



Walter E. Day, former football coach at I.M. Terrell High School in Fort Worth, passed away on Nov. 14 after a long distinguished career as a public school coach, educator and administrator and as a writer. He was 85.

Coach Day was a 1983 inductee to the PVILCA Hall of Honor and in 2006 was honored with a PVILCA Lifetime Achievement Award.

“Walter was a fine man and a super coach,” said Robert Brown, PVILCA chairman. “We’ve all lost a great friend and a man who has meant so much to so many black kids, but to our community in general. His legacy will be his work as a mentor and as someone who worked tirelessly to bring recognition to coaches, players, and others from the all-black high schools in Texas before integration. Walter will be sorely missed.”

Day began his career as a high school teacher and football coach in his home town of Corsicana after graduating in 1950 from Samuel Huston College, now Huston-Tillotson University, in Austin. He later enrolled in Texas Southern University and received a master's degree in 1954.

After nine years in Corsicana, his highly successful coaching record became known throughout the state. He relocated briefly to Houston’s E.E. Worthing High School before moving to Fort Worth in 1961 and serving as head coach at Terrell until 1968. Day won three PVIL 2A state championships (1953, 1956, 1957) while at Corsicana’s Jackson High School and led Terrell to the 4A championship game in 1965 where the team was defeated by Houston Yates.

Day went on to serve as vice principal and later principal at Terrell, assistant director of secondary education and then director of pupil personnel for the Fort Worth Independent School District and later as principal of O.D. Wyatt High School until his retirement in 1986.

Retirement only meant that Day could devote full time to researching and writing a history of the PVIL which he did for almost 10 years. His resulting books, under the theme "Remembering the Past with Pride," were: “Texas Black High School Champions

Before 1940, Football/Basketball/Track & Field,” and Championship Football for Blacks in Texas 1940-1969, 4A, 3A, 2A, A.”

Due in large part to Day’s work, in 2005, the University Interscholastic League for the first time officially included records from the PVIL competitions using Day’s compilations.

"It's about time," Day would say. "We wanted to be recognized. I wanted this information out there. I was inspired to do all that work. I made a contribution. I feel good knowing that without me, no one would have all this information."