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The VFW post here once again is funding the summer youth basketball program managed by primary school principal Major Benge, and middle school coach Elizabeth Miller. Last Thursday VFW post commander Melvin Stancik presented the Rice School District with an \$800 contribution for this year's expenses. The donation is less this year, since the group's \$1,200 contribution last year included equipment available this year. Benge said the program, at the primary school gym, runs for 20 days, opening May 27. June 27 is the last day. The gym will be open each day from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., and while there is no charge for participants they must be enrolled in the Rice School District.

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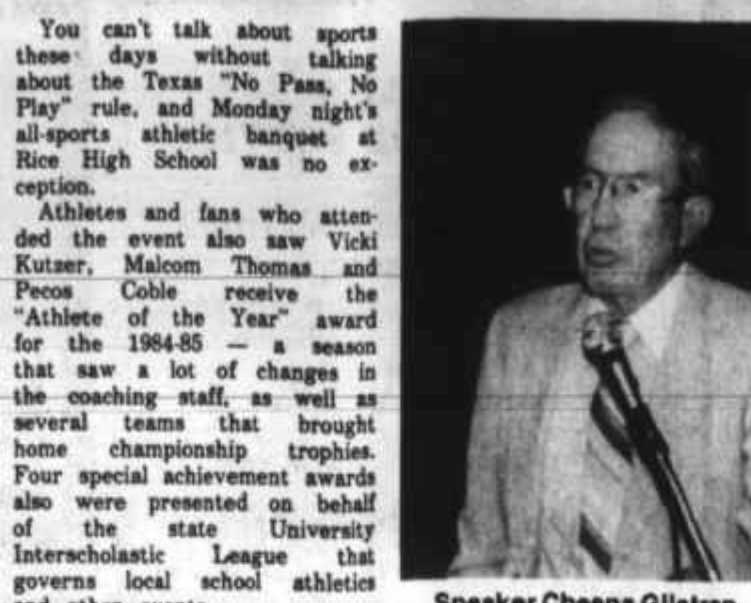
All Registrations Due Before 5:00 p.m., Friday, May 3

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Registration Forms Available at City Hall

Sports

Rice athletes honored Monday



You can't talk about sports these days without talking about the Texas "No Pass, No Play" rule, and Monday night's all-sports athletic banquet at Rice High School was no exception.

Athletes and fans who attended the event also saw Vicki Kuter, Malcom Thomas and Pecan Coble receive the "Athlete of the Year" award for the 1984-85 — a season that saw a lot of changes in the coaching staff, as well as several teams that brought home championship trophies. Four special achievement awards also were presented on behalf of the state University Interscholastic League that governs local school athletics and other events.

"I contributed to a lot of winners," said the evening's speaker Cheena Gilstrap, retired coach at University of Texas, Arlington. "But unfortunately, too many of them were on the opposite side of the field." His talk added humor to the evening; it is easier to be humorous when you are talking to champions like you are, he said; "there isn't much you can do to cheer up those 28 teams."

"We just want to thank you for letting us feel the pride that comes with being winners," was a comment added by Laura Appelt after she called on the varsity football team to stand. The varsity football players earned bi-district championship honors, the JV football team were district champs, the girls varsity team was the basketball district champs and the freshman boys were basketball district champs.

After certificates of recognition for athletic achievement in the various sports were announced by Rachelle Hunt, and awards

performance in academics, as well as the extra-curricular activity. To qualify, the students have to be in the top ten percent of their graduating class. "They are examples of model students" that others can follow, he said.

As for comments on the academic standing, both Darden and Gilstrap let their opinions be known.

Darden, known for speaking up at the annual sports banquet, said "Last year I mentioned that Texas sports may never be the same when governor Mark White and Ross Perot got in the things they wanted in some of you are starting to see now that may be true. I would like to tell these young people and athletes, that you have been challenged. I hope we have the young people around here that will meet that challenge...you know there are certain things you must accomplish in any UIL event. We have a fight on our hands. We're not trying to change any laws...we want to meet the challenges set for the Rice District. (we want to) expand our education and (we want to) do what it takes."

"Let's not slip away and hide, and we will come out champions," he said.

Kristine Carpenter introduced Gilstrap, who retired in 1978 and now is a banquet speaker and rancher.

"The penalty right now simply is unreasonably high," Gilstrap said of the no pass, no play rule. He recited a story about two players who joined one of his junior college teams. The only reason they went to junior college, he said, was that in their first semester at a major college, they flunked every course, and the junior college was their last chance.

Because of sports, and the dedication of coaches to an educational system, one of those players now is an MD, and the other is an engineer. "It wasn't a matter of intelligence, but a matter of interest," he said. "If athletics has any virtue at all it is simply that some people have a marginal interest in education, and if athletics can do one thing — and it has many times — it can keep these young men and women in an atmosphere of education long enough so they can begin to see the light," as did the two players mentioned. "Certainly education should be first in school...any athlete that plays out his eligibility without getting an education, is the big loser," Gilstrap said.

On the more entertaining side, Gilstrap said he was in the business for 30 years, and coached in many different schools. "Moving so many times was by choice," he said, "but it wasn't always my choice." In another story, he said that as a coach he might not have always faced the music when in a tough situation. Once a quarterback called time out and trotted over to the sideline when he wanted to consult the coach about a third down and long situation. Gilstrap said he asked what play he should call. Gilstrap told him that since he was only on a one-year contract, yet the player was on a 4-year scholarship, the player should make the call.

Just after the barbecue meal, Darden thanked the participants and community for their support of Rice athletics. He also introduced the coaching staff: Steve Carroll, Gilbert Goode, Dusty Lowe, Mike Tankersley, Jane Dostal and Bill Cain at the high school; he also recognized the coaches at Garwood, Sheridan and the Eagle Lake Middle School.

Laughlin winner in Lions' tournament

Dr. Curtis Laughlin was the winner Sunday in the championship flight of the annual Eagle Lake Lions Club golf tournament. More than \$4,000 in cash and prizes were shared by Laughlin and other winners. There were 86 players entered.

While the day started off with "shaky" weather, the sun blazed throughout the afternoon. During the lunch hour, Lions served more than 600 barbecue chicken lunches as part of the annual fund raiser. Proceeds are used by the Lions Club to support other charitable causes in the area.

Winners and their scores are:

•Championship Flight: first, Nick Ramirez Sr., of Weimar, 74; third, Nick Ramirez Jr. of

Little League Schedule

Saturday, May 4

8:30-9:40 a.m., Mets vs. Rangers; 9:50-11:20 a.m., Cubs vs. Dodgers; 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Tigers vs. Cowpokes; 12:40-2:10 p.m., Honey Bees vs. Red Sox; 2:20-3:30 p.m., Blue Belles vs. Eagles; 3:40-4:50 p.m., Mets vs. Sox; 5:40 p.m., Cardinals vs. Panthers; 6:50 p.m., opening ceremonies/candle-light; 7:50-9 p.m., Pirates vs. Yankees; 9:10-10:40 p.m., Phillies vs. Honey Bees.

Sunday, May 5

8:30-9:40 p.m., Cardinals vs. Cowpokes; 9:45-5 p.m., Rangers vs. Sox; 8:15-9:45 p.m., Phillies vs. Red Sox.

Tuesday, May 7

8:30-7 p.m., Cubs vs. Pirates; 7:15-8:15 p.m., Tigers vs. Panthers; 8:30-10 p.m., Dodgers vs. Yankees.

Wednesday, May 8

8:30-6:30 p.m., Cardinals vs. Cowpokes; 6:45-8 p.m., Eagles vs. Blue Belles; 8:15-9:15 p.m., Panthers vs. Tigers.

Thursday, May 9

No games. Eagle Lake Middle School Band Concert held.

Friday, May 10

8:30-7 p.m., Tanks vs. Dodgers; 7:15-8:30 p.m., Rangers vs. Mets; 8:45-10:15 p.m., Pirates vs. Cubs.



Special UIL athletic awards were presented to Jon Harborth, Bertie Garcia, Becky Kuter and John Adkins.

History of 'Ice House' continues with fitness center opening this Saturday

This Saturday the course of history of Eagle Lake's ice house takes another turn as grand opening ceremonies are scheduled for the Eagle Lake Fitness Center and the Eagle Lake Hair Center.

Featuring an array of fitness center equipment, the Fitness Center is giving new life to the once crumbling building. Long ago, estimated at around the turn of the century, Eagle Lake's ice house opened almost across the tracks from the train depot. In those days, ice was a treat indeed, when residents had the money to purchase it. The original opening of the building is recalled as an event comparable to the coming of the Rural Electrification Corp. that brought electricity to rural areas.

The ice house was a fun place in most communities. While little history is readily available on the Eagle Lake structure, a shame in itself, many people remember the good old days and the good times connected with the place. Anna Margaret White, now 87 and a life-long resident of Eagle Lake, recalls that in

everyone to be signed up by 5:30 p.m. If you can't get there by 5:30 and want to play, you can call out to the Recreation Club house or let some member know ahead of time you plan on playing and they will sign you up.

The association would like for

Weekly fun golf tournament starts

The mixed nine-hole fun golf tournament, sponsored by the Eagle Lake Ladies Golf Association will begin this week on Wednesday, May 1. This tournament will be held every Wednesday with tee-off time starting at 8 p.m.

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