

Spicy Mam...

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Dec. 2

# Legendary Duncanville baseball coach Bob Rombach dies after battle with cancer; 'He changed lives,' former player says

HIGH SCHOOLS, HIGH SCHOOL HEADLINES, BASEBALL, +3 (AND 3 MORE)



BOB ROMBACH CALLS PITCHES FROM THE DUGOUT DURING HIS LAST GAME AS HEAD BASEBALL COACH AT DUNCANVILLE HIGH SCHOOL ON APRIL 27, 2007. ROMBACH COACHED DUNCANVILLE TO SIX STATE TOURNAMENTS AND THE CLASS 5A STATE TITLE IN 1990. (FILE PHOTO)

By [Matt Wixon \(/high-school/author/matt-wixon\)](#), Staff Writer      [@mattwixon \(https://twitter.com/mattwixon\)](#)

As the coach of a powerhouse baseball program, Duncanville's Bob Rombach helped develop dozens of professional baseball players, including 10 who played in the major leagues. But the former Duncanville coach did more than change the baseball fortunes of players and teams.

"He changed lives," said Eric Hacker, who starred at Duncanville and pitched in the majors. "There's no doubt he changed my life."

Rombach, who completed a 39-year coaching career with a stellar 23-year run at Duncanville, died Wednesday morning after a battle with cancer. He was 72.

"With him, it was all about Duncanville," said former Duncanville player J-Bob Thomas, now an assistant baseball coach at Texas Tech. "When we rolled up in that bus, that script 'D' on the hat meant something. We were going to win and we were going to play the game the right way."

Rombach had a coaching record of 862-364, and he was 568-182 at Duncanville, which he led to six state tournaments and the Class 5A state title in 1990. He retired after the 2007 season.

"Outside of my own dad, Bob Rombach was probably the biggest influence in my life both on and off the field," said Todd Ritchie, who hit the winning home run in the 1990 state title game and pitched eight seasons in the major leagues.

The Duncanville ISD announced earlier this month that Duncanville's baseball stadium will be named in Rombach's honor. At that stadium in 2007, Rombach talked about his career.

"All the wins and the championships don't hold a candle to the relationships I've made," he said. "Just knowing that I've touched the life of the kids. It's overwhelming to think about it."

Rombach is survived by his wife, Deanna; daughters, Amy and Tracy; son, Deron; and eight grandchildren. The rosary and viewing will be Sunday from 3-6 p.m. at Jaynes Memorial Chapel in Duncanville. The funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Duncanville.

## Panthers to pros

Players coached by Bob Rombach who played Major League Baseball include:

Bobbie Johnson (Rangers, NY Yankees)

David Nied (Atlanta, Colorado)

Chris Eddy (Oakland)

Todd Ritchie (Minnesota, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Chicago White Sox, Tampa Bay)

Steve Gibraltar (Cincinnati)



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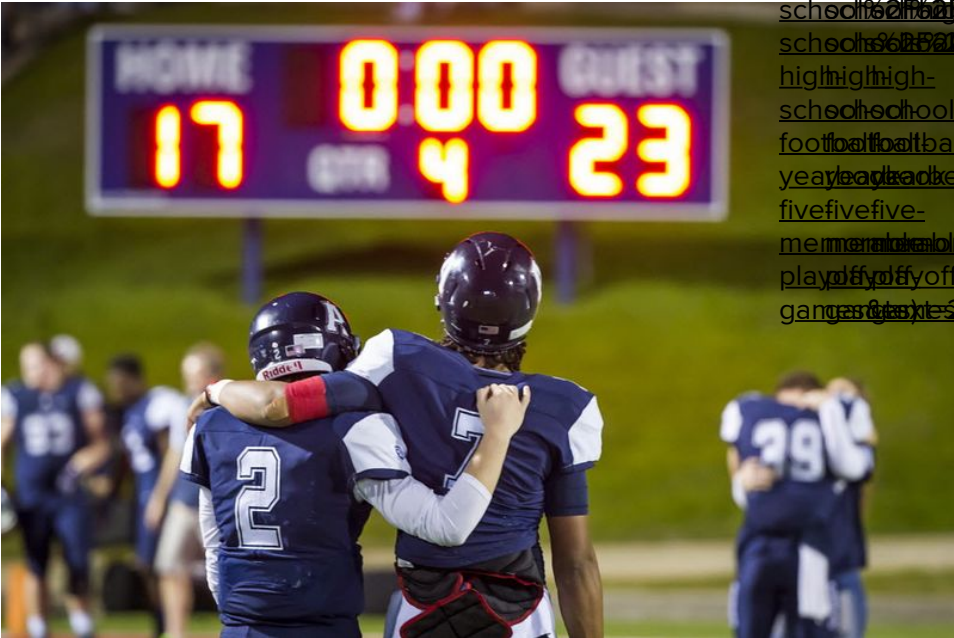
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# 2015 High School Football Yearbook: Five memorable playoff games

HIGH SCHOOLS, FOOTBALL, ALLEN, +6 (AND 6 MORE)



THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

ALLEN QUARTERBACKS MITCHELL JONKE (2) AND SETH GREEN (7) LEAVE THE FIELD FOLLOWING A 23-17 LOSS TO WESTLAKE IN A UIL CONFERENCE 6A D1 SEMI-FINAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL PLAYOFF GAME AT WACO ISD STADIUM ON SATURDAY, DEC. 12, 2015, IN WACO. WESTLAKE WON THE GAME 23-17 ENDING ALLEN'S 57-GAME WINNING STREAK AND QUEST FOR A FOURTH CONSECUTIVE STATE TITLE. (SMILEY N. POOL/THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS)

By [Avi Zaleon \(/high-school/author/avi-zaleon\)](#), Staff Writer      [@Avi\\_Zaleon \(https://twitter.com/Avi\\_Zaleon\)](#)

It's been a long and wonderful football season, chock full of so many memorable moments that it can be hard to look back and remember them all. For this reason, I've compiled five memorable contests from nondistrict, district and postseason play in 2015 that were fantastic at the time, but you may have since forgotten.

*These are ranked in no particular order.*

(http://www.dallasnews.com/sports/high-school/2015/12/02/legendary-duncanville-baseball-coach-bob-rombach-dies-battle-cancer/)  
url=http://www.dallasnews.com/sports/high-school/2015/12/02/legendary-duncanville-baseball-coach-bob-rombach-dies-battle-cancer/  
schools=6A-D1-Semi-Final  
high-school-football-yearbook-five-memorable-playoff-games-2015%  
schools=6A-D1-Semi-Final  
high-school-football-yearbook-five-memorable-playoff-games-2015%

### **Austin Westlake 23, Allen 17 (Dec.11)**

**(<http://sportsday.dallasnews.com/high-school/high-schools/2015/12/11/know-going-end-sometime-austin-westlake-ends-allens-57-game-win-streak-state-semifinals>)**

Week 16 - Allen Eagles vs Austin Westlake Chaparrals



If I had an overall category for most memorable game of the year, this might be it. Before this 6A Division I semifinal game, Allen appeared to be the unstoppable favorite. However, Westlake jumped to a 23-0 lead, and Allen's comeback was too little, too late. Coach Todd Dodge eliminated Allen from the playoffs for the fifth time, but this time it ended Allen's 57-game win streak in a game heard 'round the country.

### **South Grand Prairie 24, Euless Trinity 21 (Nov. 13)**

**(<http://sportsday.dallasnews.com/high-school/high-schools/2015/11/13/last-second-fg-helps-south-grand-prairie-upset-trinity-24-21-ease-sting-2014-collapse>)**

Week 12 - South Grand Prairie Warriors at Euless Trinity Tr...



Trinity had all the momentum heading into the playoffs. It was undefeated during the regular season, riding high in area and state polls and seemed to be a team that could advance far. Unfortunately for the Trojans, they

drew South Grand Prairie in the first round. SGP beat Trinity on the final play of the game, as senior Jose Cruz connected on a 32-yard field goal to complete the upset.

**Allen 41, DeSoto 40 (Nov. 21) (<http://sportsday.dallasnews.com/high-school/high-schools/2015/11/21/instant-classic-allen-edges-desoto-41-40-extend-streak-55-0>)**

Week 13 - Allen Eagles vs DeSoto Eagles



DeSoto was not its usual self this season, but those that have seen these teams clash in the playoffs knew it was not going to be a cakewalk for Allen. Sure enough, this turned into another classic, as a fourth-down stop by Allen's defense at about midfield prevented a DeSoto comeback. The game might have gone into overtime had it not been for DeSoto's kicker getting injured and missing an extra point try, which was ultimately the difference.

**Frisco Lone Star 55, Lake Dallas 49 (3OT) (Dec. 11) (<http://sportsday.dallasnews.com/high-school/high-schools/2015/12/11/interception-3rd-ot-lifts-frisco-lone-star-lake-dallas-state-final>)**

Where to start (<http://sportsday.dallasnews.com/high-school/high-schools/2015/12/12/insane-semifinal-game-nobody-talking>)? How about Lake Dallas catching two tipped passes in the end zone (one off a defender's hand, the other off a teammate's helmet) to force second and third overtimes? How about Lake Dallas quarterback Dagan Haehn essentially playing on one leg and putting out one of the grittiest efforts most folks have ever seen? How about Frisco Lone Star finally winning to earn Frisco ISD's first berth in a state title game?

**Rockwall 43, Spring 26 (Nov. 27)**  
**(<http://sportsday.dallasnews.com/high-school/high-schools/2015/11/27/jacket-fight-lives-rockwall-overcomes-12-point-deficit-947-remaining-beat-spring>)**

Week 14 - Rockwall Yellow Jackets vs Spring Lions  



The comeback of the year might have happened in Waco in the regional semifinal game between Spring and Rockwall. Spring, whose only loss to that point had come via forfeit, scored with 9:47 left to make it 26-14. But Rockwall proceeded to score four straight touchdowns in the final 10 minutes to win.

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