



RICHARD L. "DICK" MOCKLIN, SR.

2016 GULF COAST HUMANITARIAN AWARD

May 13, 1936 - Dec 12, 2001

Richard Mocklin, Sr. grew up in the heart of the famous 9th Ward. He was raised by his aunt when his mother passed at a very young age. His older brother Al was the male influence in his life as he grew up and it was he that encouraged Richard to get involved in sports in his pre-teen and teenage years. In addition to a strict upbringing, "Sports" were the key ingredient in teaching "Richie" the discipline and work ethic that would make him a good Student, Athlete, Employee, Coach and Mentor. "Coach Dick" was a 35 year resident of the 9th Ward and 31 year resident of St. Bernard Parish. "Dick" Mocklin, Sr. exemplifies "Humanitarian". This is his story.

St. Rock Park

- » grew up playing baseball, football, and basketball in the N.O.R.D. Program.
- » excelled in baseball, football, and basketball
- » won many City Championships
- » selected to many N.O.R.D. All-Star Teams
- » formed many associations and friendships that would last a lifetime

Warren Easton High School

- » graduated 1954
- » 3 sport letterman (baseball, basketball, and football)
- » he joked that his size and speed were the only things that kept him from getting a college scholarship and that everyone was bigger and faster, they even made better grades
- » soon after graduation, Dick married Marie Baragona

Bunny Friend Playground

- » 1961 began coaching his son and became known as "Coach Dick"
- » became the playground Supervisor
- » "Coach Dick" won many "City Championships" in baseball, basketball and football.
- » developed his first Adult Softball League attracting players from the entire Metropolitan area. Soon the league was expanded to 2 nights a week and increased concession sales and financial success for the Bunny Friend Boosters Club.
- » "Coach Dick" joined the Veterans Umpires Association and quickly became one of the most requested umpires. His reputation for accuracy and honesty made him a favorite among coaches, players and fans. Coach's association with the Veterans Association lasted until the late 1960's.
- » Coaches all sports at Bunny Friend until 1971

Chalmette Vista Playground:

- » 1971 moved into a new home in Buccaneer Villa North subdivision in St. Bernard Parish
- » began coaching immediately at Vista Playground and became a key factor in the development of the baseball, basketball and football programs.
- » joined the St. Bernard Umpires Association and once again promptly became a favorite
- » 1973 "Coach Dick" and "Coach Jerry" Scheuermann led the St.

Bernard Dixie Boys All-Stars to a State and National Title.

- » 1973 "Coach Dick" developed a summer baseball program for 13-17 year olds that could not or did not play American Legion Baseball. The league became so popular that many Legion players requested permission from their high school coaches to play in the new summer league. "Coach Dick" and his volunteer coaching staff held a mock draft of the players to divide teams as equally as possible. He then secured parks, scheduled all games, hired umpires and manually kept all stats on every player. With local sponsors, secured by "Coach Dick", all cost involved, including uniforms, were covered.
- » "Coach Dick" formed a very popular Sunday morning adult softball league. Local restaurants and bars sponsored teams and many St Bernard Sports' Figures and Coaches played in the league. One team was coached and sponsored by WRNO radio personality Captain Humble. Along with being an active team member sponsored by the Village Restaurant, "Coach Dick" again scheduled all games and umpires and kept manual stats on every player and every team.
- » These leagues were held every summer well into the late 1980's
- » "Coach Dick" retired from coaching in 1995

PROFESSIONAL

- » 30 plus year career with Entergy Corporation
- » Family Man
- » Handicapping the horses "Coach Dick" always had an affinity for the Thoroughbreds and loved to wager on the ponies. Not surprising, he was very good at that too.

NOTEWORTHY

- » Many friendships and bonds formed at St. Roch, Bunny Friend, and Vista with former players and coaches are very strong until the day "Coach Dick" passed away in 2001.
- » Hundreds of former players and coaches consider "Coach Dick" one of the most influential people in their lives
- » 34 year Playground Coach
- » Whenever "Coach Dick" was out in any community (especially St. Roch, Bunny Friend, Chalmette Vista), memories were instantly realized.