



Dan “Tank” Stanley – Class of 1955

“My most vivid Southeast memories are playing football and presiding over assemblies when prayer was instituted. I also remember the first prayer I gave was “May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, Oh Lord, my strength and my redeemer.” The 1955 class shield has praying hands in the center to commemorate this change.”

High School Memories

My family home during high school was at 7425 Lydia. I attended Marlborough Elementary for 7th grade. I had the choice of attending Southeast, Southwest or Paseo for high school and I chose Southeast as my older sisters Pat (SE '51) and Darlene (SE '53) had.

I played in the first varsity football game played on the Southeast field. Bleachers had been added in 1954. The field at East was updated at the same time; then East and Southeast were the two Interscholastic League fields. Before then, varsity games were played at the Kansas City Blues Stadium; only the B-Team played on the field at Southeast.

I also remember when Mr. McMillan promised to buy the goalposts at the Blues Stadium in 1953 if the students did not swarm the field after the city championship game. Mr. Barisas and his wood class students cut up the wooden goal posts, and each student received a piece at the football assembly. I still have mine! During the construction project in 1954, a new gymnasium was added to Southeast. I played in the first basketball game in that gym. Mr. Berle Adams was the basketball coach.

I also enjoyed being president of the Round Table, fraternity, signing yearbooks, cafeteria, Teen Town in the gym and many friends.

Memorable Classes and Teachers

- Larry Bates - Coach
- Cecil Patterson - Coach; Mr. Patterson was something else. He was always selling something like socks, and he would get the boys to do the selling. He

lived with Mr. Cross for a time. I went to Mr. Patterson's funeral. He is buried in Odessa, Missouri. His wife's name was Esther.

- Coach Adams - Basketball Coach
- Mr. Laury - Science
- Jess Cross - Track Coach; Coach Cross was ahead of his time in athletic programs.
- Mr. Powell - Vice Principal
- Mr. McMillan - Principal; Mr McMillan was nice, but he was the public relations face of the school. Mr. Powell was the strong, sensible muscle in the McMillan/Powell team.
- Mr. Barisas - Wood; Mr. Barisas was always talking about safety in the shop, but he had to "ring the bell" one time when he cut off his finger. Mr.Barisas also was the teacher in charge of planning, designing, and building the round table. Jerry Leslie was an award-winning wood student and was one of the students who worked on the round table.

In the mid-50s, life in high school the best (no stress). Probably the most outstanding class overall - football, basketball, everything - was 1954. Southeast was the perfect Kansas City high school in the 1950s.

- Old cars
- Economy stable
- Korean War - Everyone was patriotic

Away from school I always worked summers at a grain elevator; also on a farm.

After High School

- I played college football; three Bowl Games in college; attended Missouri Valley College in Marshall.
- Coaching - working with young men
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- I began teaching and coaching career after graduating from Missouri Valley College. My career lead me to numerous schools where I coached and often taught PE.
- 1959 - William Chrisman High School for one year
- 1960 - Kansas City Central High School where I also taught a course called Building Your Life. There were 2,200 black students and 7 white students at Central at that time. I was at Central for five years.
- 1964 - Westport High School was my first head coaching position; I stayed until 1969.
- 1969 - Winnetonka High School was a new suburban school, and I was the first head football coach there. I was at Winnetonka for 26 years.

An article in the Kansas City Star said I retired in 1994, but I could not stay away from coaching. I coached a couple of seasons at William Jewell College and then returned to my alma mater, Missouri Valley College, this time as coach, and moved to Marshall, Missouri. During seven years, my team won the Heart of America Conference and went to the national playoffs.

I again retired in 2002 when my wife, Claudine, became ill. Since then, I have spent a year or two at Shawnee Mission North, Pembroke, back to Westport (I was there when Westport closed leaving the players without a place to play football.), Shawnee Mission East, and University Academy. I will be at Lincoln Prep when the 2014 football season begins.

“We were all blessed. Keep up the good work. You are of the David Morton vintage.”