Fuquay-Varina High School Athletic Booster Club

Deb Clarke - Field Naming Request

WCPSS Policy 9300 - Facilities Naming
Tina Morgan - BOE - 12/3/2025 - RE: Field Naming

Thank you, Dr. Thompson.

Good evening, Superintendent Taylor, Chairperson , and Board Members

Fuquay-Varina High School continues to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our integration at Bengal Boulevard highlighting significant people, events, and milestones that have shaped our school and community's legacy. This evening, on behalf of the Fuquay-Varina High School Athletics Booster Club, it is my privilege to present our request for your approval to name the Fuquay-Varina High School softball field, Deb Clarke Field. This honor recognizes a legendary and influential teacher and coach who served our school for 29 years.

Deb Clarke - who is with us here this evening - represents a legacy of extraordinary impact. Her influence reaches more than 5,000 students she taught in the classroom and over 400 student-athletes she coached on the softball diamond. Her accomplishments as both teacher and coach are unmatched in our school's history, and she was rightfully inducted into the Fuquay-Varina High School Athletics Hall of Fame in 2023.

Coach Clarke was, first and foremost, an exceptional Physical Education teacher. She served as a valued member of the Physical Education Department and as a Department Chair. Colleagues attest that she consistently supported their daily work and contributed meaningfully to the School's Leadership Team, always championing student learning, accountability, and preparation for life.

Her coaching career is defined by excellence and consistency. When Coach Clarke began her career in 1995, it was the final year of slow pitch softball. Beginning in 1996, Wake County Public Schools made the transition to fast pitch softball. This shift propelled her career and set the stage for nearly three decades of achievement. As Head Softball Coach at Fuquay-Varina High School, Coach Clarke led the program to:

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- 438 wins and 125 losses, a 76% winning percentage
- 29 Consecutive playoff appearances
- 14 conference championships
- 5 Final Four appearances
- 1 Easter Regional Championship

She earned extensive recognition, including:

- 12 Conference Coach of the Year awards
- 2 Eastern Region Coach of the Year awards
- Fuquay-Varina High School Coach of the Year across all sports

Thirty-one of her players continued on to compete at the collegiate level. Her legacy is carried forward not only by her accolades but by the countless students and athletes whose lives she shaped.

Coach Clarke once reflected: "I'm glad I took this head coaching job and got the chance to help build the softball program. The program has kept me here--once a Bengal, Always a Bengal--and I've never wanted to go anywhere else." She has consistently credited the strong softball tradition in the Fuquay-Varina community--along with dedicated fan support and parent involvement--as essential to the program's success.

As the athletic booster club president of Fuquay-Varina High School, I confirm that this request meets the requirements of the WCPSS Board Policy 9300 for naming a school facility. I can also confirm that the Fuquay-Varina High School Athletics Booster Club will work with WCPSS Facilities staff to ensure any fiscal implications associated with this naming will be funded by the Booster Club through private donations.

At this time, we respectfully request the Board's approval to name the Fuquay-Varina High School softball field "Deb Clarke Field" in honor of legacy educator and coach, Deb Clarke.

Thank you for your consideration of our proposal and all you do on behalf of our public schools.

Tina Morgan
FVHS Athletic Booster President