

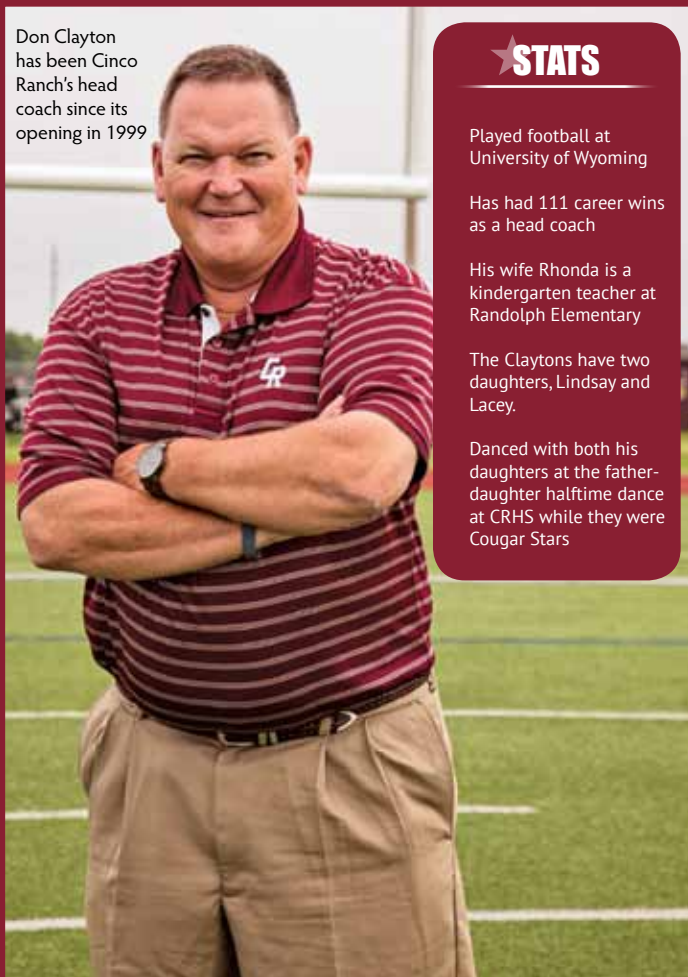
Get to Know Katy Area High School's Head Football Coaches

These local leaders share how they keep their teams energized and motivated to achieve victory on the field, in the classroom, and in life

Written by Kelly Boldt | Photography by Anetrious Wallace

Football coaches aren't just drill sergeants. They are also mentors, counselors, motivators, and strategic planners. Each one of Katy ISD's head football coaches has a different approach to their team, but a common thread is woven into each of them - their families. They are described as patient, tolerant, and understanding. The most important message is that behind every good coach is an amazing Katy family. Here is a quick glimpse of our Katy area high school coaches (in alphabetical order).

Don Clayton has been Cinco Ranch's head coach since its opening in 1999



★ STATS

Played football at University of Wyoming

Has had 111 career wins as a head coach

His wife Rhonda is a kindergarten teacher at Randolph Elementary

The Claytons have two daughters, Lindsay and Lacey.

Danced with both his daughters at the father-daughter halftime dance at CRHS while they were Cougar Stars

★ Don Clayton Cinco Ranch High School

Cinco Ranch head coach Don Clayton loves working with and helping to develop athletes. "It's not a job; it's a calling," explains Clayton, who has been with the Cougars since their first football season in 2000. "I love the way football mirrors real life. You work hard to succeed and also learn along the way that you will get knocked down, but you have to get right back up and get after it again."

Discipline is also important for Clayton, as is intensity and a high level of commitment from his players and staff. This undertaking is not limited to the field. "We are here to supplement and reinforce what parents do in raising their children," says Clayton. "We try to be a positive influence to keep them on the right track."

"Physically, I can feel myself getting older, but on the inside, I am still a kid. Working with young athletes seems to keep me young at heart, and I love it."

- Don Clayton

★ STATS

Became head coach of the Katy Tigers in 2004

Has had 11 state championship appearances, six as head coach

Has had nine district championships and 138 career wins

Has coached against his dad, brother, son, brother-in-law, and nephew

Coached his own sons at Katy High School

He and his wife Sheila have two sons and a daughter

Katy's Gary Joseph comes from a family of coaches and became head coach of the Katy Tigers in 2004



★ Gary Joseph Katy High School

After 32 years at Katy High School, coach Gary Joseph appears to have found the formula for success. He says it's discipline. Known as a tough, straight-forward leader who works at developing trust with his players, Joseph also realizes the importance of being a mentor to his team. "Leadership is important," Joseph explains. "The biggest thing with our staff is developing trust with the kids. The players have to believe in what we're saying. If they don't believe in anything or anybody, they're not going to be committed to anything in life."

The Katy Tigers hope to continue their legacy of seven state championship wins. Joseph says, "I am proud to have helped build the great traditions at Katy High School over the years."

"The players have to believe in what we're saying. If they don't believe in anything or anybody, they're not going to be committed to anything in life."

- Gary Joseph

★ Lance Carter Mayde Creek High School

The first word Mayde Creek head coach Lance Carter uses to describe his program is "tough." That's their style of practice, what he expects his players to bring to the field, and how his team plays on game day. "There are lots of other details, but what really drives us is our love for the game," Carter says. "Off the field, I have loved watching young men grow into their futures."

Carter also believes that coaches play an important role in other facets of their players' lives. "So much of this game is a mentality," he says. "You've got to be very driven to play football, and we have the opportunity to use football to teach them drive and motivation that may last a lifetime."

"The most important things for me are faith, family, and football - in that order."

- Lance Carter

★ STATS

Married to wife Emma, a history teacher at Cinco Ranch High School

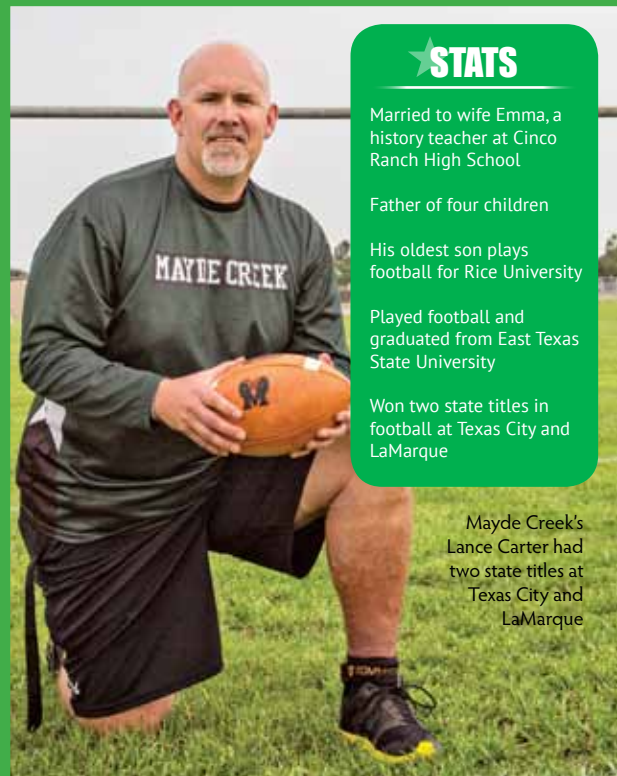
Father of four children

His oldest son plays football for Rice University

Played football and graduated from East Texas State University

Won two state titles in football at Texas City and LaMarque

Mayde Creek's Lance Carter had two state titles at Texas City and LaMarque





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Dave Meadows Morton Ranch High School

Coach Dave Meadows believes he can be described as intense, thorough, and caring in his role as head football coach at Morton Ranch High School. "Our workouts are intense, and we work on things that are applicable to what the kids have to do on the field," says Meadows.

Physical training isn't the only aspect of being a good coach for Meadows. "We hold our players to a higher standard," he says. "They may not live up to them all the time, but we want them to understand that there are consequences if they make a bad decision. We are all part of this together." Meadows believes the Mavericks are ready for the new season. "What we are doing here is what suits us best. It may not work for everybody, but it works for us."

"I'm having the time of my life coaching here at Morton Ranch."

- Dave Meadows

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STATS

Played defensive end at Oklahoma State University

He and his wife have four kids and nine grandkids

Has had 293 wins, four state championships, and three state runners-up

He likes to dabble in music, especially piano and guitar



Morton Ranch's Dave Meadows has won four state championships throughout his career



★ STATS

- Won 4a division I state championship in 2007 at Lamar Consolidated
- A graduate of Stephen F. Austin State University
- Covered high school football games for a local newspaper
- Named 2007 TSWA coach of the year

Lydell Wilson of Seven Lakes formerly coached at Lamar CISD where he won a state championship in 2007

★ Lydell Wilson Seven Lakes High School

In his third year at Seven Lakes High School, coach Lydell Wilson is working hard to achieve his goal of building a state champion-caliber team. Part of his strategy is to get involved with the kids. “I can relate to them, and they tend to respond to that,” explains Wilson. “I try to get individual guys to understand that winning is important. Everybody has to sacrifice something for our team goals.”

For example, Wilson sacrifices his personal time and encourages the players to make sacrifices for the betterment of the team as well. Wilson says, “Every second counts, and we want to make sure they put their all into everything they do.”

“Every second counts, and we want to make sure they put their all into everything they do.”

- Lydell Wilson

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★ STATS

- Played football at the University of Houston
- Has been married to wife Amber for 10 years
- He and his wife have four children
- All three of his sons are currently in Katy Youth Football
- Previously part of the coaching staff at Mayde Creek and Seven Lakes

Taylor's new coach, Trey Herrmann, is a graduate of Mayde Creek High School

Trey Herrmann Taylor High School

Head Coach Trey Herrmann will be taking over the reins at Taylor High School this year. Herrmann is a graduate of Mayde Creek High School and was previously part of the coaching staff at Mayde Creek and Seven Lakes high schools. He was named the 20-5A Coach of the Year in 2010.

Herrmann believes his hard work and commitment to the program will demonstrate the strong work ethic he expects from his players. "I am honest and work hard to be clear about expectations," says Herrmann. "But toughness has always been the most important part of what we do. Not just the physical part, but we want them to develop the mental strength to overcome obstacles."

Each program has its strengths, and Herrmann considers the off-season work by his players to be the cornerstone of his program. Herrmann adds, "We find that when players buy into it, that translates into better performance on the field during the season."

"There are a million things other than football going through the minds of these boys. We want to be another resource for them when they need to talk about those things, too."

- Trey Herrmann

Tony Tademý Tompkins High School

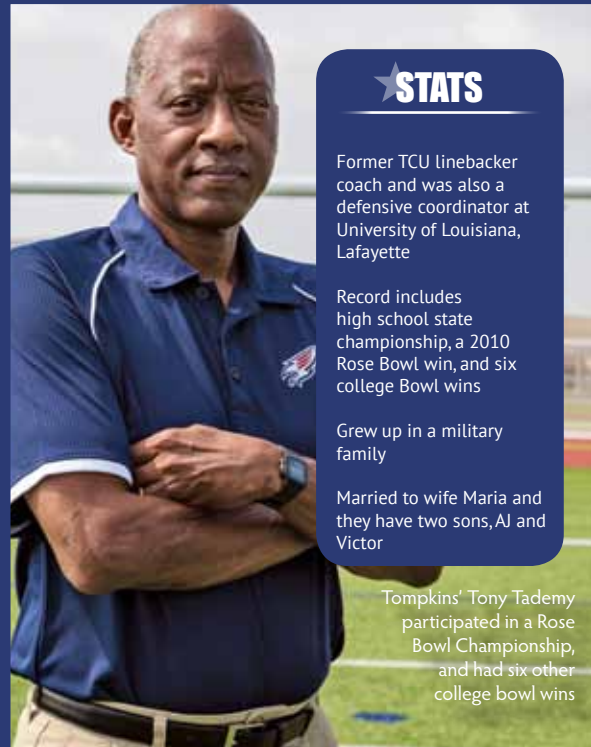
As the head coach of the newest Katy ISD football program, Tony Tademý at Tompkins High School knows he and the players have a special connection. "We are learning together, growing together, and every day is a new day for us," says Tademý. He says the team is ready for game time. "We have a plan, and every day we stick to that plan." Organization, attention to detail, and being honest with the athletes are all important components of Tademý's leadership style.

"We try to always do what's best for the kids and be as consistent as we can," says Tademý. "My coaches and I want them to know that we want to see them succeed."

"Our motto going into this year is 'brick by brick.' We have to work hard every day to put the bricks together to build our program."

- Tony Tademý

KELLY BOLDT is a freelance writer and Katy mother of three teenagers.



★ STATS

- Former TCU linebacker coach and was also a defensive coordinator at University of Louisiana, Lafayette
- Record includes high school state championship, a 2010 Rose Bowl win, and six college Bowl wins
- Grew up in a military family
- Married to wife Maria and they have two sons, AJ and Victor

Tompkins' Tony Tademý participated in a Rose Bowl Championship, and had six other college bowl wins

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