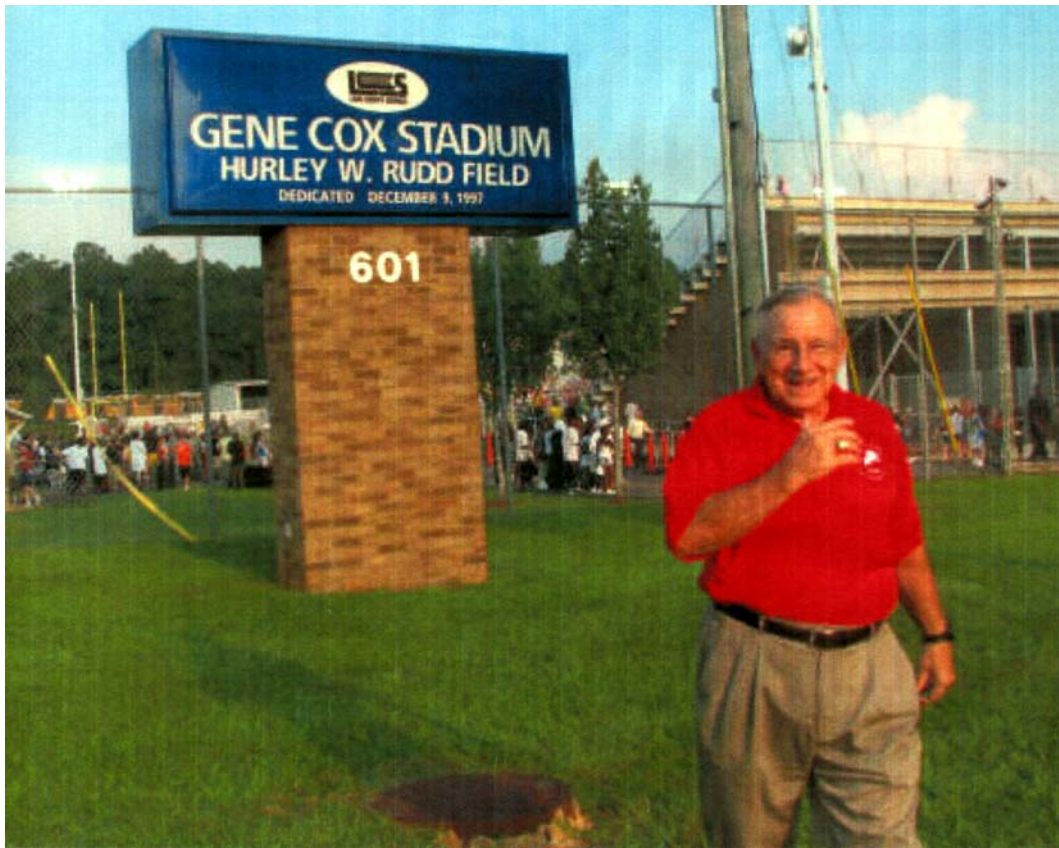


GENE COX STADIUM DEDICATION



**Bill Montford-Superintendent of Schools, Randy Trousdell-City Recreation,
Manny Joanos-Chairman Leon County Commission, Larry Campbell-Sheriff.**



SPEECH AT GENE COX STADIUM DEDICATION
MAY 20, 1998

“There are little eyes upon you, and they are watching night and day. There are little ears that quickly take in every word you say. There are little hands all eager to do anything you do, and a little boy who is dreaming of the day he will be like you. You are the little boy’s idol; you are the wisest of the wise. In his little mind about you no suspicions ever rise. He believes in you devotedly, holds all you say and do; he will say and do in your way when he grows up to be like you. There is a wide eyed little fellow who believes you are always right, and his eyes are always opened as he watched day and night. You are setting an example every day in all you do for the little boy who is waiting to grow up to be like you.”

Author Unknown

I know you believe that is true.

Back in the late 1950’s, I attended my first coaching clinic at F. S. U. The main speaker on the program was the legendary coach Vince Lombardi. I heard Coach Lombardi make his profound statement that there are only three things that should matter to you: “Number One is your God or religion, Number 2 is your family, and Number 3 is your profession or work. And in that order.” Therefore, I want to thank my God, the Lord Jesus Christ, for giving me the strength to endure forty years of coaching high school football, secondly, I want to thank my family, especially my wife Patsy, and my children David, Alan, Gary and Cynthia for supporting me during the peaks and valleys of my career. And thirdly, I want to thank all of the players who played for me, all of the assistant coaches and administrators who worked with me, and all of you who helped us become number one in the great state of Florida.

“Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.” Priorities - yes, Coach Lombardi had them right.

Like Coach Lombardi, I found that running a football team is no different from running any other organization - an army, a political party, a business. The principles are the same. The objective is to win - to beat the other guy. Maybe that sounds cruel or hard. I don’t think it is. I don’t say these things

because I believe in the brute nature of man or that men must be brutalized to be combative. I believe in God, and I believe in human decency. But I firmly believe that any man's finest hour, his greatest fulfillment to all he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle victorious.

It would be impossible for me to name all of the great athletes that I had the privilege of coaching and that you saw perform in this stadium. So I won't try. But I did research the quarterback position and found some very impressive facts and statistics.

Also, I researched all of the games played in the stadium and listed the twenty most memorable games. Maybe you saw some of these games.

LEON HIGH SCHOOL QUARTERBACKS COACHED BY GENE COX 1963-1990

NAME	YEAR	RECORD	WINNING PERCENTAGE	COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP
Chuck Eason	1963-64	12-9	57.1	F.S.U.
Andy Andrews	1965	6-4	60.0	Elon
Billy Sexton	1966-68	14-3	82.3	Ala., F.S.U.
Doug Cooksey	1969-70	25-1	96.1	Ga. Tech
Wayne Folsom	1971-72	18-5	78.2	Troy
Wally Woodham	1973-74	22-1	95.6	F.S.U.
Jimmy Jordan	1975	12-2	85.7	F.S.U.
Don Deloach	1976	6-0	100.	(baseball) F.S.U.
Blair Williams	1977-78	19-7	73.	F.S.U.
Tony Robinson	1979-81	29-4	87.8	Tenn.
James Thompson	1982	11-1	91.6	Temple
Cy Williams	1983	7-4	63.6	
Moses Collins	1984	10-1	90.9	Tenn.
Mario Evans	1985	10-1	90.9	Miss.Valley
John Haley	1986-88	22-8	73.3	
Burt Newman	1989-90	9-11	45.	Cen. Florida

The following played quarterback but not for an entire year:

Bobby Adams	1963
Rodney Givins	1966
David Miles	1968
Mike Norman	1968
Greg Everheart	1976
Sam Childers	1976

TWENTY MOST MEMORABLE GAMES PLAYED AT CAPITAL STADIUM:

- 1963 Leon - 28 Choctaw - 6 : On this day President Kennedy was assassinated.
- 1964 Leon - 33 Tampa Robinson - 7 : Leon participated in the first Capital City Charity Bowl.
Leon became a state power.
- 1966 Leon won all of the home games : Leroy Powell became the first black player to play in
the stadium.
- 1967 Leon - 28 Pensacola Sr. - 0 : Leon enjoyed their first victory over PHS; Eloise Batchelor
stood on her head at the 50 yard line.
- 1967 Leon - 40 Choctaw - 13 : Leon's first Big 5 Conference Championship;
Leon's first undefeated season.
- 1969 Leon won their first state championship. A drive was started by the boosters to build a new
stadium.
- 1971 Leon - 34 Godby - 0 : This was the first varsity game in the new stadium.
- 1972 Leon won all home games. Seating capacity in new stadium was too small for playoffs.
Playoff games were played in Campbell Stadium.
- 1974 Leon - 34 Tate - 0 : This was Coach Cox's one hundredth win at Leon and second state
championship.
- 1975 Leon - 61 Jacksonville Jackson - 20 : This was the most points scored by two teams;
Jimmy Jordan passed for 400 yards.
- 1978 Leon - 27 Lincoln - 26 : Blair Williams completed 13 passes to Scott Donaldson.
- 1980 Leon - 14 Godby - 0 : Leon won over Godby after four straight loses. Darrin Holloman
scored 2 td's.
- 1980 Leon - 34 Lincoln - 33 : This was Leon's best comeback victory. Leon was down 13
points with two minutes left. Tony Robinson completed nine
consecutive passes to Jeff Wenhold to win the game.
- 1981 Leon - 63 Madison - 6 : This was Coach Cox's 200th career win.
- 1981 Leon - 25 Palatka - 34 : There was the most talent playing in the stadium; six players later
played professional football. There were 7000 spectators.
- 1982 Leon - 79 Taylor County - 0: This was the most points scored by one team in the stadium.
- 1984 Leon - 22 Rickards - 23 : This was Leon's first loss to Rickards.
- 1987 Leon - 18 Lincoln - 23 : This was Leon's first loss to Lincoln.
- 1988 Leon - 18 Suwannee - 15 : The game was televised statewide on Sunshine Network.
- 1988 Leon - 13 Godby - 10 : The game was televised statewide on Sunshine Network.
- 1990 Leon - 10 Lake City - 0 : Leon shut out Lake City for the last win in the stadium.

Gene Cox Stadium

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Gene Cox Stadium is a municipal American football venue for local teams in Tallahassee, FL. It seats approximately 5,500 fans, but has room to accommodate an additional 1,000 persons. Currently, Gene Cox Stadium serves all nine public middle schools and the five public high schools located in Leon County.

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History

The stadium was built in 1969 during a time when the addition of a third local high school called for the construction of a centralized, shared facility.

Ultimately, a location bordering the North Florida Fairgrounds on the south side of town was selected for this purpose. Originally called **Capital Stadium**, the name was changed in 1998 to honor local high school coaching legend Gene Cox shortly after his retirement. Later on, the natural grass field was named in honor of four-term Florida state legislator and former Tallahassee, FL mayor, Hurley W. Rudd Jr..

Football Use

Today, Gene Cox Stadium is home to all Leon County middle school football games and most home games for the local public high schools, including: Chiles High School, Godby High School, Leon High School, Lincoln High School, and Rickards High School. Due to the large demand for use of the stadium, all home game scheduling is channeled through Leon County Schools and oftentimes results in high school football games being played on Thursdays and Fridays. While it is not uncommon for games to also be played at Chiles High School and Leon High School, all intercity matchups take place at Gene Cox Stadium.^[1]

Gene Cox Stadium

"Gene Cox"

Full name	Gene Cox Stadium at Harley Rudd Field
Former names	Capital Stadium (1969-1998)
Location	Paul Russell Road, Tallahassee, FL
Built	1961-62 School year as Capitol Field
Owner	Leon County Schools
Surface	Natural Grass
Capacity	5,500 (seating) 6,500 (max)

Tenants

Leon County Public Schools (1969-)