

GOLDEN GIRLS H.S. BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT IN SAN ANTONIO CROWNS STATE CHAMPIONS IN 1948-1953

The Texas University Interscholastic League (U.I.L.) began its state high school basketball tournament for boys in 1921 and for girls in 1951. During the 30-year gap from 1921 to 1951 there was increasing pressure on the U.I.L. to sponsor a girls' state basketball tournament and **three leagues** emerged to fill this gap on a temporary basis. The Texas Amateur Athletic Union (**A.A.U.**) sponsored a "state" high school girls tournament from 1925 to 1950 in several locations. In 1939 a group of Central Texas coaches/administrators led by L.C. McKamie of Abbott began the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (**H.S.G.B.L.T.**), sometimes referred to as the "McKamie League," and held "state" tournaments in Hillsboro and Waco thru 1954. A third "state" girls tournament was sponsored by the San Antonio Express & Evening News and was held in San Antonio from 1948-1953 under the name, **The Golden Girls Tournament**.

Though one might question whether one or all of the three "state" tournaments were truly state-wide, all three at some point made that claim. The schools participating in both the A.A.U. and H.S.G.B.L.T. were largely from the Panhandle and West and North Texas while the Golden Girls Tournament included teams from the San Antonio/South Texas area. All three crowned "state" champions and from 1948-1953 at the close of the "pre-U.I.L. era" as there were "competing" state champions from the three different "state" tournaments.

The Express and Evening Athletic Association was organized by reporter Perry Winkle of the San Antonio Express & Evening News in the winter of 1947 with representatives from 13 schools. The association organized the first "Golden Girls State Tournament" the next year with 30 schools participating in a play-off format which sent four teams (Fredericksburg, Little-River Academy, Uvalde and LaCoste) to an "All-South Texas" tournament at the Woodlawn gym in San Antonio on Valentines Day, 1948. The Fredericksburg Billikens defeated Little-River Academy, 16-13, in the final to win the first Golden Girls Championship. Uvalde won the consolation game, 48-12.

The Express and Evening Athletic Association expanded to 55 teams in 1949 and sent 48 teams to "four sectional meets" and eight teams (Fredericksburg, Premont, Uvalde, Troy, Natalia, Little-River Academy, Bloomington and San Antonio Sam Houston) to the "state" tournament (the tournament thus began to be billed as a "state" tournament in 1949 after being called an "All-South Texas" tournament in 1948.) In the 1949 semi-finals Fredericksburg defeated Sam Houston, 26-24, and Uvalde defeated Little-River Academy, 31-21. Fredericksburg won its 2nd consecutive title with a 48-23 victory over Uvalde in the final.

By 1950 there were 79 schools in the association (from the 400 H.S girls teams in the state) with sectional meets sending 20 teams to the third annual "state" tournament with 4 teams in Class A (Poteet, Port LaVaca, Mason, Kenedy); 7 teams in Class B (Troy, Pettus, LaCoste, Bloomington, Natalia, Lometa & Mathis); and 9 teams in Class C (Gregory, Loop Lariats, Schertz-Cibolo, Leakey, Kingsbury, Yancey-Moore, Salado Eaglettes, Agua Dulce, Ben Bolt). The team traveling the greatest distance to San Antonio was Loop which is just north of Seminole in West Texas. Mason defeated Port LaVaca, 34-28, for the 1949 Class A crown; Natalia defeated Bloomington, 28-21, for the Class B title; and Salado defeated Schertz-Cibolo, 27-17, for the C championship.

By 1950 the Express and Evening News Athletic Association had achieved their goal of "pushing" the U.I.L. to hold a state tournament for girls beginning in 1951 but continued to hold Golden Girls tournaments in 1951-53.

The 1951 fourth annual Golden Girls Tournament crowned three champions---Uvalde in Class A, Bartlett in Class B and Salado in Class C. The 1951 tournament included 24 schools (including Runge, Utopia, Calallen, Lytle, Odem, Buckholts, Gregory, Rocksprings, Leakey, Yancey, Salado, Riviera, Schertz-Cibolo, Orange Grove, LaCoste, Mathis, Somerset, Premont, Brenham, Sinton, Jourdanton, and Bartlett). The 24 schools included 4 in Class A, 8 in Class B and 12 in Class C. The Uvalde Lobos defeated Floresville, 34-25, in the A final; Bartlett defeated LaCoste, 34-27, in the B final; and Salado defeated Leakey, 25-19, in the C final.

San Angelo Lakeview, Mason & Mullin won state titles in the 1952 Golden Girls Tournament as Lakeview defeated Port LaVaca, 26-22, in the AA final; Mason defeated Vanderbilt, 41-29, in the A final; Mullin defeated Leakey, 29-23, in the B final.

The sixth annual Golden Girls Tournament in 1953 included 28 teams in four classifications--C, B, A & AA. Teams included were Mathis, Poth, Somerset, Schertz-Cibolo, George West, Pleasanton, Aransas Pass, Northside, Floresville, Gonzales, O'Brien, Riviera, Prairie Lea, Big Wells, Odem, Navarro, Runge, Leakey, Calallen, Bandera, Agua Dulce, Jourdanton, Premont, Three Rivers, Bloomington, Carrizo Springs, Vanderbilt, Fredericksburg and Uvalde. Uvalde defeated Fredericksburg, 32-31, in the AA final; Carrizo Springs defeated Vanderbilt, 40-32, in the A final; Schertz-Cobola defeated Poth, 35-33, in the B final; and Leakey defeated O'Brien in the C final.

It appears that the Golden Girls Tournament ended after the 1953 tournament as a search of the San Antonio Express News, the sponsor of the tournament, found several articles about the 1953 tournament but none about a 1954 tournament. Uvalde, the Class AA Golden Girls champion in 1953, also competed in the Texas UIL playoffs losing in the regional in 1952 & 1953. It would appear that the Golden Girls Tournament served as a type of "state" tournament before the UIL began its state girls tournament in 1951 in Austin and then served as a kind of post-season regional tournament after 1950.

GOLDEN GIRLS TOURNAMENT--SAN ANTONIO, 1948-1953

1948-Fredericksburg defeated Little-River Academy, 16-13.

1949-Fredericksburg defeated Uvalde, 48-23.

1950-Mason defeated Port LaVaca, 34-28, in Class A

Natalia defeated Bloomington, 28-21, in Class B

Salado defeated Schertz-Cibolo, 27-17, for Class C

1951-Uvalde defeated Floresville, 34-25, for Class A

Bartlett defeated LaCoste, 34-27, in Class B

Salado defeated Leakey, 25-19, in Class C

1952-San Angelo Lakeview defeated Port LaVaca, 26-22, in Class AA

Mason defeated Vanderbilt, 41-29, in Class A

Mullin defeated Leakey, 29-23, in Class B

1953-Uvalde defeated Fredericksburg, 32-31, in Class AA

Carrizo Springs defeated Vanderbilt, 40-32, in Class A

Schertz-Cibolo defeated Poth, 35-33, in Class B

Leakey defeated O'Brien, 49-40, in Class C

Golden Girls #1	1948	Fredericksburg wins 1st of 2 consecutive state titles
All	FREDERICKSBURG	

The Fredericksburg Billikens defeated Little River-Academy, 16-13, in the championship game of the 1st annual Golden Girls State Tournament held at the Woodlawn gym in San Antonio on Valentines Day (Feb. 14), 1948. The Billikens defeated LaCoste, 42-13, in the semi-finals of the “Final Four” (Fredericksburg Billikens, Academy, Uvalde Lobos and LaCoste Falcons). Academy had defeated the favored Uvalde team in the semi-finals to reach the final. Uvalde defeated LaCoste, 48-12, for the consolation title.

Fredericksburg led Little River-Academy for the entire final leading 7-6 after 1 qt; 10-8 at halftime; and 14-10 after 3 qts. However, the Billikens led by only one point at 14-13 with 30 seconds left before Dorris Mittendorf “shot in the clinching field goal.” Academy “really lost the game because it elected to take the ball out of bounds after fouls instead of shooting free throws. The losers made only 3 free throws and had chances to make at least 16.” Henke led the Billikens in the final with 7 points followed by Dorris Mittendorf with 5 and Triebs with 4. B. Taylor led Academy with 7 points. Henke also led the Fredericksburg scoring in the semi-finals with 16 points while Mittendorf had 10; Imogene Weiser, 8; and Bernice Wieser and Treibs had 4 each.

The Billikens qualified for the “Final Four” Golden Girls tournament at San Antonio by winning the East Zone tournament at Pettus on Jan. 31 defeating Yorktown, Comfort, Bloomington and Little River Academy. Sixteen teams competed in the East Zone tournament and eleven in the West Zone tournament at Carrizo Springs.

The Golden Girls state tournament began in 1948 and was sponsored by the San Antonio Express and Evening News. Fredericksburg won the 1948 & 1949 titles (there was only one class in those years). The Golden Girls “league” and state tournament was created to provide a state tournament for girls before the U.I.L. filled this “void” in 1951. The 1948 tournament was billed as a “All-South Texas” Tournament as only 30 (south Texas) teams joined the Express and Evening News Athletic Association that was created by reporter Perry Winkle of the Express and Evening News created the tournament in 1948. The 1948 Golden Girls tournament was billed as a “All-South Texas” tournament rather than as a “state” tournament. The Fredericksburg Standard noted that the Golden Girls state tournament included teams from “a wide area of Texas, extending from Temple at the north and Eagle Pass at the south.”

By 1950 more than 80 schools participated in the Golden Girls league with sectional meets sending 20 teams to the 1950 “state” tournament in San Antonio. There were more than 400 high school girls teams in Texas in 1950 as two other “state” tournaments were held prior to the U.I.L. taking over girls basketball on the state level in 1951. The Texas Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) held state A.A.U. state tournaments in various locations from 1925-1950 and the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (HSGBLT) held “state” tournaments in Hillsboro/Waco from 1939-1954. Thus in 1948-1950 there were 3 competing organizations naming “state champions” in girls basketball. Frisco won the 1948 A.A.U. girls H.S. state tournament in Dallas while Mesquite won the 1948 HSGBLT girls H.S. state tournament in Waco. The 1948 Billikens also qualified for the 1948 HSGBLT state tournament in Hillsboro and won the consolation title with a 30-22 victory over West Columbia. Fredericksburg had lost in the opening round to East Chambers, 42-24, but rebounded with victories over Huckaby, 25-15; Cotton Center, 26-22; and West Columbia.

The box score included Imogene Weiser, Luckenbach, Schmidt and Habenicht. The teams played on a divided court with 3 “forwards” on one end who played offense and 3 “guards” on the other end who played defense.

The 1948 Fredericksburg team included the “first string” of Mabel Henke, Evelyn Treibs, Dorris Mittendorf, Dorothy Luckenbach, Nettie Ann Bidy and Willie Mae Habenicht and “reserves,” Alberta Klinksiek, Imogene Wieser, Doris Jean Schnerr, Phylis Loitz, Juanita Schmidt and Bernice Wieser.

The Fredericksburg championship coach in 1948 & 1949 was Mrs. A.K. Krause. George Swain was the coach of the 1948 Academy finalist while Mrs. G.C. Herring coached LaCoste and Miss Cleo Cook coached Uvalde.

Fredericksburg was 12-1 on the year after the Golden Girls Tournament on Feb. 14. Additional games were scheduled using only to Little River-Academy early in the year. The Billikens scheduled additional games before the District 13 meet on Feb. 27-28.

Fredericksburg won 37 of its 40 high school games from 1948-1949 while winning two consecutive state Golden Girls championships. The 1948 & 1949 state titles won by the Fredericksburg girls remains in 2008 the only state titles in basketball won by boys or girls teams from Fredericksburg and Gillespie County. The Billikens won two 33 inch tall trophies with their state Golden Girls titles in 1948 & 1949. The trophy was described by the San Antonio Express as “sunburst gold.”

The 1948 & 1949 state Golden Girls championships remain in 2009 the only boys or girls state championships in basketball in the history of the school and for Gillespie County but received no recognition over the 60 years before 2009 when research by Dr. Wilbanks brought the story of the state championship teams to the attention of the school, the local newspaper and the high school. Articles about the Fredericksburg Golden Girl State Champions were published in the Fredericksburg Standard on Feb. 25, 2009, and Sept. 23, 2009. The Gillespie County Historical Society and the Athletic Dept. of the H.S. held a ceremony at the gym on Sept. 26, 2009, unveiling a new banner with the words, “1948 & 1949 FHS Billikens Golden Girls Basketball State Champions.” Several members of the two teams (& some children of deceased players) were present at the ceremony on the 60th anniversary of the championship teams. Several current members of the FHS girls basketball team were also present. The two state championship trophies were “discovered” in the FHS trophy case and were displayed at the banner ceremony.

Golden Girls #2	1949	Fredericksburg wins 2nd of 2 consecutive state titles
All	FREDERICKSBURG	

The Fredericksburg Billikens defeated the Uvalde Lobos, 48-23, in the championship game of the 2nd annual Golden Girls State Tournament held in San Antonio on Feb. 28, 1949. The Billikens defeated Premont the Rio Grande Valley champions, 41-24, in the 1st round and the San Antonio Sam Houston Cherokee Maidens, 26-24, in the semi-finals. Fredericksburg led Sam Houston by 10 points after 3 qts. and held on for a 26-24 victory. The Billikens never trailed in the final and lead 12-8 after 1qt; 24-16 at the half and 37-19 after 3 qts. The Lobos had only 15 minutes rest after the semifinal game and “were too tired to put up much resistance in the championship game.”

The Billikens earned the right to play in the Golden Girls state tournament by winning District 13 with victories over LaCoste, Rockspring and San Antonio Sam Houston. Fredericksburg was led in the final against Sam Houston by Bernice Wieser with 14 points and Imogene Wieser with 13. Betty Brown scored the team’s other 2 points with the box score listing another guard, Phyllis Loitz and 3 guards, A. Klinksiek, D.J. Schnerr and V. Dietrich. Imogene Wieser scored 29 points in the 1st round against Sam Houston and had a total of 71 points for the three state games.

Fredericksburg then won the North Zone (regional) championship in a double elimination tournament at Fredericksburg on Feb. 12? Fredericksburg won 4 consecutive games in the regional as they defeated San Antonio Sam Houston, 23-16, in the 1st round; Mason in the 2nd round, 32-18; Comfort in the semi-finals, 33-14; and Sam Houston (again) in the final, 25-17. Other teams in the regional were Llano, Dowdy, and Center Point. The Billikens' Imogene Wieser was the top scorer in the final with 15 points while Bernice Wieser had 6 and Phyllis Loitz, 4.

The Golden Girls tournament began in 1948 and was sponsored by the San Antonio Express and Evening News. Fredericksburg won the 1948 & 1949 titles (there was only one class in those years). The Golden Girls "league" and state tournament was created to provide a state tournament for girls before the U.I.L. filled this "void" in 1951. The Express and Evening Athletic Association included 30 teams in 1948 and the 4-team Golden Girls Tournament was billed as an "All-South Texas" tournament. However, the tournament was billed as a "state" tournament in 1949 after the Association grew to 55 teams and sent 48 teams to "four sectional meets" and eight teams (Fredericksburg Billikens, Premont Cowgirls, Uvalde Lobos, Troy, Natalia, Little-River Academy, Bloomington and San Antonio Sam Houston Cherokee Maidens) to the "state" tournament. There were 4 "sectionals" crowning both A & B champions but the 8 teams going to the state tournament were placed into one division so that all 8 competed for only one title.

There were more than 400 high school girls teams in Texas in 1950 as two other "state" tournaments were held prior to the U.I.L. taking over girls basketball on the state level in 1951. The Texas Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) held state A.A.U. state tournaments in various locations from 1925-1950 and the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (HSGBLT) held "state" tournaments in Hillsboro/Waco from 1939-1954. Thus in 1948-1950 there were 3 competing organizations naming "state champions" in girls basketball. Mesquite won the 1949 A.A.U. girls H.S. state tournament in Dallas while Seagoville won the 1949 HSGBLT girls H.S. state tournament in Waco. Fredericksburg also competed in the HSGBLT playoffs in 1949 but lost to Rogers in the Bi-District playoff sending Rogers to the state HSGBLT tournament in Hillsboro. In 1953 the Billikens won the consolation title at the HSGBLT state tournament in Hillsboro.

Imogene Weiser led Fredericksburg in the final with 26 points followed by her sister, Bernice, with 15 as the sisters scored 41 of the 43 points scored by the team against Uvalde in the final. Neva Eads led finalist Uvalde with 10 points. Imogene Weiser scored 71 points in the 3 Golden Girls games at the state tournament while her sister, Bernice, scored 37. The teams played on a divided court with 3 "forwards" on one end who played offense and 3 "guards" on the other end who played defense.

The 1949 Fredericksburg team members included forwards Imogene Weiser, Bernice Weiser, Betty Brown and guards Phyllis Loitz, Alberta Klinsleck, Ellen Hughes, Doris Schnerr, Andregg, Schroeder, Dietrich, Fuhrmann and Ellett. Imogene Wieser and Alberta Klinsleck were co-captains. Mrs. A.K. Krause was the championship coach. LaCoste was coached by Mrs. C.G. Herring who led Natalia to a state Golden Girls title in 1950.

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Golden Girls	1950	Mason wins its first of two state titles
#3		
Class A	MASON	

The Mason Cowgirls (“Purple Lassies”) defeated Port LaVaca, 34-28, in the Class A final of the third annual Golden Girls state tournament on March 4, 1950, at the Woodlawn gym in San Antonio. Mason had defeated Kenedy, 20-19, in the semi-finals to reach the championship game. The Cowgirls trailed Kenedy 13-19 after 3 qts. but made a “furious rally” in the fourth qt. scoring 7 points to 0 for Kenedy. Four teams competed for the Class A championship---Mason, Port LaVaca Beachcombers, Poteet and Kenedy Leopards). The Class A division was for schools with an enrollment 151 & above. The Cowgirls won the right to play in the Golden Girls State Tournament by winning the Golden Girls regional tournament on Feb. 9 with a semi-final victory over Sam Houston of San Antonio, 25-24, and a victory in the final over Fredericksburg, 18-16.

Mary Lee Kothmann led the scoring in the Golden Girls regional with 17 of Mason’s 25 team points in the semi-final against San Antonio Sam Houston and 9 of the team’s 18 points in the final against Fredericksburg. The “starters” averaged 5’9” and were forwards (i.e., offensive players) Mary Helen Miller, Mary Lee Kothmann & Opal Schuch and guards Marjorie Schott, Joan Pluenneke and Sally Capps. Kothmann and Schott were named All-Tournament at the Goat Country Tournament in Jan. Miller and Capps were named all-district. Mason won four tournaments during the year including the Goat Country Tournament and the regional and state Golden Girls tournaments. The Cowgirls ended the season at 25-5 with 3 of its 5 losses being to Fredericksburg, one to San Antonio Sam Houston and one to Rogers, 33-13, in a regional (District 13) final before more than 1,000 fans at Rogers on Feb. 28 that qualified the Rogers Eaglettes (33-4) to go to Waco for the H.S. Girls Basketball League of TX State Tournament. Before the final game against Rogers the Mason Purple Lassies had not given up more than 25 points in a game all season.

The Golden Girls “All-South Texas” tournament began in 1948 and was sponsored by the San Antonio Express and Evening News. Fredericksburg won the 1948 & 1949 titles (there was only one class in those years). The Golden Girls “league” and state tournament was created to provide a state tournament for girls before the U.I.L. filled this “void” in 1951. More than 80 schools participated in the Golden Girls league with sectional meets sending 20 teams to the 1950 state tournament in San Antonio.

There were more than 400 high school girls teams in Texas in 1950 as two other “state” tournaments were held prior to the U.I.L. taking over girls basketball on the state level in 1951. The Texas Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) held state A.A.U. state tournaments in various locations from 1925-1950 and the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (HSGBLT) held “state” tournaments in Hillsboro/Waco from 1939-1954. Thus in 1950 there were 3 competing organizations naming “state champions” in girls basketball. Mesquite won the 1950 A.A.U. girls H.S. state tournament in Dallas while Dimmitt won the 1950 HSGBLT girls H.S. state tournament in Waco. The 1950 Golden Girls’ state champions were Mason (A), Natalia (B) and Salado (C).

Mary Kothmann, “a free-wheeling pivot ace,” led Mason in scoring in the final with 18 points followed by Miller with 9 points and Schuch with 7. Dworaczy led Port LaVaca with 11 points followed by Wilborn with 10. The teams played on a divided court with 3 “forwards” on one end who played offense and 3 “guards” on the other end who played defense.

The 1950 Mason team members were Mary Miller, Opal Schuch, Mary Kothmann, Marjorie Schott, Marjorie Zesch, Sally Capps, Joan Pluennek, Betty Thomas, Lola Kruse, Emily Kasper, Patsy Cunningham, Carol McCollum, Ella Sue Buntyn, Sue Comer, JenJoell Brandenberger & Joy Byerley. John Albers was the Mason championship coach in both 1950 & 1952. In 2009 Coach Albers was retired in Seguin TX. Also in 2009 several members of the 1950 Mason team remained in the Mason area. Lola Kruse Hohn, Joan Pluenneke, Marjorie Zesch Hey and Sally Capps were in Mason; Ella Sue Buntyn was in Brady; Opal Schuch Meyer in Quanah; and Sue Comer Leach in Kerrville.

Mason won its 2nd Golden Girls state title in 1952 when it defeated Vanderbilt, 41-29, in the Class A final. The 1950 & 1952 Mason Golden Girls state championship teams remain in 2009 as the only state H.S. basketball titles won by a boys or girls team in the history of Mason and Mason County. The Mason Golden Girls state champions were forgotten for many years and received no recognition until 2009 when the story of the 1950 championship team was “discovered” by the school and the community leading to newspaper coverage of the 60th anniversary of the team. The Golden Girls championship trophies of 1950 & 1952 are still displayed at Mason H.S.

Golden Girls #4	1950	Natalia wins 1st state title
Class B	NATALIA	

The Natalia Palominos defeated Bloomington, 28-21, in the Class B final of the third annual Golden Girls state tournament on March 4, 1950, at the Woodlawn gym in San Antonio. Natalia defeated Lometa, 21-18, in the qt. final and Mathis, 35-15, in the semifinal. Finalist Bloomington defeated LaCoste, 29-23 in the qt. final and Troy, 24-22, in the semi-final. Seven teams competed for the Class B championship---Troy, Pettus, LaCoste, Bloomington Bobkittens, Natalia Palominos, Lometa & Mathis Corsairs). The Class B division was for schools with an enrollment of 75 to 150.

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Natalia was led in scoring in the final by 5’10” forward Fay Lemons with 10 points, her lowest point total of the tournament as Bloomington “set up a shifting defense that put two guards on her most of the evening.” Virginia Tillman added 7 points, Connie Chant, 6, and Ida Brunner, 5. Lemons was the top Natalia scorer in the qt. final

against Lometa with 16 points and was the top scorer in the semi-final against Mathis with 20 points.. The box score of the final listed the guards as Ruby Allison, Virginia Tillman, Louise Van & Nancy Walker. The teams played on a divided court with 3 “forwards” on one end who played offense and 3 “guards” on the other end who played defense.

The Natalia team members were Fay Lemons, Connie Chant, Ida Brunner, Ruby Allison, Virgian Tillman, Louise Van, Bebe Jones, Mary Rackley, Nancy Walker, Betty Dye, Joan Lemons, Anna Day, Delia Gamboa and Mrs. C.G. Herring, coach. Coach Herring led LaCoste to the 1948 semi-final. Ruby Allison was voted the “Queen of the Golden Girls” and was named Co-Captain of the All-State Team at the 1950 state tournament. Fay Lemons was voted the MVP of the state tournament. Also, Natalia’s Ida Brunner was named to the Class B All-State team.

The 1950 Natalia girls championship was the first and only girls or boys team to win a state basketball championship in school history and remains one of only two championship teams in Medina County history (the 1962 Devine girls team was the other).

Golden Girls #5	1950	Salado wins 1st title in school history
Class C	SALADO	

The Salado Eaglettes defeated Schertz-Cibolo, 27-17, in the Class C final of the third annual Golden Girls state tournament on March 4, 1950 at the Woodlawn gym in San Antonio. Salado had defeated Agua Dulce, 26-9, in the 1st round and Kingsbury, 33-19, in the semi-finals to reach the championship game. In the final Salado led 7-3 after the 1st qt; 19-9 at halftime; and 23-15 after 3 qts.

Salado and Troy qualified for the state tournament by placing 1st and 2nd at the Golden Girls District Tournament at Academy 3 weeks earlier. Nine teams competed for the Class C championship----Gregory, Loop, Schertz-Ciibolo, Leakey, Kingsbury Queens, Yancey-Moore, Salado, Agua Dulce, Ben Bolt). The Class C division was for schools with an enrollment below 75 students.

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The Eaglettes were led in the final against Schertz-Cibolo by Barbara Berry who scored 19 of her team’s 27 points followed by Doris Martinets with 4 and Vada Sutton and Dorla Townsend with 2 each. Schertz-Cibolo was led by Margie Vordenbaum with 11 points. Berry was also Salado’s top scorer in the semi-final with 17 points followed by Townsend with 10 and Sutton with 6. Berry’s 46 points in 3 games was 2nd in the tournament. Berry was voted co-captain of the Golden Girls All-State Team. Berry and Marie Splittgerber of Salado were named to the

Class C All-State team. The teams played on a divided court with 3 “forwards” on one end who played offense and 3 “guards” on the other end who played defense.

The 1950 Salado players included Dorla Townsend, 5’4” Jr; Vada Sutton, 5’5” Jr; Barbara Berry, 5’10” Sr; Janice Whitley, 6’0” JR; Marie Splittgerber, 5’10” Jr; Ruthene Arnold, 5’8” Jr; Mary Lynn Conder, 5’6” Sr; Doris Martinets, 5’6” Jr; Marilyn Lancaster, 5’8” Jr; and Virginia Townsend, 5’4” Sr. Supt. Frank Kraner was the coach of the Salado team.

The 1950 Salado girls became the first Salado and Bell County school to win a state basketball championship and repeated by winning the 1951 Golden Girls Class C championship. Salado’s 1950 & 1951 championships are two of only four girls state champions in the history of Bell County (Bartlett won the Golden Girls in 1951 and Troy won the UIL in 1985).

Golden Girls #6	1951	Uvalde wins its 1st of 2 Golden Girls state titles
Class A	UVALDE	

The Uvalde Lobos defeated the Floresville Jaguars, 34-25, in the Class A final of the fourth annual Golden Girls H.S. state basketball tournament on March 2-3, 1951 at the Woodlawn gym in San Antonio. Uvalde defeated Port LaVaca, 33-30, in the semi-final while Floresville upset Burnet, 30-29, in the other semi-final.

Floresville led Uvalde 11-2 at the end of the first qt. of the final but then the Lobos “with steadiness and methodically began to wipe out their ‘red’ margin.” Uvalde took the lead for the first time at 16-15 with 3 minutes left in the 3rd qt. and led 20-16 going into the 4th qt. Kathryn Coleman led Uvalde in the final with 21 points followed by Colleen Henderson with 7 and Meta Mogford with 6. Margaret Villa led Floresville with 12.

The Golden Girls state tournament began in 1948 and was sponsored by the San Antonio Express and Evening News. Fredericksburg won the 1948 & 1949 titles (there was only one class in those years). The Golden Girls “league” and state tournament was created to provide a state tournament for girls before the U.I.L. filled this “void” in 1951. More than 80 schools participated in the Golden Girls league with sectional meets sending 20 teams to the 1950 state tournament in San Antonio. There were more than 400 high school girls teams in Texas in 1950 as two other “state” tournaments were held prior to the U.I.L. taking over girls basketball on the state level in 1951. The Texas Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) held state A.A.U. state tournaments in various locations from 1925-1950 and the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (HSGBLT) held “state” tournaments in Hillsboro/Waco from 1939-1954. Thus in 1951 there were 3 competing organizations naming “state champions” in girls basketball. Comanche (3A) and Claude (B) were the UIL state champions while Dimmitt won the 1951 HSGBLT girls H.S. state tournament in Waco. The 1951 Golden Girls’ state champions were Uvalde (A), Bartlett (B) and Salado (C).

The 1951 Uvalde players were: Shirley Browder, Pat Sutherland, Marian Arthur, Marge Studer, Audrey Thompson, Kathryn Coleman, Marian Dean, Carol Dooley, Meta Mogford, Jewel C. Kincaid, Alice Sampier, Alberta Fischer, Cumi Jean Murphy, Joy Mann and Colleen Henderson. The Uvalde championship coach was Cleo Cook. Sue Carper was the team manager.

The teams played on a divided court with 3 “forwards” on one end who played offense and 3 “guards” on the other end who played defense.

Uvalde was not new to the Golden Girls Tournament as the Lobos won 3rd place in the first Golden Girl Tournament in 1948 behind the scoring of Faynice Eads who scored 30 points in the 3rd place game. Also, Uvalde was runner-up (to Fredericksburg) for the 1949 Golden Girls state title. The 1951 & 1953 Uvalde Golden Girls state championships remain the only boys or girls state basketball titles in the history of Uvalde H.S. and for Uvalde County.

Golden Girls #7	1951	Bartlett wins its first & only girls state title
Class B	BARTLETT	

The Bartlett Bulldogs defeated LaCoste, 34-27, in the Class B championship game of the 4th annual Golden Girls State Tournament held at the Woodlawn gym in San Antonio on March 2-3, 1951. Bartlett defeated Jourdanton, 36-14, in the 1st round and Premont, 38-14, in the semi-final to reach the final. Finalist LaCoste was hampered in the final by the loss of 3 girls to injuries in the semi-final and “never recovered” from the “tragedy.” The “underdog” Bartlett team “parlayed speed against size” in the final and led 14-13 at the half and 22-21 after 3 qts. before outscoring the “obviously tired” LaCoste 12-6 in the final qt.

The Bartlett victory was described as an “upset” by the San Antonio Express. Bartlett was a “four year veteran” of the Golden Girls Tournament but 1951 was its first title.

The Golden Girls state tournament began in 1948 and was sponsored by the San Antonio Express and Evening News. Fredericksburg won the 1948 & 1949 titles (there was only one class in those years). The Golden Girls “league” and state tournament was created to provide a state tournament for girls before the U.I.L. filled this “void” in 1951. More than 80 schools participated in the Golden Girls league with sectional meets sending 20 teams to the 1950 state tournament in San Antonio. There were more than 400 high school girls teams in Texas in 1950 as two other “state” tournaments were held prior to the U.I.L. taking over girls basketball on the state level in 1951. The Texas Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) held state A.A.U. state tournaments in various locations from 1925-1950 and the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (HSGBLT) held “state” tournaments in Hillsboro/Waco from 1939-1954. Thus in 1951 there were 3 competing organizations naming “state champions” in girls basketball. Comanche (3A) and Claude (B) were the UIL state champions while Dimmitt won the 1951 HSGBLT girls H.S. state tournament in Waco. The 1951 Golden Girls’ state champions were Uvalde (A), Bartlett (B) and Salado (C).

The teams played on a divided court with 3 “forwards” on one end who played offense and 3 “guards” on the other end who played defense. The leading scorers for Bartlett in the final were Mary Louise Limmer and Velma Miller with 14 points each followed by Dolores Miessner with 4 and Frances Cating with 2. Others listed in the box score of the final were Shirley Patton, Dorothy Hill and Velma O’Dell. Betty Burkholder led LaCoste with 16 points followed by McAskill with 7 and Eva Rihn with 4. Miller with 15, Limmer with 13 and Cating with 8 led Bartlett scoring in the 1st round.

The Bartlett 1951 roster was comprised of: Dolores Miessner, Mary Louise Limmer, Velma Miller, Frances Cating, Marlene Rentchler, Dorothy Hill, Thyra Leatherman, Velma O’Dell, Shirley Patton, Margaret White, Eileen Sager, and Joyalyn Wuthrich. The team was coached by V.C. Marshall. Joynce Gomert was the team manager.

An updated roster of the Bartlett championship team in 2009 (58 years later) included: Mgr. Joyce Gommert Brooks, Alvarado; Dolores Meissner Neitsch, Austin; Mary L. Limmer Mewhinney (deceased); Frances Cating Rosa (deceased); Velma Miller Holck, Austin; Co-Capt. Velma O’Dell Evarson, Georgetown; Dorothy Hill Day;

Co-Capt. Shirley Patton Schlapia (deceased); Coach V.C. Marshall (deceased); Joyalyn Wuthrich Gray, Temple; Thyra Leatherman Whitfield, Burnet; Margaret White Cox, Rogers; Eileen Sager Eliason, Dallas; & Marlene Rentchler Glenn, Ft. Worth. (Updated roster by Dolores Neitsch.)

The 1951 Bartlett Golden Girls championship remains the only boys or girls state basketball championship in the history of the school and is one of only four girls championships in the history of Bell County---the others being Salado's Golden Girls champs in 1950 & 1951 and Troy's UIL state title in 1985.

Golden Girls #8	1951	Salado wins its 2nd Golden Girls state title
Class C	SALADO	

The defending champion Salado Eaglettes the Leakey Cowgirls, 25-19, in the Class C championship game of the fourth annual Golden Girls State Tournament held at the Woodlawn gym in San Antonio on March 2-3, 1951. Salado defeated Riviera, 45-10, in the 1st round and Corpus Christi Calallen, 24-18, in the semi-final. The San Antonio Express reported that Salado, "with superior height, outlasted Leakey in a defensive battle" in the final. The Eaglettes "jumped into an early lead" and "were never headed" though the score was close all the way. Salado led at the 1st qt, 7-3; at the half, 12-10; after 3 qts., 18-12; and at game's end, 25-19.

Salado was led by Janice Whitley who scored 65 points in the tournament (three games) and 18 points in the final against Leakey. Whitley was described by the San Antonio Express as "Fuzzy Wuzzy" Whitley, as "elongated (6'0") and as the "galloping redheard." Marie Splittgerber scored 7 points in the final as the Whitley/Splittgerber duo of "forwards" scored all of the team points in the final. The teams played on a divided court with 3 "forwards" on one end who played offense and 3 "guards" on the other end who played defense. Brice led Leakey with 12 points followed by Godbard with 7. Whitley scored 32 points in the 1st round and was the leading scorer among the 12 teams in Class C at the 1951 Golden Girls state tournament. Whitley was named the outstanding forward of Class C and broke the Golden Girls state record for points in one game with 33 (the old record was 27). Salado's Maxine Copeland was voted the outstanding guard in Class C.

The Golden Girls state tournament began in 1948 and was sponsored by the San Antonio Express and Evening News. Fredericksburg won the 1948 & 1949 titles (there was only one class in those years). The Golden Girls "league" and state tournament was created to provide a state tournament for girls before the U.I.L. filled this "void" in 1951. More than 80 schools participated in the Golden Girls league with sectional meets sending 20 teams to the 1950 state tournament in San Antonio. There were more than 400 high school girls teams in Texas in 1950 as two other "state" tournaments were held prior to the U.I.L. taking over girls basketball on the state level in 1951. The Texas Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) held state A.A.U. state tournaments in various locations from 1925-1950 and the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (HSGBLT) held "state" tournaments in Hillsboro/Waco from 1939-1954. Thus in 1951 there were 3 competing organizations naming "state champions" in girls basketball. Comanche (3A) and Claude (B) were the UIL state champions while Dimmitt won the 1951 HSGBLT girls H.S. state tournament in Waco. The 1951 Golden Girls' state champions were Uvalde (A), Bartlett (B) and Salado (C).

Other Salado players listed in the box score of the final were Vada Sutton, Ruthene Arnold, Maxine Copeland, Marilyn Lancaster and Martha Splittgerber. The 1951 Salado roster was comprised of: Maxine Copeland, Ruthene Arnold, Marie Splittgerber, Marilyn Lancaster, Janice Whitley, Martha Splittgerber, Vada Sutton, Janell Cosper and Ruth Shedd. The Salado coach was Johnnie Evans.

Salado's 1950 U& 1951 state Golden Girls titles are the only state basketball championships won by the boys or girls in the history of Salado H.S. The 1950 Salado girls became the first Salado and Bell County school to win a state basketball championship and repeated by winning the 1951 Golden Girls Class C championship. Salado's 1950 & 1951 championships are two of only four girls state champions in the history of the Bell County (Troy won the UIL in 1985 and Bartlett won the Golden Girls in 1951).

Golden Girls #9	1952	Lakeview wins its only state Golden Girls title
Class AA	SAN ANGELO LAKEVIEW	

The San Angelo Lakeview Maidens defeated Port LaVaca, 26-22, in the Class AA final of the 5th annual Golden Girls state tournament at the Woodlawn gym in San Antonio on Feb. 14-15, 1952. The Maidens defeated Gonzales, 36-20 in one semi-final while Port LaVaca defeated Fredericksburg, 31-28, in the other semi-final. Lakeview had drawn a bye in the first round of the state tournament. Lakeview qualified for the state tournament by defeating Uvalde, 37-31 in the Western Golden Girls Tournament at Uvalde on Feb. 2. Dueda McQueen was the top scorer for Lakeview with 20 points while "Miss Welch" led Uvalde with 12 points. Connie Probst, Jeanette Todd and Thelma Lamb "played fine floor games for Lakeview." In the final against Port LaVaca the score was tied 11-11 at halftime but Lakeview pulled away in the 4th qt. for the victory and the state title. Pansie Castillo of Lakeview and Peggy Wilborn of Port LaVaca led the scoring in the final with 17 points each. Dueda McQueen was a 2nd "outstanding performer" for Lakeview.

The Golden Girls state tournament began in 1948 and was sponsored by the San Antonio Express and Evening News. Fredericksburg won the 1948 & 1949 titles (there was only one class in those years). The Golden Girls "league" and state tournament was created to provide a state tournament for girls before the U.I.L. filled this "void" in 1951. More than 80 schools participated in the Golden Girls league with sectional meets sending 20 teams to the 1950 state tournament in San Antonio. There were more than 400 high school girls teams in Texas in 1950 as two other "state" tournaments were held prior to the U.I.L. taking over girls basketball on the state level in 1951. The Texas Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) held state A.A.U. state tournaments in various locations from 1925-1950 and the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (HSGBLT) held "state" tournaments in Hillsboro/Waco from 1939-1954. Thus in 1952 there were 3 competing organizations naming "state champions" in girls basketball. Hamilton (3A) and Claude (B) were the 1952 UIL state champions while Dimmitt won the 1952 HSGBLT girls H.S. state tournament in Waco. The Golden Girls champions were San Angelo Lakeview (AA), Mason (A) and Mullin (B).

The 1952 Lakeview Golden Girls championship team included Co-Captain Thelma Lamb, Sr; Co-Captain Jeanette Todd, Sr; and Mary Lepley, Sr; Nelda Porter, Jr; Pansy Castello, Jr; Nina Ray Hobbs, Jr; Robbie Thomas, Jr; Dueda McQueen, Jr; Doris Hawkins, So; Barbara Terrell, So; Klomah Shipman, So; Connie Probst, So; Bonnie Covington, So; Avis Large, So; and Delores Canada, So. The championship coach was Raymond E. (Gene) Lumpkins.

The teams played on a divided court with 3 "forwards" on one end who played offense and 3 "guards" on the other end who played defense.

The 1952 Lakeview state Golden Girls championship is the only basketball state title in the history of the school and for Tom Green County. The San Angelo Central boys won the UIL state title in 1963.

Golden Girls #10	1952	Mason wins its 2nd of two state Golden Girls titles
Class A	MASON	

The Mason Cowgirls defeated Vanderbilt, 41-29, in the Class A final of the 5th annual Golden Girls state basketball tournament at the Woodlawn gym in San Antonio on Feb. 14-15, 1952. The Cowgirls made the final with the aid of two forfeits while Vanderbilt defeated Carrizo Springs and Pleasanton. Mason had earlier won the Western Division of the Golden Girls tournament in San Antonio on Feb. 12 by defeating San Angelo Lakeview, 27-20, in the final. Mason trailed Vanderbilt, 18-17, at halftime of the final but outscored their opponent 23-12 in the second half.

Joan Nixon led Mason with 22 points in the final against Vanderbilt. Three Cowgirls---Forward Joan Nixon, guard Peggy Schwartz and guard Gaelyn Geistweidt were named to the All-District team while Helen Carnes and Carolyn Schott were honorable mention. Mason averaged 40 points per game on the season to 24 for its opponents.

The Golden Girls (“Purple Lassies”) state tournament began in 1948 and was sponsored by the San Antonio Express and Evening News. Fredericksburg won the 1948 & 1949 titles (there was only one class in those years). The Golden Girls “league” and state tournament was created to provide a state tournament for girls before the U.I.L. filled this “void” in 1951. More than 80 schools participated in the Golden Girls league with sectional meets sending 20 teams to the 1950 state tournament in San Antonio. There were more than 400 high school girls teams in Texas in 1950 as two other “state” tournaments were held prior to the U.I.L. taking over girls basketball on the state level in 1951. The Texas Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) held state A.A.U. state tournaments in various locations from 1925-1950 and the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (HSGBLT) held “state” tournaments in Hillsboro/Waco from 1939-1954. Thus in 1952 there were 3 competing organizations naming “state champions” in girls basketball. Hamilton (3A) and Claude (B) were the 1952 UIL state champions while Dimmitt won the 1952 HSGBLT girls H.S. state tournament in Waco. The Golden Girls champions were San Angelo Lakeview (AA), Mason (A) and Mullin (B).

The players on the 1952 Mason championship team were forwards: Helen Carnes, Sr; Carolyn Meyer, Jr; Helen Kothmann, Jr; Kay Hofmann, Jr; Joan Nixon, Jr; Rheba Meyer, So; and guards: Carolyn Schott, Jr; Gaelyn Geistweidt, Jr; Lou Ellen Simon, So; Janice Hofmann, So; Peggy Schwarz, Jr; and Callie Bell, Jr. John Albers was the Mason championship coach. In 2009 Coach Albers was retired in Seguin. Joan Nixon led Mason with 22 points in the final followed by Helen Carnes and Helen Kothman with 6, Kay Hofmann with 4 and Carolyn Meyer with 3. LaVonne Mataka led Vanderbilt with 16 points. Nixon also led the Mason scoring in the Western Golden Girls regional final with 14 points while Schott added 13. Joan Nixon, Peggy Schwarz & Gaelyn Geistweidt were named All-District. The teams played on a divided court with 3 “forwards” on one end who played offense and 3 “guards” on the other end who played defense.

Mason finished the year at 27-4 losing only to the 1952 UIL 3A state champion Hamilton, Golden Girls state champion San Antonio Lakeview, Georgetown and Denton Valley. At the UIL regional tournament in Georgetown on March 8 the Cowgirls defeated Kerens, 45-2, and Fredericksburg, 42-26, before losing to Hamilton, 28-22, in the final. Hamilton was led by 6’1 & 1’2 Hazel Manning.

The 1950 and 1952 Mason Golden Girls state titles remain the only boys or girls titles in the history of Mason H.S. and for Mason County but the championship teams were quickly forgotten and went unrecognized until 2009 when newspaper coverage of the championship teams reminded the high school and the community of the two championship teams. The two Golden Girls State Championship trophies of 1950 & 1952 are still displayed at Mason H.S. Several women on the 1952 Mason championship team still lived in the Mason area in 2009. Carolyn

Meyer Loeffler , Lou Ellen Simon Fleming & Janice Hofmann lived in Mason, and Gaelyn Geistweidt lived in Fredericksburg.

Golden Girls #11	1952	Mullin wins its only state title
Class B	MULLIN	

Mullin defeated Leakey, 29-23, in the Class B final of the fifth annual Golden Girls state tournament at the Woodlawn gym in San Antonio on Feb. 16, 1952. Mullin qualified for the San Antonio state tournament by winning the Class B division of the Northern Golden Girls state tournament at Fredericksburg. The team won a “large and handsome trophy attesting to their victory. Mullin defeated Prairie Lea, 42-18, in one semi-final in San Antonio while Leakey defeated Natalia, 42-32, in the other semi-final. Mullin “jumped to an early lead and coasted to its win over Leakey” in the final.

Fr Betty Ethridge at 5’3” and only 100 lbs. led Mullin in scoring in the final with 12 points followed by Roberts with 10, Hemsley with 6 and Burdette with 1. Other Mullin players listed in the box score of the final were Hodges, Lane, Paffard, and Tally. Ethridge also led the scoring in the semi-final with 23 of Mullin’s 42 points against Prairie Lea. The Goldthwaite Eagle noted that Ethridge “shoots baskets with the utmost nonchalance.”

The 1952 Mullin players were Fr Betty Ethridge, Sr Nelma Ann Roberts, Sr Wilma Burdette, Jr Wade Ann Harbour, Jr Marlene Hodges, Jr Patty Pafford, So Oleta Talley, So Mary Anderson, So Janette Lowe, So Ann Rankin, So Barbara Homsley, Fr Peggy Bramblett, Fr Barbara Williams & Fr Jo Burdette. The 1952 Mullin championship coach was Supt. H. Howard Homsley. In 1952 the teams played on a divided court with 3 “forwards” on one end who played offense and 3 “guards” on the other end who played defense.

Betty Ethridge played for the Brownwood Sweethearts, an “independent” team, in 1956 while a student at Howard Payne. She was the leading scorer for the 22-3 Sweethearts and was named to the All Tournament Team at the statewide Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) tournament in Temple that included 13 of the top (high school, college & independent) girls teams in the state. The Sweethearts upset La Rosettes of Houston, the defending state champion in the 1st round.

The Golden Girls state tournament began in 1948 and was sponsored by the San Antonio Express and Evening News. Fredericksburg won the 1948 & 1949 titles (there was only one class in those years). The Golden Girls “league” and state tournament was created to provide a state tournament for girls before the U.I.L. filled this “void” in 1951. More than 80 schools participated in the Golden Girls league with sectional meets sending 20 teams to the 1950 state tournament in San Antonio. There were more than 400 high school girls teams in Texas in 1950 as two other “state” tournaments were held prior to the U.I.L. taking over girls basketball on the state level in 1951. The Texas Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) held state A.A.U. state tournaments in various locations from 1925-1950 and the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (HSGBLT) held “state” tournaments in Hillsboro/Waco from 1939-1954. Thus in 1952 there were 3 competing organizations naming “state champions” in girls basketball. Hamilton (3A) and Claude (B) were the 1952 UIL state champions while Dimmitt won the 1952 HSGBLT girls H.S. state tournament in Waco. The Golden Girls champions were San Angelo Lakeview (AA), Mason (A) and Mullin (B).

The 1952 Mullin Golden Girls state championship is the only state basketball title ever won in the history of Mullin H.S. and only the second in the history of Mills County (the other being the Priddy girls in 2003). Betty Ethridge Farmer still lives in the Mullin area. Her daughter , La Dean Farmer, played on the back-to-back (1982 & 1983) Barbers Hill state championship teams. Mullin H.S. still displays the trophy won by the 1952 Mullin girls

along with a plaque—donated by Dr. Wilbanks--which described the state championship team. The Goldthwaite Eagle published a story about the 1952 Mullin champions in its April 2, 2009 issue.

Golden Girls #12	1953	Uvalde wins its 2nd of 2 State Golden Girls titles
Class AA	UVALDE	

The Uvalde Lobos defeated the Fredericksburg Billikens, 32-31, in the Class AA final of the 6th annual Golden Girls State Tournament at the Woodlawn gym in San Antonio on Feb. 12-14, 1953. Uvalde defeated Aransas Pass, 46-20, in one semi-final while Fredericksburg defeated Gonzales, 47-29, in the other semi-final. Uvalde had won the Southern Division of the Golden Girls playoff while Fredericksburg won the Northern Division. In the final Uvalde led, 5-1 at the end of the first qt. and 13-10 at the end of the half but was outscored by Fredericksburg, 15-10, in the 3rd qt. so that the Billikens led, 25-23, going into the 4th qt. Uvalde outscored the Billikens, 9-6, in the final qt. for the 32-31 victory. Uvalde won a 45 inch tall trophy for its 1953 state Golden Girls title

The Express News reported that after the Golden Girls Tournament the Lobos lost in the UIL regional final and finished the season with a 14-4 record and a per-game average of 38 points. Three of Uvalde's losses were to Leakey and the other was to Carrizo Springs. Uvalde won District 29-AA with wins over Del Rio, 30-18, Eagle Pass, 56-16, and Del Rio, 37-23. The teams played on a divided court with 3 "forwards" on one end who played offense and 3 "guards" on the other end who played defense.

The top scoring forward for Uvalde was Laura June Hatley at 189 points (10.5 ppg); Meta Mogford scored 179 points (10.0 ppg); Shirlyn Welch scored 156 points (8.7 ppg); Betty Harred scored 96 points (5.3 ppg); Marion (Taffy) Arthur scored 45 points (2.5 ppg); and Bennie Kay Rausch scored 23 points (1.3 ppg). The Lobos three all-district guards were Carol Dooley, Shirley Browder and Marge Studer. Other players were Cumi Jean Murphy, Ora Kay Hess, Sarah Haby, Kitty Faye Smith, Jane Parman, Kay Dismukes and Virginia Welch. The 1953 championship Uvalde coach was Gwen Webb. A San Antonio Express photo and caption called the 1953 Uvalde girls basketball team the "wolf girls" and noted that they were "mean, dirty, muddy & vicious" and gave the following player names (with nicknames). Betty ("Horrid") Harrell, Shirley ("One-Shot") Welch, Kay ("Dizzy") Dismukes, Meta ("Mayhem") Mogford, Laura ("Junebug") Hatley, Virlyn ("8-Ball") Welch, Jane ("Skippy") Parman, Jean ("Jawbones") Murphy, Shirley ("Bats") Browder, Carole ("Captsin") Dooley, Ora-Kay ("Oakie") Hess, Mary ("Mame") Studer, Marion ("Tex"), Arthur, Sarah ("Hawkins") Haby, Benne ("Topcoat") Ruasch and Kity ("Kate") Smith. The Coach was Gwinn ("Tearful") Webb and the manager was Estelle Armistead and the mascot was Chris Sweeten.

Meta Mogford of Uvalde was the top scorer in the final with 15 points followed by S. Welch with 9 and Betty Harred with 7. The Billikens were led by Evelyn Nebgen with 12 followed by Wilhelmina Beckmann with 11 and Toby Humes with 6. Mogford was named the MVP of the "Southern Region" by the San Antonio Express News.

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tournaments were held prior to the U.I.L. taking over girls basketball on the state level in 1951. The Texas Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) held state A.A.U. state tournaments in various locations from 1925-1950 and the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (HSGBLT) held “state” tournaments in Hillsboro/Waco from 1939-1954. Thus in 1953 there were 3 competing organizations naming “state champions” in girls basketball. New Deal (3A) and Claude (B) were the 1953 UIL state champions while East Chambers (2A) and Maydelle (1A) won the 1953 HSGBLT girls H.S. state tournament in Waco. The 1953 Golden Girls champions were Uvalde (AA), Carrizo Springs (A), Schertz-Cibolo (B) and Leakey (C).

The 1951 and 1953 Uvalde Golden Girls state championships remain the only boys or girls state basketball titles in the history of Uvalde H.S. and for Uvalde County.

Golden Girls #13	1953	Carrizo Springs wins 1st title
Class A	CARRIZO SPRINGS	

The Carrizo Springs “Wildkittens” defeated the Vanderbilt Cobras, 30-32, in the Class A final of the sixth annual Golden Girls Tournament held Feb. 12-14, 1953, at the Woodlawn gym in San Antonio. Carrizo Springs defeated George West, 41-27, in one semi-final while Vanderbilt defeated Three Rivers, 41-39.

Carrizo Springs also made the UIL State Tournament in 1953 by winning the AA regional in Kingsville. The Wild Kittens lost in the first round to Muleshoe, 41-30, as FR Pat Schmitt was the leading scorer with 14 points followed by SR Joella McMillan with 12 and JR Grace Butler with 4.

The members of the 1953 Carrizo Springs championship team were: Barbara Atkins, FR 5’5” G; Mary J. Kirk, FR 5’6” F; Thelma J. Skinner, SR 5’7” F; Nan Carpenter, SO 5’5” F; Pat Schmitt, FR 5’8” F; Loretta Sharp, SR 5’9” G; Judy Wilson, SR 5’5” G; Sara White, SR 5’6” G; Grace Butler, JR 5’5” F; Joella McMillan, SR 5’5” F; Ann Lewis, SO 5’7” G; Mary A. Patterson, SR 5’5” G; Paula Whitney, FR 5’7” G; and Bobbie Turner, SR 5’6” G. . Zonelle Cornett of Southwest Texas State was the 1953 championship coach.

The Golden Girls state tournament began in 1948 and was sponsored by the San Antonio Express and Evening News. Fredericksburg won the 1948 & 1949 titles (there was only one class in those years). The Golden Girls “league” and state tournament was created to provide a state tournament for girls before the U.I.L. filled this “void” in 1951. There were more than 400 high school girls teams in Texas in 1950 as two other “state” tournaments were held prior to the U.I.L. taking over girls basketball on the state level in 1951. The Texas Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) held state A.A.U. state tournaments in various locations from 1925-1950 and the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (HSGBLT) held “state” tournaments in Hillsboro/Waco from 1939-1954. Thus in 1953 there were 3 competing organizations naming “state champions” in girls basketball. New Deal (3A) and Claude (B) were the 1953 UIL state champions while East Chambers (2A) and Maydelle (1A) won the 1953 HSGBLT girls H.S. state tournament in Waco. The 1953 Golden Girls champions were Uvalde (AA), Carrizo Springs (A), Schertz-Cibolo (B) and Leakey (C).

The 1953 Golden Girls championship remains the only state championship for boys or girls basketball in the history of Carrizo Springs and/or Dimmit County .

Golden Girls	1953	Schertz-Cibolo wins 1st title
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#14		
Class B	SCHERTZ-CIBOLO	

The Schertz-Cibolo Bisons defeated the Poth Pirettes, 35-33, in the Class B final of the sixth annual Golden Girls Tournament held Feb. 12-14, 1953, at the Woodlawn gym in San Antonio. Schertz-Cibolo defeated Bandera, 33-26, in one semi-final while Poth defeated Agua Dulce, 21-20, in the other semi-final. Schertz-Cibolo defeated Somerset, 28-21, in the quarter-finals.

The Golden Girls state tournament began in 1948 and was sponsored by the San Antonio Express and Evening News. Fredericksburg won the 1948 & 1949 titles (there was only one class in those years). The Golden Girls "league" and state tournament was created to provide a state tournament for girls before the U.I.L. filled this "void" in 1951. There were more than 400 high school girls teams in Texas in 1950 as two other "state" tournaments were held prior to the U.I.L. taking over girls basketball on the state level in 1951. The Texas Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) held state A.A.U. state tournaments in various locations from 1925-1950 and the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (HSGBLT) held "state" tournaments in Hillsboro/Waco from 1939-1954. Thus in 1953 there were 3 competing organizations naming "state champions" in girls basketball. New Deal (3A) and Claude (B) were the 1953 UIL state champions while East Chambers (2A) and Maydelle (1A) won the 1953 HSGBLT girls H.S. state tournament in Waco. The 1953 Golden Girls champions were Uvalde (AA), Carrizo Springs (A), Schertz-Cibolo (B) and Leakey (C).

The 1953 Schertz-Cibolo championship team members were Frances Stapper, Margie Kramer, Viola Schroeder, Estaleen Biesenbach, Mary Ann Schneider, Virginia Urena, Dorothy Katt, Vernelle Ebert, Roberta Higginbotham, Betty Gesche, Marilyn Vines and Dorothy Orth. The championship coach was James Stolte.

The 1953 state Golden Girls championship remains the only state championship ever won by a boys or girls basketball team at Schertz-Cibolo. However, the 1950 team did finish as runner-up to Salado for the Class C Golden Girls title in 1950.

Golden Girls #15	1953	Leakey wins its only state title
Class C	LEAKEY	

The Leakey Eagles (also known as "Cowgirls") defeated the O'Brien "Collens," 49-40, in the Class C final of the sixth annual Golden Girls Tournament held Feb. 12-14, 1953, at the Woodlawn gym in San Antonio. Leakey defeated Navarro, 41-40, in one semi-final while O'Brien defeated Prairie Lea, 52-35, in the other semi-final. Leakey defeated Runge, 46-40, in the quarter-finals. Class C Leakey then defeated the 1953 Class AA champion, Uvalde, 61-45, to win the overall state Golden Girls championship. Leakey qualified for the Golden Girls state tournament by winning the Northwestern Golden Girls Tournament in Rocksprings with a 45-20 win over the host team. Leakey was led on the year by its two "Pistol Packin' Mamas," Shirley Cravey and Libby Brice. Cravey was named to the U.I.L.'s Class C All-Tournament Team and Brice was named "All-South Texas" by the San Antonio Express. Cravey scored 32 points & Libby Brice added 26 in the (overall) Golden Girls championship game against Uvalde played before an overflowing crowd at the Uvalde gym

The Golden Girls state tournament began in 1948 and was sponsored by Perry Winkle of the San Antonio Express with Fredericksburg winning the 1948 & 1949 titles. The Golden Girls “league” and state tournament was created to provide a state tournament for girls before the U.I.L. filled this “void” in 1951. By 1950 more than 80 schools participated in the Golden Girls league with sectional meets sending 20 teams to the 1950 “state” tournament in San Antonio. Two other “state” tournaments were held prior to the U.I.L. taking over girls basketball on the state level in 1951. The Texas Amateur Athletic Union (A.A.U.) held A.A.U. state tournaments in various locations from 1925-1950 and the High School Girls Basketball League of Texas (HSGBLT) held “state” tournaments in Hillsboro/Waco from 1939-1954. Thus there were three competing “leagues” naming state champions for girls in 1953. The HSGBLT crowned Maydelle (1-A) and East Chambers (2-A) as its 1953 state champions while the Golden Girls named Uvalde (AA), Carrizo Springs (A), Shertz-Cibolo (B) and Leakey (C) as its 1953 state champions. The UIL named New Deal (3A) and Claude (B) as its 1953 state champions.

Leakey made the state Class C finals in the Golden Girls Tournament for 3 consecutive years losing the 1951 final to Salado, 25-19, and the 1952 title to Mullin, 29-23, before defeating O’Brien, 49-40, in the state title game in 1953.

Leakey also won their UIL Class B regional in San Marcos by defeating Lometa, 46-36; Troy, 49-48 (in double sudden-death OT); and Burton, 51-36; to make the UIL state tournament in Austin. (Burton had defeated Leakey in the 1952 regional final.) Libby Brice made a FT in the sudden-death semi-final win over Troy and totaled 26 points for the game. At the state UIL meet in Austin, Leakey defeated Avoca, 42-38, in the qt-finals only to lose in the semi-final to Bryson, 38-36. The “fast paced” Eagles led the Bryson Cowgirls by 8 points in the 3rd qt. before the game was delayed by rain (which leaked onto the gym floor). Leakey lost its momentum during the 15-minute break and lost the game, 38-36, in the closing seconds. Cravey led the Eagles in scoring in the UIL semi-final loss with 20 points while Brice scored 12 and Haby added 4. Leakey’s Shirley Cravey was named 1st team All-State Tournament while her teammate, Barbara Fisher, was named 2nd team. Leakey finished the year at 33-6.

Leakey finished the year at 33-7 and impressed fans and intimidated opposing players throughout the year with a “Harlem Globetrotter” type pre-game warm-up or “show” that involved fancy passing and ball handling.

The members of the 1953 Leakey girls championship basketball team were Shirley Cravey (Greenwalt), SO 5’9” F; Nancy Haby (Kostobick), SO 5’3” F; Co-Captain Libby Brice (Suttle), SR 5’8” F; Joyce Stapleton (Springer), FR 5’4” F; Janette Field (Killough), SO 5’1” F; Co-Capt. Linda Large (Brice), JR 5’5” G; Mary Lou Taylor (Broom), SO 5’8” G; Winnie Large (Poore), SR 5’5” G; Barbara Fisher (Goad), SR 5’5” G; Norene Sansom (Labaume), SO 5’5” G; Pat Clower (Schaeffer), FR 5’2” G; Marlene Bailey Simpson, SR 5’7” G; and Mary Ann Bailey (Routh), FR 5’5” G. Glenn Chisum Clark and Ann White Schultze were the team managers and the championship coach was Jesse L. Richardson of the University of Corpus. In 2009 Marlene Bailey Simpson was the only team member not still living.

The 1953 Leakey Golden Girls state champions remain in 2008 the only Real County boys or girls basketball teams to ever win a state championship. If Leakey had won the UIL championship in Austin in 1953 it would have become only the second team to win two “state” tournaments in the same year (Wayside won both the TX AAU and the HSGBLT state titles in 1940).

The 1953 Leakey championship team was honored at the Real County 4th of July parade in 2004 on the 50th anniversary of the team’s state title. Also, a reunion was held at Leakey H.S. on Jan. 27, 2009, on the 56th anniversary of their championship. Two plaques were given to the school to celebrate the Golden Girls

state championship and the semi-final finish at the state UIL tournament--both in 1953. The two plaques and a banner will soon be displayed at the Leakey gym.