

**Q: Catch us up on what you've been doing since you were last involved with Tech baseball in 1987.**

A: It's primarily been a time of reminiscence. I've been fortunate to get with old teammates – high school and college – and these are things that, at this time in my life, are very meaningful. We've had several great high school gatherings, some good college gatherings as far as old teammates; we've had some things up in Omaha that were very meaningful and enjoyable. Of course the primary thing has been looking after family. My dad passed away in 1987 and he had twin sisters who very close and they lived to be 95 and 98. So, up until three years ago a lot of my time was looking after family. We've been blessed with grandchildren that have really kept Becky and I both very busy. We have our daughter back from England with her two little ones, and Chris and Scott are here in Lubbock with their children, and Susan, who was a cheerleader at Tech several years ago with her two kids. It's been a very enjoyable time watching these grandkids grow up and being involved with them. It's really passed very fast. I can't believe I retired (from his faculty position in Physical Education at Tech) 10 years ago. It just doesn't seem like it's been that long. I'm not too physically active baseball-wise any more.

**Q: What stands out as you reflect on your time coaching baseball at Tech?**

A: It was definitely a challenge, as Tech was just beginning as far as baseball was concerned. Really that was a great part that I enjoyed because not only did I help build a program, but I worked very hard in building a facility. I had a lot of help from parents and players and others. So the building of the ballpark was something that I had dreamed of and wanted to leave with Tech after my years. I'm so glad that we were able to do that. I thought I would do it in half the time we did, but I'm glad we got it done anyway. Larry has taken it and really continued to improve and now we have a facility that will compare with any in the country, and that's been one of the things about college baseball – all over the country the facilities have really, really improved. This is something that I was really glad to see because college baseball has developed and grown from a 15-game schedule to a 60-game schedule and it's really something that I worked for on NCAA committees and coaches committees. The other part was the players. We started out with very few scholarships and we had players who were dedicated and many were walk-ons who came to the program and it was great to see these young men develop and work, not always with the best of facilities and things that you might have found at other places but a number of these players really developed into players of the highest caliber as far as the Southwest Conference at that time. This took dedication and it took not being selfish and working together as a team and doing the very best with what we had to work with. So those are the great memories of Texas Tech – primarily the players and how they worked and how they contributed and of that is what has enabled us to reach the point we are now.

**Q: You get to see a few games each year so I want to know your thoughts on how the college game has changed both on and off the field.**

A: In those early days, there were only one or two schools that had the primary programs. They had the scholarships and they had the facilities. It was kind of concentrated in really a half-dozen schools in the entire country. Here in Texas there were a couple in particular that did very well. What I've seen is this has spread out. Now it's much more competitive. When I was involved in the regional tournaments you often had only two teams in a NCAA regional tournament. That was something that I really worked to change. We wanted to always have four teams in a regional. To me that was college baseball was all about - getting your players an opportunity to play in a regional tournament. Several teams were worthy of participating in a regional tournament but were not allowed to because of the rules that existed. To me that was really sad. That was one of the first things I worked to change once I got on the NCAA Rules Committee - to change those rules so that we would always have four teams in a regional tournament. Now we've got the regional and superregionals, which I think is great. I think that the more opportunities you can create and not to lower the level of play but to give those a teams that deserve it a chance to participate. I know that some of the greatest memories I have as a player came from playing in the state tournament in high school and playing in the good facilities and the pro parks. That all meant so much to me as a young player so it was very important to try to upgrade it and create opportunities for the college teams. That's one level that has really changed.

You take Baylor and the park they have now... Rice used to have a ballpark that was something else. There were just very few teams that had a nice place to play. When Arkansas came in they had to play in some park somewhere. Now all of these places have really nice facilities. Arkansas has one that's dug out down in the ground. Baylor has a really nice ballpark. Rice has a nice ballpark. Houston... nearly everybody has a nice park. Now everybody has a chance to compete with just about everybody as far as getting good ballplayers instead of primarily trying to bring in local people you recruit all over the country. It's certainly grown and developed in that area. The play is much more level., It's very difficult for one team to win two, three years in a row because they're very, very competitive.

**Q: in the fall of 2002 you were honored by several former Tech players, many of whom played for you, with the creation of a scholarship in your name. What does that mean to you?**

A: Well it's just the greatest thing that can be given to you. You work and you have those two, three, four years together and you hope those years contribute to not only their development as ballplayers to do the best they can, but also their life and their future. It means a lot when any honor comes from your people. Whenever it comes from media or some other outside group it never means as much when it comes from your cohorts, your teammates, or your players. It just means, well it's hard to put into words. It really means a lot to me to have that happen. That's what your work for - that you're very positive in your players' life. The funny part is that usually when you get older, if you do a job like that, many players will come back and they see what all we went through and everything. It's just the nicest thing that can happen to a coach, I think.

**Q: Besides many more years (we hope), what does the future hold for Kal Segrist?**

A: I've been very blessed with very good health. As most everybody knows, since I was a teenager I had knee problems. As a young player I had the tag "major league player with minor league legs." I've been fortunate through surgeries and the fantastic things they can do now; I'm well as far the knees are concerned. I can pretty well do most physical activity I like to do. I can't go out and run a miles but I can do the things I enjoy doing. I like to be outdoors and active and doing things. That's been a real blessing that I can do those things without pain. Those last few years I was coaching, it got to be pretty painful just to get back and forth from the locker room to the field, but I've been very blessed getting that corrected so that I can pretty well be active and not be in pain. The other thing as far as the future is again enjoying grandkids and family. We have the family farm down in central Texas and we're trying to do some things down there so that friends and family can comedown there and enjoy. We've had that place in the family since the Civil War. It's a very special place and hopefully family and friends will be able to come down and enjoy the outdoors and the area and the atmosphere and everything that we have at the farm. So with the farm and family activities and those things, and hopefully I can stay involved with baseball and Texas Tech in the future. A while back we had the opening of the (Rawls) golf course, and several of my old teammates from pro ball were in town and it was great to see them. Hopefully those opportunities will keep coming up because those are very, very special days and the guys that I played with and against were just really outstanding people. They were all really dedicated to baseball and played the game the way that they play college ball today. I don't want to put down pro ball, but I enjoy much more watching college ball than I do pro ball. There's just some things about pro ball that have taken away from the game. To me, if you really want to see baseball today, the college game is the way you want to go. Those are some of the things that hopefully I'll be fortunate and keep my health to where I can stay outdoors and active. I can still hit a little fungo once in a while. Anytime I can be involved with family and friends and getting together those are super times.