



Lawrence F. "Coach" Harding Jr.

January 20, 1936 - November 5, 2007

HARDING Jr., Lawrence F. "Coach" age 71. November 5, 2007. Beloved husband of Kendra. Loving father of three sons: J.T., Lance, and the late Lee. Dear brother of Don Clair, Richard, and the late Chuck. Friday a celebration of Life Memorial service will be held at 1:00 p.m. at Grosse Pointe Memorial Presbyterian Church, 16 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms, with Reverend Peter Henry officiating. Memorials are suggested to Seasons Hospice, 27355 John R Road, Suite 100, Madison Heights, Michigan 48071.

Tribute Wall

DB

“ *Don Sorry to hear about Larry. Our prayers are with you. I last saw him at the last Denby Reunion. We haven't seen each other probably since we were 13 or 14 Dave Bade*

David Bade - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DA

“Kendra, J.T. and Lance, Merrie Gay and I are so sorry about Larry, and even more sorry that we can't be there for the celebration of his life. I have numerous memories of Larry, but four of the more humorous ones stand out for me so let me regale you with them. Back in the seventies, you might recall, Larry and I put together an over thirty basketball team in the Neighborhood Club League and, if memory serves, we won the championship once or twice. In one of our games we happened to be playing a team that had a center who was about 6'9" tall and weighed upwards of 290 lbs. During the game said center bodily plastered me to the floor with a forearm shiver and I, in turn, jumped up into my boxer's stance ready to do battle. I looked up at the guy and realized I was in over my head so I just turned around and ran down the floor. I heard Larry say... "you shouldn't have done that to Dave." The big guy just turned around and gave Larry that old finger sign that we all know so well. We proceed to trade a few baskets and about five minutes later I hear a big smack. I look over and see this huge guy flat on his back with Larry standing over him saying... "I told you not to do that to Dave." I just looked over said, "thank you Larry." He winked at me and we went about playing the rest of the game. He, I might add, didn't even get a foul called on him. During that same season and a different game the opposing team had a guard who was kind of fast and husky, but not a very good basketball player. He was constantly harassing some of our players with some uncalled for rough play. Larry let it go on for a little while until the guy started shoving him. Wrong thing to do...as Larry actually picked him up and threw him on his back from the foul line to past mid court. This guy actually got up to go after Larry, but he just said... "I don't think you want to make me mad." The ref actually kicked this guy out of the game and didn't call a foul on Larry. I came to the conclusion that the ref was a long lost relative or something. In that same time period, Larry and I refereed in the Neighborhood Club basketball leagues, mostly at the high school level. In one particular game the play became quite physical so we had to take control and call numerous fouls to calm things down. anyway, at one point, one kid fouled another quite hard and the foulee's father actually jumped out of the stands and went

after the kid who did the fouling. Wrong thing to do again...Larry just picked him up and walked him out of the South gym and told him never to come back again especially if he saw the two of us as referees. Kendra, you might remember this one. You and Larry asked Merrie Gay and I go go to the MSU vs Central Michigan game in the early nineties. It was, I believe, the only MSU game that I ever attended in East Lansing. Both Larry and Lance had their pictures in the program that day and that was impressive enough, but what was even more unbelievable was that Central beat the Spartans. On the ride back to Detroit in the green and white van I ribbed Larry unmercifully about the loss to the point where he slammed on the brakes right on I 96 and told me to get the hell out of the van. I thought he was serious until he looked at me and started laughing his ass off when he saw the look on my face. Larry was a great friend and he was very, very lucky to have had you guys. You have our warmest thoughts in this sad time, Dave Ayrault

Dave Ayrault - March 25, 2015 at 12:00 AM