



# GOOSE CREEK

## CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Lee grads christen track, unveil monument in honor of beloved coach

March 30, 2012 was a legendary day for Robert E. Lee High School as Flying Ganders came from far and wide to reunite for the unveiling of the Rockhold Memorial Monument at the Rockhold Track on Rockhold Day in Baytown.

The life of Hall of Fame track and field coach Beverly Rockhold was celebrated by many of the former students he coached and taught in 30 years at Lee.

And on the day Ganders celebrated the dedication of the Rockhold track and monument, it also marked the annual running of the Rockhold Relays, named in honor of Coach Rock who was widely recognized as one of the state's greatest track coaches.

The move to rename the track was the idea of the Rockhold Memorial Group, a group of more than 100 former track athletes of Coach Rockhold who aim to further preserve the legacy of "a great coach and role model whose character and example has enriched us over the years."

After Baytown's Mayor Stephen DonCarlos proclaimed March 30, 2012 "Beverly Sells Rockhold Day in Baytown," the official business was to rename the track at Robert E. Lee High School's Pete Sultis Stadium the "Beverly Rockhold Track" and unveil the nearby Rockhold Memorial Monument, but the event was much more.

The Rockhold event began earlier in the day with a gathering at Lee College where about 170 folks talked about the great coach and Baytown's glory days.

It was a reunion like few others. Organizers say the event — planning, fund-raiser, and being back at Robert E. Lee High School— forged a new brotherhood among Rockhold tracksters.

That brotherhood was on full display during the tracking-naming relay.

The starting leg was run by honorary track captain Marion Caughman ('41) and the anchor leg was taken by Tommy Clark ('70)

In between those men were about 80 folks — mostly Rockhold Boys plus wives, sons, grandsons representing their husbands, fathers, and grandfather — passed the baton around the oval from oldest to youngest.

The current high school track athletes surrounding the track were very respectful during the poignant baton-passing ceremony, cheering on the older guys with applause and cheers.

Coach Rockhold literally built the Lee track and field program. In 1936, there was no track at the venerable high school. Coach Rockhold and some of his athletes helped to build a cinder track at the school in 1940. And the rest, they say, is history.



See more photos [here](#).

As the Rockhold Memorial Monument attests, Rockhold coached several state and national relay record teams. He was the first coach to have a high school mile relay break 3:20. During his coaching career at Lee, Coach Rockhold led the Ganders to three state championships in Track and Field.

He was twice named Texas Track Coach of the Year (1955, 1962) and was the first track coach named to Texas High School Hall of Honor (1969).

Forty-five "Rock boys" were selected for the All-American Athletic Honor Roll, and he counted three state championships in 1955, 1956, and 1962 plus numerous state runners-up, district, and regional titles.

National records in mile relay were set in 1954-55 and in sprint medley in 1957-58.

After his retirement, the Lee Relays was changed to the Rockhold Relays in honor of his dedication to Track and Field. Coach Rockhold was elected to the Texas High School Hall of Fame in 1976.

Coach Rock died in 1979.

"It was a special day that embodied the term 'team spirit,' but what else would you expect from a Rockhold trackster." said one of the chief event organizers Richard Bain ('60). "Beverly Rockhold enabled us to light up the high school track scene for over 25 years, and with that 9-foot granite monument in place, they won't soon be forgetting the early Flying Ganders!"

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