

# PVILCA *News*

## Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association

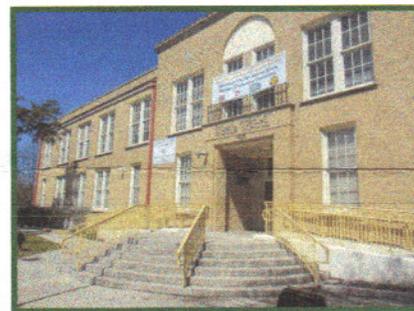
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER # 24 JULY 2015 OF THE PRAIRIE VIEW INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE COACHES ASSOCIATION

### PHILLIS WHEATLEY OF SAN ANTONIO WAS 'AS GOOD AS ANYBODY'

The former Wheatley High School building is now the Phillis Wheatley Middle School on the city's east side. It's named for an ex-slave who was the first woman and first African American to publish a book of poems in the United States. The school was recently renovated.

During Cliff Johnson's days as a star athlete at Phillis Wheatley High

School in the 1960s, he never thought for a second his school — or any others in the Prairie View Interscholastic League — couldn't compete with predominantly Anglo institutions.



“Wheatley was a very prideful nation,” said Johnson, 67. “We weren't inferior — on the field or in the classroom. We felt we were as good as anybody.” Johnson, who helped the New York Yankees win World Series titles in 1977-78 as a slugging designated hitter, continues to stick out his chest at the mention of Wheatley or the PVIL.

The PVIL governed extracurricular activities in Texas' black public schools until merging with the University Interscholastic League in 1967. Although the San Antonio Independent School District integrated in 1955, Wheatley continued to flourish as an all-black school on the East Side. It remained open until the end of the 1969-70 school year. Wheatley, like most PVIL schools, operated mainly in obscurity.

“We had great athletes competing in a great league, but nobody knew about it,” said Hensley Sapenter, a football and basketball ace at Wheatley in the 1950s who returned to the school as a coach before serving as SAISD athletic director from 1976-95. Wheatley played its home football games on Wednesday nights at Alamo Stadium, competing in a district with Houston schools.

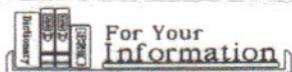
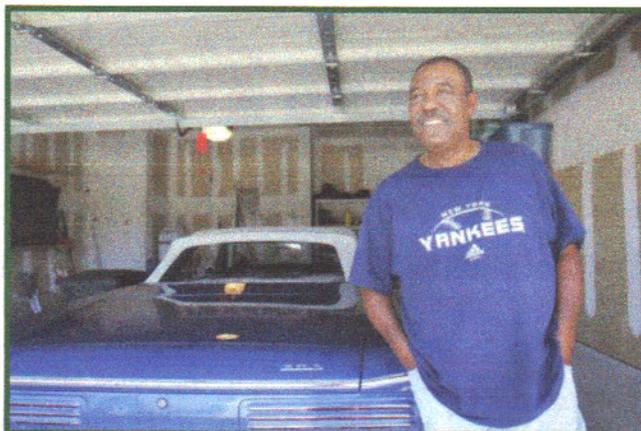
Even though many blacks started attending Anglo schools after the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark *Brown vs. Topeka* Board of Education banned public-school segregation in 1954, the Lions remained the No. 1 team for the city's black community. “We considered Wheatley our high school, symbolically,” said Vashon Byrd, who attended Wheatley games even after enrolling at Jefferson in 1955. “We were Wheatley's 12th Man.”

Johnson played 15 seasons for seven teams in Major

League Baseball before retiring in 1986 with what was then the career record for pinch-hit home runs with 20. In all, he blasted 196 homers. Johnson followed in the footsteps of late Baseball Hall of Famer Ernie Banks, an alumnus of Dallas' Booker T. Washington, and late Negro Baseball League player John “Mule” Miles, a Wheatley graduate. “I still marvel at some of the (PVIL) athletes who came before me,” Johnson said. Among the PVIL greats are five members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Wheatley-ex Willie Mitchell played in the first Super Bowl with the Kansas City Chiefs.

The PVIL was also known for its great sprinters, including Wheatley's Clyde Glosson in the 1960s. But their feats went largely unnoticed. “Everyone was saying, ‘Those people down at (the state meet) in Prairie View don't know how to time (races),’” said Sapenter, 75, who guided Wheatley to the 1969 Class 4A state track and field title. Wheatley graduates recall exceptional teachers and coaches, including principal G.P. Inge and football coach Henry Carroll, who stressed discipline while having high expectations. “I remember Gov. Mark White and H. Ross Perot stumping for House Bill 72,” Johnson said, referring to the “no-pass, no-play” state education policy. “But we already had a House Bill 72 at Wheatley: If you didn't keep your grades up, you couldn't participate.” Glosson, who set national records for the Lions, called Wheatley a “family situation” filled with “discipline and love.” “I had a geometry teacher named Mrs. Johnson,” Glosson said. “One day she told me, ‘Clyde Glosson, I see it in you. You are special. One day you are really going to be somebody.’”

Glosson went on to earn national titles as a sprinter

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Cliff Johnson, shown at his home in 2007, helped the New York Yankees win World Series titles in 1977-78 as a slugging designated hitter. He continues to stick out his chest at the mention of his days at Wheatley High School or the PVIL.

at Trinity before playing pro football and enjoying a long career as a teacher in the SAISD.

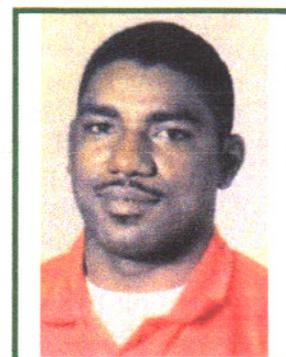
"What she said never left me," said Glosson, now a minister. Wheatley's teachers continually stressed the value of education. "The instructors were black and had been through socioeconomic situations before us," Sapenter said. "They experienced segregation and had been second-rate citizens, so to speak. They knew what it would take for us to succeed. They told us things would happen to you that you just had to overcome. You couldn't let yourself be knocked down and stay down." said Johnson: "We had a close-knit community at Wheatley. It was just a prideful situation at 4515 Gabriel Street."

*torsborn@express-news.net Reprint*

## A Tribute To Leroy "Jack" Maura Sr. 1939-2015

*By Don A. James*

I first met Jack Maura at Woodson Jr. High School in 1965. Woodson was a brand new school with a dynamic young team of administrators and staff. Jack was Woodson's 9th grade basketball coach and I was the 8th grade coach. Years later, during the great crossover (or end of Houston's segregated schools), I was assigned to Dick Dowling Jr. High School as a counselor. Jack became Dowling's first black basketball coach. For more than 30 years, our paths crossed professionally. It happened again during the late 1970's when I became the principal at Albert Thomas Junior High School. You guessed it: Jack Maura became Thomas's basketball coach. Many of his



*Leroy "Jack" Maura*

players at each school became outstanding athletes, coaches and mentors including Greg Wise (currently basketball coach at Jack Yates, Houston) and many others.

One memory that remains with me happened during the Woodson years. We all remember the days the athletic department had faculty basketball games as fundraisers for the athletic budget. Alex "Mud" Gillum, brother of Arthur Gillum, PVILCA Board Member, recruited some big name athletes to play a basketball game against the Woodson faculty. Some of the visiting team included Elvin Hayes, who had just been drafted by the NBA San Diego Rockets, Ernie Ladd, of the Houston Oilers, Joe Morgan of the Houston Astros and others. The Woodson team consisted of Alex Gillum, Jack Maura, John Chaney, Ezell Seals, Wilbur Harris, James Tignor, Fred Lewis and yours truly, Don James. We were fresh out of college, had young legs and thought we were just as good or better than the pro athletes.

To make it even better, Ernie Ladd decided to play with the Woodson team, because he wanted to play against and challenge Elvin Hayes. That gave us the

**Maura - continued on page 4**

George E. Adams  
Raymond Baylor  
T. J. Bell  
Leroy Bookman, Jr. III  
Clifford "Cliff" Branch  
Charles Brown  
Leroy "Lumberjack" Brown  
Robert Brown  
James R. Bundage  
Vernon Carathers  
Jackie Carr  
Reginald C. Christopher  
Rev. Jimmie Cobbin  
Ronnie Courtney  
Dwight Davis  
Elgin G. Davis  
Robert L. Dickson, II  
Charles "Doc" Dockery

## "The Ring"



Karl Douglas  
Jimmie L. Emanuel  
Cleve Freeman, Jr.  
Oscar W. Fresch, Jr.  
Nathaniel A. Gillespie  
Ronald "Buck" Goodbeer  
Oscar G. Greenwood Sr.  
Leon "Big Hamp" Hamilton  
Johnny E. Harper  
Spencer Harris III  
Ellis Hubbard  
Dalton L. Hughes, Jr.  
Freddie James  
Oliver E. Jenkins

Deloris Marie Johnson  
Henry Johnson  
Marshall Land, Jr.  
Fred Lewis  
Robert Houston Land  
Jeff Lewis Jr.  
Coy Limbrick, Sr.  
David Q. Marks  
Milton Morgan  
Lucious Newhouse, Jr.  
Monroe Nichols, Jr.  
Ruben E. Phillips  
John "J.D." Richardson  
Dr. Thurman Robins

Anthony Sampson  
Gene L. Sampson Jr.  
Robert B. Sanders, Jr.  
Joseph Warren Singleton  
Robert "Blue" Smith  
Johnny Tardy Jr.  
Sammie Taylor  
Lee E. Thomas  
Joseph C. Valley, Jr.  
Thomas "Tom" Valley  
Franklin D. Wesley Jr.  
James "Froggie" White.  
Jesse E. Yates  
Horace Young

### Current Life Members

"You are the grease in the wheel."

#### 2006

Jack Bellinger  
Robert Brown  
Ellis Davis, Jr.  
Herman Gabriel  
Arthur Gillum  
Clyde Glosson  
Charles Herbert

#### 2007

Charles Brown  
Jackie Carr  
John Codwell, Jr.  
Glennor Davis  
Walter E. Day  
Ronald Goodbeer  
James "Bo" Humphery  
Alvin N. Jackson  
James C. Mays, Sr.  
Stanley R. Mays  
King Arthur Prayther  
Dr. Thurman Robins  
Edward Roby  
Ray Seals  
William L. Sims  
James Wanza  
Gene Washington  
Franklin D. Wesley, Jr.  
Walter Yates, Sr.

#### 2008

Weldon O. Baker  
Oliver "Show" Brown  
Coger H. Coverson  
Jefferson Davis, Jr.  
Joseph Melvin Dixon, Sr.  
Willie Floyd  
Charles Frazier  
George Gray  
Charles Green  
Roland Hayes  
L.L. Jackson  
Don A. James  
Freddie James

#### 2008 continued

R. "Ralph" Johnson  
Ed Jones  
James Jones, II  
Kirby Jones  
Joe Leonard, Sr.  
Vickie Minor  
Michael Mitchell  
Homer Norville  
Marvin Pettway  
Dr. Joseph A. Pierce, Jr.  
Lewis Ritcherson  
Lewis H. Ritcherson, II  
Edward G. Robinson  
Hensley Sapenter, Jr.  
Dr. T. A. Sims  
Brannen G. Temple  
James A. (Froggie) White  
James "Clint" Williams

#### 2009

James Alexander  
Roosevelt Alexander  
Leon Carr  
Kenneth Curl, Jr.  
Donald "Mantan" Dickson  
Thomas "Bill" Edwards  
Albert Fair, Jr.  
Leon "Big Hamp" Hamilton  
Charles "Tex" Harrison  
Dan Haskins  
Eddie Hughes  
Arnell Stripling Johnson  
Ralph Jones  
Chauncey King, Sr.  
Freddie Maura  
Ross E. Lewis  
Ocell Miller, Jr.  
Nicholas Overton  
Luther C. Robinson  
Dave Smith  
Robert J. Tapscott

#### 2009 continued

Albert "Big Al" Walker  
Horace Young

#### 2010

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

#### 2011

Dr. William C. Akins  
Howard O'Neal Aldridge  
S. A. Anderson  
Billy Earl Beasley  
Jerry Lewis Blair  
Tommy Bookman  
Billy "Bill" Brown  
James "Bo" Bundage  
Timothy Carr, III  
Lawrence A. Collins  
Willie Frank Dearion  
Robert L. Dickson, II  
Charles "Doc" Dockery  
Nathaniel A. Gillespie  
Spencer Harris, III  
John Hightower  
Beverly Day Humphery  
Dr. Jesse Henry Hurst, II  
Oliver E. Jenkins  
Henry Johnson

#### 2011 continued

Coy K. Limbrick  
Timothy C. Moon, Jr.  
Rathers Alvin Norwood  
J. M. Richard  
Pervis Rosemon  
William F. Rosemon  
Joseph Warren Singleton  
John A. Truitt, Jr.  
Dr. Gregory J. Vincent  
Joe D. Washington, Sr.  
Delvin Williams  
Nicholas "Nic" Williams  
James R. Wilson  
**2012**  
Tommy L. Amerson  
Brady Beauregard  
Willie Blackmon  
Clinton Booker  
Albert L. Breed  
Ben L. Cavil  
Dr. J. Kenyatta Cavil  
John Luther Clayton  
Sullie Eugene Cobbin  
Charles Ray Cone  
Felix L. Cook, Jr.  
Larry Edwards  
Jimmie L. Emanuel  
Arthur L. Haggerty  
Desmond Henerson  
Goree "Coach" Johnson  
James D. Kennedy  
Lester L. King  
Leroy Marshall  
Lewis M. Marshall  
Marcus Mosley  
John E. Payton  
Tommy Pierson  
William A. Stell  
Johnny Tardy, Jr.  
Clarence W. Weatherspoon  
Jesse E. Yates

## Current Life Members

"You are the grease in the wheel."

### 2013

George E. Adams  
 Alton Earl Bennett  
 Donald L. Bennett  
 Cecil D. Boykin  
 Anthony Dwight Brown  
 Vernon Carather  
 Reginald C. Christopher  
 Jimmie Cobbin  
 Robert L. "Bob" Crawford  
 Elgin Davis  
 Louis Dotson Jr.  
 Rev. Iria Ephriam  
 Charles Ferguson  
 Oscar Willie Fresch, Jr.  
 Jimmy C. Gales  
 David Arthur Hall, Sr.  
 Charles "Hands" Harris  
 Arthur Ray Henderson  
 Nathaniel "Nate" Henderson  
 Warnie Hill, Jr.  
 Melvin Houston  
 Donald R. Johnson  
 Sandra E. Jones  
 Vernice Denman Kindle  
 Robert Houston Land  
 Louis Dotson Jr.  
 Monroe Nichols, Jr.  
 Griggs Owens, Jr.  
 Rev. Ruben E. Phillips  
 Verna Reece Powers  
 John D. Richardson  
 Julius Shanklin  
 Robert "Blue" Smith  
 William A. Stell  
 Joseph Summerfield  
 George Richard Thomas  
 Frederick "Ricky" Warren  
 Clifton Williams  
 Malone Woods, Jr.  
 Harry Wright  
 Travis Alton Wright

### 2014

Raymond Allen Jr.  
 Herbert C. Anders  
 Freddie James Anderson  
 A. G. Booker  
 Carolyn Sadberry Brown  
 Dr. Johnny E. Brown  
 Leroy Brown, Jr.  
 Louis C. Carr Sr.  
 Terry Vernon Cooper  
 George Daniels Jr.  
 William Denman  
 Frederick "Peanut" Ferguson  
 Morris W. Freeman  
 Bennie Lee Harris

### 2014 continued

Charles James  
 Marion "Blue" Johnson  
 Marshall Land Jr.  
 Jackie Lathan  
 Bertha E. Means  
 Milton "Milt" Morgan  
 Elahi Bradley-Muhammad  
 Lucious Leon Newhouse Jr.  
 D. C. Nobles  
 Beatrice L. Pace  
 Mary Lena Cooper People  
 John L. F. Powers  
 JoAnn Bean Rawls  
 Sidney L. Sadler  
 Lee E. Thomas  
 Thomas "Tom" Valley  
 John H. Walker  
 Johnny Walker  
 Roger Whitaker  
 Tanuya T. Worthy

### 2015

Clifford Branch  
 Dewey Fowler, Sr.  
 Ruel E. Hampton, Sr.  
 Fred Lewis  
 Bryon Keith Johnson  
 Deloris Marie Johnson  
 Jeff Lewis  
 Willie McFarland  
 Sammie Taylor

way to coach, striving to mold character, develop minds and winning teams. Coach Henry retired as Assistant Principal in 1994 from Jesse H. Jones High School after 40 years of service in Education. Job Well Done, Coach Henry!

### Maura - continued from page 2

height we needed. With two minutes remaining in the game, the Woodson team was leading by 3 points. Time-out was called to develop a closing strategy. It was suggested that we 'freeze' the ball to protect our lead. Alex 'Mud' Gillum suggested that we continue to play as we had been, because it wouldn't look good for a number one NBA draftee (Elvin Hayes) to lose a game to a group of no-name has-beens. Elvin's team won by 2 points. After the game, Joe Morgan commented that he didn't know that coaches and teachers had such great skills to play like they did.

In addition to basketball, Jack loved fishing and so do I. Many times we happened upon each other while fishing Galveston Bay. He loved his wife Laura, his children and grandchildren and he loved his church. Those who worked with him can tell you that he also loved coaching. He was a good man. Rest in peace, Jack

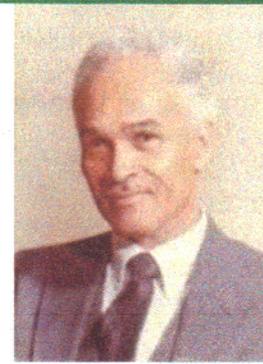
### KUDOS TO RONALD GOODBEER

Our many thanks to Ronald Goodbeer who located one of our hidden treasures. Ronald located the 1967- 3A PVIL Basketball Championship Trophy in which Fidelity Manor of Galena Park beat Kemp of Bryan 61-45. Who knows how many more treasures (trophies) are collecting dust in hidden locations. This one is being placed in the archives of the PVILCA Museum in Austin. I am sure that there are other treasures with exciting stories about the past of the PVILCA. If you know of any, please share them with us.

## In Loving Memory

We offer our condolences and prayers to the families of the following members of the Prairie View Interscholastic League Coaches Association.

### Joseph "Joe" Henry



Joseph "Joe" Henry

Joe graduated from Jack Yates High School, Houston in 1948. Playing under the legendary coach Pat Patterson. Joe's passion was sports, particularly football, which he excelled as a Quarterback. He continued his passion for football making a name for himself as Quarterback at Prairie View A and M College of Texas, majoring in Education. Upon graduating from Prairie View in 1952, he was drafted into the Army and served in the Korean War until 1954. Returning home. His

career began at The Hester House Community Center in Fifth Ward, where he was a Counselor/Tutor/Coach for four years. His first teaching assignment was Harper Junior High School. Evan E. Worthing High School opened in January of 1958 with Coach Joe Henry as its first Head Football coach. He later went on to receive a Master's Degree in Counseling at Prairie View University. Thereafter, he moved to Booker T. Washington High School where he was instrumental in the team's winning season in 1968, having no losses until they got to State. There he coached NFL standout JV Cain. He returned to Prairie View as an Assistant Coach for several years but came back to HISD's Lamar High School where he continued working with young people. It did not matter to him the title: Coach, Counselor, Assistant Principal, he would always be "Coach" to his students. Joe's love for football and all things "Sports" would carry him on through life. Regardless of positions, he would always find a