

Chad Tatum

Academic Athlete of the Year



Howard Chadwick Tatum, "Chad," attended Antonian College Preparatory HS in San Antonio where he maintained a 104.5 GPA, ranking 18th out of 173 students. He was a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, Latin Club, and National Honor Society. He was Freshman and Junior Class Vice-President, a school ambassador and received numerous awards, including the Jack and Jill of America South Central Regional Scholastic Achievement Award, NAACP Youth Achiever Award, and Presidential Volunteer Service Silver Award.

He was a four-year letterman in football and baseball, starting three years at quarterback and was named All-District. He also started for three seasons at second base and shortstop in baseball and was named first team All-District, team MVP, and Offensive Player of the Year. He plans to attend Rice University and continue his baseball career while majoring in engineering.

Tatum's parents are Kenneth and Tina and his sister is Kennedy Denise Tatum. He is a member of East St. Paul United Methodist Church and is Youth Usher Board President and participates regularly in Sunday School.

Iria Ephriam, Jr.

Basketball



Iria "Bubba" Ephriam, Jr. was born in Mercedes and moved with his family to Pecos in the early 1940s and attended Carver HS in 1949. At Carver, he played for Coach Sidney Sadler. However, in 1955, Pecos schools integrated and Ephriam made the varsity team at Pecos HS and helped the team to a district title.

The following season, Pecos won the Class 3A district championship, but lost to Houston Smiley for the state title. In the process, Ephriam became the first African American to compete in a University Interscholastic League championship game in Gregory Gym on the University of Texas campus. Ephriam served in the U.S. Navy for 10 years and was able to continue playing basketball, helping the USS Lexington win a Fleet Championship and then as starting center (at 6-4!) in 1961 when the Atsugi Naval Air Facility Flyers won the Far-East championship.

After his Navy career, he worked for the Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation. He became an evangelist in 1981 and in 1984 spoke at the White House at the invitation of President Ronald Reagan. Ephriam currently lives in Tye, just outside of Abilene, and has two daughters, a son, and two grandsons.