



DONNA BOEHLE

Donna Lassiter Boehle was born September 14, 1946 in Houston, Texas, in tune with the beginning of the baby boom generation. Growing up in a neighborhood of 73 kids meant sports were always just out the door. For a kid driven to play sports and be a leader, the neighborhood was a great place for that passion to grow. By age 12 she had been a Junior Recreation Leader at a summer rec center, and by the grace of caring individuals, allowed to coach the outfield of a little league team. A golden opportunity for a girl at a time when opportunities for girls to play ball were limited.

High school sports made a lifetime impact and the respect for the coaches and the difference they could make in a person's life, branded her heart forever. The drive to always give your best and be your best found a home and the desire to share that feeling was born. It is now 2013 and the drive is still strong.

Entering college broadened her opportunities as she played five sports in college: Volleyball, Basketball, Badminton, Tennis and Track. Softball and coaching a swim team were summertime activities. Donna was a pioneer in college sports as well as public school sports. The love of all sports propelled her to an active role in both Texas Volleyball Coaches Association (TVCA) and the Texas High School Girls Coaches Association (THSGCA). As Vice President of the TVCA she was part of the committee that wrote the new constitution that combined the two organizations to form the Texas Girls Coaches Association. Donna served on the Board of Directors of the TGCA from 1980-1986, and as a volleyball committee member to the board 1978-1979, 1989-1991, and 1993-1998.

As the head volleyball coach at Canyon High School in New Braunfels, Texas, Donna compiled a record of 551-216. Her teams went to the State Tournament six times, in three different decades: 1974, 1975, 1983 State Champions, 1986, 1989, 1996. During her 15 year run of consecutive play-off appearances she also lead her teams to the Regional Finals five more times, in 1985, 1988, 1993, 1995, and 1997. Donna's peers elected her as the All Star Coach for the West Team in 1984 and the Honor Coach for the Texas Girls Coaches Association in 2000. Her goal was always to lead each team to "be the best THEY could be" as a team. Her joy was individuals, giving their all and working together to be successful.

In her desire to see sports and opportunities for girls increase she spoke at coaching schools and clinics in many areas in Texas. In that same vein, she organized camps, gave lessons and co-authored three manuals for coaches and wrote the article "Volleyball, More Than Just a Game" published by the *Texas High School Coaches Association Magazine*. She worked tirelessly with the media to promote girls' sports.

The drive to broaden the opportunity for girls/women to play and participate in sports has been a lifetime dedication that continues today. Although officially retired, she is still actively involved in the betterment of the game and of the coaches and players who are part of the game. She has ultimate respect for each of you who continue to "grow" the game and the fabulous players who are a part of your teams. For her players who played in college and for those who moved into the coaching profession, her words of praise for their hard work and continued enthusiasm to make a difference is unbound.

A special note of thanks to Donna's parents, D. L. (Bill) and Ruth Durbin Lassiter for treating her like a person with dreams in a time when sport opportunities were limited for girls; to her high school coaches for their high standards and outstanding abilities; to all of her fellow coaches for their positive attitudes, hard work and corporation; and to her husband Robert (Bobby) and children Richard (Ricky) and Becky for being part of the team with all of their support, ability, and love.