

# Kyle honored as pioneer at LISD Hall of Honor inductions

## Three athletes, three coaches, supporter also enshrined

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When Celestine Hatchett Kyle came to Dunbar High School in the early 1950s, the school day for girls more or less ended when the final bell rang — at least for any who harbored sports aspirations.

Kyle, having been a college tennis player, thought there should be more opportunities.

“We needed something to do after school, and the girls were so anxious to do something,” she said. “So if I stayed, they would stay so that I could organize them and get them started playing basketball. They were so anxious to play.”

Kyle, who taught science, health and physical education, became a trailblazer, introducing girls athletics at Dunbar. On Saturday, she was inducted into the Lubbock ISD athletic Hall of Honor during ceremonies at the McKenzie-Merket Alumni Center on the Texas Tech campus.

She made her mark in the 1950s and 1960s and led the Dunbar girls to seven district championships from the mid-1960s to 1971.

“It took long hours after school,” she said, “but it didn’t seem like it was that long, because I enjoyed it so much and enjoyed the girls so much, because they were so glad and happy to have something to do. There wasn’t anything planned and never any money set aside for girls activities at that particular time.”

Kyle still lives in Lubbock. She retired from Lubbock ISD in 1981, having also worked at Lubbock High, Atkins Junior High and Arnett Elementary.

Saturday’s class of inductees was the fifth for the Lubbock ISD Hall of Honor. It also included three athletes, three teams and David Thetford, honored as a community supporter after broadcasting Lubbock ISD athletics since 1984.

The teams recognized were the 1963 Dunbar football team, the 1972 Monterey baseball team and the 1983 Estacado boys track and field team, all of whom won state championships.

The athletes enshrined were Lubbock High football player Pat Hartsfield, Monterey baseball player Gary Ashby and Coronado baseball player Brad Ralston.

“Ms. Kyle, I’m worthy of going in with Ralston and Thetford,” he said. “I’m not worthy of going in with you. You are special.”

Longtime Estacado coach Louis Kelley was a young assistant on the 1963 Dunbar team that beat Conroe Washington 19-14 for the Prairie View Interscholastic League Class 2A state title at Lowrey Field.

Kelley briefly choked up as he addressed the group, most of whom were either there in person to receive their medals and certificates or represented by family members who too part in the ceremony.

“We got beat in the state championship game in 1962,” Kelley said. “We came back with determination in ’63 to do something special, and we did.”

The Panthers were the city’s first football state champions since Lubbock High’s 1951 and 1952 teams. Hartsfield was an all-state honoree for those Westerners in 1952 and 1953, making it both on offense and defense in 1953 as an end.

“He was definitely an iron man,” said Randy Hartsfield, who accepted for his father, unable to travel after a recent surgery.

The 1972 Monterey baseball team became the first of Bobby Moegle’s four state champions.

“We have relived that event for 43 years,” said Jimmy Killion, one of the team’s four seniors, “but it never gets old.”

The Plainsmen fielded an array of talent that included future Major League pitcher Donnie Moore, three other future pros in Ashby, Jimmy Shankle and Larry Horn, along with Mark Griffin, who played on a national championship at Texas.

Nevertheless, Griffin told the crowd that Moegle and then-Plainsmen assistant John Dudley got the group to believe in themselves.

“These coaches did not have a small destiny for us,” he said. “They had a large one. We just didn’t know it.”

Monterey had made the state semifinals in 1970 and lost in the state finals in 1971, but returned only three players in 1972. Along with Griffin, who transferred from Lubbock High, they had four seniors.

“I’ll say one thing about these kids: They played with intelligence,” Moegle told the crowd. “They didn’t make any mistakes.”

Ralston pitched on big-winning Coronado baseball teams from 1993-95, twice being an all-state honoree. As a junior, he went 10-1, and as a senior he went 16-2 on a team that made the Class 5A state tournament.

“I wish they were going in instead of just me,” Ralston said of his teammates, “because it was an incredible group of guys. It was an incredible journey that we had.”

Estacado won state titles in boys track and field in 1982, 1983 and 1986 under coach Percy Hines. The 1983 Matadors inducted Saturday piled up 54 points in Austin, enough to win the team trophy without taking a single individual event.

They had 15 team members present and others represented by family.

Hines and Kelley were among those thanked by former Matadors star Derrick White.

“No matter what went on, a lot of us went off to college after that, but they never forgot — and we never forgot — where we came from,” White said.

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