

SCORE

BAYTOWN

MEMORIAL

LAMAR

BELLAIRE

1 0 5

8 9

6

6 6















Rock's Advice: Not Good Enough

by woods

Not long ago, an Arkansas coach showed up at Memorial Stadium one afternoon, browsed around for a couple of hours, chatted with track coach Beverly Rockhold another two or three hours, got in his car and drove home, apparently satisfied.

He had made the long trip at the expense of his school just for a talk with the Rock.

His mission: To discover how Rockhold consistently produces sub-50 second quarter milers.

-w-

"We get a boy who can run a 51 or 52," he told Rockhold, "and we think he's pretty good material, but he never seems to get any better."

"That's your trouble," Rockhold



BEVERLY ROCKHOLD

replied. "Tell him 51 or 52 isn't good enough."

While that isn't a verbatim report of the conversation it is the gist of a part of it, and it serves very well to emphasize one of the things that has elevated Rockhold to the level of esteem he enjoys among Texas coaches today, 23 years after he took his first job in the Goose Creek system.

-w-

Work is now, and always has been, a big part of the Gander track program since Rockhold took it over.

A Galena Park graduate who now attends Lee College, dropped in on a Gander practice session one afternoon and reported:

"That would make three of our workouts."

-w-

That hard work, combined with the particular skills Rockhold possesses, has turned out nine district, eight regional titles and one state championship. It has provided, too, that special agony that goes along with near misses.

There was a time in the mid-50s when the Ganders missed a state title by a quarter of a point; and then, this year, when they were six points out and victims of a slow watch finger in the spring relay.

Along in those 23 years — broken only by a hitch in the armed forces — go three national records in the mile and sprint relays.

-w-

Small wonder, then, isn't it, that athletic director Dan Stallworth, a man not unaccustomed to fame in his own right, should introduce the Rock at the spring awards banquet as:

"The greatest track coach in Texas."

Head coach Pete Sultis calls him the luckiest coach alive, and line coach Roland Kudla, in reference to his eternally pessimistic point-predictions, tells him: "As a track coach you're great, but as a mathematician, you'd starve."

-w-

A quiet man, Rockhold has, nevertheless, a ready wit and an easy way with the boys he works so hard on the track, qualities that have endeared him to those thousands of youngsters who have passed under his hands as athletic trainer and as track coach.

And he is cast in the Gander dye.

While Abilene has performed the record task of capturing four state championships — just as the Eagles did in football in four consecutive seasons — Baytown has a lone title from 1955. Yet the Ganders have been — in track as in football — one of the most consistent teams in the state while missing the spectacular.

-w-

You best appreciate Rockhold, particularly if you are a member of the working press, when he unfolds the Lee Relays each spring, and it is probably there that you first recognize him as a first line coach.

No other track meet, not even the state meet, surpasses the quality of the Lee running where each event is easily viewed and the heights and distances, point standings, times and winners are always available.

So Rockhold wasn't kidding when he told the Arkansan that 51 or 52 isn't good enough. And any coach who puts a team up against the Rock's Ganders year in and year out might add that the average time in any event is seldom good enough.

SPORTS SLANTS

By **BILL HARTMAN**

BEVERLY ROCKHOLD has been connected with many records. Some he set himself. Some his teams won.

Those who ever ran track for Rockhold at Robert E. Lee and those who have been associated with him were elated at the news that he had been selected to the Texas High School Coaches Hall of Honor.

Honors are wonderful. But they are even more meaningful when they go to a man still active in his field. And Rock still has many years ahead as dean of Texas school boy track coaches.

His selection marks the first time two coaches from the same school have been selected to the hall. Athletic Director Dan Stallworth was picked in 1965. Rock is also the first track coach to be named.

HIS LIST of achievements at REL is long, including two state championships. Rockhold joined the REL staff in 1937, and he's been there ever since, except for a four-year service stint.

Schoolboy track stars began getting recognition on a wide scale with the institution of a national honor roll. Rockhold has 43 former Ganders listed on the roll, many of them several times.

THE LIST includes Wayne Askew, Bill Askey, Richard Bain, Charles Barnhill, James Beavers, Sumner Bowen, Tommy Brundrett, the late Eddie Bussa, Jerry Capps, Freddie Clark, Vic Davis, Dwight Denson, Eugene Fayle, Kenny Fenelon, Eddie Gray and Lynn Gray.

Also, Phillip Grayson, Pat Guidry, Bill Hearon, Bert Hill, Elvis Istre, Kosse Johnson, Joe Lee, Billy Littlefield, Stanley McKinney, Robert May, Don Parkhurst, Eugene Peacock, Delton Perkins, Wayne Porter and Ken Roberts.

Also, Joe Frank Robins, John Davis Russell, Anton Amajstrla, Mike Stewart, John Sweeney, Kenneth Taylor, James Theeck, James Vegas, Jimmy Watson, Arthur Whitmer, Wally Wilson and Carl Young.

DAVIS, TAYLOR and Whitmer were named to the honor roll three years. Hearon and Whitmer were named to spots on five relay teams, while Bain, Barnhill, Clark and Gray made it on four relay teams.

In 1962 the 9.4 100-yard dash run by Parkhurst was the fastest time ever run by a junior in high school.

In 1966 the 440-yard relay team of Fenelon, Littlefield, Denson and Askey ran the fastest time in the nation. Their single lap was 41.4.

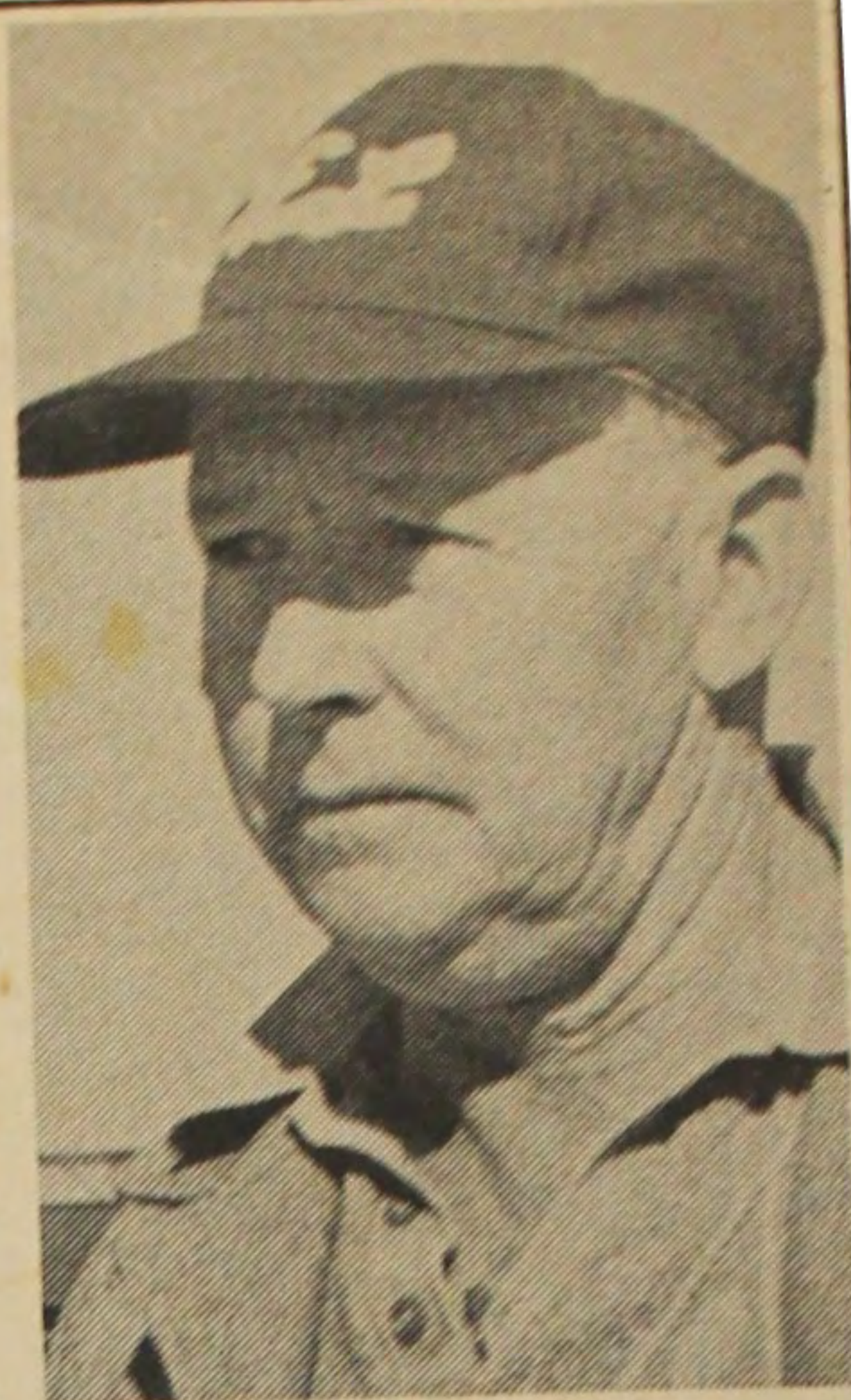
ONE OF THE best remembered schoolboy duels on the Gulf Coast was back in 1957 between REL's Lynn Gray and Pasadena's Bert Coan. Those two chased each other all over Texas, both in sprints and on relay teams.

Gray was listed as the 15th fastest sprinter in the world that year in all classes — university, college and high school.

ALL THESE times and records and former stars are the reasons Rockhold was selected to the hall of honor.

Track and field and youngsters have been Beverly Rockhold's life and will be as long as he can take a breath.

He joins the legendary Stallworth in the hall. Both can virtually make youngsters do the impossible. Now both are in the annals of schoolboy sports history — right where they belong.



BEVERLY ROCKHOLD