



A.J. Crisp
Cleburne Times

Nearly every middle school and high school has one — that kid who wore a different jersey to school almost every day; the kid who knew every team's record and updated standings; the kid who doodled team logos — and that kid was, and still is, A.J. Crisp.

Sports has been a lifelong passion for Crisp, who graduated high school from tiny New Diana in East Texas.

Crisp got an early start in the field of sports writing. While he was playing at a high school basketball tournament in Avinger, Crisp's mother struck up a conversation with a sports writer from the Longview News-Journal, who later offered me a job as a sports correspondent. At the age of 16, Crisp worked part time at the News-Journal where he spent four years — from his junior year of high school to his sophomore year in college — learning under his mentor, News-Journal sports editor Jack Stallard.

After two years at Kilgore College, where he also worked on the award-winning student newspaper, 'The Flare,' Crisp finished his college education at the University of North Texas and earned a Bachelor's degree in Journalism.

Crisp's first full-time job came at a small, weekly newspaper in Brownsboro — the *Chandler-Brownsboro Statesman*, where he served as sports editor, photographer, education reporter and city reporter. Crisp won awards for column writing, education reporting and sports coverage, as well as making the 2012 Texas Association of School Boards Media Honor Roll. Following two years at the *Chandler-Brownsboro Statesman*, Crisp was hired as sports editor at the *Cleburne Times-Review* in July 2012.

More than a decade later and Crisp is still covering sports for the *Times-Review*. He has won several awards throughout his time in Cleburne; most recently, Texas Press Association first-place for sports coverage in 2019-20 as well as first-place honors by the North & East Texas Press Association for sports writing and sports coverage in 2020 and 2021.

During Crisp's tenure at the *Times-Review*, he has enjoyed covering state championships and state tournament runs by the teams in his coverage area, such as Godley girls basketball in 2017-18 and Grandview softball in 2018.

Crisp has enjoyed his time covering and getting to know the coaches, players, parents of student-athletes and fans in Johnson County over the last decade. The support he has received in Cleburne, Grandview, Godley, Alvarado and Rio Vista is greatly appreciated.

Crisp, an avid Tampa Bay fan, is especially grateful for his loving and supportive wife, Holly, who knows her husband most likely won't be home multiple nights per week for the majority of the year.

He is also thankful to his parents, Perry and Dorinda Crisp, for instilling a strong work ethic in him and raising him in a Christian home, as well as the support of his whole family, including his late grandfather, Jerry Harris, who always encouraged him to chase his dreams as a sports writer.

Crisp and his wife of 10-plus years have a 2-year-old son.