

Goldthwaite - San Saba 100, continued from Page 11

1997.

Goldthwaite didn't have its own golf course until 1988, and prior to that, most of the locals played golf regularly at San Saba. The golf culture spawned friendships and, of course, bragging rights over the Eagles-Armadillos football game – including some off-the-record wagers.

"They were like barber shop guys. They'd see each other at the golf course or the auction ring and rib each other about the game. The old guys egg it on, and it gets passed to the next generation," said Ronnie Schulze, a San Saba assistant coach for 38 years and counting.

Two names mentioned most often in these scenarios are Charlie McLean and Hollis Blackwell, who from the 1950s through the 1970s did a lot of wool and mohair business and golfing with colleagues in San Saba.

"You heard stories of Charlie going to San

Saba the week before the game and making some huge bets," said Lynn Elliott, who played for Goldthwaite from 1960-63. "That kept the hype of the rivalry going. Charlie was flamboyant. He'd go over there and get things stirred up."

Another era that fueled the rivalry was when Chan Priest, a football player for San Saba in the 1960s, served as Goldthwaite's head coach from 1980-85. As the Eagles' coach, Priest lost his first four games to the Armadillos by an average of 28-7. But Priest beat San Saba in his final two years at Goldthwaite, and in 1985, he coached the Eagles' to their first state championship.

"He never said anything, but I think Chan felt some extra incentive to beat those guys," said Gary Proffitt, Priest's top assistant coach from 1980-85. "San Saba was good during that time. It was a good test for us to start the season."

Mark Oliver, who quarterbacked San

Saba in the late 1980s, said the Goldthwaite rivalry was different from others.

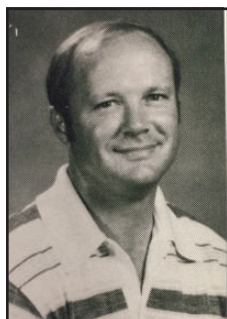
"Llano and Mason were friendly rivalries for us. But with Goldthwaite, you could stick your chest out for a year if you beat them, and it left a sour taste in your mouth when you lost. If you got a chance to beat up on them, you took it," Oliver said.

"We weren't supposed to like Goldthwaite. That's all we were told."

In the best rivalries, teams often trade wins and the series record is close. That's not the case with Goldthwaite-San Saba, which is marked by two periods of dominance by each team. The Armadillos won 48 of the first 66 meetings, including 23 shutouts.

But Goldthwaite gained the upper hand, starting in 1984 and has won 24 of the last 33 games, including 16 wins by 20 or more points. More recently, the Eagles have won

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Chan Priest



Gary Proffitt



Landon Sanderson



Mark Oliver



Ronald Cagle



Ronnie Schulze

BATTLE OF THE RIVER

A look at the San Saba-Goldthwaite football rivalry:

Overall Series: San Saba leads 57-38 with 4 ties.

Early Trend: San Saba won 48 of the first 66 games through 1983.

Recent Trend: Goldthwaite has won 24 of the last 33 games, including 17 of 20.

First Game: 1916.

Longest Goldthwaite Win Streak: 7 games from 2004-2010.

Longest San Saba Win Streak: 7 games from 1977-1983.

Goldthwaite's Largest Victory: 48-0 in 1995.

San Saba's Largest Victory: 51-0 in 1933.

All-Time Scores:

1916: San Saba 43, Goldthwaite 6

1922: San Saba 33, Goldthwaite 0

1923: San Saba 13, Goldthwaite 13 (tie)

1923: Goldthwaite 14, San Saba 0

1924: San Saba 43, Goldthwaite 0

1925: San Saba 25, Goldthwaite 0

1926: San Saba 24, Goldthwaite 13

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