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Judy Campbell Named the first-ever Texas High School Coaches Association Jody Conradt Award Recipient

SAN MARCOS, TX— The Texas High School Coaches Association has created the Jody Conradt Award to honor a female coach that has exemplified Coach Jody Conradt’s characteristics throughout her legendary career. The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) has named Judy Campbell as the first-ever recipient. This prestigious award is given to the recipient based on the following criteria:

- The candidate must be a female professional member in good standing of the THSCA
- The candidate should have served as a positive role model for athletes and coaches
- The candidate should, by her actions and lifestyle, bring credit to the coaching profession
- The candidate must be a female that has made a significant contribution to women’s high school athletics in Texas.
- The candidate’s win/loss record should not be the sole determining factor in selecting the nominee

The creation of this prestigious award is presented to a female coach who has shown an unwavering commitment to the advancement of girls and women in athletics, much like Jody Conradt.

“We are thrilled to create an award that honors the elite female leaders in the coaching profession inspired by a true trailblazer,” said THSCA Executive Director, Joe Martin. “Not only are these hard-working and distinguished coaches, such as Jody Conradt and Judy Campbell, a fundamental part of the success of female high school athletics, but they also make THSCA a trusted resource to coaches around the state.”

Read more about the 2023 Texas High School Coaches Association Jody Conradt Award Recipient, Judy Campbell:



Judy Campbell, Assistant AD, Garland ISD

Judy Campbell is a graduate of Royse City High School where she participated in basketball, the only women's sport offered at the time. She began her teaching career in 1969 in Royse City Texas. In 1974, she moved to the junior high school to teach and serve as the girls 7th and 8th grade basketball coach. After one year as a junior high coach, Judy was asked to coach the high school and middle school track teams. Despite having had no experience in track and field because it was not offered to high school girls when she was an athlete, Judy joyfully accepted. When she asked the head football coach for help, he told her to "run them." Without a track to practice on and with only one hurdle, Coach Campbell successfully managed to coach multiple jumpers and a hurdler to Regional Meet.

In 1975, Royse City High School added volleyball at the high school level which Coach Campbell found herself coaching while still serving as the Junior High basketball and track coach, for 7th and 8th grade, and the high school track coach. The first volleyball game Judy ever saw, she coached. In addition to the myriad of coaching responsibilities, she was also the JR High cheer sponsor, the high school Student Council sponsor and on top of teaching 7 periods a day!

At the beginning of the 1975-76 school year, a man named Homer B. Johnson, the Garland ISD athletic director, called Judy Campbell and asked that she come to Garland to start a girl's athletic program. At that time, no schools in Garland ISD offered any sports for girls. In 1976, Judy joined Garland ISD and served as the coach of all the sports offered at the time: volleyball, basketball, and track & field for which she was given one assistant, who was the girl's PE teacher. In addition to serving as a 3 sport head coach, Coach Campbell was also named the first ever girl's coordinator and reported to the boy's football coach, who was the campus AD.

After four years at South Garland, the women's staff was finally given 3 assistant coaches, but also added soccer to the list of offered sports to female athletes. Every coach on the 4 person girls' staff had to coach multiple sports, were all in one small office, had no dressing rooms, and only had access to the small gym with a rubber floor where all practices and games were held. GISD had 5 schools by this time and all operated the same. Additionally, all girls' teams had to play sports on Monday and Thursday because the boys played on Tuesday and Friday in the competition gym which was designated for boys' sport use only. At this time, there were no UIL rules governing what nights we could.

In 1988, Coach Johnson asked Judy to go to Naaman Forest which opened serving grades 6-9 where the 4 woman coaching staff would oversee all the middle school and freshman sports. After the first year, Naaman dropped a lower grade and added an upper grade until they became a 4 year high school offering grades 9-12. During this

time of building up to 9-12, we also added one coach, but we also added another sport - softball.

While at Naaman, Coach Campbell finally got to coach varsity basketball and serve as the girl's coordinator. Before her retirement from Naaman in 2002, she had grown the staff to 6 women coaches, which allowed her to have to only coach one sport.

After retiring in 2002, Judy was only retired for 3 months when Homer asked her to return to work in the athletic office as a part time Assistant Athletic Director. She had applied for the job in the past, but Homer was honest and told her that he felt he needed a man to haul boxes and equipment to the schools - not a woman. Although the men held the full time Assistant AD positions, they both soon took other jobs which led to Judy Campbell being named the full time Assistant Athletic Director with Homer B. Johnson as the Head AD. Homer did eventually hire another male as the Assistant AD, but Judy was lucky and remained full time!

Currently, Judy Campbell still serves as the Garland ISD Assistant AD, a role she has held for the past 22 years. In all of her years serving students through athletics, Judy has always been an active member of the Texas High School Coaches Association since 1998 -when women were finally allowed to become members of the organization. She recalls the first time she tried to join, was turned away, so she now says that she will "always be a member of THSCA because I can".

Judy is a proud member of the THSCA and applauds the efforts of the organization to acknowledge women in sports and become the most inclusive organization in the state! She continues to serve students and coaches while remaining supportive of and excited for how the THSCA will continue to advance, include women and women's sports.

Read more about Jody Conradt:



Her love was basketball. Her aspirations were to teach. Fortunately, she is native to a state which takes pride in its passion, independence and can-do attitude. Those traits, along with her graceful, compassionate style, Texas-sharp wit and humor, and desire to bring education and sport opportunities to young women, advanced Conradt into a visionary leader for women's college basketball and women's sports administration. A few of her achievements include:

- Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame (1998)
- Women's Basketball Hall of Fame, Knoxville, Tenn. (1999 inaugural class)
- The University of Texas Women's Athletics Hall of Honor (2000 inaugural class)
- International Women's Sports Hall of Fame, Women's Sports Foundation, New York (1995)
- International Scholar-Athlete Hall of Fame, Kingston, R.I. (2003)

- The University of Texas-Arlington Athletics Hall of Honor (1987)
- Sam Houston State University Athletics Hall of Fame (2010)
- Texas Association of Basketball Coaches High School Basketball Hall of Fame (1998)
- Texas Sports Hall of Fame, Waco, Texas (1998) and TSHF Southwest Conference Hall of Fame
- United States Sports Academy Distinguished Service Award (2015)
- U.S. Basketball Writers National Coach of the Year (1984)
- Women's Basketball Coaches Association National Coach of the Year (1980, 1984, 1986)
- John and Nellie Wooden National Coach of the Year (1997)
- National Coach of the Year ESPY Media Vote (2004)
- Southwest Conference Coach of the Year (1984, 1985, 1987, 1988, 1996)
- 100 Most Influential Sports Educators in America, Institute for International Sport, Kingston, R.I. (2007)

As only the second woman ever inducted into the Springfield, Mass., Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1998, Conradt is known as a pioneer, but also a durable, dynamic and ethical leader who gave credibility to her sport during 31 years as head coach with the Longhorns. From 1992-2001, Conradt served UT in a dual role as basketball coach and women's athletics director. She continues to serve the University as a special assistant to women's athletics.

About the Texas High School Coaches Association

The Texas High School Coaches Association (THSCA) is the principal advocate and leadership organization for Texas high school coaches. The THSCA provides the highest quality representation, education, and services to Texas high school coaches and affiliate members by enhancing the professionalism of coaches and the schools they represent. The mission statement is simply this: To help and serve Texas high school coaches as they work to help and serve student - athletes. "HELPING COACHES HELP KIDS." For more information on THSCA visit www.thsca.com

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