

## **State Champions & More**

### **What a Winter Season!**

I hardly know where to begin, when it comes to my usual Winter Wrap-Up article. This has been a season for the ages in Frisco ISD. State Champions, Regional Champions, and District Champions have all been notched on FISD's athletic belt. In several cases, history has been made.

I have to start out with the Frisco High STATE CHAMPION Boy's Swim Team, coached by AAAA State Coach of the Year Bruce Eubanks. The team pulled off quite a coup after fighting back from being 63 points down with 3 events remaining in the meet to defeat Texas High for the title. The boy's team was led by Bryon Carlisle and Scott Parsons, while the girl's 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at state was led by Lauren Baalman and Whitney Wood. All four of these senior athletes in their careers at FHS have experienced 4 district titles, 3 regional titles, and the last three years at state finished 8<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 1<sup>st</sup> for the boys, and 4<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> for the girls. The boy's championship was the first UIL, boy's sport state title in the history of Frisco ISD. As for me, I was humbled to be along for the ride.

The Centennial Swim Team, coached by Ronnie Rogers, had a tremendous season for a young team with no seniors. Daniela Morlan made it to state for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row in the 500 free style, while Emily Watson (in her first year in diving) won district and regional in diving. The future looks bright for the CHS swimmers.

Another first was accomplished this year in Frisco ISD. The Centennial Girl's Wrestling Team placed first at the Regional Meet. Coach Michael Eaton's girls were led by Lene' Wood's regional championship and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at state, along with Kirsten Gunia. Matt Crook and Isaiah Ortega led the boys team, while Matt qualified for state. As in other sports at CHS, the wrestling team is comprised of all underclassmen. Therefore, next year looks very promising.

Frisco High Coach Chuck Brown's wrestlers were hot on the trail of a district title. Vanessa Epps, Regional Wrestler of the Year, led the team along with Gilbert Avila and Melissa Ikono. The competition between FHS and CHS is starting to prove to be a healthy rivalry. For this fact alone, I cannot wait for next year's competition to begin.

It has been well over a decade since the Frisco High Boy's Basketball Team has won a play-off game. This year was the year. Coach Steve Specht's squad led by Dylan Moseley, Jeff Pritchard, and Kyle Echols beat Dallas Spruce in the Bi-District round of the AAAA Play-Offs. This season's win total of 27 games also marks a first, for as long as folks around here can remember. Way to go guys!

Not to be outdone, the Frisco High Girl's Basketball Team obtained another first for Frisco ISD....it's first ever Girl's AAAA District Title. Coach Bob Rose had his team playing well behind the performances of Ashley Doscher, Kallie Wilson, and Kaci Bollinger. Those three, along with Hollie Caras, will be leaving the program with the distinction of playing on three consecutive play-off teams. Quite a feat!

The Centennial Boy's Basketball Team was "in" every game they played this season. Coach David Williams should be very proud of his team's effort. Robert Shelton, Jason Jackson and Bernard Dean will lead this team into the play-offs next season.

Coach Rochelle Mulanax has reason to be excited about the Centennial Girl's Basketball Team next year. They return Kelli Klein, Abby Parmelly, and Molly Pannell to lead the squad. The girl's finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the district and won 13 games....without a senior. They will be a force next year!

This is my twelfth year here in Frisco ISD. For those who thought, when we added a second high school, FISD would not be as competitive as we once were....to you I say "hogwash". You will have to look long and hard to find a more successful winter season. My hat truly goes off to these remarkable athletes and their coaches. You, along with all the other great extracurricular and academic programs, are the reason why people are moving to Frisco. Congratulations to all the champions, and best of luck next year.