

# Congratulations

TO OUR

## RICE HIGH SCHOOL RAIDERS

BOY'S BASKETBALL TEAM  
and Coaches Jack Grammer and Gil Stalbaum

NO.

# 1981 STATE CLASS AAA CHAMPS

Larry Wiese  
Joyce & Melvin Stancik  
Joanette & Floyd Speerath  
Nancy & Carl Seasholtz  
Louise & Lloyd Spallinger  
Liz & Raymond Waddell  
Martha & Joe Duncan  
Cecilia & David Krunek  
Ann & George Matthews  
Barbara & Sammy Tise  
Linda & Ted Wiese  
Zelda & Jean Walker  
Jo Ann & Kenneth Mahalik  
Jean & Jim Wiese  
Robert Schüring  
Doris & Bill Thomas  
Kitty & Temple Thomas  
Maxine & Robert Griffith  
Elizabeth & Bonnie Miller  
Michelle & Wade Miller  
Cecilia & Anthony Kallera  
Debbie & Allen Smith  
Jean & Dan Thornton

### Sponsored by the following Raider Boosters:

Mel & Mike Grigar  
Evelyn & Oscar Miller  
Virginia & Walter L. Bauer  
Maria & Joe Ugarte  
Elle & Ray Thomas  
Anna Lee & Frank Higgins  
Jane & Jim Clapson  
Betty & Robert Wilcox  
Susan & Paul Causey  
Rose Ann & Bill Carpenter  
Lorraine & T. J. Smith  
Kate & Charlie Spallinger  
Nancy & T. Lang  
Sharon & Fred Grammann  
Willie Mae & Louis Grigar

Estrella & Ralph Truly  
Pat & Johnny Melizan  
Bea & Fred Beth  
Cindy & Jerry Fink  
Sandy & Don Bandy  
Jeff Friska  
Ruth and Lavo Brisco  
Mary and Charles DeShazo  
Lynda & Bill Appert  
Pat & Bob Cook  
Scharlene & Johnny Prazak  
Brenda & Wayne Corman  
Evelyn & Jimmy Thomas  
The Priestmeyer Dept. Stores  
Linda & Steve Sales

Gail & Gerald Bradshaw  
Jacelyn & Brock Ashby  
Margo & Bill Harrison  
Betty & Gene Brown & Carl  
Eunice & Fred Friska  
Mary Lou & Arthur Anderson  
Traylor Walker  
Cherry & Vic Corman  
Rose Marie & Don Friska  
Yolanda & Steve Almanza  
Marlene & Jim Miller  
Pat & Gardner Seasholtz  
Eula & David Wintermann  
Bun & Bruce Waddell  
Margie & Hootie Wiese

Ernie & Lonnie Sommerlatte  
Nancy & John Adkins  
Rita & Frank Bowen  
Patty & Draper Stephens  
Vicki & Clark Powers  
Martha & Curtis Laughlin  
Mary Lou & Butch Szymanski  
Charlotte & Fred Broschke  
Laurel & Jack Holden  
Frances & Paul Powers  
Ann & A. W. Kohlfel  
Janette & Pete Canaris  
Vicki & Bill Zboril  
Carol & Monroe Ripper  
Chris & Buck Swords  
Annie & Tony Schneider  
Frances & Elmer Struss  
Gladys & Marvin Tyler  
Marjorie & James Crabb  
Charlene Becak  
Edwina & O. J. Peroni  
Sandra & Major Benge  
Catherine & Lawrence Berger

## Rice Kernels

By Jeff Friska

### Haynes, Fields Named To AAA All State Tourney Team

Larry Haynes, 6'5" senior forward, and Earnest Fields, 6'3" senior forward, were selected to the Class AAA All-State Tournament team by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches annual coaching school which will be held in Waco next month.

Haynes had 33 points and 26 rebounds in the two games while Fields scored a total of 27 points and had eight rebounds.

Haynes also received word this week that he had been selected as a member of the South all-star basketball team which will play against the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches annual coaching school which will be held in Waco next month.

Raider coach Jack Grammer, who will speak at that clinic, will accompany Haynes to Waco.

### Honor Our Heroes

Congratulations to the Rice Raider boys' basketball team for the Class AAA State Championship. Our community should be very proud of the effort put forth by the team throughout the season and playoffs.

Seems as though we almost expect the boys to be in Austin every year. They have been there three times in the school's 11-year history. Many schools have never come close to getting there in over 50 years.

Let's not take the Raiders' heroics for granted. Almost 200 schools in Class AAA alone had hopes of accomplishing what Rice did but did not make it. Most schools never will.

So if you are interested in expressing your appreciation for the recognition our school and area has received... get on the phone, send a letter or stop by and visit with any of the players or coaches.

Winning the title is only half of the pleasure, the other half is hearing from you... the Raider fan... a fan that can proudly say that your school is a State Champion.

To Honor Raiders  
Mrs. Ethel Kovacka will be honoring the Raiders with a barbecue dinner on Sunday, April 5th, at her lovely Circle K Ranch home south of Eagle Lake. And several other Raider fans have indicated

plans to honor the team in some way also.

Seems the old phrase "Third Time is a Charm" held true for the Raiders as they finally claimed the glorified state title in their third trip to Austin.

The Raiders had a few other "thirds" working for them also. One was Coach Jack Grammer who has been the coach all three times. The others were David Grammer and Kenneth Bluntson, both being the "third" brother in their families to compete in the State meet.

I don't think Perryton is putting much stock in the phrase, however, since its appearance this year was also the third.

If you don't think Coach Grammer and asst. coach Gil Stalbaum are superstitious, just ask them why they wore the same clothes to each of the playoff games.

In a time of joy and celebration, we must stop to express sincere sympathy to Larry Haynes in the loss of his father on Saturday evening. Mr. Robert Lee Haynes, who had been in failing health for three years, died at his home in Garwood about nine hours after the Raiders won the State championship. Funeral services for Mr. Haynes will be held in Garwood this Sunday, March 29th, at 1:30 p.m.

### The Real Abe Lemons Meets The "Poor Man's Abe Lemons"

Following the Rice Raiders' 58-54 upset victory over Perryton in the state semi-finals last Thursday, Raider coach Jack Grammer was sitting in the dressing room with asst. Gil Stalbaum and a couple of reporters basking in the glory of another berth in the state finals and contemplating another couple of sleepless nights anticipating the outcome.

Suddenly, a familiar face to the "Super Drum" appeared in the door. Not concerned whether he was interrupting, he along with a colleague, walked in.

"We're just going to use the restroom," the guy muttered as he chewed on a bulky half-smoked cigar jammed in the corner of his mouth. "We'd have used Perryton's restroom, but those guys are throwing furniture and beating up on each other."

We all know who the guy was the minute he walked to the door, it was Abe Lemons, the humorous University of Texas basketball coach. Bill Killingsworth, the TCU basketball coach, was the other guy.

"Grammer, I sure like the way you kept the game close," complimented Lemons. "It really keeps the crowd interested in the game." But Lemons warned, "you really messed up, now you've got to play again."

The UT coach also added some thought as to why Rice was successful against the favored Perryton team.

"I thought Perryton was a swim team or something," joked Lemons, pointing out that he hadn't seen many teams that were all white. (The Raiders started four blacks and one white.) "That was the difference in the

game," Abe said. "They were only guarding four of your players, they thought the white kid was on their team. Killingsworth was jokingly introduced by Lemons as Eddie Sutton; a guy Abe likes less than losing. The TCU coach said he heard how Rice got out of district and wanted that "trick play."

(David Grammer's 40-foot jumper at the buzzer against Columbus.) He, however, already had an almost identical trick play of his own. Which beat A&M to advance to the Conference tournament.

Looking ahead to Saturday's matchup with North Lamar, Killingsworth warned, "If you win it all Grammer, you'll have to speak at some clinics."

It is customary for state champion coaches to speak at the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches' annual clinic which will be held in Waco next month. Grammer will be there and will be accompanied by asst. coach Haynes who was chosen to play on the South all-star basketball team.

Before departing the dressing room Killingsworth, who hasn't spent much of his time in Texas, asked where Rice High School was.

Grammer, who has been labeled as the "poor man's Abe Lemons" because of his similarity in tall, humorous stories and the difference of his salary with Abe's, quickly and accurately detailed the directions. "Just go straight until you see a sign, then take a left."

We're sorry but some of the pictures of crowd reaction we planned to use didn't get developed in time. Maybe we'll use 'em next week.

### The AAA State Basketball Champions • The Rice High School Raiders



The Rice High School Raider boys are the 1981 Class AAA State Champions. Members of the team include: kneeling, left to right, mgr. Danny Morales, Ed Thomas, John Dawson, Ronnie Fry, Michael Black, Vic Davis and mgr. Ronald Godino; standing, l. to r., mgr. Richard Gartman, asst. coach Gil Stalbaum, head coach Jack Grammer, David Grammer, Robert Frazier, Rob Johnson, Kenneth

Bluntson, Earnest Fields (all-state tournament), Robert Klekar, Larry Wiese (all-state tournament), Billy Townsend and Ronald Dawson.

### Fields Shoots Over Defender



Grammer Dunks



## ★ RICE WINS STATE! ★

### Boys Beat Perryton, North Lamar For AAA Cage Title

In 1975 the Rice High School Boys' basketball team "knocked on the door" of a State championship but lost to South Grand Prairie in the semi-finals. In 1979 they "beat on that door" as they reached the finals where they then lost a heartbreaker to Seminole.

In 1981 the Rice Raiders, utilizing a well balanced five-man attack, "kicked in that door" as they captured the Class AAA Championship of the Sixty-First Annual Boys' State Basketball Tournament held at the Erwin Center in Austin last week-end.

Raider starters Vic Davis, Earnest Fields, David Grammer and Larry Haynes, all seniors, and Kenneth Bluntson, a junior, were each instrumental all season in guiding Rice to the ultimate goal.

The Raiders, who were able to win the District 22AAA championship thanks to a 40-foot desperation shot at the buzzer that sent the game into overtime, knocked off top seeded Perryton in the semi-finals of the state tournament 58-54 and then edged Powderly North Lamar 56-52 in the finals to earn the bragging rights as the best Class AAA basketball team in the state.

Highlight Of Career  
The title, which is the first State Championship in Rice's 11-year sports history, highlights a magnificent career by basketball coach Jack Grammer as he completes his 10th year at the Raider helm with his 207th victory and 407th win in 20 years of coaching.

Though Grammer had trouble finding words to describe his feelings following the presentation of the championship trophy, his thoughts were quite obvious as the misty-eyed coach stood smiling at center court with the cut-down basketball net draped around his neck. For Jack Grammer his dream had finally come true.

"It was a numb feeling," said Grammer. "You can't really describe in words how good it felt. It's just something you have to experience to know the feeling."

Raiders Start Out Shaky  
The Raiders' feeling the pressure of the State Tournament, committed eight costly turnovers in the first period of play but still managed to pull ahead 12 to 11 over Perryton.

The Raiders started to improve as the game progressed and led by as many as six several times in the second quarter. Perryton, however, narrowed that gap to 29-27 at halftime.

Bluntson sparked the Raider attack in the second

quarter with Grammer and Haynes each scoring six points in the third quarter to help lead Rice to a 47-40 lead going into the final period.

Rice was able to thwart a couple of spurts by Perryton in the final period, cutting the Raider lead to three points, but, despite making only four of eight free throws in the final two minutes, the Raiders kept a four point lead through the remainder of the game.

Raiders Received Awards  
Following the championship game the Raiders were

### Coach Grammer Talks Strategy



"upset" win over Perryton on Thursday afternoon, combining for 36 points and 24 rebounds. Fields and Grammer each added 12 points in the win with Davis contributing four. John Dawson, who filled in for Davis in the second half because of foul trouble, rounded out the scoring with two points.

Robert Frazier also saw action in the game.

Best North Lamar  
In the finals it was Haynes sparking the attack again as he poured in 19 points, 13 in the first half, and pulled down 15 rebounds to lead Rice to a 56-52 win over Powderly North Lamar for the Class AAA championship.

Fields added to the balanced Raider attack with 15 points with Davis adding 11. Bluntson had seven points and eight rebounds and Grammer added four points and nine rebounds. All five starters played the full 32 minutes of the championship contest.

The Raiders, despite hitting a dismal 13 of 35 shots in the first half, managed to lead after one quarter 11-10

and at half by 29-20. They hit only 10 of 27 shots in the second half to give them a 37 percent shooting average for the game. The poor shooting started hurting Rice in the third quarter as the Panthers moved to within four at the end of the period 36-32. They narrowed that gap to 48-47 with 2:25 left to play but the Raiders rallied for six unanswered points on a layup by Haynes and free throws by Fields and Davis to pull ahead 54-47 with one minute left. Haynes added two more free throws with 30 seconds left to assure Rice of the victory.

Grammer pointed to several factors leading to the Raider problems in the early goings. As if the tough competition against Class 4A and 5A schools was not enough, he blamed a lack of overall consistency, "atrocious" free throw shooting, defense that was "sometimes good, sometimes less than good and sometimes really bad" and "poor practice habits."

But following the bad start, Rice won 10 of its next 12 games, the last during that span being the disappointing first round district loss to Columbus.

"We were still not playing real well during that stretch and then we lost to Columbus. The players got a lot of negative feedback from that loss from me, their classmates and from their peers," explained the Raider coach. "I guess it was then they realized that winning is much more pleasant."

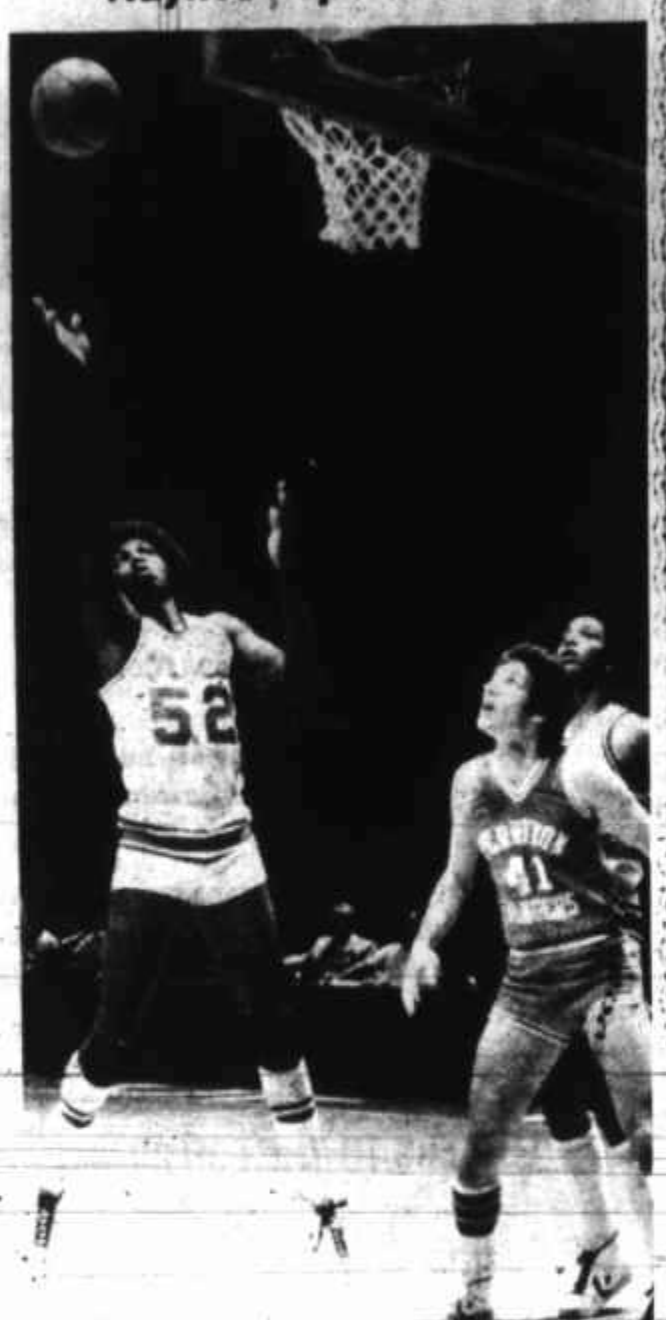
The loss obviously did have its effect on the team as they concluded the championship season with 17 straight wins. And during that time the most obvious improvement was free throw shooting which improved from about 50 percent to 65 percent, a factor that helped Rice win many close games, according to Grammer.

Besides improved shooting from the charity line the Raiders began to show an improved team effort with each game. Rice upset by Seminole in the 1979 title game, was a winner this time, Grammer said, because of better overall scoring balance and "although we went with our five starters, we also had a better bench this year." Robert Frazier, Rob Johnson and John Dawson were the three reserves who came off the bench this season to help win many games, and though the year's HHS coach says the evenly distributed attack was an important factor in the stretch run, it wasn't the key to the ultimate achievement.

"Two things made us successful this season... rebounding and defense. When we did those, we were a championship team," he explained, adding that "our defense generated our offense. When we forced bad

Perryton, on the other

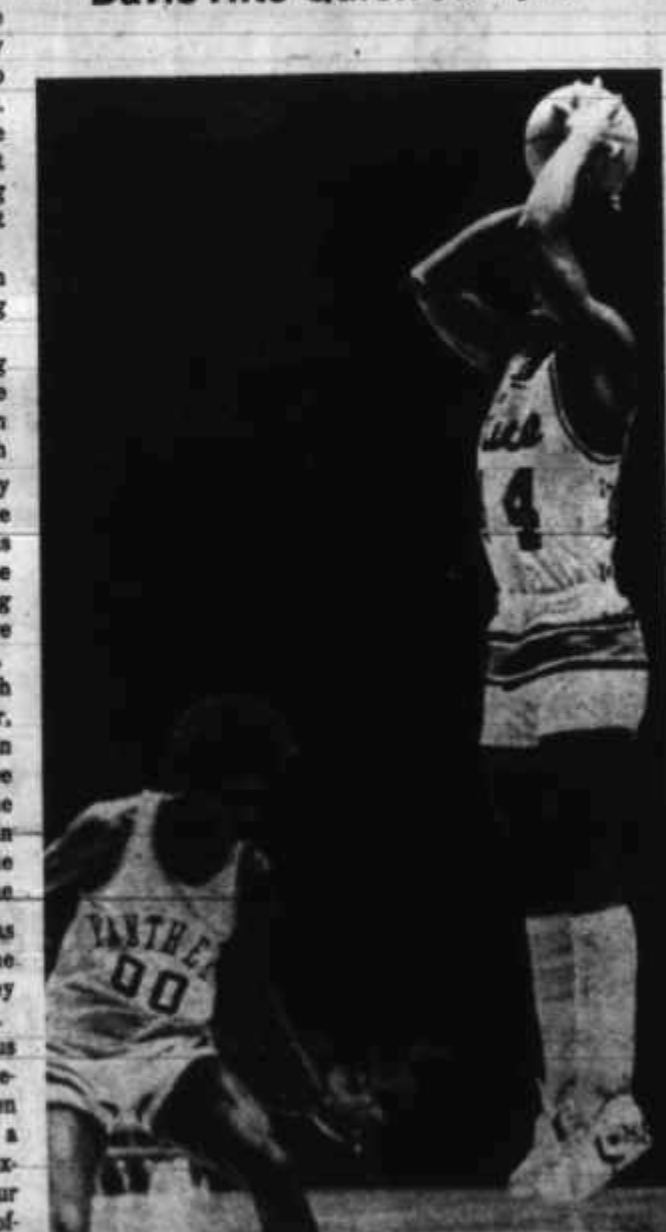
### Haynes Flips in Shot



### Bluntson Goes High For Two



### Davis Hits Quick Jumper



- Photos By Bert Tise

(Continued on page 6)