



SUMMER Weekly

Reader

Volume 21, Issue 05, August 5th, 2021

The Plano Rotary Club
www.PlanoRotary.com

Ra Ra Boys & Seti Set

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

August 5th

Michael Garrett

Trusted World

August 12

Kristin Linscott

*Plano Public Library
Resources & Services*

August 19

Van Taylor

Congressional Update

August 26

DG Max Duplant

Dist 5810 & RI Update



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

LaNell Morold Aug 04

Jeff Beckley Aug 21



THAT obscure 1920s reference comes from *Archy and Mehitabel*, a series of columns by **Don Marquis** in New York's *Evening Sun*. Archy, a cockroach poet is sent to interview an Egyptian Pharaoh who laments that his life was ruined by the "Ra Ra Boys and the Seti Set," referring to Ra, the falcon-headed god, and Set, the jackal-headed one. Today's Ra Ra Boys don't ruin anyone's lives.

The Right Honorable Joe Camarena drew our attention from our bag lunches at 12:07, and a good thing too as the Ra Ra Boys "went long." Joe invited **Peggy Fenwick** (bulletin photographer) to offer the Invocation and **Maria Mott** to Pledge. He feted **John Priest** for Greeting.

SERGEANT HAYDEN PADGETT recognized Visiting Rotarian **Mike McCormack** and Guest the-not-late-this-time **Denise McNair**. Both are on track to join the Geriatric Club of Plano.



Joe announced the need for more volunteers at *Habitat's ReStores* (in 2-hour shifts from 9-6). And he thanked the ~20 members who attended both *The Little Mermaid* and its wine and cheese reception.

John Caldwell reported slogging through the paperwork with 5810's **Larry Webb** to get a matching grant for ShelterBox. He also mentioned that recruiting for members of our (non-curricular) Rotaract club can't commence until the new school year. Our recent 4-Way

Speech Contest winner has volunteered to seek out a faculty sponsor. Joe recommended having her give us a brief presentation.

Joe sought volunteers for the Foundation Committee which meets next Monday. (See **Jeff Beckley**.)



Johnny Lewis then stripped to his stripes to introduce **Jeff Smith**, PISD Athletic Coordinator. Here the referee is about to signal a head-butting infraction.



Johnny admitted to having "blown more whistles and thrown



more yellow flags” than he can count in his 41 years of endurance of slings, arrows, and insults directed at him, his family, his dog, and the horse he rode in on! He also copped to having flagged three PISD coaches (unnamed).

Johnny posed a conundrum to the gathered coaches of a two-point conversion that didn’t make the goal line, and a extra point blocked but still alive and recovered for how many points? He answered his rhetorical question, “One!”

He allowed as how coaches have the “most difficult job,” riding herd on 14 to 17-year-old boys to “march in a straight line.” He’s contemplating authoring a book entitled “*Four-Inch Fever*,” named for the width of football field markings. Having thus regaled us, Johnny got down to business.

Jeff Smith inherited his position from former Plano Rotarian **Gerald Brence** in 2020, having risen from coaching Middle through High to Asst. Coach at *Plano Senior*. Johnny needled him: Jeff’s 1st game was coaching *Lake Highland’s* Wildcats against “the superior Wildcats of *Plano Senior High*” against Johnny and **Randy Brodhead**. (Naturally, Jeff lost.) Jeff came to Plano via *McKinney High* and the Athletic Directorship of *Prosper High*.

(We all know that the least sportswoman among us is far more qualified to report what followed, but you’re stuck with **Sainted Editor**.)



Jeff Smith reported that he gets as emotional about football as “**Jerry Jones at training camp**.” Even more so last year during the pandemic. He credited **Coach Kimbrough** with setting him on this path. Glancing at Johnny, he said that in all

his Rotary presentations, he’s never been introduced by a referee in uniform!

Except for the ubiquitous hand-sanitizer, this season is “back to normal.” His staff spent 2020 spraying down locker rooms.

He is as proud of the 3 coaches present as his is of the 81 Academic All-State student athletes that came through PISD.



The eldest statesman, **Joey McCullough**, Football Coach at *Plano East*, is proud also of his family: his Dad for having cared for his Mom, who passed away from Alzheimer’s, and his daughters who have also grown to be coaches.

He said that it’s most gratifying when former players return and tell him that he’s made a difference in their lives. He told of a 6’ 6” 315 lbs player who went on the pass the bar exam on the first try. (“Some things never leave you,” like the loss to *Westlake* last season.) Other kids take the International Baccalaureate (IB) program and score both on the field and in the GPA.

His mantra at Football Camp is

1. Be coachable.
2. Be consistent.
3. Do you care?

He had his pick of ~140 potential players. 30 kids are back this year, so Joey is excited about this season. “*Adversity makes you better*.”

Tyler Soukup is Head Coach at *Plano West*. He lauded Rotary and his fellow coaches as being “men of service.” (By which he meant “men and women” of course.) He mentioned a picture circulating that depicted Referee J. Lewis being chewed



out by a coach. He said coaches yell at athletes “to do better,” but only because they love them. So Johnny was on the receiving end of a lot of love in that photo.

Tyler reiterated Johnny's contention that getting "11 athletes to the same thing at one time" is a challenge. And he's not underestimating the challenge given by his opposing schedule. But when the make progress even though they're "really tired and really hurt," that's when leadership kicks in.

After ticking off a list of "solid" players, he invited us to *Plano West* games.

Todd Ford, the Athletic Director of *Plano Senior High*, was interrupted by Joe, who said that since we were running overtime, those who had to leave were excused to do so. Ford to the hint, saying, "They've said it all. I'm good." But then he continued.

His coach Dad and teacher Mom "tried to convince me not to do it," but the apple didn't fall far from the tree. Turning to Johnny he mused, "I wondered why the shirt was untucked."

Todd "could write a long book about last year." The day of his interview, the lockdown started. They lost "a large number of seniors. Covid took four starters out." But what could have been an unrelieved curse, turned out to have a silver lining. The second string got a



chance to play. ~~Sainted Editor~~ is assuming that is mildly unusual.

Todd's mantra involves Belief, Ownership, and Accountability. Of course, it never hurts (except the opposition) to have "some big human beings." Like Tyler before him, Todd listed everyone and his dog: **Cam Jones, Michael Dorsey, Miles Davisson, Oscar Gonzalez, Greg Garcia, David Smith, Luke Pressler, Colin Wayne**, etc.

School starts August 11th and Todd is excited about "where we are." He's a bit sad that Principal **Sara Watkins** has retired! But "the best is yet to come." He was excited to finally meet **Nancy Humphrey**, and he thanked her "for all they've done for us."

Joe told the group that we'd donate a book to the Plano Library (would that be *The Parr*?) with all four names in it. Then he led us in the Five-Way Test and shoed us out at 1:16!



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