

## Coach

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student/athlete has any hope of gaining aid.

"I send out thousands of letters each year," in support of his players, Jackson said. And he is quick to point out that every senior from last year's team is in college, some on partial academic or athletic scholarships. "Football helped a lot of them to get into school," he said.

Most of the former Dallas players are at Division III schools, with some in Division II. But the next step up is tough. "If somebody's going to give you \$1,000,000, you've got to be pretty good," Jackson said. And if grades are borderline, there are plenty of other players who are a safer bet.

Dallas players also suffer because, as a small Class AA school, Dallas doesn't play a schedule that calls attention to the team, or in large media markets that could offer more exposure.

Jackson is upset that two incidents earlier this season are being used to place the program in a bad light. Star running back Frank Valvano was ejected from the first game in what the coach calls "a setup."

Jackson said the non-conference game against Marian Catholic in Pottsville was to be staffed by neutral officials, but when he arrived at the field, the officials would not tell him their names. Two of them were from Marian's conference.

Valvano was ejected after shoving a Marian player early in the first quarter. Jackson says one official made the call, while three others who were nearby didn't even throw flags. He said Valvano was only responding to being wrestled to the ground by the facemask. The Marian player who grabbed Valvano was in the game only for that play, Jackson said.

*"We work harder than any program in the school. The results speak for themselves."*

**Ted Jackson**  
Dallas football coach

A second incident, fights in the late stages of the GAR game, were simply Dallas players defending themselves against a large number of GAR players, Jackson said. He has offered to show films of the game to anyone who believes the fights were caused by Dallas players.

Whatever happens regarding assistant coach Brian Brady's suspension and reinstatement, Jackson hopes it waits until the season is over. "I just wish it never got to this point," he said. He said he offered to meet with school board members and Ron Pietracchini, the parent who complained about excessive discipline required by Brady, to work out a solution as soon as the complaint was made, but was rebuffed.

Discipline, Jackson said, is an important part of his program. He lays down the rules to each player at the beginning of the year, and feels consistent application of them leads to commitment, dedication and the willingness of each player to work as a team. "We work harder than any program in the school," he said. "The results speak for themselves."

Jackson said he is discouraged by the "politics" that he believes are behind the Brady incident, and that he thinks have become more prominent throughout the district. "It wasn't like this when I started 11 years ago," he said.

## Memories

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No one recognized the kitchen "We ate in our own homerooms and brought lunches," they said as a group. They realized some additions had been made to the school since their time there, when the rooms were larger and they didn't think the blue and white floor tiles were original. The basement floors were definitely over dirt and it seemed a shame that the stage had been converted to a library when the original library had been a large, bright airy room over the front entrance on the second floor.

Standing in the new library brought back memories of their class play. "Life begins at Sixteen." "I sang a song in that play; want to hear it?" asks Bob Anderson. Marian Kittle shows off the picture of her and Bob sitting on the stage (now library) during the play. Does life begin at 16? "Hardly," says a wizened Marian as they look at their images. "But it's more fun than 60 years later that's for sure," quips Bob.

We continue on to the gifted room, formerly the high school laboratory, now split into two rooms to accommodate more classes. Children spill into the hall surprised and happy to see us. They wave warmly welcoming us. "Please come into our class," says Miss McCarthy, a grade school teacher.

Down the hall, Martha (Derzak) Gavlick reminds us that the typing and home economics rooms were on the third floor. Few want to venture up the last flight to see these rooms. We stand and talk about the present. "It's a shame they won't save this school," someone says. "Is there a chance?"

Ruth Tetschner, now principal who started her career as a teacher in the building in 1970, responds, "I don't think so." Ellen Smith, Westmoreland PTO president and staunch supporter of the movement to save the school from closing, chimes in "There's always a chance."

Bill Daggers runs down the hall. "I just want to look out that window. See just where the school property ends past the stone wall is where we would all go to smoke. You were allowed to smoke there. One cigarette, 25 guys, well you should have seen how long the ash was. Of course, we didn't really smoke then, but did it just for the excitement."

Jack Evans recalls that they were punished for chewing gum in school, though, "our hands were

slapped," and Danny Thompson put on women's clothes from the clothes rack.

Many recalled a Bible on every teacher's desk. "Yes," says Bill Daggers, "this was a beautiful book with raised gold embossed lettering donated by the official Dallas chapter of the Ku Klux Klan." The school day started with a prayer or chapel and included a reading from the Old Testament.

Bob Gregory remarks, "We never started one fire and hardly ever skipped school." Added Lauren Dymond, "I even came to school when I was sick."

We enter Mrs Palmatier's classroom, formerly the shop room taught by Mr. Cease, where they learned woodworking, using lathes and jigsaws. There were three programs of study; commercial, academic, and general. We move outdoors to the area of the computer rooms, two modular units set up temporarily to accommodate computers. "Computers? Oh yeah, we had those, our fingers," laughs Bob Anderson.

Standing outside in what now is the playground brings perhaps some of the most exciting memories for the men — football! The field was all dirt with many rocks and the men wonder where all the grass has come from. Besides that, all the trees on the slope near the field were not there; that was where the bleachers were.

The school sports were football, baseball, and basketball and



Bob and Sarah Gregory remembered when the school had three basketball courts.

they played teams from Lehman, Dallas Township and Dallas Borough. Walter Hicks was their coach. Bill Daggers remembers, "Sometimes we would play the city schools, like GAR. Boy, we would lose 65-0. Some of the kids worked in the mines part-time so you can imagine it." And the Gordons would always be fighting, added Jack Evans.

The men had other memories of comradery. A group called "the Hollow Gang" played basketball together after school in a field where the hoop was placed in the middle of a hollow. The women

*"Computers? Oh yeah, we had those, our fingers."*

**Bob Anderson**  
Kingston Twp. High School, '39



Mr. and Mrs. Jack Evans strolled down the old hallways.

Dallas coach Ted Jackson gave some advice to quarterback Billy Puchalsky earlier this season.



## Gridiron Club

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had been assigned 25, then 30, then 60 "hit-its" on successive days. Pietracchini said he became concerned after the third day that the number would continue to rise, and his son would be hurt.

Dorrance, who played at Dallas in the 1950's, said the exercises Brady was suspended for have always been a normal part of the program. "If we don't teach the kids, discipline now, who will teach them?" he asked.

At this point, Dorrance thinks a public apology from the parent is the only way to stop the hearing process, which is widely believed to have the potential to divide the community even more than it is already.

Just the opposite, an apology from Brady and a reprimand in his personnel file, is reported to have been offered by the school. To support his perspective, Dorrance asks, "Who caused the damage? I'm sure it wasn't the freshman coach. The Dallas Gridiron Club is standing behind the coaches 100 percent," he said.

Dorrance said some people have asked why the coaches didn't simply cut Pietracchini from the team rather than discipline him. He said the program tries to give every player a chance to abide by the rules and become a part of the team. "We've had kids before who straightened out," he said, and became leaders in the program.

## Women's Club to hold 'Mystery Auction'

The November meeting of the Dallas Area Federated Women's Club will be held Thur., Nov. 14 at 7 p.m. at Appletree Terrace. The program will be a mystery gift auction. Everyone is asked to bring a gift they have received but do not use or a small treasure wrapped in gift paper. New members are welcome. For information, call Mary Griffin at 675-4663 by Nov. 11.

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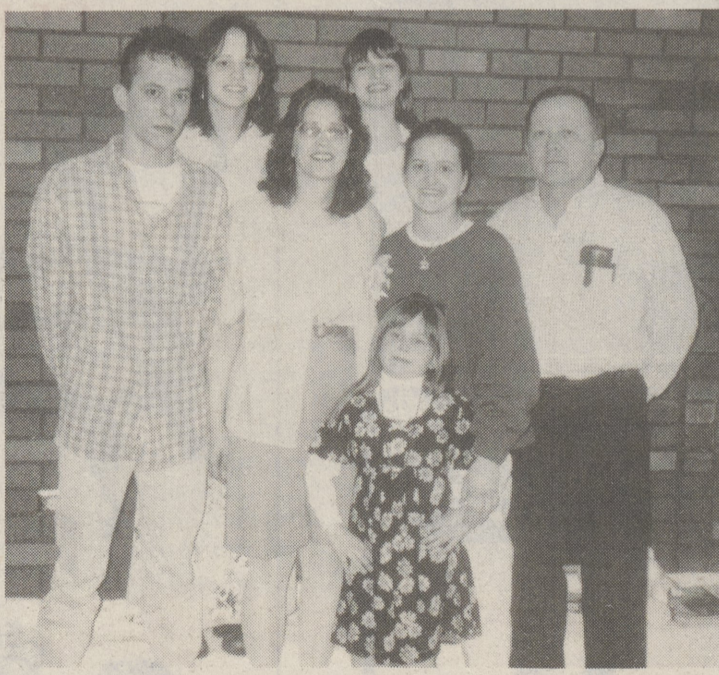
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