

CCCAT HALL OF FAME INDUCTION – JIM MOUSER – June 15, 2011

I am honored to be asked to speak about Jim Mouser – those who really know him, just say MOUSER.

We talk to our kids about building a base and establishing a foundation that the rest of the season is built upon. Coach Mouser, and a handful of others, built that base for us in Texas. He was one of the few coaches who raced a team at a State Meet – BOYS ONLY AT THAT TIME – when the race was one mile and UIL did not recognize Cross Country as a sport. Look at where we are today.

Coach Mouser was born in Hannah, Oklahoma. He graduated from Northeast Louisiana State College where he ran the 440 and Mile Relay. In his senior year, he ran the second leg on that relay that went 3:10 – the fastest time in the nation that year.

He began teaching and coaching in Iowa Park, Texas in 1963. In 1967, Coach Mouser came to Highland Park and coached football and Boy's Track & Field. He started the Boy's Cross Country program there and in 1975, took over the Girls' Track & Field and shortly after that started Girls' Cross Country. By the time he retired, the Boy's Cross Country Team had won 10 District and 2 Regional championships. The Girls' Cross Country Team had won 18 District, 17 Regional, and 5 State championships in both 5A & 4A and his Girls' Track & Field team was State Runner-up twice.

Mouser will tell you the championships are great, but his passion is building young people. He is known for being demanding, tough, outspoken, and fair. He set the example of hard work for his athletes and any coach who watched him. Mouser had the ability to push the average to a champion and a group of individuals to a team. His loyalty to his runners is unmatched.

When I came to Highland Park in 1985, I had never seen a Cross Country Meet. After I watched one – I didn't understand it. Mouser, as he did with any coach interested enough to ask a question, spent time – LOTS OF TIME – with me. He taught me much more about coaching than just the workouts. He taught me how to coach kids.

Jim Mouser's dedication to kids and the great sport of Cross Country helped us be, here in Texas, where we are today.

HE DID OUR BASEWORK!

I am honored to say:

Jim Mouser – a member of the Cross Country Coaches of Texas Hall of Fame