

Clifford E. “Gene” Wells

Born: 1925 in Ft. Smith, Arkansas

Died October 30, 1983, Hobbs, New Mexico

High school in Ada and MacAlester, Oklahoma, graduating from the latter in 1943.

College: Oklahoma A&M (now known as Oklahoma State University) 1949.

High School

- Selected as one of McAlester’s first athletes to participate in the Oklahoma High All-Star Game.
- Duane Fisher, longtime Hobbs High coach, was Wells’ football coach in high school.

College

- 1943-1946 Served in the Air Force during World War II.
- Played football for Oklahoma A&M
- 1949-1953 Started his teaching and coaching career at Ryan High School (Oklahoma), serving as principal, football, basketball, and baseball coach at the high school.
- 1953 Taught and coached at Houston Junior High School in Hobb, New Mexico.
- 1954 Served as a junior varsity football and varsity track coach for Hobbs High School.
- In 1960, Gene became the first Athletic Director in the school system’s history. Under Well’s 23 years as an athletic director, the Hobbs High School athletic program was a first-class operation and successful. But he also took extraordinary pride in his achievement as a classroom teacher. He strived for excellence, and he felt rewarded at the number of former Hobbs Eagle student-athletes who continued their education on athletic and academic scholarships.
 - It was at this time that Gene began putting together what has become recognized as one of the finest public school athletic programs and facilities in the country.
 - 1964 Under his leadership, the Hobbs School’s District built the 13,000 seat Watson Stadium, which when completed provided the largest seating for a high school football stadium in New Mexico. The stadium had a two-story press box.
 - Since then, Hobbs High School has built a 13-court tennis complex, an indoor swimming pool, a new field house, a three-field baseball complex, new girls’ gym, two racquetball courts, and became one of the first schools in the Southwest to install an all-weather track.
 - 1954-1976 Served as Head Track Coach for Hobbs High School and built the program into one of the best in the state. His Eagles’ track teams won five state track championships – 1965, 1966, 1972, 1973, & 1974, and in the top three team finished numerous times.
 - Served as an assistant football coach for Hobbs High School.
 - The Gene Wells Relays have been held annually for many years.

- 1983 after Gene's death, Assistant Athletic Director, James Richards, stated that "Gene just sort of an institution around here. There's going to be a big void."

Honors

- 1968 Southwest High School Track Coach of the Year
- 1974 New Mexico Athletic Director of the Year
- 1975 National High School Track Coach of the Year nominee and the distinguished Service Award by the National High School Coaches Association.
- 1984 Inducted into the New Mexico High School Coaches Association (NMHSCA) Hall of Honor in

Community

- Served as President of the Hobbs Teachers' Association
- Represented District 4AAAA on the athletic committee for the New Mexico Activities Association.
- Served as the President of NMHSCA.

Family

- Wife, Mary ... married February 27, 1946
- Daughter, Cynthia
- Sons, Craig, Kevin, and Scott