

## Billy Johnston



Billy Johnston was born in Longview, Texas in 1951. Played football and ran track in junior high and high school. At an early age while competing in elementary track meets and summer track developed a passion and love for the sport. Attended Kilgore Junior College from 1970-1972, then moved to Houston to attend University of Houston 1972-1978. Married his wife of 39 years Sharon in 1975 and have two children Rebecca and Tim.

His first job was an Elementary Physical Education Teacher at Hailey Elementary in The Woodlands from 1978-1980. Realizing that his first love was to coach Track and Field, took a job at Montgomery I.S.D. coaching high school Cross Country, Junior High Football and Track and Field, from 1980-1982. He coached the Montgomery High School boys cross

country team to the Regional Championships and just missed qualifying for the State Meet. This was the first time the school had ever competed in Cross Country.

In 1982 he accepted a job at Conroe Oak Ridge High School as the Head Boys Cross Country Coach and the Head Boys Track and Field Coach. From 1982-1993 the Cross Country team won District Championships and qualified individuals and teams to the Regional Championships and to the State Championships. In Track and Field the program won District Championships as a team and had numerous individual District and Regional Champions, Regional Qualifiers, and State Qualifiers. He coached Quinton McLeod to a State High Jump Championship, 7'0", as well as other medal winners at the regional and state level.

In 1993 he accepted a job at Brenham High School as the Head Boys and Girls Cross Country Coach and Assistant Coach for Track and Field. From 1993-2002 lead the boys and girls Cross Country teams to District Championships, Regional Championships, and State Meet Qualifying. In Track and Field he had numerous 800, 1600, and 3200 meter athletes qualify for the Regional and State Track Meets. He was fortunate enough to coach two young men that were exceptional High Jumpers. Courtney Manson was 7'0" jumper finishing third at the State Meet and younger brother Andra Manson. Andra was a two time State Champion and his senior year the World Junior High Jump Champion, 7'7". He went on to be a NCAA Champion,

World Championship medal winner, and a 2008 Olympian.

In 2002 he accepted a job coaching at Montgomery High School as the Head Boys and Girls Cross Country Coach and the Head Girls Track and Field Coach. From 2002-2012, he had individuals as well as teams in Cross Country that won District and Regional Championships. In 2006 the girls Cross Country team won the District and Regional Championships and at the State Championships finished as the State Runner-Up. In Track and Field during the 10 years at Montgomery he had individual athletes and teams win District, Regional, and State Championships. Most notable was Lizzy Whitney, who was a State Champion in the 800 meters and the winner of 7 state medals in her high school career in the high jump, 400 meter and 800 meter dashes.

At the end of his 2012 season he decided to retire from coaching at the high school level. After only 7 months of retirement he decided to accept a job as an Assistant Track and Field Coach at Houston Baptist University, coaching the sprinters and high jumpers.