

**Jason Ward became the fourth Belton Tiger to make all-state in football for two straight years when he was named as a kicker to the Class 4-A All-State team in both his junior (1991) and senior (1992) years. Ward was also an outstanding (three-time all-district) soccer player at Belton High School and received a soccer scholarship to a Colorado college.**

**Jason Ward was born on Oct. 22, 1974, in Temple TX, to Wayne and Penny Ward. He and his older sister, Katy, and younger brother, Adam, were raised in Belton. Jason began playing soccer in recreational leagues at the age of 6 and began club soccer at age 11. He played soccer year-round through his freshman year including indoor soccer for a team in Austin that traveled throughout the state. Jason's athletic career as a high school freshman included soccer, his first love, track (he ran on the freshman 400-meter relay team that finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in District) and football.**

**Ward was on the Belton varsity soccer team for four years and scored 4 goals as a freshman, 10 goals as a soph, 15 goals as a junior, and 36 as a senior establishing a school record that stood until 2001 when Richard Ellis broke his record with 42 goals. He was 2<sup>nd</sup> team all-district as a sophomore and 1<sup>st</sup> team all-district as a junior and senior under Coach Chris Poulter. In his senior season of 1992 he led the 15-8 Tigers into the playoffs where the team was eliminated in the first round of the regional by Plano, the top ranked team in the state.**

**Jason's athletic career expanded to football during his freshman year when the freshman football team's kicker was injured and he was asked to try out as the team's kicker though he had never kicked a football before. He became the kicker for the freshman team, kicked for the JV football team his sophomore year, and then moved on to the varsity for his junior and senior years. As a junior in 1991, Jason was the punter and placekicker on the 9-2, Belton that won District and lost to Chapel Hill 42-0 in Bi-District. He was 40 of 46 on PAT's and 7 of 9 in FG's and kicked a 17-yard FG against Midway to win the game 27-24 in the closing seconds. He was named all-district 1<sup>st</sup> team and to the 4-A All-State 2<sup>nd</sup> team offense after his junior year. Three other Tigers (Raymond Williams, Chris Gillians, and Tyson Tidwell) made honorable mention all-state that year.**

**As a senior in 1992 on the 6-3-1 Tigers, Ward was the team's punter and placekicker and made 23 of 24 PAT's and 9 of 10 FG's (for a total of 50 points on the season), including a 51-yarder against Leander which broke the school record of 48 set by all-state kicker Ted Williams in 1974. He also tied a school record by Ted Williams (which still stood in 2001) with 17 FG's during a career. For the second straight year, Jason was named to the 4-A All-State 2<sup>nd</sup> team offense and became the fourth Belton football player (after Richard Inman in 1959 & 1960; David Bartek in 1969 & 1970; and Bo Ferguson in 1889 & 1990) to make all-state in football for two consecutive years. Five other Belton players (Brock Rumfield, Darren Brinkley, Julius Johnson, David Stroud and Raymond Williams) made honorable mention. In Aug. of 2005 the Killeen Daily Herald named Jason Ward as 2<sup>nd</sup> team All-Time Centex on its defensive team.**

**Jason graduated from Belton High School in 1993 and attended Colorado Christian University on a soccer scholarship for one season, scoring 4 goals. In 2009, Jason and his wife, Shirley, lived in Belton with their two children, Isabell, 5, & Laiten, 3. Jason worked for Bell County Maintenance.**