



The official voice of the TEXAS HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL COACHES ASSOCIATION

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BATS



## WELCOME TO THE NINTH ISSUE OF THSBCA **PLAY BALL**

### In BRIEF

This will be the 41<sup>st</sup> consecutive convention and clinic held in Waco and promises to be one of the best yet. The dates are January 12-14, 2012

The Waco Convention Center is completely refurbished and ready for another great convention. There will not be any vendors downstairs and we will return to the Brazos Ballroom for all our speakers.

If you have not registered, please do so as soon as possible.

Membership forms are on our website [www.thsbca.com](http://www.thsbca.com) A tentative itinerary can be found on page 6 of this Newsletter.

### NEW UIL CALENDAR

The THSBCA staff has been working with the UIL on some changes to the 2011-2012 calendar. The changes affect the playoffs only. With the STAAR test being given during playoffs

we knew there could be some problems with scheduling.

These are the changes: AREA DEADLINE – from May 19 to May 12.

REGIONAL QUARTERFINALS DEADLINE – from May 22 to May 19. No games will be played prior to Friday of that week. No travel is allowed until the end of school day on Friday May 11 if there are any conflicts between an Area series and the State Track Meet it is **recommended** that a one game series be played.

## **PRESIDENTS LETTER** FROM DALE WESTMORELAND

Coaches,

This will be my final letter to you as the President of this outstanding baseball association. I want to thank all those that have made my two years very enjoyable and worthwhile.

Tom Collins from Stony Point as the President-Elect has put together an outstanding line-up of speakers for our 41<sup>st</sup> Convention and clinic. We will announce the speakers as soon as they are all confirmed.

When you get to Waco, please visit all our exhibitors and Sponsors and thank them for being there and supporting high school baseball.

I look back at all the kids I have had the pleasure of coaching as well as the friends I have made and being a baseball coach is the best job anywhere.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve you and please let me know if there is anything I can ever help you with.

# PRE-SEASON SEASON POLLS

THIS PREDICTION IS FOR DISTRICT - \_\_\_\_\_ 1A 2A 3A 4A 5A

PREDICTIONS FOR MY DISTRICT

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

TEAM INFORMATION:

SCHOOL NAME - \_\_\_\_\_

COACH'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

RETURNING STARTERS \_\_\_\_\_

2011 SEASON RECORD \_\_\_\_\_

2011 DISTRICT RECORD \_\_\_\_\_

2011 PLAYOFF RECORD \_\_\_\_\_

TOP TEAMS IN YOUR REGION \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

TOP RETURNING PLAYERS with brief stats:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE COMPLETE THESE AND MAIL THEM TO THE FOLLOWING:

1-3A – JOHN ADAIR – ELKHART HIGH SCHOOL; 5300 ACR 137, ELKHART, TX 75839

4-5A – MIKE PEREZ – SA HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL; 3200 THOUSAND OAKS # 208  
SAN ANTONIO, TX. 78247

THE 2012 POLLS WILL BEGIN AFTER THE THIRD WEEKEND TOURNAMENT AND WILL CONTINUE WEEKLY UNTIL THE STATE TOURNAMENT.

WE NEED DISTRICTS REPS FROM ALL DISTRICT TO ASSIST IN THESE WEEKLY POLLS. THERE WILL BE A SHORT MEETING IN WACO AFTER THE BUSINESS MEETING ON FRIDAY WITH DISTRICT REPS WHO WILL RECEIVE A THSBCA SHIRT.

# **NEW SPONSOR**

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Our newest sponsor is MARUCCI BATS.

## **Marucci is now the “Official Bat” of the THSBCA**

***The Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association (THSBCA) and Marucci have signed a 5 year sponsorship agreement.***

Through this agreement, Marucci has agreed to make a financial contribution for every bat purchased by high school baseball coaches and high school teams in the state of Texas. The Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association uses a major portion of the funds generated through sponsorship agreements for college scholarships to students as identified by the Association. We believe this creates a very positive relationship for sponsors, the THSBCA and especially those student receiving scholarships!

Marucci is located in Baton Rouge Louisiana and produces high quality aluminum and wood baseball bats. As an example, just a few of the Major League players now swinging Marucci bats on the field include:



***marucci***

**Albert Pujols**  
**Bryce Harper**  
**Chase Utley**  
**Vernon Wells**  
**Jose Bautista**  
**David Ortiz**

To learn more about the Official Bat of the THSBCA or to purchase the Official Bat of the THSBCA, contact Kyle Achord , Director of Team Sales, at 225-931-0507 or [kachord@maruccisports.com](mailto:kachord@maruccisports.com). To view the Marucci website log on to [www.maruccisports.com](http://www.maruccisports.com) and corporate phone number 1-888-MARUCCI (627-8224).

Thank you and remember to support Marucci and all the sponsors of the THSBCA

# **2012 CONVENTION/REGISTRATION**

The 2012 Waco Convention will be January 12-14. The remodeling of the convention center will be completed in October and you will be very pleased with the results. All clinic sessions and registration will return to the convention center at the same locations as in the past. The sound system is much improved, and there are many new areas for our use.

Registration forms are now available on the website, thsbca.com as well as one included in this Newsletter.

## **WACO HOTEL ROOMS**

AMERICA BEST VALUE INN - \$59.99 – (254) 772-9440  
BEST WESTERN OLD MAIN LODGE - \$78. – (254) 753-0316  
CAMILLE HOUSE – from \$95 - \$150 – (254) 772-2889  
COMFORT SUITES - \$104.99 – (254) 537-0413  
COTTON PALACE B/B - \$110 – (254) 753-7294  
COURTYARD by MARRIOTT - \$119 – 1-888-236-2427  
ECONO LODGE INN - \$75 – (254) 752- 1991  
HAMPTON INN & SUITES - \$109 – (254) 662- 9500  
HILTON WACO UNIVERSITY PARKS - \$119 – (254) 759- 5516  
HOMWOOD SUITES - \$129 – (254) 644- 4663  
QUALITY INN & SUITES - \$99 – (254) 296- 0550  
RESIDENCE INN - \$79 – (254) 714- 1386  
SUPER 8 WACO MALL - \$62.95 – (254) 776- 3194  
SUPER 8 UNIVERSITY WACO - \$59.99 – (254) 754- 1023

## **HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES**

The 2012 inductee class to the THSBCA Hall of Fame has just been released. This is the 2012 class for the THSBCA Hall of Fame:

1. ANDY MALONE
2. DAN MATOCHA
3. BILL NORWOOD
4. JOHN CARPENTER

Congratulations to this very deserving group of coaches. Please join them in Waco at the Hall of Fame banquet, January 13, 2012.

# **BASEBALL QUOTES**

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"If anyone wants to know why three kids in one family made it to the big leagues they just had to know how we helped each other and how much we practiced back then. We did it every minute we could." Joe DiMaggio-Source: Giants of Baseball (Bill Gutman)

"After I hit a home run I had a habit of running the bases with my head down. I figured the pitcher already felt bad enough without me showing him up rounding the bases." Mickey Mantle

"A man has to have goals - for a day, for a lifetime - and that was mine, to have people say, 'There goes Ted Williams, the greatest hitter who ever lived.'" Ted Williams-Source: My Turn at Bat (Ted Williams, Fireside Publishers, 03/15/1988)

"Whether your name is (Lou) Gehrig or (Cal) Ripken, (Joe) DiMaggio or (Jackie) Robinson, or that of some youngster who picks up his bat or puts on his glove, you are challenged by the game of baseball to do your very best day in and day out. That's all I've ever tried to do." Cal Ripken Jr.

"I never could stand losing. Second place didn't interest me. I had a fire in my belly." Ty Cobb

"How can you hit and think at the same time?" Yogi Berra

"Hitters aren't stupid, but sometimes I think they believe they are smarter than they really are." Bob Gibson

"A team is where a boy can prove his courage on his own. A gang is where a coward goes to hide." Mickey Mantle

"A bad call in Baseball is one that goes against you." Danny Murtaugh

"We have deep depth." Yogi Berra

"It gets late early out here." Yogi Berra

"It was hard to have a conversation with anyone, there were so many people talking." Yogi Berra

"All pitchers are liars and crybabies." Yogi Berra

"Our similarities are different." Dale Berra

"Brooks never asked anyone to name a candy after him. In Baltimore people named their children after him." Anonymous



# 2012 CONVENTION

## Tentative Itinerary for Waco Convention

2012

January 12,13,14

Thursday	Time	Event-Speaker	January 12th
	4:00	Registration Begins - Exhibits Open	
15	5:15-5:30	Welcome and Intro of Speakers	
25	5:30-5:55	1A State Champ Coach	Randy Rutherford, Johnson City
25	6:00-6:25	2A State Champ Coach	John Broussard, Cameron Yoe
25	6:30-6:55	3A State Champ Coach	Jet Teague, Kennedale
	7:00	Exhibits Close	
40	7:00-7:40	Kyle Van Hook, Cleveland Indians Scout	Adapt to the Bat and 5 THINGS I Love and Hate to See from amateur players...
25	7:45-8:10	4A State Champ Coach	Scot Green, Wichita Falls Rider
25	8:15-8:40	5A State Champ Coach	Bobby Williams, Brazoswood
	8:45	Convention Center Closes	
	9:00	THSBCA Meeting with UIL	
Friday	Time	Event-Speaker	January 13th
	8:00	Exhibits Open - Registration and Convention Center Open	
40	8:10-8:50	Jim Lefebvre	Hitting
40	8:55-9:35	Mike Marshall	Maximize release velocity and variety of high-quality pitches while eliminating pitching injuries
40	9:40-10:20	Dr. Keith Meister, Texas Rangers	Conditioning / Arm Health
40	10:25-11:05	UIL Rules / Regs -Tony Timmons- Darryl Beasley (TAPPS Meeting)	Rules & Regulations
75	11:05-12:20	THSBCA Business Meeting - Rex Sanders	Business
40	12:20-1:00	Lunch	
40	1:05-1:45	Jim Lefebvre	Developing Arms for All Positions
40	1:50-2:30	Ray Birmingham, New Mexico State University	Becoming a Good Hitter
40	2:35-3:15	Brian Cain, Peak Performance Coach	The Mental Game of Baseball: The Top 10 Things World Champions Know That You Don't.
40	3:20-4:00	Bob Morgan, Indian University	Offensive Theory
40	4:05-4:45	Barry Russell, Midland High School	20 Things in Forty Minutes
	5:00	Exhibits Close	
	6:00	Blue Bell THSBCA Hall of Fame Banquet - Speaker:	
Saturday	Time	Event-Speaker	January 14th
	7:00-8:15	FCA Breakfast	
	8:00	Exhibits Open	
45	8:30-9:15	Frank Anderson, Oklahoma State	Pitching
45	9:20-10:05	Brian Cain, Peak Performance Coach	The Mental Game of Baseball: 4RIP3 – Your Secret To Success
50	10:10-11:00	Jeff Banister, Pittsburg Pirates	Catching / Managing the game from the bench
45	11:05-11:50	Dan Heefner, Dallas Baptist University	Improve Hitters Bat Speed
	11:50-12:00	Closing Remarks - Cash Drawings	
	12:00	Exhibits Close	



**UPDATE**

The THSBCA staff is working with Blue Bell and hope to open our Hall of Fame in early Spring. Some delays have been experienced with construction, but things are going as planned now. There will be a permanent display of our Hall of Fame plaques as well as past President's pictures. There will also be rotating exhibits of championship teams as well as former high school players who have made it to the Major League level. Blue Bell has hired an artist to paint a giant mural as a backdrop for our Hall of Fame.

If you have any suggestions for the exhibits, please contact Rex Sanders at the THSBCA office.

As soon as we have a date for the "Grand Opening" an e-mail will be sent to all members. Make your plans to visit Blue Bell in Brenham and enjoy our Hall of Fame while you enjoy a scoop of Blue Bell ice cream.

**WEST TEXAS SAYINGS by Joe Ray Halsey**

**Baptism of the Bats**

During the course of any season a coach searches for ways to motivate his players. Some coaches remind his players of times they have played well while others find physical descriptions of what the players will look like if they don't start playing better, and others will find "spiritual" images the best motivator.

It was a playoff series and we had lost the first game badly, so the "old coach" knew he had but one final chance to inspire his young players.

The coach calls a team meeting in his motel room and instructed his players to bring their bats and gloves. Soon the team assembled and the coach led them to the bathroom. In the bathroom the tub was filled with water and they players surrounded the tub. The coach begins saying something like this, "Boys as you know water is pure and it can clean many things. Our bats have been very silent lately and we need to wash the evil spirits from them. I now hold in my hands the dirt from the last field where we won our last game and will now put the mixture in the water." Coach then began to wash all the players' bats with this dirty bathtub water and returns the bats to his players. But this is not the end of the ceremony. "Water is not all we have to do to cleanse our bats as there is one more step; the final ingredient is Fire."

With that statement coach put a thin coat of lighter fluid in the bathtub water and lights the water! The tub began to blaze and the players are screaming but coach takes each bat and washes them again this time in the blazing water.

Now the room was full of smoke but coach continues to wash each bat until the fire alarm goes off and the sprinkler system begins to soak each player.

As the players run from the room all they can hear is old coach yelling "go boys and prepare to slay those other players tomorrow".

This must have worked as we won the next two games and hit the ball very well. Except for the motel people, we were all very happy.

Reminds me of an old song; Wind, rain, and fire.... But I forgot the rest.