



James Edward Anderson

April 20, 1937 - March 4, 2024

James Edward Anderson passed away on March 4, 2024— about one month before his 87th birthday. Jim, or Coach Jimmy, as he was known by many, has left a lasting mark on the lives of countless individuals through his work as a coach, husband, father, grandfather, brother, church member, and friend.

Jim was born in Britton, South Dakota to Harry & Mary Anderson, the third son of their five children (Jack, Joe, James, Jerome, and Jill.) During his preschool years, the family moved to Hoquiam, Washington and he attended St. Mary's Catholic grade school and Hoquiam High School. He was the idyllic young man and son as he managed to become student body resident, a three-sport star athlete in football, basketball, and baseball, worked several jobs, and juggled those responsibilities with help in raising his four-year-old sister Jill after his mother Mary died when he was only 15.

After graduation, Jim was spotted playing basketball while attending Grays Harbor Jr. College by OSU asst. football coach Jerry Long— and mentioned to Slat Gill that there was a feisty little guard in Aberdeen that could really help the Beavers. This was the beginning of his legacy at Oregon State University— he signed a full-ride basketball scholarship in 1957, which led to him fulfilling roles first as a player, then as freshman coach, an assistant coach to Paul Valenti, Ralph Miller's head assistant and finally in 1989 as the head coach. Many of Oregon State's great players during those years credit Jim for his

untiring pursuit of them to play for the Beavers and he was regarded as a second father to several. Other coaching opportunities presented themselves over the years but Jim's love for Oregon State and Corvallis kept him committed.

Jim only ventured away from Oregon State for two years right after earning his Master's Degree to teach and coach at Newberg High. He moved, with his wife Fifi Quisenberry whom he met while working as a TA in her OSU health class. Their Catholic faith was an immediate bond in a marriage lasting almost 63 years. Jim and Fifi started their family in Newberg and shortly after, Jim was hired to his position at OSU working with Paul Valenti who succeeded Stats Gill as head coach. Jim and Fifi's family grew to include 4 children and his job as a recruiter took him away from home for weeks at a time, but his heart was always with his family. He had high expectations of his children to be good Catholics and good citizens and when mom reported that things were lax during his absence, there were consequences!

Some people like to win, and then there's Jimmy Anderson. Jim's athletic determination stayed strong, and inspired his children & players to give it their "all".. He was a fierce competitor - whether in a sports endeavor or a game of cards . He hated to lose....especially to the Ducks! Players talk about the notorious "hell week" of practice before these scheduled games. As the head Beaver basketball coach Jim's 1989-90 basketball team won co-champs of the Pac 12 Conference. He was awarded PAC 12 Coach of the Year & a finalist for District 1 Coach of the Year. Jim was also inducted into the Oregon State Hall of Fame and the PAC 12 Hall of Honor. Even in his retirement, Jim continued to be a faithful Beaver, attending basketball practice every day up until last year. He and Fifi had season tickets to OSU Football, Baseball, and Men's & Women's Basketball and they could often be seen at many other sporting events like wrestling matches, volleyball games, and the like. Jim's retirement years always began with daily Mass, crossword puzzles, and

Sudoku, working in his large garden, or socializing with a wide variety of long-time friends from college and his coaching days.

Jim is not only survived by his hard-earned athletic legacy, but by the loving and boisterous family that he cared for his whole life: wife Fifi; sons Steve (Tiffini) and Jeff (Melissa); daughters Kelly and Jill (KC); grandchildren Brittany, Elli, Ariel, Felicia, Emma, Jackson, Paige, James, Gina, Dina, Brooke, Maria, and Tommy; great-grandchildren Christian, Eva, Audrianna, and Alexander; siblings sister Jill (Steve) and brother Joseph.

A Funeral Mass will be held on March 16th at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 501 NW 25th, Corvallis at 11 AM and a Celebration of Life on the same day at 3:00 PM in Gill Coliseum on the Oregon State Campus. All are welcome to attend both services. Donations in Jim's honor can be made to the St. Vincent DePaul food Pantry at St. Mary's Catholic Church where Jim and Fifi volunteered their time for many years.

Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at www.McHenryFuneralHome.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Cemetery

Corvallis, OR

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

MAR 16. 11:00 AM.

St. Mary's Catholic Church
Corvallis, OR

Celebration of Life

MAR 16. 3:00 PM (PT)

Gill Coliseum
Corvallis, OR

Tribute Wall

JW

“ I was so sorry to hear of Jimmy's passing. While I didn't get to know him very well - mostly from Western View faculty get-togethers, I certainly admired him and all his family. Fifi, I can't tell you how much working with you meant to me - and getting to know your children - especially Jill and Jeff who I got to know better than the rest. I'd hoped to attend Jimmy's Mass and Memorial, but I had a prior commitment with friends who were coming here from out of town. Again, I'm so sorry for all of you that now have to continue without a good husband and father. John Wood

John Wood - April 03, 2024 at 05:50 PM

JF

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John Farrell - March 12, 2024 at 04:10 PM

JF

Jerry Long in middle top photo. Paul Valenti and Jimmy, with me on one of my visits.

john farrell - March 13, 2024 at 07:11 PM

JF

“ As a former Beaver football player (59-62) I would occasionally stop by the basketball office in Gill Coliseum and chat with Jimmy. He always asked how things were going with football and my life at school. The focus was never about himself. That was why he was such a great recruiter during his coaching years. He always focused on others. Over the following years during athletic events in Corvallis we might see each other and share some warm memories of years ago, most of which were filled with an abundance humor, vividly recalled by Jimmy. Warm thoughts to Fifi and her extended large family. John Farrell Portland



John Farrell - March 11, 2024 at 01:17 PM

“ The first time I met Jimmy Anderson he knocked out my front tooth, literally, when we collided mid court. I was playing for the OSU Rook (freshmen) team and he was playing for Claudia's Tavern of Portland. I don't remember if the refs called a foul on him or me, and I don't remember if we won or lost. For the next three years I knew Jimmy as Paul Valenti's assistant coach. Jimmy was always fair, upbeat, insightful, inspiring, and sometimes emotional. One memory from my sophomore year - We played UW in Seattle on a Friday night and had a televised game with WSU Saturday afternoon. We were scheduled to fly out of Sea Tac airport into Spokane, where we would have a bus waiting to drive us south to Pullman. Unfortunately Sea Tac was hit by a heavy snowstorm Friday night and all flights in or out were cancelled or delayed. So Paul and Jimmy arranged to have four Hertz rental cars delivered to our hotel hoping we would be able to get to Pullman by the 1:30 pm tip off. The four cars proceeded out of Seattle on snow-plowed Interstate 90. I was in car #3 with two other players and Jimmy driving. Ropes, our trainer, was driving car #1 with 3 players. Our coach, Paul, was driving car #2 with 3 players, and Corky, the team manager, was driving car #4 with 3 players. As we approached Snoqualmie Pass at ~70 mph, my teammate Terry Dreiswerd looked over his shoulder and saw a car about to overtake us in the left lane. Terry hollered "Jimmy, step on it, it's Corky trying to pass us!" Jimmy accelerated, then we saw it was a state policeman. Jimmy slowed down enough for the policeman to come alongside and through a loudspeaker blared "Where's your coach?". We motioned ahead. Then Jimmy, still shaking, pulled off to the shoulder and asked Terry to drive. We learned later the TV station in Seattle who was broadcasting the game had heard we were trying to get there by car, and had called the state police to detour us into Ellensburg, Washington where they had arranged for four small planes to fly us into Moscow, Idaho where a bus was waiting to drive the ten miles to Pullman. The state police caught up with Paul in car #2 but never caught up with Ropes in car #1. Ropes and his three players showed up in Pullman at half time. I can't remember if we won or lost but remember the trip vividly. After that the PAC-8 (officially the AAWU in those days)

decreed there would always be a travel day between conference games.

Ed Fredenburg - March 09, 2024 at 06:57 PM

BH

“ *It was an honor to know you, and to play maybe a very small role in your life. Brooks Hatch*

Brooks Eugene Hatch - March 08, 2024 at 11:49 PM

DC

“ *Fifi we were saddened to learn of Jimmy's passing as you both have always been examples to us of what it means to have a great relationship not only between spouses but with loving what you do. Since we are still in Yuma & unable to attend his memorial we wanted you to know your in our thoughts & prayers. Deon & Roger Cole*

Deon & Roger Cole - March 07, 2024 at 11:52 AM

SB

“ *Sorry to hear of Jim's passing but edified to read about his amazing life. In prayer for all of you!*

Sister Bernadette - March 06, 2024 at 06:11 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



McHenry Funeral Home - March 06, 2024 at 12:22 PM