



Gina Miller
TXA 21 Sports Anchor

My Glory Days at Lakehill Prep

Looking back at the high school experiences that shaped my life

I tend to joke that I call my time in high school the “Glory Days” and that after graduation, it was all downhill. I’m sure a few adults can relate and you high schoolers, TRUST ME, one day will. But the more I reflect on the four years I spent at Lakehill Preparatory School, the more they seem pretty glorious.

I spent most of my time at LPS, from kindergarten to twelfth grade. It’s so hard for people to relate to my high school experience because it was, and still is, a pretty small school. When I was there it competed in TAPPS 1-A, the smallest private school division you can find. Consider this: there were eighteen – yes 18 – people in my graduating class. We were a wonderfully diverse group of young adults. We interacted with students in the grades both above us and below us. We formed lasting friendships with the teachers that are still intact.

We now talk about having reunions and we have to have them an entire 4-year group, not just the class of ‘92. My sister, who went to Woodrow Wilson High School and graduated with more than 1,000 classmates, just laughs.

It was a truly unique experience when it came to sports. There were no competitive tryouts to make the volleyball, basketball or football teams. No afternoons spent waiting outside the weight room for one of those infamous “Who-made-the-team?” lists. At my school, it was basically show up, practice and play.

I actually garnered some interest to play basketball in college from some local universities. They were intrigued until they actually scouted me in person and saw the main reason I had success was because at 5’10, I was one of the tallest girls in TAPPS 1-A in the state of Texas.

I showed up, I practiced, played and somehow really excelled. Now, let me put the asterisk by that phrase. I played volleyball, basketball, softball and ran track. That was the cool thing about going to a TAPPS 1-A private school – you could compete in anything and everything.

My passions were really basketball and volleyball. During basketball season, Tuesday was my favorite day of the week because the *Dallas Morning News* would publish the high school basketball stats for the area. Little ol’ me led Dallas/Ft Worth in rebounding for quite some time. Now, the majority of the rebounds were all offensive put-backs off my own misses, but they still counted. In fact, I actually garnered some interest to play basketball in college from some local universities. They were intrigued until they actually scouted me in person and saw the main reason I had success was because at 5’10, I was one of the tallest girls in TAPPS 1-A in the state of Texas.

But that didn’t really matter – it was these experiences in high school that have shaped who I am. I learned so much about my character and about what I was capable of doing. I learned about teamwork. I learned about dealing with authority and how to be a leader in a trying time. These are all the same lessons any student-athlete discovers when juggling the commitments of school plus athletics.

That’s the greatness of athletics that transcends any school or any sport – it’s the lessons learned. And while the majority of most high school student athletes’ careers end after graduation, those lessons last a lifetime.

CAN YOU GUESS WHO'S WHO?

(ANSWERS BELOW)

1 Writes novels and poetry.

A



2 Is a big video gamer!

B



3 Loves rock climbing.

C



4 Sings in a real rock band.

D



5 Loves to listen to Pearl Jam.

E



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1) Nerissa (D) Knight has a passion for writing poetry and novels.
2) Chris Salcedo (E) can't get enough of his video games.
3) Garry Seith (A) loves forecasting the weather and rock climbing.
4) Tracy Kornet (B) often performs in the Eleven21 Band.
5) Gina Miller (C) loves jamming to Pearl Jam.