



## Boca Ciega High School

### Athletic Complex Dedication Ceremony

*Saturday, September 30th, 2017, at 9:00am*

*The ceremony will take place at our stadium honoring:*

***Charles Beauchamp Stadium***

***Dan Wickline Field***

***Gene Rutledge Track***

#### **CHARLES BEAUCHAMP II MEMORIAL STADIUM**



Charles Christopher Beauchamp II, "Charlie," was a highly respected student in the BCHS class of 1967. He was a well-rounded young man, excelling not only in football and baseball; he was also a member of the National Honor Society and Exchange Club, President of the mixed chorus, and the lead singer in "The Emotions," a popular Bay Area band of that period.

On the night of March 31, 1967, Charlie was involved in an accident while playing baseball for the Pirates' varsity baseball team at Hoyt Field. Five days later, on April 5, he died from those injuries. His death was the first fatality in Pinellas County's prep athletic history.

In 1987, through the efforts of some of his classmates, and with the support of the BCHS administration, students and Alumni Association, a petition was sent to the Pinellas County School Board requesting permission to name the stadium in memory of Charles Beauchamp. On May 13 of that year the Board passed a resolution allowing the stadium to be called "Charles Beauchamp Memorial Stadium - Home of the Fighting Pirates." On November 6, 1987, the stadium at Boca Ciega was officially dedicated in Charlie's memory.

It is with great pride in his accomplishments and to his memory that this stadium is dedicated as an everlasting testimonial to who Charlie was, and to his life that could have been.

#### **DAN WICKLINE FIELD**



Legendary Coach, Dan Wickline, joined the faculty and the coaching staff of Boca Ciega High School in the fall of 1957 as Assistant Football and Head Track and Field Coach. His impact at BCHS was immediate, annually producing athletes from both sports who were awarded scholarships and went on to succeed at the college level.

Ten years later Boca Ciega gave Coach Wickline his chance at his first love naming him their Head Football Coach. His record was outstanding. By 1971 the football team was the District 8, Class 4A Champions, the Pirate's first ever District Championship in the State Playoff System. He continued to coach the track team as well and produced numerous All State Performers and several State Champions.

But even more than successes on the field Dan Wickline was always an athlete's coach. Throughout his twenty years of teaching and coaching he was always committed to whatever he could to help young people with a great work ethic and a burning desire to succeed and achieve their goals. Their successes are testament to his legacy.

It is with great pride in his achievement and legacy that Boca Ciega honors the most successful football coach in school history by dedicating this portion of the facility as Dan Wickline Field.

#### **E.I. "GENE" RUTLEDGE TRACK**



Boca Ciega opened play on their new football field in the fall of 1958 but the field and some bleacher seating were all that existed at the facility. Pinellas County scheduled BCHS for a soon to be constructed new concrete stadium in the summer of 1959, but no running track was planned as a part of the project.

Local business man Gene Rutledge, with ties to BCHS, felt that the track needed to be included in order for the facility to be full service for the students, athletes and coaches at the school. Mr. Rutledge, utilizing his own construction company, made sure that BCHS had the Track and Field facility that it deserved to properly train it's student athletes.

The Rutledge family wanted Gene to be remembered simply as a dedicated business man, community leader and caring husband and father who did what he could for the betterment of all whose lives he touched.

It is with great pride and deepest gratitude to the Rutledge family that Boca Ciega High School dedicates this portion of the facility in his honor and memory as E.I. Gene Rutledge Track.