

Patty & Tippy Browning



Patty and Tippy Browning began their careers in education in the fall of 1967, following graduation from Abilene Christian University (Abilene, Texas). Patty taught at Elkton Junior High School in Elkton, Maryland, while Tippy taught at Ingleside High School in Ingleside, Texas. After that first year they had the opportunity to both get jobs in the Lamesa school system in Lamesa, Texas. In the fall of 1968, they started a career WITH the Lamesa Independent School District system as physical education teachers and volleyball coaches that lasted forty-seven years. They retired on May 29, 2015.

In Lamesa they served as the co-head volleyball coaches, which was something unheard of in Lamesa prior to the Brownings coming to Lamesa. For their entire career in Lamesa one or both always served as either the junior varsity or freshmen volleyball coach in addition to their head coaching duties. Tippy also served as the 8th grade volleyball coach and the Middle School Girls Athletic Coordinator. Girl's basketball was added to the district athletic program in 1976. Both Patty and Tippy have also served as basketball coaches in the system since it's beginning and have also taken stints serving as track coaches. In their 47-year career they logged 324,140 miles traveled on a bus.

As co-head coaches in the volleyball program, they have coached 770 athletes in the high school program. That number increases to well over 1,000 with the middle school athletes that did not go on to participate in high school.

They have coached 26 All State Players, 14 Texas Girls Association All Star Players, 181 All-District players and 28 Academic All State players. They have coached daughters of 41 their former Golden Tornado Volleyball players and had several former players coach alongside them through the years.

They posted a winning record in 44 of their 47 seasons as they led the Golden Tornado volleyball program. They had 33 play-off teams, 21 District championships, and 11 District runner-up teams with one of those teams failing to

make the play-off appearance due to losing a coin toss. They had two District third place teams that advanced to the play-offs. They had 10 Regional Tournament appearances resulting in four Regional championships, three Regional runners-up teams and two Regional semi-finalists. They made four trips to the State tournament that resulted in one State championship (1986), one State runners-up (1998), and two State semi-finalists (1973 & 1989). They have a varsity career record of 937 wins and 506 losses.

On the sub varsity level they have career records of 778 wins and 230 losses with the 8th grade teams. Freshmen teams posted career records of 283 wins with 80 losses and the junior varsity 643 wins and 239 losses. They had six undefeated 8th grade teams, two undefeated freshmen teams and one undefeated junior varsity team.

Patty and Tippy Browning were born July 31, 1945 in Vega, Texas. Their parents, Harold and Naveta Browning farmed, raised cattle and horses on a farm just west of Vega. Their mom, Naveta Browning was also a substitute teacher in the Vega School system. They were raised in a family of five children. They have an older sister, Sue Thompson and two younger brothers, Bill and Sam Browning. They were later blessed to have a brother-in-law, Marvin Thompson and two sisters in law, Susan (Simmons) Browning and Linda (Luster) Browning. All of these people were great influences in Patty and Tippy's lives.

They grew up and worked on the family farm until they graduated from Vega High School in 1963. They attended Lubbock Christian College and earned an Associates Degree in 1965. From LCC they went on to Abilene Christian University where they earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1967.

“Coaching in the same school system for an entire career has been very rewarding. We have developed lifelong relationships with athletes we have coached and with their parents. We have the opportunity to coach 41 daughters of former players that has brought back great memories of their mom's as well as creating memories of their own. It has been a distinct privilege to have four of those former players join us on our coaching staff. These professional relationships have developed great friendships.” (Tippy Browning)

“Coaching is a special profession where people can be adversaries on the court and then share techniques, and coaching philosophy off the court. This unselfish attitude in the coaching profession helps each other develop more competitive teams and programs. We were able to build a program and experience more success than we ever dreamed possible because unselfish coaches were willing to mentor us, teach us and encourage us as we began our career. We have built friendships with coaches throughout the years that will last a lifetime.” (Patty Browning)