

Ronnie Kluch Field Archway and Plaque Dedication

An archway and plaque, installed at the entrance of Ronnie Kluch Field, Ross S. Sterling High School's baseball field, will be dedicated April 2, 2015, at 6 p.m. before the Channelview vs. Sterling varsity baseball game at 7 p.m.

Kluch served as head baseball coach at Sterling from 1971 to 1980, earning a 200-74 record. His teams won four district championships, tied for district three times and finished second twice. In 1979, the Rangers were state finalists. The third baseball coach in Sterling's history, Kluch was named District Coach of the Year four times.

"I had some great teams at Sterling," said Kluch. "We won because of my players."

Kluch was a standout player for Robert E. Lee High School before pitching at Sam Houston State University for two years. He was on the Bearkats team that beat Grambling for the NAIA national championship and pitched in the second game of the series.



Kluch

Signed by the then-Kansas City Athletics after his sophomore year of college, he played in the team's minor league system for five years. After an injury ended his career, he completed his degree at Sam Houston and in 1971 became Sterling's head baseball coach.

The idea to name the field after Kluch came from former coach Paul Tadlock and former Ranger baseball player Matt Hicks, who took the proposal to the Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees in 2004. The field was dedicated to Kluch in 2005. The Ronnie Kluch Field bears a masonry sign with his name as the focal point of a brick wall behind home plate. The bricks around it are inscribed with the names and classes of former Rangers and coaches. A replica of home plate with information about Kluch and his record is inside the fence behind the bleachers at the stadium.

"The main things I remember about Coach Kluch were his passion and intensity for the game and how he instilled confidence in his players," said Wes Walker, former Rangers pitcher from 1978-1980. "He had the ability to turn mediocre players into good players and good players into great players."

The public is invited to attend the dedication. In the event of rain, the dedication will be held in the entry of the Winnie Brown Gymnasium.

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