



Lawrence Allen Nida

December 10, 1929 - July 3, 2016

Surrounded by his immediate family, Lawrence Allen (“Al”) Nida died peacefully on Sunday, July 3, 2016, following a brief illness.

Al’s life exemplified commitment to his family, his faith, and hard work, and his legendary sense of humor was apparent in everything he did. He was born on December 10, 1929, in Spencer, WV, to the late Dorsey B. Nida and the late Opal Bailey Nida. After a stellar athletic career at the West Virginia Institute of Technology, Al spent the next 45 years in the coaching profession – primarily as a basketball coach whose high school and college teams collectively won more than 700 games. His career began at St. Albans (WV) High School, where he served from 1952 until 1966. For the next 30 years, Al served at King College (now King University) in Bristol, TN, also holding the position of Director of Athletics during that period. After 17 years at the helm of King’s men’s basketball program, Al stepped down from that role, only to be pressed into service a year later as the coach of the women’s team. Within two years he had turned a struggling program into a small college powerhouse, winning three consecutive National Christian College Athletic Association national titles (1988-1990).

Among his numerous honors, Al has been inducted into the West Virginia Tech Sports Hall of Fame, the West Virginia Sports Writers Hall of Fame, the King College Sports Hall of Fame, the Northeast Tennessee Sports Hall of

Fame, and the St. Albans High School Sports Hall of Fame. He was named as a "West Virginia Sports Centennial Great" and to the all-time all-conference basketball team of the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. On multiple occasions, Al has also been recognized as "coach of the year" at several different levels.

His post-retirement years in South Carolina revolved around golf and Summerville Baptist Church, where he has served as a deacon and as a Sunday School teacher – and where he touched the lives of many, just as he did as a coach. His compassion for others was evidenced by his willingness to embrace volunteer work of the most challenging sort; at one point he served as a hospital grief counselor, and later he counseled death row inmates at Lieber Correctional Institution. Al will live on in the strong sense of family that guides his children and grandchildren, as well as in the hundreds of young athletes whom he helped to develop into men and women of accomplishment and character.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ruth McWhorter Nida, of Summerville, and four children: Steve (Rebecca), of Charleston, SC; Suzanne, of Westminster, MD; Jeanie Cape (David), of Macon, GA; and Terri Ash (Lamar), of Bogart, GA. Al is also survived by nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Locally, the family will receive friends from 6:00-8:00 pm on Wednesday, July 6, at the JAMES A. DYAL FUNERAL HOME, 303 S. Main St., Summerville. Visitation will also be held from 6:00-8:00 pm on Friday, July 8, at WEAVER FUNERAL HOME, 630 Locust St., Bristol, TN. A service to honor Al's life will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday, July 9, at the King University Memorial Chapel in Bristol. Burial will follow immediately afterward at Glenwood Cemetery, also in Bristol.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial gifts be made to Summerville Baptist Church, the general fund at King University, or to your charity of choice.

A memorial message may be written to the family by visiting our website at www.jamesadyal.com.

ARRANGEMENTS BY JAMES A. DYAL FUNERAL HOME, 303 SOUTH MAIN STREET, SUMMERVILLE, SC 29483.

Tribute Wall



“ *Lawrence Allen Nida*

September 29, 2022 at 10:11 AM



“ *Dear Ruth & Family,*

The memories of Coach Nida will last forever. Coach Nida was a positive influence during my days at King and I am confident many of life's lessons he shared direct and indirect are still part of my everyday life and so many other people he touched. The opportunity to learn the game of basketball from Coach also includes some great memories, one of which might be the most spectacular coaching plan when we played a much more talented team in Jefferson City and installed a great four corners offensive game plan. Of course the coaching was great for that game, but the inspiration that Coach brought to life with the great athletes of that time was also amazing. I am sorry about your loss and wish everyone the best.

Mike Ridenour - Class of '85

Mike Ridenour - July 18, 2016 at 09:30 AM

DP

“ I will always be indebted to "Coach" Nida for his kindness and generosity. I will also always remember his spirit, his professionalism, and his dedication to his players and to King College. I am thankful for the positive impact that he had on my life and on the lives of so many others. He will be missed, but he will be remembered. I wish his family peace and comfort in this difficult time.

David Painter, King College, Class of 1970

David S Painter - July 11, 2016 at 05:29 PM

NE

“ Dear Nida Family,

Every memory I have of Al includes a smile, a laugh, a practical joke, or encouragement. He was woven through my life from kindergarten through high school. Whether it was speeding the Fiat over the bump on lower Vance drive, to cutting your yard to pay for basketball camp, to attending camp every summer, to working at the golf pro shop with Dorsey and Opal, to seeing his foot in the window every time I drove by, he was a role model and positive influence more than I can express. I wish you all peace and comfort in knowing how many lives he has touched.

*Love to you all,
Ned*

Ned Esser - July 10, 2016 at 04:41 PM

SK

“ Dear Ruth and Family, I was so sorry to hear of Al's passing, I just viewed the pictures posted of a few of your happy times and then reading the great accolades of a life well lived. You are in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Sharon Kerr

Sharon B Kerr - July 09, 2016 at 05:24 PM

SP

“ I'm sorry to hear of the passing of Coach Nida..His contributions to King and beyond will not be forgotten. I especially want to send my greeting and condolences to my old friend Steve.. I haven't forgotten you after all these years and will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers.....Steve Phillips.. K.C. class of 1971

Steve Phillips - July 09, 2016 at 01:06 PM

JN

“ Dear Ruth, Jeanie, Terri, & Family, the Nichols family offer prayers for your lost. Coach was a remarkable man that touched many people throughout his time here. May God comfort you in your times of need.

James "Doc" Nichols, Ann, Rachel and Elizabeth. Class of 1982

James Nichols - July 08, 2016 at 02:51 PM

DB

“ This photo shows the way the SAHS class of 1957 remembers Coach Al Nida. He was beloved by the young men whom he mentored, and mentor is the operative word. In fact, in our 1957 yearbook, *The Dragonian*, the words beside his picture--after some biography that has been reported elsewhere--came this sentence: "Coach Nida returned to his Alma Mater in 1952 as head basketball mentor." RIP Mentor Nida. You were much loved.



Drollene Plattner Brown - July 08, 2016 at 08:52 AM

DB

“ As a former student and athlete at King I am grateful for all Coach Nida did for me directly as a professor and indirectly as athletic director. May he now experience God's peace fully. May you, his family, experience God's presence as you grieve.

David Bradley

David Bradley - July 07, 2016 at 09:21 PM

SG

“ Steve, Suzanne, and family, I am very sorry to hear of the passing of your father. Please be assured of my sympathy and know my prayers are with you.

Stanley Goodman - July 07, 2016 at 03:41 PM

DJ

“ Dear Ruth, Jeanie, Terri, & Family,
I am so sorry I just heard- news travels slowly to Wyoming. Coach Nida had more influence in my life than you will ever know, away from Jesus Christ I have had no man influence the direction of my life more than him. He taught me so many things about life and about myself and whom I am today is direct result of his influence. I was in Bristol 4 years ago and I went looking for him but was told he had moved to South Carolina. Judd Powers gave me his phone number and I was able to talk with him and tell him all these things and more. I truly loved this man and will never forget my four years I spent under his tutelage for they were some of the best years of my life.

Love to all,
David "Goose" Jennings

David Goose Jennings - July 07, 2016 at 03:10 PM

MH

“ Dear Family members,

What good memories we at St. Albans High School have of the coaching staff in the mid '50's which included Coaches Nida, LeRose and Cobb. It was exciting and a great time the day we won the state football championship in the fall of 1956. We celebrated for days. All 3 coaches presented themselves as coaches, teachers and gentlemen in a way to be respected, loved and admired.

May God be with you in the days ahead.

Margaret Faxon Heishman
SAHS Class of 1957

Margaret Faxon Heishman - July 07, 2016 at 01:49 PM

BJ

Great Memories, I was the Captain of the St Albans Basketball team in 1957, Coach Nida was an inspiration and an excellent coach, his standards and commencement to not only the sport but in creating quality young men was excellent, rest in peace coach. Bernard ' jeff ' Jeffers

Bernard ' jeff ' Jeffers - June 24, 2024 at 06:20 AM

MN

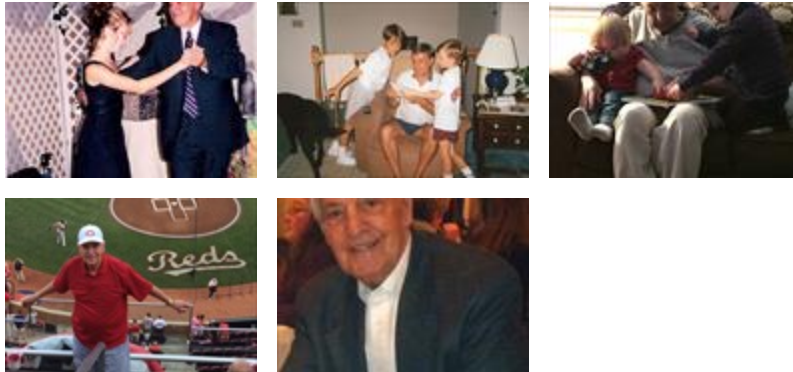
“ *Condolences to Chris Nida and the entire Nida Family on the loss of Mr. Lawrence Allen Nida. We know that you will truly cherish his memory and legacy.*

Paul Meyer and Staff at the NC League of Municipalities

Michael Naylor - July 07, 2016 at 11:57 AM

 Jeanie Cape

“ *36 files added to the album New Album Name*



Jeanie Cape - July 06, 2016 at 01:19 PM

BP

“ Coach Nida was my coach in high school. I am the person I am today because he was so influential in my life. I was truly blessed to have played for him. May those who knew him be forever touched by his impact. Butch Powell class of 1964.

butch powell - July 06, 2016 at 12:08 PM

PS

“ Hey Coach !
You fought the good fight and have reaped the promised reward. May God be praised! As a manager of your basketball team at St. Albans (WVa) High during 1955 - '57, I came to know and admire you for your decency, character and leadership exhibited to all who came in contact with you. I knew you went on to college coaching after leaving St A, but lost track you after that. What a great career you had and who is surprised! God clearly blest you and guided you. You were only 10 years older than me, but you were a significant role model. I am a better person for you having crossed my path. There were 6 high school teachers who made a difference in my life and you were one! May God comfort your family.
~ Patrick Sweeney, SAHS, Class of '57

PATRICK SWEENEY - July 06, 2016 at 10:51 AM

WP

“ Dear Jeannie, David, Brannon and Ellie:
Please accept our deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers in the home going of your dad. It was never our privilege to know him, but it is obvious from all that has been said about him that he was a special man. Psalm 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." May the Lord continue to sustain you in this time,
Wyatt, Anna and Callie.

Wyatt Parker - July 06, 2016 at 07:22 AM

ET

“ Dear Ruth and family,
Al has been one of the great memories of my nine years at King College. I respected him as one of the best basketball coaches I have ever observed. I also respected him as a great person and friend. His obituary conveys that he continued to touch lives in many marvelous ways after his coaching career ended. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

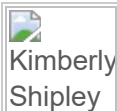
Edgar Torbert
Tucker, Georgia

Edgar Torbert - July 06, 2016 at 04:37 AM

MR

“ Dear Ruth, Steve, Suzanne, Jeanie, and Terri,
I was very sad to learn of Al's passing and I wanted to send my condolences to you all and your families. I will forever cherish my memories growing up beside such a wonderful family. Al was truly one of a kind and I know that I am a better person for having known him. May God Bless each one of you all and your families.
Sincerely the pesky little girl who was always on your doorstep,
Missy Esser Rigby

Missy Esser Rigby - July 05, 2016 at 06:29 PM



Kimberly Shipley

Dear Nida's,

Please know that your family has my prayers and heartfelt sympathy. Al was bigger than life and the "Esser kids" were influenced beyond measure by "Big Al". Love always, Kim

Kimberly Shipley - July 05, 2016 at 08:12 PM

NE

Dear Nida Family,

Every memory I have of Al includes a smile, a laugh, a practical joke, or encouragement. He was woven through my life from kindergarten through high school. Whether it was speeding the Fiat over the bump on lower Vance drive, to cutting your yard to pay for basketball camp, to attending camp every summer, to working at the golf pro shop with Dorsey and Opal, to seeing his foot in the window every time I drove by, he was a role model and positive influence more than I can express. I wish you all peace and comfort in knowing how many lives he has touched.

*Love to you all,
Ned*

Ned Esser - July 10, 2016 at 04:37 PM

MR

“*Dear Ruth, Steve, Suzanne, Jeanie, and Terri,
I was very sad to learn of Al's passing and I wanted to send my condolences to you all and your families. I will forever cherish my memories growing up beside such a wonderful family. Al was truly one of a kind and I know that I am a better person for having known him. May God Bless each one of you all and your families.
Sincerely the pesky little girl who was always on your doorstep,
Missy Esser Rigby*

Missy Esser Rigby - July 05, 2016 at 06:28 PM