



Class of 2026

Fredericksburg High School Auditorium
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Fredericksburg ISD
Education Foundation



Willard Dearing

Fredericksburg High School Class of 1956

“ The FHS coaches who were influential in my life were Dale Johansen, Fritz Loeffler, Roy Langerhans, and Leonard Shanklin. I often wonder what would have become of my life if I had not followed these coaches’ words of encouragement and hard work ethic example. ”

Willard Dearing’s story is one of perseverance, determination, and achievement against long odds. Raised on a modest farm near Cherry Spring in Gillespie County, Dearing learned the value of hard work at an early age. Life on the family farm required long hours of labor, and those experiences built the strength, discipline, and resilience that would later define his athletic career. Although baseball was his first love, it was during his years at Fredericksburg High School that he discovered football and developed into one of the most respected athletes of his generation.

At Fredericksburg High School, Dearing excelled in football, baseball, basketball, and track despite facing a significant challenge: severe asthma. Frequently requiring oxygen while performing on the football field, he nevertheless earned the respect of teammates, coaches, and opponents through his toughness and determination.

His classmates selected him as football team captain, and he earned All-District honors while becoming one of the Billies’ most dependable two-way players. His success demonstrated that grit and heart could overcome physical limitations and inspired those who played alongside him.

After graduation, Dearing expected to spend his life working construction and helping support his family. Instead, former Fredericksburg coach, Dale Johansen, recognized his potential and helped secure a walk-on opportunity at Southwest Texas State College. Dearing seized that opportunity and went on to enjoy an outstanding collegiate career with the Bobcats. He became a scholarship athlete, a three-year letterman, and team captain during both his junior and senior seasons. His accomplishments included All-Conference honors on both offense and defense, First Team All-Texas College recognition, All-Conference Running Back (by unanimous vote of all conference coaches) and induction into the T-Association Sports Hall of Honor. He set numerous records, including a kickoff return mark that stood for more than sixty years, and attracted interest from both NFL and Canadian Football League organizations.

Although highly self-motivated, Willard had the support of family, teammates, community and church and returned that support by enjoying the success of two younger brothers who also exemplified Billie Pride in sports and went on to serve in law enforcement and education.

Willard’s brother, Milburn Dearing, graduated from FHS in 1959, lettered three years, was a football Co-Captain, and played football for Southwest Texas State until an injury sidelined him. Another brother, Delbert Dearing, graduated from FHS in 1968, was a football Tri-Captain, and went on to play college football for Ranger Junior College and McMurry College in Abilene.

Willard’s greatest joy was in the success of his children and grandchildren and watching them excel in academics and sports. Daughter: Cheryl Dearing Regmund (John) and their sons (Clinton & Wesley), Son: Craig Dearing, and Daughter: Niki Dearing Cockerham (Shawn) and their three children (McKenzie & Chance Carrigan, Jake Cockerham, Kylie Cockerham) and great-granddaughter Kennedy Kate Carrigan.

Dearing built an equally successful career with the United States Department of Agriculture as a resource conservationist and reclamation specialist. Following retirement, he remains active in his church, community, and family ranch while continuing to exemplify the values that defined his life: faith, humility, service, and hard work. His remarkable journey from a farm boy in Cherry Spring to a collegiate football standout and respected public servant represents the very best of the Fredericksburg High School tradition.



James Patrick “Happy” Feller

*Fredericksburg High School
Class of 1967*

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Fredericksburg High School gave me more than an education- it gave me friendships, lessons, and opportunities that helped shape who I am today. My advice to future generations of FHS students is to make the most of your time here, work hard, treat others with respect, and never underestimate the impact these years can have on the rest of your life.

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Few Fredericksburg High School athletes have achieved success on the football field at the high school, collegiate, and professional levels quite like James Patrick “Happy” Feller. A member of the Class of 1967, Feller distinguished himself as both an outstanding athlete and student leader during his years at Fredericksburg High School. He earned All-CenTex and All-Super CenTex honors in football while helping continue the proud tradition of Billie athletics.

After graduating from Fredericksburg High School, Feller enrolled at the University of Texas as a walk-on kicker. Through hard work, determination, and exceptional talent, he earned a scholarship and quickly established himself as one of the finest placekickers in Longhorn history. During one of the most successful eras in Texas football under legendary coach Darrell Royal, Feller set numerous school and Southwest Conference records while helping lead the Longhorns to conference championships and national prominence. His memorable performances included game-winning field goals and record-setting scoring totals against some of the nation’s toughest competition.

Feller’s accomplishments at Texas earned him recognition as one of the most prolific kickers in program history. His impact on Longhorn football was formally acknowledged in 2014 when he was inducted into the University of Texas Athletics Hall of Honor, one of the institution’s highest athletic distinctions. The honor placed him among the elite athletes who have represented the University of Texas over its storied history. After his senior year, he was honored by The Sporting News by being selected to their All-American team.

Following his collegiate career, Feller continued his football journey in the National Football League, playing for both the Philadelphia Eagles and the New Orleans Saints. Competing at the highest level of professional football further demonstrated the skill and dedication that had first become evident during his days in Fredericksburg. His athletic accomplishments, leadership, and commitment to excellence have made him one of the most accomplished athletes ever produced by Fredericksburg High School. His induction into the Hall of Fame honors a career that brought distinction not only to himself but also to his school and hometown.



Michael Friederich

*Fredericksburg High School
Class of 1983*

Michael Eugene Friederich stands among the most dominant baseball players ever to wear the red and white of Fredericksburg High School. A member of the Class of 1983, Friederich developed into one of the premier pitchers in Texas high school baseball. During his four years at Fredericksburg High School, he established a standard of excellence that remains one of the benchmarks for future generations of Billie athletes.

Friederich’s accomplishments on the mound were remarkable. He earned All-District honors in 1981, 1982, and 1983, All-Central Texas recognition in 1982 and 1983, and All-State honors in 1983.

By the time he graduated, he held virtually every significant pitching record in school history, including career victories, career strikeouts, season strikeouts, and career earned run average. His 480 career strikeouts and microscopic earned run average established him as one of the most dominant pitchers ever to compete in Texas high school baseball.

His performance attracted national attention and earned him a full baseball scholarship offer from the University of Hawaii. Instead of pursuing collegiate baseball, Friederich chose to begin his professional career after being selected by the Houston Astros as their second pick in the 1983 Major League Baseball Draft. The Astros organization quickly recognized his potential, and he was named Player of the Year in the New York-Penn League at just eighteen years old while competing against older and more experienced players. His rapid advancement through the Astros farm system led to selection on the organization’s 40-man roster during only his second professional season.

Throughout his baseball career, Friederich represented Fredericksburg with distinction and demonstrated what could be accomplished through talent, preparation, and dedication. His achievements remain among the finest individual athletic accomplishments in school history and continue to inspire young athletes who dream of competing at the highest levels of the game. His Hall of Fame induction recognizes a baseball career that ranks among the greatest ever produced by Fredericksburg High School.

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Being a Battlin' Billie meant being part of something much bigger than baseball. It meant belonging to a close-knit community where people knew one another, your word was your bond, and everyone looked out for each other.

Coach David Mayfield had a tremendous impact on my life. He taught us that quitting was never an option. When we were knocked down, we got back up. When we thought we had reached our limit, he challenged us to discover another level of determination and performance we didn't know we had.

Our teams were built on trust, discipline, and the pursuit of excellence. We played as one, held each other accountable, and always gave our best. Win or lose, we knew our community stood proudly behind us, and that support inspired us to represent the pursuit of excellence and to represent Fredericksburg with pride. Being a Battlin' Billie is an honor that has stayed with me throughout my life. I will always be grateful to have worn the uniform and to be part of a tradition built on character, perseverance, and pride.

"Billie Pride Über Alles"

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Lisa (Knopp) Kaman

*Fredericksburg High School
Class of 1985*

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Coach Burnett was my junior high 8th grade basketball and track coach, but everything really started in 6th grade. He was the one who saw the potential in me as a triple and long jumper. He helped me with technique by building short wooden boxes for me to use as a part of workouts, which allowed me to work on certain skills to improve my triple jump form and distance. I would continue to use those boxes in high school. His work ethic, values, and commitment to his students/athletes was remarkable.

Coach Rathke was my high school track coach as well as an assistant coach in basketball. She would continue to help me develop my triple and long jump skills and teach the value of work ethic and being prepared and confident. Her sense of humor, endless energy, and patience was unparalleled.

Mrs. Whitewood was my senior English teacher. She had high standards. Her tough but excellent instruction enabled me to be fully prepared for college. She was truly an amazing teacher!

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Lisa Suzanne Knopp Kaman exemplifies the ideal student-athlete, combining exceptional athletic achievement with academic excellence and lifelong commitment to her community. A proud member of the Fredericksburg High School Class of 1985, Kaman excelled in both track and basketball while simultaneously distinguishing herself as one of the top students in her graduating class. Her accomplishments continue to serve as a model for student-athletes who strive to succeed both on the field and in the classroom.

Kaman’s athletic career at Fredericksburg High School was extraordinary. She qualified for the Texas State Track and Field Championships during all four years of her high school career, an accomplishment achieved by only a select group of athletes. Competing in the long jump and triple jump, she earned state medals and established a school record in the long jump with a leap of eighteen feet. In basketball, she was a starter and one of the team’s leading scorers and rebounders, helping guide the 1985 Billies to the state tournament.

While excelling athletically, Kaman also achieved remarkable academic success. She graduated as the salutatorian of the Class of 1985, demonstrating the same dedication in the classroom that she displayed in competition. Her talents earned her the opportunity to compete in track and field at Angelo State University, where she qualified for national competition as a freshman. Ultimately, she chose to focus on academics and graduated with a near-perfect 3.98 grade point average.

After beginning a successful career with Mobil Oil Company, Kaman returned to Fredericksburg with her husband, Tim, to raise their two sons, Tyler and Matthew, and continue contributing to her hometown community. She has been blessed with the support of parents and grandparents and with friendships that began in kindergarten and continue today. Throughout her life, she has represented the values of hard work, excellence, and service that define the Fredericksburg High School tradition. Her Hall of Fame induction recognizes not only her athletic accomplishments but also her lifelong commitment to family, education, and community.



Coach Randall King

*Fredericksburg High School Coach
1993-Present*

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I think there were several teachers and people who helped me along the way. Jerry Burnett was the shop teacher and had coached at FMS when I first arrived. He was always willing to listen and give advice when I was a young new teacher. He was a very positive teacher and was great with the students. I learned from Coach Wicker as well. I never coached with him, but I saw what his impact was on FISH and the athletic program. He was so well respected and gave me a great example of what Billie Pride meant and gave some great advice along the way about taking pride in what you were doing for the kids. I worked alongside Donald Hohn and Tim Kaman for many years. Both of these men were great co-workers and wanted the best for the school and students.

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For more than three decades, Coach Randall King has dedicated his career to developing student-athletes, building championship programs, and serving the Fredericksburg community. Through his leadership, professionalism, and commitment to excellence, he has become one of the most successful and respected coaches in Fredericksburg High School history. His influence extends far beyond championships and trophies, touching generations of students both on and off the tennis court.

A native of Brady, Texas, King graduated from Brady High School before earning his degree from Angelo State University. After beginning his professional career in communications and broadcasting, he found his calling in education and coaching. During more than thirty years in Fredericksburg Independent School District, he has served as a coach, teacher, broadcaster, mentor, and community leader. He has taught physical education at multiple grade levels as well as high school history, while also serving as the voice of countless Billie athletic events through local broadcasts.

King’s greatest athletic accomplishments came as head tennis coach. Under his leadership, Fredericksburg developed one of the premier tennis programs in Texas. His athletes captured multiple individual state championships, including state titles won by Nicki Mechem, Hannah Boubel, Parker Phillips, Sitman Wainwright, Broque Constantine, and Claire Maxcey. His teams also claimed multiple state team championships, establishing Fredericksburg as a perennial contender at the highest level of Texas high school tennis. These accomplishments culminated in King’s induction into the Texas Tennis Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2021.

Equally important has been his commitment to developing character, responsibility, and sportsmanship in his student-athletes. Through summer camps, community tournaments, and countless hours of mentorship, King has positively influenced young people throughout the Hill Country. His legacy is reflected not only in championships won but also in the lives he has shaped and the enduring standard of excellence he established for Fredericksburg athletics. His Hall of Fame induction is a fitting recognition of a career devoted to service, leadership, and success.

King continues to coach tennis at Fredericksburg High School. He and his wife, Danielle, have worked for FISH for many years. Their two children, Rachel and David, are graduates of Fredericksburg High School.



Chester “Smokey” Klaerner

*Fredericksburg High School
Class of 1929
FHS Coach in 1930s & 1940s*

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When Chester arrived at Rice, his class schedule was to include a foreign language. Chester wrote a letter to his dad asking if he had any suggestions? His dad wrote back, “Go ahead and take English because they are speaking it more every day now.” (The family spoke almost entirely German at home.)

Chester also played the tuba in several old bands around town, including Felix Pehl’s Old Time Band.

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Chester “Smokey” Klaerner occupies a unique place in Fredericksburg High School history as one of the most versatile and accomplished athletes ever produced by the school. Excelling in football, basketball, baseball, and track, Klaerner became one of the earliest athletic stars to bring statewide and national recognition to Fredericksburg. His athletic achievements, combined with his later success as a coach and educator, created a legacy that continues to inspire nearly a century later.

As a student-athlete at Fredericksburg High School, Klaerner distinguished himself in every sport he pursued. He captained the football team and helped lead the Billies to a Class B regional championship. Contemporary accounts described him as one of the strongest and most talented athletes in the region, holding numerous county and district records. His exceptional performance earned him the opportunity to continue his athletic career at Rice University, where he became a standout in football, basketball, baseball, and track.

At Rice, Klaerner achieved national recognition. He earned All-American honors in baseball in 1933 and became one of the Southwest Conference’s premier athletes. As a pitcher, he starred on Rice baseball teams and helped establish the Owls as a conference power. In track and field, he became one of the conference’s greatest javelin throwers, setting records and competing at an elite level. His accomplishments ultimately earned him induction into the Rice University Athletic Hall of Fame in 1974.

Following college, Klaerner played professional baseball with the New York Giants organization before returning to Fredericksburg to begin a distinguished coaching and teaching career. He coached at Fredericksburg High School for thirteen years and later served in Boerne before returning to ranching and farming. Whether as an athlete, coach, teacher, or community leader, Smokey Klaerner embodied excellence and helped establish the foundation upon which generations of Fredericksburg athletes would build. His Hall of Fame induction honors a life dedicated to athletics, education, and service.

Klaerner and his wife, Paula Frieda Evers Klaerner, had one son, Homer Wayne Klaerner, who was also a graduate of Fredericksburg High School.



Coach Carlin Wicker

*Fredericksburg High School Coach
1963- 1994*

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Coach Wicker Pregame Talk Against Burnet.

I want you to know the thrill of doing something 100%- of knowing you have done your very best- and realize that once you have done that, the score doesn’t really matter- who wins doesn’t matter- because you are a winner in the eyes of God and yourself! That’s what matters.

That is what Billie Pride Über Alles meant to Coach Wicker.

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Few individuals have had a greater impact on Fredericksburg High School athletics than Coach Carlin Wicker. During a remarkable career spanning more than three decades, Wicker helped shape not only winning athletic programs but also generations of student-athletes whose lives were influenced by his leadership, work ethic, and dedication to the Fredericksburg community.

Coach Wicker arrived in Fredericksburg in 1963 as an assistant football coach, girls basketball coach, World History teacher, and driver’s education instructor. Just one year later, he was named head football coach and athletic director, positions he would hold until his retirement in 1994. Over the course of thirty seasons leading the Billies football program, Wicker compiled an outstanding record of 182 wins, 119 losses, and 13 ties. His teams captured four zone championships, six district championships, three bi-district championships, one area championship, and one regional championship during an era when only one team from each district advanced to the playoffs.

While his football accomplishments alone would secure his place among the great coaches in Fredericksburg history, Wicker’s influence extended far beyond the gridiron. He coached girls basketball, track, and served as Fredericksburg’s inaugural girls golf coach. He was a teacher, mentor, administrator, equipment manager, bus driver, groundskeeper, and problem solver—often all in the same day. In an era before large coaching staffs and extensive athletic budgets, Coach Wicker handled countless responsibilities that kept Fredericksburg athletics operating successfully.

His dedication to the athletic program became legendary. He prepared scouting reports, organized schedules, managed budgets, maintained facilities, drove team buses, washed uniforms, and even rose in the early morning hours to change sprinklers on practice fields. He helped build and improve athletic facilities and was always looking for ways to provide better opportunities for student-athletes. In 1967, alongside Coach A.J. Loth, he founded the Fredericksburg Relays, an event that became a staple of Hill Country track and field and is still remembered today through the AJ Loth/Carlin Wicker Relays.

Coach Wicker also represented Fredericksburg on the state and national level. He was elected to serve as Director, Vice President, and President of the Texas High School Coaches Association and was named to their Hall of Honor. He was also selected to coach in two Texas vs. California Shrine All-Star High School football games.

Perhaps Coach Wicker’s greatest legacy is the culture of pride, discipline, and excellence he established within Fredericksburg athletics. He and his wife, June, made Fredericksburg their home and raised their four daughters here, becoming deeply woven into the fabric of the community. For generations of Billies, Carlin Wicker was more than a coach—he was a teacher, mentor, role model, and friend.

His contributions to Fredericksburg High School and the countless lives he touched continue to be felt today, making him one of the most deserving inductees into the Fredericksburg ISD Athletic Hall of Fame.