



Stuart J. Smith

September 22, 1928 - April 10, 2010

Stuart Smith, 81 years, passed away Saturday, April 10, 2010 in the Hospice of Northwest Ohio Center in Perrysburg, Ohio.

Stu was born, September 22, 1928 in Elmhurst, IL to George and Florence (Johns) Smith. He was graduated from the Iron Mountain High School, Class of 1946.

Following high school, Stu enlisted in the United States Navy and served until 1948 when he was honorably discharged. He enrolled at Stout State University and earned a teaching degree in 1953.

Stu married Phyllis Amacher of Medford, WI in 1953. He is survived by his wife and three sons, Tom (Nan); Bruce (Terri); and, Terry (Leanne). He leaves four grandchildren: Nikki, Ryne, Samantha and Nick. Also surviving is Stu's brother Bob of Chicago, along with seven nieces and nephews.

Stu taught for one year (53-54) at Walworth, WI where he also coached basketball, football, and baseball. He then taught for seven years (54-61) at Vulcan, MI where he coached cross-country, track, and basketball, winning conference, district, and regional titles.

In 1961 Stu moved to Crystal Falls where he taught industrial education and

United States history, and coached until his retirement in 1986. He also coached cross-country and track. He initiated and organized a summer "All-Comers" track meet - with participants coming from all over the Midwest. Basketball was a large influence on Stu's life; and, it was basketball for which he was most widely known. It was his life's work. His teams won numerous conference and district titles with regional titles in '75 and '81. The '81 team lost in the Michigan state championship game.

Stu was a member of BCAM (Basketball Coaches Association of Michigan). He was inducted into the BCAM Hall of Fame in 1986, the U.P. Sports Hall of Fame in 1987, and the Michigan Coaches Hall of Fame.

He was also a member of the Elks for 30+ years and the Crystal Falls Lion's Club.

Upon retirement from Crystal Falls Forest Park in 1986, Stu moved to Lakeland, Florida. He continued to coach basketball at Santa Fe Catholic High School for the next three years. In 2002, he moved to Ohio to watch two grandchildren become successful high school basketball players. Both moved on to play in the Big Ten, at Indiana and Purdue, respectively.

Ever the competitor, Stu was an outstanding golfer. He shot his age four times at 76, 79, 80 and 80.

Friends may visit at the Coyle Funeral Home, 1770 S. Reynolds Road on Thursday, April 15, from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Memorial services will be held at 5:30 p.m. Pastor Timothy Carr will officiate. Internment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made in the form of a donation to the Hospice of Northwest Ohio.

Tribute Wall



“ Dad,

You are the greatest dad in the world. I have never respected anyone as much as you on this whole planet.

You always did it right. Remember the time You bought two cases of beer at Kohl's in Green Bay and they only charged you for one? And on the way home we stopped and bought a dozen ears of corn and you only got eleven? Well, as a young boy I watched you actually write a check to Kohl's for the missed case of beer and never bother to worry about the corn you were shorted. That was in the 1970's and I was watching. I knew then that you were an amazing man! Who is that honest and that thoughtful? And you did so many of those types of things throughout your life to unknowingly be a great example for us boys. As a man of principle and integrity I watched you be criticised many times for your teaching or coaching style. I don't ever remember you saying a bad word about anyone. How did you do that? Not even the toughest cases!

You always helped us on a moments notice, such as the time you and Bruce drove behind us to Minneapolis for Sam to arrive safely. You helped us by just being you. So many unforgettable loyal examples for the family.

As a coach you were so honorable. You competed hard and won more than you lost but who cares. What I saw was a man who had tremendous respect for opposing coaches, players, officials and the integrity of the game. You had so much integrity that your three sons do what you do!!!! I know how you felt when your friend Don Hill died. You took John and me to the funeral. I said to myself - look how much he loved a fierce opponent of his!

As a former player of yours I would like to say thank you for being the coach you were to all of your former players in all the sports you coached.

Remember what you said to me when I got into coaching? You said: it's not what you take with you, it's what you leave behind. Dad, what you leave behind is absolutely amazing. Boy were you right.

You were a great husband too. 57 years married to mom is the best example for us as well. Even in the last month I felt that you were more concerned about her than you were about yourself - it was always that way for us.

Nick and Sam have a great love for you as well. You have been the best grandpa for them. Thank you for being awesome to them. They are both so pumped up about memories of you! They want to drive the golf cart!! Whenever we get donuts we will think of you:)

I know a lot of your friends have passed before you. Hope you can play scratch golf now that there are no flaws where you are and your friends are all there too.

So even though many people will remember you as a Hall of Fame coach, we will remember you as a Hall of Fame husband, dad, grandpa and friend.

May God put his loving arms around you and take care of you!!

Terry###imported-begin##Terry tjsmith@alma.edu##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with the Smith family!###imported-begin##Ryan DeHaan##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Phyllis, Bruce, Terri, Nikki, Ryne and Family, Our deepest condolences go out to you with the loss of your father, husband, grampa, as well as friend. Such a beautiful spirit Stu had. His suffering has now ended. He leaves behind broken hearts, but such wonderful memories to dwell on. We've loved and respected Stu for so many years. He will be so missed. With sorrow and Love, Phil, Karen, Beau & Storm Norton###imported-begin###Karen Norton karen_norton2@owens.edu###imported-end##*

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Aunt Phyllis, Tom, Bruce, Terry and family, Thoughts of Uncle Stu are always pleasant and bring to mind his great smile and quick wit. He was such a pleasure to visit with and my heart is with you all during this time. I live in Phoenix Az now and am unable to pay my last respects, but I want you all to know that I was very fond of Stu and proud that he was my Uncle. I have stories I could tell where I met people as far as Naples Italy who told me Uncle Stu touched their lives as they grew up. What a good man! Love, Kathy###imported-begin###Kathy Smith Foor kjfoor54@MSN.Com###imported-end##*

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *We love and we will miss you. My dad loved you very much. My prayers are with you and your family.###imported-begin###Cindy Smith(Scroggin) cindylou82065@comcast.net###imported-end##*

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ please accept my sympathies. Great work ethic by example, he gave 100% and demanded likewise as a coach. One of the few men I truly respected.##imported-begin##Eric Nyholm##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. I coach 5th grade basketball for Florence and I still use the knowlege I gained from Coach Smith.##imported-begin##Peter Dishaw dishawp@michigan.gov##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Phyllis, Tom, Bruce and Tucka

I was so saddened to hear about the loss of Stu. He was a wonderful man, dad, husband, teacher and friend to all. I will always have fond memories of him and in fact I still have the "Basketball Jones" wood art that he made for me and Soph! Can you believe it??

Your family will always have a special place in my heart... may all the loving thoughts and memories of such a special man give you comfort and peace now....

with love and sympathy

Sherrie Simbob Selissen##imported-begin##Sherrie (Simbob) Selissen ckselissen@aol.coom##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ My condolences to Mrs. Smith and family. I remember that Mr. Smith coached our Vulcan "Giant Killers" basketball team to many a victory.##imported-begin##Barb (LaVoie) Allen##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Smith Family:
My wife and I offer our condolences on the loss of Stu. I feel privileged to know him and your Mom, and they were great role models to the young coaches and players of their era. Stu was a great competitor during the competitions, but a friend after. That was a valuable lesson to me. I know he was ill for a while, and now he is in a better place. Take care and be proud of all Stu accomplished in his life.##imported-begin##Jerry Racine ##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Just to let you all know I and I'm sure many of the staff at Forest park are thinking about Stu and family I thought I would send my condolences as well as a remark I picked up from my cousins family who also lost their dad recently. " Death leaves heartache No one can heal, Love leaves a Memory No one can steal. On April 15th, we lost dad Saying goodbye to such a wonderful man May be the hardest thing we had to do He may be gone, But our memories of his love Will last forever in our hearts." Wish all of you the best... Jerome Waldron##imported-begin##Jerome Waldron jeromewaldron@att.net##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Phyllis, Tom, Bruce and Terry: I'm so sorry to hear of Stu's passing. Bruce told us of his illness and suffering last summer, so I know it's been a long difficult time for you. Peace to all of you.
Tracy###imported-begin##Tracy Grattan Crowe
crowete@gmail.com###imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ It is with great sadness that we hear of the passing of Coach Stuart Smith. He shall be remembered as a great coach, a fine man and a wonderful dad and grandfather. He will be surely missed and our sympathy and compassion is directed to his wonderful family. May he always be remembered for the love, joy, knowledge and laughter that he displayed to us all. God bless and rest in peace.###imported-begin##Richard A. Mills###imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ My sympathy to the Smith family. I got to know Stu through refereeing for him at Crystal Falls and then coaching against him when I coached at Republic Michigamme. Stu was a great man and fun to be with and a very tough competitor. I was glad I got to know him.###imported-begin##Earl Eliason###imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Mrs. Smith, Tom, Bruce, Terry
I was deeply saddened to hear that Coach Smith has passed away. Please accept my sympathies. Coach Smith was one of my favorite teachers, coaches and people in Crystal Falls. From being his Milwaukee Journal paperboy to a high school student and varsity basketball member, I have great memories (still have the \$2 bills he gave me for a Christmas bonus when I was his paperboy) of him. I am privileged to have known him both as Mr. Smith and Coach Smith.##imported-begin##Mark Bender##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Phylis, Tom, Bruce, Terry and Family,

Sorry to hear of Stu's passing. His years of dedicated service to the youth of our community are remembered here by many. Please accept the sympathy of the Valesano family. We will remember all of you in prayer.

Mark Valesano##imported-begin##Mark Valesano marktval@yahoo.com##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Phyllis, Tom, Bruce and Terry:*

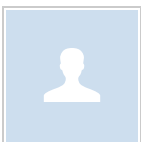
I am saddened to learn that we have lost "Coach". May you take comfort in knowing he is at peace and rest.

I will always cherish the things he taught us back in the late 60's...so long ago but yet so fresh in my mind. The wood shop, the old locker room, the stairs down to the gym, his smile and compassion. He was the best as a teacher, coach and person that a student could hope for. We are all lucky to have known him, learned from him and been touched by him.

The past basketball season I found myself checking on Purdue to see his grandson play and just thinking how proud he must be yet also how lucky Tom, Bruce and Terry were to have such a great Dad and you Phyllis, such a wonderful husband.

Goodbye Coach, I know I will see you on the first tee down the road and we will have some laughs.##imported-begin##Mike Webb mwebb@bankfnb.com##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *He will always be remembered as you share the stories and the memories of how he lived his life and how very much he meant, may you find comfort...And, throughout this difficult time, may you also know the deep sympathy and concern that is felt for you and all your family. I have fought the fine fight, I have run the course to the finish, I have observed the faith.-2Timothy 4:7. As for me, I will lie down that I may sleep; I shall certainly awake, for Jehovah himself keeps supporting me. -Psalms 3:5##imported-begin##Magallon Family trish.magallon@gmail.com##imported-end##*

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Our deepest condolences for your loss. May your memories give you comfort... may your faith give you peace...may your love for one another give you strength. Our thoughts and prayers continue for your family.

Karen and Ryan Wolf##imported-begin##*The Wolf Family*##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Every since I was a little kid I always looked forward to seeing Uncle Stu! I looked forward to every visit. In recent years I enjoyed and will treasure our periodic talks about his grandkids in basketball. It is truly a sad day, but I find comfort in he is at peace and reunited with his parents. RIP Uncle Stu.##imported-begin##*Bobby Smith and Family*##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ To the Smith Family,

*Condolences on the loss of Stu. He was one of a kind.
I enjoyed coaching against him. We had some good battles.
My prayers and thoughts are with all of you*

Gordy LeDuc##imported-begin##*Gordy LeDuc*##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Phyllis, Tom, Bruce and Terry - Just learned of Stus passing. So sorry to hear of his loss. Please accept our sincerest condolences.

I have only fond memories of him during my short time while i helped take stats for basketball games and also during my painful years in the History classroom - a subject i never really did like. When he learned that i was going to be heading to MTU for engineering, he told me i was wasting my time and that i should have been a salesman. He was right - and i am! I've always remembered those words.

Phyllis - You also had a great impact on my life during that one short class of Boys Foods. What a great class for all young men (and probably women too). I still enjoy applying the skills i learned with you!

Again, sorry to hear of your loss, but he will be remembered always.

Sincerely,

*Dean, Rhonda and Chelsea Sandri
2525 Costero Magestuoso
San Clemente, CA 92673###imported-begin###Dean Sandri dsandri
@cox.net###imported-end###*

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Phyllis and Sons,

I was so sorry to hear of of Stu's passing. My wish for you right now is peace and the hope that time will restore many happy memories to you of all the great times you had together.

Sincerely, Sue Schenk Drobny, Marquette, MI##imported-begin##Sue Schenk Drobny yoopyak@charter.net##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ My sincere condolences to Coach Smith's family! I graduated with

Terry! And my children's father (Mark Danielson) made the last second shot to send the 1975 Trojan Varisity b-ball team to the quarter finals!!!! God Bless your family.....and Mrs. Smith was the best teacher ever as well! Love from Jayne and her

family!##imported-begin##Jayne (Baker)(Danielson) Schmidt jayn_s chmidt@hotmail.com##imported-end##

April 10, 2010 at 12:00 AM