

TEXAS SPORTS HALL OF FAME

provides fix for jittery sports fans

Traveling Soldier

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WACO – Whether their addiction is related to round or oblong balls, boxers, fast horses, racing cars or cowboys, sports fans can get an information fix to calm nerves jangled by action trivia questions at the Texas Sports Hall of Fame in Waco.

Many answers are available, scattered among letter jackets, cleats and jerseys worn by some of the best athletes ever to compete in Texas.

Game balls, tennis racquets, hockey sticks, championship trophies and rings also are displayed. Coaches, managers and athletic directors are honored, too.

Of their gridiron successes, comments made by the state's football coaches, viewable in a variety of displays, range from the droll to defiant.

Former Longhorn Coach Darrell Royal said, "Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity."

Regarding allegations he had overinflated the football in the Bears' 1923 game against Texas, which ended in a 7-7 tie, Baylor coach Frank Bridges was quoted as saying, "Show me where it says it's illegal in the rules book."

Sports exhibits are located in three main halls: the Texas Sports Hall of Fame, the Texas Tennis Hall of Fame and the Texas High School Football Hall of Fame.

College sports fans got extra helpings of history in February, when a 15-month project was completed that added nearly 10,000 square feet to the Southwest Conference wing by building a room dedicated



Leather helmets were used from about 1893 until they were gradually replaced by plastic and composite protective head gear in the 1950s and 1960s.

Photos by Michael Heckman, Sentinel Staff



For more than 40 years, Frank Fallon was the voice of the Baylor Bears. He and other announcers can be heard inside the SWC exhibit at the TSHOF in Waco.

to the nine universities that were part of the conference that existed from 1914 to 1996.

After entering through a façade that resembles the exterior of the Cotton Bowl stadium, visitors can peruse items in glass booths located in each of the schools' exhibits, one each for Arkansas, Baylor, Houston, Rice, SMU, Texas, Texas A&M, TCU and Texas Tech.

In the UT area, ragged holes in Earl Campbells' No. 20 tear-away jersey indicate how difficult it was for defenders to tackle the Heisman

Trophy winner when he played for the Longhorns.

In the Houston Cougars' section, memorabilia is displayed from the "Phi Slama Jama" era of Clyde Drexler and Hakeem Olajuwon.

In the TCU area, rare video clips can be viewed of Davey O'Brien, who led the Horned Frogs to an undefeated championship season in 1938 while winning the Heisman Trophy.

In addition to the SWC wing, the expansion included a great hall, a Health, Fitness and Education Center geared toward school-age children and the Dave Campbell Research Library.

Inside the library is a wax figure of Campbell seated at his desk in front of a manual typewriter. In 1960, Campbell founded "Dave Campbell's Texas Football," the magazine that has become known since then as the "Bible of Texas Football."

When former Dallas Cowboys

wide-receiver Michael Irvin was inducted into the hall of fame in 2008, the first thing he noticed when he walked in the door was a picture of Coach Tom Landry, who beat Irvin onto the list of inductees by three decades.

Irvin holds career records for the Boys with 750 receptions and 11,904 receiving yards. He is the third member of the "Triplets" in the TSHOF, following Cowboys Troy Aikman (2001) and Emmitt Smith (2005).

Irvin's glass case includes the

game ball presented to him Jan. 30, 1994, at the Georgia Dome, where the Boys defeated the Buffalo Bills, 30-13 in Super Bowl XXVIII. Other items include his blue No. 88 jersey and a box of Wheaties, an item included in many sports icons' showcases.

In addition to eating Wheaties, some athletes have acknowledged their coaches helped fuel their careers.

Wedged between the inductee

See Sports, B7



Ceramic mascots of the SWC's nine teams line a shelf in the TSHOF at Waco.



Video games are available inside a new Health, Fitness and Education Center geared toward school-age children at the TSHOF in Waco. Exercise equipment also is available for anyone interested in a light workout between exhibits.



A saddle used by seven-time all-around PRCA Cowboy Ty Murray, of Stephenville, is among rodeo memorabilia on exhibit in the inductees hall.