



James "Jim" Nolan

August 24, 1941 - August 23, 2017

James, Jim Nolan, 75 years of age died Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at his home in Minden, Nebraska. Services will be Saturday, September 2, 2017 at 11 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Minden with Reverend Paul Blanchard officiating. Burial will be prior to the memorial service in the Minden Cemetery. The family requests casual attire, especially purple colors for Minden and red colors for Nebraska. Craig Funeral Home in Minden is in charge of arrangements.

Jim was born August 24, 1941 in Oklahoma City, OK to Pleas and Opal (Tomlin) Nolan. He lived in Oklahoma City to the age of 5 when his family moved to Indianola, NE. He graduated from Indianola High School in May 1959.

He married Loneta Eaton on February 6, 1960. They had a son Charles (Randy) Nolan and a daughter, Loree Nolan Johnson. He attended McCook Jr. College for two years where he played football winning defensive player of the year; upon completing his schooling there he transferred to Idaho State University where he played football, graduating in 1964. He coached football and assisted in basketball and track for three years at Beaver Valley Schools in Lebanon, NE. He then coached football, some wrestling and track at Cambridge Schools in Cambridge, NE for 4 years. In the fall of 1971 he and his family moved to Minden, NE where he coached football and track until his retirement. He was an assistant coach for the Nebraska Shrine football game in 1973 and was head coach in 1975. His football team in Minden were State Champions in 1977. He won numerous Southwest Conference honors while coaching in Minden. In 1971 he received the Head coach of the Year for the Southwest Conference. He also taught government and driver's education. He belonged to the NEA, MEA, Driver's Ed. Assn., Minden Country Club and the United Methodist Church.

Jim enjoyed camping, boating and fishing, golfing, traveling and sitting on the deck he built. He loved playing sports and enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren in all their activities. He loved teaching and especially coaching and considered all the students he had as his kids!

Survivors include his wife, Loneta of Minden; son, Randy of Minden; daughter Loree Johnson and husband, Jeff of Minden; grandchildren, Jeremy and Jonathan Johnson, Melissa Nolan; great grandchildren, Tyler Nolan and Ryan Engel; sister Kathy Jorgensen and husband, Lane of Bloomington, IN; as well as nephews, nieces, cousins, and many friends. He is preceded in death by his parents and some great friends.

Cemetery

Minden Cemetery

NE,

Events

SEP 2 **Visitation** 11:00AM

United Methodist Church
Minden, NE, US

Comments



“ Sorry to here you've left us. I appreciate all you did on the field and off for me. Rest in peace coach.

Jon Wiseman - September 05, 2017 at 01:26 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Nolan.



September 02, 2017 at 09:59 AM



“ My sincere condolences to Loneta, Randy and Loree. Coach Nolan had a profound influence on so many lives, teaching his players not only how to play football to the best of our abilities, but the value of hard work, discipline and teamwork. We are all better people due to the influence he had on our lives.

I remember hearing his not-so-subtle voice in the mornings of two a days when I was young---from my parents house about 3 blocks from the practice field! Needless to say I was pretty intimidated when my class reached high school. Though we were not overly talented any of my high school years, Coach Nolan was always able to get the most out of us. I've learned through the years that the sign of a good coach, or boss, or teacher is not always how much talent you have to work with, but what results you can get from what your have. Culminating with the state championship in 1977, Coach showed us that we could achieve great things if we worked hard and worked together.

I remember during pre-game warmups before the state championship game, played in Minden vs Pierce, Coach Nolan came up to me and said "are you ready"? After answering him, I think with some version of "heck yes", he gave me a nod and the look on his face gave the whole team the confidence to go out and play our best. No unnecessary yelling, just the look that said we can get the job done. We were very lucky to have his leadership for this great experience.

RIP Coach, we will miss you.

Kris Van Norman - September 02, 2017 at 09:54 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Nolan.



August 30, 2017 at 12:46 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of James "Jim" Nolan.



August 26, 2017 at 10:24 PM



“ Our condolences go out to the Nolan family. Your family has been truly blessed by this man we know as Jim Nolan. I was fortunate enough to play football with him one year at McCook junior-college. He was an outstanding person as well as a outstanding football player. He had an outstanding career at McCook and then again at Idaho State. He was a small-town boy that rose to the top of his game. In the three schools he taught in he achieved much success in each of them. He was a player's dream coach and a very well respected community person. He was an outstanding teammate and always good for some jokes. I have visited with several of his former players and they have so much respect for him as a coach and a person. To his family, you have been very well blessed and have a lot of memories to carry you through. May God richly bless each of you.

Bill & Kathy Holliday (Aurora, Nebraska)

Bill Holliday - August 26, 2017 at 02:53 PM