

Our names are Maria Valdez and Alicia Baker. We are 2004 graduates of Hoover High School, and we come before you tonight to ask you to name the football field at Cara McGrane Stadium after Dan McClannahan.

Dan served as Activities Director at Hoover from 1999 to 2010, after which he served the district as the Wellness Center Coordinator. Dan was passionate about many things, but several things stood above all others: his family, teaching, coaching football, and Hoover High School. His football coaching colleagues voted him into the Iowa Football Coaches Hall of Fame in 1998 for his many contributions to high school football in Iowa; he later received the Distinguished Service Award from the IFCA.

Although he had a big impact on his fellow coaches, he had an even bigger impact on the students at Hoover High School. He was a big man, with big ideas and an even bigger heart. Early in his tenure at Hoover, he instituted an athletic study table, and worked with Drake University to provide tutors so that student-athletes wouldn't fall through the cracks academically. He also started an ambassador program to improve the image of Hoover to "outsiders".

One of Dan's lasting legacies at Hoover can be seen in improved facilities. He oversaw the renovation of both gyms and of the weight room, as well as the construction of the outdoor athletic complex, which includes baseball, softball, and tennis facilities in addition to a walking path. He personally saw to it that the football field was maintained, from seeding to watering to mowing.

But while he took great pride in Hoover's facilities, he never lost sight of the fact that it was all about the kids. He wanted Hoover's students to have the best – not just the best facilities, but the best opportunities. He pushed for the addition of a bowling team at Hoover, so that more kids could be a part of a high school team. And he was one of the driving forces behind an extended playoff season so that more teams could experience post-season play.

Dan McClannahan did many things in his career, but at the center of it all was a gentle, caring person that loved working with kids. He was a great coach, friend, teacher, and mentor. His door was always open for everyone, and he always had time to talk, regardless of how hectic his day was.

Dan McClannahan was taken from us far too soon, when he passed away following a heart attack on June 14, 2012, but his spirit lives on in thousands of students and coaches whose lives he touched over the years. On September 19, 2014, Hoover basketball alumni, both men and women, will hold the first Dan McClannahan Memorial Fundraiser Event; the money raised will enable the Hoover Athletic Department to fulfill more of the dream Dan had for Hoover.

So, in closing, I'm asking you to help us ensure that Dan's legacy lives on by naming the football field at Cara McGrane Stadium in honor of Mr. Dan McClannahan.