller of Mesquite, Jewel Davison of Roby and Bonnie Thompson of Grand Saline; and centers Claudia King of Mesquite and Clera Golden of Roby. Sallie Terry of Mesquite “was selected to captain the all-star aggregation.”**

**Mesquite entered the tournament as the favorite having won the North Texas AAU championship for three consecutive years. Roby was also a favorite after its performance against the Dallas Golden Cyclones, a semi-pro team.**

**The state title in 1933 was the first of four for Mesquite from 1933-1948. The Skeeters won A.A.U. titles in 1933, 1949 & 1950 and won the “High School Girls Basketball League of Texas” state tournament in 1948. Thus Mesquite won state for 3 consecutive years from 1948-1950.**

<b>A.A.U.-10</b>	<b>1934</b>	<b>Conlen of Panhandle wins</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>CONLEN</b>	<b>the school’s only state title</b>



**Conlen of Dallam County in the Panhandle defeated Mesquite of Dallas County, 38-34, in the final of the tenth annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state basketball tournament in Celeste on March 22-25, 1934. Among the 32 teams entered in the tournament were Mesquite, Conlen, Winnsboro, Mesquite, Blue Ridge, Leesburg, Brushy, Plainview, Caddo Mills, Bailey, Neches, Robinson Springs, Dawson, Knox City, Pine, Quinlan, Shallowater, Prairie Lea, Howard, Merit, Dimmitt, Lancaster, High Point, Gladewater, Hickory Creek, Seagoville, Colorado, Pike, Celeste, Three Point, Canadian, Newton and Pasadena. Players from 20 teams were provided over-night lodging with local families.**

**In the semi-finals Conlen defeated Winnsboro, 38-33, and Mesquite beat Blue Ridge, 43-22. The Winnsboro "Chucketeers" (35-7 on the year) defeated Blue Ridge, 29-28, for 3<sup>rd</sup> place while Leesburg defeated Brushy, 41-24, for the consolation title.**

**Among the pre-tournament favorites were Conlen, which won the Southern A.A.U. tournament at Plainview the previous week; Mesquite, the defending champion; Pasadena, coached by Doll Harris, "former All-American at Oklahoma;" and Canadian, Plainview and Dimmitt from the Panhandle. Conlen "swamped" Newton, 77-18, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round; Shallowater in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round; Howard in the qt. final; Winnsboro, 38-33, in the semi-final; and Mesquite, 38-34, in the final.**

**By winning the state A.A.U. title, Conlen earned a spot in the national A.A.U. Tournament in Wichita KS, March 25-29, where they defeated Freeman MO, 33-19, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round of the consolation bracket before they were defeated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round by Des Moines Iowa A.B.I., 26-25. The state girls' basketball title by Conlen in 1934 was the first and only state basketball championship ever won by girls or boys by Dallam County. Conlen never again made the state girls' final.**

**Three teams from the state A.A.U. tournament, Conlen, Colorado and Winnsboro, were invited to participate in the national A.A.U. in Wichita KS where Winnsboro placed 3<sup>rd</sup> even though several players played "hurt" due to a car accident that occurred on the way to Wichita.**

A.A.U.-11	<b>1935</b>	<b>Ropesville wins the school's first</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>ROPESVILLE</b>	<b>of two state girls' titles</b>

The Ropesville Eagles of Hockley County in the Panhandle just SW of Lubbock defeated the Winnsboro Woodchucks of Wood County, 44-43 in OT, in the final of the eleventh annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state high school basketball tournament in Plainview on March 21-23, 1935. The 1935 title was the first of 12 won by Hockley County as Sundown later won 3 girls titles (1961-63); Levelland won 7 girls titles from 1983-97; and Ropesville won a second girls title in 1957. The county has never won a boys' state title.

The Eagles easily won the Hockley county tournament and then went thru the District 3 tournament at Wilson undefeated to qualify for the state tournament. Thirty-two teams were entered in the Texas state A.A.U. tournament including Ropesville, Livingston, McLean, Tulia, Quitaque, Merit, Childress, Celeste, Galena Park, Margaret, Stratford, Channing, Miami, Roscoe, Pampa, Happy, Shallowater, Littlefield, Plainview, Jayton, Quanah, Dimmitt, Winnsboro, Canyon, Perryton, Allison, Bedias, Emory, Blue Ridge, Liberty and Hereford.

The Eagles won the 1<sup>st</sup> round at state on a forfeit from Perryton; defeated Hereford, 61-22, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round; beat Emory, 36-27, in the quarterfinals; and routed previously undefeated (35-0) Irene, 55-31, in the semifinals. Finalist Winnsboro defeated Plainview, 59-32, in the other semi-final after previously defeating Stratford, Abernathy and Miami. Irene defeated Plainview, 43-40, for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Dimmitt defeated Channing, 28-19, for the consolation title.

The final against Winnsboro went to a five minute OT before the game ended at 44-43 for Ropesville. The game was tied at 38-38 at the end of regulation. The final was played before 1,200 "wildly cheering" fans. Ropesville forward Marjorie Crow made 3 FGs in the OT of the final for 6 points to outscore Winnsboro which scored 5 in the OT on a FG and FT by Thacker and a FG by Franklyn. Crow was also the Eagles' leading scorer on the year averaging around 20 ppg.

**The 1935 state championship Eagle roster included forwards Marjorie Crow, Sr; Bessie Harriman, Jr; Ruth McKee, Sr; Juanita Corley, Sr; and Bernice Rose, Jr; and guards Ellie Harriman, Sr; Mary Timmons, Sr; LaVern Northam, Sr; Aline Murphy, Jr; Mildred Alexander, Sr; Dixie Baugh, Sr; Augusta Still, Jr; and Robbie Dobson, Sr. The head coach of the team was Mrs. A.K. (Safonia) Krause assisted by Mrs. Lloyd Evans and Mrs. Clyde Barger. It should be noted that until 1979 girls basketball in Texas was played with 3 “forwards” (offensive players) and three “guards” (defensive players) on each half of the court and the players were limited to only one dribble (thus the ball could only be advanced after the one dribble by passing).**

**There were only 23 seniors at Ropes H.S. in 1935 and thus the 9 senior girls on the team represented about 2/3 of the senior girls in the school. Twelve of the thirteen girls on the team were about 5’7” with only one “tall” girl, the 5’10” Augusta Still. Most of the girls on the team had played together since Jr. H.S.**

**The 1935 state championship by Ropesville earned the Eagles a trip to the national A.A.U. tournament in Wichita on March 24. Ropesville finished the regular season with a 44-1 record with its only regular season defeat coming from Littlefield early in the year but the Eagles avenged that defeat with three victories over Littlefield.**

**The Eagles traveled in three autos to the national women’s A.A.U. tournament in Wichita KS supported by “business and professional men and women of Ropesville” who “financed the trip and defrayed all expenses to the national tournament.” The Eagles were beaten, 65-11, in the first round game on March 26 by the defending national champions, the Tulsa Business School Stenos. It should be noted that the contest was a “mis-match” as it pitted “women” against “girls” as most of the Tulsa team were women in their 20’s playing against 15-18 year olds from Ropesville. Tulsa was led by 1934 All-Americans Sonny Dunlap and Alberta Williams and (according to Just for Fun: The Story of AAU Women’s Basketball by Robert W. Ikard) won the national A.A.U. title in 1934, 1935 & 1936. Bessie Harriman led the Eagles against Tulsa with 4 points while Marjorie Crow and Juanita Corley added 3 each. The team finished the year at 40-2 with only losses to Littlefield and the Tulsa Stenos.**

The 1935 Eagle team held a 50<sup>th</sup> reunion in 1985 at the H.S. with the following in attendance: Marjorie Crow Pointer, Ruth McKee Berry, Ellie Harriman Barnard, Robbie Dobson Ryals, Bessie Harriman Telgar, Aline Murphy Lowrey and Coach Safonia (Mrs. A.K.) Krause. The Hockley County News Press published an article and team photo of the 1935 champions in the Early Settlers edition entitled, “Memories for a Lifetime.”

In 2008 three members of the team were still living: Marjorie Pointer, Ruth Berry & Aline Lowrey. Pointer, 92, was acknowledged by the local newspaper as being the oldest living citizen of the county and lived in Levelland with her husband of 73 years, J.C. Pointer. Their daughter, Janis Pointer Strickland of AZ, played on the 1957 Ropesville team that also won state in basketball.

<b>A.A.U.-12</b>	<b>1936</b>	<b>Plainview wins first state basketball</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>PLAINVIEW</b>	<b>title by the school and all of Hale County</b>

Plainview of Hale County in the Panhandle defeated Winnsboro of Wood County, 42-40, in the final of the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state basketball tournament held in Plainview at the Wayland College and Plainview H.S. gyms on March 5-7, 1936. There were 30 entries in the 1936 state A.A.U.: Plainview, Childress, Hartley, Celeste, Briscoe, Jayton, Union Hill, Howard, Indian Gap, Happy, Panhandle, Liberty, Channing, Abernathy, Morton Valley, Spearman, Emory, Dumont, Cranfills Gap, Dimmitt, Klondike, Ropesville, Rockdale, Shallowater, McLean, Muleshoe, Meadow, Idalou, Allison and Winnsboro. The favorites at the beginning of the tournament were Plainview, Ropesville (the defending state champion), Channing, Dimmitt and Winnsboro. (Irene defeated Slocum in a “Southern A.A.U. Tournament” on March 12-14, 1936, in Hillsboro but it appears that the Plainview A.A.U. was the only “state” tournament held in 1936.) In the semi-finals Plainview defeated Channing, 44-20, and Winnsboro defeated Emory, 23-20. Emory defeated Channing, 34-18, for 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Plainview defeated Childress, 48-17, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round; Hartley, 65-27, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round; Howard, 44-28, in the qt. final; Channing, 44-20, in the semi-final and Winnsboro, 42-40, in the final. Plainview entered the state tournament with a record of 35-0 and finished the season undefeated at 40-0. The year before (1935) Plainview won 4<sup>th</sup> place in the state A.A.U. tournament which was also held in Plainview. The 1936 title won by the Plainview girls was the first state basketball won by a Hale County school. The Plainview girls did not win another state title for 51 years and won state championships in 1987 and 2001, 2002 & 2003. The Plainview boys won their only state title in 1994. The Plainview Herald referred to the Plainview girls (later to be known as the “Lady Bulldogs”) in 1936 as the “Pomeranians” and as the “Plainview High School Girls.” The 1936 champions were coached by Mickey Pool.

After winning the first four rounds by an average of 27 ppg (31, 38, 16 and 22 point margins) Plainview faced a tight game in the final against the Winnsboro "Woodchuckettes", the 1935 state runner-up. The “scarlet clad” Pomeranians led 10-9 after the 1<sup>st</sup> qt but Winnsboro led at the half, 17-14, and Plainview led 28-26 after 3 qts. “The huge crowd was electrified by the speed and fight displayed on the court” as there was “a mad scramble for the ball on almost every play.” Winnsboro led by two points in the closing seconds before Gladys Walker made a FG to tie the game and then passed to Ruby Reddell, alone under the basket, who made the final shot “as the whistle ended the game.” The Winnsboro Weekly News noted that the Woodchuckettes" were "worn to a frazzle" by the final while Plainview was fresh due to an "easy bracket."

Plainview was led by forwards, Captain Gladys Walker, Novie Wood and Ruby Reddell and by guards Reba Saul (considered the top defensive player in the state tournament), Muriel Davis, Marvena Taylor and Erma Miller. Reddell was the top Plainview scorer in the final with 24 points while Walker scored 14 and Wood added 4. Lillian Efurd led Winnsboro with 20 and Billie Attaway added 15. Reddell (11 points) and Walker (9) also led the Plainview scoring in the semi-final. Wood scored 17 in the 1<sup>st</sup> round and Walker scored 16. Plainview placed three girls on the All State Tournament Team: Gladys Walker, Ruby Reddell and Reba Saul. Walker made All State Tournament for four years (1934-1937) and was named “All Southwestern” in 1934 & 1936. She specialized in “long shots and “sensational flips” and was considered one of the best players to ever play in the Texas A.A.U. State Tournament.

The complete roster of the 1936 championship team was comprised of Gladys Walker, Novie Wood, Muriel Davis, Marvena Taylor, Ruby Reddell, Beba Saul, Erma Miller, Julia Nell Carroll, Marjorie Matsler, Dorothy McInnish and Norma Jane Zelney. The championship coach was Billie McClure.

Plainview returned to the 1937 A.A.U. Tournament held in Hillsboro with four starters (forwards Walker, Reddell, Novie Wood and guard Erma Miller) under new coach Mickey Pool but was upset in the second round by Allison who won 3<sup>rd</sup> in the tournament.

<b>A.A.U.-13</b>	<b>1937</b>	<b>Emory wins its only state girls' title</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>EMORY</b>	<b>in 1937 AAU state tournament</b>

The Emory Kittens of Rains County defeated the Celeste Blue Devils of Hunt County, 24-21, in the final of the 13<sup>th</sup> annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state high school basketball tournament in Hillsboro on March 10-13, 1937. The Hillsboro Mirror reported that 45 teams entered the tournament with games being played at four sites (Hillsboro, Bynum, Abbott and Itasca). Among the teams entered were defending champion Plainview, Emory, Celeste, Allison, Bullard, Lone Oak, Cranfills Gap, Frenship, Bedias, Mesquite, Newsome, Hillsboro, Emmett, Highland, Van Horn, Lott, Munday, West, Blooming Grove, Abbott, Axtell, Pearl, Blum, Newton, Itasca, Irene, Bardwell, Bynum, Noonday, Barry, Mobeetie, Howard, Walnut Springs, Comyn-Theney, LaPoyner, Union Hill, Wortham Currie, Beattie, Kermit, Munday Sunset, Garrett and Mertens. The teams came “from points scattered from Allison in the Panhandle to Van Horn, near El Paso, and Newton in the southeastern part of the state.

Allison defeated Bullard, 46-36, for 3<sup>rd</sup> place in a scoring duel between Oleta Jones of Allison (28 points) and Ray of Bullard (27 points). Lone Oak defeated Union Hill, 30-28, for the consolation title. In the semi-finals Emory defeated Allison (the 1938 & 1939 state champion), 30-29, on a FG with 14 seconds remaining after a comeback from a 12-point deficit with 5 minutes remaining in the game. Celeste defeated Bullard, 44-42. Other quarter-finalists were defending state champion Plainview, Mobeetie, Abbott and

**Irene. Emory defeated 15-6 Walnut Springs, 62-20, in the first round and defending champion Plainview in the qt. finals.**

**Emory came from behind in the 3-point win in the final before 1,800 screaming fans to win its only state championship. The win over the Celeste “Blue Devilenas” was the second in two weeks as Emory upset the undefeated Celeste girls, 33-26, in Celeste on Feb. 25. The Kittens led 12-11 at the half of the final and 20-15 after 3 qts. but closed the gap to only 3 points in the closing minutes before the Kittens “defense tightened” and “Celeste’s rally was nipped in the bud.” The Rains County Leader noted that Emory had an “impregnable defense” in the final and “completely bewildered the high scoring unit from Celeste” as the Kittens were the only team in the tournament to emply a zone defense. Fay Nell Woodson made two FTs for Emory to “ice away the contest.”**

**Emory’s top scorer in the final was Irene Rounsville with 12 points, Anice Woodson with 8 and Loraine Hawkins with 4. Other players in the boxscore for Emory in the final were guards Fay Nell Woodson, Capt. Louise Glenna Johnson and Christine Owens. Billie Grisham led runner-up Celeste with 10 points. Irene Rounsville was the top scorer for point in the semi-final followed by Loraine Hawkins with 13. Oleta Jones of Allison topped Allison with 20 points.**

**The 1937 Emory championship team included 10 Capt. Glenna Johnson, G; 5 Fay Nell Woodson, G; 2 Christine Owens, G; 1 Ila Fay Cowan, G; 7 Loraine Hawkins, F; 4 Irene Rounsville, F; 9 Anice Woodson, F; 3 Katherine Giles, F; and 6 Olivia Mahan, F. The team traveled with only 6 or 7 players transported in one car since money was scarce. Local businesses helped with travel expenses.**

**Marguerite Braziel was the coach of the 1937 Kittens. Her great grandfather, Emory Rains, was the namesake for the town (Emory) and county (Rains). Her husband, Samuel Butler Braziel, was a mayor and judge and one-time president of the TX Assoc. of Judges. Mrs. Braziel, a graduate of SMU, moved on to coach at nearby Miller Grove where her teams were state runner-up to state champ Allison in 1938 & 1939. She coached and taught for 17 years and later served as a county judge. Her daughter, Cay House, was mayor of Emory in 2008.**

The Point girls were 139-13 in the three years from 1935-1937. In 1936 Emory defeated Forreston, 106-10, in a game in the Howard Tournament as Kitten forward Jimmie Scott scored 50 points.

The All State Tournament 1<sup>st</sup> Team was comprised of forwards Lynette McNeil of Irene, Billie Grisham of Celeste and Gladys Walker of Plainview and guards Louise Glenna Johnson of Emory, Louise Kirkpatrick of Bullard and, Ruth Richardson of Allison. The 2<sup>nd</sup> team included forwards Maurine Ray of Bullard, Helen Alexander of Frenship and Oleta Jones of Allison and guards Gwendolyn Batton of Irene, Wilma Simms of Mobeetie and Fay Nell Woodson of Emory. Billie Grisham of Celeste was chosen as the outstanding player in the tournament and Louise Glenna Johnson of Emory was voted the top guard in the tournament. Other awards given at the state tournament were for the “best figure” (to Billie Grisham of Celeste), the “prettiest” redhead, blonde and brunette, the AAU (Beauty) Queen and the “Personality Team.” Oleta Jones of Allison was named All-American at the 1939 national A.A.U. Tournament and later played for the semi-pro Galveston Anicos.

Emory’s win in the final gave the team an expense-paid trip to the National A.A.U. Tournament in Wichita KS where they were defeated by the Wichita Thurstons, a commercial team, in the first round. However, Emory then defeated (semi-pro) Pittsburg PA Westinghouse, 30-22, in consolation play and lost to Topeka KS in the consolation finals, 16-12.

In 1942 Borger defeated Emory in the final of the “High School Girls Basketball League of Texas” marking the only other time thru 2007 that Emory made a state final in girls basketball. (Some of the above information came from the Capitol Review.) Rains county has won only two state basketball titles from 1925-2007 with Emory winning the state A.A.U. title in 1937 and Point winning the same title in 1944.

A.A.U.-14	<b>1938</b>	<b>The Jones sisters lead Allison to</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>ALLISON</b>	<b>first of two consecutive titles</b>

The Allison Rambelettes of Wheeler County in the Panhandle defeated Miller Grove of Hopkins County, 22-7, in the final of the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Amateur



**Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state high school basketball tournament in Greenville on March 10-12, 1938. Allison (37-4) placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at at the 1937 state A.A.U. tournament losing in the semi-final to eventual champion Emory, 30-29, on a FG with 14 seconds remaining. Allison then won back-to-back state titles in 1938 & 1939 defeating runner-up Miller Grove in both championship games. Celeste defeated Meadow for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Leesburg defeated Emory (the 1937 state champion), 21-12, for the consolation title.**

**Quarterfinalists were Mesquite, Celeste, Allison, Bailey, Miller Grove, Cookville, Meadow, Elysian Fields while Emory, Friendship, Lone Oak, Caddo Mills, Leesburg, Van Horn , Hereford and McKinney played in the consolation bracket. Other entries were Hickory Creek, White Rock, Borger, Balmorhea, Cayuga, Beattie, Garrett, DeLeon, West, Quinlan, Alvin, Bonham, Quitman, Cumby, Fersan, West, Princeton, Garrett, La Payne and Courtney. In the semi-finals Allison defeated Celeste, 20-14, and Miller Grove, “in a huge upset,” defeated Meadow, 27-15. Celeste had been reinstated into the semi-final after Mesquite (which defeated Celeste, 13-12, in the qt. final) was disqualified for “failure to register a player.” Allison defeated Bailey, 22-14, in the qt. final. In the final Allison took an early lead against Miller Grove and never trailed leading 13-3 at the half. Miller Groves' coach, Marguerite Braziel, was coach of the 1937 state champion Emory team the previous year.**

**Wolfe City won the sportsmanship trophy and Van Horn won the award for the team traveling the greatest distance (640 miles). June Brown of Cookville won the FT contest hitting 17 of 25. The All State Tournament team included forwards Oleta Jones of Allison, Deckard of Meadow, Renshaw of Miller Grove, Carpenter of Leesburg and Burrow of Wolfe City and guards Compton of Celeste, Woodson of Emory, Jones of Mesquite, Finch of Bailey and Wagnon of Van Horn. Ruth Jones of Allison made 2nd team all-state at guard in 1938. Oleta Jones had made 2nd team all-state at forward in 1937 while Ruth Richardson was named 1st team all-state in 1937. 5'11" Fr Oleta Jones was the top scorer for the Ramblettes in 1937 with 910 points in 41 games (22.1 ppg).**

**Allison (with an enrollment of only 50 students) was coached by John Peeples and demonstrated “excellent teamwork throughout the tournament and convinced the huge crowd that they were the class of the field.” Peeples was the Supt. of Schools as well as the coach. 5'11" Forward Oleta Jones led Allison in scoring at the state tournament with 13 of her team’s 22 points in**

**the championship game and 18 of the team's points in the semi-final. Jones was "looping goals with ease from difficult angles on the court" despite "very close guarding on the part of her opponents. The Allison team roster included Oleta Jones, Jr; Ruth Jones, Jr; Ruth Garner, Jr; Ruth Richardson, Sr; Bonnie Brown, Sr; Edith Hamilton, Jr; Fay Hayes, Jr; Virginia Mae Wright, Sr; and Rosetta Keese. The box score for the final listed forwards Oleta Jones, Ruth Jones, and Bonnie Brown and guards Ruth Garner, Virginia Mae Wright and Virginia Dillon.**

**Both Allison and Miller Grove received invitations to the national A.A.U. tournament in Wichita KS beginning on March 21-26. The 32 teams in the national tournament including high schools and colleges as well as independent teams sponsored by commercial organizations. Allison lost in the 1<sup>st</sup> round to the Tulsa OK Stenos, a semi-pro team, and Miller Grove lost to the Des Moines IO A.I.B., another semi-pro team. Allison played four games against other semi-pro teams in the consolation bracket at the national tournament defeating Colorado Springs, 33-6; Davenport IO, 19-18; Covington KY, 27-13; before losing to Ada OK in the consolation final, 24-14.**

**Oleta Jones, 5'11" forward who was only a Jr in H.S., was "the most sensational high school player" in the National Tournament in 1939 and was named 2nd team All American at the tournament. Allison was 35-1 on the year against H.S. competition with the lone loss to Celeste, 19-18, before the state tournament.**

**In 1940 Oleta Jones, 5'11" forward; Ruth Jones, 5'10" guard; and Ruth Garner played semi-pro basketball with the national A.A.U. champion Galveston Anicos. The Anicos had defeated Allison in the 1939 national A.A.U. tournament and then recruited three of its stars for its 1940 team which finished 3rd in the National A.A.U. Tournament.**

**The 1938 & 1939 state titles by the Allison girls team remain the only two state basketball championships ever won by a team from Wheeler County. In 2008 three members of the 1938 team--Oleta Jones Chambers of Grand Prairie; Edith Hamilton Aitkenhead of Kirkwood MO; and Bonnie Brown Fields of Laguna Woods CA---were celebrating the 70th anniversary of their first state championship in 1938.**

**The Allison school burned in 1974 destroying all the trophies. Allison consolidated with Ft. Elliott in 2003.**

<b>A.A.U.-15</b>	<b>1939</b>	<b>The Jones sisters lead Allison</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>ALLISON</b>	<b>to second of two consecutive titles</b>

**The Allison Rambelettes of Wheeler County in the Panhandle defeated Miller Grove of Hopkins County, 30-13, in the final of the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state high school basketball tournament in Greenville on March 9-11, 1939. Allison placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 1937 state A.A.U. tournament losing in the semi-finals to eventual champion Emory, 30-29, on a FG with 14 seconds left. In 1939 Allison won its second consecutive state championship with both coming against finalist Miller Grove. Thirty-two teams entered the 1939 state tournament including Allison, Miller Grove, Greenville, Borger, Quinlan, Balmorhea, White Rock, Wayside, Wolfe City, Ebenezer, Happy, Lucas, Celeste, Princeton, Randolph, Lone Oak, McKinney, Clinton, Royse City, Elysian Fields, Caddo Mills, Floyd, Point, Fairlie, Merit, Picton, Highland of Roscoe, Covington, Sulphur Bluff and Campbell.**

**Quinlan defeated Celeste, 22-18, for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and White Rock defeated Elysian Fields, 33-14, for the consolation title. Balmorhea won the trophy for traveling the greatest distance to the tournament and Wayside won the team sportsmanship trophy. Allison defeated Lone Oak, 36-14, in the first round; Ebenezer, 35-9, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round; and Happy, 30-10, in the semi-final; and Miller Grove, 30-13, in the final. Allison led 12-7 at the half of the final but then outscored Miller Grove 18-6 in the 2nd half. Miller Grove's coach, in 1938 & 1939, Marguerite Braziel, won a state title as coach at Emory in 1937.**

**5'11" Jr Oleta Jones scored 18 of Allison's 30 points in the final and was named All State Tournament for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year. The All State Tournament team included forwards Oleta Jones, 5'11" of Allison, Ruth Garner of Allison, West of Celeste, Hulse of Quinlan, Walker of Wolfe City and guards Ruth Jones, 5'10" of Allison, Renshaw of Miller Grove, Payne of Wayside, Hill of White Rock and Baber of Celeste. The Allison team roster in 1939 included Oleta Jones, Sr; Ruth Jones, Sr; Faye Hayes, Sr; Bonnie Brown; Sr; Ruth Garner, Sr; Ruth Richardson, Sr; and Virginia Dillon.**

**Frances Williams a six-time AAU All-American and “the outstanding woman basketball player of the United States,” was in Greenville at the state tournament searching for talent for her semi-pro Galveston Anicos team.**

**Allison, with only 9 girls on the basketball team, and Miller Grove were invited to the National A.A.U. women’s tournament in Wichita KS because of their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes in the Texas state A.A.U. high school tournament. Allison won a 1<sup>st</sup> round game at the national tournament with a 24-12 win over Davenport Iowa AIC, a semi-pro team. Miller Grove lost its 1<sup>st</sup> round game, 22-10, to the Des Moines Iowa AIB, a semi-pro team. The Dallas Morning News reported that the Allison-Davenport game featured a “battle of sisters” with the sisters Oleta and Ruth Jones of Allison against Ann and Monica Ward of Davenport. Oleta Jones scored 13 points for Allison. Allison then gave the defending national champions, the Galveston TX Anicos “the scare of their lives” by losing 16-8 to the Anicos in the second round of the tournament. The Anicos star, Frances Williams, must have been surprised to see the team she had scouted in Greenville give her team such a hard time. Allison had been beaten three times during the 1938-39 season by the Anicos. The Anicos went on to win the national championship by defeating the Little Rock Flyers in the final adding to their 1938 national title and placed 3 of its girls (Glennis Birket, Lottie Jackson and Frances Williams) on the 1939 six-member All-American Team. See: Just for Fun: The Story of AAU Women’s Basketball by Robert W. Ikard. Allison's Oleta Jones was named 2nd team All-American at the National Tournament and was "the most sensational high school player in th National Tournament in 1939."**

**Oleta Jones, Ruth Jones and Ruth Garner of Allison played on the 1940 Galveston Anicos team which won 3rd at the national A.A.U. championship.**

**The 1938 & 1939 state titles by the Allison girls team remain the only two state basketball championships ever won by a team from Wheeler County. The Rambettes were 28-7 for the 1939 season with six of its losses being to the Galveston Anicos and the other to Des Moines Iowa in the National Tournament. Allison lost only two games to high schools in 3 years (1937-1939).**

**In 2008 three members of the 1938-39 Allison teams---Oleta Jones Chambers of Grand Prairie, Edith Hamilton Aitkenhead of Kirkwood MO and Bonnie Brown Fields of Laguna Woods CA--- were celebrating the 70th anniversary of their two championship seasons.**

The Allison school burned in 1974 destroying all its trophies. Allison consolidated with Ft. Elliott in 2003.

<b>A.A.U.-16</b>	<b>1940</b>	<b>Wayside wins two state titles</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>WAYSIDE</b>	<b>(HSGBLT &amp; AAU) in same year</b>

Wayside of Armstrong County in the Panhandle defeated Quinlan of Hunt County, 20-17, in the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state high school basketball tournament in Greenville on March 15-17, 1940 in Greenville's new \$10,000 gym with a seating capacity of 2,000. Wayside had entered the tournament as the favorite having won the state title of the "High School Girls Basketball League of Texas" at Hillsboro the week before. Wayside then won the A.A.U. state title to become the first and only team ever to win the "double" (the A.A.U. and HSGBLT in the same year).

Sixteen "hand-picked" teams were selected to play in the 1940 AAU state tournament including Wayside, Miller Grove, Mt Pisgah, Sulphur Bluff, Bonham, Bailey, Point, Caddo Mills, Greenville, Floyd, Boles Home, Wolfe City, Lone Oak, Celeste, Merit and Quinlan. Merit defeated Bonham, 24-18, for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Caddo Mills defeated Lone Oak, 17-16, for the consolation title.

In the semi-finals Wayside defeated Bonham, 33-16, and Quinlan defeated Merit, 29-22. Wayside beat Greenville, 26-5, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round and Celeste, 20-15, in the qt. final. The final between Wayside and Quinlan was close early as the score was tied after the 1<sup>st</sup> qt. at 3-3 and at the half at 9-9 before Wayside took a 16-13 lead into the 4<sup>th</sup> qt. and held that 3-point margin to the end. Lucille Moore made two FGs in the closing seconds for a 5-point win over Celeste.

Wayside was led in the qt. final by Lucille Moore with 13 points and in the semi-final by Moore with 19 points, Stevens with 5, Billie Harrell and Lahoma Payne with 3 each and Eula Johnson with 1. Lucille Moore was also the top Wayside scorer in the final with 8 points followed by Billie Harrell with 5. The team roster included Frances Partlow, Wanda Harral, Co-

**Captain Billie Harral, Jesse Chloe Payne, Lucille Moore, Lahoma Payne, Lorene Payne, Eula Johnson, Neva Moore and Bee Stevens. The Wayside coach was Leroy “Bud” Roberts was the Wayside coach in 1940. He and his Wayside team also won the state AAU tournament in 1940 for a “double.” Coach Roberts also won two state 3A UIL titles in 1966 & 1967 while coaching Tulia . He was elected to the Texas H.S. Basketball Hall of Fame in 1995.**

**The All State Tournament team included forwards Lucille Moore of Wayside, Billie Harral of Wayside, Mildred Hulse of Quinlan, Gertrude Standifer of Merit and Anna Mae Walker of Wolfe City and guards Lahoma Payne of Wayside, Eula Johnson of Wayside, Verline Adams of Quinlan, Faye Gray of Quinlan and Rena Renshaw of Miller Grove.**

**Both Wayside and Quinlan earned berths in the national A.A.U. tournament in St. Joseph MO on March 27-30. Playing against college and independent/semi-pro teams, Wayside and Quinlan both won two games before losing in qt. finals playing against college and independent/semi-pro teams from across the U.S. Wayside defeated Denver Dry Goods, 16-7, and the “highly-rated” Des Moines Thompsons, 15-14, before losing to the eventual national champions, the Galveston Anicos, 26-4. Galveston had defeated Wayside five times earlier in the year. Quinlan defeated the Topeka KS Sewells, 23-21, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round and Reydon OK, 29-23, in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round before losing to the Nashville TN Collegians, 27-23.**

**Wayside’s 2<sup>nd</sup> round win over Des Moines “in the tournament’s most exciting game” as the Thompsons missed a FT “at the whistle” to win by one point. Lahoma Payne “hit from the coffin corner” for the winning margin with two minutes left.**

**Lucille Moore, a 17-year old Wayside senior, was named the queen (“the most beautiful girl”) of the national tournament over 24 other contestants.**

<b>A.A.U.-17</b>	<b>1941</b>	<b>Quinlan wins its 1<sup>st</sup> of two</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>QUINLAN</b>	<b>consecutive A.A.U. state titles</b>

**Quinlan of Hunt County defeated the Merit Black Cats, also from Hunt County, 22-13, in the final of the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state high school tournament on its home court in Quinlan on March 13-**

15, 1941. Emory of Rains County won 3<sup>rd</sup> place with a 20-17 victory over Wolfe City of Hunt County. Floyd of Hunt County won the consolation title, 24-21, over Point of Hunt County. Other teams in the state tournament included Mt. Pisgah, Point, Cumby, Blue Ridge, Savoy, Lone Oak and Graham Point. It appears that the “state” AAU tournaments in the war years of 1941-1945 were limited in terms of entries. Quinlan repeated as state champion the following year (1942) but only two high school teams entered the “state” tournament. Quinlan’s only two losses on the season were earlier in the season to Merit as the team’s record after winning the state title was 52-2-2.

Quinlan defeated Graham Point, 42-11 in the first round; defeated Wolf City, 43-9 in the qt. final; and drew a bye in the semi-final. Quinlan led in the final by 5-4 after the end of the first quarter, 9-7 at the half and 15-8 after 3 quarters. The Greenville Morning Herald reported that the Quinlan guards played a “jam-up defensive game.”

The members of the Quinlan championship team were: Forwards Hallie Hulse, Sr; Macel Smith, Jr; Sybil Clawson; Virginia Hamm; Gailya Smith; Minnie Hulse, Jr; Pauline Langford, Sr; Faye Gray, Sr; and Lillian Clawson, Sr. Guards were: Stella Smithey, Sr; Dorothy Brackeen, Jr; Elnora Lasater, Sr; RDuthie Lea Woods; and Othello Pitts, Sr. The AAU utilized a 6 on 6 format in 1941 with 3 “forwards” (offensive players) from each team matched against three “guards” (defensive players) from the other team. The top Quinlan scorers in the final were Faye Gray with 8 and Pauline Langford and Lillian Clawson with 6. Langford led Quinlan with 17 points in a 42-14 qt-final win over Graham Point followed by Gray with 11 and Clawson with 10. Faye Gray was voted the outstanding player of the tournament.

Quinlan earned an expense-paid trip to the National AAU tournament in St. Joseph MO with its victory in the final. However, Quinlan first entered the Southwestern AAU’s (open) Tournament the next week with that winner also qualifying to play in the national tournament. Quinlan defeated Emory H.S. in the 1<sup>st</sup> round but then lost to the (eventual champion) Galveston Anicos, 22-11. Quinlan then went to St. Joseph Mo, and won a 1<sup>st</sup> round game over the Goodland Indiana Comets, 52-15, led by 15 points by Faye Gray and Lillian Clawson “who also starred in floor play.” Pauline Langford added 11 points.

Quinlan then “came within minutes” of the “biggest upset in the tournament” when they led the favored and “towering” Des Moines Iowa Thompsons (a

semi-pro team) until the closing minutes before losing, 34-28. Thus the Quinlan girls went home with a final season record of 54-4-2.

A final honor to Quinlan came when Gailya Smith, a 13-year old freshman, “a brunette with sparkling dark eyes,” was named the Queen of the national AAU tournament. It was the second consecutive year that a Texas High School girl had won this honor as Lucille Moore of 1940 state champion Wayside won that honor the previous year.

Quinlan also won the state AAU championship the next year in 1942 but in 2007 these two appearances in the state finals were the only ones in the history of the school.

A.A.U.-18	1942	Quinlan wins its 2 <sup>nd</sup> of two
All classes	QUINLAN	consecutive state AAU titles

Quinlan of Hunt County defeated Jayton of Kent County in West Texas, 27-13, in the final of the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state high school basketball tournament on its home court in Quinlan on March 5-7, 1942. Perhaps because the U.S. was in the early years of World War II, only two teams, Quinlan and Jayton, entered the high school division of the state A.A.U. tournament and only two teams, the Dallas Hornets and Amalgamated Clothing Workers of Dallas, entered the “open division”. Because of the war (in particular gas rationing that limited travel for sporting events) there was no tournament in 1943. Therefore there were no 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> place finishers or consolation winners in 1942.

Quinlan trailed the Jayton Lady Jaybirds in the final by a score of 2-3 at the end of the first quarter but led 8-3 at halftime after holding Jayton scoreless in the second qt. Quinlan increased its lead to 22-8 after 3 qts. & won, 27-13. The win in the finals sent Quinlan to the finals of the overall (not just H.S.) state AAU tournament against the commercial and independent AAU champion. The finals also qualified Quinlan to play in the National AAU tournament in St. Joseph MO where they defeated the (semi-pro) Goodland



**Indiana Comets, 48-15, before losing to the (semi-pro) Thompson Beauty School of Des Moines Iowa in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round.**

**Ruth Lee Wood led Quinlan in the final with 8 points, Gailya Smith scored 7, Hulse, 6 and Macel Smith, 5. The top defensive players for the champions were Dorothy Brackeen and Iva Lee Northcutt who held the opposing forwards to 13 points. The AAU utilized a 6 on 6 format in 1942 with 3 “forwards” (offensive players) from each team matched against three “guards” (defensive players) from the other team. Quinlan played 4 guards/defensive players in the game (Iva Lee Northcutt, Dorothy Brackeen, Ruth Phillips and Jocile Adams) and four forwards (Minnie Hulse, Gailya Smith, Macel Smith and Ruth Lee Wood). The championship team was coached by Supt. W.C. Irons and Iris Howle.**

**Quinlan also won the state AAU championship the year before in 1941 but in 2007 these two appearances in the state finals were the only ones in the history of the school.**

<b>A.A.U.19</b>	<b>1944</b>	<b>Point wins its only state title</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>POINT</b>	<b>in 1944 A.A.U. state tournament</b>

**Point of Rains County defeated Plano of Collin County, 29-20, in the 19th annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state high school basketball championship at the Joe Perkins gym on the SMU campus in Dallas on March 9-11, 1944. The tournament was sponsored by Delta Psi Kappa. Among the teams entered were Irving, Carrollton, Garland, Plano, Grand Prairie, Allen, Bailey, Frisco, Point and Highland Park.**

**Point defeated Allen, 33-14, in the qt. finals and Garland, 31-20, in the semi-final as Plano defeated Bailey in the other semi-final. The Point girls were just as proud that they also won the sportsmanship trophy at the A.A.U. state tournament. Mary Anderson remembers that their coach told the girls at the beginning of the tournament that they had little chance of winning the tournament but that he expected them to act like "ladies" at all times and to win the sportsmanship trophy. In the semi-finals Point defeated Garland, 31-**

**20, and Plano beat Bailey. Highland Park won the consolation title with a win over Grand Prairie, 28-9.**

**Doris Freeze led Point in the final with 15 points followed by Fay Hogue with 10 and Kerr with 4. Sturgin and Vandell each scored 7 to lead Plano. The All Tournament Team was comprised of forwards Vandell of Plano, Peggy Vilbig of Highland Park, Hall of Garland and Doris Freeze of Point. The guards chosen were Billie Perryman & Fay Hogue of Point, McMurrin of Highland Park and Stanley of Plano. Point played only 6 girls in the final: Doris Freeze, Fay Hogue, Billie Perryman, Madie Lu Hope, Cothell McWaters and Virginia Kerr. The entire roster of the 1944 Point championship team included Doris Freeze, Billie Perryman, Fay Hogue, Madie Lu Hope, Cothell McWaters, Virginia Kerr, Faynell Havens, Mary Anderson, Vernie Bullard and Bernice Hogue. Six of the team members (Mary Anderson, Doris Freeze, Billie Perryman, Vernie Bullard and Fay Hogue were redheads and the girls wore green stain suits for their games.**

**The 1944 Point championship coach was H.C. Burns and Paul Anderson was Supt. The girls traveled to games in cars driven by Coach Burns and Supt. Anderson. There was no state A.A.U. tournament the year before in 1943 because of gas rationing during the war. In 1944 the team relied on donated gas coupons from members of the Point community.**

**By winning the state title Point qualified for the 1944 Southwest AAU Tournament comprised of independent teams, colleges and high schools. Point upset Hughes Tool Company of Houston in the 1<sup>st</sup> round and made the semi-final where they were defeated, 37-17, by Dr Pepper of Dallas, an independent (semi-pro) team which finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the tournament. Players listed in the box score for Point were forwards Hogue (7 points), Freeze (4) and Havens; centers Anderson (3) and Kerr (2); and guards Perryman, B. Hogue, Hope, and McWaters. After graduation from Emory H.S. in 1944 Doris Freeze played for the Dr. Pepper semi-pro (A.A.U.) team in Dallas.**

**Supt. Paul Anderson moved on to Collinsville where the girls team (featuring the U.I.L. state tournament's all-time leading scorer, Juvean McWhorter) was state basketball champion in 1956 . H.C. Burns coached the girls and boys teams at Point from 1939-1947.**

**The next year (1945) Point was runner-up in the state AAU high school girls' tournament to the champion, Dallas Highland Park. These two appearances marked the only times that Point appeared in a state girls final thru 2007.**

**The Point girls qualified for the National A.A.U. Tournament in both 1944 & 1945 but was not able to make the trip due to a lack of funds and gas rationing during World War II.**

**In 2008 Point no longer had a high school as it was merged with Rains H.S. of Emory in the 1960s. Highland Park also never made another state final appearance after 1944 & 1945.**

**Rains county has won only two state basketball championships from 1925-2007 as Emory won the state AAU girls title in 1937 and Point won the same title in 1944.**

**In 2008 Mary Anderson Raab still lived in Point; Vernie Bullard Cravens was in Kilgore; Bernice Hogue Senter in Greenville; Virginia Kerr White in Spearman and Faynell Havens Covin in Gulfport FL. The trophies won by the Point girls were lost in the move to the new Rains H.S. but a photograph of the team survives. Oddly, the team photograph was a part of the history of World War II as William ("Ted") Rabb carried a copy of the team photo in his wallet during the war as he told others that he planned to date the young woman he identified in the photo as Mary Anerson after the war. He did meet her after the war and they married.**

<b>A.A.U.-20</b>	<b>1945</b>	<b>Highland Park wins the only</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>HIGHLAND PARK</b>	<b>basketball title in school history</b>

**The Highland Park Lassies of Dallas defeated Point of Rains County, 37-27, in the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls high school basketball tournament in Dallas at the SMU gym on March 8-10, 1945. The tournament, sponsored by the Psi Kappa Gamma physical education sorority at SMU, included Grand Prairie, Lometa, Seagoville, Forney, Plano, Merit,**

**Irving, Frisco, Highland Park, Garland, Point, Carrollton, Savoy, Adamson and Allen.**

**Point defeated Forney, 33-21, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round; Plano in the qt. final; and Allen in the semi-final to qualify for the final. The Lassies (sometimes referred to as the “Highlanders”) defeated Frisco, 40-15, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round; Grand Prairie, 31-14, in the qt. final.; Seagoville, 32-30, in the semi-final; and Point, 37-27, in the final.**

**According to the Highland Park Bagpipe, the top scorers for the Lassies/Highlanders for the four games at the state tournament were Peggy Vilbig with 57 points, Carolyn Craugh with 43 and Carolyn George with 33.**

**The Dallas Morning News reported that Highland Park’s “well-balanced scoring machine” was led in the 1<sup>st</sup> round by Craugh with 13, Vilbig with 10, George with 9 and Freeman with 8. Craugh and Vilbig each scored 13 and George scored 6 in the semi-final while Vilbig was the leading scorer in the final with 17 while Craugh added 12 and George, 9. Vilbig was named to the 1944 All Tournament team (the names of the 1945 All Tournament team are unknown).**

**The players’ roster for the 1945 Highland Park state championship team was listed in the Highland Park yearbook and included Capt. Carolyn George, Phyllis Ogden, Patsy Freeman, Ellen Eaves, Peggy Freeman, Betty Ann Wertheimer, Loreta Jackson, Carolyn Zimmerman, Carolyn Craugh, Martha Snow, Barbara Kent, Estill Lackey, Joyce Cronk, Kathryn McMurrin, Peggy Vilbig and Nonie Eldredge. The championship coach was Elsie Reed Berry, a physical education teacher at Highland Park H.S.**

**Highland Park won the consolation title the previous year (1944) at the SMU gym in Dallas by defeating Irving, Allen and Grand Prairie with most of the same girls who played in 1945 (the 1944 team had only 3 seniors). Highland Park qualaified--by virtue of its state A.A.U. championship---for the 1945 National A.A.U. Tournament held in Kansas but did not go because of gas rationing during World War II.**

**In 2008 the state title by the Highland Park girls in 1945 remains the only basketball title—for girls or boys—won in school history.**

**Betty Wertheimer Smith earned a doctorate in physical education and taught at Texas Tech from 1966-1978. In 2007 she still lived in Highland Park and provided information for this narrative.**

<b>A.A.U.-21</b>	<b>1946</b>	<b>Follett wins 1<sup>st</sup> of 2 state</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>FOLLETT</b>	<b>titles won by school &amp; county</b>

**Follett of Lipscomb County in the Panhandle defeated Penelope of Hill County, 37-24, in the final of the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state high school basketball tournament in Celeste on March 14-16, 1946. The 1946 state title was the first won by the school and by Lipscomb County and the school and county added their only other state title in 1970 when the Follett girls won the Class B state championship.**

**Savoy defeated Grand Prairie, 18-17, for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Quinlan beat Lone Oak, 30-29, for the consolation title. As a result of winning the tournament the Follett girls were awarded \$200 toward their expenses to the national tournament in St. Joseph MO on March 26. Other entries in the state tournament included Yantis, Lone Oak, Miller Grove, Celeste and Campbell.**

**Follett entered the tournament as the favorite by virtue of its 41-1season record including seven invitational tournaments since December. The week before the A.A.U. state tournament Follett came close to upsetting Aquilla in the quarter finals of the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (HSGBLT) state championship tournament in Hillsboro. Aquilla won three state HSGBLT titles in 1944-46 ; was 92-1 over that period; and ended 1946 as the undefeated (35-0) state champion. However, that last magical state championship season of 1946 almost came to an end in the quarter finals as Aquilla barely survived by a score of 36-35 against Follett and trailed Follett by 5 points with 3 minutes left but rallied to go ahead by one point with 30 seconds left. Follett was fouled with 21 seconds remaining but chose to take the ball out of bounds and to go for a FG to win the game rather than attempt a game-tying FT. The choice backfired when Aquilla tied the ball, won the jump, and held on for the win. Belva Sperry scored 22 points for Follett and dominated the boards while Aquilla got balanced scoring from Juanita Kennedy (13), Audine Odom (12) and Edith Gerik (11).**

**The AAU held its state girls tournament from 1925-1950 and the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (HSGBLT) held its state tournament from 1939-1954. Thus from 1939-1954 there were two leagues declaring state girls champions for this period.**

**In the 1946 state A.A.U. tournament, Follett defeated Lone Oak, 37-6, in the 1<sup>st</sup> round; Celeste, 33-16, in the qt. final; Grand Prairie, 34-14, in the semi-final; and Penelope, 37-24, in the final. to finish the year with a 45-1 record. Follett was led in the qt. final by forward Belva Sperry with 20 points and in the semi-final by Sperry with 22 points, Barnes with 7 and Marcilla Walker with 5. Sperry was also the top Follett scorer in the final with 16 points while Walker scored 10 and Barnes, 8. The Follett team averaged 46.5 points per game on the season to 21 for its opponents.**

**The 1946 Follett varsity players were forwards Belva Sperry, Betty Lou Hamilton Barnes, Marcille Walker, Mary Elizabeth McKee, Fern Hamilton and Dell Jean Barton and guards Edith Sperry, Georgia Hamilton, Faye Kliewer, Virginia Trenfield and Dorothy Faye Walker. Others on the team were Louise Born, Jeannine Ingle, Leona Bedell, & Doris Leonard. The championship coach was Edgar Frazier who was in his fifth year as Follett coach. The trip to Celeste for the state A.A.U. tournament was sponsored by the Amarillo News-Globe. Follett also earned a trip to the national A.A.U. Tournament in St. Joseph MO.**

**The All State Tournament team included Belva Sperry of Follett, Marcille Walker of Follett, Pat McAfee of Penelope, Mary Ruth Burrell of Penelope, Bobbie Cummings of Grand Priarie and Joan Bostick of Celeste. Betty Lou Hamilton Barnes and Georgia Hamilton, the Follett sisters, were named to the All Tournament Second Team. Belva Sperry was voted the “outstanding player” of the tournament socring a total of 77 points in 4 games. In the “beauty contest” Marcille Walker of Follett was voted the “queen of the tournament.”**

**Follett has made five appearances in the state tournaments winning state titles in 1970 and 2008 in the school’s only appearance in the U.I.L. finals and winnint the 1946 A.A.U. state tournament. Charles Skeen of NTSU was the Follett championship coach in 1970 while Shane Woods of OK State U. was the coach in 2008. The three titles won by the Follett girls remain the only three state basketball championships ever won by Lipscomb County.**

A.A.U.-22	1947	Maydelle girls win 1 <sup>st</sup> of two
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<b>All classes</b>	<b>MAYDELLE</b>	<b>state titles in two leagues</b>
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**Maydelle of Cherokee County defeated Cranfills Gap of Bosque County, 41-21, in the final of the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state high school basketball tournament at SMU in Dallas on March 6-8, 1947. In the semi-finals Maydelle upset Mesquite, 20-16, and Cranfills Gap defeated Yantis, 19-18. Maydelle had defeated Kildare, 27-20, in one qt. final. Yantis defeated Mesquite for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Frost defeated Zephyr, 29-27, in the consolation final. Teams in the 1947 state A.A.U. tournament included Maydelle, Cranfills Gap, Mesquite, Yantis, Frost, Zephyr, Garland, Dialville, Sulphur Bluff, Frisco, Campbell, Stanton and Lingleville.**

**The top scorers for Maydelle in the final against Cranfills Gap were Letha Nell Loper with 18 points, Elene Lusk with 14 and Erlene Sides with 8. The Maydelle players listed in the box score of the final were Loper, Lusk, Sides, Dover, Crawford and McCreight. Sides was the top scorer in the semi-final against Mesquite with 8 points while Lusk added 6 and Loper, 5. Loper scored 12 and Sides 10 in the 27-20 win over Kildare in the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. The Cherokee County newspaper listed the following as members of the 1947 Maydelle champions: Geneva McCreight, Tessie Sides, Melba Lasiter, Letha Loper, Billie Crawford, Elene Lusk, Judy McCann, Ruth Nall, Bobbie Lou Dickey and Bonnie Dover.**

**J.G. Hobson was the coach of the Maydelle girls team that won the 1947 A.A.U. state championship and also coached the 1948 Maydelle boys to the state U.I.L. Class B championship. He is one of only two coaches to win both a girls and boys state title as Dimmitt's J.W. Blaine won the 1952 girls state HSGBLT title and the 1952 boys state U.I.L. titles in the same year.**

**Maydelle lost in the "grand" (i.e., the high school championship vs the independent and commercial champion) final of the Texas A.A.U. state tournament to NuGrape of Dallas, a semi-pro team by a score of 35-18. Erlene Sides and Elene Lusk led Maydelle scorers with 6 points each and Loper added 4. Ernestine Whitton led NuGrape with 17 points. Both NuGrape and Maydelle earned trips to the national A.A.U. tournament. Maydelle scored an upset win in the national A.A.U. tournament in St. Joseph MO as the Texas**

team defeated Wesleyan College of Mount Pleasant Iowa, 26-25. Erline Sides led Maydelle with 10 points. Maydelle lost in the second round of the national A.A.U. tournament to Connors College of Warner OK, 30-17. Maydelle ended the year at 30-3 with its only losses being to NuGrape in the A.A.A. grand final, to Connors College in the national A.A.U. and to East Chambers—their only loss to a high school team all year. East Chambers went on to win the state championship of the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas.

The high school All State Tournament team included guards Erline Sides and Letha Nell Loper of Maydelle, Hazel Olson of Cranfills Gap, and guards Nedra Moore of Frost, Beuleah Gilbreath of Zephyr and Jo Ann Miller of Mesquite. Gilbreath of Zephyr was named the most outstanding player of the tournament. Patsy Lane of Frisco won the FT contest with 23 of 25. Dorothy Yates of Mesquite was named the tournament queen.

The 1947 girls A.A.U. state championship was the first state title in any sport ever won by a Cherokee County team. Other later state basketball championships won by Cherokee County teams were by the Maydelle boys in the U.I.L. in 1948; the Maydelle girls in the HSGBLT in 1953; the Jacksonville boys in the U.I.L. in 1956; and the Troup boys in the U.I.L. in 1992 & 1993. The Maydelle girls were state finalists in the 1948 HSGBLT state tournament and in the 1950 state A.A.U. Tournament.

A.A.U.-23	<b>1948</b>	<b>Frisco wins state AAU title as Penelope</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>FRISCO</b>	<b>“ran out of girls” in the final and won in sudden-death OT in the semi-final</b>

Frisco of Dallas County defeated Penelope of Hill County, 18-13, in the final of the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state high school basketball tournament on March 4-6, 1948, in Fair Park of Dallas. The sixteen entries in the 1948 A.A.U. state H.S. girls tournament were Celeste, Garland, Kildare, Frisco, Cranfills Gap, Miller Grove, Frost, Henrietta, Tehuacana, Seagoville, Turkey, Penelope, Savoy, Quinlan, Maydelle & McAdoo. Maydelle defeated Teneha for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Seagoville defeated Kildare, 28-17, for the consolation title.



**Frisco, the winner of the high school division and Reserve Loan-Life Insurance of Dallas (a semi-pro team), the independent/commercial winner met in the “grand” final for the Texas A.A.U. championship with Reserve Loan-Life winning by a score of 34-14. Claudia Hocker led Frisco with 8 points while Lowery led Reserve Loan-Life with 19.**

**Frisco defeated Kildare, 28-13, in the first round led by 16 points from Claudia Hocker and 7 from Pokey Mays. The box score also listed Lane, Boyd, G. Marion, Spann, L. Marion, Newman and Barnes. Frisco beat Garland, 28-24, in the quarterfinals led by Claudia Hocker’s 13 points and defeated Maydelle 39-37, in the semi-final in a game that went to three overtime periods---including the “sudden death” third OT. The game was tied at 33-33 at the end of regulation and at 37-37 after the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> OT periods. The game ended in the sudden death period when Hocker made the winning “walk-off” FG as she got the ball after the tip-off and “raced down and whipped in the deciding goal” with a one-handed “loop bucket.” Hocker scored 24 of her team’s 39 points and was described by the Dallas Morning News as “slim” and an “amazing ball-handler and sharp-shooter.” Letha Nell Loper led Maydelle with 17 and Elene Lusk added 12.**

**The final between Frisco and Penelope was memorable in that Penelope “ran out of girls.” Penelope started the game “without substitutes due to injuries in previous games” and injuries in an auto accident a couple of days earlier. However, Penelope played Frisco “on even terms” (the score was 8-6 for Frisco at the half and 13-9 after 3 qts.) for three quarters. But early in the 4<sup>th</sup> period guard Joan Behrels fouled out “so Penelope played with five girls.” With one minute left Martha Holub “left the floor with an injured knee, leaving Penelope with four players.” The Frisco coach voluntarily took out one of his girls (Dorothy Boyd) leaving Frisco with only a 5-4 advantage. The top scorers for Frisco in the final were Pokey Mays with 8 points and Claudia Hocker and Marcella Spann each with 5 points.**

**The Frisco team was coached by T.L. Romans. The players were: Ruby Barnes, Betty Savage, Patsy Lane, Pauline Deaton, Georgia Marion, Dorothy Boyd, Bobby Roberts, Earlene Newman, Marcella Spann, Jean Mann, Pokey Mays, Claudia Hocker, Louis Marion, Bobbie Helen Grant and Peggy Cobb. Claudia Hocker was selected as the outstanding player of the high school division of the state tournament and Poky Mays was also selected All Tournament along with Elene Lusk and Letha Loper of Maydelle, Lenora Kornegay of Penelope, Bobby Watson of Tenaha and Murlene Walker of**

**Henrieta. Marcella Spann of Frisco was honorable mention. Frisco's Lois Marion was voted the Queen (i.e., most beautiful) of the state AAU tournament and was also runner-up to the Queen of the national AAU tournament in MO.**

**By winning the A.A.U. state high school tournament Frisco earned a spot in the national A.A.U. tournament in St. Joseph MO on March 15-17. Frisco lost its 1<sup>st</sup> round game to Baton Rouge LA, 38-16, and then lost to the Kansas City MO B-1's (an independent or semi-pro team), 36-26, in the consolation bracket. The team traveled to MO in "Cow-girl regalia" bought by Frisco merchants and visited 5 states in their 1,500 mile trip. Frisco was 43-1 before the national tournament and 43-3 overall.**

**Unfortunately the exploits of the 1948 Frisco championship team were soon forgotten at Frisco H.S. and the championship trophy was lost. Dr. Wilbanks discovered that no one at Frisco H.S. in 2008 knew about the 1948 champs and approached the current Frisco girls' coach, Bob Rose, in Jan. of 2008 with the "story" of the 1948 team and contact information for some members of the team. The school quickly organized a 60<sup>th</sup> reunion of the 1948 team at the school on senior night, Feb. 1, 2008. Seven of the team members and two daughters of deceased members were honored at halftime of the game with a standing ovation. The school also had a replica of the lost trophy at the ceremony and pledged to display it so that the team would never again be forgotten. The "event" on Feb. 1, 2008, was covered by the Dallas Morning News (Feb. 2, 2008) and local television and was the subject of a story by local historian Bob Warren in Frisco Style Magazine (March, 2008)**

**The seven members of the 1948 team attending the 60<sup>th</sup> reunion were Ruby (Barnes) Savage, Georgia Mae (Marion) Flanagan, Dorothy (Boyd) Rolater, Lois (Marion) Cates, Claudia Lee (Hocker) Brooks, Pauline (Denton) Gentry and Bobby (Roberts) Doniloo.**

<b>A.A.U.-24</b>	<b>1949</b>	<b>Mesquite wins 2<sup>nd</sup> of 4 state titles</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>MESQUITE</b>	<b>in two leagues from 1933-1950</b>

**Mesquite of Dallas County defeated Yantis of Wood County, 31-18, in the final of the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state high school basketball tournament in Fair Park of Dallas. The 1949 AAU state tournament had 24 high school teams including Frisco, Morse, Mesquite, Penelope, Maydelle, Gallatin, Quinlan, Woodhouse, Savoy, Denison, Desdemona, Frost, Yantis, Allen, Cotton Center, Comanche, Cumby, Milford, Priddy, Aledo, Morse, Gallatin, Campbell and Decatur.**

**Mesquite defeated Campbell, 44-8, in the 1st round; Milford, 39-14, in the quarterfinal; Cotton Center, 36-23, in the semi-final; and Yantis, 31-18, in the final. Yantis defeated Penelope, 32-29, in the other semi-final. Penelope won 3<sup>rd</sup> place over Cotton Center, 41-32, while Gallatin defeated Morse, 25-20, for the consolation title.**

**Seagoville had defeated Mesquite (in a game protested by Mesquite because of a score-keeping error) for the Dallas County championship and the right to go on to the "H.S. Girls Basketball League of Texas" state tournament where Seagoville defeated East Chambers in 2 OT's to win the HSGBLT state championship. Mesquite won the state AAU championship and thus the two Dallas County teams split the two competing state tournaments in 1949. Mesquite finished the year at 35-3 with two losses to "Queens" and the other to East Chambers (though the Skeeters were 4-1 against East Chambers, the runner-up in the state HSGBLT tournament).**

**Both Mesquite and Yantis won "expense-paid" trips to the national A.A.U. tournament in St. Joseph MO. The state title in 1949 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> of four for Mesquite from 1933-1948. The Skeeters won A.A.U. titles in 1933, 1949 & 1950 and won the "High School Girls Basketball League of Texas" state tournament in 1948. Thus Mesquite won state for 3 consecutive years from 1948-1950. Mesquite missed a possible 5<sup>th</sup> state title when no state tournament was held in 1943 during World War II. The Skeeters went undefeated and won the North Texas championship but a "showdown" with the undefeated south champion, China (near Beaumont), could not be arranged.**

**The high school A.A.U. All Tournament team included Jo Ann Miller of Mesquite, Betty Flo Lewis of Mesquite, Dorothy Howard of Penelope, Ruth Cannon of Cotton Center, Sara McDaniel of Yantis, Betty Wilson of Yantis and Wanda Barrett of Cotton Center. Jo Ann Miller of Mesquite was given an "individual gold cup as the outstanding player" in the tournament and was the top scorer for Mesquite during the tournament (averaging 17.3 ppg in the first 3 games). She scored 21 points against Cotton Center in the semi-finals**

and her teammate Pat Kinsala added 10 points and Kenner, 5. Other Mesquite players in the semi-final box score were guards Betty Flo Lewis, Martha Nell Paschal and Jeannette Seabourn. The 1949 Mesquite team roster included seniors Jo Ann Miller (Captain), Martha Nell Paschal, Lorraine Kenner and Jeanette Seabourn and Betty Flo Lewis, Pat Kinsala, Louise De Arment, Nan Thompson, Winnie Duckworth, Rosella Kenner, Anna Jo Lewis, Lucille Bryan and Jackie Duckworth. Louise and Lazelle De Arment and Rosella Kenner of Mesquite played in 1950 for Regal Beer, a semi-pro team which which won the state (commercial/college) AAU championship.

Ruth Cannon of Cotton Center was later a three-time (1953-1955) AAU All-American playing for the Wayland Flying Queens.

Sam H. Shipley was the 1949 Mesquite championship coach and also was the Mesquite coach the year before in 1948 when Mesquite won the state championship in the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas. Shipley later coached at Cotton Center and Abbott.

The 1949 Mesquite state champs traveled to Mexico City in July of 1949 to participate in an international tournament featuring six countries---Cuba, Panama, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico an the U.S. The Skeeters won two games and lost three in the tournament. The second loss was in OT to Adelitas, Mexico's National Champion. Some of the games were played outdoors on cement.

<b>A.A.U.-25</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>Mesquite wins its 4<sup>th</sup> of 4 state titles</b>
<b>All classes</b>	<b>MESQUITE</b>	<b>&amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> in a row from 1948-1950</b>

Mesquite of Dallas County defeated Maydelle of Cherokee County, 26-24, in the final of the 25<sup>th</sup> Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) girls state high school basketball tournament in Fair Park of Dallas on March 20-22, 1950, to win its 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive A.A.U. state title and its 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive state title (the first was in the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas in 1948). Twenty-five teams were entered in the 1950 state A.A.U. girls tournament including

**Mesquite, Maydelle, Plano, Frisco, Irving, Frost, Morris, Woodhouse, Yantis, Savoy, Duncanville, Forreston, Quinlan, Desdemona, Cedar Hill and Allen.**

**The 1950 AAU state high school championship tournament was the last held in Texas as the University Interscholastic League (U.I.L.) began its state girls tournament in 1951 and the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas ran a state tournament from 1939-1954. No need was seen for a third state girls tournament. Plano defeated Frisco, 24-18 in OT, for 3<sup>rd</sup> place and Irving defeated Frost, 34-29, for the consolation title.**

**Mesquite defeated Desdemona, 27-24, in the qt. final; Frisco, 24-19, in the semi-final; and Maydelle, 26-24, in the final. Maydelle defeated Plano, 38-27, in the other semi-final led by Freda Hanson who scored a tournament high 24 points for Maydelle. The top scorers for the Skeeters in the semi-final were Rimmer with 9, Pannell with 8 and Duckworth with 7. The semi-final box score also listed forward Wagner and guards Betty Flo Lewis, Speer, Anna Lewis and Partin. The Dallas Morning News reported that Mesquite “caught fire” in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the semi-final in its 5-point win over Frisco and was led by the outstanding play of its “sister guards,” Betty and Anna Lewis.**

**The final between Mesquite and Maydelle was close all the way and was tied at 10-10 at the half and at 24-24 with 30 seconds remaining in the game when the Skeeters’ Ann Wagoner made 2 FTs for the final 2-point margin.**

**The All Tournament Team of the high school division of the A.A.U. state tournament included Betty Flo Lewis of Mesquite, Joyce Lasiter of Maydelle, Carolyn Stark of Irving, Freddie Marion of Allen, Georgia Marion of Frisco, Dorothy Kirkpatrick of Frost and Valeria Allman of Plano. Mesquite's Betty Flo Lewis, a guard, was voted the outstanding player in the state tournament.**

**The 1950 Mesquite players were Anna Jo Lewis, Betty Flo Lewis, Helen Rimmer, Teresa Pannell, Winnie Duckworth, Jackie Duckworth, Mary Lee Partin, Doris Venable, Shirley Lewis, Patty Andrews, Alice Rose Vinyard, Nelda Spear and Helen McGuire. The team was coached by S.H. Fletcher as Sam H. Shipley, coach of the 1948 and 1949 Mesquite championship teams, had moved on to coach at Cotton Center in 1950.**

**Mesquite won a berth in the national A.A.U. tournament in St. Joseph MO where the team won a first round game against St. Francis Xavier of St. Joseph, 19-12. The defense by Mesquite was so tight that St. Francis didn't score from the field until 25 seconds were left in the game. Betty Flo Lewis led**

**Mesquite with 7 points. Mesquite lost to Regal Beer of Dallas, 33-12, in the second round as Duckworth was the Skeeters' top scorer with 8 points.**

**The state title in 1950 was the 4<sup>th</sup> of four for Mesquite from 1933-1948. The Skeeters won A.A.U. titles in 1933, 1949 & 1950 and won the "High School Girls Basketball League of Texas" state tournament in 1948. Thus Mesquite won state for 3 consecutive years from 1948-1950. Mesquite missed a possible 5<sup>th</sup> state title when no state tournament was held in 1943 during World War II. The Skeeters went undefeated and won the North Texas championship but a "showdown" with the undefeated south champion, China (near Beaumont), could not be arranged.**