

FIRST TEAM

ZAAKIR SAWYER G, Mesquite Horn, Sr.

Sawyer, who signed with the University of Louisiana at Monroe, is one of the most dynamic players in the area who was voted as the 11-6A MVP. Sawyer led the team in scoring at 17.6 points per game, shooting an eye-popping 63% from the field and 39.1% from 3-point range. Sawyer also recorded 4.8 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 1.9 steals per contest as Horn captured the first outright district championship in program history.



MANNY OBASEKI G, Allen, Jr.

The most highly recruited player in program history, Obaseki fortified his standing as one of the state's top prospects for the Class of 2021 by earning a share of the 9-6A MVP award to go along with an all-state selection by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches. Between Obaseki's jaw-dropping athleticism and well-rounded arsenal, the Texas A&M commit contributed in a myriad of ways for Allen during his junior campaign — averaging 12.1 points, 4.4 rebounds, 3.1 assists, 1.3 steals and 0.8 blocks, finishing among the team's top three in all five categories.



JEFFREY MILLS G, Flower Mound, Sr.

The Jaguars quietly had one of the best seasons in program history in 2019-20, advancing to the area round of the playoffs for just the sixth time ever. They did so on their tried-and-true formula of high-IQ basketball matched with lights-out shooting — two qualities that Mills embodied on his way to 6-6A Offensive Player of the Year honors. In addition to leading Flower Mound in scoring at 15.5 points per game, Mills did so on 39% shooting from deep to complement 6.2 rebounds, 4.9 assists and 1.2 steals for the Air Force commit.



COOPER SISCO F, Frisco Wakeland, Jr.

The 9-5A MVP helped turn around a borderline playoff team in 2019 into a district champion this past season as the leading scorer for the Wolverines. The junior poured in a whopping 16 points per game while also being among some of the top distributors in the district with three assists per game, as Wakeland reached the area round for the first time since 2011.



KARSON STASTNY F, Celina, Sr.

For the third consecutive season, Celina was crowned as the district champion, and for the third straight year, Stastny led the way. The scoring sensation earned District MVP honors after he averaged over 16 points per contest in his senior campaign. Stastny led the Bobcats to the third round of the postseason before falling to powerhouse Dallas Carter.



MOST VALUABLE PLAYER

KEYONTE GEORGE Lewisville, Soph.

Through one half of a four-year varsity career, George has already developed into one of the top players in the country. He burst onto the scene as a freshman who produced well beyond his years and maintained that performance during a sophomore campaign that saw Lewisville withstand a myriad of injuries to again qualify for the area round of the postseason.

George averaged 23.9 points per game while grabbing 5.1 rebounds, dishing out 2.3 assists and picking off 2.1 steals — all



of which helped the Farmers rally for a second-place tie in the hyper-competitive District 6-6A.

That meant George shining when it mattered most — be it pouring in 35 points, including a game-winner in Lewisville's district-opening win over Coppell (the George-led Farmers were the only team to defeat the eventual district champion Cowboys, and did so twice) or heating up down the homestretch with at least 30 points scored in each of Lewisville's final four games.

Even against reigning state champion Duncanville, George met little resistance in piling up 32 points in an 86-73 loss.

The state's top team had no answer for George — a sentiment likely shared by many a Lewisville opponent in the years to come.

SECOND TEAM

RYAN AGARWAL G, Coppell, Soph.

The Coppell sophomore showed just why he is lauded as one of the best shooters in Texas. Agarwal averaged a team-best 16.6 points per game on a whopping 51.1% shooting from the field and a 44.5% mark from deep, helping Coppell to its second straight 6-6A title and its third straight trip to the area round of the playoffs. Agarwal was also named a first-team selection in the district and named to the all-region team.



OBI ONYIA G, Sachse, Sr.

Onyia was perhaps the key member of a group that helped the Mustangs go from a 2-25 team in 2018 to back-to-back playoff appearances. The first-team all-district honoree led Sachse in several categories, as he averaged 15.0 points, 3.6 rebounds, 4.1 assists and 1.1 steals per game. The 6-foot-0 guard was also among the most efficient shooters in the area, hitting 46% from the floor, including 38% from 3-point range, and knocking down 77% from the free throw line.



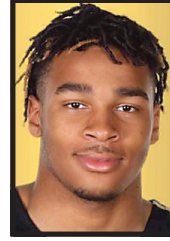
THAILAND ELDER G, Allen, Sr.

Elder earned his keep as one of the area's top scoring threats, leading the state-ranked Eagles with 15.3 points on his way to 9-6A Offensive Player of the Year honors. Elder thrived as a catch-and-shoot scorer from long range while also capable of attacking the rim and finishing a number of the highlight-reel sequences that asserted Allen among the state's elite in 2019-20. Adding 5.0 rebounds, 1.6 assists and 1.3 steals per game, Elder will continue his career at the collegiate level for Louisiana Tech.



KEITH MILLER III F, The Colony, Sr.

The Colorado-bound receiver in football took his athletic talents to the basketball court and could not be stopped. Miller averaged 16 points, seven rebounds and three assists in his final high school season, playing a key role in The Colony's second-place finish in District 8-5A and its third consecutive postseason appearance. In addition to his all-area honor, Miller was named the 8-5A MVP and made the all-region team.



MONDO BATTLE F, Prosper, Sr.

The Eagles were state-ranked for much of the season and finished as the No. 2 seed heading into the playoffs. A main reason for Prosper's immense success on the hardwood this year was because of the standout play of Battle, who paved the way with a whopping 19 points per game and led his squad in scoring in the Eagles' last six contests.



ALL-AREA

★ 2019-20 ★

UIL BASKETBALL

BOYS TEAM

» ALLEN » CARROLLTON » CELINA » COPPELL
» FLOWER MOUND » FRISCO » LAKE CITIES
» LEWISVILLE » LITTLE ELM » MCKINNEY
» MESQUITE » PLANO » ROWLETT » THE COLONY

OFFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

JARREN COOK Newman Smith, Sr.

Already one of the top players in the state heading into his senior season, Cook — a Sam Houston State commit — punctuated his high school career by leading the Trojans to new heights after the program posted a perfect regular season and advanced to the regional quarterfinals for the first time since 2006.

Cook was at the forefront of that initiative — capable of burying defenses all over the floor with his versatile skill set. As Smith's leading scorer, Cook poured in 17.9 points per game on stout percentages — shooting 50% from the field, 37% from 3-point land and 84% on free throws — and chipping in 4.1 rebounds and 2.5 assists as the Trojans' tip of the spear.

"Jarren is a talented player, but he's also a humble kid," said Percy Johnson, Smith head coach. "He doesn't walk around beating his chest and sometimes I have to push him just to stand out at times."

A 6-foot-4 combo guard, Cook's campaign was rewarded with District 11-5A's MVP award as well as an all-state selection by the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches.



DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ALEX ANAMEKWE McKinney, Soph.

helped the second-year forward clinch 9-6A co-Defensive Player of the Year honors.

The athletic and talented Anamekwe was at his best when McKinney needed him most — he had three blocks and three steals while shutting down Prosper star Armando Battle in the Lions' upset district win over the Eagles, and in McKinney's bi-district matchup against Lakeview Centennial, Anamekwe had five blocks and a big steal that led to a dunk in McKinney's playoff victory.

The scary thing is, Anamekwe is just beginning his defensive reign of the terror.



COACH OF THE YEAR

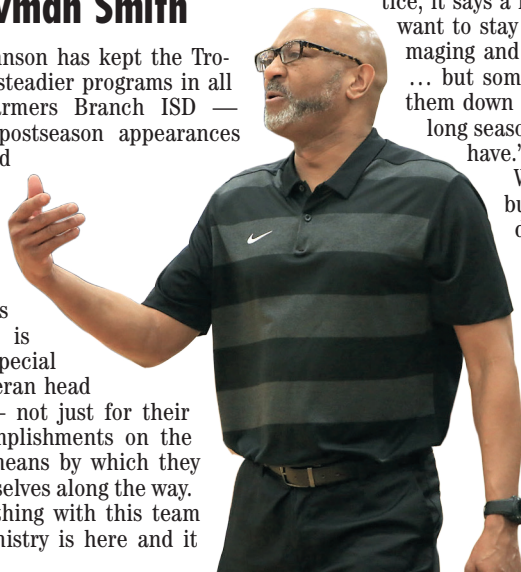
PERCY JOHNSON Newman Smith

For years, Johnson has kept the Trojans among the steadier programs in all of Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD — amassing nine postseason appearances since 2009 and routinely contending for district championships.

But the 2019-20 Smith boys basketball team is likely to hold a special place in the veteran head coach's heart — not just for their myriad of accomplishments on the court, but the means by which they conducted themselves along the way. "The biggest thing with this team is that the chemistry is here and it

was here early. When you have to chase kids out of the locker room or the gym after practice, it says a lot," Johnson said. "They want to stay in the gym, keep scrimmaging and keep playing basketball ... but sometimes you have to slow them down and let them know it's a long season. It's a good problem to have."

With Johnson at the helm, buoyed by the coach's calm demeanor and trust in his players, the Trojans went undefeated during the regular season — one of three UIL boys basketball teams in the state to do so — en route to a 27-0 record and an 11-5A championship prior to a three-round playoff run that matched the deepest in program history.



NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

JA'KOB WALTER McKinney, Fr.

After coming into the season with a ton of hype and expectations, Walter showed everyone through his consistency and well-rounded game that he had the goods to be a star.

When the final buzzer of his freshman year went off, Walter finished the season averaging 14 points, 4.4 rebounds and 1.9 steals a game, along with bringing home the Justin Northwest tournament MVP and the 9-6A Freshman of

The Year awards.

With the ability to defend multiple positions and score from almost anywhere on the court, Walter was able to dominate games in stretches while flashing that superstar potential many said he had before he even played a single game for McKinney this season.

If Walters continues improve at the rate he

showcased throughout the season, McKinney will be blessed to have a scoring machine and all-around star capable of winning a lot of games for the Lions and making impacting plays.



SIXTH MAN OF THE YEAR

THIBAUT TAGNON Newman Smith, Jr.

Although Tagnon entered his junior year among the top returners on a veteran-heavy Trojan squad, an early-season back injury sparked the decision by the coaching staff to bring the point guard off the bench — a transition that Tagnon handled with ease.

Think of Tagnon in the same vein as how the San Antonio Spurs once utilized Manu Ginobili — a bench contributor who defied every trend associated with the role. Although he was often the first reserve to check in, Tagnon still finished third on the Trojans in minutes played, averaging 13.1 points per game — tied for second on the team — and was a marksman



from long range at 44% shooting on 3-pointers.

Chipping in 4.4 assists per game, Tagnon's headiness and command of the state-ranked Trojans' backcourt only heightened head coach Percy Johnson's trust in the guard — assuring Smith will remain in good hands next season. "Sometimes I have to lean in and ask him what he thinks we should do in a certain situation," Johnson said.