

Tribute to Chuck Buettner

We gather today with heavy hearts to honor the life and legacy of Chuck Buettner—a proud Delta College and Sacramento State alumnus, a dedicated athlete, and a pillar of the track and field community. Chuck was a graduate of Amos Alonzo Stagg High School in Stockton CA, where he set the school's Long Jump record in 1964. Chuck was inducted into the Stockton Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009 and the Sac/Joaquin Section Hall of Fame in 2022.

As a jumper under the legendary Coach Merv Smith, Chuck built a foundation rooted in discipline, passion, and respect for the sport. But it was his lifelong commitment beyond competition that truly defined him. For 55 years, Chuck served as a USATF and CTSA official and starter, becoming a steady and trusted presence at countless meets. His voice at the starting line signaled more than the beginning of a race...it represented fairness, consistency, and care for every athlete on the track.

Chuck was known not only for his professionalism, but for his storytelling...stories that carried history, humor, and wisdom. He had a way of bringing people together, making you feel part of something bigger. He mentored countless up-and-coming starters, sharing his knowledge generously and helping shape the next generation with patience and pride.

In addition to his dedication to Youth, High School and Collegiate Track and Field, Chuck was a dedicated volunteer and leader of the Special Olympics program. Serving as a Starter and Official for not only local events, but throughout Northern California and Nevada for over 25 years. With the Nor Cal Summer Games holding a special spot in Chuck's heart.

This very meet stands as a reflection of his impact. Chuck played a vital role in bringing officials together, strengthening the sense of community that defines this sport. His absence will be deeply felt, but his influence will continue in every race started with integrity, in every official he guided, and in every story retold with a smile.

Chuck Buettner leaves behind more than memories, he leaves a legacy of dedication, mentorship, and love for track and field. He will be missed tremendously but never forgotten.