

## Sam Kruse



Sam Kruse was born and raised in Yoakum, Texas. He played football and ran track in high school. He placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the state meet in the 100 and 220-yard dashes. While at college, his freshman year was spent at Victoria Jr. College under Coach Eddie Shinn where they won the National Jr. College Championship. He graduated from McNeese State College and coached one year at Vinton, Louisiana where he had his first head job in high school and had a hurdler named Roger Bartee who won state in the high hurdles.

Sam then went to M.B. Smiley HS in the North Forest I.S.D. and coached football and track for several years. He became the head coach of the track team in 1970 and stayed there until 1984. He was fortunate enough to have had some good relay teams while at Smiley winning 6 district championships. His 4 X 100 Relay teams were state champions in 1971 and 1972. Carl Roaches was on that team and also won the 100. Mike Ross was on that team as well and ran a 9.4 in the 100 and 13.7 in the highs. Later at Smiley another excellent runner named Floyd Furlow ran 10.2 (meters) and 20.9. He had an excellent long jumper named Carl Turner that went 25' 1 1/2" in the long jump at regional meet and finished 2<sup>nd</sup>! It was the first time in Texas where two individual jumpers were over 25 feet in the same meet. He also had a distance runner named Milton Sarabia who broke 59 seconds in the 400m only once in his life but ran a 9:26 for two miles. He ran 120 miles a week.

Sam changed jobs in the summer of 1984 and went to Aldine Senior high where he was fortunate enough to have had several competitive teams. Jermaine Jenkins was one of his best athletes who high jumped 7' 1 1/2". Jerry Morrison was his best distance runner who went to state twice in cross-country and once in track. He ran 14:41.9 on a course that turned out to be 3 miles and 19 yards. His girl's cross-country teams were district champions in 1984, 1985, and 1986.

Overall, Sam coached 34 years and he is now head of the Social Studies department at Aldine Senior HS. He plans on retiring after two more years in the summer of 2004. His wife Mary Jo is the head librarian at Klein Oak HS. Sam has thoroughly enjoyed his 34 years in the coaching profession.