



Kenneth Lein

July 14, 1934 - December 5, 2013

Great athletes make those around them better. Great men do the same. Ken Lein was both, always seeing the best in all and helping them see the best in themselves.

Kenneth Lein, a native of Roland, Iowa died while resting comfortably December 5th at his home in San Clemente, CA.

A teacher, coach, father and friend, Ken was born July 14th, 1934 to Knute (d.1981) and Aletta (d. 1975) Lein. His early years were filled with hard work and sports, in particular basketball, baseball and swimming.

Ken starred on the 1951 Roland Rocket High School basketball team. With a school population of around 50, the Roland team played Davenport High School, with a school population of over 2000, losing 50-40 in the Iowa state championship game. Ken and friend Gary Thompson put on a memorable show in the David and Goliath-like state final.

Although Ken had many offers to continue playing either basketball or baseball at the collegiate level, he instead chose to serve his country, joining the Coast Guard immediately after high school. He traveled to Ellis Island, Cape May, NJ and then Burlington, VT where he met his first wife Patricia Lavoie(Dominski).

After the service, Ken went to Ellsworth Junior College in Iowa Falls on a basketball scholarship and following a terrific two-year career, Ken attended and played ball at Northwest Missouri State in Maryville, MO. He graduated in 1958 with a degree in Social Science Education.

Ken's first teaching job was in Riverton, IA. Ken was a popular teacher and coach in the Redfield, IA (Dexfield), Port Byron, IL (Riverdale), Hinesburg, VT (Champlain Valley), Manly, IA (North Central), Postville, IA, Hampton, IA school districts in a 23-year span. He coached basketball, baseball, track, softball, golf and football in that time period. Ken accumulated over 250 wins as a basketball coach in four states. At each stop along his

storied career, he also ran the local swimming pools and instructed Red Cross lifesaving. Ken saved a man's life in the Vergennes, VT pool, pulling the drowning man from the deep end and providing resuscitation. Ken saved this life literally, and many others during his years in the classrooms and on the floor and fields. His optimism and belief in the human spirit continues to reside in so many he touched.

Ken's athletic teams were known for contrasting styles and innovation. His Riverdale team held the ball and left one man back on the defensive end, upsetting a powerful Rock Island squad in the district championship that featured future Boston Celtics star Steve Kuberski. His Postville team was known for up-tempo, setting a national record at the time for points by two teams, losing to Central Elkader in 1972, 117-101. Ken's teams were perennially in the top ten rankings in the state of Iowa with numerous conference, sectional and district titles. His teams were flamboyant, he rolled out a red carpet for timeouts and the boys laid on the floor. He had each of his teams wear high, "target"-striped socks so they could better identify their teammates for fast-breaks. He had several all-state players go on to great collegiate careers in all of the athletics he led.

After Ken's teaching and coaching career, he entered the business world, first working his way up from sales representative to regional manager for DeVry Institutes of Technology. He then worked for a series of companies in the education industry, finally retiring to substitute teaching, family and California lifestyle. His passion was still sports and he loved the Cubs and the Iowa college teams that he followed religiously. His dog Buddy, who was at his side at his death, was his constant companion.

Ken is survived by his sister, Arlene (Mangold) of Fullerton, CA; his first wife, Patricia Dominski (Mitch) of Sebastian, FL; second wife, Joette Wattier of San Clemente, CA; son, Kevin (Amy) Lein of Harrisburg, SD; daughters, Kim (Bernie) Peine of Underhill, VT and Kamela (John) Behrendt of Dunlap, IA; stepsons, Brian (Leah) Wattier of Sacramento, CA, and Jason (Holly) Wattier of Philadelphia, PA; stepdaughter, Jocelyn (John) White of San Clemente, CA; grandchildren, Kyle and Megan Behrendt of Dunlap, IA, Kodi Lein of Burlington, VT, Karter and Kennedy Lein of Harrisburg, SD, Madison, Thomas and Alex White of San Clemente, CA, and Ella and Sophia Wattier of Morgantown, PA,

Ken was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Don and Stanley; and his sister Marjorie (Absher).

A celebration of Ken's life will be held December 13th, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Soderstrum Funeral Home in Story City, IA. The funeral service will take place at the Bergen Lutheran Church in Roland, IA December 14th at 10:30 AM with subsequent burial at the Roland

Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that any memorial contributions be given to the Ken Lein Memorial Scholarship which will be established to assist Roland-Story high school student-athletes with post-high school pursuits. Those contributions can be given directly at the services or contact Kevin Lein (kevin.lein@k12.sd.us) for information.

Events

DEC 13 **Celebration of Life** 06:30PM - 08:00PM

Soderstrum Funeral Home
618 Lafayette, Story City, IA, US, 50248
(515) 733-4334

DEC 14 **Funeral Service** 10:30AM - 11:30AM

Bergen Lutheran
101 West Maple, Roland, IA, US, 50236

DEC 14 **Graveside Service** 11:45AM - 12:00PM

Roland Cemetery
, Roland, IA, US, 50236

Comments



“ I sorry to about Coach Lein, only knew Ken and Kevin a few years before they moved away but they were fun to be around....

Dave Hartley - December 16, 2013 at 09:28 PM



“ Started my coaching career as his assistant basketball coach. Always positive and fun to be around. Talk about him often.

Paul Jungblut - December 16, 2013 at 06:27 PM



“ Beautiful Whisper was purchased for the family of Kenneth Lein.



December 13, 2013 at 12:55 PM



“ Someone once wrote:
"If you can find just one really true friend in a lifetime, you are fortunate."

Thanks to Ken my "Bud" I am one of the fortunate.
Frank Sanders

Frank Sanders - December 13, 2013 at 10:42 AM



“ I'm not sure there is a particular memory to share. I basically grew up feeling as part of the family with Kevin, Kim, and Kami being my older siblings. I knew he was a coaching mentor to my father and therefore a coach to me. In every memory I have of Ken, he is sporting that great smile...most all other memories are of him holding a Budweiser and listening to the Beach Boys. He will be greatly missed by all.

Kyle Sanders - December 12, 2013 at 11:28 PM



“ patricia dominski is following this tribute.

patricia dominski - December 12, 2013 at 04:54 PM



“ Just learned today of Ken's passing. We remember many good times at Manly and lots of laughs. Patti, if you read this, we still have the candle holder-wall plaque you two gave us so many years ago. Our sympathy to all of Ken's family.
Norm and Mary Milledge

Norm & Mary Milledge - December 12, 2013 at 04:06 PM



“ MITCH AND PATTI DOMINSKI purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Kenneth Lein.



MITCH AND PATTI DOMINSKI - December 12, 2013 at 02:28 PM



“ Frank, Paula, Kyle, Stacey, Carlie and Mylie Sanders purchased the Poinsettia Plant for the family of Kenneth Lein.



Frank, Paula, Kyle, Stacey, Carlie and Mylie Sanders - December 12, 2013 at 02:18 PM



“ Kevin, Kim and Kami - Where do I even begin? There are so many wonderful memories of your dad and your family that we have. One of the best was the first year we moved to Postville. At Halloween time no one invited us to any parties so your dad, being very innovative, decided we should go "trick or drinking".- we were all very poor then so couldn't afford to buy our own or go out. Your dad put on a black mask and went as The Lone Ranger and Frank put on a head band and went a Tonto, and of course your mom and I went as our "beautiful" selves. Well we hit several homes - mostly teachers and administrators !! I think we made an impression

on the town - not sure if it was good or not but I bet they will always remember the Lein's and Sanders! I know we had a lot of fun. Through the years there have been many more fun times like this but I can't write about all of them. There was always a lot of laughter when we were with your parents and then when Kyle came along you all took care of him like he was your brother. It always felt like family with you all. We're sorry for your loss and sorry we aren't able to be there for you but please know you are in our hearts and prayers.
Love to you all.

Frank and Paula Sanders
Fruitland Idaho

Frank & Paula Sanders - December 12, 2013 at 02:10 PM



“ I remember that Halloween night and can still see it in my mind along with other parties and of course, playing on the trampoline and rolling down the hallways when the school was closed! Thank you for bringing back that memory and being part of our family.

Kim Peine - December 12, 2013 at 09:42 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



patricia dominski - December 11, 2013 at 07:14 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Kenneth Lein.



December 11, 2013 at 11:48 AM



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patricia dominski - December 10, 2013 at 09:44 PM



“ I will miss Coach Lein as I'm sure all who knew him will. I loved basketball, but loved it even more when playing for Coach. Coaches and teachers always leave their mark on kids as coach did on me, but even more so when their whole family is a part of that family. Many times hard times are remembered more than the good times, but frankly I can't remember anything but fun times even the hard work was fun. God Bless to Coach Lein, and his family. I will remember him always.

Phil Jorgenson,

Phil - December 11, 2013 at 08:43 AM



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patricia dominski - December 10, 2013 at 06:19 PM



“ My Mother, Arlene (Lein) Mangold, and my brothers and I send all our love to Uncle Kenny's family...my daughter Holly Kinkaid and her husband Mike send love and prayers. My Grandchildren Connor,Nicole and Brandon also send their love. I was so lucky to have my Uncle Kenny-he called his sister(90 yrs young) every day to check on her! They were so blessed to have many years as brother and sis.....Cheryl Warren

cheryl warren - December 10, 2013 at 05:14 PM



“ My dear cousins,

Please know that I am thinking of you and my thoughts and prayers are with you all. I will always have happy memories of Uncle Ken. He had one story about teaching

some older ladies how to drive and well I think you know what happened with that.

Love you
Judy



Judy Vettters - December 10, 2013 at 04:39 PM



“ I will always remember that story

patricia dominski - December 10, 2013 at 07:09 PM



“ Visitors - if you wish to send a donation to the Ken Lein Memorial Scholarship - you may send it to:
Kevin Lein, 201 Anna Way, Harrisburg, SD 57032

Thanks - Kevin

Kevin Lein - December 10, 2013 at 04:35 PM



“ I remember the story he told me of how Aunt Patti and Uncle Ken meet saving her from the waters after she fell off a cruise ship, I believed every word, was so romantic. Kathy Hill Gratton,

Kathy Hill Gratton - December 11, 2013 at 06:38 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth Lein.



December 10, 2013 at 01:48 PM



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patricia lein dominski - December 10, 2013 at 12:25 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



patricia dominski - December 10, 2013 at 11:56 AM