

Dave Campbell's

**TEXAS** 

**FOOTBALL**®

Special Edition Presented by:

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**NACOGDOCHES DRAGONS**

*Community Connectors*

*THE NACOGDOCHES DRAGONS EMBRACE THEIR HOMETOWN LIKE NONE OTHER*





# Q&A

WITH **FARSHID NIROUMAND**

## Q. How did you get your start at Nacogdoches?

“Throughout my college career, I worked odd jobs: cleaning chicken houses, washing the chicken processing company after hours, building fences, mowing yards; and, at one time working an all-night job at a donut shop,” he said. “Finally, I graduated with a master’s degree in Education in 1982. In August of 1982,



I was hired by Nacogdoches I.S.D. for one year and was asked to establish a men’s soccer program; to date that one year has not ended.”

## Q. What makes the Nacogdoches community special to you?

“During the 2011 school year I became most humbled by being nominated by my peers for consideration to the Texas Association of Soccer Coaches Hall of Honor,” he said. “I am also extremely proud to have been named Teacher of the Year by my colleagues in the 2005 school year. I am proudest of the fact that during my 30 years of coaching, all my players have graduated on time; and



80 to 85 percent are in college or have graduated from colleges or academies.”

## Q. What is your proudest moment as a part of the Nacogdoches community?

“The proudest time of my life though was December 2, 1988, when I became a naturalized citizen of the United States. I am equally proud to say that I have never missed participation in the local, state, and national election process or in voting. Because of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the persecution of my family, and unpleasant events and circumstances, I have not been able to go back to visit my family since my arrival to the states in 1973. I regret the fact that I never had the opportunity to meet my youngest brother before his tragic death or to visit my oldest sister before her execution by hanging or to visit my parents before their deaths so that I could express my thanks and gratitude for their love and their sacrifices. Even though these regrets and memories always exist, the silver lining is that I am lucky to live in the freest country in the world; and for that I am most grateful. To me, ‘America the land of opportunity and dreams’ is not a cliché; rather, it is a fact.”



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# NACOGDOCHES DRAGONS

## Community Connector Award

Presented by:



**CONNECTING** WITH  
Coach Darren Allman

**Q. Who is your Community Connector? Please give us some tangible examples of how they are involved with the program/local community.**

“Farshid Niroumand [“Coach Farshid”] currently serves as a Trustee on the Nacogdoches ISD School Board. He has the respect and friendship of so many in East Texas. His personal story is compelling. Despite facing unimaginable challenges, he has seized numerous accomplishments throughout his time in Nacogdoches. During his career in education, he provided great leadership and influence to hundreds of students, athletes, coaches, and community members. Following his retirement in 2011, Coach Farshid has continued to serve the school district and Nacogdoches community as a member of the NISD School Board.

After graduating from Shah-pour High School in Shiraz in 1968, Coach Farshid joined the Iranian military. Immediately after being discharged, he arrived in the United States on Aug. 28, 1973, on a student visa with \$700 dollars he had earned and saved. At the time of his arrival, he could not speak or understand one word of English. Nevertheless, he began attending school at Kilgore College on September 1, 1973. After two semesters, Coach Farshid transferred to Stephen F. Austin State University.

During his 30 years at Nacogdoches, Coach Farshid was the men’s head soccer coach and the physical education chairperson for 14 years. He served as athletic director for two years.”

**Q. What do you talk to your team about when you talk about representing your community and how is your team involved in the community? Please give us some tangible examples.**

Just as Optimum has been a source of keeping the community connected through its award-winning high-speed internet, Dave Campbell’s Texas Football has been a “bible” source for millions of football fans across the Lone Star State.

During this year’s Texas high school football season, Optimum is keeping score on local individuals who are making a difference in their community. As a result, Optimum is proud to have partnered with Dave Campbell’s Texas Football to do so.

Leveraging Dave Campbell’s insight and expertise in scouting, Optimum’s partnership with Dave Campbell’s Texas Football is nothing short of a “winning connection.” The partnership enabled the creation of the Community Connector Award in order to celebrate the achievements of community difference makers year-round – both on and off the field.

Optimum is proud to recognize  
**FARSHID NIROUMAND**  
for his contributions to the community

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Optimum is a proud founder of this award as it celebrates committed students, teachers and parents who stay connected in their community and honor them for their generous hard work and support to make their community a better place.

“We often talk to the team about the responsibility that goes along with putting on a Nacogdoches jersey and representing the school, school district, and community while competing across the state. We discuss the ‘product that we want to produce’. That product consists of hustle, toughness, discipline, sportsmanship, and class. We also discuss the importance of having a ‘service heart’. People with a service heart are constantly looking for ways to help other people.”

**Q. Why is it important to you to teach your young men about giving back and being good stewards of their community?**

“To develop future leaders, it is important to put them in positions to serve others. Many of our players themselves need help in various ways, and they grow to have a greater appreciation for those who serve them by giving service back. High school athletics programs ultimately become products of their community and the community’s support. In order to gain strong support, we must earn it.”

**Q. What’s unique about your school/local community? What makes it special?**

“Nacogdoches, Texas is the oldest town in Texas, established in 1779. Nacogdoches ISD and Nacogdoches High School opened in 1903, and the Nacogdoches Dragons played their first football game in 1911. Nacogdoches is home to Stephen F. Austin State University, and many SFA alumni remain in Nacogdoches or return to raise their family, as Nacogdoches residents enjoy living here.”

**Q. Personally, what does staying connected to your community mean to you?**

“Staying connected to the community can be challenging while in the coaching profession. However, we are able to connect initially through the student-athletes, as they come from very diverse families and experiences. We understand the connection that high school athletics and fine arts has with many of the families in the community, and our goal is to serve as an integral part of the total education for Nacogdoches students. In doing so, we have played a role in making the community stronger.”

It’s time to get closer, and go farther with Optimum.

Learn more

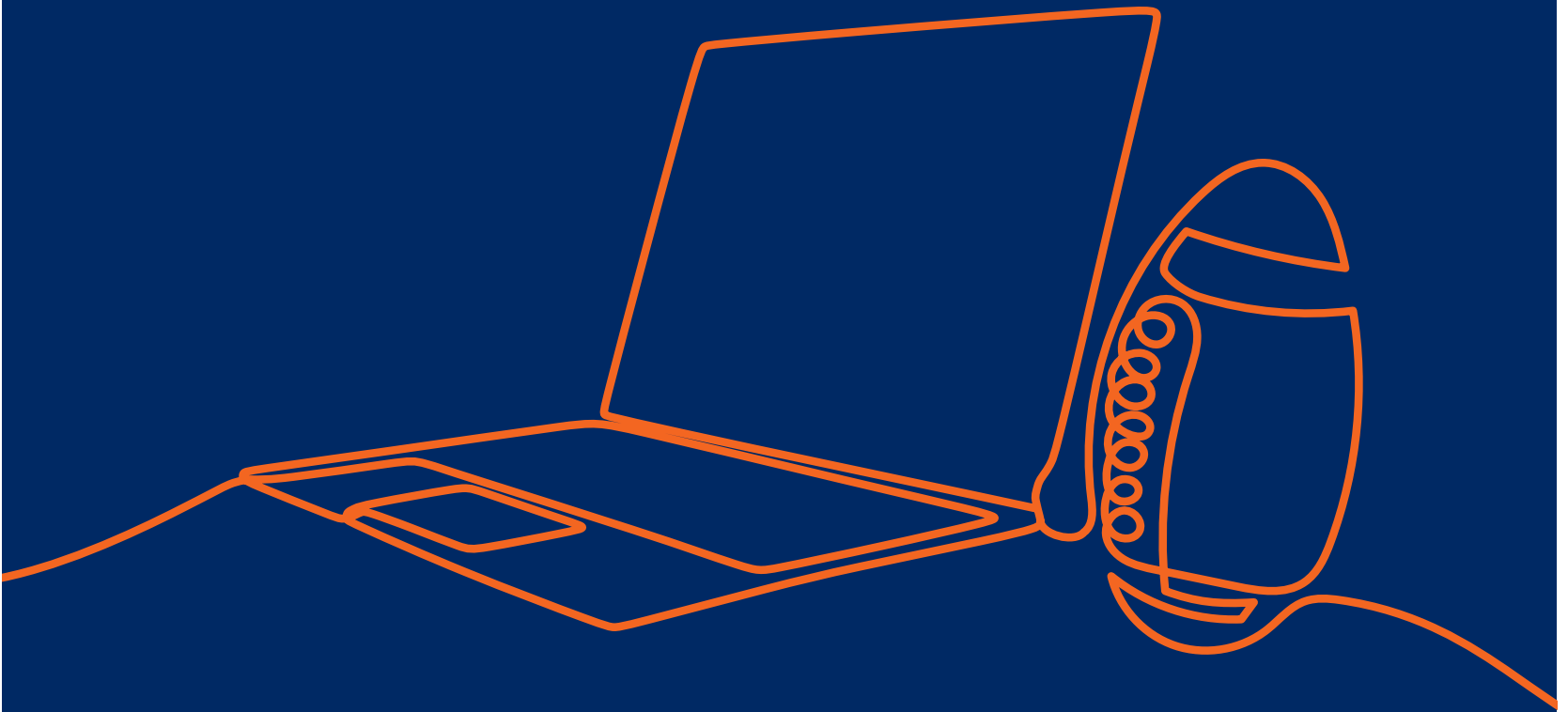


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