

Chad Ferguson

Chad Ferguson began his newspaper career at the age of 12 when he shared a sports column with his father, George, who was sports editor of The Brazosport Facts.

And that was the beginning of his career that has spanned to today.

He later covered Little League sports for the Altus Times-Democrat (Okla.) between his freshman and sophomore years in high school and later returned to that newspaper after graduation from J.J. Pearce High School in Richardson to cover the Altus Junior College baseball team where he attended school on an athletic scholarship.

His baseball coach there was Glenn Royal, brother of legendary UT football coach, Darrell. Prior to his first day of college, he was a member of a Dallas summer baseball team that played in the Connie Mack World Series in 1972.

Chad never earned a college degree, as he quit college to take the full-time sports editor's position with the Richardson Daily News.

After a six-year stint there, he became news editor of the Seminole Sentinel in 1978, where he first met Sam Tipton, the executive director to the TGCA.

Three years later, Chad moved to Alvin where he was managing editor of the Alvin Sun and Alvin Advertiser.

After a brief stint there, he chose to leave the newspaper industry and went to work for a company in College Station that helped produce athletic programs for Texas A&M University, as well as publish a statewide 4-H magazine.

That didn't last long, however, as he quickly returned to his first love, which was newspaper publishing, as managing editor and advertising sales representative of the Lufkin Advertiser. It was in 1985 that Chad moved to Columbus to join his father and cousin, Phil, in a start-up newspaper, The Banner Press Newspaper, covering Austin, Colorado and Fayette counties, with a motto of "Your Tri-County Source for News and Sports."

He and his wife, Ramona "Bebo," purchased the newspaper in 1988.

This marks the second time for Chad to receive the Sports Writer of the Year Award from the TGCA. He also was the recipient in 1992.

He also has been honored by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches as the recipient of its Golden Hoops Award for sports coverage on two occasions - the first following the 1989-90 season and again in 2008.

The Banner Press Newspaper, under Chad's leadership, has won numerous awards for sports coverage in contests sponsored by the Texas Press Association (TPA), South Texas Press Association (STPA) and Texas Gulf Coast Press Association (TGCPA).

Chad currently serves on the executive board of the TPA as second vice president and was just elected second vice president of the TGCPA. He also was elected in April to a three-year director's term on the STPA board.

He also is a past president of the STPA and his wife is a past president of both the STPA and TGCPA.

As a former high school and college athlete, who always wanted to coach, Chad says he is doing the next best thing, covering high school athletics.

And while many in the past always considered girls' sports as an afterthought, he was one of the first in his profession to treat girl athletes on an equal basis as the boys on his sports pages - a policy he still continues today!

Besides his wife, he is the father of two children, Chris, 34, and London, 27. Chris and his wife, Lina, also have provided the Fergusons with two grandchildren, Dylan, 13, and Hailey, 10.