



History of the Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic

Gene Cusic was born and raised in Aurora, Illinois. He graduated from East Aurora High School in 1946 and graduated from Aurora University in 1952. He was an outstanding Aurora University athlete. As a football player, he received numerous conference awards and was named team MVP for three consecutive years. Gene also played one year of baseball at Aurora University and was selected as athlete of the year in 1950-1951. He was inducted into the Spartan Hall of Fame in 1991. After graduation, Gene pursued a career in education. Upon retirement in 1988, he moved to Florida and soon joined the staff at Lee County Parks and Recreation as an Athletic Program Manager. In 1990, Gene established the Collegiate Classic, which originally hosted only college softball teams.

The Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic Today

The annual Lee County Parks & Recreation Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic is an event that offers men's NCAA Division III baseball and women's NCAA Division III/NAIA softball college and university teams an opportunity to participate in a tournament during their respective spring breaks. All baseball games are played at the Lee County Player Development Complex and Terry Park. All softball games are played at CenturyLink Sports Complex and North Collier Regional Park. Lee County Parks and Recreation is expecting up to 150 teams in Lee County, Florida starting the end of February and running through the end of March. The players often bring their families and friends; all of which stay at local hotels, visit local restaurants, attractions, entertainment and beaches. The tournament's objective is to provide an opportunity for teams to compete before their season begins, promote great competition, as well as provide a positive environment for players, coaches and spectators.

