



Larry Stark

JUN 13, 1942 - JUN 30, 2015



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Larry Stark

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Longtime Lorain educator and Coach, Larry Stark passed away Tuesday, June 30, 2015 after a brief illness. He was born June 13, 1942 in Elyria to beloved parents, Norman and Carol Stark.

He graduated from Elyria High School in 1960 and Kent State University in 1964. Born and raised in Elyria, Oh, Larry moved to Lorain in 1977 when he married the “love of his life”, Val and settled in the home “on the shores of old Lake Erie” that he loved so dearly.

Larry began his teaching career with the Lorain City Schools at Masson Jr. High in 1968 and transferred to Southview High School when it opened in 1969. He taught Health and Physical Education at Southview for 35 years, retiring in 2000.

“Coach” Stark was a highly successful Basketball and Tennis coach at Lorain Southview High School. He began as an Assistant Basketball Coach to longtime friend, George Simonovich, and took over the head coaching position in 1975. In his 25 years as head coach, he was Conference Coach and Lorain County Division I Coach of the Year six times. He coached the prestigious Ohio North All-Stars to victory over the South All-Stars in 1981. He was so proud of his Lorain Southview High School winning several basketball Sectional and District championships, but even more proud of his “little school from South Lorain” making it to the State Regional Finals three times. As great as his basketball tenure was, his record as the Saints Tennis coach is even more amazing. He served as the Saints Tennis Coach his entire tenure, 1969-2000, compiling 13 conference championships and over 300 career tennis wins. He was selected Conference Tennis Coach of the Year 13 times. He dearly loved the families of South Lorain and was loyal to them and Southview High School for 35 years. So many of his former players and students not only remember him as a great teacher and coach, but as a mentor, dear friend and “father figure”. He will always be remembered as a man of integrity who inspired so many people.



Obituary

Larry Stark

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In his youth, Larry was an all-star baseball player for the Elyria Little League program, and for Elyria High School. He played basketball in Jr. High and for the Elyria Pioneers in his High School years. He also boxed “Golden Gloves” in college. But tennis was his main love. He was inducted into the Elyria Sports Hall of Fame in 1980 for his tennis prowess. He was classified as “perhaps Elyria High’s greatest tennis player” – winning the only Ohio Tennis crown in school history in 1959 with Doubles partner Jim Guest. He won 38 straight singles matches for the Pioneers –which stands to this day as a school record. He went on to star at Kent State University, taking the Mid-Am Singles title in 1962 and Doubles championship in 1963. He won 10 Elyria City Men’s championships in Singles, 12 in Doubles and six County titles. Larry was also inducted into the Lorain Sports Hall of Fame in 2000 and in March of this year was inducted into the Lorain County Coach’s Hall of Fame.

Larry is survived and will be missed dearly by his loving and devoted wife of 38 years, Valerie (nee McConihe), four children: Wayne (Karen) Stark, David (Karen) Stark, Courtney Vail (Eric) and Michael (Heather) Stark. Grandsons: Connor, Cameron and Mason Stark. Granddaughters: Sierra Vail and Alexis and Natalie Stark. Beloved nieces and nephews, Celeste (Ray) DelBrocco, Allan (Barbara) McConihe, Jim (Amy) McConihe, Allison Burdewick and Paul Takacs. Several Great-Nieces and Great-Nephews, and dearly loved “sisters”, Alayne Gordon and Barbara McConihe. He was preceded in death by his loving parents Norman and Carol Stark, in-laws Allan and Thelma McConihe and brother-in-law, Thomas McConihe.

Visitation and a Celebration of Larry’s life will be held Sunday, July 19th from 1-6 p.m. in the Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center, 1110 Cooper Foster Park Rd., Amherst.

The Lorain Sports Hall of Fame will have a special service beginning at 6:00 p.m., immediately followed by a family memorial service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Friendship Animal Protective League, Elyria OH., or the Love-A-Stray Cat Rescue in Avon, Oh.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.dovinreberjones.com



Events

Larry Stark

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Visitation

 **Sunday**, July 19, 2015

 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM ET


 **Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center**

1110 Cooper Foster Park Road, Amherst OH 44001



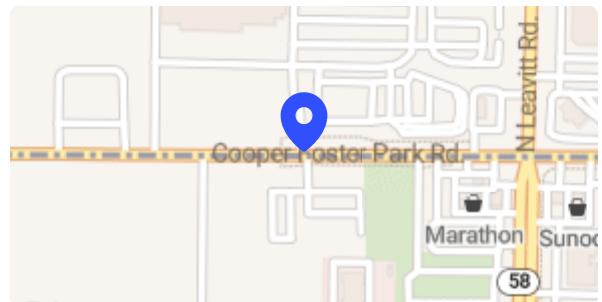
Lorain Sports Hall of Fame Service

 **Sunday**, July 19, 2015

 6:00 PM ET


 **Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center**

1110 Cooper Foster Park Road, Amherst OH 44001



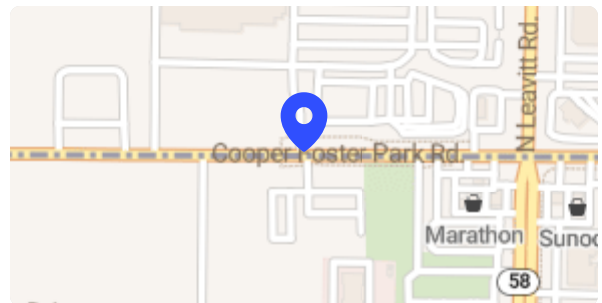
Memorial Service

 **Sunday**, July 19, 2015

 6:00 PM ET

 **Dovin and Reber Jones Funeral & Cremation Center**

1110 Cooper Foster Park Road, Amherst OH 44001





Tribute Wall

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TH

Troy Howell posted:

Val (and family): I played tennis for "Coach Stark" for four years and graduated in 1981. I will always cherish my memories of him and will remember his words of encouragement and the way he showed us players how to conduct ourselves with dignity and self-respect by his example. I was proud to be part of a few of his conference championships and will honor the memory of Coach Stark. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family in this very difficult time. May God hold your hand and watch over you until you see him again. Very saddened, Troy Howell

July 7 at 5:24 AM

RK

Ronny Kryc posted:

Mrs. Stark and family...I am so sorry for your loss. I have never had a person influence my life the way coach did. He gave me direction when I was lost and I am so grateful for his interest in my life and his inspiration.

July 3 at 7:17 PM

KW

Karen Hancock Wehman posted:

Our sympathy to Larry's family Fellow EHS 1960 grads Alan and Karen Hancock Wehman

July 2 at 1:08 PM



Gayleene Baldwin posted:

What a great person. Never had him as a coach but my brother did and knew him from that and also Southview. So sorry for your loss and pray for the family. Class of 79 Gayleene Baldwin

July 2 at 5:32 AM

NB

Nadine Burichdonat posted:

Val, I am so very sorry for your loss. You and Coach Stark had such a great love story. Coach Stark was the best. He always cared about us, as students, as kids, as people. He was a South Lorain guy even if he didn't grow up there.. I loved having him as my tennis coach. He cared about us. He was so much more than just a coach. He was a mentor, a friend and even a dad to us. He is such a huge part of the best memories I have from Southview and they all have a smile in them. My heart breaks for you, Val. I was blessed to know Coach Stark. He made a huge difference in so many of our lives. May his memory be eternal.

July 2 at 4:58 AM



Tribute Wall

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JJ

Jack Janosik posted:

When I was a boy, growing up on Emerson Ct. in Elyria, I had the chance to meet Larry, some 7 or 8 years older, and his parents. They lived down the street and Larry was already making a name for himself on the tennis courts and as an athlete overall. When I began to play tennis, I would admirably watch him play tennis at West Rec. and from those early days a friendship grew. My gang of friends, all from Emerson Ct., envied Larry. He was so good! If we weren't playing tennis, we would sometimes shoot hoops or throw the football around. Entering high school, I decided to follow Larry and play tennis. After all, he had been a State Champ and I, too, wanted to be a star player. As I graduated from high school, Larry then helped me get a tennis scholarship at Kent where he had been, of course, a star player. In fact, Larry let me accompany him to Kent one beautiful summer day so he could present me to the Kent coach, a former Elyria tennis and basketball star. In the following years, Larry and I won a few doubles championships in local tournaments. How grand was it now for me to stand on the court with my mentor, someone who had taken me under his wings when we were just boys growing up on a dead end street. Larry Stark was and will continue to be a part of my life. Thanks, Larry. Jack Janosik

July 2 at 4:37 AM

AS

Amy Deleeuw (Shipwash) posted:

Val, I am so sorry for your loss. Coach Stark was such a dear man and fixture on the high school scene. He always seemed to love his job and we loved watching him in action. He gave us so many great high school memories and the respect we have for him is unending. Our hearts are with you during this difficult time.

July 2 at 4:31 AM

JR

John Ramsey posted:

When I think of Coach Stark, one word comes to mind. "Authentic". I had the privilege of not only playing basketball for Mr. Stark, I was also his teachers aid. There is not a memory I have of him that doesn't end with a smile. He will be missed.

July 2 at 4:14 AM



Tribute Wall

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NA

Nicholas Ajdinovich posted:

Coach Stark was more than a coach to many of us at Southview. He was a friend, counselor, motivator and he was always willing to help in any way that was needed. We must have all drove him nuts because I always remember him chugging down the Maalox in the coach's offices. My prayers are with his family especially Val at this time. May he rest in peace. Nick Ajdinovich

July 1 at 4:14 PM

SV

Sonya Velez posted:

Sending hugs and prayers to the stark family. Larry made an impact on all our lives. never a dull moment. loved teasing him in school about keeping the wooden hall pass in the back of his pants. He will be truly missed by many Sonya Velez

July 1 at 2:41 PM

TG

Tim Gebhardt July 19 at 6:46 AM

Once again, my heartfelt condolences to Val and family. Larry relished in the underdog role and was a great role model to everyone he coached and taught. I not only enjoyed my post-game interviews with Coach Stark but became a great admirer of him. Rest In Peace Coach.

PR

Paulette(Hanko-Hammonds) Resar July 2 at 1:27 PM

Val, Larry was loved and will be missed by all. I know the next months will be hard. But, know that you are in my thoughts and prayers.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Larry by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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