

MELTON E. DUGGER

Melton Dugger was named a member the Waco-Tribune Herald's Class B all-state team in 1935. He was inducted into the Belton H.S. Wall of Honor in 2010 after his "all-state status" was discovered.

Melton E. Dugger was born on March 1, 1917, in Holland TX to Joe and Dora Dugger. He and his five siblings (Lura, Marie, Lucille, Charles & Derald) were raised in Holland TX before moving to Belton for Melton's H.S. years.

Dugger was a center on the Belton basketball team and played on the Tiger varsity football teams for 4 years (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 (9-0) 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 and on a muddy field on a blocked punt/score but Belton dominated for the game 11-0 on first downs & 4-1 on penetrations. Belton won a "post season bi-district match game" by beating Lampasas 31-26 ending the yr at 10-1.

The stars of the team were Rayborn Vannoy, a 170 lb. fullback, and his brother, Richard, who played center and Captain Melton Dugger, a 165 lb. end. The QB was Forrest Sherrod, later known nationwide as "Blackie" Sherrod, the nation's most famous sports writer. In the 1930's players played both offense and defense and many games had no subs. Dugger's defensive highlight was the covering of a fumble on the 9 yrd line to set up Belton's only TD in a 7-0 victory over Cameron. Times were hard and since the school district could not afford uniforms the Belton fans bought uniforms for the 1935 team.

Melton Dugger was named All-District in 1934 & 1935. The Waco Tribune Herald selected its first ever Class B all-state team in 1934 from 18 Districts across the state and Jr Melton Dugger was an "honorable mention" end. The 1935 Waco B All-State team included Rayborn Vannoy on its 1st team at fullback; Melton Dugger of Belton on its 2nd team at end; and Ed Miller as honorable mention at end.

Melton played one year of football at Westminster College in Tehuacana TX in 1936. He worked a farm near Cee Vee TX (near Childress) before World War II and served in the U.S. Navy during the war. He later worked in construction jobs across TX. Melton E. Dugger died on April 29, 1977, at the age of 60 and is buried at the Sam Houston National Cemetery in SA. He was survived by his wife, Achsah; two sons, Joe Boyd and Phillip (a third son, Tommy, was a Navy pilot who died in a crash in 1968); and 11 grandchildren.

The names of Rayborn Vannoy and Melton Dugger were added to the Belton H.S. Athletic Wall of Honor 2010 after a Waco newspaper article was discovered documenting their status as all-state players. Members of the Vannoy and Dugger families attended an induction ceremony at the Belton Wall of Honor in Sept. of 2010.