

Darren Brinkley made all-state in both football and baseball as a senior in 1993-94 becoming only the fourth Tiger athlete (after Richard Inman in 1958-59 & 1959-60, David Bartek in 1969-70 and Brett Stafford in 1982-83) to make all-state in two sports in the same year. He still holds school records for the most receptions, most TD receptions, and most receiving yards in a season and a career and later played three years of varsity football at Texas A&M.

Darren Demon Brinkley was born on Aug. 7, 1975, in Ft. Worth TX to Joe and Darleen Brinkley and is one of four children (Darren, Chris, Ronda and Sharleen). He grew up in Waco and attended North Waco Elementary before moving to Belton to attend Belton Jr. H.S. and Belton H.S. where he graduated in 1994. His younger sister, Sharleen, played basketball and softball for the 2001 Lady Tigers. Darren became only the second Tiger (after Brett Stafford in 1982-1983) to make all-state in football and baseball.

As a junior in baseball in 1993 Darren hit .298 with 23 RBIs and 4 HRs and was named 2nd team all-district as an outfielder after the Tigers were 21-11 and Area Champs. As a senior on the 1994 Belton state baseball championship team Darren hit .347 with 5 home runs and 20 stolen bases. (setting a school record which held until 2000 when broken at 23 by Cody Fredenburg). He was one of three Belton seniors (Darren Brinkley, Jason Regan, and Brock Rumfield) named 1st team 4-A all-state (senior David Stroud was named to the 3rd team) by the Texas Sports Writers after the Tigers went 34-6 and won the State Championship. Five Belton players---OF Brinkley, 1B Stroud, and 2B Shayne Drake, and Pitcher/Shortstops Regan and Rumfield----made the U.I.L. All-State Tournament team and Brinkley, Regan, Rumfield, and Stroud were named all CenTex by the Austin American Statesman. Players making all district were Brinkley, Regan, Rumfield, Stroud, Drake, and 3B Brad Washburn on the 1st team and catcher Brad Turner and OF's Bobby Spradley and Michael Jones on the 2nd team (thus Belton had one player at each of the nine positions make at least all-district).

In football Darren was an all-district wide receiver as a soph in 1991 on the 9-2 Belton team that won District and lost to Chapel Hill in Bi-District. He was again all-district as a junior on the 1992 Belton team that was 6-3-1. As a senior Brinkley was a 5'10" 170 lb. all-state receiver for the 1993 Belton team that was 9-3 on the year and won District but lost to Westlake 21-17 in the Region. He had 63 catches for 1,318 yards (21 yards per catch) and 7 TDs. He also returned 15 punts for 174 yards (11.6 average) & 1 TD. In 2001 Brinkley still held the Belton school record for pass receptions and pass receiving yards in a season and for a career. During his 3-year high school career Darren had a Belton school record 119 catches for 2,336 yards and was "one of the most prolific receivers in state high school history." Darren was named a honorable mention high school All-American and 1st team 4-A all-state team by the Associated Press Sports Editors and the Texas Football Coaches. He was also named 1st team all-district and 1st team All Super-Cen-Tex by the Austin American-Statesman. Darren and Brock Rumfield (the Tiger QB during Darren's 3 years at receiver) were co-winners of the Tiger Male Athlete of the Year award. Darren also played receiver and cornerback for the South All-

Stars in the Texas Football Coaches all-star game in Aug. of 1994. In Aug. of 2005 the Killeen Daily Herald named Darren Brinkley 1st team on its All-Time Centex offensive team---an honor bestowed on only 4 other Belton boys.

Darren was recruited for football by Texas A&M, LSU, Baylor, Texas Tech, and Minnesota. He signed with A&M and was redshirted for the 1994 season. Darren was plagued by injuries (he had two broken wrists, back spasms, and knee surgery) in his first three years on the varsity (as a freshman on the 1995 Aggie team that was 9-3 on the year; as a soph on the 1996 Aggie team that was 6-6 on the year; and as a junior on the 1997 Aggie team that was 9-4 and Big 12 South champions) but as a senior in 1998 he was injury-free and was a part-time starter as a 5'11" 184 lb. receiver with 4.45 speed in the 40-yd. dash. He caught 9 passes for 105 yards on the year for the 11-3 Aggie team which won the Big 12 Conference title. Brinkley graduated from Texas A&M in December of 1999 with a degree in marketing. In 2001, Darren Brinkley, 26, lived in Littleton, Colorado, where he was an assistant manager for Office Depot.