



Summer
Weekly

Reader

Volume 125, Issue 185 August 13, 2015

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

NON-FANTASY FOOTBALL

UPCOMING MEETINGS

August 20th

"Plano Balloon Festival"
Festivals impact on Plano
and it's economy.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Camille Ussery	Aug 10
Kevin Hanigan	Aug 14
Mike Jobe	Aug 15
Reedy Spigner	Aug 20
Sarah Watkins	Aug 20
Michael Robnett	Aug 24



I must have missed it. Did anyone find the football schedule cards that the coaches usually bring to their talks? If so, pass them to me, and I'll publish 'em in the next *Weekly Reader*.

Scary Bob was back as paparazzo (the male singular of which "paparazzi" is the plural; actually, since **Jamee Jolly** is listed as a "substitute photographer" for the bulletin <news to you, right, Jamee?>, I guess she would be properly referred to as a "paparazza"), and **NATHAN BARBERA** was AWOL, otherwise he'd have put in a pitch for

PLANO ROTARY FANTASY FOOTBALL on the day when the PISD coaches broadcast their homilies and predictions.

PRESIDENT KELLY beseeched the unruly mob to order at 12:15, calling upon **Ean SECRET SANTA Sullivan** for the Invocation and a "vertical" **Rutledge Haggard** for the Pledge. Since no one greeted, Kelly exhorted us to "thank yourselves." Then he called **David McWhorter** to do the honors for the absent **NATHAN**.



David dutifully pronounced the name of the Rotarian visiting from Metro, **Shaheen Salam**, Co-Chair of MCOR, but he failed utterly with the Rotarians and guests visiting from India (actually Chennai, in southern India). Nevertheless, Kelly presented a Plano Rotary Banner to **R. Venkataramanan** and extracted from his translator (and relative?), **V. Krishnakumar**, that ours was Mr. Venkataramanan's first American Rotary visit.



Ean presented his "two favorite people in the Whole Wide World", granddaughters **Ava** and **Brooke McConanghy**.



Kelly presented "Rotary Anniversary" pins to **Lynette "Piper" Pieper** (1), **Yoram Solomon** and **Janis Allman** (2), **Jim McGee** (4), **Camille Ussery** (7), **Earnest Burke** (8), and **Howard Shapiro** (37!), to

continued on page 2



whom someone cruel suggested that was so long ago that “*You were a Democrat back then.*” (But then everyone was a Democrat back then...well...further back when **Gov. Connally** jumped ship.)

Kelly mentioned that the entire *Gleneagles Contract Committee* (Nathan Barbera, Jamee Jolly, & **Rick Horne**) had jumped ship but will get back to work on their return.

Kelly then introduced a man who needed no introduction, PISD Athletic Director, **Gerald Brence**, who would, in turn, introduce the day’s speakers: the PISD high school football coaches.

- Was a Tom Landry Award nominee.
- Was named the Texas High School Coach of the Year twice ('93 and '07).

Gerald told us that this (last) Friday will be “*the last Friday off for a long time.*” Plano is in District 6-6A with 8 other “*big schools*” that make athletics “*very competitive.*” But, apparently, we like it that way. Gone are the days when State Championship was a given; now Plano (and East and West) must scramble for it.

He introduced us to one familiar and two new faces. **J.R. McCullough** (PSHS) has been before us many times, but his little (figuratively) brother **Joey** (PESH) and **Scott West** (PWSH) are newly-minted.



Coach Brence was named the District Athletic Director in the summer of '07. He was the **WILDCATS** Football Coach and Athletic Director for 16 years ('92-'07). He accumulated a record of 120 wins and 70 losses. He is second on the All-Time Win List for Plano football coaches. Under his leadership, his teams advanced to the State Quarter Finals or better **five times**. In '94, the football team won the 5A State Football Championship. In '93, they were a State Finalist. The **WILDCATS** also won two State Championships while Gerald was an assistant coach in '86-'87.

Coach Brence:

- Is the President of the National Football Foundation (NFF) Gridiron Club of Dallas Chapter
- Served on the Texas State Coaches' Board of Directors.



J.R. (not a Dallas Oil Magnate) coaches the **WILDCATS**. He told us what “*a great honor*” it was to be here. He said that his favorite people were “*teachers and coaches,*” and that “*Football is a scrimmage for Life.*” It teaches you about getting up “*every time you’re knocked down.*”

His winning formula for championships is

1. Stay healthy
2. Win road games!

And he gives his team five questions to ask themselves to develop a “*championship attitude:*”

1. Are you willing to sacrifice something (to make room for football)? Presumable not academics!
2. Who do you need to win? You can’t win championships with one guy!
3. What talents must you acquire?
4. (“*The Big One*”) Are you **confident**? You can’t win if you don’t believe you can or your parents don’t believe you can!
5. What choices must you make to be a champion?

He asked for a show of hands for those with children or grandchildren in sports. He told those who responded, *"You need to be a fan not a critic."* He said if your progeny could write you a letter about your attitudes, it would include:

- Please don't yell at the other team.
- Please don't yell at the coaches.
- Please don't yell at me on the field.

He concluded with a quotation:

"If you want to be happy for an hour, eat a steak. If you want to be happy for a day, play golf. If you want to be happy for a year, win the lottery. If you want to be happy for a lifetime, help other people be successful."

Lou Holtz

Next up was Joey McCullough, Head Coach of the PESH **PANTHERS**. For him, the *"honor and blessing"* is to work for Coach Brence. But then Joey considers *"Coaching is an honorable profession"* that *"has an impact on more people than any other profession."*

He's proud to coach **Jesse Palmer** who he believes destined for greatness. (Daddy must have swelled with pride too.)



He told us that *"Coaches build relationships."* Team members must *"care about one another."* He says he's reading **Jon Gordon's Hard Hat: 21 Ways to be a Leader**, and the primary directive is to be selfless, revel in serving others. Yeeesss: Service Above Self.

He has to have as healthy as relation with his team members as with his own children; only then can they be successful.

At Football Camp (which has seen more recruits this year), he emphasizes *"Getting up, showing up, working as hard as you can."*

He concluded with a paean to J.R., *"My brother is my hero."*

Lastly, we heard from Scott West, who coaches the PWSH **WOLVES**. Scott told us that his four-way test is:

1. Pride
2. Poise

3. Class
4. Discipline

...and giving back to the community. Wait, that's five. But his charges work with the *Journey of Hope*, *"bringing the stuff they need."* Even the cheerleaders help out.



His mantra is relationships build championships, and he too is enamored of Lou Holtz, *"a short dude with glasses and a lisp."* He suggests team members ask of one another:

1. Can I trust you?
2. Do you care about me (and the team)?
3. Are you committed to excellence?

Since we're part of *"the toughest district in Texas,"* he wants us to *"come early, be loud, and stay late! Be a part of the Blue Nation."*

Gerald Brence closed the program suggesting that the successes we have are due to the coaches wanting *"to be at that school."* He oversees 316 assistant coaches with rules like No Profanity, No Name-calling, and Provide a Safe Environment.

He was asked if we'll finally beat Allen. J.R. said they have the highest paid coaches, so they can afford the best. A level playing field would be necessary. We beat Allen in '05, when *"our guys KNEW they were gonna win."*

Joey said he had two wide receivers committed to San Diego State. A 6'3" line backer who is exceptional in the classroom too. When asked, *"Who is the best team in the District?"* he answered, *"I'm not gonna tell you, but they're going down this year!"*

Gerald asked, *"McKinney?"*

Referring to Allen, someone asked about the rules about kids transferring in. Gerald said their new pick was on the up-and-up, since his father moved here to take a new job.

David Bowman asked, *"What one thing would you tell parents?"* Gerald responded, *"Coach little league games,"* and *"step out of the way"* in high school.

After awarding several perpetual paperweights, Kelly led us in the 4-Way Test and belled us out at 1:01.

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The Plano Rotary Club

PO BOX 864316

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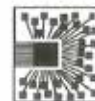
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