

## **Does Ray Akins have 300+ career wins or not?**

Ray Akins does not have 300+ career wins.

Various sources, including the Gregory-Portland trophy case, may show Akins with 300+ career victories, but the truth is that he retired 7 wins short of 300.

The investigation into his coaching record began as a result of conflicting reports on how many career wins Ray Akins has.

First, Wes Underwood (who had the old Collier Sharp website and has since passed away) showed the record as 293 wins with the following explanation:

The 293 is correct. The truth is that either Ray Akins didn't know how many games he won, or else he padded his total. If you have access to a 1986 Texas Football magazine, on page 283 there is a story about how he entered that season with 295 wins. It also has a supposed listing of the records at each school he was at. Now where he came up with the records and even the years at each school is beyond me, the records certainly don't correspond with the scores his teams turned into the UIL each year. Also, he claims to have been at Goldthwaite in 1955, when he was actually at Tomball, where it is my understanding (from a former Tomball head coach) that he was fired. He totally ignores that on his resume. I am not through. In the 1987 Texas Football, there is a story on page 207 showing the records of the top 15 coaches by wins in AAAA. Coach Akins record is shown there with 292 wins. Now how is it that he entered 1986 with 295 wins, won 11 that season, and entered 1987 with 292 wins? The truth is that he is still looking for that 300th win. You go with the 293 wins. Several years ago, I sent out questionnaires to coaches asking them to list their records by school, and Coach Danaher had his exactly right, which told me a lot about him, because a great many coaches exaggerate their records. I hope this helps you out. Wes Underwood

Second, the book "King Football" shows Akins's win total to be 302. Gregory-Portland High School has a display that also shows his total to be 302.

Third, Joe Lee Smith, the undisputed guru of Texas high school football records, says that Akins has 300 and here is his explanation:

Before I attempt to provide you with a "correct" answer to Ray Akins' coaching record, allow me a graph or two to explain these things. Believe me, Phil Danaher and only a handful of other coaches' records are accurate and not enhanced or whatever. I can also tell you that many of the older coaches from Akins' era probably did not know their real records from their earlier years. I can attest to this. I make mistakes because I deal with over 1,000 high schools each year and have compiled records on more than 10,000 coaches. But, I adjust my mistakes when proven wrong. I can give you many examples of leading records that I have been involved in getting corrected (Gordon Wood, Tommy Watkins, etc.). I won't bore you with any details so I will get right to the Akins situation.

In my research, I found in the 1952 Fort Worth Star-Telegram that Ray Akins was head coach at Lometa. That was from a coaching school attendance roll. If he did indeed become head coach at Goldthwaite in the six weeks after coaching school, that does cause a change in my record. The information in King Football is incorrect and I will address that soon. This is a long way of getting to the end result, but I felt it necessary to set up the situation. If Akins was head coach at Lometa in 1952, his overall career record was 300-95-13, one less loss as I discovered in doing research for you. If he was head coach at Goldthwaite in 1952, his overall record is 293-105-13. We would be correct since I provided him all of my records for him to get started. King Football is incorrect on the following season records, which, by the way, can be checked by going to the University Interscholastic League office in Austin. This is what I did for many years to confirm what I got out of newspapers. King Football had the following season records (actual records in parenthesis):

Year	School	King	Actual
1951	Lometa	8-2-0	5-4-1
1952	Goldthwaite	2-8-0	0-10-0
1953	Goldthwaite	7-3-0	6-4-0
1954	Goldthwaite	8-2-0	7-2-1 (claimed win in tie game)
1956	Tidehaven	6-3-1	7-2-1
1957	Tidehaven	8-2-0	6-4-0
1978	Gregory-Portland	10-2-1	9-3-0 (GP won forfeit over Sinton)

If somehow you can find out from your sources where Akins coached in 1952, I will definitely start the machinery working to correct his record, especially since he is only one of a few to have 300 wins or more in Texas. And, I think accuracy is a must where history is involved. I hope this helps to give you a "correct" answer. JLS

This led to a more in-depth investigation. Tony Reyes (who has since passed away) and I determined that Akins coaching record is as follows:

Ray Akins	W	L	T
1951 Lometa	5	4	1
1952 Goldthwaite	0	10	0
1953 Goldthwaite	6	4	0
1954 Goldthwaite	7	2	1
1955 Tomball	4	4	2
1956 Tidehaven	7	2	1
1957 Tidehaven	6	4	0
1958 Tidehaven	8	3	0
1959 Tidehaven	7	3	0
1960 Freer	8	3	0
1961 Freer	8	2	1
1962 Freer	9	1	1
1963 Freer	6	4	0
1964 Freer	6	4	1
1965 GP	1	9	0

1966 GP	5	5	0
1967 GP	7	2	0
1968 GP	5	5	0
1969 GP	11	0	1
1970 GP	10	2	0
1971 GP	11	1	0
1972 GP	9	3	0
1973 GP	11	1	0
1974 GP	10	2	0
1975 GP	8	1	3
1976 GP	11	2	0
1977 GP	11	1	0
1978 GP	9	3	0
1979 GP	11	0	1
1980 GP	10	1	0
1981 GP	8	2	0
1982 GP	8	2	0
1983 GP	8	2	1
1984 GP	13	1	0
1985 GP	8	3	1
1986 GP	11	2	0
1987 GP	10	2	0
	293	102	15

Tony Reyes did some intensive investigation and Akins 1952 record is based on the following:

The confusion lies with Akins' early coaching career. Records had indicated that Akins coached in 1951 and 1952 at Lometa High School and left that school with a record of 12-6-2 and then began coaching at Goldthwaite in 1953. Tony Reyes contacted a 1953 graduate of Goldthwaite and determined, through high school annuals, that Akins was head coach at Goldthwaite in 1952, not at Lometa. Joe Lee Smith's records confirm that Goldthwaite finished the 1952 season with a record of 0-10-0. That leaves his 1951-1952 coaching totals at 5-14-1, a difference of 7 wins.

The following is a recap of the research Tony Reyes performed:

I received from Lometa High School an Email to my answer of the question I asked to please review the 1953 Yearbook. (Fall Football photos appear in the next Graduation year.) Lometa High School - Doyle Combs - Yearbook Dept. stated: I pulled the '53 annual. Mr. Akins is not listed as a teacher anywhere. Bill Milam was listed as coach. So Lameta HS -- No Akins there in 1953.

Goldthwaite Contact - Akins is there in the 1953 Yearbook.

Remember: 1952 Fall football are reported in 1953 yearbooks.

Tony then went a step further

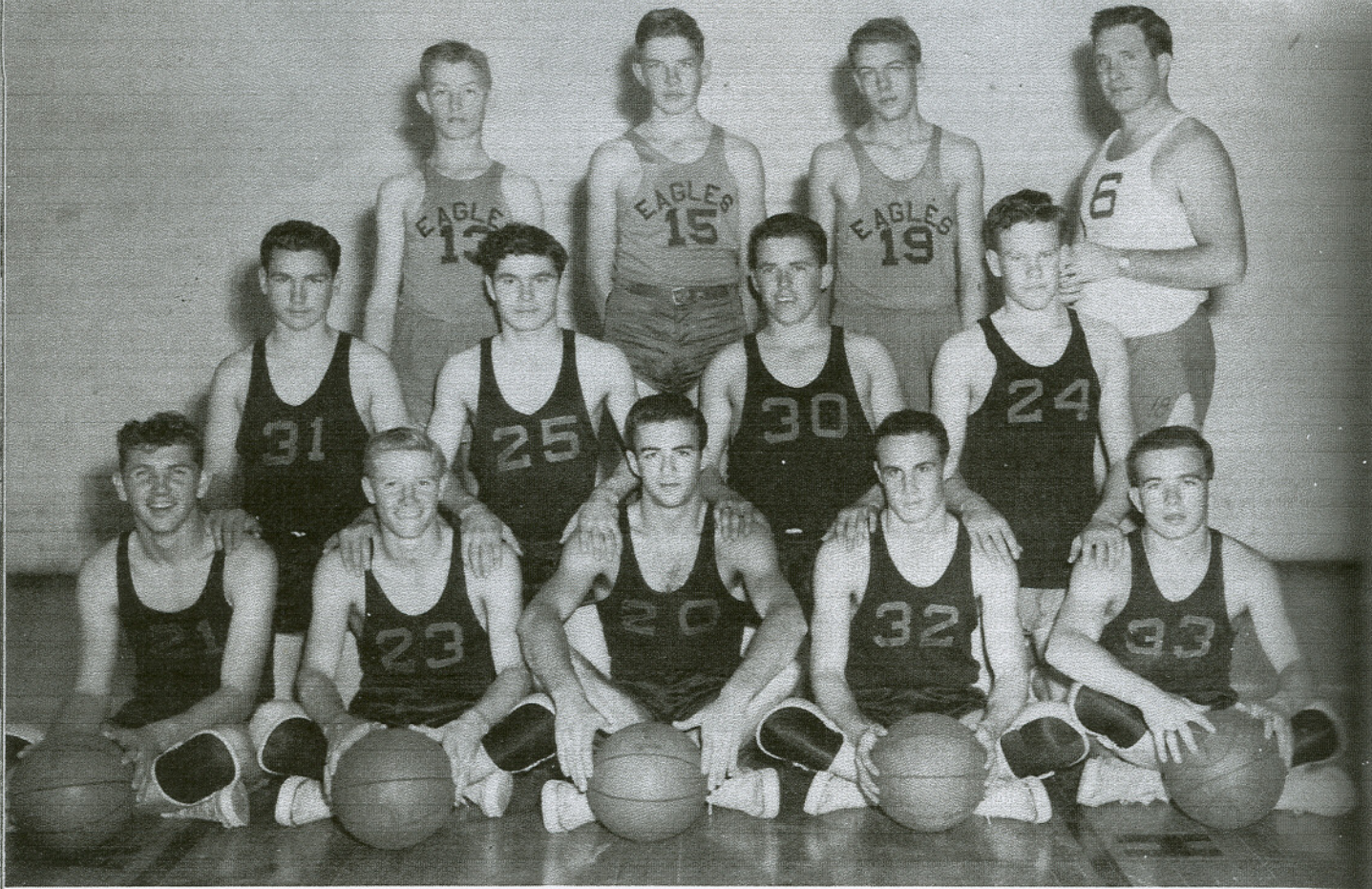
I arrived at Ft. Hood Army Base, check in, and it was Friday, the day before the State Girls Power Weight Lifting. But, back to Friday, Janet and I traveled to Goldthwaite and even passed through Lometa on the way. Both are on Highway 183 South. We arrived at Goldthwaite High School about 3:30 pm and the Librarian had already gone home, but the Principle, Mr. Gilbert, showed me the yearbooks, and early '50s, they only had 52. Coach then was Coach Knox. Next, we stopped to visit Bobby Joe Davis, and his wife Bobby. They were glad to see us, and showed us some Goldthwaite hospitality. Their house is right on the main Highway 183, and in Goldthwaite. We talk generalities, football, and family. By their computer, she had a copier, and she made me 4 pages of the 1953 "Eagles", yearbook. It shows Ray Akins on Faculty, and boys/girls basketball Coach, and the football page is a little hazy, but I think the coach wearing a cowboy head is Coach Akins. At least his is a young coach. His football team looks like middle school children, no wonder Goldthwaite lost all the football games in 1952, 0-10.

I am sending these 4 pages in PDF format. If you have problems with PDF, let me know, and I will bring the original in to you.

Therefore, enough proof has been amassed to prove that Coach Ray Akins has a career record of 293-102-15. Joe Lee Smith has agreed with this research and adjusted his records.

Attached are the PDF files that Tony Reyes secured.





## *Basketball Teams*





*Football*



*Football  
Sweetheart*

