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Page 4/The Battalion/Wednesday, May 29, 1985

Slouch

ON YOUR GRAD-UATION FROM HIGH YOUR DAD V IS PROUD JIM EARLE MAY 29, 1985

CONGRATULATIONS

'Winning is important, but ...'

Coach instills confidence

By Jim Earle

By JENS B. KOEPKE Reporter

Merrill Green has faced the pres-sure of winning and losing and has come out with a humble smile of satisfaction.

As Bryan High School's athletic director and head football coach for the past 13 years, Green considers the development of self-assured and self-reliant students as his athletic program's most significant goal.

'Winning is important, but there are more important things," he said.

The most important thing in coaching, he said, is to be a good ex-ample, to be fair and consistent in dealing with students, and to develop self-confidence in the students

Surviving two-a-day workouts in the August heat instills self-confidence in a young person, Green said. Shy, unsure students come into the program and leave as bold, "look-you-in-the-eye" adults ready for the real world, he added. Because of the close emotional

relationship he has with his players, Green said his mistakes are more painful and personal. He always tries to place the students' interests first in all his decisions.

"I don't take credit for my players' successes or blame for their failures," he said.



the University of Oklahoma to play football and baseball. He opted in-stead for a degree in business administration.

"I always looked at athletics as something that was a lot of fun, something that I enjoyed doing, and that I had had some success in as a high-school and college athlete. But I always figured that was just all it was and that you couldn't make a liv-

Lawmakers Classifie leave primary issue for 1987 Associated Press

AUSTIN — Texas legislators have passed the touchy question of a presidential primary in 1988 on to the 1987 Legislature.

Some lawmakers blame Gov. Mark White for the recent Legislature's failure to act. Critics say White doesn't want a March primary stretching out his expected re-elec-tion campaign for governor in 1986. State Democratic Chairman Bob

Slagle promised early Tuesday that Democrats would have a presidential primary in 1988, even if t has to be ordered only by the State Democratic Executive Committee.

After 140 days of debate, the bill proposing that Texas hold a "Super Tuesday" presidential primary in March to get national attention from presidential candidates died Mon-day night when Senate and House negotiators failed to reach agreement.

All five Senate negotiators fa-vored the Senate plan to establish a separate presidential primary in March only in presidential election years, with regular primary elections for state and local officials remain-ing in Max.

ing in May. However, only two of the House committee members favored the compromise offered by Sen. Chet Edwards, D-Duncanville.

school athletes to practice, he said.

At first disinterested, Green ac-

"I saw a real challenge here — a chance to get in on the ground floor," he said.

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Bryan High School had only existed one year, being the inte-grated combination of primarily white Stephen F. Austin High School and primarily black Kemp Bryan has a much greater variance of ethnic groups than Abilene, he said, and is more indifferent to high school athletics because of A&M's proximity. Act s proximity. Green's critics have accused him of losing several "big" games in his 13-year career at Bryan High. "Some people think, 'Gosh, I don't know how you stand the pres-sure.' " Green said. "I've never

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Talking to the affable Green, one notices the sincere humility with

which he approaches coaching. "I really do think the only prerequisite I had for coaching was that I was a really average athlete," Green said. "I think had I been a highlyskilled athlete, I probably would not have much patience in teaching, or a great amount of tolerance for players with average ability.

Green's patient mentor was his high school coach, Joe Gibson. Gibson had high moral standards and cared for the individual progress of every athlete, Green said.

"It was probably at that point I de-cided I'd like to coach someday. I had never verbalized that in my own mind, but as I look back, he made a positive impression on me.

But still with no intention of getting into coaching, Green went to

ing doing it," Green said. His wife reminded him that athletics was something he enjoyed and that coaching would be a respectable way to make a living, he said.

Green began at the college level, coaching for nine years at Wichita State University, Texas Tech Uni-versity, the University of Missouri and the University of Arkansas.

In 1965, he accepted the head coaching job at Abilene Cooper High School. Green stayed for seven years, taking the team to the state

championship game in 1967. "I like high school coaching be-cause you're dealing with people who are doing it for amateurish fun, not because they want to make a professional career out of it," Green said.

It takes less to motivate high

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I'd like to think the kids see me act the same way, whether we're winning or losing, whether we're having success or things aren't going well," he said. " I'm not always that same

known anything else. I stand on the

sideline and it just turns me on. I love it. I know I make a lot of mis-takes and I know I get a lot of crit-icism, but that doesn't bother me one

iota. I don't like it , but it doesn't af-

fect my job because I've been so ac-

Green's boyish enthusiasm for

way inside, but to them, I am. Green's coaching career is not his most important responsibility. His spiritual life and his family come first.

"I think if you do the first one (spiritual) right and the second one (family) right, then the third one (job) falls in place easy," he said.

Green's humility comes out when he catalogs his coaching career, always refering to "we" making the ca-reer decisions — "we" being his fam-

"I am as successful or unsuccessful in my job as I am as a father and husband, or as a husband and fa-ther," Green said. "I don't know which comes first.

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