

Hall of Fame - Class of 2012

Koger Stokes San Antonio, Texas

Co-founder and first President of the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation:

- In the early 1920's there was a lusty growth of amateur baseball in the principal cities of Texas. At the same time a number of pioneer recreation departments were organized and as the various recreation organizations started local baseball programs, some inter-city series were played to determine city bragging rights.
- On September 11th and 12th, 1925, Public Services Utilities, who were San Antonio's Amateur Champions, played the Houston Champions, the Humble Oil team. San Antonio lost both games by a close margin, the last one 1 - 0 in 10 innings. Koger Stokes, who accompanied the San Antonio Champions to Houston, stated on his return to San Antonio that there was quite a difference as to interpretations of the word amateur, and plans were being made to form a state organization so that definite schedules and rules could be adopted.
- Koger initiated a call for a state meeting to be held in Waco on Saturday, November 14, 1925. Prior to this meeting, there were discussions whether the meeting was just to set up a state amateur baseball federation or a complete state program. Early in the meeting it was decided to organize a state federation including a number of sports, to provide a year-round program with more and larger activities for the citizens of Texas. The following sports were approved, Baseball, Tennis, Basketball, Swimming, Track & Field, Croquet, Volleyball, Indoor Baseball and Horseshoes.
- In working up the details of the organization the rules of the San Antonio Baseball Commission were to be used as a guide and Ralph H. Schulz, of Dallas, nominated Koger Stokes to be President because Stokes was the only man present who understood the rules that had been adopted.
- 1925 Elected the 1st President of T.A.A.F. Served as President until March 1947 (twenty-one years and six months). Served as President-Emeritus for the next eight and one-half years.
- 1925, following T.A.A.F.'s First Baseball State Championship where the teams from Houston and Dallas were both ruled ineligible, leading to the 1925 State Baseball Championship to be declared as "NO CHAMPIONSHIP". Not what the founding fathers had envisioned.
- In the fall of 1926, this "no championship" led to the "mutual confidence" rule being adopted which basically states to all T.A.A.F. members "you conduct your local programs under our Federation rules and during the season eliminate any player not eligible, and at the end of the season each of us will accept the players you certify as eligible for state championship without being subject to protest."
- The "mutual confidence" rule, with some slight variations, is still the Federation rule in the Cavalcade today.
- As co-founder and first president of the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation, Koger Stokes directed much of his time, energy and focus into the creation of the organization. In his last will and testament, Stokes bequeathed his estate, which consisted of one-hundred acres on the Guadalupe River in Kerrville, to establish a camp for under-privileged boys, with the Federation as executor of his estate.
- Following his death on November 21st, 1961, the T.A.A.F. Executive Board determined that the camp was not feasible for T.A.A.F. and a committee was appointed to handle the affairs of the estate and to submit reports at the annual meeting to be held in September, 1962 in Dallas. The consensus of the committee members, after the appraisal of the property, was to sell the property and develop a suitable memorial in honor of Koger Stokes.
- Several memorials have been established since that first committee meeting; the city of San Antonio has dedicated softball fields named in Koger Stokes honor. In 1978 the KOGER STOKES AWARD was originated and presented to T.A.A.F. members who had shown extraordinary support and dedication in promoting amateur athletics in the state of Texas. In 1994, T.A.A.F. realized a long held dream of owning its own building. The Koger Stokes Building is located in Georgetown, Texas and is the state headquarters for T.A.A.F.

Other Accomplishments

- Appointed in 1929 by the Mayor as the Chairman of the Recreation Board.
- Was the first Vice President of the San Antonio Junior Chamber of Commerce and handled among other activities the Texas Open Golf Championship.
- March 18th, 1930 elected to the San Antonio School Board and was selected Vice President by the newly elected board. April 2, 1932 Koger was re-elected to the San Antonio School Board and was selected President by the remaining board members
- May 1930 elected as President of the San Antonio Junior Chamber of Commerce.
- In May 1953 the San Antonio City Council set up a Park and Recreation Board and Koger was appointed to the board

Inducted into the T.A.A.F. Hall of Fame on January 26th, 2012

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