GENE WELLMAN

 Gene Wellman came to Chabot when the school first opened in 1962. He coached baseball there from 1963 to 1976, compiling a record of 333 wins against only 145 losses. His teams won the Golden Gate Conference championship in 1968, ’74, ’75 and ’76 and were runners-up every year from 1969 to1973.

 He also was the defensive coordinator and line coach for the Gladiators’ very successful football program during those years.

 While still coaching baseball and football, Wellman took over as Chabot’s athletic director in 1968 and served in that capacity for 26 years until his retirement in 1994. Under his administration, Chabot won the GGC’s Iron Man Trophy – awarded to the school with the most points for all team sports – seven out of eight years. Renamed the All-Sports Trophy when women’s sports were added to the conference, Chabot won that 10 times.

 Wellman even volunteered his time to assist John Brosnan coaching the Castro Valley High football team in 1976.

 Never one to hold still, Wellman became a major league baseball scout after his retirement from Chabot, first for Kansas City and later for the Houston Astros. The Astros named Wellman their “Scout of the Year” in 2005.

 As a Castro Valley resident before Castro Valley High was built, Wellman was a three-sport letterman (baseball, football and basketball) at Hayward High in the late 1940s. He played the same three sports at Napa Junior College and at College of the Pacific (now UOP), where he graduated in 1953.

 After two years in the Navy, Wellman got his first teaching job at Lodi High, where he coached junior varsity football, basketball and baseball before taking over the varsity baseball position. He was at Lodi for six years before moving his family to Castro Valley and taking over the Chabot job. Gene is in both the Lodi and Chabot Sports Halls of Fame.

 Chabot College gave Wellman the ultimate honor last year when it renamed its baseball diamond “Gene Wellman Field” at an April dedication ceremony.

 Gene and Beverly, his wife of 62 years, lived in Castro Valley from 1962 to 1995 when they moved to Danville to be closer to their grandchildren. They raised three daughters and a son in Castro Valley.