

Leaguer



Briefs and Notes

Calendar of upcoming events

- May 10-11** Golf State Meet - 3A and 5A
- May 11-12** Track and Field State Meet
- May 15** EJH: Last day to hold spring district meets and first day to return materials to contestants
- May 26-28** State Solo and Ensemble Contest
- May 31-June 2** Softball State Tournament
- June 6-9** Baseball State Tournament
- June 12** Legislative Council - Academics, Athletics and Policy
- June 22** TILF scholarship notifications mailed to applicants and principals
- June 22-25** ILPC Summer Workshop
- July 6-7** Capital Conference for academics and EJH
- July 26** Athletics: Last day for summer strength/conditioning programs

IMPORTANT!

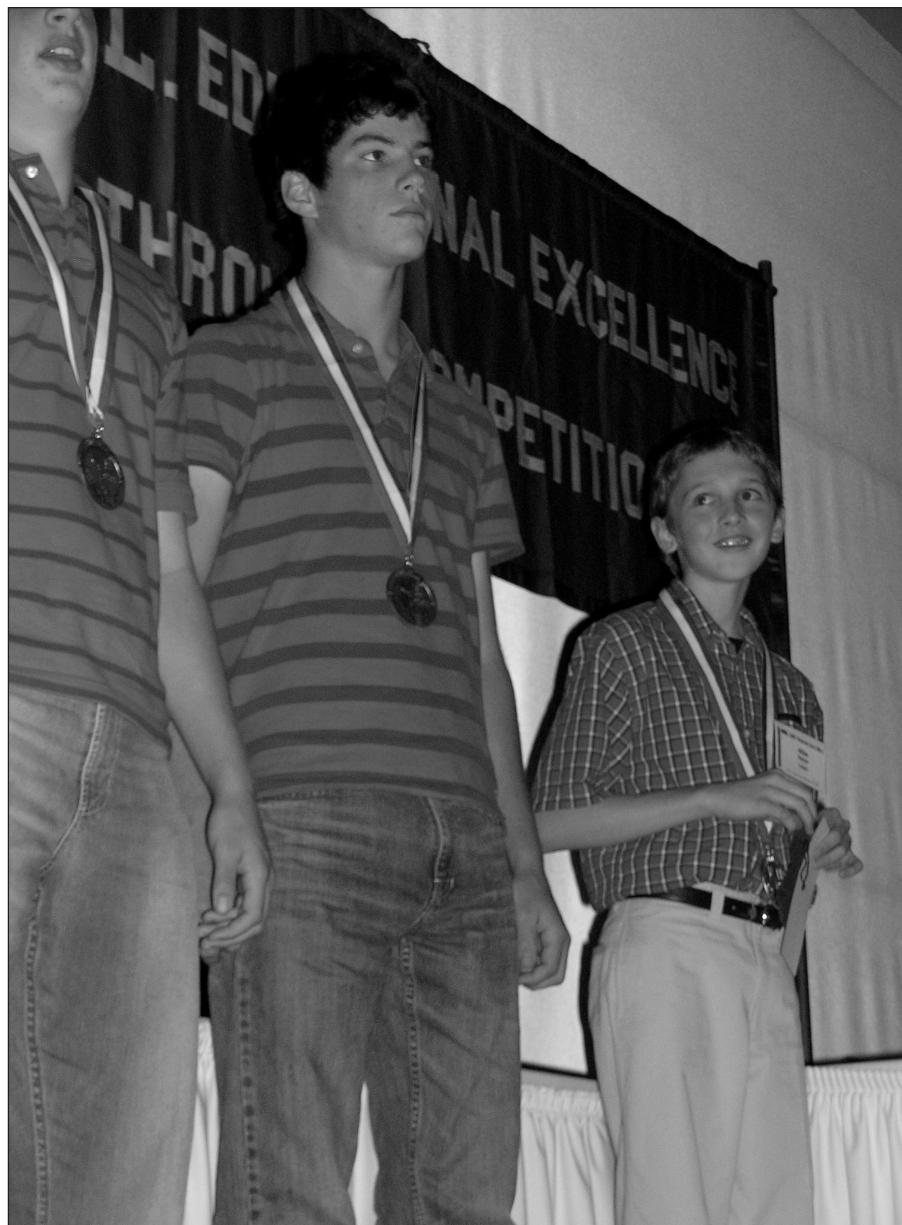
Regional Date Change:

Due to the TAKS test dates, UIL Regional Meet dates have changed for 2007-08. Although the calendar is still tentative, regional dates are now scheduled as follows:

- Academic and OAP regional Meets - April 11-12
- Golf, tennis and track and field regional meets April 14-19

Please check the UIL Web page for the complete 2007-08 calendar.

The UIL web page is:
www.uil.utexas.edu



At the Math Awards Ceremony, Dillon Hanson from Lindsay High School accepts his gold medal. Dillon, who is only a freshman, said he was "shocked" when he realized he had won. He had been preparing for the contest since September. Photo by Jeanne Acton (See more photos, p. 10)

By Amber Groce

Special Contributor

At the Columbia Scholastic Press Association annual Spring Convention at Columbia University in March, Bobby Hawthorne, the former director of academics for University Interscholastic League, received the Charles R. O'Malley Award for Excellence in Teaching.

He is the first Texas recipient of this honor-

ary award.

"Hawthorne played the key support role for journalism teachers and others across the Lone Star State," CSPA Executive Director Ed Sullivan said when presenting the award.

"A generation of Texas student editors and faculty advisers owe him a profound debt of gratitude for his hard work and especially for his dogged perseverance in defending the aca-

A weekend for Champions

Academic State Meet wraps up

More than two thousand high school students converged at the University of Texas campus May 3-5 for the UIL Academic State Meet.

"I thought overall the meet went extremely well," said Academic Director Treva Dayton. "In fact, a lot of people took the time to tell us so."

Dayton said the competition was "absolutely phenomenal" this year.

"The competition in some events was the closest it's ever been with only a slight difference between the first and sixth place," she said.

For the first time in more than a decade, two students received perfect scores in the Spelling Contest.

Academic State Champions are as follows:

- Conference 1A State Champion — Lindsay High School with 263 points
- Conference 2A State Champion — Salado High School with 131 points
- Conference 3A State Champion — Longview Spring Hill High School with 75 points
- Conference 4A State Champion — Friendswood High School with 120 points
- Conference 5A State Champion — Katy Taylor High School with 99 points

For more results, see the web page: uil.utexas.edu.



Former Lady Longhorn Coach Jody Conrath answers questions at the State Feature Writing contest. Photo by Andrea Negri

Hawthorne receives teaching excellence award

demical value of high school journalism in the face of opposition or criticism from legislators, administrators, coaches or aggrieved members of the public," he said.

The Charles R. O'Malley Award recognizes "a sustained record of outstanding teaching" in support of student journalism or student publishing.

See Hawthorne, page 5



Extracurricular activities give us an opportunity to help ... Create exceptional people

By Robert Kanaby

NFHS Executive Director

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UIL Director

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Jeanne Acton,
assistant academic
director

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Consider for a moment what it is that makes people exceptional.

Is it certain character traits such as strength, confidence, integrity, respect, charisma, a sense of humor or intelligence?

The ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle offered the following as exceptional qualities in man: courage, temperance, pride, good temper, friendliness, truthfulness and justice.

And, how do people become exceptional? Are these qualities genetically acquired? Do they depend upon a person's parents and the values taught through experiences at home? Or, are they acquired through other means?

We believe that we can develop the positive characteristics of exceptional people through high school activity programs.

Everyone is born with tremendous potential, and particularly in high school activity programs is one of many ways that they young people of America can develop into contributing citizens. High school activity programs are an American tradition that can teach people fundamental life skills such as teamwork, respect, responsibility, good sportsmanship and integrity, among other positive values and attributes.

At times, it seems that our society often overlooks these positive attributes because of the media attention given to the negative actions of certain athletes, coaches and fans.

High school sports and other activity programs are an American tradition that is entrusted to us. They possess tremendous potential to influence the values of young people and through them, our society. But these things do not happen automatically. In fact, they have probably been taken for granted, lost in the growing list of expectations

for education in this country. Some things should not be taken for granted about activity programs and their ability to mold exceptional people.

First, we are convinced that sports can educate, and that they can educate in the virtues identified by Aristotle.

Because of this, activity programs can become a major contributor to the development of the total individual — the mind, the body and the spirit of the person. But, it doesn't happen by itself anymore.

Every day, another child learns to dribble a basketball, another student learns debate strategies, another high schools student learns a new playing rule, and another coach teaches his or her team patience or integrity. Through lessons learned on the court or on the field, students learn and grow into more well-rounded individuals.

Second, we believe that we are in a tremendous struggle to see that activities are used in this educational framework. If we lose that battle, sport may actually become a detriment to educational athletics, and to our society as a whole.

Third, we believe that we possess the means to change the direction we are in, and reposition these experiences for the betterment of our society and this nation. But, it's not going to happen by itself anymore. In order for activity programs to remain an educational tool, we must guide our young people with patience and passion so that they may grow into individuals of character who we can entrust with the future of this country. We are the educational leaders of this nation and we must take advantage of the positive impact we can have on America's youth.

Learning and common sense mean absolutely nothing without character development. Think about any intelligent person you know who has dealt with problems with alcohol or other ad-

dictions. It doesn't take brains to stay out of trouble; it takes values — that can be developed through participation in activity programs. Consider the following statement made by Theodore Roosevelt:

"To educate a person in mind and not morals is to educate a menace to society," he said.

As a testament to Roosevelt's statement, witness the myriad people in our prison system who are very intelligent individuals — a prime example of acquired intelligence being worthless without character development.

As leaders, we set the standards and place that education-based athletics and activities will occupy for the generations to follow. We are the guardians of highs school activity programs and it is our responsibility to serve in that capacity to the best of our ability. In doing so, we must be certain that our coaches and advisors teach honesty, effort, fairness, sportsmanship, racial harmony, proper work ethic and dedication to purpose, with no end to the list.

Contained within each of you is the ability to inspire, influence and enlighten the youth of America. Each of you knows someone who has had a mentor and has been positively impacted by someone possessing a patient attitude and a genuinely caring spirit. With perseverance you can be that person who makes a tremendous difference in the lives of young people.

Will you have the courage and determination to assume this great responsibility? The success or failure of this challenge will be determined by all of us, and our willingness to put forth the effort to do so. It will require the efforts of exceptional people. It's up to each of you — because that is who you are.

(This article originally appeared in the NFHS Coaches' Quarterly, Spring 2007.)

Leaguer

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Wrapping up the year

With State Meet over, it's time now for Capital Conference



Treva Dayton
Academic Director

As another school year draws to a close, I'm once again amazed at how fast the months flew by. It seems that planning and preparation for one event is never finished before we're wading into the process for another one.

With the Academic State Meet barely behind us, our academic staff is already focused on the upcoming UIL Academic Committee meeting on June 12 and the thousand and one details involved in hosting the Capital Conference, which will take place July 6-7 at UT Austin.

We don't yet know exactly *where* on the UT campus, but I promise, that's one of the details we're working on.

We're facing looming deadlines for editing and revising the academic handbooks and materials for next year, organizing the various committee meetings that take place during the summer, and prioritizing our list of things we'd like to do better the next time around.

If you've emailed or written about a problem that occurred at your district or regional meet, your comments will be considered as we make those decisions.

I know that many of you face the same kind of pressures as you try to juggle all the things you're expected to accomplish before the last bell rings and the seniors take that final walk across the stage or stadium field.

And when you have done all those things, as I trust you will, I hope you enjoy some well deserved 'down' time, and that you also take the time to savor the really positive things that happened throughout the year.

If you and your students were at the State Meet, we hope you enjoyed the experience.

We heard from many people who said they did, and we appreciate them taking the time to do so.

Despite the scheduling and facilities challenges caused by renovations taking place on the UT campus, apparently almost everyone managed to be where they needed to be when they needed to be there.

Even without a trail of breadcrumbs, folks found their way to buildings they had never seen before — and might never see again.

Turns out that math coaches grade just as well in a dance rehearsal hall with mirrored walls as in a classroom, and give the test the same professional scrutiny they always do.

And our truly outstanding contest directors dealt with lighting or microphone malfunctions without missing a beat.

Unfortunately, a few tabulation errors were made, but fortunately, coaches and contestants did an excellent job of using the verification period to rectify those mistakes.

The State Meet, just like district and regional competitions, takes an enormous amount of planning and the hard work of a great many people. We sincerely appreciate all the contributions of our district and regional hosts and their staffs, the contest judges and graders, the people who helped with hospitality, facilities, security, parking and all the other facets of the academic meets. Without a complete — and dedicated — team, these competitions couldn't happen.

But even with the best of planning, unexpected things sometimes happen.

We applaud those of who stepped up to assist when some contest personnel didn't show or just needed help.

We sincerely appreciate those of you who showed patience and professionalism when crises occurred.

And we encourage those of you who have contacted us with concerns to be the first to volunteer as a contest director or assistant next year. Your being on the administrative side of the tournament may alleviate some problem that's occurred, and if not, at least it will give you another perspective and an understanding of the complexity of hosting a meet without a hitch.

Hosting isn't easy, but it's not an impossible task, either.

It just takes time and effort, thoughtful and extensive planning, careful attention to details, a thorough knowledge of the rules and contest procedures, a commitment to providing an equitable contest experience for students, a professional yet caring approach, and a good sense of humor.

It's often fun and funny, especially in hindsight, and truly rewarding when done well.

Capital Conference

Now in its 11th year, the 2007 Capital Conference is a great opportunity to network with colleagues, learn from others and take home a wealth of information.

The conference features some of the state's most outstanding and successful academic coaches

and coordinators, as well as many of the League's state contest directors, and we continue to add new presenters each year.

Registration on or before June 1 costs \$50 per person. There will be a \$20 cancellation fee until June 30, and no refunds for cancellations after. After June 1, the fee is \$75 per person, so it's truly in your best interest to register early.

Registration must be completed online at <http://utdirect.utexas.edu/uilconf>. Coordinators registering all attendees for their school will need to use their UT EID and password. Coaches registering individually will need to obtain an EID and password. Payment by check must be mailed to UIL.

If you pay with a credit card, the printed online receipt must be faxed or mailed to UIL. Make checks payable to The University of Texas at Austin.

Remember, you are not officially registered until the online registration has been completed and payment received.

On-site check-in and registration will begin at noon and end at 1 p.m. on Friday.

You'll need to check in even if pre-registered, to receive your materials and conference tote bag.

We'll offer more than 80 sessions over the two-day conference, running from 1:15–6:00 p.m. on Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, with a break for lunch.

Due to renovations and a shortage of large rooms available at UT, we won't have a keynote address this year, but participants can still earn up to 10 hours of CPE credits.

Workshops will include curriculum ideas for speech coaches, tips for one-act play directors, sessions for coaches in language arts contests, cross-examination debate topic analysis and keys to hosting a successful meet.

Speakers will also address the social studies, current issues & events, computer applications, and math and science contests. One strand of workshops will address preparing for selected elementary and junior high academic and fine arts contests, and coaching ideas for other selected contests.

Specific information regarding workshop titles and times, buildings and rooms will be posted on the UIL Web site when finalized. If you'd like to be a presenter for one of the sessions, please let me know as soon as possible. And if you just want to get a great start on the coming year — we'll see you there!

Have a great summer, and thanks for all you do for kids!

IMPORTANT UPDATE!

Regional dates changed

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2007-08 Prose and Poetry categories

Committee dedicates their time to develop a challenging and educational list



Jana Riggins
Speech Director

As this *Leaguer* goes to press, we're preparing for the climax to an exciting competitive year of UIL academics — State Meet 2007. It's what you and your competitors have worked toward since early August and what an amazing, fun-filled journey it has been!

For many of your students, it will be their last rounds of high school forensic competition and for hard-working coaches, time

to relax at last. But State Meet is also the beginning as we officially release new prose and poetry categories for 2007 – 2008.

Ten of your respected speech colleagues have given much personal time to research and drain every ounce of creativity within themselves in order to design challenging and educational performance categories. They are to be commended for their excellent work.

Coaches are urged to become familiar with the categories by purchasing next year's edition of the *UIL Prose and Poetry Handbook*, which will contain an expanded, in-depth discussion of each category, including acceptable documentation. The handbook is listed on the Academic Study Material Order Form posted online and in the Academic Coordinator's Manual.

I also encourage you to attend this summer's Capital Conference July 6-7 where members of the state advisory committee will be presenting valuable insight into the literary areas and resource ideas. SuperConferences will be an opportunity for your students to discover how to approach the category requirements, so plan now to bring them to one of the four conferences next fall.

I wouldn't want you to relax too long, so here's to some fun summer reading!

Prose and Poetry Categories 2007-2008

**Rules as published in the UIL C&CR take precedence over all other printed materials.*

Prose

Category A: Exploring the Southern Experience

The contestant shall perform a selection from a printed, published work written in prose by a single author. The selection should explore the experiences that depict the culture, heritage, struggle, triumph or mystique of life in the South. In addition to the literary work being about the South, the author shall be born in one of the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, or West Virginia. Only a prose work by an author born in one of the 12 states listed is acceptable. The selection may be fiction or non-fiction, but may not include speeches, one-person theatre or theatrical



Sammy Green, Robert Shepard, Phyllis Tucker, Ann Shofner and Ron Dodson study coaches' submissions for categories.

monologues. Works by anonymous authors are not permissible. The author used in this category shall not be used in Category B of prose.

Documentation:

In order to meet category restrictions, the contestant shall provide proof their selection is published. Examples of acceptable proof include the original published source or a photocopy of the Library of Congress cataloging information.

If the selection is drawn from a literary collection, the contestant must supply the original source or a photocopy of the table of contents that designates the title of the book, as well as proof that the specific selection is included in that book, or a printout from an online source proving the selection is included in the published collection.

For Category A, the contestant shall also provide documentation that the writer was born in one of the following states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, or West Virginia. Examples of acceptable documentation include the original or photocopy of an encyclopedia or reference book, or other published biographical information that verifies the author's place of birth. Also acceptable is correspondence from the author or publisher, or a published newspaper, magazine article or book jacket that verifies the author's place of birth.

If an online data service is used for documentation, contestants should print the home page/main index page of the site from which the documentation was retrieved.

Printouts of the documentation and the home page should include the URL of the Web site. The author in this category shall not be used in Category B of prose. See the *UIL Prose and Poetry Handbook* and the official UIL Web site for acceptable and unacceptable online documentation.

Category B: Exploring Prose Fiction

The contestant shall perform a single selection from a printed, published piece of prose fiction. The literary work may be written by a single author or be a collaborative work by two or more authors. A literary work by an anonymous author is permissible in this category. The goal of this category is for the student to explore the many diverse realms of prose fiction. The selection for this category may include but is not limited to short stories, novels, science fiction, fantasy, or folklore. The author used in this category shall not be used in Category A of prose.

Documentation:

In order to meet category restrictions, the contestant shall provide proof their selection is published. Examples of acceptable proof include: the original published source or a photocopy of the Library of Congress cataloging information from its source or from the Library of Congress Web site.

If the selection is drawn from a literary collection, the contestant must supply the original source or a photocopy of the table of contents that designates the title of the book

See Categories, page 9

Just a few final thoughts ...

Keynote speaker at ILPC convention reinforces importance of writing



Jeanne Acton
Journalism Director

It's Monday, April 23. The day after the ILPC convention.

My voice is scratchy. My feet are achy. And the bags under my eyes are just not attractive.

Despite all that, though, I am excited. It might be hard to see the excitement because my eyes are bloodshot.

But I am.

I am jumping up and down in my head. My feet just can't do it today.

It was a great convention — great kids, great advisers, great speakers and even one great rubber chicken.

And here's the kicker. I didn't get one single complaint. Not one. Not even something little like there's no toilet paper. (I guess that's not little if you are the one in the stall, though.)

So I am happy.

A little tired, but happy.

I was particularly happy with the keynote.

I wasn't lucky enough to hear his entire speech, but what I heard I enjoyed.

In fact, Robert Wilonsky said one statement that I would like to turn into a T-shirt, bumper sticker, button or maybe even the theme to this column.

Towards the end of his talk, Robert said, "You can do anything if you can write."

I love that quote.

Robert is absolutely correct. If you can write, you can do anything.

Wouldn't it be nice if every student knew this, if they really understood the importance of writing? Wouldn't your jobs be so much easier?

Instead, you spend a good portion of every day pounding this idea into students' heads. Maybe if students looked at writing the way they look at talking on the telephone. I guess I should say

cell phone so I don't date myself.

But really, good writing is like talking on the phone with a friend. You tell a story. You make a point. You let go of some emotions. I sometimes wonder if we told students to record an important phone conversation with a friend if we could help them understand writing a bit more.

When my best friend calls and tells me about the latest gossip, I don't just want part of the story. I want the whole thing. I want to know all of the players, all of the details, all of reactions.

That's what I wish our students could understand about writing. We want the whole thing — the whole human story.

I also wish students understood the power of writing.

Lives are changed by stories we write. Look at the impact of the stories about Virginia Tech. Look at the impact of stories about the Iraq war. Writing makes a difference in everyone's life.

UIL State Meet

A tail or wings.

Now I will never know which she would prefer to have.

At the UIL State Feature Writing Contest, Jody Conradt, who coached the Lady Longhorns for 31 years, was the featured speaker.

At the beginning of the contest, she told the roomful of anxious journalists that they could ask her anything. She was prepared — even for the weird questions.

In fact, just a few weeks prior to the contest, when she was at an elementary school, one little student asked her if she would prefer to have a tail or wings.

The students laughed when Coach Conradt told the story. But not a single one of them bothered to ask how she answered that question.

The students did ask other great questions, and their feature stories were quite impressive. But I am still in the dark to one question I wanted her to answer most.

A tail or wings?

And what a lead that could have made.

The Feature Writing Contest at State is an unusual beast. It is different from every other contest that we offer. At invitational meets, at district meets, at regional meets, students get a feature prompt and write a story from that paper.

At State, we shake things up. Instead of giving them a piece of paper, we give them a person. A real live person that they have to interview. And then write a story. Just a little different.

Each year, I get call from panicked advisers wondering how to tackle this new beast. I tell all of them the same thing. Tell your students to take good notes and ask good questions.

It's all about the quotes and the questions.

What I haven't been telling students and advisers is that I think it's okay to mention the state meet at the contest.

For instance, for this feature on Jody Conradt, I think your nut graph (following your powerful lead) could have looked something like this:

Coach Conradt spoke about her retirement and highlights of her career to 60 high school journalists at the UIL State Feature Writing Contest Thursday, May 3.

This nut graph would give a writer a real direction. That is what seemed to be missing in so many stories.

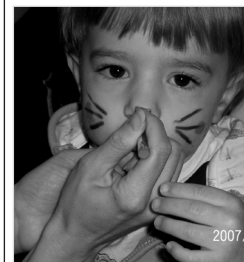
I don't think, by any means, this was a must for your story, but I think it's absolutely okay to mention in the story that this is taking place at the State meet.

Why not? It's the truth.

Getting the nut graph often is the hardest part for some students. But without it, students tend to just wander through different tangents rather tell one story.

So, next year, when you take your students to State, remind them to get good quotes, ask good questions and tell them a strong nut graph is a definite must.

And if the speaker happens to talk about tails or wings, please for my sake, ask them which one they would prefer.



The boys

It's been a great year with two little wild boys. Both are doing great. Joey is crawling all over the place, and Charlie is definitely a "big boy" even though he swears he never wants to be potty-trained. Above Joey is showing off a hip hat from one of his cousin's stuffed animals, and Charlie is transforming into the Easter Bunny.

The Summer

Looking for something fun this summer? How about the ILPC Summer Workshop June 22-25. Online registration ends June 12. The link for registration is <http://www.uil.utexas.edu/academics/journalism/>. If you have questions or need information, give us a call (512) 471-5883 or send us an email jeacton@mail.utexas.edu.

Hawthorne awarded CSPA's highest honor for teaching excellence

continued from page 1

It is the CSPA's highest accolade in support of the core function of teaching as related to student-practiced journalism.

"At the insistence of one or two mentors, I started teaching workshops, conventions and such," Hawthorne said. "I was terrible at first, but in time, I relaxed, watched the pros, took notes, made some dumb mistakes, plugged away and improved."

For 20 years, he directed the Interscholastic League Press Conference, Texas' student press association.

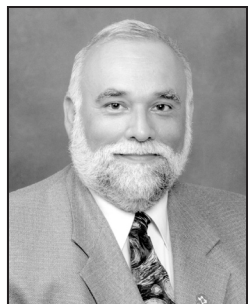
Hawthorne teaches at journalism workshops, conventions and seminars nationwide.

Most journalism advisers and students know Bobby Hawthorne as the author of "The Radical Write."

Along with the Charles R. O'Malley Award, he has also received the Columbia Scholastic

Press Association's Gold Key and James Paschal awards, the National Scholastic Press Association's Pioneer Award, the Journalism Education Association's Medal of Merit and the Interscholastic League Press Conference's Edith Fox King Award, given for distinguished service to Texas scholastic journalism. In 1991, he was named a lifetime member by the Texas Association of Journalism Educators, and in 2000 received TAJE's Trailblazer Award.

Changes on the horizon for 2007-08



Luis Muñoz
One Act Play Director

We hope you had a positive experience in this year's OAP contest. Work on 2007-2008 is well underway and it'll be full of changes. The *Handbook for One-Act Play* has been revised and the 17th edition

will be full of changes. My thanks to the members of the UIL Advisory Committee for spending two days at the League office going through every word. Make sure you order your copy for this fall.

A reminder that the 3A, 4A and 5A OAP State Meet will be held at the Hays ISD Performing Arts Center in Buda, Texas. The "tentative" schedule has 3A on Tuesday, 4A on Wednesday and 5A on Thursday. A 2A and 1A are tentatively scheduled for Friday and Saturday at the McCullough Theatre as usual. Things may change.

The 81st Annual State OAP Meet has come and gone.

Theatre in Texas was well represented over the three days. The champions have been selected and we move on to planning for 2008.

The results and photos are posted in this *Leaguer*.

I'd like to thank adjudicators Kelly Russell, Rick Garcia, David Stevens, Paula Rodriguez and Terry Lewis for a great job. I'd also like to thank Royal Brantley, TETA Past-President, and Kenneth Dingleline, Samuel French, Inc., for helping with the awards assembly. I'm lucky to have inherited a well-oiled machine and a great staff to work with.

My special, special thanks to contest managers Gene Dickey (3A, 4A & 5A) and David Stevens (1A & 2A) for contributing their valuable time to be a part of this experience. To the Teachers Honor Crew, Honor Crew, and UT students, a big THANK YOU!

Theatrical Design

Critic Judge James Kemmerling, West Texas A&M University, selected winners in the four categories and presented an excellent critique.

It was great to see our future designers receive medals and plaques on the State Meet stage. Next year's title for the Theatrical Design Contest is *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare.

We will be conducting several workshops at the Capitol Conference and at the Student Activity Conferences.

Summer Vacation

Summer vacation is a great time to sharpen your directing schools at several theatre workshops throughout the state.

Some of the workshops are strictly for students while others provide teacher components. Contact the theatre departments at A&M – Corpus Christi, Trinity Valley College, The University of Texas at Austin, and West Texas A&M for info on their workshops.

My apologies to any I may have left off the list.

Let us know if there are other workshops that we should be aware of. The League will be hosting the Capitol Conference July 6 and 7.

Join us in Austin for workshops designed to improve your directing and to prepare for the 2007-2008 Theatrical Design Contest.

Sam Houston State University will serve as host for TETA's Summer Workshop. If you haven't attended one of these, you're missing out. They're fun, relaxing and educational. Check out the TETA Web site for more info: www.tetatx.com

Play Readings, Planning Meetings, and Enrollment Cards

The League's reading committee will begin reading scripts and evaluating set requests on Aug. 1.

Make sure that you follow all of the instructions (see page 28 of the 16th edition of the *Handbook*).

We will be returning anything that is submitted incorrectly and will require an additional reading fee to resubmit.

Your district planning meeting may be
See Summer, next page

Conference OAP Champions



One Act Play Conference Champions

From top left:
Lindsay HS - 1A,
Chapel Hill HS, Mt Pleasant - 2A, Van HS - 3A, Friendswood HS - 4A, Temple HS - 5A

A year's end checklist

Come join us at UT- Austin for the Capital Conference in July



David Trussell
Elem/JH Director

As the current academic year winds down, we're already planning for next year, and we know that you are, too. Toward that end, there are a number of important items you'll want to keep in mind.

First is Capital Conference. This event has grown steadily over the past several years, and we anticipate again welcoming several hundred participants, including high school and elementary/junior high academic coordinators, as well as speech and debate coaches and theatre directors. The conference will take place July 6-7 on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin. Registration information is available on the UIL Web site.

This year's conference will again feature a full slate of sessions for elementary/junior high academic coordinators.

We'll cover the ins and outs of the different EJH contests, as well tips to help you build a successful program, host a successful district meet, and more. Presenters will include some of the state's most outstanding academic coaches and coordinators, as well as UIL consultants, test writers and staff.

You can also earn up to 10 hours of CPE credit — certificates will be available for all attendees. If you're planning to attend the conference and are interested in presenting a session, please feel free to drop me an e-mail or give me a call.

In particular, I'm looking to add sessions that are geared more specifically to veteran coordinators and coaches.

So I hope you will add Capital Conference registration to your end-of-school to-do list, but I know there are other items on your agenda as well as you begin laying the groundwork for next school year.

Several people have called with questions about possible changes in next year's EJH calendar due to the state-mandated late August start for the new school year.

There have been no changes to the dates for

competition. Fall/winter district meets will continue to be Dec. 1 through Jan. 31, and spring district meets will be Feb. 1 through May 15.

However, we may make some adjustments to the due dates for district organization and materials requisition forms — updates will be posted on the EJH page of the UIL Web site.

Preparing budgets is on everyone's mind at this time of year, so there are a few important items to keep in mind in terms of materials.

First, remember that 2007-08 will be the beginning of a new two-year cycle for the Art contest, so we will have a new list of paintings and a new edition of Art Smart.

Look for the new official list to be posted on the Web by early June.

The new list will again feature several works that are on display in museums throughout Texas, affording an excellent opportunity for students to go and see in person some of the works they are studying.

For Maps, Graphs & Charts, our representatives at Nystrom have indicated that there is indeed a new edition of the Nystrom Desk Atlas in the works.

This edition, due to be released this summer, will contain significant changes.

However, it's not necessary to purchase new atlases right away. We will have a transition period of at least two school years during which we will ensure that all atlas questions can be answered using either the new or previous edition.

So if you have atlases that are 2003 copyright or newer, you can continue to use those without a problem.

If you are planning to purchase new atlases, I would recommend waiting a couple of months for the new edition to be released.

We will continue to use the 2004 edition of the Merriam Webster Intermediate Dictionary as the official source for the Dictionary Skills contest. Test writers will be working with the current edition only — if your dictionaries are copyright 2004 or newer, you have the current edition.

It's also important to remember that while these are the official sources, the contest rules for both Maps, Graphs & Charts and Dictionary Skills stipulate that contestants may use any atlas or dictionary in competition.

Working with the official sources provides an advantage, but not having the official sources is not an automatic barrier to participation and success.

Music Memory and Spelling are both updated every year, so they will have new lists for 2007-08.

The new Music Memory official list will be posted on the Web site by the end of May. New Spelling booklets will be available on the new Study Materials order form, which will also be posted on the Web very soon.

The Social Studies contest will continue to evolve next school year.

In addition to designating new primary source documents, for 2007-08 we will also be releasing a study guide that will outline the topics to be covered on the year's tests.

One of the major concerns about Social Studies since its inception has been its breadth of potential content.

The new study guide plus the continued use of primary source documents should serve to narrow that scope and make for more effective contest preparation.

Also, we may have some additional third party vendors come on board with Social Studies study materials for next year.

So if you've been thinking about adding Social Studies to your UIL program but have been hesitant because of questions about test content and availability of materials, 2007-08 might be a perfect starting point for you.

A final item I hope will be on your end-of-year agenda is registration for next school year.

School districts with a UIL member high school do not have to pay separate membership fees for their elementary and junior high campuses; however, each EJH campus that wishes to participate must register with UIL each year. The online registration form for 2007-08 will be available by the time you read this — check out the EJH page of the UIL Web site.

It's been a great year for the elementary/junior high program, with more schools participating than ever before, and we have another exciting year to look forward to in 2007-08. So rest up and enjoy your summer break! August (the last week of it anyway) will be here before we know it....

Official Sources for 2007-08

- Art – Art Smart Bulletin, new for 2007-08 and 2008-09
- Dictionary Skills – Merriam Webster Intermediate Dictionary, 2004 copyright or newer
- Maps, Graphs & Charts – Nystrom Desk Atlas, 2003 copyright or newer (refer to information at left regarding a new edition)
- Music Memory – New official list to be posted on the Web
- Social Studies – New primary source documents to be posted on the Web
- Spelling – A+ Spelling booklet, new for 2007-08

Summer months offer several opportunities for professional growth

from page 6
scheduled starting Aug. 15.

This is the only time you can draw for zones and performance order. Critic judges cannot commit to a contract until after that time. During that meeting you should ask that the contest manager

for your zones and districts attend the Contest Management Workshop at TETA's Theatrefest in Dallas. More and specific info will be mailed to our member schools later in the year but it'd be a good idea to mark Jan. 26 on your calendar. The Contest Management Workshop is scheduled

for Saturday morning.

The Enrollment Cards will be mailed out this summer and must be postmarked, sent by courier or hand-delivered by Oct. 1 to meet entry deadlines. Late entries will require approval from the District Executive Committee.

A time for appreciation

Educators give their time to finalize Prescribed Music List



Richard Floyd
Director of Music

The 2007-2008 school term will mark the beginning of a new four-year cycle for the UIL Prescribed Music List (PML). This publication continues to be internationally recognized as one of the most comprehensive repertoire lists of its kind in existence. Countless

hours have been invested in the development of the newest edition of the list that is soon to be released.

At present, sheet music dealers are carefully reviewing an advance copy of the PML to make sure that listings are as accurate and up-to-date as possible. It goes without saying that with over 18,000 titles in the database the task of checking composers, publishers and availability is an overwhelming one.

Once dealers have completed this undertaking, the PML will go through one final review in the UIL office and then the finished product will be released to the general public. The current schedule calls for the PML to be online and accessible through both the UIL Web site and www.uilforms.com prior to the July TBA/TODA/TCDA meetings in San Antonio. Hard copies also will be available through the UIL office by the beginning of the school year.

The members of these committees also developed strategies and provided oversight for the review and revision of all solo and ensemble lists.

It should be obvious that the preparation of this list requires the hard work and dedication of innumerable Texas music educators, university studio professors and private music teachers. These professionals give their time abundantly, freely and without compensation to see that our students have the most comprehensive repertoire list possible for their continued music education and artistic enrichment.

Special acknowledgement is in order for the members of the core committees charged with the overall task of revising the concert band, choir and orchestra lists. The members of these committees also developed strategies and provided oversight for the review and revision of all solo and ensemble lists. The 17 music educators listed below took significant blocks of time out of their busy schedules and met on multiple occasions to carefully peruse the thousands of titles that were submitted for their consideration. No one can comprehend or understand the time

and intellectual commitment required to fulfill these obligations unless he or she has actually served on this committee in the past. We are all indebted to these dedicated professionals for the selfless contributions they have made to the PML revision process.

Members of the Band Revision Committee are as follows: Danny Prado (Chair), Grapevine; Mike Brashear, Richardson; Mike Brown, Flower Mound; Greg Countryman, Sugar Land; Dennis Fisher, Denton; Diane Gorzycki, Austin; and Richard Lovelace, New Boston. In addition Asa Burke, Grapevine joined the committee during the revision process due to the illness of another committee member.

Members of the Vocal List Revision Committee were: Jeff Rice (Chair), Waco; Denise Eaton, Spring; Dianna Jarvis, Bush San Antonio; Dinah Menger, Arlington; and Leslie Tanner, McAllen.

The Orchestra List Revision Committee consisted of: James Edwards (Chair), Austin; Dixie Addington, Houston; Kay Vanlandingham, Round Rock; Chris Reidlinger, Kingwood; and Jeff Turner, Plano.

As teachers, we will enjoy a wonderful resource, and our students will have the opportunity to experience significant musical growth because of the commitment of these colleagues. We are in their debt. If you see any of these ladies and gentlemen at the summer music meetings or during the coming year please take a moment to thank them for their tireless efforts on our behalf.

Officer reflects on year and goals of adjudication

David L. Lambert

TMAA President Elect

As I conclude my term as Concert Band Vice President for TMAA, I must say that I really have enjoyed the past four years and every workshop that I have had the honor to facilitate. It has been a wonderful experience!

What a wealth of knowledge we have to draw upon when selecting adjudicators for our events. I hope that I have been able to make each of you who attended those workshops think more about what you do and how the rating that is given to the participants is determined.

That has been the whole point ... to make us think about how we do what we do as adjudicators.

My goal was to encourage us to examine what our perception of average might be. It is often easier to think only in terms of division ratings as

Excellent is an outstanding performance, but with minor flaws, and Superior should be as close to "flawless" as one can expect from the performers in their classification.

numerical, forgetting about the terminology that accompanies the division rating—superior, excellent, average, etc. and what truly defines each.

When thought is given to the verbiage that accompanies the numerical rating, a more accurate description of a performance will probably

be given. Average is not "bad," and teachers need to be encouraged to stop perceiving it as such. It is in the middle of our rating system. It is what adjudicators should expect every organization in that category of participants to be able to accomplish.

Excellent is an *outstanding* performance, but with minor flaws, and Superior should be as close to "flawless" as one can expect from the performers in their classification.

We need to continue to encourage teachers to avoid placing too much status on the trophy and more emphasis to the process and the improvements that students make from year to year.

If rating definitions are utilized appropriately, organizations who receive the superior and excellent ratings should truly have a sense of accomplishment.

See Adjudication, p. 11

TMAA
Constructive
Comments
Texas Music
Adjudicators Association

ADDRESS TMAA CORRESPONDENCE TO:

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Executive Secretary
Texas Music
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410 Coronado Dr.
Kerrville, TX 78028
830/792-5224
Fax: 830/792-5917
(see article page 9)

Prose and Poetry categories listed

from page 4

and proof the specific selection is included in that book, or a printout from an online source proving the selection is included in the published collection.

For Category B, the contestant also shall provide published documentation that the selection is classified as fiction. Verification may consist of one of the following: Library of Congress or Dewey Decimal classification systems that designate the selection as fiction; other published sources such as *The New York Times* fiction bestseller list; or a published source that designates the selection as one of the approved literary forms for this category.

Approved online sources may also be used for documentation purposes. If an online source is used for documentation, contestants should print the home page/main index page of the site from which the documentation was retrieved. Printouts of the documentation and the home page should include the URL of the Web site. See the *UIL Prose and Poetry Interpretation Handbook* and the UIL Web site for acceptable and unacceptable online documentation.

Poetry

Category A: Exploring Excellence in Poetry

The student shall perform a published poem, or excerpts of poems, written by an award-winning poet. All poems or excerpts of poems read shall be written by a single poet. Works by anonymous poets are not acceptable. Woven programs are prohibited in Category A. The poet used in this category shall not be used in Category B of poetry.

The poet selected for this category shall be included on one of the following approved lists:

- Pulitzer Prize for Poetry
- National Book Award for Poetry
- PEN Voelcker Award for Poetry
- PEN Joyce Osterwell Award for Poetry
- PEN Beyond Margins Award
- Pushcart Prize for Poetry
- Los Angeles Times Book Prize for Poetry
- Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry
- Cave Canem Poet Winners
- First Book Awards for Poetry from the Native Writers Circle of the Americas
- Academy Fellowship
- Frost Medal for Distinguished Achievement
- Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award
- Kingsley Tufts Discovery Award
- National Book Critics Circle Awards
- Lenore Marshall Prize
- Witter Bynner Poetry Prize

No other award lists will be accepted. Any published poem by the award-winning poet may be used.

Documentation:

In order to meet category restrictions, the contestant



Danny Stottlemire, M'Liss Hindman, Lois Davis, Aimee Kasprzyk and Shawn Duthie research a poetry award list.

shall provide proof their selection is published in hard copy. Examples of acceptable proof include the original published source or a photocopy of the Library of Congress cataloguing information.

If the selection is drawn from a literary collection, the contestant must supply the original source or a photocopy of the table of contents that designates the title of the book and proof the specific selection is included in that book, or an online printout proving the selection is included in the published collection.

For Category A, the contestant also shall provide published proof that the poet is listed as an award recipient on one of the approved award lists.

If an online data service is used for documentation, contestants should print the home page/main index page of the site from which the documentation was retrieved. Printouts of the documentation and the home page should include the URL of the Web sites.

See the latest *UIL Prose and Poetry Interpretation Handbook* and the UIL Web site for detailed information about acceptable documentation.

Category B: Exploring Poetry

The contestant shall perform published poetry. In this category, the contestant shall select one of the following options for performance: 1) perform a single poem or excerpt of a poem by one poet; 2) perform a thematic collection of up to six poems by one or more poets.

The thematic collection may be woven or it may incorporate verbal transitions without weaving. The introduction and/or transitional material should be used to help the audience identify the theme and connection of the poetry.

If the program is woven, it must be stated in the introduction. The poet(s) used in this category shall not be used in Category A of poetry.

The goal of this category is to explore poetic forms that may include, but are not limited to the following: classical, slam, beat, narrative, blank verse, lyrical, and free verse. The poets used in this category may not be used in Category A. Works by anonymous poets are permissible in this category only. The contestant and/or coach should refer to the current *UIL Prose and Poetry Handbook* in regards to weaving of poetry.

Documentation:

In order to meet category restrictions, the contestant shall provide proof their selection is published in hard copy.

Examples of acceptable proof include the original published source or a photocopy of the Library of Congress cataloguing information.

If the selection is drawn from a literary collection, the contestant must supply the original source or a photocopy of the table of contents that designates the title of the book and proof the specific selection is included in that book, or an online printout proving the selection is included in the published collection.

If an online data service is used for documentation, contestants should print the home page/main index page of the site from which the documentation was retrieved. Printouts of the documentation and the home page should include the URL of the Web sites.

See the latest *UIL Prose and Poetry Interpretation Handbook* and the UIL Web site for detailed information about acceptable documentation.

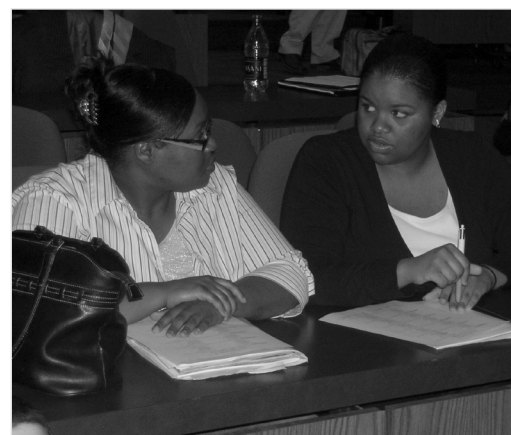
Special thanks to the hard-working state advisory committee: Lois Davis, Brazosport; Ron Dodson, Austin; Shawn Duthie, Holliday; Sammy Green, Spring; Aimee Kasprzyk, Rice; Robert Shepard, Carrollton; Ann Shofner, Amarillo; Danny Stottlemire, Seminole; Phyllis Tucker, Denton and M'Liss Hindman, UIL oral interpretation consultant from Tyler Junior College.

A weekend for Champions

Math contest director Larry White hugs Jeanell Cole who coached the 3A math champion Caleb Joiner from Bridgeport. Cole, who coaches number sense, calculator and mathematics, wears her state championship pins in the shape of a heart on her chest. She has coached 53 State champions. "I've always said, when my pins and my age get to be the same, I'm going to retire," she joked. "I'm getting close."



(Above) Nick Ramirez from Ropes High School fills out his contestant information sheet before competing in the Science Contest. (Right) As they wait for their speech contests to begin, Robey Holland from Ennis and Brian Wilson from Lake Travis discuss stories in the newspaper. The students did not know each other before coming the State Meet. "You make friends quickly at UIL," Holland said.



(Above) Taylor Stakes, from Churchill High School and his coach Kandi King wait with their tubs to enter the Thompson Conference Center. King said the two had been waiting in the line and light drizzle for about 30 minutes. "We got here early," she said. "I know what the line is like." Stakes competed in persuasive speaking. (Left) Brooke Poole from Alto High School waits with her mother, Baykay, for the poetry interpretation meeting to begin. She performed Pocahontas.

Photos by Jeanne Acton

Lone Star Cup updates

Current standings as of the April 20, 2007 update for the UIL and Texas Dodge Dealers' Lone Star Cup are posted on the UIL Web site.

The UIL and Texas Dodge Dealers will again present the award, honoring the best overall athletic and academic programs in Texas for the 2006-2007 school year.

Now in its 10th year, the Lone Star Cup is awarded to high schools that accumulate the most points based on their team performance in academic and athletic district and state championships. Point standings updates are released throughout the school year on the UIL Web site and the *High School Spotlight* on Fox Sports Net, and official final results are announced by July 2.

One school in each of the five UIL classifications (5A, 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A) will claim the coveted Cup. High schools accumulate points based on their team performance in district and state championships. The winning schools in each classification will receive the Lone Star Cup trophy and a \$1,000 award, also presented by the Texas Dodge Dealers.

The next update will be posted on May 25, 2007. Current Lone Star Cup standings, which include marching band, team tennis, cross country, volleyball, football, swimming and diving, wrestling, basketball and soccer are as follows:

5A	
1. Humble Kingwood	70
2. Austin Westlake	68
Plano West	68
4. Lewisville Marcus	64
5. Southlake Carroll	62
6. Houston Cypress Fairbanks	52
7. San Antonio Churchill	51
8. Conroe the Woodlands	50
9. Allen	46
Amarillo	46
Katy Cinco Ranch	46
San Antonio Reagan	46

4A	
1. Dallas Highland Park	62
2. Friendswood	52
3. Wichita Falls Rider	51
4. Richardson Pearce	44
5. Brenham	42
Canyon Randall	42
7. Frisco	38
8. Cedar Park Vista Ridge	36
Corpus Christi Flour Bluff	36

Rosenberg Lamar Consolidated	36
Waco Midway	36

3A	
1. Canyon	66
2. Abilene Wylie	46
3. Wimberley	44
4. Hidalgo	36
5. Argyle	34
Texarkana Liberty-Eylau	34
7. Decatur	32
Liberty Hill	32
9. Hondo	30
Kennedale	30
Monahans	30
Wills Point	30

2A	
1. Poth	46
2. Shallowater	44
3. Wall	38
4. Tatum	34
5. Ballinger	26
Holliday	26
Wallis Brazos	26
8. Comfort	24
Lexington	24
New Boston	24

1A	
1. Nazareth	48
2. Thorndale	42
Windthorst	42
4. Lindsay	38
Sundown	38
6. Garden City	36
New Deal	36
8. D'Hanis	30
Martin's Mill	30
10. Blum	28
Cayuga	28
Lovelady	28
Meadow	28

Adjudication reflections

from page 8

When determining the rating, two factors should always be considered: frequency of error and recovery from error.

For instance, if there are minor tuning problems that rarely occur and students recover quickly, it probably should not be a major factor in determining the rating.

If the same problem consistently occurs, it probably should. Errors will occur in every live performance.

We, as adjudicators, should not get overly concerned with *specific* performance errors such as what happened at rehearsal letter D or measure 25, but rather shift the focus of attention to how the students can improve their overall musical abilities.

The number of errors, how often they occur, and the students' ability to recover should be what determine the rating we award to a performance. I still contend that a superior performance should be one that is fun to hear. If it is not, it probably is not worthy of the superior rating.

Critiques should be written that address how the students perform in the categories of tone, technique and musicianship.

The UIL adjudication sheet is designed to address those three areas. The three boxes on the adjudication sheet do not state "selection one," "selection two" and "selection three." They state "tone," "technique" and "musicianship."

Critiques should address how problems in these three broad areas can be corrected and future performances improved. It is easy to tell a group what is wrong with a performance, but information must also be given as to how the group can improve their next concert, not just the three selections performed at a contest.

Compliment those aspects of the performance that are clearly done well and give suggestions that will help the students do a better job with those that are not.

The role of every adjudicator should be to help student musicians improve and be better prepared when the *next* piece of music is set before them.

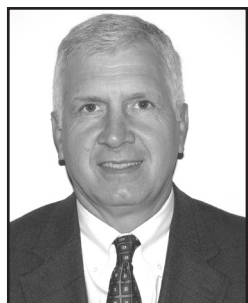
All vocal and instrumental adjudicators are to be commended on the job each has done over the years to make the musical organizations in our state some of the best in the country.

Your dedication and efforts in this regard are appreciated by the directors and students whom you serve.

It has been a pleasure to serve this organization as Concert Band Vice President. I look forward to serving as your President-Elect as our organization continues to grow and improve as it has done with each passing year.

A question of alignment

Policy Committee investigates the possibility of splitting district conferences for football



Charles Breithaupt
Athletic Director

The standing committees of the UIL Legislative Council will convene in Austin in early June. One of the possible proposals they could consider involves a major change in the biennial reclassification and realignment process.

Following the release of the 2006-2008 alignment in February of 2006, the UIL staff discussed the possibility of this potential change with the Policy Committee. One of the major issues that faced the Policy Committee was how to deal with situations when the smallest schools in a conference are grouped with some of the largest schools in a conference.

Current policy dictates that schools within a conference are grouped geographically rather than by size.

The proposed change could conceivably be called a split conference alignment for football. This plan would align football teams in districts that are different than for other team activities.

This plan has already been established for six-man football schools. In discussing

this proposal last year the UIL staff was cautious in saying that more research and study needed to be done before the plan could be considered for other conferences. Issues regarding travel and equity are key components of any realignment proposal and must be carefully reviewed.

The purpose of the proposed plan is to create better equity in numbers in a sport where numbers have proven to be instrumental to success. How does this create equity? Dividing each conference into two divisions for district play gives smaller football schools within each conference a better chance to compete for district honors.

Since the UIL crowns 12 divisional champions in football in six conferences (six-man football plus 1A through 5A), the major premise of the plan is to divide each of the conferences into two divisions. The larger half of each conference would be grouped into 16 districts – thus comprising Division I. The smaller half of the conference would comprise 16 districts making up Division II.

The proposal would retain the present five-conference alignment, plus the six-man football alignment. Twelve division champions would again be crowned. The major difference is that schools would be competing in district play with only those schools in their division.

Strong argument can be made that the

size of a school has a strong correlation to success in football.

Football is a game that necessitates depth in numbers. Schools at the lower end of enrollment in each conference fare quite well in all team activities except football. Schools with lower enrollments have long argued they are at a disadvantage in football.

The basic components of the plan:

- Each conference would be divided into two divisions by size. Example: If conference 5A had 240 schools, the largest 120 schools would be grouped into Division I and the smallest 120 would be grouped into Division II.

- Each division would then be grouped into 16 districts with approximately six to eight schools in each district.

- The same number of teams would advance to the playoffs as currently advance. Example: Conference 5A advances four teams, while all other conferences (with the exception of six-man) advance three teams.

- All state championship games would culminate after a six-week playoff schedule. Conferences with three teams advancing would have the district champion with a bye for the first round.

- All schools would be in the same conference for all activities.

Advantages:

- Provides more clarity and less confusion regarding who is Division I and who is Division II.

- Clearly defines divisions prior to the season rather than at the end of district play.

- Creates more equity in regards to school enrollment.

- Eliminates the opportunity of having two schools with the largest enrollments in the state advancing to the playoffs in opposite brackets.

- Eliminates having some of the smallest schools in a conference grouped with the largest schools in a conference.

Disadvantages:

- Additional travel could be created.
- Other team sport activities could feel slighted.

- Creates another group of schools that would be the smallest within a division.

Some would agree that this plan could create additional travel problems. At first glance, one would think this would be a correct assumption. Anytime a conference is reduced in number or is subdivided, more distance is created between the schools.

In other words, the fewer the number of schools, the farther the travel. However, after plotting the proposal on computer maps, we found this argument not as compelling. As our research has shown, there do not

See Football, page 14

New legislation confuses some coaches during basketball playoffs



Darryl Beasley
Athletic Coordinator

This year the basketball playoffs were rearranged. The girl's regional quarterfinals and the boy's bi-district dates were moved from their normal days of Monday and Tuesday to Wednesday and Thursday.

The reason for the change was due to legislation requiring that no playoff contest take place during the general TAKS testing dates. It caused quite a

bit of confusion.

Last spring, after TEA gave us the TAKS dates, we changed the 2006-07 UIL calendar to meet the requirements of the new law.

To head off confusion, we shared this information to all parties involved and notified all basketball districts who were working on their basketball schedule. In addition, we put this information on our home and basketball Web page, and we spoke about it during the Texas Association

of Basketball Coaches (TABC) clinic since basketball playoffs were affected.

As those dates rolled around this year, not only were the basketball coaches surprised about the change, but they also believed the dates were a misprint on the calendar. We received numerous calls about the dates and were even asked to make an exception to play on those dates. Our response was no. We could not make any exceptions because it's a law.

Then, there was a domino effect in the athletic community. Many coaches were confused. We received calls from soccer, softball and baseball coaches about playing on the evening of the TAKS.

But the law only effects playoff contests. Students can play soccer, softball and baseball games and even have a warm-up basketball game.

Regular season games do not violate the law. I'll give you a little history about the source of the legislation.

During the basketball playoffs a couple of years back, we had a school make a decision that ultimately effected the entire state. The school allowed a coach and team to

leave early during the day of TAKS. The ironic part is the travel distance to the game was 90 miles away and game was scheduled for 7:30 p.m.

This did not bode well with our legislators. TAKS day is a sacred day.

So just like other state laws protect the academic day and the school week, now this new law protects TAKS testing days against playoff games.

Sometimes we are our own worst enemy.

One thing that added to confusion of the basketball schedule change was that the date fell on a Wednesday. This gives UIL an opportunity to clarify our stance on that day. Wednesday has always been an available date for the UIL but has not been used until now.

Schools were allowed two dates to complete their playoff games, as in the past. Most chose Wednesday so they would have more recovery time before the next round game. Unfortunately, this date conflicted with Ash Wednesday and other religious activities.

We hope next year's TAKS testing dates and basketball playoff dates will not be as confusing as this year.

HS athletic budgets simply a bargain



Rachel Harrison
Athletic Coordinator

A recent survey of high school athletic directors revealed that more than 82 percent of schools are experiencing athletic budget pressures, primarily related to the lack of support from school district funds.

The survey, conducted by the National Inter-

scholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA), also indicated that more than 83 percent of the responding schools reported that their athletic department budgets comprise two percent or less of the total school district budget. Furthermore, 40 percent of the schools said that their athletic budgets are less than one percent of their total school district budget, excluding salaries.

The UIL has always maintained that interscholastic activity programs are a great bargain. The results of this survey clearly support that notion. It is unfortunate that school districts do not allocate more funds for athletics, especially when research suggests that students who participate in high school sports become better, more productive citizens later in life. Yet when schools are forced to make financial cuts, it is often the athletic budgets that get reduced.

According to the survey, while many schools

experienced budget reductions, 20 percent of the responding schools reported no change to their athletic budgets while 11 percent reported increases. Of the schools experiencing budget decreases, nearly 30 percent were forced to reduce the amount of money spent on playing supplies and equipment, and 21 percent had to cut back spending on uniforms. Almost 70 percent of the athletic directors indicated that their schools operated with an athletic budget of less than \$150,000, excluding salaries and new facilities.

Of the schools surveyed by the NIAAA, 36 percent experienced a decrease in the amount of funding received from the school board, while 21 percent had increased funding, and 32 percent had no change. In order to compensate for that decreased funding, schools saw an increase in alternative forms of funding such as increases in booster club funding, revenue from student activities, sports tickets and gate receipts. Other increases such as supplemental fund raising revenue, corporate sponsorships, and revenue from participation fees were also reported.

While school board funds remained the top source of athletic budget dollars (46 percent of the budget), a significant portion of the budget (32 percent) was generated by revenue from student activity and sports tickets and gate receipts. Booster club activities comprised almost 10 percent of the budget and supplemental fund raising made up about seven percent.

The survey also indicated that approximately 65 percent of schools do not require students to

pay any fees to participate in athletic programs. Of the schools that do require participate fees, 80 percent charge less than \$100. Opponents of "pay-to-play" have suggested that such policies lead to a decrease in participation. According to the survey, in those schools that have implemented participation fees, participation has only decreased in approximately 10 percent of those schools.

It does not appear that school funding issues will ease any time soon. School budgets will continue to be tight and, as a result, athletic budgets will likely suffer despite the fact that they comprise such a small amount of the overall school budget. So much good can come at such a small price. Students who participate make better grades, have fewer discipline problems, and become better citizens. The research to support this data is extensive and profound. Booster clubs and corporate sponsors will become increasingly vital as coaches and athletic directors look for additional funding. Ticket prices will go up. More schools will be forced to implement pay-to-play programs.

At an overall cost of one to three percent of a school's overall budget, it seems unfortunate that athletic budgets continually have to be justified. And even if they are justified, they still risk being decreased to the point that supplemental revenue sources become necessary just so a coach can order enough uniforms or supplies.

The UIL will continue to promote high school activity programs as one of the best bargains around. As coaches and administrators, it is our hope that you'll do the same.

PUBLIC REPRIMANDS

EJECTIONS

Gregory Portland MS – Kimsey Davis
Calallen MS – Bob Bell
Benavides MS – Carlos Flores
Kenedy HS – Jose Martinez
Lytle HS – Robbie Garza
Round Rock Westwood HS – Michael Kawazoe
Covington MS – Johnny Turner

Swim Meet goes smoothly; qualifying standards change for next year



Peter Contreras
Athletic Coordinator

By all accounts, the 2007 UIL State Swimming and Diving Championships may have been one of the best in recent years.

Twice Mary Beck of Austin Westlake set a national record in the 200 IM. Her winning time of 1:57.41 in the finals beat the record of

1:57.70 she set in the first day prelims.

In the boys' competition, two swimmers, Benjami Decker of Humble Kingwood and Jos Hammervold of Fort Bend Hightower, swam the exact same time in the prelims and finals of the 100-yard breaststroke. Fittingly, they tied for first place.

And on a selfish note, the changes made by the UIL staff allowed for a crisis-free event.

However, probably the biggest news of that weekend was the change in the qualifying standards for the state meet beginning next school

year. The change will allow the eight regional winners plus the next eight fastest times in that event, regardless of the region, to advance to the state meet.

The overall vote count on the referendum ballot question was 214-132 in favor of the change. About 83 percent of the swimming and diving schools voted. The Texas Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association made the proposal last October to the UIL Legislative Council. The council decided to place the issue on a referendum ballot, with the outcome binding.

In conference 5A, 125 schools voted for the change while 66 opposed the proposal. Of the 225 schools in this conference, 191 returned ballots. Examining the voting by region, only region five voted against the change (8-16), although region one had a 10-10 count. Only one school in region four and two schools in region six voted against the proposal.

Of the 193 schools in conference 4A, 155 voted. The vote in 4A was 89 in favor and 66 opposed. Region three (9-16) and region eight (4-16) were the only ones that did not favor the change. Only

two schools in region four and three in regions two and five said no. There were 24 schools, 3A or below, that returned ballots and those schools favored the change 14-10.

Over the years, the UIL staff and the Legislative Council has maintained that regional representation must remain, just like all other League activities, athletic and non-athletic. TISCA and its membership have advocated for a number of years the idea of getting the best or fastest swimmers to the state meet. This seems to be a happy middle of the road compromise.

What's next on this issue? Some coaches asked just that, and, in my opinion, nothing should be done. This issue is over. Having the fastest 16 swimmers in an event is not what the UIL is about, just like the two best football teams do not always play in the state championship game.

The argument can also be made that the two best basketball teams did not play for a state title in March. What did occur in Austin is that four teams advanced to the state tournament, one from each of the four regions. Just like swimming – regional representation.

St. Jude's donates AEDs to schools

St. Jude Medical recently joined with the UIL to give each football finalist and a designated recipient school a complimentary Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Each of the 24 teams that participated in a state championship football game, along with 24 other schools designated by the UIL because they lacked an AED, will receive an AED. The initiative to supply 48 schools with the device is an effort by St. Jude Medical's U.S. Division and the UIL to help ensure that schools are in compliance with the UIL rule passed in October requiring at least one AED at each UIL member school.

"We are pleased that St. Jude Medical recognized the importance of AEDs in our schools, and agreed to this great undertaking," said UIL Assistant Director and Director of Athletics Dr. Charles Breithaupt. "The UIL feels like the best way to reward the outstanding accomplishments of our student athletes like these football finalists is to provide them not only with state championship trophies, but also with the tools that help preserve their health and safety."

"With St. Jude Medical's U.S. Division located in Texas, we're especially proud to have the opportunity to contribute to high school athletes here," said Michael T. Rousseau, President of St. Jude Medical's U. S. Division. "It's an honor to work with the UIL to distribute these devices and to recognize the efforts of our high school teams."

On behalf of the UIL, a thank you is extended to St. Jude Medical for their contribution to member schools in this important matter. The cooperation of companies like St. Jude Medical help the UIL better serve the needs of Texas students. The Football Finalists and schools receiving an AED from St. Jude Medical are listed.

Finalists

Richland Springs
Rule
Jayton
Northside
McCamey
Alto
Chilton
Windthorst
Littlefield
Tatum
Cisco
Mart
Texarkana Liberty-Eylau
Robinson
Celina
Liberty Hill
Copperas Cove
San Antonio Alamo Heights
Waco
La Marque
Southlake Carroll
Austin Westlake
Cedar Hill
Houston Cypress Falls

Recipients

Veribest
Throckmorton
Trent
Harrold
Marfa
Oakwood
Dawson
Seymour
Wall
Hardin
Eastland
Ore City
Emory Rains
Palestine Westwood
Ferris
Troy
Lancaster
Robstown
SA Memorial
Dallas Maceo Smith
La Villa
Southland
Palacios
Anthony

Announcers clinic set for June in Plano

The National Association of Sports Public Address Announcers (NASPAA) and the professional association for sports public address announcers will be conducting a clinic on June 16 from 1 – 5 p.m. at The Church of Christ on McDermott Road in Plano.

The clinic is for announcers who announce junior high/middle school, high school, college and youth sports. Anyone who would like to learn how to announce, including high school and college students as well as individuals interested in being a substitute announcer, is encouraged to attend.

The four-hour clinic will cover virtually every aspect of announcing, including sportsmanship and promoting a positive environment, and dealing with emergency situations, all of which have liability implications. Various group activities will also be conducted, providing attendees with practical hands-on experience.

"Membership in the NASPAA and attending NASPAA P.A. Announcers' Clinics can provide training for contest announcers that will enhance the quality and clarity of important announcements," said John R. Olson, Ph.D., CMAA; Curriculum Director; National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA).

To register, go to www.naspaa.net. Click "Clinic." Questions? Contact Brad Rumble, NASPAA Executive Director, at (816) 305-6293.

Football: Committee investigates the pros and cons of splitting conferences

continued from page 12

appear to be enormous travel issues expected.

Keep in mind that most varsity football games are played on Friday night, thus having limited impact on the school week.

In an eight-team district with a seven-game district schedule, the most road games a school should have each year would only be four.

Critics could certainly ask, "But, what about Thursday night sub-varsity games and what about all the bands, drill teams and cheerleaders who travel to varsity games? Won't those additional miles be at great cost to the schools if gas prices inch higher?"

The answer to each of these questions, of course, is, yes. But, keep in mind, in this format non-district games could be much closer, thereby negating the costs borne for the district contests.

Others could ask, "Why not do this for other team sports"? The easy answer was previously stated. Football already plays to Division State Championships. Districting them separately could simplify the process. Also, football does not play multiple games per week.

Multiple games per week and double round robin schedules equate to additional travel. Schools would find more loss of school time for other team sports during the school

week if this plan were implemented for their activities.

Additional questions:

If I am a school at the lower end of enrollment in a conference, won't I still be unhappy?

That is almost always the case. However, under this proposal the smallest schools would have the largest half of the conference playing in a separate division. Of course, there would remain a group of schools that could be unhappy because they are at the lower end of Division I.

Won't this create more meetings for administrations?

Yes!

Couldn't this be considered a consolation bracket?

No, several teams competing for state championships in Division I over the last two years could be in Division II under this plan.

Why not go with a 6A alignment instead?

This plan is essentially a type of super conference plan. The larger schools are grouped together. The idea of a 6-A plan does not work well because we do not have enough schools that participate in every activity.

Could this plan be approved on a conference-by-conference basis?

The Legislative Council can always adopt a plan on a conference-by-conference basis. The plan currently is utilized by Six-Man Schools. Many believe it has obvious

advantages for Conference A 11-Man football. This could especially be true for those schools whose enrollment is small enough to qualify them for six-man but want to remain in 11-man.

When could this plan go into effect?

The plan could possibly be put into play in time for the 2008-2010-alignment period. Ultimately the Legislative Council will want a comprehensive study to be completed prior to adopting any major change to the reclassification-realignment process.

The most important factor to remember is that the UIL staff will only recommend what it believes is best for all of the schools. The Legislative Council in its wisdom will provide good counsel and guidance through this process.

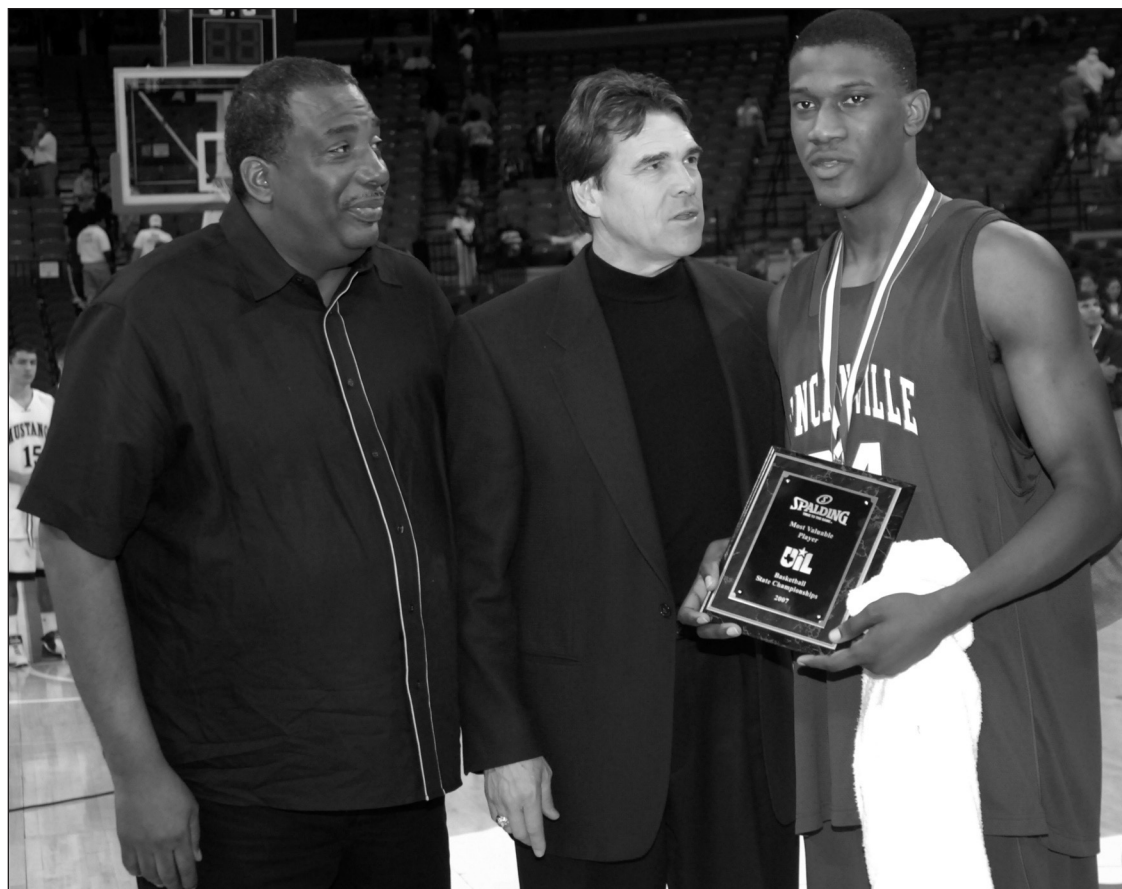
Remembering that aligning schools in an equitable fashion is only one component of the realignment process. The UIL staff must also make certain that as much travel as possible is eliminated for its membership.

The UIL staff will continue to study the issues surrounding this proposal and will work on behalf of the Council to provide accurate information. The final determination on the merits of this plan, as well as other proposals, will be made in October. This gives ample time to digest the information in order for the Legislative Council to make a quality decision.

Shooting for the Title



(Above) Senior Kevin Henderson from Goodrich and Senior Berry Clinton from Nazareth go up for the ball during the semifinal game at the Erwin Center in Austin. Nazareth won the game 51-47 and went on to take the 1A-Division 2 State Championship title. Photo by Photo Texas



(Top) Sen. Royce West and Gov. Rick Perry offer congratulations to Duncanville's Kevin Butler for being named the MVP of the 5A State Tournament. The junior guard came off the bench against Kingwood to help lead the Panthers to the state title. "We've counted on Butler all year," Duncanville coach Phil McNeely said. "He's come off the bench and done a great job for us. We consider him like a starter, so we're not afraid to use him anytime we can." Photo by Ashley Hensley (Above) Senior Gary Edwards from Abilene Wylie goes up for a layup against Aransas Pass. The team won the semifinal game but lost to Sour Lake Hardin-Jefferson in the finals. Photo by Photo Texas

EFFECTIVE AUG. 1, 2006

Four teams will advance to the playoffs in all team sports, including football, in Conference 5A only.

S. GRAND PRAIRIE HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Coach Shawn Hoover with probation through Feb. 21, 2008.

IRVING HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Coach Steven Perry with probation through February 16, 2008.

HOUSTON PREPARED TABLE CHARTER SCHOOL

The State Executive Committee suspended Prepared Table Charter School from all UIL activities until a school administrator appears before the Committee to answer allegations involving misconduct by coach and players.

INTRA-DISTRICT TRANSFERS

Section 440 (b) (3)

This section allows students to be eligible in athletics the first year they have the opportunity to transfer to that ISD’s vocational high school, magnet school, or optional attendance area school as long as they exercise that option at their first opportunity. If the student leaves the vocational high school, magnet school, or optional attendance area school and returns to the school of the parents’ residence, the student is not eligible for varsity athletic competition for at least one year from the date of enrollment in the school of the parents’ residence. Additionally, if the student

fails to exercise their first opportunity to attend that ISD’s vocational high school, magnet school, or optional attendance area school, they would not be eligible according to the Section 440 (b), Residence Rule, for varsity athletics at the new school until they had been enrolled and consecutively attending the new school for one calendar year.

UVALDE HIGH SCHOOL

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Coach Michael Hernandez, and placed him on probation through January 9, 2008, for violation of Section 1208 (j) (3).

MERTZON IRION COUNTY ISD

District 12-1A Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Irion County ISD and placed the school district on probation though October 28, 2008.

DALLAS I AM THAT I AM ACADEMY

The State Executive Committee suspended Dallas I Am That I Am Academy from participation in football for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 school years and placed the school on probation in all activities through October 31, 2007 for numerous violations of UIL rules.

EMPLOYMENT OF COACHES

Addition to Official Interpretation #29 (Section 1033 [b] [5] and Section 1202): A full-time substitute who has coached during the school year would be permitted to continue coaching until the UIL competitive year has ended. Example: state

baseball playoffs.

CORPUS CHRISTI MOODY HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand with probation through May 16, 2008 to Corpus Christi Moody High School. The State Executive Committee also issued a public reprimand to Coach Paula Salinas Rodriguez, with probation through May 16, 2008.

SAN ANTONIO BURBANK HS

The State Executive Committee suspended Coach Rudy Vera through August 21, 2009 for violation of Section 51 (a) (8), Recruiting.

CORPUS CHRISTI CALALLEN HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Coach Steve Chapman with probation through March 3, 2009 for violation of Section 1208 (j) (3), Ejection from Contest While on Probation.

IRVING MACARTHUR HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Michael DeSpain with probation through August 21, 2008 for violation of Section 1110 (c) (2), Eligibility, and Section 1110 (f), Organization Roster.

RICHARDSON LAKE HIGHLANDS HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Richardson Lake Highlands High School with probation through May 16, 2007 for violation of Section 1033 (b) (4) (D), Late Entry.

KOPPERL HS

The State Executive Committee

issued a public reprimand to Kopperl High School with probation through May 16, 2007 for violation of Section 1033 (b) (4) (D), Late Entry.

MONTGOMERY HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Montgomery High School with probation through May 16, 2007 for violation of Section 1033 (b) (4) (D), Late Entry.

DENVER CITY HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Denver City High School with probation through May 16, 2007 for violation of Section 1033 (b) (4) (D), Late Entry.

FREDERICKSBURG HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Fredericksburg High School with probation through May 16, 2007 for violation of Section 1033 (b) (4) (D), Late Entry.

LOMETA HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Lometa High School with probation through May 16, 2007 for violation of Section 1033 (b) (4) (D), Late Entry.

NOCONA HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Nocona High School with probation through May 16, 2007 for violation of Section 1033 (b) (4) (D), Late Entry.

TILDEN MCMULLEN COUNTY HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand

to Tilden McMullen County High School with probation through May 16, 2007 for violation of Section 1033 (b) (4) (D), Late Entry.

MANSFIELD HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Coach Kenni Patton with probation through August 21, 2007 for violation of Section 441 (a), Amateur Rule, while employed at Kennedale High School.

HUMBLE HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Humble High School with probation through September 11, 2007 for violation of Section 1034: One-Act Play Ethics Code, Failure to Attend Critique. The State Executive Committee also issued a public reprimand to Brandy Barfield and Jim Jackubek with probation through September 11, 2007 for violation of Section 1034: One-Act Play Ethics Code, Failure to Attend Critique.

DENTON MCMATH MS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Coach Priest Johnson with probation through October 23, 2009 for violation of Section 51 (a) (8).

SAN ANTONIO SOUTHWEST HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to San Antonio Southwest High School with probation for their volleyball team through October 23, 2007, in lieu of forfeiture of contest.

COLLINSVILLE ISD

The District 11-1A Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Collinsville ISD

with probation through the 2007-2008 football season, for violation of Section 1478 (h) (2).

COLLINSVILLE HS

The State Executive Committee issued a to Bobby Stastny with probation through February 8, 2009 for violation of Section 51 (a) (8).

BRYAN BRAZOS INQUIRY AND CREATIVITY SCHOOL

The State Executive Committee suspended Bryan Brazos Inquiry and Creativity School for the remainder of the 2006-2007 and the 2007-2008 boys and girls varsity basketball seasons.

INGLESIDE MS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Coach Homero Trevino with probation through February 26, 2008, for violation of Section 1208 (j), Ejection from Contest, and suspended him from one track meet because he had not received COPE training, as required by Section 1208 (j) (2).

LEWISVILLE MARCUS HS

The State Executive Committee issued a public reprimand to Lewisville Marcus High School Soccer Program with probation through April 24, 2008, for violation of Section 1201 (a) (3), Physical and Verbal Abuse of a Sports Official by a Student Athlete. The State Executive Committee also issued a public reprimand to Coach John Gall with probation through April 24, 2008, for violation of Section 1201 (a) (3), Physical and Verbal Abuse of a Sports Official by a Student Athlete.

Distribution rights

The UIL mails 15 copies of each issue of the *Leaguer* to every public high school in Texas as well as copies to elementary and junior high schools that have returned their Participation Cards. The *Leaguer* contains vital information regarding UIL activities. Please distribute these to coaches and sponsors of all UIL activities, and ask them to share their copy. Also, visit our web site (<http://www.uil.utexas.edu>). We recommend you distribute copies of the *Leaguer* to the following:

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