

Female Coaches of Katy ISD

Driven by a deep passion for their profession and a heart for high school students, these Katy ISD coaches encourage, inspire, and motivate student athletes both on and off the field

Written by Sara K. Parker | Photography by Anetrius Wallace

Danielle Wells



Head Volleyball Coach



Cinco Ranch High School

In her 10th year of coaching at Cinco Ranch High School, Danielle Wells still gets excited when she comes across student athletes who show up at the gym with intense passion, a drive for the sport, and a willingness to be coached. Successes over the past couple of years have been icing on the cake. She was named district co-coach of the year in 2014 after leading the varsity team to the final round of district playoffs, and again named district co-coach in 2015 after leading the team to the fourth round of the UIL state playoffs. The driving force behind Wells' coaching? "Hard work and integrity," Wells says. "I try to teach the kids to do what is right, even when no one's watching."

STATS

- ★ Born and raised in Katy
- ★ Played volleyball at South Florida Community College
- ★ Worked for seven years as a freshman A coach under Tammy Laurence and then head coach for three years

Katy High School

Diane Loftin knew from a young age that she wanted to teach and coach. Straight out of college, she started coaching soccer at Katy High School (KHS), and next fall will mark her 30th year at the school. Over the course of her career, Loftin has ushered hundreds of students through the KHS soccer program, and has even coached kids of former students. "Those relationships are powerful and very rewarding," Loftin says. She gives credit to a supportive staff, community, and parents for her long career at KHS. "I've never had a desire to go anywhere else," Loftin says. "I feel like I have the best of everything right here."

- ★ Named TASCOS Coach of the Year twice
- ★ Won the district championship four times
- ★ Advanced to regional tournament four times

STATS

Diane Loftin



Head Soccer Coach and Assistant Athletic Coordinator



Jill Voss



Head Softball Coach



Mayde Creek High School

Tough love and a focus on character and team building define Jill Voss' approach to coaching. Her Mayde Creek High School softball players clock 20 hours of community service before playing in their first game, put up their cell phones on team bus trips, and select a new goal-defining motto each year. "Working Today for May" was last year's slogan, and it paid off when the team made it to playoffs in May for the first time in 11 years. Voss credits her father and Katy High School coaches for shaping her own coaching style and fueling her passion for the sport. Her priority, she says, is to teach good citizenship, which she hopes athletes will take into the classroom and onto the field.

STATS

- ★ Son Blake plays football at Katy High School
- ★ Voted District 19-6A Coach of the Year in 2015
- ★ Has coached high school softball for five years, two years as head coach

Morton Ranch High School

Chivonne Kiser strives to instill enthusiasm for the game and solid work ethics in her athletes, and the players seem to be catching on. In the 2014 to 2015 season, Morton Ranch High School's volleyball team played its first winning season since the program's 2004 inception. It was Kiser's second year to coach at Morton Ranch, following 12 years coaching in Sugar Land. "To see the girls reaping the rewards of the hard work they had sown - that was the most rewarding part," Kiser says. She reminds her players often that they don't have to be the tallest, fastest, or strongest, but "whatever their endeavors may be, if they are willing to work the hardest, success is imminent."

- ★ Has coached high school volleyball for 15 years, three at Morton
- ★ Enjoys DJing as a hobby
- ★ Ranked sixth in the nation in blocks in 1998 as a junior at Southern University

STATS

Chivonne Kiser



Head Volleyball Coach and Assistant Athletic Coordinator



Angela Spurlock



Head Girls' Basketball Coach and Assistant Athletic Coordinator



Seven Lakes High School

"This profession is a calling," Angela Spurlock says of her coaching career, which she's enjoyed for 24 years and counting. "The best part about it is I get to wake up and do something I love and not feel like I'm going to work." But make no mistake, Spurlock sets the bar high for her Seven Lakes High School student-athletes, refusing to let them settle for less than what she knows they're capable of. Coaching is as much athletic training as it is character development, according to Spurlock. What athletes learn through successes, failures, hard work, and adversity, will continue to help them in their adult lives. Above all else, Spurlock says, "I try to instill in my players appreciation and respect for all people and each other."

STATS

- ★ More than 400 career wins
- ★ 10 district championships - five at Seven Lakes
- ★ 14 state playoff appearance seasons - six at Seven Lakes

Anjanette Koenig



Head Athletic Trainer



Taylor High School

Coaches at Taylor High School rely on Anjanette Koenig and her team to help student-athletes prevent and rehabilitate injuries. Koenig's interest in becoming an athletic trainer first sparked after two soccer injuries kept her from playing. After graduating from Texas A&M in 1997, Koenig came to work at Taylor High School, and she's been there ever since. Despite a sometimes grueling schedule - the gym opens at 6:30 every morning and days can stretch until midnight during some sports seasons - Koenig's passion for the job doesn't waiver. "It's all worth it when an injured player finishes rehab and is able to return to their sport and play again," she says.

STATS

- ★ Played soccer for Texas A&M University
- ★ 19th year at Taylor, eight years as assistant athletic trainer, 11 as head athletic trainer
- ★ Katy ISD Athletic Trainer of the Year in 2008



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Tompkins High School

A native of Texas, Hanna Ward has a teaching degree from Sam Houston State University, a four-year-old boxer named Azel that she adores, and a coaching job she's passionate about. At Tompkins High School, Ward runs a cheerleading program high on school spirit and steeped in integrity. She and JV coach Brita Johnson work together to teach their girls how to be good role models, spread positivity, and serve others. In October, the cheer team raised almost \$4,000 for breast cancer awareness by selling T-shirts and running spirit nights at First Cup Café. Teamwork and school spirit are priorities for Ward, and above all else, she says she cherishes the relationships and rapport she is able to build with the girls during practices, games, and community events. **KM**

SARA K. PARKER is a freelance writer whose four children have indoctrinated her into the world of sports she never ventured into as a child.

- ★ Cheered at Kingwood High School for four years
- ★ Started the cheer program at Obra D. Tompkins High School when the school opened in 2013
- ★ She is working on her Master's degree in administration

STATS

**Hanna
Ward**



**Head Cheerleading
Coach**



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