

March 17, 2015

Mr. Tom Crowe,  
Superintendent  
Ector County Independent School District  
802 N. Sam Houston  
Odessa TX 79761

Dear Mr. Crowe,

I would like to formally request to you, Mr. Ramage, Mr. Vesely, and the Honorable Board of Trustees to name the new tennis facilities at Permian High School in honor of Coach Pat Wikse. Coach Wikse gave 21 years of dedicated service to the District, Permian High and the students which he coached and mentored. Attached is a brief biography of Coach Wikse for your consideration.

Myself, and the other parents of Permian Tennis, are very appreciative of the investment the District has made in the new Permian Tennis Facility and in our children.

I would be happy to meet with you, Mr. Ramage, and/or Mr. Vesely to answer any questions related to this request. Each gentleman listed has also received a formal request.

Thank you for your consideration.



Becky Marler  
Permian High School Class of 1990  
432-559-2766

## Coach Pat Wikse

“Legendary.” That’s the word that the Odessa American used to describe retired coach Pat Wikse in April of 2013. Although the article was not written about him, it is impossible to talk about MOJO Tennis without mentioning the man that embodies “Legendary.” He served the players at Permian High School for 21 years before retiring in 2002. Coach Pat Wikse’s teams were ranked in the top 25 in the State of Texas 15 out of the 21 years he coached at Permian, had 30 District qualifiers, 11 Regional qualifiers, 4 State quarterfinalists, 5 State semi-finalists and 1 State finalist. Pat Wikse was named “Coach of the Year in 1991” and inducted into the Texas High School Tennis Hall of Fame in 2002.

Coach Wikse began coaching in Paw Paw Illinois after graduating from Iowa Wesleyan College. He went on to coach in Raton, NM, Carlsbad, NM and Las Cruces NM. Pat Wikse built the tennis program at Harlem High School, from scratch, in Loves Park Illinois, where he coached for 13 years and led the team to it’s first, ever team District title. However, if you ask him, he will say that his greatest accomplishments are his 3 children, Ellen Wikse McMann, Casey Wikse Ahlbrand, Brad Wikse, and also his stepson, Tom Heiting.

When I was a player for Coach Wikse, I was always amazed that he gave his time freely to any player that wanted extra lessons but could not pay, in fact, refused payment at times. He believed that if a player was willing to put in the work, they were worth his time. To quote the nomination of Pat Wikse into the Hall of Fame “He has had a tremendous impact upon the lives of many young players. He is a man of the highest virtues and moral values. He passes along the life lessons that young student athletes will use most in life.”

In the last 3 years, Pat has been diagnosed with prostate Cancer that has metastasized to his bones as well as Melanoma Cancer that has affected his skin and internal organs. Please consider this as a formal request to name the new tennis facilities at Permian High School in honor of Coach Pat Wikse.

Proposal to Name Facilities

Ratliff Stadium Field Event Area

DON WRIGHT

Don Wright graduated from Reagan County High School in Big Lake. He participated in both football and track. He was able to continue his track career at Mc Murry College and earned a Bachelor of Science degree. He went on and earned a Master's Degree from Sul Ross.

Don Wright worked for ECISD for 38 years. He spent 20 years coaching at Crockett Junior High, 1 year serving as assistant principal at Blackshear Junior High, 6 ½ years as a Supervisor of Physical Education and Selected Sports. Don spent 6 years as Transportation Coordinator, 4 years as Supervisor of Girls' Sports and 2 years as Director of Athletics. Don Wright has tirelessly served to educate coaches about track and field and how to run a meet. He has been an integral part of the West Texas Relays since 1962 and has served as a track official for the UIL State Track and Field meet since 1982. Don officiates or is the meet director for numerous track and field meets around the area including the Regional and Area meets.

Don Wright was the honoree at the 56<sup>th</sup> West Texas Relays. A guardian of the West Texas Track tradition he is warmly referred to as Mr. Track and Field.