



PVILCA News

Prairie View Interscholastic League
Coaches Association



*Remembering The Past
With Pride*

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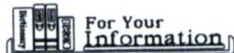
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This newsletter will be published Quarterly
(four times a year), you may send articles
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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER # 6 - APRIL 2011 OF THE PRAIRIE VIEW INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE COACHES ASSOCIATION

February is Black History Month

"They ask me where is the exhibit located and told them in the back of my car."

PVILCA - BOARD CHAIRMAN AND THE TEAM AT WORK



The Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association is in the midst of a new beginning. We are turning the corner in a relationship with the University of Texas and the University Interscholastic League. Our partnership has produced a one of a kind exhibit of the PVIL Years, with memorabilia and data, housed in the Marvin Griffin Building at 1009 East 11TH St. in Austin, Texas. A traveling exhibit of the PVIL memorabilia was on display at the UIL Building in Austin and Yates High School in Houston. Our goal is to acquire a permanent place to house our memorabilia, preserving it so that our youth will know the importance of their history and athletic foundation.

Vice President Gregory J. Vincent to Receive PVIL Lifetime Achievement Award

Gregory J. Vincent, vice president for diversity and community engagement at The University of Texas at Austin, will receive an honorary Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association (PVILCA) Lifetime Achievement Award for his outstanding work in helping to preserve the history of the organization and its members.

Vincent was instrumental in working with the PVILCA's board of directors to secure a location to house the organization's memorabilia. Since 2008 a collection of framed black and white



pictures, articles of clothing, trophies, and old newspaper articles have been on display on the second floor of the Community Engagement Center at 1009 E. 11th Street, a part of the university's Division of Diversity and Community Engagement. Board Chairman Robert Brown says that Vincent's commitment to foster a university partnership with the PVILCA is significant because it means "the history and the culture of the PVIL will last a little longer."

The PVILCA is a group of former African American coaches and athletes that attended Texas' segregated high schools, which were not allowed to compete in the University Interscholastic League (UIL) until 1970. The UIL was created by the

(see Vincent on page 2)



From left to right: Cleve L. Freeman, Jr., Brannen Temple, Dr. Gregory Vincent, Dr. Charles Breithaupt, Dr. Leonard, Jack Bellinger, Robert Brown and Ed Robey, not shown Charles Herbert and Sheila Henderson,

UIL Celebrates Black History Month

By Stephanie Ramirez

Walking in to the University Interscholastic League office, one of the first things a visitor see is a wall that displays more than just your average office artwork. In honor of Black History Month, the UIL unveiled a display to honor African-American participants over the years. "I wanted the exhibit to show the same support for Black History Month that is exhibited around the country," UIL Executive Director Charles Breithaupt said. "At the UIL, we have so much to celebrate in regards to Black History Month because we have had so many gifted actors, musicians and athletes compete." When he was principal of Hardin-Jefferson High School, Breithaupt had his students put together a display, which eventually became his inspiration for this project. "Dr. Breithaupt came to me and said he wanted to showcase the students that have competed in academic and athletic events, including students from the Prairie View Interscholastic League," said Mary Mendez, the athletic staffer who designed and put together the display.

The PVIL was the state governing organization of extracurricular activities for African-American students from the 1920s to 1967 before it merged with the UIL. The oldest photo displayed is actually a photo from one of the PVIL boys' basketball state tournaments dating back to 1955. "It is a real tragedy that before the

**You May Become A Life Member Today!
See Membership Application.**

Vincent from page 1

University of Texas in 1909 to provide contest opportunities in athletics, music and academics for Texas high schools. The PVIL came into existence in 1920 to mirror the UIL, but for the African American high schools. The organization's board has been successful in ensuring that their athletic records including, the African American state championship, competitions are integrated into the UIL. The group continues to educate the public, especially high school students, about the organization's history, and recognizes and honors former participants annually. At the PVILCA 32nd Annual Banquet in Fort Worth on July 23, Vincent will also receive an honorary lifetime membership, and his picture and name will be added to the group's "Hall of Fame" exhibit wall. Brown said, "Dr. Vincent has been able to promote the PVIL exhibit to the community and that has been great, not only for the University of Texas and the UIL, but the PVIL."

PVIL, our black students could not participate in extracurricular events," Breithaupt said. "But thankfully, once the UIL state executive committee met and allowed for the integration in 1967, the schools joined the UIL merging the two organizations." In 1968, the first year PVIL schools were able to compete in the newly integrated UIL events, Houston Wheatley High School won the boys' basketball State Tournament. A photo of this tournament is displayed on the third floor of UIL.

Other photos displayed on the wall in the lobby include swimming and diving, football and golf, as well as academic and music events such as the One-Act Play and marching band competitions. The unveiling took place on Feb. 12. Vice President of diversity for the University of Texas Dr. Greg Vincent, former University of Texas Vice President Dr. James Hill and long-time Austin ISD administrator and charter member of the UIL waiver-review board, Dr. Charles Akins, spoke and helped with the unveiling of the wall. This display wall will be used throughout the rest of the year to display significant events, people and processes of the UIL.

ED ROBEY RECEIVES COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP CIRCLE AWARD



Ed Robey

The University of Texas at Austin honored seven outstanding men and women and three organizations on Dec. 9 with the Community Leadership Awards. More than 350 Austinites attended the ceremony at the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center in East Austin as the honorees were recognized for their dedication to

community service, education and civil rights. The annual event is co-sponsored by the Office of the President and the Division for Diversity and Community Engagement (DDCE). Now in its fourth year, the Carver event is a community tradition that recognizes leaders instrumental in making Austin the city it is today. Huston-Tillotson University, ProArts Collective and the SANDE Youth Project received the university's Community Partnership Award for their significant role in educating the city's underserved populations, enriching Austin culturally and promoting good nutrition habits among children and their families.

Robey - continued on page 3

The Days of Yesteryears

Golf and Swimming Make 1955 Debut in PVIL

by Dr. Thurman W. Robins

Two new sports made their debut in PVIL competition in 1955. Students from throughout the state had participated in golf and swimming contests for several years. However, there were no contests sponsored for these sports by their high schools. The first district golf meet was held in Houston, Texas at Hermann Park municipal course and the first district swimming meet was held at



SET S RECORD - Thurman Robins, Yates swimming ace, sets new district breast stroke mark.

Central High School in Galveston, Texas. It was in the late spring of 1955 on Galveston Island, that five Texas Black High Schools came together to compete for the first district swimming championship. The meet was for both girls and boys and consisted of prelims and finals. The five schools competing included: host school Central of Galveston, Charlton-Pollard of Beaumont, Lincoln of Port Arthur, Phillis Wheatley of Houston and Jack Yates of Houston. Wheatley of Houston won the first meet with Yates being the runner-ups and Lincoln placing third. This was to be the first of three consecutive district victories for the Wildcats (1955-56-57).

The second district championship was held in Port Arthur, Texas hosted by the Lincoln Bumblebees. The 3rd and 4th meets were held at Jack Yates high school in Houston, Texas. Although Wheatley won the first three championships, the Lions were close behind as they finished a mere 6 points behind in 1957. Wheatley's 1957 team was led by senior Captain Charles Powell who won two individual events the 200 yd. and 400 yd. freestyle.

Yates won their first district swimming meet in 1958, followed by four additional victories in 1959-60-61-62. **Raymond Daniels** coached the Lions team while Winster Lee coached the Wheatley team. In 1958 two additional teams entered the meet including the Worthing Colts of Houston, coached by Bennie Roy, and the Kashmere Rams of Houston, coached by Henderson Ford. Outstanding swimmers from the 1958 Yates squad included **Thurman Robins** team captain **Johnnie Means**, Robert Bailey and Earl Durham. The Wildcats suffered their first district defeat and finished 2nd in the meet.

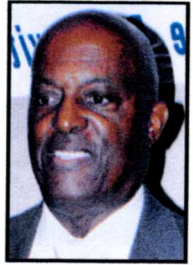
In 1959, Booker T. Washington of Houston coached by Luther Booker joined the other six teams in the district meet. **Luther Booker's** Washington team claimed their first swimming district title in 1963, ending Yates' five year string of victories. Leading the way for the Eagles were Luther Walker, and Desmond Henderson.

Outstanding participants during the first two years included: Carlton (Ding Dong) Bell, Freelander Yarbrough,, James Clayton, Ethelbert Millard, Leroy Carter and Charles Powell of Wheatley. John Stanley Rasberry, William (Dirty Works) Simpson, David Ransom, John Dorsey, Thurman Robins, Ronald Wilson, Robert Bailey, Clarence Cubia and Johnny Means, were competitors for Yates.

Beginning in 1965-1967 the district meet shifted to Prairie View University and became the first state swimming meet which was captured by Booker T. Washington of Houston under Coach **Luther Booker**. The girls competition resembled the boys in the way of victories as the Wheatley Wildcats girls captured the first districts titles with Yates as the runner-ups. The Wheatley teams were coached by Georgia Harris and the Yates teams were coached by LaVonne Herring. Outstanding females of the earlier teams included, **Vickie**

SPOTLIGHT PERSONALITY ALBERT J. "BIG AL" WALKER

Albert Walker played football at Anderson High School in Austin, TX, from 1953-1956. In 1954 they were District Champs. He played both offensive left tackle and linebacker. During his senior year he was selected co-captain of the team. His head coach at Anderson High was William E. Pigford, Assistant Coach Raymond B. Timmons, and "B" Team coach Jack A. McDonald. After



"Big Al"

graduation, he attended Texas Southern University on a football scholarship. The head coach was Alexander Durley. Walker is a veteran of the US Navy where he was trained as a Communications Technician. After an honorable discharge, he returned to Austin and joined the Austin Fire Department where he retired after 30 years of service with the rank of Lieutenant. He was the first African American in the Austin fire Department to work at any other fire station other than Fire Station # 5 became ("The Black Station"), he was promoted to the position of driver in 1967 and the first African American member in the Austin Fire Department honor guard.

He has been married to Marion F. Walker for 48 years. They have two children, daughter, Charmette and son Chris A. Walker (deceased). This family also includes six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. His father, Hugo R. Walker, is deceased and his mother Armene is ninety one years young. He feels they are blessed to have her still with them.

His awards and memberships in numerous organizations are to lengthy to be listed here.

Robey from page 2

Five of Austin's unsung heroes, who have influenced civil rights and education in Austin and state-wide, were given Community Leadership Circle Awards: Dr. Charles Akins, Dr. Audrey L. Mackey, Dr. General Marshall, Dr. Bertha Means and **Edward Roby**. Beverly Kearney, head coach of the university's women's track and field team, was honored with the 2010 Dr. June Brewer Legacy Award for outstanding dedication to her student athletes on and off the field, as well as for her philanthropic work. The award is named after the late Dr. June Brewer, who was among the first five African Americans admitted to The University of Texas at Austin in 1950. "It is very gratifying to me to honor these community leaders, men and women who have been the trailblazers and pioneers to break down barriers for future generations of young people," said Dr. Gregory J. Vincent, the university's vice president of the DDCE. "This year is particularly special as many of the honorees have led the city in education and civil rights — areas that impact how people relate to one another and come together as a community."

Peaks, Yvonne Frazier, Berrilyn Branch and Dorothy Johnson of Yates, while Mary Rodgers, Patricia Prayther, Shirley Rushing and Ruth Millard, were outstanding competitors from Wheatley.

The golf competition included teams from Jack Yates, Phillis Wheatley, Charlton-Pollard of Beaumont and Central of Galveston. Yates won the first team title with 261 points followed by Charleston Pollard with 288 points, Phillis Wheatley was third with 289 and Central of Galveston was fourth with 299 points. Clyde Galley, a 16 year old tenth grader from Yates was the individual scoring champion finishing with a score of 81. George Brown one of Galley's teammates was runner up with a score of 85. The Yates squad was coached by James C. Jones.

Current Life Members



2006

Jack Bellinger
Robert Brown
Ellis Davis, Jr.
Erman Gabriel
Arthur Gillum
Lyde Glosson
Charles Herbert

2007

Charles Brown
Jackie Carr
John Codwell, Jr.
Lennor Davis
Walter E. Day
Donald Goodbeer
James "Bo" Humphery
Ivin N. Jackson
James C. Mayes, Sr.
Stanley R. Mays
King Arthur Prayther
R. Thurman Robins
Edward Roby
Ray Seals

2007 (continued)

William L. Sims
James Wanza
Gene Washington
Franklin D. Wesley, Jr.
Walter Yates, Sr.

2008

Weldon O. Baker
Oliver "Show" Brown
Coger H. Coverson
Jefferson Davis, Jr.
Joseph Melvin Dixon, Sr.
Willie Floyd
Charles Frazier
George Gray
Charles Green
Roland Hayes
L.L. Jackson
Don A. James
Freddie James
R. "Ralph" Johnson
Ed Jones
James Jones, II
Kirby Jones
Joe Leonard, Sr.
Vickie Minor
Michael Mitchell
Homer Norville

2008 (continued)

Marvin Pettway
Dr. Joseph A. Pierce, Jr.
Lewis Ritcherson
Lewis H. Ritcherson, II
Edward G. Robinson
Hensley Sapenter, Jr.
Dr. T. A. Sims
Brannen G. Temple
James A. (Froggie) White
James "Clint" Williams
2009
James Alexander
Roosevelt Alexander
Leon Carr
Kenneth Curl, Jr.
Donald "Mantan" Dickson
Thomas "Bill" Edwards
Albert Fair, Jr.
Leon "Big Hamp" Hamilton
Charles "Tex" Harrison
Dan Haskins
Eddie Hughes
Arnell Stripling Johnson
Ralph Jones
Chauncey King, Sr.
Freddie Maura
Ross E. Lewis

2009 (continued)

Ocell Miller, Jr.
Nicholas "Nick" Overton
Luther C. Robinson
Dave Smith
Robert J. Tapscott
Albert "Big Al" Walker
Horace Young

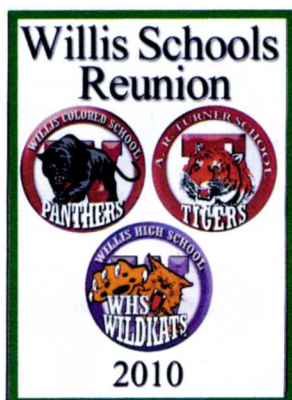
2010

Joe Curtis Baker
Leroy Bookman, Jr.
Leroy Bookman, Sr.
William Brooks, Jr.
Lorenzo Cole
C. H. Collins
Enoch Noble Dixon, Jr.
Cleve L. Freeman Jr.
Charles L. Fisher
Charles L. Garcia
Gentris Hornsby
Edwin Johnson
Johnnie Means
Rodney D. Saveat
John Smith, Jr.
Waylan D. Wallace, Jr.

THANKS TO OUR LIFE MEMBERS
"You are the grease in the wheel."



"Remembering The Past With Pride"
Prairie View Interscholastic League
Coaches Association
4219 Roseneath
Houston, Texas 77021



See You In 2011

**The 2011 Annual Banquet will be held on Saturday July 23, 2011
at 1:30 pm in Fort Worth, Texas at the North-Fossil Radisson Hotel.**