

15 Questions with Randy Adair (former Coach, current Announcer)

1. What's your background as an athlete?

I was fortunate to grow up in an era when kids enjoyed running, jumping, and playing without the influences of electronic devices to hold our constant attention. It was also to my advantage that I grew up and lived across the street from an elementary school yard where baseball, basketball, football, and track and field meets were a constant, depending on the time of year. However, it was from this advantage that I was introduced to Track and Field at an early age. I began pole vaulting and hurdling in about the 3rd grade. My neighbor was a pretty good vaulter, and I remember watching him jump on a bamboo pole and landing in sawdust. It was from there, that I began my passion for Track and Field.

I was a State Meet qualifier in the pole vault in 1973, and finished my high school career in 1974 with the 2nd best mark in Texas. My collegiate career was the most fun and rewarding. I was an above average 17' vaulter at Northeast Louisiana University. In 1978, I was an NCAA Division I Track and Field Championship Meet qualifier to Eugene, Oregon, but unfortunately, I no-HEIGHTED at the 16-6 opening height. However, I'm most grateful that I was named Track and Field Team Captain by my peers, and finished college with a Master's degree in education.

2. You were boy's coach at Dallas Highland Park for a number of years. Can you share some of your highlight moments as coach of the Highland Park Scots?

Wow, so much to say about that wonderful, delightfully blessed experience. I would not have wanted my career to have ended in such a grand way but at Highland Park High School, and with the Highland Park Independent School District. That is the "icing on the cake" of a 35-year career as teacher and coach in Texas.

The names, the experiences, the people, all bring fond and precious memories. It is difficult to explain the discipline and drive of the student-athletes in Highland Park. The kids are coachable, passionate about excellence, and highly self-motivated. My chore as teacher and coach was a huge challenge just to keep up with the high expectations of the student-athletes. Each and every day the bar is raised at Highland Park High School, both in the classroom and on the field.

I am proud and thankful to say that I am blessed to have had the opportunity to be part of Scottie Nation, and coach some of the best kiddos in the world. Also, having the privilege to work with the likes of Jerry Sutterfield, Todd John, Jeff Hale, Johnny Ringo, and Randy Allen is most rewarding and memorable. I'll cherish those grand years in Highland Park forever.

3. You retired from coaching a few years ago, but not from Track and Field, as you are now one of Track and Field world's more respected announcers. How did you break into the announcing world?

My first big break came while I was attending a Track and Field Coaches Clinic at the University of Arkansas. I was coaching at Dallas Skyline at the time. It just happened that the Razorbacks were also hosting a small indoor meet at Randal Tyson Track Center. Fortunately

for me, the regular meet announcer had to cancel at the last moment. An announcement was made at the coaching clinic if anyone would be interested in being the Meet Announcer for the meet. I quickly volunteered for the assignment, and the rest is history. Coach John MacDonnell and Coach Dick Booth asked me if I would be interested in announcing more meets. Now fourteen years later, I am forever grateful for that break into Track and Field announcing. I continue that role for Razorback Track and Field, and will soon be part of the announcing team for the 90th Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays.

4. You bring a lot of energy to the announcing booth. Do you model your style after any announcers in particular, or are we hearing a natural voice from the booth?

I have some very fond memories of Track and Field meets at Daryl K. Royal Memorial Stadium and at Mike A. Myers Stadium at the University of Texas. Everyone that has ever attended a meet in those places can recall the booming Track and Field voice of Mr. Bill Melton. Wow, what an exciting and passionate voice of the greatest ever behind the meet microphone. I try and model/mimic his expertise, knowledge, and excitement, but am no way near that excellence. I am not sure if we will ever have one of the likes of Mr. Bill Melton.

Another of the great ones that has mentored and taught me a lot about announcing Track and Field is Mr. Mike Jay from Iowa City, Iowa. Mike is well known throughout the United States for what he brings to fans and athletes at Track and Field meets. He is very popular for bringing excitement, enthusiasm, passion, and knowledge of, and for, Track and Field to the fans. It has been my honor to team with him in the booth at several NCAA and SEC meets.

5. What are some of your favorite moments from your announcing career thus far?

I recall my first SEC Track and Field Meet. It was at the SEC Outdoor Track and Field Meet at the grand opening of John MacDonnell Field in Fayetteville. That was a great, memorable experience for me. I also have fond memories of my first NCAA Indoor Track and Field Meet, as well as my first Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays. I must say that there is nothing like calling Track and Field at the Clyde Littlefield Texas Relays. It is by far, the best experience I have ever had as a meet announcer.

Also, being part of the first TTFCA Meet of Champions and the Dunamis Sports Group Indoor Classic are wonderful experiences that I will always cherish. Those are great meets with a bunch of potential to be the biggest and best meets in the nation. The Dunamis Sports Group could possibly bring Track and Field to another level, both state-wide and nationally. The prospects look great for the future of Track and Field meets in Texas and the United States.

6. What meets would you like to announce that you haven't had the opportunity just yet?

Having competed and coached at the UIL State Track and Field Meet, I would like to have the opportunity to announce that meet as well. I've applied several times, but the door hasn't opened for that opportunity.

I would also like to get involved with more regional and state-wide collegiate/university meets.

7. What do you enjoy away from the world of Track and Field?

I have passions for serving my Church, fishing and camping, and volunteering at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. I also enjoy my part-time work at Highland Park High School where I often substitute announce football, basketball, soccer, and softball. I am also in the planning stages of returning to Europe as a tourist.

8. Had you not entered the field of education/coaching, what career do you think you might have chosen?

I have always admired and respected the services of the United States Armed Forces. I favor the discipline, camaraderie, teamwork, and challenges that I see from that type of career. I also have a fondness for aircraft and flight. I want to think I would have been a top-notch fighter pilot, regardless for my lack of interest in mathematics (Yuck).

9. You have been appointed the Commissioner of Track and Field. What changes would you make to the sport at either the high school or the collegiate levels?

At the collegiate level, I'd favor more scored meets, particularly scored duals and triangular competitions. I'd require that same gender uniforms be identical during competition. It can often be confusing when the same team wears different uniforms throughout a completion. I think most universities are moving in this direction, if not already. I am a huge fan of intercollegiate athletics, in particular amateur athletics. However, once an athlete moves beyond the jurisdiction of intercollegiate rules and regulations, I firmly believe our elite Track and Field athletes need not only just sponsorship, but equal and fair wages.

Two things I would like to see at the high school level, in particular in Texas, is the addition of the Javelin and Steeplechase at the UIL level. Also, I am strongly in favor of scoring change for Texas high school meets. A scoring system similar to the NCAA is way overdue in Texas. My philosophy is to coach and teach all the kids in all the events, not just a few events and a few kids for a lot of points. I also think a lot of high school meets become unmanageable and less fan friendly when too many teams are involved and the meet drags on and on until everyone is exhausted because of poor meet management. There are, however, some great high school meets that are great experiences for everyone involved. The key is properly trained meet management, and the use of qualified, paid lead/head officials like those of USATF, particularly of the Southwestern Association. We must make sure that our excellent, properly trained meet officials are utilized, and fairly compensated, for the outstanding jobs they perform.

10. Favorite meal?

Dinner! Anything cooked by my wife, Donna. However, I'm a pretty good chef as well, but not anything like Donna.

I thoroughly enjoy a prime bone-in ribeye steak, fresh fish caught this morning, especially from the Gulf of Mexico, anything Italian, and an occasional special German plate from my favorite German restaurant.

11. Favorite movie?

Any old movie classic – written and/or directed by Hitchcock, Huston, Ford, Capra, Wells, Hawks, Mankeiwicz, etc. I also enjoy most anything showing at Angelica Dallas.

I am a huge fan and lover of classical music. I enjoy entertainment from The Winspear, Eisemann, Bass, or any of the great music halls and performance centers of greater Dallas and Fort Worth.

12. Favorite vacation spot?

Anywhere away from traffic, the sound of traffic, or the thought of traffic. I love the simplicity of South Padre Island in September, and the smell and sound of the Gulf of Mexico.

I really enjoy the cabin in the woods on Lake Fork and Toledo Bend with my fishing buddies and college teammates.

13. Tell us one thing about you that most people do not know.

I am a Eucharistic Minister at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Rockwall. I am beginning my fourth year of music instruction as a student of the Viola/Violin, and I am pretty good at riding the unicycle, for both exercise and fun.

14. How much research do you do prior to a meet?

Great question! A lot of time goes into meet preparation. It can take hours and hours (days) to properly prepare. I had rather be over prepared than not prepared at all. This is the most difficult part of good announcing. When I am properly prepared, I'm most confident in my production.

I also believe in the great power of prayer. Putting everything in God's hands is my first step in meet announcing preparation, and then giving all glory to him for the gift of announcing. To that, I am most thankful and grateful.

15. As a retired coach, what advice do you have for the younger coaches now breaking into the profession?

- Be loyal to the sport, student-athletes, the HC, and the school.
- Study and continue to learn about every event in Track and Field.
- Master your specific event(s) and the teaching of those event groups.
- Be prepared, organized, passionate, energized, and enthusiastic.
- Be positive and passionate.
- Have high expectations of yourself and of everyone else.
- Make practice competitive.
- Emphasize drills, the importance of drills, and the proper mechanics of drills.
- Support the HC – always.
- Love those kids!
- Hold them accountable.

- **The more you know and love about the sport, the more they will know and love it, and the more they will do for you.**
- **Learn, Learn, Learn!**
- **Be an official.**
- **Join good Track and Field organizations and associations, particularly TTFC.**