



The official voice of the TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

Special Interest Articles

STATE TOURNAMENT

HALL OF FAME SPEAKER

ALL STAR GAMES

NEWS:

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

UIL CALENDAR

NFHS RULE CHANGES

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

WACO HOTEL INFO

NEW SPONSOR

HALL OF FAME

WEST TEXAS STORIES

WELCOME TO THE THIS ISSUE OF THSBCA **PLAY BALL**

In BRIEF

The State Tournament was held June 7-10, at Dell Diamond and Disch-Faulk Field.

There were some of these teams who have been here before, but several for the first time.

In 1A, teams from Abbott, Gilmer, Borden County, and Fayetteville battled for the state crown with Abbott defeating Fayetteville for the 1A state championship. In class 2A Muenster defeated Big Sandy for the state championship.

Groveton and Albany also represented the class 2A in Round Rock.

In 3A action, teams from Wall, Central Heights, Gateway, and Whitesboro competed with; Central Heights winning the Championship

In class 4A, Robinson Sinton, Abilene Wylie, and Pleasant Grove competed for the crown with Wylie the final champion.

In class 5A, PNG, Grapevine, Moody, and Wakeland played some exciting games with PNG defeating Grapevine for the Championship. In 6A the games were just as exciting as the rest of the tournament with Deer Park, SL Carroll Round Rock, and SA Reagan competing with Deer Park, the eventual champion.

Congratulations to all the teams representing Texas baseball at its finest.



PRESIDENTS LETTER FROM DANE SAUCIER

Coaches,

I hope that everyone had a chance to watch the state tournament this year. The weather was great and the competition was first class. I would like to salute all the state champion teams and coaches for their incredible seasons: Class 6A – Deer Park- Chris Rupp, Class 5A- Port Neches Grove- Scott Carter, Class 4A- Abilene Wylie- Clay Martin, Class 3A- Central Heights- Travis Jackson, Class 2A- Muenster- Josh Wheeler, Class 1A- Abbott- Kyle Crawford. We look forward to hearing from all these outstanding coaches in January at the clinic. I would like to also congratulate all the teams that advanced into bonus rounds of the playoffs and made many memories for a lot of kids and their communities.

I want to wish everyone a great start to the upcoming year. Many of you are trying to put the finishing touches on the new schedules for the upcoming spring. Please make note that the game limitation have changed and we have got our games back for this spring. I encourage any of you that have any questions about the rule changes to please contact Brian Polk at the UIL.

I am sure in the next couple of weeks that schools will be starting across the state of Texas and that means time to go to work in the offseason. A lot of sweat and hard work this fall will result in many smiles on athlete's faces come June 2018. I want to wish all of you the best of luck this fall and just remember, January is right around the corner.

Finally, I want to thank all of our official sponsors and dealers for what they do for ours association and encourage all of you that when you are ordering things this fall to please keep those guys in mind and give them the opportunity to bid on your baseball supplies for the upcoming season. See you in Waco!

HALL OF FAME SPEAKER

This year's Hall of Fame speaker will be MLB HALL OF FAMER CAL RIPKEN JR.



Cal Ripken is baseball's all-time Iron Man. He retired from baseball in October, 2001 after 21 seasons with the Baltimore Orioles. His name appears in the record books repeatedly, most notably as one of only eight players in history to achieve 400 home runs and 3,000 hits. On July 29, 2007 he was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. Cal received the 4th highest percentage of votes in history, collecting the highest vote total ever by the BBWAA.

In 1995, Ripken broke Lou Gehrig's Major League record for consecutive games played (2,130) and in 1996 he surpassed Japanese great Sachio Kinugasa's streak of 2,215 straight games and voluntarily ended his streak on September 20, 1998 after playing 2,632 consecutive games. Although he began and finished his career at third base, Cal is still best known for redefining the position of shortstop.

ALL STAR PROGRAM ADS

The 2017 All Star program had ads purchased by the following Districts

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. DISTRICT 11-6A | 9. DISTRICT 2-6A | 18. DISTRICT 8-5A |
| 2. DISTRICT 12-6A | 10. DISTRICT 27-6A | 19. DISTRICT 23-4A |
| 3. DISTRICT 16-6A | 11. DISTRICT 28-6A | 20. TAHSBCA |
| 4. DISTRICT 17-6A | 12. DISTRICT 32-6A | 21. HOUSTON AREA BCA |
| 5. DISTRICT 18-6A | 13. DISTRICT 14-5A | |
| 6. DISTRICT 20-6A | 14. DISTRICT 15-5A | |
| 7. DISTRICT 21-6A | 15. DISTRICT 18-5A | |
| 8. DISTRICT 22-6A | 16. DISTRICT 20-5A | |
| | 17. DISTRICT 26-5A | |

A **BIG THANK YOU** to all these districts.

We need all of these and more Districts participating in ads sales for the All Star program for 2018. It cost the association approximately \$35,000 to hold this "special" event. Please start working now to make sure your District purchases an ad for next year

2017-2018 UIL CALENDAR

BASEBALL DATES – 2018

Date	Event or Deadline
January 26	First day for practice
February 5	First day for interschool scrimmages
February 19	First day for interschool games
May 1	District certification deadline
May 5	Bi-district deadline
*May 12	*Area deadline
*May 19	Regional quarterfinal deadline
May 26	Regional semi-final deadline
June 2	Regional playoff deadline
June 6-9	State Tournament

**If your school is administering state testing, by state law, you are not allowed to play a playoff game on that day. Please recognize that this is not a UIL rule, but a state law. Please read the excerpt from section 33.0812 of the Texas Education Code:

Sec.33.0812. SCHEDULING EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES PROHIBITED IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

(a) The State Board of Education by rule shall prohibit participation in a University Interscholastic League area, regional, or state competition.

(1) on Monday through Thursday of the school week in which the primary administration of assessment instruments under Section 39.023(a), (c), or (1) occurs; or

(2) if the primary administration of the assessment instruments is completed before Thursday of the school week, beginning on Monday and ending on the last school day on which the assessment instruments are administered.

More information can be found in the UIL TEA Side-By-Side

UIL NOTES

The following are some of our items of concern that have been voiced to the UIL and discussed at the June meeting. Our thanks to John Carter and Rex Sanders for representing the association at this meeting.

1. We asked to use the volleyball pilot program for baseball and allow there to be a separate 1A- 2A Championship. This went into effect this year.
2. We have asked for several years to have our three tournaments be given back. The Legislative Council has now acted on this and it goes into effect this 2018 season.
3. We are proposing the 'HOME FIELD ADVANTAGE" for the top seeds in all districts. This will be acted upon at the Fall UIL/Legislative Council meeting
4. The UIL Pitch Count went fairly smooth for the first year, but expect a few "tweeks" this next year.
5. Continue to do a staff survey on creating a pilot program for 6A to have a double elimination at the State Tournament.

There is a critical shortage of officials in all sports. Please encourage anyone who is interested to contact the TASO office.



2-32-2c: Clarified when a base runner can slide through home plate in a straight line.

3-2-2 PEN: Clarified when a coach-assisted runner is declared out.

3-3-1 PEN: Developed a three-step process when administering disciplinary action to a player(s) or coach(es) for inappropriate behavior on the bench and in the field.

6-2-6: Clarified that the pitching restriction is based on number of pitches thrown.

8-3-6: Clarified when an umpire hinders the actions of the catcher in a defensive attempt and how baserunning awards are administered.

8-4-2s: A companion rule to support the above-mentioned 3-2-2 PEN modification regarding coaches' and players' conduct.

Points of Emphasis

- 1. Correct use of authenticated marked baseballs*
- 2. Umpires asking assistance from partner on call*
- 3. Positioning of team personnel*
- 4. Legal slide*

MULLER NET COMPANY, INC.
If You Want To Be The Best, Buy From The Best
Call 1-800-423-6603
The "Official Net" of the
Texas High School Baseball
Coaches Association





At GameGrade, we specialize in digital as well as non-digital player and team accountability. Our Chart Building process allows us to be on YOUR schedule and meet YOUR exact specifications for your accountability needs.

Owned and operated by Curt Eurich, the GameGrade website was launched in 2009 and has expanded from downloadable charts to printing services, including customized lineup cards, pitch count forms, dugout charts and other customized needs at affordable rates.

Eurich brings experience to his work as he was a baseball coach in the State of Texas for 26 years, 21 of those as a Head Coach. He understands the pressing need for accountability and the limited time coaches have to build/clean up/re-do charts for a season.

GameGrade was built on the foundation of helping coaches.

We are large enough to serve you!

THOUGHTS and PRAYERS

Long time Junior Team Texas coach, Lou Kosanovich, lost his wife Sandy after a short illness. Sandy assisted Lou for many years in helping put together the team and travel for the Jr. Sunbelt teams and will be missed.

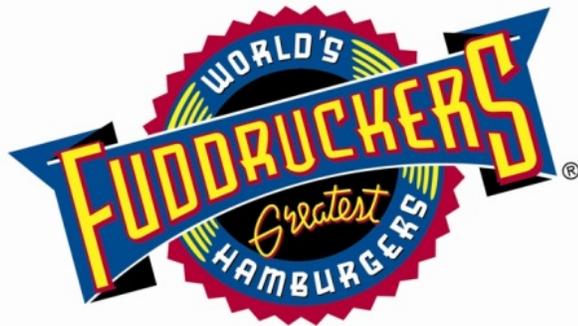
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership has now begun for the 2018 year. Every year we are asked to explain the benefits of joining the THSBCA, and here are some of those benefits:

1. Attendance at the annual convention/clinic with top speakers and clinicians
2. Use of free videos of all speakers at the convention
3. Free admission to the Hall of Fame banquet held at the convention and the Friday lunch is also free to members.
4. Scholarship opportunities for member's children. We award \$1,000 scholarships; with last year awarding 18, \$1,000 scholarships. We have awarded over \$180,000 in scholarships since 2003.
5. Victory plaques for each 100 win milestones; 100,200, etc.
6. Notepads and pens to each member at the convention
7. Free \$3500 accidental death or dismemberment insurance
8. Directory of all members for each head coach
9. Head coaches can nominate players for All Star, All State, and Academic All State
10. Use of the website for posting of needed games and job assistance
11. Your voice heard in all UIL matters thru our UIL committee.

WITH ALL OF THESE BENEFITS, WHY WOULD YOU NOT JOIN!

COACHES; If you register on-line, you can now pay with your credit card. This is the first time we have been able to offer this type of payment, but it only applies if you register on-line. Just go to our website; www.thsbca.com and click on FORMS.



At

the





2018 WACO CONVENTION/ REGISTRATION

The 2018 Waco Convention will be January 11-13, 2018 Barry Russell, President – Elect, has put together a great group of speakers, many of them are our own Texas coaches with a few from other states. That list of speakers will be posted as soon as all speakers are confirmed. If you have any suggestions for speakers in future clinics, please let us know.

Registration forms are now available on the website: thsbca.com as well as one included in this Newsletter.

2018 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

1. ALYSSA ALVARADO – VICTORIA WEST HIGH SCHOOL
2. TY BOEDEKER – SHINER HIGH SCHOOL
3. KYLIE BREWTON – CLEAR SPRINGS HIGH SCHOOL
4. BRANDON CLEMONS – STRAKE JESUIT PREP
5. ERIN DOAN – CANYON HIGH SCHOOL
6. JAYLAN EVANS – GLEN ROSE HIGH SCHOOL
7. SHAELYN HARRIS – BRENHAM HIGH SCHOOL
8. LUCAS MARTIN – BRYAN HIGH SCHOOL

9. KATIE MITCHELL – HALLSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
10. JACE SEYMOUR – BARBERS HILL HIGH SCHOOL
11. BAILEY SPRADLEY – GOLDTHWAITE HIGH SCHOOL
12. CALEB WELLS – RICHLAND HIGH SCHOOL
13. JORDYN WILLIAMS – BRENHAM HIGH SCHOOL
14. GARRET WISDOM – LBJ HIGH SCHOOL (JOHNSON CITY)

Please continue to support our sponsors who enable us to award our scholarships

SPONSORS

Please continue to support all of our SPONSORS and official DEALERS as you have done in the past. Your support shows our sponsors that their participation is important to our association. Our hope is that we will continue to award **15** Scholarships a year at \$1000 each with our goal of eventually awarding a scholarship to all who apply.

HOTELS IN WACO

Please contact the Waco Convention Center if you have any questions;(254) 750-5805

Partner		Wed 1/10 2018	Thu 1/11 2018	Fri 1/12 2018
Atria Hotel & RV Park	Blocked	35	35	35
	Contracted	0	0	0
	Pickup	0	0	0
	Rates	Flat: \$75.00		
Comfort Suites North	Blocked	50	50	50
	Contracted	0	0	0
	Pickup	0	0	0
	Rates	Flat: \$129.00		
Hampton Inn & Suites Waco South	Blocked	20	30	30
	Contracted	0	0	0

	Pickup	0	0	0
	Rates	Flat: \$119.00		
Holiday Inn Express Waco South	Blocked	20	20	20
	Contracted	0	0	0
	Pickup	0	0	0
	Rates	Flat: \$139.00		
Holiday Inn Waco Northwest	Blocked	50	80	80
	Contracted	0	0	0
	Pickup	0	0	0
	Rates	Single: \$99.00 Double		
Hotel Indigo	Blocked	40	40	40
	Contracted	0	0	0
	Pickup	0	0	0
	Rates	Flat: \$134.00		
Quality Inn and Suites	Blocked	2	20	20
	Contracted	0	0	0
	Pickup	0	0	0
	Rates	Flat: \$99.00		
Sleep Inn & Suites	Blocked	5	50	50
	Contracted	0	0	0
	Pickup	0	0	0
	Rates	Flat: \$87.00		
Super 8 University Waco	Blocked	9	100	100
	Contracted	0	0	0
	Pickup	0	0	0
	Rates	Flat: \$99.00		

BLUE BELL/ THSBCA HALL of FAME

If you have not had a chance to visit our Hall of Fame in Brenham, you should make your plans today. We now have on display pictures of all Baseball State Champions from the earliest days of the UIL. There are over 600 pictures that will be on display; our thanks to the UIL for helping us with this endeavor. We are now in the process of putting all photos of the past state champions in a kiosk. Jim Long, former head coach in Brenham and past President of THSBCA, is the Chairman and care taker of all the exhibits. Blue Bell is open Monday thru Friday from 9:00- 5:00. **Many thanks to Blue Bell for their support.**



GAMECHANGER



STORIES FROM WEST TEXAS

BY JOE RAY HALSEY

How to Make a Winning Lineup Card

Making a lineup card is hard thoughtful task for any baseball coach. Much thought and strategy is needed to make a winner. The card is just not paper with positions and names on it. No this is a priceless portrait of his team. This is not done just based on faith. This task is done with almost revenant insight. However many times critical thinking skills are reduced to luck. This is one those times.

We were on our way to play the Pecos Eagles in Pecos. We had not beaten them in Pecos for some time. We were in Kermit on our way when someone suggested we go to the Kermit Crater or the Wink Sink. Wink is a town close to

Kermit .Both towns claimed the sink hole, a place of pride for each town.

14 TYPE TITLE HERE

The sink hole was the results of water flooding by the oil companies. This method was used to obtain more oil. Too much water and the salt formation was washed away and resulted in the earth caving in leaving a sink hole filled with salt water. Such was the condition of the Kermit Crater or Wink Sink.

We got to the sink hole, when an idea hit me. My lineup card was a terrible card of mark outs and cross thoughts. So we need to find another way to determine the starters. Answer, first eight players who could throw across the sink hole start. Sounded like perfect plan to me. When the bus stopped I yelled “everyone out and get your arm loose.” The players stumbled out and did what I asked they did pushups and they ran. A few threw rocks. Then it hit me. We should use rocks and try to hit the island in the middle of the hole. A group of ducks lived on that island. The distance was far and the island was small. This was a perfect plan.

We lined up and one by one the player threw their rocks. Some threw “three skippers” across the water. Some threw small rocks, some threw large one but each had his own method. The ducks were never endangered but some flew anyway and we called it a hit.

We finally got eight winners and the results were, not all had been starters from our last game. This was a completely different lineup than I had ever considered. The reason we had just eight was the starting pitcher did not need throw at the ducks.

We played that night and we won. The curse was broken! Anytime we were 50 miles from Kermit we drove and threw rocks at the ducks to choose the starters. This made working on the lineup an easier task.

In West Texas you search for different methods to fill in the long miles. This is one of the methods. Until next time, there is a hint of sand in the air. I must sign off as the lights are dimming

