

## **Anderson High School Men's Lacrosse – History**

The history of lacrosse in Austin really begins with the 1989 formation of a team at Anderson High School; the team competed for three seasons, through 1991, under Coach Ken Singer. Team leaders included Scott Aubin, Ryan Howard and Collin Blankenship. The inaugural game was against McNeil High. Over three seasons the team record was 7–21. During this time, several “firsts” were attained including 1990 All District and 1991 All State players Ryan Howard/Middie and Scott Aubin/Attack who were also on the first Team Texas in 1991, playing in a California Invitational; Howard, playing for Westwood High in 1992, was their first All American. Aubin went on to successfully coach McCallum High and is currently a director of sports program at CATZ-Austin and lacrosse coach at St. Edwards University.

The lacrosse program re-launched in 1998 under the guidance of Daniel Black ('00) and family; Daniel enlisted Bruce Clark to organize the program. The Blacks successfully recruited Coach Boggs, an Anderson High teacher with no prior lacrosse experience, to take on coaching responsibilities from 1998 to 2001. Coach Boggs established the team's legitimacy, but acceptance remained elusive. Rarely was access to the Anderson fields allowed, resulting in a nomadic rotation of practice locations including Pillow Elementary, The Quarries or any available space. The team's first tournament, at St. Edwards, required the purchase of black pennies just prior to the event, resplendent with taped on numbers. The rag tag team picked up rare wins until the 2001 season, which resulted in Anderson's first competitively successful season, and a Division II (DII) Championship, led by Mark Grantham, Stu Shaw, Rud Nast and Matt Portillo; Grantham and Shaw are current Anderson assistant coaches. Nast played on at Division I Quinnipiac University (Ct.), Grantham and Shaw both played at Texas Tech University.

The 2002 season saw the departure of a strong senior class as well as Coach Boggs; the Taylor, Gilmore, and Carney families worked to secure Greaven Graham as Head Coach. Coach Graham, played in upstate New York and Purdue, bringing a strong lacrosse background to the program, as well as assistant coaches Bruce Clark, Rob Carney, and John Seay; both Clark and Carney eventually served as Anderson Head Coach.

In 2003 and 2004 the first full youth league team was established, finally giving Anderson a “feeder” program. By 2004, under Coach Carney, the Anderson's roster grew to 53 players, including 39 freshmen and sophomores. During this time Anderson achieved consecutive DII 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes, led by upperclassmen Ben Taylor, Kendall Seay, Patrick Gilmore and Jonah Mankovsky with Kendall achieving All District and All State/Middie honors, the first All State player representing the Anderson program. After the 2004 season the coaching staff was selected to coach the Texas High School All Star team.

2004 also saw Anderson organize its first board, comprised of parents, with Bill Taylor as president. This transitioned the program from a “pass the hat” to a corporate structure utilizing pre-planning, budgeting and committee delegations. Based on the team's field success and organizational moves, the Texas High School Lacrosse League (THSLL) voted Anderson into Division I (D1).

In 2005 Anderson Lacrosse separated into Junior Varsity and Varsity teams. Bruce Clark, a native of upstate NY with a lifetime of lacrosse experience, was named Head Coach with Coach Graham as his assistant coach. Colin Esais, a Maryland native and Washington College graduate served as Junior Varsity Head Coach with John Seay serving as his assistant. Andy Mastronardi was the program's President.

The DI transition proved formidable with Anderson consistently positioned at the bottom of the standings. At the conclusion of the 2005 season, Coach Graham departed Anderson and was replaced by Ryan Boyle in 2006. Coach Boyle, in Austin for a year, was a National Collegiate Champion at Princeton, a Team USA gold medalist and professional champion with the MLL Philadelphia Barrage. While at Anderson, Coach Boyle was instrumental in establishing and implementing an offensive/defensive blueprint still utilized by our program.

Coaches Boyle, Esaias and Seay departed in 2007 replaced by Junior Varsity Head Coach John Rosacker (Coach Rock) and Assistant Greg Schultz. Varsity Coach Clark secured assistants Patrick Huskins and program goalie coaches Will Todd and Zach Kurzwiel. Brian Riddle was voted club president, serving the 2006 and 2007 seasons. District wins proved elusive but the team, for the first time, was competitive in all DI games. The 2006 team had strong leaders in Hunter Allen, Ryan Clark, TJ Wilson, Burt Picazo, Eric Gonzalez, Michael Burciaga and Blake Allen. Clark was named All State/Defense in both his junior and senior years, becoming the first two-time All State player from Anderson. 2007 was led by Hunter Allen, Chad Hennig, and Logan Henderson; Hennig was named All State/Middie. Senior Michael Portillo was named Academic All American, the first time that distinction had been earned by an Anderson Lacrosse student/athlete. The team was supported by 17 incoming freshman including Collin Clark, Trevor Sieracki, and Harrison Wood. Ryan Clark had a successful college career at Division II, Notre Dame de Namur. Hunter Allen played one year at Notre Dame de Namur. TJ Wilson, Blake Allen and Chad Hennig would all go on to play at Texas State University, leading their team to the 2010 Lone Star Alliance Championship.

In 2008 and 2009, the Varsity Head Coach was Coach Rock with Bruce Anderson voted 2008 club president, followed by Rob Sieracki in 2009. The team, under the leadership of Coach Rock, was consistently competitive, achieving a winning record in 2009, but district wins remained elusive. Trevor Sieracki was named All-State/Middie and Collin Clark received recognition as All-District/Attack.

The 2008 Anderson Junior Varsity coached by Jason Blair, won the Aggieland Classic Tournament and went on to win the Junior Varsity DI Championship. The 2011 graduating seniors started their Anderson Lacrosse careers under Coach Blair. Mark Grantham, Stu Shaw and Dan Ingersoll led the 2009 JV team through another successful season.

2010 saw Zach Kurzweil (Coach K) take the reins as Varsity Head Coach, leading the Anderson Lacrosse program to its most successful season ever. The team finished with a 9-6 [6-3 district] record, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Central Division and its first Division I State playoff berth. The 2010 team had strong senior leadership with Trevor Sieracki, Collin Clark, Mark Johnson, Tommy Carroll, and an injured Chris Wight, who motivated the team as an Assistant Coach. Mark Grantham and Stu Shaw joined Coach K on the Varsity coaching staff; John Rock stepped in as Head Junior Varsity Coach assisted by Andy Godbold and Drew Gephardt. Coach Rock led the team to another Junior Varsity DI Championship. Mark Gagnon served as club president. Several players were awarded year end honors, including four All District designations: Riley Vickers/Defense, Trevor Sieracki/Middie, Jeffrey Sayers/Middie and Collin Clark/Attack; Trevor and Collin were also named All-State at their respective positions and Collin became the first, and only to date, Anderson player to be nominated Central District All American, a rare honor. Three players from the 2010 are continuing their lacrosse careers in college at the NCAA level: Trevor Sieracki (Catawba College), Collin Clark (Nazareth College) and Tommy Carroll (Fontbonne University).

2011 finds the Anderson Lacrosse Club on firm ground as a proven and formidable Central Texas program. The team is comprised of 26 Varsity and 30 Junior Varsity players including the largest freshman class ever. Northwest Austin Youth Lacrosse Association (NWAYLA) provides a feeder system comprised of teams at the Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grades.

Our program continues to add to its long history with each practice, game and season. Please check back to this site for new history as it's made. *GO TROJANS!*