

RAYBORN VANNOY

Rayborn Vannoy was named a member the Waco-Tribune Herald's Class B all-state team in 1935. Vannoy had led the Tigers to a District Championship as a "triple threat" back as he was the team's leading passer, rusher and kicker and also was one of the team's top defensive players. He later played at Howard Payne and Westminster College.

Rayborn Vannoy was born on Sept. 29, 1915, in Bell County to Thomas & Lessie Vannoy. He was raised in Belton with his four brothers (Leland, Howard, Henry (Chick) & Richard) and two sisters, Ruth & Lessie. He attended the Tyler Ward School and Belton H.S. graduating in 1936. Rayborn was twice (1935 & 1936) awarded the Rylander Cup which was symbolic of Belton's "Most Athletic Boy." He was on the varsity basketball team for 4 years and was the team's leading scorer as a Jr and Sr. He won the pole vault championship at the County Track Meet as a Sr.

Vannoy was on the Tiger's varsity football team for 4 years from 1932-1935. The Tigers were 5-4-1 during his Fr year of 1932; 4-5 during his soph year in 1933; 5-4 in his Jr year of 1934; & 8-1 in his Sr year of 1935. Bob Safley was the Belton coach from 1931-1943. Belton won the District 31-B championship in 1935 going undefeated in the regular season only to lose to Lockhart in bi-district. The 1935 Tigers were a great defensive team with 6 shutouts in 9 games. Belton outscored its opposition 127-27 on the year. The Tigers lost the bi-district game to Lockhart, 7-0, during a rain storm on a blocked punt/score though Belton dominated the game (11-0 on first downs & 4-1 on penetrations).

The stars of the team were Rayborn Vannoy, a 170 lb. Sr fullback, and his brother, Richard, a Jr center, and Captain Melton Dugger, a 165 lb. Sr end. The QB was Forrest Sherrod, later known nationwide as "Blackie" Sherrod, a famous sports writer. Sherrod would later note in one of books that Rayborn played most of the Cameron game with a broken hand. Rayborn was All-District in 1934 as a Jr and in 1935 as a Sr was the MVP of the District. Rayborn Vannoy and "Blackie" Sherrod received scholarships to Howard Payne where Rayborn played for 2 years. Rayburn and Melton Dugger also played one year at Westminster College in Tehuacana TX.

Rayborn had a long career with General Motors working in parts plants in the Dallas/Ft. Worth area until his retirement in 1973. During World War II he worked on an assembly line making airplanes. Rayborn Vannoy died in 2007 at the age of 92 and is buried in Colleyville TX. He was survived by his wife, Vanita Osborn Vannoy; by two children, Ray, of Tyler TX and Cathy Vannoy Gilliland of Rhone TX; by his sister Ruth Stewart of Belton; and by several grandchildren. The names of Rayborn Vannoy and Melton Dugger were added to the Belton H.S. Athletic Wall of Honor in 2010 after their status as all-state players was discovered in the Waco newspaper. Members of the Vannoy and Dugger families attended an induction ceremony at the Belton Wall of Honor in Sept. of 2010.