TGCA NEWS

OCTOBER 2026

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

2026-2027 TGCA OFFICERS





President of TGCA
Sunni Strickland
Big Spring HS



1st Vice President
Dan Aldrich
Fredericksburg HS



2nd Vice President
T'Leah Jennings
Fairfield HS



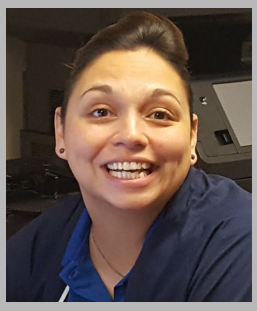
Past President
Scott Mann
Paradise HS



Executive Director
Sam Tipton
TGCA Office



Administrative Assistant
Audree Tipton
TGCA Office



Summer Clinic Exhibitor Coord.
All-Star Administrator
Oma Garmon
TGCA Office



Membership Coordinator
Ashley Douglas
TGCA Office

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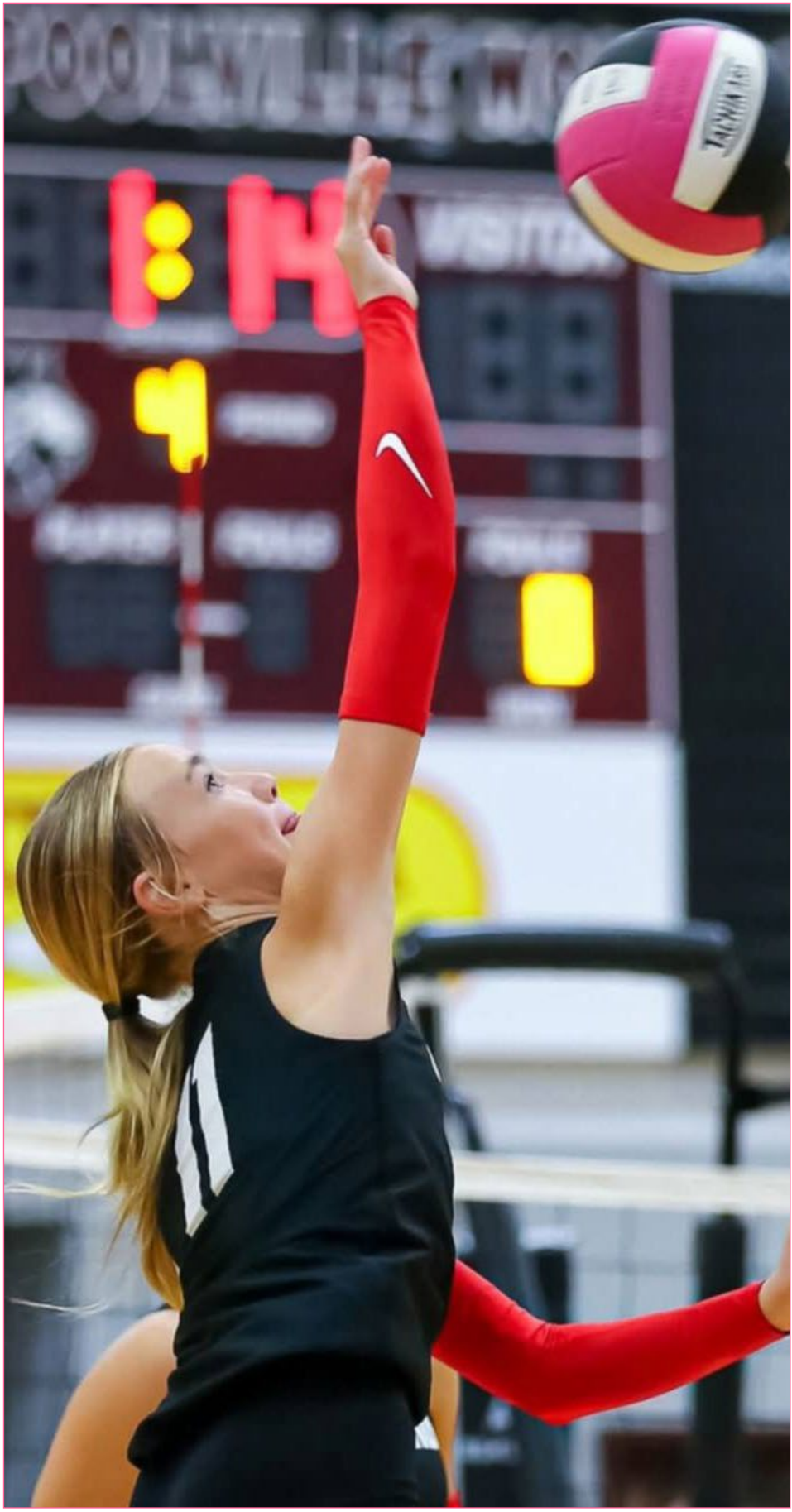
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cover photo courtesy Hannah Sargent

right photo courtesy Lexia Lemley



THE IMPORTANCE OF COACH & TEAM SUPPORT FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

Tara Dunn Vanderbilt Industrial HS | TGCA Volleyball Committee Chair



"Volleyball season is a grind." I hear this phrase A LOT, but it is still very true. This is my 10th year coaching high school volleyball in Texas, and even though I am convinced that this is the most rewarding profession, it is an exhausting one as well. Every year, I think the events of the season cannot be topped, then the next year makes me eat my words. Athletes today have so many outside factors that can have an impact on their physical and mental performance. The two that have affected my players the most this year are social media and relationships, but they have been able to battle through because of the support they received from their teammates and coaches.

I have heard a lot of conflicting views about athletes' use of social media. "It is the root of all evil", "The exposure kids are getting is a blessing", "Athletes just need to find the balance." I think that all of these can be true depending on the situation. Currently, I have an athlete who is a top softball recruit, and social media is necessary for expanding her brand to help with NIL deals in the future. I also have an athlete who was publicly humiliated this year through social media. These two experiences, one showing social media's tremendous potential and the other revealing its real dangers, illustrate why guidance matters so much. Who helps athletes navigate finding the balance between the blessing and the evil? YOU!

1. Comparison
With the constant visibility that social media brings, there is always an opportunity to compare lives, accolades, and accomplishments with other athletes. This can become especially negative when, instead of performing at their best, they are trying to perform at another person's best. The other point of emphasis in this scenario is that not everything posted is true or the whole story.

2. Online Criticism
In general, people are much more confident typing than they are speaking. Most people will post or send things that they wouldn't dream about actually saying to someone's face. Athletes getting more exposure than the average student gives opportunities for people to give their unwanted opinions online. Also, almost every school or team has a Barstool account now. Athletes on the losing team expect to be featured on the winning team's barstool account in a negative way, and some of the accounts get very mean or inappropriate.

3. Time & Mental Load
Students face constant pressure to support friends, post something good enough to get a ton of likes and comments, keep others from posting something negative about you, and so much more when it comes to social media. This would be exhausting for anyone. But add being a student-athlete to the mix? The weight can be crushing. When are they supposed to fit everything in and get the rest and focus time necessary to perform in school and on the court?

My solutions:

1. Team Social Media Norms:
Just like with any other team issue, establish some guidelines to help players engage with social media in a healthy way. Along with requiring phone-free time in the gym and on bus rides, encourage them to:
- Comment on something positive on a teammate's post
- Share posts about a teammate receiving an accolade or an accomplishment.
- Report negative posts about a teammate (or the team as a whole) to a coach.

2. Player Value:
Have conversations about team roles and responsibilities early and often with players.
- Give players a say in what responsibilities should come with each role (e.g., different positions, someone on the bench, injured players, etc.).
- Emphasize that everyone is part of the team, not just the starters or players on the floor.

3. Conversations & Teaching Opportunities:
Work to develop relationships with each player; learn what "makes them tick" so you can coach them in the best way possible - for them. Conversations have to happen WITHOUT judgment! Athletes are already judged in every aspect



photo courtesy Leslie Coltrain

THE IMPORTANCE OF COACH & TEAM SUPPORT FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

of their lives. They need a safe space - and that can be YOU!
-Encourage players to pause before responding, use privacy and blocking tools, and reporting issues to someone they trust (teammate or captain-who will bring to one of the coaches)
- Check in before or after practice (we journal before practice & have bi-weekly meetings after)
- Address hurtful behavior, and reinforce that mistakes are part of learning.

High school relationships can be a double-edged sword: at the same time, the best and the most heartbreaking. They can also have a huge impact on future relationships as well. In a world where everyone is telling our athletes what is wrong with them, they just need someone to support them and tell them it is going to be all right. Some of my athletes find that in a partner, some find it in their friends, and some have to learn the hard way that not everyone has the best of intentions. Athletes have a huge built-in support system to deal with any relationship issues that arise; the tricky part is making sure that they feel safe to use it.

1. Time Conflict
School work, practice, family, friends, faith...these are 5 huge time commitments that my players have, and balancing them all is HARD! Add a relationship into the mix - and when do they sleep? Unfortunately, that is usually what suffers first, and we all know that lack of rest can affect health and performance.

2. Drama & Team Dynamics
Somehow, partner and friend drama always sneaks its way into team dynamics with girls. Whether it's the team wanting better for their teammate and them not seeing it that way, a player not being focused in practice or a game because of relationship drama, or players being mad at each other due to lack of respect for a relationship...the list goes on and on. Unfortunately, rumors, jealousy, or conflicts involving relationships can undermine trust and focus on the court.

3. Unhealthy/Controlling Behavior
I have had too many athletes deal with partners or friends who demand things my athletes are not capable of or shouldn't be giving at the time. Also, the thought that they deserve things because of the relationship or using information given in confidence is a huge issue we have dealt with. Athletes have to understand their worth and how healthy relationships should look. Teammates and coaches can be a great aid for this.

My solutions:

1. Realistic Scheduling:
-Practice is important, but not more important than their well-being. A day off after a hard game, a canceled Saturday weight session, or a day to decorate signs with their pod are all mental breaks that sometimes do more for the team than that day of practice would have.
-We also have conversations about time management with school work and ways to get ahead so they aren't as stressed come game time.

2. Attack Issues Head On:
-When an issue is brought to my attention, I immediately speak to the people involved or take it up the ladder to the appropriate person to handle it. I also speak with parents when the issue is serious.
-We encourage direct, respectful communication and handle conflicts between teammates fairly. Sometimes issues are cleared up fast, sometimes they take a little longer. It is important that they are all handled fairly to all parties involved and that my athletes feel safe.

3. Pay Attention to Warning Signs:
- Athletes having a different demeanor in practice or games, paying attention to friend group changes, etc.
- Check in with captains on team dynamics.
-I speak with our school counselor when I am concerned about an athlete or see something that could be cause for concern. I also bring that athlete in and have nonjudgmental conversations with them. I sometimes have a captain speak with them if they are not comfortable with me. Between the three options, we usually figure out where the issue is stemming from.



photo courtesy Andrea Whitley

4. Show You Are Human!
Athletes need to know that life is not perfect - and neither are we! I have dealt with anxiety and depression at a low point in my life; I sat the bench; I dealt with injuries; I ended friendships that did not serve me; I stayed in a negative relationship too long because I did not see the turn; I have lost people I cared deeply for. I also came out the other side of all of those things a better and more understanding person. Life goes on, and a lot of the time, life gets so much better! They NEED to see that!

Athletes today deal with so much, and the list of challenges seem to grow every year. However, the blessing is that coaches and teammates can help players feel supported through it all. The right kind of support can help protect their well-being on and off the court. We know that relationships and social media are not going away. But, as coaches, we can give our players the tools to manage both in a healthy and positive way!

TGCA CROSS COUNTRY COMMITTEE

COACH	SCHOOL	CONF.	REG.
Jose Huerta	Hereford HS	4A	1
Jonathan Woodward	Amarillo HS	5A	1
Wade Floyd*	Andrews HS	4A	2
Kevin Johnson	Abilene Cooper HS	5A	2
Chelsey Heller	Alvord HS	2A	3
Christopher Lowry	The Colony HS	5A	3
John Chatham	Pittsburg HS	4A	4
Jackie Crisp	Prosper HS	6A	4
Katy Stover	Rusk HS	4A	5
Stacy Tucker**	Barbers Hill HS	6A	5
Shayla Rawls	Troy HS	3A	6
Anthony Branch	A&M Consolidated HS	5A	6
Samantha Rakowitz	Sweeny HS	4A	7
Sandra Spicer	SA Veterans Memorial HS	5A	7
Brooke Ashcraft	Bandera HS	4A	8
Sheila West	Boerne Champion HS	5A	8

*Chair **Vice Chair

MEET THE 2026-27 TGCA 2ND VICE PRESIDENT

T'Leah Jennings Fairfield High School
TGCA 2nd Vice President



High School Graduated From: Snyder High School, 2001
College(s) Attended: Wayland Baptist University, 2006
Teaching Assignments: Math- Algebra II
Coaching Assignments: Fairfield ISD - Girls Coordinator, Head Basketball, and Assistant Cross Country

What It Means to Me to Be a TGCA Officer

Being a TGCA officer is about much more than holding a title. It means serving others, representing the voices of female coaches across Texas, and helping ensure that girls' athletics continues to grow and thrive. After 20 years in coaching, I have learned that the impact we have as coaches extends far beyond wins and losses. We have the opportunity to shape young women, build confidence, teach resilience, and create experiences that they will carry with them long after they leave our programs.

My journey within TGCA has allowed me to see firsthand the importance of coaches working together. Through my involvement in the association, I have developed an even greater appreciation for the relationships, mentorship, and collaboration that exist among coaches across our state. As an officer, I want to continue fostering that sense of community and remind coaches that we are stronger when we support one another rather than simply working within our individual sports or programs.

One of my greatest passions continues to be advocating for multi-sport athletes. I believe our young women deserve the opportunity to experience everything high school athletics has to offer. As coaches, we have a responsibility to work together, communicate, and encourage athletes to participate in multiple sports when it is best for them. Promoting girls' athletics means promoting all girls' sports and recognizing the value that each program brings to the development of our student-athletes.

As I serve as 2nd Vice President, I also recognize that I am stepping into a role where I have much to learn. I am grateful for the opportunity to get these opportunities from our Executive Director, fellow officers, and the many outstanding coaches who make up TGCA. It is about being willing to serve, listen, advocate, and leave things better than you found them.

Being a TGCA officer means representing something bigger than myself and honoring the coaches who came before me, supporting the coaches beside me, and helping create opportunities for the coaches and athletes who will come after me. It is an opportunity to give back to an organization that has meant so much to my coaching journey.

I am incredibly honored to serve as the 2nd Vice President of TGCA, and I look forward to continuing to promote, support, and elevate girls' athletics across Texas. My hope is that when my time as an officer is complete, I can look back and know that I helped make a difference—not only in our association, but in the lives and careers of the coaches and young women we are privileged to serve.

2026-27 TGCA BOARD & COMMITTEE MEETINGS

OCTOBER 18-19
UIL Legislative Council Meeting
(TGCA Executive Committee Only)

NOVEMBER 9
Cross Country Committee Meeting,
Cross Country All-State
Committee Meeting
6:00 PM Zoom

NOVEMBER 22
Board of Directors Meeting
Garland
10:00 AM Orientation
(All Board Members
MANDATORY)
11:00 AM Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 23
Volleyball Committee Meeting
6:00 PM Zoom
Volleyball All-State
Committee Meeting
6:00 PM Zoom

MARCH 7
Board of Directors Meeting,
11:00 AM, San Antonio

MARCH 8
Basketball All-State
Committee Meeting,
Basketball Committee
Meeting,
6:00 PM, Zoom

APRIL 12
Soccer Advisory Board
Meeting, 6:00 PM, Zoom

MAY 10
Sub-Varsity Committee
Meeting, 6:00 PM, Zoom

MAY 17
Track All-State Committee
Meeting, Track Committee
Meeting, 6:00 PM, Zoom

JUNE 6
Board of Directors Meeting,
11:00 AM, Austin

JUNE 7
Softball All-State Committee
Meeting,
Softball Committee Meeting,
6:00 PM, Zoom

JUNE 15
Legislative Council Meeting
(TGCA Executive Committee Only)

JULY 12
Board of Directors Meeting,
1:00 PM, Arlington

JULY 14
Spirit Advisory Board Meeting,
7:00 AM, Arlington

2026-27 TGCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL
Sunni Strickland	President	Big Spring HS
Dan Aldrich	1st Vice President	Fredericksburg HS
T'Leah Jennings	2nd Vice President	Fairfield HS
Scott Mann	Past President	Paradise HS
Jason Culpepper	Region I Senior Director	Bushland HS
Kylee Valenzuela	Region I Junior Director	Brownfield HS
Kevin Johnson	Region II Senior Director	Abilene Cooper HS
Bob Campbell	Region II Junior Director	Snyder HS
Lyle Linscomb	Region III Senior Director	Waxahachie Life HS
Brad Blalock	Region III Junior Director	Granbury HS
Ross Barber	Region IV Senior Director	Tyler Legacy HS
D.J. Gray	Region IV Junior Director	Marshall HS
Dr. Collea McKinney	Region V Senior Director	Cypress Ranch HS
Kate Norris	Region V Junior Director	Tomball West HS
Anthony Branch	Region VI Senior Director	A&M Consolidated HS
Wade Womack	Region VI Junior Director	Dripping Springs HS
Patti Zenner	Region VII Senior Director	Tilden McMullen Co. HS
Kristin Goodman	Region VII Junior Director	Fort Bend Austin HS
Kelly McDaniel	Region VIII Senior Director	Boerne Champion HS

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL
Melissa Pump	Region VIII Junior Director	Christoval HS
Wade Floyd	Cross Country Committee Chair	Andrews HS
Stacy Tucker	Cross Country Committee Vice Chair	Mont Belvieu Barbers Hill HS
Tara Dunn	Volleyball Committee Chair	Vanderbilt Industrial HS
Roel DeAnda	Volleyball Committee Vice Chair	EP Eastlake HS
Shannon Lindsey	Spirit Advisory Board Chair	Wolfforth Frenship Memorial HS
Kayci Smith	Spirit Advisory Board Vice Chair	Wolfforth Frenship HS
Tommy Gates	Basketball Committee Chair	Navasota HS
Chance Westmoreland	Basketball Committee Vice Chair	Argyle HS
Danny Mitchell	Track Committee Chair	Gilmer HS
Amy Withrow	Track Committee Vice Chair	Lubbock Coronado HS
Jimmy Eby	Softball Committee Chair	Robinson HS
Meghan VanEtta	Softball Committee Vice Chair	Katy HS
Maureen Marek	Sub-Varsity Committee Chair	Bellville HS
Kayleigh Courville	Sub-Varsity Committee Vice Chair	Mont Belvieu Barbers Hill HS



2026-27 TGCA Board of Directors

THE TEXAS WAY

Embracing Texas Pride in Sportsmanship: Our Commitment to The Texas Way

At TGCA we proudly endorse The Texas Way, an initiative that champions sportsmanship, integrity, and community strength in Texas sporting events.

The Texas Way, founded by THSCA, THSADA, and 2Words Character Development, aims to enhance sportsmanship, reduce ejections, and foster positive relationships among coaches, athletes, officials, fans, and the local community.



What is The Texas Way?

The Texas Way is a collaborative campaign to:

- IMPROVE the level of sportsmanship at UIL sporting events.
- DECREASE the number of ejections at UIL sporting events.
- STRENGTHEN communities and the relationships between coaches, athletes, officials, and fans.

The Three Pillars of The Texas Way

To coach, play, officiate, or support The Texas Way means you commit to the following three pillars:

- Respect for Others: We pledge to give respect to all participants (coaches, players, officials, and fans) because of who I am, not because of what they do.
- Control of Self: We commit to give boundaries to our thoughts, words, and actions, and to control our anger in the face of competition and adversity.
- Spirit of Competition: We commit to give everything we have to be the absolute best we can be, and to put our team in the best position to win, but we will not sacrifice our integrity to do it.

By supporting The Texas Way, TGCA is dedicated to creating a positive and respectful sports environment, ensuring that the spirit of competition thrives with self-control, integrity, and mutual respect.

Join us in playing The Texas Way and make a difference in the Texas sports community!

What is The Texas Way?

For more details, visit: The Texas Way

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

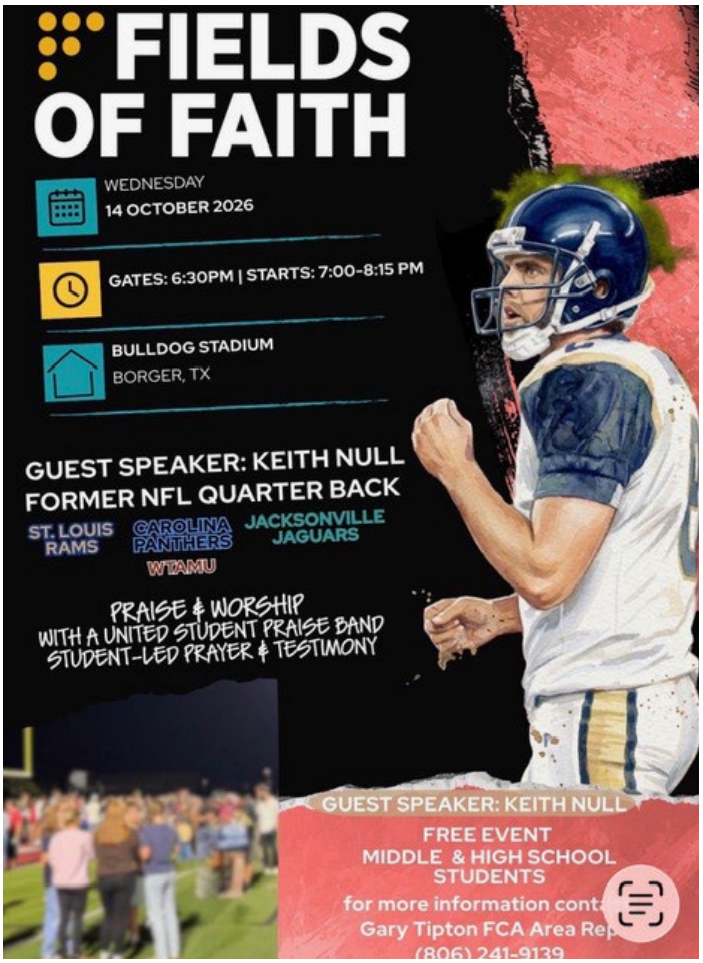
Gary Tipton
Fellowship of Christian Athletes

Fellowship of Christian Athletes is in the season of Fields of Faith. Hopefully, you and your teams are able to be a part of one of these events in your area. A Fields of Faith was held in Borger last Wednesday.

Many TGCA coaches brought their teams from District XC Meets to Borger after the meets were over. One of these meets was held in Quanah. Quanah is 157 miles from Borger. We also had massive rainstorms in the area that made us move inside from the field to the gym.

Over 500 were in attendance at Borger Fields of Faith. 16 youngsters accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and 29 recommitted to follow Jesus. Luke Schmucker, son of TGCA members Rob and Sheena Schmucker, gave one of the student testimonies and did a tremendous job.

I was raised by Coaches, played for them and got to spend 44 years in the trenches with them. I now count on you to help allow the Gospel Message to be heard by your players. Romans 1:16 tells us the Gospel Message is the “Power” of God. It will not return void. FCA ministry is to and through you, the Coach. Together, “ Let’s try to be used to win them all!”



BEYOND THE SCOREBOARD

Building a Team Culture Where Girls Belong

A successful season is often measured by wins, championships and individual accolades. But for many athletes, what they remember most is how a team made them feel.

Did they feel valued? Did they feel connected? Did they believe they belong?

For female athletes, a strong sense of belonging can be one of the most important reasons they stay involved in sports. A positive team culture gives athletes the confidence to take risks, recover from setbacks and show up fully for one another. It also creates an environment where girls can grow as leaders, teammates and people.

Culture is not built through one team meeting or a motivational speech at the start of the season. It is created in the everyday moments: how teammates communicate after a mistake, how leaders welcome younger players, how success is shared and how challenges are handled.

One of the clearest ways to establish a strong culture is by setting expectations together. Athletes are more likely to take ownership of team standards when they have a voice in creating them. Consider asking players what respect, accountability and support look like in practice, competition and the locker room. These conversations can turn broad values into actions athletes can carry out every day.

Connection also matters. Team bonding does not need to be elaborate or expensive to be meaningful. A few intentional minutes before or after practice can help athletes get to know one another beyond their position or performance. Celebrate birthdays, recognize a teammate's effort in school or ask athletes to share something positive about another member of the team. Small gestures can create stronger relationships over time.

Coaches can also help athletes understand that leadership is not limited to captains or upperclassmen. Every player can lead. The athlete who encourages a teammate after a tough play, brings energy to practice or includes a new player in conversation is contributing to the team's culture. Recognizing those actions makes it clear that leadership can look different for everyone.



photo courtesy Makala Rogers

A strong culture also makes room for accountability. Support does not mean avoiding difficult conversations. It means approaching those conversations with respect and a shared commitment to the team. When athletes know expectations are consistent and that everyone is held to the same standard, trust grows.

Most importantly, athletes should know that their value is not tied only to their performance. Every player has something to contribute, whether she is a starter, a role player, a senior or a freshman finding her place. When girls feel seen and respected, they are more likely to stay engaged, support their teammates and continue their journey in sport.

The scoreboard will always matter. But the culture built behind the scenes can have an even longer-lasting impact. A team environment rooted in belonging, accountability and connection gives athletes more than a season to remember. It gives them skills and relationships they can carry with them long after their playing days are over.

TGCA VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE

COACH	SCHOOL	CONF.	REG.
Matt Taylor	Amarillo Highland Park HS	2A	1
Haleigh Burns	Amarillo HS	5A	1
Megan Fellows	Snyder HS	4A	2
Emily Gravitt	Abilene HS	5A	2
Stormi Snider	Decatur HS	4A	3
Joshua McKinney	Colleyville Heritage HS	5A	3
Kiara Jordan	Gilmer HS	4A	4
Andrew Harbison	Hallsville HS	5A	4
Logan Smoak	Nacogdoches Central Heights HS	3A	5
Terri Wade	The Woodlands HS	6A	5
Susan Brewer	Bellville HS	4A	6
Brandace Boren	Bastrop HS	5A	6
Tara Dunn*	Vanderbilt Industrial HS	3A	7
Kristin Goodman	Austin HS	6A	7
Tisha Pettibon	Bandera HS	4A	8
Roel DeAnda**	El Paso Eastlake HS	6A	8

**Chair* ***Vice Chair*



photo courtesy Emily Gravitt

CROSS COUNTRY STATE MEET

Old Settlers Park Round Rock, TX | November 6-7, 2026

Schedule

Nov. 6
Girls 6A..... 8:15 AM
Girls 2A ..... 9:30 AM
Girls 4A.....10:55 AM

Nov. 7
Girls 5A..... 8:15 AM
Girls 1A..... 9:30 AM
Girls 3A.....10:55 AM

Ticket Information (Sold by Car)
Vehicle up to 2 persons $25.00
Vehicle more than 2 persons $40.00
Purchase Online
On-site sales will be CREDIT/DEBIT CARD ONLY.

Public Parking
Parking has changed from in years past.
Parking Instructions/Map

Animals
There will be NO dogs allowed in Old Settler's Park on the day of the Cross Country State meet.

Restrooms
There will be no dressing facilities. Portable toilets will be available to the public and athletes.



photo courtesy Whitney Magness

VOLLEYBALL STATE TOURNAMENT

Curtis Culwell Center Garland, TX | November 19-21, 2026

Schedule

Thursday, November 19
1A Final ..... 2:00 PM
2A DII Final ..... 4:00 PM
2A DI Final ..... 6:00 PM

Friday, November 20
3A DII Final ..... 11:00 AM
3A DI Final ..... 1:00 PM
4A DII Final ..... 4:00 PM
4A DI Final ..... 6:00 PM

Saturday, November 21
5A DII Final ..... 11:00 PM
5A DI Final ..... 1:00 PM
6A DII Final ..... 4:00 PM
6A DI Final ..... 6:00 PM

Ticket Information

Single Day $15.00
All-Tournament $35.00
Coaches All-Tourney $30.00
Purchase here

Parking

One-Day Pass $15.00
Purchase here
Scroll down

Clear Bag Policy

To ensure guest safety and a quicker entry into the facility, the Curtis Culwell Center has implemented a bag policy limiting the size and type allowed at all events.

Click **HERE** for more details.



photo courtesy Whitney Magness

TGCA PAST PRESIDENTS

Velma Harrison 1952-53
..... 1953-54
Marvin Williams * 1954-55
Mary Beccue * 1955-56
Charles Womack * 1956-57
Rose Farmer 1957-58
J.W. Booker * 1958-59
Peggy Hughes 1959-60
M.T. Rice * 1960-61
Jimmye Phillips 1961-62
LeRoy Hoff * 1962-63
Ellen Johnson 1963-64
F.G. Crofford 1964-65
Zonelle Cornett* 1965-66
Freeman Parish * 1966-67
Sandra Meadows * ... 1967-68
Mitch LeMoine 1968-69
Wayne DuBose* 1969-70
Shirley Hayworth 1970-71
Stanley Whisenhunt .. 1971-72
Leta Andrews 1972-73
Bill Farney 1973-74
Janette Barlow 1974-75
Bob Schneider 1975-76
Gay Benson 1976-77
Buddy Ables 1977-78
Sandra Meadows * ... 1978-79
Ralph Newton* 1979-80
Janie Fitzgerald 1980-81
Mark Smith* 1981-82
Diana Lewis 1982-83
..... 1983-84
Michael Adams 1984-85
Judy Dunn* 1985-86
Jim Kirkland 1986-87
Sue Cannon 1987-88
Don Ford 1988-89
Donna Grant 1989-90
Phil Swenson 1990-91
Rhonda Farney 1991-92
Caylene Caddell 1992-93
Barbara Crousen 1993-94
Pat Mouser 1994-95
Melynn Hunt 1995-96
Sam Tipton 1996-97
Marianne Jones 1997-98
Larry Goad 1998-99
Brenda Kitten 1999-2000
Rob Young 2000-01
Krista Malmstrom 2001-02
Ron Mouser 2002-03
Debbie Jaehne 2003-04
Ray Baca 2004-05
Leann Johnston 2005-06
Alex Koulovatos 2006-07
Debra Manley 2007-08
Lee Grisham 2008-09
..... 2009-10
Wes Overton 2010-11
Donna Benotti 2011-12
Rodney Gee 2012-13
Kari Bensend 2013-14
Mitch Williams 2014-15
Liana Gombert 2015-16
Loyd Morgan 2016-17
Kriss Ethridge 2017-18
Jason Roemer 2018-19
Astin Haggerty 2019-20
..... 2020-21
Brad Blalock 2021-22
..... 2022-23
Cully Doyle 2023-24
Claire Gay 2024-25
Scott Mann 2025-26

TVCA PAST PRESIDENTS

Lenora Abston* 1968-69
..... 1969-70
Dr. Margie Austin* 1970-71
Jan Briggs 1971-72
Jane Arnett 1972-73
Arline Basye 1973-74
Marion Young 1974-75
Judy Bugher 1975-76
Waynette Dolan 1976-77
Norma Pullin 1977-78

**Deceased*

TGCA HALL OF FAME

The Texas Girls Coaches Association honors coaches who have been active members, past or present, of the Texas Girls Coaches Association, the Texas Volleyball Coaches Association or the Texas High School Girls Track Association. The nominee should have made major contributions to TGCA and the coaching profession.

Hall of Fame nomination forms are located on our website, **austintgca.com**, under "Forms" on the left-hand side of the main page.

Nominations should be submitted to the TGCA office. The awards for Hall of Fame will be determined by a Selection Committee made up of the Executive Committee and the Executive Director. Nominations will be made by member coaches of TGCA. The selections will be made at the UIL State Girls Basketball Tournament, at a time and place determined by the President, who also serves as Chairperson of the Committee.

The deadline for submission of Hall of Fame nominees will be Monday, February 26th, at 12:00 noon. All nominations must be mailed (P.O. Box 2137, Austin, TX, 78768), faxed (512-708-1325) or emailed (**tgca@austintgca.com**) to the TGCA office.

YEAR	INDUCTEE(S)
1993	Natalie Gunter
	Sandra Meadows*
	Bob Schneider
	Dean Weese
1994	Jane McCutcheon
1996	Nora Geron
1997	Wanda Bender
1998	Jan Briggs
1999	Norma Pullin
2000	Donna Grant
2001	Mark Smith
2002	Billy McKown
2003	Jim Kirkland
2004	Bill Farney
2005	Marion Young
2006	Claudia Eckel
2007	Diane Conrady
2007	Sandra Mader
2008	Terri Plagens
	Billy Evans
	Joe Lombard
2009	Flo Valdez
	Melynn Hunt
	Phil Swenson
2010	Krista Malmstrom
	Brenda Kitten
	Rene G. Garza
2011	Leta Andrews
	Sherry Rogers
	E. J. "Jeep" Webb
2012	Lynn Davis Pool
	Barbara Crousen
	Joni McCoy
2013	Donna Boehle
	Ellie Woods
2014	Sue Cannon
	Rhonda Farney
2015	Jerry Sutterfield
	Patty & Tippy Browning
	Shirley Rowe
2016	Barbara Comeaux
	Linda Richter
	Fred Griffin
2017	Jan Barker
	Rick Reedy
	Mike Martin
2018	Skip Townsend
	Cathy Self-Morgan
	Al Bennett
2019	Beverly Humphrey
	Susan Brewer
	Guyla Smith
2020	None
2021	Laneigh Clark
	Lee Grisham
	Nancy Walling
2022	Chuck Dardin
	Steve Golemon
	Tanya Nygrin
2023	Ray Baca
	Kari Bensend
	Sam Tipton
2024	Curtis Enis
	Karin Keeney
	Danny Wren
2025	David Park
	Larry Tidwell
	Patti Zenner
2026	Marla Burleson
	Robby Dickenson
	Pat Mouser
	Will Reid

2027 TGCA SUMMER CLINIC

The 2027 TGCA Summer Clinic will be held in Arlington at the E-Sports Convention Center July 12-14. The agenda is being revised and will be posted to the website under the "Summer Clinic" category in the menu on the left-hand side of the page as soon as it is finalized. Speaker names will be filled in as we secure them. Make your plans early to attend. We look forward to seeing you there. Hotel Reservation Services will open in March. Membership renewal and Summer Clinic registration, as well as all Satellite Clinics, will open February 1st.

We are working on finalizing times, venues, and agendas for all of the satellite sports clinics, and we will have those posted on the website as soon as we get all information finalized. We hope you will make plans to attend one or all of the 2027 TGCA Clinics.

MARGARET MCKOWN DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Any TGCA member in good standing is eligible to nominate a person outside of the coaching profession for the Margaret McKown Distinguished Service Award. This candidate needs to have made outstanding contributions to girls' athletics.

Nomination forms may be found on the TGCA website, **austintgca.com**, under "Forms" in the menu on the left-hand side of the home page. The deadline for nominations for the Margaret McKown Distinguished Service Award is Tuesday, February 28th, at noon.

Nomination forms must be submitted to the TGCA office by mail (P.O. Box 2137, Austin, TX, 78768); fax (512-708-1325) or email (**tgca@austintgca.com**).

YEAR	RECIPIENT
2007	Margaret McKown
2008	Larry Tidwell
2009	Billy and Betty Oliver
2010	Robert and Joyce Hollingsworth
2011	E. J. "Butch" Hart
2012	Mary German
2013	Tommy Cox
2014	O. J. Kemp
2015	Dawn Allen
2016	Harley Doggett
2017	Mike Szymarek
2017	Lynn Davis Pool
2018	Billy Hicks
2019	Maria Kennedy
2020	None
2021	Texas Press Association
2022	Trippy Saxon
2023	Tammy Gillespie
2024	Scott Magness
2025	Kim Peach
2026	Audree Tipton



2026-27 TGCA Executive Board

2026-27 TGCA MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND CLINIC REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

TGCA would like to take this opportunity to say THANK YOU to our member coaches. The Association only exists because you continue to support it through not only your membership dues and clinic fees, but through your willingness to volunteer when needed, be it serving on a committee, serving on the Board of Directors, nominating your athletes for honors, speaking at one of our clinics, or submitting photographs of your athletes for the Newsletter and website. We truly do appreciate you and want you to always remember that this is YOUR association, and the TGCA staff is here to assist you in any way that we are able.

Membership renewal and clinic registration for all clinics will open February 1st. Effective that day, on-line membership renewal and clinic registration for the 2027-2028 year will become active. Please keep in mind that on February 1st and after that date, if you still need to renew for the 2026-27 year (this year), you will no longer be able to do that on-line, and must print a form from the website to either mail with a check, or fax or email with a credit card number.

On-line membership renewal and clinic registration are through the Membership Site. To access the Membership Site, simply go to the website, www.austintgca.com, and click on the category in the menu on the left-hand side of the page entitled "Membership Site". You will then be required to log in. Your username is your membership number and always will be. That will not change. If you don't remember your password, please contact us and we will be happy to reset it to your membership number for you.

On the home page of the Membership Site, you will notice, on the left-hand side of the page, the categories for renewing your membership and registering for Summer Clinic and/or any of the Satellite Sports Clinics. We have tried to simplify this process for you, and they are exactly what they say they are.

If you click on "Summer Clinic", your profile page will appear. You can make any changes you wish to your profile page, except the school where you coach. If your school is incorrect, please give us a call or drop us an e-mail and we will be happy to update that information for you. If you need to update anything else on your profile, simply click the box that says "To Correct Coaching Contact Information Click Here", and update the information that needs to be corrected. This information may also be updated by clicking on the "Update Profile" category in the menu across the top of the page. Don't forget to add your coaching experience. You need to be sure and keep that up to date to build your on-line resume for the job board.

Once you have updated any information that needs to be updated and added your current coaching experience, you are now ready to renew your membership and register for Summer Clinic. You will notice there are three "packages" you may choose from. The Bronze Package is membership only and does not include registration for Summer Clinic. That cost is now $70.00. The Silver Package is Summer Clinic registration only and does not include membership renewal. That package is now $65.00 before June 15, and $80.00 on or after June 15. The Gold Package includes your membership renewal AND Summer Clinic registration for a total cost of $135.00. You can click on "Detail Description" beside each package and it will tell you what they are. Please remember there is a $2.50 processing fee charged by the on-line credit card company. You must check the appropriate box for the transaction to go through. **You MUST be a member of TGCA to attend any TGCA clinic.**

Once you have selected the option you wish to pay for, you will see a page that will give you information regarding your transaction. If it is correct, you will click on the "Payment" button, and this will take you to the payment information page. Simply fill in the information requested. In the "Security Code" portion, this is an on-line security code and NOT the security code on your credit card. You will see letters and/or numbers in the gray shadowed box. Simply retype what you see in that gray shadowed box in the very small box located right above the words (in blue) "I cannot read the code, please provide a new one" and right below the words (in black) "Please enter the security code above". You will actually enter the security code you see into the box below those words in black. Once you have completed that page, click the "Submit" button and you are done. You will receive a receipt confirmation by e-mail. That is why it is so important that your e-mail address is accurate. If you do not receive your receipt, check your junk mail. Your school's filtering system may have sent it there. If you don't get your receipt by e-mail, please contact us. Your school may be blocking our e-mails completely. Please check your receipt confirmation carefully. Please remember that the address on your credit card MUST match the address on your profile exactly. This is a security feature the on-line credit card company uses.

If you click on the category entitled "Satellite Clinics", you may then choose the Satellite Sports Clinic you wish to register for. TGCA is pleased to announce we will be hosting Satellite Sports Clinics for 2027 in Lubbock (Regions I & II), and El Paso. Simply click on the Satellite Sports Clinic you wish to register for and complete the same process outlined above. The cost of attendance to any of our Satellite Sports Clinics is $80.00. This includes your 2027-28 membership card. You CANNOT just renew your membership in the Satellite Clinics category. If you and your school will be splitting the admittance fee, you will need to print a form from the website and mail it to us with your portion of the fee, and an explanation that your school will be paying the other half of the admittance fee. You will not be able to split the fee on-line. You will, however, be allowed to register for a Satellite Sports Clinic and pay an admittance fee of $40.00 **if you have already paid the $70.00 renewal fee for your 2027-28 membership.**

If you are not planning to attend Summer Clinic or any of the Satellite Sports Clinics and simply wish to renew your membership, click on the last category "Membership Only". You only have the option of membership renewal in this category, and the procedure is the same as outlined above.

Please remember that you need to use the membership number you have been assigned when renewing your membership or accessing the Membership Site. If you do not remember it, or your password, please call the TGCA office and we will be happy to look it up for you, or reset your password for you. We would request that you **DO NOT** set up a new profile if you are already a current member, or have been a member in the past and have received a membership number previously. When you do that, you also give yourself a new membership number, and we want you to have the same membership number for life.

If you are a brand new member, simply access the TGCA website, www.austintgca.com, and click on the category in the menu on the left-hand side of the page entitled "First Time Member", and follow the process outlined for "New to TGCA for the First Time". Should you need assistance, please just contact the TGCA office and we will be more than happy to assist you.

Again, we thank you for your support of the Texas Girls Coaches Association. Our job is to make your association the best that it can be. We welcome your comments and suggestions.



photo courtesy Hanna Sargent

EXTREMELY IMPORTANT

If you renew your membership on or after February 1st online through the Membership Site, you will be renewing for the 2027-28 year, beginning June 1, 2027 and ending May 31st, 2028. Please be sure that is what you intended to do. You may still print a 2026-27 membership form from the "Forms" category in the menu on the left-hand side of the main page of the website.

GENERAL NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

All nominations should be made on-line at www.austintgca.com, under the sport tab for which a particular nomination is made. Please do all nominations on-line and before the deadline. Cheerleading nominations are located on the Spirit page in the menu on the left-hand side of the page. All questions or inquiries regarding Cheer nominations should be addressed to the Spirit Advisory Board. Contact information is located on the Spirit page under Spirit Advisory Board in the menu on the left-hand side of the page. All other nominations should be submitted through the Membership Site once you have logged in.

If your nomination was submitted correctly, you will receive a confirmation e-mail. You can check that your nominations have gone through by logging on to the Membership Site, clicking on "Nominations" from the menu at the top of the page, and then clicking number five "Member Nominations Info". This will show you what nominations you have submitted. If you do not see your nominations there, they did not go through and must be done again. **WE STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO THIS AFTER YOU HAVE COMPLETED ALL NOMINATIONS.**

PLEASE NOTE: The TGCA system does not interact well with Internet Explorer. We recommend you use Chrome or Firefox as your web browser, or something other than Internet Explorer, to make your nominations.

If you miss the on-line nomination deadline for your sport or cheerleading, you MUST print the proper form from the website under the "Bylaws" category and submit that form to your regional committee representative for submission to the appropriate committee. Your regional representative for the committees is listed on the website under the sport category they pertain to. This should be done in all categories except Academic All-State.

Any nominations for Academic All-State must be submitted to the TGCA office on a form printed from the website if the on-line honors nomination deadline is missed. Instructions for nominating on-line, along with nomination guidelines, may be found under each specific sport tab on the website, and also under the Bylaws.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONLINE HONORS NOMINATIONS

Below are the instructions for completing TGCA honors nominations on-line. Please read these instructions and follow them precisely and your nomination should go through with no problems.

PLEASE NOTE: The TGCA system does not interact well with Internet Explorer. We recommend using Chrome or another browser other than Internet Explorer.

1 Access the TGCA website at **austintgca.com**.

2 Click on the "Membership Site" category in the menu on the left-hand side of the page.

3 You will be required to log in at this point. Your user name will always be your TGCA membership number. That will never change. If you don't know your number, please contact us and we will be happy to give it to you. PLEASE DO NOT MAKE YOURSELF A NEW MEMBER AND GET A NEW MEMBERSHIP NUMBER. Your password, if you've not logged on to the system before, will also be your membership number. If you've already accessed the website and logged in, your password will be whatever you have created it to be. If you do not remember your password, we do not have it. You will need to contact us so that we may reset your password to your membership number, and you will need to go through the complete log in process over again, including resetting your password. When prompted to change your password, please keep in mind that the "Old Password" category will also be your membership number. We do not recommend using the "Forgot Password" link, as you will more than likely never see the response email. It is more often than not blocked by a security measure in place by your school.

4 Once you've completed the log-in process, you will access the home page of the Membership Site. In the tabs menu at the top of that page, click on "Nominations".

5 Click on the "(6) Member Nominations Add" category in the menu on the left-hand side of the page.

6 Your e-mail information will be listed on this page. This is the e-mail address your nomination confirmation will be sent to. PLEASE be sure your e-mail address is correct. If your e-mail address is incorrect, you will need to click the "Update Profile" category in the menu at the top of the page and correct your e-mail address, or you will not receive your nomination confirmation. If you do not need to make changes, click the sport you are nominating for. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click the "Next Step" button.

7 Click the button next to the category you are nominating for (All-Star, All-State, Academic All-State, etc.). On Academic All-State, please be sure you click All-State for athletes and cheerleaders and not Academic All-State Support Staff. Support Staff would be for trainers, stat keepers, managers, etc. Next click the button "Next Step".

8 Complete the form by typing in the information requested in the "Update" field.

9 When you get to the "School:ISD" field, please begin typing the name of your school. Schools are listed in the database by name of the school, followed by the ISD. If your school is named after someone, or there are multiple schools with the same name, just start to type the LAST name of the person it's named after, or the school name, and look in the text pop up box for your school followed by your ISD. This is very **IMPORTANT!** Your school must appear exactly as it is in our database for your nomination to be correctly entered. As you type, a text pop up box will appear under the school line. Please click on the correct school in this box and please pay careful attention to the school you select, making sure it is the correct school, with the correct ISD. If you are an Athletic Director, please DO NOT click on anything that says AD. For your nomination to appear correctly, it must have the name of the school, rather than your title. You may need to type the complete name of the school, including "High School" for it to populate. There are many, many schools with the same name, including junior highs and middle schools.



photo courtesy Hannah Sargent

10 Continue completing the form. If you need to add additional information regarding your nominee or their accomplishments, including stats, please do so in the large text box at the bottom of the page.

11 When you have completed the form, please click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the page. If, for some reason, your form was not filled out correctly, you will receive an error message after clicking the "Submit" button. If you did not receive the error message, your nomination went through successfully, and you should receive a confirmation e-mail at the e-mail address you have given us. If you fail to receive a confirmation e-mail, please contact us. You can also check to see if your nominations successfully went through by returning to the "Nominations" page and clicking on "(5) Member Nominations Info". If you do not see your nominations listed there, please contact us.

12 You will need to follow these steps for each nomination of each athlete in each category that you wish to make. **For Academic All-State, you only need to list the GPA.** We do not need the honors section, as we only check for grade classification (senior) and the GPA, which must be 94 or above and must be submitted in that format, not on a 5.0, 4.0, etc. Any nominations submitted on the grade point only scale will be counted as nonvalid.

If you need assistance with any of this process, please contact us at tgca@austintgca.com, or call our office at 512-708-1333, and we will be happy to assist you.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH & DISMEMBERMENT BENEFIT

The Texas Girls Coaches Association in cooperation with American Income Life Insurance Company, is pleased to announce that we are providing additional benefits at NO COST to make your membership even more valuable! These benefits include:

- $4,000 Group Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit! (Covers all members.)
- Health Services Discount Card for your entire household which provides discounts up to 60% on Vision Care, Chiropractic Care, Hearing Care and Prescriptions!
- Child Safe Kits – this valuable tool can provide information to the authorities if your child or grandchild should ever go missing!
- Family Information Guide – When emergencies occur, families can avoid confusion and additional stress by having all of their critical information organized in one place.

Please check your mail for the letter regarding these new benefits!

Once you return the response card, an AIL representative will contact you to schedule a convenient time to deliver your benefits and explain additional insurance coverage available. American Income Life is an international company licensed in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Canada and is registered to carry on business in New Zealand. AIL has earned an A+ (Superior) Financial Strength rating from A.M. Best Company. (as of 6/14)

For more information on these benefits, please contact Arnaecia Alridge at 281-857-9325 or ajalridge@ailife.com. To view the letter online, visit ailife.com/benefits/sgM9W.

SPORT NOMINATION DEADLINES

Online nomination deadlines for all sports is the Monday before the UIL state tournaments/meets at noon. For 2026-27, they are as follows:

Cross Country	November 2, 2026
Volleyball	November 16, 2026
Spirit	January 4, 2027
Wrestling	February 8, 2027
Swim & Dive	February 8, 2027
Basketball	March 1, 2027
Soccer	April 5, 2027
Golf	April 19, 2027
Tennis	May 3, 2027
Track & Field	May 10, 2027
Softball	May 31, 2027



photo courtesy Kayley Johns



photo courtesy Makala Rogers

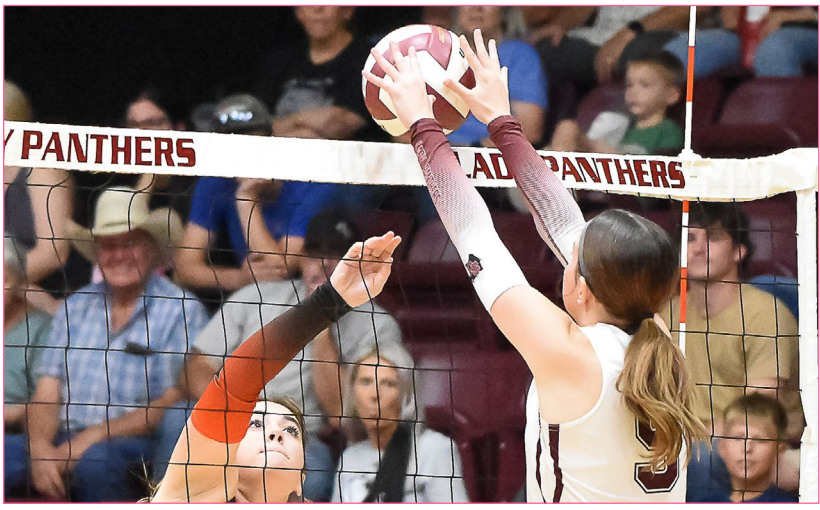


photo courtesy Kelly Skidmore

10 SUGGESTIONS FOR CREATING PEACE OF MIND

James A. Peterson, Ph.D., FACSM

James Peterson is a freelance writer and consultant in sports medicine and the owner of Coaches Choice, the foremost publisher in the world of instructional material for coaches. From 1990 until 1995, Dr. Peterson was director of sports medicine with StairMaster. Until that time, he was professor of physical education at the United States Military Academy.

1. Learn to relax and trust yourself. Have confidence in your decisions, knowing you can handle whatever outcome happens. As a rule, everything tends to work out over time.

2. Focus on the end game. Know that you are committed to achieving peace of mind. Do your best to shape your daily actions, habits, and decisions, where applicable, towards reaching your goal.

3. See and accept things as they are, rather than what you'd like or expect them to be. Accept reality while setting firm boundaries or working to change what is in your control. You cannot effectively change a particular set of circumstances until you stop pretending or ignoring that it exists.

4. Be aware of what is and what is not beyond your control. Not only does doing so help reduce the level of anxiety you may experience, it also helps shift you from helplessness to empowerment, as well as direct your energy and efforts toward meaningful action.

5. Be hopeful. Hope works best when paired with personal effort and a focused strategy. When hope guides you, it becomes your inner compass. Even if confusion arises, it offers clarity.

6. Focus on the present. Don't worry about future outcomes. Channel your energy. Set and adhere to clear personal priorities concerning achieving peace of mind for yourself.

7. Reflect on your reality. Ask yourself if your current actions and choices truly matter to the situation at hand. Steer your efforts to align with your goal of attaining a peaceful mind.

8. Keep your eye on the prize (having peace of mind). Don't let your current circumstances cloud your judgment, where with regard to your goal, you cannot think clearly, act rationally, or make appropriate decisions. You never want to muddle or obscure your judgment.

9. Manage your expectations. Be patient. Control your emotions. Accept the fact that events cannot always be controlled. Choose to stay calm, rather than rushing, panicking, or acting out when events take longer than expected.

10. Have a plan for achieving peace of mind. Identify actionable steps for what you want to attain. Don't dwell on the past; concentrate on what you can do right now, rather than something that may have already happened. Always keep your attention on the road ahead.



photo courtesy Lexia Lemley

KAY YOW CANCER FUND

KAY YOW cancer fund | CANCER WARRIOR NETWORK

One Small Thing

When a problem feels huge, it's easy to think we can't do enough to help.

Breast cancer is one of those problems. According to the American Cancer Society, about 1 in 8 women in the United States will develop breast cancer in her lifetime.

That's a big number. But our ask is very small.

If there's a woman in your life you're close enough to ask, ask her one question:

"Have you gotten your mammogram yet?"

That's it. One question. She can talk with her healthcare provider about when screening is right for her.

You don't have to organize an event or have all the answers. Just start a conversation with someone you care about.

If you don't have someone you feel comfortable asking, do something else small. Wear something pink. Follow a cause like the Kay Yow Cancer Fund on social media. Share something that helps someone else pay attention.

We may not be able to solve a huge problem by ourselves, but we can each do one small thing to help.

Is there another small thing you will commit to doing this month? If so, let us know what it is. We would love to hear the small things you're doing to help spread awareness of this disease that impacts so many women in our lives.

Joining our nationwide movement, Play4Kay, has never been easier!

KAY YOW cancer fund

1. **Pick a game on your schedule and call it Play4Kay**
2. **Raise money around your game and donate it to the Kay Yow Cancer Fund**
3. **Celebrate female cancer survivors, thrivers and warriors at your game**

Learn more

Kayyow.com/play4kay

Louder, Stronger, Unstoppable -- Together!

NOVEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 VOLLEYBALL: AREA **TGCA:** Cross Country Nomination Deadline, 12:00 p.m.	3	4	5 VOLLEYBALL: REGIONAL SEMIFINALS	6 CROSS COUNTRY: STATE **Girls Basketball:** First Day for Interschool Games	7
8	9 VOLLEYBALL: REGIONAL FINALS **Wrestling:** First Day for Meets & Tournaments **TGCA:** Cross Country Committee, All-State Committee Meeting (6 PM)	10	11	12	13 VOLLEYBALL: STATE SEMIFINALS	14
15	16 **TGCA:** Volleyball Nomination Deadline, 12:00 p.m.	17	18	19 VOLLEYBALL: STATE FINALS	20	21
22 **TGCA:** Board of Directors Meeting (10 AM)	23 TGCA OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING **TGCA:** Volleyball All-State Committee Meeting (6 PM) Volleyball Committee Meeting (6 PM)	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

TO ALL COACHES: PLEASE UPDATE YOUR ONLINE PROFILE

Please go online and check that your profile is up-to-date, including addresses, telephone numbers (school, cell, home), and all other personal information. You can change all information on your profile except your school. Please check your coaching experience and add information as needed. We appreciate your help in this endeavor.



photo courtesy Amy Schultz

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

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-Association of Texas Professional Educators
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-BSN Sports
-Coaches Choice
-Fellowship of Christian Athletes
-Gamechanger
-Gandy Ink
-Gulf Coast Specialties
-Herff Jones
-MaxPreps
-Nike
-Sport-Tek
-Surge
-Varsity































TGCA NEWS

TGCA News is the official newsletter of the **Texas Girls Coaches Association**

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TGCA on the Web
Polls, as well as other current information, can be found on the TGCA website at: austintgca.com.

Did you move?
Please notify the TGCA office if your school, home address, telephone number or coaching assignment changes.

UIL eligibility / Sport rule questions
If you have any questions on eligibility or sport rule interpretations, contact the UIL at (512) 471-5883.

@AUSTINTGCA