

## E.J. Swinder



Born: July 26, 1929 in San Antonio, Texas

Education: San Antonio Tech High School  
B.S. Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State)  
M.A. Sam Houston State University

Marital: Married for 51 years, 4 children, 9 grand children, 3 great grand children

Coaching: 32 years, 29 as the head track coach

I started my coaching career as the head coach for the Boling Jr High School in 1952. I stayed in Boling for 7 years, moving up to the high school track coach my last 5 years. During those 7 years at Boling, my teams won 4 District Championships, qualified 16 for the Regional Meet, and won many Invitational Meet Championships. Outstanding athletes were: Franklin Hill, David Cooper, Elmer Sabrusula, Harold McLeod, Servando Rodriguez (qualified in 5 events for regionals) and Jimmy Sommers.

I moved to El Campo as the head track coach the next 9 years. During that time, my track teams won 3 District Championships, 1 Regional Championship and placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the State Meet. We also won many Invitational Meet Championships. We qualified 22 for the regional meet and 15 for the state meet. Outstanding athletes were: Carl Hight, Henry Henderson, Billy Joe Polasek, Bill Shutt, Willie Tolliver, Charles Pruess, Alvin Barnes, and Eugene Polasek (qualified for regionals in 5 field events)

I moved to Clear Creek in 1968 as an assistant football coach. I was at Clear Creek for 4 years. My last year at Creek, I became the head track coach of the freshman team. We

won district that year (1971) and the freshman team was undefeated. Outstanding athletes were: Mark Harrison and Paul Peterson.

When Clear Lake High School opened in 1972, I went there as the head track coach and head cross country coach for the next 12 years. My track teams won 5 district championships. We qualified 28 athletes for the Regional Track Meet and 18 of those for the State Meet. We won numerous Invitational Meet Championships. Outstanding athletes were: Mark Harrison, Paul Peterson, Rob Montgomery, Paul Montgomery, Jon Shelton, Jerry Capps, John Stuart, Tom Sherwood, Scott Jones, Perry Miller, Bill Roberts, and Steve Horton.

Clear Lake's Cross Country Team won 1 State Championship, 3<sup>rd</sup> place at State, 3 Regional Championships, and 4 District Championships. Outstanding athletes were: Scott Jones (individual state champ) Perry Miller, Bill Roberts, Tom Sherwood, and Eric Lathrop.

All throughout my head coaching career I was fortunate to have great assistant coaches. I want to express my thanks to each one of them. A track and cross country athlete is a special athlete, and in my years of coaching track and cross country, I had many special athletes who helped me attain my record as a winning coach. I give thanks to each one of them.