

Pat H. Dougherty won first place in the broad jump and discus and was second in four other events at the state track meet in 1909 to join Roy E. Holcomb in leading Belton to the state track team championship in an era when all high schools in the state (regardless of size) competed in the same "class." He later became an attorney and was the executive assistant to two Texas governors early in his legal career and was a judge at retirement.

The year 1909 marked the third year that the State of Texas had held an official state track meet as team winners from every region of the state were invited to Clark Field at the U. of Texas on May 7-8, 1909, to compete for the state team championship. Belton won the Central Texas regional with 42 points over Temple (31 points), Waco (15), McGregor (6), and Corsicana (0) and advanced to the state track meet along with the three other regional winners, Dallas High School, San Antonio High School, and Austin High School. Thus the 1909 track meet was an early example of "The Final Four" (teams) as applied to track. (In 1910 the state track meet began a new format by including all individual qualifiers—not just 4 regional team champions as in 1909.)

Belton won the state track championship in 1909 by scoring 53 points to 28 for second place San Antonio, 20 points for third place Austin, and 16 points for fourth place Dallas. Senior Roy Holcomb won first place in four events: the 100-yard dash at 10.8; the 220-yard dash at 23.4; the 440-yard dash at 56.4; and the 12-lb. hammer throw at 111'. He was second in the 50-yard dash and ran on Belton's second place 880-yard relay team; and was third in the 12-lb. shotput and in the 120-yard low hurdles for a total point count (according to the newspapers---their point calculations are unclear) of 25. The second highest individual point total of 16 was made by senior Pat Dougherty who won the broad jump at 19'6" and discus throw at 96'3" and placed second in the 100-yard dash, the 220-yard dash and the 120-yard low hurdles and ran on Belton's second place 880-yard relay team. A third Belton athlete, Arthur O'Connor, won first in the 880-yard dash at 2:12 & 2/5 and ran on the second place 880-yard relay team. A fourth team member, Pope, was third in the 880-yard dash and ran on the second place 880-yard relay team.

Thus Belton athletes were state champions in 7 of the 13 individual events. The 1909 annual reported that Belton broke eight of thirteen State high school records in the state high school track meet on Fri-Sat. and in the Monday dual meet with "academy champion" Allen Academy which Belton lost 58-55. Holcomb broke state records in four events: the 100-yard dash (10.8), 220-yard dash (23.2), hammer throw (121'4'), and the 880-yard relay (1:40) and Dougherty in three events: the broad jump (19'8"), discus (96'3) and 880-yard relay (1:40). His discus record held until 1912 when it was broken by Burt Davidson of Temple.

Pat Dougherty's athletic talent was not limited to track and field as the 1909 high school yearbook indicated that he was captain of the 1908 baseball team and that "the success of the team was largely due to the magnificent work" of Dougherty, the pitcher, who "had an excellent assortment of kinks and used wonderful judgment in sizing up the opposing

batters.” Pat also played on the 1908 football team and the yearbook noted that he and Shanklin were “the two fastest ends in Central Texas” (the team played only 3 games, losing twice to Temple and playing a scoreless tie with Lampasas). He was also an “all-around student” as he was president of the senior class and editor of the yearbook.

Patrick Henry Dougherty was born in Dimmitt County on Sept. 13, 1889, to John Michael Dougherty (1853-1990) and Mary Windsor Patton Dougherty (1957-1935) and moved with his family to Belton at the age of 15. He graduated from Belton H.S. in 1909. Over a 40-year legal career he was executive assistant to Texas Governors Dan Moody and Ross Sterling, assistant Texas attorney general, assistant in the U.S. Dept. of Justice, assistant Austin city attorney and municipal judge.

Pat Dougherty died in Austin on March 14, 1968, at the age of 78. He was survived in 1968 by two daughters, Rebecca Steele of St. Louis and Betty Scheid of Garland; two sons, Burke P. Dougherty of Austin and Henry H. Rogers of Lufkin; and eleven grandchildren and one great, grandchild. In 2009, Pat Dougherty was survived by eleven grandchildren including Peggy Manning of Georgetown TX, Betsy Scheid of Littleton CO, Carol Pinson of Rowlett, Candy Pugh of Ft. Worth, Patrick Rogers of Austin, Katherine Dougherty, Patricia Dougherty (a symphonic musician) of NYC, Jimmy Steele, Jr, Kent Steele, Mary Ellen Steele and Rebecca Steele Buenger.