

# Coach Smelser



## Scott Smelser

Scott was born in Houston, Texas. Growing up, his ambition was to play football and baseball. At the age of 8, he started playing in the Little League system. Days before he was to start Junior High, he fractured his arm, dimming any hopes of playing football for that year. Scott decided he would help as an athletic trainer until the next football season. In the meantime, Scott was introduced to John Harvey, the Athletic Trainer for the district. Harvey, a Southwest Athletic Trainer Association HOF member, (Texas and Arkansas), taught Scott basic athletic training skills. His dreams of playing football were shattered in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade when he was cut from the team. Scott eventually looked at that disappointment as a positive and continued his training with Harvey.

Upon entering Milby High School, in 1973, Scott continued working as a student athletic trainer for football and basketball, seeing football win the district championship. After failing to make the baseball team in the Spring, Scott was asked to stay on as the student athletic trainer for the baseball team. The team made their way to the State Quarter finals.

The following summer John Harvey was hired as an assistant athletic trainer by the Houston Texans of the World Football League. Harvey recruited Scott and a fellow classmate to work as student interns. Notable names from that team were Head Coach Jim Garrett, (Father of Jason Garrett), Jim Nance, John Matuszak, and Texas Western standout, and HOF member Don Maynard. Working with the team offered him the opportunity to travel to Portland, Oregon and New York. While attending to his student trainer duties at Milby in his senior year (75-76) the basketball team went to the Texas High School Final 4 which, ironically, Eastwood won in 1976.

In the fall of 1976, Scott became a student trainer under the legendary Ross "Moe" Moore, (HOF inductee). Scott is the last of Ross Moore's athletic trainers to be licensed. After Moe's death, in 1977, Don Forester became Scott's mentor in 1978. As a student athletic trainer at UTEP, Scott helped out college athletics with multiple sports, including football, basketball, track, baseball and women's gymnastics. This allowed him to work with notable coaches and athletes, including Don Haskins, Tim Floyd, Ted Banks, Wayne Thornton, Syd and Andy Cohen. In his 5 years as student athletic trainer UTEP won 11 national team titles in indoor track/field ('78, '80 and '81), outdoor track/field team ('78, '79, '80, and '81), and cross country ('76, '78, '79, and '80). UTEP track earned the Triple Crown in 1980 and he supported over 75 track athletes to individual national and conference titles (1976-81).

Following graduation in 1982 from UTEP, Scott moved to Stewart County, Georgia, where he was hired as head baseball coach and assistant football coach. His baseball team advanced to the playoffs twice in three seasons. From Georgia, he moved to Port Lavaca, Texas and became a middle school football and tennis coach. In 1988, Scott moved back to El Paso where he spent one year coaching middle school football, basketball, and track. That same year, Scott wanted to pursue obtaining his athletic training license. He asked Dave Binder to help him start the process. During their off time, Binder and Dawn Hearn worked with him to prepare for his boards. Their knowledge and skills, and hours of mentoring paid off, and Scott was able to meet his goal.

He obtained his license and Scott was hired at Eastwood high school. In his 30 years at Eastwood, Scott and his colleagues have experienced State championship in wrestling (1995) and the girls cross country team (2018). There were 111 playoff appearances in the major team sports during that span: Football, 11 appearances; Boys Basketball, 17 appearances; Girls Basketball, at least 18 appearances; Boys Soccer, 4 appearances; Girls Soccer, 19 appearances; Softball, 11 appearances; Baseball, 5 appearances; and Volleyball with 26 appearances in playoffs with an impressive 16 year, uninterrupted run, from 1990 to 2005. Boys & Girls swim team had 30 individual district titles. Scott has also worked with former HOF members Bobby Leslie, Steve Flato, Ben Avalos and Gary Pippen while at Eastwood.

Since his retirement in 2019, Scott maintains his license and helps with the local student athletic trainer's organization and judging HOSA and athletic training competitions. For the past 6 years he has volunteered with the Greater El Paso Showcase football game. He currently working as a substitute teacher and enjoys spending time with his wife of nearly 29 years, Patricia, his son James, and his daughter Samantha.

In summary, Scott should be honored for his many years of dedication to the field of athletic training. This honor is well deserved.

**El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame  
Nomination for Scott Smelser (Official/Trainer Category)**



**Scott Smelser**

**Address** 10216 Bermuda Ave.  
El Paso, Texas 79925

**Phone No.** 915-204-2187

**Family** Married 29 Years to wife (Patricia Smelser)

**Children** Son (James) and Daughter (Samantha)

- **Inducted in 2022 to the Sun City Athletic Trainers Association Hall of Fame**
- **In Junior High and High School, worked under Southwest Athletic Training Association, (Texas and Arkansas), Hall of Famer, John Harvey**
  
- **In 1974 was a Student/Intern for Houston Texans of World Football League with players such as Don Maynard, John Matuzak and other NFL greats**
  
- **From 1976-1981 was a Student Athletic Trainer under Ross Moore and Don Forrester at UTEP for Football, Basketball, Womens Gymnastics, Baseball, Track and Field, (Triple Crown NCAA Championship)**
  
- **In his time at UTEP worked with Don Haskins, Ross Moore, Athletic Trainer, Dave Binder, Athletic Trainer, Dawn Hearn, Athletic Trainer and members of El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. He has also worked with former inductees, Wayne Thornton, Tim Floyd, Ted Banks, Dr. Billy Dickey, Syd and Andy Cohen.**
  
- **UTEP Track and Field Indoor National Champions 1978,1980, and 1981. Outdoor Track National Champions 1978, 1979, 1980, and 1981. Cross Country National Champions 1976, 1978, 1979, and 1980**

**El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame  
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**High School (1976 Graduate)** Charles H. Milby High School (Houston, Texas)

**College (1982 Graduate)** University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP)

Bachelor of Science Physical Education (Minor - Health)

**Employment (1982 – 1985)** Stewart County Schools

(Teacher/Head Baseball Coach/Assistant Football Coach)

**1985-1988** Calhoun County ISD

Elementary School Teacher and Middle School Coach

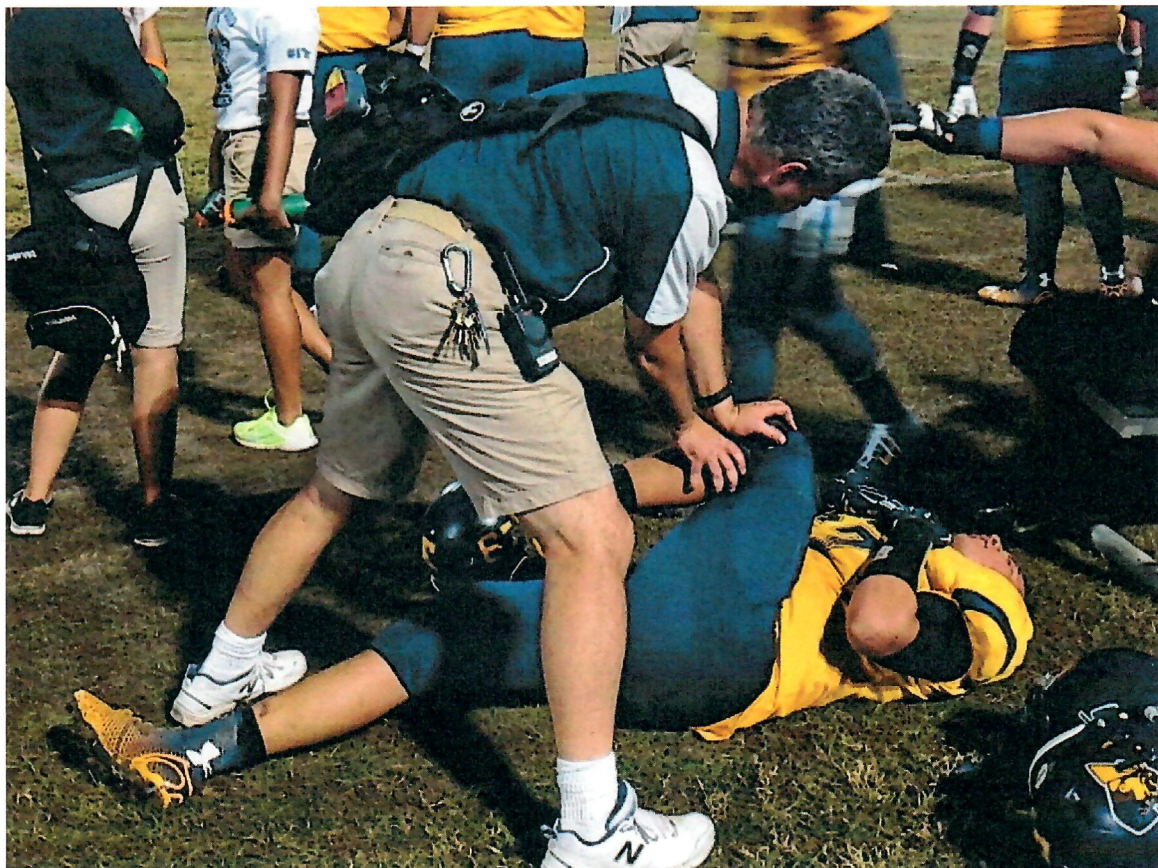
**1988-1989** Ysleta Independent School District

Ranchland Hills Middle School Coach (FB, BB, Baseball)

**1989 – 2019** Ysleta Independent School District

Teacher/Head Athletic Trainer

**1997-2000** Athletic Training at Columbia Hospital



**Scott Smelser in Action**

**Scott Smelser**

**Service to Athletic Training Profession on National State and Local Level**

|                                                                                                                                                                                  |                              |                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Athletic Training at Columbia Healthcare Hospital</u></b>                                                                                                                  | <b><u>1997-2000</u></b>      | <b><u>Helping Local and Out of Town Visiting Athletes</u></b>              |
| <b><u>Member of Southwest Athletic Training Association (SWATA)</u></b>                                                                                                          | <b><u>1997</u></b>           | <b><u>To Bring State Training Convention to El Paso</u></b>                |
| <b><u>Star Award (Ruth Meredith Award) Selection Committee</u></b>                                                                                                               | <b><u>2012-2018</u></b>      | <b><u>Honoring Local Supporters of Athletics</u></b>                       |
| <b><u>Concussion Training</u></b>                                                                                                                                                | <b><u>2012-2019</u></b>      | <b><u>Presentation on Concussion Protocol</u></b>                          |
| <b><u>Greater El Paso Football Showcase</u></b>                                                                                                                                  | <b><u>2017-2024</u></b>      | <b><u>Athletic Trainer for Event</u></b>                                   |
| <b><u>Sun City Athletic Training Association, National Athletic Training Association, Southwest Athletic Training Association, Texas State Athletic Training Association</u></b> | <b><u>1989 - Present</u></b> |                                                                            |
| <b><u>Sun City Athletic Training Association Student Trainers Chapter</u></b>                                                                                                    | <b><u>2021 - Present</u></b> | <b><u>Assisting High School Student Trainers to Promote Profession</u></b> |
| <b><u>Service Award for Wrestling Texas State Champion Eastwood High School Team</u></b>                                                                                         | <b><u>1995</u></b>           |                                                                            |

Outstanding Contribution Award to Eastwood Football Bi-District Team 1999

Service Award from Eastwood Football 2010 Booster Club

Southwest Athletic Training Association 2011 Golf Team Finalist Award (U.I.L.)

Davis Mountain Sports Medicine Symposium: 2015 Everette Blackburn Award Recognition for Outstanding Service

SWATA 25 year service Award 2014

NATA 25 year service Award 2014

YISD 25 year service award 2013

Eastwood Athletics 30 Years of Service and Appreciation Recognition 2018

Eastwood Cross Country State 2018 Championship ring

Hosted Stanford University Football Team for Sun Bowl 2016 and 2018

As a student athletic trainer in High School, in 1973 football district champions, in 1974 baseball district champions, and in 1976, the basketball team went to the Final 4 with Eastwood winning the State Championship

While at UTEP, worked with all sports, highlighted by the track and field team winning 4 NCAA Championships in Cross Country,(1976, 1978, 1979, and 1980), 3 NCAA Championships in Indoor Track,(1978, 1980, 1981), and 4 NCAA Championships in Outdoor track,(1978, 1979, 1980, and 1981)

\*In Scott's 30 years at Eastwood High School, the major sports teams combined for a total of 111 playoff appearances, plus many district titles in individual sports. Of note the swim team won 30 district titles in either boys, girls or both.

Football had 11 playoff appearances.

Boys Basketball had 17 playoff appearances.

Girls Basketball had, at least, 18 playoff appearances.

Boys Soccer had 4 playoff appearances.

Girls Soccer had 19 playoff appearances.

(continued)

**Volleyball had a total of 26 playoff appearances, with an impressive 16 consecutive appearances between 1990 and 2005.**

**Softball had a total of 11 playoff appearances.**

**Baseball had 5 playoff appearances.**

**It is also noted, while at Eastwood, he had the opportunity to work with former inductees Bobby Leslie, Steve Flato, Ben Avalos, and Gary Pippen.**