



Billy G. Hicks – Retired – Sugar Land, TX

Coach Billy Hicks spent a total of 32 years serving in the public schools of the states of Louisiana and Texas in his career, coaching many sports (24 years as a head softball coach), teaching English, and eventually retired as an assistant principal in 2014. Hicks, a native of Sugar Land, Texas, graduated from LSU in 1986 and coached for 8 years in the Plaquemines Parish School District at Port Sulphur and Boothville-Venice High Schools. He came back to Texas to coach and teach at Snyder HS, Brazosport HS, Sweeny HS, La Grange HS, and College Station A&M Consolidated HS. After 2 years of retirement, he was called back into the coaching profession at his current position as a part-time varsity assistant softball coach at St. Agnes Academy in Houston.

During his career, Coach Hicks, was one the first members of the “500-win club” in high school softball. He retired as a head coach at A&M Consolidated in 2012 with a career record of 501-272-3 and moved into administration and retired completely in 2014. He moved back home to Sugar Land to take care of his elderly mother as she became ill that year and is still near her as she battles with dementia in a memory care facility 2 blocks from his childhood home.

After serving on the Texas Girls Coaches Association Board of Directors as the Softball Committee chairperson in 2003, he saw a need for softball coaches in the state of Texas to find ways to communicate and network with each other better, especially with email and the internet capabilities getting better and accessible to everyone. One day, a random coach emailed Hicks looking for a game because of a cancellation and wanted my help to find a replacement. As the chairperson of the Softball Committee, he emailed everyone on the committee asking for help. Within 15 minutes, Hicks found that coach a replacement game. The word spread and after a year and he was encouraged by fellow coaches to make this email list a weekly, or even daily email.

As the list grew, Hicks would receive 20-30 emails daily and before he would go his morning bus run, he would cut and paste the list and send it out to over 300 coaches each morning. Finally, when the list was growing to over 800 members, he started the website, Texas Prep Softball (txpreps softball.net), to be able to put all this information in one place. Now, instead of a daily email, the coaches can post, edit, delete their openings directly to the website, making this process more efficient for everyone.

Coach Hicks started researching records and now has a compilation of the years in which every high school in Texas has participated in the playoffs, how many consecutive years in a row, actual playoff games win/loss totals, and playoff brackets. Hicks has continued to expand the website with pages of current season and district standings, coaches’ directory, college coach directory, camps/clinics information, playoff host information, turf field database, and even a job board. He has completed all of this to supplement the efforts of the Texas Girls Coaches Association, which he has been a member of since 1994 and supports completely.

His efforts in helping others has expanded into philanthropic endeavors as well. In 2014, after hearing the news of the North Central Texas College softball bus tragedy, Hicks contacted all the high school coaches wanting to help since all the players were from Texas high schools. He started a GoFundMe account and raised over \$6000 to give as a direct donation to the NCTC program and presented a check to the softball program in February 2015.

After the tragedy of Hurricane Harvey just last year, Hicks again asked coaches for ideas on what they should do to help softball programs and players affected by the storm. It was decided to start an equipment drive for schools to donate new and gently used equipment to deliver to schools in need.

Due to numerous donations of money to help fund this trip, Hicks flew out to El Paso and picked up a 26-foot Penske truck and started crossing the state, picking up equipment from schools wanting to donate. After 4 days of picking up equipment in West Texas to the DFW area, it was obvious that one truck wasn't going to be large enough. He was able to secure a 2nd truck in Dallas and continued picking up donations for 3 more days in central Texas, finally ending the 1st part of this trip in Bryan.

With help from local coaches, players, and parents from the Bryan area, Hicks was able to go back to Dallas to get the 1st truck, bring it back to Bryan, and spent a day and ½ sorting out equipment, clothing, etc. to deliver. He spent one full day delivering to the Golden Triangle and the northeast side of the Houston area and then two days delivering to the Coastal Bend. The equipment left over that was usable was donated to Houston area inner-city youth.

In total, the trip covered over 3000 miles, stopped at 51 schools picking up donations from over 100 schools and delivered to 19. In every location, Coach Hicks was so impressed at the generosity of those players who helped donate and load the truck and even more with the appreciation of those receiving the donations. He heard stories from many student-athletes on how they survived the storm and how their families were recovering and moving forward.

His parents instilled his happiness in helping others at an early age as they were always willing to help others when needed. He continued to grow in appreciation of this by becoming a life member of Alpha Phi Omega, National Service Fraternity, while a student at LSU. He always enjoyed working on service projects and helping others and continued after graduation and in teaching and coaching. He has served on many committees in the coaching profession on the local, state, and national levels and continues his service to coaches as a co-director of the Gulf Coast Softball Coaches Clinic, which has been in existence for 15 years. He has also spoken as a clinician at events all over the state of Texas and Louisiana.

As a coach, Hicks's teams made the playoffs in 22 out his 24 seasons as a head coach. He has been chosen as a district coach of the year 11 times, Brazoria County Coach of the Year in 2001 and 2002, Brazos Valley Coach of the Year in 2010. He also was the head coach of the TGCA East All-Star team in 2002. He has coached numerous All-State players and 3 NFCA All-American Players with over 40 players continuing their careers on the college level.