



GOOSE CREEK

CONSOLIDATED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

GCCISD Board Name Lee Track in Honor of Legendary Coach

The Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees approved on Nov. 14, 2011 naming the track at Robert E. Lee High School's Pete Sultis Stadium the Beverly Rockhold Track after the school legendary track coach.

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

The group also proposes to place a large monument at the track, which is scheduled to be unveiled on March 30, during the annual Rockhold Relays. Coach Rock would have been 100 years old in 2012.

Coach Rockhold was the first in Texas to twice be named the state's track coach of the year by the Texas Sports Writers Association. In 1969, he became the 49th man voted into the Texas High School Coaches Association Hall of Honor and the first track coach. He was widely recognized as the "state's greatest track coach" for the final two decades of his 30-year tenure as Lee's track coach.

"He knew more about coaching than anybody I've ever been associated with," said Drew Dunlap, a Hall of Fame track coach at Sterling who got his start as Rockhold's assistant. "He told me in track some athletes respond to different workouts, different motivations. He was a master at knowing what to do to get the most out of each athlete."

"Coach Rock was without a doubt the second most influential man in my life other than my father. Looking back I realize how small my world was during those high school years, but Coach Rock planted seeds that would nurture me in the years to come," said Art Whitmer, REL Class of 1961. "Coach Rock helped each of his "boys" (at that time) to reach beyond their grasp not only in their training for their track and field event, but in their everyday experiences and their ambitions for the future. He was coach and mentor, but he was also much more to each one of us who were fortunate enough to have trained under and participated for him. It is a great honor for me to pay tribute to such a giant of a man who lived his life molding successful adults from the young athletes that he cared so much for. Of course, no words of praise for Coach Rock would be sufficient without similar words for Mrs. Rock who was by his side helping him and the team."

These are a few of the testimonials listed on the web site www.rockholdmemorialgroup.org which is chock-full of information about the legendary Lee coach and the March 2012 dedication event.

In 1936, Coach Rockhold came to Robert E. Lee High School. At that time there was no track at the high school.

Coach Rockhold along with some of his athletes helped to build a cinder track at the school. While at Baytown Lee, he coached several state and national relay record teams. He was the first coach to have a high school mile relay break 3:20. Rockhold coached at Baytown Lee from 1936 to 1973. In that time he lead Lee to three state championships in Track and Field.



Rockhold 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 two years after retiring in 1979 at 67 years of age.

The total cost of the granite monument to honor Coach Rockhold is about \$25,000. To donate make a check payable to Rockhold Memorial Trust and send to Art Whitmer at 3709 Plumb, Houston TX 77005.

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