

Tallulah Falls School 2018-19 Athletic Program Highlights

The 2018-19 athletes, coaches, and teams distinctly enhanced the athletic mission in creating Seasons of Significance by developing GREAT character, competence and competitiveness and hosting GREAT events.

Besides competing with zeal, our athletes so often thrive by volunteering to enhance the welfare of others. Themed home contests, educational awareness regarding cancer and epilepsy, cookouts or eating with competitors, being the hurdle crew at meets, cleaning local parks or trails, serving at events, food banks, or other organizations that directly improve the lives of community members, our athletic teams prioritize those important traits that are foundational to a thriving society. In addition to serving, TFS received the Region 8A sportsmanship award in girls cross country (tie), boys cross country (tie), girls basketball, baseball, girls golf, boys golf (tie), girls track & field, and boys track & field. TFS MS sports that received the Tri State Middle School Conference Sportsmanship Award include girls cross country, boys cross country, girls soccer, boys soccer, and boys track & field.

TFS girls scored 285 points to finish fourth of ten Region 8A schools and 22nd of 88 Class A schools in the GADA Directors Cup. TFS boys scored 114 points to finish ninth of 11 in the region and 65th of 114 in the state. Combined, TFS scored 399 points to finish sixth of 11 in the region and 39 of 99 overall Class A schools.

In addition to Virginia Griswold, Marshall Harrelson, Isabeau Keene, and Marshall Williams signing to compete at the collegiate level, others did have that option while still some of our athletes received significant academic or ROTC scholarships to further their education at the college of their choice.

Varsity volleyball qualified to the state tournament for the fourth year in a row, finishing with a 31-18 record, and set multiple school records along the way. Kate Blackburn and Damali Danavall earned All Region 1st team honors. JV volleyball finished a strong season 18-5. Both boys and girls MS tennis teams finished 8-1. Our boys won the Tri State Conference Championship in cross country. HS cross country, in addition to hosting memorable themed meets, competed respectfully and has a strong enough reputation to host this fall's 2019 Area 2 A-Private XC Championships. Boys varsity soccer began a team tradition of creating work ethic standards, providing athlete centered accountability, and setting both team and program goals and expectations.

The 18-11 (most wins ever) Lady Indians basketball team made it to the Sweet 16 for the first time, set numerous school records, and placed Nyah Williams (TFS all time scoring leader with over 1850 points) on the All Region 1st Team for the second year in a row. Boys basketball continued the tradition of Tribe Tellers (reading to and mentoring TFS fifth graders) while having a competitive season. Spirit was raised with decorations at school multiple times, the Pep Band played at some games, and a focused emphasis by our kids led a strong student section. MS boys basketball finished 11-7 while the girls finished as Tri State Runner-Up.

Our Precision Air Rifle young squad finished 10th at the USA Shooting SE Regional Championships in Anniston, AL. Sophomore Sam Stamey shot a perfect 200 prone position score as well as a school record three position score. The new Rifle Range proved to be invaluable in honing the marksmanship of our shooters.

Our GISA bass fishing program qualified three HS teams and both MS teams to the state tournament and continues to be a source of post-secondary education opportunity for our anglers. Middle school anglers also have the opportunity to learn the valuable life lessons through fishing while representing TFS with pride. Bass fishing is a growing sport throughout the U.S. at all levels.

A record 70 swimmers participated this year with the highest number ever qualifying to A-AAA state. History making Isabeau Keene placed third in state diving (and signed with FGCU) while our girls finished 11th and boys 9th at state, best

state performances ever. The MS girls team placed sixth and the boys runner-up with two winners (one individual and one relay) at the GISA State meet, the latter a best TFS finish ever. Both levels set school records and added to the swimming Legacy List. The program also continues to host GREAT, themed swim meets that visiting schools appreciate and praise.

Varsity baseball finished a little below .500 with the most players on the roster in program history, while providing a consistent fan experience of music, concessions, and camaraderie. Chathan Clouatre earned 1st Team All Region 8A. The JV team had a winning (4-3) season and had the most homers in a season.

Girls golf again is the most competitive team on campus in regards to Area and State competition, winning the Area Championship for the third time in four years while finishing the regular season (non-tournament matches) 27-1 over the last three years. The team finished fourth at the state championships while Maggie Jackson finished sixth, Brinson Hall placed seventh, and Selah Anderson placed T24 of 46. Maggie and Brinson earned 1st Team All State Class A - Private honors. Numerous records were broken again throughout the season in the midst of playing the most challenging schedule ever. The teams benefited significantly from utilizing the Orchard membership as well as the new Golf Performance Lab, especially with the many rainy days.

Girls soccer finished a difficult season with a victory on senior night for the second year in a row. We initiated a MS girls team that flourished with twenty girls (even more practicing now for next year) and within two years, the program should be on solid ground.

The youthful and inexperienced tennis teams continue to clearly provide chances for a varied group of students to compete (we beat a local rival as well). Peer schools repeatedly proclaim the program's fervor and sportsmanship.

Both MS track & field teams won the Tri State Championships; TFS boys for the ninth time and girls for the eighth time in the nine year history of the conference. Nelson Wilkinson placed fourth in the discus at the GA MS state championships, one of the two best MS TFS male finishes in the nine year history of the meet.

Nine HS girls qualified for state in eight events; the team placed third at the Area 2 A-Private meet, tying the TFS top team performances ever after winning numerous meets during the season. Eight boys qualified in seven state events while finishing fourth of 10 scoring schools at the area championship. The seven seniors, especially, have continued many traditions of purposeful service and distinct rigor amongst not just our own classification, but against larger teams while representing TFS so well that many peer coaches and parents extol the virtues of TFS in addition to being a part of the best combined four year stretch in school history. TFS track & field presently has five alum competing collegiately.

Our second year Athletic Training program, led by Lauren Brown, ATC, continues to be a stellar component of the athletic program. This year we organized reduced cost ferritin iron tests with our team doctor, Dr. Stuart Sanders, for both MS and HS athletes possibly low in iron stores. The initiative proved to be one of the best health oriented and life changing physiological decisions we've made. Numerous athletes proved to be low and hence began their own iron supplementation to improve their ability to train more effectively and to perform better and safer. We continue to be effective in communication and follow up when concussions or injuries occur. We also added a Thor Guard lightning prediction system to enhance safety in severe weather situations.

Coaching has elevated, affecting performance, memorable athletic satisfaction, and increased respect throughout the region and state. Changes in positions and roles have already taken place for this continued expectation of excellence to be further enhanced for the 2019-20 year. We also have a goal via various professional development options to improve the nuances that will strengthen the impact upon and through TFS athletes even more. This summer, TFS athletes will

have more opportunities to specifically condition, work as a team, improve skills, and prepare in the off season for in season success.

We have increased our social media presence even more this year, added a quote of the day on Twitter, promote TFS athletes and programs more than ever, and continue to provide highlights of contests for local media, which through continued access and professional relationships, has provided significant articles highlighting our student athletes. Moreover, you see kids and parents throughout our communities wearing our logo.

The overall fan experience has been enhanced. We added a Pixellot video system and joined the NFHS Network to broadcast games and events while also providing GoFan digital ticketing so people can pay for sporting events and banquets (over 40 people paid on line for the spring banquet) on line. We enhanced music at home contests and our student section provided themes to highlight our fans being loud, proud, and positive. We want to begin a “battle of the fans” competition for next year.

The inaugural TFS Athletic Legends Hall of Honor was an incredible success. Five Legends (Mariam Abdullah, Herb Amick, Mike Dale, Destinee Johnson, and Daniel Lampl) were honored for their significant contributions to TFS and their continued success. The event highlighted memorable accomplishments, GREAT character, and the impactful role these legends continue to have, highlighting TFS as the light in the mountains.

Season banquets continue to celebrate the accomplishments and memories of teams and individuals while team recognition ceremonies highlight the leadership of our seniors.

Our facilities continue to improve. HVAC was added to the field house (plans to add restrooms and further remodel this summer), restrooms and concessions were added to the stadium, and coaches continue to utilize

Goals for 2019-20 include resurfacing all six tennis courts, remodeling the field house, repairing or resurfacing the present 120m track, renovating the weight room so that it becomes a training source of pride and success for our students, athletes, and staff, and researching and designing plans for a future track & field facility. We seek to further enhance the fan experience, coordinate with parent volunteers even more, and communicate more efficiently and effectively.

We remain intentional to enhance our GREAT athletic program in successfully satisfying our mission so well that the athletic program attracts those who would fit in with and add to our GREAT culture while shining the light of TFS as a truly incredible community where dreams become reality!

Scott Neal
Tallulah Falls School Athletic Director
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