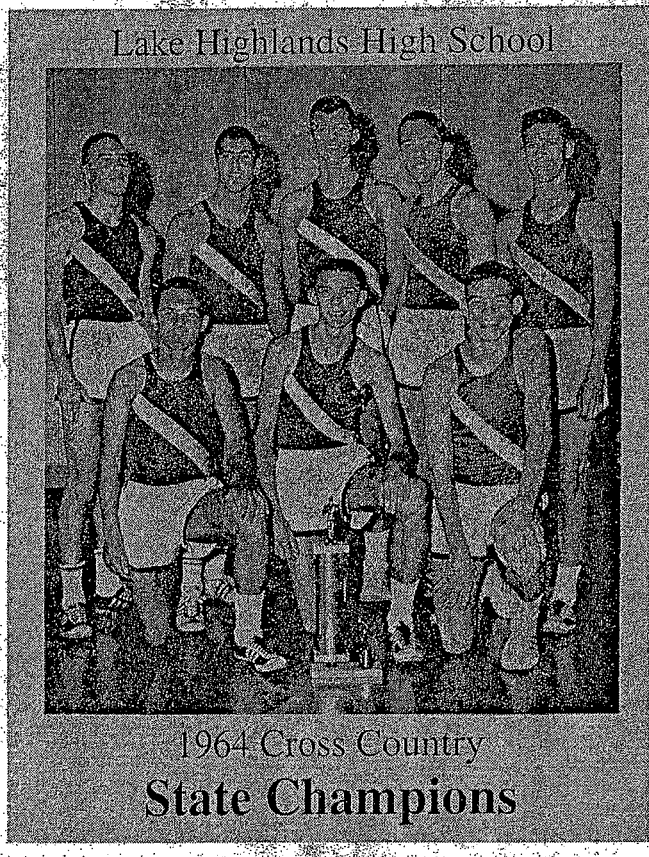


REMEMBERING THE MOMENT

Fast Times at Lake Highlands High



Kurt Freeman: Forty years ago, this was the coolest bunch of guys I knew. These guys trained hard, respected their coaches, teachers, and everyone else. They worked as a team, and had fun with it. They would hang out at Dairy Queen or the "Yucca Club" after workouts.

These dedicated high school kids turned out to be fine men. My brother is Garry Freeman, the tall one in the middle. A former missionary to Russia, he is now running a ministry to the poor in Havana, Fla. Next to him is Charles Starr, an amazing athlete who still holds some school records in track. Another, Bink Reeves, is a psychologist with UCLA Pain Clinic. Bill Bryan is a pastor in Abilene.

After finding this picture, I spoke with Bruce Littlejohn, who was a real team leader. He shared these memories:

"Running track back then was pretty unique. Coach Russell was always screwing with our minds. To this day, I usually see him a couple of times a year; he still carries his clipboard. Now he is into horse racing and keeps track of the ponies' times and jockeys with it. I think he would still like to call us 'mullets.'

"He thought there was no team we could not beat and he dragged us all over the state — to East Texas, the Dangerfield Relays, to North Texas, and to Wichita Falls.

"We also ran against the Dallas schools back then. He had this sick sense of humor and thought it was great that this little 2A school would run against the big Dallas schools and beat them.

"Four of us in that picture ran in the PC Cobb Relays in the Coliseum at Fair Park and won the two-mile relay that same year. It was run right around Christmas. We set the meet record which still stands today because they quit running that meet in the early '70s.

"Today, everyone specializes in a particular race; not us! Russell was famous for putting us in different races each week. One week you might run the mile, the next week it would be the 880 plus the mile relay. You never knew what you were going to be asked to do, so you had to prepare for anything."

Kurt Freeman is a Lake Highlands resident. He works in the loss-prevention department for Target Corp.

DALLAS, 1964: Members of Lake Highlands' State Champion Cross Country gather for a yearbook photo. Standing: Chris Colvert, John "Bink" Reeves, Garry Freeman, Charles Starr, and Larry Richey. Kneeling: Bruce Littlejohn, Bill Bryan, and Edmund Tresp.

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