

## THE MYSTIQUE OF HULL-DAISETTA...

### WHAT IS BOBCATMANIA ANYWAY?

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Bobcat Stadium

#### PREFACE:

*...Of course to the general scheme of things it means little – but to the scarred veterans of the Hull-Daisetta mystique, it's a sacred place. A place where memories were made and dreams of yesterday come storming back. A place where participants of the mysticism will inevitably return - perhaps not to linger – but just to see if the old magic still survives.*

Old Hull, in East Liberty County, is a prime example of a boomtown, which had bottomed out. At the peak of the oil boom the old town sported booming commercial enterprises from car dealerships to dry cleaners. Several grocery stores were there plus mercantile and hardware stores, restaurants and a bank. There were hotels a theater, beauty shops and even a dairy.

Today most of the downtown section has been torn down leaving very few businesses open to the public. The old town has resembled a ghost town for a number of years.

The surprising thing to most folks is the fact that in spite of the ghost-like appearance of downtown – the hard core citizenry are retaining their homes and staying in Hull.

The heavy thinkers who probe the socio-economic reasons for the mass movement of populations are baffled. None of their research into human behavior will apply to this situation.



If those folks would go around and talk to some of the local old timers – one of the reasons for folks staying in Hull would become immediately apparent.

The Hull-Daisetta Bobcats, who have been the scourge of East Texas gridirons for the past 9 decades, is the football team who, each fall, takes to the playing field in that school district. This group, over the years, has created and sustained a tradition of excellence on the gridiron which is one of the oldest and richest in the state.

Those Monsters of the Big Thicket, as they are sometime called, have created a sense of pride and cohesiveness in the citizens of that school district that sustains itself year after year.

The scars and crippled knees exhibited by many inhabitants indicate ex-Bobcats; men who are veterans of the Bobcat mystique and men who will drive 80 miles one way to work and sustain their families without having to leave the old sod.

Hull's twin city, Daisetta, sports an identical history – leaving the community of Raywood as the only place in the school district to remain somewhat economically stable after the boom was over.

Those who shake their heads in disbelief that a high school football program could hold folks to a boomed out community – just haven't met up with Bobcatmania. And beside that, they likely think old Red and the Mayhaw Monster are fiction.