Texas Tech University’s Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library’s Sports Initiative aims to collect and preserve athletic history from the High Plains of the Llano Estacado, across Texas, and beyond the Lone Star State.

Athletic competition has long been seen as a metaphor for life. The complexities found in life and the myriad hurdles faced along the way mirror large the experiences found on the playing fields of youth. The drama and spectacle of athletic competition mirrors as well the profound changes taking place in American society. The erosion of racial and gender barriers in athletic competition has enriched not only the wide spectrum of sport, but also America’s life in general.

From six-man schoolboy football to the explosion of women’s collegiate athletics to the ranks of professional competition, the Southwest Collection/Special Collections Library is poised to play a vital role in preserving the heritage of American sport.

Mission

- To collect and preserve materials documenting the history of athletic competition in high school, college, and professional sports.
- To work collaboratively with high school, college, and professional sports organizations and individuals to acquire such materials.
- To preserve and make available to athletes, coaches, researchers and others, the historical resources on athletic competition.