

# Jaguars Continue Roaring Under Coach Roland

By John Harris Jr. | VILLAGER Sports Columnist

**(VILLAGER NEWS)** - The last time the LBJ boys basketball team failed to win a district title under coach Freddie Roland, Bill Clinton was president. Yes, it has been that long - a streak spanning four U.S. presidents and more than two decades. And, if Roland has anything to say about it, the streak will continue to enjoy a long shelf life.

The Jaguars won their 23rd consecutive district title under Roland this year, then won their first playoff game, 55-31 over Kerrville Tivy, on Monday night. The Jags seek to advance to the regional semifinals for the fourth consecutive year - and hopefully beyond.

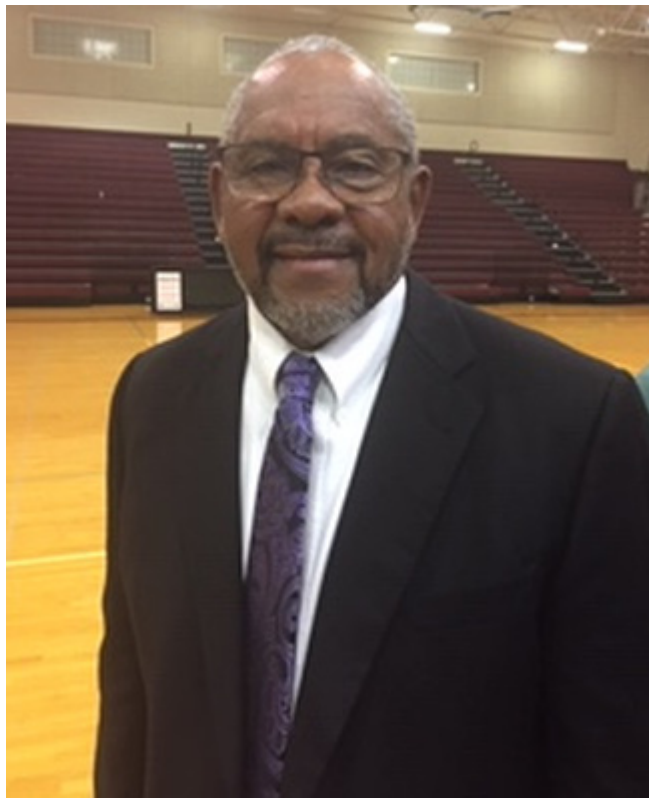
"I really think we can match up with anybody," Roland said after the win over Kerrville Tivy.

Truth be told, it wouldn't be a Freddie Roland-coached team if the Jaguars didn't play defense. Against Kerrville Tivy, the Jaguars played arm-waving, persistent, in-your-face defense on every possession. As the game wore on, Tivy wore down from the relentless pressure, shooting just 25 percent from the field and turning the ball over 17 times.

But just when you thought the veteran coach had run out of ideas, Roland pulled something new from his trick bag. A noted zone defense coach through the years, Roland convinced his players to switch to man-to-man defense - and they're liking it.

"Defense wins championships - that's what I heard," said LBJ junior Je'Sean Sibley, who scored a career-best 16 points against Kerrville Tivy. "We can't go slow. We can't slack. We've got to focus and play hard."

With the playoffs in full swing, Roland reflected about this year's team and how it compares to some of his previous squads that advanced deep in the



LBJ boys basketball coach Freddie Roland  
Photo/John Harris Jr.

postseason.

"I went to LBJ to build a program," Roland said. "I basically came to Austin to work for anybody that would let me get around some athletes. I was fortunate and blessed to get some good kids that just believed in winning."

Roland guided three LBJ teams to the Class 4A final four. In 2003-2004, the Jaguars, led by Marshall Brown, who later attended Missouri, lost to Dallas Lincoln by two points in the semifinals on Byron Eaton's 3-pointer late in the game.

"We should have won the state that year. No ifs, ands or butts about it. They refused to lose," Roland said. "We lost that game in the semifinals against Dallas Lincoln when Byron Eaton hit that shot. I told them don't let that kid shoot a 3, and he did."

"One of our kids asked me (Monday), 'Coach, have you ever lost in the first round of the playoffs?' Another coach said, 'Don't ask him that.' Our kids just believe in winning."

# Town Lake (TX) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated Events

**(AUSTIN, TX)** - The Town Lake (TX) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated has two events to add to your social calendar or report on as events.

**Town Lake (TX) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated 2019 Scholarship Application - Now Open:**

Each year, the Town Lake (TX) Chapter selects a graduating African American High School senior, from the Austin metropolitan area, to receive the Town Lake (TX) Chapter Scholarship. The student must be in the top quartile of their class with a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA, graduating under the Recommended High School Plan and be involved in extracurricular activities. Financial need is also considered. Recipients receive a \$5,000 annual scholarship for four years, for a total of \$20,000. Additionally, the Chapter supports Huston-Tillotson University and Austin Community College with \$2,500 scholarship awards to deserving students with academic promise.

The Town Lake (TX) Chapter will review applications from African American high school seniors attending a university or college in the Summer or

Fall of 2019. For more information and to apply: <http://bit.ly/TLLscholarship> - **Deadline March 25th, 2019.**

**Town Lake (TX) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated 2019 Mardi Gras Magic Gala:**

Join us February 23, 2019 at the JW Marriott as we take our legacy of service and impact to even greater heights. Mardi Gras Magic is the signature fundraising event of The Town Lake (TX) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated. In 2018, more than 500 guests, including local business, civic and philanthropic leaders gathered at the JW Marriott to celebrate the chapter's 30 years of service to the Austin community. In 2019, the festivities continue at the JW Marriott with even more dazzling live performances, entertainment, and experiences. Our Mardi Gras Magic Gala will feature a world-class silent auction with some of the best experiences in the world. Visit [bit.ly/MGM19auction](http://bit.ly/MGM19auction) to see more details! For Tickets, Ads, or Sponsorships, see: <http://bit.ly/2019MGMtickets>.

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